

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

1. Name Dawson House

2. Planning Area/Site Number 17/40

3. MNCPPC Atlas Reference Map 13
A-9

4. Address Sugarland Road, Seneca

5. Classification Summary

Category building
 Ownership private
 Public Acquisition N.A.
 Status unoccupied
 Accessible no
 Present use Other (vacant)
 Previous Survey Recording M-NCPCC Federal ___ State ___ County X Local ___
 Historic Sites Survey 1976

6. Date 1808

7. Original Owner Robert Doyne Dawson

8. Apparent Condition

a. Ruinsc. Original Siteb. Unaltered

9. Description: This five bay, two and a half story seneca sandstone house is in ruins. It faces north on Sugarland Road. Constructed of uncoursed sandstone with corner quoins, the windows, doors, and gable roof have been removed. The window and door openings have stone sills and lintels. Two small windows flank the interior east and west gable end chimneys.

10. Significance: This handsome shell of a building has been continuously in the possession of one family since its erection in 1808. Captain Robert Doyne Dawson, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, built the house and enlarged upon his estate until he owned some 775 acres in the area around Dry Seneca Creek. When he died in 1824, his lands were divided among his four sons, George, Benoni, Thomas, and Joseph who continued to farm the land and to engage in milling. One of them was active in government; George Washington Dawson represented the area in the State legislature, and held the offices of trustee of public schools, trustee of the poor, Justice, collector of taxes for the 5th district and State assessor for Montgomery County.

By 1875 a new house had been constructed north of the "Dawson House" for Frederick A. Dawson, son of Dr. Benoni Dawson. Frederick and his sisters deeded their land to their nephew, Lewis P. Allnutt, in 1910 and the property has remained in the Allnutt line of the Dawson family since.

11. Date researched and researcher Fall 1978

Mark Walston

Candy Reed - Architectural Description

12. Compiler Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled 12/78

14. Designation
Approval ___

15. Acreage: 102.5 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 17/40

MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Dawson House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
15200 Sugarland Road

CITY, TOWN

Seneca

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Vacant

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Lewis P. Allnutt III

Telephone #: 869-1687

STREET & NUMBER
15200 Sugarland Road

Maryland, 20837

CITY, TOWN

Poolesville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: 4602
Folio #: 74

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

7 DESCRIPTION

M.17-40

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This five bay, two and a half story, house is in ruins. It faces north on Sugarland Road.

Built on stone foundations, this house is constructed of uncoursed Seneca sandstone with corner quoins. The windows and doors have been removed as has the gable roof. These openings all had stone lintels at one time, although many are missing now. The interior end chimneys, with brick stacks, are visible at the east and west gable ends. There are two small windows at the gable ends flanking the chimney.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M.17-40

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1808

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building, and the surrounding property, has been continuously in the possession of one family since the house's erection. Captain Robert Doyne Dawson, veteran of the Revolutionary War, is credited with its construction in the year 1808. The house is situated on parts of "Cole's Choice", "Addition to Cole's Choice", "Long Looked For Come At Last" and "Tunis' Purchase", obtained by Captain Dawson from William C. Dawson.¹ (Although the deed of conveyance is dated October 18, 1810, this does not preclude the possibility of an earlier date of ownership, nor does it refute the inscribed date stone upon the building.) The acreage was expanded upon, through purchases and inheritance, until Robert D. Dawson had accumulated some 775 acres in the area of Dry Seneca Creek. Family tradition claims that Robert Doyne Dawson never lived in the house. No substantive evidence has been uncovered to either corroborate or discredit this situation.

Capt. Dawson died on August 13, 1824. His various heirs-at-law then petitioned the courts for an equitable division of the lands. Ruling that "...the relative situation of the wood to the cleared ground and improvements makes it impossible to divide (the) land into more than three parts", the court-appointed commissioners proceeded to partition the property into four lots, being

- The Widow's Dower (to Henrietta Dawson), 103 acres of "Conclusion" and "Long Looked For.."
- Lot 1, 149 acres of "Conclusion", Long Looked For..." and "Tunis' Purchase"
- Lot 2, 149 acres of "Tunis' Purchase", Long Looked For...", "Addition to Partnership", "Cole's Choice", and "Addition to Cole's Choice"

(These three lots were contiguous to each other, and formed the lands immediately surrounding the house.)

- Lot 3, lying in two separate pieces;
 - a) 178 acres of "Mother's Delight", "Addition to Mother's Delight" and "Fair Prospect"
 - b) 198.5 acres of "The Resurvey on Silome"

(Lot 3 lies separate from the above. Lot 3a is the property inherited by Robert D. Dawson from his father, Thomas Dawson, and contains the family **CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY** burial ground of Thomas Dawson and his descendants.)²

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Montgomery County Land Records
 Montgomery County Equity Records, and Orphan's Court Records
 Original Records Book, Montgomery County Historical Society
 Sween, Jane C., History of Dawsonville and Seneca. Unpublished, held at
 MCHS.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 102.5 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

Candy Reed - Architectural Description

NAME / TITLE

Mark Walston

1978

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: ~~Maryland Historical Trust
 The State House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (202) 267-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
 Box 37, Sugarloaf
 Dickerson, Md. 20753
 (301) 926-4510

DAWSON HOUSE

Beginning in 1830, Thomas Dawson of Robert, son of Robert Doyne Dawson, began accumulating the other heirs' interests in their father's land, [3] He eventually sold off Lot 3 in 1835 (reserving the right to the family graveyard), and was thus left in possession of Lots 1 and 2 (including the widow's dower), being the land on which the subject building is located.

Thomas Dawson of R died on April 15, 1852, and by his last will and testament, bequeathed the property to his brother Joseph N. Dawson, who had been the implied co-owner of the property during Thomas Dawson's lifetime. [4] However, as Joseph Dawson states in his will, composed on November 15, 1864,

...this devise and bequest tho' absolute on its face and without condition in its terms was upon the trust and confidence that I would convey to my brother George W. Dawson to whom my said brother Thomas Dawson was largely indebted, all that part of a tract designated as Lot No. 1, containing about 200 acres, ... and that by some fit instrument I would convey to the children of my brother Dr. Benoni Dawson, lately deceased, all the rest and residue of said lot No. 1 and the whole of Lot No. 2, ... the lands so to be conveyed to the children of my brother Benoni Dawson to remain in my occupancy and possession during the term of my natural life and to come into the occupancy and possession of my said brother's children at my decease, [5]

Thus it appears that while the various offspring of Robert Doyne Dawson had vested their interest in the property to Thomas Dawson, there existed an unwritten agreement of co-ownership among the several Dawson brothers. This situation is reiterated by a passage written by George W. Dawson on February 13, 1871, in which he states that

...For nearly forty years before the death of my brother Joseph [around the year 1869] we lived together jointly engaged in farming and milling. His death terminated our partnership, and unwilling at three score and ten to commence as it were the world anew, I sold my farm to my nephew [Frederick A. Dawson] and make my home with him, [6]

George Washington Dawson was born in 1799, and, like many of the Dawson brothers, never married. He represented the area in the State legislature and held the offices of trustee of public schools, trustee of the poor,

DAWSON HOUSE

Justice, collector of taxes for the 5th district and State assessor for Montgomery County, [7]

Frederick A. Dawson, son of Dr. Benoni Dawson, next took possession of the farmstead, living with his uncle until the death of George W. Dawson in 1875. By this time, however, a new house had been constructed upon the property, north of the subject building, and it was this structure that was occupied by Frederick Dawson. (Presumably the older Dawson house continued to be occupied.) The bachelor Dawson lived with his sisters Susan and Adelaide Dawson, to whom, being indebted for the sum of \$8,000, he conveyed on April 10, 1900, a partial interest in the property which he "purchased from the heirs of the late Benoni Dawson and George W. Dawson", [8] However, by his will, Frederick A. Dawson devised all his interest in the property to his nephew Lewis P. Allnutt, and he desired that his sisters "...who own the other interests in... the land will at their decease give the same to our nephew Lewis, whom we have raised as our child," [9] Frederick Dawson died in 1907; his sister Susan Dawson in 1908; and Adelaide Dawson in 1910. And, on December 20, 1910, the various Dawson heirs combined to convey the undivided portion of Frederick A. Dawson's land holdings to Lewis P. Allnutt, [10] The property has remained in the Allnutt line of the Dawson family since.

NOTES

1. Deed P/168, Montgomery County Land Records
2. Judgment BS 1/433, Montgomery County Equity Records
Will D/434, Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records
Deed BS 7/403, Montgomery County Land Records
3. Deeds BS 4/163, 212, 279, 421, 522, Mont. Co. Land Records
4. Will WToFR 2/31, Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records
Mortgage BS 10/333, Montgomery County Land Records
5. Will JWS 1/295, Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records
6. Quoted in J.C. Sween, History of Dawsonville and Seneca, p. 47
7. ibid, loc. cit., Original Records Book, Mont. Co. Hist. Society
8. Deed 194/333, Montgomery County Land Records
9. Will HCA 4/428, Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records
10. Deed 745/223, Montgomery County Land Records

1603615304

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME							
COMMON:							
AND/OR HISTORIC: Robert Dawson House							
2. LOCATION							
STREET AND NUMBER: Sugarland Road							
CITY OR TOWN: Poolesville							
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Montgomery				
3. CLASSIFICATION							
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC		
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)							
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Ruins</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY							
OWNER'S NAME: Lewis Allnutt							
STREET AND NUMBER: Sugarland Road							
CITY OR TOWN: Poolesville			STATE: Maryland				
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION							
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse							
STREET AND NUMBER:							
CITY OR TOWN: Rockville			STATE: Maryland				
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):							
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS							
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey							
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local							
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress							
STREET AND NUMBER: 10 First Street SE							
CITY OR TOWN: Washington, DC			STATE:				

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>There is a ruined, two story structure with a (north) facade. The doorway is in the center bay. At either end are flush gable, brick chimneys. The building is laid up in uncoursed sandstone with cut quoining blocks. The door and window heads on the first floor are segmentally arched and on the second floor, flat arched. They are made up of cut sandstone blocks.</p> <p>The bankbarn, across the road from the house, was built in 1877. It measures 40' x 60'.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1808

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house was built by Robert Doring Dawson.

There was a log house, older than the stone house, across the road; it was torn down some years ago.

It was two stories with external chimneys.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

M:17-40

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreeage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Christopher Owens, Park Historian

ORGANIZATION: M-NCPPC DATE: 20 May 74

STREET AND NUMBER:
8787 Georgia Avenue

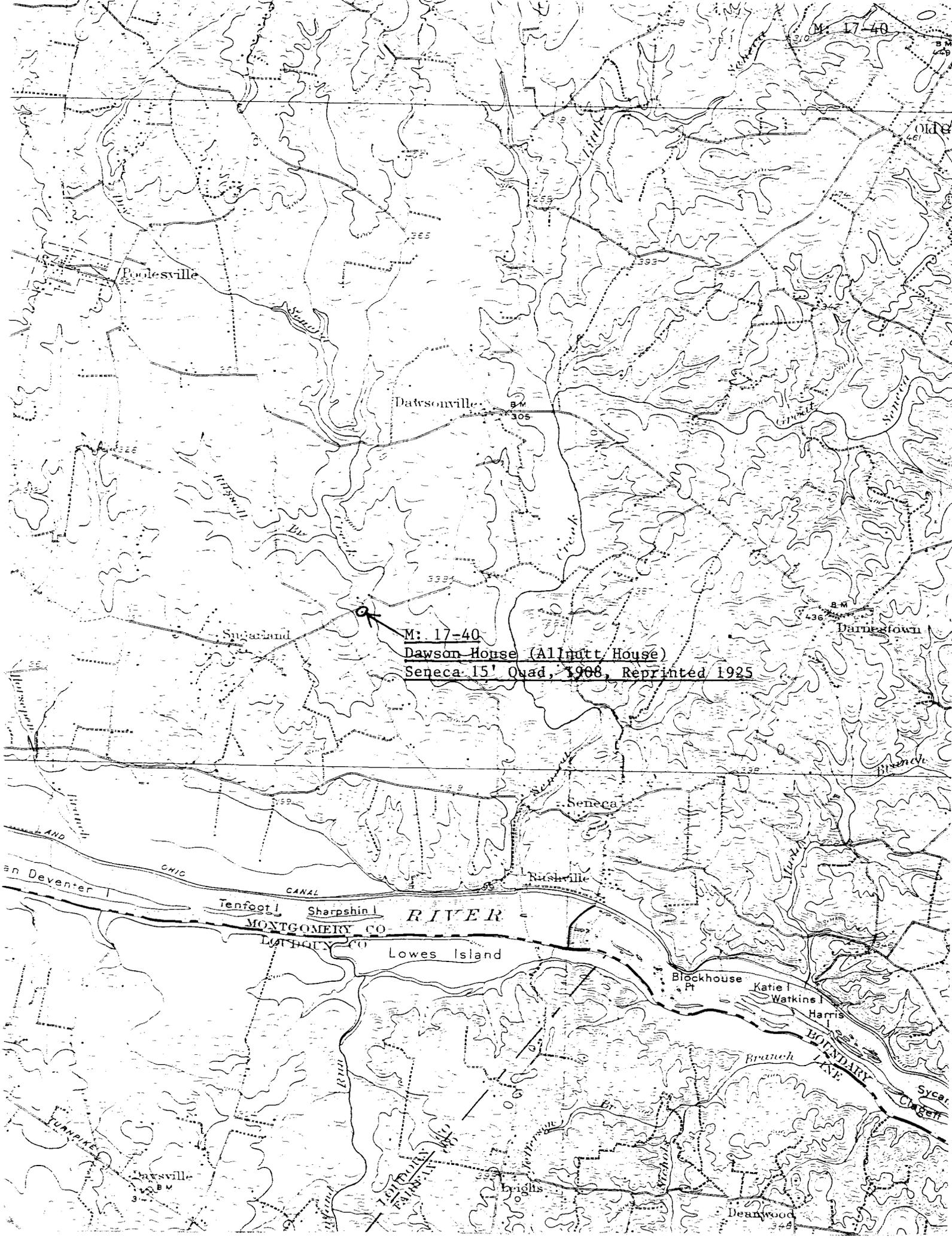
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
 National State Local

Signature

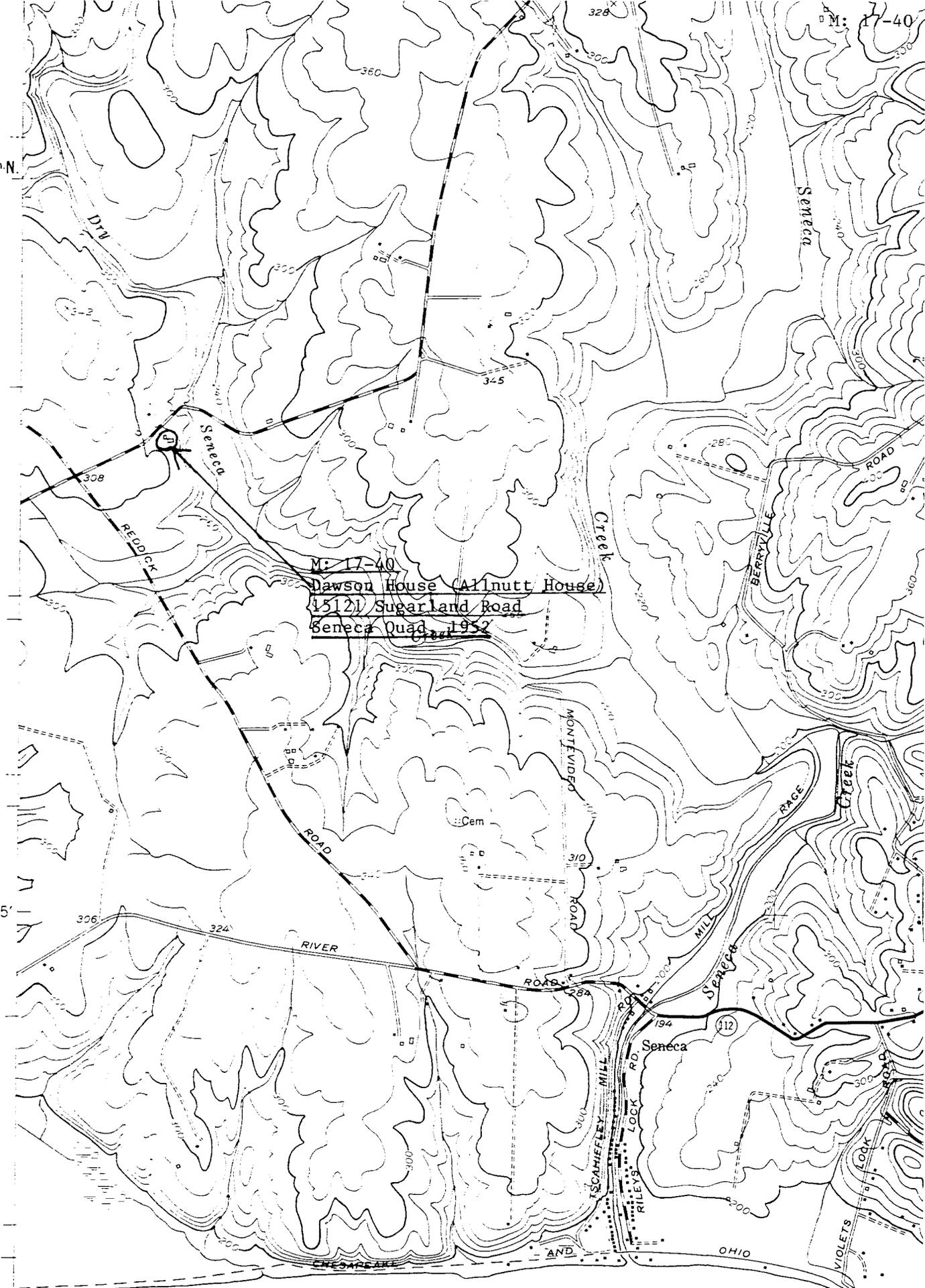




M: 17-40
Dawson House (Alcott House)
Seneca 15' Quad, 1908, Reprinted 1925

4332000m.N

M: 17-40



M: 17-40
 Dawson House (Allnutt House)
 15121 Sugarland Road
 Seneca Quad, 1952

Sharpshin I
 POTOMAC

RIVER

ERLING



#17-40

NAME DAWSON House

LOCATION SUGARLAND RD. + DRY SENECA, SENECA,
FACADE NW MD.

PHOTO TAKEN 6/20/74

M. DWYER