

Mont. : 17-41-33

William Taylor House
Poolesville Vicinity
Private

c. 1876

This two story log house, now in ruinous condition, was built by a former slave William Taylor and his neighbors in the Sugarland community. It contained two rooms down and two up, was heated by wood stoves, and illuminated by large double hung sash windows. Behind the house stood the outbuildings necessary for farm life. Of the log houses built in the years after freedom by former slaves, this is one of the few to have survived, and it demonstrates the skills of those builders.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC William Taylor House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER North side of Sugarland Road

CITY, TOWN (Sugarland) Poolesville

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3

STATE Md.

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

Abandoned

NAME Barbara Ann and Robert H. Allnutt Telephone #: Not listed

STREET & NUMBER Sugarland Rd.

in Suburban Md. or D.C. telephone book STATE, zip code

CITY, TOWN Poolesville X VICINITY OF Sugarland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Land Records, County Courthouse Liber #: 14 Folio #: 287

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Rockville

STATE Md.

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE MNPPC

DATE FEDERAL STATE X COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN Annapolis STATE Md.

7 DESCRIPTION

M:17-41-33

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" 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 ruinous log house constitutes the only vestiges above ground of the houses built by the founding families of the Black community at Sugarland. It therefore gives important evidence as to the design and methods of construction of the houses they built. This house specifically reflects a combination of the old and new methods of building and design of houses for Black families.

Today the site is overgrown in a forest and cannot be seen from either Sugarland Road or Partnership Road. During the days of its occupancy it stood at the northern end of a farm lane that led north from Sugarland Road through the property of John Branson, Sam Johnson, John Henry Diggs, and Lloyd Coates. (They, like Taylor, were among the first Black families to purchase land in Sugarland). When the Taylors lived here, Tilghman Lee, the oral informant from Sugarland, who was born in 1893 recalls the area was clear, and this house was surrounded by a grass yard and by fruit trees, (the produce of which was canned, according to Lee). The house faced toward the east, and the axis of the gable roof was oriented north and south (towards the farm lane, which continued to the front of the house). Behind the house to the west stood the outbuildings: hen house, corn houses, privy, and hog pens further back.

The house itself stood two full stories, with log walls ascending to the top plate of the second floor. Consequently, this is an imposing log house since most were simply framed in on the second floor or were only one and a half stories high. Since the roof has completely collapsed, the walls stand like an empty shell. The center of the west wall has fallen down, but it can be discerned that this length contained two windows down and two up. On the facade, (east length) there was a door centrally located, flanked by two windows on either side. A door led through the southern gable end and served as the more informal "back door", the one family used to go back and forth to the outbuildings and work places behind the house.

According to Tilghman Lee, this house - - like the other log houses of Sugarland - - were constructed by the men in the community, not by hired carpenters. They felled the trees in the woods, hauled them to the site, and hewed them out. For this house, massive oak logs were used. They were hewed on two sides and notched in a "v" cut at the corners. To raise them up to the height of the second floor presented a interesting problem since scaffolding was not available. To do so, the log was hoisted up by hand to shoulder level by several men, then five or six others pushed it up with long "spike poles" to several men who were waiting for it on top of the wall. Their job was to guide the log into place.

Though Tilghman Lee had never seen a log dwelling being built, he had seen log barns constructed and remembers they used the traditional techniques of house building to construct them. For frame houses, he says, they constructed the frame first, attached all the members on the ground for each wall, then raised that wall into place, setting into the log sills. They connected the walls to one another by the "plates" which were raised into place like logs, of a log house. (continued)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M: 17-41-33

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|
| PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| 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 |
| 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

BLACK HISTORY

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Since this house is the last of its kind to have survived in Sugarland, it deserves further study. In order to record it most fully, I recommend that Tilghman Lee be videotaped at this site during the fall, when the site will be clear of thick vegetation. He could describe the history of this house, and the life style of its occupants and that of other families in Sugarland, who lived in similar log houses.

The house is too far gone to be restored, but ways in which its materials could be re-used by the community ought to be considered, after the site has been thoroughly photographed.

According to Tilghman Lee, William Taylor was one of the "old slavery-time people" who founded Sugarland. This is supported by the deed, L/F: EBP 14/297, which shows William Taylor buying this property from Robert Allnut (a white landowner) in 1876. Thus, he was among the first of the former slaves to purchase land in this community. Probably he built his house at this time, so this house was also among the first.

Its log construction, its simplicity of design, the absence of decorative detail, and its construction by the community (instead of hired carpenters) are continuations of earlier traditions of house-building during slavery. However, its full two stories, its two room down and two room up floor plan, and the presence of manufactured and purchase materials such as wood stoves and glass windows show the breaking away from slavery and the freedom to build larger, more comfortable houses, and the ability to buy materials to do so.

In short, this house marks the transition from slavery to freedom.

Note: Interview with Tilghman Lee
 Sugarland Lane
 Poolesville Vicinity
 301-972-8454
 By George McDaniel

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

LAND RECORDS, MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE
ORAL INTERVIEWS, TILGHMAN LEE
U. S. CENSUS, 1870, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| | |
|-------|--------|
| STATE | COUNTY |
| STATE | COUNTY |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|
| George W. McDaniel, Surveyor, and Wesley Stubbs, Research | DATE | Assistant |
| ORGANIZATION | July 1978 | |
| SRT | TELEPHONE | |
| STREET & NUMBER | 926-4510 | |
| Box 87 Stronghold | STATE | |
| CITY OR TOWN | Maryland | |
| Dickerson | | |

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~~ SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS
~~The Shaw House, 21 State Circle~~ Box 87, Stronghold
~~Annapolis, Maryland 21401~~ Dickerson, Md. 20753
~~(301) 267-1438~~ (301) 926-4510

Lee recalls that the Taylor house contained two rooms down and two up. The two rooms downstairs were the kitchen and the living room, the living room being the northernmost room. Its gable wall had no opening. Dividing the two rooms was a boxed stairway. Lee does not clearly remember where the stove flue was located, nor is it evident in the ruins of the house. It is certain that there was no fireplace; wood stoves were used, as in the other log houses of Sugarland. The walls of the house were whitewashed inside and out, traces of which remain on the mud plaster covering the rock in-fill between the logs. The rocks had been carefully aligned into place to create an even surface for the mud plaster. The plaster had been applied very smoothly, no board siding was used.

Lee recalls that the upstairs was used as sleeping quarters, and the attic was used only for storage. Portions of the collapsed roof were still covered by hand-rived shingles.

Though the house is log, it still contains some purchased materials that were not found in the log houses of southern Maryland. For example, the windows were much larger, containing double hung sashes with 6 X 6 panes, according to Lee. Wood stoves were used instead of fireplaces. Large wrought spikes fastened the window frames into the adjoining ends of the logs (instead of hand-carved wooden pegs as in southern Maryland). All these features, including the size of the log house indicate the presence of a little more money and access to manufactured goods, than evident in comparable houses of black landowners in southern Maryland.

Some features of the house have been changed. For example, Tilghman and Bessie Lee remember that the logs of the house were left bare, while today they are covered with a variety of German siding. The foundation stones have sunk down into the ground, bringing the sills almost level to the earth. Lee recalls that there was usually a crawl space under the house. A large sawn block of Seneca sandstone was used to support the sill of the house in the northwest corner. Lee says that it was common for black families to use scraps from the nearby quarry for building purposes.

For further details of this house, refer to the taped interview with Tilghman Lee and Bessie Lee, by George McDaniel, Ida Hallman, Wesley Stubbs, and Gail Rothrock, July 19, 1978

Note: Research of the U.S. census of 1870 for Montgomery, has located the family of William Taylor. He was born in 1831 and his occupation was given as "farm laborer". His wife's name was Lanor (?) and she was born 1832. Her occupation was domestic servant. Their children were named Alice, born in 1850; Maria, born in 1864; Fenton, born in 1858; and George, born in 1866. Alice was a domestic servant too.

The deed of 1891 for M.E. Church in Sugarland lists Fenton Taylor as one of the Trustees, along with his father. So the Taylor family was one of the leading families in the community. (JA 19/25 is the deed).

ACCNUTT
M:17-41-33

~~HISTORY CONTINUED~~ P.63

SITE: Sugarland Log Cabin / W^m Taylor
L/F 14/287 tract: 3ac. tax plat CSSI p.63

GRANTOR: Barbara Ann and Robert H. Allnutt

GRANTEE: W^m Taylor

DATE: ACREAGE: 2 ac, 3 rods, 38 sq. perches

MISC.:

L/F 196/353 - not the same land

GRANTOR: Robert H. C. ACCNUTT

GRANTEE: W^m TAYLOR

DATE: JAN, 1876 ACREAGE: 2

MISC.:

L/F: EBP 14/287

GRANTOR:

GRANTEE:

DATE: ACREAGE:

MISC.:

GRANTOR:

GRANTEE:

DATE: ACREAGE:

MISC.:

M:17-41-33

NAME: William Taylor

CENSUS: 1900 Montgomery County

PAGE: 7 B

AGE/D.O.B.: Sept 1830

OCCUPATION: Farm Laborer

WIFE: Mary L. - April 1835

CHILDREN:

PLACE OF BIRTH:

Both - Maryland

1870

NAME: William Taylor p. 88

M: 17-41-33

AGE/D.O.B.: 39

WIFE: Lanor? 38 Domestic servant

CHILDREN: Alice 20 domestic servant

maria 6 - maria

Jinton 12 - T. Lee

George 4 - T. Lee

OCCUPATION: Farm laborer

1880

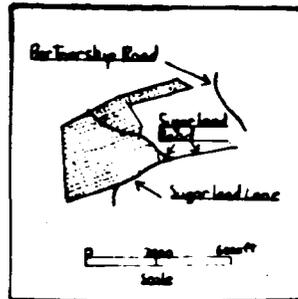
AGE/D.O.B.

WIFE:

CHILDREN:

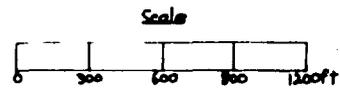
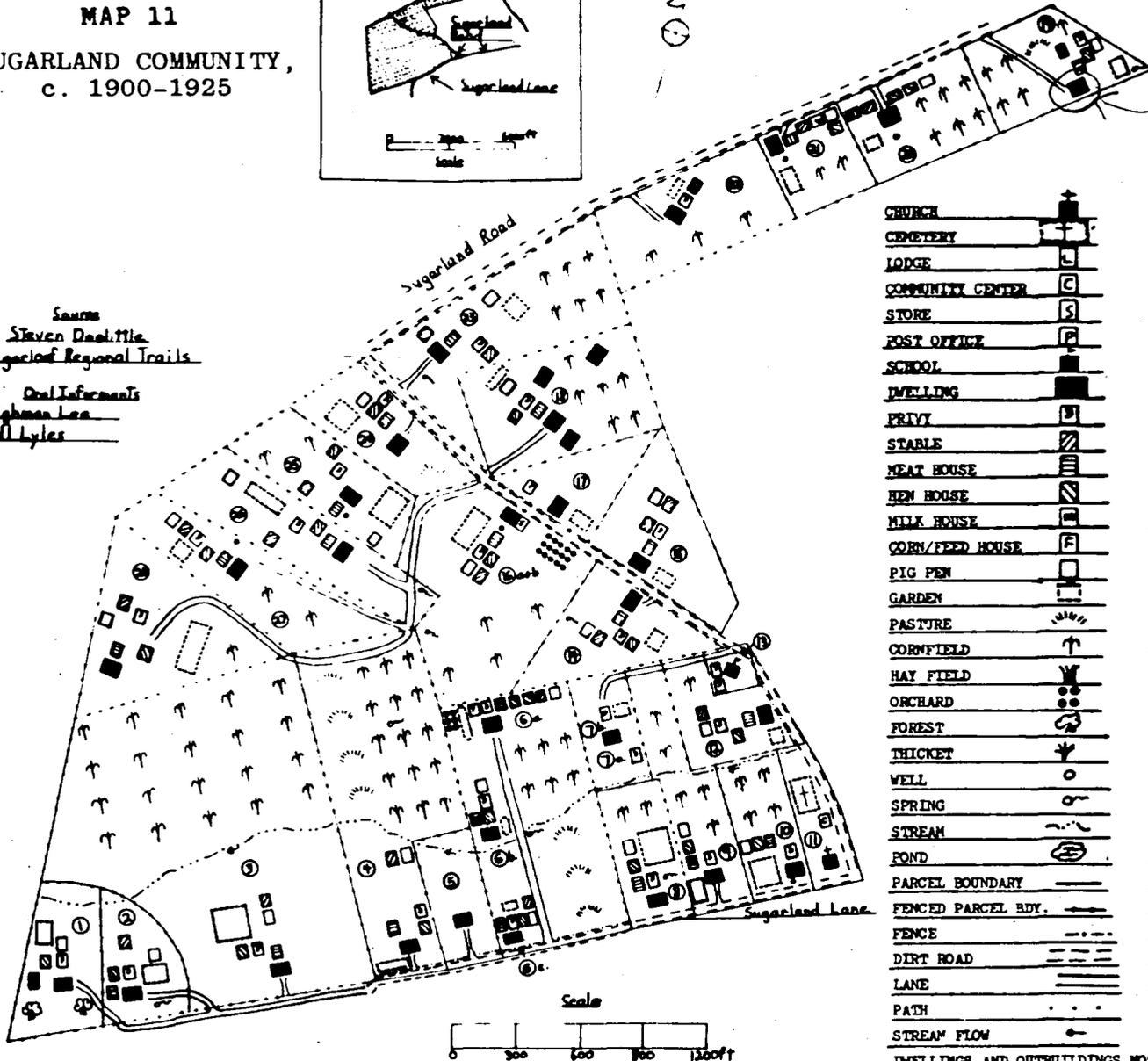
OCCUPATION:

MAP 11
SUGARLAND COMMUNITY,
c. 1900-1925



Source
Steven Daulton
Sugarland Regional Trails

Oral Informants
Tilghman Lee
Bill Lyles



M: 17-41-33

Key

- CHURCH
- CEMETERY
- LODGE
- COMMUNITY CENTER
- STORE
- POST OFFICE
- SCHOOL
- DWELLING
- PRIVY
- STABLE
- MEAT HOUSE
- HEN HOUSE
- MILK HOUSE
- CORN/FEED HOUSE
- PIG PEN
- GARDEN
- PASTURE
- CORNFIELD
- HAY FIELD
- ORCHARD
- FOREST
- THICKET
- WELL
- SPRING
- STREAM
- FOND
- PARCEL BOUNDARY
- FENCED PARCEL BDY.
- FENCE
- DIRT ROAD
- LANE
- PATH
- STREAM FLOW

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. JAMES BECWITH HSTD. | 3.00 AC. |
| 2. TILGHMAN BECWITH HSTD. | 4.00 AC. |
| 3. JOHN ADAMS HSTD. | 18.00 AC. |
| 4. LEWIS GARNETT HSTD. | 14.00 AC. |
| 5. PETER JACKSON HSTD. | 3.00 AC. |
| 6a. PATRICK HERRON HSTD. | 17.00 AC. |
| b. LUKE HERRON HSTD. | |
| c. ROBERT HERRON HSTD. | |
| 7a. NATHAN JOHNSON HSTD. | 3.00 AC. |
| b. POST OFFICE | |
| 8. JOHN HIGGINS HSTD. | 4.00 AC. |
| 9. JOE CURTIS HSTD. | 6.00 AC. |
| 10. BASIL DORSEY HSTD. | 4.00 AC. |
| 11. ST. PAUL'S M.E. CHURCH | 1.00 AC. |
| 12. HORACE JACKSON HSTD. | 2.00 AC. |
| 13. SUGARLAND SCHOOL | 1.00 AC. |
| 14. SAM BEANDER HSTD. | 6.00 AC. |
| 15. THOMAS NICHOLS HSTD. | 10.00 AC. |
| 16a. BENJAMIN SPARROUGH HSTD. | 14.75 AC. |
| b. SUGARLAND STORE | |
| 17. CHARLES JACKSON HSTD. | 4.50 AC. |
| 18. LUKE LYNCH & FAMILY HSTD. | 10.00 AC. |
| 19. WILLIAM TAYLOR HSTD. | 3.00 AC. |
| 20. LLOYD COATES HSTD. | 4.00 AC. |
| 21. SAMUEL JOHNSON HSTD. | 4.00 AC. |
| 22. JOHN DIGGS HSTD. | 4.00 AC. |
| 23. JOHN BRANSON HSTD. | 11.00 AC. |
| 24. RAP BRANSON HSTD. | 6.00 AC. |
| 25. PHILLIP JOHNSON HSTD. | 6.00 AC. |
| 26. ISAAC BELL HSTD. | 10.00 AC. |
| 27. SAMUEL LEE HSTD. | 6.00 AC. |
| 28. LEVI HALL HSTD. | 10.00 AC. |

DWELLINGS AND OUTBUILDINGS NOT DRAWN TO SCALE
HSTD. = HOMESTEAD PROP. = PROPERTY

Division of Archeology
Maryland Geological Survey
Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

STERLING QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA-MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 SENECA 15' QUADRANGLE

POOLESVILLE 2.8 MI. 77°22'30"

(GERMANTOWN)

25' 2 310 000 FEET (VA.)

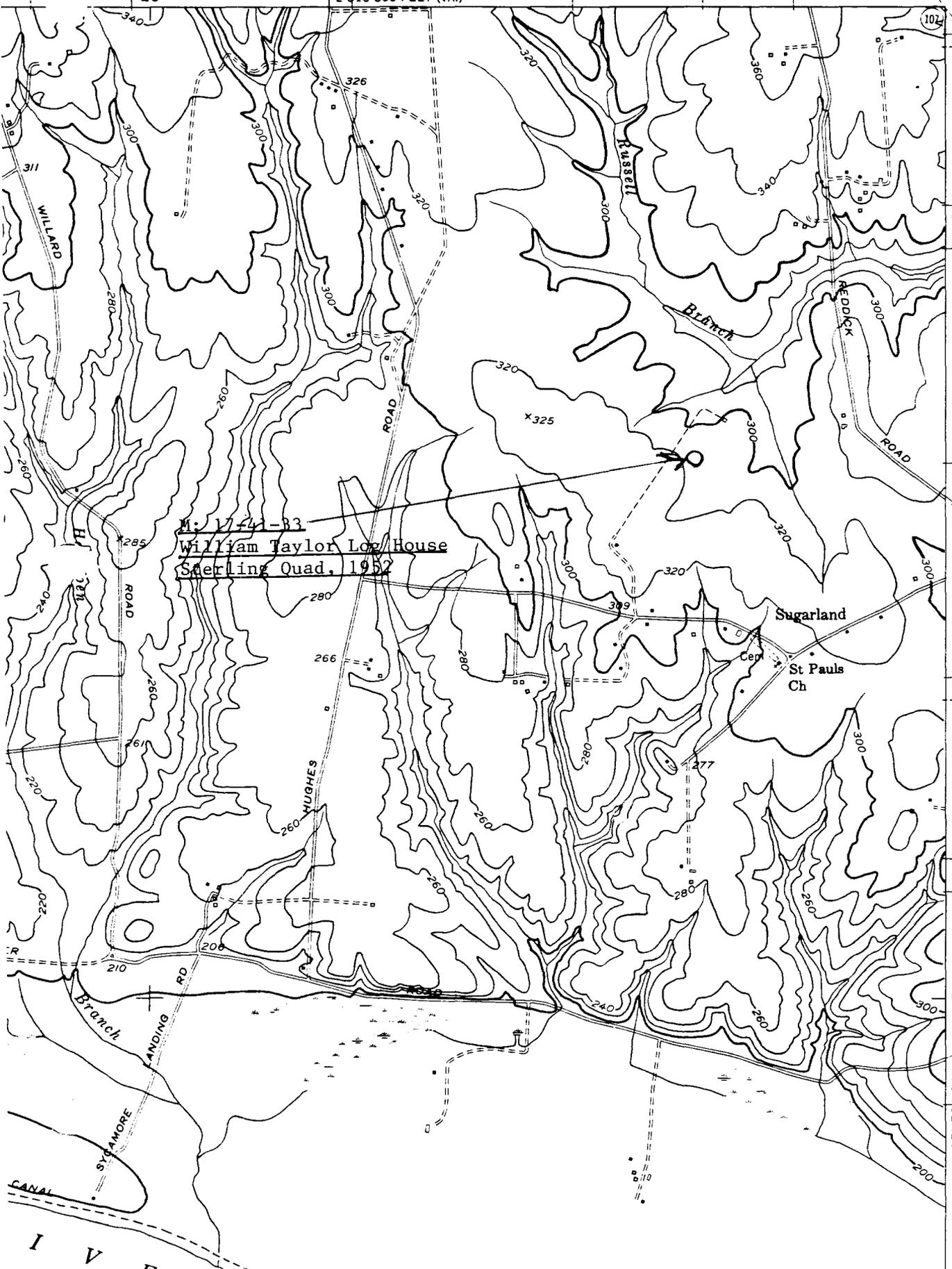
39°07'30"

DAWSONVILLE 1.5 MI.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 25 MI.

530 000 FEET
(VA.)

SENECA 2.8 MI

SENECA 2 MI.



M: 17-41-33
William Taylor Log House
Sterling Quad, 1952

I V E



William Taylor House

m-17-41-33

Northern Table end

Seyalant

photo by Gorge McDaniel

ADL 790504 -1 # 9



William Taylor house
M-17-41-33
Rear Length: West

Sugarland Community
photo by Alice Goye McDaniel

ADL790504-1 # 6



Wm Taylor house

M-17-44-33

Sydney

Detail, V-notched corner

phot by George McDaniel

ADL 790504-1 #8



Front length, east

ADL 790504-1 # 12



William Taylor house

M-17-41-33

Iron spike used to attach
window frame

Sugarland

photo by George McDaniel



William Taylor house
M-17-44-33

Door jamb secured by peg
with wedge

Sealand

photo by George McDaniel

ADL 790504-1 # 11