

## ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:26-10-11  
(date entered 5-12-90)MAGI #1650272611  
(# assigned 11/86)

1. Name: Darby House
2. Planning Area/Site Number: 26/10/11 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 15  
West Montgomery H.D. F-13
4. Address: 109 North Adams Street, Rockville

## 5. Classification Summary

Category	<u>building</u>	Previous Survey Recording	<u>M-NCPPC</u>
Ownership	<u>private</u>	Title and Date:	<u>1976 Inventory of</u>
Public Acquisition	<u>N/A</u>		<u>Historical Sites</u>
Status	<u>unoccupied</u>		<u>1974 Rockville Historic District Comm.</u>
Accessible	<u>no</u>	Federal	<u>State</u> <u>X</u> <u>County</u> <u>X</u> <u>Local</u> <u>X</u>
Present use	<u>unoccupied</u>		

6. Date: c. 1890 7. Original Owner: Mrs. Virginia Stevenson

## 8. Apparent Condition

a. fair b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This 2½ story frame house has a prominent place on the North Adams Street Streetscape, at the corner of Wood Lane. This five bay by three bay house faces west. The house is sheathed in white asbestos siding and has a brick foundation. There are two interior brick chimneys. The cross-gable roof is covered with standing seam metal. A brick sidewalk leads to the entrance under the central gable. The door is glass and wooden paneled, and is highlighted by an arched 6-light transom and glass and wooden paneled side-lights. On the first floor, the north two bays on the front facade form a mitred three-window bay. The two south bays on this facade have windows which reach almost to the porch floor. The 3-bay front porch is an outstanding feature of the house. The slender porch columns are alternately turned and square, the open frieze is composed of turned spindles done in the Eastlake manner, and the fascia of the shallow pediment is decorated by scrollwork pattern moulding. The entrance bay of the porch has a slightly projecting portico, with flanking double columns.
10. Significance: This Victorian dwelling for several years housed students at the "Rockville Institute".

Miss Lucy Simpson conducted a private primary school from 1886 to 1921, beginning in a shop on Monroe Street. When her elder sister, Mrs. Virginia Stevenson, died in 1889 she left Lucy her house which she had built soon after purchasing Lot 81 in 1887. Lucy expanded her school operation and boarded students in her home on the front part of Lot 81. The actual classroom building was a 3-room frame structure, built behind the house. It was probably painted red, known as the "Little Red Hut". Classes were held on Lot 81 through 1895. Miss Simpson later moved her school to 229 West Montgomery Avenue.

The house was vacant from 1896 to 1899. The main house was sold to Herbert S. Darby in 1914 and remained in that family until after the death of George Darby in 1978.

1. Researcher and date researched: Anne W. Cissel-9/79 Eileen McGuckian  
Arch. Description
12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled: 10/79 14. Designation  
Approval
15. Acreage: ¼ acre

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 26/10/11  
West Montgomery H.D.  
MAGI#1650272611

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Darby House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

109 North Adams Street

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— 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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Unoccupied

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Rockville United Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

110 West Montgomery Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Rockville,

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland 20850

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 5389

Folio #: 652

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville,

STATE  
Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

M-NCPPC Historical Sites Inventory and Rockville Historic District Commission

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL 1974

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood,

STATE  
Maryland 20855

M:26-10-11

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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 type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This 2½ story frame house has a prominent place on the North Adams Street streetscape, at the corner of Wood Lane. This five bay by three bay house faces west. The house is sheathed in white asbestos siding and has a brick foundation; the land slopes to the east, so the foundation becomes progressively higher in that direction. There are two interior brick chimneys. The cross-gable roof is covered with standing seam metal.

A brick sidewalk leads to the entrance under the central gable. The door is glass and wooden paneled, and is highlighted by an arched 6-light transom and glass and wooden paneled sidelights. On the first floor, the north two bays on the front facade form a mitred three-window bay. The two south bays on this facade have windows which reach almost to the porch floor.

The 3-bay front porch is an outstanding feature of the house. The slender porch columns are alternately turned & square, the open frieze is composed of turned spindles done in the Eastlake manner, and the fascia of the shallow pediment is decorated by scrollwork pattern moulding. The entrance bay of the porch has a slightly projecting portico, with flanking double columns.

On the rear (east) facade, five steps lead to a glass and wooden paneled door with three-light transom. The south three bays are covered with a one-story screened porch supported by brick piers. In the northeast corner is a small one-story addition with porch above; it too is supported by brick piers and is filled with lattice work.

The simple landscaping around the house features a large maple directly in front of the entrance and evergreens south and east of the house. There is a small wooden shed to the southeast of the house.

BNA

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART AND MONUMENTS	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1890

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This Victorian dwelling for several years housed students at the "Rockville Institute." Miss Lucy Simpson conducted a private primary school from 1886 to 1921, beginning in a shop on Monroe Street. When her elder sister, Mrs. Virginia Stevenson, died in 1889, she left Lucy a life interest in her real estate, Lot 81 at the corner of North Adams Street and Wood Lane.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Stevenson had purchased Lot 81 in 1887 for \$400<sup>2</sup>, and had built her home soon afterward. While Lucy may have already been living in Mrs. Stevenson's house with her, she took advantage of the property and expanded her school operation.

The actual classroom building was a three-room frame structure, built behind the house. It was probably painted red, as it was known as the "Little Red Hut." Lucy boarded students in her home on the front part of Lot 81. In a series of photographs donated to the Montgomery County Historical Society by a former pupil, the class and staff of the Rockville Institute are shown and named. In the picture dated 1892-1893 the student body of over 20 and the staff of four are posed on the front porch of the Adams Street house.<sup>3</sup>

Classes were held on Lot 81 through 1895,<sup>4</sup> and Miss Simpson later moved her school to 229 West Montgomery Avenue. This house was vacant from 1896 to 1899, when Wallace Ricketts purchased it for \$2,700:

Dwelling house in Rockville and outbuildings...and also small tenant house and added outbuildings. Dwelling house has been for some time unoccupied and needs repairs.<sup>5</sup>

A small tenant house at the extreme rear (east) part of Lot 81 had been built prior to 1879.<sup>6</sup> Later tax records describe this structure as "1 single and 1 double negro house;"<sup>7</sup> these tenements were divided from the large dwelling and garden by a fence. It is unknown whether the double "negro house" was the remnant of the "Little Red Hut," but it was still occupied as late as 1949.<sup>8</sup>

The main house was sold to Herbert S. Darby in 1914,<sup>9</sup> and remained in that family until FOOTNOTES: after the death of George Darby in 1978.

1. Montgomery County Judgment Records, JLB 3/88 (1889).
2. Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland, JA6/211 (1887).
3. Photographs #086-005, 006, and 007, Montgomery County Historical Society.
4. Interview, Miss Lucy Smith, former student, fall 1979.
5. Equity Records, op.cit., Case #1735, Judgment Record TD12/418 (1899); Land Records, TD 12/317 (1899).
6. Hopkins Atlas, 1879; enlargement of Rockville.
7. Montgomery County Assessment Records, 1910-1918, p. 122.
8. Thompson, Noma, Western Gateway to the National Capital, Steward Publishing Co., Washington, D. C. 1949, page 44.
9. Land Records, op. cit., 246/220 (1914).

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Land, Equity, and Assessment Records of Montgomery County, Maryland  
Hopkins Atlas (1879)  
Thompson, Noma, Western Gateway to the National Capital, Steward Publishing Co.,  
Washington, D. C. 1949, page 44.  
Photograph Collection, Montgomery County Historical Society and Interview:  
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY Lucy Smith, fall 1979.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one-quarter acre

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Part of Lot 81, Original Town of Rockville  
(as per Liber 188, Land Records)

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Anne W. Cissel

Eileen McGuckian  
Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

September 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

Maryland 20753

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 Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438



# HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION — PART 1 (Pursuant to the Tax Reform Act of 1976)

Instructions: Applicant should read the instructions carefully before completing application. No Certification may be made unless a completed application form has been received (P.L. 94-455). Use typewriter or print clearly in dark ink to complete the application form. If additional space is needed to complete Part 1, use the reverse side or a separate plain sheet of paper clearly indicating the owner's name and mailing address. Part 1 of this application may be completed and sent to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer at any time during the year, and may be sent separately or with Part 2.

## PART 1 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. NAME OF PROPERTY: The Darby House  
Address of property: Street 109 North Adams Street  
City Rockville County Montgomery State Maryland Zip Code 20850  
Name of historic district in which property is located: West Montgomery Avenue Historic District

2. DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:  
(see instructions for map and photograph requirements—use reverse side if necessary)  
Please see attachment

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
(use reverse side if necessary)  
Please see attachment

Date of construction (if known): 1887-1889  Original site  Moved Date of alterations (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

4. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF OWNER:  
Name Darby Venture, c/o Van Grack, Axelson & Williamowsky  
Street 109 North Adams Street  
City Rockville, State Maryland Zip Code 20850  
Telephone Number (during day): Area Code 301-424-0880

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I am one of the owners of the property described above.  
Signature [Signature] Date June 9, 1982  
Jeffrey M. Axelson, Darby Venture

For office use only  
The structure described above is included within the boundaries of the National Register historic district and  contributes  does not contribute to the character of the district.  
The structure  appears  does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and  will likely  will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with the Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60).  
The structure is located in a district which  appears  does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6).  will likely  will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60), and  appears  does not appear to contribute to the character of said district.  
Signature [Signature] Date 7-27-81  
State Historic Preservation Officer

This property has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Department of the Interior (36 CFR 67) and, if subject to depreciation under section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954,  
 is hereby certified a historic structure.  
 does not contribute to the character of the historic district and does not merit certification as a historic structure. Reasons given on the attached sheet.  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of the National Register

M:26-10-11

DARBY VENTURE  
c/o Van Grack, Axelson &  
Williamowsky  
109 North Adams Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

PART 1 - Evaluation of Significance

Question 2: Description of Physical Appearance

Landscape features include various trees (pines, evergreens, maple, dogwood) and shrubbery, brick sidewalks and front lawn which have been preserved around the house. There is a small frame storage shed with shingle roof behind the house on the south-east side which has also been preserved.

The frame house consists of two main stories with attic and half-basement. Along the front of the house there are two floor-to-ceiling windows on the southern portion and a large three-sided bay window on the northern portion of the house front. There is a recessed porch along the southern 2/3 of the front of the house with six slender pillars defining its boundaries. Over the pillars on the porch, there is a row of small spindles. There is also wooden scrollwork across the small pediment over the porch. There is a back porch on the first level raised on brick piers. Additionally, there is a small deck attached to the northeast corner of the second floor of the house, overlooking the back of the house above what was formerly a pantry.

The exterior of the house is currently covered with pale yellow asbestos shingles with dark brown shutters and white trim. The roof is shingled. There are two brick chimneys visible above the roof. The floor of the front porch is painted rusty brown.

The most recent alterations were completed in late April, 1980. These alterations consisted of upgrading the heating, plumbing and electrical systems; interior restoration of all woodwork and marble; removal of some partitions; repair of dry-rot areas; painting of roof with repair of gutters and downspouts; painting of entire exterior and window frames; addition of shelving.

The exact dates and nature of earlier alterations and improvements are not known.

The interior architectural features include: original wooden doors and moldings around the doors and along walls which are stained mahogany. The original wooden partition between the entry vestibule and front hallway has been retained and restored. There is a marble fireplace with a foliate-linear design in what appears to be the art nouveau style etched into the marble. The fireplace was restored in the recent 1980 alteration during which several layers of black paint were removed from the marble. There are no longer any working fireplaces in the house and it appears that they were bricked in some time ago, long before the 1980 alterations were begun on the house. In addition to the marble fireplace, there are wood mantelpieces in four of the rooms. There is a built-in cabinet with glass pane door in the room on the first floor immediately behind the front room with the bay windows. The original stained wooden banister and posts on the front staircase have been retained and refinished. The original wooden window frames have been preserved and have been either stained or painted.

It appeared upon inspection of the house before the 1980 alterations were begun, that the previous occupants of the house, George Darby and his family, lived here for approximately 50 years with little or no improvements to the house. The house is currently occupied as law offices.

M:26-10-11

DARBY VENTURE  
c/o Van Grack, Axelson &  
Williamowsky  
109 North Adams Street  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

PART 1 - Evaluation of Significance

Question 3: Statement of Significance

PROJECT: Research and history of Lot 80-107 N. Adams Street and Lot 81-109 N. Adams Street, Rockville, Maryland

MAJOR REFERENCES: General histories of county and city and architectural studies of city  
Montgomery County Land, Tax, Plat and Judgment Records as cited in text  
Montgomery County and Rockville Maps  
Martinet & Bond (1865)  
Hopkins Atlas (1879)  
Montgomery County Historical Society photograph collection and genealogies  
Sentinel newspaper abstracts, clippings and notices from 1856.

PREPARED BY: Anne W. Cissel  
215 Watts Branch Parkway  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

October, 1979

M: 26-10-11

