

## ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M:35-36-4  
(date entered 5-4-80)

1. Name: Alderman/Dunbar House

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 35/36/4 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 21  
Somerset H.D. F-12

4. Address: 4711 Cumberland Avenue, Chevy Chase

## 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> <u>Historical Sites</u>
Public Acquisition	<u>N/A</u>		
Status	<u>occupied</u>		
Accessible	<u>no</u>	Federal	<u>State</u> <u>x</u> <u>County</u> <u>x</u> <u>Local</u>
Present use	<u>private residence</u>		

6. Date: c. 1900

7. Original Owner: Daniel Salmon

## 8. Apparent Condition

a. good b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This four bay by three bay, two-and-a-half story house faces south. It has red asbestos shingles and white trim. The south porch wraps around to the west and has a half-hipped roof supported by eight wooden columns. The porch is enclosed by a balustraded railing and the west section is screened in. There are one-over-one double hung windows flanked by white wooden louvered shutters. There is a two story pentagonal bay at southeast corner. A one story slanted bay surmounted by a square bay on the east elevation. There is a small oval bay at southwest corner and a two story bay on the west elevation. There is a Palladian window on the west elevation. The house has a hipped roof above the south section and a gable roof above the north section. The roof has raised seam metal covering.

10. Significance: Representative of the dwellings built in the suburbs at the turn of the 20th century, this house was built by one of the five founders of the community of Somerset Heights. In 1890, five employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture formed the Somerset Heights Colony Company, subdivided a 50 acre tract and agreed to construct five residences immediately. Somerset founder, Daniel Salmon, had this dwelling constructed before selling it in 1900 to Charles Frederick Cook. Cook did not live in Somerset long, selling the property in 1906 to Zenas and Ettie Alderman, who sold it in 1915. Then in 1921 it was sold to Dr. Paul Dunbar and his wife Alice. They lived in the house until 1957, selling it in that year to the Dutch diplomat Theo Van Hemert. The present owners purchased the property in 1978.

1. Researcher and date researched: Eileen McGuckian-9/79

Candy Reed  
Arch. Description

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled: 10/79

14. Designation  
Approval         15. Acreage: c.  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 35/36-4  
Somerset H.D.  
MAGI#

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Alderman/Dunbar house

AND/OR COMMON

Lerner house

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

4711 Cumberland Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Chevy Chase

VICINITY OF Somerset

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Charles & Cynthia Lerner

Telephone #: 652-3829

STREET & NUMBER

4711 Cumberland Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Chevy Chase

VICINITY OF Somerset

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20015

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 5182

Folio #: 829

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

MNCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland 20855

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input 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 four bay by three bay, two and a half story house faces south. Built on brick foundations, the house has red asbestos shingles and white trim. The south porch wraps around to the west elevation and has a half-hipped roof supported by eight wooden columns. The porch is enclosed by a balustraded railing and the west section is screened in. The south door is glass and wooden paneled.

There are one-over-one double-hung windows; some are flanked by white wooden louvered shutters. At the southeast corner of the southeast elevation there is a two story pentagonal tower with pyramidal roof. On the east elevation there is a one story angled bay window at the first level overhung by a square bay at the second level. There is a small oval one story bay window at the southwest corner of the west elevation. There is a two story bay window on the west elevation. Also on the west elevation is a Palladian window composed of a center one-over-one double-hung window flanked by fixed lights and surmounted by a four light semi-circular window. There are hipped casement dormer windows at the west and south elevations.

The house has a hipped roof above the south section and a gabled roof above the north elevation. The roof has raised seam metal covering.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" 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. 1900

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This house is representative of the dwellings built in the suburbs at the turn of the 20th century.

The community of Somerset Heights was begun by five employees of the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 1890. In that year Harvey Wiley, Charles Crampton, Daniel Salmon, Miles Fuller and Horace Horton organized the Somerset Heights Colony Company and purchased 50 acres of "Friendship" just over the District line in Montgomery County.<sup>1</sup> They subdivided the tract,<sup>2</sup> named streets for English counties, and agreed to construct five residences immediately. Lot sales at first were brisk, but by the end of the decade interest in the project had waned.

Block 1, on which this property lies, is a long narrow strip with 20 lots fronting onto Cumberland Avenue. Daniel Salmon owned Lot 18, and on the east end of that lot he had this dwelling constructed before selling it in 1900 to Charles Frederick Cook.<sup>3</sup> Salmon was an internationally reknown scientist in the veterinary field, and built 4728 Dorset Avenue for his residence in Somerset Heights.

Cook did not live in Somerset long, selling to Zenas and Ettie Alderman in 1906.<sup>4</sup> The Aldermans in turn sold the property nine years later to Guy and Martha Allen,<sup>5</sup> who in 1921 sold to Dr. Paul Dunbar and his wife Alice.<sup>6</sup> The Dunbars lived here for many years, selling in 1957 to Dutch diplomat Theo Van Hemert.<sup>7</sup> The present owners purchased the property in 1978.

**FOOTNOTES:**

- 1 Land Records of Montgomery County, Md. JA 19/489 (June 12, 1890)
- 2 Ibid., Plat 1/30.
- 3 Ibid., TD 14/472 (Sept. 1, 1900).
- 4 Ibid., 190/454 (Oct. 18, 1906).
- 5 Ibid., 250/241 (May 19, 1915).
- 6 Ibid., 304/284 (May 10, 1921).
- 7 Ibid., 2350/116 (June 4, 1957).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY c 1/4 acre

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

East 69 1/6 feet front by full depth of lot 18, block 1, "Somerset Heights"

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Eileen McGuckian	Candy Reed - Arch. Description
ORGANIZATION Sugarloaf Regional Trails	DATE Sept. 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

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
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Account Identifier: District - 07 Account Number - 00538980

**Owner Information**

Owner Name: WENGER, ROBERT M Use: RESIDENTIAL  
Principal Residence: YES  
Mailing Address: 4711 CUMBERLAND AVE Deed Reference: 1) /13076/ 483  
CHEVY CHASE MD 20815 2)

**Location & Structure Information**

Premises Address Zoning Legal Description  
4711 CUMBERLAND AVE R60 SOMERSET HGTS  
CHEVY CHASE 20815

Map	Grid	Parcel	Sub District	Subdivision	Section	Block	Lot	Group	Plat No:	30
HN21				44		1	P18	80	Plat Ref:	
				Town	SOMERSET					
Special Tax Areas				Ad Valorem						
				Tax Class	09					
Primary Structure Built			Enclosed Area		Property Land Area			County Use		
1899			3,134 SF		10,375.00 SF			111		
Stories		Basement		Type			Exterior			
2		YES		STANDARD UNIT			FRAME			

**Value Information**

	Base Value	Phase-in Assessments		
		As Of 01/01/2001	As Of 07/01/2002	As Of 07/01/2003
Land:	266,370	289,370		
Improvements:	790,300	675,200		
Total:	1,056,670	964,570	964,570	964,570
Preferential Land:	0	0	0	0

**Transfer Information**

Seller: CHARLES & C B LERNER Date: 11/16/1994 Price: \$865,000  
Type: IMPROVED ARMS-LENGTH Deed1: /13076/ 483 Deed2:  
Seller: Date: 08/08/1978 Price: \$155,000  
Type: IMPROVED ARMS-LENGTH Deed1: / 5182/ 829 Deed2:  
Seller: Date: Price:  
Type: Deed1: Deed2:

**Exemption Information**

Partial Exempt Assessments	Class	07/01/2002	07/01/2003
County	000	0	0
State	000	0	0
Municipal	000	0	0

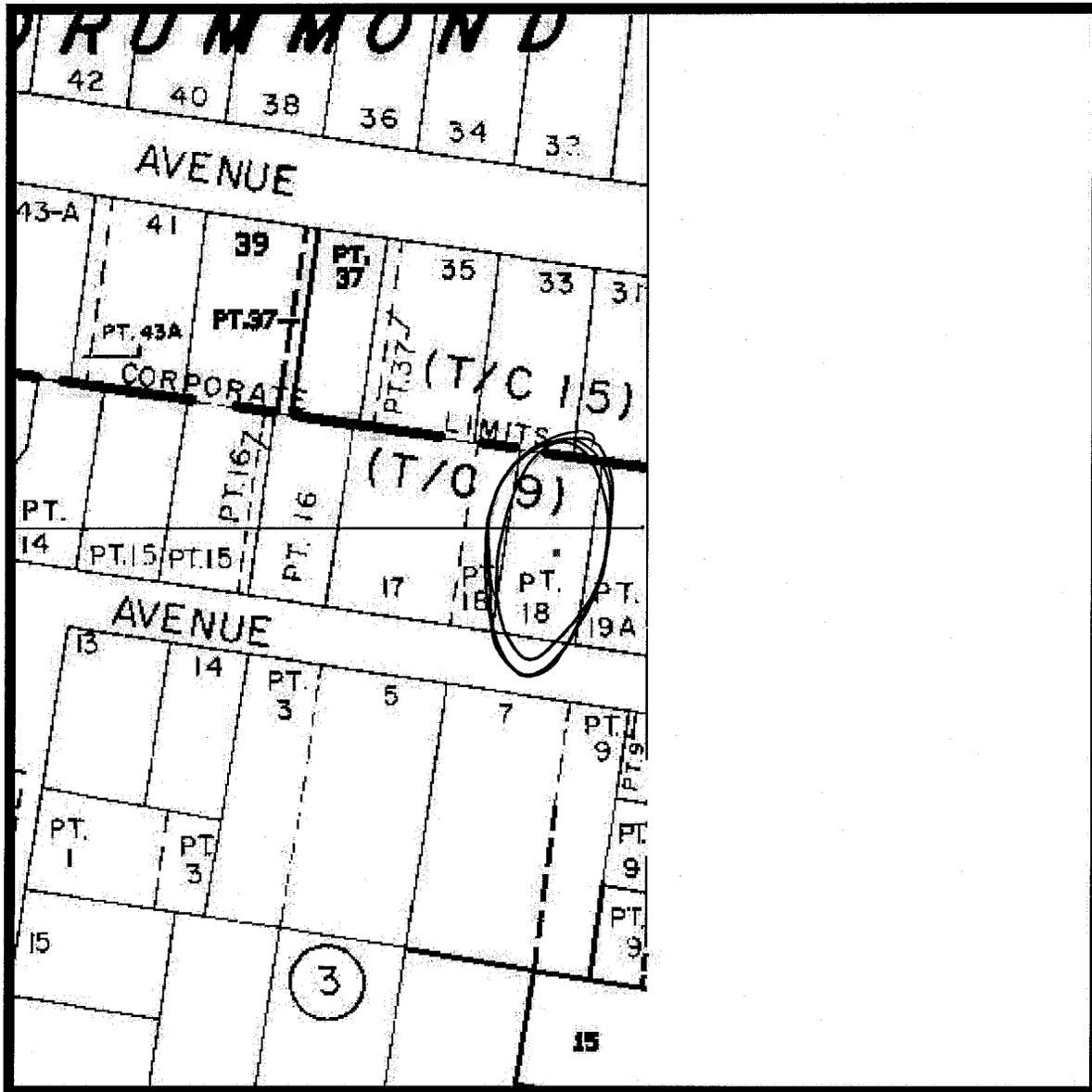
Tax Exempt: NO  
Exempt Class:

Special Tax Recapture:

\* NONE \*

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District - 07 Account Number - 00538980



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web site at [www.mdp.state.md.us](http://www.mdp.state.md.us)