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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

SENECA HISTORIC DISTRICT

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

See #10, Verbal Boundary Description

CITY, TOWN

Poolesville

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eighth

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Montgomery

CODE

031

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

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

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20850

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey (See continuation sheet #1)

DATE

1936

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington,

STATE

D.C.

# DESCRIPTION

M: 17-63

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

The Seneca Historic District is located in the northwest corner of Montgomery County, Maryland, twenty-three miles from Washington, D.C. and eight miles from the town of its Post Office address, Poolesville, Maryland.

It comprises 3,850 acres of federal, state, and county parkland and farmland in which fifteen historic houses are situated. When the first patents were granted in the early 18th century to Daniel Dulaney, it was forested land where game abounded and Indians fished and hunted. The first plantations, established by Georgetown residents and Anne Arundel County emigrants, were working farms of the same approximate size today.

The 1865 Simon Martenet map of Montgomery County shows the homesteads arranged so that the general appearance of the district must have resembled that of the present time with the following exceptions: (1) roads have been widened and payed for the automobile; (2) two or three farms have been subdivided, but only a few houses have been built since the early 1900's; (3) a small general store remains which was originally operated in conjunction with a grist mill that was removed to make a change in the route of River Road; (4) a stone barn was demolished in May 1975; (5) Red Seneca Sandstone is no longer from the site on the bank of the Potomac River, but the quarry remains.

The parkland in the Seneca Historic District is bounded by 1.65 miles of the Potomac River, the eastern shore of the Great Seneca Creek, 1.95 miles of River Road (Route 190), and a line 1.13 miles long drawn through some farmland owned by the Maryland Department of Parks.

The 1.65 mile length of the C & O Canal, Riley's Lock House (Lock House #24), the Seneca Sandstone Quarry, the Quarry Master's House and the Stone Cutting Mill are on the National Register of Historic Places. They are included in this nomination because they are an integral part of the Seneca Historic District and were important factors in the development of the District.

On the south, the parkland rises steeply to form bluffs along the river. It is in one of these bluffs that the Quarry is located. From the highest elevation, 300 feet, north to River Road, there are cleared, level fields. A one-room stone schoolhouse located on River Road is surrounded on three sides by oak trees and farm fields. Along Great Seneca Creek there are many summer houses and a few year round homes built directly on the shores. Once or twice a year residents are forced to evacuate these houses when flooding of Seneca Creek threatens or occurs.

On the north side of River Road, the privately owned land is divided by four winding secondary roads and by Great Seneca Creek and Dry Seneca Creek. Elevations range from 350 feet at Montevideo to 250 feet near Magurns' house to make a rolling countryside of beautiful vistas of

(see continuation sheet #2)

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Seneca Historic District  
Montgomery County,  
Maryland

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PAGE 1

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

1. Historic Sites in the Bi-County Region Seneca Historic District  
1969 County
2. Inventory of Historical Sites: Western part of County  
1969 County  
Montgomery County Historical Society  
W. Montgomery County Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20850

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PAGE 2

**DESCRIPTION**

productive farmland and small forests.

The fifteen historic houses are surrounded by dependencies of various periods, in most cases dating from the period of the dwelling. There are slave quarters, smokehouses, springhouses, corn cribs, and tobacco barns. Nearly every farm also contains a large bank barn built at Seneca sandstone foundations and red painted wooden siding with white trim. There are some sections of red sandstone fence bordering fields. These are about three feet high and two to three feet thick. They are very beautiful, but only in a few cases are efforts being made to preserve them.

A description of some of the buildings follows. They are numbered in relation to the numbers on the accompanying maps:

1. The Lewis Allnutt House is one of four houses in this District built around 1900. They are all two-story, large (10 or 12 rooms), white frame houses with porches on the front and on the side.
2. Dawson House is a five-bay, two-story house built of Seneca sandstone in 1802, with an interior chimney at each end. Now unoccupied and deteriorating.
3. "The Homestead" - (See #1)
4. "The Springs" is a two-story, stone structure built in several sections (good condition, altered, original site). The south end is the older part; it was a two-bay house with a flush gable chimney. The north three bays were added in 1845 and the entrance moved to the center bay. At the north end there is a flush gable chimney. Over the entrance an inscription reads, "B and L Allnutt 1845." The windows on the first floor are all 6/9 double hung sash; on the second floor they are 6/6 double hung sash. The lintels and sills are all stone. The central doorway is double, with a four-light transom and paneled reveals.

South of the house is the kitchen, now connected by a breezeway. It has a four-bay facade with two doors and two windows. The walls have been rebuilt above the doorheads and a gambrel roof added.

5. Lawrence Darby House - (See #1)
6. Stone Fence: two to three feet thick, three feet high, Seneca sand-

(see continuation sheet #3)

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DESCRIPTION

stone, dry wall construction.

7. "Oakland." The house is a frame, two-story, hip-roofed structure with a three-bay main facade. The doorway, with transom and side-lights, is in the north bay. The roof has a hipped roof lantern. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash. The cornice is bracketed. At the south end are two internal chimneys. The east wing of the house, which contains the kitchen, is built of stone and predates the rest of the house. It is thought to be the kitchen building of the original "Oakland," summer home of Thomas and Martha Parke Custis Peter.
8. "Rockland," also known as "Benoni Allnut House," is a two-story sandstone building with a two-story stone wing (excellent condition, altered, original site). The main block is laid up in coursed, dressed stone with quoined corners; the wing is laid up in uncoursed stone. The facade is five bays with a central doorway. The windows are 4/4 double hung sash with false segmentally arched heads formed by moulded framing. The sills and lintels are cut stone blocks. A broad wooden frieze encircles the house below the boxed cornice. The frieze carries the paired brackets; between sets of brackets, a paneling motif decorates the frieze. The roof is hipped, with a "widow's walk" having a balustrade of sawn, openwork design. The front porch has paired columns on either side of the steps. The cornice is bracketed. The balustrade is composed of turned posts. At either end are two interior brick chimneys. The wing, set back from the facade, repeats the motif of the main block. The house is built in the Victorian "Italianate" style.
9. The Magurn House is a two-story, frame structure with a five-bay main facade. The central doorway is flanked by 2/2 double hung sash. The boxed cornice has small brackets. There is a central gable with a semicircular, louvered window. To the rear is a two-story ell.
10. "Montanverde" is a two-story, clapboard-sheathed, brick structure with a five-bay main facade. There are two-story external brick chimneys with free-standing brick stacks above the second floor at both ends. The central doorway has a three-light transom, and windows are double hung 6/6. One-story wings are set back from the plane of the facade at each end of the house.

(See continuation sheet #4)

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## DESCRIPTION

11. "Montevideo" (excellent, altered) is a two-story, three-bay house in a Georgian/Federal style. Built of random stone, it is completely covered by cement stucco except for a foundation of cut red sandstone from the Seneca quarries. Windows are of a three-part style known as Wyeth; the central section has 9/6 sash and the two side panels have 3/2. The doorway has sidelights and a large fanlight. There are no windows in the ends of the building. The house has a low hipped roof and double internal end chimneys. An addition was built onto the west end in 1959 and the original smokehouse was moved fifty yards from the house. The house was restored at the time.
12. The Seneca Schoolhouse is a small sandstone structure, two bays square and one and a half stories high with a steeply pitched A-roof. There is a smaller A-roofed sandstone enclosed porch projecting from the front gable end of the structure. Each side has two 6/6 windows with wide wooden frames. There are huge, stone corner quoins and no windows on the rear gable wall. There is a simple box cornice along the roof line.
13. Charles Allnutt House - (See #1)
14. William Frank House Slave Quarters. The L-plan of this building consists of the 1 1/2-story longer section and the one-story shorter one. A large, stone fireplace with a brick stack is located between the legs of the "L." The date 1835 is incised in the lintel of the south gable window of the larger block. This building is situated behind the William Frank House, site #15.
15. William Frank House or Montevideo Overseer's House. This is a two-story, three-bay structure of Seneca sandstone with large stone lintels over the openings.

The central double-paneled door has paneled reveals. The windows are 2/2 Victorian sash, full-length on the first floor. The main facade has a plain board frieze and a boxed cornice with paired bracket supports over the center of each window and at the corners.

A two-story frame wing was added to the house circa 1900.

Located behind the house is a large, frame double corn crib with stone foundations.

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DESCRIPTION

16. "Evermay" is a two-story, frame structure with a five-bay main facade. The doorway is in the central bay with transom and side-lights. At either end are internal chimneys for fireplaces. A one-story porch with bracketed posts extends across the entire facade. On the back of a riser on the stairs to the second floor there is an inscription, "Henry Young, Plasterer, June 14, 1955."
17. The Allnut/Poole Store is a general store situated on the property of "Evermay." It has a gabled, three-bay main facade with a shed-roofed porch. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash. It was built in 1901.
18. Historical Marker: "Rowser's Ford." "This Crossing of the Potomac River was used by Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart on the night of June 27, 1863, to enter Maryland on his ride around the Union army during the Gettysburg Campaign."
19. The Seneca Sandstone Quarries extend into the escarpment facing the C & O Canal and Potomac River for more than a hundred feet. A more complete description of the quarries can be found in the National Register of Historic Places forms submitted in the National Register.
20. The Quarry Master's House is a two and a half story, double house of sandstone. Quoins, sills and lintels are large, well-dressed stone. A wall divides the two sides of the house. A stairway mounts on each side of the dividing wall. Each unit has two rooms on each floor. The attic space is lighted by one window on each end. The house has been badly vandalized, but the structure is sound. Further description in National Register of Historic Places forms submitted in the National Register.
21. The Stone Cutting Mill is a double building, having been extended beyond its gable wall at a later date than its original construction. The wooden portions of the building have disappeared and the head race was obliterated by a service road. The walls are of dressed sandstone. Pedestals for machinery remain. A stone-lined trench extends the length of the building from the wheel pit at the west end. It is a roofless ruin of beautiful proportions.
22. The Turning Basin where barges were loaded with finished stone is a wide pond beside the canal.

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DESCRIPTION

- 23. The Seneca Aqueduct of Seneca sandstone has been badly damaged in floods, but is stabilized, awaiting repair.
- 24. Riley's Lock House is a handsome two-story sandstone house of three bays, in excellent condition.

# SIGNIFICANCE

M: 17-63

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The section of Maryland where Seneca Creek flows into the Potomac River is a site of surpassing significance in the study of the changing of the American Colonies into a united nation. There is no place along the Potomac River which served more often as the theater for scenes of the developing history of Maryland from the 17th century to the early days of the 20th century, with each scene described in recorded history.

In the latter part of the 17th century, the Potomac Rangers under the command of Colonel Mason, who was stationed at Accotink, Virginia, ranged through the Seneca Section to the headquarters of Captain Richard Brightwell, whose land grant, Brightwell's Hunting, stretched along the river's edge above Seneca. Indian attacks were frequent and savage; wild animals abounded along the river. Captain Brightwell's request to rope and break some wild horses opens a new field of speculation to a student of history as to how wild horses arrived in the Seneca Section. It is interesting to note that Brightwell received permission from his superiors providing the horses were used by his Rangers and not offered for sale.<sup>1</sup>

In the early 18th century, great holdings of land were granted to favorite English families. One of those who received land adjacent to the Seneca was Daniel Dulany, 1930 acres, on March 21, 1731. He named his land Conclusion.<sup>2</sup>

For fifty years the Seneca Section remained quiet. When the country was swept by revolution, Seneca became involved. In November 1780, Daniel Dulany, because he was a Loyalist, had his lands in Montgomery County at Seneca confiscated. They were offered for sale by the Honorable Alexander Contee Hanson, acting for the State of Maryland. On October 25, 1781, lots two through seven of the land were bought by Robert Peter, a wealthy and influential merchant who was the Mayor of Georgetown, one of the most important ports on the Potomac River.<sup>3</sup> Lots one and eight were purchased by William Deakins, also of Georgetown, a member of the Committee of Observation, and a friend of General George Washington.<sup>4</sup>

In August 1785, George Washington traveled above and below the Seneca as he studied the navigation of the Potomac.<sup>5</sup>

(see continuation sheet #7)

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Robert Peter rented his land in 100-acre farms, taking care to see that the leases stated exactly how the property was to be used. His lease to John Higgins, October 12, 1787, is an example of an early attempt at environmental protection. The lease for the 100 acres stated that:

"John Higgins was to clear and grub not more than seventy-five acres. . . .and it was agreed and understood by and between the said parties, among other things, that the said John Higgins was to build upon the said premises one good dwelling house at least twenty by sixteen feet and one frame Tobacco house thirty-two by twenty-four feet double ground [?]. Both houses to have shingled roofs and finished in a workmanlike manner and also to plant in an Orchard on the said premises one hundred apple trees at the least. . . ."

The rent for the property was to be one thousand and fifty pounds of Tobacco, delivered at the Georgetown Warehouse in one hogshead, "the Tobacco to be the first or best quality he makes on the premises."<sup>6</sup>

Robert Peter died in 1802 and by the terms of his will, left his Seneca land to his sons: Thomas, who was married to Martha Custis, the granddaughter of Martha Washington; George, who married the wealthy Ann Plater; and David, who was a bachelor.<sup>7</sup> The Peter heirs<sup>8</sup> developed the red sandstone and marble quarries along the bank of the Potomac River<sup>9</sup> and built large, substantial houses on their property. Houses of stone were built by their neighbors on the adjacent farms. At first many of these houses were lived in by their owners in summer only. During the winter, when they returned to their beautiful Georgetown houses, their country property was guarded and managed by capable overseers.

By 1828 the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal was being built through the Peter property along the river's edge. The farmhouses around Seneca were being lived in all year long by sons of the men who had built them for summer homes. The fields were planted with rye, wheat, corn, and tobacco. As soon as the section of the Canal between Georgetown and Seneca was completed it was opened for travel, while work continued up the river toward Cumberland. Stone from the Peter Quarry was cut and used in the construction of the canal and the aqueducts over the mouth of the Seneca and the many other creeks which flowed into the Potomac.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Seneca soon became the business center for the canallers, the quarrymen, and the farmers who brought their grain to the tall mill on Seneca Creek and their tobacco to the canal boats on the way to Georgetown. Soon there were hundreds of boats passing through the lock at the mouth of the Seneca. Across the creek from the lockkeeper's house was a hugh stone-cutting mill where stone was cut for use in the neighborhood and for shipping to Washington and New York. Near the stone mill, a fan-shaped cut was made in the canal bank for boats to pull into while loading. By 1834 there were not only cargo and coal barges on the canal, but also passenger boats. It was not too pleasant a trip according to a letter Nelly Custis Lewis' daughter, Angela, wrote from Tudor Place, her Aunt Peter's home in Georgetown, September 8, 1834: "We arrived here last evening after a very tedious journey down the Canal. We were detained a day at Harper's Ferry...."<sup>10</sup>

During the Civil War, 1861-1865, fighting in the Seneca section was very real and very bitter. There were repeated crossings of the river by Southern raiders. John Singleton Mosby left accounts in his memoirs of two of the crossings. One was on June 11, 1863, when the Southerners burned a canal boat and fought a Federal force drawn up at Seneca Mill. According to Mosby, the Northerners fled after heavy fighting, leaving behind their battle flag.<sup>11</sup> During that skirmish, the mill must have caught fire, as the Mill Book<sup>12</sup> has records of cleaning up debris, selling burned flour, and repairing the mill. In July 1864, Mosby again went to Seneca, this time in the hope of surrounding the 8th Illinois Cavalry camped there. Before he reached the camp, the Northerners retreated, leaving camp equipment, stores, and fifty head of beef cattle.<sup>13</sup>

From the daily records in the Seneca Mill Book it appears that in spite of the war the families in the large sandstone houses continued to plant their fields and carry their grain to the mill. Their tobacco was sent down the canal to Georgetown. Through subscriptions they raised money to build a schoolhouse.

The schoolhouse is still standing. Unfortunately, the large gristmill on Seneca Creek which had been the center of activity all through the 19th and early 20th centuries is gone. It was razed in 1973 when River Road was rebuilt. The miller's house has been torn down and one of the most interesting of the large barns was recently bulldozed. But on the whole, the Seneca section of Maryland, with its extra large barns, broad fields, and well-built stone houses, remains un-

(see continuation sheet #9)

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

changed and is a priceless, unspoiled picture of Maryland as it must have been during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Also unchanged is Sugarloaf Mountain in the distance which gave one of the most beautiful homes in the Seneca Section its name, Monte Video, I see the Mountain.

<sup>1</sup>Scharf's History of Western Maryland, page 647-652. Maryland Archives, Vol. 23 page 175. Maryland Archives, Vol. 2, May 27, 1669.

<sup>2</sup>Rockville Court House, Liber H, folio 250.

<sup>3</sup>Rockville Court House, Liber E 5, folio 114. Maryland During and After the Revolution, by Philip A. Crowl. Series LXI, No. 1, 1943, Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science.

<sup>4</sup>Washington's Writings, Vol. 36, page 180.

<sup>5</sup>Washington's Diary, Vol. II, August 1785.

<sup>6</sup>Rockville Court House, Liber E, folio 316.

<sup>7</sup>Rockville Court House, Liber P, folio 674.

<sup>8</sup>Assessment Book, 1798-1812, Rockville Court House.

<sup>9</sup>Report of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution 30th Congress, 1st Session, January 6, 1848, page 5.

<sup>10</sup>Original at Mount Vernon, Virginia

<sup>11</sup>Ranger Mosby, by Virgil Carrington Jones, page 134.

<sup>12</sup>Seneca Mill Book, 1863-1866 (the authors).

<sup>13</sup>Memoirs of Mosby, page 277, Ranger Mosby by V. C. Jones, page 189.

\*War of the Rebellion, Library of Congress, National Archives Series I, Vol. XXVII, part III. Adjutant General J. H. Taylor to Major General Stahel 2.S.2. page 172,173.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following are significant statements for some of the numbered sites in the description:

2. Dawson House. Robert Doyne Dawson served as an officer in the Revolutionary War. He served in the Maryland Line under General John Eager Howard during the battles of Long Island and Cowpens. He was wounded at the battle of Germantown in Pennsylvania. He married the daughter of another early settler in 1781. He built this house in 1801, a lintel stone inscribed with the date. His wife died in 1806. He married again but it is not known how long he continued to occupy this house. Since 1880 at least it has been used as a tenant house and is now unoccupied.

3. "The Homestead" was built in 1900 near the site of an earlier house which contained a stone reading "James N. Allnutt was born here August 21, 1791." This house was later torn down. The land was owned by this James Allnutt's father, James Allnutt and was called "Thomas Discovery."

7. "Rockland." After a house on this site burned, Benoni Allnutt built this house, inscribing "B. Allnutt 1870" on a lintel, of Seneca Sandstone, in the current "Italianate" style. Scharf describes it in 1882 as "perhaps the finest house in the area, the house having been built. . . .of native stone."

10. "Montanverde" is the oldest house lived in in the Seneca Historic District. It was built between 1806 and 1812 by Major George Peter, who occupied it only in summer until 1827 when he moved there to live year round. George Peter was born 1779 in Georgetown. At 15 he joined the Maryland troops during the Whiskey Rebellion. His parents sent a messenger to camp and General George Washington, a family friend, learning of George's presence, ordered him home. In 1799 he received an appointment as 2nd Lieutenant of the 9th Infantry from President Adams. He received his commission from George Washington at Mt. Vernon. In 1807 he was made Captain of Artillery, in 1808, a Major.

In 1848 Abraham Lincoln, a Congressman at the time, attended a political rally at Montanverde as the guest of Major Peter. He spent the night and the room in which he stayed as still referred to as "the Lincoln Room."

(see continuation sheet #11)

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1813 Major Peter was in command of a battalion of "flying artillery" which was present at the Battle of Bladensburg. After a long career of public service with military and government, Major Peter died at "Montanverde" in 1861.

11. "Montevideo" was constructed between 1828 and 1830 as the home of John Parke Custis Peter and his family. Peter's father, Thomas, was a mayor of Georgetown and his grandfather, Robert, was the first mayor and one of the founders of Georgetown, Maryland (now D.C.). John P.C. Peter, during his life at Montevideo between 1830 and his death in 1848, served as President of the Board of Education of the Darvestown District (1839), was a member of the Maryland House of Delegates (1828), and was first President of the Montgomery County Agricultural Society (1846). A family cemetery was established in the field northwest of the house; it contains numerous Peter family graves, including that of John Parke Custis Peter.

The red sandstone used in the construction of Montevideo is the same Seneca stone used in the construction of the Smithsonian Institution "Castle" and the original Corcoran Art Gallery, now the Renwick, in Washington. The C & O Canal is involved with the history of Montevideo, providing mail delivery and transportation of goods for its owners. The Peter family was friendly with Mr. and Mrs. George Washington even before Thomas Peter married Mrs. Washington's granddaughter and namesake, Martha. Thomas and Martha Peter were the parents of John Parke Custis Peter.

15. William Frank House or Montevideo Overseer's House. Built as an overseer's house on John Parke Custis Peter's estate of Montevideo, the house is dated before 1858. In that year it was sold with the slave quarters (#14) and Greek Revival barn (now destroyed) as lot #3 of Peter's estate to the Potomac (late Sand) Stone Company. The William Franks, present owners of the house, have maintained a youth hostel in the slave quarters for the past twenty years.

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(see continuation sheet #13)

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Protest Saves old (Quarry Master's) House

Article, Montgomery County (Maryland) Sentinel Aug. 14, 1975

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 14

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

The ruins of a second stone-cutting mill are located approximately .5 mile upstream from Seneca Mills. This mill site consists of numerous coursed and roughly squared sandstone walls, an earthen flume, and a water wheel housing. The exact configuration of the mill cannot be gleaned from surface examination due to dense ground vegetation.

Steven Phillips  
C & O Canal Restoration Team  
National Park Service  
February, 1977

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(see continuation sheet #12)

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3,850 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	29,458,0	4,33,09,2,0	B	1,8	29,73,0,0	4,33,23,1,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	29,92,2,0	4,32,91,0,0	D	1,8	29,84,8,0	4,32,65,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E 18 296360/4326720

The Seneca Historic District is bounded generally by the Potomac River on the south, Reddick Road on the west, the back lines of the properties just north of Sugarland Road on the north, and Berryville and Violets Lock Roads on the east with the exception of the Harman farm "Montanverde" on the east side of Berryville Road. (See map for further detail).

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

njm

NAME / TITLE

Dorothy Muir, Mary Ann Kephart, Austin Kiplinger

ORGANIZATION

Historic Medley District, Inc.

DATE

December 1975

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 232

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Poolesville

STATE

Maryland 20837

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*John N. Please*

DATE

1/6/77

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

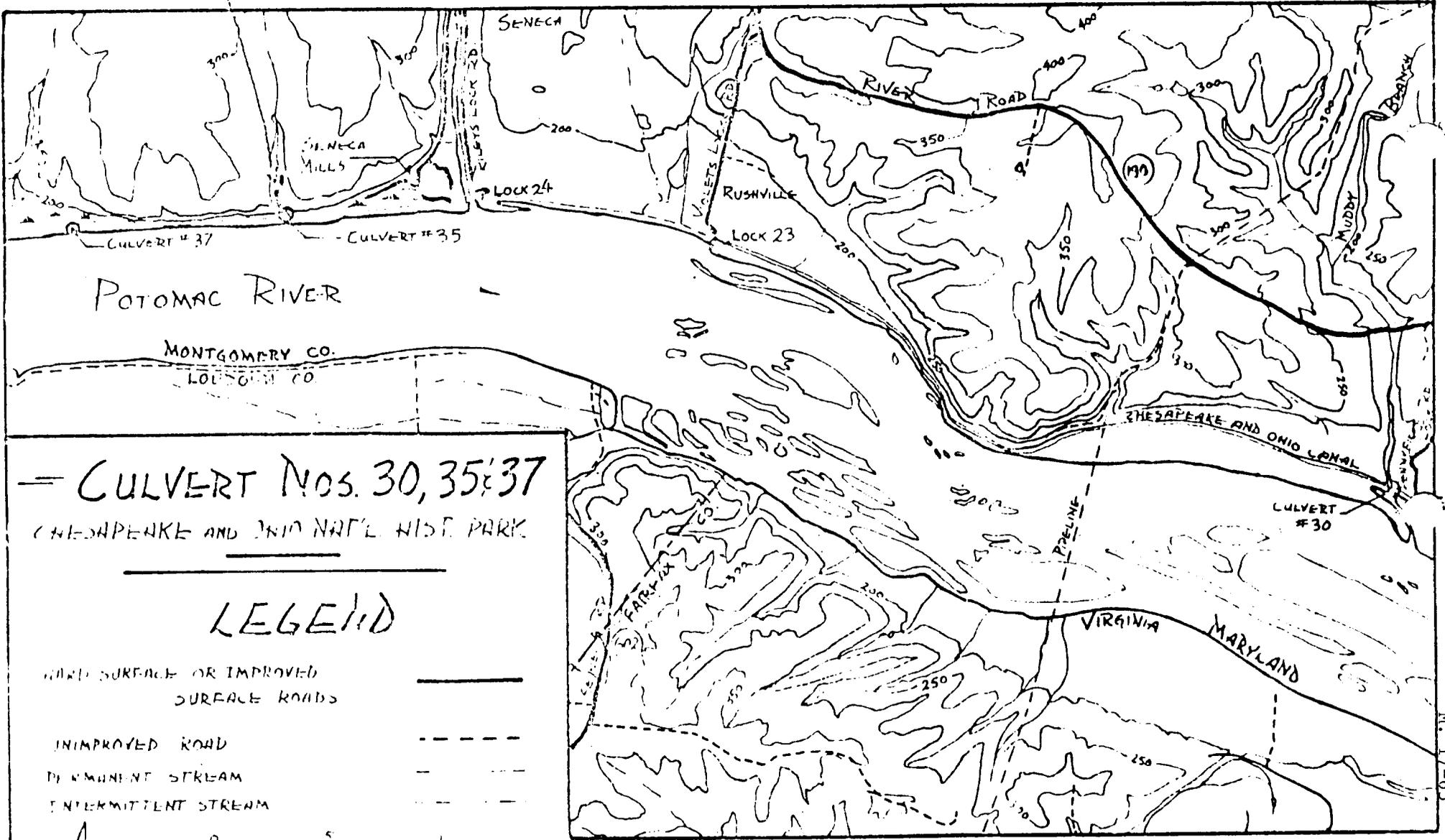
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

LOCATION OF SECOND STONE-CUTTING MILL

1 - EXISTING WALLS



**CULVERT NOS. 30, 35 & 37**  
 CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO NAT'L HIST. PARK

**LEGEND**

- SURFACE OR IMPROVED SURFACE ROADS —————
- UNIMPROVED ROAD - - - - -
- PERMANENT STREAM ————
- INTERMITTENT STREAM - - - - -

18-36

SENECA HISTORIC DISTRICT

18-37

17-30

18-38

24-22

18-39

24-23

24-24

17-57

Creek

17-58

17-60

17-59

17-61

24-33

56

62

17-55

17-51

SENECA QUARRY

17-54

24-26

17-53

24-25

24-27

Sharpshin I

POTOMAC

MONTGOMERY CO

