# Capsule Summary for John McDonald House

June 1991

Mont. Co. survey prefix: 29

Site number :7

Approx. building date : 1873

Town/town vicinity : Potomac

Access : Public √ Private

#### Short Description of Site:

The McDonald House is a fine example of a late nineteenth century twoand-one-half-story ell-shaped farmhouse which retains several interesting outbuildings and its original setting with a long driveway and many large trees. The original house is a two-and-onehalf-story five-bay gabled ell. It has exterior corbelled chimneys at either end of the main, side-gabled block, which faces northeast. The front door is centered. There is a two-story porch added on the southeast which is screened and has a standing seam metal roof. A twostory addition has been placed in the angle of the ell. On the gable end of this addition is yet another small shed addition covering a bow window. The main horse barn is across the driveway to the east of the main house. The center gabled portion is two stories, with a hayloft above the stall area. A small one-story pyramidal hip-roofed cottage is built across the yard from the barn, to the west. An empty swimming pool lies between the guest house and the main house. A platform on the west is all that remains of a pool house that exploded some time ago. Across fields to the south and west from the quest house are two more horse shelters, basically shed-roofed lean-tos with a cut-away portion of the wall and roof supported by square posts.

# Analysis of Evaluation for

#### John McDonald House (29/7)

June 1991

Value Descr.

_				
	Outstanding			
	Considerable			
	Moderate			
	Minor			
	Evaluation Criteria	Arch. Signif.	Arch. Integrity	Historical Signif.

#### Procedure:

Rating =  $\frac{\text{\# of Boxes Selected}}{12}$  x 100

0 - 25 % = Unqualified

25 - 50 % = Minimal

50 - 75 % = Mid-level

75 - 100% = Good

90 - 100% = Natl. Reg. (with

possible exceptions)

#### Rating for this site: Good

#### Criteria:

Arch. Significance - that quality which embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose component may lack individual distinction.

Historical Significance - that quality present in sites associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history.

Arch. Integrity - determined by the number of architectural changes to the site...using the following list as a quide...(and) noting other unusual changes.

Detrimental Changes (depending on the quality of its original character):

new or relocated chimney
rebuilt foundation
new porch
 original windows changed (at a later, but still historical, date)
 modern windows in original frames
original windows intact but extra ones added
change in shape or size of window openings
lack of outbuildings
 aluminum siding (unless original architraves and trim are retained
 asphalt or asbestos siding (over original siding)
 recent change of location
 receire change or rocacton

#### Critical Changes:

aluminum siding added; architraves eliminated additions engulfing or removing portions of original building

#### Value Descriptions

Outstanding - distinguished; of particular import. to Md. historic & arch. past.

Considerable - deserving of recognition; contributes to the understanding of history or architectural heritage represented in Maryland

Moderate - commonality...lack of historic signif. or arch. style, except if scarce

Minor - unimportant or inferior; little arch. worth and absence of hist. importance

#### Site Information Summary

#### for

M:29-7

#### John McDonald House

June 1991

Site number : 29/7
Co. tax account number : 2866140

Street address : 10600 River Road

Name of property owner : 10600 River Road Limited Partnership

Addr. of property owner: 152 Rollins Avenue, #100 Rockville, Maryland 20852

#### Historic Preservation Master Plan Recommendation:

#### Historic Preservation Ordinance Criteria

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- √ a. Has character, interest or value as part of the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the county, state or nation;
  - b. Is the site of a significant historic event;

(1) Historical and cultural significance. The historic resource:

- $\sqrt{}$  d. Exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political or historic heritage of the county and its communities.

#### (2) Architectural and design significance. The historic resource:

- $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$  a. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction;
- b. Represents the work of a master;
- \_\_ c. Possesses high artistic values;
- d. Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- ✓ e. Represents an established and familiar visual feature of the neighborhood, community or county due to its singular physical characteristic or landscape.

#### Environmental Setting Recommendation:

The environmental setting should include an approximately rectangular area bounded:

- on the north by River Road;
- on the west by a line approximately 150' from the house perpendicular to and extending from River Road approximately 400' southward;
- on the south by a line parallel to and approximately 400'south of River Road and which intersects the east & west boundary lines described herein;
- on the east by a line approximately 400' from the house perpendicular to and extending from River Road approximately 400' southward.

The environmental setting includes the house, the driveway from the house to River Road, all the outbuildings to the east of the house, and the mature trees and bushes which are important features to the setting. The horse barn and guest cottage are particularly important to the setting of the house.

survey No. M: 29-7

Magi No.

DOE \_\_yes \_\_no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Nam	e (indicate pr	referred name)		
historic	John McDonald	House		
and/or common	Trespassers W	Farm		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	10600 River Ro	oad		not for publication
city, town	Potomac	vicinity of	congressional district	6
state	Maryland	county	Montgomery	
3. Clas	sification			
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public _X_ private both Public Acquisition in process being considered _x not_applicable	Status  _X occupied  _ unoccupied  _ work in progress Accessible  _ yes: restricted  _ yes: unrestricted  X no	Present Use  X agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Own	er of Prope	rty (give names a	nd mailing addresse	s of <u>all</u> owners)
name	10600 River Ro	oad Ltd. Partners	hip (Crowell & B	aker)
street & number	152 Rollins Av	renue	telephone no	o.: (301)253-1856
city, town	Rockville	state	and zip code Maryl	and 20852
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Descripti	on	
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. Mor	ntgomery County C	ourthouse	liber Plat 1771
street & number				folio
city, town	Rockville		state	Maryland
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surv	eys
title	Montgomery Cou	anty Inventory of	Historic Sites	
date	1978		federal X stat	e <sup>X</sup> countyloca
depository for su	rvey records Marylar	nd National Capit	al Park & Planni	ng Commission
city, town	Silver Spring		State .	Maryland

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

<u>Summary</u>: The McDonald House is a late nineteenth century two-and-one-halfstory ell-shaped farmhouse which retains several interesting outbuildings and its original setting with a long driveway and many large trees. The surrounding land, however, has been subdivided into two acre lots.

<u>Description</u>: The original house is a two-and-one-half story five-bay gabled ell. It has exterior corbelled chimneys at either end of the main, side-gabled block, which faces northeast. The front door is centered. It has a transom with five small square lights. The front entry porch has a shed roof supported by two clusters of three posts that are joined at the top with jigsawed decorative panels. Windows are two-over-two with trabeated lintels with molding at the top, and small curved decorative brackets at either end of the sills. Windows have louvered shutters. The house has German siding on the front, plain weatherboarding elsewhere, and an asphalt shingled roof. The main ell and the first gabled addition have stone foundations. There is a two-story porch added on the southeast which is screened and has a standing seam metal roof. A two-story addition has been placed in the angle of the ell. A French door with a five light transom opens from this addition to the back yard; above it is a modern glass bay window. A pointed arch two-leaved casement window is set into the rear gable of the original ell. A one-story gabled addition extends from the gable end of the ell, with a low sloping shed roof to the west. On the gable end of this addition is yet another small shed addition covering a bow window. These two later additions have wider weatherboards than the rest of the house and are set on cinder block foundations. The small shed addition has a large chimney on the exterior, and a standing seam metal roof.

#### Outbuildings:

The horse barn and guest house are particularly noteworthy.

The main horse barn is across the driveway to the east of the main house. The center gabled portion is two stories, with a hayloft above the stall area. The building rests on a sill of crudely hewn logs approximately 8" x 8". Smaller peeled logs that have been smoothed on the outer side serve as studs to which wide overlapping boards are nailed to form the walls. Both studs and rafters are spaced about four feet apart. The roofing planks are also wide and widely spaced, and support a standing seam metal roof. Shedroofed extensions have been added to the eaves of the original barn for its entire length on the north and half its length on the south. On the east, the shed is a shelter for the horses, with one wall on the south, the barn wall serving for another, and the remaining two sides open.

(cont.)

On the other side of the barn, the shed addition has had doors added to it and it serves as a garage. This shed is clad with board and batten siding. From the rear gable end of the barn, a shed-roofed one-story stall addition extends on the same axis; behind it is a gabled building set across the axis. It may have been a corn crib, as the slats are set widely and the gaps are screened. Behind this structure is a large shed-roofed shelter, walled on three sides, and open towards the east.

<u>Guest House</u> - A small one-story pyramidal hip-roofed cottage is built across the yard from the barn, to the west. A shed hood supported by square posts shelters the entry, and small shed-roofed extensions have been built to either side of the building. The former board and batten siding which covered horizontal clapboards has been covered over with another layer of aluminum siding.

<u>Pool</u> - An empty swimming pool lies between the guest house and the main house. A platform on the west is all that remains of a pool house that exploded some time ago.

To the east of the pool is a concrete platform which appears to cover a well.

<u>Outlying shelters</u> - Across fields to the south and west from the guest house are two more horse shelters, basically shed-roofed lean-tos with a cut-away portion of the wall and roof supported by square posts.

Researcher: Susan Escherich, May 23, 1991.

8. Sign	incance		Survey No.	M:29-7
Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 X 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—Characteric archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture  X architecture  art commerce communications		landscape archited law literature military music philosophy politics/governme	scier scul scul socia hum
Specific dates		Builder/Architect		
Level Prepare both	icable Exception:A  L of Significance:  a summary paragraph o	national state	FG local general statemen	nt of histo
Appl: Level Prepare both support. The McDona farmhouse rural com	of Significance:	f significance and a  example of a late routbuildings, it repearing from the Potential	general statement of the statement of th	tury type of ea new
Appliance Applia	a summary paragraph of ald House is a fine. Together with its plex which is disappons alter the landsolly associated with the establishment of and with a prominent	example of a late routbuildings, it recearing from the Potape. In addition, the Offutt family, the village of Potape.	general statement nineteenth cent epresents the tomac area as the McDonald H which played omac in the eigen	tury type of ea new louse is a promine ghteenth
Appl: Level Prepare both support.  The McDona farmhouse rural com subdivision historical role in the century, a John McDona	a summary paragraph of ald House is a fine. Together with its plex which is disappons alter the landsolly associated with the establishment of and with a prominent	example of a late routbuildings, it repearing from the Potape. In addition, the Offutt family, the village of Potation remarks and the conturnation of the conturnatio	general statement nineteenth cent epresents the tomac area as the McDonald H which played omac in the eigen	tury type of ea new louse is a promine ghteenth

in 1734, William Offutt left his land to his eleven children.

"The village of Potomac, now the center of an affluent commuter society, came into existence in the 18th century as a small crossroads community serving planters and travelers who were then beginning to fill southwestern Montgomery County. By mid-century the population warranted the establishment of a church. This was the Captain John Presbyterian Church, erected on land owned by Edward Offutt and his wife Eleanor. Later in 1746, the Offutts donated the land to the church. According to legend, the name was a reference to Captain John Smith, who was credited with having explored the Potomac to the vicinity of Great Falls. The name, gradually corrupted to Cabin John, was afterward transferred to a stream valley just east of the fall line. Under the pastorship of Rev. James Hunt, who took charge in 1761, the church flourished, with an associated grammar school

(cont.)

being later established. The original church was abandoned and dismantled around 1838. The Potomac Methodist Church, a recent replacement of an 1858 structure, presently occupies its site.

"The name "Offutt's Crossroads" was early attached to the area. By the first decades of the 19th century a number of small dwellings had been constructed about the crossroads, and around the year 1820 what appears to be the town's first commercial enterprise was established, a tavern stand operated by Kinsey Gittings. The opening of the Seneca to Georgetown section of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal in 1831 brought an increase in traffic upon the River and Falls roads, added value to those lands in close proximity to the canal, and subsequently fostered the growth of the community. By the time of the Civil War, the town contained two general stores and a blacksmith's shop. Also, about this time, gold discovered in the area between Offutt's Crossroads and Great Falls, brought into the community a number of mining companies which would continue intermittent operations into the 20th century.

"By 1875, the town of 100 received its first post office, housed in the newly constructed Offutt and Perry general store (situated on the northeast corner, the building has been replaced by a gas station). However, at the request of the Post Office Department for a more individual designation, the town name was officially changed to "Potomac" on May 17, 1880. According to postal officials, too many towns carried the "crossroads" appendage. After the expiration of the partnership of Winfield Offutt and Thomas Perry, on May 1, 1880, Perry began his own general merchandising operation in a store (still standing) constructed that year across Falls Road from the Offutt store. The next year Perry's wife, Marian, was appointed postmistress, and the office moved into the new Perry store.

"The last decade of the 19th century saw rapid growth as new homes were built along River Road east and west of the intersection. One of the driving forces behind this new construction was Edgar Perry, son of Thomas Perry and inheritor of Perry's store. In 1897, Edgar Perry, described by a contemporary as an "enterprising merchant", purchased an 11 acre tract of land running along the eastern section of River Road, had a house constructed upon a one acre section thereof (9000 River Road) and divided the remainder into convenient building lots. His own house, constructed in 1900-1901 (currently the Maryland National Bank office) was described in 1919 as "one of the best and most substantial in that part of Montgomery County".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> MacMaster and Heibert, <u>A Grateful Remembrance</u> (Rockville, 1976) pp 25, 70; Montgomery County <u>Sentine</u>l, May 23, 1884.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Montgomery County Equity Records, Judgment 1823-1826/67.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>a</sup> Martinet and Bond Map of 1865; Montgomery County Equity Records, Judgment EBP 2/271; Montgomery County <u>Sentinel</u>, June 1, 1978, "Potomac's Gilt Edge".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Montgomery County Post Office Records, Site Reports, Archives of the United States, Washington, D.C.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Montgomery County Sentinel, April 9, 1880; August 21, 1881.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>e</sup> <u>The Sunday Star</u>, February 9, 1919, "Rambler Writes of Old Church in Potomac"; Montgomery County <u>Sentine</u>l, September 16, 1898.

"The next great period of house building came in the 1920's and 1930's, this time concentrated along the northern section of Falls Road. These houses were constructed upon land devised to Cora Ball by her mother, Marian Perry. Beginning in 1920, Cora Ball and her husband John Ball, partitioned the property into 1/2 to 1 acre lots, with an eye towards residential development. Again, Edgar Perry, the brother of Cora Ball, had a hand in this new construction.

"During those first decades of the 20th century the residential character of Potomac had been firmly established. In more recent years, the rural nature of the countryside surrounding the village has given way to extensive suburban developments. Commercial development of the crossroads area has kept pace. Yet vestiges of the past are sufficiently visible to give the passerby some idea of the earlier neighborhood."

"A house was built on this property by Thomas Levi Offutt (1785-1855), possibly between 1820 and 1829. Offutt willed his plantation on River Road to his wife, Sarah B., some property at the crossroads to his daughter-in-law Louise Unis Offutt, \$1 to his son Thomas M., and the remainder of his property to his grandchildren."

"Thomas Marshall Offutt, son of Thomas Levi Offutt, had a store at the intersection of River and Falls Roads, in the village of Offutt's Crossroads. He married Lois Unis Fisher and lived on the southwest corner of Falls and River Roads, near the store. In 1855 he was convicted by a Montgomery County Circuit Court of shooting at Oratio Clagett with intent to kill; Offutt escaped and was at large for two years, with a \$300 reward for his capture. He was apprehended at Offutt's Crossroads' and died several years later. Lois Unis Offutt later remarried John Collins, who lived in the house next to Offutt's store. Her children brought suit against her regarding this particular property because Thomas Levi had willed it to her only if she remained unmarried after Thomas Marshall died."

"Sarah, Thomas Levi's wife, died in 1859. In her will," she gave her grandchildren (Thomas M. was the only child) her plantation on River Road. Sarah B. Offutt also willed some land, known locally as "The Pines" behind the Potomac Place shopping center), to some of her slaves that she freed in her will; a black community still exists nearby.

"About 1870, Captain John McDonald retired to this 250-acre farm which he had purchased from his wife's family." McDonald was born in 1837 in Ireland, coming to the United States at age 18. He enlisted in the Army in 1857, and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Mark Walston, Maryland Historical Trust, "Inventory Form for State Historic Sites", Sugarloaf Regional Trails, February, 1979.

<sup>\*</sup> Will Records, WT of R 2/203 (1855).

<sup>9</sup> Montgomery County Sentinel, October 2, 1857.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Montgomery County Equity Records, Judgment EBP 2/277-86 (1868).

<sup>11</sup> Wills, op. cit., JWS 1/37 (1859).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Land Records, Montgomery County, EBP 7/215 (January 27, 1870).

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served in Indian campaigns in Arizona and California. He fought for the Union during the Civil War, receiving wounds and honors, and was commissioned Captain. After his retirement to Montgomery County, he became active in the Grange movement, the County Agricultural Society, the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Rockville Protestant Episcopal Church. McDonald was living at the farm on April 9, 1873, when the house was completely destroyed by fire; it was rebuilt soon after. He fought for the Union during the Civil War, receiving wounds and honors, and was completely destroyed by fire; it was rebuilt soon after.

"Captain McDonald was elected to the State Legislature in 1882, and as State Comptroller in 1891, defeating Blair Lee for the post. He became the first Republican Congressman from the Sixth District of Maryland in 1896. McDonald was influential in changing the name of the small village from Offutt's Crossroads to Potomac. He died in 1917.

"The property remained in the McDonald family until 1941, when the house and 20 acres were sold to Franklin and Margaret Lane. From 1949 to 1972 it was the home of Newbold Noyes, editor of the Evening Star. (In 1972, the property was sold to) Herbert J. Miller, Jr., (who) in 1970, lost a bid for state-wide office to Blair Lee III, descendant of the Blair Lee Captain McDonald defeated in 1891."

An attorney and Chairman of the Board of Potomac National Bank, Miller was appointed by President Kennedy in 1961 to be Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, Department of Justice. President Johnson appointed him in 1965 to be Chairman of the President's Commission on Crime for the District of Columbia.

Miller conveyed the property to Quod Construction Company, which in turn, conveyed it to 10600 River Road Limited Partnership in 1988.18

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Portrait & Biographical Record of the Sixth Congressional Distric, Maryland, Chapman Publishing (1898), p. 215-17.

<sup>14</sup> Sentinel, op. cit., April 11, 1873.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Land Records, op. cit., 843/153 (July 30, 1941).

<sup>16</sup> Land Records., 1238/426 (March 15, 1949)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Carey K. Miller and Eileen McGuckian, Maryland Historical Trust, "Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey", Sugarloaf Regional Trails, July 1979.

<sup>18</sup> Land Records, 8122/13 (January 20, 1988).

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ster & Heibert, A Grateful Remembrance, 1976. and Tax Records, Montgomery County, Maryland Portrait and Biographical Record of the Sixth Congressional District, Maryland, Chapman Publishing, 1898. , "Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey", Sugarloaf Maryland Historical Trust 10. Geographical Data 19.93 acres Acreage of nominated property \_ Quadrangle name Rockville Quadrangle scale 1:24000 **UTM References** do NOT complete UTM references Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northina Verbal boundary description and justification The boundaries of the property are the lot lines which define parcel #915, south of River Road, and which are boldly delineated on the accompanying tax map. List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries state code county code state code county code Form Prepared By name/title Lois Snyderman & Susan Escherich, Historic Preservation Consultants

name/title

Lois Snyderman & Susan Escherich, Historic Preservation Consultants

organization

date

June 1991

street & number

8804 Spring Valley Road

telephone

(301) 654-6423

city or town

Chevy Chase

state

Maryland 20815

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

Shaw House

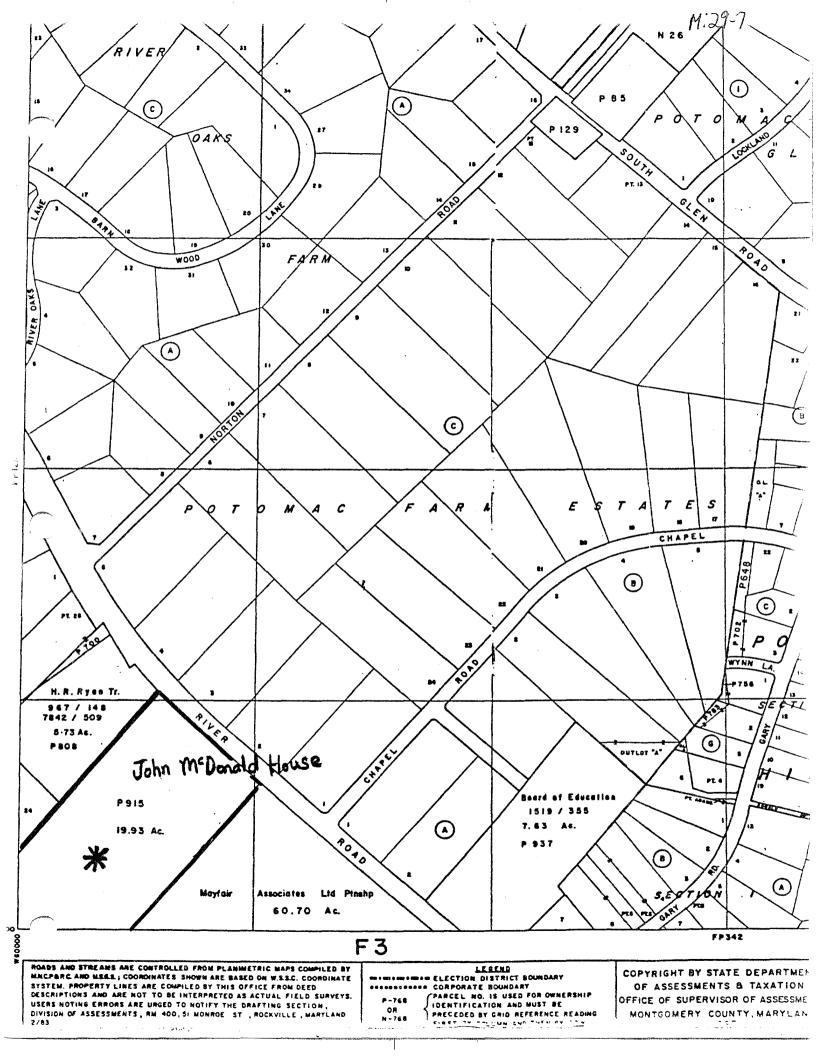
21 State Circle

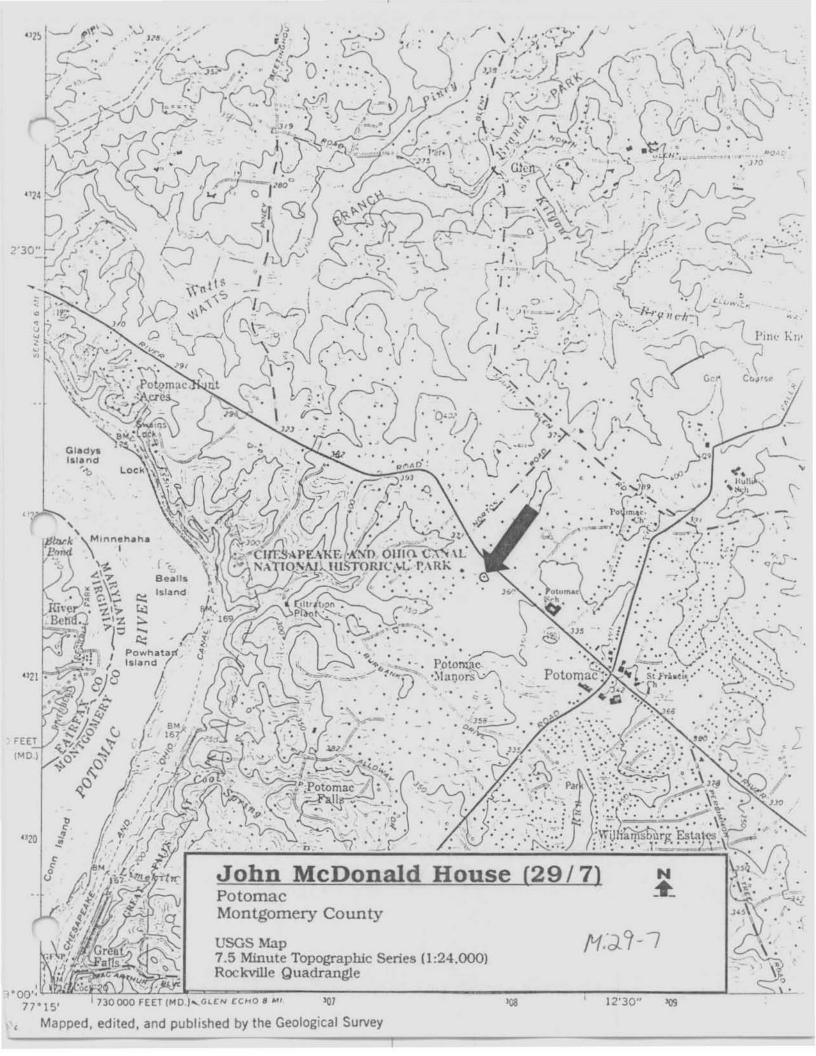
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

shed

M129-7







Mi 29/7 John McDorald House Mant Co MD by L. Snyderman 4/91 Neg - Mont to Hast Prestommen Honse- Main (N) elevation



M: 29/7 John McDorald House mont co mo by 2 Sydema 5/91 Neg-Mont Co. HPC Setting - looking south



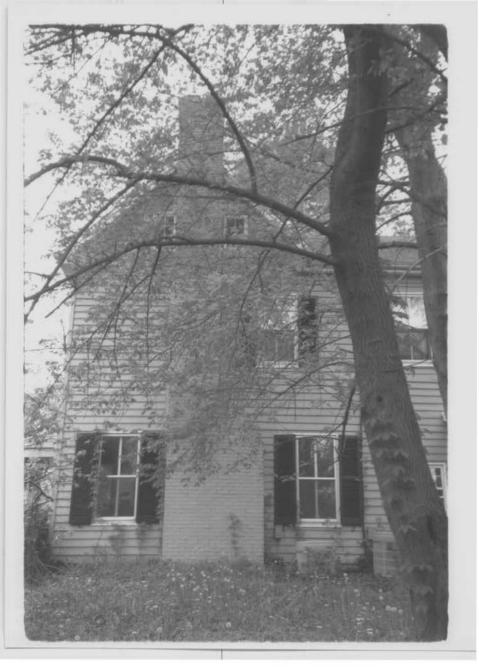
Mi 29/7 John McDonald House Mont G MD by L. Snydeman 4/91 Neg - Mont Co Hest Pres Comm Horse east eler



11/29/2 John Mc Doneld Horse Mont Co. MD my L. Smyderman 4/91 Neg - Mont Co Hest. Pres Comm House - south cler



Mi 29/7 John Mc Donald House Mont Co mo by L Snydema 4/91 Nes - Most 6. Heat Pres Comm House - South elev



M:29/7

John McDonald House

Mont. Co. MD

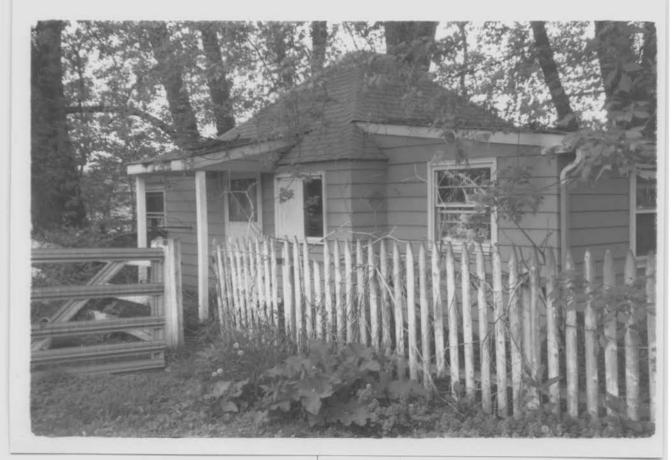
by L. Snyderman 4/91

Neg-Mont Co. Heat Pres. Comm

Homse - west eller



Mi 29/7 John Mc Donald House Mont & MD by L. Smile 4/91 Neg - Mort Co Hest Pres Comm Bern - Selev



M. 29/7 John McDorald House Mont 6 and by L Snydena 4/9 Nag - Mont Co Hest Pres Comm Great House - E elev



M: 29/7 John Mc Dorald House Mort G. MD by L Snyderman 4/91 Neg - Most 6 Hest Pres, Comm Outbuilding



Mi29/7 John McDonald House Mont 6 MD by L. Snycleman 4/91 Neg - Mart G HPC Shed -

- 1. Name: John McDonald house
- 2. Planning Area/Site Number: 29/7
- 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 19
  Coordinate J-4
- 4. Address: 10600 River Road
- 5. Classification Summary

Category building
Ownership private
Public Acquisition NA
Status occupied
Accessible no

Previous Survey Recording MNCPPC
Title and Date: Historic Sites Inventory
1976

1910

State \_\_ County \_x Local\_\_

Present use agriculture; private residence

6. Date: 1873

7. Original Owner: John McDonald

Federal

- 8. Apparent Condition
  - a. excellent b. altered c. original site
- 9. Description: This five bay, two and a half story, frame house has been enlarged over the years; it faces northeast. There is grey novelty siding on the northeast elevation and regular clapboarding on the remaining sides. The northeast porch has a shed roof supported by three narrow square posts set at right angles to each other by two panels of jigsawed filigree. There is a two story screen porch on the southeast elevation. There are two-over-two double-hung windows flanked by louvered wooden shutters. The gable roof has asbestos shingle covering. The house is surrounded by lawns and large maples, oaks, and pines. There is a one story barn and a swimming pool southwest of the house. Nearby are the ruins of a brick barn and a stone springhouse, and the owners recently found Thomas Offutt's tombstone in the back yard.
- 10. Significance: This house is significant as the dwelling for many years of Captain John McDonald, the first Republican Congressman from the Sixth District of Maryland. McDonald came to Montgomery County about 1870 to retire to the 250 acre farm his wife's family had purchased from the heirs of Thomas M. Offutt. Offutt and his father, Thomas Levi Offutt, had lived on this property since the 1820s, also owning land in "Offutt's Crossroads", later Potomac Village.

Born in Ireland, McDonald had fought in Indian campaigns and in the Civil War. Soon after retiring to his farm, the original house was completely destroyed by fire; it was rebuilt soon after, in 1873. McDonald was active in the Grange movement, the County Agricultural Society, the GAR, and the Rockville Episcopal Church. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1882, as State Comptroller in 1891, and to Congress in 1896. He was influential in changing the name of the small village near his home.

McDonald died in 1917, and the property remained in the family until 1941. Owned by Newbold Noyes, editor of the Evening Star, from 1949 to 1972, it was purchased by the present owners at that time.

- 11. Researcher and date researched: Carey Miller/Eileen McGuckian 7/79
- Candy Reed Arch. Description

  12. Compiler: Eileen McGuckian

  13. Date Compiled: 9/79

  Approval

15. Acreage: 20 acres

### INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

NAME				
HISTORIC				
	McDonald House			
AND/OR COMMON				
Tres	passers W. Farm	*		
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER			. • *	
10600 Riv	en Road			
CITY, TOWN	CI NOZU		CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	RICT
Potomac		VICINITY OF	8	
STATE Maryland			county Montgome	. 2937
ù	ATTONI		MOTTUZOME	<u></u>
CLASSIFIC	ATION	. •		Application of the state of the
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENT USE
_DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	X_AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S)	X_PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDEN
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATIO
		X_NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
OWNER OF	PROPERTY			
NAME Herbert	PROPERTY  J. & Carey K. Mil	ler	Telephone #: 2	299-9472
NAME Herbert STREET & NUMBER	J. & Carey K. Mil	ler	Telephone #: 2	299-9472
NAME Herbert	J. & Carey K. Mil	ler		
NAME Herbert STREET & NUMBER 10600 Ri CITY, TOWN	J. & Carey K. Mil	ler Vicinity of	STATE , Z	ip code
NAME Herbert STREET & NUMBER  10600 Ri CITY, TOWN Potomac	J. & Carey K. Mil ver Road	VICINITY OF	state, z Marylan	zip code
NAME Herbert STREET & NUMBER 10600 Ri CITY, TOWN Potomac LOCATION	J. & Carey K. Mil	VICINITY OF	STATE, 2 Marylan Liber #: 4235	zip code
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#### CONDITION

#### **CHECK ONE**

CHECK ONE

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\_\_FAIR

\_\_DETERIORATED
\_\_RUINS

\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_UNALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE
\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_\_

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

The Captain John McDonald House has been added to considerably over the years, but the two and a half story L-plan structure is still apparent.

Built on fieldstone foundations, this wooden frame farmhouse faces northeast and is five bays across. There is gray novelty siding on the northeast elevation and regular clapboarding on the remaining sides. There is a porch on the northeast elevation which has brick foundations and a shed roof supported by three narrow square posts which are set at right angles to each other by two panels of jigsawed filigree. On the southeast side of the house there is a two story screened porch. There are two outside end chimneys: at the northwest and southeast elevations.

The front door is centered on the northeast elevation. It is a wooden paneled door with a brass knocker and is surmounted by a five light transom. There are two-over-two light double-hung windows with wooden sills and lintels, flanked by louvered wooden shutters throughout the house. At the northwest and southeast gable ends, flanking the chimney stacks are small casement windows: at the northwest end they each have six lights and at the southeast end they have four lights. On the southwest elevation, at the second story there is a three-sided bay window, probably a recent addition. The gable roof has asbestos covering.

The house is surrounded by lawns and large maples, oaks, and pines. There is a one story barn and a swimming pool southwest of the house. Nearby are the ruins of a brick barn and a stone springhouse, and the owners recently found Thomas Offutt's tombstone in the back yard.

The northeast door opens into a central hallway. An open string double run stairway ascends along the southeast hall wall. Northwest of the front door is the living room and to the southeast is the study. To the northwest of the hall and southwest of the living room is a cloak room and powder room. Southeast of the hall is the dining room and at the southwest end of the hall is the L-shaped kitchen/utilities area.

There are random width floor boards in the study, living room and northeast end of the central hall. There are plaster over lath walls and ceilings. The living room has crown molding and both the living room and hall have chair rails. There are built in bookcases in the study and at the southwest end of the hall against the southeast wall. There is a butler's pantry. There are simple molded door frames and wooden paneled doors with brass knobs. Double wooden paneled doors open from the hall into the living room. The basement is directly under the two northeast rooms. In this basement is the original kitchen with its large fieldstone fireplace.

SPECIFIC DAT	ES 1873	BUILDER/ARCH	HITECT	
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	x_OTHER (SPECIFY)  Local History
<b>ൂ_18</b> 00-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1600-1699	ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	<b>√</b> •

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A house was built on this property by Thomas Levi Offutt (1785-1855), possibly between 1820 and 1829. Offutt willed his plantation on River Road to his wife, Sarah B., some property at the crossroads to his daughterin-law Louise Unis Offutt, \$1 to his son Thomas M., and the remainder of his property to his grandchildren. 1

Thomas Marshall Offutt, son of Thomas Levi Offutt, had a store at the intersection of River and Falls Roads, in the village of Offutt's Crossroads. He married Lois Unis Fisher and lived on the southwest corner of Falls and River Roads, near the store. In 1855 he was convicted by a ontgomery County Circuit Court of shooting at Oratio Clagett with intent to kill; Offutt escaped and was at large for two years, with a \$300 reward for his capture. He was apprehended at Offutt's Crossroads2 and died several years later. Lois Unis Offutt later remarried John Collins. who lived in the house next to Offutt's store. Her children brought suit against her regarding this particular property because Thomas Levi had willed it to her only if she remained unmarried after Thomas Marshall died.3

Sarah, Thomas Levi's wife, died in 1859, In her will, 4 she gave her grandchildren (Thomas M. was the only child) her plantation on River Road. Sarah B. Offutt also willed some land, known locally as "The Pines" (behind the Potomac Place shopping center), to some of her slaves that she freed in her will; a black community still exists nearby.

About 1870, Captain John McDonald retired to this 250-acre farm which he had purchased from his wife's family. McDonald was born in 1837 in Ireland, coming to the United States at age 18. He enlisted in the Army in 1857, and served in Indian campaigns in Arizona and California. for the Union during the Civil War, receiving wounds and honors, and was commissioned Captain. After his retirement to Montgomery County, he became active in the Grange movement, the County Agricultural Society, the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Rockville Protestant Episcopal Church. McDonald was living at the farm on April 9, 1873, when the house was completely destroyed by fire; it was rebuilt soon after.

Captain McDonald was elected to the State Legislature in 1882, and as State Comptroller in 1891, defeating Blair Lee for the post. He became the first Republican Congressman from the Sixth District of Maryland in 1896. McDonald was influential in changing the name of the small village from Offutt's Crossroads to Potomac. He died in 1917. CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Attachment Sheet A John McDonald House

The property remained in the McDonald family until 1941, when the house and 20 acres were sold to Franklin and Margaret Lane. From 1949 to 1972 it was the home of Newbold Noyes, editor of the Evening Star. The present owner, Herbert J. Miller, Jr., in 1970 lost a bid for state-wide office to Blair Lee III, descendant of the Blair Lee Captain McDonald defeated in 1891.

#### FOOTNOTES:

- 1 Will Records, WT of R 2/203 (1855).
- 2 Montgomery County Sentinel, October 2, 1857.
- 3 Montgomery County Equity Records, Judgment EBP 2/277-86 (1868).
- 4 Wills, op. cit., JWS 1/37 (1859).
- 5 Land Records of Montgomery County, EBP 7/215 (January 27, 1870).
- 6 Portrait & Biographical Record of the 6th Cong. District (1898)., p. 215-17.
- 7 Sentinel, op. cit., April 11, 1873.
- 8 Land Records, op. cit., 843/153 (July 30, 1941).
- 9 Ibid., 1238/426 (March 15, 1949).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES: Judgment Records of Montgo

Land, Will, Assessment, and County, Md.

Montgomery County Sentinels

Maps: Martenet & Bond, 1865; Hopkins Atlas, 1879

Portrait & Biographical Record of the 6th Congressional District (1898).

Boyd, T.H.S., History of Montgomery County, Md. (Regional Publishing Co.,

Baltimore 1973) (originally pub. Clarksburg, Historical & Biographical Sketch of the Offutt

### 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The second section was

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

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Carey K. Miller/Eil en McGuckian Candy Reed-arch. Desc. ORGANIZATION DATE

Sugarloaf Regional Trails July 1979 STREET & NUMBER

926-4510 Box 87 CITY OR TOWN STATE

Dickerson 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, Maryland 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 (301) 267-1438 Dickerson, Md. 20753 (301) 926-4510

PS- 1108

M#29-7545604

#### MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

AND/OR HISTORIC:					
	ain John McI	Donald Hous	е		
LOCATION					
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STATE		cc	OUNTY:		
Mary]	and			land	
CLASSIFICATION			*****		
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBL
☐ District ☑ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	l	Public Acquisition: In Process Being Con	•	Occupied Unoccupied Preservation work in progress	Yes:  Restricted Unrestricte
PRESENT USE (Check One of	r More as Appropriate	)			<u> </u>
☐ Commercial ☐	Industrial	□ Park ☑ Private Residence □ Religious	-	Transportation Other (Specity)	Comments
		Scientific	-		
☐ Entertainment ☐		<del></del>			
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7.	DESCRIPTION						
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	DESCRIBE THE PI	RESENT AND OR	IGINAL (If known) PHYSIC.	AL APPEARANCE			

The house is a two-story, frame structure with a five-bay, main (north) facade. The central entrance has a narrow transom light. Windows are 2/2 double hung sash. The sills are supported by brackets and the window heads are moulded architraves. On either end, there is an external chimney. The cornice is boxed and returns in the gable ends. A two story ell extends to the south. There is a barn east of the house.

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	15th Centu	ry	17 <sub>1</sub>	h Century		19th Century	
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Significance of this property is:					
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S	ignature		19 <sub>1.</sub>		



CAPT. SOHN Mª DONALD HOUSE NAME LOCATION 10600 RIVER RD., POTOMAC, MO. FACADE 3/5/75 m. DLOYER PHOTO TAKEN