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M-222

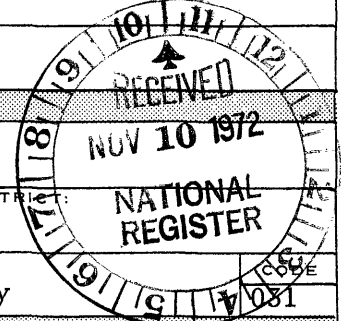
Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Montgomery
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	APR 24 1973



1. NAME

COMMON: Seneca Quarry

AND/OR HISTORIC: Potomac Red Sandstone Company; Seneca Stone Company

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Tschiffeley Mill Road

CITY OR TOWN: Seneca CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Eighth

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Montgomery

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Multiple, Private and Public

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: E. Montgomery Avenue and N. Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN: Rockville STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Montgomery

ENTRY NUMBER: APR 24 1973

DATE: APR 24 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Seneca Quarry is located on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the east bank of the Potomac River about twenty-five miles northwest of Washington, near the village of Seneca, Maryland. The north retaining wall of the canal, a culvert to conduct a small creek under the canal at the west end of the quarry, and the Seneca Aqueduct, which carries the canal over Seneca Creek, are constructed of the local Seneca stone.

Only two buildings stand in the designated area: the cutting building at the east side of the quarry, and a duplex on the hill overlooking the quarry and river. Both structures are in ruins and are constructed of Seneca stone.

The cutting building for "working" architectural blocks was built probably in the 1830's, and doubled in size to its present dimensions sometime later than 1830. The four exterior and center walls, of Seneca stone, are standing and are reasonably sound. There are no remains of the timber roof or other wood portions. From the gable (south) which faces the canal, the outline of a low-pitched roof can be traced. The stone is rough finished in rectangular blocks.

Probably dating from mid nineteenth century, the duplex on the hill is built of rough rubble stone laid in regular courses except at the corners, sills, and lintels. On the east facade, the latter are smooth finish, rectangular blocks. Some of the same smooth blocks were used as paving, leading to the two east doors. The two and one-half story structure had two rooms on each floor of each unit. A single fireplace was located in each west room. Most of the south gable has collapsed beneath the 'A' roof. One dormer on each side of the roof lights the attic chambers.

The major part of the quarry is located south and southwest of the duplex. Its red walls and rough floor are overgrown with an accumulation of vegetation and look as though they had never been disturbed.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

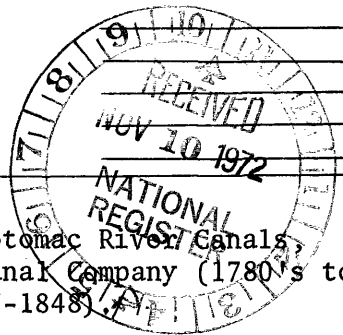
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>quarries</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Seneca Quarry was a source of stone for two Potomac River Canals, the Potomac Company and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company (1780's to 1820's), and for the Smithsonian Institution (1847-1848).

The initial major quarrying activities at Seneca occurred in 1785. The Potomac Company, whose first president was George Washington, had been incorporated to extend navigation upstream on the Potomac River. At Great Falls, the Company constructed five locks on the Virginia side of the river. The Company used Seneca stone for these locks which were a major contribution to the development of American engineering. Expensive maintenance, because of the vicissitudes of the Potomac Company, forced the firm to close the canal. The Seneca stone, however, has withstood the ravages of nature and is still in place along the ruins of the Potomac Company canal.

The second canal project on the Potomac River--the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company--used Seneca stone because of its durability and the proximity of the quarries to the canal route. The C & O Canal Company used Seneca stone on its canal around Great Falls, on the Maryland side of the Potomac. The C & O aqueduct across Seneca Creek was also built of Seneca stone. The Montgomery County stone proved its durability for it is still in good condition long after the Canal has ceased to function.

Seneca stone is obvious in James Renwick's building for the Smithsonian Institution on the Mall in Washington, D. C. (1847-1848). The building committee for the Smithsonian conducted a thorough investigation to uncover the most durable and practical building material. For several reasons, the committee chose stone from the Seneca quarries, then operated by John Peter. A large supply of the stone existed. The quarry was near the C & O Canal which assured easy transportation to Washington. Seneca stone, although malleable when first quarried, becomes extremely hard. It is able to resist damage from changes in the atmosphere and from mechanical assaults.

Renwick personally visited the quarry and selected the stone for the Smithsonian.

As the C & O Canal used Seneca stone for building, the Seneca quarries in turn used the Canal for transportation. After 1830 when the Seneca

[see continuation sheet]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Douglas, Paul H. and William K. Jones. "Sandstone, Canals and the Smithsonian." The Smithsonian Journal of History. Vol. III. Spring 1968, 41-58.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	39° 04' 15"	77° 21' 05"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	39° 04' 15"	77° 20' 26"				
SE	39° 04' 02.5"	77° 20' 26"				
SW	39° 04' 03"	77° 21' 04"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **91.2 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Nancy Miller, Historian, and Michael Bourne, Field Surveyor

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **Sept. 26, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV
 Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date September 27, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/24/73

ATTEST: [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 4 18 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Maryland
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(Number all entries)

Seneca Quarry

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

section of the Canal had been completed, the operators of the quarry used the water power from the canal to smooth, cut and polish stone blocks. A diversionary stream from the canal provided the power for the machinery used to finish the rough blocks.

In 1833, the Potomac Red Sandstone Company signed a lease with the C & O Canal Company for 1,250 inches of water at fifty cents per inch per annum. In 1893, the Seneca Stone Company paid \$833.33 for the use of water power from the canal.

By 1900, quarrying operations at the Seneca Quarry had stopped. The quality of the remaining stone had deteriorated beyond the point of usefulness.

