

Willet's General Store and Post Office
AL-V-A-149
Carlos Road, Midlothian
1902

This general store and post office was opened in 1902 in the village of Midlothian Mines. It was owned by Francis Willets who operated the store on a parcel of land he purchased from the New Central Coal Company in 1900. The general store was a fixture of life in the mining villages of the Georges Creek coal region; each had "at least one store."

The frame building is of a simple utilitarian design with a three bay store front consisting of large double windows on either side of a pedimented entrance.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Willet's General Store and Post Office**

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER **Northern side of Carlos Road** **Sixth**

CITY, TOWN **Midlothian** VICINITY OF **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT**

STATE **Midlothian** COUNTY **Allegany**

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **Matthew Willets** Telephone #: **689-5250**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN **Midlothian** VICINITY OF **Maryland 21542^{EE}, zip code**

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Allegany County Courthouse** Liber #: **481**

STREET & NUMBER **30 Washington Street** Folio #: **411**

CITY, TOWN **Cumberland** STATE **Maryland 21502**

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

AL-V-A-149

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Willet's General Store and Post Office is located on the northern side of Carlos Road in Midlothian.

The store consists of a one and one-half story, three bays wide rectangular frame structure with shiplap siding. It rests on wooden posts and blocks with no water table. The gable front roof is covered with asphalt shingles and tar paper. Eaves consist of a cornice and fascia on the ends and of rafter ends on the flanks. Wall features include cornerboards. One replaced concrete block chimney is located outside end.

The three bay store front is on the southern facade. The pedimented entrance in the center of the facade includes a one light transom and a four panel door with original hardware. Pedimented double windows with mullion are on either side of the entrance. These are wide two over two lights with fluted jambs and wooden lugsills. One one over one light window is on the southern second floor. A frame addition on the east is of german siding with a shed roof.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1902 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This general store and post office was opened in 1902 in the village of Midlothian Mines. (1) It was owned and operated by Francis Willets on a parcel of land he purchased from the New Central Coal Company in 1900. (2) Some members of the mining population attempted to enter the world of business often with great success. Katherine Harvey wrote that... "By 1900 former miners or miners' sons were engaged in selling a great variety of goods, not only in the all-inclusive general store"...(3)

The general store was a fixture of life in the mining villages; each had "at least one store." (4) A description of life in Midlothian Mines during the 1920's in Allegany County- A History, relates that although many residents had managed to live with a high degree of self-sufficiency some "necessary supplies were purchased from Willets General Store"...(5) An assessment of the store in 1914 lists an average value of stock in the store of \$300.00. (6) In 1947 the store had a merchandising inventory of \$2,671.48 and a 1938 Ford delivery truck. (7) Francis Willet's venture into merchandising proved to be a profitable one for him and his descendents who are still in business at the original site.

The frame building is a simple utilitarian design with a three bay store front consisting of large double windows on either side of a pedimented entrance. A shed roofed addition runs the length of the eastern facade.

- (1) Interview with Matthew Willets, Midlothian, Md. October 10,1978
- (2) Allegany County Land Records, Liber 88, Folio 74
- (3) Katherine A. Harvey, Best Dressed Miners: Life and Labor in the Maryland Coal Region, 1835-1910 (Ithaca: Cornell University Press) p.p. 85-86
- (4) Ibid, p84
- (5) Harry I. Stegmaier Jr. et al., Allegany County, A History (Parsons W. Va.: McClain Printing Co) p.p. 312-313
- (6) Allegany County Assessments District 19, 1910-1917, p.274
- (7) Allegany County Wills, Estate #2819

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records, Allegany County Assessment, Allegany Co. Wills Stegmaier, Harry Jr. et al. Allegany County- A History, Parsons W Va. McClain Printing Co.) 1976
Harvey, Katherine A. Best Dressed Miners: Life and Labor in the Maryland Coal Region, 1835-1910 Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1969

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .18 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	David A. Dorsey, Historic Sites Coordinator	DATE	August 28, 1979
ORGANIZATION	Allegany County Historic Sites	TELEPHONE	777-5944
STREET & NUMBER	3 Pershing Street	STATE	Maryland 21502
CITY OR TOWN	Cumberland		

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

TITLE SEARCH

Willet's General Store and Post Office
AL-V-A-149

Allegany County Deed. Liber 481, Folio 411
Grantee: Matthew Willets and Mabel Willets Date: September 5, 1975
Grantor: Donna Jean Parker, et al
Notes: Conveyed small interest to the Willets

Allegany County Deed: Liber 322, Folio 131
Grantee: Matthew Willets and Mabel Willets Date: May 23, 1960
Grantor: William R. Carscaden, trustee

Allegany County Deed: Liber 322, Folio 118
Grantee: William R. Carscaden Date: May 23, 1960
Grantor: Lillian Willets, et al

Allegany County Wills Estate#2819
Grantee: Lillian Willets, et al Date: September 17, 1947
Grantor Julia Willets
Notes: Merchandise inventory of \$2,671.48 including delivery
truck

Allegany County Wills Liber S. Folio 74
Grantee: Julia Willets Date: April 1, 1938
Grantor: Frank Willets

Allegany County Deed: Liber 322, Folio 118
Grantee: Frank Willets and Julia Willets Date: October 14, 1913
Grantor: Francis Willets and Frances Willets Consideration: \$1,200.00
Notes: This conveyance was not recorded or legal.
Grantees obtained the property through the doctrine
of adverse possession. Reference is liber 322, folio 118.

Allegany County Deed: Liber 88, Folio 74
Grantee: Francis Willets Date: November 1, 1900
Grantor: The New Central Coal Company Consideration: \$100.00

Allegany County Assessments 1910-1917 District #19
Notes: Average value of stock in Willets Store is \$300.00
assessed in 1914

INVENTORY NO: AL-V-A-149

DATE: _____

110

10/10

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Midlothian P.O. & store

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Midlothian

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: South

V A-149

NAME OF OWNER: P I MAP 23 ED 19

ADDRESS: MATTHEW WILLETTS 481/411 lot 18 Midlothian Md 6895250

STORIES: 1(1/2) 2() 3() 4() 5() 6() BAYS: 1() 2() 3(✓) 4() 5() 6() 7() ()

WINGS, ADDITIONS: porch on East

DWELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- (✓) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, shiplap wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
- () BRICK: Bond type - common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants.
- () STONE: Bond type - rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- () LOG
- () OTHER: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others cornerboards

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone on posts & Blcks

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: front windows in pairs storefront
1/1() 2/2(✓) 6/6() 9/6() 9/9() other() fluted
pegged() nailed() wide(✓) narrow() mitred() pediment(✓)

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: center 5 one light-transom
HARDWARE: original(✓) replaced()
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN
4 Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, galvalend bed)
original() replaced() rafter ends, modillions, dentils, frieze, architrave

ROOF: Gable front, Gable flank, Hip, Shed, Mansard, Gambrel, Flat, Dormers #
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt & tar paper original() replaced()

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed() hip(✓) gable()

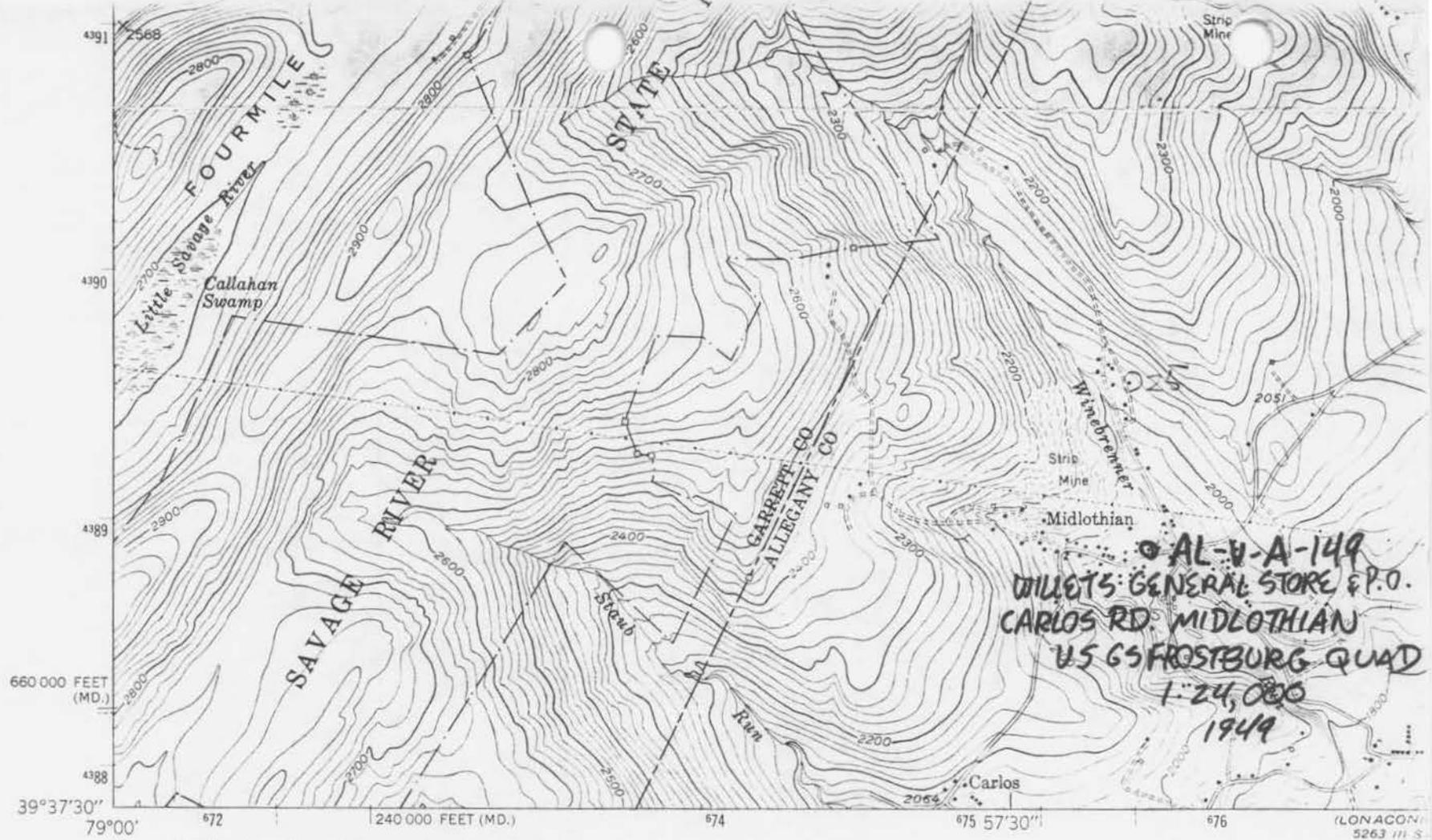
CHIMNEYS: Number: 1 Brick() Stone() concrete block Corbeled() original() replaced(✓)
Location: Flush end() Inside end() Outside end(✓) Central() Interior()

ARCHES: Door & Windows: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS: post office & store always was a store. p.o. in 1920's

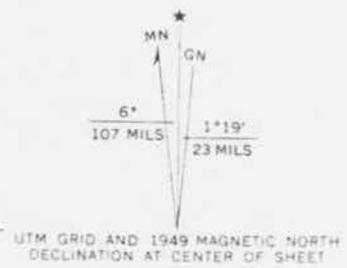
USE: store P.O. Matthew Willets
SIGNIFICANCE: _____
DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1902
CONDITION: fair

[Handwritten signature]



(BARTON)
5163 II SE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and USC&GS
 Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
 Aerial photographs taken 1946. Field check 1947 and 1949
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grids based on Maryland coordinate system
 and Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone
 Red tint indicates area in which only
 landmark buildings are shown
 Contours in strip mine areas compiled from 1946 photography
 Broken contours indicate strip mining
 subsequent to photography
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 17, shown in blue



CONTOUR
 DATUM

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGIC
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC



A2-1-A-1419
WILLETS GENERAL STORE
CARLOS RD MIDLOTHIAN
DAVID A. DORSEY
Northeast
10/10/78