

Wilson Log Cabin  
Hilltop Drive  
Westernport, Md.  
AL-VI\_D-212

This log cabin near Westernport was probably built early in the nineteenth century when Westernport was being settled. It is located high on a mountain above the town.

Attention was drawn to the area because of George Washington's plan to deepen and connect the Potomac and Ohio Rivers. Consequently Westernport, or as it was originally called "Hardscrabble", was settled.

The building is one and one-half stories tall and three bays wide. Its square logs are joined with "dovetail" notching which is somewhat rare for Allegany County where most log buildings were built with "V" notching. Although the building is in marginally deteriorated condition and its early ownership is obscured the cabin is a physical reminder of the early settlers of Western Allegany County.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Wilson Log Cabin

## 2. Location

street & number Hilltop Drive  not for publicationcity, town Westernport  vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Allegany

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name John Warren Wilson

street &amp; number Rt. 1 Box 111 telephone no.: 359-0320

city, town Westernport state and zip code Maryland 21562

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Allegany County Courthouse liber # 471

street &amp; number 30 Washington Street folio # 168

city, town Cumberland state Maryland 21502

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. AL-VI-D-212

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The John Warren Wilson Log House is located on the north side of Hilltop Drive approximately one-half mile northwest of Westernport. The house is sited on the southeast face of a steep ridge that rises to the west of the town and forms the western side of the George's Creek Valley.

The house measures 15½ by 23½ feet and is of half-dovetailed log construction. It is a true 1½ stories high, three bays wide and one room deep, with a pitched gable roof oriented on a northeast-southwest axis.

The principal facade faces southeast toward Westernport and the confluence of the Potomac River and George's Creek. The front door is located in the center bay of this facade, flanked by a single 6/6 window on each side. The door opening is unusually low due to the low, 6 foot 1 inch headroom on the first floor of the house. The log walls are constructed of logs averaging 7 inches thick and 9 to 12 inches high. They are joined at the corners with half-dovetail notching and the spaces between the logs are packed with mud and scraps of riven wood. The butt ends of the ceiling joists are visible from the exterior, and the log walls are carried up several more courses above the second floor level to form a true story-and-a-half. The foundation is rubble stone and is in a state of collapse. A one story hip roof porch is carried across the front facade and wraps around the southwest gable end.

The only opening in the southwest gable wall is a single large 6/6 window centered in the upper gable. The log wall, stone foundation and one story porch all match the front facade.

The rear facade of the building is completely enclosed by a one story frame lean-to that is partially collapsed. The only visible opening in the rear facade of the log building is a single door in the center bay.

On the northeast gable wall, there is a 6/6 window centered on the first floor and a similar opening lacking sash in the center of the upper gable. A modern concrete block exterior chimney rises against this wall to the left of the windows. There is no evidence of an earlier chimney on this gable or in any other part of the house. The logs remain exposed to the weather on this wall, and the frame upper gable is sheathed with German siding.

The first floor is divided into a hall/parlor plan, with the larger hall to the northeast and a smaller parlor to the southwest. The hall measures 13 feet 4 inches by 14 feet; the parlor measures 8 feet 8 inches by 14 feet. The two rooms are separated by a vertical board partition with a connecting door in the center. An enclosed winder stair in the north corner of the hall leads up to the second floor. A door in the center of the rear facade opens into the rear lean-to. The interior walls and the widely spaced joist ceiling have been sheathed with wallboard. The baseboard and architrave trim are plain. A late 19th century four-door cupboard is built in against the north end of the interior partition in the hall. The front and rear door openings are fitted with Victorian paneled doors.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. AL-VI-D-212

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** \_\_\_\_\_ **Builder/Architect** \_\_\_\_\_

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This small log house is significant as an example of a traditional building form widely utilized in Western Maryland throughout much of the 19th century. The large logs, dovetailed corner notching and hall/parlor plan are all features commonly found throughout this region in the late 18th century and the first half of the 19th century. While this house has previously been identified as early 19th century, the roof framing, machine nails, and lack of other early fabric suggest a later date of construction of circa 1840-70. It remains an important architectural landmark in the westernport area, however, and was for many years the home of the Wilson family.

HISTORY (prepared by David Dorsey)

Westernport traces its beginning to George Washington's plan to deepen and connect the Potomac and Ohio Rivers. <sup>1</sup> The plan drew attention to the area, attracting settlers and creating activity near the juncture of the Ohio's tributaries and the Potomac.<sup>2</sup> The town, known to its residents as "Hard-Scrabble", was renamed Western Port by 1802 when its post office was established.<sup>3</sup>

Footnotes

1. Harry I. Stegmaier, et al. Allegheny County: A History. (Parsons, W. Va.: McClain Printing Co.) p. 84.
2. Ibid, p. 85
3. Ibid, p. 140-41.



## 7.1 Description (Con't)

The second floor is also divided into two rooms by a vertical beaded board partition typical of the late 19th century. The larger chamber to the northeast measures 12 feet by 13 feet 8 inches; the smaller chamber measures 9 feet 8 inches by 13 feet 8 inches. The log exterior walls extend up 4½ to 5 feet above the floor level; the gable walls consist of horizontal sheathing boards nailed directly to the gable rafter pairs. The interior walls are white-washed and have been covered with cardboard for added insulation. The rooms are open to the roof, which is constructed of unbarked poles mitred and nailed at the ridge. There are collar beams joining the rafter pairs in the larger room but not in the smaller room.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Wilson Log Cabin

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Hilltop Drive

Sixth

CITY, TOWN

Westernport

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

John Warren Wilson

Telephone #: 359-0320

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 1 Box 111

CITY, TOWN

Westernport

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21562

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Courthouse

Liber #: 471  
Folio #: 168

STREET & NUMBER

30 Washington Street

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-110-210

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This cabin consists of a one and one-half story three bays wide rectangular structure of hand hewn logs joined with dovetailed notching. It rests on a high stone foundation of random rubble with a plain water table. The gable flank roof is covered with tar paper. Eaves are close penton the ends and consists of rafter ends on the flanks. A replaced cement block chimney is located outside end.

The main entrance, a five panel replaced door, is located in the center of the southeastern facade. Windows include pegged six over six light windows and two light casement windows. A shed roofed board and batten addition is on the northwest. A hip roofed wraparound veranda is supported by square and round wooden posts.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This log cabin near Westernport was probably built early in the nineteenth century when Westernport was being settled. It is located high on a mountain above the town. Westernport traces its beginnings to George Washington's plan to deepen and connect the Potomac and Ohio Rivers. (1) The plan drew attention to the area, attracting settlers and creating activity near the juncture of the Ohio's tributaries and the Potomac. (2) The town, known to its residents as "Hardscrabble", was renamed Western Port by 1802 when its post office was established. (3) The cabin was for many years the home of the Wilson family. (4)

The building is one and one-half stories tall and three bays wide. Its square logs are joined with "dovetail" notching which is somewhat rare for Allegany County where most log buildings were built with "V" notching. Although the building is in marginally deteriorated condition and its early ownership is obscured the cabin is a physical reminder of the early settlers of Western Allegany County.

- (1) Harry I. Stegmaier, Jr. et al. Allegany County, A History (Parsons, W. Va.: McClaron Printing Co. )p. 84
- (2) Ibid, p.85
- (3) Ibid, pp.140-141
- (4) Interview John Warren Wilson, Hill Top, Westernport 1-8-80

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Stegmaier, Harry Jr. et al. Allegany County, A History, Parsons, W Va.  
McClain Printing Co. 1976

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

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

ORGANIZATION Allegany County Historic Sites DATE

STREET & NUMBER 3 Pershing Street TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN Cumberland Msryland 21502

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

Wilson Log Cabin  
AL-VI-D-212

Allegany County Deed: Liber 471, Folio 168  
Grantee: Lewis R. Wilson  
Grantor: Elsie G. Wilson

Date: May 10, 1974

Allegany County Deed: Liber 197, Folio 628  
Grantee: Osborn E. Wilson and Elsie G. Wilson  
Grantor: Nellie Dowling, et al  
Notes: Known as the Dixon Farm

Date: October 25, 1943

Allegany County Deed: Liber 169, Folio 614  
Grantee: Nellie Dowling  
Grantor: Edwin J. Roberts and Elizabeth Roberts

Date: August 1, 1933

Allegany County Deed: Liber 169, Folio 612  
Grantee: Edwin J. Roberts  
Grantor: Reuel C. Roberts and Marie Roberts

Date: July 10, 1933

Allegany County Deed: Liber 165, Folio 316  
Grantee: Reuel C. Roberts and Marie Roberts  
Grantor: Edwin J. Roberts and Elizabeth Roberts

Date: February 5, 1931

Allegany County Deed: Liber 155, Folio 584  
Grantee: Edwin J. Roberts  
Grantor: Allegany Coal Company

Date: July 1, 1927

Allegany County Deed: Liber 135, Folio 598  
Grantee: Allegany Coal Company  
Grantor: Howard C. Dixon

Date: January 29, 1921  
Consideration: \$2,000.00

Allegany County Deed: Liber 125, Folio 81  
Grantee: Howard C. Dixon  
Grantor: Horace P. Whitworth, attorney  
Notes: Attorney named in mortgage as per Equity #8147  
Part of this Equity folder is an "Order-nisi"  
which describes the property as "one large farm  
adjoining the town of Westernport. Improved by  
two dwellings and a barn..." The Crowley family  
defaulted on a mortgage which resulted in this public sale.

Date: January 24, 1918  
Consideration: \$1,950.00

Allegany County Deed: Liber 112, Folio 727  
Grantee: Michael J. Crowley  
Grantor: Howard Dixon, et al

Date: April 2, 1913  
Consideration: \$2,500.00

Wilson Log Cabin  
AL-V1-D-212

Allegany County Deed: Liber 61, Folio 84  
Grantee: Nancy P. Dixon  
Grantor: George W. Spangler and Catherine Spangler  
Notes: Grantee died intestate

Date: April 1, 1884  
Consideration: \$765.00

INVENTORY NO: \_\_\_\_\_

92

DATE: AL-VI-D-212

MODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Westernport Log House

VI D 212

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: Westernport near water Reservoir

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: 150° SE Michaels Rd

NAME OF OWNER: Hulltop Dr ED & *see Harry in phone book*

ADDRESS: Moran Coal Co Sees Mrs. Dorothy Biggs  
478/407 177 A.P. 10 [MAP 75] [359 0622] P.O. Box E Westernport  
*SEE Assessments Lewis R Wilson 478/168 for Bldg.*

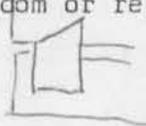
STORIES: 1(  ) 2( ) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) BAYS: 1( ) 2( ) 3(  ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) 7( ) ( )

CHANGES, ADDITIONS: SHED NW Board & Batten

CELLING SHAPE: (square, cross, rectangular)

ALL CONSTRUCTION:

- ( ) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, 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 *dovetail notching*
- ( ) OTHER: Coverings



ALL FEATURES: Belt Course, Pilasters, Others

FOUNDATIONS: High, Low, Brick, Stone *random rubble*

WATER TABLE: None, Plain, Beveled, Moulded Brick

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1( ) 2/2( ) 6/6(  ) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other( )  
pegged(  ) nailed( ) wide( ) narrow( ) mitred( ) pediment( )

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: center 5 Panel  
HARDWARE: original( ) replaced(  )  
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN  
Paneled, Vertical, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed) close pent  
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; original( ) replaced( )

PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed( ) hip( ) gable( )  
*wood shingles*  
*concrete block*

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

DOOR & WINDOWS: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

*Supposed to be oldest bldg. around Westernport.*

REMARKS:  
USE:  
TOP PRIORITY:  
DATE COLLECTED:

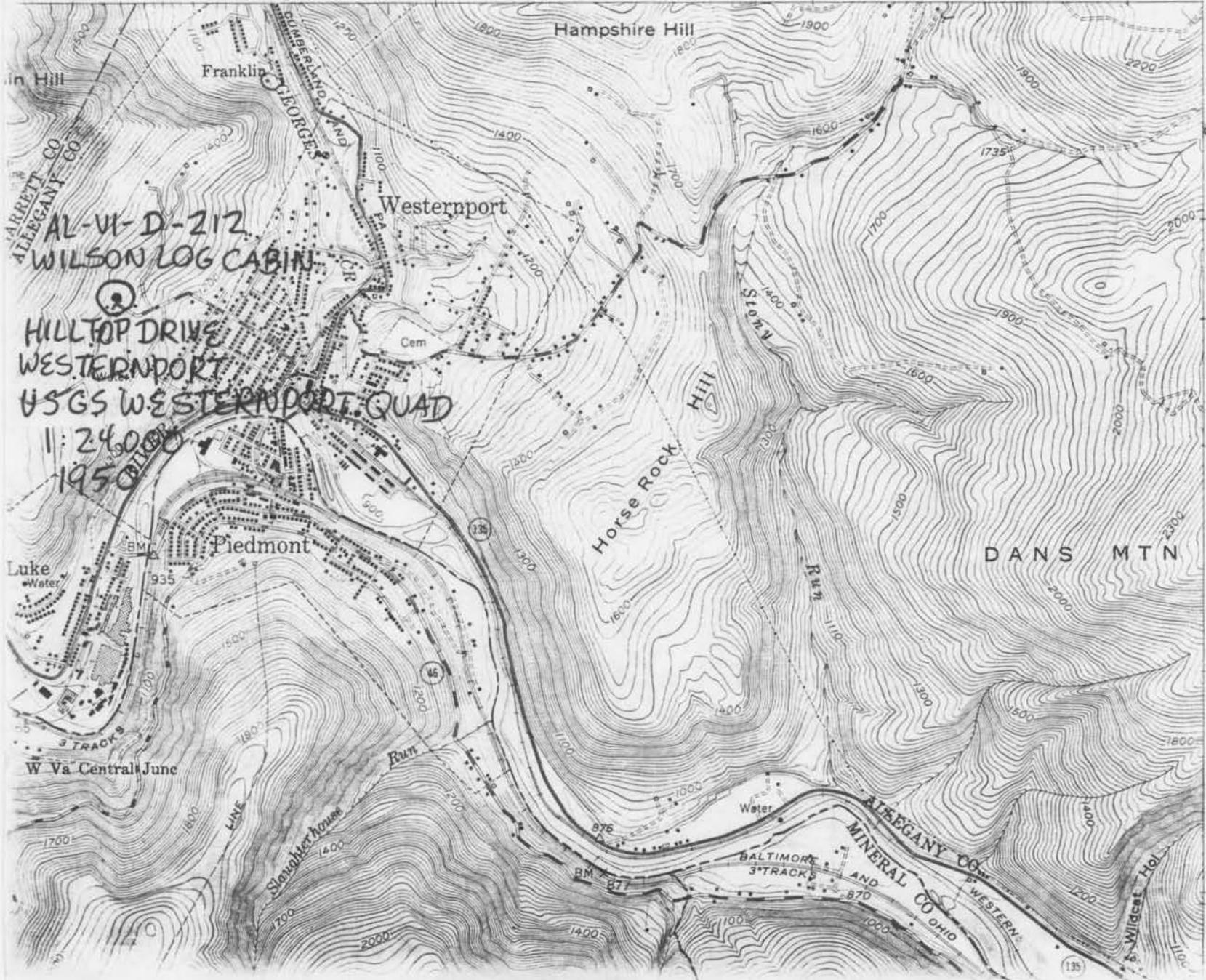
MARYLAND  
S. AND WATER RESOURCES  
D. JR., DIRECTOR

FROSTBURG (LONG. U.S. 40) 15 MI  
BARTON 3.6 MI

WESTERNPORT QUADRANGLE  
WEST VIRGINIA-MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
NE/4 ELK GARDEN 15' QUADRANGLE

5263 III SW  
(LOWAGONIA)

668 2'30" 669 570 214000 FEET (W. VA.) 79°00' 39°30'



AL-VI-D-212  
WILSON LOG CABIN  
HILLTOP DRIVE  
WESTERNPORT  
USGS WESTERNPORT QUAD  
1:24,000  
1950

AI-VI

360000 FEET  
(W. VA.)

4372

4371

W Va Central June

BALTIMORE AND WESTERN  
MINERAL CO AND OHIO



AL-VI-D-212  
WILSON LOG CABIN  
HILLTOP DRIVE WESTERNPORT

DAVID A. DORSEY

11 / 1 / 78

---west



AL. VI-D-212

WILSON LOG CABIN

HILLTOP DRIVE, WESTPORT

DAVID A. DORSEY

11 / 1 / 78

EAST