

ADDENDUM

CH-339

L. Allison Wilmer Property, DEMOLISHED

Charles County, MD

La Plata

Cathy Hardy, July 2003

7. Description

The property identified as the L. Allison Wilmer Property, also known as Argyle and the Rowe House, has been demolished. The site, including an ornate 1890 Victorian dwelling and outbuildings, was first identified by the Maryland Historical Trust in 1980 and updated in 1996 as part of the US 301 Transportation Study. As a result of this study the property was determined to be eligible for the National Register. Shortly afterwards the dwelling and outbuildings were razed and the site was developed.

ADDENDUM

L. Allison Wilmer Property, CH-339
LaPlata, Charles County, Maryland

The L. Allison Wilmer house is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, center hall frame dwelling that stands on the highest point of a small knoll southwest of the intersection of Crain Highway (U.S. 301) and Port Tobacco Road (MD Route 6) in the town of LaPlata, Charles County, Maryland. The house faces north with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1895, the two-and-a-half story, center hall/single-pile frame house is supported on a raised common bond brick foundation, and the exterior is uniformly sheathed with German or novelty siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with pressed metal shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-and-a-half story, four-bay by two-bay service wing, which is extended on each side by shed roofed additions. The rear wing is contemporaneous with the main block. Joining the house on the property is a collection of late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century outbuildings. A dairy and pump house stand approximately twenty feet behind the service wing. On the west side of the dairy and pump house is a single story implement storage building. To the south and east is the main group of farm buildings. The complex includes a large tobacco barn, a wagon or carriage house, a corn crib, a work shop and a drying house or storage building. All of the buildings are deteriorating. Salvagers have removed much of the interior woodwork from the house.

The north (main) elevation of the house is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking two-over-four sash windows. The former sidelighted entrance has been removed and the sash windows have been taken out and discarded or left in pieces on the site. Louvered shutters previously flanked each window opening but only the shutter hardware remains. The entrance bay projects slightly from the front wall, and continues to do so on the second and third floors as a projecting pavilion topped by a large gabled dormer. The first floor is sheltered by a single-story hip roofed porch covered with a standing seam metal roof. A low pitched cross gable distinguishes the front of the porch roof, however the side walls have been enclosed with later partitions. A double door opening to the porch, filled with partially glazed doors, is flanked by a series of single pane sash window openings above a weatherboard knee wall. Defining the second floor are three two-over-two sash windows. Each opening has a slight segmental arch as well as corresponding segmental arched shutters. The roof is defined by a bracketed eave that stretches around the perimeter of the main block. The bracket consists of a simple, open triangular frame. The outside leg of the bracket has a gentle inward curve. Centered on the roof is the large gable roof dormer that tops the projecting bay, and to each side are smaller gable roofed dormers. Each dormer is pierced by a round arched two-over-two sash window, and the extended eaves are fitted with a smaller version of the triangular roof bracket. Piercing the ridge of the roof is a pair of interior brick stove chimneys finished with corbelled caps. Fixed to the ridge is the remnant of twisted metal lightning rod system.

(Continued)

The east and west gable ends are essentially alike. A five-sided bay window bay extends each first floor parlor, and the three outward walls of the bay are pierced by single-pane sash windows. The upper pane of each window has a rounded top. The corner boards of the bay rise to a boxed cornice, and the top of each corner board is fitted with a bracket decoration. The roof of each bay window is covered with a standing seam metal roof. Lighting the second floor on each gable end is a single two-over-two sash window featuring a segmental arched header and shutter hardware. Fixed in each gable end is a round arched two-over-two sash window. Triangular brackets trim the extended eave.

The rear wall of the main block is largely covered by the two-and-a-half story, two-room plan service wing, which is extended on each side by shed roofed additions. The wing is served by an off-center brick chimney stack finished with a corbelled and dentiled cap. The east side of the service wing is covered on the first floor by a single-story shed roofed addition dating around 1900-10. A partially glazed door is flanked by a series of three window openings on the right (north) and a single two-over-two sash window to the left (south). The second floor of the service wing is defined by an uneven fenestration of four two-over-two sash windows, and each window opening has a segmental arched header. Triangular brackets trim the extended eave. Fixed atop the steeply pitched roof is a pair of gable roofed dormers; each one is filled with a round arched two-over-two sash window. The west side of the service wing is covered by a shed roofed porch enclosed during the mid twentieth century. A centrally located door is flanked by pairs of modern windows. The second floor is lighted by two four-over-four sash windows, and each opening has a segmental arched header. Two gable roofed dormers are fixed atop the roof.

The south gable end of the service wing is covered by an enclosed single story porch. A turned porch post is partially boxed in with a later knee wall and series of mid twentieth century windows. The second floor is lighted by a pair of two-over-two sash window openings, and each opening features a segmental arched header. A round arched window opening, which has lost its sash windows, pierces the gable end.

Following a center hall/single-pile plan, the front block has been gutted to a large degree. The sidelighted front entrance has been removed along with much of the door trim, doors, stair railing, and mantels. The staircase remains in place and rises against the west wall of the center hall. A scrolled trim embellishes the stringer, which continues in the open stairwell to a finished third floor. The doorway into the west parlor retains its late nineteenth-century mitered surround, which features a decorative band of reeding. Centered on the ceiling is a round plastered medallion.

The west parlor has been stripped of its window and door trim, mantel as well as part of its three-inch, tongue-and-groove flooring. Photographs taken prior to salvage indicate that the reeded surround molding that still exists in the hall framed the parlor windows and doors. Fixed to the south side of the chimney stack is a decorative metal heating grate.

(Continued)

The east parlor has been stripped of its woodwork also. A molded plaster medallion remains in the center of the ceiling. Fixed in the floor in front of the firebox is a slate hearth slab.

On the second floor much of the woodwork has been removed as well. According to photographs previously taken the doors and windows were framed by late nineteenth-century bulls-eye block surrounds. In each bedroom there are built-in closets dating to the turn of the twentieth century. The closet in the west bedroom was crafted with vertical beaded board sheathing, and the doors were framed by bulls-eye block surrounds.

The attic of the main block is finished with plastered walls and bulls-eye block surrounds that frame the windows and doors. In contrast to the plaster walls, the window apron is finished with a narrow beaded boards framed by inch-thick board surrounds. In a few cases the window trim retains its original oak grained finish. A low doorway in the northeast attic room provides access to a third attic room incorporated in the rear wing. An oak grained finish survives on the bull-eye block surrounds that frame the two dormer windows. There is no access from this room into the rear attic space.

The architectural trim in the service wing has been partly removed and partly left intact. Bulls-eye block surrounds frame window and door openings, especially those in the east shed section and the rear kitchen. The dining room has been stripped of its woodwork. Rising on the west wall of the kitchen is an enclosed service stair. A narrow tongue-and-groove beaded board wall encloses the staircase.

The second floor is divided into three principal rooms accessed by way of a narrow hall that runs along the west wall. Bulls-eye block surrounds frame the door openings, which include a single-pane movable transom. Small closets are located in two of the second floor bedrooms. The mantel in the south bedroom has been removed. The service stair continues upward in the southwest corner to a probable servant room on the third floor. There is no access between the rear attic room and the attic rooms in the main block.

Located due south within twenty feet of the service wing are two domestic outbuildings; a gable-roofed frame dairy and a gable roof frame pump house. The dairy, supported on a concrete foundation with an excavated milk well, is a gable-front frame structure sheathed with novelty siding and covered with a steeply pitched roof of pressed metal shingles. True to dairy construction in general, the eaves of the roof extend lower than usual so that the building is shaded. The rear wall is pierced by a small four-pane window. Inside the walls and ceiling are plastered and fitted with storage shelves. Standing immediately behind the dairy is a gable-front frame pump house supported on a poured concrete foundation with an excavated well that extends three or four feet below grade. The pump house is sheathed with novelty siding and covered by a low pitched roof of pressed metal shingles.

(Continued)

Standing southeast of the dairy and pump house is a grouping of five outbuildings dating from the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. The largest structure is a early twentieth-century tobacco barn that has been partially stripped of its vertical board exterior. Covered with a seamed metal roof, the structural frame is supported on a poured concrete foundation, and the framing is secured with wire nails. Pealed poles for drying tobacco remain in place throughout the barn.

Due north of the tobacco house is a gable roofed wagon or carriage house supported on a brick foundation and covered by a standing seam metal roof. The gable-front structure is divided inside by a vertical board partition. The west half of the structure has a dirt floor and was used for wagon and/or automobile storage. On the east side, the building has a plank floor and was used evidently as a tack room. A mid twentieth-century brick stove flue rises in the middle of the building.

West of the wagon house is a single story board-and-batten drying house distinguished by a gable roofed cupola with louvered sides. Supported on little or no foundation, the post and rail frame skeleton is sheathed with board-and-batten siding and is covered by a steeply pitched metal roof. Particularly distinctive to this outbuilding is a layer of corn shucks sandwiched between the roof nailers and the metal roof. A loose pile of corn shucks is also layered on top of the tie beams.

Located immediately west of the drying house is rectangular corn crib supported on concrete piers and covered with a steeply pitched metal roof. The gable-front corn crib is sheathed with a combination of narrow and wide vertical boards as well as plain weatherboards within the gable ends. The north (front) of the corn crib is pierced by a board door.

Off the northwest corner of the corn crib is a single story work shop sheathed with a metal exterior. Built in stages, the north half of the shop has a whitewashed interior framework whereas the south half was assembled much later and the interior framing is not painted. A board door hung on long strap hinges provides access through the east gable end.

On the west side of the house is a small shed roofed implement storage building facing east with an open front and side walls covered with vertical boards.



CIT-339

L. ALLISON WILMER HOUSE

LA PLAIN, CHARLES COUNTY, MD.

NORTH ELEVATION

3/99, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

MEG. | MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH-339

L. Allison Wilmer House

LA Plata, Charles County, MD.

North Elevation

3/99, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg. / Md. Historical Trust

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CH-339

L. ALLISON WILMER HOUSE

LAPLATA, CHARLES COUNTY, MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

7/99, PAUL TONART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH. 339

L. ALLISON WILMER HOUSE

LA PLATA, CHARLES Co., MD.

NORTH ELEVATION

3/99, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEA./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH - 339

L. ALLISON WILMER HOUSE

LA PLATA, CHARLES COUNTY, MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

3/99, PAUL TOWNAT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. FOR D. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH-339

L. ALISON WILMER HOUSE

LAPLATA, CHARLES COUNTY, MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

7199, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEEDLE AND HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH-339

L. ALLISON WILMER HOUSE
LA PLATA, CHARLES Co., MD.
SOUTH GABLE END

3/19/99, PAUL TONNET, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEV. LAND HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH-339

L. ALISON WINNER HOUSE
LA PLATA, CHARLES Co., MD.

CENTER HALL

3/99, PAUL TOURANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CI 2-339

L. Allison Wilmer House

La Plata, Charles County, MD.

STAIRCASE

7/99, Paul Tourant, Pittsburgh

Nec/MD. Historical Trust

9 st 31



CH-339

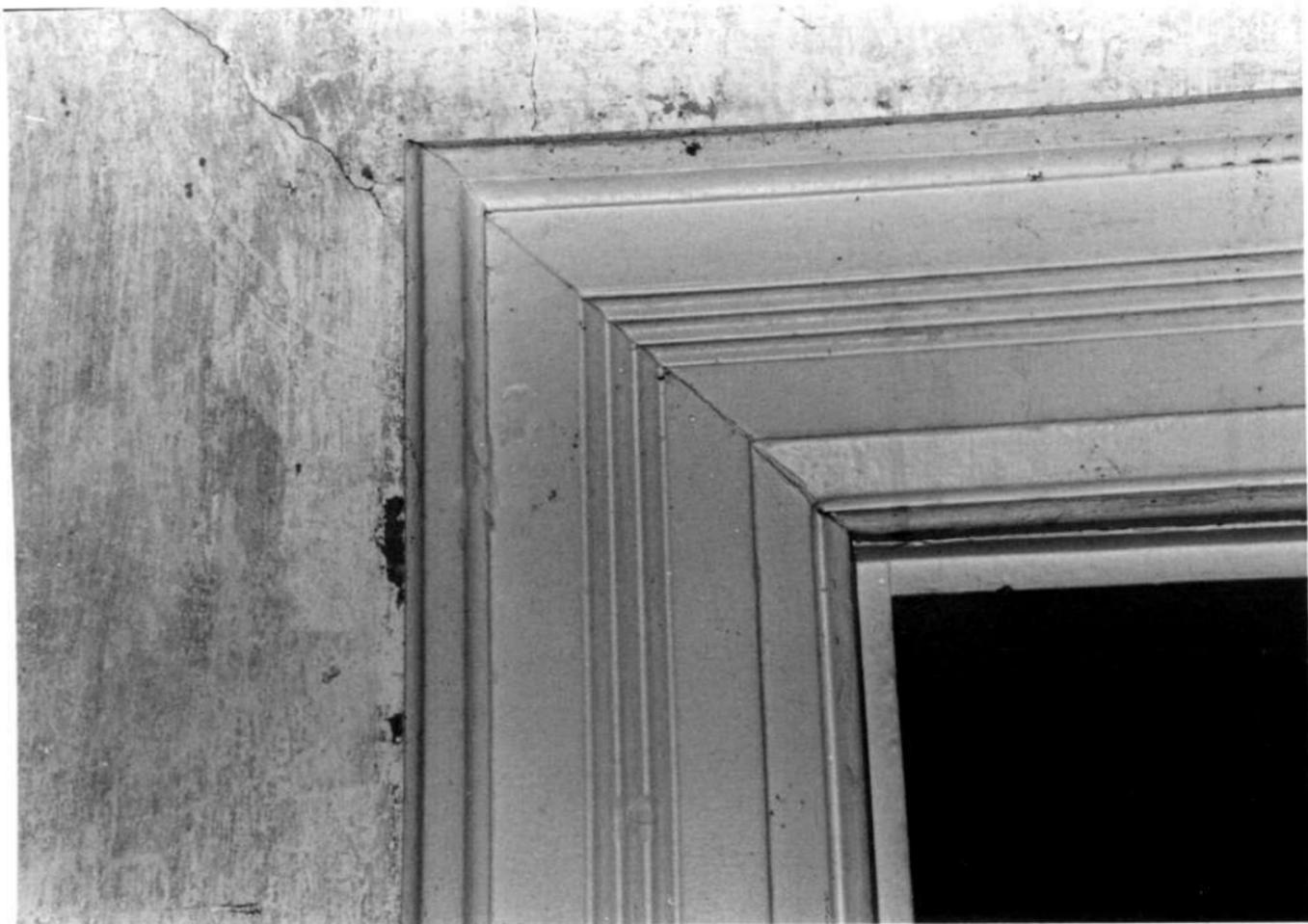
L. ALLISON WILMER HOUSE
LA PLATA, CHARLES COUNTY, MD.

CENTER HALL MEDALLION

3/99, PAUL TOURANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

MED. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CI2-339

C. ALISON WICKER HOUSE

LA PENTA, CHARLES CO., MD.

FIRST FLOOR SURROUND - HALL DOOR

3/99, PAUL TOWNST, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH-339

L. ALISON WILMER HOUSE

LA PLANT, CHARLES COUNTY, MD.

SPARROW FROM ATTIC

3/99, PAUL TOWHAT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEC. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

12 OF 31



CH-339

L. Allison Wilmer House
La Plata, CHARLES COUNTY, MD.

EAST PARLOR

3/99, Paul Touart, PHOTOCRAFTER

NEC. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH-339

L. ALISON WILMER HOUSE

LAPLATA, CHARLES COUNTY, MD

EAST PARLOR CEILING MEDALLION

3/99, PAUL TOURNEY, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEL. FUND. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH-339

L. ALISON NEMER House

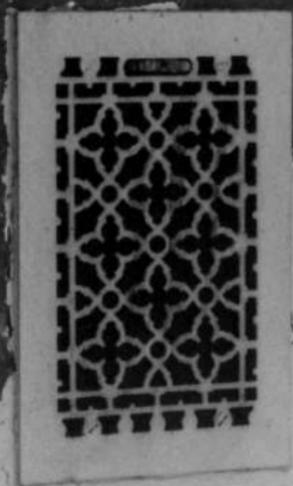
LA PLAIN, CHARLES COUNTY, MD

WEST PARLOR

3199, PANE TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

Nat. Md. Historical Trust

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CH-339

L. ALWOOD WIEMER HOUSE
LA PLATA, CHARLES CO., MD.

HEAR VENT

3199, PAUL TOWART, PITOTULCRASHEX

NET. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH-339

L. ALISON WILMER HOUSE

LAPLATA, CHARLES COUNTY, MD

KITCHEN - ENCLOSED STAIRCASE

3/99, PAUL TOURANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

Md. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH-339

L. Allison Wilmer House

Capitol, Charles County, MD.

Second Floor - West Bedroom

9/99, Paul Touart, Photographer

Nea. / MD. Historical Trust

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CH-339

L. ALLISON WILMER HOUSE

LAPLATA, CHARLES COUNTY, MD.

SOUTH BEDROOM FIREPLACE WALL

3/99, PAUL TOUANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEB. F.M.D. HISTORIC TRUST

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CU-739

L. ALISON WILLIAMS HOUSE

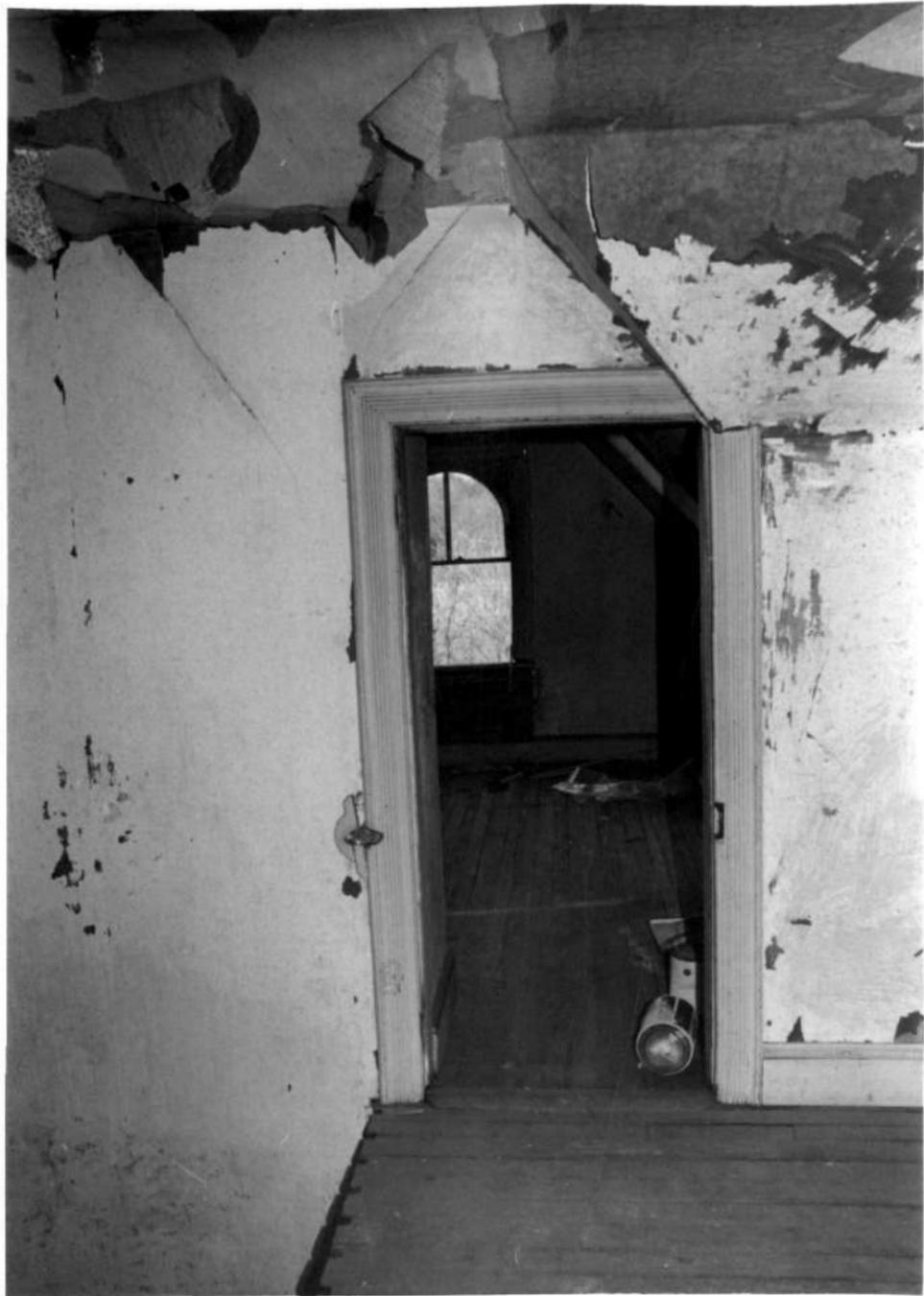
LA PLATA, CHARLES CO., MD.

ANN STANWELL

3/99, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH = 339

L. ALLISON WILMER HOUSE

CAPLAIR, CHARLES CO., MD.

ARCH DOORWAY

3/99, PAUL TOURANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. 1 MD HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH-339

L. ALLISON WICKER HOUSE

LAPCATU, CHARLES COUNTY, MD.

ATTN

3199, PAUL THOMAS, PITUTOGRAPIHER

NEG./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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NO
SMOKE

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KEEP
OUT

CIT-339

L. ALLISON WILMER HOUSE

LAPLATA, CITRILLES COUNTY, MD.

DAIRY AND PUMP HOUSE - NORTHEAST COR.

7/99, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH-339

L. ALLISON WILMERE HOUSE

LAPLATA, CHARLES COUNTY, MD.

FARM BUILDING COMPLEX - NORTH ELEVATION

3/99, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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C14-339

L. Allison Wilmore House

LAPLATA, CHARLES CO., M.D.

CORN CRIB - NORTH ELEVATION

3/99, Paul Touart, PHOTOGRAPHER

NE. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH - 3329

L. ALISON WIENER HOUSE

LA PLATA, CHARLES COUNTY, MD.

DRYING HOUSE. SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

3/99, PAUL TOWNAT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEED. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH-339

L. ALISON WILSON HOUSE

LA PENTA, CHARLES Co. MD.

DRYING HOUSE, NORTH ELEVATION

3/99, PAUL TOWNSE, PITUTULAKAPITON

NEC. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH-339

L. ALISON WILMER HOUSE
LA PLATA, CHARLES Co., MD.

CORN STUCKS UNDER METAL ROOF

3/99, PAUL TOURANT, PITTSBURGH

NEG. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

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FOR
REPAIRS
KEEP
6

CH - 379

L. ALISON WIENER HOUSE

LAPLATA, CHARLES COUNTY, MD.

WAGON HOUSE - WEST ELEVATION

3199, PAUL TOWNER, PHOTOGRAPHER

NE. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CID-339

L. ALLISON WILMER HOUSE

LAPATH, CHARLES COUNTY, MD.

TOBACCO BARN - NORTH ELEVATION

3/99, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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CH-339

L. Allison Wiener House

La Plata, Cinnacles County, MD.

Wagon Site - East Elevation

3/99, Paul Touart, PIVOTGRAPHED

Nev./MD. Historical Trust

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CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: CH-339 (PACS C160) Construction Date: circa 1895

Name: L. Allison Wilmer Property

Location: West side of Crain Highway, south of Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Charles County

Private/Vacant/Unoccupied/Deteriorated/Not accessible

Description:

The L. Allison Wilmer Property was previously inventoried by the Maryland Historical Trust in 1980; however, an extensive survey form was not completed. The L. Allison Wilmer Property is a 2½-story, 3-bay Folk Victorian side-gable house on the south side of Port Tobacco Road in La Plata, Charles County. Constructed circa 1895, the house has a prominent projecting center bay with a steeply pitched roof, a 2-story, 1-bay rear ell, and enclosed porches on the south, east and west elevations of the ell. The house is abandoned and in a deteriorated condition. The structure has a metal, steeply pitched side-gable roof with two dormers on the front elevation. The dormers have the same pitch as the side-gable. There are two interior brick chimneys near the center of the house. The ell has a similar roof with a brick chimney and two dormers on both the east and west elevations. The house is of wood-frame construction with German siding, and it has a brick foundation. Windows in the house and ell are 2/2 double-hung wood unless noted otherwise. Some of the windows have broken panes of glass.

Significance:

The L. Allison Wilmer Property, constructed circa 1895, is a distinctive example of Folk Victorian architecture. Although the house is vacant and deteriorating, much of the historic materials and detailing such as German siding, wood shutters and roof brackets remain. The enclosed porches on the south, east, and west elevations of the ell do not significantly affect the form and massing of the house. The setting of the house has not been significantly affected by development, and the

CAPSULE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey No.: CH-339 (~~PACS C160~~) Construction Date: circa 1895

Name: L. Allison Wilmer Property

Location: West side of Crain Highway, south of Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Charles County

property is screened by trees on all sides. The property was originally situated on approximately 7.68 hectares (19 acres) of "La Grange" purchased by General L. Allison Wilmer through three transactions during 1882-1893. The house, which became known as Argyle, was constructed circa 1895. After the death of his wife, General Wilmer conveyed the property to his daughter, Mary Allison Rockwell, in 1913. Mary Allison Rockwell sold the property to Bernard Howard in 1918. The parcel associated with the premises was reduced to 6.45 hectares (15.95 acres) in its subsequent sale by the widow of Mr. Howard, Nelley DeLashmut Howard, to Charles Fenwick in 1944. Mettie M. Rowe and Albert L. Rowe acquired the house and approximately 3.64 hectares (9 acres) of land from the Fenwicks through five transactions from 1946 to 1952. Mettie M. Rowe and her daughter, Louise M. Mileo, currently own the house and the lot, now 3.17 hectares (7.85 acres).

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form
U.S. 301 South Corridor Transportation Study

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name: (indicate preferred name)

historic L. Allison Wilmer Property

and/or common Rowe House

2. Location:

street & number West side of Crain Highway, south of Port Tobacco Road ___ not for publication

city, town La Plata ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland

county Charles

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"/> education <input type="checkbox"/> private
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation <input type="checkbox"/> vacant

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

name Mettie M. Rowe

street & number P.O. Box 518

telephone no.:

city, town La Plata

state and zip code MD 20646

5. Location of Legal Description

Land Records Office of Charles County

liber 1294

street & number 101 Catalpa Street

folio 95

city, town La Plata

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Sites in Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's Counties

date 1980

 federal state county local

depository/survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville

state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No.: CH-339 (PACS C160)

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved

date of move _____

Resource Count: 9

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

The L. Allison Wilmer Property was previously inventoried by the Maryland Historical Trust in 1980; however, an extensive survey form was not completed. The L. Allison Wilmer Property is a 2½-story, 3-bay Folk Victorian side-gable house on the south side of Port Tobacco Road in La Plata, Charles County. Constructed circa 1895, the house has a prominent projecting center bay with a steeply pitched gable and enclosed hipped-roof porch on the front elevation, a 2-story, 1-bay rear ell, and enclosed porches on the south, east and west elevations of the ell. The house is abandoned and in deteriorating condition.

The structure has a metal, steeply pitched side-gable roof with two dormers on the front elevation. The dormers have the same pitch as the side-gable. There are two interior brick chimneys near the center of the house. The ell has a similar roof with a brick chimney and two dormers on both the east and west elevations. The house is of wood-frame construction with German siding, and it has a brick foundation. Windows in the house and ell are 2/2 double-hung wood unless noted otherwise. Some of the windows have broken panes of glass.

The north, or front elevation has a prominent, gabled projecting bay in the center and a full-width, enclosed hipped-roof porch. The roof eaves of the side-gable and porch have brackets, and the porch has a centered gable. The fenestration pattern is symmetrical. The first story, which is concealed by the enclosed porch, has one window flanking the projecting center bay. The center of the enclosed porch has two doors with sidelights and a transom, and there are three windows on either side of the doors. The second story of the house has a window in each bay. The roof dormers have 2/2 double-hung wood windows with circular tops.

The east and west elevations of the house are identical. The first story has a projecting hipped-roof bay with three windows, one window on the second story, and a window in the gable end. The gable end windows are identical to the roof dormer windows.

The south elevation of the house is nearly concealed by the ell and the enclosed porches of the ell. There is one second story window in the first bay.

The 2-story ell is not visible on the first story because of the enclosed porches. The second story has four windows on the east elevation, two windows on both the south and west elevations, and one window in the gable end. The dormer and gable end windows are identical to the front dormer windows. The east and west enclosed porches, which are of wood-frame construction with a concrete block foundation, have four windows and one door. Several of the windows and both doors are blocked with plywood. The south enclosed porch has two windows on each elevation and a door on the south elevation.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: L. Allison Wilmer Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-339 (PACS C160)

ADDRESS: West side of Crain Highway, south of Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Charles County

7. Description (Continued)

There are eight buildings associated with this property. The first building is barn with a standing seam metal, gable roof. Constructed circa 1895, the barn is of wood-frame construction and is located southeast of the house.

The second building is a barn with a standing seam metal, gable roof. Constructed circa 1895, the barn is of wood-frame construction and is located southeast of the house and west of the first barn.

The third building is a barn with a standing seam metal, gable roof. Constructed circa 1895, the barn is located southeast of the house and north of the first and second barns.

The fourth building is a corn crib with a standing seam metal, gable roof. Constructed circa 1895, the corn crib is of wood-frame construction and is located southeast of the house and west of the three barns.

The fifth building is a prefabricated metal shed erected circa 1970. The shed is located south of the house and west of the barns and corn crib.

The sixth building is a privy with a standing seam metal, gable roof. Constructed circa 1895, the privy is of wood-frame construction and is located south of the house and west of the barns, corn crib, and prefabricated shed.

The seventh building is shed with a standing seam metal, gable roof. Constructed circa 1895, the shed is of wood-frame construction and is located south of the house, north of the privy, and west of the barns, corn crib and prefabricated shed.

The eighth building is a shed with a standing seam metal, gable roof. Constructed circa 1895, the shed is of wood-frame construction and is located southwest of the house, and west of the other seven buildings.

The property is located at the end of a driveway from Port Tobacco Road, south of the La Plata United Methodist Church parking lot. Approximately 90 meters (300 feet) east of the house is a motel which fronts Crain Highway. The site slopes gradually down to the south and is wooded on the west and south. The property has been abandoned and is becoming overgrown with vegetation, obscuring the house and associated buildings from the surrounding streets. The property's setting is near a heavily travelled crossroads with late twentieth century commercial development north and east of the site.

8. Significance

Survey No.: CH-339 (PACS 6160)

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archaeology-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 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"/> communication	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates circa 1895

Builder/Architect

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

The L. Allison Wilmer Property was originally situated on approximately 7.68 hectares (19 acres) of "La Grange" purchased by General L. Allison Wilmer through three transactions during 1882-1893. The house, which became known as Argyle, was constructed circa 1895. After the death of his wife, General Wilmer conveyed the property to his daughter, Mary Allison Rockwell, in 1913. Mary Allison Rockwell sold the property to Bernard Howard in 1918. The parcel associated with the premises was reduced to 6.45 hectares (15.95 acres) in its subsequent sale by the widow of Mr. Howard, Nelley DeLashmut Howard, to Charles Fenwick in 1944. Mettie M. Rowe and Albert L. Rowe acquired the house and approximately 3.64 hectares (9 acres) of land from the Fenwicks through five transactions from 1946 to 1952. Mettie M. Rowe and her daughter, Louise M. Mileo, currently own the house and the lot, now 3.17 hectares (7.85 acres).

The L. Allison Wilmer Property is an example of a Folk Victorian building. The Victorian wood detailing found on both resource types was made possible by new manufacturing advancements and increased shipping ability during the second half of the nineteenth century. These developments had a strong impact on the types of folk houses built in rural areas during this period. Typically built during the years 1870 to 1910, Folk Victorian style dwellings were simple folk housing forms ornamented with Victorian decorative details. As the Folk Victorian style attained popularity in the late nineteenth century, Folk Victorian detailing was sometimes added to earlier National Folk houses and I-houses.

There were many different types of Folk-Victorian houses including front-gable, gable front and wing, side-gable, and pyramidal hipped roof. In some ways, these houses are difficult to categorize because they frequently combine elements of various Victorian styles. Queen Anne detailing, such as spindle porch supports are often combined with bracketed eaves derived from the Italianate style, and lancet windows derived from the Gothic style. Common to most Folk Victorian houses, however, are wide front porches with carved decorations such as sunbursts and scrollwork. Like the earlier National Folk forms, the widespread adoption of Folk Victorian dwellings and details resulted from the broad availability of machined wooden components which were mass-produced and made available to rural areas by the growth of railroads in the nineteenth century (McAlester 1984:309-10).

Three of the buildings associated with the L. Allison Wilmer Property are barns. Most inhabitants of the project area were engaged in farming at the time of first settlement. The barn was the principal building erected on a farm which provided space for cows, horses, equipment, and hay, straw or tobacco storage. Throughout the nineteenth century, barns increased

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: L. Allison Wilmer Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-339 (~~PACS C160~~)

ADDRESS: West side of Crain Highway, south of Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Charles County

8. Significance (Continued)

in size or were newly built to include space for smaller animals, such as poultry and pigs, and as a place for the threshing and storage of grain. Their size also increased during the nineteenth century as the introduction of improved equipment led to more efficient and profitable operations, and, consequently, to increased need for storage facilities (Grow 1985, 60 and 76). Typically, livestock was housed on the lower level, while the upper level was reserved for the storage of hay and straw, and the threshing and storage of feed grains.

Foundation walls were frequently of fieldstone masonry construction which was also used most frequently for gable end walls before the mid nineteenth century, when increasing supplies and reduced cost of pre-cut lumber led to the adoption of wood. Vertical sheathing was often used for front and rear facades from an early date. Roofs were covered with shingle, slate, or metal. On late eighteenth and early nineteenth century barns, a series of tall vertical vents, or embrasures, punctuated the walls, providing ventilation and illumination of the barn's interior. The wood walls of later barns featured louvers and windows for the same purpose.

The L. Allison Wilmer Property is located in Charles County, in southern Maryland. The Native American inhabitants of southern Maryland from the Piscataway and Potobac nations were joined by European settlers beginning in 1634 with the establishment of St. Mary's City by Leonard Calvert. Successive waves of colonists took up tracts of land further inland from the Chesapeake Bay along the Patuxent and Potomac rivers and their tributaries. Charles County was formed in 1658 and Prince George's County was established in 1696. Settlement was confined to inland areas until road clearing began in the mid-eighteenth century as a result of the establishment of port towns and Maryland's rising population. Tobacco cultivation dominated the economic and social life of both Charles and Prince George's counties until the mid-nineteenth century when soil exhaustion necessitated agricultural diversification. The introduction of rail lines in 1873 linked Prince George's and Charles counties with the surrounding area, encouraging trade and settlement. While the suburbanization of Prince George's and Charles counties was ensured by the widespread availability of the automobile in the mid-twentieth century, these southern Maryland counties have also retained their rural and agricultural character.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: L. Allison Wilmer Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-339 (PACS C180)

ADDRESS: West side of Crain Highway, south of Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Charles County

8. Significance (Continued)

NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATION:

The L. Allison Wilmer Property, constructed circa 1895, was previously inventoried by the Maryland Historical Trust in 1980. The property is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C, as a distinctive example of Folk Victorian architecture. Although the house is vacant and deteriorating, much of the historic materials and detailing such as German siding, wood shutters and roof brackets remain. The enclosed porches on the south, east, and west elevations of the ell do not significantly affect the form and massing of the house. The setting of the house has not been significantly affected by development, and the property is screened by trees on all sides. The property is not eligible under Criterion A, as research conducted indicates no association with any historic events or trends significant in the development of national, state or local history. Historic research indicates that the property has no association with persons who have made specific contributions to history, and therefore, it does not meet Criterion B. Finally, the structure has no known potential to yield important information, and therefore, is not eligible under Criterion D.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST	
Eligibility Recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility Not Recommended <input type="checkbox"/>
Comments: _____	

Reviewer, OPS: <u><i>Andrew...</i></u>	Date: <u><i>10/18/95</i></u>
Reviewer, NR Program: <u><i>P.R.</i></u>	Date: <u><i>10/18/95</i></u>

9. Major Bibliographical References Survey No.: CH-339 (PACS C160)

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 3.18 hectares (7.85 acres)
Quadrangle name La Plata, MD Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Caroline Hall/Ryan McKay

organization P.A.C. Spero & Company

date September 1996

street & number 40 W. Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 412

telephone (410) 296-1635

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland

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
DHCP/DHCD
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
(410) 514-7600

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: L. Allison Wilmer Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-339 (~~PACS 0160~~)

ADDRESS: West side of Crain Highway, south of Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Charles County

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

- Brown, Jack D., et al. Charles County, Maryland, A History. Charles County Bicentennial Committee, 1976.
- Charles County Retired Teachers Association. A Legacy: One- and Two-Room Schools in Charles County. La Plata: Dick Wildes Publishing Company, 1984.
- Grow, Lawrence. Country Architecture. Pittstown, NJ: The Main Street Press, 1985.
- Klaphor, Margaret Brown, and Paul Dennis Brown. The History of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc., 1958.
- Martenet, Simon J. Martenet's Map of Maryland, Atlas Edition. Baltimore, 1866.
- Maryland Geological Survey. [1840] Map of Eastern Maryland with 1860 Additions. Copy on file at Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Fieldguide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1983.
- Lvoire, J. Richard. Homeplaces, Traditional Domestic Architecture of Charles County, Maryland. La Plata: Southern Maryland Studies Center, 1990.
- Wearmouth, John M. Charles County Railroad. An unpublished paper on deposit at the Prince George's County Historical Society. August 1984.
- Ibid. La Plata, Maryland, 1888-1988, 100 Years, The Heart of Charles County. La Plata: Town of La Plata, 1988.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

RESOURCE NAME: L. Allison Wilmer Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-339 (~~PACS C160~~)

ADDRESS: West side of Crain Highway, south of Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Charles County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Verbal boundary description and justification:

The National Register boundaries of the L. Allison Wilmer Property follow the current property lines of the property southwest of the junction of Crain Highway and Port Tobacco Road (Charles County Tax Map 112, Parcel 30). This 3.18 hectare (7.85 acre) parcel is bounded on the north by Port Tobacco Road and adjacent tax parcels, and on the south, west and east by adjacent tax parcels. The boundary includes the house, contributing barns, corn crib, privy, and sheds, and the non-contributing prefabricated shed. According to deed research, the property was originally part of a 7.68 hectare (19 acre) parcel purchased by General L. Allison Wilmer through three transactions during 1882-1893.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

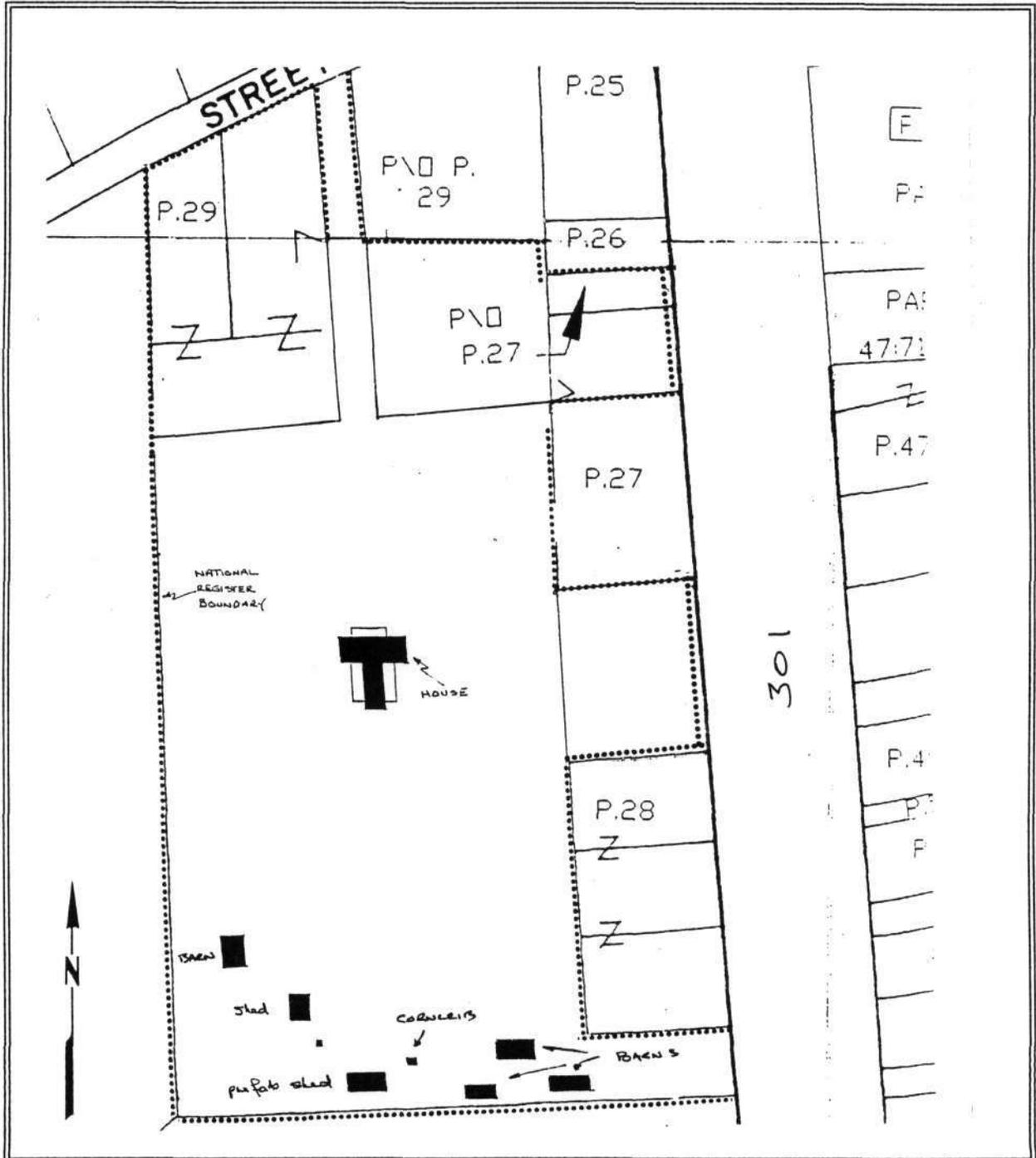
RESOURCE NAME: L. Allison Wilmer Property

SURVEY NO.: CH-339 (PACS C160)

ADDRESS: West side of Crain Highway, south of Port Tobacco Road, La Plata, Charles County

10. Geographical Data (Continued)

Resource Sketch Map and National Register Boundary Map:



Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan Data Sheet

L. Allison Willmer Property CH-339 (PACS C160)
West side of Crain Highway, south of Port Tobacco Road,
vicinity of La Plata, Charles County

Historic Context:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period Theme (s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE:

Category (see Section 3 of survey form):

Buildings; Private Ownership; Public Acquisition - Not
applicable; Unoccupied; Not accessible; Vacant

Historic Environment (urban, suburban, village, or rural):

Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

Residence

Known Design Source (write none if unknown):

None

U.S. 301 South Corridor
Transportation Study

Survey # 0160 CH339
Property Name Rowe House
Town/County La Plata (Charles Co)
Quadrangle La Plata



5561 II SE
(PORT TOBAC

4269

4268

32'30"

MASON SPRINGS 8.3 MI.
RIPLEY 4.2 MI.

MC CONCHIE 4 MI.
PORT TOBACCO 1.5 MI.

250 000
FEET

4265



1 CH-339

2 L. Allison Wilmer Property, Charles County, MD

3 Bryan McKay, 9/96

4 P.A.C Spero & Company, 40 W. Chesapeake Ave,
412, Baltimore, MD 21204

5 West Side of Crain Highway, South of Port Tobacco
Road, North elevation of House, South view

6 1 of 10



- 1 CH-339
- 2 L. Allison Wilmer Property, Charles County, MD
- 3 Bryan McKay, 9/96
- 4 P.A.C Spero + Company 40 W. Chesapeake
Ave # 412, Baltimore, MD 21204
- 5 West side of Cran Highway, South of Port
Tobacco Road East elevation of house
West View
- 6 2 of 10



V.I.P. ONLY!

KEEP OFF
MESSAGE

KEEP
OFF

- 1 CH-339
- 2 L. Allison Wilmer Property, Charles County, MD
- 3 Ryan McKay, 9/96
- 4 P.A.C. Spero + Company 40 W. Chesapeake Ave, # 412, Baltimore, MD 21204
- 5 West side of Cran Highway, South of Port Tobacco Boord South elevation of house North View
- 6 3 of 10



- 1 CH-339
- 2 L Allison Wilmer Property Charles County, MD
- 3 Bryan McKay, 9/96
- 4 P.A.C Sporo + Company, 40 W Chesapeake Ave # 412, Baltimore, MD 21204
- 5 West side of Crain Highway, South of Port Tobacco Road West elevation of House East View
- 6 4 of 10



1. CHI-339

2. L. Hillson Wilmer Property
Charles County, MD

3. Bryan, McKay, 9/9/6

4. P.A.C. Spero Co, 410 W. Chesapeake
Ave. #412, Balto. md 21201

5 West side of Crum Highway, South of Port
Tobacco Road Shed #1 West view

6 5 of 10



1. CH-339

2. L. H. Wilson Wilmer Property
Charles County, MD

3. L. Ryan Micker 9/96

4. P. A. C. Sporo + Co. 410 W. Chesapeake
Ave, #412, Baltimore, MD 21204

5. West side of Crum Highway, South
of Port Tobacco Road Shed + Privy
South West view

6. 6 of 10



1. CH-339

2. L. Allison Wilmer Property
Charles County, MD

3. Bryan McKay, 9/96

4. P.A.C. Sporo + Co, 40 W. Chesapeake
Ave. #412, Baltimore, md 21204

5. west side of cran Highway, South of
Port Tobacco Road Barns #1, #2, #3
South View

6 7 of 10



1. CH-339

2. L. Allison Wilmer Property
Charles County, MD

3. C. Ryan McKay 9/96

4. P. A. C. Spero + Co. 40 W. Chesapeake
Ave, #412. Balto, MD 21204

5. West Side of Crum Highway, South of
Port Tobacco Road Corn Crib
South View

6. 8 of 10



1. C4-339

2. L. Allison Wilmer Property
Charles County, MD

3. Ryan McKay, 9/96

4. P.A.C. Sperot Co. 40 W. Chesapeake
Ave. #412, Balto, Md 21204

5 West side of Cran Highway, South
of Port Tobacco Road, Tobacco
barn South view

6 9 of 10



1. CH-339

2. L. Allison Wilmer Property
Charles County, MD

3. Ryan McKay, 9/96

4. P.A.C. Sporn + Co, 40 W. Chesapeake
Ave. #412, Balto, md 21204

5 West side of Cran Highway,
South of Port Tobacco Road South
and east elevations of House

6 ~~10~~ of 10 North West View

CH-339
Rowe House
La Plata
Private

c. 1900

A large, L-shaped, two-story frame building, the Rowe house is one of La Plata's most distinctive examples of late Victorian architecture. Originally built outside of the town but now incorporated within it, the strong vertical lines of the house suggest a Victorian Gothic influence. The three-bay front has a two-story projecting tower with pedimented roof. One-story bay windows are located at both ends of the main block. A formerly open one-story front porch was later enclosed.