

F-3-120

William V. Wolfe House and Barn  
Frederick vicinity  
Private

1898; 1910

The William V. Wolfe House is a three-story rusticated concrete block house with a mansard third story built in 1910, with a 1987 modern addition adjoining the original rear wing. The barn is a traditional German type bank barn, built in 1898 and dated on the granary wall of the interior. Also on the property is a vernacular fieldstone springhouse with a hipped roof, possibly built in the last quarter of the 19th century. The three buildings are the remnants of an approximately 100-acre farm which has been developed as a suburban residential tract. The Wolfe House is significant as the second oldest documented concrete block house in Frederick County (the oldest is "Gray Haven", built in 1906, located in the Air View Survey District, F-4-38), and for its illustration of the awkwardness of the users of the early concrete blocks as shown in the ignorance of continuity in decorative motif. The barn is important as a dated representative of the German barn showing the persistence of the vernacular type built in Frederick County since the mid 18th century.

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William V. Wolfe House and Barn

Frederick

Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery  
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes

Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Types:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function and Use:

Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Domestic/secondary structure/springhouse

Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility/barn

Known Design Source: None

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic William V. Wolfe House and Barn

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 8420 Rocky Springs Road  not for publication

city, town Frederick  vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Louis G. & Helen H. Priolo

street & number 8420 Rocky Springs Road telephone no.:

city, town Frederick state and zip code MD 21702

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 1459

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 232

city, town Frederick state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. F-3-120

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" 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.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 3

The William V. Wolfe House and Barn are located on the west side of Rocky Springs Road just south of the intersection of Indian Springs Road near Frederick (City), Frederick County, Maryland. The house was built of rusticated and molded concrete block with a mansard roof in 1910 and the barn is a frame traditional German bank barn built in 1898. A third outbuilding is a stone springhouse built about 1910 near the dwelling. The buildings are the remaining structures of a farm, now built up as the Frederick suburb of Aynsley. In 1987, a two-story brick addition was built on the west elevation of the original 1910 house, as noted by a marble stone in the brick wall of the south elevation. The house was dated by a reference to its construction in Williams & McKinsey's History of Frederick County (1910) and the barn has the names of the builders and the year painted on the granary wall of the interior.

The house has three stories, including the mansard level, which is covered with composition material. The molded concrete block is painted white and a one-story porch is located on the principal elevation on the east. The east elevation has three bays with a center entrance containing a natural finish 6-panel door with a plain transom and sidelights. The sash is 1/1 in pairs on both lower stories, the dormers in the mansard having 2/2 sash, which was probably the original sash on all elevations. The north and south elevations have 2/2 sash and, on the north side louvered shutters flank the openings. These were probably removed on the other elevations. A three-story rear wing, also with a mansard third story, extends to the west from the main section. Modern one-story porches are located on the north and south sides of the wing. The modern two-story addition on the west end of the wing appears to fill in the area of an original two-story porch on the south side, in the traditional location of vernacular houses of the 19th and early 20th centuries. At the base of the brick addition on the south elevation is the marble stone giving the date 1987 and the name of the current owner, Priolo.

The pattern of the concrete blocks in the exterior of the house is indicative of the early period of use of the material in Frederick County. The majority of blocks are quarry finish, with four courses of running floral blocks at the sill and lintel levels of the window openings and near the base and cornice lines. The floral blocks are not entirely laid in the same manner, since the design is sometimes reversed, especially on opposite sides of some of the windows. The occurrence seems to have been random, indicating a possible ignorance of aesthetics in the use of the new material. This is particularly evident on the west elevation of the wing, above the roofline of the modern addition, where several courses are in the floral block pattern. This may have been a thrifty use of extra floral blocks molded but not used in the other elevations.

Springhouse: The square plan fieldstone springhouse is located just south of the rear wing and is set at a slight angle to the south side of the house. It has a hipped wood shingle roof and square louvered openings in the east and west elevations. A vertical board door is located in the east elevation. Its design

(continued on separate sheet)

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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** 1898; 1910 **Builder/Architect** Probably William V. Wolfe and others, carpenter, house and barn

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.

The William V. Wolfe House and Barn are significant in architecture because of the early date of the molded concrete block house, built in 1910, and for the 1898 bank barn. The Wolfe House is the second oldest concrete block dwelling yet documented in Frederick County. The oldest is the 1906 "Gray Haven", a residence in the Air View Survey District (F-4-38) east of Middletown. The Wolfe House is also interesting for the apparent awkwardness of the block laying technique, a consequence of the builders' unfamiliarity with the aesthetics of the new construction method. The barn is a good example, although deteriorated, of the late 19th century vernacular German type barn, which illustrates the strong persistence of traditional building methods into the beginning of the 20th century.

Williams & McKinsey's History of Frederick County contains a biographical sketch of William V. Wolfe which states he was trained from the age of 18 as a carpenter and was employed in the trade in several other parts of the United States for 22 years. Following the death of his father, Elihu Wolfe (1840-1899), William returned to the home farm to take up the management of the place, which he shared with his mother and his wife. The bank barn was apparently built during 1898 just prior to the death of Elihu Wolfe, with William as one of the builders. The 1910 history described the new house: "He (William) has just completed a fine three-story pressed stone mansion, the only one of its kind in that part of the county." Presumably, William also participated in the construction of the dwelling as well as the barn.

Concrete block dwellings were fairly common in the period about 1910-1930. The availability of new artificial and veneer materials and pre-fabricated housing beginning in the 1920's eventually overshadowed its use in houses. However, concrete block became the most common material for secondary structures in farmsteads and continued in dominance up to World War II, when a temporary lack of materials due to war materiel needs forced farmers to use other materials. After World War II, concrete block returned to use until the metal building boom in the 1960's and 1970's.



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7.1 Description (Continued)

and materials are identical to springhouses built throughout the 19th century and may in fact have been built during the last quarter of the 19th century to accompany an earlier house on the farmstead.

Barn: The large frame bank barn is located south of the house and is in rather deteriorated condition. The ramp to the loft floor is on the south elevation and the stall level on the north side is enclosed with horizontal tongue-and-groove and flush boards. The foundation is fieldstone and the upper structure is covered with vertical siding with louvred arched vents. The sliding doors to the loft on the north side have been removed. The roof is standing seam metal. Inside the barn on the granary wall is the inscription "1898 W. H. Canon, W. V. W." W.V.W was William V. Wolfe, one of the owners of the farm from 1899 to 1916. The other name is assumed to be that of a local builder.

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Addendum and Correction:

The current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Louis G. Priolo, found a flask bottle inside one of the adjacent concrete blocks when rehabilitating a chimney in the Wolfe House. The bottle contained a printed calendar page from 1906 with penciled date and names as follows:

October 29, 1906  
William V. Wolfe  
John D. Crabbe  
J.E. Harshman  
Marysville, Maryland

Marysville, Maryland has not yet been identified. William V. Wolfe was the owner of the house and one of its builders. The other two names have not been identified. The correct date of construction of the William V. Wolfe House is 1906, based on this evidence.

Gray Haven in the Airview Survey District (F-4-38) has been acknowledged as being the first concrete block house in Frederick County. Its actual construction probably began in April 1906, based on the usual weather conditions in the region and the date of Lewis Kefauver's deed of purchase on April 29, 1906. The Wolfe House was apparently built during the fall of 1906. The duration of construction in either case is unknown.

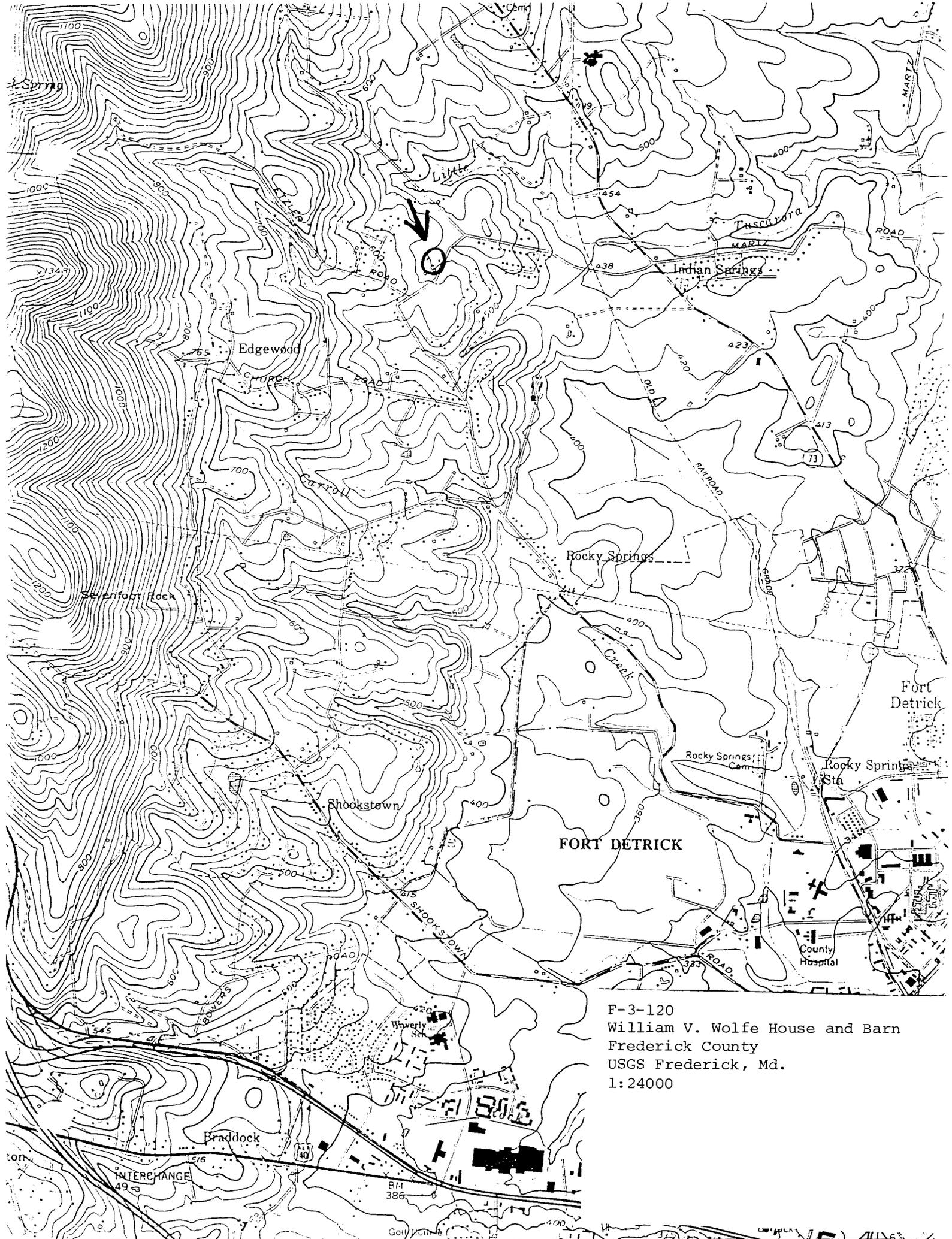
cc: F-4-38  
Airview Survey District  
Frederick County

84 Rocky Springs Rd.

Lot Size, Description,  
Other Information,  
Original Tracts

Liber/Folio	Grantee	Grantor	Lot Size, Description, Other Information, Original Tracts	Cost	Miscellaneous
1459/232 25 Mar 87	Louis H. & Helen H. Prulo	Fairmont Joint Venture	<del>54.045</del>	\$109,000	
1329/390 24 Mar 86	Fairmont Joint Venture	Claise K. Long, Eulyp R. Cuthall, Norman Lewis Dutrow Melvin H. Dutrow	54.045 a.		
1227/331 6 Feb 84	Claise K. Long et al	Mary C. Dutrow			
414/46 12 Aug 38	Mary C. Dutrow (daughter of Mary C. Kemp)	Mary C. Kemp, widow of Julian E. Kemp	60 a.		
316/348 1 Apr 16	Julian E. & Mary E. Kemp	Margaret A. Wolfe Willie V. Wolfe Annie B. Wolfe	8 parcels 1. JLS 11/356, 15 Oct 1895 2. <del>with</del> Mill Record SEC 1/6, 7	5 a. Chas. D. Kehne to Elisha R. Wolfe to his daughter Margaret A. Wolfe, wife	
JLS 11/356 11 Oct 1895	Elisha R. Wolfe	Charles A. & Joanna Kehne	5 a. 8 p.	\$530	
Mill Record SEC 1/6 6 Jan 1870	Cecy McDewitt until her death then to Margaret A. Wolfe, wife of Elisha R. Wolfe	Samuel McDewitt			

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Frederick County  
USGS Frederick, Md.  
1:24000



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William V. Wolfe House and Barn  
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Photo: Janet Davis

January 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

East elevation

1/6



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William V. Wolfe House and Barn  
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Photo: Janet Davis

January 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.  
Concrete block detail, north elevation

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William V. Wolfe House and Barn

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

West elevation

3/6



F-3-120

William V. Wolfe House and Barn  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md  
Smokehouse, east elevation

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F-3-120

William V. Wolfe House and Barn  
Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md  
Barn, north elevation

5/6



F-3-120

William V. Wolfe House and Barn

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

January 1993

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Born date & builders' names

6/6