

HA-1375

1896

Wilgis-Bennett House
139 E. Broadway
Bel Air
private

This is perhaps the best example of the front gable Victorian house on Broadway. It gracefully combines all the elements - the segmental arched gable window, the hip roofed porch on chamfered posts, the carved brackets, these with a trefoil. It is also the least altered; the rear side porch has not been enclosed. This house was built by John W. Wilgis, a local carpenter, to be his residence.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Wilgis House

AND/OR COMMON

Bennett House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

139 E. Broadway

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

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	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

Frederick D. Bennett

Telephone #: 838-4608

STREET & NUMBER

139 E. Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 443

Folio #: 440

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two story, three bay, shiplap sided house with gable in front is at 139 E. Broadway in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. Like many of its near neighbors it has a T-shaped gable roof with the kitchen having a flat roof. The front (north) porch has a hipped-roof carried on chamfered posts with decorative brackets. The window in the front gable is a segmental arch headed 2/2. The other windows are 2/2 double hung sash with the exception of the two first story windows in the front elevation (2/4 long) and the kitchen windows. The kitchen windows are a pair of 8 pane casements in the eastern elevation and a pair of single pane aluminum framed casements in the south elevation. All the windows except the kitchen casements are framed in wooden louvered shutters. Two corbelled-cap chimneys break the roof line, one at the gable ridge inside the west elevation and one halfway down the east gable slope in the back (south).

An unenclosed side porch on the kitchen ell shows what most of these houses looked like before the porch was enclosed and a second story sleeping porch was added. A shed roof slanting to the west is carried on plain posts. The entrance to the basement is a deck built into the north portion of the porch floor.

The entrance is in the east bay of the north elevation. It has a 2 pane transom over a glass over two panel door. The entrance leads to a hall, which is also unaltered. A door to the south leads to the dining room; one to the west leads to the living room; an open-string dog-leg staircase with carved brackets, round newel and turned balusters rises along the east wall. Mrs. Bennett theorizes that the closet under the staircase once held the basement stairs since the electric light switch just inside the door still controls the basement lights.

A Victorian marble fireplace with arched opening, colonettes, spandrels and cartouche in the center is in the center west wall of the living room. To the south are the dining room, a pantry, and a small west chamber which Mrs. Bennett uses as a study. The clapboard on the walls suggest that both this room and the pantry were enclosed from an earlier porch. To the south is the spacious kitchen. Four bedrooms and bath are upstairs.

This is one of the least altered of the similar houses along the south side of Broadway.

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 1896 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Contractor: John W. Wilgis

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is probably the second house on the site, both built by John Wilgis, a local contractor, as his residence. This house is probably a copy of the original, although the kitchen may be larger than the 1883 house. Mr. Wilgis lost his house to fire in October 1896 and rebuilt. Charred timbers in the cellar under the staircase make the extent of the fire a question, but the Harford Democrat for October 2, 1896 says Wilgis, "a Bel Air carpenter, lost his house to fire."

The original structure was built in 1883 on a lot Wilgis purchased from Charles L. Dallam for \$350 (47/461). The second house was begun in November 1896. Wilgis sold the property to Mattie B. Carcaud, wife of Dr. ville B. Carcaud, for \$1700 in 1904 (113/86). The Carcauds were living there at the time. Mrs. Carcaud left it to Geneva D. Richardson (Mrs. Lloyd, he owned Richardson's Pharmacy) in 1939 (will 20/494. Mrs. Richardson was Geneva Dean then, a daughter of N. Howard Dean, one of the proprietors of the Foster-Dean Funeral Home. She was probably raised three doors down the street at the northeast corner of Broadway and Hickory. The Richardsons sold the property in 1946 to John N. Wilkinson and Elizabeth, his wife (293/405). They sold it to Frederick and Ester Bennett in 1955 (433/440). Mrs. Bennett, recently appointed Headmistress of Harford Day School, and her sister live there.

This is one of the least altered houses of its type in Bel Air.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harford Democrat

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #561 in the Town of Bel Air, 50' x 200'

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M. Larew, Architectural Historian

23 August 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 21 STATE CIRCLE
 SHAW HOUSE
 ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
 Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1375

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
 Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:
 Bennett House

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
 Wilgis House

PRESENT USE: private residence

ORIGINAL USE: " "

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:
 John W. Wilgis

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:
 Excellent (X) Good ()
 Fair () Poor: ()

THEME: Architecture

STYLE: Vernacular

DATE BUILT: ?
 1896 (2nd house on site)

COUNTY: Harford
 TOWN: Bel Air
 LOCATION: 139 E. Broadway
 Bel Air, Maryland 21014

COMMON NAME: Bennett House

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: private residence

OWNER: Frederick Bennett
 ADDRESS: 139 E. Broadway
 Bel Air, Maryland 21014

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:
 Yes () No () Restricted (X)

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:
 Local (X) State () National ()

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

1. Foundation: Stone (X) Brick () Concrete () Concrete Block ()
2. Wall Structure
 - A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam () Balloon ()
 - B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick () Stone () Concrete () Concrete Block ()
 - C. Iron () D. Steel () E. Other:
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard () Board and Batten () Wood Shingle () Shiplap (X)
 Novelty () Stucco () Sheet Metal () Aluminum () Asphalt Shingle ()
 Brick Veneer () Stone Veneer ()
 Bonding Pattern: Other:
4. Roof Structure
 - A. Truss: Wood () Iron () Steel () Concrete ()
 - B. Other:
5. Roof Covering: Slate () Wood Shingle () Asphalt Shingle (X) Sheet Metal ()
 Built Up () Rolled () Tile () Other: porch = rolled metal
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other: 2 corbelled cap

Appendages: Porches (X) Towers () Cupolas () Dormers () Chimneys (X) Sheds (X) Ells ()
 Wings () Other: 2 story
 louvered shutters

Roof Style: Gable (X) Hip () Shed () Flat () Mansard () Gambrel () Jerkinhead ()
 Saw Tooth () With Monitor () With Ballcast () With Parapet () With False Front ()
 Other: Kit. ell = flat roof

Number of Stories: 2½

Number of Bays: 3 x 4

Approximate Dimensions: 25' x 50'

Entrance Location: E. Broadway

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:
 No Threat (X) Zoning () Roads ()
 Development () Deterioration ()
 Alteration () Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:
 Positive () Negative ()
 Mixed () Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

HA-1375

Front gable segmental 2/2 - other windows 2/2 ex front porch roof metal
 which are 2/4 long
 Entry E. bay 2 pane transom, glass over 2 panel door
 porch - chamfered posts w solid brackets w trefoil cut out
 Kit: east pr. 8 pane casements - S. modern casements
 Stair open-string dog-leg carved brackets
 woodwork plain round newel, turned
 Marble Victorian fireplace balusters
 4 br

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

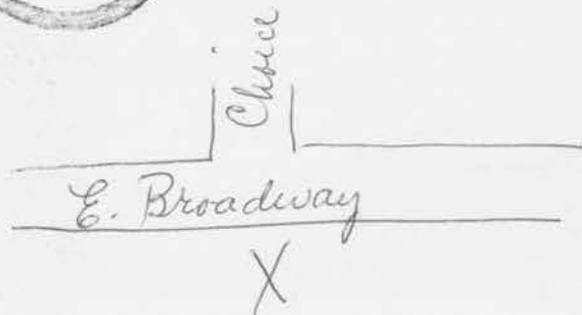
2 story barn

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

date back porch steps Oct. 24, 1918

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane() Woodland() Scattered Buildings()
 Moderately Built Up() Densely Built Up()
 Residential(X) Commercial(X)
 Agricultural() Industrial()
 Roadside Strip Development()
 Other:

M. Larew, Architectural Historian

RECORDED BY:

Town of Bel Air

ORGANIZATION:

13 August 1979

DATE RECORDED:

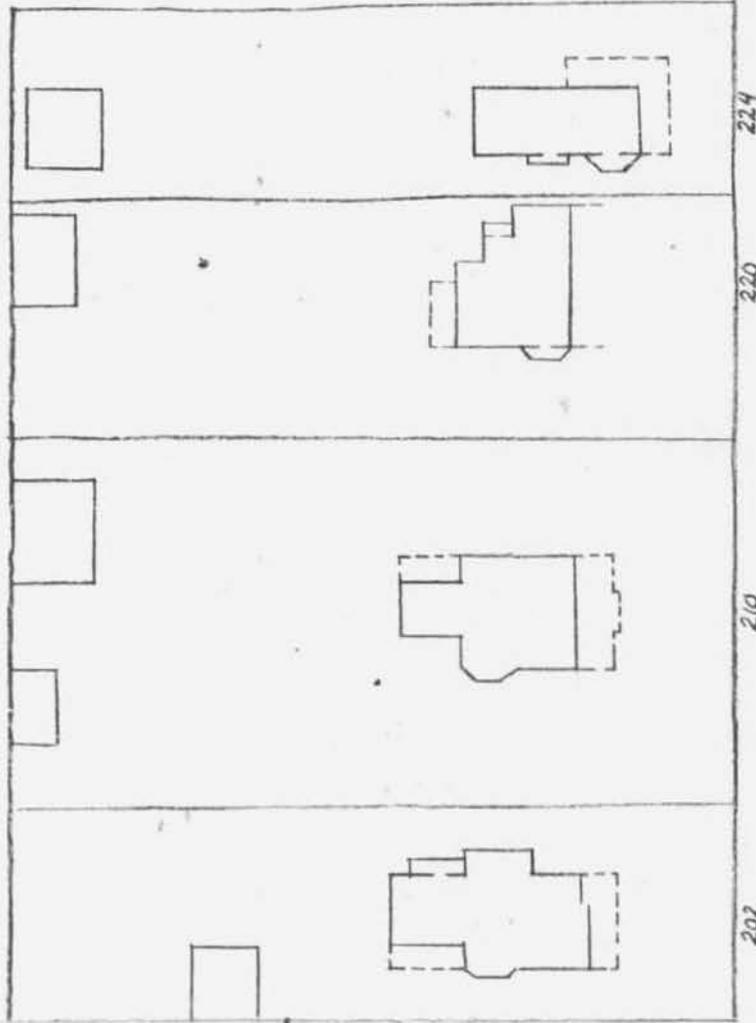
TITLE:
139 BROADWAY

443/440 31 August 1955
 John N. Wilkinson, Jr., and Elizabeth, wife
 to
 Frederick D. Bennett and Ester, wife

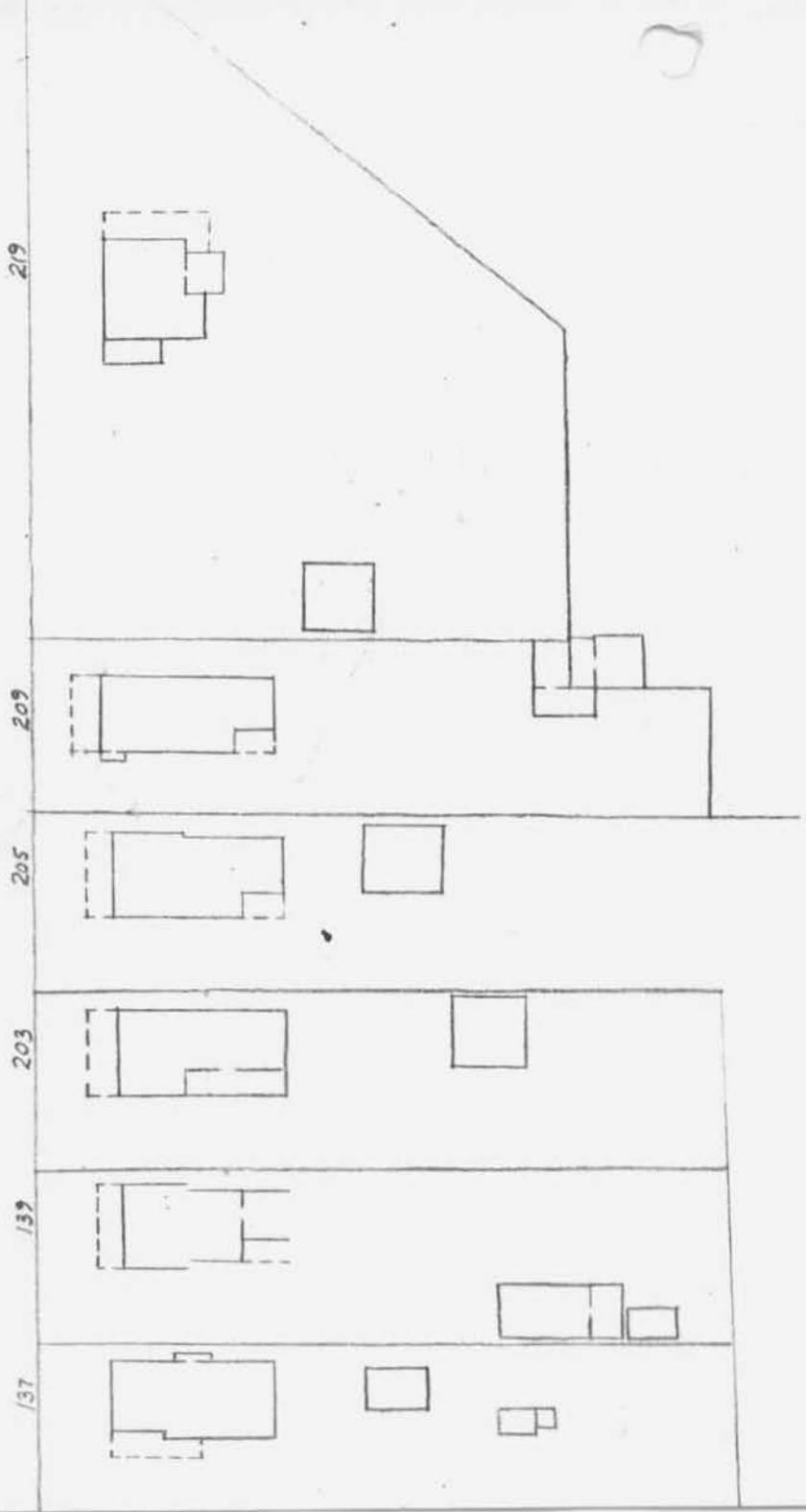
293/405 16 February 1946
 Geneva D. Richardson and Lloyd, husband
 to
 John N. Wilkinson and Elizabeth, wife
 land of Mattie B. Carcaud who left it to
 Geneva D. Richardson (then M. Geneva Dean)
 by will 20/494, 1939.

113/86 9 May 1904
 John W. Wilges, Florence, wife, and Thomas
 H. Robinson, trustee
 to
 Mattie B. Carcaud, wife of Dr. Orville B.
 Carcaud
 \$1700
 "upon which grantee now resides"
 Robinson releases mortgage

47/461 26 April 1883
 Charles L. Dallam
 to
 John W. Wilgis
 \$350 50 x 200



HA-
 Bennett-Welz's House
 139 E. Broadway
 Bel Air, Md.
 HA-1375
 1930 Sanborn Map





HA-1375

Bennett-Wilges House, 139 E. Broadway
Bel Air

n+w elev

M. Lauer, 1979



HA-1375

Bennett-Wilgis House, 139 E. Broadway
Bel air

s. elev

M. Larew, 1979



HA-1375

Bennett - Wilgus House, 139 E. Broadway
Bel Air

s + n elev of barn

M. Larew, 1979



HA-1375