

K-618

1915-1918

Welch-Woodall House

Georgetown

Private

Built between 1915 and 1918 north of Westminster Cemetery on the west side of Route 213 in Georgetown, the Welch-Woodall House is a frame Four-Square Style house that is 2-1/2 storeys tall. Its original horizontal, lapped weatherboard is now covered with vinyl siding and its trim with aluminum. The main roof is hipped, but compoundly in the rear to accommodate the additional depth of a five-foot kitchen extension that was part of the original plan. There is a raised, small, flat center section with edges trimmed as a cornice and through which the single chimney rises. Besides the kitchen "bump-out," the near cubical mass of the building is relieved by the three hipped-roof dormers, the broad and shallow three-part bays, and the columned porch that covers the east, main facade and wraps around part of the south side as well. There is also a kitchen porch that is the width of the kitchen projection. Windows are large and double-hung; those of the main facade second storey are paired. Most have 9-over-1 lights. This house is one of two four-square houses built in Georgetown between 1910 and 1920; this one is later than the other (K-595, the Woodall-Davies House). They are very similar, though the basic plan is reversed, and appear at first to have been built from the same plan. However, this one is slightly smaller and different enough to conclude that they each were built from a separate purchased plan, such as those found in builder's magazines at the time, very likely available through the Woodall family lumberyard in Georgetown. This vernacular four-square house is related to some extent to the Prairie School of Frank Lloyd Wright and others that emphasized the horizontal and the sheltering effect created by broadly overhanging hipped roofs. In Kent County the houses of the late nineteenth century had not been compact, and the emphasis had been on the vertical, with Victorian Gothic Revival buildings with wings predominating among large houses. This house was intended to accommodate all functions under one roof; a wing was not needed, though this house does have a "bump-out" for the service area.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Welch-Woodall House

2. Location

street & number West side Rt. 213, north of cemetery not for publicationcity, town Georgetown vicinity of congressional districtstate Maryland county Kent

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mr. and Mrs. James E. Woodallstreet & number RD. 1, Box 89 telephone no.: 648-5197city, town Galena state and zip code Maryland 21635

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber WHG 76street & number folio 369city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys NONE

title

state federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-618

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"/> 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.

Built between 1915 and 1918 north of Westminster Cemetery on the west side of Route 213 in Georgetown, the Welch-Woodall House is a frame Four-Square Style house that is 2-1/2 storeys tall. Its original horizontal, lapped weatherboard is now covered with vinyl siding and its trim with aluminum. The main roof is hipped, compoundly in the rear to accommodate the additional depth of a five-foot kitchen extension that was part of the original plan. There is a raised, small, flat center section with edges trimmed as a cornice and through which the single chimney rises. Besides the kitchen "bump-out," the near cubical mass of the building is relieved by the three hipped-roof dormers, the broad and shallow three-part bays, and the columned porch that covers the east, main facade and wraps around part of the south side as well. There is also a kitchen porch that is the width of the kitchen projection. Windows are large and double-hung; those of the main facade second storey are paired. Most have 9-over-1 lights.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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 Circa 1915-1918 **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 house is one of two four-square houses built in Georgetown between 1910 and 1920; this one is later than the other (K595, the Woodall-Davies House). They are very similar, though the plan is reversed, and appear at first to have been built from the same plan. However, this one is slightly smaller and different enough to conclude that they each were built from a separate purchased plan, such as those found in builder's magazines at the time, very likely available through the Woodall family lumberyard in Georgetown. This vernacular four-square house is related to some extent to the Prairie School of Frank Lloyd Wright and others that emphasized the horizontal and the sheltering effect created by broadly overhanging hipped roofs. In Kent County the houses of the late nineteenth century had not been compact, and the emphasis had been on the vertical, with Victorian Gothic Revival buildings with wings predominating among large houses. There was some precedent in the county for an almost square, cube-like house, during the period about 1840-1860, with the hipped roof, Italianate- Greek Revival houses, but they were few, and most were only one room deep and had wings. Very few were two rooms deep, as the four-squares are. This house was intended to accommodate all functions under one roof; a wing was not needed, though this house does have a "bump-out" (necessitating a compound roof at the rear) for the service area. Although a quite large house, it is compact. For many years the larger Kent County houses had been built with two parlors, one of which stood unused most of the time, largely because of its isolation in a central -hall plan. Four-square houses had only one parlor, intended to be used by family and company alike. In this house, as in others, the cube was relieved by a large, wrap around porch, shallow bay projections, and dormers.

This house was built about 1915-1918 by Captain John Woodall and his wife, Fanny Woodall Welch. Captain Welch ran grain boats of Georgetown to Baltimore several times a week. He may have been part of the Woodall family operation in this, or he may have done so independently.

The house is about 30 feet wide. On the north side, including the kitchen projection, the depth is 37 feet; on the south side it is 32 feet. The kitchen, as well as the rear foundation, are thus extended five feet beyond the main mass; this projection is about 17-1/2 feet wide.

Fenestration is variable though pleasing to the eye. The main, east facade essentially has two bays on the first two storeys. On the first storey the main entry is in the north bay, and a shallow, wide, three-part bay window is in the south bay. On the second storey there is a pair of windows in each bay. Above there is a centered hipped-roof dormer with single window. The south facade has two bays on the second storey, including a three-part bay window; and the first storey contains the bay window and two single windows. The west facade has three openings on both storeys, but they are not aligned. The north side, a deeper side, is essentially four bays deep, with three first-storey openings and four on the second if the landing window is included.

There is a cellar under the entire house except for the bays and the kitchen projection, where the crawl-space area is open to the cellar. The foundation is constructed of concrete, and there is a concrete floor.

The main roof is hipped, quite steeply, to a small, nearly flat center section with cornice that overhangs the hipped roof. There is a chimney protruding through it and a ventilator. The chimney, of a light salmon brick, has a three course cap. It contains the flues for the living room fireplace and the furnace. To accommodate the greater depth of the kitchen area, part of the roof is stepped out and then continues down with the same pitch. The main roofs and the roofs of the dormers are covered with asphalt shingles.

The main roof broadly overhangs the walls on all sides--about 24-26". This is characteristic of these four-square houses, lending a sense of sheltering. All original cornice trim materials are gone or covered. There are white aluminum soffit and gutter that are new.

The dormers are not all the same. The north and south roof slopes have a c. 8-foot wide hipped-roof dormer. Their cheeks and faces appear to be of aluminum or vinyl, but with deeper exposure than the siding of the main body of the house. There is a centered pair of windows within a single round-headed architrave. They are double-hung and each have 1-over-1 lights. The dormer roofs overhang about 10" on the three sides. The north dormer probably serves as a stair dormer. The east, approach side dormer is narrower with a single window, also double-hung with 1-over-1 sash. The upper sash is shallowly segmentally arched, with the trim also segmental though the probable aluminum covering it makes it appear shallowly pedimented. The cheeks and face are finished as the other dormers. There is no rear dormer. Mill aluminum storm windows-screens are in place.

The main entry is in the north bay of the east facade. The architrave is 6'-3" wide and includes sidelights on each side of the door. They have a single, narrow light (though the storm windows over them have three lights each). There is a single panel below, now quite hidden. The architrave trim is

covered with wide blue-grey aluminum. The trim appears to have been about 5" wide and very likely was plain. The sill is wood. There is a mill-finish aluminum storm-screen door in place. The door is dark and varnished. There is one large light with bevel-edge glass over one large panel. The lock rail has applied, horizontal carved trim. The original brass knob and backplate are in place.

The plan is typical of four-square dwellings. While the space is not divided exactly into quarters, it is approximately so, with a large entry hall with stair in the northeast quadrant and the kitchen behind it in the southeast section. However, there is no direct access from one to the other. There is an unusual curved, tapered passage at the rear of the hall, around the back of the chimney that stands in the northwest corner of the living room, and into the dining room in the southwest quadrant. The dining room has a door to the kitchen in their common partition wall. The living room is in the southeastern section but is very much open to the hall. There is a panelled, 9" deep lower half wall 43" high that extends 19" on each side into a wide, cased opening, leaving about 65" of walking space between. Above there are square, battered posts to the covered ceiling beam. Not as definitely classical as the Ionian columns at the Woodall-Davies house, the suggestion is still there.

The stair is quarter-turn with landing, rising first along the north wall of the large hall (11'-9" wide x 14'-2" deep). It is closed string. Treads are varnished oak, and the risers are painted. There are cove with fillets moldings applied as bed moldings for the treads. The newel is unusually tall--54" overall. The 7-1/2" square, plain base alone is 20-1/2" tall. There are two shaft sections, a taller lower part and a square upper section. On each side are plain recessed panels (appearing to be veneered) with tiny ovolo and fillet panel moldings; there is an intermediate small cap between sections. The newel is stained dark and varnished. There is a large, square, composite cap, whose largest component is 9" square. The hand rail is heavy and molded in the Colonial Revival Style. It may be oak. There are heavy square (1-3/4") balusters, set 4" on center. The stringer is deep and trimmed. The spandrel is plaster. The intermediate at the landing has a plain square shaft and a simple cap with bed molding. The second storey and third storey of this house were not seen at the request of the owners.

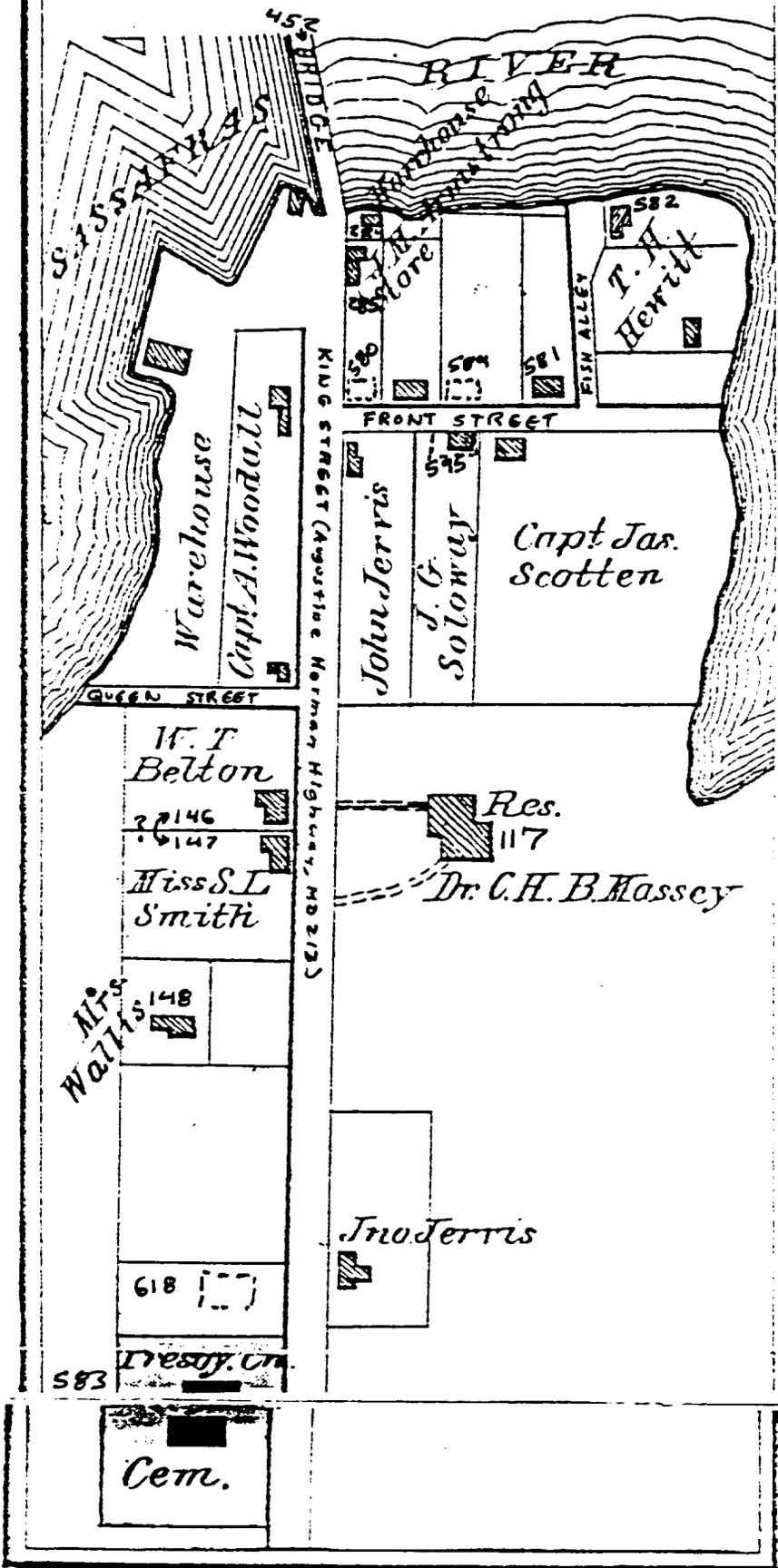
Baseboards are 10-1/4" high overall, including the 2-1/2" cyma cap. There is a 1/2" thick shoe that is 2-3/8" tall with upper edge molded into a cyma reversa profile. There are no cornices or chair rails. Doors are five-panel and dark, apparently both stain and varnish. The panels are recessed and slightly raised. They are standard catalogue doors of the period.

GEORGETOWN

KENT CO.

Dist. No 7

K-618





K-618

Welch-Woodall House

Rt. 213 Georgetown

M. Q. Fallaw - 6/18/86

View to northwest

K618-22



K-618

Welch-Woodall House

Rt. 213 Georgetown

M. Q. Fallaw - 5/9/86

View to southeast

K-618-C