NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word process, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lowe, Joshua, House

other names CE-868

2. Location

street & number 35 New Bridge Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Rising Sun ☒ vicinity

state MD code MD County Cecil code 015 zip code 21911

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title — Date: 2-21-01

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying office/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

CE-868

Lowe, Joshua, House
Name of Property

Cecil County, Maryland
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		Buildings
		Sites
	1	Structures
		Objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resource previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function of Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☒ **B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property as yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce

Period of Significance

1830-1908

Significant Dates

1830; 1838; 1880; 1908

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Lowe, Joshua; Lowe, Silas

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Description Summary:

Constructed c. 1830, the Joshua Lowe House is a two-story, center passage plan brick building located on New Bridge Road just east of the crossroads village of Rock Springs in Cecil County, Maryland.

General Description:

The two-story house is three bays wide by two bays deep, and faces south. A two-story, two-bay by two-bay ell extends to the rear; this section is contemporaneous with the main block. Later 19th century shed-roofed porches are found on the south and west facades. A 20th century single-story addition occupies the reentrant corner of the ell.

The house is built of brick laid in seven-course common bond above an uncoursed stone basement. The medium-pitched gable roof is covered in asphalt shingles. There are two interior end chimney stacks. The east chimney is stuccoed, while the brick remains exposed on the west. A three-course brick cornice extends across each façade. The fenestration is symmetrical and the window sash are six-over-six with plain trim and extended sills and lintels. The main entrance has paneled reveals, a six-raised-panel door and a three-light transom .

The front porch roof is supported by Victorian turned posts, and decorated with sawtooth edged boards at the ends and corner brackets with a star motif. A railing extends around the porch.

On the east side, the building has been partially stuccoed, and a basement entrance has been installed in the center of the main block. A mid-20th century shed-roofed frame addition replaces an earlier frame wing that was two stories high. The present addition incorporates a dining room and bathroom.

The north gable end is detailed with plain barge boards and a common bond chimney stack.

The west side of the house has a one-bay late 19th century porch which is similar to the front porch, but smaller. The fenestration is symmetrical, with four bays on the first floor and four on the second. A door is located in the second bay from the north which permits access into the ell. The windows have six-over-six lights and extended sills and lintels. Two four-pane attic windows flank the chimney stack. A modern exterior stack has been added.

The interior retains a relatively high degree of integrity. The main entrance opens into a central passage with an enclosed dog-leg stair. A small closet is located below the stair and a six-raised-panel door is framed with a plain surround. A single room is found on either side of the passage.

To the west is the present living room, with an open fireplace and c. 1830 mantel piece. The mantel has late Federal characteristics with fluted pilasters supporting a two-panel frieze with a central division block. Above

the frieze is a bed molding which supports a heavy mantel shelf. A chair rail encircles the room; it is fairly plain, with a small half-round bead at the top. A drawer is located directly below the northwest window and incorporated into the chair rail.

The east room in the main block is presently the kitchen. Here the window and door surrounds have slightly peaked heads, reminiscent of Egyptian Revival design. This room never had an open fireplace; only a stove stack is present.

The original kitchen probably was located in the first floor of the ell. This room contains a large fireplace with a plain mantel shelf and frieze. Cupboards flank the chimney stack.

The second floor of the main block has very plain window and door surrounds. Four-panel doors and Victorian period hardware including porcelain doorknobs remain in place. The southwest bedroom features a small Empire mantel. The attic stair is enclosed.

Also on the property is a small frame gazebo of recent date.

Statement of Significance:

The Joshua Lowe House is significant in its local context as one of the earliest and most substantial buildings in the crossroads village of Rock Springs. The c. 1830 brick house is a well-preserved representative example of the influence of the late Federal style on the domestic vernacular architecture of rural Cecil County. It retains a relatively high degree of integrity, with its exterior and much of its interior decorative detailing essentially intact. Its architectural significance is enhanced by the survival of an 1865 document identifying the uses of the rooms, a rare insight into the vernacular architecture of the period. The building derives additional significance from its association with the development of commerce and communication in rural Cecil County. Its builder, Joshua Lowe, was the first Postmaster of Rock Springs, and the house served as the first post office for the community from 1830 to 1838. The Lowe family were prominent in local commerce and owned much of the surrounding real estate. According to local tradition, the house functioned as a store as well as post office in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Resource History and Historic Context:

A post office was established for the community of Rock Springs on May 10, 1830, and Joshua Lowe (d. 1870) was named the first Postmaster. In rural areas in the nineteenth century, it was typical for the post office to be set up in the home of the Postmaster, and the Lowe House thus served this purpose during Joshua's term from 1830 to 1838. A series of other individuals subsequently held the position of Postmaster. In 1880, Joshua Lowe's son, Silas, assumed the job, and the Lowe House again functioned as the community post office until service was discontinued in 1908.

A biographical profile of Silas Lowe published in 1897 identified him as "one of the most prosperous farmers of Cecil County," working the 130-acre farm which had been established by his grandfather; in addition, he supervised the post office and operated a general store.

The Lowe House presents a rare exception to the general rule that county land records do not contain direct references to buildings on the property. An 1865 transfer of title reserves a life estate to one of the grantors (the aunt of the grantee):

> . . . the use of two rooms in the brick house on said premises, one room up stairs the other down, situate on the north east corner of said house with the use of the Garret over said rooms, and free ingress and egress along the passage and up the stairs leading to said rooms and Garrett, and further privileges of the front yard next to the public road and the use of as much firewood as she may need . . .

Major Bibliographical References:

Smith, Chester M., Jr., and John L. Kay. The Postal History of Maryland. Burtonsville, MD: The Depot, [1984].

Paul B. Touart, "Lowe House, CE-868," Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD, 1978.

National Archives, Washington, DC

Cecil County Historical Society, Elkton, MD

Register of Wills of Cecil and Harford Counties

Land Records of Cecil County

Rock Springs Old School Baptist Church and Cemetery

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the nominated property are defined by New Bridge Road on the south, and by the gravel drive which encircles the house and domestic yard on the west, north, and east. The property is roughly rectangular in shape, measuring approximately 150' by 120'.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated property comprises the Lowe House within its immediate landscaped setting, and excludes recently-constructed agricultural buildings and open land that do not contribute directly to the significance of the resource.

CE-868

Lowe, Joshua, House
Name of Property

Cecil County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) Conowingo Dam, MD-PA quad

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	400740	4396560
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Donna Willard
organization _____ date 8/99
street & number 35 New Bridge Road telephone 410-658-4599
city or town Rising Sun state Maryland zip code 21911

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

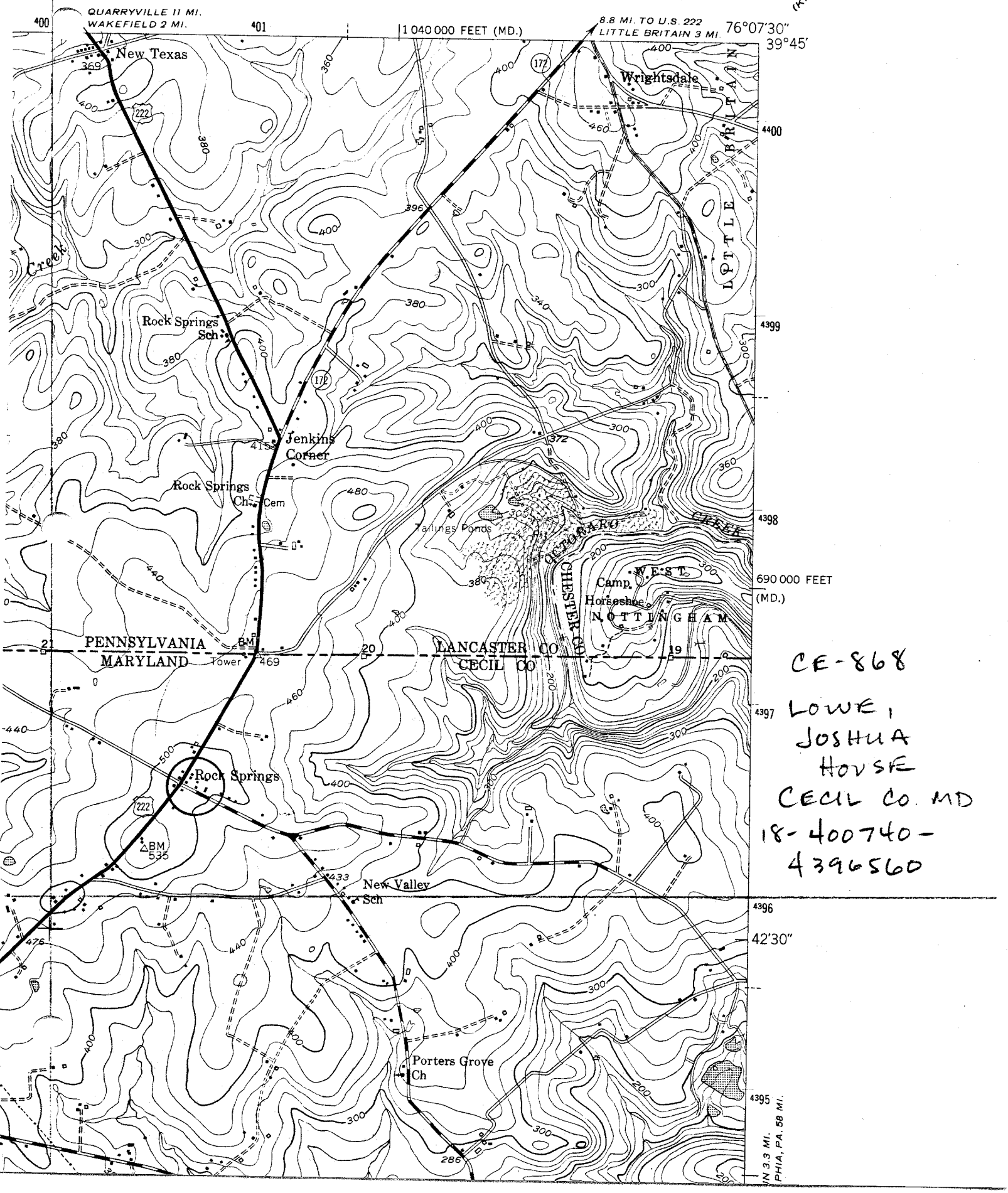
name Roland J. and Donna M. Willard
street & number 35 New Bridge Road telephone 410-658-4599
city or town Rising Sun state MD zip code 21911

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

CONOWINGO DAM QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND—PENNSYLVANIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5763 I SE
(KIRKWOOD)



CE-868
LOWE, JOSHUA
HOUSE
CECIL CO. MD
18-400740-4396560

CE-868
LOWE, JOSHUA, HOUSE

CECIL CO., MD

KRISTI EISENBERG, 11/00

MD SHPO

SOUTH FACADE

The Lowe House CE 868 1087
Rock Springs Crossroads on Old Bridge Rd
Rock Springs, Cecil County, Maryland

main (south) and west façades
view facing northeast

January 21, 2000

C.E. Rilstein, photographer

The Love House CE 868 2077
Rock Springs Crossroads on Old Bridge Rd
Rock Springs, Cecil County, Maryland

main (south) and west façades
view facing northeast

January 21, 2000

C.E. Millstein, photographer

The Lowe House CE 868 3 of 7
Rock Springs Crossroads on Old Bridge Rd
Rock Springs, Cecil County. Maryland

main (south) façade
view facing north
January 21, 2000
C.E. Millstein, photographer

The Lowe House CE 868 4067
Rock Springs Crossroads On Old Bridge Rd
Rock Springs, Cecil County, Maryland

North façade
View facing south

January 21, 2000
C.E. Millstein, photographer

The Lowe House CE 868 5087
Rock Springs Crossroads on Old Bridge Rd
Rock Springs. Cecil County. Maryland

north and east façades
view facing southwest

January 21, 2000
C.E. Millstein, photographer

The Lowe House CE 568 6 of 7
Rock Springs Crossroads on Old Ponbridge Rd
Rock Springs. Cecil County. Maryland

east façade
view facing west

January 21. 2000

C.E. Millstein. photographer

The Lowe House CE868 7 of 7
Rock Springs Crossroads on Old Bridge Rd
Rock Springs, Cecil County, Maryland

Main (south) and east façades
view facing northwest

January 21, 2000

C.E. Millstein, photographer

CONOWINGO DAM QUAD.

CE-868

LOWE HOUSE
ROCK SPRINGS, MD.
~~EAST~~ WEST ELEVATION

7/79 PBT

NEG. / MD. HIST. TRUST

CE-868

LOWE HOUSE
SOUTH ELEVATION
ROCK SPRINGS, MD.
3/80 PBT
NEG. / MD. HIST. TRUST

CE-868

LOWE HOUSE

ROCK SPRINGS, WYO.

WEST PARLOR MANTEL

PBT 7/78

NEG. / WYO. HIST TRUST

~~[illegible]~~

~~[illegible] BRICK FARMHOUSE~~

~~NR [illegible] GROVE, MD.~~

~~SOUTH ELEVATION~~

CE-868

LONE HOUSE
ROCK SPRINGS, MD.
EAST ELEVATION
PBT 7/78
NEG./MD. HIST. TRUST

CE-868

Another front view of house

CE 864

Southeast view of house

CE 868

Doors on northeast side of house. And cupboard doors.
Bedroom

CE 868.

More fancy woodwork in
the southeast front room

CE 868

another view of cupboards
door in northeast side of
house

CE 868

Dark picture, showing
rounded side of windows

CE 868

Southeast view of house

CE 868

North + West view of house

CE 868

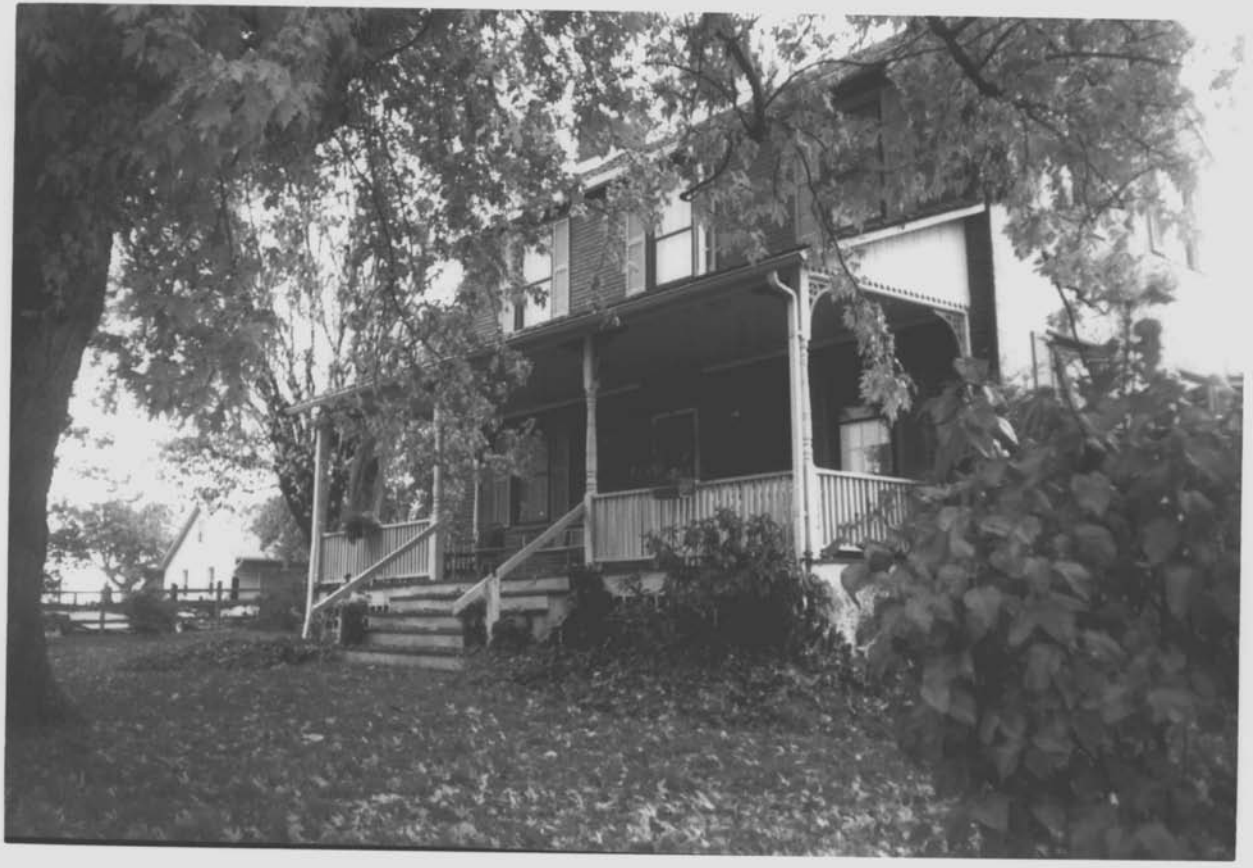
Another front view

CE 868

West view of house

CE 868

Another west view of house



CE-868

Front view and porch with gingerbread

CE 868

Front door wide view from top of steps. Original door knob.

CE 868

View going up the stairs
Original steps.

CE 868

Mantle in upstairs bedroom.
Southwest room.

CE 868

Mantel in the room
with drawer under window.
Southeast side

CE 868

Cupboard door with original hardware.
Southwest side

CE 868

Drawer under windows
Southwest front room.

CE 868

Cupboard doors in what
was the kitchen

CE 868

Northwest room was
the kitchen at one time.

CE-868

LOWE, JOSHUA, HOUSE

@ CECIL CO., MD

KRISTI EISENBERG, 11/00

MD SHPO

EAST ELEVATION

CE-868

LOWE, JOSHUA, HOUSE

CECIL CO., MD

KRISTI EISENBERG, 11/00

MD SHPO

WEST ELEVATION

CE-868

LOWE, JOSHUA, HOUSE

CECIL CO., MD

KRISTI EISENBERG, 11/00

MD SHPO

STAIR

CE-868

LOWE, JOSHUA, HOUSE

CECIL CO., MD

KRISTI EISENBERG, 11/00

MD SHPO

MANTEL, SW ROOM, 2ND FL.

CE-868

Lowe, JOSHUA, HOUSE

CECIL CO., MD

KRISTI EISENBERG, 11/00

MD SHPO

DOOR W/ORIG. HARDWARE, SW ROOM

CE-868

LOWE, JOSHUA, HOUSE

CECIL CO., MD

KRISTI EISENBERG, 11/00

MD SHPO

KITCHEN FIREPLACE, NW ROOM

CE-868

LOWE, JOSHUA, HOUSE

CECIL CO., MD

KRISTI EISENBERG, 11/00

MD SHPO

CUPBOARD, NW ROOM

CE-868

LOWE, JOSHUA, HOUSE

CECIL CO., MD

KRISTI EISENBERG 11/00

MD SHPO

DRAWER UNDER WINDOW, SW ROOM

CE-868

LOWE, JOSHUA, HOUSE

CECIL CO., MD

KRISTI EISENBERG 11/00

MD SHPO

MANTEL, SW ROOM

CE-868

LOWE, JOSHUA, HOUSE

CECIL CO., MD

KRISTI EISENBERG, 11/00

MD SHPO

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST