NAME: La Vale Toll Gate House

LOCATION:

U.S. Route 40
La Vale
Maryland

CLASSIFICATION

OWNER: State of Maryland for the State Roads Commission
Address: 300 West Preston Street, Baltimore City, Maryland

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Allegany County Court House
Washington Street
Cumberland

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970
STATE: Federal ☑ State ☑ County ☑ Local ☑
The La Vale Toll Gate House is located on the south side of U. S. Route 40 about three-fifths of a mile west of the intersection of U. S. Route 40 and Braddock Road. The intersection is about six miles west of Cumberland, Maryland.

This common bond brick, two-story structure has seven sides--a basic polygon plan. The five northern sides, of equal length, form equal angles, one to the other. The two south adjacent sides are longer and they meet at a right angle.

A one-story brick addition is appended to each of the longer sides. A later frame one-story wing at one time filled in the square space between these additions. It was demolished in the mid-twentieth century and a reconstructed structure for utilities will again fill in the "square space."

The polygon portion of the building contains one unheated room on each floor. The stair winds upward from the west wing. A one-story porch extends around the five outer sides of the polygonal portion and a decorative, non-functional wood cupola tops the peaked roof. Six over six sash in shuttered windows are on each outer side of the polygonal portion, and on each wing, except for the north side of the polygon at the first story level, where double doors form the main entrance. For each adjacent diagonal side, at the first story level only, stuccoed panels, the size of window masonry openings, provide space for the tow rate sign. Originally, it is believed, the first floor brick walls at the porch level were stuccoed, and all exterior walls were whitewashed including the stucco area.

In 1969 the toll house restoration construction was started by the Maryland Historical Trust. The office of Orin M. Bullock, Jr., FAIA, is the consulting restoration architect, and Carl Belt, Inc., (P.O. Box 1210) Cumberland, Maryland, is the contracting firm. The La Vale Century Club, of La Vale, Maryland, has been, and will continue on as the custodian for the building. It will furnish the interior, administer the housekeeping, and arrange for the guiding of visitors through the building.

The architecture of the La Vale Toll Gate House is almost identical to similar architecture in Pennsylvania--toll houses within the Pennsylvania sections of the National Road. The Searight Tollhouse [sic.] northwest of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, administered by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is of similar polygonal design, with a wing extended from the rear.
The La Vale Toll Gate House is a design oddity outmoded as a transportation necessity, important for its proximity to the original "United States Road," more commonly known as the National (or Cumberland) Road. The National Road from the 1830's through the early 1850's was one of the principal transportation arteries connecting the East Coast with the burgeoning Midwest. Pioneers, immigrants and cattle drivers as well as national figures, such as Henry Clay, William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, James K. Polk and Andrew Jackson, traveled over the road.

Completed in 1836 the La Vale Toll Gate House was the first, and for six years the only, toll house within the Maryland section of the National Road.

The La Vale Toll Gate House and all other tollhouses beside the National Road are related to the national debate, from the 1820's through the 1830's, on the constitutionality of Federal involvement in "internal improvements." Those congressmen who felt that those who used the road should help defray the maintenance costs, also felt their constitutional scruples prevented them from charging tolls on the National Road. (In 1822 a bill providing for tolls on the National Road passed Congress, but President James Monroe vetoed the measure.) Congress circumvented the constitutional question by turning the ownership of the National Road over to the states through which sections of it passed.

In 1835 Maryland accepted ownership of her section of the National Road. Within twelve months the state legislature turned the "freeway" into a toll road establishing an elaborate system of rates and fares (a replica of the tariffs is still visible on the north wall) and provided for the construction of tollgates and houses.

The Federal government, following the terms of the transfer of the National Road to the State of Maryland, simultaneously provided the funds for the construction of the La Vale Toll Gate House, according to the 1836 report of the Superin-
La Vale Toll Gate House.

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

tendent of the National Road in the State of Maryland to the Governor.

During 1837, its first year of operation, $9,745.90 in tolls were collected at the La Vale Toll Gate House. The State of Maryland continued to receive tolls until 1878 when the National Road and the tollhouse at La Vale became the property of Allegany County (later to be repurchased).

Eclipsed in importance for several decades by the westward expansion of the railroads, the National Road returned to national prominence when, in 1925, portions of it became U. S. Route 40. The La Vale Toll Gate House did not, in the twentieth century, return to its original use. Local appreciation of the significance of this tollhouse has existed, at least since Mr. Robert W. Young purchased the building. Just before his death in 1957 he convinced the State of Maryland to purchase the property. Since that time interested Allegany countians and the Maryland Historical Trust have combined their efforts to restore the La Vale Toll Gate House.

#9. REFERENCES continued


Laws of Maryland, 1831, Chapter 85.

Laws of Maryland, 1870, Chapter 158.

Laws of Maryland, 1832, Chapter 55.

Laws of Maryland, 1834, Chapter 203.
La Vale Toll Gate House

#9. REFERENCES continued

Laws of Maryland, 1835, Chapter 305

, 1837, Chapter 52.

James Thomas, Governor of Maryland, "Communication from the Executive Enclosing a Communication from the Secretary of War in Relation to the Cumberland Road," March 6, 1835, Public Documents, M60, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.


, "Report of the Superintendent of the National Road with Abstracts of Tolls Received from 12th October 1836 to 1st October 1837," Dec. 1, 1837, Public Documents M61, Document F, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.


T. Thistle, "Seventh and Eighth Semi-annual Reports of T. Thistle, Superintendent of the National Road Within the Limits of the State of Maryland," 1843, Maryland Public Documents, 1842, Document F, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

Telephone conversation with Mr. Hampsh of State Roads Commission (421), 300 W. Preston St., Baltimore, Maryland, Aug. 19, 1970.

Andrew Heubeck, Jr., Secretary, Board of Public Works to Orlando Ridout IV, Director, Maryland Historical Trust, at Annapolis, Maryland, October 5, 1967, files of Maryland Historical Trust.

Allegany County Land Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

Allegany County Planning and Zoning Commission, "Historic Landmarks in Allegany County," January 1965, Cumberland, Md., files of Maryland Historical Trust.
La Vale Toll Gate House

#9. REFERENCES continued

James W. Thomas and J. T. C. Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland ... , 2 vols., n.p.: L. R. Titsworth, 1923.


"Searights Tollhouse A Restored Tollhouse on the First National Road to the West," administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, leaflet, files of the Maryland Historical Trust

(4 of 4 continuation sheets)
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: James T. Wollon, Jr., AIA, the office of Orin M. Bullock, Jr., Baltimore, Maryland, September 1970.
Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland, August 1970.


SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORNER</th>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SW</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER-PRIEST OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LATITUDE</th>
<th>LONGITUDE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37° 38' 14&quot;</td>
<td>78° 51' 07&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.4 acre

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>CODE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

Maryland Historical Trust

Post Office Box 1704 (50 State Circle)

Annapolis

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [X] State [X] Local [X]

Name: Orlando Ridout IV
Title: State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date: DEC 4 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date
1. NAME
COMMON: La Vale Toll Gate House
AND/OR HISTORIC: LaVale Toll Gate House

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: U. S. Route 40
CITY OR TOWN: La Vale
STATE: Maryland

3. PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: James T. Wollon, Jr.
DATE OF PHOTO: February 19, 1970
NEGATIVE HELD AT: Maryland Historical Trust, P. O. Box 1704, Annapolis, Md. 21404

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIPTION: View, direction, etc.

east elevation
1. NAME
   COMMON: La Vale Toll Gate House
   AND/or HISTORIC: LaVale Toll Gate House

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER: U. S. Route 40
   CITY OR TOWN: La Vale
   STATE: Maryland
   CODE: 24

3. MAP REFERENCE
   SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map
   SCALE: 1:24,000
   DATE: 7/19

4. EQUIPMENT
   TO INCLUDE ON ALL MAPS
   1. Property boundaries where required.
   2. North arrow.
   3. Latitude and longitude reference.
(5A) Toll Gate House

The National Road was a federally financed highway quite adequate for its time. To travel the Pike one had to pay tolls at various points, and toll gate houses were erected for the collection of these fees. The first of these oddly octagonal structures still stands on what is now the south side of Route 40 just west of LaVale. This particular brick structure was built in 1833 and is the only structure of its kind on the Maryland portion of the road. The State of Maryland purchased the Toll Gate House in 1955 and under the direction of Miss Ruth Clauson, a past-president of the Allegany County Historical Society, and Regent of the Cresap Chapter of the DAR, it has been restored to good condition. Aid in the restoration has been contributed by various organizations and individuals. The posts which held the gates that crossed the road still stand and there are exhibited on the sides of the building lists of the various types of conveyances and the appropriate fare for each. The interior of the Toll Gate House has been restored through private contributions and the furnishings are typical of the period of operation. The house is open only upon request. Both architecturally and historically this is a very interesting edifice.

** Source: Historic Landmarks in Allegany County
A staff report by the Allegany County Planning & Zoning Commission, Cumberland, Md. Jan. 1965
LAVALE TOLLGATE HOUSE
AL-V-BO12

Md. Historical Trust
94 College Ave.
Annapolis, Md. 21401

James Wollon, Jr.  19. Feb 1971
TOLL GATE HOUSE, SW CORNER - REAR ELEV. AL-5

AL-V-B-012

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

J. T. W. JR
2. 19. 70

SW corner of 1st St.
Praumatic (7 sided) office (N.) N. door

J.T. W. Jr. 2/19/20

32

Al-V-8012

Al-Gate House

Box 1704

MD. Historical Trust

Ann A. Polis, MD. 21404