

WI-206  
Alva Ross House  
Whitehaven  
Private

c. 1900

The Alva Ross house, historically identified as one of the Catlin tenant houses, is a two-story, four-bay frame dwelling that dates from the turn of the twentieth century. Characteristic of tenant buildings from the period, the weatherboard frame dwelling is very plain compared to other Whitehaven houses erected around the same time. With its relatively unaltered exterior, the house represents a good example of modest rental housing erected at the turn of the twentieth century.

Chain of title research for the lot traces ownership back to Elizabeth A. G. Catlin, who owned the adjacent Bolton farm during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. This house, as well as four others, was probably erected for Elizabeth Catlin in order to supply housing for laborers on her farm or in the nearby shipyards. In her 1908 will she bequeathed ownership to her son William J. Catlin, and after his death to her grandson William G. Catlin. During the mid-twentieth century, the house was the residence of Warren E. and Alva E. Ross, who held title to the property between 1954 and 1978.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: ALVA ROSS HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WI-206

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):  
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE  
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-206

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic ALVA ROSS HOUSE CATLIN TENANT HOUSE #2

and/or common BERNARD HOUSE

## 2. Location

street & number 2720 Church Street  not for publication

city, town Whitehaven  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

## 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 Joseph J. & Leith M. Bernard

street & number 6658 Barnaby Street, N.W. telephone no.:

city, town Washington, D.C. state and zip code 20015

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1240 Map 65

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 85 P.53

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-206

<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.

Historically identified as the Catlin tenant house or the Alva Ross house, and currently known as the Bernard house, this two-story, four-bay, single-pile frame dwelling stands at the end of a private drive that intersects Church Street in the village of Whitehaven, Wicomico County, Maryland.

Dated to the turn of the twentieth century, this two-story, four-bay by one room frame house is supported by a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a single-story kitchen wing.

The east (main) elevation is a four-bay facade with two center entrances flanked by six-over-six sash windows. The center two bays, which contain doors, are sheltered by a shed roofed, turned post porch that displays sawn corner brackets. The front doors have a shallow four-panel profile. Lighting the second floor are four unevenly spaced six-over-six sash windows. Piercing the roofline is a single-flue brick stove chimney. The slightly uneven placement of windows, and the off-center location of the chimney stack suggests that the main block may have been erected in two stages.

The gable ends are defined by single six-over-six sash windows that light the first and second floors, and the eaves to the roof extend beyond the plane of the weatherboard wall.

Extending from the back of the main block is a single story two-bay by one-room kitchen wing served by a side entrance and adjacent six-over-six sash window on the south wall. A single-flue brick stove chimney rises though the gable end.

The interior was not seen.

# 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** **Builder/Architect**

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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 Alva Ross house, historically identified as one of the Catlin tenant houses, is a two-story, four-bay frame dwelling that dates from the turn of the twentieth century. Characteristic of tenant buildings from the period, the weatherboard frame dwelling is very plain compared to other Whitehaven houses erected around the same time. With its relatively unaltered exterior, the house represents a good example of modest rental housing erected at the turn of the twentieth century.

Chain of title research for the lot traces ownership back to Elizabeth A. G. Catlin, who owned the adjacent Bolton farm during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. This house, as well as four others, was probably erected for Elizabeth Catlin in order to supply housing for laborers on her farm or in the nearby shipyards. In her 1908 will she bequeathed ownership to her son William J. Catlin, and after his death to her grandson William G. Catlin.(LJG 1/356) During the mid-twentieth century, the house was the residence of Warren E. and Alva E. Ross, who held title to the property between 1954 and 1978.(JWTS 355/579 and AJS 897/91)

This house qualifies for listing in Category C, which identifies properties where alterations should be considered carefully, since it is a structure that stands near a building listed in the A or B category and whose impact as a contributor to the character of the district must be reviewed.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-206

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A          
 Zone Easting Northing

B          
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 9/14/94

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

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  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
 DHCP/DHCD  
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
 514-7600



WI-206  
ALVA ROSS HOUSE  
2720 Church Street  
Whitehaven, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

AJS 922/284                      Richard Blackwell

to

6/20/1979                      Harold Roof  
Dorisetta Roof  
\$3800.00

AJS 898/195                      Leona M. Kirwan

to

5/18/1978                      Richard Blackwell

AJS 897/91                      Leona M. Kirwan, Personal Representative  
of Alva E. Ross

to

4/28/1978                      Leona M. Kirwan

JWTS 355/579                      Minnie C. Kenney

to

4/19/1954                      Warren E. Ross  
Alva E. Ross

JWTS 355/478                      Carroll E. Bounds  
William W. Travers, Attorneys and Agents

to

4/6/1954                      Minnie C. Kenney  
Public Sale November 20, 1953 in pursuance  
of the special power and authority vested  
in them under a certain mortgage from William  
Parks Young to Allie Mills 2/21/1953  
JWTS 338/535

WI-206  
ALVA ROSS HOUSE  
2720 Church Street  
Whitehaven, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 3

IDT 206/136

Charles H. Truitt, Sheriff

to

2/28/1938

William Parks Young

Lots 1,2,3,4,5,6 as laid down in a plat  
filed in the case of Melson vs. Catlin being  
Chancery Case No. 2405 JCK 19/376 9/21/1916

That Granville M. Catlin now deceased was  
seized and possessed of an undivided half  
interest with the said William J. Catlin  
in and to five (5) houses and lots of land  
situate in White Haven

JCK 114/262

William G. Catlin, et al.

to

10/7/1919

George H. Larmore  
Woodland A. Anderson  
\$250.00

Last Will and  
Testament  
LJG 1/356

Eliabeth A. G. Catlin

to

12/2/1908

William J. Catlin





WI-206  
 ALVA ROSS HOUSE  
 2720 Church Street  
 Whitehaven, Maryland  
 Wetipquin, Maryland Quadrangle  
 1942





