

WI-215
W. W. Disharoon Property
Allen
Private

Mid to late nineteenth century

Located on the west side of the main road through the community of Allen is a complex of mid to late nineteenth century buildings historically known as the W. W. Disharoon property, or the Francis E. Smith property, or simply as the "Doll House." The doll house label was inspired by the diminutive size of the story-and-a-half frame house, which was a former outbuilding to the large dwelling on the site that burned during the early twentieth century. The former outbuilding, probably a kitchen or perhaps a slave quarter, was relocated and enlarged with shed additions in a plan to create a modest sized dwelling. Few exterior details of the original structure are evident due to the shed additions that have enlarged the one-room plan structure. A large brick chimney was erected against the gable end of the outbuilding in order to serve the main room as well as a kitchen on the west side. Surviving in the main living room is a corner stair enclosed with beaded board partition. Standing just off the northwest corner of the house is a stilted frame dairy dating from the mid-nineteenth century. A shallow pitched gable roof with wide eaves on front and back cover a squarish enclosure where milk was formerly stored. The wide eaves provided a measure of shade from the sun and louvered openings in each side provided for proper air circulation. The dairy was placed on stilts to protect from the periodic dampness of the soil. Also noteworthy on the property is a large late nineteenth century horse and hay barn. The barn roof is

significant for its scissors truss system that allowed for a large volume of hay to be stored on the second floor.

This village property was owned during the third quarter of the nineteenth century by William W. Disharoon, who is designated as owning this property on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas of the Eastern Shore. W. W. Disharoon is listed on the atlas patron list as a farmer and merchant owning 235 acres. In 1885 financial difficulties forced W. W. Disharoon to dissolve the business of Disharoon & Sons, and he transferred legal ownership of the Allen property to Robert F. Bratten in February 1885. Three years later the property was conveyed to Francis E. and Andrew W. Smith, and it was for some time the residence of Francis and Ida Smith.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-215

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic W. W. DISHAROON PROPERTY

and/or common Frank Smith Property "Doll House" Property

2. Location

street & number 3328 Allen Road not for publication

city, town Allen 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Bruce and Melissa Politt Bright

street & number P. O. Box 11 telephone no.:

city, town Allen state and zip code Maryland 21810

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 951

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 674

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-215

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 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 Disharoon property, or the Francis E. Smith property, or simply as the "Doll house," this small single-story frame dwelling and surrounding outbuildings are located at 3328 Allen Road in the village of Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland. The single-story house faces south with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Dating from the mid-nineteenth century the single-story frame dwelling has at its core a one-room plan timber frame structure that probably served as a kitchen to a house that no longer stands on the site. The single-bay, single-pile frame structure was relocated and enlarged into a modest sized house with shed additions extending the outbuilding on three sides. A shed roof porch is attached to the south side, while another shed roofed addition that contains the kitchen extends from the west side. A third shed roofed room stretches across the north side of the one-room plan structure. The building is covered with aluminum siding, and the steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The edge of the roof is finished flush, and an exterior brick chimney rises against the west gable end with the base enclosed within the shed kitchen. The interior has been remodeled various times, and most of the nineteenth century woodwork has been removed. An enclosed winder staircase rises in the southeast corner behind a beaded board partition and a board-and-batten door.

Standing on the northwest corner of the house is a stilted, board-and-batten dairy covered by a medium pitched gable roof. The roof is extended on front and back with wide eaves and the flush gable ends are finished with a bargeboard. The gable end above the board-and-batten wall is covered with beaded weatherboards fastened with mature cut nails. The front (east) wall is marked by a recessed alcove with small board-and-batten doors hinged on three sides of the opening. Louvered grills mark the sides of the dairy. The interior is fitted with shelving.

West of the house and dairy is a large late nineteenth century (c. 1880-1900) horse and hay barn with a gable-front orientation. Resting on a low masonry foundation, the exterior is sheathed with asbestos shingles over plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the north side of the main block is an open wagon shed. A wide door opening marks the center bay on the first floor. A center passage is flanked by animal stalls to each side. Located in the northeast corner is a ladder providing access to the second floor hay loft. The roof framing consists of a scissors truss system that allowed for uninterrupted space in which to stack hay bales.

Another outbuilding that stands forward of the barn near the road is single-story two-room frame structure of undetermined use. The rectangular frame building is sheathed with plain weatherboards, and it is covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. The front wall is marked by a pair of six panel doors that open into separate rooms. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice, and the gable ends are flush.

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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Located on the west side of the main road through the community of Allen is a complex of mid to late nineteenth century buildings historically known as the W. W. Disharoon property, or the Francis E. Smith property, or simply as the "Doll House." The doll house label was inspired by the diminutive size of the story-and-a-half frame house, which was a former outbuilding to the large dwelling on the site that burned during the early twentieth century. The former outbuilding, probably a kitchen or perhaps a slave quarter, was relocated and enlarged with shed additions in a plan to create a modest sized dwelling. Few exterior details of the original structure are evident due to the shed additions that have enlarged the one-room plan structure. A large brick chimney was erected against the gable end of the outbuilding in order to serve the main room as well as a kitchen on the west side. Surviving in the main living room is a corner stair enclosed with beaded board partition. Standing just off the northwest corner of the house is a stilted frame dairy dating from the mid-nineteenth century. A shallow pitched gable roof with wide eaves on front and back cover a squarish enclosure where milk was formerly stored. The wide eaves provided a measure of shade from the sun and louvered openings in each side provided for proper air circulation. The dairy was placed on stilts to protect from the periodic dampness of the soil. Also noteworthy on the property is a large late nineteenth century horse and hay barn. The barn roof is significant for its scissors truss system that allowed for a large volume of hay to be stored on the second floor.

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This complex qualifies for listing under *Category B*, which identifies properties that should be preserved to their distinctive architectural features. The complex also contributes to the historic character of Allen.

WI-215
W. W. Disharoon Property
3328 Allen Road
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

951/674 Union Trust Co. of Maryland
Victor H. Laws
William Perry Desmond, trustees under Trust
agreement dated August 29, 1977 from William
Perry Desmond

to

11/14/1980 Bruce Bright
Melissa Pollitt Bright
"Doll House"

AJS 884/885 Victor H. Laws, Personal Representative of
Anne M. Desmond, deceased

to

10/3/1977 Grantors above

JWTS 351/34 W. F. Messick Ice Company

to

8/25/1953 Anne M. Desmond

Carroll E. Bounds
William W. Travers, trustees

to

W. F. Messick Ice Company
1. 12/15/1944 JWS 265/187
2. 3/24/1953 JWTS 349/143

WI-215
W. W. Disharoon Property
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWS 265/187

Carroll E. Bounds
William W. Travers, trustees

to

12/15/1944

W. F. Messick Ice Company

36 acres being the residence property of
Francis E. Smith in his lifetime and being
in all respects th same land conveyed unto
Ida L. Smith by Francis E. Smith under Item
One 6/6/1921 JCK 123/264

JCK 123/265

Francis E. Smith

to

6/6/1921

Ida L. Smith

"where I now reside" which was conveyed to
me and Andrew W. Smith by the following deeds.

1. from John I. T. Long JTT 9/277
2. from James E. Ellegood, trustee
dated 9/13/1902 JTT 34/146 the said
Andrew W. Smith having conveyed to me his
undivided interest 11/17/1902 JTT 34/169

JTT 9/277

John I. T. Long
Cora B. Long

to

9/9/1892

Andrew W. Smith
Francis E. Smith

4 acres, 2 roods, 13 perches, and 7 yards

WI-215

Page 3

W. W. Disharoon Property
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

JTT 34/146

James E. Ellegood, Trustee

to

9/13/1902

Frank E. Smith
Andrew W. Smith

Whereas Robert F. Bratten was appointed trustee by a Deed of Trust executed on 2/9/1885 by William W. Disharoon for the benefit of his creditors and by virtue of the power and authority of said Deed of Trust sold on 10/19/1888 to said parties of the second part the hereinafter described property, which sale was duly ratified and whereas the said Robert F. Bratten has departed this life without having executed a deed to the parties of the second part, James E. Ellegood, was appointed trustee in the place ~~and~~ stead of Robert F. Bratten

contains 2 21/100s acres according to the survey of Peter S. Shockley 8/28/1902

SPT 7/150

W. W. Disharoon

to

2/9/1885

Robert F. Bratten

Whereas the said W. W. Disharoon is justly and bona fide indebted unto divers persons--conveys all property--the said firm of W. W. Disharoon and Sons having dissolved and their assets having passed into the hands of said William W. Disharoon and by him have been conveyed in this deed the said William having assumed all the liabilities of said firm when he took possession of their assets.

TRAPPE DISTRICT BUSINESS REFERENCES.

MURPHY WEBB, Dealer in Dry Goods, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Glassware, Ready-made Clothing, and Berry Baskets in season, Notions, &c. Residence of Merchandise usually kept in a country store, Fruitland, Md.

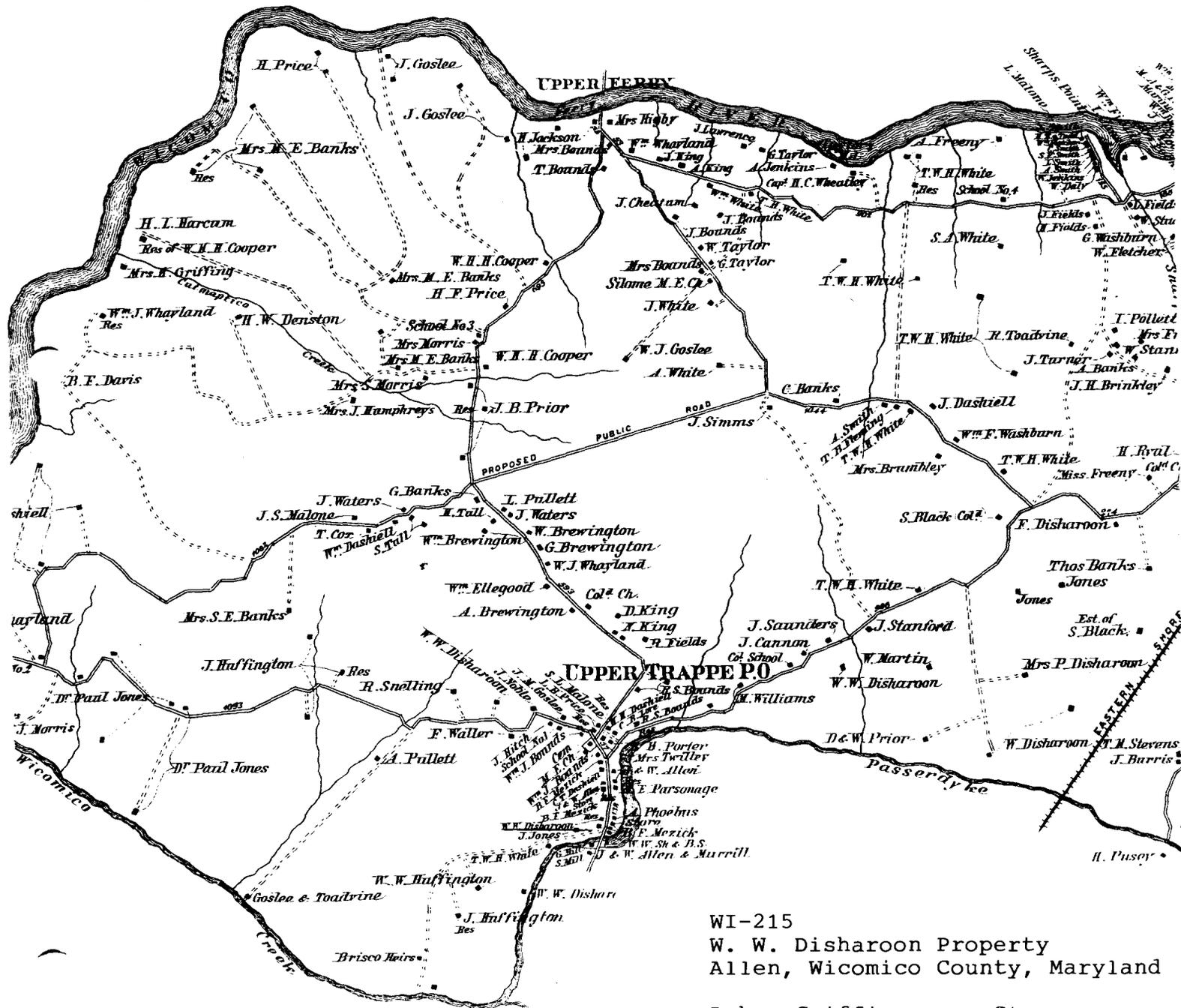
JENBY, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Ware, Notions, &c. Eden, Md.

DELANEY AND SONS, General Dealers and Shippers of all kinds of Domestic Fruits and Vegetables. Also dealers in all kinds of Merchandise adapted to a village store. Fruitland, Md.

ALLEN, Dealers in Dry Goods and Groceries, Patent Medicines, Boots, Shoes, Hardware and Cutlery, Paints, Oils, Dye-stuffs, Glass, Drugs and Chemicals, Fancy Goods, Hats and Caps, and other Goods usually kept in a country store. For cash or Produce. Upper-Trappe, Md.

TRAPPE

Dist. No. 7
WIGOMICO CO.



WI-215
W. W. Disharoon Property
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson
Atlas 1877

Holy Temple

St. Ann's Church

Allen

CREEK

Loretto

Substation

COMRAIL

WI-215
W. W. Disharoon Property
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland

Eden, Maryland Quadrangle
1983

42°30'

'39

(PRINCESS ANNE)

5860 II NW

40'

42

SCALE 1:24 000



W1-215

W. W. DISHARON PROPERTY

ALLEN, Wisconsin County, MINNESOTA

NORTH ELEVATION OF HOUSE

11/93, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / NO. HISTORICAL TRUST

1/4



VI-215

U. W. DISTURBED PROPERTY
ALLEN, Victoria Property, 1120

NORTH 15 - ELLIOTT OF SALTERS DRY

11/95, Paul Thomas, 1120 1120

1120/1120 1120/1120

2/4



W1-215

W. W. DISTANCE PROPERTY

ALLEN, DISTANCE PROPERTY

EAST ELEVATION OF BARR

11/95, PAUL TOWN, DISTANCE PROPERTY

NE. 1/4 DISTANCE TOWN

14



WI-215

W. W. DISHARON Property

Allen, Worcester County, MA.

SOUTHEAST CORNER OF DISHARON PROPERTY

11/95, Paul Toussaint, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEA / MA HISTORICAL TRUST

4
1A