

WI-237
Oliver Banks' Store
Allen
Private

1915-16

The old Oliver Banks' store, also known as the "Elzey and Pollitt garage and machine shop," is an interesting example of early twentieth century commercial architecture for the lower Eastern Shore. The single-story structure, built with a parapet front to disguise the low pitched gable roof, stands in comparison to the more common two-story rectangular frame store buildings that survive in the center and south end of the village. (See WI-213, Whayland Store Property and WI-230, Phillips House and Store) The pressed metal front, made to imitate rusticated concrete blocks, also points to the new types of materials common to the early twentieth century.

Dated around 1915-16, the building was erected by Jesse M. Pollitt. The deed of transfer, executed in November 1916, identifies the property as the "Elzey and Pollitt garage and machine shop." Four years later, on the first of January 1920, Jesse and Agnes Pollitt conveyed ownership of the business location with 10 acres to Herbert P. Elzey, and the deed of transfer mentions one boundary as the "new state stone road." Herbert Elzey sold half-interest in the business location to Luther E. Payne. Shortly thereafter, the two partners transferred their half interests in the property to Oliver O. Banks, who operated a grocery in the building. For the next forty years the building was known as "Oliver Banks' store."

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Oliver Banks' Store

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-237

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
Commerce

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Store

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-237

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Oliver Banks' Store "Pollitt and Elzey Machine Shop"
and/or common Pollitt-Banks Building

2. Location

street & number South side of Allen Road not for publication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 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

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

name David W. Kolb
street & number P. O. Box 103 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 Map 56, P. 188
liber 612
street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 413
city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
 repository for survey records
city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-237

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 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.

The Pollitt-Banks' store building stands on the south side of Allen Road in the village of Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland. The squarish single-story frame structure faces northwest with the roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis. The store building is currently used for storage.

Dating to 1915, the single-story, three-bay frame store building is supported on a low masonry foundation, and the side walls are covered with a pressed metal sheathing that imitates rusticated concrete blocks. The low pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The northwest (main) elevation is divided into three bays with a center entrance and flanking display windows. The centrally positioned five-bay front door is flanked by boarded over windows on each side. A plain board surround frames the door and windows. Piercing the front wall to each side of the entrance are large boarded over display windows. The pressed metal front of the main facade has a stepped "Western" style parapet that disguises the low pitched gable roof behind. Rising through the center of the roof is a brick stove chimney.

The sides of the building are partially sheathed with the pressed metal sheathing, and occasional multi-pane sash windows mark the northeast and southwest walls.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-237

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 checked="" 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 1915-16 **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.

The old Oliver Banks store, also known as the “Elzey and Pollitt garage and machine shop” is an interesting example of early twentieth century commercial architecture for the lower Eastern Shore. The single-story structure, built with a parapet front to disguise the low pitched gable roof, stands in comparison to the more common two-story rectangular frame store buildings that survive in the center and south end of the village. (See WI-213, Whayland Store Property and WI-230, Phillips House and Store) The pressed metal front, made to imitate rusticated concrete blocks, also points to the new types of materials common to the early twentieth century.

Dated around 1915-16, the building was erected by Jesse M. Pollitt. The deed of transfer, executed in November 1916, identifies the property as the “Elzey and Pollitt garage and machine shop.” Four years later, on the first of January 1920, Jesse and Agnes Pollitt conveyed ownership of the business location with 10 acres to Herbert P. Elzey, and the deed of transfer mentions one boundary as the “new state stone road.” (Wicomico County Land Record, 117/23) Herbert Elzey sold half-interest in the business location to Luther E. Payne. (Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 136/81) Shortly thereafter, the two partners transferred their half interests in the property to Oliver O. Banks, who operated a grocery in the building. For the next forty years the building was known as “Oliver Banks’ Store.”

The building qualifies for listing in *Category C*, which signifies that it is a building where alterations should be considered carefully since it is a structure that is located near a building in A or B category. The old store contributes to the historic character of the village.

WI-237
Oliver Banks' Store
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

612/413 Oliver O. Banks
 Laura H. Banks

to

6/8/1965 David N. Kolb
 Mary Lee Kolb

10 acres

conveyed to Oliver O. Banks by two deeds

1. from Luther E. Payne and Mary E. Payne
an undivided $\frac{1}{2}$ interest JCK 140/400
"Elzey Machine Shop" "new stone road"
2. from Herbert P. Elzey and Louise E. Elzey
JCK 146/30 9/11/1926 "Allen Garage"

JCK 136/81 Herbert P. Elzey

to

9/16/1924 Luther E. Payne

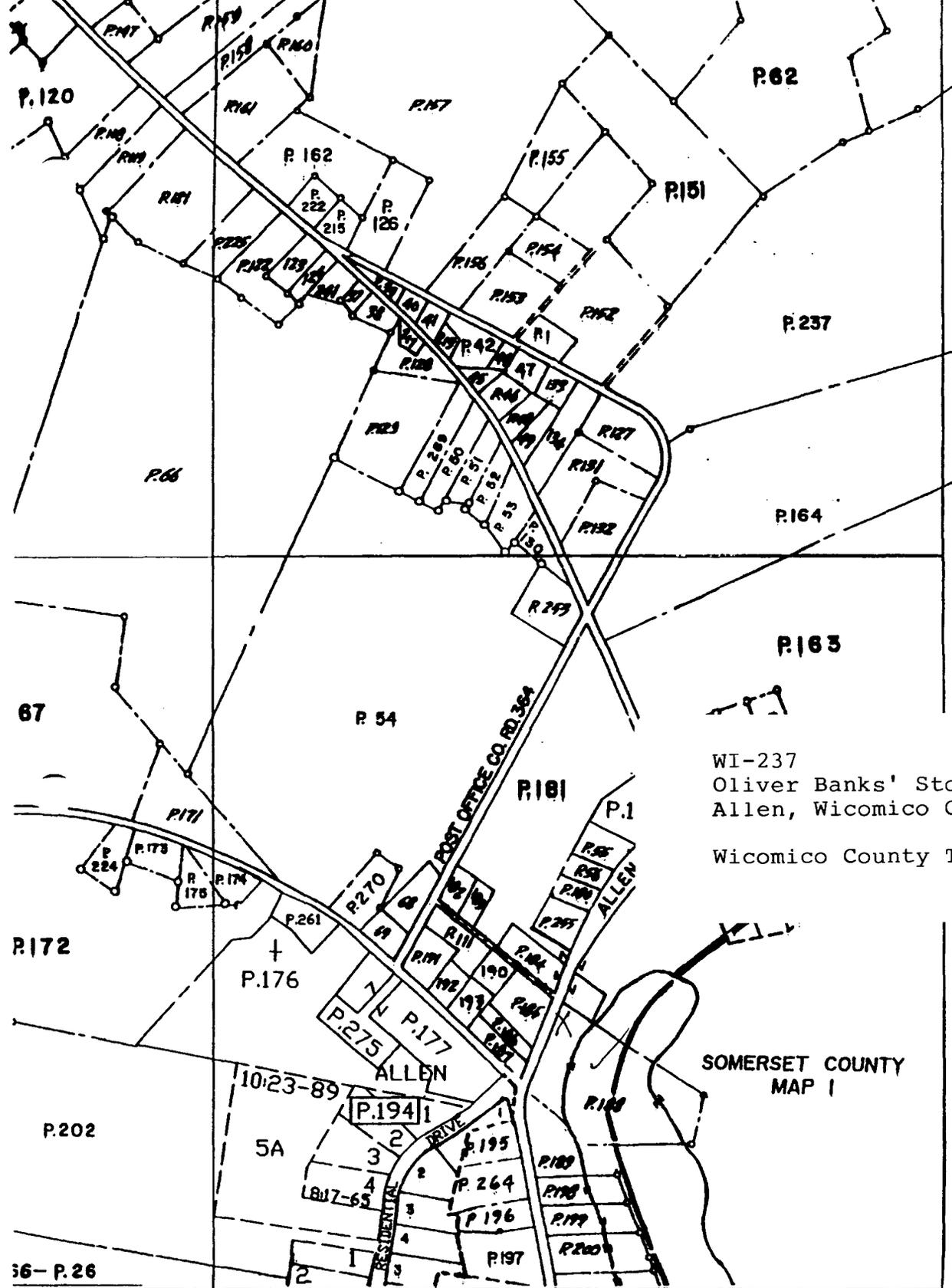
and being one-half interest in all that land
conveyed to Herbert P. Elzey by Jesse M.
Pollitt 1/1/1920 JCK 117/23

117/23 Jesse M. Pollitt
 Agnes M. Pollitt

to

1/1/1920 Herbert P. Elzey

south side of new state stone road "The Elzey
and Pollitt Machine Shop" 10 acres



WI-237
 Oliver Banks' Store
 Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland
 Wicomico County Tax Map 56
 Parcel 188

SOMERSET COUNTY
 MAP 1



WICOMICO COUNTY,
 MARYLAND

1175

1178

MAP NO.
56

69722.2mN
 515242.1mE

171

168

Holy Temple

Stem Friends
Ch.

Allen

WI-237
Oliver Banks' Store
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland

Eden, Maryland Quadrangle
1983

CREEK

Loretto

Substation

COMRAIL

42'30"

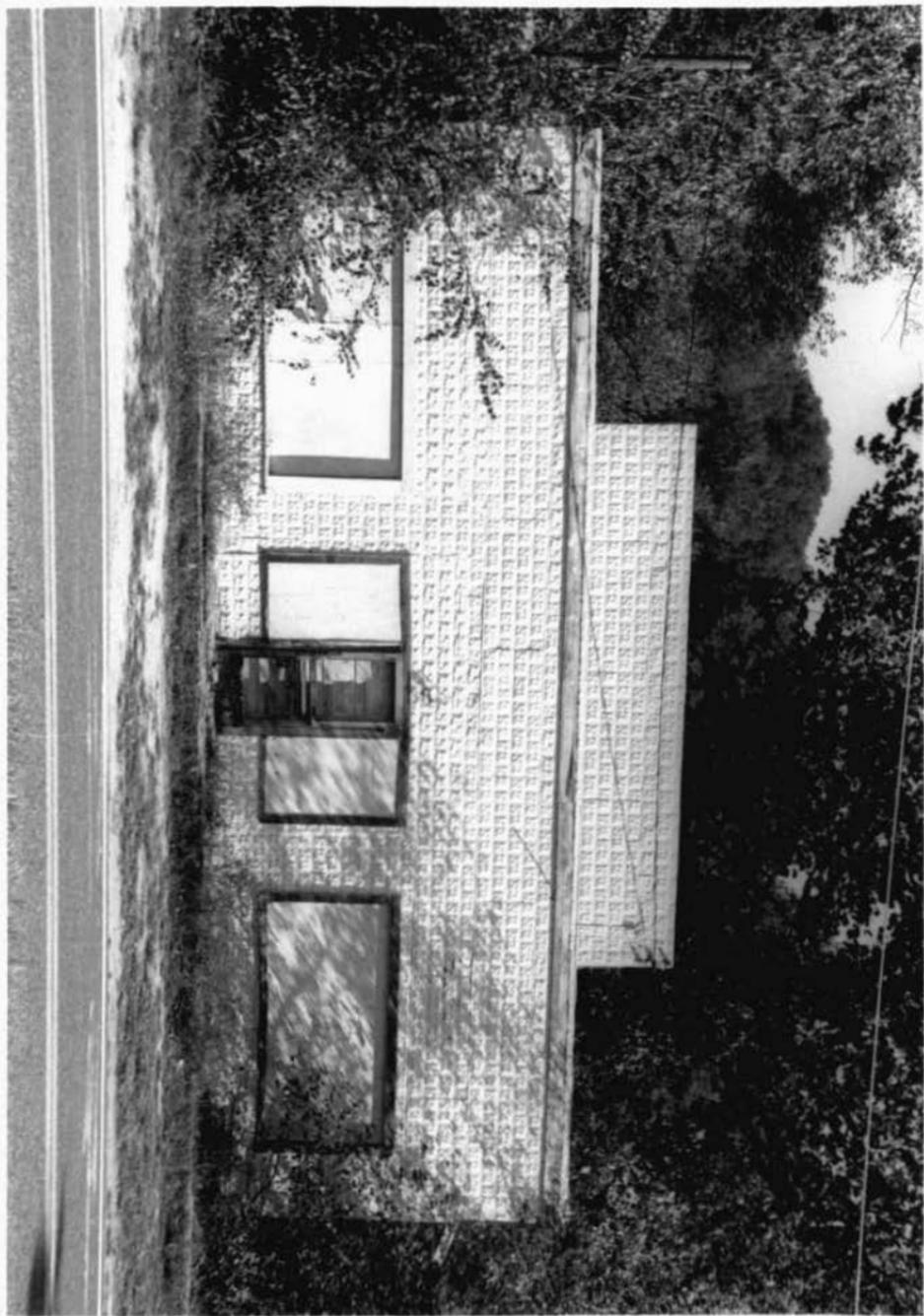
'39

(PRINCESS ANNE)
5860 II NW

40'

'42

SCALE 1:24 000



W1-237

Oliver Parks Store

Allen, Oliver Parks Store, 11/25/25,

NORTH ^{WEST} ELEVATION

11/25, Park Toward Pittsburg

Mid. Pitt. 11/25/25. T. 11/25/25