

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HA-693-696

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED 87 - 27 AUG 1979

DATE ENTERED

NOV 1 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

WOODSIDE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

400 Singer Road (north side of Singer Road, 100 yards  
west of Maryland Route 24)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Abingdon

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Harford

CODE

025

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: tree farm

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Miss Eloise Wilson

STREET & NUMBER

Box 226

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

21014

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION  
 EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR  
 DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE  
 UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE  
 ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Woodside is situated on top of a small hill on the north side of Singer Road, approximately 100 yards west of Maryland Route 24 near Abingdon, Maryland.

The main section of the house, designed in 1823, is an excellent example of a Federal side hall, double parlor plan house. This section is 2½ stories tall, three bays wide, and two deep. The house is constructed of coursed fieldstone except the south front which is coursed ashlar. On the front (south) facade, the paneled front door with transom marks the western bay. Two windows with original paneled blinds light the southeast parlor. Upstairs, windows are aligned, also have 6/6 double-hung sash, but have louvered shutters. This fenestration is identical on the rear (north) facade. A massive interior brick chimney is located at the peak at the roof's east end. A simpler, smaller brick chimney with corbelled cap is located at the end of the roof.

A 1½-story fieldstone kitchen, also dating from 1823 is connected to the main block at the northeast end. On its north facade, a centrally located door leads into the work space. Original 6/6 double-hung sash windows with paneled blinds flank the door. A later dormer window pierces the roof at the eave line over the door. A brick interior chimney is centrally located in the northern slope of the slate-covered roof. A beehive over which once served the kitchen fireplace is now gone. Its approximate foundation dimensions are outlined by low fieldstone garden walls.

One of the most aesthetically pleasing decorative details of the house is the use of stone. The stonework was laid very carefully--the fieldstone coursed as much as possible and the main facade laid in coursed ashlar of the same stone. On both the main block and kitchen, beautifully dressed stone blocks form lintels over each window. Close inspection of the lintel over the basement door at the southwest corner of the house shows the initials IW, probably for the builder, Joshua Wilson. The name LLee is carved into the second step of the north entrance. Miss Eloise Wilson, the present owner of the house, believes the carved name refers to LYCURGUS Lee, a 19th century family member.

In the second quarter of the 19th century, a frame, weatherboard sheathed structure was built at the southeast corner of the house. This addition, stretching three bays across its front (south) facade, was built to accommodate a growing Wilson household.<sup>1</sup> The addition has 6/6 double-hung sash windows, original paneled blinds on the first story (with louvered shutters on the second), and a gable roof. It was built over the stone kitchen wing, incorporating the slope of its gable roof.

The first floor of the main block consists of side hall and double parlors. The six panel front and rear doors and doors leading into the parlors are examples of Federal molded woodwork as is the chairrail. A simple four panel door with box lock, located under the stair, leads to the basement below. The finest details in the hall are the superb open-string staircase and marbleized baseboards. The cypress staircase has thin balusters, a rounded handrail with return, and step-ends decorated with a stylized wave pattern. The marbleized baseboards, surviving only in the hallway, were once also found in the north and south parlors.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

# 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 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                      1823                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Joshua Wilson

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Woodside is one of the finest examples of the Federal style hall and double parlor house plan in Harford County, Maryland. The house displays many fine architectural details, including a sensitive use of stone and a high caliber of carved woodwork as shown in the many fine mantels, the beautifully carved staircase, and other woodwork throughout the house. Another striking detail is the marbled baseboard in the first floor hallway, a design feature once used in all the major rooms in the main block of the house. Woodside is also of interest as a property which has never left the ownership of the Wilson family who built it.

Woodside was the home of Joshua Wilson, a Harford County doctor and farmer. Wilson graduated from the University of Maryland Medical School in 1818. In 1823 he married and built this house. A civic minded man willing to share his wealth as he prospered, Wilson gave land for the construction of St. Mary's Episcopal Church between 1843 and 1846. He is buried at Mt. Carmel, a Methodist Church in Emmorton, Harford County, Maryland.

When Joshua Wilson died on September 6, 1880, his will read "To my daughter, Rebecca Barbara Wilson, I give in fee simple the dwelling house in which I now reside on my farm known as Woodside."<sup>1</sup> The house was then purchased by Robert L. Wilson at auction in 1928, to settle the estate of Rebecca Barbara Wilson who had died that year.<sup>2</sup> (Robert was the son of William Wilson, the son of Joshua Wilson). On his death in 1957, Robert Wilson willed the property to his daughter, Miss Eloise Wilson, the present owner, who splendidly maintains the house and grounds.<sup>3</sup>

This nomination also includes a number of important 19th and early 20th century outbuildings, which have been continuously used in Woodside's function as a working farm. These include a spring house with hand pump, an 1848 log barn, a corn crib and a number of later sheds and garage. These buildings are all currently used in the maintenance of the property, including well-kept lawns and woods which are tree farmed.

<sup>1</sup>Hall of Records, Will WSR 10/101.

<sup>2</sup>Harford County Courthouse, Equity Docket 2887, 6-175.

<sup>3</sup>Hall of Records, Will TLA 2474 (dated November 16, 1956).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land and Probate Records of Harford County, Harford County Courthouse, Bel Air, and Hall of Records, Annapolis.

Information from Miss Eloise Wilson, owner and direct descendant of builder, 11/77 and 5/78.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 44 acres (approximately)

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

QUADRANGLE NAME Edgewood quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	8	3	8	6	5	8	0	4	3	7	0	8	2	0
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B 

1	8	3	8	6	5	8	0	4	3	7	0	5	0	0
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C 

1	8	3	8	5	8	8	0	4	3	7	0	4	8	0
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D 

1	8	3	8	5	8	6	0	4	3	7	0	7	4	0
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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mark R. Edwards, Historic Sites Survey Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

May 29, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

John Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE  XX

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*[Signature]*

8-20-79

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*

DATE 11-1-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

DATE 10-31-79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Regional Coordinator

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



Woodside  
Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

The two parlors also display much Federally influenced woodwork. The front (south) parlor has modified door surrounds and a chairrail like those in the hall. The Federal mantel has fluted pilasters, recessed corner block, a plain raised central panel and simple shelf. The rear (north) parlor has identical woodwork in all details except the mantel. Here, pilasters consist simply of plain recessed panels. Corner blocks also are composed of recessed panels. The frieze is devoid of decoration, and the shelf is simple.

From the north parlor, access is gained into both the pantry and the original stone kitchen. A plain six-panel door at the southeast corner of the room leads to the pantry, which originally ran the entire length of the east wall but was shortened to accommodate a closet between the parlor and the kitchen. A door at the northeast corner of the parlor leads through a narrow hallway to the original kitchen. The closet mentioned above is entered through a door at the southeast corner of the hall.

A door of vertical beaded boards leads into the original stone kitchen where the outside doorway is centrally placed in the north wall, flanked on either side by an original window. A tight winder stair at the northeast corner, entered through a vertical board door with lift latch, leads to a bedroom above. A massive fireplace is centrally located along the east wall. A door which originally led to the exterior is located at the southwest corner of the room. A window, which also opened to the exterior before the frame addition to the southeast was built, is located in the south wall to the east of the door.

Walking through the pantry to the south one enters a narrow hall separating the original stone south wall of the old kitchen and a modern 1920's kitchen built in the southeast wing. Here the doorway and window mentioned above can be clearly seen. The hallway leads to a board and batten door to the east. A modern partition wall creates a doorway at the southwest corner to the 1920's kitchen.

The staircase in the main block leads to the second floor hall. In the southwest a modern bathroom has been added; at the end of the hall is a small bedroom. A paneled doorway at the northwest leads up a short stairway to the attic above. Federal doorways along the east wall of the hall lead into the southeast (front) and northeast (rear) bedrooms. A linen closet was added between the doors in the early 20th century. The identical mantels in the bedrooms are similar to the mantel in the northeast parlor, with recessed paneled pilasters, corner blocks, plain frieze and shelf. Double paneled closets also constructed in the early 20th century have been inserted above the original six-panel doors in the east wall of each bedroom.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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CONTINUATION SHEET      Woodside  
                                 Harford County  
                                 Maryland      ITEM NUMBER 7      PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

To the northeast and northwest of the house are a number of important 19th and 20th century outbuildings. Their locations are noted on the enclosed sketch map. The group contains the following buildings:

- "A" A stone house (HA-695) with overhanging gable roof. The roof covers a set of steps which lead to a root cellar with an opening into the well shaft below. A hand pump (HA-696) stands to the west of this building. This is a careful reproduction of the octagonal post which housed the original 19th century pump mechanism. About 40 inches tall, the post is fitted with pegs, its top capped by two wooden plates and a ball. The original pump fit into a log cabinet 60 feet long, consisting of three or four sections, which carried water. The entire mechanism was replaced in 1960 by this wood reproduction covering a modern pump, although the original handle is still used.
- "B" This simple shed-roofed storage building acts as a wood storage area. The building, open on its south side, is crudely constructed. It is sheathed with vertical boards and has a shingled roof.
- "C" This is a log, gable-roofed barn, now used primarily for storage. The dovetailed structure is chinked with mud. On its western facade a crudely scratched name is seen "----Wilson, 1848". A doorway and small window are found on its south facade. A small window also lights the north facade. Until recently, it also sheltered several horses and cows in interior stalls, under a hay mow.
- "D" Built in 1928, this frame corn crib sits on log posts and is capped by a tin gable roof.
- "E" An early 20th century frame garage, sheathed with weatherboarding and covered with a gable roof.
- "F" Another early 20th century garage with a shed roof.
- "G" This is a shingled, gable-roofed garage with shed roof addition. This also dates from the early 20th century.

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<sup>1</sup> Oral interview, Miss Eloise Wilson, November, 1977.

<sup>2</sup> Oral interview, Miss Wilson, November 1977. According to Miss Wilson, this decoration still exists in the parlors and bedrooms, and is only covered with a layer or two of paint.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Woodside  
Harford County  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET      ITEM NUMBER 10      PAGE 3

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

BEGINNING at a point on the north side of Singer Road, 100 yards west of Maryland Route 24; thence, north 900 feet to a point; thence, west 2200 feet to a point; thence, south 900 feet to a point on the north side of Singer Road; thence, east along the north side of Singer Road 2250 feet to the point of beginning, containing about 44 acres.

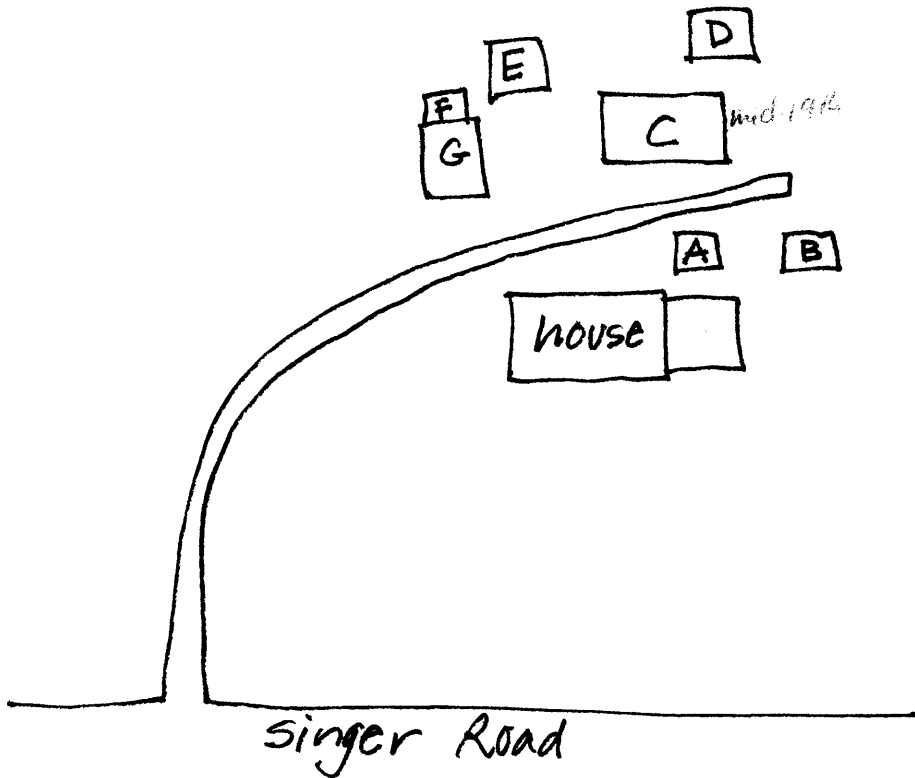
Harford County tax map #61, parcel 338.

ACREAGE JUSTIFICATION

The 44 acres included in this nomination have been with the house since its construction. The land has been continuously used from the early 19th century to the present day for a tree farm and cherry orchard. There is a field in front of the house running down to the road and another field to the east with cherry trees, most of the rest of the acreage is wooded.

WOODSIDE, HA-693  
Harford County, Maryland

sketch map (not to scale)  
showing outbuildings



- A: combination springhouse and pump (HA-695, 696)
- B: shed
- C: log barn, dated 1848 (HA-694)
- D: corn crib
- E: shed
- F: garage
- G: garage

MRE 1978