

F-8-69

Ca. 1900

L.C. Powell House

Woodsboro, Maryland

Private

The L.C. Powell House is a 2 1/2 story frame residence with German siding on a rubblestone foundation situated on the west side of South Main Street. The house was built by Luther Curtis Powell in circa 1900. The Powell family became prominent in Woodsboro by the early 1900s with their lucrative goldfish ponds located on the edge of town. The building is a prototype of the Queen Anne style which experienced popularity in Woodsboro in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It exemplifies many typical elements and details of that period of architecture.

F-8-69
L.C. Powell House
Woodsboro
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence
Domestic/secondary structure/garage, shed

Known Design Source: Unknown

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MDA-101-10-10-10-10
HISTORIC PROPERTY

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic L.C. Powell House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 301 S. Main Street not for publicationcity, town Woodsboro vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

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	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 type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name L. Cramer & Zelma S. Powell

street & number P.O. Box 87 telephone no.:

city, town Woodsboro state and zip code Md. 21798

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 664

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 228

city, town Frederick state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-8-69

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 L.C. Powell House is a 2 1/2 story frame residence with German siding on a rubblestone foundation situated on the west side of South Main Street. Representative of the Queen Anne period of architecture in form and stylistic details, the house is enhanced by its central lot placement, unusual in the village's context where most buildings closely front the street. It is characterized by its roofline configuration: a pyramidal hipped roof with intersecting cross gables. A one story open porch wraps around the principal facade to the north and south elevations. A garage and a small outbuilding are also located on the property lot.

The principal facade, facing east, is composed of a three sided 2 story projecting bay topped by a cross gable. The pedimented gable has variegated wood shingling and an elaborate Palladian window with classical pilasters, colored glass lights and leaded glass in the arched section. Beneath the pedimented gable, there is corner bracketing on the cut-away bays. 1/1 light windows are symmetrically placed on all three sides of both bay stories. The entry bay has a 2 part door with panels, molding and a transom. Above the entry, a three sided 1 story projecting bay with 1/1 light windows has a flat roof. A gabled dormer, directly above the projecting bay, has an incomplete cornice return and is filled with sawtooth shingling. A mini Palladian window, centered in the dormer, has classical treatment with pilasters, entablatures, dentils and also has colored glass in the 2 square windows.

A 1 story, full-height, open wrap-around porch with a hipped roof covers the main facade and portions of the north and south elevations. The porch sits on brick piers which have latticework in between them. The cornice has a plain frieze; a pediment with sawtooth shingling interrupts the section of the cornice in line with the entrance. The porch has rounded columns and a decorative balustrade.

The north elevation extends across five bays. A distinctive second story 1/1 light window has a 21 light colored glass transom. A small, pedimented gable, has a small, fixed window with colored glass detail surrounded by variegated shingling. At the termination of the wrap-around porch, a 2 story bay with a flat roof projects outward; a doorway is located on the side of the bay allowing access onto the porch. It has a transom with dentils underneath and plate glass in the top half of the door. Another pedimented cross gable with variegated shingling is adjacent to that bay: a tripart window of colored glass is centered in the gable beneath a triangular section at the top of the gable that juts out. Closest to the west wall, a recessed 2 story bay has a one story shed roofed entry porch, enclosed halfway, leaving the side door with its dentil detail and transom light exposed. The enclosed portion (probably altered later) has 1 fixed window with colored glass.

The south elevation has a center pedimented cross gable section that projects outward in a 3 sided bay. Its treatment includes variegated shingling, a tripart window of colored glass and corner bracketing at the 2 cutaway bays. At the termination of the porch, there is an entry door with dentil detail, a transom and

8. Significance

Survey No. F-8-69

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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input 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.

Significance Summary

The L.C. Powell House was built by Luther Curtis Powell in circa 1900. The Powell family became prominent in Woodsboro by the early 1900s with their lucrative goldfish ponds located on the edge of town. By 1900, the business had become profitable enough for Luther (one of three brothers involved in the business) to construct his substantial residence. The building is a prototype of the Queen Anne style which experienced popularity in Woodsboro in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It exemplifies many typical elements and details of that period of architecture.

Historic Context

The L.C. Powell House can be compared to the other buildings in Frederick County that evolved during the Queen Anne period of architecture in America. Many examples of that style survive in both village and rural settings in the county. The L.C. Powell House represents an excellent example that has retained its original design and materials and also demonstrates an unaltered version of the Queen Anne style. Its integrity is highly comparable to other unaltered versions of the style in the area. In the village of Woodsboro, it illustrates the use of the Queen Anne style more completely than other Woodsboro examples.

History and Support

By 1900, Luther Powell had obtained a design for his residence from a relative in Virginia. Timber from the Powell family farms near Woodsboro was utilized in construction. Company carpenters and craftsmen from nearby Lewistown constructed the building. At the time of its construction, the building was situated on a lot beyond the edge of town that was surrounded by fields. The Queen Anne style that Luther chose for his house had already peaked in popularity by the turn of the century. This indicates that fashions and trends in architecture reached outlying, rural areas later. Luther Powell resided in the house until his death in the 1960s at which time his son, L. Cramer Powell, took residence.

7.1 Description Continued

plate glass in its upper half. Fenestration throughout the facade is consistent: 1/1 light square-head windows. The last bay has a 2 story porch with a balustrade on the second story, open on 2 sides and enclosed on the rear elevation. The wall of the second floor is more recessed than the first floor and has a panelled door. The first floor door has a transom and dentils.

The rear elevation has a gable end projection with an incomplete cornice return and a 2/2 light window underneath the peak. All other windows are 1/1 light. A tall brick chimney is placed at the intersection of the cross gables and the pyramidal hipped roof. It is corbelled near the cap with three steps. A cellar door lies near the foundation.

The interior of the building was available for viewing on the lower floors. The first floor contains original woodwork throughout with ornate fireplace mantels, one with corinthian pilasters and one with ionic columns. The staircase has a beaded design in its woodwork, raised panels and a pendant-like cap. The floors on the first floor were originally pine and have been covered with oak. A vestibule in the entry bay also has doors with original decorative hardware with woodwork in a diamond pattern outlined by raised molding. The back ell extension has undergone some modifications with a partially enclosed porch and modernized kitchen. A pump inside on the west wall was formerly used to pump water into the house. The basement has brick piers with a stone foundation. Floor joists are approximately 15 inches apart.

GARAGE

A 1 story frame garage is located several yards to the rear of the main house. Sheathed in german siding, it lies on a concrete foundation. Its front gable roofline of standing seam tin has a boxed-in cornice on the north and south elevations with exposed rafters on the front and west elevations. The facade has a wide, 2-part tongue and groove door with original hardware that allows vehicle passage. A seam in the siding towards the west of the building indicates an added portion. On the west elevation, a smaller, 2-part door, tongue and groove, has new hardware.

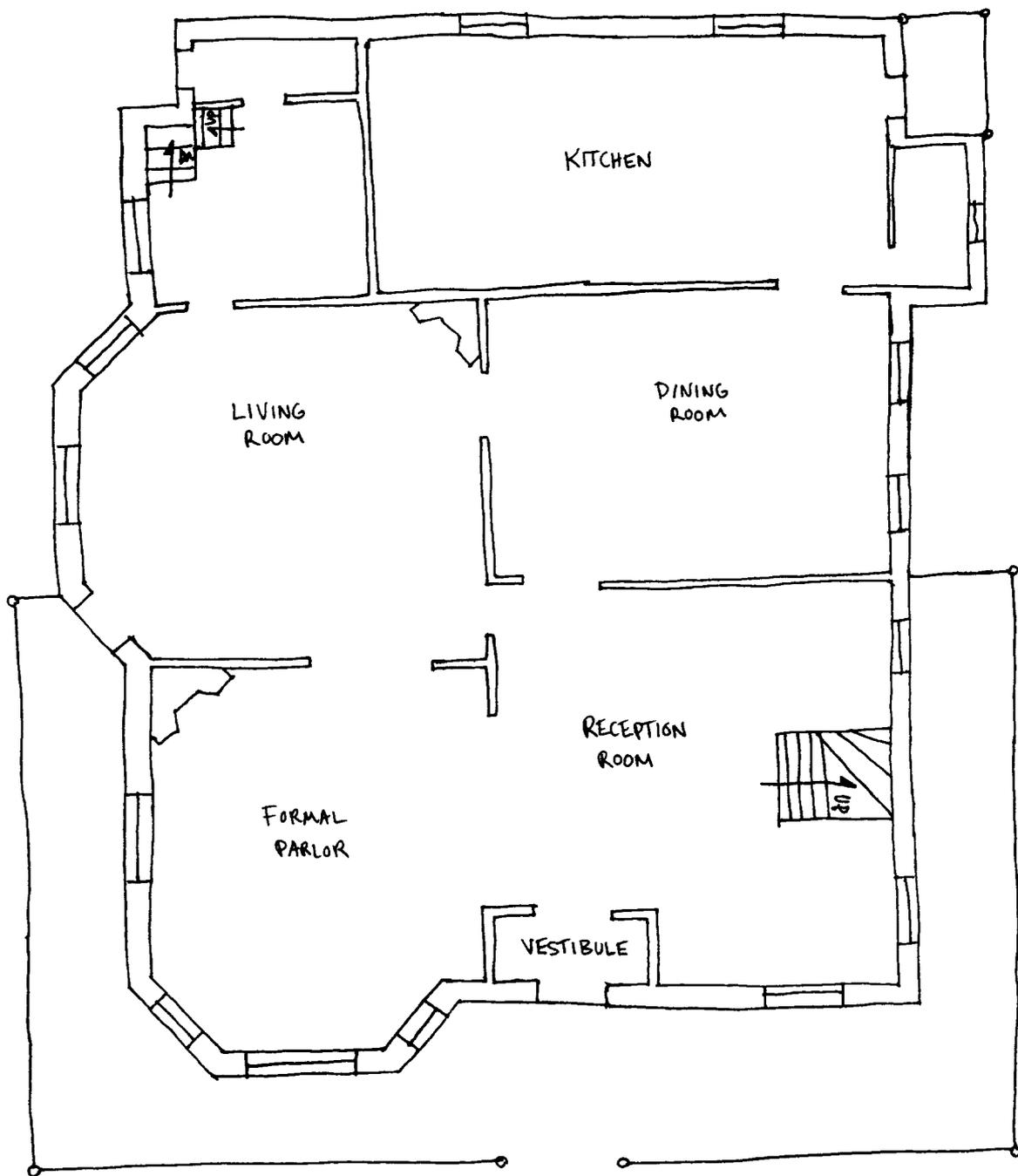
OUTBUILDING

Adjacent to the garage by a couple of feet, a small 1 story frame outbuilding with german siding has a front gable roof of corrugated tin facing north. Its concrete foundation is interspersed with visible vertical posts. Rafters are exposed in the east elevation cornice on the facade. A centered door of tongue and groove has original hinges and a latch.

8.1 Significance Continued

Three Powell brothers from Lewistown established goldfish ponds on tracts contiguous to Woodsboro. The business became highly profitable and expanded with a greater number of ponds. The fish were shipped to cities across the nation. During peak periods, the Powells' ponds produced two million fish per year. Luther and his brothers had ponds covering numerous acres. L. Cramer Powell, Luther's son, established his own ponds on land that is the present-day town park. The business continued until 1955 when rising costs and competition ended production. The Powell family profited from the goldfish pond business for over fifty years.

The L.C. Powell House exemplifies a prototypical version of the Queen Anne style. It contains many features of the style including a pyramidal hipped roof that intersects with cross gables, colored glass fenestration, a wrap-around porch, bay projections, and Palladian windows. The roof type, in particular, characterizes the building as associative with the Queen Anne style. The use of this style in Woodsboro supplanted the more common rural vernacular design seen in buildings dating to the late nineteenth century. It brought a greater level of sophistication to the architectural landscape of the town.



MARY KENDALL SHIPE

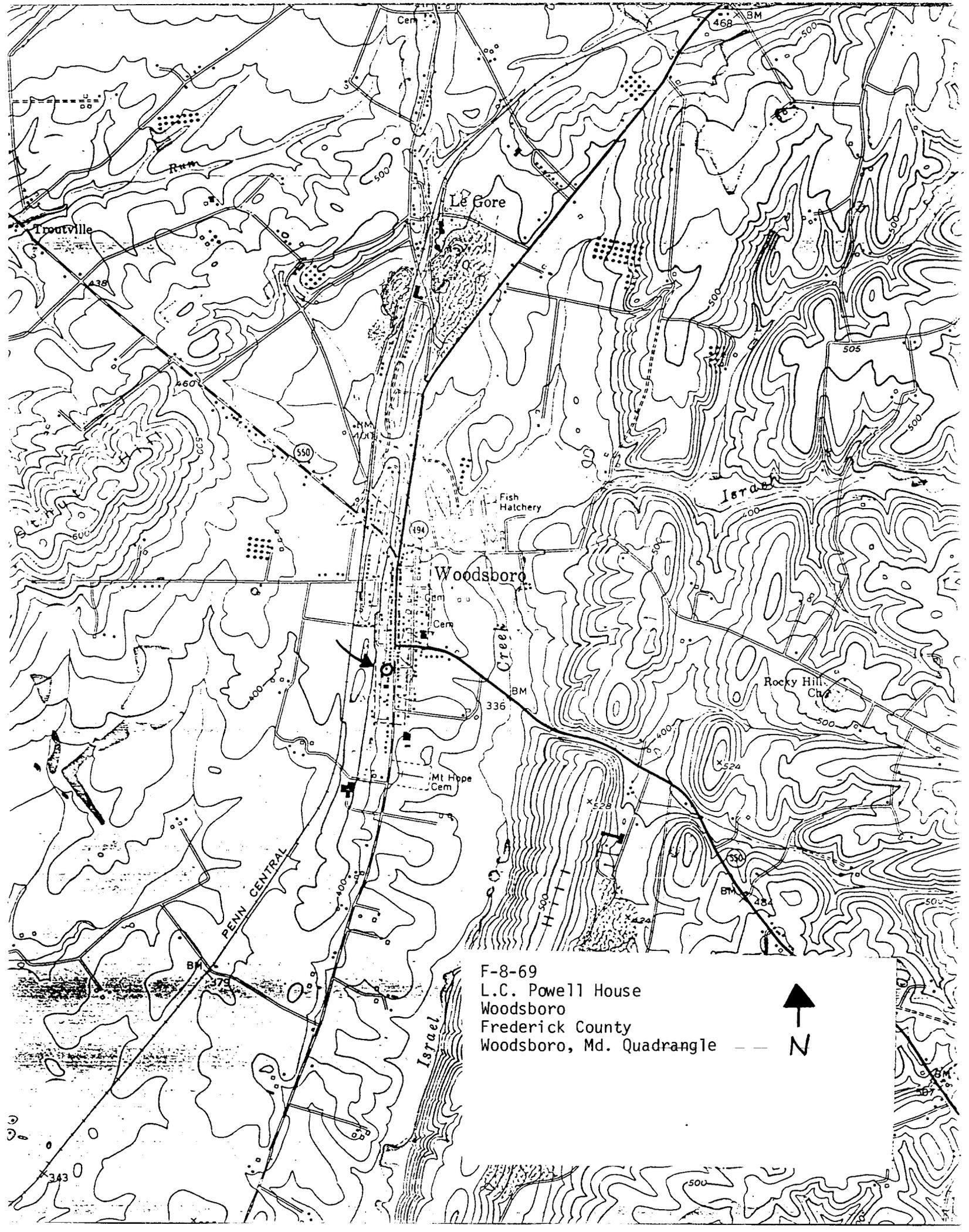
F-8-69

L.C. POWELL HOUSE

FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND



NOT TO SCALE



F-8-69
L.C. Powell House
Woodsboro
Frederick County
Woodsboro, Md. Quadrangle





F-8-69

L.C. Powell House

301 S. Main St

Woodsboro

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1991

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Annapolis MD

East Elevation

1/4



F-8-69

L.C. Powell House

301 S. Main St.

Woodsboro

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1991

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Annapolis MD

North-west corner

2/4



F-8-69

L. C. Powell House

301 S. Main St

Woodsboro

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1991

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Annapolis MD

Interior, staircase woodwork

3/4



F-8-69

L.C. Powell House

301 S Main St

Woodboro

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

February 1991

Neg. loc: Maryland Historical Trust

Annapolis MD

Interior, mantelpiece

4/4