

1. Name: Wire Hardware and Lumber Company  
 2. Planning Area/Site Number: 26/12/3 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 15  
 B & O Station H.D. H-13  
 4. Address: 22 Old Baltimore Road, Rockville

MAGI #1651252611  
(# assigned 11/86)

## 5. Classification Summary

Category <u>structure</u>	Previous Survey Recording <u>M-NCPPC</u>
Ownership <u>private</u>	Title and Date: <u>Inventory of Historical Sites - 1976</u>
Public Acquisition <u>NA</u>	<u>Rockville Historic District Comm., 1974</u>
Status <u>occupied</u>	Federal <u>    </u> State <u>X</u> County <u>X</u> Local <u>    </u>
Accessible <u>yes; restricted</u>	
Present use <u>commercial</u>	

6. Date: 1895-8 7. Original Owner: William Wallace Welsh

## 8. Apparent Condition

a. good b. unaltered c. original site

9. Description: This building is a 2-story brick commercial structure in the Queen Anne style. The distinctive cast-iron storefront is covered with a shed roof, metal-covered canopy extending several feet with simple round iron columns. The sides of the canopy are wood, with simple ornamentation. The building has an ornate stepped facade, capped with ornamental cornice, with semi-ornate brickwork over the front second-floor windows. There is a similar stepped facade on the east. Both stepped facades cover gable ends, and being at right angles create a hip-roof on the northwest corner. The roofing is patterned slate. Along the east facade adjacent to the building is a truck-weighting scale, with wood platform. To the rear of the main building along Church Street is a large board-and-batten covered barn shed, in charming if rugged state of preservation. These have always been commercial structures.

10. Significance: This commercial structure is the last cast-iron front building remaining in Rockville, and is symbolic of the growth of Rockville following the coming of the railroad.

The "Third Addition to Rockville" was subdivided by William Brewer in 1872 in anticipation of the opening of the Metropolitan Branch of the B & O Railroad the following year. This desirable property directly across the street from the railroad depot changed hands several times before William Wallace Welsh purchased it and constructed his frame general store in 1884. Welsh and his partner David H. Warfield sold implements, grains, fuels and provisions.

A fire destroyed the frame building about 1895, and a new brick building was constructed shortly afterward. After Welsh's death during the influenza epidemic at the close of World War I, Porter and Frank Ward operated the store from 1923 to 1964, conveying it to Paul Wire in 1964.

A large frame house adjacent to his building for most of its life housed the owner/proprietor of the store; it was demolished in 1978.

11. Researcher and date researched: Anne Cissel - 4/79 Michael B. Patterson Arch. Description  
 12. Compiler: Eileen McGuckian 13. Date Compiled: 6/79 14. Designation Approval  
 15. Acreage: 10,681.75 sq. ft.

*Easement*  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 26/12/3  
B & O Station HD  
MAGI #  
1651252611

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Wire Hardware and Lumber Company

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

22 Old Baltimore Road

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**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 checked="" 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	<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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Paul F. Wire

Telephone #: 762-6188

STREET & NUMBER

Wire Hardware & Lumber Co., P.O. Box 1726

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20850

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Liber #: 3360

Folio #: 543

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Rockville Historic District Commission, 1974  
M-NCPPC Inventory of Historical Sites

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland 20855

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M.26-12-3

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

This building is a 2-story brick commercial structure in the Queen Anne style. The distinctive cast-iron storefront is covered with a shed roof, metal-covered canopy extending several feet with simple round iron columns. The sides of the canopy are wood, with simple ornamentation. The building has an ornate stepped facade, capped with ornamental cornice, with semi-ornate brickwork over the front second-floor windows. There is a similar stepped facade on the east. Both stepped facades cover gable ends, and being at right angles create a hip roof on the northwest corner. The roofing is patterned slate.

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

M:26-12-3

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 checked="" 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 1895-8

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The "Third Addition to Rockville" was subdivided by William Brewer in 1872 in anticipation of the opening of the Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad the following year.

The desirability of a property lying directly across the street from the railroad depot made lot #9 a choice investment. Though this land changed hands several times between 1872 and 1884, it was not until its purchase by William Wallace Welsh in July, 1884 that a commercial establishment was erected there, even though the depot had been open since 1873.<sup>1</sup> Welsh had relocated in Rockville after the Civil War, clerking in John Higgins' store until he opened his own.

Welsh and his partner, David H. Warfield, erected a frame building and sold implements, grains, fuels and provisions. In the summer of 1885, a large warehouse adjoining the store was built.<sup>2</sup> These buildings were destroyed by a fire about 1895 in which two persons lost their lives after being struck by falling debris and a chimney.<sup>3</sup> A new brick building was erected further south on the lot, the present store at 22 Baltimore Road. Its appearance in 1977 is much the same as in 1897, having the original cast iron front and awning supported by columns, and the original wooden counters.

Only three families have owned this property since the construction of the original store. Although Welsh died at the close of World War I, his family did not sell it until 1923.<sup>4</sup> Porter and Frank Ward owned and operated the store from 1923 to 1964, conveying it to the present owner in 1964.

A large frame house adjacent to this building at #18 Baltimore Road for most of its life housed the owner/proprietor of the store and his family. This dwelling was demolished in 1978.

Although the major commercial development of Rockville flowed several streets away from this store, and the railroad's importance as a means of transportation waned, this store has always remained a viable part of the business establishment and to this day many people go out of their way to purchase their seeds, fertilizer and nails amid its high-ceilinged, quaint interior.

**FOOTNOTES:**

- 1. Not present on 1879 Hopkins Atlas; no buildings conveyed when Mullican sold to Welsh on July 5, 1884 (Land Records of Montgomery County, MD, EBP 32/266).

(Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Attachment Sheet A

M: 26/12/3  
B&O Station H.D.

Wire Hardware and Lumber Company

FOOTNOTES: (Continued)

2. Montgomery County Sentinel, July 25, 1885.
3. Thomson, Noma, Rockville, Md. - Western Gateway to the Nation's Capitol, p. 92, and the Evening Star "Here Time Stands Still", November 14, 1971.
4. Land Records, 340/150 (Oct. 18, 1923) and 362/135 (Oct. 8, 1924).

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Montgomery County Land Records  
Montgomery County Sentinel  
Evening Star

Store ledger owned by Wire Hardware Co.

Thomson, Noma, Rockville Maryland: Western Gateway to the Nation's

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY Capitol (Stewart Printing Co., Wash., D.C., 1949).

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 10,681.75 square feet

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 9, Third Addition to Rockville

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Anne W. Cissel

Michael B. Patterson  
Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

DATE

April 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 87

TELEPHONE

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

Dickerson

STATE

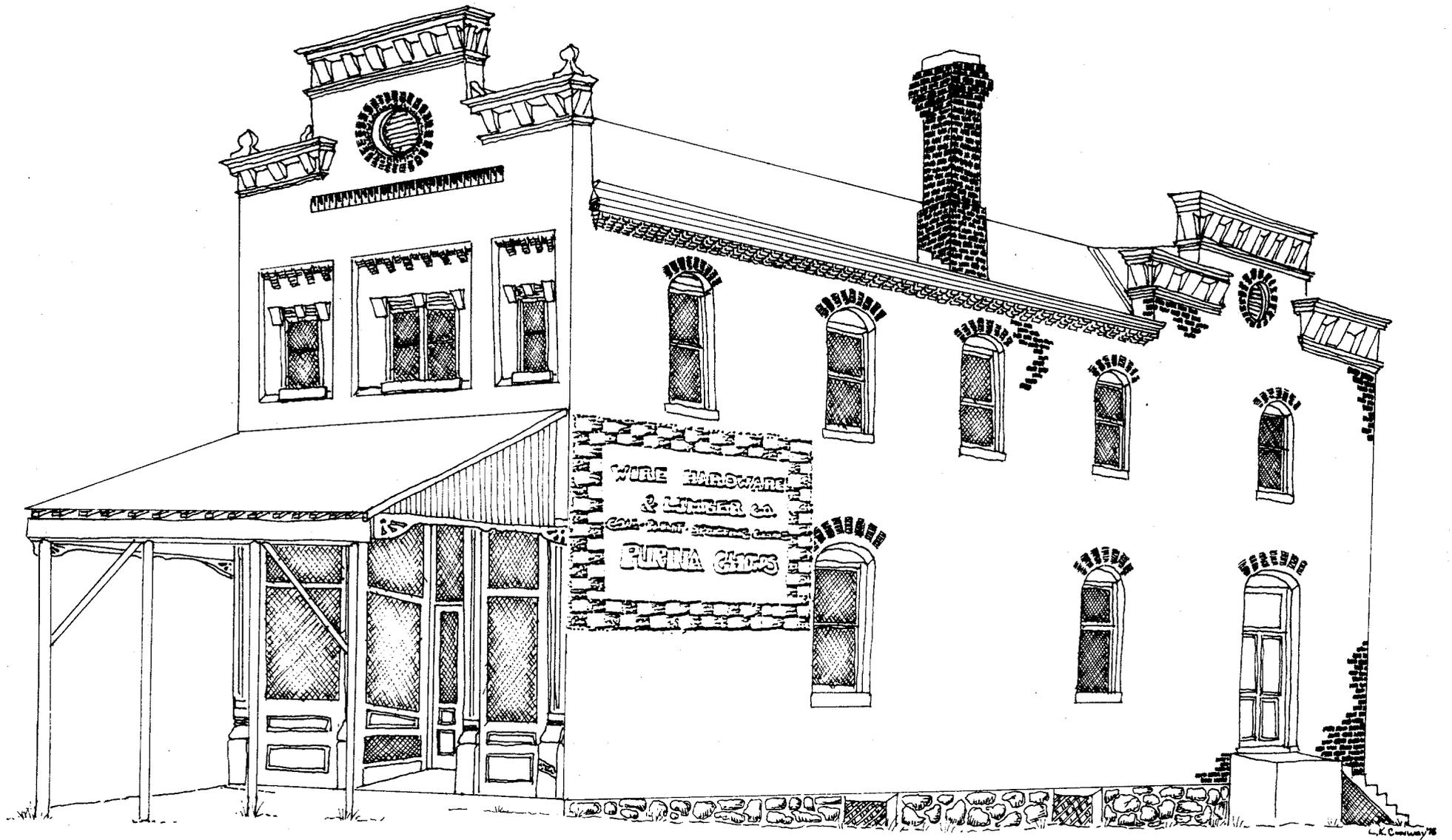
Maryland 20753

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  
The Shaw House, 1 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 251-1438~~

SUGARLOAF REGIONAL TRAILS  
Box 87, Stronghold  
Dickerson, Md. 20753  
(301) 926-4510



Wire Hardware & Lumber Co.

M.26-12-3



M: 26-12-3  
Wire Hardware Store