

S-100
Levin Woolford House
Princess Anne
private

c. 1853

Marking the southeast corner of South Somerset Avenue and William Street is this two-story-and-a-half story, side hall/double pile frame house that is distinguished from all the other dwellings in Princess Anne with its steeply pitched mansard roof. The roof shape was popularized during the seventeenth by the French architect, Francois Mansart, and reused during the nineteenth-century in what is referred to as the Second Empire style. Although the Woolford house carries this distinctive roof shape, the floor plan follows an extremely traditional arrangement continually used since the eighteenth century. The front door opens into a generous stair hall, while the balance of the first floor is divided into two rooms. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing. The Woolford house is noteworthy for its significant mid nineteenth-century interior finishes that include a colored glass transom over the door, and the ashlar-style wall treatment under the stair. The latter feature appears to have been a distinctive finish used by carpenter, Seth D. Venables, in a handful of contemporary Princess Anne houses.

Construction of the Woolford house is dated to 1853, the year after Washington Miles purchased the unimproved lot from John and Sarah E. Dennis for \$275. Washington and Caroline Miles owned the property for only two years, but within that period, they financed the extant frame house. In December of 1854, the couple sold their house for \$3,075 to Henry King, who in turn transferred the title to Levin Woolford four years later. Colonel Levin Woolford served as Clerk of Somerset County Court through the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century. Levin and his wife, Anne E. occupied the house until their deaths, and

the property remained in Woolford family hands until 1935. The present owners have held title to the old Woolford house since 1957.

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Historic American Building Survey

INVENTORY

State Maryland
County Somerset
Town Princess Anne VICINITY
Street No. Somerset Avenue

2. NAME Woolford House
DATE OR PERIOD c. 1870's
STYLE second empire
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE Dwelling
PRESENT OWNER Clyde Johnson
PRESENT USE Dwelling
WALL CONSTRUCTION frame
NO. OF STORIES 2 1/2

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC no

The Woolford house is the only house in Princess Anne with a mansard roof and as such is worthy of inclusion in the survey of historic buildings in Princess Anne. It is composed of a three bay wide, two bay deep mansard roof, 2 1/2 story structure and two wings on the east. The latter two wings are three bays long and two bays wide, the first bay adjoining the main part being a bay window protruding several feet from the wall.

Around the north and west side of the main part is a porch with shed roof supported on handsome doric columns. The north side is screened. The dormers in the roof have hipped roofs and small pierced-work consoles. The entire house is built on a brick foundation and is covered with aluminum siding.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered No Interior Exterior Good



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Michael Bourne
Maryland Historical Trust
DATE OF RECORD July 5, 1972



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WOOLFORD HOUSE

Princess Anne, Somerset County, MD

Northwest elevation

Photographer, Michael O. Bourne

1972

Negative/MD Historical Trust