

K-589

Circa 1880

Woodall-Dennett House

Georgetown

Private

The Woodall-Dennett House was built about 1880 for James Edward Woodall and his bride Josephine Griffith Woodall of near Sassafras. James E. Woodall was one of the six children of Andrew Woodall (1819-1906), who probably more than any other single person was responsible for Georgetown's eventual recovery from its almost total destruction by the British during the war of 1812. The chief late nineteenth-century entrepreneur of Georgetown, he operated general shipping, grain, and lumber businesses, which some of his children and other relatives also participated in. This family was also responsible for most of the house and other building in Georgetown during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. One wonders to what extent, if at all, Andrew Woodall himself was influential in the construction and style of these buildings. Presumably the supplies came from his lumber business, and perhaps published plans as well. This house is one of the Woodall houses, sited on Front Street between two others. Like its neighbor to the west (K-580), it is a frame vernacular Victorian Gothic Revival house with a central gable, but on a more modest scale and with less lavish details. It is three bays wide instead of five, and it has no bay windows or plaster ceiling medallions or cornices, though it does have handsome mantels. It is an important part of the Georgetown streetscape and a reminder of the late nineteenth century period of prosperity and economic activity in Georgetown, whose business activity now is dominated by two large marinas. The house itself is a compact and nicely detailed representative of a common late nineteenth century vernacular style and plan.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Woodall-Dennett House

2. Location

street & number Middle house, north side Front Street not for publicationcity, town Georgetown vicinity of congressional districtstate county

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mrs. Charlotte W. Dennett

street & number 10 Glen Avon Drive telephone no.: 648-5219 203-637-1215

city, town Riverside state and zip code Connecticut 06878

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber WHG 34

street & number Cross Street folio 210

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys NONE

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. K-589

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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 Woodall-Dennett house is sited in the middle of the block on the north side of Front Street in Georgetown, between King Street (Route 213) to the west and Fish Alley to the east. The Sassafras River borders the property to the north. Its main section is frame, 2-1/2 storeys high with a central gable, and three bays wide; there is a gable-roofed dormer with upper sash segmentally arched to each side of the central gable. There is a perpendicular two-storey rear wing with a slightly lower roof that is three bays deep. There are three porches, a four-bay front porch that wraps around the west end of the main section and a wing porch on each side. The west wing porch has been converted to a sunroom. The plan of the main section is central hall with one room on each side. The house is notably compactly arranged. It was built about 1880 in a vernacular Gothic Revival Style for James E. Woodall and his new wife.

(Continued)

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Circa 1880 **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 Woodall-Dennett House was built about 1880 for James Edward Woodall and his bride, Josephine Griffith Woodall of near Sassafras. James E. Woodall was one of the six children of Andrew Woodall (1819-1906), who probably more than any other single person was responsible for Georgetown's eventual recovery from its almost total destruction by the British during the War of 1812. The chief late nineteenth-century entrepreneur of Georgetown, he operated general shipping, grain, and lumber businesses, which some of his children and other relatives also participated in. This family was also responsible for most of the house and other building in Georgetown during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. One wonders to what extent, if at all, Andrew Woodall himself was influential in the construction and style of these buildings. Presumably the supplies came from his lumber business, and perhaps published plans as well. This house is one of the Woodall houses, sited on Front Street between two others. Like its neighbor to the west (K-580), it is a vernacular Victorian Gothic Revival house with a central gable, but on a more modest scale and with less lavish details. It is nonetheless an important part of the Georgetown streetscape and a reminder of the late nineteenth century period of prosperity and economic activity in Georgetown, whose business activity now is dominated by two large marinas. The house itself is a compact and nicely detailed representative of a common late nineteenth century vernacular style and plan.

The main section, facing south toward Front Street, is about 34 feet wide by 18 feet deep. The wing, set in about 12" from the main section's east end, is 16 feet wide and 22 feet deep. Both sections are gable roofed. The main section's ends have a single, centered window on each storey, the wing's rear (north) gable end has only two four-light windows in the gable.

During 1985 the original horizontal, lapped weatherboard of both sections was covered with German shiplap white aluminum siding. The architraves and cornices are not covered.

There appear to be two cellars, one under the wing with an entry through metal doors on the north end at the east corner, and the other under the main section, with a double wood-door entry at the center of the east end. The foundation is of orangey-red brick that once has been painted maroon. The bond is common.

The roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. The cornice of both sections is boxed, and there are built-in gutters. The crown molding is a large cyma recta with fillets. The bed molding appears plain on gable ends but possibly a cyma reversa under the eaves. This may have been altered recently. The returns are quite bold, about 18-20" wide. The roof overhangs the walls on sides and ends about 10-12".

There are three chimneys. The two in the main section rise through the roof ridge within the rooms to each side of the central hall, along the hall partition walls. They are built of deep-red brick. They appear to have been repointed recently. They have plain bases and a 2-course band. The wing chimney is within the wall at the north gable-end. Its construction is the same, but it needs repointing.

The main entry is in the central bay of the south, main facade. Its heavy sill is one step up from the porch floor, and the architrave extends to the porch ceiling. There are no sidelights. There is a one-light transom that is similar to the one at River House (K-580) next door to the west, but much smaller. Its upper corners are rounded. There is a deep, composite transom bar. The 3-5/8" wide trim is plain except for an inside bead. There is a 2-over-2 section screen door, with scroll sawn corner braces that may well be the original; it has a small white porcelain pull knob. The door has 2-over-2 recessed and slightly raised panels, the upper pair round-headed. The panels are molded with heavy bolection molding that includes a large, modified ogee and bevel profile. It relates to the panel molding of the shutters. There is modern door hardware. The door-height shutters affixed to the wall on each side are perhaps not original. They have an upper fixed louvered section and a lower section of movable louvers.

Secondary entries are: 1) into the central bay of the east side of the rear wing, into a large kitchen, where the door is four-panel with applied ogee-and-bevel molding and the trim is the same, 2) a door into the kitchen on

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the opposite, west side, from the now-sunroom; the door and trim are the same as on the east side; 3) from the sunporch's southeast corner into the rear of the central hall, through a narrow (29") opening, where there is now a 15-light French door. Trim is the same, though the door would be a replacement, though it has a porcelain knob and separate, applied keyhole escutcheon.

Windows are all double-hung, and all have 2-over-2 lights. The fenestration is symmetrical. Sills are double, the lower one heavy (about 3-3/4"). Window muntins quite flat and wide. The windows appear to be the same height on the first two storeys; only those of the gables are shorter. The shutters on the second storey have movable louvers. First-storey shutters have upper movable louvers over a recessed and slightly raised panel with prominently curved ogee-and-bevel molding. There is sliding latch hardware. These shutters are still hinged, not fixed to the wall.

The wing windows are double-hung with 2-over-2 lights but shorter than those of the main section. Details are the same as on the main section. The second-storey enclosure above the sunporch, within the west L is for a bathroom. It has a regular 2-over-2 window on its north wall and a lancet-arched 2-over-2 window in its west side, with louvered shutters shaped to match.

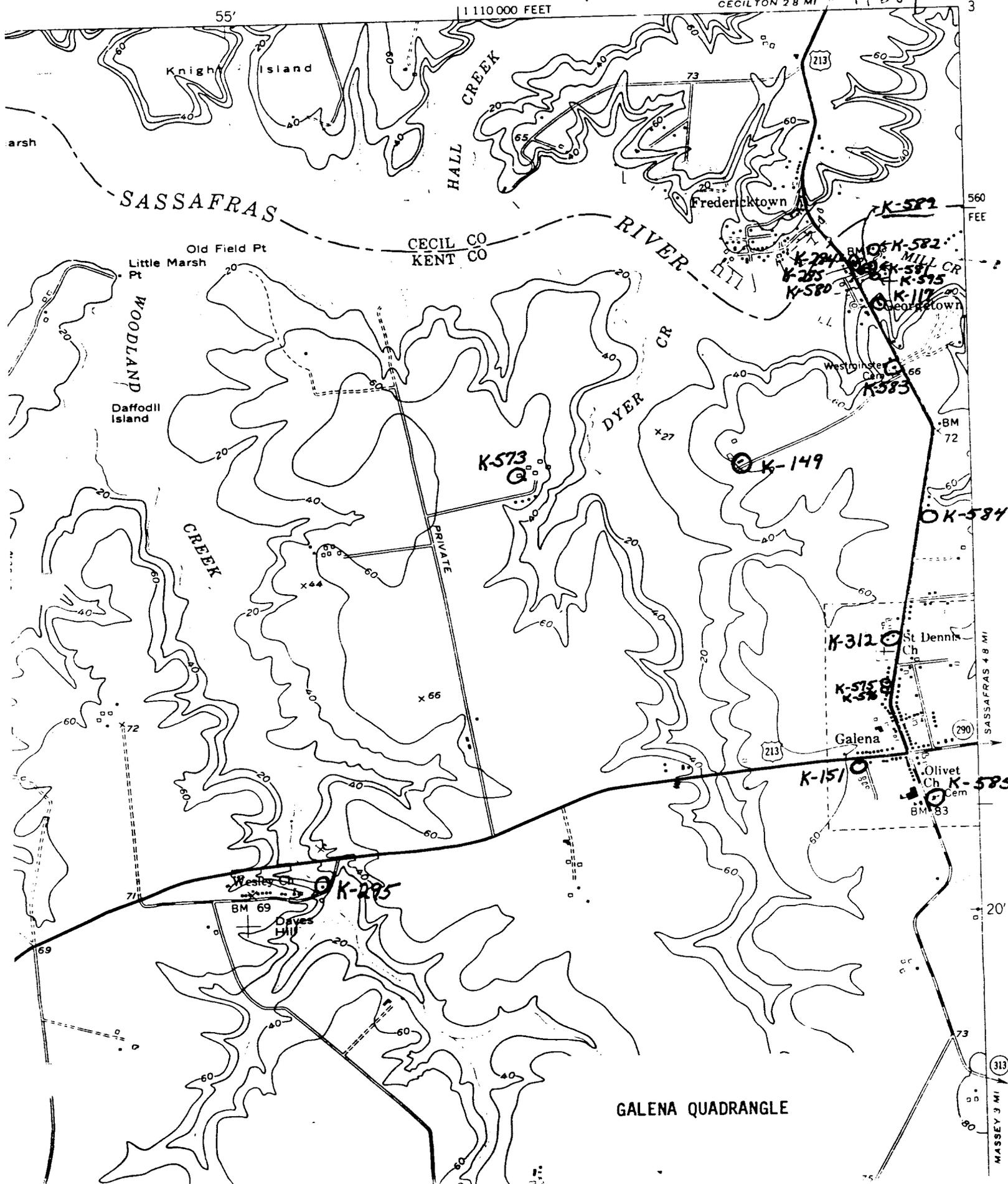
The central gable is in the same plane as the main wall below, the siding is continuous from the main wall into the gable. The central window is double-hung and with 2-over-2 lights, with the upper sash round-headed. The gable's roof and trim are continuous with those of the main section roof. There is handsome, unusual trim on the central gable fascia. The crown molding of cyma with fillets is applied as on the main roof, but the fascia edge is extended and is intricately scroll sawn, further calling attention to the central bay.

The house has only two dormers, in the main section's south roof slope, one on each side of the central gable. They are set slightly to the outside of the side bay windows of the first and second storeys. The windows have 2-over-2 sash with the upper sash shallowly segmentally arched. There is a heavy sill, or base, that extends beyond the pilasters. The pilasters are plain but flared through the addition of thin scroll-sawn work resting on the base. The pilasters have composite caps. The tympanum is plain. The cornice is not boxed, but the rafter ends are closed on their undersides; the ends are square-cut. The overhang is relatively slight. The dormer cheeks are now covered with the aluminum siding, and the roofing material is asphalt shingles over wood shingles.

The main stair is in the central hall. It is open string, with two turned balusters per tread; the treads are pine. There are sawn step-end brackets. The spanrel is plastered with wallpaper applied. Most stair parts are darkly stained and/or varnished. The stair is straight run along the hall's east wall; to a narrow landing at the rear of the main section, then it reverses direction but with only two more steps into the second-storey hall. It is, therefore,

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dogleg, but not equally divided, evidently to save space. From the landing there is access to the rear wing. The walnut rail is continuous from the newel, which is a typical Victorian catalogue newel. Above the first, long run of the stair is an enclosed stair to the third level, which is finished. The hall adjacent to the stair is narrow, and at the front of the hall it intersects with passage to the east bedroom and attic stair. There is a secondary stair in the wing.



GALENA QUADRANGLE

MASSEY 3 MI 313



K-589

Woodall-Dennett House

Front St. Georgetown

M. Q. Fallaw - 10/14/85

View to southeast

82
K589-20



K-589

Woodall-Dennett House

Front St., Georgetown

M. Q. Fallaw - 10/14/85

View to northwest

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