

WI-228
Messick-Stewart House
Allen
Private

c. 1820, c. 1860

Dating from two distinct periods, the Messick-Stewart house is a modest frame dwelling that was erected on a site across Allen Road from its current location. The house originally stood on the site of the Benjamin F. Messick house until the early 1880s when he moved the this house across the road in preparation of erecting a large two-and-a-half story, Victorian tee-shaped dwelling. (See WI-229) The rear two-story wing of the Messick-Stewart house incorporates an early nineteenth century, one-room plan dwelling that was raised and enlarged around the time of the Civil War. The two-story side hall/parlor front addition retains some period woodwork including a turned baluster staircase and plain mid-nineteenth century mantels. The rear kitchen has been remodeled over the years with little in the way of original woodwork remaining. An early nineteenth century six-panel door survives in the upstairs kitchen bedroom. Small mortise holes in the kitchen bedroom flooring indicate the former position of the hand rail to the original boxed winder staircase.

Benjamin F. Messick relocated this house around 1880 in anticipation of erecting a new Victorian house on his property. The old house was rolled across the road and placed on part of the Methodist Episcopal church's parsonage lot, which was conveyed to Mary J. Mezick (Messick) in October 1883. The trustees of the parsonage lot were George J. Porter, William W. Disharoon, John W. Jones, Benjamin F. Mezick,

and Simeon F. Malone. Six years the Mary and Benjamin Mezick conveyed the house and portion of the parsonage lot to Charles L. and Elizabeth Porter. During the first half of the twentieth century the house and lot are principally held by the Stewart family.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Messick-Stewart House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-228

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition
1815-1870
4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-228

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic MESSICK-STEWART HOUSE

and/or common Mary Taylor House

2. Location

street & number East side of Allen Road ___ not for publication

city, town Allen ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

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 Doug Rayfield

street & number Allen Road telephone no.:

city, town Allen state and zip code Maryland 21810

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map ⁵⁶ p. 200
liber 1142

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 793

city, town Salisbury state Maryland 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

postitory for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-228

| | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------|----------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved | date of move | <u>c. 1880</u> |
| <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.

Historically identified as the Messick-Stewart house, and known during the early to mid twentieth century as the Mary Taylor house, this two-story, two-bay frame house stands on the east side of Allen Road in the center of the village of Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland. The side hall/parlor frame house faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Dating from the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century, this two-story, two-bay frame main block and the two-story, two-bay rear wing were moved across Allen Road around 1880 by Benjamin F. Messick in anticipation of building a new dwelling. The house rests on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with vertical T-111 sheathing. The low pitched gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles.

The west (main) elevation is a two-bay facade with a side entrance and adjacent six-over-six sash window. A single bay gable roofed stoop shelters the six-panel front door. The second floor is lighted by a pair of six-over-six sash windows. Finishing the base of the roof is a boxed cornice trimmed with bed and crown moldings.

The north gable end is marked by six-over-six sash windows that light the first and second floors. Piercing the upper gable is a small rectangular vent. The edge of the roof is flush and trimmed with molded bargeboards. The south gable is pierced by a single six-over-six sash window on each floor, and a small vent is located in the upper gable. The edge of the roof is finished with a molded bargeboard.

The east (rear) wall of the main block is largely covered by the two-story, two-bay kitchen wing, which is extended on the south side by an enclosed shed roof porch. Six-over-six sash windows light the first and second floors. A patch in the asphalt shingle roof indicates the former location of the interior end brick chimney.

The interior of the side hall/parlor house has been remodeled over the years, but several mid-nineteenth century features remain in the main block. The parlor retains a c. 1860 mantel defined by plain pilasters and a plain frieze. Fixed in the hall is a mid-nineteenth century staircase that rises against the interior partition. A boldly turned newel post and turned balusters support a molded handrail. Four-panel doors are framed by plain surrounds. The second floor is divided in a similar fashion with an additional room partitioned at the head of the upstairs hall. An enclosed ladder stair provides access to the attic. The rear kitchen wing has been remodeled over the years with little in the way of original woodwork remaining. An early nineteenth century door survives on the upstairs kitchen bedroom doorway. Evident in the flooring of the rear bedroom is evidence of a former staircase fixed in the southeast corner. Small mortise holes in the flooring indicate the location of a series of railing balusters.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-228

| 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

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.

Dating from two distinct periods, the Messick-Stewart house is a modest frame dwelling that was erected on a site across Allen Road from its current location. The house originally stood on the site of the Benjamin F. Messick house until the early 1880s when he moved the this house across the road in preparation of erecting a large two-and-a-half story, Victorian tee-shaped dwelling. (See WI-229) The rear two-story wing of the Messick-Stewart house incorporates an early nineteenth century, one-room plan dwelling that was raised and enlarged around the time of the Civil War. The two-story side hall/parlor front addition retains some period woodwork including a turned baluster staircase and plain mid-nineteenth century mantels. The rear kitchen has been remodeled over the years with little in the way of original woodwork remaining. An early nineteenth century six-panel door survives in the upstairs kitchen bedroom. Small mortise holes in the kitchen bedroom flooring indicate the former position of the hand rail to the original boxed winder staircase.

Benjamin F. Messick relocated this house around 1880 in anticipation of erecting a new Victorian house on his property. The old house was rolled across the road and placed on part of the Methodist Episcopal church's parsonage lot, which was conveyed to Mary J. Mezick (Messick) in October 1883.(Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 6/272) The trustees of the parsonage lot were George J. Porter, William W. Disharoon, John W. Jones, Benjamin F. Mezick, and Simeon F. Malone. Six years the Mary and Benjamin Mezick conveyed the house and portion of the parsonage lot to Charles L. and Elizabeth Porter.(Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 5/90) During the first half of the twentieth century the house and lot are principally held by the Stewart family.

The house qualifies for listing in Category B, which represents buildings that should be preserved due to their architectural and/or historical significance. The early nineteenth century date of the rear wing makes a portion of this house of the older structures to survive in Allen. The side hall/parlor plan front addition is a common architectural form for the period and it is finished with characteristic woodwork of the mid-nineteenth century.

WI-228
Messick-Stewart House
Allen Road
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| JWTS 424/384 | W. F. Messick Ice Company |
| | to |
| 3/14/1957 | Anne Desmond |
| | |
| JWTS 278/187 | Mary Stewart Taylor, widow |
| | to |
| 5/11/1946 | W. F. Messick Ice Company |
| | |
| JCK 130/293 | Robert J. Stewart, Single |
| | to |
| 1/26/1921 | Mary Stewart Taylor James Stewart |
| | |
| EAT 65/190 | John I. T. Long Cora B. Long |
| | to |
| 7/10/1909 | Robert J. Stewart \$200 |
| | |
| JTT 34/494 | Robert M. Porter Lea M. Porter |
| | to |
| 9/17/1902 | Dr. John I. T. Long |

WI-228
Messick-Stewart House
Allen Road
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

JTT 24/277

Charles L. Porter
Elizabeth W. Porter

to

3/4/1899

Robert H. Porter
\$400

FMS 5/90

Benjamin F. Mezick
Mary J. Mezick

to

8/2/1889

Charles L. Porter
Elizabeth W. Porter

part of the M. E. Parsonage Lot

1 acre

SPT 6/272

Trustees of M. E. Church South Parsonage Lot
George J. Porter, William W. Disharoon, John
W. Jones, Benjamin F. Mezick, Simeon F.
Malone

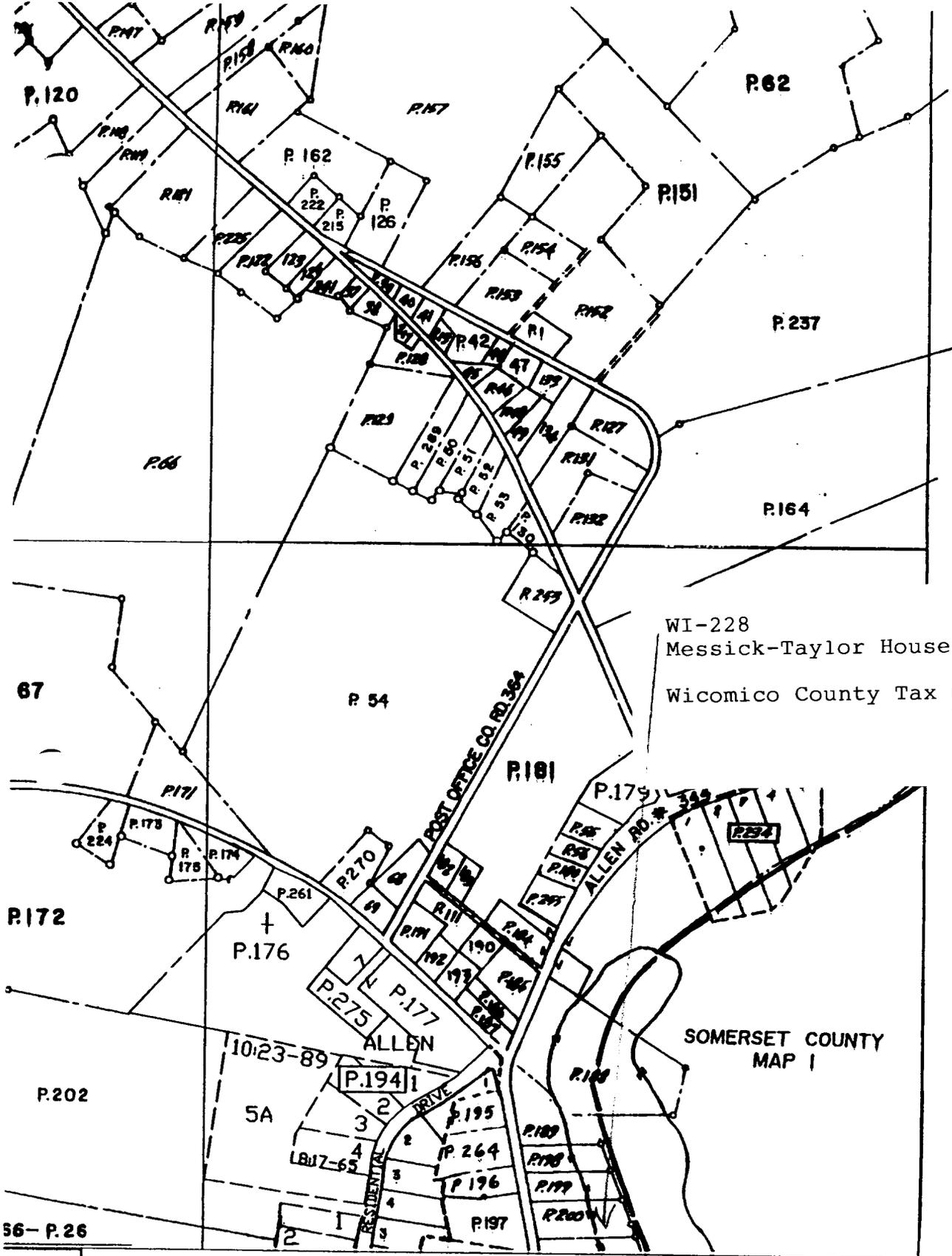
to

10/23/1883

Mary J. Mezick

\$75.00 part of the parsonage lot , part of the
Phillip Mezick lot

2 acre, one roof, and thirty perches
of land more or less



171

WI-228
 Messick-Taylor House
 Wicomico County Tax Map 56
 Parcel 200

SOMERSET COUNTY
 MAP I

168

69722.2mN
 515242.1mE

WICOMICO COUNTY,
 MARYLAND

MAP NO.
 56

1175

1178



Holy Temple

Stem Friendship
Ch.

Allen

CREEK

Loretto

Substation

CONRAIL

WI-228
Messick-Taylor House
Allen Road
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland
Eden, Maryland Quadrangle
1983

42'30"

'39

(PRINCESS ANNE)
5860 11 NW

40'

'42

SCALE 1:24 000



10/1/88

Messing - Stearns House

Area of

11/09

NEC. FUSD. Historical

12



MI-228

MASSICK - Stewart House

1000, 1000, 1000, 1000

1000, 1000, 1000

1000, 1000, 1000, 1000

1000, 1000, 1000, 1000

2
2