

WI-242  
Nichols House  
Allen  
Private

c. 1880

Commonly referred to as the Nichols house, this two-story rectangular frame dwelling is a late nineteenth century structure that differs significantly from the more common late Victorian dwellings that define the village of Allen. In contrast to the two-and-a-half story, three-bay houses that populate the village, this house has a narrow and vertical two-bay principal elevation designed with a side entrance and a low pitched hip roof in stead of the more common gable roof. A turned post porch, common for the late nineteenth century, features sawn corner brackets.

Construction of the house is estimated to date to the late decades of the nineteenth century, probably around 1880-1890. The property during that time was held by a Theodore W. Pusey, who is recorded in the land records as operating a store on the lot. The house, store, and lot entered into a trusteeship under the care of Robert F. Brattan, who sold the property in June 1890 to Andrew Jackson Huffington. A. J. Huffington and his wife, Elizabeth, held onto the property for 10 years, and sold it to Ashland F. Malone in May

In 1931, sisters Lulu and Ruth Nichols purchased the house and lot, and the property remained in Nichols family hands until 1992. Lulu Nichols was the postmaster in Allen between 1946 and 1967.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: NICHOLS HOUSE

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-242

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s):     Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation:       Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s):   Industrial/Urban Dominance  
  1870-1930
4. Resource Type(s):             Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-242

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Andrew Jackson Huffington House

and/or common Nichols House

**2. Location**

street & number South Side of Post Office Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Allen \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Salisbury 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	<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 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 W. Frank and Susan P. Knowles

street & number 746 Beaversrede Trail telephone no.:

city, town Westchester state and zip code PA

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 56, P. 182  
liber 1298

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 411

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

ate \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WI-242

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 Nichols house stands on the south side of Post Office Road in the village of Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, two-bay frame house faces northwest.

Dating to around 1880, the two-story, side hall plan frame house is supported by an infilled brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The low pitched hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the double-pile main block is a single-story kitchen wing.

The northwest (main) elevation is a two-bay facade with a partially glazed door side entrance and two-over-two sash window marking the first floor. A turned post hip roof porch shelters the first floor, and sawn eave brackets mark the upper corners. A pair of two-over-two sash windows light the second floor. The windows are framed by plain surrounds. Finishing the base of the roof is a boxed cornice trimmed with bed and crown moldings.

The southwest side elevation is two bays across with a pair of two-over-two sash windows lighting the first and second floors. Rising through the roof is a centrally located single flue brick chimney. The northeast side elevation, on the other hand, has a single two-over-two sash window in the right bay and a small bay window to the left. The second floor is lighted by two-over-two sash windows.

The rear wall of the main block is partially covered by the single-story, one-room plan kitchen wing, which has a single-flue brick stove chimney rising through the gable end. A shed addition extends the kitchen wing to the rear.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-242

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
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: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" 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.

Commonly referred to as the Nichols house, this two-story rectangular frame dwelling is a late nineteenth century structure that differs significantly from the more common late Victorian dwellings that define the village of Allen. In contrast to the two-and-a-half story, three-bay houses that populate the village, this house has a narrow and vertical two-bay principal elevation designed with a side entrance and a low pitched hip roof in stead of the more common gable roof. A turned post porch, common for the late nineteenth century, features sawn corner brackets.

Construction of the house is estimated to date to the late decades of the nineteenth century, probably around 1880-1890. The property during that time was held by a Theodore W. Pusey, who is recorded in the land records as operating a store on the lot. (Wicomico County Land Record, 28/81) The house, store, and lot entered into a trusteeship under the care of Robert F. Brattan, who sold the property in June 1890 to Andrew Jackson Huffington. A. J. Huffington and his wife, Elizabeth, held onto the property for 10 years, and sold it to Ashland F. Malone in May 1900.(Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 28/83)

In 1931, sisters Lulu and Ruth Nichols purchased the house and lot, and the property remained in Nichols family hands until 1992. (Wicomico County Land Record, 1298/411) Lulu Nichols was the postmaster in Allen between 1946 and 1967.

This house falls into *Category C*, which identifies properties where alterations should be considered carefully since it adjoins a property listed in the A or B group. The house retains its general late nineteenth century integrity and contributes to the historic nature of the village.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-242

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A            
 Zone Easting Northing

B            
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 11/3/95

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2025  
514-7600



WI-242  
Nichols House  
Post Office Road  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

IDT 170/598

Carroll E. Bounds, Assignee and William  
W. Travers

to

10/14/1931

Lulu Nichols  
Ruth Nichols

and the said Ruth Nichols being deceased  
4/1/1976

Carroll E. Bounds, in pursuance of a special  
power and authority in him vested and by  
virtue of a certain mortgage from Ashland  
F. Malone and Amy Malone to Mary A. Wilcox  
10/28/1909 EAT 63/400

JTT 28/83

Andrew Jackson Huffington  
Elizabeth Huffington

to

5/5/1900

Ashland F. Malone

\$200 opposite the residence of the late  
Simeon F. Malone

28/81

Robert F. Brattan, Trustee

to

6/7/1890

Andrew Jackson Huffington

\$275.00 and that right title interest and  
estate of Theodore W. Pusey...all  
that house and lot situate in the  
town of Allen, formerly called Upper  
Trappe...whereon the grantee now  
resides and as the same being the house  
and lot where the said Pusey formerly  
kept store...and also located opposite  
the residence of the late Simeon Malone

WI-242  
Nichols House  
Post Office Road  
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

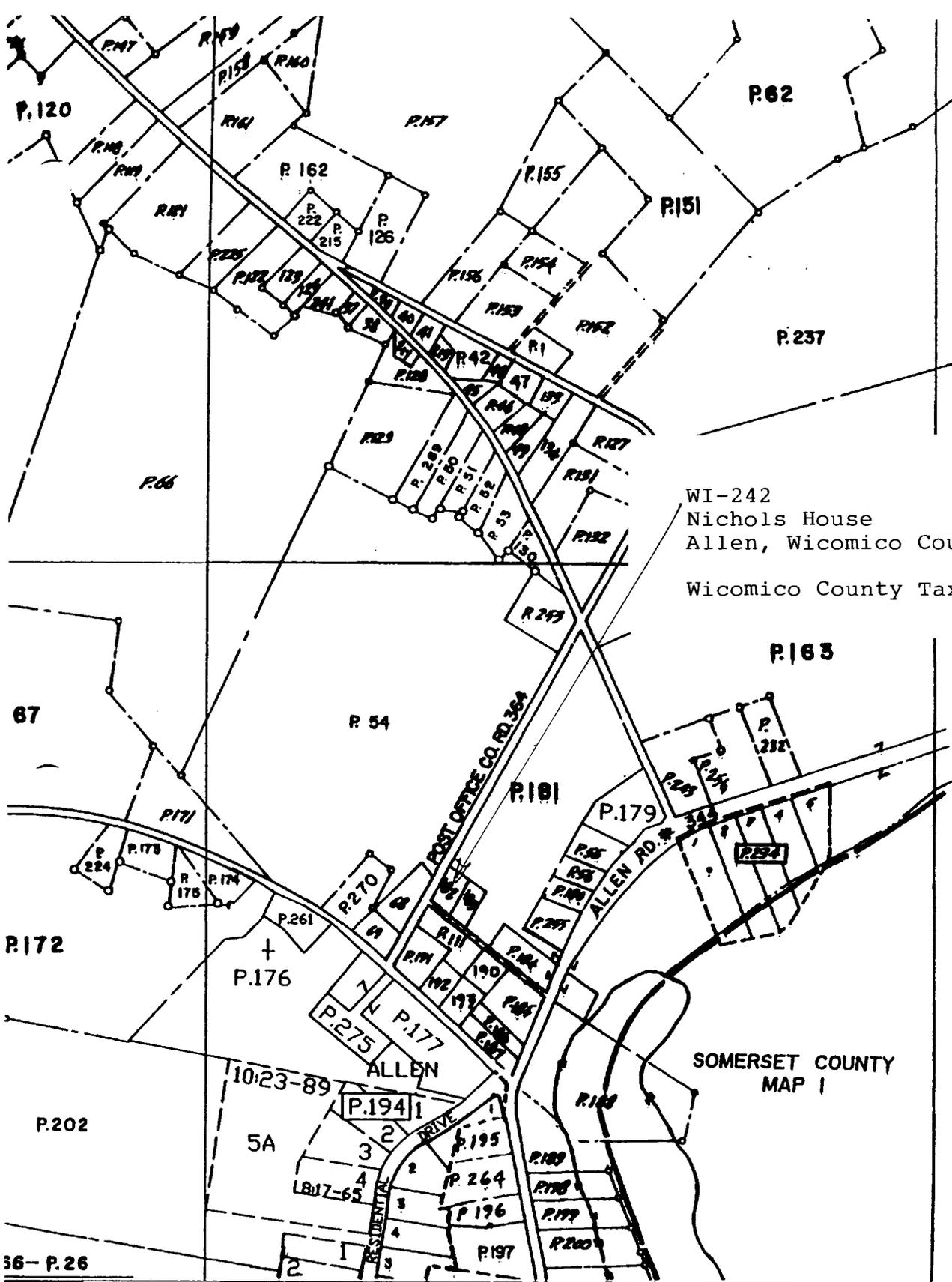
Page 3

? Deed reference  
not found in index

H. H. Dashiell and Company

to

Theodore W. Pusey



WI-242  
 Nichols House  
 Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland

Wicomico County Tax Map 56  
 Parcel 182

SOMERSET COUNTY  
 MAP 1



WICOMICO COUNTY,  
 MARYLAND

697222mN  
 5152421mE

MAP NO.  
 56

1175

1178

168

Holy Temple

Cam Friendship  
Ch

Allen

CREEK

Loretto

Substation

CONRAIL

WI-242  
Nichols House  
Post Office Road  
Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland

Eden, Maryland Quadrangle  
1983

42°30'

'39

(PRINCESS ANNE)  
5860 II NW

40'

'42

SCALE 1:24 000



WI-242

MICHAEL HOUSE

ALLEN, WILSON CO. CONN., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

1/95, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / NO. 175000000 TR 20

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