

WI-389
Gordy House
Delmar vicinity
Private

c. 1850

One of the few antebellum structures to remain standing along Line Road east of Delmar is the Gordy house, a two-story, three-bay frame dwelling estimated to date around 1850-60. The simple boxed cornice that stretches across the base of the roof, the flush gable ends trimmed with plain bargeboards, and the six-over-six sash windows are exterior features that clearly place construction during the middle years of the nineteenth century.

The earliest deed for the house and ten acres was recorded on April 19, 1884 between Jane Gordy "Col." of Sussex County, Delaware and Wesley A. Gordy of Wicomico County, Maryland. Wesley A. and Nancy A. Gordy transferred the property to Clifton James and Vergie Lee Gordy in 1938, who held title to the family house and acreage until their deaths. In 1983 the homeplace was passed on to the next generation of owners. Only a handful of properties in Wicomico County can claim such an unbroken chain of ownership, and fewer yet are associated with an African-American history that dates to the mid nineteenth century.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Gordy House

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-389

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): Dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Gordy House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 31093 Line Road not for publication

city, town Delmar 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Gretta G. and Calvin W. Burnett

street & number 2000 Warwick Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Md 21216

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1355

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 461

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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 Gordy house is located at 31093 Line Road east of Delmar, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling faces north with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Estimated to date around 1850-60, the two-story, three-bay, single-pile frame house is supported on a concrete block foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with asbestos shingles. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, two-bay kitchen wing.

The north (main) facade is a three-bay elevation with an enclosed hip roof porch covering the first floor. The second floor is lighted by three six-over-six sash windows. Trimming the base of the roof is a plain boxed cornice.

The east gable end is a plain wall surface with a pair of two-pane windows lighting the attic. A plain bargeboard trims the flush gable end.

The west gable end, on the other hand, is defined by a single six-over-six sash window on each floor, and a single two-pane window lights the attic. The gable end is finished with a flush eave and a plain bargeboard.

The south side of the main block is largely covered by a two-story, two-bay service wing that gives the house an overall ell shape. Extending from the east side of the rear wing is a single-story shed roofed, enclosed porch. A bank of six-pane windows lights the shed room.

The interior was not seen.

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/ 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 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	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.

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The earliest deed for the house and ten acres was recorded on April 19, 1884 between Jane Gordy "Col." of Sussex County, Delaware and Wesley A. Gordy of Wicomico County, Maryland.¹ Wesley A. and Nancy A. Gordy transferred the property to Clifton James and Vergie Lee Gordy in 1938,² who held title to the family house and acreage until their deaths. In 1983 the homeplace was passed on to the next generation of owners.³ Only a handful of properties in Wicomico County can claim such an unbroken chain of ownership, and fewer yet are associated with an African-American history that dates to the mid nineteenth century.

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 6/293, 19 April 1884.

² Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 206/168, 11 February 1938.

³ Wicomico County Land Record, AJS 985/858, 4 February 1983.

WI-389
Gordy House
31093 Line Road
Delmar vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 12, Parcel

10.84 acres

1355/461

Clifton James Gordy, Jr.
City of Baltimore

to

11/5/1992

Gretta Lavana Burnett
Calvin W. Burnett

AJS 985/858

Clifton James Gordy, Jr.
Personal Representative of the Estate of
Virgie Lee Gordy, deceased

to

2/4/1983

Marion Lee Handy, Gretta Lavinia Burnett, Clifton James
Gordy, Jr. Frank Emory Gordy and Virlee Sharon Gordy
Christoffersen

IDT 206/168

Wesley A. Gordy
Nancy A. Gordy

to

2/11/1938

Clifton J. Gordy
Vergie Lee Gordy

WI-389
Gordy House
31093 Line Road
Delmar vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

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SPT 6/293

Jane Gordy (Colored) Sussex County, Delaware

to

4/19/1884

Wesley A. Gordy
\$263.12 10 acres and 84 square perches

The Marian Gordy house is located at 31093 Line Road east of Delmar, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling faces north with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

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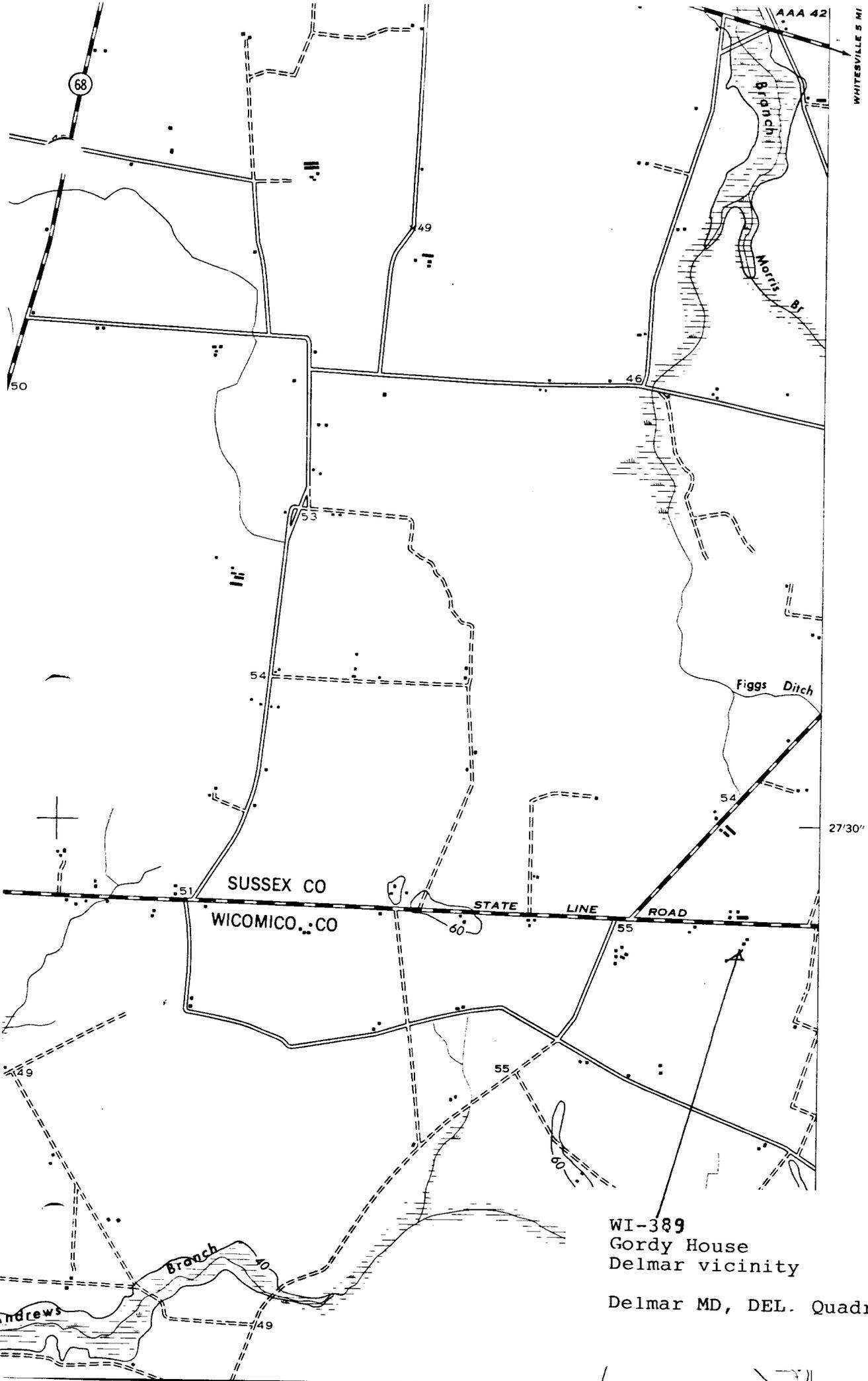
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The interior was not seen.



AAA 42

WHITESVILLE 5 MI

68

50

49

46

53

54

Figgs Ditch

54

27'30"

SUSSEX CO

WICOMICO CO

STATE LINE ROAD

55

60

55

49

Broach

49

WI-389
Gordy House
Delmar vicinity

Delmar MD, DEL. Quadrangle



