

Nelson K. Bolender, President
1st Commissioner District

Harry A. Hepbron
2nd Commissioner District

Phyllis Kilby
3rd Commissioner District

Board of County Commissioners
(410) 996-5201

Alfred C. Wein, Jr.
County Administrator
(410) 996-5203

CECIL COUNTY GOVERNMENT

129 East Main Street
Elkton, Maryland 21921

410-996-5200
410-658-4041

Department of Aging
(410) 996-5295
Economic Development
(410) 996-6292
Emergency Services
(410) 996-5350
Human Resources
(410) 996-5250
Permits and Inspections
(410) 996-5237
Planning, Zoning and Park
(410) 996-5220
Public Works
(410) 996-5265

30 January 2002

Roland & Donna Willard
35 New Bridge Road
Rising Sun, Maryland 21911-1114

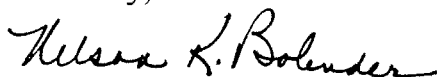
Dear Mr. & Mrs. Willard:

I am pleased to inform you that the Board of County Commissioners of Cecil County, at our meeting of Tuesday, 29 January 2002, voted unanimously to designate the Lowe House and 300' by 400' area immediately surrounding the structure as a historic site.

This designation is made in accordance with Article XI, Part VI, Section 245 of the Cecil County Zoning Ordinance. The Board has determined that the Lowe House contains elements of architectural and historic significance. The architectural significance include that it is one of the earliest and most substantial structures left in Rock Springs, the exterior is intact with two story common bond brick with three bays across and two bays deep, the basement is uncoursed stone, the roof has a medium pitch and is comprised of composition tiles, a three course brick cornice extends across each façade and the window sash is 6/6, the main entrance contains a three light transom and raised six panel door, the front porch is supported by Victorian turned posts and the roof ends are decorated with saw tooth edge boards. The Board finds that the exterior features of the house must be preserved and any external alterations that would cover or compromise the architectural integrity of the house would be prohibited. We make this determination in accordance with Section 245.7.c of the Cecil County Zoning Ordinance.

Thank you for your efforts to preserve Cecil County's historical heritage. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric S. Sennstrom, Director of Planning, Zoning, Parks & Recreation at 410-996-5220.

Sincerely,



Nelson K. Bolender, President
Board of County Commissioners

NKB/ess

CC: Ed Cairns, Chairman HDC
Eric S. Sennstrom, PZP&R

2002-03

National Register of Historic Places: April 5, 2001

Maryland or Cecil Inventory of Historic Properties?

A Preservation Easement by any historic organization? Identify

Are there any other easements or rights of way affecting the District? Explain

Other, explain

9. Please check all of the following criteria that apply to the property.

A. Historical or Archeological

- The property has character, interest, or value as part of the development or cultural characteristics of the County, State, or Nation.
- The property is the site of a significant County, State, or National historic event.
- The property is identified with a person or persons who significantly contributed to the development of the County, State, or Nation.

B. Architectural

- The property has distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style valuable for the study of a period, type, method of construction or use of indigenous materials.
- The property represents the work of a master builder, designer, architect or landscape architect whose work influenced the development of the County, State, or Nation.
- The property has elements of design, detailing, materials or craftsmanship that render it architecturally significant.
- The property has elements that make it structurally or architecturally innovative.
- The property has a unique location or singular physical characteristic that makes it an established or familiar usual feature.
- The property has character as a particularly fine or unique example of a utilitarian structure, with a high level of integrity or architectural significance.
- The property has significant interior features. List MONEY DRAWER, DOOR HARDWARE, INTERIOR MOULDING.

10. Attach a statement describing the property, its historical significance, and the reasons why it should be designated to the Cecil County Register of Historic Places. At the end of the statement, please list your sources of information, including bibliographic references.

11. Signatures of owner(s) of record consenting to this nomination. If there are more than two owners, please attach a separate sheet providing the information indicated.

A. Print Name: ROLAND J. WILLARD Sr Date: 10-30-01

Signature: Roland J Willard Sr.

B. Print Name: DONNA WILLARD Date: 10-30-01

Signature: Donna Willard

12. Name, address and telephone number of person submitting application:

Name: ROLAND OR DONNA WILLARD

Address: 35 NEW BRIDGE ROAD
RISING SUN, MARYLAND 21911-1114

Telephone Numbers: (Home) 410-658-4599 Hours Available: IN ROUT LEAVE
(Work) SAME Hours Available: MESSAGE

E-mail address: RWILLARD@DOL.NET

Date 10-30-01

Official Use Only

Application Number: _____
Date received: _____
Date of Public Notice: _____
Election District: _____
Zoning District: _____
Land Use District: _____
Tax Map: _____
Parcel(s): _____

HDC Hearing Date: _____
PC Hearing Date: _____
CC Hearing Date: _____

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Lowe House is a 2-story common bond brick structure with a center hall plan. It is a single family dwelling situated on a 50-acre farm.

It has 3 bays in the front of the house, 2 bays on the East side, and 4 bays on the West side of the house. The home is in the shape of an "L" with a two-room addition on the East side of the house, which was added in the 1950s; one room presently being used as a dining room, the other a bathroom. A porch on the East side has been enclosed and made a solarium and laundry room in the rear.

The front porch covers the entire front of the house. It has Victorian posts and railings all around. Gingerbread ornaments in the corner past the front door has a 3 light transom and a raised six-panel door with porcelain knob handles. The brick walls are 3 layers of brick thick in common bond pattern. The West side porch is the same except smaller. The door has 3 light transom, but the door has glass on top. The door sills are granite both front and West side. The windows are original 6 over 6 with wavy, bubbled glass, and large window sills on all windows. There are 3 fireplaces in the home with mantles. One in the front living room is more ornate than in the back room, which was the original kitchen, and was a cooking fireplace. The third on the second floor has a plain mantle. The first floor front room on the West side has a drawer under one window, which was believed to be a pay drawer for hired help. The room on the East side of the house has more ornate molding around the windows and door frames. Rooms that do not have fireplaces have places for wood stoves, not all presently being used. All rooms have 6 panel doors with porcelain knobs; two doors have glass knobs.

The room on the West side has the large cook fireplace, which was probably the kitchen, with a plain mantle and cupboards on either side. The windows in the room have rounded sides not square.

The stairs leading up to the bedrooms, turn left on to a small landing and then continue up 3 more stairs. Off to the right are two room that enter in to each other; one small, one larger. Windows and door frames are plain. Large sills are all original. Cupboards flank the chimney stack, cupboards also line the other corner. Cupboards are made of plank board with slide latches with no knobs on any of the cupboard doors. Down a small hall are the other two bedrooms; one smaller and one larger. The larger bedroom has a place for a wood stove (this would have been the room of Elizabeth Lowe described in the deed; see insert). All windows are original as is one of the paneled doors; all porcelain knobs remain. The other stairs are enclosed on the second floor.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORICAL PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

The Lowe House was built around 1830. We know it was standing August 12, 1867, when Joshua Lowe sold the property to his son, Silas, with the stipulation that he would let Elizabeth, Silas's aunt and Joshua's sister, stay in the house and use 2 rooms, one up and one down and all the firewood she needed. When she passed away in 1895, she was 92 years old. Silas was executor of her estate.

The Lowe family was very important to the Rock Springs area. Joshua R. moved to the area in late 1795 (this is as far back as the assessment record in the Historical Society), and purchased 185 acres in 1797 and gradually increased his parcel. The Lowe family was very community minded and leaders of the community. They were also a very large family and the descendents are still spoken about to this day. The house, through the years, has been well-preserved with much of the original woodwork and windows and doors remaining.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house could be called the "House of the Post Master". It has housed four Post Masters in its time. The present owner, Roland Willard, Sr., was a Post Master of Street, Maryland, Harford County for 14 years. Emory Holbrook was Post Master of Conowingo, Maryland, Cecil County for 30 years. Silas Lowe was Post Master of Rock Springs for 28 years, and was also the last Post Master of Rock Springs. Joshua Lowe, father of Silas Lowe, was the first Post Master living in the home, from 1830 to 1838.

It has been said that the Post Office would be in the house of whoever was Post Master at that particular time. Joshua Lowe, was the first from May 10, 1830, to March 5, 1878. These dates are questionable, because although the book of Postal History of Maryland states these dates, Joshua died on May 31, 1870. It also states that Silas was Post Master from 1895 to August 15, 1908, but according to other documents at the Postal Archives, Silas Lowe was Post Master as early as 1880. So I have compiled all Post Masters together with there approximate dates and significant data that I could acquire for this list:

Post Masters of Rock Springs 1830 – 1908

1. Joshua Lowe 1830 – 1838
2. Benjamin Gibson June 19, 1838 – 1852
3. David Reynolds 1852 – 1857
4. Samuel B. McCullough 1851 – 1857
5. McCullean May 2, 1873 – 1878
6. Thomas Kennard 1878 – 1880
7. Silas Lowe April 1880 – August 15, 1908

Post Office closed.

No all of these were living in the Lowe home, only the dates pertaining to the Lowe family are of significance to the home—1830-1838; 1880-1908. There was an article in the Cecil Democrat, an early Cecil County paper, on August 15, 1908, on the closing of the Post Office. No article was written on the opening of the new Post Office as there was no newspaper at that time in 1830.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form may also be used for entering properties into the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and the Maryland Register of Historic Properties.

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name The LOWE HOUSE

other names/site number HUCKLEBERRY MEADOW and CLEARVIEW

2. Location

street & number East of ROCK SPRINGS on 35 New Bridge Road not for publication

city or town Rising Sun (ROCK SPRINGS) vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Cecil code 015 zip code 21911

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Name of Property _____ site/inventory number _____ County and State _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
_____	_____	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic and Government

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Two story - common Bond Brick
with 3 bay across front and
two bays deep

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls Brick
roof shingle, was slate
other _____

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

PLACE NARRATIVE ON CONTINUATION SHEETS

Name of Property _____ site/inventory number _____ County and State _____

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce - The house at one point was a post office and possibly a store.

Period of Significance

Total - 36 years
8 years - 1830-1838
28 years - 1880-1908

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Dates

May 10, 1830 - Post Office Opened
June 19, 1838 - Joshua Lowe, Post Master
April, 1880 - August 15, 1908, Post Office Closed - Silas Lowe

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Joshua Lowe, Silas Lowe

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Mt. Pleasant

DISTRICT No 8

Scale 2 Inches to the Mile

