

AL-V-B-012

La Vale Toll Gate House

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 12-11-2003

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Allegany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: La Vale Toll Gate House	
AND/OR HISTORIC: LaVale Toll Gate House	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: U. S. Route 40			
CITY OR TOWN: La Vale			
STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24	COUNTY: Allegany	CODE: 001

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☒ Preservation work In progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☐ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☒ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☒ Museum	☐ Park ☐ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☒ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY	
OWNER'S NAME: State of Maryland for the State Roads Commission (contact: Maryland Historical Trust, P.O. Box 1704, Annap., 300 West Preston Street /Md.)	
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore City	STATE: Maryland
CODE: 24	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Allegany County Court House	
STREET AND NUMBER: Washington Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland	STATE: Maryland
CODE: 24	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS	
TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks	
DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust	
STREET AND NUMBER: Post Office Box 1704 (50 State Circle)	
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE: Maryland
CODE: 24	

STATE: Maryland	COUNTY: Allegany	ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION				
CONDITION	(Check One)			
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated
	(Check One)		(Check One)	
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE				
The La Vale Toll Gate House is located on the south side of U. S. Route 40 about three-fifths of a mile west of the intersection of U. S. Route 40 and Braddock Road. The intersection is about six miles west of Cumberland, Maryland. This common bond brick, two-story structure has seven sides--a basic polygon plan. The five northern sides, of equal length, form equal angles, one to the other. The two south adjacent sides are longer and they meet at a right angle. A one-story brick addition is appended to each of the longer sides. A later frame one-story wing at one time filled in the square space between these additions. It was demolished in the mid-twentieth century and a reconstructed structure for utilities will again fill in the "square space." The polygon portion of the building contains one unheated room on each floor. The stair winds upward from the west wing. A one-story porch extends around the five outer sides of the polygonal portion and a decorative, non-functional wood cupola tops the peaked roof. Six over six sash in shuttered windows are on each outer side of the polygonal portion, and on each wing, except for the north side of the polygon at the first story level, where double doors form the main entrance. For each adjacent diagonal side, at the first story level only, stuccoed panels, the size of window masonry openings, provide space for the toll rate sign. Originally, it is believed, the first floor brick walls at the porch level were stuccoed, and all exterior walls were whitewashed including the stucco area. In 1969 the toll house restoration construction was started by the Maryland Historical Trust. The office of Orin M. Bullock, Jr., FAIA, is the consulting restoration architect, and Carl Belt, Inc., (P.O. Box 1210) Cumberland, Maryland, is the contracting firm. The La Vale Century Club, of La Vale, Maryland, has been, and will continue on as the custodian for the building. It will furnish the interior, administer the housekeeping, and arrange for the guiding of visitors through the building. The architecture of the La Vale Toll Gate House is almost identical to similar architecture in Pennsylvania--toll houses within the Pennsylvania sections of the National Road. The Searights Tollhouse [sic.] northwest of Uniontown, Pennsylvania, administered by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is of similar polygonal design, with a wing extended from the rear.				

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SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATES (If Applicable and Known)

1835-1836

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

osophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-☒ Commerce☐ Literature

itation

☒ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☒ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The La Vale Toll Gate House is a design oddity outmoded as a transportation necessity, important for its proximity to the original "United States Road," more commonly known as the National (or Cumberland) Road. The National Road from the 1830's through the early 1850's was one of the principal transportation arteries connecting the East Coast with the burgeoning Midwest. Pioneers, immigrants and cattle drivers as well as national figures, such as Henry Clay, William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, James K. Polk and Andrew Jackson, traveled over the road.

Completed in 1836 the La Vale Toll Gate House was the first, and for six years the only, toll house within the Maryland section of the National Road.

The La Vale Toll Gate House and all other tollhouses beside the National Road are related to the national debate, from the 1820's through the 1830's, on the constitutionality of Federal involvement in "internal improvements." Those congressmen who felt that those who used the road should help defray the maintenance costs, also felt their constitutional scruples prevented them from charging tolls on the National Road. (In 1822 a bill providing for tolls on the National Road passed Congress, but President James Monroe vetoed the measure.) Congress circumvented the constitutional question by turning the ownership of the National Road over to the states through which sections of it passed.

In 1835 Maryland accepted ownership of her section of the National Road. Within twelve months the state legislature turned the "freeway" into a toll road establishing an elaborate system of rates and fares (a replica of the tariffs is still visible on the north wall) and provided for the construction of tollgates and houses.

The Federal government, following the terms of the transfer of the National Road to the State of Maryland, simultaneously provided the funds for the construction of the La Vale Toll Gate House, according to the 1836 report of the Superin-

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Allegany	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

La Vale Toll Gate House

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

tendent of the National Road in the State of Maryland to the Governor.

During 1837, its first year of operation, \$9,745.90 in tolls were collected at the La Vale Toll Gate House. The State of Maryland continued to receive tolls until 1878 when the National Road and the tollhouse at La Vale became the property of Allegany County (later to be repurchased).

Eclipsed in importance for several decades by the westward expansion of the railroads, the National Road returned to national prominence when, in 1925, portions of it became U. S. Route 40. The La Vale Toll Gate House did not, in the twentieth century, return to its original use. Local appreciation of the significance of this tollhouse has existed, at least since Mr. Robert W. Young purchased the building. Just before his death in 1957 he convinced the State of Maryland to purchase the property. Since that time interested Allegany countians and the Maryland Historical Trust have combined their efforts to restore the La Vale Toll Gate House.

#9. REFERENCES continued

Annals of the Congress of the United States, XXXVI, 16th Congress 1st Session, Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1855.

Annals of the Congress of the United States, XXXIX, 17th Congress 1st Session, Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1855.

Debates in Congress, XXX, 19th Congress, 2nd Session, Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1829.

Congressional Debates, X, Part 1, 1st Session of 23rd Congress, 1833-1834, Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1834.

Laws of Maryland, 1831, Chapter 85.

_____, 1878, Chapter 158.

_____, 1832, Chapter 55.

_____, 1834, Chapter 203.

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Form 10-300a
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Allegany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

La Vale Toll Gate House

#9. REFERENCES continued

Laws of Maryland, 1835, Chapter 305

_____, 1837, Chapter 52.

James Thomas, Governor of Maryland, "Communication from the Executive Enclosing a Communication from the Secretary of War in Relation to the Cumberland Road," March 6, 1835, Public Documents, M60, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

Thomas H. Shriver, "Report of the Superintendent of the National Road in the State of Maryland," Annapolis: William McNeir, 1837, Public Documents M61, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

_____; "Report of the Superintendent of the National Road with Abstracts of Tolls Received from 12th October 1836 to 1st October 1837," Dec. 1, 1837, Public Documents M61, Document F, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

J. Huddleson, "First Semi-Annual Report of J. Huddleson Superintendent of the National Road Within the Limits of Maryland," Annapolis: 1843, Maryland Public Documents, 1842, Document E, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

T. Thistle, "Seventh and Eighth Semi-annual Reports of T. Thistle, Superintendent of the National Road Within the Limits of the State of Maryland," 1843, Maryland Public Documents, 1842, Document F, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

Telephone conversation with Mr. Hampsh of State Roads Commission (421), 300 W. Preston St., Baltimore, Maryland, Aug. 19, 1970.

Andrew Heubeck, Jr., Secretary, Board of Public Works to Orlando Ridout IV, Director, Maryland Historical Trust, at Annapolis, Maryland, October 5, 1967, files of Maryland Historical Trust.

Allegany County Land Records, Hall of Records, Annapolis, Md.

Allegany County Planning and Zoning Commission, "Historic Landmarks in Allegany County," January 1965, Cumberland, Md., files of Maryland Historical Trust.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

MHT AL-5

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Allegany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

La Vale Toll Gate House

#9. REFERENCES continued

James W. Thomas and J. T. C. Williams, History of Allegany County, Maryland ..., 2 vols., n.p.: L. R. Titsworth, 1923.

Will H. Lowdermilk, History of Cumberland, (Maryland) from the Time of the Indian Town, Caiuctucuc, in 1728 Up to the Present Day, ..., Washington: James Anglim, 1878.

"Searights Tollhouse A Restored Tollhouse on the First National Road to the West," administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, leaflet, files of the Maryland Historical Trust

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: James T. Wollon, Jr., AIA, the office of Orin M. Bullock, Jr., Baltimore, Maryland, September 1970.
Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland, August 1970.

Annals of Congress, XV, Ninth Congress, December 2, 1805 to March 3, 1807, Washington: Gales and Seaton, 1852.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	0	0	0	0	0	0	37 0 38 14
NE	0	0	0	0	0	0	78 0 51 07
SE	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SW	0	0	0	0	0	0	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

1.4 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

Dec. 4, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:

Post Office Box 1704 (50 State Circle)

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☒

Name

Orlando Ridout IV

Title

State Liaison Officer
for Maryland

Date

DEC 4 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

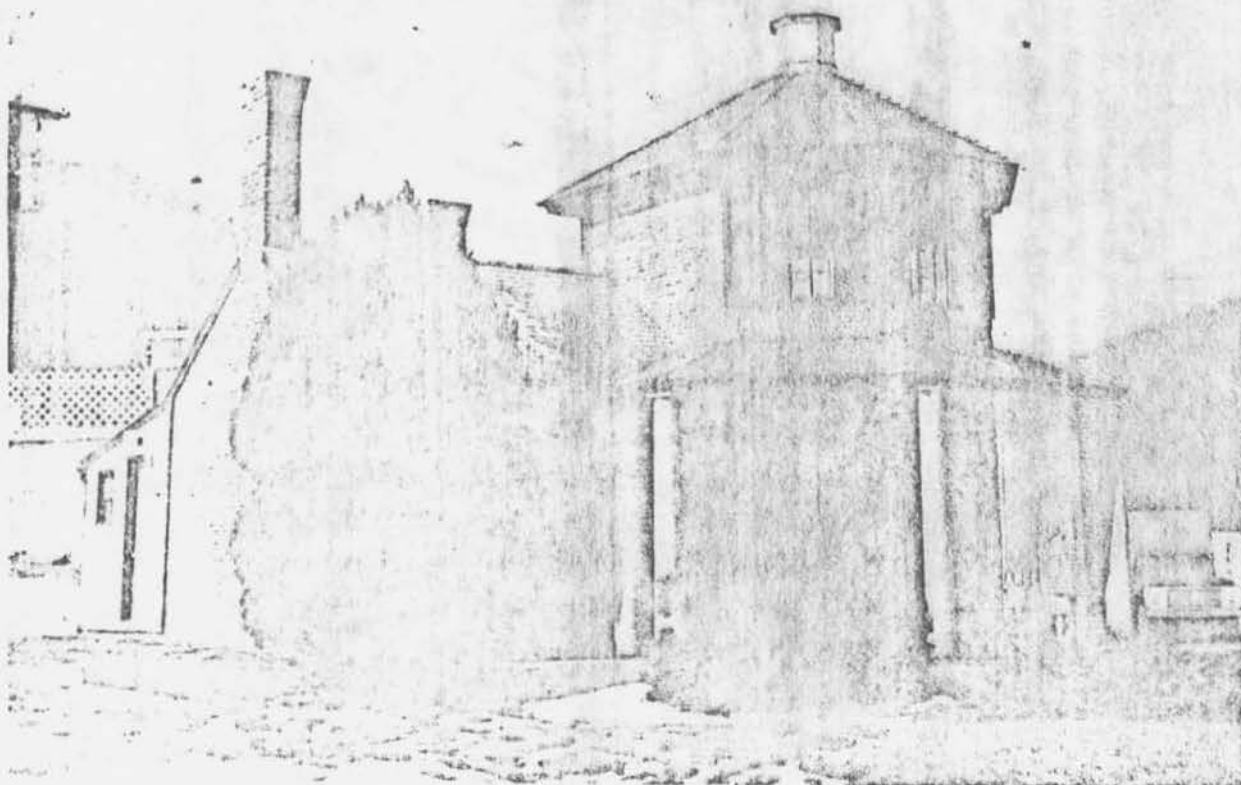
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Allegany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

MHT
AL-5

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: La Vale Toll Gate House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: LaVale Toll Gate House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER U. S. Route 40			
CITY OR TOWN: La Vale			
STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Allegany	CODE 001
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: James T. Wollon, Jr.			
DATE OF PHOTO: February 19, 1970			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Maryland Historical Trust, P. O. Box 1704, Annapolis, Md. 21404			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. east elevation			



ALV 012

Form 10-301
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MHT AL-5

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Allegany	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: La Vale Toll Gate House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: LaVale Toll Gate House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER			
U. S. Route 40			
CITY OR TOWN:			
La Vale			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Allegany	001
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map Cumberland Quadrangle, Maryland			
SCALE: 1:24 000			
DATE: 1969			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

1. STATE Maryland
COUNTY Allegany
TOWN
STREET NO.

VICINITY

ORIGINAL OWNER
ORIGINAL USE
PRESENT OWNER
PRESENT USE
WALL CONSTRUCTION
NO. OF STORIESHISTC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
INVENTORY AL-52. NAME Toll Gate House LAVALEDATE OR PERIOD
STYLE
ARCHITECT
BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC

(5A) Toll Gate House

The National Road was a federally financed highway quite adequate for its time. To travel the Pike one had to pay tolls at various points, and toll gate houses were erected for the collection of these fees. The first of these oddly octagonal structures still stands on what is now the south side of Route 40 just west of LaVale. This particular brick structure was built in 1833 and is the only structure of its kind on the Maryland portion of the road. The State of Maryland purchased the Toll Gate House in 1955 and under the direction of Miss Ruth Clauson, a past-president of the Allegany County Historical Society, and Regent of the Cresap Chapter of the DAR, it has been

restored to good condition. Aid in the restoration has been contributed by various organizations and individuals. The posts which held the gates that crossed the road still stand and there are exhibited on the sides of the building lists of the various types of conveyances and the appropriate fare for each. The interior of the Toll Gate House has been restored through private contributions and the furnishings are typical of the period of operation. The house is open only upon request. Both architecturally and historically this is a very interesting edifice.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE

Endangered

Interior

Exterior

**** Source: Historic Landmarks in Allegany County****A staff report by the Allegany County Planning
& Zoning Commission, Cumberland, Md. Jan. 1965**

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

DATE OF RECORD

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



CUMBERLAND QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1:24,000
1949

lat. 37°38'14"
long. 78°51'07"

Allegany Grove

LA VALE TOLL GATE HOUSE

Winchester

Braddock

LaVale

Roberts

Bowling Green

cal Survey

(CRESAP TOWN)
526.1 III SE
SCALE 1:24,000

ALV-B-02



AL-V-012

LaVale Toll Gate House Restoration

Project # 24-71-00005-00

AL-V-B-12

Front elevation



LA VALE TOLL GATE HOUSE

AL-V-B-12

AL-5.
AL-V-012

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PHOTO CkE-IT, Please, . . . to

M. E. WARREN

P. O. Box 1508 Annapolis, Maryland

Maryland Illustrated File # 713



LAVALLE TOLLGATE HOUSE

AL-5

AL-V-B012

Md. Historical Trust
94 College Ave.
Annapolis, Md. 21401

JAMES NOLLON, JR 19. FEB 1971



TOLL GATE HOUSE S x W ELEV. (SW CORNER) AL-5

AL-V-B-012

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MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

2.19.70 J. T. W. JR



TOLL GATE HOUSE, SW CORNER - REAR ELEV. AL-5

AL-V-B-012

2-5-2

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

SW corner of toll house

J. T. W. JR
2. 19. 70



TOLL GATE HOUSE

AL-5

AL-V-B-012

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

2.19.70 J. T. W. JR



TOLL GATE HOUSE ~~W. Room~~ (NW) AL-5

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AL-V-B-12

W Room - (NW)

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

2.19.70 J.T.W., JR



TOLL GATE HOUSE

AL-5

AL-V-B-12

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

2.19.70

J. T. W. JR.

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TOLL GATE HOUSE

AL-5

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MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

Prismatic (7 sided) office (N. door

prismatic
7 sided office.

2.19.70

N door of office.

J.T.W. JR 2.19.70

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