

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

18 December 2002

Debra A. Schwer  
159 Little Elk Creek Road  
Elkton, Maryland 21921


RE: Historic Designation – Wherry-Jordan-Logan-Schwer House

Dear Ms. Schwer:

I am pleased to inform you that the Board of County Commissioners, at our meeting of Tuesday, 17 December 2002, approved the nomination to designate the Wherry-Jordan-Logan-Schwer House as a historic structure. Items of note pertaining to the historical significance include that the house was erected circa 1750 and was inhabited by Ebenezer Wherry, a descendant of Revolutionary War hero David Wherry. Items of architectural note include the split level design that permits ground level entry on both floors, 24" thick fieldstone walls, original pine flooring on second and third floors, original staircase to attic, original doors and hardware, original oak roof framing, two end chimneys with one possessing a colonial fireplace, several original pegged window frames remain, original kitchen, original lime coating throughout beams and planking, and the roof consisting of a box cornice.

Thank you for your efforts to preserve the historic heritage of Cecil County.

Sincerely,

  
Nelson K. Bolender, President  
Board of County Commissioners

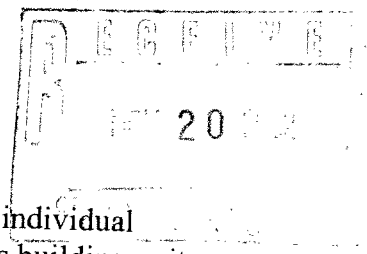
NKB/ess

CC: Eric S. Sennstrom, AICP

2002-05

13-9-170 RR

# CECIL COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATION FORM



Please refer to separate detailed instructions for completing this form.

### Definition

"Property" refers to the entire geographic area being nominated. It may be an individual building, site, structure or object; or it may be a district consisting of numerous buildings, sites, structures or objects. An area consisting of several types of structures with different owners is also a property that is a district.

### Nomination Information: Please Print or Type

1. a) Name of property: Wherry - JORDON - LOGAN - SCHWER House
- b) Estimated age or historic dates: APPROX 1750 - HOUSE built 1700-1800
2. Address of property: 159 LITTLE ELK CREEK RD. ELKTON, MD 21921  
(formerly MACKIE ROAD)
3. Tax Map: DIST 04 - MAP 13 - GRID 9 Parcel Number: 170 DEED Reference NDS 91-649
4. Name, address, and telephone number of all property owners of record within the District:  
DEBRA Ann SCHWER  
159 LITTLE ELK CREEK ROAD  
ELKTON, MD. 21921  
Phone: 410-392-3960

(Attach separate sheet, if necessary)

5. Description of property boundaries of the District:  
HOUSE sits on a parcel of land on west side of Little Elk Creek Road in the 4th  
Electoral District. Survey and copy of DEED with dimensions is attached.  
My house sits in the Little Elk Creek Historic District between the  
Beehive + Brookings House and the former Jessup + Moore Paper Co in  
Providence.

6. Attach a map showing the boundaries and location of the site or District.  Attchd
7. Please provide photographs or slides showing the important structures or features of the property. I have taken photos throughout my 20 years of restoration work  
I will send you some.
8. Please check all designations that apply to this nomination. Add descriptive information for those checked. Is or has this property, in any part, been listed or nominated to:

Cecil County Historic Designation: Architectural and historic significance

Maryland Register of Historic Properties: Never Applied

National Register of Historic Places: Never applied-but have been doing all restoration according to their standards.

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 NOT THAT I KNOW OF

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 A 4 page letter is enclosed which explains more about the house

The architecture and artifacts found prove it was built 1700's and NOT AS LATER QUINTESS.

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.

I believe the house is of important historic value in its construction, but also it was owned by Ebenezer Wherry, a descendant of David Wherry who served in the Revolution. (from Anne Copley's book "Some Mackay Settlers Along the Mason Dixon Line")

Prepared 6-1-92 by Debra Schuee

The stone house located at 159 Little Elk Creek <sup>(Formerly Mackay Road)</sup> sits on a small knoll on the west bank of the Little Elk Creek between Rte 273 and Providence.

It is actually a 3 story dwelling but is peculiar in that it is split level. It is constructed of fieldstone laid without pattern. The walls are 24" thick. Oak beams of mortise + tenon joinery support the 2<sup>nd</sup> + 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. The simple but excellent craftsmanship of design joins these oak beams into the stone walls in a manner in which they do not extend through to outside, nor do they join into a support beam along the length of the house. (I am not as adept to historical or archaeological terminology - so please accept my explanations as best I can render them).

Original pine flooring exists on the 2<sup>nd</sup> + 3<sup>rd</sup> floors and the original winding stairway to the attic exists. There are several original doors and hardware.

I believe the house was constructed in the late 1700's. Although I have not had time to research it any further than the 1860's - - simply because of the very extensive renovation work I've undertaken. I am attempting to restore the house to its original condition and am staying within Historic Preservation guidelines. A new cedar shake roof was just completed in 1991. The original roof framing of oak beams is intact and is held together with hickory pegs. There are two inside end chimneys, one of which is a very large colonial fireplace but is still covered over.

Upstairs. Due to the extensive amount of work + money involved I cannot afford to rebuild the chimney yet - but it will be no problem to do since the <sup>top</sup> chimney was removed and the roof closed over it - it can be rebuilt through the roof with no structural problems or destruction. I believe there was a large fireplace on the first floor - but it was removed and only a support column remains. The first floor living area is still a dirt floor underneath - and will be my next renovation. I hope to find more clues to the age of the house when I undertake this. The house still has ~~several~~ <sup>(GOD)</sup> original pegged window frames.

The original kitchen window and door were discovered while attempting to ~~repair~~ an added-on kitchen. The addition was removed to expose the original kitchen.

The house construction is very unique in that it is split level and you are at ground level on both the first + second floors. It has a second floor entry and the second floor is similar to an open loft construction. I have the original shutters and had shutter-dogs made to replicate the shell pattern of the original shutter dogs which I uncovered while digging. I

There have been major drainage renovations done because the roof water had to be drained from the back 'dead corner' of the house (the living room + kitchen are backed by @ 10 feet of soil and you are underground on

Three sides at the 'living room' level.

A deck WAS Added along the front of the house in 1991 for practical purposes and to tie the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor entrances together. This is NOT a historically accurate addition but does not harm the integrity of the house because it is not attached to the house permanently. And it could be removed without damaging the structure. However, if they were to put a deck on the house originally, I believe this is how they would have done it. ☺

The original staircase from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor was gone when I arrived and the reconstruction of this stairway cannot be undertaken until I do the living room floor.

The original lime coating still exists on the beams and planking of the house throughout.

The house is simple in construction - but beautifully simple. Oak beams support each window-well above.

The roof has a plain box cornice.

The bedroom over the kitchen was added in the 1900's. I have no early photographs but would love to see some should anyone have some available.

I found no 'date stone' while removing the stucco and repointing - but perhaps if I continue searching.

I believe this house to be the same age as Tucker's 'Beehive' structures. Although the interesting thing about it is how uniquely different it is from other stone houses of similar age in the area. Each is so

...4  
Uniquely different. I Am Amazed At the Amount of Superior Craftmanship that went into constructing each one!

Originally, when built, the house was surrounded by an acre of woods and faced the Little Elk Creek but was built high enough above the creek to avoid any flood worries. It must have been incredibly bucolic before they moved the road which now runs in front of the house.

This house warrants preservation and respect and it does not "allow" shoddy workmanship! Any renovation or restoration I've undertaken had to be done absolutely correctly or it would not work! I have the utmost respect for restoration of historic structures and welcome any help from Antiquarian Preservation. I Am very lucky to live here.

Sincerely  
Debra Schuman

Written 10/5/02:

NOTE: I Am very concerned about encroaching development and would like to protect my property from even being destroyed. My house is located within the Little Elk Creek Historic District and I have paperwork which explains its historic significance in the 1700's in the Little Elk Creek District. The house still needs work. I need funds and an able craftsman. Thankyou for sending me An Application.

P.S. I have the deed of 1873 in which Ebenezer and Margaret A. Wherry granted it to William Johnson DAS 10-5-02

5 pages Attached  
3 pictures  
Enclosure

### CECIL COUNTY REGISTER OF HISTORIC RESOURCES PRE-APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION FORM

This application is for preliminary review only – it does not commit either the applicant or the Commission to proceed with a formal application. If, and when, further application is deemed appropriate, the Commission is prepared to assist the applicant with that procedure.

1. Name of Property

My house (Wherry-Jordon-Logan-Schwer)

1873 DEED IS EARLIEST I've had time to research. House was definitely built in 1700's, though

2. Address

159 Little Elk Creek Road  
Elkton MD. 21921

3. Date of Structure: Approx. 1750 Date of Historical Event: 1700-1800

4. Has property previously received historic designation from any Federal, State, or County agency? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_  No *Have not applied*  
If yes, please indicate which one(s) \_\_\_\_\_

5. Please provide a short summary of what you consider to be the historic significance of the property.

I Am enclosing a 4 page letter which I wrote in 1992 when I was thinking of applying to the National Historic Register. I never found the time to finish the paperwork then.

6. Please include photos which depict the property and any surroundings you consider to be a significant part of it. I ALSO have photos taken all during renovations I did from 1983 to present.

7. Your: Name DEBRA A. SCHWER  
Address 159 Little Elk Creek Road  
Elkton MD 21921  
Phone (day) 410-392-3960 (night) same  
Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail dschwer@crosslink.net

Debra Schwer  
159 Little Elk Creek Rd.  
Elkton, MD 21921

Please return to:  
Office of Planning and Zoning  
129 East Main Street, Room 300  
Elkton, MD 21921



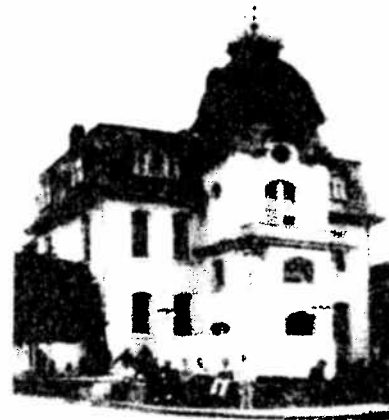
**CECIL COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION**

Room 300, 129 East Main Street

Elkton, Maryland 21921

Tel: 410-996-5220

Fax: 410-996-5305



Cecil County Courthouse, Elkton, MD  
Circa 1920

*Rev'd 10/4/02*

October 3, 2002

Debra Schwer  
159 Little Elk Creek Road  
Elkton, MD 21921

RE: Jordon-Logan House

Dear Debra Schwer:

The enclosed information is being sent to owners of historic properties in rural Cecil County to announce an exciting new opportunity for them to preserve and protect historic property to their benefit and that of future generations. The County Commissioners recently amended the Zoning Ordinance to provide for designation of properties as historically significant to the County, set standards for protecting those properties, and award property tax credits to those who do.

The brochures provide answers, which hopefully will assist you in deciding whether you wish to take advantage of this. Please read and give them careful consideration. If you want an appraisal of your property's historic significance, fill in and send us the pre-application and our Commission will review it and give you their opinion. There is no cost or obligation for this. If you decide to formally apply, please contact the Cecil County Office of Planning, Zoning, and Parks & Recreation at 410-996-5220 to obtain a nomination application. Presently there is no fee for filing. ✓

Thank you for your time and consideration.

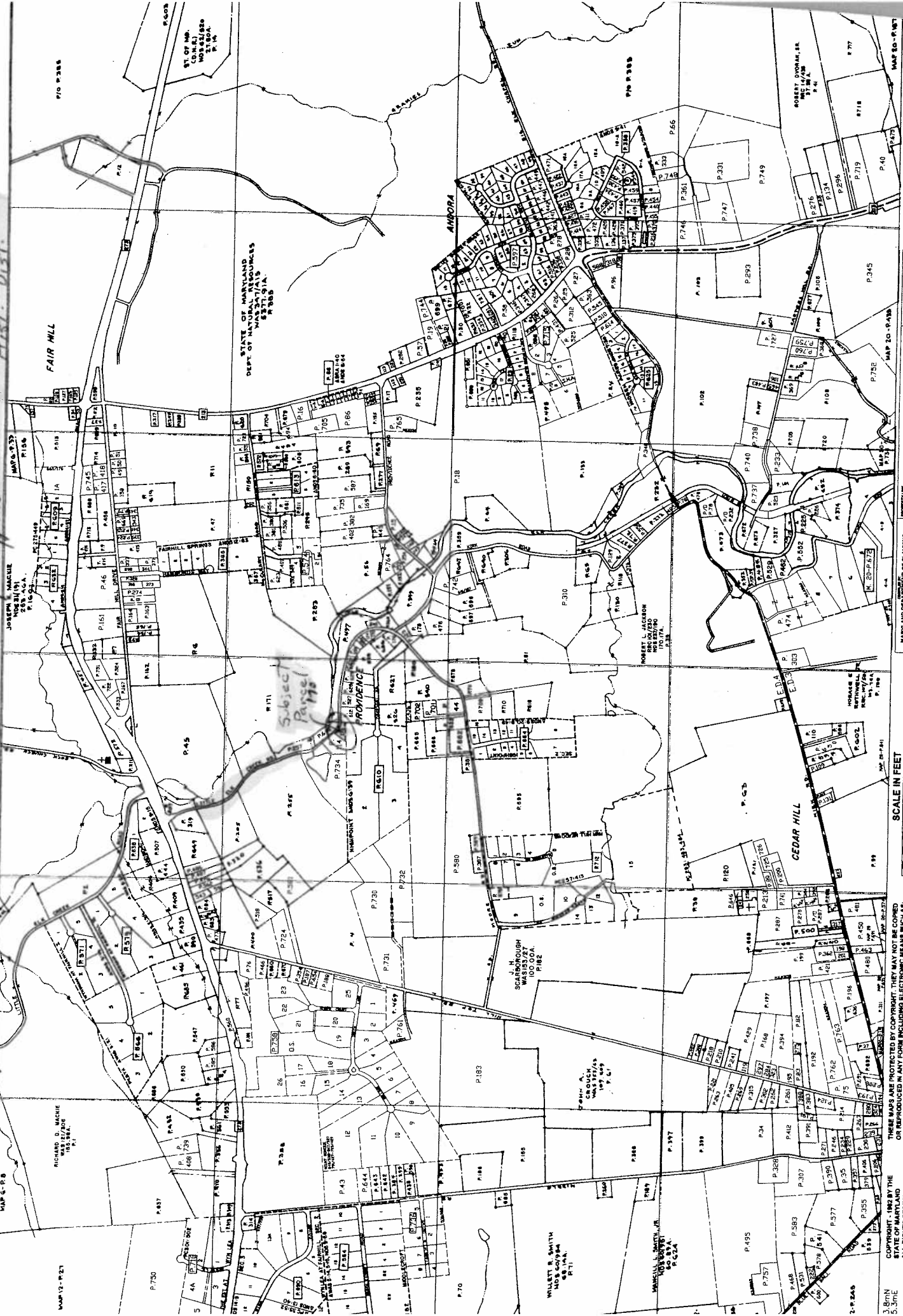
Sincerely,

Edward L. Cairns, Chairman  
Historic District Commission

P.S. If you no longer own a historic property, please notify us; we are anxious to have correct information.

File # 2002-05  
Hist. Dist.

Map 13 / parcel 170



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING  
 1115  
 1121



SCALE IN FEET  
 0 600 1200 1800  
 1112  
 1115  
 1121

1109

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3.8mN  
5.3mE

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