

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-2

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic  Walter and Ida Allnutt House  
 other

## 2. Location

street and number 6920 Damascus Road  not for publication  
 city, town Gaithersburg  vicinity  
 county Montgomery

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

name Robert L Allnutt  
 street and number 6920 Damascus Road telephone 301.253.2714  
 city, town Gaithersburg state MD zip code 20882

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County liber16161 folio 304  
 city, town Rockville tax map tax parcel P909 tax ID number 01-00000157

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count		
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>6</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>6</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				_____	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. 15/29-2

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair                altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### Summary

The Walter and Ida Allnutt House (c1912-1917), 6920 Damascus Road, is located on a 4.63 acre parcel that includes the dwelling house and several outbuildings. The residence is a traditional building type found throughout the upper county from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century, being a cross gable form with full width porch and an ell plan. Typical of vernacular houses in the region, the residence exhibits a confluence of stylistic influences, both Gothic Revival and Colonial Revival. The center cross gable roof and triangular arch window are Gothic Revival stylistic details, while the slender Doric porch columns and balustrade are Colonial Revival.

### Description

The frame two-story dwelling has a three by two bay front block with one by one bay rear ell. The front block has a center cross gable roof and full width porch. The house is characterized by a full-width front porch, a central front gable, and a steeply pitched standing seam roof with interior gable-end brick chimneys. The central door is surmounted by a full-width transom.

The standing seam metal roof is punctuated at the side and rear gables with interior end chimneys. The house sits on a poured concrete foundation. The structure is clad in aluminum siding and has 1/1 replacement aluminum windows. A rear side porch was enclosed on the southeast façade in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century to provide additional space.

The house has been altered with artificial siding and replacement windows. It retains its character defining features including center cross gable form, full width porch with Doric columns, triangular arched gable window, standing seam metal roof, and interior end chimneys.

A garage and several frame outbuildings stand on the southeastern (rear) portion of the property.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-2

Name Walter and Ida Allnut House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 1

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Walter and Ida Allnut House, 6920 Damascus Road  
Front (north) façade, 11-2007

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-2

Name Walter and Ida Allnutt House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 2

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Walter and Ida Allnutt House, 6920 Damascus Road  
Overall view south from Damascus Road, 1-2009

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-2

Name Walter and Ida Allnutt House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 3

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Walter and Ida Allnutt House, 6920 Damascus Road  
1-2009

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-2

Name Walter and Ida Allnutt House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 4

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Walter and Ida Allnutt House, 6920 Damascus Road  
1-2009

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-2

Name Walter and Ida Allnut House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 5

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Walter and Ida Allnut House, 6920 Damascus Road  
Garage with shed extension, 11-2007

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-2

Name Walter and Ida Allnutt House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 6

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Outbuilding, possible smokehouse, 11-2007

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-2

Name Walter and Ida Allnut House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 7

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Walter and Ida Allnut House, 6920 Damascus Road, 11-2007  
Outbuildings: Above, view from north (garage at far right)



# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-2

Name Walter and Ida Allnutt House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 8

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Etchison School privy, 11-2007

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-2

Name Walter and Ida Allnut House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 9

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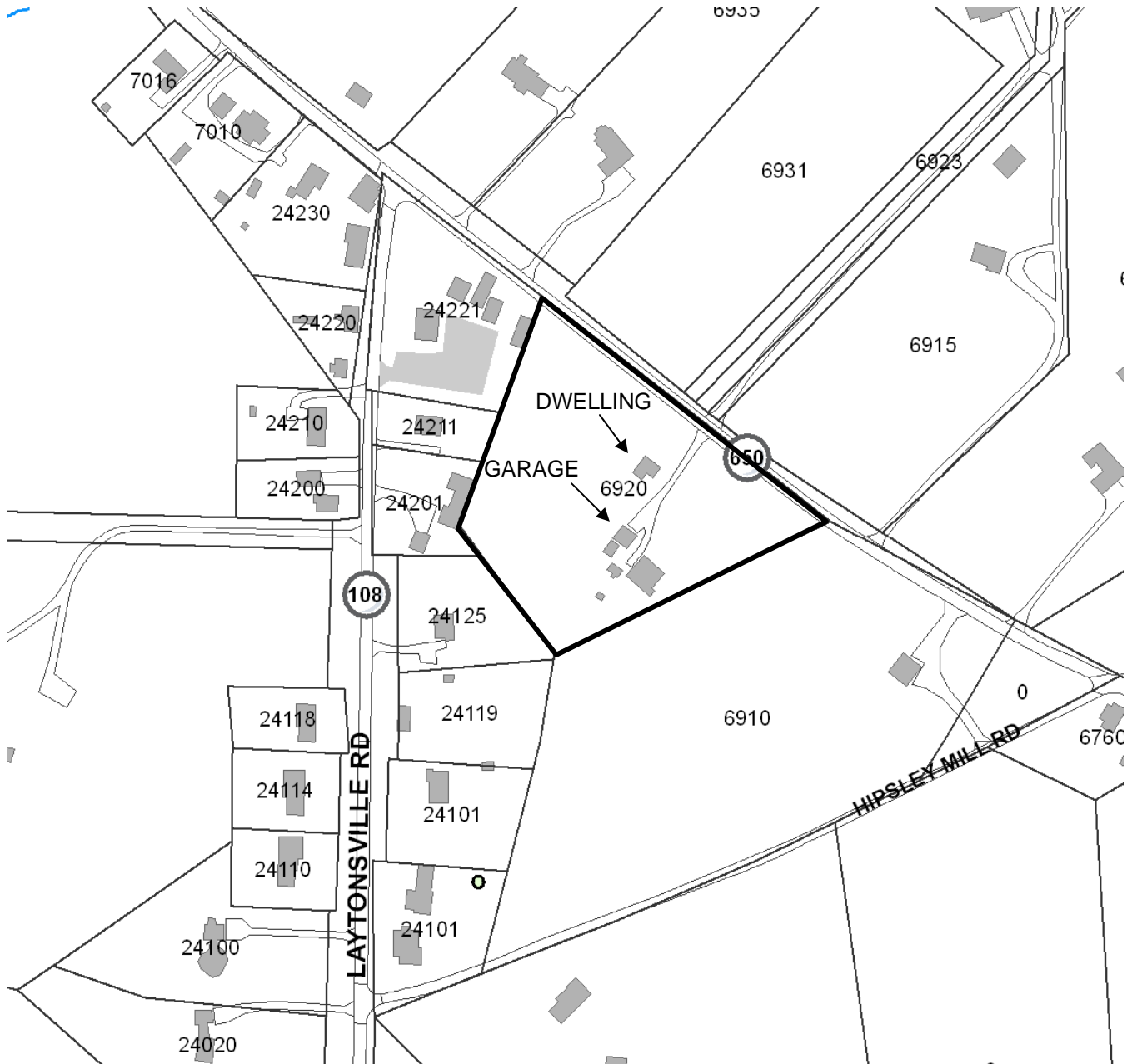
Pictometry, view north, 2008

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-2

Name Walter and Ida Allnut House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 10



## 8. Significance

Inventory No. 15/29-2

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates	c1912-1917	Architect/Builder
<b>Construction dates</b>		

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Walter and Ida Moore House is a center cross gable house, built c1912-1917. The late example of its type is an illustration of the persistence of tradition, and particularly of the affinity the Moore family had for building late models of house styles. Several other examples of traditional Moore family residences have been documented in the Etchison area, built long after nationally popular styles were accepted locally.

### Moore-Allnutt Family

The house was constructed between 1912 and 1917. The latter date is when the land was first carved out of the Moore Farm for owners Walter and Ida May Allnutt. Current owner Robert Allnutt, grandson of Walter and Ida May Allnutt, related family tradition that the house was built in 1912.<sup>1</sup>

Luther and Lydia Moore lived on a farm to the north (#15-28, 7201 Damascus Road). The Moore farm straddled Damascus Road east and west of current-day Etchison. Their children, including William F. and Ida May, came of age in the 1910s. The Moore's land straddled Damascus Road east of Laytonsville Road. William Moore and his wife Pearl built 24221 Laytonsville Road. Ida May married Walter T. Allnutt and they built a house next to William, at 6920 Damascus Road.<sup>2</sup>

For \$150, Ida May Moore (1891-1943) and Walter Allnutt (1888-1979) purchased a three acre parcel of land from Ida's parents, Luther and Lydia E. W. Moore, in 1917. Three years later, they augmented their land with a one-acre parcel, also part of the Moore Farm.<sup>3</sup> Walter Allnutt, a farmer, was described on the 1930 census as being owner and operator of a general purpose farm.

### Etchison

The Allnutt House was built during a building boom in Etchison. The store, church, and several residences in Etchison date from this era. Etchison is located at the intersection of two ridge roads, Laytonsville Road and Damascus Road, which separate the Patuxent and Seneca watersheds. Another road, Hipsley Mill Road, led to a mill on the Patuxent River. Farms in the immediate vicinity belonged to Snyder, Hawkins, Moore, and Griffith.

<sup>1</sup>Deed 262:430. Robert Allnutt interview, Rachel Kennedy also related that the house was built by Charles Hawkins. This has not been substantiated. Tax records list construction date as 1913.

<sup>2</sup>#15-28 Inventory Form. Family record research. Deeds.

<sup>3</sup>Deed PBR 294:89

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-1

Name Walter and Ida Allnutt House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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Etchison developed as a rural crossroads village beginning in the immediate post-reconstruction period. The Etchison community has its origins with the 1876 acquisition by Marcellus Etchison of land at the crossroads.

In 1876, Marcellus Etchison (1850-1935) acquired a two-acre lot from Luther J Moore and his mother, Lydia R Moore at the northwest intersection of Laytonsville Road and Damascus Road, for which he paid \$62.50. The Moores had a well-established farm with farmstead on the north side of Damascus Road (Resource #15/28, 7201 Damascus Road) and acreage straddling Damascus Road east and west of current-day Etchison. By 1879 Marcellus had a store and blacksmith shop on his property.

Beginning in the 1880s, Etchison with populated with members of the Hawkins family who were instrumental in operating commercial enterprises and active leaders in the Mt Tabor Church. Hawkins family members continued to build houses in Etchison into the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The population of Etchison grew in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as offspring of neighboring farmers settled at the crossroads.

### Building Traditions

An evaluation of Etchison area resources reveals a combination of two architectural philosophies toward architecture, one being the continuation of local building traditions, and the other an understanding of national design trends. Interestingly, the Etchison examples appear to be somewhat divided along family lines, evidenced by houses built by the Moores and the Hawkins. The Moore family houses tend to be derived from local traditions and harken back to styles that had been popular for generations. The houses at 24211 Laytonsville Road and 6920 Damascus Road built for Moore siblings 1912-16 were three-bay, center cross-gable houses derived from the Gothic Revival style that taken hold some 35 or so years earlier when the Etchison House was built. William Moore and R. Washington Bowman built sibling houses at 24211 and 24200 with bungalow forms. They date from the 1930s, fifteen years after bungalows had ceased being popular in more urban areas.

Ida May Moore (1891-1943) and Walter Allnutt (1888-1979) acquired land from Ida's parents, Luther J. and Lydia E. W. Moore, in 1917. The previous year, Ida's brother William had acquired the neighboring property at 24221 Laytonsville Road, and built a similar center cross gable house.

The house is adjacent to the contemporaneous William and Pearl Moore House, 24221 Laytonsville Road (c1916) William L. and Pearl E. Moore acquired the property from William's parents, Luther and Lydia Moore, for \$50 in 1916.<sup>4</sup> In 1930, the house was valued at \$5,000. The house has been in commercial use for the past several years as an office for a landscaping business. Several frame outbuildings are located at the rear of the house. A flat-roofed concrete block commercial structure has a brick veneered front façade. The functionally spare modernist building has metal awning windows, softened by addition of colonial revival style shutters. The building is a good example of a mid-century commercial modern office/warehouse space. The buildings served as an office for Millard Oland's landscaping company beginning in the 1960s. Oland had purchased the store and house, 24230 Laytonsville Road, from the Hawkins family c1961.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup>Catherine Crawford MHT inventory form, 1986.

<sup>5</sup>Bogley. Steven Hawkins email 11-3-09.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-1

Name Walter and Ida Allnutt House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

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In the 1920s, farmers began specializing in dairying or chicken farming. In response, the Hawkins brothers added feed to their line of merchandise. To combat a growing rodent problem, they built a concrete block feed warehouse south of the store building, replacing an old frame structure. The new building was finished in stucco, a new material for the community, and was outfitted with modern restrooms, an improvement over the outhouses facilities that had previously been in use.<sup>6</sup>

### Recent History

The Allnutt family continues to own the property. Robert Allnutt, grandson acquired the property in 1998.<sup>7</sup> The property includes the outhouse of the Etchison School (1890). The school stood 100 yards southwest of the church, located about where the house at 24100 Laytonsville Road is now standing.<sup>8</sup> The school closed in 1937. The outhouse was moved to this site after the school closed in 1937. The school itself was dismantled by the Works Progress Administration and material used for an addition on the Damascus School.

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<sup>6</sup>Ernest Hawkins, "Over the Counter" memoir. Joseph C. Hawkins sketch map of Etchison store property.

<sup>7</sup>Deed 16161:304

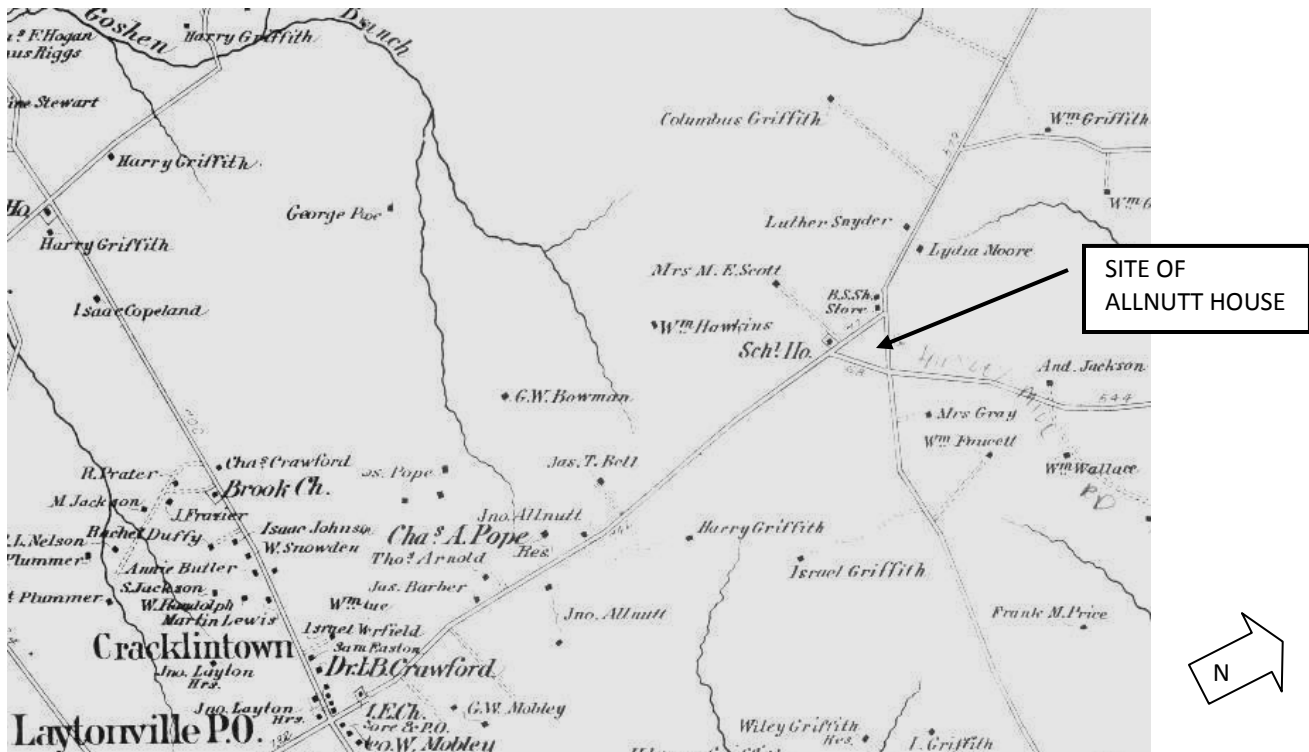
<sup>8</sup>Guy Jewell School History. Jane Horan, op cit. Ernest Hawkins memoir, Over the Counter. Hiebert and MacMaster, 405.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

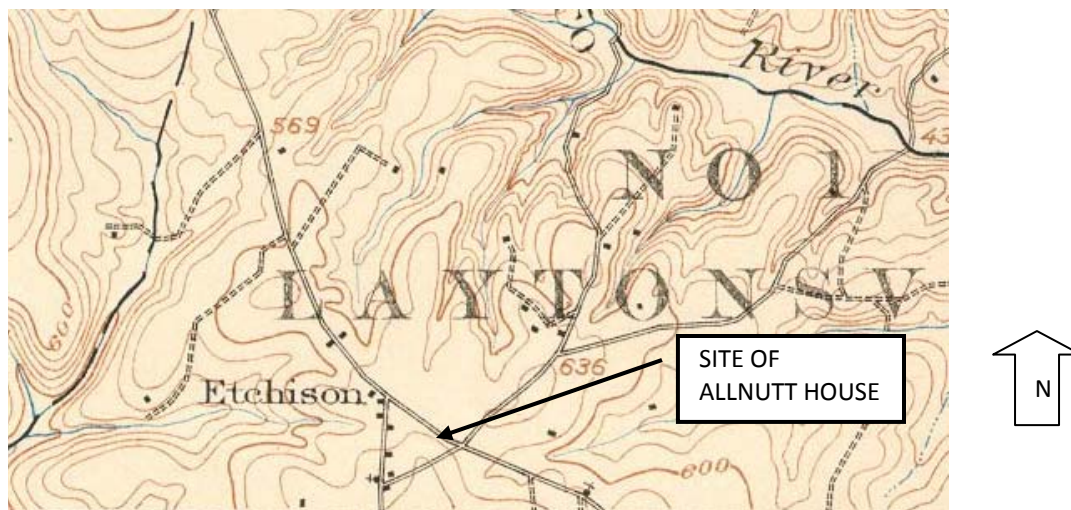
Inventory No. 15/29-1

Name Walter and Ida Allnutt House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3



Above: 1879 Hopkins Atlas, Cracklin District. Below: 1909 USGS map, Mt Airy Quad



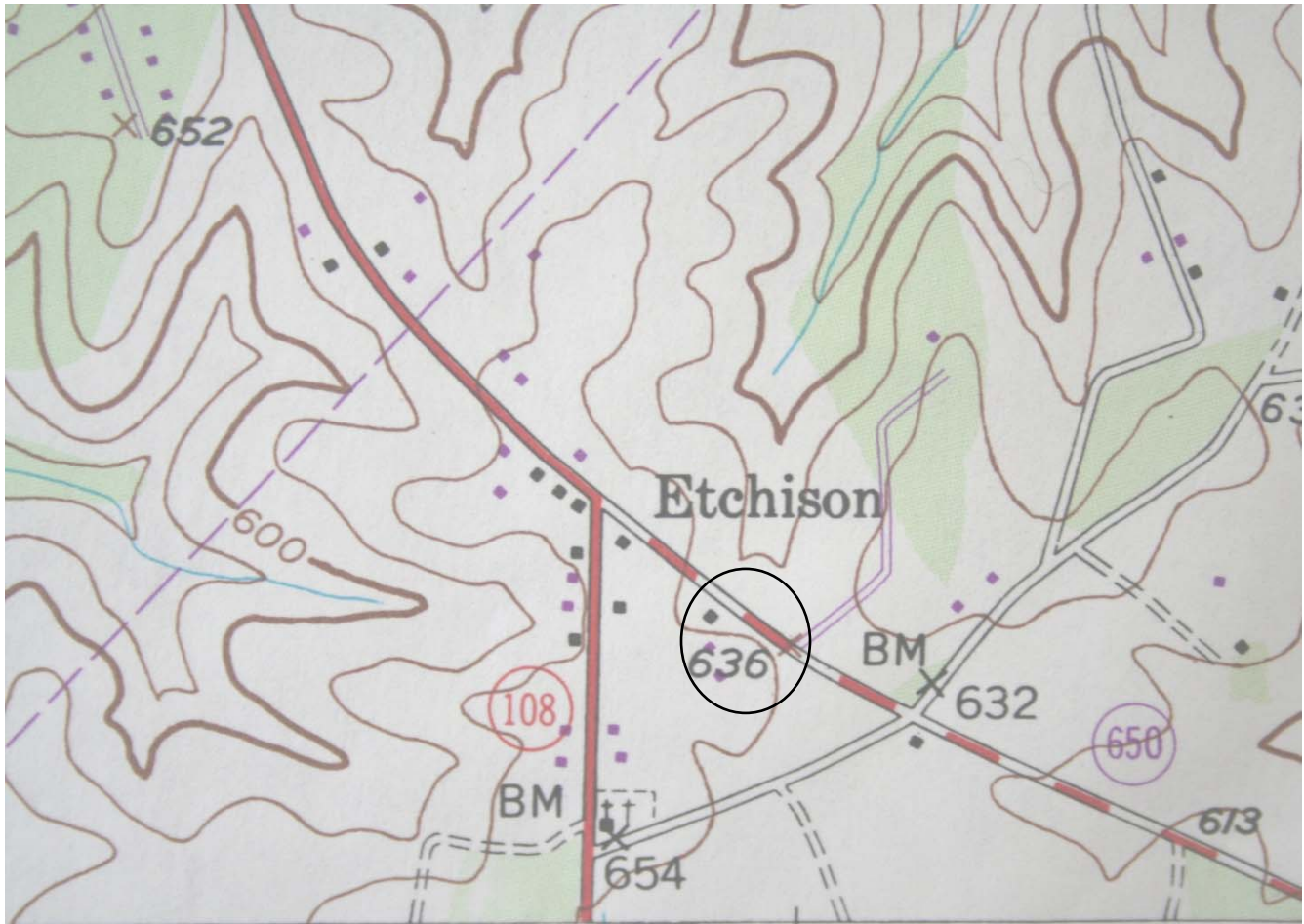
# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-1

Name Walter and Ida Allnutt House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 4

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USGS map 1941, revised (purple) 1977

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No 15/29-2

See continuation sheet.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 4.63 acres

Acreage of historical setting \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Clare Lise Kelly		
organization	M-NCPPC	date	3-2010
street & number		telephone	
city or town		state	

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. 15/29-1

Name Walter and Ida Allnutt House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 9 Page 1

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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