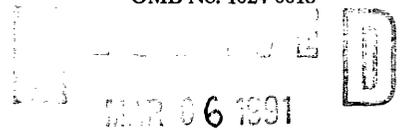


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Wetzell-Archbold Farmstead

other names/site number: N/A

2. Location

street and number: 4437 Reservoir Road, N.W. [N/A] not for publication

city, town: Washington [N/A] vicinity
state: District of Columbia code: DC county: DC code: 001 zip code: 20007

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. Resources w/in Prop.	
		Contr.	Noncontrib.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local	<input type="checkbox"/> District	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> Buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> Site	—	— Sites
<input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	—	<u>1</u> Structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> Object	—	— Objects
		<u>2</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet

[Signature] DC State Historic Preservation Officer Date 3/1/91

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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): _____

Patrick Andrews

4/19/91

Signature of the Keeper

Date of action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:
Agricultural Field

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions):

NO STYLE
Other: Single-pen, V-notched log house
with log and frame additions

Materials (enter categories from instructions):

foundation: STONE
walls: WOOD/Log; WOOD/Weatherboard
roof: WOOD/Shingle
other: BRICK/ASPHALT

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary Paragraph: The Wetzell-Archbold Farmstead contains a circa 1843, 1 1/2 story, log, V-notched, single-pen dwelling with log and frame additions, located on a 1-acre wooded knoll above Glover-Archbold Park in northwest Washington, D.C. The original log section of the dwelling, with exposed logs on the front facade, retains a high degree of architectural integrity; its rural character is reinforced and preserved by its hilltop setting, with many large, old trees surrounding the house and a forest of trees to the east on parkland adjoining the property.

The original 1843 house section (Section 1: see Continuation Sheet for sketch plan) is a modest 1 1/2 story V-notched log dwelling with side gables and a brick chimney on the eastern end. Its rectangular one-room plan measures 18'2" across the facade and 14'1" deep. The house was built on stone footings. Facade fenestration is in a symmetrical window-door-window configuration. An interesting feature of the facade's appearance is the plate extended outward from the front wall to simulate the corbelling commonly seen in masonry dwellings of the period. The original house did not have dormers, which were added at later dates. Surviving wood trim around the front door is very plain, decorated by a bead around the outside edge. The interior also reflects this austerity, with pine floor boards with squared, hand-cut nails, plastered inside walls, and a plain mantel around the fireplace. The stair to the upper story was originally on the west wall, opposite the chimney, but was moved, probably in the early twentieth century, to the eastern wall. In a few small places on the facade, the chinking between the horizontal logs was reinforced with cement, and is now covered with the white paint that protects the entire facade. This cosmetic alteration is hardly noticeable, and does not detract from the historic integrity of the structure.

[x] See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

C. 1843-1931

Significant Dates

C. 1843

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

Wetzell, Lazarus

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and period of significance noted above.

Summary Paragraph: The Wetzell-Archbold Farmstead is significant under Criterion C (Architecture) because it contains the earliest known log dwelling in the District of Columbia, and because it has the earliest known log house in the District exhibiting traditional log construction techniques. It is extremely rare to find such a dwelling and its rural setting preserved in an urban area. The house's core contains a well-preserved single-pen, V-notched log dwelling, once common on the small farms in the surrounding countryside of Maryland and Virginia. This particular house's form and construction techniques are also significant, because they represent a fusion of techniques found in both Mid-Atlantic and Southern vernacular building traditions. In addition, the property is notable for its association with Anne Archbold, a prominent citizen who contributed to the District's historic landscape by purchasing the subject property and donating the adjoining acreage.

Built circa 1843 in what was then rural Washington County, outside of the boundary of the District of Columbia, the Wetzell House is a relatively late surviving example of the common farmer's house, which was typically built of log through the 18th century to the mid-19th century, after which time frame houses of machine-cut lumber dominated the landscape of the common farmer. The house's later additions illustrate this shift in preferred construction technology. The additions to the house, though illustrating more recent materials and technologies, were executed within the scale and proportions of the original house, and in no way detract from the house's historical significance and natural evolution.

The house's location is in an area that was historically composed of large landholdings that were eventually subdivided into small farms and the large country estate houses of the gentry in the hills above Georgetown. Researchers have noted that Henry Foxhall's summer house estate was located just south of Wetzell's farm. Benjamin King's property, called Valley View, joined Wetzell's property to the north, with Terrace Heights (later known as Uplands) located just across Ridge Road from Wetzell's property.

The Wetzell House is significant as a representative example of the typical small farmer's house, evident in the chosen building materials and modest size. It is also important as an example displaying a blend of vernacular building traditions from the Mid-Atlantic and Southern regions. Log construction was originally a Pennsylvania German technique that was quickly adopted by

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bell, Robert A. "Historic and Site Review of the Moira Archbold Property Nomination to the D.C. Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places." Undated.

D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board. Decision on The Moira Archbold Property, Case No. 88-6. 15 March 1989.

Foxhall Community Citizens Organization. "Moira Archbold Property." Application for Historic Landmark, D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board. 8 February 1989.

Glassie, Henry. Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968.

Kniffen, Fred B., and Henry Glassie. "Building in Wood in the Eastern United States: A Time-Place Perspective." Geographical Review 56 (1966):40-66.

[] See continuation sheet

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

[X] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # Washington D.C. #130

[] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of add. data:

[X] State SHPO office

[] Other State agency

[X] Federal Agency

[X] Local government

[] University

[X] Other

Specify repository:

Library of Congress, Martin Luther King Library,

Historical Society of Washington, D.C.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property: 1.0538 acres

UTM References

A. /1/8/ /3/1/9/4/6/5/ /4/3/0/8/9/9/5/
Zone Easting Northing

B. / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

C. / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

D. / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing

[] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Wetzell-Archbold property is currently composed of 1.0538 acres and occupies Square 1328, Lot 802 in Northwest Washington, D.C. The Property is bounded on the south by Reservoir Road, on the west by the backs of six lots of the Colony Hills development, and on the north and east by a curved boundary that roughly follows the contour of the hill on which the house sits. (See property boundary location on the accompanying USGS map.)

[] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary selected for the Wetzell-Archbold property is the current legally recorded boundary, which dates from the early 1930s. The 1.0538 acres is necessary to convey the historic geographic context of a rural setting for the Wetzell log house and its rural landscape.

[] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Christopher Martin/Architectural Historian

Organization: _____

Date: 9/14/90

Street & Number: 103 Yeonas Drive, SE

Telephone: (202) 775-3495 W; 938-2123

City or Town: Vienna

State: VA

Zip code: 22180

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As is typical of houses that are continuously occupied, there were several additions to the house through the years. Section 2, a circa 1850, one-room-deep log section measuring 16'5" across the facade, was added to the east side of the original house, doubling its size. This section is supported by a stone foundation. Original random-width horizontal weatherboards, measuring between 8" and 14" wide, survive on the facade of Section 2. A plain mantel, similar in style to the mantel in the original house section, also survives in Section 2. By 1937 a dormer was added above the door of Section 1, later matched by a dormer on that section's back side, followed later by a dormer above the front of Section 2. Showing continuous occupancy in a now urban setting, Sections 1 and 2 (together with the rest of the house complex) have aluminum gutters and protective iron burglar bars over most of the doors and windows.

Section 3 was added to the house as a lean-to rear section along the house's back. This section contained a kitchen and bathroom. By the time the house was photographed by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1937, two more one-room sections (shown as Sections 4 and 5 in the plan) were added to the rear lean-to, creating an ell toward the rear of the house complex. Section 4, a shed-roofed structure with an outside entrance and two windows, was used as a kitchen.

In 1952, the string of rear ell sections was dismantled and replaced with a unified, one-story rear section (Section 6). This section, compatible in scale with the early sections of the house, was designed by Gertrude Sawyer, a practicing D.C. architect. The roof of the original section and all its additions are currently covered with cedar shingles. The whole house is painted white and appears as a unified house complex. It was apparently during the period of the 1952 remodeling that a board-and-batten shed-roofed structure (Section 7), which was probably previously freestanding in the yard, was relocated on a concrete foundation and joined to the house's northeast corner via a covered passageway. Section 7 has been modernized with electricity and composition particleboard interior wall covering, but is currently in disrepair.

To the northeast corner of the house complex is a freestanding contributing shed with a front-gable roof and board-and-batten siding on the front and each side, with plain vertical siding on the back. The board-and-batten siding appears of the same vintage (late 19th c. or early 20th c.) as the siding on Section 7. The structure measures 6'5" x 6'6". The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Inspection of the interior revealed blackened roof members and siding, and a couple of round holes (now boarded over) in the front and back sides of the structure, indicating that it may have been used as a smokehouse at one time. This structure is a contributing resource to the house complex.

Noncontributing structures in the house yard include a modern brick outdoor barbecue, located out from the house's northwest corner, and a circa 1950 one-stall metal automobile garage near the northeast corner of the house complex.

The 1.05-acre lot is bounded by Reservoir Road on the south, Glover-Archbold Park to the east and north, and the back yards of six houses to the west. The property ascends steeply from about 140 feet above sea level at the southeast corner to 165 feet on top of the hill, where the house is located, sloping down again to 140 feet toward the northwest.

The house setting remains rural, with a variety of trees and plantings around the house and grounds. In front of the house, between a row of Hemlocks and Reservoir Road are at least 7 Black Walnuts, 2 American Elms, 1 Ailanthus, 1 Mulberry, 1 Black Locust, 1 Silver Maple, and 1 American Ash. The area closest to the house contains a dozen evergreens, including Blue and Norway Spruce, Douglas Firs, Deodar Cedars, Hemlocks, 8 Black Walnuts, 8 Black Locusts, 1 American Ash, and 1 Weeping Cherry. To the west and north are 17 Black Walnuts, and in addition to the north there are 4 American Ash trees exceeding 2 feet in diameter. The large sycamore, with a 44" diameter trunk, very likely was planted, according to custom in earlier times, as a lightning deflector. There are several dogwoods and large Boxwoods around the house and grounds.

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Several depressions in the ground surrounding the house may also be seen. One depression, measuring approximately 3 feet square and located to the northeast of the garage, is probably a historic archaeological feature (from an outbuilding, privy, trash pit, etc.). Another apparent feature, although less defined, lies just west of the oldest section of the house. This circular depression is slightly smaller than the square depression. These two specific potential features are the most visible, although no archaeological excavations have been performed on the site, which probably contains many more subsurface archaeological features and artifacts.

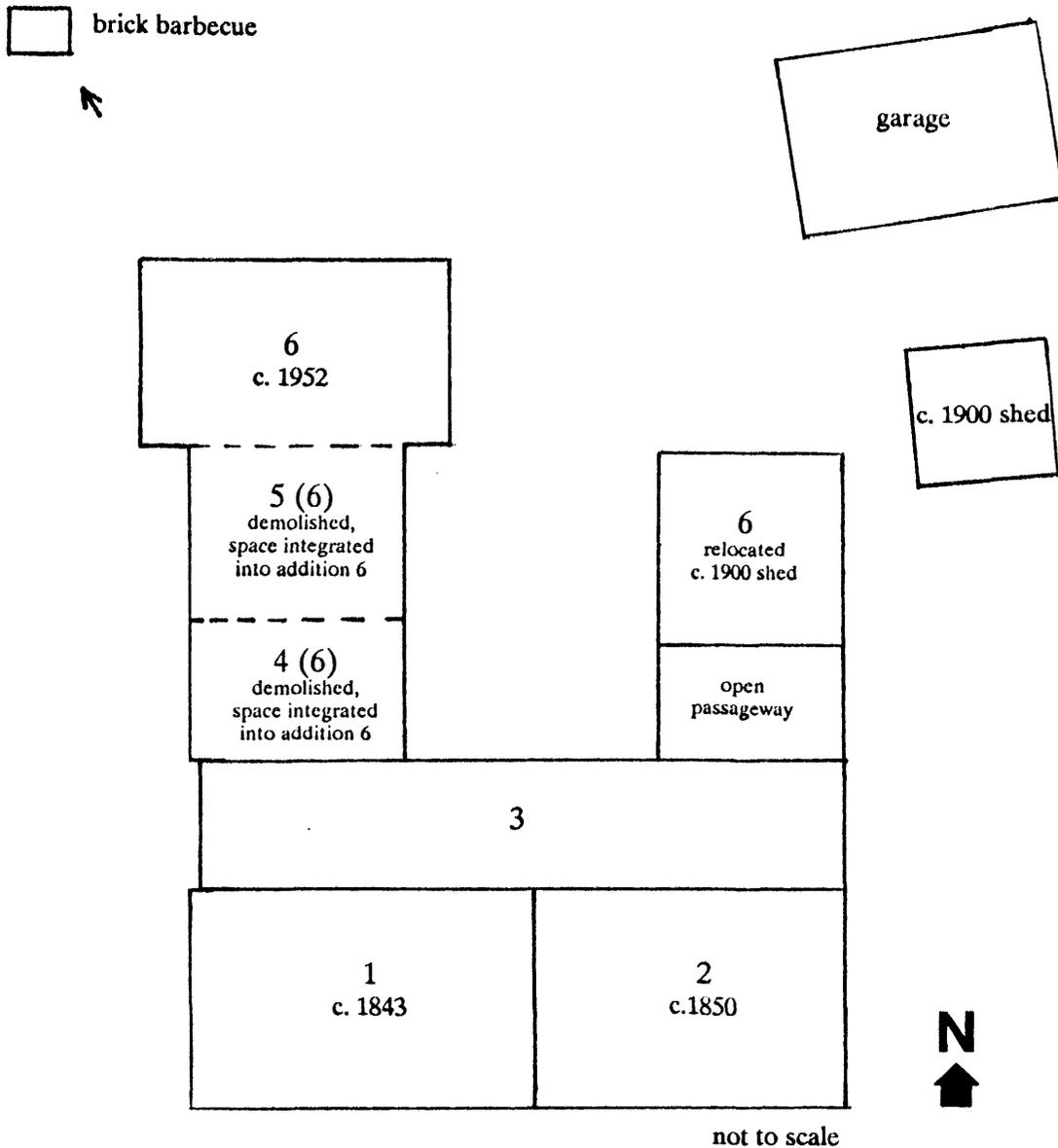
Historically, the property was part of a 16-acre tract purchased by Lazarus Wetzell (also spelled Lazarius Wetzell) from William Murdock in 1843. It is likely that Wetzell built some of the structures shown on the Boschke map of 1859 shortly after acquiring the property, although it is very possible that the log house pre-dated 1843. One of these structures is identified in a 1851 deed stating that in 1851 Lazarus Wetzell and his wife deeded 1/4 acre of land, located in the northwest corner of the property, and a frame house that Wetzell built, to John W. Wetzell. Wetzell's log house was the nucleus of a small farm, which according to the Boschke map of 1859 and the 1893 U.S. Coast and Geotetic Survey map, included orchard trees. Tax records of the 1859 period listed horses and a cow on the property, and in the 1880 census the occupation of Lazarus Wetzell was listed as gardening.

The log house complex and immediate grounds were occupied by Wetzell's descendants until 1931, when they were sold as a separate 3-acre parcel to Anne Archbold. By this time, Wetzell property immediately to the west of the house parcel had been sold and subdivided as part of the Colony Hills development. Archbold immediately reduced its size to 1 acre. In 1925, Archbold bought 28 acres of land to the north and east of the house property, eventually donating this adjacent land as part of Glover-Archbold Park. In 1947 Anne Archbold deeded the house and surrounding 1-acre parcel to her daughter, Moira, who lived in the house until her death in 1988. The house is currently owned by an architect, Robert A. Bell.

Despite structural additions, changes in landscape size and use, and changes in ownership, the Wetzell-Archbold Farmstead remains in remarkably good condition and retains great integrity in architecture and landscape surroundings. Although property to the west of the site has been subdivided and developed, the Glover-Archbold Park to the east and north assists the property in maintaining its still-rural character.

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EVOLUTION OF THE WETZELL HOUSE
(Refer to Section 7: "Description")

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the Scotch-Irish and spread throughout the South. V-notching, common in the German-settled areas of central Maryland and the Valley of Virginia, became the dominant corner notching technique throughout the Upland South. The German tendency for decorative effects--likely carried on in Lazarus Wetzell's German-American heritage--is clearly evident in the "corbelled" log cornice, a decorative feature rarely found in the more austere log houses farther south.

While the 1 1/2 story form of log houses is more common in the Mid-Atlantic region, the original house's external chimney is a characteristic more common to the Lowland South and Tidewater regions. The house's 18' x 14' size is small compared to the standard 20' x 16' unit preferred in the South, but its window-door-window fenestration is rigidly symmetrical, giving the appearance of the interior central-hall plan typical of larger two-story farm houses and estate houses.

The Wetzell-Archbold Farmstead is notable for its later ownership by Anne Archbold, a prominent citizen who contributed to the conservation of the District of Columbia's historic and natural landscape by purchasing the Wetzell House and by donating adjoining acreage to the east and north for use as a park that would bear her name. The Wetzell-Archbold property was apparently linked early on to the establishment of a park, as the 1930 City Directory listed its 4437 Reservoir Road address as the Foundry Branch Public Park. In 1931, after Anne Archbold purchased the property, the old log house was rented by one her neices, Frances Archbold. It was subsequently rented to friends of Anne Archbold until she deeded the property to her daughter, Moira Archbold, in 1948. Moira Archbold lived in the house until her death in 1988.

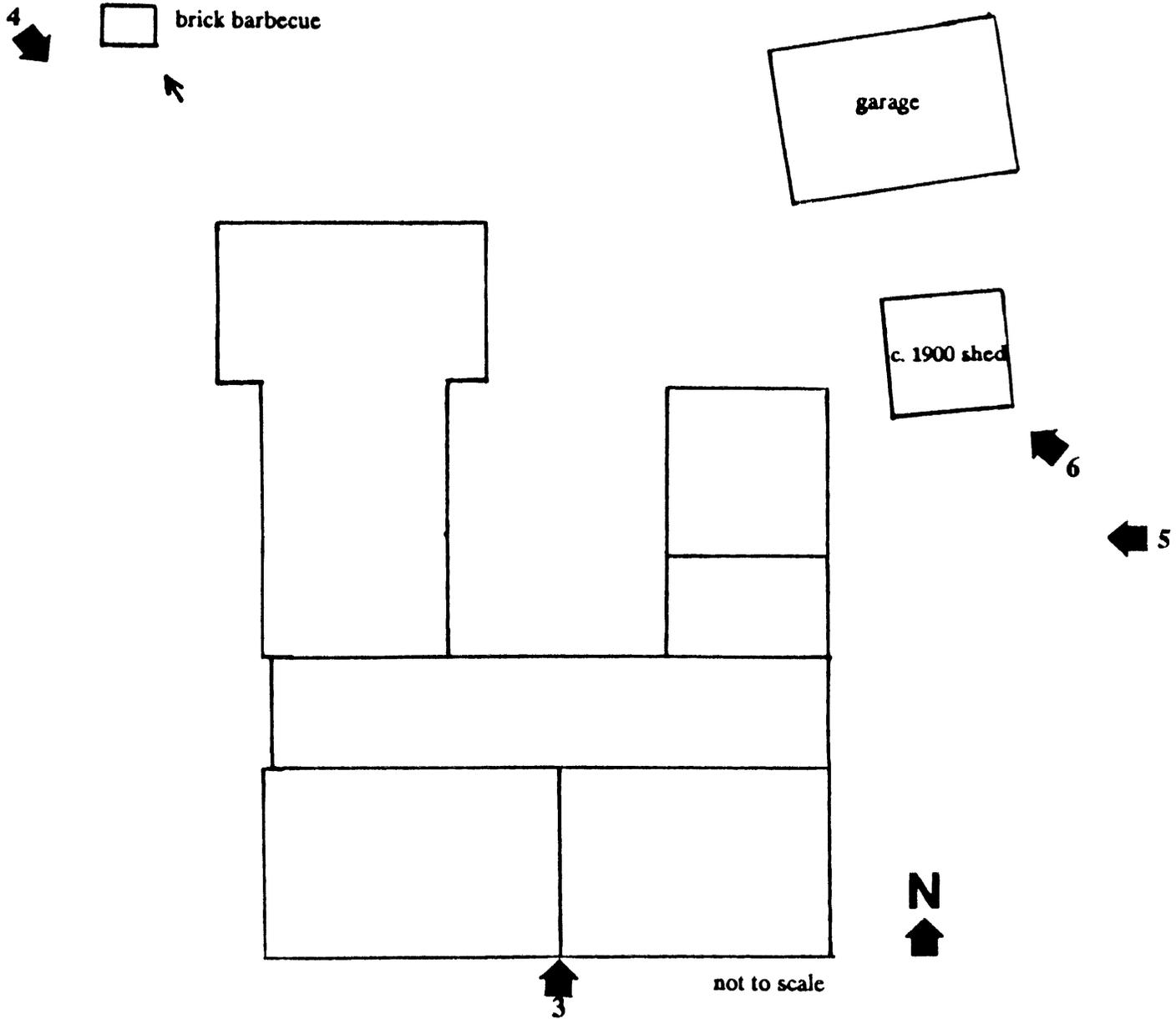
Anne Archbold (1873-1968) was the daughter of John Dustin Archbold, a partner and president of the Standard Oil Company. After moving to Washington, D.C., she acquired a large amount of land along Reservoir Road by 1925. She lived at Hillandale, an architect-designed estate house on 70 acres of land adjoining Glover-Archbold Park's eastern edge. Thus, with the purchase of the Wetzell property adjoining the park's western edge, she ensured the preservation of the rural character of contiguous properties containing historic and natural resources that continue to be enjoyed and admired today by residents of the District of Columbia.

The Wetzell-Archbold Farmstead is also potentially significant for both historic and prehistoric archaeological resources. The several depressions surrounding the house are probably related to the farmstead's early occupation, and likely contain artifacts related to foodways and refuse--which would provide valuable information about the common farmer's lifeways during the mid-nineteenth century. The location of the house site, on a hill above a stream, makes it likely to contain artifactual evidence of Native American occupation. The relatively close proximity of the Potomac River reinforces a high probability of Native American evidence. In fact, prehistoric archaeological sites and remains have already been identified in the adjacent Glover-Archbold Park, confirming the Wetzell-Archbold Farmstead's high probability to yield important prehistoric archaeological evidence.

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PHOTOGRAPH KEY: WETZELL HOUSE