

CAPSULE SUMMARY

PG: 72-001

Wilson's Station Railroad Tower

Amtrak Railroad Tracks at Landover Road (MD 202)

Landover, Prince George's County, Maryland

c. 1915

Private

Wilson's Station Railroad Tower, located near the crossing of Landover Road (MD 202) over the Amtrak line in unincorporated Landover, Maryland, is a rare extant example of railroad tower architecture at the beginning of the twentieth century in Prince George's County. The small two-story, one-bay tower served the expanding railway system that was the impetus for the economic growth experienced throughout Prince George's County. Constructed on the site of an earlier station stop on the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad, Wilson's Station Railroad Tower remained in service until the late 1980s. Although the tower is a prominent landmark in the area and along the rail line, it does not retain sufficient integrity to convey its significance as a railroad tower constructed during the growth of the railroad in Prince George's County.

Wilson's Station Railroad Tower is a two-story, one-bay T-shaped building that, based on its form, materials, and other similar towers in the area, appears to have been constructed in the early twentieth century. The wood-frame tower is set on a solid stretcher-bond brick foundation and is clad in asbestos siding. An interior concrete chimney pierces the roof of the northwest wing. The main block of the building is capped by a pyramidal roof, while the wing is capped by a hip roof. Wide overhanging eaves with a soffit consisting of narrow wood planks dominate the roofline. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and features faux terra-cotta tiles along the ridges. As late as 1985, the windows were intact; they are now covered with plywood.