

c. 1900

BA 1607
Laural
1425 Valley Road
Stevenson,
Maryland
private

Laural is a large, sophisticated and unaltered example of the Colonial revival style of the very early twentieth century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA 1607
x-885.710
y-578.250

MAGI # 0316072604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

LAURAL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1425 Valley Road

Second

CITY, TOWN

Stevenson

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Ral Parr

Telephone #: 484-6435

STREET & NUMBER

1425 Valley Road

CITY, TOWN

Stevenson

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21153

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore County Courts Bldg.

Liber #: WR 35

Folio #: 307

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

LAUREL is a formal mansion in the Colonial revival style dating from the first decade of the twentieth century. Of white stucco finish, two storeys in height, seven bays in length, the three center bays of both principal facades are expressed as the principal motif of the facade. On the north or entrance facade a two storey portico in the Tower-of-the-Winds order shelters the three central bays. On the south the three central bays project forward beneath a gable in the roof and a one-storey flat-roofed porch projects from the three central bays, its south side a half-circle. A tri-partite window is centered above the porch in the second storey and a blind arch containing a small round window rises into the gable above. Another one-storey flat-roofed porch extends across the west end and a two-storey service wing is at the east end, its axis perpendicular to that of the main house, connected to it by a short hyphen. The roof is hipped and it is covered with wood shingles.

A water table marks the first floor line, a belt course the second. The cornice is modillioned. Four chimneys rise above the roof flanking the three central bays. 6/6 windows throughout have louvred blinds and the two dormers in each slope of the roof have 6/6 windows and segmentally-arched roofs.

A great hall extends through the house in the three central bays, two storeys in height and it is surrounded by a balcony at the second floor level, supported by a colonade in the Ionic order. A similar colonade supports the beamed and coffered ceiling. A large dining room is east of the great hall, and a drawing room is west, its two mantels and dividing beam in the ceiling suggesting double parlors. The open staircase to the second floor is at the north end of the hall. Ornamentation throughout is highly developed, recalling the late English Georgian period.

East of the house is a garage-stable, one and one-half storeys in height with a tall gable centered in each long facade. Contemporary with the house, it is now adapted as a small dwelling.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-1607

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

LAUREL is a large, sophisticated and unaltered example of the Colonial revival style of the very early twentieth century, a period when many English Georgian details were incorporated as the logical development of the style.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

In 1901 and 1902, George Jenkins bought a large tract of land from Felix Agnus on the south side of Valley Road. Not only did he build his own house, Seven Oaks, on this land, but his newlywed daughter and her husband Captain Ral Parr (married in 1899) built on a part of this property. Their house was named Laural, combining the first three letters of their first names.² It was built by one of Maryland's leading nineteenth century architects.³ Laural, along with other distinguished estates on the East Coast appeared in the July issue, 1904, of the Burr MacIntosh Monthly, with the Parrs standing on the steps of the portico.⁴

Captain Parr was a horseman. He served as a Captain in the Remount Division in World War 1, for two years, seven months of which were spent overseas. He also owned race horses, one of which was Paul Jones who won the Kentucky Derby.⁵

Laura Parr died several years before her father, George Jenkins.⁶ It was by his will of 1929 that the property was left to Israel (Ral) Parr.⁷ Captain Parr remarried in 1931. He brought the new Mrs. Parr, Sonia Walshe-Whitman and her son Francis S. Whitman to live at Laural. Captain Parr died in 1929, leaving Laural to his wife, Sonia.⁸

In 1953 Francis Whitman remodeled the garage-stable, adapting it to a residence. In 1958 he bought an additional 15 acres from the heirs of the Jenkins family.⁹ Since then two further renovations have occurred and it now is a very attractive addendum to the lovely estate.¹⁰

Footnotes

- ¹ The Green Spring Valley: Its History and Heritage, Dawn F. Thomas and Robert W. Barnes, Baltimore (The Maryland Historical Society, 1978).
- ² Ibid.
- ³ The Book of Maryland, Men and Institutions, Baltimore (Maryland Biographical Association, 1920) p. 48.
- ⁴ Burr MacIntosh Monthly, New York (Burr Publishing, July 1904).
- ⁵ Ibid, footnote # 3
- ⁶ Interview with Mrs. Linwood Tinsley, housekeeper at Laural for 31 years.
- ⁷ Baltimore County Register of Wills, 27/21.
- ⁸ Register of Wills, 35/307.
- ⁹ Baltimore County Land Records, Liber 3322, folio 478.
- ¹⁰ Interview with Francis Whitman, owner of Laural.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dawn Thomas and Robert W. Barnes, The Green Spring Valley, Its History and Heritage, 2 vols. Baltimore (Maryland Historical Society, 1978.)
Burr MacIntosh Monthly, Burr Publishing, July 1904, New York.
The Book of Maryland "Men and Institutions", Baltimore (Maryland Biographical Association, 1920. p. 48.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 38.9

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James T. Wollon, Jr., A.I.A. / Joan E. Buck, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Valleys Planning Council

April, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

212 Washington Avenue

828-7807

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Towson

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438



Laurel 3-2-79
1/28/79
BA 1607

Laurel

GSVHD

Valley Rd.

JTW

8-30-79

Md. Hist. Tr.

from SW



BA 1607 A

Laurel -

Garage

GSVHD

JTW

8-30-79

Md. Hist. Tr.

from West