

K-409

## Melitota Store

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 05-14-2004***

MELITOTA STORE (K-409)  
Chestertown, Maryland  
(19th)

Melitota Store is one of the few 19th century country stores that are still in operation in Kent. Although the form of the building is similiar to typical central gable residences of the third quarter of the 19th century, it was constructed as a store and storekeeper's residence. The village of Melitota, first called Willis Crossroads, developed in the last half of the nineteenth century to provide necessary services to nearby farmers. In addition to the general store, there was a blacksmith shop, a church, and a school.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Melitota Store

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Route 298 at Melitota

1st

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Eric Barry

Telephone #: 301-778-1324

STREET & NUMBER

Melitota, Route#4

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court House

Liber #: WHG 60

Folio #: 204

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

K-409

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The Melitota Store is a 2½ story central gable building which stands on the northeast corner of Route 298 and Porters Grove-Melitota Road. The main part of the building is three bays wide and two deep; there is a 2½ story rear ell and a one-story shed porch across the front of the structure. The most distinctive feature of the building is the scallop of sawn wooden ornament used to edge the building roof and the gable roofs of the dormers of the ell. In each gable peak is a turned wooden acorn pendant.

There are decorative central gables in the main facade and in the south wall of the wing, creating a feeling of formality symbolic of the functional organization of the building. The main store entrance is in the center of the facade. The entrance of the storekeeper and family, however, is in the south facade of the ell. The store entrance has a pair of double doors each with one bolection-molded panel beneath a large single-pane window. These windows could be covered by a removeable wooden panels when the store was closed. The entrance into the wing is more residential with a four-pane transom light and paneled sidelights. The door frame and transom bar have decorative reeding.

Windows have two over two sash; those in the central gable and in the dormers have round-headed upper sash. Frames and sills are plain. Shutters have been removed although the hardware remains. On the first floor of the house are paneled shutters with Greek ogee and bevel moldings.

The building is covered with asbestous siding over narrow weatherboarding. The roof is asphalt shingles. There is an enclosed porch running along the wall of the porch and a flat-gable-roofed addition on the north gable of the store.\* Brick chimneys rise within the south and west gables.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY ( \* see page 2.)

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input 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    ca 1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Melitota Store is one of the few 19th century country stores that are still in operation. Although the form of the building is similiar to typical residences of the third quarter of the 19th century, it was constructed as a store and storekeeper's residence.

The village of Melitota, first called Willis Crossroads, developed in the last half of the nineteenth century to provide necessary services to nearby farmers. In addition to the general store there was a blacksmith shop and several houses along Route 298 and " L Road."

School No. 4 of Election District #3 stood nearby and about 1900 Mt. Piscah Church (K-406) was erected to serve its local congregation.

The hand painted date of 1887 in the attic of this structure is said to be the date of construction.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Kent County News, October 3, 1979, Section 2, page 12b.

Kent County Land Records, Kent County Court House, Chestertown, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

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

Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

778-4600, ext.67

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland 21620

STATE

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

The store room has a pressed tin ceiling. The stair in the residential portion of the building is located behind its main entrance.

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\* This addition reputedly served as a "bar" during Prohibition.

NOTE: In spring 1980, the second floor of the building was damaged by fire.

Martinet Map, 1860.

Lake, Griffing & Stevenson. An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Anne  
(sic) Counties, Md. (Philadelphia: 27 South Sixth Street, 1877.)





K-409

Melitota Store

View to Northeast

Fairlee

Kent County

M.L. Fritz

3/1980

J. Tyler Campbell  
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY  
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

JAN 15 1980