

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Lauretum

other names/site number K-79

=====

2. Location

=====

street 954 High Street
not for publication n/a city or town Chestertown vicinity x
state Maryland code MD county Kent code 029 zip code 21620

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 7-16-97
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

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K-79
Lauretum
Kent County, MD

=====
General Description

Lauretum is a large stuccoed frame house located northwest of Chestertown, seat of Kent County, Maryland. The house was built in 1881 for Chestertown lawyer Harrison W. Vickers. The form and massing of the house are complex, reflecting the eclecticism of the late Victorian period. It comprises a three-story A-roofed rectangle with clipped gables whose ridge runs east-west, and three-story gambrel-roofed sections extending to the south and west. A two-story service wing extends to the west, and a small one-story gambrel-roofed wing--originally an office--projects to the north. The principal facade faces east, consisting of a central entrance flanked on either side by double windows. The window openings have granite sills, and are headed with shallow segmental arches which are trimmed with applied fretwork. The sash is 20/2 lights in the pattern associated with the Queen Anne style (rows of multiple square panes in the upper sash). The double entrance doors are paneled with applied bolection molded, and are surmounted by a single-pane, segmental-arched transom; the transom bar is decorated with applied fretwork. A Stick-style porch shelters the entrance, with a jerkinhead roof supported on four square posts; the porch is decorated with fretwork above a row of dentils. The second story of the east facade is four symmetrical bays wide, with three bays under the gable and the fourth bay in the gambrel-roofed section. The third floor has a double window under the clipped gable, and a dormer in the gambrel. The building's prominent overhanging eaves feature exposed decorative rafter ends and stickwork brackets at the corners.

The south elevation of the main block is two bays wide, defined on the ground level by tall 16/4 windows with granite sills. These open onto a broad porch which spans the south end, its shed roof supported on exposed members with simple chamfered brackets and some decorative fluting. Two 20/2 sash mark the second floor. At the third-floor level, an elaborate oriel contains a triple window, each sash comprising 8/8 vertical lights, with panels above and below. The frame projection is clad in wainscot boards and sawtooth shingles, and is decorated with fretwork, scalloped and drilled molding, and spool molding.

The porch continues across the south elevation of the west wing. On the ground floor there are two tall windows in the living room area, and a door giving onto the porch from the family dining room. Four windows with granite sills and 16/2 sash are arrayed across the second story. The roof is sheathed in asphalt in a convincing imitation of the original decorative slate.

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K-79
Lauretum
Kent County, MD

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A two-story, two-bay service wing with a slate-covered gambrel roof extends to the west. This wing represents an early addition to the house, constructed in 1886 by the same contractor, R. K. Pippin & Sons (it is not clear, however, whether it was included in the architect's original plans). A narrow two-story projection extends from the south elevation of the wing; it has one window on each floor, and terminates in a tower with a pyramidal roof with a louvered Gothic vent. To the west of the tower is a one-story, one-bay enclosure which serves as a pantry. In the west end wall of the wing there is a central door under a hip-roofed porch, and two windows above; simple brackets support the overhanging eaves. The north side of the wing features a one-bay, two-story porch, whose upper level has a balustrade of pierced Gothic slats.

The north elevation of the main block is four bays wide. On the ground floor, the westernmost bay is defined by two closely-spaced 42/4 sash; a one-story shed-roofed entrance projection covers the adjacent bays to the east, and the easternmost bay is occupied by a small projecting wing. The fenestration is similar on the upper story, with 16/2 sash in all openings; the windows are paired in the easternmost bay, and at the level of the stair landing. The north slope of the roof is dominated by a tower. A pair of tall 24/2 windows lights the shaft, and the steep mansard roof is clad in fishscale patterned polychrome slate. The north, east and west faces are pierced by narrow Gothic peaked dormers with semicircular-headed 1/1 sash. Two shed dormers with 9/4 sash are located to the west of the tower, and a dormer with a paired 9/4 window is to the east.

The east entrance has transomed double doors opening into a small, square vestibule. Reeded plaster moldings on the north and south walls form panels with tombstone heads. Up one step, double glazed doors (20th century) with a semicircular single pane transom open into an interior vestibule, whose ceiling is finished with a molded plaster cornice and circular medallion. This vestibule opens into a formal entrance hall which runs through the main block. Double doors formerly separated the vestibule and hall.

The floor of both the vestibule and the hall comprises 2- $\frac{1}{2}$ " oak and mahogany boards laid in an alternating pattern, resulting in a striped appearance. The hall has a bold plaster cornice with a beaded fascia, reeded soffit and dropped coffering. The architrave trim comprises molded recessed pilasters on plinth blocks, with cornerblocks treated with a pressed shell design.

The rooms flanking the hall have plain pine floors. A large parlor

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Lauretum
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Significance Summary

Lauretum is significant under Criterion C for its architectural character. Designed by Baltimore architect Edmund G. Lind and constructed in 1881, Lauretum combines features of several late 19th century architectural fashions in a highly picturesque composition which represents an outstanding expression of late Victorian eclecticism. The irregular massing, multiple roof forms, clipped gables, and windows comprising numerous small (frequently colored) lights in the upper sash evoke the Queen Anne; the oriel window, exposed rafter ends, and the rectilinear posts and brackets supporting the porches and overhanging eaves relate to the Stick Style; the decorative designs of Charles Eastlake are reflected in the exterior fretwork and interior mantels and stair; and Gothic influence is seen in the towers and in the exceptional decorative treatment of the parlor ceiling. Lind, the architect, was born and trained in England, and became one of Baltimore's most influential practitioners during the period 1856-1883. He was among the founders of the American Institute of Architects, and the first president of its Baltimore chapter. Lauretum is Lind's only work on the upper Eastern Shore, and the only residence of the period in Kent County firmly attributed to an architect. The house retains a high degree of integrity, with the majority of its character-defining features intact on the exterior and interior. Especially noteworthy details include a variety of well-executed plaster ornament and the unusual striped alternating oak and mahogany flooring in the entrance hall; several of the windows retain colored lights in the multipane upper sash. The property derives additional significance under Criterion B from its association with Harrison W. Vickers (1845-1911), who was prominent in commercial, legal, and political affairs in Kent County.

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K-79
Lauretum
Kent County, MD

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HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial-Urban Dominance: A.D. 1870-1930
Modern Period: A.D. 1930-Present

Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building
Historic Environment: Rural
Historic Function(s) and Use(s):
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Known Design Source:

Lind, Edmund George, architect
R. K. Pippin & Sons, builder

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K-79
Lauretum
Kent County, MD

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RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

Lauretum was constructed in 1881 for Harrison W. Vickers, a prominent Chestertown lawyer. Harrison Vickers was born on June 24, 1845, the son of U. S. Senator George Vickers and Mary Mansfield Vickers.

Harrison Vickers attended Penn Military Academy and was a graduate of Washington College; he later served on the college's Board of Visitors and Governors for thirty years.

In the early part of his career, Harrison Vickers and his brother ran a mercantile business in Chestertown, Maryland. Their headquarters were located in what is now known as Stam's Corner.

Vickers was admitted to the bar in 1870 and later entered into a law practice with his father. Their partnership was known as Vickers and Son and covered the vicinities of Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Caroline, and Talbot counties.¹ Harrison Vickers established a reputation as a successful criminal lawyer.

Vickers' interests and influence were wide-ranging; one source observed, "from the time of his admission to the bar to the day of his death, he was a conspicuous figure in the civic, business and political life of the county [Kent County, Maryland]".²

He served two terms as State's Attorney (1875-1883), and became well-known in politics throughout Maryland. He was a frequent delegate to State and Judicial conventions, and served as Chairman of the State Central Committee of the Democratic Party. He was a Democratic candidate for Congress and for the State Senate.³

His business interests included the Transcript Publishing Company, of which he was a director, and the Second (later called the Third) National Bank. He was among the founders of that bank and served on its board of directors until failing health caused him to resign in 1910.⁴ He was President of the Chester Cemetery Company, which developed a local cemetery on land that his father, Senator George Vickers, donated to the community. It is still maintained by descendants of George and Harrison Vickers.

Vickers received the rank of Captain in the Kent Guards, a local military organization. His private library was held to be among the most extensive in the State of Maryland.⁵

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Harrison Vickers was married on May 22, 1873 to Jane Bruce Yates Shemwell, a native of St. Mary's County, Maryland. Her father was a physician, and Jane (known as Jennie) was a descendant on her mother's side of Colonel Philip Luke Barber, the first Lieutenant Governor of Maryland during the colonial period. Jennie B. Y. Shemwell Vickers was an active member of the Chestertown Methodist Episcopal Church.⁶ Harrison and Jennie Vickers had eight children, six of whom survived to adulthood.⁷

Harrison Vickers died of a stroke at Lauretum on Monday, June 5, 1911 at the age of sixty-six.⁸ He was the last surviving son of Senator George Vickers. Funeral services were held for him at Lauretum. All of his pallbearers were respected judges.

In 1881, Vickers purchased the property upon which Lauretum stands from Henry W. Carville and his wife for \$2,000. At that time, the property was known as the "Peach Field", and comprised 40 acres and 11 perches.⁹ According to legend, Vickers had won \$75,000 in a lottery drawing, and used \$10,000 of his winnings to construct Lauretum.¹⁰ The house was built in 1881 by Chestertown contractors R. K. Pippin and Sons, to the design of Edmund George Lind, a prominent Baltimore architect.

Lind was among Baltimore's most prominent and influential architects in the latter half of the 19th century. Born and educated in England, Lind arrived in Baltimore in 1855, having been sent by Nathan G. Starkweather to carry out his design for the First Presbyterian Church. He subsequently established his own practice in Baltimore, first in a short-lived partnership with William T. Murdoch. Lind was a founding member of the American Institute of Architects and first President of the Baltimore Chapter, A. I. A. He undertook numerous projects in Baltimore and Maryland before he removed to Georgia in 1883. Among the most important of these is the Peabody Library (1858-1878), whose cast iron interior stacks are a monument to innovative design and construction. Lind's meticulously-kept project list (in manuscript at the Maryland Historical Society) documents the scope of the architect's achievement, recording over 900 projects between the years 1856 and 1902, ranging from patent drawings, tombstones, and bird boxes, through residential and commercial buildings and alterations, to the Peabody Library and an entry in the competition for the Library of Congress.

Lauretum was Lind's only project on the upper Eastern Shore. Harrison Vickers' daughter, Clara Vickers Perkins described the design of her family home as "English style;"¹¹ Lind's conception, however, reflected the eclecticism of the late Victorian period, combining features of the Queen

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Anne style with detailing influenced by the designs of Charles Eastlake.

The property remained in the Vickers family for nearly seventy-five years after Vickers' death in 1911. He left Lauretum to his wife, Jane, who maintained the property until her death in 1934; her will stated that all of the property that she inherited from her husband was to be sold and the profits were to be divided between her children. She named her sons George and Harrison and her son-in-law Herbert E. Perkins as executors of her will. In 1945, Rose Vickers Brooks, daughter of Harrison and Jennie Vickers, bought Lauretum from her mother's executors for \$12,000.¹² On December 20, 1954, Philip Medford Brooks, widower of Rose V. Brooks, sold the property to their children, Jane Brooks Sprinkle and Philip Medford Brooks, Jr., for the sum of \$10.00. On November 6, 1980, Jane Brooks Sprinkle, for no cash consideration, granted her half of Lauretum to her brother, Philip Medford Brooks, Jr. He sold Lauretum on February 21, 1985, to George M. Thomas for \$53,500, transferring the property out of the Vickers family. By that time the land had been reduced to 6.025 acres. In 1988, George M. Thomas sold the property to Terrance A. and Jennifer Corcoran of Earleville, Maryland for \$145,000. Finally, in 1991, the current owners, Bill Sites and Peg Trotters Sites purchased Lauretum with its 6.025 acres for \$357,000. The present owners have undertaken the restoration of Lauretum and currently operate the house as a bed and breakfast inn.

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Notes:

1. Business Card, original card from the firm of "Vickers and Son"; copy is in possession of Jane Sprinkle.
2. "Death's Doings", Obituary for Harrison Vickers, Newspaper unknown, copy is in possession of Jane Sprinkle.
3. "Grim Reaper", Obituary for Harrison Vickers, Newspaper unknown; copy is in possession of Jane Sprinkle.
4. *ibid.*
5. "Death's Doings".
6. "Deaths", Obituary of Jennie B.Y. Vickers, Newspaper unknown, copy is in possession of Jane Sprinkle.
7. "Grim Reaper".
8. *ibid.*
9. Kent County Court House, Deeds, SB 2/2, March 28, 1881.
10. H. Hurtt Deringer, "The Strange Tale of Lauretum Place," The Kent Shoreman, February 1971, p. 5. [Note: The architect's project list records the construction cost as \$7,000.]
11. H. Hurtt Deringer, p. 5.
12. Kent County Court House, Deeds, RAS 37/197, 11 September 1945.

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K-79
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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Baltimore American Illustrated Edition, 1896, p. 183.

Beirne, Francis F., "Lind, Edmund George," Baltimore Sun, November 8, 1954.

Biographical Encyclopedia of Representative Men of Maryland and District of Columbia, Baltimore, 1878.

Business Card, original card from the firm of "Vickers and Son"; card is in possession of Jane Sprinkle.

Obituary of Jennie B.Y. Vickers, newspaper unknown, January 12, 1935; copy is in possession of Jane Sprinkle.

Obituaries of Harrison Vickers, newspapers unknown; copies in possession of Jane Sprinkle.

Deringer, H. Hurtt, "The Strange Tale of Lauretum Place," The Kent Shoreman, Earlesville, MD., February 1971.

Kent County Court House, Deeds.

Kent County Court House, Wills

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Usilton, Fred G., City of the Chester: History of Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland: 1650-1899. Chestertown, Maryland: William B. Usilton and Son, 1899.

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GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property includes all that parcel of land which was transferred from Terrance A. and Jennifer Corcoran to William George Sites and Peg Trotters Site by deed dated 30 November 1991, recorded among the Land Records of Kent County, Maryland in Liber EHP 259, folio 17, containing 6.025 acres.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property, 6.025 acres, comprises the resource within its immediate setting, and represents the remnant of the property historically associated with the resource.



K-79

LAURETUM

KENT CO., MD

PETER E. KURTZE, S/97

NEG AT MD SHPO

VIEW FROM SE

1 OF 7



K-79

LAURETUM

KENT CO., MD

PETER E. KURTZE, 5/97

NEG AT MD SAPO

SOUTH ELEV.

2 OF 7



K-79

LAURETUM

KENT CO., MD

PETER E. KURTZE, 5/97

NEG AT MD SHPO

NORTH ELEV.

3 OF 7



K-79

LAURETUM

KENT CO., MD

PETER E. KURTZE, 5/97

NEG AT MD SHPO

VIEW FROM NE

4 OF 7



K-79

LAURETUM

KENT CO, MD

PETER E. KURTZE, S | 97

NEG AT MD SHPO

PARLOR

5 OF 7



K-79

LAURETUM

KENT CO., MD.

PETER E. KURTZE, S/97

NEG AT MD SHPO

DINING ROOM

#6 OF 7



K-79

LAURETUM

KENT CO., MD

PETER E. KURTZE, 5/97

NEG AT MD SHPO

NORTHEAST ROOM

7 OF 7

K-79

Vickers House, Lauretaum
Chestertown
Private

Mid-19th Century

Lauretaum is one of the Eastern Shore's most extraordinary buildings. It was built in the middle of the 19th century and exemplifies the interest in assymetrical massing and the use of ideas of the picturesque in landscaping and architecture being explored at that time. The house is long and narrow with a Mansard roof and towers. It is built of brick which is stuccoed and scoured to resemble ashlar masonry. There is fine cast iron cresting on the roof and bracketted verandas on all sides. In side are many-paned colored windows and interior blinds decorated with graining. Mantles are carved marble and ceilings have plaster moldings and modillions. The house is in ruins.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

K-79
FORM # 504

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Vickers House, Lauretaum

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Across from Brooks Mill

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

--- VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Kent

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

Phil Brooks

Telephone #: (301) 778-0594

STREET & NUMBER

Front Street

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

--- VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21620

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Courthouse

Liber #: WHG 37

Folio #: 200

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

---FEDERAL ---STATE ---COUNTY ---LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

K-79

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lauretaum is a most extraordinary building, by far the best example of picturesque architecture on the Eastern Shore. It was built in the middle of the 19th century by George Vickers, a United States Senator. In the latest fashion of the day, sited on a knoll overlooking Chestertown, the house, its landscaped grounds, barns and stables, and servants houses were conceived of as one with the design of each part complementing the other. Today Lauretaum is in ruins, the landscaping clogged with weeds and its neighborhood zoned "heavy industrial."

The building, stuccoed brick, is two and one-half stories tall with a mansard roof and tower, and lower service wing. The plan is a rough cross shape with the sides filled in with verandas and patios. The entrance is at the head of the cross, and a hall runs back from the entrance parallel with the roof ridge to the stair, a dog-leg type located beneath a slate roofed lower that is topped with elegant cast iron cresting.

There is a jerkin-roofed entrance porch (formerly overlooking a curved drive for carriages). The front of the main house is also clipped with a projecting gable roofed dormer. A one story jerkin-roofed office and entry/service addition is left of the entrance, below the tower.

To the left upon entering is the parlor. It has a ceiling with plaster medallions set in a geometric pattern of plaster moldings and a deep plaster cornice which has its lower molding gilded. Windows are closed with paneled interior blinds which once were grained. The mantle, now broken, is white marble with a rounded opening, has relief carvings and, formerly, a carved marble bust. It is flanked by a pair of windows which reach the floor and through which one may reach a veranda with carved posts and wooden bracketts. Floors and trim in this room are typical of that used throughout the house; floors are narrow oak and trim is ribbed with corner blocks incised in a circular pattern.

The stair is oak. It is set between the parlor and entry and the dining room on the first floor, and between bedrooms on the second it ends in a tower with a view of Chestertown and the surrounding country side. Newels and intermediates are square and the balusters are turned. The closed string is molded. A window sash of tiny colored glass panes and an apron enriched with a cut-out pattern of clubs and spades.

Bedrooms have trim similar to that in the parlor; wide molded trim is also used. One bathroom on the second floor has boarded walls and a cornice with leaf-like moldings.

The dining room (on the first floor, behind the parlor) has board wainscoting and a marble mantle behind it is a sitting room, kitchen, and service area.

Exterior walls are stuccoed and painted tan. On the main facades they are scoured to resemble stone. Windows have upper sash of from 9 to 24 panes of colored glass; lower sash, either 1 or 2 lights, have clear glass. Most windows have wooden frames set in round arch brick openings; a tiny round medallion is used in the center of each lintel.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

K-79

ERIOD		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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lauretaum was the home of Hon. George Vickers who was born November 19, 1801 in Chestertown and died October 8, 1879. He was a Chestertown lawyer who was admitted to the bar in 1822. He entered political life and was a delegate to the Whig National Convention in 1852. He served as Major-General of the State Militia in the Civil War. He began his service in the U.S. Senate in 1866, participating in the debate on the Fifth Amendment and against the impeachment attempt against President Andrew Johnson.

After the publication of A. J. Downing's works (notably Cottage Residences) beginning in the 1840's, the idea of the picturesque came to dominate American buildings. The country was growing wealthy and self confident, freeing itself to explore and experiment. The wilderness declined as a threat and nature was something to be controlled and imitated. No longer acceptable were the regular boxlike house forms of the previous century or the "white mansions" of the Greek revival. The answer was found in buildings like Lauretaum; assymetrical and intigrated into its landscape, the building nonetheless made historical alusions to the established traditions of Europe, also a desire of the mid-century Americans.

On the Eastern Shore of Maryland the changing economy and political situation tended to continue use of earlier building forms into the 19th century. Consequently few of the grand picturesque early Victorian houses were constructed and few still remain. Lauretaum and its gardens was certainly one of the most spectacular and its loss most most unfortunate.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Usilton, Fred G., History of Kent County, Maryland, 1630-1916, Chestertown, Maryland, 1916.

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, Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Historical Society

DATE

September, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Church Alley

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown

STATE

Maryland 21620

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

#7 Continued

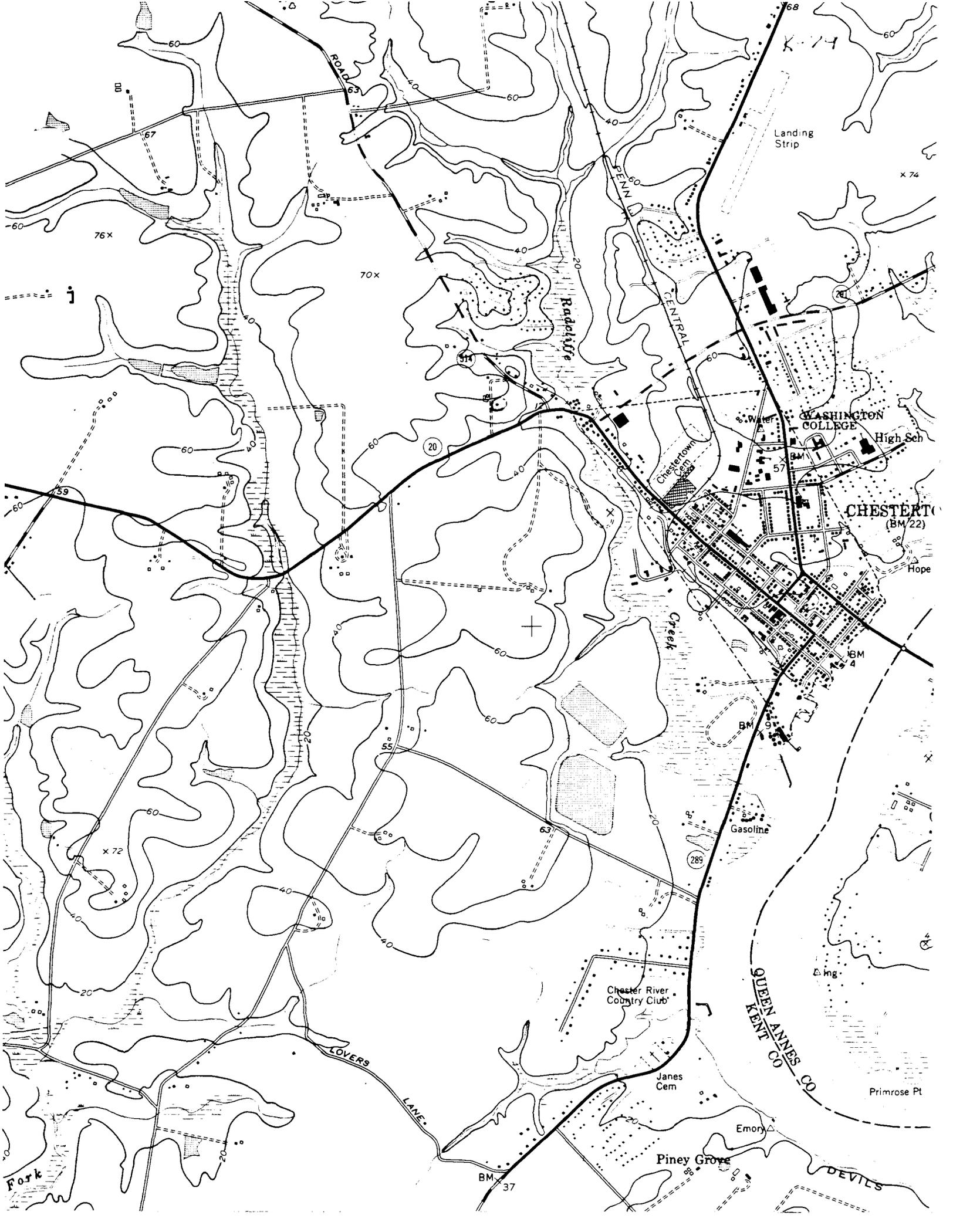
Windows, arranged either in pairs or singly are irregularly spaced in order to respond to interior functions and to participate in the asymmetrical composition of the house.

Porches have hipped or shallow roofs, chamfered posts, and decorative brackets, surviving balustrades on a one-half story porch are of decorative sawn slats. At the rear of the house is a lattice enclosed service porch which provides the connection between the main house and a small wooden service building which has a remarkable clipped gambrel roof and weather boarded walls.

The roof of the main house is covered with slate. Bands of imbricated are used near the eaves. Shed dormers with broad pilasters beside the windows light the upper floor. Their sides are covered with slate and their roofs are virtually supported with carved brackets.

Behind the house a lane leads past a cluster of frame barns to a servants house with jerkin roof, shingled walls and a bracketed cornice.

The main house is partially occupied but badly damaged by the weather.



ROAD 63

PENN. ROUTE 20

LOVERS LANE

QUEEN ANNES CO. ROUTE 288

Landing Strip

WASHINGTON COLLEGE

High Sch

CHESTERTOWN (BM/22)

Chester Town Cem

Chester River Country Club

Janes Cem

Piney Grove

Gasoline

Primrose Pt

DEVILS

BM 37

BM 1

BM 4

BM 288

76x

70x

20

59

x 72

x 74

x 74

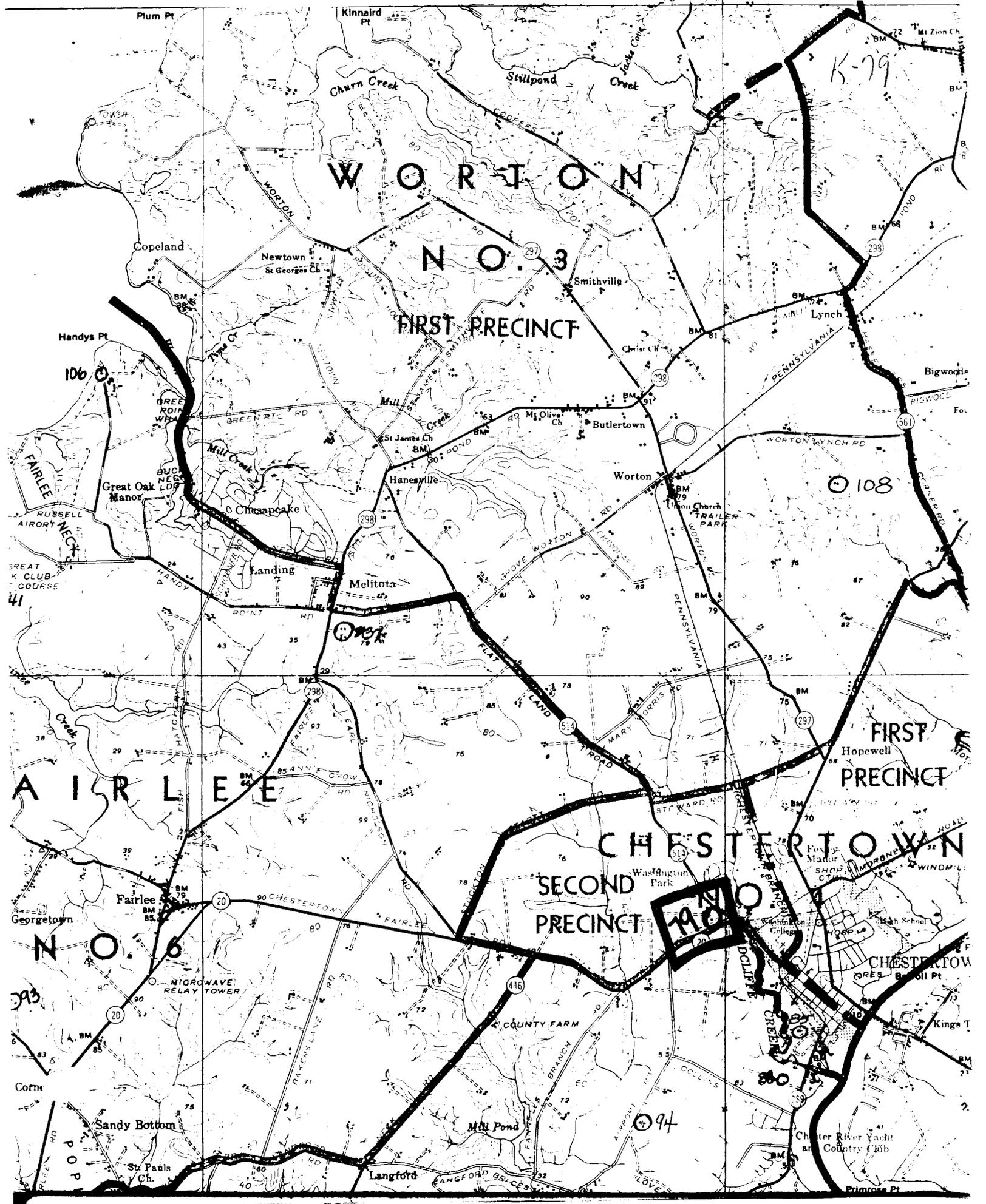
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K-79
Lauretum

See MHT vertical file for additional photographs.



Lauretum Place

M. FT - K 79

Rack Hall & Flat Land Rd.

Chester town Md

Facing North

C. Engstrom

Aug 1944



M 4899

LAURETUM PLACE

ROCK HALL AND FLAT LAND RDS

CHESTERTOWN, MD.

EAST

C. ENGSTROM AUG 1977



LAURETUM PLACE

MHT 49

ROCK HALL AND FLAT LAND RDS - Route 20

CHESTERTOWN, MD.

SOUTH

C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977



Lawretum Place

N.H. 749

Rack Hall & Flat Land Refs
Chester town Md.

East. . . Jerkin Roof building

C. Engstrom



MKT 49

LAURETUM PLACE

ROCK HALL AND FLAT LAND RDS.

CHESTERTOWN, MD.

SOUTH

C. ENGSTROM AUG 1977



MKT 79

LAURETUM PLACE

ROCK HALL AND FLAT LAND RDS

CHESTERTOWN, MD.

ENTRANCE HALL - EAST

C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977



MAT 1579

Lacvetum Place
Rock Hill: Flat Land Rd's
Chestertown, Md.

Main stairs & wood rack

C. Engstrom

Aug 1947



Lavretum Place

Rock Hall and Flat Land Rds
Chesterdown, Md.

Plaster ceiling, shutters & corner
meddlion at windows.

C. Engstrom

Aug 1977



Lauretum Place

Rock Hill and Flatland Rds
Chester town, Md.

Stair way looking down to
first floor landing. note
stencil on wall below window

C. Engstrom

Aug 1944



WAT 1579

LAURETUM PLACE

ROCK HALL AND FLAT LAND RDS.

CHESTERTOWN, MD

DETAIL - CEILING MEDALLION

C. ENGSTROM AUG. 1977