NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

WO-296

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 an 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 CLARKE, LITTLETON T., HOUSE

other names/site number Speights House

2. Location

street & number 407 Second Street N/A ☐ not for publication

city or town Pocomoke City N/A ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Worcester code 047 zip code 21851

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER 4-1-96
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

☐ 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:) _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [X] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [X] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Second Empire

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
walls Weatherboard
roof Slate
other Wood

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Littleton T. Clarke House is a 2-½ story mansard-roofed frame dwelling constructed ca. 1860 at the corner of Second and Walnut streets in the center of Pocomoke City, Worcester County, Maryland. The building has a center-passage, single-pile plan, with a service wing at the rear. It stands on a brick foundation and is sheathed with weatherboards. The building features exuberant exterior detailing in the Second Empire style. The predominant feature is the concave-curved mansard roof, covered in patterned slate, with multiple dormers and a prominent central tower; eaves are bracketed, and elements of metal roof cresting survive. The northwest facade is spanned by a porch with decorative chamfered posts; a similar porch and bay window are found on the southwest elevation. Paneled pilasters mark the corners of the facade. The interior retains the majority of its original finishes and decorative detailing; the decorative treatment of the interior is less elaborate than that of the exterior, and comprises woodwork typical of the period in the region.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Littleton T. Clarke House, locally known as the old Speights house, stands at 407 Second Street in the center of Pocomoke City, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story center hall frame house faces northwest, and the mansard roof is oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built ca. 1860, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame dwelling is supported by a low brick foundation, and it is sheathed with plain weatherboards. The concave-curved mansard roof is covered by a combination of decorative patterned slate on the steep sides and standing seam metal on the top surfaces. Attached to the back of the house is a two-and-a-half story, two-room plan dining room and kitchen wing. Also standing on the corner lot are two garage buildings.

The northwest (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The decorative four-panel Victorian front door is flanked by sidelights and a multi-pane transom. Long louvered shutters flank the windows. The principal corners of the house are trimmed with paneled pilasters. Stretching across the first floor of the house is a chamfered-post porch embellished with decorative star-motif brackets. An historic photograph of the house taken in 1908 shows metal cresting highlighting the roofs of the tower, porches, and bay window; part of the cresting survives on the west side bay window and porch. The second floor of the northwest facade is marked by a projecting center bay pierced by a pair of multi-pane sash windows. Single two-over-two sash windows flank the bay, and each of the window openings retains louvered shutters. Above the second floor windows, eave brackets trim the perimeter of the roof. The dominant feature of the house is the concave-curved mansard roof with a central steeply-pitched tower. The north face of the tower has a diamond pattern design in the slate above a pointed arch attic window. On each side are large gabled dormers fitted with paired two-over-two sash windows. Rising through the center of the house is a pair of internal brick chimneys which flank the center hall.

The southwest side of the single-pile main block is marked by

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

a single story bay with multi-pane sash windows. The second floor is lighted by a pair of two-over-two sash windows with louvered shutters. Illuminating the attic is a large gabled dormer fitted with a pair of two-over-two sash windows. The northeast side is marked by pairs of two-over-two sash windows that light each floor; louvered shutters remain on each opening. The mansard roof is pierced by the same type of gabled dormer that is found on the front and southwest side.

The southeast side of the main block is largely covered by the two-and-a-half story, four-bay service wing, which contains a dining room and kitchen on the first floor and bedrooms above. Repeating the mansard roof, the rear wing is also trimmed with bracketed eaves. An off-center brick chimney rises through the roof and is finished with a corbelled cap.

The southwest side of the wing is highlighted by a chamfered post porch with decorative corner brackets and intact metal cresting. Stretching between the chamfered posts is a molded handrail with plain balusters. The four-bay service wing is marked by a glazed door in the northernmost bay and a paneled door in the southernmost opening. Between the two doors are six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters. The second floor is illuminated by four evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows, also with louvered shutters. Piercing the mansard roof is a pair of shed roofed dormers filled with two-over-two sash windows.

The northeast side of the kitchen wing has been altered with an infilled section that was formerly an outside porch. Exterior finishes remain consistent with the rest of the house.

The interior of the main block follows a center passage, single-pile plan. The center hall contains the original stair with a bold, turned newel post and slender turned balusters which support a circular profile handrail. The open-string stair rises three flights to a partially finished attic.

The west front room was remodeled during the early twentieth century with the replacement of the mantel and the addition of a crown molding around the perimeter of the room. A neoclassical mantel with Ionic fluted columns is distinguished by a three-part

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

frieze embellished with classical urn decorations. Narrow white tiles face the front of an arched firebox. Plain corner block surrounds frame six-panel doors, and paneled aprons trim the space below the window openings. The room is also fitted with a molded baseboard.

The opposite front room on the east side of the hall is largely original with a late Greek Revival mantel of paneled pilasters and a paneled frieze. The thick board shelf is decorated with a bold bed molding.

The second front room on the east side of the hall is trimmed with original finishes including period mantels, six-panel doors, and four-panel closet doors.

On the third floor the only plastered room is located in the west end of the front block. A small bracketed shelf is fixed against the chimney stack. Four- and six-panel doors provide access to the other parts of the attic.

The rear wing is fitted with original woodwork as well. The dining room retains a period mantel as well as an adjacent built-in cupboard. The cupboard is finished with a narrow beaded board backing, glazed upper doors, and paneled lower doors.

The kitchen is plainly finished with beaded board walls and door. An enclosed stair rises to the upper floor of the rear wing, which contains bedrooms.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1860

Significant Dates

c.1860

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 5

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibilography SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 10
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other

Name of repository: Worcester County Library, Snow Hill, MD

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately .25 acre

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	450060	4213660
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 11

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 11

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 5/17/94

street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (410) 651-1094

city or town Westover state MD zip code 21871

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Walter Eskiewicz

street & number 407 Second Street telephone (410) 957-1645

city or town Pocomoke City state MD zip code 21851

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Littleton T. Clarke House is significant under Criterion C for its architecture, as the most expressive and well-preserved example of the Second Empire style of domestic architecture surviving in Worcester County. The house retains character-defining features of the Second Empire style in its concave-curved mansard roof with a central tower and multiple dormers, metal roof cresting, patterned slate, bracketed eaves, paneled corner pilasters, decorated porches, and bay window. It also retains the majority of its original interior finishes and decorative detailing.

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

HISTORIC CONTEXT AND RESOURCE HISTORY:

The Littleton T. Clarke House stands as both the most fully-realized and best preserved example of the Second Empire style of domestic architecture surviving in Worcester County. Pocomoke City lost most of its antebellum architecture in a series of destructive fires. Along with the Clarke House, two less elaborate examples of the style survive in Pocomoke City, namely the Daniel J. Crockett House (WO-397) and the Edgar Fontaine House (WO-400). Another example, the John J. Collins House (WO-96), is located in the town of Snow Hill. Of the four surviving examples of the style, the Clarke House represents the most ambitious expression, and survives in an outstanding state of preservation; it is also the oldest of the four, dating from ca. 1860.

As an expression of a popular architectural trend of the period, the Clarke House is representative of an important transition in building practices which began in the mid-nineteenth century, as picturesque styles promoted in builders' manuals, architects' pattern books, and popular literature began to supplant local vernacular traditions. The Clarke House illustrates this transition in its exterior expression of Second Empire features, while it retains the center-passage, single-pile interior organization which had long characterized the vernacular architecture of the region. The mass-produced architectural decoration displayed on the Clarke House also signals a significant transition from the handcraft traditions which had characterized regional building through the mid-nineteenth century.

In the nineteenth century, Pocomoke City was an especially prominent location on the lower Eastern Shore for planing mills, shingle factories, and building supplies due to its proximity to large stands of native timber and the vital transportation artery of the Pocomoke River. The town expanded markedly between 1800 and 1860 from a ferry crossing and former tobacco inspection site to a major commercial and population center in southern Worcester County.

Reflective of the activity in the building industry in Pocomoke City is an advertisement for the firm operated by Thomas F. and R. M. Stevenson which appeared in the town newspaper, the

See Continuation Sheet No. 7

Record and Gazette, on March 20, 1875:

> Having removed and enlarged our place of business for the third time, we are now better than ever prepared to manufacture and fill orders for Door frames, (Plain and Side Light), Window Frames, (Plain and Box Light), Inside Door Jambs, (Plain and Moulded), Sash (all sizes and shapes), Venetian and Panel Shutters; Washboard and Caseings, Scroll Sawing A Speciality; Mantels and Brackets; Cornish Moulding, and a variety of mouldings. Turning from a Button to a Column.

Estimated to date to around 1860, the construction of this impressive Second Empire dwelling is credited to Littleton T. Clarke (1827-1866), a businessman in river-side Newtown, known after 1878 as Pocomoke City. On September 28, 1857, Littleton T. Clarke married Amerett Jane Trader, who operated a millinery store and is listed in the 1860 U.S. Census as a 21 year old milliner. In 1864, Littleton T. Clarke joined in a mercantile partnership with Thomas J. Blain and Thomas N. Williams to operate a dry goods and grocery business. The business enterprise was discontinued in 1866 with Littleton T. Clarke's sudden death at age 39.

Littleton T. Clarke died intestate, and the Second Street property was sold three years later to Amerett, who the following day sold the house and lot to Benjamin T. Cator for $3,000. The property description reads, "...in and to all that house and lot, in Newtown,...of which Littleton T. Clarke aforesaid died siezed and where he resided at the time of his death." Two years later, Cator transferred the property to Jeremiah T. Speights, who held title to the house until 1880. Captain Jeremiah Speights is designated at this location on the 1877 Newtown map in the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, and is listed in the 1870 U.S. Census as a well-off "waterman" with real estate and personal property valued at $6,000. This census indicates that the Speights family included Jeremiah, his wife Susan, aged 42, and three daughters and a son, Mary, Emma, Rose, and Charles.

Between 1880 and 1889, the house was held by Julius T. and Mary C. Hall, who in May 1889 transferred ownership to Marietta E. Clarke for $2,200. (Any family tie between Littleton T. Clarke and

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

Marietta E. Clarke has not been established.) Marietta E. Clarke (1845-1930) resided there until her death; she bequeathed the property to her son, William H. Clarke, who willed it to William McCullough Clarke in 1954. In 1958, William McCullough Clarke sold the family house to J. Scott and Emilye Porter. Scott Porter predeceased his wife, Emilye, who died in February 1987. The current owners, Walter and Pamela Eskiewicz, purchased the property from the representatives of Emilye D. Porter in 1988.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

- Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Known Design Source: none

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Barnes, John C. Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Population Schedule for Worcester County, printed by Ruth T. Dryden, 1988.

Dryden, Ruth T. Cemetery Records of Worcester County. Privately printed, 1988.

Graham, John L. ed. The 1877 Atlases of the Eastern Shore and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Salisbury, Maryland: Peninsula Press, 1976.

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

Murray, James. The History of Pocomoke City, formerly Newtown. Baltimore: Curry, Clay & Company, 1883.

Record and Gazette, 20 March 1875, Worcester County Library Microfilm Collection, Snow Hill, Maryland.

Touart, Paul Baker. Along the Seaboard Side; the Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland. Worcester County: Snow Hill, Maryland, 1994.

Worcester County Land Records, various volumes, Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill.

Worcester County Register of Wills, various volumes, Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

All that lot or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the First Election District of Worcester County, Maryland within the corporate limits of Pocomoke City, known as 407 Second Street (Map 410, Parcel 913) being more particularly described on the easterly side of Second Street at the intersection of Second and Walnut Streets, and being bounded on the north by Second Street, on the west by Walnut Street, and by the properties now or formerly owned by Robert J. Frostrom and Richard Hayman. Recorded among the Land Records of Worcester County in Liber RHO 1507, Folio 368.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property, approximately .25 acre, comprises the single town lot historically associated with the resource.

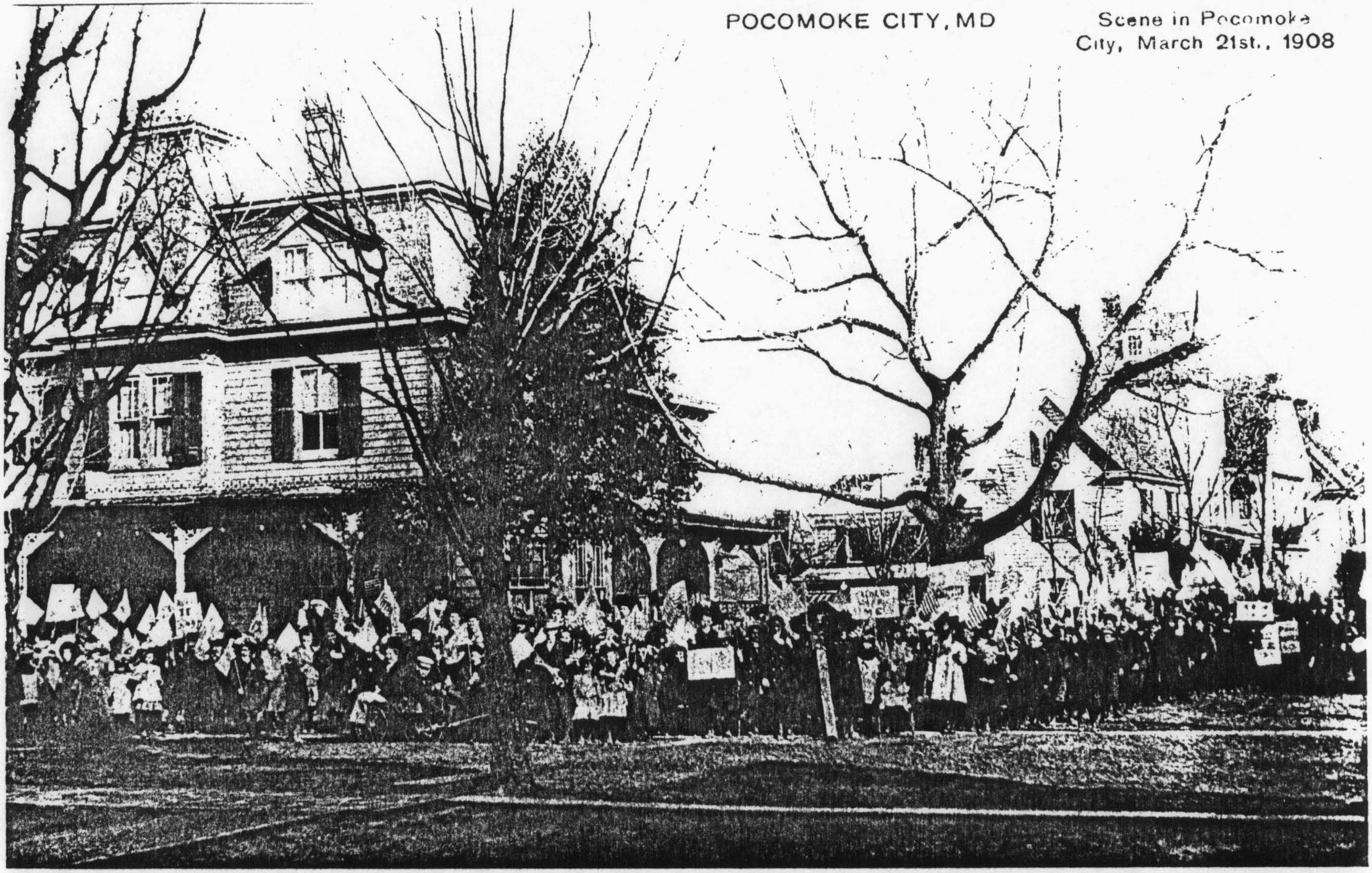
WO-296
LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE
Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD

Pocomoke City, MD Quadrangle
1968

WO-296
LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE
Pocomoke City, Maryland Quadrangle
1968

POCOMOKE CITY, MD

Scene in Pocomoke City, March 21st., 1908



WO-296

SCENE IN POCOMOKE CITY, MARCH 21, 1908
Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD
Documentary photograph, 1908
Collection of Michael Luby
Negative/Maryland State Archive

WO-296

TRUCK
TRAFFIC
PROHIBITED

WO-296

LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE

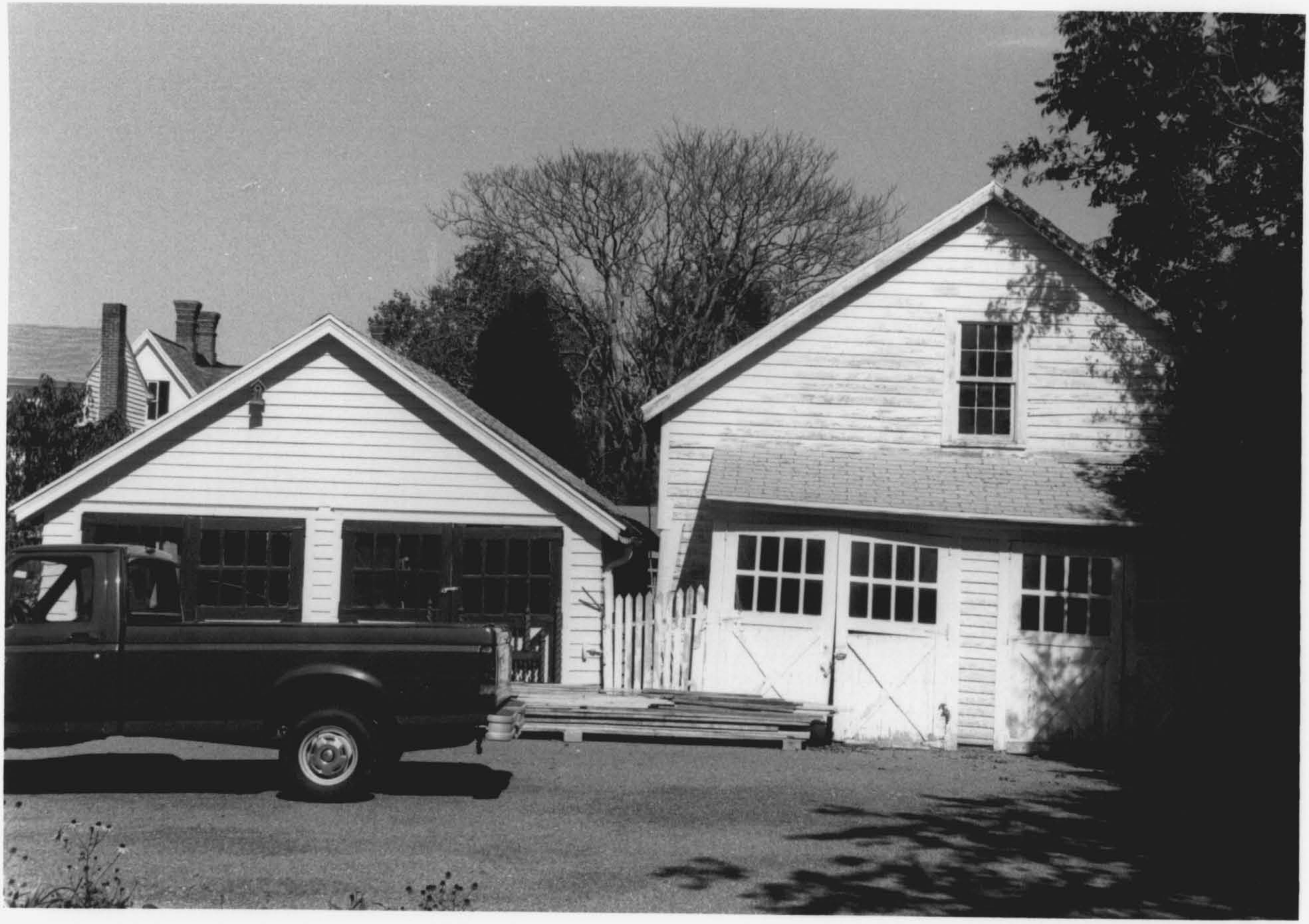
PICOMOKE CITY, WORCESTER CO., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. / HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-296
LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE
Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD
West elevation
5/89, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust



MD-296
LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE
POCOMOKE CITY, WORCESTER CO., MD.
GARAGES - SOUTHWEST ELEVATION
10/94, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-296

LITTLETON T. CLARICE HOUSE

POCOMOKE CITY, WORCESTER CO., MD.

DINING ROOM MANTEL

10/99. PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

TRUCK
TRAFFIC
PROHIBITED
ONE WAY

WO-296
LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE
POCOMOKE CITY, WORCESTER CO., MD.
NORTHWEST ELEVATION
10/94, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. MD HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-296

LITTLETON T CLARKE HOUSE

POCOMOKE CITY, WORCESTER CO., MD.

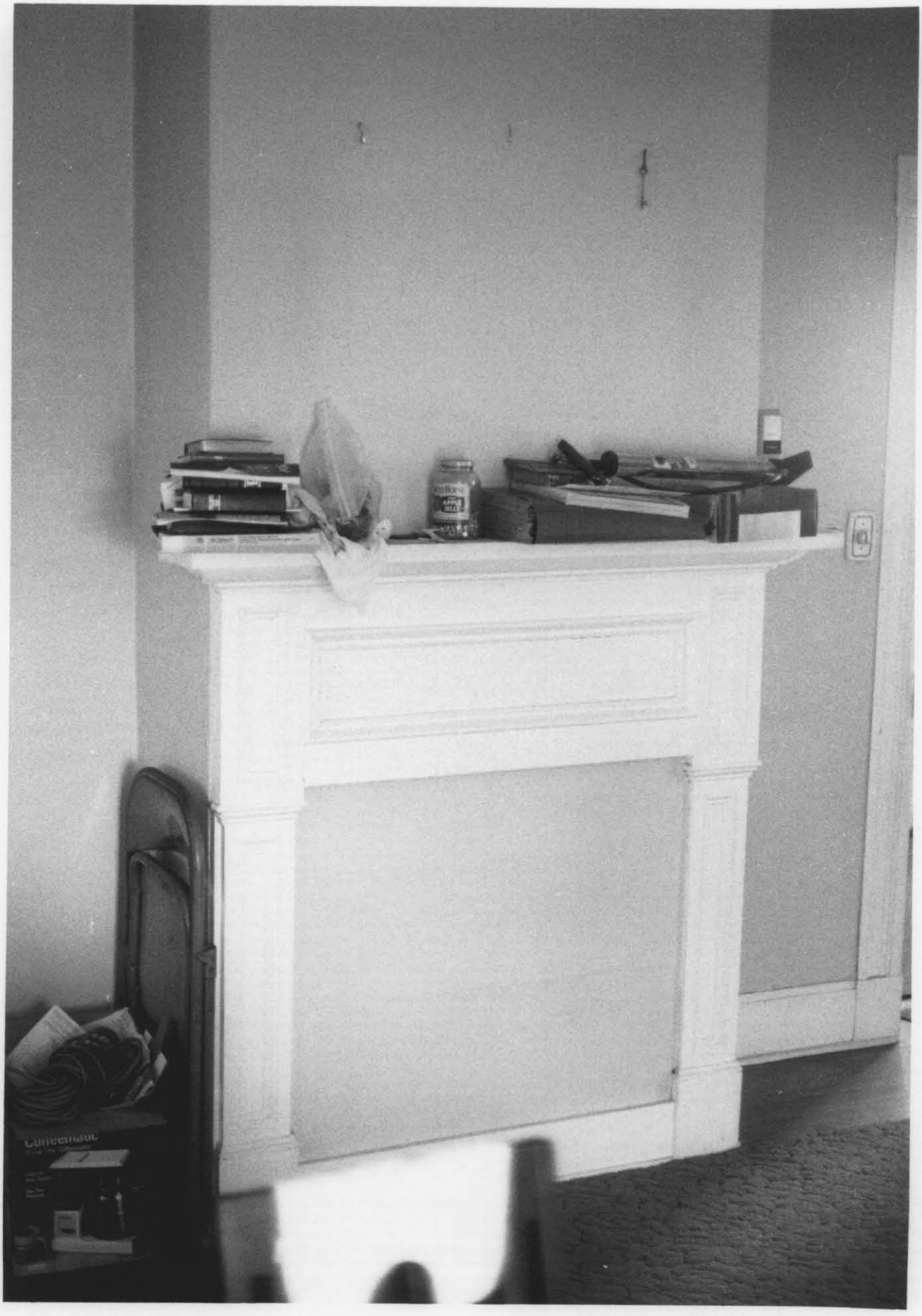
LIVING ROOM MANTEL

10/94, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

WO-296
LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE
Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD
~~Livingroom mantel~~ STAIR
5/89, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

WO-296
LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE
Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD
~~North elevation~~ PARLOR MANTEL
5/89, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust



WO-296
LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE
Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD
~~Parlor~~ mantel (Living Room)
5/89, Paul Touart, photographer
Negative/MD Historical Trust

WO-296

LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE

POCOMOKE CITY, WORCESTER CO., MD.

STAIRHALL

10/94, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST