

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #66-18 Building Date: 1894

Building Name: Lake House (Presbyterian Parsonage)

Location: 8524 Potomac Avenue, College Park, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Lake House is a Victorian frame cross-gable house which stands on one of the original lots of the town of Central Heights, now known as Berwyn. It is distinguished by fine Queen Anne details, including an octagonal tower, novelty shingle siding and lacework verandah. The house consists of a two-and-one-half-story front-gabled main block, two-by-three bay, with side cross gable and tower, and a slightly lower rear kitchen wing. Spanning the east gable front and wrapping around part of the north and south facades is a one-story verandah supported by turned posts; it has a plain balustered railing and rests on brick piers. The lacework verandah is highlighted by a frieze course of knobbed spindles and turned pendants. The main block is highlighted by an octagonal three-story tower on the north, and a cross-gable on the south. The tower in the first bay of the north facade has a pyramidal roof surmounted by a terra cotta acroterion. A slightly lower and narrower two-and-one-half-story kitchen wing extends to the west on the same line as the main block. A one-story hip-roof porch has the same turned posts, railing and spindle frieze course as the east veranda.

Significance:

The Lake House (Presbyterian Parsonage) is an outstanding example of a late Victorian frame dwelling with abundant Queen Anne style decorative detail. It was built in the early 1890's on land subdivided to form the suburb of Central Heights. It is a distinctive landmark in that suburb, known today as Berwyn. In 1892 Annie and Wilmot Lake purchased 2 lots in Central Heights, directly west of the Berwyn Station and fronting on Shanabrook Avenue. In 1894, the Lakes began construction of this elegant Victorian dwelling, based on a design distributed by the Cooperative Building Plan Association. The house was distinguished by an octagonal corner tower, novelty shingle siding, and lacework verandah. From 1919 to the late 1950's the house served as the Parsonage of the Berwyn Presbyterian Church. Restored for use as a residence by the present owner, it is today the only Queen Anne style dwelling which survives from the early subdivision of Central Heights and is a distinctive landmark in the Berwyn community.

Acreage: 15,00 square feet

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Lake House, Presbyterian Parsonage

and/or common Weary House

## 2. Location

street & number 8524 Potomac Avenue  not for publication

city, town College Park Berwyn vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Richard Weary

street & number 8524 Potomac Avenue

telephone no.:

city, town College Park state and zip code Md. 20740

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. County Courthouse liber #2481

street & number Main Street folio 63

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. PG#66-18

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Lake House (Presbyterian Parsonage) is a Victorian frame cross-gable house which stands on one of the original lots of the town of Central Heights, now known as Berwyn. It is distinguished by fine Queen Anne details, e.g., an octagonal tower, novelty shingle siding and lacework veranda.

The house consists of a two-and-one-half-story front-gabled main block, two bays by three, with side cross gable and tower, and a slightly lower rear kitchen wing. The house faces east (toward the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks); entrance is in the third bay of the east gable front through a door with single pane transom and plain board surrounds. The door itself has glazing over molded panels. Spanning the east gable front and wrapping around part of the north and south facades is a one-story verandah. It is supported by turned posts, has a plain balustered railing, and rests on brick piers. The lacework veranda is highlighted by a frieze course of knobbed spindles, which defines wide arches between the posts, and is further embellished by turned pendants. The porch has a coffered ceiling, and an interior frieze course of narrow molded panels.

The building is sided on first and second stories with plain horizontal board, painted orange. A course of clipped-corner shingles defines the line between first and second stories, and the third-level gable ends are sided with the same shingles. Windows are 1/1 double hung sash and have plain board surrounds with projecting upper bead. There are green louvered shutters at a few windows. Windows are arranged in pairs above the first story.

The main block is highlighted by an octagonal three-story tower on the north, and a cross-gable on the south. The tower in the first bay of the north facade has a pyramidal roof surmounted by a terra cotta acroterion. The first story of the tower is sided with horizontal board, with clipped-corner shingle on the second, and with narrower horizontal board on the third. The tower is lighted at second and third levels, the small window on its north face having small border lights.

The projecting cross gable in the first bay of the south facade is highlighted on the first story by a cutaway bay window with jig-sawn cornice ornament. There are paired windows at second and third levels; the gable end at third level is sided with clipped-corner shingles and embellished with perforated bargeboards. There is an entrance from the verandah into the east face of the cross-gable.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1894 **Builder/Architect**

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Lake House (Presbyterian Parsonage) is an outstanding example of a late Victorian frame dwelling with abundant Queen Anne style decorative detail. It was built in the early 1890's on land subdivided to form the suburb of Central Heights. It is a distinctive landmark in that suburb, known today as Berwyn.

The area which is today known as Berwyn was part of a tract known as "Red House" which Francis Shanabrook purchased in 1889. The land was surveyed and platted in that year, following the example of the adjoining new suburb of Charlton Heights.<sup>1</sup> (Charlton Heights, which was immediately to the east on the other side of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, had been platted in 1888, and within that year new pattern book dwellings had been erected along its newly laid streets.<sup>2</sup>) Shanabrook's subdivision was named Central Heights, and consisted of building lots laid out south of a Central Avenue which ran west from the new railroad depot.<sup>1</sup>

Francis Shanabrook began selling lots in 1890. In 1892 Annie and Wilmot Lake purchased Lots 4 and 5 in Block #1 of Central Heights, directly west of the Berwyn Station and fronting on Shanabrook Avenue. In 1894, the Lakes began construction of this elegant Victorian dwelling, based on a design distributed by the Cooperative Building Plan Association.<sup>3</sup> The house was distinguished by an octagonal corner tower, novelty shingle siding, and lacework veranda. The Lakes borrowed money from St. Andrew's Parish (in St. Mary's County) in order to pay for construction. They defaulted on payments, and the house was sold in 1896.<sup>4</sup>

By this time, the name of Central Heights had been changed to Berwyn (and a short time later the adjoining Charlton Heights became Berwyn Heights). During the early twentieth century, the Lake house was the home of the David Hazard family; from 1919 to the late 1950's it served as the Parsonage of the Berwyn Presbyterian Church. This church (first called Charlton Heights Mission) was built in 1890 just south of the Lake House; it was known after 1892 as the Berwyn Mission, and became the Berwyn Presbyterian Church in 1914. The Lake House served as the Parsonage until the late 1950's, when a new church was constructed at Greenbelt Road and 63rd

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PG#66-18

Cf. notes, item #8

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 15,000 square feet  
Quadrangle name Washington East, Section B

Tax Map 33, Block 1  
Quadrangle scale lots 4,5

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

C 

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D 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission date August 1986

street & number c/o County Planning, MNCPPC telephone 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro state MD.

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  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM

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Description (continued)

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A slightly lower and narrower two-and-one-half-story kitchen wing extends to the west on the same line as the main block. It is two-bays-by-two-bays, with entrance in the first bay of the west gable end. A one-story hip-roof porch shelters this north gable end; it has the same turned posts, railing and spindle frieze course as the east veranda, but does not have a coffered ceiling.

The gable roof of the building is covered with gray asphalt shingle. Cornices are boxed with crown molding, and have stencilled perforated bargeboards at all gable ends. Three panelled corbelled brick chimneys rise from the roof of the main block: one each in the north and south planes of the roof at the west gable end, and a third near the east front of the house set transversely in the south plane of the roof. The building rests on a high brick foundation.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
STATE HISTORIC SITES INVENTORY FORM  
Statement of Significance (continued)

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Avenue. In 1960, the Parsonage was sold to the present owner, who has recently (1980's) undertaken restoration work on the house.<sup>5</sup> It is today the only Queen Anne style dwelling which survives from Shanabrook's subdivision of Central Heights. It is an outstanding and distinctive landmark in the Berwyn community today.

Notes

- 1 Prince George's County Plat JWB #13:467; JWB #5:481, 1890.
- 2 cf. Prince George's County Files #67-9 through 21, Charlton Heights.
- 3 Prince George's County Deeds JWB #23:177; JWB #29:26; catalogs of R. W. Shoppell, Cooperative Building Plan Association.
- 4 Prince George's County Deeds JWB #29:26; JWB #38:298.
- 5 Prince George's County Deeds #9:491, #143:491, #2481:63; Skarda, D.D., Berwyn Heights - History of a Small Maryland Town, p. 36.





PG#66-18

Lake House, Presybterian Parsonage  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
Southeast 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#66-18

Lake House, Presbyterian Parsonage  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
West elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#66-18

Lake House, Presbyterian Parsonage  
Prince George's County, Md.

Susan G. Pearl

March 1986

East elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#66-18

Lake House, Presbyterian Parsonage  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1976  
Northwest 3/4 elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



PG#66-18

Lake House, Presybterian Parsonage  
Prince George's County, Md.  
Susan G. Pearl  
March 1986  
South elevation  
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.