

S-323

c. 1895

Orrie Lee Tawes, Sr. House

Crisfield

Private

Family tradition repeats that Orrie Lee Tawes, Sr. built this Queen Anne style frame house around 1895, and the property remains in the hands of his daughter. In contrast to the other nearby houses of the same style and date, this dwelling has a two-story circular tower and a wraparound Victorian porch. The entrance bay is topped by a three-sided bay window surmounted by a gable front^{roof.} The lower corners of the gabled roof are trimmed with Victorian brackets with paired corner pendants. The interior rooms have not been significantly altered, and the front hall ceiling survives with elaborate plasterwork.

Survey No. S-323

Magi No. 2003235604

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Orrie Lee Tawes, Sr. House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 25 West Main Street ___ not for publication

city, town Crisfield ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Somerset

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| | | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

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

name Mrs. Anne Whittington

street & number 25 West Main Street telephone no.:

city, town Crisfield state and zip code Maryland 21817

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Somerset Clerk of Court liber

street & number Somerset County Courthouse folio

city, town Princess Anne state Maryland 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <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.

Orrie Lee Tawes, Sr. House Description

The Orrie Lee Tawes, Sr. house is located at 25 West Main Street in Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland. The c. 1895 Queen Anne style frame house stands on the south side of the street and faces north.

Supported by a continuous stretcher bond foundation, the two-and-a-half story frame house is clad with a combination of asbestos shingles and narrow weatherboards. The steeply pitched pyramidal roof and its various projecting gables are covered with asphalt shingles. Extending to the rear is a two-story service wing, and standing behind the house is a one-bay garage.

The north (main) facade is an asymmetrical elevation with a centrally located entrance, a northwest corner tower and a wraparound Victorian porch. The glazed front door is flanked on the left (east) by a small colored glass window that lights the first floor stair landing. Located above the entrance is a three-sided bay window covered by a gable-front roof. The lower, outside corners of the roof are trimmed with decorative spindles and brackets. The gable is pierced by a pointed arch four-pane attic window. To the right of the center bay is a circular tower lighted on both floors by curved single-pane sash windows. The tower is capped by a conical roof. The bay to the left of the entrance is marked by a recessed side porch entrance. A glazed door fills the first floor bay, and a two over two sash window marks the second floor. Stretching across this entire uneven elevation is a turned post Victorian porch with decorative brackets between each bay and along the cornice. A turned post porch railing and a front step handrail remain intact as well.

The east side elevation is distinguished by a two-story three-sided bay window covered by a gable-front roof that is trimmed in the same manner as the front gable. A two-story one-room plan kitchen finished in a plain manner extends from the back end of the house.

The interior of the main house has remained essentially unaltered with oak woodwork and plaster ceiling decoration in the front tower room and hall. The quarter-turn stair rises against the east wall and has a heavy square newel post, turned balusters and a molded handrail. The second floor was not seen.

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 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 | Builder/Architect |
|--|-------------------|
| check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or | |
| Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G | |
| Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local | |

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

SIGNIFICANCE

The Orrie Lee Tawes, Sr. house is one of a dozen prominent turn-of-the-century Queen Anne style houses that still line West Main Street in Crisfield. Several of the more prominent houses from the period have been torn down. The corner tower, the well-preserved turned post porch and the interior plaster decoration are some of the more significant features. Family tradition repeats that this house was erected for Orrie Lee Tawes, Sr. around 1895, and the property remains in the hands of his daughter, Anne Whittington.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Touart - Architectural Historian

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|------|---------|
| organization | Somerset County Historical Trust | date | 7/25/85 |
|--------------|----------------------------------|------|---------|

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|----------|
| street & number | 424 North Somerset Avenue | telephone | 651-0077 |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|----------|

| | | | |
|--------------|---------------|-------|----------------|
| city or town | Princess Anne | state | Maryland 21853 |
|--------------|---------------|-------|----------------|

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



Orrie Lee Tawes, Sr. House
Crisfield, Somerset County
North Elevation
7/85, Photographer, Paul Touart
Neg/Md. Historical Trust

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