

S-325
McCready House
Crisfield
private

c. 1870

Only a handful of houses survive from the first decade of Crisfield history, and the McCready house has distinguished the northwest corner of Main Street and Somerset Avenue since it was erected around 1870. The two-story, tee-shaped frame house, common for the third quarter of the nineteenth century, was built with the leg of the tee facing Main Street. This orientation provided a bold gable-front elevation as well as a convenient space for a wraparound porch surrounding the leg of the tee. The snake-curved brackets are an especially unusual decorative feature. In addition to the well-preserved nature of the house, the yard is surrounded by one of the few surviving picket fences in Crisfield. A group of outbuildings accompany the dwelling.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic McCready House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number N.W. corner of West Main Street and Somerset Avenue not for publication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 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

street & number _____ telephone no.: _____

city, town _____ state and zip code _____

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 MD 21853

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. S-325

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| 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.

The McCready house stands on the northwest corner of the intersection of West Main Street and Somerset Avenue in the center of uptown Crisfield, Somerset County, Maryland. The two-story Victorian house faces south with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

The two-story tee-plan frame house is supported by a minimal brick foundation and is sheathed uniformly by a narrow weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with wood shingles, and the perimeter of the roof is embellished with decorative brackets. Twin interior chimneys rise from the center of the structure.

The south (main) facade of the tee-plan is a gable-front elevation of three bays. The entrance is located in the left (west) bay with a heavily molded four-panel door. The adjacent window openings have four over four sash that stretch from the floor to the ceiling and are flanked by louvered shutters. The first floor is covered by a wraparound porch of chamfered posts and snake-curved corner brackets. A side porch entrance opens into the rear section from the east end. The second floor of the main elevation is marked by three evenly spaced four over four sash windows with louvered shutters, while the upper gable is pierced by a single four over two sash with an arched header and corresponding arched shutters.

The east and west side elevations are essentially the same. The uneven facade of the tee-plan is pierced by a combination of four over four or two over two sash windows. The east gable end of the rear section has a single four over four sash on the first and second floors and a single four over two sash that lights the attic.

The rear (north) elevation is five bays across with a center rear door and flanking four over four sash windows. A square columned, flat roofed porch covers the center three bays of the rear facade. A two over two sash window pierces the cross-gable.

Attached to the southwest corner of the house is a single-story kitchen wing with a small cross-gable on the east side. A four over two sash lights the gable-front, while the kitchen is lighted by similar sash windows.

The interior of this house was not seen on the initial visit, but from the well-preserved nature of the exterior it appears the interior retains a large portion of its period woodwork.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-325

| 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.

The McCready house is one of the best preserved houses that dates from the earliest period of extant dwellings standing in Crisfield. The tee-plan house, common for the third quarter of the nineteenth century, is turned with the leg of the plan facing Main Street. This provided a bold gable-front main elevation and a convenient space for a wraparound porch surrounding the leg of the tee. The snake-curved brackets are an especially unusual decorative feature.

Most of the houses that date from the first decade of Crisfield's development, 1866-1876, have been razed or destroyed by fire. This house, located on the perimeter of town development, now occupies an important corner site in the eastern residential section of the town.



McCready House

§-325

Crisfield, Somerset County

South Elevation

8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Md. Historical Trust



McCreedy House

S-325

Crisfield, Somerset County

East Elevation

8/85, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg./Historical Trust



