

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Reeders Memorial Home Inventory Number: WA -II-744

Address: 141 South Main Street, Boonsboro, Maryland

Owner: Reeders Memorial Home Inc.

Tax Parcel Number: 770 Tax Map Number: 601

Project: Boonsboro Streetscape - WA960A21 Agency: Maryland State Highway Administration

Site visit by: John Milner Associates, Inc. Staff: no  yes

Name: Kerri Culhane and Rachel Mancini Date: June 1999

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility **not** recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Is property located within a historic district?  no  yes Name of district: Town of Boonsboro

Is district listed?  no  yes

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Boonsboro Streetscape, Alternate US 40: MD 68 to East of Mousetown Road, Washington County, Maryland, SHA Report 215 (JMA 1999) and Final Report: Architectural and Cultural Survey of Boonsboro and Clear Spring, MD (Mueller 1992).

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

No. 141 S. Main Street, currently occupied by Reeders Memorial Home, was formerly known as Rose Hill and the Lilacs. The earliest part of this complex was built ca. 1814 by Dr. Ezra Slifer. Slifer built the U.S. Hotel building at 2 South Main Street in 1811. Rose Hill is now incorporated into the Reeders Memorial Home. A twin of Rose Hill was built about 70-100 years ago, and now stands north of the original building. Both buildings have been modified to suit the needs of the home for the aged, but the basic form of the buildings is evident. The original block is three-story stuccoed masonry structure with side-gabled metal roof. The original two-story porches have been enclosed into three-story shed-roofed bays. Between the two buildings is a metal fire escape. The second building is the near twin of original, but with a large, two-story gable addition at the rear parallel to the ridge line. South of the original building is a gable-roofed masonry (parged brick) outbuilding with metal roof and interior chimney. In the hill behind the house is a stone parapet which apparently fronts a bunker or root cellar built into the hillside. According to Doug Bast, town historian, The Lilacs or Rose Hill, was featured in a play by David Belasco entitled "The Heart of Maryland", written ca. 1895. Though altered, the form of the house is apparent, and the significance of the house in Boonsboro's history is well documented. This a contributing resource to the Town of Boonsboro Historic District.

Prepared by: Kerri Culhane, John Milner Associates, Inc., VA.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended  A  B  C  D

Eligibility not recommended  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Comments: *Contributes*

*[Signature]*

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

*11/20/99*

Date

*[Signature]*

Reviewer, NR program

*10/12/80*

Date

*[Handwritten mark]*

**PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN  
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

**I. Geographic Region:**

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)  
 Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)  
 Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)  
 Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

**II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:**

- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815  
 Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870  
 Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
 Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present  
 Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

**III. Historic Period Themes:**

- Agriculture  
 Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning  
 Economic (Commercial and Industrial)  
 Government/Law  
 Military  
 Religion  
 Social/Educational/Cultural  
 Transportation

**IV. Resource Type:**

Category: Building  
Historic Environment: Village  
Historic Function(s) and Use(s): DOMESTIC/single dwelling/multiple dwelling  
Known Design Source: none



WA-11-744

141 S. Main St

Boonsboro, Washington Co., MD

Kerri Culhane

6/1999

neg: MD SHPO

looking NE, Recders Memorial Home



WA-11-744

141 S. Main St.

Boonsboro, Washington Co., MD

Kerri Culhane

6/1999

neg: MD SHPO

west elevation, Reeders Memorial Home



WA-11-744

141 S. Main St

Boonsboro, Washington Co., MD

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6/1999

neg: MD SHPO

Reeders Memorial home, looking SE



WA-11-744

141 S. Main St.

Boonsboro, Washington Co., MD

Kerri Cullhane

6/1999

neg: MD SHPO

looking NW, Reeders Memorial Home



WA-11-744

141 S. Main St.

Boonsboro, Washington Co., MD

Kerri Culhane

6/1999

neg: MD SHPO

south elevation, Reeders Memorial Home



WA-11-744

141 S. Main St.

Boonsboro, Washington Co., MD

Kerri Culhane

6/1999

neg: MD SHPO

looking SE, house, Reeders Memorial Home



WA-11-744

141 S. Main St

Boonsboro, Washington Co., MD

Kerri Culhane

6/1999

neg: MD SHPO

looking SE, shelter?, Reeders Memorial Home

SITE NUMBER: WA-II-744  
ADDRESS: 141 South Main Street, Boonsboro, MD  
OWNER/LOT NUMBER/ACCESS: Reeder's Nursing Home  
BUILDING DATE: c. 1809

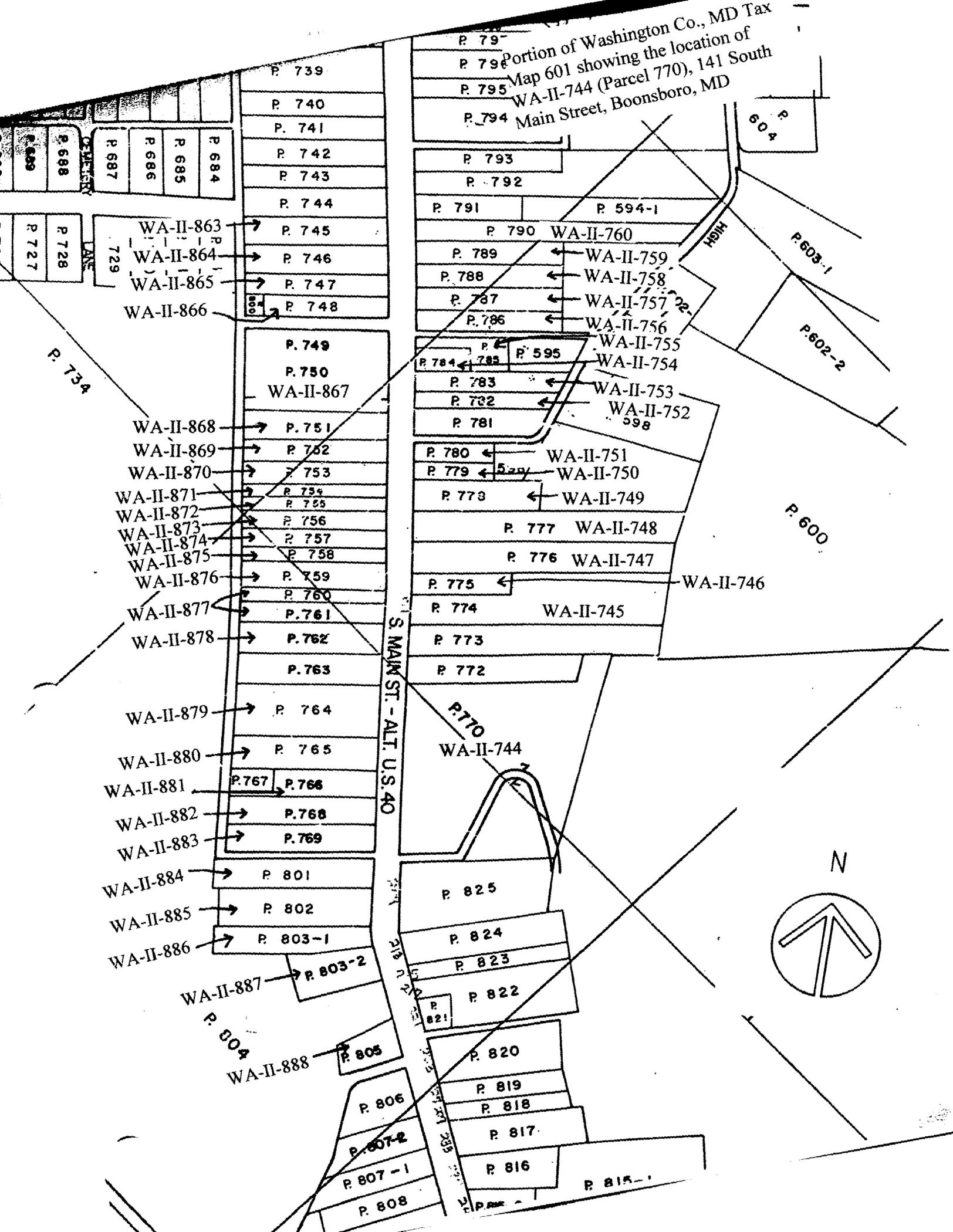
141 South Main Street is an extensively remodeled residential structure that bears little resemblance to the original structure. A large, three-story stuccoed building, it now contains one-bedroom apartments that are currently vacant. The property contains several historic outbuildings, as well as a modern nursing facility on the hill above the house.

A lone building of similar configuration is indicated on the 1877 map of the town. By 1897, the stone house is shown with a smaller brick structure (extant) to its south and a frame building behind it. All the Sanborns (1897-1940) label the building as a dwelling. According to a walking tour brochure of the town, the house was constructed about 1809 for Dr. Ezra Slifer, who named it "the Lilacs." Because the hill on which it was located was full of wild roses, the property came to be known as Rose Hill with the house being called "the Lilacs on Rose Hill." The house was the setting of David R. Belasco's successful play "Heat of Maryland," which was made into a movie around 1915.

The building is within the Western Maryland Geographic Organization, the Development Period of Rural-Agrarian Intensification, and falls within the Historic Period Theme of Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning.

Prepared by Julianne Mueller, July 1992

Portion of Washington Co., MD Tax  
 Map 601 showing the location of  
 WA-II-744 (Parcel 770), 141 South  
 Main Street, Boonsboro, MD



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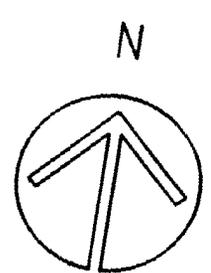
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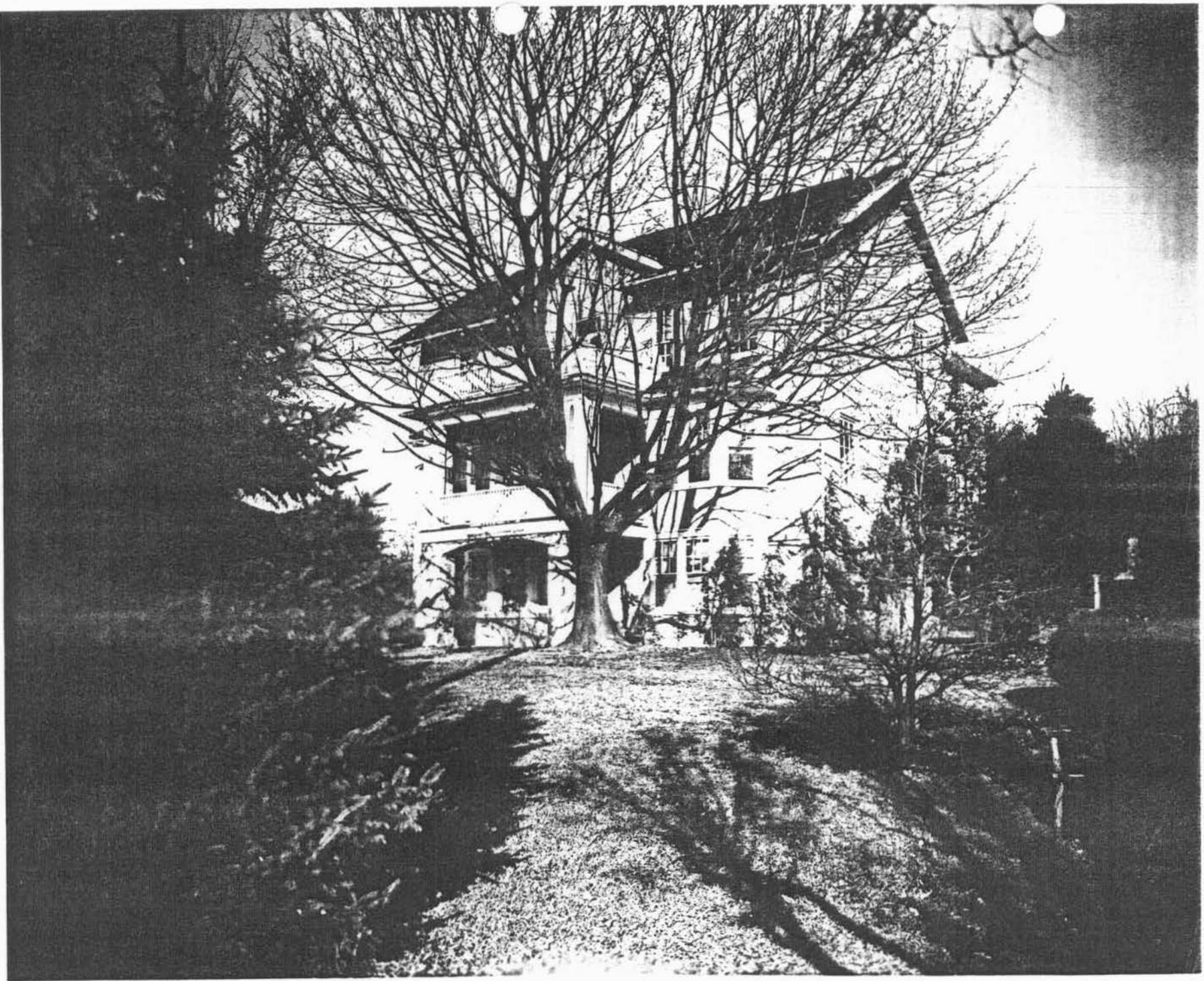
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KEEDER'S MEMORIAL HOME (ROSE HILL) IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY.  
PHOTO IN THE COLLECTION OF THE WETTEREN WORKLAND HISTORY SOCIETY,  
DUNSTON, MD.

WA-11-744



WA-II-111

141 S. MAIN ST, BOONSBORO, WASH. Co.

12/91

JULIE MUELLER

LOOKING ME