

WI-189
Larner McLain House
Whitehaven
Private

Early 19th century, c. 1890

The Larner McLain house is one of the most architecturally distinctive dwellings to survive along Whitehaven's principal avenue, River Street. The two-story, three-bay, single-pile structure is dominated by a undulating front elevation with a center two-story porch flanked by two-story, three-sided bay pavilions. Despite the exuberant Victorian nature of the river elevation, the main block is a much older structure dating from the first decades of the nineteenth century.

The early to mid nineteenth century history of this house and lot is clouded with vague references labeling it part of the "Lloyd property" prior to 1881 when James H. Elliott purchased this "house and lot." James H. Elliott's ownership of the property was short-lived since he sold it three months later. Several years later, in February 1889, the lot and its improvements were sold to Larner T. McLain for \$450. Due to the late nineteenth century character of the alterations, the Victorian changes were probably made during Larner McLain's ownership. McLain family tenure was maintained until the mid twentieth century, when it was sold to another long-time owner, Cecil and Esther Evans Covington.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: LARNER MCLAIN HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WI-189

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):
Agricultural-Industrial Transition
1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s):
Industrial-Urban Dominance
1870-1930
Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-189

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic LARNER MCLAIN HOUSE

and/or common HUGHES HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 23826 River Street not for publication

city, town Whitehaven vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Jim and Lynda Hughes

street & number 23826 River Street telephone no.: _____

city, town Whitehaven state and zip code MD 21856

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1217 Map 65

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 393 P. 34

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ federal state county local

pository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. WI-189

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 Larner McLain house, commonly known as the Hughes house, stands at 23826 River Street in the center of Whitehaven, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling faces south with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Erected in two distinct stages the two-story, three-bay main block dates to the early nineteenth century and was extensively remodeled around 1890-1900 in Victorian taste. Supported on a low brick foundation, the house is covered with a combination of vinyl siding and fishscale shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story service wing.

The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical facade with a center entrance and flanking two-story, three-side bay pavilions topped by semi-octagonal conical roofs. Sheltering the center bay is a two-story gable roofed porch supported on turned posts and trimmed with a cross-stick balustrade and spindle decoration. Doors on the first and second floor are partially glazed. The first and second floors are lighted by single-pane sash windows. The second floor of each bay as well as the gable-front wall of the porch are covered with fishscale shingles.

The east and west gable ends are essentially alike with interior end brick chimneys rising through the peak of the gable roof. The gable end eaves are extended and finished with returns at the base. Small two-over-two windows light the attic.

The north (rear) wall is partially covered by a two-story kitchen wing that is extended by shed additions.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

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: 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 Larner McLain house is one of the most architecturally distinctive dwellings to survive along Whitehaven's principal avenue, River Street. The two-story, three-bay, single-pile structure is dominated by a undulating front elevation with a center two-story porch flanked by two-story, three-sided bay pavilions. Despite the exuberant Victorian nature of the river elevation, the main block is a much older structure dating from the first decades of the nineteenth century.

The early to mid nineteenth century history of this house and lot is clouded with vague references labeling it part of the "Lloyd property" prior to 1881 when James H. Elliott purchased this "house and lot."(SPT 4/324) James H. Elliott's ownership of the property was short-lived since he sold it three months later.(SPT 4/378) Several years later, in February 1889, the lot and its improvements were sold to Larner T. McLain for \$450.(FMS 4/395) Due to the late nineteenth century character of the alterations, the Victorian changes were probably made during Larner McLain's ownership. McLain family tenure was maintained until the mid twentieth century, when it was sold to another long-time owner, Cecil and Esther Evans Covington.(JWS 254/415)

Due to the unusual architectural character of this house it falls into Category A, which signifies that it is a structure which must be retained since it exhibits many good architectural details and contributes uniquely and superlatively to the character of the historic district.

WI-189
LARNER McLAIN HOUSE
23826 River Street
Whitehaven, Maryland
Chain of title

1217/393 S. Paul Kajencki
 Jenifer S. Kajencki

to

5/9/1990 James and Lynda Hughes

AJS 1069/622 Gene C. Russell
 Patricia A. Russell

to

6/25/1986 S. Paul Kajencki
 Jenifer S. Kajencki

AJS 860/312 Rollie H. White, Jr.
 Doris Jean Fitch White

to

8/10/1976 Gene C. Russell
 Patricia A. Russell

AJS 857/555 Rollie H. White, Jr. et al.

to

6/16/1976 Rollie H. White, Jr.
 Doris Jean Fitch White

AJS 841/370 Stephen T. Hornung

to

8/11/1975 Rollie H. White, Jr.
 Doris Jean Fitch White

WI-189
LARNER MCLAIN HOUSE
23826 River Street
Whitehaven, Maryland
Chain of title

Page 2

JWTS 775/485

Esther Evans Covington

to

11/17/1972

Stephen T. Hornung

JWS 254/415

Ella McLain Grier and others

to

7/19/1943

Cecil Covington
Esther Evans Covington

FMS 4/395

George W. Burton and wife Stella Burton

to

2/19/1889

Larner T. McLain
devised by last will and testament of
said Larner T. McLain dated February 21, 1931
Will Book MNN 1/380 unto Ella McLain Grier
and Janna Kenney Wright
\$450 house and lot with all its
improvements

Mortgage
FMS 3/506

William A. Hurley

to

9/11/1888

George W. Burton

Whereas George W. Burton is justly indebted
unto Mary E. Hurley wife of William A.
Hurley for \$225.00

WI-189
LARNER MCLAIN HOUSE
23826 River Street
Whitehaven, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

FMS 3/305

William A. Hurley
Mary F. Hurley

to

9/11/1888

George W. Burton
\$400 where the grantors now reside

SPT 4/378

James H. Elliott
Morisa E. Elliott

to

1/3/1882

Mary E. Hurley
\$250.00 known as a portion of the 'Loyd'
property situated between John W.
Wingate and Zachary W. Taylor the
same property conveyed from said
Loyds to John White of Salisbury
and then to John W. Wingate &
Zachariah W. Taylor and then to
James H. Elliott containing one
half acre

SPT 4/324

John W. Wingate and wife
Zachariah W. Taylor

to

10/14/1881

James H. Elliott
\$250.00 a house and lot at White Haven
216 feet in length 51 feet 18 inches
front end and 45 feet back end a
black smith shop and wharf fronting
which is part of the Lloyd property

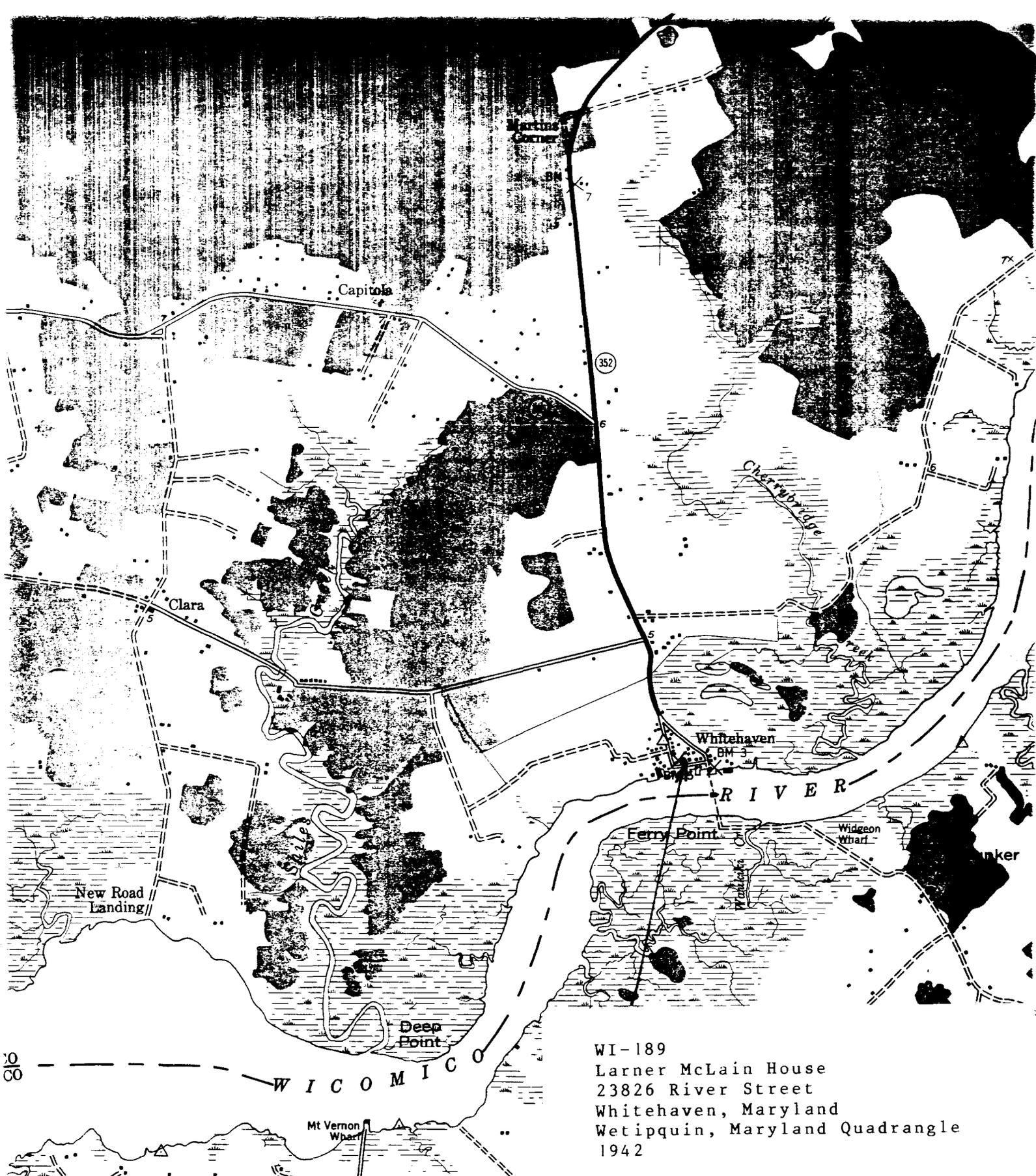
SPT 4/310

John White

to

9/14/1881

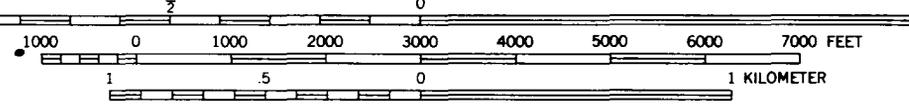
John W. Wingate
Zachary W. Taylor \$300.00



WI-189
 Larner McLain House
 23826 River Street
 Whitehaven, Maryland
 Wetipquin, Maryland Quadrangle
 1942

47°30' | PRINCESS ANNE 6.3 M.

SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

