

WO-296  
Littleton T. Clarke House  
Pocomoke City  
Private

c. 1860

The Littleton T. Clarke house, also known as the Captain Jeremiah Speights house, is a prominent example of the Second Empire style in Worcester County. Not only is this dwelling one of the best executed of this popular mid nineteenth century revival style, it is also the best preserved with a bell-curved slate roof, bracketed eaves, decorative porches, and rare metal rooftop cresting on the west bay window and porch. This house clearly stands out in Pocomoke City as a rare architectural survival when most of town's ante-bellum buildings were lost in several destructive nineteenth and twentieth century fires. Although not as exuberant as the exterior, the interior finishes are largely intact and follow traditional third quarter of the nineteenth century forms.

Littleton T. Clarke is credited with erecting this dwelling sometime around 1860. Despite an uncertain date of purchase for this corner lot, Littleton Clarke evidently erected this impressive house between 1860 and his death around 1867. The property was involved in a court settlement following Clarke's death, and it was sold in July 1869 to Amerett Jane Clarke. The property description reads, "...in and to all that house and lot, in Newtown,...of which Littleton T. Clarke aforesaid late of said County deceased, died siezed and where he resided at the time of his death." The same day, Amerett Clarke sold the house and lot to Benjamin F. Cator for \$3000, a transfer price that indicates well the presence of a substantial improvement. Two years later Cator transferred the property to Jeremiah T. Speights, who owned the house until September 1880. The Newtown map featured in the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas

designates Captain J. Speights on this corner lot. During the later nineteenth century the property was purchased in May 1889 by Marietta E. Clarke, and it remained in Clarke family hands until the mid twentieth century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name CLARKE, LITTLETON T., HOUSE

other names/site number Speights House

### 2. Location

street & number 407 Second Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Pocomoke City N/A  vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Worcester code 047 zip code 21851

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

4-1-96  
Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Second Empire

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Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

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roof Slate

other Wood

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE  
Worcester County  
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 1

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**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:**

The Littleton T. Clarke House is a 2- $\frac{1}{2}$  story mansard-roofed frame dwelling constructed ca. 1860 at the corner of Second and Walnut streets in the center of Pocomoke City, Worcester County, Maryland. The building has a center-passage, single-pile plan, with a service wing at the rear. It stands on a brick foundation and is sheathed with weatherboards. The building features exuberant exterior detailing in the Second Empire style. The predominant feature is the concave-curved mansard roof, covered in patterned slate, with multiple dormers and a prominent central tower; eaves are bracketed, and elements of metal roof cresting survive. The northwest facade is spanned by a porch with decorative chamfered posts; a similar porch and bay window are found on the southwest elevation. Paneled pilasters mark the corners of the facade. The interior retains the majority of its original finishes and decorative detailing; the decorative treatment of the interior is less elaborate than that of the exterior, and comprises woodwork typical of the period in the region.

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE  
Worcester County  
Maryland

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**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:**

The Littleton T. Clarke House, locally known as the old Speights house, stands at 407 Second Street in the center of Pocomoke City, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story center hall frame house faces northwest, and the mansard roof is oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built ca. 1860, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame dwelling is supported by a low brick foundation, and it is sheathed with plain weatherboards. The concave-curved mansard roof is covered by a combination of decorative patterned slate on the steep sides and standing seam metal on the top surfaces. Attached to the back of the house is a two-and-a-half story, two-room plan dining room and kitchen wing. Also standing on the corner lot are two garage buildings.

The northwest (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The decorative four-panel Victorian front door is flanked by sidelights and a multi-pane transom. Long louvered shutters flank the windows. The principal corners of the house are trimmed with paneled pilasters. Stretching across the first floor of the house is a chamfered-post porch embellished with decorative star-motif brackets. An historic photograph of the house taken in 1908 shows metal cresting highlighting the roofs of the tower, porches, and bay window; part of the cresting survives on the west side bay window and porch. The second floor of the northwest facade is marked by a projecting center bay pierced by a pair of multi-pane sash windows. Single two-over-two sash windows flank the bay, and each of the window openings retains louvered shutters. Above the second floor windows, eave brackets trim the perimeter of the roof. The dominant feature of the house is the concave-curved mansard roof with a central steeply-pitched tower. The north face of the tower has a diamond pattern design in the slate above a pointed arch attic window. On each side are large gabled dormers fitted with paired two-over-two sash windows. Rising through the center of the house is a pair of internal brick chimneys which flank the center hall.

The southwest side of the single-pile main block is marked by

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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a single story bay with multi-pane sash windows. The second floor is lighted by a pair of two-over-two sash windows with louvered shutters. Illuminating the attic is a large gabled dormer fitted with a pair of two-over-two sash windows. The northeast side is marked by pairs of two-over-two sash windows that light each floor; louvered shutters remain on each opening. The mansard roof is pierced by the same type of gabled dormer that is found on the front and southwest side.

The southeast side of the main block is largely covered by the two-and-a-half story, four-bay service wing, which contains a dining room and kitchen on the first floor and bedrooms above. Repeating the mansard roof, the rear wing is also trimmed with bracketed eaves. An off-center brick chimney rises through the roof and is finished with a corbelled cap.

The southwest side of the wing is highlighted by a chamfered post porch with decorative corner brackets and intact metal cresting. Stretching between the chamfered posts is a molded handrail with plain balusters. The four-bay service wing is marked by a glazed door in the northernmost bay and a paneled door in the southernmost opening. Between the two doors are six-over-six sash windows with louvered shutters. The second floor is illuminated by four evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows, also with louvered shutters. Piercing the mansard roof is a pair of shed roofed dormers filled with two-over-two sash windows.

The northeast side of the kitchen wing has been altered with an infilled section that was formerly an outside porch. Exterior finishes remain consistent with the rest of the house.

The interior of the main block follows a center passage, single-pile plan. The center hall contains the original stair with a bold, turned newel post and slender turned balusters which support a circular profile handrail. The open-string stair rises three flights to a partially finished attic.

The west front room was remodeled during the early twentieth century with the replacement of the mantel and the addition of a crown molding around the perimeter of the room. A neoclassical mantel with Ionic fluted columns is distinguished by a three-part

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frieze embellished with classical urn decorations. Narrow white tiles face the front of an arched firebox. Plain corner block surrounds frame six-panel doors, and paneled aprons trim the space below the window openings. The room is also fitted with a molded baseboard.

The opposite front room on the east side of the hall is largely original with a late Greek Revival mantel of paneled pilasters and a paneled frieze. The thick board shelf is decorated with a bold bed molding.

The second front room on the east side of the hall is trimmed with original finishes including period mantels, six-panel doors, and four-panel closet doors.

On the third floor the only plastered room is located in the west end of the front block. A small bracketed shelf is fixed against the chimney stack. Four- and six-panel doors provide access to the other parts of the attic.

The rear wing is fitted with original woodwork as well. The dining room retains a period mantel as well as an adjacent built-in cupboard. The cupboard is finished with a narrow beaded board backing, glazed upper doors, and paneled lower doors.

The kitchen is plainly finished with beaded board walls and door. An enclosed stair rises to the upper floor of the rear wing, which contains bedrooms.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

c. 1860

**Significant Dates**

c. 1860

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 5

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 10

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Worcester County Library,  
Snow Hill, MD

Clarke, Littleton T., House  
Name of Property

Worcester Co., Maryland W0-296  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately .25 acre

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	4 5 0 0 6 0	4 2 1 3 6 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 11

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 11

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 5/17/94

street & number P.O. Box 5 telephone (410) 651-1094

city or town Westover state MD zip code 21871

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. Walter Eskiewicz

street & number 407 Second Street telephone (410) 957-1645

city or town Pocomoke City state MD zip code 21851

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:**

The Littleton T. Clarke House is significant under Criterion C for its architecture, as the most expressive and well-preserved example of the Second Empire style of domestic architecture surviving in Worcester County. The house retains character-defining features of the Second Empire style in its concave-curved mansard roof with a central tower and multiple dormers, metal roof cresting, patterned slate, bracketed eaves, paneled corner pilasters, decorated porches, and bay window. It also retains the majority of its original interior finishes and decorative detailing.

See Continuation Sheet No. 6

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**HISTORIC CONTEXT AND RESOURCE HISTORY:**

The Littleton T. Clarke House stands as both the most fully-realized and best preserved example of the Second Empire style of domestic architecture surviving in Worcester County. Pocomoke City lost most of its antebellum architecture in a series of destructive fires. Along with the Clarke House, two less elaborate examples of the style survive in Pocomoke City, namely the Daniel J. Crockett House (WO-397) and the Edgar Fontaine House (WO-400). Another example, the John J. Collins House (WO-96), is located in the town of Snow Hill. Of the four surviving examples of the style, the Clarke House represents the most ambitious expression, and survives in an outstanding state of preservation; it is also the oldest of the four, dating from ca. 1860.

As an expression of a popular architectural trend of the period, the Clarke House is representative of an important transition in building practices which began in the mid-nineteenth century, as picturesque styles promoted in builders' manuals, architects' pattern books, and popular literature began to supplant local vernacular traditions. The Clarke House illustrates this transition in its exterior expression of Second Empire features, while it retains the center-passage, single-pile interior organization which had long characterized the vernacular architecture of the region. The mass-produced architectural decoration displayed on the Clarke House also signals a significant transition from the handcraft traditions which had characterized regional building through the mid-nineteenth century.

In the nineteenth century, Pocomoke City was an especially prominent location on the lower Eastern Shore for planing mills, shingle factories, and building supplies due to its proximity to large stands of native timber and the vital transportation artery of the Pocomoke River. The town expanded markedly between 1800 and 1860 from a ferry crossing and former tobacco inspection site to a major commercial and population center in southern Worcester County.

Reflective of the activity in the building industry in Pocomoke City is an advertisement for the firm operated by Thomas F. and R. M. Stevenson which appeared in the town newspaper, the

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Record and Gazette, on March 20, 1875:

Having removed and enlarged our place of business for the third time, we are now better than ever prepared to manufacture and fill orders for Door frames, (Plain and Side Light), Window Frames, (Plain and Box Light), Inside Door Jambs, (Plain and Moulded), Sash (all sizes and shapes), Venetian and Panel Shutters; Washboard and Caseings, Scroll Sawing A Speciality; Mantels and Brackets; Cornish Moulding, and a variety of mouldings. Turning from a Button to a Column.

Estimated to date to around 1860, the construction of this impressive Second Empire dwelling is credited to Littleton T. Clarke (1827-1866), a businessman in river-side Newtown, known after 1878 as Pocomoke City. On September 28, 1857, Littleton T. Clarke married Amerett Jane Trader, who operated a millinery store and is listed in the 1860 U.S. Census as a 21 year old milliner. In 1864, Littleton T. Clarke joined in a mercantile partnership with Thomas J. Blain and Thomas N. Williams to operate a dry goods and grocery business. The business enterprise was discontinued in 1866 with Littleton T. Clarke's sudden death at age 39.

Littleton T. Clarke died intestate, and the Second Street property was sold three years later to Amerett, who the following day sold the house and lot to Benjamin T. Cator for \$3,000. The property description reads, "...in and to all that house and lot, in Newtown,...of which Littleton T. Clarke aforesaid died siezed and where he resided at the time of his death." Two years later, Cator transferred the property to Jeremiah T. Speights, who held title to the house until 1880. Captain Jeremiah Speights is designated at this location on the 1877 Newtown map in the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, and is listed in the 1870 U.S. Census as a well-off "waterman" with real estate and personal property valued at \$6,000. This census indicates that the Speights family included Jeremiah, his wife Susan, aged 42, and three daughters and a son, Mary, Emma, Rose, and Charles.

Between 1880 and 1889, the house was held by Julius T. and Mary C. Hall, who in May 1889 transferred ownership to Marietta E. Clarke for \$2,200. (Any family tie between Littleton T. Clarke and

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Marietta E. Clarke has not been established.) Marietta E. Clarke (1845-1930) resided there until her death; she bequeathed the property to her son, William H. Clarke, who willed it to William McCullough Clarke in 1954. In 1958, William McCullough Clarke sold the family house to J. Scott and Emilye Porter. Scott Porter predeceased his wife, Emilye, who died in February 1987. The current owners, Walter and Pamela Eskiewicz, purchased the property from the representatives of Emilye D. Porter in 1988.

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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

- Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Known Design Source: none

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LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE  
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**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

- Barnes, John C. Ninth Census of the United States, 1870, Population Schedule for Worcester County, printed by Ruth T. Dryden, 1988.
- Dryden, Ruth T. Cemetery Records of Worcester County. Privately printed, 1988.
- Graham, John L. ed. The 1877 Atlases of the Eastern Shore and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Salisbury, Maryland: Peninsula Press, 1976.
- Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.
- Murray, James. The History of Pocomoke City, formerly Newtown. Baltimore: Curry, Clay & Company, 1883.
- Record and Gazette, 20 March 1875, Worcester County Library Microfilm Collection, Snow Hill, Maryland.
- Touart, Paul Baker. Along the Seaboard Side; the Architectural History of Worcester County, Maryland. Worcester County: Snow Hill, Maryland, 1994.
- Worcester County Land Records, various volumes, Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill.
- Worcester County Register of Wills, various volumes, Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE  
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## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

### BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

All that lot or parcel of land situate, lying and being in the First Election District of Worcester County, Maryland within the corporate limits of Pocomoke City, known as 407 Second Street (Map 410, Parcel 913) being more particularly described on the easterly side of Second Street at the intersection of Second and Walnut Streets, and being bounded on the north by Second Street, on the west by Walnut Street, and by the properties now or formerly owned by Robert J. Frostrom and Richard Hayman. Recorded among the Land Records of Worcester County in Liber RHO 1507, Folio 368.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property, approximately .25 acre, comprises the single town lot historically associated with the resource.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WU-296

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

AGRICULTURE-INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION  
(1815-1870)

4) Resource Type(s):

STANDING STRUCTURE

1. TOWN DWELLING

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. WO-296

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE, ALSO SPEIGHTS HOUSE

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 407 Second Street  not for publication

city, town Pocomoke City  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

**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	<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 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 Walter and Pamela Eskiewicz

street & number 486 Angel Street telephone no.: 201-583-3269

city, town Cliffwood state and zip code NJ 07721

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of Worcester County Court liber 1507

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 368

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. W0-296

<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 Littleton T. Clarke house, more commonly known as the old Speights house, stands at 407 Second Street in the center of Pocomoke City, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story center hall frame house faces north and the mansard roof is oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1860, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame dwelling is supported by a low brick foundation, and it is sheathed with plain weatherboards. The bell-curved mansard roof is covered by a combination of decorative slate on the steep sides and standing seam tin on the top surfaces. Attached to the back of the house is a two-and-a-half story, two-room plan dining room and kitchen wing. Also standing on the corner lot are two garage buildings.

The north (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The decorative four-panel Victorian front door is flanked by sidelights and a multi-pane transom. Long louvered shutters flank each of the windows. The principal corners of the house are trimmed with paneled pilasters. Stretching across the first floor of the house is a chamfered post porch with decorative star-motif brackets. A historic photograph of the house taken in 1908 shows a metal cresting that once highlighted the porch roof, and part of the metal cresting survives on the west side porch. The second floor is defined by a projecting center bay pierced by a pair of sash windows. Single two-over-two sash windows flank the bay, and each of the window openings retain louvered shutters. Fixed above the second floor windows is a series of eave brackets that trim the perimeter of the roof. Dominating the house, however, is the bell-curve mansard roof with a center steeply pitched tower. The west face of the tower has a diamond pattern design in the slate above a pointed arch attic window. To each side are large gabled dormers filled with paired two-over-two sash windows. Rising through the center of the house is a pair of internal brick chimneys which flank the center hall.

The west side of the single-pile main block is marked by a single story bay window with multi-pane sash windows and metal cresting that trims the bay window roof. The second floor is lighted by a pair of two-over-two sash windows that are hung with louvered shutters. Illuminating the attic is a large gabled dormer filled with a pair of two-over-two sash windows. The east side is marked by pairs of two-over-two sash windows that light each floor and louvered shutters remain on each opening. The mansard roof is pierced by the same gabled dormer.

(continued)

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WO-296

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 Littleton T. Clarke house, also known as the Captain Jeremiah Speights house, is a prominent example of the Second Empire style in Worcester County. Not only is this dwelling one of the best executed of this popular mid nineteenth century revival style, it is the best preserved with a slate roof, bracketed eaves, decorative porches, and rare metal rooftop cresting on the west bay window and porch. This house clearly stands out in Pocomoke City as a rare mid nineteenth century survival when much of the town's architecture post-dates several destructive late nineteenth and twentieth century fires. Although not as exuberant as the exterior, the interior finishes are largely intact and follow traditional third quarter of the nineteenth century forms.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

This significant Second Empire style house is estimated to date to the third quarter of the nineteenth century during the ownership of Littleton T. Clarke, a prominent businessman in Newtown, known by 1878 as Pocomoke City. Despite an uncertain date of purchase for this corner lot, Littleton Clarke evidently erected this impressive house between 1860 and his death around 1867. The property was involved in a court settlement following Clarke's death, and it was sold in July 1869 to Amerett Jane Clarke.(GHR 3/675) The property description reads, "...in and to all that house and lot, in Newtown,...of which Littleton T. Clarke aforesaid late of said County deceased, died siezed and where he resided at the time of his death." The same day, Amerett Clarke sold the house and lot to Benjamin F. Cator for \$3000, a transfer price that indicates well the presence of a substantial improvement.(GHR 3/676) Two years later Cator sold the prominent house to Jeremiah T. Speights, who owned the house until September 1880.(ITM 8/55) During the later nineteenth century the property was purchased in May 1889 by Marietta E. Clarke, and it remained in the Clarke family until the mid twentieth century. The current owners purchased the corner property in 1988.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WO-296

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

B 

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Zone      Easting      Northing

C 

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D 

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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

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
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organization	Worcester County	date	5/19/89
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street & number	Worcester County Courthouse	telephone	301-632-1194
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city or town	Snow Hill	state	MD 21863
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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

## LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE DESCRIPTION (continued)

The south side of the main house is largely covered by the two-and-a-half story, four-bay dining room and kitchen wing. Repeating the mansard roof covered the rear wing is also trimmed with bracketed eaves. A center brick chimney rises through the roof.

The west side of the wing is highlighted by a chamfered post porch with decorative eave brackets and intact metal cresting. Stretching between the chamfered posts is a molded handrail with plain balusters. The four-bay service wing is marked by a glazed door to the north and a paneled door to the south. In between the two doors are six-over-six sash windows that survive with louvered shutters. The second floor is illuminated by four evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows which also have louvered shutters. Piercing the mansard roof is a pair of shed roofed, two-over-two sash dormers trimmed with scrolled bases.

The south side of the kitchen wing is partially covered by a back porch that sheltered a rear, partially glazed kitchen door. Other details remain consistent with the south side. The east side of the kitchen wing has been altered with an infilled section that was formerly an outside porch. Exterior finishes remain consistent with the rest of the house.

The interior of the front block follows a center hall, single pile plan. The center hall contains the original stair with a heavily turned newel post and turned balusters which support an circular profile handrail. The open-string stair rises three flights to the partially finished attic.

The west front room was remodeled around the early twentieth century with the replacement of the mantel and the addition of crown molding. A neo-classical mantel with Ionic fluted columns is distinguished by a three-part frieze embellished with classical motifs. Narrow white tiles face the front of an arched firebox opening, however, it does not appear the room ever had a working fireplace. Plain corner block surrounds frame six-panel doors, and paneled aprons trim the space below the window openings. The room is trimmed also with a molded baseboard.

The opposite front room on the east side of the hall is largely comprised of original mid nineteenth century woodwork including a late Greek Revival mantel of paneled pilasters and a paneled frieze. The thick board shelf is decorated with a bold bed molding.

The second floor of the main house is trimmed with original mid nineteenth century finishes including period mantels, six-panel doors, and four-panel door closets.

On the third floor the only plastered room is located in the west end of the front block. A small bracketed shelf is fixed against the

chimney stack. Four- and six-panel doors provide access to the other parts of the attic.

The rear wing is fitted with contemporary mid to late nineteenth century woodwork as well. The dining room survives with a period mantel as well as an adjacent built-in cupboard. The cupboard is finished with a narrow beaded board backing, glazed doors above, and paneled doors below.

The kitchen is plainly finished with an enclosed stair rising to the rear wing bedrooms. The beaded board walls are accompanied by a beaded board door.

LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE  
407 Second Street  
Pocomoke City, Maryland  
CHAIN OF TITLE

WO-296

1507/368	Carolyn Davis Riggin, John Price Hadley Riggin, Aden Davis Riggin, and Nathaniel Benson Riggin
	to
11/11/1988	Walter and Pamela Eskiewicz
WCL 1355/271	Carolyn Davis Riggin, Personal Rep. of the estate of Emily D. Porter
	to
8/28/1987	Grantors above
FWH 107/144	William McCullough Clarke
	to
1/10/1958	J. Scott and Emilye Porter J. Scott Porter predeceased wife and Emilye died on or about 2/3/1987
FWH 106/413	Charlotte C. Dryden
	to
7/26/1957	William McCullough Calrke
FWH 106/410	William McCullough, et. al.
	to
7/26/1957	Charlotte C. Dryden



LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE  
CHAIN OF TITLE CONTINUED

WO-296

GHR 3/676 Amerett Jane Clarke of Newtown

to

7/14/1869 Benjamin F. Cator  
\$3,000.00

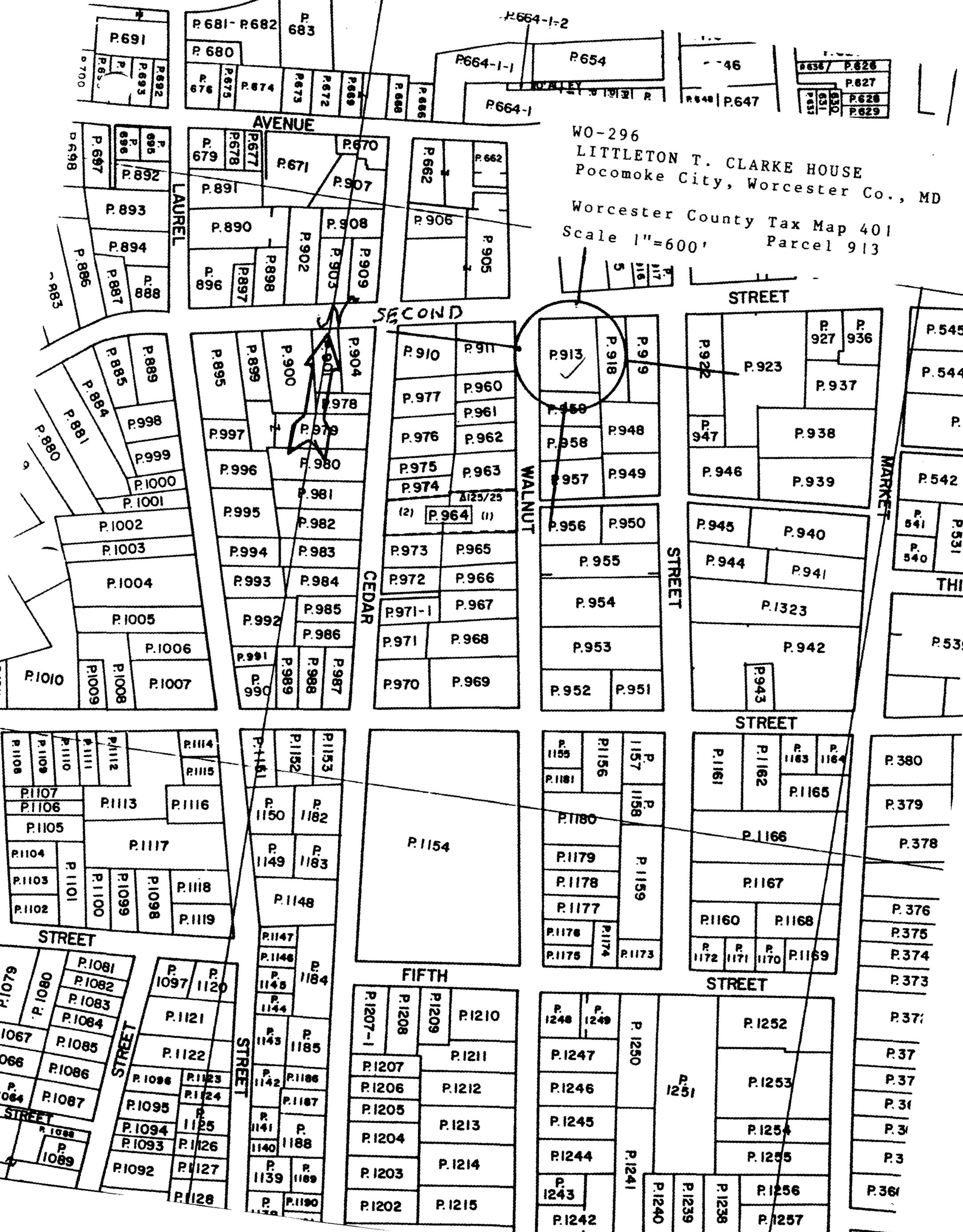
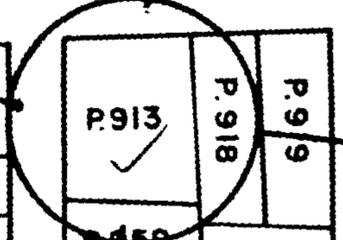
GHR 3/675 John R. Franklin, Trustee to sell the lands  
of L. T. Clarke, deceased

to

7/14/1869 Amerett Jane Clarke  
"...in and to all that house and lot, in  
Newtown,...of which Littleton T. Clarke  
aforesaid late of said County deceased died  
siezed and where he resided at the time of his  
death, being the same property mentioned in the  
proceedings of the above case..."  
Decree of Circuit Court, passed 7/16/1867 in  
the case of James A. Barnes vs. William J. S.  
Clarke, administrator of Littleton T. Clarke  
and being No. 404 on the Chancery Docket of  
said court...



WO-296  
 LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE  
 Pocomoke City, Worchester Co., MD  
 Worchester County Tax Map 401  
 Scale 1"=600'  
 Parcel 913



WO-296

LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE

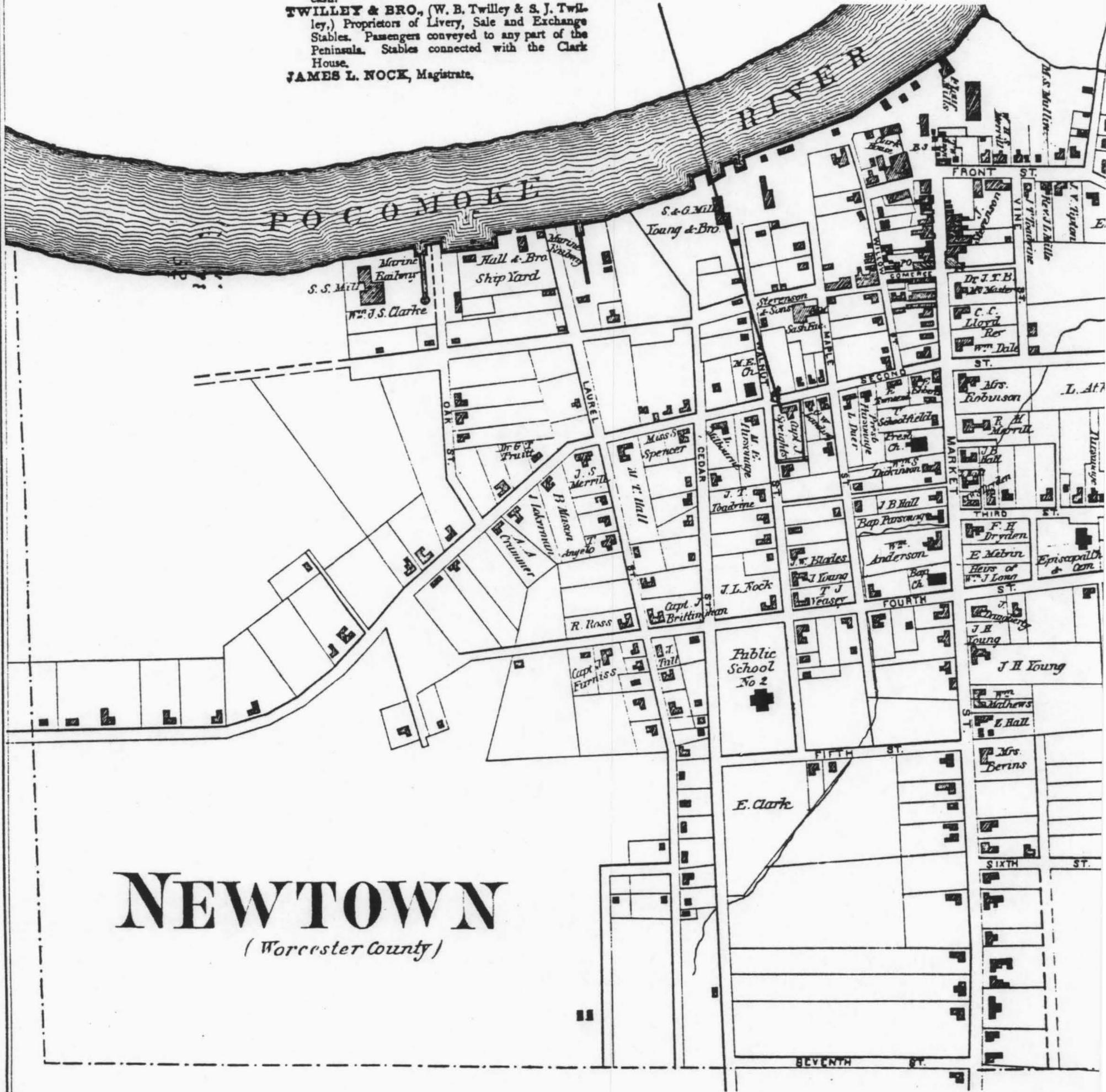
Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD

**NEWTOWN BUSINESS REFERENC.**

**J. H. WHITE**, Constable.  
**Dr. S. S. QUINN**, Physician.  
**W. T. TULL**, Dealer in Foreign and Domestic Goods, Groceries, Crockery, Hardware, Hats, Boots, Shoes, Drugs, Medicines, &c. Cash.  
**TWILLEY & BRO.**, (W. B. Twilley & S. J. Twilley,) Proprietors of Livery, Sale and Exchange Stables. Passengers conveyed to any part of the Peninsula. Stables connected with the Clark House.  
**JAMES L. NOCK**, Magistrate.

Newtown

1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas

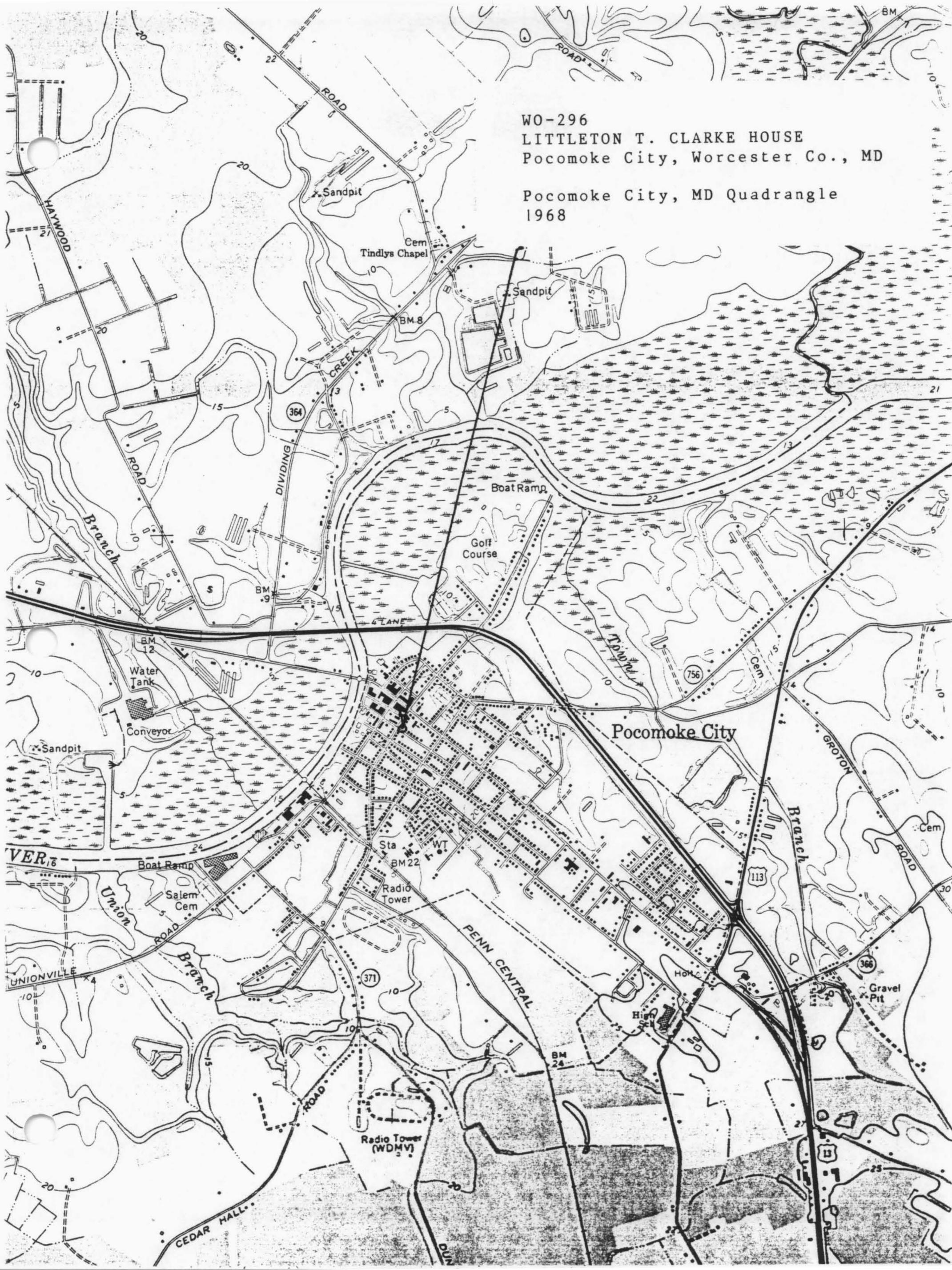


**NEWTOWN**  
 (Worcester County)



WO-296  
LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE  
Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD

Pocomoke City, MD Quadrangle  
1968

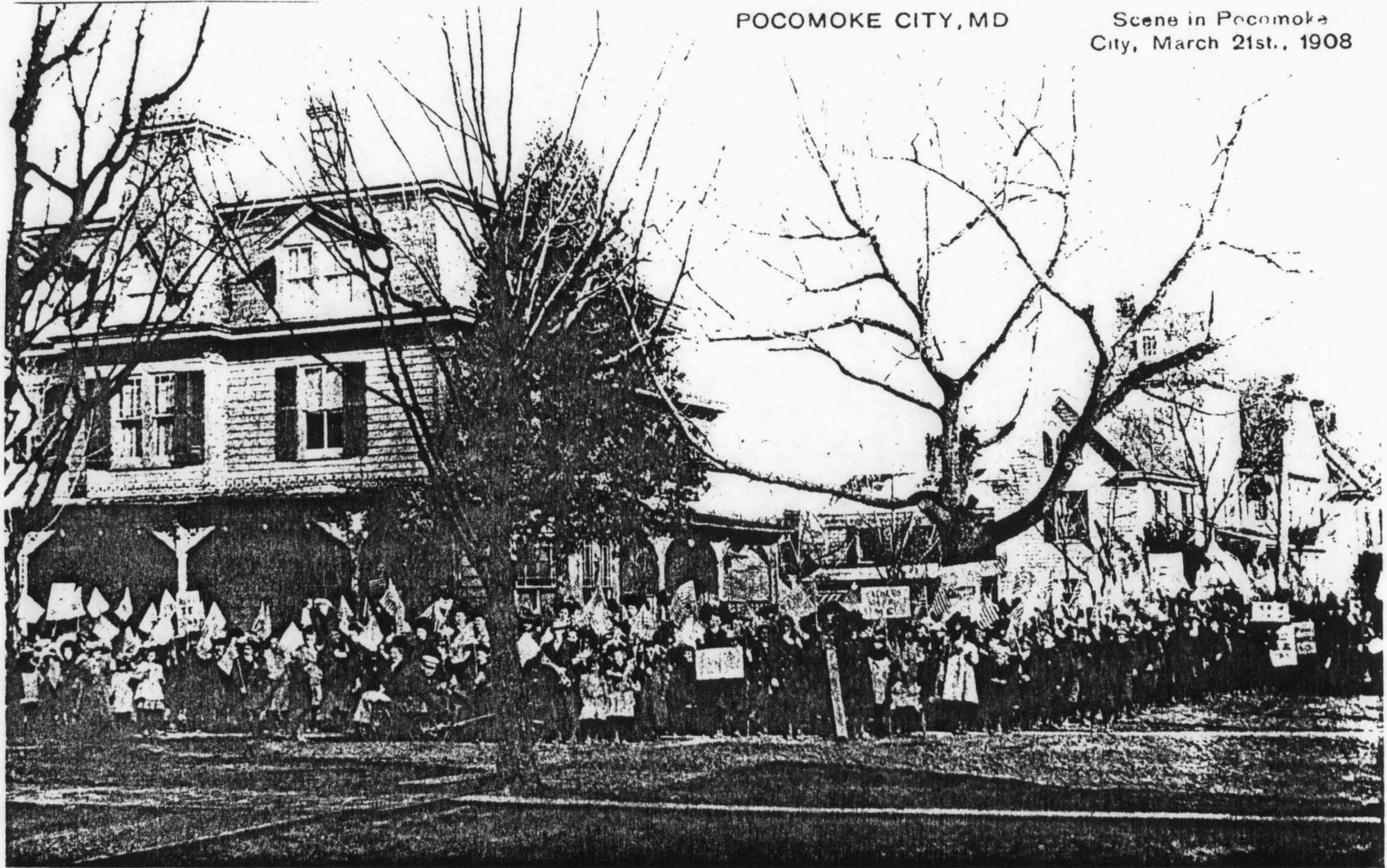


WO-296  
LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE  
Pocomoke City, Maryland Quadrangle  
1968



POCOMOKE CITY, MD

Scene in Pocomoke  
City, March 21st., 1908



W0-296

SCENE IN POCOMOKE CITY, MARCH 21,  
1908

Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD

Documentary photograph, 1908

Collection of Michael Luby

Negative/Maryland State Archive

W0-296



W0-296

LITTLETON T. CLANCE HOUSE

PURDOMME CITY, WORCESTER CO., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

PAUL TOURNET, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / M.D. / HISTORICAL TRUST



WO-296

LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE

Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD

West elevation

5/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



No. 296

LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE

Pocomoke City, Wicomico Co., MD.

GARAGES - SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

10/94, Paul Tourart, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEL. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST



NO-296

LITTLETON T. CLARICE HOUSE

Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD.

DINING ROOM MANTEL

10/99. PAUL TOWART, PITTSBURGH

MD. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST



W0-296

LITTLETON T. CLARKE House

Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD.

Northwest ELEVATION

10/94, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. 1010 HISTORICIAN TRUST





WO-296

LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE

FLORENCE CITY, WORCESTER CO., MD.

LIVING ROOM MANTEL

10/99, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

WET., / MD HISTORICAL TRUST



WO-296

LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE

Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD

~~Livingroom mantel~~ *STAIR*

5/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



WO-296

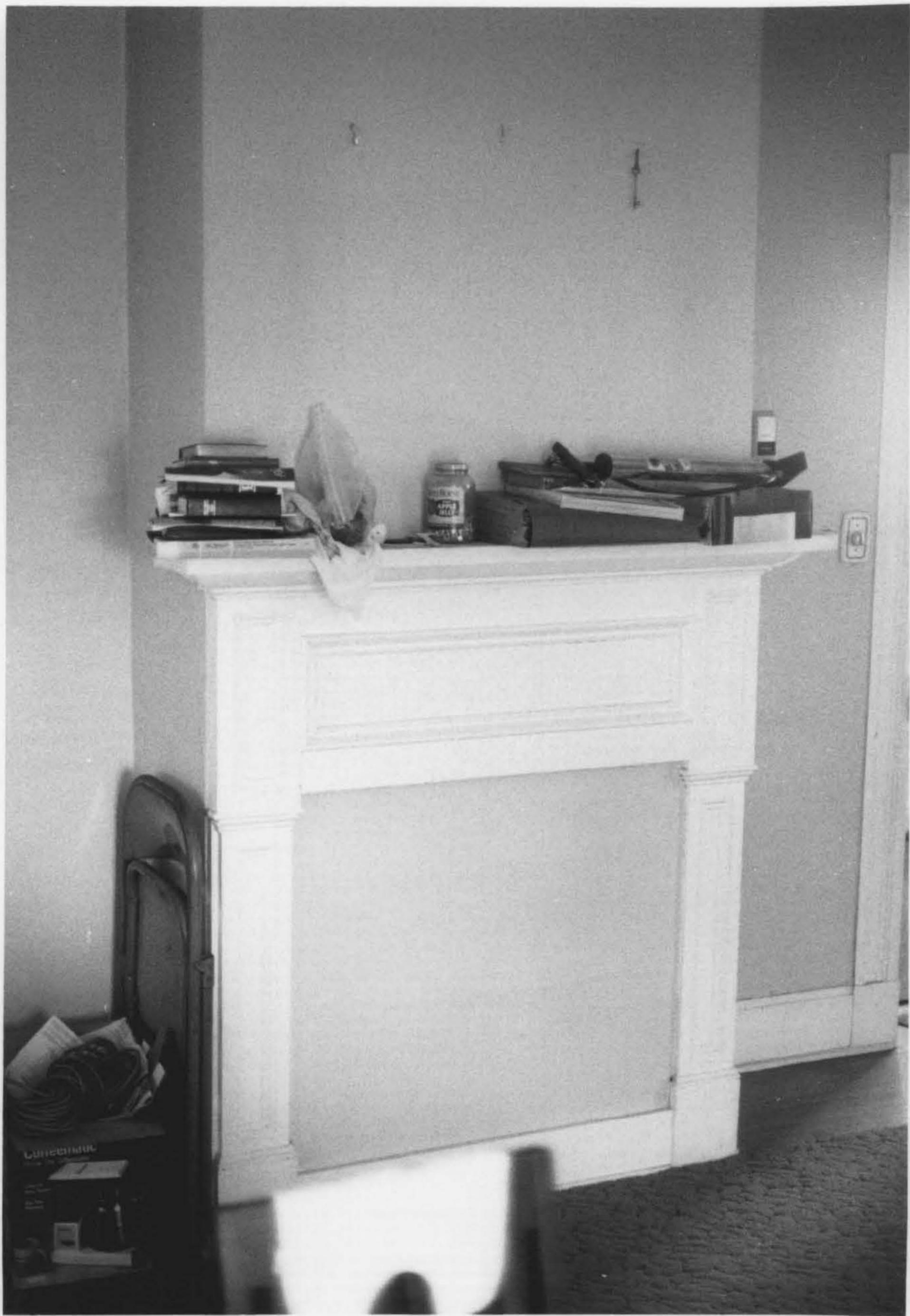
LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE

Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD

~~North elevation~~ *PARLOR MANTEL*

5/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



WO-296

LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE

Pocomoke City, Worcester Co., MD

~~Parlor~~ mantel (*LIVING ROOM*)

5/89, Paul Touart, photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



W0-296

LITTLETON T. CLARKE HOUSE

POCOMOKE CITY, WORCESTER CO., MD.

STAIR HALL

10/94, PAUL TOWLER, PHOTOGRAPHER

MEL. (MD. HISTORICAL TRUST