

WO-378  
William H. Sturgis House  
Stockton  
Private

c. 1868

The William H. Sturgis house has been more commonly known by older residents of Stockton as the Leona Collins house since Collins family ownership of this village property stretched from 1890 to the mid 1960s. Identified as one of the oldest remaining dwellings, the two-story frame house dates to the late 1860s. Built initially as a two-story, three-bay side hall/parlor house, the dwelling was enlarged with a two-story, two-bay wing that followed the same roofline as the original house. The uneven south elevation and the distinct shift in the ridge line point to this shift in building periods.

William H. Sturgis, listed as a shoemaker in the 1870 U. S. Census for Worcester County, purchased this village lot in January 1868 from George Bishop. The \$100 consideration for the property would suggest the lot was not improved substantially. Five years later William H. and Jenet Sturgis sold, "...the House and Lot now occupied by us in the town of Stockton" to Kendal Hudson for \$800. The significant price difference indicates the extant house was erected during the Sturgis's ownership. Kendal Hudson is designated at this location on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas. In September 1890 James H. Collins purchased the property from the Hudsons.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: WILLIAM H. STURGIS HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WO-378

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):  
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMIANCE  
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s):  
Single-family dwelling

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-378

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic WILLIAM H. STURGIS HOUSE

and/or common LEONA COLLINS HOUSE

## 2. Location

street & number North side of Pocomoke-Stockton Road  not for publicationcity, town Stockton  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 John B. and Frances Thornton

street &amp; number telephone no.:

city, town Stockton state and zip code MD 21864

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber FWH 217

street &amp; number Worcester County Courthouse folio 590

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. W0-378

<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 William H. Sturgis house, more commonly known as the Leona Collins house, stands on the north side of the Pocomoke-Stockton Road (MD Route 366) in the center of Stockton, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story five-bay frame house faces south with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1868, the five-bay dwelling was initially erected as a two-story, three-bay side hall/parlor house that was enlarged shortly afterwards with a two-story, two-bay addition to the east. The uneven nature of the roofline, and the asymmetrical fenestration point to this shift in building periods. A service wing extends to the back.

The south (main) elevation is an uneven five-bay facade with a central entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The heavily molded four-panel door with its upper panels now glazed along with adjacent six-over-six sash windows are sheltered by a shed roofed chamfered post porch. The second floor is marked by an uneven series of six-over-six sash windows. Finishing the base of the roof is a boxed cornice fitted with bed and crown moldings.

The west gable end is a plain asbestos shingled wall with a small vent to the left of the interior end brick chimney stack. The chimney is finished with a corbelled cap, and the gable end is trimmed with a molded bargeboard. The east gable end follows along similar finishes.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. W0-378

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

### 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 William H. Sturgis house has been more commonly known as the Leona Collins house since Collins family ownership of this village property stretched from 1890 to the mid 1960s. Identified by Stockton residents as one of the oldest remaining dwellings, the two-story frame house dates to the late 1860s. Built initially as a two-story, three-bay side hall/parlor house, the dwelling was enlarged with a two-story, two-bay wing that followed the same roofline as the original house. The uneven south elevation and the distinct shift in the ridge line point to this shift in building periods.

William H. Sturgis, listed as a shoemaker in the 1870 U. S. Census for Worcester County, purchased this village lot in January 1868 from George Bishop.(GHR 3/40) The \$100 consideration for the property would suggest the lot was not improved substantially. Five years later William H. and Jenet Sturgis sold, "...the House and Lot now occupied by us in the town of Stockton" to Kendal Hudson for \$800. (ITM 3/3) The significant price difference indicates the extant house was erected during the Sturgis's ownership. Kendal Hudson is designated at this location on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas. In September 1890 James H. Collins purchased the property from the Hudsons.(FHP 1/60)



WO-378  
WILLIAM H. STURGIS HOUSE  
Stockton, Maryland  
Chain of title

FWH 217/590                      John H. Rantz  
Ethel Lee Rantz, et al.

to

3/4/1967                      John B. Thornton  
Frances L. Thornton  
formerly known as the Miss Leona  
Collins home

FWH 187/558                      Upshur H. Lang

to

6/3/1965                      John H. Rantz  
Ethel Lee Rantz, et al.

FWH 187/553                      Leona M. Collins and Eleanor N. Fuller  
and Clinton H. Fuller, Jr. and John F.  
Nelson, 3rd, and Evelyn P. Nelson and  
William C. Nelson and Ruth M. Nelson

to

5/12/1965                      Upshur Lang  
Being all and the same property...which  
property at the death, on or about the year  
1907, of the said James H. Collins intestate,  
passed to Leah E. Collins, widow of James H.  
Collins, Laura E. Collins, Leona M. Collins,  
and Bettie C. Nelson

FHP 1/60                      Kendal Hudson  
Harriet Hudson

to

9/27/1890                      James H. Collins  
\$400 "...the House and Lot now occupied by

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Chain of title

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us, in the town of Stockton, being the  
lot formerly owned by William H. Sturgis...

ITM 3/3

William H. Sturgis  
Jenet Sturgis

to

7/5/1873

Kendall Hudson

\$800 the House and Lot now occupied by  
us in the town of Stockton

2 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres

GHR 3/40

George Bishop

to

1/14/1868

William H. Sturgis

\$100 and also the enclosure around the  
lot or parcel of land herein after described

1 acre ...parcel of land near the village  
of Sandy Hill...





WO-378  
WILLIAM H. STURGIS HOUSE  
Stockton, Worcester County, Maryland  
Girdletree, MD- DEL. Quadrangle  
1966