PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #66-18 Building Date: 1894

Building Name: Lake House (Presbyterian Parsonage)

Location: 8524 Potomac Avenue, College Park, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Good/Inaccessible

Description

The Lake House is a Victorian frame cross-gable house which stands on one of the original lots of the town of Central Heights, now known as Berwyn. It is distinguished by fine Queen Anne details, including an octagonal tower, novelty shingle siding and lacework verandah. The house consists of a two-and-one-half-story front-gabled main block, two-by-three bay, with side cross gable and tower, and a slightly lower rear kitchen wing. Spanning the east gable front and wrapping around part of the north and south facades is a one-story verandah supported by turned posts; it has a plain balustered railing and rests on brick piers. The lacework verandah is highlighted by a frieze course of knobbed spindles and turned pendants. The main block is highlighted by an octagonal three-story tower on the north, and a cross-gable on the south. The tower in the first bay of the north facade has a pyramidal roof surmounted by a terra cotta acroterion. A slightly lower and narrower two-and-one-half-story kitchen wing extends to the west on the same line as the main block. A one-story hip-roof porch has the same turned posts, railing and spindle frieze course as the east veranda.

Significance:

The Lake House (Presbyterian Parsonage) is an outstanding example of a late Victorian frame dwelling with abundant Queen Anne style decorative detail. It was built in the early 1890's on land subdivided to form the suburb of Central Heights. It is a distinctive landmark in that suburb, known today as Berwyn. In 1892 Annie and Wilmot Lake purchased 2 lots in Central Heights, directly west of the Berwyn Station and fronting on Shanabrook Avenue. In 1894, the Lakes began construction of this elegant Victorian dwelling, based on a design distributed by the Cooperative Building Plan Association. The house was distinguished by an octagonal corner tower, novelty shingle siding, and lacework verandah. From 1919 to the late 1950's the house served as the Parsonage of the Berwyn Presbyterian Church. Restored for use as a residence by the present owner, it is today the only Queen Anne style dwelling which survives from the early subdivision of Central Heights and is a distinctive landmark in the Berwyn community.

Acreage: 15,00 square feet

Survey No. PG#-66-18

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Lake House, Presbyterian Parsonage

and/or common Weary House

2. Location

street & number 8524 Potomac Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town College Park Berwyn vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
X district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
___ building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	X being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___ not applicable	X no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Richard Weary

street & number 8524 Potomac Avenue telephone no.:

city, town College Park state and zip code Md. 20740

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. County Courthouse liber #2481

street & number Main Street folio 63

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. PG#66-18

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Lake House (Presbyterian Parsonage) is a Victorian frame cross-gable house which stands on one of the original lots of the town of Central Heights, now known as Berwyn. It is distinguished by fine Queen Anne details, e.g., an octagonal tower, novelty shingle siding and lacework veranda.

The house consists of a two-and-one-half-story front-gabled main block, two bays by three, with side cross gable and tower, and a slightly lower rear kitchen wing. The house faces east (toward the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad tracks); entrance is in the third bay of the east gable front through a door with single pane transom and plain board surrounds. The door itself has glazing over molded panels. Spanning the east gable front and wrapping around part of the north and south facades is a one-story verandah It is supported by turned posts, has a plain balustered railing, and rests on brick piers. The lacework veranda is highlighted by a frieze course of knobbed spindles, which defines wide arches between the posts, and is further embellished by turned pendants. The porch has a coffered ceiling, and an interior frieze course of narrow molded panels.

The building is sided on first and second stories with plain horizontal board, painted orange. A course of clipped-corner shingles defines the line between first and second stories, and the third-level gable ends are sided with the same shingles. Windows are 1/1 double hung sash and have plain board surrounds with projecting upper bead. There are green louvered shutters at a few windows. Windows are arranged in pairs above the first story.

The main block is highlighted by an octagonal three-story tower on the north, and a cross-gable on the south. The tower in the first bay of the north facade has a pyramidal roof surmounted by a terra cotta acroterion. The first story of the tower is sided with horizontal board, with clipped-corner shingle on the second, and with narrower horizontal board on the third. The tower is lighted at second and third levels, the small window on its north face having small border lights.

The projecting cross gable in the first bay of the south facade is highlighted on the first story by a cutaway bay window with jig-sawn cornice ornament. There are paired windows at second and third levels; the gable end at third level is sided with clipped-corner shingles and embellished with perforated bargeboards. There is an entrance from the verandah into the east face of the cross-gable.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	X community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1894 **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 Lake House (Presbyterian Parsonage) is an outstanding example of a late Victorian frame dwelling with abundant Queen Anne style decorative detail. It was built in the early 1890's on land subdivided to form the suburb of Central Heights. It is a distinctive landmark in that suburb, known today as Berwyn.

The area which is today known as Berwyn was part of a tract known as "Red House" which Francis Shanabrook purchased in 1889. The land was surveyed and platted in that year, following the example of the adjoining new suburb of Charlton Heights.[1] (Charlton Heights, which was immediately to th east on the other side of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, had been platted in 1888, and within that year new pattern book dwellings had been erected along its newly laid streets.[2]) Shanbrook's subdivision was named Central Heights, and consisted of building lots laid out south of a Central Avenue which ran west from the new railroad depot.[1]

Francis Shanabrook began selling lots in 1890. In 1892 Annie and Wilmot Lake purchased Lots 4 and 5 in Block #1 of Central Heights, directly west of the Berwyn Station and fronting on Shanabrook Avenue. In 1894, the Lakes began construction of this elegant Victorian dwelling, based on a design distributed by the Cooperative Building Plan Association.[3] The house was distinguished by an octagonal corner tower, novelty shingle siding, and lacework veranda. The Lakes borrowed money from St. Andrew's Parish (in St. Mary's County) in order to pay for construction. They defaulted on payments, and the house was sold in 1896.[4]

By this time, the name of Central Heights had been changed to Berwyn (and a short time later the adjoining Charlton Heights became Berwyn Heights). During the early twentieth century, the Lake house was the home of the David Hazard family; from 1919 to the late 1950's it served as the Parsonage of the Berwyn Presbyterian Church. This church (first called Charlton Heights Mission) was built in 1890 just south of the Lake House; it was known after 1892 as the Berwyn Mission, and became the Berwyn Presbyterian Church in 1914. The Lake House served as the Parsonage until the late 1950's, when a new church was constructed at Greenbelt Road and 63rd

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.PG#66-18

Cf. notes, item #8

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 15,000 square feet

Tax Map 33, Block 1

Quadrangle name Washington East, Section B

Quadrangle scale lots 4,5

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

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 Susan G. Pearl, Research Historian

organization Historic Preservation Commission **date** August 1986

street & number c/o County Planning, MNCPPC **telephone** 952-3521

city or town Upper Marlboro **state** MD.

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

PS-2746

A slightly lower and narrower two-and-one-half-story kitchen wing extends to the west on the same line as the main block. It is two-bays-by-two-bays, with entrance in the first bay of the west gable end. A one-story hip-roof porch shelters this north gable end; it has the same turned posts, railing and spindle frieze course as the east veranda, but does not have a coffered ceiling.

The gable roof of the building is covered with gray asphalt shingle. Cornices are boxed with crown molding, and have stencilled perforated bargeboards at all gable ends. Three panelled corbelled brick chimenys rise from the roof of the main block: one each in the north and south planes of the roof at the west gable end, and a third near the east front of the house set transversely in the south plane of the roof. The building rests on a high brick foundation.

Avenue. In 1960, the Parsonage was sold to the present owner, who has recently (1980's) undertaken restoration work on the house.[5] It is today the only Queen Anne style dwelling which survives from Shanabrook's subdivision of Central Heights. It is an outstanding and distinctive landmark in the Berwyn community today.

Notes

1 Prince George's County Plat JWB #13:467; JWB #5:481, 1890.

2 cf. Prince George's County Files #67-9 through 21, Charlton Heights.

3 Prince George's County Deeds JWB #23:177; JWB #29:26; catalogs of R. W. Shoppell, Cooperative Building Plan Association.

4 Prince George's County Deeds JWB #29:26; JWB #38:298.

5 Prince George's County Deeds #9:491, #143:491, #2481:63; Skarda, D.D., Berwyn Heights - History of a Small Maryland Town, p. 36.

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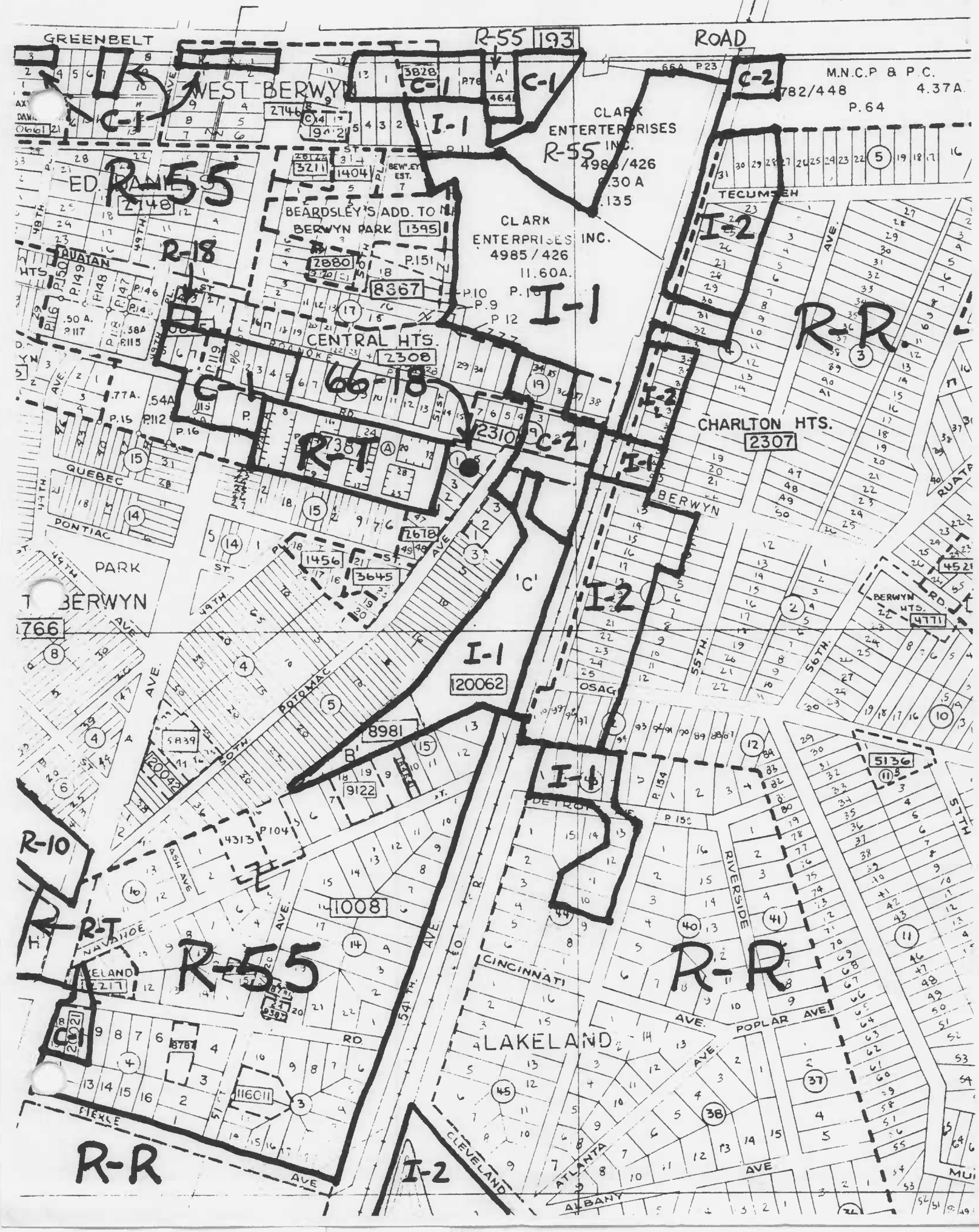

GREENBELT
ROAD
R-55
193
WEST BERWYN
C-1
C-2
I-1
I-2
R-55
R-18
R-T
R-R
R-10
66-18
CLARK ENTERTERPRISES INC.
4985/426
11.60A.
M.N.C.P & P.C.
4.37A.
P.64
ED. RANIELS
BEARDSLEY'S ADD. TO BERWYN PARK
CENTRAL HTS.
2308
CHARLTON HTS.
2307
TECUMSEH
QUEBEC
PONTIAC
PARK
BERWYN
BERWYN HTS.
OSAGE
POTOMAC
RIVERSIDE
CINCINNATI
POPLAR AVE.
LAKELAND
ATLANTA
ALBANY
CLEVELAND
FIERLE
NAVAHOE
ASH AVE

PG#66-18

Lake House, Presybterian Parsonage
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.

PG#66-18

Lake House, Presbyterian Parsonage
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.

PG#66-18

Lake House, Presbyterian Parsonage
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.

PG#66-18

Lake House, Presbyterian Parsonage
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1976
Northwest 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.

PG#66-18

Lake House, Presybterian Parsonage
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
South elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.