

S-178
William H. Ruark House
Westover
Private

c. 1880-1883

Built between 1880 and 1883 for William Henry Ruark, this cruciform plan house is one of the more substantial dwellings remaining in Westover and the only one of this formal plan. After erecting this house and instituting a flour mill at the crossroads, William H. Ruark left Somerset County for Norfolk, Virginia, and sold the house to his brother, Lafayette Ruark, around 1897.

7. Description

Survey No. S-178

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 William H. Ruark House stands in the small village of Westover, Maryland, between Sign Post Road and MD 361. Facing east, the cruciform plan house has primary gables on an east/west and north/south axis.

The c. 1880-1883 two-story frame house rests on a brick pier foundation and is sheathed by a layer of aluminum over weatherboards. Paneled pilasters trim each major corner, and paired brackets decorate the extended eaves. Corbelled brick chimneys rise from the steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof.

The east (or front) gable end elevation has paired 2/2 sash windows which are accented by molded hoods. A pointed arch 2/2 sash window lights the attic.

The southeast corner of the house contains the primary four-panel door entrance with a two-light transom. Two over two sash windows occupy the adjacent bays as well as light the second floor. A shed roofed porch with replacement iron posts covers the first floor.

The south gable end is similar to the east end, except the paired window sash are not covered by a molded hood.

The southwest corner of the house is filled by an enclosed porch addition which extends around to the west side of the house. The second floor details remain the same on the west as well as the north sides. Paired or single 2/2 sash windows light each floor.

The interior has been partially remodeled but retains a large portion of its period woodwork. The hall runs the width of the front leg of the plan and retains its Victorian stair. A heavily turned newel post and turned balusters support an oval-profiled handrail. Four-panel doors open into adjacent rooms with Victorian period mantels.

8. Significance

Survey No. S-178

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 1880, 1883 **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.

Built between 1880 and 1883 for William H. Ruark, this cruciform plan house is one of the more substantial dwellings remaining in Westover and the only one of this formal plan. Only a few houses in Westover carry as much decorative detail. William H. Ruark left Westover for Norfolk, Virginia, and sold the house to his brother, Lafayette Ruark, around 1897.

S-178 Wm. H. Ruark House
Kingston Quad. 1972

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5860 III NE
(MONIE)

75°45' 435000m E. 436 437 42'30"

38°07'30"

4219000m N



FAIRMOUNT 4.4 MI.

4218

4217

4216

5'

4215

RIVER

CLYDE FORD ROAD

Annemessex Creek

PENNSYLVANIA CENTRAL

River

Westover

St James Ch

St Elizabeths Ch

Big

Annemessex

Kingston



William H. Ruark House
Westover, Somerset County
East Elevation
2/84 Paul Touart
Neg./Md. Historical Trust

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