

9300378

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Leitch's Wharf/Lida Leitch House Survey Number: CT-33

Project: Waugh Chapel to High Ridge BG&E Trans. Line Agency: State PSC

Site visit by MHT Staff:  no  yes Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Lida Leitch House does not appear to meet any of the National Register Criteria for listing and lacks integrity. Constructed c. 1820, the Lida Leitch is a Federal farmhouse which was added to in the latter part of the 19th century and substantially altered in two cent renovations. The house in its present heavily altered state retains little but its basic form and thus would not be eligible under Criteria C for architecture. There is no evidence that it is eligible under Criteria A for transportation through an association with the nearby Leitch's Wharf, an important stop on the Weems Steamboat Line which transported passengers and goods on the Patuxent River from 1817 to 1937. And finally, while the property was owned by the Leitch family, longtime landowners in the area, and Mason L. Weems, owner of the steamship company, there is no evidence that the house was the home of any significant individual. Weems appears to have lived in Baltimore and there is no record of significant contributions by Leitch family members who might have lived in the house.

Perhaps most importantly, the house lacks integrity. It apparently was vacant for a long period and fell into disrepair. Renovations in 1976 and 1992 have eliminated nearly all the original fabric. Nearly all historic windows have been replaced. Vinyl german siding now covers the original clapboards. The Victorian posts and brackets on the portico have been replaced. The exterior end chimney has been reworked and the porch partially enclosed on the old kitchen wing. All interior plaster has been removed as has most interior trim. A large new addition has been added to the old kitchen wing.

*The Lida Leitch House is not located in any known district.*

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Maryland Inventory of Historic

Properties form CT-33, project file

Prepared by: Greenhorne & O'Mara

Elizabeth Hannold Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services April 2, 1993 Date

NR program concurrence:  yes  no  not applicable  
R. Pennington Reviewer, NR program 4.19.93 Date

DX

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

- Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- Paleo-Indian 10000-7500 B.C.
- Early Archaic 7500-6000 B.C.
- Middle Archaic 6000-4000 B.C.
- Late Archaic 4000-2000 B.C.
- Early Woodland 2000-500 B.C.
- Middle Woodland 500 B.C. - A.D. 900
- Late Woodland/Archaic A.D. 900-1600
- Contact and Settlement A.D. 1570-1750
- Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- Unknown Period (  prehistoric  historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

- Subsistence
- Settlement
- Political
- Demographic
- Religion
- Technology
- Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

- Agriculture
- Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- Government/Law
- Military
- Religion
- Social/Educational/Cultural
- Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Dwelling

Known Design Source: Unknown

CT#33

IDA LEITCH HOUSE

ca. 1820

This Federal farmhouse apparently has been altered from an initial stage of five bay length and one room depth by enlarging the second floor to a two room depth thereby creating a recessed porch at the rear facade. All of the interior fabric is of both the late Federal and early Victorian periods. A single chimney is enclosed within each end wall, positioned slightly forward from the roof ridge. At one end is a one story frame kitchen wing of uncertain age.

(Capsule)

### Leitch's Wharf

Recently this house underwent renovation, but its original form was preserved. The building is part of the "Wharf property", which was the scene of much coming and going during the steamship era. It is known that the Weems Steamboat Company was one of the operators of the wharf and that line first ran up the Patuxent River in 1817. The house was occupied by the Leitch Family for whom the wharf was named. One of its distinctive features is a second story recessed gallery which looks out over the wharf area and river.



INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Leitchs Wharf

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Leitchs Wharf Road and Patuxent River (Leitchs Road)

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Prince Frederick

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Calvert

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. George Weems

Telephone #: 535-2000

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Courthouse

Liber #: JLB 17/148

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

CLVT #33

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

CT-33

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 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 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 105.4 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

Wayne L. Nield, II  
Historic Sites Survey  
Broomes Island, Maryland 20615  
536-2050

NAME / TITLE

Winter 74-77  
DATE

ORGANIZATION

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

STATE

CITY OR TOWN

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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

## PRELIMINARY REPORT ON LYDA LEITCH HOUSE

Architectural Description:

When the house was observed on September 23, 1976, construction was in progress. The interior appeared to have been stripped, plaster and all, and the exterior covering replaced with modern materials. Photographs in the collection of the Maryland Historical Trust and the 1967 survey sheet indicate a two-story, clapboard structure five bays wide and one deep with enclosed chimneys at each end. A one-and-one-half-story, three-bay-wide-and-one-deep wing adds length to the south end of the house. It is notable for its "lie-on-your-stomach" windows in the upper story.

The 1967 survey makes note of the Victorian stoop on the east facade which is complete with gingerbread, brackets, etc. The survey also made mention of "an early Victorian newel and square balusters. All the mantels are simple C. 1830 ones."

A notable feature of the house is the fact that on the west facade, which overlooks the Patuxent River, there is an overhang two rooms deep, the central bay of which forms a small porch enclosed on three sides.

Although this exact arrangement is not common, particularly in this area, a second-story porch or "gallery" is a typical feature in other geographical locales. In western Maryland, for example, the second-story porch has been associated often with inns and other public places usually in close proximity to highways and other lanes of traffic.

The relationship which the Leitch House has to the Wharf site causes one to wonder about the role it may have played during the era in which river travel via steamboat was preiminent.

Leitch:

In 1970 Mrs. Ailene Hutchins interviewed Miss Lyda Leitch who was then 90 years old. Lyda Leitch was the daughter of William A. and Annie Hammett Leitch. James Leitch was her grandfather, and according to Miss Leitch he had the house built at Leitch's Wharf.

According to the 1850 census James Leitch was at that time 37 years old but living in the Third District. In the 1860 census, however, James Leitch is seen to be in the <sup>SECOND</sup> District. The 1866 Martenet Map of Maryland shows "Leitch's Wharf," and the tombstone of Robert Anderson, a previous owner who is buried on the property, gives 1863 as the date of his death. Therefore, one might assume that James Leitch established himself in that location in the mid-1860's.

Subsequent References:

Liber 3/7, November 4, 1873:

Ira Young and Christians Young (former wife of James Leitch) sell to William A. Leitch (son) for \$369.75 "all of that wharf property lying . . . called and known as 'Leitch's Wharf' together with a lot of land adjoining . . . .", two acres more or less.

Liber 3/40:

William A. Leitch and Anna to Mason L. Weems (Weems Steamboat Lines); for \$500.00 he sells the wharf, one-half acre of adjoining land, and the use of the road for business purposes.

TBT 4/224, 1896:

Indicates that in 1873 the family owned 110 acres at Leitch's Wharf.

Age:

If Miss Lyda Leitch was not mistaken and James Leach did build this house, then it must be dated c. 1863. The 1850 and 1860 census records, the death of Thomas Anderson in 1863, and the Martenet map support such a date.

The presence of fireplaces in Calvert County structures almost immediately takes one back to c. 1870; the aforementioned documents take one back yet another decade. Minus its Victorian decorations, however, the form is not contrary to earlier structures more closely associated with vernacular Greek Revival. The possibility of Anderson being the builder and the Lyda Leitch House being c. 1830's or 1840's is not remote. The removal of most of the original materials is unfortunate, for it is now quite difficult to discern between a post- or ante-bellum building date.

The exact location of "Dewsdale (Dodsdale) Manor" is at this time uncertain, although there is some reason to believe that it may have included the area of Leitch's Wharf. Such a possibility is interesting considering that according to Liber 1/551 (August 27, 1816):

John Howell, Benjamin Howell, Rebecca Weems, et al.  
sold to John Leach (Leitch) two parcels of land called

"Abbington Cliffs and Dewsdale Manor." These were near the main branch of Abbington's Creek and the road leading from Holland's Cliffs. Holland's Cliffs is, admittedly, too far north, but there is evidence that Hunting Creek once may have been called Abbington Creek (see Caveat Papers #0240 and Plats, Box 24, FLD 11, Hall of Records, Annapolis).

In a transaction for more land in the same neighborhood this reference contains an insertion of "Leitch" for "Leach." Also, the northeast boundary of Dewsdale Manor is mentioned with intersecting properties being land which John Leach bought from James Dalrymple and land owned by William L. Weems.

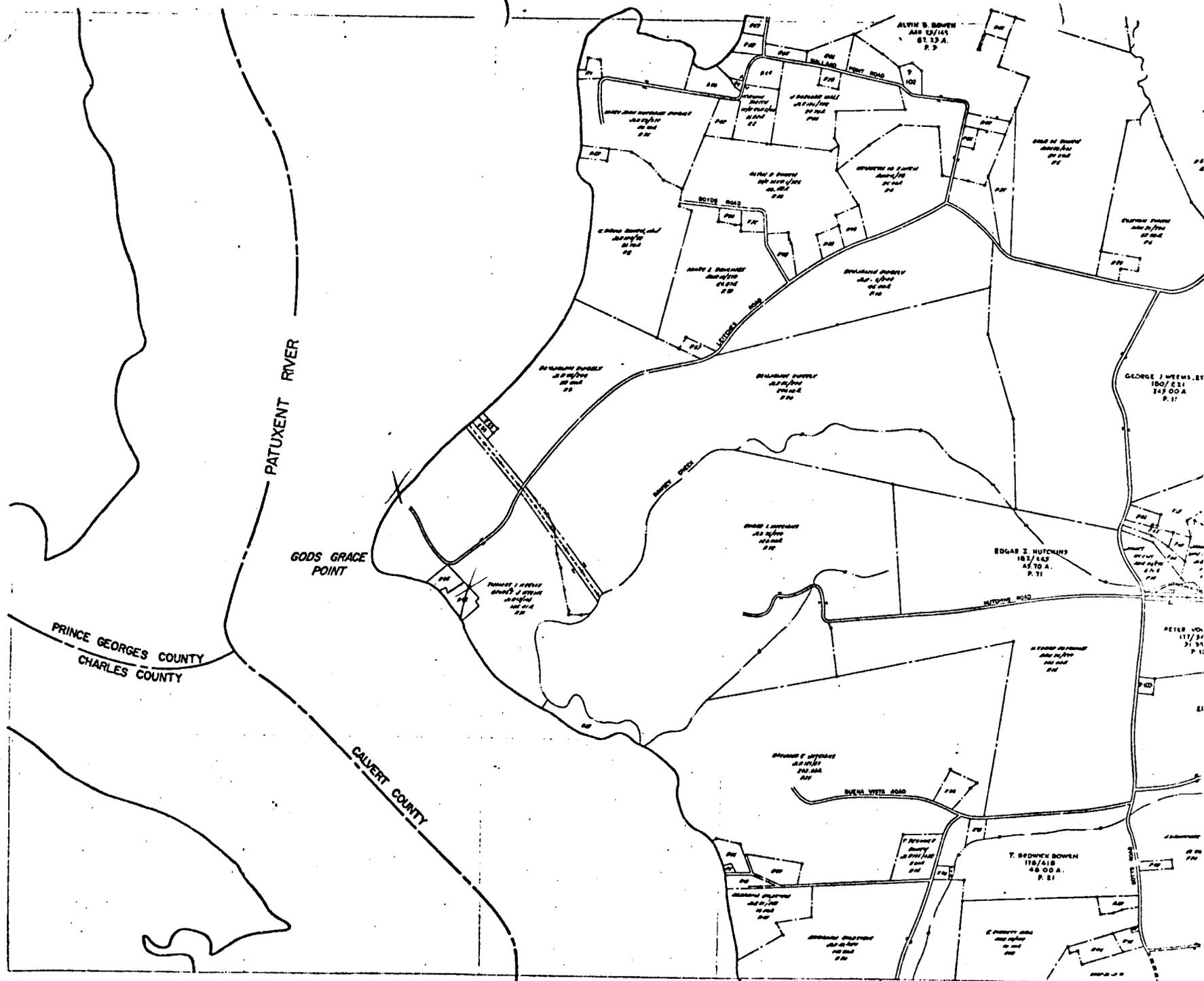
The inclusion of this material is in support of the simple assertion that the Leitchs owned property, possibly waterfront property, in this neighborhood since C. 1816. The coincidence of this date with the founding of the Weems Steamboat Company (a later owner of Leitch's Wharf) cannot be ignored.

Conclusion:

Although the present structure contains mostly replacement materials, the form of the original structure appears to be retained, making it of certain value to architectural history.

There is no doubt that this property is an historic site since the "Wharf property" has been documented as historically significant in the areas of commerce and transportation. Any consideration of an historic district should not neglect to include the Wharf site.

CONT



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BASE MAP CONSTRUCTED  
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 ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND  
 21403

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Historic Sites Survey  
Groomes Island, Maryland 20615

CLVT 33 2T 33

Leitchs house and wharf site.



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~~CLVT 33~~ 37 33

Leitchs house and wharf site.



CT 33 IDA LEITCH HOUSE

1-35