

Capsule Summary

SM-533

The Maurice and Anita Thrift House

Leonardtown

Private

c. late 1920s

Constructed in the late-1920s, the Maurice and Anita Thrift house represents a significant example of a Colonial Revival dwelling in Leonardtown. This frame, three bay, two-and-a-half story house replaced a previous dwelling owned in the late nineteenth century by John B. Abell and later by William E. Blackistone. Blackistone, however, never payed his taxes and the St. Mary's County treasurer siezed the property and subsequently sold it in 1924 to Enoch B. Abell. The Thrift family purchased the property from Katherine M. Abell the widow of Enoch B. Abell in 1928. The Thrift's constructed a dwelling soon after using a popular architectural style for the time. The Colonial Revival-style was inspired by eighteenth century regional building traditions. The dwelling's symmetrical fenestration, side-passage plan, and porch supported by Doric columns all represent prominent characteristics of the style. The dwelling's excellent condition and architectural integrity make a locally significant building.

SM-533, The Maurice and Anita Thrift House  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization: Western Shore  
Chronological/Developmental Period: Industrial Urban Dominance, 1870-1930  
Historic Period Theme: Architecture

Resource Type

Category: Building  
Historic Environment: Town  
Historic Function and Use: Residence  
Known Design Source: None

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES  
**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. SM533

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

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

historic Maurice and Anita Thrift House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number SW corner of Lawrence Avenue and Washington Street  not for publication

city, town Leonardtown  vicinity of congressional district 3

state Maryland county St. Mary's

**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 Robert G. and Katherine N. D'Esposito

street & number PO Box 32 telephone no.: 475-8547

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Maryland 20650-0032

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber MRB 262

street & number folio 238

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. SM-533

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Maurice and Anita Thrift House is located at the southwest corner of Lawrence Avenue and Washington Street. Situated near the crest of a hill that descends south towards Breton Bay, the house rests on a sloping lot. The dwelling is bordered by two roads, a wooded tract, and another one story house. It is also located across the street from the St. Mary's County Courthouse (SM-55).

Constructed in the late 1920s, the Thrift house represents a significant example of Colonial Revival architecture. The frame, three-bay, double-pile, two-and-a-half story dwelling features a gable roof pierced by a gable end brick chimney stack and an interior chimney flue. The primary (or east) elevation is distinguished by a covered porch supported by four Doric columns. Most of the windows in the dwelling are six-over-six, double-hung sash. There are also two, one story additions to the house on the west and south elevations.

This dwelling received only mid-level documentation due to the large number of historic resources in Leonardtown.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-533

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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.

Constructed in the late-1920s, the Maurice and Anita Thrift house represents a significant example of a frame, two-and-half story, three bay, Colonial Revival dwelling in Leonardtown. This house replaced a previous dwelling once owned by William E. Blackistone. Blackistone, however, never paid his taxes and the St. Mary's County treasurer siezed the property and subsequently sold it in 1924 to Enoch B. Abell. The Thrift family purchased the property from Katherine M. Abell the widow of Enoch B. Abell in 1928. The Thrift family constructed a dwelling soon after using a popular architectural style for the time. The Colonial Revival-style was inspired by eighteenth century regional building traditions. The dwelling's symmetrical fenestration, side-passage plan, and porch supported by Doric columns all represent prominent characteristics of the style. The dwelling's condition and architectural integrity make a locally significant building.



SM-533, Maurice and Anita Thrift House  
St. Mary's County  
8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber DBK 262, Folio 238

Grantee: Robert G. and Katherine N. D'Esposito

Grantor: Anita T. Greenwell et al

Date: October 30, 1976

Note: Anita T. Greenwell represents the personal representative of the estate of Maurice T. Thrift, who died in 1963 and his wife Anita C. Thrift who died testate. Their estates were settled in the Orphans Court in Estate No. 425 and No. 2292.

Reference: Liber CBG 55, Folio 52-54

Grantee: Maurice T. and Anita C. Thrift

Grantor: Mary R. Fowler

Date: February 21, 1955

Note: A plat of the property is listed as drawn by W. L. Bowman on February 11, 1955. These two simultaneous deeds merely shift ownership between the Thrifts and Mary Fowler.

Reference: Liber JMM 6, Folio 71

Grantee: Maurice T. Thrift

Grantor: Katherine M. Abell-widow and heir of Enoch B. Abell

Date: March 8, 1928

Note: The property is listed as containing .437 acres or 19,030 sq/ft.

Reference: Liber JMM 2, Folio 176

Grantee: E. B. Abell

Grantor: Lawrence Williams--County Treasurer

Date: January 31, 1924

Note: Williams seized the property because the previous owner William E. Blackistone never payed his taxes.

Reference: Liber JFF 12, Folio 122

Grantee: William E. Blackistone

Grantor: George C. and Enoch B. Abell--trustees for John B. and Violet A. Abell's estate

Date: July 9, 1890

Note: The property is listed as containing 1 1/2 acres.

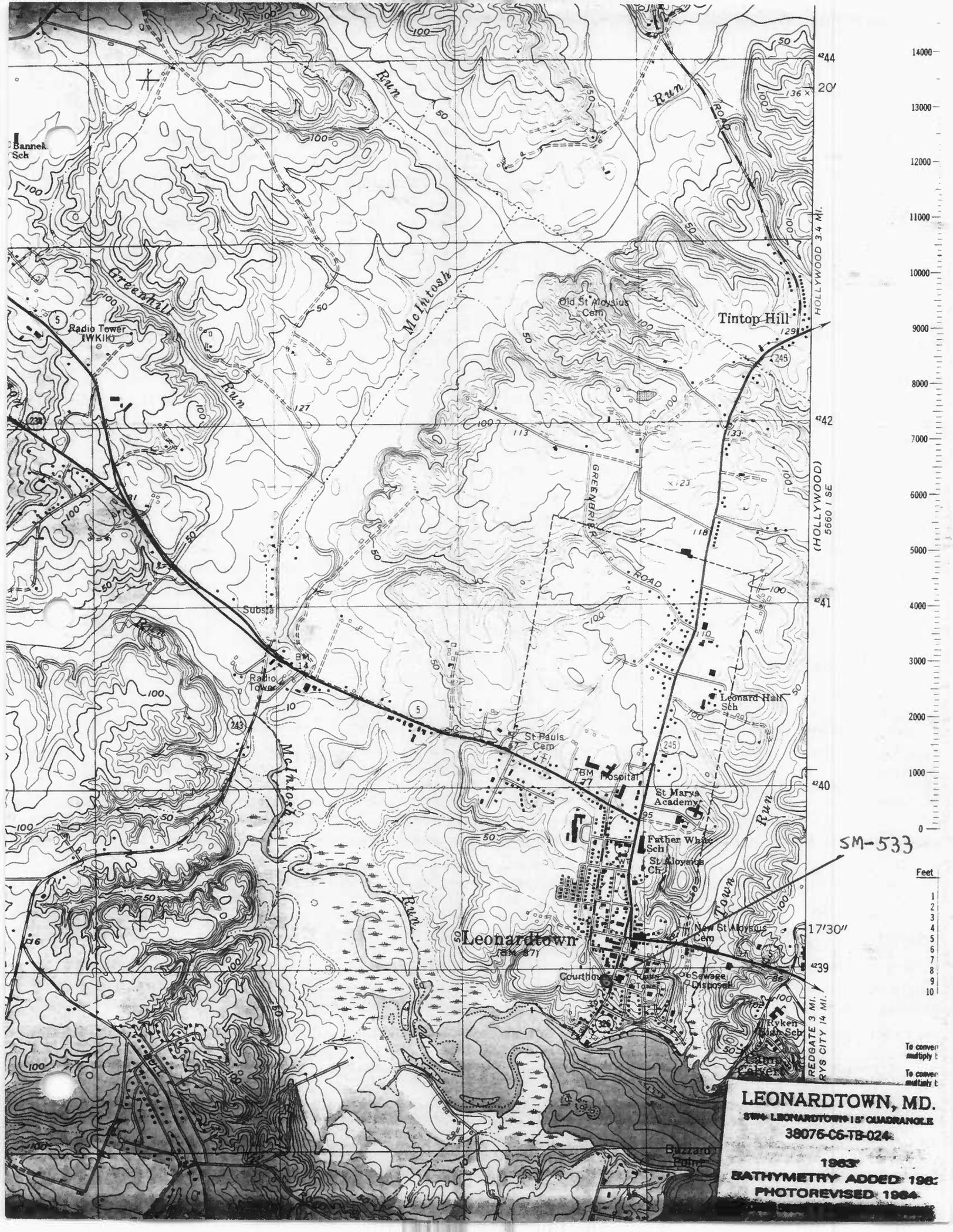
Reference: Liber JFF 5, Folio 26

Grantee: John B. Abell

Grantor: Francis M. and Jennie D Dyer

Date: mid 1880s.

Note: The property is listed as having an office, stables, and outbuildings. These were later dismantled to make way for the new house in the late 1920s.



HOLLYWOOD 3.4 MI.  
(HOLLYWOOD) 5660 I SE

SM-533

17'30"  
439  
REDGATE 3 MI.  
RYS CITY 14 MI.

14000  
13000  
12000  
11000  
10000  
9000  
8000  
7000  
6000  
5000  
4000  
3000  
2000  
1000  
0  
Feet

To convert  
multiply by  
To convert  
multiply by

**LEONARDTOWN, MD.**  
SW- LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
38076-C6-TB-024  
1963  
BATHYMETRY ADDED 1962  
PHOTOREVISED 1964



