

QA-456

The Sterling Building  
Church Hill  
private/public

c. 1890

The Sterling Building on the main street of Church Hill is a large frame building constructed during the last quarter of the nineteenth century in the late Victorian Gothic style. It is a combination commercial/residential structure.

The Post Office is located in one of the store fronts. The other was the Pharmacy of Dr. Sterling until it too was converted to an apartment after his death. It was the gathering place for families who would attend the Church Hill Movies or come to pick up their loved ones from the bus, which still stops in front of the building.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

The Sterling Building or Sterling's Pharmacy

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Old Rt. 213, (west) adjacent lane to old Academy

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne'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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

William H. Knotts

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21623

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: MWM 149

Folio #: 367

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sterling Building is located on the west side of Old Rt. 213 just north of the lane leading to the old Academy, now St. Luke's Church Hall. It is a very large Victorian Gothic frame structure, 2 1/2 stories tall with a two story back wing.

The building is five bays long and four bays deep and is covered with asbestos siding. The first story facade is slightly asymmetrical, i.e. the central door is off-center. Only the two flanking store fronts have slightly different proportions. The entry has double doors, each leaf with three panels, the upper one having a half round head. The small center panels are repeated in the panels below the colored sidelights. There is a four-pane transom above the whole entry.

On the north side of the entry the store windows still exist and are the same as the former Sterling Drug Store. The Post Office has a central door flanked by two projecting bay windows, with four panes in the front and two on each side. Beneath the sash are panels of beaded dado boards. There is a cornice beneath a pent eave, but originally

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.1 DESCRIPTION

there was a wide awning-like porch.

On the south side of the entry, Sterling Drug Store windows have been sheathed with asbestos and small 1/1 sash windows installed in their place. The panels beneath still exist.

On the second story are five symmetrically placed 1/1 sash windows. In the center of the third story is a tall gable with semi-circular headed upper sash. There are brackets extending up the gable to a pierced triangular decoration at the apex. From here rises a turned finial from the apex of the roof. The main cornice has a fascia of beaded dado between bold brackets. Flanking the central gable are two large dormers with 1/1 sash having a small incised decoration in the gable. Two brick chimneys rise from the apex of the roof, in the same position as the first story walls.

The north gable adjoins another house and is devoid of any windows but having brackets under the eave. The south gable has three small windows on the first story, installed when the drug store was converted to an apartment. On the second story are four large 1/1 sash windows. In the attic are two windows smaller than the one in the front gable, but otherwise the same. Brackets continue up the gable to another finial.

The back wing has one small window and one large

## CONTINUATION SHEET

## 7.2 DESCRIPTION

one on the first story and four large windows on the second. Its cornice has brackets but a plain fascia between. A chimney rises from the apex of the roof.

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
REHISTORIC	<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 checked="" 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		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sterling Building on the main street of Church Hill is a large frame building constructed during the last quarter of the nineteenth century in the late Victorian Gothic style. It is a combination commercial/residential structure.

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**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Michael O. Bourne, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

9/15/83

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

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



QA-371  
~~Crane-Frenchard House~~  
QA-4156  
Sterling Building

Mary McCarthy  
Spring/Summer 2003  
Digital color photo on file at MHT

