

QA-509

Crescent House  
Queenstown, Queen Anne's County  
Private  
1877

**Capsule Summary**

The Crescent House located at 7009 Main Street is a example of late nineteenth century Victorian period commercial architecture. The building is a two-story, wood frame, commercial building constructed in 1877. The building is associated with broad pattern of the local development of Queenstown (Criterion A). Historic documentation does not suggest that the building is associated with the lives of persons significant in the past (Criteria B). The building embodies the distinctive late nineteenth century characteristics of type, period, or method of construction associated with Victorian commercial architecture (Criterion C). The building conveys its historic association and retains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, location, setting, and feeling.



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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. QA-509

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

### Summary

The building located at 7009 Main Street is a two-story, wood frame, commercial building constructed in 1877. The building faces east on Main Street. The interior of the building was not inspected as part of this investigation. The building occupies a narrow rectangular lot. The front of the building is delineated by a concrete sidewalk. A short set of wooden stairs provides access to the building from the sidewalk.

### Description

The building located at 7009 Main Street is three-bays wide and four-bays deep. The building rests on a stuccoed masonry foundation and adopts a rectangular footprint. The wood frame walls are clad with asbestos shingles. The building terminates in a front gable roof with gable returns. The roof is sheathed with standing seam metal and features wide overhanging eaves with a decorative cornice. An interior brick chimney is located along the center of the ridge line.

The principal (east) elevation features a storefront façade with a central entrance featuring a replacement twelve-light door and a single-light transom. The door is flanked by paired, replacement wood frame plate glass windows with painted plywood panels located above and below the window. A first story cornice with dentils supported by oversized brackets distinguishes the front of the building. The second floor features two, six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows. The upper gable wall features a two-light, fixed, wood sash window. All the windows feature simple wood surrounds. The front gable features a wide cornice with rake board and gable returns. The vertical height of the principal (east) elevation is exaggerated by the application of wide wood corner boards.

The south elevation features a side entrance with a replacement two-light wood door sheltered by a gable roof portico. The rear (west) elevation features a six-light wood door. The north, south, and west elevations feature original six-over-six, double-hung, wood sash windows.

Located behind the rear (west) elevation of the building is a one-story, brick outbuilding. The brick outbuilding features a vertical wood plank door with iron strap hinges on the north elevation. The gable roof is sheathed in corrugated metal. The upper gable ends of the outbuilding are clad with vertical board-and-batten boards.

The building located at 7009 Main Street is an intact example of late nineteenth century Victorian period commercial architecture. Important stylistic ornamentation includes a decorative first story cornice supported by oversized brackets, and a wide cornice with rake board and gable returns. The building, though sided with asbestos shingles and featuring a slightly altered first floor store front still retains the distinctive overall architectural characteristic that defines a mid-nineteenth century commercial building. The building conveys its historic association and retains its integrity of design, materials, association, workmanship, location, setting, and feeling.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. QA-509

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

<b>Significance dates</b> 1877	<b>Architect</b> Unknown
<b>Specific dates</b>	<b>Builder</b> Unknown

Evaluation for:

National Register       Maryland Register       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### Summary

The building located at 7009 Main Street is a example of late nineteenth century Victorian period commercial architecture. The building is a two-story, wood frame, commercial building constructed in 1877. The building is associated with broad pattern of the local development of Queenstown (Criterion A). Historic documentation does not suggest that the building is associated with the lives of persons significant in the past (Criteria B). The building embodies the distinctive late nineteenth century characteristics of type, period, or method of construction associated with Victorian commercial architecture (Criterion C). The building conveys its historic association and retains its integrity of design, materials, association, workmanship, location, setting, and feeling.

### Context History

Queenstown is among the oldest, continuously-occupied communities in Queen Anne's County. Established in 1707, Queenstown served as the first county seat. In 1762, the town contained a courthouse, a jail, and five or six dwellings according to an eyewitness account (Rhodes 1985). The county seat was moved to Centreville in 1782.

During the nineteenth century, Queenstown served as a regional commercial center. The area's economy was dominated by agriculture and fishing. The town became an important shipping terminus for goods produced on the Eastern Shore. Sailing packets, then steamboats after 1850, transported goods to the port of Baltimore. During the late nineteenth century, Queenstown also became a processing center for Chesapeake Bay oysters and agricultural products.

Queenstown developed as a linear town oriented along a colonial-era road laid out as a mail road in 1695. Commercial development was concentrated along Main Street and included mixed-use commercial buildings that also contained residences. A pattern of low-scale, low-density development was established that persists until the present day.

Most of the town was surrounded by property associated with the Bolingly estate until after the Civil War. In 1877, the town contained about 36 buildings, including two churches, thirteen commercial buildings, two hotels, one school, and thirteen residences (Lake 1877). The main commercial enterprises in the village center were blacksmith shops and dry goods stores. The waterfront historically was separated from the town center; the 1877 map depicted two landings along Queenstown Creek accessed by roads.

# Maryland Historical Trust

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Queenstown, Queen Anne's County  
**Continuation Sheet**

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In 1892, the town was incorporated and Queenstown became the terminus of the Queen Anne's County Railroad. By the end of 1896, the town had a population of 400 and contained twelve stores, two hotels, an express office, and a post office. The town became a popular excursion destination. In 1902, the railroad shipping terminus was moved to Love Point and the economy of Queenstown declined. The local newspaper noted that ten houses were unoccupied and six storehouses were empty in 1908 (Rhodes 1985:99-100; 168).

During the twentieth century, Queenstown continued to serve as a commercial center for the surrounding area and as a destination for summer residents. Local businesses included a lumberyard, several canneries, and dry goods stores. The Queenstown Bank, established in 1899, provided financial services and occupied a prominent location in town. In 1950, the town had 275 residents.

During the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries, residential development began to surround the historic commercial center of Queenstown. In 1882, 20 acres associated with the Bolingly estate located between Queenstown Creek and Main Street were sold at public auction. Residential construction occurred in the area between 1890 and 1930s. A second residential area opened for development in 1914, when a portion of the Bolingly property located between Embert Avenue and Old Wharf Lane was sold. Construction in this area began in 1917 and continued through the 1950s.

Since the 1950s, Queenstown has become increasingly a residential community, encouraged by the construction of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and Route 301. During the 1970s, residential development occurred south of the town center near Thompson and Aker Avenues. In the 1990s, residential development occurred east of Dudley Road in Queenstown Village and a waterfront golf community known as Queenstown Harbor located southwest of town. Commercial activity now is concentrated at the large outlet mall on the edge of town.

### Resource History

The building located at 7009 Main Street is an intact example of late nineteenth century Victorian period commercial architecture. A report in The Queenstown News indicated that the building was constructed in 1877. The building originally was used as a drug store and hotel. From 1883 until 1897 the building operated as a hotel and general mercantile, known as the Crescent House. The building continued to operate as a store and hotel throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. From 1888 until 1913, a doctor's office was located in part of the second floor. A small hardware and machinery business owned by Ira Bryan and Joseph Sparks also operated in the rear of the building prior to 1915. The first silent movies in Queenstown were shown in the building in 1912; the theatre operated through 1916. During the 1930s, the building continued to be used as a hotel. In 1946, the property was sold to James T. Smith and his wife Elizabeth who operated a beer parlor and restaurant. The beer parlor was located in the basement of the building and was known as The Ratskeller. From 1957 until 1962, a barbershop operated in the front of the building. In 1976, the property was sold to W. Irving Tuttle and his wife who operated the restaurant named the Red Lyon. The first floor of the building now is unoccupied and the second floor level is used for apartments.

The commercial building located at 7009 Main Street individually possesses those qualities of local significance as defined by the National Register of Historic Places Criteria A and C. The building is associated with broad pattern of the local commercial development of Queenstown (Criterion A). The structure has been in commercial use continuously from 1877 to the present. Historic documentation does not suggest that the building is associated with the lives of persons significant in the past (Criteria B). The building embodies the distinctive late nineteenth century characteristics of type, period, or method of construction associated with Victorian period commercial architecture (Criterion C). Important stylistic ornamentation includes a decorative first story cornice supported by oversized brackets, and a wide cornice with rake board and gable returns. The building, though sided with asbestos

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Queenstown, Queen Anne's County  
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shingles and featuring a slightly altered first floor store front, still retains the distinctive overall architectural characteristic that defines a late-nineteenth century commercial building. The building conveys its historic association and retains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, association, location, setting, and feeling.

MHT CONCURRENCE:	
Eligibility recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A _____ B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C _____ D	Considerations: _____ A _____ B _____ C _____ D _____ E _____ F _____ G _____ None
Comments: _____	
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services <u><i>[Signature]</i></u> Date <u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	Date <u>12/17/99</u> <u>4/27/00</u> Reviewer, NR program

*[Handwritten initials]*

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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## HISTORIC CONTEXT:

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance Transition A.D. 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Commerce/Trade/Department Store

Known Design Source: Unknown

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. QA-509

Rhodes, Harry C.

1985 *Queenstown: The Social History of a Small American Town*. The Queen Anne Press, Queenstown Maryland.

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## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed

Quadrangle name

<.75 acre

Queenstown

Quadrangle scale 1:24:000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property boundary is defined by the current parcel boundaries listed on tax map 51A occupying P.061 within the town of Queenstown Queen Anne's County, Maryland

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## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title W. Patrick Giglio, Project Manager, Architectural Services

organization R. Christopher Goodwin and Associates, Inc.

date November 1999

street & number 241 East Fourth Street, Suite 100

phone 301-694-0428

city or town Frederick, Maryland 21701

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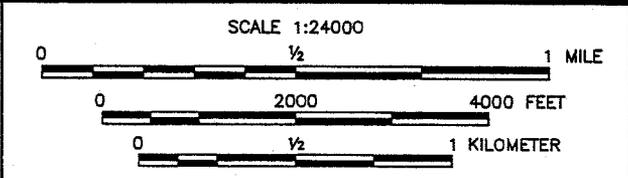
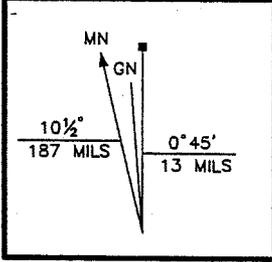
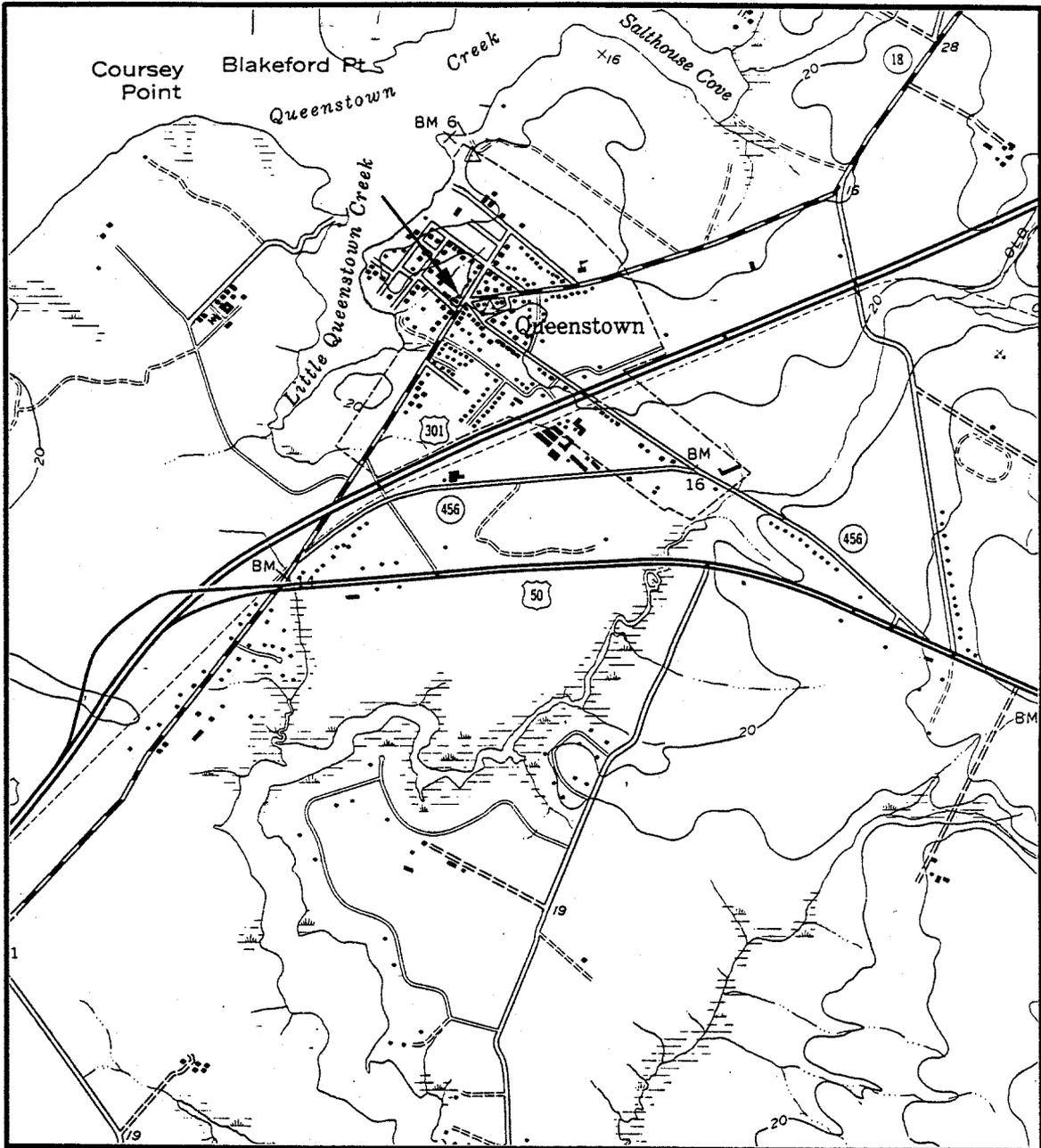
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
410-514-7600

MHT No. QA-509  
 Crescent House  
 Queenstown, Queen Anne's County  
 Queenstown USGS Quadrangle Map



 R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc.  
 241 EAST FOURTH STREET, FREDERICK, MD 21701

QA-509  
Crescent House  
Queenstown, Queen Anne's County

## INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

The same is the following for all photographs:

1. inventory #: QA-509
2. historic name: Crescent House
3. location: Queenstown, Queen Anne's County
4. photographer: P. Giglio
4. date of photograph: November 1999
5. location of negative: MD SHPO

### Photo #

1. Front elevation, View northwest
2. Front elevation, View southwest
3. Side elevation, View northeast
4. Side elevation, View southeast

QA-509  
Crescent House  
7009 Main Street  
Queenstown

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





'98 1 17

QA-509

Crescent House

Queenstown, Queen Anne's Co.

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPO

Front elevation, View northwest

1 of 4



'98 1 17

QA-509

Crescent House

Queenstown, Queen Anne's Co.

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPD

Front elevation, View southwest

2 of 4



'98 1 17

QA-509

Crescent House

Queenstown, Queen Anne's Co.

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPO

Side elevation, View northeast

3 of 4



'98 1 17

QA-509

Crescent House

Queenstown, Queen Anne's Co.

P. Giglio

11/1999

MD SHPO

Side elevation, View Southeast

4 of 4