

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mrs. Ray's Boarding House

and/or common "Eisenhower House" (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 327 Montgomery Street n/a not for publication

city, town Laurel n/a vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Maryland county Prince George'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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Mr. and Mrs. Clement R. Shackle

street & number 327 Montgomery Street telephone no.: 725-5368

city, town Laurel state and zip code Maryland 20707

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 3987

street & number Upper Marlboro folio 108

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland 20772

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory

date 1985 federal state county local

pository for survey records 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

Survey No. PG-LAU-7

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			<input type="checkbox"/> n/a

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

The "Eisenhower House" is an L-shaped, four-bay-wide, 2 story gable-roofed frame dwelling which faces south at 327 Montgomery Street in the town of Laurel. In form, it is typical of vernacular houses of the last quarter of the 19th century. The entrance is located in the second bay from the left; to its right are two floor-to-ceiling 2/4 windows. These three bays are sheltered by a shed-roofed porch. The westernmost bay projects forward, holding a three-sided bay window on each story, and is covered by an intersecting gable roof. A one-story enclosed porch extends from the west side of the building, and a shed kitchen addition extends from the rear. The house has been carefully rehabilitated by its present owners. The interior is arranged in a center-passage plan, with two rooms to the west and one to the east of the entrance/stair hall. The first floor retains nearly all of its original Victorian decorative detailing, including symmetrically-molded architraves with bulls-eye corner blocks, and a chamfered oak newel with ball finial.

8. Significance

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/
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1879 **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.

The "Eisenhower House" derives its common name and its significance, from its association with former President and Mrs. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who stayed here during June 1919 when then-Major Eisenhower was stationed at nearby Camp Mead.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

This house has both Laurel history and national history. Many people still living in Laurel remember this home as Mrs. Ray's boarding house. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ray purchased the house in March of 1919. They came from Baltimore, where they had a small neighborhood grocery. He worked for the B & O railroad, and later on for the Navy department. He commuted by train to both jobs. They rented out rooms after he had a stroke and was unable to work, and that is when the side porch was added on, because he needed a cool place to stay. Ms. Christine Gavriles was a friend of Mrs. Rays, and remembers trading dahlias with her. Mrs. Ray loved flowers and gardening. Her brother, Theodore, remembers the Major "Ike" coming in to buy tobacco at their establishment on Main Street, which still is much the same today, only run by the children of the original founders of "Gavriles." Theodore also remembers seeing Ike during WW II, and recollected to himself that "that's the young Major who came into our place to buy tobacco."

From research done by Clement R. Shackle, co-owner of the Eisenhower house, it appears that Ike held the temporary rank of Lt. Col. at the time they rented a room. It might be assumed that perhaps they rented here more than once, however, Mrs. Eisenhower did specifically remember June of 1919 and thought her stay might have been around six weeks at that time, according to a letter from her secretary to Mrs. Shackle. She has also inscribed a picture to us with June 1919 thereon. In other personal letters to Mrs. Shackle,

See Continuation Sheet No. 1

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached plat.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Clement R. Shackle and Loretta Shackle		
organization	owners	date	6 November 1984
street & number	327 Montgomery Street	telephone	301-725-5368
city or town	Laurel	state	Maryland 20707

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
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

Inventory—Nomination Form

Eisenhower House

Continuation sheet Prince George's County, MD

Item number

8

Page 1

she stated that they never lived at any other place in Laurel, and they walked just down the corner to the Halverson boarding house (located on U.S. #1) which has now been razed. 327 Montgomery Street is the only place left in Laurel, or Maryland, where the Eisenhowers visisted or lived, with the exception of Camp David. Mrs. Eisenhower did, through correspondence and pictures, pin-point the exact room where they stayed. For further information, see Ike and Mamie—Recollections of Laurel and Camp Meade, copies of letters from Mrs. Eisenhower, and the Laurel News Leader's 1976-July 4th, Bicentennial Edition.

Dwight David Eisenhower first moved to Maryland in late winter 1917 when he was ordered to report to Camp Meade, Maryland, to join the 65th Engineers. This was the parent group which was organizing tank troops for overseas duty. Young Eisenhower, recognizing the need to employ new weapons and tactics if the bloody stalemate of trench warfare of World War I was to be broken, fastened his attention upon two weapons that might achieve this purpose - the tank and the airplane. It was the latter which intrigued him most and in 1917 he considered requesting a transfer from the infantry to the air corps. Mamie tearfully opposed this plan which she thought was suicidal, and when Ike learned Mamie was pregnant, he heeded her pleas. In March 1918, Ike was directed to take the remnants of the 301st Tank Battalion and proceed to an old, abandoned campsite, Camp Colt, in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Mamie Doud Eisenhower was in her home in Denver during this time where shortly before, Semptember 24, 1917, their first son, Doud Dwight, had been born. Ike's family joined him in Gettysburg.

Upon his first arrival at Camp Meade, Eisenhower was a 1st Lieutenant, but in view of his organizational ability and the excellent job he had done in training tank corps troops, he had been promoted to the temporary rank of Lieutenant Colonel, October 14, 1918. His permanent rank was Captain to which he had been promoted in May 1918. It was while Commanding Officer of the Tank Corps Training Center (Camp Colt) that he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal - the first in a string of significant medals. Much to the chagrin of Ike, the war ended before he ever was transferred overseas. He even asked that he be reduced in rank to Major to get to Europe, but his commander refused. Eisenhower returned to Camp Meade in the autumn of 1918 to pursue his interests in tanks. It was at this time that he became friends with Col. George S. Patton, Jr. Together they worked on making the tank a more useful weapon - lighter and more mobile. Mamie, who had returned to Denver with Icky from Gettysburg when quarters were not available at Camp Meade, came alone to be with Ike in June 1919. She took a room in Laurel, which according to personal letters from Mrs. Eisenhower, was 327 Montgomery Street, the only place General Eisenhower and she lived in Laurel. She identified the second floor, northwest corner room as the place they stayed from a photograph sent to her

Inventory—Nomination Form

Eisenhower House
 Continuation sheet Prince George's County, MD Item number 8 Page 2

of the back of the house. Although she was certain of the large back window, our small bathroom window confused her. In discussions with our neighbor, who has lived on Montgomery Street for over 50 years, she indicated no homes here in 1919 had indoor bathrooms, so we ascertained that the room where the Eisenhower's stayed comprised the area where the Eisenhower Room is now located plus the bathroom and hall which would have made a nice sized boarding room. The home at 327 Montgomery Street was purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas L. Ray in March 1919. It became known as Mrs. Ray's boarding House although Mamie wrote to us saying that she and Ike would walk just around the corner to Mrs. Halverson's for their meals. After one month she missed Icky and worried about him so, that she returned to the Doud home in the west to join Icky.

During the summer of 1919 Ike participated in a cross-country truck convoy test. Mamie joined him at South Platte, Nebraska, for four days as they proceeded to Laramie, Wyoming. Upon completion of the truck test at San Francisco on September 6th, Ike went to Denver to start a four weeks leave with his family.

Mamie rejoined Ike in early summer 1920 as they prepared their quarters at Camp Franklin which was the Tank Corps post at Fort Meade. Two and one half months later they sent for Icky to join them, and they settled down to a fuller family life than they had yet been able to experience. Icky was in his element as he soon became the center of attention at the Camp. The deafening noises of the tanks enthralled him; the parades with their martial music set him aglow. In his company, Ike said he was sure he strutted a bit, and Mamie was thoroughly happy that her two men were with her. On June 30, 1920, Ike reverted to his permanent rank of Captain, but three days later he was promoted to the permanent rank of Major. Their happiness lasted until late 1920 when tragedy struck the Eisenhower's. They hired a maid to help Mamie in their makeshift house in the barracks. They were unaware that this girl had recently had scarlet fever, and Icky contracted the fever from her. Everything was done to save him, but in those days, before modern medicine eliminated scarlet fever, it was a childhood scourge. Shortly after Christmas 1920, little Icky died. They took him home to Denver to bury him with Mamie's family. More than half a century later, Ike remembered Icky's death as the greatest disappointment and disaster in his life, the one he never was able to forget completely. Ike and Mamie arranged that when it came their time to be buried, Icky should be with them. He, of course, now rests with President Eisenhower in Abilene, Kansas.

About 12 months later, after a most sorrowful year, Ike was transferred to the Panama Canal Zone. He returned for a brief stay at Meade in 1924, but Laurel and Camp Meade would never again be their home.

Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Prince George's County, MD Item number 9 Page 3

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Eisenhower American Hero by the editors of American Heritage Magazine and United Press International, 1969.

In Review by Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1969.

At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends by Dwight D. Eisenhower, 1967.

Letter to Mrs. Shackle from Mamie Doud Eisenhower, Dec. 6, 1971.

Letter to Mr. Brennan from Mamie D. Eisenhower, Jan. 28, 1972.

LOT 25

WALTON G. BANKS, INC.
ENGINEERING SURVEYS

4088 MAIN STREET
UPPER MARLBORO, MD.
PHONE: MARKET 7-8884

1530

554°26'40"E-70.12

Gene 2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Lot Numbered Twenty Nine (29) and a portion of Lot Numbered Thirty in The Town of Laurel, Prince George's County, Maryland and beginning for the same at an iron pipe lying approximately 257' southeasterly of new or former Cambrill Street in the northerly line of new or former Montgomery St. and running thence with the same (1) N50°20'30"W-70.00' thence with leaving Montgomery Street (2) N39°39'30"E-143.48' (3) S54°26'40"E-70.12' (4) S39°39'30"W-148.50' to the place of beginning, containing 10,219 square feet more or less as surveyed by Walton G. Banks Inc. on 1/13/66.

SURVEYOR'S CERTIFICATE

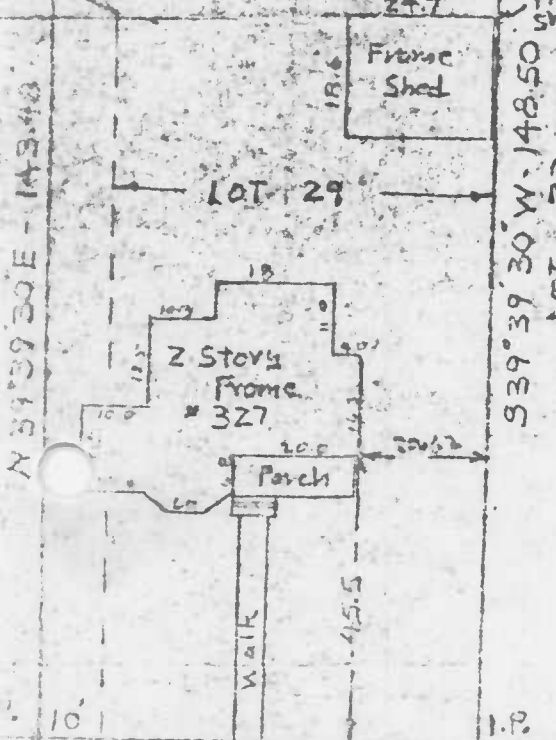
I hereby certify that I have carefully surveyed the property, placed markers as shown and located the dwelling and shed for the exclusive use of Decor Fab. Inc. - I find no violation of building restriction lines as shown by the plat of record and no encroachments of a structural nature. I did not check for violation of deed covenants.

1/13/66

W. G. Banks (Pres.)
Walton G. Banks Inc.

N 51° 39' 30" E - 143.48

10'
Gene Walk
N 50° 20' 30" W - 70.00
violation of building restriction lines as shown by the plat of record and no encroachments of a structural nature.
50 MONTGOMERY ST.



PG- LAU-7

"Eisenhower House"

1946 - 10

1-13-66

PG- LAU-7

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



39° 07' 30" N 76° 30" W 339000m E SCAGGSVILLE 2.8 MI. 340 431

PG-LAU-7
"Eisenhower House"
Prince George's Co.



WASHINGTON MONUMENT 17 MI. INTERCHANGE 95 (INTERCHANGE 27) 3.8 MI.

4326

BURTONSVILLE 3.8 MI

4329

4328

5'

4326