

The Trinity Chapel Spire

The German Reformed Church congregation contracted with Steiner to erect a wooden spire for its stone building on West Church Street, constructed in 1763. The 150-foot wooden spire contained a clock to remind townspeople of the time. The clock, owned by the city, predated the spire by 17 years.

Over the past two centuries, the chapel has undergone several renovations but Stephen Steiner's original spire remains. It is the oldest of Frederick's famous clustered spires still in use.

Steiner House Early Years To Present

Work on the original portion of Steiner House included a small building with two first floor rooms and two stairways leading to two bedrooms above. The home proved to be too small. So in 1817, Steiner built a much larger and grander addition on the front of the existing structure. It has three floors and connects to the older section.

The home was the scene of many parties and balls. Many architectural reviews of the house call it one of the most outstanding examples of colonial design still in existence in America. After Steiner's death in 1829, his widow lived in the home until she sold it in 1837. The next owner lived there for 11 years when he sold it to the Lipps family. Steiner House remained in the Lipps family for almost 100 years, the last family to use it as a private residence.

In 1945, the Historical Society of Frederick County acquired Steiner House to use as its headquarters. After the Society purchased its present headquarters on East Church Street, Steiner House's fate was in doubt. One plan was to turn the desirable corner property into a gas station!

The Frederick Woman's Civic Club would not let this happen. Members stepped up to purchase Steiner House in 1962. Much work and money has gone into the maintenance and repair of the house, now used as the FWCC headquarters. Our members are proud to share this beautiful and significant historical home with the public during designated tours.

This article would not be possible without the research and documentation by FWCC club member Dr. Frances A. Randall.