

Easement  
Mdgs # 2300132604

MHT WI-13

Form 10-300  
July 1969

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Wicomico

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Gillis-Grier House

AND OR HISTORIC: Gil'is-Grier House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 401 North Division Street

CITY OR TOWN: Salisbury

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Wicomico CODE: 045

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military			

TRUCTIONS

GILLIS-GRIER HOUSE

NEW OWNER IS:

OWNER OF PROPERTY CHANGE: Mr. Harry Leventhal  
401 N. Division Street  
Salisbury, Md. 21801

NJM

Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OF TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

STATE OF MARYLAND  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
FORM NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house, built in 1887 by James Cannon, is one of the few late nineteenth-century houses in Salisbury to have suffered virtually no changes on either the exterior or interior since it was constructed.

The Gillis-Grier House is an example of a dwelling, built in eclectic late nineteenth-century manner, essentially unchanged since its construction. It is on the northeast corner of North Division (formerly High Street) and East William Streets, facing North Division Street. It is a two-and-a-half story, frame building with clapboard painted cream color, and has green shutters. The brick foundation and basement cannot be seen on three sides of the building due to a porch. The porch is supported by brick piers with lattice between the piers. The building is a hip roof structure with the addition of a decorative five-sided tower with a conical roof located on the southwest corner of the building, and three gables on the north, west and south facades respectively. The extensive porch has turned columns and balustrade, a pediment above the steps to the porch at each entrance and an enclosed conservatory on the southeast side. Most of the sash are one over one, some on the first story having stain-glass panels. Two tall, brick, paneled chimneys are placed within the central part of the west half of the building, one in the north and one in the south portions. At the second story level of the northwest chimney there is a terra cotta plaque depicting a woman's head.

Dark grey slates with intermittent rows of green slates cover the main roof and the conical roof of the tower. At the ridge of the roof is an iron fence-like decoration. Capping the conical roof of the tower is a lightening rod with an iron crown. Small triangular dormer windows light the attic.

The first-floor plan is divided by a hall, extending from the west front door to the east back door. The entrance (west) door opens into a small vestibule, then into a stair hall, the staircase of which is to the north side of a door leading to the narrow "back" hall (east). South of the stair hall is a parlor which opens into a back parlor by double sliding doors. The dining room and breakfast room and back stairs are located north of the (east) back hall. The (south) parlor and the kitchen are located south of the hall (east).

Parquet floors were installed in the 1890's by the second owner, A. A. Gillis. A fireplace in each room has tiles around the opening and cast iron throughout each fire area. Above most of the first story fireplaces are "cabinet

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Wicomico	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Gillis-Grier House

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

mantels," comprised of mantel, shelf and mirror. Solid button-wood was used in constructing the double sliding door between the parlor and the stair hall. The buttonwood grain resembles "tiger" maple.

Interior shutters were used on the larger windows and many of the windows have panels of stain glass.

The entrance hall retains the original paneled wainscot and a "stick and ball" gallery around the stairwell, repeating the design of the exterior porch gallery.

The second story has a floor plan similar to the first story with the addition of two bathrooms having old-type plumbing fixtures. The four bedrooms have detail simpler than the main rooms.

Five bedrooms are located on the third story. They are finished in "the rough." Above the third story is an unfinished attic.

The brick basement walls are whitewashed and the floors are partly dirt, partly concrete.

Northeast of the house is a frame, one-and-one-half story stable, now (1971) used as a two-automobile garage. Nearby is a slate hitching post with initials "J.C." carved into the top. James Cannon was the builder of the house in 1887.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1887

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |  |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion, Phi-<br>losophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                 | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-<br>itarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                      |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gillis-Grier House was built in 1887 by James Cannon; the original building permit is in the possession of the owner (1971). He owned the house for ten years before selling it, in 1897, to Allison A. Gillis. Mr. Gillis was, in 1897, owner of the B. L. Gillis & Son Wholesale Grocery in Salisbury. Later the wholesale grocery was sold to T. L. Ruar, who is now (1971) operating the same business endeavor under his own name. Mr. Fred Grier, who married the daughter of A. A. Gillis, still occupies the dwelling. Mr. Grier's father came to Salisbury from Wilmington, Delaware, in 1886, due to the fire that destroyed most of the city of Salisbury at that time. A member of the Wilmington Fire Company, he traveled to Salisbury via the "N. Y. P. & N." Railroad (New York, Philadelphia & Norfolk) and liked the town well enough to remain and establish a home as well as establish the R. D. Grier and Son Foundry in order to produce iron.

Mr. Fred Grier, as well as his father, has been active in the development of the Salisbury Fire Department. Each has been active in the financial development of the city to the present (1971).

A small collection of memorabilia from Wicomico County includes a scale model of a locomotive in use at the turn of the twentieth century on the (Delmarva) Peninsula Railroad, built by James Hastings; the steering wheel from the first gasoline-powered boat (1898) used on the Wicomico River; and a collection of license plates from 1924 to 1971, all of which are in the possession of the owner (1971).

Mrs. Harris J. Riggin, the present owner of the property, is Mr. Fred Grier's daughter and is the wife of a well-known insurance agent in Salisbury.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

C

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorder: Michael Bourne, Maryland Historical Trust,  
94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

Wicomico County Land Records. Wicomico County Courthouse,  
Salisbury, Maryland.

Riggin, Mamie Grier. Interview. January 1970: Salisbury,  
Maryland

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	38°	22'	13.5"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	75°	35'	54"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"			
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one-half acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: Jan. 14, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National      State       Local

Name: Orlando Ridout IV  
Orlando Ridout IV

Title: State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date: January 17, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

WI-13  
Gillis-Grier House  
401 North Division Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title  
Map 107, Parcel 678

838/891 Mamie Grier Riggin

to

6/20/1975 Harry Leventhal  
Elaine C. Leventhal  
(said property having eventually become vested in Mamie  
Gillis Grier under Item Fifth of her last will and testament  
7/14/1910, Will book LJG 1/462, the said Mamie Gillis  
Grier having since departed this life testate, Item Fifteenth  
12/7/1949, JAH 9/242, devised said property unto Frederick  
A. Grier, Jr. and Mamie Grier Riggin)

JTT 17/292 James Cannon  
Lydia Cannon

to

2/4/1896 Laura A. Gillis, wife of A. A. Gillis  
\$7,000 80' 8/12" on Division Street, 170' on William Street

SPT 2/341 Levin T. H. Irving and Milton A. Parsons,  
Executors of Benjamin Parsons

to

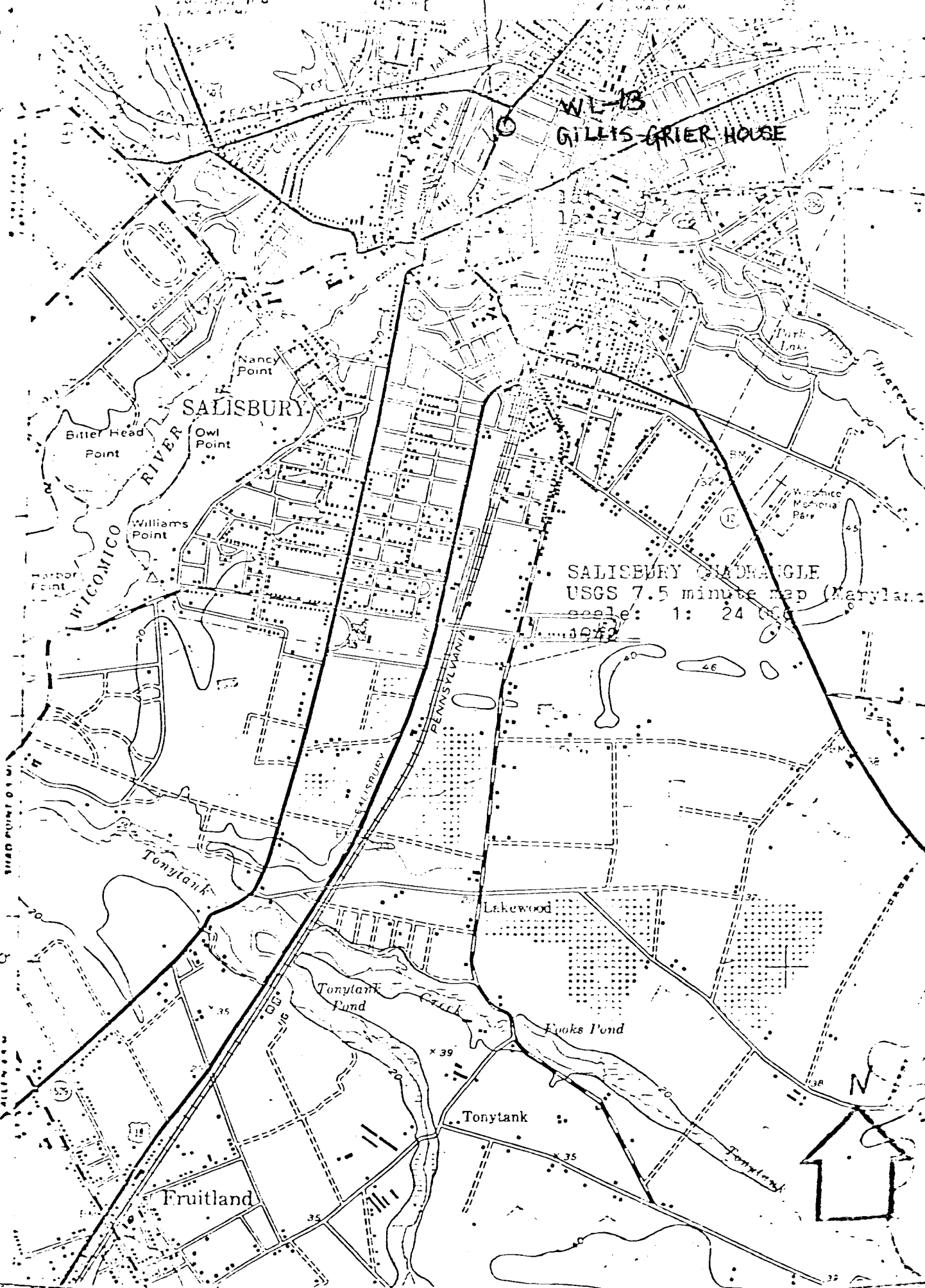
1/26/1877 James Cannon  
Lot No. 2 bordering Division and William Street

WL-13

GILLIS-GRIER HOUSE

SALISBURY

SALISBURY CHADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map (Maryland)  
scale: 1: 24 000  
1972



C

Dealer,  
aler in, and Grower of Small

Hotel,  
Director of the "Peninsula Ho-  
tel," "Ocean City."

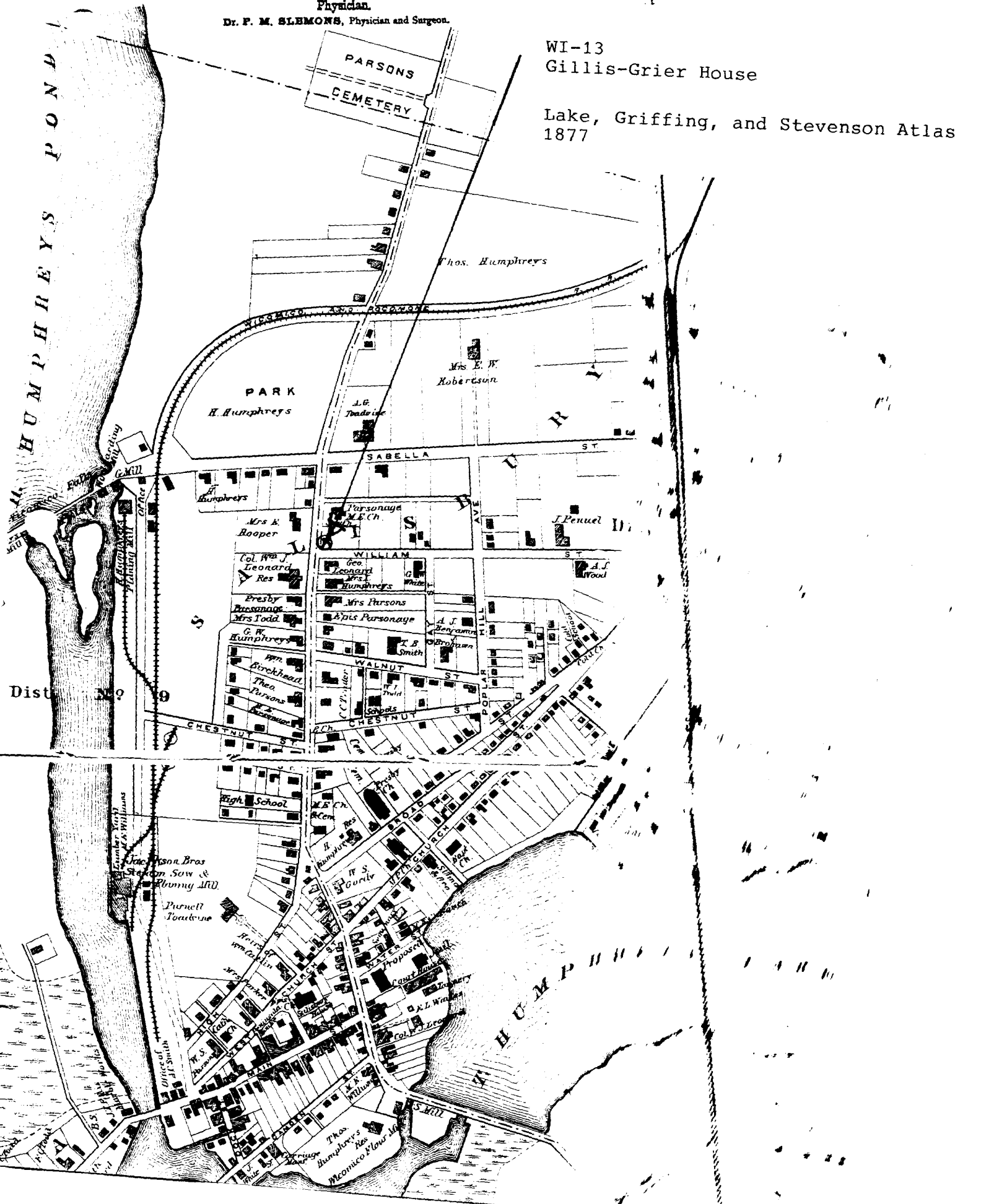
JOHN W...  
Saw and Grist Mill 5 miles north of...  
GEO. H. W. RUARK, Farmer and Proprietor of  
"Ruark Mills" 3 miles north of Salisbury. Res.  
Salisbury.  
M. A. PARSONS, Proprietor of S. S. Mill, 2  
miles west of Salisbury on Wicomico River. Also  
Proprietor of Marine Railway.

**Physician.**

Dr. F. M. SLEMONS, Physician and Surgeon.

WI-13  
Gillis-Grier House

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas  
1877





UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

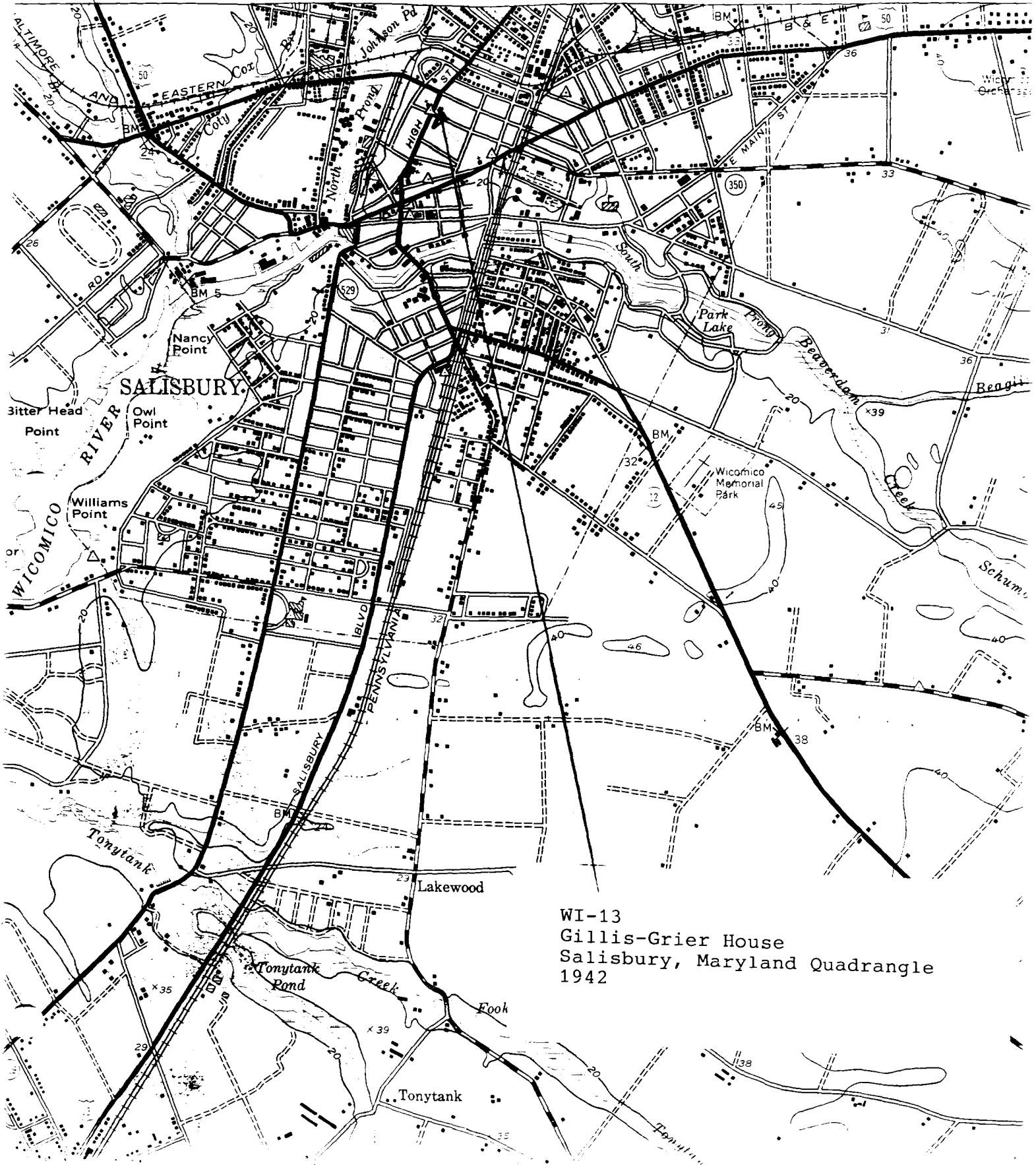
CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.  
VIENNA 15 MI.

47000m E.

LAUREL 13 MI.  
DELMAR 6 MI.

35'

450



WI-13  
Gillis-Grier House  
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942



MI-13)

GILLIS - GARDEN HOUSE

Swissburg, Worcester Co., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

1/97, Paul Touret, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG., /MD HISTORICAL TRUST



Gillis Grier House

WI 13

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
2525 RIVA ROAD  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

South and West elevations

Michael Bourse  
1969