

Survey No. WI-35

Magi No.

DOE yes no

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic William P Jackson House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Camden Avenue

not for publication

city, town Salisbury

vicinity of

congressional district

First

state Maryland

county

Wicomico

3. Classification

Category

- district
building(s)
structure
site
object

Ownership

- public
private
both
Public Acquisition
in process
being considered
not applicable

Status

- occupied
unoccupied
work in progress
Accessible
yes: restricted
yes: unrestricted
no

Present Use

- agriculture
commercial
educational
entertainment
government
industrial
military
museum
park
private residence
religious
scientific
transportation
other:

4. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church

street & number 514 Camden Avenue

telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury

state and zip code

MD

21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court

liber JWTS 488

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse

folio 94

city, town Salisbury

state

MD

21801

6. Representation in Existing

Historical Surveys

title Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

date 1970

federal

state

county

local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville

state

MD

21032

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

The Senator William P. Jackson house formerly stood on the southwest corner of the intersection of Camden Avenue and Wicomico Street in the southern residential district known as Camden in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame house faced east with the ridge line of the hip roof oriented on a north/south axis. The house was torn down in 1976 after a ten-year battle to save it.

Completed in 1892, the two-and-a-half story Queen Anne style frame dwelling was built on an asymmetrical plan with a center entrance and flanking twin towers rising on the northeast and southeast corners. Supported on a raised brick foundation, the exterior was clad with a combination of narrow weatherboard siding and fishscale shingles. The steeply pitched hip roof, as well as the towers and gable roofed wings, were covered with slate.

The east (main) elevation followed a basically symmetrical design with a centered entrance and flanking round towers. The double door entrance was flanked by single-pane sash windows. Curved glass single-pane sash windows pierced each tower. Stretching across the entire first floor front of the house was a Tuscan columned porch distinguished by a classical pediment entrance bay and round sides that wrapped around to the north and south. The porch roof was supported by narrow Tuscan columns supported on a paneled base. Fixed between the columns was a rectangular baluster handrail. On the north side, the porch incorporated a porte cochere.

Centered on the second floor was a curved shed roof balcony supported on paired or tripartite columns. On each side the rounded towers were pierced by curved single pane sash windows. The third floor or attic story was marked by the conical roofs of each tower that flanked a large gable-front pediment of the main block. The base of the tower roofs as well as the center pediment features modillion block cornices. The top of each tower featured a metal finial. The whole attic story was sheathed with wood shingles in contrast to the weatherboard siding of the first and second floors. The attic story was divided into two levels. The first level was marked by a three-sided bay window pierced by single-pane sash windows. The upper level, incorporated within the gable-front pediment, was pierced by a small recessed window within a field of shingled exterior wall surface.

The north side of the main block was a asymmetrical elevation with a large two story gable front pavilion that extended forward from the main hip roofed block. The first floor was partially sheltered by the Tuscan columned porch and porte cochere. Centered on the hip roof was a large dormer topped by a hip roof. The upper attic was illuminated by an eyebrow window. Piercing the roofline of the pavilion was an internal brick chimney.

(Continued)

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

Specific dates 1892 **Builder/Architect** George A. Downing, builder
Jackson C. Gott, 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 completion of the William P. Jackson house in October 1892 was applauded and much admired by the residents of Salisbury. Conceived on a scale far removed from most in the region, the two-and-a-half story Queen Anne dwelling outdistanced almost every other house erected in Salisbury in attention to fine detail. The architect, Jackson C. Gott of Baltimore, drew the plans and George A. Downing, a contractor from Wilmington, Delaware, implemented construction of the house that was ultimately known as "The Towers." Jackson Gott was familiar with the design of large domestic spaces; only a few years before, in 1889, he had designed the sprawling Queen Anne residence in Snow Hill for John Walter Smith. He was also responsible for the new Asbury M. E. Church in Salisbury, erected in 1887-88. The construction of the granite church was a project also supervised by George A. Downing.

The twin towers were a signature element of the Jackson house, and the second story balcony fixed between them, was an architectural element favored by Jackson Gott. The John Walter Smith house was designed with a second floor balcony as was the Joshua W. Miles house in Princess Anne, probably designed by Gott.

William Purnell Jackson was introduced to Jackson Gott through political and business associations, or perhaps during the construction of the new Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, begun after the 1886 Salisbury fire. The Romanesque stone church is the earliest example of Gott's work known for the lower Shore. Shortly after the church commission Gott was retained by John Walter Smith for the design of his house in Snow Hill.

No expense was spared in the construction of the Jackson house. As a partner in the mammoth lumber business of E. E. Jackson & Company, William P. Jackson had access to the best of materials. Fine woods—mahogany, oak, cherry, and maple—were used liberally throughout the over twenty-room interior.

So impressive were the interiors that a reporter for the *Salisbury Advertiser* was inspired to write in 1892:

On entering the mansion from Camden avenue you pass up the steps into the porch and on through massive oak doors landing into the main hall. If your

(Continued)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

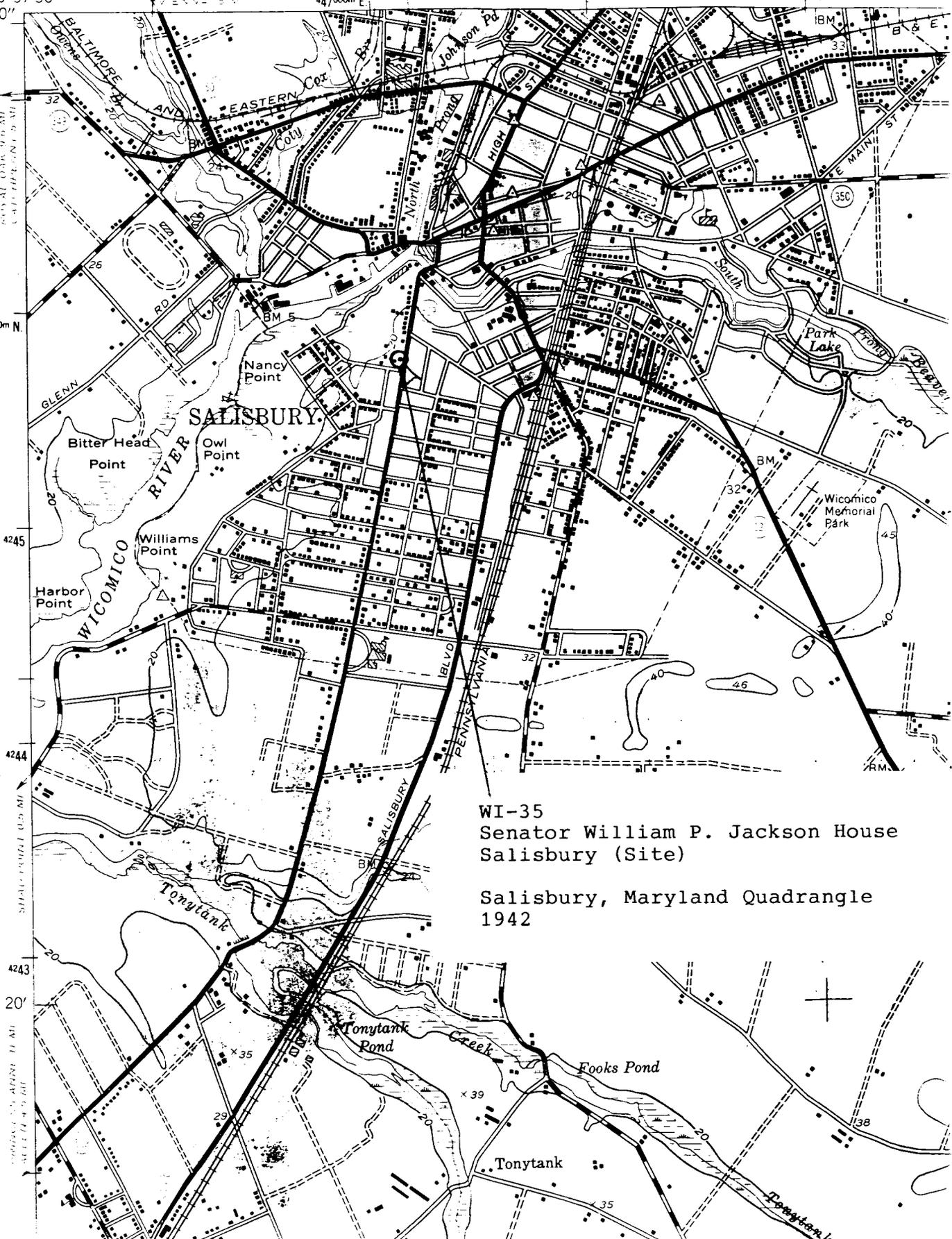
5860 LNW
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"
38°22'30"

447000m E

35'

4246000m N



WI-35
Senator William P. Jackson House
Salisbury (Site)

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

COASTAL CLARK 3000 FT. M
VERTICAL DATUM U.S. MEASUREMENTS
SOUTH COASTAL U.S. MEASUREMENTS
VERTICAL DATUM U.S. MEASUREMENTS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Senator Jackson House

AND/OR COMMON

The Jackson Mansion (The Towers)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

514 Camden Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Salisbury

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Maryland

VICINITY OF

CODE

24

COUNTY

Wicomico

CODE

045

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES, RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES, UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER: Rectory

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church

STREET & NUMBER

Riverside Drive and Wicomico Street

CITY, TOWN

Salisbury

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wicomico County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

N. Division Street

CITY, TOWN

Salisbury

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

WI-35

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Senator Jackson House, located at 514 Camden Avenue in Salisbury, Maryland, is a large Queen Anne style residence built c. 1890. The eastern (front) facade is three and one-half stories, but side elevations (north and south) give the appearance of only two and one-half stories. Their high, steeply pitched roofs have dormers with jerkinheads. The front facade, though characteristic of the Queen Anne style in its massing and proportions, is symmetrical. A three-story central block with a gable is flanked by two circular towers having conical roofs.

A front porch with a balustrade extends across the first floor and forms a porte-cochere to the north. It wraps around the end towers and continues back to the two and one-half story wings on both sides of the house. The end of the southern wing is semi-circular, and there is a dormer in the conical roof. The rectangular northern one has two windows in its gable.

At the entrance, the porch has a large central pediment of low pitch. Over the pediment is a small porch with a pent roof which extends out of the lower portion of the third-floor bay window. All of the porches have slender Victorian columns resting on high bases.

The Jackson House has been painted white. The first two stories are sheathed with narrow clapboards which are bevelled and made of 5/8" number one white pine. All surfaces at the third floor level (towers, gable ends, etc.) have been shingled. Cornices are plain except for those on the two eastern towers and the central block where there are small modillions. Slate for the roof came from Port Deposit, Maryland.

To the west (rear) of the Jackson House is a two and one-half story wing. Neither the fenestration nor the design of the gable matches that of the wing to the north. Attached to the southern face of this rear wing is a circular two-story tower with a polygonal roof.

On the interior, the hardware is silver plated and fireplaces are tiled. The flooring of the first floor has four layers: a subfloor, flat boards of number one pine, a finish floor of heart-rift pine, and an oak floor installed in about 1930.

To the rear of the house, there are stables. These were built c. 1915 and are similar to the original ones which burned.

SIGNIFICANCE

WI-35

ID		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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Senator Jackson House is significant in the areas of architecture and politics. Built by William P. Jackson about 1893, the house attests to an elegance and an elaborate life style in days of yesteryear.

William P. Jackson was appointed United States Senator from Maryland to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Isidor Raynor. He took his seat in the Senate in December 1912. During his term in office, distinguished guests entertained at the house included Governor Goldsborough and Thomas R. Marshall, Vice President of the United States during Woodrow Wilson's two terms. Senator Jackson was defeated by Blair, his Democratic opponent, in a popularly held election in 1914.

Popularly referred to as "The Towers" when the Jackson family inhabited it, the interior of the house today displays evidence of that highly skilled craftsmanship available many decades ago. There are four floors on the ground floor, superimposed upon one another. When the house was first built, a sub-floor was laid, followed by a flatboard number one pine floor. Upon these were laid a finished floor of number one heart-rift pine which would wear better as the grain and rings were vertical or turned on edge. In about 1930, a one-half inch to three-fourths inch oak floor was added. Two inch by twelve inch on twenty four inch center joists made the structure especially sturdy. The bevelled siding is five eighths inch number one white pine. The roof is constructed of slate brought in from Port Deposit, Maryland. Silver plated hardware, tiled fireplaces and the splendid paneling are among the highlights of the Senator Jackson House.

The house today is owned by the St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church and used as their Rectory.



WI-35



MI-35



W1-35

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