

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-106

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Perry-Cooper House  
 other Thomas Perry House

## 2. Location

street and number 200 East William Street  not for publication  
 city, town Salisbury vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
 county Wicomico

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name David T. Scheid  
 street and number 200 East William Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21801

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1449 folio 611  
 city, town Salisbury tax map 107 tax parcel 791 tax ID number 5-007674

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District  
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
 Recorded by HABS/HAER  
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u>    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>    </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
				<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	
				<u>    </u>	

---

## 7. Description

Inventory No. WI-106

---

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair                 altered

---

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

Commonly known as the Perry-Cooper house, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay, center hall Second Empire frame dwelling is located at 200 East William Street at its intersection with Gay Street in the Newtown Historic District of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house faces north.

Dated in 1897-98, the two-and-a-half story center hall plan house is supported on a raised brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. The walls rise to a wood shingled Mansard roof. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story wing. In 1914 a portion of the rear wing, the original house on the lot, was moved directly south and converted into a separate dwelling.

The north (main) façade is a symmetrical three-bay façade with a projecting center pavilion that contains a double door entrance. The partially glazed and paneled doors are topped by a single-pane transom of etched glass, and the doorway is flanked by rounded windows to each side. The entrance bay is flanked by large single-pane sash windows which survive with wide louvered shutters. A wide lintel capped with a crown molding is also enhanced with a stylized swag pattern pierced into the lintel. The first floor openings are sheltered by an elaborate flat-roofed porch with a projecting center bay with a round form. The porch roof is supported by turned posts, and an unusual bracket incised with a radiating sunburst design is combined with the stylized swag pattern pierced into the fascia. A turned baluster railing has been restored to the front porch. The second story has a projecting center bay which is defined by a Palladian window. The center panel of the Palladian window has an arched window with colored glass perimeter panes. A crown molding enhances the top of the three-part window, and the stylized swag pattern decorates the lintel above the single-pane sash windows to each side. The flanking bays are marked by paired single-pane sash windows hung with louvered shutters. The lintel to each window opening is enhanced with the stylized swag decoration. The base of the roof is trimmed with a bold bracketed cornice, and the fascia is embellished with the stylized carving as well. The center bay is crowned with a taller section of Mansard roof than the adjacent bays. A single dormer with a broken pediment arch embellished with the stylized swag decoration marks the center bay, whereas double width dormers with triangular pediments and the stylized swag decoration are located to each side. The top of the Mansard roof features a second cornice with a crown molding and small brackets.

The east and west sides of the main block are largely alike with pairs of single-pane sash windows lighting the first and second stories. The lintels of each window opening are carved with the stylized pierced work swags. The bracketed cornice is enhanced with the swag carving as well. Centered on each side of the mansard roof is a gable roofed dormer with a pediment front.

The south (rear) wall of the main block is partially covered by a two-story service wing and a two-story single bay tower topped by a mansard roof as well.

The interior is fitted with finely executed late nineteenth-century woodwork. One of the main focal points is a three-story carved oak staircase. An elaborate Victorian mantel in the dining room was purchased by a previous owner and installed in the house.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-106

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:

**Specific dates**

**Architect/Builder**

**Construction dates** 1897-98

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The only nineteenth-century structure to survive in Salisbury with the distinctive mansard roof is the Perry-Cooper house on the corner of East William and Gay streets in the Newtown Historic District. The house has had a complex architectural past that began during the late 1870s or early 1880s with the construction of a two-story, three-bay frame house during the ownership of Mary E. Williams Smith or Jeremiah J. Morris and his wife Annie T. Morris, in whose name the property passed during the early 1880s.<sup>1</sup>

Jeremiah J. Morris and his family, however, owned a principal residence on Division Street and probably rented the William Street house to a tenant.<sup>2</sup> In January 1897, the house and corner lot were acquired by Amelia P. Waller, who in turned deeded the property to her daughter Agnes and son-in-law Thomas Perry, the editor of the *Salisbury Advertiser*. In the July 10, 1897 issue of the paper Thomas Perry publicized his personal building plans in an unusual place, on the front page below the masthead. The paper stated:

*Thomas Perry has purchased of Mrs. Amelia Waller the property corner of William & Gay streets lately occupied by Mr. C. C. Waller, and will begin at once to rebuild it with a view of making it a home. The improvements will consist of a front building 40 x 18 ft. two story with mansard roof. The present building will be moved back and jointed to the building to be erected. On the side facing Gay street a three story tower will be placed at the angle formed by the joining of the two buildings. The front building will have porch full length of the house and the back building porches on both sides. The improvements will cost about \$2000.<sup>3</sup>*

When new, with its distinctive mansard roof, the Thomas Perry house stood out in Newtown in contrast to the numerous Queen Anne dwellings erected by many of the city's successful businessmen. A center projecting bay, capped by a tall section of mansard roof, is flanked by shorter sections. Also unusual are the dormers that pierce the mansard roof, which have pediment tops. Distinguishing the house as well is an unusual pierced design executed in the form of a stylized swag carved in the fascia boards of the main cornice and all

<sup>1</sup> There is no land transfer for this transaction. The corner lot was involved in a chancery case following the death of Mary E. Williams Smith, Equity Case No. 618, 3/7/1887.

<sup>2</sup> *Salisbury Advertiser*, 22 March 1890. "Mr. J. J. Morris has succeeded in adjusting the insurance policies on his residence lately burned. It footed up about \$8000 including amount on furniture. There was \$9,000 on the building, but the salvage claimed, and the depreciation of material and labor since 1883 reduced the value to \$7,000. The original cost of the building was \$10,000."

<sup>3</sup> *Salisbury Advertiser*, 10 July 1897.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-106

Name Perry-Cooper House

### Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

---

the lintels of the front window opening. The interior of the center hall plan dwelling was executed on a high level with an elaborate staircase that rises three floors.

Although born in Sussex County, Delaware in 1854, Thomas Perry grew up in Wicomico County after his parents relocated to a farm west of Salisbury. He graduated from Washington College in 1876 and taught school in several locations before his appointment as school examiner in Wicomico County in 1880. Thomas Perry purchased the *Salisbury Advertiser* in 1884, and through diligent work elevated the newspaper to the largest weekly issue on the peninsula. After the 1886 fire he was associated with the Salisbury Permanent Building and Loan Association. In 1899 he sold the newspaper and entered into the lumber business.<sup>4</sup> For a period during the early twentieth century he served as the county treasurer. In the 1907 city directory, Thomas Perry is listed with his wife, Agnes, and three children, Thomas, Jr., Louise, and William, at their William Street address.<sup>5</sup>

Thomas Perry died in 1914. His wife remained in the William Street residence through the balance of her life. In August of 1914 the rear service wing was detached and repositioned a short distance south as a separate residence. At Agnes Perry's death in 1938, the property passed to her daughter, Louise W. Cooper, in whose hands the house and lot remained until 1955. She transferred ownership to Ralph L. and Elizabeth A. Lang.<sup>6</sup> Initial restoration of the house took place during the 1970s and 1980s with continuing work accomplished by the present owner, who acquired the property in 1995.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> Mendel L. Heilig, National Register nomination for the Perry-Cooper House, May 1976.

<sup>5</sup> The 1907 Salisbury City Directory, transcribed and published by Neill Keddie, 1998, p. 41.

<sup>6</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 386/214, 9 June 1955.

<sup>7</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, 1449/611, 11 August 1995.

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. WI-106

Name Perry-Cooper House

**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

---

Perry-Cooper House  
200 East William Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Map 107, Parcel 791

1449/611 Thomas E. Robinson

to

8/11/1995 David T. Scheid

MSB 1275/221 Thomas E. Robinson  
Carlene S. Robinson

to

9/25/1991 Thomas E. Robinson

AJS 929/87 Carlene S. Robinson, formerly Carlene S. Adkins

to

10/1/1979 Thomas E. Robinson  
Carlene S. Robinson

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. WI-106

Name Perry-Cooper House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

---

AJS 897/315

Linus M. Ellis, III and Ruth H. Ellis

to

5/3/1978

Carlene S. Adkins

AJS 825/66

Ralph L. Lang

to

7/18/1974

Linnus M. Ellis, III  
Ruth H. Ellis

JWTS 386/214

Louise W. Cooper, widow

to

6/9/1955

Ralph L. Lang  
Elizabeth A. Lang  
(the said Agnes D. Perry departed this life, will JAH 1/233, under the terms and provisions of which the above described lot of ground was devised unto the within named grantor, to daughter Louise W. Cooper, will written 9/6/1935, proved 6/8/1938)

JTT 21/99

Amelia P. Waller, widow

to

8/23/1897

Agnes D. Perry

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. WI-106

Name Perry-Cooper House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 4

---

JTT 19/106

Jeremiah J. Morris  
Annie T. Morris

to

1/20/1897

Amelia P. Waller

JTT 9/313

Samuel A. Graham, trustee

to

3/14/1887

Annie T. Morris  
Decree of Circuit Court, 3/7/1887, Annie T. Morris vs. Levin T. H. Irving  
and Milton A. Parsons, Executors of Benjamin Parsons, dec'd  
No. 618 in Equity  
Whereas the said Thomas M. Slemmons heretofore bought the hereinafter  
described property of the said Jeremiah J. Morris and Annie T. Morris, but  
has never received any deed therefore. And whereas the said Thomas M.  
Slemmons has since sold same to said Amelia P. Waller, who has fully paid  
the purchase money therefor.

SPT 1/245

Executors of Benjamin Parsons

11/1/1874

Plat of Town Lots, Estate of Benjamin Parsons, 1873

---

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

Inventory No. WI-106

Name Perry-Cooper House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 5

---

*Salisbury Advertiser*, June 26, 1897

Thos. Perry has sold his farm of 80 acres located on the shell road to Mr. Daniel J. Ward who will erect upon it a residence and occupy it after this year.

*Salisbury Advertiser*, July 10, 1897

Thomas Perry has purchased of Mrs. Amelia Walker the property corner of William & Gay streets lately occupied by Mr. C. C. Waller, and will begin at once to rebuild it with a view of making it a home. The improvements will consist of a front building 40 x 18 ft two story with mansard roof. The present building will be moved back and jointed to the building to be erected. On the side facing Gay street a three story tower will be placed at the angle formed by the joining of the two buildings. The front will have porch full length of the house and back building porches on both sides. The improvements will cost about \$2000.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

Inventory No. WI-106

Heilig, Mendel L., *National Register nomination for the Perry-Cooper House*, May 1976.

*Salisbury Advertiser*, various issues, Microfilm collection at the Wicomico County Free Library.

Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>8,239 square feet</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>8,239 square feet</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Salisbury, Maryland</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

---

## 11. Form Prepared by

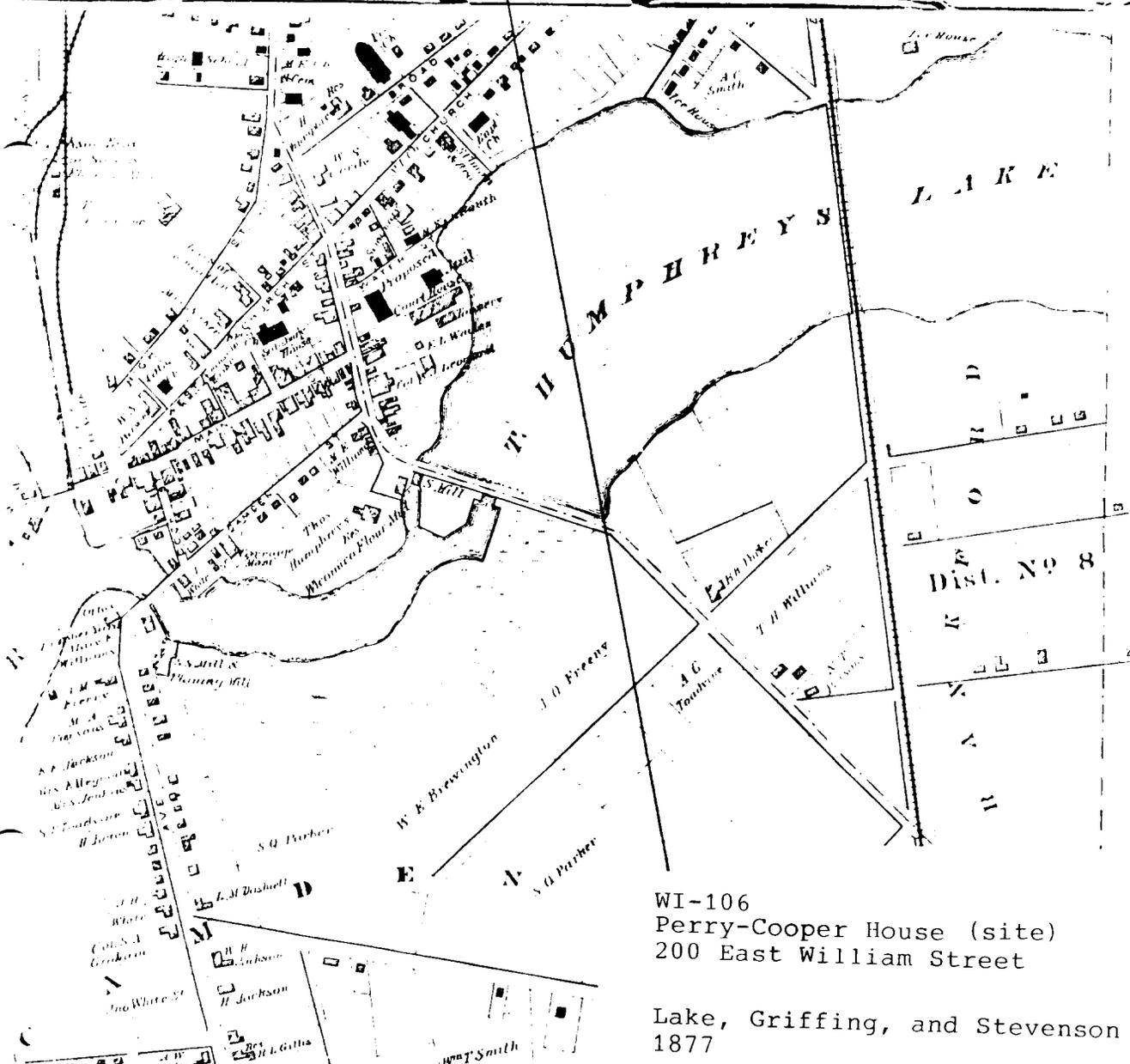
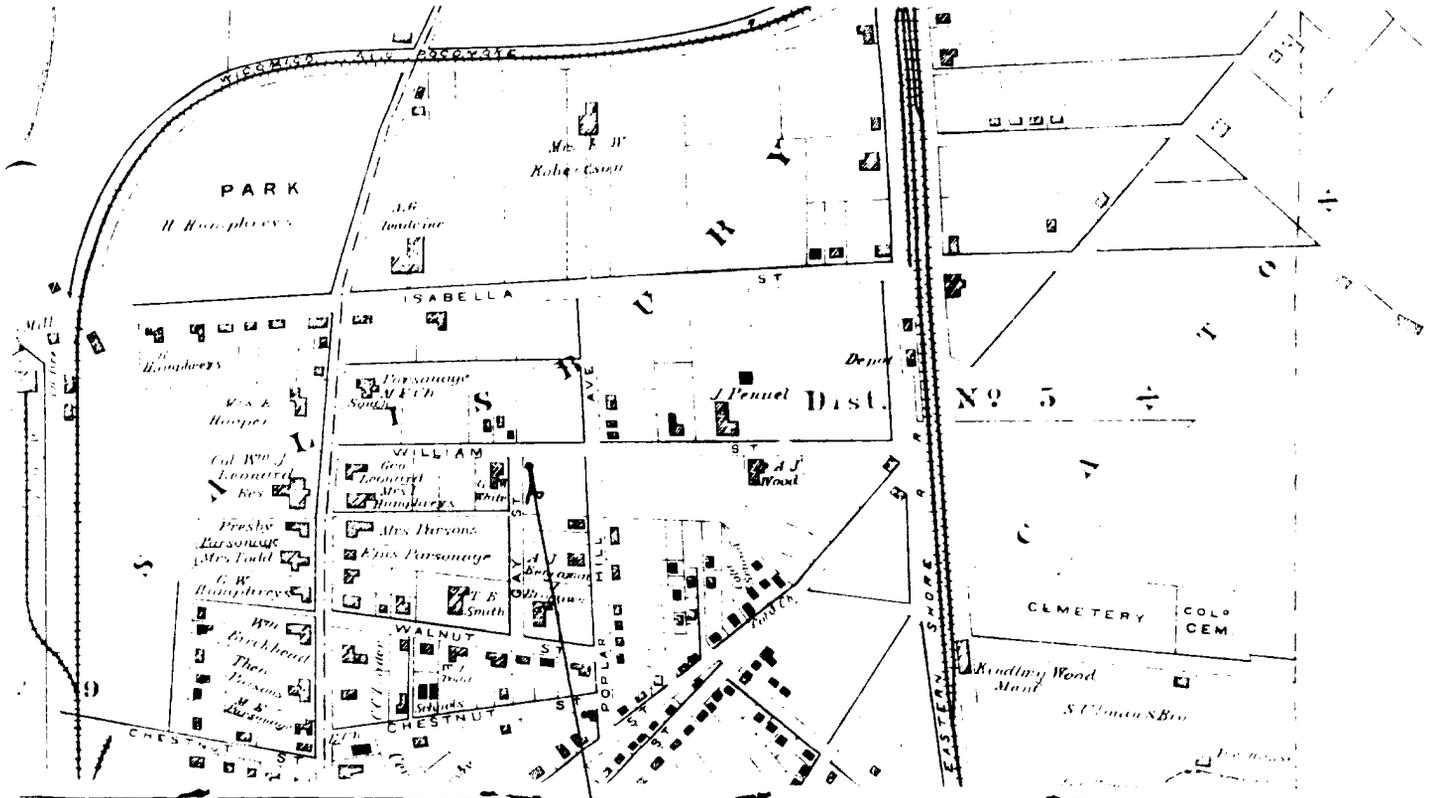
---

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	7/19/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

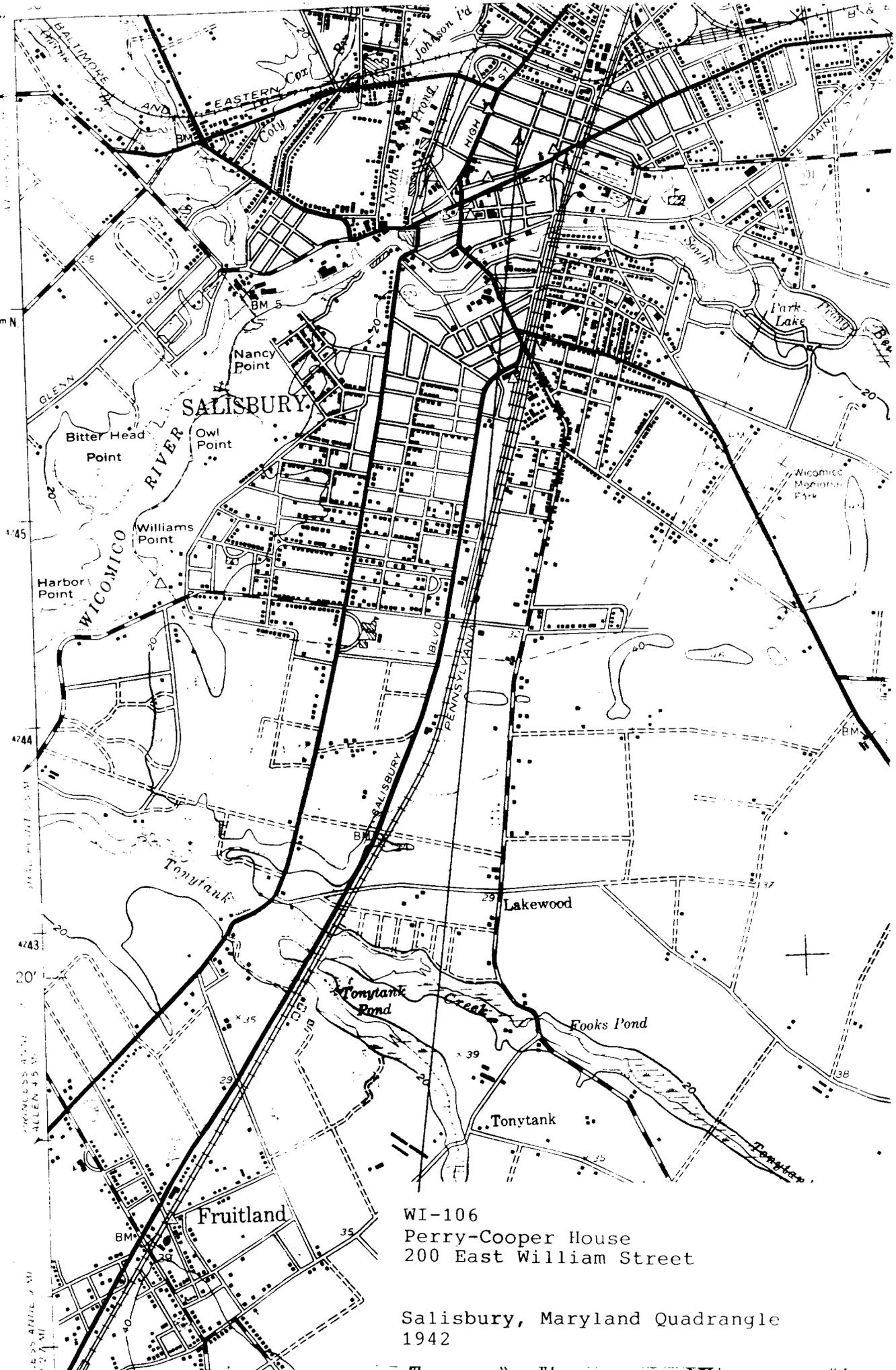


WI-106  
 Perry-Cooper House (site)  
 200 East William Street

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas  
 1877

88° 22' 30"

4246000m N



WI-106  
 Perry-Cooper House  
 200 East William Street

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
 1942



W1-106

Perry - Cooper House

Salisbury, Newmarket Co., Ont.

NORTH ELEVATION

8/01, PAUL THURMAN, PHOTOGRAPHER

WEL. (and) HISTORY IN TRUST

1 of 2



WI-106

Perry - Cooper House

Salisbury, Wicomico Co., Md.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

8/01, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEE. (MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 of 2