**NAME**

Poplar Hill Mansion

**LOCATION**

117 Elizabeth Street

Salisbury

Maryland

**CLASSIFICATION**

Category: Historic

Ownership: Public

Status: Occupied

Accessible to the Public: Yes

Present Use: Residential

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

Dorothy S. Garber

117 Elizabeth Street

Salisbury

Maryland

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Wicomico County Courthouse

Main Street

Salisbury

Maryland

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

Historic American Buildings Survey and Maryland Historical

**DATE OF SURVEY:** 1969 1971

**DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**

Historic American Buildings Survey

Library of Congress

**CITY OR TOWN:** Salisbury

**STATE:** Maryland

**CODE:** 24

**COUNTY:** Wicomico

**CODE:** 1645
Poplar Hill Mansion is the only early building with architectural merit to survive the devastating fires which swept throughout the city in 1860 and again in 1886. Its architectural features were outstanding for Salisbury in the early periods of the city and are now all that remains -- the only building of its kind in the city.

Poplar Hill Mansion is a frame, double-pile structure, built on a high brick basement. Its exterior walls are covered with pine clapboards painted white with 6" exposure to the weather and a 3/8" bead on each board.

The south facade consists of a five-bay surface with the central unit of the first story carrying the entrance door with fanlight and pediment (a recent replacement), and the second story having a Palladian-style window with fluted pilasters and an architrave above each side window of the Palladian. The trim of which is similar to the main cornice. All other windows have 12/12 sash louvered shutters. The main cornice consists of a course of dentils, a quarter-round mold, a course of shaped modillions, a facia and a large double-ogee-crown molding.

Both gables form pediments and have a pair of windows at attic level and a bulls-eye window at the apex of the pediment. The walls beneath the pediments vary as to window fenestration, with symmetrical spacing on the west and assymetrical arrangement on the east. The central chimneys are assymetrical, the east chimney standing north of the ridge of the roof, the west centered on the ridge.

The north facade is only three bays long and has a Palladian-style window at the level of the interior stair landing in the center of the wall. Beneath the north window is the north door and a porch with Chinese trellis balustrade. On the east side of the north facade is a small one-story kitchen wing which is reputed to replace a colonade and detached kitchen.

The floor plan consists of a central stairhall, divided by an elliptical arch, and two rooms on either side of the hall. The west rooms, parlor and dining room, are nearly equal in size, being approximately sixteen feet, six inches by fifteen feet, six inches. The drawing room on the east side
Poplar Hill Mansion

#7 DESCRIPTION continued

is approximately eighteen feet wide by twenty-six feet six inches long. The northeast room is only eight feet three inches wide and eighteen feet long. It does not have a fireplace, but does contain an auxiliary staircase to the second story.

Beneath the chairrail in the hall, is a wainscot of two horizontal boards; high above is wallpaper depicting a landscape scene. The chairrail consists of a molded cap above a facia divided into equal areas of flutes and blocks. A course of carved interlocking strapwork circles, curiously missing on the north side of the arch, are the chief ornament of the interior cornice. Fluted pilasters support the elliptical arch, which has cove and rope moldings. The underside of the arch is composed of recessed panels.

The staircase is located North of the arch. Its soffit is paneled and the ogee-shaped step-ends have pierce-work consisting of an ogee curve and a crescent. There are three square balusters on each step; the lower step and rail terminate in the form of a volute, the central baluster being iron. A half-rail with pilasters beneath ascends on the inside wall.

The most noteworthy woodwork in the house is in the parlor, (southwest room). Its mantel has fluted pilasters, two bands of reeded decoration and rope molding. The chairrail has a series of flutes and rosettes. Fluted pilasters beneath the chairrail flank the windows and doors. The cornice has a facia of flutes with holes beneath each flute and a series of flute carvings placed alternately, horizontal and vertical, which is similar to work in the Peabody House, New Castle, Delaware.

Each of the first-story rooms has pilasters beneath the chairrail. The roomside of the hall doors have raised panels whereas the hall side have recessed panels. Window and door trim is the same throughout the house, each is composed of three pieces, the molding between windows and doors differing as to the degree of the ogee curve. All doors have cast-butt hinges; some with closing mechanisms, and brass locks.
The dining room door is distinguished by dentil molding on the mantel piece and a cornice whereas the drawing room has a variety of molding similar to the other rooms on the mantel piece and a fluted motif in chair rail and cornice.

Two walls in the small northeast room have beaded boards, one horizontal and one vertical. The other walls are plastered.

The second story has the same floor plan as the first, but the carved detail of the first story trim is lacking. Each of the rooms has a mantel, chairrail and cornice, (except the cornice in the northwest room). The master bedroom, above the drawing room has a glazed cabinet on the west side of the fireplace. A lavatory is located in the west closet between the two west rooms, and a full bath is located in the northeast room.

The staircase continues to the unfinished attic. The rafters, two feet on center, measure five by eight inches at their bases and taper toward the top where they are mortised, tenoned and pegged. The tie beams are half dove-tailed and nailed.
Poplar Hill Mansion is the only early dwelling of architectural significance to have survived the devastating fires of 1860 and 1886 in Salisbury.

Poplar Hill Mansion is reputed to have been built by Major Levin Handy in 1795. Handy was listed as a Captain in Revolutionary War records and as Lieutenant Colonel of the Salisbury militia in 1790. He owned the land for only four years before his death in 1799. In 1805 it was sold to Dr. John Huston who lived there until his death in 1827. Dr. Huston paid only $300 for the land in 1805 which seems very little for such a large and important house, which at that time would have been nearly new. It seems more likely that Dr. Huston may have built the house after 1805 for the reason that the style of its woodwork resembles that of the period of the 1810 home of George Read in New Castle, Delaware.

Its purchase is being considered by the City of Salisbury with the Wicomico County government for use as a place for public meetings.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorder:

Michael Bourne, Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland, August 1971.

Sources:


SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

Title: State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date: August 26, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: ________________________________
#9. REFERENCES continued


Interviews with: Mrs. George Burnett, Salisbury, Maryland. Dr. R. L. McFarlin, Salisbury, Maryland. Mr. George Strott, Salisbury, Maryland. Mr. David Grier, Salisbury, Maryland.

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

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


Worcester County Land Records. Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill, Maryland.

Worcester County Probate Records, Worcester County Courthouse, Snow Hill, Maryland.

Win 9

Return to Mansion

3/98, Sam Turner, Postmaster

3rd and Union Trust

1 of 10
Dear sir,

I am writing to express my concern about the recent events. I believe that the recent actions taken by the government are deeply worrying and could have serious consequences for our society.

I urge you to consider the impact of these actions on the people and to take steps to address the issues at hand. It is crucial that we work together to find solutions that are fair and just for all.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Volume Five 1950-1951
Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut
Center for the Study of American Political Culture
Spring, 1951
A Paper Toward Participation
New York Historical Trust
4 of 10
WI-O
Popular Hill Mansion
Saratoga, N.Y., Nov., 1932
Posed material
4/40. Paul Tourant, Photographe
Ven/1901 185th Trust
5 or 10
W1-8
Pointe Warehouse
Salisbury, W.oomica Co., Md.
Parlor stage detail
4/00, Paul Taylor, photomation
No. 1 Md. Historical Trust
6 or 10
Wil-8
Popham Hill Mansion
Salisbury, Worcester Co., Md.
Corr. 
4/00, Paul Tousey, P.O. Tewksbury, Mass./Md. Historical Trust
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