

WI-162  
Gilliss House  
Quantico  
Private

c. 1838, c. 1880-90

The Gilliss house is an unusual structure in the town of Quantico with its two-story, six-bay elevation that combines a private dwelling with a former store and post office. Dating to around 1840-50, the northern three-bay section of the house was enlarged around 1890-1900 with the southern three-bay part. In an effort to unify the entire structure a new roof was built with a cross-gable centered on the lengthened elevation.

Chain of title research for this town lot traces the ownership of the property back to Elizabeth Carmine, who purchased several lots during the early to mid-nineteenth century. On October 9, 1838, she purchased a "house and lot" from Henry and Susan Gale for \$212.50, a sum that have included a modest two-story house. Twelve years later, in May 1850, she transferred ownership of 22 1/4 perches of "Monmouth" on the eastern side of a Main Street to William Smith for \$280.

Twenty years later the property was transferred between William and Patty E. Howard and Elizabeth A. Goslee, and the land was described as "all that house and lot in the town of Quantico upon which William Smith, deceased, resided at the time of his death adjoining on the north side of the store house and lot of Andrew J. Crawford and George A. Bounds."

The house and lot remained in Goslee family ownership through the balance of the nineteenth century and until 1916 when a chancery case in Wicomico County court forced a public auction. The property was sold to Fannie E. Gilliss in February 1916 and the house remained in Gilliss family hands until 1971.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: GILLISS HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WI-162

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):  
AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION  
1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-162

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic GILLISS HOUSE

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number East side of Main Street  not for publication

city, town Quantico  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

## 3. Classification

| Category  | Ownership  | Status  | Present Use  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public                    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private        | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both                      | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                          | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                    |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered          | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                |
|   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:                          |

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

name Anne Kennerly Morris Clay

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Quantico state and zip code MD 21856

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 886

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 416

city, town Salisbury state MD 21803

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WI-162

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

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

The Gilliss house stands on the west side of Main Street in the center of Quantico, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, six-bay frame house faces west with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in two main stages, the northern three bay section of the six-bay front block dates to around 1840-50, while the southern three-bay part comprises a c. 1880-1900 addition. Attached to the back of the northern part is a single-story kitchen wing that appears to be contemporaneous with the mid nineteenth century section. The entire house rests on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The medium pitched roofs are covered with asphalt shingles.

The west (main) facade is an asymmetrical six-bay elevation. The northern three bays, which comprises the earliest section, has a center entrance and flanking single-pane sash windows. The four-panel front door has arched moldings in the top panels. A single-story stoop shelters the front door. The second floor is marked by three two-over-two sash windows. The southern three bays are defined by a center double-door entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The windows are missing glass panes. A two-light transom tops the front door. The second floor of the south section is lighted by two-over-two sash windows as well. Centered on the long six-bay facade is a cross gable pierced by a round arched attic window.

The north and south gable ends are interior end brick chimney stacks with two-over-two sash windows. Small two-over-two sash windows light the attic. The eaves are extended with returns at the base of the roof.

The east side of the main block is partially covered by a single-story kitchen wing which has a shed roofed porch on the north side. The porch shelters a side four-panel door flanked by a six-over-six sash window. The south side of the kitchen is pierced by a paired set of two-over-two sash windows. On the east side of the southern two-story section is a second floor door that was probably served by an exterior stair which has disappeared.

The interior retains a large portion of its original woodwork. The northern three-bay section includes a center hall with a second quarter of the nineteenth century stair. A heavily turned newel post and slender rectangular balusters support a slight handrail. Two-panel Greek Revival doors open into the adjacent rooms. The north room or parlor retains a period mantel with a two-panel frieze and plain pilasters that support a thin mantel shelf.

(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/<br>humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)         |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   |  |

**Specific dates** **Builder/Architect**

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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.

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Chain of title research for this town lot traces the ownership of the property back to Elizabeth Carmine, who purchased several lots during the early to mid-nineteenth century. On October 9, 1838, she purchased a "house and lot" from Henry and Susan Gale for \$212.50, a sum that have included a modest two-story house. Twelve years later, in May 1850, she transferred ownership of 22 1/4 perches of "Monmouth" on the eastern side of a Main Street to William Smith for \$280.

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The property is classified under Category B, which identifies a property that should be preserved since it contains a structure exhibiting some good architectural details representing a good example of architectural development and style, and which also supports the character of the district.



WI-162  
GILLISS HOUSE  
Description continued

A two-panel Greek Revival door opens into the living room to the south, which has a columned mantel featuring a mirrored overmantel. This turn-of-the-twentieth century mantel was probably added around the same time that the two-story wing was built to the rear. The second floor of the oldest section features several original features including two-panel doors and a period mantel in the north bedroom. A small closet at the front end of the hall has been added with a shallow profile four-panel door.

Access to the attic is provided through a small opening in the ceiling of the southernmost room on the second floor. The common rafter roof structure is continuous with no discernable break in the construction sequence. It appears that the entire roof was rebuilt at the time the storefront section was attached during the late nineteenth century.

WI-162  
GILLISS HOUSE  
Quantico, Maryland  
Chain of title

886/416

Kenneth J. Johnson  
Sandra K. Johnson

to

11/1/1977

Anne Kennerly Morris Clay

JWTS 765/378

Tony Ross Sterling, Jr.  
Margaret Taylor Sterling

to

7/10/1972

Kenneth J. Johnson  
Sandra K. Johnson

JWTS 739/90

Harry Gilliss, et al.

to

7/19/1971

Tony R. Sterling, Jr.

JWTS 734/175

Rollie D. Gilliss, Personal Representative  
of the Estate of Miriam A. Gilliss

to

Harry Gilliss, Rollie Gilliss, Olive  
G. Parks  
being the same property formerly owned  
by Fannie E. Gilliss, deceased

JWTS 426/32

Heirs of William Gilliss

to

4/12/1957

Miriam A. Gilliss

WI-162  
GILLISS HOUSE  
Quantico, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

IDT 180/94 Charles E. Gilliss

to

5/17/1933 William Gilliss

JCK 101/137 Robert W. Mobray, trustee

to

2/24/1916 Fannie E. Gilliss

\$635.00 Public auction as a result of  
a chancery court case.....  
(and upon the death of the said Fannie  
E. Gilliss the property descended to the  
said William Gilliss and Charles E. Gilliss)

TFJr. 3/391 William Howard  
Patty E. Howard

to

3/22/1870 Elizabeth A. Goslee

and upon the death of the said Elizabeth  
A. Goslee, intestate, descended to the  
Marion F. Goslee and Winnie I. Goslee as  
her only children

all that house and lot in the town of  
Quantico upon which William Smith dec'd  
resided at the time of his death adjoining  
and on the north side of the store house  
and lot of Andrew J. Crawford and George A.  
Bounds

Deed not found  
in Wicomico or  
Somerset County  
Courthouses

Purnell Toadvin

to

William Howard

WI-162  
GILLISS HOUSE  
Quantico, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 3

Somerset County  
Land Record  
WP 6/104

Elizabeth Carmine

to

5/29/1850

William Smith

\$280.00 "Monmouth" 22 $\frac{1}{4}$  square perches  
eastermost side of a street in Quantico

Somerset County  
Land Record  
GH 9/508

John Austin  
Jane Austin

to

11/2/1838

Elizabeth Carmine

\$250.00 a house and lot in the village  
of Quantico "Chelsea"

Somerset County  
Land Record  
GH 9/507

Henry Gale *and* Susan Gale

to

10/9/1838

Elizabeth Carmine

\$212.50 "a house and lot" 3/4 acre  
on the north side of the county  
road, situate in Quantico

Somerset County  
Land Record  
JD 7/268

William Giles  
Kitty Giles

to

6/11/1822

Elizabeth Carmine

\$120.00 all that lot of ground in Quantico  
Mills purchased by them from George  
Gale







