

WI-195
John W. Messick House
Whitehaven
Private

c. 1893-94

The John W. Messick house is a distinctive two-and-a-half story Victorian dwelling erected during the early 1890s on a lot bordering Church Street, formerly known as Locust Street. Recently restored to its late nineteenth century appearance with the aid of an early twentieth century photograph of the house, the exterior of the center hall/single-pile dwelling displays several characteristic features from the period. The shed roofed porch is supported by turned posts and a spindle decoration stretches between posts. Fishscale shingles cover the gable ends which also feature cross stick decoration. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing that includes an attached frame dairy with a below ground milk well.

Construction of this house is dated to 1893-94 during the ownership of John W. Messick, who purchased this lot in May 1893 for \$100. A little over six months later, John W. Messick and his wife, Mary E. Messick, sold the house and lot to Edith M. Toadvine for \$1100. It is not known whether the Messicks ever resided in the house, and Edith M. Toadvine held the property for only four years. On February 26, 1898, the house was sold to Eugene N. Taylor and his wife Sarah C. Taylor for \$850. For much of the twentieth century, the Church Street (formerly Locust Street) house and lot were in the hands of Vida M. Covington.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: JOHN W. MESSICK HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WI-195

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JOHN W. MESSICK HOUSE, VIDA COVINGTON HOUSE

and/or common DEACON HOUSE

2. Location

street & number 2689 Church Street not for publication

city, town Whitehaven 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Deacon

street & number 2689 Church Street telephone no.:

city, town Whitehaven state and zip code MD 21856

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1231 Map 65

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 301 P. 31

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-195

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Historically identified as the John W. Messick house, or commonly known as the Deacon house, this two-and-a-half story, three-bay dwelling stands at 2689 Church Street in Whitehaven, Wicomico County, Maryland. The center hall/single-pile frame house faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1894, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame dwelling is supported by a low brick foundation, and the house is uniformly covered with plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, three-bay by one room kitchen wing that extends to each side with single story sections.

The west (main) facade is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The front door is partially glazed. Sheltering the first floor is a shed roof porch supported on turned posts with spindle decoration fixed between the posts. A small cross gable is centered on the roof. Lighting the second floor are three two-over-two sash windows. Louvered shutters are nailed to the house. Centered on the steeply pitched gable roof is a cross gable distinguished by a modern colored glass window that fills the pointed arch opening. A tapered finial rises through the roof peak, and the face of the cross gable is covered with fishscale shingles. The eaves to the roof are extended and the rafter feet are exposed.

The gable end are essentially alike with pairs of two-over-two sash windows lighting the first and second floors. The gable ends are covered with fishscale shingles and are pierced by small two-over-two attic windows. Embellishing the peak of the gable ends is a cross stick decoration. Interior end brick stove chimneys pierce the roofline and are finished with corbelled caps.

Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, three-bay service wing which extends to each side with enclosed shed roofed sections. Attached to the southeast corner of the house is a shed roof dairy that has a below ground milk well.

The interior of the house is finished with late nineteenth century woodwork characteristic of the Victorian era. A scroll decorated staircase is fixed between the living room and dining room, although the hall partition separating the living room has been removed. Shallow profile four-panel doors are framed by plain surrounds, and factory-made Victorian mantels remain in each room.

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/ 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 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
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The John W. Messick house is a distinctive two-and-a-half story Victorian dwelling erected during the early 1890s on a lot bordering Church Street, formerly known as Locust Street. Recently restored to its late nineteenth century appearance with the aid of an early twentieth century photograph of the house, the exterior of the center hall/single-pile dwelling displays several characteristic features from the period. The shed roofed porch is supported by turned posts and a spindle decoration stretches between posts. Fishscale shingles cover the gable ends which also feature cross stick decoration. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing that includes an attached frame dairy with a below ground milk well.

Construction of this house is dated to 1893-94 during the ownership of John W. Messick, who purchased this lot in May 1893 for \$100. (Wicomico Land Record, JTT 11/305) A little over six months later, John W. Messick and his wife, Mary E. Messick, sold the house and lot to Edith M. Toadvine for \$1100. (Wicomico Land Record, JTT 12/234) It is not known whether the Messicks ever resided in the house, and Edith M. Toadvine held the property for only four years. On February 26, 1898, the house was sold to Eugene N. Taylor and his wife Sarah C. Taylor for \$850. (JTT 22/80) For much of the twentieth century, the Church Street (formerly Locust Street) house and lot were in the hands of Vida M. Covington.

This house falls into Category B, which identifies buildings that should be preserved since they are structures exhibiting good architectural details representing a good example of architectural development and style, and as well supports the charcter of the district.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-195

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 9/19/94

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 DHCP/DHCD
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
 814-7800

WI-195
JOHN W. MESSICK HOUSE
2689 Church Street
Whitehaven, Maryland
Chain of title

1231/301 John B. Harmon
 Suzanne Reynolds

to

9/24/1990 Edward F. Deacon
 Margaret S. Deacon
 Items 1 & 2

AJS 798/516 Emily C. Griffin, Personal Representative
 of the Estate of Vida M. Covington

to

8/13/1973 John B. Harmon
 Suzanne R. Harmon of Montgomery Co., MD

JWTS 488/359 Vida M. Covington

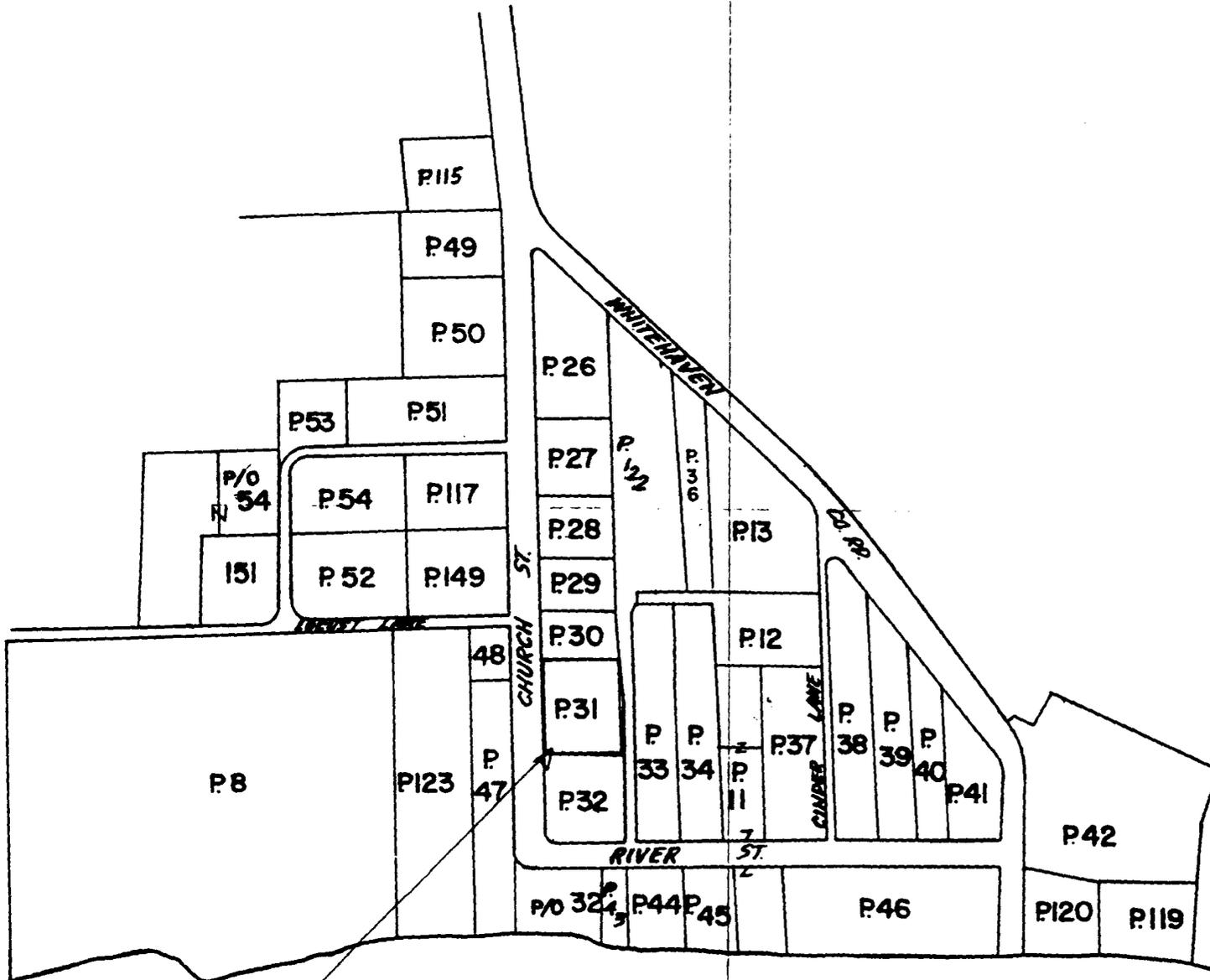
to

11/13/1959 Emily C. Griffin
 Vida Marguerite C. Bands
 Priscilla C. Smith
 Reserving unto Vida M. Covington a life estate
Item #2 All that lot or parcel of land
 situate, lying and being in the
 village of White Haven on the
 easterly side of and binding upon a
 street called Locust Street, and
 having a frontage thereon of 60 feet
 and having a depth of 90 feet being
 bounded on the east by the land
 formerly owned by Bramus Palmer, on
 the north by the land formerly
 owned by A. L. Wingate and on the
 South by the land described as
 Item First above

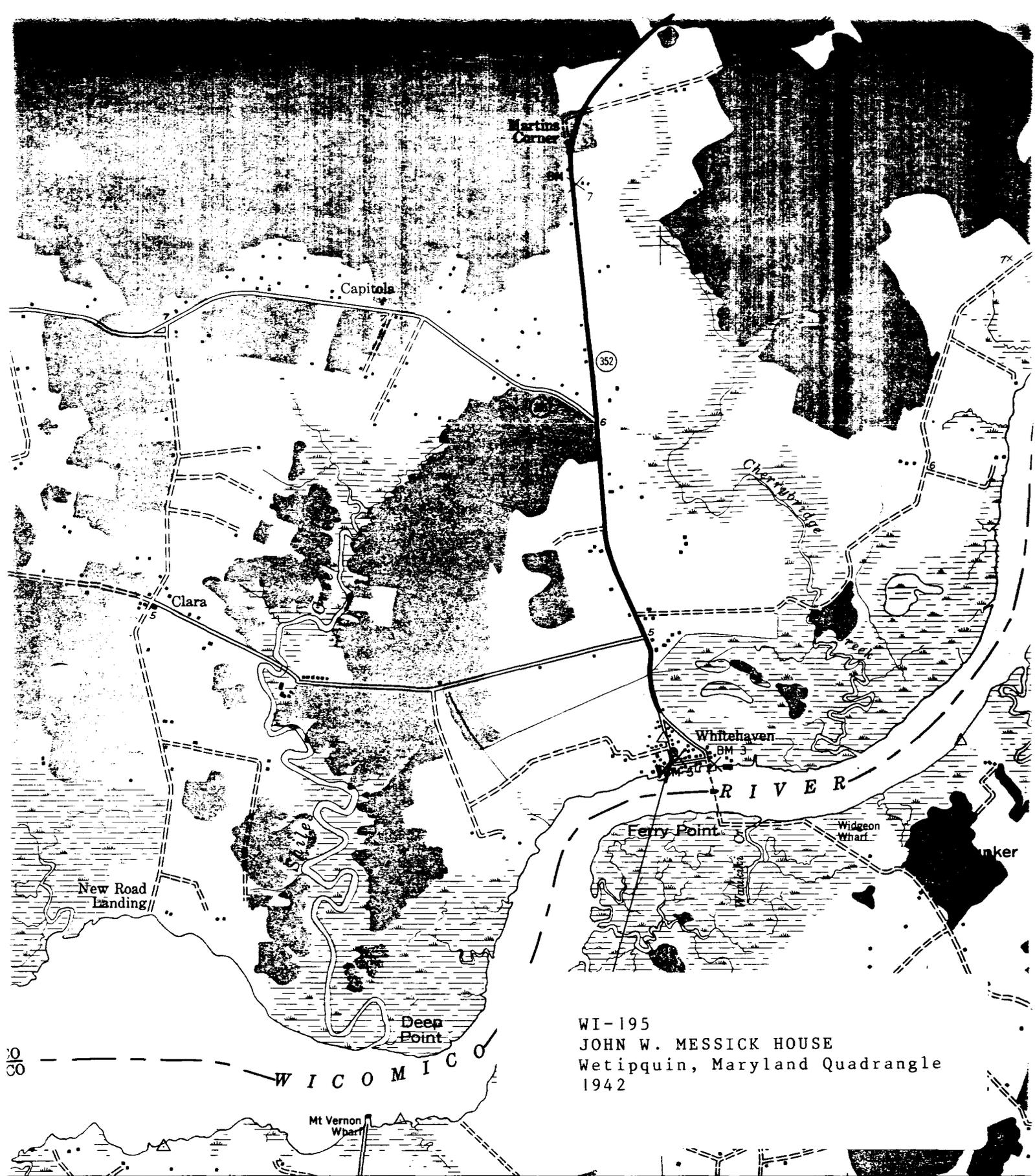
JTT 22/80 Edith M. Toadvine and Louis C. Toadvine
 to

2/26/1898 Eugene N. Taylor and Sarah C. Taylor \$850.00

WHITEHAVEN
SCALE 1"=200'



WI-195
JOHN W. MESSICK HOUSE
Wicomico County Tax Map 65
Parcel 31



WI-195
 JOHN W. MESSICK HOUSE
 Wetipquin, Maryland Quadrangle
 1942

(MONIE)

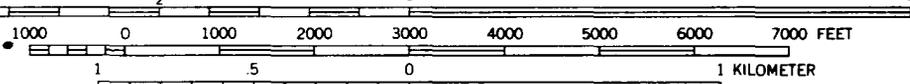
47'30"

PRINCESS ANNE 6.3 M

SCALE 1:24 000

1 MILE

WI-195



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL





12-115

Jan. 11, 1915

Winter season, 1914-1915

1914-1915

1914-1915







