

WI-246  
Fred L. Smith House (Joseph House)  
Salisbury  
Private

c. 1916

Built on a small rise of land on the southeast corner of East Isabella Street and Poplar Hill Avenue is the Fred L. Smith house, commonly known for the past few decades as the Joseph House. The two-and-a-half story stuccoed house is a dominant architectural fixture at this intersection. The asymmetrical late nineteenth century exterior, with its projecting pedimented pavilion and wraparound porch, is trimmed with neoclassical columns and modillion block cornices that point convincingly to its early twentieth century date of construction. Fred L. Smith purchased what was known at the time as the "Seabreeze Property" or simply as "Lot No. 24" in September 1916. The transfer price indicates that the property was improved at the time, which is confirmed by the 1911 Sanborn Insurance map that indicates a small two-story house was located on the lot at the time. Fred L. Smith either moved or destroyed the extant dwelling and financed construction of this imposing house soon afterwards. The corner property remained in Smith family hands until the mid 1930s when a Circuit Court case forced the sale of the property. The house and lot were sold for \$7,000 to George P. Chandler, in whose hands the property was held until the early 1960s. The house acquired its current identity after the Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary acquired the property in 1978.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Fred L. Smith House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-246

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE 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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-246

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Fred L. Smith House

and/or common Joseph House

## 2. Location

street & number 411 Poplar Hill Avenue  not for publication

city, town Salisbury  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 Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary

street & number 411 Poplar Hill 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 Map 107, Parcel 663  
liber 905

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 773

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-246

<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.

Historically identified as the Fred L. Smith house, and commonly known for the past eighteen years as the Joseph House, the two-and-a-half story, stuccoed frame house is located at 411 Poplar Hill Avenue in the Newtown District of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house faces west with the gable roof oriented on north/south axis. The house is elevated above several adjacent houses due to a high bank on which the house was built.

Estimated to date around 1916, the house is supported on a raised, stuccoed masonry foundation with a partially excavated cellar. The exterior is fully covered in stucco, and the steeply pitched roof is sheathed with slate. A two-story, gable-roofed kitchen wing extends from the back of the main block.

The west (main) facade is an asymmetrical elevation with a single story porch wrapping around the front and north sides. The slate roofed porch shelters the first floor entrance, which is accented with a pedimented porch roof and clustered columns. Smooth column shafts are topped by molded plaster capitals of the Ionic order. Stretching between the columns is square baluster railing with a molded handrail. The first floor wall adjacent to the entrance bay is pierced by a sidelighted single-pane sash. The second floor is marked by the projecting five-sided entrance pavilion that rises two-and-a-half stories. Each side of the bay is pierced by a single-pane sash window. The pavilion is capped by a pediment featuring large modillion blocks, and a small paired window marks the plastered tympanum. The adjacent second floor bay is marked by a large single-pane sash window, and the cornice above features a row of long modillion blocks. Fixed atop the roof is a gabled dormer trimmed with a modillion block cornice and a pedimented front also fitted with modillion blocks.

The north gable end of the house is covered on the first floor by the Ionic columned porch, which is partially screened. A sidelighted single-pane sash window lights the first floor. Evenly spaced on the second floor are a pair of double single pane sash windows. The gable end is finished in a triangular pediment with rows of modillion blocks trimming the cornice. A single-pane sash window is centered within the tympanum.

The rear wall of the house is largely covered by the two-story kitchen wing. The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-246

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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.

Built on a small rise of land on the southeast corner of East Isabella Street and Poplar Hill Avenue is the Fred L. Smith house, commonly known for the past few decades as the Joseph House. The two-and-a-half story stuccoed house is a dominant architectural fixture at this intersection. The asymmetrical late nineteenth century exterior, with its projecting pedimented pavilion and wraparound porch, is trimmed with neoclassical columns and modillion block cornices that point convincingly to its early twentieth century date of construction. Fred L. Smith purchased what was known at the time as the "Seabreeze Property" or simply as "Lot No. 24" in September 1916.(1) The transfer price indicates that the property was improved at the time, which is confirmed by the 1911 Sanborn Insurance map which indicates a small two-story house was located on the lot at that time.(2) Fred L. Smith either moved or destroyed the extant dwelling and financed construction of this imposing dwelling soon afterwards. The corner lot and house remained in Smith family hands until the mid 1930s when a Circuit Court case forced the sale of the property. The house and lot were sold for \$7,000 to George P. Chandler,(3) in whose hands the property was held until the early 1960s.(4) The house acquired its current identity after Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary acquired the property in 1978.(5)

This house qualifies for listing in *Category B*, which identifies a property that should be preserved since it displays good architectural features and it supports the character of the Newtown Historic District. It is a prominently sited house that helps to anchor the intersection of East Isabella Street and Poplar Hill Avenue.

1 Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 102/405, 9/6/1916, Wicomico County Courthouse.

2 Sanborn Insurance Map, 1911, Salisbury. Maryland State Archive.

3 Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 195/495, 4/11/1936, Wicomico County Courthouse..

4 Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 539/353, 6/1/1962, Wicomico County Courthouse.

5 Wicomico County Land Record, 905/773, 9/15/1978, Wicomico County Courthouse.



WI-246  
Fred L. Smith House  
(Joseph House)  
411 Poplar Hill Avenue  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 663

905/773                      Donald W. Detamore  
                                    Bettye J. Detamore

to

9/15/1978                    Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary  
                                    \$58,000    Lot 24            Plat SPT 1/195

JWTS 785/65                Eugene M. Ryce, Charles Co., Maryland

to

2/7/1973                    Donald W. Detamore

JWTS 715/175              Kimball D. Andrews  
                                    Hazel S. Andrews

to

8/12/1970                 Eugene M. Ryce

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Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 539/353

George P. Chandler, et ux.  
Helen R. Chandler

to

6/1/1962

Kimball D. Andrews  
Hazel S. Andrews

IDT 195/495

Curtis W. Long, Trustee

to

4/11/1936

George P. Chandler

Whereas by Decree of Circuit Court  
Lola Smith Long, et al., were complainants and  
and Sara S. Smith was respondent  
Property sold at auction \$7,000.00

JCK 102/405

William E. Booth  
Cora R. Booth

to

9/6/1916

Fred L. Smith

\$2,450.00 Poplar Hill Avenue, 64'10"  
Isabella Street, 106'

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Chain of title continued

EAT 61/224

Aline N. Benjamin, et al.  
Heirs at law of A. J. Benjamin

to

8/29/1908

William E. Booth

\$2,000.00

SPT 5/228

Theodore Polk Parsons

to

12/12/1882

Albert J. Benjamin

\$600.

SPT 3/470

Samuel A. Graham

to

7/27/1880

Theodore Polk Parsons

“Seabreeze Property” Lot No. 24, \$175.00



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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

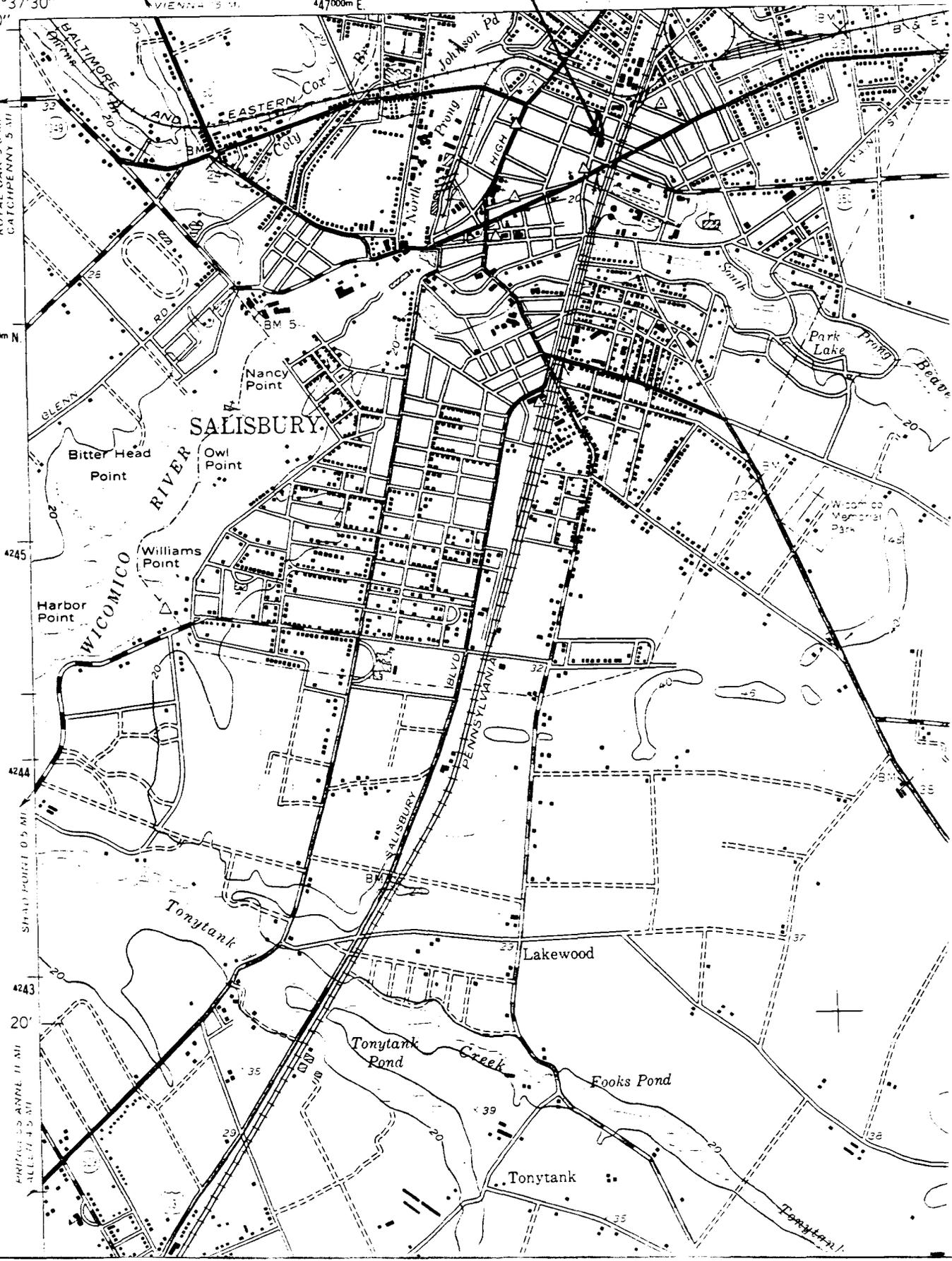
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942

5860' NW  
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

447000m E

4246000m N



SPRUE POINT 0.5 MI

PRINCE ANNE 11 MI  
ALLS 11 45 MI



WI. 246

FRANZ L. SWISS HOUSE

Switzerland, Vicosano Colony, Huesca

3/96, Palm Tower, photograph

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

NEG. / 100 Huesca