

WI-251  
Thomas H. Mitchell House  
Salisbury  
Private

1896-97

The Thomas H. Mitchell house is a large Queen Anne style frame dwelling that incorporates several significant features which distinguish it from other structures located in Salisbury's Newtown Historic District. The projecting front porch entry bay is highlighted by a shallow pediment decorated with molded plaster figures, and a curved wall accentuates the southwest corner of the front pavilion. Colored glass windows are found on several elevations, and pointed arch clear glass panes fill other sash. Multiple gables extend from a pyramidal roof. The southeast corner of the house is marked by a semi-octagonal tower. Directly adjacent to the tower roof is an eyebrow window. All of these architectural features elevate this house to the highest class of Queen Anne dwellings erected in Salisbury during late nineteenth century.

The construction of the house is well documented by an article published in the *Salisbury Advertiser* on March 14, 1896. The paper announced,

*Thomas H. Mitchell, Esq. has begun the erection of dwelling for his own occupancy on the lot lately purchased by him of Mrs. Ellen Toadvine on Isabella Street.*

*The building will contain four rooms on the first floor and four on the second floor exclusive of pantries and toilet rooms. The design is materially different from anything in the city. On the front will be the parlor in a wing, end to the street; upon three sides of this will be porches, with a circular bay at the southwest corner. The main entrance will be at the end of the porch extending along the west side of the parlor. The entrance admits one to the main hall, containing the stairs to the second floor. From this hall entrances to the parlor, to the library east of it, to the dining room north of the library and through a closed passage to the kitchen. There is also an entrance to the kitchen from the dining-room, through the pantry. The library and dining-room have eastern exposures, the parlor southern and western. The conservatory will be a circular extension of the junction of the library and dining room, and will have an*

*entrance to it from these. Mr. Mitchell has not yet decided upon his plan of finishing the interior, but will probably finish it in hard wood. The building will cost between \$3,000 and \$3,500. The plans Mr. Mitchell prepared himself.*

The reporter's article faithfully represented the house as it had been erected thus far, but a slight inaccuracy occurred when it was stated that the lot was sold to Thomas Mitchell by his neighbor Ellen Toadvine. The lot, consisting of 141 feet frontage on Isabella Street, was sold to Sallie M. Mitchell by William H. and Jennie Jackson for \$1,000 on 2 March 1896. The house and lot remained in Mitchell family hands until the late 1930s, when it was decided to subdivide the lot and relocate the Queen Anne dwelling slightly westward of its original site in order to allow for the construction of a two-story Colonial Revival house.

As documented by the *Salisbury Advertiser*, Thomas H. Mitchell provided plans, specifications, and the workmen to erected substantial structures in and around the city during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He advertised in the newspaper as a contractor and builder, and his known work includes his own house as well as the 1896 City Hall and Firehouse. The contracting firm of Slemons & Lankford erected the City Hall and Firehouse. In an article on the laying of the cornerstone for the structure, Thomas H. Mitchell is designated as the "architect."

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Thomas H Mitchell House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-251

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

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas H. Mitchell House

and/or common

### 2. Location

street & number 109 East Isabella Street  not for publicationcity, 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 checked="" 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 T. J. and Frances D. Tracy Mumford

street &amp; number 26632 Porter Mill Road telephone no.:

city, town Hebron state and zip code MD 21830

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 104, P. 639  
liber 1471

street &amp; number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 732

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WI-251

<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			1938

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

The Thomas H. Mitchell house is located at 109 East Isabella Street in the center of the Newtown Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story Queen Anne frame house faces south.

Built in 1896, the irregular plan frame dwelling formerly stood slightly east of its current location. The house was shifted twenty to thirty feet west around 1938 when the lot was subdivided and a Colonial Revival dwelling was erected on the east half of the larger lot. The large Queen Anne house is supported on a raised brick foundation of stretcher bond brick, and the exterior is clad with aluminum siding. The center main block is covered by a steeply pitched pyramidal of asphalt shingles. Steeply pitched gable roofed pavilions extend in each direction. The top of the pyramidal roof is flattened, and it was formerly distinguished by a wooden or metal balustrade. Narrow brick stove flues pierce the roof. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story rear service wing.

The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade marked by a projecting pavilion and a semi-octagonal tower on the southwest corner. Stretching across the first floor is a wraparound porch of paired Tuscan columns supported on brick plinths. Stretching between the paired posts is a handrail of square balusters and a molded handrail. An entrance bay is located on the west end of the porch and is defined by a low pitched pediment that features molded plaster figures in the tympanum. The entrance bay projects slightly forward from the rest of the porch. The first floor wall is uneven with the front door recessed in the southwest corner of the wall. The door is partially glazed and is topped by a single pane transom. Distinguishing the front wall of the projecting pavilion is a rounded corner pierced by a curved single pane sash window. The second floor is defined by a series of large and small windows featuring pointed arch window panes in the upper sash. The gable front of the projecting pavilion is pierced by a Palladian window featuring an unusual mixture of glass. The arched center window is partially filled with colored glass panes while the flanking sash have pointed arch panes. Fixed on the west side of the projecting pavilion is a gable roofed dormer. Highlighting the southeast corner is an octagonal tower capped by a copper cap with a flame shaped finial.

The east side of the main block is dominated by a projecting two story pavilion that features a semi-octagonal bay on the first floor. The bay is supported by a high brick foundation, and it is covered by a flat roof. Distinguishing the gable end is a pair of round arched windows. Marking the pyramidal roof on the south side of the pavilion is an eyebrow window.

The west side of the house is extended by a two-story pavilion as well, and it is distinguished by a mixture of colored glass windows and a Palladian window in the gable end.

Attached to the back of the house is a two-story rear service wing. The house has been divided into multiple apartments.

# 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** 1896-97 **Builder/Architect** Thomas H. Mitchell, builder

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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(Continued)



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This property, on account of its architectural details and historical documentation, is listed in *Category A* and must be retained

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<sup>1</sup> *Salisbury Advertiser*, March 14, 1896, Wicomico County Free Library.

<sup>2</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 17/504, 2 March 1896.

<sup>3</sup> *Salisbury Advertiser*, September 19, 1896, Wicomico County Free Library.

WI-251  
Thomas H. Mitchell House  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title  
Map 104, Parcel 639

1471/732 Frances D. Tracy Mumford

to

1/9/1996 T. J. Mumford, III  
Frances D. Tracy Mumford

Lot No. 1 Mitchell Property  
Plat surveyed by Roy E. Moore 4/14/1938 IDT 206/419

MSB 1217/153 Richard A. Carrano  
Linda W. Lane Carrano

to

5/3/1990 Frances D. Tracy Mumford

MSB 1124/271 Harbor Properties, Inc.

to

10/30/1987 Richard A. Carrano  
Linda W. Lane Carrano

A J S 964/476 Mary Thelma Garrett

to

8/29/1981 Harbor Properties, Inc.

WI-251  
Thomas H. Mitchell House  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

A J S 899/618

Mattie H. Leonard

to

6/11/1978

Mary Thelma Garrett

A J S 840/735

Margaret H. Fields

to

7/28/1975

Mattie H. Leonard  
Mary Thelma Garrett

A J S 840/733

Mattie H. Leonard

to

7/28/1975

Margaret H. Fields  
Lot No. 1 on plat

JWTS 309/343

Martin & Schwartz, Inc.

to

3/16/1949

Mattie H. Leonard  
John H. Leonard

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Thomas H. Mitchell House  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 3

JWTS 299/306 Precision Development Company

to

4/21/1948 Martin & Schwartz, Inc.

JWTS 270/379 Charles H. Truitt  
L. Helen Truitt

to

6/8/1945 Precision Development Company

IDT 206/417 Thomas H. Mitchell, Jr. et al., Margaret P. Mitchell, Ella Lee  
Betts, widow, Gladys E. Mitchell, Cora M. Ulman, Bernard  
Ulman, Lillie Seward, Roland R. Seward

to

4/27/1938 Charles H. Truitt  
L. Helen Truitt

IDT 180/167 William W. Travers, bachelor

to

8/30/1933 Thomas H. Mitchell, Jr. et al.

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Thomas H. Mitchell House  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 4

IDT 180/163

Thomas H. Mitchell, Jr.  
Executor of Last Will and Testament of  
Thomas Henry Mitchell, Sr. Will MNN 1/356

to

8/29/1933

William W. Travers

JCK 118/37

Ella Lee Betts, et al.

to

5/3/1920

Thomas H. Mitchell  
Lots 1 and 2 The foregoing lands are lands of which  
Sallie M. Mitchell died seized and bequeathed to her  
children Ella Lee Betts, Gladys E. Mitchell, Thomas H.  
Mitchell, Jr., Cora Mitchell Ulman, Lillie Mitchell Seward

JTT 17/504

William H. Jackson  
Jennie Jackson

to

3/2/1896

Sallie M. Mitchell

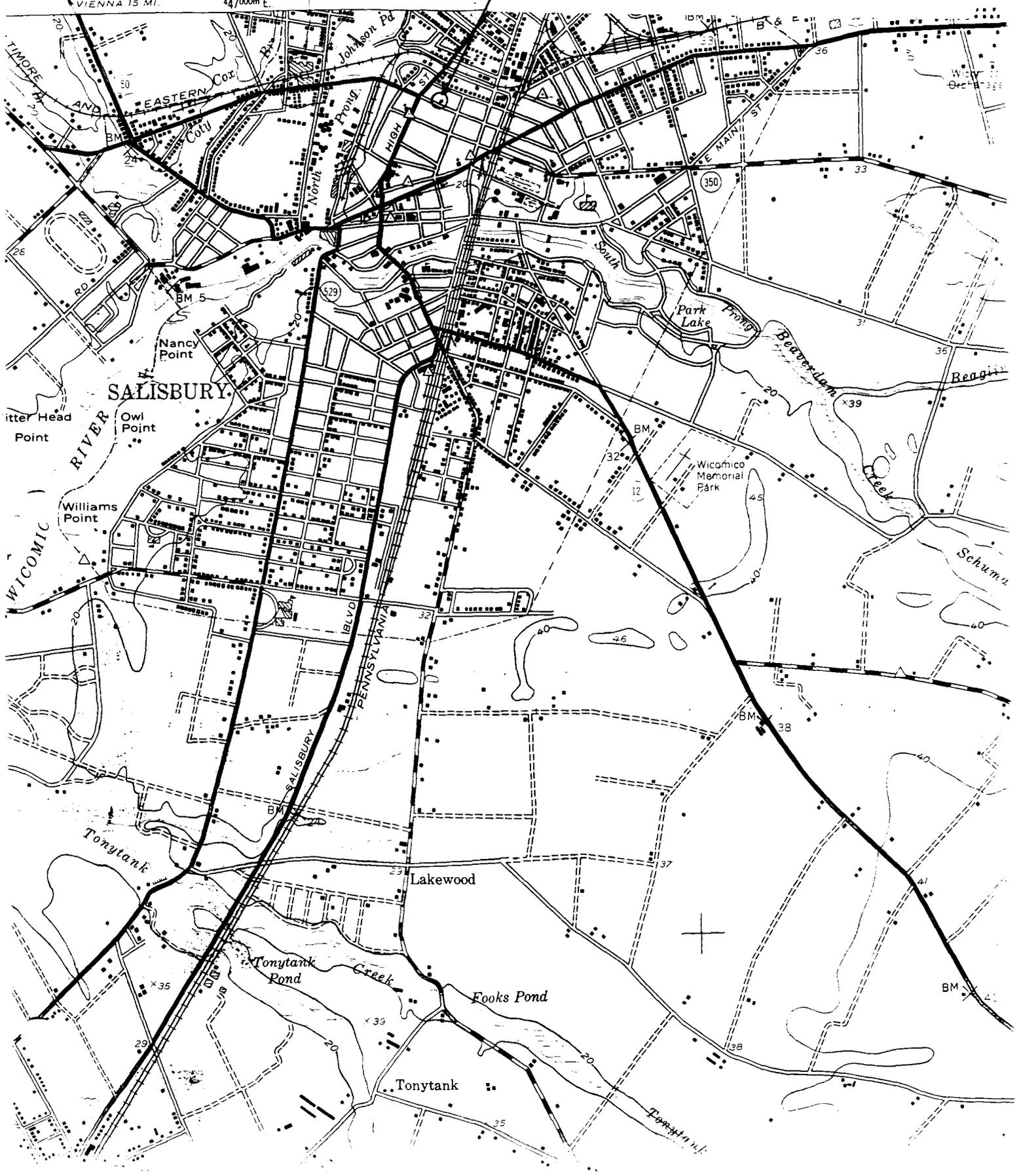
\$1,000 having a front of 141 feet on the said Isabella  
Street and a depth of 291 feet more or less

WI-251  
Thomas H. Mitchell House

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.  
VIENNA 15 MI.  
477000m E.





W1-251

Thomas H. Henshaw Trust

Salisbury, Wisconsin, 1/12/1993

1/93 Paul Thomas Henshaw Trust

No. 1 and 1/25000 Trust

1 of 3



WI-251

Toward H. ...

Saturday, ...

Journal - ... RUFF WITH TOWER

1/98, Paul ...

Went / ...

2 of 3



WI-251

THOMAS H. MITCHELL - 1-2-55

SALESIAN, WISCONSIN

SOUTH ELEVATION OF PAPER

1/98, TAVE TOWER PHOTOGRAPH

1/2/1912 PHOTOGRAPH TOWER

3 OF 3