

WI-286
Captain Robert F. Walter House
Nanticoke
Private

1905

Distinguished by four gable roofed dormers sheathed with fishscale shingles, this large pyramidal roofed house stands out in the village of Nanticoke as a particularly well detailed example of early twentieth century domestic design. The two-and-a-half, four-square frame house is raised on a high brick foundation, and the walls are pierced by large sash windows with colored glass in the perimeter panes. The base of the roof is trimmed by a bold modillion block cornice that stretches around the entire house as well as the single story front porch. The pyramidal slate roof is dominated by four large gable roofed dormers sheathed with intricately fashioned fishscale shingles. The combination of neoclassical and Victorian finishes evident on the exterior is found inside the house as well. Columned mantels with mirrored overmantels contrast with Victorian a Victorian spindlework screen fixed between the jambs of a hallway door.

Construction of this well crafted house was financed by Captain Robert F. Walter, who is reported to have purchased the house materials through the Salisbury lumber company of E. S. Adkins and shipped them to the building site on a schooner. Captain Walter was the owner of a fleet of dredge boats that worked the Chesapeake Bay for oysters, and he owned a sizable amount of agricultural land as well. The profits from the oyster yields as well as income from agricultural products financed the construction of this well built house during the early years of the twentieth century.

During the early 1890s, Robert F. Walter purchased several large and small parcels of land in and around the community of Nanticoke. From Thomas W. Young he bought a 16 1/4-acre tract which also included a lot "purchased from John W. Parks enclosed within the yard together with the buildings and improvements thereon." Like many of his day, the depression took its toll on Robert Walter's finances, and he mortgaged his farmland in 1934 to the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore, and two years later the bank foreclosed on the property.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Robert F. Walter House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-286

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

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Robert F. Walter House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 20660 Nanticoke Road not for publication

city, town Nanticoke 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 Wilfred M. and Shelley N. Dyer III

street & number 20660 Nanticoke Road telephone no.:

city, town Nanticoke state and zip code MD 21840

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico Couty Clerk of Court Map 63, P. 3
liber 1087

street & number Wicomico County Clerk of Court folio 123

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-286

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one | |
| <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 Captain Robert F. Walter house is located at 20660 Nanticoke Road on the northern edge of the village of Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, four-square frame house faces east.

Dating around 1905, the two-and-a-half story, two-bay by two-bay frame dwelling is supported on a raised brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched pyramidal slate roof has a modified peak that includes a rooftop railing. Joining the house on the lot is a metal water tower frame dating from the early twentieth century as well.

The east (main) facade is a two-bay elevation with the first floor covered by an enclosed hip roof porch. The base of the porch roof is trimmed with a modillion block cornice. The walls are pierced by modern windows. The second floor is defined by a pair of large multi-pane window sash that have colored panes in the perimeter of the top sash. Each of the window lintels has a slight crown molding. Fixed in between the two second floor windows is a small window opening filled with diamond-shaped panes. The base of the roof is trimmed with a modillion block cornice accented with a dentil bed molding. The east slope of the roof is dominated by a large gabled dormer pierced by paired windows. The gable front of the dormer is sheathed with fishscale shingles. Rising through the center of the house are internal brick stove chimneys finished with corbeled caps.

The south side of the house is defined by two large multi-pane windows on each floor, and a large gable roofed dormer that is centered on the hip roof. The upper multi-pane sash has small colored panes in the perimeter of the window. The window lintels have a small crown molding. Finishing the sides of the gable roofed dormer is a layer of fishscale shingles, and the front wall is pierced by a paired set of windows.

The west (rear) wall has a single-story hip roofed addition on the first floor, while the second floor is finished in a similar fashion to the rest of the house. A large gable roofed dormer marks the west side as well as a corbeled cap chimney stack rises through the roof.

The north side has an asymmetrical fenestration with a smaller proportion window lighting the stairwell in the left (east) bay, while the other openings are marked by large multi-pane windows. The roof has a large gable roofed dormer like the other three sides.

The interior of the main block is divided into a four room plan with entrance hall flanked by a parlor in the front of the house, and a dining room and kitchen are fixed across the back of the first floor. The interior is trimmed with early twentieth century woodwork that represents a mixture of Victorian and neoclassical finishes. A doorway in the front hall is framed by a classical surround fitted with a crown molding as well as a Victorian screen of spindlework between the top of the door jambs. The parlor has an early twentieth century columned mantel with mirrored overmantel and green tiled hearth fixed to the inner wall.

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"/> 500-1599 | <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 1905 **Builder/Architect**

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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Construction of this well crafted house was financed by Captain Robert F. Walter, who is reported to have purchased the house materials through the Salisbury lumber company of E. S. Adkins and shipped them to the building site on a schooner.(1) Captain Walter was the owner of a fleet of dredge boats that worked the Chesapeake Bay for oysters, and he owned a sizable amount of agricultural land as well. The profits from the oyster yields as well as income from agricultural products financed the construction of this well built house during the early years of the twentieth century.

During the late years of the nineteenth century Robert F. Walter purchased several large and small parcels of land in and around the community of Nanticoke. From Thomas W. Young he bought a 16 1/4-acre tract which also included a lot "purchased from John W. Parks enclosed within the yard together with the buildings and improvements thereon."(2) Like many of his day, the depression took its toll on Robert Walter's finances, and he mortgaged his farmland in 1934 to the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore, and two years later the bank foreclosed on the property.(3)

The house deserves listing in Category A, which identifies properties of high architectural and/or historical interest.

8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

**Captain Robert F. Walter House, WI-286
Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland**

FOOTNOTES

1 Interview with Wilfred M. Dyer, III, July 21, 1996.

2 Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 11/298, 5/6/1893, Wicomico County Courthouse.

3 Wicomico County Land Records, IDT 183/559, 1/23/1934; and IDT 201/23, 11/16/1936.

WI-286
Robert F. Walter House
20660 Nanticoke Road
Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 63, Parcel 3

1087/123 Charles A. Popp and Grace J. Popp

to

12/12/1986 Wilfred M. Dyer III
Shelley N. Dyer

Parcel 1 5.5 acres

Being in all respects the same property shown on a plat
entitled "Property Survey for Edwin and Evan
Schoenrich, 10/22/1948, JWTS 307/558

JWTS 546/364 Edwin Schoenrich
Evah Schoenrich

to

6/27/1962 Charles A. Popp
Grace J. Popp

WI-286
Robert F. Walter House
Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 307/551

Arthur W. Boyce
Irma T. Boyce
Charles J. Bryan
Gladys E. Bryan
John A. Price
Gertrude B. Price

to

10/23/1948

Edwin Schoenrich

5.5 acres

JWTS 279/109

John A. Price, et al.

to

7/3/1946

Arthur W. Boyce

1/3 interest

JWTS 276/340

Edith G. Craig, et al.
James Craig, Essex County, New Jersey

to

2/18/1946

John A. Price
Charles J. Bryan
Item 2 and a part of the same land conveyed by Item 1
Item 1 15.15 acres as per plat from Federal Farm

WI-286
Robert F. Walter House
Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

Mortgage Corporation to Allan B. Crute, 7/24/1940
JWS 224/330

J W S 224/362

Allan B. Crute
Sarah Jane Crute

to

8/10/1940

Edith G. Craig, under the name of Edith G. O'Brien

J W S 224/330

Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation

to

7/24/1940

Allan B. Crute

IDT 201/23

Thomas M. Harrington, Assignee for the purpose
of foreclosure

to

11/16/1936

Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation

Whereas by virtue of a sale contained in a mortgage
from Robert F. Walter and Lena M. Walter to the
Federal Land Bank of Baltimore, 1/23/1934, IDT
183/559

WI-286
Robert F. Walter House
Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 4

1. All that farm containing 16 1/4 acres situate in Nanticoke Election District being the same land conveyed to said Robert F. Walter by Thomas W. Young, 5/6/1893, JTT 11/298

2. Farm 368.40 acres to Robert F. Walter by deed from John F. Jester Co., 3/10/1923, JCK 128/496

3. 199 acre parcel

JTT 11/298

Thomas W. Young
Alice Young

to

5/6/1893

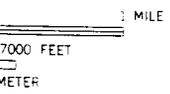
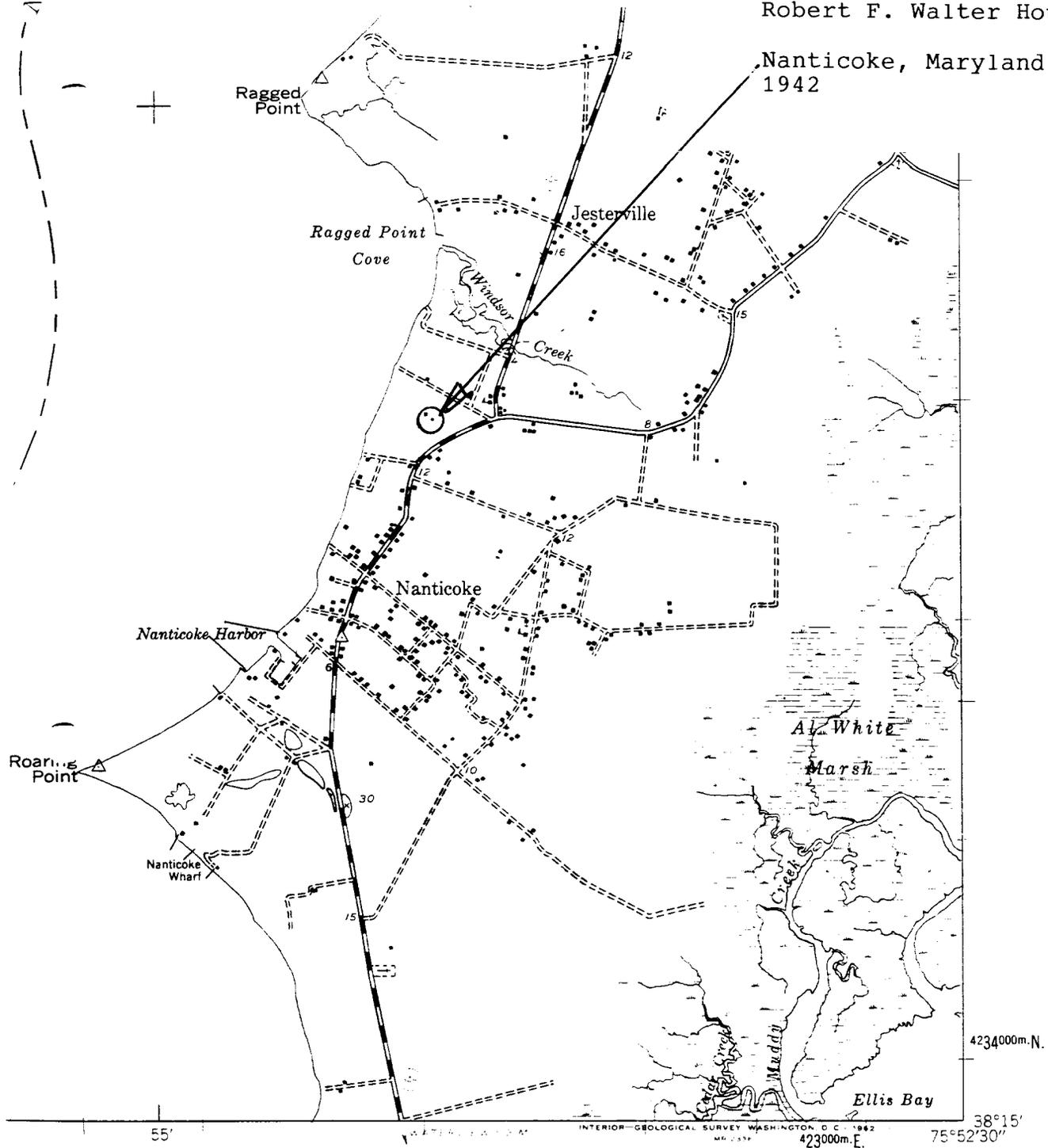
Robert F. Walter

\$1,000 15 acres and also a lot or parcel of land purchased from John W. Parks enclosed within the yard together with the buildings and improvements thereon....

WI-286

Robert F. Walter House

Nanticoke, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Medium-duty ——— Light-duty - - - - -
Unimproved dirt
State Route

NANTICOKE, MD.
SW/4 NANTICOKE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3815—W7552.5/7.5

1942

QUEST



NI-236

ROBERT F. WILSON House

MANTICORE, Wicomico Co., Md.

7/95, Pine Island, PHOTOGRAPHY

NEL / M.M. Historical Photo

NORWOOD - ELEVATION



W1-296

Road - F. Warren - 1958

NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS

WEST SIDE ROAD - 1/4 - 2 - 1/4

7/96 PINE TREE - PHOTOGRAPHY

NEE / MD - 1958 - 1959



WI-292

Robert F. Wagner
HARRISON, WISCONSIN Co., WIS.
WEST EROIA - WI

7/10, 1902
WIS. FROM HISTORICAL TRUST