

WI-290
John F. Jester House
Nanticoke vicinity
Private

c. 1880-90

Standing on the east and west sides of Jesterville Road, east of the village of Nanticoke, is a pair of two-and-a-half story frame farmhouses built by the Jester family during the late years of the nineteenth century. John F. Jester erected the house on the east side of the road in close imitation of the house across the road. Both houses were built with a conservative center hall/single-pile plan, while the exterior was embellished with a variety of late nineteenth century sawn decoration. Unusual divided porch posts feature sawn corner brackets and a sawtooth fascia board. The interior has been remodeled over the years, but the staircase is distinctive with its hand-crafted newel post. The square proportioned post is trimmed with a scalloped edge decoration and the top is finished with a pyramidal stepped cap. Typical factory turned balusters support the railing.

Merchant John F. Jester erected this house around 1880-1890 in the community named for his family. Jesterville was a prosperous rural village that developed between 1880 and 1910 on the main road that connected Nanticoke and river wharfs to Salisbury. John F. Jester made several purchases of property along the road during the late 1880s and added to property holdings that were considerable by the time the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas was published in 1877. The atlas patron list credits him with owning over 200 acres. The property was held as recently as 1979 by descendants of John F. Jester.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: John F. Jester House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-290

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Domiance
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-290

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John F. Jester House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3039 Jesterville Road not for publication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 Earl M. Beardsley, Jr.

street & number 3039 Jesterville Road telephone no.:

city, town Nanticoke state and zip code Maryland 21840

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 63, P. 10
liber 999

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 397

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-290

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.

The John F. Jester house stands at 3039 Jesterville Road in the vicinity of Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, five-bay, single-pile frame house faces west with the main gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Estimated to date around 1880-1890, the two-story, center hall frame dwelling is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is uniformly clad with vinyl siding. The cross-gabled roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the front block is a two-story dining room and kitchen wing that is extended on the south and east sides.

The west (main) elevation is a symmetrical five-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking single-pane sash windows on the first floor. The front door is a replacement, and the windows are flanked by vinyl shutters. A hip roofed front porch stretches across the five-bay facade, and the roof is supported by unusual pierced posts. Decorative brackets flank each post and the eave is trimmed with a sawn fascia board. The second floor is lighted by five evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows. The cross gable is covered with fishscale shingles and pierced by a louvered vent.

The north and south gable ends are marked by single-pane and two-over-two sash windows. The interior end chimneys stacks have been removed below the roofline.

The east side of the main block is largely covered by the two-story, two-room plan dining room/kitchen wing, which is extends on its south side by a two-story, one-bay section which is an extension to the kitchen. An enclosed shed porch stretches between the main block and the two-story one-bay extension. Rising through the roof is a center brick chimney stack.

The interior of the house has survived with a number of original late nineteenth century features. The staircase is original and features a handmade newel post of square proportions with a scalloped decorative edge and a stepped pyramidal cap. The newel post and a series of turned balusters support a molded handrail. A shallow relief four-panel door opens into the stair closet. The stair hall has been incorporated into the south parlor in order to increase the size of the current living room. A shallow relief four-panel door opens into the room on the north side of the hall. The dining room/kitchen wing rooms have been generally reworked. The second floor was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-290

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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.

Standing on the east and west sides of Jesterville Road, east of the village of Nanticoke, is a pair of two-and-a-half story frame farmhouses built by the Jester family during the late years of the nineteenth century. John F. Jester erected the house on the east side of the road in close imitation of the house across the road. Both houses were built with a conservative center hall/single-pile plan, while the exterior was embellished with a variety of late nineteenth century sawn decoration. Unusual divided porch posts feature sawn corner brackets and a sawtooth fascia board. The interior has been remodeled over the years, but the staircase is distinctive with its hand-crafted newel post. The square proportioned post is trimmed with a scalloped edge decoration and the top is finished with a pyramidal stepped cap. Typical factory turned balusters support the railing.

The John F. Jester house qualifies for listing in *Category B*, which identifies a building that should be preserved since it exhibits some good architectural details representing a particular period of architectural development or style.

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8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

John F. Jester House, WI-290

Nanticoke vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

Footnotes

1 Graham, John L. ed. *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*. Salisbury, Maryland: Peninsula Press, 1976, p. 50.

2 Wicomico County Land Record, AJS 920/510, 5/22/1979, Wicomico County Courthouse.

WI-290
John F. Jester House
3039 Jesterville Road
Nanticoke vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 63, Parcel 10

999/397
Bradley W. Johnson
Richard E. Cullen
Joel A. Boren, Trustees

to

8/17/1983
Earl M. Beardsley, Jr.
Karla J. Beardsley

AJS 979/493
Verna M. Johnson, widow

to

10/11/1982
Bradley W. Johnson
County Road 338 27.356 acres
Plat of Resurvey of Property of Wallace H. Johnson
and Verna M. Johnson

WI-290
John F. Jester House
Chain of title continued

Page 2

AJS 920/510

Victor H. Laws, Jr.
Billy Jester, Personal Representatives of Amy W.
Jester, deceased

to

5/22/1979

Wallace H. Johnson
Verna M. Johnson

Parcel No. 1, 7.33 acres designated on a plat
"Marjorie Jester, 5/17/1941, JWTS 674/41

Parcels No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

JWTS 318/473

Anna R. Hickman

to

8/11/1950

Amy W. Jester

Reserving a life estate unto Anna R. Hickman

JCK 138/241

The John F. Jester Company

to

2/17/1923

Anna R. Jester

Parcels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

TYASKIN

Dist. No. 3
WICOMICO CO.



WARD WINRIGHT. Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Notions, &c., and all goods usually kept in a country store. Whitehaven P. O.

W. G. & J. Q. TILGHMAN, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Cutlery, Tobacco, Cigars, Notions, &c. Tyaskin, Md.

JOHN WILLING AND CO. Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Notions and all articles usually kept in a country store. Nanticoke P. O.

B. A. LANGRALL, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, and all articles usually kept in a first class country store. Store near M. E. Church, Nanticoke Point.

JNO. TURNER AND SON, Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Boots, Shoes, &c. Nanticoke, Md.

J. A. CORNWAY, Physician and Surgeon. Office and Res. near M. E. Church, Nanticoke Point.

J. H. ELLIOTT, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Ready-made clothing, Extraces, Patent Medicines, Notions, and all goods usually kept in a first class country store. Store at Green Hill.

TYASKIN DISTRICT BUSINESS REFERENCES.

W. J. CATLIN, M. D., Physician and Surgeon. All calls promptly attended to. Res. and Office at Belgrade Farm. P. O., Tyaskin, Md.

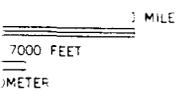
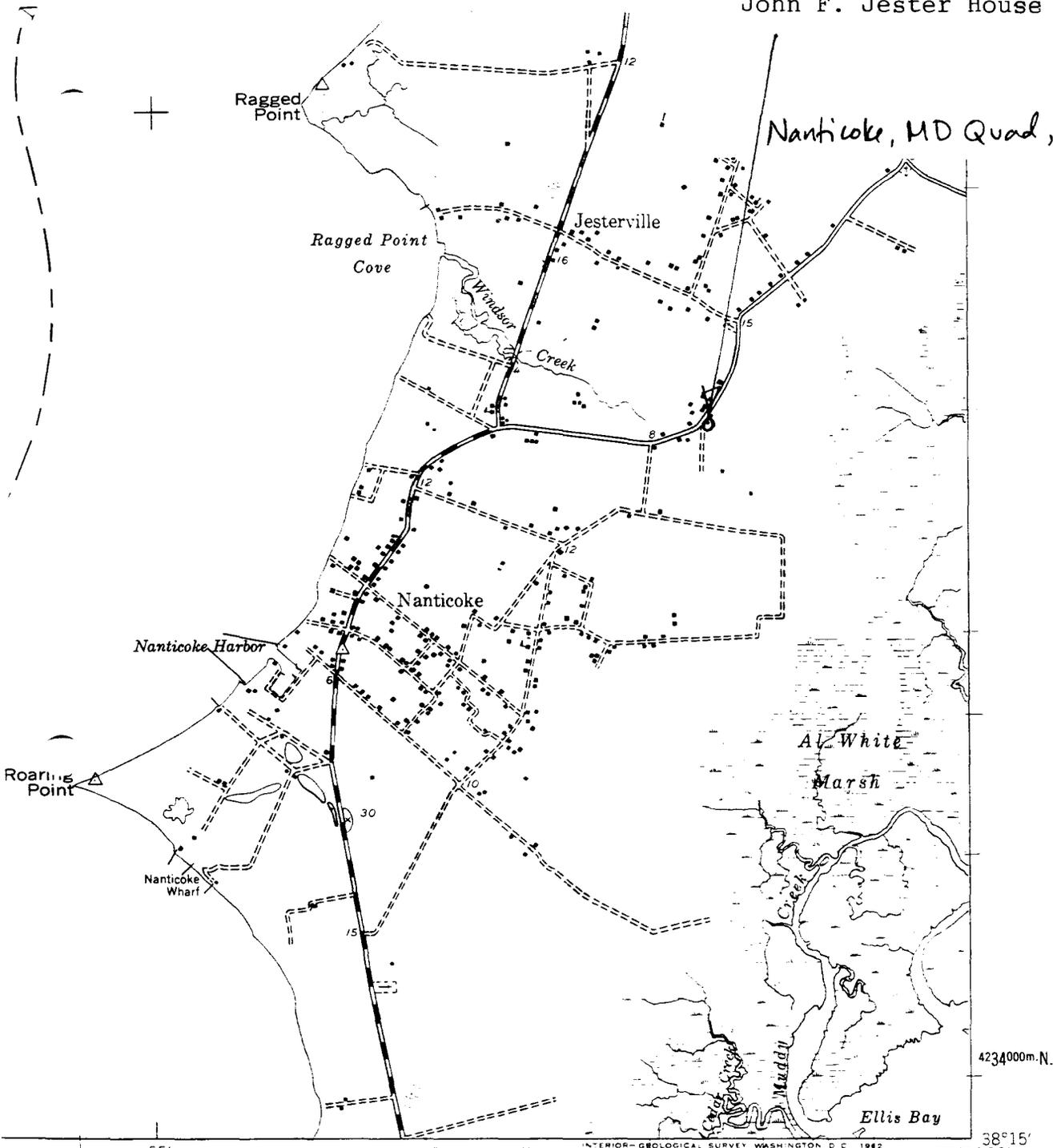
W. D. BEATE, Dealer in Groceries, Hardware, Tobacco, Liquors, &c. Tyaskin, Md.

NOAH J. TILGHMAN, Proprietor of "Tyaskin Mills," Manufacturer of Corn-meal, Hominy, and all kinds of Lumber. Custom work done in sawing and grinding.

J. E. B. HORNER, Owner of the fine Sloop "James Wesley." All kinds of freighting done to and from any point on the "Chesapeake Bay," or its tributaries. Especial Attention to the purchase and freighting of Oysters. Res. and P. O., Tyaskin, Md.

J. W. SWINGATE, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Hardware, Queensware, Glassware, Ready-made clothing, Confectionery, Wines, Whiskies, Brandy and Rum, and all articles usually kept in a first class country store, at Whitehaven.

Nanticoke, MD Quad, 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



