

WI-312
Capitola Survey District
Whitehaven vicinity
Private

19th and 20th centuries

A concentration of two-story, one-, two- and three-bay houses that face Capitola Road northwest of Whitehaven constitute an African-American community that developed during years following the Civil War. The John Wesley United Methodist Church, centrally located in the community, was established in 1873 according to the congregation's history. By the time of the printing of the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas four years later, a distinct group of houses stood on each side of the county road. In addition to the church and approximately two dozen dwellings, the community was served by a "Color'd School," which stood on the north side of Capitola Road west of the church. The black Methodist congregation replaced its church in 1908 with a gable-front frame structure lighted by colored glass windows. Gradually the various families replaced their houses as well with cross gabled houses or plain two-story, one- or two-bay dwellings. A few houses followed in the prevailing manner of stepped or "telescope" service wings with a hyphen and kitchen to the rear. Construction of replacement houses continued through the first quarter of the twentieth century including small scale four-square houses topped by hip or pyramidal roofs.

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-312

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Capitola Survey District

2. Location

street & number Capitola Road ___ not for publication

city, town Whitehaven ___X vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 Multiple Owners

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

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

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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 Capitola survey district is located along Capitola Road northwest of Whitehaven, Wicomico County, Maryland. The African-American village is defined by a dispersed group of approximately fifteen (15) late nineteenth century and early twentieth century buildings mostly oriented to Capitola Road.

The houses that define Capitola include a mixture of two-story, one-bay, two-bay, or three-bay dwellings supported on low brick foundations and covered with medium to steep pitched gable roofs. Several houses have centered cross gables and two-story, one-room plan kitchen wings. Two one-room houses on the south side of Capitola Road have a stepped rear service wing with a single-story hyphen and slightly taller kitchen. Many of the houses are sheathed with twentieth century asbestos shingles, aluminum or vinyl siding. One house retains its original exterior weatherboards, a late nineteenth century turned post porch, as well as fishscale shingles within the gables.

The John Wesley United Methodist Church (WI-303) is located in the center of the survey district. The single-story gable front frame church was built in 1908. Another distinctive structure is the old Capitola store, which stands on the eastern side of the district and the south side of the road. The two-story, rectangular, gable-front store is extended by shed additions and a shed roofed front porch.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-312

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 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	

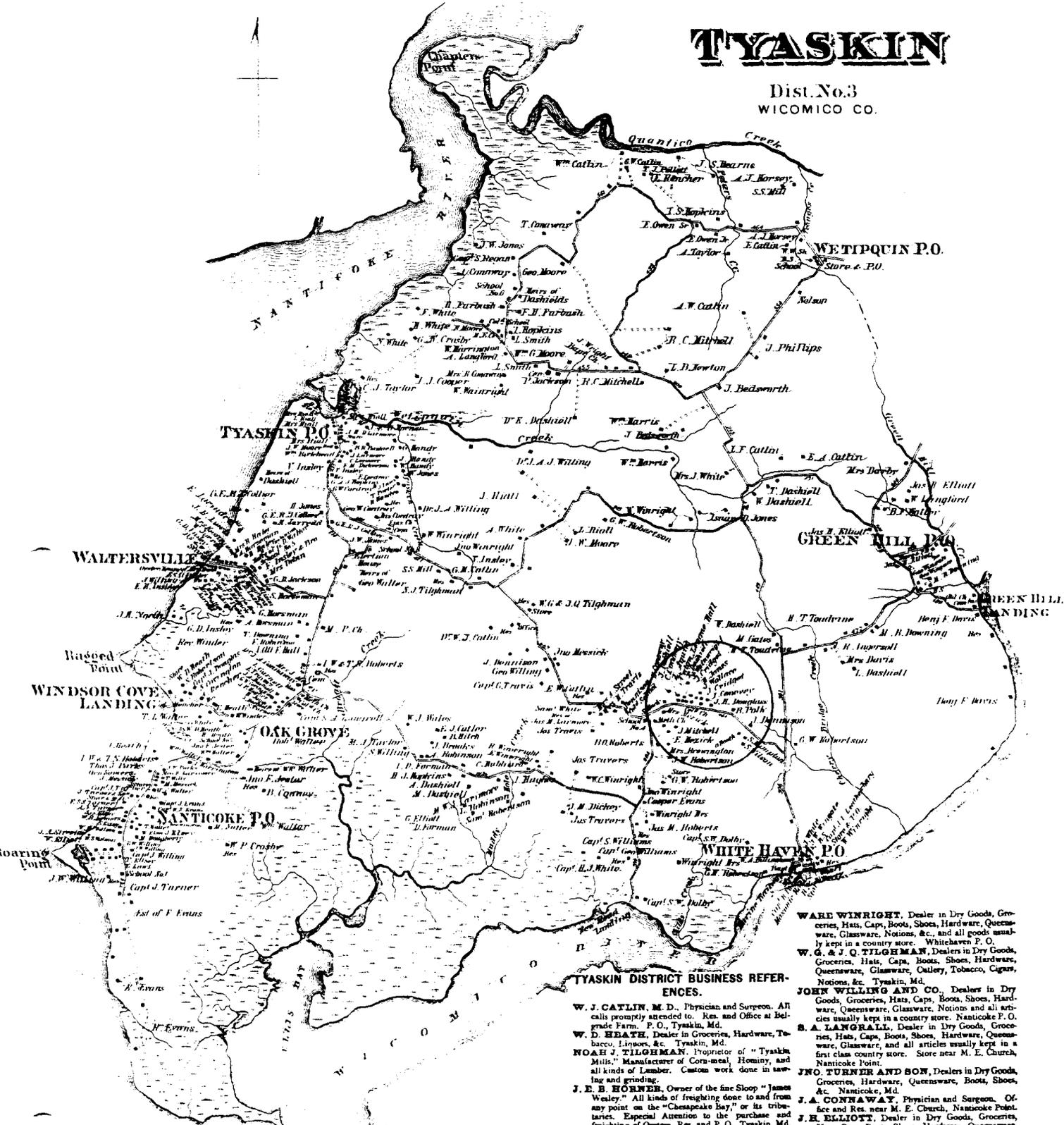
Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

A concentration of two-story, one-, two- and three-bay houses that face Capitola Road northwest of Whitehaven constitute an African-American community that developed during years following the Civil War. The John Wesley United Methodist Church, centrally located in the community, was established in 1873 according to the congregation's history. By the time of the printing of the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas four years later, a distinct group of houses stood on each side of the county road. In addition to the church and approximately two dozen dwellings, the community was served by a "Color'd School," which stood on the north side of Capitola Road west of the church. The black Methodist congregation replaced its church in 1908 with a gable-front frame structure lighted by colored glass windows. Gradually the various families replaced their houses as well with cross gabled houses or plain two-story, one- or two-bay dwellings. A few houses followed in the prevailing manner of stepped or "telescope" service wings with a hyphen and kitchen to the rear. Construction of replacement houses continued through the first quarter of the twentieth century including small scale four-square houses topped by hip or pyramidal roofs.

The historic African-American community of Capitola warrants further investigation, and it should be listed in *Category B* which identifies sites that should be preserved due to their architectural and/or historical merit.

TYASKIN

Dist. No. 3
WICOMICO CO.



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- S. 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.
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Wetipquin, Maryland Quadrangle
1983

