

WI-332
Thomas B. Taylor House
Mardela Springs
Private

c. 1860 and earlier

Situated prominently along Main Street in the center of Mardela Springs, is a two-story gable-front frame dwelling historically identified as the Thomas B. Taylor house. The long six-bay main block appears to have been erected in two stages with the prominent two-story, side hall/parlor section on the west dating to the mid nineteenth century, probably around 1850-60. Attached to the east side of the gable-front main block is a two-story, three-bay section that dates to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, probably around 1830-40. At the time the gable-front addition was erected, the older dwelling was restyled as well, and a turned post porch was stretched across the entire front, thereby unifying the two buildings. Corner pilasters were attached to each corner of the enlarged and the windows were trimmed with molded lintels, which added more architectural consistency to the composite house. One of the most distinctive exterior elements is the Palladian or Venetian style window that lights the attic of the gable-front dwelling.

Although it is uncertain when the individual sections of the house were erected, the house was the long-term residence of Mardela Springs merchant Thomas B. Taylor. He acquired a small portion of "Ill Neighborhood" from Charles T. and Nancy Ralph of Dorchester County. According to the transfer he paid \$1,223.04 for the property,

which suggest that it was well improved. Thomas B. Taylor is designated at this location on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, although he owned the house immediately to the east as well. The size and mid-nineteenth century sophistication of this house points to his probable residency in this dwelling. At the end of the century, however, the house was rented. It is listed in the long list of properties offered for sale following Thomas B. Taylor's death in 1901. The house and lot are described

No. 2 House and lot in Mardela Springs, where A. S. Venables resides, front on Main Street on the South, Taylor Street on the West, Cooper Alley on the North and (the) Beach lot on the East, containing 133 perches of land, more or less, improved by a two story double dwelling 48 feet by 18 side porch all the way down. Back building 32 x 14 and back building 24 x 12, 7 rooms below 4 rooms above. Corn house, stables and smokehouse.

Estate trustee, Jay Williams, sold the house and lot three years later to Ida D. Langsdale who transferred it fourteen years later to Annie B. Wright. During the mid twentieth century, another long-term owner was Katie F. and Myra Evans, who held title to the house and lot during the 1950s and 1960s.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Thomas B. Taylor House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-332

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s):
Agricultural-Industrial Transition
1815-1870
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-332

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas B. Taylor House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 203 Main Street not for publication

city, town Mardela Springs 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 Ed and Marlene Guthrie

street & number 203 Main Street telephone no.:

city, town Mardela Springs state and zip code MD 21837

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 200, P. 234
liber 1298

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 52

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-332

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 Thomas B. Taylor house is located at 203 Main Street in the center of Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, six-bay frame house faces south with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

Estimated to date to the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century, the two-story, six-bay structure was clearly erected in two stages. The main two-story, three-bay side hall/parlor house, estimated to date around 1860-70, has a gable-front roof and it contains the principal entrance. Attached to the east side of the main house is a two-story, three-bay wing that may date to the second quarter of the nineteenth century, c. 1830-40. The house is supported on a raised brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The medium pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story late nineteenth century kitchen wing.

The south (main) facade is an asymmetrical six-bay elevation. The main entrance contains a heavily molded eight-panel door framed by a two-light transom and four-light sidelights. The two adjacent bays to the west are filled with large size six-over-six sash windows trimmed with molded lintels. To the east of the main entrance is another door flanked by six-over-six sash windows. The secondary entrance contains a partially glazed door. Sheltering the entire first floor is a turned post shed-roofed porch. The second floor is marked by a series of five unevenly spaced six-over-six sash windows trimmed with molded lintels. Fixed in the upper gable of the main block is a Palladian style window with a round arched center window filled with a six-over-six sash, and narrow two-over-two sash flanked the center sash. Defining the edge of the roof is an extended eave with returns at the bottom ends. The boxed cornice is trimmed with mid nineteenth century bed and crown moldings. The second floor of the east end wing is marked by a pair of six-over-six sash windows. The outside corners of the house are defined by wide paneled pilasters.

Marking the west side of the main block are pairs of six-over-six sash windows on each floor, and the base of the roof is enclosed with a continuation of the boxed cornice. Each of the windows have a molded lintel. The pilaster that trims the northwest corner is paneled on the west side and plain on the north (rear) wall. The pilasters terminate with a molded capital instead of rising completely to the cornice.

The rear wall is a blind wall other than a single six-over-six sash window that lights the attic. A single brick chimney pierces the roof. The edge of the roof is finished with a molded bargeboard.

Attached to the back of the house is late nineteenth century two-story kitchen wing that is surrounded by a partially enclosed shed roof porch. An interior end brick stove chimney pierces the gable end. The edge of the roof is defined by exposed rafter ends.

The interior was not fully seen, but the gable-front porch is fitted with third quarter of the nineteenth century woodwork. A second quarter of the nineteenth century mantel is located in the east end room currently used for dining.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-332

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: 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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Although it is uncertain when the individual sections of the house were erected, the house was the long-term residence of Mardela Springs merchant Thomas B. Taylor. He acquired a small portion of "Ill Neighborhood" from Charles T. and Nancy Ralph of Dorchester County.¹ According to the transfer he paid \$1,223.04 for the property, which suggest that it was well improved. Thomas B. Taylor is designated at this location on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, although he owned the house immediately to the east as well. The size and mid-nineteenth century sophistication of this house points to his probable residency in this dwelling. At the end of the century, however, the house was rented. It is listed in the long list of properties offered for sale following Thomas B. Taylor's death in 1901. The house and lot are described

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¹ Wicomico County Land Record, TF, Jr. 3/185, 7 September 1872.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.

WI-332

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 11/10/97

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
 Shaw House
 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
 DHCP/DHCD
 100 COMMUNITY PLACE
 CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
 514-7600

WI-332
Thomas B. Taylor House
203 Main Street
Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 200, Parcel 234

1298/52 Charles E. Emery
Sharyne B. Emery

to

6/26/1992 Edward L. Guthrie
Marlene C. Guthrie

MSB 1262/312 Carolyn Miller O'Connor
Charles R. Dashiell, Jr. Personal Reps. of the estate of
Myra Evans

to

8/16/1991 Charles C. Emery
Sharyne B. Emery
\$45,000 the said Katie F. Evans having departed this life on
11/24/1970 thereby leaving fee simple title to Myra
Evans

JWTS 413/1 Deer's Head Realty Corporation, et al.

to

7/6/1956 Katie F. Evans
Myra Evans

JWTS 392/40 James Fitzgerald Wilson
Myrtle E. Wilson

to

8/31/1955 Deer's Head Realty Corporation

WI-332
Thomas B. Taylor House
203 Main Street
Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

JWTS 270/337 Annie B. Wright, widow

to

3/30/1944 James F. Wilson

JCK 112/39 Ida D. Langsdale, City of Baltimore

to

1/7/1919 Annie B. Wright
Mardela Springs, Maryland

EAT 83/339 Jay Williams, trustee
Mary V. Bennett, David Bennett, Ellen F. Copes, George L.
Copes

to

3/29/1905 Ida D. Langsdale
Advertisement to sell property of Thomas B. Taylor
May 21, 1902

\$1,000.00

TF, Jr. 3/185 Charles T. Ralph and Nancy his wife of Dorchester County

to

9/7/1872 Thomas B. Taylor
\$1,223.04 all that house and lot situated in the village of
Barren Creek Springs standing on the north side
of the County road leading from the Spring House
to John H. Bacon's Store...containing two hundred
and four perches

"Ill Neighborhood"

WI-332
Thomas B. Taylor House
203 Main Street
Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Somerset County
Land Record
LW5/503

Joseph Brattan and Elizabeth his wife

to

1/15/1858

Charles T. Ralph

3 7/8 acres \$655.00 all that lot or parcel of ground situated in
Somerset Conty and at Barren Creek
Springs

“Ill Neighborhood”
“Youngs Purchase”

LW 4/628

James Huffington, Rultah Huffington, Lemuel R. Brattan,
Eliza Jane his wife, Samuel Brattan and Mary, Dorchester Co.

to

8/26/1856

Joseph Brattan

\$1,350 two tracts “Ill Neighborhood” 152 7/8 acres
“Young’s Purchase”

being the same land which Joshua Brattan conveyed
to his son Anthony Brattan which bears date 3rd day
of March 1838

WI-332
SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)
Thomas B. Taylor House
Mardela Springs, Wicomico County, MD

North and Beach lot on the East, containing 133 perches of land, more or less, improved by a two story double dwelling 48 feet by 18 side porch all the way down. Back building 32 x 14 and back building 24 x 12, 7 rooms below and 4 rooms above. Corn house, stables, and smoke house.²

Estate trustee, Jay Williams, sold the house and lot three years later to Ida D. Langsdale,³ who transferred it fourteen years later to Annie B. Wright.⁴ During the mid twentieth century another long-term owner was Katie F. and Myra Evans, who held title to the house and lot during between the 1950s and 1990s.⁵

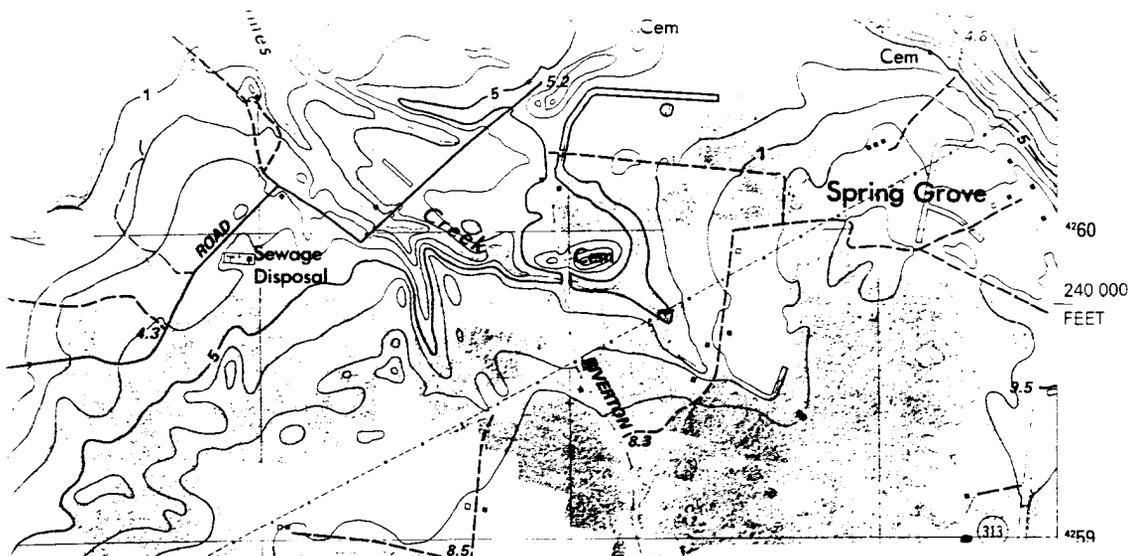
The house deserves listing in *Category A*, which identifies houses that must be preserved due to their architectural and/or historical significance.

² *Salisbury Advertiser*, 22 February 1902.

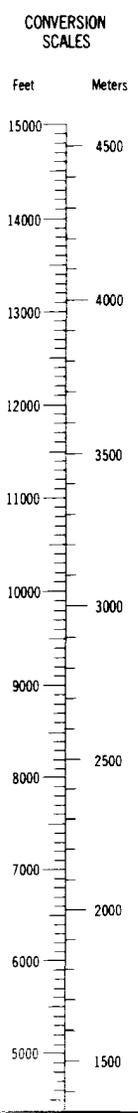
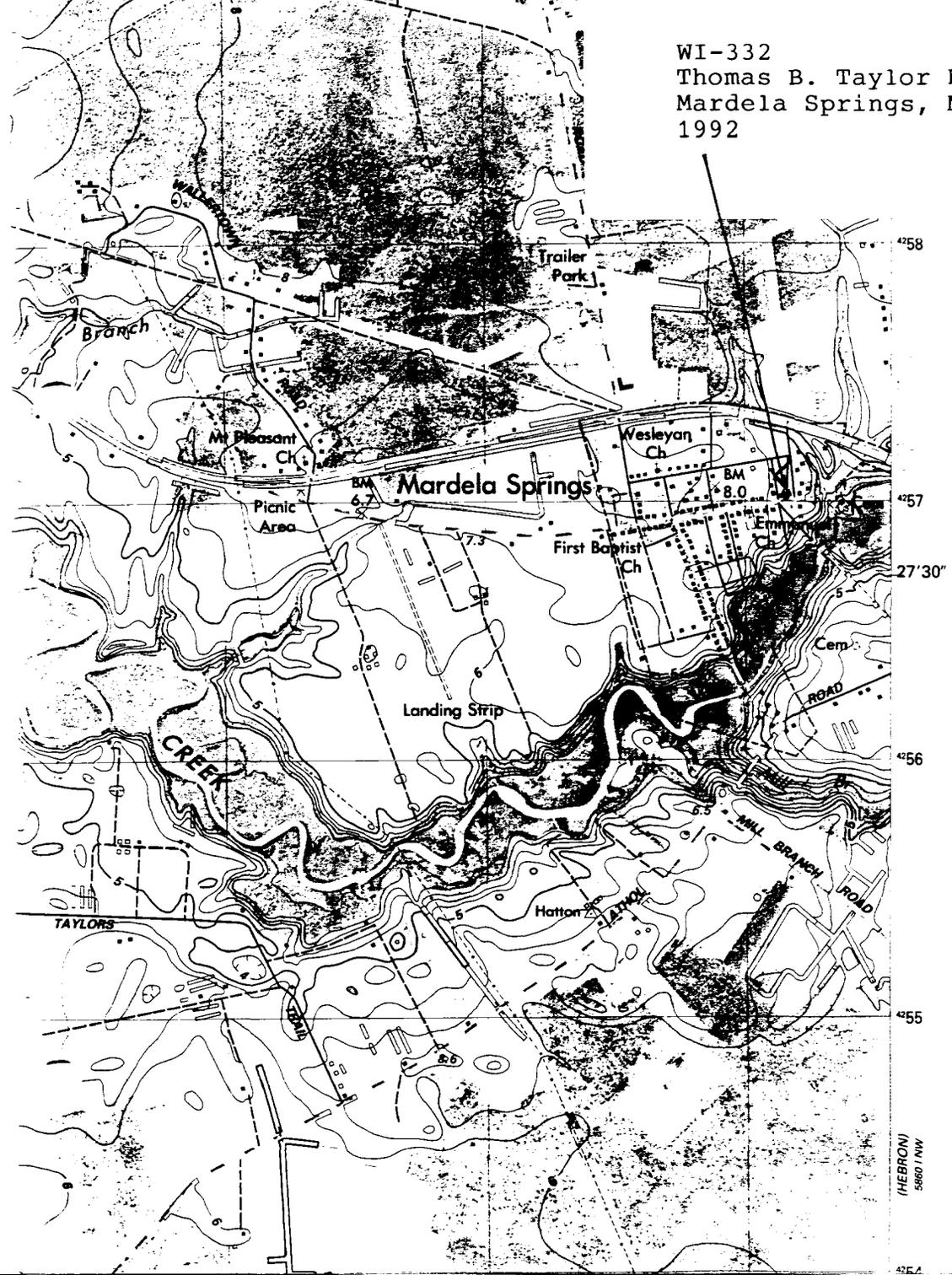
³ Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 83/339, 29 March 1905.

⁴ Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 112/39, 7 January 1919.

⁵ Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 413/1, 6 July 1956 and MSB 1262/312, 16 August 1991.



WI-332
 Thomas B. Taylor House
 Mardela Springs, MD Quadrangle
 1992





Wt. 332

Titmouse B Taylor House

Mandeville Springs, Wisconsin 3, 1922

SOUND EVIDENCE

11/9/22 Pine Toward ...

WEL/W.D. ...

1 of 2



WI-332

Thomas B. Taylor House
MARRIAGE LICENSE

WORTHINGTON PLASTIC

1497 Park Avenue, Pittsburgh

1956 / M.D. H. S. Taylor

2 of 2