

WI-350
James Robinson House
Sharptown
Private

c. 1878

Distinguishing the northeast corner of Ferry and Church streets is this two-story, three-bay center hall frame dwelling that survives in relatively unaltered condition since its construction around 1878. Bracketed eaves and molded window cornices along with a turned post front porch and original sash windows contribute to its well-preserved appearance. Local residents recall that the shorter two-story wing was moved up to the back of the house and converted to a service wing.

Construction of the two-story center hall/single-pile plan dwelling is placed around 1878, shortly after James Robinson purchased this corner lot from Charles J. Woolman, a resident of Bristol, Pennsylvania. Robinson paid Woolman \$100 for a small part of the tract "Royal Exchange." This transfer price, as well as the fact that the lot is unimproved on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, indicate that the house was erected shortly after Robinson's purchase.

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

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. WI-350

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic James Robinson House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 313 Ferry Street not for publication

city, town Sharptown 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

street & number 313 Ferry Street telephone no.:

city, town Sharptown state and zip code MD 21861

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 400, p. 137
liber 1055

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 406

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-350

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 James Robinson house stands at 313 Ferry Street in Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis. The house is located on a corner lot at the intersection of Ferry and Church Streets.

Documented to date around 1878, the two-story, center hall/single-pile frame house is supported on a raised common bond brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a shorter two-story kitchen wing that was moved from the lot next door and attached as an ell service wing.

The west (main) facade is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The center entrance is distinguished by a heavily molded four-panel front door framed by sidelights and a two-light transom. The outside limits of the sidelighted entrance are defined by narrow pilasters. The flanking windows have molded cornices and shutter hardware, although the shutters have been removed. The first floor is sheltered by a turned post front porch. The second floor is lighted by three evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows trimmed accented with molded cornices. Trimming the base of the roof is a boxed cornice accented with a series of Victorian brackets.

The north and gable ends are defined by pairs of six-over-six sash windows on either side of an interior end brick stack. Each of the window openings is finished with a bold molded cornice. The attic is illuminated by two-light windows. The gable end of the roof is finished with an extended eave and short returns at the base of the roof. The top of the north end chimney has a corbeled cap.

The back of the main block is partially covered by the shorter two-story, two-bay by one-room rear wing that is lighted on the first floor by six-over-six sash windows. A gable roofed porch shelters on side entrance along Church Street, and the roof is supported by turned posts. The second floor is lighted by four-over-four sash windows. The edge of the roof has sloped and enclosed soffits. Extending from the east gable end of the rear wing is a single-story shed roofed addition. The second floor wall above the shed roof is pierced by paired six-over-six sash windows.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-350

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	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.

Distinguishing the northeast corner of Ferry and Church streets is this two-story, three-bay center hall frame dwelling that survives in relatively unaltered condition since its construction around 1878. Bracketed eaves and molded window cornices along with a turned post front porch and original sash windows contribute to its well-preserved appearance. Local residents recall that the shorter two-story wing was moved up to the back of the house and converted to a service wing.

Construction of the two-story center hall/single-pile plan dwelling is placed around 1878, shortly after James Robinson purchased this corner lot from Charles J. Woolman, a resident of Bristol, Pennsylvania. Robinson paid Woolman \$100 for a small part of the tract "Royal Exchange."¹ This transfer price, as well as the fact that the lot is unimproved on the 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, indicate that the house was erected shortly after Robinson's purchase.²

Due to its well preserved architectural character this house deserves listing in *Category A*.

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, SPT 2/483, 5 October 1877.

² John L. Graham, *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 21.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: James Robinson House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-350

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

WI-350
James Robinson House
313 Ferry Street
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 785/463 Edgar L. Vickers (deceased)
Alma G. Vickers

to

3/5/1973 Raymond T. Handy
G. J. Lang, trustees

JWTS 633/544 Armenia L. Rogers, widow

to

7/18/1966 Edgar L. Vickers
Alma G. Vickers

JWTS 633/542 Donald N. Talbert, et al.

to

5/12/1966 Armenia L. Rogers

JWTS 565/484 Armenia L. Rogers, widow, of Sussex Co., Delaware

to

7/15/1963 Donald N. Talbert
Shirley M. Talbert
Raymond C. Fairweather, Jr.
Arlene V. Fairweather

WI-350
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313 Ferry Street
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

IDT 206/536

Wade H. Gordy, Sussex County, Delaware

to

5/21/1938

Hobart Rogers
Armenia Rogers

EAT 79/504

Albert W. Robinson, executor

to

11/16/1912

Wade H. Gordy

Item 1 and 2

LJG 1/337

Last Will and Testament of James Robinson

11/3/1906

SPT 2/483-84

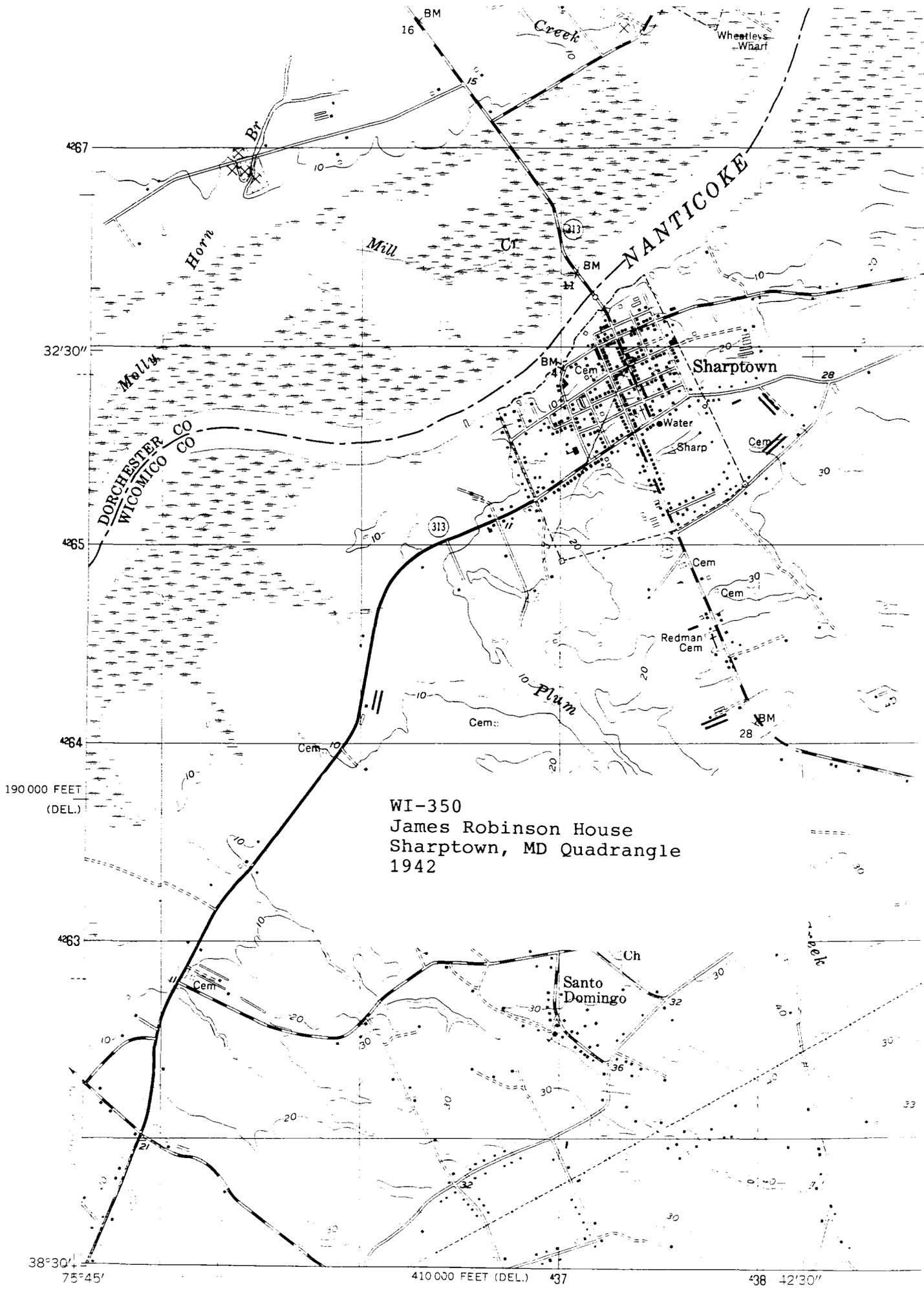
Charles J. Woolman, Bristol, Pennsylvania

to

10/5/1877

James Robinson

\$100 "Royal Exchange"



WI-350
 James Robinson House
 Sharptown, MD Quadrangle
 1942

190 000 FEET
 (DEL.)

410 000 FEET (DEL.)

WIRINGS

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

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MI-389

Switzerland, Aarau Canton, Aarau, 1893

11.11.1893 - 1893-1893

9/93, P. 1 - 1893-1893

11.11.1893 - 1893-1893

1 or 1