

WI-378
Chantry House (White Hall Farm)
Allen vicinity
Private

c. 1820, c. 1890

A broad, riverfront landscape of marsh and gently rolling terrain characterize the prospects from Chantry House, situated on the east side of the Wicomico River northwest of Allen. Historically part of a much larger tract known as White Hall farm, the two-and-a-half story frame dwelling situated on the river's edge dates from the first quarter of the nineteenth century, around 1820. Successive stages of redesign and reshaping of the house took place around 1890-1900 and again in the late 1980s. The original house is a two-story, side hall/parlor dwelling that was trimmed with early nineteenth century Federal woodwork. Directly adjacent and attached to the side hall/parlor section is another two-story portion that was moved or built next to the original house and placed on an excavated foundation of reused eighteenth-century brick. During the late years of the nineteenth century the old house was significantly reworked with the redesign of the roof, the introduction of a center cross gable and flanking pedimented dormers, the construction of a Tuscan columned porch, and the addition of a rear two-story service wing, . Fishscale shingles, a dominant decorative finish for late nineteenth century dwellings, was used on the cross gables, the dormers as well as a bay window off the south side of the rear wing. During the late 1980s the house was reworked once again. The front porch was redesigned sensitively by adding projecting bays to each side of the center entrance and a two-story addition was attached to the south gable end. Salvaged materials from the old Senator Jackson house and the Chantry House Hotel in Salisbury

were blended with the existing woodwork.

The land on which the house is located was resurveyed as "White Hall," in 1793 by William Polk, who is listed in the 1798 Federal Direct tax assessment as owning

...a Dwelling House of Brick Two Story's 40 feet by 24 feet with six windows 64 Ins by 26 Ins Six ditto 64 Ins by 28 Ins finish'd in plain order with a Wing of Wood one Story 22 by 16 feet brick Cellar with 3 windows 54 Ins by 28 Ins two ditto 24 Ins by 20 Ins, Second wing occupied as cook House 22 by 15 feet of wood one Story with two windows 44 Ins by 28 Ins.

Located near this grand house was a group of outbuildings including a log smokehouse (15 by 12), a brick milk house (13 by 13), a frame stable (30 by 20), and a poultry house (12 by 12). Standing on an adjacent farm of 550 acres was a ruinous another brick house that measured 24 by 14, although its condition was classed as "very bad." According to the assessment it was occupied by some of William Polk's slaves.

Neither of these brick dwellings are known to have lasted into the twentieth century. In fact, the cellar of the current house was built with large handmade brick typical of eighteenth century manufacture. It is quite likely that these brick were salvaged from one of these sites during the early nineteenth century.

William Polk's will, recorded in 1812, devised "all my lands called White Hall, which is a resurvey including sundry tracts of land; and also the mills with their appurtenances" to his son, James Polk, who maintained ownership until 1822. At that time he sold White Hall to Lee P. Harcum and Samuel Polk. It is estimated that the two-story side hall parlor frame house with Federal woodwork was erected around the

time of this transfer. White Hall remained in Polk and Harcum family hands through the balance of the nineteenth century. In 1877, the property was owned by Henry L. Harcum, but the atlas map indicates that it served as the residence of W. H. H. Cooper. It was probably during the ownership of Blan E. Harcum, who acquired the farm in 1897, when all of the Victorian modifications were made. The current owner purchased a parcel of land and the house in 1985.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Chantry House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-378

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
Outbuilding
-Smokehouse

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF Magi No.
HISTORIC PROPERTIES DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic White Hall

and/or common Chantry House

2. Location

street & number 25477 Harcum Wharf Road not for publication

city, town Allen 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 Mrs. James L. Bailey

street & number 25477 Harcum Wharf Road telephone no.:

city, town Eden state and zip code MD 21822

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1514

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 67

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-378

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 farm historically known as White Hall has been partially subdivided along the riverfront. The oldest dwelling on the property, now called "Chantry House," is located at the end of Harcum Wharf Road, which intersects Cooper Road north of Cutmaptico Creek northwest of the village of Allen, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame house faces west with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in stages between 1820 and 1910, the two-and-a-half story, four-bay, single-pile frame dwelling is supported on a partially excavated cellar. The foundation walls consist of eighteenth century handmade brick apparently reused in the construction of this early nineteenth century house. The bonding pattern is inconsistently laid in Flemish bond. A new concrete block and brick foundation was laid atop the old foundation during the reworking of the frame house in the late 1980s. Also included in the remodeling of the house was the construction of a two-story wing off the south gable end of the main block.

The oldest section is a two-story side hall/parlor two-bay frame dwelling that dates around 1820, while a two-story, two-bay addition was attached sometime later. During the late nineteenth century, around 1890-1910, the house was enlarged with a two-story ell to the rear that included a kitchen, dining room and side porch. Around the same time a center cross gable and flanking dormers were introduced on the west (main) slope of the front block, thereby giving the early nineteenth-century dwelling a definite Victorian appearance. During the late 1980s the house was significantly reworked, shifting woodwork from some places and introducing salvaged pieces from other buildings. Standing on the south side of the house is an early nineteenth century smokehouse. A later group of outbuildings from the early twentieth century are located on the north side of the house.

The west (main) facade is a four-bay elevation with a single-story Tuscan columned porch that shelters the first floor. A cross gable sheathed with fishscale shingles is centered on the porch while the adjacent bays were extended outward and covered with hip roofs. Sliding glass doors were introduced in the outer bays, and a glazed door is located in between to provide access to the center passage. The house is covered with aluminum siding and the steeply pitched roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. The second floor is defined by four six-over-six replacement windows. Centered on the west roof is a steeply pitched cross gable covered with fishscale shingles and pierced by a twelve-over-two sash window. Flanking gabled dormers have pediment fronts and fishscale shingled sides. Each dormer is pierced by a six-over-six sash dormer.

The north gable end is dominated by a large exterior brick chimney that was added during the 1980s. The chimney stack is flanked by replacement windows on each floor. The eaves are extended and finished with returns at the base of the roof.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-378

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.

A broad, riverfront landscape of marsh and gently rolling terrain characterize the prospects from Chantry House, situated on the east side of the Wicomico River northwest of Allen. Historically part of a much larger tract known as White Hall farm, the two-and-a-half story frame dwelling situated on the river's edge dates from the first quarter of the nineteenth century, around 1820. Successive stages of redesign and reshaping of the house took place around 1890-1900 and again in the late 1980s. The original house is a two-story, side hall/parlor dwelling that was trimmed with early nineteenth century Federal woodwork. Directly adjacent and attached to the side hall/parlor section is another two-story portion that was moved or built next to the original house and placed on an excavated foundation of reused eighteenth-century brick. During the late years of the nineteenth century the old house was significantly reworked with the redesign of the roof, the introduction of a center cross gable and flanking pedimented dormers, the construction of a Tuscan columned porch, and the addition of a rear two-story service wing, . Fishscale shingles, a dominant decorative finish for late nineteenth century dwellings, was used on the cross gables, the dormers as well as a bay window off the south side of the rear wing. During the late 1980s the house was reworked once again. The front porch was redesigned sensitively by adding projecting bays to each side of the center entrance and a two-story addition was attached to the south gable end. Salvaged materials from the old Senator Jackson house and the Chantry House Hotel in Salisbury were blended with the existing woodwork.

The land on which the house is located was resurveyed as "White Hall," in 1793¹ by William Polk, who is listed in the 1798 Federal Direct tax assessment as owning

...a Dwelling House of Brick Two Story's 40 feet by 24 feet with six windows 64 Ins by 26 Ins Six ditto 64 Ins by 28 Ins finish'd in plain order with a Wing of Wood one Story 22 by 16 feet brick Cellar with 3 windows 54 Ins by 28 Ins two ditto 24 Ins by 20 Ins, Second wing occupied as cook House 22 by 15 feet of

¹ Resurvey of White Hall, 9 April 1793, owner's collection.

7.1 DESCRIPTION

Chantry House, WI-378

Allen vic., Wicomico County, Maryland

Attached to the south gable end is a two-story living room and porch addition designed by John Somers of the architectural firm of Somers and VanFossen. Built on an oblique angle to take advantage of the river view. The first story is enclosed while the second story is a roofed, screened in porch. Rising against the gable end wall is a brick chimney stack built in late 1980s.

Extending to the rear is a two-story service wing that has been enlarged on the south side with a large platform deck on the first floor and a smaller deck on the second. A new brick chimney rises through the center of the wing. Located in the northeastern corner of the ell is a land side entrance sheltered by a hip roofed porch.

The interiors combine a mixture of woodwork elements original to the house as well as some features that were salvaged from other buildings. The staircase combines an original scroll decorated stringer of Federal design with an early twentieth century balustrade salvaged from the Chantry House Hotel and Restaurant that formerly stood in Salisbury. Wide pine flooring in the hall was taken from the attic of this house and replaned and reused in the hall. The former dining room, the room directly adjacent to the kitchen, features a bay window on its south wall and a Victorian era mantel. An early nineteenth century six-panel door opens into an adjacent living room, which features a Federal era mantel salvaged from another house.

The second floor has been remodeled with the shifting of partitions and relocation of some early nineteenth century woodwork. A Federal mantel now located in the upstairs south bedroom features fluted columns and a five-part decorated frieze. A guilloche row of Federal carving embellishes the frieze, which has oval inset panels on each side of a narrow center block. Projecting frieze blocks at each end have oval inset panels as well. The mantel shelf has a stepped bed molding.

The frame smokehouse on the south side of the house is partially sheathed with beaded weatherboards and it is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. The east side is pierced by an enlarged door opening. Trimming the base of the roof is a board fascia. The south gable end is pierced by a nine-pane window on the first floor and a six-pane window lights the loft. The north and west walls are partially covered with beaded weatherboards. The interior has exposed framing members and a smoke blackened roof system.

Located on the north side of the house is a single-bay frame garage and a multi-bay implement shed dating from the early twentieth century.

WI-378
Chantry House, White Hall Farm
25477 Harcum Wharf Road
Allen vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

1514/67 Jane W. Bailey

to

9/15/1996 Buxton Reed Bailey
Ruth T. Donaway, trustees

MSB 1458/615 Jane W. Bailey

to

9/27/1995 Jane W. Bailey, Trustee

1.22 acres

A J S 1032/270 William H. Cooper, et al.

to

3/21/1985 James P. Bailey
Jane W. Bailey

A J S 1017/121 Blan E. Harcum and wife, Hettie Thomas Harcum

to

7/24/1984 William H. Cooper

WI-378
Chantry House, White Hall Farm
Allen vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 768/405 Blan E. Harcum

to

9/5/1972 Blan E. Harcum
 Hettie Thomas Harcum

97.94 acres

IDT 203/216 Oren L. Harcum, et al.

to

4/24/1937 Blan E. Harcum

116 acres and that upon the death of Blan E. Harcum
intestate, the property descended unto his widow
Mary E. Harcum and to his children Oren L.
Harcum, Harry L. Harcum, Dorothy H.
Huffington, William Penn Harcum, Mattie Marie
Gordy, E. Payton Harcum, Ralph R. Harcum,
and Blan E. Harcum as his heirs at law, and the
said Mary E. Harcum having since died intestate

JTT 21/367 William Harcum
 Eliza Jane Harcum, Buttersville, Warren County, Ohio

to

11/2/1897 Blan E. Harcum

116 acres

WI-378
Chantry House, White Hall Farm
Allen vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

FMS 5/502

Henry L. Harcum

to, son

3/13/1890

William Harcum, Warren County, Ohio

Somerset County
Land Record
WP 1/55

William T. G. Polk, Caroline E. G. Polk, Joseph G. Polk,
and Imogene his wife

to

7/15/1845

Henry L. Harcum

all right, title, claim or interest that they have in the lands
described in a deed from James Polk to Lee P. Harcum &
Samuel Polk, 3/22/1822

Somerset County
Land Record
JD 7/221

James Polk

to

3/22/1822

Lee P. Harcum
Samuel Polk

White Hall....which the said James Polk holds in virtue
of his father's will and which lies on the west side of the
county road leading from Princess Ann to the Upper Ferry
(Mortgage for same issued JD 7/218, 3/22/1822)

WI-378

Page 4

Chantry House, White Hall Farm
Allen vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

EB 23/181

Last Will and Testament of William Polk

Proved
12/14/1812

First Item I give unto my son James Polk all my lands called White Hall which is a resurvey including sundry tracts of land; and also the mills with their appurtenances

Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798

Wicomico Hundred-Dwelling Houses-William Polk, Esq.

Situated on Wicomico River on the South Side a Dwelling House of Brick Two Story's 40 feet by 24 feet with six windows 64 Ins by 36 Ins Six ditto 64 Ins by 28 Ins finish'd in plain order with a Wing of Wood one Story 22 by 16 feet brick Cellar with 3 windows 54 Ins by 28 Ins two ditto 24 Ins by 20 Ins Second wing occupied as a cook House 22 by 15 feet of wood one Story with two windows 44 Ins by 28 Ins, Smoke House of Logs 15 by 12 feet Milk house of Brick 13 by 13 feet, Stable of wood 30 by 20 feet, Poultry house 12 by 12 feet Erected on One Acre & 80 perches of Land the whole valued at 1200 Dollars

Wicomico Hundred-List of Lands-William Polk, Esq.

Situated on Wicomico River a Parcel of Land containing Eight Hundred and ninety six acres of Land, Valued at Four Thousand Five Hundred and Eighty dollars, on it is a quarter 30 by 16 feet, barn 40 by 30 feet, 2 corn houses, 30 by 9 & 7 feet, Valued at One Hundred and Twenty dollars

Another tract occupied by "negroes"

One other parcel of Land divided by a gut from the above containing five Hundred and fifty acres valued at Two Thousand Seven Hundred and fifty dollars on which is a Brick Dwelling house 24 by 14 feet very bad, kitchen 16

WI-378

Page 5

Chantry House, White Hall Farm
Allen vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

by 14 feet, Corn House 24 by 7 feet valued at One hundred and fifty dollars adding a barn 30 by 20 feet at fifty dollars

Original copy in hands
of owner

Resurvey for William Polk, Esquire

4/9/1793

White Hall 897 1/2 acres Beginning at the mouth of the Little Cuttimaptico Creek....

Resurvey included parts of: "Hogsdown" (Originally surveyed to Stephen Horsey in 1658 for 450 acres)

"Fortune," surveyed 4 November 1741 and granted to David Polk for 305 acres

"Come by Chance," surveyed 2 September 1682, granted to Cornelius Anderson for 100 acres

"Addition," surveyed 10 December 1773 and granted to Joshua Polk for 11 1/4 acres

"Bedstocking Ridge," surveyed 15 June 1770 for Francis Chilton for 665 acres

"Crusty," 29 September 1766 for Josiah Polk for 39 acres

8.1 SIGNIFICANCE

Page 2

Chantry House, White Hall Farm, WI-378
Allen vicinity, Wicomico County, Maryland

wood one Story with two windows 44 Ins by 28 Ins.²

Located near this grand house was a group of outbuildings including a log smokehouse (15 by 12), a brick milk house (13 by 13), a frame stable (30 by 20), and a poultry house (12 by 12). Standing on an adjacent farm of 550 acres was a ruinous another brick house that measured 24 by 14, although its condition was classed as “very bad.” According to the assessment it was occupied by some of William Polk’s slaves.

Neither of these brick dwellings are known to have lasted into the twentieth century. In fact, the cellar of the current house was built with large handmade brick typical of eighteenth century manufacture. It is quite likely that these brick were salvaged from one of these sites during the early nineteenth century.

William Polk’s will, recorded in 1812, devised “all my lands called White Hall, which is a resurvey including sundry tracts of land; and also the mills with their appurtenances” to his son, James Polk,³ who maintained ownership until 1822. At that time he sold White Hall to Lee P. Harcum and Samuel Polk.⁴ It is estimated that the two-story side hall parlor frame house with Federal woodwork was erected around the time of this transfer. White Hall remained in Polk and Harcum family hands through the balance of the nineteenth century. In 1877, the property was owned by Henry L. Harcum, but the atlas map indicates that it served as the residence of W. H. H. Cooper.⁵ It was probably during the ownership of Blan E. Harcum, who acquired the farm in 1897,⁶ when all of the Victorian modifications were made. The current owner purchased a parcel of land and the house in 1985.⁷

² Federal Direct Tax Assessment, 1798, Particular List of Dwelling Houses, Wicomico Hundred, William Polk, Esq., Edward L. Nabb Delmarva Research Center for History and Culture.

³ Somerset County Will Book, EB 23/181, Proved 12/14/1812.

⁴ Somerset County Land Record, JD 7/221, 22 March 1822.

⁵ John L. Graham, *The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore*, Wicomico Bicentennial Committee, 1976, p. 16.

⁶ Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 21/367, 2 November 1897.

⁷ Wicomico County Land Record, A J S 1032/270, 21 March 1985.

