

WI-423
Levin D. Collier House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1908

The Levin D. Collier house, along with the Marion A. Humphreys house two doors north, stand out on Camden Avenue as the most architecturally exuberant examples of the Colonial Revival design executed in Salisbury during the first decade of the twentieth century. The blockish center hall/double-pile main block of each house is dominated by a colossal columned portico. Tall fluted columns at the Collier house stretch two full stories and are surmounted by a classical entablature consisted of a wide frieze and a modillion block cornice. In contrast to the Humphreys house pediment front, the Collier house has a rooftop balustrade that trims the top of the portico roof. Strengthening the neoclassical style of the house as well as its generous dimensions is an Ionic columned, single-story porch that wraps three sides of the dwelling. The neoclassical details continue across the broad hip roof with a series of gable roofed dormers finished with pediment fronts. Formerly trimming the top of the house was a turned baluster railing. The interior of the Collier house is laid out on a gracious scale with a wide center passage fitted with a robustly sized neoclassical mantel and a generously designed staircase. Parquet style oak floors and richly carved mantels and moldings highlight the principal rooms.

Family tradition holds that Thomas C. Horsey, a Laurel, Delaware businessman, built this elaborate Colonial Revival dwelling for his daughter Eleanor on the occasion of her marriage to Levin D. Collier. A second, nearly identical house was erected in Laurel for another daughter. In September 1907 Levin D. Collier purchased "Lots 3 & 4" in a subdivision along Camden Avenue, while his father-in-law acquired "Lots 6 & 8" directly in

back to create a spacious rectangular lot. Construction of the house followed shortly thereafter. In the United States census of 1920 Levin D. Collier is listed as a 41-year old druggist with his 37-year old wife Eleanor. Eleanor Horsey Collier maintained ownership of the Camden Avenue residence until her death in 1953.

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7. Description

Inventory No. WI-423

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	excellent	deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/>	good	ruins
<input type="checkbox"/>	fair	altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Collier house stands at 800 Camden Avenue on the southwest corner of Camden and Virginia avenues in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame house faces east.

Built around 1908, the center hall/double-pile plan frame dwelling rests on a raised foundation with a partially excavated cellar. The exterior is clad with artificial siding over the original weatherboards, and the steeply pitched pyramidal roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a mid twentieth-century single story addition.

The east (main) elevation is basically symmetrical with a projecting center bay defined by a two-story colossal columned portico, while a single-story Ionic columned porch encircles the first floor on three sides. The three-bay front is marked by a sidelighted front entrance and flanking replacement windows. The second floor is defined by a double-door entrance that opens onto a second floor porch fixed within the colossal columned portico. The original Ionic capitals of the portico deteriorated and were removed. In their place is a smooth surfaced two-tier capital. The portico is topped by a flat roof disguised by a broad entablature and modillion block cornice. Centered on the roof is a large gabled dormer pierced by a round arched double-door opening that provides access to the portico roof. To each side of the dormer are small gabled dormers with pediment fronts and diamond pane windows. A rooftop balustrade formerly trimmed the edge of the truncated pyramidal roof. Rising through the center of the house are three brick chimneys topped by corbelled caps.

The north side of the house is three bays across with a bay window defining the northeast corner opening. The first floor is sheltered by the single-story Ionic columned porch. The second floor is lighted by large multi-pane windows, and the attic level is marked by a series of gable roofed dormers. On the south side a portion of the porch is enclosed as a study.

The interior retains most of its early twentieth-century woodwork. A spacious center passage contains a dog-leg staircase embellished with round fluted newel and landing posts and square balusters supporting a simply molded handrail. In the center of the hall is a large scale Ionic columned mantel, and the floor is laid in narrow oak strips. Large door openings fitted with pocket doors open into the adjacent dining room on the north and the parlor to the south. The parlor is a long room that extends the full depth of the main block. Fixed on the inner wall is a large-scale Corinthian columned mantel with a bold modillion block cornice. The perimeter of the room is trimmed with a high baseboard molding and a plastered cornice. The dining room, on the north side of the hall, is served by a corner fireplace enhanced with a neoclassical mantel and a tiled hearth. The perimeter of the dining room

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is trimmed with a high paneled wainscoting defined by plain neoclassical pilasters. The floor is laid with a banded oak and mahogany parquet, however, the center of the room is laid in less formal and cheaper fir strips. The difference in wood is due to the fact that the fir flooring would have been covered with a rug. Located behind the dining room is a butler's pantry and kitchen. A rear service stair leads from the kitchen to the second floor maid's room.

The main staircase rises to the second floor with an intermediate landing lighted by a tripartite window topped by a colored glass transom window. The second floor follows a center hall plan with a series of bedrooms ringing the spacious passage. Five-panel doors are framed by plain neoclassical surrounds. Many of the doors have original or restored glass door knobs, beaded oval plates, and internal lock sets. Fixed between the north and south bedrooms is a small space originally called the "dressing room" where a door opens onto the second floor porch.

The third floor is partially finished with two bedrooms that open off the center hall. The north side of the third floor is an unfinished attic, where a ladder provides access to an upper attic and rooftop hatch.

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8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy
1800-1899	x architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
x 1900-1999	art	entertainment/ recreation	landscape architecture	religion
2000-	commerce	ethnic heritage	law	science
	communications	exploration/ settlement	literature	social history
	community planning		maritime history	transportation
	conservation		military	other:

Significance dates

Architect

Specific dates

Builder

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Levin D. Collier house, along with the Marion A. Humphreys house two doors north, stand out on Camden Avenue as the most architecturally robust examples of Colonial Revival design executed during the first decade of the twentieth century. The blockish center hall/double-pile main block of each house is dominated by a colossal columned portico. Tall fluted columns at the Collier house stretch two full stories and are surmounted by a classical entablature enriched with a classical frieze and modillion block cornice. In contrast to the Humphreys pediment front, the Collier house has a rooftop balustrade that trims the top of the entablature. Strengthening the neoclassical theme of the house as well as its generous dimensions is an Ionic columned, single story porch that wraps three sides of the dwelling. The neoclassical details continue across the broad hip roof with a series of gable roof dormers finished with pediment fronts. Formerly trimming the top of the house was a turned baluster railing. The interior of the Collier house is laid out on a gracious scale with a wide center passage fitted with a robustly sized neoclassical mantel and a generously sized staircase. Parquet style oak floors and richly carved mantels and moldings highlight the principal rooms.

Family tradition holds that Thomas C. Horsey, a Laurel, Delaware businessman, built this elaborate Colonial Revival dwelling for his daughter Eleanor on the occasion of her marriage to Levin D. Collier. A second, nearly identical house was

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erected in Laurel for another daughter.¹ Levin D. Collier purchased "Lots 3 & 4" from Samuel P. and Carrie W. Woodcock on September 10, 1907, and the construction of the house followed shortly thereafter.² In the United States census of 1920 Levin D. Collier is listed as a 41-year old druggist with his 37-year old wife Eleanor. Eleanor Horsey Collier maintained ownership of the Camden Avenue residence until her death in 1953.³

¹ Personal conversation with David and Marianne Baker, 2 February 2000.

² Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 57/27, 4 November 1907.

³ Wicomico County Register of Wills, JAH 4/387, 15 December 1953.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed

Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

street & number P. O. Box 5

city or town Westover, Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type: Standing Structure

Category: House

Historic Environment: Residential district

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic

Known Design Source:

WI-423
Collier House
800 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 114, Parcel 1291

1359/280 Marshall Thomas Wentz, Sr.
 Patricia Wentz

to

9/20/1993 David F. Baker
 Marianne J. Baker

Lots No. 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8 as shown on a plat entitled "Plat of
Samuel A. Graham and William M. Day, 1/30/1903, EAT 47/207

A J S 964/418 Martha K. Graham

to

8/28/1981 Marshall Thomas Wentz, Sr.
 Patricia Wentz

\$105,000

A J S 935/403 Michael B. Roche, trustee for William K. Smith and Meta J. Smith

to

12/21/1979 Martha K. Graham

\$60,000

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Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

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EAT 57/27

Levin D. Collier

to

11/4/1907

M. Eleanor Horsey

50' NW
HEBRON

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

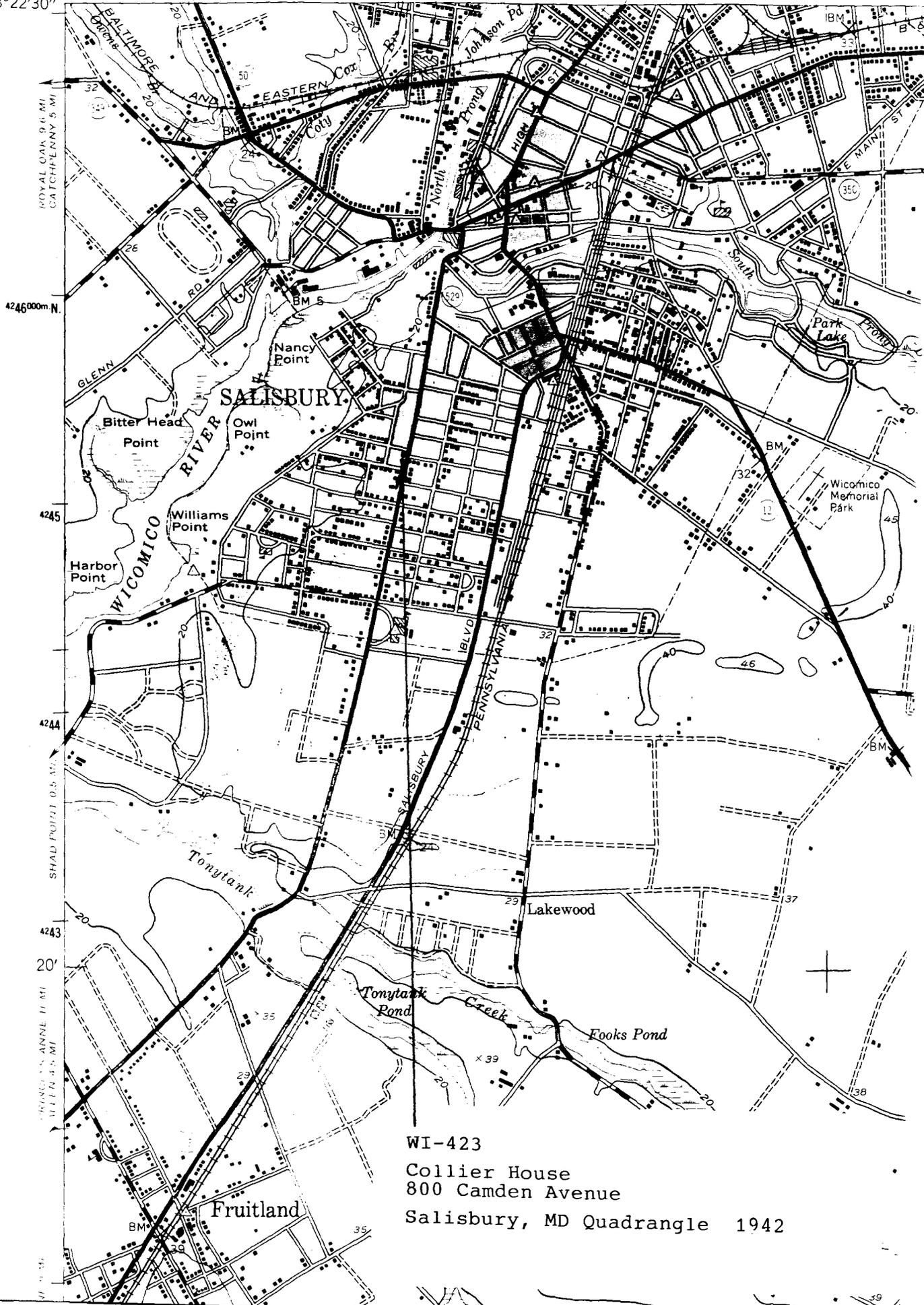
75°37'30"
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI
VENNANTON

447000m E

LAUREL 13 M
DELMAR 6 M

35'



ROYAL OAK 9.6 MI
CATCHPENNY 5 MI

4246000m N

4245

4244

4243

20'

FRUITLAND 11 MI
GLENN 4.5 MI

41' 35'

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Collier House
800 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD Quadrangle 1942