

WI-467
Williams-Leatherbury House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1890

Standing along Camden Avenue, the Williams-Leatherbury house is a rare example in Salisbury of a known architectural design reproduced in close detail to a published source. Contractor T. H. Mitchell, one of Salisbury's leading builders during the second half of the nineteenth century, promoted his abilities in the *Salisbury Advertiser* by publishing a perspective drawing of a house erected for R. Frank Williams. The ell-shaped main block, following the prevailing taste for what was known as "picturesque" architecture during the late nineteenth century, features a wide variety of architectural forms and surfaces finishes. The uneven or asymmetrical main facade is dominated by two gable-front pavilions embellished with extended eaves and decorative corner brackets. A two-story bay window enlarges further the north pavilion, which like the rest of the house, was sheathed with a combination of weatherboards and fishscale shingles. Centered between the two gable-front sections is a gable roofed dormer also featuring extended eaves and Victorian enrichments.

R. Frank Williams, a real estate developer in Salisbury, financed construction of this house after his purchase of the lot in 1889. In 1897 Frank Williams took out a \$1,200 mortgage against the property with the Wicomico Building and Loan Association of Salisbury, however the following year the Salisbury National Bank, which had assumed the mortgage, issued foreclosure proceedings on the property. In November 1900 attorney Jay Williams sold the house and lot to Captain William K. Leatherbury for \$2,000. Several years later a notice in the *Wicomico News*, printed on April 30, 1908, stated that "Capt. Wm K. Leatherbury, of this city, sailed Monday from Baltimore on the schooner R. T. Rundlett for a

trip to the West Indies. The schooner carries a cargo of empty cans to Nassau and will return with a cargo of pine apples (sic) for A. Booth Packing Co.” In addition to his life as a sea captain, W. K. Leatherbury also operated a canning business in Salisbury from 1908 to 1927.

Following the Leatherbury ownership, the house was acquired by Anna R. Powell in February 1930, and Powell family tenure lasted until 1959. By the early 1990s the house had deteriorated so far that little hope was left for its preservation. The Salisbury Neighborhood Housing Service, however, took possession of the property in 1995 and converted the house into office space.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

inventory No. WI-467

Name Williams-Leatherbury House
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-467

Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
x	good	ruins
	fair	altered

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

Historically identified as the Williams-Leatherbury house, this two-and-a-half story, three-bay Victorian dwelling is located at 513 Camden Avenue in the Camden Historic District of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house faces east with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Dating around 1890, the two-and-a-half story, ell-shaped main block is supported on a continuous brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with a combination of vinyl siding and decorative fishscale shingles. The steeply pitched roof is covered with patterned slate. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing.

The west (main) facade is an asymmetrical elevation with a projecting pavilion and recessed entrance wall. Fixed within the recess of the entrance bay is a single-story, turned post porch covered by an asphalt shingle roof. The front entrance is fitted with a replacement door that is framed by a four-light transom and twelve-light sidelights. The adjacent window to the right (south) has been replaced. The second floor above the porch roof is defined by three multi-pane windows. Marking the is a cross gable above the southern two bays and a single gable-roofed dormer above the center bay. The dormer and cross gable are trimmed with carved bargeboards and peak decoration. A second wood finial rises from the cross gable. The projecting pavilion is dominated by a two-story, three-sided bay window sheathed with vinyl siding and fishscale shingles. The first and second floors are defined by single-pane sash windows, and the top of the bay window is capped by a cross gable roof. Piercing the gable end of the pavilion is paired set of eight-over-one sash windows. The eave of the roof is extended and the soffits are open with exposed rafter ends. The edge of the roof has a decorated bargeboard, bracket supports at the lower corners, and pierced sawnwork in the peak. Rising from the roof peak is a pointed wood finial.

The east (rear) wall of the main block is largely covered by the two-story rear wing. A two-story bay window of paired windows on each floor marks the north side of the wing.

The interior has been remodeled as office space with some of the late nineteenth-century woodwork preserved. The second floor remains gutted, and plans are in place to create a second floor apartment.

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Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-467

Name Williams-Leatherbury House
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Name Williams-Leatherbury House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-467

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy
X1800-1899	X architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
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.)

Standing along Camden Avenue, the Williams-Leatherbury house is a rare example in Salisbury of a known architectural design reproduced in close detail to a published source. Contractor T. H. Mitchell, one of Salisbury's most prolific builders during the second half of the nineteenth century, promoted his abilities in the *Salisbury Advertiser*¹ by publishing a perspective drawing of a house erected for R. Frank Williams. The ell-shaped main block, following the prevailing taste for what was known as "picturesque" architecture during the late nineteenth century, features a wide variety of architectural forms and surface finishes. The uneven or asymmetrical main facade is dominated by two gable-front pavilions embellished with extended eaves and decorative corner brackets. A two-story bay window enlarges further the north pavilion, which like the rest of the house, is sheathed with a combination of weatherboards and decorative fishscale shingles. Centered between the two gable-front sections is a gable roofed dormer also featuring extended eaves and Victorian decoration.

¹ *Salisbury Advertiser*, 9 April 1892

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Number 8 Page 2

R. Frank Williams, a real estate developer in the Camden district, financed construction of the house after his purchase of the lot in 1889.² In 1897 R. Frank Williams took out a \$1,200 mortgage against the property with the Wicomico Building and Loan Association of Salisbury, however the following year the Salisbury National Bank, which had assumed the mortgage, issued foreclosure proceedings on the property. In November 1900 Attorney Jay Williams sold the house and lot after a foreclosure by the Salisbury National Bank³ to Captain William K. Leatherbury for \$2,000. Several years later a notice in the *Wicomico News*, printed on April 30, 1908, stated that "Capt. Wm K. Leatherbury, of this city, sailed Monday from Baltimore on the schooner R. T. Rundlett for a trip to the West Indies. The schooner carried a cargo of empty cans to Nassau and will return with a cargo of pine apples (sic) for A. Booth Packing Co."⁴ In addition to his life as a sea captain, W. K. Leatherbury also operated a canning business in Salisbury from 1908 to 1927.⁵

Following the Leatherbury ownership, the house was acquired by Anna R. Powell in February 1930,⁶ and Powell family tenure of the property lasted until 1959.⁷ By the early 1990s the house had deteriorated so far that little hope was left that it would survive much longer. The Salisbury Neighborhood Housing Service, however, took possession of the property in 1995 and converted the house into office space.

² Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 4/526, 13 June 1889.

³ Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 22/218, 6 June 1898.

⁴ *Wicomico News*, April 30, 1908.

⁵ R. Lee Burton, Jr. *Canneries of the Eastern Shore*, Tidewater Publishers, Centreville, 1986, p. 161.

⁶ Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 161/155, 21 February 1930.

⁷ Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 481/314, 17 August 1959.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Agricultural/Industrial Transition 1815-1870

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type: Standing Structure

Category: Dwelling

Historic Environment: Residential Neighborhood

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

Known Design Source:

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-467

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

WI-467
Williams-Leatherbury House
513 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 111, Parcel 197

1440/729

Raymond S. Smethurst, Jr.

to

5/26/1995

Salisbury Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.

AJS 821/489

Maher-Pillsbury & Associates

to

4/26/1974

Raymond Smethurst, Jr.

“Property survey by occupation Richard J. and Beulah L.
Whitelock, 8/4/1959, JWTS 481/317

JWTS 671/386

William R. White, et al. (Joyce J. White, Alton T. White, and
Anne L. White)

to

5/3/1968

Maher & Hynes

JWTS 661/529

Herman E. Perdue, Assignee

to

1/9/1968

William R. White

Alton T. White

\$7,200 Public Sale—defaulted mortgage from J. Fred Flowers
and Charlotte L. Flowers to Melvin Cornelius Horsey,

12/4/1961, JWTS 555/71

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Williams-Leatherbury House
513 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

JWS 261/65

Anna R. Powell
Charles L. Powell

to

5/23/1944

W. Edgar Porter

IDT 161/155

S. Franklyn Woodcock
Ruth Price Woodcock

to

2/21/1930

Anna R. Powell

IDT 161/120

William S. Gordy, Jr.
Paul E. Watson
Nelson Schuster, Executor

to

2/4/1930

S. Franklyn Woodcock
First Item—By virtue of a power and authority conferred by
the Last Will and Testament of William K. Leatherbury,
MNN 1/154 \$5,400

JTT 28/448

The Salisbury National Bank

to

11/22/1900

William K. Leatherbury
\$2,000 front of 60' on said avenue, depth 300'

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Williams-Leatherbury House
513 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 4

JTT 22/218

Jay Williams, attorney

to

6/6/1898

Salisbury National Bank

Whereas at a public sale made 4/9/1898 by power and authority vested in him by a certain mortgage from R. Frank Williams and Ella C. Williams, 6/14/1897, JTT 16/330 \$2,150

Mortgage
JTT 16/330

Wicomico Building and Loan Association of Salisbury

to

6/14/1897

R. Frank Williams

\$1,200 Mortgage later assigned to Salisbury National Bank

FMS 4/526

George G. Hill
Mary F. Hill

to

6/13/1889

R. Frank Williams
\$500

SPT 5/136

Eliza J. Gillis
George B. Gillis

to

10/17/1882

George C. Hill
\$285 "Camden"

WI-467
Williams-Leatherbury House
513 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

TF, Jr. 3/160 Purnell Toadvine

to

7/2/1872 Eliza Jane Gillis
\$400

1920 United States Census, transcribed by Ruth T. Dryden, 1994, p. 231

William K. Leatherbury, 61, Canner
Lillian M. (Toadvine) 56
Hopkins, Nell L. 31, daughter
Hopkins, William L. 11, grandson
West, Lettie L. 33, daughter

WI-467

AND FOR GROCERIES,

Our line is the choicest—and always at Lowest Prices.
See Our Next.

B. L. GILLIS & SON,

DOCK STREET, SALISBUY, MD.

T. H. Mitchell, CONTRACTOR & BUILDER, SALISBUY.

The Reason you should call on T. H. Mitchell Before Contracting for your House :



T. H. MITCHELL, CONTRACTOR,
Salisbury, Md.

First.—He will be sure to help you carry out your plans.

Second.—He will be sure to save you money and worry.

Third.—20 years in the business is worth something, and it will be turned to your advantage.

Fourth.—He can buy material cheaper than you can.

Fifth.—He has experienced mechanics always employed to do work in the shortest possible time to give a good substantial job.

Sixth.—He will cheerfully make estimates whether he builds you a house or not.

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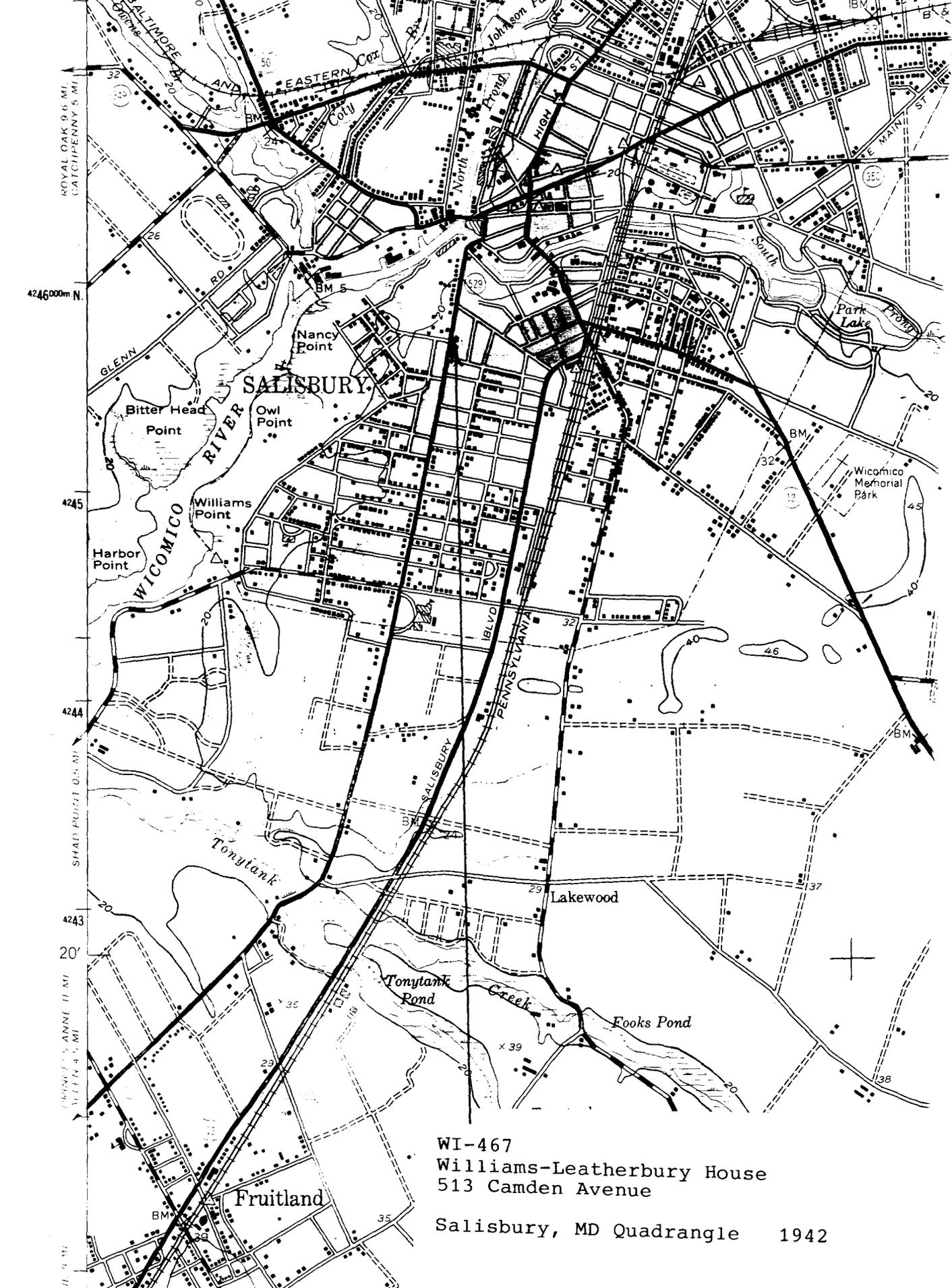
Push the Spring Goods

*Salisbury
Advertiser
APRIL 9, 1892*

50 J NW
HEBRON

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

75°37'30" CAMBRIDGE 31 MI. VIENNA 15 MI. 47000m E. LAUREL 13 MI. DELMAP 6 MI. 35'



WI-467
 Williams-Leatherbury House
 513 Camden Avenue
 Salisbury, MD Quadrangle 1942



WI-467

Woods - Lawrence House

Salisbury, Wicomico County, Md.

Southern Maryland

3/2000 PAW - same as above

Mar. 1, 1952 - 1953

1 of 2



