

WI-468  
John H. White House  
Salisbury  
Private

c. 1870

Reflective of the mingling of architectural styles during the second half of the nineteenth century is the John H. White house, located in the Camden Historic District. The two-and-a-half story, five-bay frame house follows a common center hall plan with a single room to each side. The exterior is clad with a mixture of neoclassical and Gothic Revival influenced architectural features. Trimming the corners of the symmetrically balanced main block are tall paneled pilasters, and the first floor is enhanced with a Greek Revival porch. In contrast to these neoclassical elements is the cross gable, centered on the roof and pierced by a pointed arch window. By the 1870s, Greek influenced designs in domestic architecture had been well accepted by lower Shore builders for thirty years. The Gothic Revival, on the other hand, was used sparingly in a few churches before the Civil War and only rarely in antebellum domestic designs. The blending of Greek and Gothic elements in this c. 1870 house points to the increasing eclecticism of local building traditions as well as the influence of nationally popular architectural styles.

Architectural features point to a third quarter of the nineteenth-century date of construction during the ownership of John White, who started to acquire portions of the "Mill Grove" estate located on the south side of the Wicomico River as early as the 1840s. In 1843 John and Levin White acquired "Lot No. 7." Seven years later Levin P. White sold his interests in the lot to John. The 1850 deed describes the property as "lying in Somerset County on the South side of the Wicomico River and on the west side of the road leading from the bridge on the eastern Prong of said river to Riders Mills and

adjoining the lot now owned by John White.” By the time the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas was published in 1877 the lot was occupied by John White’s son, John H. White, who inherited the house and lot from his father in 1899. The house remained in White family ownership until the 1920s.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-468

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic John H. White House

other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street and number 412 Camden Avenue

not for publication

city, town Salisbury

vicinity

county Wicomico

## 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Russell F. and Laura Brewington

street and number 412 Camden Avenue

telephone

city, town Salisbury

state

MD

zip code

21801

## 4. Location of Legal Description

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

tax map and parcel Map 111, P. 1509

city, town Salisbury, Maryland

liber 1426

folio 88

## 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

Contributing Resource in National Register District

**Contributing Resource in Local Historic District**

Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

Recorded by HABS/HAER

Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
district	public	agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	commerce/trade	1	buildings
structure	both	defense		sites
site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic		structures
object		education		objects
		funerary	1	Total
		government		
		health care		
		industry		
		landscape		
		recreation/culture		
		religion		
		social		
		transportation		
		work in progress		
		unknown		
		vacant/not in use		
		other:		
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>	

# Maryland Historical Trust

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Continuation Sheet

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### 7. Description

Inventory No. WI-468

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#### Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
x	good	ruins
	fair	altered

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

The John H. White house is a two-and-a-half story, three-bay, center hall frame house located at 412 Camden Avenue in the Camden Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house faces east with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Dating around 1870, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay, single-pile main block is supported by a continuous brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched cross gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story dining room/kitchen wing.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. A heavily molded six-panel front door is framed by infilled sidelights and a oval pane transom. Framing the entire entrance are plain pilasters and a plain entablature. The adjacent windows have a plain surround with a slight cap molding to each lintel. The first floor is sheltered by a flat roofed neoclassical porch. Trimming the outside corners of the house are tall paneled pilasters. The second floor is lighted by five evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows, and each window opening has a slight cap molding for each lintel. Centered in the roof is a cross gable pierced by a pointed arch window. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave.

The north and south gable ends are essentially alike with six-over-six sash windows lighting the first and second stories. The paneled corner pilasters trim each corner and rise to an extended eave. The attic is lighted by multi-pane windows on each side of an interior end brick stack. The top of the chimney is finished with a corbelled cap featuring a row of dentils.

Covering the west (rear) elevation is a two-story dining room/kitchen wing served by a centered brick chimney. The first and second floors are lighted by six-over-six sash windows.

The interior was not seen.

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Continuation Sheet

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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
X1800-1899	x architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
1900-1999	art	entertainment/	landscape architecture	religion
2000-	commerce	recreation	law	science
	communications	ethnic heritage	literature	social history
	community planning	exploration/	maritime history	transportation
	conservation	settlement	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.)

Reflective of the mingling of stylistic elements during the second half of the nineteenth century is the John H. White house, located in the Camden Historic District. The two-and-a-half story, five-bay house follows a common center hall plan with a single room to each side. The exterior is clad with a mixture of neoclassical and Gothic Revival influenced architectural features. Trimming the corners of the symmetrically balanced main block are tall paneled pilasters, and the first floor is enhanced with a Greek Revival porch. In contrast to these neoclassical elements is the cross gable, centered on the roof and pierced by a pointed arch window. By the 1870s, Greek influenced designs in domestic architecture had been well accepted by lower builders for thirty years. The Gothic Revival, on the other hand, was used sparingly in a few churches before the Civil War and only rarely in domestic designs. The blending of the Greek and Gothic elements in this c. 1870 house points to the increasing eclecticism of local building traditions as well as the influence of nationally popular architectural styles.

Architectural features point to a third quarter of the nineteenth-century date of construction during the ownership of John

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White, who started to purchase portions of the "Mill Grove" estate located on the south side of the Wicomico River, as early as the 1840s. In 1843 John and Levin White acquired "Lot No. 7."<sup>1</sup> Seven years later Levin P. White sold his interests in the lot to John. The 1850 deed describes the property as "...lying in Somerset County on the South side of the Wicomico River and on the west side of the road leading from the bridge on the eastern Prong of said river to Riders Mills and adjoining the lot now owned by John White."<sup>2</sup> By the time the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas was published in 1877 the lot was occupied by John White's son, John H. White, who inherited the house and lot from his father in 1899.<sup>3</sup> The house remained in White family ownership until the late 1920s.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Somerset County Land Record, AH 538, 17 February 1843.

<sup>2</sup> Somerset County Land Record, WP 5/320, 20 February 1850.

<sup>3</sup> Wicomico County Will Book, ELW 1/437, proved 2 February 1899.

<sup>4</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 155/271, 24 April 1928.

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### HISTORIC CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Agricultural/Industrial Transition 1815-1870  
Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

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:

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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WI-468

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed

Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

street & number P. O. Box 5

city or town Westover, Maryland 21871

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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-468  
John H. White House  
412 Camden Avenue  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Will Book  
ELW 1/437

Last Will and Testament of  
John White

to

11/6/1893  
Proved  
1/2/1899

John H. White  
First Item...two farms...to son...also a house and lot of land  
where the said John H. White now resides on the west side  
of Camden Avenue, and all the residue of land, owned by me  
in what is known as Camden (a part of the town of Salisbury)  
lying between Camden Avenue and the Branch

Somerset County  
Land Record  
WP 5/320

Levin P. White  
Nancy White

to

2/20/1850

John White  
\$740 Lot No. 7 Mill Grove  
...situated lying in Somerset County on the South side of  
Wicomico River and on the west side of the road leading from  
the bridge on the eastern Prong of said river to Riders Mills  
and adjoining the lot now owned by John White...

Somerset County  
Land Record  
AH 538

Stephen P. White

to

2/17/1843

John White and Levin White  
"Mill Grove" Lot No. 7 \$1,000



180 LNW  
HEBRON

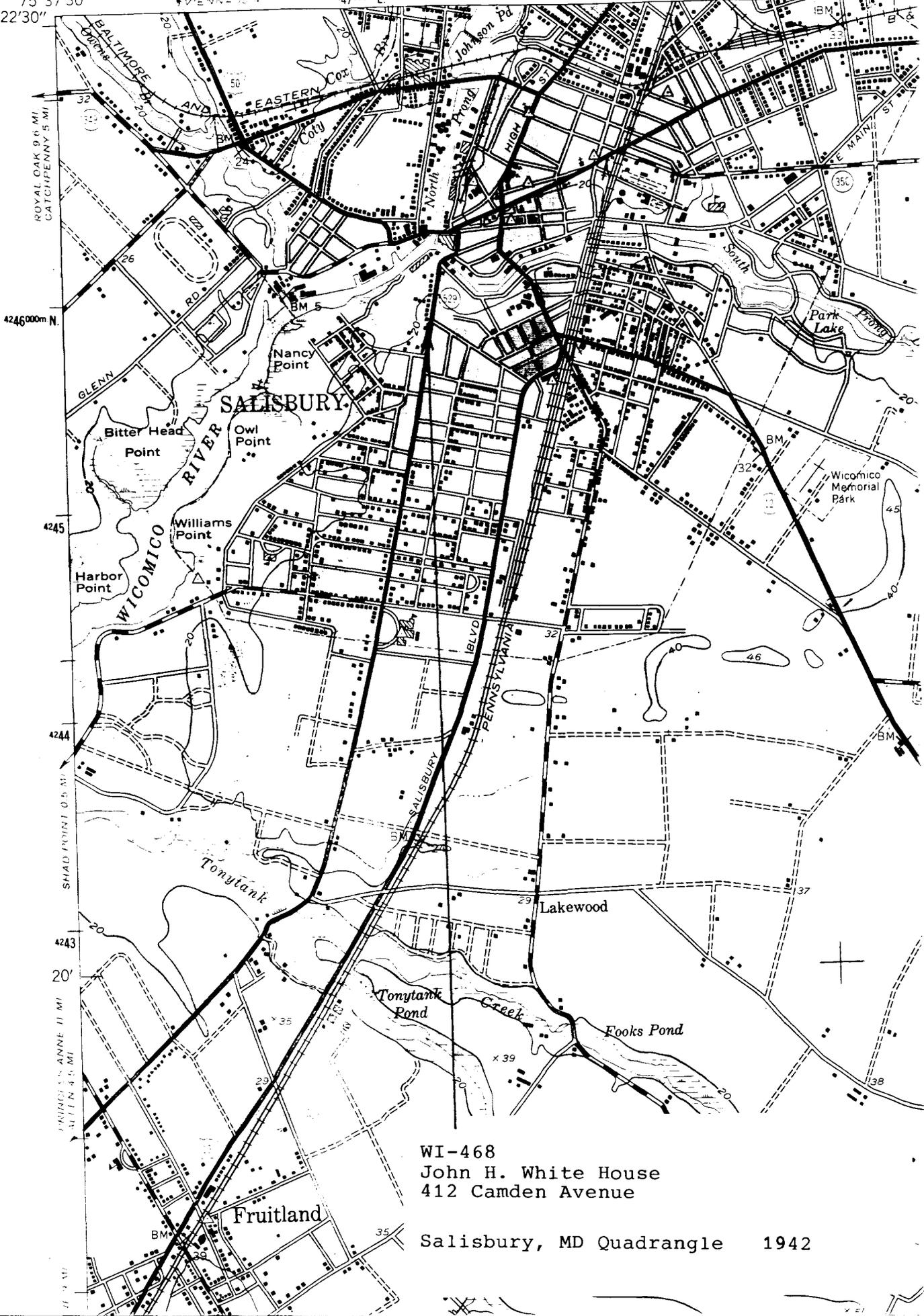
# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI  
VIENNA 15 MI  
447000m E

LAUREL 13 M  
DELMAR 6 M

35'



WI-468  
John H. White House  
412 Camden Avenue

Salisbury, MD Quadrangle 1942



W1-469

John - [unclear] house

SALISBURY, [unclear] County, [unclear]

EAST ELEVATION

3/2000, PAUL TOWN, [unclear]

New PAID [unclear] [unclear]

1 of 2



11-4-69

John H. White House

Salisbury, Wicomico County, MD

NORTHEAST - ELEVATION

3/2 000, 1000, 2000, 3000, 4000

1/4 000, 1/2 000, 3/4 000, 1 000

R or S