

WI-471
Dr. Harry C. Tull House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1870, 1904

Initial construction of this two-and-a-half story frame house dates around 1870, and the third quarter of the nineteenth-century date is supported by architectural features common to that time. Paneled pilasters define the principal corners and rise to a bracketed eave that encircles the main block. Boldly molded and arched panels distinguish the front door, which is framed by sidelights and a multi-pane transom. Inside a heavily turned mahogany newel post anchors a turned baluster railing. While much of the house was built within the decade following the Civil War, there is a significant layer of early twentieth-century changes that includes the Tuscan columned front porch, hip roofed dormers, and neoclassical mantels.

Prominent Salisbury grocer Allison A. Gillis is credited with the construction of this house before relocating to North Division Street. (See Gillis-Grier House, WI-13) During his residency the house was partially burned at the time of the October 1886 fire. A recent renovation of the house uncovered a pencil inscription on a second floor plaster wall stating that the house was repaired following the "terrible fire, October 1886." Evidently lighted debris from the intense flames floated south of the business district to ignite wood shingle roofs in the Camden neighborhood. Allison A. Gillis turned the house over to his daughter Edna Gillis Tull, wife of Harry C. Tull. Prior to the Tull's occupancy of the house in 1905, *The Wicomico News* announced in July 1904 that

The former residence of Mr. Allison A. Gillis on Camden Avenue is undergoing extensive renovation. The house has been moved back about fifteen feet and a handsome front porch will be added to it. The interior will be altered and improved, making it a modern home in every respect.

Harry C. Tull is mentioned again in the Salisbury paper less than a year later on March 23, 1905:

Dr. Harry Tull has completed his special course in surgery and general practice, in New York city, and has returned to Salisbury. Dr. Tull has opened his office in his residence on Camden Avenue.

The Camden Avenue house and lot were left to Dr. Tull's wife, Edna Gillis Tull, by her father, Allison A. Gillis in his will. In 1920, Dr. Tull, then 43, is listed as a doctor in the United States census with 39-year old Edna and a 30-year old nurse named Sara Phillips. Dr. Tull died while on vacation in Ocean City in July 1939, and Edna died shortly thereafter in Salisbury the following October. After her death the property passed to Mamie Gillis Grier, and ten years later, in 1949, to Mamie Grier Riggan. The house and lot remained in Mamie Grier Riggan's tenure until 1972.

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-471

Name Allison A. Gillis House

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7. Description

Inventory No. WI-471

Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
<u>x</u>	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.

The Allison A. Gillis house, also known as the Dr. Harry C. Tull house, is a two-and-a-half story center hall frame house located at 403 Camden Avenue in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1870-80, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay, single-pile frame dwelling rests on a raised brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-and-a-half story dining room/kitchen wing. A newspaper article written in 1904 documents an extensive remodeling of the house that included repositioning the structure fifteen feet back from its original location, and at the same time the neoclassical detailing was introduced.

The west (main) facade is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking eight-over-one sash windows. The heavily molded five-panel front door is framed by three-light sidelights and a three-light transom. Each of the windows has a plain surround with a slight crown molding across the lintel. Sheltering the first floor is a Tuscan columned front porch with a center pediment. The second floor is lighted by three windows, a center six-over-one sash is flanked by eight-over-one sash windows. Trimming the corners of the house are paneled pilasters that rise to a bracketed cornice, which stretches around the perimeter of the main block. The roof is marked by three hip roofed dormers filled with multi-pane sash windows. The sides of the dormers are covered with aluminum siding.

The north and south gable ends are defined by six-over-one sash windows to each side of interior end brick stacks. The gable end is enclosed with a pediment trimmed with brackets, and multi-paned windows light the attic. The tops of the chimney stack is corbelled.

Attached to the east (rear) wall is a two-and-a-half story dining room/kitchen wing which is covered on the south side by a two-story enclosed porch with large multi-paned windows on the first floor and paired eight-over-eight sash windows on the second floor. A large hip roofed dormer marks the roof. The north side of the service wing is distinguished by a single story bay window featuring a colored glass window.

The interior is currently being converted from a fifteen-room boarding house to a single-family dwelling. The center hall/single-pile main block is finished with a combination of third quarter of the nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century woodwork. The heavily turned mahogany newel post and turned baluster handrail survives from the nineteenth

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century, and each adjacent room is fitted with early twentieth century neoclassical mantels. The old plaster has been removed and replaced with wallboard.

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8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 1904

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.)

Initial construction of this two-and-a-half story frame house dates around 1870, and the third quarter of the nineteenth-century date is supported by architectural features common to the time; paneled pilasters, bracketed eaves, arched and heavily molded panels to the front door as well as the turned mahogany newel post that anchors the turned baluster stair railing. While much of the house was built shortly after the Civil War, there is a significant layer of early twentieth-century alteration that includes the Tuscan columned porch, hip roofed dormers, and neoclassical mantels in the front parlors.

Prominent grocer Allison A. Gillis is credited with the construction of this house before relocating to North Division Street. During recent renovation of the house, a pencil inscription on a second floor plaster wall stated that the house was repaired following the "terrible fire, October 1886."¹ Evidently lighted debris from the intense fire floated south of the business district to ignite wood shingled roofs in the Camden neighborhood. Allison A. Gillis turned the house over to his daughter Edna Gillis Tull, wife of Dr. Harry C. Tull. Prior to their occupancy of the house in 1905, *The Wicomico News* announced in July 1904 that

¹ Personal interview with Randy and Ann Taylor, September 2000.

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The former residence of Mr. Allison A. Gillis on Camden Avenue is undergoing extensive renovation. The house has been moved back about fifteen feet and a handsome front porch will be added to it. The interior will be altered and improved, making it a modern home in every respect.²

Harry C. Tull is mentioned again in the Salisbury paper less than a year later on March 23, 1905:

Dr. Harry Tull has completed his special course in surgery and general practice, in New York city, and has returned to Salisbury. Dr. Tull has opened his office in his residence on Camden Avenue.³

The Camden Avenue house was left to Dr. Tull's wife, Edna Gillis Tull, by her father, Allison A. Gillis in his will.⁴ In 1920, Dr. Tull, then 43, is listed as a "doctor" in the United States census with his wife 39-year old Edna and a 30-year old nurse named Sara Phillips.⁵ Dr. Tull died while on vacation in Ocean City in July 1939, and Edna died shortly afterwards in Salisbury the following October. After her death the property passed to Mamie Gillis Grier, and ten years later in 1949, to Mamie Grier Riggin.⁶ The property remained under Mamie Grier Riggin's tenure until 1972.⁷

² *The Wicomico News*, 7 July 1904.

³ *The Wicomico News*, 23 March 1905.

⁴ Wicomico County Register of Wills, LJG 1/478, proved 27 June 1913.

⁵ 1920 United States Census, Wicomico County, Maryland, transcribed by Ruth T. Dryden, 1994, p. 232.

⁶ Wicomico County Will Book, JAH 9/242, proved 7 December 1949.

⁷ Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 772/594, 10 October 1972.

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-471

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed 1/4 acre

Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic boundary of this property is coincidental with the metes and bounds of the current lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant		
street & number	P. O. Box 5	date	4/15/2000
city or town	Westover, Maryland 21871	phone	410-651-1094

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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Dr. Harry C. Tull House
403 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 111, Parcel 152

1707/427 Annabelle McGrath Hornsby

to

9/24/1999 Randolph J. Taylor
Anne P. Taylor
Lot No. 1 on a plat made for Lina Potter made by Boender
Associates, Inc. 8/1977, AJS 5/28

MSB 1532/634 Richard Pennington

to

3/6/1997 Annabelle McGrath Hornsby

MSB 1412/417 Annabelle McGrath Hornsby

to

10/4/1994 Richard Pennington

AJS 911/418 Paschoalina Penha Orsin Potter

to

12/18/1987 Joe Thomas Hornsby
Annabelle McGrath Hornsby

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Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

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JWTS 772/594

Mamie Grier Riggin

to

10/10/1972

Paschoalina Penha Orsini Potter
Confirmatory deed, 8/12/1975, AJS 841/446

JAH 9/242

Last Will and Testament of
Mamie Gillis Grier

to

12/7/1949

Mamie Grier Riggin
Item Two—I give, devise, and bequeath unto my daughter
Mamie Grier Riggin, of said Wicomico County, State of
Maryland, the real property that I own designated 236
Camden Avenue

Wicomico County
Estate No. 1981

Edna Gillis Tull, died at Salisbury, Maryland, 10/19/1939
Mamie Gillis Grier, Administrator

Wicomico County
Estate No. 1959

Harry C. Tull, died at Ocean City, Maryland 7/17/1939
Intestate, Edna Gillis Tull, Salisbury, Maryland, Admin.

The Wicomico News
March 23, 1905

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general practice, in New York city, and has returned to
Salisbury. Dr. Tull has opened his office in his residence on
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Chain of title continued

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Wicomico County
Will Book LJG 1/478

Last Will and Testament of Allison A. Gillis

Written 3/14/1911
Proved 6/27/1913

I give, devise, and bequeath unto my daughter Edna G. Tull,
all that house and lot situated on the East side of and binding
upon Camden Avenue in Salisbury Maryland where said Edna
now resides....also five thousand dollars in cash or stocks...

The Wicomico News, July 7, 1904

The former residence of Mr. Allison A. Gillis on Camden Avenue is undergoing extensive renovation. The house has been moved back about fifteen feet and a handsome front porch will be added to it. The interior will be altered and improved, making it a modern home in every respect.

30 1 NW
HEBRON

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

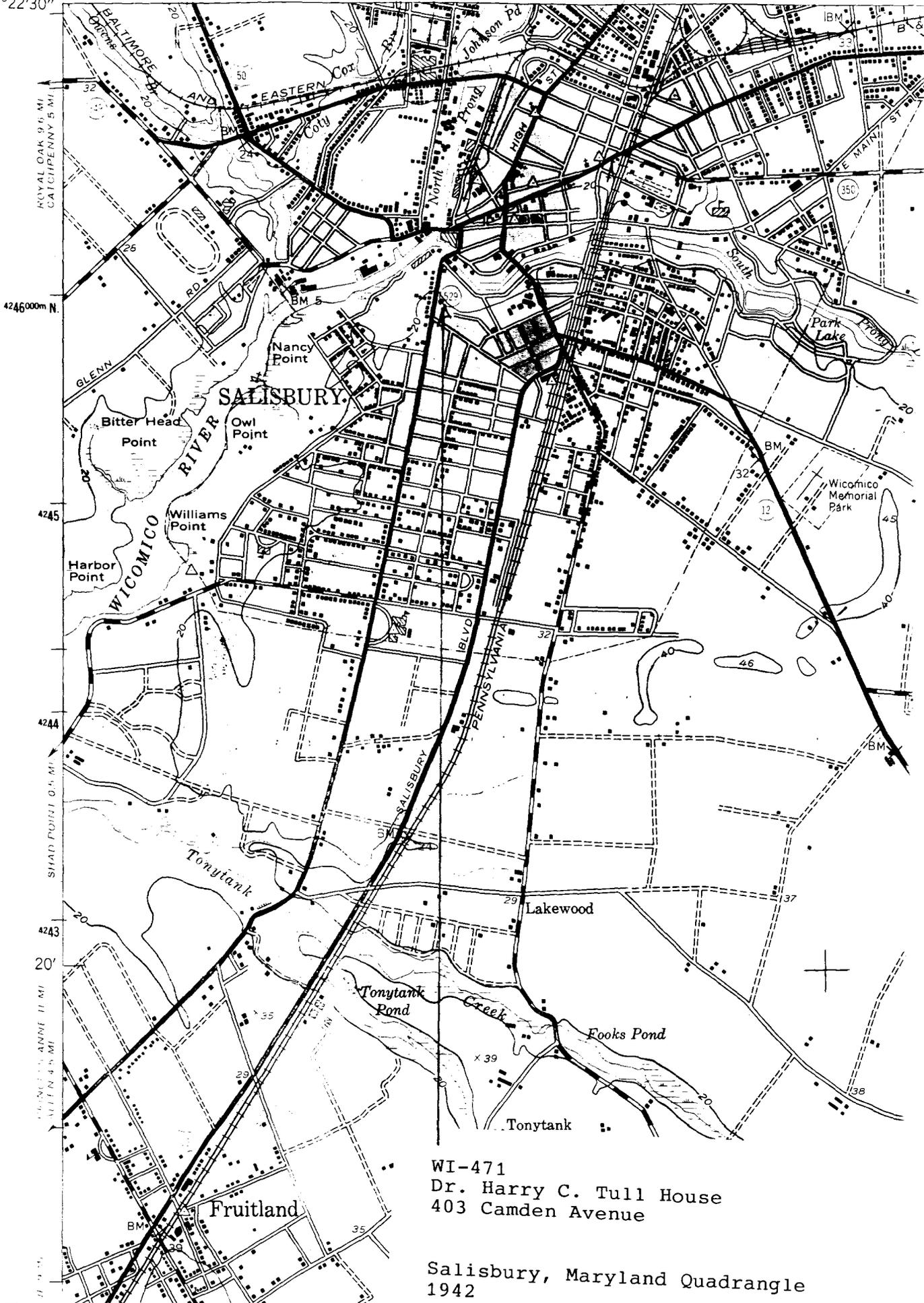
75°37'30"
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.
VIENNA 15 "

447000m E

LAUREL 13 MI
DELMAR 6 MI

35'



WI-471
Dr. Harry C. Tull House
403 Camden Avenue

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



