

WI-569  
Ernest C. Turner House  
Salisbury  
Private

1928-29

Baltimore architect Frederick Thomas, well-known for his work in Roland Park, designed this story-and-a-half multiple gabled dwelling in a popular revival style that was intended to evoke the vernacular architecture distinctive to England's rural villages and countryside. Historically identified as the English Vernacular Revival, the house Frederick Thomas designed joined a host of construction methods and materials including semi-coursed stone, half timber framing, casement windows and steeply pitched gable roofs covered with rough edged slates. The main roof line was built with an intentional swale or sag in an effort to provide the appearance of significant age. Built of modern concrete block walls, much of the exterior is accented with semi-coursed stone or textured stucco. Several gables and dormers were built with contrasting braced timber framing, another characteristic feature of early English building practices that was revived in this twentieth century application. Contrasting with the distinctly English vernacular exterior are traditional Colonial Revival interior features.

This distinctive story-and-a-half dwelling was erected for Salisbury wholesale grocer Ernest C. Turner of the Turner Brothers Company, which occupied for many years the building currently known as the Port Exchange (See WI-286). During the early twentieth century, the property along the new river road southwest of Salisbury was still largely farms and woods with occasional roads providing access to the wharves at deep moorings along the river. The Cotton Patch wharf was located nearby, and the name was

used to identify this early twentieth-century property. The English vernacular revival house has remained in family hands.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-569

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

historic Ernest C. Turner House  
other Cotton Patch Wharf

## 2. Location

street and number Riverside Drive  not for publication  
city, town Salisbury vicinity  
county Wicomico

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

name Mrs. Milton G. White  
street and number Riverside Drive telephone  
city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21801

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 148 folio 226  
city, town Salisbury tax map tax parcel tax ID number

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

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. WI-569

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 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 Ernest C. Turner house, located on a property known as Cotton Patch Wharf, is situated on the east side of Riverside Drive in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half English vernacular revival dwelling faces northwest with the principal gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built in 1928-29, the story-and-a-half stuccoed concrete, stone, and timber frame dwelling is supported on a fully excavated foundation of concrete block, and the walls rise to steeply pitched gable roofs of slate that rise slightly at each gable end in order to imitate a gentle sag to the roofline. The main block is a multi-gabled section with various gable roofed wings extending the center hall plan dwelling in each direction. Extending to the south is story-and-a-half service wing that stretches further south with an attached single-story garage.

The northwest (main) façade is an asymmetrical elevation with an off-center molded stone entrance framing a heavy oak door. The limestone surround is surrounded by a semi-coursed stone with large corner keystones. The stone veneer extends across the main elevation to incorporate an exterior chimney stack. To the right and left of the chimney stack is vertical six-pane casement windows, and each opening is spanned by a stone jack arch. The upper level of the main block is defined by a shed roofed that extends from the steeply pitched slate roof. The walls of the dormer are executed in exposed timber framing with stucco covered infill between. The dormer is pierced by a bank of eight-pane casements. The upper level of the chimney stack has a large letter "T" fastened to the stonework. Right of the front entrance is a projecting gable front executed in a stepped form with the wall surface accented with stone corners and stucco in between. The gable roofed section is pierced by a bank of casement windows on the first floor with a timber lintel spanning the opening. Centered in the gable end is a paired set of eight-pane casements. The main elevation extends to the northeast with a shorter gable roofed wing that houses a den. The front wall surface is covered with semi-coursed stonework pierced by a tripartite window opening spanned by a timber lintel.

The southwest gable end of the house is an asymmetrical façade with a single-story bay window extending from the southwest corner. The bay extension has a concave shaped shed roof, and a bank of leaded glass casement windows define the south side. The edge of the house as well as the basement level are defined by stone with segmental arches over the cellar window openings. Otherwise, the gable end is covered with stucco. The gable end along with the rear service wing are pierced by a variety of casement window openings. Marking the service wing roof is a gable roof dormer that interrupts the eave. The dormer is fitted with a pair of eight-pane casements.

The southeast gable end of the service wing is largely covered by a single-story, two-bay garage that has a stuccoed exterior atop stone coursing along the foundation level. Fixed in the peak of the service wing is a louvered vent. The edge of the roof is flush and is trimmed with a narrow bargeboard.

The rear wall of the main block is an asymmetrical elevation with a shed roofed rear vestibule pierced by a partially glazed door and a six-pane casement window. Located above the shed roof and partially cut into it with a window well is a pair of eight-pane casements. To the right of the rear shed-roofed vestibule is a tripartite window opening of casements and above it is a gable roofed dormer that intersects the eave. The southeast face of the north wing is marked by a glazed door flanked by ten-pane fixed sidelights. A shed roofed dormer enlarges the second floor space, and the side walls of the dormer are executed in timber framing to each side of eight-pane casements. The gable end of the

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-569

Name Ernest C. Turner House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 7 Page 1

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north wing is pierced on the first floor with a tripartite window spanned by an exposed timber lintel, and the upper wall surface is pierced by a paired casement windows.

The interiors of the English vernacular revival dwelling are executed in a distinct Colonial Revival manner with textured stucco walls. A center passage contains a Colonial Revival staircase that rises in two flights to the second floor. The attic is accessed by way of a pull-down ladder, and the cellar is entered through an enclosed stair under the main first flight of steps. The living room features Colonial Revival woodwork around the fireplace.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-569

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

**Specific dates** \_\_\_\_\_ **Architect/Builder** Frederick Thomas, Architect

**Construction dates** 1928-29

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Baltimore architect Frederick Thomas, well-known for his work in Roland Park, designed this story-and-a-half multiple gabled dwelling in a popular revival style that was intended to evoke the vernacular architecture distinctive to England’s rural villages and countryside. Historically identified as the English Vernacular Revival, the house Frederick Thomas designed joined a host of construction materials including semi-coursed stone, half timber framing, casement windows and steeply pitched gable roofs covered with rough edged slates. The main roof line was built with an intentional swale or sag in an effort to provide the appearance of significant age. Built of modern concrete block walls, much of the exterior is accented with semi-course stone and textured stucco. Several gables and dormers were built with contrasting braced timber framing, another characteristic feature of early English building practices. Contrasting with the English vernacular revival exterior are traditional Colonial Revival interior finishes.

This distinctive story-and-a-half dwelling was erected for Salisbury wholesale grocer Ernest C. Turner of the Turner Brothers Company, which occupied for many years the building currently known as the Port Exchange (See WI-268). During the early twentieth century, the property along the new river road southwest of Salisbury was still largely farms and woods with occasion roads providing access to wharves at deep moorings along the river. The Cotton Patch wharf was located nearby, and the name was used to identify this early twentieth-century dwelling. The English vernacular revival house has remained in family hands.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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**Continuation Sheet**

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Ernest C. Turner House  
Cotton Patch Wharf  
River Road  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

148/226

O. Ray Carver

to

3/19/1927

Ernest C. Turner  
Lot No. 3, property of A. H. Holloway's heirs, made by F. H.  
Drdyen, engineer, October 1921, JCK 138/206

Lots designated as Nos. 4. & 5 under ownership of Ernest C. Turner  
on plat.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. WI-569

Personal Interview with the daughter of Ernest C. Turner, Mrs. Milton G. White, 16 October 2001.  
Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 1 acre  
Acreage of historical setting 5-10 acres  
Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland      Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

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

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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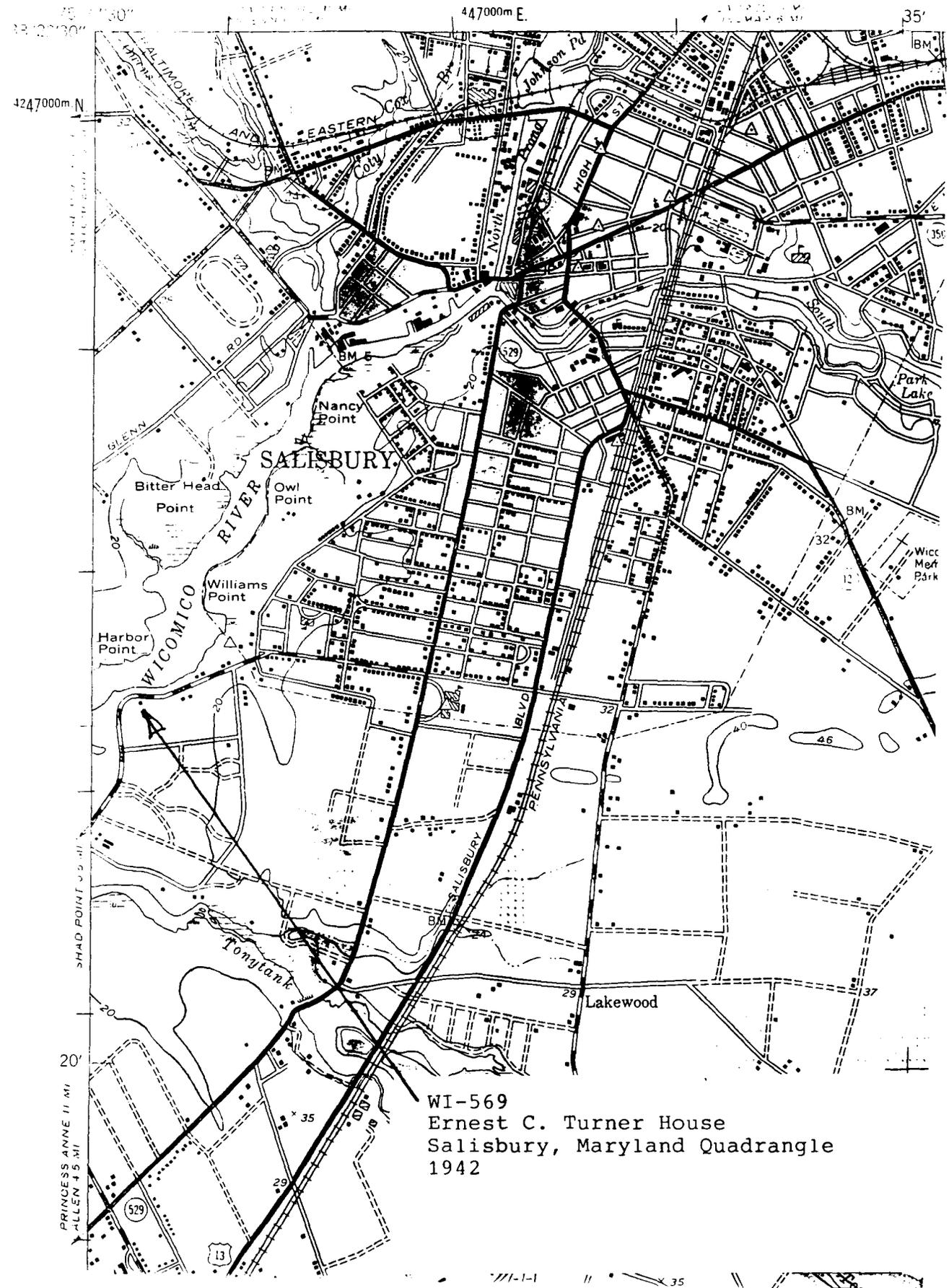
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	10/16/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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 21032-2023  
                          410-514-7600

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



WI-569  
Ernest C. Turner House  
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942



W1-569

ERNEST C. TURNER

TRUSTBURY, WILCOMING CO., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

11/01, PAUL TONANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEW J.M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 6



W1-569

ERNEST C. TURNER HOUSE

SALESBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.

NO. 11 ELEVATION

11/01, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 6



W1-569

ERNEST C. TURNER HOUSE

SALISBURY, WILMINGTON CO., MD.

ENTRANCE - NORTH WALL

11/01, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEZ. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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W1-569

ERNEST C. TURNER HOUSE

SALISBURY, WISCONSIN CO., MD.

STONE CHIMNEY - NORTH ELEV.

W/O, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTO.

N.S.C. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

4 of 6



W1-569

ERNEST C. TURNER HOUSE  
SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.  
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION - Bay WINDOW

11/01, PAUL TOUANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

5 OF 6



WI-569

ERNEST C. TURNER HOUSE

SALISBURY, WILMINGTON CO., MD.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

11/01, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEE. | MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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