

WI-600
Wallace Ruark House
Salisbury
Private

1893

A rare construction receipt executed between builder Thomas M. Slemons and Nora H. and Wallace Ruark states that \$1439 was received as full payment for the labor and materials required for the assemblage of the tee-shaped Victorian house that still stands at 107 East William Street in the Newtown Historic District. The receipt for payment is dated 28 September 1893. The construction project took place over the course of five months, beginning around the first week in April according to a short notice in the *Salisbury Advertiser*. The lot on which the house was erected was purchased from Margaret E. Parsons two weeks earlier for \$500. According to the 1907 Salisbury City directory, Wallace Ruark, a chemist occupied the house with his wife Nora and son Raymond, a clerk. The house and lot were held by the Ruark family until the early 1970s when it was sold to Margaret Vanderbogart Stone.

The Victorian dwelling follows the popular asymmetrical tee-shaped form widely used during the late nineteenth century on the lower Shore, and its variety of exterior surfaces is common to the period. While the house has been enlarged to the rear with a two-story addition, the 1893 dwelling has remained relatively unaltered since its construction.

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-600

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 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 Wallace Ruark house stands at 107 East William Street in the Newtown Historic District of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped frame dwelling faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis. Supported on a brick foundation with a partially excavated cellar, the frame house is sheathed with a combination of plain weatherboard siding and fishscale shingles. The steeply pitched gable roofed is covered with pattern slate. Attached to the back of the main block is a modern two-story addition.

The south (main) façade is an asymmetrical façade with a projecting two-story pavilion on the east side and a recessed entrance bay located in the center of the uneven elevation. The three-sided bay pavilion is pierced by single-pane sash windows on each floor, and the gable-front roof is trimmed with sawn corner brackets that hang from the corners of the pavilion roof. The gable end is pierced by a multi-pane window framed by a field of fishscale shingles. The edge of the roof is extended with an open soffit and exposed and decorated rafter tails. The bargeboard has a pierced decoration. The entrance is centrally located on the recessed wall with a double-door opening topped by a colored glass transom. The adjacent bay to the west is marked by a long single pane sash window flanked by louvered shutters. The first story is sheltered by a shed roofed porch supported on square posts. The second floor is lighted by single-pane sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. Centered on the roof is a cross gable pierced by a multi-pane window with a surrounding field of fishscale shingles. The bargeboard has a pierced decoration. Rising through the center of the house are two stuccoed brick stacks.

The east side is two bays across with single-pane sash windows lighting the first and second floors. The windows are flanked by louvered shutters. Centered on the roof is a cross gable pierced by a multi-pane window within a field of fishscale shingles.

The west gable end is defined by a single one-over-one sash window on each floor and the roof is finished in a similar fashion to the balance of the house.

The house retains much of its late nineteenth-century woodwork including a turned baluster staircase and Victorian factory-produced mantels.

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-600

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input 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** Contractor Thomas M. Slemons

Construction dates 1893

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.)

A rare construction document executed between builder Thomas M. Slemons and Nora H. and Wallace Ruark states that \$1439 had been received as full payment for the labor and materials required for the assemblage of the tee-shaped Victorian house that stands at 107 East William Street in the Newtown Historic District. The receipt for payment is dated 28 September 1893.¹ The construction project took place over the course of five months, beginning around the first week in April according to a short notice in the *Salisbury Advertiser*.² The lot on which the house was erected was purchased from Margaret E. Parsons two weeks earlier for \$500.³ According to the 1907 Salisbury City directory, Wallace Ruark, a chemist, occupied the house with his wife Nora and son Raymond, a clerk.⁴ The house and lot was held by the Ruarks until the early 1970s when it was sold to Margaret Vanderbogart Stone.⁵

¹ Wilson Collection, personal interview with Scott Wilson, 3 October 2001.

² *Salisbury Advertiser*, 1 April 1893.

³ Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 11/135, 22 March 1893.

⁴ Salisbury City Directory, 1907, transcribed and printed by Family Tree Bookshop, p. 46.

⁵ Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 722/233, 27 September 1972.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-600

Name Wallace Ruark House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

WI-600
Wallace Ruark House
107 East William Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 679

1466/266

Margaret V. Stone

to

12/15/1995

R. Scott Wilson
Carole F. Wilson

Conveyed to Margaret V. Stone from:

1. Margaret R. Mitchell, et al., 9/27/1972, JWTS 772/233
2. Dorothy P. Vanderbogart, 9/8/1994, MSB 1407/559

JWTS 772/233

Margaret R. Mitchell, widow, Dorothy R. Mohr, Robert G. Spring,
Remaindermen under the last will and testament of Nora H. Ruark

to

9/27/1972

Margaret V. Stone

Being the same lot or parcel of land which was conveyed unto Nora H. Ruark by deed from Margaret E. Parsons, dated 3/22/1893, JTT 11/135, the said Nora H. Ruark having since departed this life, whereupon by virtue of the terms and provisions of Item One (B) of her Last Will and Testament, dated 5/16/1953, the hereinafter described property passed unto Howard H. Ruark for life (Howard H. Ruark having elected to occupy such property until his death on 2/19/1972; and upon his death a 40% interest therein went to said Margaret R. Mitchell; a 40% interest went to Dorothy R. Mohr and a 20% interest went to Robert G. Spring...

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-600

Name Wallace Ruark House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

JTT 11/135

Margaret E. Parsons

to

3/22/1893

Nora H. Ruark, wife of Wallace Ruark
\$500

Salisbury Advertiser, April 1, 1893

Mr. Wallace Ruark has purchased the building lot next the residence of Mr. James Cannon, fronting 55 feet on William street, on which he will erect a comfortable dwelling. Contractor Thos. M. Slemons will have charge of the building, which will cost about \$2,500.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WI-600

Salisbury City Directory, 1907, transcribed and printed by Family Tree Bookshop, 1998.

Salisbury Advertiser, April 1, 1893.

Wicomico County Land Record, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1/4 acre
Acreage of historical setting 1/4 acre
Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

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

11. Form Prepared by

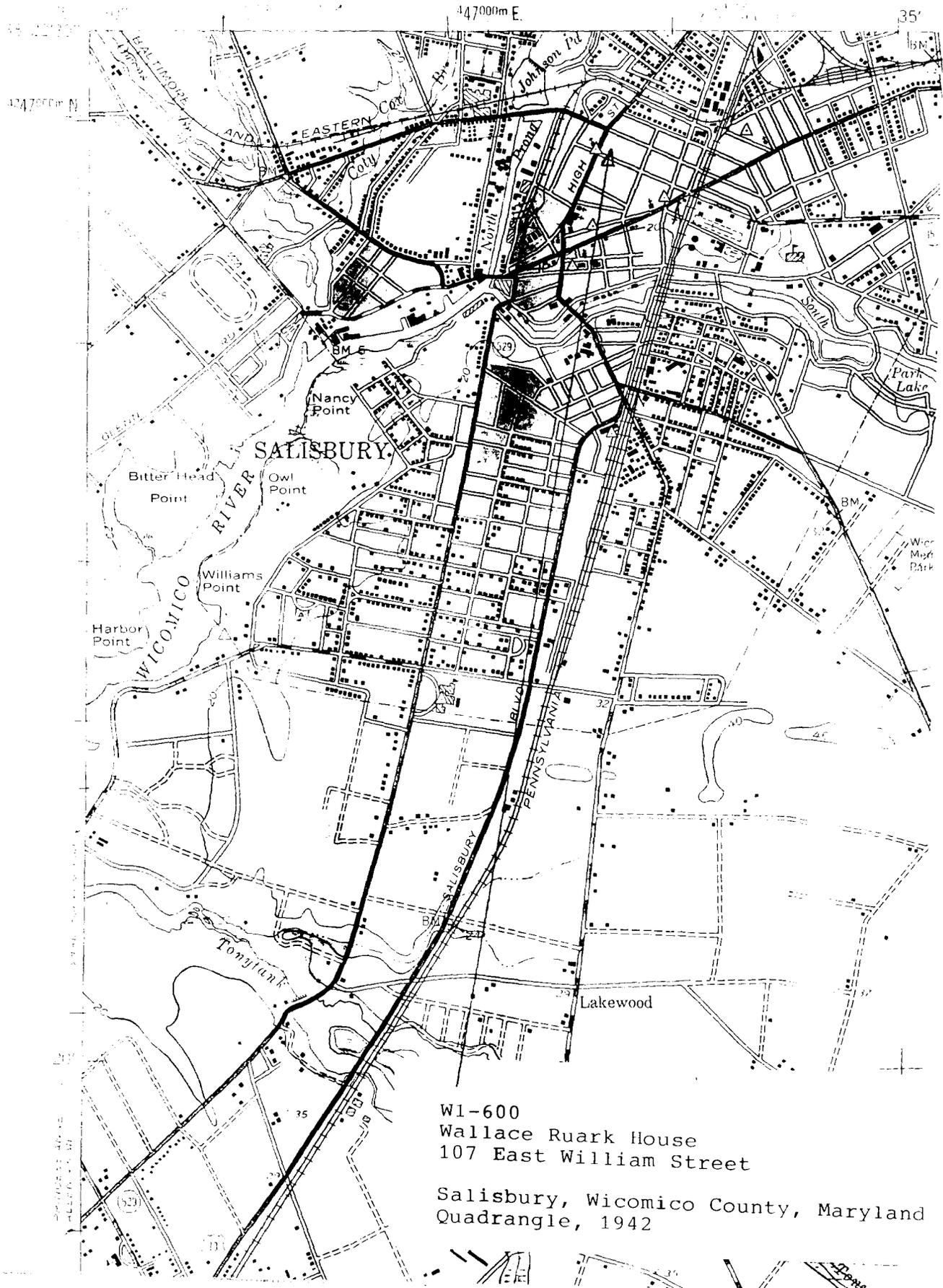
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	11/14/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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



W1-600
Wallace Ruark House
107 East William Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Quadrangle, 1942



W1-600

WALTER BLANK HOUSE

SAUSBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.

SOUTH-ELEVATION

10/01, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEH, /MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 1



W1-600

Wallace Runnic House

Springburg, Wisconsin Co., MO

Southern ELEVATION

11/01, PAUL TOURNE, PHOTOGRAPHER

Northern HISTORICAL TRACES

2 of 2