

WO-111
Salem
Snow Hill
Private

c. 1780

Salem is the name of a 250-acre tract of land patented on September 5, 1676, to Ellis Coleman and sold to William Robertson, in whose family the property remained during the seventeenth and much of the eighteenth centuries. Directly adjacent to the original lots of Snow Hill, the land was resurveyed in 1800 as "Snow Hill Confirmation." Construction of the oldest part of this house, comprising the main block, is estimated to date to the late eighteenth century, probably around 1780. Wrought-nail construction, remnants of raised panel wainscoting in the back bedroom, and intact late eighteenth century features on the second floor support this date. However, during the second quarter of the nineteenth century the house was reworked with Federal style woodwork, and an attached service wing was added to the rear. The two-story porch was added at the same time and survives with sawtooth decorated sides and carved medallions.

It is not certain who initiated the construction of the late eighteenth century timber frame dwelling, but it is highly probable the house was raised during the ownership Joshua Townsend, which stretched from 1778 to the early 1790s. In December of 1794, Reverend David Ball, rector of All Hallows Parish, acquired title to the land, and he resided on the property until his death around 1813. To settle the estate between several adult and minor heirs, a commission was appointed consisting of David K. Hopkins, George Hudson, James G. Townsend, and George Bishop. On August 13, 1833, the farm was transferred to Lemuel P. Spence who held onto the property until his death around 1840. Spence was evidently

the person responsible for reworking the house by adding the two-story porch and Federal style interior finishes. The carved sunburst medallions decorating the porch posts are notable along with the unusual arched entrance to the rear bedroom with folding raised panel doors. Also significant to the property is the only remaining outbuilding, a hewn post-and-plank log smokehouse that stands behind the house covered with wood shingles.

In 1840 the property was sold to William U. Purnell for \$3,500, who in turn sold it seven years later to Matthew Purnell. At Matthew Purnell's death in 1857 the property passed to his daughters Sally E. and Delilah A. Purnell, however Delilah's half of the property included the dwelling house. Delilah married James P. Burroughs on December 14, 1863, and bequeathed the property to her two children, James Sideny Burroughs and Mary A. Fowler. Shortly afterwards, in September 1913, Mary A. Fowler and her husband, William J. Fowler, sold their interest in the farm to Sidney. The Burroughs farm, as it was known at the time, was sold out of family hands in 1920. It was held by the Timmons family until 1990 when the current owners acquired the property.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: "SALEM" BURROUGHS FARM

MHT Inventory Number: W0-111

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s):
ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation:
EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
RURAL AGRARIAN INTENSIFICATION
(1680-1815)
- 4) Resource Type(s):
~~PLANTATION~~ STANDING STRUCTURES
PLANTATION DWELLING
PLANTATION OUTBUILDING

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic "SALEM" BURROUGHS FARM, LEMUEL P. SPENCE HOUSE

and/or common TIMMONS PROPERTY

2. Location

street & number 310 Park Row ___ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mr. C. L. Timmons c/o Mrs. C. L. Timmons

street & number 310 Park Row telephone no.: 632-0669

city, town Snow Hill state and zip code MD 21863

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber FWH 168

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio 250

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Inventory

date 1972 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

7. Description

Survey No. W0-111

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Salem is situated on knoll at the end of Park Row on the eastern edge of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house was initially built outside the original limits of the town, but during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries lots were created along the road that leads up to the site. The house has a southwesterly exposure with the principal gable oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

Originally built during the late eighteenth century, the two-story main block was extensively reworked and enlarged during the early to mid nineteenth century. Supported by an excavated Flemish bond brick foundation, the main block as well as the later rear wing is largely sheathed with wood shingles, and the gable roofs are covered with asphalt shingles. Standing behind the house is a single-story post-and-plank smoke house, the only known outbuilding of its type to survive in Snow Hill.

The southwest (main) elevation is a three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking nine-over-six sash windows. The eight-panel front door is framed by reeded pilasters which visually support a delicate semi-circular fanlight. The arch molding is interrupted by a molded keystone. The sash windows to each side are framed by early nineteenth-century molded surrounds, and small diamond cross-section vertical bar grills pierce the Flemish bond foundation. Stretching across the full front of the house is a double storied shed porch with rusticated block piers on the first floor and square wooden piers on the second floor. The first floor is paved in brick. Stretching between the second floor posts is a rectangular baluster handrail, and marking the upper end of each post is a sunburst-shaped medallion. A sawtooth-edged decorative arch highlights the gable end bays of the upper porch. Within the porch on the second floor a partially glazed door is flanked by reeded pilasters, and nine-over-six sash windows fill the bays to each side.

The southeast gable end is dominated by a pair of three-course common bond brick chimney with corbelled bases, corbelled shoulders and corbelled caps. The wall to each side is pierced by nine-over-six sash windows for each floor. Centered between the stacks is a six-over-six sash window that lights the attic. The gable end is flush and trimmed with a beaded bargeboard. Piercing the foundation wall is another vertical bar grill.

The northwest gable end, on the other hand, is marked by a single exterior brick chimney of three-course common bond. However, unique to the north end is a twelve-over-twelve sash window that fills the northwestern first floor bay. The other window openings are filled with nine-over-six sash windows, and the attic is lighted by six-over-six sash.

(continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. W0-111

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Salem is the name of a 250-acre tract of land patented on September 5, 1676 to Ellis Coleman and sold to William Robertson, in whose family the property remained during the seventeenth and much of the eighteenth century. Directly adjacent to the town of Snow Hill, the land was resurveyed in 1800 as "Snow Hill Confirmation." Construction of the oldest part of this house is estimated to date to the late eighteenth century, perhaps around 1780-1790. Wrought-nail construction, remnants of raised panel wainscoting in the back bedroom, and intact late eighteenth century features on the second floor support this date. However, during the second quarter of the nineteenth century the house was reworked with Federal style woodwork, and an attached service wing was added to the rear. The two-story porch was added as well.

It is not certain who initiated the construction of the late eighteenth century timber frame dwelling, but it is highly probable the house was raised during the ownership Joshua Townsend, which stretched from 1778 to the early 1790s. In December of 1794, Reverend David Ball, rector of All Hallows Parish, acquired title to the land, and he resided on the property until his death around 1813. To settle the estate between several adult and minor heirs, a commission was appointed consisting of David K. Hopkins, George Hudson, James G. Townsend, and George Bishop. On August 13, 1833 the farm was transferred to Lemuel P. Spence who held onto the property until his death around 1840. Spence was evidently the person responsible for reworking the house by adding the two-story porch and Federal style interior finishes. The carved sunburst medallions decorating the porch posts are notable along with the unusual arched entrance to the rear bedroom with folding raised panel doors. Also significant to the property is the only remaining outbuilding, a hewn post-and-plank log smoke house that stands behind the house.

In 1840 the property was sold to William U. Purnell for \$3,500, who in turn sold it seven years later to Matthew Purnell. At Matthew Purnell's death in 1857 the property passed to his daughters Sally E. and Delilah A. Purnell, however Delilah's half of the property included the dwelling house. Delilah married James P. Burroughs on 14 December 1863, and bequeathed the property to her two children, James Sideny Burroughs

(continued)

The northeast (rear) side of the main house is largely covered by the two-story, three-bay mid nineteenth-century service wing, which rests on a raised brick foundation. Wood shingles cover the northwest and southeast walls, while the northeast gable end is covered with plain weatherboards. A shed roofed addition has been inserted on the north side in the ell formed by the main block and the service wing. The cornices to the rear wing are boxed and trimmed with a mid nineteenth-century bed molding. Rising through the gable end is a narrow brick stack with a corbelled cap. Six-over-six sash windows light the first and second floors, and a double-door cellar entrance is located on the southeast side. Piercing the northeast gable end is a single six-panel door left of the interior end stack.

The first floor of the main block follows a four-room plan with two rooms in front and two rooms in back. However, in this instance an unusual short passage divides the rear two rooms. Changes in the types of the period woodwork found in various rooms indicates the first floor plan as well as much of the woodwork dates from an extensive remodeling of the house during the early nineteenth century.

Entrance through the front door of the house provides access to a rectangular hall with a quarter-turn stair rising in the north corner. A slender turned newel post and narrow rectangular balusters support a circular profile handrail that is interrupted by turned landing posts. The stringer is trimmed with a scrolled decoration and the area below is fitted with early nineteenth-century chair rail, baseboard and plaster walls. A flat four-panel door provides access to the stair closet. Interestingly, the stair was built in front of the nine-over-six sash window in a way that renders the window almost unusable. Next to the stair the interior face of the front door transom arch is marked by a sunburst-shaped keystone. Two six-panel doors framed ~~framed~~ by early nineteenth-century moldings open into the adjacent living room and rear passage.

The adjacent living room or parlor has not changed significantly since the second quarter of the nineteenth century. A late Federal style mantel is fixed against the south wall. Heavy turned columns flank the firebox and visually support a reeded block frieze. The center tablet is reeded as well. Above the frieze is an elaborate series of stepped moldings under the broken mantel shelf. This room is also fitted with early nineteenth-century chair rail and baseboard. Perhaps most unusual is the rear face of the parlor door which is executed in diamond shaped or pointed arch panels with a bulls-eye block surround. The period box lock with brass knob is in place as well.

The back room on the south side is similarly finished with a late Federal style mantel, early nineteenth-century chair rail and baseboard moldings. Six-panel doors framed by molded surrounds permit access between spaces.

The back room on the north side of the house, however, is distinctly different than the rest of the house with an arched opening and an early nineteenth-century four-leaf folding door that allowed an enlarged back parlor. Trimming the perimeter of the room are sections of raised panel wainscoting that were apparently reused. A late Federal style mantel frames the hearth.

The second floor of the main house is divided into three rooms that open off the center passage. Raised six-panel doors, framed by cyma-curve backband surrounds, are still hung on HL hinges. Located in the southwest room is a partially enclosed closed stringer stair with a diagonal beaded board partition. A beaded edge newel post and rectangular balusters support a beaded edge handrail. A board door hung on HL hinges opens into the stair, while a four-panel door with HL hinges provides access to the stair closet.

The attic is unfinished and the common rafters are joined at the peak with a pinned mortise-and-tenon joint. Wrought nails are found in the gable end stud framing.

The irregular brickwork in the cellar indicates major reworking of the foundation structure occurred during the nineteenth century as well.

The rear two-story wing contains some mid nineteenth-century woodwork, but a large amount was removed when the wing was reworked during the twentieth century.

Standing behind the house is the only outbuilding, a single-story post-and-plank smoke house covered with a wood shingle exterior. The horizontal hewn logs are supported by tenons set into vertical mortised corner posts. The logs are also stabilized by intermediate wooden pins between each log. Covering the square log building is a common rafter roof with two tiers of collars. The interior is smoke blackened.

SALEM STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

and Mary A. Fowler. Shortly afterwards, in September of 1913, Mary A. Fowler and William J. Fowler, her husband, sold their interest in the farm to Sidney. The Burroughs farm, as it was known at the time, was sold out of family in 1920. Since then it has been held in Timmons family hands.

WO-111
SALEM
Chain of title

FWH 168/250

James T. Sturgis
Francis S. Sturgis

to

8/9/1963

Charles L. Timmons

162/367

Charles L. Timmons
Ruth W. Timmons

to

10/5/1962

James T. Sturgis
"Burroughs Farm"

Will Book
P.J. 21/278

Charles B. Timmons, deceased

to

Died 5/4/1937
Filed 5/10/1937

Charles L. Timmons

O.D.C. 37/350

James Sidney Burroughs, unmarried

to

3/20/1920

William E. Timmons
Charles B. Timmons

132 1/100 acres, surveyed by Peter
S. Shockley, surveyor of Wicomico
County, March 1920

WO-111
SALEM
Chain of title

2

Will Book

Delilah A. Burroughs

to

James Sidney Burroughs and his sister
Mary A. Fowler as the only children and
heirs at law of their mother Delilah A.
Burroughs, the interest of the said Mary
A. Fowler and William J. Fowler her husband
having been conveyed to said James Sidney
Burroughs by deed 9/9/1913, O.D.C. 14/456

O.D.C. 14/456

Mary A. Fowler and William J. Fowler,
children of Delilah A. Burroughs

to

9/9/1913

Sidney James Burroughs

Will Book
T.T. 8/203

Will of Matthew Purnell

Will 4/3/1852
Filed 11/11/1857

Item 5: I devise the lands whereon I now
live which I purchased of William U. Purnell
to my daughters Sally E. Purnell and Delilah
A. Purnell in fee simple to be equally
divided between them...and Delilah A. Purnell's
moiety or half part to include the mansion
house whereon I now reside and all the out
buildings occupied by me...

E.D.M. 1/192

William U. Purnell and Eleana H. Purnell

to

12/15/1847

Matthew Purnell
\$5,300.00 "Salem"

G.M.H. 3/490

Thomas R. P. Spence, John S. Spence, Ara
Spence, Irving S. Spence, surviving trustees
under the will of Lemuel P. Spence

WO-111
SALEM
Chain of title

3

to

9/8/1840 William U. Purnell
250 acres \$3,500 "Salem"
and whereas Irving Spence one of the trustees
under and by said will hath departed this life

AZ 299 David K. Hopkins, George Hudson, James G.
Townsend, and George Bishop, commissioners
to divide real estate of David Ball, deceased

to

8/13/1833 Lemuel P. Spence
212 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres
Whereas application of Lemuel P. Spence, Hilkiah
Ball, and Hannah G. Ball his wife, John Hull
and Sally Hull and Elizabeth A. Ball by
petition and alleging that a certain David Ball
formerly of Worcester County had died between
January 1788 and February 14, 1821 seized of
certain real estate without having disposed
thereof by will and left the following children,
David T. Ball and petitioners Hannah G. Ball who
has since intermarried with Heilkiah Ball,
Sally Ball who has since intermarried with John
Hull and Elizabeth A. Ball, all of whom are of
full age, and Thomas G. Ball, Harriet S. Ball,
William W. Ball, and Richard H. Ball, who are
minors, 9/9/1825 court appointed commissioners
to sell "Salem" 212 acres--real value was
\$4.50 per acre amounting in the whole to \$950.

Register of Wills Bond filed 7/13/1813 for Reverend David Ball
Administrator George Hayward

Q/42 George Purnell, sheriff

to

12/23/1794 David Ball, Rector of All Hallows Parish

WO-111
SALEM
Chain of title

4

Whereas a certain Joshua Townsend was
siezed in fee of a certain tract or parcel
of land called Salem containing and laid out
for 250 acres by patent

K/76

George Robenson

to

4/20/1778

Joshua Townsend

£500 "Salem" 212 acres

RUTH T. DRYDEN, LAND RECORDS OF WORCESTER COUNTY 1666-1810

Salem, Patented on 5 September 1676 by Ellis Coleman
250 acres sold to William Robertson

1 April 1742 William Robertson son of William sold 5
acres to Adam Spence.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

1. STATE <i>Maryland</i> COUNTY <i>Worcester</i> TOWN <i>Show Hill</i> VICINITY STREET NO. <i>310 Park Row</i> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <i>dwelling</i> PRESENT OWNER <i>Charles L. Timmons</i> PRESENT USE <i>dwelling</i> WALL CONSTRUCTION <i>frame</i> NO. OF STORIES <i>2</i>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <i>WS-111</i> 2. NAME <i>Burbis House</i> <i>(Salem) (Boroughs House)</i> DATE OR PERIOD <i>c. 1810</i> STYLE <i>Federal</i> ARCHITECT BUILDER
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <i>NO</i> <p style="text-align: center;">The Burbis House is similar to the Whaley House and 204 W. Green Street, also in Show Hill. The chief similarity is its two-story porch on its facade.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The building is constructed on a brick basement and is three bays long and two bays deep. The central door is flanked by pilasters which terminate at the base of its fanlight. The frame building is covered with white shingles. On the north gable is one outside chimney and on the south side are two outside chimneys, all with good cap detail. Windows have nine over six sash on both stories. The central bay of the second story is also a door. Its "A" roof is covered with green asphalt shingles.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(continued on reverse side)</p> 5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <i>NO</i> Interior Exterior <i>fair</i>	

Robertson, John W., *Land of the Evergreen, The Eastern Shore*
 News, Inc., Onancock, Va., 1963. *pp 138*

MSB 12/69

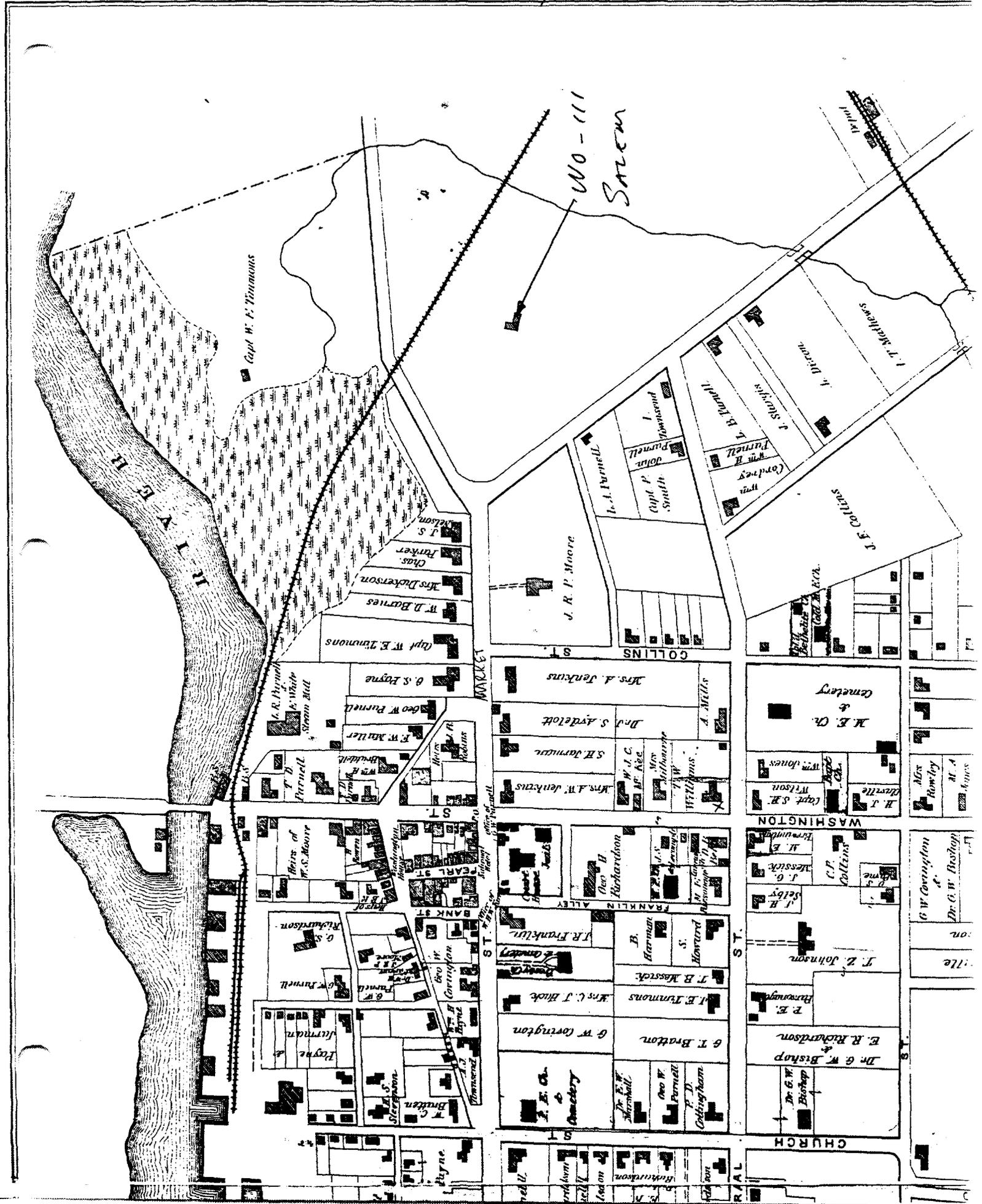
 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)	7. PHOTOGRAPH
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. <i>WPA Guide, p. 444</i>	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <i>Michael Bourne</i> <i>Maryland Historical Trust</i> DATE OF RECORD <i>NOV 1969</i>

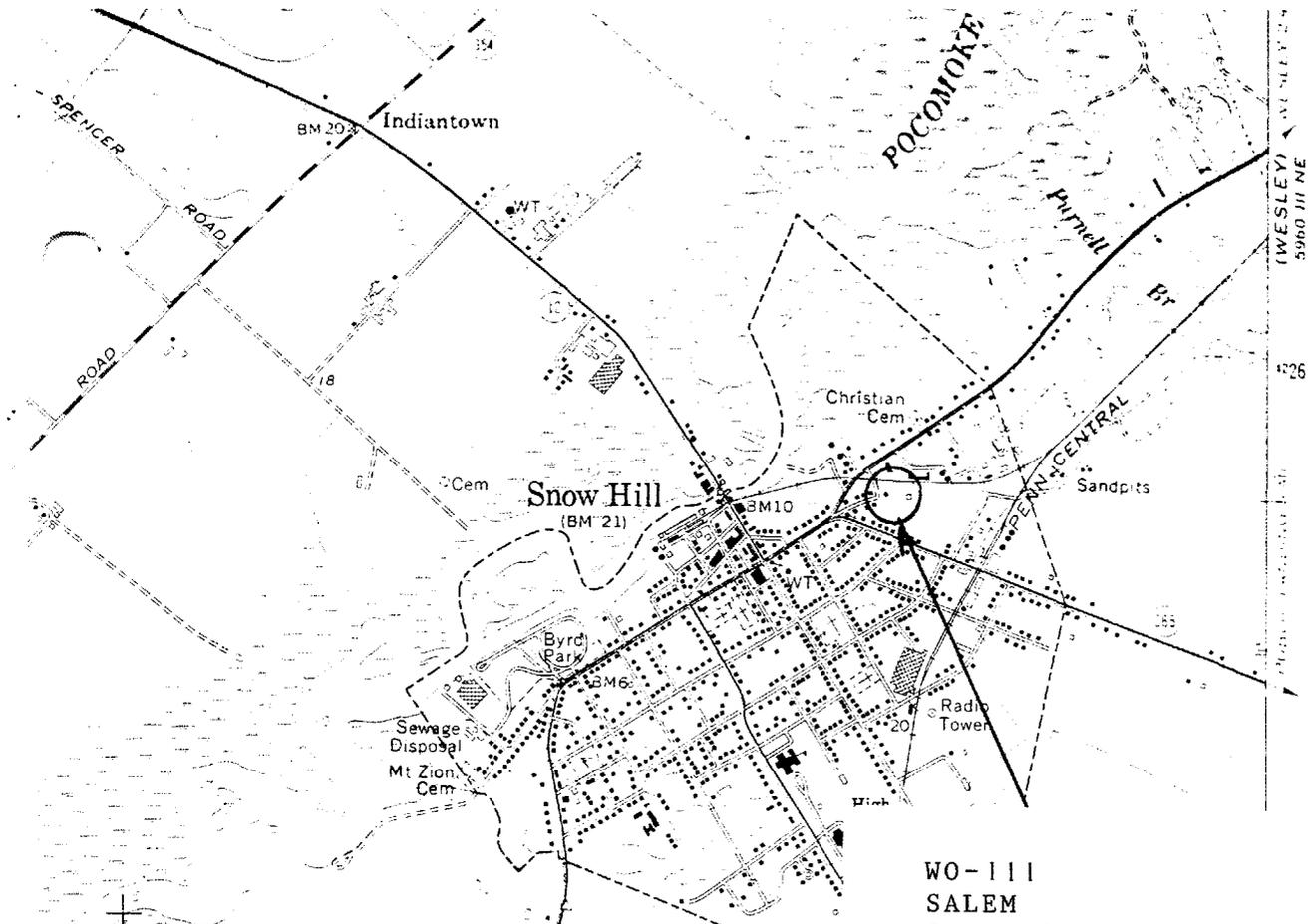
It overlooks the eastern end of Main Street.

On its north gable are two windows on the first story with twelve over twelve sash, possibly original. Their size is larger than those of the second story.

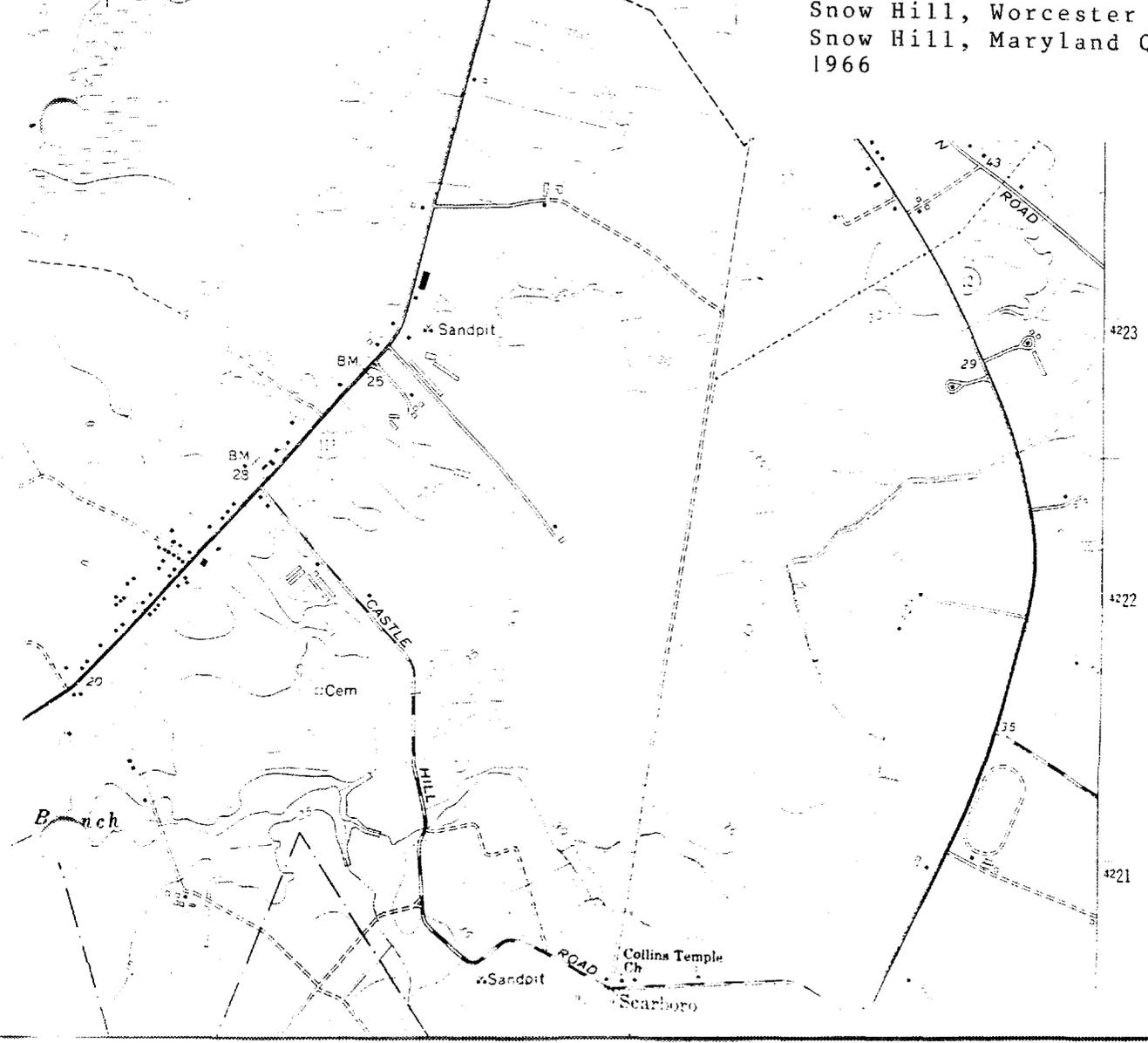
Behind the main building is a two-story wing, possibly larger than the original dwelling.

1877 LAKE, GRAY FINE, AND STEVENSON ATLAS





WO-111
 SALEM
 Snow Hill, Worcester County, MD
 Snow Hill, Maryland Quadrangle
 1966





(11)

Salem

W0-111

(Burroughs Farm, Lemuel P. Spence House, Timmons Property)

310 Park Row, Snow Hill