

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

Property Name: Tarry-A-While Guest House Inventory Number: WO-333  
 Address: 108 Dorchester Street Historic district: yes  no  
 City: Ocean City Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ County: Worcester  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Ocean City  
 Property Owner: City of Ocean City, MD Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Project: Rehabilitation of The Tarry a While Guest House Agency: DHCD  
 Agency Prepared By: Maryland Historical Trust  
 Preparer's Name: Jonathan Sager Date Prepared: 3/18/2005  
 Documentation is presented in: MIHP record  
 Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended  
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G  
*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
 Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: \_\_\_\_\_ yes Listed: \_\_\_\_\_ yes  
 Site visit by MHT Staf \_\_\_\_\_ yes \_\_\_\_\_ no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Tarry A While Guest House was constructed ca. 1897. The rear addition was added ca. 1920. The building was moved from its original location at 8 Dorchester Street to 108 Dorchester Street in November of 2004.

See MIHP form for more information.

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended   
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A  B C D E F G

MHT Comments: *Bldg has been moved out of original context and has lost significant architectural fabric in the process*  
*Andrew Kern* 3/18/05

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

*[Signature]*  
 Reviewer, National Register Program

Date

3/18/05

WO-333

1899

Margaret Vandegrift Guest House  
(Tarry-A-While Guest House)  
Ocean City  
Private

The Margaret Vandegrift guest cottage, known by most Ocean residents as the Tarry-A-While guest house, is a rare survivor of the city's late nineteenth century architecture. Characteristic of many Ocean City buildings erected during the nineteenth century is the plain, straightforward nature of the structure with little architectural ornamentation. The two-story Tuscan columned porch that dominates the gable-front building was designed with a minimum of extra detail. Historic photographs of the is property indicate the structure has changed little since the early twentieth century.

Worcester County land records reveal this two-story frame guest cottage was erected for Margaret Vandegrift of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania after she purchased "Lot No. 39" as designated on the original plat of Ocean City. She purchased the Dorchester Street property for \$200 in 1899 and evidently improved the lot that year. However, two years later Calvin B. Taylor was authorized to sell the property as a result of a default mortgage. In 1901 the lot with improvements was sold to Thomas J. Cropper for \$1275. The 1901 deed reads, "...in and to all taht lot of land and cottage called Tarry-A-While situated and lying in Ocean City." The property has remained in Cropper family hands. It was one of the early guest houses to advertise a luxury of running water for each room.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: Taney-A. White Guest Cottage

MHT Inventory Number: W0 - 333

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture  
Commerce

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

INDUSTRIAL - URBAN DOMINANCE  
(1870 - 1930)

4) Resource Type(s):

STANDING STRUCTURE  
1. GUEST HOUSE

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-333

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic MARGARET VANDEGRIFT GUEST COTTAGE, TARRY-A-WHILE GUEST COTTAGE

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Dorchester Street  not for publicationcity, town Ocean City  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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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

street &amp; number telephone, no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

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

street &amp; number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. W0-333

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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.

The Margaret Vandegrift guest cottage, known for the past century as the Tarry-A-While guest cottage or the Cropper house, the two-and-a-half story gable front frame building stands on the north side of Dorchester Street in the heart of Ocean City, Worcester County, Maryland. The guest house faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Reported by Cropper family descendants to have been built in 1899, the two-story-and-a-half story frame building is supported by a low masonry foundation, and the walls are covered with a combination of vinyl siding and asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched gable roof has slightly extended eaves.

The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay facade with a center, partially glazed front door and flanking twenty-over-one sash windows. The first and second floors are sheltered by two-story Tuscan columned porch with square baluster handrails. The porch stretches across the full front of the main block and turns the southeast corner to extend down the east side. Access to the second floor porch is provided by a center paneled door topped by two-light transom. Two-over-two sash windows mark the wall to each side. The second floor of the porch has been partially enclosed on the east side. Piercing the upper gable end are a pair of doubled two-over-two sash windows. An interior brick stack rises through the east side of the main block, and a cross gable marks the west roof slope.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WO-333

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 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 checked="" 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**      1899      **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.

The Margaret Vandegrift house, known by most Ocean City residents as the Tarry-A-While guest cottage, is a rare survivor of the city's late nineteenth century architecture. Characteristic of many Ocean City buildings built during the nineteenth century is the plain, straightforward nature of the structure with little architectural ornamentation. The two-story Tuscan columned porch that dominates the gable-front building was designed with a minimum of extra detail. Historic photographs of this property indicate the structure has changed little since the early twentieth century.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Worcester County land records reveal this two-story frame guest cottage was built for Margaret Vandegrift of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania after she purchased "Lot No. 39" as designated on the original plan of Ocean City. She purchased the Dorchester Street property for \$200 in 1899 and evidently improved the lot that year. However, two years later Calvin B. Taylor was authorized to sell the property as a result of a defaulted mortgage. In 1901 the lot with improvements sold to Thomas J. Cropper for \$1275. (FHP 15/211) The 1901 reads, "... in and to all that lot of land and cottage called Tarry-A-While situated and lying in Ocean City." The property has remained in Cropper family hands. It was one of the early guest houses to advertise a luxury of running water for each room.



WO-333  
MARGARET VANDEGRIFT GUEST COTTAGE  
(TARRY-A-WHILE)  
Dorchester Street  
Ocean City, Maryland  
Chain of title

FHP 15/211

Calvin B. Taylor, mortgagee

to

6/4/1901

Thomas J. Cropper

\$1275.00 -public sale made 2/21/1901-  
special power and authority vested in  
him (as mortgagee) in and by a certain  
mortgage from Margaret Vandegrift to  
Calvin B. Taylor bearing 1/24/1900  
FHP 13/188 defaulted mortgage-being  
the property by said mortgagee conveyed  
was sold unto Thomas J. Cropper of Ocean  
City who was then and there the highest  
bidder...

...in and to all that lot of land and  
cottage called Tarry-A-While situated  
and lying in Ocean City...designated on  
the plat of said Ocean City as lot  
numbered thirty-nine and on the north side  
of Dorchester street

FHP 12/300

Howard N. Potts, of Philadelphia

to

5/27/1899

Margaret Vandegrift of Pittsburg, Pa.  
\$200 all that lot of land as Ocean  
City designated on the plot of said city  
as lot no. thirty-nine

ITM 5/596

Hillary R. Pitts, Benjamin Jones Taylor,  
George W. Purnell, trustees

to

1/19/1878

Howard N. Potts

...whereas Stephen Tabor and Rosetta M.  
Tabor of Queens County, New York did on

WO-333

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MARGARET VANDEGRIFT GUEST COTTAGE

(TARRY-A-WHILE)

Dorchester Street

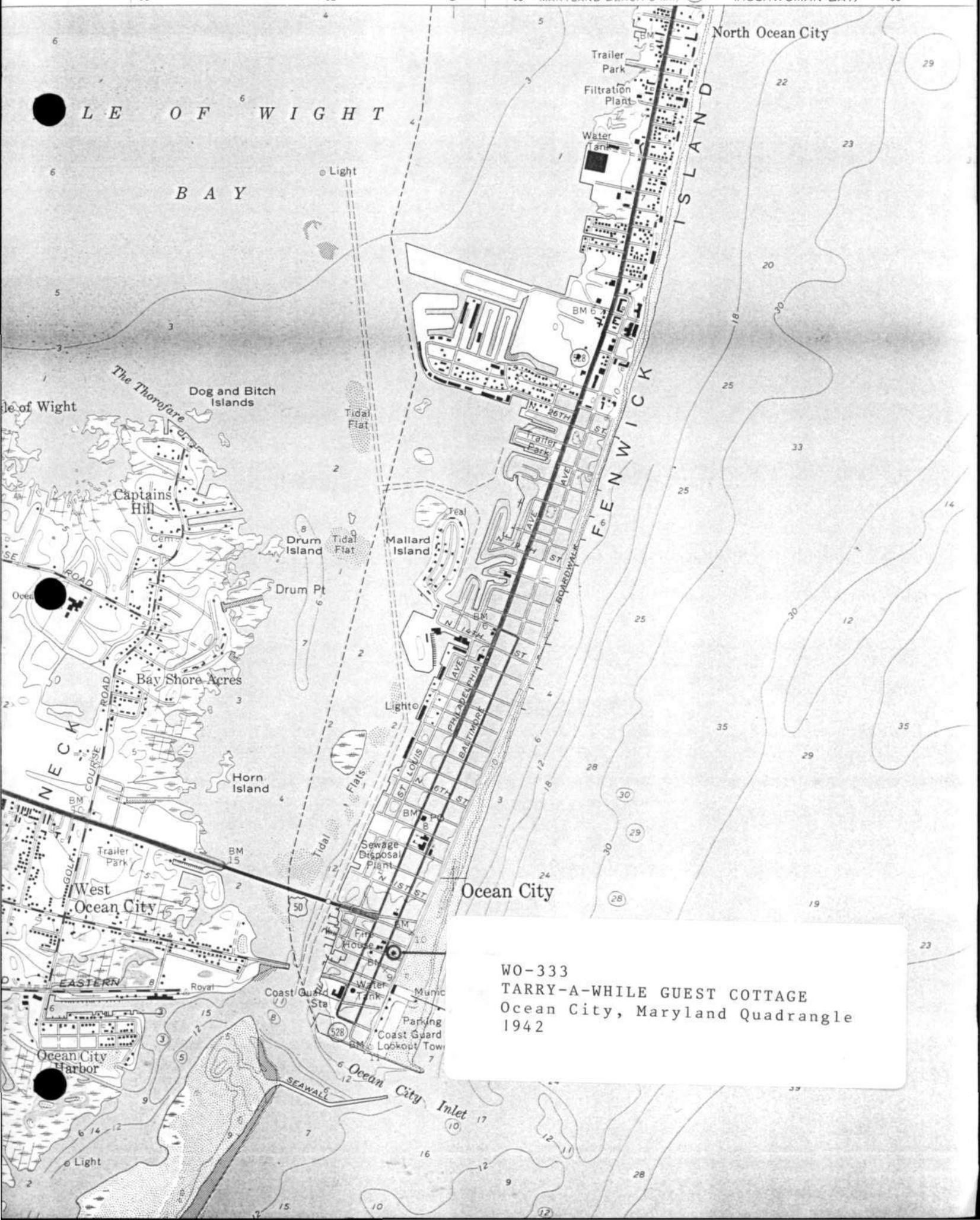
Chain of title continued

7/28/1876 execute a deed to said Hillary R. Pitts, B. Jones Taylor, and George W. Purnell, authorizing them as trustees to convey certain lots of land at Ocean City, Maryland to such persons as respectively drew the same according to their respective number at a drawing held for the distribution of said lots at Ocean City on 8/31/1875 as will more fully appear by reference ITM 4/536-538

- No. 266 -

Ocean City LIFE-SAVING Museum Collection  
100-333





WO-333  
TARRY-A-WHILE GUEST COTTAGE  
Ocean City, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942