WI-162 c. 1838, c. 1880-90
Gilliss House
Quantico
Private

The Gilliss house is an unusual structure in the town of Quantico with its two-story, six-bay elevation that combines a private dwelling with a former store and post office. Dating to around 1840-50, the northern three-bay section of the house was enlarged around 1890-1900 with the southern three-bay part. In an effort to unify the entire structure a new roof was built with a cross-gable centered on the lengthened elevation.

Chain of title research for this town lot traces the ownership of the property back to Elizabeth Carmine, who purchased several lots during the early to mid-nineteenth century. On October 9, 1838, she purchased a "house and lot" from Henry and Susan Gale for $212.50, a sum that have included a modest two-story house. Twelve years later, in May 1850, she transferred ownership of 22 1/4 perches of "Monmouth" on the eastern side of a Main Street to William Smith for $280.

Twenty years later the property was transferred between William and Patty E. Howard and Elizabeth A. Goslee, and the land was described as "all that house and lot in the town of Quantico upon which William Smith, deceased, resided at the time of his death adjoining on the north side of the store house and lot of Andrew J. Crawford and George A. Bounds."

The house and lot remained in Goslee family ownership through the balance of the nineteenth century and until 1916 when a chancery case in Wicomico County court forced a public auction. The property was sold to Fannie E. Gilliss in February 1916 and the house remained in Gilliss family hands until 1971.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: GILLISS HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WI-162

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE

2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Development Period(s): AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION 1815-1870

4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-162

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic GILLISS HOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number East side of Main Street ___ not for publication

city, town Quantico ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

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

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

name Anne Kennerly Morris Clay

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Quantico state and zip code MD 21856

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 886

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 416

city, town Salisbury state MD 21803

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-162

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_x_ original site
_x_ good	___ ruins	_x_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

The Gilliss house stands on the west side of Main Street in the center of Quantico, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, six-bay frame house faces west with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built in two main stages, the northern three bay section of the six-bay front block dates to around 1840-50, while the southern three-bay part comprises a c. 1880-1900 addition. Attached to the back of the northern part is a single-story kitchen wing that appears to be contemporaneous with the mid nineteenth century section. The entire house rests on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The medium pitched roofs are covered with asphalt shingles.

The west (main) facade is an asymmetrical six-bay elevation. The northern three bays, which comprises the earliest section, has a center entrance and flanking single-pane sash windows. The four-panel front door has arched moldings in the top panels. A single-story stoop shelters the front door. The second floor is marked by three two-over-two sash windows. The southern three bays are defined by a center double-door entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The windows are missing glass panes. A two-light transom tops the front door. The second floor of the south section is lighted by two-over-two sash windows as well. Centered on the long six-bay facade is a cross gable pierced by a round arched attic window.

The north and south gable ends are interior end brick chimney stacks with two-over-two sash windows. Small two-over-two sash windows light the attic. The eaves are extended with returns at the base of the roof.

The east side of the main block is partially covered by a single-story kitchen wing which has a shed roofed porch on the north side. The porch shelters a side four-panel door flanked by a six-over-six sash window. The south side of the kitchen is pierced by a paired set of two-over-two sash windows. On the east side of the southern two-story section is a second floor door that was probably served by an exterior stair which has disappeared.

The interior retains a large portion of its original woodwork. The northern three-bay section includes a center hall with a second quarter of the nineteenth century stair. A heavily turned newel post and slender rectangular balusters support a slight handrail. Two-panel Greek Revival doors open into the adjacent rooms. The north room or parlor retains a period mantel with a two-panel frieze and plain pilasters that support a thin mantel shelf.

(continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-162

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

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B xC __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state xlocal

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

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The house and lot remained in Goslee family ownership through the balance of the nineteenth century and until 1916 when a chancery case in Wicomico County court forced a public auction. The property was sold to Fannie E. Gilliss in February 1916 and the house remained in Gilliss family hands until 1971.

The property is classified under Category B, which identifies a property that should be preserved since it contains a structure exhibiting some good architectural details representing a good example of architectural development and style, and which also supports the character of the district.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-162

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	**date**	9/11/93
street & number	P. O. Box 5	**telephone**	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	**state**	MD 21871

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

PS-2746

WI-162
GILLISS HOUSE
Desciption continued

A two-panel Greek Revival door opens into the living room to the south, which!has a columned mantel featuring a mirrored overmantel. This turn-of-the-twentieth century mantel was probably added around the same time that the two-story wing was built to the rear. The second floor of the oldest section features several original features including two-panel doors and a period mantel in the north bedroom. A small closet at the front end of the hall has been added with a shallow profile four-panel door.

Access to the attic is provided through a small opening in the ceiling of the southernmost room on the second floor. The common rafter roof structure is continuous with no discernable break in the contruction sequence. It appears that the entire roof was rebuilt at the time the storefront section was atttached during the late nineteenth century.

WI-162
GILLISS HOUSE
Quantico, Maryland
Chain of title

886/416	Kenneth J. Johnson Sandra K. Johnson
	to
11/1/1977	Anne Kennerly Morris Clay
JWTS 765/378	Tony Ross Sterling, Jr. Margaret Taylor Sterling
	to
7/10/1972	Kenneth J. Johnson Sandra K. Johnson
JWTS 739/90	Harry Gilliss, et al.
	to
7/19/1971	Tony R. Sterling, Jr.
JWTS 734/175	Rollie D. Gilliss, Personal Representative of the Estate of Miriam A. Gilliss
	to
	Harry Gilliss, Rollie Gilliss, Olive G. Parks being the same property formerly owned by Fannie E. Gilliss, deceased
JWTS 426/32	Heirs of William Gilliss
	to
4/12/1957	Miriam A. Gilliss

IDT 180/94	Charles E. Gilliss
	to
5/17/1933	William Gilliss
JCK 101/137	Robert W. Mobray, trustee
	to
2/24/1916	Fannie E. Gilliss
	$635.00 Public auction as a result of a chancery court case..... (and upon the death of the said Fannie E. Gilliss the property descended to the said William Gilliss and Charles E. Gilliss)
TFJr. 3/391	William Howard Patty E. Howard
	to
3/22/1870	Elizabeth A. Goslee
	and upon the death of the said Elizabeth A. Goslee, intestate, descended to the Marion F. Goslee and Winnie I. Goslee as her only children
	all that house and lot in the town of Quantico upon which William Smith dec'd resided at the time of his death adjoining and on the north side of the store house and lot of Andrew J. Crawford and George A. Bounds
Deed not found in Wicomico or Somerset County Courthouses	Purnell Toadvin
	to
	William Howard

Somerset County
Land Record
WP 6/104

Elizabeth Carmine

to

5/29/1850

William Smith

$280.00 "Monmouth" 22¼ square perches

eastermost side of a street in Quantico

Somerset County
Land Record
GH 9/508

John Austin
Jane Austin

to

11/2/1838

Elizabeth Carmine

$250.00 a house and lot in the village of Quantico "Chelsea"

Somerset County
Land Record
GH 9/507

Henry Gale and Susan Gale

to

10/9/1838

Elizabeth Carmine

$212.50 "a house and lot" 3/4 acre on the north side of the county road, situate in Quantico

Somerset County
Land Record
JD 7/268

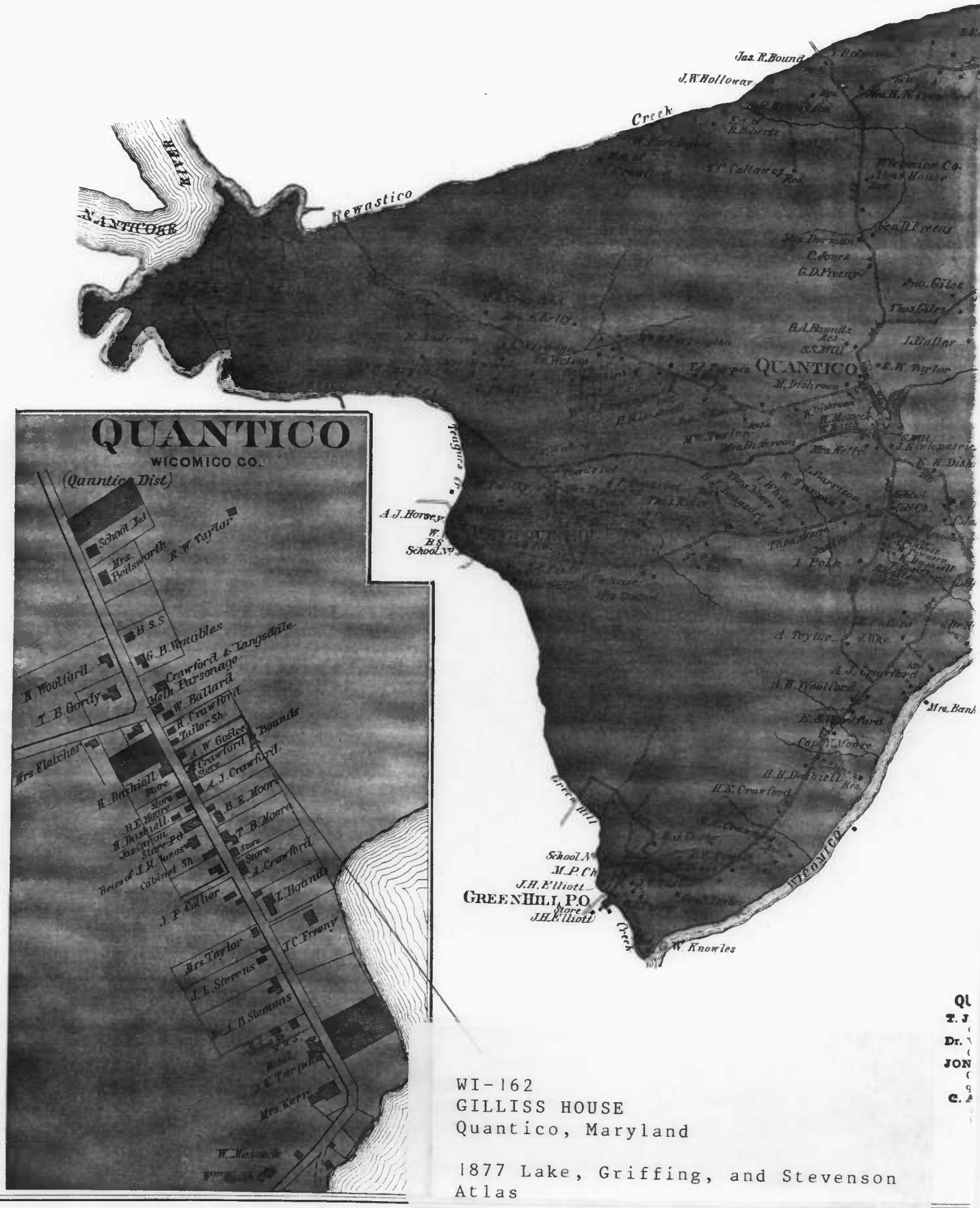
William Giles
Kitty Giles

to

6/11/1822

Elizabeth Carmine

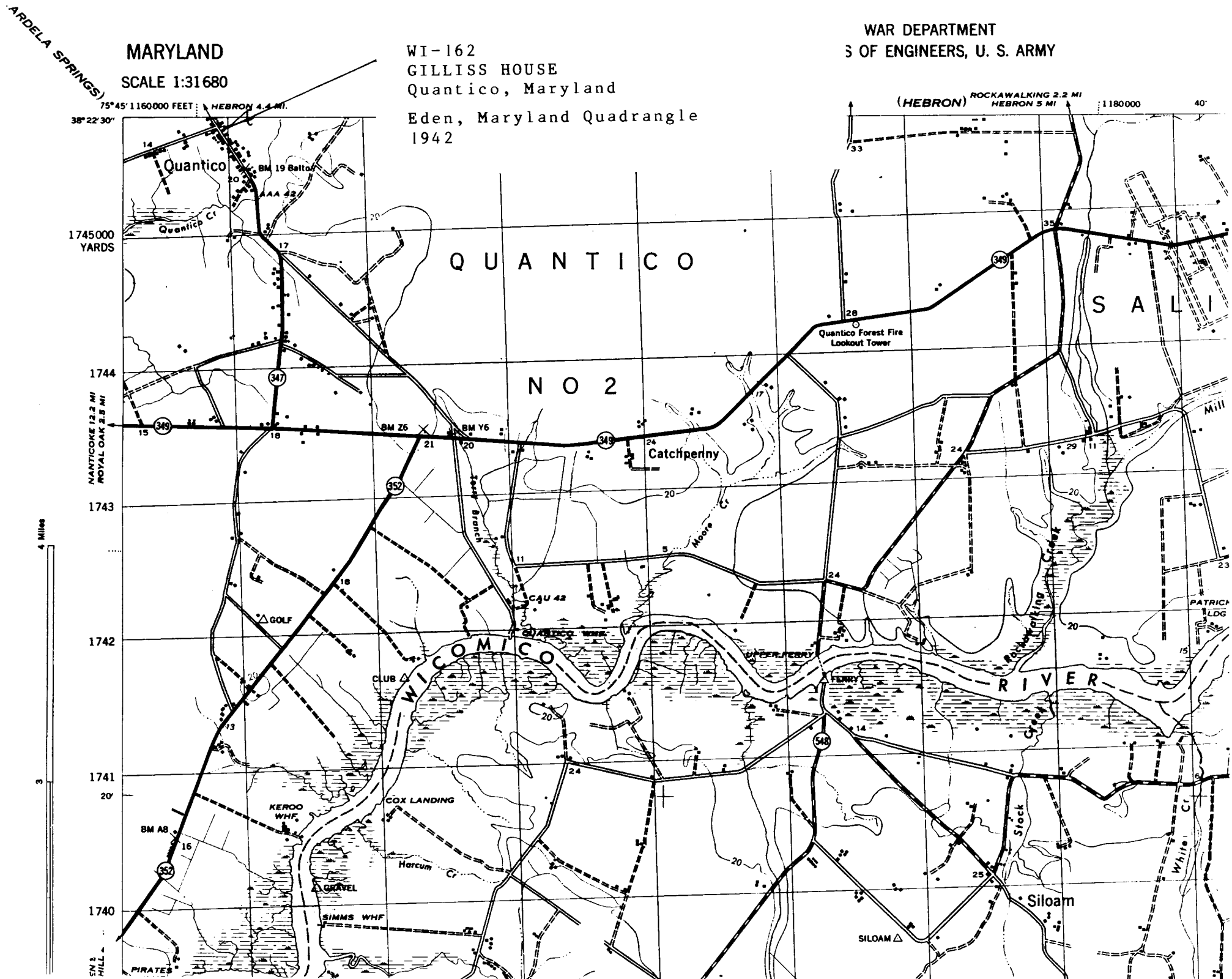
$120.00 all that lot of ground in Quantico Mills purchased by them from George Gale



WI-162
GILLISS HOUSE
Quantico, Maryland

1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas

WI-162
GILLISS HOUSE
Quantico, Maryland

Eden, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

WAR DEPARTMENT
S OF ENGINEERS, U. S. ARMY