

WI-185
Dr. William J. Catlin House
Whitehaven
Private

1901

The Dr. William J. Catlin house is a good example of a dated early twentieth century (1901) farmhouse with its largely intact two-and-a-half, five-bay, cross-gabled principal elevation and gable ends facades. The date is scratched on an inside surface of the extant brick chimney. An intact two-story semi-octagonal bay pavilion, partially sheathed with fishscale shingles, distinguishes the south gable end. The house is also significant for many original interior finishes common to turn of the twentieth century rural domestic architecture of the lower Shore. Most notable is the closed stringer staircase along with bulls-eye block door and window surrounds. With its location on the edge of Whitehaven, the Dr. William J. Catlin house and its surrounding acreage contribute to the village's nineteenth century character and the property provides an important visual anchor.

Built in 1901 by Elizabeth A. G. Catlin for her son, Dr. William J. Catlin, this two-and-a-half story dwelling was left to him in her will of 1908. In her words she stated,

I give and devise unto my said son William J. Catlin for his natural life but no longer and at his death unto his son William G. Catlin in fee simple....all that parcel of land belonging to me whereon said William J. Catlin now resides situate in said village of White Haven"

True to Elizabeth's bequest, the property remained in the hands of her son, William J. Catlin, and then her grandson, William G. Catlin, until he sold the property in 1930 to Raymond T. Robertson, in whose family the property remained for thirty-four years.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: WILLIAM J. CATLIN HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WI-185

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):
INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE
1870-1930
- 4) Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic WILLIAM J. CATLIN HOUSE

and/or common "SCOTT-FREE"

2. Location

street & number 2764 Whitehaven Road ___ not for publication

city, town Whitehaven ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

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. and Mrs. David Scott

street & number 2764 Whitehaven Road telephone no.: 873-2939

city, town Whitehaven state and zip code MD 21856

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1196 Map 65

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 446 P. 116

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-185

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.

The Dr. William J. Catlin house, now known as the Scott house, stands at the end of a cedar tree-lined lane that intersects Whitehaven Road on the edge of the community of Whitehaven, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame house faces east with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Dated to 1901 by an inscription in the south chimney stack, the two-and-a-half story, center hall, single-pile frame house is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof has extended eaves with exposed and decorated rafter feet. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-and-a-half story kitchen.

The east (main) elevation is a symmetrical five-bay elevation with a restored turned post porch sheltering the center three bays. The entrance retains an elaborate etched glass front door that has decorative square panels below the lock rail. Elaborate Victorian door knobs and face plates remain in place. Fixed above the door is a narrow transom fitted with patterned translucent glass. The window openings on the first and second floors are filled with single-pane sash. Centered on the roof is a steeply pitched cross-gable pierced by a triangular colored glass window surrounded by fishscale shingles. Rising through the roof are two chimney stacks. The north stack has been rebuilt to serve a wood stove insert.

The north gable end is marked by a pair of single-pane sash windows that light the first and second floors, and a single window pierces the upper gable. The south gable end, on the other hand, is extended by a two-story bay window. The extended eaves above the bay retain decorative Victorian sawnwork.

The two-and-a-half story rear wing is three bays across by one room deep, and shingle-story enclosed shed roofed sections extend the kitchen to each side. Single-pane sash windows light the first and second floors, and dormers have been added to the roof.

The interior has survived with a large portion of its turn of the twentieth century woodwork intact. The center hall is fitted with a turned baluster staircase with a boldly turned newel post and a diagonal molded stringer. Bulls-eye corner block surrounds frame the door openings. A brick hearth has been added to the north room, and the mantel has been removed from the room south of the hall. The south bedroom on the second floor has a period mantel with turned spindle columns that rise to a scroll decorated frieze. Bulls-eye block surrounds frame four-panel doors. The enclosed attic stair rises behind a beaded board door.

8. Significance

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1901 **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 Dr. William J. Catlin house is a good example of a dated early twentieth century (1901) farmhouse with its largely intact two-and-a-half, five-bay, cross-gabled principal elevation and gable ends facades. The date is scratched on an inside surface of the extant brick chimney. An intact two-story semi-octagonal bay pavilion, partially sheathed with fishscale shingles, distinguishes the south gable end. The house is also significant for many original interior finishes common to turn of the twentieth century rural domestic architecture of the lower Shore. Most notable is the closed stringer staircase along with bulls-eye block door and window surrounds. With its location on the edge of Whitehaven, the Dr. William J. Catlin house and its surrounding acreage contribute to the village's nineteenth century character and the property provides an important visual anchor.

Built in 1901 by Elizabeth A. G. Catlin for her son, Dr. William J. Catlin, this two-and-a-half story dwelling was left to him in her will of 1908.(LJG 1/358) In her words she stated,

I give and devise unto my said son William J. Catlin for his natural life but no longer and at his death unto his son William G. Catlin in fee simple....all that parcel of land belonging to me whereon said William J. Catlin now resides situate in said village of White Haven"

True to Elizabeth's bequest, the property remained in the hands of her son, William J. Catlin, and then her grandson, William G. Catlin, until he sold the property in 1930 to Raymond T. Robertson,(IDT 164/349) in whose family the property remained for thirty-four years.(JWTS 588/186)

Due to the distinctive architectural character of this house along with its pivotal location, the property deserves listing in Category A, which identifies properties that must be preserved since they are historically significant and exhibit many good architectural details representative of a period of architectural design and at the same time contribute uniquely and superlatively to the character of the historic district.

WI-185
WILLIAM J. CATLIN HOUSE
Whitehaven, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain-of-title

1196/446 Thurlow C. Leister

to

10/12/1989 David W. Scott
Doris Jean Fitch Scott
15.22 acres

JWTS 588/186 Raymond T. Robertson
Elsie M. Robertson

to

6/29/1964 Thurlow C. Leister
Parcel 1 and Parcel 2
Parcel 1 containing 9 acres known as the
William G. Catlin Homeplace

IDT 164/349 William G. Catlin of Montgomery Co. Pa.
William B. Catlin

to

7/31/1930 Raymond T. Robertson
"William J. Catlin Homeplace"

LJG 1/358-59 Last will and testament of
Elizabeth A. G. Catlin

to

Written William G. Catlin
12/2/1908
Second item: I give and devise unto my said
son William J. Catlin for and
during his natural life but no
longer and at his death unto his
son William G. Catlin in fee simple
all that lot of land known as the
"Flag Pole Lot" and sometimes called

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WILLIAM J. CATLIN HOUSE

Whitehaven, Wicomico County, Maryland

Chain of title continued

Lot No. 1 containing one-fourth of an acre, situate in the town or village of White Haven, aforesaid, at the intersection of the street and the lane which said lane leads to my residence, and also all that parcel of land belonging to me whereon said William J. Catlin now resides situate in said village of White Haven and bounded on the north by the lands of Eugene Taylor, on the east by the county road, the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the lot of George H. Laremore on the south...

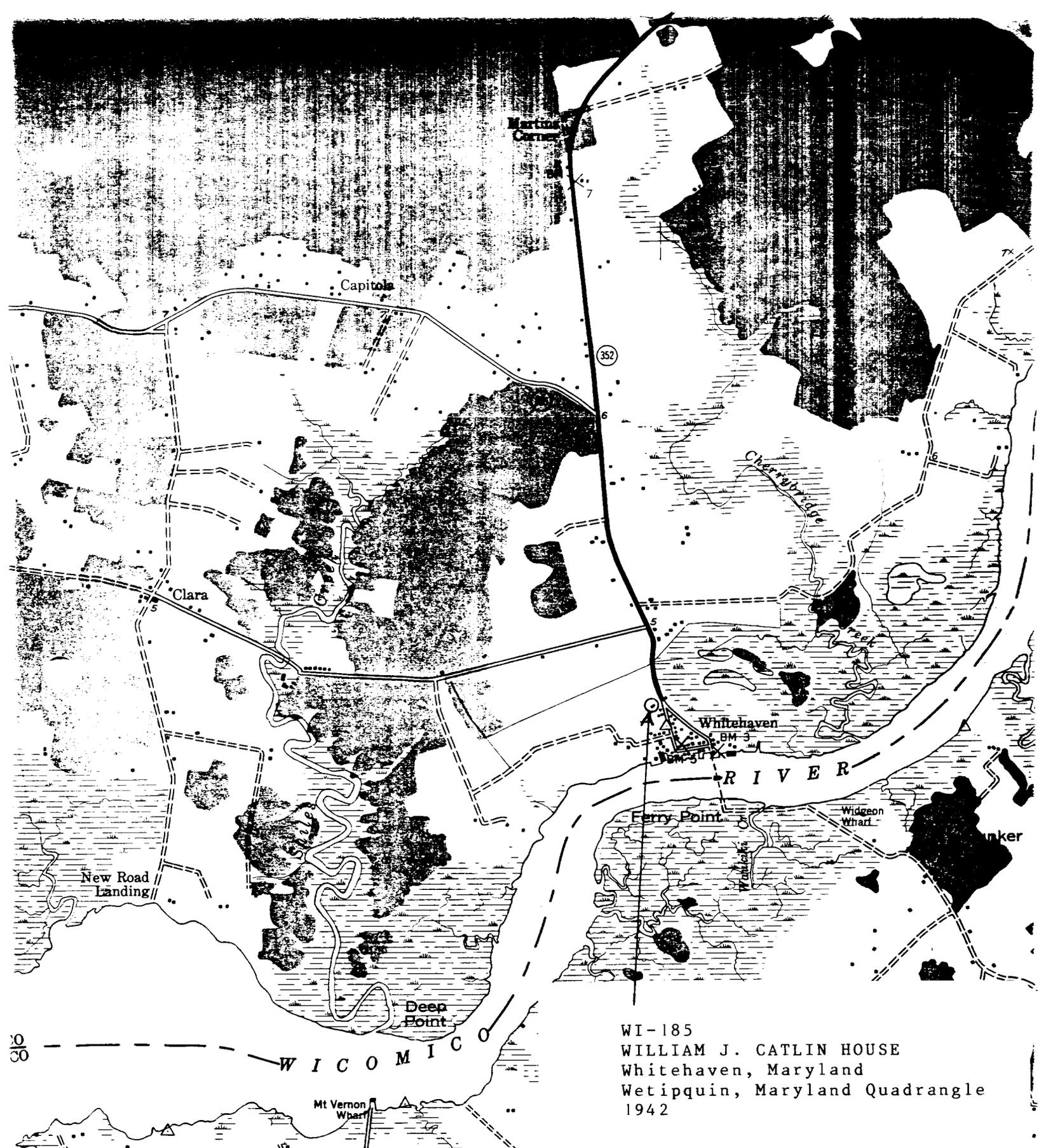
SPT 3/285

Walter A. Billingham
Amanda M. Billingham

to

9/27/1879

Elizabeth A. G. Catlin
"Bolton" the same being the farm whereon we the said Walter and Amanda do now reside and all of the same which was conveyed to Amanda M. Yelloly by Price J. Patton & wife Margaret...



WI-185
 WILLIAM J. CATLIN HOUSE
 Whitehaven, Maryland
 Wetipquin, Maryland Quadrangle
 1942

(MONIE)

47'30"

PRINCESS ANNE 6.3 M

SCALE 1:24 000

1 MILE

WI-185

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

