

WI-195  
John W. Messick House  
Whitehaven  
Private

c. 1893-94

The John W. Messick house is a distinctive two-and-a-half story Victorian dwelling erected during the early 1890s on a lot bordering Church Street, formerly known as Locust Street. Recently restored to its late nineteenth century appearance with the aid of an early twentieth century photograph of the house, the exterior of the center hall/single-pile dwelling displays several characteristic features from the period. The shed roofed porch is supported by turned posts and a spindle decoration stretches between posts. Fishscale shingles cover the gable ends which also feature cross stick decoration. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing that includes an attached frame dairy with a below ground milk well.

Construction of this house is dated to 1893-94 during the ownership of John W. Messick, who purchased this lot in May 1893 for \$100. A little over six months later, John W. Messick and his wife, Mary E. Messick, sold the house and lot to Edith M. Toadvine for \$1100. It is not known whether the Messicks ever resided in the house, and Edith M. Toadvine held the property for only four years. On February 26, 1898, the house was sold to Eugene N. Taylor and his wife Sarah C. Taylor for \$850. For much of the twentieth century, the Church Street (formerly Locust Street) house and lot were in the hands of Vida M. Covington.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: JOHN W. MESSICK HOUSE

MHT Inventory Number: WI-195

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-195

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic JOHN W. MESSICK HOUSE, VIDA COVINGTON HOUSE

and/or common DEACON HOUSE

## 2. Location

street & number 2689 Church Street  not for publication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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Deacon

street & number 2689 Church Street telephone no.:

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 1231 Map 65

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 301 P. 31

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. WI-195

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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.

Historically identified as the John W. Messick house, or commonly known as the Deacon house, this two-and-a-half story, three-bay dwelling stands at 2689 Church Street in Whitehaven, Wicomico County, Maryland. The center hall/single-pile frame house faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1894, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame dwelling is supported by a low brick foundation, and the house is uniformly covered with plain weatherboard siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, three-bay by one room kitchen wing that extends to each side with single story sections.

The west (main) facade is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The front door is partially glazed. Sheltering the first floor is a shed roof porch supported on turned posts with spindle decoration fixed between the posts. A small cross gable is centered on the roof. Lighting the second floor are three two-over-two sash windows. Louvered shutters are nailed to the house. Centered on the steeply pitched gable roof is a cross gable distinguished by a modern colored glass window that fills the pointed arch opening. A tapered finial rises through the roof peak, and the face of the cross gable is covered with fishscale shingles. The eaves to the roof are extended and the rafter feet are exposed.

The gable end are essentially alike with pairs of two-over-two sash windows lighting the first and second floors. The gable ends are covered with fishscale shingles and are pierced by small two-over-two attic windows. Embellishing the peak of the gable ends is a cross stick decoration. Interior end brick stove chimneys pierce the roofline and are finished with corbelled caps.

Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, three-bay service wing which extends to each side with enclosed shed roofed sections. Attached to the southeast corner of the house is a shed roof dairy that has a below ground milk well.

The interior of the house is finished with late nineteenth century woodwork characteristic of the Victorian era. A scroll decorated staircase is fixed between the living room and dining room, although the hall partition separating the living room has been removed. Shallow profile four-panel doors are framed by plain surrounds, and factory-made Victorian mantels remain in each room.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-195

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarlan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> phillosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

The John W. Messick house is a distinctive two-and-a-half story Victorian dwelling erected during the early 1890s on a lot bordering Church Street, formerly known as Locust Street. Recently restored to its late nineteenth century appearance with the aid of an early twentieth century photograph of the house, the exterior of the center hall/single-pile dwelling displays several characteristic features from the period. The shed roofed porch is supported by turned posts and a spindle decoration stretches between posts. Fishscale shingles cover the gable ends which also feature cross stick decoration. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing that includes an attached frame dairy with a below ground milk well.

Construction of this house is dated to 1893-94 during the ownership of John W. Messick, who purchased this lot in May 1893 for \$100.(Wicomico Land Record, JTT 11/305) A little over six months later, John W. Messick and his wife, Mary E. Messick, sold the house and lot to Edith M. Toadvine for \$1100. (Wicomico Land Record, JTT 12/234) It is not known whether the Messicks ever resided in the house, and Edith M. Toadvine held the property for only four years. On February 26, 1898, the house was sold to Eugene N. Taylor and his wife Sarah C. Taylor for \$850.(JTT 22/80) For much of the twentieth century, the Church Street (formerly Locust Street) house and lot were in the hands of Vida M. Covington.

This house falls into Category B, which identifies buildings that should be preserved since they are structures exhibiting good architectural details representing a good example of architectural development and style, and as well supports the charcter of the district.



WI-195  
JOHN W. MESSICK HOUSE  
2689 Church Street  
Whitehaven, Maryland  
Chain of title

1231/301                      John B. Harmon  
                                 Suzanne Reynolds

to

9/24/1990                     Edward F. Deacon  
                                 Margaret S. Deacon  
                                 Items 1 & 2

AJS 798/516                    Emily C. Griffin, Personal Representative  
                                 of the Estate of Vida M. Covington

to

8/13/1973                     John B. Harmon  
                                 Suzanne R. Harmon of Montgomery Co., MD

JWTS 488/359                   Vida M. Covington

to

11/13/1959                    Emily C. Griffin  
                                 Vida Marguerite C. Bands  
                                 Priscilla C. Smith  
                                 Reserving unto Vida M. Covington a life estate  
Item #2 All that lot or parcel of land  
                                 situate, lying and being in the  
                                 village of White Haven on the  
                                 easterly side of and binding upon a  
                                 street called Locust Street, and  
                                 having a frontage thereon of 60 feet  
                                 and having a depth of 90 feet being  
                                 bounded on the east by the land  
                                 formerly owned by Bramus Palmer, on  
                                 the north by the land formerly  
                                 owned by A. L. Wingate and on the  
                                 South by the land described as  
                                 Item First above

JTT 22/80                      Edith M. Toadvine and Louis C. Toadvine  
                                 to

2/26/1898                     Eugene N. Taylor and Sarah C. Taylor    \$850.00

WI-195  
JOHN W. MESSICK HOUSE  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JTT 12/324

John W. Messick  
Mary E. Messick

to

1/20/1894

Edith M. Toadvine  
\$1100.00 all that lot or parcel of  
ground with improvements thereon...  
out of a lot or parcel of ground  
formerly of Stephen W. Dolby and  
owned by William Dolby containing  
1/3 acre more or less

JTT 11/305

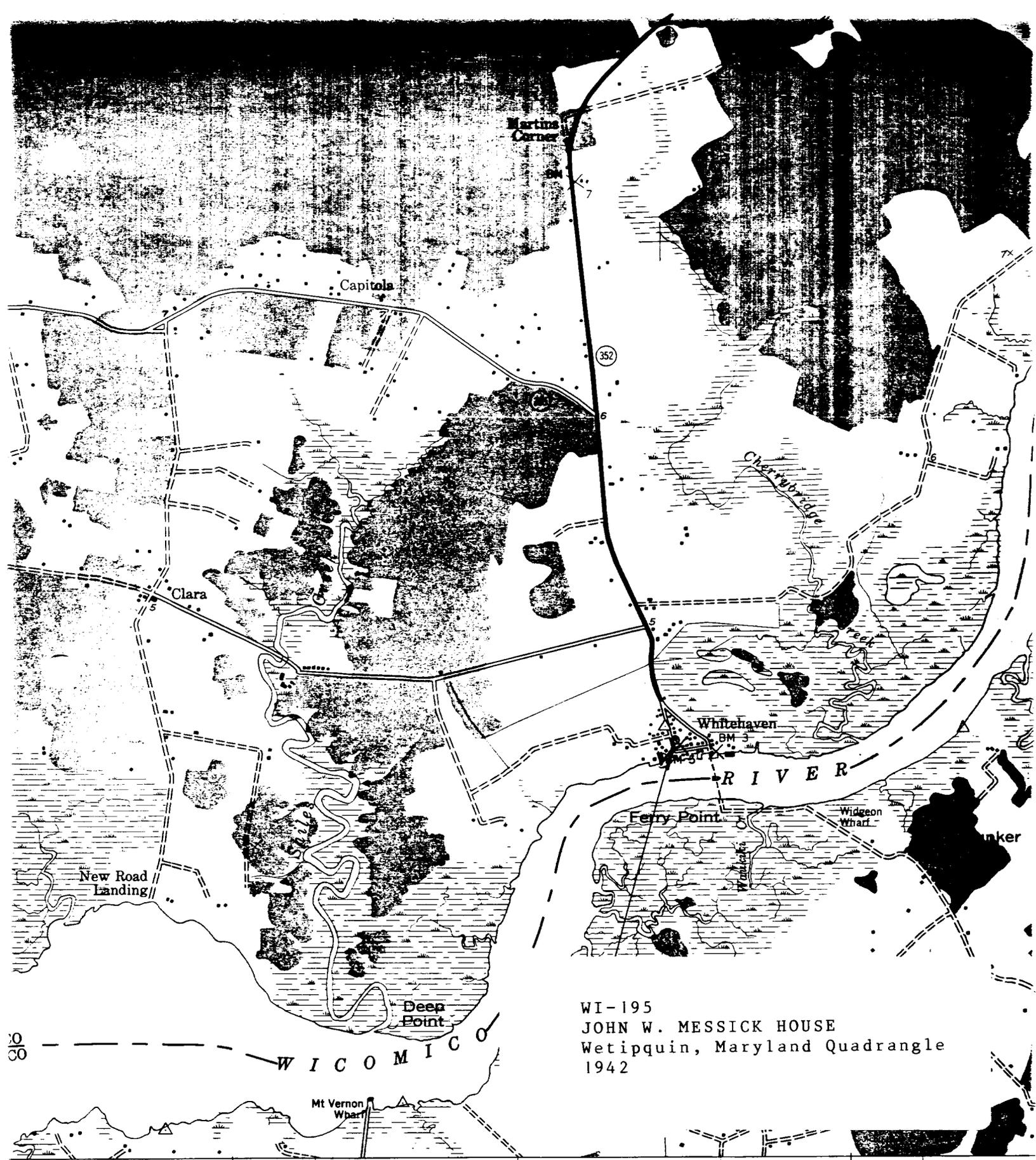
Eugene N. Taylor  
Sarah C. Taylor

to

5/25/1893

John W. Messick  
\$100.00 all that lot or parcel of land  
situated in the village of White  
Haven bounded on the north by the  
lot of Albert Wingate on the east  
by the lot of J.T. Bloodsworth on  
south by the lot of E. N. Taylor  
and on the west by street known as  
Locust Street and being sixty feet  
front and ninety feet back





WI-195  
 JOHN W. MESSICK HOUSE  
 Wetipquin, Maryland Quadrangle  
 1942

(MONIE)

47'30"

PRINCESS ANNE 6.3 M

SCALE 1:24 000

1 MILE

WI-195

1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

