

WI-260  
Woolworth's Building  
Salisbury  
Private

1890-1894

The old Woolworth's building is a prominent late nineteenth century structure located in the downtown business district of Salisbury. Now known as the Gallery Building, and recently renovated for multiple shops and offices, the exterior retains a large degree of its late nineteenth century architectural character. Built around 1890-94 following the devastating 1886 city fire, this three-story brick structure appears first on the 1894 Sanborn Insurance map, however each space is labeled vacant. The vacancy may have been due to its recent construction. Five years later the building is labeled with a wholesale groceries in two sections of the three-part building, while a private school occupied a third section. The second and third floors were designated as boarding rooms. Another five years interval passed until the next map was produced in 1904, which located a sewing machine store in the eastern storefront, a wholesale grocer in the center section, and a clothier in the western storefront.

The eleven-bay exterior of this brick storefront is defined by series of round arched openings and a large amount of inset terra cotta panels that add a rich textural contrast to the smooth surface of pressed bricks. The repeating rhythm of the arched window openings is coordinated with inset stringcourses of terra cotta panels. Small colored glass panes distinguish the centrally located window openings. Although recently redesigned, the interior retains a pressed metal ceiling.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Woolworth's Building

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-260

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE 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): Commercial Block

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-260

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Woolworth's Building

and/or common Gallery Building

## 2. Location

street & number 212 West Main Street  not for publication

city, town Salisbury  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 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 Gillis Gilkerson, Inc.

street & number P. O. Box 282 telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21803

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107, P. 1060  
liber 1346

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 8

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-260

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

Currently known as the Gallery Building, formerly the Woolworth's Building, this three-story, eleven-bay brick commercial block is located at 212 West Main Street on the Downtown Plaza of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The building faces north and it is flanked on each side by nineteenth and twentieth century commercial blocks.

Dating around 1890, the three-story, eleven-bay brick commercial block is of pressed brick painted white. During the past year (1995-1996), the building has undergone an extensive remodeling that has included the restyling of the first floor and the redesign of the three-floor interior. The building has been enlarged to the rear as well.

The north (main) facade is a symmetrical eleven-bay elevation of pressed brick above the first floor level. The first floor storefronts have been recently redesigned with large display windows flanked by brick pilasters with molded watertable bases. A side entrance in the far eastern bay provides access to a narrow stairway to the second floor.

The eleven-bay second and third floors are defined by a center, three-bay section marked by projecting brick pilasters with a single-pane sash window in the center bay that is topped by a multi-pane colored glass transom window. The flanking center bays are pierced by double one-over-one sash windows topped by segmental arched colored glass transoms. In between the second and third floors are floral pattern terra cotta panels imbedded in the brickwork.

Four bays flank the center section and are marked by round arched window openings on the second and third floors. A raised soldier course of brick defines each arch, and each window has a multi-pane colored glass transom window. Stretching across the second floor at the level of the window header is a repeating series of inset terra cotta panels in the form of a diamond design. In addition, there is a tripartite series of molded terra cotta panels above each window opening.

The third floor is defined by a series of round arched window openings with a plain stringcourse at the base of the window arch. Singular terra cotta panels are found between each window opening. Finishing the top of the roof is a wooden crown molding.

The interior of the building has been completely reworked. The only original feature is the pressed metal coffered ceiling that remains in the center hall, which extends through the building. A new staircase of turned balusters and a molded handrail rises to the second floor, and a second staircase of similar design descends to the ground floor rooms on the Camden Street side. An modern addition (1995-1996) has extended the structure southward, and the exterior is covered in a modern stucco. Large openings with multi-pane window divisions pierce the sides of the new addition, which has a large rear entrance that opens from Camden Street.

# 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"/> 500-1599             | <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"/> humanitarian    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce     | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <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:  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.

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The eleven-bay exterior of this brick storefront is defined by series of round arched openings and a large amount of inset terra cotta panels that add a rich textural contrast to the smooth surface of pressed bricks. The repeating rhythm of the arched window openings is coordinated with inset stringcourses of terra cotta panels. Small colored glass panes distinguish the centrally located window openings. Although recently redesigned, the interior retains a pressed metal ceiling.

Due to the distinctive architectural features of this building coupled with its prominent size and location it deserves listing in Category A, which identifies buildings that must be retained. The building adds significantly to the late nineteenth century of West Main Street.

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1 Sanborn Insurance Map Company, (1894) Salisbury, Maryland State Archives.  
 2 Sanborn Insurance Map Company, (1899) Salisbury, Maryland State Archives.  
 3 Sanborn Insurance Map Company, (1094) Salisbury, Maryland State Archives.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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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 4/10/96

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland 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





WI-260  
Woolworth's Building  
212 West Main Street

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942

5890' 1 NW  
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

447000m E





