

WI-271  
Old Wicomico News Building  
Salisbury  
Private

Early 20th century, 1920

The three-story, English bond brick storefront with stone facings that frame the paired window openings was erected in 1920 as part of an effort to redesign and enlarge an early twentieth century law office. Classified under the Renaissance Revival, the 1920 facade included a large datestone above a heavy stone cornice featuring acanthus decorated console brackets and a row of egg-and-dart molding. While the first floor has been reworked, it originally included classical stone entrances and an elaborate first floor frieze decorated with classical swags and urns. Small panels above the second and third floor windows still survive with similar classical motifs. Despite the loss of the first floor features, the building still retains a large percentage of its architectural interest.

For a large portion of its existence, this building has housed a newspaper office. In January 1920, the News Publishing Company of Salisbury purchased what was then known as the Woodcock & Webb building with plans to remodel and enlarge the former law office. A few months prior, the News Publishing Company had been organized following the acquisition of the Brewington Bros. Co., which had published the *Wicomico News* since 1887. On January 15, 1920, a short article in the *Wicomico News* verified the construction plans by stating:

At the rear of their recently purchased three story brick building the News

Publishing Company will erect a brick addition with a frontage on Camden Street. This addition will cover the entire rear of the Woodcock & Webb lot and will be about 26 feet wide and 76 feet deep. The entire addition and the ground floor of the present building, which fronts Main Street, will be occupied by the News Publishing company in its newspaper and job printing business.

Preparations for the relocation of the newspaper office and printing room were stretched over the next six months with occupation planned for the summer. The *Wicomico News* was assembled and printed in this building until the late 1930s, when it was acquired by the Brush-Moore Newspapers, Inc. of Canton, Ohio, and merged with the *Salisbury Times*. The *Salisbury Times and Wicomico News*, and later, the *Salisbury Times and Shoreman's Daily*, were written and printed here until a new newspaper office was built in the mid 1950s.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Wicomico News Building

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-271

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture  
Commerce

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance  
1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Commercial Block



# 7. Description

Survey No. WI-271

<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 old Wicomico News Building, now owned by Peninsula Bank and housing its administrative offices, is a three-story, two-bay brick commercial block located at 110 West Main Street on the Downtown Plaza of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The building faces north with contemporaneous commercial block flanking it on each side.

Estimated to date to the first decade of the twentieth century, the core structure of the Wicomico News Building was enlarged and restyled in 1920 and documented to that year with a datestone fixed at the top of the wall surface. The West Main Street elevation is reflective of the Renaissance Revival style. The first floor has been reworked to suit a modern office space, whereas the second and third floors remain essentially unaltered. The front brick wall is laid in English bond with two pairs of window openings on the second and third floors. The windows are framed by wide stone facings and a heavy stone mullion that divides the nine-over-one sash windows. Fixed above each set of windows is a decorative center panel. A carved urn and scroll motif in classical form is featured in each panel. Nine-over-one replacement windows have been introduced on the second floor, while the original nine-over-one sash remain on the third floor. The entire window bay is distinguished by slight projection in the brick wall surface.

The top of the wall is finished with a large stone entablature below a capped parapet. Large foliated consoles are fixed under the cornice. Stretching across the entablature below the consoles is an egg-and-dart molding. A plain frieze finishes the entablature composition. The 1920 datestone is centered above the entablature.

The east side elevation is obscured by the adjacent commercial block, and there is a narrow alley on the west side.

The interior was not seen.

# 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 checked="" 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**      1920      **Builder/Architect**

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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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Due to the intact nature of the second and third floor features, this building qualifies for listing in Category B, which identifies buildings that should be preserved since they exhibit good architectural details and contribute to the overall historic sense of the district.

For a large portion of its existence, this building has housed a newspaper office. In January 1920, the News Publishing Company of Salisbury purchased what was then known as the Woodcock & Webb building with plans to remodel and enlarge the former law office.(1) A few months prior, the News Publishing Company had been organized following the acquisition of the Brewington Bros. Co., which had published the *Wicomico News* since 1887.(2) On January 15, 1920, a short article in the *Wicomico News* verified the construction plans by stating:

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(Continued)



## SIGNIFICANCE

8.1 Wicomico News Building, WI-271  
West Main Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Preparations for the relocation of the newspaper office and printing room were stretched over the next six months with occupation planned for the summer. The *Wicomico News* was assembled and printed in this building until the late 1930s when it was acquired by the Brush-Moore Newspapers, Inc. of Canton Ohio, and merged with the *Salisbury Times*.<sup>(4)</sup> The *Salisbury Times and Wicomico News*, and later, the *Salisbury Times and Shoreman's Daily*, was written and printed here until a new newspaper office was built in the mid 1950s.<sup>(5)</sup>

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1 Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 117/124, January 29, 1920, Wicomico County Courthouse, Salisbury, Maryland.

2 Preston, Dickson J. *Newspapers of Maryland's Eastern Shore*. Queenstown and Centreville: Queen Anne Press and Tidewater Publishers, 1986, p. 249.

3 *Wicomico News*, January 15, 1920, (Wicomico County Free Library).

4 Preston, p. 180.

5 Preston, p. 249.

WI-271  
Wicomico News Building  
West Main Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

1264/189                      Margaret O. Gaskill

to

9/11/1991                     Peninsula Bank

Property survey of Clement I. and Margaret O. Gaskill  
7/15/1957 JWTS 427/37

MSB 1208/651                First National Bank of Maryland

to

2/6/1990                      Margaret O. Gaskill

MSB 1130/416                Robert D. Faw, Clement M. Gaskill, and John W. T. Webb  
Personal Representatives of Clement I. Gaskill

to

12/1/1987                     First National Bank

Item No. 2, Undivided ½ interest

JWTS 785/247                Betty N. Bounds

to

2/26/1973                     Clement I. Gaskill  
Margaret O. Gaskill

WI-271  
Wicomico News Building  
West Main Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

785/244

Clement I. Gaskill  
Margaret O. Gaskill

to

2/26/1973

Betty N. Bounds  
Whereas by certain deeds dated 5/14/1962 in JWTS 546/23  
Clement I. Gaskill acquired in his individual name absolute  
fee simple title

JWTS 546/25

Janice A. Culver

to

5/14/1962

Clement I. Gaskill

JWTS 546/23

Clement I. Gaskill

to

5/14/1962

Janice A. Culver

JWTS 436/152

Brush-Moore Newspapers, Inc. of Ohio

to

7/23/1957

Clement I. Gaskill  
Margaret O. Gaskill

WI-271  
Wicomico News Building  
West Main Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

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IDT 203/554

Richard P. Curtiss  
Guivevere Clarkson Curtiss

to

9/1/1937

Brush-Moore Newspapers, Inc.

the courses and distances given herein and taken from  
a plat of survey made for Woodcock & Webb by  
William S. Hartley 12/27/1919, recorded 2/3/1920  
JCK 117/600

203/544

News Publishing Company

to

8/31/1937

Richard P. Curtiss

JCK 117/124

Amos W. W. Woodcock  
Fred W. C. Webb

to

1/29/1920  
Received 2/3/1920

News Publishing Company, Salisbury, Maryland  
Assumption of mortgage to Floy T. Watson  
\$9,500. 7/1/1919 JCK 110/521 and the sum of  
\$8,000.

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West Main Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title contined

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JCK 113/171

Harriette Wright  
Lillian B. Wright

to

7/1/1919

Amos W. W. Woodcock  
Frederick W. C. Webb



WI-271  
Wicomico News Building  
110 West Main Street

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIO  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942

5892 LNW  
(THE IRON)

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

447000m E

4246000m N





