

WI-279
Jesse R. Travers House
Nanticoke
Private

c. 1915

Distinguishing the center of the village of Nanticoke is this well-built two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped frame dwelling that boasts many fine details unusual to rural dwellings in western Wicomico County. Reported to have been erected around 1915, the house is supported on a poured concrete foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with a combination of plain weatherboards and fishscale shingles. The front facade is distinguished by a Tuscan columned porch that follows the uneven main elevation, which incorporates a two-and-a-half story pavilion as well as a second projecting bay topped by a semi-octagonal tower. Particularly distinctive to the Travers house is the distinct contrast of Colonial Revival features found in the Tuscan columned porch and modillion block eave cornices with the Victorian asymmetrical plan, projecting bays, and fishscale shingles.

The construction of the house was financed by Jesse R. Travers, who engaged in the oyster packing and canning industries during their peak boom years of the early twentieth century. Profits from these businesses surely helped to finance the building program that yielded this house, and family members recall that a Salisbury contractor by the last name of Johnson was responsible for its construction. Jesse R. Travers purchased this parcel of land, which stretches from the county road to the edge of the

Page 2

Nanticoke River, in January 1886, for \$500. Its proximity to the steamboat wharf at Quarter Landing surely played a large part in the selection of this parcel. Ownership of the property has been maintained by the Travers family.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

LAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-279
Magi No.
DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Jesse R. Travers House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 20506 Nanticoke Road not for publication

city, town Nanticoke vicinity of First congressional district

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 Jesse R. Travers

street & number 501 Springbrook Forest telephone no.:

city, town Silver Spring state and zip code MD 20902

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 63, P. 71
liber 1253

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 73

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-279

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

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

The Jesse R. Travers house is located on the west side of Nanticoke Road in the center of the village of Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped frame house faces east with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Dated to around 1915, the two-and-a-half story, asymmetrically planned frame dwelling is supported on a high, poured concrete foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The east (main) elevation is an uneven ell-shaped facade with a projecting three-sided pavilion dominating the south side. Each face of the pavilion is marked by a single-pane sash window flanked by louvered shutters. The adjacent front entrance is sheltered by a Tuscan columned porch that stretches the length of the house and wraps around the south side of the house. The porch is supported by vented brick foundation, and the eave is finished with a block cornice accented with a dentiled bed molding. The front door is partially glazed with an oval glass, and it is framed by multi-pane sidelights and a transom. Several transom panes have cross-shaped muntins. Flanking the entrance on the north side is a projecting, square sided bay defined by a large first floor window with the upper portion filled with small diamond panes. The second floor is lighted by single-pane sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. The gable end of the projecting south pavilion is enclosed with a pediment sheathed with fishscale shingles. The gable is pierced by a single-pane sash window. The top of the north bay is finished with a semi-octagonal tower covered with fishscale shingles and pierced by a diamond pane window. The base of the roof is trimmed with a modillion block cornice trimmed with a dentiled bed molding. Rising through the center of the house are several single flue brick stove chimneys finished with corbeled caps.

The south side of the tee-shaped house is distinguished by a semi-circular center bay sheathed with fishscale shingles and pierced by a side entrance and topped by a triangular pedimented gable end. The Tuscan columned porch stretches the full length of the first floor and shelters a partially glazed side door and a series of single-pane sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. The second floor is lighted by single-pane sash windows that retain louvered shutters as well. The pedimented gable is sheathed with fishscale shingles and pierced by a single-pane sash attic window.

The north gable end is a single bay wide with single-pane sash windows lighting the first and second floors. The end of the gable roof is enclosed with a pediment trimmed with a modillion block cornice and sheathed with fishscale shingles.

The back of the house is less elaborately treated than the front and south side. A two-story shed roofed infill occupies the inside corner.

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 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	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.

Distinguishing the center of the village of Nanticoke is this well-built two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped frame dwelling that boasts many fine details unusual to rural dwellings in western Wicomico County. Reported to have been erected around 1915, the house is supported on a poured concrete foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with a combination of plain weatherboards and fishscale shingles. The front facade is distinguished by a Tuscan columned porch that follows the uneven main elevation, which incorporates a two-and-a-half story pavilion as well as a second projecting bay topped by a semi-octagonal tower. Particularly distinctive to the Travers house is the distinct contrast of Colonial Revival features found in the Tuscan columned porch and modillion block eave cornices with the Victorian asymmetrical plan, projecting bays, and fishscale shingles.

The construction of the house was financed by Jesse R. Travers, who engaged in the oyster packing and canning industries during their peak boom years of the early twentieth century. Profits from these businesses surely helped to finance the building program that yielded this house, and family members recall that a Salisbury contractor by the last name of Johnson was responsible for its construction.(1) Jesse R. Travers purchased this parcel of land, which stretches from the county road to the edge of the Nanticoke River, in January 1886, for \$500. (2) Its proximity to the steamboat wharf at Quarter Landing surely played a large part in the selection of this parcel. Ownership of the property has been maintained by the Travers family.

The house deserves listing in *Category A*, which identifies buildings of high architectural and/or historical interest.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Phone conversation with Jessie Travers Marshall, 7/5/96.
- 2 Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 17/301, 1/31/1886, Wicomico County Courthouse.

WI-279
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Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 452/228	Harriet M. Amacker, widow
	to
6/17/1959	Estelle T. Ernst Virginia T. Layfield
452/226	Virginia Travers Layfield Grover C. Layfield
	to
6/17/1958	Harriet M. Amacker
J W S 223/577	Edward C. Travers, single, New Castle Co., De. et al.
	to
4/22/1940	Virginia T. Travers
JCK 138/474	Frederick W. C. Webb, Assignee
	to
5/18/1925	Nannie T. Travers (Note: and upon the death of the said Nannie T. Travers, intestate, descended unto Virginia T. Travers, Edward C. Travers, W. Estelle

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Chain of title continued

Page 3

Travers, W. Wayne Travers, Jesse T. Marshall)

Public Sale, 3/21/1925, foreclosure on
mortgage, 1/31/1923, JCK 129/235

\$1,100

JTT 17/301

Alexander F. Turner
Sarah R. Turner

to

1/31/1886

Jesse R. Travers

\$500 in Nanticoke Point near "Quarter
Landing" 10 acres

SPT 6/228

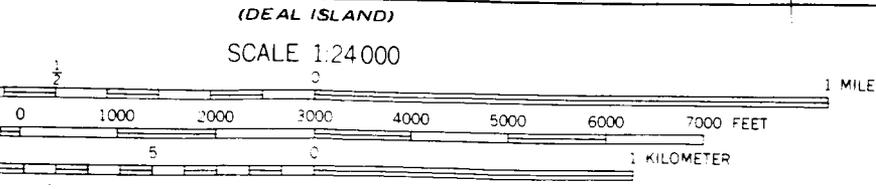
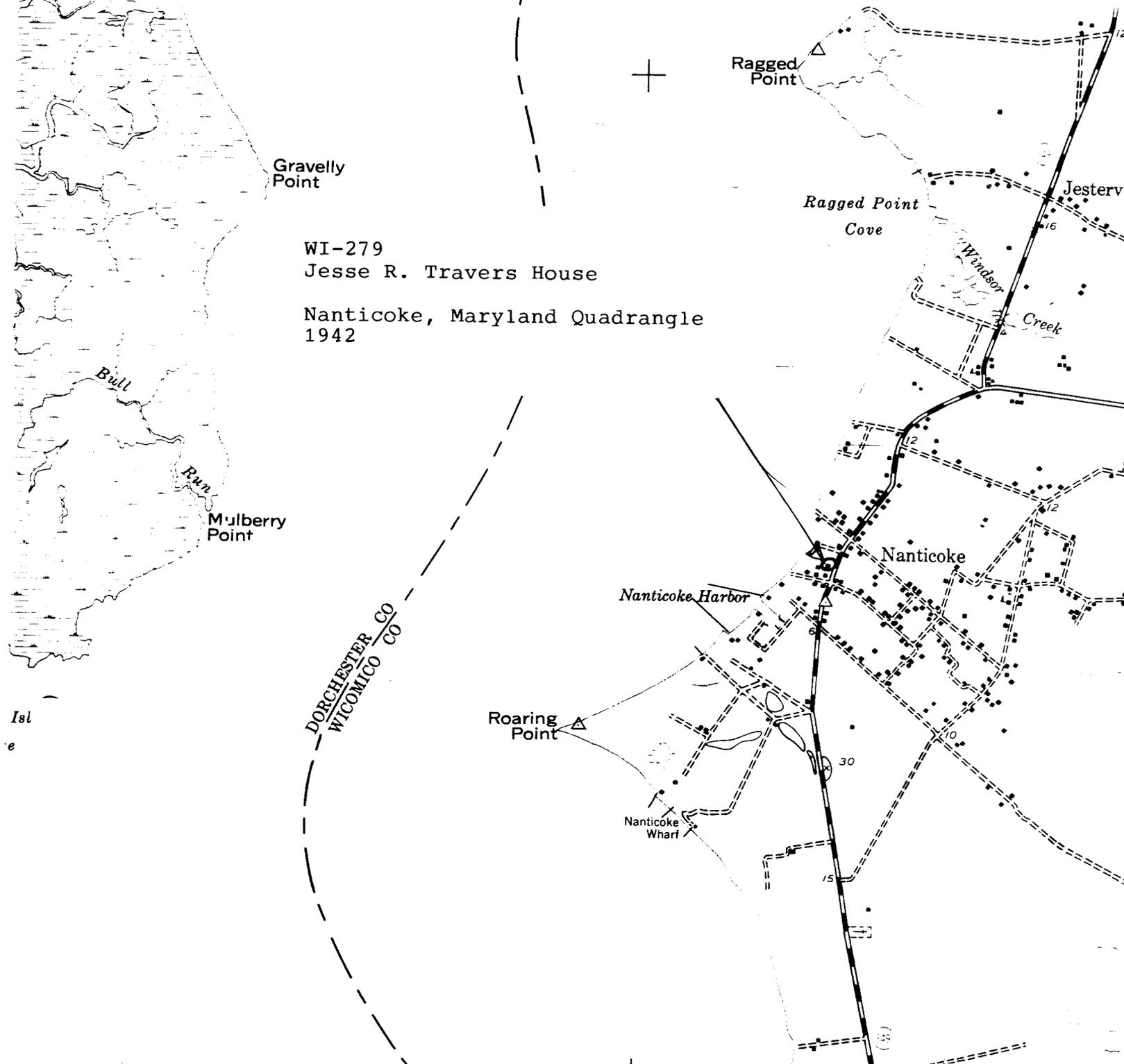
John Turner

to

4/23/1884

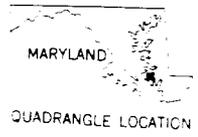
Alexander F. Turner

\$275.00 bounded on the south by the lands
of the Maryland Steamboat Company
15 acres being the tract or parcel of land
formerly belonged to William S. Watson
and sold at public sale by John W. Willing
& Co. and purchased by John and
Alexander F. Turner



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1 FOOT



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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1821
1822
1823

1824
1825



10/1-2019

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10/1-2019

10/1-2019

10/1-2019