WI-286 1905
Captain Robert F. Walter House
Nanticoke
Private

Distinguished by four gable roofed dormers sheathed with fishscale shingles, this large pyramidal roofed house stands out in the village of Nanticoke as a particularly well detailed example of early twentieth century domestic design. The two-and-a-half, four-square frame house is raised on a high brick foundation, and the walls are pierced by large sash windows with colored glass in the perimeter panes. The base of the roof is trimmed by a bold modillion block cornice that stretches around the entire house as well as the single story front porch. The pyramidal slate roof is dominated by four large gable roofed dormers sheathed with intricately fashioned fishscale shingles. The combination of neoclassical and Victorian finishes evident on the exterior is found inside the house as well. Columned mantels with mirrored overmantels contrast with Victorian a Victorian spindlework screen fixed between the jambs of a hallway door.

Construction of this well crafted house was financed by Captain Robert F. Walter, who is reported to have purchased the house materials through the Salisbury lumber company of E. S. Adkins and shipped them to the building site on a schooner. Captain Walter was the owner of a fleet of dredge boats that worked the Chesapeake Bay for oysters, and he owned a sizable amount of agricultural land as well. The profits from the oyster yields as well as income from agricultural products financed the construction of this well built house during the early years of the twentieth century.

During the early 1890s, Robert F. Walter purchased several large and small parcels of land in and around the community of Nanticoke. From Thomas W. Young he bought a 16 1/4-acre tract which also included a lot "purchased from John W. Parks enclosed within the yard together with the buildings and improvements thereon." Like many of his day, the depression took its toll on Robert Walter's finances, and he mortgaged his farmland in 1934 to the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore, and two years later the bank foreclosed on the property.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Robert F. Walter House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-286

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): Single-family dwelling

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WI-286

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic: Robert F. Walter House

and/or common:

2. Location

street & number: 20660 Nanticoke Road ___ not for publication

city, town: Nanticoke ___ vicinity of congressional district: First

state: Maryland county: Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name: Wilfred M. and Shelley N. Dyer III

street & number: 20660 Nanticoke Road telephone no.:

city, town: Nanticoke state and zip code MD 21840

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Wicomico Couty Clerk of Court Map 63, P. 3 liber 1087

street & number: Wicomico County Clerk of Court folio 123

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-286

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
_X_ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

The Captain Robert F. Walter house is located at 20660 Nanticoke Road on the northern edge of the village of Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, four-square frame house faces east.

Dating around 1905, the two-and-a-half story, two-bay by two-bay frame dwelling is supported on a raised brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched pyramidal slate roof has a modified peak that includes a rooftop railing. Joining the house on the lot is a metal water tower frame dating from the early twentieth century as well.

The east (main) facade is a two-bay elevation with the first floor covered by an enclosed hip roof porch. The base of the porch roof is trimmed with a modillion block cornice. The walls are pierced by modern windows. The second floor is defined by a pair of large multi-pane window sash that have colored panes in the perimeter of the top sash. Each of the window lintels has a slight crown molding. Fixed in between the two second floor windows is a small window opening filled with diamond-shaped panes. The base of the roof is trimmed with a modillion block cornice accented with a dentil bed molding. The east slope of the roof is dominated by a large gabled dormer pierced by paired windows. The gable front of the dormer is sheathed with fishscale shingles. Rising through the center of the house are internal brick stove chimneys finished with corbeled caps.

The south side of the house is defined by two large multi-pane windows on each floor, and a large gable roofed dormer that is centered on the hip roof. The upper multi-pane sash has small colored panes in the perimeter of the window. The window lintels have a small crown molding. Finishing the sides of the gable roofed dormer is a layer of fishscale shingles, and the front wall is pierced by a paired set of windows.

The west (rear) wall has a single-story hip roofed addition on the first floor, while the second floor is finished in a similar fashion to the rest of the house. A large gable roofed dormer marks the west side as well as a corbeled cap chimney stack rises through the roof.

The north side has an asymmetrical fenestration with a smaller proportion window lighting the stairwell in the left (east) bay, while the other openings are marked by large multi-pane windows. The roof has a large gable roofed dormer like the other three sides.

The interior of the main block is divided into a four room plan with entrance hall flanked by a parlor in the front of the house, and a dining room and kitchen are fixed across the back of the first floor. The interior is trimmed with early twentieth century woodwork that represents a mixture of Victorian and neoclassical finishes. A doorway in the front hall is framed by a classical surround fitted with a crown molding as well as a Victorian screen of spindlework between the top of the door jambs. The parlor has an early twentieth century columned mantel with mirrored overmantel and green tiled hearth fixed to the inner wall.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-286

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	x architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
x 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1905 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B x C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state x local

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

Distinguished by four large gable roofed dormers, this large pyramidal roofed house stands out in the village of Nanticoke as a particularly well detailed example of early twentieth century domestic design. The two-and-a-half, four-square frame house is raised on a high brick foundation, and the walls are pierced by large sash windows with colored glass in the perimeter panes. The base of the roof is trimmed by a bold modillion block cornice that stretches around the entire house as well as the single story front porch. The pyramidal slate roof is dominated by four large gable roofed dormers sheathed with intricately fashioned fishscale shingles. The combination of neoclassical and Victorian finishes evident on the exterior is found inside the house as well. Columned mantels with mirrored overmantels contrast with Victorian a Victorian spindlework screen fixed between the jambs of a hallway door.

Construction of this well crafted house was financed by Captain Robert F. Walter, who is reported to have purchased the house materials through the Salisbury lumber company of E. S. Adkins and shipped them to the building site on a schooner.(1) Captain Walter was the owner of a fleet of dredge boats that worked the Chesapeake Bay for oysters, and he owned a sizable amount of agricultural land as well. The profits from the oyster yields as well as income from agricultural products financed the construction of this well built house during the early years of the twentieth century.

During the late years of the nineteenth century Robert F. Walter purchased several large and small parcels of land in and around the community of Nanticoke. From Thomas W. Young he bought a 16 1/4-acre tract which also included a lot "purchased from John W. Parks enclosed within the yard together with the buildings and improvements thereon."(2) Like many of his day, the depression took its toll on Robert Walter's finances, and he mortgaged his farmland in 1934 to the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore, and two years later the bank foreclosed on the property.(3)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-286

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

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	7/16/96
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

PS-2746

8.1 SIGNIFICANCE
Captain Robert F. Walter House, WI-286
Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland

FOOTNOTES

1 Interview with Wilfred M. Dyer, III, July 21, 1996.

2 Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 11/298, 5/6/1893, Wicomico County Courthouse.

3 Wicomico County Land Records, IDT 183/559, 1/23/1934; and IDT 201/23, 11/16/1936.

WI-286
Robert F. Walter House
20660 Nanticoke Road
Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 63, Parcel 3

1087/123	Charles A. Popp and Grace J. Popp
	to
12/12/1986	Wilfred M. Dyer III Shelley N. Dyer
	Parcel 1 5.5 acres
	Being in all respects the same property shown on a plat entitled "Property Survey for Edwin and Evan Schoenrich, 10/22/1948, JWTS 307/558
JWTS 546/364	Edwin Schoenrich Evah Schoenrich
	to
6/27/1962	Charles A. Popp Grace J. Popp

JWTS 307/551	Arthur W. Boyce Irma T. Boyce Charles J. Bryan Gladys E. Bryan John A. Price Gertrude B. Price
	to
10/23/1948	Edwin Schoenrich
	5.5 acres
JWTS 279/109	John A. Price, et al.
	to
7/3/1946	Arthur W. Boyce
	1/3 interest
JWTS 276/340	Edith G. Craig, et al. James Craig, Essex County, New Jersey
	to
2/18/1946	John A. Price Charles J. Bryan Item 2 and a part of the same land conveyed ty Item 1 Item 1 15.15 acres as per plat from Federal Farm

	Mortgage Corporation to Allan B. Crute, 7/24/1940 JWS 224/330
J W S 224/362	Allan B. Crute Sarah Jane Crute
	to
8/10/1940	Edith G. Craig, under the name of Edith G. O'Brien
J W S 224/330	Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation
	to
7/24/1940	Allan B. Crute
IDT 201/23	Thomas M. Harrington, Assignee for the purpose of foreclosure
	to
11/16/1936	Federal Farm Mortgage Corporation
	Whereas by virtue of a sale contained in a mortgage from Robert F. Walter and Lena M. Walter to the Federal Land Bank of Baltimore, 1/23/1934, IDT 183/559

1. All that farm containing 16 1/4 acres situate in Nanticoke Election District being the same land conveyed to said Robert F. Walter by Thomas W. Young, 5/6/1893, JTT 11/298

2. Farm 368.40 acres to Robert F. Walter by deed from John F. Jester Co., 3/10/1923, JCK 128/496

3. 199 acre parcel

JTT 11/298

Thomas W. Young
Alice Young

to

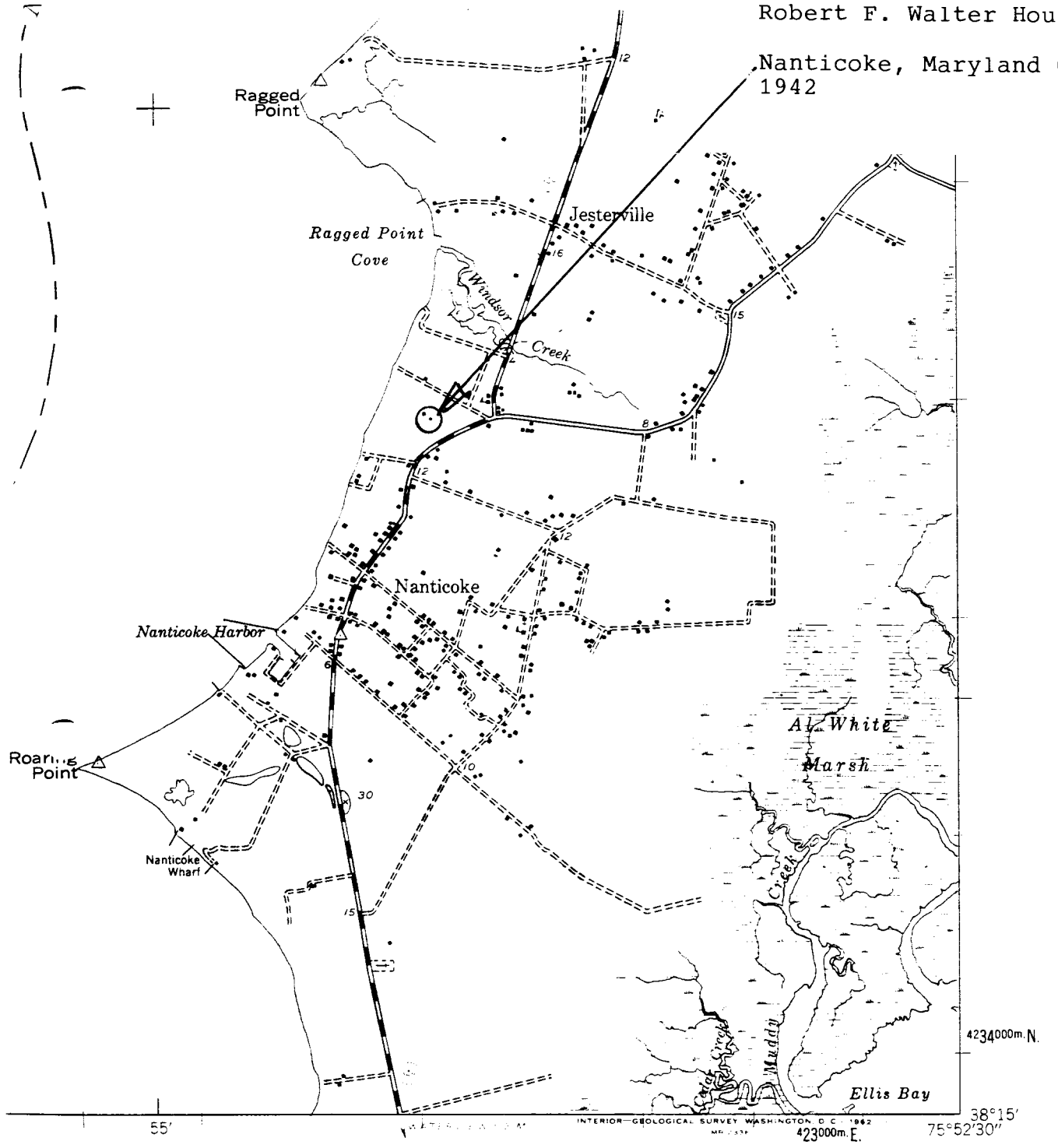
5/6/1893

Robert F. Walter

$1,000 15 acres and also a lot or parcel of land purchased from John W. Parks enclosed within the yard together with the buildings and improvements thereon....

WI-286
Robert F. Walter House

Nanticoke, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



1 MILE
7000 FEET
METER

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Medium-duty — Light-duty

Unimproved dirt

State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

NANTICOKE, MD.
SW/4 NANTICOKE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3815—W7552.5/7.5

1942

QUEST

WI-256

Robert F. [illegible]

Nanticoke, Nicomedo Co. [illegible]

7/96 [illegible] [illegible]

NEC / [illegible] [illegible]

Northern — [illegible]

WI-296

Roman [illegible] & [illegible]

Nantucket, [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] Photographs [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]