

WI-293
Insley-Horner House
Bivalve
Private

c. 1890

Standing on the north side of Bivalve Wharf Road, this two-and-a-half story center hall, single-pile plan house was built around 1890 by George D. Insley on land he had purchased in January 1888. George D. Insley was a prominent land owner, who also owned the store located near the edge of the Nanticoke River. (See WI-294) The house he financed followed in a popular architectural form for the time with its symmetrical two-and-a-half story elevation, centered cross gable, and turned post front porch. Few alterations have been made to this house since its construction, and it even retains its original grounding wire and lightening rod apparatus that is fixed to the steeply pitched gable roofs. Hobnail milk glass balls survive on each lightening rod. The house is joined on the site by a single-story, one-room plan frame summer kitchen sheathed with vertical board siding and served by a narrow brick stove chimney.

George D. Insley conveyed title of the house and lot to his wife Susan P. Insley in January 1909, she retained ownership until her death. In 1916 the property passed to Cora R. Insley, who sold it three years later to Edward H. Horner, Ida M. Horner, and Vernon L. Horner. The property has remained in Horner family hands to the present day.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Insley-Horner House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-293

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 Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-293

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Insley-Horner House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 20832 Bivalve Wharf Road not for publication

city, town Bivalve vicinity of _____ congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input 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 Nelson W. Horner

street & number 20832 Bivalve Wharf Road telephone no.: _____

city, town Bivalve state and zip code MD 21814

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 53, P. 137
_____ liber 437

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 432

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-293

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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.

Historically identified as the Insley-Horner house, this two-and-a-half story, five-bay, center hall frame dwelling stands at 20832 Bivalve Wharf Road in the community of Bivalve, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house faces south with the main gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Estimated to date around 1890, the two-and-a-half story, cross-gabled, center hall, single-pile main block is supported by a low brick foundation, and the exterior is covered with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, two-bay service wing. Standing on the north side of the service wing are two outbuildings, a single-story one-room plan frame summer kitchen and a single story frame pump house.

The south (main) facade is a symmetrical five-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. A heavily molded four-panel front door is topped by a single-pane transom. The entrance is flanked by pairs of two-over-two sash windows with a narrow crown molding trimming the window lintel. The entire first floor is sheltered by a hip roofed, turned post porch trimmed with sawn corner brackets and spindle work under the eaves. The second floor is marked by an evenly spaced series of two-over-two sash windows. Centered on the roof is a cross gable pierced by a round arched two-over-two sash window. Fastened atop the roof ridge is a twisted iron ground wire connected to a series of lightening rods that retain hobnail milk glass balls.

The east and west gable ends are alike with pairs of two-over-two sash windows flanking interior end, single flue brick chimney finished with corbelled caps. Small two-over-two windows light the attic. The edge to the roof is extended and the soffits are open with exposed rafter ends. Sawn corner brackets trim the principal corners of the roof.

The north (rear) wall of the single-pile front block is largely covered by the two-story, two-bay dining room wing, which is surrounded on three sides by an open and partially enclosed shed roofed porch. Turned porch posts support the roof on the east and west sides, whereas the porch on the north side is enclosed for a kitchen. The first and second floors are lighted by two-over-two sash windows, and an interior end brick chimney stack pierces the gable end.

The interior spaces were partially viewed. A turned baluster, closed stringer stair rises in the center hall, and shallow profile four-panel doors open into adjacent rooms. The kitchen survives with its original fittings that include a built-in beaded board door cupboard. A machine produced late nineteenth century mantel is fixed to the inside wall.

The single-story summer kitchen is sheathed with vertical board siding, and the steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The front (south) wall is pierced by a four-panel door and an adjacent six-over-six sash window. An interior end brick chimney rises through the roof. The other outbuilding is a small gable roof frame pump house.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-293

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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.

Standing on the north side of Bivalve Wharf Road, this two-and-a-half story center hall, single-pile plan house was built around 1890 by George D. Insley on land he had purchased in January 1888.(1) George D. Insley was a prominent land owner, who also owned the store located near the edge of the Nanticoke River.(See WI-294) The house he financed followed in a popular architectural form for the time with its symmetrical two-and-a-half story elevation, centered cross gable, and turned post front porch. Few alterations have been made to this house since its construction, and it even retains its original grounding wire and lightning rod apparatus that is fixed to the steeply pitched gable roofs. Hobnail milk glass balls survive on each lightning rod. The house is joined on the site by a single-story, one-room plan frame summer kitchen sheathed with vertical board siding and served by a narrow brick stove chimney.

Due to the intact nature of this house and its outbuildings it deserves listing in *Category A*, which identifies buildings of high architectural and/or historical merit. The complex contributes to the historic appearance of Bivalve.

George D. Insley conveyed title of the house and lot to his wife Susan P. Insley in January 1909, she retained ownership until her death. In 1916 the property passed to Cora R. Insley,(2) who sold it three years later to Edward H. Horner, Ida M. Horner, and Vernon L. Horner.(3)

1 Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 3/104, 1/6/1888, Wicomico County Courthouse.

2 Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 101/141, 1/20/1916, Wicomico County Courthouse.

3 Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 117/22, 12/2/1919, Wicomico County Courthouse.

WI-293
Insley-Horner House
20832 Bivalve Wharf Road
Nanticoke, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 53, Parcel 137

437/432

Stanley G. Robins, Attorney

to

9/25/1957

Nelson W. Horner

Being known as the homeplace of Ida W. Horner and being the same land that was conveyed unto Edward H. Horner, Ida M. Horner, Vernon L. Horner--the undivided 1/4 interest of the said Vernon L. Horner to Edward H. Horner by 2nd item of deed, 12/11/1924 JCK 136/393, the said Edward Horner having died 9/6/1944, JAH 2/308

JCK 117/22

Cora R. Insley

to

12/2/1919

Edward H. Horner
Ida M. Horner
Vernon L. Horner

Assumption of mortgage \$600.00 from the said Cora R. Insley to the Savings Bank of Nanticoke, 2/24/1916 EAT 99/398

WI-293
Insley-Horner House
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JCK 101/141

John W. P. Insley, et al.

to

1/20/1916

Cora R. Insley

Being the same land of which one Susan P. Insley, wife of George D. Insley, Sr. deceased, died seized and possessed and which descended to the said Cora R. Insley, et al. As the heirs at law of the said Susan P. Insley.

EAT 61/430

George D. Insley, Sr.

to

1/12/1909

Susan P. Insley

\$1,000 2 acres

FMS 3/104

James E. Ellegood, Trustee

to

1/6/1888

George D. Insley

Decree of Circuit Court

WI-293
Insley-Horner House
Chain of title continued

Page 3

FMS 3/301

Esau S. D. Insley

to

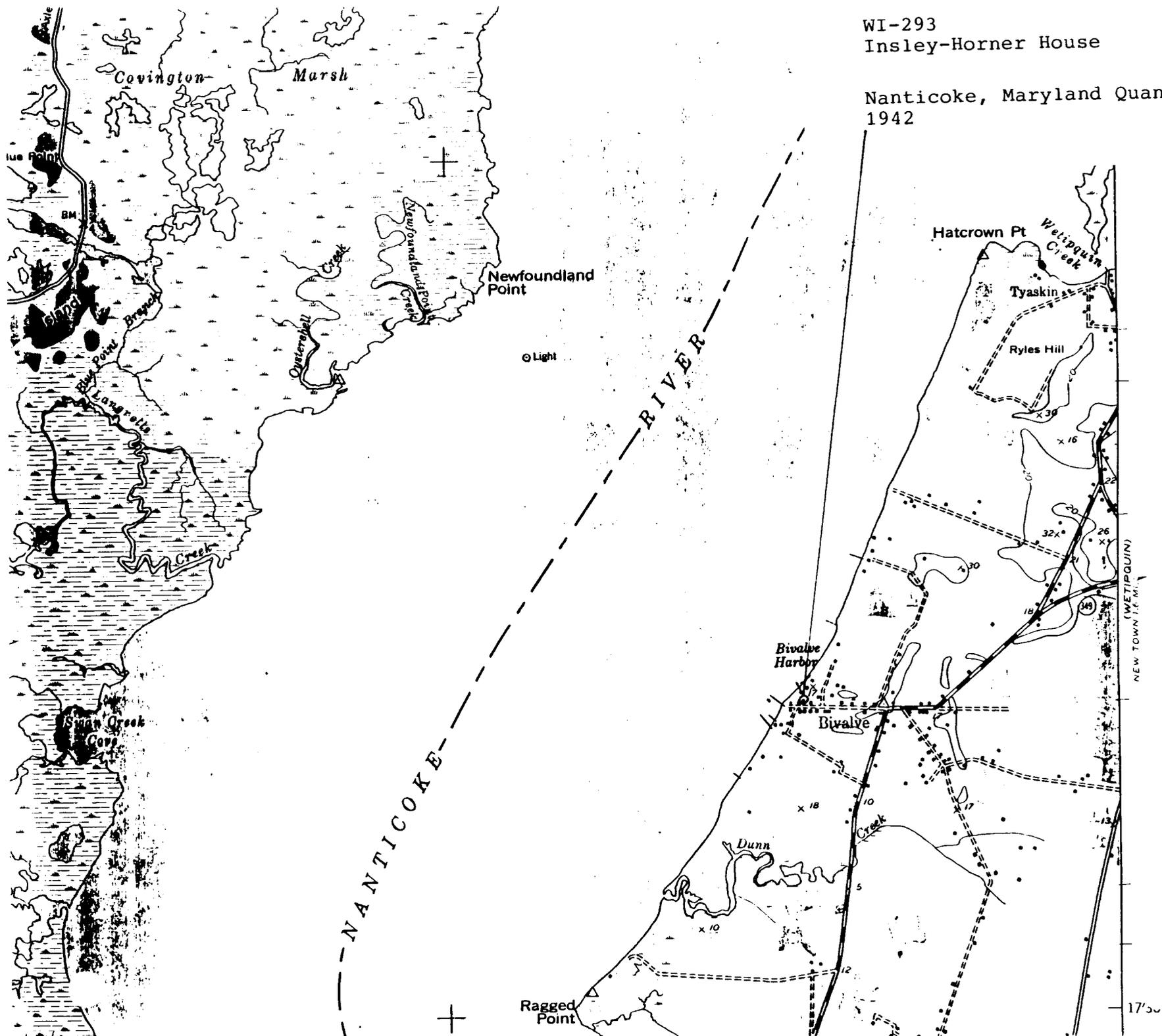
5/2/1888

George D. Insley

\$500 in the village of Waltersville 1/8 acre

WI-293
Insley-Horner House

Nanticoke, Maryland Quadrangle
1942





WI-293

INSLEY - HORNER HOUSE

BIVALVE

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

6/96, PAUL TOWNE PHOTOGRAPHY

NEG, MID HISTORICAL TRUST



W1-293

INSLEY-HORNOR HOUSE

BIVARVE

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

6/96, PAUL TOUART, PITOTOGRAPIHER

NET. / MID. HISTORICAL TRUST



WV-293

INSLEY - 1-TORNEY HOUSE

BIVALE

SOUTH ELEVATION OF PORCH

6/96, PAUL TOWNSEND PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST



WI-293

INSLEY-HORNER HOUSE

BIVALVE

SOUTH ELEVATION OF KITCHEN AND PUMP HOUSE

6/96, PAUL TOWNSE, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEE, / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST