

WI-345  
Major D. Twiford House  
Sharptown  
Private

c. 1863

Dating around 1863, the Major D. Twiford house stands out on Sharptown's Main Street as one of a small group of dwellings surviving from the mid nineteenth century. The two-story, three-bay frame house, trimmed with eave brackets and corner pilasters, contrasts distinctly with other nearby dwellings erected during the third and fourth quarters of the nineteenth century. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story kitchen wing that is finished with the same exterior details.

Construction of this house is believed to date during the ownership of Major D. Twiford, who purchased this lot in 1863 from John B. Taylor. Major Twiford is designated at this location on the 1877 Eastern Shore atlas, and he is identified in the patron list as a ship captain.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Major D. Twiford House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-345

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition  
1815-1870
4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. WI-345

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Major D. Twiford House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 311 Main Street  not for publication

city, town Sharptown  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"/> bulding(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	<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 J. Brad McCready

street & number P O. Box 591 telephone no.:

city, town Sharptown state and zip code MD 21861

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 400, P. 390  
liber 1486

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 103

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-345

<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 Major D. Twiford house is located at 311 Main Street in the center of Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame house faces southwest with the gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

Estimated to date around 1860, the two-story, three-bay by two-bay frame house is supported on a minimal brick foundation and the exterior is clad with a uniform layer of plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, three-bay service wing that appears to be contemporaneous with the rest of the house.

The southwest (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. Each of the windows has a slight cornice molding. The front door is topped by a diamond-pane transom, and the windows are flanked by louvered shutters. The first floor is sheltered by a chamfered post, shed roof porch which has been remodeled with the addition of brick bases to each post. A rectangular baluster handrail stretches between the posts. Lighting the second floor are three six-over-six sash windows also flanked by louvered shutters. Trimming the main corners of the house are paneled pilasters that extend from the ground to the bottom of a bracketed frieze. The bottom of the roof is enclosed with a boxed cornice and it is trimmed with a crown molding.

The northwest gable end is defined by an exterior brick chimney with sloped shoulders covered in a layer of concrete. A single flue stack pierces the extended eave. Six-over-six sash windows light the first and second floors, and small two-pane rectangular windows illuminate the attic. The base of the roof is finished with a short return.

The southeast gable end is an asymmetrical elevation with the first floor lighted by a combination of a six-pane window to the left (south) and an off-center six-over-six sash window overlaps the corner pilaster. The second floor is lighted by evenly spaced six-over-six sash windows trimmed with plain surrounds and a slight cornice molding. A pair of small rectangular windows lights the attic.

The northeast (rear) wall of the main block is largely covered by the two-story, three-bay service wing, which is finished in a consistent manner with the front block. The corners are trimmed with paneled pilasters, and the eave features mid nineteenth-century brackets. Six-over-six sash windows light the first and second floors. Attached to the north side of the service wing is a partially enclosed shed roofed porch. Rising against the gable end is an exterior brick chimney stack.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-345

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"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

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.

Dating around 1863, the Major D. Twiford house stands out on Sharptown’s Main Street as one of a small group of dwellings surviving from the mid nineteenth century. The two-story, three-bay frame house, trimmed with eave brackets and corner pilasters, contrasts distinctly with other nearby dwellings erected during the third and fourth quarters of the nineteenth century. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story kitchen wing that is finished with the same exterior details.

Construction of this house is believed to date during the ownership of Major D. Twiford, who purchased this lot in 1863 from John B. Taylor.<sup>1</sup> Major Twiford is designated at this location on the 1877 Eastern Shore atlas, and he is identified in the patron list as a ship captain.<sup>2</sup>

The Major D. Twiford house is an important survival of the antebellum dwellings erected in Sharptown. It is listed in *Category A* due to its architectural and historical significance.

<sup>1</sup> Somerset County Land Record, LW 7/713, 30 May 1863.

<sup>2</sup> John L. Graham, ed. *The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, Bicentennial Edition, Peninsula Press: Wicomico County Historical Society, p. 21.



WI-345  
Major D. Twiford House  
311 Main Street  
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 400, Parcel 390

1486/103                      Joan J. Matyiko

to

4/29/1996                      J. Brad McCready

A J S 1052/595                      J. Richard Nottingham

to

11/22/1985                      Joan J. Matyiko  
Plat A J S 978/537

A J S 978/534                      Jerry Matyiko  
Joan Matyiko

to

9/8/1982                      J. Richard Nottingham

A J S 945/189                      Oris W. Horsey, Personal Representative of Estate of  
Maggie A. Wheatley

to

7/17/1980                      Jerry Matyiko  
"Known as the Major D. Twiford Proprety"

WI-345  
Major D. Twiford House  
311 Main Street  
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 285/200                      Lena E. Cooper

to

2/19/1947                          Maggie A. Wheatley

Will Book  
JWD 2/36

Last Will and Testament of Samuel J. Cooper

to

6/11/1924                          Lena E. Cooper

Item 2

JTT 14/328                          Amos D. Spencer and Agnes Spencer of Philadelphia

to

6/27/1895                          Samuel Cooper

\$1075 all those lots or parcels of land in the village of  
Sharptown...situate binding on Main Street and  
Ferry Street having a front of 80 feet more or  
or less on Main Street

WI-345  
Major D. Twiford House  
311 Main Street  
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 3

SPT 2/234

William T. Dashiell

to

5/26/1876

Major D. Twiford

\$250 One house and lot number 16 1/3 acre

being the same land conveyed by James E. Ellegood, trustee to Amos Spencer, 11/8/1888 and conveyed to the said Amos Spencer to Lydia S. Twiford, 11/10/1888 and being reconveyed to said Amos Spencer by James Ellegood, trustee, 12/10/1892, and conveyed by Amos Spencer to Amos D. Spencer, 11/22/1894

Somerset County  
Land Record  
LW 7/713

John B. Taylor

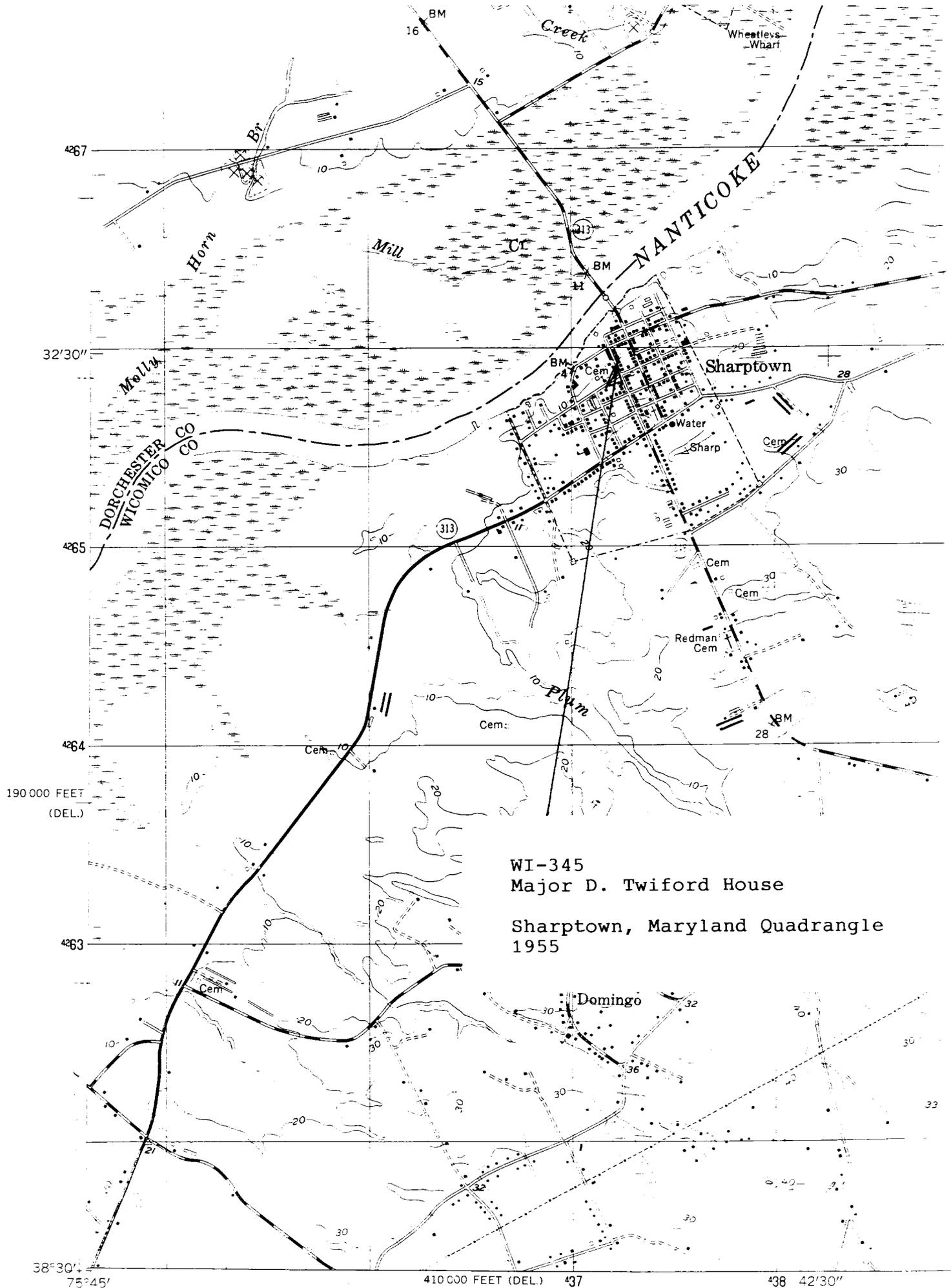
to

5/30/1863

Major D. Twiford

\$90 Royal Exchange 1/3 acre Part of Lot 17





WI-345  
Major D. Twiford House

Sharptown, Maryland Quadrangle  
1955

190 000 FEET  
(DEL.)

38°30' 75°45' 410 000 FEET (DEL.) 437 438 42'30"

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



11. 205

1/205, 1/205, 1/205, 1/205

1/205, 1/205, 1/205, 1/205 -

1/205, 1/205, 1/205, 1/205

1/205, 1/205, 1/205, 1/205, 1/205

1/205, 1/205, 1/205, 1/205, 1/205

1 0 0 2



WI-345

Walter D. Turner House  
Stoughton, Vermont  
Survey of ...

1/93, Paul Toussaint, ...  
1907 / ...

1 of 2