

WI-364
B. Frank Kennerly House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1904

Prominent among the Queen Anne style residences erected in Salisbury during the early years of the twentieth century is the B. Frank Kennerly house, which stands in Newtown at 103 Elizabeth Street. The expansive frame residence is distinguished by a three-story octagonal tower capped by a conical roof and covered with fishscale shingles. The adjacent entrance bay protrudes from the main hip roofed house and was designed with a rounded corners and a fishscale shingle sheathing. Encircling two sides of the front is a wraparound porch of paired Tuscan columns supported on high brick plinths. To each side extend two-and-a-half story pavilions partially sheathed with decorative shingles also. Characteristic of the Queen Anne style is the dynamic contrast of geometric architectural forms in an asymmetrical design. The octagonal tower with its conical tower is a bold focus for the southeast corner, and it contrasts distinctly with the triangular pediment that tops the entrance pavilion. The steeply pitched hip roof offers a unifying base to the multiple gabled roof as does the wraparound around porch that shelters the south and west sides. Also characteristic of Queen Anne houses are the contrasting patterns established by a variety of surface decoration. Fishscale shingles cover the various surfaces of the front wall, while plain weatherboards are found on the side elevations.

The well proportioned and finely detailed exterior was designed by architect J. Woolford Johnson and erected by his brother William J. Johnson, a prominent builder

around the turn of the twentieth century. The construction program was financed by B. Frank and Ella Virginia Kennerly around 1904, shortly after the lot was transferred from Southey King White for \$800. B. Frank Kennerly was part owner in a clothing retail store known as Kennerly, Mitchell & Co., which sold men's, women's and children's garments on Main Street. He served as mayor of Salisbury between 1912 and 1914. During his last year as mayor he died of a heart attack.

Ella Virginia Kennerly sold the Elizabeth Street house and lot six years after her husband's death. The property was acquired by the Methodist Episcopal Church as the residence for the Salisbury District supervisor. The house was used for the purposes of the Methodist Episcopal Church until the late 1950s, when it was sold to Eugene M. and Ruth H. Messick.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: B. Frank Kennerly House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-364

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1904

4. Resource Type(s): Single-family dwelling

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-364

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic B. Frank Kennerly House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 103 Elizabeth Street not for publication

city, town Salisbury 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Jeanette C. Low

street & number 103 Elizabeth Street telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 104, P. 609
liber 1232

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 478

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-364

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

The Benjamin Franklin Kennerly house is located at 103 Elizabeth Street in the center of the Newtown Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story Queen Anne dwelling faces south with the hip roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1904, the two-and-a-half story Queen Anne style residence is supported on a raised brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with a combination of plain weatherboards and fishscale shingles. The steeply pitched slate roof as well as the extensions and three-story corner tower are covered with slate.

The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical front with a wraparound porch sheltering the entire first floor. Paired Tuscan columns rise from brick plinths to support the shed roof, which is accented by a small gable above the entrance bay. The gable end is covered with fishscale shingles. Stretching between the column plinths is a rectangular baluster handrail with a molded railing. The front porch shelters the first floor door and window openings. The paneled front door is incorporated in a projecting bay of shingled walls and rounded corners. Framing the door are sidelights and a frosted glass transom. The second floor is defined by the projecting bay of shingles and round corners and is pierced by paired single-pane sash windows. Louvered shutters once flanked this window. Capping the bay is a large gable roof, which extends from the hip roof of the main block. Accenting the soffit of the gable roof are long cornice blocks with shaped ends. The gable front is enclosed with a cornice and a field of fishscale shingles is pierced by a paired set of nine-over-one sash windows. Piercing the center of the house is a narrow brick stove flue.

East of the two-and-a-story pavilion is an octagonal tower that rises three stories and is topped by a conical roof with a slightly flared eave. The sides of the tower are covered with fishscale shingles, and the first and second floors are lighted by single-pane sash windows. The third floor is pierced by four-over-one sash windows. Accenting the cornice of the tower are small brackets. Fixed atop the tower roof is a metal finial.

Extending from the west side of the main block is two-and-a-half story, semi-octagonal pavilion with single-pane sash windows piercing each side on the first and second floors. Shutters have been removed from these windows as well. A gable roof covers the semi-octagonal bay, and the gable end is sheathed with fishscale shingles around paired nine-over-one attic windows. The east side of the main block features another two-and-a-half story pavilion with single pane sash in each side.

Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing. A large brick chimney finished with a corbeled cap service the rear wing. The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-364

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input 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** W. J. Johnson/Woolford Johnson

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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The well proportioned and finely detailed exterior was designed by architect J. Woolford Johnson and erected by his brother William J. Johnson, a prominent builder around the turn of the twentieth century. The construction program was financed by B. Frank and Ella Virginia Kennerly around 1904, shortly after the lot was transferred from Southey King White for \$800.¹ B. Frank Kennerly was a part owner clothing retail store known as Kennerly, Mitchell & Co., which sold men's, women's and children's garments. He served as mayor of Salisbury between 1912 and 1914. During his last year as mayor he died of a heart attack.²

Due to well preserved and intricate architectural nature of this house is qualifies for listing in *Category A*, which identifies buildings that must be retained.

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 38/436, 19 December 1903.

² Personal phone conversation with Bettie Harcum Morris, 27 February 1998.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-364

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

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 2/25/98

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

WI-364
Benjamin Franklin Kennerly House
103 Elizabeth Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title
Map 104/Parcel 609

1232/478 Frederick J. Low
 Jeanette C. Low

to

9/18/1990 Jeanette C. Low

A J S 1002/129 R. J. Saldamarco, trustee

to

11/16/1983 Frederick J. Low
 Jeanette C. Low

Result of bankruptcy of Keith E. and Karen Anne Smith

A J S 880/765 Michael Franklin Messick
 Jon Harcum Messick
 Bettie Lee Messick

to

7/29/1977 Keith E. and Karen Anne Smith

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Benjamin Franklin Kennerly House
103 Elizabeth Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

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A J S 847/861 Eugene M. Messick, III
Personal Rep. of Ruth H. Messick

to

12/4/1975 Michael Franklin Messick
Jon Harcum Messick
Bettie Lee Messick
Nancy Jo Messick

JWTS 445/481 Trustees of the Peninsula Annual Conference of the
Methodist Church

to

2/21/1958 Eugene M. Messick, Jr.
Ruth H. Messick

JWTS 299/152 Trustees of the Salisbury District Parsonage Property, Inc.

to

3/10/1948 Trustees of the Peninsula Annual Conference

“to be used as a place of residence for the District
Superintendent of the Salisbury District of the
Wilmington Conference of the M. E. Church”

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Benjamin Franklin Kennerly House
103 Elizabeth Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

JCK 124/510	Vernia Jones, et al (surviving trustees of the Salisbury District Parsonage of Salisbury District of the Wilmington Conference of the Methodist Epis. Church
	to
8/21/1921	Trustees of the Salisbury District Parsonage Property
JCK 121/82	Ella V. Kennerly
	to
2/2/1920	Trustees of Salisbury District Parsonage Property
JTT 38/436	Southey King White and Iris White, his wife
	to
12/19/1903	Ella V. Kennerly \$800 Lot No. 3 on plat made by P. S. Shockley 11/27/1903
JTT 34/283	Elihu E. Jackson Nannie R. Jackson
	to
12/19/1902	Southey King White

WI-364
Benjamin Franklin Kennerly House
103 Elizabeth Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

FMS 2/80

Isabella Humphreys

to

1/11/1887

E. E. Jackson

\$650 east side of Division Street extended, bounded on the south by the lot of Alexander G. Toadvine on north partly by the lot of William Leonard alias Rose and on the west in part by the said lot and on the east by the lot of George Waller and on the North by the branch of the Wicomico and Pocomoke Rail road. The land hereby conveyed being Lots Nos. 3 and 4 on plat of the sale of Elizabeth W. Robertson and found recorded in the Chancery Record of said county SPT 3/92

Plat of Poplar Hill
Survey dated March 9, 1878
William Jackson, Dept. Surveyor of Wicomico
County

Property offered at public auction on
May 18, 1878 "Salisbury Advertiser"
Result of Sale

Lot No. 1	Elizabeth Humphreys	\$226.
Lot No. 2	George Waller	\$1820.
Lot No. 3	Isabella Humphreys	\$155.
Lot No. 4	? Humphreys	\$140.
Lot No. 5	Henry Parker	\$60.
Lot No. 6	Henry Parker	\$41.
Lot No. 7	Edward T. Bafford	\$76.
Lot No. 8	Edward T. Bafford	\$30.
Lot No. 10	James Cannon	\$85.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WI-364

B. Frank Kennerly House

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.
VIENNA 15 MI.
447000m E





N. 324

B. Frank Kennedy House
Fairbury, Neb. 1900
Source unknown

2/99, Pine Falls, N. Dak. -
with 200 1/2 - 1/2 - 1/2 -

1 of 2



