WI-251 1896-97
Thomas H. Mitchell House
Salisbury
Private

The Thomas H. Mitchell house is a large Queen Anne style frame dwelling that incorporates several significant features which distinguish it from other structures located in Salisbury's Newtown Historic District. The projecting front porch entry bay is highlighted by a shallow pediment decorated with molded plaster figures, and a curved wall accentuates the southwest corner of the front pavilion. Colored glass windows are found on several elevations, and pointed arch clear glass panes fill other sash. Multiple gables extend from a pyramidal roof. The southeast corner of the house is marked by a semi-octagonal tower. Directly adjacent to the tower roof is an eyebrow window. All of these architectural features elevate this house to the highest class of Queen Anne dwellings erected in Salisbury during late nineteenth century.

The construction of the house is well documented by an article published in the *Salisbury Advertiser* on March 14, 1896. The paper announced,

> *Thomas H. Mitchell, Esq. has begun the erection of dwelling for his own occupancy on the lot lately purchased by him of Mrs. Ellen Toadvine on Isabella Street.*
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> *The building will contain four rooms on the first floor and four on the second floor exclusive of pantries and toilet rooms. The design is materially different from anything in the city. On the front will be the parlor in a wing, end to the street; upon three sides of this will be porches, with a circular bay at the southwest corner. The main entrance will be at the end of the porch extending along the west side of the parlor. The entrance admits one to the main hall, containing the stairs to the second floor. From this hall entrances to the parlor, to the library east of it, to the dining room north of the library and through a closed passage to the kitchen. There is also an entrance to the kitchen from the dining-room, through the pantry. The library and dining-room have eastern exposures, the parlor southern and western. The conservatory will be a circular extension of the junction of the library and dining room, and will have an*

> *entrance to it from these. Mr. Mitchell has not yet decided upon his plan of finishing the interior, but will probably finish it in hard wood. The building will cost between $3,000 and $3,500. The plans Mr. Mitchell prepared himself.*

The reporter's article faithfully represented the house as it had been erected thus far, but a slight inaccuracy occurred when it was stated that the lot was sold to Thomas Mitchell by his neighbor Ellen Toadvine. The lot, consisting of 141 feet frontage on Isabella Street, was sold to Sallie M. Mitchell by William H. and Jennie Jackson for $1,000 on 2 March 1896. The house and lot remained in Mitchell family hands until the late 1930s, when it was decided to subdivide the lot and relocate the Queen Anne dwelling slightly westward of its original site in order to allow for the construction of a two-story Colonial Revival house.

As documented by the *Salisbury Advertiser*, Thomas H. Mitchell provided plans, specifications, and the workmen to erected substantial structures in and around the city during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. He advertised in the newspaper as a contractor and builder, and his known work includes his own house as well as the 1896 City Hall and Firehouse. The contracting firm of Slemons & Lankford erected the City Hall and Firehouse. In an article on the laying of the cornerstone for the structure, Thomas H. Mitchell is designated as the "architect."

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Thomas H Mitchell House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-251

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

Survey No. WI-251

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas H. Mitchell House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 109 East Isabella Street ___ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ___ 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 T. J. and Frances D. Tracy Mumford

street & number 26632 Porter Mill Road telephone no.:

city, town Hebron state and zip code MD 21830

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 104, P. 639 liber 1471

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 732

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-251

Condition		Check one	Check one		
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	___ original site		
X good	___ ruins	X altered	X moved	date of move	1938
___ fair	___ unexposed				

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

The Thomas H. Mitchell house is located at 109 East Isabella Street in the center of the Newtown Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story Queen Anne frame house faces south.

Built in 1896, the irregular plan frame dwelling formerly stood slightly east of its current location. The house was shifted twenty to thirty feet west around 1938 when the lot was subdivided and a Colonial Revival dwelling was erected on the east half of the larger lot. The large Queen Anne house is supported on a raised brick foundation of stretcher bond brick, and the exterior is clad with aluminum siding. The center main block is covered by a steeply pitched pyramidal of asphalt shingles. Steeply pitched gable roofed pavilions extend in each direction. The top of the pyramidal roof is flattened, and it was formerly distinguished by a wooden or metal balustrade. Narrow brick stove flues pierce the roof. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story rear service wing.

The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade marked by a projecting pavilion and a semi-octagonal tower on the southwest corner. Stretching across the first floor is a wraparound porch of paired Tuscan columns supported on brick plinths. Stretching between the paired posts is a handrail of square balusters and a molded handrail. An entrance bay is located on the west end of the porch and is defined by a low pitched pediment that features molded plaster figures in the tympanum. The entrance bay projects slightly forward from the rest of the porch. The first floor wall is uneven with the front door recessed in the southwest corner of the wall. The door is partially glazed and is topped by a single pane transom. Distinguishing the front wall of the projecting pavilion is a rounded corner pierced by a curved single pane sash window. The second floor is defined by a series of large and small windows featuring pointed arch window panes in the upper sash. The gable front of the projecting pavilion is pierced by a Palladian window featuring an unusual mixture of glass. The arched center window is partially filled with colored glass panes while the flanking sash have pointed arch panes. Fixed on the west side of the projecting pavilion is a gable roofed dormer. Highlighting the southeast corner is an octagonal tower capped by a copper cap with a flame shaped finial.

The east side of the main block is dominated by a projecting two story pavilion that features a semi-octagonal bay on the first floor. The bay is supported by a high brick foundation, and it is covered by a flat roof. Distinguishing the gable end is a pair of round arched windows. Marking the pyramidal roof on the south side of the pavilion is an eyebrow window.

The west side of the house is extended by a two-story pavilion as well, and it is distinguished by a mixture of colored glass windows and a Palladian window in the gable end.

Attached to the back of the house is a two-story rear service wing. The house has been divided into multiple apartments.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-251

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	_X_ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
_x_ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1896-97 **Builder/Architect** Thomas H. Mitchell, builder

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B _xC __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state _xlocal

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

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(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-251

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**	11/10/97
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

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This property, on account of its architectural details and historical documentation is listed in *Category A* and must be retained

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[1] *Salisbury Advertiser*, March 14, 1896, Wicomico County Free Library.

[2] Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 17/504, 2 March 1896.

[3] *Salisbury Advertiser*, September 19, 1896, Wicomico County Free Library.

WI-251
Thomas H. Mitchell House
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title
Map 104, Parcel 639

1471/732	Frances D. Tracy Mumford
	to
1/9/1996	T. J. Mumford, III Frances D. Tracy Mumford Lot No. 1 Mitchell Property Plat surveyed by Roy E. Moore 4/14/1938 IDT 206/419
MSB 1217/153	Richard A. Carrano Linda W. Lane Carrano
	to
5/3/1990	Frances D. Tracy Mumford
MSB 1124/271	Harbor Properties, Inc.
	to
10/30/1987	Richard A. Carrano Linda W. Lane Carrano
A J S 964/476	Mary Thelma Garrett
	to
8/29/1981	Harbor Properties, Inc.

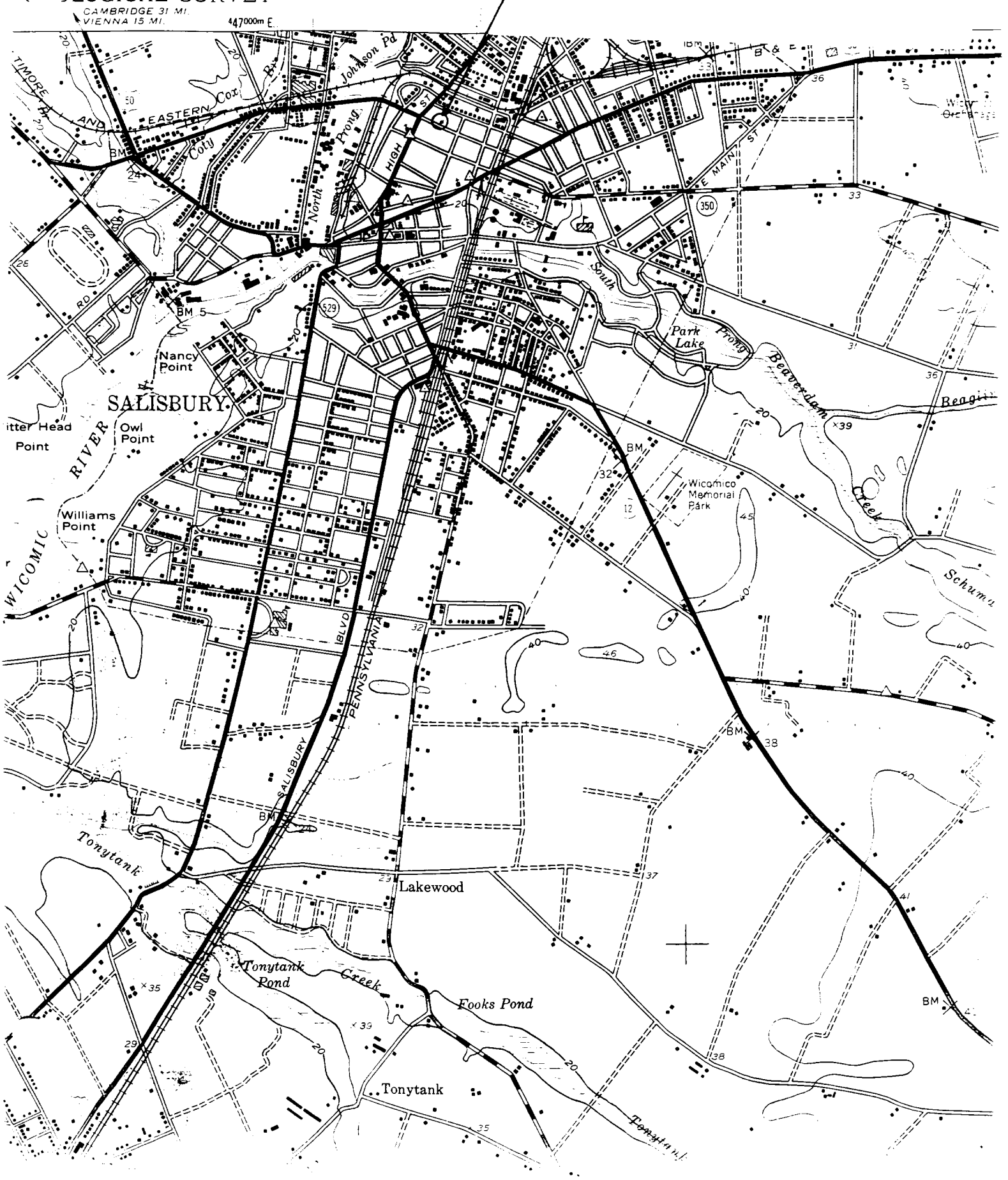
A J S 899/618	Mattie H. Leonard
	to
6/11/1978	Mary Thelma Garrett
A J S 840/735	Margaret H. Fields
	to
7/28/1975	Mattie H. Leonard Mary Thelma Garrett
A J S 840/733	Mattie H. Leonard
	to
7/28/1975	Margaret H. Fields
	Lot No. 1 on plat
JWTS 309/343	Martin & Schwartz, Inc.
	to
3/16/1949	Mattie H. Leonard John H. Leonard

JWTS 299/306	Precision Development Company
	to
4/21/1948	Martin & Schwartz, Inc.
JWTS 270/379	Charles H. Truitt L. Helen Truitt
	to
6/8/1945	Precision Development Company
IDT 206/417	Thomas H. Mitchell, Jr. et al., Margaret P. Mitchell, Ella Lee Betts, widow, Gladys E. Mitchell, Cora M. Ulman, Bernard Ulman, Lillie Seward, Roland R. Seward
	to
4/27/1938	Charles H. Truitt L. Helen Truitt
IDT 180/167	William W. Travers, bachelor
	to
8/30/1933	Thomas H. Mitchell, Jr. et al.

IDT 180/163	Thomas H. Mitchell, Jr. Executor of Last Will and Testament of Thomas Henry Mitchell, Sr. Will MNN 1/356
	to
8/29/1933	William W. Travers
JCK 118/37	Ella Lee Betts, et al.
	to
5/3/1920	Thomas H. Mitchell Lots 1 and 2 The foregoing lands are lands of which Sallie M. Mitchell died seized and bequeathed to her children Ella Lee Betts, Gladys E. Mitchell, Thomas H. Mitchell, Jr., Cora Mitchell Ulman, Lillie Mitchell Seward
JTT 17/504	William H. Jackson Jennie Jackson
	to
3/2/1896	Sallie M. Mitchell
	$1,000 having a front of 141 feet on the said Isabella Street and a depth of 291 feet more or less

WI-251
Thomas H. Mitchell House

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

1 of 3

WI-251

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ROOF WITH [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

2 OF 3

109

WL-251

Thomas H. [illegible]

Salisbury, [illegible]

South elevation of [illegible]

1/98, Paul Tourney photographer

[illegible]

3 of 3