WI-421
E. Wilson Booth House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1925

Salisbury architect E. Wilson Booth designed and built this English Vernacular Revival house for himself and his family during the mid 1920s. Built with a combination of rustic brick, half-timber, and stuccoed masonry construction techniques, the story-and-a-half dwelling has a steeply pitched gable roof sheathed with rough-edged slate. The main roof ridge has a distinct swale or sag that provides an artificial appearance of advanced age. The rough edges to the brick walls and slate shingles were intentionally used as well for an antique affect. The deliberate use of materials to convey ancient surfaces is carried through the interior as well with wrought-iron in the staircase and door hardware and hand hewn adze marks on exposed beams. Textured plaster walls were intentionally executed for a rustic look also. The E. Wilson Booth house is one of two English Vernacular Revival dwellings that he designed in the Camden neighborhood.

The lot on which the Booth house is located was acquired in October 1924 from Charles F. and Louise W. Smith, who had purchased a series of lots bordering Camden and Pennsylvania avenues the year before. E. Wilson and Anna Bell Tilghman Booth retained ownership of the Pennsylvania Avenue house until the early 1930s. Strained finances after the stock market failure resulted in the sale of the property so that Wilson Booth could maintain his interest in the Clairmont village development nearby.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-421

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic E. Wilson Booth House

other

2. Location

street and number 401 Pennsylvania Avenue not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name Richard F. and Mary Lynn Bebee

street and number 401 Pennsylvania Avenue telephone

city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21801

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court tax map and parcel Map 114, P. 1289

city, town Salisbury, Maryland liber 1421 folio 423

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

Contributing Resource in National Register District
Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
Recorded by HABS/HAER
Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
district	public	agriculture	landscape	1	buildings
x building(s)	x private	commerce/trade	recreation/culture		sites
structure	both	defense	religion		structures
site		x domestic	social		objects
object		education	transportation		
		funerary	work in progress	1	Total
		government	unknown		
		health care	vacant/not in use		
		industry	other:		

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-421

Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
x	good	ruins
	fair	altered

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

The E. Wilson Booth house is located at 401 Pennsylvania Avenue in the Camden neighborhood of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half brick and timber frame house faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1925, the story-and-a-half part brick, part timber-frame, part stucco house follows an asymmetrical design in the English Vernacular Revival style. Resting on a full cellar, the center hall/double-pile dwelling is covered by a steeply pitched slate roof of rustic looking slate. The roofline of the main block has an intentional swale or sag designed to make the house appear older than it is. The story-and-a-half exterior elevation of the main block includes two tiers of dormers that light the second floor as well as a range of finished rooms in the attic. Attached to the gable ends are shorter story-and-a-half wings.

The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with a projecting two-tiered gable-front entry executed in rustic brick. Intentionally used rough edge brick are laid in stretcher bond, and the brick wall rises to the peak of the gable front which is covered with rustic weatherboard siding. The gable front entry is pierced by a centered door opening fitted with a rustic front door of cypress. The front door is hung on long wrought-iron strap hinges. Each side of the projecting entry bay is pierced by a narrow casement windows. The gable-front entry is an extension of a taller gable-front section that is executed in rustic brick as well. A combination of casement and diamond-pane windows light the front wall, which is accented at its peak with half-timber construction. A collar beam, king-post, and two diagonal braces are mortised into the exposed rafter blade. The interstices of the timber framing are filled with irregularly laid brick. Flanking the gable-front entrance are rustic brick wall surfaces on the first floor which are pierced by casement windows. The second floor is defined by a shed dormer accented with a timber framing on the right (east) side and plain weatherboards to the left (west). The dormer is pierced by casement windows as well. Piercing the upper roof slope are a pair of dormers set in window wells. The dormers are fitted with paired casement windows. Interior end stuccoed chimney stacks rise through the gable ends and feature clay chimney pots.

The east gable end of the main block is largely covered by a slightly shorter story-and-a-half wing executed in rustic brick and half-timber construction. An extension of the slate roof wraps around the gable end as a pent eave sheltering the

(Continued)

first floor casement windows. The second floor and attic levels are executed in half-timber construction with a combination of casement and diamond pane windows. The uppermost level of the gable end is covered with rustic cut weatherboards.

The west gable end of the main block is partially covered by a smaller story-and-a-half wing executed in rustic brick and half-timber construction as well. On the back (north) side of the house is a two-story bay window covered with rustic weatherboard siding.

The interior follows a center hall/double-pile plan. The front entry and vestibule open into a large hall that contains a dog-leg staircase that rises three flights. On the east side of the hall is a large parlor that extends the full depth of the house, while the west side of the hall is divided into two rooms. The dining room is located in the southwest corner while the kitchen is located in the northwest corner. Behind the stairhall is a small breakfast room.

Throughout the main block the floors are laid in random width oak, and the walls and most of the ceilings are covered with textured stucco. The door frames feature exposed mortise-and-tenon construction. Trimming the perimeter of each room is a molded baseboard with rounded corners where the baseboard meets door openings. Featured throughout the house is a largely intact collection of early twentieth-century rustic iron hardware.

The hall contains an wrought-iron staircase. A mixture of twisted and square iron balusters support a molded oak handrail. Featured over the entrance vestibule is an exposed timber lintel distinguished by hand-executed adze marks.

The adjacent parlor features a Tudor Revival chimney breast. Green colored marble covers the front of the firebox, and the marble is framed by a wide bolection molding. The chimney breast features a field of square panels and a molded mantel shelf. To the right (south) of the fireplace is a double-door opening that provides access to the living room. The double glazed doors have false strap hinges and original wrought-iron door knobs.

The living room has a fireplace executed in rustic brick with a corbelled brick shelf and herringbone panels to each side of the firebox. The ceiling is finished in textured plaster.

On the west side of the hall is the dining room, which has an exposed beam ceiling of pecky cypress beams. An iron chandelier original to the house remains in place.

Fixed in the north end of the stairhall is a round arched door opening that provides access into the breakfast room. The pecky cypress door features wrought-iron hardware. A small window in the door has wrought-iron bars.

The second floor is less elaborate than the first floor with random width oak floors and textured plaster walls. A combination of round and flat arched door openings provide access to a range of bedrooms and bathrooms. There is a fireplace in the main bedroom on the east end. The fireplace has a rustic hewn surround and a tiled face to the firebox.

The attic is finished as well with bedrooms and bathrooms.

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Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name E. Wilson Booth House

Continuation Sheet

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8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-421

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy
1800-1899	x architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
X1900-1999	art	entertainment/ recreation	landscape architecture	religion
2000-	commerce	ethnic heritage	law	science
	communications	exploration/ settlement	literature	social history
	community planning		maritime history	transportation
	conservation		military	other:

Significance dates **Architect** E. Wilson Booth

Specific dates **Builder**

Evaluation for:

National Register ● Maryland Register ✗ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Salisbury architect E. Wilson Booth designed and built this English Vernacular Revival house for himself and his family during the mid 1920s. Built with a combination of rustic brick and half-timber construction, the story-and-a-half dwelling has a steeply pitched gable roof sheathed with rough-edged slate. The main roof ridge has distinct swale or sag that provides an artificial appearance of advanced age. The rough edges to the brick walls and slates are also intentionally used for an antique affect. The deliberate use of materials to convey ancient surfaces is carried through the interior as well with wrought-iron in the staircase and door hardware and hand-hewn adze marks in exposed beams. The textured plaster walls were intentionally executed for a rustic appearance as well. The E. Wilson Booth house is one of two English Vernacular Revival dwellings that he designed in the Camden neighborhood.

The lot on which his house is located was purchased in October 1924 from Charles F. and Louise W. Smith, who had acquired a series of lots bordering Camden and Pennsylvania avenues the year before.[1] E. Wilson and Anna Bell Tilghman

[1] Wicomico County Land Records, JCK 128/552, 22 March 1923; JCK 136/301, 8 October 1924.

Booth retained ownership of the Pennsylvania Avenue house until the early 1930s. Strained finances after the stock market failure resulted in the sale of the house, so that Wilson Booth could maintain his interest in the Clairmont village development.[2]

[2] Personal phone interview with Claire Booth Grier, June 26, 2000.

Maryland Historical Trust
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Name E. Wilson Booth House

Continuation Sheet

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type: Standing Structure

Category: Dwelling

Historic Environment: Residential Neighborhood

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic

Known Design Source:

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-421

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area
Acreage surveyed
Quadrangle name

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian
organization	Private Consultant
street & number	P. O. Box 5
city or town	Westover, Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

WI-421
E. Wilson Booth House
401 Pennsylvania Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

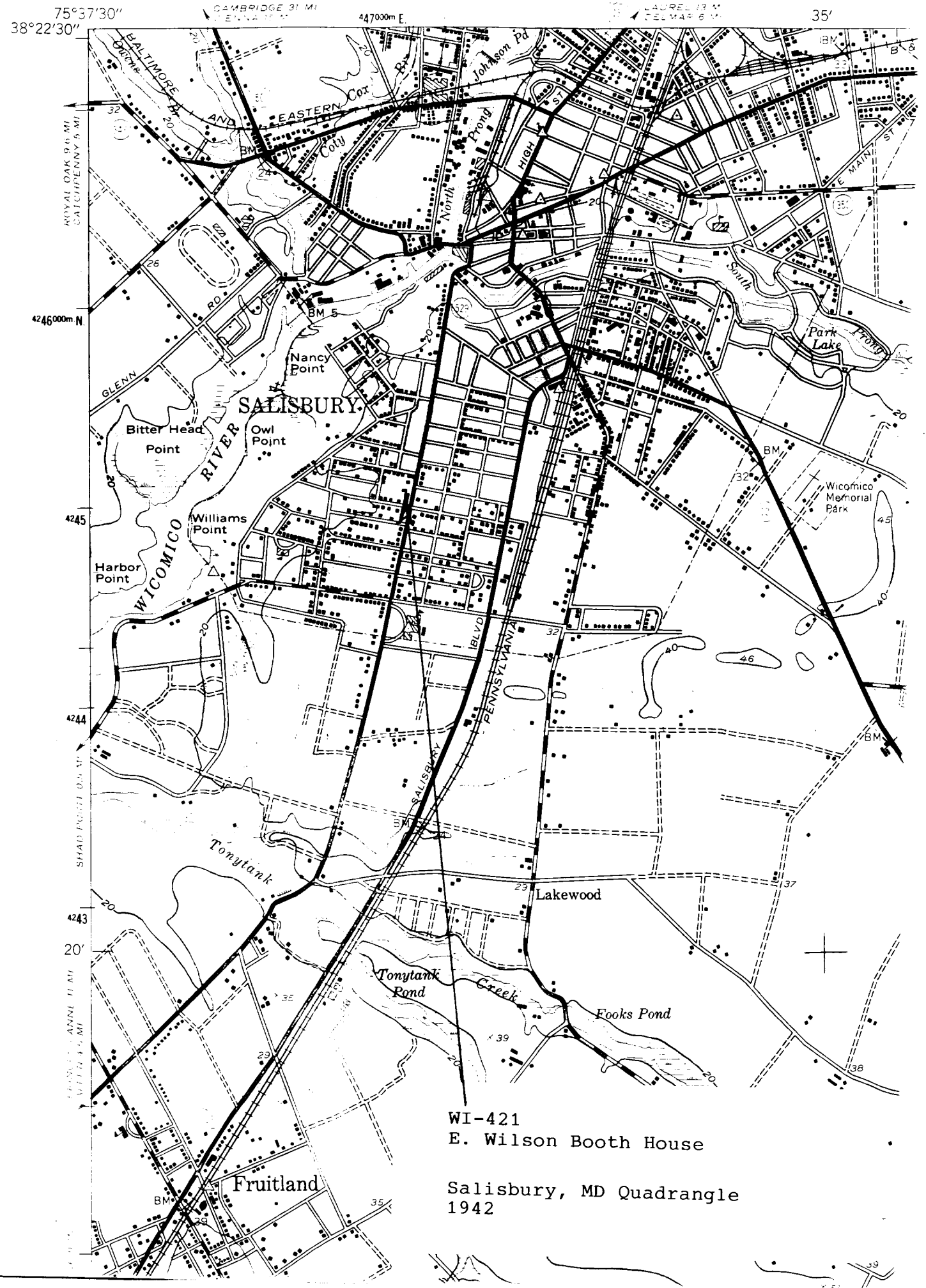
Map 114, Parcel 1289

1421/423	Charles W. Canter Janet H. Canter	
	to	
12/20/1994	Richard F. Bebee Mary Lynn Bebee	
MSB 1287/498	John L. Graham III Martha K. Graham	
	to	
4/10/1992	Charles W. Canter Janet H. Canter Items One and Two	$220,000
JWTS 800/589	John L. Graham, III	
	to	
10/3/1973	John L. Graham Martha K. Graham	
JWTS 787/348	Harvey P. Hastings, III Lynne R. Hastings	
	to	
3/28/1973	John L. Graham III	

JWTS 696/427	Philip A. Insley Elinor N. Insley
	to
6/25/1969	Harvey R. Hastings, III Lynne R. Hastings
JWS 240/595	Delmarva Mortgage Company
	to
4/6/1942	Philip A. Insley Elinor N. Insley Plat IDT 158/423, 4/13/1929
IDT 210/234	E. Wilson Booth Anna Belle Tilghman Booth
	to
7/25/1938	Delmarva Mortgage Company
IDT 195/178	Delmarva Corporation
	to
1/1/1936	Delmarva Mortgage Company

IDT 180/91	Levin C. Bailey, et al.
	to
7/26/1933	Delmarva Corporation Public Sale, 6/16/1933, mortgage from E. Wilson Booth and Anna Belle Tilghman Booth to Del-Mar-Va Mortgage Company, 6/16/1928, JCK 147/219, $10,000 sold at public sale for $3,800
JCK 136/301	Charles F. Smith Louise W. Smith
	to
10/8/1924	E. Wilson Booth Anna Belle Tilghman Booth
JCK 128/552	Caroline Rider Humphreys, et al.
	to
3/22/1923	Charles F. Smith Being Lots, 1, 2 & 5 on a plat of the Samuel A. Graham and William M. Day land made by P. S. Shockley, 1/30/1903, EAT 47/207

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



WI-421
E. Wilson Booth House

Salisbury, MD Quadrangle
1942