

WI-528  
Dr. Robert Naylor House  
Salisbury  
Private

1895-96

One of the prominent landmarks on the east side of Salisbury is the sprawling Victorian house commonly known today as the Hotel Esther. Currently a rooming house, the spacious Queen Anne frame dwelling was built initially for Dr. Robert Naylor, an English-born physician who moved to Salisbury during the late nineteenth century. Immensely successful in several business ventures, Dr. Naylor, also renowned physician, pursued the acquisition and development of a large estate on the east side of Salisbury during the mid 1890s. In 1893, in the name of Maria P. Naylor, a 32-acre parcel was purchased along what was then known as East Church Street extended.

The expansive frame dwelling followed the prevailing taste for the late nineteenth-century with an asymmetrical composition of varying architectural forms. The main block, cruciform-shaped structure, is distinguished on its principal front with uneven towers. On the southwest corner is a three-story, semi-octagonal tower with an open third story capped by an octagonal shaped spire. On the southeast is a two-story, semi-octagonal tower featuring a onion-shaped dome or roof. Fixed atop the main block is a cupola that echoes the main block with a cruciform shaped roof. Extending the main block around three sides is a wraparound, turned baluster porch.

Dr. Naylor died in 1899, and the house remained in Maria Naylor's name until 1908 when it was sold to the John B. Parsons-Home for the Aged. The event caused comment in the local paper, The Wicomico News, which printed an article on the transaction on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The newspaper announced:

*At a meeting of the Board of Directors for the Home for the Aged, held Tuesday, it was decided to accept the Dr. Naylor property on E. Church Street extended at the price named through the Real Estate Agency of S. P. Woodcock & Co., \$6,500, and to take over the property just as soon as the papers are fixed up, and establish the Home permanently in this place*

*At the same meeting the bid of Thos. A. Mitchell for \$5,250.00 for the work of remodeling and changing the building to suit the requirements of the Home as also accepted. The bid of Mr. Mitchell, which [is] the lowest of three bids, covers all the changes in the premises as per the specifications of Owens & Sisco, architects. It does not, however, include the heating and plumbing for the building. When completed this will be a model Home and the finest one in the State outside Baltimore city. The location is an ideal one, with plenty of grounds and ample room for all the additions, which will ever be needed.*

*At the last session of the Legislature, through the efforts of Senator Jesse D. Price, this institution received \$7,500 to be used for building purposes, which together with the property they now own and which will be sold, will be almost enough to complete all the improvements after paying for the house and grounds.*

The John B. Parsons Home for the Aged operated from the Dr. Naylor property for the next twenty-two years, and in 1930 sold the premises to The Primitive Baptist Home when the Lemon Hill location was purchased. The Primitive Baptist Home held title to the old Naylor residence until 1945 when it was sold to private individuals who converted it to a rooming house.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. W I-528

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Dr. Robert Naylor House  
 other Hotel Esther John B. Parsons-Salisbury Home for the Aged

### 2. Location

street and number 801-809 East Church Street not for publication  
 city, town Salisbury vicinity  
 county Wicomico

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

name Joseph T. and Ronald W. Callis  
 street and number P. O. Box 3115 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 108, P. 1848  
 city, town Salisbury, Maryland liber 1053 folio 887

### 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	1	buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	commerce/trade		
structure	both	defense	1	structures
site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic		
object		education	1	Total
		funerary		
		government	1	Total
		health care		
		industry	1	Total
		landscape		
		recreation/culture	1	Total
		religion		
		social	1	Total
		transportation		
		work in progress	1	Total
		unknown		
		vacant/not in use	1	Total
		other:		
			1	Total

**Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory**

Name Dr. Robert Naylor House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

## 7. Description

### Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
<u>x</u>	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 Dr. Robert Naylor house, commonly known as the Hotel Esther or formerly the John B. Parsons-Salisbury Home for the Aged, is located at 805 East Church Street on the east side of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The large two-and-a-half story frame house faces south with its principal axis oriented north/south.

Built in 1895-96, the two-and-a-half story Queen Anne frame dwelling is supported on a raised brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with a combination of asbestos shingles and vinyl siding. The multi-faceted roof with numerous gables and tower is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing, and to the east is a single-story wing.

The south (main) facade is an asymmetrical elevation with a center entrance and flanking towers of uneven height and shape. A round arched, double-door entrance is fitted with partially glazed doors, and to the west (left) is a single-pane sash window. The entrance as well as the entire first floor of the main block is sheltered by a turned post porch enhanced with decorative corner brackets and a square baluster railing between the posts. Fixed above the first floor openings are a paired set of single-pane sash windows above the entrance and a single-pane sash window in the west bay. Fixed atop the roof is a large cross gable pierced by a round arched window fitted with colored glass panes in the perimeter of the window. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave and closed soffits. Rising atop the peak of the gable is a wooden finial. The southwest front corner is dominated by a three-story semi-octagonal tower fitted with varying size single-pane sash windows on the first and second floors. The third floor is open with turned posts and a square baluster handrail. Beneath the railing is a horizontal band of paneling. Covering the semi-octagonal tower is a octagonal spire roof fitted with a metal finial. To the southeast is two-story second semi-octagonal tower lighted by single pane sash windows on the first and second floors. The two-story tower is capped with an eight-sided onion shaped dome fitted with a metal finial. The roof of the main block, which follows a cruciform shape, is topped by a square sided cupola covered by a cruciform-shaped cross gable roof.

The east elevation is partially covered by a single-story wing that extends from the main block with a short hyphen that joins a rectangular single-story section erected on an oblique angle to the main block. The east elevation of the house is dominated by a cross-gable fixed atop the main block. The peak of the cross gable is accented with a wood finial. A pair of single-pane sash windows pierce the gable end. The single-story wing, erected around 1910, is a rectangular frame structure with unusual rounded corners. An entrance on the south side is accented with a neoclassical entablature and narrow pilasters.

Attached to the north side of the main block is a large two-story service wing. The interior was not seen.

Name Dr. Robert Naylor House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

## 8. Significance

Period Check and justify below		Areas of Significance		
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	art	entertainment/ recreation	landscape architecture	reigion
2000-	commerce	ethnic heritage	law	science
	communications	exploration/ settlement	literature	social history
	community planning		maritime history	transportation
	conservation		military	other:

<b>Significance dates</b>		<b>Architect</b>	1908 Alterations by Owens & Sisco
<b>Specific dates</b>	1895-96, 1908	<b>Builder</b>	1908 Alterations by Thomas H. Mitchell

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.)

One of the prominent landmarks on the east side of Salisbury is the sprawling Victorian house commonly known today as the Hotel Esther. Currently an apartment house, the spacious Queen Anne frame house was built originally for Dr. Robert Naylor, an English-born physician who had moved to Salisbury during the late nineteenth century. Immensely successful in many business related ventures, Dr. Naylor, also a renowned physician, pursued the acquisition and development of a large estate on the east side of Salisbury during the mid 1890s. In 1893, in the name of Maria P. Naylor, a 32-acre parcel was purchased along what was then known as East Church Street extended.<sup>1</sup>

The expansive frame dwelling followed the prevailing taste for the late nineteenth century with an asymmetrical composition of varying architectural forms. The main block, a cruciform shaped structure, is distinguished on its principal front with uneven towers. On the southwest corner is a three-story, semi-octagonal tower with an open third story capped by an octagonal roof. On the southeast corner is a two-story, semi-octagonal tower featuring a onion-shaped roof. Fixed atop the main block is a cupola that echoed the main block with a cruciform shaped roof. Extending the house around three sides is a wraparound, turned baluster porch.

Dr. Naylor died in 1899, and the house remained in Maria Naylor's name until 1908 when it was sold to the John B.

<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 12/192, 20 November 1893.

Name Dr. Robert Naylor House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

---

Parsons-Home for the Aged.<sup>2</sup> The event caused comment in the local paper, *The Wicomico News*, which printed an article on the transaction on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The newspaper announced:

*At a meeting of the Board of Directors for the Home for the Aged, held Tuesday, it was decided to accept the Dr. Naylor property on E. Church Street extended at the price named through the Real Estate Agency of S. P. Woodcock & Co., \$6,500, and to take over the property just as soon as the papers are fixed up, and establish the Home permanently in this place.*

*At the same meeting the bid of Thos. A. Mitchell for \$5,250.00 for the work of remodeling and changing the building to suit the requirements of the Home was also accepted. This bid of Mr. Mitchell, which [is] the lowest of three bids, covers all the changes in the premises as per the specifications of Owens & Sisco, architects. It does not, however, include the heating and plumbing for the building. When completed this will be a model Home and the finest one in the State outside of Baltimore city. The location is an ideal one, with plenty of grounds and ample room for all the additions, which will ever be needed.*

*At the last session of the Legislature, through the efforts of Senator Jesse D. Price, this institution received \$7,500.00 to be used for building purposes, which together with the property they now own and which will be sold, will be almost enough to complete all the improvements after paying for the house and grounds.<sup>3</sup>*

The John B. Parsons Home for the Aged operated from the Dr. Naylor property for the next twenty-two years, and in 1930 sold the premises to The Primitive Baptist Home when the Lemon Hill location was purchased.<sup>4</sup> The Primitive Baptist Home held title to the old Naylor residence until 1945 when it was sold to private individuals and converted to a rooming house.<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 61/156, 25 August 1908.

<sup>3</sup> *The Wicomico News*, 6 August 1908.

<sup>4</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 161/35, 30 January 1930.

<sup>5</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, 270/200, 30 April 1945.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-528

---

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

**The historic boundary of this property is coincidental with the metes and bounds of the current lot.**

---

## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

street & number P. O. Box 5

date 10/19/00

city or town Westover, Maryland 21871

phone 410-651-1094

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**

*The Wicomico News*, August 6, 1908

## WILL BUY NAYLOR PLACE

### Home For The Aged To Take Over The Property At Once

At a meeting of the Board of Directors for the Home for the Aged, held Tuesday, it was decided to accept the Dr. Naylor property on E. Church Street extended at the price named through the Real Estate Agency of S. P. Woodcock & Co., \$6,500, and to take over the property just as soon as the papers are fixed up, and establish the Home permanently in this place.

At the same meeting the bid of Thos. A. Mitchell for \$5,250.00 for the work of remodeling and changing the building to suit the requirements of the Home was also accepted. This bid of Mr. Mitchell, which [is] the lowest of three bids, covers all the changes in the premises as per the specifications of Owens & Sisco, architects. It does not, however, include the heating and plumbing for the building. When completed this will be a model Home and the finest one in the State outside of Baltimore city. The location is an ideal one, with plenty of grounds and ample room for all the additions, which will ever be needed.

At the last session of the Legislature, through the efforts of Senator Jesse D. Price, this institution received \$7,500.00 to be used for building purposes, which together with the property they now own and which will be sold, will be almost enough to complete all the improvements after paying for the house and grounds.



WI-528  
Dr. Robert Naylor House  
801-809 E. Church Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

IDT 161/35

John B. Parsons, Salisbury Home for the Aged

to

1/30/1930

The Primitive Baptist Home  
Plat made by Francis H. Dryden, 1/29/1930

EAT 61/156

Maria P. Naylor, City of Bayonne, Hudson County, N. J.

to

8/25/1908

John B. Parsons, Salisbury Home for the Aged  
\$6,400

JTT 12/192

Ernest L. Maddox

to

11/20/1893

Maria P. Naylor  
\$3,000 ...tract of land situate on both sides of and bounded on  
the Baltimore & Eastern Shore Railroad near the  
Eastern limits of the Town of Salisbury, and bounded  
on the South by the county road which is an extension  
of Church Street...containing 32 acres



WI-528  
Dr. Robert Naylor House

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942



WI-528

DR. ROBERT NAYLOR HOUSE

SMITHSBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.

SOUTHWEST CORNER

10/00, PINE TOWN, PINEVILLE

NEW. / MD STATE

1 1/2 5



WI-428

Dr. Robert Mayson House  
Sawbury, Wilshire County, Cal.

South Boulevard

10/60, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEZ. / NO SIPP

2 of 5



W1-528

Dr. Robert - Nayler House

Salisbury, Wicomico County, Md.

Southeast - 1000000

1/100, Page 1000000, Printed in America

1000000, Historical Society

301 5



W1-928

Dr Robert Nelson  
Swissbury, Newbury Co. Mass

Worms & eggs

10/00, Paul T. ...

NOV 1 1950

# of 5



NI-523

Dr. Robert V. ...  
Sawyer, ...  
500 ...  
10/00 ...  
100 ...

5 of 5