WI-600 1893
Wallace Ruark House
Salisbury
Private

A rare construction receipt executed between builder Thomas M. Slemons and Nora H. and Wallace Ruark states that $1439 was received as full payment for the labor and materials required for the assemblage of the tee-shaped Victorian house that still stands at 107 East William Street in the Newtown Historic District. The receipt for payment is dated 28 September 1893. The construction project took place over the course of five months, beginning around the first week in April according to a short notice in the *Salisbury Advertiser*. The lot on which the house was erected was purchased from Margaret E. Parsons two weeks earlier for $500. According to the 1907 Salisbury City directory, Wallace Ruark, a chemist occupied the house with his wife Nora and son Raymond, a clerk. The house and lot were held by the Ruark family until the early 1970s when it was sold to Margaret Vanderbogart Stone.

The Victorian dwelling follows the popular asymmetrical tee-shaped form widely used during the late nineteenth century on the lower Shore, and its variety of exterior surfaces is common to the period. While the house has been enlarged to the rear with a two-story addition, the 1893 dwelling has remained relatively unaltered since its construction.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-600

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Wallace Ruark House

other

2. Location

street and number 107 East William Street __ not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name R. Scott and Carole Wilson

street and number 107 East William Street telephone 410-742-8873

city, town Salisbury state Maryland zip code 21801

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1466 folio 266

city, town Salisbury tax map 107 tax parcel 679 tax ID number 5-013062

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
__ district
x building(s)
__ structure
__ site
__ object

Ownership
__ public
x private
__ both

Current Function
__ agriculture
__ commerce/trade
__ defense
x domestic
__ education
__ funerary
__ government
__ health care
__ industry
__ landscape
__ recreation/culture
__ religion
__ social
__ transportation
__ work in progress
__ unknown
__ vacant/not in use
__ other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	____	buildings
____	____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
1	____	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

_____

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-600

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 Wallace Ruark house stands at 107 East William Street in the Newtown Historic District of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped frame dwelling faces south with the principal gable roof oriented on an east/west axis. Supported on a brick foundation with a partially excavated cellar, the frame house is sheathed with a combination of plain weatherboard siding and fishscale shingles. The steeply pitched gable roofed is covered with pattern slate. Attached to the back of the main block is a modern two-story addition.

The south (main) façade is an asymmetrical façade with a projecting two-story pavilion on the east side and a recessed entrance bay located in the center of the uneven elevation. The three-sided bay pavilion is pierced by single-pane sash windows on each floor, and the gable-front roof is trimmed with sawn corner brackets that hang from the corners of the pavilion roof. The gable end is pierced by a multi-pane window framed by a field of fishscale shingles. The edge of the roof is extended with an open soffit and exposed and decorated rafter tails. The bargeboard has a pierced decoration. The entrance is centrally located on the recessed wall with a double-door opening topped by a colored glass transom. The adjacent bay to the west is marked by a long single pane sash window flanked by louvered shutters. The first story is sheltered by a shed roofed porch supported on square posts. The second floor is lighted by single-pane sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. Centered on the roof is a cross gable pierced by a multi-pane window with a surrounding field of fishscale shingles. The bargeboard has a pierced decoration. Rising through the center of the house are two stuccoed brick stacks.

The east side is two bays across with single-pane sash windows lighting the first and second floors. The windows are flanked by louvered shutters. Centered on the roof is a cross gable pierced by a multi-pane window within a field of fishscale shingles.

The west gable end is defined by a single one-over-one sash window on each floor and the roof is finished in a similar fashion to the balance of the house.

The house retains much of its late nineteenth-century woodwork including a turned baluster staircase and Victorian factory-produced mantels.

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-600

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philosophy
x 1800-1899	x architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
1900-1999	__ 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:

Specific dates **Architect/Builder** Contractor Thomas M. Slemons

Construction dates 1893

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register ____x____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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

A rare construction document executed between builder Thomas M. Slemons and Nora H. and Wallace Ruark states that $1439 had been received as full payment for the labor and materials required for the assemblage of the tee-shaped Victorian house that stands at 107 East William Street in the Newtown Historic District. The receipt for payment is dated 28 September 1893.[1] The construction project took place over the course of five months, beginning around the first week in April according to a short notice in the *Salisbury Advertiser*.[2] The lot on which the house was erected was purchased from Margaret E. Parsons two weeks earlier for $500.[3] According to the 1907 Salisbury City directory, Wallace Ruark, a chemist, occupied the house with his wife Nora and son Raymond, a clerk.[4] The house and lot was held by the Ruarks until the early 1970s when it was sold to Margaret Vanderbogart Stone.[5]

[1] Wilson Collection, personal interview with Scott Wilson, 3 October 2001.
[2] *Salisbury Advertiser*, 1 April 1893.
[3] Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 11/135, 22 March 1893.
[4] Salisbury City Directory, 1907, transcribed and printed by Family Tree Bookshop, p. 46.
[5] Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 722/233, 27 September 1972.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-600

Name Wallace Ruark House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

WI-600
Wallace Ruark House
107 East William Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 679

1466/266 — Margaret V. Stone

to

12/15/1995 — R. Scott Wilson
Carole F. Wilson
Conveyed to Margaret V. Stone from:
1. Margaret R. Mitchell, et al., 9/27/1972, JWTS 772/233
2. Dorothy P. Vanderbogart, 9/8/1994, MSB 1407/559

JWTS 772/233 — Margaret R. Mitchell, widow, Dorothy R. Mohr, Robert G. Spring, Remaindermen under the last will and testament of Nora H. Ruark

to

9/27/1972 — Margaret V. Stone
Being the same lot or parcel of land which was conveyed unto Nora H. Ruark by deed from Margaret E. Parsons, dated 3/22/1893, JTT 11/135, the said Nora H. Ruark having since departed this life, whereupon by virtue of the terms and provisions of Item One (B) of her Last Will and Testament, dated 5/16/1953, the hereinafter described property passed unto Howard H. Ruark for life (Howard H. Ruark having elected to occupy such property until his death on 2/19/1972; and upon his death a 40% interest therein went to said Margaret R. Mitchell; a 40% interest went to Dorothy R. Mohr and a 20% interest went to Robert G. Spring...

JTT 11/135	Margaret E. Parsons
	to
3/22/1893	Nora H. Ruark, wife of Wallace Ruark $500

Salisbury Advertiser, April 1, 1893

Mr. Wallace Ruark has purchased the building lot next the residence of Mr. James Cannon, fronting 55 feet on William street, on which he will erect a comfortable dwelling. Contractor Thos. M. Slemons will have charge of the building, which will cost about $2,500.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WI-600

Salisbury City Directory, 1907, transcribed and printed by Family Tree Bookshop, 1998.

Salisbury Advertiser, April 1, 1893.

Wicomico County Land Record, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	¼ acre		
Acreage of historical setting	¼ acre		
Quadrangle name	Salisbury, Maryland	Quadrangle scale:	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

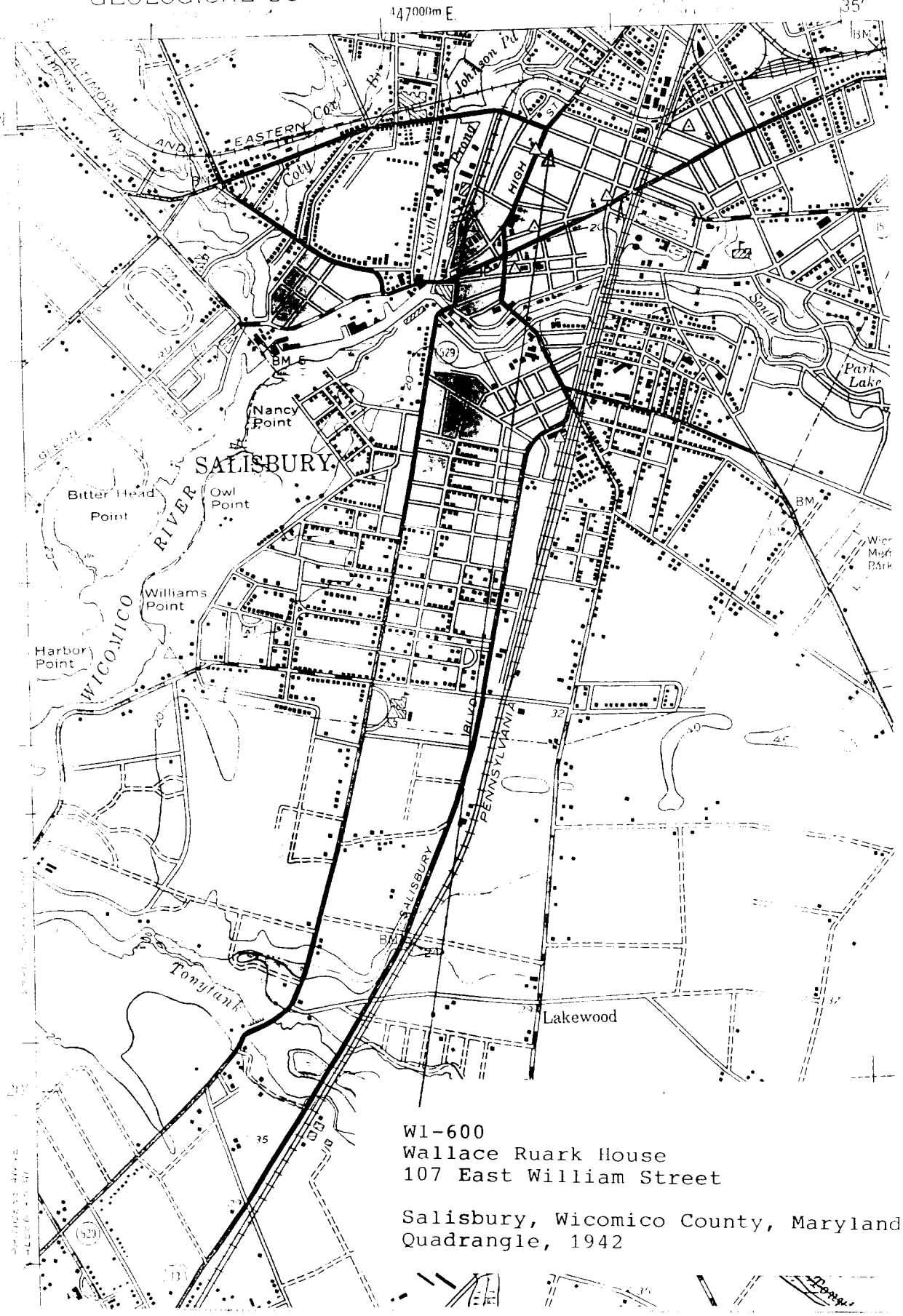
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	11/14/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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 21032-2023
410-514-7600

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



W1-600
Wallace Ruark House
107 East William Street

Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Quadrangle, 1942

WI-600

WALLACE QUARK HOUSE

SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

10/01, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NTH, / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 1

WI-600
WALLACE RUMSEY HOUSE
SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION
11/01, PAUL TOUMEY, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEC/MHT HISTORICAL TRUST
2 OF 2