

Salisbury Historic District Commission

Hearing Notification

Hearing Date: May 22, 2019

Time: 7:00 pm

Location: Government Office Building
125 N. Division Street
Salisbury, MD. 21804
Room 301

Case Number: #18-53

Commission Considering: Sign

Owner's Name: Wicomico Presbyterian Church

Applicant Name: George White

Agent/Contractor: Not Indicated on the Application

Subject Property Address: 225 N Division St

Historic District: Newtown

Use Category: Commercial

Chairman: Mr. Scott Saxman

HDC Staff contact: Anne Roane
City Planner
(410) 548-3170

Salisbury Historic District Commission

125 N. Division Street
Room 202
Salisbury, MD 21801
(410) 548-3170/ fax (410) 548-3107

Permit Application
\$25 Fee Received 4/18/19 (date)

Date Submitted: 4/18/19

Case #: 18-53

Date Accepted as Complete: 4/18/19

Action Required By (45 days): 6/2/19

Subject Location: Langelet Memorial Building 225 N. Division St.

Application by: George H. White Owner Name: Wicomico Presbyterian Ch.

Applicant Address: 1660 Old Mill Lane 21801 Owner Address: 129 Broad St. 21801

Applicant Phone: 443 783 7818 Owner Phone: 410 749 9792

Work Involves: Alterations New Construction Addition Other
 Demolition Sign Awning Estimated Cost _____

DESCRIPTION OF WORK PROPOSED (Please be specific. Attach sheet if space is inadequate) Type of material, color, dimensions, etc. must accompany application. If signs are proposed, indicate material, method of attachment, position on building, size and front lineal feet of building, size and position of all other signs on building, and a layout of the sign.

Routed sign, 1816 HDU/ incised letters finished with gold leaf, face 6x4 feet, treated lumber 8x8 inch exterior posts with decorative ball finials, treated lumber stringers/ all stainless steel hardware. Sign to be installed fifteen feet back from the face of the curb within a triangular planting area adjacent to driveway.

Are there any easements or deed restrictions for the exterior of this property? If yes, submit a letter from the easement holder stating their approval of the proposed work. Yes No

Do you intend to apply for Federal or State Rehabilitation Tax Credits? If yes, have you contacted Maryland Historical Trust staff? Yes No

If you have checked "Yes" to either of the above questions, please provide a copy of your approval letter from the Maryland Historic Trust along with this application.

See Reverse Side for DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO BE FILED WITH APPLICATION

All required documents must be submitted to the City Planner, Department of Infrastructure and Development at least 30 days prior to the next public meeting. Failure to include all the required attachments and/or failure of the applicant or his/her authorized representative to appear at the scheduled meeting may result in postponement of the application until the next regular scheduled meeting. If an application is denied, the same application cannot be resubmitted for one year from date of such action. Please be advised that members of the Salisbury Historic District Commission or staff, may visit the subject property prior to the scheduled meeting date to familiarize themselves with the project.

The Salisbury Historic District Commission Rules and Regulations and Design Guidelines are available for review in the office of the Department of Infrastructure and Development for the City of Salisbury as well as on the city's website: www.ci.salisbury.md.us.

I, or my authorized representative, will appear at the meeting of the Salisbury Historic District Commission on May 22 2019 (date).

I hereby certify that the owner of the subject premises has been fully informed of the alterations herein proposed and that said owner is in full agreement with this proposal.

Applicant's Signature: George H. White for Wicomico Presbyterian Date: April 18, 2019

Remarks: Jess Bull
Application Processor (Date)

Ernest Roane
Secretary, S.H.D.C. (Date)

EWALK

ONE WAY
↓

6' SIDEWALK

ELEVATOR

CONCRETE PAD
CATCH BASIN

15' Min. WIDTH, PAVED DRIVEWAY

ONE WAY
↓

sign

EXISTING BUILDING

EXISTING BUILDING

SIDEWALK

2' WALL

225 N. Division St.

NORTH DIVISION STREET
38' RIGHT-OF-WAY



Looking South on North Division Street



225 North Division Street Annex



Looking Northeast from North Division Street



Back of 225 North Division Street Annex



Looking East from North Division Street



Looking South from Korean Presbyterian Church



WICOMICO
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

*Langelier Memorial Building
225 North Division Street*

Salisbury Historic District Commission

STAFF FINDINGS

Meeting Date: May 22, 2019

Case Number:	18-53
Commission Considering:	Permission to install signage
Owner's Name:	Wicomico Presbyterian Church
Applicant Name:	George H. White
Agent/Contractor:	None Indicated
Subject Property Address:	225 N. Division Street
Historic District:	Newtown Historic District
Use Category:	Exempt
Zoning Classification:	Office & Service Residential
Structure / Site Description:	
Built Date:	1928
Enclosed Area:	16,528 sq ft
Lot Size:	17,691 sq ft
Number of Stories:	Not Indicated
Wicomico County Historic Survey on file:	Yes
Contributing Structure:	Yes, 7/28/2010
Nearby Properties on County Survey:	Yes
Including but not limited to:	
➤ 219 N. Division Street	Faith Community Church Old Asbury M.E. Church

Relevant Historic, Archeological and Architectural Features of the Surrounding Area:

The property in question is located within the Newtown Historic District. The majority of the structures in the surrounding area, which includes Broad, North Division and Chestnut Streets, consist of churches of various dominations. The area is zoned *Office and Service Residential* which explains why a lawyer's office exists at 115 Broad Street and an engineer's office is located at 226 N. Division Street. The Salisbury Historic District Commission approved 316 N. Division St. for new gutters, 325 N. Division St. for a storm door installation, 324 N. Division St. for multiple exterior alterations, 602 N. Division St. for sign face replacement and 325 Broad St. for new gutters, and installation of aluminum window trim. A majority of the houses in this District range in age and were built starting in the late 1850's to the late 1920's. There's a mix of architectural styles in the surrounding area with no prevalence to any specific style.

Explanation of Request: The applicant is requesting the Salisbury Historic District Commission approve their request to install lettering on the rear of the subject property as well as a small directional sign located at the corner of Broad Street and Makemie Place.

Areas of Historic Guidelines to be considered:

Signage (Page 42)

Signs are used for advertising, identity, and image. They are an extremely visible element of the businesses in the historic districts. Each sign must be used carefully so as not to detract from the historic facades. With some forethought and planning, signage can embrace business owners' needs and Salisbury's historic image.

Placement

On most downtown buildings a continuous brick ledge or corbelling is used to separate the second floor and above from the entry-level storefront below. This space is ideal for sign placement, as it was often created for this purpose. In some instances, newer buildings contain areas above the highest windows for signage. This location is acceptable but should be avoided if possible.

Another option for a main sign location can be an awning, provided the awning is properly integrated with the building and demonstrated by earlier photographs of the building. Other types of signage allowed include hanging, window, awning, or any sign that is located below the main sign. If a projected sign is planned, placement will be critical to avoid interferences with adjacent signs and architecture of the storefront itself.

These signs should be located no less than eight feet above the sidewalk. Window signs should consist of a material and color that contrasts with the display, while being small enough to not interfere with the display area. In all cases in locating the sign, the applicant must minimize the disturbance to the exterior of the building, i.e. using the least amount of mounting bolts as possible. On masonry buildings, mounting hardware must be placed into mortar joints, not historic masonry.

Sign Ordinance

The City of Salisbury has enacted an ordinance that is explicit concerning types, sizes, construction, and placement of signs. Signs that cannot be used are: flashing, moving, swinging, painted wall signs, or roof signs. Flood-lit signs are also prohibited unless the lights are shielded from view. Obscene signs and those that resemble official traffic signs will not be allowed.

Construction of signs is subject to the City of Salisbury Sign Ordinance Chapter 17.1. Each sign is subject to review by the Historic District Commission and recommendations are provided to the Department of Building, Permits & Inspections. Each sign will be reviewed for location, total sign area, size, height, letters, and message.

Evaluation Criteria:

Pursuant to Section 17.52.040 A & B of the Salisbury Zoning Code, it is the duty of the Historic District Commission to review all applications to construct, alter, reconstruct, move or demolish any structure within a Historic District whenever the exterior appearance of such structure is affected, and to approve or reject said application. In reviewing an application and plans, the Commission should give consideration to review criteria, and may make a determination as to which of said Criteria are applicable.

Staff Findings Prepared By: Jessica Budd
Infrastructure and Development
125 N Division Street, Suite 202
Salisbury, MD 21801
(410) 548-3170
Date: May 22, 2019

Real Property Data Search

Search Result for WICOMICO COUNTY

View Map		View GroundRent Redemption		View GroundRent Registration	
Tax Exempt:		Special Tax Recapture:			
Exempt Class:		NONE			
Account Identifier:		District - 05 Account Number - 124344			
Owner Information					
Owner Name:	THE COMMITTEE OF WICOMICO PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SALISBURY		Use:	EXEMPT COMMERCIAL	
Mailing Address:	129 BROAD ST SALISBURY MD 21801-4912		Principal Residence:	NO	
Deed Reference:	/02818/ 00610				
Location & Structure Information					
Premises Address:	225 N DIVISION ST SALISSBURY 21801-0000		Legal Description:	17,691 SQFT 225 N DIVISION ST RESUB WKA MEM BAPTIST CH	
Map:	Grid:	Parcel:	Sub District:	Subdivision:	Section:
0107	0008	1887		0000	
Assessment Year:	Block:		Lot:	Assessment Year:	Plat No:
2017				2017	0015/0310
Plat Ref:					
Special Tax Areas:	Town:		SALISBURY		
	Ad Valorem:				
	Tax Class:				
Primary Structure Built	Above Grade Living Area	Finished Basement Area	Property Land Area	County Use	
1928	16528		17,691 SF	000000	
Stories	Basement	Type	Exterior	Full/Half Bath	Garage
		FRATERNAL BUILDING			
Value Information					
	Base Value	Value	Phase-in Assessments		
		As of	As of	As of	
		01/01/2017	07/01/2018	07/01/2019	
Land:	102,800	108,300			
Improvements	256,600	376,700			
Total:	359,400	485,000	443,133	485,000	
Preferential Land:	0			0	
Transfer Information					
Seller: WALTER KENDALL ALLEN MEMORIAL		Date: 07/17/2007		Price: \$237,500	
Type: NON-ARMS LENGTH OTHER		Deed1: /02818/ 00610		Deed2:	
Seller:		Date:		Price:	
Type:		Deed1:		Deed2:	
Seller:		Date:		Price:	
Type:		Deed1:		Deed2:	
Exemption Information					
Partial Exempt Assessments:	Class	07/01/2018		07/01/2019	
County:	700	443,133.00		485,000.00	
State:	700	443,133.00		485,000.00	
Municipal:	700	443,133.00 485,000.00		443,133.00 485,000.00	
Tax Exempt:		Special Tax Recapture:			
Exempt Class:		NONE			

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-153

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Newtown Historic District

other _____

2. Location

street and number _____ not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name Multiple Owners

street and number _____ telephone _____

city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21801

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Courthouse liber _____ folio _____

city, town Salisbury tax map 104, 106, 107 tax parcel _____ tax ID number _____

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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>233</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<u>45</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> structure:
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<u>45</u> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>233</u>
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			<u>12</u>

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-153

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 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 Newtown Historic District is a mid-19th to early-20th century unplanned residential community located just north of U.S. Route 50 in the City of Salisbury. The area is roughly bounded by Broad Street/Route 50 to the south, U.S. Route 13 to the east and railroad tracks to the north and west. Most structures within the area are in residential use with the exception of a few churches on the southern end and some commercial space along Route 13. Structures in Newtown are large in scale and placed fairly close together. They are typically frame, two-and-a-half stories in height and three to five bays wide. Most structures have full length or wraparound porches. The structures represent an eclectic mix of mid-19th to early-20th century building types and styles including foursquares, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Shingle style, and Colonial Revival buildings. The neighborhood maintains integrity of location, design setting, materials, association and feeling.

Newtown is a predominantly residential community on the north side of downtown Salisbury that slowly developed from the mid-19th century into the early 20th century. The Newtown Historic District is roughly bounded by Broad Street/Route 50 to the south U.S. Route 13 to the east and railroad tracks to the north and west. The district is primarily residential with the exception of a few churches along the southern boundary and some commercial space along Route 13.

Parcels in Newtown were slowly subdivided from a tract of land called "Pemberton's Good Will" beginning in the mid-19th century. Early development was clustered along what is now Broad and Division streets. More development occurred after the Civil War when Isabella, Elizabeth and William streets were partitioned for development from the Poplar Hill Mansion property. The 1877 Atlas for Salisbury shows a street system very close to what exists today, with the exception of Park Avenue, Oakdale Road and Elizabeth Street, which don't appear. Development at that time is clustered on the southern end of the district, principally on Division Broad, Chestnut and Walnut streets.¹ The neighborhood seems to have been almost built out by the time the September 1899 Sanborn Map was published. That map shows very few vacant parcels left in the community. The area along Oakdale Road, on the property once called The Oaks, was the last portion of the district to be developed.

Despite the long period of development, the Newtown streetscape is rhythmic with an irregular gridiron layout and a relatively consistent setback. Lot sizes are irregular, but the houses are large in scale and placed fairly close together. The houses are typically frame, two-and-a-half stories in height and three to five bays wide. Most structures have full length or wraparound porches. The structures represent an eclectic mix of mid-19th to early-20th century building types and styles including foursquares, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Shingle style, and Colonial Revival buildings. The streets are lined with mature trees.

Newtown is significant for its broad array and distinguished examples of 19th to early 20th century architectural styles. As a result of fires in 1860 and 1886, there are few remaining antebellum houses in Salisbury. Two of them are located in Newtown. Poplar Hill Mansion [WI-8], located at 117 Elizabeth Street, is the oldest known structure in the City of Salisbury. Construction of the two-story, five-bay frame structure with fine federal-style detailing, including a Palladian window, block cornice and decorative fanlight over the entrance door, was begun circa 1795 when Levin Handy purchased the property. This property is currently operated as a house museum. The rear wing of the 1897 Robert D. Grier house [WI-62] at 315 North Division Street, was originally the two-story, five-bay frame Thomas Hooper House which dates to circa 1820. Now functioning as a service wing, the structure was originally a center hall plan house with fine federal detailing.²

The Greek Revival style is well represented in Newtown. Probably the most notable is the three-story, five-bay frame house located at 115 Broad Street, formerly known as "Park Hall," which was the residence of merchant and mill owner General Humphrey Humphreys. According to an inscribed board, the house dates to 1856. The double pile house is three stories tall with a center hall and low pitched roof with wide eaves. The first two stories are clad in weatherboard with 6/6 sash windows while the shorter third story is clad in flush board siding with casement windows. The first and second stories are encased in vertical corner pilasters on which the third floor appears to rest as a classical entablature. The interior also retains Greek-inspired finishes. Similar to this house is the Dr. Cathell Humphreys house (later known as "Mrs. Herold's School") at 325 N. Division Street. This building, constructed c.

¹ Wicomico Bicentennial Commission, *The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland* (Salisbury, MD: Peninsula Press, 1976), p. 18.

² Touart, Paul Baker, *At the Crossroads: The Architectural History of Wicomico County, Maryland*, draft manuscript located at the Maryland Historical Trust, 2002-2003; Touart, Paul Baker, "The Eighteenth-Century Origins of the Newtown Neighborhood," article found in the Maryland Historical Trust vertical files; and "Architectural Walking Tour of Newtown Historic District," found in the vertical files of the MHT Library.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-153

Newtown Historic District
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

1860-1870 by General Humphrey Humphrey's brother, is a three-story, three-bay center hall dwelling with weatherboard sheathing on the first two stories and flush board sheathing on the third. The eaves under the hipped roof are marked with large decorative brackets. Other Greek Revival structures remaining in Newtown include Hatfield Manor on Division Street, which was constructed for local merchant Theodore Parsons and his wife, Margaret Bell Parsons. This three-story, five-bay, center-hall structure with flanking two-story wings and a low pitched roof retains its Corinthian columns and bracketed cornice.³

Elihu E. Jackson, a lumber magnate and Governor of Maryland, and his wife Nellie Rider Jackson lived on the large estate known as The Oaks on the north side of Newtown. The house was located on the northwest corner of North Division and West Isabella streets and designed in the Queen Anne style by Jackson C. Gott of Baltimore in 1883-84. At the time, it was the largest house constructed in Salisbury with over twenty rooms. It was located on an elevated site and was decorated with an asymmetrical collection of towers, gables and porches. In August 1887, it was one of the first houses in Salisbury to be electrified. The structure was demolished in the 1920s to make way for new residential development.⁴

Other notable Queen Anne dwellings in Newtown include the 1887-8 Gillis-Grier house [WI-13] at the corner of North Division and William streets (401 N. Division Street). Built for merchant James Cannon, the asymmetrical house sports a three-story octagonal tower with conical roof, brick chimneys with corbelled caps and terra cotta and woodwork panels. In 1897, Robert D. Grier, a foundry owner, purchased property at 501 North Division Street. He moved the existing dwelling and hired Salisbury builder William J. Johnson to construct a new house on the front of the property. The new portion of the house contains many Queen Anne details including a three story circular tower with conical roof and fishscale shingles. Throughout the Newtown district, there are many more modest dwellings with Queen Anne detailing. One example is the 1898 William M. Day house [WI-245] at the corner of East Isabella Street and Poplar Hill Avenue (119 E. Isabella Street). This two-and-a-half story house is sheathed in a mix of narrow weatherboards, decorative panels and fish scale shingles, and contains multisided bays.⁵

The Perry-Cooper house [WI-106] at the corner of William and Gay streets (200 E. William Street) in Newtown is an outstanding example of the Second Empire style. It was constructed in 1897 for Thomas Perry, the owner of the *Salisbury Advertiser*. It maintains its distinctive mansard roof and circular front porch, and is notable for the unusual swag design found in the cornice and window lintels.⁶

The American Four-Square was a popular house type in the early 20th century. They are defined by their two-and-a-half story height, square massing and hipped or pyramidal roof. They were often ornamented with Colonial Revival and Craftsman design motifs. One such example in Newtown is the 1910 L. Atwood Bennett house on Elizabeth Street. Constructed for a Salisbury attorney, the dwelling is notable for its neoclassical porch and exposed rafter ends.⁷

³ Touart, *At the Crossroads* and "Architectural Walking Tour of Newtown Historic District."

⁴ Touart, *At the Crossroads*.

⁵ Touart, *At the Crossroads* and "Architectural Walking Tour of Newtown Historic District."

⁶ Touart, *At the Crossroads* and "Architectural Walking Tour of Newtown Historic District."

⁷ Touart, *At the Crossroads*.

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Newtown Historic District
Continuation Sheet

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The properties on Oakdale and the northernmost block of Park Avenue, formerly the site of E.E. Jackson's property, The Oaks, differ from the rest of the district. They are characterized by larger lots and a curvilinear streetscape. The earliest structures date to the 1930s and are predominantly designed in the Colonial Revival style. The eastern half of the block between Isabella Street and Oakdale Road is now a community park.

The Newtown neighborhood also contains several significant institutional buildings. These include the Charles H. Chipman Cultural Center, which was formerly the John Wesley M.E. Church. The John Wesley M.E. congregation was formed in 1837 by a group of free blacks. They constructed a one-story frame church on a Newtown lot they purchased in 1838 at what is now 321 Broad Street. The church was renovated and raised to two stories in 1880, and in 1901 a tower was added to the front. The building now houses a museum interpreting local African-American history.⁸

In 1859, Salisbury's Wicomico Presbyterian Church congregation began construction of a large brick church with Romanesque Revival details at what is now 129 Broad Street. This larger church replaced their former place of worship, a one-story building on Broad Street. The church with its rounded arched windows was dedicated on March 24, 1861. The entrance tower and steeple, designed by Baltimore architectural firm Owens & Sisco, was added in 1910.⁹

The original Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church was destroyed by the 1886 fire, but was reconstructed in 1887-8. The new church, financed by wealthy lumber merchant William H. Jackson, was designed by Baltimore architect Jackson C. Gott in the Romanesque Revival style and constructed in Port Deposit stone. The church was unique because the sanctuary was oriented on a diagonal with a corner pulpit and theatre-style seating. The building now houses the Faith Community Church at 219 N. Division Street.¹⁰

Trinity Methodist Church [WI-64], at the corner of North Division and High Street, was designed by the Baltimore architectural firm, C.E. Cassell & Son, and constructed in 1904-5. Built in the Richardsonian Romanesque style with Port Deposit granite and limestone accents, the building is notable for its windows made by the studios of Louis Comfort Tiffany.¹¹

⁸ Touart, *At the Crossroads*; and "Architectural Walking Tour of Newtown Historic District."

⁹ Touart, *At the Crossroads*; and "Architectural Walking Tour of Newtown Historic District."

¹⁰ Touart, *At the Crossroads*.

¹¹ "Architectural Walking Tour of Newtown Historic District."

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-153

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

Specific dates	1795-1954	Architect/Builder
-----------------------	-----------	--------------------------

Construction dates

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Newtown Historic District is one of Salisbury’s earliest residential areas. Slowly subdivided from the tract known as “Pemberton’s Good Will,” structures in Newtown date from as early as 1795 to the early 20th century. These houses, constructed by Salisbury’s elite, represent the evolution of residential architectural trends from the late 18th to the early 20th century and retain their architectural integrity. The Newtown Historic District is eligible for listing on National Register under Criterion C as a outstanding example of a mid-19th to early-20th century unplanned suburban neighborhood. The neighborhood maintains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, association and feeling. It is significant for its intact collection of late-18th to early-20th century residential building styles, as well as for its association with key figures in the development of the City of Salisbury.

The City of Salisbury was established in 1732 on fifteen acres of land between the north and east branches of the Wicomico River. Despite its location on the dividing line of what was then Somerset and Worcester counties, by the end of the 18th century, Salisbury had developed into a commercial center. According to architectural historian Paul Touart, much of this growth was fueled by “the speculation and subdivision of additional parts of “Pemberton’s Good Will,” one of the principal tracts on which the city was laid out. The newly partitioned land was located along the Salisbury-Laurel [Delaware] Road between High Street and modern-day West Isabella Street.”¹² A large mill complex was established in 1769 on the north prong of the Wicomico River by Littleton Dennis and Josiah and Gilliss Polk which by 1774 contained two grist mills, a bolting mill and a saw mill on eighty acres of land. The surviving 1798 Direct Tax records for Somerset County show a diversity of commercial, industrial and domestic structures located primarily between the two forks of the Wicomico River. Almost a third of the dwellings were classified as “new,” indicating the town was experiencing a growth spurt.¹³

Outside of this developed area were several large land holdings, including the 357-acre plantation owned by Levin Handy. This property was called Poplar Hill, but was originally a portion of “Pemberton’s Good Will.” Levin Handy purchased the property in 1795 and shortly thereafter began construction of the two-story, five-bay frame structure with fine federal-style detailing now known as Poplar Hill Mansion. The house was not completed by Handy, however. In 1805, John Huston, a doctor who also owned and operated a downtown bank, acquired the property and finished construction.¹⁴

During the late 18th century, a 74.75-acre parcel of “Pemberton’s Good Will,” located between what is now High and West Isabella streets, was acquired by another of Salisbury’s early physicians, Dr. Martin Luther Haynie. Dr. Haynie subdivided the land into smaller, irregularly-sized parcels that fronted the west side of what was then known as Dividing or Boundary Street. The 1798 Federal Direct tax assessment indicates that these properties were located in “Haynie’s Settlement” and were mostly unimproved. It is unclear how much development occurred there in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, but by the 1820s, the area was referred to as “New Town” in property transfers.¹⁵

¹² Touart, “The Eighteenth-Century Origins of the Newtown Neighborhood.”
¹³ Touart, *At the Crossroads*; Touart, “The Eighteenth-Century Origins of the Newtown Neighborhood:” and “Architectural Walking Tour of Newtown Historic District.”
¹⁴ Touart, *At the Crossroads*.
¹⁵ Touart, *At the Crossroads*; and Touart, “The Eighteenth-Century Origins of the Newtown Neighborhood.”

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Salisbury continued to grow in the early 19th century, mostly because of its commercial and industrial enterprises and its location on the Wicomico River and the primary north-south road of the Delmarva Peninsula. The area of Newtown was incorporated into Salisbury's corporate limits in 1847. At that time, most of the construction activity within Newtown was limited to parcels bordering on Broad, High, and Dividing streets. The additional acreage within the current-day boundaries of Newtown was still owned by Dr. John and Sarah Huston of Poplar Hill.¹⁶

By the time the railroad reached Salisbury in April 1860, the town boundaries had expanded dramatically and the population neared 2,000 residents. The next several years brought setbacks for the town—an August 1860 fire devastated much of the town, and by 1862 the town was occupied by federal forces seeking confederate sympathizers. By the end of the war, however, Salisbury was recovering from the ravages of fire. Many residents chose to rebuild their houses outside of the commercial district in Newtown. The pace of construction was brisk along Division Street. Three new east-west streets were created from land subdivided from the Poplar Hill property. They were named after the children of Poplar Hill's owners, John and Sarah Huston—Isabella, Elizabeth and William.¹⁷

In 1867, the Maryland legislature passed a new constitution with an amendment authorizing the partition of Somerset and Worcester counties and the creation of a new jurisdiction named after the Wicomico River. Salisbury became the county seat of the new Wicomico County and grew in influence. During the 1870s, an extensive railroad network was developed on the Eastern Shore. Many of these lines intersected at Salisbury, transforming the town into a transportation hub. At the same time, dredging and other improvements to the Wicomico River improved the town's shipping capacity. These positive economic factors led to a building boom in Salisbury that would last to the end of the century.¹⁸

Fire struck the town once again on October 18, 1886. Ignited in a livery stable downtown, the fire quickly spread throughout the city. Wet blankets were effectively used to protect the roofs of Newtown houses from catching on fire. With help from the Wilmington, Pocomoke City and Crisfield fire departments, the north and easternmost portions of the blaze were extinguished by Broad and Division streets, saving the residence of Dr. Eugene Humphreys [the General Humphrey Humphreys House] at 115 Broad Street. Salisbury quickly recovered from this second major fire and Newtown once again became a center of residential construction.¹⁹

As a result of its ever-growing industrial, commercial and agricultural economy, from the 1880s to the 1920s, Salisbury's population grew from nearly 4,000 to over 10,000 residents. This population growth spurred demand for housing. To meet this need, some local businessmen constructed rowhouse units on smaller parcels of land. There is a series of such brick rowhouse units in Newtown on Poplar Hill Avenue, but the neighborhood remained one of primarily single-family detached houses.²⁰

The properties on Oakdale Road and the northernmost block of Park Avenue, formerly the site of E.E. Jackson's property, The Oaks, were the last to be developed and represent building trends in the early 20th century. They are characterized by larger lots and a curvilinear streetscape. The earliest structures date to the 1930s and are predominantly designed in the Colonial Revival style.

The Newtown Historic District contains examples of almost all architectural styles popular in the United States from the late 18th to the early 20th century. These high-style structures were built by Salisbury's elite and represent the City's growing importance on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

¹⁶ Touart, *At the Crossroads*; and Touart, "The Eighteenth-Century Origins of the Newtown Neighborhood."

¹⁷ Touart, *At the Crossroads*; and "Architectural Walking Tour of Newtown Historic District."

¹⁸ Touart, *At the Crossroads*.

¹⁹ Touart, *At the Crossroads*.

²⁰ Touart, *At the Crossroads*.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WI-153

"Architectural Walking Tour of Newtown Historic District," found in the vertical files of the MHT Library.

Touart, Paul Baker. *At the Crossroads: The Architectural History of Wicomico County, Maryland*, draft manuscript located at the Maryland Historical Trust, 2002-2003.

----, "The Eighteenth-Century Origins of the Newtown Neighborhood," article found in the Maryland Historical Trust vertical files.

Wicomico Bicentennial Commission, *The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland* (Salisbury, MD: Peninsula Press, 1976).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>74.98</u>		
Acreage of historical setting	<u>74.98</u>		
Quadrangle name	<u>Salisbury</u>	Quadrangle scale:	<u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Newtown Historic District is roughly bounded by Broad Street/Route 50 to the south, U.S. Route 13 to the east and railroad tracks to the north and west. This area contains a concentrated collection of significant historic properties that were originally subdivided from the tract "Pemberton's Good Will." Some properties facing the west side of U.S. Business Route 13 are not included in the district because they do not retain sufficient integrity to contribute to the district's significance.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Nicole A. Diehlmann		
organization	Maryland Historical Trust	date	June 30, 2004
street & number	100 Community Place	telephone	410-514-7625
city or town	Crownsville	state	MD

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