

PH0015865  
2/1/73

MHT WI-13

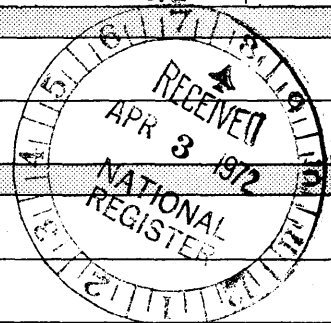
Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Wicomico	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER OCT 31 1972	DATE



#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Gillis-Grier House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Gillis-Grier House

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
401 North Division Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Salisbury

STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Wicomico	CODE 045
-------------------	------------	---------------------	-------------

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. Harris J. Riggin (Mamie Grier Riggin)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1100 Camden Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Salisbury	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24
----------------------------	--------------------	------------

#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Wicomico County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
North Division Street

CITY OR TOWN: Salisbury	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24
----------------------------	--------------------	------------

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  
 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:  
94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24
----------------------------	--------------------	------------

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

OCT 31 1972

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house, built in 1887 by James Cannon, is one of the few late nineteenth-century houses in Salisbury to have suffered virtually no changes on either the exterior or interior since it was constructed.

The Gillis-Grier House is an example of a dwelling, built in eclectic late nineteenth-century manner, essentially unchanged since its construction. It is on the northeast corner of North Division (formerly High Street) and East William Streets, facing North Division Street. /It is a two-and-a-half story, frame building with clapboard painted cream color, and has green shutters. The brick foundation and basement cannot be seen on three sides of the building due to a porch. The porch is supported by brick piers with lattice between the piers. The building is a hip roof structure with the addition of a decorative five-sided tower with a conical roof located on the southwest corner of the building, and three gables on the north, west and south facades respectively. The extensive porch has turned columns and balustrade, a pediment above the steps to the porch at each entrance and an enclosed conservatory on the southeast side. Most of the sash are one over one, some on the first story having stain-glass panels. Two tall, brick, paneled chimneys are placed within the central part of the west half of the building, one in the north and one in the south portions. At the second story level of the northwest chimney there is a terra cotta plaque depicting a woman's head. /

Dark grey slates with intermittent rows of green slates cover the main roof and the conical roof of the tower. At the ridge of the roof is an iron fence-like decoration. Capping the conical roof of the tower is a lightening rod with an iron crown. Small triangular dormer windows light the attic.

The first-floor plan is divided by a hall, extending from the west front door to the east back door. The entrance (west) door opens into a small vestibule, then into a stair hall, the staircase of which is to the north side of a door leading to the narrow "back" hall (east). South of the stair hall is a parlor which opens into a back parlor by double sliding doors. The dining room and breakfast room and back stairs are located north of the (east) back hall. The (south) parlor and the kitchen are located south of the hall (east).

Parquet floors were installed in the 1890's by the second owner, A. A. Gillis. A fireplace in each room has tiles around the opening and cast iron throughout each fire area. Above most of the first story fireplaces are "cabinet

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## SIGNIFICANCE

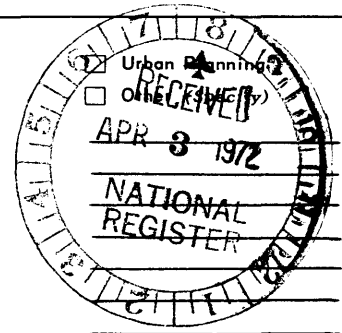
## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1887

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  |



## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Gillis-Grier House was built in 1887 by James Cannon; the original building permit is in the possession of the owner (1971). He owned the house for ten years before selling it, in 1897, to Allison A. Gillis. Mr. Gillis was, in 1897, owner of the B. L. Gillis & Son Wholesale Grocery in Salisbury. Later the wholesale grocery was sold to T. L. Ruar, who is now (1971) operating the same business endeavor under his own name. Mr. Fred Grier, who married the daughter of A. A. Gillis, still occupies the dwelling. Mr. Grier's father came to Salisbury from Wilmington, Delaware, in 1886, due to the fire that destroyed most of the city of Salisbury at that time. A member of the Wilmington Fire Company, he traveled to Salisbury via the "N. Y. P. & N." Railroad (New York, Philadelphia & Norfolk) and liked the town well enough to remain and establish a home as well as establish the R. D. Grier and Son Foundry in order to produce iron.

Mr. Fred Grier, as well as his father, has been active in the development of the Salisbury Fire Department. Each has been active in the financial development of the city to the present (1971).

A small collection of memorabilia from Wicomico County includes a scale model of a locomotive in use at the turn of the twentieth century on the (Delmarva) Peninsula Railroad, built by James Hastings; the steering wheel from the first gasoline-powered boat (1898) used on the Wicomico River; and a collection of license plates from 1924 to 1971, all of which are in the possession of the owner (1971).

Mrs. Harris J. Riggin, the present owner of the property, is Mr. Fred Grier's daughter and is the wife of a well-known insurance agent in Salisbury.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorder: Michael Bourne, Maryland Historical Trust,  
94 College Avenue, Annapolis, Maryland 21401.

Wicomoco County Land Records. Wicomoco County Courthouse,  
Salisbury, Maryland.

Riggin, Mamie Grier. Interview. January 1970. Salisbury,  
Maryland

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		38° 22' 13.5"	75° 35' 54"	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **one-half acre**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register**

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust**      DATE: **Jan. 14, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**94 College Avenue**

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis**      STATE: **Maryland**      CODE: **24**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Orlando Ridout IV  
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date January 17, 1972

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert W. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/31/72

ATTEST:  
William Sturtevant  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-31-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

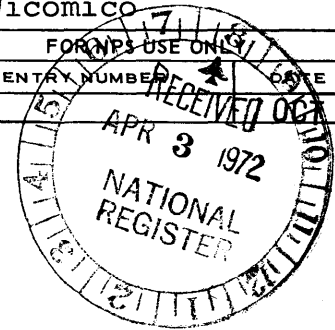
Form 10-300a  
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Wicomico
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	APR 3 1972

3 1 1972

(Number all entries)

Gillis-Grier House

## #7. DESCRIPTION continued

mantels," comprised of mantel, shelf and mirror. Solid buttonwood was used in constructing the double sliding door between the parlor and the stair hall. The buttonwood grain resembles "tiger" maple.

Interior shutters were used on the larger windows and many of the windows have panels of stain glass.

The entrance hall retains the original paneled wainscot and a "stick and ball" gallery around the stairwell, repeating the design of the exterior porch gallery.

The second story has a floor plan similar to the first story with the addition of two bathrooms having old-type plumbing fixtures. The four bedrooms have detail simpler than the main rooms.

Five bedrooms are located on the third story. They are finished in "the rough." Above the third story is an unfinished attic.

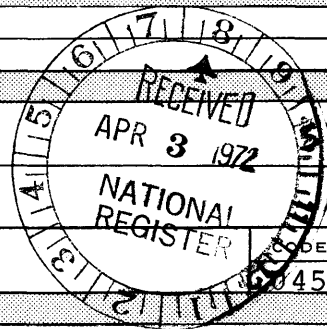
The brick basement walls are whitewashed and the floors are partly dirt, partly concrete.

Northeast of the house is a frame, one-and-one-half story stable, now (1971) used as a two-automobile garage. Nearby is a slate hitching post with initials "J.C." carved into the top. James Cannon was the builder of the house in 1887.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Wicomico	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
PROPERTY NUMBER OCT 31 1972	DATE

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:		Gillis-Grier House	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Gillis-Grier House	
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
401 North Division Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Salisbury			
STATE:		CODE	COUNTY:
Maryland		24	Wicomico
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map; Salisbury Quadrangle, Maryland			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1942			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

75° 57' 30"  
38° 22' 30"

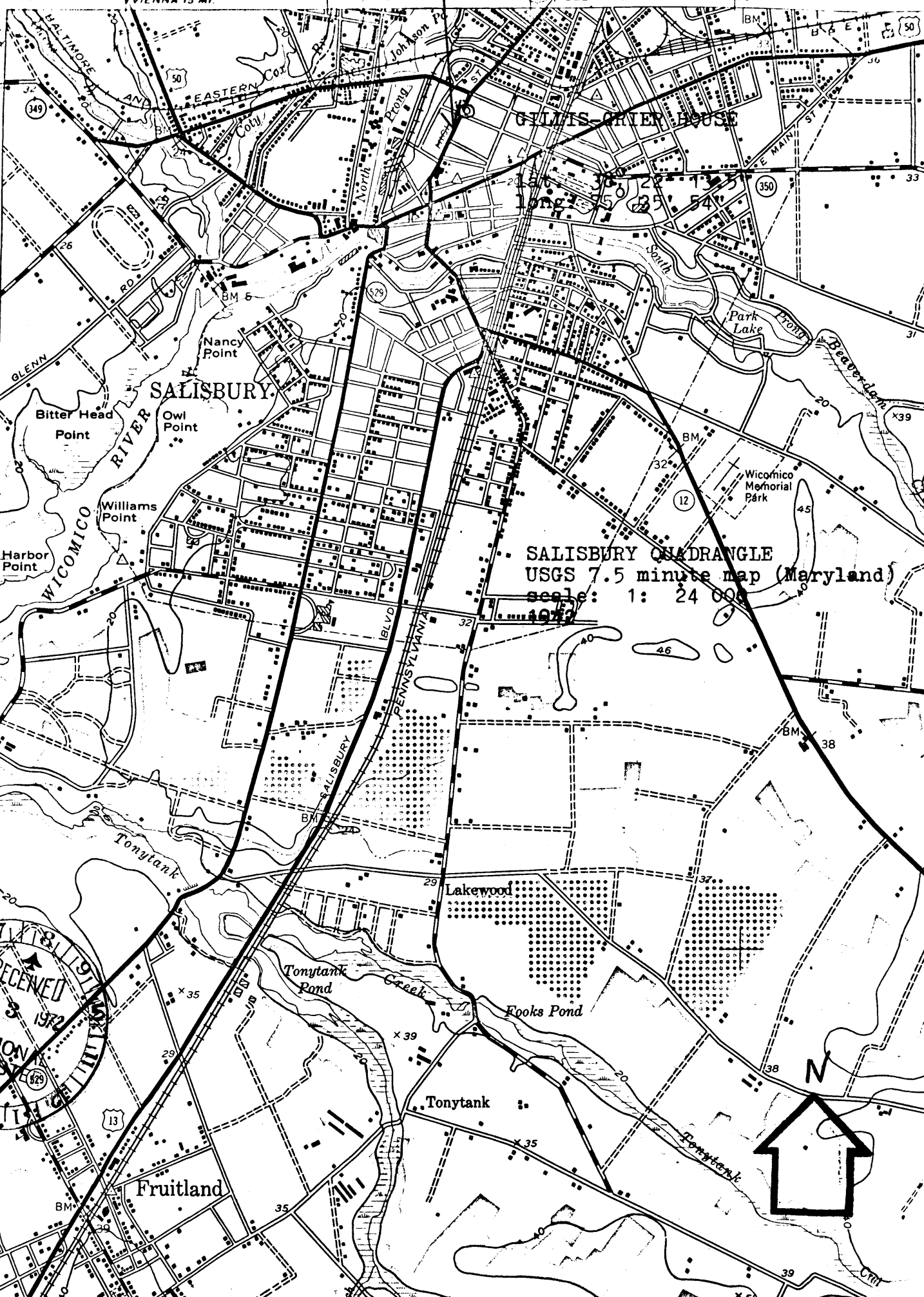
CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.  
VIENNA 13 MI.

447000m E.

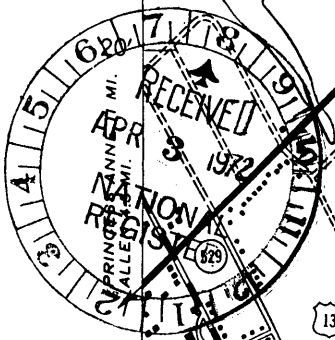
13  
LAUREL 13 MI.  
DELMAR 6 MI.

35'

4247000m N  
ROYAL OAK 9.6 MI.  
CATCHPENNY 5 MI.



SALISBURY QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map (Maryland)  
scale: 1: 24 000  
1972



ANNE 9 MI.