

PH0015873

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 71.10.24.0017	DATE 10/7/71

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Poplar Hill Mansion

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Pemberton's Good Will

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
117 Elizabeth Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Salisbury

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

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Antique Shop</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Dorothy S. Garber

STREET AND NUMBER:  
117 Elizabeth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Salisbury      STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Main Street

CITY OR TOWN: Salisbury      STATE: Maryland      CODE: 24

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey and Maryland Historical

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969    1971     Federal     State     County     Local Trust

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Library of Congress

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland  
COUNTY: Wicomico  
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.10.24.0017  
DATE: 10/7/71  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

## 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

Poplar Hill Mansion is the only early building with architectural merit to survive the devastating fires which swept throughout the city in 1860 and again in 1886. Its architectural features were outstanding for Salisbury in the early periods of the city and are now all that remains -- the only building of its kind in the city.

Poplar Hill Mansion is a frame, double-pile structure, built on a high brick basement. Its exterior walls are covered with pine clapboards painted white with 6" exposure to the weather and a 3/8" bead on each board.

The south facade consists of a five-bay surface with the central unit of the first story carrying the entrance door with fanlight and pediment (a recent replacement), and the second story having a Palladian-style window with fluted pilasters and an architrave above each side window of the Palladian. The trim of which is similar to the main cornice. All other windows have 12/12 sash louvered shutters. The main cornice consists of a course of dentils, a quarter-round mold, a course of shaped modillions, a fascia and a large double-ogee-crown molding.

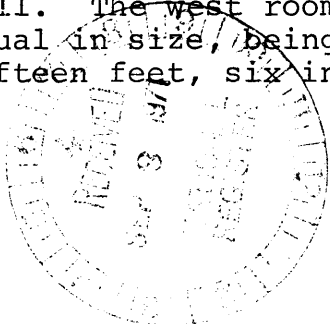
Both gables form pediments and have a pair of windows at attic level and a bulls-eye window at the apex of the pediment. The walls beneath the pediments vary as to window fenestration, with symmetrical spacing on the west and assymetrical arrangement on the east. The central chimneys are assymetrical, the east chimney standing north of the ridge of the roof, the west centered on the ridge.

The north facade is only three bays long and has a Palladian-style window at the level of the interior stair landing in the center of the wall. Beneath the north window is the north door and a porch with Chinese trellis balustrade. On the east side of the north facade is a small one-story kitchen wing which is reputed to replace a colonade and detached kitchen.

The floor plan consists of a central stairhall, divided by an elliptical arch, and two rooms on either side of the hall. The west rooms, parlor and dining room, are nearly equal in size, being approximately sixteen feet, six inches by fifteen feet, six inches. The drawing room on the east side

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Early Nineteenth Century

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Local history</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

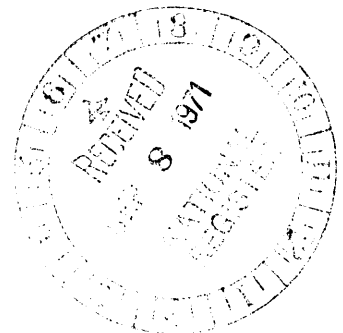
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Poplar Hill Mansion is the only early dwelling of architectural significance to have survived the devastating fires of 1860 and 1886 in Salisbury.

Poplar Hill Mansion is reputed to have been built by Major Levin Handy in 1795. Handy was listed as a Captain in Revolutionary War records and as Lieutenant Colonel of the Salisbury militia in 1790. He owned the land for only four years before his death in 1799. In 1805 it was sold to Dr. John Huston who lived there until his death in 1827. Dr. Huston paid only \$300 for the land in 1805 which seems very little for such a large and important house, which at that time would have been nearly new. It seems more likely that Dr. Huston may have built the house after 1805 for the reason that the style of its woodwork resembles that of the period of the 1810 home of George Read in New Castle, Delaware.

Its purchase is being considered by the City of Salisbury with the Wicomico County government for use as a place for public meetings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Recorder:

Michael Bourne, Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland, August 1971.

Sources:

"Delmarva Living." The Salisbury Times. (March 22, 1970).  
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

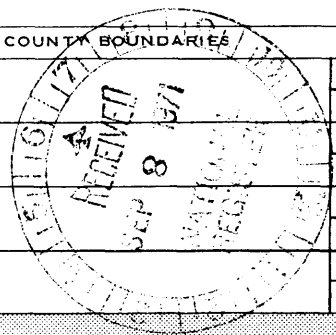
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	° ' "	° ' "		38° 22' 17"	75° 35' 43"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

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

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust      DATE: August 26, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 94 College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis      STATE: Maryland      CODE:     

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 of 1966

Date August 26, 1971

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

Ernest A. Connally  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

**OCT 7 1971**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

William S. Swartz  
Keeper of The National Register

Date ~~AUG 26 1971~~ **SEP 29 1971**

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 11-10-24-10017-8	DATE 10/7/11

(Number all entries)

Poplar Hill Mansion

## #7 DESCRIPTION continued

is approximately eighteen feet wide by twenty-six feet six inches long. The northeast room is only eight feet three inches wide and eighteen feet long. It does not have a fireplace, but does contain an auxiliary staircase to the second story.

Beneath the chairrail in the hall, is a wainscot of two horizontal boards; high above is wallpaper depicting a landscape scene. The chairrail consists of a molded cap above a fascia divided into equal areas of flutes and blocks. A course of carved interlocking strapwork circles, curiously missing on the north side of the arch, are the chief ornament of the interior cornice. Fluted pilasters support the elliptical arch, which has cove and rope moldings. The underside of the arch is composed of recessed panels.

The staircase is located North of the arch. Its soffit is paneled and the ogee-shaped step-ends have pierce-work consisting of an ogee curve and a crescent. There are three square balusters on each step; the lower step and rail terminate in the form of a volute, the central baluster being iron. A half-rail with pilasters beneath ascends on the inside wall.

The most noteworthy woodwork in the house is in the parlor, (southwest room). Its mantel has fluted pilasters, two bands of reeded decoration and rope molding. The chairrail has a series of flutes and rosettes. Fluted pilasters beneath the chairrail flank the windows and doors. The cornice has a fascia of flutes with holes beneath each flute and a series of flute carvings placed alternately, horizontal and vertical, which is similar to work in the Read House, New Castle, Delaware.

Each of the first-story rooms has pilasters beneath the chairrail. The roomside of the hall doors have raised panels whereas the hall side have recessed panels. Window and door trim is the same throughout the house, each is composed of three pieces, the molding between windows and doors differing as to the degree of the ogee curve. All doors have cast-butt hinges; some with closing mechanisms, and brass locks.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Wicomico	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71-10-24-0017	DATE 10/7/71

(Number all entries)

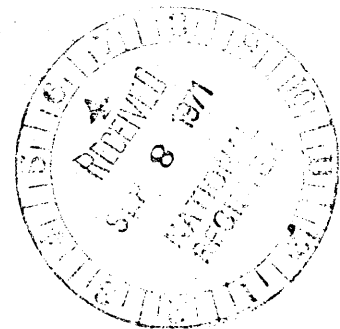
## #7 DESCRIPTION continued

The dining room door is distinguished by dentil molding on the mantel piece and a cornice whereas the drawing room has a variety of molding similar to the other rooms on the mantel piece and a fluted motif in chair rail and cornice.

Two walls in the small northeast room have beaded boards, one horizontal and one vertical. The other walls are plastered.

The second story has the same floor plan as the first, but the carved detail of the first story trim is lacking. Each of the rooms has a mantel, chairrail and cornice, (except the cornice in the northwest room). The master bedroom, above the drawing room has a glazed cabinet on the west side of the fireplace. A lavatory is located in the west closet between the two west rooms, and a full bath is located in the northeast room.

The staircase continues to the unfinished attic. The rafters, two feet on center, measure five by eight inches at their bases and taper toward the top where they are mortised, tenoned and pegged. The tie beams are half dove-tailed and nailed.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

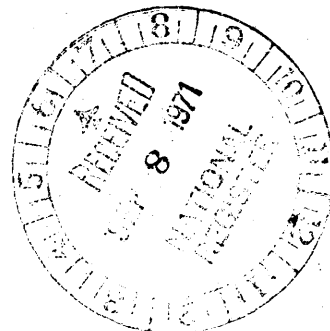
(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Wicomico	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.10.24.0017	DATE 2/7/71

(Number all entries)

Poplar Hill Mansion

#9. REFERENCES continued

Earle, Swepson. Maryland's Colonial Eastern Shore. Baltimore:  
n.p., 1916.Forman, Henry Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of  
Maryland. Easton, Maryland: the author, 1934.Interviews with: Mrs. George Burnett, Salisbury, Maryland.  
Dr. R. L. McFarlin, Salisbury, Maryland  
Mr. George Strott, Salisbury, Maryland  
Mr. David Grier, Salisbury, MarylandWicomico County Land Records. Wicomico County Courthouse,  
Salisbury, Maryland.Wicomico County Probate Records. Wicomico County Courthouse,  
Salisbury, Maryland.Wilson, Everett B. Maryland's Colonial Mansions. Cranberry,  
New Jersey: A.S. Barnes Company, 1965.Worcester County Land Records. Worcester County Courthouse,  
Snow Hill, Maryland.Worcester County Probate Records, Worcester County Courthouse,  
Snow Hill, Maryland.Works Progress Administration. Maryland A Guide to the Old  
Line State. New York: Oxford Press, 1940.

Form 10-301  
(Dec. 1968)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

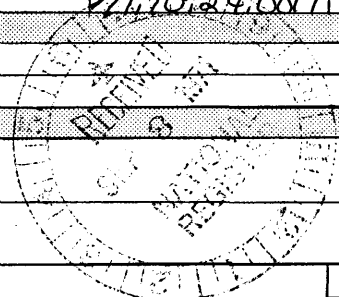
## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

## PROPERTY MAP FORM

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Wicomico	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 211024007	DATE 10/7/71

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:		Poplar Hill Mansion	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Poplar Hill	
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
117 Elizabeth Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Salisbury			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Wicomico	045
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
USGC 7.5 minute map; Salisbury Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1: 24 000			
DATE: 1942			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property boundaries where required.</li> <li>North arrow.</li> <li>Latitude and longitude reference.</li> </ol>			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS





Maryland  
**SALISBURY QUADRANGLE**  
USGS 7.5 minute map  
scale 1:24,000  
1942

20'  
FRINCESS ANNE 1 VI  
ALLEN 4.5 MI.  
9 MI.

SMAD POINT 0.5 W

ROYAL CAK 9.6 MI.  
CATCHPENNY 5 VI

00m N

9 MI.