7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	
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GOOD	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Senator Jackson House, located at 514 Camden Avenue in Salisbury, Maryland, is a large Queen Anne style residence built c. 1890. The eastern (front) facade is three and one-half stories, but side elevations (north and south) give the appearance of only two and one-half stories. Their high, steeply pitched roofs have dormers with jerkinheads. The front facade, though characteristic of the Queen Anne style in its massing and proportions, is symmetrical. A three-story central block with a gable is flanked by two circular towers having conical roofs.

A front porch with a balustrade extends across the first floor and forms a porte-cochere to the north. It wraps around the end towers and continues back to the two and one-half story wings on both sides of the house. The end of the southern wing is semi-circular, and there is a dormer in the conical roof. The rectangular northern one has two windows in its gable.

At the entrance, the porch has a large central pediment of low pitch. Over the pediment is a small porch with a pent roof which extends out of the lower portion of the third-floor bay window. All of the porches have slender Victorian columns resting on high bases.

The Jackson House has been painted white. The first two stories are sheathed with narrow clapboards which are bevelled and made of 5/8" number one white pine. All surfaces at the third floor level (towers, gable ends, etc.) have been shingled. Cornices are plain except for those on the two eastern towers and the central block where there are small modillions. Slate for the roof came from Port Deposit, Maryland.

To the west (rear) of the Jackson House is a two and one-half story wing. Neither the fenestration nor the design of the gable matches that of the wing to the north. Attached to the southern face of this rear wing is a circular two-story tower with a polygonal roof.

On the interior, the hardware is silver plated and fireplaces are tiled. The flooring of the first floor has four layers: a subfloor, flat boards of number one pine, a finish floor of heart-rift pine, and an oak floor installed in about 1930.

To the rear of the house, there are stables. These were built c. 1915 and are similar to the original ones which burned.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clay, Anne. The Jackson House: a history, copy in the files of the Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland.

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1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SPECIFIC DATES

The Senator Jackson House is significant in the areas of architecture and politics. Built by William P. Jackson about 1893, the house attests to an elegance and an elaborate life style in days of yesteryear.

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

William P. Jackson was appointed United States Senator from Maryland to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Senator Isidor Raynor. He took his seat in the Senate in December 1912. During his term in office, distinguished guests entertained at the house included Governor Goldsborough and Thomas R. Marshall, Vice President of the United States during Woodrow Wilson's two terms. Senator Jackson was defeated by Blair Lee, his Democratic opponent, in a popularly held election in 1914.

Popularly referred to as "The Towers" when the Jackson family inhabited it, the interior of the house today displays evidence of that highly skilled craftsmanship available many decades ago. There are four floors on the ground floor, superimposed upon one another. When the house was first built, a sub-floor was laid, followed by a flatboard number one pine floor. Upon these were laid a finished floor of number one heartrift pine which would wear better as the grain and rings were vertical or turned on edge. In about 1930, a one-half inch to three-fourths inch oak floor was added. Two inch by twelve inch on twenty four inch center joists made the structure especially sturdy. The bevelled siding is five eighths inch number one white pine. The roof is constructed of slate brought in from Port Deposit, Maryland. Silver plated hardware, tiled fireplaces and the splendid paneling are among the highlights of the Senator Jackson House.

The house today is owned by the St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church and used as their Rectory.

William P. Jackson was the last senator from Maryland to serve in the U.S. Congress before passage of the 17th Amendment in 1912. This amendment required that senators be elected by a popular vote, rather than being appointed by the State Legislature. Jackson's successor, Blair Lee, was the first U.S. Senator from Maryland to be elected by the people of the state.