

PH0672734

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED JUN 23 1977  
DATE ENTERED NOV 17 1977

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC ~~AND/OR COMMON~~ \*\*  
The Perry-Cooper House

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
200 East William Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Salisbury  
STATE  
Maryland  
VICINITY OF  
First  
COUNTY  
Wicomico  
CODE  
24  
CODE  
045

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Music Studio

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Mr. & Mrs. Linus M. Ellis, III  
STREET & NUMBER  
200 East William Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Salisbury  
VICINITY OF  
STATE  
Maryland 21801

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Wicomico County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
North Division Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Salisbury  
STATE  
Maryland 21801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Perry-Cooper House is located on the southeast corner of East William and Gay Streets, Salisbury, Maryland, facing East William Street.

Built in the late 19th century, it has three full stories topped with a French mansard roof. The facade is three bays wide with a central tower, including a bowed entrance on the first floor, a nine-foot-high Palladian window on the second and a window with broken pediment on the third. On either side of the tower is a large, single window on the first floor and double windows on the second and third floors. There is an original porch spanning the facade. Bowed in the center to match the entrance, it has stairways on either side of the bow descending to a bowed, brick walk. It has turned pillars with sawn brackets, and was originally surmounted with iron cresting, a section of which has been found under the house. The original porch rail was removed circa 1970 (portions of this have also been found under the house). Original stenciling is found above all windows on the main part of the house, on a barge board below the cornice and on the entablature of the porch.

The roof, enclosing the third floor, has two slopes and dormer windows in the manner characteristic of the French mansard. The upper slope of the roof is covered with sheet metal. The lower, visible slope presently has asphalt shingles which will be replaced with wood shakes in the restoration of the building.

The house is of frame with a clapboard covering. The latter is presently hidden under asphalt shingling which will be removed in the restoration to reveal the clapboard. The siding was originally painted "lead white" (light grey) with cream trim. The cornice is boxed and decorated with brackets. A smaller dentil cornice is located at the top of the first slope of the roof.

Originally "T"-shaped, the rear wing of the house was removed circa 1915 and replaced with a smaller wing and two porches (both since enclosed).

On the interior, the central bay contains an open stairwell, rises thirty feet to the third floor ceiling. The stairs and balustrade are of oak. There are oak moldings in the halls on all three floors and in the first floor front rooms. Moldings in the remainder of the house are pine and were painted light grey. Both first floor rooms have walnut mantels. These are original, although the brickwork in the fireplaces is not. The one in the west room is a mantel shelf topped with a string of six square, raised panels. The one in the east room is a very plain mantel supported by two simple columns.

The flooring throughout the house is tongue and groove pine. A second oak floor was laid in the first floor hall and east front room.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Perry-Cooper House has the only Victorian French mansard roof remaining in the City of Salisbury. It also retains in a large measure the architectural details, including a delicate stenciled design, of its exterior.

The house was the residence of one of Salisbury's well-known civic leaders, Thomas Perry. An educator, newspaper publisher and editor, financier, industrialist and official of county government, his family occupied the house from 1897 until 1950.

Thomas Perry was born in Sussex County, Delaware, in 1854. His parents moved to a farm in western Wicomico County the following year. He graduated from Washington College, Chestertown, in 1876, and taught school in Salisbury, Maryland, and Seaford, Delaware, and for a year in Little Falls, Minnesota. He was appointed school examiner for Wicomico County (Superintendent of Schools) on May 5, 1880 and remained in the post until 1892.

Perry purchased The Advertiser in 1884 and built it into the largest weekly newspaper on the Delmarva Peninsula.

After the 1886 fire which leveled most of Salisbury, Perry, together with several local businessmen, founded the Salisbury Permanent Building and Loan Association to provide aid for individuals to rebuild property destroyed by the fire. In 1899 he sold The Advertiser and went into the lumber business.

In 1907 Perry was elected County Treasurer which combined with it the offices of collector of taxes and clerk to the County Commissioners, three offices in one. He died in 1914.

The land history of the Perry-Cooper house is rather confusing. Several of the transactions involved were apparently never legally recorded in the office of land records. In 1879 Mary E. Williams bought two lots from the estate of Benjamin Parsons at a sheriff's sale. (Chancery Court SPT 1/65, also Chancery Court cases 384 and 618). Mary E. (Williams) Smith died in 1882; sometime before this she sold the property to Annie T. Morris although no deed was recorded. In 1887 a deed was recorded from Samuel A. Graham, Trustee, to Annie T. Morris by decree of the Circuit Court. Some time in the next ten years. Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Slemmons obtained the land; no deed was recorded.

(See Continuation Sheet No. 2 )

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Advertiser (Salisbury, Maryland). November 9, 1907, p. 1.

Bailey, James P. "Financial Institutions" in What's Past is Prologue: The Wicomico County Centennial: 1867-1967. Salisbury, Maryland: Wicomico County Centennial, Inc., 1967.

see continuation sheet #3

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .1911 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	4 4 7 8 1 0	4 2 4 6 7 8 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mendel L. Heilig, Archivist and Mr. Linus M. Ellis, III

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

May 20, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

117 Elizabeth Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Salisbury

STATE

Maryland 21801

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*John N. Pearce* 6/18/77  
SHPO

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Robert B. Pettig*

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

*Charles H. ...*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/17/77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-17-77

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Wicomico County

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DESCRIPTION (continued)

Restoration, begun in 1975, is in progress and will return the exterior and interior of the house to as near its original state as possible. This includes reproduction of the porch balustrade; removal of asbestos shingling and restoration of "lead white" clapboard with light cream trim; restoration of lattice between brick piers; replacement of iron cresting on porch roof; removal of paint from oak woodwork and stairway, restoring original varnish finish; removal of wallpaper and paint from walls, replacing with paper matching the original (where possible); removal of rubber tile and underlayment, refinishing of pine and oak flooring; restoration of fireplaces.

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SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

It was some time during all these unrecorded transactions that the house was built. There is apparently no record of who the builder was.

In 1897 Amelia P. Waller deeded the lot to her daughter Agnes D. Perry, wife of Thomas Perry (Deed JTT 21/99). Their daughter, Louise Cooper, came into possession of the tract by her mother's will (Will JAH 1/233) in 1938.

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The Perry-Cooper House - Wicomico County  
CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 3

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#9. REFERENCES Continued

Ellis, Linus M. III. "Chain of Title - 200 East William Street, Salisbury, Maryland."

Lankford, Joanna. "County Superintendents" (file at the office of the Wicomico County Board of Education compiled from the minutes of the Board of Education).

Truit, Charles J. Historic Salisbury Maryland. Garden City, New York: Country Life Press, 1932.

Walker, Albert E., editor and compiler. The Wicomico News: Historical and Industrial Edition: Portraying the Present Status and Future Possibilities of Salisbury Maryland. Salisbury, Maryland: Brewington Brothers Company, 1908.