

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received \_\_\_\_\_  
date entered \_\_\_\_\_

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Denton  
and/or common Denton Historic District (preferred)

**2. Location**

street & number Multiple streets n/a not for publication  
city, town Denton n/a vicinity of congressional district First  
state Maryland code 24 county Caroline code 011

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple public and private owners  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_  
city, town Denton n/a vicinity of state Maryland 21629

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk of the Circuit Court/Land Records  
street & number Caroline County Courthouse  
city, town Denton state Maryland 21629

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Maryland Historical Trust 3/25/82  
Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1983  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle  
city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

# 7. Description

CAR-284

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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

## DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Denton Historic district is located in the town of Denton, the County seat of Caroline County, Maryland. The town is located on the flat land along the south bank of the Choptank River. Denton is laid out in a grid pattern with Franklin, Market, and Gay Streets as the major east-west corridors, and with First through Tenth Streets crossing the corridors. The major cross streets are Fifth Street, which becomes Fifth Avenue as it broadens and skews eastward south of its intersection with Franklin Street, and Sixth Street, which continues as Route 313 north of the town limits. The west end of the Denton Historic District focuses on the courthouse square, which was laid out in the 1790's. The present courthouse is a late-19th-century structure which has very recently undergone considerable alteration and only contributes to the district by way of historical association; however, the square is faced on all sides by noteworthy residences and commercial structures dating from the mid-19th century through the early 20th century. Denton's historic commercial district extends east of the square along Market Street for several blocks, and comprises a notable collection of two-story brick storefronts and one-story concrete block commercial structures dating from the early 20th century, with frame residences representing late 19th/early 20th century forms interspersed among them. Typical house forms include the two or three bay wide, two-story, gable-front house, often with more or less elaborate stick-and scrollwork detailing and a one-story porch across the facade, bungalows, and the cubical, hip-roofed house showing Colonial Revival influence. These house types characterize the remainder of the district as it extends eastward along Market, Franklin and Gay Streets, and north-south on Sixth and Seventh Streets. In keeping with the connotations of the name, the houses along Fifth Avenue are larger and more architecturally distinguished than those in the rest of the district, with forms and detailing expressive of the Shingle Style and Colonial Revival fashions in early 20th century domestic architecture. These elegant houses rest well back from the roadway on broad, tree-shaded lawns. Several modern buildings have been constructed in the district, but overall the streetscapes possess a high degree of integrity. The condition of the buildings ranges from well-preserved to deteriorating, but the majority are in good condition. Alterations have occurred, most noticeably to exterior finishes and porches, but these changes appear reversible. There are 232 buildings in the Denton Historic District; 214 of these, or 92%, contribute to the significance of the District.

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Below is a more detailed description of typical building types and locations. The structures are categorized according to their original use, either public, religious, commercial, or residential.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

PUBLIC BUILDINGS:

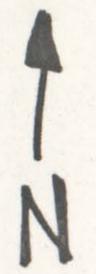
The Caroline County Courthouse - north side of Market Street between First and Second Streets, present building constructed 1895, c.1966 alterations and additions have obliterated the original facade design; the facade of the two-story brick building has eleven bays, a hip roof, and a three-bay central pavillion with Doric pedimented portico; at rear of altered section is part of 1895 building, this section is three bays wide and four bays deep with header bond brick walls and granite foundation; windows are segmental-arched on first story and semi-circular arched on the second story, brick relief arches with granite imposts and sills, pedimented gables with fish scale-shaped shingles; central tower of 1895 building is only original feature visible from facade, tower has four-sided, bell-cast roof with a copper finial and a clock on each side.

2 Franklin Street - built 1901, former Caroline County High School building, currently used as the Denton Child Development Center; two-story brick building, six-bay facade, hip roof, projecting pavillion at center two bays with front-facing gable; upper wall edge covered with a band of vertical boards with a sawtooth lower edge, exposed rafter ends, facade gable is covered with wood shingles and has a 9/6 segmental-arch window, 6/2 rectangular windows occupy segmental-arch openings throughout the structure, round-arched entrance has stone surround, keystone and impost stones; "CAROLINE HIGH SCHOOL" is engraved in the stone surround, "1901" is engraved in the keystone; recessed entranceway with original 3-panel double doors, transom light, corner lights and side lights; arched entrance opening is filled with temporary wood framing, storm door and plastic for energy conservation; bell tower has been removed from center roofline; chain-link fence encloses property, playground behind building.

101 Gay Street - built c.1908, Caroline County Jail, five-bay, Colonial Revival building with ten-bay modern addition on east elevation and small frame shed-roofed addition on west elevation; original brick two-story building has a pyramidal roof with dormers and heavy cornice with dentils; facade roofline interrupted by large gable with cornice returns and modified Palladian window, 6/1 sash windows, brick string-courses and brick segmental-arches over window openings, segmental-arched entrance with multi-paned transom light and original, glazed double doors; Tuscan porch columns; large modern addition is two-story, brick building with hip roof, roofline cornice with dentils, brick stringcourses, and brick segmental-arches over window openings; faces courthouse square.

**DENTON HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
 CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND  
 SEPTEMBER 1983

SCALE: 1" = 400'



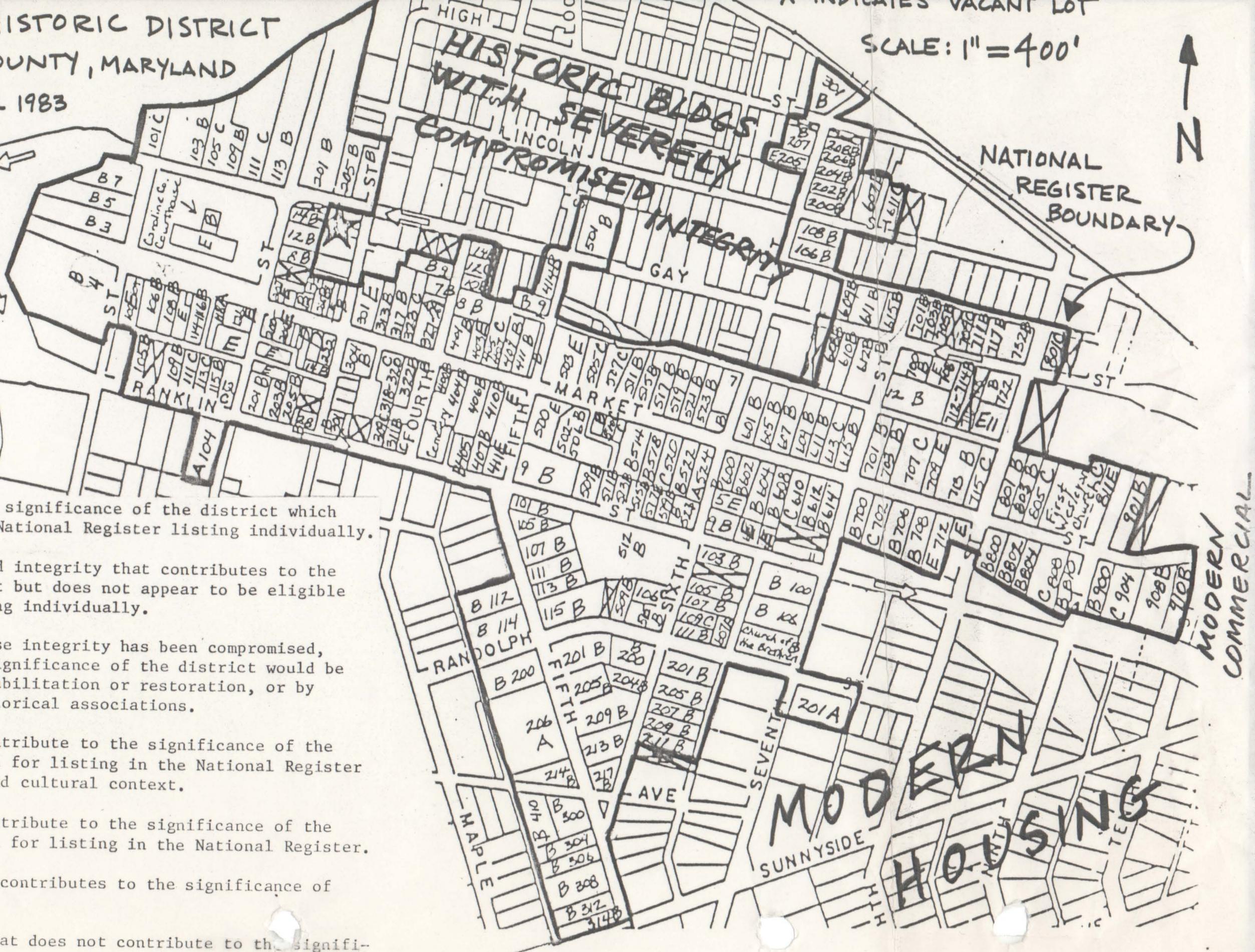
CHOPTANK RIVER  
 OPEN SPACE  
 (MARSHLAND)

HISTORIC BLDGS  
 WITH SEVERELY  
 COMPROMISED  
 INTEGRITY

NATIONAL REGISTER  
 BOUNDARY

**RESOURCE CODING SYSTEM:**

- A. A resource important to the significance of the district which appears to be eligible for National Register listing individually.
- B. A resource with undiminished integrity that contributes to the significance of the district but does not appear to be eligible for National Register listing individually.
- C. A contributing resource whose integrity has been compromised, whose contribution to the significance of the district would be enhanced by sympathetic rehabilitation or restoration, or by research supporting its historical associations.
- D. A resource that does not contribute to the significance of the district but may be eligible for listing in the National Register within its own historical and cultural context.
- E. A resource that does not contribute to the significance of the district and is not eligible for listing in the National Register.
- F. An open-space resource that contributes to the significance of the district.
- G. A non-historic open space that does not contribute to the significance of the district.



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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

PUBLIC BUILDINGS (Continued)

501 Gay Street - built 1902, Denton Waterworks building; small, 3-bay, gable-front building with shed-roofed addition on east elevation, segmental-arched window openings with 2/2 sash windows, segmental-arched entranceway with wood double doors, small bracketed overdoor, nameplate above entrance, interior brick chimney with corbelled cap and metal vent, exposed rafter ends; chain-link fence surrounds lot, metal water tower (erected 1940) is located at rear of property.

104 South Second Street - built 1883, former schoolhouse, listed on the National Register of Historic Places (19 April 1978), currently used by the Women's Club of Denton; small, frame Gothic Revival building with cruciform plan; pointed-arch window openings with 4/4 windows and shutters; 4-panel doors; sawn-wood trim at peak of gable ends; octagonal cupola with carved wooden spire; aluminum siding exterior finish.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS:

404 Market Street - built 1867, originally Methodist Episcopal Church, later renamed First Methodist Church, currently vacant; two-story three-bay, brick, gable-front church with Romanesque features; round-arched entranceway, paneled wood doors and transom; brick round-arch over elongate rectangular, stained-glass windows; center-bay square tower with wooden steeple; tri-part window and circular window on tower facade, piers at tower corners extend above tower walls and are capped with finials, steeple base has round-arched louvered openings, a cornice and finials; brick piers at facade corners, brick corbel tables and stringcourses; former classroom building and parsonage adjacent to south elevation of church have been converted to apartments; church is in deteriorating condition, congregation moved to new church c.1969.

507 Market Street - built 1897-1898, originally Denton Methodist Protestant Church, later renamed Grace Methodist Church, currently the Adams Grace Apartments; drastic loss of integrity due to alterations, only the two-story form, roofline and plan shape remain of original building.

807 Market Street - First Wesleyan Church, built 1902, remodeled 1968; frame, one-story building with altered facade; original 2/2 sash windows on rear and side walls; original wood finish of facade wall and south half of side walls is covered with cut stone; facade has 9/2 sash windows with aluminum shutters, a projecting pedimented entranceway with a transom light, side lights, and pilasters flanking modern doors; roof ridge parallels street, roof is gable at west end and hip at east end; gable end may have been original facade.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS (Continued)

109 Gay Street - built 1873-74, remodeled 1925-34, Christ Episcopal Church; simple Victorian Gothic building in excellent condition; three bays wide, five bays deep; two bay wing extends from rear of east elevation, frame construction with German siding, small vestibule at facade center, both church and vestibule have flaring gable roofs with cornice returns, Eastlake-design double doors are set in a miter-arch opening; narrow stained-glass windows are set in elongate rectangular openings, above the vestibule is a small rose window, the square base of the tower has pilasters at the corners and imbricated shingle finish a louvered gablet rises from each side of the base, the four-sided, shingle-covered spire is topped with a wooden cross; the door into the wing has diagonal batten exterior.

South Seventh Street - Church of the Brethren, dedicated 1910; two-story, assymmetrical building with late Gothic Revival features, concrete masonry construction, concrete blocks are coarse-faced imitating a stone finish, steeply-pitched gable roof, exposed rafters with rounded ends, square tower with flaring pyramidal roof; 6-panel double doors, pointed-arch transom lights have frosted glass with twin-arch tracery, pointed-arch window openings with stained-glass and frosted-glass windows; ornamental, smooth-faced concrete blocks with a raised scroll pattern are used for beltcourses, imposts and keystones; residential wing on west elevation is finished with asbestos siding.

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS:

112-116 Market Street - built 1902, The Law Building, also called the Masonic Building, one of the largest buildings in district, currently serves as office building; three-story brick structure with five-bay facade; carved end brackets support cornice above storefronts on first story, center of cornice projects from building and is supported by oversized brackets above Tuscan columns on concrete piers, recessed entranceway, east side of facade has original storefront with large display windows and transoms, west side storefront has been altered; upper stories have segmental-arched 2/2 sash windows with stone surrounds; brick stringcourse between second and third stories; cornice along facade roofline has dentils, several large brackets and a very low-pitched broken pediment; faces courthouse square.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS (Continued)

118 Market Street - c.1906, former People's National Bank building, currently used as law office for the firm Kent, Ogletree and Thornton; small one-story stone building with extraordinary eclectic design; the three-facade bays are divided by pilasters with broad bases and with capitals which extend above the roof and terminate in a shallow pyramid, at the base of the capitals is a band of egg and dart molding, geometric moldings resembling epaulettes are on each capital; the recessed frieze has a band of alternating circles and flutes, the cornice and frieze above the center bay is pedimental with a large corbel at the center; two 8/1 sash windows occupy the outer facade bays, the lintels bear the name "PEOPLE'S NATIONAL", fanlights with stone surrounds and keystones are above the lintels, a similar, but larger, fanlight is over the center-bay entrance, the entranceway has a cornice, Ionic pilasters and double doors, each door has a glass panel above a raised panel and studs on the styles and rails; a shallow lantern with brackets between the small clerestory windows is on top of the low-pitched gable roof; faces courthouse square.

211-213 Market Street - built 1901, former Denton Journal Building; two-story, brick building with four-bay facade, flat roof with brick cornice along facade roofline, rectangular marble inset at cornice bears the inscription "DENTON JOURNAL 1845-1901"; second story has segmental-arched openings with 2/2 sash lights and added aluminum shutters, first story has two storefronts, east storefront has display windows and recessed entranceway, west storefront has the original transom light over an added multi-paned window, and an added swan's-neck pediment over the original wood door.

215-217 Market Street - c.1890 commercial building, currently Penny's Sewing Nook store and Josef Rosenblatt Law Office; two-bay, two-story frame building, original bracketed cornice, original storefront with recessed entrances between large display windows, wood awning shades storefront, alterations include aluminum siding and second-story windows.

222 Market Street - c.1910 Evergnam's Apparel store; two-story brick commercial building, six bays along Market Street, northeast corner is diagonal with round-arched entranceway, modern doors; display windows shaded by canvas awnings on first story; second story has 1/1 sash lights in segmental-arched openings; flat roof with brick corbelling along the upper wall edge.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS (Continued)

304 Market Street- built 1905, the Carter Building, currently has offices on second story and the Edgemoor Pharmacy on first story; a two-and-a-half-story brick building with shed roof and twenty-bay facade, brick corbelling along upper wall edge, brick pilaster strips, northwest corner is diagonal; attic story has round-arched, louvered openings, second story has 1/2 sash lights in segmental-arched openings, first story has modern storefront windows, entrance, and pent roof.

322 Market Street - c.1910, commercial and office building; two-story, brick structure with six-facade bays, second story has 2/2 sash lights in segmental-arched openings, first story has large display windows with cornices and transom lights and a central recessed entranceway with a multi-paned transom light; shed roof, recessed panels between second story and roof line; louvered aluminum shutters have been added to second story windows.

327-329 Market Street - built c.1885, originally First National Bank building, built in Romanesque style similar to the design of the 1895 Courthouse, currently Judy's Shop and apartments; two-story, three-bay, brick building with hip roof; the main facade has the west bay recessed; one-story porch in front of the west bay has sawn-wood corner brackets and square posts with capitals; entrances are located in the outer bays, west-bay entrance has narrow double doors, multi-paned transom light and round-arch with brick surround, a keystone and stone impost; east-bay entrance has similar doors and transom with a full stone arch; second story has segmental-arched window openings, first story has round-arched window openings with multi-paned transom lights, all windows have 2/2 sash lights, brick arch surrounds, key-stones, stone imposts and stone sills; brick corbelling along upper wall edges, roof cornice with dentils, central brick chimney; two-story brick wing at rear with 6/6 sash windows.

328 Market Street - Denton Hardware Company, c.1920 commercial building; built of coarse-faced concrete blocks, one story, flat-roofed structure with three-bay facade; four small pedestals with knob-like finials rise above facade roofline between bays; top course of concrete blocks has beaded design; wood cornice above first story, double door entrance is recessed between display windows with multi-paned transom lights.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS (Continued)

400 Market Street - Caroline Home and Auto Supply, c.1920 commercial building; one-story building with three-bay facade, coarse-faced concrete block construction, facade gable is covered by a stepped facade with asphalt shingle finish, shallow pent roof overhangs storefront, double door entranceway is recessed between display windows with multi-paned transom lights.

413 Market Street - c.1900 vernacular building with storefront on first-story, currently Sunshine Laundry and Dry Cleaners; two-story, gable-front frame structure, original wood finish covered with insulbrick siding, 2/2 sash windows, storefront has entrance recessed between display windows with transoms, storefront is shaded by a large wood awning supported by wood brackets.

113 and 115 Franklin Street - these two houses are remnants of the Old Noptank Hotel which was located on Market Street across from the courthouse; the hotel was divided and moved c.1902 and the Law Building was erected on the Market Street site; two parts of the hotel were moved to Franklin Street and converted to residences. 113 Franklin Street is a two-story frame house with a three-bay facade, the ridge of the gable roof parallels the street; 2/2 sash windows; bay window on east elevation, ornamentation includes corner pilasters, cornice returns, louvered shutters, and an entrance with fluted pilasters and pediment; covered with aluminum siding. 115 Franklin Street is a three-bay frame house with steeply-pitched gable-front roof, 2/2 sash windows with shutters and facade porch with turned posts, sawn-wood eave trim and wire screening.

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS:

The houses in the Denton Historic District represent a variety of mid-19th century through early 20th century forms of domestic architecture. The only brick house in the district is located at 409 Market Street. Stucco-covered houses in the district include 206 Fifth Avenue and 312 Fifth Avenue. The remainder of the houses in the district are frame with wood, aluminum, asbestos, wood shingle or insulbrick siding. The popularity of louvered window shutters is apparent throughout the district.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (Continued)

A number of large and architecturally refined residences are located in the Denton Historic District. These are concentrated along Fifth Avenue and around the courthouse square. The houses facing the square represent a variety of styles, but they are uniform in scale, height, building material, and the use of white exterior paint. Fifth Avenue has a notable collection of large Shingle style and Colonial Revival style residences dating from the early 20th century. Many houses throughout the district were constructed during the late 19th century Victorian period including several Italianate and carpenter Queen Anne style houses. Greek Revival influence is seen on the few remaining mid-19th century residences. The most noteworthy residences in the district include:

318-320 Market Street - c.1895 carpenter Queen Anne house with small, modern brick addition on east facade, addition serves as office for Drs. Billmeier and Branson, Optometrists; original section has shingle-covered gable ends, cornice returns, 1/1 sash windows and an encircling porch with a balustrade, turned posts and a string of turned balusters under the eaves.

401 Market Street - c.1860 vernacular I house, five-bay facade, symmetrical fenestration, gabled roof with ridge parallel to street; chimney at west gable end has corbelled cap, chimney at east gable end has rebuilt arched hood; gable ends feature cornice returns and attic-story windows; small 2/2 sash windows on facade, architrave window surrounds with bulls-eye blocks at upper corners; 6-panel wood door with multi-paned side lights and elongate, multi-paned transom light; a porch fronts the three center bays and has a flat roof, turned posts and sawn-wood eave trim; rear wing has similar porch on west elevation; aluminum siding.

409 Market Street - c.1910 brick house, modified gable roof, facade gable has heavy cornice, gable finish is small fish-scale shaped tiles with embossed design, segmental-arched cornice over double window in facade gable, T-shaped plan with encircling porch, porch supports are short Tuscan columns on brick piers, plain balustrade; segmental-arch window openings with 1/1 sash lights.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (continued)

502-506 Market Street - built c.1885, original site was 500 Market Street, house was moved to adjacent lots to accommodate modern commercial development on corner, large ell-shaped residence, two-story bay window, pedimented roof dormer, 2/2 sash windows, brackets, round-arched windows in gable ends; early 20th century encircling porch with Doric columns, balustrades and a bandbox corner; aluminum siding.

601 Market Street - built c.1890 by Jacob Wright; carpenter Queen Anne style house, divided into six apartments, original encircling porch removed, original porch trim remains on small porches at front and side entrances.

602 Market Street - c.1895 house in excellent condition, hip roof with cross gables, bay window at east facade, gable above bay window has wood shingles and brackets with pendants hanging below the cornice returns; encircling porch has turned posts, a string of turned balusters under porch eaves and corner brackets; balustrade removed, one facade opening covered with matching wood siding.

607 Market Street - c.1880 two-story, three-bay Italianate house, low-pitched hip roof, 2/2 sash windows arranged in double sets, single-bay porch with square posts and scroll brackets, entrance has multi-paned side lights and transom light, a four-panel door and a screen door trimmed with spindles and brackets; alterations include removal of brackets from roofline and the application of asbestos siding.

713 Market Street - c.1900 carpenter Queen Anne house, multi-gabled roof, two-story bay window, Queen Anne windows in facade gable, 1/1 sash windows, sidelighted entranceway, encircling porch has turned balusters and posts, a string of turned balusters under the eaves, corner brackets and a bandbox corner, west side of porch is enclosed with multi-paned windows; asbestos siding; house set back on large lot, wrought iron fence (manufactured by the Cincinnati Iron and Fence Co., Inc.) edges front yard, concrete hitching post between sidewalk and street.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (Continued)

106 Gay Street - c.1890, main section of house has hip roof, extensions have gabled roofs, gable ends covered with wood shingles, roof of west elevation has shed dormer with a multi-paned windows, east elevation has bay window with multi-paned lights; several multi-paned doors, large wrap-around porch with Tuscan columns, west side of porch is enclosed with wire screening; faces courthouse square; former home of Thomas Allen Goldsborough (1877-1951), U.S. Congressman for Maryland's First Congressional District from 1921-1939, appointed District Court Justice in 1939; Franklin Delano Roosevelt was entertained at this house when he visited Denton in 1932.

201 Gay Street - c.1915, Colonial Revival style house, gable roof with ridge parallel to street, three pedimented roof dormers; single-bay porch has semi-circular roof with a cornice supported by columns, entranceway details include fluted pilasters, side lights and carved garland decor above a 6-panel door, west elevation has french doors and a side porch with columns supporting an entablature with dentils; near courthouse square.

113 Gay Street - c.1885 house with a mansard roof, roof rises higher above a central projecting pavillion, roof has concave profile and is covered with shingles of various shapes, three roof dormers with elaborately carved window heads and sash windows with Queen Anne type upper sashes and single-light lower sashes; wide eaves; wide sash windows on the three-bay facade have Queen Anne upper sashes and two-light lower sashes; entrance has pilasters and an entablature framing wide double doors, each door has nine lights and four wood panels; first-story porch is full-width and shallow with square posts, second-story porch is part of projecting pavillion; asbestos siding; elaborate wrought-iron fence borders front yard, faces courthouse square.

722 Gay Street - c.1900, carpenter Queen Anne house, assymmetrical appearance, facade gable has cornice returns and fish scale-shaped shingles, square tower with pyramidal roof, encircling porch with slender columns, original door has carved designs; asbestos siding.

515 Randolph Street/110 South Sixth Street - two-story, five-bay Italianate house, low-pitch hip roof, bracketed eaves, large 4/4 windows with unusually wide center muntins, well-preserved entrance details include: pilasters, side and transom lights and a 4-panel door with round-arched upper panels; center-bay porch has square posts and flat roof; Sixth Street entrance door has glass panel with elaborate frosted design of mother and child surrounded by roses; one-story, gable-roofed addition to west elevation; a large rear section of this house was removed to the adjacent lot and is now a separate house at 106 South Sixth Street.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (Continued)

3 North First Street - c.1900 house, currently used as Niel, Jarell and Hubbard Law Office; multi-gabled, slate-covered roof; facade gable is shingle-covered with small Palladian window; 8/2 and 6/2 sash windows; south elevation has wood shingles on lower part of first-story and on flaring section between first and second stories; multi-paned transom lights, south elevation gable has rosette window; wrap-around porch has Tuscan columns, entrance has double doors and transom light; faces courthouse square.

4 South First Street - c.1880, large, gable-roofed house with asymmetrical plan, bay window with bracketed cornice on north elevation, wrap-around porch with Tuscan columns, sun-porch over small addition on east elevation, original exterior finish covered with aluminum siding; near courthouse square.

14 North Second Street - c.1850 two-story frame residence, five bays wide and two bays deep; gable roof with ridge oriented parallel to street, cornice returns, 2/2 sash windows with architrave trim, corner pilasters, 6-panel door with multi-paned transom light; faces courthouse square.

12 South Second Street - Moore's Funeral Home; moved to this site c.1900 from original location at southwest corner of Second Street and Market Street; original section appears to have been a c.1860 five-bay I House with Greek Revival features, appears to have been altered during the late Victorian period through the addition of a central cross gable and simplified Palladian windows; modern additions built at north elevation.

9 North Fifth Street - two-story frame building with Greek Revival features, low-pitch gable roof with ridge parallel to street, cornice and frieze; five-bay facade with central entranceway, door is surrounded with multi-paned side and transom lights and pilasters, 6/2 sash windows, pilasters at corners of building, brick chimneys with corbelled caps at gable ends, original finish is covered with asphalt shingles, added single-bay facade porch, one-story rear wing; appears to have been moved to this site from another location.

105 Fifth Avenue - built c.1905, eclectic combination of Queen Anne and Shingle style features; gable-type roof sweeps down over second-story and porch, pedimented roof dormer, hexagonal turret with low-pitched hexagonal roof and finial; bay window; porch has exposed rafter ends, balustrade and turned posts; entrance has corner, side and transom lights.

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Continuation sheet Denton Historic District  
Caroline County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 11

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (Continued)

114 Fifth Avenue - built c.1910, Shingle-style house; deep gambrel roofs extend down over second story, heavy roof cornice, gambrels are covered with wood shingles, pedimented roof dormers, multi-paned windows, wrap-around porch with shingle-covered low walls and Tuscan columns, pedimented porch entrance, double-door entranceway with multi-paned transom light, one-story bay window, sun porch at rear, aluminum siding on first story.

115 Fifth Avenue - c.1910 Colonial Revival style house, steeply-pitched hip roof with two front gables, gables covered with fish scale-shaped slate tiles, each gable end has a multi-paned window with fan-light and architrave surround; one-story veranda extends beyond facade at both ends, porch supports are double sets of Tuscan columns, south section of porch enclosed with wire screening; multi-paned sash windows.

200 Fifth Avenue - c.1910, eclectic design, asymmetrical appearance; small Palladian window in facade gable; 1/1 sash windows, bay window, leaded glass; porch supports are fluted Ionic columns on cut stone piers; tall chimney with corbelled cap, slate-covered hip roof with brackets.

201 Fifth Avenue - c.1915 Colonial Revival style house, three-bay facade, hip-roof with Chippendale balustrade along ridge, two pedimented roof dormers with 6/6 sash lights in round-arches with pilasters; bay windows flank facade entrance; entrance details include a projecting pediment over a semi-circular arch, laurel wreath decor and a cornice with dentils above 4-panel double-doors, pilasters flank entrance and Tuscan columns support pediment; sun porch on south elevation, open porch on north elevation, both have flat roofs edged with Chippendale balustrades, entablatures with dentils, and Tuscan columns.

206 Fifth Avenue - c.1910 Colonial Revival style residence with impressive two-story portico, central section of portico is semi-circular projection, massive columns, entablature with dentils, squat balustrade edges flat roof; stucco finish; dormers on facade of hipped, slate-covered roof; facade has three bays with tri-part windows in outer bays; double-door entrance has leaded-glass transom, corner and side lights; second story has a semi-circular balcony with balustrade; built as residence for Dr. M. Bates Stephens, former State Superintendent of Education.

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Denton Historic District  
Continuation sheet Caroline County, Maryland Item number 7 Page 12

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (Continued)

209 Fifth Avenue - c.1910 Shingle-style house, assymmetrical appearance, gabled dormer, exposed framing is emphasized, second story and gable ends have brown-stained shingle finish, first story is stone; second story flares outward at lower edge; bay windows; encircling porch has low stone walls and short Doric columns, door has large oval window.

213 Fifth Avenue - eclectic design house; dark-stained shingles cover the porch balustrades, the second story and the gable ends; first story finish is wood siding; lower edge of second-story walls flare slightly over first story; cornice with dentils edges roofline; shed dormer on south elevation; porch has Doric columns on concrete piers; sun porch with 8/1 windows on north elevation.

214 Fifth Avenue - small Shingle style house, lattice-like windows, shed dormers, flaring hip roof, shingle exterior finish, screened porch.

304 Fifth Avenue - small carpenter Queen Anne, gabled dormer on facade with round-arched stained-glass window, elongate 1/1 sash windows on second story, hexagonal corner tower with hexagonal roof and a finial, pilasters flank entranceway, classically-detailed porch.

306 Fifth Avenue - carpenter Queen Anne, small house with wealth of wood detail, exterior finished with wood siding, fish scale-shaped shingles and square shingles, several Queen Anne windows, two-story bay window below facade gable, gable end has projecting window and brackets with pendants hanging below the cornice returns, 1/1 sash windows, porch has plain posts and added aluminum balustrade.

The most common house type in Denton has two stories, two or three facade bays and a gable roof. The majority of these houses are oriented with the gable end facing the street. Ornamental features usually include a cornice along the gable edge with returns and a one-story porch across the facade. One common porch design has turned posts, a stick balustrade and sawn-wood corner brackets. Features seen on the more elaborate versions of this porch type include turned balusters, corner brackets with spindles, a string of spindles or turned balusters under the eaves, or cut-out pattern balustrades. Another common porch type has tapered posts on masonry piers supporting a plain entablature along the porch roofline. More elaborate versions of this porch type often have Tuscan columns, balustrades with stick or

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Page 13

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (Continued)

turned balusters, a pediment over the porch entrance, or other classical details. Additional ornamentation on this house type may include sawn-wood gable trim, fish scale-shaped, diamond-shaped or square-shaped wood shingles in the facade gable, a miter-arch opening in the facade gable, a four-panel door with round-arched upper panels, bay windows, or pendants. These dwellings were constructed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and are concentrated on Franklin Street, the blocks of Market Street east of Third Street, the blocks of Gay Street east of Sixth Street, South Fourth Street, South Sixth Street, and Lincoln Street.

Eight bungalows are located in the Denton Historic District. Most of these 1½ story dwellings were constructed by Willoughby Nowell, a local builder, during the period 1915-1925. Common features on the bungalows are one-story facade porches, low-pitched gable roofs with wide eaves, roof dormers, and dark-stained wood shingles covering the gable ends. Bungalows in the district include:

517 Franklin Street  
519 Franklin Street  
517 Market Street  
612 Market Street  
700 Market Street  
706 Market Street  
804 Market Street  
410 Fountain Avenue

A number of two-story two-bay cubical "Foursquare" dwellings are scattered throughout the southeastern part of the district. The majority of these houses were built by Sam Nowell, a local builder, during the period 1910-1920. Features often seen on this house type include a hip roof with wide eaves and dormers, multiple window sets, and a one-story porch. Many porches reflect the influence of the contemporary Colonial Revival style and have Tuscan columns supporting plain entablatures and a balustrade with stick or turned balusters. Houses of this type in the district include:

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Continuation sheet Denton Historic District  
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION - RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS (Continued)

- 108 Market Street
- 411 Market Street
- 521 Market Street
- 522 Market Street
- 615 Market Street
- 801 Market Street
- 805 Market Street
- 908 Market Street
- 112 Fifth Avenue
- 312 Fifth Avenue
- 105 South Sixth Street
- 107 South Sixth Street
- 200 South Sixth Street
- 9 South Sixth Street
- 12 Seventh Street
- 106 Seventh Street

NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

Listed below are the locations of structures which do not contribute to the Denton Historic District.

- 100-104 Market Street
- 110 Market Street
- 126 Market Street
- 200-206 Market Street
- 207 Market Street
- 208-220 Market Street
- 219 Market Street
- 301 Market Street
- 403 Market Street
- 500 Market Street
- 503 Market Street
- 510 Market Street
- 709 Market Street
- 712 Market Street
- 714 Market Street
- 811 Market Street
- 708 Gay Street
- 716-718 Gay Street
- 411 Franklin Street
- 605 Franklin Street
- 609 Franklin Street
- 507 Randolph Street
- 5 South Sixth Street
- 11 North Eighth Street
- Southwest corner Fifth Street and Market Street

# 8. Significance

CAR-284

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 checked="" 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** early 19th century - mid-1930's **Builder/Architect** various

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Applicable Criteria: A, C

The Denton Historic District is significant historically for its role as the seat of Caroline County and as a regional market center along Maryland's Eastern Shore from the early-19th century through the mid-1930's. Represented by a wealth of commercial, residential, public, and religious architecture in a variety of periods, styles and forms, the district is also architecturally significant. Apart from a few clusters of modern development near Market Street at Second and Fifth Streets, the district exhibits a strong sense of historic integrity and continuity.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

A small village had been established on the site of present-day Denton by 1781. The site had been selected as county seat for Caroline County by an act of the Maryland Assembly in 1774, however the first courthouse was not built until 1797. The courthouse square became and remains the focal point of the town.

Throughout much of its history Denton's economy has been based on the surrounding agrarian activities. A number of small industries developed in the late 18th and early 19th centuries to serve the needs of the farmers including grist mills, tanneries, blacksmith shops, wheelwright shops, and a plow factory. A large open market house was built c. 1830 on the southeast corner of the courthouse square where farmers could display and sell their livestock, poultry and produce.

The town of Denton and, in fact, the entire Eastern Shore of Maryland were somewhat isolated during the early 19th century, but several developments occurred starting mid-century which led to increased communication and prosperity in the region. A stage line began operating c. 1860 through Denton on its route from Fenton, Delaware, to Easton, Maryland. Following the Civil War, Denton's location fifty miles up the Choptank River from the Chesapeake Bay enabled it to become an important shipping point for agricultural products. Steamboat traffic on the Chesapeake increased dramatically during the latter half of the 19th century, and Denton, like other Eastern Shore towns such as Chestertown, Easton, and Cambridge, became a regular port-of-call for Baltimore based steamer lines. Construction of the railroad had less impact on the town's economy because it served only as a connecting line to a Baltimore steamer and did not provide a direct connection to northern cities.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Charles B. Clarke, ed., The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia.

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Continuation sheet Denton Historic District Caroline County, Maryland Item number 8 Page 15

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Changes in transportation and the local economy generated changes in the physical aspects of the town. In 1875 an iron bridge replaced the wooden bridge which crossed the Choptank River just west of the town. Gaps in the blocks east of Fifth Street were filled in with new construction and the earlier structures were removed or re-modeled. The commercial district along Market Street between Second and Third Streets was rebuilt following a disastrous fire on those blocks in 1865. The first substantial church building was constructed on Market Street in 1867. This brick Romanesque style structure was constructed for use by the local Methodist Episcopal congregation which had organized by 1816. The Protestant Episcopal Church congregation formed in 1870 and built a small Victorian Gothic style church on the courthouse square in 1873-74. The town's third church, the Methodist Protestant Church, was erected on Market Street in 1897. A Gothic Revival schoolhouse was constructed on South Second Street in 1883. The county's first financial institution was organized as the Denton National Bank in 1881. The first National Bank building was constructed c.1885 at the corner of Market Street and Fourth Street. The Romanesque styling of this brick building was echoed in the design of the new courthouse, built in 1895. Many Victorian residences of various sizes and degrees of architectural refinement were constructed during this time period as well.

The early 20th century was both a boom period and a transition period in Denton. The lumber and food processing industries gained importance. Shipping of farm products remained important, but overland transport by truck gradually replaced the river steamers. Public improvements included construction of the first county high school in 1901, construction of a gasworks in 1901 and waterworks in 1902, construction of a concrete bridge over the Choptank River in 1913, and paving Market Street with concrete in 1915-1916.

Notable commercial development occurred along the west end of Market Street during the first decade of the 20th century. The Law Building was constructed in 1902 with offices, retail space and the Post Office on the first floor, law offices on the second floor, and lodge rooms and a law library on the third floor. People's National Bank with its unique stone facade was built on the adjacent lot c.1906. The First National Bank moved to its new building at the corner of Market and Second Streets in 1902. Also constructed on Market Street were the Denton Journal Building in 1901 and the Carter Building in 1905. As the century progressed other brick and concrete block commercial buildings were added to the Market Street business district.

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**HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)**

Residential development and the construction of two churches accompanied the substantial growth of Denton's population during the period 1900-1925. The town expanded eastward as construction of gable-front houses, bungalows and cubical cottages progressed. Several of the earlier Victorian structures were altered according to the architectural fashions of the time. Common alterations included covering the exterior with wood shingles to convey a rustic appearance and changing the porch details from Victorian to classical. Perhaps most expressive of the prosperity of this period are the large Colonial Revival and Shingle style residences built along Fifth Avenue, the town's most elegant neighborhood.

The early 20th century growth period ended with the Depression of the 1930s and the appearance of the district has changed little since that time. A fire in the mid-1930s destroyed a small part of the business district, but this was rebuilt with two-story brick structures similar to the existing buildings. Since 1960 several Colonial Revival buildings including two banks, the county library and the courthouse additions have been constructed in the district. Other modern construction has been minimal. Adaptive use of several historic buildings such as the old People's National Bank building, now used as a law office, and the old Caroline County High School, currently used as a day-care center, has been an effective preservation method. The Women's Club of Denton has shown an active interest in preservation. This organization owns the Denton Schoolhouse on South Second Street which has been listed in the National Register since 1978.

# 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #17

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approximately 200 acres

Quadrangle name Denton, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
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D	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundary of the Denton Historic District is shown on the attached map. For Boundary Justification, see Continuation Sheet #17.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state		code	county	code
-------	--	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	1. Kim Kimlin 2. Commissioners of Denton	organization	1. Maryland Historical Trust 2. City of Denton	date	1983
street & number	1. 21 State Circle 2. 13 North Third Street	telephone	301-269-2438 301-479-2050	city or town	Maryland 21401
city or town	1. Annapolis 2. Denton	state	Maryland 21629		

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *[Signature]*      10-27-83

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER      date

For HCRS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:      date

Chief of Registration

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Denton Historic District

Continuation sheet Caroline County, Maryland

Item number 9 and 10

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BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This district is bounded by modern commercial and residential development on the east and south. The Choptank River provides the west boundary and that small part of the north boundary, west of Second Street. The north boundary east of Second Street separates the district from an area of low-quality housing, vacant lots, and modern construction. The boundaries of the present district are slightly smaller than those which were used in the 1982 Determination of Eligibility documentation; several buildings which were located on the fringes have been demolished since the area was determined eligible, and the present boundaries have been reduced accordingly.

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FEET

CAR-284  
DENTON  
HISTORIC  
DISTRICT  
CAROLINE  
COUNTY,  
MARYLAND

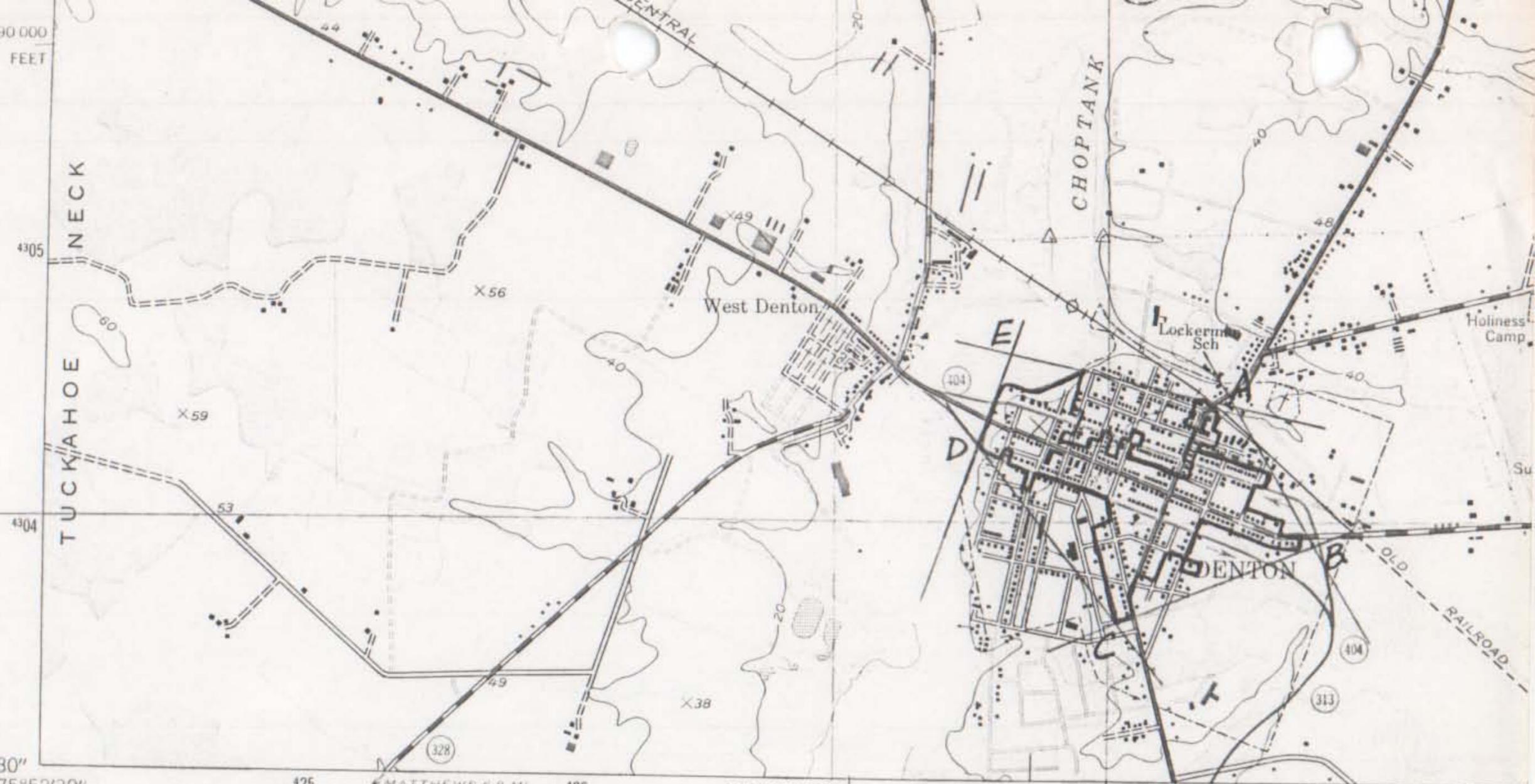
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B: 18-428760 -  
4303920

C: 18-428530 -  
4303640  
(FOWLING CREEK)  
5861 IV SW

D: 18-427540 -  
4304280

E: 18-427650 -  
4304620



38°52'30"  
75°52'30"

MATTHEWS 6.8 MI.  
EASTON 14 MI.

1:130,000 FEET

ANDERSONTOWN 5.1 MI. 429  
FEDERALSBURG 18 MI.

(HOB  
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Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

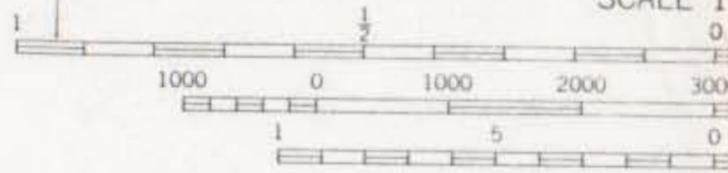
Control by USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
and by planetable surveys 1944. Aerial photographs taken 1942

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
aerial photographs taken 1973. This information not field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



CONTOUR INTERVAL  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL



UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

CAR-284

DENTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

CAROLINE COUNTY, MARYLAND

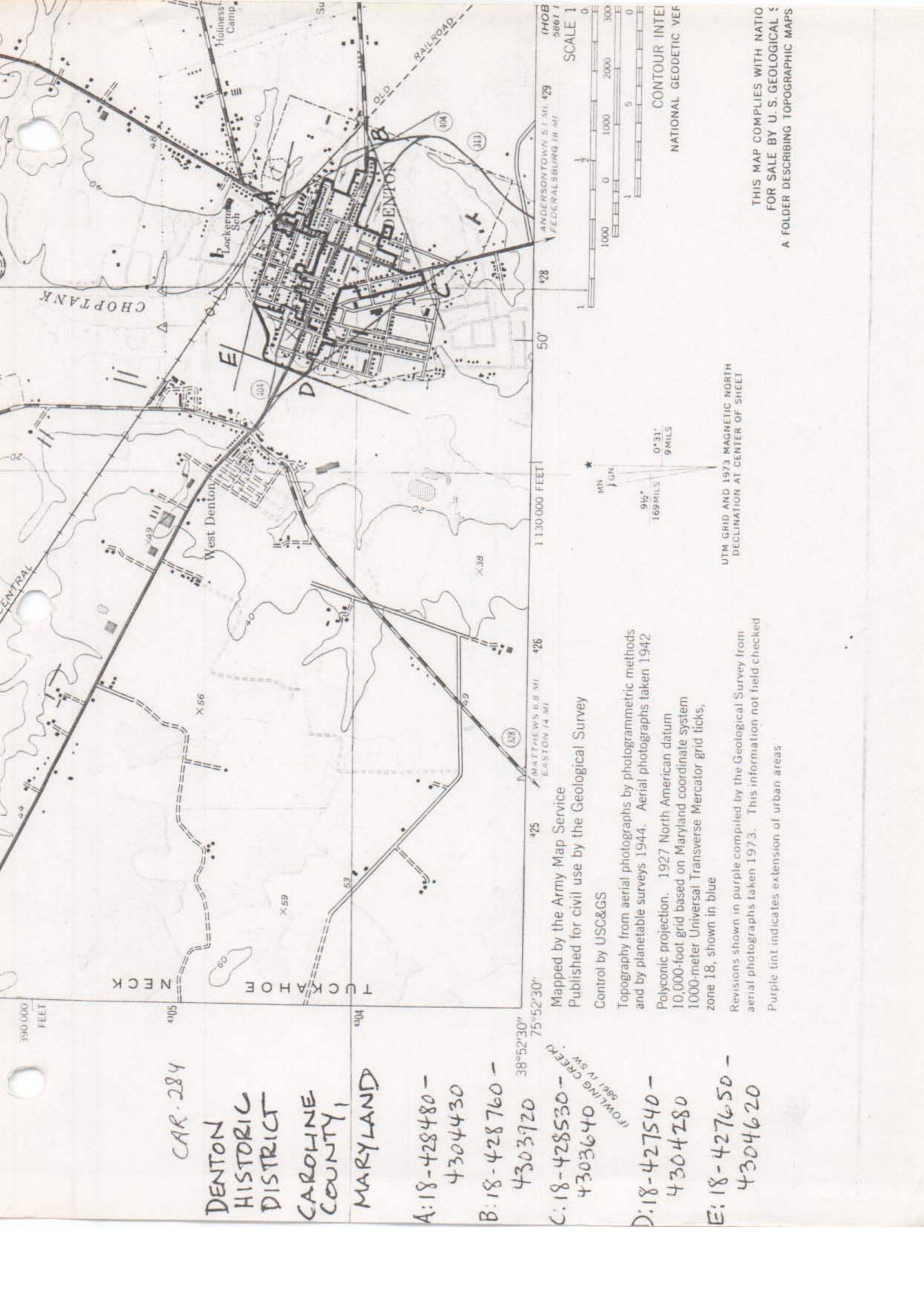
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Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey

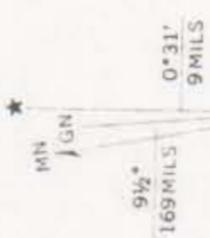
Control by USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods and by planetable surveys 1944. Aerial photographs taken 1942

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

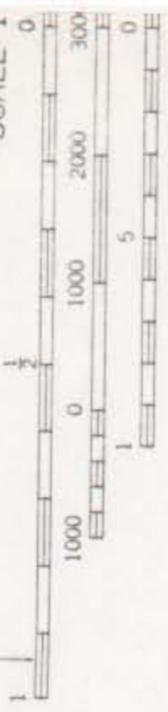
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from aerial photographs taken 1973. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

UTM GRID AND 1973 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



(HOB)  
ANDERSONTOWN 5.1 MI. 429  
5861 7  
FEDERALSBURG 18 MI

SCALE 1



CONTOUR INTEL  
NATIONAL GEODETTIC VEF

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIO  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL S  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS