

Atkinson's
Four North Washington Street
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-402
C1880

Four North Washington is two tall stories in height with a bold well-proportioned cornice. It was constructed by Thomas and Kersey, Incorporated prominent dry goods merchants of the nineteenth century.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

Town of Easton

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Atkinson's

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

#4 North Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FIRST

STATE

Maryland 21601

COUNTY

Talbot

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

H. B. Atkinson

Telephone #: 301-822-1035

STREET & NUMBER

306 South Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21601

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Court House

Liber #: 282

Folio #: 206

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

T-402

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

Number 4 North Washington Street, now Atkinson's department store, is located in the commercial district of Washington Street. The building stands on the east side of the street, across from the Talbot County Court House. Its southern neighbor is a three-story late nineteenth century building (#2, T-401); to the north is a 2½ story Federal building (#6 North Washington, T-35).

The structure is a brick row building, two tall stories in height and four bays wide. The building is very deep, running 125 feet back from Washington Street and joined in a "L" with #7 East Dover Street, the former Star-Democrat Building (T-3). These two buildings are jointly owned and have been occupied by the same establishment, Atkinson's, since 1944.

The building at #4 North Washington has four evenly spaced windows on the second floor. These are quite tall and have 1/1 sashes with a border of small decorative panes. The flat arch above each window is now covered with white-painted plywood; the unmolded marble sills project slightly. The windows have interior blinds.

The face brick is smooth and orange in color; it is laid in common bond with the narrow mortar joints, commonly found in late nineteenth century buildings. The first floor is a modern store front with plate glass windows and a center entrance. This was added in 1956; formerly the building had a store front with a cornice at the first floor ceiling level carried by cast iron columns. This earlier store front, as shown in a picture of C 1940, resembles that still existing on #25 South Washington Street (T-411), a contemporary building. A photograph of C 1898 shows the building surmounted by an elaborate sign board on the roof.

The chief decorative element of this building is its wooden cornice with pierced decoration. The cornice is carried by ornamental wood bracketts; there is a fan motif in the panels between the bracketts and a brick "frieze". It is simple and bold in design and well-proportioned.

The interior of the building is greatly changed from the original. It appears to have been altered around 1900 when a mezanine^e are sales areas; the upper floor is used as store offices.

* The first floor and mezanine were added in the rear.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES C 1880

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Walter Thompson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Like #2 North Washington Street the Atkinson building represents a type of late nineteenth century commercial building common in Easton: its flat front facade with symmetrically placed windows, roof which slopes to the rear, and wooden cornice resembles those also found on #25 South Washington (T-411), and #7-11 South Washington (T-2). Although #4 is the same height as #2 North Washington, it is larger in scale because of the taller windows and deeper cornice.

This building has long housed a dry goods store. Before Mr. Atkinson opened his establishment, the J. R. Jarrell Company occupied the structure. This company was called an "Easton institution" and credited with giving its customers "full value for money spent" by the Preston News of January 27, 1944. Mr. Charles W. Nickerson preceeded the Jarrell Company, conducting his dry goods business in this building from 1900-1924. The present building was probably constructed by the Thompson and Kersey dry goods store. Records in the Talbot County Court House indicate that Walter Thompson owned a dwelling house here in 1850 from which he ran a fine emporium. A photograph C 1870 shows a delivery being made to this establishment after a Mr. Kersey had become a partner and the firm renamed Thompson and Kersey's. The store occupied two brick buildings both two bays wide. The southern building was 2½ stories in height and had two gable dormers in the roof. A chimney rose from the northern wall and curtain walls terminated the gable ends. The northern building was two stories plus an attic. It was a small structure of Greek revival proportions; the attic was lit by two small frieze windows. These two buildings are shaded by a common awning and evidently are under common management. Several large boxes in the street bear the address, Thompson and Kersey, Easton.

The significance of this building also lies in the importance the retail establishments it has housed have had for the town of Easton. Earlier buildings on this site had interest for the same reason.

Typical late nineteenth century buildings, both #2 and #4 North Washington blend well with earlier Federal buildings and enliven the Washington Street skyline.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deed and Land Records, Talbot County Court House
History of Easton
George Garey
Re-published 1974
Historic Easton, Inc.
CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY NA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

NA

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

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

NA

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Easton, Incorporated

DATE

August 12, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1171

TELEPHONE Mr. Paul Parsons,
301-822-2706 President

CITY OR TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

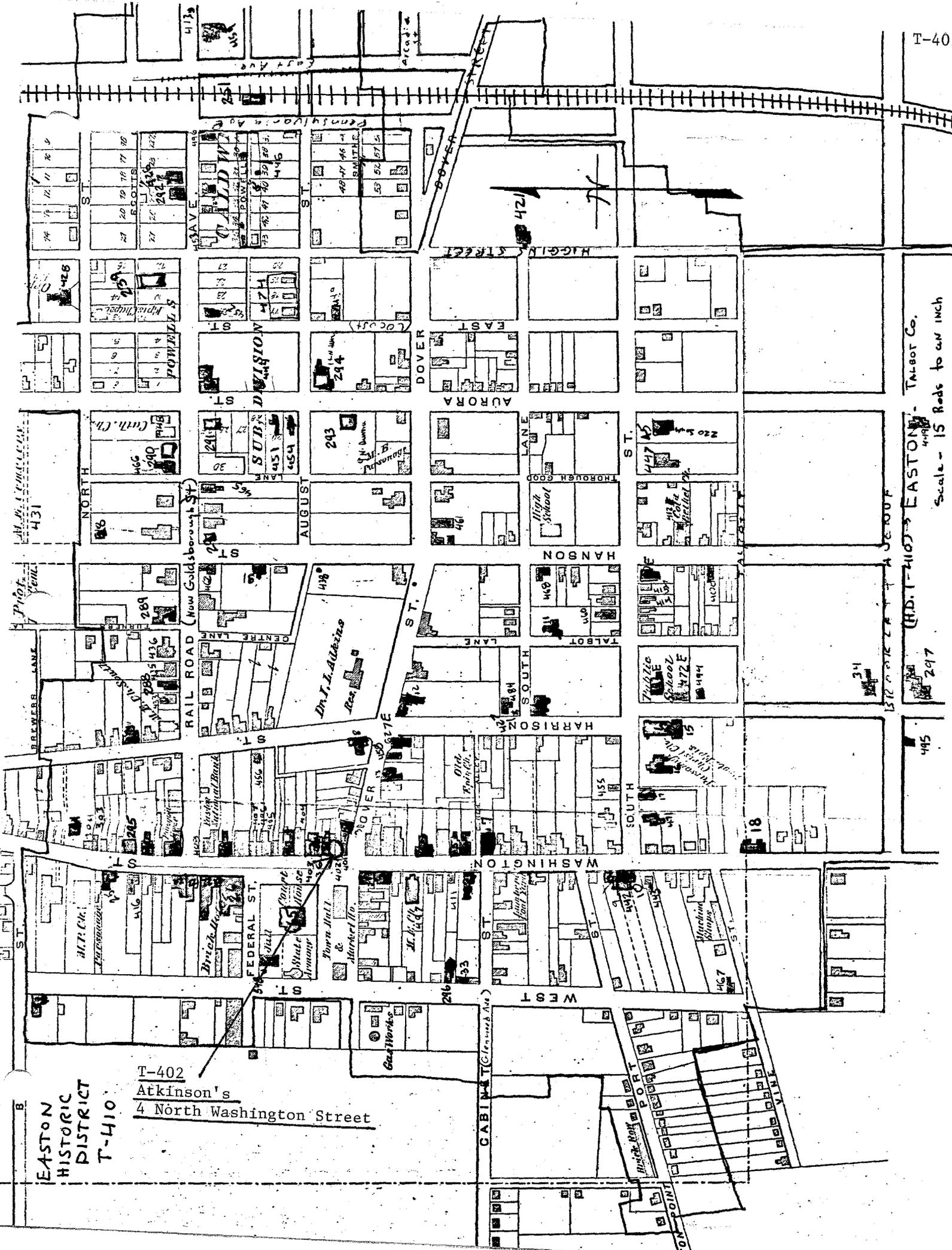
Atkinson's - 4 North Washington Street

L276/F5

L205/F191

H. Burrus Atkinson and his wife Louise bought this historic property in 1948 from the stockholders of the J. R. Jarrell Co. This company had acquired the store and property in 1926 from the Charles W. Nickerson estate and they, in turn, had bought the business from Walter Thompson and his wife in 1900. The dry goods store of Thompson and Kersey was established in 1846 * and was an important adjunct in the growth of the community. It has continued as such, under different management, to the present day.

*Advertisement: History of Easton
George Garey
Re-published 1974
Historic Easton, Inc.



EASTON
HISTORIC
DISTRICT
T-410

T-402
Atkinson's
4 North Washington Street

(H.D. T-410) EASTON - TALBOT Co.
Scale - 15 Rods to an inch

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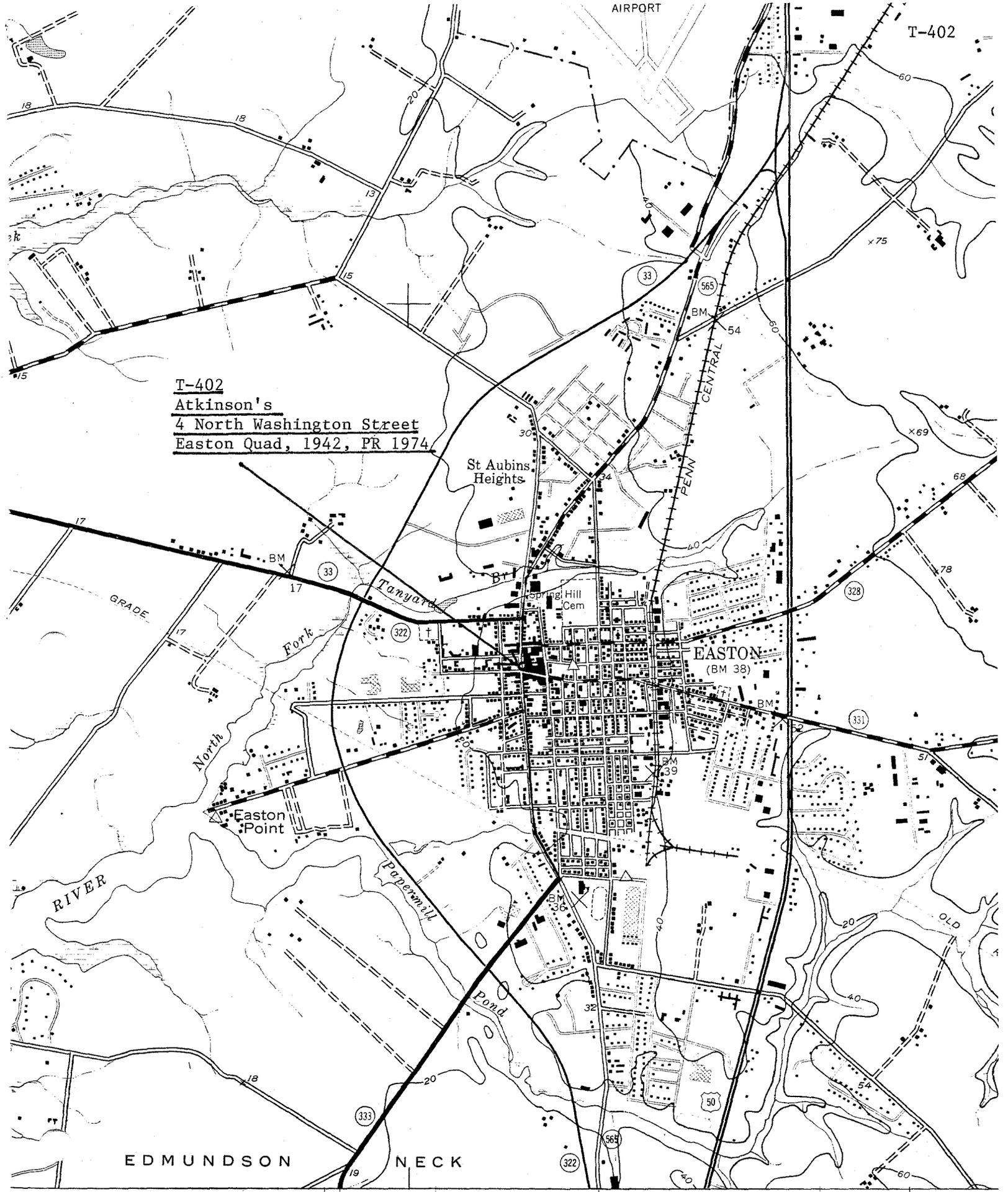
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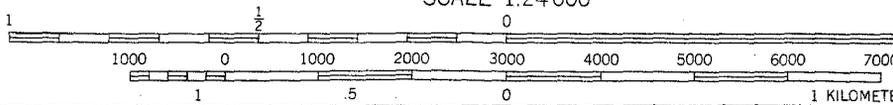
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T-402
Atkinson's
4 North Washington Street
Easton Quad, 1942, PR 1974

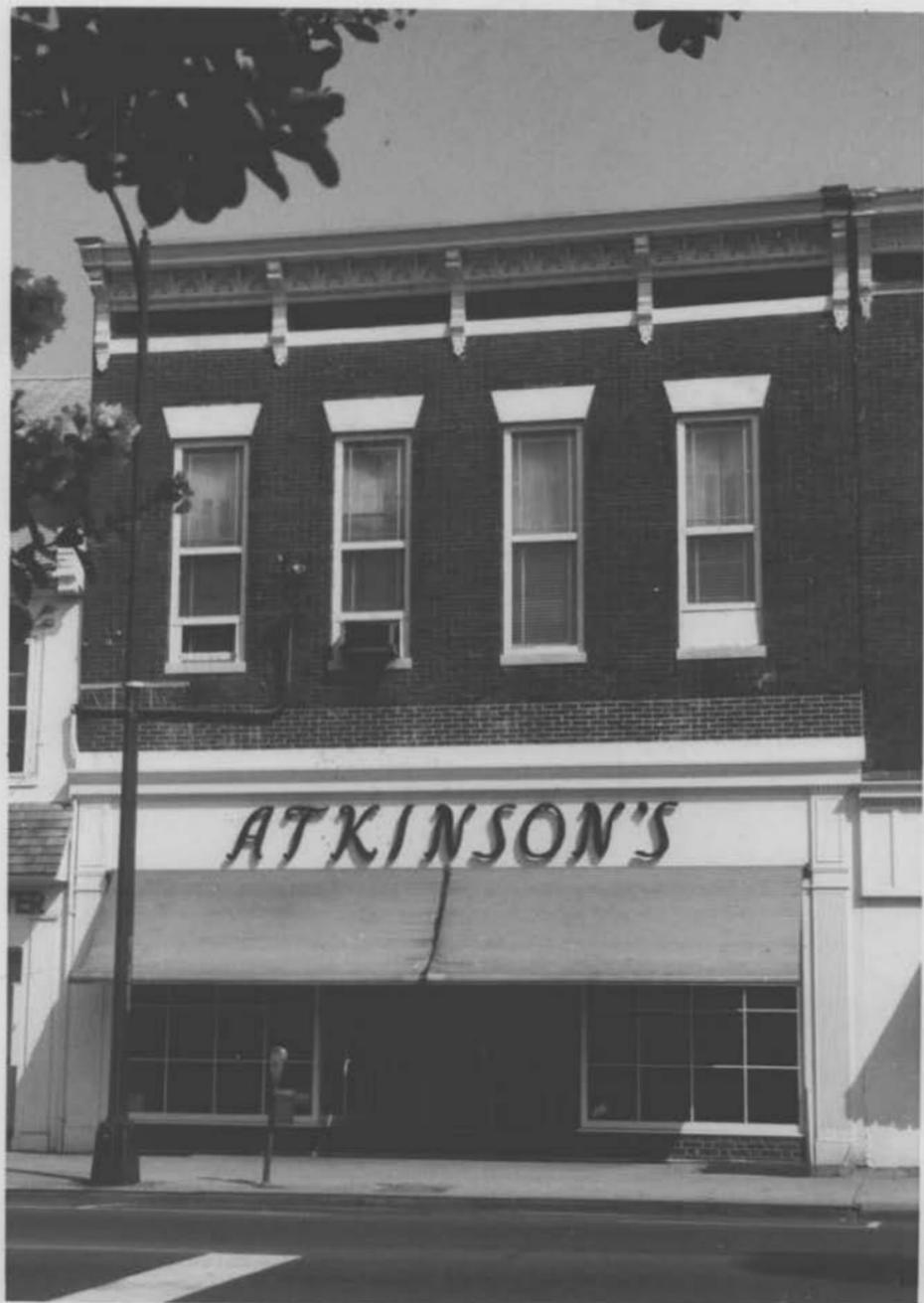
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matic method



52% 402

4 NORTH WASHINGTON
EASTON, MD

T.402

~~PLEASE~~

WEST FACADE

9/76 MLF

MR. VERNON - WILLIAMS, JR.
530 DIAMOND STREET
EASTON, MARYLAND 21601