Rowen's Stationery, Incorporated
12 North Washington Street
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-404
1877 to 1889 and Earlier

Its growth chronicled on its facade, the old Shannahan and Wrightson Hardware building, has housed two of Easton's most notable retail establishments. The nineteenth century extensions, made floor by floor from 1877 to 1889, rest on the Flemish bond brick walls of one of the town's Federal period row buildings. Three stories in height, the floor and ceiling lines are emphasized by belt courses of red, rusticated stone. A barrel vault-covered walkway once ran between this building and its southern neighbor.

216404961
T 404

Town of Easton

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Shannahan/Wrightson's Hardware

AND/OR COMMON
Rowen's Stationery, Incorporated

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
12 North Washington Street

CITY, TOWN
Easton ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
FIRST

STATE
Maryland 21601

COUNTY
Talbot

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	X COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Shannahan Property, Incorporated

Telephone #: 301-822-5552

STREET & NUMBER
Rt. #1 Box 84

CITY, TOWN
Oxford ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21654

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Talbot County Court House

Liber #: 131
Folio #: 249

STREET & NUMBER
Washington Street

CITY, TOWN
Easton

STATE
Maryland 21601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

T-404

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three story building stands on the east side of Washington Street. In the block which is the heart of the commercial district of downtown Easton, the Shannahan/Wrightson Building is like a keystone in the group of buildings which face Court House Square.

The structure is brick, three stories in height and three bays wide on Washington Street. It is very deep, running east from Washington Street one block to Harrison Street where it connects with a modern building. It is a flat-fronted building with a flat roof which slopes gently to the rear. The first floor is a sales area used by Rowen's Stationery, Incorporated. Upper floors are used as offices. This building has been joined to #10 North Washington (T-403) a two and a half story Federal building.

This structure, commonly called the Shannahan/Wrightson Building, has its history written on its face. Additions were made to it by building it taller, floor by floor; as this was done, a stone with date inscribed was laid in the brick facade.

The structure may have begun during the latter part of the eighteenth century or the beginning of the nineteenth century as one of the brick "dwelling houses and stores" mentioned in the land records of the time. The only remaining bits of evidence to support this idea, however, are the arches to support the fireplace which remain in the basement and the small portion of Flemish bond brick which forms the first floor facade.

As it stands now this is primarily a building constructed after 1877. The first floor - with the Flemish bond brick has a store front with a central entrance and two large windows to either side. The openings, although regularly spaced, are not centered on the building. There was once an exterior covered walkway at the south side of the earliest part of the structure; this area is now enclosed and contains a stair to the upper floors.

Above the Flemish bond first story is a belt course of rusticated red sandstone. The second floor is built of common bond brick and bears the date 1877. The window openings in this story are centered above those in the floor below; a larger window being in the middle. The spandrel below the third floor is dated 1881; it is of common bond brick with a red stone belt course above and below. The third floor is also of common bond brick; its window openings are spaced like those of the second floor. Presumably its date, like that of the cornice above is 1889.

The brick of the Flemish bond first floor is purplish red with wide mortar joints; the brick in the portions above is smooth, hard machine-made brick in a dark red color.

The windows have recent 16/16 sashes, old pictures show 2/2 sashes. The red stone belt courses form the sills and lintels of the second and third floor windows. The completeness of design of the facade - especially as shown by these belt courses - would indicate that the additions were designed by one hand although they were built in three phases.

The cornice and signboard above are quite ornamental; typical of signs found on commercial buildings in the late nineteenth century, this is the only one if its type remaining on Washington Street.* This one is made of cast iron or of tin. The signboard says "Shannahan and Wrightson, Hardware Company".

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

T-404

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	X COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1877-89 and Earlier BUILDER/~~ARCHITECT~~ Shannahan/Wrightson's

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is significant for its architecture and for the retail establishments it has housed. Although it may have begun in the Federal period, it stands as a fine example of a Victorian commercial building. The dates on its facade chronical the growth of the structure - and the growth of the company that remodeled it, Shannahan and Wrightson's Hardware.

This company, one of Easton's best known, traded in an amazing number of items. In the 1881 History of Easton by George Garey and Ellwood Patchett, Shannahan and Wrightson's advertisement assured the customer that they were the headquarters for "tinware, stoves, agricultural implements... steam engines, saw mills, field and garden seeds" among other things. It also mentions their "now" occupying "10,450 square feet of flooring", probably the first two floors of the present structure.

The building is now the location of another prominent Easton establishment Rowen's Stationery, Incorporated, who also occupy #10 North Washington (T-403) and #8 North Washington (T-36).

Description Footnote:

* Others were once found on #4 North Washington (T-402) and #20 North Washington (T-407). (Pictures in the collection of the Maryland Room, Talbot County Free Library.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

T-404

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deeds and Land Records, Talbot County Court House.
Photographs, Maryland Room. Talbot County Free Library
History of Easton.

Star Democrat Newspaper. August 1959 - 160th Anniversary Edition

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
None	
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant Cynthia B. Ludlow, Research Historian

ORGANIZATION
Historic Easton, Incorporated

DATE
August 19, 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

PS-1108

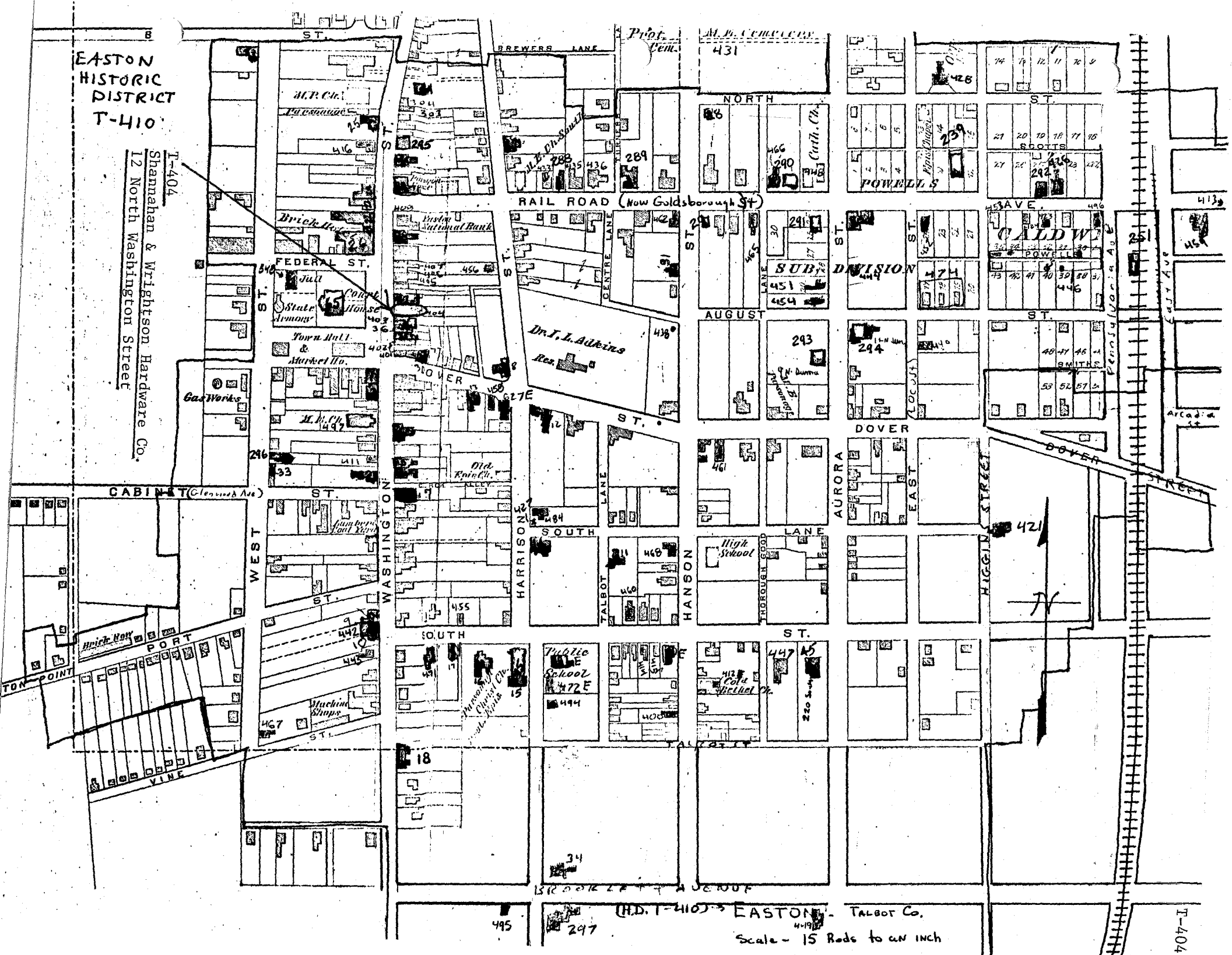
T-404

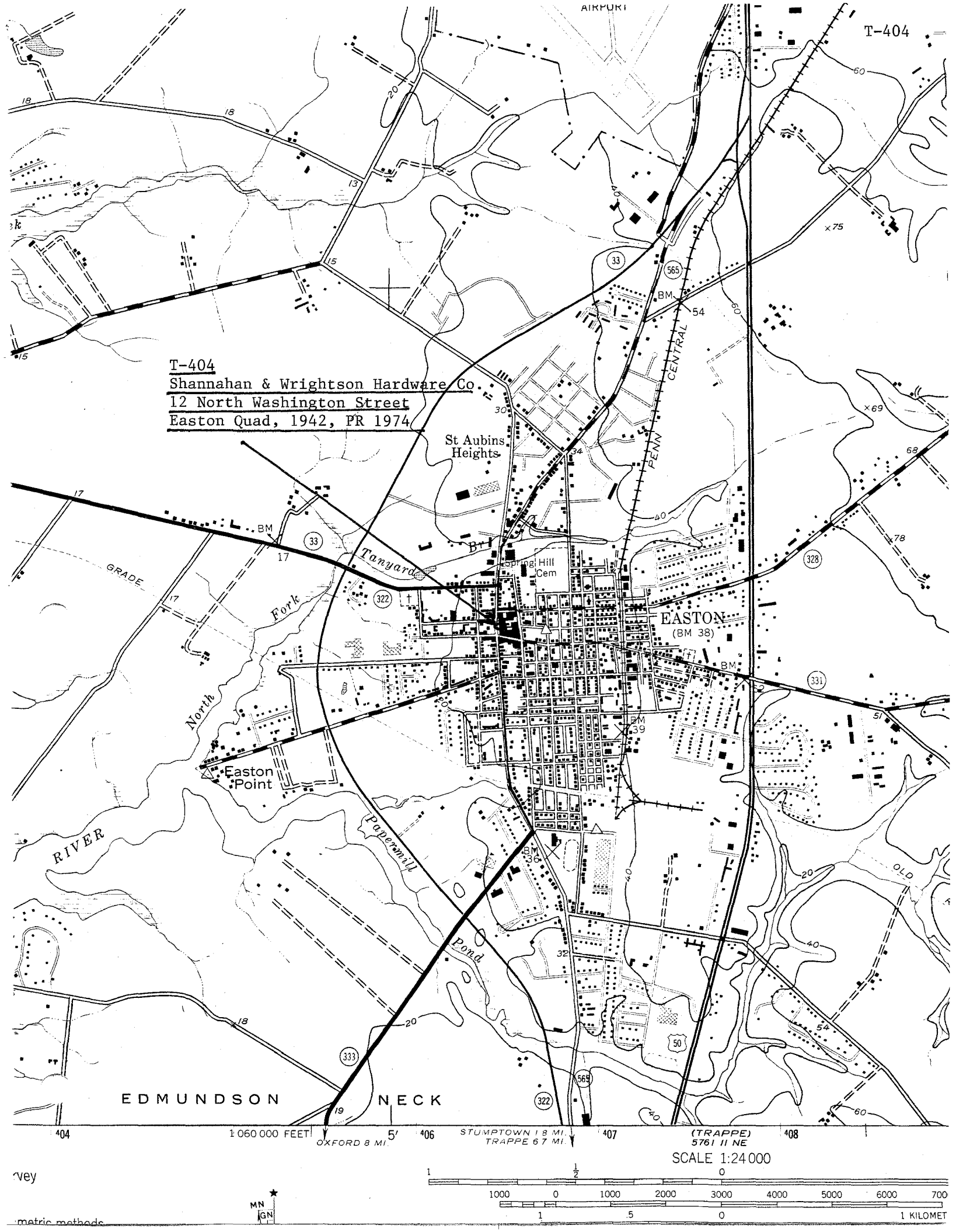
12 North Washington Street

L4 /F452 This was the main building of the Shannahan and Wrightson Hardware Co. when it began in 1877 by William E. Shannahan and Charles E. Wrightson. They paid $6000.00 for the building, along with many innovations. This firm was the first in Easton to set up a gas pump in front of this establishment.*

This site is of paramount importance to the town. It was here that Philemon Hemsley cleared the trees and built himself a logged dwelling, while he surveyed the construction of the first Court House. In the rear, he erected a forge to fashion the nails for this building. Hemsley, from Queen Anne's County, abandoned his dwelling and George Robins bought it in 1730. Anna Maria Robins Hollyday, wife of Henry Hollyday, of
L19/F328 Ratcliffe Manor, inherited this portion in 1769. There was a frame building here at this time and Henry Hollyday ran a store
L24/F285 on its first floor. But in 1791, Anna Maria Hollyday leased to Owen Kennard 44 feet for an annual rent of ₤ 20.17.7. in
L25/F125 Spanish milled dollars! Two years later, in 1793, Kennard turned over his lease to William Meluy for ₤ 1000. Kennard had built a two-story brick store and dwelling. Later, it was
L28/F1 owned by Samuel Mackey and his son Alexander. The Mackeys added enlargements at the rear. Joseph V. E. Wright owned it from 1873 to 1877 and lived on the second floor. He sold it to the newly formed Shannahan and Wrightson Co. in 1877.

*Star Democrat Newspaper. August 1959 - 160th Anniversary Edition


EASTON HISTORIC DISTRICT T-410
T-404
Shannahan & Wrightson Hardware Co.
12 North Washington Street
B ST.
BREWERS LANE
Prot. Cem.
M.P. Church
431
NORTH ST.
SCOTTS
POWELL'S
RAIL ROAD (Now Goldsborough St)
CALDWELL AVE.
POWELL
SUBDIVISION
AUGUST ST.
DOVER ST.
SMITH
DOVER STREET
Pennsylvania Ave
East Ave
Arcadia St
M.P. Ch.
Parsonage
Brick Row
Easton National Bank
FEDERAL ST.
Jail
State Armory
Court House
Town Hall & Market Ho.
Gas Works
Dr. I. L. Atkins Res.
CENTRE LANE
TURNER LANE
LOCUST
CABINET (Glenwood Ave)
WEST ST.
WASHINGTON ST.
HARRISON ST.
SOUTH LANE
TALBOT ST.
HANSON ST.
THOROUGHGOOD
AURORA
EAST
HIGGINS STREET
High School
Old Epis. Ch.
Lumber Yard
PORT
Brick Row
Machine Shops
Parsonage Christ Ch.
Public School
Colored Bethel Ch.
220 Sub
VINE
BROOKLETT AVENUE
(H.D. T-410) EASTON - Talbot Co.
Scale - 15 Rods to an inch
T-404


T-404
T-404
Shannahan & Wrightson Hardware Co.
12 North Washington Street
Easton Quad, 1942, PR 1974
AIRPORT
St Aubins Heights
PENN CENTRAL
Tanyard
Brk
Spring Hill Cem
EASTON
(BM 38)
GRADE
North Fork
Easton Point
RIVER
Papermill Pond
OLD
EDMUNDSON NECK
404
1 060 000 FEET
5'
406
407
408
OXFORD 8 MI.
STUMPTOWN 1 8 MI.
TRAPPE 6 7 MI.
(TRAPPE)
5761 II NE
SCALE 1:24 000
MN
GN
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000
1 .5 0 1 KILOMET

11 x 2.12 52% 40¢

T-40A

Shannahan & Wrightson Hardware Co. Building
12 North Washington Street, Easton
West Facade

HARDWARE CO.

SHANNAHAN-WRIGHTSON BUILDING T-404
12 NORTH WASHINGTON STREET
EASTON, MD.
WEST FACADE
AUGUST 1976
MLFRITZ