T-410

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

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 Easton

and/or common Easton Historic District

2. Location

street & number ____ not for publication

city, town Easton ____ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Talbot code 041

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
X district	____ public	X occupied	____ agriculture	____ museum
____ building(s)	____ private	____ unoccupied	X commercial	____ park
____ structure	X both	____ work in progress	____ educational	X private residence
____ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	____ entertainment	X religious
____ object	____ in process	____ yes: restricted	X government	____ scientific
	____ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	____ industrial	____ transportation
		____ no	____ military	____ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Public and Private

street & number

city, town ____ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Talbot County Courthouse

street & number Washington Street

city, town Easton state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title MHT Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined elegible? X yes ____ no

date ____ federal X state ____ county ____ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

T-410

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Easton Historic District is an urban district that covers most of the core of Easton, a town on the Maryland Eastern Shore that has a population of about 7,000. The district contains approximately 900 buildings and structures arranged along a grid pattern of streets and alleys and is primarily residential with the Central Business District located in the western section near the Talbot County Courthouse on Washington Street.

Although the town of Easton was founded in the 18th century, the majority of the buildings in the district, which includes the earliest portion of the town, date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Less than a dozen buildings are documentable to the 18th century, only about 50 to the early 19th, and a somewhat less to the mid-1800s, reflecting an economic decline in the towns history at this period. These buildings are concentrated primarily along Washington, West, Harrison, Goldsborough, Dover, South, and Aurora Street.

The highest proportion of the buildings are of frame construction with masonry, mainly brick, construction found primarily in the 18th and early-19th century buildings, public structures such as churches and government buildings, and the buildings in the dominately commercial area, many of which were originally residential and later converted for commercial use or multi-purpose originally.

The buildings reflect most of the major stylistic influences that characterize American architecture through the 19th century and into the 20th. The earliest definable style is the Federal which is clearly visible along Washington Street and generally are marked by heavy masonry flat arches. What Greek Revival (ex. 200 Goldsborough Street) is present tends to be combined with the Italianate that more or less dominates the fabric in the mid to late part of the century. The Queen Anne mode (ex. 14 North Aurora Street and 132 South Harrison Street) is the predominate mode of the last third of the 1800s. The early decades of the present century are characterized by the Colonial or Georgian Revival style (several excellent examples stand along Washington, Harrison, Hanson, and Aurora Streets below Brooklets Avenue) and bungalows scattered throughout the residential areas to the south of Dover Street and the east of Hanson Street. The decorative fabric is further marked by examples of the Gothic Revival (mainly churches), Second Empire and shingle styles.

A sizable proportion (possibly 40%) of the residential structures are best described as Victorian in influence but do not fall into well-defined categories. The buildings are mostly 2½ story frame, rectangular, structures with gable roofs (the gable end facing the street) with turned-columned front porches and shingles in the facade gable. This type of building is found in early sections of the district, sometimes next door to a stylish house such as on South Harrison Street and sometimes dominating a streetscape as along sections of Goldsborough Street east of Park Street, Glenwood Avenue, and Port Street. Also

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

ever-present are the functional type of houses that were erected in the early 20th century and are almost devoid of decoration yet often have Queen Anne configuration (ex. 212 Aurora Street) or may be squarish 2 story boxes with hip roofs and a central facade dormer.

Two sections of the district have row and duplex housing that appears to be workers' housing but no documentation exists to support this idea. The buildings, along Port Street and Higgins Street, are simple structures with barely any detailing if at all.

The residential areas have a continuity created by the large trees that line the streets everywhere except the commercial district. There are several types of streetscape in Easton. One type consists of large Victorian houses set fairly close to the street on medium-sized lots; these buildings are very individualistic and shaded well by many large trees. Other streetscapes from this period consist of rows of cottages with gables facing the street. Set on narrow lots without trees between them, these houses give a row-house effect. There are several rows of late 19th/early 20th century frame duplexes. Slightly later Colonial Revival houses and bungalows were built south of the downtown area as the residential area expanded. They are set back from the street a bit more and are situated on slightly larger lots than the earlier houses; however, they maintain the visual continuity of the district.

Most of the commercial district, principally rows of adjoining brick structures, was built in the 19th century. There are also several rows of early 20th century store fronts. The majority of 19th century commercial buildings are located on Washington Street by the courthouse and on Dover Street in the first block east of Washington. Early 20th century store rows are located on Dover Street between Aurora and Higgins and on Goldsborough in the block east of Washington Street.

Several individual buildings in the Easton Historic District are of particular merit for historical and/or architectural reasons. The most prominent one is the Talbot County Courthouse on North Washington Street between Federal and Court Streets. The original portion of this seven bay brick structure with an octogonal tower was erected about 1789. It was expanded in 1898 and again in 1958. Other important public buildings are the 1930 Colonial Revival post office on Dover Street and the 1927 castellated brick armory on Harrison Street at South Street.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

Three churches are of architectural note: Christ Church, South Street at Harrison Street, an 1840s T-plan granite Gothic Revival structure which is believed to have been designed by William Strickland, and its rectory, an 1850s Richard Upjohn designed stone Gothic Revival house; Trinity Cathedral at 313 Goldsborough Street which is a Ecclesiologism influenced Gothic Revival stone church erected about 1876; and Asbury Methodist Church, 18 South Higgins Street, an 1876 Gothic Revival brick structure with a Queen Anne influenced bell tower added between 1893-1898.

The railway station on Pennsylvania Avenue just south of Goldsborough Street is a simple Queen Anne influenced frame and brick structure 1½ stories high with a steeply pitched hip roof and wide overhang supported by heavy brackets. Other commercial structures of interest are the 1870 High Victorian brick Odd Fellows Hall at 1 South Washington Street with its Odd Fellow motif decorations; the Shannahan and Wrightson Hardware Company Buildings at 12 North Washington Street which was erected in several stages with date stones (1877, 1881, and 1889) in a vertical row on the facade recorded the growth of the firm; and several circa 1880 buildings with cut-out decoration cornices that stand along Washington Street across from the Courthouse.

Also included in the district, but made discontiguous by a stretch of buildings that do not contribute to the district is the complex of buildings at the Third Haven Meeting House. This complex consists of the original meeting house, a heavy frame one-story clapboard-covered rectangular structure with a gable roof that was erected in the late-20th century for the Third Haven Meeting (Quaker); the newer meeting house built in 1880 which is a 1½-story brick structure set at a right angle to the original meeting house; a smaller frame 1½-story house built in the mid-1800s as the seton's house; and a cemetery.

As indicated on the attached sketch map, the major intrusions that exist in the district are parking lots (municipal and private) and mid-20th century buildings, mostly commercial, such as the grocery store on North Washington Street at Bay Street that is constructed so that it is surrounded on the back by contributing buildings.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Easton National Register Historic District are drawn so as to include the highest incidence of structures and areas

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

(DESCRIPTION, continued)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION (continued)

that meet the criteria for listing on the National Register; to exclude those structures and areas which do not meet the criteria such as the industrial sections along Bay Street and to the east side of the district proper, the mid-20th century residential and commercial areas to the north and northeast, south, and westerly sides, and Springhill Cemetery along North Street and other areas of open space scattered along the edges; and to utilize lines of convenience such as curb and property lines and strong visual and physical barriers such as railroad tracks along the south side. The two discontiguous sections are such because of non-contributing stretches between them and the district proper.

PHOTOGRAPHS: EXPLANATORY NOTE

Photographs number 32,33,36,37, and 38 are more than two years old but do accurately represent the subjects as they appear today. Confirmation was made by the National Register Coordinator of the Maryland Statoe Office of Historic Preservation, Maryland Historical Trust.

8. Significance

T-410

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
X 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	X commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	X politics/government	X other (specify) Streetscapes
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

The Easton Historic District consists of the core of the town of Easton and is significant for the collection of 18th, 19th and early 20th century buildings which 1) record the development and status of Easton as the governmental, commercial, and social center of Talbot County; 2) include several excellent and well-preserved examples of the major stylistic influences that characterize American architecture up to the early 20th century; and 3) contribute through their juxtaposition and variety of design and materials to several streetscapes that retain the basic environmental qualities associated with life in small urban centers at the turn of the 20th century.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Easton was founded in 1710 for the purpose of establishing a new seat for Talbot County after huge portions of the county were broken away to form Queen Anne's and Caroline Counties and the old county seat at York was no longer centrally located. Until this time no town existed in the area although a Quaker group had erected the Third Haven Meeting House (included in the Easton Historic District) in the late 17th century. The status of county seat was reaffirmed in 1788 by another legislature act which also incorporated the town under the name of Easton.

As the county seat and a center of power and prestige, Easton rapidly grew. The town is listed in the 1790 census as having a population of 640. In the decades following the American Revolution, she developed into one of the Eastern Shore's largest and most important centers primarily because of its central location. The Eastern Shore suffered a decline in trade and population concurrent with the opening of new and better farmland to the west. The Civil War accelerated this decline. Little new construction occurred in Easton during this period.

In 1869 Easton entered a new era of development with the arrival of the Maryland and Delaware Railroad thus providing rapid and direct connection with the major commercial, industrial, and population centers on the east coast. The railroads bought new inland transportation for commerce, industry, and agricultural and seafood products to supplement the daily steamboats which had been operating for some years from Easton Point. The railroads also bought new residents, money and prosperity to the town. This prosperity lasted until the Great Depression which brought the entire nation to a period of decline.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

The Easton Historic District is a fairly comprehensive visual recording of the town's history. Until recent decades with the advent of modern shopping centers, "downstairs" Easton remained the focal point of attention with other neighborhoods radiating from it. The district incorporates most of the town that was developed through the 1920s that reflect this orientation. The district takes on added significance because it has not been fragmented by recent wholesale clearance programs that mark many urban areas.

Easton developed out from the Talbot County Courthouse with the commercial district, reflecting its almost equal status with the political center, located around it along Washington Street and side streets. This main street area is made up of rows of buildings abutting each other, dating from periods, and often reflecting bursts of prosperity such as the Shannahan and Wrightson Hardware Company Building at 12 North Washington Street which bears three date stones recording additional stories through the late 19th century.

In the town's early years the center of Easton also included residential building but as the business district and status of the town grew specific residential neighborhoods developed.

By 1800 the principal areas had spread along Goldsborough, Hanson, Aurora, and South Streets and further along these streets by the close of the century. The early 20th century saw the impact of the garden-suburb with the development of large, tree-studded lots in the southern end of the district.

Architecturally, the buildings in the district represent the various types of structures (public, residential, commercial, ecclesiastical, and (educational) and architectural influences (as delineated in Section 7) that would appear in a small county seat. The prominent buildings generally reflect a greater degree of elegance and sophistication than those erected in other sections of the county. Although little is known about the construction and design specifics, many of the buildings, particularly the late 19th and early 20th century ones, were probably architect designed either locally or through national firms.

Two buildings, Christ Church and its rectory on South Street at Harrison Street, are believed to have been designed by nationally known architects, the church in the 1840s by William Strickland and the rectory in the 1850s by Richard Upjohn.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

In 1973 renewed interest in Easton's architectural heritage led to the formation of Historic Easton, Inc. The organization purchased several old buildings which were restored and sold for commercial or residential use. The town has enacted a historic zoning ordinance which protects the exteriors of significant structures. At present the corporation is still active in maintaining and improving the cohesion and integrity of Easton's historic core.

9. Major Bibliographical References

T-410

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #6

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 232 acres

Quadrangle name Easton Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References ALSO, SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #7

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	407620	4292340	B	18	407550	4291920
C	18	407060	4291250	D	18	406660	4291110
E	18	406160	4291760	F	18	406280	4292380
G	18	406890	4292620	H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #8

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 George Andreve, Pamela James, and Ronald L. Andrews

organization Maryland Historical Trust date May 1980

street & number 21 State Circle telephone (301) 269-2438

city or town Annapolis, state Maryland 21401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 6-27-80

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

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fritz, Marsha L., Historic Sites Survey of Easton, unpublished, 1976. (Files of Maryland Historical Trust, Annapolis, Maryland)

Patchett, S. Elwood. The History and Directory of Easton, 1881. Reprinted in 1974 by Historic Easton, Inc., Easton, Maryland.

Works Projects Administration Writers' Program. Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State. New York: Oxford University Press, 1940.

Ludlow, Cynthia B. Historic Easton. Published for Historic Easton, Inc., 1976.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Easton National Register district are delineated by a broken line on the attached map labeled "Easton National Register Historic District/1980" and drawn to a scale of 3/16"=50'. The district consists of three sections: the district proper and two smaller discontiguous units. The borders of the district consist of the existing outer curblines and property lines of the indicated streets and properties. The discontiguous sections consist of 1) the Third Haven Meeting House Complex along South Washington Street, and 2) 216 and 218 Bay Street.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA, continued

UTM's FOR:

216-218 BAY STREET

A. 18/406120 4292380
B. 18/406120 4292320
C. 18/406060 4292320
D. 18/406060 4292370

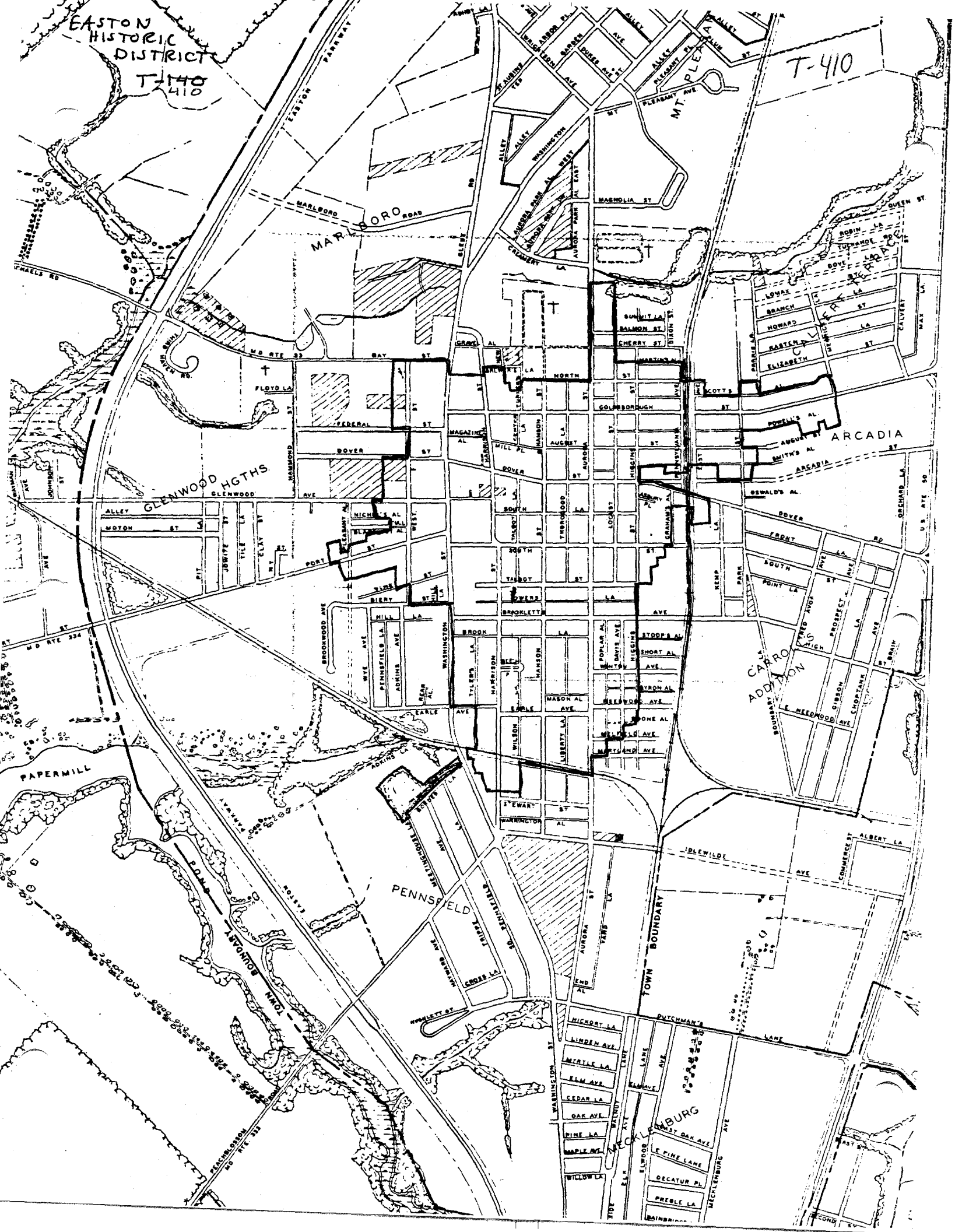
THIRD HAVEN MEETING HOUSE COMPLEX

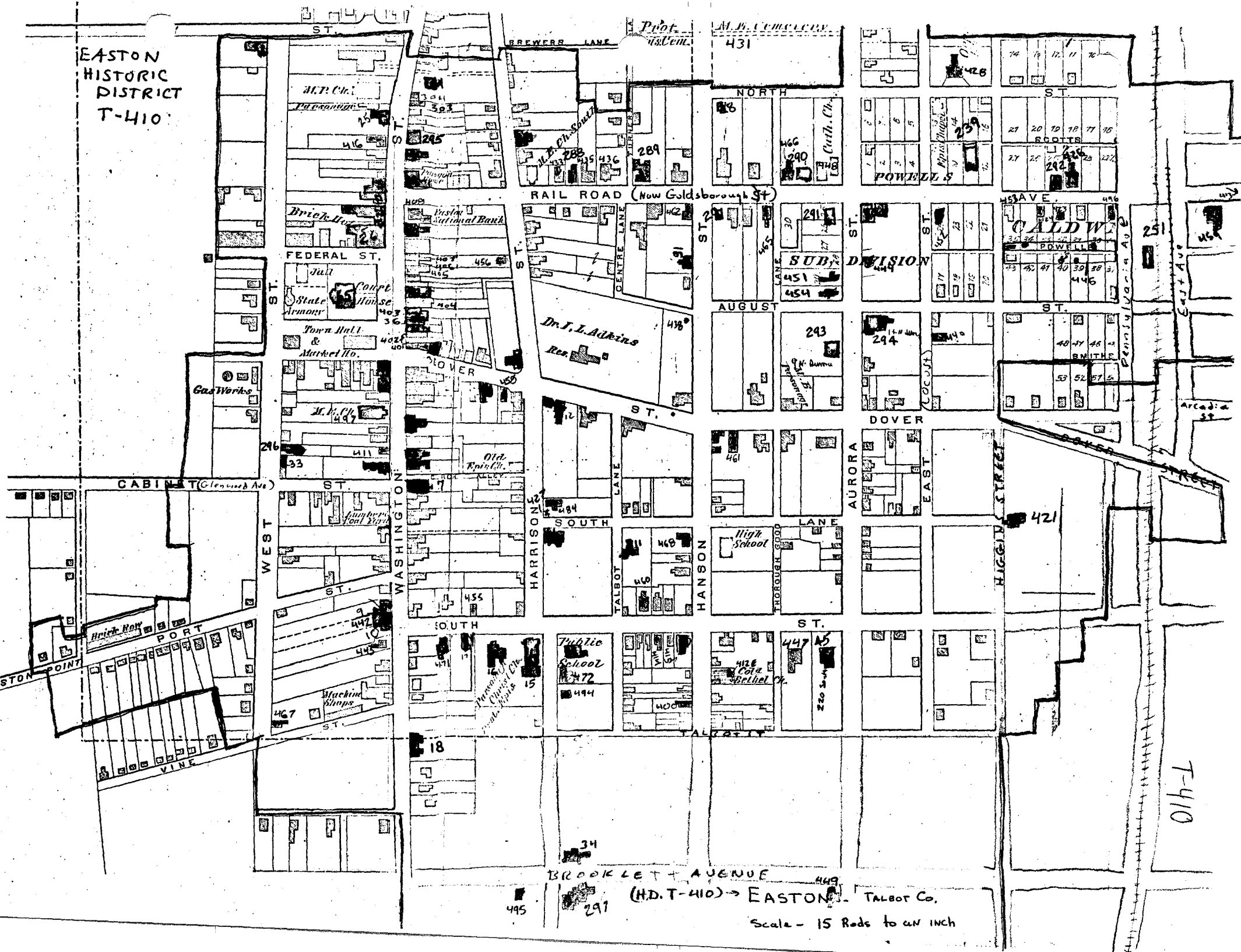
A. 18/406560 4291220
B. 18/406370 4291000
C. 18/406310 4291280

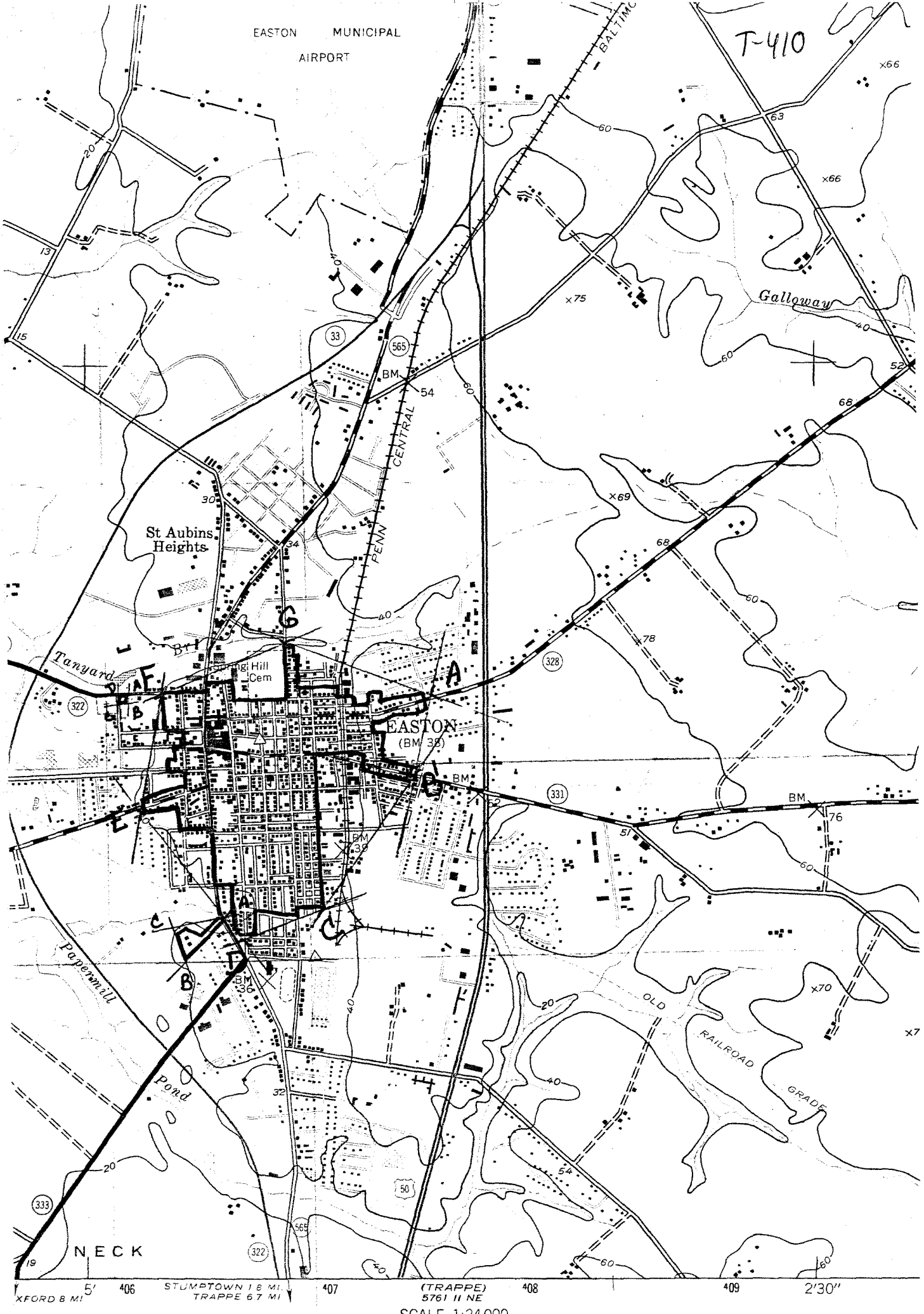
EASTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

T-410

T-410




EASTON HISTORIC DISTRICT T-410
M.P. Ch.
Parsonage
Brick Row
FEDERAL ST.
Jail
State Armory
Court House
Town Hall & Market Ho.
Gas Works
M.E. Ch.
Old Epis. Ch.
CABINET (Glenwood Ave)
WEST ST.
WASHINGTON ST.
HARRISON ST.
CENTRE LANE
RAIL ROAD (Now Goldsborough St)
Easton National Bank
Dr. I. L. Adkins Res.
M.E. Ch. South
Brewers Lane
M.E. Cemetery
NORTH ST.
POWELL'S AVE.
SCOTTS
CALDWELL
POWELL
SUB DIVISION
AUGUST ST.
DOVER ST.
SMITH
Cath. Ch.
Epis. Chapel
Pennsylvania Ave
East Ave
Arcadia St
DOVER STREET
HIGGINS STREET
AURORA EAST
SOUTH LANE
High School
THOROUGH GOOD
HANSON ST.
TALBOT ST.
Public School
Colored Bethel Ch.
Parsonage Christ Ch.
Machine Shops
Anthracite Coal Yard
EASTON POINT
PORT
VINE ST.
BROOKLET AVENUE
(H.D. T-410) → EASTON - TALBOT CO.
Scale - 15 Rods to an inch
T-410



SCALE 1:24 000

Easton Hist. Dist

A. 18/407620
4292340
B. 18/407550
4291920
C 18/407060
4291250
D 18/406660
4291110
E 18/406160
4291760
F 18/406280
4292380
G 18/406890
4292620

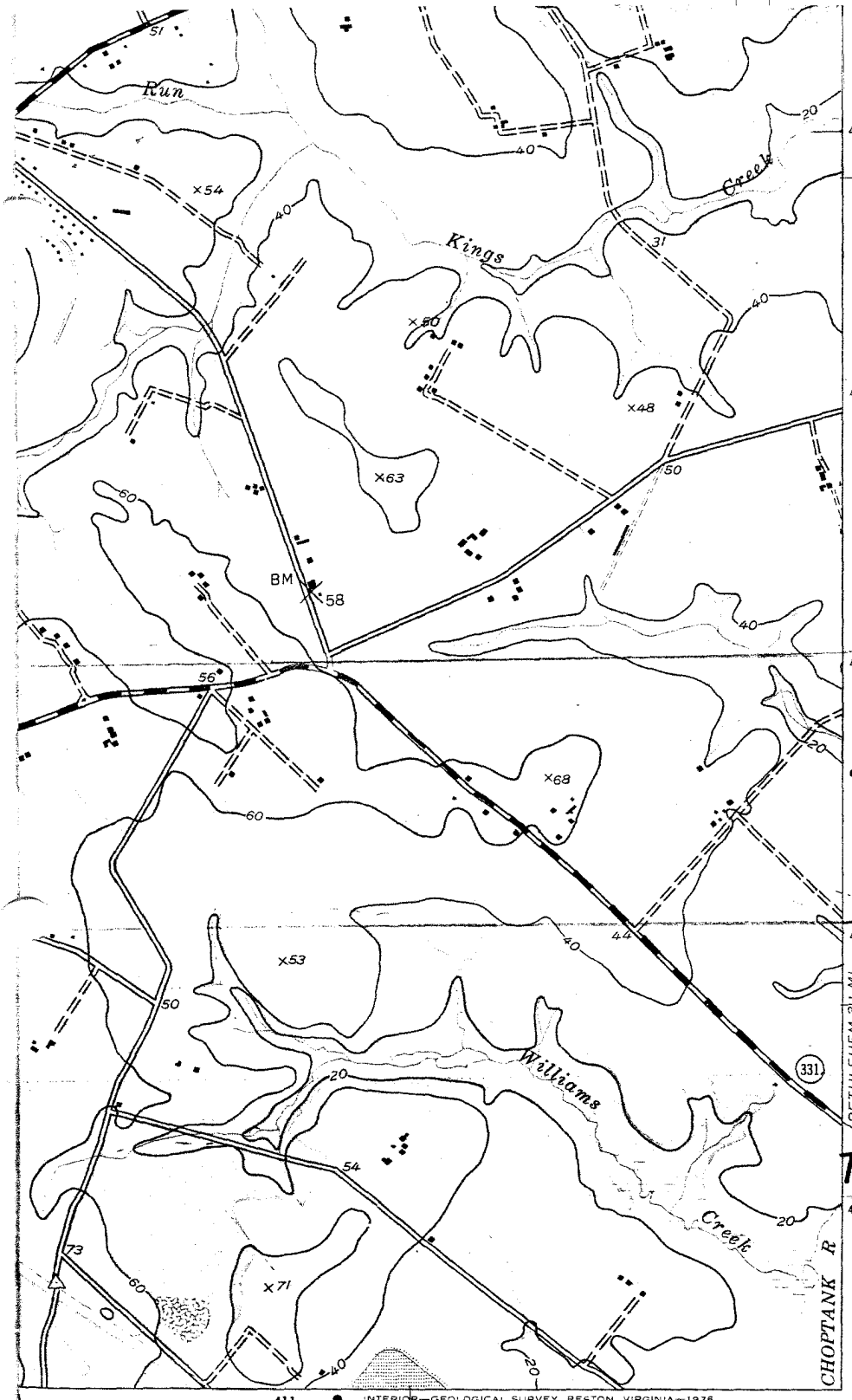
216-218 Bay Street

A 18/406120
4292380
B 18/406120
4292320
C 18/406060
4292320
D 18/406060
4292370

Third Haven Meeting House Complex

A. 18/406560
4291220
B. 18/406370
4291000
C 18/406310
4291280

T-410



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty — Light-duty

Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt

U. S. Route — State Route

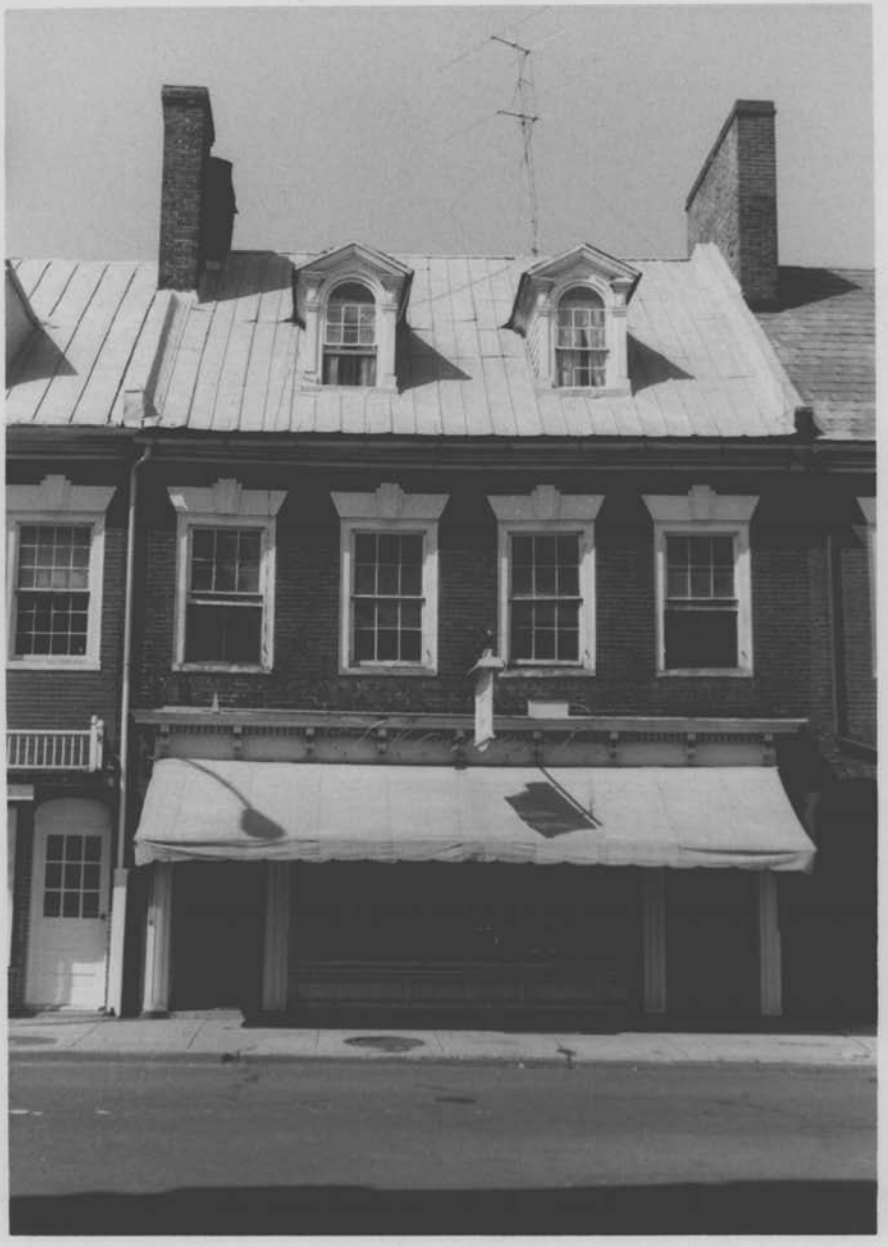
ORANGLE LOCATION

EASTON, MD.

N3845—W7600/7.5

1942
PHOTOREVISED 1974
AMS 5761 I SE—SERIES V833

0°40'
12 MILS



Federal Rowhouse, Easton Talbot County - T-23

104

LEONARD BUILDING 113

DAG 67

TIDEWATER INN

Federal Row house, Easton, Talbot County 1-22

Shearer Jeweler / Goldsborough Law Office

LEONARD BUILDING 111

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
BOX 1704
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

901

DAG '67

NE corner of Harrison + Dover
T- 410 Easton Historic District

T-410 Easton Historic District

South side of South St. between Thorogood Lane and S. Hanson St.