

Easement

WI-134
H. S. Brewington Building
Salisbury
Private

1892

One of the most distinctive commercial structures on the downtown plaza is the H. S. Brewington Building, known to many in Salisbury as the "Old Synagogue Building" because the Beth Israel congregation held services here for twenty years between 1932 and 1952. The pressed brick corner building, lighted by Gothic arched colored glass windows and distinguished by a corner tower topped by a bell-shaped roof, was built in 1892. Over the course of more than one hundred years the corner storefronts have housed many businesses and organizations. Construction of this distinctive commercial block started in the week of May 7, 1892 as announced by the *Salisbury Advertiser*:

Work was begun this week on a new building, corner of Main and Dock Sts. for H. S. Brewington. The structure will be 46 x 58 feet, two story, pressed brick finish and mansard roof. The first floor will be divided into three store rooms, one facing on Main street, one on Dock street and one on the corner. The second floor will be finished with an assembly room with an 18 foot pitch. Mr. T. H. Slemons is the contractor.

A little less than a year later the first floor was occupied by the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Salisbury, and the second floor was rented as a Masonic Lodge. On the opening of the Merchants and Farmers Bank, a short notice in the *Salisbury Advertiser* stated on April 8, 1893:

The new Farmers and Merchants Bank of Salisbury began business last Tuesday, Dr. Samuel A. Graham, the cashier, has since been kept busy. A teller has not yet been selected, and all the work has fallen upon the cashier.

The bank building, which is at the corner of Main and Dock streets, is new and attractive, outside and in, and its location could not be better. Dr. Graham is popular with the business men of the peninsula and is thoroughly familiar with banking methods.

Doubtless his management of the Farmers and Merchants will further popularize the banking system among farmers and artisans and bring new business to the community, thus giving Salisbury two first class banks instead of one, as heretofore.

At a meeting of the stockholders last Tuesday a resolution was passed increasing the capital stock from \$25,000 to \$30,000 of which \$10,000 was paid on the spot.

Various clothing merchants, including the "Nock Brothers' Gentlemen's Outfitting Emporium," and later J. C. Penny and Company, occupied storefronts in this handsome Victorian commercial block.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Brewington Building

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-134

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial-Urban Dominance
1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Commercial Block

Survey No. WI-134

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Easement

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic H. S. Brewington Building

and/or common Old Synagogue Building

2. Location

street & number 300-304 West Main Street ___ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

city, town Salisbury state Md 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

date 1981 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-134

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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1892 **Builder/Architect** T. M. Slemons

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
 and/or
 Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G
 Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

One of the most distinctive commercial structures on the downtown plaza is the H. S. Brewington Building, known to many in Salisbury as the "Old Synagogue Building" because the Beth Israel congregation held services here for twenty years between 1932 and 1952. The pressed brick corner building, lighted by Gothic arched colored glass windows and distinguished by a corner tower topped by a bell-shaped roof, was built in 1892. Over the course of more than one hundred years the corner storefronts have housed many businesses and organizations. Construction of this distinctive commercial block started in the week of May 7, 1892 as announced by the *Salisbury Advertiser*:

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A little less than a year later the first floor was occupied by the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Salisbury,² and the second floor was rented as a Masonic Lodge. On the opening of the Merchants and Farmers Bank, a short notice in the *Salisbury Advertiser* stated on April 8, 1893:

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¹ *Salisbury Advertiser*, May 7, 1892.

² *Salisbury Advertiser*, April 8, 1893.

8.1 SIGNIFICANCE ~~WI-416~~ *WI-134*
H. S. Brewington Building, ~~WI-416~~
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

The bank building, which is at the corner of Main and Dock streets, is new and attractive, outside and in, and its location could not be better. Dr. Graham is popular with the business men of the peninsula and is thoroughly familiar with the banking methods.

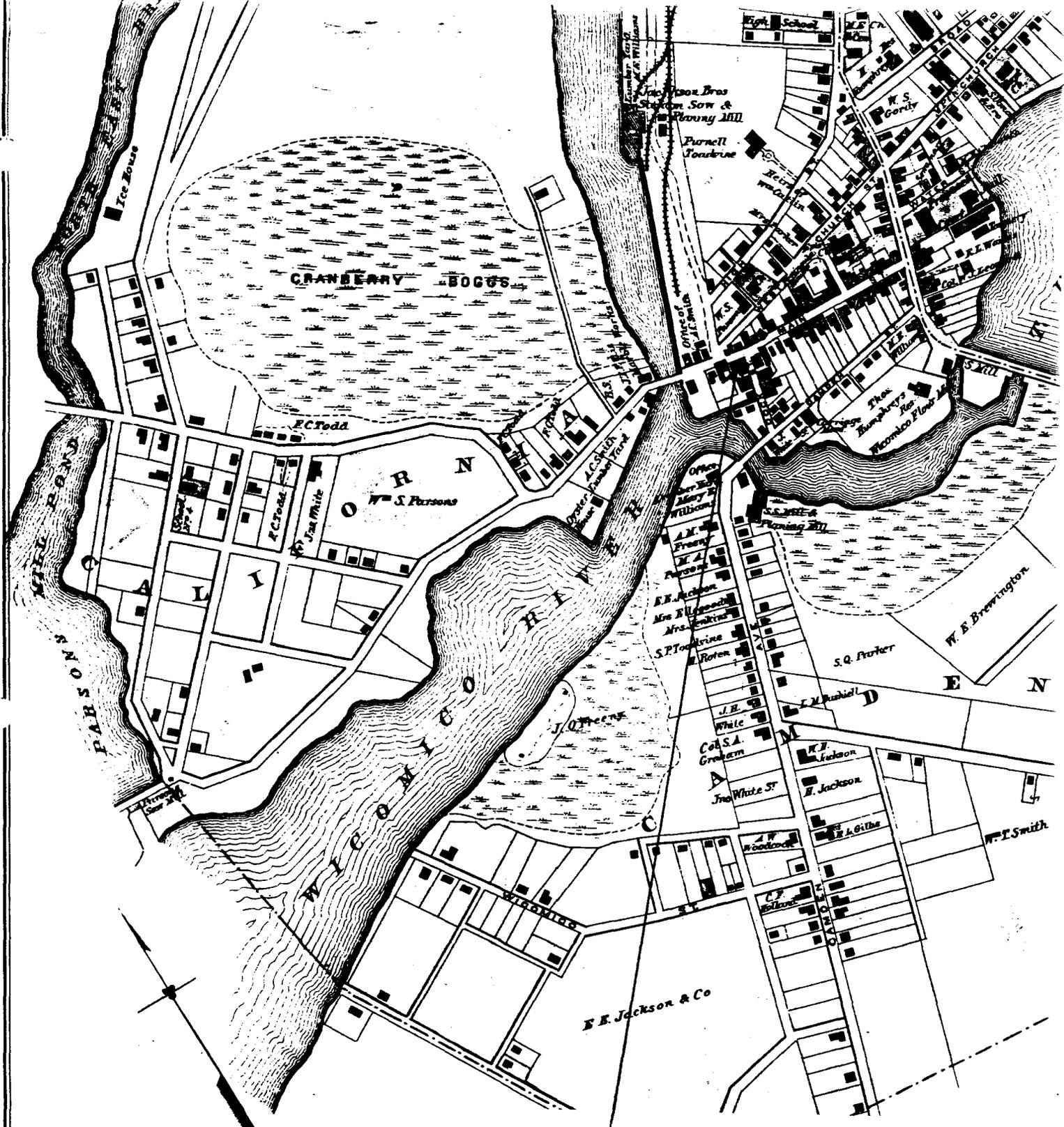
Doubtless his management of the Farmers and Merchants will further popularize the banking system among the farmers and artisans and bring new business to the community, this giving Salisbury two first class banks instead of one, as heretofore.

At a meeting of the stockholders last Tuesday a resolution was passed increasing the capital stock from \$25,000 to \$30,000 of which \$10,000 was paid on the spot.

Various clothing merchants, including the "Nock Brothers' Gentlemen's Outfitting Emporium"³ and later, the J. C. Penny Company,⁴ occupied storefronts in this handsome Victorian commercial block.

³ *Wicomico News*, August 1908, Historical and Industrial Edition.

⁴ *Salisbury City Directories*, 1942-1976.



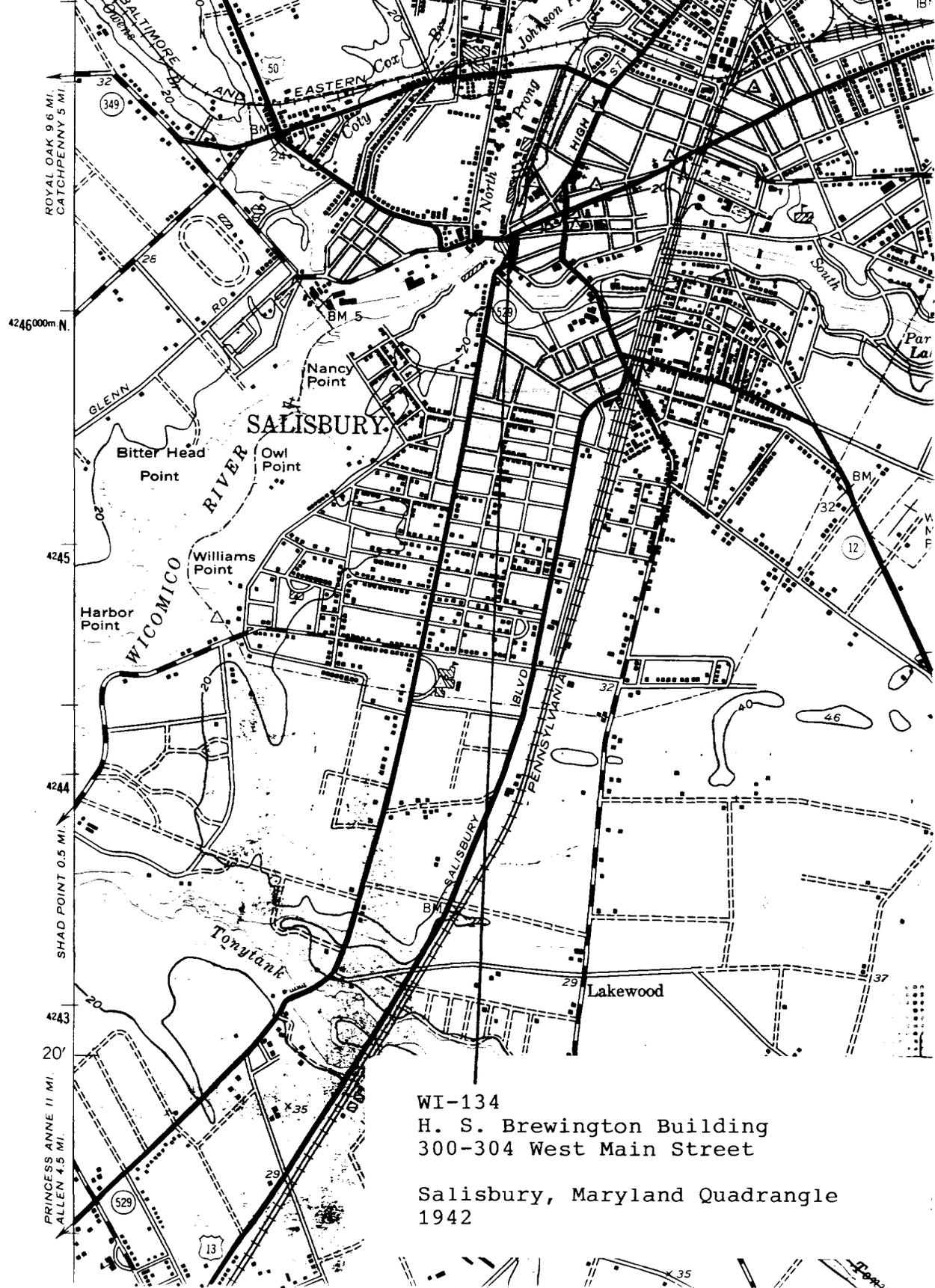
WI-134
H. S. Brewington Building

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877

5860 1 NW
(HEBRON)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

75°37'30" CAMBRIDGE 31 MI. VIENNA 15 MI. 447000m E 13 LAUREL 13 MI. DELMAR 6 MI. 35'



WI-134
H. S. Brewington Building
300-304 West Main Street

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942





Vol. 134

H. S. Blandford, Secretary,
Savannah, Wisconsin Co., 1892
North 115, 117, 119

5/29, Paul Taylor, Pittsburg, Mo.
1892/1893, 1894, 1895

2 of 4



WI-134

H. S. Greenwald Building,
Sears Building, Columbus Co., N.C.
Town: Moore 2121-2122

5/96 P.M. Forest, Columbus Co., N.C.
1000 J.M.D. Moore 2121-2122

7 of 4



SVI-134

H. S. BREWINGTON BUILDING

JALISBURY, WILMINGTON COUNTY, MD.

SOUTHERN - ELEVATION

5/99, PAUL TOWN, CHATEAUGRAND.

NOV. / DEC. 1854

4 OF 4

Ease ment

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

WI-134
MAGI# 2301344609

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

"Old Synagogue" Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

300-304 West Main Street

First

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Salisbury

VICINITY OF

Downtown

STATE

Maryland

21801

COUNTY

Wicomico

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

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

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

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

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

H. S. Brewington Heirs

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

c/o Ms. Sara Stevenson
5814 Hillburne Way

CITY, TOWN

Chevy Chase

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 20015

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Wicomico County

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Main & Division Streets

CITY, TOWN

Salisbury

STATE

MD 21801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wicomico County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

February, 1981

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis,

STATE

Maryland

7 DESCRIPTION

WI-134

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 <u>2/5/81</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The "Old Synagogue" building is located in the downtown area of Salisbury on the corner of Market and West Main Streets (300-304 West Main Street).

The facade of the late 19th century two-storied building is constructed of brick and accented with an octagonal wooden turret on the northeast corner. The turret's bell-shaped roof is covered with slate and topped with a bronze finial. The building has a Mansard-style slate roof accented with decorative brackets and moldings on the underside of the roof.

The building has nine Gothic windows with a keystone capping each window. The windows are currently boarded but it appears that they contain colored glass which is in good condition.

The building was originally constructed for use as a bank. Alterations on the first-floor windows have occurred since the original construction of the building. The interior of the building has also been altered to accommodate the various needs of its owners and tenants.

Pictures were taken in the summer of 1980 by the staff of The Maryland Historical Trust and should offer further visual evidence of the appearance of the structure. The staff's pictures were for the purpose of documenting the appearance of the structure in support of a \$30,000 interest-free loan from The Maryland Historical Trust.

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 checked="" 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 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 **May, 1892**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

T. M. Slemmons

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The "Old Synagogue" building is located at the corner of Market and West Main Streets on the Plaza in downtown Salisbury. This area is the focus of rehabilitation and reuse following a R/UDAT study which encouraged that the area be maintained as a traditional downtown area.

It is believed that the "Old Synagogue" building is a "key" structure which contributes significantly to the downtown area because of its architecture and its location. The vacant building has been purchased by the Wicomico Co. Historical Properties, Inc. with the hope of finding a purchaser in the near future who will restore the building and use it to attract consumers to the west end of the Plaza. This section of the Plaza is suffering from a lack of pedestrian traffic due to vacant lots and stores.

The occupants of the building have been varied, beginning on April 4, 1893, with the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Salisbury opening for business. The second floor was used as a Masonic Hall from 1894 to 1931. The Bank moved to a new location about October 20, 1904. Apparently, the first floor of the building remained empty until 1908 when the firm of Nock Brothers Gentlemen's Outfitting Emporium opened at the W. Main and Market (Dock) Streets address.

It is believed that Peninsula Trust Company might have occupied the first floor in May, 1911, after the Neck's firm closed.

By 1931 the three rooms on the first floor were occupied by stores, and the second floor was still identified as a Masonic Hall.

The Beth Israel Congregation began using the second floor of the building in 1932 and continued to hold their worship services there until they moved to the new synagogue at Camden Avenue and Wicomico Street in 1952. The Jewish congregation used the building longer than any other group who occupied it, hence, the name "Old Synagogue" building. Even though the masonic order used the building for many years, the fact that the Jewish congregation used it in more recent years is why the name has stuck.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

47' x 60' x 12.5' x 43.8'

Tax Map 18 of Salisbury

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

**South side of West Main Street
West side of Market Street
Bound on west by Feldman Investment Corp.
Bound on south by Don VonKollmar and alley**

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

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

N/A

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jacqueline F. Dianich, Anne Clay and Lucile Horsley, Members - MHT

ORGANIZATION

Wicomico County Committee

DATE

2/5/81

STREET & NUMBER

203 E. William Street

TELEPHONE

(301) 749-3696

CITY OR TOWN

Salisbury,

STATE

MD 21801

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

CHAIN OF TITLE

WI-134

300-304 West Main Street
(Southwest corner Main & Market Dock Sts.)
Salisbury, Maryland

- 1881
11/11 Samuel A. Graham and Robert F. Bratton, Trustees of Samuel Q. Parker, insolvent petitioner of Somerset County, sold to Christopher C. Trader, of Wicomico County, "that said parcel of land lying... on the southwest corner of Main and Dock Streets" adjoining the property of Amos W. Woodcock on Dock Street and B. L. Gilliss & Son on Main Street.
Liber SPT 4, f.349.
- 1886
10/17 Salisbury fire of 1886 destroyed all buildings on Main and Dock Streets.
- 1888
11/23 Deed to adjust angle of property line between Adaline Trader and Alison A. Gillis.
Liber FMS 4, f.115.
- 1891
10/1 Heirs of Adaline Trader, John White, administrator, conveyed to Henry S. Brewington lot on southwest corner of Main and Dock Sts.
Liber FMS 8, f.453.
- 1892
5/7 Description of building to be erected on above property:
"Work begun this week on a new building, corner of Main and Dock Sts., for H. S. Brewington. The structure will be 46x58 ft, two story, pressed brick finish and mansard roof. The first floor will be divided into three store rooms, one facing on Main street, one on Dock street and one on the corner. The second floor will be finished for an assembly room, with an 18 foot pitch. Mr. T. M. Slemons is the contractor."
Salisbury Advertiser, May 7, 1892, p.3, col.3.
- 1892
8/6 Henry S. Brewington to Edwina C. Brewington, his wife.
Liber JTT 9, f.119.
- 1924
10/4 Transfer from Edwina C. Brewington to Henry S. Brewington:
Lot at corner Main & Dock Streets with building, 47'x60'.
Assessment Record, District 8. 1924. Microfilm Reel 23, p74 &96.
- 1925 Will of Henry S. Brewington: Estate to his children and their survivors in trust until youngest grandchild attains age of 21, at which time the trust ceases and becomes vested in said child or children.
Wicomico County. Wills. Liber 1, f.275.
Baltimore City. Wills. Liber ERD 153, f.146.

Md. Dept. of Assessments & Taxation. Tax Map Division.
Property Maps of Wicomico County. City of Salisbury, Map 18.
1980

Scale: 1" = 100'

WI-134

13





WI-134

"Old Synagogue" Building
304 West Main St., Salisbury, Md.
Photo taken about

1960

This photograph may not be
reproduced without the writ-
ten permission of

WILLIAM W. WOOTEN,
323 Derryway Drive
Salisbury, Maryland

Photo number

View is facing west
with east and north
sides of structure
visible