

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes  no

Property Name: Salisbury Historic District Inventory Number: WI-145  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: Salisbury Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
County: Wicomico USGS Topographic Map: Salisbury  
Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Is the property being evaluated a district?  yes  
Tax Parcel Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Project: Section 106 Agency: HUD/CD  
Site visit by MHT staff:  no  yes Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Is the property is located within a historic district?  yes  no

*If the property is within a district* District Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
NR-listed district  yes Eligible district  yes Name of District: \_\_\_\_\_  
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource  yes  no Non-contributing but eligible in another context  yes

*If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)* Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible  yes  no

Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:  
federal files

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Prepared by: P. Fennell HUD/CD Date Prepared: 05/26/1983

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW**

Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended   
Criteria:  A  B  C  D Considerations:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  None  
MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

**Carla Burzyk (keeper)**

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

**June 02, 1983**

Date

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

2301452628

DOE yes no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic SALISBURY HISTORIC DISTRICT

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number Multiple Streets \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Salisbury \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Wicomico

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Multiple Owners

street & number telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code Maryland

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Courthouse liber

street & number folio

city, town Salisbury state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WI-145

**Condition**

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered

altered

**Check one**

original site

moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

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Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-145

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 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

### Builder/Architect

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.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-145

See Description

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone    Easting                      Northing

B 

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Zone    Easting                      Northing

C 

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D 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Kennedy Smith- Downtown Historic District Commission  
 Kim Kimlin- Maryland Historical Trust

organization	date

street & number	telephone

city or town	state

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  
 Shaw House  
 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 269-2438

Downtown Historic District  
City of Salisbury  
Wicomico County, Maryland

Location: The Downtown Historic District in Salisbury, Maryland is located south of U.S. Route 50 and north of the East Branch of the Wicomico River. It includes the following street addresses:

- |                             |                            |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 100-509 W. Main Street      | 100-block W. Lake Street   |
| 100-218 E. Main Street      | 105,221 Camden Street      |
| 100-block S. Baptist Street | 200 E. Church Street       |
| 200 Poplar Hill Avenue      | 121 E. Market Street       |
| 100-block W. Market Street  | 104-126 N. Division Street |
| 201 Small Street            | 100-block W. Church Street |

Representation in Existing Surveys: All properties are included in the locally-executed "Downtown Historic District Survey" prepared for the Downtown Historic District Commission.

Description: The district is located north of the East Branch of the Wicomico River. Portions of the southeastern quadrant of the district were once part of Humphrey's Lake which was reclaimed early in this century. The district is centered along Main Street (running east-west) and Division Street (running north-south), with smaller streets (Lake, Small, Mill, West Market, St. Peter's, Baptist, and Poplar Hill) intersecting Main Street.

Architectural density is high in the district, especially on West Main Street, with most of the buildings bordering directly onto the sidewalk and sharing bearing walls with neighboring buildings. On Main Street west of the river are several buildings, including a large warehouse, that front onto both Main Street and the Wicomico River. The segment of Main Street between West Market and Division Streets was closed to vehicular traffic, paved with brick, and landscaped in the mid-1960s. This segment is known as the "Plaza," and is flanked by tightly-packed commercial buildings. Three segments of buildings on East Main Street (the 100-block and 200-block on the south side, and the 200-block on the north side) are continuous units, later in date, but similar in scale, density, setback, and building materials to the older buildings on the Plaza. The 100-block on the north side of E. Main Street, however, has two large government buildings, the Wicomico County Courthouse and the Federal Building, which are set back from the street and relatively monumental in massing.

A major factor contributing to the district's cohesiveness is its physical orientation around Main Street and Division Street. Most of the buildings front onto Main Street and are one block in depth, with rear entrances on Camden, Church, and E. Market Streets.

The areas beyond these secondary streets lack cohesiveness and visual order. Along West Main Street are numerous two and three story vernacular commercial and Victorian commercial buildings. Several warehouses are located on the west side of the district and front onto both W. Main Street and the Wicomico River. Storefronts have been added to the street facades of several of the warehouses. The row of two and three story buildings on the south side of E. Main Street dates from the first quarter of the 20th Century. These classically-detailed buildings continue to serve their historic role as offices for lawyers and other professionals. Anchoring the east end of the district are two vernacular commercial buildings dating from the same early 20th Century period. These are the former shirt factory, which has been converted to retail use, and the former Red Star bus terminal. Brief descriptions of the most notable buildings in the district follow:

- 1). Wicomico County Courthouse      E. Main St. and N. Division St.  
Photos 2 and 4  
1878; three-story Victorian Gothic, red brick with mousetooth beltcourses between Tudor-arched windows; bell tower, slate roof and front porch. Large 1936 brick addition at rear with concrete classical detailing;
- 2). Thomas R. Young Music Co.      W. Main St. and W. Market St.  
Photos 18 and 19  
1887; three-story Victorian commercial, red-brick upper facade above ground floor granite piers framing large display windows with painted oak base panels and sashes. Upper floor windows are capped with limestone segmental arches. Elaborate corner entrance and roofline cornice;
- 3). "Old Synagogue Building"      W. Main St. and W. Market St.  
Photos 19 and 20  
1892; two-story Victorian Gothic, red-brick with limestone beltcourses between elaborate pointed-arch, second story windows. Corner entrance is capped with a projecting turret; restoration of first story currently underway;
- 4). G & K Warehouse      318 W. Main St.  
Photo 22  
1889; three-story vernacular warehouse fronting onto both Main Street and the Wicomico River. Third story was added c. 1900. Six bays of segmental-arched windows stretch across the Main St. facade;
- 5). Bridge Control Tower      W. Main St. and Wicomico River  
Photo 23  
1927; two-story Classical Revival tower with engaged corner pilasters resting on granite plinths. Copper roof is trimmed with a delicate dentil molding;

- 6). Wicomico Hotel Main St. and Division St.  
Photo 3  
c. 1915; seven-story Classical Revival brick hotel converted to offices with first-story storefronts. Engaged limestone pilasters separate the bays on the first story and support a limestone cornice above the storefronts. Seventh floor is elaborately trimmed with a limestone beltcourse, window surrounds and a large bracket-supported cornice. Prominent location, imposing size;
- 7). Old City Hall 110 W. Church St.  
1893; two-story Victorian Gothic brick building with large, limestone-trimmed windows, steep slate roof, asymmetrical massing, and an imposing bell tower capped with pointed turret;
- 8). St. Peter's Episcopal Church St. Peter's St. and W. Church St.  
Photo 1  
1887, 1923; brown brick basilica with Romanesque and Italianate detailing. Central sanctuary is flanked by buttressing side-aisles and pierced with large stained-glass clerestory windows. Entrance is provided by an adjoining belfry which extends above the roofline of the sanctuary. The church was modeled after the design of the Church of the Annunciation in Philadelphia. The congregation has worshipped at this corner site since 1768;
- 9). Maryland National Bank 200 W. Main St.  
Photo 14  
1929; two-story Art Deco bank with limestone facing, engaged corner pilasters, and a central opening with lotus-motif metal grille over glass within a frame of dark scagliola. Geometric ornamentation in shallow relief;
- 10). Shirt Factory E. Main St. and Poplar Hill Avenue  
Photos 8 and 9  
c. 1930; two-story commercial vernacular factory building with stucco-faced, first-story facade and red brick upper wall finish. Stretching 250 feet along E. Main Street, the building is divided into bays by brick piers;
- 11). Hayman's Pharmacy 501-507 W. Main Street  
Photo 26  
1930; two-story brick commercial vernacular structure fronting onto both W. Main Street and Lake Street, with an imposing corner entrance, flat surface detailing, and brick cornice;

Intrusions in the district include buildings that have suffered a severe loss of integrity through alteration and buildings that were built after the period of significance. Also intrusive is the non-historic open space, including the brick plaza in front of the Courthouse, vacant lots and parking lots.

Nearly all of the Plaza buildings have been altered on the first story with modern storefronts and signage. The buildings on West Main Street west of the Plaza are, with only two exceptions, original in appearance; however, these buildings have not been maintained as well as those on the Plaza and E. Main Street. The buildings east of the Plaza, generally retain their integrity and are in good condition. Several buildings in the district have recently been rehabilitated including the following: the former shirt factory on E. Main Street, which has been converted to a retail outlet center, Kuhn's Jeweler's (107 W. Main Street), the A.F. & A.M. Lodge (110 Division Street), 229 W. Main Street, and the City Hall Museum and Cultural Center (110 E. Church Street). A number of other rehabilitation projects are currently underway or proposed.

Boundary Justification: The Downtown Historic District is bounded by U.S. Route 301 on the north, modern development and parking lots on the east and south, and vacant lots and a residential area on the west.

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundaries of the district are shown on the attached map entitled "Downtown Historic District".

Significance: The Downtown Historic District in Salisbury, Maryland, is significant in the areas of architecture, commerce and government. Numerous commercial and public buildings which were constructed during the district's period of significance, 1878 to the 1930s, remain intact and in good condition. Architecture in the district conforms to the general stylistic conditions of the period, ranging from the 1878 Victorian Gothic Courthouse to the two Art Deco bank buildings on the Plaza. The district is characterized by Victorian, Classical Revival and vernacular commercial buildings. From the early 18th Century, Salisbury, by virtue of its location at the head of the Wicomico River served as the primary shipping point for agricultural products from the hinterland. The Pennsylvania Railroad provided a second means of transport in the 19th Century and connected Salisbury to nearby towns and cities, and Philadelphia. Concurrent with its development as a shipping center, the city expanded as a service center for the surrounding agrarian region. Eleven years after Wicomico County was created in 1867, the Courthouse was completed in Salisbury, the new county seat. The downtown became the center for municipal and county business and, following the construction of the Federal Building in 1926, several regional offices for federal agencies were established in the City as well. In summary, the district is the visual expression of the City's historical development, from the construction of warehouses for river-based enterprises, to the development of a self-supportive retail cluster, to the construction of law offices and key government buildings, and to the development of several small-scale industries.

History and Support: When the City of Salisbury was incorporated in 1732, the current downtown area was locally known as "Handy's Landing," a dock area. The presence of the Wicomico River and Humphrey's Lake, adjoining the river on the east, was a valuable asset and the docks became an important spot for local trade. According to City records five streets had been laid out by 1817: Dividing Street (dividing Somerset and Worcester Counties), Somerset and Worcester Road (connecting the two counties), Bridge Street, Back Street, and Church Street. Although no buildings survive from this early era, these streets remain, now known respectively as Division Street, Isabella Street, Main Street, Camden Street and Church Street.

In the mid-19th Century, the downtown area attained local and regional prominence. The dock area, whose growth was recognized by the designation of Dock Street in the 1830s, became an important transportation mode, and even as rail transport developed later in the century, the water transport business continued to prosper in Salisbury (~~to the present~~). Initially, farm and marine products were the primary cargoes, but by the 1840s, a number of flour, lumber and lime mills had developed in the area expanding the base of goods exported from Salisbury. Retail shops were constructed along Bridge Street (Main Street) between Division and Dock Streets, forming a corridor of densely-packed, two-story frame buildings. North of Church Street was Isabella Street which was the core of the residential area.

The 1860s and 1870s were years of tremendous change for the area. In 1860 a disastrous fire completely destroyed the City's commercial center. Buildings were rebuilt immediately following the previous pattern. In 1867, the creation of Wicomico County from portions of Worcester and Somerset Counties, and the selection of Salisbury as its county seat spurred another period of active growth. By 1878, the new County has raised \$25,000.00 for the construction of a courthouse and it was built at the corner of E. Main Street and Division Street.

The Sanborn Insurance Maps of 1885 show the area as a well-populated and thriving one, with residential and commercial buildings along Main Street. In 1886, however, another fire again destroyed all of the buildings in the downtown area with the exception of the Courthouse (~~see Photo 2~~). This time more fire-resistant construction materials, such as brick, stone and iron, were used in the rebuilding. By late 1887 the Wicomico Weekly News reported on several businesses reopening on Main Street including the L.W. Gunby Hardware Co, the Merchants Hotel, the Farmers and Merchants Bank, Ullman's Opera House, and about two dozen smaller businesses (~~see Photo 3~~). The Victorian Gothic-style City Hall was constructed in 1896. It housed the fire company on the first story and city offices on the second story.

In the 1910s, portions of Humphrey's Lake were reclaimed and the remainder of the lake was re-routed as a branch of the Wicomico River. Main Street was extended east beyond Division Street, and the construction of a row of buildings for law offices serving the Courthouse commenced. The erection of the seven-story Wicomico Hotel during this period reflects Salisbury's regional prominence. The Federal Building was erected on E. Main Street in 1926 and a wing was added to the Courthouse in 1936. During the 1920s and 1930s, the lots further east on Main Street were developed, primarily by the Larmar Corporation, for commercial and small-scale industrial enterprises including the shirt factory and the Red Star Bus Terminal.

Improvements in communication and transportation in the mid-20th century led to decentralization of commercial and residential activities. More specifically, two major U.S. highways, suburban housing developments and a shopping mall were constructed outside of the downtown area of Salisbury. In an attempt to compete with the mall, the downtown Plaza was created in the 1960s. The latest revitalization efforts for the downtown include the designation of a locally-zoned historic district and the establishment of a local historic district commission.

Prepared by: Ms. Kennedy Smith for the Downtown Historic District Commission and the City of Salisbury

Edited by: Ms. Kim Kimlin, Maryland Historical Trust  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

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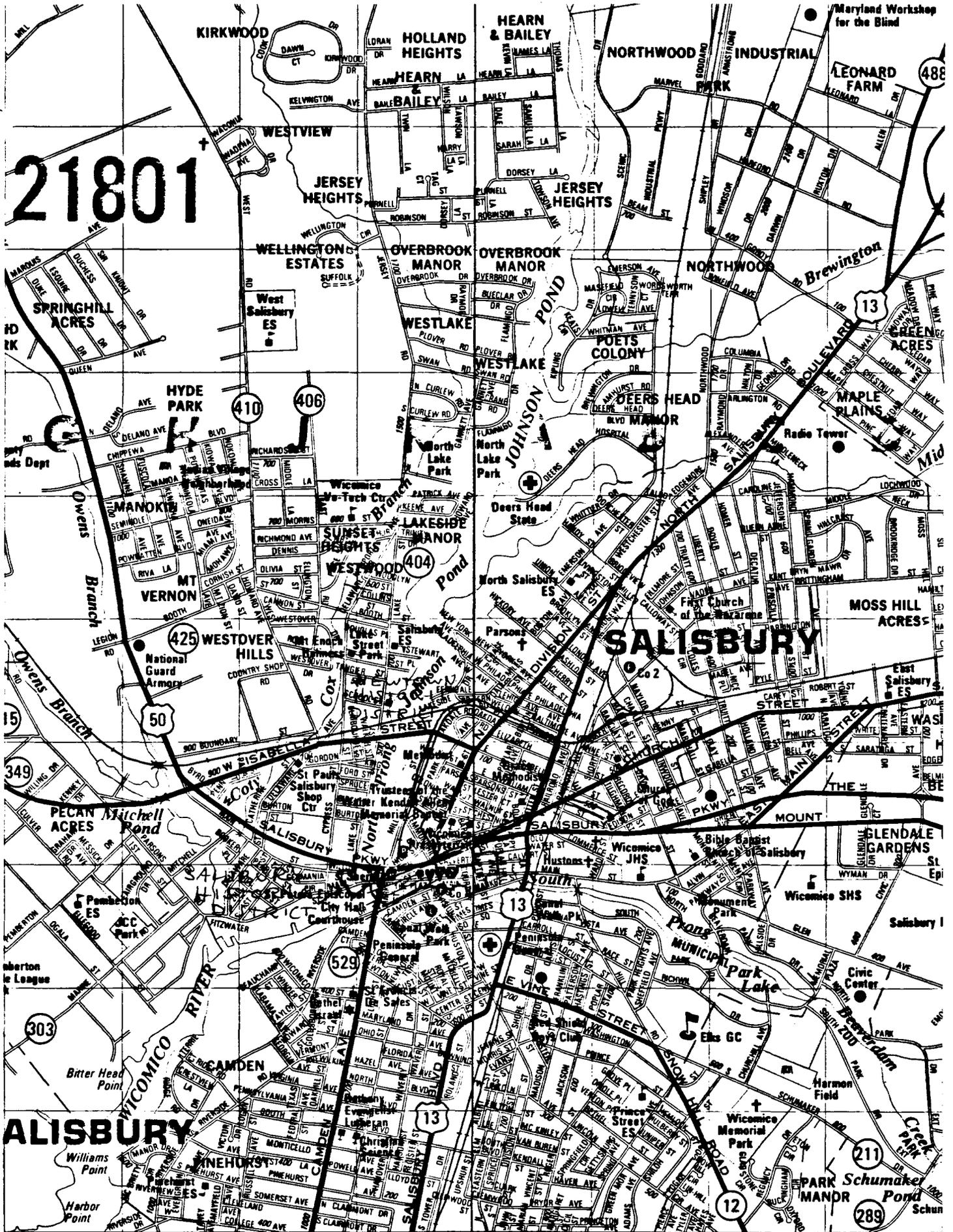
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21801

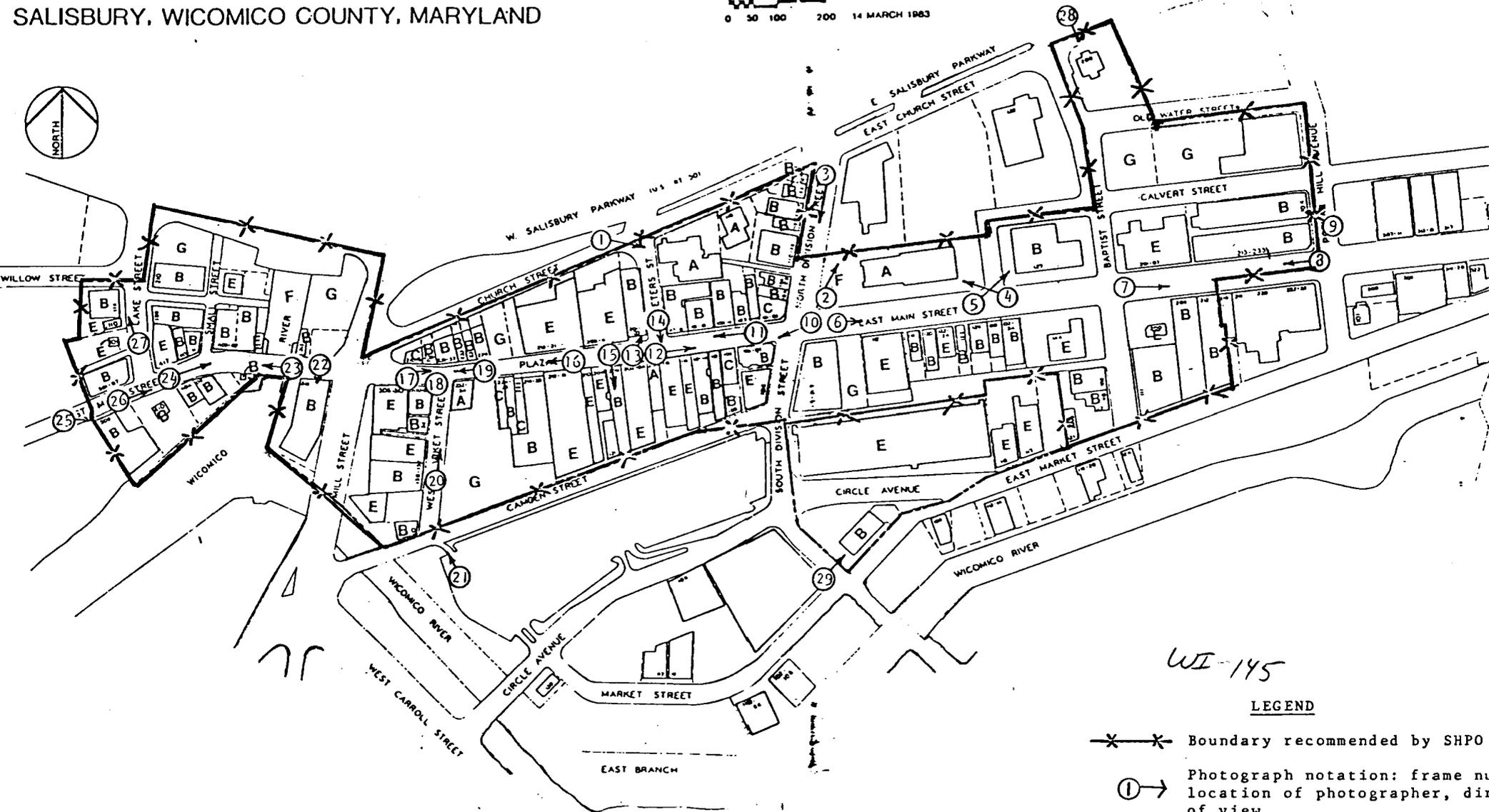
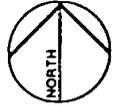


WL-145 Salisbury Historic District  
 APC WICOMICO COUNTY STREET MAP

# DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

SALISBURY, WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

0 50 100 200 14 MARCH 1983



WI-145

LEGEND

- \*-x\*-x Boundary recommended by SHPO
- ① → Photograph notation: frame number, location of photographer, direction of view
- A Coding system (see reverse)

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.  
VIENNA 15 MI.

447000m E

LAUREL 13 MI.  
DELMAR 6 MI.

35'

ROYAL OAK 9.6 MI.  
CATCHPENNY 5 MI.

4246000m N

4245

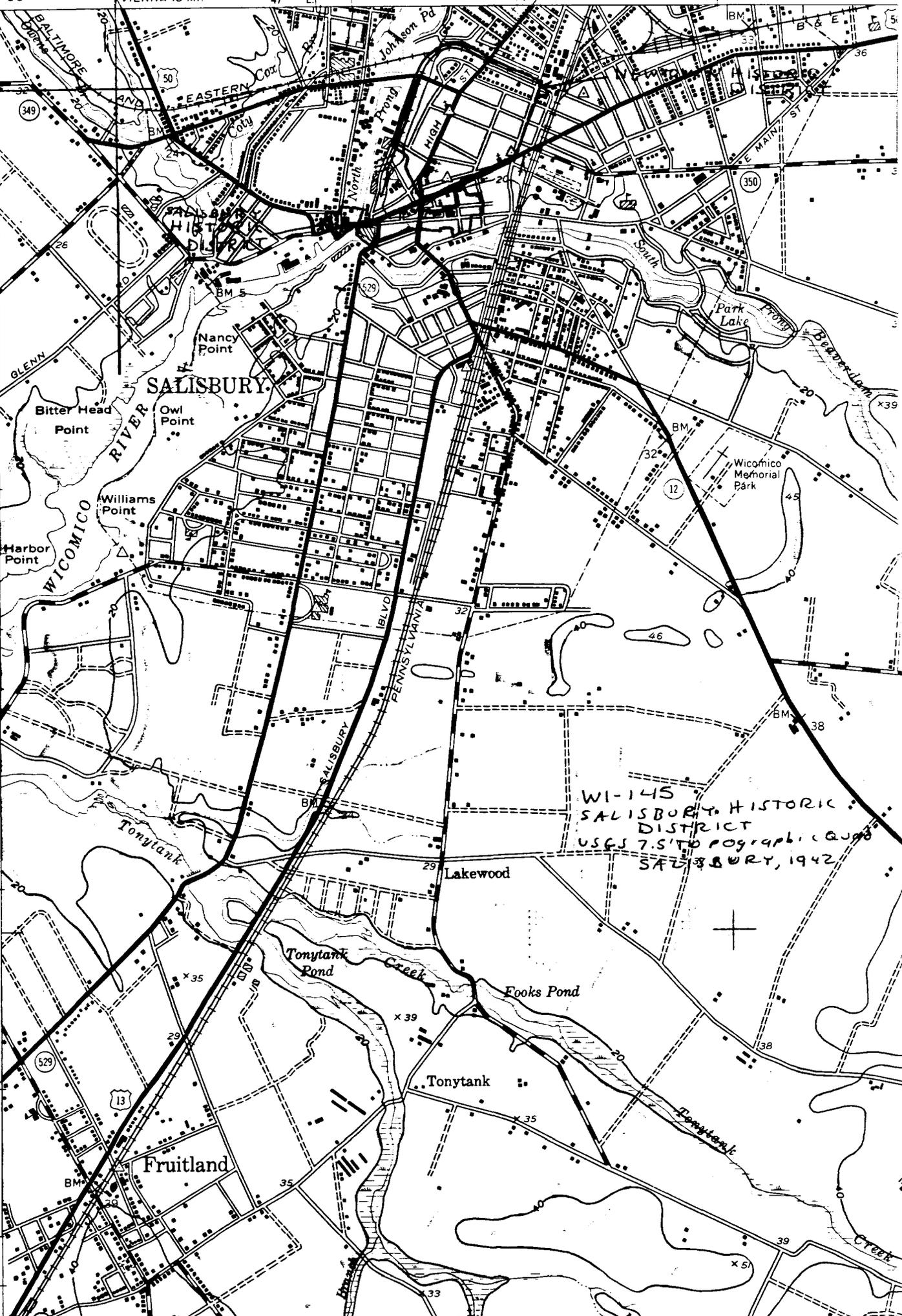
4244

4243

20'

PRINCESS ANNE 11 MI.  
ALLEN 4.5 MI.

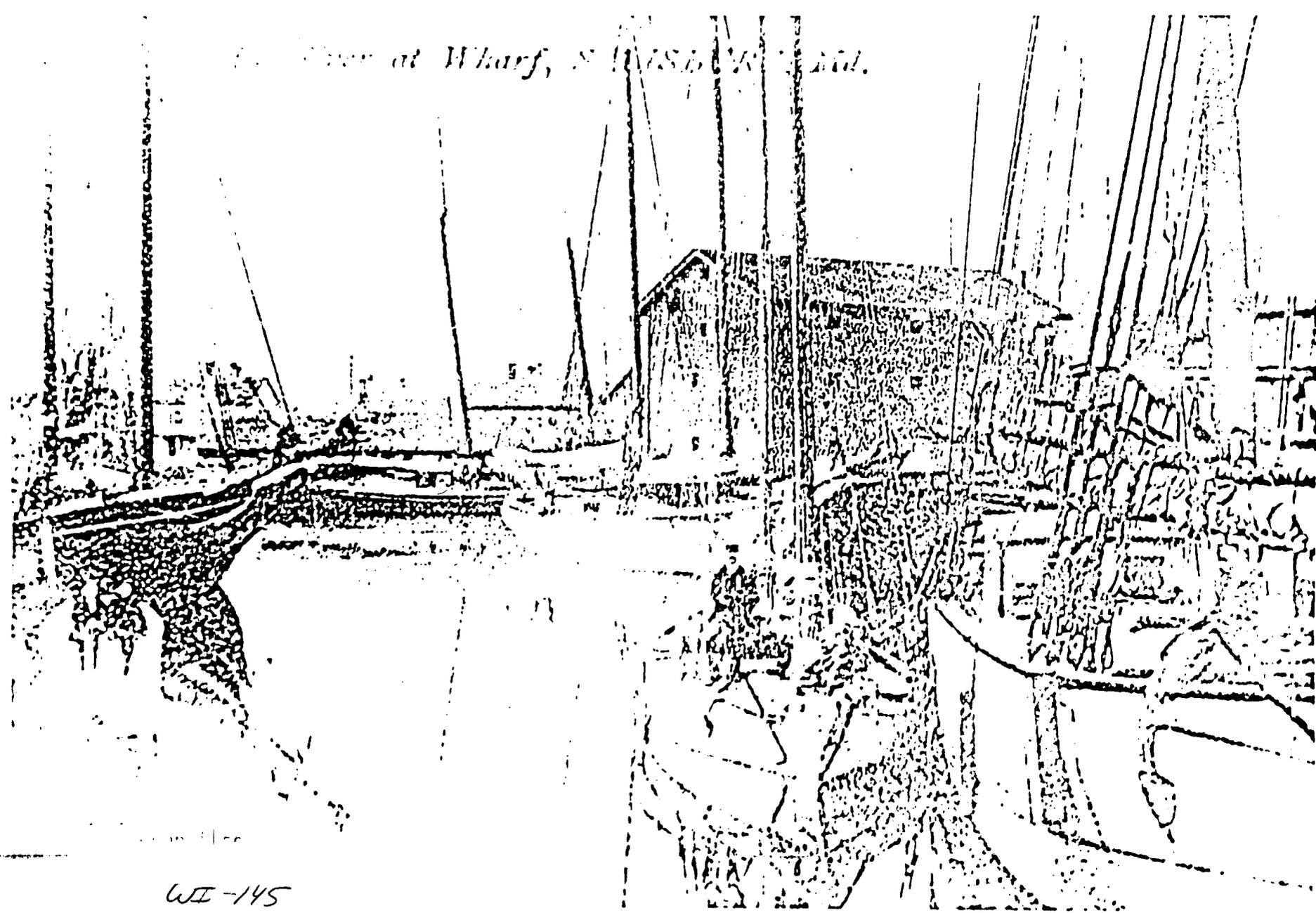
PRINCESS ANNE 9 MI.  
DEN 2.1 MI.



WI-145  
SALISBURY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
USGS 7.5 TOPOGRAPHIC QUAD  
SFB SALISBURY, 1942



View at Wharf, S. 1856 W. 1st St.



WI-145

Photo A : Wicomico River, c. 1900



WI-145

Photo B: Main Street after



Photo C: Main Street in 1895

WI-145



PHOTO 3: Main Street, 1981.

WI-145



PHOTO 2: Main Street in 1895.

WI-145



PHOTO 4: Vernacular Victorian  
storefront  
(239-241 W. Main St.)

WI-145



PHOTO 5: 1910s law offices  
(128-134 E. Main St.)

WI-145



PHOTO 6: Shirt Factory  
(E. Main & Poplar Hill)

WI-145

WI-145



PHOTO 8: 200 W. Main St., 1981.



PHOTO 1: Main Street after  
1886 fire

WI-145

view on Wicomico River at Wharf, SALISBURY, Md.

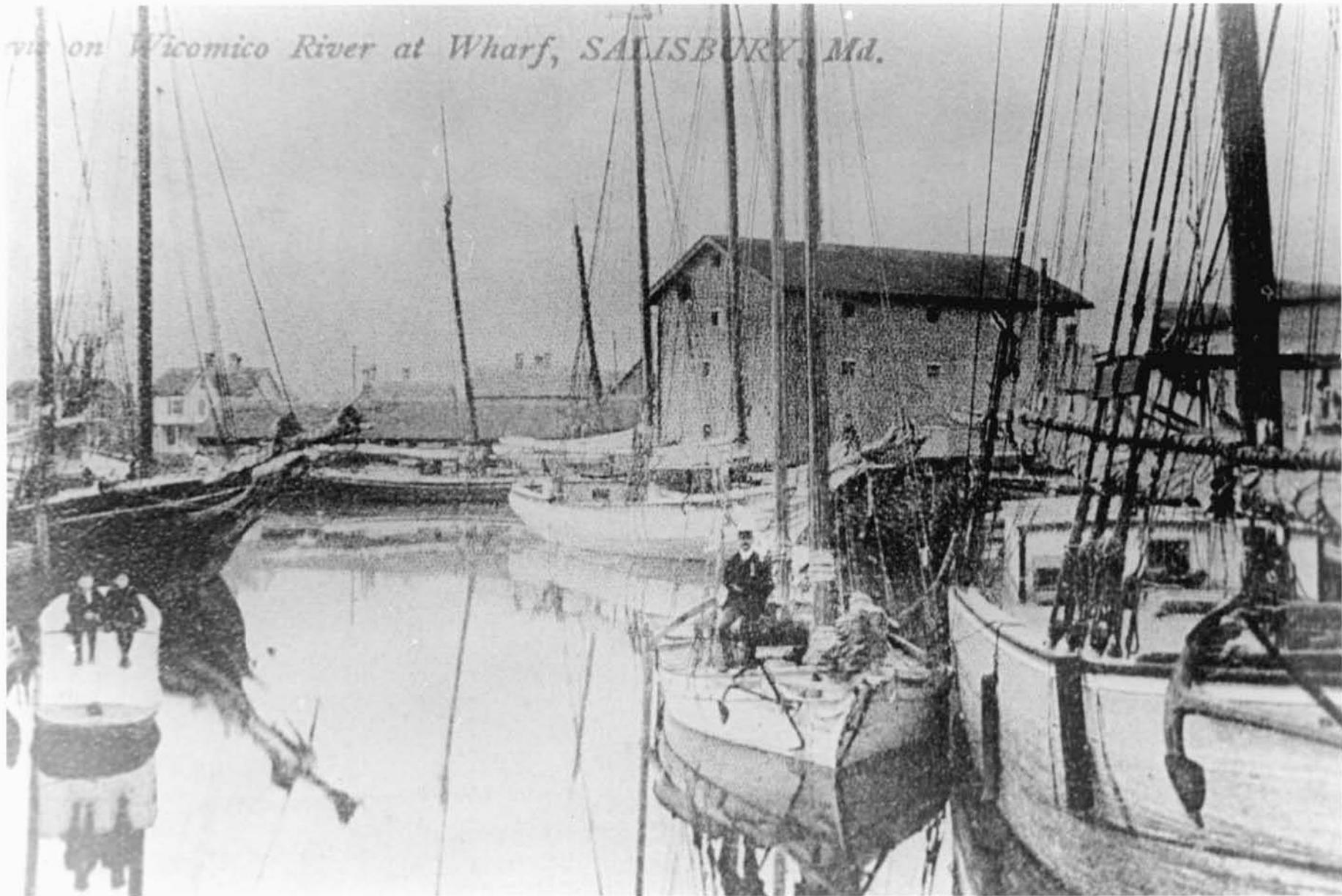


PHOTO 9: Wicomico River, c. 1900

WI-145



WI-145



PHOTO 7: 232-234 W. Main St.  
(top: 1888  
bottom: 1981)



PHOTO 10: Boulevard Theater