

WI-257
R. K. Truitt Building
Salisbury
Private

1887

An intricately executed brick facade distinguishes the R. K. Truitt building from other buildings that stand along West Main Street in Salisbury's historic commercial district. Eight brick pilasters define the five-bay facade and flank large segmental arched window openings. White marble beltcourses, contrasting with the reddish brown pressed wall brick, serve as the window sills. Raised brick corbelling accents the segmental arches that span each window opening. The top of the wall is distinguished by a heavy cornice that repeats the undulating nature of the pilastered front wall surface. The first floor storefront date from the second quarter of the twentieth century.

The construction of this building is closely dated to the spring of 1887 by short news items in the *Salisbury Advertiser*. On March 19, 1887, the newspaper announced that

R. K. Truitt & Sons have contracted with Messrs. Drain & Abdell to erect a press brick front building on their lot on Main St., 42 feet front and extending back 53 feet. The building will be three stories high above ground and will have stone trimmings and cathedral windows.

Less than a month later, the newspaper declared that the foundation of the R. K. Truitt building had been laid. The 1888 Sanborn Insurance map indicates that it was occupied on the drugstore on the west side and a clothing, boot, and shoe store on the east. The property was involved in a Circuit Court settlement and ultimately sold at auction in 1906 to the highest bidder, Daniel J. and Anne S. Whealton. Shortly afterwards the Whealtons conveyed the title to their daughter, Floy T. Watson, in whose family the property remained until the early 1960s.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: R. K. Truitt Building

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-257

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

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-257

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic R. K. Truitt Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 235 West Main Street not for publication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
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input 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 checked="" 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 Terry R. and Jill D. Sell

street & number P. O. Box 2142 telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21802

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107. p. 1017
 liber 1011

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 545

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-257

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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Historically identified as the R. K. Truitt building, the three-story, five-bay brick commercial block is located at 235 West Main Street in the central business district of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The building faces south.

Erected in 1887, the three-story, five-bay brick block is flanked on each side by contemporaneous commercial structures, and the building extends to the south side of West Church Street. The pressed brick, stretcher and common bond brick buiding is covered by a low sloping shed roof. Attached to the rear wall is a shed roofed frame addition.

The south (main) facade is comprised of an altered first floor front and original (1887) second and third floors. The first floor is defined by a center entrance that provides access to an enclosed staircase leading to the upper floors, whereas the adjacent bays are defined by recessed entrances and flanking display windows. The first floor alterations were probably erected around 1940. Immediately above the first floor storefront is a marble beltcourse remaining from the original late nineteenth century construction. Rising atop the marble beltcourse is a series of eight brick pilasters that flank the window openings on the first and second floors. The pilasters, decoratively finished with paneled fronts, rise to a heavy cornice. The center bay is defined by paired six-over-six sash windows set within a segmental arched opening accented with corbelled brick. The adjacent second floor window openings have nine-over-nine sash and are treated with the same raised brick segmental arches. Fixed between the first and second floor are horizontal panels of molded terra cotta block. Stretching across the wall surface at the level of the second floor window header is a brick stringcourse.

The third floor is similarly treated. A marble beltcourse, which serves as the window sill for each window opening, stretches across the entire front. A paired set of six-over-six sash windows is located in the center bay and the other bays are filled with nine-over-nine sash windows. Each window opening is finished with a raised brick header that follows the line of the segmental arch. The top of the front wall is pierced by rectangular louvered vents that are centered above each window opening. The cornice is finished in an elaborate fashion as it breaks forward with each wall pilaster. A dented bed molding and a bold crown molding are topped by a low parapet wall that follows the design of undulating cornice.

The east and west sides of the building are completely covered by adjacent commercial blocks. The rear (north) wall is partially covered on the first and second floors by a shed roofed, frame addition. The third floor of the brick commercial block is exposed and nine-over-nine sash windows are topped by segmental arches. A corbelled brick cornice finishes the top of the wall.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-257

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"/> 500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1887 **Builder/Architect** Contractors, Drain & Abdell

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.

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Due to the elaborate nature of the south facade and its well preserved condition, this building deserves listing in *Category A*, which identifies buildings that must be preserved due to their architectural and historical significance.

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SIGNIFICANCE 8.1

R. K. Truitt Building, WI-257

235 West Main Street

Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Footnotes

1 *Salisbury Advertiser*, March 19, 1887, Wicomico County Free Library.

2 *Salisbury Advertiser*, April 9, 1887, Wicomico County Free Library.

3 Sanborn Insurance Map Company, 1888, Salisbury, Maryland State Archives.

4 Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 52/479, November 12, 1906.

5 Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 522/288, Wicomico County Courthouse.

WI-257
R. K. Truitt Building
235 West Main Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 1017

1011/545 G. Robert Miller

to

4/23/1984 Terry R. Sell
 Jill D. Sell

AS 953/565 Margaret J. Cooley

to

1/9/1981 G. Robert Miller

AS 889/438 Richard M. Cooley, et al.

to

12/10/1977 Margaret J. Cooley

WI-257
R. K. Truitt Building
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

EAT 52/479

James T. Watson, trustee
Daniel J. Whealton
Annie S. Whealton

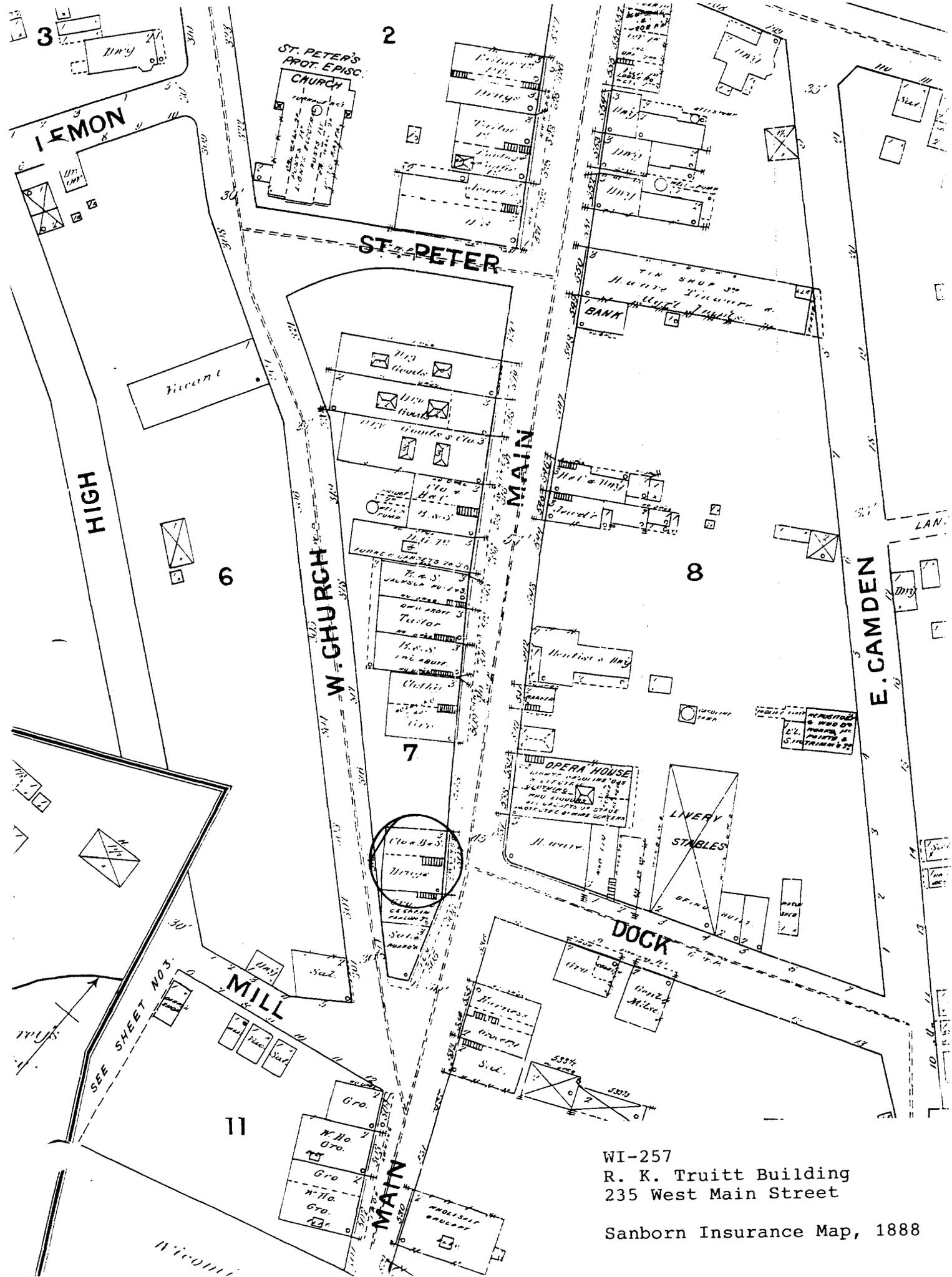
to

11/12/1906

Floy T. Watson

Decree of Circuit Court, 11/18/1905
James T. Truitt vs. Alice E. Collins et al.
No. 1587 in Chancery

\$6,500 sale to highest bidder, Daniel J. Whealton
and Anne S. Whealton, desire to give and
have given the said property to their
daughter Floy T. Watson



WI-257
 R. K. Truitt Building
 235 West Main Street
 Sanborn Insurance Map, 1888

WI-257
R. K. Truitt Building
235 West Main Street

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

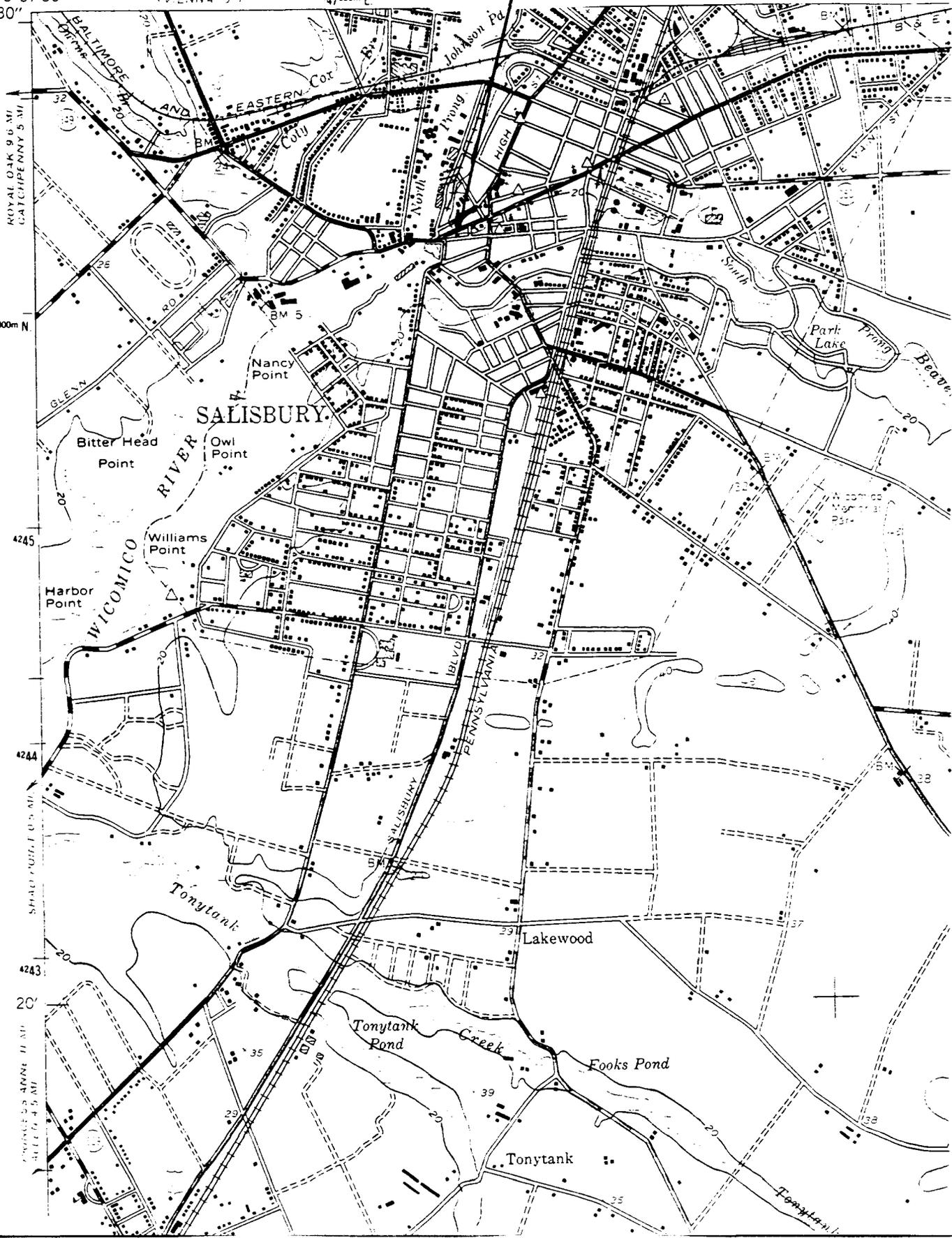
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

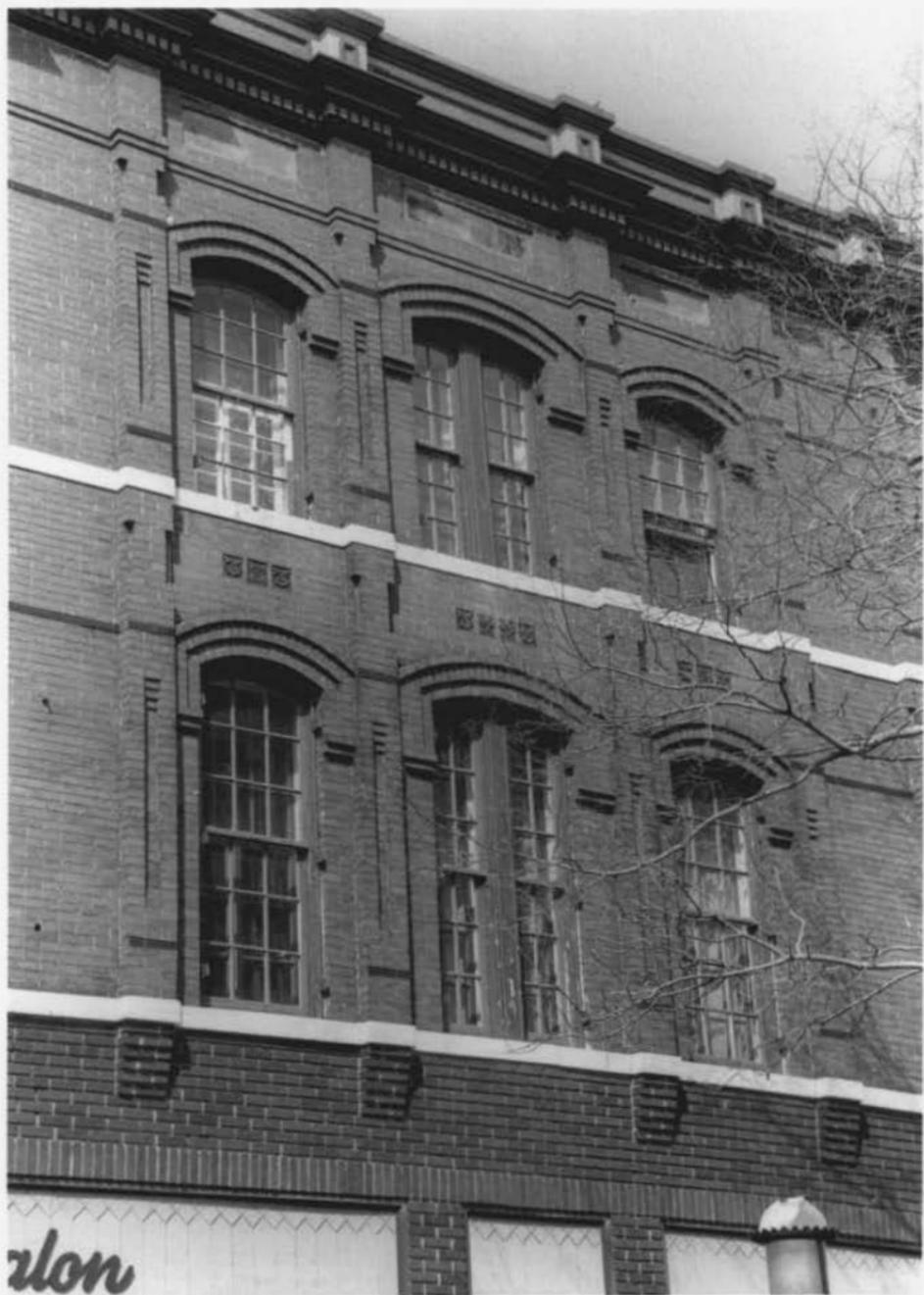
5860.1 NW
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"
38°22'30"

447000m E

4246000m N





ylon

Wt. 257

V. K. TRUITT BUILDING
SALISBURY, WICOMICO Co. MD.

Source ELEVATION

3/96, PAUL TOURRET, PHOTOGRAPHER
N.H. / MID HISTORICAL TRUST



W1-251

R K. TRUITT BUILDING
SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

3/96, PAUL TOUANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST



