

WI-258

c. 1880-1890

Thomas J. Truitt House  
Salisbury  
Private

Architectural details place the construction of this tee-shaped Gay Street house during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, probably around 1880-90. The asymmetrical front elevation, the two-story pavilion, the turned post front porch, and the extended eaves with stick brackets are common features for houses erected during the last decades of the nineteenth century.

The land record research on this house and lot indicates the Truitt family owned the property from March 1919 until October 1984. In March 1919 the house was moved from its original site on North Division to the east end of the same lot owned by St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church. An article that appeared on March 27 stated,

*Mr. Thomas J. Truitt has purchased from the Vestry of St. Peters Church the house and lot located on Gay street. This is the house which formerly stood on Division street and was moved back to occupy its present site. The lot purchased Mr. Truitt is about sixty-five feet on Gay street extending back around one hundred and seventy-five feet. We understand Mr. Truitt will make further improvements in the property to occupy it as a residence.*

Thomas J. Truitt advertised in the same paper his cemetery monument business, stating that he was a "manufacturer of FINE ITALIAN STATUARY." He also imported a host of monuments, headstones, tablets, vaults, and cemetery lot enclosures. His business was located on East Church Street.

The St. Peter's P. E. Church vestry had owned this parcel since 1873, when Benjamin Parsons stated in his will, "*Also I give and devise to said Vestry for the use of St. Peters Church in Salisbury, the Lot of ground in the rear and east of the Parsonage Lot.*" While a parsonage or rectory can be documented as early as the 1850s on the Division Street lot, the architectural details of the dwelling at 306 Gay Street indicate it was erected several decades later.



# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-258

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Thomas J. Truitt House

and/or common St. Peter's Church Rectory

## 2. Location

street & number 306 Gay Street  not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

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

name Darryl J. McJilton and Debra D. Baker

street & number 306 Gay Street telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107, P. 797  
liber 1350

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 67

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. WI-258

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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.

The Thomas J. Truitt house, also known as the Protestant Episcopal Church rectory, stands at 306 Gay Street in the center of the Newtown historic district in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, tee-shaped frame house faces east with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis. This house was relocated to this site in March 1919 from its original site on North Division Street.

Estimated to date around 1880-90, the two-story, three-bay frame house is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with a combination of plain weatherboards and fishscale shingles. The steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with slate shingles. Piercing the roofline are narrow single flue brick stove chimneys.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay facade with a projecting cross-wing of the tee-plan house facing the street. The two-story, gable-front wall is dominated by a two-story, three-sided bay pierced by single-pane sash windows on each floor. Between the first and second floors the pavilion is sheathed with fishscale shingles. The top of the pavilion is covered by a cross-gabled shed roof, and decorative brackets enrich the soffit of each corner. The gable end is covered with fishscale shingles, and center in the wall is a replacement attic window. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave and open soffits.

The entrance is sheltered by a single-story turned post porch with a turned baluster handrail. The partially glazed door is topped by a two-pane transom, and the adjacent bay is filled with a single-pane sash window. The second floor is lighted by two single-pane sash windows.

The north wall is a single bay deep with a single-pane sash window on the first and second floors. The gable end is covered with fishscale shingles and pierced by a replacement window. The extended eave features a stick bracket at the base of the roof.

The south side of the tee-shaped house is four bays across with single-pane sash windows lighting the first and second floors.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

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

Architectural details place the construction of this tee-shaped Gay Street house during the third quarter of the nineteenth century, probably around 1880-90. The asymmetrical front elevation, the two-story pavilion, the turned post front porch, and the extended eaves with stick brackets are common features for houses erected during the last decades of the nineteenth century.

The land record research on this house and lot indicates the Truitt family owned the property from March 1919 until October 1984. In March 1919 the house was moved from its original site on North Division to the east end of the same lot owned by St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church. An article that appeared on March 27 stated,

*Mr. Thomas J. Truitt has purchased from the Vestry of St. Peters Church the house and lot located on Gay street. This is the house which formerly stood on Division street and was moved back to occupy its present site. The lot purchased Mr. Truitt is about sixty-five feet on Gay street extending back around one hundred and seventy-five feet. We understand Mr. Truitt will make further improvements in the property to occupy it as a residence.<sup>1</sup>*

The vestry had owned this parcel since 1873, when Benjamin Parsons stated in his will, "Also I give and devise to said Vestry for the use of St. Peters Church in Salisbury, the Lot of ground in the rear and east of the Parsonage Lot."<sup>2</sup> While a parsonage or rectory can be documented as early as the 1850s on the Division Street lot, the architectural details of the dwelling at 306 Gay Street indicate it was erected several decades later.

The house is a significant example of a mid-size late nineteenth century dwelling with much of its original exterior fabric intact.

The property deserves listing in *Category A*.

<sup>1</sup> *Salisbury Advertiser*, March 27, 1919.

<sup>2</sup> *Wicomico County Will Book*, WB 111/120, proved 20 June 1873.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage 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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E 

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F 

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G 

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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 Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant date 3/29/98

street & number P. O. Box 5 telephone 410-651-1094

city or town Westover state Maryland 21871

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~~

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST**  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

WI-258  
Thomas J. Truitt House  
306 Gay Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 797

1350/67                      Todd W. Stringer  
   Dana M. Stringer

to

Darryl J. McJilton  
Debra D. Baker

1039/367                      Russell Homer Lawson

to

6/28/1985                      Todd W. Stringer  
   Dana M. Stringer

A J S 1024/174                      May Hatton Truitt, et al. (Ruth Truitt vanHulsteyn,  
   widow of the City of Baltimore)

to

10/12/1984                      Russell Homer Lawson

Being the same property that was conveyed to May  
Hatton Truitt, widow (who died March 20, 1958)  
Ruth vanHulsteyn, widow, May H. Truitt, single and  
Helen Truitt (later Helen Truitt Lawson, who died  
October 27, 1945)

WI-285 25 8  
Thomas J. Truitt House  
306 Gay Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

272/371 Myrtle McDaniel, single  
to  
10/27/1945 Lydia May Hatton Truitt, Helen A. Truitt, Ruth Truitt  
vanHulsteyn, May Hatton Truitt  
272/370 May Hatton Truitt, widow  
to  
10/27/1945 Myrtle McDaniel  
JCK 112/310 Vestry and Warden of Salisbury Parish of the  
Protestant Episcopal Church  
to  
3/19/1919 May Hatton Truitt, widow  
Thomas J. Truitt

*Salisbury Advertiser*, March 27, 1919

Mr. Thomas J. Truitt has purchased from the Vestry of St. Peters Church the house and lot located on Gay street. This is the house which formerly stood on Division street and was moved back to occupy its present site. The lot purchased by Mr. Truitt is about sixty-five feet on Gay street extending back around one hundred and seventy-five feet. We understand Mr. Truitt will make further improvements in the property or occupy it as a residence. The Division street lot belonging to the Vestry adjoining the property of Mr. R. D. Grier and having a frontage of 55 feet on Division and extending back at least one hundred and seventy five feet, will be sold by the Vestry at the first opportunity. It is understood tha several customers are now looking at this property with a view of purchasing it. It is one of the most desirable lots on Division St.

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Thomas J. Truitt House  
306 Gay Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 3

WB 111/120

Last Will and Testament of Benjamin Parsons

Proved  
6/20/1873

Item 5 I give and devise to the Vestry of Spring Hill Parish of the P. E. Church for the use of St. Peter's Church Salisbury my lot of Ground in Wicomico county on the road to Laurel Delaware from Salisbury where my family burying ground is, reserving the following part thereof to wit; the grave yard now enclosed to be extended thirty feet westward and northward and southward until it is ninety feet wide and eastward to the County Road, for graveyard purposes, and the same to be free fro the use of said Church if the Vestry so desires

Item 5 Codicil No. 4

I give to the Vestry as aforesaid and for uses as aforesaid the sum of six hundred dollars in money to be paid by my executors to said Vestry. Also I give and devise to said Vestry for the use of St. Peters Church in Salisbury, the Lot of ground in the rear and east of the Parsonage Lot, It being the same lot that I purchased from the Vestry of Spring Hill Parish

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Thomas J. Truitt House  
306 Gay Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 4

TF, Jr. 2/115

Benjamin Parsons and Martha Parsons

to

8/23/1869

John White and others, Vestrymen of Spring Hill Parish  
(Benjamin Parsons, John White, William Waller, George  
Waller, Milton Parsons, Thomas F. J. Rider, William H.  
Farrington, John E. Harris)

\$450 ...it being a part of Ground a part of the purchase  
made from James M. Fooks dated 8 May 1856  
joining the Episcopal Church parsonage on the  
East for said Ground beginning at the South  
East side & corner of the E. P. Lot running  
Parson's line Easterly 245 feet to the Street  
intended to be opened thereon Northerly with  
said Street 54 feet thence Westerly to the S. E.  
corner or near by Parson's old barn

306 Gay St.  
Salisbury, Md.

Dec. 15, 1977

Dear Mary:

I have made the effort and have at last found out some history of our house (306 Gay St.) It was the rectory of St. Peter's Church, and was located on North Division Street, where the Webb house stands now, beside your home. In March, 1919 it was moved back/to <sup>from Division</sup> St. Gay Street and turned around so that it faces Gay Street. My father bought the house on March 19, 1919, and we have lived in it every since. There is a record of the deed in the Wicomico County Court House.

I went to the Maryland Room in the Wicomico County Library and found the following in Polly White Burnett's book "A Bi-centennial Anniversary History of Saint Peter's Church, Salisbury, Maryland" on page 14 . "When the Rev. William Fulton arrived in the Parish in December 1869 he and his large family moved into a Parish-owned rectory on Division St. near Parson's Alley. The carriage house in the rear had been converted into a Parochial School". I do not know, and have not been able to find out when the rectory was built, but it was in existence in 1869, making it over 100 years old.

I have heard several very old people in Salisbury talk about the school that was located about where our house stands now. It was moved and is on the property we own on the corner of Mill & Isabella Streets. It is over a hundred yrs. old and should be recorded as one of the old buildings in Salisbury.

Helen and I are anxious that this history be recorded in the proper place in the Newtown Association.

Sincerely

*May H. Truitt*

May H. Truitt  
Helen H. Lawson

*Helen H. Lawson*



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Worcester  
Corsets

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THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 1919.

### LOCAL AFFAIRS

—Mr. Augustus Towdine of R. E. Small & Co., of New York, this week selecting ladies' suits, coats, and pelmans.

—Mr. and Mrs. John S. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest L. Adkins visited Mr. and Mrs. John W. Pryor near Eden Sunday.

—The Bake by the Junior Guild of St. Peter's Church will be held Saturday in the store room formerly occupied by Levin D. Collier, on Division street.

—Miss Margie Henman of Snow Hill has entered the Training School for Nurses of the Peninsula General Hospital. Her elder sister, Miss Annie Henman, who is a graduate of the Peninsula General Hospital and has been very successful.

—A pamphlet edition of Dr. Heron's lecture has been issued from the press of the Maryland Tribune and is on sale at the news stands. The net proceeds from the sale of these pamphlets will be contributed to the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Fund.

—Don't forget to see "Tom Thumb Wedding" presented by the Willard School, Friday evening, March 29th. Seventy-five bright children thoroughly trained by the C. A. Rose Co., of Kansas City, expect to participate. Admission 20 and 25 cents.

—Soldiers, sailors and marines already discharged and who are entitled to the Sixty dollar bonus should apply for same by sending their certificate to the following address: Solicits of honorable discharge from the Bldg; Marine Corps Headquarters. All at Washington, D. C.

—The summer daylight schedule will be again inaugurated at midnight Sunday March 30th. Congress adjourned at the hour of noon Tuesday, without any attempt to repeal the act which makes compulsory the setting forward of clocks one hour at midnight on the last Sunday in the month of March.

—Mrs. Horace Mitchell had as her week-end guests, Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Kennedy and Wm. Clendaniel of Kennedyville, Miss Maude Wimbrow and Miss Mary Bennington of Baltimore, Messrs. Peter S. Wimbrow recently from overseas, Lafayette Wimbrow, Dewey Rector and Luther Gordy, of Salisbury.

—During the Automobile Show last week, Mr. Johnson, of the Tire Shop, for Swinehart Tires, gave several demonstrations of the quality of these tires on the streets of Salisbury, by towing a large touring car with one of the standard inner tubes of the Swinehart make. The demonstration attracted considerable attention.

—Lieutenant John Gunby, son of Mr. L. W. Gunby, of this city, arrived home from France last week, landing at Newport News. Lieutenant Gunby was in Salisbury for a few hours on Monday night and hopes to get furloughed for a short stay at home before his final discharge. He was one of the first volunteers from this county and has seen much service in Europe.

—On another page of this issue will be found the bank statements of the various financial institutions of Wicomico county and the showings made by these banks is certainly a

Information was announced by the Secretary of Treasury Chase, together with the fact that short-term notes maturing in not over five years would be issued instead of the longer term bonds. The amount of notes to be issued has not been announced, but it has been generally understood that the loan would be for a minimum of \$5,000,000,000, with the treasury reserving the right to accept all over-subscriptions.

—The re-opening of the Armory and its acceptance by the Governor, which had tentatively been set for the third of April, has been postponed at the request of a number of citizens who thought that this ceremony ought to take place after the return home of Company I and the other Wicomico county boys who are now serving in the army and navy. The decision was reached after Col. Charles R. Disharoon and other members on the arrangement committee had a talk with the committee that has in charge the celebration to be given our boys when they come home. This decision will meet with the approval of all concerned and will help to make both the home coming celebration and the opening of the Armory a greater success.

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### MARCH TERM OF COURT RECESSES SAT. MORNING

The Dockets Were Fairly Well Cleared—Court Opened in Worcester.

—The Circuit Court for Wicomico County which has been in session for two weeks recessed last Saturday, the Judges having to open Court in Snow Hill on Monday. The case of L. E. Jones vs. Elmer C. Williams, growing out of a suit of Mr. Jones against Mr. Williams for libel because of publications inserted in the columns of this paper, several months ago, was finished Friday night after occupying the attention of the Court for two and a half days. The Jury returned the verdict for the defendant. Ellegood, Freeny & Wallis represented Mr. Jones and Hon. Joshua W. Miles and Mr. F. Grant Goslee defended Mr. Williams.

—Saturday morning the case of William Short for assault and battery was taken up, the party pleading guilty and receiving a fine of \$25.00 and costs by the Court.

—Just before the Court closed Saturday morning, two boys were tried for larceny. Alvin Campbell was sentenced to one year in the Maryland House of Correction, while Millbourn Willing was paroled in the custody of his mother and two sisters, and especially in the custody of Thomas J. Mumford for a period of two years.

—The Petit Jury were all discharged on Saturday morning and it is not likely that the Court will be called in session again until the July term.

—The trial for damages in the case of George L. Powell vs. J. Ernest Shockley, which was to be tried at this term of Court, and which has been moved to Worcester County, will be tried at Snow Hill on Monday next. This case grew out of an accident in which Mr. Powell claims Mr. Shockley ran over

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Mr. E. W. Corty, Salisbury, Md.

My dear Mr. Corty:  
We certainly thank you for your very complete and clear report. I can understand that you have raised about as much money as you will likely succeed in raising. I know, however that you will do your very utmost to do what you can. From the report which you have given me, your total raised would be \$4,222.25. If you could make that about fifty or fifty-three hundred, we could arrange to credit the expense to our State Expense account, so that you would get the credit for \$5,000. It is possible that some money has been sent to New York before the Campaign which I can credit to you. This I will try to do.

Regarding the standing of Wicomico County with other counties of the State, a complete report will be published at a later date. At the present writing, Wicomico County out-ranks every county in the State. Worcester, Caroline, Washington, Anne Arundel, Prince Georges, Harford, Carroll, Frederick, Montgomery counties have raised their quota. Numerous of the other counties will do so by the time their campaigns is complete. To date Baltimore City has raised about \$78,000. Maryland is coming in every day, so that the report is not complete. Virtually all the counties of the State outstripped Baltimore City.

I want to thank you for the good work that you have done, the successful campaign that you have managed. We are entirely satisfied with the showing of Wicomico. It is one of the tremendous needs of the Near East which is growing more distressing that prompts us to encourage you to any further effort that you can make.

Cordially yours,  
JOHN W. MACK,  
Director.

### Delmar School Plans Being Selected

The School Board at a special session held last week went over plan and specifications for the new brick High School at Delmar. Because of the absence from the city of Mr. H. L. Brewington, a member of the Board, final decision on the plans was laid over for a few days, but another meeting will be held in the very near future to finally decide on the plans so as to advertise for bids on the construction of the building. The Board has an appropriation of about \$20,000 for this building, and the plans will show one of the most up-to-date high schools in the State, and we feel sure that the people of Delmar will be perfectly satisfied with their building when it is completed some time in the Fall. The County Commissioners made special effort to meet the demands of the citizens of Delmar who failed to get their building earlier as was the fate of several other communities in Wicomico, when the Bill to bond the county for the erection of these school houses failed to pass the Legislature last year.

## The Provident Company of

Organized  
Insurance In for Dec. 31,  
Total Insurance Assets, A  
net values, Dec. 31,  
Total Insurance Liability

WI-258

Thomas J. Truitt House  
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.  
VIENNA 15 MI. 447000m E.

