

WI-261
White & Leonard Building
Salisbury
Private

1887

The White & Leonard building, historically identified as the Joseph Bergen commercial block, is a prominent three-story, six-bay brick structure that anchors the northeast corner of West Main Street and St. Peter's Street in the center of Salisbury's historic business district. Dated to 1887 by an inscribed marble stone that is fixed above the third floor windows, the commercial block is distinguished by a pressed brick facade highlighted by two series of arched window openings that light the second and third floors. Marble keystones and impost blocks accent soldier course round brick arches. The top of the wall is finished with a bold corbelled brick cornice that rises in the center as a cross gable.

The chain of title research for this property traces its ownership back to 1869 and refers to it in various ways. The property, formerly the real estate of Oliver Tilghman and called the "Daniel Davis lot," was sold in that year to James Cannon for \$5,000. The 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas indicates a substantial structure improved the property, and eight years later the Sanborn Insurance map company documented that a combination house and store building was located here. However, on October 17, 1886, a fire that started in a livery stable on Dock Street spread throughout the entire downtown leveling every business and residential structure other than the eight-year old courthouse. Two months following the fire James and Lydia

Cannon sold their interest in the corner property to Joseph Bergen. The following spring, on March 26, 1887, the *Salisbury Advertiser*, announced that

Mr. J. Bergen is making preparations for building on the corner of Main and St. Peter's streets. His house will be of press brick front, two stories high, with mansard roof. It will front Main St. 45 feet and extend back 90 feet. Messrs. Abdell and Drain have the contract for erecting the building.

Sometime during the construction process, Joseph Bergen decided to extend his building three full stories instead of two. The 1888 Sanborn Insurance Company map indicates that the new Bergen building had a divided first floor with a stair rising in the center of the structure. On the east side was a jewelry store and on the west side was a drugstore. Three years following the construction of the new brick commercial block, the property was sold by trustee Robert P. Graham in the wake of a Circuit Court case. Albert Gottschalk purchased the Bergen building for \$8,100. The corner commercial block remained in Gottschalk family hands until 1911 when it was acquired by E. Riall White. The property has been the long-term location of the business of White & Leonard Office Supplies.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-261

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Joseph Bergen Commercial Block

and/or common White & Leonard Building

2. Location

street & number Northeast corner of West Main and St. Peter's ^{Streets} 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 Evelyn T. White, et al.

street & number 6603 Kilmarnoch Drive telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21228

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107, P. 1047
liber 1337

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 421

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-261

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.

Commonly known as the White & Leonard building, and historically identified as the Joseph Bergen building, the three-story, ell-shaped brick commercial block is located at the corner of West Main Street and St. Peter's Street on the downtown plaza of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The building faces south.

Erected in the spring of 1887, the three-story, six-bay commercial block extends deeply into the Main Street lot and is covered by a low sloping shed roof disguised by a cross-gabled front elevation and stepped parapet side elevations.

The south (main) facade is a six-bay elevation with four brick pilasters dividing the wall into three evenly spaced sections. The first floor storefront has been completely altered with mid twentieth century glass display windows. A marble beltcourse stretches across the wall immediately above the altered storefront. The second floor is pierced by six arched window openings evenly spaced across the wall surface. The soldier course round arches are accented with marble keystones and impost blocks on the sides of each arch. The single-pane sash windows follow the arched form, and the upper sash included a perimeter row of colored glass panes. The third floor is pierced by a series of smaller single-pane sash windows also fitted in round arched openings. Marble keystones and impost blocks highlight the third floor arches as well, and small colored glass panes distinguish the perimeter of each upper sash. Stretching across the base of each window is a marble beltcourse. The top of the wall is finished with a heavy corbelled brick cornice, which rises in the center as a cross gable. Centered in the gable front is a marble datestone inscribed, "1887." Fixed atop the gable is a metal weathervane.

The west (side) elevation is an asymmetrical facade laid in seven-course common bond. An assortment of six-over-one and four-over-one sash windows light the second and third floors. Rising on the northwest (rear) corner is a squarish brick furnace flue. The top of the wall is finished with a stepped parapet.

The first floor interior has been entirely reworked as retail and office spaces. The upper floors of the building were 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 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 checked="" 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 Spring 1887 **Builder/Architect** Contractor R. D. 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.

The White & Leonard building, historically identified as the Joseph Bergen commercial block, is a prominent three-story, six-bay brick structure that anchors the northeast corner of West Main Street and St. Peter’s Street in the center of Salisbury’s historic business district. Dated to 1887 by an inscribed marble stone that is fixed above the third floor windows, the commercial block is distinguished by a pressed brick facade highlighted by series of arched window openings that light the second and third floors. Marble keystone and impost blocks accent the soldier course round brick arches. The top of the wall is finished with a bold corbelled brick cornice that rises in the center as a cross gable. Fixed atop the cross gable is metal weathervane.

The White & Leonard building is a significant fixture in the downtown business district with its prominent corner location. The three-story, pressed brick facade retains its basic integrity and therefore deserves listing in *Category A*, which identifies buildings that must be retained due to their architectural and historical significance.

The chain of title research for this property traces its ownership back to 1869 and refers to it in various ways. The property, formerly the real estate of Oliver Tilghman and called the “Daniel Davis lot,” was sold in that year to James Cannon for \$5,000. (1) 1/462) The 1877 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas map indicates a substantial structure improved the property(2), and eight years later the Sanborn Insurance map company documented that a combination house and store building was located here. (3) However, on October 17, 1886, a fire that began in a livery stable on Dock Street spread throughout the entire downtown leveling every business and residential structure other than the eight-year old courthouse. Two months following the fire James and Lydia Cannon sold their interest in the corner property to Joseph Bergen. (4) The following spring, on March 26, 1887, the *Salisbury Advertiser*, announced that

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-261

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

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 4/2/96

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

8.1 SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)
White & Leonard Building, WI-261
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Mr. J. Bergen is making preparations for building on the corner of Main and St. Peter's streets. His house will be of press brick front, two stories high, with mansard roof. It will front Main St. 45 feet and extend back 90 feet. Messrs. Abdell and Drain have the contract for erecting the building. (5)

The 1888 Sanborn Insurance Company map indicates that the new Bergen building had a divided first floor with a stair rises in the center of the structure. On the east side was a jewelry store and on the west side was a drugstore. Three years following the construction of the new brick commercial block, the property was sold by trustee Robert P. Graham in the wake of a Circuit Court case. (6) Albert Gottschalk purchased the Bergen building for \$8,100. The corner commercial block remained in Gottschalk family hands until 1911 when it was acquired by E. Riall White.(7) The property has been the long-term location of the business of White & Leonard Office Supplies.

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- 1 Wicomico County Land Record, TF, Jr. 1/462, Wicomico County Courthouse.
 - 2 Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas, 1877, Salisbury.
 - 3 Sanborn Insurance Map Company, 1885, Salisbury.
 - 4 Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 2/10, Wicomico County Courthouse.
 - 5 *Salisbury Advertiser*, March 26, 1887, Wicomico County Free Library.
 - 6 Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 5/500, Wicomico County Courthouse.
 - 7 Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 76/199, Wicomico County Courthouse.

WI-261
White & Leonard Building
Corner of West Main Street and St. Peters
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

1337/421 Edward R. White, III (Personal Representative of Edward
R. White, Jr. (Died 6/1/1991)
5/10/1993 "Plat of E. Riall White Property, 2/18/1946, JWS 263/93

Will Book
JAH 1/91 Last Will and Testament of E. Riall White
to

1/8/1932 Edward R. White, Jr.
Item 2

JWTS 280/531 Edward R. White, Jr. et al.
to

6/11/1946 Vestry of Salisbury Parish

EAT 76/199 Joseph Gottschalk, and the Mercantile Trust and Deposit Co.
of Baltimore
to

7/31/1911 E. Riall White
\$15,135.00 Purchased at Auction

WI-261
White & Leonard Building
Corner of West Main Street and St. Peters Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

FMS 5/500 Robert P. Graham, Trustee

to

3/11/1890 Albert Gottschalk

\$8,100.00 Whereas by a Decree of Circuit Court 1/24/1890
Moses Ottenheimer and Elly Ottenheimer,
partners trading as Moses Ottenheimer and Son
were complainants and Joseph Bergen and
Rachel Bergen were defendants the above
named Robert P. Graham was named trustee

FMS 2/10 James Cannon
Lydia R. Cannon

to

11/25/1886 Joseph Bergen

\$4,100.00

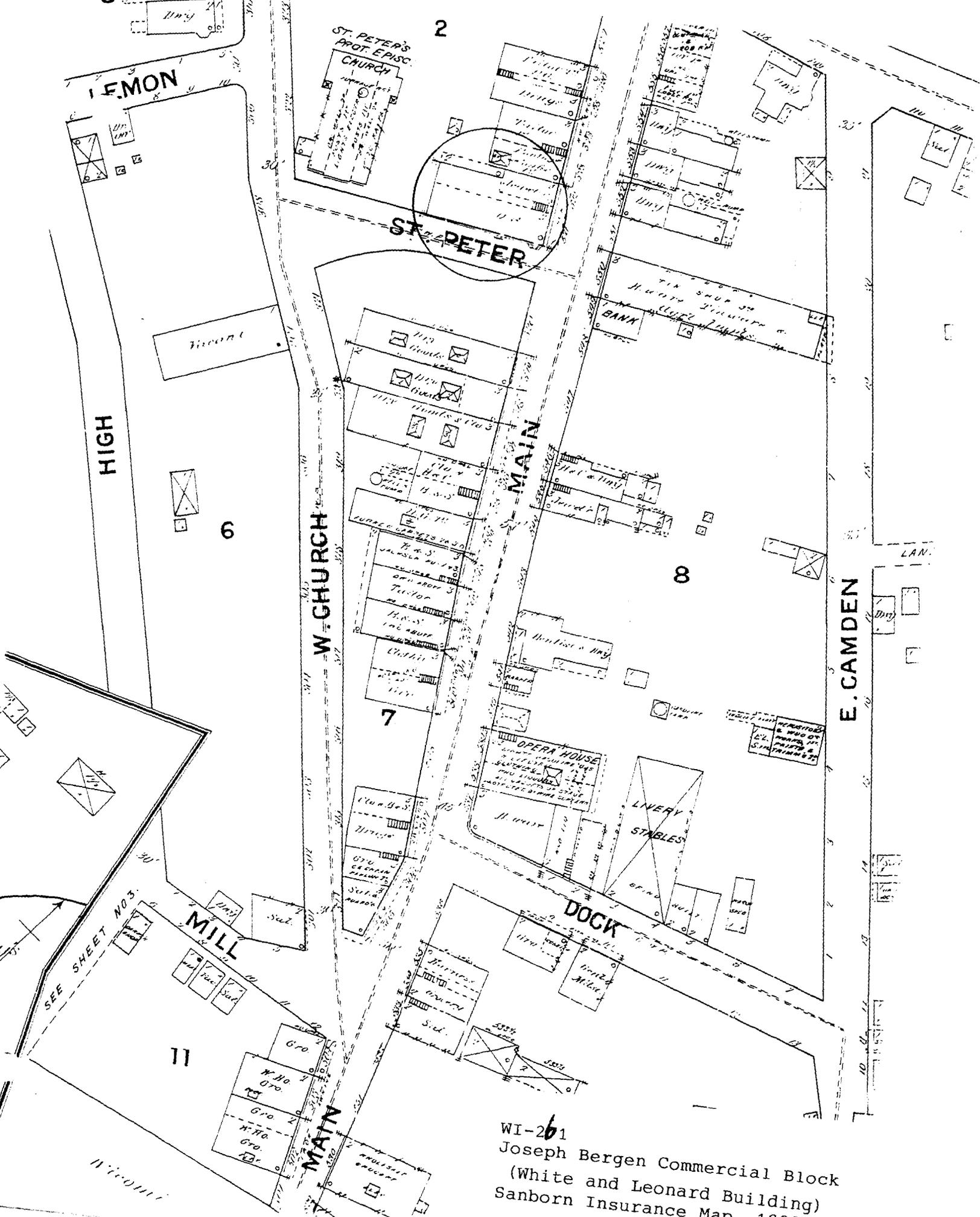
TF, Jr. 1/462 Samuel A. Graham, Trustee

to

9/25/1869 James Cannon

\$5,000.00 real estate of Oliver Tilghman

“Daniel Davis Lot”



WI-261
 Joseph Bergen Commercial Block
 (White and Leonard Building)
 Sanborn Insurance Map, 1888

WI-261

Joseph Bergen Commercial Block
(White and Leonard Building)

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

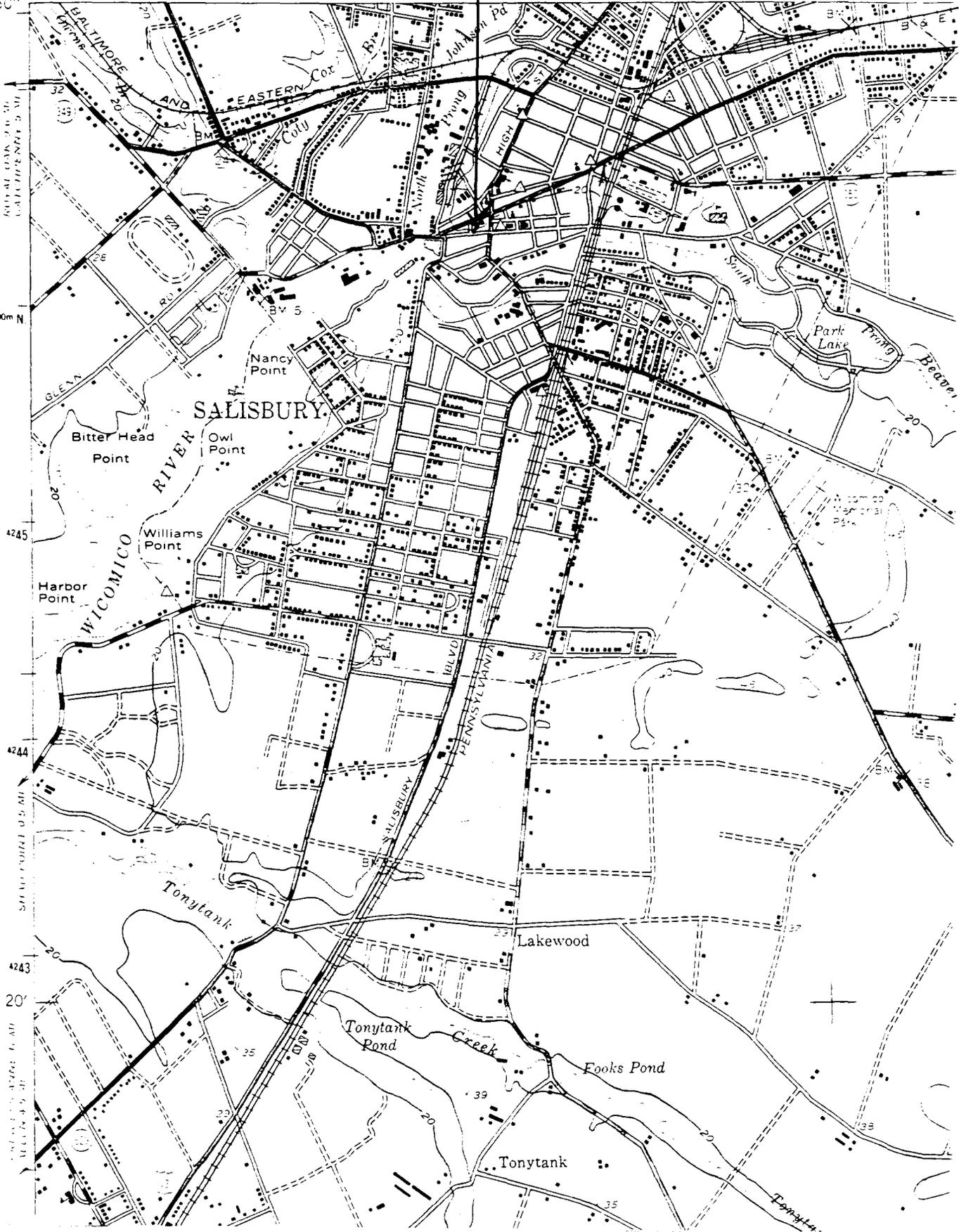
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5860 LNW
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"
38°22'30"

447000m E

4246000m N







W1-261

White + Leonard Building
(Beacon Commercial Block)
Sawyer, Worcester Co., Md.

3196, Paul Tourist, Providence
1106, LMD Historic Tourist