

WI-265  
Dorman & Smyth Hardware Company  
Salisbury  
Private

1886-87

Prominently sited on the southeast corner of West Main and West Market Streets is the former business location of the Dorman & Smyth Hardware Company. This three-story brick commercial block is an unusually detailed structure standing in Salisbury's downtown historic district. Resting on a rusticated granite foundation laid with red mortar, the common bond brick building is accented with a variety of decorative elements including rusticated granite window sills and lintels, stringcourses of soldier bricks laid on a diagonal, and edge rolled corners to the window openings. The front entrance, located on the northwest rounded corner, is recessed. A bracketed cornice stretches across the top of the first floor elevation. Additional noteworthy features include an elevator on the southwest corner, and a bold galvanized metal cornice that finishes the top of the parapet wall.

The Dorman & Smyth Hardware Company occupied this building during a large portion of the early to mid twentieth century. Construction of the elaborate commercial block, however, is credited to the Jackson family, who owned this corner parcel at the time of the 1886 fire. In February 1887, only four months following the conflagration, E. E. Jackson and other family members transferred the new building and lot to William H. Jackson for \$3,000. This commercial block must have been one of the

first erected in the burned commercial district. At some point during the following years the property was leased or rented to the Dorman & Smyth Hardware Company, which is cited in a 1914 transfer from William H. and Jennie H. Jackson to Mary J. Marvel of Wilmington, Delaware. The early twentieth century Sanborn Insurance maps indicate that the main commercial space was used to display hardware and agricultural implements, while a tin shop was located on the second floor.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Dorman & Smyth Hardware Store Building

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-265

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-265

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Dorman & Smyth Hardware Store

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 232-234 West Main Street  not for publication

city, town Salisbury  vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 S. B. Partnership, % Dennis Noonan, Jr. et al.

street & number P. O. Box 282 telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code Maryland 21803

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107, P. 1061 liber 1103

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 385

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-265

<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.

Historically known as the Dorman & Smyth hardware store, the three-story granite and brick commercial block stands at 232-234 West Main Street (formerly Dock Street) and the building anchors the southwest intersection of West Main and West Market Street in the center of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The building faces northwest.

Dating to 1886-87, the three-story, granite and common bond commercial block is supported by an roughly laid stone foundation. The adjacent buildings to the south and east have been demolished exposing jagged edges and roughly finished facades. The building is covered by a low pitched shed roof that is disguised by a galvanized metal parapet front on the north and west sides.

The three-story elevations along West Main and West Market streets are the formal fronts with a rusticated granite foundation wall laid in red mortar. The front walls of the building are seven-course common bond with the header row laid with alternating headers and stretchers. The walls are also accented with several stringcourses of decorative brickwork. Single width rows of black bricks stretch across the facade as well as a soldier course set on a diagonal. There is a heavily corbelled section of brickwork under the galvanized metal cornice, which has pyramidal shaped finials.

The northwest corner of the commercial block is rounded and contains the principal entrance. The recessed doorway is flanked by sidelights and a transom. Large glass display windows define the first floor walls along the two street elevations, and the first floor is defined by a bracketed cornice. The second and third floors are pierced by two-over-two and single-pane sash windows featuring rusticated granite sills and lintels. The upper sash has a segmental arch, and the inside corners of the window openings have a edge rolled corner. There is an elevator door with a paneled front on the southwest corner of the building, and a large glass transom window is located overhead. A steel-level entrance descends into the cellar adjacent to the elevator door.

The interior has been stripped of most elements of late nineteenth century fabric. A cast iron column is located in the center of the structure to support the second floor.





**SIGNIFICANCE, 8.1**

**Dorman & Smyth Hardware Company  
232-234 West Main Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland**

maps indicate that the main commercial space was used to display hardware and agricultural implements, while a tin shop was located on the second floor.(3)

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- 1 Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 4/101, February 25, 1887, Wicomico County Courthouse.
  - 2 Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 94/145, November 27, 1914, Wicomico County Courthouse.
  - 3 Sanborn Insurance Company map, 1904, Salisbury, (Maryland State Archives).

WI-265  
Dorman & Smyth Hardware Store Building  
232-234 West Main Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 1061

1158/307

William J. Ahtes, Jr.

to

9/23/1988

Dennis H. Nooner, Jr.  
O. Palmer Gillis III  
Anthony S. Gilkerson  
Tenants in partnership, a.k.a. S. B. Partnership

Southeast corner of Main and Dock (now known as Market  
Street)

MSB 1118/276

Ronald G. Rayne  
Donald C. Davis

to

9/11/1987

William J. Ahtes, Jr.

AS 1028/621

George E. Miller, et ux.

to

1/14/1985

Ronald G. Rayne  
Donald C. Davis

WI-265  
Dorman & Smyth Hardware Store  
232-234 West Main Street  
Salisbury, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

AS 993/313

Michael K. Bloxham, et al.  
Jesse K. Swartz, trustees

to

6/16/1983

George E. Miller

Whereas at a public sale as a result of a defaulted  
mortgage

JWTS 831/707

Vaughn E. Richardson  
Patricia K. Truitt

to

12/31/1974

Thomas R. Young, Inc.

Upon the death of Eloise Patricia Truitt, who died  
about 4/15/1958, being Estate No. 4658, the  
property passed to Raymond King Truitt and  
Patricia King Truitt her son

JWS 222/35

Stanley G. Robins, Attorney and Agent

to

10/21/1939

Eloise Patricia Truitt  
Whereas at a public sale held on September 2, 1939

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Page 3

Dorman & Smyth Hardware Store  
232-234 West Main Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

by Stanley G. Robins under a power of sale  
contained in a mortgage from Dorman & Smythe  
Hardware Co. and Eloise Patricia Doody  
IDT 198/149

JCK 114/208

Mary J. Marvel, Josiah Marvel

to

10/31/1919

Dorman & Smythe Hardware Company

EAT 94/145

William H. Jackson and wife Jennie H. Jackson

to

11/27/1914

Mary J. Marvel of Wilmington, Delaware

Item One-known as the Dorman & Smyth(e)  
Hardware Company

WI-265  
Dorman & Smyth Hardware Store  
232-234 West Main Street  
Salisbury, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 4

FMS 4/101

E. E. Jackson and others, (Nannie Rider Jackson,  
Wilbur F. Jackson, Alice P. Jackson, Richard W.  
Jackson and Isaac W. Jackson)

to

2/25/1887

William H. Jackson

\$3,000.00

TF, Jr. 3/170

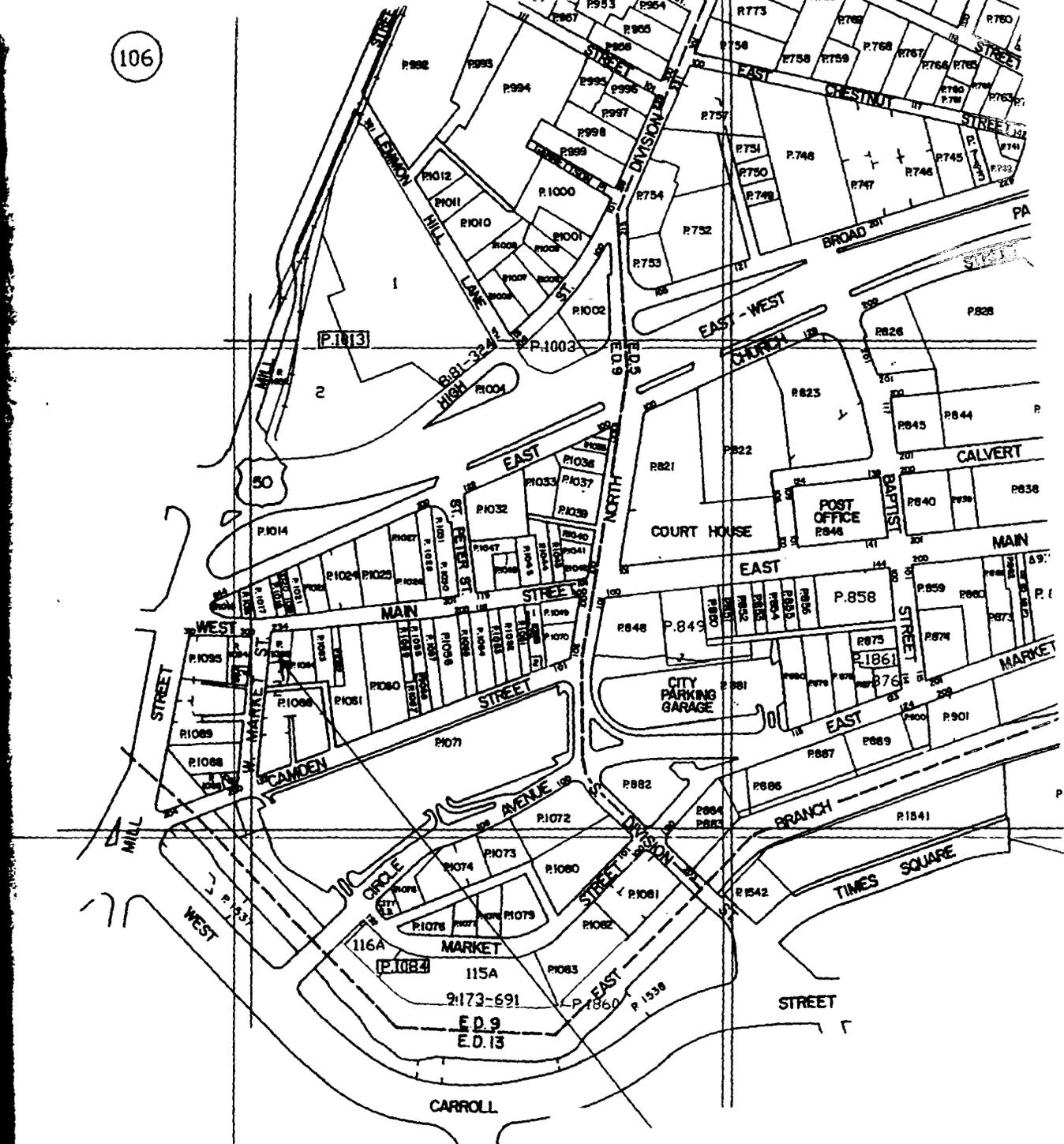
Purnell Toadvine

to

7/15/1872

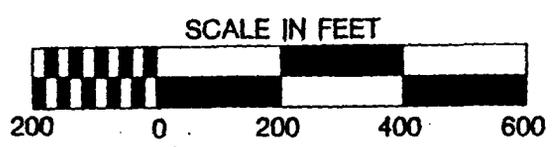
E. E. Jackson  
William H. Jackson  
Wilbur H. Jackson

\$2,750. 2/12 of the following real estate  
namely all those lots or parcels of  
land lying in the town of Salisbury  
....on the South east corner made by  
Main Street and Camden or Bridge  
St. to an Alley on the North side of  
the Livery Stable owned by William  
H. Jackson being lots numbered four,  
five, and six purchased by said  
Toadvine from Elijah....., trustee  
of James M. Fooks late of Worcester  
County, deceased and described in a  
deed from said Trustee to the said  
Purnell Toadvine bearing date 26  
January 1867



WI-265  
 Dorman & Smyth Hardware Store Bldg  
 Wicomico County Tax Map 107  
 Parcel 1061

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WI-265

Dorman & Smyth Hardware Store Bldg  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, MD

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942

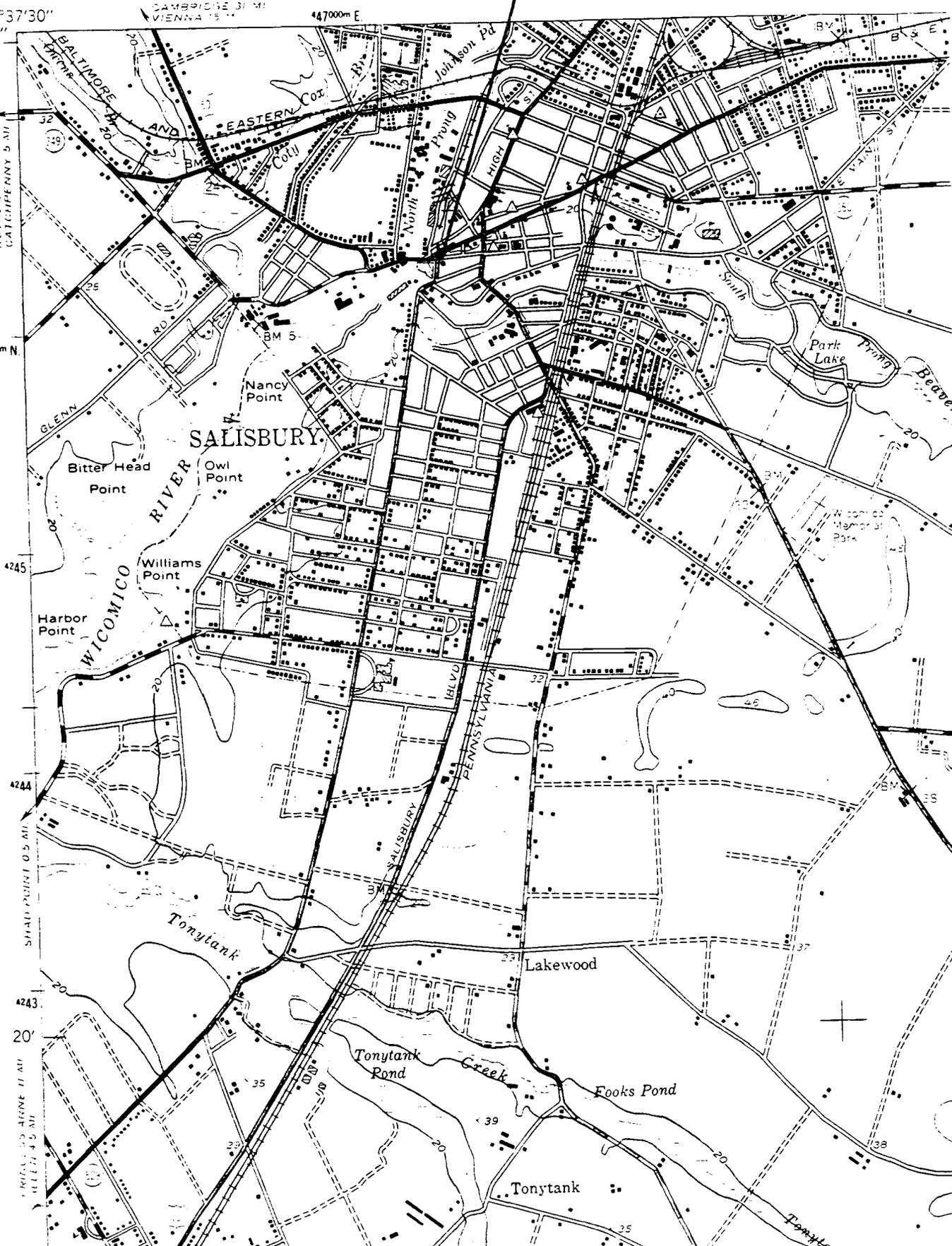
5862' NW  
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

CAMPBELL 31 MI  
VIENNA 15 MI

447000m E

4246000m N



ROYAL OAK 9.0 MI  
CATIPERENY 9 MI

4245

4244

4243

20'

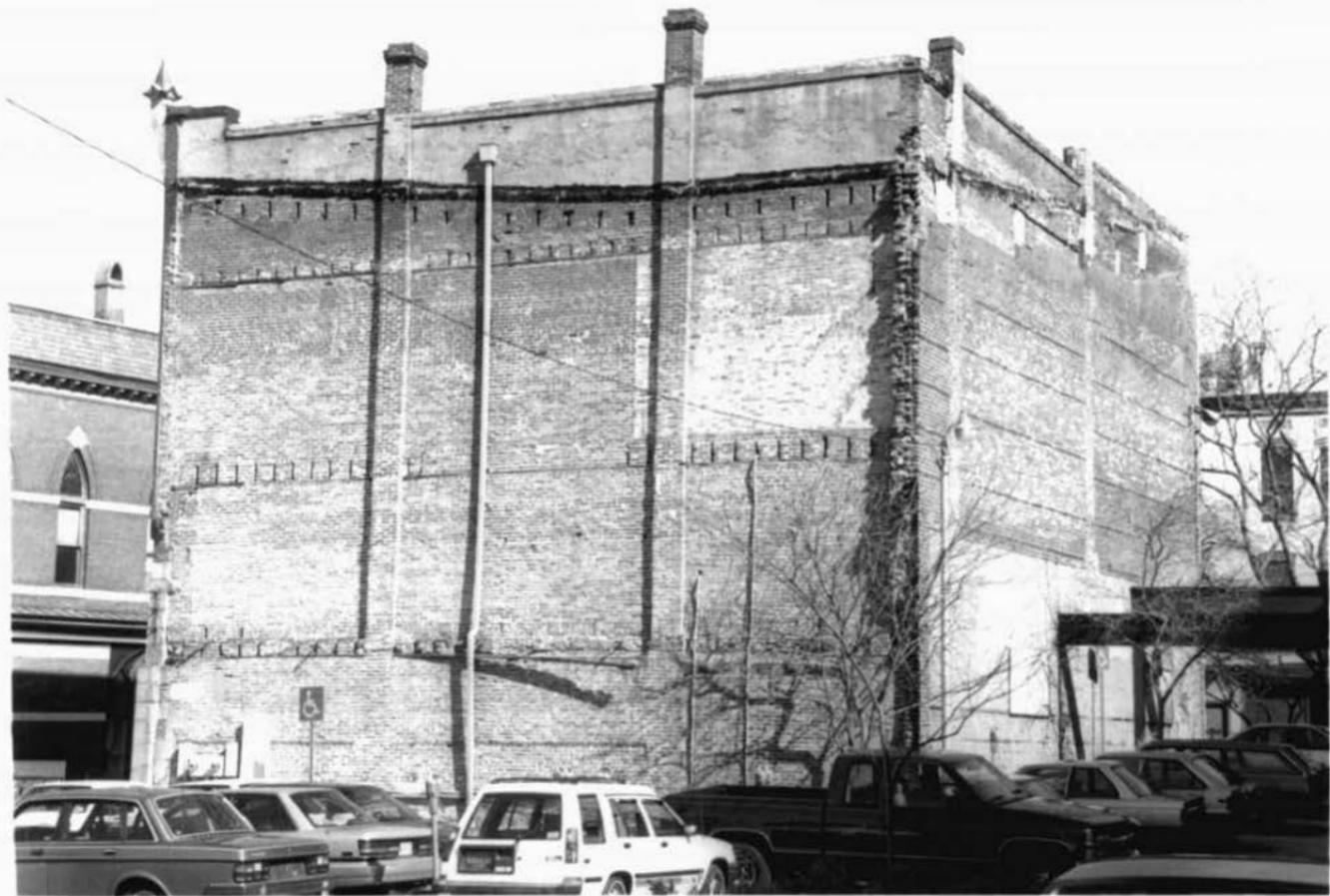
PRICKLE ALONE 11 MI  
HELENE 4.5 MI

20'

20'







W1-265

DOORWAY TO SW, THE ...

... ..

... ..

3/90, Paul ... ..

... ..



