

WI-344  
H. S. Bennett Store Building  
Sharptown  
Private

c. 1890

The H. S. Bennett store building is a distinctive commercial structure that helps define Sharptown's business 19th century business district. The two-story, gable-front architectural form, with commercial display windows on the first floor, was a common building form for village stores during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The two-story porch, however, is less typical for its time as well as for its intact nature. Slender Tuscan columns support mark the first story, and turned posts featuring sawn corner brackets distinguish the second story. A secondary side entrance allowed for direct access to a stairway that leads to the second floor.

For many older residents in Sharptown, this building is identified as the Howard S. Bennett drugstore, and he operated a pharmacy in Sharptown during the middle years of the 20th century. He and wife Edna owned the property between 1944 and 1953. The chain of title research for the store building traces its ownership to Joseph W. and Malvina V. Phillips, who owned the store and lot during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: H. S. Bennett Store Building

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-344

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): Store

WI-344  
Bennett Store Building  
310-12 Main Street  
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 400, Parcel 408

1047/106 Roland A. Milligan

to

9/20/1985 Jerry B. Matyiko

Lot No. 1 Wright Property  
Plat recorded 11/1/1944, JWS 264/521

JWTS 661/357 Evelyn E. Dennis

to

5/2/1966 Roland A. Milligan

JWTS 661/354 Roland A. Milligan  
Edna B. Milligan

to

5/2/1966 Evelyn E. Dennis

JWTS 532/290 Doris M. Collins

to

2/8/1962 Roland A. Milligan  
Edna B. Milligan

WI-344  
Bennett Store Building  
310-12 Main Street  
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JWTS 492/326

Gene T. Dukes  
Katherine S. Dukes

to

1/13/1960

Doris M. Collins

Lot No. 1 Wright Property

JWTS 351/535

Howard S. Bennett  
Edna P. Bennett

to

10/15/1953

Gene T. Dukes  
Katherine S. Dukes

J W S 264/520

Mary E. Wright, widow

to

11/6/1944

Howard S. Bennett  
Edna P. Bennett

WI-344  
Bennett Store Building  
310-12 Main Street  
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 3

IDT 184/253                      Levin C. Bailey, trustee

to

7/18/1934                      Mary E. Wright

Whereas by a Decree of Circuit Court, 9/5/1933, J. Wilbur Phillips and Beatrice P. Phillips, et al. were defendants being No. 4352 in Chancery-being the the same land that was conveyed to one M. Victoria Phillips in her lifetime by J. Wilbur Phillips and Dorothy T. Phillips, 10/29/1902, JTT 34/120, being the same land of which the said M. Victoria Phillips died seized...

JTT 34/120                      J. Wilbur Phillips  
Dorothy Phillips

to

10/29/1902                      Malvina V. Phillips, wife of Joseph W. Phillips  
adjoining the property of A. W. Robinson & Co.  
on the west, Samuel J. Cooper on the north,  
Elizabeth T. Bounds on the south having a front  
on said Main Street of 84 ½ feet and a depth of  
97 ½ feet

JTT 21/381                      Joseph W. Phillips  
Malvina V. Phillips

to

12/16/1897                      J. Wilbur Phillips  
\$800.00

WI-344  
Bennett Store Building  
310-12 Main Street  
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 4

Charles W. Selby  
and Jay Williams, trustee

to

8/28/1894

Malvina V. Phillips

JTT 11/23

Robert P. Graham, trustee

to

2/2/1893

Charles W. Selby

Whereas the aforesaid Robert P. Graham was duly  
appointed preliminary trustee for the benefit of the  
creditors of John W. Selby, insolvent

SPT 2/299

Josiah J. Truitt and Kate P. Truitt of Dorchester Co.

to

11/13/1876

John W. Selby

½ acre \$400.00 "Robertson's Delight"

being the same houses and lot which was formerly  
conveyed from Clement J. Gravenor and wife to  
Samuel J. Phillips and from said Samuel J. Phillips  
to William T. Phillips and from said Phillips to the  
said Josiah J. Truitt

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in an  
town  
are as

Monday of each month in the Fire  
Hall. The Chamber has been in-  
strumental in getting a new state  
road between Sharptown and Mar-  
dela and in getting a new boat  
ramp at Cherry Beach, now un-  
der construction.

## Windsor Knows All Cashier

er of all phases of modern financial  
service. We meet of their loans  
which are on local real estate, install-  
ment, new auto and appliance  
financing are also offered.  
Mr. Windsor brought out the  
loan that must be made.



Outboards Race On The Nanticoke River At Sharptown



**TOWN DRUGGIST.** Carroll Twilley is shown here holding one of the old pharmaceutical-decanters once used by Dr. H. S. Bennett, former druggist in Sharptown. Twilley's Rexal Store has for nine years taken the place of the old drug store in Sharptown as a center for the

ice cream crowd, with a full line of popular medicines and cosmetics. While not a druggist, Mr. Twilley carries just about everything in the patent medicine line, magazines, toys, notions, candy, and sandwiches.

## SHARPTOWN

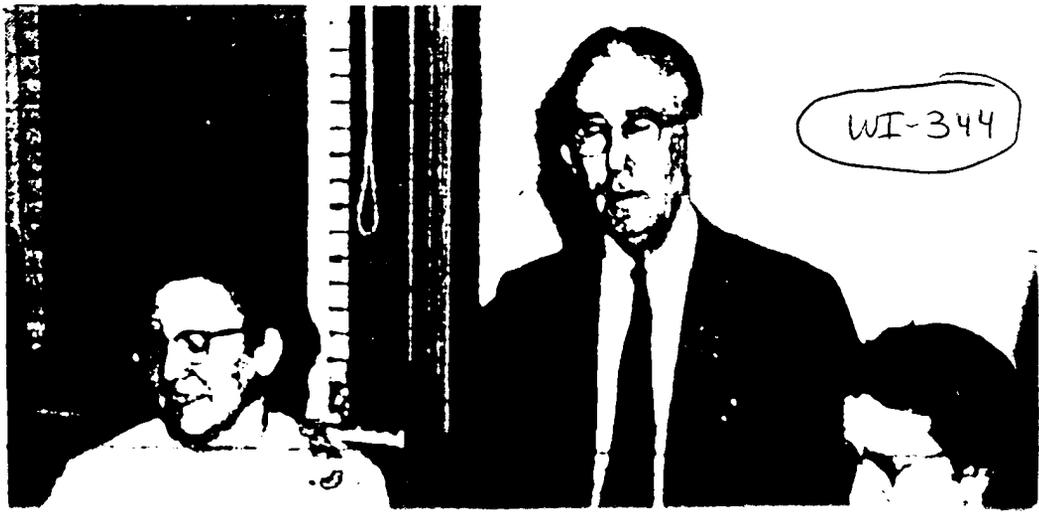
one ship built at  
000 made \$2,000 a  
ite.

Then the shipyard  
local owners to New  
tal, and called the  
Shipbuilding Co. Dur  
employment boomed. A  
rine barge and small  
were built; but on the  
peace the company went  
for \$1,500,000. Shipyard

In the meantime a new  
ic business had develop  
Marvil Package Co. For  
Sharptown by the Rob  
manufacturers of  
farm packages made east  
of the river to haul lamb  
The Carolinas. About 17  
employed here in normal  
tions.

**BUT ONCE** more a busi-  
try was sold to outside  
The Atlas Plywood Co.  
ed the stock of the Mar-  
age Co. While operations  
continued for a time as  
large company of com-  
ed its Sharptown plant  
plant in a distant town  
a disastrous fire destr  
factory, it was not  
remedy.

About 95 per cent of  
men now work out of town  
which every one is deter-  
remedy.



**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. WI-344

Magi No.

DOE yes no

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

historic

and/or common H. S. Bennett Store Building

**2. Location**

street & number 310-12 Main Street  not for publication

city, town Sharptown  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 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 checked="" 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 Jerry B. Matyiko

street & number 206 East Water Street telephone no.:

city, town Sharptown state and zip code Maryland 21861

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 400, P. 408  
liber 1047

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 106

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-344

<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 H. S. Bennett store building is located at 310-312 Main Street in the center of Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay by five-bay structure faces northeast with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Estimated to date around 1890-1900, the two-story, gable-front frame store is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with a uniform layer of vinyl siding. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The northeast (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay facade with a two-story hip roofed porch sheltering much of the front wall. The porch is supported by wooden columns on the first floor and turned posts with scroll brackets on the second. At the top of the first story level there is a pent eave covered with asphalt shingles. The first floor wall is defined by a large commercial storefront with a recessed entrance and large glass display windows to each side. Finishing the commercial front below the windows is a series of rectangular panels. A secondary entrance is fixed in the south corner of the first floor as an access to the side staircase. The second floor is a three-bay wall with a center door and flanking single-pane sash windows. Each window and door lintel has a slight cornice molding. The gable end is pierced by set of paired single-pane sash windows. Trimming the edge of the roof is an extended eave finished with returns at the base of the roof.

The north wall is an asymmetrical five-bay elevation with two single-pane sash windows marking the southern two bays, while five regularly spaced single-pane sash light the second floor. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice trimmed with bed and crown moldings.

The south wall is pierced by single-pane sash windows and an interior brick stove chimney pierces the roofline.

The building has been converted into a apartments.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-344

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/
<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 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** \_\_\_\_\_ **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.

The H. S. Bennett store building is a distinctive commercial structure that helps define Sharptown’s business 19th century business district. The two-story, gable-front architectural form, with commercial display windows on the first floor, was a common building form for village stores during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The two-story porch, however, is less typical for its time as well as for its intact nature. Slender Tuscan columns support mark the first story, and turned posts featuring sawn corner brackets distinguish the second story. A secondary side entrance allowed for direct access to a stairway that leads to the second floor.

For many older residents in Sharptown, this building is identified as the Howard S. Bennett drugstore, and he operated a pharmacy in Sharptown during the middle years of the 20th century.<sup>1</sup> He and wife Edna owned the property between 1944 and 1953.<sup>2</sup> The chain of title research for the store building traces its ownership to Joseph W. and Malvina V. Phillips, who owned the store and lot during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The H. S. Bennett store building stands as tangible evidence of the former business district that thrived along Main Street during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The building should be listed in *Category A*.

<sup>1</sup> *The Salisbury Times*, June 14, 1958.

<sup>2</sup> Wicomico County Land Records, JWS 264/520, 6 November 1944 and JWTS 351/535, 15 October 1953.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-344

## 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

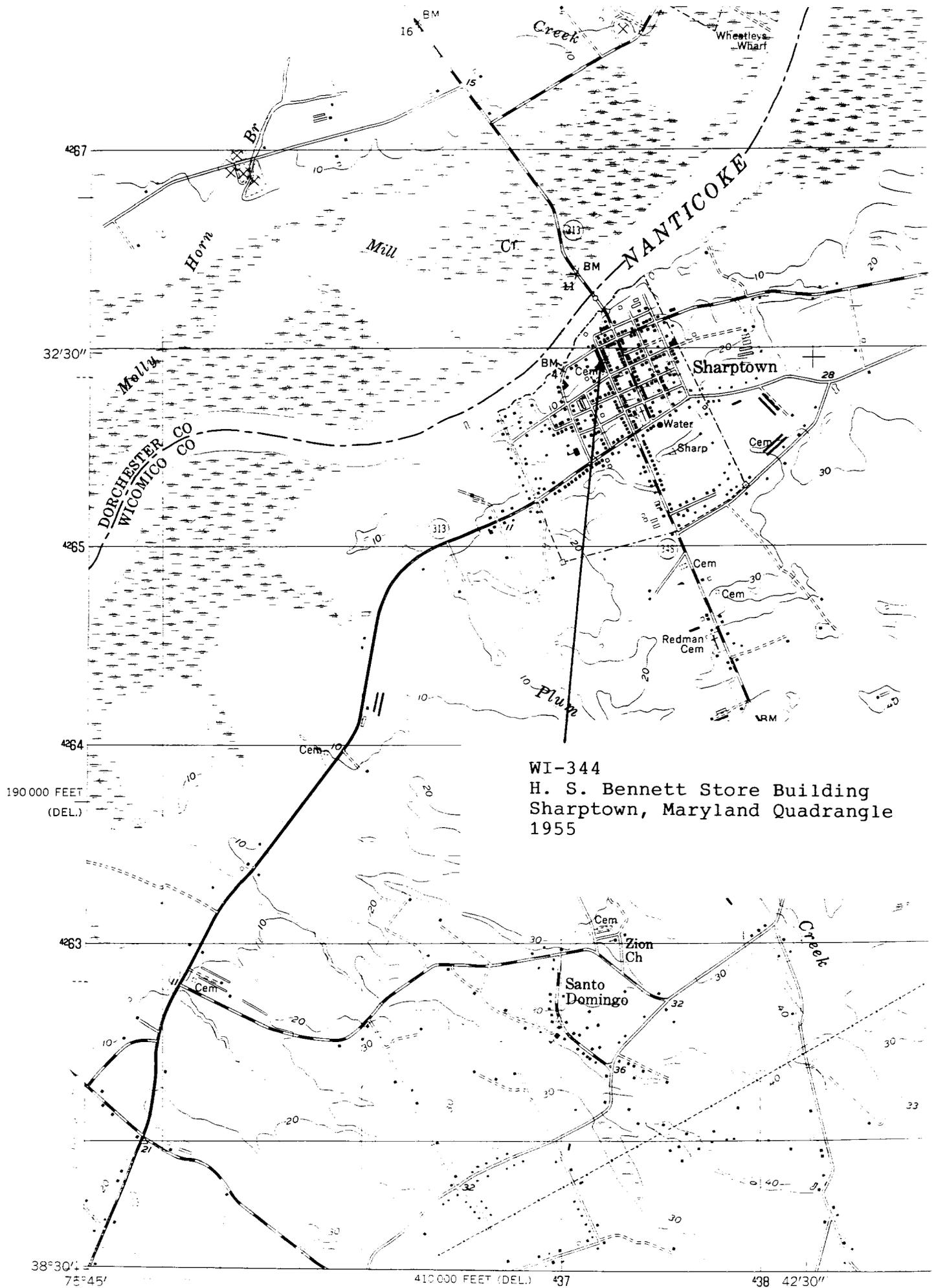
name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consutlant	date	3/15/98
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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-344  
 H. S. Bennett Store Building  
 Sharptown, Maryland Quadrangle  
 1955

NGS

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, NGS, NOAA, and USCE



