

WI-34B

c. 1890

Samuel J. Cooper Store Building
Sharptown
Private

Standing near the Nanticoke River and at the corner of Main and Little Water streets is the Samuel J. Cooper store building, an imposing two-story, gable-front frame structure erected during the late years of the nineteenth century. The rectangular weatherboard frame structure faces Main Street with a low pitched gable roof front pierced by a variety of door and window openings. The principal commercial bay incorporates a recessed double door entrance that is flanked by large four-pane display windows. Late nineteenth century colored glass panes embellish the entrance transom as well as upper windows fixed atop the display areas. The commercial front is also distinguished by a variety of late nineteenth century siding, which includes vertical and diagonal tongue-and-groove beaded boards along with the plain weatherboards. The upper wall surface under the eave is finished with a vertical tongue-and-groove board that has a sawtooth edge. Fixed under the lower corners of the roof are delicate triangular brackets. The store has distinct decorative similarities to the Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. house, which stands in the same block on the northwest corner of Main and Water streets.

Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. was a prominent merchant in Sharptown during the fourth quarter of the nineteenth century, and he is listed in the Sharptown business directory contained in the 1877 atlas as a "*Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries , Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Notions and all Goods usually kept in a country store.*"

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Samuel J. Cooper Store Building

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-348

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
Commerce

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Eastern Shore

4. Resource Type(s): Store

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-348

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Samuel J. Cooper Store Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Southeast corner of Main and Little Water Sts. not for publication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 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 Whe-Ben, Inc.

street & number P O. Box 448 telephone no.:

city, town Sharptown state and zip code MD 21861

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 400, P. 413
liber 904

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 240

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

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" 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 Samuel Cooper store building stands at the intersection of Main and Little Water streets in Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story gable-front frame structure faces southwest with the roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built around 1890, the two-story, three-bay by four-bay frame structure is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with plain weatherboard siding. A low pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the south side of the store building is a single-story shed-roofed extension.

The southwest (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay front with the first floor featuring a commercial front of large four-pane display windows on each side of a recessed double-door entrance. The store doors are partially glazed. Fixed over the front doors and over the display windows are large windows featuring perimeter colored glass panes. The knee wall below the display windows is covered with diagonal, tongue-and-groove beaded boards. The commercial entrance is located on the south side of the three-bay wall, while the north side is enclosed and pierced by a pair of two-over-two sash windows. The wall surface below the window sill is sheathed with vertical tongue-and-groove boards, whereas the wall above the window sill is covered with plain weatherboards. The entire first floor is sheltered by a shed roof porch supported on tall chamfered porch posts. The shed porch extends across the adjacent addition to the south, but the roof has deteriorated. Lighting the second floor of the main block are three evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows framed by plain surrounds. Fixed in the upper gable end is a pointed arch louvered vent that set directly under a vertical board eave decoration. The ends of the vertical boards are finished with a sawtooth edge. The eaves of the roof extend beyond the wall surface and triangular brackets are fixed in each corner.

The north side of the store is pierced by an asymmetrical fenestration with a double door freight opening located on the northern end of the wall. A four-panel door pierces the wall in the northeastern corner. Two-over-two sash windows, currently boarded over, light the first and second floors. The underside of the eave is finished with the saw-toothed vertical board decoration.

The south side of the main block is partially covered by the deteriorated shed roofed addition, which is disguised on the Main Street side by a square edge false front. A double door opening pierces the front wall. Lighting the main store building is a series of two-over-two second floor sash windows. A single flue brick stove chimney rises through the roof between the second and third bays.

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 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 checked="" 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: 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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The Samuel J. Cooper store building is one of a small number of commercial buildings that define Sharptown’s nineteenth-century business district. The two-story frame structure deserves listing in Category B, which identifies buildings that should be preserved due to their architectural and/or historical interest.

¹ Graham, John L. ed. The 1877 Atlases and Other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Wicomico Bicentennial Commission, p. 21.

WI-34B
Samuel Cooper Store Building
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title
Map 400, Parcel 413

904/240 Graydon T. Mumford
Gladys I. Mumford

to

8/4/1978 Whe-Ben, Inc.

JWTS 775/267 Lloyd Brown

to

11/19/1972 Graydon T. Mumford
Gladys I. Mumford

JWTS 653/1 Grace S. Cooper, widow

to

6/23/1967 Lloyd Brown

JWTS 344/148 Juanita M. Jones

to

11/28/1952 Samuel J. Cooper, Jr.
Grace s. Cooper

Item 2

WI-340
Samuel Cooper Store Building
Sharptown
Chain of title continued

JWTS 344/147

Samuel J. Cooper, Jr.
Grace S. Cooper

to

11/28/1952

Juanita M. Jones

JWTS 294/501

Joseph P. Cooper & others (Margaret L. Cooper, Lena E.
Cooper, Mary E. Cooper)

to

2/28/1948

Samuel J. Cooper, Jr.

Will Book
JWD 2/36

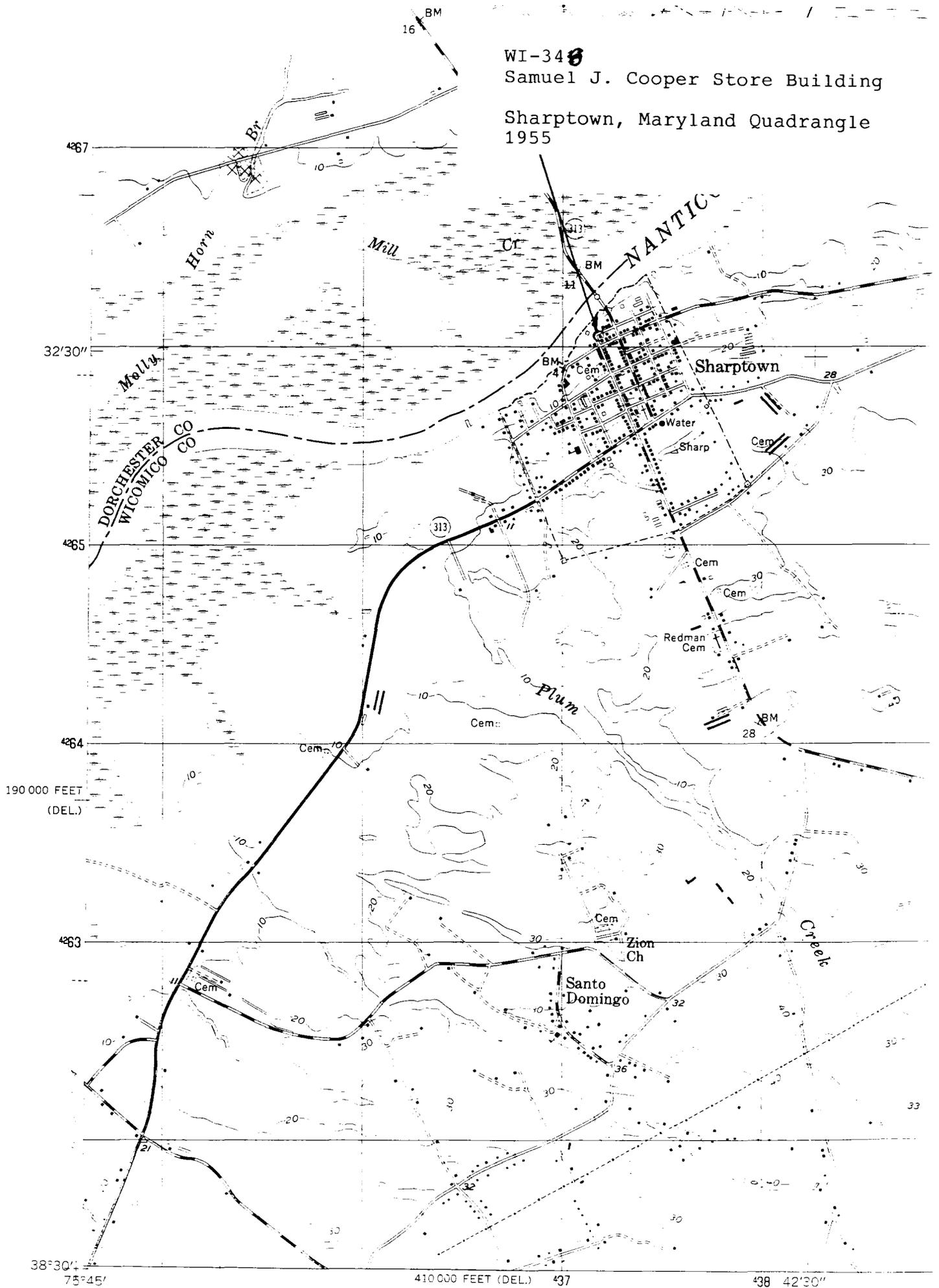
Last Will and Testament of Samuel J. Cooper, Sr.

to

Probate
6/11/1924

Joseph P. Cooper
Lena E. Cooper
Mary E. Cooper

WI-348
Samuel J. Cooper Store Building
Sharptown, Maryland Quadrangle
1955



190 000 FEET
(DEL.)

38°30'
75°45'

410 000 FEET (DEL.) 437

438 42'30"

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

514051

1:50,000 1955



W1348

James Cooper Park, Blount Co.,
Spartanburg, Winthrop County, N.C.
Southwest elevation

1/78, Paul Toward - Photographer

• NE 1/4 of 17th Historical Tract

1 or 2



