

WI-349

c. 1892

Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House  
Sharptown  
Private

The Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. house is an intricately crafted Victorian dwelling that marks the corner of Main and Water streets in the center of Sharptown. The two-story, tee-shaped frame house features a variety of late nineteenth century elements that distinguish the asymmetrical exterior design. A turned post front porch stretches across the front and around to the south side, and the eave is enriched with sawn brackets and turned spindle decoration. Unusual to this particular house is the single-bay second floor porch that is supported by turned posts and features a sawn balustrade. The hip roof is decorated with a delicately sawn eave. True to late nineteenth century design, the gable ends are sheathed with a variety of fishscale shingles, which contrast with the plain horizontal weatherboards that cover the main body of the house. Bay windows are found on the north and south sides, and a two-story ell-shaped service wing extends to the rear.

Samuel J. Cooper, Sr., a prominent Sharptown merchant, is credited with financing construction of this house around 1892 when he acquired this lot in September of that year. The property transferred for \$300, which suggests it was improved in some manner. A structure is identified at this location on the Sharptown map that was included in the Wicomico County section of the 1877 atlas. At the time of Samuel J. Cooper, Sr.'s death in 1924, he devised his house to his daughters, Mary E. and Lena E. Cooper.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-349

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): Single-family dwelling

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-349

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

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

historic Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 299 Main Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Sharptown \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			___ park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

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

name Bruce W. and Iva Lou Forster

street & number 299 Main 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. 414  
liber 1334

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 791

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-349

<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 Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. house is located at 299 Main Street in the center of Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house stands at the intersection of Main and Water streets. The two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped, gable-front Victorian house faces southwest with the principal roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built in 1892, the side hall/parlor plan house is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with a combination of plain weatherboards and fishscale shingles. The decorative shingles are mainly reserved to the gable ends. Covering the steeply pitched roof is a layer of green asphalt shingles with open soffits and exposed rafter ends. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story ell-shaped rear wing.

The southwest (main) elevation is a three-bay facade with a side entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The entire first floor is sheltered by a hip roofed porch supported on turned posts and enriched with sawn eave decoration. The front entrance is enhanced by a molded four-panel door and transom, and the adjacent window frames have a small molded cornice. The porch extends around the south side of the house. Unusual to this porch is a second floor covered porch that shelters the center bay. Built into the first floor porch roof is a floor, post and railing of a single bay porch covered by a hip roof. Turned posts support the roof and a sawn baluster railing stretches between posts. The edge of the roof is enhanced with a decorative sawn fascia. The second floor is lighted by two-over-two sash windows trimmed with small cornice moldings. The gable end is covered with bands of fishscale shingles. Centered within the gable are paired single pane sash windows. Fixed in the peak of the extended eave is a decorative trim embellished with a diagonal crisscross pattern of woodwork. The lower end of the eave has a supportive stick bracket. Extending through the center of the roof is an internal brick stove chimney finished with a corbeled cap. Also distinguishing the roof ridge is a system of metal lightening rods with glass globes.

The south side of the main block is an asymmetrical elevation with the gable end of the tee plan juxtaposed against the side elevation of the front section. The turned post porch wraps around to fill the corner of the tee-plan. A single story bay window extends from the gable end. The exterior finishes remain consistent with the front of the house.

Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, ell-shaped service wing, which is extended on its south side by a Tuscan columned side porch. Sheltered by the porch is a partially glazed door and a two-over-two sash window. A recently built exterior brick chimney rises against the gable end.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WI-349

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 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	1892	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.

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The Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. house is a well preserved example of Victorian domestic architectural design with its variety of exterior siding and turned decoration. It qualifies for listing in *Category A*, which identifies buildings that should be preserved due to their architectural and historical significance.

<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Register of Wills, JWD 2/36, probated 11 June 1924.



WI-349

Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House  
299 Main Street  
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title  
Map 400, Parcel 414

1334/791

James W. Stiles  
B. Janie Stiles

to

4/20/1993

Bruce W. Forster  
Iva Lou Forster

A J S 1078/830

E. Ramona Austin, formerly E. Ramona Spicer

to

9/16/1986

James W. Stiles  
B. Janie Stiles

A J S 992/572

Don Edward Spicer  
E. Ramona Spicer

to

1/26/1983

E. Ramona Spicer

A J S 822/783

Eugene C. Morley  
Evalyn B. Morley

to

5/24/1974

Don Edward Spicer  
E. Ramona Spicer



WI-349  
 Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House  
 299 Main Street  
 Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland  
 Chain of title continued

County, having died seized and possessed of an undivided  
 ½ interest therein, which she, under her Last Will and Testament  
 JAH 8/142, she devised to her sister Mary E. Cooper, now  
 deceased, for life with remainder to her nephew J. Laurence  
 Cooper under her Last Will and Testament, JAH 8/425

JTT 9/235

2. Levin T. Cooper  
 Susie W. Cooper of Sharptown

to

9/10/1892

Samuel J. Cooper

\$ 300 Lot No. 8 1/3 acre

Somerset County  
 Land Record

2. Nancy E. Bennett

to

Levin T. Cooper

Somerset County  
 Land Record  
 WP 5/352

2. John B. Taylor and Mary Taylor

to

3/16/1850

Nancy E. Bennett

\$50.00 Lot No. 8 on the east side of the County road  
 leading through the village of Sharptown

“Royal Exchange”

WI-349

Page 4

Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House  
299 Main Street  
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

T.F., Jr. 3/444

1. Rigsby J. Wright  
Edith E. Wright

to

11/22/1873

Samuel J. Cooper

\$ 2,000 Lot No. 7 1/3 acre

T.F., Jr. 2/286

1. John D. Johnson, Sheriff

to

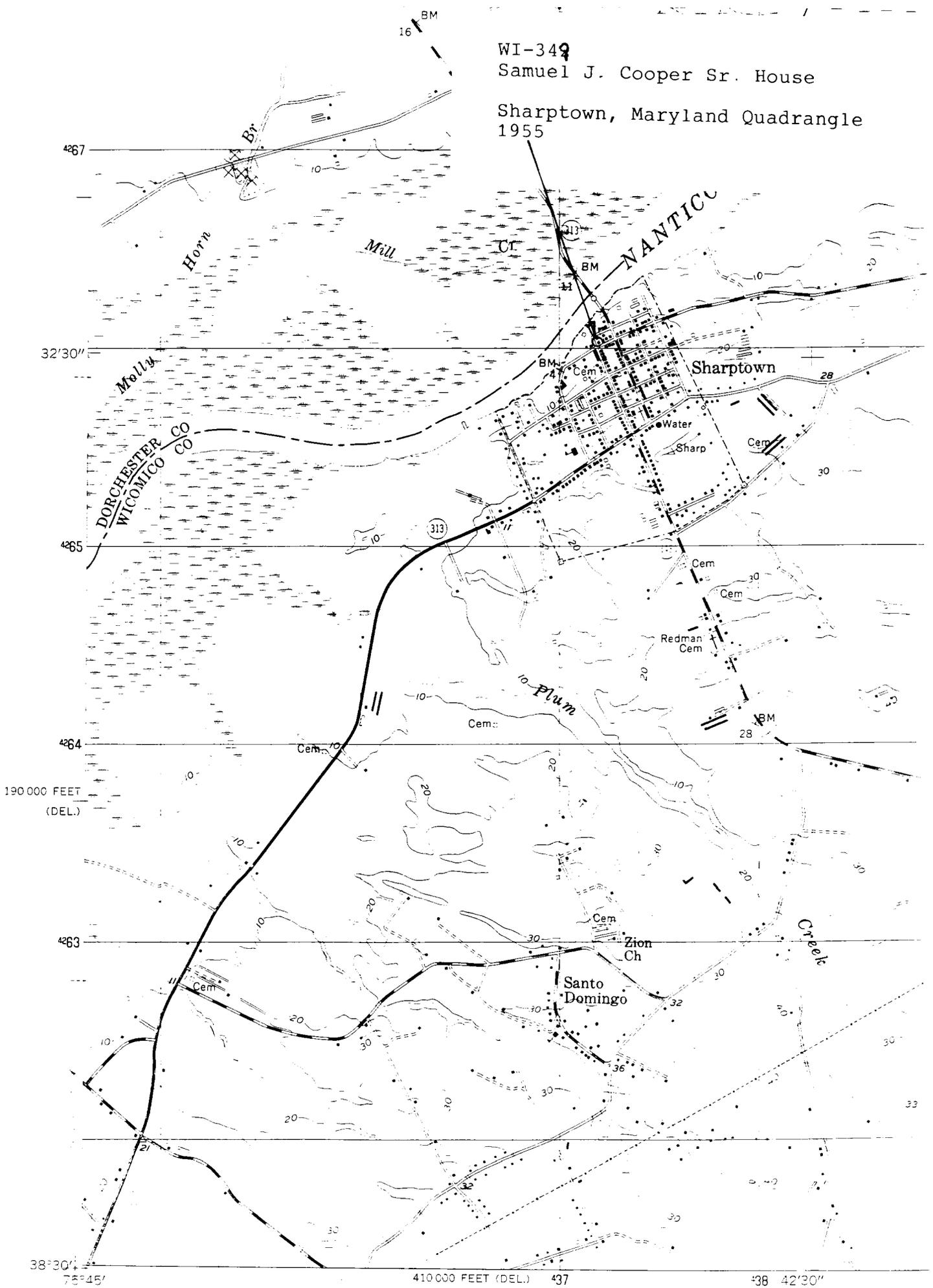
1/11/1871

Rigsby T. Wright

One house and lot situated in SharpTown, Wicomico County, Maryland containing about 1/3 of an acre of land more or less and at the time of said sale in the occupancy of said Wright being the same lot which the said James T. Phillips purchased of Daniel F. Ewell and which the said Ewell purchased from Hamilton B. Burnett

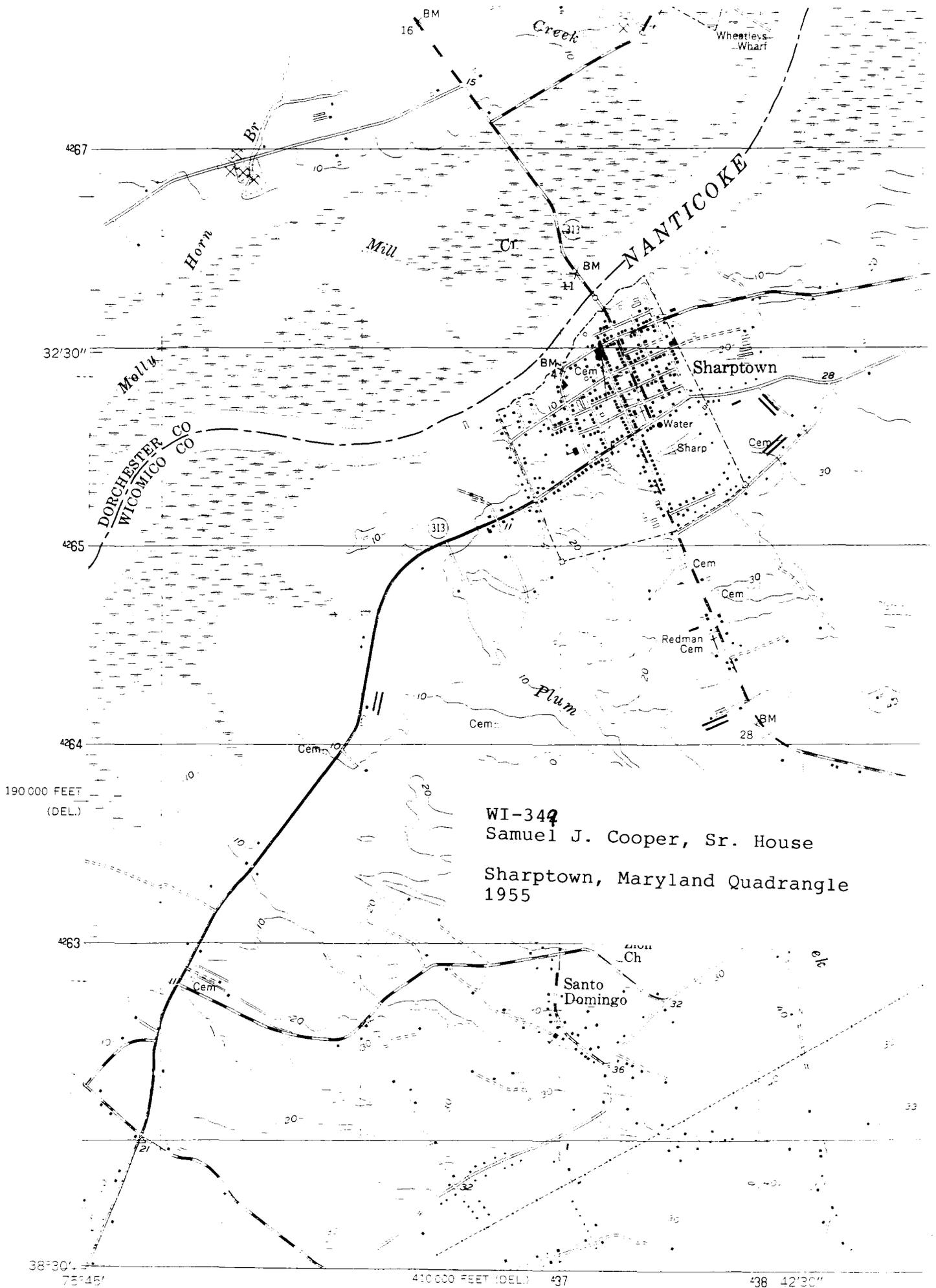


WI-349  
 Samuel J. Cooper Sr. House  
 Sharptown, Maryland Quadrangle  
 1955



190 000 FEET  
 (DEL.)

38°30' 75°45' 410 000 FEET (DEL.) 437 42°30'



WI-344  
 Samuel J. Cooper, Sr. House  
 Sharptown, Maryland Quadrangle  
 1955

190 000 FEET  
 (DEL.)

410 000 FEET (DEL.)







W1-349

Barrow, Crossed Settlement

Imperial, Wisconsin County, 1890

Barrow - cross - 1890

1/90, Barrow, Crossed Settlement

W1-349, Barrow, Crossed Settlement

2 of 2