

WI-351
Twilley Store Building
Sharptown
Private

c. 1900

Marking the northwest corner of Main and Fourth streets is a tall, two-story commercial building historically identified as the Twilling store building. The low pitched roof with extended eaves, the vertical board decoration under the rafters, as well as the colored glass windows in each side point to construction date around 1900 during the ownership of the Twilley family. The turn of the twentieth century store front appearance is enhanced by the intact commercial display windows and double door entrance, which are sheltered by an original shed roof supported by chamfered braces.

The Twilley store building gained local notoriety during the mid 20th century location of the Copes Candy Company, owned by Cleophas E. Bennett. He began a wholesale candy business on a shoestring according to an article written about the enterprise in 1958. In 1946 when he started the venture, he borrowed his sister's car two days a week in order to drive Shore highways establishing clients. By the mid 1950s he had eight salesmen covering the peninsula from Port Deposit to Cape Charles, Virginia. Prior to housing the Bennett's candy company office and warehouse, the upstairs rooms of the building served the Sharptown community as a location for first and second grade classrooms.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-351

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Twilley Store Building

and/or common Copes Candy Company Building

2. Location

street & number Main and Fourth Streets ___ not for publication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 Stephen L. Disharoon

street & number P. O. Box 208 telephone no.:

city, town Hurlock state and zip code Maryland 21643

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 400, P. 347
liber 1380

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 860

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-351

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.

The Twilley store building stands on the northwest corner of the intersection of Main and Fourth streets in the center of Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame commercial building faces northeast with the gable roof oriented on a northeast/southwest axis.

Built around 1890-1900, the two-story, rectangular frame store building is supported on a low brick pier foundation, and the exterior is clad with asbestos shingles. The low pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the store is a shed roofed addition.

The northeast (main) elevation is a three-bay facade with a commercial front defining the first floor. A double door entrance is flanked by large plate glass display windows; one to the north and two to the south. The doors are partially glazed, and boldly molded panels define the door bottoms. Fixed in the south corner is a single, partially glazed door that opening into a side staircase leading to the second floor. The entire first floor is sheltered by a shed roof porch supported on chamfered posts. A several foot extension of the porch roof is supported by chamfered braces. The porch roof is clad with standing seam tin. Lighting the second floor are three evenly spaced windows distinguished by multi-pane windows with triangular colored glass panes in the corners. The perimeter of each sash is fitted with small colored glass panes as well. Defining the gable end is a decorative vertical board trim that has a sawtooth edge. The roof has extended eaves and open soffits.

The north side of the store is a long three-bay elevation with a single colored glass window opening on the first floor and three evenly spaced multi-pane colored glass windows on the second floor. Each sash contains triangular colored glass panes in each corner and small colored glass panes around the window perimeter.

The south side is marked by a partially glazed side door and three multi-pane windows on the second floor.

The rear wall is partially covered by the single-story shed roofed addition. 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: <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.

Marking the northwest corner of Main and Fourth streets is a tall, two-story commercial building historically identified as the Twilling store building. The low pitched roof with extended eaves, the vertical board decoration under the rafters, as well as the colored glass windows in each side point to construction date around 1900 during the ownership of the Twilley family. The turn of the twentieth century store front appearance is enhanced by the intact commercial display windows and double door entrance, which are sheltered by an original shed roof supported by chamfered braces.

The Twilley store building gained local notoriety during the mid 20th century location of the Copes Candy Company, owned by Cleophas E. Bennett. He began a wholesale candy business on a shoestring according to an article written about the enterprise in 1958.¹ In 1946 when he started the venture, he borrowed his sister’s car two days a week in order to drive Shore highways establishing clients. By the mid 1950s he had eight salesmen covering the peninsula from Port Deposit to Cape Charles, Virginia. Prior to housing the Bennett’s candy company office and warehouse, the upstairs rooms of the building served the Sharptown community as a location for first and second grade classrooms.²

The Twilley store building is an important structure on Sharptown’s Main Street, reflecting the mixed residential and commercial nature of the streetscape. As a result the structure is listing in *Category A*.

¹ *The Salisbury Times*, Saturday Evening, June 14, 1958.

² *Ibid.*

WI-351
Twilley Store Building
(Copes Candy Company Building)
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 400, Parcel 347

1380/860 Warren Webster
Sarah A. Webster

to

2/28/1994 Stephen L. Disharoon

MSB 1112/178 Herman D. Wheatley
Ivalee P. Wheatley

to

7/13/1987 Warren Webster
Sarah A. Webster

\$7,500

A J S 1015/75 Frank M. Grubbs, Jr.
Victoria Grubbs

to

6/18/1984 Herman D. Wheatley

\$4,000

A J S 883/41 Cleophas E. Bennett
Shirley F. Bennett

to

9/6/1977 Frank M. Grubbs

Item 1 408 Main Street

WI-351

Page 2

Twilley Store Building
(Copes Candy Company Building)
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

JWTS 629/239

Samuel W. Owens

to

4/29/1966

Cleophas E. Bennett
Shirley F. Bennett

408 Main Street

IDT 213/113

Del-Mar-Va Mortgage Company

to

10/24/1938

Samuel W. Owens
Bertie M. Owens

IDT 201/405

Levin C. Bailey, assignee

to

4/12/1937

The Del-Mar-Va Mortgage Company

Whereas at a public sale made on March 6, 1937 by the said
Levin C. Bailey...vested in him in and by a certain mortgage
from Leslie W. Nelson, Mary Nelson, and Charles P. Twilley
IDT 168/117, 6/15/1931

IDT 168/116

Charles R. Twilley

to

3/30/1931

Leslie W. Nelson
Milton L. Nelson of Dorchester County

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Twilley Store Building
(Copes Candy Company Building)
Sharptown, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

EAT 54/457

Albert W. Robinson, trustee

to

7/6/1907

Charles P. Twilley
Vernon J. Twilley

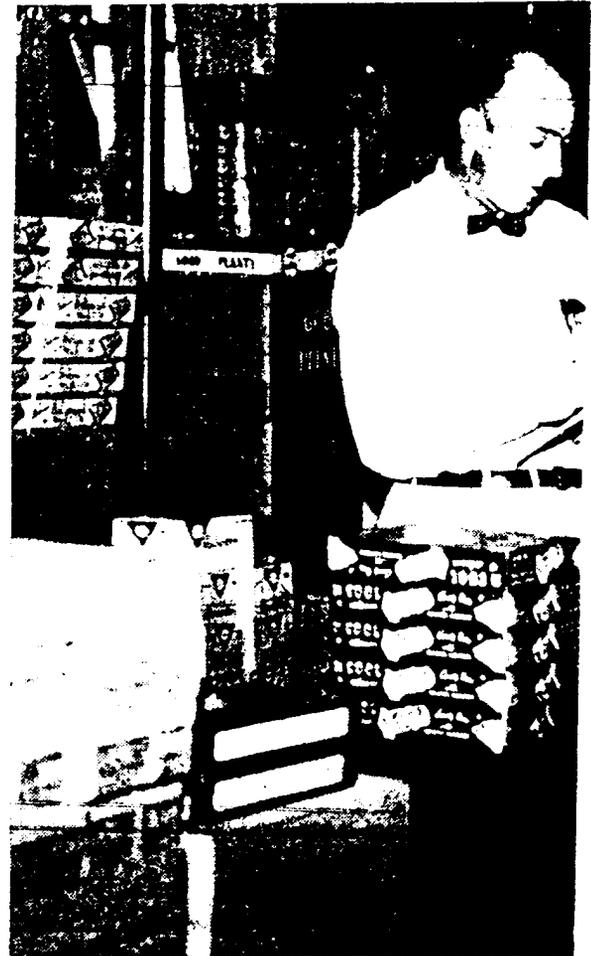
...the interest of said Vernon J. Twilley therein having been conveyed to the said Charles A. Twilley by the said Vernon J. Twilley by second item of deed dated 5/12/1913, EAT 83/301

Lots 1 and 2 bounded by Main Street and Fourth Street

Candy Firm Started With Borrowed Car



The Copes Candy Co. is located in the old Twilley store. The top floor of this building once served as a first and second grade school.



CLEOPHAS TAKES INVENTORY. Mr. Bennett, owner of the Copes Candy Co., here is keeping

The Copes Candy Co. of Sharptown covers the Eastern Shore. From Port Deposit, Elkton, and Newark on the north, to Kent Island on the west, Cape Charles on the south, and our beach towns of the east, this active candy wholesaler is a most energetic and competitive organization. A fleet of eight driver salesmen solicit business from just about every retailer on the Shore, and in 1957 their gross business was about \$1,500,000.

But it wasn't always that way. In October, 1946, Cleophas F. Bennett wanted to go into business for himself. He had a vision of what he wanted to do, and on a

shoe string, in that he borrowed his sister's car two days a week for his first calls. Then followed the years of just plain, hard plugging. It was drive all day, call on every one you could — with a smile every time and your back about just to break — and then spend half the night doing the book work and getting up orders for the next day. Mr. Bennett does not know whether he would go through it again or not. But the energy spent in giving service and in building up good will has been well spent for the amount of goods moving out this Sharptown establishment — surprisingly large.

THE MAIN warehouse and office

es are located in the old Twilley store. Where the office is now located, the first and second grade of the public school were kept not too long ago. Other warehouses are located throughout Sharptown. The Copes Candy Co. carries a full line of candy, tobacco, potato chips, cookies, pretzles, fountain syrups and supplies.

Mr. Bennett feels that Sharptown is a perfect location for his business. It is in the center of the Shore, it is served with excellent overnight freight service, and the number of men available to him in the town is unexcelled.

"We have no Sharptown with honesty. I've not of known pillars. I've got has a and there are lars worth of on my shelves to do business.

WHEN ATTEM

to the fact that a little unpretentious but thoughtful service, and Copes gave us a

S. W. OWENS &

SHARPTOWN, MARYLAND

orted Car



store. The top
d second grade

CLEOPHAS TAKES INVENTORY. Mr. Bennett, owner of the Copes Candy Co., here is keeping his inventory sheet up to date. (Note to Sharptown residents — Is just Cope, with a tie on.)

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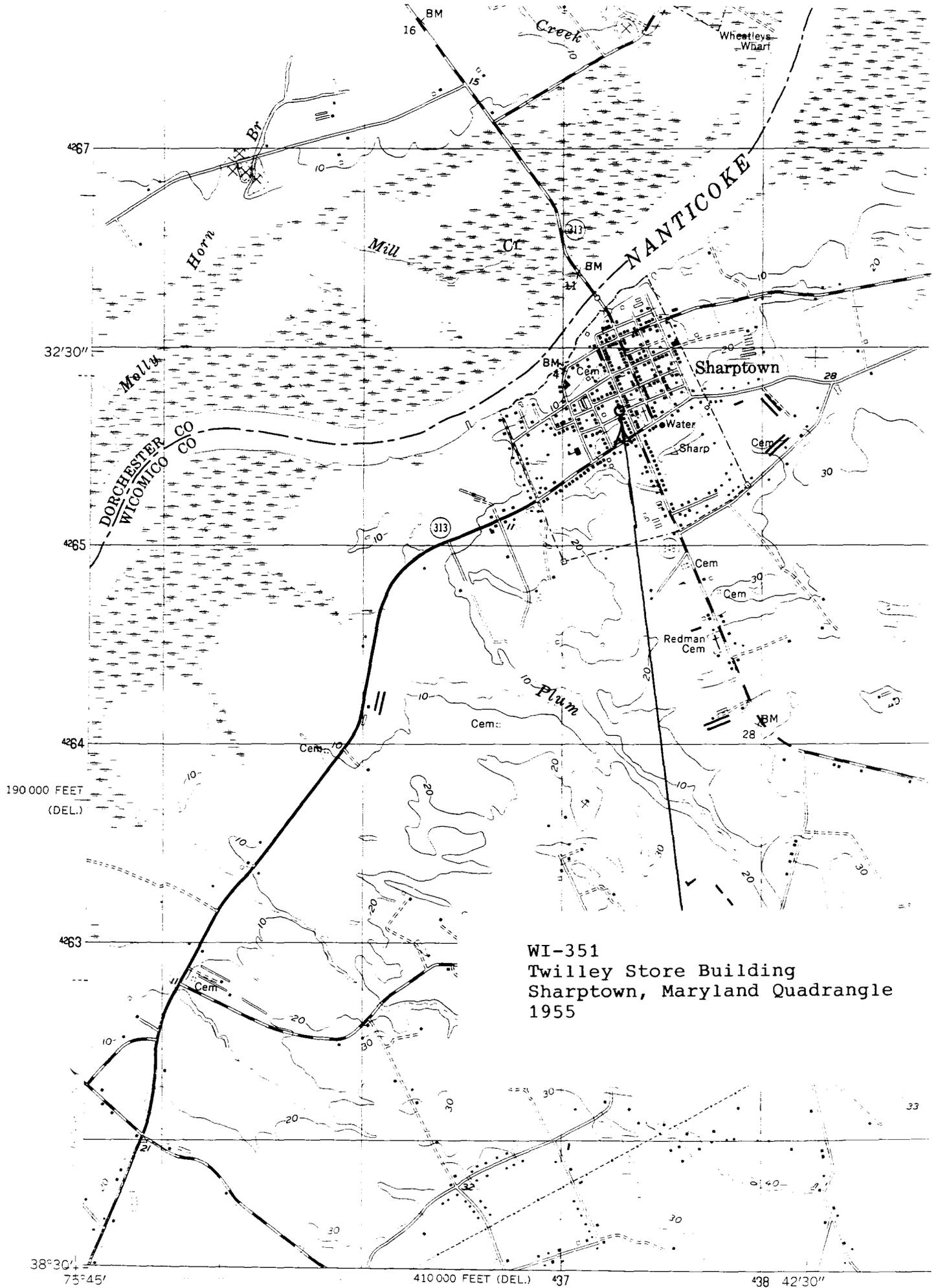
"We have no trouble here in Sharptown with stealing and dishonesty. I've never had a case of known pilferage. Every employe I've got has a key to this place, and there are thousands of dol- lars worth of merchandise piled on my shelves. I wouldn't want to do business any other way."

WHEN ATTENTION was called to the fact that his budding was a little unpretentious — in fact it didn't even carry a sign — Copes gave away the secret of his success. "My business isn't done

here. It's done out on the road, making the calls, plugging away." Mr. Bennett is a big, energetic fellow, with a ready smile, and seems always ready to help out his neighbor. He belongs to all of the civic organizations in Sharp- town, and is a member of the Mr. Vernon Church. He echoed the familiar cry in town. "We want to get new business into Sharp- town. Plenty of room for other wholesalers here. Of course the candy business may be a little crowded, but we'll pitch in and help anyone who will bring a pay- roll to town."

OWENS & SON

WEDNESDAY



WI-351
 Twilley Store Building
 Sharptown, Maryland Quadrangle
 1955