

WI-415  
Salisbury City Fire Department  
Salisbury  
Public

1927-28

On February 4, 1928, the *Salisbury Advertiser and Wicomico Countian* announced the dedication of the newly erected Salisbury Fire Headquarters, also known as Firehouse No. 1. Built at a cost of \$55,000, the new fire station was described at the time:

*The imposing 46 x 80 new brick structure is considered as fine a home as any individual fire company in Maryland can boast. The building is two floors with basement. The first floor houses the equipment, valued at \$50,000 and including five pieces of motorized apparatus.*

The article also related that the second floor was used for the volunteers' locker rooms and chief's quarters, while the basement served as the place to dry the hoses. The firm of Hastings and Parsons was the general contractor with the concrete work subcontracted to Laws Construction Company.

The sturdy brick and concrete fire station followed the prevailing taste in public architectural design for the early twentieth century with its neoclassical four-bay South Division Street elevation. Defined by five brick pilasters accented with stone capitals, the front wall is also enriched with a bold modillion block cornice that stretches around two sides of the station. A parapet wall encircles the roof, and the front wall is enhanced by a decorative crest featuring a large

masonry shield embossed with the letter "S." On the rear wall a brick bell tower rises another story and is covered by a pyramidal roofed sheathed with green tiles.

The Salisbury Fire Headquarters is an important architectural element in the downtown business district and it reflects the prominence of neoclassical design in early twentieth-century public architecture.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Salisbury Fire Headquarters

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-415

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): Fire Station

Survey No. WI-415

Magi No.

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Salisbury Fire Headquarters

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South Division Street \_\_\_ not for publication

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

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Table with 5 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Accessible, Present Use. Includes options like district, building(s), structure, site, object, public, private, both, in process, being considered, not applicable, occupied, unoccupied, work in progress, yes: restricted, yes: unrestricted, no, agriculture, commercial, educational, entertainment, government, industrial, military, museum, park, private residence, religious, scientific, transportation, other.

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

name City of Salisbury

street & number Government Office Building telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio

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-415

<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 Salisbury Fire Headquarters is located on a triangular lot bordered by South Division Street, Circle Avenue, and Market Street in the business district of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The fire station headquarters faces west.

Erected in 1927-28, the Salisbury Fire Headquarters was built into a eastward slope of land descending from its highest point along South Division Street. The rear elevation of the building has a fully exposed cellar, and the building is covered with a sloping shed roof hidden behind a parapet. Supported on a poured concrete foundation, the brick walls are laid in stretcher bond with stone accents.

The west (main) elevation is four-bay facade with five brick pilasters dividing the wall into even bays. The first floor has been modified with the consolidation of four bays into two for entrance and exit of modern fire trucks. The second floor is pierced by four evenly spaced double replacement windows. Stone sills and keystone blocks accent the window openings, and the pilasters have stone capitals. A molded stone frieze extends across the station directly above the pilasters. Fixed above the stone frieze is a narrow band of brickwork that features a stone name plaque inscribed "Salisbury Fire Headquarters." Directly above the brick band is a bold modillion block entablature that highlights the front wall as well as the south side. Rising atop the stone entablature is a brick parapet wall finished with a concrete cap. On the front of the parapet is a decorative crest that features a shield embossed with the capital letter "S."

The south side is six bays across with an exposed poured concrete foundation defined by projecting concrete bases which are extensions of the seven brick pilasters that mark the brick facade. The four center bays of the six-bay facade are pierced by double window openings accented with stone keystones within brick jack arches. The outer two bays have single width window openings that are also distinguished by a jack arch and stone keystone. The southwestern corner bay is pierced by a side door opening. Above the second floor series of windows is the molded stone frieze and above it is the brick band and modillion block entablature.

The north side is a six-bay facade defined by plain brick pilasters that extend from the concrete foundation to the parapet cap. The six bays are pierced by an asymmetrical grouping of double and single replacement windows, and a double door entrance. Rising above the northeast corner of the station is an interior brick furnace flue.

The rear (east) wall has a fully exposed cellar with a garage entrance and an asymmetrical fenestration of double and single window openings. Each window opening has a brick jack arch and a stone keystone. A series of narrow single pane sash windows light the center stair providing access to the belfry. The pyramidal roofed belfry is distinguished by a round arched opening in each side. The round arches are accented with stone impost and keystone blocks. Each arched opening is set within a slightly recessed panel that corbells outward along the top edge to the surface of the tower wall. The belfry is capped by a pyramidal roof featuring exposed rafter ends and a green tile covering.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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** 1927-28 **Builder/Architect** Hastings and Parsons, Contractors

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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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

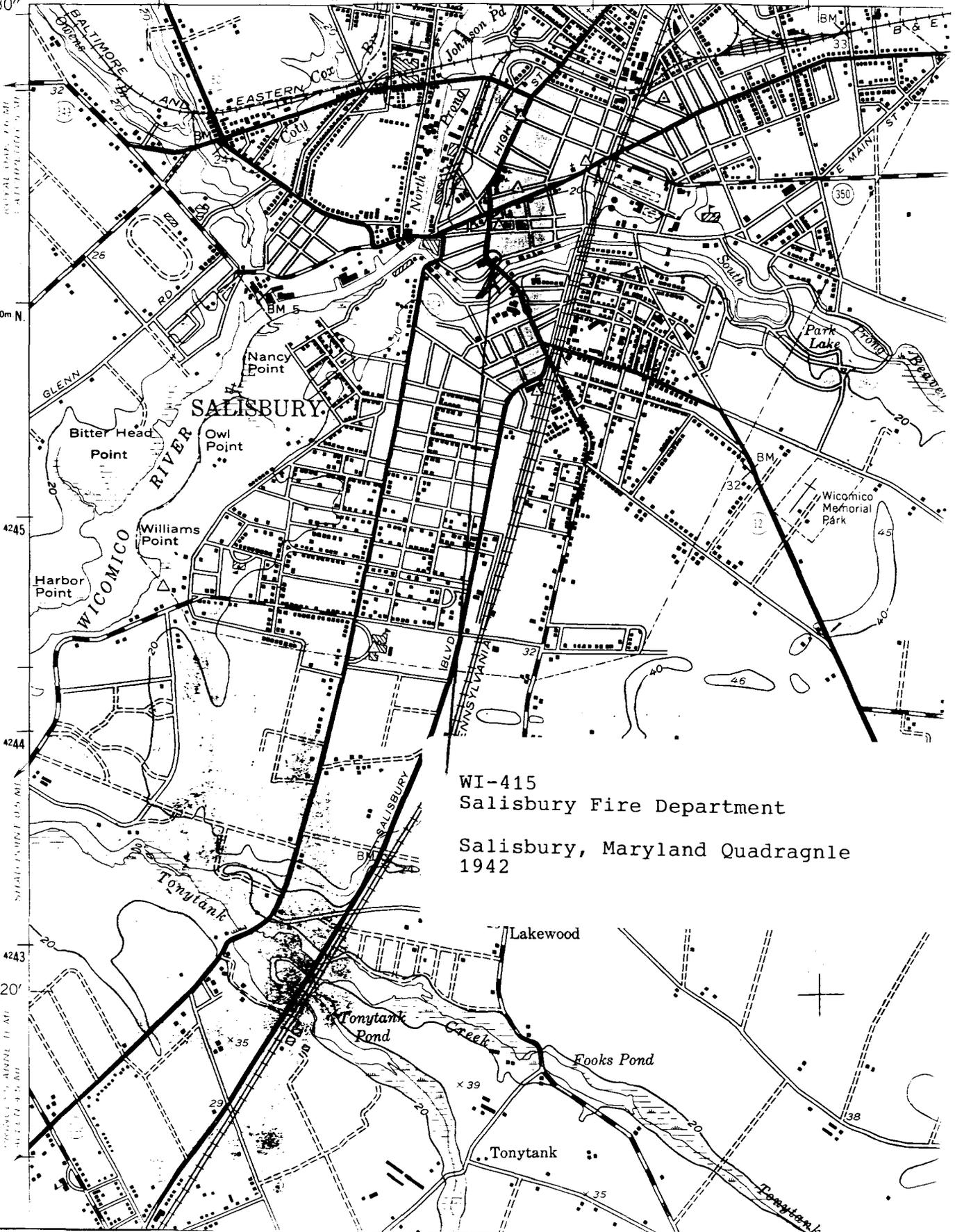
5860 LNW  
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

47000m E

35'

4246000m N



WI-415  
Salisbury Fire Department

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942

4245  
4244

4243

20'

20'

A black and white photograph of a three-story brick fire station. The building features a prominent entrance with a large garage door and a multi-paned window. Above the entrance, a sign reads "SALISBURY FIRE HEADQUARTERS". The roof is decorated with a crest containing the number "5". The building is situated on a street corner, with other buildings visible in the background.

SALISBURY FIRE HEADQUARTERS

W. 415

University of Toronto  
Saulsbury, Virginia City, N.D.  
Sourmont + ...

2/97, Paul Taylor, ...

Nick / ...

of 3



WI-415

Saturday Fine Headwaters  
Springs, Nevada Co. 1999  
Photograph a view of tower  
2/99, Paul Towner, Photographic  
Nevada Headwaters Trust

2 of 3



Wt. 435

Inventory for the Department of  
Education, Michigan Co. for  
furnishings for the school  
2/99 per Toward, Michigan  
Michigan Hospital Trust

3 0 3