

WI-419

1913

T. L. Ruark & Company Warehouse  
Salisbury  
Private

A dominant architectural fixture along the Wicomico River is the three-story red brick warehouse originally erected for the T. L. Ruark & Co., a prominent wholesale grocer.

A short article in *The Wicomico News* announced on May 22, 1913:

*Contractor W. F. Bounds is working a large force of bricklayers on the big warehouse for T. L. Ruark & Co. on Mill St. and each day a considerable showing is made. The work of putting in the foundations for the big building was rather slow, as hundreds of pilings had to be driven.*

The monumental three-story walls, measuring four bays across by six bays deep, combined with its raised foundation, red brick color, and expansive hip roof distinguish it as one of the most prominent commercial buildings remaining along Salisbury's river front. Laid in stretcher and common bond, the brick warehouse is pierced on each side by even rows of segmental arched windows. The Mill Street facade is more elaborately finished with long pilasters stretching from the foundation to a bracketed eave.

The T. L. Ruark & Company warehouse is an important representation of early twentieth-century commercial architecture remaining on Salisbury's river front. The building was erected as a warehouse and its utilitarian storage purpose is clearly evident in the series of small windows that line the north, south, and west sides. The Mill Street

facade, on the other hand, was designed as a more decorative elevation with tall pilasters dividing the four-bay facade. Large segmental arched door and window openings along with a boldly bracketed eave contribute to a distinctive commercial to the warehouse.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: T. L. Ruark & Company Warehouse

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-419

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):                Commercial Warehouse

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic T. L. Ruark & Co. Warehouse

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 222 Mill Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Salisbury \_\_\_ 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	<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 Salisbury Investments, Inc

street & number 222 Mill Street telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury, state and zip code Maryland 21801

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 794

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 345

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-419

<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 T. L. Ruark & Co. warehouse, currently the location for R. C. Holloway Wholesale Parts Distributor, stands at 222 Mill Street in the center of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The three-story rectangular brick warehouse faces east with the hip roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Erected in 1913, the three-story, four-bay by six-bay warehouse is supported on a raised foundation with an excavated cellar. The entire structure is covered by a medium pitched hip roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. The walls are laid in a combination of stretcher and seven-course common bond. Attached to the north side is a single-story frame addition.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical four-bay front divided by five brick pilasters that stretch from the ground floor to the eave. The four-bay front has an off-center entrance flanked by a single window to the south (left) and two windows to the north (right). Each opening is topped by a segmental arch. The front door, which is partially glazed, is recessed and flanked by four-light sidelights. Piercing the side walls of the recessed entrance are small windows also featuring segmental arches. Mounted above the front door but forward of the entrance is a three-part segmental arched transom. The adjacent window openings are filled with large panes of plate glass that are topped by three-part transoms like the front door. The cellar is lighted by an assortment of narrow windows topped by brick jack arches. The second and third floors are defined by a series four segmental arched window openings filled with six-over-one center sash that is flanked by two-over-one sidelights. The size of the windows openings diminish slightly on the third floor. Fixed under the extended eave of the hip roof are large brackets fixed in pairs at the top of each pilaster.

The south side elevation, laid in seven-course common bond, is six bays across with a loading platform centrally located on the first floor. The three floors are defined by small three-pane windows that fill segmental arched openings. Each opening is spanned by a three-course rowlock arch and fitted with a masonry sill. Rising through the northeast corner of the hip roof is a single flue brick stove furnace stack. The cellar is lighted by a series of windows topped by three-course segmental arches as well.

The west elevation, oriented to the Wicomico River, is a four-bay elevation with an off center freight door flanked on the north side by a single three-pane segmental arched window and on the south by two three-pane segmental arched window openings. The segmental arched freight door opening is sheltered by a flat roof hung on metal rods fastened to the wall. Lighting the second and third floors are evenly spaced rows of segmental arched, three-pane window openings.

The north side is partially covered by a single story frame addition. The second and third floors are lighted by identical segmental arched window openings. 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 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** 1913 **Builder/Architect** Contractor W. F. Bounds

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.

A dominant architectural fixture along the Wicomico River is the three-story red brick warehouse originally erected for the T. L. Ruark & Co., a prominent wholesale grocery. A short article in *The Wicomico News* announced on May 22, 1913:

*Contractor W. F. Bounds is working a large force of bricklayers on the big warehouse for T. L. Ruark & Co. on Mill St. and each day a considerable showing is made. The work of putting in the foundations for the big building was rather slow, as hundreds of pilings had to be driven.*

The monumental three-story walls, measuring four bays across by six bays deep, combined with its raised foundation, red brick color, and expansive hip roof distinguish it as one of the most prominent commercial buildings remaining along Salisbury's river front. Laid in stretcher and common bond, the brick warehouse is pierced on each side by even rows of segmental arched windows. The Mill Street facade is more elaborately finished with long pilasters stretching from the foundation to a bracketed eave.

The T. L. Ruark & Company warehouse is an important representation of early twentieth-century commercial architecture remaining on Salisbury's river front. The building was erected as a warehouse and its utilitarian storage purpose is clearly evident in the series of small windows that line the north, south, and west sides. The Mill Street facade, on the other hand, was designed as a more decorative elevation with tall pilasters dividing the four-bay facade. Large segmental arched door and window openings along with a boldly bracketed eave contribute to a distinctive commercial to the warehouse.



WI-419  
T. L. Ruark & Co. Warehouse  
222 Mill Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Map 106

794/345 T. L. R. Corporation

to

6/20/1973 Salisbury Investments, Inc.

Number 2, Plat recorded 4/18/1949, JWTS 304/39

JWTS 310/452 Interchangeable Deed

T. L. Ruark & Co.

to

5/31/1949 T. L. R. Corporation

Land conveyed in two deeds,

1. To T. L. Ruark & Co., from William P. Ward et al.  
9/27/1912, EAT 79/256
2. To T. L. Ruark from William P. Ward, et al., 7/11/1912,  
EAT 80/402

*The Wicomico News*, May 22, 1913

Contractor W. F. Bounds is working a large force of bricklayers on the big warehouse for T. L. Ruark & Co. on Mill St. and each day a considerable showing is made. The work of putting in the foundations for the big building was rather slow, as hundreds of pilings had to be driven.

*The Wicomico News*, June 19, 1913

The new brick warehouse on Mill street for T. L. Ruark & Co., wholesale grocers, is up to the second story. Contractor Bounds is rushing the work with a large force of brick masons.

A dominant architectural fixture along the Wicomico River is the three-story red brick warehouse originally erected for the T. L. Ruark & Co. A short article in *The Wicomico News* announced on May 22, 1913:

*Contractor W. F. Bounds is working a large force of bricklayers on the big warehouse for T. L. Ruark & Co. on Mill St. and each day a considerable showing is made. The work of putting in the foundations for the big building was rather slow, as hundreds of pilings had to be driven.*

The monumental three-story walls, measuring four bays across by six bays deep, combined with its raised foundation, red brick color, and expansive hip roof distinguish it as one of the most prominent commercial buildings remaining along Salisbury's river front. Laid in stretcher and common bond, the brick warehouse is pierced on each side by even rows of segmental arched windows. The Mill Street facade is more elaborately finished with long pilasters stretching from the foundation to a bracketed eave.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

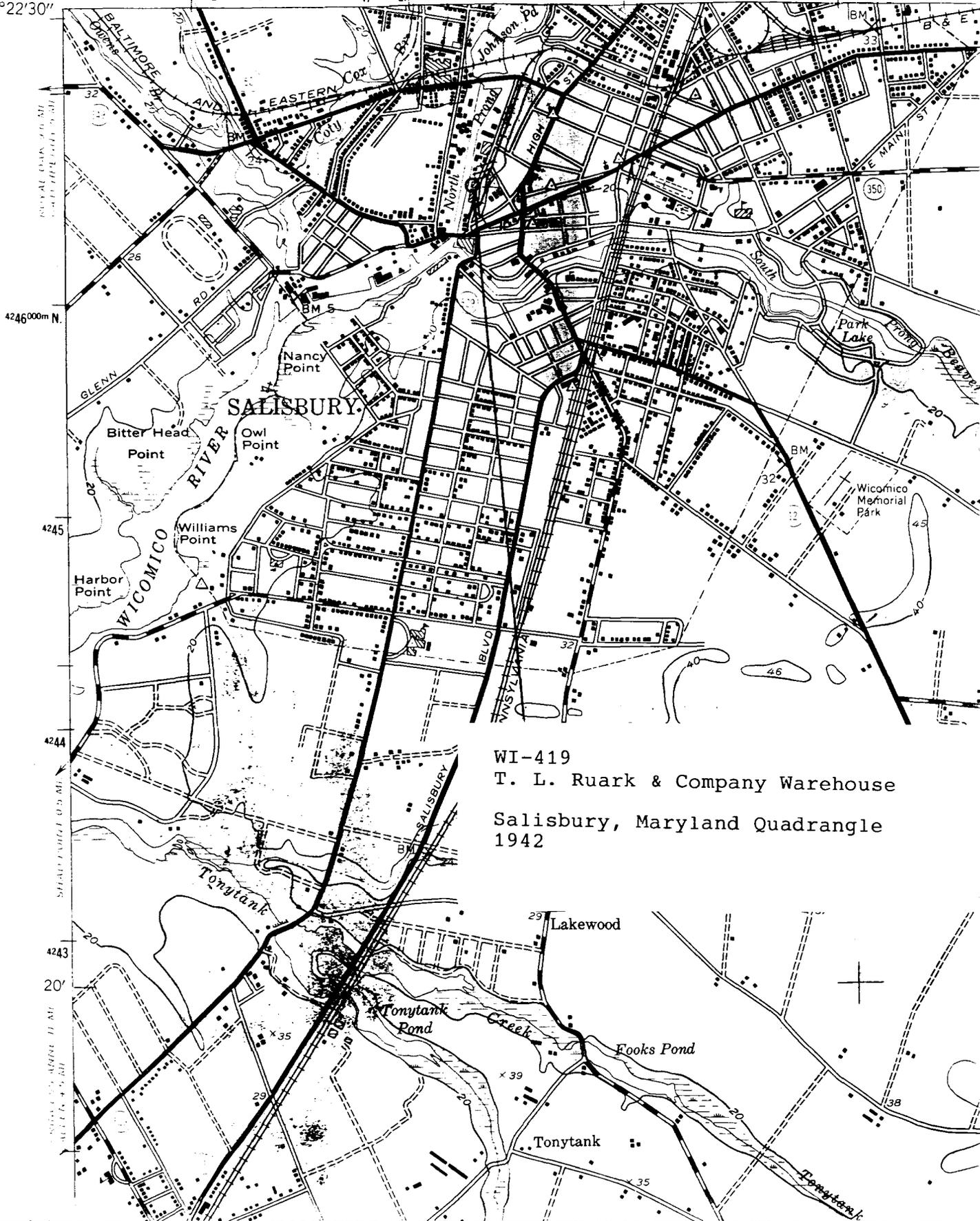
5860 NW  
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

447000m E

DELMA 1942

35'



WI-419  
T. L. Ruark & Company Warehouse  
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942



NI-419

F. L. RICHARD P. UNIVERSITY WAREHOUSE  
SALISBURY, WILMOTTE COUNTY, MD  
EAST ELEVATION

2/99, PAUL TOWNE, PHOTOGRAPHER  
NEG. | MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 3



MI-419

T. L. Rouse & Company Warehouse  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, MD.  
Southeast Corridor

2/99, Paul Thomas, Pittsburgh

NE9 / MD Historical Trust

2 of 3



MI-919

T. L. Roper P. O. VICTORVILLE  
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95833

EARL ELLIOTT

3/99, P.O. Box 10000, PITTSBURGH

NE. 1/20, HISTORICAL TRUST

3 of 3