

WI-435  
Joseph James Hitchens House  
Salisbury  
Private

c. 1850, c. 1880

Defining the corner of West Main and Second streets on the west side of Salisbury, is a combination house and store that date from the second half of the nineteenth century. The diminutive store building, a rectangular gable-front structure with flush gable ends and boxed cornices, is estimated to date around 1850 whereas the house to which it is attached was built probably during the late years of the nineteenth century. Following a center hall/single pile plan, the house features a Victorian cross gable, fishscale shingles within the gable ends, and a turned post front porch as well as late nineteenth-century two-over-two sash windows.

The cross gabled Victorian house coupled with the rare survival of the mid nineteenth-century store building provide important historical and architectural references for this west side neighborhood. Historically the property was associated with Joseph James Hitchens at the turn of the twentieth century, and since then it has been transferred more than a half-dozen times.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Joseph James Hitchens House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-435

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
  
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
  
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance  
18701-930
  
4. Resource Type(s): Dwelling

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

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

historic Joseph James Hitchens House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 668 West Main Street  not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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 checked="" 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 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 James L. Eure

street & number 635 West Main Street 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 Map 106, P. 1214  
liber 824

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 413

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town Salisbury state MD

# 7. Description

Survey No. WI-435

<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 Joseph James Hitchens house is located at 668 West Main Street on the northwest corner of West Main Street and Second Street in the west side neighborhood of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame house faces northeast with the gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

Dating around 1880, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay, frame dwelling is supported on an infilled brick pier foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with a combination of asphalt shingles and Victorian fishscale shingles. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing. Located off the southeast corner of the rear wing is a single-story, gable-front store building dating from the mid nineteenth century. The store is oriented to face Second Street.

The northeast (main) facade is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The front door is a replacement. Sheltering the first floor is a hip roofed, turned post porch. The second floor is lighted by three evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows. Centered on the roof is a cross gable, sheathed with fishscale shingles, and pierced by a small two-over-two sash window. The edge of the roof has an extended eave, and the cornice is boxed. Rising through the center of the roof is a pair of chimneys that flank the center hall.

The rear wing is two-bays across and is extended on each side by single story shed roofed additions. A brick stack protrudes through the center of the roof, and each floor is lighted by two-over-two sash windows.

The mid nineteenth-century single-story store building is attached to the south end of the south shed. Supported on a low brick pier foundation, the store building is covered with plain weatherboard siding, and the low to medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The southeast (main) gable end is defined by a door opening and a window opening on the first floor and a window opening in the gable end. The edge of the roof is flush and finished with a plain bargeboard. The southwest side is defined by a uninterrupted weatherboard wall, and the base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice. The cornice survives with a beaded fascia. Attached to the northwest gable end is a shed roofed extension of the main gable roofed structure.

The interiors of the house and store were 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** **Builder/Architect**

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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.

Defining the corner of West Main and Second streets on the west side of Salisbury, is a combination house and store that date from the second half of the nineteenth century. The diminutive store building, a rectangular gable-front structure with flush gable ends and boxed cornices, is estimated to date around 1850 whereas the house to which it is attached was built probably during the late years of the nineteenth century. Following a center hall/single pile plan, the house features a Victorian cross gable, fishscale shingles within the gable ends, and a turned post front porch as well as late nineteenth-century two-over-two sash windows.

The cross gabled Victorian house coupled with the rare survival of the mid nineteenth-century store building provide important historical and architectural references for this west side neighborhood. Historically the property was associated with Joseph James Hitchens at the turn of the twentieth century,<sup>1</sup> and since then it has been transferred more than a half-dozen times.

<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 28/463, 17 December 1900.



WI-435  
Joseph James Hitchens House  
668 West Main Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 106, Parcel 1214

824/413                      Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company under  
Will of Richard Hodgson

to

6/24/1974                      James L. Eure

JWTS 806/169                      Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company-  
Richard Hodgson Trust

to

11/20/1973                      Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company-  
Estate of Richard Hodgson  
Item 19

IDT 179/16                      Thomas H. Gunby  
Ethel I. Gunby

to

9/6/1932                      Richard H. Hodgson

JCK 121/172                      Robert W. Jones  
Hester Jones

to

12/17/1920                      Thomas H. Gunby  
"California"

WI-435  
Joseph James Hitchens House  
658 West Main Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JCK 121/61

A. Watson Fooks

to

11/5/1920

Robert W. Jones

JCK 117/223

Charles M. Peters  
Annie C. Peters

to

2/25/1920

A. Walton Fooks

EAT 86/246

George W. Bell, attorney, Samuel P. Woodcock  
and Carrie W. Woodcock

to

8/7/1913

Charles M. Peters  
\$1325

Whereas by virtue of a power contained in a  
mortgage made by John W. Moore and Clara B.  
Moore to Daisey M. Bell, 10/27/1910, EAT 72/100

Mortgage  
EAT 72/100

John W. Moore

to

10/27/1910

Daisey M. Bell

WI-435  
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Chain of title continued

Page 3

EAT 70/501

Joseph James Hitchens

to

10/27/1910

John W. Moore

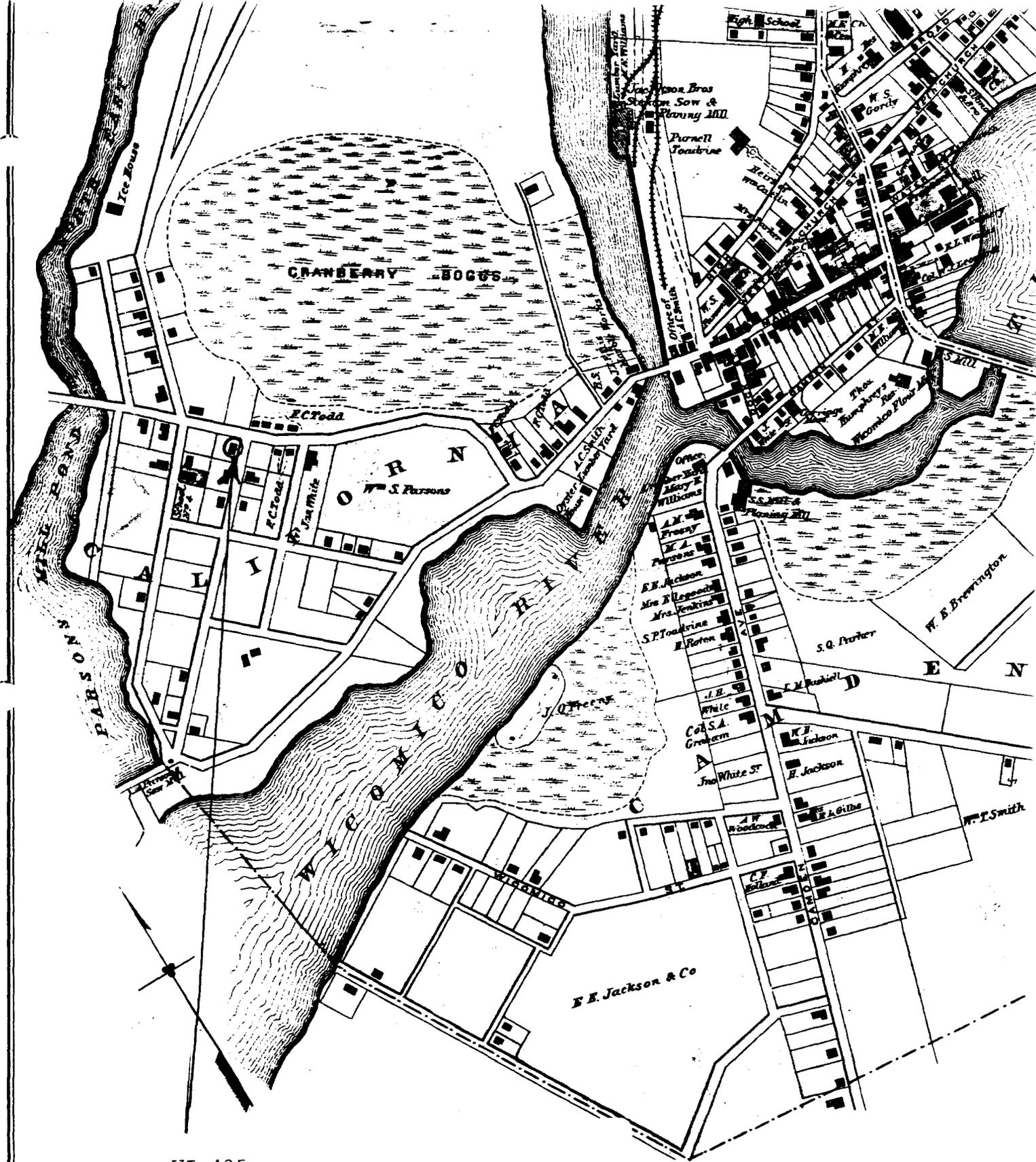
JTT 28/463

Ernest A. Toadvine, trustee

to

12/17/1900

Joseph James Hitchens  
Decree of Circuit Court: No. 1172 Chancery  
\$250 "California"



WI-435  
 Joseph James Hitchens House  
 Salisbury, Maryland

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas  
 1877

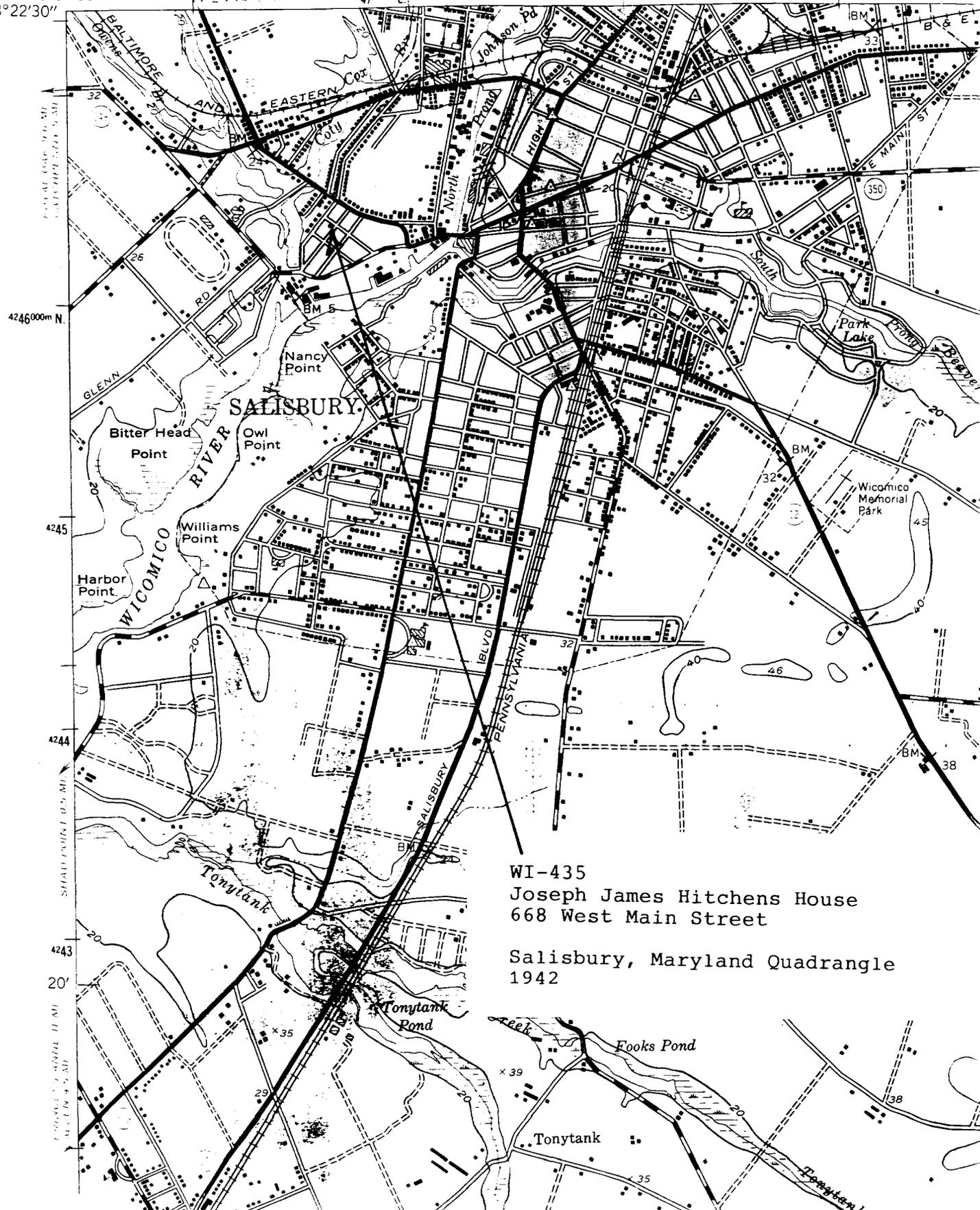
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

5860 J NW  
(HEBRON)

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

447000m E

35'



WI-435  
Joseph James Hitchens House  
668 West Main Street  
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942







