

WI-461  
Richard M. Johnson House  
Salisbury  
Private

c. 1896

Standing on the western edge of the Newtown neighborhood, the Richard M. Johnson house, also known as the Johnson-Cooper house, is a distinctive T-shaped Victorian frame dwelling that incorporates a number of architectural features distinctive to the historic district. The gable-front house has an unusual turned post porch embellished with a creative eave decoration that combines turned spindles and woven lattice corner brackets. The northeast corner entrance to the porch is marked by a pediment front enriched with a carved face executed in a flowing linear design. This same carved wood ornament is repeated with the uppermost gable of the main block above a third floor balcony. The tee shape of the main block is created by matching two-story bay pavilions that rise to gable roofs sheathed with fishscale shingles. A wide extended eave with exposed rafter ends and bracketed corners trims the edge of the patterned slate roof.

Historically identified as the Richard M. Johnson house, the intricately detailed Victorian dwelling was erected around 1896, shortly after Richard M. and William T. Johnson acquired title to this lot bordering Isabella Street and the right-of-way for the Baltimore, Chesapeake, and Atlantic Railroad. The two men paid \$225 for the property. Three years later, in January 1899, Richard purchased William's half interest. Richard Johnson and his wife Williamina, as well as their daughter Elizabeth are listed in the 1907 Salisbury city directory at what was then known as 200 West Isabella Street. In 1909, Elizabeth D. Cooper acquired title to the property. She and her husband William, the secretary for the Wicomico Building & Loan Association, resided here, and she maintained ownership until 1951.



# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-461

Name Richard M. Johnson House  
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### 7. Description

Inventory No. WI-461

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#### Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	good	ruins
	fair	altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Richard M. Johnson house, historically known as the Johnson-Cooper house, stands at 208-210 West Isabella Street on the west side of the Newtown Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story frame house faces north with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis. The house is perched atop a slight knoll overlooking West Isabella and Mill streets.

Built around 1896, the two-and-a-half story, T-shaped, gable front frame dwelling is supported on a raised brick foundation with a partially excavated cellar. The exterior of the house is clad in a combination of plain weatherboards and fishscale shingles. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with patterned slate. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing.

The north (main) facade is a three-bay elevation with a side entrance and flanking colored glass windows. The entrance is fitted with a heavily molded four-panel door. Sheltering the first floor and wrapping around each side is a turned post porch enhanced with decorative eave of spindles and lattice-like brackets. The entrance to the porch on the northeast corner has a pediment front enriched with a carved linear design. The second floor of the main block is lighted by three evenly windows with large single-pane windows framed by small colored glass panes. The gable front, sheathed with fishscale shingles, is defined by a projecting balcony porch. Turned columns enclose the porch opening, and decorative brackets underpin the balcony floor. The edge of the roof is trimmed with extended eaves and exposed and decorated rafter ends. The corners of the roof have decorative brackets. Perched atop the slate roof are large gable roof dormers fitted with paired six-over-one sash windows. The dormer roofs have extended eaves, open soffits, and decorated rafter feet.

The east and west sides of the house are defined by two-story, five-sided bay pavilions sheathed with a combination of plain weatherboards and fishscale shingles. Each floor is lighted by large Victorian sash with colored glass perimeter panes. The gable of each pavilion is sheathed with fishscale shingles, and brackets are attached to the outside corners. Each gable is pierced by a Victorian sash window.

Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing, executed in a plainer fashion than the front of the house. Turned post porches are attached to the rear corners.

The house is divided into two apartments. The interior was not seen.

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### 8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy
x 1800-1899	x architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
1900-1999	art	entertainment/ recreation	landscape architecture	religion
2000-	commerce	ethnic heritage	law	science
	communications	exploration/ settlement	literature	social history
	community planning		maritime history	transportation
	conservation		military	other:

Significance dates

Architect

Specific dates

Builder

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Standing on the western edge of the Newtown neighborhood, the Richard M. Johnson house, also known as the Johnson-Cooper house, is a distinctive T-shaped Victorian frame dwelling that incorporates a number of architectural features unusual to the historic district. The gable-front house has an unusual turned post porch embellished with a creative eave decoration that combines turned spindles and lattice-like corner brackets. The corner entrance to the porch is marked by a pediment front enriched with a carved face executed in a flowing linear design. This same carved wooden ornament is fixed within the uppermost gable of the main block above a third floor balcony. The T-shape of the main block is created by matching two-story bay pavilions that rise to a gable roof sheathed with fishscale shingles. A wide, extended eave with exposed rafter ends and bracketed corners trims the edge of the patterned slate roof. Large gable roofed dormers are distinguished by extended eaves and exposed rafter ends as well.

Historically identified as the Richard M. Johnson house, or the Johnson-Cooper house, the intricately detailed Victorian dwelling was erected around 1896, shortly after Richard M. and William T. Johnson acquired title to this lot

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bordering Isabella Street and the right-of-way for the Baltimore, Chesapeake, and Atlantic railroad.<sup>1</sup> The two men paid \$225 for the property. Three years later, in January 1899, Richard purchased William's half interest.<sup>2</sup> Richard M. Johnson and his wife, Williamina, as well as their daughter Elizabeth are listed in the 1907 Salisbury city directory at what was then known as 200 West Isabella Street. In 1909, Elizabeth D. Cooper acquired title to property.<sup>3</sup> She and her husband William, the secretary for the Wicomico Building & Loan Association, resided here, and she the property remained in her name until 1951.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 18/237, 23 July 1896

<sup>2</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 24/116, 23 January 1899.

<sup>3</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 62/9, 5 February 1909.

<sup>4</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 326/156, 4 June 1951.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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WI-461

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed

Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

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**Verbal boundary description and justification**

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

street & number P. O. Box 5

city or town Westover, Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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### HISTORIC CONTEXT:

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type: Standing Structure

Category: House

Historic Environment: Residential district

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic

Known Design Source:

WI-461  
Richard M. Johnson House  
(Johnson-Cooper House)  
208-210 West Isabella Street  
Chain of title

Map 106, Parcel 977

887/106  
Curtis W. Long  
Sarah U. Long

to

11/9/1977  
Osborne D. Christensen  
Mary Christensen  
Osborne D. Christensen, Jr.  
trading as Greenbank Enterprises

JWTS 692/478  
Ralph C. Lednum  
Mary W. Lednum

to

5/29/1969  
Curtis W. Long  
Sarah U. Long

JWTS 326/156  
John W. Downing, Attorney for Elizabeth D. Cooper

to

6/4/1951  
Ralph C. Lednum

EAT 62/9  
Richard M. Johnson  
Williamina R. Johnson

to

2/5/1909  
Elizabeth D. Cooper  
\$4,500. 34/100 of an acre and Lot. No. 1, Division 2 of  
Gordon H. Toadvine's land as per survey and plot made by  
Peter S. Shockley, No. 871 in Equity

WI-461  
Richard M. Johnson House  
(Johnson-Cooper House)  
208-210 West Isabella Street  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JTT 18/237

C. Ernest Williams, trustee

to

7/23/1896

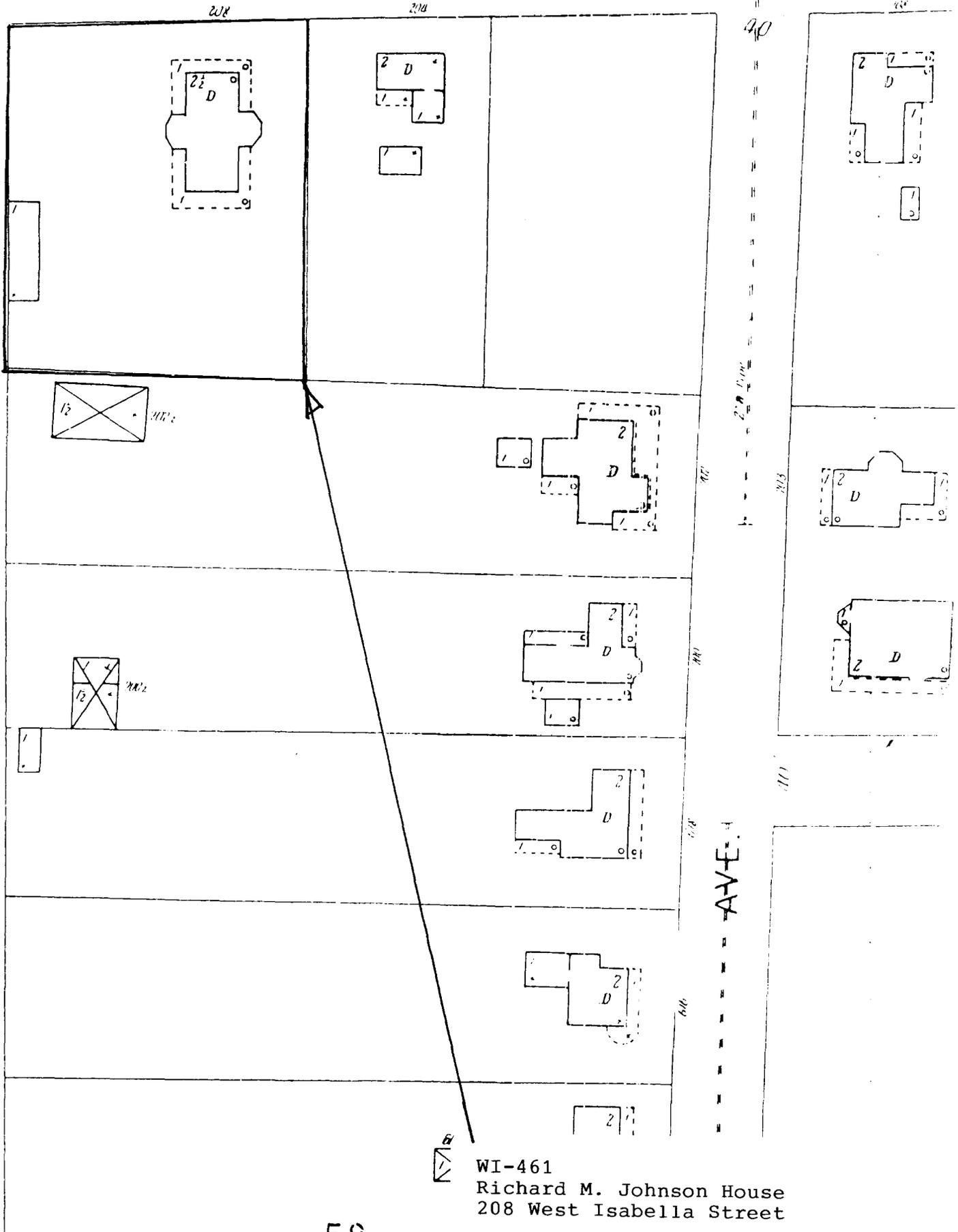
Richard M. Johnson  
William T. Johnson

(the one half interest of William T. Johnson having been  
deeded to the said Richard M. Johnson, 23 January 1899,  
JTT 24/116

...all that lot or parcel of land lying on the South side of  
Isabella Street in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland,  
and on the easterly side of the branch of the Baltimore,  
Chesapeake, and Atlantic Railroad running to the Jackson  
Bros. Company Mills near the Pivot Bridge which said lot  
is Lot No. 1 of Division 2 of the real estate of said Gordon  
H. Toadvine as per plat made by Peter S. Shockley and filed  
in Number 871 Equity....being the land hereafter conveyed  
and sold the same to Benjamin T. Wooley he being the  
highest and best bidder therefore at and for \$255 but at the  
request of said Wooley, Richard M. Johnson and William T.  
Johnson were substituted and returned as purchasers of said  
lot at said price and the said Johnson complied with the terms  
of the sale.

1904

# ISABELLA



WI-461  
 Richard M. Johnson House  
 208 West Isabella Street

59

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1904

360 LNW  
HEBRON

# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LAUREL 13 M  
DELMAR 6 M

35'

75°37'30"  
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI  
VIENNA 15 MI  
447000m E

ROYAL OAK 9.6 MI  
CATCHPENNY 5 MI

4246000m N

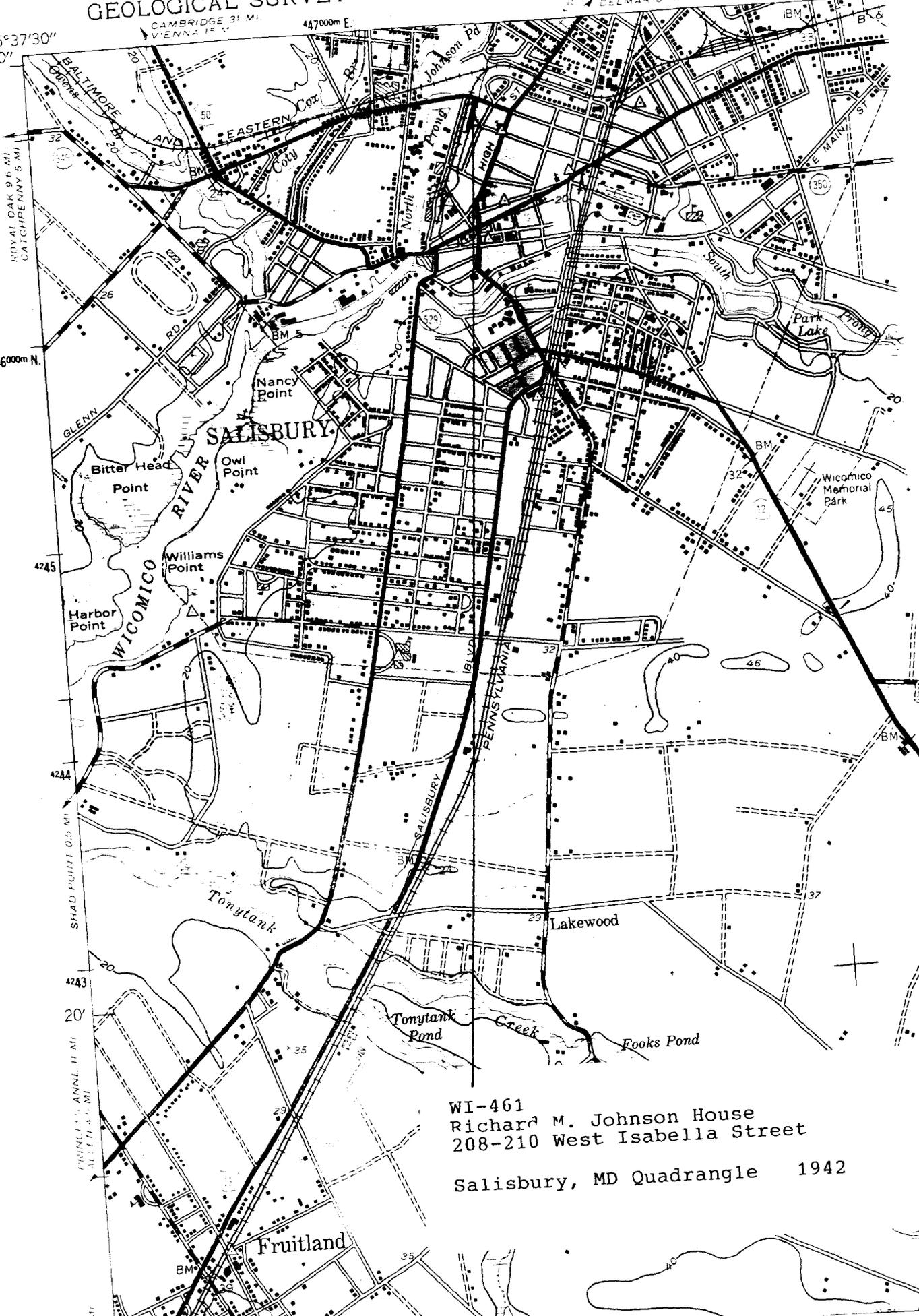
4245

4244

4243

20'

SHAD POINT 0.5 MI  
ANNL 11 MI  
ALCH 4.5 MI



WI-461  
 Richard M. Johnson House  
 208-210 West Isabella Street  
 Salisbury, MD Quadrangle 1942



WI-461

RICHARD M. JONES JR  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI 65702

NORTHWEST ELECTIONS

2/2000, PAUL FORD, MISSOURI

NEW JMD HISTORICAL TRUST

2 of 3

Two O Eight



WI-461

Richard M. Johnson  
Secretary, Wisconsin Co., Inc.  
Madison = Point

2/2000, Paul Towne, President  
1/50, 1/20, 1/500000