

Nassaongo Old School Baptist Church
Fruitland vicinity
Private

Located along the road that connects Salisbury and Snow Hill is the Nassaongo Old School Baptist Church, a diminutive frame structure erected in 1898. While built in the Victorian era of the late nineteenth century, the single-story, rectangular frame church was designed and built in a conservative manner with little attention to decorative embellishments. The plain nature of the church echoes the conservative doctrine of the denomination.

This Old School Baptist congregation traces its origin back to the early nineteenth century, while the regional organization of the Old School Baptists was established around 1795. The lot on which the church stands was purchased by Elijah Shockley and Uriah Fooks from Warner and Polly Staten in March 1842. The transfer describes the property as

“being a lot of ground whereon the Nassiongo meeting house now stands on the County Road leading from the furnise (sic) to Salisbury where Warner Staten now lives lying and being in Worcester County aforesaid being a part of a tract of land called conclusion...”

The early nineteenth-century meeting house served the congregation until the last years of the century when the group decided to rebuild. In the minutes for the church the decision to rebuild was announced in March 1898 and by June the discussion centered on construction and moving the old meeting house. Three months later the membership assembled in the new structure. At a meeting at the end of the year, a suggestion was made that each member contribute \$1.00 at the next meeting in January 1899 in an effort to pay off the construction debt.

The church maintained regular services through much of the twentieth century. Elder Thomas M. Poulson, who was present during the construction of the new meeting house in 1898, served the congregation until his death in 1913. Following Poulson's long 43-year association with the Nassaongo Church, several elders preached short term sessions. During the second quarter of the twentieth century the membership declined, and by the early 1960s four members were left.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-563

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Nassaongo Old School Baptist Church

other _____

2. Location

street and number Snow Hill Road not for publication

city, town Fruitland x vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name Trustees of Nassaongo Old School Baptist Church

street and number _____ telephone _____

city, town Fruitland state Maryland zip code 21826

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Courthouse liber GMH 5 folio 263-4

city, town Snow Hill tax map _____ tax parcel _____ tax ID number _____

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<u>3</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<u> </u>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>4</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

**Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory**

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-563

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

The Nassaongo Old School Baptist Church stands on the west side of MD Route 12 , also known as Snow Hill Road, at the intersection of Nassawango Church Road southwest of Fruitland, Wicomico County, Maryland. The church faces west with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1898, the single-story, rectangular frame church is supported on a raised stretcher bond brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with plain weatherboard siding. The outside edges of the church are trimmed with beaded corner boards. The weatherboarded walls rise to a steeply pitched gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. Joining the church on the lot is a small single story frame shed, a frame privy, and a cemetery.

The west (main) façade is defined by a center double-door entrance fitted with raised panel doors and topped by a large single-pane transom. The front doors are reach by a brick step. To each side are long nine-over-one sash windows covered with louvered shutters. The edge of the gable roof is finished with an extended eave with returns as the base of the roof.

The north side is three bays across and each bay is defined by a long nine-over-one sash window fitted with long louvered shutters. Rising through the roof is a single flue brick stove chimney. The foundation is pierced with a diamond pattern vent in the brickwork.

The south side is finished in the same manner with three shuttered windows across the wall. The foundation is vented in the same way with a diamond pattern.

The east (rear) wall is defined by a shorter single-story, gable roofed apse that has narrow shuttered windows in each side and a blind rear wall. The edge of the apse roof is finished with an extended eave and returns at the base. Piercing the northeast rear wall is a back entrance fitted with a paneled door.

The interior of the church was not seen.

Standing south of the church is a small burial ground featuring a handful of marked graves. To the east of the church is a small shed roofed, frame storage building covered with weathered vertical board siding. The other building is a shed roofed frame privy surrounded by a wood fence.

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-563

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

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1898

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

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This Old School Baptist congregation traces its origin back to the early nineteenth century, while the regional organization was begun around 1795.¹ The lot on which the church stands was purchased by Elijah Shockley and Uriah Fooks from Warner and Polly Staten in March 1842. The transfer describes the property as

“being a lot of ground whereon the Nassiongo meeting house now stands on the County Road leading from the furnise to Salisbury near where Warner Staten now lives lying and being in Worcester County aforesaid being a part of a tract of land called conclusion...”

The early nineteenth-century meeting house served the congregation until the last years of the century when the congregation decided to rebuild. In the minutes for the church, the decision to rebuild was announced in March 1898 and by June the discussion centered on construction and moving the old meeting house.² Three months later the membership assembled in the new structure. At a meeting at the end of the year, a suggestion was made that each member contribute \$1.00 at the next meeting in January 1899 toward paying off the

¹ *Daily Times* newsclipping by Doris Calcott, October 24, 1962.

² Old School Baptist Church as Nassaongo, 1841-1972, transcribed by Patricia Johnson Taylor, 1972. “June 25, 1898. The Church assembled. No business before the Church, other than appointing a time for moving the old meeting house preparatory to building a new meeting house.”

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-563

Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

contribute \$1.00 at the next meeting in January 1899 toward paying off the construction debt.³

The church maintained regular services through much of the twentieth century. Elder Thomas M. Poulson, who was present during the construction of the new meeting house in 1898, served the congregation until his death in 1913.⁴ Following Poulson's long 43-year association with the Nassaongo church, several elders preached short terms. During the early to mid twentieth century membership declined, and by the early 1960s four members were left.⁵

³ Ibid. "December 24, 1898, The Church assembled and the laying off of the ground that Brother J. W. Sirman had promised to give the church for a burying ground was considered. It was also suggested that each of the members should pay a dollar at the next meeting day, in January 1899, toward paying off the debt standing against the new meeting house."

⁴ *Daily Times*, October 24, 1962.

⁵ Ibid.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

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Name
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Minutes from the Nassaongo Old School Baptist Church, 1841-1972, transcribed by Patricia Johnson Taylor, 1972, located at the Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture.

March 1898: The Church assembled. No business, talk of building a new meeting house.

June 25, 1898: The Church assembled. No business before the Church, other than appointing a time for moving the old meeting house preparatory to building a new meeting house.

September 24, 1898: The Church assembled in the new meeting house.

December 24, 1898: The Church assembled and the laying off of the ground that Brother J. W. Sirman had promised to give the church for burying ground was considered. It was also suggested that each of the members should pay a dollar at the next meeting day in January 1899 toward paying off the debt standing against the new meeting house.

The church was erected during the pastorate of Elder Thomas M. Poulson, who served the congregation from 1870 until his death in 1913.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WI-563

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 3/4 acre
Acreage of historical setting 3/4 acre
Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart		
organization	Private Consultant	date	2/28/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	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 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Four Are Left Here From Nassaongo Old School

By DORIS CALCOTT
Times Religious Editor

The four surviving members of the Nassaongo Old School Baptist Meeting House, located six miles from Salisbury on the Snow Hill Rd., were hosts to the Old School Baptist Assn. in the Salisbury Old School Baptist Church last week.

This is one of the oldest Baptist congregations in Maryland, the exact date of its organization not definitely known since the earlier records are lost. However, it is known that a meeting of the Salisbury Old School Baptist Assn. was held there on Oct. 19, 1799. From this record, church historians have said that the church was probably organized around 1795 with Elder Daniel Handcock and Elder John Benston in attendance.

Elijah Baker, a pious Baptist preached of the 18th century organized churches all the way from Red Bank, Va., to Salisbury. He and the early founders of churches were "regular" Baptists "who stressed sound doctrine and divine sovereignty as contrasted with the evangelical evangelists, who stressed evangelism and the new birth and who were called "separate" Baptists.

Old Nassaongo Meeting House has held tender memories for a large number of people ov-

er the years. For years, the first Sunday in September was set aside for the former members and children of members to travel many miles from many states to renew acquaintances and greet old friends and associates. The Eastern Shore Baptist, known for their good food, prepared feasts of Shore delicacies for the dinner welcoming Baptists "back home."

There is now an unbroken record of the church history from 1841 to the present date. With the membership dwindling over the years, only the few remaining members, known for their hospitality and strict adherence to the Calvinistic doctrines of their fathers, remain to recall better days.

The modest frame building erected in 1898 during the pastorate of Elder Thomas M. Poulson, who remained from 1870 until his death in 1913, is still dear to the hearts of the small number of Old School Baptists on the Shore and their relatives who have left the Shore to live elsewhere.

The church has a unique history of pastors. In 78 years, only five ministers had served there. Elder Baker was the organizer and those who served

for nearly 80 years were Elder George W. Slater, 1858 - 1862; Elder George W. Staton who followed him and served until 1870 when Elder Poulson took over the pastorate. In 1916, Elder J. Corder Mellott came to the church and served until 1925, leaving in November and succeeded in December by Elder G. E. Coulbourn, who remained until February, 1928. Visiting elders now serve there.

A devout member of the Old School Baptist faith has remarked that the old church is a bulwark against the encroaching worldliness of the present generation. It is old and tested institutions of this type that recall the devout faith and patriotism of the founders of this nation and remind their descendants that this nation was built on trust in God and love for one's fellowman, she said.

The surviving members of the old church are Merrill Shockley, Mrs. Mollie Fooks, Mrs. Stella Parsons, and Mrs. Della Pusey. Seven elders attended the recent meeting. Elder David Spangler and Elder D. W. Griffin conduct services in the Salisbury and the Nassaongo Churches once a month.

When the count was made of those returning for the Association meeting, it was found that more than 150 attended and some

came from North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New York.

WI-563

13. WILLIAM FOOKS DESCENDANTS.

FOOKS FAMILY

Elijah Shockley and Uriah Fooks trustees the receipt whereof they hereby acknowledge have granted bargained and sold and by these present doth grant bargain sell alienate Convey and Confirm unto the said Elijah Shockley and Uriah Fooks Trustees of the Nassiongo Baptist Church and their Successors forever for the use of the said Church for a place of public worship it being a lot of ground whereon the Nassiongo meeting house now stands on the County Road leading from the furnace to Salisbury where Warner Staten now lives lying and being in Worcester County and said being a part of a tract of land called conclusion to be laid off as follows Beginning at a marked pine standing on the County Road and about twenty five yards from the South corner of the said meeting house from thence running north twelve Perches to a Litwood Post thence running East twelve Perches to a marked white oak from thence South twelve Perches to a marked pine sapling thence with a line to the first beginning containing three quarters of an acre, together with the benefits thereunto belonging and the said Warner Staten and Polly his wife doth covenant to and warrant that they the said Warner Staten and Polly his wife of the Church aforesaid that they the said Warner Staten and Polly his wife will warrant and forever defend to them the said Elijah Shockley and Uriah fooks and their successors forever, the above mentioned lot of ground to the only use of and behoof of the Nassaongo baptist Church forever to have and hold with all and Singular the Rights Profits benefits Privileges thereunto belonging or in any manner or wise appertaining thereunto and the said will warrant and forever defend against all persons whatsoever claiming the same or any part thereof from by or under us the said Warner Staten and Polly his wife or their heirs or assigns forever in testimony whereof we the said Warner Staten and Polly Staten his wife have hereunto set our hands and affixed our seals the day and year herein before written.

Warner Staten, (Seal)
Polly Staten (Seal)

Witnesses: Levin Hitch, P. I. Jones. Acknowledged before Levin Hitch and Purnell I. Jones, 26 Mar 1843. Recorded 29th Mar. 1843. Liber G. M. H. No. 5 f 262, 263.

118 IRVING FOOKS of Uriah (81), m. 11 Dec. 1852 Charlotte Coulbourn of John and Priscilla Coulbourn of John and Rachel Laws Coulbourn. Ch: 118-1 George W., b. 27 Oct. 1853, d. 5 Jan. 1924; 118-2 Uriah James, infancy; 118-3 Purnell Mitchell, b. 20 Nov. 1860, d. 20 Oct. 1909; 118-4 Asbury Jackson, b. 20 Nov. 1866.

118-1 GEORGE W. FOOKS of Irving m. 7 Dec. 1875, Sarah Emily Causey a descendant of Unicy Fooks Causey (27). Sarah Emily d. 1 Mar. 1916. Ch: 118-5 Nelson Henry, b. 25 Sept. 1876, d. 5 July 1935; 118-6 Emory Lloyd, b. 11 Aug. 1879; 118-7 Bertha Estella Jane, b. 25 Jan. 1882, d. 26 Aug. 1950; 118-8 Elmer Reuben, b. 26 Jan. 1884, d. 21 Aug. 1941; 118-9 Herbert Clarence, b. 3 Mar. 1886.

118-3 PURNELL FOOKS m. 20 Aug. 1884 Emily Shockley of Uriah. Ch: 118-10 Julia Charlotte, b. 1888; 118-11 Joanna Beulah, b. 26 Aug. 1890, d. 23 Aug. 1893; 118-12 Eva Emily, b. 31 Apr. 1895, d. 1 Feb. 1902; 118-13 Burleigh Clayton, b. Nov. 1896.

118-4 ASBURY JACKSON FOOKS m. ——— Olivia Bailey. Ch: 118-14 Elizabeth, (Bessie); 118-15 Clarence d. infancy.

118-5 NELSON H. FOOKS m. 30 Jan. 1903, Nellie Percy Phillips. Ch: 118-16 Virginia, b. 18 May 1904; 118-17 Nelson Irving, b. 31 May 1906 (Colonel U. S. Army); 118-18 Neil b. 23 Jan. 1918.

118-6 EMORY LLOYD FOOKS m. 30 Oct. 1900, Mattie Douglas. 8 yrs. Judge Orphans Court, Caroline County, Md. Ch: 118-19 Lloyd Douglas, b. 21 Feb. 1903 d. Oct. 1946, m. May LeCompte; 118-20 George Herbert, b.

19 Sept. 1908; 118-21 James Medford b. 28 Patrick, b. 13 July 1914 m. Belva Barber 27 City of Baltimore Law School, Practised law

118-16 EMORY LLOYD FOOKS widower 19 Oct. 1940.

118-7 BERTHA ESTELLA JANE FOOKS Collins. He died 28 Mch. 1948. Ch: 118-23 M 118-24 Bertha Fae, b. 4 Mar. 1909.

118-8 ELMER REUBEN FOOKS m. 15 M died Aug. 4 1941. Ch: 118-25 Marie, b. 26 Apr. b. 29 Feb. 1916.

118-13 BURLEIGH CLAYTON FOOKS m. Hepburn. Ch: 118-27 Eleanor Burwell, b. 10 b. 4 Aug. 1938.

118-14 ELIZABETH (BESSIE) FOOKS Howard. Ch: 118-29 Helene M. b. 8 Jan. 1910 1915.

118-17 NELSON IRVING FOOKS m. 18 J. elford, only child Col. and Mrs. R. B. U.S.A. Irving served overseas in World War. Regiment also training troops in England. 1927. Colonel U. S. Army. Ch: 118-31 Meta S. Mary Bolling, 31 Oct. 1936; 118-33 Robert N

118-18 NELL FOOKS m. 29 June 1940 118-34 George, b. 8 Mar. 1944; 118-35 Mar. 118-36 Richard Jennings, b. 22 Aug. 1948.

118-20 GEORGE HERBERT FOOKS m. 15 Ch: 118-37 Virginia Jane, b. 3 Oct. 1929 m. b. Sept. 1926.

118-20 GEORGE H. FOOKS m. 21 Apr. County Engineer for Caroline County, Dent College, Annapolis, Md., Special Course in F. F. and A. M. Lodge Easton, Md. A.A.O.N.M.S.

118-21 JAMES MEDFORD FOOKS m. 28 Ja dy. He served in ground forces Aviation. 118-38 Linda Barrett, b. 15 Apr. 1947; 118-1949.

118-23 MARTHA EMILY COLLINS m. J. died 1950. Ch: 118-40 Jean, b. 7 Jan. 1931 n Hosier, b. 14 May 1926; 118-41 Herbert Clif

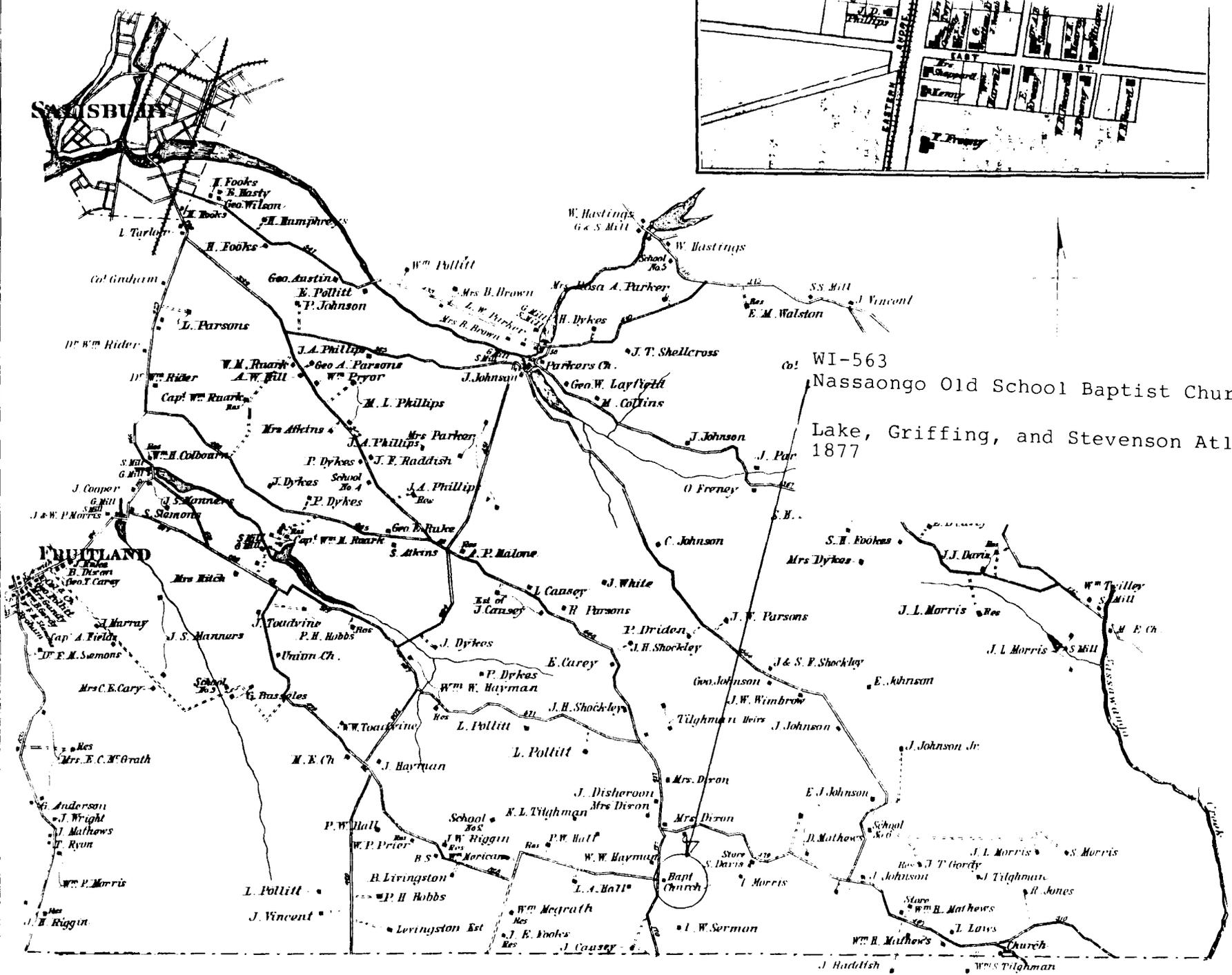
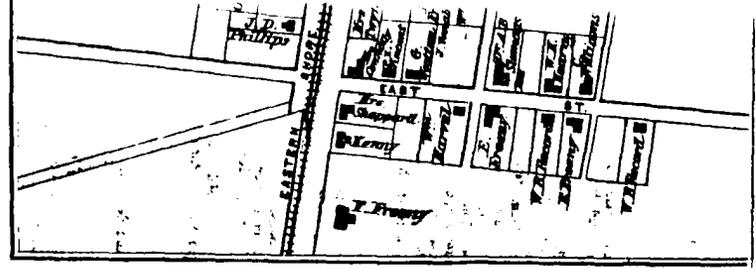
118-24 BERTHA FAY COLLINS m. 14 Jun Nov. 1906. Ch: 118-42 Beverly Anne, b. 4 Oc

118-25 MARIE FOOKS m. 16 Oct. 1927, W. Md. Ch: 118-43 Jane Marie, b. 15 Sept. 1929 Farmville, Va. Teaches music, Baltimore Co Harold Markuson, Presbyterian Church, Pri of E. R. Fooks, her grandfather, in this church "chase" acquired by Christopher Nutter by pat City College, also Duke University.

118-27 ELEANOR BURWELL FOOKS n Church, Annapolis, Md., Thomas I. Noble, 1 Price, b. 25 July 1951.

118-30 MIRIAM E. HOWARD m. Edwin 118-45 Susan M. b. 19 Jan. 1942; 118-46 Pri 118-47 David Edwin, b. 25 Mar. 1949.

SMITHSBURY

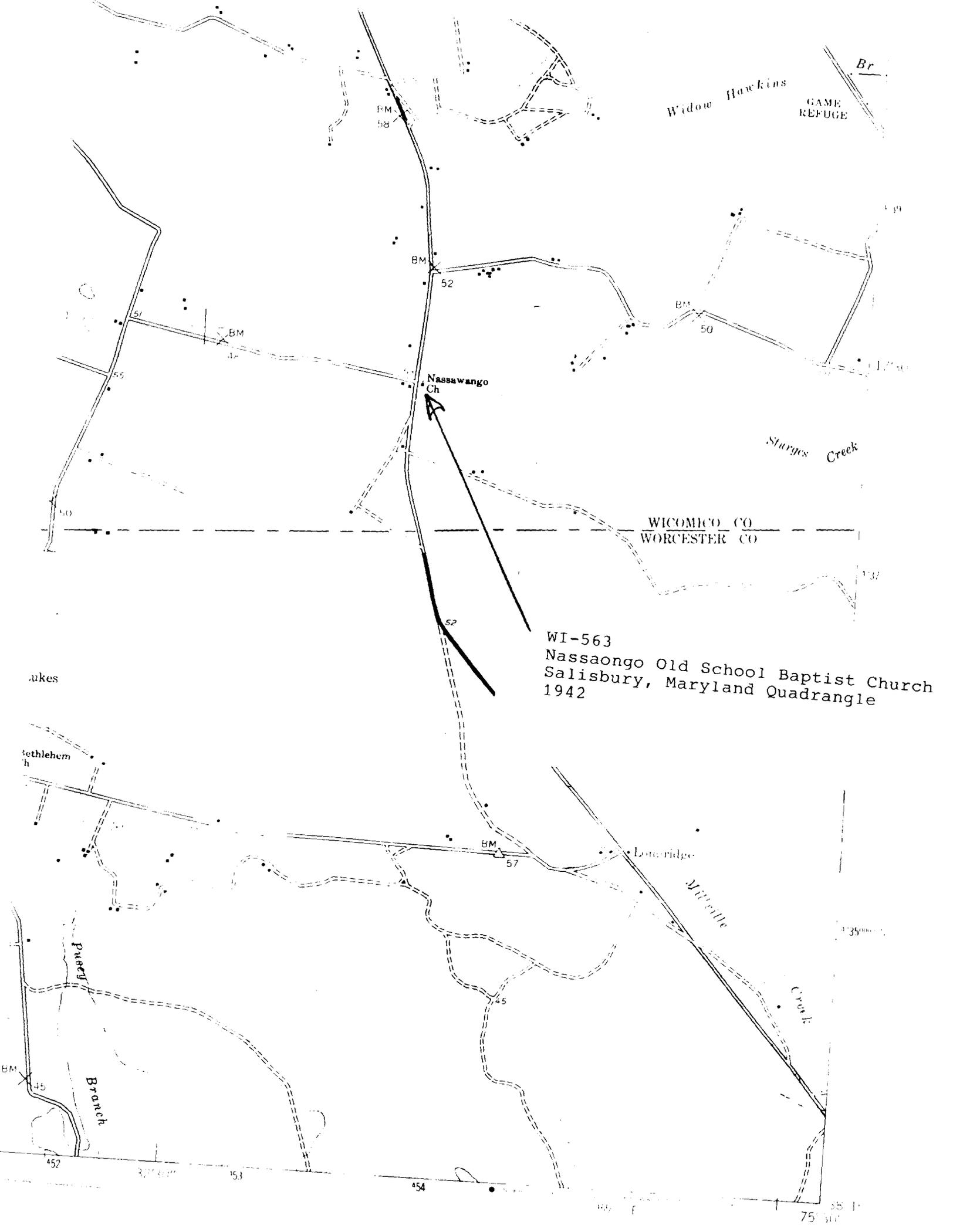


WI-563
Nassaongo Old School Baptist Church
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877

FRUITLAND



Church



Widow Hawkins
GAME REFUGE

Nassawango
Ch

WICOMICO CO
WORCESTER CO

WI-563
Nassaongo Old School Baptist Church
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

Sturges
Creek

Lowridge

Millsville

Creek

Branch

Bethlehem

ukes



WI-568

NASSAUNGO OLD SCHOOL BAPTIST CHURCH
FRUITLAND VICINITY, WISCONSIN CO, IOWA
SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

3/01, PAUL TOWNENT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEE. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 2



W. 563

WASSONVILLE Old School Baptist Church
Franklin Co., N. Carolina

Southeast elevation

3/01, Paul Tucker, Photographer

W. 563 / Old School Baptist Church

2 x 2