

WI-587

1888

Salisbury Water Company Standpipe
Salisbury
Private

One of the most distinctive elements of Salisbury's skyline is the cylindrical iron standpipe that rises from the crest of Lemmon Hill in the Newtown Historic District. Assembled in curved iron panels riveted horizontally and vertically, the standpipe is finished at its top with an iron cresting executed in a latticework design that also features a series of finials topped by stylized iron crowns. Executed in 1888 following the devastating 1886 fire that destroyed the town, the 165-foot standpipe was built as part of a new water system installed by a New York firm, J. A. Cloude & Company. Within months following the October fire, the need for a reliable water system was voiced in the *Salisbury Advertiser*. On June 4, 1887, the article stated,

Our town is in need of a supply of wholesome drinking water. The underground supply has long since become unfit for use, on account of the decaying animal matter from the cemeteries and from impurities carried from our streets; especially in this case, in the central portions of the town. When the town is rebuilt, the demand for water works will be even greater; as many of the stores on Main St. have dwellings above. If individual capital can be found to under the enterprise, let us look it up, if not let the town furnish the means. A good water supply not only furnishes the luxury of wholesome drinking water and cleanly streets, but lessens our insurance—an item of consideration.

Shortly thereafter, the town commissioners negotiated an agreement with J. A. Cloude & Company of New York for the construction of a water system as a franchise that private individuals would help finance through stock purchases. By June 1888 ground had been broken for construction, and the newspaper announced that \$8,000 worth of stock had been purchased but that the full cost of the water system would range around \$15,000 to \$20,000. It was estimated that the system would be turned on by the first of July.

Although the construction took a few months longer, the Salisbury Water Company, as the franchise was locally known, stated their rates in early August. For dwellings the company charged \$6.00 per year for a "hydrant" in the kitchen, \$3.60 for a bathroom connection, and \$1.25 for each "wash stand." A little over a month later the newspaper announced that the water was turned on,

Last Wednesday afternoon the machinery at the Water Company was put in motion for the purpose of filling the stand pipe. The machinery worked first rate, in fact entirely satisfactory. The work of filling the standpipe which has a capacity of 90,000 gallons, was accomplished in five hours. Under ordinary Circumstances this will be done in a much shorter time as the machinery was not run to its full capacity. The work of driving the wells is not yet accomplished. The water used was taken from the river.

The standpipe and system of mains installed by the Salisbury Water Company served the needs of the city until the early twentieth century, although sizable population growth during the early twentieth century outstripped its capacity. By the early 1920s studies were done on the system which indicated the need for a new and more modern System. The Salisbury Water and Sewer Commission was established in 1924 with the issuance of a bonding authority by the Maryland state legislature. Two years later the bonds were actually sold, and the commission started work designing and building a new facility on East Main Street. At the same time, the commission purchased the franchise and physical property held by the Salisbury Water Company. Attorney B. A. Johnson executed the purchase on behalf of the commission for \$52,000. The old standpipe was used as part of the enlarged city water system until the middle years of the twentieth century when it was abandoned.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-587

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Salisbury Water Company Standpipe

other _____

2. Location

street and number Bush Street _____ not for publication

city, town Salisbury _____ vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name City of Salisbury

street and number Government Office Building telephone _____

city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21801

4. Location of Legal Description

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

city, town Salisbury 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	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	_____ Total
		<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 Resource: previously listed in the Inventory	

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-587

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 Salisbury Water Company standpipe is located on the crest of Lemmon Hill on the west side of Bush Street in the Newtown Historic District of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. Once part of the Salisbury Water Company's facility erected in 1888.

Supported on a poured concrete base, the cylindrical, iron standpipe rises 165-feet and is approximately fifteen feet in breadth. The base of the tower is stabilized by iron buttresses. The tower consists of curved iron sections assembled in horizontal bands riveted horizontally as well as vertically. Approximately half the tower is covered in ivy. The top of the standpipe is finished with a decorative iron cresting executed in a latticework design accented with a series of crown-shaped iron finials. An exterior ladder formerly provided access to the top of the standpipe, but most of it has been removed for safety concerns.

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-587

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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 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** J. A. Cloude & Co.

Construction dates 1888

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.)

One of the most distinctive elements of Salisbury’s skyline is the cylindrical iron standpipe that rises from the crest of Lemmon Hill in the Newtown Historic District. Assembled in curved iron panels riveted horizontally and vertically, the standpipe is finished at the top with an iron cresting executed in a latticework design that also features a series finials topped by stylized iron crowns. Erected in 1888 following the devastating 1886 fire that destroyed the town, the 165-foot standpipe was built as part of a new water system installed by a New York firm, J. A. Cloude & Co. Within the months following the October fire, the need for a reliable water system was voiced in the *Salisbury Advertiser*. On June 4, 1887, a short article stated,

Our town is in need of a supply of wholesome drinking water. The underground supply has long since become unfit for use, on account of the decaying animal matter from the cemeteries and from impurities carried from our streets; especially in this case, in the central portions of the town. When the town is rebuilt, the demand for water works will be even greater; as many of the stores on Main St. will have dwellings above. If individual capital can be found to undertake the enterprise, let us look it up, if not let the town furnish the means. A good water supply not only furnishes the luxury of wholesome drinking water and cleanly streets, but lessens our insurance—an item of consideration.¹

Shortly thereafter the town commissioners negotiated an agreement with J. A. Cloude & Company of New York for the construction of a water system as a franchise that private individuals would help finance through stock purchases. By June 1888 ground had been broken for construction, and the newspaper announced that \$8,000 worth of stock had been purchased but that the full cost of the water system would range between \$15,000 and \$20,000.² It was estimated that the system would be turned on by the first of July. Although the construction took somewhat longer, the Salisbury Water Company, as the franchise was known locally, stated their rates in early August. For dwellings the company charged \$6.00 per year for a “hydrant” in the kitchen, \$3.60 for a bathroom service, and \$1.25 for each

¹ *Salisbury Advertiser*, June 4, 1887.

² *Salisbury Advertiser*, June 2, 1888.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-587

Name Salisbury Water Company Standpipe
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

“wash stand.”³ A little over a month later the newspaper announced in a short article that the water was turned on,

*Last Wednesday afternoon the machinery at the Water Company was put in motion for the purpose of filling the stand pipe. The machinery worked first rate, in fact entirely satisfactory. The work of filling the stand pipe which has a capacity of 90,000 gallons, was accomplished in five hours. Under ordinary circumstances this will be done in a much shorter time as the machinery was not run to its full capacity. The work of driving the wells is not yet accomplished. The water used was taken from the river.*⁴

The standpipe and system of mains installed by the Salisbury Water Company served the needs of the city until the early twentieth century, when the sizable population increases required modern systems by the early 1920s. The Salisbury Water and Sewer Commission was established in 1924 with the issuance of a bond appropriation through the Maryland state legislature. Two years later the bonds were actually sold, and the commission started work designing a new facility on East Main Street, and at the same time, the group purchased the franchise and physical property of the Salisbury Water Company. Attorney B. A. Johnson executed the purchase on behalf of the commission for \$52,000.⁵ The old standpipe was used as part of the enlarged city water system until the middle years of the twenty century when it was abandoned.

³ *Salisbury Advertiser*, August 11, 1888.

⁴ *Salisbury Advertiser*, September 15, 1888.

⁵ *Salisbury Advertiser*, May 15, 1926.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-587

Name Salisbury Water Company Standpipe
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

Salisbury Advertiser, June 4, 1887

Our town is in need of a supply of wholesome drinking water. The underground supply has long since become unfit for use, on account of the decaying animal matter from the cemeteries and from impurities carried from our streets; especially in this case, in the central portions of the town. When the town is rebuilt, the demand for water works will be even greater; as many of the stores on Main St. will have dwellings above. If individual capital can be found to undertake the enterprise, let us look it up, if not let the town furnish the means. A good water supply not only furnishes the luxury of wholesome drinking water and cleanly streets, but lessens our insurance—an item of consideration.

Salisbury Advertiser, December 10, 1887.

On Water Supply

Sometime during the summer, our Town Commissioners granted to J. A. Cloude & Co. an exclusive franchise to lay water mains in our streets to supply the town with water; the works to be completed within twelve months. Owing to the delay in beginning the work, and the rumors that the Company were (sic) hocking the franchise on the streets of Philadelphia, and New York, a number of our enterprising citizens and property owners on the principal streets have joined in an effort to supply themselves with water. They have subscribed the necessary amount of money and appointed a committee to go before the town Commissioners last Wednesday evening and ask the privilege of putting down mains. They were promised the necessary franchise as soon as they incorporated themselves, under the general act of incorporation, which they expressed an intention to do so as soon as possible.

The company have (sic) decided to lay mains, we understand, along Main and Division Sts., and supply all persons desiring it, with water, and branch out as the demand requires it. The plan is to pump the water into a standpipe of thirty thousand gallons capacity, by means of windmills.

It is, we understand, the opinion of lawyers here, that the commissioners have no power to grant exclusive franchises for any privileges.

Salisbury Advertiser, June 2, 1888

The New Water-works

Ground was broken last Monday by the company for the purpose of laying conduit pipes for our water-works. The work is progressing quite rapidly. Dr. Bell, the Secretary, says they will be in full operation by the first of July. At present, about \$8,000 of the stock has been subscribed, and it is estimated that the works, when completed, will cost fully \$15,000, and probably \$20,000. The company's books are still open for

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-587

Name Salisbury Water Company Standpipe
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

subscriptions. It is desired to have as much of the stock as possible taken in the town, and especially by property holders whose property will be supplied. So far only one thousand dollars has been subscribed outside of the town. It is important, too, that all the charter franchises of the company be specific, definite and well understood, for neither the company nor the town want any law suits from misunderstanding. The subject is one that not only interests us now, but will, in all probability, interest the town for the next hundred years. The mains which the company are laying seem to be of a substantial nature that promise great durability and use.

Salisbury Advertiser, August 11, 1888

The Salisbury Water Company have (sic) adopted rates, and are now preparing to have them issued. The rates seem very reasonable. For dwellings, it is \$6.00 per year for hydrant in the kitchen; \$3.60 bath room, and \$1.25 for each stationery (sic) wash stand. For all other purposes the rates seem to be in about the same proportion.

Salisbury Advertiser, September 15, 1888

Water Turned On

Last Wednesday afternoon the machinery at the Water Company was put in motion for the purpose of filling the stand pipe. The machinery worked first rate, in fact entirely satisfactory. The work of filling the stand pipe which has a capacity of 90,000 gallons, was accomplished in five hours. Under ordinary circumstances this will be done in a much shorter time as the machinery was not run to its full capacity. The work of driving the wells is not yet accomplished. The water used was taken from the river.

Salisbury Advertiser, February 18, 1899

The stand-pipe presented a picture of great beauty, as a result of an overflow of water which froze to the spiral stairway as it descended earthward. From one point of view it presented the appearance of a huge icicle, rising perpendicularly a hundred feet. Our amateur photographers took several snap-shots of it, as well as of the streets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Personal conversation with Richard W. Cooper, retired surveyor, June 13, 2001.

Salisbury Advertiser, various issues.

Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1894, 1899, 1904, 1911.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property ¼ acre lot
Acreage of historical setting ¼ acre lot
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	6/14//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

between in sections where agriculture is the basic industry, except for the poultry and livestock raisers. Owing to our splendid climatic conditions and unsurpassed soil, which permit of a widely diversified program of crops, "pay days" between the present time and December are almost daily.

Wicomico strawberries, which annually enrich the county by several hundred thousand dollars, will start rolling to northern markets, according to a well known east side raiser, about May 24th. Then follows in succession: Irish cobbles, tomatoes, sweet potatoes and corn, with cukes, watermelons and cantaloupes interspersing. Between the harvest of some of these crops, local farmers will have time to cure hundreds of acres of clover, timothy, alfalfa and soy bean hay, to raise a big harvest of soy beans, thresh a wheat crop, and to ship hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of smaller vegetables, notably lima and string beans.

Wicomico's revenues from her farms annually mount into the millions of dollars, but she has more farmland than can be properly cultivated and products marketed, and it could be made much more. There are two outstanding needs today: more skilled agriculturists to operate small farms, and a reliable agency through which products might be handled in order that a wider distribution, with consequently enhanced prices, would be afforded.

The old adage "United we stand, divided we fall," is a true one. Farmers of the Delmarva Peninsula, properly banded together in a common cause, with the big consuming centers of the country as a footstool, could virtually control the market of the country on certain commodities and have a most appreciable effect on others. Everybody pulling for himself, is but a "make or lose—hit and miss" game.

A table, just published, shows the motor cars owned in the lower Peninsula counties to be: Accomack, 3,942; Wicomico, 3,213; Dorchester, 2,588; Worcester, 2,296; Northampton, 2,019, and Somerset, 1,699.

Judge William F. Johnson, last week formally announced his candidacy for the Chief Judgeship, First Judicial Circuit of Maryland. His announcement had been looked forward to in political circles for several weeks. The bench seat becomes vacant by reason of the expiration of the term of Chief Judge John R. Pattison. Mr. Johnson is a resident of Snow Hill, Worcester County, and one of the shore's leading lawyers.

The Salisbury City Council will re-organize next Monday night. Councilman-elect John F. Coulbourne will present his credentials and succeed to the seat vacated by Councilman Mark Cooper

Theatregoers here had a thrill at

57151926
cured and he was released.

The body of Miss Hastings was brought to Delmar on Monday, and funeral services conducted from the M. P. Church on Wednesday. She was the daughter of Mrs. J. Emma Gillis, and very popular.

PROPERTY WATER COMPANY BOUGHT BY COMMISSION

\$52,000 Purchase Price At Mortgagee's Sale Here Saturday

OUTSTANDING BONDS
TOTALLED \$60,000.00

New Pumping Unit, Furnishing Reserve Supply Water, Tied Into Old System On Day Of Sale—Valuation of System 3 Years Ago \$80,000.

The Salisbury Water and Sewer Commission was the purchaser of the franchise and physical property of the Salisbury Water Company which was sold at Mortgagee's Sale at the front door of the Court House here last Saturday afternoon. The price paid was \$52,000 and the bid was made by Attorney B. A. Johnson for the Commission.

Title papers giving the municipality right to standpipe, mains, pipes, property, tools, implements, extensions, franchises, powers, privileges, buildings, improvements, rights of way, easements, contracts, agreements and appurtenances were executed at once and the purchase was a cash proposition.

Louis Dalmas, for many years the leading spirit in the Water Company, died last January at his home in Ridley Park, and the sale was instituted by the Delaware County Trust Company, Chester, Pa., which held mortgage bonds of \$60,000 par value. The company had failed to retire its bonds at maturity or to meet interest obligations.

Engineers of the Public Service Commission, some three years ago, placed a physical valuation of \$80,000 upon the company's holdings.

To supplement the city's inadequate water supply, the new owners on Saturday tied in one pumping unit of their new system with the mains and standpipe. The new water pumping station, in East Salisbury, is expected to be in full operation in about two months.

LOCAL I. O. M. LODGE TO GET LOVING CUP

Showed Greatest Percentage Increase

work here. After a delectable dinner, William Knowles Cooper, Inter-State Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., Washington, D. C., and Rotary Governor of the District of Columbia, brought the assemblage one of the most eloquent, interesting and inspirational messages ever heard in Salisbury. His remarks dealt principally with the work of the organization, with which he has been connected 36 years, and with its influence to humanity in general.

He paid a fine tribute to Mr. Johnson for the great work which he was doing in this community with a plant, not originally intended for "Y" work, and expressed the hope that the day would not be far distant that the building, beautiful though it was in architecture and ideally located, would soon be supplanted by a structure of the \$150,000 type, designed and equipped for a full program of men's, women's and children's work—a real community center—such as are now being built in many towns of about the size of Salisbury. He praised Mrs. E. E. Jackson, donor of the present building, for her public spiritedness, generosity and interest in the young manhood of Salisbury in providing a plant for the inception of the "Y" work here.

A building of the character he had in mind, Mr. Cooper stated, once erected, would not cost the citizenry as much annually to maintain as the present one does, by several thousand dollars, and a tenfold possibly, greater work could be accomplished.

After the meeting, the Board of Directors met and re-elected the old officers for the ensuing year. They are: Willard S. Springer, president; Howard H. Ruark, treasurer, and Geo. P. Chandler, recording secretary.

RE-ELECTED "Y" PRESIDENT

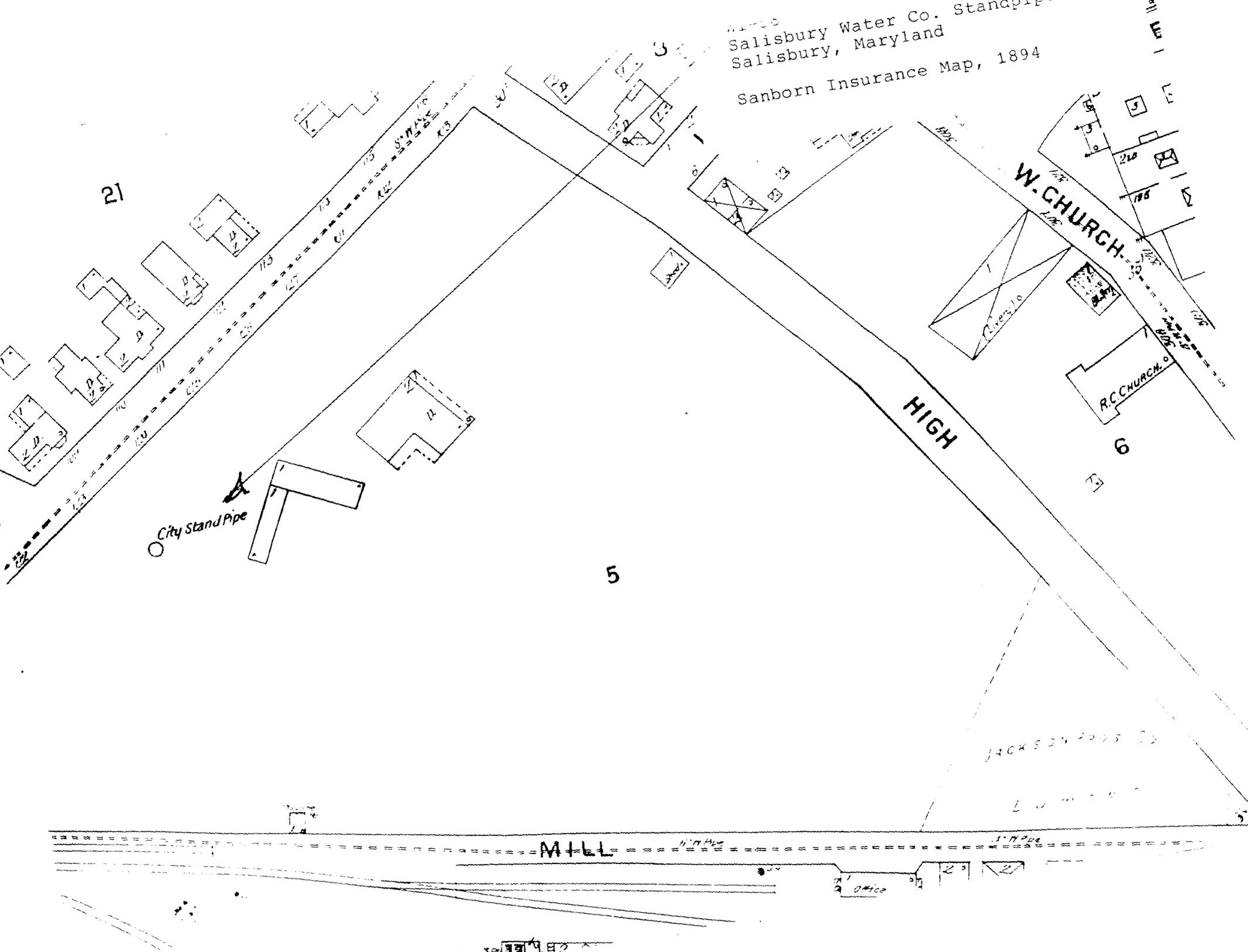


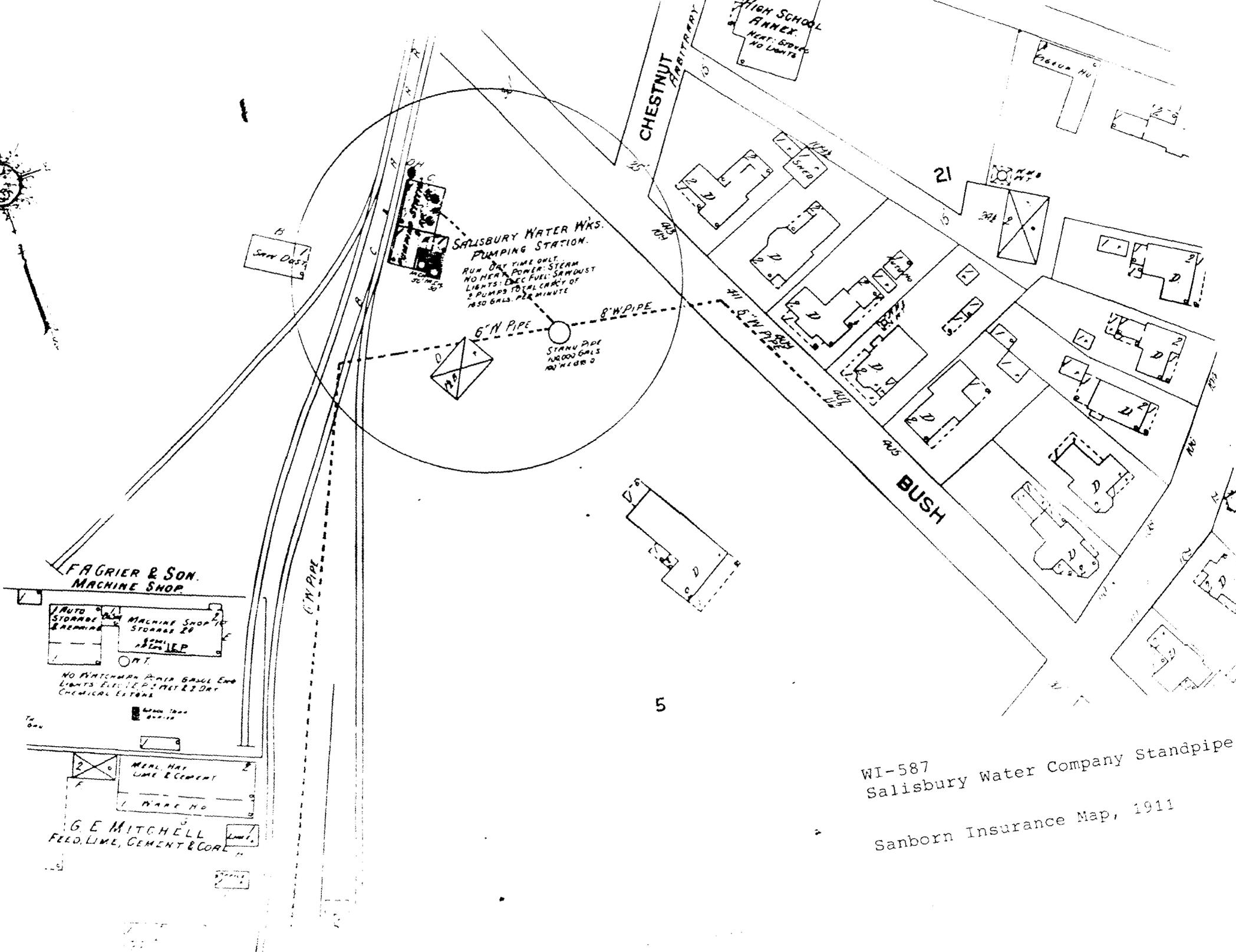
WILLARD S. SPRINGER

Fitzhugh Insley and Harry L. Harcum were seated as newly elected members of the Board of Directors. Mr. Johnson reported that more than \$4,000 of the \$7,000 budget for 1927 had been raised and that plans were on foot for an intensive "windup" to get the remaining amount in by the end of the month.

PROMINENT WORCESTER

Salisbury Water Co. Stand Pipe
Salisbury, Maryland
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1894

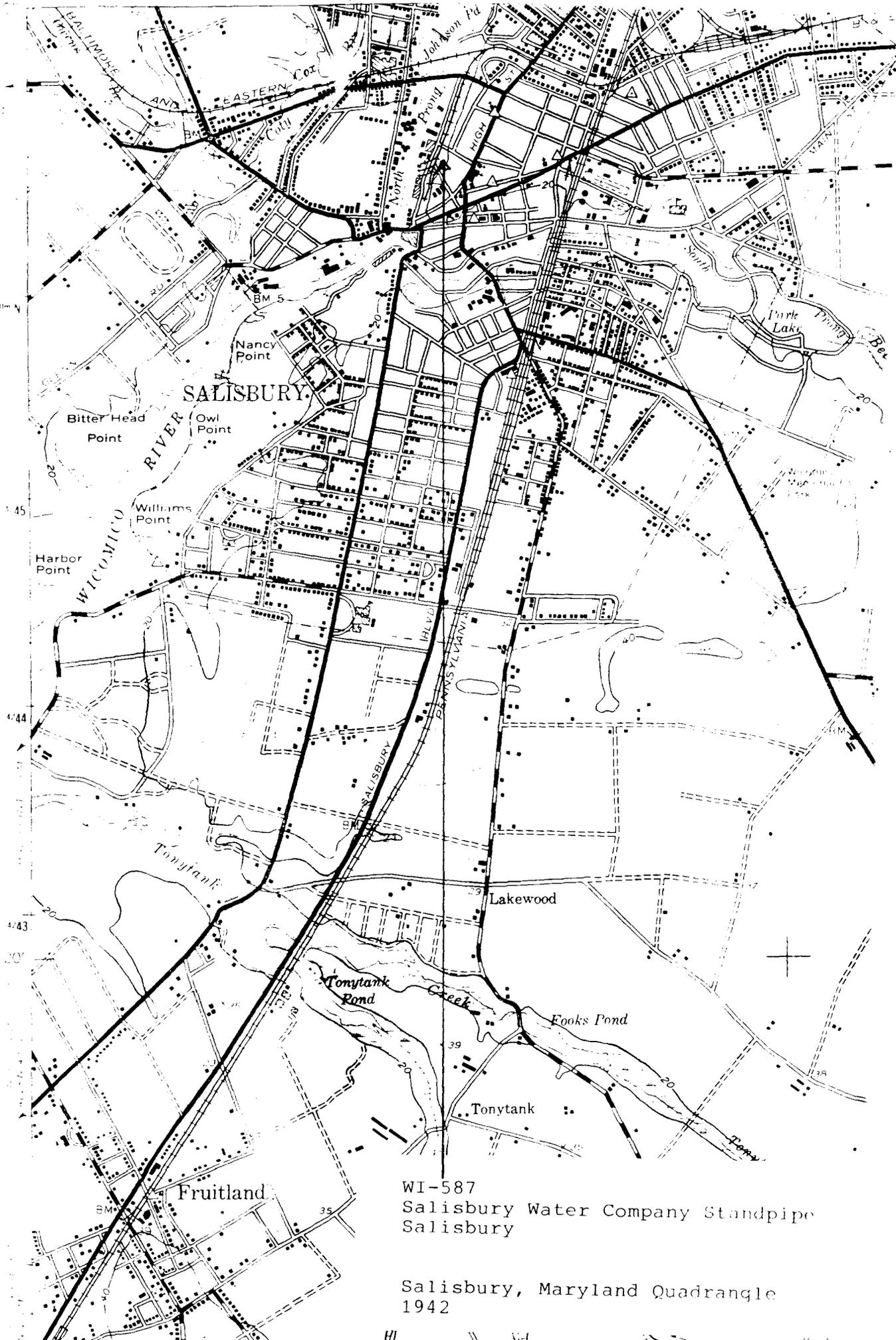




WI-587
 Salisbury Water Company Standpipe
 Sanborn Insurance Map, 1911

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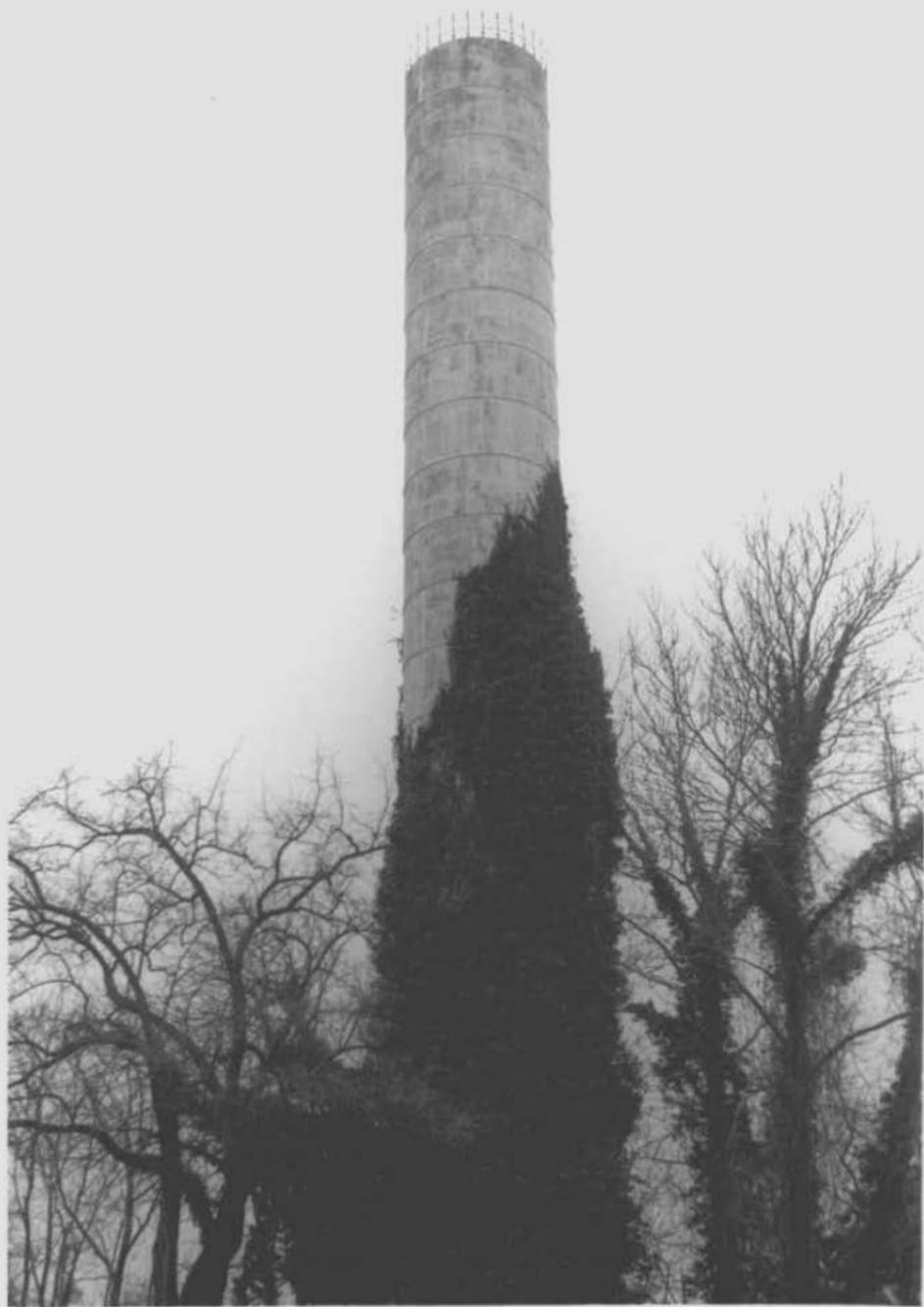
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WI-587
 Salisbury Water Company Standpipe
 Salisbury

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
 1942





WI-587

Salisbury City STANDPIPE

Salisbury, Wicomico Co., MD.

EAST SIDE

3/01, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

MEL./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 1