

WI-75
Masonic Temple
Salisbury
Private

1904

The Masonic Temple, Wicomico Lodge No. 91, occupies a prominent structure in Salisbury across the street from the county courthouse. The imposing three-story, six-bay brick building, executed in a reddish-brown pressed brick, has contrasting yellow-brown window and doors arches that provide a richly colored street elevation. The top of the front wall is finished with a heavy galvanized metal cornice of classical form with bold modillion blocks as well as a row of dentil and egg-and-dart moldings. The side and back walls are finished in a much more rudimentary common bond with segmental arched window openings.

The Masonic Temple, erected in 1904, was built by Princess Anne contractor, James A. McAllen at a cost of \$21,000 following the designs prepared by Baltimore architect, Jackson C. Gott. The drawings and specifications were spread over 71 pages. A back addition and tower, enclosing an elevator, were attached to the west (rear) wall in 1941 by Salisbury contractor, Carl J. Williams. In 1904, Robert D. Grier headed up the Ways and Means Committee, which reviewed the initial construction plans and costs. Also serving on the committee were Levin E. Williams, William M. Day, William P. Jackson, and Charles E. Harper. The building was accepted in October 1904. A variety of tenants have occupied the first and second floor offices. A lease in January 1905 between the Federal government and the Wicomico Lodge secured the first part of the

first floor for the Salisbury post office. The interior appointments required for the post office were drawn by the Corbin Cabinet Lock Co. of New Britain, Connecticut, at the expense of the Masons. Other offices were leased out to banks, doctors, and lawyers during the early years of the twentieth century. One major tenant between 1909 and 1925 was William H. Beacom, who rented portions of the building for his Salisbury College of Business, which is indicated on the 1911 Sanborn Insurance map as a major tenant. After the post office was relocated to a new Federal building in 1924, the Eastern Shore Gas and Electric Company moved into refurbished offices vacated by the Federal government. One of the original tenants, the Peoples National Bank, left at the end of 1927, and the space was immediately occupied by Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. The need for additional space was so great during the 1930s that the lodge trustees entertained plans to raise the building another story with a gable roofed addition designed by Baltimore architect Clyde N. Friz. The plans were never implemented.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Masonic Temple

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-75

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 Block and Fraternal Lodge

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-75

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Masonic Temple, Wicomico Lodge No. 91

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 114 North Division 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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: lodge bldg

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

name Trustees of the Masonic Temple, Wicomico Lodge No. 91

% Alfred C. Huffer

street & number 114 North Division 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 Map 107, Parcel 1039
liber EAT 39

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 319

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

date 1972 federal state county local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state Maryland 21032

7. Description

Survey No. WI-75

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<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 Masonic Temple, Wicomico Lodge No. 91, is located at 114 North Division Street in the center of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The three-story, six-bay by four-bay brick commercial building, measuring approximately 74' square, faces east and is covered by a low pitched shed roof hidden by a parapet wall. The building is supported on a brick foundation highlighted by a rusticated granite course on the front wall.

Built in 1904 and designed by Baltimore architect Jackson C. Gott, the three-story, pressed stretcher bond and common bond brick commercial block is surrounded by alleys on three sides. The stretcher bond front wall is laid in reddish brown mortar. The east (main) facade is a symmetrical six-bay elevation defined by a series of large round arched openings on the first and second floors. Fixed in the northeast corner of the foundation is a marble plaque inscribed, "Wicomico Lodge No. 91, A. F. & A. M. (Instituted 1848) Erected 1904." On the opposite end of the front wall, at the southeast corner, is a rectangular, rusticated marble stone. The six arched openings are accented in a yellow-brown brick. The soldier course arches spring from reddish sandstone blocks. The two center arches form a small arcade that shelters an interior porch or outdoor vestibule. Door openings sheltered within the porch provide access a center passage as well as the side commercial spaces. A round Masonic medallion is fixed in the brickwork between the two entrance arches.

The second floor is pierced by six round arched window openings framed by yellow-brown brick recessed slightly within a rectangular opening in the main wall surface. The contrasting yellow-brown brick is limited to the area immediately around the double single-pane replacement sash windows. A second Masonic medallion is located between the center two window recesses. The medallion is marked by a plain shield form. The third floor is defined by twelve narrow, round arched window openings. The arches are laid in yellow brown brick with a red brick keystone. The windows are replacements, and four openings have been blocked. A Masonic medallion featuring a crown is fixed in the center of the wall above the third floor windows. Stretching across the parapet wall is a heavy modillion block cornice of galvanized metal that features a row of egg-and-dart as well as dentil moldings. The cornice wraps around the front corners and terminates within a few feet of the front wall.

The side elevations, laid in six-course common bond, are four-bays across with many former window openings partially or entirely bricked up. The bays are defined by plain pilasters that rise three stories. A 1941 addition that encloses the elevator extends from the rear. A number of window openings have been bricked up on rear wall as well.

The interior has been remodeled over the years. A central passage contains the principal staircase, and the early twentieth century newel post remains in place. Reeded columns rise on each corner of the newel post and have foliate capitals. The post is topped by a rounded pyramidal cap with foliate carvings. The lodge rooms are located on the third floor.

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 1904 **Builder/Architect** James A. McAllen/Jackson C. Gott

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D builder architect

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.

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The Masonic Temple, erected in 1904, was built by Princess Anne contractor, James A. McAllen at a cost of \$21,000 following the designs prepared by Baltimore architect, Jackson C. Gott. The drawings and specifications were spread over 71 pages.(1) A back addition and tower, enclosing an elevator, were attached to the west (rear) wall in 1941 by Salisbury contractor, Carl J. Williams.(2) In 1904, Robert D. Grier headed up the Ways and Means Committee, which reviewed the initial construction plans and costs. Also serving on the committee were Levin E. Williams, William M. Day, William P. Jackson, and Charles E. Harper.(3) The building was accepted in October 1904.(4) A variety of tenants have occupied the first and second floor offices. A lease in January 1905 between the Federal government and the Wicomico Lodge secured the first part of the first floor for the Salisbury post office. The interior appointments required for the post office were drawn by the Corbin Cabinet Lock Co. of New Britain, Connecticut, at the expense of the Masons.(5) Other offices were leased out to banks, doctors, and lawyers during the early years of the twentieth century. One major tenant between 1909 and 1925 was William H. Beacom, who rented portions of the building for his Salisbury College of Business, which is indicated on the 1911 Sanborn Insurance map as a major tenant.(6) After the post office was relocated to a new Federal building in 1924, the Eastern Shore Gas and Electric Company moved into refurbished offices vacated by the Federal government. One of the original tenants, the Peoples National Bank, left at the end of 1927, and the space was immediately occupied by Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. The need for additional space was so great during the 1930s that the lodge trustees entertained plans to raise the building another story with a gable roofed addition designed by Baltimore architect Clyde No. Friz. The plans were never implemented.(7)

WI-75
Masonic Temple
114 North Division Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 1039

EAT 39/319

Simon Ulman
Carrie Ulman

to

3/22/1904

L. Ernest Williams, Trustees
Robert D. Grier
Charles E. Harper
William P. Jackson
William M. Day

\$5,500 same being all the two lots of land conveyed to
Simon and Isaac Ulman by E. Stanley Toadvine
trustee, 2/10/1880, SPT 4/11 and 9/11/1880,
SPT 4/11

Wiconico Lodge

No. 91



Ancient Free and Accepted Masons

A HISTORY OF THE TEMPLE

1904 - 1995

TRUSTEES

Mac Banks Jenkins, Chairman
Earl Ethelbert Wilson, VCh.
Edgar Austin Baker Jr. Tr.
Sampson George Vincent
Owen Richard McNeal

by - Alfred C. Huffer Jr. Sec.

SL-75

While the Lodge is missing some minutes from those years other correspondence reveals that a "Ways and Means Committee" was appointed early in 1903 with Robert D. Grier as its chairman. This was the forerunner of Wicomico Lodge Trustees, the board formed late that year to carry out real estate, building and related business functions. After the building, it was retained to hold title to and manage building operations from then forward.

Records show that efforts had been started to incorporate the Lodge in 1894 as the second hall was being occupied and considerable investment made for improvements, furniture and fixtures. This was never completed, probably because the Lodge like all others operated under an incorporated Grand Lodge. This was considered time and again over later years for purposes of holding title to real estate and so forth. Finally, Lodge Attorney Edgar A. Baker Jr. obtained, in legal consultation with corporate attorneys, an opinion it was unnecessary. Title of owned real estate including the Temple does reside with the appointed Wicomico Lodge Trustees.

As the Committee was then appointed early in the year, Dr. James McFadden Dick became the newly elected Master of the Lodge. A native of South Carolina, educated at the University of South Carolina and the University of Maryland Medical School, Dr. Dick came to Salisbury in 1897 and petitioned the Lodge for membership on February 21, 1899. By that time, he was the second doctor on the staff of the newly established Salisbury Hospital at Main and Fitzwater Streets. Dr. George W. Todd was the first doctor there and is credited with its beginning. Much can, should and has been written about J. McFadden Dick and his considerable influence on Salisbury and the County. He was a distinguished physician-surgeon, the first such here, well known throughout the State who devoted his entire professional life to Peninsula Hospital until his death in 1939. He also gave much to his fraternal organization interests still serving on its Board of Trustees in Wicomico Lodge in the 1930's. He served in all of the chairs between 1899 and 1902 and opened the way for its new Temple as Master the next year. It must also be noted here that in 1903, plans were also being drawn for the new Peninsula Hospital on Division Street. It was built and dedicated on December 28, 1904 a month after the Masonic Temple, both under his direct leadership.

Equally fortunate for the Lodge were the successful business leaders who were also dedicated brothers which Dr. Dick appointed to the Ways and Means group. Robert D. Grier was first named as Chairman. By this time, his Salisbury Machine Works was a landmark on the through Church Street with fifteen years of success in its founding and building. The distinguished letterhead of his company was used in some of the Lodge correspondence of the day lending solidity and trust.

The other four members were: Levin E. Williams who operated a successful planing mill; William M. Day who was a prosperous lumber dealer; William P. Jackson who had branched into many lines of business from his start in lumber; and Charles E. Harper who had rebuilt his Main Street jewelry store in the 1890's and his clock business which included the Court-house.

By the summer of 1903, the Committee had formulated a concept of plans for the Masonic Temple and were ready to begin consulting with an architect. It appears there were no local architects available for the commission and contact was made with Jackson C. Gott in Baltimore who was widely known throughout the State. At the time, he had recently completed rebuilding campus buildings at Westminster for Western Maryland College, in addition to his many Baltimore and other sites. He was not too fully occupied in 1903 to consider undertaking a Temple building here.

Obviously, he was supplied with some preliminary plans indicating general outline and size, number of floors, construction materials etc. The building lot obtained from Ulman was approximately 90' X 92' fronting on Division Street with the Jay Williams Law Building to the North, an alley and then the Advertiser building to the South; City Hall property to the West. With negotiations already underway with several possible renters for the first floor, it became important to have use of the alley to the South, keep a wider alley in the rear and add an alley to the North to share by reservation with the Williams property

This then allowed for a building about 75' X 75' and as developed by Gott turned out to be a foundation 74.5' deep by 74' along the front. Two floors of desirable office space would then make the building and its financing feasible. The third floor would be used for two large assembly rooms with anterooms to the rear and stairways going up center corridors to the second and third stories. Ceiling height was planned at 14' throughout, all masonry construction as the new building code required and slanting tiled roof.

This gave Architect Gott sufficient details to begin his drawings of original plans and he evidently traveled to Salisbury to ensure his familiarity with the surveyed site. He was, of course, a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. The Professional Practice there specified: "For full professional services (including supervision) FIVE PER CENT, upon the cost of the work...preliminary studies, general working drawings and specifications and details, three and a half per cent." The Committee requested preliminary plans which amounted to 71 pages of drawings. Some of Gott's correspondence follows; from earliest estimate to finished drawings.

Financing the Temple building and the myriad details along with the real estate, construction and Lodge organization matters occupied Grier and the committee during most of 1903 and throughout 1904. Several handwritten notes of Grier's exist from that time and are revealing on the process:

Robert D. Grier



LONG DISTANCE PHONE 38.

SALISBURY MACHINE WORKS IRON & BRASS FOUNDRY

ENGINES, BOILERS, SAW MILLS, STEAM PIPES, BELTING, INJECTORS
BASKET AND BARREL MACHINERY, VALVES, FITTINGS & GENERAL REPAIRS
PULLEYS, SHAFTING, HANGERS, HIDE INSERTED TOOTH SAWS
ALL KINDS OF MILL SUPPLIES, ETC.
NEW AND SECOND HAND AUTOMOBILES AND REPAIRS.

Salisbury, Maryland, Nov 30 0.

*Imd...
The Lodge 9/1 A7. 6AM*

21000.	Contract
500.	Extras
2400.	Heat &
200.	Painting
100.	Vault Door
2050.	P. O. Furniture
644.	
104.	Williams
6500.	Lot
60.	Taxes
100.	R. D. G.
200.	Leonard
500.	Paint
<hr/>	
34258.	
27300	
<hr/>	
6958.	

*Finances
submitted
About 9 boards
to sell.
Must continue expense
in balance of work
to be done in
interior painting
parts contract
Bank room furniture
& finish.
Janitor.
Front Doors
to roof all right
Office for Trustees*

13000
2700
<hr/>
12300.
10000.
<hr/>
22300.
5000
<hr/>
27300.

Estimated cost of the building completed is given in these notes. Contractor for construction would be James A. McAllen of Princess Anne, who posted a Contractor's Bond for performance: "to furnish all of the labor, materials and other things requisite, to do and perform all things contemplated by said contract..." Seventh of May, 1904; no time limit specified.

It is known that all phases of the construction went well according to the revised plans and lowered sights. Trustees were satisfied throughout and the contractor paid his agreed price of \$21,000 as the building was accepted in October of 1904. Returning to Grier's notes which show on his company letterhead, even though he was a minor subcontractor for the metalwork, following the contract, \$500 would be allowed for the then unspecified extras. Heat and construction of this system, \$2,400; exterior painting, \$200; vault door for the post office concrete vault, \$100; post office furniture, \$2,050 by contract with the Corbin Co. and an additional \$644 for the post offices boxes there; \$104 to Williams next door likely for the alley right-of-way; \$6,500 for the Ulman lot and related real estate expenses; first year taxes would be \$60; \$100 to Robert D. Grier for metalwork; \$200 to Arthur R. Leonard, the electrical contractor, and \$500 allowed for interior painting and finishing..

Then some musing on finances as Grier reflected that there were still 9 bonds to sell for the 1st mortgage subscription of \$15,000. (Finally to be oversubscribed). Noted that he then "must curtail expense in balance of work to be done in interior painting;" some questioning on the bank contract - bank room furniture and finish; what to do about a janitor, and a nagging question' "Is roof all right?" Plans had been changed from the specified tile roof to metal. Then finally, should there be an office allotted for the Trustees. His last note here indicates he had about \$27,300 of the \$34,258 estimated to be needed.

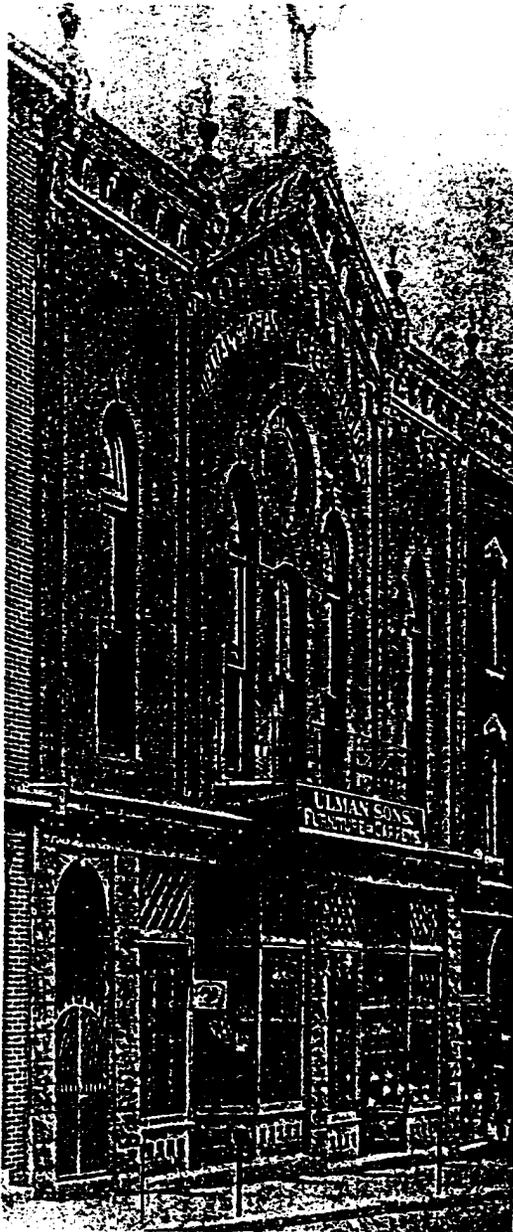
The first issuance of bonds to finance the Temple building was issued by Security Loan and Trust Co. as of August 1, 1904, though subscriptions had been taken up earlier "to issue fifteen bonds for one thousand dollars each, to be numbered consecutively from one to fifteen inclusive, to be paid ten years after date, and to bear five per cent interest,.."

Later in the fall as the total amount needed became clear, the same Security Loan and Trust Co. issued the second mortgage bonds, "to the amount of Fifteen-thousand dollars, of the face value of One Hundred Dollars, and to be numbered consecutively from one to one hundred and fifty, inclusive, as needed,..interest to be paid annually at such rate, not exceeding six per cent per annum...Said bonds to be payable on or before the first day of August in the year Nineteen hundred and fifty four. All bonds were redeemed in a timely fashion and reside in the Lodge vaults as paid.

It does appear that the needed additional funds beyond that raised from the first and second mortgages were then raised at least partially from the several coordinate bodies which would be using the meeting rooms on the third floor and had accumulated some treasuries. Amount on hand with Wicomico Lodge in 1903 is unclear since audits for those years covered only current expenses and listed no savings or investments though likely, some did exist.

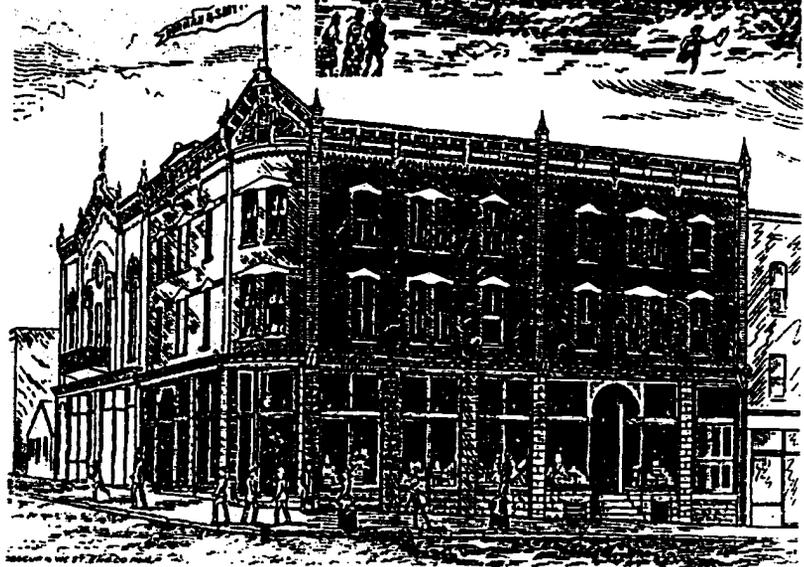
With Wicomico Lodge returning to operation again as 1889 opened, meetings were being held in Ulman's Opera House, located on the south side of Main Street next to Dorman & Smyth, General Hardware on the southwest corner of the then Main and Dock Streets. In the election of officers held in December, 1888, Simon Ulman was elected Treasurer. Meeting rooms were leased on a yearly basis from Ulman Brothers at \$100, payable semiannually at \$50.

EARLY VIEWS OF FIRST LODGE MEETING SITE IN 1889



ULMAN SONS GRAND OPERA HOUSE

Below:
Opera House Meeting Site - next to DORMAN & SMYTH



Messrs. Dorman & Smyth, General Hardware - Salisbury,

Chairman Grier had made the point in his letter to Gott; "The greatest revenue or income from the building would not only be insufficient to ever retire the 1st mortgage bonds, but would not even pay the interest and expenses." The Lodge did not have accumulated funds and did plan to build the Temple from a bond issue. The cost was reduced closer to the \$25,000 limit set by the committee, but they assuredly needed revenue other than members' dues to retire nearly a full mortgage. Unlike many Masonic Temples then, the proposed building in Salisbury would have to show a profit from the start for its economic feasibility. This could only be done through office rentals. True, other organizations within the Masonic family, "coordinate bodies," would use part of the meeting room spaces, paying annual rentals, but this would be clearly insufficient. Chesapeake Royal Arch Chapter moved with Wicomico Lodge into the new building continuing to pay rent and also subscribing for some of the proposed bonds as did the Thomas R. Shryock Commandery.

With this financial need to be solved, plans were well underway to rent the entire first floor before the contract to build was signed. The largest rental would come from the Post Office Department as proper channels were opened in 1903 to lease space. The local Salisbury Post Office was growing apace along with the town in 1903 and larger quarters were by now needed to replace those in use on Main Street. Likely, Congressional contacts were made, negotiations were begun with the proper division of the Department in Washington and the proposal went forward. At the time, Salisbury had five foot carriers, five clerks, the Postmaster and his assistant. Then as even now, post offices in leased buildings had most of the furniture and fixtures, boxes and vault installed by the lessor, their cost to be amortized in the total rental to be agreed.

The Ways and Means Committee covered the first contact work during the summer of 1903, learned about what space would be desirable from the local Postmaster and made a proposal to the First Assistant Postmaster General at the Department to rent the northern half of the first floor for the Salisbury Post Office. Reply came soon since there was a real need.

Mr. R. D. Grier,
 Chairman, Ways and Means Committee
 New Masonic Temple, Salisbury, Md.

"Sir;

The Department had decided to accept your proposition of August 13, 1903, to lease a room 36'6" X 71' (inside measurement) on the first floor of the three story brick and stone premises known as Masonic Temple, to be erected on the West side of Division street, between Main and West Church Sts., in Salisbury, for use of the post office at that place, for

a term of five years from October 1, 1904, (or date of occupancy) at an annual rental of \$1,200.00 to cover a complete modern equipment of boxes, fixtures and furniture, (free delivery furniture when necessary) satisfactory heat, light, water, a fire and burglar proof safe or vault, closets, etc. This proposition is accepted subject to the provisions of the Department's form of lease, and this letter is sufficient authority for the Masonic Temple Co., to proceed with the work of providing quarters for the post office.

Assistant Superintendent Wood will supervise the fitting up of the new quarters.

As requested, I return herewith the plans of the proposed building."

Very respectfully,

J. J. Howley

Acting First Ass't Postmaster General

The largest of the first hurdles for financing had been surmounted. The new Masonic Temple would also be the new Salisbury Post Office. It was signed, sealed and delivered (via an RPO through Wilmington, incidentally). As it turned out, the new offices were not quite ready for the October target date so that the actual lease was signed and put into effect January 1, 1905 at \$1,200 per annum, payable quarterly. Successive leases were signed for the Post Office in 1910, 1915, and 1920 until the new Federal Building was constructed down the extended Main Street in 1924. By the beginning of this last lease in 1920, the rental was at \$2,425 p.a. and included basement and several offices across the hall behind a bank.

Plans for the post office; 71'4" X 36'4" were drawn by the Corbin Cabinet Lock Co. of New Britain, Ct which also would supply screenline partitions, cases, tables, cabinets, lobby desks, carrier cases and stools along with postmaster's office furniture and desks. They offered a contract price of \$2,050 which would be added to the cost of the Temple.

The second renter to sign a lease before completion of the building was Peoples National Bank which agreed early in 1904 to "lease all that room together with furniture and fixtures as agreed upon...located in the Masonic Temple on the lower floor on the South side, next to the Advertiser Building, said room being the front room." This lease was also for five years at \$500 p. a., beginning January 1, 1905 and with a second five year option.

Other offices rented in January 1905 were rooms 1, 2, 3 & 4 to Ellegood, Freeny and Wailes at \$300 p. a. Room 5 was rented to A. M. Jackson for \$115 p. a. and later in the year, Dr. Elmer T. Williams rented room No. 6 at \$230 p. a. The building was completed and ready for tenants as 1904 closed. Wicomico Lodge moved from Brewington Hall during the fall of the year, in time for the dedication in November.

JACKSON C. GOTT,
ARCHITECT,
NO 218 NORTH CHARLES STREET,
BALTIMORE.

WI-75

Oct 7th 1903

Mr. R. D. Grier

Salisbury, Md.

Dear Sir:-

I approximately estimate the cost of the
Masonic Temple Building at Salisbury, complete, ready
for occupancy, without furniture at \$36,500.00

Very truly yours



JACKSON C. GOTT,
ARCHITECT,
NO 218 NORTH CHARLES STREET,
BALTIMORE.

Jan 25th 1904

Mr. R. D. Grier

Dear Sir:-

I send to day by Express two full sets of drawings and specifications for the Masonic Temple Building, the specifications call for a good finish throughout, but on page 19 marked, alternate, shows how the price may be cut down and keep the same outline, or nearly so, which will enable you to determine what to cut off if any, and if it is still too costly I will make you another design.

Very truly yours

JACKSON C. GOTT,
ARCHITECT,
NO 218 NORTH CHARLES STREET,
BALTIMORE.



Jan 23d 1904

Mr. R. D. Grier

Dear Sir:-

I have all your drawings finished, but the party who makes the prints could not complete them on account of the rain, he has most of them finished and will finish the balance on Monday, when I will send them to you. I am finishing up two sets with specifications calling for different ways of finishing the building, so that I do not think we will have to change the drawings.

Very truly yours



In the midst of these letters from the architect a reply from Committee Chairman Robert Grier read:

Dec 7 ---03

Jackson Gott

Balto

"You doubtless have been expecting to hear from me relative to the proposed Masonic Temple of Salisbury. Ever since your letter of October 7 where you gave us an approximate estimate of \$36,500.00 for the building completed ready for occupancy without furniture. After the greatest effort on the part of our Ways and Means Com. We find it not only impossible to raise this amount, but impracticable to put so much money into the building. The greatest revenue or income from the building would not only be insufficient to ever retire the 1st mortgage bonds but would not even pay the interest & expenses. For this reason we are obliged to give up the idea of such an expensive structure & put up a building not to exceed \$25,000 all complete ready for occupancy.

Now we would like to know from you if you can make us plans for a building of same size and arrangement that can be put there for the latter amount. We only want basement in the rear of the building no tile floors or roof. Yet we would like the front very much in appearance & like the last sketch you made (i e) with round or octagon corners from 2nd floor up & vestibule same size and shape. Kindly let me hear from you as early as possible as we must do some thing right away."

Yours R. D. Grier

Then, a little more than a month later, pressures began to build and the following exchange:

"Mr. Jackson Gott - Dear Sir - I have your letter - 9th - asking us to excuse delay in answering my letters. We did not expect you to get up a complete plan & contractors estimates but asked if you could get us up preliminary drawings of a building not to exceed \$25000.- in cost complete ready for occupancy without furniture. I trust if you are to do any thing you will let us have the preliminary drawings at once as some of the committee are censuring me for this delay & are getting out of patience."

Then on January 14 - "When may I expect the Masonic Temple drawings? Please let me hear from you by return mail. We are obliged to do something at once & if can not get yours must make arrangements else where."

Yours - R. D. Grier

As seen from the Gott letter, despite the rain the plans were delivered and negotiations went forward.

The Business College also brought John Wilbur Hiron to Salisbury as the school opened in 1909. He was made head of the college and the following year a Vice-President of Beacom's Schools. He joined Wicomico Lodge the following June, served in all offices, became Master in 1914 and stayed active until the school closed. In 1990, he was honored with an 80-year award and membership pin and lived to age 106 in his Florida retirement home as Wicomico Lodge's oldest living Past Master.

At least one other renter was added the coming year as Dr. H. C. Osborn occupied rooms 12 and 14 at \$240 p. a. The Post Office Department signed a second five-year lease with a \$300 raise to \$1,500 p. a. Rental income for the year amounted to \$3,940; indebtedness stood at \$29,800, interest paid on the two mortgages amounted to \$1,485.

The following year brought a renter that bespoke the temper of the times as the Anti-Saloon League of Maryland rented two offices on the second floor. Income for 1911 was \$4,293. No additions were made in 1912 though income rose to \$4,360. Dr. W. S. Heatwole came to the Temple in 1913 with two offices at \$180 p. a. The Salisbury Water Co. had a single office at a \$120 p. a. rate; Captain J. C. Cantwell rented an office for the Life Saving Service at \$120 p. a. and A. J. Widener opened a real estate office for the same rate. Later in the year, Prudential Insurance Co. opened offices here for just a year at \$175 p. a. Income for 1913 dropped slightly to \$4,316 and the first telephone installation was made costing \$29.21 that year. As the Tribune Printing office joined the growing list of lessors in 1914 at \$192, they evidently shared the Lodge telephone costs contributing \$1.15 a month. Income for that year amounted to \$4,558 as Columbia National Life Insurance Co. shared the second floor south and added a Temple front mounted sign.

In 1915, the third five-year Post Office lease increased to \$1,800 p. a. and it cost Temple Trustees an additional \$7.50 for the front Post Office awnings, made and installed by W. P. Truitt. National elections were looming then too as the Republican Campaign Committee leased an office, short term, at \$10 a month; later extended through November 6. This boosted intake for the year to \$4,557.38.

World War I was on the scene in 1916 and Lieutenant W. A. Wiley opened a recruiting office in the Temple at \$120 a year. Income for that year rose to \$4,888.77. In 1917 the Coast Guard added offices, also at \$120, but for just a half-year. Income that year dropped to \$4,655.30. War news filled the headlines in 1918 as increased sales of the several local newspapers enabled Dashiell Bros. to open a newsstand in the lobby at \$4 a week. By this time the local draft board was also open and renting in the Temple at \$180 a year. Columbia National Life Insurance did not have a good year evidently, as local agent R. Frank Barr was forced to close the office and the Temple sold his abandoned furniture for \$69 back rent. Income for the year was \$5,684.79 including the furniture sale.

Record keeping was well managed for the Temple during these years with changing of tenants well documented. As the 1920's opened the draft board and other Government offices were gone. In 1921, Wicomico Farmers Association opened several offices and in 1922 Dr. H. C. Tull opened offices on the second floor. At year's end, Ellegood, Freeny and Wailes moved their law offices and these rooms were rented the following year to the Peninsula Produce Exchange and P. D. Phillips Bros. In 1924, the Salisbury Sewer and Water Commission rented offices for \$540 a year; Charles E. Harper was Chairman of that Commission and also Chairman, Temple Board of Trustees and former mayor, 1904-1910.

By late 1924, the city's new Federal Building was completed, ready for occupancy. Salisbury Post Office was ending its 4th five-year lease in the Temple at \$2575 for the last several years. It finally moved on December 10, 1925, after several delays, paying 53 days in that 4th quarter at \$10 per day. Salisbury College of Business was also leaving the Temple at the end of July, 1925, paying the \$75 due for the 1st month in that 3rd quarter.

Meanwhile, The Temple was acquiring its longest-term resident as Eastern Shore Gas and Electric Company began moving into the former post office site and the trustees rushed to refurbish those offices. The company's first lease was just that north ground floor side which it leased at \$3,600 for the beginning year. Then, as throughout its tenancy of more than forty years, through two company reorganizations and name alterations, additional space was continually sought. In both the Temple and ten years later, in the newly acquired Jay Williams Law Building, the power company continued to expand into other space as it became available. In 1928, it became the Eastern Shore Public Service Company, in 1967, Delmarva Power and Light and later to just Delmarva Power. Just into their first year, the trustees vacated their office to give them more space and the entire basement was taken over as were three other offices as they became available.

Peoples National Bank left the Temple at the end of 1927 and this space was immediately rented to Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. Rental income remained steady during the rest of the decade and as the 1930's began though the depression was deepening throughout the country. In 1930, the telephone company left for their own new building and that south front was later rented to Citizens Budget Co. Other of the Temple's renters that year besides the growing power company were Metropolitan Life Insurance Co., P.D. Phillips & Bros. and Dr. Heatwole. The building was now fully occupied and a need for more offices was apparent, not only for the growing Eastern Shore Public Service Co., but for Wicomico Lodge itself and the other Masonic bodies.

FOURTH FLOOR PLANNED FOR TEMPLE

With full rental, expanding membership and an optimistic, forward looking Board of Trustees, enlargement of the Temple building began to occupy planning. In the notes from the early thirties, the need for an elevator was gaining attention as were other service areas which could be added at the rear of the offices and meeting rooms. There was also reduced need for a rear alley and vehicle access around the building with the post office replaced by the power company.

In 1931 a nine-member building committee was formed to begin plans for enlarging the building and provide elevator service. Members of the committee were: Fred P. Adkins, Geroge F. Sharp-ley, William F. Messick, W. Upshur Polk, William J. Holloway, J. McFadden Dick, John S. T. Wilcox, Frank Holloway and Ralph H. Grier.

The committee considered the increasing space needs along with other services which could be added or provided better and prepared some sketches of their plans. An architect was selected and engaged, Clyde N. Friz of Baltimore who began the blueprints from there. Drawings were made to raise the Temple to four floors from the existing three with a 14' extension to the rear on all four floors and the basement. The exterior was 74' long across the entire width of the building and included new stairways, elevator access to all five levels and various new shops, rooms for preparation, kitchens, new toilets and other facilities. Stairways would have been removed from the center corridors with all of these in the addition next to the elevator shaft. It was a magnificent plan which would have given a more imposing front rising to a center peak above the fourth floor, would replace the flat roof with angled trusses and give the Lodge itself new theatre type meeting hall with stage and curtains.

Master of the Lodge in 1931 was R. Kelvin Shivers who participated in the planning. He was followed by D. Franklin Holloway who was also serving on the building committee. Charles E. Harper headed the trustees in those years as the other four trustees were also on that committee. Architect Friz delivered two sets of the nine-page blueprints for his planning fee of \$2,089.65 and \$250.00 to his local associate, W. L. Humes.

In a "record of a meeting of the Building Committee for the Proposed Addition to the present building and the Trustees of Masonic Temple held in Room 210 at the Wicomico Hotel April 16, 1932, at 7:30 o'clock," named those present as listed above and related plans for "financing the new addition. Mr. Adkins reported that the new addition would cost approximately \$57,000.00."

"The following finance plan was suggested and approved by the members of the Building Committee: that \$40,000 be raised by a first mortgage to be placed on the Masonic Temple Building; that \$5,000.00 be contributed by the Salisbury Lodge of Perfection; that \$5,000.00 now in the hands of the Board of Trustees be used; that \$7,000 be raised by the sale of income bonds to members of the fraternity or other means;" and that definite action be taken on the plan at the meeting of May 3rd, 1932.

Report of the Board of Trustees to the membership
of Wicomico Lodge #91.

We, the members of the Board of Trustees of the Masonic Temple, submit to the membership of Wicomico Lodge #91 our opinion in connection with the proposed addition to be added to this building at an approximate cost of \$57,000.00, not including furniture and fixtures.

First- the finance plan, as adopted by the building committee, calling for a mortgage of \$40,000.00 to be placed on this building, we feel is more than the income from the building will justify. The maximum income from the building for the next three and one-half years, which covers the period of our present leases now in affect, will be: \$8500.00 per year from rents and \$405.00 per year dividends from our present investments, if they are not disturbed, making a gross revenue per year of \$8905.00. The operating expense of the present building, averaged over a period of the last eleven years, is \$4683.60 per year. The probable operating expense of the proposed addition will be \$1636.80 per year, making a total possible operating expense of the completed building \$6320.40, leaving a net income of \$2584.60. The interest on a \$40,000.00 mortgage, at 6%, is \$2400.00 per year, leaving a balance of \$184.60. We have not taken into consideration, in any of these figures, the maintenance or operation of the proposed elevator, which we believe, if operated under a most economical plan, would cost, approximately, \$1200.00 per year, which, if this expense is placed on the Board of Trustees, will cause a net deficit of \$1075.40 per year.

Second- we do not feel that we can recommend, or be a party to, a finance plan where there is no money set aside each year to amortize the mortgage, so that it can be paid off within a reasonable length of time.

Third- Owing to the present unsettled condition of our country and the necessity of our curtailing both personal and business expenses, we feel that it is an extremely inopportune time to create an indebtedness where approximately \$15,000.00 will have to be raised from the membership of this Lodge by individual subscriptions to income bonds or contributions. In establishing this \$15,000.00, we are taking into consideration the \$7000.00 referred to in the building committee's finance plan and \$8000.00 for the furnishings and equipment for the fourth floor Lodge room, as well as the auditorium, kitchen and other added rooms.

Taking all of this into consideration, we recommend that the membership of this Lodge disapprove the present proposal submitted by the building committee and that some plan may be worked out to change up the third floor whereby more desirable and adequate working facilities may be attained.

Respectfully submitted,

TRUSTEES, MASONIC TEMPLE

Charles E. Harper, P.M. CHAIRMAN
Ralph H. Grier SECRETARY
J. McFadden Dick, P.M. TREASURER
W. Upshur Polk, P.M.
Wm. J. Holloway, P.M.

May 3rd, 1932.

Division Street, showing Masonic Temple
and Post Office, Salisbury, Md.



SL-IM

Thus, the excellent plans for a Temple addition, elevator service and a new fourth had to be abandoned "owing to the present unsettled condition of our country and the necessity of our curtailing both personal and business expenses." The nine pages of well-detailed blueprints do still exist perhaps for possible revival, now some three generations later. Over the many years since, plans have been "worked out to change up the third floor whereby more desirable and adequate working facilities" have been attained within the Temple.

In late 1932, the Temple had just two lessors, Eastern Shore Public Service Co. and Citizens Budget Co. which filled nearly all rentable space. Metropolitan Life Insurance had moved out near the end of 1931, but ESPS continued to take up any rooms which became available. In 1933, Citizens Budget Co. was replaced by Citizens Loan Co.

By 1934, the power company was the sole renter although the Trustees were able to rent one room for Republican Headquarters for several months and added \$25 to the income for the year. In 1935, the first floor south "bank room" was rented by W. F. Messick and Paul Hishmen and later by Pocahontas Coal Co. for an office. As they left the following year, Dr. Philip Insley occupied those rooms for the next seven years, leaving in 1943.

Then a much handier means of expansion as well as source of profit and investment came to hand as the adjacent Jay Williams Law Building was advertised for public sale in front of the Courthouse. On June 15, 1935, Masonic Temple Trustees found the fully rented building an irresistible buy. The bidding went up to \$15,000, then capped at \$15,100 as Wicomico Lodge bid to become the new owners.

THE JAY WILLIAMS LAW BUILDING

A prominent attorney in Salisbury at the time of the great fire of 1886, Jay Williams had the three-story building constructed in 1888 to house his law firm. Also built on the site of the former Salisbury Hotel, it was joined to the Cino Building on the north and shared an alley with the Temple to the south. It had become commercial rental property for some years following Jay Williams death in 1912. Temple Trustees paid widow A. Blanche Williams \$1,100 on June 15 to bind the sale, a further \$4,000 in July and completed payment with \$10,000 on August 26, 1935. Now connected with a passageway 20 feet above the alley, the second floor of the Temple is linked to the third floor of the Williams Building giving access either from an elevator in the Temple or from its own three flights of stairs at both front and rear. A narrow, brick structure, it is slightly wider at the rear than to the front, it provides about 800 square feet on each of the three floors.

At the time of its purchase in 1935, the Williams Building was occupied by Eastern Shore Loan Association on the first floor, Dr. Higgins the second and Hampton Brittingham had a third-floor apartment. The ever-expanding Eastern Shore Public Service Co. rented the one empty room on the first floor rear at \$30 a month. Income for that half-year amounted to \$593.20, the next full year of rentals netted \$1,623, the following \$1,980. A fair return on the \$15,100 investment.

Temple Trustees did begin improving the building immediately. In 1936 the front show windows were installed to improve the retail outlook and this along with a new roof and other repairs and alterations added \$4,356 in cost to the value of the building. Normal upkeep and other expenses were incurred over the years until it underwent a complete rebuilding within and reroofed in 1988-89 at a total cost of approximately \$20,000.

In 1936, Flo-Mir Gift Shop occupied the first floor store rooms and remained in that location through 1956. Dr. A. B. Boulden then rented the first floor from 1956 through 1968, when it was taken over by Lednum Hearing Aids from 1969 to 1988 and then by Benchmark Finance-Robert Caldwell from 1988 to the present.

Mrs. Evelyn Jump had the third floor apartment from 1938 to 1945, then it was unused for several years until the passageway bridge was built over to the Temple in 1949 at the needs of the Public Service Co. It remained on the second and third floors until building its own building on Route 13 in 1958, keeping just retail and collection offices in the Temple, first floor south..

Other renters in the building as ESPS vacated were Blood Bank of the Eastern Shore, 1961-1968; P. J. Hannon & Associates 1968-1976; Custom Copy, 1977-1979; Monroe Haltaman, 1980-1985; Benchmark Finance, 1988 to the present. A social club occupies the second floor since 1988 and Michael J. Hynes & Associates, the third since 1993.

In recent years (1975-1995), a number of plans have been drawn to further incorporate the Jay Williams building with the Masonic Temple. One of these would have extended and duplicated the Temple frontage over the north alley and the Williams property with two arches over the alley and newly extended Temple second and third floors above the arches. This plan would have removed the Williams building (W-1). A second plan would have kept the Williams street entrance (W-2) and a third would have raised the bridge as an extension of the Temple third floor (W-3). Present plans envision keeping it intact with necessary remodeling completed within and then outside according to the dictates of the Salisbury Historic District Commission.

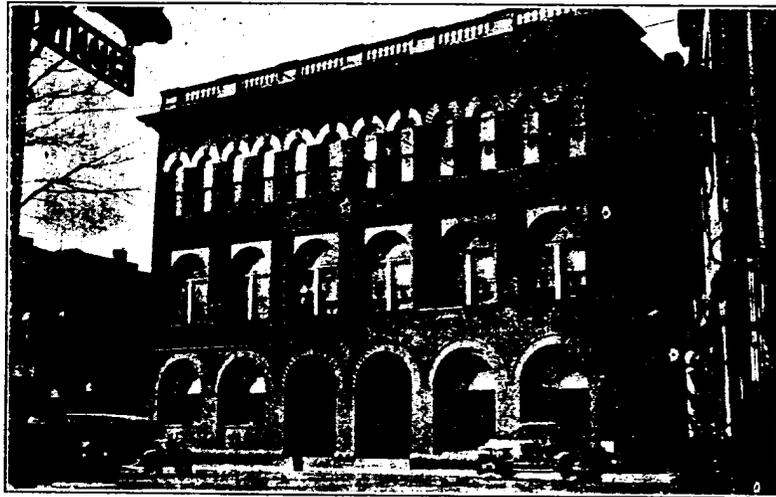
During the thirties, Salisbury was growing into a proud, expanding city; in 1931 the population had reached 10,997 according to the latest census then. W. C. 'Walt' Thurston was one of the city's active historians, a commercial photographer, and a prime booster as he published a well-illustrated booklet entitled, "SALISBURY, The Capital of the Eastern Shore." He added the alliterative - "HOMEY - - HUSTLING - - HOSPITABLE" as he editorialized: "The Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, have long been known as the second Eden. Salisbury sits proudly in the midst of her fruits and flowers-the Capital of this new Garden, which is said to outrival the old." The Salisbury Masonic Temple was part of this for a number of reasons, business and fraternal.

This 60-page booklet well depicts and describes the city along with other County landmarks. Nearly fifty photos by Walt are shown throughout as it concludes with a seven-page "TRADE DIRECTORY" giving itemized listings of the businesses here. The printing date was September 1931 and copies are still available for review in the Maryland Room of the Wicomico County Free Library. Center spread was the Wicomico Hotel which rated four photos showing the "Dining Room, Ball Room, Lobby and Typical Bedroom." The front cover pictured the corner view of the hotel at Main and Division Streets.

Several pages before those views was a double page spread of the Masonic Temple included to give an exterior and an interior picture of, "First Floor Offices of the EASTERN SHORE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY." Included to advertise the power company, the photos were taken at a time when part of the company's business was retail appliances and the first floor north offices were used for both retail sales and bill payment transactions. All of the second floor of the Temple were company offices as well. The front rooms on first floor south were then leased to Citizens Budget Company. ESPS was the major tenant then and for many years thereafter as it had accomplished its first reorganization from the Eastern Shore Gas and Electric, thirty years later to become DelMarVa Power.

The thirties decade was closing as the Masonic Temple had expanded its real estate into a two building rental operation. In 1935 the five trustees were W. Upshur Polk, Edward C. Fulton, Dr. J. MacFadden Dick, William J. Holloway and Ralph H. Grier. By 1939, Robert D. Grier Jr., Carl L. Jones and Herman L. Purnell had replaced Polk, Holloway and Dr. Dick who died in that year. M. Alexander Anderson was Master of the Lodge to be succeeded in 1940 by Burrough H. Price. It was doing those two terms that plans for a Temple addition which would include elevator service were begun. Finally completed in 1941, the elevator shaft about six feet square was housed in a building addition to the rear. Its size is approximately 12' X 31' on two lower floors and 12' X 18' on the third which allows for several added offices and service rooms. The total cost amounted to \$19,256.39, elevator installed to serve three floors,

"HUSTLING --- HOSPITABLE SALISBURY"



OFFICES OF THE EASTERN SHORE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
Masonic Temple Building

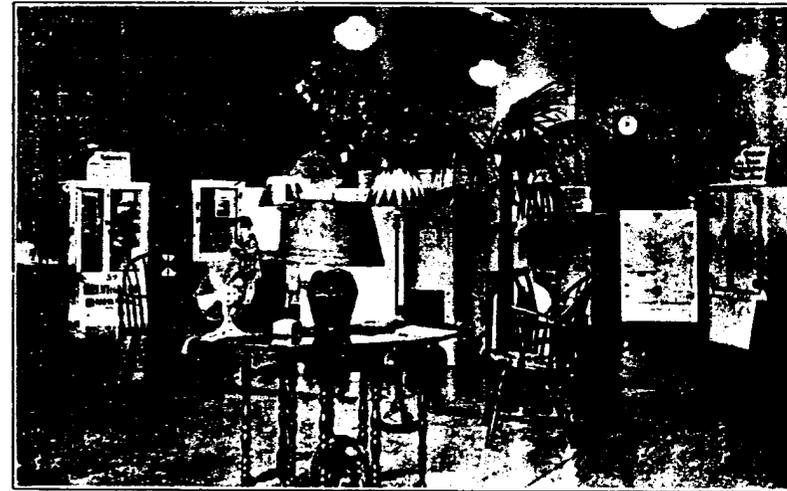
Eastern Shore Public Service Co.

The present Eastern Shore Public Service Company was organized in 1915 as the Eastern Shore Gas & Electric Company. The sixteen years which have passed since then have witnessed a growth which was both rapid and sound. This growth, too, was the result of one factor: Service, reliable and dependable.

In August of 1922, the Kent County Electric Company was purchased. The Del-Mar-Via Utilities Company was acquired in April of 1924. January 1925, saw the purchase of the Consumers Public Service Company. In January of 1926 the Rehoboth Municipal unit was secured, and the Exmore Light and Power and the Exmore Ice and Storage Companies the following June. August and November, the same year, saw the acquisition of two municipal plants, Selbyville and Millsboro respectively. In 1927 three other properties were added: Frankford in April, the Snow Hill Electric Company in August, and the Cape Charles Electric Company in September. Only two new additions were made in 1928, the municipal plants of Hillsboro and Queen Anne. February of 1931 marked the securing of the Dover Ice Company and the Maryland Light & Power Company.

These new additions brought electric service to 31,846 customers, and gave the company increased opportunity to extend its service to every nook and corner of Del-Mar-Va., which undertaking is now underway.

"HUSTLING --- HOSPITABLE SALISBURY"



A cosy corner in the display room—First Floor offices of the
EASTERN SHORE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY
Masonic Temple Building

COMMERCIAL

The opening of the new I. G. A. Store on Market Street, under the management of D. W. Duncan, means an upward trend in the business progress of the city.

An expert in the handling of groceries and foodstuffs, he merits in no small degree the patronage of the buying public.

The business firms listed in our Shopper's Guide and Trade Directory comprises only those which are absolutely reliable.

THE NEW RICH-WILL Golf Course is a gem.

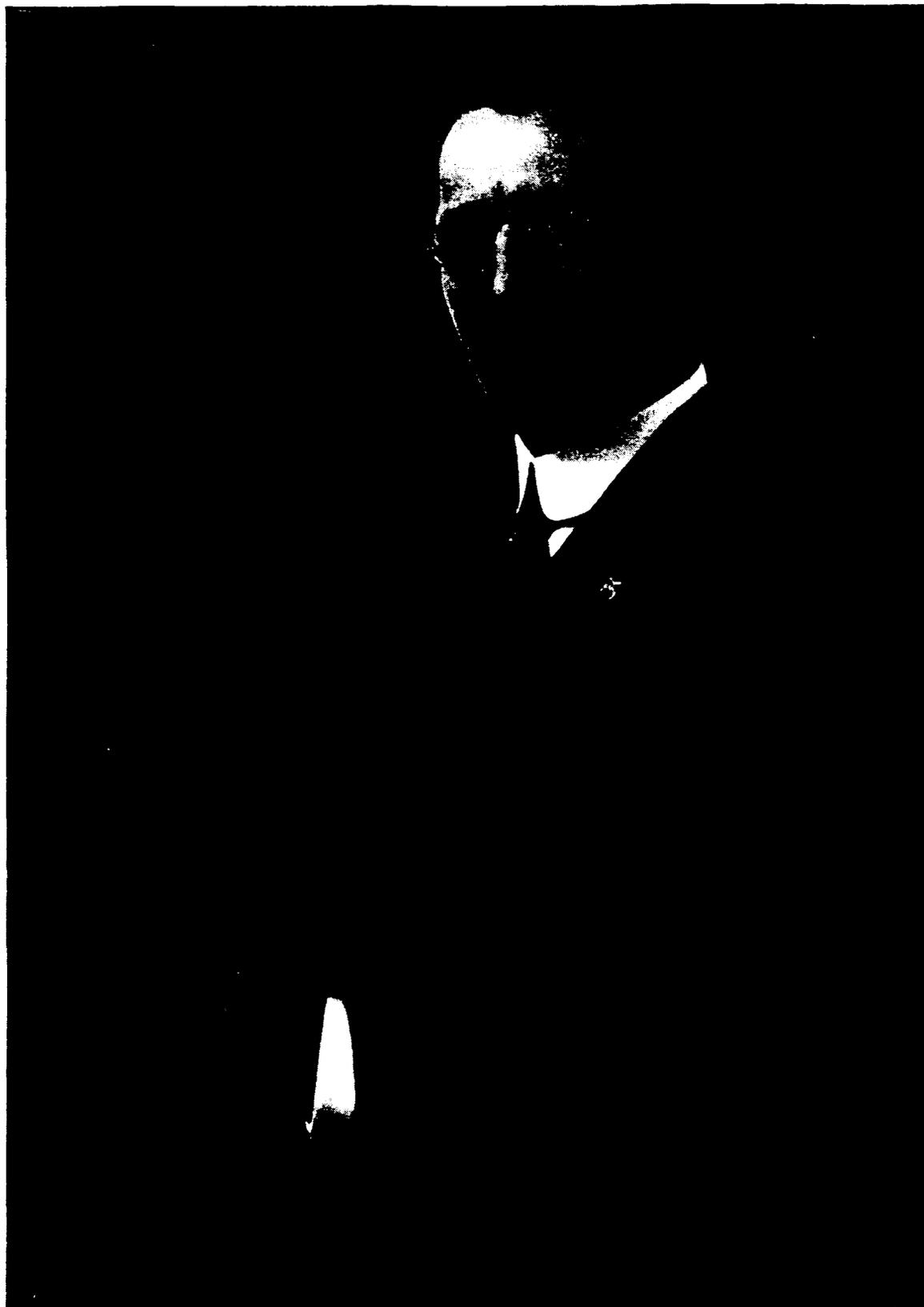
Main Street is being brightened with new store windows. R. E. Powell & Co., The Wanamaker's of Salisbury, seems to be setting the pace.

The most delightful suburban section of Salisbury is Clairmont Village, a place of homes.

LOVE NEVER DIES—A neglected grave is a reproach to the highest and holiest emotions of the human heart.—Thomas J. Truitt, fitted by years of experience will gladly assist in the selection of a suitable stone to mark the place of your loved one.

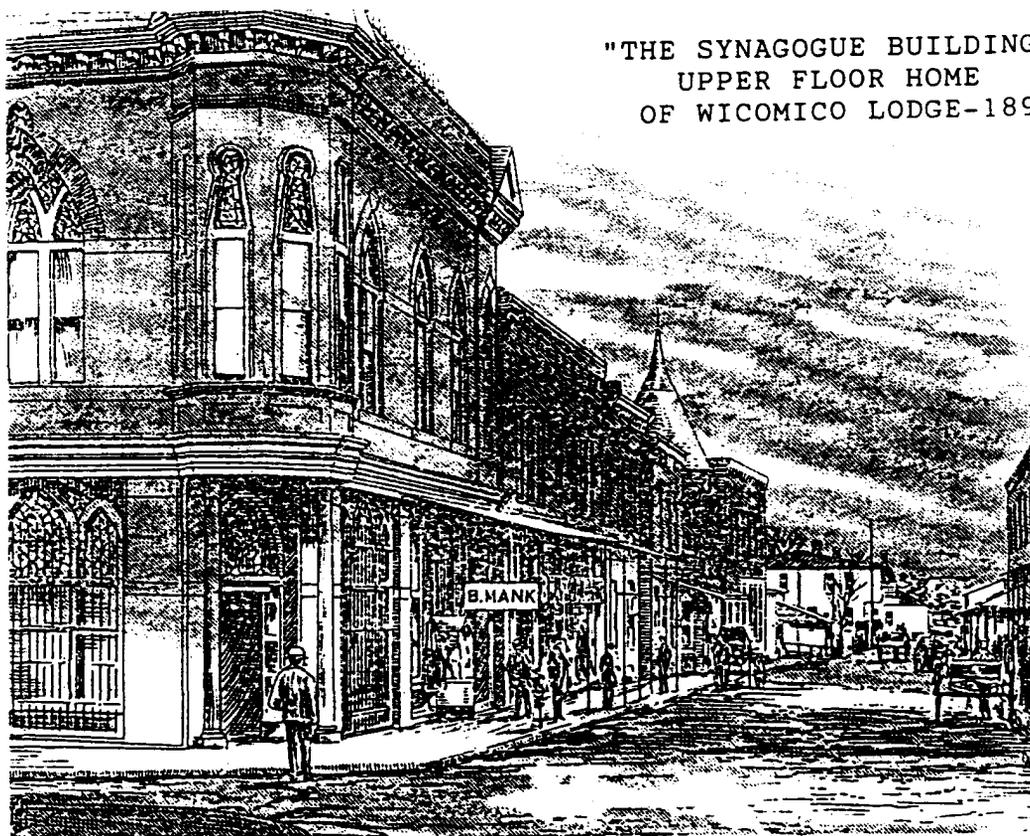
A rich man can speak the truth, can afford honesty, can afford independence of opinion and action—that is the rich man in a true sense, not the man of a large income and large expenditure.
Ralph Waldo Emerson.

WI-75



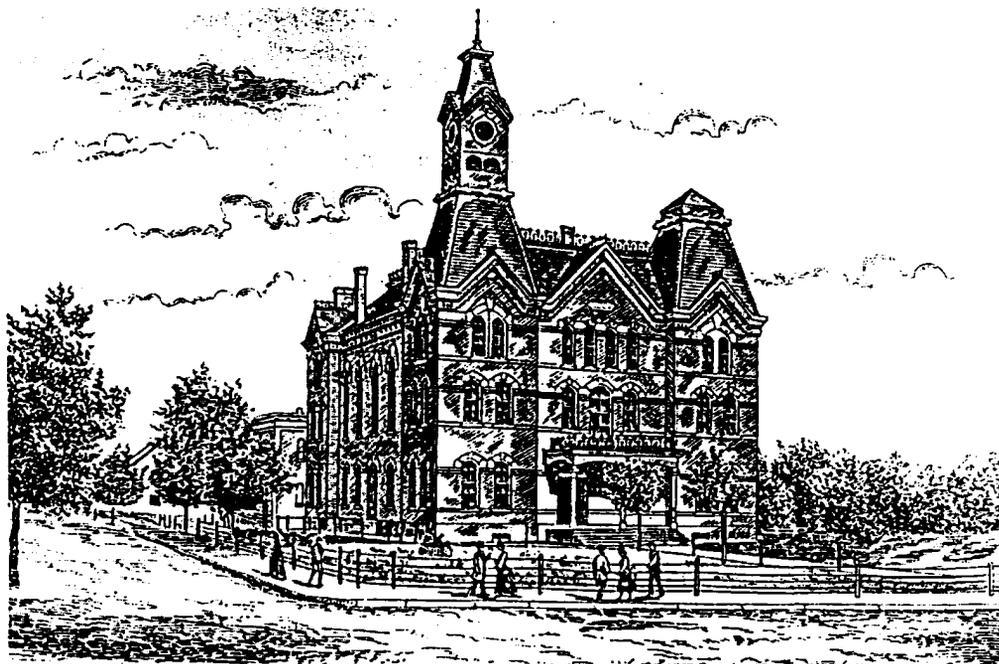
Robert D. Grier

Wicomico Lodges's second 'Temple' location after the fire of 1886. Moving here in 1894, it housed the Lodge regally through two five-year leases until the new Temple was built. A view of the Courthouse, contemporary with that is shown below it.



"THE SYNAGOGUE BUILDING"
UPPER FLOOR HOME
OF WICOMICO LODGE-1894

Main Street Looking West From Dock Street



Court House, - Salisbury, Md.

Board of Trustees of the Masonic Temple

NORTH DIVISION STREET

SALISBURY, MARYLAND

SALISBURY'S MASONIC TEMPLE

PART III - OCCUPYING-LEASING-ALTERING

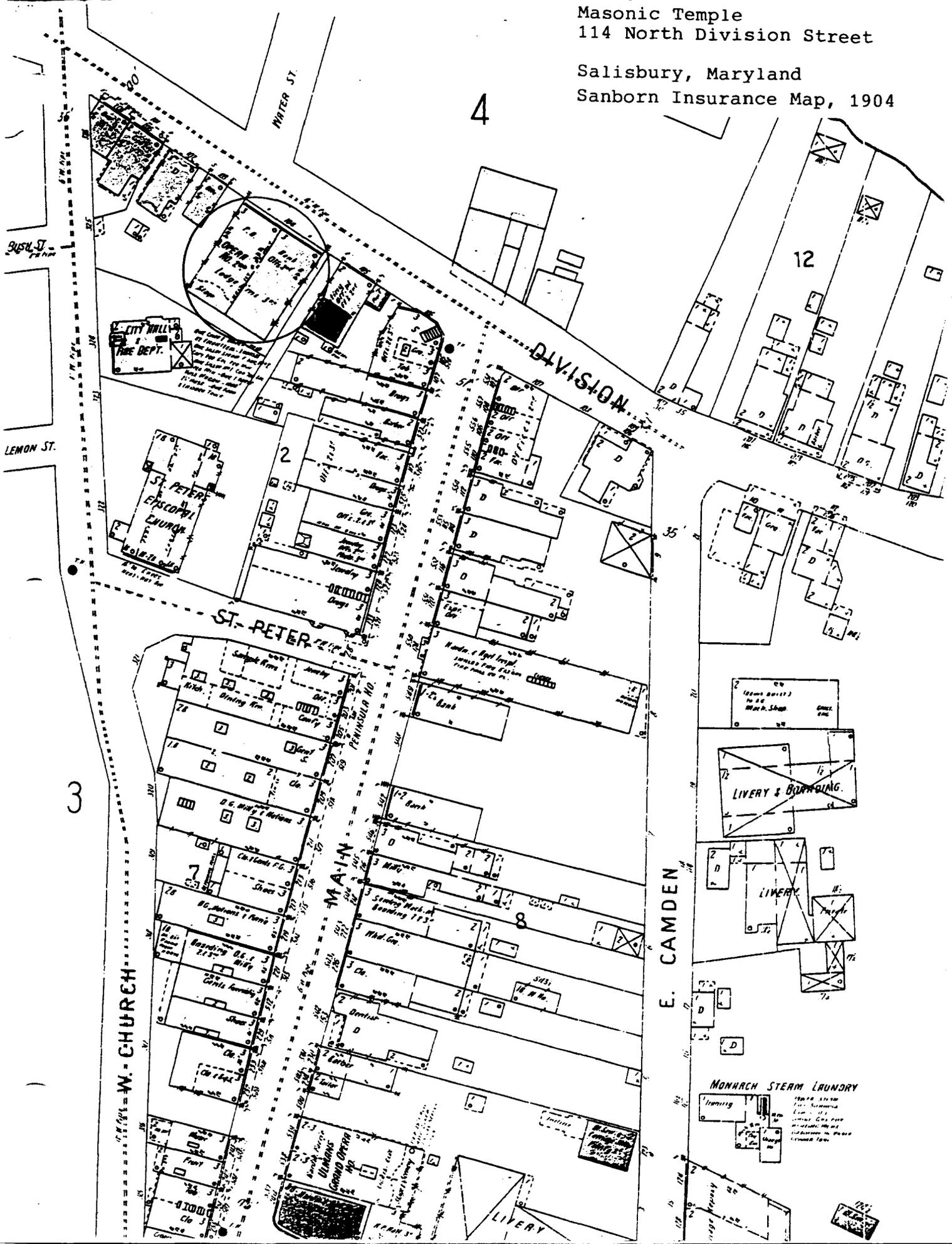
As 1905 opened, Wicomico Lodge No. 92, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons had their own home for the first time in its then 57 year-old history. True, it was fully mortgaged to the full value of its land, building and contents, but it had solid, long-term leases and became second only to the County's Courthouse across the street in importance. With a fronting of Peoples National Bank to the south and the United States Post Office for the whole north side; with interior offices filling with several doctors, Elmer T. Williams and D. B. Potter; a prominent law firm, Ellegood, Freeny and Wailes, and several business leases including A. M. Jackson, it became a center of city life.

January 3, 1905 was recorded as the first Lodge meeting in the new Temple and one of the first items of business was to reimburse Br. William Day \$11.74 for moving and incidentals from the Brewington Hall Building. There were 23 members present, plus four visitors to help mark the occasion, two from Delmar and two from Princess Anne. Harry J. G. Byrd had returned as Master and the Lodge acted favorably on the petition for membership from W. J. Downing. There were then 65 members on the rolls besides the several nearly always carried in suspension for nonpayment of dues.

Wicomico Lodge itself had come to terms with the Trustees on the matter of their own rental of the third-floor meeting room and \$200 per annum was agreed upon. Meeting room rentals there were also shared with Chesapeake Royal Arch Chapter at \$200 a year and electric bills were shared with others using space such as the Thomas J. Shryock Commandery.

Little change took place in leases for the next several years through 1908. In early June of 1909, William H. Beacom came down to Salisbury from Wilmington with plans to open a business college here. This would be a branch of his successful Beacom Business College in midtown Wilmington and would be named Salisbury College of Business. On June 8, he signed a lease for the north assembly hall on the second floor for \$600 per year. Opening the school that fall he enlarged it in 1914, adding rooms 5 and 6 on the first floor and again in 1915, adding rooms 10 and 11 on the second. The school remained in operation through July 1925, alma mater to many of the local successful businessmen.

WI-75
Masonic Temple
114 North Division Street
Salisbury, Maryland
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1904



CHURCH STREET

PLAT OF LAND AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON
OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MASONIC TEMPLE

SALISBURY, MARYLAND

SCALE 1" = 40' 5-22-56

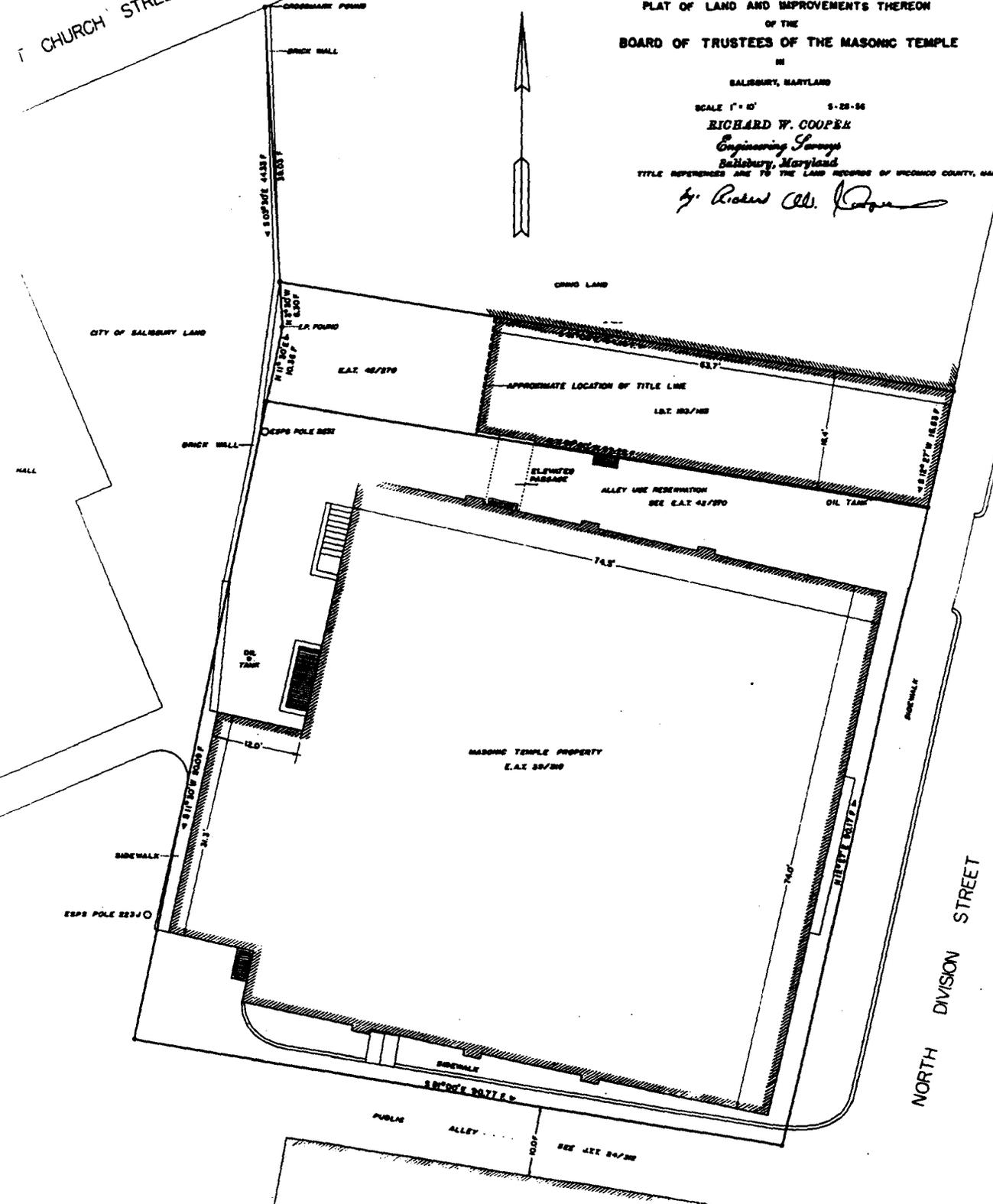
RICHARD W. COOPER

Engineering Surveyor

Salisbury, Maryland

TITLE REFERENCES ARE TO THE LAND RECORDS OF WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND

Richard W. Cooper



WI-75
Masonic Temple
114 North Division Street

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

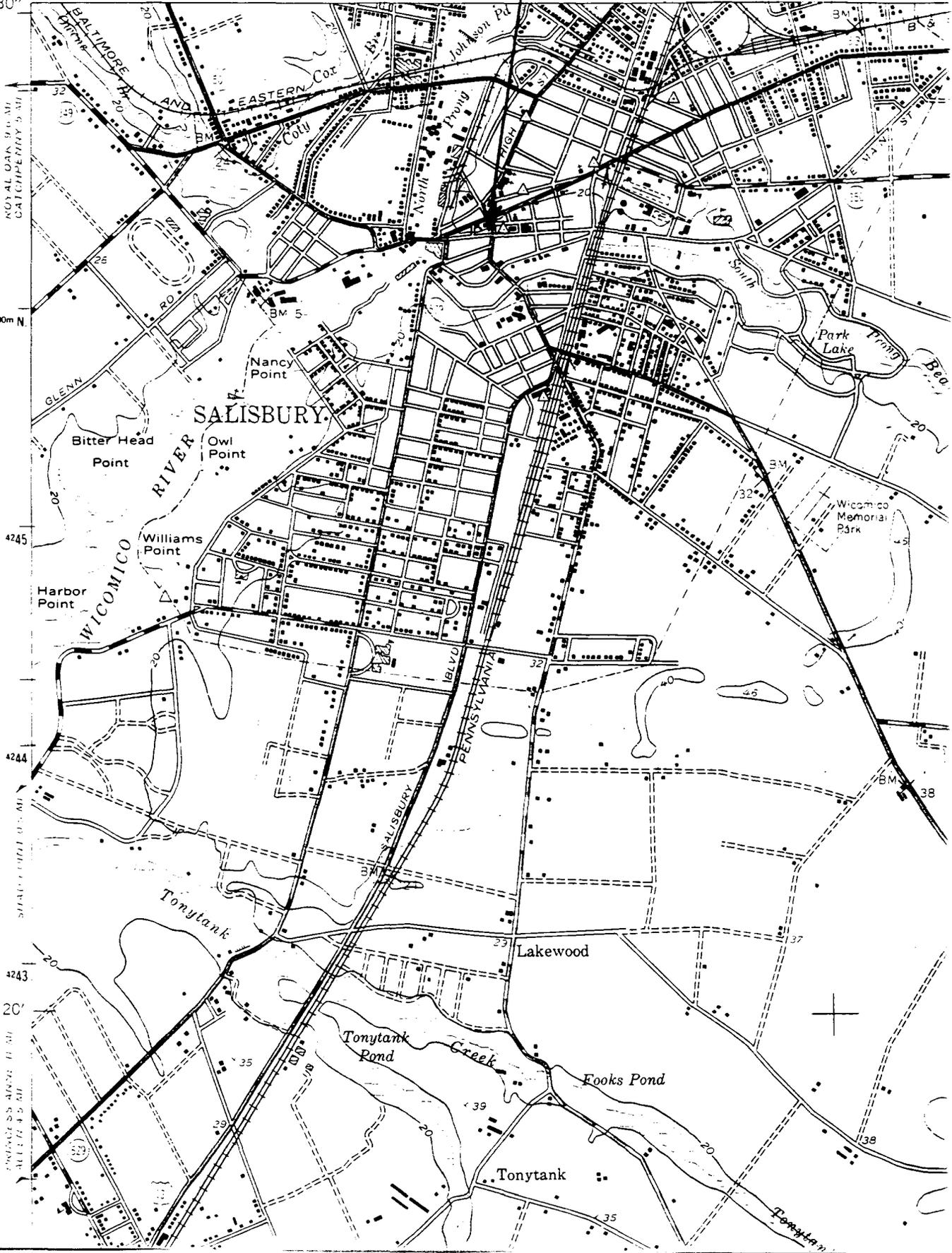
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle

1942

5860 1 NW
(MEBRON)

75°37'30"
38°22'30"

447000m E
4246000m N



ROYAL OAK 9.6 MI
CATCHPENNY 5 MI

4246000m N

4245

4244

4243

20'

ENGINEERS AINNE 11 MI
ALLI 11.5 MI



W1-95

Massive Temple

Salisbury, Worcester Co., Mass.

East elevation

7/96, Paul Towse, Boston

NEG / 200. Historical Trust



N1-75

MASONIC TEMPLE

SALESBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.

SOUTHWEST 1/4 20 31

7/96, PAUL TOWNART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG / MD HISTORICAL TRUST



WICOMICO LODGE

No. 94

A. F. and A. M.

Instituted

Erected

1848.



1904.



WI-75 Masonic Building

