

WO-114  
Sturgis Building  
Snow Hill  
private

c. 1894

Clearly one of the most distinctive examples of late nineteenth-century commercial architecture is the Sturgis building, a two-story, four-bay structure that stands opposite the Worcester County Courthouse. Segmental brick arches highlight each of the door and window openings, and an elaborate metal cornice with a fan-shaped crest stretches the length of the facade. Also surviving are ball-shaped finials that enhance the roofline. As with most buildings standing in the center of Snow Hill, this structure was erected shortly after the disastrous 1893 fire.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: Sturgis Building

MHT Inventory Number: WO-114

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE, ECONOMIC

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

1870-1930 INDUSTRIAL-URBAN DOMINANCE

4) Resource Type(s):

1. STANDING STRUCTURES

a. COMMERCIAL BUILDING

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic STURGIS BUILDING

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 102 West Market Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Snow Hill \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Worcester

## 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber

street & number Worcester County Courthouse folio

city, town Snow Hill state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1967 \_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

pository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD

# 7. Description

Survey No. WO-114

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Sturgis Building stands on West Market Street near the intersection of Washington Street in the center of Snow Hill, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-story, four-bay brick commercial building faces southeast.

Built around 1894, the pressed, stretcher bond brick commercial building is marked by three bays on the first floor and four on the second. The first floor is dominated by a segmental arched opening that allow access to three recessed doors, one that leads to the second floor and the other two that open into the first floor shop spaces. Partially glazed doors topped by single-pane transoms open into the shops and a pair of louvered doors cover the center door. The door surrounds are finished with late nineteenth-century trim. Highlighting the segmental brick arches are courses of corbelled bricks. Flanking the entrance are large segmental arched window openings. A six-over-one sash window lights the eastern shop space, while a single-pane sash window lights the western side. Each window is fitted with a rusticated red sandstone sill and are topped by raised brick segmental arches. Located beneath each first floor window is a small segmental arch foundation window.

The second floor is pierced by four two-over-two sash windows that boast segmental arches and rusticated marble sills. As with the first floor windows the section of the surround below the arch is incised with a Victorian line decoration. Marking the wall above each second floor window is a small rectangular screened vent. Stretching across the top of the building is a heavy bracketed metal cornice with acanthus leaf ornaments at each end and small medallions that are evenly space across the fascia. The top of the cornice boasts a fan-shaped crest with ball-topped finials at the top and to each side. The outer ends of the building are highlighted by larger ball-topped finials as well.

The balance of the building is largely covered by adjacent commercial structures, and the interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WO-114

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Sturgis building is a prominent commercial structure that faces the Worcester County Courthouse in the center of Snow Hill along West Market Street. The two-story, four-bay Victorian storefront boasts an intact metal cornice complete with a fan-shaped crest and ball-topped finials. The pressed brick facade is pierced by segmental arched door and window openings. The center arched entrance permits access to three separate doors that lead to first and second floor spaces. A variety of rusticated sandstone and marble along with corbelled brick courses highlight the individual openings. The Sturgis building is one of the most complete of the late nineteenth-century commercial structures standing in the central business district.



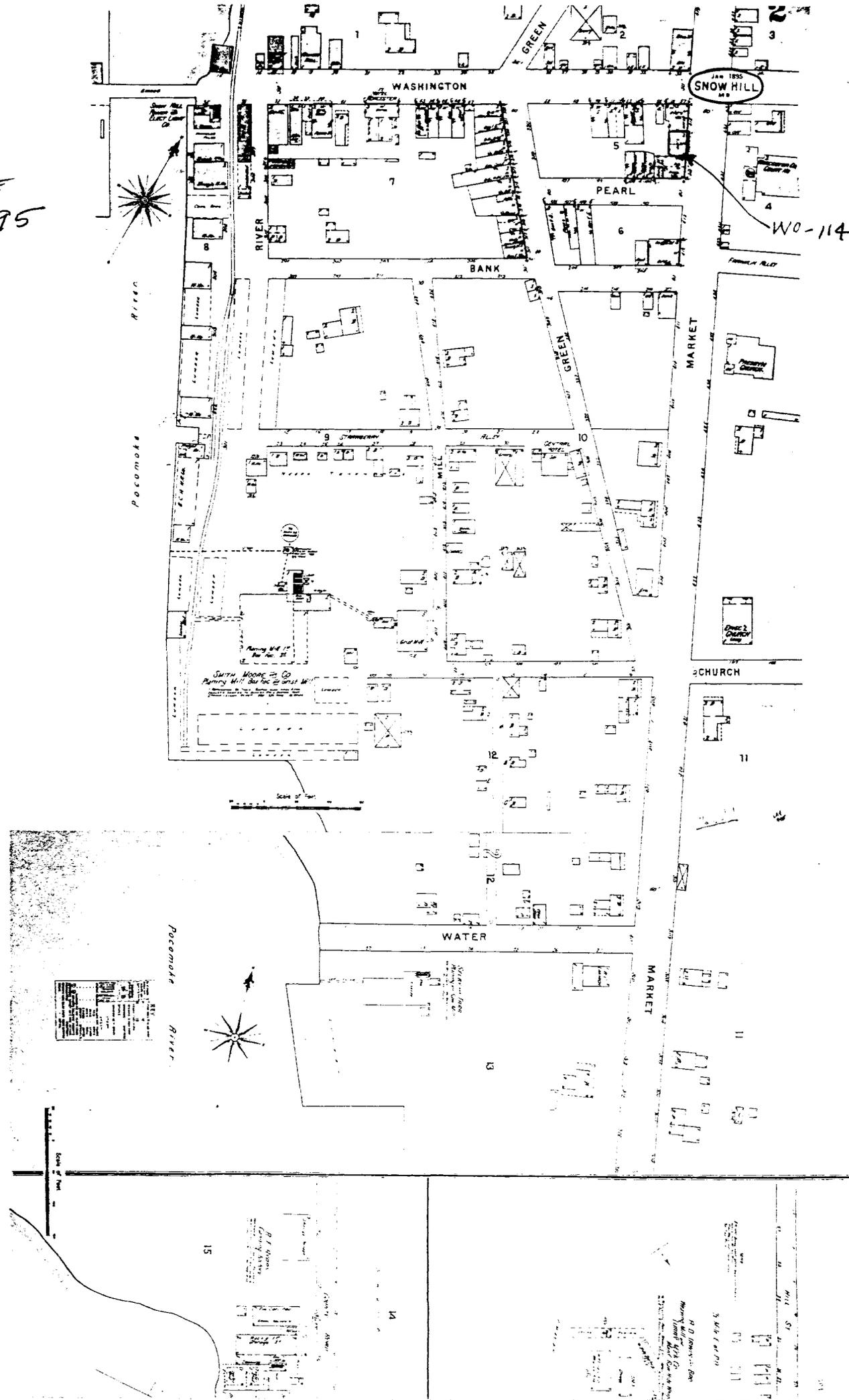
2401143711

<p>1. STATE <i>Maryland</i>          COUNTY <i>Worcester</i>          TOWN <i>Snow Hill</i> VICINITY          STREET NO. <i>102 W. Main St.</i></p> <p>ORIGINAL OWNER          ORIGINAL USE <i>offices</i>          PRESENT OWNER <i>F. Sturgis</i>          PRESENT USE <i>offices</i>          WALL CONSTRUCTION <i>brick</i>          NO. OF STORIES <i>2</i></p>	<p>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY          INVENTORY <i>wo-114</i></p> <p>2. NAME <i>Sturgis Building</i></p> <p>DATE OR PERIOD <i>c. 1900</i></p> <p>STYLE          ARCHITECT          BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
<p>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <i>no</i></span></p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Sturgis Building is three bays wide on its first story facade and four bays on second story. The central bay of the first story contains an alcove with three doors leading to the offices within and upstairs. All openings are segmental arches and red sandstone sills. The cornice is a decorative affair with panels between brackets, then a series of circular discs above. Between the upper windows and cornice are applied panels. In the center of the cornice is a half circle fan with three finials. At each end are finials.</p> <p>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered <i>NO</i>    Interior    Exterior <i>good</i></p>	
<p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> 	<p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p>
<p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)          INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p>	<p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER</p> <p><i>Michael Bourne</i>  <i>Maryland Historical Trust</i></p> <p>DATE OF RECORD <i>NOV. 1969</i></p>

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE



SANBORN  
INSURANCE  
MAP - 1895



JAN 1895  
SNOW HILL  
MD

W0-114

15

14

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12

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10

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1

11 D. Brown...  
12 D. Brown...  
13 D. Brown...  
14 D. Brown...  
15 D. Brown...

WO-114  
STURGIS BUILDING  
Snow Hill Quarangle, 1966





WO-114

Sturgis Building  
102 W. Market St., Snow Hill