

Masonic Museum  
23 North Harrison Street  
Easton, Maryland 21601

T-476  
1855

The site of old market building on Harrison Street has long been associated with Freemasonry in Talbot County. It was here that Coates Lodge #2 was founded in 1855; a part of the present building is occupied by the Masonic Building.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

2104564507  
T-456

Town of Easton

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Site - Market Building

AND/OR COMMON

Masonic Museum

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

23 North Harrison Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FIRST

STATE

Maryland 21601

COUNTY

Talbot

**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"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

F. Stanley Ridgeway

Telephone #: 301-822-7777

STREET & NUMBER

RD 1

CITY, TOWN

Oxford

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21654

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Talbot County Court House

Liber #: 453

Folio #: 391

STREET & NUMBER

Washington Street

CITY, TOWN

Easton

STATE

Maryland 21601

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

T-456

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                               RUINS  
 FAIR                                 UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This site, now occupied by a one-and-a-half story brick structure, is located on Harrison Street in the commercial district of the town of Easton. Remodeling throughout the years have removed virtually all of "the old market building" on this site in which various Masonic lodges met for many years. One room of the present structure is occupied by the Masonic Museum which commemorates the occasion and displays documents and memorabilia recording the history of Freemasonry in Easton and throughout the Eastern Shore.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

<p>PERIOD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1900-</p>	<p>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ART</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LAW</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> THEATER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Fraternal Organization</p>
--	--	---	---	---

SPECIFIC DATES      1855                                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Coates Lodge #102

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

This site is significant for its long association with Talbot County Freemasonry. According to Garey and Patchett's History of Easton:

The most ancient and most honorable charitable organization in Easton is that of the Masons. It is probable that a lodge existed in this town as far back as 1764. Here in 1781, was instituted the Grand Lodge of Maryland in the old court house, and for six years continued to hold its sessions in that building, since which time this Lodge has met in Baltimore. In 1802, St. Thomas Lodge, No. 37, was chartered, secured the old market building on Harrison Street, and held its meetings in the "loft". This place continued to be used by the several lodges for Masonic purposes until 1857. St. Thomas Lodge went down in 1806, and Masonry was not revived in Easton until 1823, at which time Lodge No. 76 was organized and adopted the name Coats' Lodge, in honor of the first Grand Master of Maryland, and an Eastonian by adoption. This lodge also went down, and in 1855, on the 12th of May, in the room on Harrison Street was instituted the present lodge. It likewise assumed the name of Coats, and was numbered 102. In 1860, when the building on the southeast corner of Washington and Dover Streets was erected, Coats' Lodge furnished a proportionate part of building fund, and thereby secured far more comfortable quarters in the third story of the building; here this lodge continued to meet until the erection of the handsome Temple of Washington Street in 1880, where the order now meets.

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Deeds and Land Records, Talbot County Court House.  
Garey, George O. and S. Ellwood Patchett. History of Easton, (Easton, Maryland: Gazette Steam Book and Job Office), 1881; Reprinted by Historic Easton, Incorporated. 1974.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

### 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY NA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION  
NA

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	<u>None</u>	COUNTY
STATE		COUNTY

### 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	<u>Marsha L. Fritz, Consultant</u>	DATE	<u>November 2, 1976</u>
ORGANIZATION	<u>Historic Easton, Incorporated</u>	TELEPHONE	<u>Mr. Paul Parsons, 301-822-2706 President</u>
STREET & NUMBER	<u>Box 1171</u>	STATE	<u>Maryland 21601</u>
CITY OR TOWN	<u>Easton</u>		

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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.

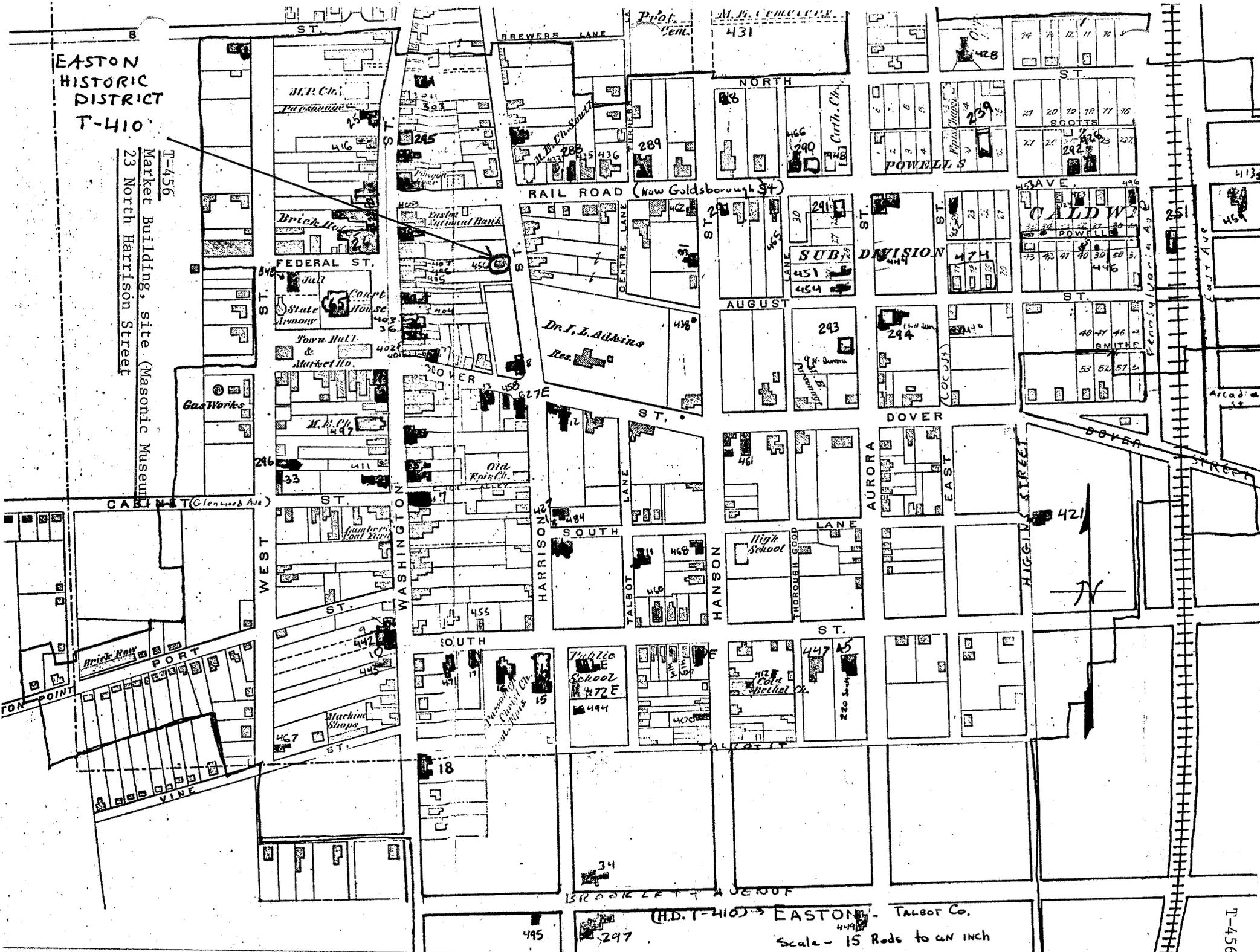
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

**EASTON HISTORIC DISTRICT T-410**

Market Building, site (Masonic Museum)  
23 North Harrison Street

T-456



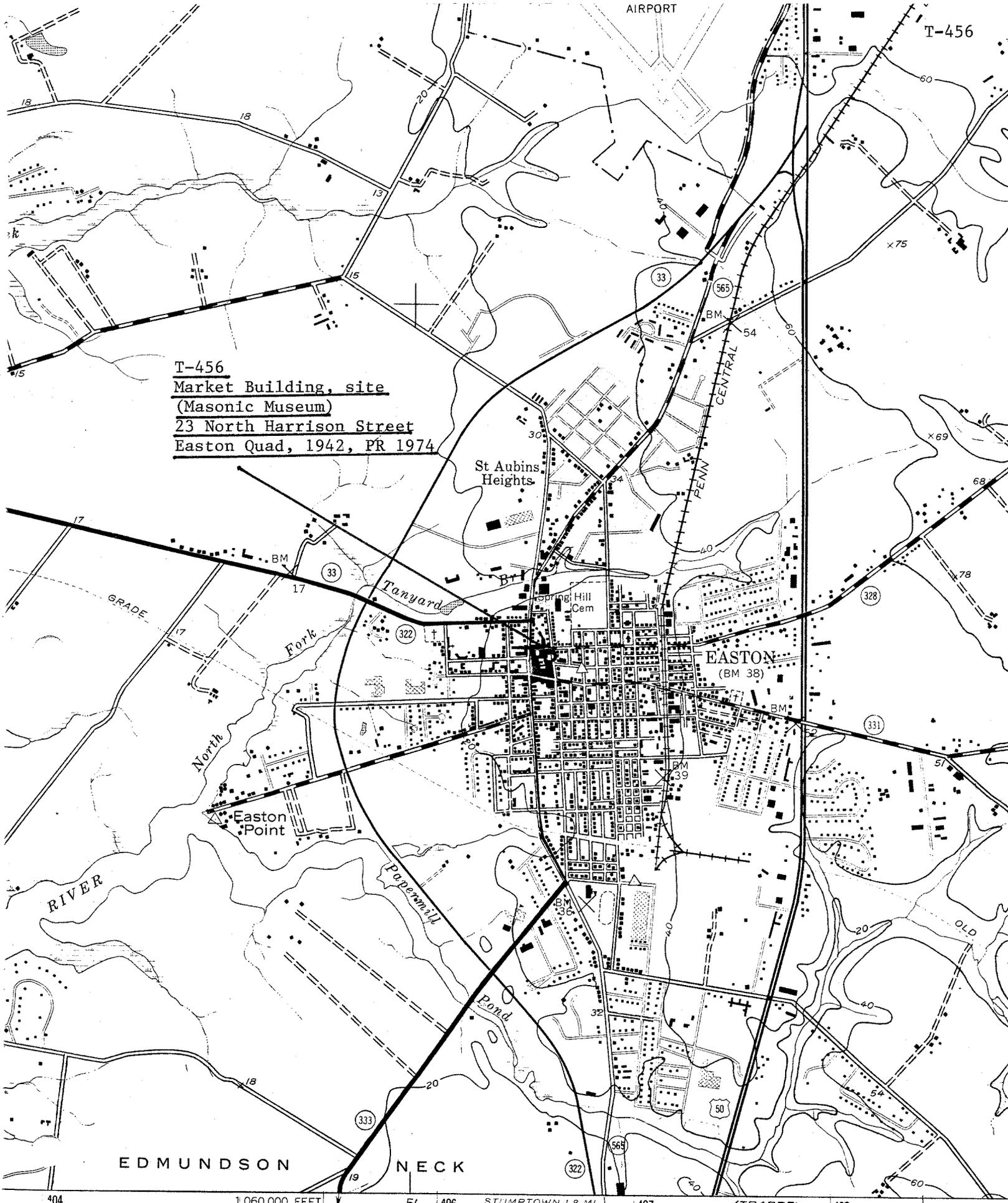
(H.D. T-410) - EASTON - Talbot Co.  
Scale - 15 Rods to an inch

T-456

AIRPORT

T-456

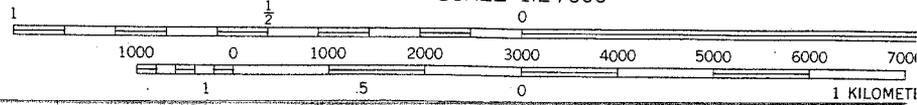
T-456  
Market Building, site  
(Masonic Museum)  
23 North Harrison Street  
Easton Quad, 1942, PR 1974



EDMUNDSON NECK

404 1 060 000 FEET 406 STUMPTOWN 1.8 MI TRAPPE 6.7 MI 407 (TRAPPE) 5761 II NE 408

SCALE 1:24 000



vey

metric methods

