WI-257
R. K. Truitt Building
Salisbury
Private

1887

An intricately executed brick facade distinguishes the R. K. Truitt building from other buildings that stand along West Main Street in Salisbury's historic commercial district. Eight brick pilasters define the five-bay facade and flank large segmental arched window openings. White marble beltcourses, contrasting with the reddish brown pressed wall brick, serve as the window sills. Raised brick corbelling accents the segmental arches that span each window opening. The top of the wall is distinguished by a heavy cornice that repeats the undulating nature of the pilastered front wall surface. The first floor storefront date from the second quarter of the twentieth century.

The construction of this building is closely dated to the spring of 1887 by short news items in the *Salisbury Advertiser*. On March 19, 1887, the newspaper announced that

> R. K. Truitt & Sons have contracted with Messrs. Drain & Abdell to erect a press brick front building on their lot on Main St., 42 feet front and extending back 53 feet. The building will be three stories high above ground and will have stone trimmings and cathedral windows.

WI-257

Less than a month later, the newspaper declared that the foundation of the R. K. Truitt building had been laid. The 1888 Sanborn Insurance map indicates that it was occupied on the drugstone on the west side and a clothing, boot, and shoe store on the east. The property was involved in a Circuit Court settlement and ultimately sold at auction in 1906 to the highest bidder, Daniel J. and Anne S. Whealton. Shortly afterwards the Whealtons conveyed the title to their daughter, Floy T. Watson, in whose family the property remained until the early 1960s.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: R. K. Truitt Building

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-257

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

Survey No. WI-257

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic R. K. Truitt Building

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 235 West Main Street ___ not for publication

city, town Salisbury ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Terry R. and Jill D. Sell

street & number P. O. Box 2142 telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21802

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107. p. 1017 liber 1011

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 545

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-257

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

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

Historically identified as the R. K. Truitt building, the three-story, five-bay brick commercial block is located at 235 West Main Street in the central business district of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The building faces south.

Erected in 1887, the three-story, five-bay brick block is flanked on each side by contemporaneous commercial structures, and the building extends to the south side of West Church Street. The pressed brick, stretcher and common bond brick buiding is covered by a low sloping shed roof. Attached to the rear wall is a shed roofed frame addition.

The south (main) facade is comprised of an altered first floor front and original (1887) second and third floors. The first floor is defined by a center entrance that provides access to an enclosed staircase leading to the upper floors, whereas the adjacent bays are defined by recessed entrances and flanking display windows. The first floor alterations were probably erected around 1940. Immediately above the first floor storefront is a marble beltcourse remaining from the original late nineteenth century construction. Rising atop the marble beltcourse is a series of eight brick pilasters that flank the window openings on the first and second floors. The pilasters, decoratively finished with paneled fronts, rise to a heavy cornice. The center bay is defined by paired six-over-six sash windows set within a segmental arched opening accented with corbelled brick. The adjacent second floor window openings have nine-over-nine sash and are treated with the same raised brick segmental arches. Fixed between the first and second floor are horizontal panels of molded terra cotta block. Stretching across the wall surface at the level of the second floor window header is a brick stringcourse.

The third floor is similarly treated. A marble beltcouse, which serves as the window sill for each window opening, stretches across the entire front. A paired set of six-over-six sash windows is located in the center bay and the other bays are filled with nine-over-nine sash windows. Each window opening is finished with a raised brick header that follows the line of the segmental arch. The top of the front wall is pierced by rectangular louvered vents that are centered above each window opening. The cornice is finished in an elaborate fashion as it breaks forward with each wall pilaster. A dentiled bed molding and a bold crown molding are topped by a low parapet wall that follows the design of undulating cornice.

The east and west sides of the building are completely covered by adjacent commercial blocks. The rear (north) wall is partially covered on the first and second floors by a shed roofed, frame addition. The third floor of the brick commercial block is exposed and nine-over-nine sash windows are topped by segmental arches. A corbelled brick cornice finishes the top of the wall.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-257

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	X commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1887 **Builder/Architect** Contractors, Drain & Abdell

check: Applicable Criteria: ___A ___B X C ___D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

Level of Significance: ___national ___state X local

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

An intricately executed brick facade distinguishes the R. K. Truitt building from other buildings that stand along West Main Street in Salisbury's historic commercial district. Eight brick pilasters define the five-bay facade and flank large segmental arched window openings. White marble beltcourses, contrasting with the reddish brown pressed wall brick, serve as the window sills. Raised brick corbelling accents the segmental arches that span each window opening. The top of the wall is distinguished by a heavy cornice that repeats the undulating nature of the pilastered front wall surface. The first floor storefront date from the second quarter of the twentieth century.

Due to the elaborate nature of the south facade and its well preserved condition, this building deserves listing in *Category A,* which identifies buildings that must be preserved due to their architectural and historical significance.

The construction of this building is closely dated to the spring of 1887 by short news items in the *Salisbury Advertiser*. On March 19, 1887, the newspaper announced that

> R. K. Truitt & Sons have contracted with Messrs. Drain & Abdell to erect a press brick front building on their lot on Main St., 42 feet front and extending back 53 feet. The building will be three stories high above ground and will have stone trimmings and cathedral windows.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-257

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	**date**	3/30/96
street & number	P. O. Box 5	**telephone**	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	**state**	Maryland 21871

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
-51-7600

SIGNIFICANCE 8.1
R. K. Truitt Building, WI-257
235 West Main Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Footnotes

1 *Salisbury Advertiser*, March 19, 1887, Wicomico County Free Library.

2 *Salisbury Advertiser*, April 9, 1887, Wicomico County Free Library.

3 Sanborn Insurance Map Company, 1888, Salisbury, Maryland State Archives.

4 Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 52/479, November 12, 1906.

5 Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 522/288, Wicomico County Courthouse.

WI-257
R. K. Truitt Building
235 West Main Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 1017

1011/545	G. Robert Miller
	to
4/23/1984	Terry R. Sell Jill D. Sell
AS 953/565	Margaret J. Cooley
	to
1/9/1981	G. Robert Miller
AS 889/438	Richard M. Cooley, et al.
	to
12/10/1977	Margaret J. Cooley

JWTS 734/90	Richard Realty Company, Inc.
	to
9/29/1971	East Coast Sales, Inc.
JWTS 522/288	Charles J. Potts, Executor under the Last, Will, and Testament of Alice B. Watson by deed 6/30/1961
	to
	Richards Realty Company, Inc.
JWTS 528/469	City of Salisbury
	to
12/18/1961	Richards Realty Company
IDT 172/240	James L. Benjamin, Single
	to
1/12/1932	Floy T. Watson Lloyd U. Watson Item Three, the land described in Items 1, 2, and 3 hereof being the same land that was conveyed to the said James L. Benjamin by said Floy T. Watson and Lloyd U. Watson, IDT 172/23

EAT 52/479

James T. Watson, trustee
Daniel J. Whealton
Annie S. Whealton

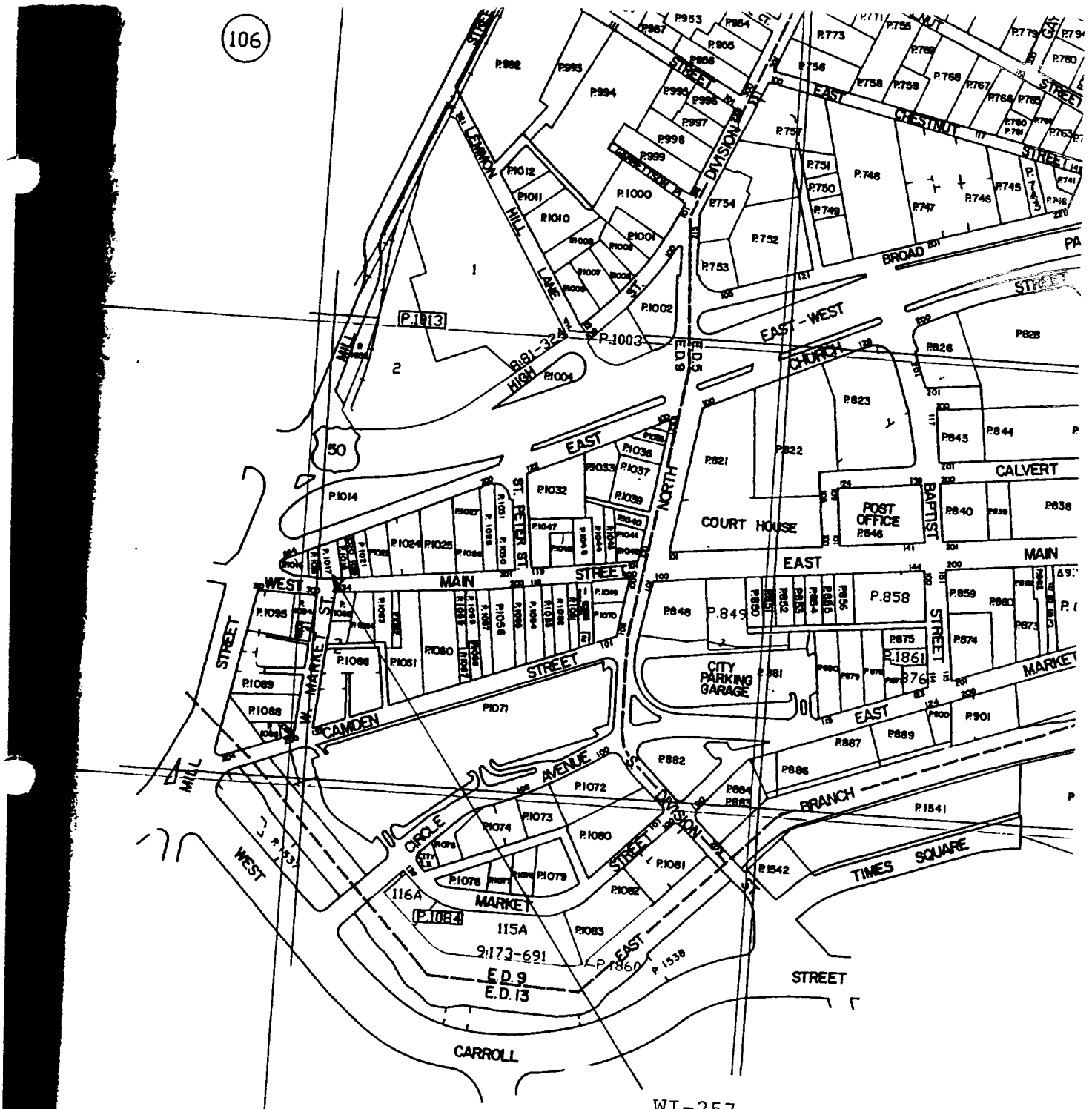
to

11/12/1906

Floy T. Watson

Decree of Circuit Court, 11/18/1905
James T. Truitt vs. Alice E. Collins et al.
No. 1587 in Chancery

$6,500 sale to highest bidder, Daniel J. Whealton and Anne S. Whealton, desire to give and have given the said property to their daughter Floy T. Watson



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R. K. Truitt Building
235 West Main Street

Wicomico County Tax Map 107

Parcel 1017

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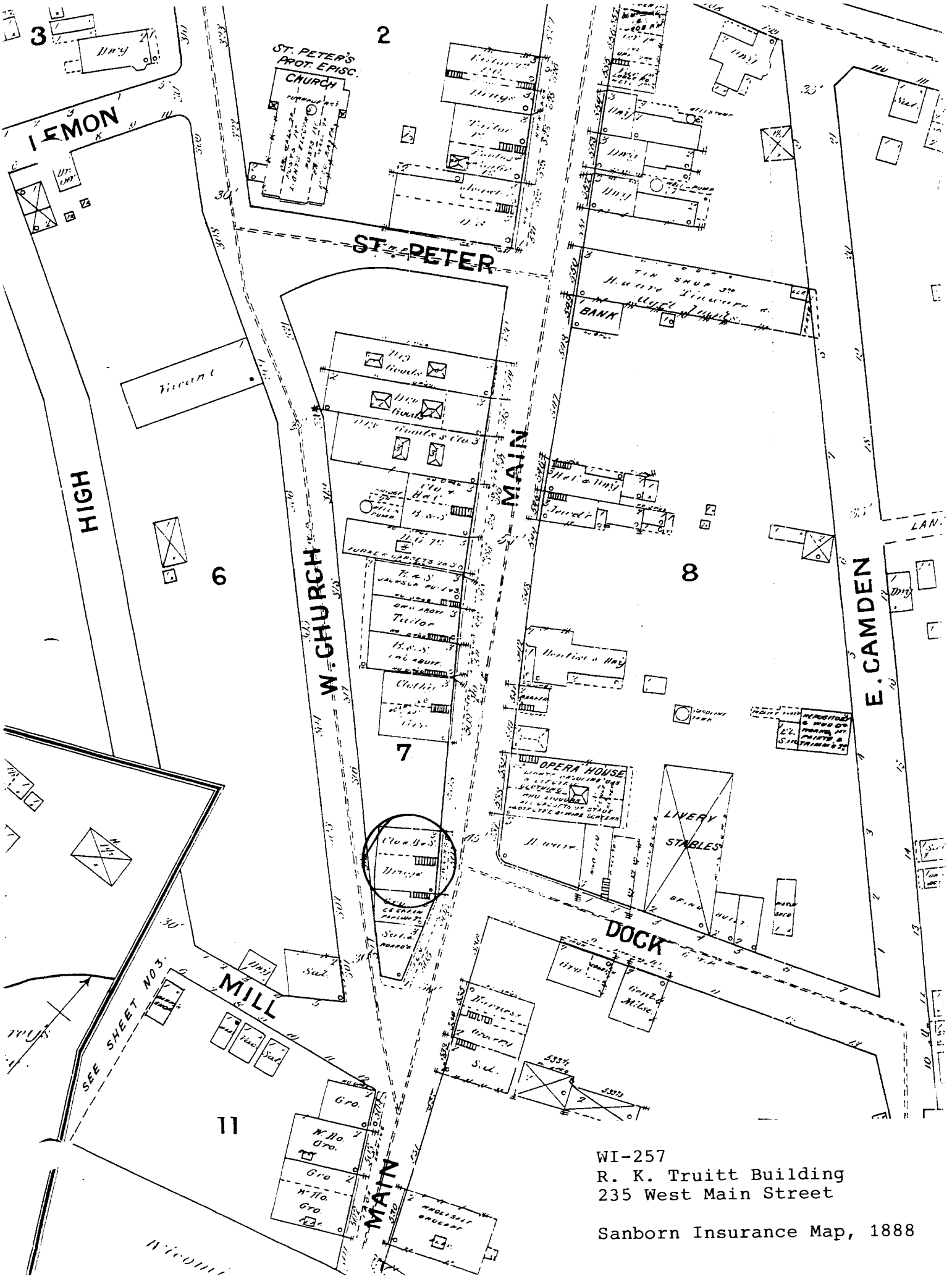
ED OR REPRODUCED IN ANY FORM INCLUDING ELECTRONIC
UCH AS: DIGITIZING, SCANNING, AND IMAGE PROCESSING,
NY SYSTEM NOW KNOWN OR TO BE INVENTED WITHOUT
ON IN WRITING FROM THE PROPERTY MAP DIVISION.

SCALE IN FEET

200 0 200 400 600

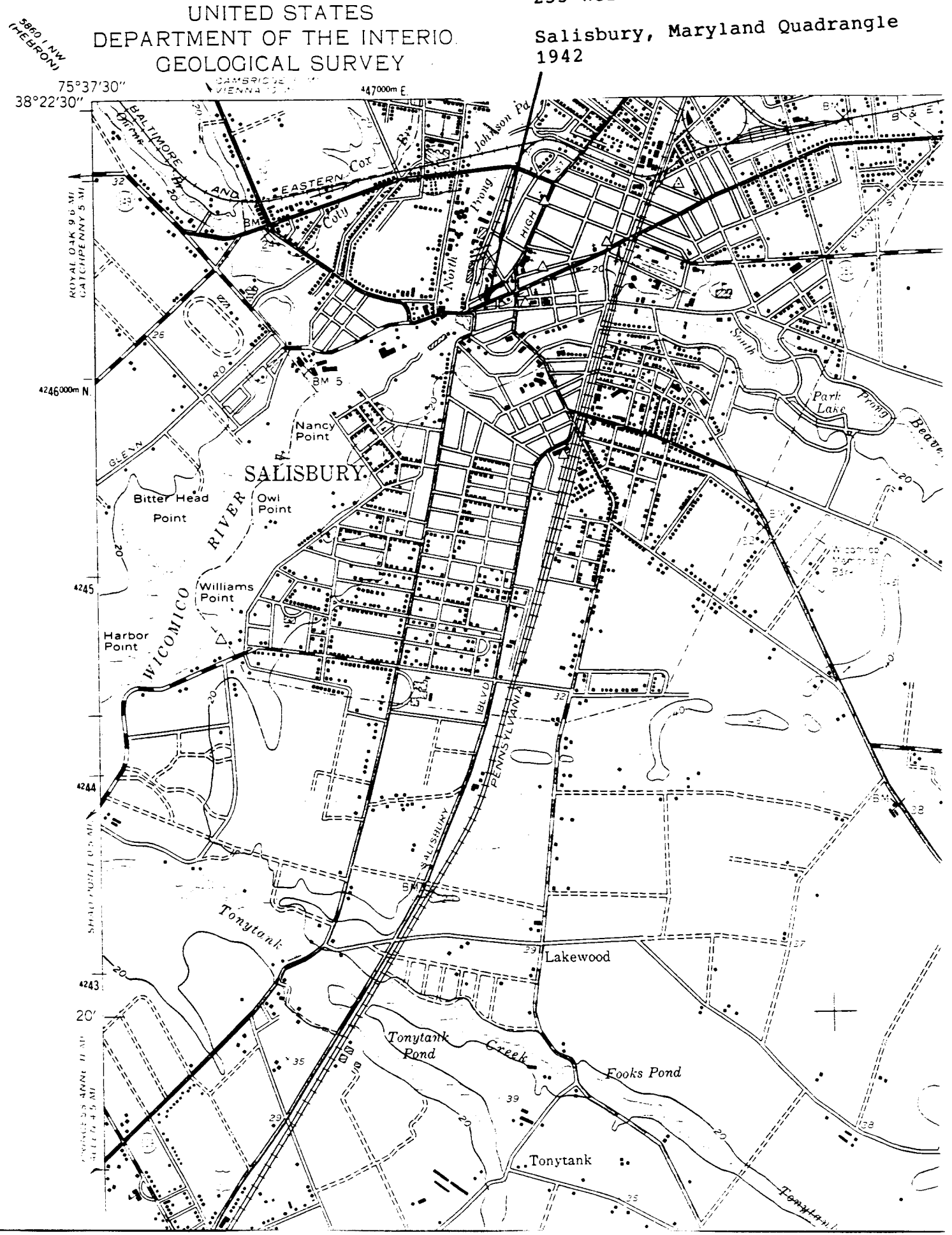


WI-257
R. K. Truitt Building
235 West Main Street

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1888

WI-257
R. K. Truitt Building
235 West Main Street

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



alon

WI. 257
Vc. K TRUITT BUILDING
SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO. MD.
SOUTH ELEVATION
3/96 PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER
N+L. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

Salon

W1-251
R K. TRUITT BUILDING
SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.
SOUTH ELEVATION
3/96 PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

[illegible]