WI-265 1886-87
Dorman & Smyth Hardware Company
Salisbury
Private

Prominently sited on the southeast corner of West Main and West Market Streets is the former business location of the Dorman & Smyth Hardware Company. This three-story brick commercial block is an unusually detailed structure standing in Salisbury's downtown historic district. Resting on a rusticated granite foundation laid with red mortar, the common bond brick building is accented with a variety of decorative elements including rusticated granite window sills and lintels, stringcourses of soldier bricks laid on a diagonal, and edge rolled corners to the window openings. The front entrance, located on the northwest rounded corner, is recessed. A bracketed cornice stretches across the top of the first floor elevation. Additional noteworthy features include an elevator on the southwest corner, and a bold galvanized metal cornice that finishes the top of the parapet wall.

The Dorman & Smyth Hardware Company occupied this building during a large portion of the early to mid twentieth century. Construction of the elaborate commercial block, however, is credited to the Jackson family, who owned this corner parcel at the time of the 1886 fire. In February 1887, only four months following the conflagration, E. E. Jackson and other family members transferred the new building and lot to William H. Jackson for $3,000. This commercial block must have been one of the

first erected in the burned commercial district. At some point during the following years the property was leased or rented to the Dorman & Smyth Hardware Company, which is cited in a 1914 transfer from William H. and Jennnie H. Jackson to Mary J. Marvel of Wilmington, Delaware. The early twentieth century Sanborn Insurance maps indicate that the main commercial space was used to display hardware and agricultural implements, while a tin shop was located on the second floor.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Dorman & Smyth Hardware Store Building

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-265

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WI-265

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic: Dorman & Smyth Hardware Store

and/or common:

2. Location

street & number: 232-234 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: S. B. Partnership, % Dennis Nooner, Jr. et al.

street & number: P. O. Box 282 telephone no.:

city, town: Salisbury state and zip code: Maryland 21803

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107, P. 1061 liber 1103

street & number: Wicomico County Courthouse folio 385

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-265

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 known as the Dorman & Smyth hardware store, the three-story granite and brick commercial block stands at 232-234 West Main Street (formerly Dock Street) and the building anchors the southwest intersection of West Main and West Market Street in the center of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The building faces northwest.

Dating to 1886-87, the three-story, granite and common bond commercial block is supported by an roughly laid stone foundation. The adjacent buildings to the south and east have been demolished exposing jagged edges and roughly finished facades. The building is covered by a low pitched shed roof that is disguised by a galvanized metal parapet front on the north and west sides.

The three-story elevations along West Main and West Market streets are the formal fronts with a rusticated granite foundation wall laid in red mortar. The front walls of the building are seven-course common bond with the header row laid with alternating headers and stretchers. The walls are also accented with several stringcourses of decorative brickwork. Single width rows of black bricks stretch across the facade as well as a soldier course set on a diagonal. There is a heavily corbelled section of brickwork under the galvanized metal cornice, which has pyramidal shaped finials.

The northwest corner of the commercial block is rounded and contains the principal entrance. The recessed doorway is flanked by sidelights and a transom. Large glass display windows define the first floor walls along the two street elevations, and the first floor is defined by a bracketed cornice. The second and third floors are pierced by two-over-two and single-pane sash windows featuring rusticated granite sills and lintels. The upper sash has a segmental arch, and the inside corners of the window openings have a edge rolled corner. There is an elevator door with a paneled front on the southwest corner of the building, and a large glass transom window is located overhead. A steet-level entrance descends into the cellar adjacent to the elevator door.

The interior has been stripped of most elements of late nineteenth century fabric. A cast iron column is located in the center of the structure to support the second floor.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-265

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

Specific dates 1886-87 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B _xC __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state _xlocal

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

Prominently sited on the southeast corner of West Main and West Market Streets is the former business location of the Dorman & Smyth Hardware Company. This three-story brick commercial block is an unusually detailed structure standing in Salisbury's downtown historic district. Resting on a rusticated granite foundation laid with red mortar, the common bond brick building is accented with a variety of decorative elements including rusticated granite window sills and lintels, stringcourses of soldier bricks laid on a diagonal, and edge rolled corners to the window openings. The front entrance, located on the northwest rounded corner, is recessed. A bracketed cornice stretches across the top of the first floor elevation. Additional noteworthy features include an elevator on the southwest corner, and a bold galvanized metal cornice that finishes the top of the parapet wall.

The Dorman & Smythe hardware store building is an important structure in Salisbury's downtown historic district. Standing on the corner of West Main and West Market streets, the building is an important architectural anchor to the intersection and immediate area. Adjacent buildings have been razed on each flank, thereby making this building even more important. The richly detailed north and west elevations offer an unusual display of late nineteenth century decorative finishes. This building is classified in *Category A* for these reasons.

The Dorman & Smythe Hardware Company occupied this building during a large portion of the early to mid twentieth century. Construction of the elaborate commercial block, however, is credited to the Jackson family, who owned this corner parcel at the time of the 1886 fire. In February 1887, only four months following the conflagration, E. E. Jackson and other family members transferred the new building and lot to William H. Jackson for $3,000.(1) This commercial block must have been one of the first erected in the burned commercial district. At some point during the following years the property was leased or rented to the Dorman & Smyth Hardware Company, which is cited in a 1914 transfer from William H. and Jennnie H. Jackson to Mary J. Marvel of Wilmington, Delaware.(2) The early twentieth century Sanborn Insurance

(Continued)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-265

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**	4/20/96
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
514-7600

PS-2746

maps indicate that the main commercial space was used to display hardware and agricultural implements, while a tin shop was located on the second floor.(3)

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1 Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 4/101, February 25, 1887, Wicomico County Courthouse.

2 Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 94/145, November 27, 1914, Wicomico County Courthouse.

3 Sanborn Insurance Company map, 1904, Salisbury, (Maryland State Archives).

WI-265
Dorman & Smyth Hardware Store Building
232-234 West Main Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 1061

1158/307	William J. Ahtes, Jr.
	to
9/23/1988	Dennis H. Nooner, Jr. O. Palmer Gillis III Anthony S. Gilkerson Tenants in partnership, a.k.a. S. B. Partnership Southeast corner of Main and Dock (now known as Market Street)
MSB 1118/276	Ronald G. Rayne Donald C. Davis
	to
9/11/1987	William J. Ahtes, Jr.
AS 1028/621	George E. Miller, et ux.
	to
1/14/1985	Ronald G. Rayne Donald C. Davis

AS 993/313

Michael K. Bloxham, et al.
Jesse K. Swartz, trustees

to

6/16/1983

George E. Miller

Whereas at a public sale as a result of a defaulted mortgage

JWTS 831/707

Vaughn E. Richardson
Patricia K. Truitt

to

12/31/1974

Thomas R. Young, Inc.

Upon the death of Eloise Patricia Truitt, who died about 4/15/1958, being Estate No. 4658, the property passed to Raymond King Truitt and Patricia King Truitt her son

JWS 222/35

Stanley G. Robins, Attorney and Agent

to

10/21/1939

Eloise Patricia Truitt
Whereas at a public sale held on September 2, 1939

by Stanley G. Robins under a power of sale contained in a mortgage from Dorman & Smythe Hardware Co. and Eloise Patricia Doody
IDT 198/149

JCK 114/208 — Mary J. Marvel, Josiah Marvel

to

10/31/1919 — Dorman & Smythe Hardware Company

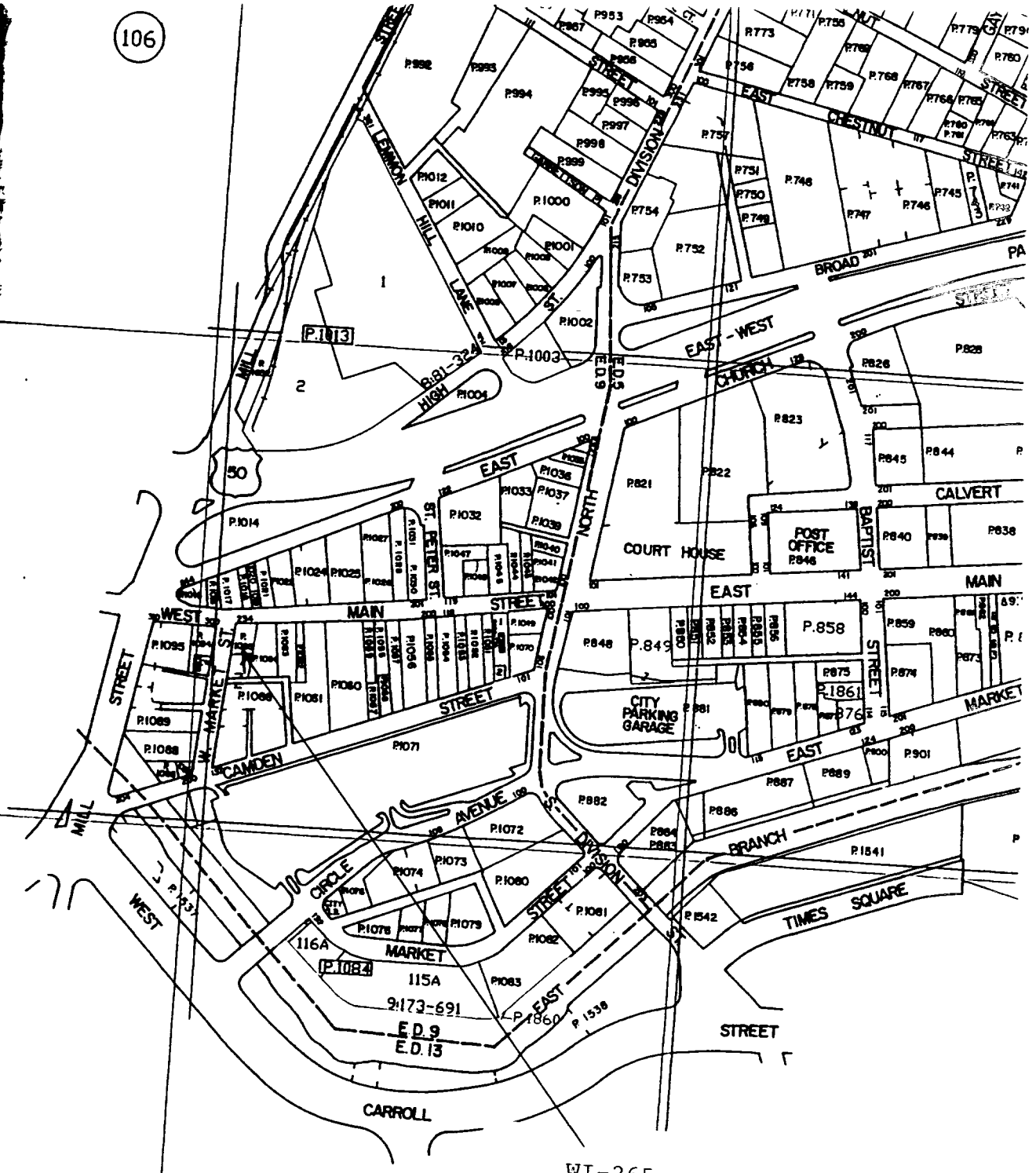
EAT 94/145 — William H. Jackson and wife Jennie H. Jackson

to

11/27/1914 — Mary J. Marvel of Wilmington, Delaware

Item One-known as the Dorman & Smyth(e) Hardware Company

FMS 4/101	E. E. Jackson and others, (Nannie Rider Jackson, Wilbur F. Jackson, Alice P. Jackson, Richard W. Jackson and Isaac W. Jackson)
	to
2/25/1887	William H. Jackson
	$3,000.00
TF, Jr. 3/170	Purnell Toadvine
	to
7/15/1872	E. E. Jackson William H. Jackson Wilbur H. Jackson
	$2,750. 2/12 of the following real estate namely all those lots or parcels of land lying in the town of Salisbury ....on the South east corner made by Main Street and Camden or Bridge St. to an Alley on the North side of the Livery Stable owned by William H. Jackson being lots numbered four, five, and six purchased by said Toadvine from Elijah....., trustee of James M. Fooks late of Worcester County, deceased and described in a deed from said Trustee to the said Purnell Toadvine bearing date 26 January 1867



WI-265
Dorman & Smyth Hardware Store Bldg

Wicomico County Tax Map 107
Parcel 1061

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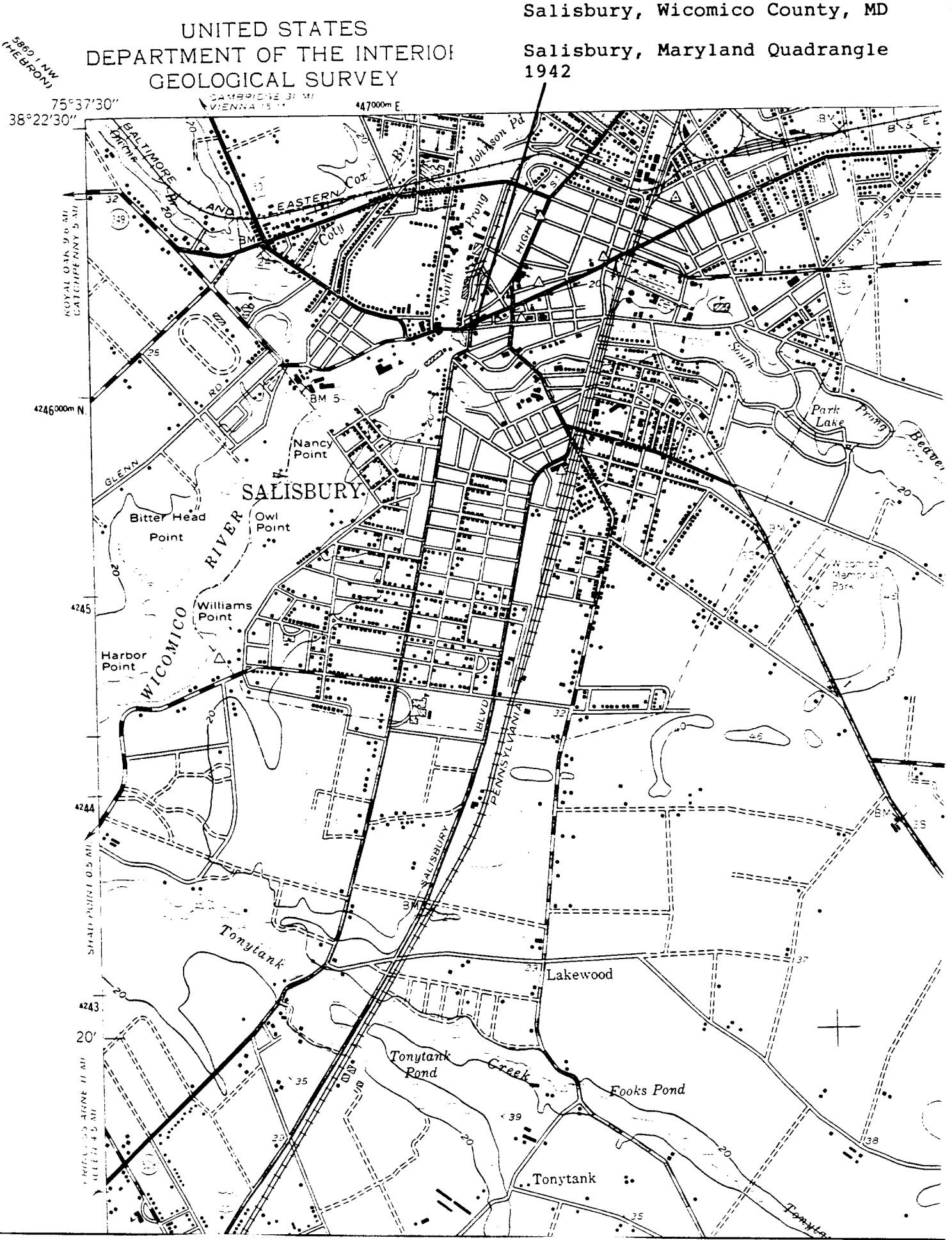
SUCH AS: DIGITIZING, SCANNING, AND IMAGE PROCESSING,
NY SYSTEM NOW KNOWN OR TO BE INVENTED WITHOUT
ION IN WRITING FROM THE PROPERTY MAP DIVISION.

SCALE IN FEET

200 0 200 400 600

WI-265
Dorman & Smyth Hardware Store Bldg
Salisbury, Wicomico County, MD

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



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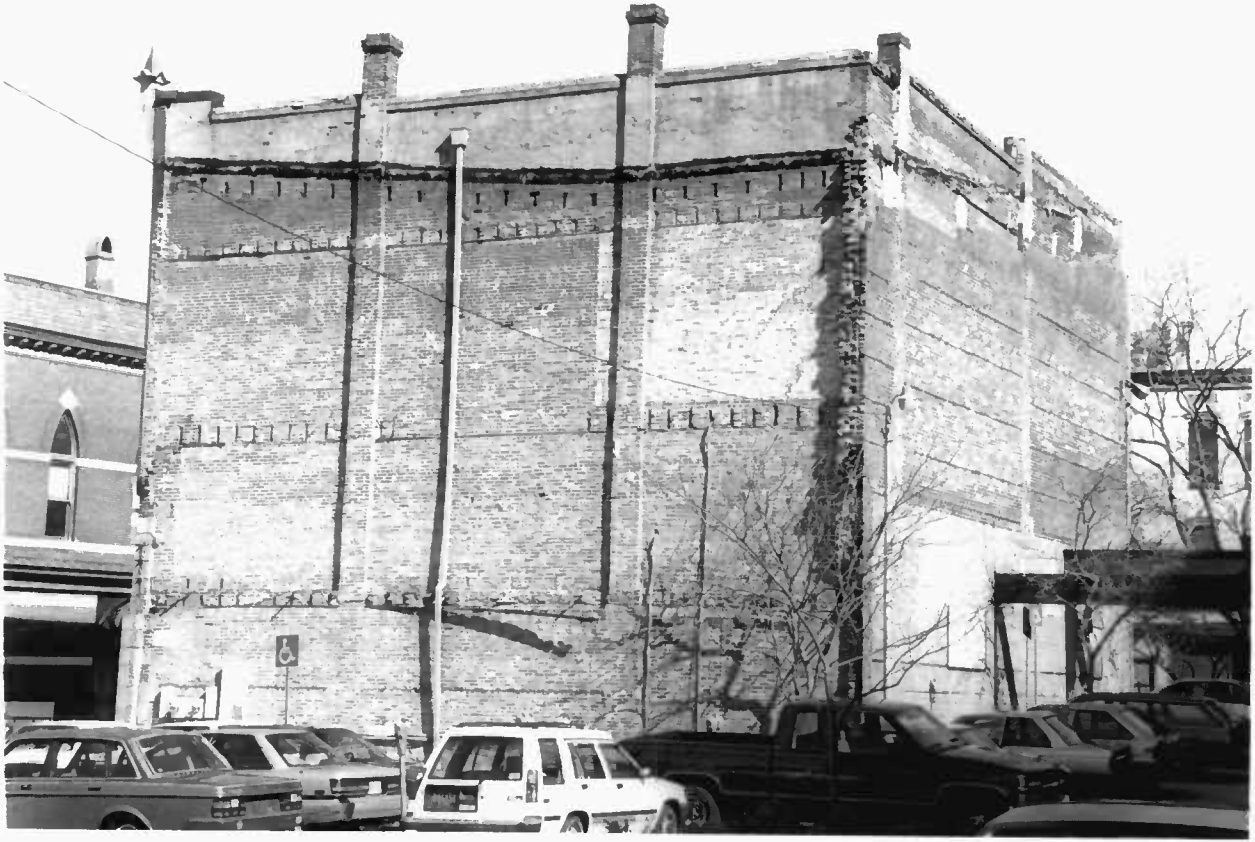

WI-265

Dorman & Smith [illegible]

[illegible], Nicolas [illegible]

Source [illegible]

3/96, Paul [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]