

WO-337  
Town Market  
Ocean City  
Private

c. 1900

The Town Market building is a turn of the century frame commercial building evidently erected around the same time as the old Edwin L. Purnell store next door. Both sections of "Lot 49" were owned by Purnell until he sold the south half of the property to John E. Lynch in May 1914. The frame store, like its neighbor to the north, is one of the few relatively intact commercial buildings that dates from Ocean City's early history. Other than the two-story turned post porch and rooftop cross gable, the store is a plain two-story rectangular structure. Worthy of note is the intact first floor commercial front with recessed entrances and beaded board knee walls. The two adjacent stores form interesting companion buildings representing turn of the century commercial architecture for Ocean City.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: Town Market

MHT Inventory Number: WO-337

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

1) Historic Period Theme(s):

ARCHITECTURE - COMMERCE

2) Geographic Orientation:

EASTERN SHORE

3) Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

INDUSTRIAL / URBAN DOMINANCE

4) Resource Type(s):

(1870-1930)

1. STANDING STRUCTURE

A. STORE

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WO-337

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common TOWN MARKET

## 2. Location

street & number East side of Baltimore Avenue  not for publicationcity, town Ocean City  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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<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 (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name P. L. Sethi

street &amp; number 209 South Baltimore Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Ocean City state and zip code MD 21842

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Worcester County Clerk of Court liber 676

street &amp; number Worcester County Courthouse folio 532

city, town Snow Hill state MD 21863

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. W0-337

<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 Town Market stands on the east side of Baltimore Avenue between Talbot and Dorchester streets in the heart of Ocean City, Worcester County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, four-bay frame commercial building faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1900, the two-and-a-half story weatherboard frame store is supported on a low masonry foundation, and the structure is covered by a steeply pitched asphalt shingle roof. Stretching across the Baltimore Avenue facade is a two-story turned post porch.

The west (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with shed roofed two-story porch sheltering both floors. An intact first floor survives with three recessed entrances and flanking display windows on narrow beaded board knee walls. Square porch posts are fixed on the first floor while turned posts remain on the second floor. A square baluster handrail extends between the second floor posts. Permitting access to the second floor is a partially glazed off-center door with flanking two-over-two sash windows. Centered on the roof is a steeply pitched cross gable with a two-over-two sash window.

The north and south sides are largely alike with two-over-two sash windows lighting the first and second floors. A single two-over-two sash window pierces the upper gable. Rising through the south gable end is a narrow brick stack.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. WO-337

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** **Builder/Architect**

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check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or  
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.

The Town Market building is a turn of the century frame commercial building evidently erected around the same time as the old Edwin L. Purnell store next door. Both sections of "Lot 49" were owned by Purnell until he sold the south half of the property to John E. Lynch in May 1914.(FWH 163/175) The frame store, like its neighbor, is one of the few relatively intact commercial buildings that dates from Ocean City's early history. Other than the two-story turned post porch and rooftop cross gable, the store is a plain two-story rectangular structure. Worthy of note is the intact first floor commercial front with recessed entrances and beaded board knee walls. The two adjacent stores form an interesting contrast of turn of the century commercial architecture for Ocean City.





WO-337  
TOWN MARKET  
Ocean City, Maryland  
Chain of title

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ODC 49/308

Edwin L. Purnell

to

3/7/1924

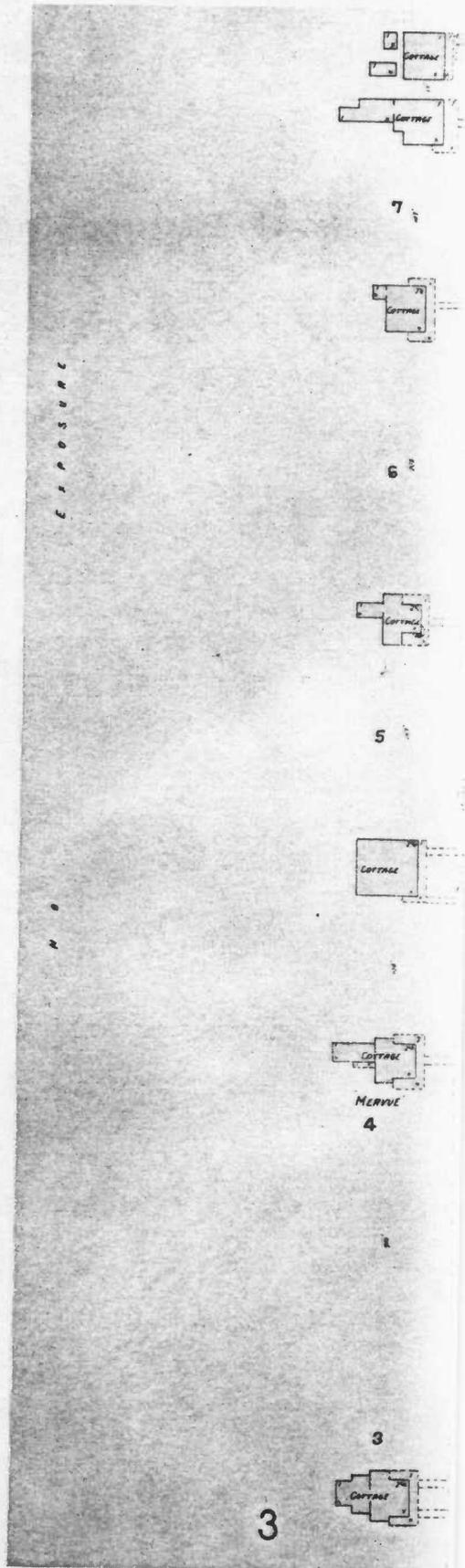
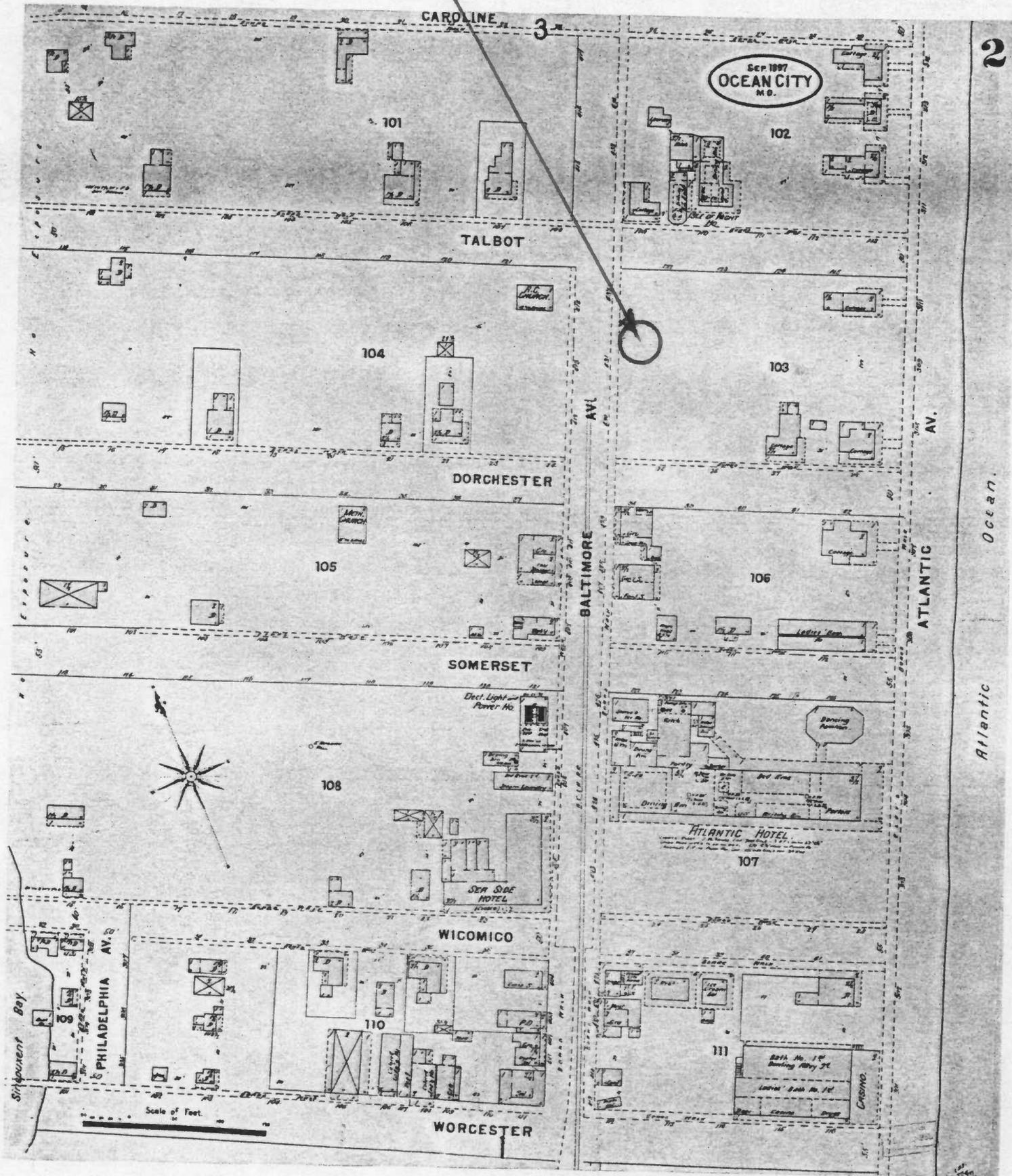
John E. Lynch

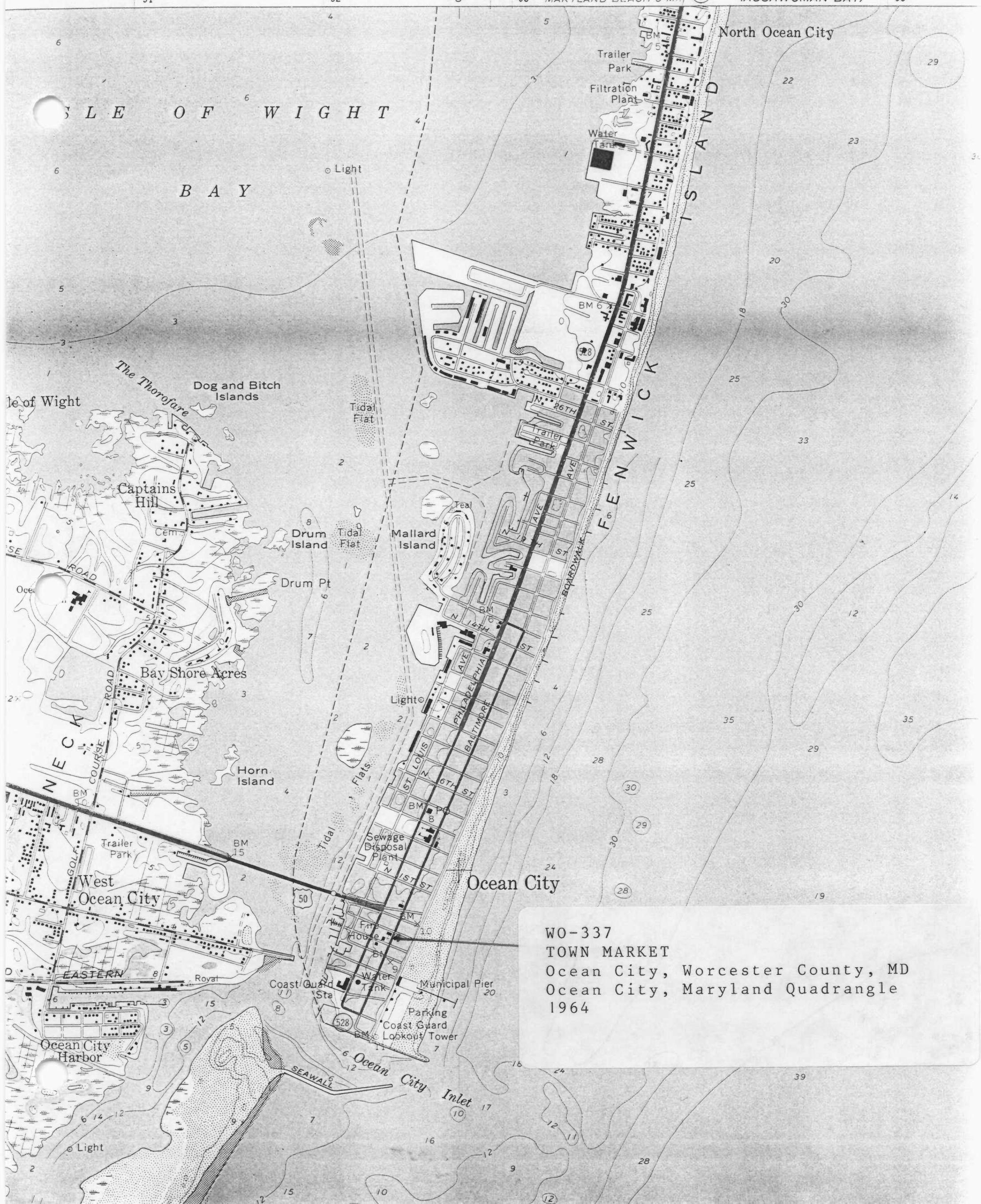
John E. Lynch died in 1926 will dated  
May 16, 1921 and probated March 9, 1926

Real estate was left to wife and son,  
John B. Lynch

1897 SANBORN INSURANCE MAP

W0-337, SITE OF THE TOWN MARKET





WO-337  
 TOWN MARKET  
 Ocean City, Worcester County, MD  
 Ocean City, Maryland Quadrangle  
 1964