WI-275
Alexander G. Toadvine House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1864-65

The Alexander G. Toadvine house is one of a small collection of Greek Revival dwellings erected in Newtown during the mid nineteenth century. The three-story elevations retain much of their original 1860s features including a classical pilaster on each corner and the flush board siding across the third floor. Like other dwellings in this distinct group, the Toadvine house has an overlay of Victorian decoration that includes the bracketed cornices and intricately sawn front porch. The scrolled brackets attached under the main roof cornice as well as those under the door and window cornices are attributed to the influence of Italianate design that was popular during the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

Construction of this prominent Isabella Street house occurred during the early 1860s when Poplar Hill Mansion property was subdivided. Sarah Huston, widow of Dr. John Huston, continued to reside at Poplar Hill following her husband's death in 1828. She subdivided the several hundred-acre plantation, beginning during the late 1840s and lot sales continued under her children. On November 6, 1863, Thomas B. Robertson, husband of Sarah's daughter Elizabeth, sold 147.9 perches of land on the north side of Isabella Street to Alexander G. Toadvine for $300. The low purchase price indicates that the lot was unimproved and that Alexander Toadvine financed construction of the house within the next few years. He is listed in the United States Census of 1860 as a 28-year old merchant with his wife Theodora and one child, a 3-year old son named Gordon.

WI-275

Alexander G. Toadvine is designated at this location on the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas published in 1877, and he remained at this location until his death in 1894.

Following Alexander Toadvine's death, his will dictated that his real and personal property would pass to his wife, Ellen L. C. Toadvine, who remained in the Isabella Street house until her death in 1905, when she bequeathed the house and lot to her unmarried daughter, Dora. Dora E. Toadvine held title to her parent's house until 1928 when she sold it to J. McFadden and Virginia McElrath Dick.

Dr. James McFadden Dick moved to Salisbury in 1897 on the occasion of the organization of the Peninsula General Hospital. He and his wife Virginia purchased the Isabella Street property in 1928, and the house remained in Dick family hands until 1990.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Alexander G. Toadvine House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-275

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Agricultural-Industrial Transition 1815-1870

4. Resource Type(s): Single family dwelling

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. WI-275

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Alexander G. Toadvine House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 105 East Isabella 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	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X 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 Paul Dean Davis & Aleta E. Dennis

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 104, P. 637 liber 1213

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 125

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-275

Condition		Check one	Check one
_x_ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
___ 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.

The Alexander G. Toadvine house is located at 105 East Isabella Street in the center of the Newtown Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The three-story, three-bay, center hall frame dwelling faces south. A low pitched hip roof is oriented on an east/west axis.

Dated around 1864-65, this three-story, center hall, double-pile frame dwelling is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with a combination of plain and flush weatherboard siding. The low, nearly flat hip roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main house is a two-story, kitchen wing extended to each side by shed roofed additions.

The south (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. Each of the openings is topped by a heavy cornice fitted with Victorian brackets. The heavily molded six-panel front door is topped by a single light transom. Both windows retain long louvered shutters. Sheltering the first floor is a flat roofed porch supported by decorative sawn posts, and a decorative sawn fascia trims the perimeter of the roof. The second floor is defined by three evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. Trimming the outside corners of the main block are wide paneled pilasters that rise to a molded frieze which divides the lower two floors from the third story attic. The third floor is distinguished as well by flush weatherboard siding. A series of three evenly spaced two-pane windows of square proportions light the attic, and each opening is flanked by louvered shutters. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice trimmed with a series of Victorian brackets as well as a bold crown molding. Rising through the center of the house are a pair of squarish brick chimneys topped by corbeled caps.

The east and west sides of the house are largely alike with pairs of two-over-two sash windows lighting the first and second floors. Each of the windows have a bracketed cornice and louvered shutters like the south elevation windows. The wall surface is defined in the same manner as well with corner pilasters and a combination of plain and flush weatherboards. The bracketed eave distinguishes the roof. On the east side a small window pierces the second floor wall between the two principal windows.

Attached to the back of the squarish main block is a two-story gable roofed kitchen wing trimmed with narrow pilasters at each corner and covered with plain weatherboards. Shed roofed additions extend from each side.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-275

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 **Builder/Architect**

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.

The Alexander G. Toadvine house is one of a small collection of Greek Revival dwellings erected in Newtown during the early to mid nineteenth century. The three-story elevations retain much of their original 1860s features including the classical pilasters on each corner and the flush board siding across the third floor. Like other dwellings in this distinct group, the Toadvine house has an overlay of Victorian decoration that includes the bracketed cornices and intricately sawn front porch. The scrolled brackets attached under the main roof cornice as well as under each door and window cornice are attributed to the influence of Italianate design that was popular during the third quarter of the nineteenth century.

Construction of this prominent Isabella Street house occurred during the early 1860s during the subdivision of the Poplar Hill Mansion property. Sarah Huston, widow of Dr. John Huston, continued to reside at Poplar Hill following her husband's death in 1828. She subdivided the several hundred-acre plantation, beginning during the late 1840s[1] and lot sales continued under her children who continued to own the property. On November 6, 1863, Thomas B. Robertson, husband of Sarah's daughter Elizabeth, sold 147.9 perches of land on the north side of Isabella Street to Alexander G. Toadvine for $300.[2] The low purchase price indicates that the lot was unimproved and that Alexander Toadvine financed construction of the house within the next few years. He is listed in the United States Census of 1860 as a 28-year old merchant with his wife Theodora and one child, a 3-year old son Gordon.[3] Alexander G. Toadvine is designated at this location on the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas published in 1877,[4] and he remained at this location until his death in 1894.

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[1] Somerset County Land Record, WP 4/34, 18 January 1849.

[2] Worcester County Land Record, WET 3/570, 6 November 1863.

[3] Eighth Census of the United States, 1860, Worcester County, transcribed by John C. Barnes (1988), privately published by Ruth T. Dryden, p. 238.

[4] John L. Graham, ed. The 1877 Atlases and other Early Maps of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Wicomico County Bicentennial Commission: Salisbury, p. 18.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-275

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**	1/15/98
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

WI-275

8.1 SIGNIFICANCE
Alexander G. Toadvine House
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Following Alexander Toadvine's death, his will dictated that his real and personal property would pass to his wife, Ellen L. C. Toadvine, who remained in the Isabella Street house until her death in 1905, when she bequeathed the house and lot to her unmarried daughter, Dora.[5] Dora E. Toadvine held title to her parents house until 1928 when she sold it to J. McFadden and Virginia McElrath Dick.[6]

Dr. James McFadden Dick moved to Salisbury in 1897 on the occasion of the organization of Peninsula General Hospital.[7] He and his wife Virginia purchased the Isabella Street property in 1928, and the house and lot remained in Dick family hands until 1990.[8]

The Alexander G. Toadvine house deserves listing in *Category A* due to architectural and historical significance. It is one of the oldest structures to stand along Isabella Street and remain in the Newtown Historic District.

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[5] Wicomico County Will Book, LJG 201, Proved 13 November 1905.

[6] Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 155/343, 12 May 1928.

[7] *Portrait and Biographical Record of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, New York and Chicago: Chapman Publishing Company, 1898, p. 666.

[8] Wicomico County Land Record, 1213/125, 30 March 1990.

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Alexander Toadvine House
105 East Isabella Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Map 104/Parcel 637

1213/125	Virginia McElrath Dick
	to
3/30/1990	Paul Dean Davis Aleta E. Dennis
	Plat of J. McFadden Dick, Jr. IDT 155/344
IDT 155/343	Dora E. Toadvin, single
	to
5/12/1928	J. McFadden Dick Virginia McElrath Dick
	being the residue of the home property which was devised to said Dora E. Toadvin by the last will and testament of her mother the late Ellen L. C. Toadvin dated 11/15/1905 LJG 1/201
Will Book LJG 201	Last Will and Testament of Ellen L. C. Toadvin
11/13/1905	Item 3 I give, bequeath, and devise unto my youngest daughter Dora E. Toadvine all the rest and residue of my estate; real, personal, and mixed to her and her heirs forever. In making this deposition of my property I wish to say for the benefit of my children, and I am sure that it will appeal to their sense of justice that while they are equally dear to me I have felt it my duty to discriminate as I have between them because of their different situations in life, my oldest is happily married and provided for outside of any benefaction of mine and my son has a good and

is amply able and I am confident to care for himself and family, while my youngest daughter who has remained with me is dependant solely on what I have given her

Executors: brother, George W. Covington
son, Alexander D. Toadvine

Will Book
ELW 1/325

Last Will and Testament of Alexander G. Toadvine

3/31/1894

I give, devise, and bequeath to my wife Ellen L. C. Toadvine all my estate both real and personal and mixed

SPT 2/350

Granville R. Rider
Martha Augusta Rider

to

4/5/1877

Alexander G. Toadvine

That lot of ground situate and being in the Town of Salisbury...beginning at the Southwest corner of said lot formed by Division and Isabella Streets running by and with Division Street as straightened N 46 degrees 15 minutes east to the lot of ground belonging to Mrs. Elizabeth W. Robertson thence by and with the south line of the lot of Mrs. E. W. Robertson till it intersects the line on the west side of the lot of ground on which the said A. G. Toadvine now resides thence by and with the said lot of the said A. G. Toadvine to Isabella Street

Worcester County Land Record
WET 3/371

James M. Shockley and Ellen M.

to

3/5/1863

Granville R. Rider and Alexander G. Toadvine, partners trading as Rider & Toadvine

$600 about one mile from the town of Salisbury on the east or southeast side of the county road leading from Humphrey's Mills to Fork Town containing twenty acres of land

Note: This is not the Isabella Street parcel, but the deed does document the partnership of Rider & Toadvine. A search of the grantee index did not yield a transfer to Granville R. Rider for the Isabella Street lot. Sarah Huston, owner of Poplar Hill, subdivided the plantation into smaller parcels during the early to mid 1850s.

Worcester County Land Record
WET 3/570

Thomas B. Robertson

to

11/6/1863

Alexander G. Toadvine

$300 North side of Isabella Street 147.9 perches

, Gents' furnishing Goods, &c. No. 47 Main St.
GILLIS AND SON, Wholesale and Retail
ealers in Groceries, Provisions, Notions, Gilling-
vine, Wood and Willow-ware, Fishing Tackle,
tton and Manilla Rope, Corn-meal, &c. No. 70
in Street.
HAYMAN, Dealer in Groceries, Tobacco,
tions and General Merchandise. No. 69 Main
eet.

Editors.

UEL MALONE, Editor of the "Salisbury
dvertis
BEI itor and Publisher of the "Eastern
orem.

Fruit Dealer.

I. CATHELL, Dealer in, and Grower of Small
ruits. Salisbury, Md.

Hotel.

N TRACY, Proprietor of the "Peninsula Ho-
l," also of the "Atlantic Hotel," "Ocean City."

sale and Retail Dealer in Dressed Flooring, Sur-
faced Boards, House-framing, Box-boards, Oak
Lumber suitable for Vessel Material, Gum, Wal-
nut, Oak and Cherry Hubs, Balusters, Newel Posts,
Fence Pickets, Post Caps, Flower Vases, Broom
Handles, Spinning Wheels, Pumps. Turning of
all Kinds and Styles of Wood and Iron a Specialty.
Wool carded from July 1st to October 31st. Also
Manufacturer of Flour, Meal and Feed Stuff. Wi-
comico Falls Mills, No. 2 Mill Street, Salisbury, Md.

Mills.

GEO. W. LEONARD, Farmer and Proprietor of
Saw and Grist Mill. Res. and mill 4½ miles north
of Salisbury.
JOHN WILLIAMS, Farmer and Proprietor of
Saw and Grist Mill 5 miles north of Salisbury.
GEO. H. W. RUARK, Farmer and Proprietor of
"Ruark Mills" 3 miles north of Salisbury. R
Salisbury.
M. A. PARSONS, Proprietor of S. S. Mill
miles west of Salisbury on Wicomico River.
Proprietor of Marine Railway.

Physician.

Dr. F. M. SLEMONS, Physician and Surgeon

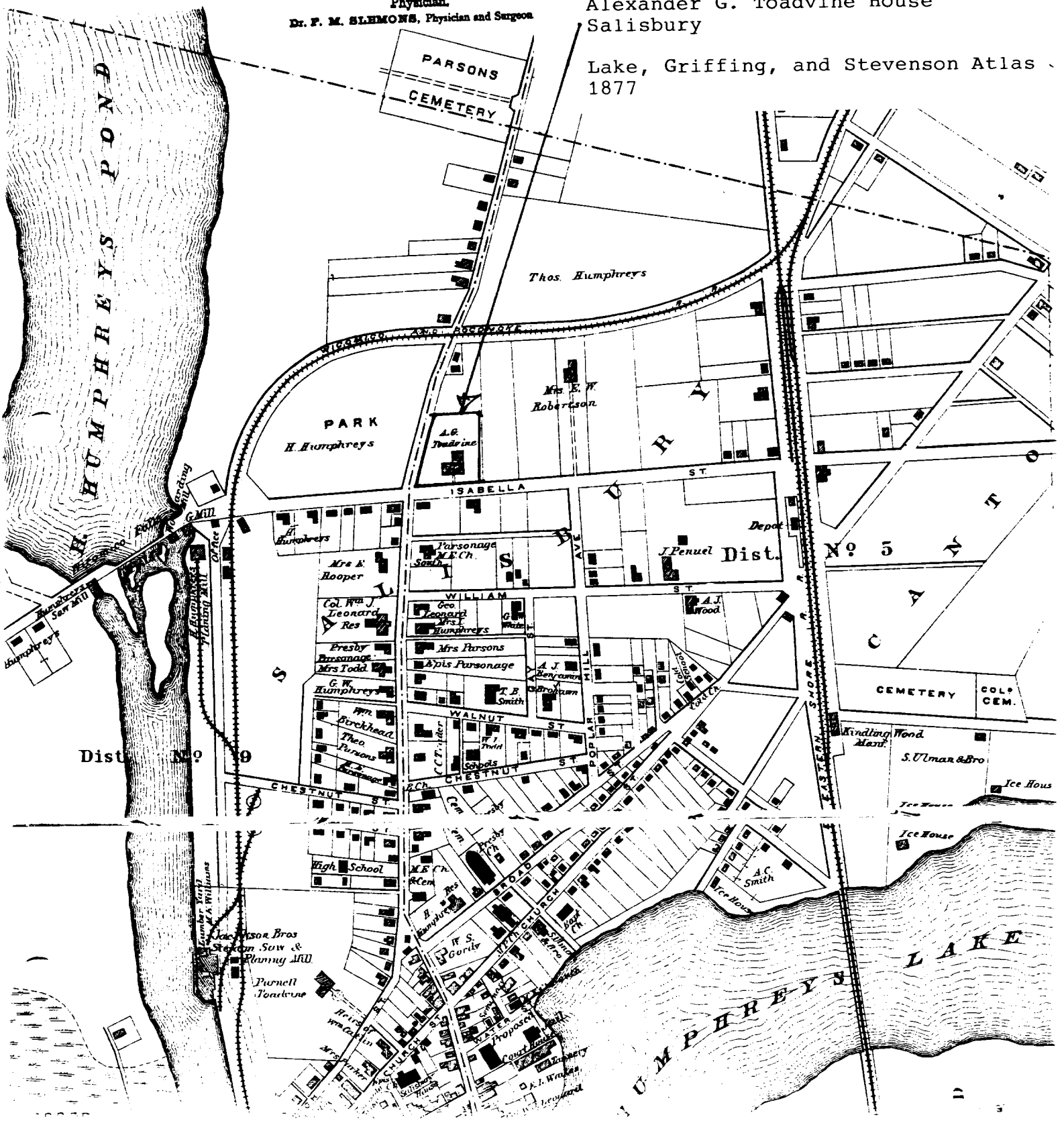
SALISBURY

WICOMICO CO.

Dists. Nos 95 & 8

WI-275
Alexander G. Toadvine House
Salisbury

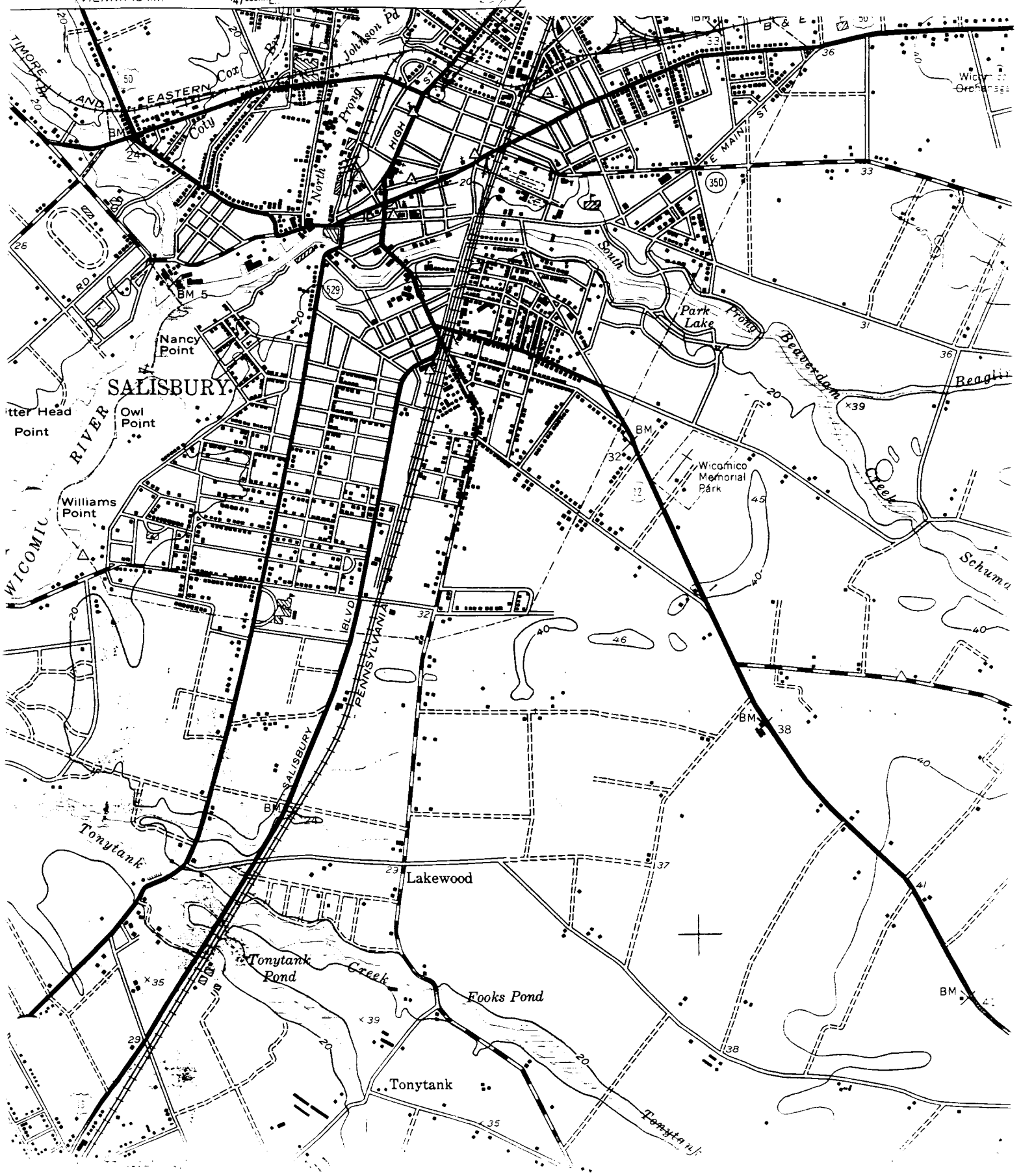
Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877



UNITED STATES
ARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OLOGICAL SURVEY

WI-275
Alexander G. Toadvine House

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



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