WI-639
Baptist Street Parsonage
Salisbury
Private

c. 1900

Defining the corner of Parsons and Gay streets in the Newtown Historic District is a late Victorian story-and-a-half frame house distinctive for its steeply pitched roofs and asymmetrically designed gables and dormers. Estimated to date around 1900, the three-bay dwelling was evidently moved to this location between 1916 and 1923 according to successive Sanborn Insurance maps. The 1916 map indicates the corner lot was unimproved, but seven years later the outline of this house is clearly defined. The architectural form and several features, such as the turned post porch enhanced with sawn corner brackets, are common to late nineteenth-century dwellings. The house is joined on the corner lot by a single-story hip roofed garage.

For nearly thirty years, beginning in 1926, the house and lot were held by the Division Street Baptist church, whose trustees acquired the property form Lucretia B. Ruark, who only served as a short-term title holder who is recorded as the grantee in a transfer recorded three days earlier from Lydia Grier Phillips and her husband H. Lay Phillips. The house was probably moved by the Phillilps or the prior owner, E. Riall White.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-639

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Baptist Church Parsonage

other

2. Location

street and number 312 Gay Street ___ not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name Advanced Property Rental, LLC

street and number P. O. Box A telephone

city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21802

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1650 folio 467

city, town Salisbury tax map 107 tax parcel 800 tax ID number 5-010616

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

_____ Contributing Resource in National Register District
_____ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
_____ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
_____ Recorded by HABS/HAER
_____ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
_____ Other:_____

6. Classification

Category
__ district
_x_ building(s)
__ structure
__ site
___ object

Ownership
__ public
_x_ private
_____ both

Current Function
__ agriculture
__ commerce/trade
__ defense
_x_ domestic
___ education
_____ funerary
_____ government
__ health care
__ industry
_____ landscape
_____ recreation/culture
_____ religion
_____ social
___ transportation
__ work in progress
__ unknown
___ vacant/not in use
__ other:

Resource Count

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	____	buildings
____	____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
2	_____	Total

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

_____

7. Description

Inventory No. WI-639

Condition

___ excellent ___ deteriorated
x__ good ___ ruins
___ fair ___ altered

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

The Baptist Church parsonage stands at 312 Gay Street on the northwest corner of the intersection of Gay and Parson's Street in the Newtown Historic District of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half frame house faces east with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1900 and evidently moved to this location, the story-and-a-half, three-bay, single-pile frame house is supported on a raised foundation of early twentieth-century fired brick, and the exterior is clad uniformly with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Joining the house on the lot is a single-story early twentieth-century frame garage.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay façade with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two replacement windows. The entrance is defined by half leaf five-panel doors topped by a single-pane transom. Sheltering the first floor is a hip roofed porch supported by turned posts and enhanced with sawn corner brackets with drops in the center of the bays to each side of a cross gable fixed atop the porch roof. The steeply pitched main roof features a large steeply pitched cross gable roof above the south bay, whereas the other two bays are marked by smaller gable roofed dormers. The cross gable and dormers are fitted with replacement two-over-two sash windows.

The south side of the house is defined by an exterior stretcher bond brick chimney stack that has corbelled shoulders, and to each side of the stack are replacement two-over-two sash windows. Three pane windows light the cellar. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave and closed soffitt.

The north gable end, on the other hand, is pierced by a pair of two-over-two replacement sash windows on the first floor, and a single two-over-two sash window on the second floor.

The rear (west) elevation of the main block is largely covered by a two-story, two-bay by two-bay, gable roofed service wing. Located on the south wall is a side entrance fitted with a replacement door, which is flanked by two-over-two sash windows. An exterior brick stove stack rises against the west gable end, which is also pierced by two-over-two sash windows.

The interior has been modified to accommodate multiple apartments. Standing on the north side of the house is a single-story, hip roofed frame garage.

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-639

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
__ 1600-1699	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ health/medicine	__ performing arts
__ 1700-1799	__ archeology	__ education	__ industry	__ philosophy
_ 1800-1899	x architecture	__ engineering	__ invention	__ politics/government
x 1900-1999	__ art	entertainment/ recreation	__ landscape architecture	religion
__ 2000-	__ commerce	__ ethnic heritage	__ law	__ science
	__ communications	__ exploration/ settlement	__ literature	__ social history
	__ community planning		__ maritime history	__ transportation
	__ conservation		__ military	__ other:

Specific dates **Architect/Builder**

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

_____ National Register _____Maryland Register ____x____not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Defining the corner of Gay Street and Parsons Street in the Newtown Historic District is a late nineteenth-century story-and-a-half frame house distinctive for its steeply pitched roofs and asymmetrically designed gables and dormers. Estimated to date around 1900, the three-bay dwelling was apparently moved to this location between 1916 and 1923 according to the Sanborn Insurance maps. The 1916 map indicates the corner lot was unimproved, but seven years later the outline of the structure is clearly defined.[1] The architectural form and several features, such as the turned post porch enhanced with sawn corner brackets place construction around the turn of the century. The house is joined on the corner lot by a single-story hip roofed garage.

For nearly thirty years, beginning in 1926, the house and lot were held by the Division Street Baptist church, whose trustees acquired the property from Lucretia B. Ruark,[2] who only served as a short-term title holder who is recorded as the grantee in a transfer recorded three days earlier from Lydia Grier Phillips and her husband H. Lay Phillips.[3] The house was probably moved by the Phillips or the previous owner, E. Riall White.[4]

[1] Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1916 and 1923 issues, microfilm at the Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture.
[2] Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 146/381, 15 October 1926.
[3] Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 146/126, 12 October 1926.
[4] Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 128/182, 1 November 1922.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-639

Name Baptist Church Parsonage
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Baptist Church Parsonage
312 Gay Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

1650/467	Donald Edwin Williams
	to
12/13/1958	Advanced Property Rental, LLC No. 62
1457/82	Donald E. Williams Theresa G. Williams
	to
8/28/1995	Donald E. Williams
983/242	Boyd I. W. Bounds Ida W. Poteet
	to
1/5/1983	Donald Edwin Williams Theresa G. Williams

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Name Baptist Church Parsonage
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

AJS 893/600	Richard H. Parsons Nancy L. Parsons
	to
2/17/1978	Boyd I. W. Bounds
AJS 851/701	Lillian Heller
	to
2/17/1976	Richard H. Parsons Nancy L. Parsons
JWTS 386/399	Carl J. Rathgeber Jessie Rathgeber
	to
6/17/1955	Lillian Heller John J. Heller
JWTS 293/43	Trustees of Division Street Baptist Church, et al.
	to
11/7/1947	Carl J. Rathgeber Jessie Rathgeber

JCK 146/381	Lucretia B. Ruark
	to
10/15/1926	Trustees of the Division Street Baptist Church
JCK 146/126	Lydia Grier Phillips H. Lay Phillips
	to
10/12/1926	Lucretia B. Ruark
JCK 128/182	E. Riall White
	to
11/1/1922	Lydia Grier Phillips (being the same land that was conveyed to one Laura F. White in her lifetime by Gustavus W. White, 7/8/1878, SPT 3/48, except so much that was conveyed to the Mayor and Council of Salisbury, 4/14/1902, JTT 33/67, and to Carroll L .Brewington, 4/3/1906, EAT 49/132, and that upon the death of the said Laura F. White intestate descended to her husband the said Gustavus W. White and her children, the said E. Riall White and Grace White Henry
SPT 3/48	Gustavus W. White
	to
7/8/1878	Laura F. White

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WI-639

Sanborn Insurance Maps, various issues, Microfilm at the Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History & Culture.
Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	3,233 square feet		
Acreage of historical setting	3,233 square feet		
Quadrangle name	Salisbury, Maryland	Quadrangle scale:	1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

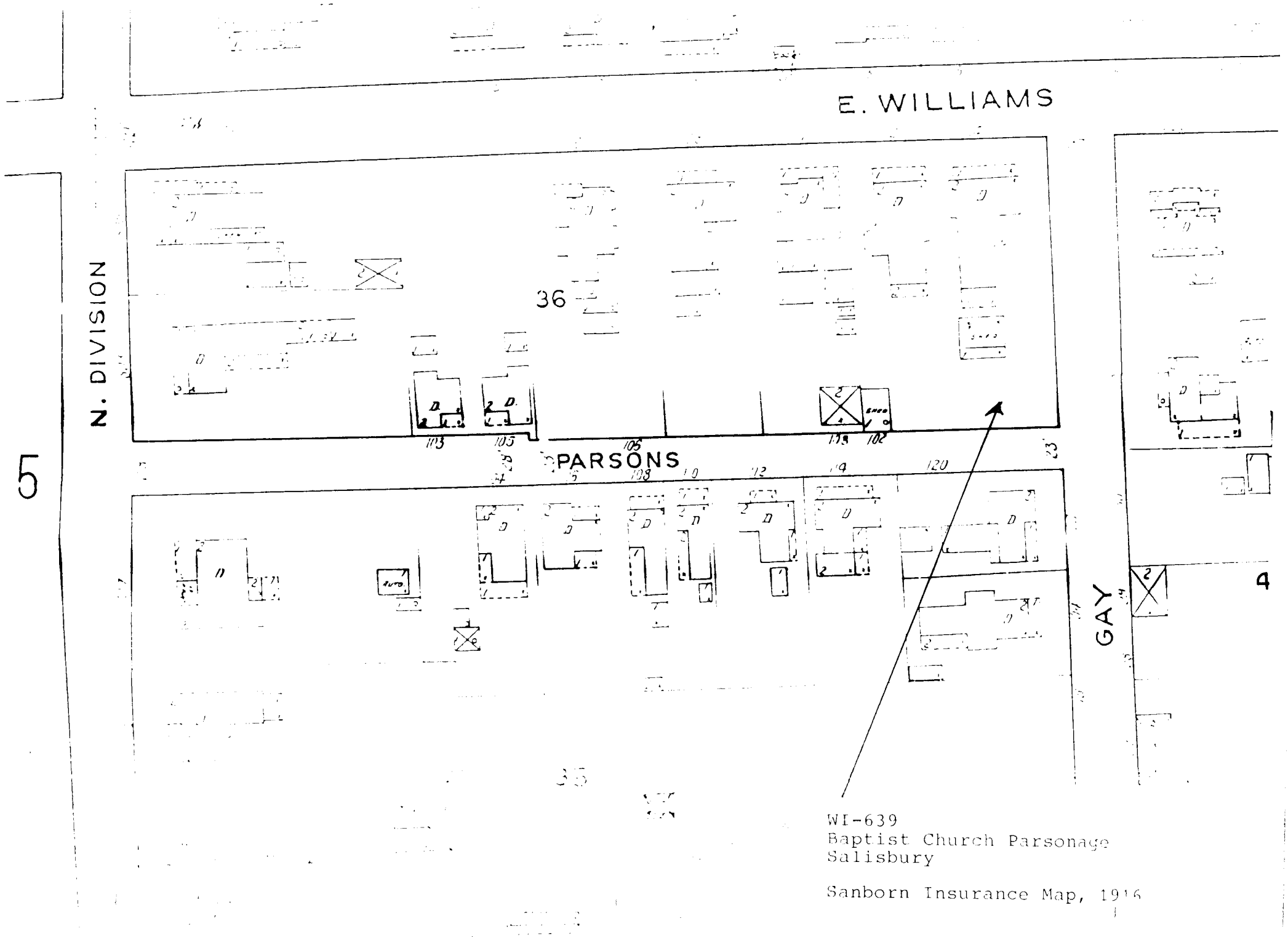
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	11/15/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

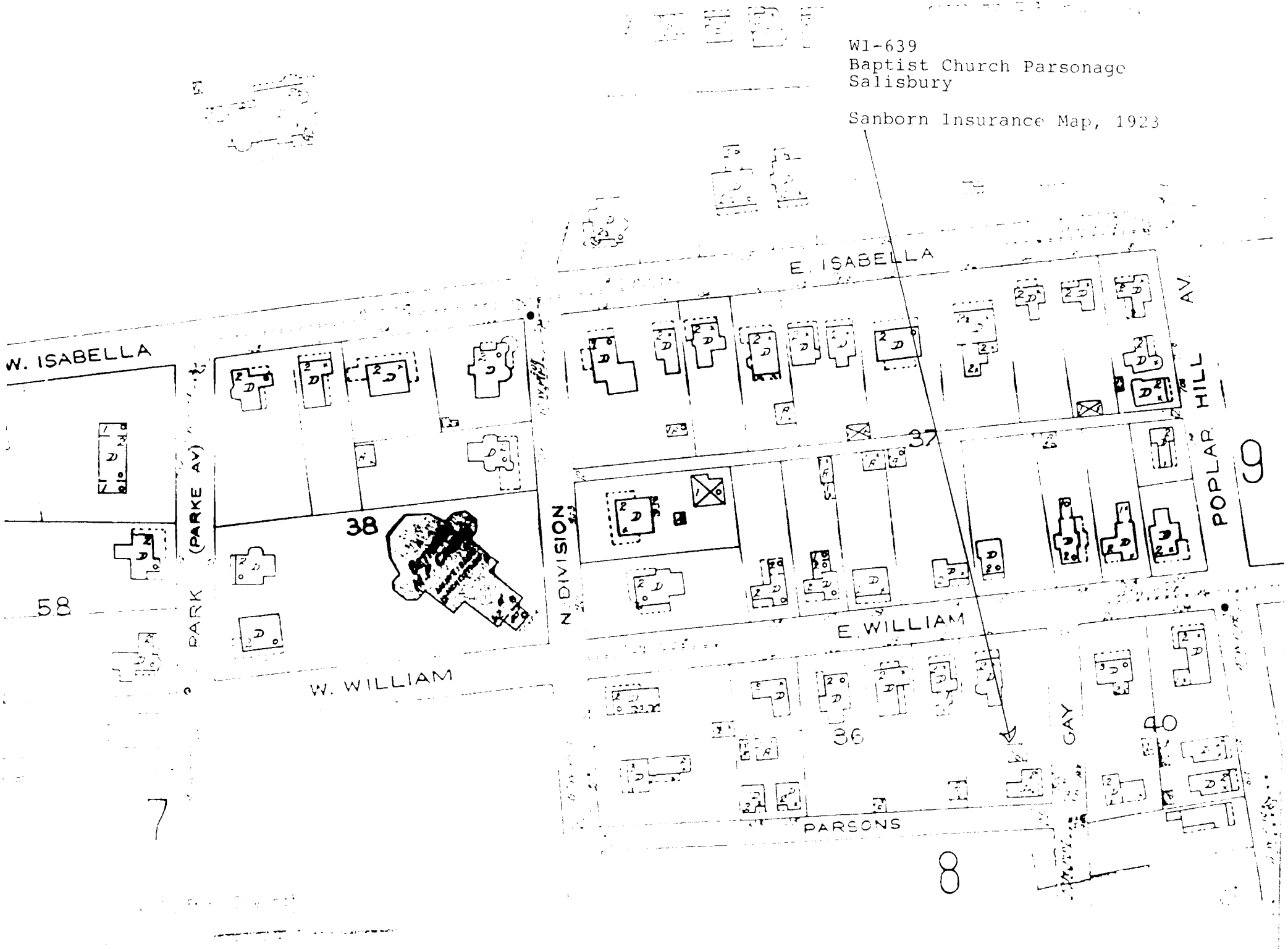


WI-639
Baptist Church Parsonage
Salisbury

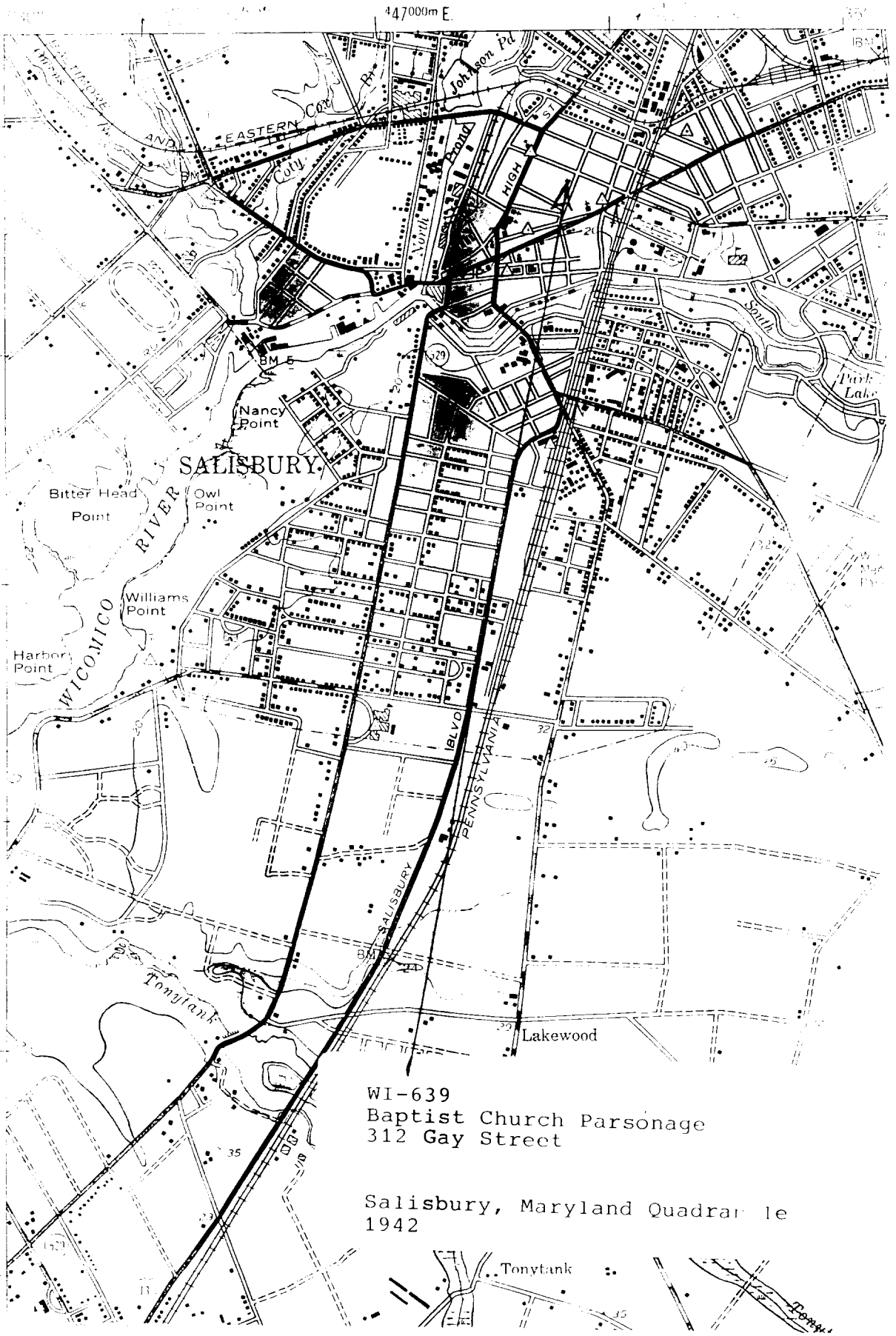
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1916

WI-639
Baptist Church Parsonage
Salisbury

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1923



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



WI-639
Baptist Church Parsonage
312 Gay Street

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

DO NOT
ENTER

WI-639

BAPTIST CHURCH PARSONAGE

SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO, MD

EAST ELEVATION

11/01, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG/MD HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 2

WI-639

BAPTIST CHURCH PARSONAGE

SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

NEG./MD HISTORICAL TRUST

11/01, PAUL TOUALT, PHOTOGRAPHER

2 OF 2