WI-426 c. 1890
Old Asbury M. E. Church Parsonage
Salisbury
Private

Concurrent with the construction of the new Asbury church in 1887-88 was the financing of a new parsonage across the street. The Asbury church parsonage, erected around 1890, is characteristic of late nineteenth-century domestic design with its asymmetrical elevations defined by projecting towers or gabled pavilions. One of the most distinctive architectural elements is the front porch with its spindle brackets and gallery that enriches the turned posts. Small corner brackets also mark the lower corners of the extended eaves that encircle the patterned slate roof. Currently covered with asbestos siding, the house was probably sheathed originally with a mixture of fishscale shingles and horizontal weatherboards. Colored glass was used throughout the house in the upper sash of most windows.

The Asbury congregation owned this North Division Street property since November 1849 when it was acquired from Noah and Elizabeth Rider, however the deed indicates that it was already known at that time as the "parsonage lot." For $800 Noah and Elizabeth Rider conveyed part of "Pemberton's Good Will" to the "Stewards of the M. E. Church in and for Salisbury Circuit," which included Benjamin J. Jones, Samuel B. D. Jones, Josephus Humphreys, Hugh Jackson, Noah Rider and William Harris." The property remained in the hands of the Methodist Episcopal Church, known as Asbury after 1872, until the mid 1960s.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Old Asbury M. E. Parsonage

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-426

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
Religion

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Former Parsonage

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-426

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic: Asbury Methodist Episcopal Parsonage

and/or common:

2. Location

street & number: 302 North Division Street ___ not for publication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: Allen North Smith

street & number: 302 North Division Street telephone no.:

city, town: Salisbury state and zip code: MD 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107, P. 955 liber 945

street & number: Wicomico County Courthouse folio 760

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-426

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.

The former Asbury M. E. parsonage is located at 302 North Division Street across the street from the former Asbury M. E. Church. The two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped frame dwelling faces east with the principal gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Built around 1890, the two-and-a-half story, tee-shaped frame dwelling rests on a raised brick foundation with a partial cellar. The exterior is clad with asbestos shingles, and the steeply pitched roof is covered with slate. Attached to northeast corner of the house is a three-story octagonal tower. A two-story service wing extends to the rear.

The east (main) facade is an asymmetrical elevation with a centrally located entrance flanked on the north by the three-story octagonal tower. The entrance bay, sheltered by a shed roofed porch, is flanked on the south by a two-bay section of front wall that is topped by a cross gable. The front door has been replaced, but a 1970 photograph of the dwelling shows a double-door entrance The first floor window openings are filled with double-hung sash that have colored glass perimeter panes in the upper sash. Each window is flanked by louvered shutters. Sheltering the first floor is a shed roof porch supported on turned posts and enriched with spindle eave decoration. The porch posts have a wagon-wheel type bracket and a turned spindle handrail. The second floor of the main block is lighted by three windows with colored glass perimeter panes in the upper sash. Piercing the cross gable is a tripartite window with small colored glass panes. The eave of the cross gable is extended, and the lower corners have small bracket supports. The octagonal tower is lighted on three floors by single-pane sash windows with the upper sash enriched with colored glass perimeter panes. The tower roof has an extended eave with exposed rafter ends. Rising off-center through the roof is a brick chimney stack finished with a corbelled caps.

The south side of the house is defined by a two-story projecting pavilion. Paired windows light the first and second floors. Each upper sash window has colored glass perimeter panes. The extended eave of the gable roof has bracket supports in the lower corners.

On the north side of the house there is a two-story, five-sided bay window. Single pane sash windows light the bay, and each upper sash has colored glass perimeter panes. The gable roof has extended eaves with brackets supports under the lower corners. An round arched colored glass window pierces the gable end.

The two-story, two-bay service wing has an interior end brick stove chimney. The north wall is defined by an asymmetrical fenestration with a diamond window piercing the first floor. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story shed roofed addition.

The interior was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-426

eriod	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.

Concurrent with the construction of the new Asbury church in 1887-88 was the financing of a new parsonage across the street. The Asbury church parsonage, erected around 1890, is characteristic of late nineteenth-century domestic design with its asymmetrical elevations defined by projecting towers or gabled pavilions. One of the most distinctive architectural elements is the front porch with its spindle brackets and gallery that enriches the turned posts. Small corner brackets also mark the lower corners of the extended eaves that encircle the patterned slate roof. Currently covered with asbestos siding, the house was probably sheathed originally with a mixture of fishscale shingles and horizontal weatherboards. Colored glass was used throughout the house in the upper sash of most windows.

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[1] Somerset County Land Record, WP 5/204, November 2, 1849.

[2] Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 654/460, August 28, 1967.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WI-426

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** 3/20/99

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

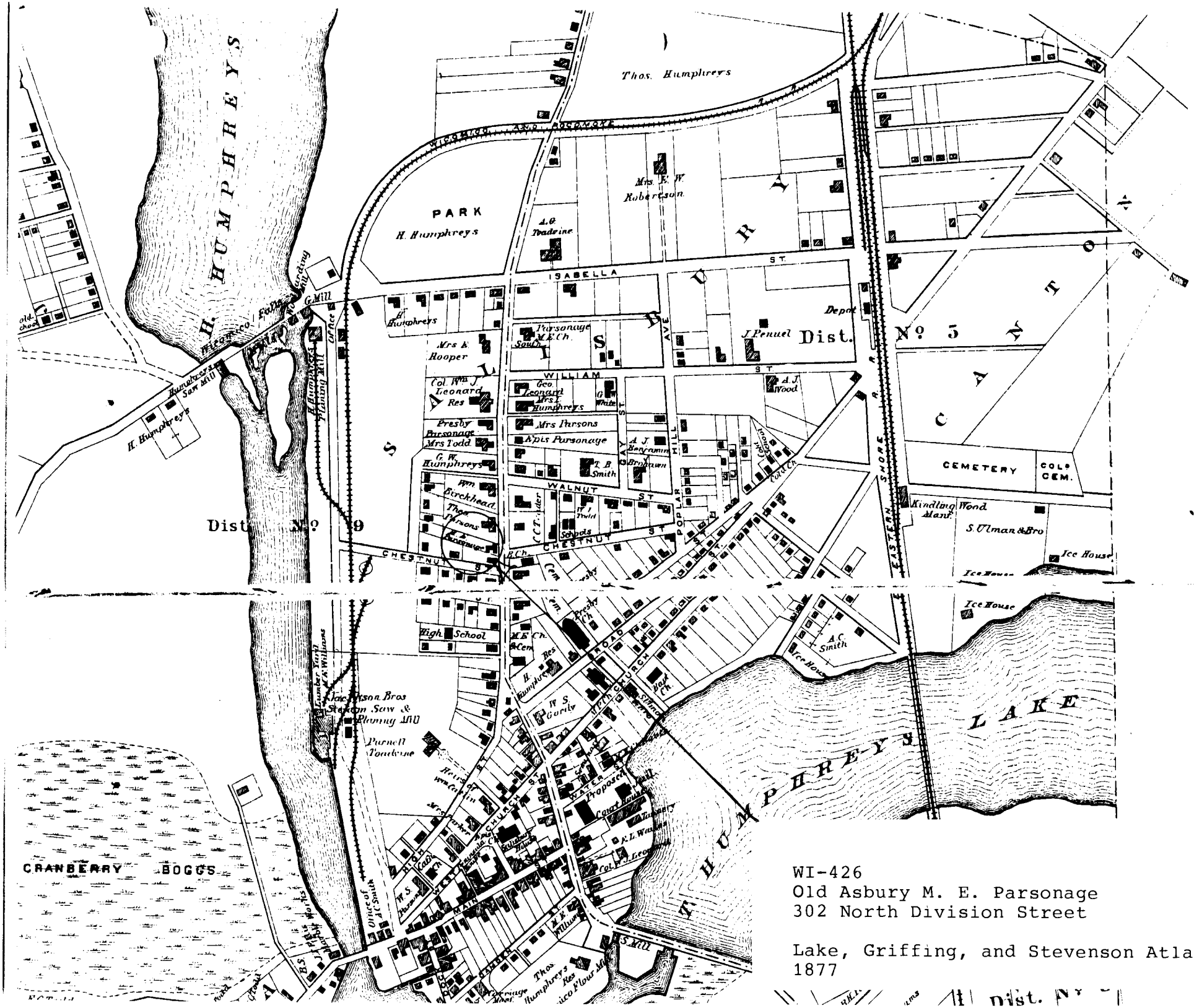
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
81-7000

PS-2746

WI-426
Old Asbury M. E. Church Parsonage
302 North Division Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 955

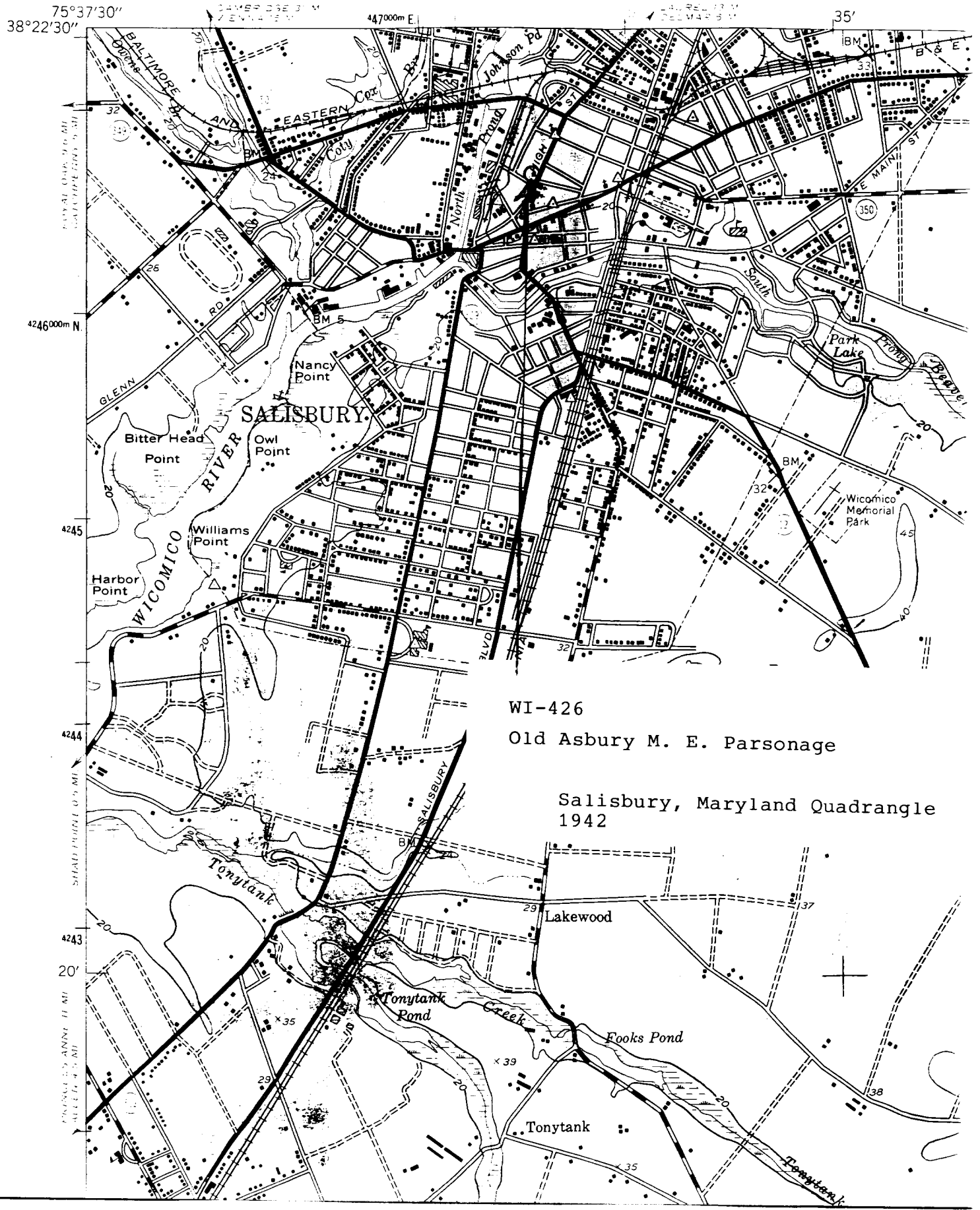
945/760	Allen North Smith Mary Jeanne Smith
	to
8/1/1980	Allen North Smith
AJS 827/454	Everett James Wilcox Pamela H. Wilcox
	to
9/3/1974	Allen North Smith
JWTS 794/474	Richard H. Smith, Jr. Janet T. Smith
	to
6/28/1973	Everett James Wilcox
772/38	Dermott A. O'Neill Patricia C. O'Neill
	to
9/15/1972	Richard H. Smith, Jr. Janet T. Smith



WI-426
Old Asbury M. E. Parsonage
302 North Division Street

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



WI-426

Old Asbury M. E. Parsonage

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942