

WI-435
Joseph James Hitchens House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1850, c. 1880

Defining the corner of West Main and Second streets on the west side of Salisbury, is a combination house and store that date from the second half of the nineteenth century. The diminutive store building, a rectangular gable-front structure with flush gable ends and boxed cornices, is estimated to date around 1850 whereas the house to which it is attached was built probably during the late years of the nineteenth century. Following a center hall/single pile plan, the house features a Victorian cross gable, fishscale shingles within the gable ends, and a turned post front porch as well as late nineteenth-century two-over-two sash windows.

The cross gabled Victorian house coupled with the rare survival of the mid nineteenth-century store building provide important historical and architectural references for this west side neighborhood. Historically the property was associated with Joseph James Hitchens at the turn of the twentieth century, and since then it has been transferred more than a half-dozen times.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Joseph James Hitchens House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-435

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
18701-930

4. Resource Type(s): Dwelling

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Joseph James Hitchens House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 668 West Main Street not for publication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	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name James L. Eure

street & number 635 West Main 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 106, P. 1214
liber 824

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 413

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

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input checked="" 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 Joseph James Hitchens house is located at 668 West Main Street on the northwest corner of West Main Street and Second Street in the west side neighborhood of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, three-bay frame house faces northeast with the gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

Dating around 1880, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay, frame dwelling is supported on an infilled brick pier foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with a combination of asphalt shingles and Victorian fishscale shingles. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing. Located off the southeast corner of the rear wing is a single-story, gable-front store building dating from the mid nineteenth century. The store is oriented to face Second Street.

The northeast (main) facade is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows. The front door is a replacement. Sheltering the first floor is a hip roofed, turned post porch. The second floor is lighted by three evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows. Centered on the roof is a cross gable, sheathed with fishscale shingles, and pierced by a small two-over-two sash window. The edge of the roof has an extended eave, and the cornice is boxed. Rising through the center of the roof is a pair of chimneys that flank the center hall.

The rear wing is two-bays across and is extended on each side by single story shed roofed additions. A brick stack protrudes through the center of the roof, and each floor is lighted by two-over-two sash windows.

The mid nineteenth-century single-story store building is attached to the south end of the south shed. Supported on a low brick pier foundation, the store building is covered with plain weatherboard siding, and the low to medium pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The southeast (main) gable end is defined by a door opening and a window opening on the first floor and a window opening in the gable end. The edge of the roof is flush and finished with a plain bargeboard. The southwest side is defined by a uninterrupted weatherboard wall, and the base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice. The cornice survives with a beaded fascia. Attached to the northwest gable end is a shed roofed extension of the main gable roofed structure.

The interiors of the house and store were not seen.

8. Significance

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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

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.

Defining the corner of West Main and Second streets on the west side of Salisbury, is a combination house and store that date from the second half of the nineteenth century. The diminutive store building, a rectangular gable-front structure with flush gable ends and boxed cornices, is estimated to date around 1850 whereas the house to which it is attached was built probably during the late years of the nineteenth century. Following a center hall/single pile plan, the house features a Victorian cross gable, fishscale shingles within the gable ends, and a turned post front porch as well as late nineteenth-century two-over-two sash windows.

The cross gabled Victorian house coupled with the rare survival of the mid nineteenth-century store building provide important historical and architectural references for this west side neighborhood. Historically the property was associated with Joseph James Hitchens at the turn of the twentieth century,¹ and since then it has been transferred more than a half-dozen times.

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 28/463, 17 December 1900.

WI-435
Joseph James Hitchens House
668 West Main Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 106, Parcel 1214

824/413 Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company under
Will of Richard Hodgson

to

6/24/1974 James L. Eure

JWTS 806/169 Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company-
Richard Hodgson Trust

to

11/20/1973 Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company-
Estate of Richard Hodgson
Item 19

IDT 179/16 Thomas H. Gunby
Ethel I. Gunby

to

9/6/1932 Richard H. Hodgson

JCK 121/172 Robert W. Jones
Hester Jones

to

12/17/1920 Thomas H. Gunby
"California"

WI-435
Joseph James Hitchens House
658 West Main Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

JCK 121/61

A. Watson Fooks

to

11/5/1920

Robert W. Jones

JCK 117/223

Charles M. Peters

Annie C. Peters

to

2/25/1920

A. Walton Fooks

EAT 86/246

George W. Bell, attorney, Samuel P. Woodcock
and Carrie W. Woodcock

to

8/7/1913

Charles M. Peters

\$1325

Whereas by virtue of a power contained in a
mortgage made by John W. Moore and Clara B.
Moore to Daisey M. Bell, 10/27/1910, EAT 72/100

Mortgage

EAT 72/100

John W. Moore

to

10/27/1910

Daisey M. Bell

WI-435
Joseph James Hitchens House
668 West Main Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

EAT 70/501

Joseph James Hitchens

to

10/27/1910

John W. Moore

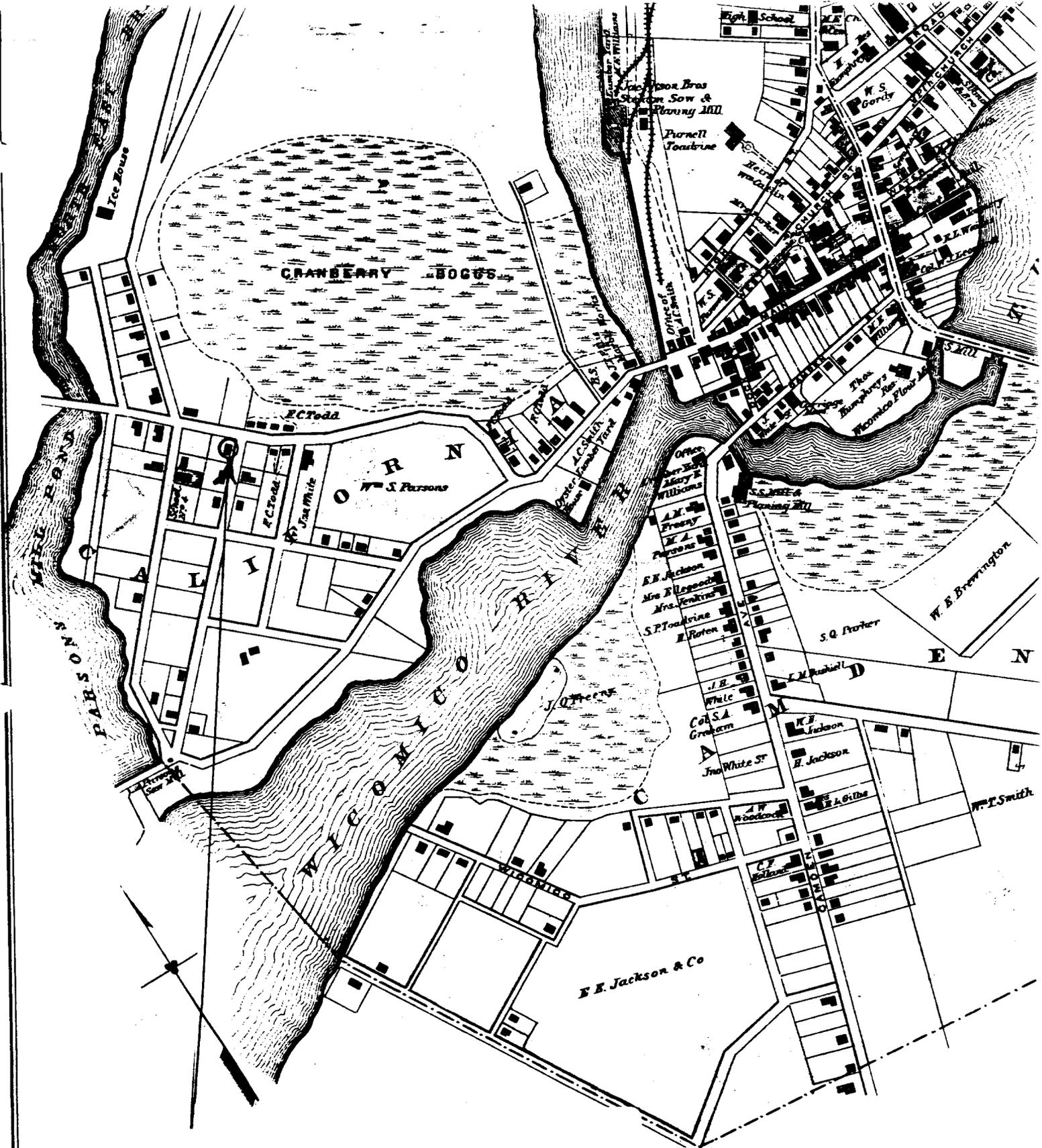
JTT 28/463

Ernest A. Toadvine, trustee

to

12/17/1900

Joseph James Hitchens
Decree of Circuit Court No. 1172 Chancery
\$250 "California"



WI-435
 Joseph James Hitchens House
 Salisbury, Maryland

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
 1877

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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(HEBRON)

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38°22'30"

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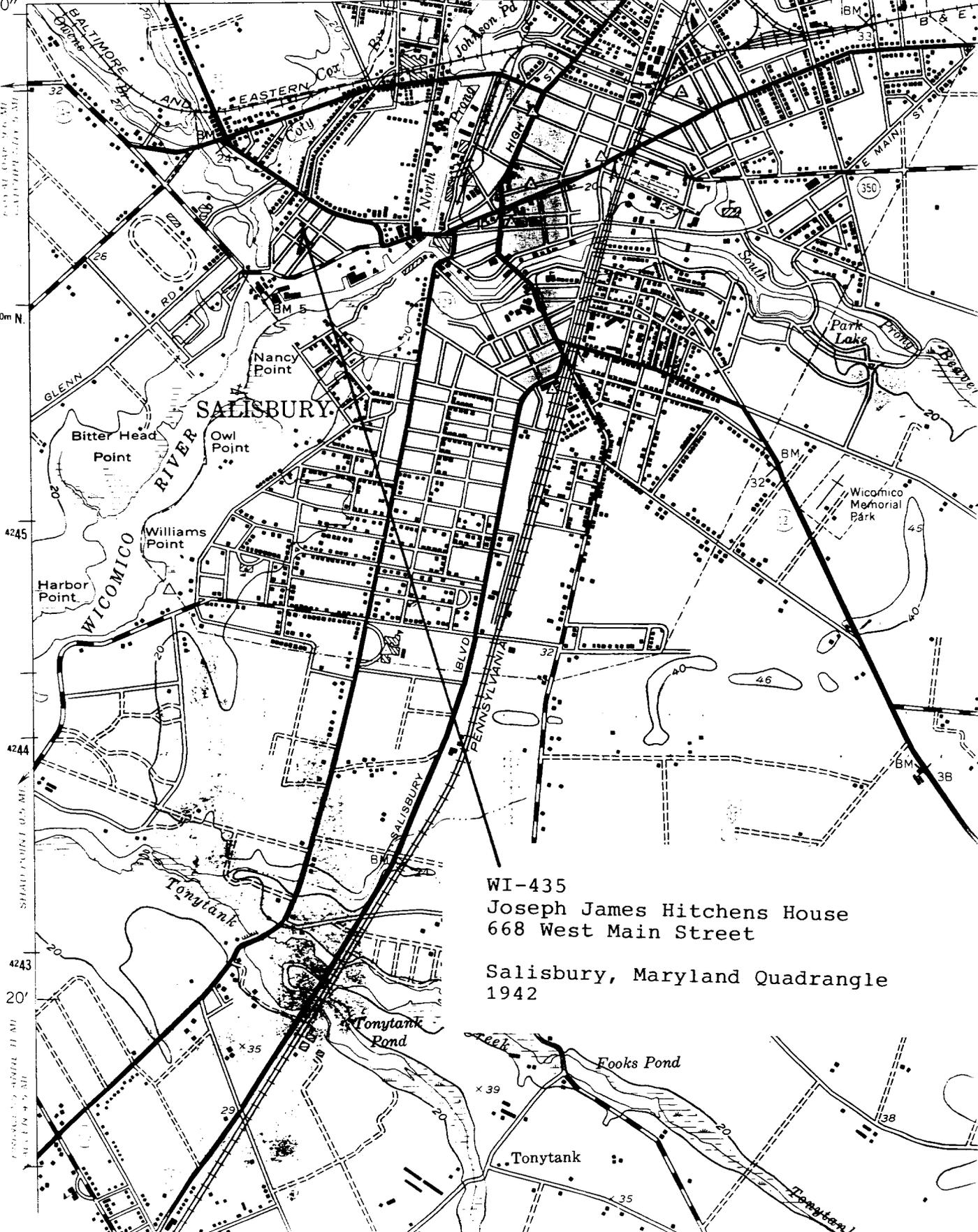
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WI-435
Joseph James Hitchens House
668 West Main Street
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
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Baltimore Ave
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North Davidson St
Johnson Pk
Park Lake
Wicomico Memorial Park
Fooks Pond
Tonytank
Bitter Head Point
Williams Point
Nancy Point
Owl Point
Harbor Point

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