WI-~~386~~ 455 c. 1893
Mitchell H. German Brick Row
Delmar
Private

One of the most distinctive and intact structures to remain standing on the Maryland side of Delmar is the two-story, late nineteenth-century row of brick townhouses that stands on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and E. East Street. Oriented to face the railroad, the common bond brick row of townhouses survives with a decorative turned post porch enriched with Victorian brackets and scrollwork decoration. Three cross gables define paired doorways for adjacent sections, and a half gable remains on the seventh unit at the south end. Perhaps the rarest feature is the intact brick and metal cornice that stretches across the top of the parapet wall. Decorative brick corbelling is combined with pyramidal topped metal finials that rise from the top of the parapet. Attached to the south end of the Victorian structure is a rowhouse addition dating from the second quarter of the twentieth century.

Construction of the brick rowhouse block was accomplished by Mitchell H. German, of M. H. German & Co., a prominent brick manufacturing company operating in Delmar during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. M. H. German acquired several parcels along what was formerly known as Railroad Avenue during the 1880s and 1890s. In mid August 1892, Mitchell German's

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property, along with much of the town of Delmar, was destroyed in a severe fire that spread over ten acres and burned eighty-seven buildings. The *Salisbury Advertiser* reported the devastation on August 20th, and Mitchell German was among scores of others whose property was consumed. In the list of fire losses was, "M. H. German, private residence and several tenements, loss heavy, only partially covered by insurance."

Much of Delmar was quickly rebuilt in the following months and years, and M. H. German & Co. provided brick for this building as well as many others in town.

The Mitchell H. German rowhouse block is an important architectural and historical site in Delmar, and it reflects the town's most prosperous period from 1890 to 1930.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Mitchell German Brick Row

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-~~386~~ 455

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

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

4. Resource Type(s): Rowhouse Block

Survey No. WI-~~386~~ 455

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mitchell German Brick Row

and/or common

2. Location

street & number ____ not for publication

city, town Delmar ____ 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 Terry R. Sell

street & number P. O. Box 2142 telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21802

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 11A, p. 59 liber 1039

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 205

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

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
X fair	___ unexposed		

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

The Mitchell H. German brick row is a series of connected rowhouses which stands on the southeast corner of the intersection of E. East Street and Pennsylvania Avenue in Delmar, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, seven-unit row faces west.

Dating around 1893, the two-story, twenty-one by five-bay brick rowhouse block rests on a brick foundation, and seven-course common bond walls rise to a decorative brick and metal parapet wall that disguises a low pitched shed or flat roof. Extending from the back of the rowhouse block are two-story rear wings.

The west (main) facade consists of twenty-one bays divided into seven, three-bay side hall/double pile plan units. Six of the seven units are paired together and are separated by a narrow passage that provides access to the rear wings. Each paired side passage/double pile unit shares an entrance bay on the turned post porch that stretches across the entire first floor and wraps around the north wall to access the another unit that extends from the northeast corner. The individual side hall plan units are defined on the first floor by a three bays with a entrance and two adjacent single-pane sash windows. The window openings are topped by segmental arches featuring incised decoration within across the lintel. Most of the doors have been replaced. The passage between the double units is accessed through a round arched opening. The entire first floor is sheltered by a decorative turned post porch enriched with sawn brackets and pierced scrollwork between the posts. There are three cross gables on axis with paired unit entrances and a half gable at the south end single unit. The porch roof is covered with standing seam metal. The second floor of the rowhouse block is pierced by fourteen windows, two for each individual unit. The single-pane sash windows are topped by segmental arches featuring incised decoration within each lintel. Centered above each second floor window opening is a metal vent hood that provides air circulation within the attic space. The top of the wall is embellished with an elaborate corbelled brick and metal cornice defined by an asymmetrical series of small pyramidal roofed finials that rise from the parapet wall. Set back from the edge of the parapet are interior brick stove chimneys that rise slightly above the roofline.

The north side of the rowhouse block is an uneven six-bay facade with the turned post porch extending to the rear corner unit entrance. The end wall of the rowhouse block is pierced by five single-pane sash windows on each floor, and each opening features a segmental arch of raised brick. The rear corner unit has paired single-pane sash windows on its north wall, and the opening is spanned by a wider segmental arch of raised brick. The corbelled brick and metal cornice stretches around the north side, and pyramidal roofed finials accent the principal corners of the unit. Single flue brick stove chimneys rise through the roof.

Attached to the south side of the 1890s brick rowhouse block is a smaller series of rowhouse units dating from the second quarter of the twentieth century.

The interiors were not seen.

8. Significance

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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.

One of the most distinctive and intact structures to remain standing on the Maryland side of Delmar is the two-story, late nineteenth-century row of brick townhouses that stands on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue and E. East Street. Oriented to face the railroad, the common bond brick row of townhouses survives with a decorative turned post porch enriched with Victorian brackets and scrollwork decoration. Three cross gables define paired doorways for adjacent sections, and a half gable remains on the seventh unit at the south end. Perhaps the rarest feature is the intact brick and metal cornice that stretches across the top of the parapet wall. Decorative brick corbelling is combined with pyramidal topped metal finials that rise from the top of the parapet. Attached to the south end of the Victorian structure is a rowhouse addition dating from the second quarter of the twentieth century.

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[1] *Salisbury Advertiser*, August 20, 1892.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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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**	2/19/99
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
514-7600

PS-2746

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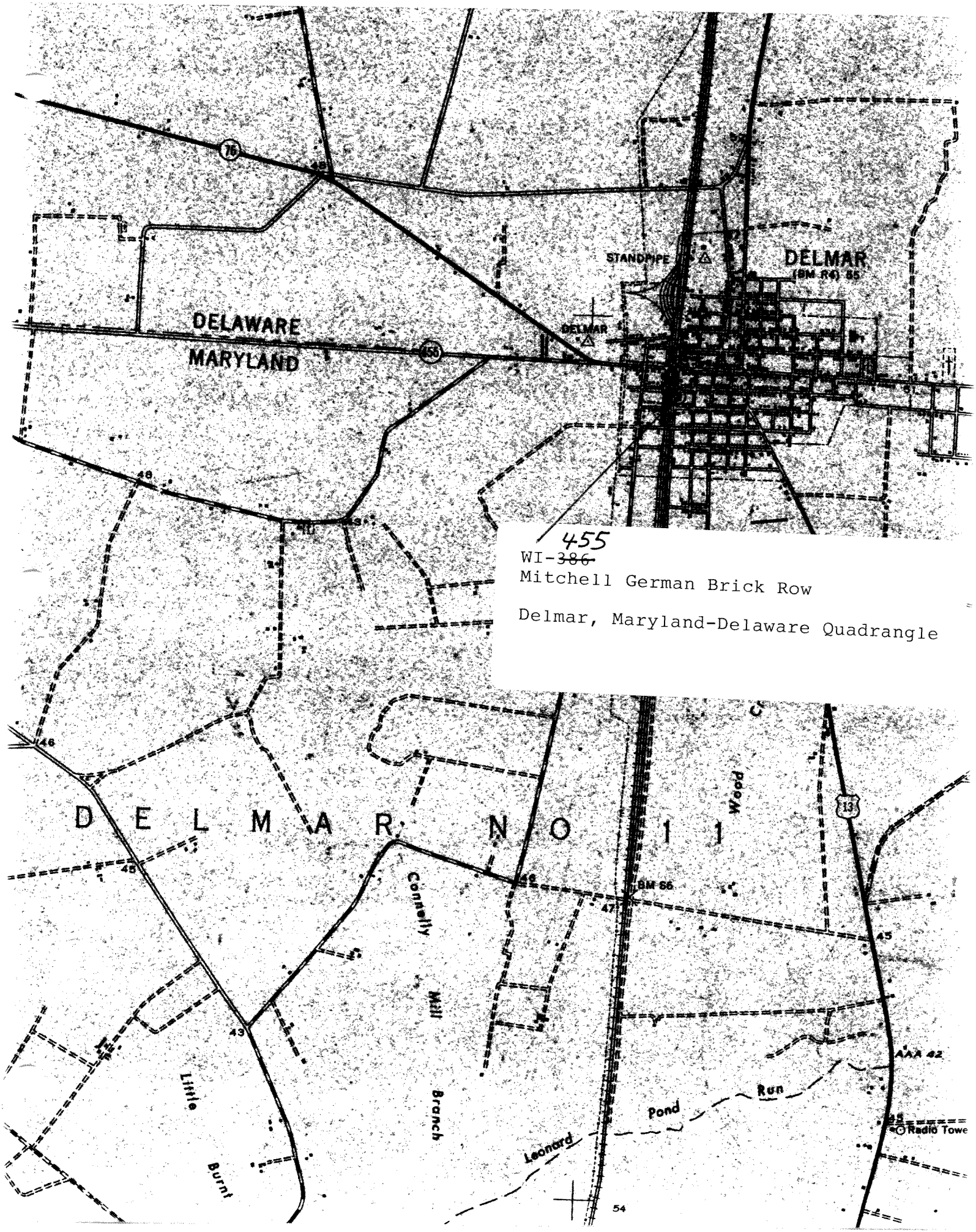
Mitchell German Brick Row
Pennsylvania Avenue
Delmar, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 11A, P. 135

965/751	Samuel R. Lombardo Darlene R. Lombardo
	to
10/2/1981	Terry R. Sell
	All those 7 contiguous lots or parcels of land, Lots Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 on a plat entitled "A Plat of Lots of Jay Williams, Delmar, 6/23/1916, JCK 138/568
A J S 961/790	Norman E. Buroker
	to
7/24/1981	Samuel R. Lombardo Darlene R. Lombardo
A J S 932/624	Sue M. Payne
	to
11/14/1979	Norman E. Buroker Linda M. Buroker
JWTS 392/471	Roy F. Mason, et al., Lucille P. Mason, Stanley A. Mason, Alice Mason, Nellie V. Hancock and Walter E. Hancock
	to
8/31/1955	Sue M. Payne



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Mitchell German Brick Row

Delmar, Maryland-Delaware Quadrangle

IDT 203/559	County Trust County of Maryland (Judgement against A. Everett Williams, Elizabeth D. Williams A. Blanche Williams)
	to
9/11/1937	Augustus A. Mason Lee W. Mason (the said Augustus A. Mason having predeceased the said Lee W. Mason, the property above descended to her as the surviving tenant by the entirety and the said Lee W. Mason having died intestate)
EAT 97/490	Arthur E. Williams
	to
10/7/1915	Jay Williams (the said Jay Williams having devised the herein property unto his widow, A. Blanche Williams, Will MNN/1/442, "....improved by a block of seven two-story brick dwellings and barn."
97/475	Jay Williams, Attorney
	to
10/5/1915	Arthur E. Williams $4,000.00 Whereas at a public sale, 8/28/1915, resulting from a defaulted mortgage between Mitchell H. German and Frances A. German to Walter B. Miller bearing date 4/7/1913, EAT 84/358

JTT 11/233	John F. Clark
	to
4/22/1893	Mitchell H. German $600 (no mention of buildings)
FMS 3/224	Elijah Freeny Maria E. Freeny
	to
3/14/1888	Mitchell H. German $300
FMS 3/170	Lavinia Sheppard
	to
2/13/1888	Mitchell H. German, Sussex County, Delaware $625 ...beginning for the same at the point where the east side of Rail Road Avenue (formerly called Front Street) intersects the south side of East Street...)

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[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

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Salisbury Advertiser, August 20, 1892

Another peninsula town has been reduced to ashes. Delmar was burned last Tuesday afternoon. Between noon and the hour of one, fire was seen to burst from the roof of the building, corner of Railroad avenue and Grove street, occupied by Mr. Tyre as post office. Being a frame structure the flame, fanned by a brisk wind from the north-west, soon enveloped the entire building, and before the thoroughly aroused populace could take action, the fire was spreading from house to house and continued to spread till ten acres on which thickly stood eighty-seven buildings of various kinds, mostly wood, had been burned over.

The burned district extends from Grove street on the north, down Railroad avenue on the west three squares south to Elizabeth street; east from Railroad avenue two squares to Second street. In this territory stood every business house, the hotel, Methodist Episcopal Church, and the railroad station, all of which were burned. The fire did no damage west of the railroad track. The origin of the conflagration is supposed to have been the igniting of a match by a mouse in an old sugar barrel which stood in the hall on the second floor of the post office building.

The Salisbury fire service responded promptly to an appeal for help, but owing to the fact that Delmar is an inland town, with no artificial water supply, and having no natural streams nearer than two miles, our boys could do little toward keeping up a stream of water. What they did get was drawn off from the tanks of a number of engines.

The losers of the are fire are: Levin Hastings, store and goods, partly insured; M. H. German, private residence and several tenement houses, loss heavy, only partially covered by insurance; Joseph W. Hastings, residence valued at $1500, insured for $800; Dr. Ellegood, drugstore and bedroom set, $2,000.....railroad station, freight house, etc. $10,000.

Delmar is situate six miles north of Salisbury on Mason and Dixon's line, at the juncture of the P. W. & B. railroad and the N. Y. P. & N. railroad, which, two systems uniting at Delmar, traverse the seaboard states from New York to Norfolk. It is a new town, owing its thrift and prosperity to the railroads. Within the last decade it has grown from a hamlet of a few scattered houses to a town of 800 inhabitants.

The fire of last Tuesday was the first considerable blaze the little town ever suffered and during its progress many land-marks were destroyed.

Among the first houses to burn was one as old as the town itself and in which two poor but enterprising boys, E. E. Jackson and W. L. Sirman, set out in business in 1859. The former has since amassed a large fortune and has honorably served his native state as its governor...

Undaunted by the disaster the people at once turned to work and began to erect temporary structures in which to do business until more substantial buildings can be put up. In twenty-four hours after the fire Mr. B. W. Freeny had a house on the site of his burned butcher shop. The railroad company have [sic] a temporary station house complet [sic], and several other rough structures are up...

Hogs and chickens were burned as well as provisions, and it is said that when night settled over the devastated town Tuesday, there was not enough food in the place to give all the people a hearty meal. This alarming condition was soon relieved, however by the quick and eager response of the neighboring towns, Salisbury, Cape Charles City, Wilmington, Laurel, Seaford, and the other places sent food and money. Mayor Humphreys appointed Messrs. Randolph Humphreys, A. A. Gillis, Charles Birckhead, E. T. Fowler, a committee to solicit aid. A purse of $445.25 was soon made up and presented to the provisional committee at Delmar.

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