

WI-590  
Old Wicomico Presbyterian Church Manse  
Salisbury  
Private

1885-86

A series of short articles printed in the *Salisbury Advertiser* over the course of twelve months document the construction of the old Wicomico Presbyterian Church manse between May 1885 and May 1886. On May 16, 1885, the paper stated that the congregation was considering the prospect of a new minister and at the same gathering there was a discussion about repairing the old "parsonage" or building a new one. Less than a month later, on June 6<sup>th</sup>, it was announced in the paper that,

*After making a canvas of the congregation, it has been fully determined by the Presbyterians of this town to build a new parsonage. Nearly enough to build it has been already subscribed, and no trouble is anticipated in raising the remainder. Work will soon be begun, as it is the intention to have it completed before cold weather.*

By the middle of November that fall, the newspaper documented that, "The Presbyterian Parsonage has been shut in and the slate roof put on. It will not be completed until spring. When finished it will be both a pretty and convenient dwelling." Despite the enclosed nature of the house that fall, work was suspended during the winter months and not resumed until the following May.

The Presbyterian parsonage or manse was built according to a familiar floor plan with a side stair hall and adjacent parlor in front, and a dining room, living room, and kitchen to the rear. Modest Victorian brackets, pointed arch windows, and corbelled cap chimneys are decorative features that distinguish the exterior of this gable-front dwelling.

The interior features turned mahogany newel posts, balusters, and a molded handrail as well as a scroll decorated stringer. The most decorative element of the adjacent parlor is an original slate mantel covered in a verdigris colored marbling.

The 1885 parsonage is the second dwelling on this site which has housed the ministers serving the Wicomico Presbyterian church. The previous house, along with the lot, were donated in 1850 by Elizabeth Roxburgh to George Todd, James Morris, Josiah Ellingsworth, James McSlemmons, and John B. Slemmons, the elders and trustee of the Wicomico Presbyterian Church. Elizabeth Roxburgh had owned the property since her acquisition from John and Zipporah Hooper in 1836.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-590

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Old Wicomico Presbyterian Church Manse

other \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street and number 332 North Division Street      not for publication

city, town Salisbury      vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name James R. and Sarah M. Thrash

street and number 332 North Division Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Salisbury state Maryland zip code 21801

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Courthouse liber 698 folio 362

city, town Salisbury tax map 107 tax parcel 946 tax ID number 09-057870

### 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	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

**Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. WI-590

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### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

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

The old Wicomico Presbyterian Church manse is located at 322 North Division Street in the center of the Newtown Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The house faces east with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1885, the two-story, gable-front, side hall/parlor plan frame dwelling is supported on a low brick foundation, and the exterior is sheathed with asbestos shingles. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the south side of the main block is a lateral, gable roofed wing and to the rear is a two-story service wing.

The east (main) elevation is a three-bay façade with a side entrance and flanking two-over-two sash windows trimmed with plain surrounds and flanked by louvered shutters. The entrance has been reworked by a mid twentieth-century door, side lights, and a segmental arched transom. The current owners infilled the sidelights and transom with colored glass. The front door is sheltered by a gable roofed portico featuring an arched ceiling and Tuscan columns. The second story is lighted by three evenly spaced two-over-two sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. Distinguishing the gable end is an enclosed pediment trimmed with a block cornice. The blocks are simple rectangular shapes nailed to the cornice soffit. The tympanum within the pediment is pierced by a pointed arch, two-over-two sash window.

The south side of the house is defined by the two-story gable roofed wing, which is lighted by two-over-two sash windows and is extended on its south side by a two-story, three-sided bay window. Occupying the southeast corner of the house is a single-story, shed-roofed porch that was built with reused beams from the original Victorian porch. The porch is screened.

The north side of the house is defined by a centered cross gable, and the eave is trimmed with the same plain modillion blocks. The cross gable is pierced by a pointed arch attic window. Rising through the roof is a narrow brick stack finished with a corbelled cap.

The interior retains most of its late nineteenth-century woodwork. The front part of the house follows a side hall/parlor plan, and a heavily turned mahogany newel post, molded handrail, turned balusters and a scroll decorated stringer distinguish the staircase. Shallow profile four-panel doors open into various rooms. The adjacent parlor is highlighted by a well preserved paint decorated slate marble. The marbling was executed in a rich verdigris.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-590

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

### Specific dates

### Architect/Builder

**Construction dates** 1885-86

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

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.)

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*After making a canvas of the congregation, it has been fully determined by the Presbyterians of this town build a new parsonage. Nearly enough to build it has been already subscribed, and no trouble is anticipated in raising the remainder. Work will soon be begun, as it is the intention to have it completed before cold weather.*<sup>2</sup>

By the middle of November that fall, the newspaper documented that “The Presbyterian parsonage has been shut in and the slate roof put on. It will not be completed until spring. When finished it will be both a pretty and convenient dwelling.”<sup>3</sup> Despite the enclosed nature of the house, work was suspended during the winter months and not resumed until the following May.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Salisbury Advertiser*, May 16, 1885, “A meeting of the congregation of the Presbyterian church of this town was held last Tuesday night, to consider the advisability of calling a new pastor. A committee had been previously appointed to ascertain how much money could be raised for salary and current expenses. The report of the committee was satisfactory, and it was decided to extend a call to Rev. Mervin J. Eckels, of Harve-de-Grace. There has been some talk among the congregation about either repairing the present parsonage or building a new one, but nothing definite has been agreed upon.”

<sup>2</sup> *Salisbury Advertiser*, June 6, 1885.

<sup>3</sup> *Salisbury Advertiser*, November 21, 1885.

<sup>4</sup> *Salisbury Advertiser*, May 8, 1886.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Old Wicomico Presbyterian Church Manse  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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scroll decorated stringer. The most decorative element of the adjacent parlor is an original slate mantel covered in a verdigris colored marbling.

The 1885 parsonage is the second dwelling on this site which has housed the ministers serving the Wicomico Presbyterian church. The previous house, along with the lot, were donated in 1850 by Elizabeth Roxburgh to George Todd, James Morris, Josiah Ellingsworth, James McSlemmons, and John B. Slemmons, the elders and trustees of the Wicomico Presbyterian Church.<sup>5</sup> Elizabeth Roxburgh had owned the property since her acquisition from John and Zipporah Hooper in 1836.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Somerset County Land Record, LW 3/514, 23 April 1850.

<sup>6</sup> Somerset County Land Record, GH 8/523, 26 November 1836.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Inventory of  
Historic Properties Form**

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Name Old Wicomico Presbyterian Church Manse  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

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Old Wicomico Presbyterian Church Manse  
322 North Division Street  
Salisbury, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 946

698/362

Committee of the Wicomico Presbyterian Church

to

8/29/1969

James R. and Sarah Thrash

Somerset County  
Land Record  
LW 3/514

Elizabeth Roxburgh

to

4/23/1850

George Todd, James Morris, Josiah Ellingsworth, James McSlemmons,  
and John B. Slemmons, Elders and Trustees in the Presbyterian Church in  
in the Town of Salisbury

Somerset County  
Land Record  
GH 8/523

John Hooper, City of Philadelphia and Zipporah his wife

to

11/26/1836

Elizabeth Roxburgh

\$500

**Maryland Historical Trust**  
**Maryland Inventory of**  
**Historic Properties Form**

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Name Old Wicomico Presbyterian Church Manse  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

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*Salisbury Advertiser*, May 16, 1885

A meeting of the congregation of the Presbyterian church of this town was held last Tuesday night, to consider the advisability calling a new pastor. A committee had been previously appointed to ascertain how much money could be raised for salary and current expenses. The report of the committee was satisfactory, and it was decided to extend a call to Rev. Mervin J. Eckels, of Havre-de-Grace. There has been some talk among the congregation about either repairing the present parsonage or building a new one, but nothing definite has been agreed upon.

*Salisbury Advertiser*, May 25, 1885

Rev. M. J. Eckels, of Havre-de-Grace, who was called a short time ago to the Presbyterian Church here, has notified the Church committee of his acceptance. Mr. Eckels will probably be here about the first of July. As the parsonage is somewhat out of repair, the committee have (sic) determined to do something towards fixing it up. There is, however, a strong feeling in the Church towards building a new parsonage. It has not been definitely settled what will be done.

*Salisbury Advertiser*, June 6, 1885

After making a canvas of the congregation, it has been fully determined by the Presbyterians of this town to build a new parsonage. Nearly enough to build it has been already subscribed, and no trouble is anticipated in raising the remainder. Work will soon be begun, as it is the intention to have it completed before cold weather.

*Salisbury Advertiser*, July 11, 1885

The members of the Presbyterian Church residing in Nutter's, will hold a festival at the School House July 28<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds will be applied to the rebuilding of the parsonage in this town. Prominent speakers will add to the enjoyment of the occasion. Ice cream and other refreshments will be supplied in abundance at moderate prices.

*Salisbury Advertiser*, November 21, 1885

The Presbyterian parsonage has been shut and the slate roof put on. It will not be completed until spring. When finished it will be both a pretty and convenient dwelling.

*Salisbury Advertiser*, May 8, 1886

Work has resumed on the new Presbyterian parsonage.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. WI-590

Personal Interview with Sarah Thrash, April 5, 2001.

*Salisbury Advertiser*, various issues, Wicomico County Free Library.

Somerset County Land Records, various volumes, Somerset County Courthouse.

Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 10,600 square feet

Acreage of historical setting 10,600 square feet

Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

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

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## 11. Form Prepared by

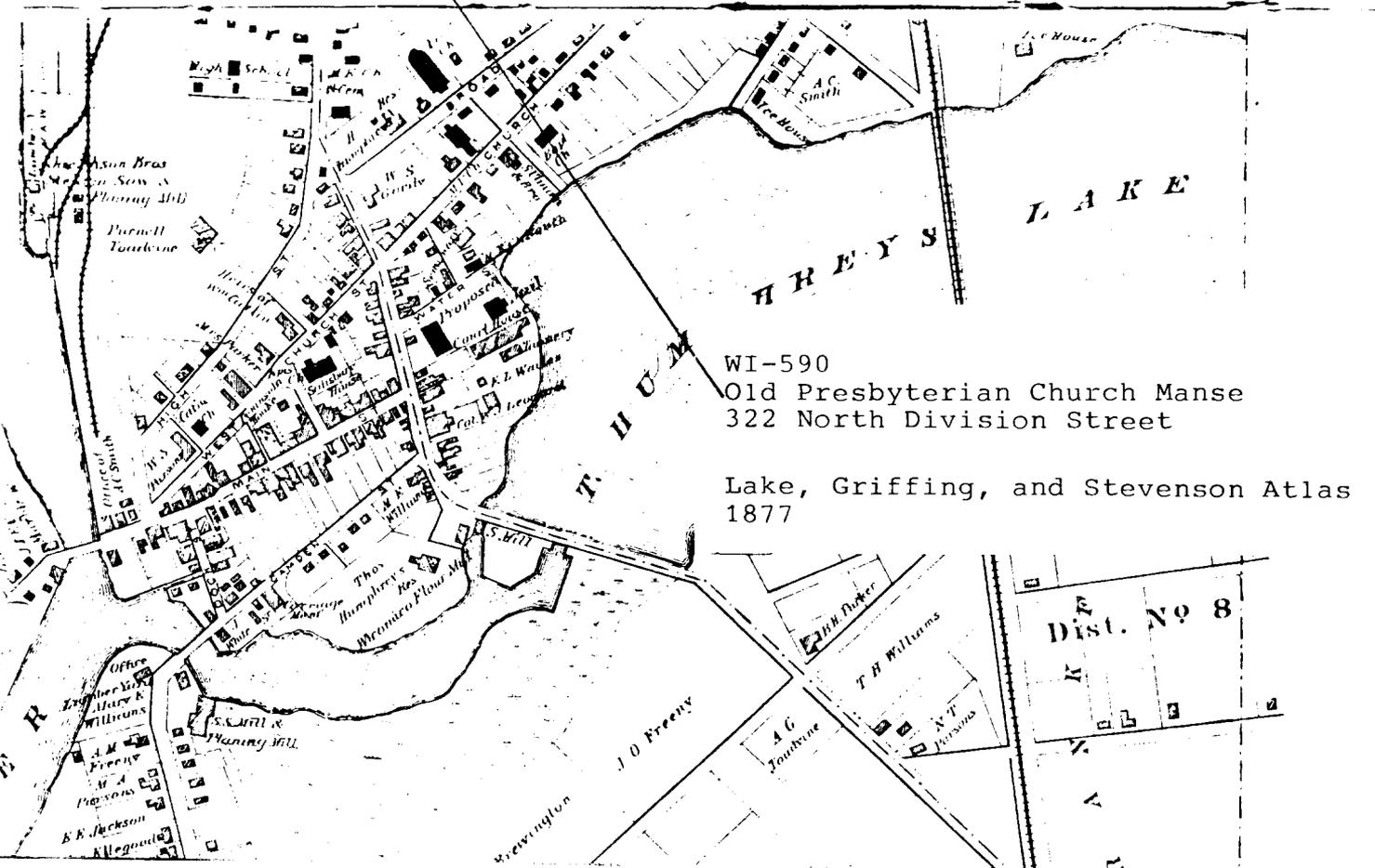
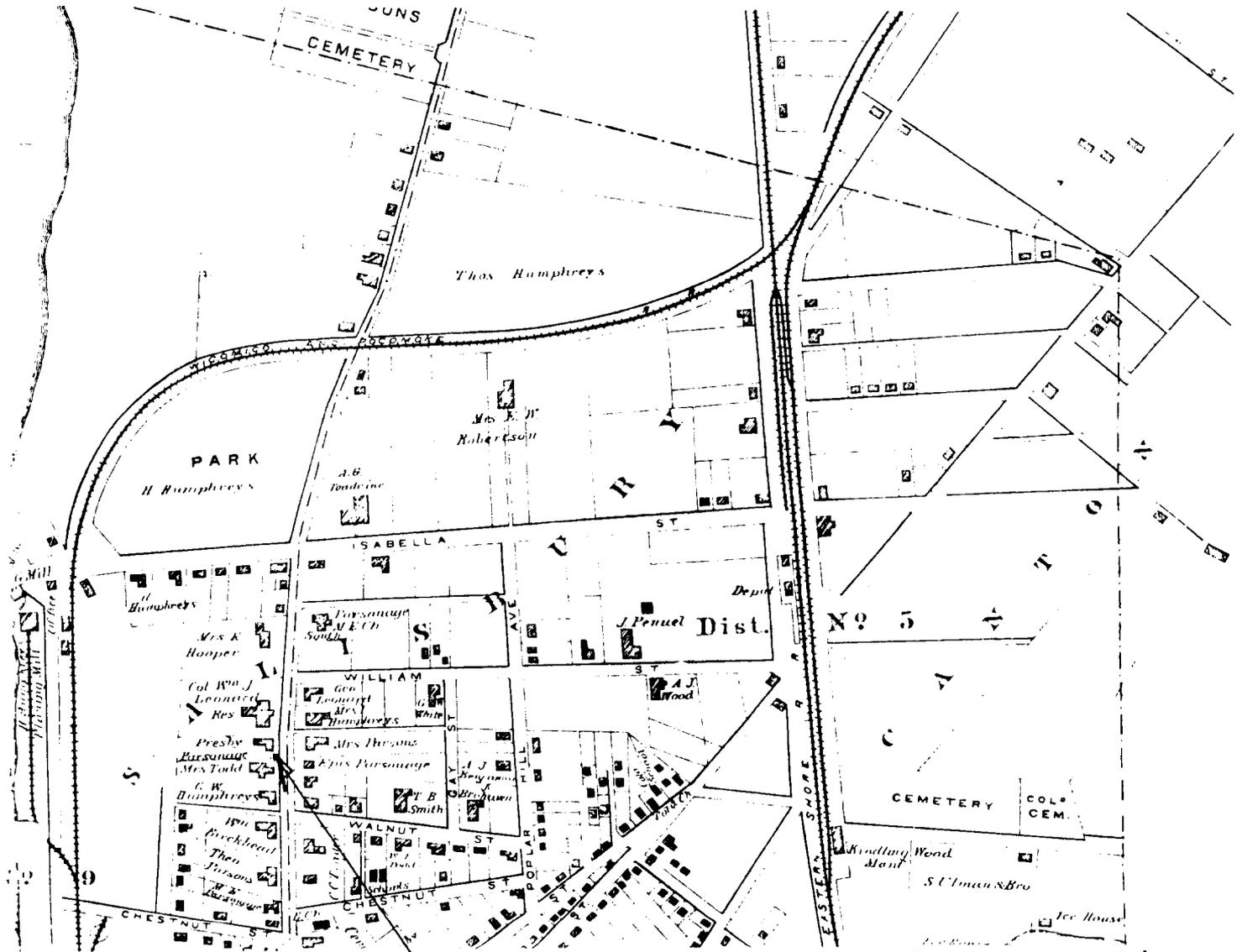
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name/title	Paul B. Touart		
organization	Private Consultant	date	4/5/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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-590  
 Old Presbyterian Church Manse  
 322 North Division Street

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas  
 1877

38-22'30"

4746000m N

4745

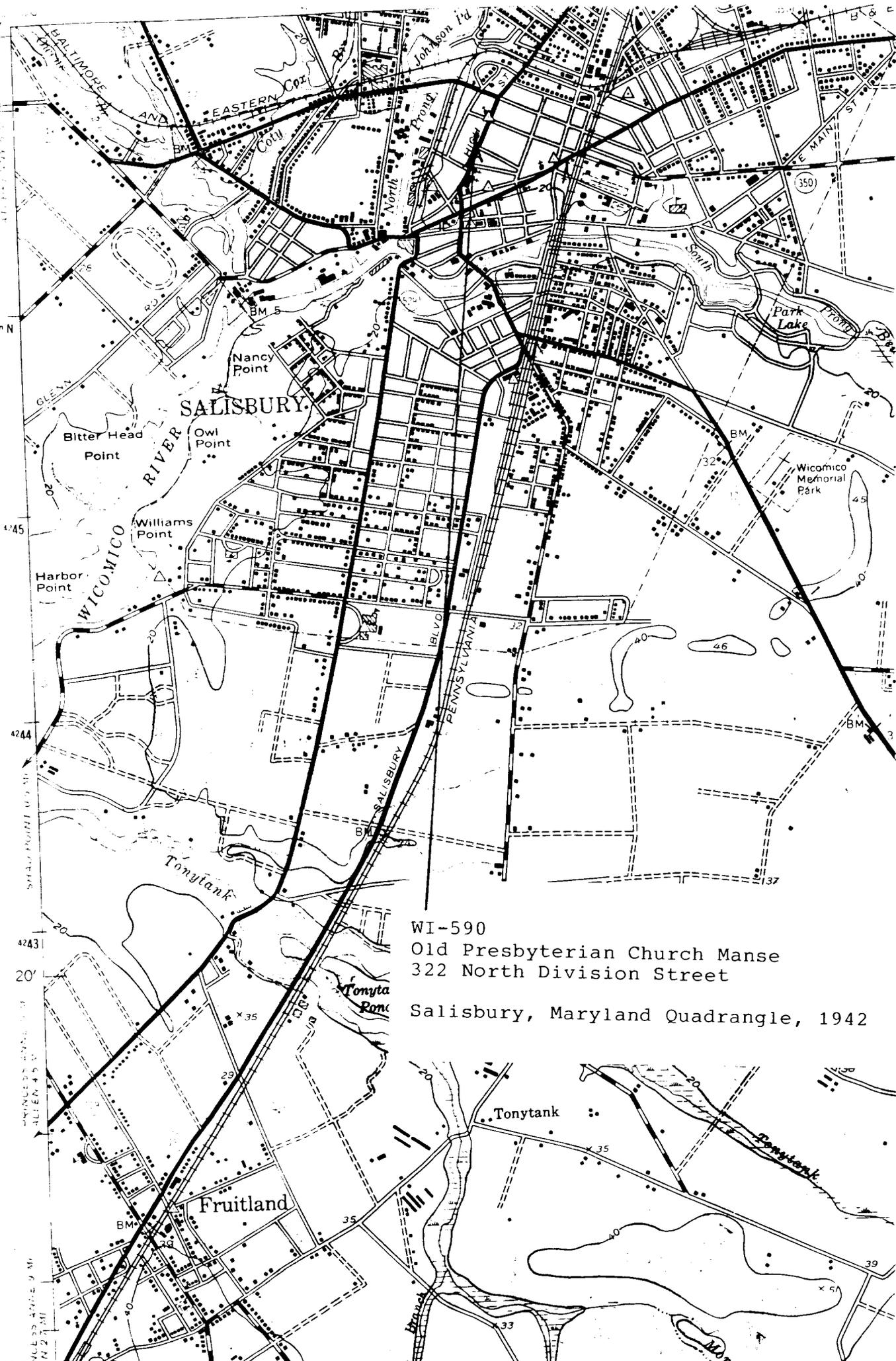
4244

4243

20'

UNCLASIFIED  
ALLEN 45 V

UNCLASIFIED  
N 21 MI



WI-590  
 Old Presbyterian Church Manse  
 322 North Division Street  
 Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle, 1942



WI-590

Old Nicomico PRESBYTERIAN Church House  
SALISBURY, NICOMICO Co., MD.

EAST ELEVATION

9/01, PAUL TOWARD, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. JMD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 04 1