WI-599
Hooper S. Miles House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1923

The Hooper S. Miles house is a prominent Colonial Revival, Flemish bond brick dwelling that enhances the corner of Park Avenue and West Isabella Street in the Newtown Historic District. The solidly built brick dwelling was designed and crafted on a high level with elaborate exterior and interior finishes. Erected around 1923, the center hall plan dwelling has a formal entrance marked by a well-detailed portico. Framing the entrance are leaded glass sidelights and a leaded glass transom. To each side of the front entrance are tripartite windows enhanced with an arched brick decoration. The steeply pitched gable roof is distinctive as well with its series of arched dormers, slate covering, and Wall-of-Troy bed molding that enriches the boxed cornice. The double-pile main block includes single-story side wings that house an enclosed porch on the south and a library to the north. One of the most elaborate interior finishes is the turned baluster staircase, which rises in several flights with ramped handrails. Joining the house on the corner lot is a finely built Flemish bond brick garage distinctive for its Colonial Revival gambrel roof.

Attorney Hooper S. Miles and his wife Frances W. Miles financed construction of this Flemish bond brick dwelling around 1923 when her mother, Georgia F. Williams, died and left the lion share of her estate to her daughter and son-in-law. Georgia F. Williams was the widow of L. Ernest Williams, who operated a large lumber and woodworking concern located on Salisbury's waterfront around the turn of the twentieth century. Hooper S. Miles was a senior partner in the firm of Miles, Bailey & Williams, and he held another prominent position as an executive vice-president of the Baltimore National Bank. Hooper and Frances Miles sold the Park Avenue house in 1938 after they had relocated to Baltimore. The house and lot were transferred to S. Houston Todd, in whose hands the property remained until 1962. Elizabeth Todd Helfrich and her husband Thomas sold her parents home to J. Hooper and Shirley H.

Parrott, who retained ownership for nearly thirty years. The current owner acquired the corner property in 1991.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-599

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic: Hooper S. Miles House

other: Houston Todd House

2. Location

street and number: 406 Park Avenue — __ not for publication

city, town: Salisbury — vicinity

county: Wicomico

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

name: M. Wilson Snow, Trustee

street and number: 985 University Avenue, Suite 22 — telephone

city, town: Los Gatos — state: California — zip code: 25032-7639

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Wicomico County Clerk of Court — liber: 1460 — folio: 730

city, town: Salisbury — tax map: 106 — tax parcel: 978 — tax ID number: 9-054308

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-599

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 Hooper S. Miles house, also known historically as the Houston Todd house, is located at 406 Park Avenue, a prominent corner lot on the southwest corner of the intersection of Park Avenue and West Isabella Street in the Newtown Historic District of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, Colonial Revival, center hall plan brick house faces east with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis. Joining the house on the lot is a story-and-a-half gambrel roofed brick garage. The lot is also distinguished by an iron fence.

Dating around 1926, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay, double-pile main block is supported on a fully excavated brick cellar of seven-course common bond walls. Above grade the brick pattern changes to Flemish bond. The Flemish bond walls rise to steeply pitched gable roof sheathed in slate. Attached to each end of the house are single-story wings erected at the same time as the main block.

The east (main) façade is a symmetrical three-bay elevation with a center entrance enhanced by a neoclassical portico. Tuscan columns support a gable roof trimmed with bold modillion blocks. The eight-panel front door is framed by a leaded glass arched transom and leaded glass sidelights. To each side of the front door is a half round fluted pilaster. The entrance is flanked to each side by tripartite windows. An eight-over-eight center window is flanked by narrow four-over-four sash windows. The first floor windows are also enhanced with decorative brickwork. Jack arches span the window openings, and a half-circle arch is included in the brickwork over the center sash. The first floor windows are flanked by paneled shutters that feature an urn-shaped cut-out in the top panel. The second floor is lighted by eight-over-eight sash windows with jack arches spanning the openings. Finishing the base of the roof is a box cornice which has a built-in gutter. The cornice is enriched with a Wall-of-Troy bed molding. Fixed atop the slate roof are three segmental arched dormers fitted with casement type windows. The sides of the dormers, like the roof, are covered in slate.

The north gable end is partially covered by a single-story hip roofed wing, also erected in Flemish bond. The wing is two-bays across by one room deep, and the rooms are lighted by eight-over-eight sash windows. The wing covers the first floor, whereas an exterior/interior brick stack rises in the center of the gable end with eight-over-eight sash second floor windows to each side. The window openings are spanned by a jack arch. Piercing the gable end are a pair of quarter round window openings, one to each side of the brick stack. The chimney is finished at its top with a corbelled cap.

The south gable end is covered on the first floor by an enclosed porch featuring a flat roof and a rooftop balustrade. The porch features large window openings on each side as well as a fully glazed door on its east end. The second floor of the main block has fully glazed door openings that provide access to the porch roof. The third floor has quarter round attic windows to either side of the exterior/interior brick chimney.

The west (rear) façade has a center door accented with a neoclassical pediment, and large tripartite windows light the first floor rooms. The tripartite window openings are spanned by jack arches. The rear wall surface also features a large rear dormer executed in brick, which serves as an enclosure for the attic staircase. Located to each side of brick gable are round roofed dormers fitted with casement style windows.

The interior is divided by a wide center hall with a large parlor to the south and dining room and kitchen to the north. The center hall features an elaborate Colonial Revival staircase featuring a spiral end to the turned baluster railing. The stringer to the staircase features a scroll decoration, and the area beneath the stringer is finished with raised panels. As the stair rises to the second floor landing, the handrail ramps before each post. The room is fitted with intricate cornice and baseboard moldings.

A generous double width door opening provides access to the parlor on the south side of the center hall. Dominating the fireplace wall is a neoclassical mantel featuring paired colonettes to each side of the firebox. The colonettes rise to a decorated frieze with pairs of end block embellished with carved oval medallions. The center

tablet features intricate carving as well with a torch and vine design. The broken profile mantel shelf is enriched with a dentil bed molding. The parlor is also defined by panel moldings which outline large rectangular blocks on each wall. Stretching around the perimeter of the roof are elaborate cornice and baseboard moldings. The dining room, located on the north side of the hall, is a smaller space with a less elaborate mantel. The dining room mantel has panels which enhance the pilasters and frieze. A narrow board oak floor enhances the dining room and extends into the adjacent library, housed in the north wing. A row of bookshelves defines one wall. The library is also enhanced with a plaster cornice molding.

Located west of the library is a small butler's pantry converted to a breakfast room by the current owner. The pantry is entered through a swinging five-panel door, and the space is fitted with a built-in storage cabinet. A tiled bathroom is located off the pantry.

The kitchen, located behind the dining room and adjacent to the pantry, has been reworked to serve modern needs. A narrow service stair rises in the south end of the room as well as providing access to the full cellar.

The second floor is divided into four principal bedrooms with two bathrooms featuring tiled floors and walls as well as early twentieth century fixtures. Five-panel doors framed by molded surrounds open into the various bedrooms. Most of the original brass hardware remains intact on the bedroom doors. The third floor is finished as well with a range of bedrooms around a centrally located bathroom.

The only early twentieth century outbuilding is a story-and-a-half Flemish bond garage that stands on the southwest corner of the lot. The double garage bay brick structure to covered by a gambrel roof sheathed in slate. The east side of the roof is defined by a shed roofed dormer featuring casement windows. The north gable end of the garage is distinguished by a half-round window that lights the second floor.

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-599

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.)

The Hooper S. Miles house is a prominent Colonial Revival, Flemish bond brick dwelling that enhances the corner of Park Avenue and West Isabella Street in the Newtown Historic District. The solidly built brick dwelling was designed and built on a high level with elaborate exterior and interior finishes. Erected around 1923, the center hall plan dwelling has a formal entrance marked by a well-detailed portico. Framing the entrance are leaded glass sidelights and an arched, leaded glass transom. To each side of the front entrance are tripartite windows enhanced with an arched brick decoration. The steeply pitched gable roof is distinctive as well with its series of arched dormers, slate covering, and Wall-of-Troy bed molding that enriches the cornice. The double-pile main block includes single-story side wings that house an enclosed porch on the south and a library to the north. One of the most elaborate interior features is the turned baluster staircase, which rises in several flights to a finished attic. Joining the house on the corner lot is a finely built Flemish bond brick garage distinctive for its Colonial Revival gambrel roof.

Attorney Hooper S. Miles and his wife Frances W. Miles financed construction of this Flemish bond brick dwelling around 1923 when her mother, Georgia F. Williams, died and left the lion share of her estate to her daughter and son-in-law.[1] Georgia F. Williams was the widow of L. Ernest Williams, who operated a large lumber and woodworking concern located on Salisbury's riverfront around the turn of the century. Hooper S. Miles was a senior partner in the firm of Miles, Bailey & Williams, and he held another prominent position as an executive vice-president of the Baltimore National Bank.[2] Hooper and Frances Miles sold the 406 Park Avenue house in 1938 after they had relocated to Baltimore.[3] The house and lot were transferred to S. Houston Todd, in whose hands the property remained until 1962.[4] Elizabeth Todd Helfrich and her husband Thomas sold her parents home to J. Hooper and Shirley H. Parrott, who retained ownership for nearly thirty years.[5] The current owner acquired the Hooper S. Miles house in 1991.[6]

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[1] Wicomico County Will Book, JWD 1/468, 13 July 1923.
[2] *Who's Who in Maryland*, 1939, Chicago: The A. N. Marquis Co., p. 602.
[3] Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 213/203, 4 November 1938.
[4] Wicomico County Estate, No. 5546, opened 29 October 1962.
[5] Wicomico County Land Records, JWTS 580/87, 6 March 1964; 1264/436, 13 September 1991.
[6] Wicomico County Land Record, 1264/436, 13 September 1991.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-599

Name Hooper S. Miles House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

WI-599
Hooper S. Miles House
406 Park Avenue
Salisbury, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 106, Parcel 978

1460/730	M. Wilson Snow
	to
10/6/1995	M. Wilson Snow, Trustee
1264/436	J. Hooper Parrott Shirley H. Parrott
	to
9/13/1991	M. Wilson Snow ½ interest Audrey L. Snow ½ interest
JWTS 580/87	Elizabeth Todd Helfrich Thomas C. Helfrich
	to
3/6/1964	J. Hooper Parrott Shirley H. Parrott

WI-599
Hooper S. Miles House
406 Park Avenue
Salisbury, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Estate No. 5546 — Last Will and Testament of S. Houston Todd (died 10/21/1962)

to

Died Intestate
Estate opened 10/29/1962 — Elizabeth Todd Helfrich

IDT 213/203 — Hooper S. Miles, et ux. Frances W. Miles, of Baltimore City

to

11/4/1938 — S. Houston Todd

JCK 144/319 — Margie E. Dennis

to

6/29/1926 — Hooper S. Miles
Frances W. Miles

JCK 144/318

Frances W. Miles
Hooper S. Miles

to

6/29/1926

Margie E. Dennis

Will Book
JWD 1/468

Last Will and Testament of Georgia F. Williams, who with Frances W. Miles were the sole heirs of L. Ernest Williams

son-in-law Hooper S. Miles
to Hooper S. Miles $2,000, another clause leaves $9,000 to Hooper S. Miles in trust, residue of estate to daughter Francis W. Miles

JTT 17/241

James E. Ellegood

to

1/9/1896

L. Ernest Williams

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Personal interview with William Gibbons, relative of present owner, M. Wilson Snow, 6/27/01.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, various issues, microfilm at the Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture.
Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.
Who's Who in Maryland, 1939, Chicago: The A. N. Marquis Co.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	28,380 square feet		
Acreage of historical setting	28,380 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.

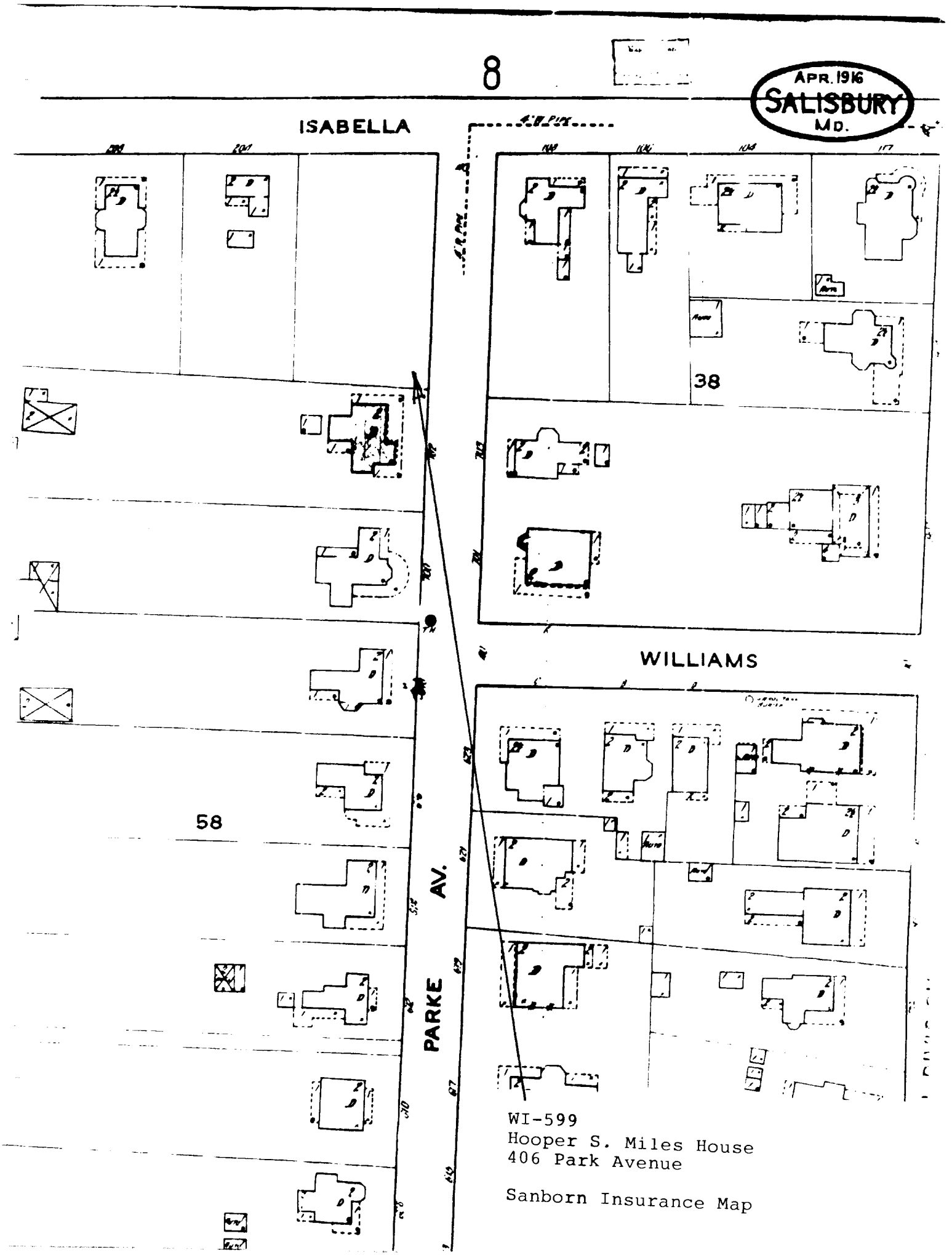
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart		
organization	Private Consultant	date	6/27/2001
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.

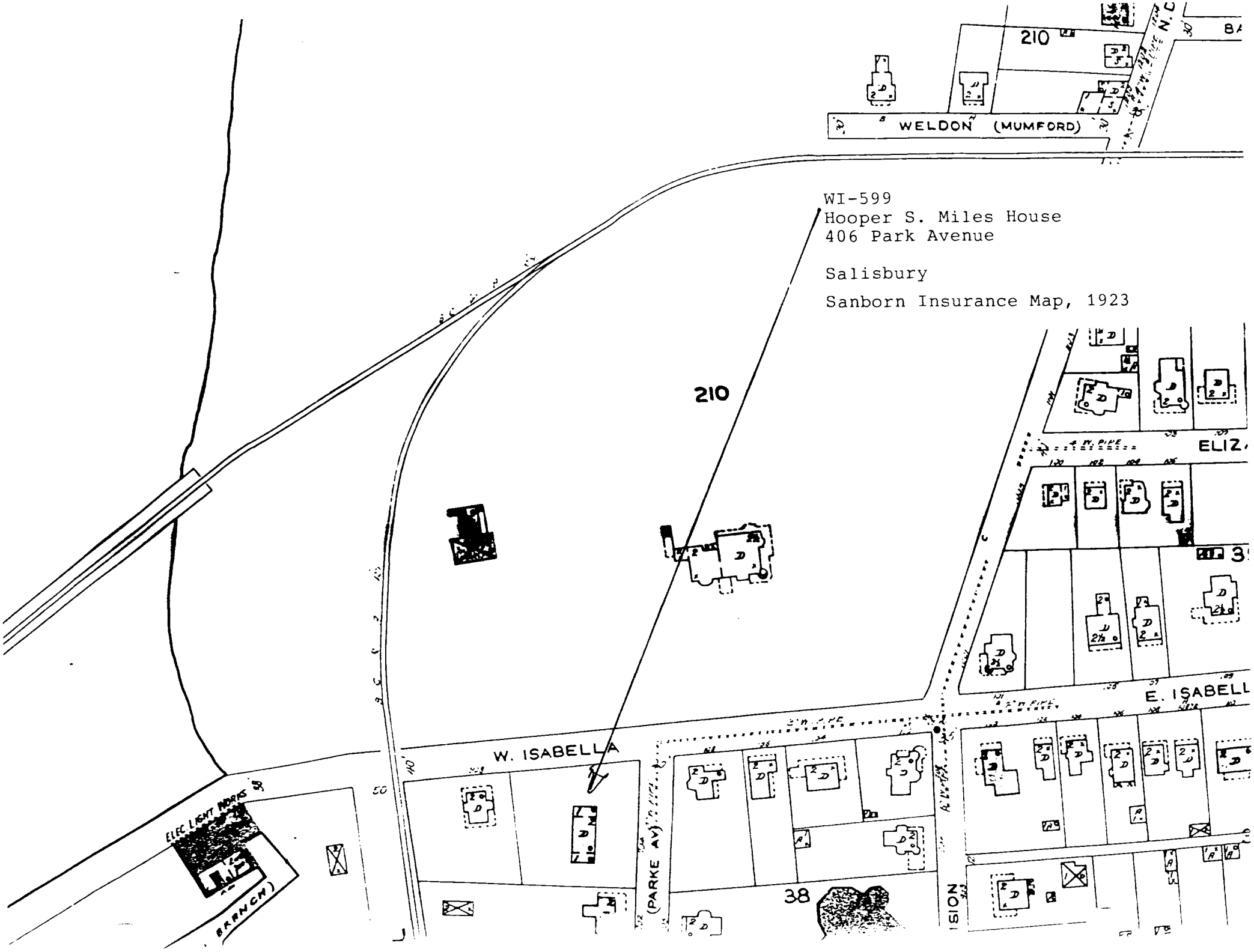
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

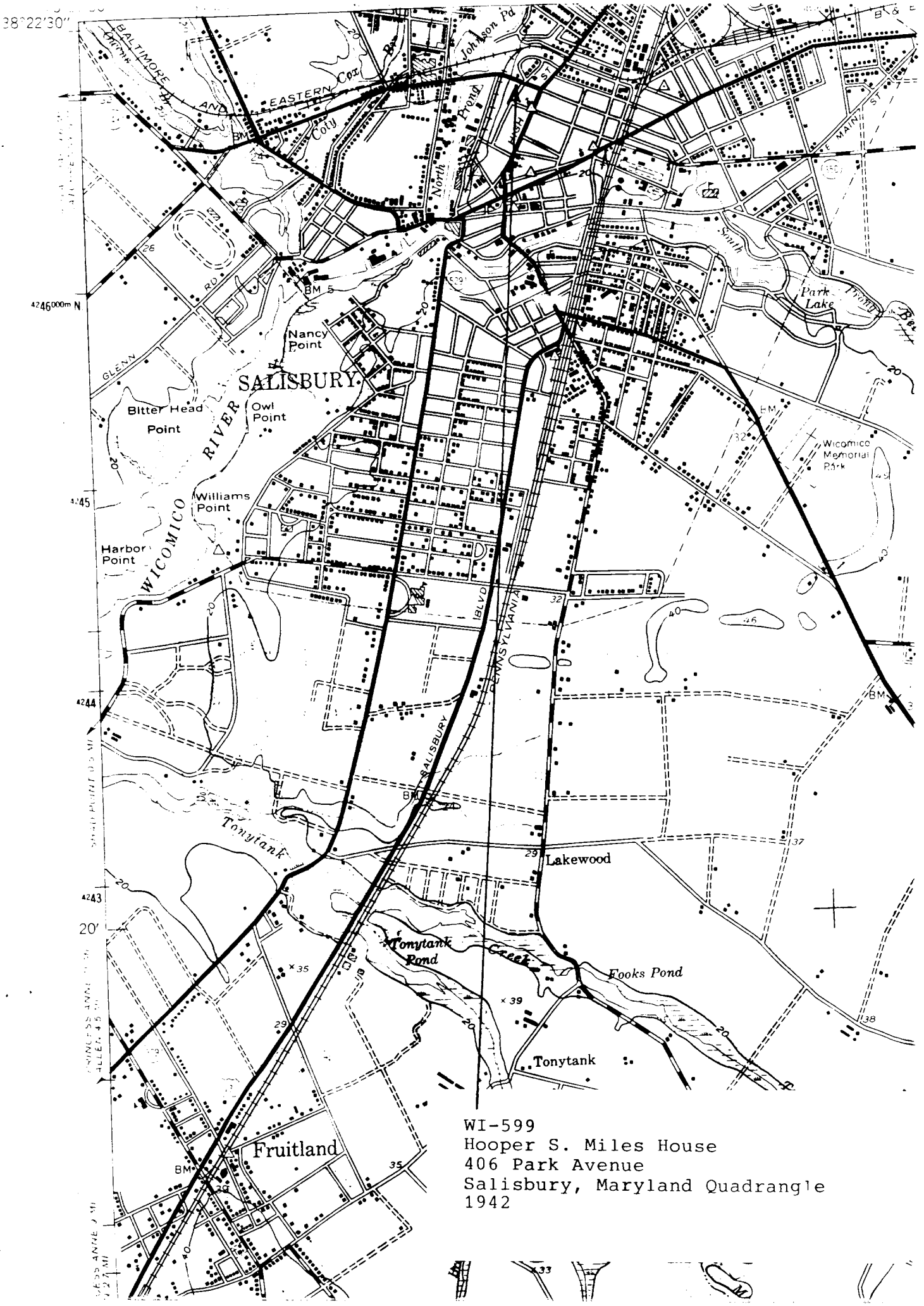
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



WI-599
Hooper S. Miles House
406 Park Avenue

Sanborn Insurance Map


WI-599
Hooper S. Miles House
406 Park Avenue
Salisbury
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1923
210
WELDON (MUMFORD)
210
W. ISABELLA
E. ISABELL
ELIZ
(PARKE AV)
38
ELEC. LIGHT WORKS
BRANCH



WI-599
Hooper S. Miles House
406 Park Avenue
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

WI-599
HOOPER S. MILES HOUSE
SALISBURY, WICOMICO COUNTY, MD.
NORTHEAST ELEVATION
7/01, PAUL TOMARI, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEF. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
1 OF 5

WI-599

Hooper S. Miles House

Salisbury, Wicomico Co., Md.

EAST ELEVATION

7/01, Paul Touart, Photographer

Neg. / Md. Historical Trust

2 of 5

W1-599

Hooper S. Miles House

Salisbury, Wicomico Co., Md.

Northwest Elevation

7/01, Paul Touaré, Photographer

Neg. / Md. Historical Trust

3 of 5

WI-599
HOOPER & MILLER HOUSE
SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.
GARAGE - NORTHEAST ELEVATION
7/01, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
4 OF 5

WI-599
HOOPER S. MILES HOUSE
SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.
EAST ELEVATION
7/01, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST
5 OF 5