WI-642 c. 1906 and later
A. F. Benjamin House
Salisbury
Private

The A. F. Benjamin house on Park Avenue provides an alternative approach to the typical two-and-a-half story, three-bay, center hall plan Colonial Revival design found in the Newtown Historic District. Initially erected around 1906, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay main block is dominated by a gable-front principal elevation enhanced with a bold modillion block cornice that encloses the front pediment and trims the perimeter of the roof. The symmetrical three-bay Park Avenue elevation also incorporates an over-sized Palladian or Venetian style window within the pediment. The street façade is also enriched with a around arched window on the second floor. Both of these window openings have pointed arch muntins incorporated in their upper sash. While the balanced three-bay fenestration characterizes the street façade, the sides are defined by uneven, asymmetrical elevations more common to the Victorian approach of the nineteenth century. Each side is extended by a variety of bay windows and gables.

Listed as a lumber merchant in the 1907 Salisbury City directory, Alan F. Benjamin is designated at this location on a plat issued in 1906 when the lot was conveyed from Isabella S. Leonard to Helen Leonard Benjamin. The Sanborn Insurance maps indicate the lot was unimproved through 1904 when the 1899 was updated. By the time the 1911 map was issued the Benjamin house was present, although the outline of the dwelling indicates it was initially built in a slight different form with a porch stretching around the northwest corner. When the 1916 map was printed the house had been enlarged to its present form.

WI-642

The Park Avenue house remained in the hands of Alan F. and Helen Leonard Benjamin until 1932 when it was transferred within the family to Fay Leonard Jackson. Residents of Baltimore City, Fay Leonard Jackson and her husband Everett E. Jackson, sold the house and lot to Lloyd and Nettie H. Chandler, in whose family the property remained for nearly fifty years.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-642

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic: A. F. Benjamin House

other: Benjamin-Chandler House

2. Location

street and number: 323 Park Avenue — __ not for publication

city, town: Salisbury — vicinity

county: Wicomico

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

name: Ryan G. and Yvonne J. Lynch

street and number: 323 Park Avenue — telephone

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

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court — liber 1584 — folio 119

city, town: Salisbury — tax map 107 — tax parcel 968 — tax ID number 9-042547

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-642

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 A. F. Benjamin house, also known as the Benjamin-Chandler house, stands at 323 Park Avenue in the Newtown Historic District of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-and-a-half story, Colonial Revival frame house rests on a partially excavated brick foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched gable-front roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story service wing. The house faces west with the principal gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built around 1906, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay by two-bay main block has a bold gable-front elevation with a center entrance and flanking twelve-over-one sash windows. The four-panel front door is framed by a well detailed surround incorporating a seven-light transom and five-pane sidelights. The entrance surround also includes fluted pilasters to each side of the door and a dentiled bed molding that extends across the cornice. Wooden louvered shutters original to the house flank the window openings. The entire first floor is sheltered by a hip roofed porch, which has tapered fluted posts and a rectangular baluster handrail. The second story is defined by a round arched window in the center bay, which has pointed arch muntins in the upper sash and a single of pane of glass in the lower sash. To each side are twelve-over-one sash windows flanked by louvered shutters. The gable end of the house is treated with a bold modillion block cornice. Piercing the tympanum is a large Palladian or Venetian style window featuring pointed arch muntins within the upper sash.

The north side of the main block is extended by a single-story bay window off the northwest bay. The bay window is fitted with six-over-one sash windows. The entire wall surface is defined by an asymmetrical fenestration with a side entrance sheltered by a single-bay gable roofed stoop. The house is lighted by nine-over-one sash windows on the first and second stories. Extending from the back of the main block is a two-story service wing which has a cross gable defining the north roof slope. The edge of the roof is finished with the bold modillion block cornice, and the tympanum of the cross gable is pierced by a nine-over-one sash window.

The south side of the main block is defined by an asymmetrical fenestration with a bay window featured in the southwest bay. The bay window is supported on a bracketed base and is covered by a hip roof. The south face of the bay window is pierced by a nine-over-one center sash and six-over-one flanking sash. Above the bay window is a twelve-over-one sash window. Extending from the south side is a two-story lateral wing enlarged farther by a two-story pavilion. Attached to the south side of the service wing is an enclosed two-story porch. The edges of the roof on each section are trimmed with bold block cornices.

The house is joined on the lot by a single-story gable roofed frame garage sheathed with plain weatherboards and covered by a medium pitched gable roof. The garage is lighted by six-over-six sash windows. The interior of the house is partially divided into apartments.

8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-642

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 A. F. Benjamin house on Park Avenue provides an alternative approach to the typical two-and-a-half story, three-bay, center hall plan Colonial Revival designs found in the Newtown Historic District. Initially erected around 1906, the two-and-a-half story, three-bay main block is dominated by a gable-front principal elevation enhanced with a bold modillion block cornice that encloses the front pediment and trims the perimeter of the roof. The symmetrical three-bay Park Avenue elevation also incorporates an over-sized Palladian or Venetian style window within the pediment. The street façade is also enriched with a round arched window on the second floor. Both of these window openings have pointed arch muntins incorporated in their upper sash. While the balanced three-bay fenestration characterizes the street façade, the sides are defined by uneven asymmetrical features common to the early twentieth century. Each side is extended by a variety of bay windows and gables.

Listed as a lumber merchant in the 1907 Salisbury City directory, Alan F. Benjamin is designated at this location on a plat of the lot issued in 1906 when the lot was conveyed from Isabella S. Leonard to Helen Leonard Benjamin.[1] The Sanborn Insurance maps indicate that the lot was unimproved at the time the 1904 map was drawn, but by the time the maps were updated for the 1911 issue the Benjamin house was present. When the 1916 map was printed the house had been enlarged.

The Park Avenue house remained in the hands of Alan F. and Helen Leonard Benjamin until 1932 when it was transferred within the family to Fay Leonard Jackson.[2] A resident of Baltimore City, Fay Leonard Jackson and her husband Everett E. Jackson, sold the house and lot to Lloyd and Nettie H. Chandler, in whose family the property remained for nearly fifty years.

[1] Wicomico County Land Record, 49/346, 16 May 1906.
[2] Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 179/291, 15 November 1932.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-642

Name A. F. Benjamin House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

A. F. Benjamin House
323 Park Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 968

1584/119	K. Kirk Kinnamon
	to
1/30/1998	Ryan G. Lynch Yvonne J. Lynch
MSB 1362/551	K. Kirk Kinnamon Pamela T. Kinnamon
	to
3/31/1992	K. Kirk Kinnamon
AJS 1083/737	Rose T. Hailey, of Rockville, Maryland
	to
10/31/1986	K. Kirk Kinnamon

995/87	Tilghman O'Neill
	to
7/28/1983	Rose T. Hailey
882/691	Union Trust Co., Personal Respresentative of Lloyd H. Chandler, of Dade County, Florida
	to
8/29/1977	Tilghman O'Neill Margaret O'Neill
AJS 836/14	Lloyd H. Chandler and Lester G. Chandler, Personal Representatives
	to
4/27/1975	Lloyd H. Chandler Item Two Whereas Nettie H. Chandler departed this life, 5/2/1974, JAH 13/125 Will dated 1/31/1964, probated 5/6/1974
IDT 196/546	Fay Leonard Jackson Everett E. Jackson, City of Baltimore
	to
8/10/1936	Lloyd Chandler Nettie H. Chandler

IDT 179/291	Helen Leonard Benjamin Alan F. Benjamin
	to
11/15/1932	Fay Leonard Jackson
JCK 140/485	L. Atwood Bennett
	to
9/15/1925	Helen Leonard Benjamin Whereas by a Decree of Circuit Court passed 11/7/1924 authorized to sell property at auction, bought by Helen Leonard Benjamin for $8700 Conveyed to Helen Leonard Benjamin by two deeds: 1. from Isabella S. Leonard, et al. 5/16/1906, EAT 49/346 2. from William Wirt Leonard, et al. 6/29/1920, JCK 121/146
EAT 49/346	Isabella S. Leonard, et al.
	to
5/16/1906	Helen L. Benjamin $1520 plat marked A. F. Benjamin

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. WI-642

Sanborn Insurance Maps, various issues, microfilm at the Nabb Research Center for History and Culture.
Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	9,940 square feet		
Acreage of historical setting	9,940 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, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	11/21/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

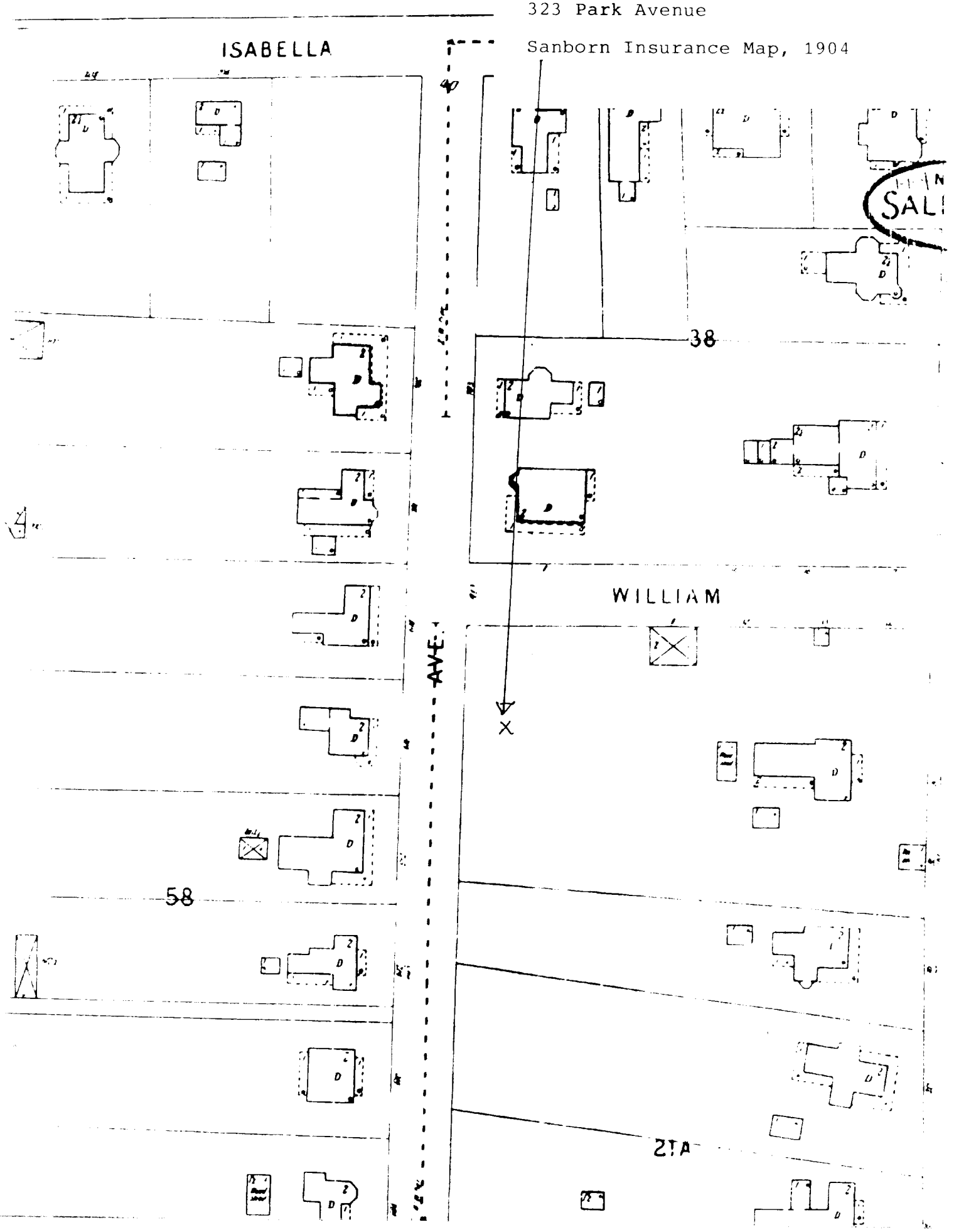
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

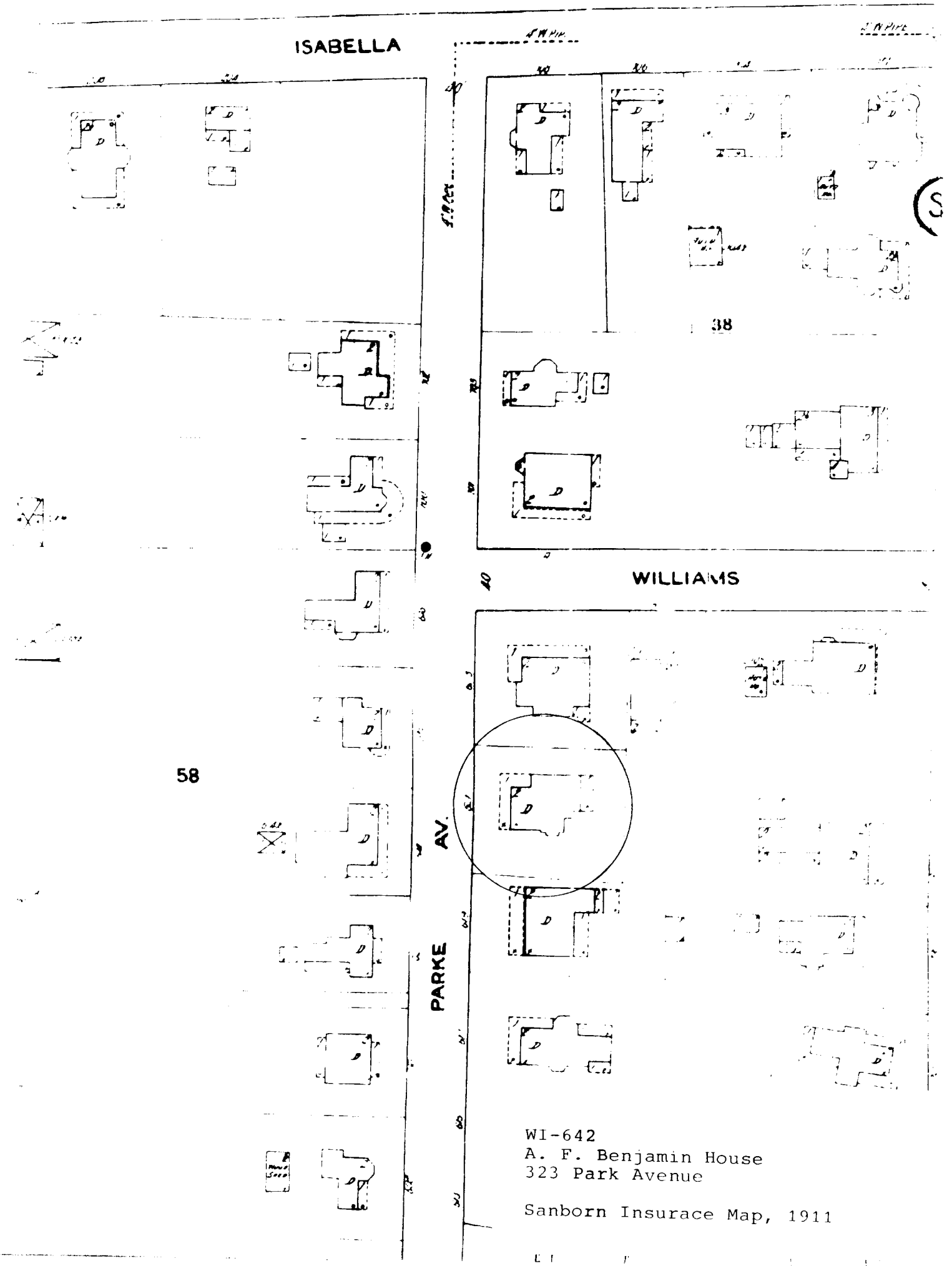
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

WI-642
A. F. Benjamin House
323 Park Avenue

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1904



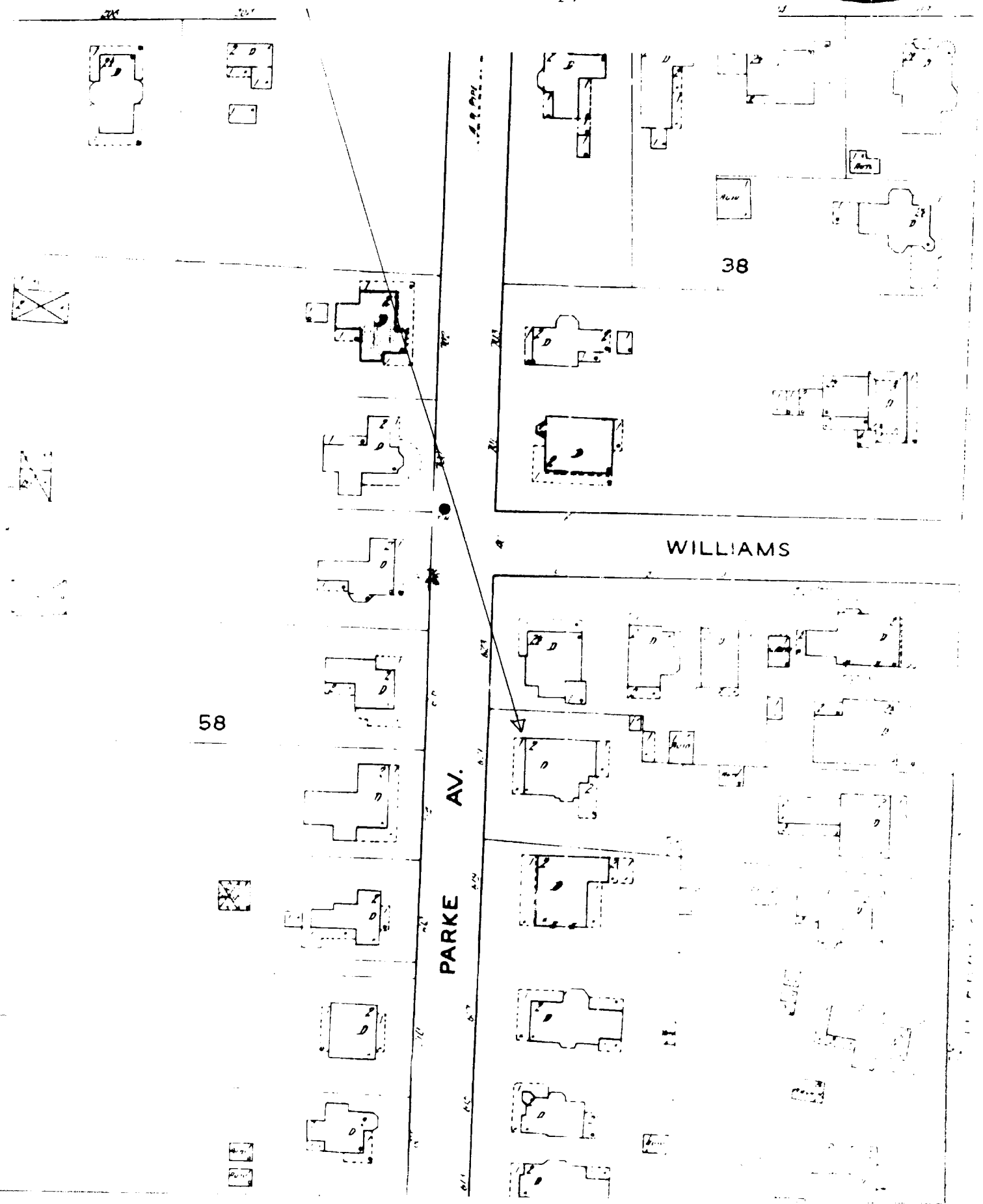


WI-642
A. F. Benjamin House
323 Park Avenue

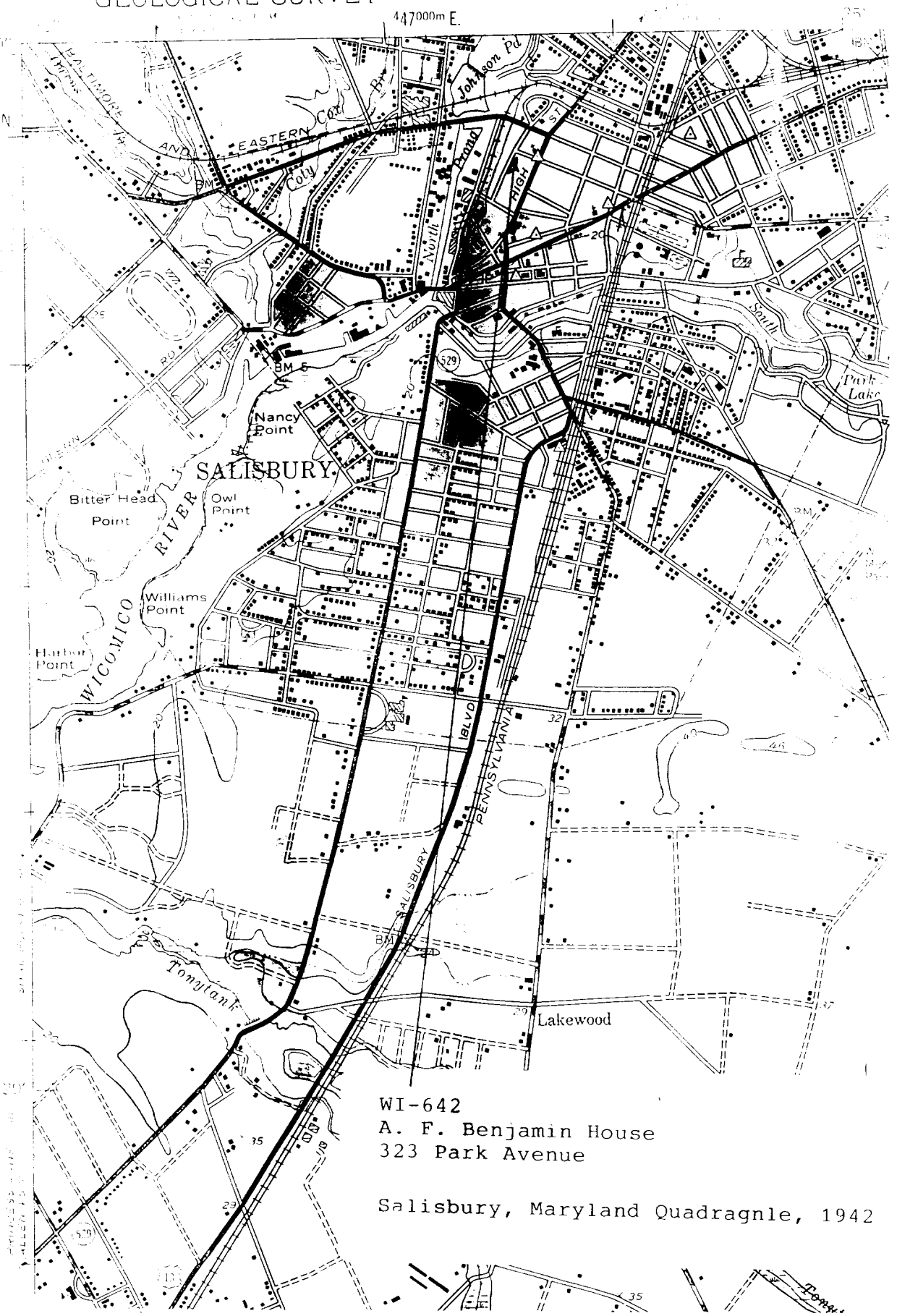
Sanborn Insurace Map, 1911

WI-642
A.F. Benjamin House
323 Park Avenue

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1916



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



WI-642
A. F. Benjamin House
323 Park Avenue

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle, 1942

WI-642
ALAN F. BENJAMIN HOUSE
SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.
NORTHWEST ELEVATION
11/01, PAUL TOUART, PHOTOGRAPHER
NEA / MA HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 2

WI-642

ALAN F. BENJAMIN HOUSE

SALISBURY, WICOMICO CO., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

11/01, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEF/MD HISTORICAL TRUST

2 OF 2