

WI-566  
Frank B. Swift House  
Fruitland  
Private

c. 1923

Standing on the east side of North Camden Avenue in Fruitland is a distinctive two-story, tee-shaped dwelling erected in rusticated concrete block. Differing from most buildings in the area, the Frank B. Swift house, also known as the C. Dyson Humphreys house, was crafted in a new material for the early twentieth century. Although by no means the first house of its kind in Wicomico County, the rock-faced block construction consists of neatly laid courses of concrete block made to look like stone. Built in the shape of a tee, the house features a two-story porch of "rock-faced" piers and Tuscan columns. Another mass-produced material, molded tin shingles, was used to sheath the gable ends below the eaves. Originally, tin shingles were used to cover the various roofs as well.

The rock-faced concrete block dwelling was erected by Frank B. Swift around 1923 on "Lot No. 1," a parcel of land that was acquired in his wife Jessie's name the year before. The land was part of the large Clyde estate that had been purchased and subdivided by Marion A. Humphreys and William B. Tilghman, Jr. Within a year the house was offered for sale in The Wicomico News, and the advertisement stated:

*Opportunity to secure modern concrete block house, 7 rooms, bath (roughed in), Pantry and cellar. Four large porches. House has heat, phone, electricity. Good barn and fruit. About three acres good soil. Attractive lawn and shade. Short distance from Salisbury on state road to Princess Anne (Camden Avenue Extended) at Moore's Corner. Attractive price and terms. F. B. Swift, on premises or phone Salisbury 1804-F-21.*

Shortly afterwards, Jessie and Frank Swift sold the concrete block house along with 2.78 acres to Daniel P. and Lida E. Willey, who assumed responsibility for the \$3,000 mortgage. The Willeys held title to the corner house and lot for four months. They transferred ownership to James E. and Emma S. Lowe, who owned the property for six years. In December 1930, the Lowes sold the Swift house and acreage to C. Dyson Humphreys, in whose family the house and lot have remained.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-566

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

historic Frank B. Swift House  
 other C. Dyson Humphreys House

## 2. Location

street and number 201 North Camden Avenue  not for publication  
 city, town Fruitland vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
 county Wicomico

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

name Margaret A. Przybyla  
 street and number 201 North Camden Avenue telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
 city, town Fruitland state MD zip code 21826

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1078 folio 208  
 city, town Salisbury tax map 801 tax parcel 1511 tax ID number 16-017671

## 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	_____ structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<u>1</u> Total
		<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:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b>
			_____

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## 7. Description

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Inventory No. WI-566

### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               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 Frank B. Swift house, also known as the C. Dyson Humphreys house, stands at 201 North Camden Avenue in Fruitland, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, tee-shaped, rusticated concrete block house faces northwest with the principal gable roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis. The house stands on the northeast corner of the intersection of North Camden and Hayward avenues.

Built around 1923, the two-story, rusticated concrete block house is supported on a raised concrete block foundation with an excavated cellar. The concrete blocks walls are laid on the first floor with single courses of standard sized block, whereas the second floor is composed of a more complex coursing with smaller blocks in a repeating pattern. The tee-shaped house is capped by a steeply pitched roof covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, partially enclosed, shed roofed porch.

The northwest (main) elevation is a two-story, gable-front façade with an adjacent two-story porch that fills the southwest corner of the tee-shaped dwelling. The first floor is lighted by a tripartite series of single-pane sash windows. The opening is spanned by a concrete lintel. Two courses above the window lintel the concrete block alternates to the narrower courses. The second floor is lighted by a tripartite series of single-pane sash windows. Piercing the gable end is a tripartite attic window partially fitted with a metal vent. The gable end is sheathed with pressed metal shingles. Trimming the edge of the roof is an extended eave with returns at the base. The adjacent two-story porch is supported by a two-story rusticated block column on the southwest corner. The two-story porch is extended to the south by a single-story section with rusticated concrete block piers that support clustered Tuscan columns. The porch shelters a partially glazed front door, and the opening is spanned by a concrete lintel. The second story has a door opening that provides access to the upper porch. Rising through the center of the house in two locations are interior brick stacks topped by corbelled caps.

The southwest gable end of the main block is defined by a single one-over-one sash window on each floor, and the gable end is sheathed with pressed metal shingles. The eave is extended with a return at the base of the roof. The northeast side features single-pane sash windows spanned by concrete lintels.

The southeast (rear) wall of the main block is largely covered by a two-story porch with rusticated concrete posts on the first floor. The second story shed roof is supported on plain posts.

The interior was not open to view.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-566

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input 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**

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!.)

Standing on the east side of North Camden Avenue in Fruitland is a distinctive two-story, tee-shaped dwelling erected in rusticated concrete block. Differing from most buildings in the area, the Frank B. Swift house, also known as the C.Dyson Humphreys house, was crafted in a new material for the early twentieth century. Although by no means the first house of its kind in Wicomico County, the rock-faced block construction consists of neatly laid courses of concrete blocks made to look like stone. Built in the shape of a tee, the house features a two-story porch of “rock-faced” piers and Tuscan columns. Another mass-produced material, molded tin shingles, was used to sheath the gable ends below the roofline. Originally, tin shingles were used to cover the various roofs as well.

The rusticated concrete block dwelling was erected around 1923 by Frank B. Swift on “Lot No. 1,” which was acquired in his wife’s name the year before.<sup>1</sup> The land was part of the large Clyde estate that had been purchased and subdivided by Marion A. Humphreys and William B. Tilghman, Jr.<sup>2</sup> Within a year the house was offered for sale in *The Wicomico News*, and the advertisement stated:

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Shortly afterwards, Jessie and Frank Swift sold the concrete block house along with 2.78 acres to Daniel P. and Lida E. Willey, who assumed responsibility for the \$3,000 mortgage.<sup>4</sup> The Willeys held title to the corner house and lot for four months. They transferred ownership to James E. and Emma S.

<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 126/324, 8 July 1922.  
<sup>2</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 126/324, Plat of Lot No. 4, William B. Tilghman survey, dated 12 June 1912.  
<sup>3</sup> The Wicomico News,  
<sup>4</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 130/168, 28 May 1924.

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

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Name Frank B. Swift House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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Lowe, who owned the property for six years. In December 1930, the Lowes sold the Swift house and acreage to C. Dyson and Ella F. Humphreys, in whose family the house and lot have remained.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 166/199, 6 December 1930.

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**Maryland Inventory of**  
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Name Frank B. Swift House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

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Frank B. Swift House  
201 North Camden Avenue  
Fruitland, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 801, Parcel 1511

1078/208

James Stanley Przybyla  
Margaret Anne Przybyla

to

7/18/1986

Margaret Anne Przybyla

AJS 978/12

Iris Humphreys Pennewell

to

8/30/1982

James Stanley Przybyla

JWTS 568/380

G. Donald Smith

to

7/8/1963

Ula O. Pennewell  
Iris Humphreys Pennewell

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

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Name Frank B. Swift House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 3

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JWTS 568/378

Iris H. Pennewell  
Ula O. Pennewell

to

7/8/1963

G. Donald Smith  
the said Ella F. Humphreys having heretofore departed this life,  
whereupon the said Iris H. Pennewell became siezed and possessed

IDT 168/297

Laura L. Wailes

to

5/5/1931

Ella F. Humphreys  
Iris H. Pennewell  
...the grantees paying a balance of three thousand dollars owing on  
a mortgage from Francis B. Swift and wife to Hershel V. Maddox,  
dated 1/15/1923, JCK 129/205, and also a mortgage from C. Dyson  
Humphreys and Ella F. Humphreys to Harry C. Humphreys and  
Mable B. Humphreys \$2,000

IDT 168/298

C. Dyson Humphreys  
Ella F. Humphreys

to

5/5/1931

Laura L. Wailes

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

Inventory No. WI-566

Name Frank B. Swift House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 4

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IDT 166/199

James E. Lowe, Jr., et al. Grace B. Lowe and  
Larmar Corporation

to

12/6/1930

C. Dyson Humphreys  
Ella F. Humphreys  
...assuming a debt of \$3,000

IDT 164/597

Emma S. Lowe, widow

to

10/11/1930

James E. Lowe, Jr. and Grace B. Lowe  
Payment of balance of a mortgage for \$3,000

JCK 136/54

Daniel P. Willey

to

9/11/1924

James E. Lowe and Emma S. Lowe  
\$100 and the assumption of the balance of \$3,000 due on a  
mortgage for \$4,000 to Herschell V. Maddox, dated 1/15/1923,  
JCK 129/205, 2.784 acres....being the same land designated on a  
plat mad by P. S. Shockley, dated 7/6/1922, for William B.  
Tilghman and being Lot No. 1 on said plat, JCK 126/324

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

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Name Frank B. Swift House  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 5

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JCK 130/168

Jessie B. Swift and Frank B. Swift, her husband

to

5/28/1924

Daniel P. Willey and Lida P. Willey

JCK 126/324

Sydney T. Brown and Maria J. Brown

to

7/8/1922

Jessie B. Swift  
....assumption of a mortgage for \$1400 to Walter B. Miller,  
dated 11/12/1915, EAT 99/128

EAT 81/239

William B. Tilghman, Jr.

to

11/6/1912

Sydney T. Brown  
\$1600, 4.127 acres, EAT 80/532, the said Marion Humphreys  
conveyed his undivided ½ interest to said William B. Tilghman,  
Jr., 4/16/1912, EAT 80/150

EAT 77/310

Thomas Clyde

to

1/8/1912

Marion A. Humphreys  
William B. Tilghman, Jr.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. WI-566

*The Wicomico News*, various issues, Wicomico County Free Library.  
Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 19,307 acres  
Acreage of historical setting 19,307 acres  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

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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, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	8/7/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

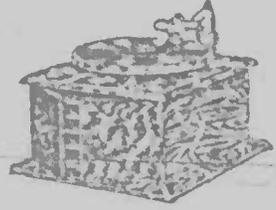
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

**HAZARDOUS CALLING.**  
 Trump A: "Things ain't what dey was."  
 Trump B: "Nah! Here lately a feller can't hardly ask for work for fear of getting it."

# All Victrolas? Yes Indeed!



Whether you have much money or little there is a Genuine Victrola at a price you can afford to pay.

Come in and hear each of these instruments and take

your choice.

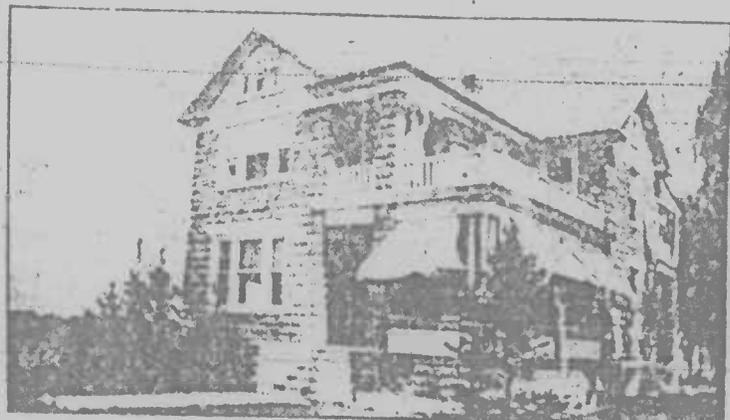
"Look Under the Lid"

## NATHAN'S

Church Street

SALISBURY, MARYLAND

# FOR SALE



Opportunity to secure modern concrete block house, 7 rooms, bath (roughed in), pantry and cellar. Four large porches. House has heat, phone and electricity. Good barn and fruit. About three acres good soil. Attractive lawn and shade. Short distance from Salisbury on state road to Princess Anne (Camden Avenue extended) at Moore's Corner. Attractive price and terms. F. B. SWIFT, on premises or phone Salisbury 1804-F-21.

650

Other high-class attractions have also been secured by the management which include "The Snake of Araby" on the 19th and "The Fatal Marriage" on the 26th and 27th.

"In The Days of Buffalo Bill" is a spectacular chronicle of events and adventures in the life of America's greatest scout and Art Acord is the actor who essays the role of the popular hero.

The tale is woven around the construction of the original iron trail that connected the East with the West—the Union Pacific Railroad—in the time during and just after the Civil War. Over one hundred and fifty characters from history are said to be included in the progress of the story, and this may be substantiated by the fact that the initial episodes include more such noted figures than can be enumerated here.

The principal of these is, of course, William F. Cody, later known as "Buffalo Bill," who was at that time a noted scout and agent of the celebrated Pony Express. Lincoln, his famous Cabinet, war generals and famous plainmen heroes are some of the others that are faithfully depicted and furnish a thrill of interest. These characters are not dragged in merely for their historical value but are logically worked into the story or are proper figures in the movement of the plot. The scenes are historically correct, and for this among other things, including well staged action, Edward Lamont, the director, is to be heartily commended.

## CIRCUS IS COMING TO SALISBURY ON THE 21ST

Special Trains Bearing Campbell-Bailey-Hutchinson Performers Will Arrive—Parade at Noon.

The Circus is coming—holds many interests for every member of the family. For example, little Willie's behavior has been beyond reproach. He has seen the flaming posters announcing the coming of the circus and nightly chores are done with a precision which has caused mothers to take particular notice. Willie has felt the thrill.

The circus is an American institution—it is a recreation for all classes. Seated side by side, the youngsters of the rich are just as delighted and can gain no more enjoyment than the poorest orphan, and the daring feats of the bare-back riders, thrilling aerial acts and wholesome comedy of the clowns fall alike upon eyes and ears.

The special trains bearing the Campbell-Bailey-Hutchinson Combined Circus and Wild West will arrive in Salisbury at daybreak Sept. 21.

The glittering mile long free street parade will take place at noonday and there will be two complete performances at 2 and 8 P. M. \*Doors will open one hour earlier.

### BREED LIKE SIXTY!

"Rats breed like sixty near the water here," said Frank A. Zuser, "and we have to get rid of them every few months. We can only do it, we find, by using Royal Guaranteed Rat Paste which is the best rat killer we have ever found." Get a 25 or 50 cent hardy tube today and destroy ALL rats. Sold and guaranteed by White & Leonard Drug Stores and Dorman & Smyth Hardware Co.—Advt.

in Turkey, or the other... The prizes... National... \$15, \$10, McGontheau... Turkey... Columbia... Pearson... been an...

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## REPAIR SESSION

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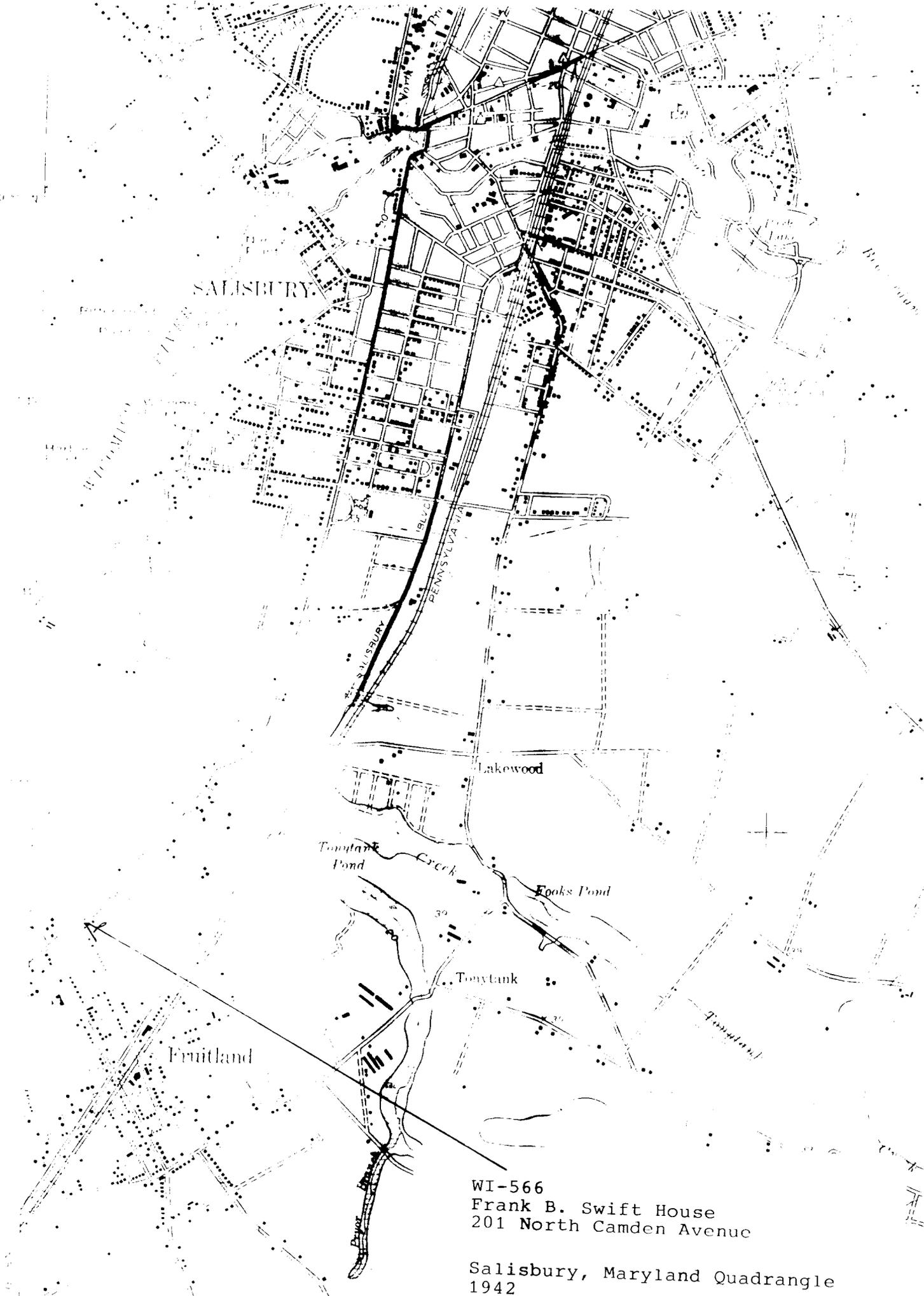
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SALISBURY

PENNSYLVANIA VI

Lakewood

Tomtunk Pond  
Creek

Fooks Pond

Tomtunk

Fruitland

WI-566  
Frank B. Swift House  
201 North Camden Avenue

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
1942



W1-566

FRANK B. SWIFT (HOUSE)

FRUITLAND, WILMINGTON CO., MD.

NORTHWEST ELEVATION

7/01, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG./MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 OF 3



WI-566

FRANK B. SWIFT HOUSE

FRUITLAND, WISCONSIN Co., WIS.

WEST ELEVATION

7/01, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / POS. HISTORIC TRUST

2 of 3



W1-566

FRANK B. SWIFT HOUSE  
FRUITLAND, WICOMICO Co. MD.  
NEST ELEVATION

7/01, PAUL TOWNE, PASTORALIST  
NEC / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

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