WI-473 1904
W. F. Allen House (Site)
Salisbury
Public

Distinguishing the southern end of Camden Avenue for half a century was the residence and farm of horticulturist and strawberry grower William F. Allen, who started developing a large agricultural estate south of Salisbury during the last years of the nineteenth century. Short articles written for the *Salisbury Advertiser* and *The Wicomico News* between 1897 and 1905 document several significant events in the development of the farm. On June 12, 1897, the *Salisbury Advertiser* stated that "*Mr. W. F. Allen, Jr. has purchased from the heirs of the late Henry Brewington a lot of ground in South Salisbury.*" William F. Allen purchased this tract as well as many others to establish one of the largest agricultural holdings around Salisbury during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Four months following the June 1897 acquisition, the *Advertiser* reported that

> *Mr. W. F. Allen, Jr. has closed a contract with the N. Y. P. & N. railroad company for a switch in the center of his farm. The work will be begun very soon. Mr. Allen is having a switch put in to save the trouble and expense of hauling his large freights to the Salisbury station.*

Several years later, in 1903, W. F. Allen started construction of an impressive agricultural complex that outdistanced most farm properties of its day. On August 27th, *The Wicomico News* related that

> *Mr. Wm F. Allen has his new barn under cover, and the contractor, W. E. Booth, is rushing the work to completion as rapidly as possible. The barn will be the largest in the county. It is 48 x 140 with a 64-foot centre (sic) section. The structure is intended to accommodate 30 horses and mules and a year's supply of hay and feed. It will cost $4,000 and is being erected on the Dennis tract, where Mr. Allen will build a new residence next year.*

True to the August 1903 article claiming the imminent construction of a new dwelling on what was known as the Dennis tract, W. F. Allen financed the erection of an impressive Queen Anne residence, situated atop a distinct knoll accessed by a circular drive off Camden Avenue. In anticipation of the prominent building project, an article describing the plans was printed in *The Wicomico News* on January 7, 1904,

> *Mr. W. F. Allen, the well-known strawberry grower and trucker, has arranged with contractor William Booth to erect for him a handsome residence on his farm near Salisbury. The house, which will be [a] modern one in every particular, will contain twelve rooms and all modern conveniences. It will be on a hill on the east side of Camden Avenue extended, and will face the shell road. To the South and East of the house is a beautiful grove of pine, oak, cedar, and dogwood trees, which when trimmed up and the undergrowth cut out will make a beautiful setting for the residence. Mr. Allen will pay much attention to his grounds and will make an ideal place of this spot. The residence will cost about $7,000.00*

Beginning with the spring building season, Salisbury contractor William E. Booth started excavations for the Allen house. By May the newspaper announced that the Biddle Brothers had secured the contract for the plumbing and heating systems with two bathrooms and a complete water service supplied from artesian wells pumped from a gasoline engine. Construction continued on the house through the year, and a December 15, 1904 newspaper article on real estate values in Salisbury mentions that the Allen house is nearly completed.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-473

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic W. F. Allen House

other Allen Farm

2. Location

street and number Camden Avenue not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name Salisbury State University

street and number Holloway Hall telephone

city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21801

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court tax map and parcel Map , P.

city, town Salisbury, Maryland liber folio

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	
district	x public	agriculture	landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
building(s)	private	commerce/trade	recreation/culture		buildings
structure	both	defense	religion		sites
x site		domestic	social		structures
object		education	transportation		objects
		funerary	work in progress	0	Total
		government	unknown		
		health care	vacant/not in use	**Number of Contributing Resources**	
		industry	other:	**previously listed in the Inventory**	

Name W. F. Allen House
Continuation Sheet

7. Description

Condition

excellent	deteriorated
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 site of the W. F. Allen house is located on the campus of Salisbury State University where the "Commons Building" now stands. Demolished in the 1950s, the W. F. Allen house was replaced with a two-story, three-bay brick dwelling used as a president's residence until the entire site was cleared and the "Commons Building"was erected during the mid 1990s.

Built in 1904 and originally sited on a sandy knoll overlooking Camden Avenue, the W. F. Allen house was a large twin-towered Queen Anne dwelling that stood at the head of a circular drive. Containing twelve principal rooms, the frame house was supported on a raised brick foundation, and the exterior was sheathed with a combination of weatherboard siding and fishscale shingles. The main block was covered by a steeply pitched roof that was extended in each direction by towers or gable-roofed pavilions. Attached to the back of the main block was a two-story service wing.

The west elevation was symmetrical facade with three-story twin towers rising on the northwest and southwest corners on either side of a projecting center pavilion. The entire first story of the main block was sheltered by a wraparound Tuscan columned porch with the entrance accented with a center cross gable. Clusters of Tuscan columns were set on the corners of the porch, and a railing stretched between the columns. The house was lighted by large single-pane sash windows. The center pavilion on the second floor was pierced by a Palladian window, and a large hip roofed dormer was fixed atop the roof.

8. Significance

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
x1900-1999	art	entertainment/ recreation	landscape architecture	religion
2000-	commerce		law	science
	communications	ethnic heritage	literature	social history
	community planning	exploration/ settlement	maritime history	transportation
	conservation		military	other:

Significance dates		Architect	
Specific dates	1904	Builder	William E. Booth

Evaluation for:

National Register _Maryland Register Xnot 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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Distinguishing the southern end of Camden Avenue for half a century was the residence and farm of horticulturist and strawberry grower William F. Allen, who started developing a large agricultural estate south of Salisbury during the last years of the nineteenth century. Short articles written for the *Salisbury Advertiser* and *The Wicomico News* between 1897 and 1905 document several significant events in the development of the farm. On June 12, 1897, the *Salisbury Advertiser*, stated that *"Mr. W. F. Allen, Jr. has purchased from the heirs of the late Henry Brewington a lot of ground in South Salisbury."*[1] William F. Allen purchased this tract as well as many others to establish one of the largest agricultural holdings around Salisbury during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Four months following the June 1897 acquisition, the *Advertiser* reported that

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[1] *Salisbury Advertiser*, 12 June 1897.

[2] *Salisbury Advertiser*, 23 October 1897.

Mr. Wm F. Allen has his new barn under cover, and the contractor, W. E. Booth, is rushing the work to completion as rapidly as possible. The barn will be the largest in the county. It is 48 x 140 with a 64-foot centre (sic) section. The structure is intended to accommodate 30 horses and mules and a year's supply of hay and feed. It will cost $4,000, and is being erected on the Dennis tract, where Mr. Allen will build a new residence next year.[3]

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[3] *The Wicomico News*, 27 August 1903.

[4] *The Wicomico News*, 7 January 1904.

[5] *The Wicomico News*, 19 May 1904.

[6] *The Wicomico News*, 15 December 1904.

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-473

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area
Acreage surveyed 1/4 acre
Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian	
organization	Private Consultant	
street & number	P. O. Box 5	date 10/12/00
city or town	Westover, Maryland 21871	**phone 410-651-1094**

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
410-514-7600

WI-473

Residence of W. F. Allen near Salisbury, Md.

The Residence of W.F. Allen. This house was built in 1904 on land that is now part of the campus of Salisbury State University. It contained 12 rooms. The barn shown in the rear cost $4,000. The water tank held 25,000 gallons, was 95 feet high, and was used to irrigate the crops on Allen's entire farm, which extended well across Camden Avenue. At the time, he claimed to be the largest grower of strawberry plants in the world. The house was torn down by the university, and the land is now part of the campus.

Newton Street. The bicyclist in this picture is enjoying the paved street. This was the other street laid out by Mrs. Hooper in 1838. At the end of the street is the Graham House. The second house on the left on Newton Street was the home of Judge E. Stanley Toadvine. The mailbox is no longer there, but it marked the beginning of Light Street.

RI

The Wicomico River has alw
originally called Handy's Land
gasoline and the age of sail are
steamers could not get into S
Merchandise had to be poled u
was dredged to a depth of 9 fe
13 foot depth at mean low ti
second port for many years.
of ice and remains navigable.
Bridges to serve the merchant
and, when Market Street wa
the canal filled. An active ship
the town from before the Revo
because of the large reservoir

Boat Wharf. This pictu
up. The water tower can

Wicomico News, June 4, 1903

HOME FOR THE AGED
FORMAL EXERCISES WERE HELD MONDAY AFTERNOON

In the presence of a large concourse of people, the Home for the Aged was formally opened Monday afternoon. There were present to take part in the ceremonies the Board of Trustees, the Board of Directors, the Board of Managers, the clergy of the city and others interested in the success of this charitable institution.

The exercises were opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. Newton, followed by singing by a choir under the direction of Prof. Dashiell. The presentation address was made by Mrs. Collier, through whose efforts the town has acquired the Home. Mrs. Collier spoke feelingly of the generosity of Mr. John B. Parsons in providing the funds for the purchase of the Home and his deep interest in its success. Her remarks were replied to by Mayor Disharoon on behalf of the city and county. Brief addresses were made by Rev. Dr. Reigart and Rev. C. A. Hill, and the closing prayer was made by Rev. D. M. Lennox.

Mr. W. B. Miller, of the Board of Trustees, read a letter from Mr. John B. Parsons expressing his regret at not being able to attend the opening ceremonies. Pressure of business incident to a European trip prevented his presence on this occasion. Mr. Parsons assured those present, however, that his heart was in the work, and closed his letter by expressing the hope that the Home would be a success and prove a blessing to the community. He enclosed a check for $350.00

The Home contains ten rooms, most of which are neatly and comfortably furnished. The interior has been thoroughly renovated and presents an inviting appearance. The large grounds are in splendid condition, the shady, grass-covered lawn making a retreat which cannot fail to please the inmates of the Home. An experienced matron is in charge, and under the supervision of the energetic and enthusiastic Board of Lady Managers, the Home will no doubt prove a success.

The Home opened with three inmates, but several more will be added this month.

Wicomico News, August 27, 1903

Mr. Wm F. Allen has his new barn under cover, and the contractor, W. E. Booth, is rushing the work to completion as rapidly as possible. This barn will be the largest in the county. It is 48 x 140 with a 64-foot centre section. The structure is intended to accommodate 30 horses and mules and a year's supply of hay and feed. It will cost $4,000, and is being erected on the Dennis tract, where Mr. Allen will build a new residence next year.

Wicomico News, September 3, 1903

Contractor T. H. Mitchell has begun the erection of a residence for Miss Laura White on the lot corner of William Street and Poplar Hill Avenue.

WI-473

Wicomico News, January 7, 1904

GETTING READY TO BUILD
W. F. ALLEN PREPARING TO ERECT
A HANDSOME RESIDENCE

The Plan Calls For A Modern Residence In Every Respect–Mr. Allen Has Just Completed An Extensive Water System On His Farm–Put In By F. A. Grier & Son

Mr. W. F. Allen, the well-known strawberry grower and trucker, has arranged with contractor William Booth to erect for him a handsome residence on his farm near Salisbury. The house, which will be [a] modern one in every particular, will contain twelve rooms and all modern conveniences. It will be on the hill on the east side of Camden Avenue extended, and will face the shell road. To the South and East of the house is a beautiful grove of pine, oak, cedar and dogwood trees, which when trimmed up and the undergrowth cut out will make a beautiful setting for the residence. Mr. Allen will pay much attention to his grounds and will make an ideal place of this spot. The residence will cost about $7,000.00.

Preparatory to these improvements, and as a matter [of] great convenience to his new four thousand dollar barn, Mr. Allen recently contracted with Messrs. F. A. Grier & Son to put in for him a complete water system. These well-known machinists have now about completed their work and they have given Mr. Allen a splendid job. To begin with four drive wells were sunk about sixty feet deep and connected. A five horse Foos [?] gasoline engine and Gould double acting pump were put in. The water tank, which is forty-five feet high and holds 28,000 gallons of water, stands on a hill, and gives splendid pressure. From this tank there are connections for the watering of stock, as well as for fire plugs on each floor of the barn. Then there are 2,600 feet of one and one-half pipe, run under the ground, connecting the hot houses of Mr. Allen's on the other side of the road for irrigating purposes. Pipes also extended to the site where the new residence will be erected for use in the house and on the lawn.

The whole system is one of the best in this section, and is probably the most extensive private water system on the peninsula. Messrs. Grier started the machinery last week and everything run (sic) in the most satisfactory manner. The engine and pump have capacity enough to fill the tank in ten hours.

WI-473

Wicomico News, February 25, 1904

BUILDING WILL BE BRISK
IN SALISBURY WHEN THE SPRING
WEATHER OPENS

Salisbury contractors and builders are awaiting with much impatience the opening of spring weather, in order to begin building operations. The long and severe winter has completely blocked operations so far as outdoor work is concerned, and several buildings which were begun last fall are still unfinished. In addition to these several of our builders already have work enough contracted for to last them until late next summer.

Most of the buildings contracted for are dwellings of high class, which will add greatly to the improvement of the sections in which they will be located. Among those for whom contracts have been signed are residences for Mr. Wm. F. Allen, on his farm just beyond the city limits in Camden; Mr. Marion A. Humphreys, on Camden Avenue; Senator M. V. Brewington, on Isabella Street; Mr. B. Frank Kennerly, on Elizabeth Street and others. Three of these residences will exceed $5,000.00 in cost and one will cost between $3,500.00 and $4,000.00.

Nearly all the plans show Colonial style of architecture, with broad porches and massive columns. In every instance the contracts call for handsome bath rooms and all modern conveniences and hot water heat.

In addition to these new buildings–and several others for which plans are being prepared–there are several buildings to be completed which were begun late last fall. Among these are the Salisbury National Bank, the Farmers and Merchants Bank, the improvements to the old Brewington homestead on Main Street, and several others. Altogether the year 1904 will be a busy one in the building line in Salisbury, and contractors will have plenty to do. They will be fortunate if they are able to secure all the mechanics they need.

Our advice to those contemplating the erection of houses is to make their contracts at once, as there is likely to be a shortage of skilled labor here because of the vast amount of building that will be going on in Baltimore this Spring.

Wicomico News, April 14, 1904

Mr. R. Frank Williams, Real Estate Broker, has just contracted with Messrs. Fooks & Williams, builders, to erect for him six new dwellings on Oak Hill, this city. Three of these houses will be erected on Franklin street, and three on Howard street. The houses will be six room cottages, with front and back porches, and modern in design. Mr. Williams says he has many inquiries for' comfortable homes and parties who want to move to Salisbury, and it is his intention to make this section of Salisbury one of the most desirable parts of the town. As a place to live it has many advantages, being high and well located, with perfect drainage, and within sight of the Wicomico river, at the same time only a few steps from Camden Ave.

Wicomico News, April 21. 1904

BUILDING OPERATIONS BRISK
IMPROVEMENTS ARE BEING MADE IN ALL SECTIONS OF THE CITY
Beautiful Residences Are Being Erected In Newtown And Camden–Large Business Structures On Main and Division Streets–Comfortable Homes For Workingmen Going Up In Several Sections.

Building operations in Salisbury now under way are the most extensive for several years, and contractors will have about all they can do this year. Every section of Salisbury is sharing in the improvements, which include several handsome residences...

Article clipped

Wicomico News, May 19, 1904

Biddle Brothers have secured the contract for heating and plumbing the new residence of Wm. F. Allen. This building will have hot water heat and two bath rooms. Mr. Allen will have a most complete water service supplied from artesian wells and pumped by gasoline engine.

Wicomico News, June 9, 1904

MOVED INTO ITS NEW HOME
THE SALISBURY NATIONAL BANK DOING BUSINESS AT OLD STAND
Moved Into Its Handsome New Banking House Last Week–One Of The Most Modern and Comfortable Buildings In The City–One of the Solid Institutions Of The State

The Salisbury National Bank has moved into its handsome new home on Main Street, on the spot where it has been doing business for the past twenty odd years, last week, and Cashier White and his assistants are rapidly becoming acquainted with their new surroundings, and arranging their working spaces to suit their own convenience, and for the better accommodation of the public.

The building is one of great architectural beauty, of the Roman Ionic or classic design. It

is practically a two story building, with a frontage of 27 feet on Main Street, running back 64 feet. The front is of light red and white bricks, with limestone and terra cotta trimmings. The bricks are laid in LeFarge white cement. The front has five large windows which insures abundant light, with ornamental gratings and a balcony over the front entrance, just below the upper centre windows. The main doors are especially handsome and ornamented with Greek fret border. The cornice is galvanized iron.

The interior of the bank is a model of beauty and convenience. After passing through the front door one enters a large vestibule. This vestibule has a floor of Tennessee marble with border of the same material. The pitch of the banking department from the floor to the ceiling is 26 feet. The large space provided outside the counters for the accommodation of customers has a ceramic tiled floor, and the wainscoting is of Georgian marble. The woodwork is of mahogany and the ornamental work wrought iron. The cashier's room in the rear of the vault is wainscoated (sic) in paneled cherry and has a handsome cabinet mantel, with fire place. Altogether the banking house is of the handsomest on the Peninsula.

The Salisbury National Bank is one of the strongest institutions on the Eastern Shore, and the President, Cashier and Board of Directors, are all well known business men and financiers of Salisbury. Jackson C. Gott the well known architect of Baltimore was the designer of the bank, and the contractors were Messrs. Slemons & Bounds of this city. These gentlemen have erected many of the handsomest buildings in Salisbury and elsewhere on the Peninsula, and their work is always of the very first-class. They are looked upon by people who know, to be among the most skilled builders in Maryland.

Wicomico News, August 4, 1904

A BIG PLANT DESTROYED
CAUSING A LOSS OF TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS
E. S. Adkins & Co.'s Sash And Door Factory and Large Quantities
Of Lumber Burned Saturday Morning–The Insurance Is About $13,500–
Other Property Endangered

Early Saturday morning fire completely destroyed the large planing mill, sash, and door factory, office, lumber sheds, glazing house and several hundred thousand feet of lumber owned by E. S. Adkins & Co. The large plant which was quickly consumed by the devouring elements was located near the junction of the New York, Philadelphia & Norfolk and Baltimore, Chesapeake & Atlantic railroads. The flames were discovered about midnight and were eating their way through the second story of the mill. The watchman hurried to the second floor and so rapid was the spread of the flames that he was badly burned before he made his escape. He was carried to the Peninsula General Hospital.

The fire department responded promptly to the alarm, but could not save the plant, so rapid did the flames spread. The firemen turned their attention to saving one of the large warehouses, located some distance from the fire, and also prevent its spread to the large car shops of the B. C. & A. Railway only a short distance from the Adkins yard.

The large stock warehouse, containing $4,500 worth of sash and doors, on which there

was no insurance, was saved through the efforts of the firemen. The railroad car shops also escaped destruction by the hard fight of the firemen.

The property destroyed included the mill, office, glazing and paint house in which was stored $1,000 worth of glass and $500 worth of sash and doors, large storage sheds south of the mill, which were filled with dry lumber, several hundred thousand feet of lumber on the yard and one flat car owned by the B. C. & A. Railway Co., which was loaded with lumber. There were twelve other cars of the siding in the Adkins yard, but they were hauled beyond danger by a special engine sent down from Delmar.

All the machinery in the mill is completely ruined on account of the fierce heat, which in some instances completely melted pulleys and pieces of shafting. The engine is also ruined, but the boilers are uninjured.

Wicomico News, August 25, 1904

E. S. Adkins Co.'s Improvements

Work On New Mill, Warehouse And Offices Under Way

Contractor W. E. Booth has begun work on a new planing and sash and door mill for E. S. Adkins Company, to replace the one recently destroyed by fire. The dimension of the mill (which will be larger than the old one) are 62 x 106 feet, two stories high, and the plans show a much better arrangement, and a much stronger structure than the one burned. The contract calls for its completion and running order by October 1st. The planers and other machinery for the first floor are now on their way from Philadelphia. The sash and door machinery now in Mill No. 2 will be installed in the new mill.

In addition to the building of this mill, E. S. Adkins Company will erect on the opposite side of the street a two story warehouse 56 x 100 feet, for the storage of sash and doors and other building material, which will be connected from the second story of each by an over-head bridge. A track-way will be constructed so that the manufactured material can be carried on trucks from the factory direct to the warehouse. In this warehouse also will be the glazing-room and painting department.

The new business office for the company will be erected on a piece of land leased from the B. C. & A. Railway Co., where the temporary office now stands. It will have a frontage of 20 feet, extending back 26 feet. In the rear of the is will be a private office 12 x 12 feet. The style of architecture will be pleasing and both offices will be fitted up with handsome desks and cabinets. The entire building will be heated by steam. Work is being pushed as rapidly as possible, in order to complete it all before winter.

Wicomico News, September 8, 1904

Mr. Isaac L. Price bought last week of Hitch & Ennis, a lot on Maryland Avenue, and Captain R. B. White the lot next to it from Mr. John Windsor. Both will have residences built on the lots at once, to be completed before January 1st. Mr. John Windsor is the contractor.

Work on the new Peninsula General Hospital is now being rushed and it is expected that the building will be ready for occupancy sometime about the first of November, or possibly the middle of October. The tile setters are now at work on the halls and bath rooms.

Wicomico News, September 22, 1904

Dr. Levin D. Collier is improving his fine property on Division Street by putting down a cement sidewalk and a cement approach to the house.

Much improvement is going on in the way of the erection of new buildings in Salisbury. Houses of small and moderate size are in great demand.

Wicomico News, November 3, 1904

Mr. William E. Booth, the well known contractor of this city, has been awarded the contract to erect the handsome colonial residence at "Lemon Hill" for Rev. and Mrs. Vanderbogart. This will be one of the handsomest residences in the city.

Wicomico News, November 10, 1904

In this issue of THE NEWS will be found a two-page supplement, containing a large plat and description of land for sale by W. F. Allen. This land borders on the corporate limits of Salisbury and will at no distant day be one of the prettiest suburbs of this city. It will be observed by reference to the plat that Mr. Allen has divided his land into 236 lots, each having a 40 foot street in front and a 20 foot street in the back. These lots range in price from $50 to $250, according to location, which prices will remain in force until January 1, 1905. It is expected that there will be quite a boom in the building line in this section next spring by reason of the low prices offered for eligible building sites.

WI 473

Wicomico News, December 15, 1904

MARCH OF IMPROVEMENTS

HOW REAL ESTATE VALUES HAVE ADVANCED IN SALISBURY

In Some Instances Building Lots Have More Than Doubled in Value–
Fine Residences Have Been Erected In The Suburban Sections, And
More Are To Follow During the Coming Year.

The sale last week of the property of Mr. A. P. Trader on Camden Avenue, at a price of $3,500, gives some idea of the advance in city real estate within the past few years. Not more than four years ago Mr. Trader is said to have offered the original tract of land for the sum of $2,000, and could find no purchaser at that price. The spot has long been known as one of the most desirable residence sites in the city, but for many of our business men was a little too far out. During the past two years Mr. Trader has sold to Mr. Wm. Jeff Staton a lot for one thousand dollars, on which Mr. Staton has built a fine residence. He has also sold to Mr. Pusey another lot for one thousand dollars, and the main property for $3,500, making in all $5,500 for a property that four years ago would not bring $2,000. The reason for the rapid advance of property in this section of the city is the fact that several handsome residences have been erected there during the past two years.

Near this property is the Division known as "Oak Hill" which is being developed by Mr. R. Frank Williams. Mr. Williams has recently built eight nice dwellings on this site, graded the streets and shelled them at his own expense, and has sold four of the houses. He is now arranging to build several more comfortable and modern dwellings for sale or rent.

The magnificent residence erected by Postmaster M. A. Humphreys on Camden Avenue will do much to improve that section of Salisbury, and we have it on good authority that Mr. Dennis, of New York, who has purchased a site just beyond Mr. Humphreys' property, will erect a large and handsome private residence in the Spring, which will still further add to this locality. The Camden Boulevard Subdivision of Mr. Fitch is just across from this property, and several nice houses have been built on some of these lots.

Further down Camden the march of improvement is visible on all sides. On Maryland Avenue four pretty dwellings are nearing completion and on Smith Street as many more have been erected this year.

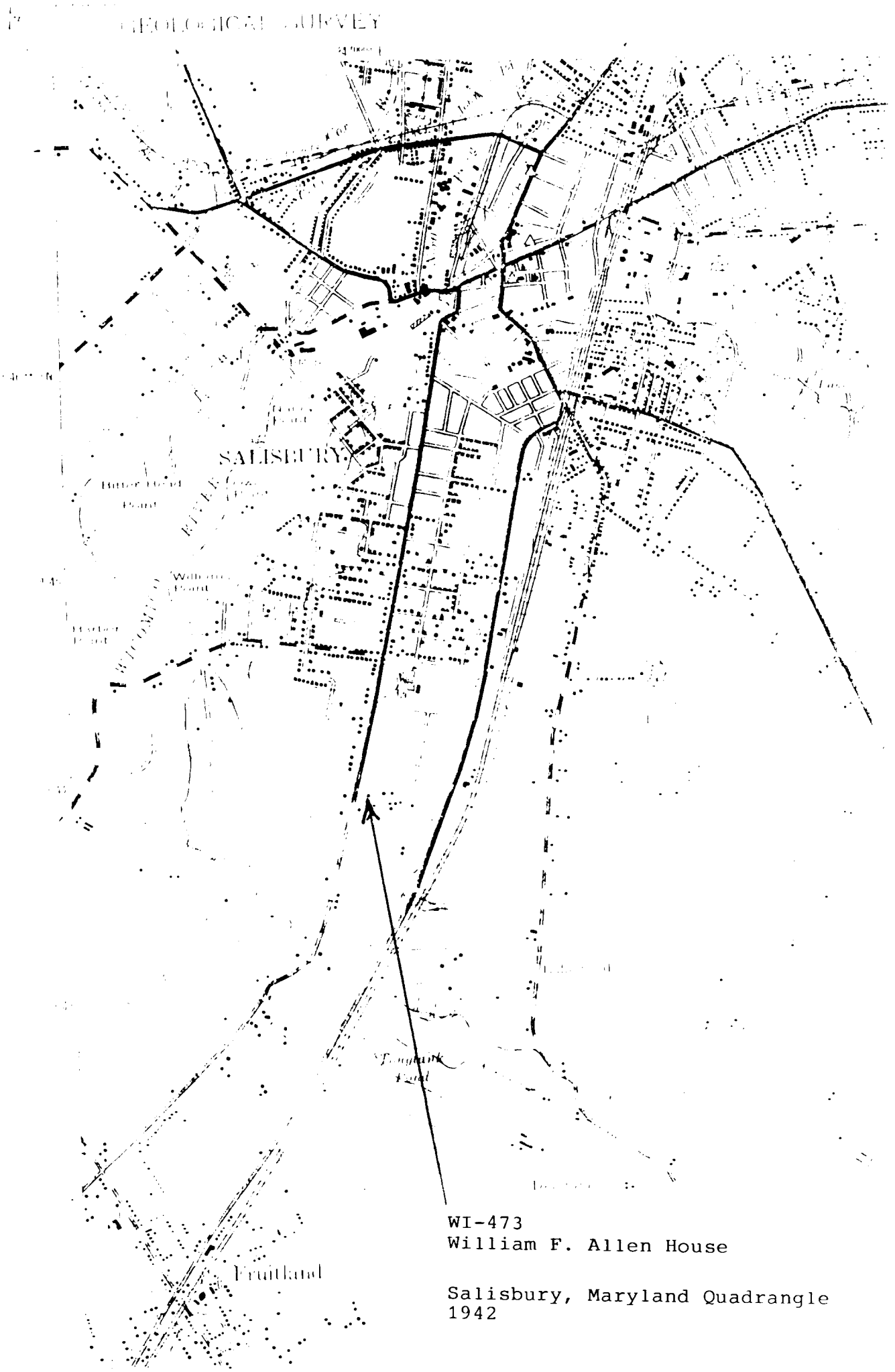
Just beyond Camden Avenue the spirit of improvement is show by Mr. W. F. Allen in the erection of one of the handsomest residences in Salisbury, which is now nearly completed.

In other suburban sections the same spirit of improvement is manifest in the erection of comfortable homes. This is notably true in South Salisbury, where several dwellings have been built this year on Division Street extended, on Upton Street, and on the Snow Hill road. The class of residences built would do credit to any section of Salisbury.

There have also been many improvements made in the Eastern section of our city–on East Church Street, and on the shell road beyond the city limits. Mr. George T. Gordy and Mr. David Ward have just completed handsome residences on their farms opposite "Fairfield," and a little further out Mr. J. Bayard Perdue is putting the finishing touches on a very pretty and comfortable home for himself. The suburban section of Salisbury has made rapid strides in the last few years

and at the present rate will soon be built up solidly from the depot to the forks of the Powellville and Parsonsburg roads, a distance of more than two miles. The class of dwelling that have been, and are being erected, are of modern style or architecture, pleasing to the eye.

It is safe to say that in no year since the one following the big fire of 1886 has there been so much building done in and around Salisbury as this year. The aggregate will amount to several hundred thousand dollars.



WI-473
William F. Allen House

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942