WI-519 c. 1872
Margaret S. Murphy House
Salisbury
Private

The two-story, side hall/parlor plan frame house that stands on the southwest corner of Camden Avenue and Winder Street has been previously thought to be one of the oldest structures in the Camden neighborhood, but architectural evidence and historical research indicate that it was erected during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Dated around 1872, the house follows a common architectural form for the time with its side hall/parlor plan. Similar to other houses in Salisbury, paneled pilasters trim the corners of the main block as well as the rear service wing. Little altered since the nineteenth century, the house contributes to the streetscape as one of the older structures predating the major building boom between 1890 and 1930 that transformed the southern end of Salisbury.

Land record research traces this property back to Margaret S. Murphy, who acquired the building lot in November 1871 from Joshua T. Twilley of Kent County for $150. The transfer price does not include the value of this two-story frame dwelling. Margaret S. Murphy occupied the house with her husband Isaac, to whom she bequeathed ownership eight years later in her 1879 will. Following Margaret's death in 1884, Isaac S. Murphy remarried, and he and his new wife Sallie resided on the property. The lot bordered Winder Street, formerly Hill Street, which led to the steamboat wharf. In 1887 Isaac Murphy mortgaged the house and lot for $400 to William H. Jackson, who foreclosed on the debt in 1895. The next long-term owner was Thomas E. Laws, a lumber mill laborer, who purchased the Murphy house in May 1895 for $1,000. The house and lot remained in Laws family ownership until the early 1970s.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. W I-519

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Margaret S. Murphy House

other

2. Location

street and number 700 Camden Avenue not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name Charles H. Boyer

street and number 129 Civic Avenue telephone

city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21804

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court tax map and parcel Map 114, P. 1364

city, town Salisbury, Maryland liber 1521 folio 348

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

Contributing Resource in National Register District
X **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	
				Contributing	Noncontributing
district	public	agriculture	landscape		
x building(s)	x private	commerce/trade	recreation/culture	1	buildings
structure	both	defense	religion		sites
site		x domestic	social		structures
object		education	transportation		objects
		funerary	work in progress	1	Total
		government	unknown		
		health care	vacant/not in use	**Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory**	
		industry	other:		

7. Description

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 Margaret S. Murphy house stands at 700 Camden Avenue on the southwest corner of the intersection of Camden Avenue and Winder Street (formerly Hill Street) in the Camden neighborhood of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, side hall/parlor plan frame dwelling is supported on a brick pier foundation and the exterior is clad with a consistent layer of plain weatherboard siding. The house is covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. Attached to the back of the main block is a contemporaneous two-story, two-bay service wing.

Estimated to date around 1872, the two-story, two-bay by one-room frame dwelling has a asymmetrical main (east) facade with a side entrance and flanking two-over-two sash window. The front door has been replaced, and a two-pane transom tops the entrance. The doorway as well as the adjacent window have molded lintels. The second floor is lighted by a pair of unevenly spaced two-over-two sash windows fitted with molded window lintels. Trimming the corners of the house are paneled pilasters with rounded tops to each inset panel. The pilasters rise to a boxed cornice trimmed with third quarter of the nineteenth-century moldings.

The south gable end is defined by pairs of two-over-two sash windows that flank the interior end brick chimney stack. The gable end is pierced by a pair of louvered vents on either side of the interior stack. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave and returns trim the base of the roof.

Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, two-bay service wing featuring an internal brick stack that rises between the two-room plan section. Engaged under the gable roof of the kitchen wing is a two-story porch. While the first floor of the porch has been enclosed, the second floor remains open. Paneled pilasters trim the corners of the wing like the main block, and two-over-two sash windows light the first and second floors.

The interior was not seen.

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-519

Name Margaret S. Murphy House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

8. Significance

Period		Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
1600-1699		agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts
1700-1799		archeology	education	industry	philosophy
x 1800-1899	x	architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
1900-1999		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	**Builder**

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 reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The two-story, side hall/parlor frame house that stands on the southwest corner of Camden Avenue and Winder Street is thought to be one of the one of the oldest structures in the Camden neighborhood, but architectural evidence indicates that it was erected during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Dated around 1872, the house follows a common architectural form for the time with its side hall/parlor plan. Similar to other houses in Salisbury, paneled pilasters trim the corners of the main block as well as the rear service wing. Little changed since the nineteenth century, the house contributes to the streetscape as one of the older structures predating the major building boom of the period between 1890 and 1920.

Land record research traces this property back to Margaret S. Murphy, who acquired the building lot in November 1871 from Joshua T. Twilley of Kent County for $150.[1] The small transfer price did not include the value of this two-story frame house. Margaret S. Murphy occupied the house with her husband Isaac, to whom she bequeathed the property seven

[1] Wicomico County Land Record, TF, Jr. 3/29, 1 November 1871.

years later in her 1879 will.[2] Following Margaret's death in 1884, Isaac S. Murphy remarried, and he and his new wife Sallie resided on the property, which bordered the road that led to the steamboat wharf. In 1887 Isaac Murphy mortgaged the house and lot for $400 to William H. Jackson,[3] who foreclosed on the debt in 1895.[4] The next long-term owner was Thomas E. Laws, a lumber mill laborer, who purchased the Murphy house in May 1895 for $1,000.[5] The house and lot remained in Laws family ownership until the early 1970s.[6]

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[2] Wicomico County Register of Wills, ELW 1/94, written 1 March 1879, proved 14 November 1884. *"I devise unto my husband Isaac S. Murphy the house and lot where I now live situated in that part of Salisbury known as Camden..."*

[3] Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 2/147, 10 February 1887.

[4] Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 14/73, 23 March 1895.

[5] Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 14/182, 4 May 1895.

[6] Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 761/399, 25 May 1972.

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-519

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

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

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian	
organization	Private Consultant	
street & number	P. O. Box 5	date 6/15/2000
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-519
Margaret S. Murphy House
700 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain-of-title

Map 114, Parcel 1364

1521/348	Alma D. Lilley, Elizabeth L. Lilley
	to
12/12/1996	Charles H. Boyer 129 Civic Avenue Salisbury, Maryland 21804
AJS 1044/184	Alma D. Lilley
	to
8/5/1985	Alma D. Lilley Elizabeth L. Lilley
JWTS 761/399	W. Preston Laws, et ux.
	to
5/25/1972	Alma D. Lilley
JWTS 294/467	Juanita M. Jones
	to
2/27/1948	W. Preston Laws Kathryne P. Laws 63' 6" frontage on Camden Avenue 227' frontage on Winder

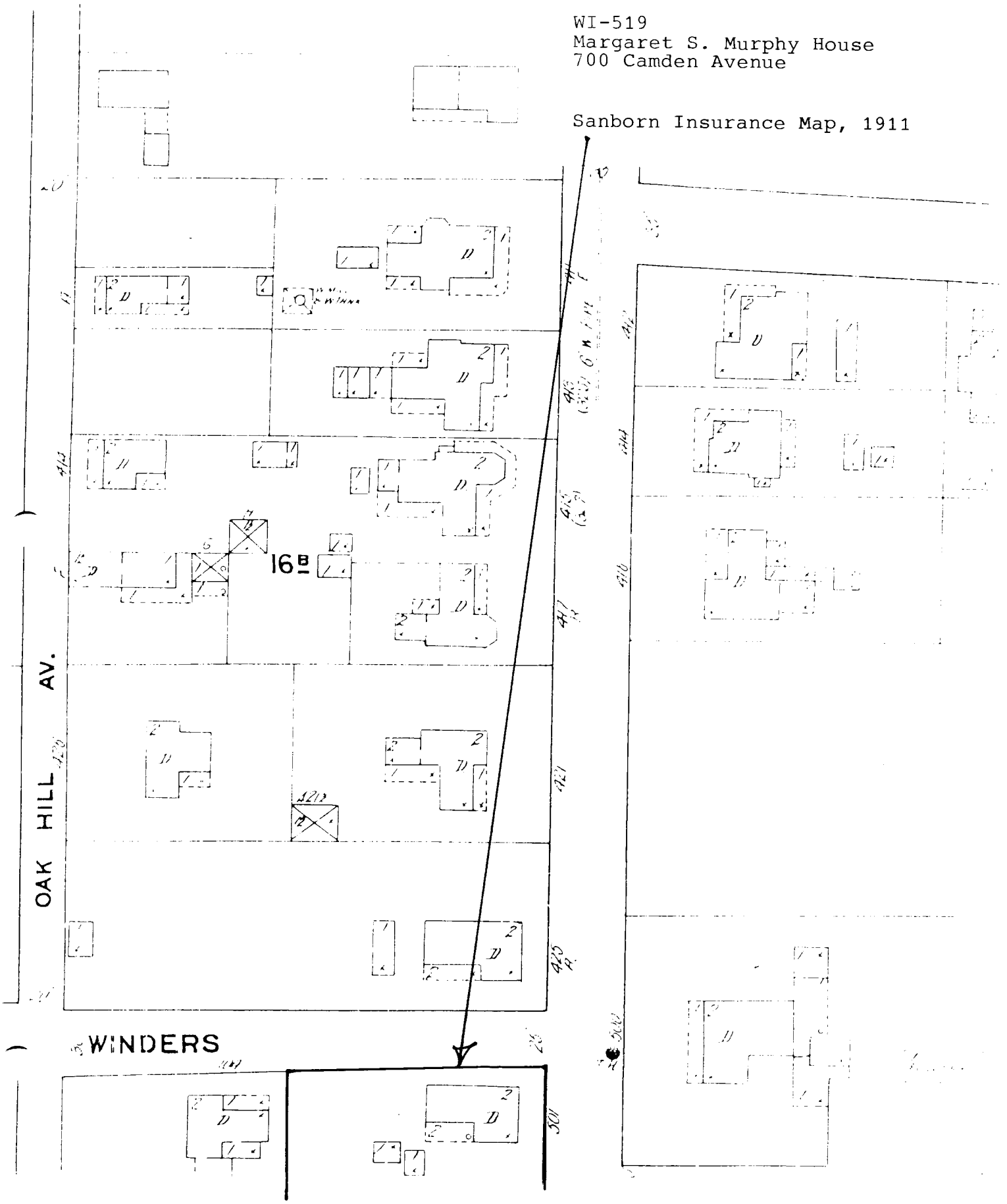
Margaret S. Murphy House
700 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

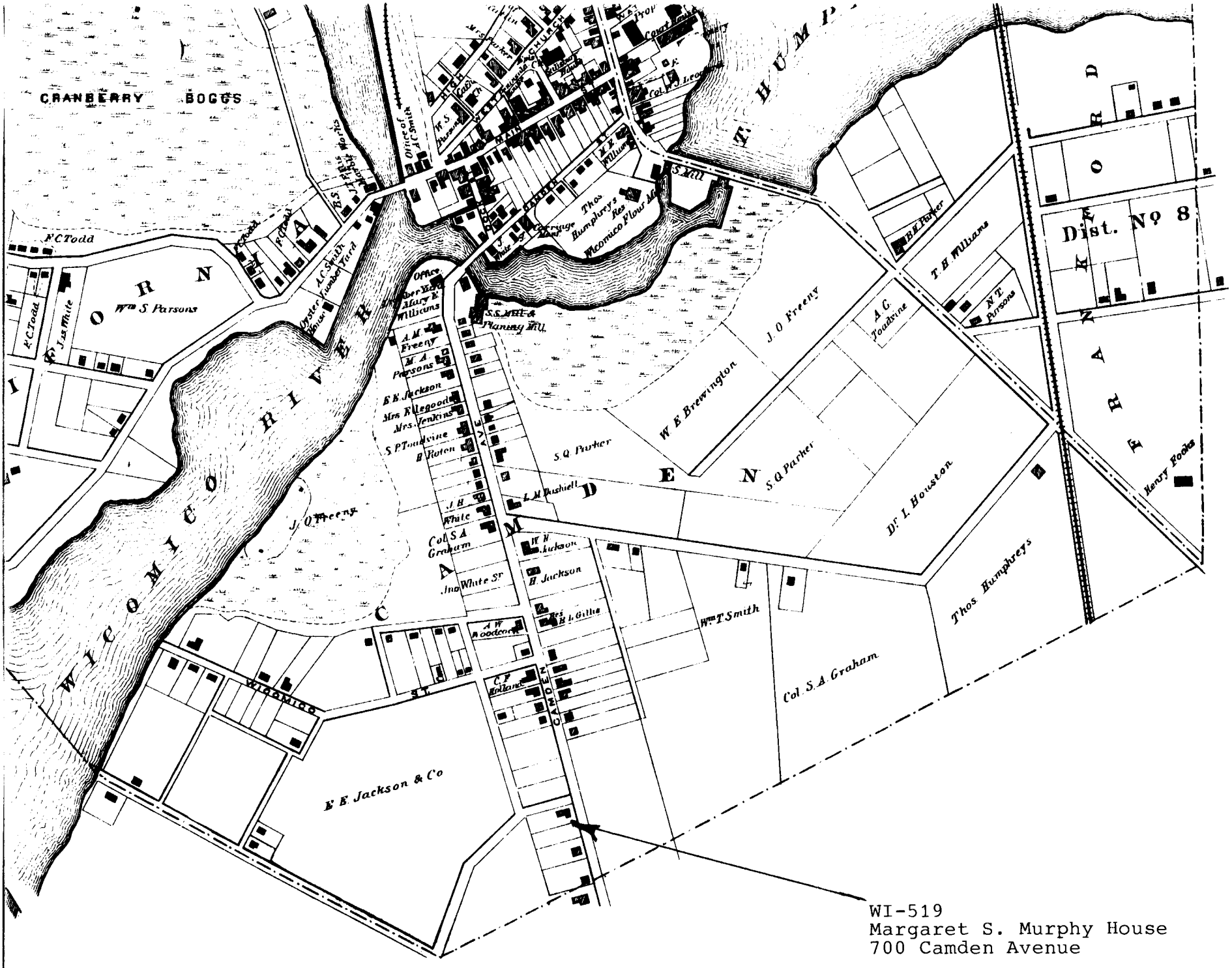
294/466	Percy Twilley Laws, Grace Pauline Laws Marjorie Lee Laws, Mamie Lillian Laws Beauchamp, Barney Augustus Beauchamp, W. Preston Laws, and Kathryne P. Laws
	to
2/27/1948	Juanita M. Jones ...being the land of which the said Thomas E. Laws died siezed and possessed....
JTT 14/182	Allison A. Gillis Laura A. Gillis
	to
5/4/1895	Thomas E. Laws $1,000 63' frontage on Camden 227' on Hill Street
JTT 14/73	James E. Ellegood, trustee
	to
3/23/1895	Allison A. Gillis Whereas at a public sale held 1/12/1895, property sold to highest bidder for $700
Mortgage FMS 2/147[redacted]	Isaac S. Murphy, Sallie M. Murphy
	to
2/10/1887	William H. Jackson $400 ....situated along Hill Street, or the old steamboat road...

Wicomico County Will Book ELW 1/94	Last Will and Testament of Margaret S. Murphy
	to
Written 3/1/1879 Proved 11/14/1884	Husband, Isaac S. Murphy *I devise unto my husband Isaac S. Murphy the house and lot where I now live situated in that part of Salisbury known as Camden*
TF, Jr. 3/29	Joshua T. Twilley, of Kent County
	to
11/1/1871	Margaret S. Murphy $150
Somerset County Land Record	Winder Disharoon
	to
	Joshua T. Twilley ...60' front on Camden Avenue, 226' by the road leading to the steamboat wharf...

WI-519
Margaret S. Murphy House
700 Camden Avenue

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1911

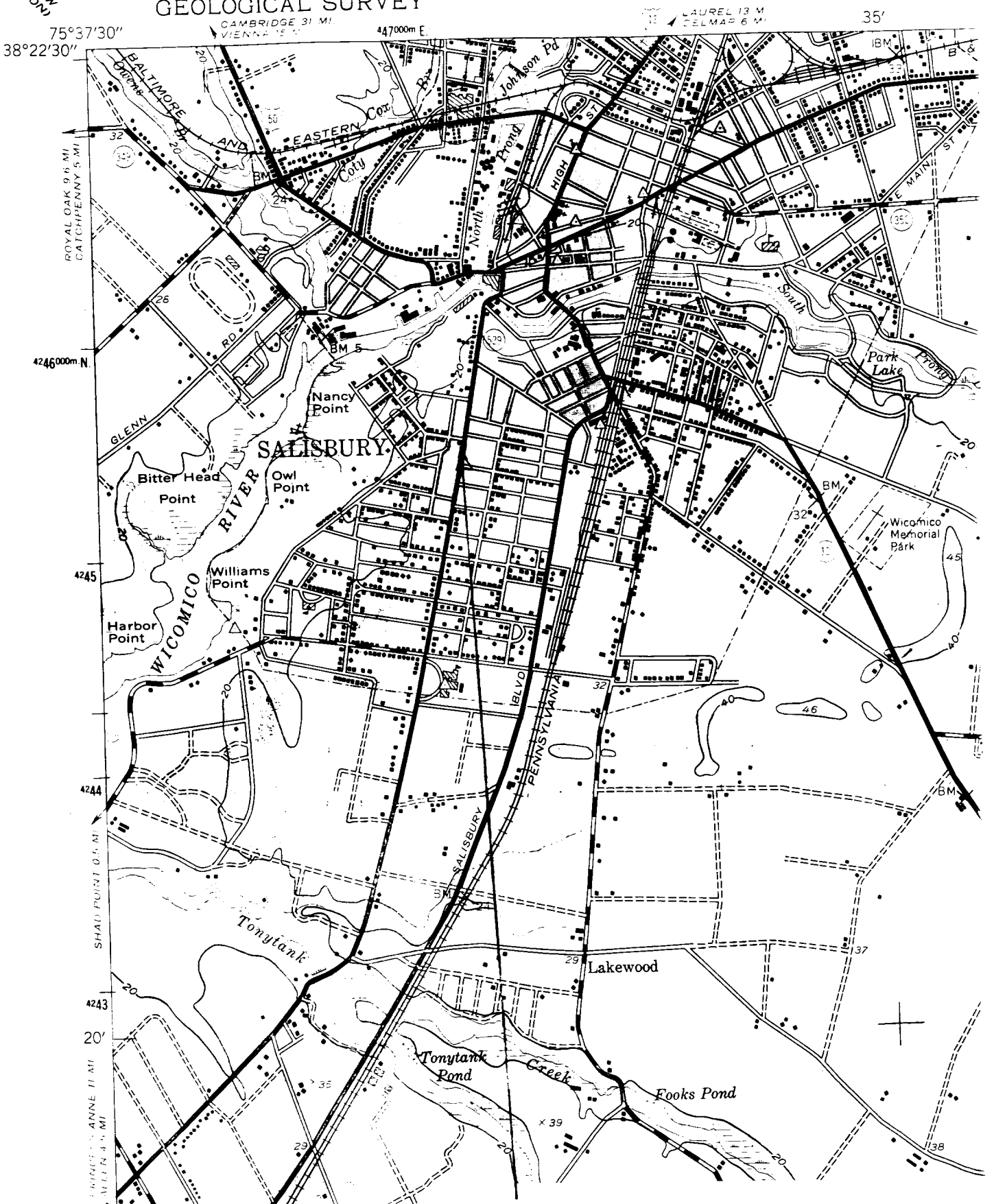




WI-519
Margaret S. Murphy House
700 Camden Avenue

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



WI-519
Margaret S. Murphy House
700 Camden Avenue

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

WI-519

Margaret S. Murray House

Salisbury, Wicomico County, MD

Southeast Elevation

6/2000, Paul Tobias Photographer

Neg / MD SHPO

1 of 2

WI-519

MARGARET S. MURPHY, [illegible]

SALISBURY, WICOMICO COUNTY, MD.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

6/2000, PAUL TOWART PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG. / MD SHPO

[illegible]