

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

1 Willow Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

James C. Swartz

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: 5790

Folio #: 23

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

BA-2158

**CONDITION**

—EXCELLENT  
 X-GOOD  
 —FAIR

—DETERIORATED  
 —RUINS  
 —UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

—UNALTERED  
 X-ALTERED

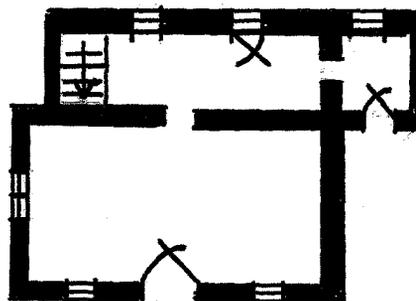
**CHECK ONE**

X-ORIGINAL SITE  
 —MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The two-story frame structure at 1 Willow Avenue is one of only four houses on Willow Avenue that appear on the 1898 Bromley Atlas. The house is simplistic in plan as well as ornamentation. The main (south) facade crudely resembles the main block of another pre-1898 structure standing at 32 Willow Avenue. It is rectangular in shape and measures 3 bays wide by 2 bays deep. A small shed roof addition has been made to the northeast corner of the original house.

A rough sketch of the floorplan shown at the right indicates a large one room main block with a central entrance. This leads to a smaller second room that is slightly less wide. This back room contains a flight of stairs leading to three second floor rooms. A bulkhead cellar entrance is located outside the house on the west facade.



The house faces south on Willow Avenue. It rests on a stone foundation and is capped with intersecting gable roofs. Two concrete and four wood steps lead to the front porch which is supported by four plain white posts and is enclosed with an enclosed asbestos shingled railing. The main entrance consists of a modern screen door and a wood paneled interior door. One 6/6 sash window with green louvered shutters flank each side of the door. Fenestration on the second floor consists of two 6/6 sash windows with green louvered shutters.

Fenestration on the west facade is limited to a double 6/6 sash window on the first floor of the front room and a small 2/2 sash window on the second floor of the front room.

The north or rear facade reveals a narrow wood paneled door capped with a shingled hood on brackets. Above the door on the second floor is a small single pane casement window. To the immediate left of the door is a brick exterior chimney flue covered with plaster. To the left of the chimney is a 4/4 sash window on the first floor and a 6/6 sash window on the second floor.

The east facade, quite interestingly, shows no fenestration. Unfortunately, the house is unoccupied and interior access could not be secured. It was hoped that an interior inspection would confirm the hypothesis that this east facade possessed at one time a bay window similar to that on 32 Willow Avenue. Presently, the only fenestration on this facade is provided by the shed roof addition made to the northeast corner of the house. This addition contains an entrance facing north. The door is capped with a hood on brackets similar to that at the north entrance. A 6/6 sash window is also located on the addition and faces north.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

BA-2158

ERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES pre-1898

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1 Willow Avenue was constructed prior to 1898, as evident by its appearance on George Bromley's Atlas of Towson, published in that year. In 1898, the area of Willow Avenue/Linden Terrace was still relatively unpopulated, with only three other buildings appearing on the former street. Therefore, as one of the oldest houses in the area, 1 Willow is important as visual documentation of one of the earliest architectural styles in the neighborhood -- the unornamented, gable-roofed, vernacular.

Aside from its individual architectural merits, however, 1 Willow is significant as an integral part of the surrounding residential neighborhood. In recent years, increased commercialization has threatened Towson's residential character. Many of the private residences which once typified Towson's built environment have been either demolished or altered in such a manner as to destroy their architectural and historic significance. The houses on Willow Avenue and Linden Terrace constitute one of the few relatively unchanged residential areas left in Central Towson. 1 Willow together with the other vernacular buildings on the street provide a visual representation of Towson's earlier character.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. G.W. Bromley & Co. Philadelphia, 1898.  
Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. G.W. Bromley & Co. Philadelphia, 1915.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Janice E. Ruth/Historic Site Surveyor

September, 1981

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Towson, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

120 Allegheny Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Towson

Maryland

21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

CHAIN OF TITLE

BA-2158

PRESENT OWNER: James C. Swartz  
 ADDRESS: 1 Willow Avenue

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>LIBER/FOLIO</u>
*11 August 1977	John Howard Jessop (representative under will of Grace May Gunther)	James C. Swartz	5790/23
*11 November 1959	Clarence H. Gurd (trustee under will of William H. Gurd)	Grace M. Gunther	3636/299
*23 May 1950	William K. Norwood & Mae Norwood, Vernon H. Norwood & Elizabeth F. Norwood, Randolph Norwood and Irene Norwood	Clarence H. Gurd	1881/32
*28 December 1940	Vernon L. Norwood (WILL)	Norwood Heirs	WILL BOOK 225/145
26 May 1944	Grace M. Gunther (MORTGAGE)	Court Building Association, Inc.	1345/209
26 May 1944	Edmund T. Bryan & Nettie B. Bryan (ASSIGNMENT)	Grace M. Gunther	1345/208
19 October 1940	Court Building Association, Inc. (ASSIGNMENT)	Edmund T. Bryan & Nettie B. Bryan	1132/256
8 February 1934	H. Courtenay Jenifer (had bought at public sale, Nov. 28, 1933, after mortgage default)	Court Building Association, Inc.	923/256
15 May 1930	John O. Bayne & Dora M. Bayne (MORTGAGE)	Court Building Association, Inc.	853/312
15 May 1930	William L. Torbit & Jeannette Torbit (ASSIGNMENT)	John O. Bayne & Dora M. Bayne	853/312

BA-2158

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>LIBER/FOLIO</u>
6 February 1924	Ida L.M. Held (ASSIGNMENT)	William L. Torbit & Jeannette Torbit	585/397
13 December 1912	Louis W. Held (ASSIGNMENT)	Ida L.M. Held	404/419
8 October 1900	Mary Schultz (ASSIGNMENT)	Lewis W. Held	247/550
*8 March 1895	David G. McIntosh & Virginia McIntosh, William Bosley (mortgager)	Vernon L. Norwood	208/447
7 June 1893	David G. McIntosh & Virginia McIntosh (MORTGAGE)	William Bosley	166/53
8 March 1885	David G. McIntosh & Virginia McIntosh (99 year lease)	Mary Schultz	149/81
*	Ware Heirs	David G. McIntosh	101/177

\*Direct chain of ownership in fee simple





BA-2158

PHOTOGRAPHS: 1 Willow Avenue (original photos in Historic Towson's Files)



ABOVE: South-east Corner

BELOW: South (Main) Facade



BA-2158

PHOTOGRAPHS: 1 Willow Avenue (Original photos in Historic Towson's files)

BELOW: North (Rear) Facade

