

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

31 Willow Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Katherine M. Ackerman

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

31 Willow Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: 2551
Folio #: 28

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-2160

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

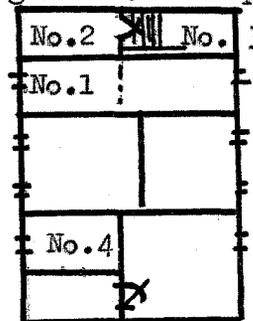
ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This L-shaped one and a half story frame house standing at 31 Willow Avenue was built presumably around 1910. It does not appear on the 1898 Bromley Atlas but is shown on the 1915 edition. A title search indicates that the property was first leased from D.G. McIntosh to Charles Cross in 1910. It is later sold to John Yellott yet subject to the earlier lease. Consequently, it seems likely that Cross built on the land shortly after gaining control of the lot and subsequently paid rent to McIntosh and Yellott.

The small L-shaped structure faces south on Willow Avenue. A small addition has been made to the front facade by enclosing half of the porch. Three additions appear at the rear of the house.

The sketch at the right shows the main house with No.1 representing an addition to the kitchen (enlarged original room). No.2 is a pantry addition with a door leading down into the cellar. Presumably, the cellar steps were outside of the original kitchen section. No.3 indicates a recently enclosed screened back porch which extends beyond the pantry addition.



*Note: No.4 is the section of the porch which was enclosed

The main structure rests on a high stone foundation and is capped with intersecting gable roofs. A brick chimney exits the roof on the north-south wing near the intersection with the east-west wing. Asbestos shingles conceal the original german siding.

Two concrete and five wood steps lead to the small one-story side porch which has been partially enclosed. One turned porch posts and half of the plain balustraded railing survive. The porch floor is constructed of tongue and groove boards covered with plywood. The ceiling similarly displays tongue and groove boards. A painted brick porch pier supports the porch and a green lattice-like porch base is visible on the west facade.

Fenestration on the main or south facade has been altered since the porch was partially enclosed. A small 1/1 sash window appears on the west side of the porch addition and another is shown on the south side of the porch. The main entrance faces west and is located to the right of the steps on the north-south wing. Additional fenestration on this facade includes two casement windows in the cellar and two 2/2 sash windows on the first floor. A window opening appears in the attic as well.

The west facade shows two 1/1 sash windows on the first floor and a window opening in the attic. The roof overhangs this facade approximately 8-10" and decorative scroll vergeboard appears at the apex of the roofline. A small awning style window is located on the first addition (No.1) in the rear.

The east facade shows one casement style window in the cellar and one

(continued)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BA-2160

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION continued...

1/1 sash window on the first floor of the small north-south wing. On the east-west wing, there are two 1/1 sash windows on the first floor and a window in the attic. The roofline is treated with vergeboard similar to the west facade. A small casement window appears in the kitchen addition.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" 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	c. 1910	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

31 Willow Avenue is significant as an example of an early 20th century building type, the L-shaped vernacular, encountered in the Willow Avenue/Linden Terrace area. In addition, the house is particularly representative of these structures in that its original appearance, like so many of the houses, has been greatly altered with additions and the enclosing of the front porch. These structural changes were deemed necessary to accomodate a family's growth.

Aside from its individual architectural merits, however, 31 Willow is significant as an integral part of the surrounding residential neighborhood. In recent years, increased commercialization has threatened Towson's built environment, buildings 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 remaining unchanged residential areas left in Central Towson. 31 Willow together with the other vernacular buildings on the street provide a visual representation of Towson's earlier character.

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

ORGANIZATION

Historic Towson, Inc.

DATE

September, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

120 Allegheny Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

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

BA-2160

CHAIN OF TITLE

ADDRESS: 31 Willow Avenue
PRESENT OWNER: Katherine M. Ackerman

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>LIBER/FOLIO</u>
8 Sept 1954	Mildred I. Tavik	Bernard J. Ackerman Katherine Ackerman	2551/28
8 Sept 1954	John T. Price Katherine S. Price	Wyman Park Federal Savings & Loan Assn	2551/25
8 Sept 1954	John T. Price Katherine S. Price	Mildred I. Tavik	2551/23
	(lease)		
16 Dec 1949	Margaret Shriver	John T. Price Katherine S. Price	1810/10
9 July 1926	William M. Dey Nannie C. Dey	Margaret Shriver	636/322
16 Mar 1923	Gertrude C. Ryder	William M. Dey Nannie C. Dey	569/441
4 May 1920	Stanley L. Howard Agaiha M. Howard	Gertrude C. Ryder	527/123
1 Aug 1918	John I. Yellott	Stanley L. Howard	502/597
	(contains paragraph re: well and pump on the property)		
17 Oct 1913	David G. McIntosh	John I. Yellott	419/503
	(sold subject to lease)		
29 Sept 1910	David G. McIntosh	Charles L. Cross	367/473
	(lease)		

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PHOTOGRAPHS: 31 Willow Avenue (Original photos in Historic Towson's Files)



ABOVE: South-west Corner

BELOW: South (Main) Facade

