

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dennis Mathews/John Bereska

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

7 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 #: 6116

Folio #: 314

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-2165

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
 

---

The steep cross gable frame house at 24 Willow epitomizes the threat facing residential structures in Towson, Maryland. With the increased commercialization of the area, private residences are either demolished or altered in such a manner as to destroy their architectural and historic significance. The houses on Willow Avenue comprise one of the few residential areas left in central Towson. But even these homes are in danger. The proximity to Towson State University make these structures especially appealing to speculators who wish to turn them into apartments. Additions have been made to many of the houses to accommodate the shift from single residence to apartment dwellings. The structure at 24 Willow witnessed an even more drastic change. The entire south facade of this impressive cross gable has been obstructed from view by the addition of a full three story structure built behind the frame house.

The original frame structure is two stories with an attic. Facing north, it rests on a stone foundation and is capped with an asphalt shingled cross gable roof. Quite interestingly, however, the cross gable ends appear on the sides of the structure (east and west facades) as opposed to the main and rear facades as is traditionally the case. The house dates from the first decade of the twentieth century. It does not appear on the 1898 Bromley Atlas but record of it is found on the 1915 edition.

The large frame structure rests on a steep hill which is ascended with the aid of eleven concrete steps. Eight additional concrete steps lead to the front porch. The porch spans the entire main (north) facade and 3/4 of the west facade. The section on the west, however, has been enclosed with screened panels. The porch is supported by six square wood columns. Tongue and groove boards floor the porch. A balustraded railing encloses the main facade and a green lattice-like porch base surrounds the porch. The ceiling is constructed of tongue and groove boards and a flat roof hangs above.

The main facade is four bays wide. The entrance is located slightly off center to the left. It consists of a modern storm door opening onto a wood paneled interior door. The transom has been enclosed with a piece of wood. To the left of the door is a 1/1 floor length window with white trim. To the right of the door are two additional 1/1 floor length windows. The second floor contains four regular size 1/1 sash windows. A smaller 1/1 sash window appears on the attic floor.

The west facade is dominated by the steep cross gable and the enclosed side porch. The first floor shows two 1/1 sash windows and a wood paneled door with transom. The second floor contains three 1/1 sash windows. The attic displays a similar 1/1 sash window.

The south facade, as mentioned, is totally obstructed from view by the recent addition built onto the rear of the original.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

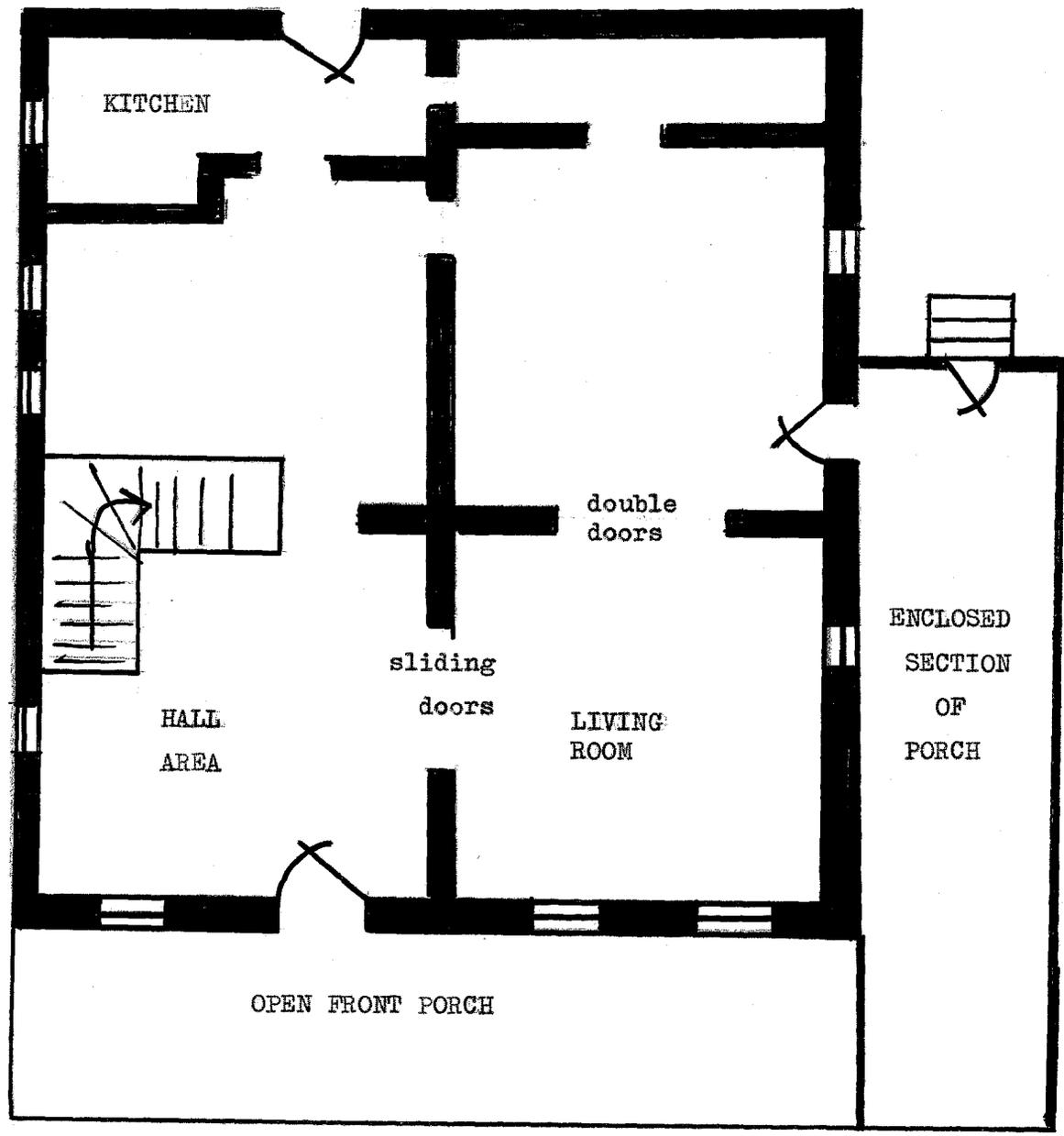
(continued...)

BA-2165

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION continued...

The east facade, like the west facade, exhibits the steep cross gable roofline. Fenestration consists of three 1/1 sash windows on the first floor and three on the second floor. A single 1/1 sash window appears on the attic floor. In addition, two casement windows are located in the cellar.

The interior of the house, opposed to the exterior, has remained relatively unchanged. All of the original mouldings and doors survive. A balustraded railing appears on the stairs and sliding double doors lead into the living room. A rough sketch of the floorplan appears below.



**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

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

---

SPECIFIC DATES post-1898, pre-1915                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

24 Willow Avenue, a huge cross-gable, represents a significant building type that appeared in Maryland and many parts of the East throughout the mid-19th and early 20th centuries. Quite interestingly, 24 Willow exhibits a modification in the typical cross-gable. It displays cross gable rooflines on two sides, neither of which is the main facade.

Aside from its individual architectural merits, however, 24 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 either been 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. 24 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, 1890  
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 &amp; 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-2165

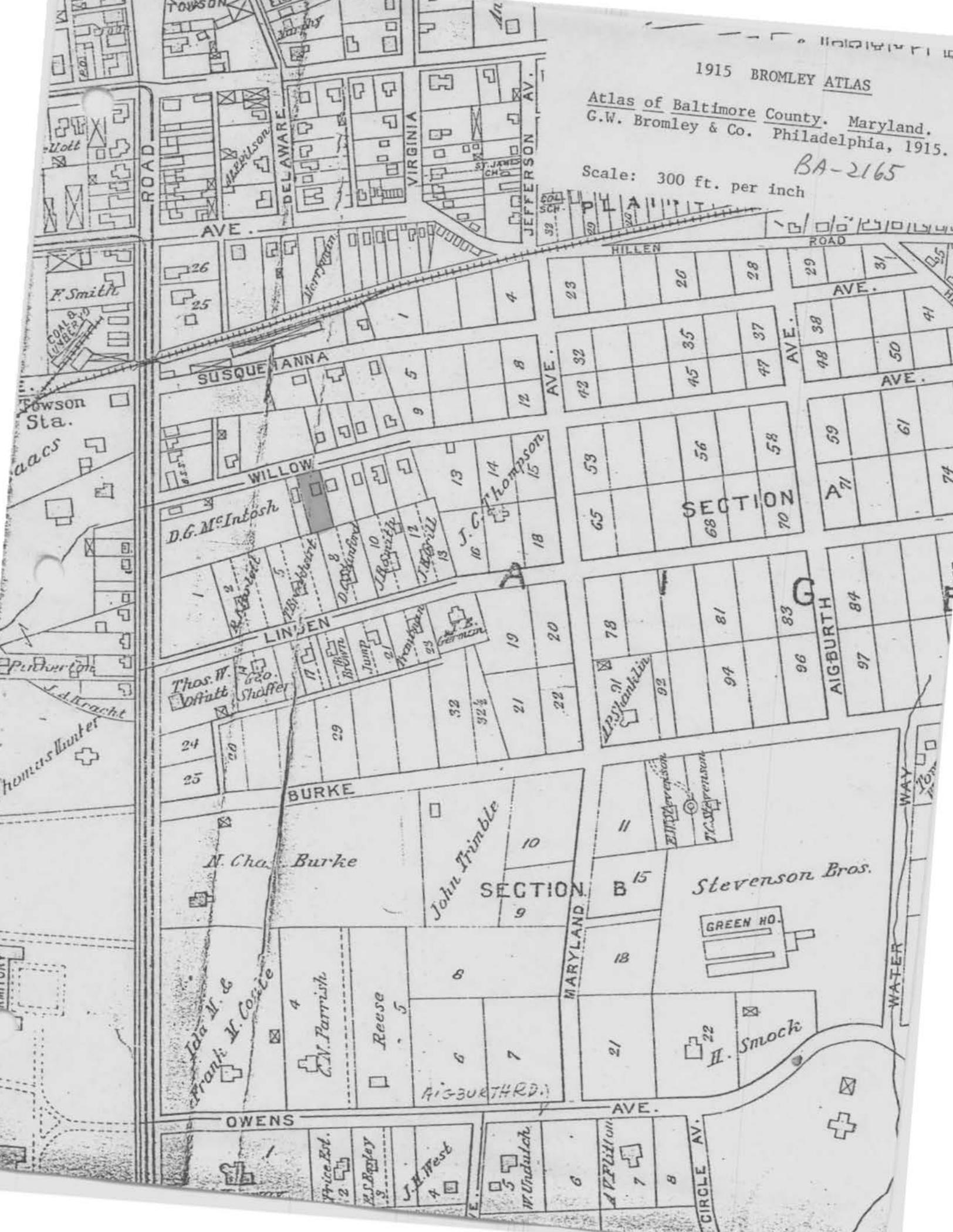
CHAIN OF TITLE

ADDRESS: 24 Willow Avenue  
PRESENT OWNER: John W. Bereska/Carolyn R. Bereska  
Dennis L. Mathews/Mary A. Mathews

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>LIBER/FOLIO</u>
23 Nov 1979	Susan Bernoski	John W. Bereska Dennis L. Mathews	6116/314
23 Nov 1979	John W. Bereska Carolyn R. Bereska	Susan Bernoski	6116/312
22 June 1979	Jesse R. Sachse Milton B. Sachse	John W. Bereska Carolyn R. Bereska	6043/235
17 Apr 1978	Marie D. Kindle	Jesse R. Sachse Milton B. Sachse	5876/119
28 May 1919	Amalia E. Graefe Minnie H. Graefe	Jesse A. Sachse Marie D. Sachse  (Jesse died in 1923; Marie remarried in 1926 and became Marie D. Kindle)	512/154
19 Sept 1914	T. Wilbur Meads Margaret B. Meads	Amalia E. Graefe Minnie H. Graefe	433/522
23 June 1914	John Mays Little	T. Wilbur Meads  (T. Wilbur Meads defaulted on mortgage but then bought the house at public auction on 19 May 1914)	429/454
29 Dec 1911	Thomas J. Meads	T. Wilbur Meads  (Deed of Assignment)	Mortgage 361/170
20 Apr 1911	Katherine Mulligan George J. Mulligan	Thomas J. Meads	Mortgage 361/167
27 Oct 1910	David G. McIntosh	Katherine Mulligan	376/169

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

Scale: 300 ft. per inch BA-2165



ROAD

DELaware AVE.

VIRGINIA

JEFFERSON AV.

HILLEN ROAD

ROAD

AVE.

AVE.

SUSQUEHANNA

WILLOW

LINJEN

BURKE

OWENS

AVE.

AVE.

AIGBURTH

MARYLAND

AVE.

CIRCLE AV.

WATER WAY

SECTION

SECTION

Stevenson Bros.

GREEN HO.

H. Smock

John Trumble

D.G. McIntosh

J.G. Thompson

N. Charles Burke

Ida M. & Frank H. Conlee

C.N. Parrish

Reese

AIGBURTH RD.

Price Ed.

M.S. Bayley

J.H. West

W. Underhill

A. Fulton

F. Smith

Rowson Sta.

Thos. W. Offatt

Shaffer

W. Spanglin

E. Stevenson

T.C. Stevenson

Thomas Hunter

Coal & Lumber

Walt

McMillson

Young

Ann

St. James

St. Paul

St. Peter

St. John

St. Mary

St. Anne

St. Elizabeth

St. Francis

St. Rose

St. Agnes

St. Vincent

St. Thome

St. Ignace

St. Basil

St. Nicholas

St. Demetrius

St. George

St. Andrew

St. Patrick

St. Brigid

St. Katerine

St. Agatha

St. Cecilia

St. Theresia

St. Ann

St. Barbara

St. Elizabeth

St. Katerine

St. Agatha

St. Cecilia

St. Theresia

St. Ann

St. Barbara

St. Elizabeth

St. Katerine



BA-2165

PHOTOGRAPHS: 24 Willow Avenue

(Original photos in Historic Towson's Files)



ABOVE: North (Main) Facade

BELOW: West Facade

