

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Raymond Cronin

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

32 Willow Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: 5701

Folio #: 118

STREET & 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-2168

CONDITION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED

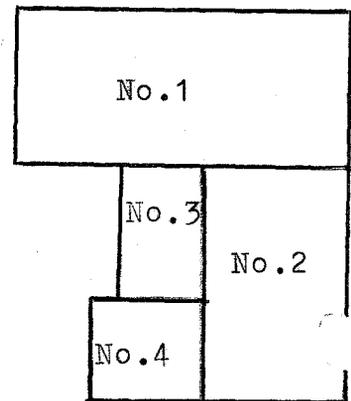
CHECK ONE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two story, three bay wide framed structure at 32 Willow Avenue was constructed in the early 1880's. Believed to have been built by Archibald Davis, it is one of the oldest houses on the street. In plan, the house consists of a two room wide main block with three probable additions to the rear. The structure, which rests on a stone foundation, is capped with a red shingled gable roof. White asbestos shingles cover the original clapboard siding. A central brick chimney is located in the oldest section of the house.

The diagram to the right indicates the probable chronology for the different sections of the house. No.1 represents the original main block. It measures approximately 24 ft. by 16 ft. These measurements correspond to the records found in the early tax assessments. No.2 appears to have been added not long after the original construction although the tax assessments do not indicate the change. Nevertheless, the present owner stated that the moldings were similar to those found in the older section. No.3 was added at some point in the 20th century. No.4 was originally a second story porch. Within the last twenty-five years, this porch was enclosed leaving an open area below. Two years ago, that lower section was enclosed.



The original block faces north on Willow Avenue. The main or north facade displays a centrally located entrance consisting of a wood paneled door and stained glass transom above. On each side of the door are 6/6 double hung sash windows with plain white trim and grey louvered shutters. Similarly, the second floor contains two 6/6 sash windows with trim and shutters.

A single story porch dominates this north facade. It rests on stone porch piers and is supported by four chamfered posts. A lattice-like base surrounds the porch while two foot balusters support the enclosing railing. The floor is constructed of plain wooden floorboards while the ceiling displays tongue and groove boards.

The west facade exhibits a variety of fenestration types. The main block contains a two story bay window comprised of 4/4 double hung sash windows. On the first floor of the [second] addition, one finds two 4/4 casement windows and one 4/4 sash window with white trim and grey louvered shutters. On the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(second)

second floor, there is one 6/1 sash window with trim and shutters. The [third] addition at the rear of the house displays a door and a window on the first floor and a double window on the second floor. The door is a glass paneled door with a gable hood above. The first floor window is a 1/1 sash window with plain white trim and grey louvered shutters. The double window on the second floor is also a 1/1 sash window with trim and louvered shutters.

The south facade shows two 1/1 sash windows with the usual trim and shutters on the first floor, and one 2/2 window similarly treated on the second floor.

The east facade, like the west, exhibits irregular fenestration. The main block contains one 6/6 sash window with shutters on the first floor and one on the second floor. The remaining fenestration on this facade consists of two 6/6, one 4/4, and one 2/1 sash windows on the first floor. On the second floor, there is one 6/6 sash window and one 4/4 sash windows. All of the windows are encased in plain white trim and display grey louvered shutters.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA-2168

PERIOD	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

32 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, 32 Willow is important as visual documentation of one of the earliest architectural styles in the neighborhood -- the unadorned, gable-roofed, vernacular.

Aside from its individual architectural merits, however, 32 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. 32 Willow Avenue together with the other vernacular buildings on the street provide a visual representation of Towson's early character.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

BA-2168

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-2168

CHAIN OF TITLE

ADDRESS: 32 Willow Avenue
 PRESENT OWNER: Raymond Cronin

<u>DATE</u>	<u>GRANTOR</u>	<u>GRANTEE</u>	<u>LIBER/FOLIO</u>
22 Nov 1976	Charles F. Brown	Raymond Cronin Karen B. Cronin	5701/118
27 Feb 1976	Clara J. Davis	Charles F. Brown	5620/975
17 June 1952	Ella Davis McGree	Francis Edw. Davis Clara J. Davis	2128/147
30 Apr 1928	John B.W. Hax Bertha C. Hax (Includes reference to a 1915 Deed of Assignment from Archibald Davis to Mary E. Davis)	Mary E. Davis	660/218
12 Mar 1896	Dorothea Heitmueller (sold subject to lease between David McIntosh and Archibald Davis)	John B.W. Hax	216/333
6 May 18_ 5	David G. McIntosh	Dorothea Heitmueller	
17 Mar 1882	David G. McIntosh	Archibald Davis (lease)	129/126
31 Mar 1877	Valverda A.P. Ware	David G. McIntosh	101/177

BA-2168

TAX ASSESSMENTS

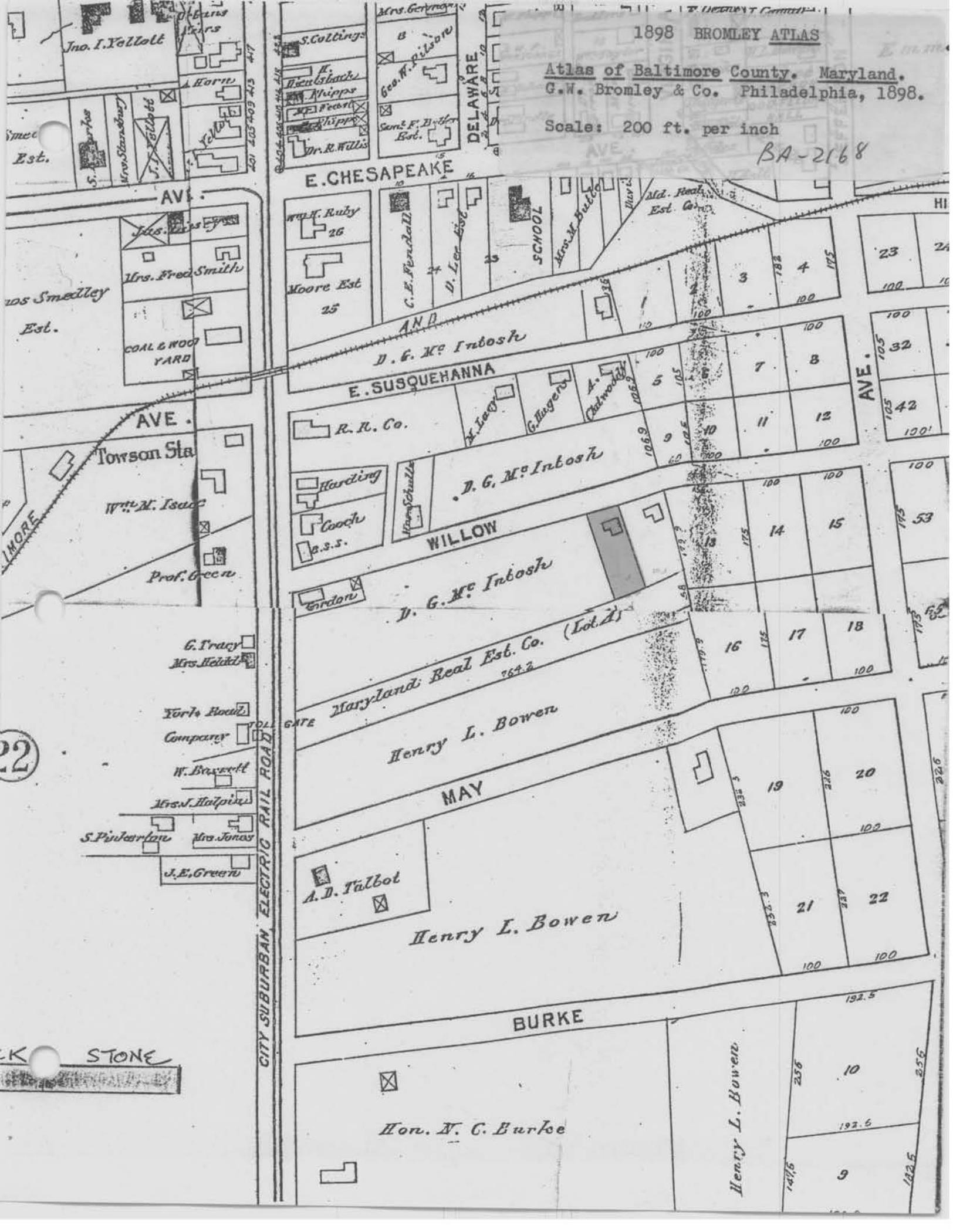
ADDRESS: 32 Willow Avenue
PRESENT OWNER: Raymond Cronin

1911 Tax Assessment	9th District	p.203
Mary A. Davis		
Lot No.30 SS Willow Avenue Towson		275 00
Frame House		800 00
Household furniture		100 00
1918 Tax Assessment	9th District	p.353
Mary A. Davis		
Lot 56 x 150 SS Willow 650' to York Rd		504 00
House 2 - 24' x 16'		837 00
1919 Tax Assessment	9th District	p.153
Mary A. Davis		
Lot 56 x 150 SS Willow 650' to York Rd		504 00
House 24 x 16		837 00
1923 Tax Assessment	9th District	p. ?
Ella Mary Davis		
Lot 56 x 150 SS Willow Ave, 650' to York Rd		560 00
Dwelling		1000 00

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

Scale: 200 ft. per inch

BA-2168



E. CHESAPEAKE

E. SUSQUEHANNA

WILLOW

MAY

BURKE

CITY SUBURBAN ELECTRIC RAIL ROAD

DELAWARE

AVE.

AVE.

AVE.

STONE

22

Wm. H. Ruby 26
Moore Est 25

R. R. Co.
Harding
Coch
a.s.s.
Gordon

A. D. Talbot

Hon. N. C. Burfee

D. G. Mc Intosh

D. G. Mc Intosh

D. G. Mc Intosh

Maryland Real Est. Co. (Lot A)
264.2

Henry L. Bowen

Henry L. Bowen

Henry L. Bowen

Jno. I. Yellott
Mrs. Fred Smith
Mrs. Smedley Est.
COAL & WOOD YARD
Towson Sta
Wm. M. Isaac
Prof. Green

G. Tracy
Mrs. Hellett
York & Bowd
Company
W. Baseott
Mrs. J. Halpin
S. Pindarlow
Mrs. Jones
J. E. Green

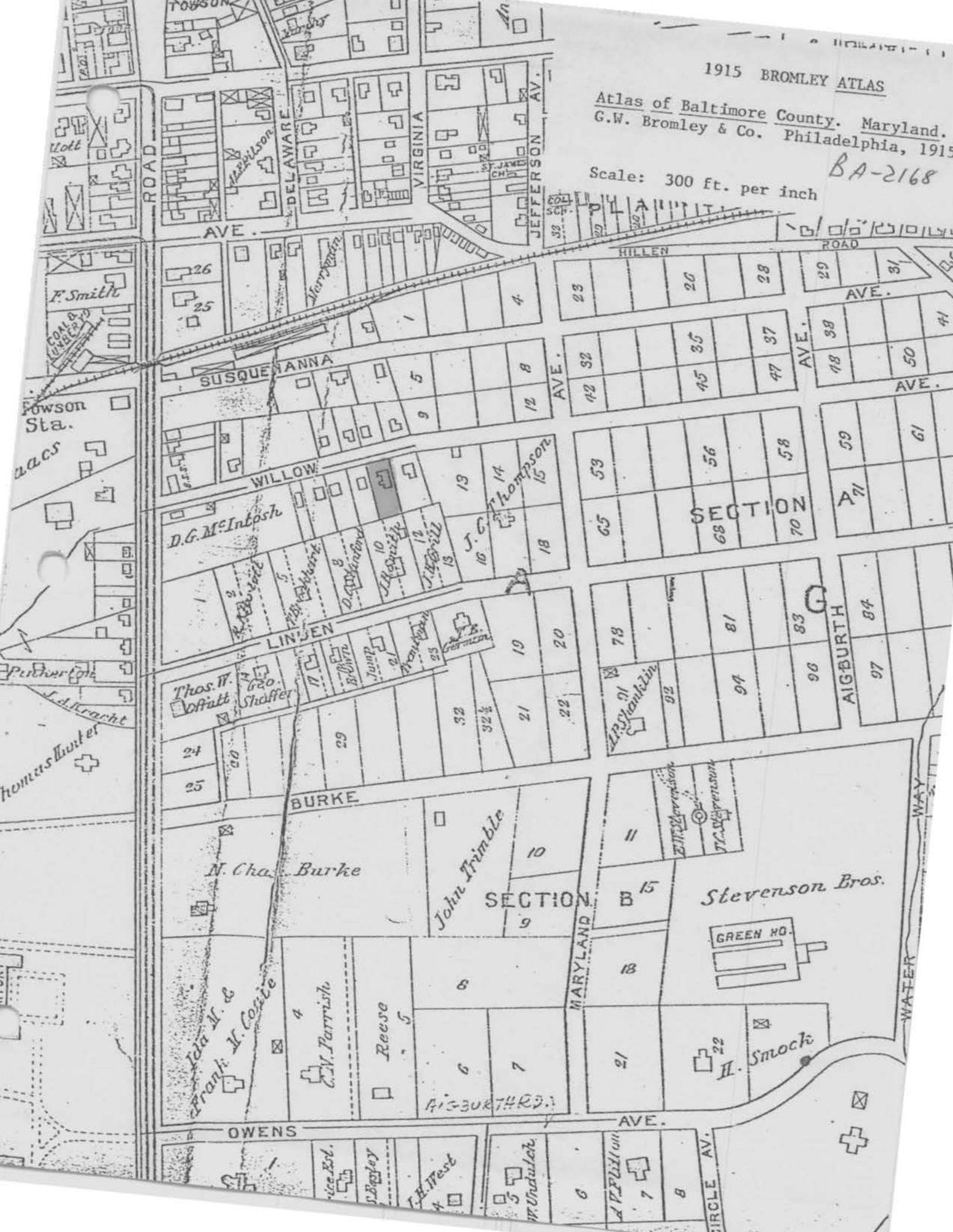
S. Collins
H. Hensbach
W. Whippy
W. F. Peart
W. Whippy
Dr. R. Willis
Mrs. G. G. Brown
Geo. W. Pilson
Saml. F. Butler Est.
SCHOOL
Mrs. M. Bullock
Md. Real Est. Co.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

STONE

BA-2168

Scale: 300 ft. per inch



W. Lott

F. Smith
COAL & UNDERGROUND

Powson Sta.
W. L. Smith

Thomas W. Offutt
Geo. Shaffer
Thomas Hunter

Ida M. & Frank I. Corrie

DELAWARE AVE.

MARYLAND AVE.

VIRGINIA AVE.

JEFFERSON AV.

26
25

1
4

23
32

20
35

28
37

29
31
18
38
50
41

SUSQUEHANNA AVE.

5
9
12
8

13
14
15

53
65

56
58
68
70

59
61

WILLOW AVE.

D.G. McIntosh
10
11
12
13

J.G. Thompson
13
14
15
18

78
92

81
83
94
96
97

84
84

LINJEN AVE.

17
19
20
21
22

32
32 1/2

MARYLAND AVE.

11
15
18

21
22

BURKE AVE.

N. Cha. Burke
4
5
6
7

John Trimble
9
10

Stevenson Bros.
GREEN HO.

22
H. Smock

WATER WAY

OWENS AVE.

Reese
4
5
6
7

21
22

21
22

22
H. Smock

22
H. Smock

ICE BOT.
S. Bayley
I.H. West

5
6
7
8

W. Underhill

7
8

CIRCLE AV.

7
8

BA-2168

PHOTOGRAPHS: 32 Willow Avenue (Original photos in Historic Towson's Files)



ABOVE: South-west Corner

BELOW: South-west Corner

