

WI-269
Jay Williams Law Office
Salisbury
Private

c. 1895-96, c. 1905-10

The Jay Williams law office is a distinctive three-story, two-bay brick commercial block that stands on the west side of North Division Street across from the Wicomico County Courthouse. A combination of pressed red brick with yellow brick banding and a rusticated stone beltcourse distinguish the asymmetrical facade that is dominated by a projecting three-story bay topped by a galvanized and decorated pediment. The building was assembled in two distinct stages; the initial two-story, two-bay brick office was erected around 1895-96 following the extensive 1886 Salisbury fire that destroyed the central business district. In November 1895 Simon and Carrie Ulman sold the parcel of land on which this building was erected for \$800. Jeanette C. Williams of Nyack, Rockland County, New York purchased the property and evidently financed construction of the office building. Seven years later, Jeanette C. Williams transferred ownership of the building and lot to attorney Jay Williams for \$2,600. The raising of the building from two stories to three is documented by the Sanborn Insurance maps. In 1904 the building was labeled a two-story structure, while in 1911 it had been revised on the map to a three-story building. There are distinct shifts in the brickwork on the south side that documents the construction sequence as well. The law office remained in Williams family hands until Jay Williams' widow, Blanche, sold the property to the Trustees of Wicomico Lodge No. 91 in August 1935.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: Jay Williams Law Office

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-269

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore

3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance
1870-1930

4. Resource Type(s): Commercial Block
- former law office

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-269

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Jay Williams Law Office

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 116 North Division Street not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Wicomico Lodge No. 91 A.F. & A.M.

street & number P. O. Box 1391 telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court Map 107 Parcel 1037
liber IDT 193

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 183

city, town Salisbury state MD 21801

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WI-269

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 type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Historically known as the Jay Williams law office, the three-story, two-bay by four-bay brick commercial block is located at 116 North Division Street in the center of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The building faces east.

Dating around 1890 and enlarged around 1905-10, the three-story, pressed brick stretcher bond and common bond commercial block is flanked on its south and west sides by an alley and on the north side by an early 20th century commercial block. A distinct seam and change in the color of brickwork on the south side indicate that the building was raised from two stories to three stories.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical facade with an altered first floor storefront. A centered recessed entrance is flanked by large glass display windows dating from the mid twentieth century. The second and third floors have not been changed significantly since the building was enlarged and remodeled around 1910. The top of the first floor is accented with a rusticated stone beltcourse, and yellow brick beltcourses mark the top of the second and third floor windows. The right (north) bay projects slightly and is the dominant focus for the commercial front. Slightly wider than the left (south) bay, the north bay is pierced by tripartite windows on the first and second floors, and a galvanized metal pediment caps the pavilion. Classical relief decoration embellishes the tympanum of the pediment. The second floor tripartite window is subdivided with small windows fixed above the narrow single-pane sash. Incorporated within the yellow brick beltcourses are brick jack arches.

The narrow left bay is pierced by a single-pane sash windows on the second and third floors with the yellow brick beltcourses stretching across at window lintel height. The brick jack arches, executed in yellow brick, are incorporated within the beltcourses. Capping the top of the parapet wall is a galvanized metal cornice.

The south side elevation reveals the distinct raising of the building from two floors to three. There is a clear change in the color of the brick, and the outline of the former stepped parapet is discernable. The current top of the wall is a stepped parapet wall. An interior side stove chimney rises above the parapet roof.

The interiors have been extensively reworked to suit mid to late twentieth century office space. The third floor was not seen.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-269

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 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 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	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Jay Williams law office is a distinctive three-story, two-bay brick commercial block that stands on the west side of North Division Street across from the Wicomico County Courthouse. A combination of pressed red brick with yellow brick banding and a rusticated stone beltcourse distinguish the asymmetrical facade that is dominated by a projecting three-story bay topped by a galvanized and decorated pediment. The building was assembled in two distinct stages; the initial two-story, two-bay brick office was erected around 1895-96 following the extensive 1886 Salisbury fire that destroyed the central business district. In November 1895 Simon and Carrie Ulman sold the parcel of land on which this building was erected for \$800.(1) Jeanette C. Williams of Nyack, Rockland County, New York purchased the property and evidently financed construction of the office building. Seven years later, Jeanette C. Williams transferred ownership of the building and lot to attorney Jay Williams for \$2,600.(2) The raising of the building from two stories to three is documented by the Sanborn Insurance maps. In 1904 the building was labeled a two-story structure(3), while in 1911 it had been revised on the map to a three-story building.(4) There are distinct shifts in the brickwork on the south side that documents the construction sequence as well. The law office remained in Williams family hands until Jay Williams' widow, Blanche, sold the property to the Trustees of Wicomico Lodge No. 91 in August 1935.(5)

The building qualifies for listing in *Category A*, which identifies buildings that must be preserved due to their architectural and/or historical merit. Few alterations have been made to the second and third floors of this building, and it contributes to the diversity of North Division Street and the historic central business district.

WI-269
Jay Williams Law Office
116 North Division Street
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title

Map 107, Parcel 1037

IDT 193/183

A. Blanche Williams, widow

to

8/22/1935

Charles E. Harper, Trustees of Wicomico Lodge No. 91
J. McFadden Dick
Edward C. Fulton
Ralph H. Grier

“Williams Building” \$15,100.00

JTT 34/1

Jeanette C. Williams, City of New York

to

9/__/1902

Jay Williams, Salisbury

\$2,600.00

JTT 34/2

Simon Ulman

to

9/27/1902

Jay Williams
6" by 92' strip of land

JTT 17/121-2

Simon Ulman
Carrie Ulman

to

11/23/1895

Jeanette C. Williams, Nyack, Rockland County, N. Y.
\$800.00

8.1 SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)
Jay Williams Law Office
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Footnotes

- 1 Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 17/121-2, November 23, 1895, Wicomico County Courthouse.
- 2 Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 34/1, September ____, 1902, Wicomico County Courthouse.
- 3 Sanborn Insurance Map, Salisbury, 1904, Maryland State Archives.
- 4 Sanborn Insurance Map, Salisbury, 1911, Maryland State Archives.
- 5 Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 193/183, August 22, 1935, Wicomico County Courthouse

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

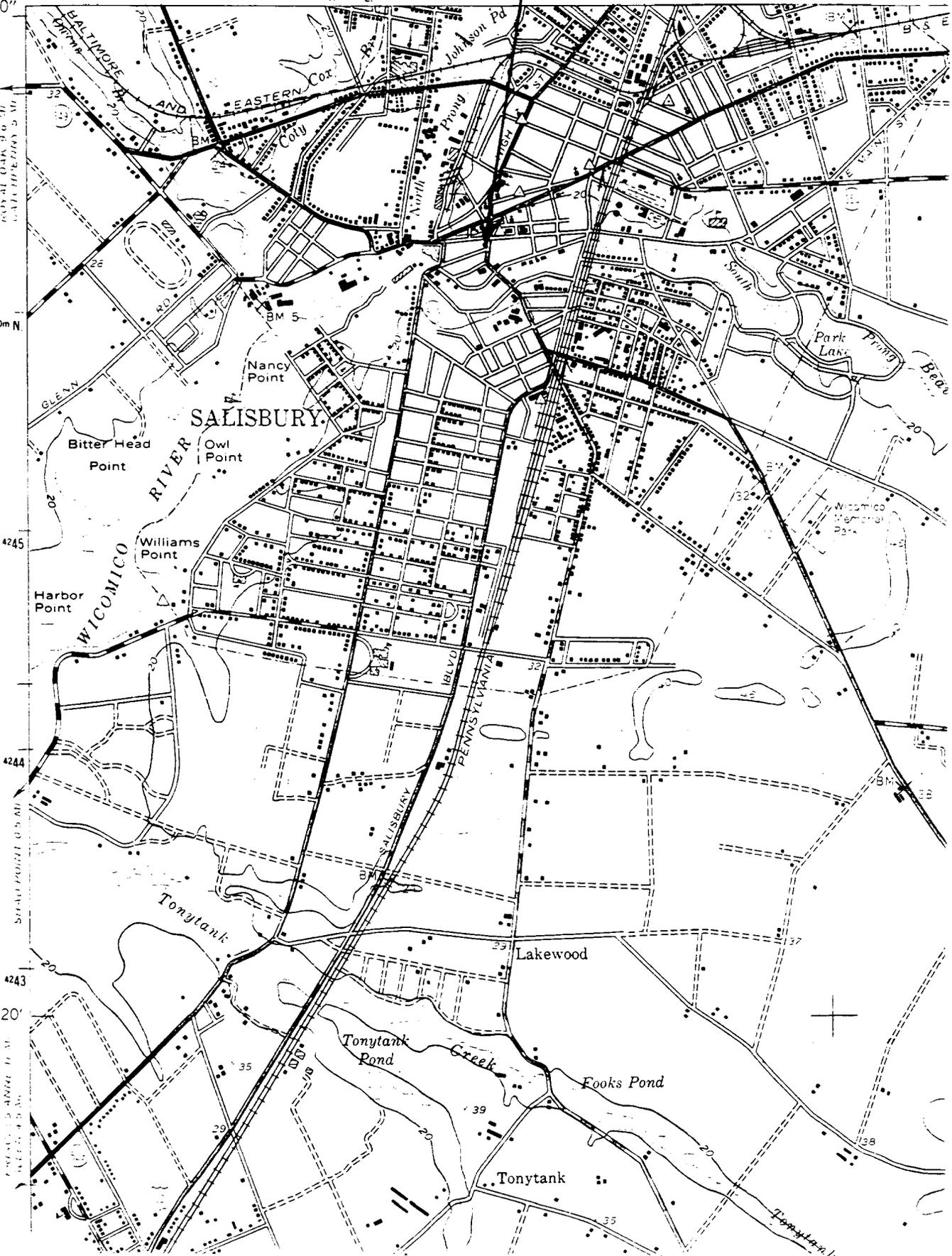
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

5860 J NW
(THE BRON)

75°37'30"
38°22'30"

447000m E

4246000m N



4245
4244
4243
20'



The Caldwell Company

FLO

W-369

My father, John J. ...
Surrey, ...

...

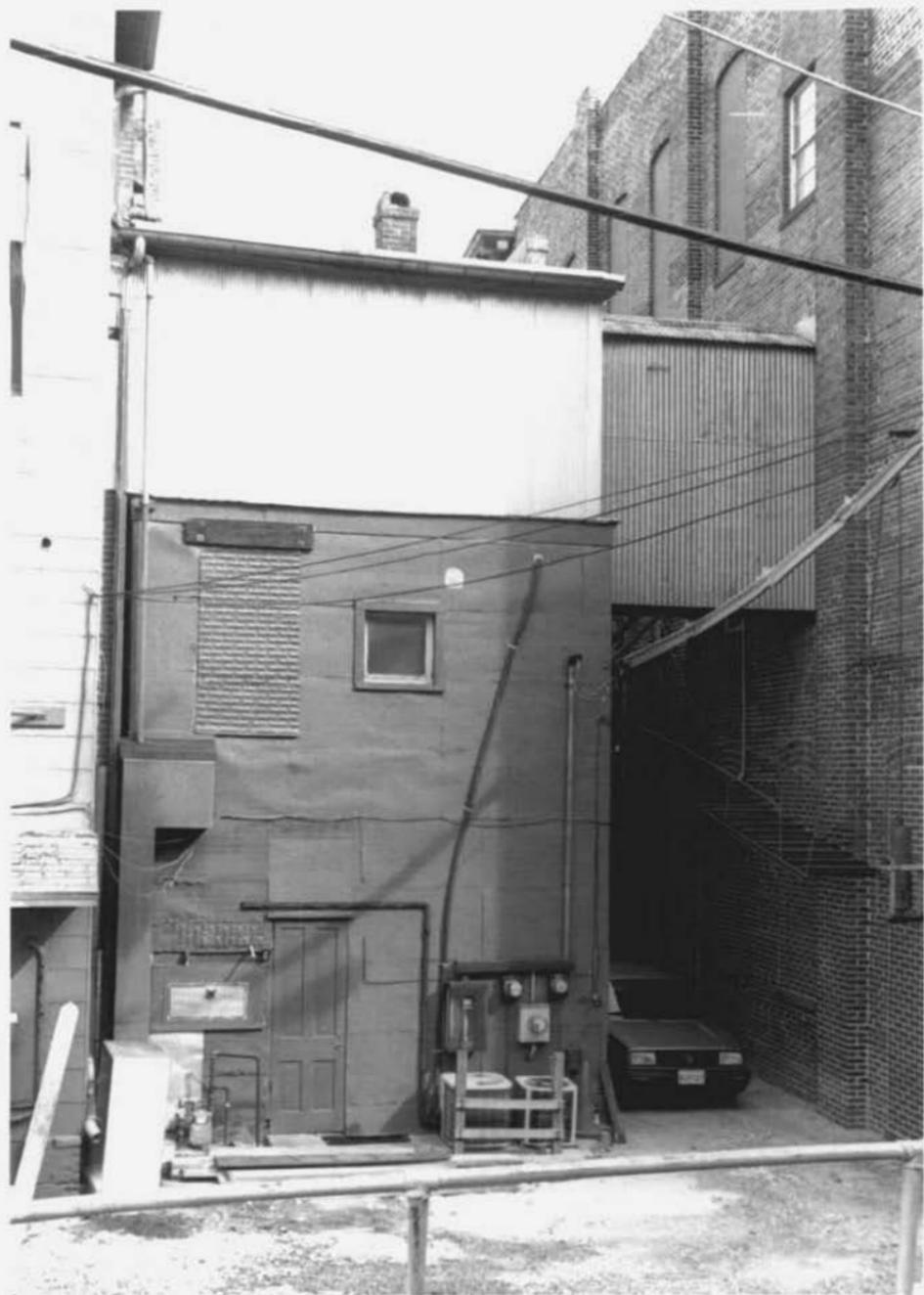
...



The Caldwell
Company

The Caldwell Company

FLOW
BY



WI-269

Lay Williams Law Office
Law Office, West
WEST TOWN
3/96 PAID TO
11/20/96 PAID TO



The Caldwell Company

FLOWER
BY...

11-267

Long Island, New York

1880-1881

1882-1883

1884-1885

1886-1887



