

WI-449  
William H. Brown House  
Salisbury  
Private

1937

Construction of this Delaware Avenue house is documented to 1937 by William H. and Aida C. Brown, who purchased this lot the year before from Ella Townsend Butler. The Browns financed a popular type of dwelling for the 1930s which architectural historians have labeled the "four-square" house. This type of dwelling was built in various versions across the country between the two world wars. Distinctive for its blockish proportions and hip roof, the floor plan is usually divided into four rooms with the stair rising in a corner of the plan.

After William H. Brown's death in 1953 the property was held by Aida C. Brown until the early 1970s.

MARYLAND HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN INFORMATION

RESOURCE NAME: William H. Brown House

MHT INVENTORY NUMBER: WI-449

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

1. Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture
2. Geographic Orientation: Eastern Shore
3. Chronological/Development Period(s): Modern Period 1930-Present
4. Resource Type(s): Dwelling

Survey No. WI-449

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic William H. Brown House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 214 Delaware Avenue not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use
district public X occupied agriculture museum
X building(s) X private unoccupied commercial park
structure both work in progress educational X private residence
site Public Acquisition Accessible
object in process X yes: restricted entertainment religious
being considered yes: unrestricted government scientific
X not applicable no industrial transportation
military other:

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

name James H. and Eugenie P. Shields

street & number 214 Delaware Avenue 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 106, P. 1380 liber 1444

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 776

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-449

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 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.

The William H. Brown house, located at 214 Delaware Avenue, is a two-story, two-bay by two-bay four-square house that faces southeast with the roof oriented on a northwest/southeast axis.

Erected in 1937, the two-story four-square frame dwelling is supported on a rusticated concrete block foundation, and the exterior is clad with aluminum siding. A layer of asbestos shingles covers the steeply pitched hip roof. Attached to the back of the house is a modern single story gable roofed addition.

The southeast (main) facade is a two-bay elevation with an enclosed hip roofed front porch sheltering the first floor. Two single-pane sash windows light the second floor. The base of the steeply pitched roof is enclosed with a boxed cornice. An interior brick stove chimney pierces the roofline.

The southwest side elevation is an asymmetrical elevation with a side entrance on the first floor and single pane sash windows lighting the first and second floors. A mid-level window located in the center of the wall lights the stairwell.

The northeast side elevation is pierced by single-pane sash windows, and the northwest (rear) wall is largely covered by the single-story modern addition.

The interior was not seen.

# 8. Significance

Survey No.

WI-449

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input 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 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** 1937 **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

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

Construction of this Delaware Avenue house is documented to 1937 by William H. and Aida C. Brown, who purchased this lot the year before from Ella Townsend Butler.<sup>1</sup> The Browns financed a popular type of dwelling for the 1930s which architectural historians have labeled the “four-square” house. This type of dwelling was built in various versions across the country between the two world wars. Distinctive for its blockish proportions and hip roof, the floor plan is usually divided into four rooms with the stair rising in a corner of the plan.

After William H. Brown’s death in 1953 the property was held by Aida C. Brown until the early 1970s.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, IDT 196/393, 9 July 1936.

<sup>2</sup> Wicomico County Land Records, 735/251, 20 April 1971, 1444/776, 26 June 1995.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A              
 Zone Easting Northing

B              
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	6/1/99
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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 Shaw House 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 269-2438	MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DHCP/DHCD 100 COMMUNITY PLACE CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023 514-7600
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WI-449  
William H. Brown House  
214 Delaware Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 106, Parcel 1380

1444/776

Bernice L. Brown  
Winifred H. Brown

to

6/26/1995

James H. Shields, Jr.  
Eugenie P. Shields

to grantors by following deeds

1. One-third interest as remaindermen subsequent to the death of Aida C. Brown, life tenant as provided by deed dated April 23, 1971, JWTS 735/254

2. Two-thirds interest by deed dated June 9, 1994, MSB 1396/811

735/254

Zerita E. Adams, City of Baltimore

to

4/23/1971

Aida C. Brown

735/251

Aida C. Brown

to

4/20/1971

Zerita E. Adams, City of Baltimore  
(...the said William H. Brown having died on 2 February 1953 vesting title in Aida C. Brown, IDT 196/393)

WI-449  
William H. Brown House  
214 Delaware Street  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title continued

Page 2

IDT 196/393

Ella Townsend Butler

to

7/9/1936

William H. Brown  
Aida C. Brown  
"California" bordering Delaware Street for 37 feet

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

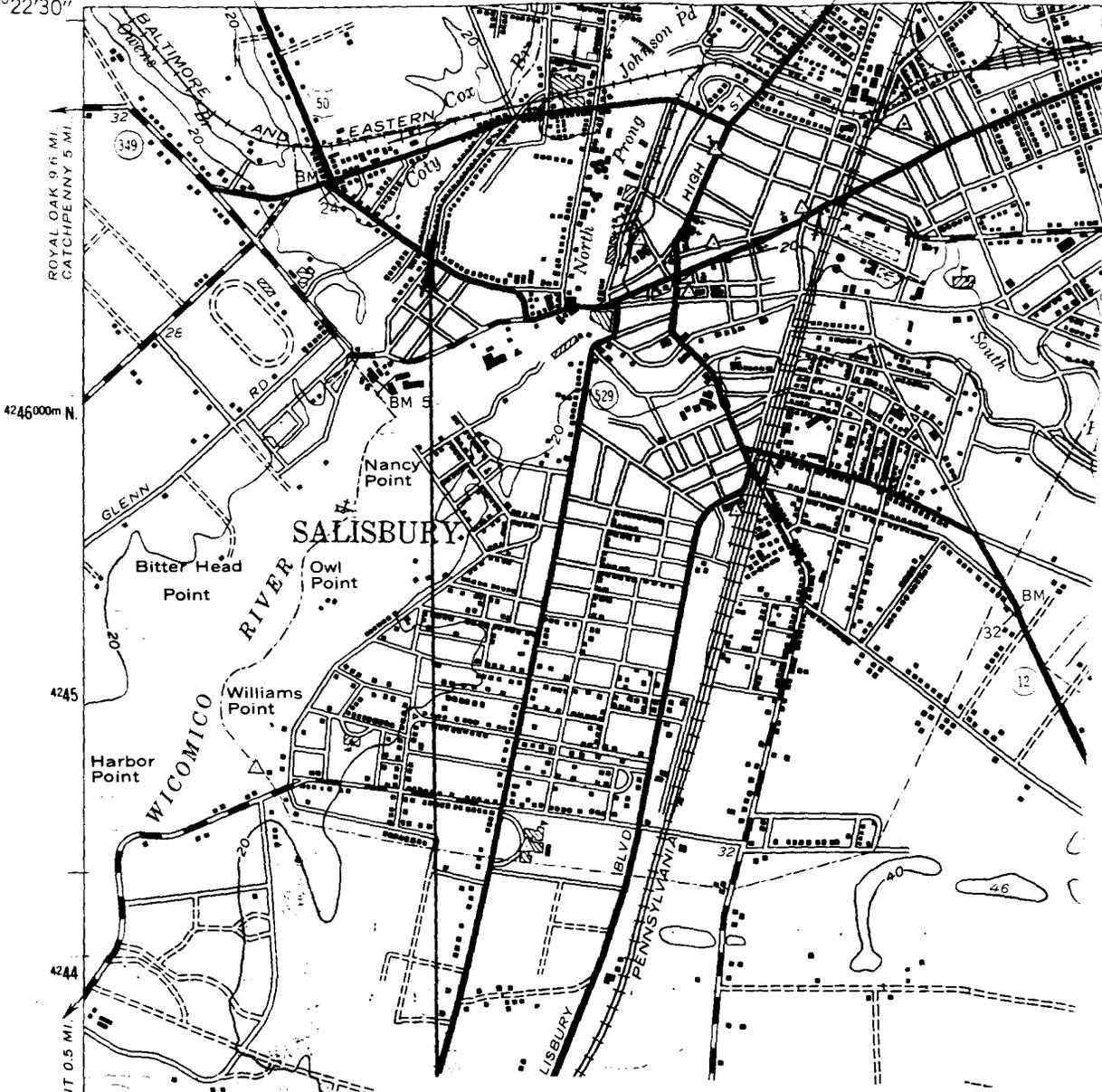
38° 01' N.W.  
(HEBRON)

75° 37' 30"  
38° 22' 30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.  
VIENNA 15 MI.

447000m E

LAUREL 13 M  
DELMAR 6 M



ROYAL OAK 9.6 MI.  
CATCHPENNY 5 MI.

4246000m N

4245

4244

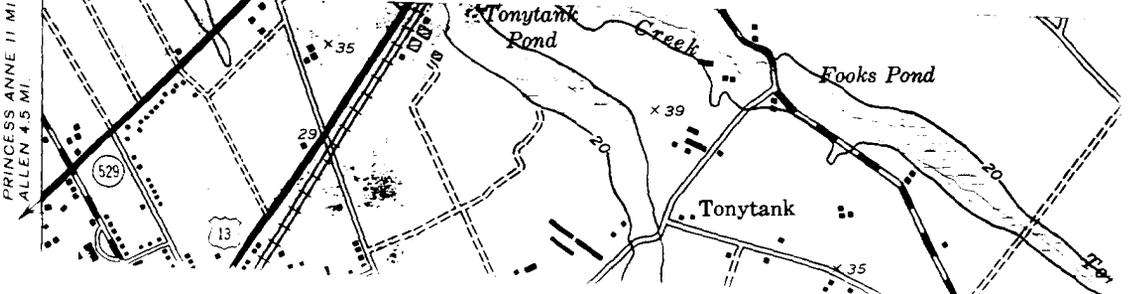
SHAD POINT 0.5 MI.

4243

PRINCESS ANNE 11 MI  
ALLEN 4.5 MI.

WI-449  
William H. Brown House  
214 Delaware Avenue  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Salisbury, MD Quadrangle  
1942





W-449

W. H. ...

Succession ...

...

5/99 ...

...

1 of 1