

WI-478

c. 1917

Camden Avenue Rowhouse Block
Salisbury
Private

The Camden Avenue Rowhouse block is one of a handful of multi-unit housing projects erected in Salisbury during the early twentieth century. Dating around 1917, this three-sectioned rowhouse block is architecturally distinguished by its Ionic columned porch and neoclassical oriole windows on the second floor. Much of the classically derived decoration on the three oriole windows as well as the turned baluster railing atop the parapet wall is pressed metal.

The Camden Avenue rowhouse block was erected for the Camden Improvement Company around 1917 after the organization purchased a large section of street frontage. Seven years later, in August 1919, the Camden Improvement Company sold one improved lot, designated as "Lot No. 3" to James E. Lowe, Sr. and his wife Emma for \$5,100, indicating the value of one third of the building at the time. The lot measured 26 ½' across by 96' deep. This rowhouse block, as well as its nearby neighbor on Camden Court and a few other units in the Newtown Historic District, reflect speculator's efforts to create condensed, urban-style residences at a time when quality middle range housing was in high demand.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Camden Avenue Rowhouse Block
Continuation Sheet

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7. Description

Inventory No. WI-478

Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
x	good	ruins
	fair	altered

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

The Camden Avenue rowhouse block is a series of three, two-story, two-bay units at 400-402-404 Camden Avenue in the Camden Historic District in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The rowhouse block stands on the southwest corner of the intersection of Camden Avenue and Camden Court.

Built around 1917, the two-story, three-unit rowhouse block is supported on a brick foundation with a partially excavated cellar, and the walls are comprised of a pressed brick, stretcher bond front and common bond side walls. A low sloping shed roof is disguised by parapet walls.

The east (main) elevation is comprised of a three-unit front with individual apartments defined by separate entrances. The entire first floor is sheltered by a neoclassical Ionic columned front porch. The three entrances are defined by double columned projections of the porch and separate sets of concrete and brick steps. A rectangular baluster handrail stretches between the columns. The first floor is pierced by an asymmetrical series of partially glazed doors and paired nine-over-one sash windows. Single pane transoms are fixed atop the doors. The second floor is defined by a series of three evenly spaced oriole window units lighted by rows of nine-over-one sash windows. The knee wall of the oriole window is paneled and the corners are defined by plain pilasters. The top of each oriole window unit is capped by neoclassical pediment that is enriched with a molded wreath and leaf decoration within the pediment. The pediment frieze is a continuation of the metal frieze that stretches across the entire front of the apartment block. Capping the parapet roof is a metal turned baluster railing with paneled posts at regular intervals topped by urn-shaped finials.

The south side is defined by an asymmetrical fenestration of paired and single nine-over-one window sash fitted within segmental arched openings accented with double rowlock arches. The north side facing Camden Court is highlighted by a continuation of the metal cornice that trims the front of the rowhouse block.

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8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	art	entertainment/ recreation	landscape architecture	religion
2000-	commerce	ethnic heritage	law	science
	communications	exploration/ settlement	literature	social history
	community planning		maritime history	transportation
	conservation		military	other:

Significance dates

Architect

Specific dates

Builder

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Camden Avenue rowhouse block is one of a handful of multi-unit attached housing projects erected in Salisbury during the early twentieth century. Dating around 1917, this three-sectioned rowhouse block is architecturally distinguished by its Ionic columned porch and neoclassical oriole windows on the second floor. Much of the classically derived decoration on the three oriole windows as well as the turned baluster railing that accents the top of the building is pressed metal.

The Camden Avenue rowhouse block was erected for the Camden Improvement Company around 1917 after the organization purchased a large section of street frontage.¹ Seven years later, in August 1919, the Camden Improvement Company sold one improved lot, designated as "Lot No. 3" to James E. Lowe Sr. and his wife Emma, for \$5,100. The

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, EAT 81/464, 31 December 1912.

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lot measured 26 ½' across by 96' deep.² This rowhouse block, as well as its nearby neighbor on Camden Court and a few other units in the Newtown Historic District, reflect local speculator's effort to create condensed, urban-style residences at a time when middle range housing was in high demand.

² Wicomico County Land Record, JCK 113/461, 15 August 1919.

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Eastern Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture

Resource Type: Standing Structure

Category: Dwelling

Historic Environment: Residential Neighborhood

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Domestic

Known Design Source:

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-478

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed

Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

street & number P. O. Box 5

city or town Westover, Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032
410-514-7600

WI-478
Camden Avenue Rowhouse Block
400-404 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 2

AJS 1004/349 Elizabeth M. Bounds

to

12/28/1983 Edward G. Bounds, Jr.
Charles R. Dashiell, Jr.

Item 5th

1004/343 Edward G. Bounds

to

12/28/1983 Elizabeth Bounds

Item 7th (A)

AJS 974/179 Edward G. Bounds
Elizabeth M. Bounds

to

5/3/1982 Edward G. Bounds
Elizabeth M. Bounds

Lot No. 3

JWTS 643/355 Ralph McFadden Williams

to

12/13/1966 Edward G. Bounds
Elizabeth M. Bounds

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Camden Avenue Rowhouse Block
400-404 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

JWTS 344/424	W. Edgar Porter Ruth B. Porter
	to
10/8/1952	Ralph McFadden Williams Cora G. Wimbrow
JWTS 344/423	Cora G. Wimbrow
	to
10/8/1952	W. Edgar Porter
	Item 2
JCK 146/413	Henry W. Roberts Ruby F. Roberts
	to
12/20/1926	Addie S. Wimbrow Cora G. Wimbrow
	Lot No. 3 "Camden"

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Camden Avenue Rowhouse Block
400-404 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

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JCK 136/44 James E. Lowe, Sr.
 Emma S. Lowe

to

9/10/1924 Henry W. Roberts

...assuming and convenating by Henry W. Roberts to pay mortgage on the hereinafter described parcel of land from James E. Lowe and Emma S. Lowe to S. Franklyn Woodcock, dated 8/15/1919, \$2,500 JCK 115/101

Lot No. 3 Camden Improvement Company, JCK 113/461

JCK 113/461 Camden Improvement Company

to

8/15/1919 James E. Lowe, Sr.
 Emma S. Lowe
\$5,100 26 1/2' x 96 3/10' being Lot No. 3

EAT 81/464 William P. Woolston, et ux.

to

12/31/1912 Camden Improvement Company
\$6,000 frontage of 100'

EAT 77/29 Mary E. Dashiell
 John M. Dashiell

to

11/1/1911 William P. Woolston

180° NW
(HEBRON)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

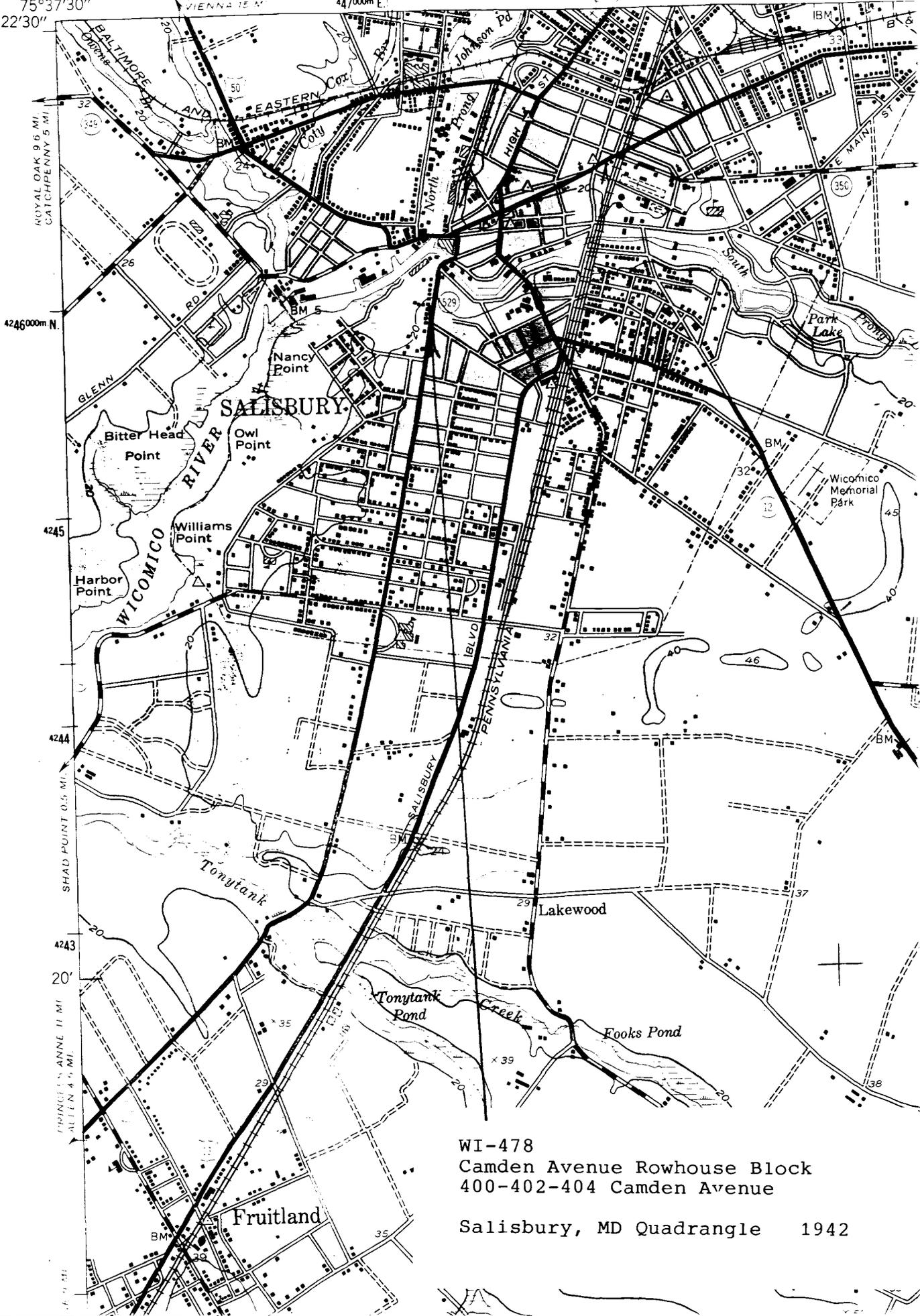
75°37'30"
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI
VIENNA 15 MI

447000m E

LAUREL 13 M
DELMAR 6 M

35'



WI-478
 Camden Avenue Rowhouse Block
 400-402-404 Camden Avenue
 Salisbury, MD Quadrangle 1942



W1-473

CAMDEN AVENUE ROOM 504 BLOCK

SALISBURY, NEW HAMPSHIRE COUNTY, N.H.

SOUTHEAST CORNER

3/2000 PAUL TOWNSEND PATRIOTIC

W. 1/2 AND HISTORICAL TRUST