

WI-519
Margaret S. Murphy House
Salisbury
Private

c. 1872

The two-story, side hall/parlor plan frame house that stands on the southwest corner of Camden Avenue and Winder Street has been previously thought to be one of the oldest structures in the Camden neighborhood, but architectural evidence and historical research indicate that it was erected during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Dated around 1872, the house follows a common architectural form for the time with its side hall/parlor plan. Similar to other houses in Salisbury, paneled pilasters trim the corners of the main block as well as the rear service wing. Little altered since the nineteenth century, the house contributes to the streetscape as one of the older structures predating the major building boom between 1890 and 1930 that transformed the southern end of Salisbury.

Land record research traces this property back to Margaret S. Murphy, who acquired the building lot in November 1871 from Joshua T. Twilley of Kent County for \$150. The transfer price does not include the value of this two-story frame dwelling. Margaret S. Murphy occupied the house with her husband Isaac, to whom she bequeathed ownership eight years later in her 1879 will. Following Margaret's death in 1884, Isaac S. Murphy remarried, and he and his new wife Sallie resided on the property. The lot bordered Winder Street, formerly Hill Street, which led to the steamboat wharf. In 1887 Isaac Murphy mortgaged the house and lot for \$400 to William H. Jackson, who foreclosed on the debt in 1895. The next long-term owner was Thomas E. Laws, a lumber mill laborer, who purchased the Murphy house in May 1895 for \$1,000. The house and lot remained in Laws family ownership until the early 1970s.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. W I-519

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Margaret S. Murphy House

other _____

2. Location

street and number 700 Camden Avenue not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name Charles H. Boyer

street and number 129 Civic Avenue telephone

city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21804

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court tax map and parcel Map 114, P. 1364

city, town Salisbury, Maryland liber 1521 folio 348

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

Contributing Resource in National Register District

Contributing Resource in Local Historic District

Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register

Recorded by HABS/HAER

Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT

Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
district	public	agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	commerce/trade	1	buildings
structure	both	defense		sites
site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic		structures
object		education		objects
		funerary	1	Total
		government		
		health care		
		industry		
		landscape		
		recreation/culture		
		religion		
		social		
		transportation		
		work in progress		
		unknown		
		vacant/not in use		
		other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-519

Name Margaret S. Murphy House

Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

7. Description

Condition

	excellent	deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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 Margaret S. Murphy house stands at 700 Camden Avenue on the southwest corner of the intersection of Camden Avenue and Winder Street (formerly Hill Street) in the Camden neighborhood of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, side hall/parlor plan frame dwelling is supported on a brick pier foundation and the exterior is clad with a consistent layer of plain weatherboard siding. The house is covered by a medium pitched asphalt shingle roof. Attached to the back of the main block is a contemporaneous two-story, two-bay service wing.

Estimated to date around 1872, the two-story, two-bay by one-room frame dwelling has a asymmetrical main (east) facade with a side entrance and flanking two-over-two sash window. The front door has been replaced, and a two-pane transom tops the entrance. The doorway as well as the adjacent window have molded lintels. The second floor is lighted by a pair of unevenly spaced two-over-two sash windows fitted with molded window lintels. Trimming the corners of the house are paneled pilasters with rounded tops to each inset panel. The pilasters rise to a boxed cornice trimmed with third quarter of the nineteenth-century moldings.

The south gable end is defined by pairs of two-over-two sash windows that flank the interior end brick chimney stack. The gable end is pierced by a pair of louvered vents on either side of the interior stack. The edge of the roof is finished with an extended eave and returns trim the base of the roof.

Attached to the back of the main block is a two-story, two-bay service wing featuring an internal brick stack that rises between the two-room plan section. Engaged under the gable roof of the kitchen wing is a two-story porch. While the first floor of the porch has been enclosed, the second floor remains open. Paneled pilasters trim the corners of the wing like the main block, and two-over-two sash windows light the first and second floors.

The interior was not seen.

Maryland Historical Trust

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Name Margaret S. Murphy House
Continuation Sheet

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8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
1600-1699	agriculture	economics	health/medicine	performing arts
1700-1799	archeology	education	industry	philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	engineering	invention	politics/government
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 two-story, side hall/parlor frame house that stands on the southwest corner of Camden Avenue and Winder Street is thought to be one of the one of the oldest structures in the Camden neighborhood, but architectural evidence indicates that it was erected during the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Dated around 1872, the house follows a common architectural form for the time with its side hall/parlor plan. Similar to other houses in Salisbury, paneled pilasters trim the corners of the main block as well as the rear service wing. Little changed since the nineteenth century, the house contributes to the streetscape as one of the older structures predating the major building boom of the period between 1890 and 1920.

Land record research traces this property back to Margaret S. Murphy, who acquired the building lot in November 1871 from Joshua T. Twilley of Kent County for \$150.¹ The small transfer price did not include the value of this two-story frame house. Margaret S. Murphy occupied the house with her husband Isaac, to whom she bequeathed the property seven

¹ Wicomico County Land Record, TF, Jr. 3/29, 1 November 1871.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Margaret S. Murphy House
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

years later in her 1879 will.² Following Margaret's death in 1884, Isaac S. Murphy remarried, and he and his new wife Sallie resided on the property, which bordered the road that led to the steamboat wharf. In 1887 Isaac Murphy mortgaged the house and lot for \$400 to William H. Jackson,³ who foreclosed on the debt in 1895.⁴ The next long-term owner was Thomas E. Laws, a lumber mill laborer, who purchased the Murphy house in May 1895 for \$1,000.⁵ The house and lot remained in Laws family ownership until the early 1970s.⁶

² Wicomico County Register of Wills, ELW 1/94, written 1 March 1879, proved 14 November 1884. "*I devise unto my husband Isaac S. Murphy the house and lot where I now live situated in that part of Salisbury known as Camden...*"

³ Wicomico County Land Record, FMS 2/147, 10 February 1887.

⁴ Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 14/73, 23 March 1895.

⁵ Wicomico County Land Record, JTT 14/182, 4 May 1895.

⁶ Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 761/399, 25 May 1972.

9. Major Bibliographical References

WI-519

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of project area

Acreage surveyed 1/4 acre

Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The historic boundaries of this property are coincidental with the metes and bounds of the current lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian

organization Private Consultant

street & number P. O. Box 5

date 6/15/2000

city or town Westover, Maryland 21871

phone 410-651-1094

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-519
Margaret S. Murphy House
700 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain-of-title

Map 114, Parcel 1364

1521/348 Alma D. Lilley, Elizabeth L. Lilley

to

12/12/1996 Charles H. Boyer
129 Civic Avenue
Salisbury, Maryland 21804

AJS 1044/184 Alma D. Lilley

to

8/5/1985 Alma D. Lilley
Elizabeth L. Lilley

JWTS 761/399 W. Preston Laws, et ux.

to

5/25/1972 Alma D. Lilley

JWTS 294/467 Juanita M. Jones

to

2/27/1948 W. Preston Laws
Kathryne P. Laws
63' 6" frontage on Camden Avenue
227' frontage on Winder

Margaret S. Murphy House
700 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

294/466

Percy Twilley Laws, Grace Pauline Laws
Marjorie Lee Laws, Mamie Lillian Laws Beauchamp,
Barney Augustus Beauchamp, W. Preston Laws, and
Kathryne P. Laws

to

2/27/1948

Juanita M. Jones
...being the land of which the said Thomas E. Laws died siezed and
possessed....

JTT 14/182

Allison A. Gillis
Laura A. Gillis

to

5/4/1895

Thomas E. Laws
\$1,000 63' frontage on Camden
227' on Hill Street

JTT 14/73

James E. Ellegood, trustee

to

3/23/1895

Allison A. Gillis
Whereas at a public sale held 1/12/1895, property sold to highest
bidder for \$700

Mortgage
FMS 2/1478

Isaac S. Murphy, Sallie M. Murphy

to

2/10/1887

William H. Jackson
\$400situated along Hill Street, or the old steamboat road...

WI-519
Margaret S. Murphy House
700 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Wicomico County
Will Book
ELW 1/94

Last Will and Testament of Margaret S. Murphy

to

Written
3/1/1879
Proved
11/14/1884

Husband, Isaac S. Murphy

*I devise unto my husband Isaac S. Murphy the house and lot
where I now live situated in that part of Salisbury known as
Camden*

TF, Jr. 3/29

Joshua T. Twilley, of Kent County

to

11/1/1871

Margaret S. Murphy
\$150

Somerset County
Land Record

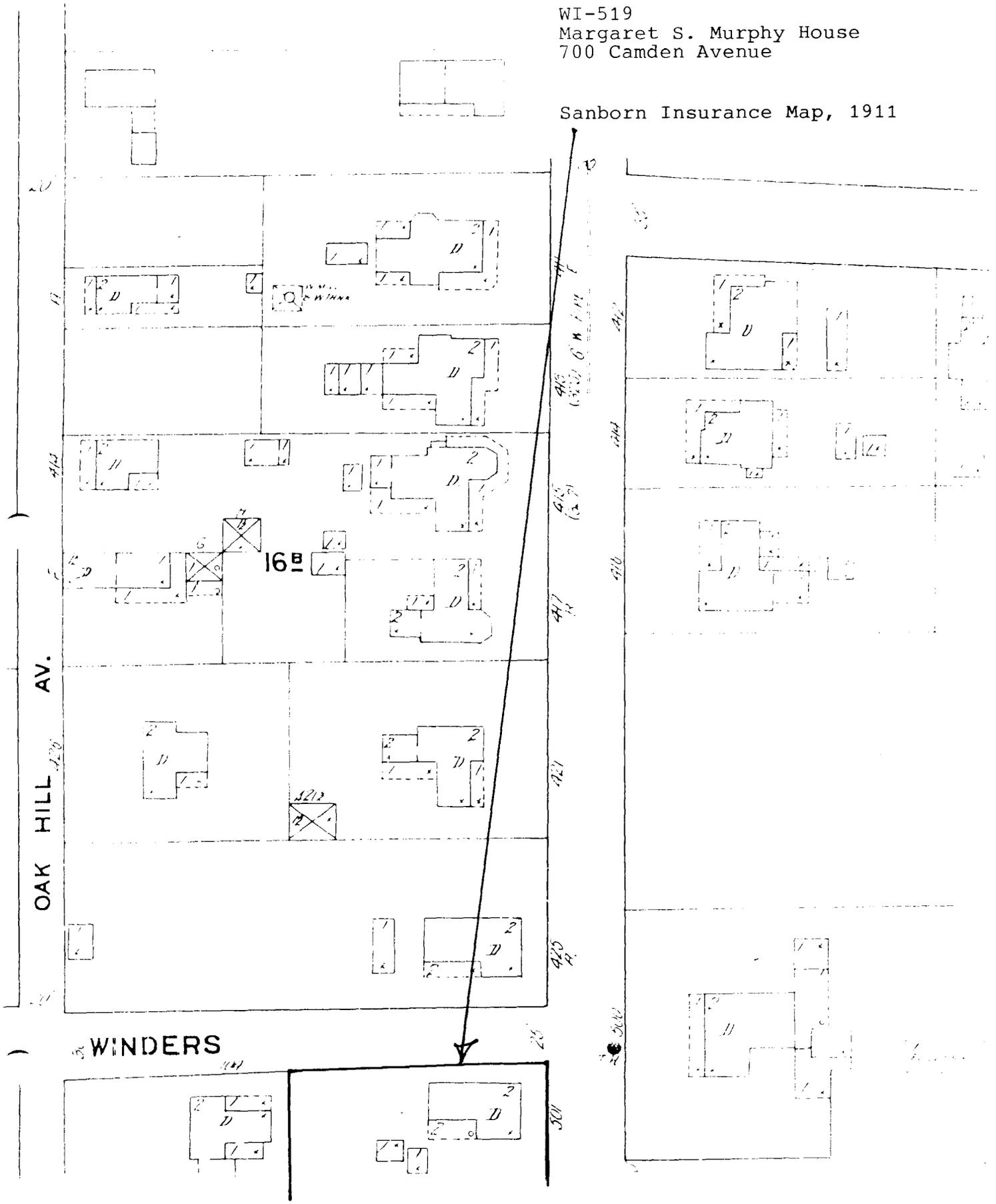
Winder Disharoon

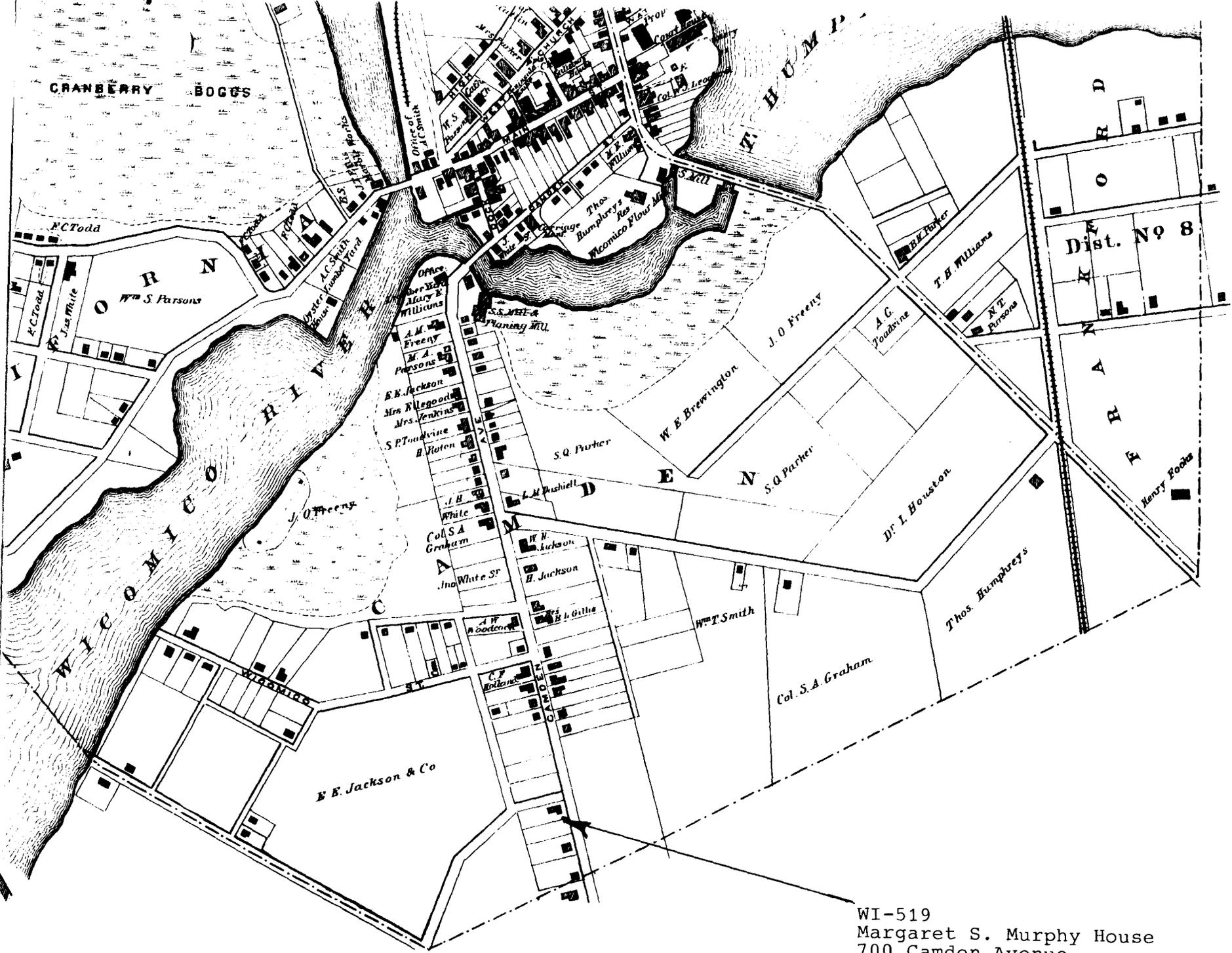
to

Joshua T. Twilley
...60' front on Camden Avenue, 226' by the road leading to the
steamboat wharf...

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Margaret S. Murphy House
700 Camden Avenue

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1911





WI-519
Margaret S. Murphy House
700 Camden Avenue

Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson Atlas
1877

80 1 NW
HEBRON

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

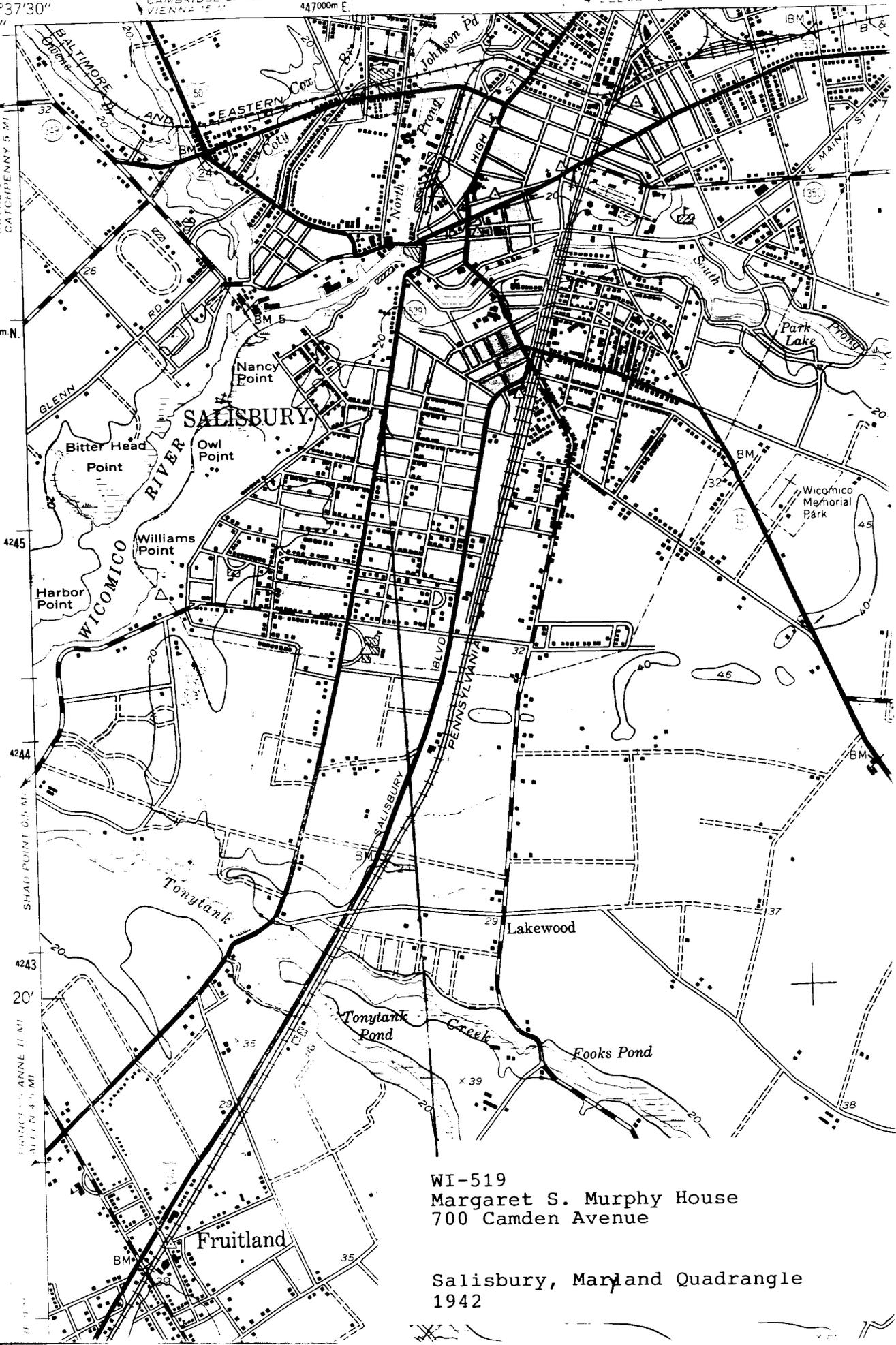
LAUREL 13 M
CEL MAP 6 M

35'

75°37'30"
38°22'30"

CAMBRIDGE 31 MI.
VIENNA 5 M
447000m E

4246000m N



ROYAL OAK 9.6 MI
CATCHPENNY 5 MI

4245

4244

4243

20'

FRANCIS ANNE 11 MI
ALLEN 5 MI

WI-519
Margaret S. Murphy House
700 Camden Avenue

Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle
1942



W1-519

MARSHALL S. MARSH, 1 HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, WASHINGTON COUNTY, MO.
SOUTHEAST - ELEVATION

6/2004, PAUL TOWNSEND, PITTSBURGH

MO. / MO SUPS

1 00 2



MI-519

Margaret S. Murphy, House
Salisbury, Wicomico County, MD

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

6/2001, Paul Thomas Photography

MS. / MS. 5190

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