

WI-575  
Poplar Hill Avenue Rowhouse Block  
Salisbury  
Private

c. 1915

The Sanborn Insurance maps establish a narrow date range during which this Poplar Avenue rowhouse block was erected. The map issued in 1911 indicates the lot was unimproved, whereas the two-story, three-unit brick rowhouse was present by the time the 1916 map was published. Solidly crafted with a pressed brick front and common bond side walls, the two-story, six-bay structure is accented with segmental brick arches over the door and window openings as well as a pressed metal cornice that decorates the top of the front parapet and a Tuscan columned porch shelters the first story.

The rowhouse architectural form is not common in Salisbury, but a handful were erected in various sections during the early twentieth century as a practical solution to the housing shortage at the time. Well crafted with brick bearing walls, decorative arches, and a generous shared porch, the rowhouse block economized on space in the tightly developed Newtown neighborhood where relatively constant construction had taken place since the late 1870s.

Construction of the two-story, three-unit rowhouse block occurred during the ownership of Gertrude M. Wooten and Annie Layfield, sisters and tenants in common, who acquired the property through the 1892 will of their grandfather, Joseph R. Collins. He bequeathed his house and lot on William Street to his daughter Laura A. Parsons, and after her decease, to her three daughters, Gertrude M. Wooten, Annie Layfield, and Maria J. Parsons. The rowhouse block remained in Wooten family tenure until the mid 1980s.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-575

## 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other Poplar Hill Avenue Rowhouse Block

## 2. Location

street and number 329-333 Poplar Hill Avenue not for publication

city, town Salisbury vicinity

county Wicomico

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

name Thomas Robinson, et al.

street and number P. O. Box 442 telephone

city, town Salisbury state MD zip code 21801

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1275 folio 212

city, town Salisbury tax map 107 tax parcel 713 tax ID number 5-025850

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

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. WI-575

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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

The Poplar Hill Avenue rowhouse block is located at 329-333 Poplar Hill Avenue south of the East William Street intersection in the Newtown Historic District of Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, six-bay brick rowhouse block faces west. Resting on a raised common bond brick foundation, the three-unit rowhouse block dates around 1915. The brick structure is painted white.

The west (main) elevation is a six-bay façade of pressed stretcher bond brick with narrow mortar joints. The first story is defined by a Tuscan columned, hip roofed porch that shelters the individual entrances. The series of doors and windows are spanned by segmental, three-course rowlock arches. The doors are partially glazed, and the window openings are fitted with nine-over-one sash. The third bay from the north corner is a wider opening than the rest with a nine-over-one sash window flanked by vertical three-over-one sash. The second floor is lighted by a series of nine-over-one sash windows topped by three-course, segmental rowlock arches. Beltcourses stretch across the wall surface coincidental with the second floor window sill and lintel levels. Piercing the upper wall surface are decorative metal vents. The front wall is capped by a decorative, classically derived metal cornice.

The north and south side walls are laid in common bond and rise to plain parapets capped with terra cotta caps. The north and south walls have three-light cellar windows and nine-over-one first and second floor windows. The openings are spanned by segmental rowlock arches. The window fenestration is asymmetrical. Rising through the end walls are interior side brick stove stacks finished with corbelled caps.

The east (rear) wall of the main block is largely covered by a series of three, two-story, two-bay by one room service wings of common bond wall construction. The side walls rise to plain parapets.

# 8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-575

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

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

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 projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Sanborn Insurance maps establish a narrow date range during which this Poplar Hill Avenue rowhouse block was erected. The map issued in 1911 indicates the lot was unimproved, whereas the two-story, three-unit brick rowhouse was present by the time the 1916 map was published. Solidly crafted with a pressed brick front and common bond side walls, the two-story, six-bay structure is accented with segmental brick arches over the door and window openings as well as a pressed metal cornice that decorates the top of the front parapet and a Tuscan columned porch that shelters the first story.

The rowhouse architectural form is not common in Salisbury, but several blocks were erected during the early twentieth century as a practical solution to the housing shortage at the time. Well crafted with brick bearing walls, decorated arches, and generous shared porch, the rowhouse block economized on space in the tightly developed Newtown neighborhood where relatively non-stop construction had occurred since the late 1870s.

Construction of the two-story, three-unit rowhouse block occurred during the ownership of Gertrude M. Wooten and Annie Layfield, sisters and tenants in common, who acquired the property through the 1892 will of their grandfather, Joseph R. Collins.<sup>1</sup> He bequeathed his house and lot on William Street to his daughter Laura A. Parsons, and after her decease to her three daughters, Gertrude M. Wooten, Annie Layfield, and Maria J. Parsons. The rowhouse block remained in Wooten family ownership until the mid 1980s.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Will Book, ELW 1/351, written 2 December 1892 and proved 26 December 1895.

<sup>2</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, AJS 1074/223, 24 July 1986.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-575

Name Poplar Hill Avenue Rowhouse Block  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 1

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Poplar Hill Avenue Rowhouse Block  
329-333 Poplar Hill Avenue  
Salisbury, Maryland

Chain of title  
Map 107, Parcel 713

1275/212

Thomas E. Robinson  
Carlene Robinson

to

9/25/1991

Thomas E. Robinson

AJS 1074/223

Winnie N. Wooten, et al. (Richard S. Wooten, Allison Wooton Adams,  
Rebecca W. Phippin, trustees of Nathaniel R. Wooten)

to

7/24/1986

Thomas E. Robinson  
Carlene Robinson and  
W. Wirt Wolfe  
Elizabeth D. Wolfe

AJS 947/613

Personal Representative of the Estate of  
V. Lynn Wooten

to

6/16/1980

Winnie N. Wooten

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-575

Name Poplar Hill Avenue Rowhouse Block  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number 8 Page 2

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JWS 270/366

Gertrude M. Wooten

to

6/5/1945

V. Lynn Wooten, Nathaniel R. Wooten, Alywn H. Wooten and  
Rebecca W. Phippin

EAT 70/84

Edna M. Parker  
Daniel J. Parsons

to

7/13/1910

Gertrude M. Wooten  
Annie Layfield, tenants in common

Will Book  
ELW 1/351

Last Will and Testament of Joseph R. Collins

to

12/2/1892  
Proved  
12/26/1895

Laura A. Parsons  
and then to Gertrude M. Wooten, Annie Layfield and Maria J. Parsons  
the three children of the said Laura A. Parsons

Item Two: I give and devise to my daughter Laura A. Parsons the  
house and lot on William Street where I now reside

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Sanborn Insurance Maps, various issues, microfilm at the Nabb Research Center of Delmarva History and Culture.  
Wicomico County Probate Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.  
Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 7,900 square feet  
Acreage of historical setting 7,900 square feet  
Quadrangle name Salisbury, Maryland      Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

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

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Private Consultant	date	7/27/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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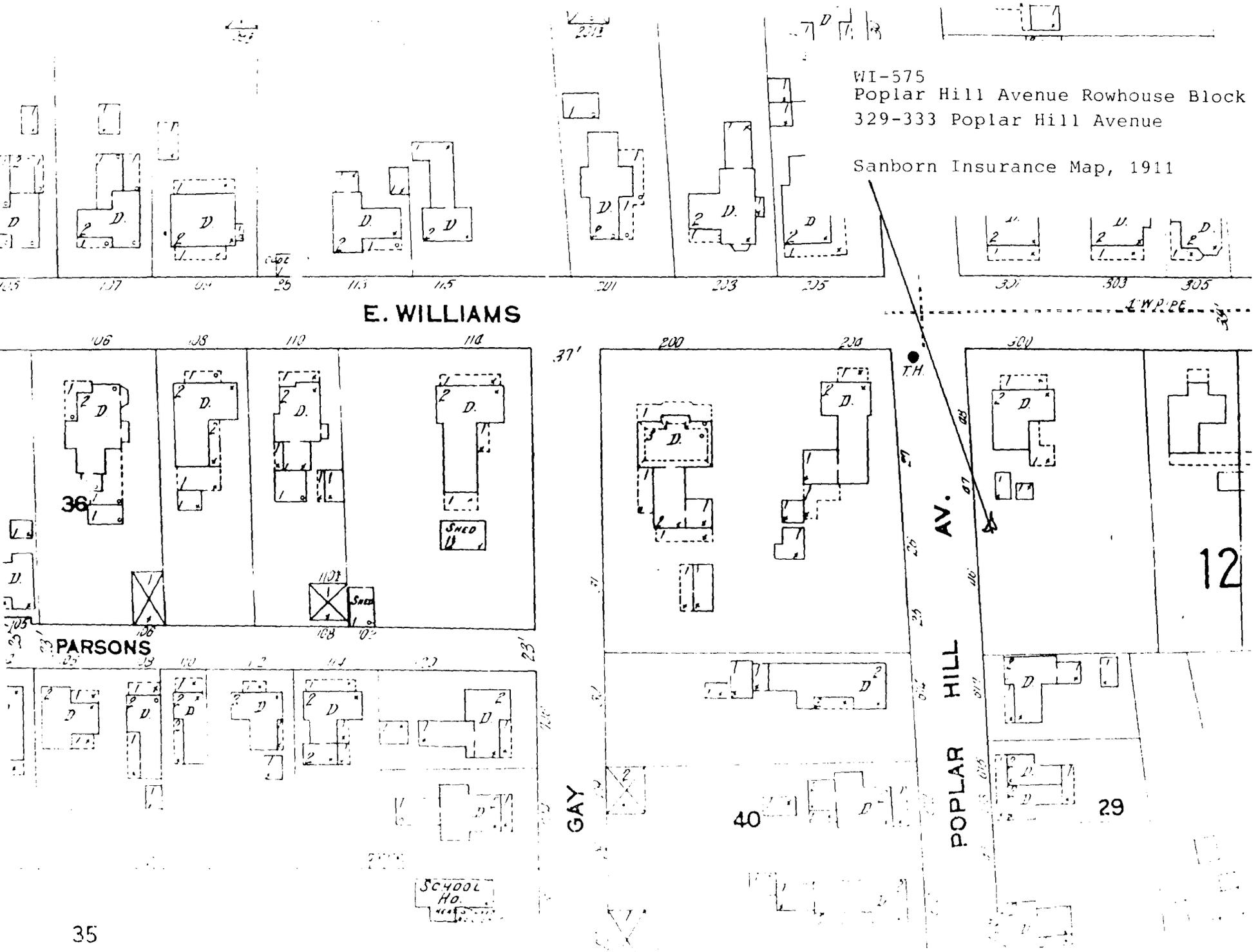
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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 21032-2023  
                              410-514-7600

WI-575  
Poplar Hill Avenue Rowhouse Block  
329-333 Poplar Hill Avenue

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1911



E. WILLIAMS

PARSONS

GAY

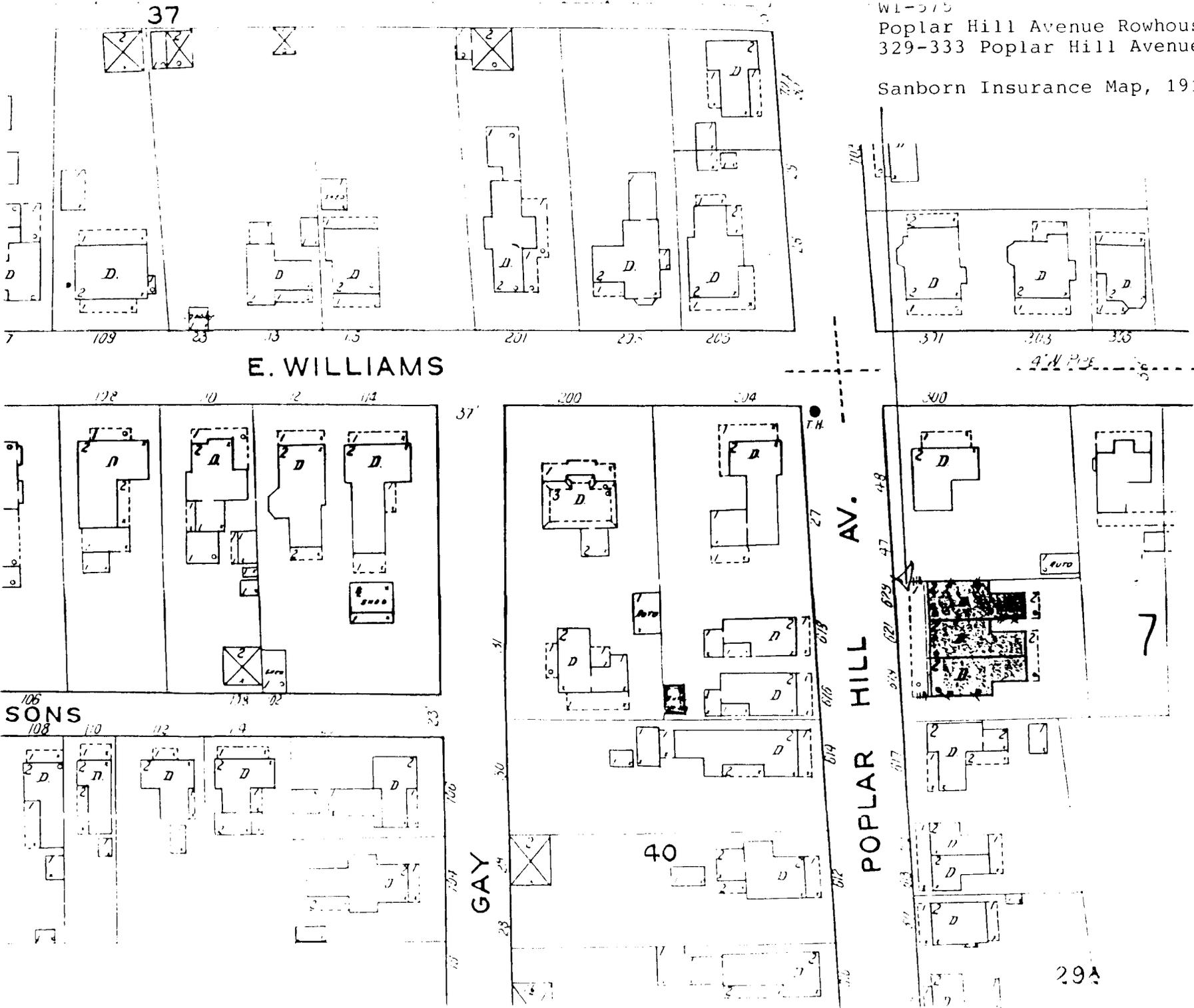
AV. AV.

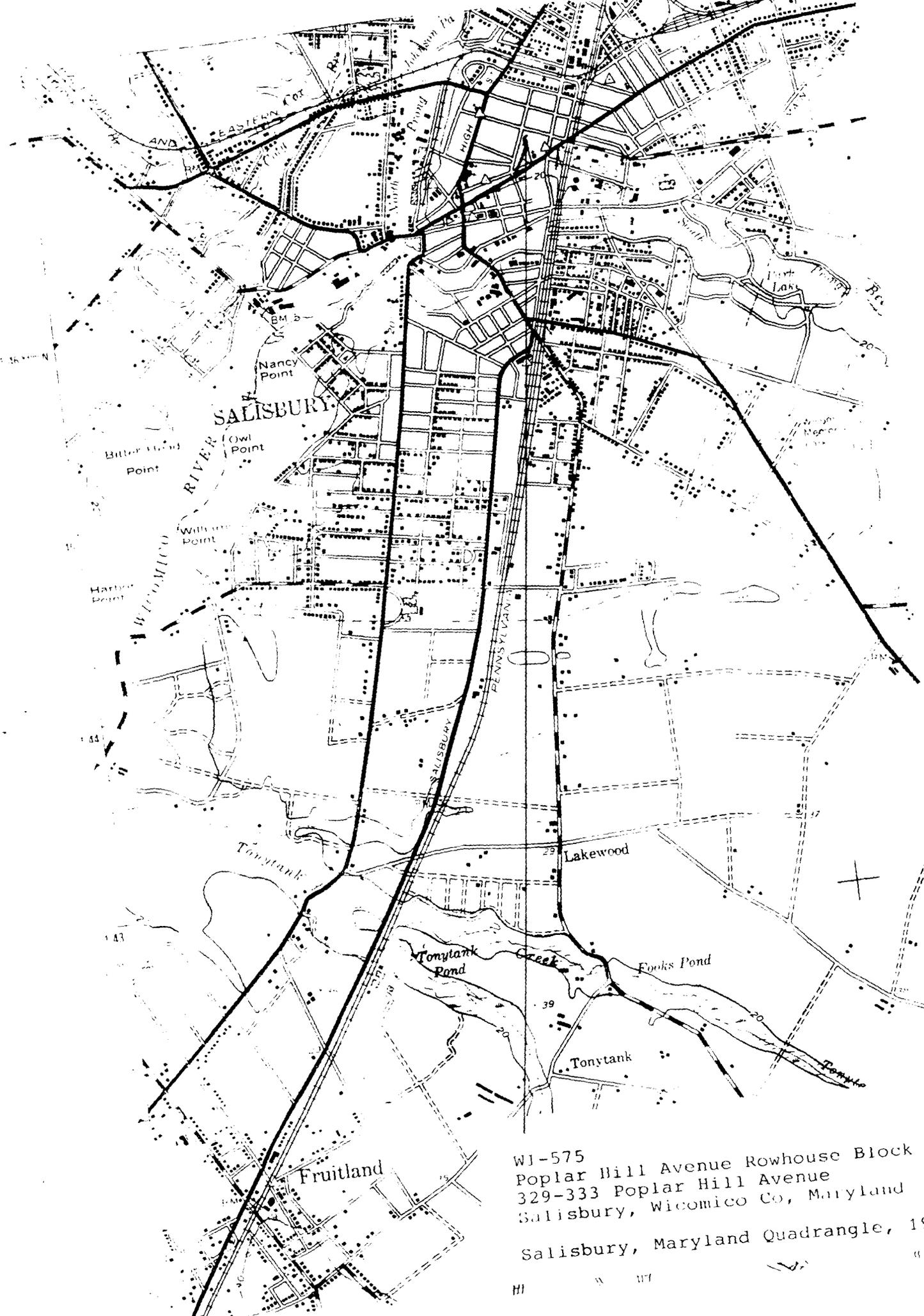
POPLAR HILL

WI-375

Poplar Hill Avenue Rowhouse Block  
329-333 Poplar Hill Avenue

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1916





WI-575  
Poplar Hill Avenue Rowhouse Block  
329-333 Poplar Hill Avenue  
Salisbury, Wicomico Co, Maryland  
Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle, 19



WI-575

Poplar Hill Ave. Rowhouse Block

Salisbury, Wicomico Co., MD.

Southwest elevation

7/01, Paul Towart, photogrammetrist

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1 of 2



WI-575

POPCAN Hill Ave, Rowitz Block  
SALISBURY, Wicomico Co, MD.

SOUTHWEST CORNER

7/01, PAUL TOURANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

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