

WI-596  
Alfred T. Truitt House  
Salisbury  
Private

c. 1930

Construction of this story-and-a-half English vernacular cottage dwelling dates around 1930 when Alfred T. and Lillian P. Truitt purchased this Oakdale Road property. A year later, when the 1931 Sanborn Insurance map was published for Salisbury, the delineators located the house and a garage in the new development known as "The Oaks." Designed in a similar fashion to the Samuel F. M. Adkins house (WI-595) next door, the Truitt house displays rusticated features on the exterior intended to appear older than they actually were. The main body of the house was erected with rough-faced "clinker" brick, laid in an irregular manner devised to simulate the appearance of great age. The steep pitch to the gable roof is another feature that evokes vernacular English cottages. While these architectural elements were intended to recall a previous architectural past rooted in Great Britain, other features, like the side extensions to the gable front wall and the long shed dormers covered with fishscale shingles, were borrowed from other sources and blended together in an effort to develop a new revivalist style for modern American suburbs.

The original owner of this English vernacular cottage-style dwelling, Alfred T. Truitt, figures in the business and political history of Salisbury. He had several associations in newspapers and the city's earliest radio station. He was the advertising manager and co-publisher of *The Evening Times*, the early forerunner of *The Daily Times*. Alfred T. Truitt, along with co-publisher Charles J. Truitt, established the first radio station in Salisbury, WSMD, during the summer of 1928. They housed the station on the seventh floor of the old Wicomico Hotel with a 30-foot antenna fixed to the roof. While only short-lived, the station aired professional vaudeville talent from the Arcade Theater with transmissions ranging as far as California and the Canadian provinces. Movie stars Gary Cooper and Fay Wray performed at the WSMD studio. Alfred T. Truitt also served as Salisbury's mayor between 1936 and 1938.

The English cottage style house on Oakdale Road was held by the Truitts until May 1946 when they sold the house and lot to Thomas C. and Emma S. Roe, who also bought the lots directly adjacent. The Roes held title to the house and lots for the following twenty years.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-596

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

historic Alfred T. Truitt House  
other \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street and number 201 Oakdale Road \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Salisbury \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity  
county Wicomico

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

name Mark A. and Catherine G. Holland  
street and number 201 Oakdale Road telephone 410-546-4721  
city, town Salisbury state Maryland zip code 21801

## 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1347 folio 289  
city, town Salisbury tax map 104 tax parcel 915 tax ID number 9-058990

## 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	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<u>2</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	_____	<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

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Inventory No. WI-596

### 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 Alfred T. Truitt house is located at 201 Oakdale Road in the neighborhood known as "The Oaks," in Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland. The story-and-a-half brick and frame house faces south with the principal roof oriented on a north/south axis. The rectangular English cottage vernacular dwelling is joined on the lot by a single-story, gable-front garage.

Built around 1930, the story-and-a-half brick and frame house is supported on a partially excavated foundation and the exterior is defined by a combination of rusticated brick and decorative fishscale shingles. The first story of the house was assembled with "clinker" brick, whereas shed dormers are sheathed with fishscale shingles. A steeply pitched roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The south (main) elevation is an asymmetrical wall surface with a side entrance sheltered by a steeply pitched hip roof hood supported on a large console-like brackets. The entrance is fitted with a five-panel door. Piercing the wall to the east (right) of the entrance is a single-pane sash window flanked by board-and-batten shutters. Rising through the gable end is an interior brick stack, which is laid in "clinker" brick as well. An s-shaped iron anchor is fixed to the upper surface of the chimney stack. The rusticated brick front wall continues on each side beyond the edge of the house in a graceful extension of the steeply pitched roof line. The edge of the roof is finished with a slight bargeboard molding.

The west side of the house is an asymmetrical wall surface with a shed roofed wing extending forward of the main wall on the southwest corner. The south side of the shed roofed section, which intersects the side wall extension of the main roof, is finished with a rough stucco with a selection of "clinker" bricks exposed. The west wall of the shed roofed section is pierced by a tripartite window opening. The main block is defined by a side entrance with a partially glazed door and paired or single window openings to the left of the doorway. The roof features a long shed-roofed dormer sheathed with fishscale shingles. The front wall of the dormer has a projecting center bay pierced by a single-pane sash window flanked with board-and-batten shutters. The shed roofed dormer to each side is lighted by single-pane sash windows as well.

The east side of the main block is extended by a shed roofed wing as well, which is pierced by a tripartite window. A long shed dormer stretches across the length of the roof with five single-pane sash windows.

The interior was not seen.

Standing off the northwest corner of the main block is a single-story, gable-roofed, two-bay frame garage that is covered by a steeply pitched wood shingle roof and is sheathed with fishscale shingles. The two-bay gable front is also pierced by a three-pane window fixed within the gable end. Six-over-six sash windows pierce the side walls.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. WI-596

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.)

Construction of this story-and-a-half English vernacular cottage dwelling dates around 1930 when Alfred T. and Lillian P. Truitt purchased this Oakdale Road property.<sup>1</sup> A year later, when the 1931 Sanborn Insurance map was published for Salisbury the delineators located the house and garage in the new development known as "The Oaks."<sup>2</sup> Designed in a similar fashion to the Samuel F. M. Adkins house next door, the Truitt house displays rusticated features on the exterior that were intended to appear older than they actually were. The main body of the house was erected with a rough-faced "clinker" brick laid in a manner to simulate great age. The steep pitch to the gable roof is another feature that evokes vernacular English cottages. While these architectural elements were intended to evoke a previous architectural period, other features, like the side extensions to the gable front wall and the long shed dormers covered with fishscale shingles, were borrowed from other sources, blended in an effort to develop a new style for American suburban developments.

Alfred T. Truitt figures in the business and political history of Salisbury. He had several associations in newspapers and the city's early radio station. He was the advertising manager of *The Evening Times*, the early forerunner of the *Daily Times*. Alfred T. Truitt, along with co-publisher Charles J. Truitt, established the first radio station in Salisbury, WSMD, during the summer of 1928. They housed the station on the seventh floor of the old Wicomico Hotel with a 30-foot antenna fixed to the roof. While only a short-lived, the station aired professional vaudeville talent from the Arcade Theater with transmissions ranging as far as California and the Canadian provinces. Movie stars Gary Cooper and Fay Wray had early experiences as performers at the WSMD studio.<sup>3</sup> Between 1936 and 1938 Alfred T. Truitt was Salisbury's mayor.

The English cottage style house on Oakdale Road was held by the Truitts until May 1946 when they sold the house and lot to Thomas C. and Emma S. Roe, who also bought the lots directly adjacent.<sup>4</sup> The Roes held title to the house and lots for twenty years.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, 29 October 1930, IDT 166/53.

<sup>2</sup> Sanborn Insurance Map, 1931, Microfilm at the Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture.

<sup>3</sup> Charles J. Truitt, *Historic Salisbury Updated, 1662-1982*, Salisbury, Maryland: Historical Books, Inc. p. 153.

<sup>4</sup> Wicomico County Land Records, JWTS 2781/1, 10 May 1946; JWTS 325/97, 28 March 1951; and JWTS 390/434, 25 August 1955.

<sup>5</sup> Wicomico County Land Record, JWTS 643/266, 15 December 1966.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-596

Name Alfred T. Truitt House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

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Alfred T. Truitt House  
201 Oakdale Road  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland  
Chain of title

Map 104, Parcel 915

1347/289

James Hughes  
Kim Hughes

to

7/16/1993

Mark A. Holland  
Catherine G. Holland

MSB 1202/388

William E. Allen  
Juanita B. Allen

to

12/7/1989

James Hughes  
Kim Hughes

AJS 1024/194

Thomas D. Sepe

to

11/8/1984

William E. Allen  
Juanita B. Allen

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. WI-596

Name Alfred T. Truitt House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

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AJS 986/613

Thomas D. Sepe  
Denni L. Sepe

to

3/18/1983

Thomas D. Sepe

AJS 880/504

John J. Fayed  
Lynne J. Fayed

to

7/29/1977

Thomas D. Sepe  
Denni L. Sepe

AJS 853/133

Garnett A. Lester, et ux  
Helen M. Lester

to

3/23/1976

John J. Fayed, et ux

AJS 842/528

Elton G. Webster, et al.

to

8/28/1975

Garnett A. Lester

**Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Inventory of  
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Name Alfred T. Truitt House  
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

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JWTS 643/266

Thomas C. Roe  
Emma S. Roe

to

12/15/1966

Elton G. Webster  
Doris A. Webster

Conveyed to Thomas C. Roe and Emma S. Roe by three deeds:

1. from Alfred T. Truitt and Lillian P. Truitt, 5/10/1946, JWTS 278/1, Lot No. 7, Block No. 3, conveyed to grantor by Oaks Development Company, 10/29/1930, IDT 166/53
2. from Jack K. Williams and Lola G. Williams, 3/28/1951, JWTS 325/97-conveyed to Williams by Oaks Development Co., JCK 146/1 for plat, JWTS 316/555
3. from DeWitt A. Tucker and Mary Mitchell Tucker, 8/25/1955, JWTS 390/434, and being part of the same property conveyed to Grantors by John K. Schwab, 10/25/1954, JWTS 367/289

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. WI-596

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1931, Microfilm at the Nabb Research Center of Delmarva History and Culture.  
Wicomico County Land Records, various volumes, Wicomico County Courthouse.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 12,800 square feet  
Acreage of historical setting 12,800 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

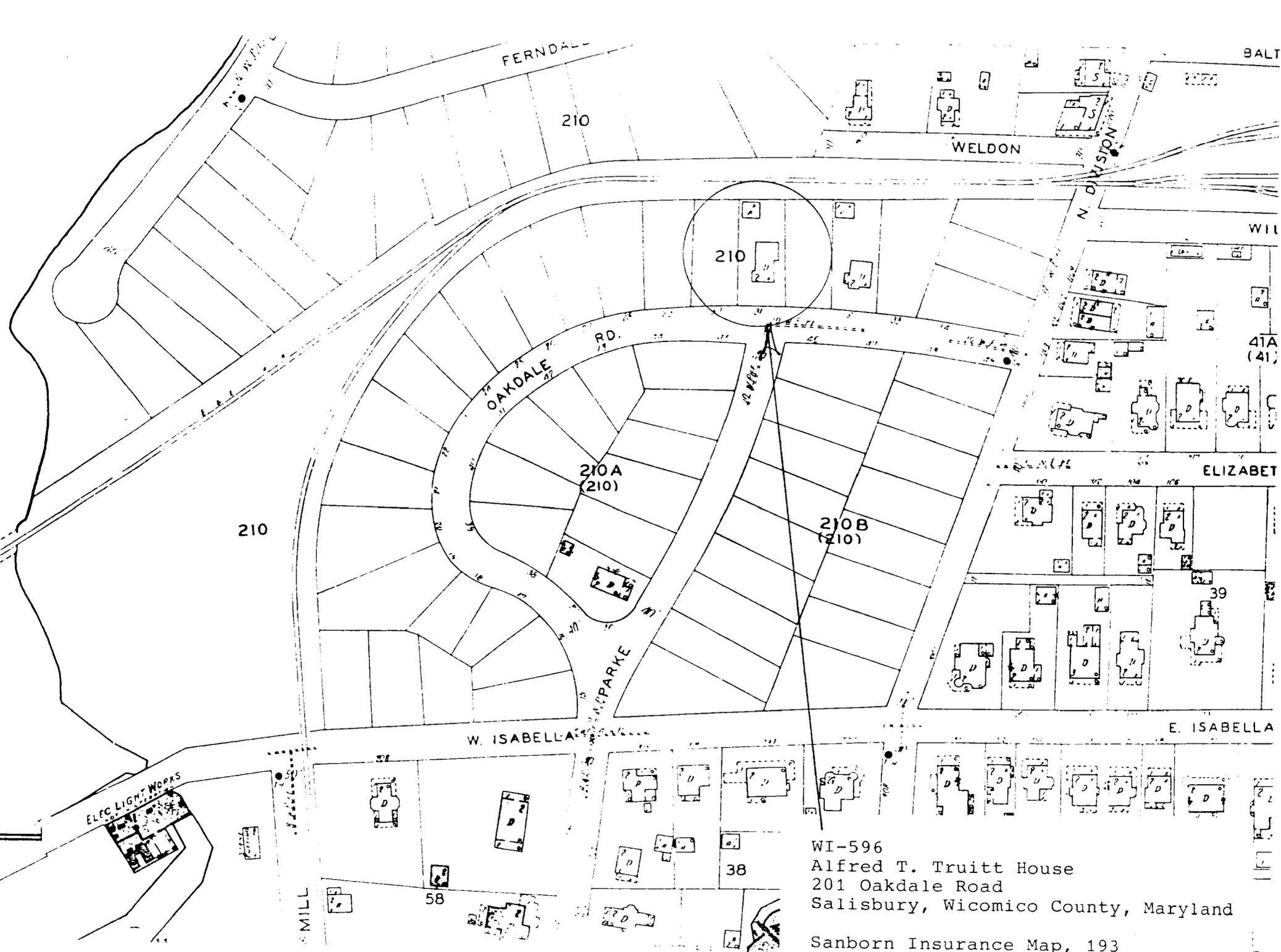
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name/title	Paul B. Touart		
organization	Private Consultant	date	5/15/2001
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

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.

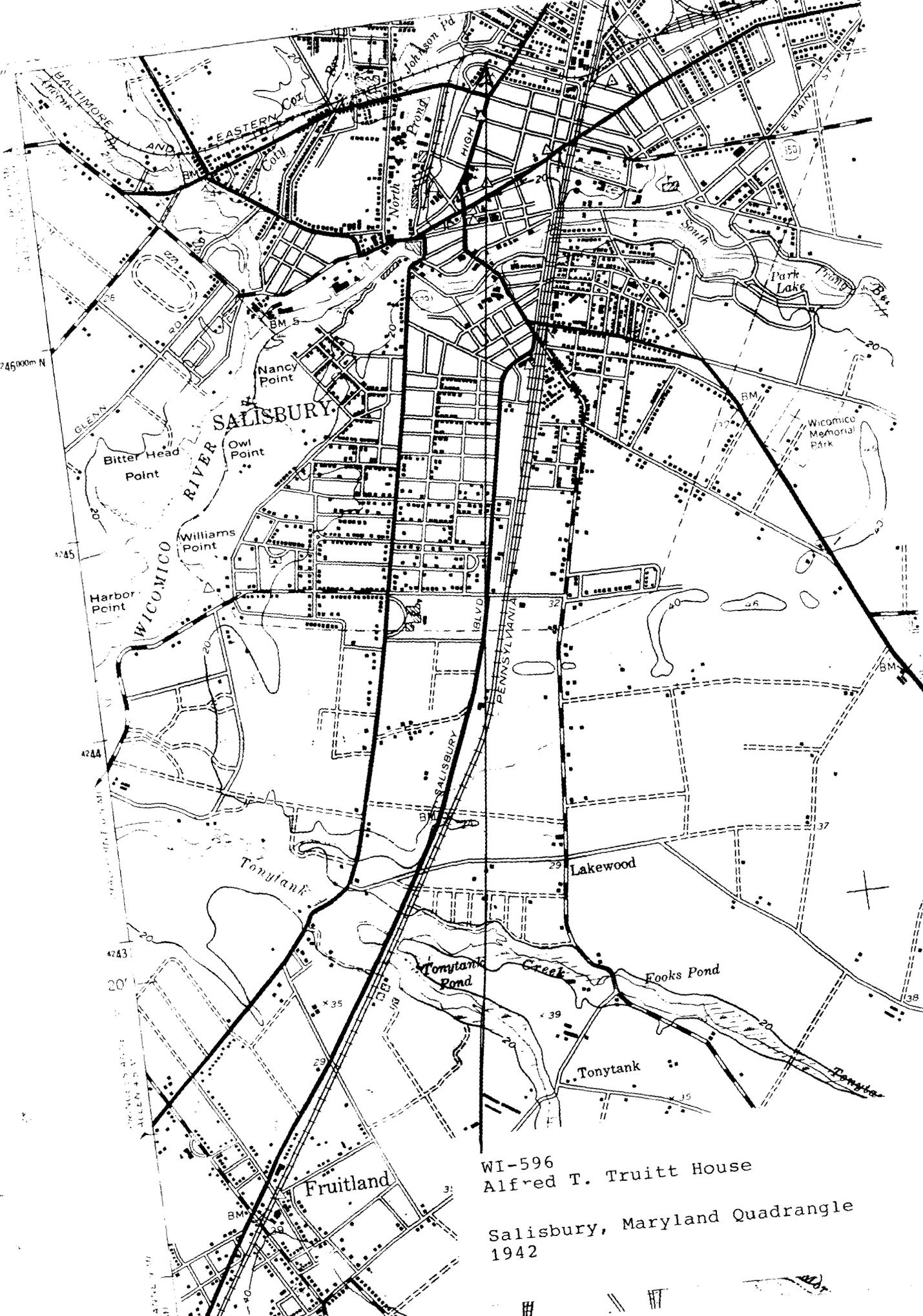
return to:      Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600



WI-596  
Alfred T. Truitt House  
201 Oakdale Road  
Salisbury, Wicomico County, Maryland

Sanborn Insurance Map, 193

38-22'30"



WI-596  
 Alfred T. Truitt House  
 Salisbury, Maryland Quadrangle  
 1942





WI-596

ALFRED T. TRUITT HOUSE

SALISBURY, WISCONSIN CO., MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

5/01, PAUL TOURANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEG./NO. HISTORIC TRUST

1 OF 2



W1-596

ARTHUR T. TRUITT HOUSE

SALISBURY, WILMINGTON CO., MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

2 of 2

WES. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST

5/01, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER