

BALTIMORE CITY - COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

CDBG SURVEY YEAR: 12

SURVEY NO.: B-1287

AREA: Druid Heights

MAGI NO.: 0412878504

ADDRESS: 551-553-555-557-559-561 Bloom Street



PERMIT NAME:

BLOCK:

LOT:

LOT SIZE:

HEIGHT: 551: 3; 553-561: 2

MATERIALS: Brick

CONDITION: Fair

OWNER: Private & Baltimore City

ADDRESS:

USE: Vacant dwellings

ACCESSIBLE: Yes, restricted

DESIGNATION:

LIBER/FOLIO:

HISTORIC NAME:

DATE: Ca. 1875

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:

STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE):

DESCRIPTION:

This row of six brick dwelling houses was erected about 1875 on the southwest corner of Bloom Street and Brunt Street, an alley, in the area now called Druid Heights in northwest central Baltimore, Maryland. The principal elevations face northwest. No. 551, at the corner of Bloom and Brunt Streets, is a three-story, three-bay building; the remainder of the row is two stories in height with three bays. The first story of No. 551, formerly a combined commercial-residential use structure, has a single square window in place of the two window openings found on the other buildings. The flat-arched doorway is in the eastern bay of 551 and the steps are missing. On the second and third stories, the window openings are tall and narrow with segmental arches in double courses of headers. The cornice is bracketed and carved with a floral design. The remaining buildings have two segmental-arched window openings on the first story and the entrance in the western bay. The cornice line breaks between 555 and 557 in following the topography of the site, but the cornice is identical in the entire row, although deteriorated in varying degrees. All window and door openings are boarded, leaving visible small carved wood infill trim just under the segmental arches of the windows. The steps are missing at 551, 557, and 561. Concrete steps are located at 553 and 559. No. 555 has brick steps. No. 553 and 555 have painted facades.

SIGNIFICANCE:

AREA: Architecture

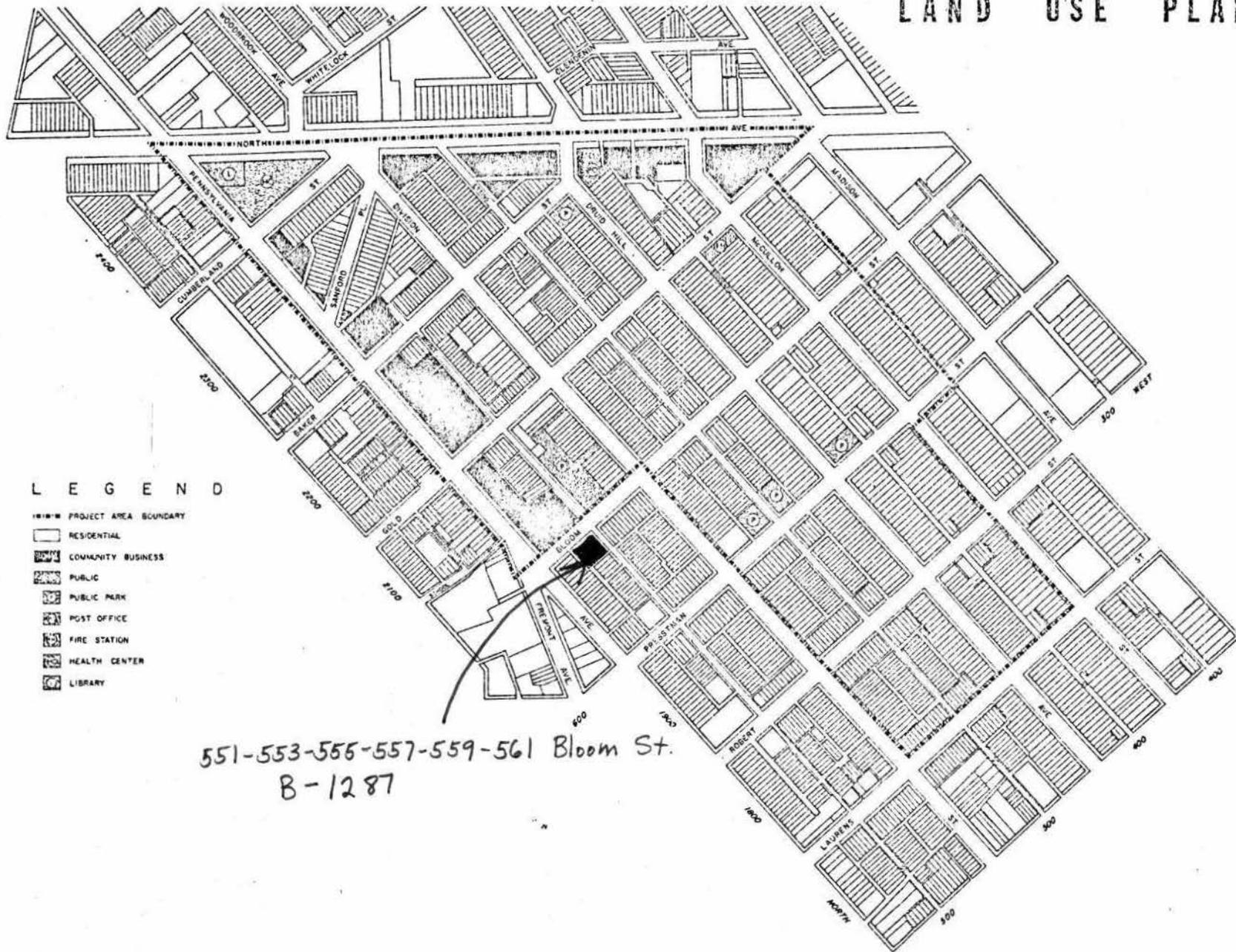
LEVEL: Local

The rowhouses are 551 through 561 Bloom Street are typical examples of the middle class late 19th century neighborhood. Although deteriorated, the row contributes to the historical and architectural character of an undefined district of rowhouses of the same period in the Druid Heights area. No. 551 Bloom Street was used intermittently as a combined store and residence from about 1890 until the late 1950's. In 1890, a grocer named Thomas W. Brown operated a store there, leaving a painted sign on the east elevation facing Brunt Street. The ghost of this sign is still visible. In the early to mid-20th century, it served as a hairdresser's shop and a confectionary store.

SOURCES: City directories, 1890 - 1964

SURVEYOR AND DATE: Janet L. Davis, September 1986

LAND USE PLAN



LEGEND

- ▬▬▬▬ PROJECT AREA BOUNDARY
- RESIDENTIAL
- ▨ COMMUNITY BUSINESS
- ▩ PUBLIC
- ▧ PUBLIC PARK
- ▦ POST OFFICE
- ▥ FIRE STATION
- ▤ HEALTH CENTER
- ▣ LIBRARY

551-553-555-557-559-561 Bloom St.
B-1287

DRUID HEIGHTS

PLANNING DIVISION



DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

LAND USE PLAN

DATE: 5/17/77
DRAWN BY: W.L.B.
APPROVED:

REVISION:
11/15/72
10/19/73

of

EXHIBIT



551-553-555-557-559-561 Bloom St.
Baltimore, Maryland B-1287
Photo: Janet Davis
Date: September 1986
Neg. loc.: Md. Historical Trust
North elevations