

POPPLETON HISTORIC STUDY

MAGL #0424185404

<u>Block</u>	<u>Lot</u>	<u>Address</u>
155	1-12	1100-1122 W. Saratoga Street

Approximate age

<u>1800-1845</u>	<u>1845-1860</u>	<u>1865-1880</u>	<u>1880-1896</u>	<u>1896-on</u>
1102-1120	1100			

<u>Rating</u>	<u>Architectural</u>	<u>Condition</u>			
A	Significant-save	good	fair	poor	bad
(B)	Quality-Indiv./groups-save	good	fair	poor	bad
C	Important to street/groups	good	fair	poor	bad
D	Insignificant/detrimental	good	fair	poor	bad

Notable features:

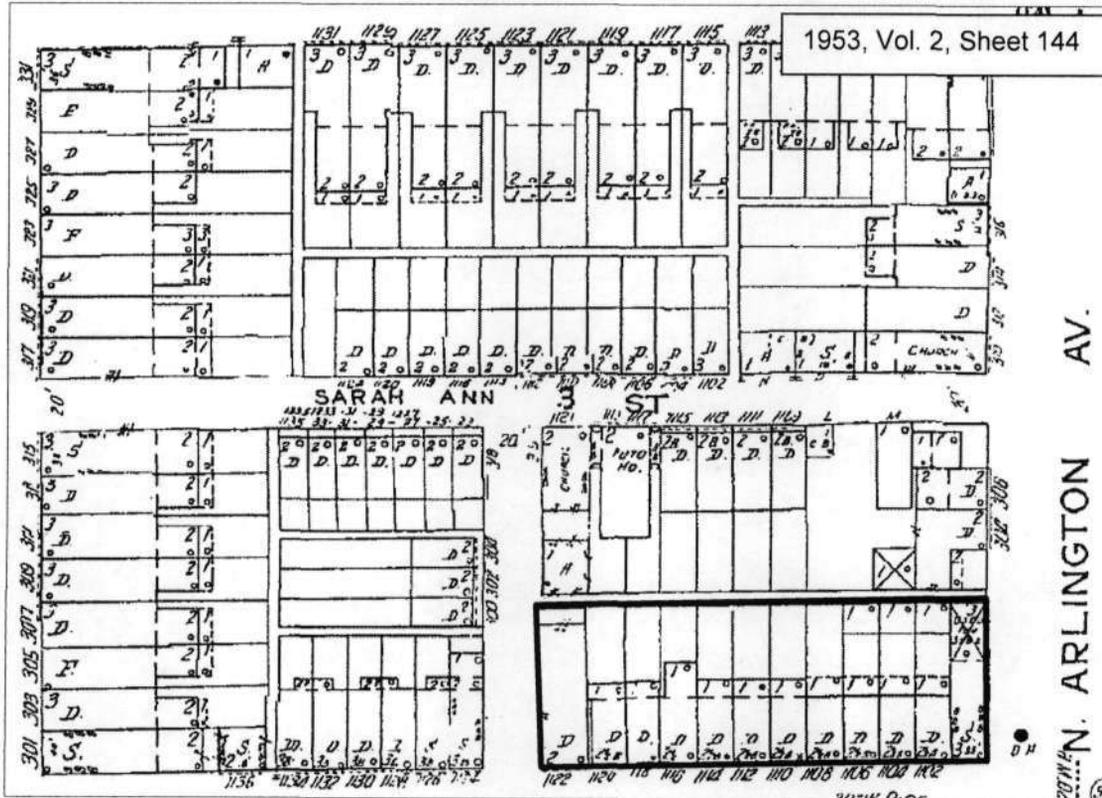
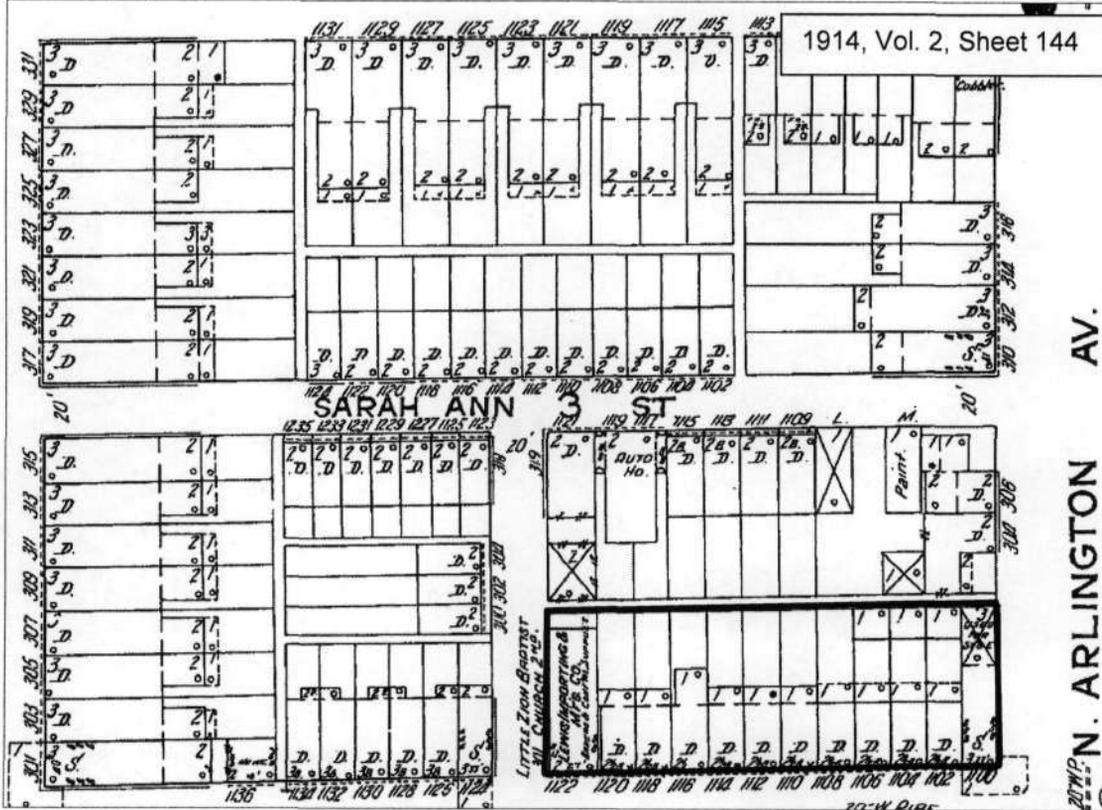
These houses are similar in type to those in Lombard Street between Amity and Schroeder. This row on Saratoga was in place in 1851. Their dormers, high basements, high steps are different from Lombard Street houses and date these rather later. Neither group has back buildings. The row should be rehabilitated. Number 1118 has original metal work. Original doorways remain at 1104, 1114, and 1118. Numbers 1102, 1112, and 1116 have been formstoned.

Environmental context:

The lot at 1122 has been cleared. The street is two-way and busy and needs street trees. Across the street is slated for demolition and replacement by a recreational facility. Continuity of row is excellent for scale.



B-2418  
Boss Kelly Rowhouses  
1100-1122 W. Saratoga Street (1100 & 1122 Demolished)  
Baltimore City  
Sanborn Maps



B-2418  
Boss Kelly Rowhouses  
1100-1122 W. Saratoga Street (1100 & 1122 Demolished)  
Block 0155, Lots 001-012  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore West Quad



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_  
no \_\_\_

Property Name: Boss Kelly Row Houses Inventory Number: B-2418

Address: 1102-1120 West Saratoga St City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21223

County: Baltimore USGS Topographic Map: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner: HCD/ multiple owners Is the property being evaluated a district? X yes

002,004,0

07,008,00

Tax Parcel Number: 0156 Tax Map Number: 9,010,011 Tax Account ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Project: Poppleton Redevelopment Agency: Baltimore Housing

Site visit by MHT Staff: \_\_\_ no X yes Name: C. Andrew Lewis Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the property located within a historic district? \_\_\_ yes X no

<i>If the property is within a district</i>	District Inventory Number: _____
NR-listed district ___ yes Eligible district ___ yes	District Name: _____
Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource ___ yes ___ no	Non-contributing but eligible in another context ___

<i>If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district)</i>
Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible ___ yes <u>X</u> no

Criteria: \_\_\_ A X B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D Considerations: \_\_\_ A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ G \_\_\_ None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Please see attached.

Prepared by: Justine Linnehan

Date Prepared: August 31, 2005

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended ___	Eligibility not recommended <u>X</u>
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None
Comments: _____	
<u>Andrew Lewis</u>	<u>9/27/05</u>
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
<u>Justine Linnehan</u>	<u>9/27/05</u>
Reviewer, NR Program	Date

200502604

**Boss Kelly Row** (1102-1120 West Saratoga Street). Built between 1830 and 1845, these ten houses meet national register criteria B for their association with "Boss" John S. (Frank) Kelly, the leader of the West Baltimore Democratic Club. John S. (Frank) Kelly, born circa 1858 either in Philadelphia or Baltimore, was orphaned at the age of six. At the age of nine he was adopted by Mrs. Mary Johnson and moved into 1106 West Saratoga Street. Kelly lived here for the rest of his life. At an early age, Kelly became involved with politics by running errands for political leaders like Jimmy Strong and Al Tribble. Kelly ran the political machine of West Baltimore that elected several mayors, senators, judges, and state representatives. He was instrumental in electing Mayor Broening in 1919. He was also the inspiration of Dashiell Hammett's character Shad O'Rory in *The Glass Key*, which in 1942 was made into a movie. From the basement of his house at 1106 West Saratoga Street, "Boss" Kelly controlled all things political in West Baltimore.

The row also meets National Register Criteria C as being a very unique rowhouse building type. Built between 1830 and 1845, the buildings with their single second-story tripartite windows and gabled roof are unique to Baltimore. This row has been attributed to the work of Robert Carey Long Jr. The only other rowhouse design of this nature is the unit block of Mulberry Street in Mt. Vernon neighborhood; these were designed by Robert Carey Long Sr.

Due to the major alterations to the façade and a striking lack of upkeep, the structures comprising Boss Kelly Row have been severely compromised. The existing facades on Schroeder Street show a number of modifications, including the addition of various materials and design motif overlays, including the widespread addition of *Formstone*, which have compromised the original row house concept. The rear structures shows a great deal of deterioration, including evidence of uneven and structurally unsound roof lines, detached gutters, unstable chimneys, and a great deal of weather damage. Due to the severe extent of structural and cosmetic decay to these buildings, it would be our recommendation that the structures that make up Boss Kelly Row not be preserved.

B-2418



Davis Brody Bond, LLP Architects and Planners 315 Hudson Street New York, New York 10013 Tel: 212.633.4700 Fax: 212.633.4760

*Letter*

Date: 08.31.05

Subject: Historic integrity of the Boss Kelly Row houses.

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Mr. Bythewood,

In reviewing the existing building conditions for the Boss Kelly Row house located on the north side of West Saratoga Street, between North Carlton and North Arlington Street. As they stand today, the existing structures are questionable in reference to the historical context they would display. In viewing the existing facades on Schroeder Street, one can visually see each individual structure has been modified over the years to display unique characteristics upon the street front.

Various articulations of materials and design motifs have been overlaid on the existing façade therefore drastically modifying the original row houses, materials & concept. We can see the *Formstone* overlay on three of the buildings. This application, popular at one time and carried throughout the city of Baltimore as a cost efficient alternative to repair and patch over the original façades. Painted masonry surfaces and synthetic veneers have also been used. Note the building on the corner on Arlington Street has introduced a built out vestibule (see attached photo). Note on the roof, the majority of the structures have ascertained weathering conditions making the roof interior vulnerable to water penetrations. The roofing shingles have been omitted through time and the dormers are holding up in an irregular form indicating structural damage.

Viewing the structures from a different perspective, we observe the rear of the structures with a different story. The buildings from the rear are in a different status condition compared to the front (see attached photo). We notice the roof conditions are uneven, roof gutters are detaching from the edge, some of the row houses have penetrating holes where a skylight used to exist. The integrity of the chimneys are very questionable and poses a danger to any individual occupying the building.

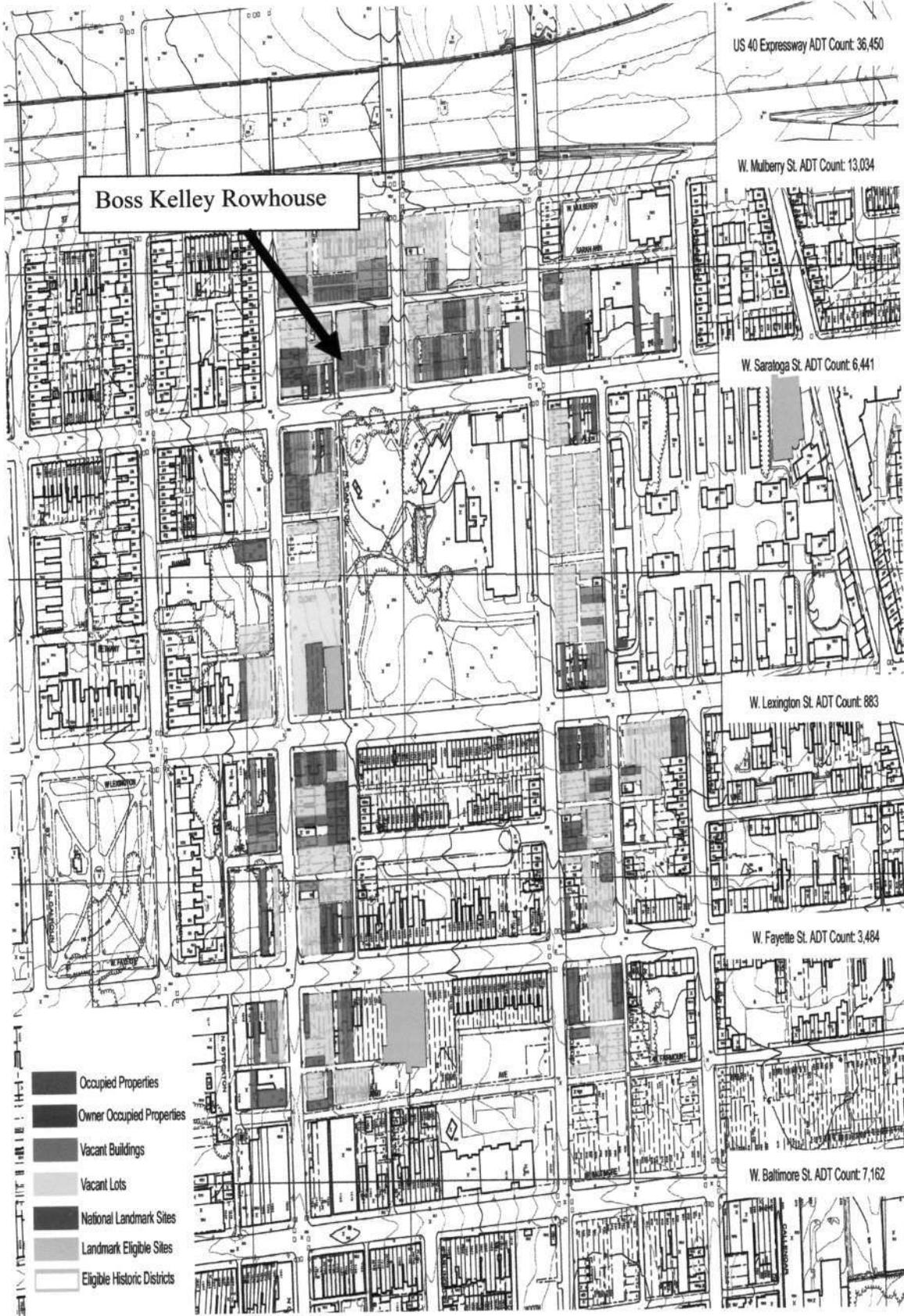
I must state one or two of the structures are currently occupied, but the majority if not all of the existing structures do not display any architectural characteristics that would portray the historical characteristics or significance of the early row house types that are known to make up the city of Baltimore.

Richard Gonzalez

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Gonzalez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Davis Brody Bond, LLP  
A small rectangular area of the document has been redacted with a black box, obscuring contact information.





B-2418





North view from West Saratoga Street.

B-2418



B-2418



South view from Sara Ann Street.