

B-3492 - B-3504

1842-1880/1872

143-103 E. Cross St. (South side)/ 124-126 Weber St. (North side)

Baltimore, Md.

Private access

The south side of the 100 block of E. Cross St. is one of the most interesting blocks in the southern section of Federal Hill, containing as it does almost every variety of house type built in the area between the 1840's and the 1880's. At 139-143 E. Cross St., at the eastern end of the block, there is a row of late Victorian style, two story, two bay wide brick houses with shed roofs and bracketed cornices. The houses, which sit on high basements, with basement kitchens, were built just before 1880. To the west, at 137 E. Cross St. there is a similar two story, two bay wide brick house with shed roof, but with no extant roof cornice, built about the same time. 135 and 133 E. Cross St. have been torn down, but at 131 E. Cross there is a two and a half story, two bay wide, late Federal style brick house located next to a pair of similar two and a half story frame houses at 127-129 E. Cross St. The survival of a frame house in this section of the city is quite unusual. All three houses seem to have been built in the 1840's or 1850's. Continuing west, one encounters a pair of two story plus attic, two bay wide brick houses at 123-125 E. Cross St., built about 1850; a late Victorian style, two story, three bay wide brick house with shed roof and bracketed cornice at 121 E. Cross St., an 1880's remodeling of an original 1840's house; and, at 117-119 E. Cross St., a pair of originally two story, two bay wide gable-roofed houses built in the mid 1840's, one of which (117) has since been enlarged and is now three stories in height with a shed roof and bracketed cornice. At 113-115 E. Cross St. there is another pair of two story plus attic brick houses, built in the mid 1840's by John S. Gittings, and at 111 E. Cross St. there is a two story, two bay wide gable-roofed house built by Gittings in the early 1850's. Further west, at 109 E. Cross St. there is yet another two story plus attic house, followed by a pair of two and a half story, two bay wide, late Federal style brick houses at 105-107 E. Cross St., and then another two story plus attic house at 103 E. Cross St. The four latterly described houses were all built in the early 1840's by William Addison, a local house carpenter. At 124-126 Weber St., there is a pair of two story, two bay wide brick houses with shed roofs and bracketed cornices, built in 1872 by Charles and Augustus Weber, leaders of the German community in Baltimore at this time. The houses are the only survivors of an original row of such houses built along the north side of Weber St. at this time.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

117-119 E. Cross St.

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Baltimore VICINITY OF

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

 DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

These houses were originally a pair of two story, gable roofed houses, like 119 Cross St. 117 Cross has been enlarged to three full stories with a shed roof and modillion cornice. 119 Cross has been covered with formstone.

117 Cross St. is three stories in height, 119 Cross St. is two stories in height. 117 Cross is 14' wide, 119 Cross is 15' wide, and both occupy lots 103' deep. Each house is two rooms deep and each has a two story high, three bay deep rear addition (centrally located for the pair of houses). 117 Cross also has an extra one story high, three bay deep frame addition. The houses are constructed in running bond. The pair originally had a low-pitched gable roof with two-tier brick cornice, as 119 Cross does today. Now 117 Cross St. has a shed roof capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a deeply projecting crown molding supported by a row of grooved modillions set above a row of cut-work scallops and a plain, deep frieze area decorated with another row of scallops. Two grooved end brackets support and frame the cornice. The houses share paired, double hooded chimneys located centrally, along the partition wall between the two houses, on both the front and rear roof gables. Each house also has a covered rear end chimney located at the south end of the rear addition.

All of the door and window openings have flat wood lintels and wood sills, although the original treatment of the lintels and sills at 119 Cross St. is hidden beneath the formstone covering. All of the window openings are filled with 1/1 double hung sash. 117 Cross St. has been converted into two apartments and there are now two front doors, multi-light glass and panel door with lower wooden panels. 119 Cross St. has a modern flush door. Both doors are set beneath single light transoms which have been covered over. The houses sit on fairly high basements, the entrances being reached by four stone and five brick steps at 117 Cross St., and by three stone steps at 119 Cross St. 119 Cross St. has a square-shaped coal opening located to the right of the steps. A flat-roofed alleyway runs back under the westernmost bay of 117 Cross. 119 Cross St. shares an arched alleyway with 121 Cross St.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1846

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John S. Gittings

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This pair of houses were both originally two story, gable-roofed houses like 119 E. Cross St. The houses are representative of a group of quite modest two story, gable-roofed houses built in the late 1840's, 1850's, and 1860's in this section of Federal Hill to serve as inexpensive housing for the influx of newly arrived (often immigrant) families seeking work in harbor-related activities. Most such houses were held as rental property (these were not, however) and many were located along narrow alley streets, such as the row on Patapsco St. north of Cross St. In terms of design, the houses are basically the descendants of earlier Federal-style working class housing built in the early decades of the century, but without the usual dormer story of such houses. Because there is no dormer story the roof slope is less steep in these later versions of the style. The houses are quite small, with two rooms on each floor and a centrally located, tightly winding, narrow staircase. The kitchens were located in a rear addition.

The houses were built by John S. Gittings as part of his development of this side of Cross St.¹ The first owner-occupant of 117 E. Cross St. was a James Sausbury, a wood dealer, who lived here in the late 1840's and 1850's. The first owner-occupant of 119 E. Cross St. was a John J. Daneker, a deputy sheriff, who lived here in the 1850's.²

¹Baltimore City Land Records, Liber AWB 372, Folio 305; AWB 379, Folio 386

²Ibid., Liber AWB 381, Folio 418; AWB 442, Folio 303; Baltimore City Directory, 1849-50, 355-56

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15' x 103' (117); 14' x 103' (119)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. & Eccles

5/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1745 Circle Rd.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Ruxton

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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.

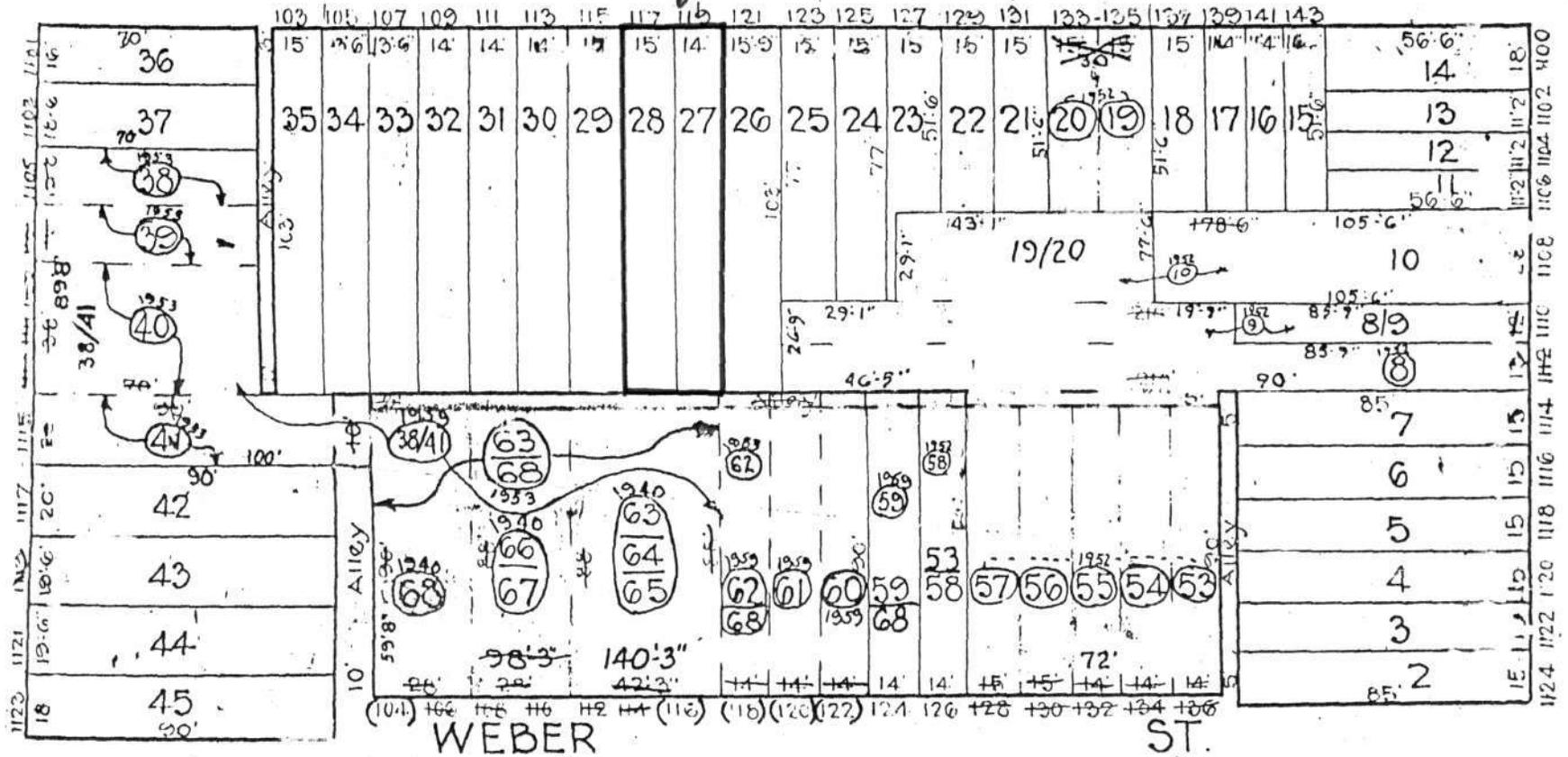
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

B-3498

E. CROSS

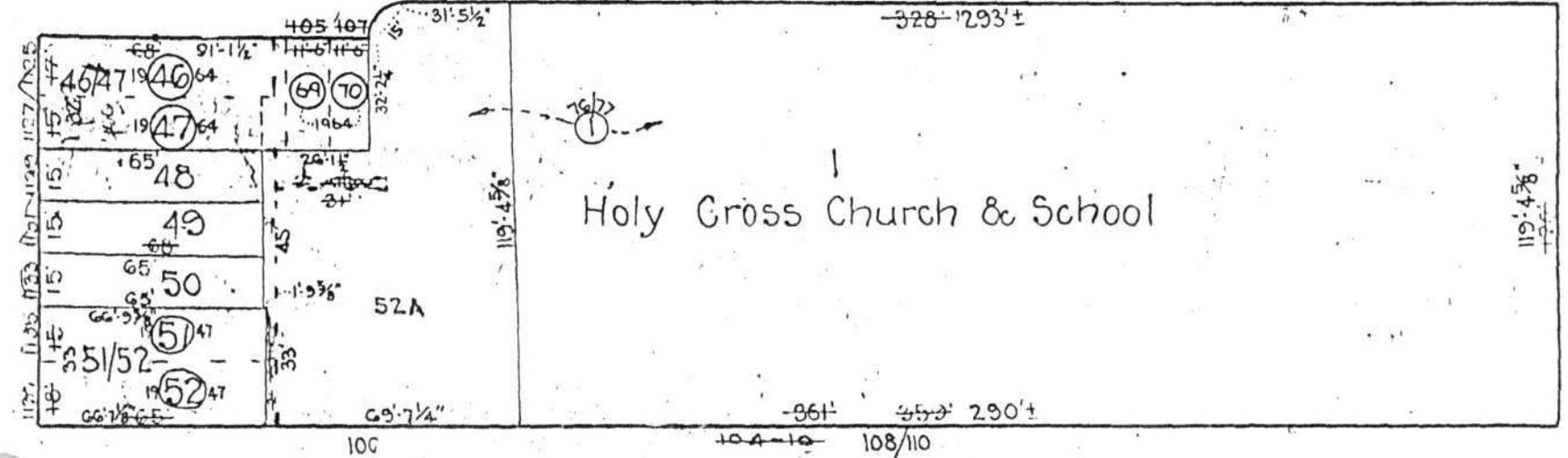
B-3498

ST.



ST.

LIGHT

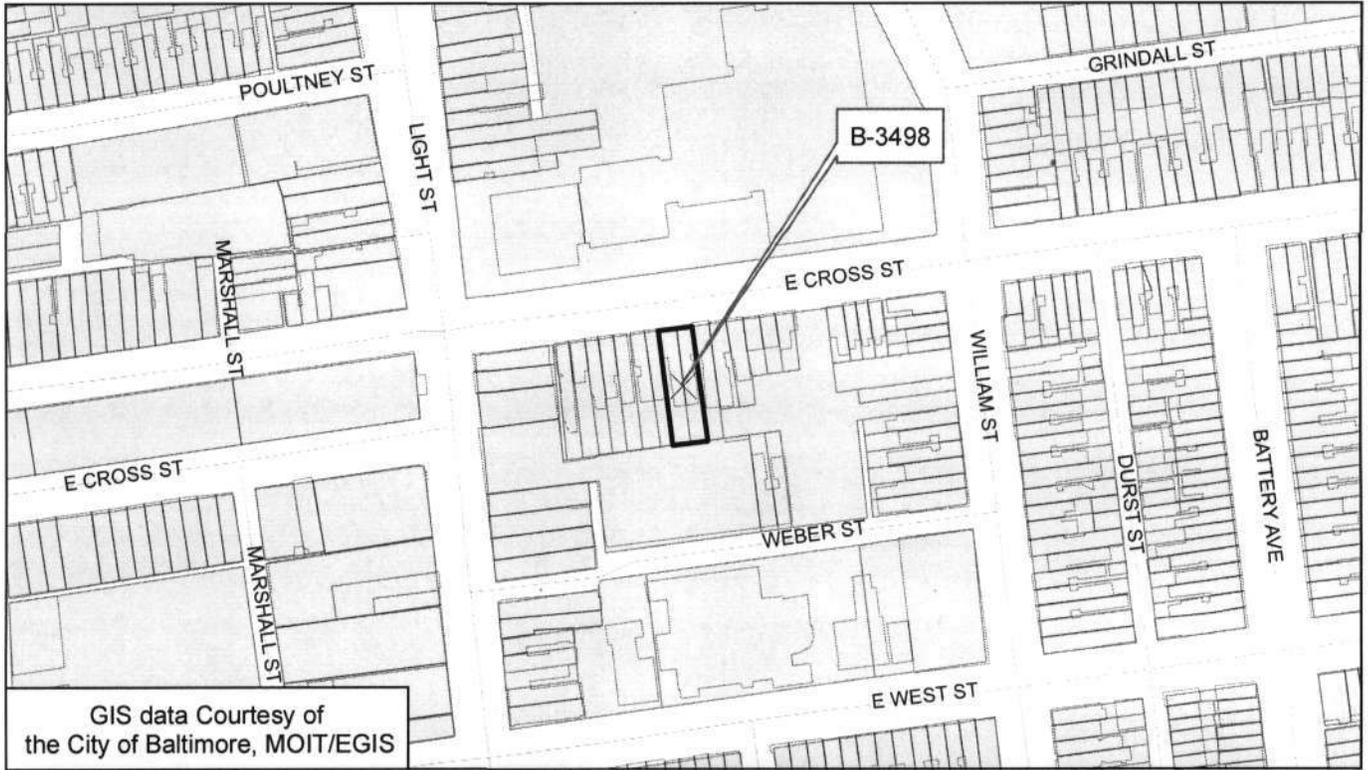


E. WEST

WILLIAM ST.

ST.

B-3498
117-119 E. Cross Street
Block 0951 Lots 028-027
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-3498

117-119 E. Cross St.

M.E.H.

5/79

North elevation