

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4372

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 722 North Howard Street

and/or common Mini Mart

2. Location

street & number 722 N. Howard Street not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity of _____ congressional district Seventh

state Maryland county Baltimore

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Raymond Ellison

street & number 7501 Park Heights Avenue

telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21208

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds Baltimore City Courthouse

liber RHB3437

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610

folio 112

city, town Baltimore

state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

state federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. B-43,72

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" 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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

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

Resource Count: 2

This circa 1830 Greek Revival building is a part of a series of rowhouses that extend north up the west side of North Howard Street. The two-and-one-half story, two-bay wide, brick building is laid in a variable American bond and has Greek Revival eyebrow windows in the attic story. The gable roof runs parallel to the street. A parking lot lies on the south side. The street frontage is 16'9" and the depth, including the attached back building, is 76'.

The first story has been altered and is partially boarded up. The entrance is in the second (north) bay and is set in an angled, recessed vestibule. The vestibule is laid with red square tiles. A door on the west side of the vestibule leads upstairs. A door on the south side of the vestibule leads to the shop front. A display window is located in the first (south) bay. There are blocked up transom windows over the display window. A simple back band of three staggered bands outlines the sides and top of the window.

A wood cornice forms a stringcourse between the first and second stories. The cornice appears to have been added to during several periods. The lowest band is the wood lintels of the transoms. The next is a narrow series of fillets and back band. The next level is a wood cornice of fillets and back band. The uppermost band is a wood cornice with a back band, ogee, fillet and back band profile.

The two windows in the second story are replacement 1/1 sash. Splayed jack arches form the lintels. The two eyebrow windows in the third story are also 1/1 sash. The facade terminates in a two brick corbelled cornice.

A narrow inlet leading to the alley is left open on the first story between this building and the rowhouse to the north. The second and third stories of the neighboring building are constructed over the top of the passage.

A detached back building is on axis with the north bay. The back building runs four bays long and is one bay wide. It also has a two brick corbelled cornice.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4372

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This building is part of the only remaining row of modest Greek Revival speculative rowhouses on North Howard Street. The two-and one-half-story buildings with eyebrow windows in the attic story were not found in any other part of this surveyor's 120-building survey of the Howard Street commercial district.

The size and massing of this two-bay unit is illustrative of early nineteenth-century real estate speculation. The construction of two-bay double houses was a common way of limiting the amount of financial risk to the speculative builder, since the amount of money invested was minimized by the relative smallness of the project. The small amount of space within these houses is also indicative of the status of the laboring class whose means, however modest, permitted them to purchase homes.

The presence of dwellings, or possibly combination shop-houses, in this block indicates the residential character of the neighborhood in the early nineteenth century. It is possible this building was originally a shop-house type. The first story would have been used for commercial purposes and the upper stories would have been used as dwelling quarters. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "the rapid growth of commerce and manufacturing after independence led to a proliferation of the shop-house form in both new buildings and existing ones altered so that their commercial purpose was clearly indicated on the exterior. Shop-houses prevailed in emerging commercial centers of cities and towns alike through the early decades of the 19th century. Examples can still be seen in areas that have not experienced radical change, even though the shopfronts themselves have almost always been altered. . . the upper section retaining a domestic character."¹

¹ Longstreth, Buildings of Main Street, p. 24.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4372

Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historianorganization CHAP, Room 1037 date December 19, 1991street & number 417 E. Fayette Street telephone 301-396-4866city or town Baltimore state MD

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

B-4372
722 North Howard Street
Baltimore, MD
Section 8 Significance
8.1

The first story was altered circa 1900 into the plate glass and transom shopfront facade of the period. The cornice-like stringcourse that separates the street-level store from the domestic quarters upstairs, the separate band of transoms, and the slightly inset entrance are all hallmarks of the age.

The preservation of this building indicates the lessening real estate pressures on the upper stretches of North Howard Street during the nineteenth and early twentieth century, a period when much remodelling or rebuilding was undertaken. Longstreth continues, "the gradual abandonment of the shop-house as the dominant form of commercial architecture was due to the ever-increasing demands for trade and professional services along with a corresponding increase in land values, all of which fostered the design of buildings used entirely for commercial purposes."² The turn-of-the-century remodelling of the first story may have saved the building, as it enhanced the commercial viability of the space. The survival of this building is rare within the Baltimore commercial district. The back building is still used for residential purposes.

The most recent first-story alterations, superimposed on the first-story facade within the last ten years, is an example of the low-budget commercial remodellings that characterize Howard Street's recent architecture and indicates the relatively marginal nature of the contemporary commercial street.

² Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, pp. 24,29.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870
Modern Period, 1930-present, alteration

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

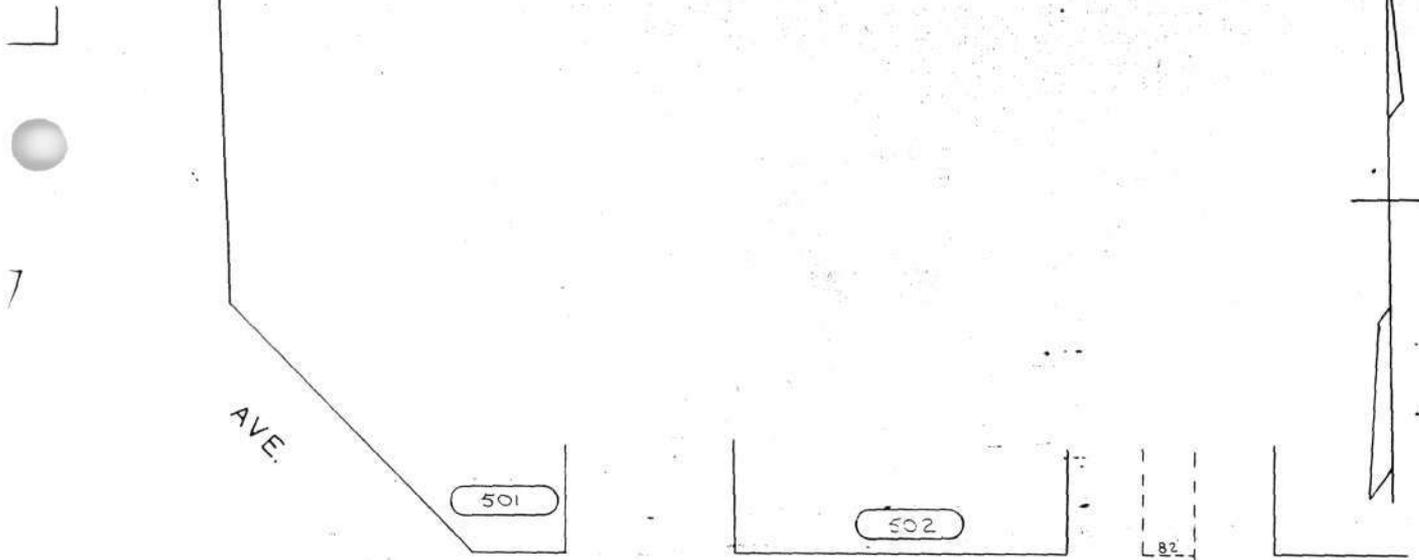
Historic Environment:
Urban

Historic Function and Use:
Residential-Commercial

Known Design Source:
None

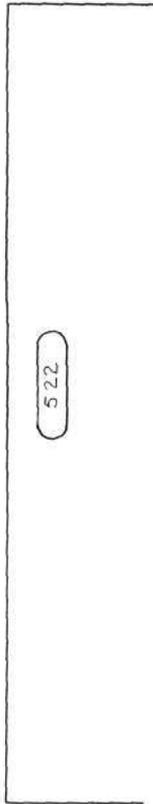
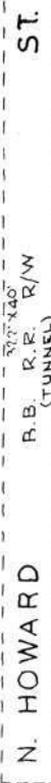
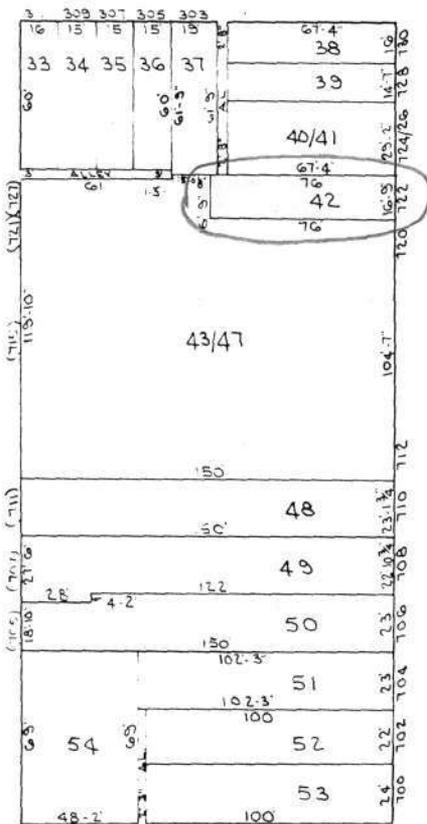
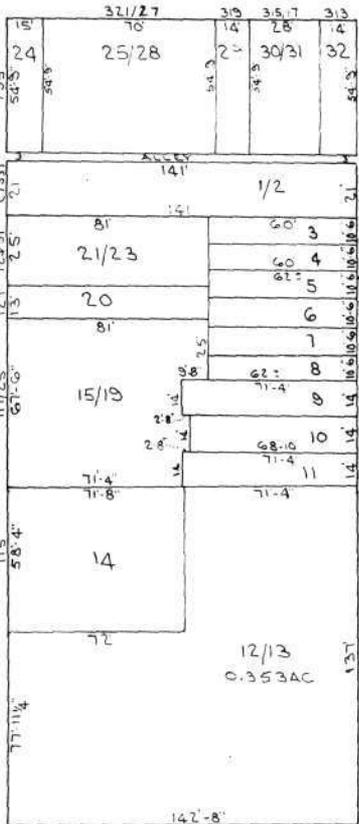
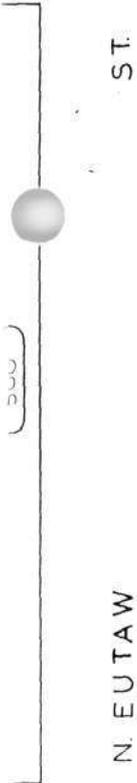
REVISIONS

OTS 1/2-12/13, 15/13-25/28, 30/31, 32, 44/45 PER DEEDS & PLS. C.S.K. 85-231-233



W. MADISON ST.

ST.



W. MONUMENT ST.

ST.

NOTE: FOR OLD CONDITIONS SEE SHEET-2

SHEETS IN SET 2 SHEET 1

530

NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 11 SECTION 10 BLOCK 521

SCALE 1"=50' DATE DEC. 1984

BY D.G. ED BY D.G. D BY



B-4372

B-4373

B-4374

722-730 N Howard St (row)

Baltimore, MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

SE Elevation of 722 N Howard, plus entire row

1/3

NEW BOX
Seagram's
Extra Dry
Gin

REFRESH
Seagram's
Extra Dry
Gin

Seagram's
Extra Dry
Gin

Seagram's
Extra Dry
Gin

SEAGRAM'S

GINI BART



B-4372

722 N. Howard St.

Baltimore, MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

East Elevation

2/3



B-4372

722 N. Howard St.

Baltimore, MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Attached backbuilding

3/3