

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4373

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 724 North Howard Street

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 724 N. Howard Street not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

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

name Raymond Ellison

street & number 7501 Park Heights Avenue

telephone no.: MD 21208

city, town Baltimore state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, Baltimore City Courthouse RHB3437

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 folio 112

city, town Baltimore state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-4373

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 of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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 three-story, shed-roof building was raised during the mid-nineteenth century from its original two-and-one-half story, gable roof form. This particular unit is four bays wide, but was originally two two-bay units, as evidenced in brick seams and the pattern of the row. It is now treated as one four-bay unit with a street frontage of 29'2" and a depth of 67'4".

The first story has been substantially altered. It is covered with painted plywood and has a small window that is roughly centered on the facade. An angled vestibule is recessed in the far northern bay. The vestibule is laid in round mosaic tiles with a floral pattern and a Greek key frieze. 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. The area between the first and second stories is covered with wood shingles.

The second and third stories have four evenly spaced windows. All have brick splayed jack arches. Most of the windows are 1/1 sash, except for a few that are 6/2 sash.

The cornice is suspended several courses below the roof line. The wide modillioned eaves are supported by brackets that sit atop a narrow row of trim.

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

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4373

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/
<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 early nineteenth-century building is part of the only remaining row of modest Greek Revival speculative rowhouses on North Howard Street. Among its row neighbors, this building is unusual because it shows mid-nineteenth-century alterations. The attic story was converted into a full third story, the eyebrow windows were raised to full length windows, and the shed roof was reconfigured into the contemporary shed-roof profile and overhanging bracketed eaves.

The size and massing of the two original two-bay units 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 approximately 15 foot wide houses is also indicative of the status of the laboring class whose means, however modest, permitted them to purchase or rent single family 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-4373

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

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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 1037date December 19, 1991street & number 417 E. Fayette Streettelephone 301-396-4866city or town Baltimorestate 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-4373
724 North Howard Street
Baltimore, MD
Section 8 Significance
8.1

The building was altered circa 1850 into the current style modest Italianate building with either shop or house connotations. The first story was probably altered during this period, but is mostly obscured by recent alterations. The evident inset entry with glass display area, however, are hallmarks of the late nineteenth-century shopfronts.

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 later nineteenth-century alterations to the building may have saved the building, as it enhanced the commercial viability of the space, either for commercial or residential purposes. The survival of this building is rare within the Baltimore commercial district.

The most recent first-story alterations including a circa 1970 a shake shingled pent roof and plywood wall surfacing, are examples 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

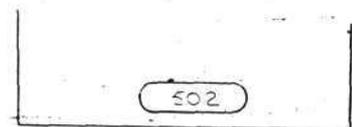
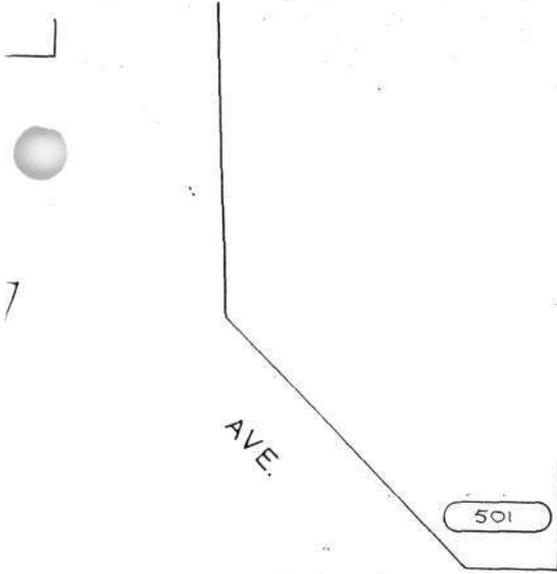
Historic Environment:
Urban

Historic Function and Use:
Residential-Commercial

Known Design Source:
None

REVISIONS

OTS 1/2-12/13, 15/19-25/28, 30/31, 32, 44/41 54 PER DEED'S & PLS, C.S. 85-231-233

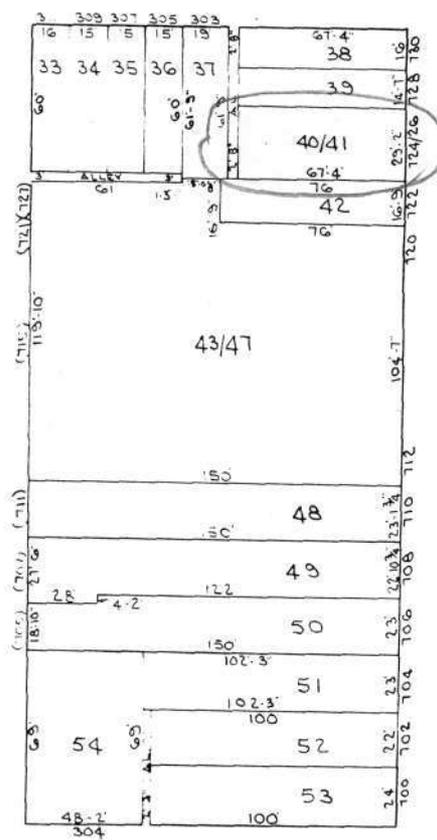
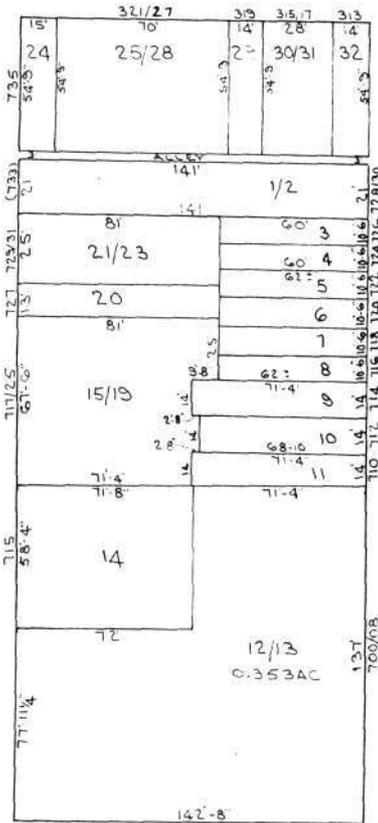


W. MADISON ST.

LINDEN AVE.

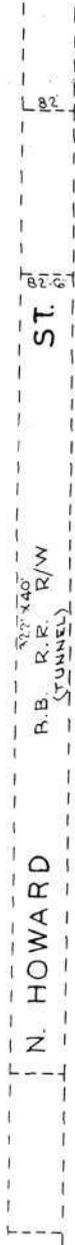
N. EUTAW ST.

N. HOWARD ST.



W. MONUMENT ST.

N. HOWARD ST.



522

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-4373

724 N. Howard St.

Baltimore, MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

East elevation

1/2



B-4373

724 N. Howard St.

Baltimore, MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

East elevation, showing row of units

2/2