

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

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4404

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic 423-425-427 West Saratoga Street

and/or common #427 Sister Lisa Tea Leaf Reader

**2. Location**

street & number 423-425-427 W. Saratoga Street  not for publication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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name See attached sheet

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore City Courthouse state and zip code

**5. Location of Legal Description**

100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610  
Baltimore MD

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. \_\_\_\_\_ liber

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ folio

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state

## 7. Description

Survey No. B-4404

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input 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: 3

This row of two-bay, three-and-one-half-story rowhouses was constructed as a single project. There is no seam in the brick work between the units. Nonetheless, the different alterations to the units makes it easier to discuss the row in two parts: that pertaining to #423 and that pertaining to #425-427.

### #423 West Saratoga Street

This circa 1840 brick, stretcher bond, gable roofed building is two bays wide and three-and-one-half stories high. It is part of what was originally a six-bay, three unit speculative row. Unlike its row neighbors to the west, this unit is virtually intact. The building faces north on W. Saratoga Streets, and abuts a separate partywall structure to the east. The street frontage is 17' and the depth is 56'.

The first story is three bays wide. Two 6/6 sash windows are in the first two bays. The lintels have been covered by a metal band running cross the facade. The entrance is in the third bay. It is elevated above a four-step marble stoop. The entry vestibule no longer has its outer doors. The inner doors are narrow wood double doors with Italianate panels of peaked molding at the top with an elongated panel in the middle and a square panel at the bottom. The doors are framed by doric pilasters supporting a plain entablature and shallow wood molding cornice. The peeling paint reveals that the brick was originally painted red with white pencilling.

The second and third stories are two bays wide. The windows all have splayed brick jack arches and stone sills. The second story has elongated openings filled with modern 1/1 modern sash windows and a "transom" below the sash. The third story windows have 6/6 sash.

A double brick stringcourse runs between the third and attic story. A metal band runs above this stringcourse. The attic story has two eyebrow windows. Each window is a pair of single light casements. A metal projecting cornice has one wood bracket at the far east end.

The cellar has two windows with brick splayed jack lintels and stone sills.

The back, south wall of the building is partially visible from a rear alley. The first story of the main building has a 6/6 sash window in the east bay. A back building extends from the west bay. There is a suspended frame addition hanging off the second and third stories. The attic has eyebrow windows. There is a two-brick corbelled cornice. A chimney rises over the east bay.

B-4404  
423-425-427 West Saratoga Street  
Baltimore, MD  
Section 7 Description  
7.1

The back building extends from the west bay of the main building and is two-stories high and one bay long; it then juts out to be two bays wide, two bays long and two stories high. The east wall has 4/4 sash windows with wood sills. The lintels are vertical brick on the second story and wood bands on the third. The south wall is blank and parged. The shed roof has a corbelled cornice.

#### 435-427 West Saratoga Street

This circa 1840 brick, stretcher bond, gable roofed building is two bays wide and three-and-one-half stories high. It is part of what was originally a six-bay, three unit speculative row. Unlike its row neighbors to the west, this unit is virtually intact. The building faces north on W. Saratoga Streets, and abuts a separate partywall structure to the east. The street frontage is 17' and the depth is 56'.

The first story is three bays wide. Two 6/6 sash windows are in the first two bays. The lintels have been covered by a metal band running cross the facade. The entrance is in the third bay. It is elevated above a four-step marble stoop. The entry vestibule no longer has its outer doors. The inner doors are narrow wood double doors with Italianate panels of peaked molding at the top with an elongated panel in the middle and a square panel at the bottom. The doors are framed by doric pilasters supporting a plain entablature and shallow wood molding cornice. The peeling paint reveals that the brick was originally painted red with white pencilling.

The second and third stories are two bays wide. The windows all have splayed brick jack arches and stone sills. The second story has elongated openings filled with modern 1/1 modern sash windows and a "transom" below the sash. The third story windows have 6/6 sash.

A double brick stringcourse runs between the third and attic story. A metal band runs above this stringcourse. The attic story has two eyebrow windows. Each window is a pair of single light casements. A metal projecting cornice has one wood bracket at the far east end.

The cellar has two windows with brick splayed jack lintels and stone sills.

B-4404  
423-425-427 West Saratoga Street  
Baltimore, MD  
Section 7 Description  
7.2

The back, south wall of the building is partially visible from a rear alley. The first story of the main building has a 6/6 sash window in the east bay. A back building extends from the west bay. There is a suspended frame addition hanging off the second and third stories. The attic has eyebrow windows. There is a two-brick corbelled cornice. A chimney rises over the east bay.

The back building extends from the west bay of the main building and is two-stories high and one bay long; it then juts out to be two bays wide, two bays long and two stories high. The east wall has 4/4 sash windows with wood sills. The lintels are vertical brick on the second story and wood bands on the third. The south wall is blank and parged. The shed roof has a corbelled cornice.

# 8. Significance

Survey No.

B-4402  
B-4404

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: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G		
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local		

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

This six-bay, three-and-one-half-story building is a good example of speculative residential construction along Saratoga Street during the mid nineteenth century. The building's style and massing are representative of the late nineteenth-century rowhouses and partywall structures on the block. The height of the building is typical for the block: most of the units rose to three or four stories. The ratio of height to width suggests increasing land values: affording only a narrow frontage, the owner's impulse was to build taller and maximize the value of the lot. The construction of partywall, 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.

These buildings are unusual, however, in that they appear to have been originally dedicated solely to residential use. There is no commercial storefront at street level, nor is there a separate first -story entrance. The attached back buildings also indicate residential use.

Late Greek-Revival/Early Victorian details are still visible. The eyebrow windows in the top story are hallmarks of the Greek Revival period. Other details, however, play up the early Italianate tastes, such as the elongated windows in the second story. Unit #423 has been hardly modified. The entrance retains its period recessed doorway with Italianate trim and original double door. The first story has not been altered for commercial purposes and the interior is still used as rental housing.

In contrast to the relatively pristine state of #423, the units 3425-427 have been substantially altered on the first story. The two units have been combined into one, and circa 1920s display windows, bowed fronts, and two-color brick create a commercial storefront. The commercial opportunities of the corner location is taken advantage of by repositioning the entrance to the clipped corner.



B-4404

4. Property Owners

423 West Saratoga Street

Carmello Liberto  
420 Overbrook Road  
Baltimore MD 21228

425-427 West Saratoga Street

Jerry Ely  
425-427 W. Saratoga Street  
Baltimore MD 21201

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA**

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:  
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:  
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870

Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture  
Economics

Resource Type:  
Building

Historic Environment:  
Urban

Historic Function and Use:  
Residential

Known Design Source:  
None

REVISIONS

BLOCK REVISED

LOTS 17, 34, 35, 37, & PT OF LOTS 1/16, 26 & 36 DIV & CONS'D PER DEED & B.S. C.S.H. 83-446

LOTS 1/16 & PT OF LOTS 13 THRU 26 BLK. 618 CONS'D PER APP & 83-444 & 445

Lot 33 Lot No Change - C.S.H. 83-556

LOTS 1/16, 17, 36 DIV & CONS'D PER LETTER & LOT 33/35 LOT No CHANGED C.S.H. 85-063

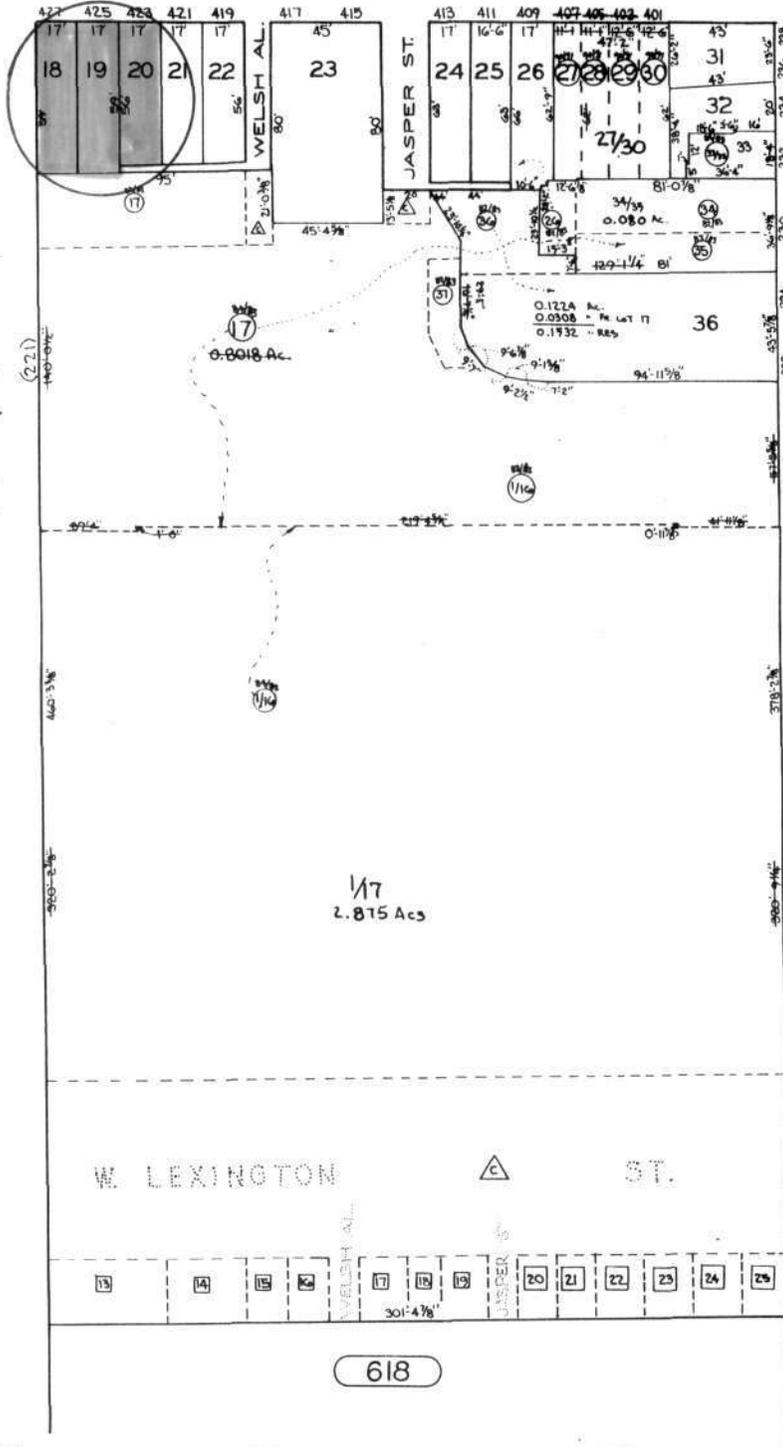
LOTS 27, 28, 29, 30 CONS'D PER O.O. CH. SH. 91-096

576

W SARATOGA

ST.

ST.



593

596

N. PACA

N. EUTAW

1/17  
2.875 Acs

W. LEXINGTON ST.

W. LEXINGTON ST.

618

AREA	LOT	1/17
7	83/84	0.802 Acs
36		0.031 Acs
		0.771 Acs
7	34/35	0.080 Acs
		0.691 Acs
1/16	83/84	2.184 Acs
		2.875 Acs 9/84

- DENOTES LOT FROM BLK 618 FOR 82/83
- DENOTES CLOSING OF STREETS & ALLEYS

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

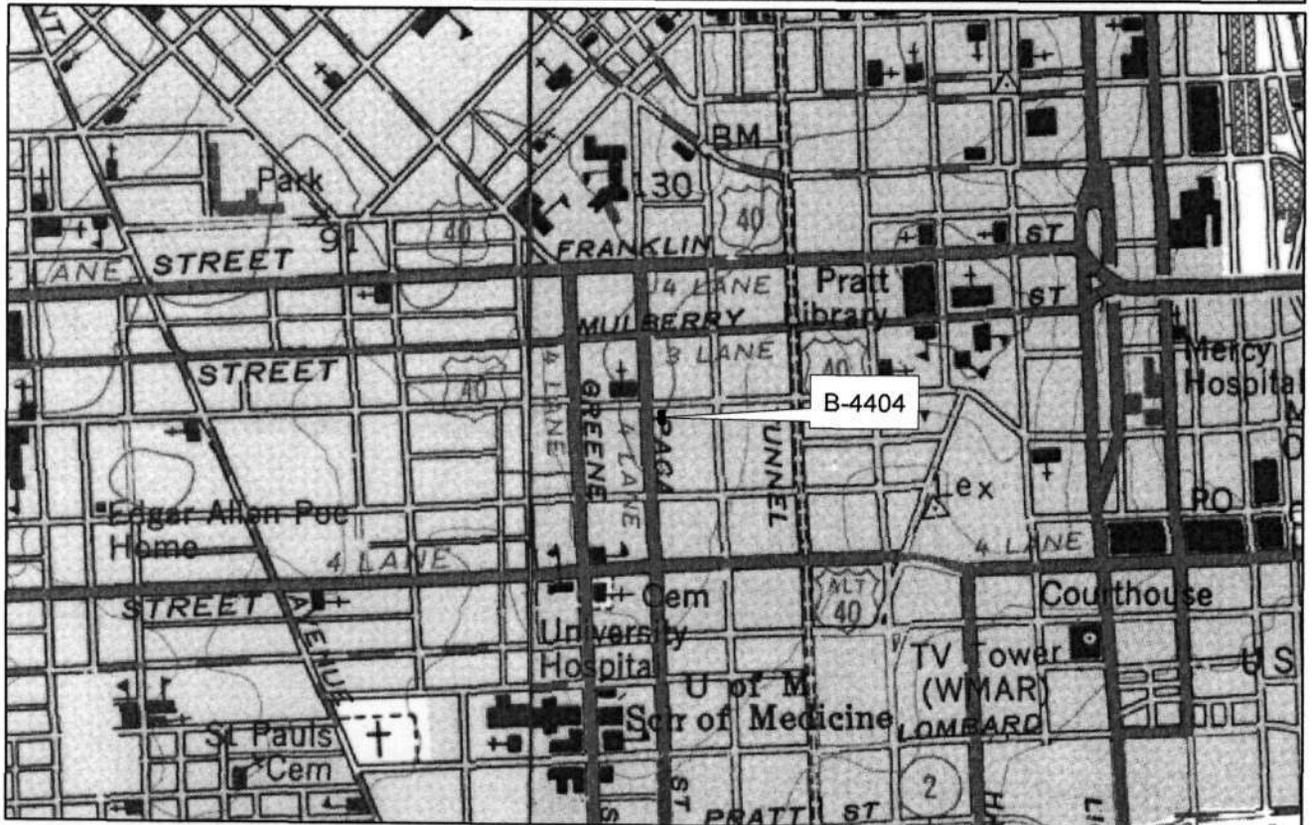
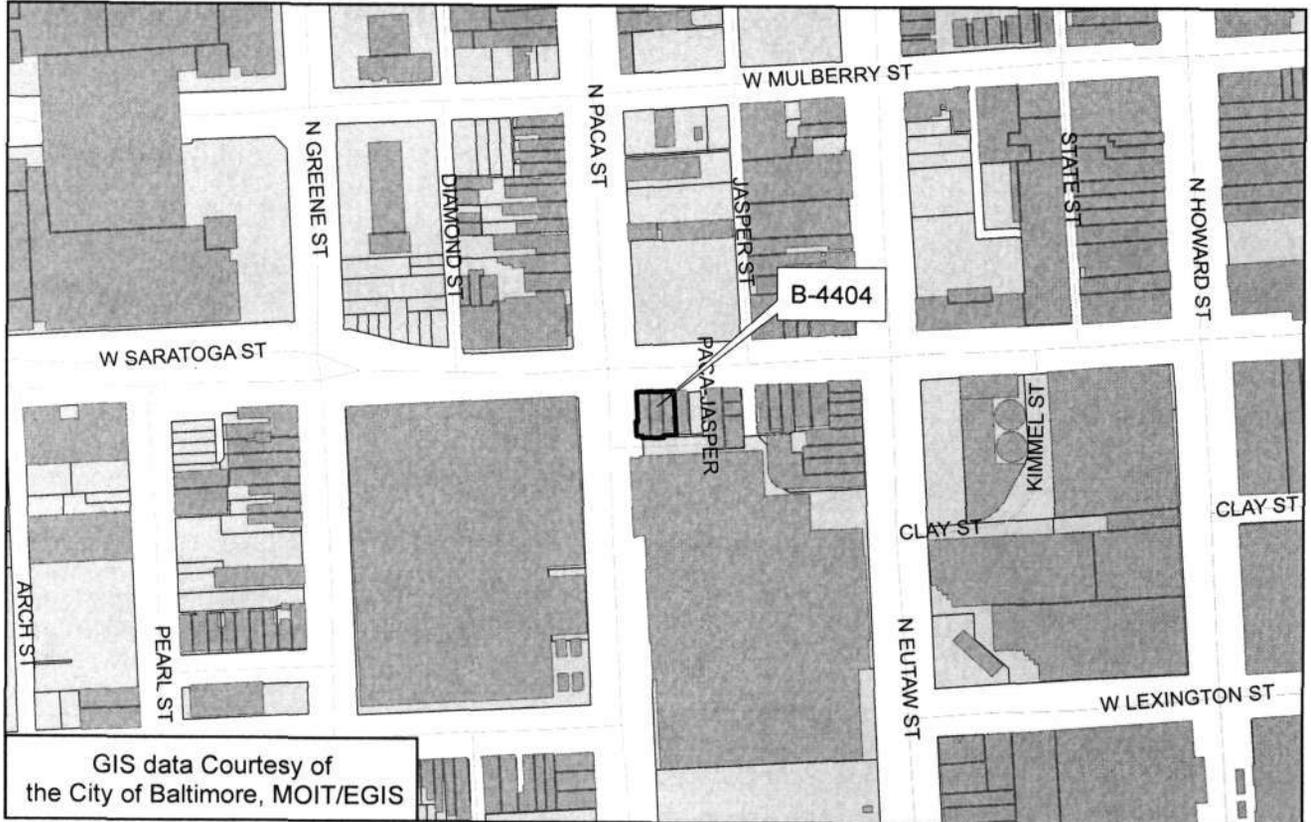
PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION  
WARD 4 SECTION 5

BLOCK 595

SCALE 1" = 50'-0" DATE MAY 1983

BY: P.M.F.  
BY: P.M. FORD  
BY:

B-4404  
423-425-427 W. Saratoga Street  
Block 0595 Lot 018  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad





B-4404

423-427 W. Saratoga St

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, NW Elevation

1/3



B-4404

423-427 W. Saratoga St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, NW elevation

2/3



B-4404

423 W. Saratoga St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, detail

3/3