

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. 4647

1. Name

Historic 1730-1740 North Dallas Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 1730-1740 North Dallas Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21205 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name
street & number telephone
city, town state & zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Land Records liber
street & number Clarence Mitchell Courthouse folio
city, town Baltimore State Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date federal state county local
depository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check One

unaltered
 altered

Check One

original site
 moved:
 date of move: _____

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

This row of six two-story, two-bay wide houses late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built in 1887 by George Hershman, a builder of working class houses in East Baltimore. All of the houses retain their brick facades, which were originally painted and striped.

The houses are two stories in height, 11'9" wide, and occupy lots 60' deep. Each house is only two small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in common bond (with a header row every seven rows) and were originally painted and striped. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves and ending with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with butterfly shapes, created with a jig saw. Although the exact same butterfly pattern is used as that found on 1735-1741 Dallas St., it is interesting to note that the carpenter who put them up at 1730-1740 placed them upside down. And whereas the band of quarter-rounds just beneath the frieze at 1735-1741 is grooved, that found on 1730-1740 is plain, a detail that suggests 1) that builders were sometimes at the mercy of their suppliers and could not always get exactly what they ordered or 2) that some builders had higher standards than others. The plain band of quarter-rounds connects the frieze panel to a deep lower frieze panel consisting of plain wooden panels marked by a central and lower molding. This deep lower wooden panel is a very unusual feature for late Italianate style rowhouses, which more commonly make use of the brick façade itself as the lower portion of the entablature, framed by a lower molding strip that connects the two or three long scroll-sawn brackets.

The door and window openings have splayed brick lintels and the sills are wood. Some of the original 4/4 sash remain. The doorways have single-light transoms and show a variety of replacement door types. The houses sit on fairly low basements lit by a double-light sash. Each front door (no original doors remain) is reached by three concrete steps. Two of the flights of steps are set perpendicular to the façade, in the usual manner, but the other two are set parallel to the plane of the façade, with side railings.

3. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify		
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<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 1887

Builder/Architect George Hershman

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

This group of houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built by George Hershman, a fairly prolific Baltimore builder, according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1880 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new neighborhoods going up to serve the expanding factory districts ringing the harbor and northeast of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide three or two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks.

In this particular case Hershman developed the entire northern half of the block, building 14 three-story, three-bay wide (most were 14'6") houses on the east side of Caroline; 10 three-story, three-bay wide (13'3") houses on the west side of Bond Street; four two story-story, three-bay wide (14') houses on the south side of Lafayette, west of Dallas and four more similar houses (15' wide) east of Dallas; 4 two-story, two-bay wide (11'8") houses on the east side of Dallas Street and 6 two-story, two-bay wide (12') houses on the west side. Hershman sold his houses on Bond, Caroline, and Lafayette to mainly German-Americans. He sold one houses on the west side of Dallas in 1887 to John Kraemer, a laborer, for \$550 (with a \$30 ground rent). He retained ownership of the remainder of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the purchase price of the small street houses, then they *could* afford the \$8 or so a month it would cost to rent one, while they saved to be able to buy their own home later. Hershman rented the houses on Dallas St. until 1891 when he sold them to another absentee landlord.¹

9. Major Bibliographic References

Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

10. Geographic Data

Acreege of nominated property

Quadrangle name

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward

Organization The Alley House Project

date June 2006

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

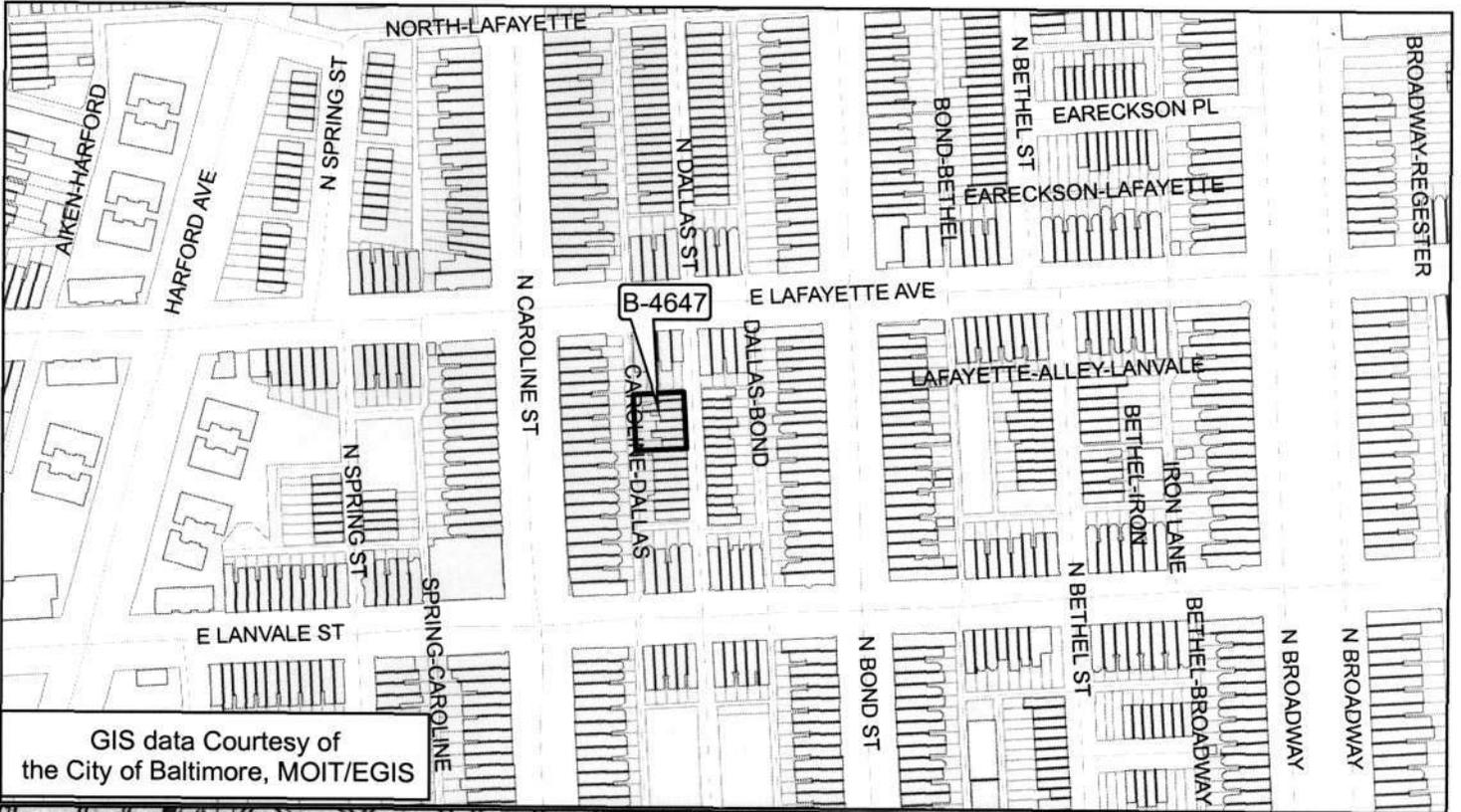
state & zip code Maryland 21204

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 property rights.

Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B-4647
1730-1740 N. Dallas Street
Block 1108
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS

