Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4666

1. Name

Historic: 1620-1636 Lansing Street
and / common:

2. Location

street & number: 1620-1636 Lansing Street
city, town: Baltimore
state & zip code: Maryland 21205 county

3. Classification

Category
__ district
X building(s)
__ structure
__ site
__ object

Ownership
__ public
X private
__ both

Public Acquisition
__ in process
__ being considered
__ not applicable

Status
X occupied
__ unoccupied
__ work in progress

Accessible
X yes: restricted
__ yes: unrestricted
__ no

Present Use
__ agriculture
__ commercial
__ educational
__ entertainment
__ government
__ industrial
__ military
__ museum
__ park
X private residence
__ religious
__ scientific
__ transportation
__ 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
Repository for survey records
city, town state & zip code

7. Description

Condition		Check One	Check One
__ excellent	__ deteriorated	__ unaltered	X original site
__ good	__ ruins	X altered	__ moved:
x_ fair	__ unexposed		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 ten two-story, two-bay wide vernacular Queen Anne-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal and stepped brick cornices were built in 1892 by Steptoe Hutt, a prolific builder of both three-story and working class houses in East Baltimore. All but one of the houses retains its original brick facade, which was originally painted. After the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal and stepped-back bricks became one of the more popular alternatives, particulary for inexpensive housing. This decorative brickwork, as well as the paired first floor windows, represent vernacular translations of high-style Queen Anne designs first seen in Baltimore c. 1880.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide, (the three at the west end are only 11'6" wide) and occupy lots 60' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses are constructed in running bond and have been painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The shed roof is capped by a continuous sheet metal and stepped brick cornice created by five rows of progressively recessed stretchers framed by five rows of slightly projecting, yet progressively recessed headers.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with scroll-sawn tympanums. The sills are wood. Showing the stylistic influence of Queen Anne designs, the wider first floor window is composed of paired 1/1 sash with a wide molding between. Likewise, the wide basement window has paired sash set beneath a segmental arch composed of two rows of headers. Second floor sash were originally 2/2 sash, but few examples remain. The effect of a belt course between the first and second floors is created by recessing one row of bricks and then slightly projecting the next row. The doorways have single-light transoms and show a variety of replacement door types. The houses sit on fairly low basements. Each front door is reached by two or three concrete steps.

3. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify		
__ prehistoric	__ archeology-prehistoric	X community planning	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 1400-1499	__ archeology-historic	__ conservation	__ law	__ science
__ 1500-1599	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ literature	__ sculpture
__ 1600-1699	X architecture	__ education	__ military	X social/ humanitarian
__ 1700-1799	__ art	__ engineering	__ music	__ theatre
X 1800-1899	__ commerce	__ exploration	__ philosophy	__ transportation
__ 1900	__ communications	__ industry	__ politics/government	__ other: specify
		__ invention		

Specific dates 1892 **Builder/Architect** Steptoe Hutt

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 Steptoe Hutt, 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 like Hutt acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks. Hutt also built the three-story, three-bay wide houses on the west side of Broadway in this block, the two-story, three-bay wide houses on the south side of Lanvale, east of Bethel, and the similar houses on the north side of Federal St., east of Bethel, the latter two examples being priced at 1,500 (with a $45 ground rent).

Hutt sold most of the houses on the north side of Lansing St. (then called Grover Place after President Grover Cleveland) to a few local investors, who paid $600 (with a $23 ground rent) and who retained the houses for their rental income. Such houses would rent for about $8 a month, thus allowing local workers to reside near their jobs while they saved to be able to make a down payment and buy their own home with the help of the many local and ethnically-based building and loan associations.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

10. Geographic Data

Acreage of nominated property
Quadrangle name
Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared by

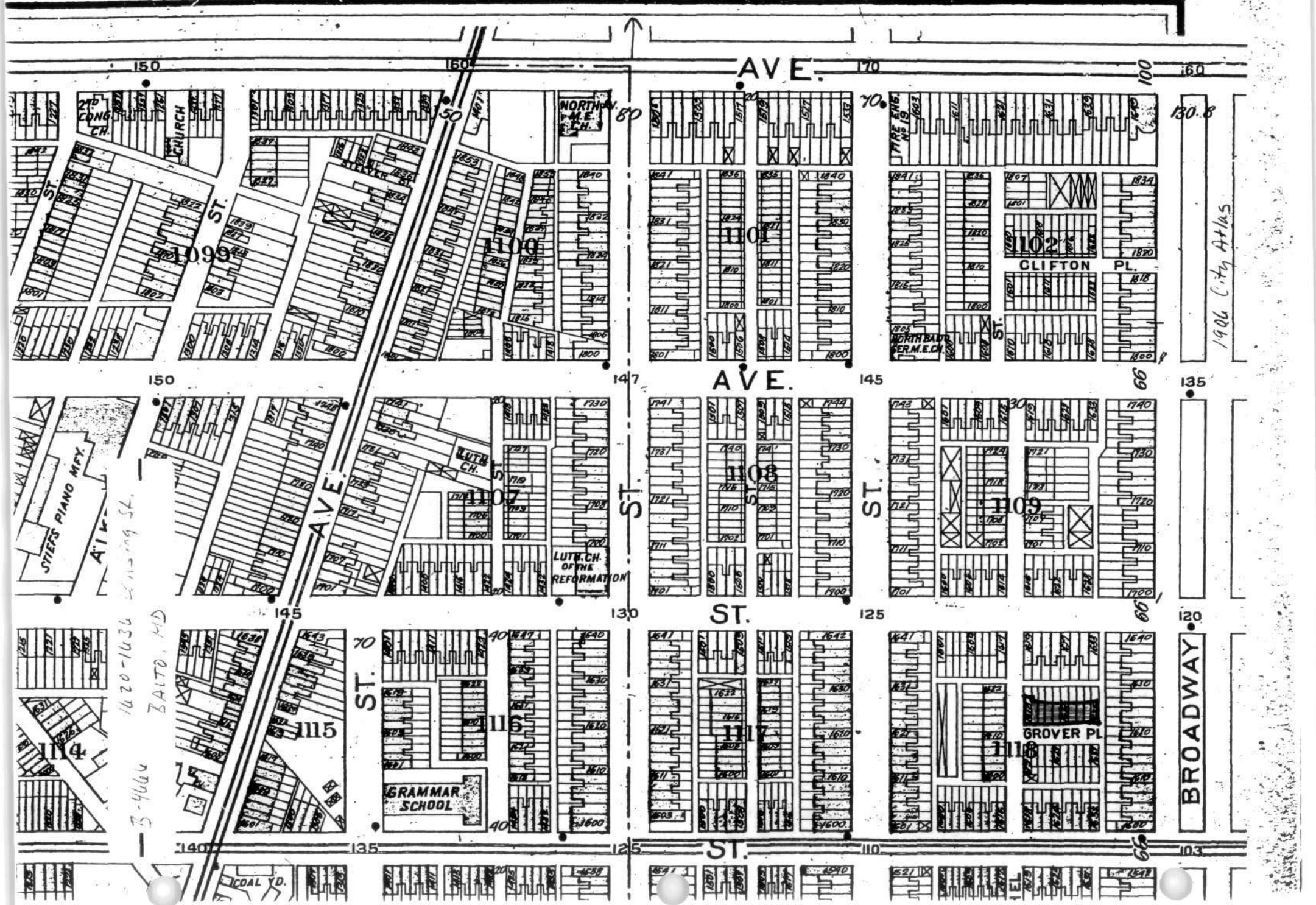
name / title Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward
Organization The Alley House Project date June 2000
street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave. telephone
city, town Baltimore state & zip code Maryland 21204

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

PLATE 9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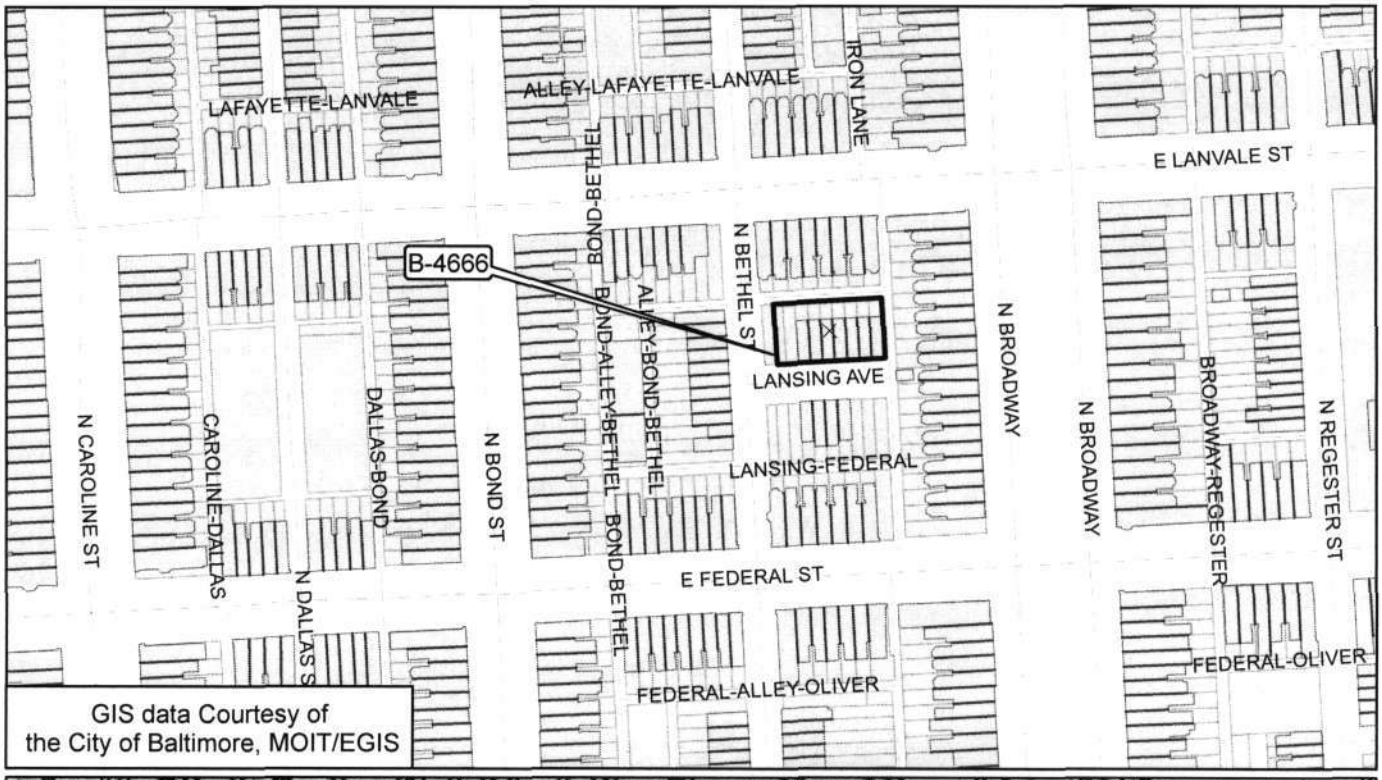
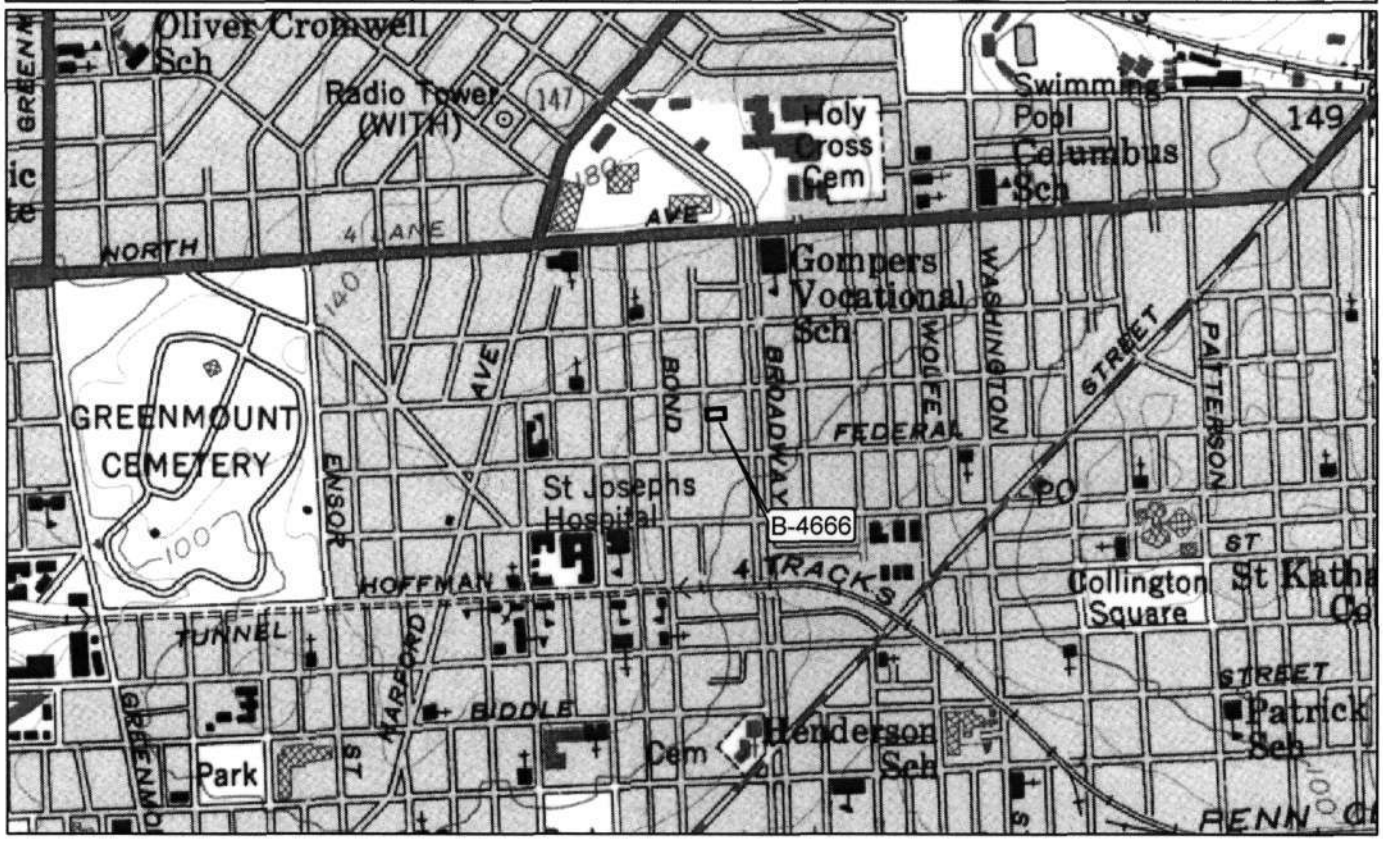
COAL YD.
1906 City Atlas

B-4666
1620-1636 Lansing Avenue
Block 1118, Lots 099-107
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.

1620 & 1622 Demolished





1620-1636 Lansing WS

WS

B-4666
1620-1636 Lansing St.
Balto, MD
K. Nield
11/96
MD. SHPO
1/2

1623

1626 Lansing
W4

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1626 Lansing St.
Balto. MD
W. Nield
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