

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. ^B 4674

1. Name

Historic 1619-1621 Ellsworth Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 1619-1621 Ellsworth 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 | X occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| X building(s) | X private | <input 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 | X 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 | X 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 type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <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 | Check One | Check One |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | | date of move: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

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

This row of two (originally ten, 1601-1621) two-story, two-bay wide late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden bracketed cornices were built in 1885 by William J. Clendenin, a prolific builder of working class houses in East Baltimore. The houses retain their original brick facades, which were originally painted.

The houses are two stories in height, 11'5" wide, and occupy lots 50' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses are constructed in running bond and were painted. Each house has a hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The shed roof is capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves and a bull's eye design and ending with a trefoil, that are connected by a lower molding strip. The frieze area, which also serves to ventilate the roof is decorated with jig-sawn butterfly shapes. Two ventilator panels with geometric jig-sawn designs are set beneath the frieze and the lower molding strip.

The door and window openings have flat wood lintels. The sills are wood. The doorways have single light transoms but no doors remain. Likewise, the original 2/2 sash is gone. The houses sit on low basements lit by a single-light sash. Each front door is reached by two concrete steps.

The houses were demolished in the summer of 1998.

8. 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 1885

Builder/Architect William J. Clendenin

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 William J. Clendenin, a well-known 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 north-east of the central city. Builders 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. Typically, in this period, main street houses might sell for \$1,300 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$400 to \$600.

Clendenin sold his houses to a mix of owner-occupants and investors who sought the rental income. 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.

At the time of construction the street was known as St. Joseph's Street, after St. Joseph's Hospital, which occupied the block bounded by Eden, Caroline, Hoffman, and Oliver.

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

1160

B-4674

1619-1621 Ellsworth St
BALTO. MD

11349

11350

11348

11348
PRIMARY SCHOOL
NO 20

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11349
ST. JOSEPH'S HOSPITAL

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11349
ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CH.
SCHOOL

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CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
N. BETHEL
OLIVER PL.

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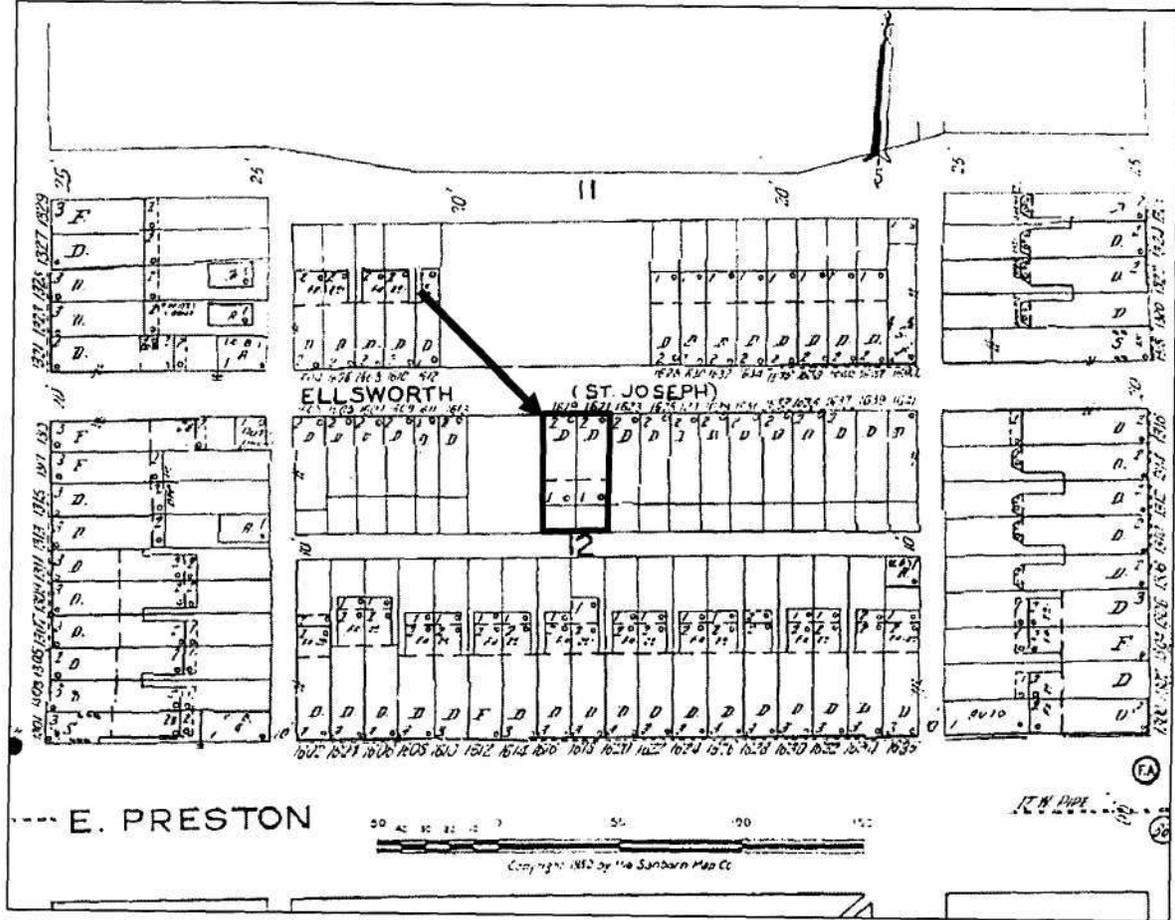
NORTH

8

1906 City Atlas

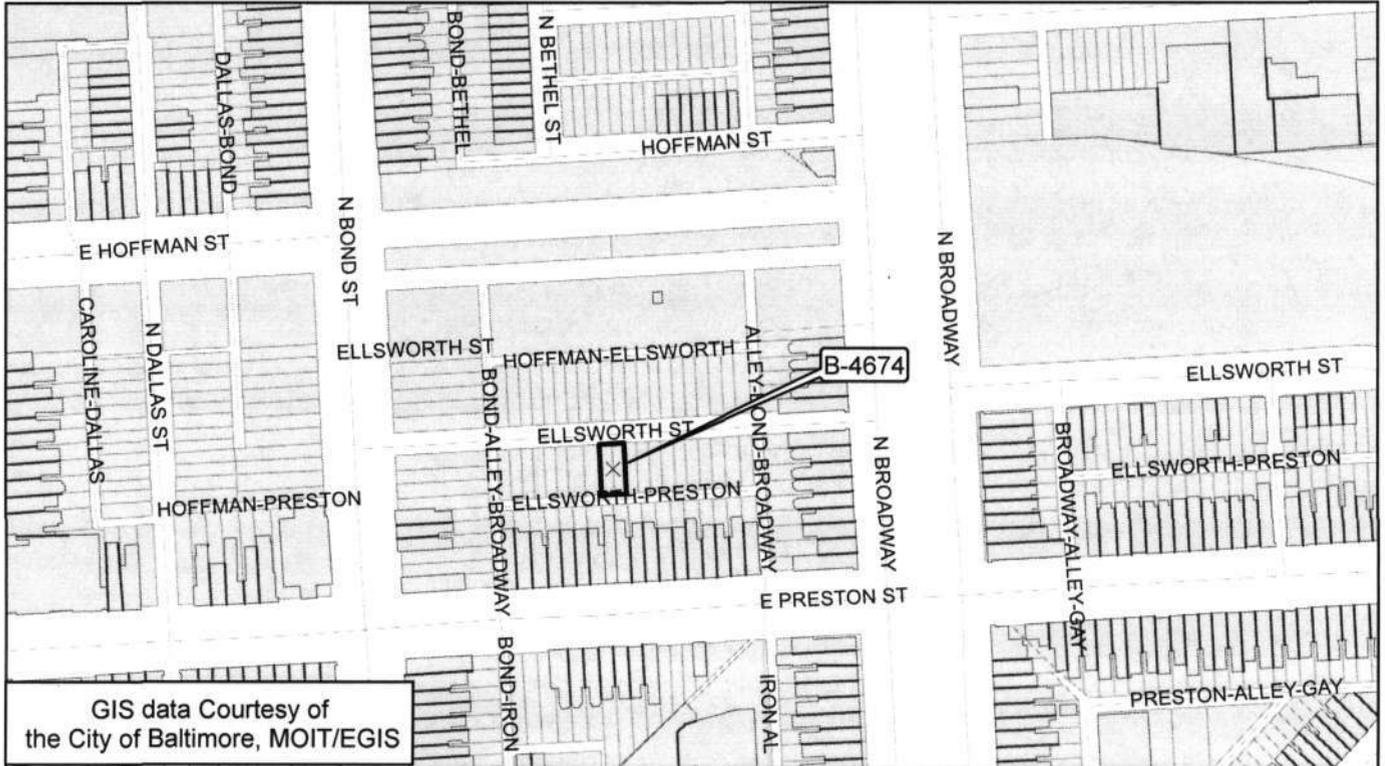
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B-4674
1619-1621 Ellsworth Street
Sanborn Map 1914, Reprinted 1953
Volume 3, Sheet 296



B-4674
1619-1621 Ellsworth Street
Block 1151, Lots 068-069
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.

Demolished





1619-1621 Ellsworth

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B-4674

1612-1621 Ellsworth 84

BACT MD

S. Allan

5/97

MS SHPO

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