

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

B-
Survey No. 4704

1. Name

Historic 1600-1624 North Chapel Street
and / common _____

2. Location

street & number 1600-1624 North Chapel Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county _____

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both

Public Acquisition

in process
 being considered
 not applicable

Status

occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress

Accessible

yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military
 museum
 park
 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 _____
depository for survey records _____
city, town _____ state & zip code _____

7. Description

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:		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 twelve two-story, two-bay wide houses vernacular Queen Anne-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal and stepped brick cornices were built in 1907 by William J. Clendenin, a major builder of working class houses in East Baltimore. Many of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were originally painted a dark red, with the basement area painted white to imitate the marble basements of more expensive houses. Others have been covered with formstone. After the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal and stepped-back bricks became the predominant materials used. This decorative brickwork, represents a vernacular translation of high-style Queen Anne designs first seen in Baltimore rowhouses c. 1880.

The houses are two stories in height, 11'9", 11'11", and 12' wide and occupy lots **70'** 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 cornice set above a frieze created by three rows of progressively recessed stretchers framed by four rows of slightly projecting, yet progressively recessed headers, set against a plain frieze area.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, composed of a double row of headers, and plain tympanums. The sills are wood. All windows have 1/1 sash. The doorways have a single-light transom, but no original doors survive. The houses sit on medium-high basements lit by a single-light sash, set beneath a double-header segmental arch. Each front door is reached by three concrete or brick steps.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitar
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportat
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: spec

Specific dates 1907

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 as representing the very last type of small street houses to be built, in the period c. 1905 – 1909, when a new city ordinance outlawed building houses on streets less than 40' wide. The houses were built by active local builder and investor William J. Clendenin, 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 two-story 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 \$1,200 - \$1,500 ; small street houses for \$700 - \$900.

The houses are significant as representing a very late type of small street house that was constructed to serve as low-cost or rental housing for the working class residents of the area, most of whom were Bohemian at the time of construction. Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties or sold them to a variety of small investors, interested in their rental income. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the approximately \$750 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.

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

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date June 2000

telephone

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.

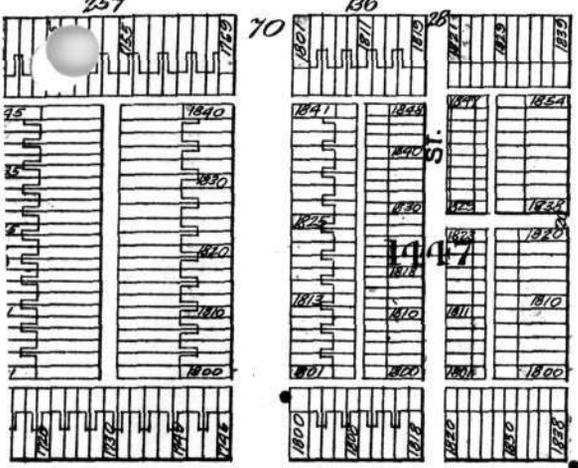
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

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

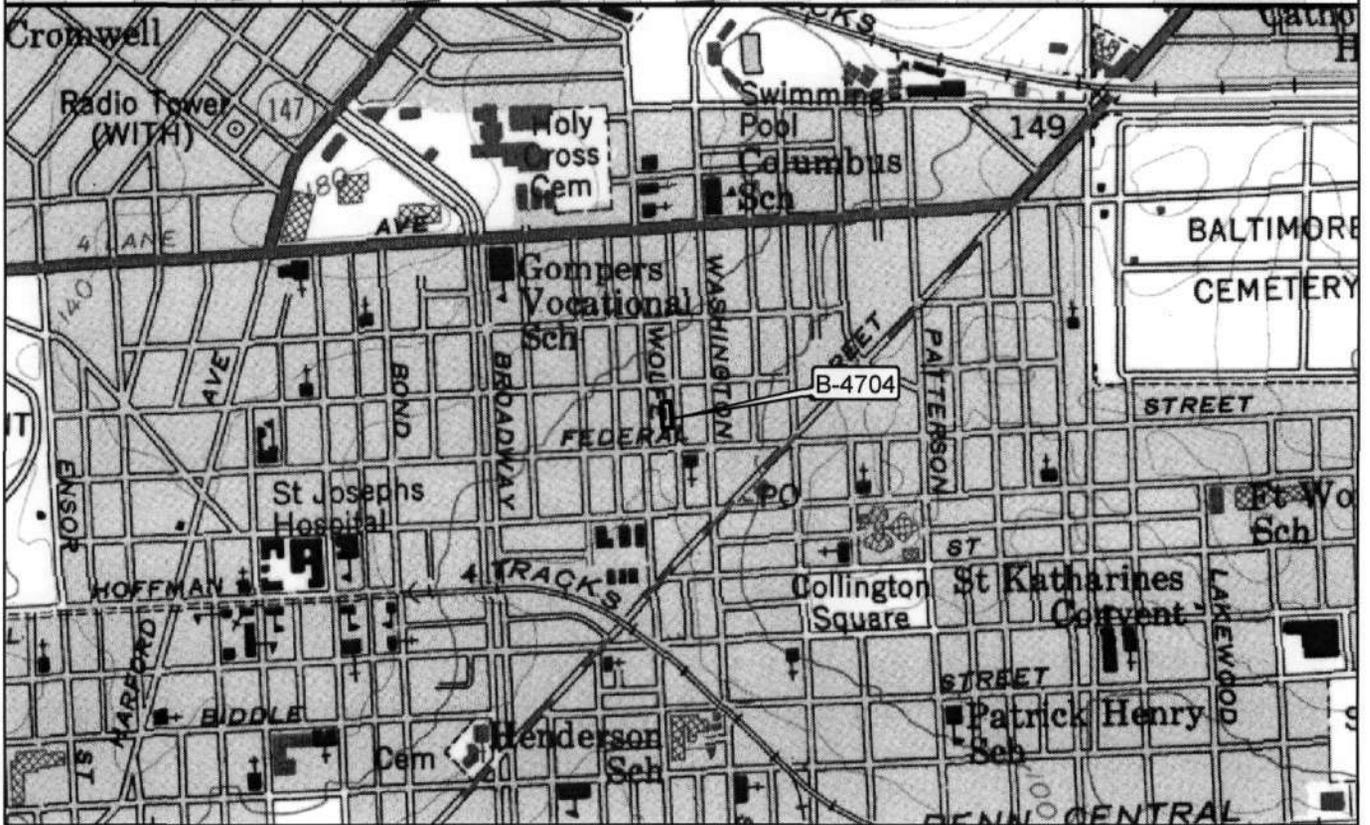
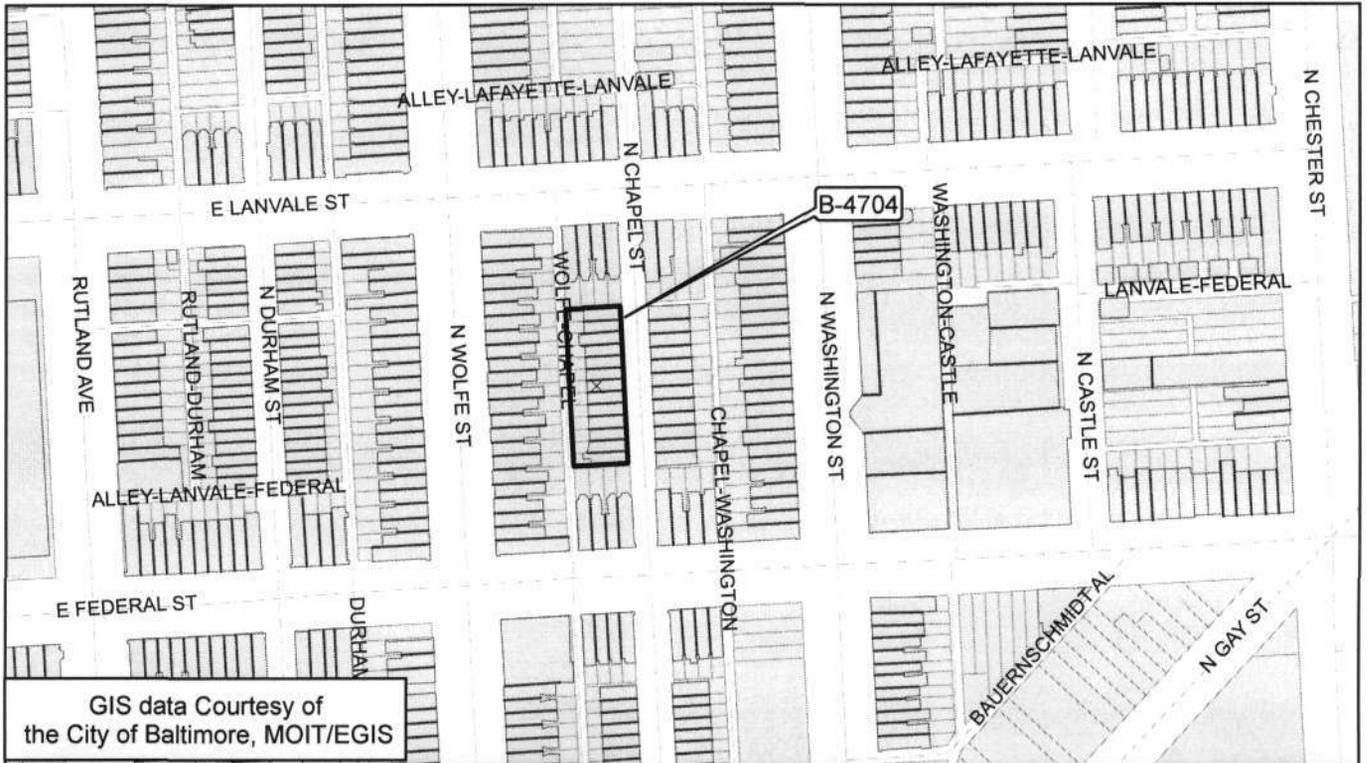
B-4704

1400-1624 N. Chapel St
BALTO. MD

140 130 115 90
E. NORTH



B-4704
1600-1624 N. Chapel Street
Block 1468, Lots 064-076
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





1600-1624 Chapel

W7B

B-4704

1600-1624 N. Chapel St.

BACTO. MS

W. Field

6/96

MS SHPO

1/2

160029 0211 411 N



1600

1602 N. Chapel

63

B-4704

1602 N. Chapel St.

BALTO. MD

S. Allan

8/97

MD SAPE

2/2

[270053] 0211 9 0 1 3 2

MD