Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4721

1. Name

Historic: 1501-1519 North Bradford Street
and / common:

2. Location

street & number: 1501-1519 North Bradford Street
city, town: Baltimore
state & zip code: Maryland 21205 county:

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
__ district	__ public	X occupied	__ agriculture	__ museum
X building(s)	X private	__ unoccupied	__ commercial	__ park
__ structure	__ both	__ work in progress	__ educational	X private residence
__ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	__entertainment	__ religious
__ object	__ in process	X yes: restricted	__ government	__ scientific
	__ being considered	__ yes: unrestricted	__ industrial	__ transportation
	__ not applicable	__ no	__ military	__ 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
__ 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 (originally eleven) two-story, two-bay wide vernacular Renaissance Revival-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal cornices were built in 1898 by Edward C. Pritchett, a small-scale builder of working class houses in East Baltimore. Only a few 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. The rest have been covered with formstone.

After the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal became the predominant material used. By the early years of the 20th century, the most popular form of sheet metal cornice sported ball finials and often classical motifs like swags pressed into the frieze area. Generally, only main street two story houses had decorated friezes—the builder saved money on his small street versions by eliminating them. Likewise, while the main street houses in this style would have marble basements, stringers, lintels, and steps, builders used no marble at all on their small street versions, painting the basements white instead. Main street houses would have stained glass transoms over both the door and the wide first floor window; on the small streets builders offered stained glass only in the door transom.

The houses are two stories in height, 11' 5.5" wide, and occupy lots 70' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. 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 sheet metal cornice consisting of a deeply projecting crown molding, a row of dentils, and a lower plain frieze area. Each cornice is framed by two end brackets capped with ball finials that rise well above the roof line of the houses. The brackets are decorated with rosettes and acanthus leaves.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, composed of a double row of headers, with plain tympanums. The sills are wood. The wide first floor window with its arched top reflects the style of the later 19th and early 20th centuries when wider first floor sash were possible because of the availability of plate glass. Here, however, the wider window is created by traditional 2/2 sash. Doorways have a single-light transom and no original doors remain. The houses sit on fairly low 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.

In the three-room deep Artistic-period floor plan the stairs are set in the center "reception room" with the balustered flight open and with a distinctive newel. Further "artistic" embellishments include a set of engaged columns set between the parlor and reception room, which support arched entryways to the stair area and the reception room/dining room proper. Another arched opening marks the entry between dining room and kitchen. The house has a distinct entry vestibule and all the windows have bull's-eye lintels.

8. 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 1898 **Builder/Architect Edward C. Pritchett**

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. They are also significant for showing fine original "artistic-style" interiors which feature a "reception room/stair area" located in the center of the house. The houses were built by Edward C. Pritchett, a local 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 two-story 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 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.

Pritchett also built the similar, but slightly wider houses on the north side of Oliver St., the west side of Montford St., and the south side of Federal St. in this eastern half of the block. He sold houses to a mix of owner-occupants and to investors interested in obtaining 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.

Houses in this block of Bradford St. sold to mainly Bohemian owner-occupants who received their mortgages from the several Bohemian community-based building and loans.

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 212

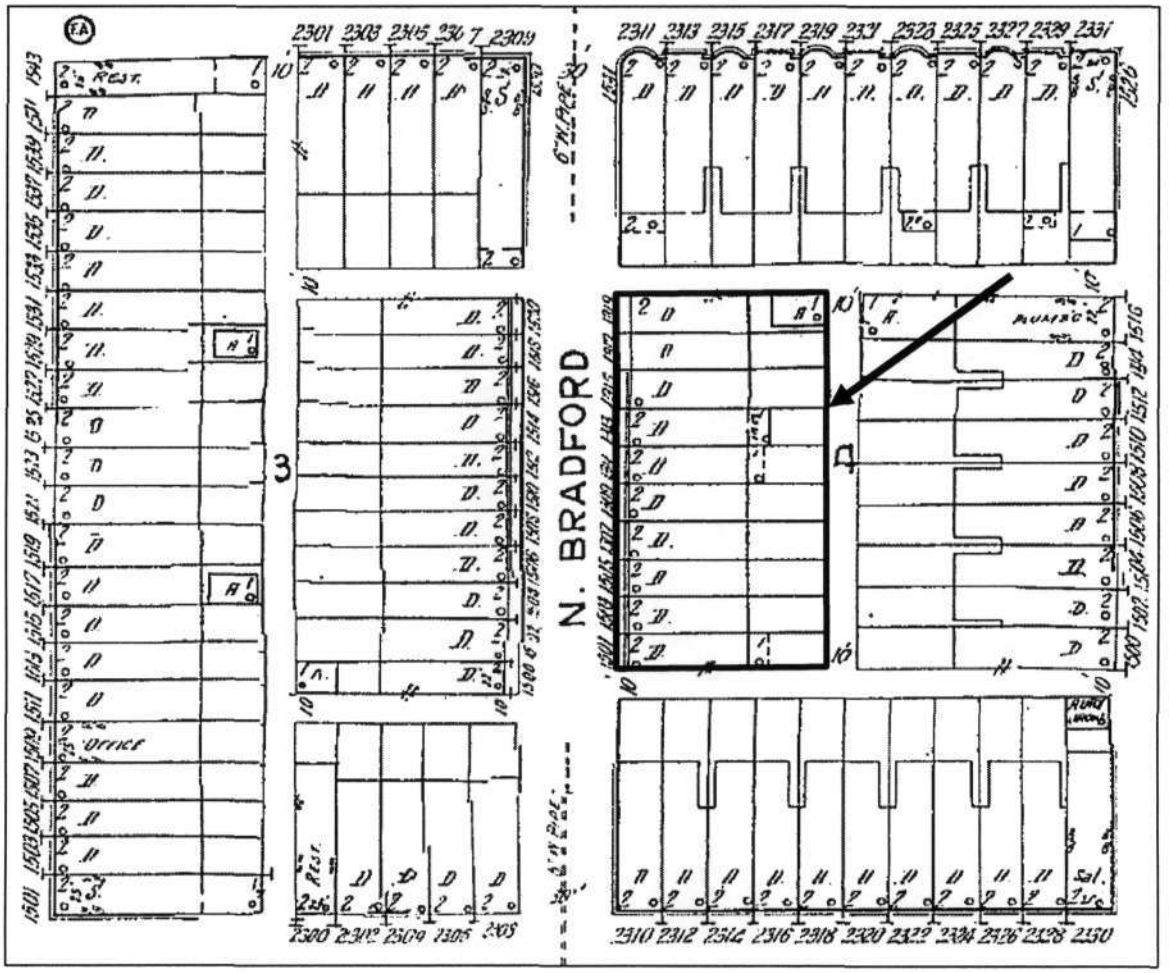
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

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

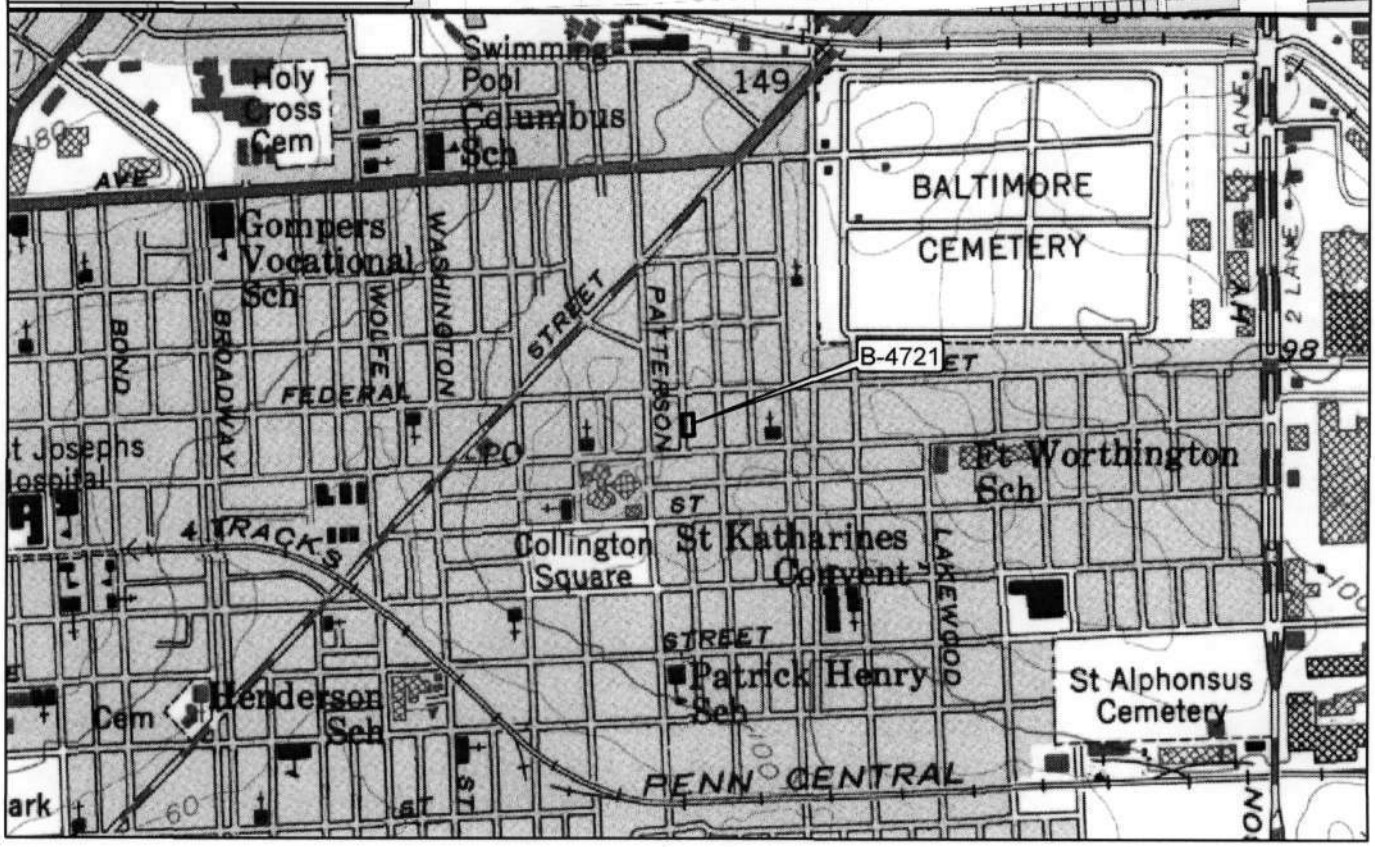

ST.
N. CHAPEL
N. CASTLE
E. HOFFMAN
KEYSER
BELAIR AVE.
G. Bauernschmidt Company
BREWERY OF
ST. MARYS REC. CHURCH
FAITH. LUTH. CH.
BETHLEHEM EV. LUTH. CH.
FEDERAL PL.
DUNCAN
LANVALE PL.
J. F. Wiessner's BREWERY
AVE.
1503 ST.
320
90
80
50
140
135
125
100
120

B-4721
1501-1519 N. Bradford Street
Sanborn Map 1914, Revised 1952, Reprinted 1953
Volume 3, Sheet 300



B-4721
1501-1519 N. Bradford Street
Block 1484, Lots 075-084
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.

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



1501-1519 Bradfo
W-8

B-4721
1501-1519 W. Bradford St.
BALTO. MD
K. Weld
7/96
MD SHPO
1/2


1513

1513 Bradford

10-8

B-4721
1513 N. Bradford St
BALTO, MD
W. N. Old
7/16
7/2