

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4724

1. Name

Historic 1100-1112 North Bradford Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 1100-1112 North Bradford 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

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 seven two-story, two-bay wide vernacular Renaissance Revival-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal cornices were built in 1907 by William Sparks, a small-scale builder of working class houses in East Baltimore. All 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.

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, 12' wide (13' for the two end houses) 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 were painted and striped. 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 crown molding set above a cove molding, a cut-work sheet metal band, and finally, a row of decorative brickwork. The two end brackets have ball finials that rise well above the roof line, are decorated with acanthus leaves, and end with a distinct trefoil pattern on their lower edge.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with scroll-sawn tympanums. The sills are wood. Original 1/1 sash remain but all of the doors are replacement doors, set beneath a single-light transom. 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 or four brick or concrete 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/ 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 1907

Builder/Architect William Sparks

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 William Sparks, 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.

Sparks 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

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date June 2000

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 212

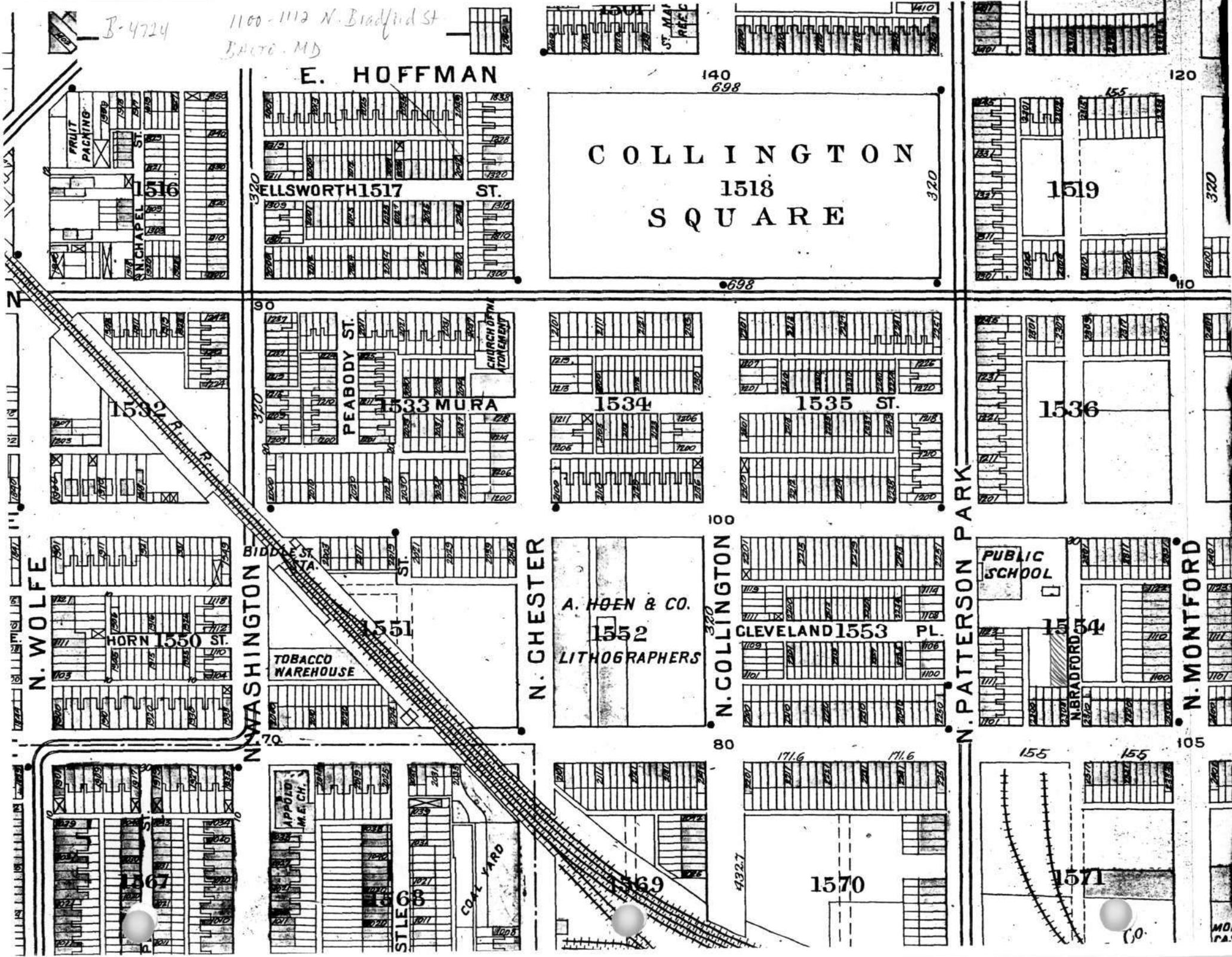
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

B-4724

1100-1112 N. Bradford St
Baltimore, MD



E. HOFFMAN

COLLINGTON
1518
SQUARE

1519

1533 MURA

1534

1535 ST.

1536

N. WOLFE

N. WASHINGTON

N. CHESTER

N. COLLINGTON

N. PATTERSON PARK

N. MONTFORD

HORN 1550 ST.

TOBACCO WAREHOUSE

A. HOEN & CO.
1552
LITHOGRAPHERS

CLEVELAND 1553 PL.

PUBLIC SCHOOL

1554

APPOLD, M.E. CH.

COAL YARD

ST LEB

1570

1571

CO.



1100-1112 Bradford

W-9

B-4724

1100-1112 N. Bradford St.

BALTO. MD

W. Nield

7/96

MD SAPO

1/2



PRIVATE
PROPERTY
NO LOITERING

NO TRESPASSING

IF ANIMAL TRAPPED
CALL 286-6286

1108

1108 Bradford
W-9

B-4724
1108 N. Bradford St.
BALTO. MD
W. Field
7/98
2/2

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