Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. 4755

1. Name

Historic: 705 – 707 South Regester Street
and / common:

2. Location

street & number: 705 – 707 South Regester Street
city, town: Baltimore
state & zip code: Maryland 21231 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
_x good	__ ruins	X altered	__ moved:
__ 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.

707 S. Regester St. is one of the few remaining frame houses in the city of Baltimore and one of two surviving examples located on the "alley" streets of Fells Point. It is a two-bay-wide, 2 ½ story house with gable roof and dormer windows and with, 720 – 722 is one of the three surviving late eighteenth century houses in the 700 block of South Regester Street. 705 S. Regester St. was probably originally a frame house very similar to that at 707, but it was replaced in the early 1890s by a late Italianate-style house with a sheet metal cornice.

705 and 707 S. Regester St. are 15' wide, and occupy lots 56' deep. Each house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the only entrance to the backyard is through the sallyport located under the southern portion of 705. 705 is constructed in running bond and was always painted, though the paint was removed during the house's renovation. The shed roof has a sheet metal cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three long brackets that connect to a lower molding strip and end with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze area beneath the crown molding is decorated with a row of dentils; the brick frieze area formed by the brackets and the lower molding strip is decorated with two pierced, rectangular panels. After a city law was passed in 1892 outlawing the further use of wood in cornices, builders used sheet metal to create the popular form of late-Italianate-style wooden cornices previously in use. The first floor door and window openings are surmounted by segmental arches with scroll-sawn tympanums. The sills are wood. All of the window openings are filled with 1/1 sash. The house has a modern six panel door surmounted by a single light transom and sils on a low basement, lit by a single-light sash. The entrance is reached by three brick steps.

707 S. Regester St. is a frame structure with a gable roofs covered with modern asphalt shingles overtop the original cedar shakes, and dormer windows. A simple wooden boxed cornice runs across the façade. There is a double chimney stack located at the peak of the gable roof. There is also a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition. The door and window openings have simple wooden enframements and slightly wider wood sills. The first floor window opening is filled with 9/6 sash; those on the second floor with 6/6 sash. The restored house has a five-light doorway transom and a modern six panel door. The house sits on a low basement, lit by a narrow sash, the entrance being reached by three wooden steps. The house is two rooms deep, the front room being entered directly from the front door. The stairs are located between the front and rear rooms and ascend in a tightly winding curve to the second floor. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen. The dormer story has a single large room beneath the high rafters.

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	
X 1800-1899	__ commerce	__ exploration	__ philosophy	__ theatre
__ 1900	__ communications	__ industry	__ politics/government	__ transportation
		__ invention		__ other: specify

Specific dates c. 1785; c. 1895 **Builder/Architect**

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

707 S. Regester St. is a highly significant late eighteenth century frame house located on one of the old alley streets of Fells Point, originally called Argyle Alley. It is one of only a few examples of Federal-period frame houses remaining in the city of Baltimore.

The house was built c. 1785 – 1790 at a time when Fells Point was already an important ship building center for the growing town of Baltimore. Early occupants included people involved in the maritime trades, small-scale craftsmen, and laborers who made their homes in the smaller-scale and more affordable housing located on the small "alley" streets of Fells Point. Until about 1850 Regester Street was known as Argyle Alley and its occupants were racially mixed.

The house is especially significant as being located in the oldest part of Fells Point, only a few blocks from the water, and representing an integral part of the history of this National Register district. Slated for demolition in the 1960s as part of the planned East-West highway connection existing segments of I-95 to the north and south of the city, these houses were saved by local preservation activists who created the Fells Point National Register District in 1969. They have since been carefully restored and add to the quality of the district.

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

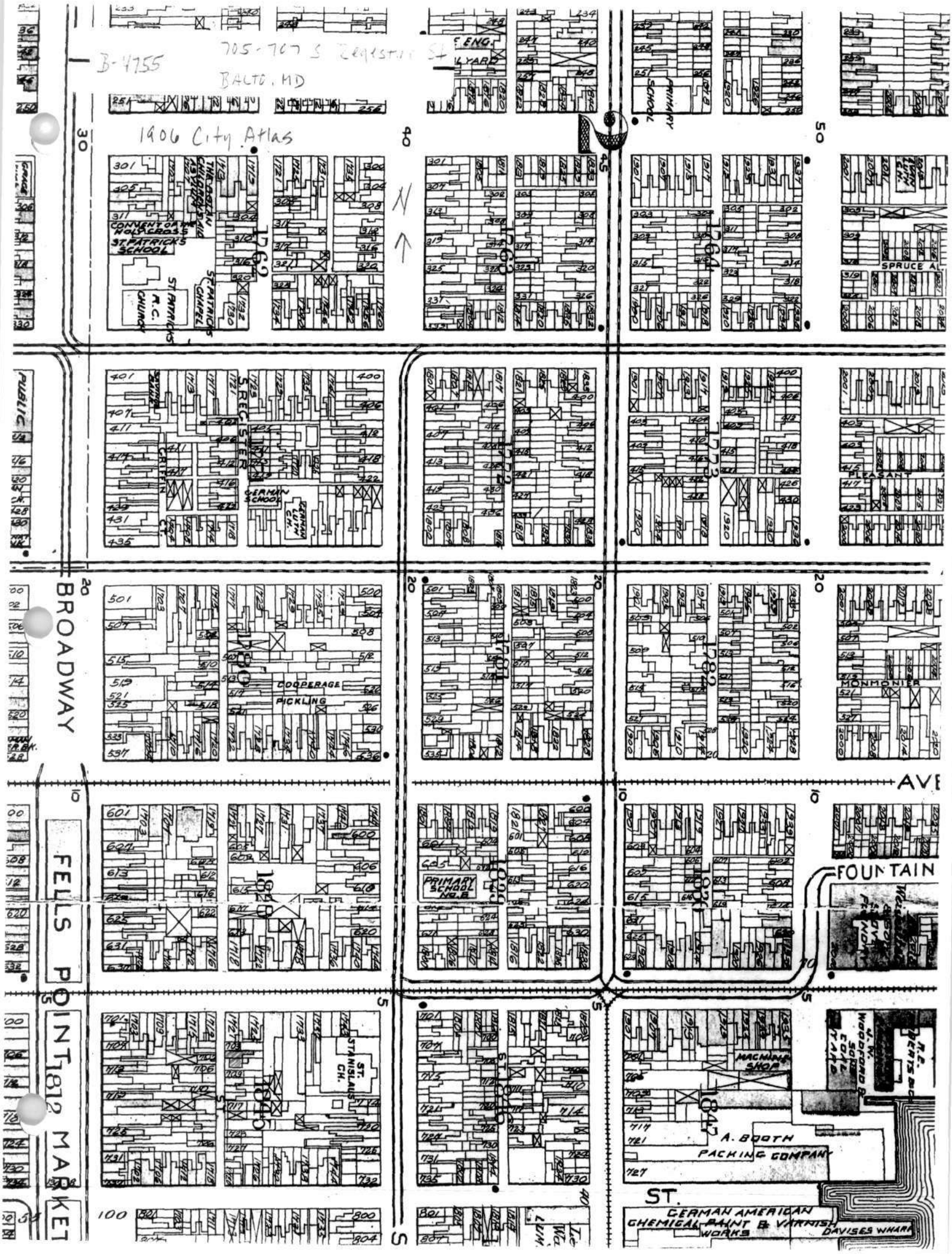
11. Form Prepared by

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

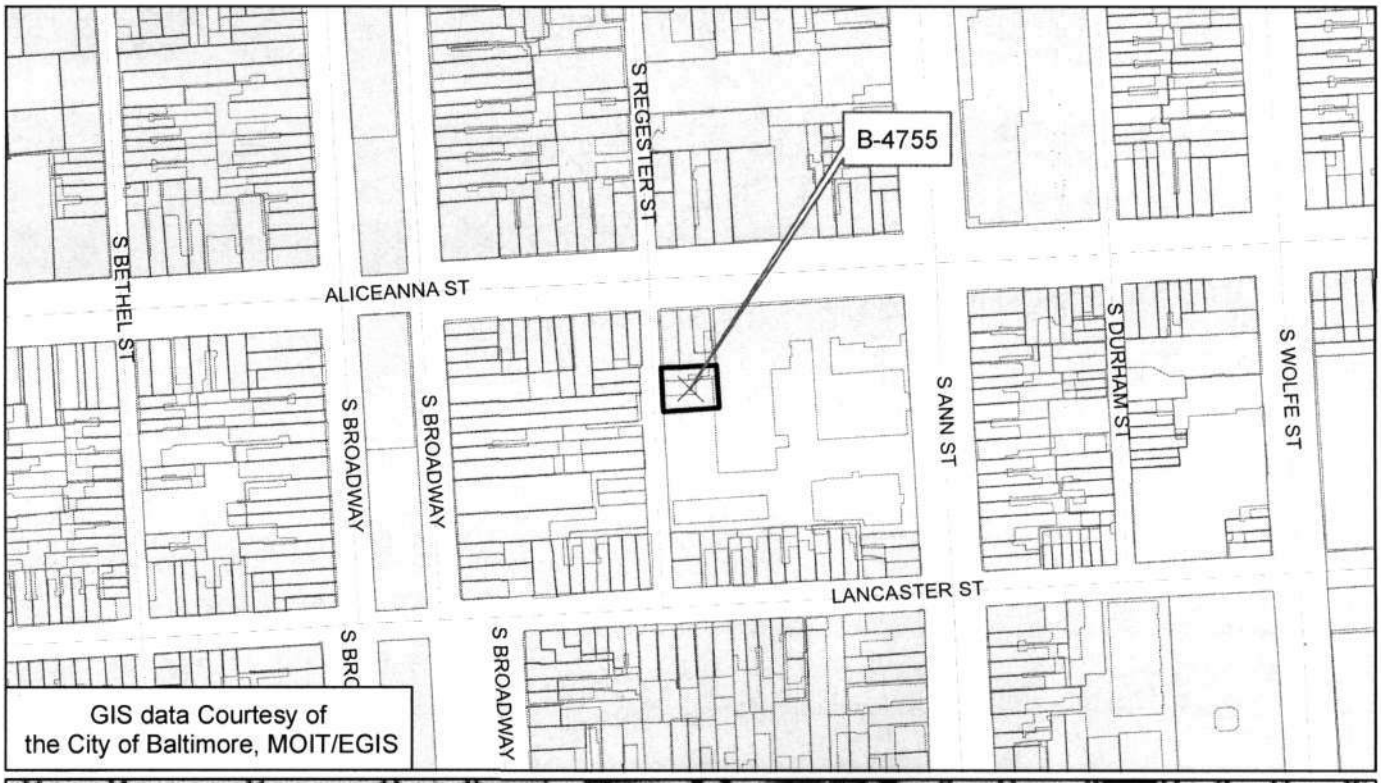
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotate Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

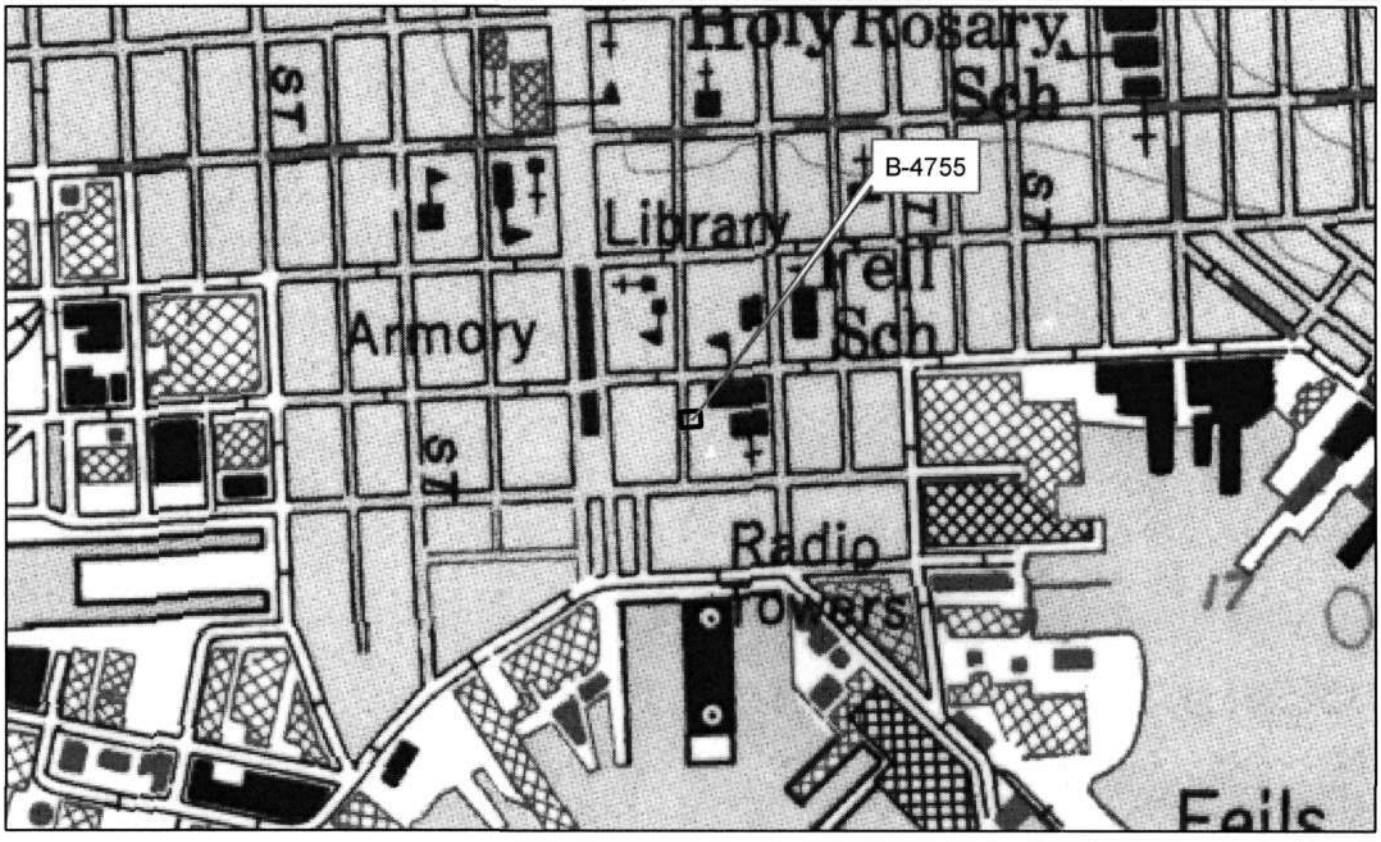
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement c rights.

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


B-4755
705-707 S Regester St
BALTO. MD
1906 City Atlas
N
PRIMARY SCHOOL
CONVENT OF THE HOLY CROSS
ST. PATRICKS SCHOOL
ST. PATRICKS CHAPEL
ST. PATRICKS R.C. CHURCH
SPRUCE AL
PLEASANT
S. REGISTER
GERMAN SCHOOL
GERMAN LUTH CH.
CRIFFIN CT.
PUBLIC
BROADWAY
COOPERAGE
PICKLING
MONMONIER
AVE
FOUNTAIN
PRIMARY SCHOOL NO. 8
FELLS POINT
1812 MARKET
ST. STANISLAUS CH.
MACHINE SHOP
A. BOOTH PACKING COMPANY
ST.
GERMAN AMERICAN CHEMICAL PAINT & VARNISH WORKS
DAVISES WHARF

B-4755
705-707 S. Regester Street
Block 1845 Lots 085/075
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





705 S. Register

B-4755
705-707 S. Register St.
BALTO, MD
C. Belfoure
11/97
MD SHPO
1/2

[10]398 0211 M M M 12

707

707 S. Regester

B-4755
707-707 S. Regester St.
BALTO. MD
C. Belfonte
11/97
MD SHPO
2/2

10
0093398 0211 N N N 2