

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4756

1. Name

Historic 702 – 722 South Regester Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 702 – 722 South Regester 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved:
<input 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 group of five houses—two pairs and a single surviving structure—were built on the west side of the 700 block of S. Regester St. over a span of time from the 1790s to the 1880s.

702 – 704 are a pair of three-story, two-bay wide brick houses with shed roofs and stepped brick cornices built in the 1880s as a rare form of tenement dwelling, a few other examples of which survive in Fells Point and southwest Baltimore. Both houses retains their original brick facades, which were always painted. The houses are three stories in height, 15'2" wide and occupy lots 49'4" deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is a paired, slightly narrower, three-story backbuilding for each pair of houses. This backbuilding, equivalent to the "pantry" area in houses of this period, which connected the main house to the long backbuilding and contained the service stairs, contained the stairs leading to the apartments on all floors. The houses are constructed in common bond and were originally painted. Each house has a double chimney located at the front section of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a sheet metal and stepped brick cornice consisting of a sheet metal crown molding set above two projecting rows of stretcher bricks and a decorative brickwork pattern formed by a row of recessed stretcher bricks framed by two rows of progressively recessed header bricks. Door and window openings have splayed brick lintels and wood sills. Some original 2/2 sash survive, other openings are filled with replacement 1/1 sash. Doorways have single-light transoms and modern six-panel replacement doors. The houses have no basements and each house is reached by one concrete step. 704 S. Regester St. shows the ghost of the 2 1/2 story, one-room deep Federal-period house that once stood at 706 S. Regester St.

710 S. Regester St. is a two-bay-wide, two-story Italianate-style house of the 1880s, with a shed roof. The entire façade has been covered with stucco and the cornice removed, so no original details are visible. Doorway and window openings seem to have been segmentally arched and windows are filled with either 6/6 or 1/1 replacement sash. The doorway has a single-light transom and a plain replacement door. The house has no basement and has only one concrete step leading to the entrance.

Continuation Sheet

720 – 722 S. Regester St. are a pair of two-bay wide, 2 ½ story brick houses with gable roofs and dormer windows. They represent the only surviving pair of early nineteenth century houses built along the west side of the 700 block of South Regester Street, though evidence suggests that there were at least similar houses at 706 – 708. The pair is notable for its one-room-deep floor plan and steeply-pitched gable roof—a plan seen on some of the earliest Federal-period houses in the area. Both houses retain their original brick façades, which were always painted.

The houses are two-and-a half stories in height, 14' wide, and occupy lots 51' deep. Each house has a two-story brick rear addition housing the kitchen and an extra bedroom, 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 arched sallyport located in the center of the pair. The houses are constructed in Flemish bond, typical of the oldest houses in Fells Point. The steeply pitched gable roofs are covered with modern asphalt shingles overtop the original cedar shakes. A simple wooden cornice runs across the façade. The houses share a double-flued chimney stack located at the peak of the gable roof. There is also a chimney at the rear corner of the kitchen addition.

The first floor door and window openings of 720 have flat wood lintels and sills; those at 722 have been replaced by modern segmental arches composed of a single row of headers. The window openings of both are filled with 6/6 replacement sash. 720 has a single-light doorway transom, 722 has a new three-light transom and both houses have six-panel replacement doors. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a new, multi-light sash at 722. The entrances are reached by one stone or concrete step. An arched alleyway runs between the two houses.

The houses are only one room deep, the front room being entered directly from the front door. The stairs are located at the rear of the main room and ascend in a tightly winding curve to the second floor. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen, with an extra bedroom above. The dormer story has a single large room beneath the high rafters.

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 c. 1790 – 1795; 1880s

Builder/Architect

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

The pair of houses at 720 – 722 S. Regester St. is significant as being representative of some of the earliest surviving houses in the city, many of which are found in Fells Point. These houses, two-and-a-half stories in height, have only one main room on each floor and often no basement. The houses are Federal in style, and show fine construction details like Flemish bond brickwork, splayed brick lintels and stone sills, despite their being located on a narrow “alley” street.

These particular houses were built in the 1790s 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 houses are especially significant as being located in the oldest part of Fells Point, only a few blocks from the water, and represent 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.

702 – 704 S. Regester St. are significant in that they represent a rare and early form of tenement living in Baltimore, where narrow, three-story houses were built along alley streets to provide rental living spaces for the large numbers of workers arriving after the Civil War to work in new port-related industries. This type of housing did not prove popular and is only seen on a few blocks in Fells Point, a block or two in west Baltimore, and some blocks in the southwestern portion of the city.

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

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 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 rights.

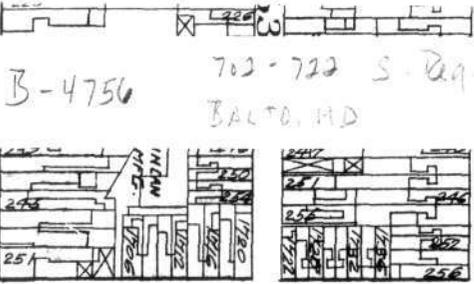
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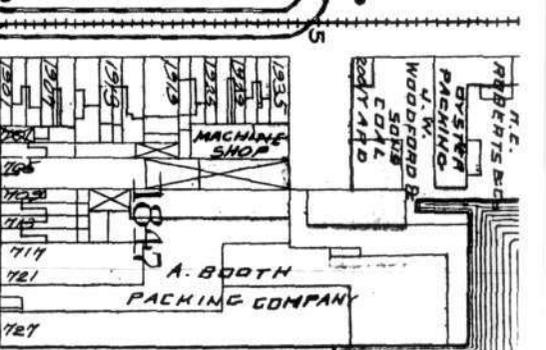
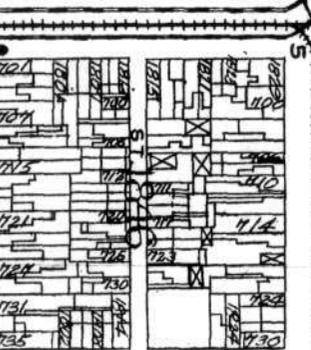
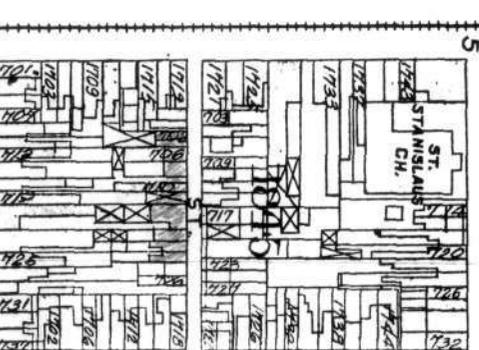
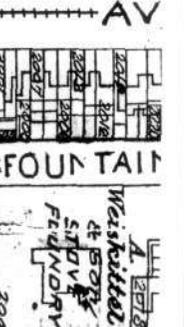
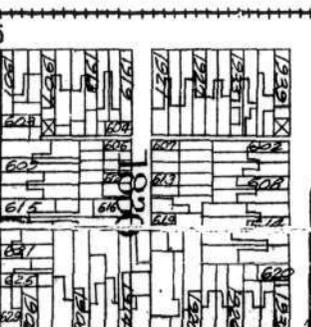
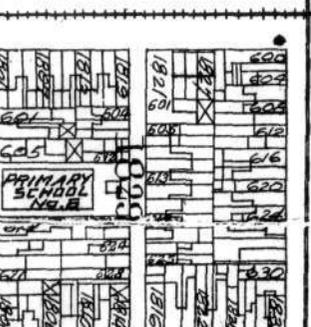
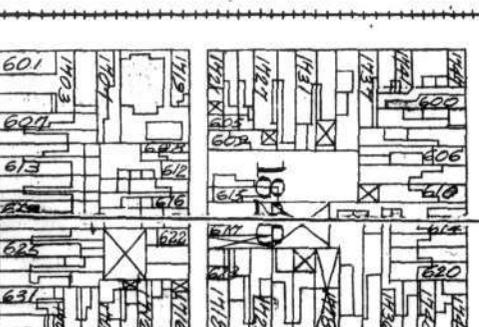
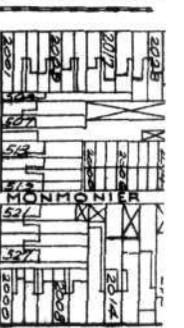
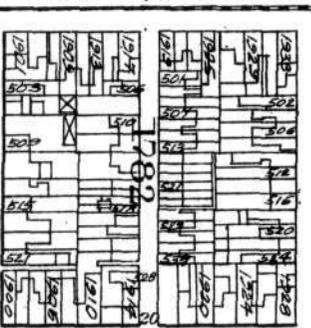
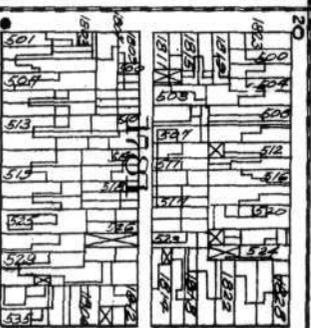
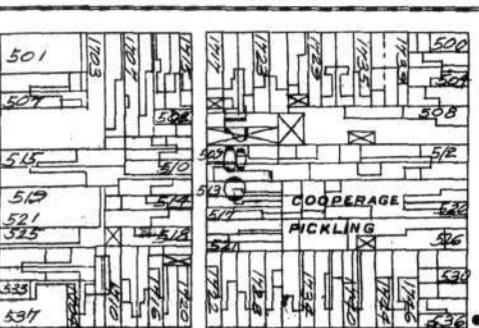
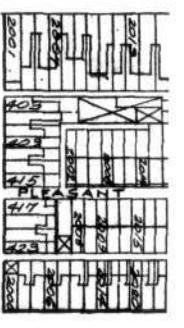
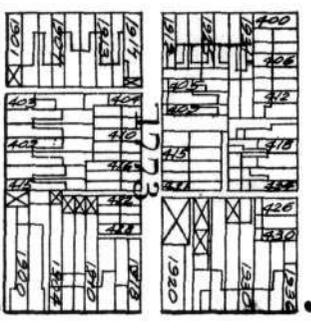
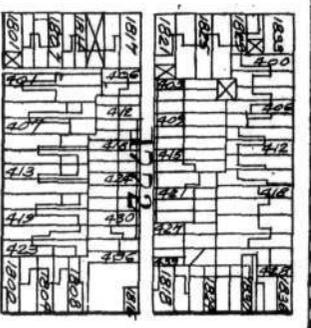
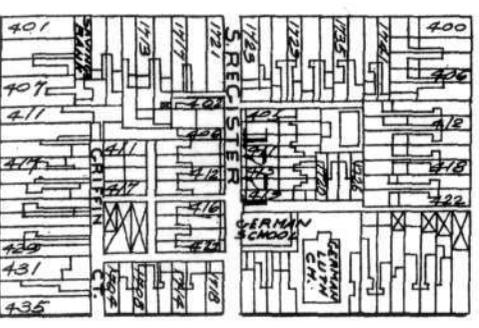
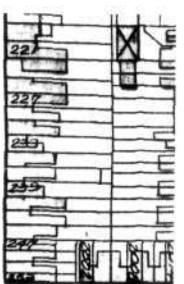
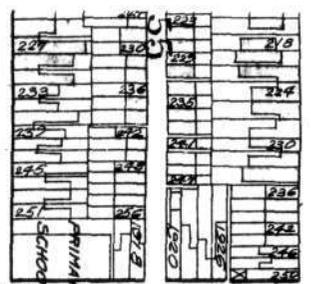
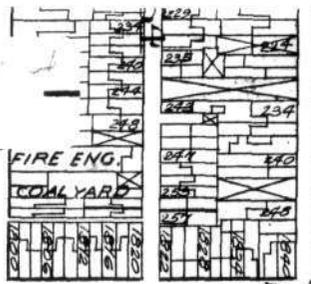
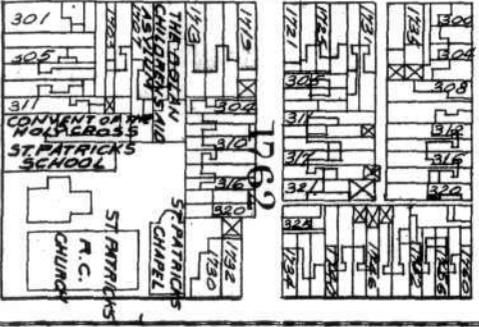
Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023



1906 City Atlas



324
328
332
336
340
344
348
352

PUBLIC
418
416
420
424
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440

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BROADWAY

FELLS POINT
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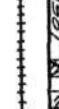
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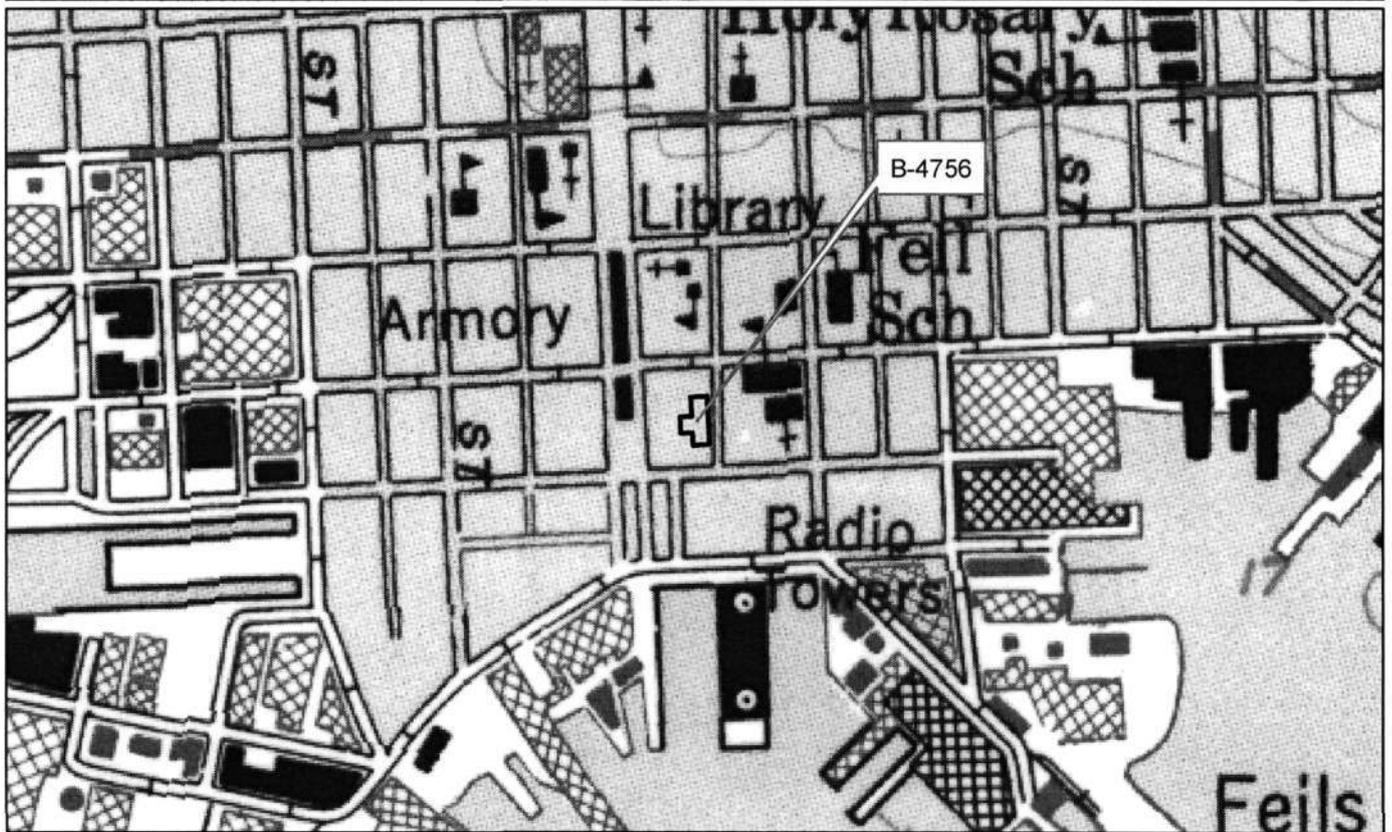
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B-4756
702-722 S. Regester Street
Block 1845 Lots 064-071
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





702-704 S. Register

B-4756

702-722 S. Register St.

BALTO, MD

C. Bellmore

11/47

MD SHPO

1/3

1081398 0211 N N N 12



710

710 S. Reister

B-4756

702-722 S. Reister St.

BALTO, MD

C. Belfrage

11/97

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180

1073598 021 : N N N 22



PRIVATE
NO PUBLIC
PARKING
NO STANDING
NO STOPPING

720-722 S. Register

B-4756

702-722 S. Register St.

BALTO. MD

C. Schomae

11/97

MD SHPO

3/13

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