

Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4810

1. Name

Historic 506 - 524 South Duncan Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 506 - 524 South Duncan Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	X occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
X building(s)	X 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	X 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	X 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

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 ten two-story, two-bay wide houses late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices was built in the late 1880s. Only one of the houses retain its original brick facade, which would have been painted; the remainder are covered with formstone.

The houses are two stories in height, only 11' wide (11'3" for the end houses), and occupy lots 75' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in common bond and were originally painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves, originally connected by a lower molding strip, and ending with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a row of butterfly-like shapes, created with a jig saw.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels and plain tympanums. None of the original 2/2 sash survive and all windows have modern 1/1 replacement sash. The sills are brick. Doorways have single-light transoms, some of which have been filled with newer stained glass. An original Arts-and-Crafts-style door survives at 518, composed of long vertical glass panels and small square or rectangular glass panels at the top and bottom of the door, all framed by narrow molding strips. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a small single-light sash, the entrances being reached by two or three 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/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitar	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theatre	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportati	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: speci	

Specific dates c. 1888

Builder/Architect

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

This group of late-Italianate-style houses is significant in that it represents the level of architectural stylishness achieved by many builders of small street houses in the late nineteenth century.

The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that workers held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of 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 to \$1,500; small street houses for \$700 - \$900. Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties, or sold them to other investors. In this way people of varying means could afford to live in the same block. If they couldn't afford the 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.

The land originally belonged to the Patterson family as part of their 18th century estate, which also included the land given by the family to the city for Patterson Park. In the late 1860s the Patterson heirs began developing this block by leasing parcels to various builders who constructed modestly scaled and priced housing for the mainly German immigrant families who were settling near the port-related fledgling industries of Canton. Most of the houses sold to mainly German-American semi-skilled tradesmen and laborers employed in nearby factories, who received mortgages from a variety of local building and loans, many of them sponsored by the German community.

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 Code of 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

Return to:

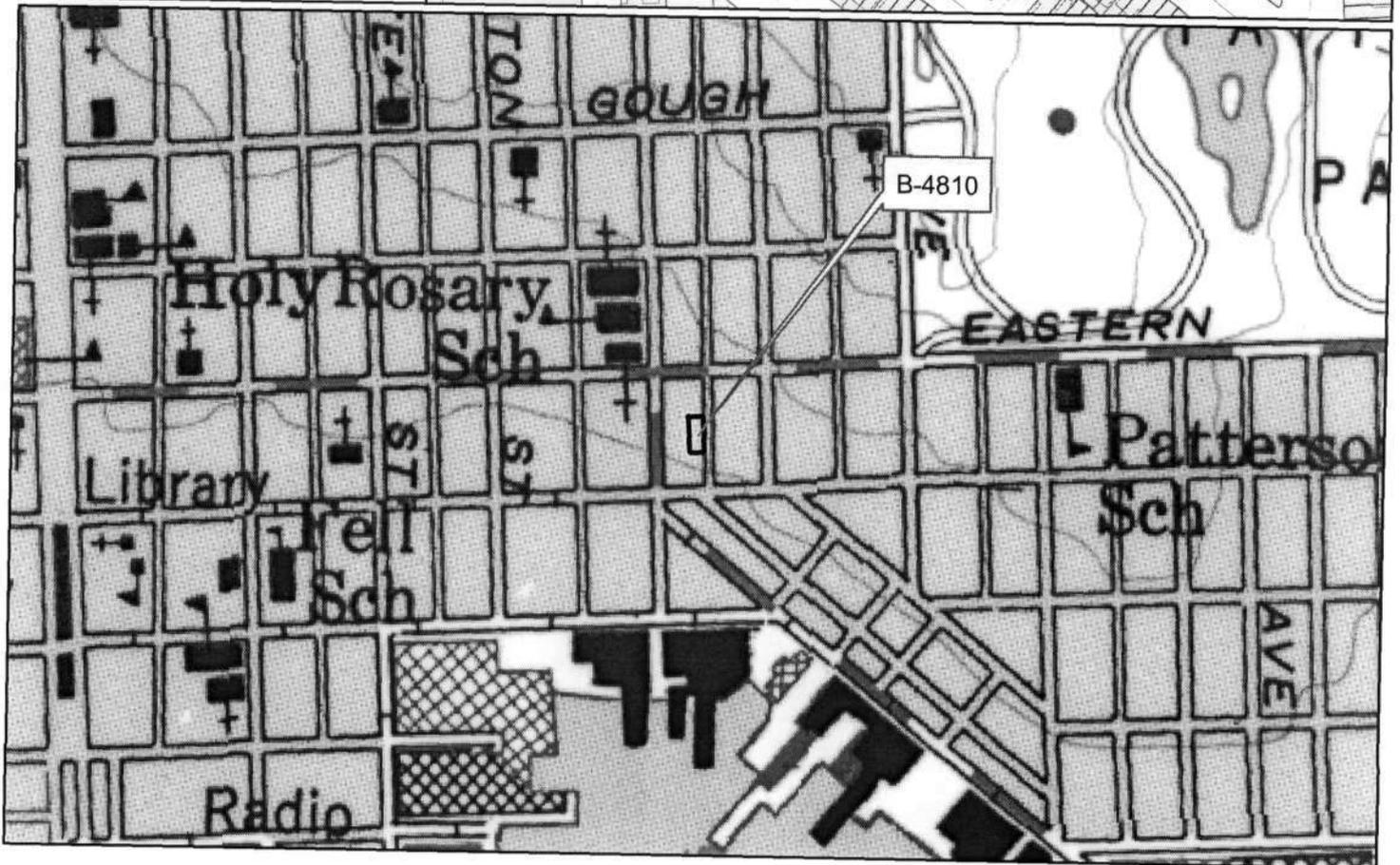
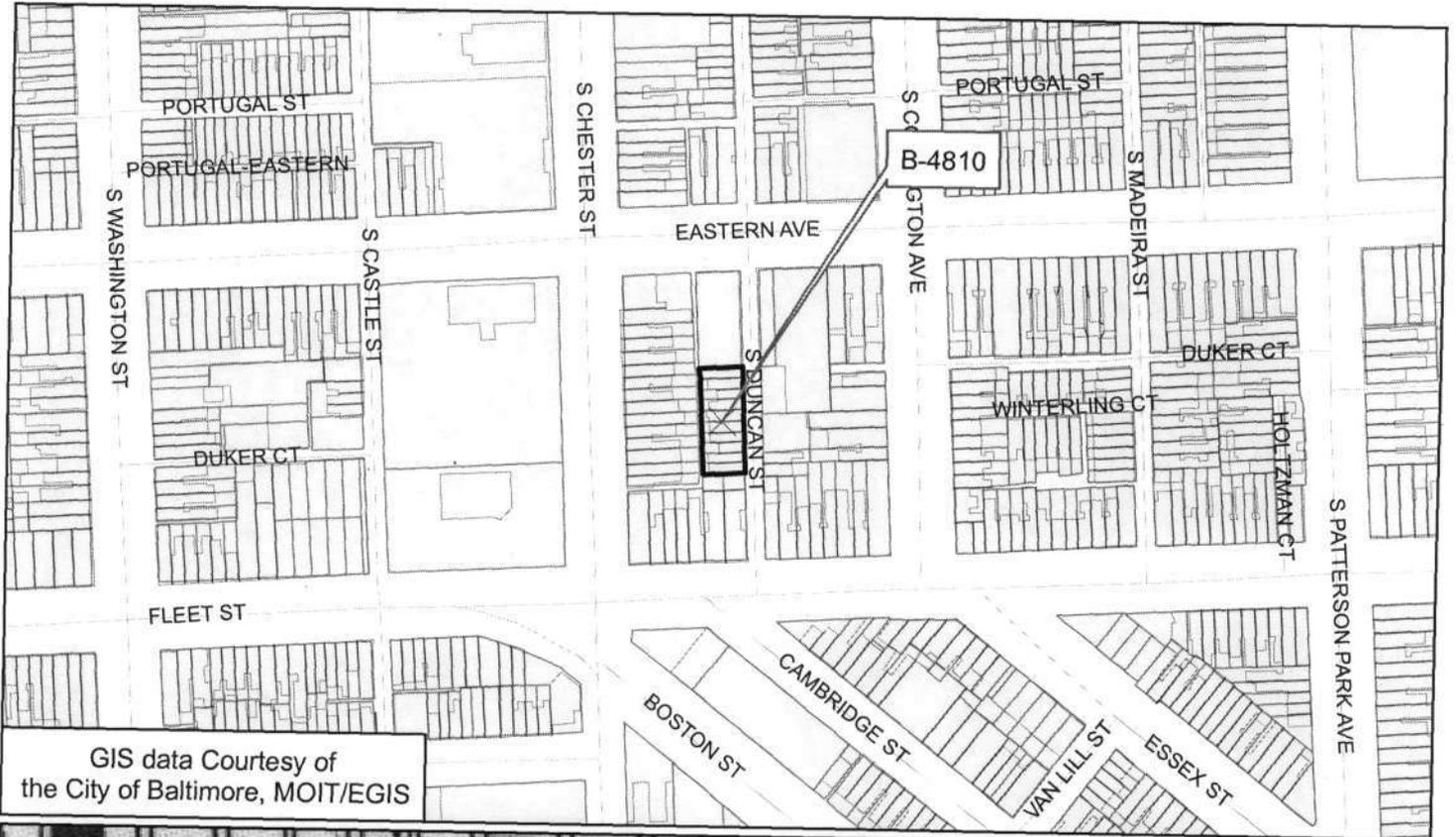
DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B-4810
506-524 S. Duncan Street
Block 1784 Lots 052-061
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





506-524 S Duncan

FP11

B-4810

506-524 S Duncan St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belfrage

11/97

1/2



516 S Duncan
FD 11

B-4810
516 S. Duncan St.
B. Auto, Mj
P. Belfiore
11/97
2/2

EDUCATION