

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4828

### 1. Name

Historic 303 - 327 South Madeira Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 303 - 327 South Madeira Street  
city, town Baltimore  
31 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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**

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.

The east side of the 300 block of S. Madeira St. is comprised of thirteen early-Italianate-style houses, with shed roofs and simple wooden bracketed cornices, built in three different groups in the 1870s. Only a few retain any original architectural features, since most were covered by formstone put on in the 1950s or 1960s, which in many cases, covered over the original cornice. Alley houses such as these are still occupied by working class home-owning families, who put on the formstone and now enjoy the window awnings so popular in East Baltimore.

303-305 S. Madeira St. are two stories in height, 12' wide and occupy lots 49' deep. Each house is only two rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The entire façade, including the cornice, is covered with formstone. Door and window openings probably had splayed brick lintels and brick sills. All windows are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. Doorways have single-light transoms but no original doors remain. The houses sit on low basements, being reached by two brick or concrete steps.

307-323 S. Madiera St. are two stories in height, 12' wide and occupy lots 39' deep. Each house is only two rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. Most of the façades, including the cornice, are covered with formstone. At 321 S. Madeira St. the original cornice survives. It consists of a crown molding supported by two end scroll-sawn brackets that frame a deep, plain frieze area. The houses are constructed in running bond, which was always painted. Door and window openings have splayed brick lintels and wood sills. All windows are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. Doorways have single-light transoms but no original doors remain. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a single-light sash, and entrances are reached by three or four brick or concrete steps. Flat-linteled sallyports extend back between each pair of houses, providing service access to the rear yards, since the houses are built on back-to-back lots with houses on the main street.

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**Continuation Sheet**

325-327 S. Madeira St. are two stories in height, 13' and 12'8" wide and occupy lots 42'6" deep. Each house is only two rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. One of the façades, including the cornice, is covered with formstone. At 327 S. Madeira St. the original cornice survives. It consists of a crown molding supported by three scroll-sawn brackets that connect to a lower molding strip and end with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze area, which also provides ventilation for the roof, is decorated with a row of vertical cuts made by a jig saw. The houses are constructed in running bond, which was always painted. Door and window openings have splayed brick lintels and brick sills. All windows are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. Doorways have single-light transoms but no original doors remain. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a single-light sash, and entrances are reached by three brick or concrete steps. Flat-linteled sallyports extend back between the pair of houses, providing service access to the rear yards, since the houses are built on back-to-back lots with houses on the main street.

The houses are basically two rooms deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door. The front and back rooms of the first floor are separated by a wide opening, with the tightly winding, narrow stairs set in the rear room, in the space between the partition wall and the fireplace. The one-story rear addition served as the kitchen, with its own cooking fireplace.

## 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"/> humanitarian	
<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"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other: specify	

Specific dates 1882

Builder/Architect George Hershman

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

This group of 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. Most of the houses (307 – 323 South Madeira St.) were built by George Hershman, a prolific builder of working class houses in East Baltimore, 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 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.

The land originally belonged to the Patterson family as part of their 18<sup>th</sup> century estate, which also included the land given by the family to the city for Patterson Park. In the 1870s the Patterson heirs began developing this block by leasing parcels to various builders, who built 15'-wide two-story houses on Gough and Bank Streets, and Collington and Patterson Park Avenues.

Hershman obtained his construction financing from the Tenth German-American Building Association and sold his houses to mainly German-American semi-skilled tradesmen and laborers employed in nearby factories. Buyers, too, received mortgages from both the Ninth and the Tenth German-American Building Associations.

Hershman also built 310 – 316 S. Madeira St. and the two rows of houses on nearby Canary Ct., originally called Madeira Ct.

## 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 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 prope

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023



B-4828  
303-327 S. Madeira Street  
Block 1767, Lots 067-079  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





303-305 S Madeira

FP11

B-4928

303-307 S. Madeira St.

BALTIMORE

C. Belfrage

11/97

1/4

11/97

11/97

11/97



307-323 S Madeira

FD11

B-4828

303-327 S. Madeira St.

Bacto. MD

C. Zelfranc

11/97

2/4



321

321 S Madeira  
FD 11

B-4828

321 S. Madeira St.

BACTO. #11

C. Bell <sup>of</sup> <sub>one</sub>

11/47

3/4

100-100



125

325-327 S Madeira

FP 11

B-4828

325-327 S. Madeira St.

BALTO. MD

C. E. E. E. E.

11/97

4/4

11/97