

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4848

1. Name

Historic 2 - 16 North Bradford Street
and / common _____

2. Location

street & number 2 - 16 North Bradford 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 | <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 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 row of eight two-story, two-bay wide Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built in the period 1885 – 1890. A few of the houses retain their original brick facades, which would have been painted. The rest have been covered with formstone.

The houses are two stories in height, the four to the north (2-8 N. Bradford St.) are 12' wide, the four to the south (10-16 N. Bradford St.) are 14' wide and all occupy lots 58' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding.

2-8 N. Bradford St. 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 wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves, that connect to a lower molding strip and end with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel is decorated with a row of scroll-sawn modillions set above a band of jig-sawn vertical slots, designed to provide ventilation for the attic. The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, with plain tympanums, and brick sills. None of the original 2/2 sash survive and all windows have 1/1 replacement sash. Each doorway has a single-light transom, but no original doors survive. The houses sit on fairly high basements, lit by a single or double-light sash. Each house is reached by four or five brick or concrete steps.

10-16 N. Bradford St. have more elaborate facades, though two houses in the pair have been covered with formstone, obscuring all original details, including the cornice. These houses are constructed in running 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 wooden cornice quite similar to that at 2-8, but with slightly more elaborate brackets. It consists of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves, that connect to a lower molding strip and end with a scroll shape. The frieze panel is decorated with a row of scroll-sawn modillions set above a lower molding band. Rectangular panels decorated with jig-sawn designs decorate the brick frieze area created by the long brackets and lower molding strip and also provide ventilation to the attic. The tall, narrow window and door openings have especially decorative, Queen-Anne-style-influenced segmentally arched brick lintels, composed of two rows of headers with the bottom row articulated with alternately projecting and recessed headers. A similar brickwork pattern runs horizontally across the middle of the façade. The window openings have plain tympanums, and wood sills. None of the original 2/2 sash survive and all windows have 1/1 replacement sash. Each doorway has a single-light transom, but no original doors survive. The houses sit on fairly high basements, lit by a single or double-light sash. Each house is reached by four or five concrete, marble, or metal 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"/> 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 c. 1890

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. 10 -16 N. Bradford are especially interesting in the way in which they show influences of the Queen Anne style first popular in three-story Baltimore houses in the mid-1880s.

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. 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.

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 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 property rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B-4848

2-16 N. Bradford St.
BALTO, MD



5

6

B-4848
2-16 N. Bradford Street
Block 1724, Lots 063-070
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





2-10 N. Bradford

C-2

B-4848

2-16 N. Bradford St.

BACTO. 110

C. Belfrage

11/97

1/3

BRADFORD ST.



8 N. Bradford

C-2

B-4448

8 N. Bradford St.

BALTO. MD

C. Silfane

11/97

2/3

BRADFORD ST. BALTO. MD



12

12-16 N. Bradford

C-2

B-4848

2-16 N. Bradford St.

LAIRO. 110

C. B. Wilson

11/97

3/3

BRADFORD ST. 110