

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4853

1. Name

Historic 602 - 626 South Bradford Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 602 - 626 South Bradford Street
city, town Baltimore
state & zip code Maryland 21231 county

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both
Public Acquisition
 in process
 being considered
 not applicable

Status

occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress
Accessible
 yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military
 museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 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

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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.

The west side of the 600 block of S. Bradford St. is built up with two different groups of houses from different periods.

602-612 S. Bradford St. are a row of six two-bay-wide, two-story brick houses with low-pitched gable roofs typical of the small alley houses built in Baltimore in the 1850s, often along especially narrow secondary alley streets running perpendicularly off the main "alley" street. In many cases, alley houses such as these are still occupied by working class families and many are still covered with the formstone put on in the 1950s or 1960s.

The houses are two stories in height, 14'7" and 15' wide and occupy lots 57' deep. Each two-room-deep house has a one-story brick rear kitchen addition somewhat narrower than the house. The pitch of the gable roof is especially low, a characteristic of this particular type of two-story, gable-roofed alley house. The houses are probably constructed in common bond, but all of the facades are now covered with e formstone. Originally each house had a simple brick corbelled cornice, but all are now obscured by the formstone. Chimneys are located at the rear end of the kitchen addition.

Original door and window openings are now obscured by the formstone covering but they seem to have had flat wood lintels and sills. All windows are filled with replacement 1/1 sash. No original doors survive and the row shows a mix of replacement door styles, all surmounted by a single light transom. The houses sit on low basements, the entrances being reached by two brick steps. A flat-linteled sallyport runs back between each pair of houses to provide service access to the rear yards of the lots laid out back-to-back with those on S. Patterson Park Ave.

622-624 S. Bradford St. are two separate houses. 626 is a late Italianate-style brick house with a shed roof and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornice, that is 13'8" wide and occupies a 45' deep lot. Its original brickwork has been covered with formstone and no original details are visible except for the elaborate cornice. The shed roof is capped by a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves, which originally connected to a lower molding strip (now gone). The frieze area, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with arabesques shaped, executed with a jig saw. No other original details can be discerned beneath the formstone. 624 may have been a similar-looking house but its façade has been completely remodeled in a "modern" style, with long banks of windows and a decorative brick cornice. Both houses sit on low basements, lit by a single-light transom. Each entrance is reached by two concrete or brick 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/ 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. 1868

Builder/Architect

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

These houses are significant as being representative of a surviving group of extremely modest two-story, gable-roofed houses built in Fells Point in the 1850s and 1860s to serve as inexpensive housing for the influx of newly arrived immigrant families seeking work in harbor-related activities or in the first small factories being built at this time. Most of these houses were located along narrow alley streets, or along even narrower courts. In terms of design, the houses are basically the descendants of earlier Federal-style working class housing built in the early decades of the century, but without the usual dormer story of such houses. Because there is no dormer story the roof slope is much less steep in these later versions of the style. The houses are surprisingly large for the type, with a main house consisting of two small rooms on each floor, with a centrally located, tightly winding, narrow staircase, and a rear kitchen addition..

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.

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 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:

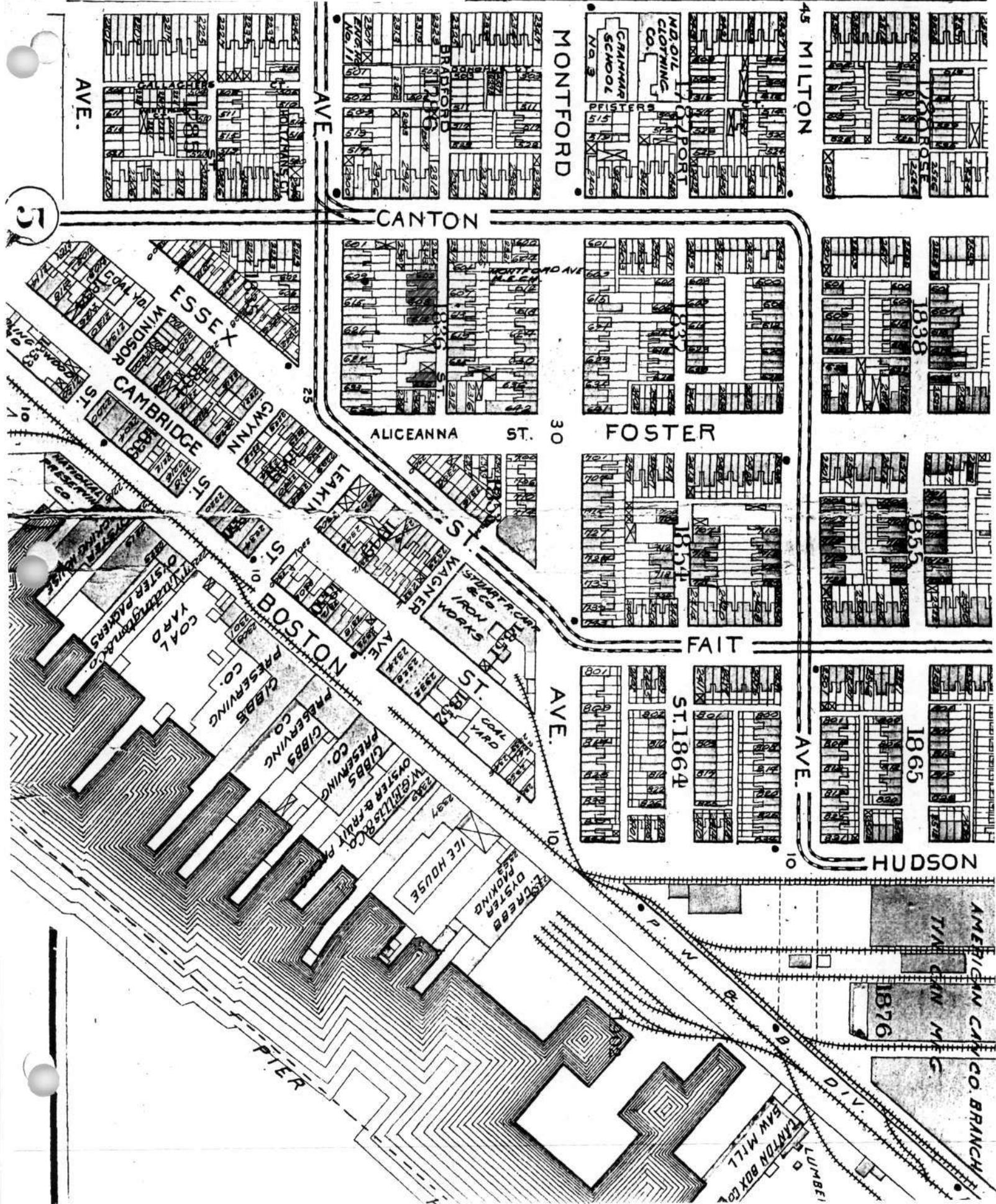
DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B-4853 602-626 S. Bradford St
BALTO MD



5

AVE.

AVE.

MONTFORD

45 MILTON

CANTON

ESSEX

CAMBRIDGE

BOSTON

ALICEANNA ST.

FOSTER

FAIT

AVE.

HUDSON

1838

1855

1865

1876

AMERICAN CAN CO. BRANCH
TIN CAN MFG

CANTON BOX CO
SAW MILL
LUMBER

ICE HOUSE

FOREBB
DYEING
FINISHING

WAGNER ST.

AVE.

ST.

B-4853
602-626 S. Bradford Street
Block 1836 Lots 063-071
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





602-610 S Bradford
FD 12

B-4853

602-626 S. Bradford St.

BALTO. MD

C. Belfiore

12/97

-1/3-

104-101



612

612 S Bradford
FP12

B-4F53

12 S. Bradford St.

BACTO, MD

C. Belfiore

12/97

2/3

180

DOES NOT BELONG TO THE STATE



626

624-626 S Bradford

FP12

B-4853

602-626 S. Bradford St.

BALTO FMD

C. Belfrage

12/97

3/3

ESTABLISHED 1871