

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4883

1. Name

Historic 1701 – 1715 North Bruce Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 1701 – 1715 North Bruce 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 row of eight two-story, two-bay wide vernacular Queen Anne-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal and stepped brick cornices were built in the early 1890s. Most of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted; two have been covered with stucco and one with formstone. After the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal and stepped-back bricks became the predominant materials used. This decorative brickwork represents a vernacular translation of high-style Queen Anne designs first seen in Baltimore rowhouses c. 1880.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide, and occupy lots 66' 10" deep. Each house is two rooms deep and there is no back building. The houses are constructed in running bond and have been painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear of the house. The shed roof is capped by a sheet metal cornice set above a decorative brickwork frieze created by two rows of projecting stretcher bricks set above an alternating row of stretchers, each of which has a "drop" formed by five rows of progressively recessed header bricks.

The door and window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, composed of a double row of headers, with scroll-sawn tympanums. The sills are wood. All windows have 1/1 sash. Doorways have single-light transoms, many of which are now covered over, and a variety of modern replacement door types. The houses sit on fairly high basements lit by a single-light sash. Each front door is reached by four concrete steps set parallel with the façade.

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. 1895

Builder/Architect

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 years after the Civil War when these same builders were erecting large, fashionable houses on the main streets, often facing parks or squares. While building three-story houses on the main streets that might sell for \$2,500 - \$3,500, they were also providing decent, inexpensive housing for the local working classes that might sell for \$700 - \$900. The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to all of the city's neighborhoods of the period c. 1870 to 1910. Recognizing that people held different levels of jobs (and pay), builders created a hierarchy of house sizes (and prices) in the new middle-class neighborhoods going up in west and east Baltimore. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 15' to 18'-wide three-story houses on the main streets (priced at different levels according to the importance of the street and the house width), and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-story houses on the narrower streets bisecting the blocks.

Builders usually sold their small street houses in this neighborhood to German-American semi-skilled workers and laborers who received mortgages from the wide variety of community and ethnically-sponsored building and loan associations. 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 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.

The houses are especially significant because they belong to a small group of surviving small street houses in northwest Baltimore, the vast majority having been cleared during the various urban renewal projects over the last several decades. They are also important because of their proximity to the various railroad and streetcar-building shops located in this portion of the city, as well as the slaughterhouses and their related industries. Housing of this type was built to provide reasonable-priced housing for the many mainly German immigrants who came to northwest Baltimore to work in these industries in the decades after the Civil War.

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

date

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

telephone

city, town Baltimore

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.

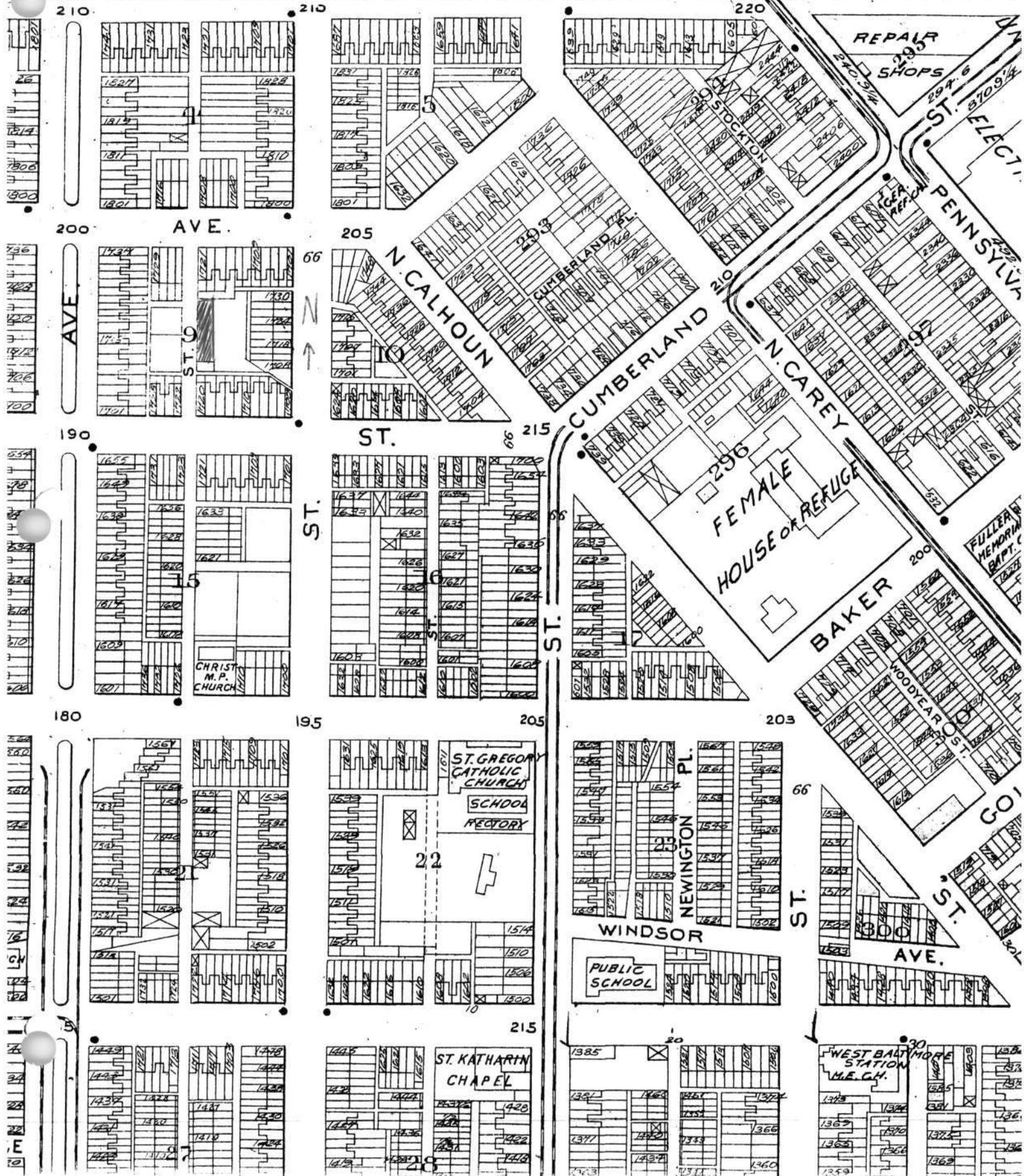
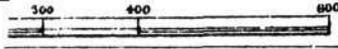
Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B-4883

1701-1715 N. Bruce St
BALTO. MD

1906 City Atlas

1/2 inch to the Inch



AVE.

ST. G

ST.

CHRIST M.P. CHURCH

N. CALHOUN

ST.

ST. GREGORY CATHOLIC CHURCH
SCHOOL
RECTORY

ST. KATHARIN CHAPEL

CUMBERLAND

WINDSOR

PUBLIC SCHOOL

FEMALE HOUSE OF REFUGE

N. CAREY

BAKER

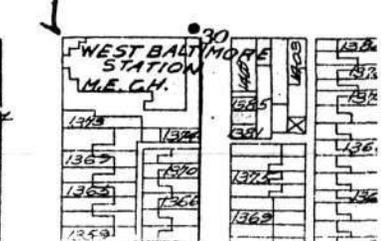
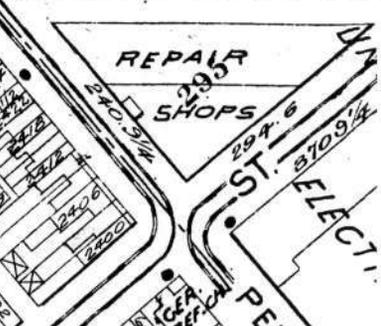
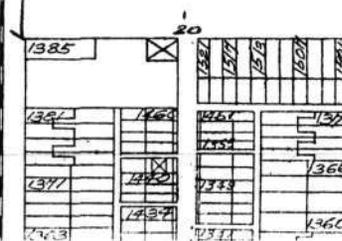
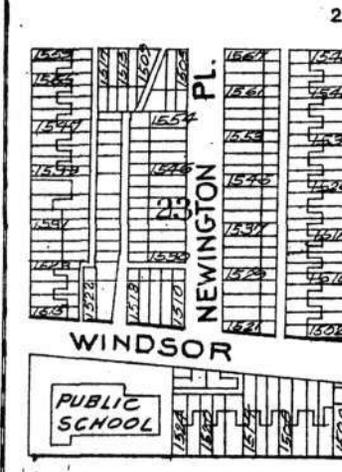
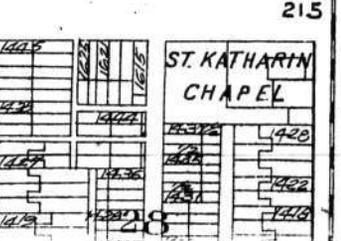
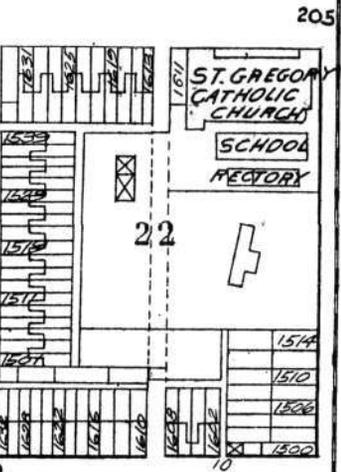
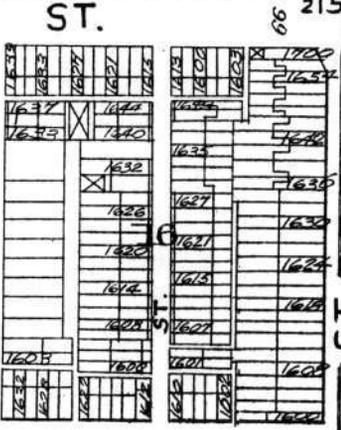
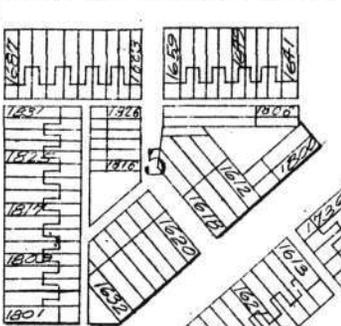
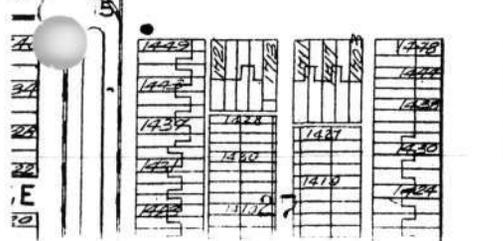
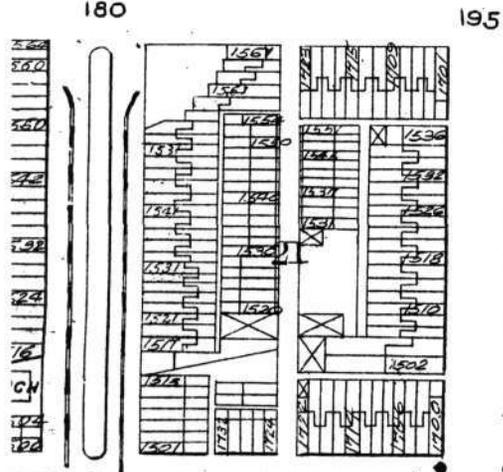
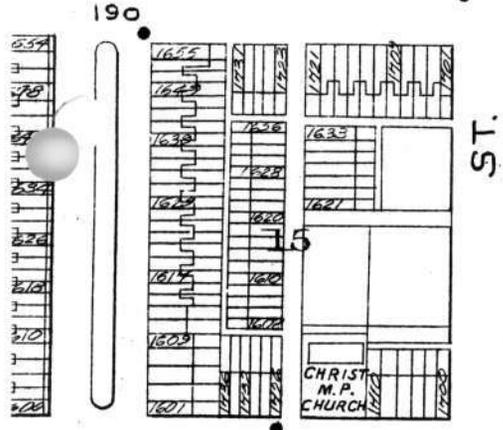
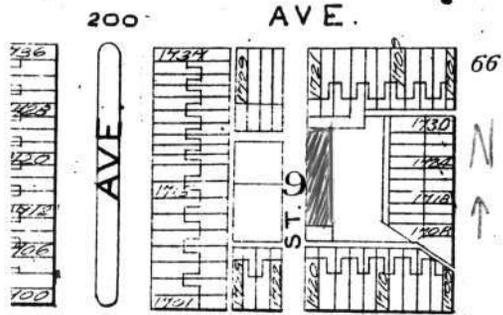
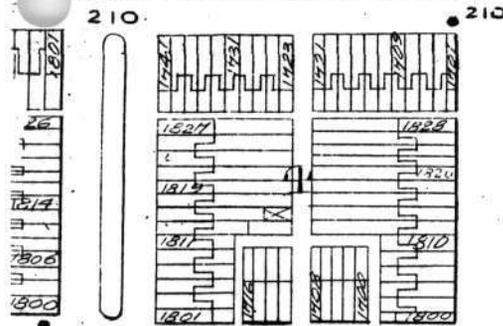
AVE.

REPAIR SHOPS

PENNSYLVANIA

FULLER MEMORIAL BAPT. CH.

WEST BALTIMORE STATION M.E. CH.





B-4883

1701-1715 N. Bruce St.

BALTO MD

W. Nield

6/00

MDSAPD

B-4883

1701-1715 N. Bruce St.

BALTO MD

W. Nield

6/00

MDSAPD

1/2

KODAK PRO
PAPER



709

to
Ebony
M.W

Body

TANNED
1981

B-4883

1709 N. Bruce St,

BALTO MD

W. NIELD

6/00

MD SHPO

2/2

B-4883

1709 N. Bruce St

BALTO MD

W. Nield

6/00

MD SHPO

2/2