

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4889

### 1. Name

Historic 1700 – 1714 North Woodyear Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 1700 – 1714 North Woodyear Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21205 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

## 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 checked="" 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 Renaissance Revival-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal cornices were built c. 1906 – 1909 by Ephraim Macht, one of Baltimore's large-scale rowhouse builders, who developed several blocks of working class houses in this particular neighborhood. His main street houses have swell-fronts and even these on a narrow alley street have fashionable wide, arched first floor windows, like the very similar houses in the 1800 block of Woodyear St.. All of the houses retain their original brown, Roman-brick facades, which never needed painting. The basement areas of the houses were constructed with regular brick, laid in running bond, which was always intended to be painted white to imitate the marble basements of more expensive main street houses.

After the use of wood was outlawed for cornices in 1892, sheet metal became the predominant material used. By the early years of the 20th century, the most popular form of sheet metal cornice sported ball finials and often classical motifs like swags pressed into the frieze area. Generally, only main street two story houses had decorated friezes-the builder saved money on his small street versions by eliminating them. Likewise, while the main street houses in this style would have marble basements, stringers, lintels, and steps, builders used no marble at all on their small street versions, painting the basements white instead. Main street houses would have stained glass transoms over both the door and the wide first floor window; on the small streets builders offered stained glass only in the door transom.

The houses are two stories in height, 13' wide, and occupy lots 46' deep. Each house is two rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond with narrow, brown, Roman brick. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the rear of the house. The shed roof is capped by a sheet metal cornice consisting of a crown molding and cove molding framed by end brackets whose arched cap rises slightly above the roofline.

First floor door and window openings have round-arched openings created by a double row of headers. Second floor window openings have segmentally arched brick lintels, composed of a double row of headers, with decorated tympanums. The sills are wood. Some of original 2/2 sash survive, but most openings have 1/1 replacement sash. The round-arched first floor window also had 2/2 sash, but only a few sets remain. The houses sit on high basements lit by a wide, double-light sash, set beneath a double-header segmental arch. Each front door is reached by four 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/ 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. 1906 - 1909

**Builder/Architect** Ephraim Macht

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

This group of houses is especially significant as being an example of the architectural stylishness that Baltimore builders would give even to their small street houses. They have elegant details—in their wide-arched first floor window and decorated tympanums—that are not often found even in main street houses.

This group of houses is also significant as representing the very last type of small street houses to be built, in the period c. 1905 - 1909, when a new city ordinance outlawed building houses on streets less than 40' wide. The houses were built by Ephraim Macht, a well-known Baltimore builder, 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 two-story 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 - \$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 first residents of both main and small street houses in this area were German-Americans, who found work in the many small factories springing up along the city's northern and western edges. 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

street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave.

city, town Baltimore

date

telephone

state & zip code Maryland 21204

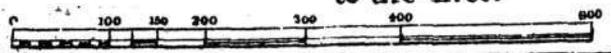
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

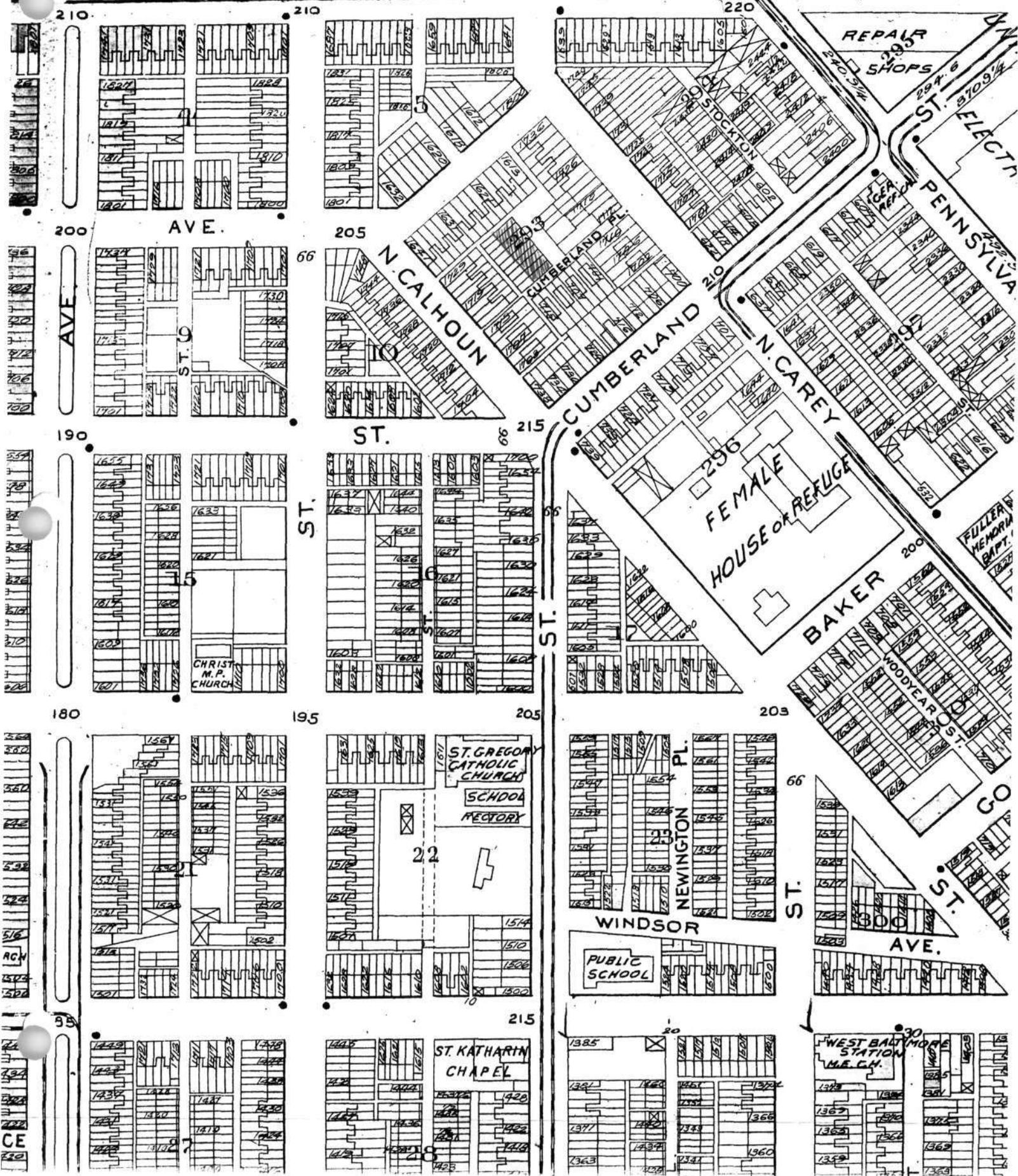
Return to:  
DHCP/DHCD  
Maryland Historical Trust  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

3-4884 1700-1714 N. WOODYEAR ST  
BALTO. MD

to the Inch



# 14, 15 & 16







B-4829

1500 4<sup>th</sup> N. Woodway

BARTO, ND

W. Field

6/00

HS SHPS

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