

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4891

### 1. Name

Historic 1529 – 1559 North Woodyear Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 1529 – 1559 North Woodyear Street  
city, town Baltimore  
state & zip code Maryland 21205 county

### 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<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		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 sixteen two-story, two-bay wide houses late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built c. 1890. They show the influence of the Queen Anne style, which gained popularity in Baltimore rowhouse design in the 1880s, in their hooded door enframements and decorative brick window lintels. Most of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted; the others have been covered with formstone.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide and occupy lots 60' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in running bond and were originally painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located near the front and rear 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 once connected to a lower molding strip, and ended with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a row of fan-like shapes, created with a jig saw.

The tall, narrow window openings have decorative, segmentally arched brick lintels, composed of a double row of headers, with the lower row consisting of alternating flush and recessed headers that create a tooth-like effect. The tympanums are plain and the openings are filled with 1/1 sash. The sills are wood. The doorway has an especially elaborate large gabled hood that projects from the façade and is framed by brick moldings. Immediately above the single-light doorway transom is a segmental arch composed of the same alternately flush and recessed header bricks as is used over the windows. The houses sit on medium-height basements, lit by a sash with the same decorative segmentally arched lintel seen on the upper windows. Each house is reached by three concrete steps.

The house is three small rooms deep, with the front parlor being entered directly from the doorway. The stairs are set parallel to the façade, between the parlor and dining room, and are entered from the dining room. No part of the stairway is open. A wide, arched opening with decorative trim leads from the central dining room to the rear kitchen. This Artistic-period floor plan, with the house running back its full width, creates "blind" center rooms with no windows.

## 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 houses is especially significant in that it represents a high level of architectural stylishness given to small street houses in the late nineteenth century. The houses were built 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 and west 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. In this particular instance the builder put up three-bay-wide houses of the same style—with brick hoods and wooden scroll-sawn cornices—on the main streets, and similar, only two-bay-wide, houses on the small streets.

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

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.

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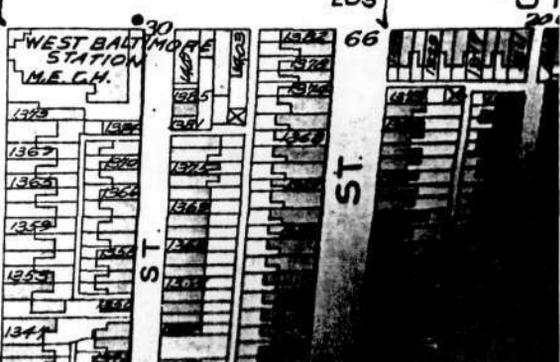
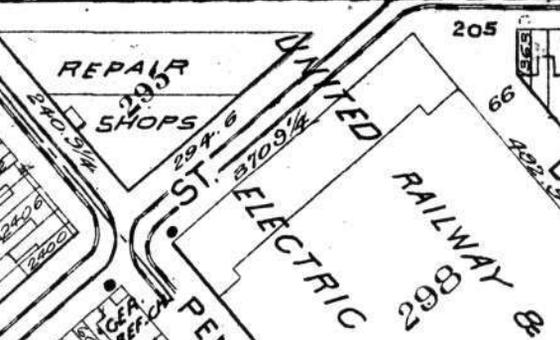
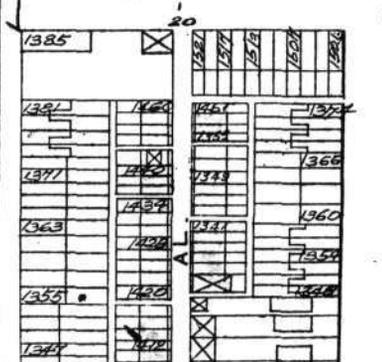
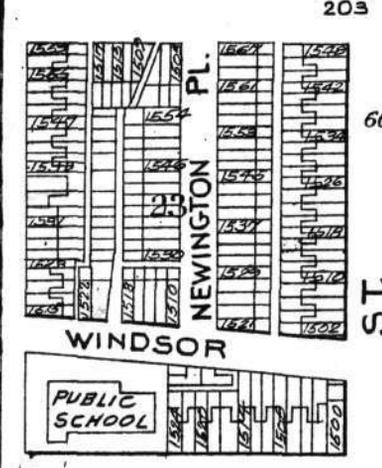
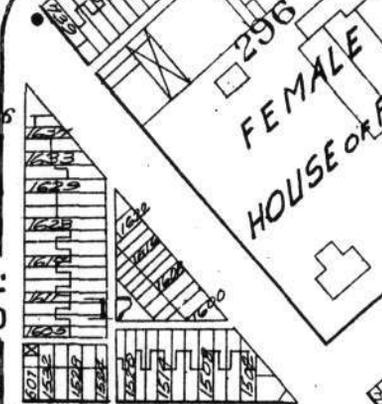
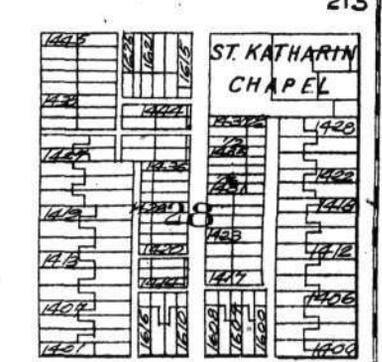
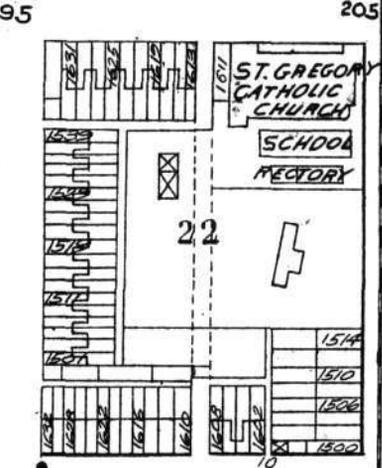
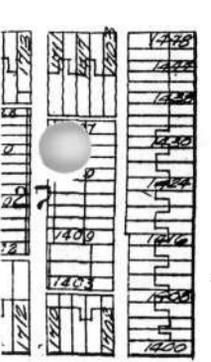
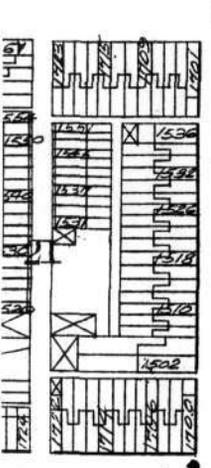
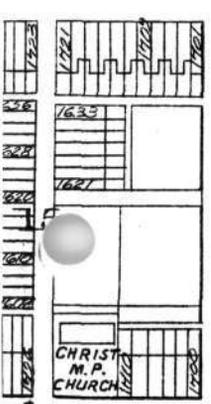
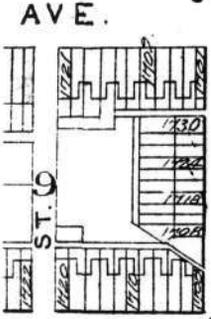
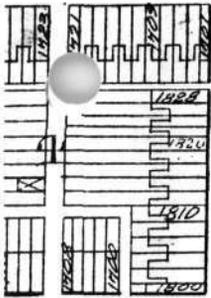
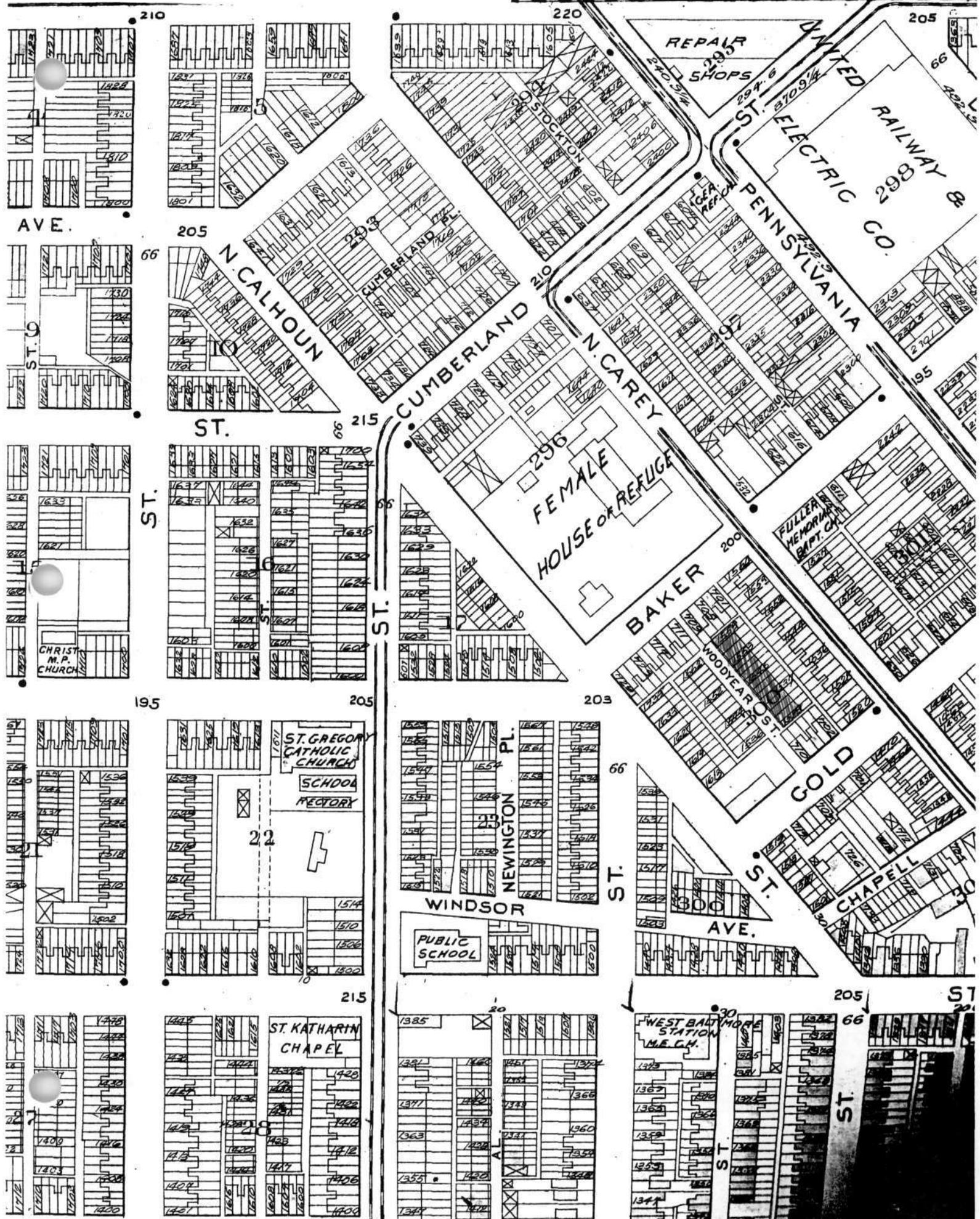
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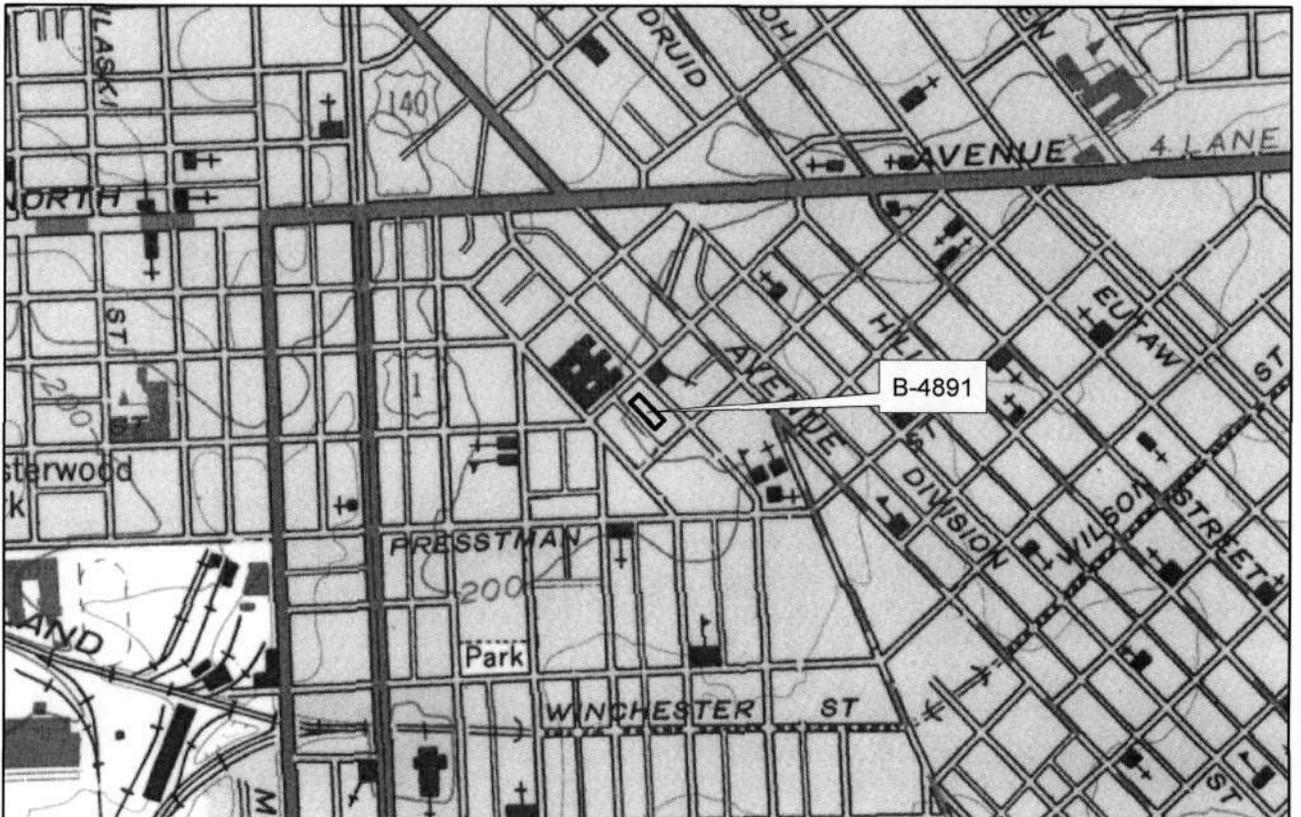
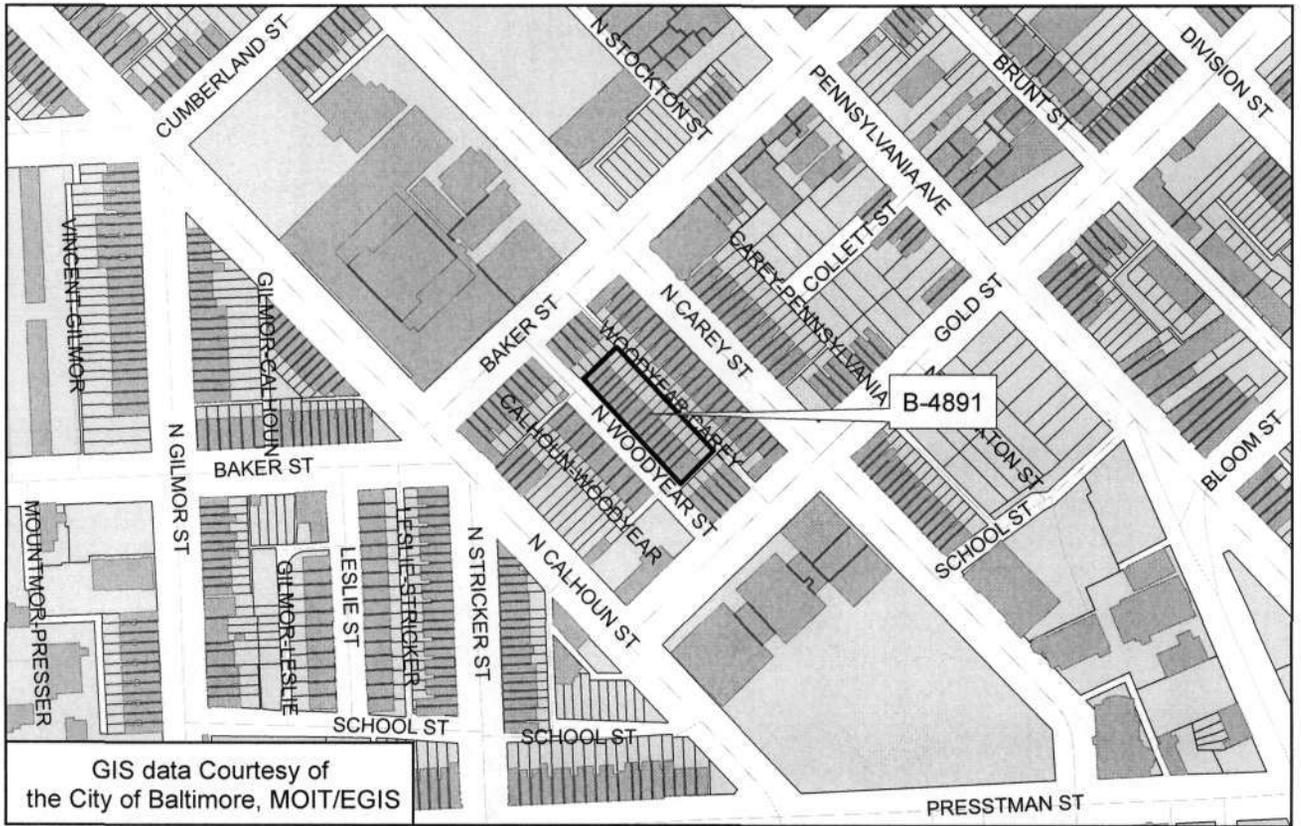
100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B-4891 1529-1559 N. Woodyear St. BALTO. MD



B-4891  
1529-1559 North Woodyear Street  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore West Quad





B-4891  
1529-1559 W. Woodyear

BALTO. MD

W. Nield

6/00

MB SHPD

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B-4891

1529 N. Woodyear St.

BALTO, MD

W. Wield

6100

MDSH70

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