Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4892

1. Name

Historic: 1536 – 1562 North Woodyear Street

and / common:

2. Location

street & number: 1536 – 1562 North Woodyear Street

city, town: Baltimore

state & zip code: Maryland 21205 county:

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
__ district	__ public	X occupied	__ agriculture	__ museum
X building(s)	X private	__ unoccupied	__ commercial	__ park
__ structure	__ both	__ work in progress	__ educational	X private residence
__ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	__ entertainment	__ religious
__ object	__ in process	X yes: restricted	__ government	__ scientific
	__ being considered	__ yes: unrestricted	__ industrial	__ transportation
	__ not applicable	__ no	__ military	__ 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
__ excellent	__ deteriorated	__ unaltered	X original site
__ good	__ ruins	X altered	__ moved:
__ fair	__ 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 fourteen two-story, two-bay wide houses late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built c. 1890 by the same builder responsible for the east side of the street. 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 55' 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 repeating pattern of three leaf-like shapes set between three vertical marks, all 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 doorways have a much simpler decorative brick hood than is seen across the street, being smaller and with an arched top. The lower edge, which rest just above the doorway transom, has the same design of 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 four 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		
__ prehistoric	__ archeology-prehistoric	X community planning	__ landscape architecture	__ religion
__ 1400-1499	__ archeology-historic	__ conservation	__ law	__ science
__ 1500-1599	__ agriculture	__ economics	__ literature	__ sculpture
__ 1600-1699	X architecture	__ education	__ military	X social/ humanitarian
__ 1700-1799	__ art	__ engineering	__ music	__ theatre
X 1800-1899	__ commerce	__ exploration	__ philosophy	__ transportation
__ 1900	__ communications	__ industry	__ politics/government	__ other: specify
		__ invention		

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

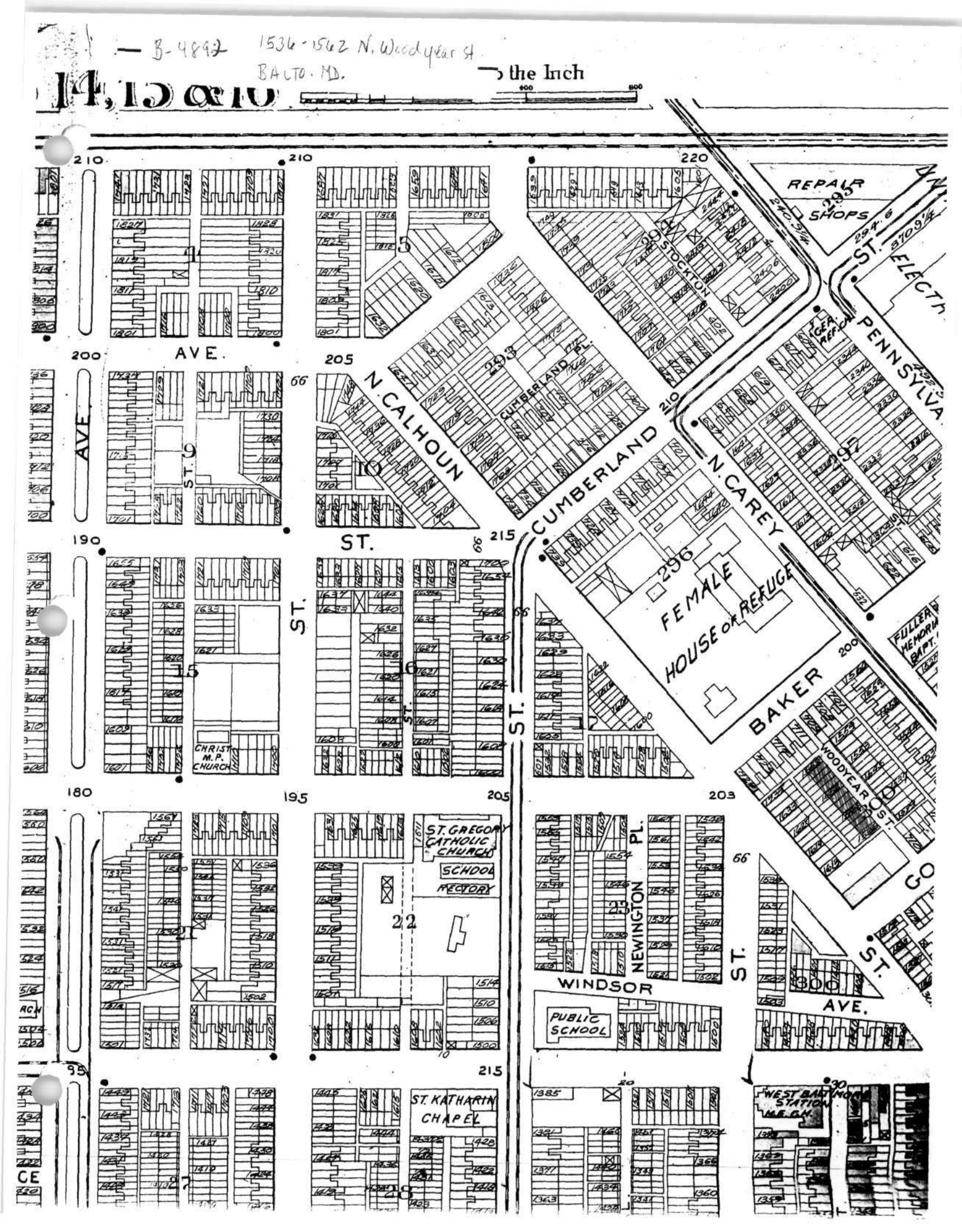
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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

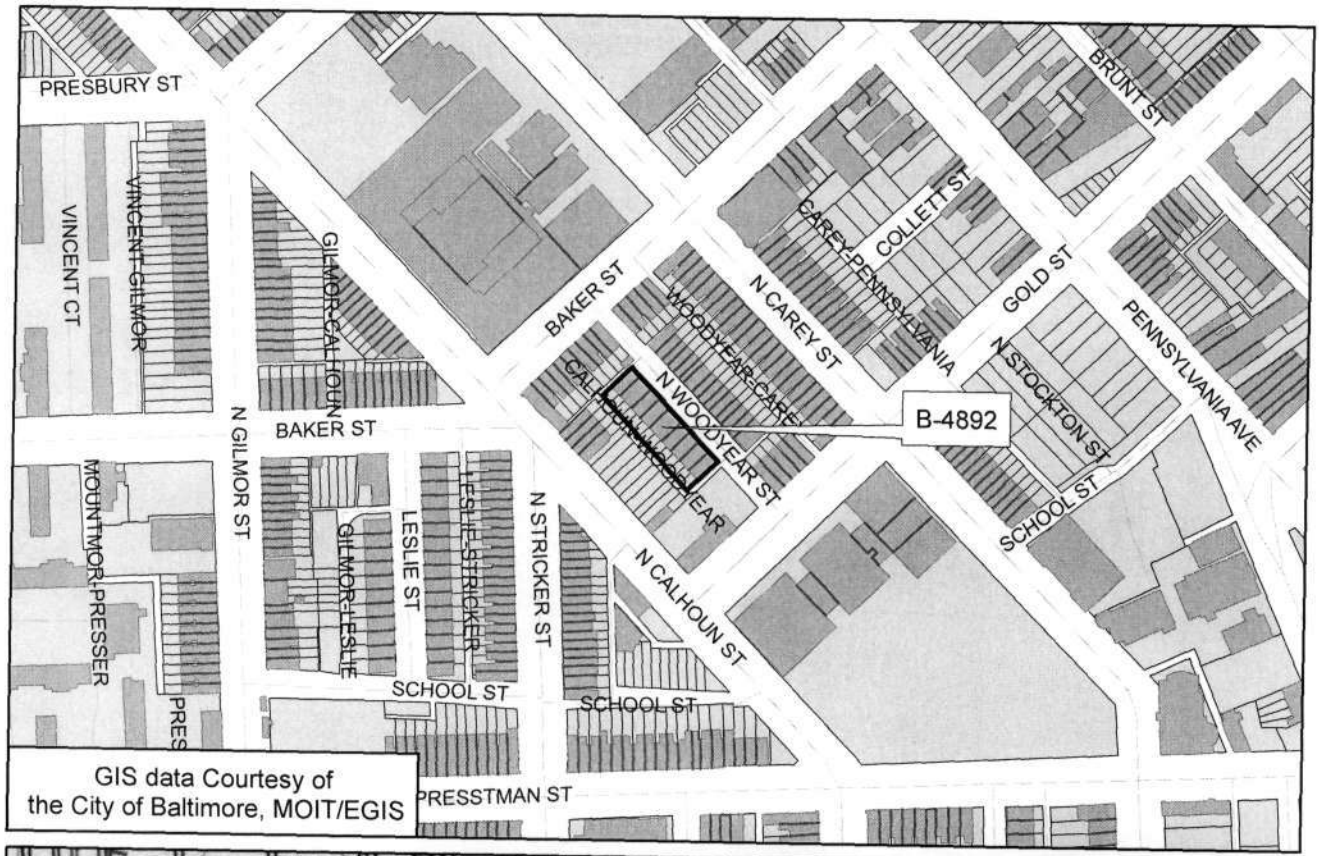
Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

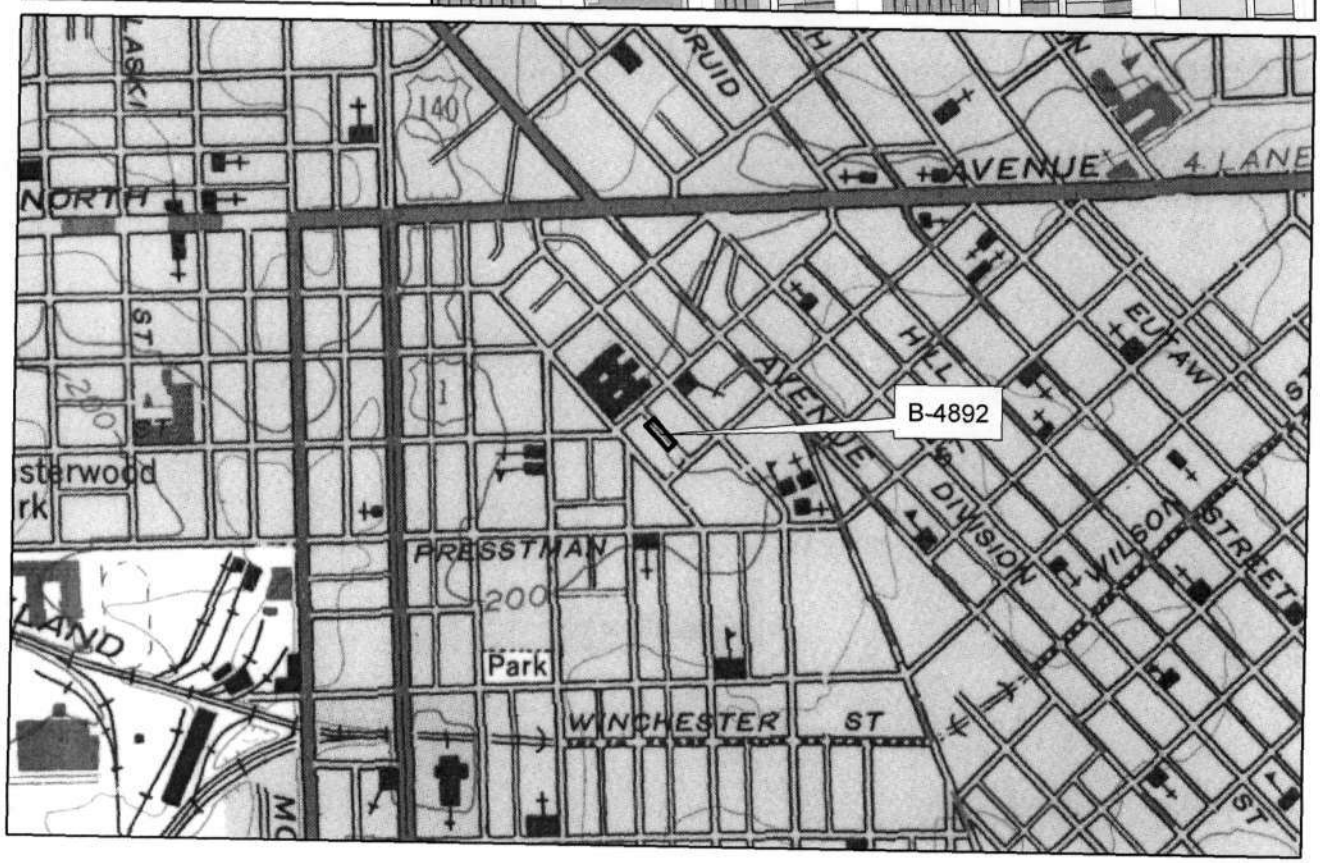
B-4892 1536-1562 N. Woodyear St. BALTO. MD.

1 Inch = 400 800



B-4892
1536-1562 North Woodyear Street
Baltimore City
Baltimore West Quad





B-4892
1536-1562 N. Woodyear
BALTO. MD
W. Nield
6100
MD SHPO
1/2

B-4892
1542 N. Woodyear St
BALTO. MD
W. Nield
4/00
MD SHPO
2/2