Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form **Survey No. B-4904**

1. Name

Historic 1901 – 1927 North Etting Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 1901 – 1927 North Etting 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:
_x 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 eleven two-story, two-bay wide late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built c. 1888. Some of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted; others have been covered with formstone.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide and occupy lots 65' 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 both 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 connect to a lower molding strip, and end with a distinct trefoil pattern. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with unusual bull's-eye moldings set between butterfly-like shapes, created with a jig saw. At its lower edge the frieze panel is decorated with a quarter-round molding set above a row of small dentils. The brick frieze area formed by the long brackets and the lower molding strip is decorated with two jig-sawn rectangular panels, which provide added ventilation to the attic.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have segmentally arched brick lintels with scroll-sawn tympanums and wood sills. Several of the original 2/2 sash survive, but most openings are filled with 1/1 replacement sash. Doorways have single-light transoms and may originally have had wooden, arched enframements, several of which survive in the 2000 block of Etting St. The houses sit on fairly low basements, lit by a single-light sash with a narrow wood sill. Each house is reached by three concrete steps.

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. 1888 **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

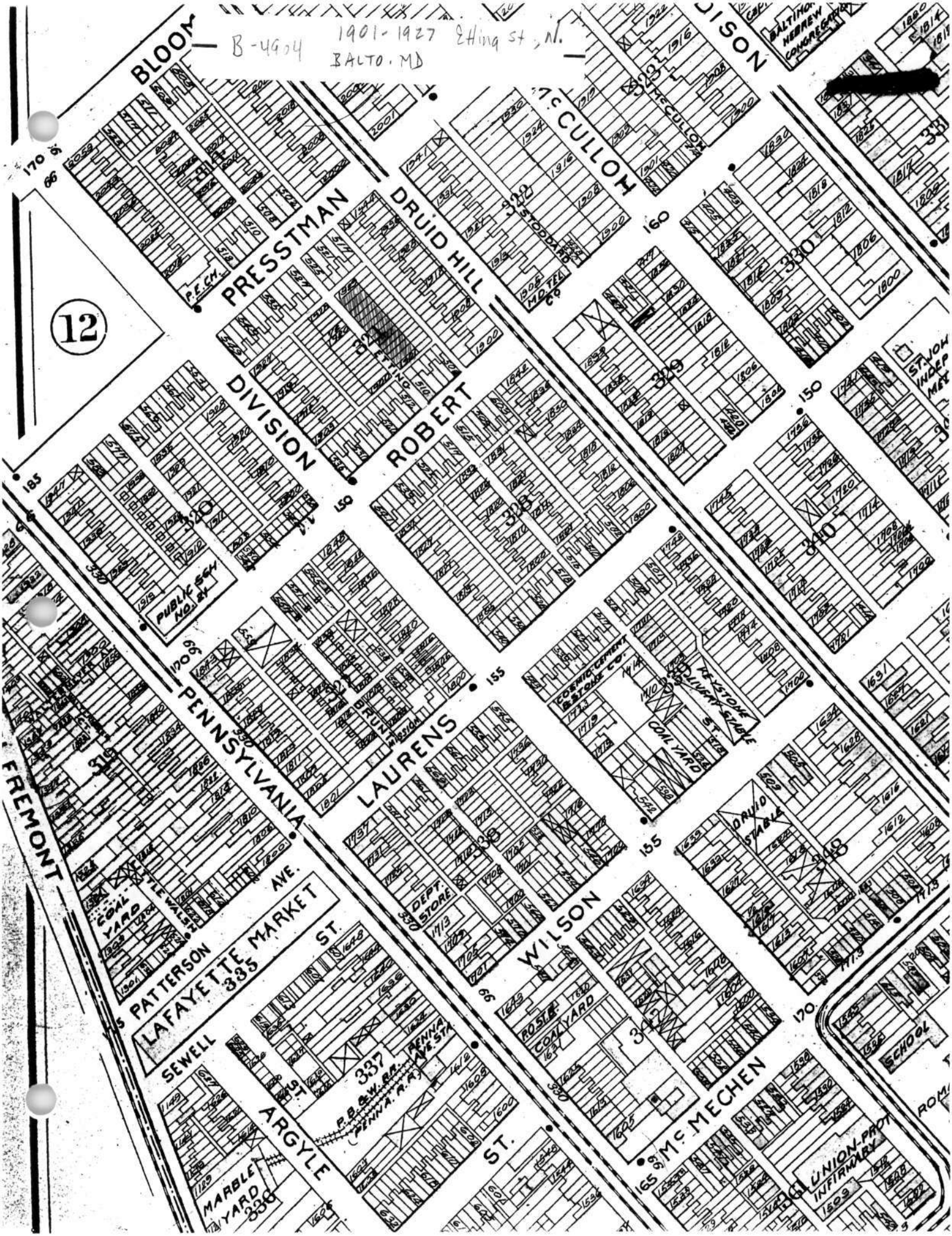
street & number 1306 Carrollton Ave. telephone

city, town Baltimore state & zip code Maryland 21204

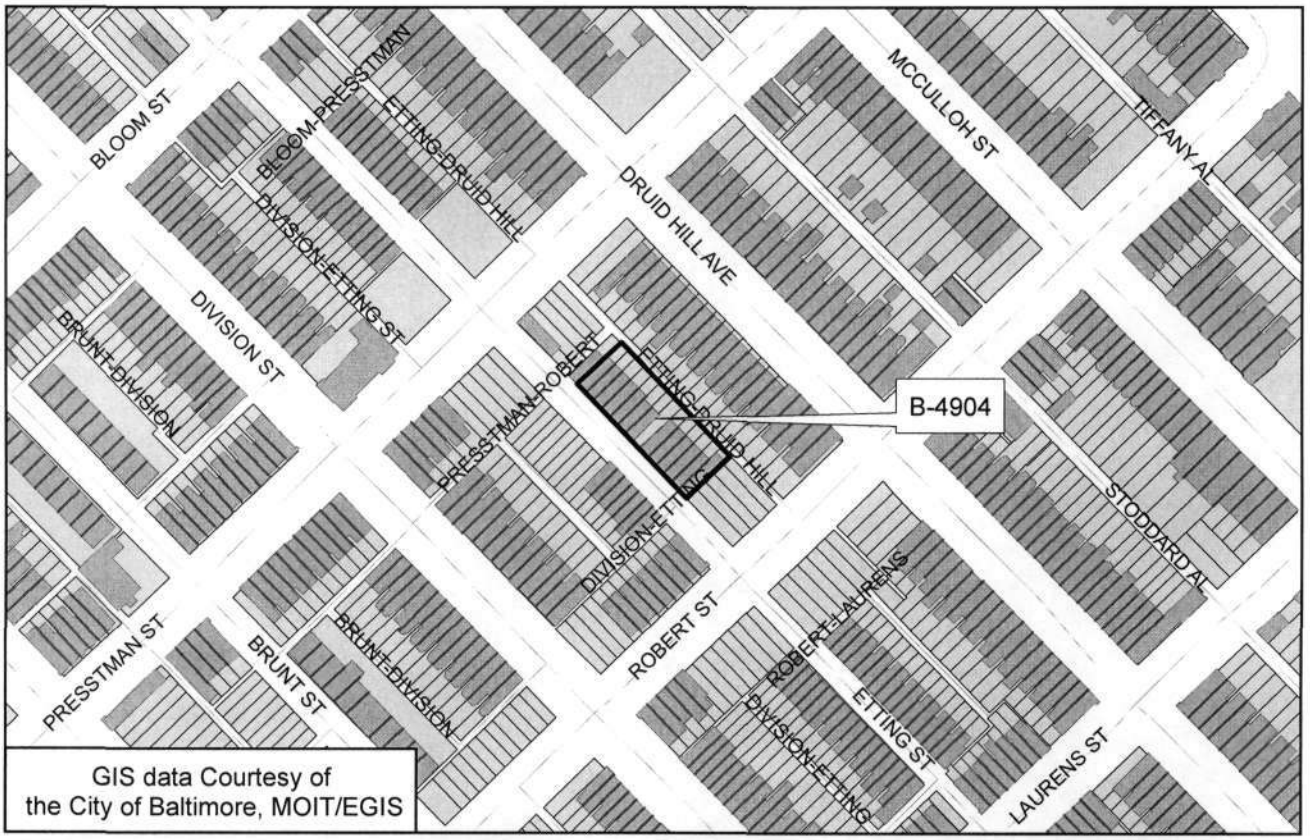
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

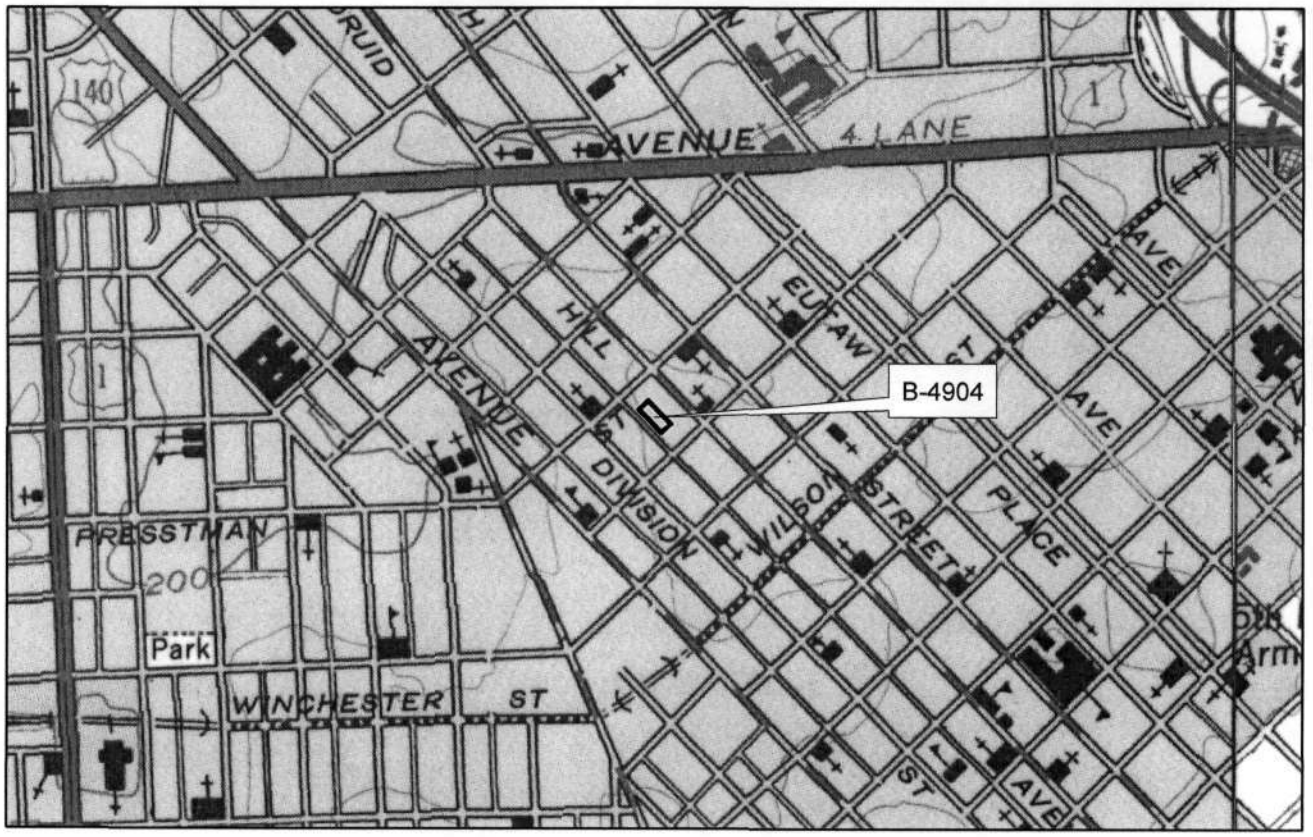
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of property rights.

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


B-4904 1901-1927 Etting St, N.
BALTO. MD
12
BLOOM
PRESSTMAN
DRUID HILL
McCULLOH
DIVISION
ROBERT
PENNSYLVANIA
LAURENS
WILSON
McMECHEN
ARGYLE
SEWELL
LAFAYETTE MARKET
PATTERSON
FREMONT
PUBLIC SCH NO. 21
COAL YARD
DEPT. STORE
DRUID STABLE
UNION-PROT INFIRMARY
SCHOOL
MARBLE YARD
P.B.&W.R.R.
PENNA. R.R.
PENNA AVE. STA.
COSMIC CEMENT & STONE CO.
KEYSTONE LIVERY STABLE
BALTIMORE HEBREW CONGREGATION
STODDARD
MD. TEL. CO.
P.E.CH.
ETTING
BRUNT MISSION
TLE WALSH
P.O.ST.B.
ST.
AVE.
170
160
150
155
165
185
66

B-4904
1901-1927 Etting Street
Block 0321
Baltimore City
Baltimore West Quad





NOTICE

B-4904
1901-1927 N. Eating St.
BALTO. MD
W. Nield
6/00
MD SHPO
1/3

NO
LOITERING

B-4904
1905 N. Ehing St.
BALTO. MD
W. Nield
4/00
MD SHPO
2/3

RIP
Doug
DOUG
IS
THE
1915

B-4904
1913-1927 N. Gilmor St.
BALTO., MD
W. Nield
6/00
MD SHPO
3/3

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