

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4914

1. Name

Historic 603 - 605 Jasper Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 603 - 605 Jasper 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

 excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed

Check One

 unaltered altered

Check One

 original site moved:

date of move: _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This pair of two-bay-wide, two-story-and-attic brick houses are generally typical of a popular type of Baltimore rowhouse built in the late 1840s and 1850s to serve the city's growing working class population. The lower-pitched gable roof allowed for a more spacious upper story, which now could be lit by small rectangular windows at both the front and rear of the house, instead of the earlier dormer windows. Despite its practical nature, this new feature had its roots in a stylistic change in Baltimore's fashionable housing, the small "attic" windows being an important part of the façade design of much larger town mansions being built in the new Greek Revival style.

The houses are two-and-a-half stories in height and only two-rooms deep with the kitchen located in the tall basement. Because early house lots in Baltimore were laid out back to back, without rear service alleys, the only entrance to the backyard is through the narrow, flat-linteled sallyport located in the center of the pair. The houses are constructed in running bond, and were always painted. The low-pitched gable roof has a simple corbelled brick cornice. The roofs are covered with modern asphalt shingles overtop the original cedar shakes. Chimneys are located near both the front and rear of the houses. Each house also has a chimney at the rear of the kitchen addition.

None of the door or window openings have visible lintels. The sills are brick. The window openings are filled with 6/6 replacement sash. Doorways have single-light transoms and modern replacement doors. The houses sit on high basements, lit by a double-hung sash. Each entrance is reached by six brick steps, set parallel to the facade.

The houses are two rooms deep, with the front room being entered directly from the front door. The front and back rooms of the first floor are separated by a wide opening, with the tightly winding, narrow stairs set in the rear room, in the space between the partition wall and the fireplace. There are two bedrooms on the second floor of the main part of the house, each with a fireplace. The third floor attic rooms have low sloping ceilings, with a maximum ceiling height of about seven feet at the peak of the gable sloping down to about four feet at the front and rear of the house. The kitchen, with its own cooking fireplace, was located in the tall basement.

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. 1845 - 1855

Builder/Architect

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

This row of houses is significant as being representative of a large group of such houses built in the 1840s and 1850s to accommodate the growing labor force centered around the Baltimore waterfront or in southwest Baltimore, near the Baltimore & Ohio railroad yards. Although showing stylistic influences from Greek Revival style buildings constructed in Baltimore in the 1830s and 1840s (in the proportions of the attic windows, the chaste exterior details, and the double parlor floor plan), the outstanding feature of these houses is their extreme simplicity of design and detailing. They are practical adaptations of a current mode of building, designed to meet the need for efficient, low-cost housing for a growing working class community. The floor plan is essentially the same as that of the earlier Federal-style two-and-a-half story houses, but the opening between the two rooms is wider, reflecting popular Greek Revival tastes. The increase in height of the third story (from a dormer story to an attic story) allowed the third story to be divided into two separate rooms, in place of the one open room of the dormer story, thus providing welcome additional private living space to large families or those who had to take in boarders. The houses do not differ markedly from similar two-story-and-attic houses built on nearby main streets—they are simply somewhat narrower versions priced to serve less affluent residents of the old walking city.

These houses are especially significant for being one of the few survivors of similar small street houses located in this part of north Baltimore in the greater Mt. Vernon area, where many fashionable Greek Revival-style dwellings were being built. They gain significance for being located near St. Mary's Seminary, the city's first Catholic teaching facility.

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:

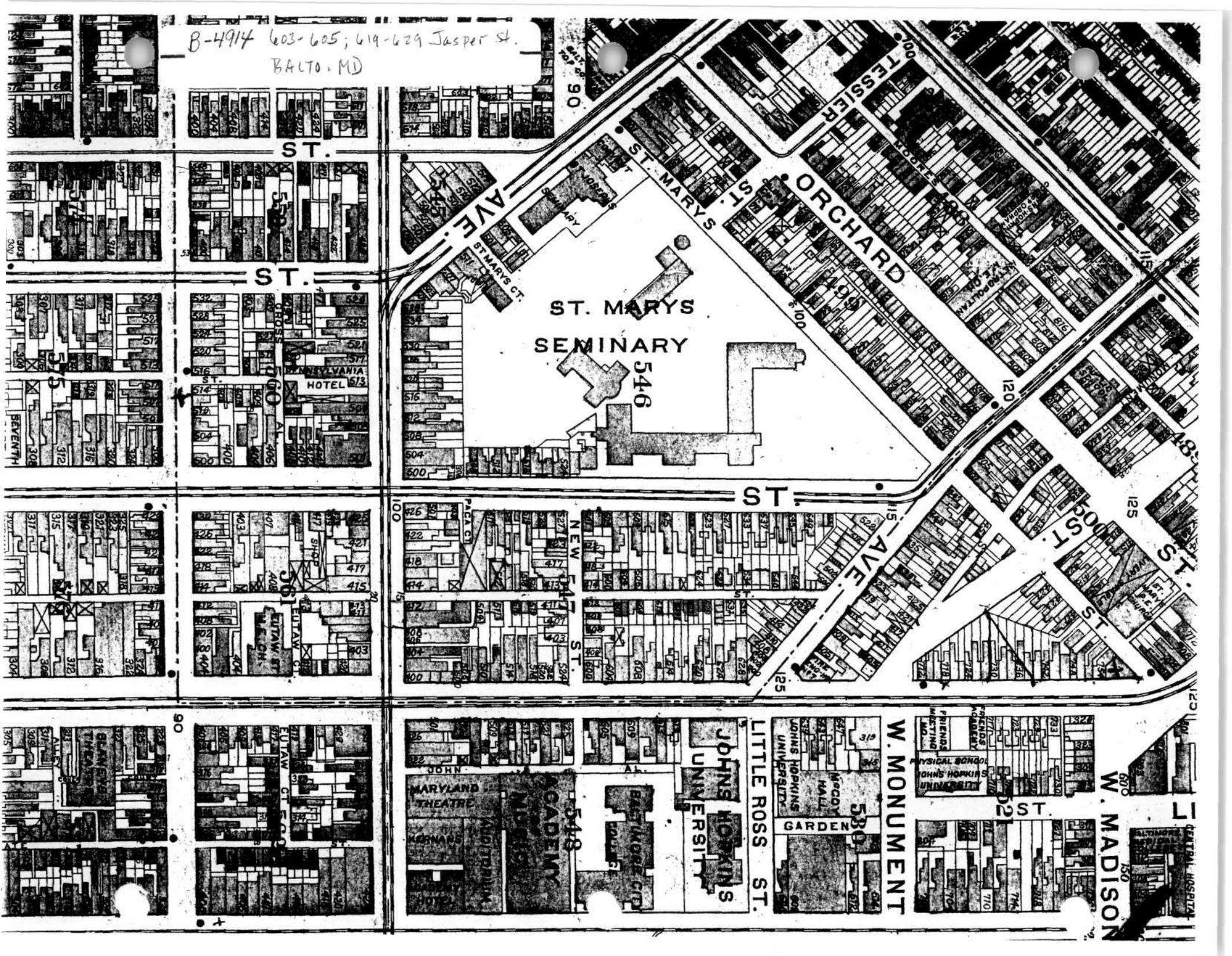
DHCP/DHCD

Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B-4914 603-605; 619-629 Jasper St.
BALTO. MD



ST. MARYS
SEMINARY
546

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

LITTLE ROSS ST.

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

MCCOY HALL

GARDEN

W. MONUMENT

PHYSICAL SCHOOL

JOHNS HOPKINS
UNIVERSITY

ST. MARYS

W. MADISON

ST. MARYS

ST. MARYS

ST. MARYS

ST. MARYS

ST. MARYS

B-4914
603-605 Jasper Street
Block 0547B Lot 079 and 080
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad

