

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4953

### 1. Name

Historic 7 - 19 North Bruce Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 7 - 19 North Bruce 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	<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**

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 row of seven two-story, two-bay wide early Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and simple, scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built c. 1875. All of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted. Most of the row has been renovated in recent years.

The houses are two stories in height, only 11'9" wide and occupy lots 50' deep. Each house is two rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses are constructed in common bond and were originally painted. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by simple block modillions set against a plain, deep frieze area articulated with a molding strip set just under the modillions.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have flat wood lintels and sills. All of the houses have 1/1 replacement sash. Doorways have single-light transoms, decorated with a cut-work band of dentils, that in many cases have been covered over. All of the doors are modern replacements. The houses sit on fairly low basements, lit by a single-light sash. Each house is reached by three metal or 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. 1875

**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 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.

## 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 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 rights.

Return to:

DHCP/DHCD

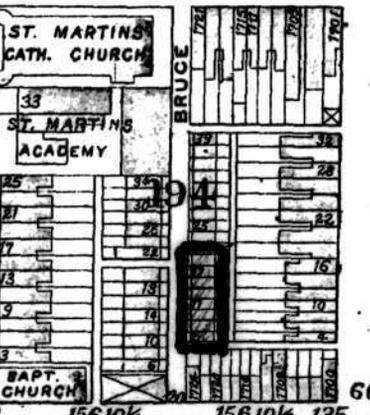
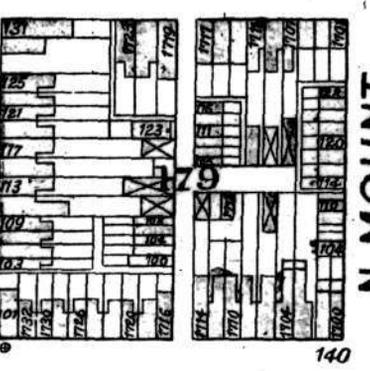
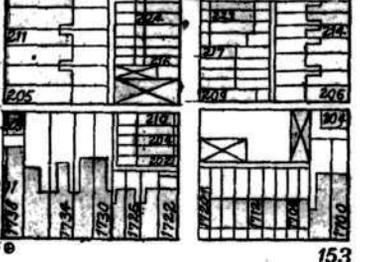
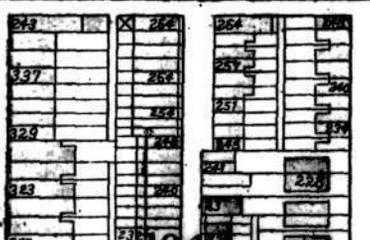
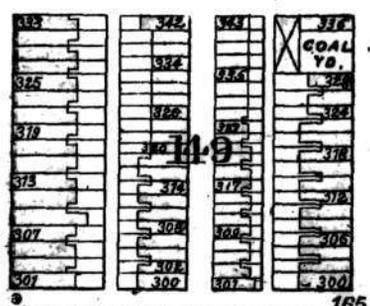
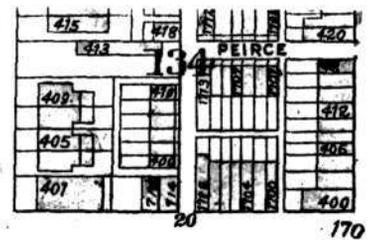
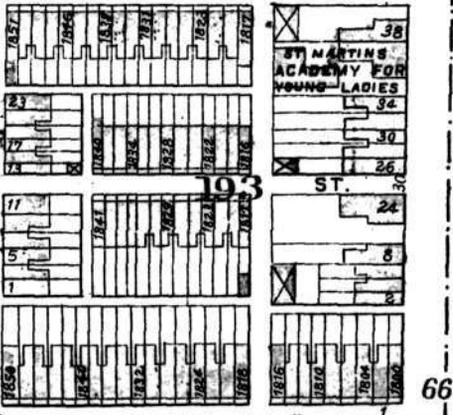
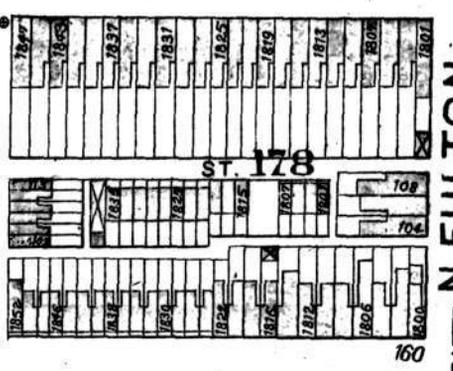
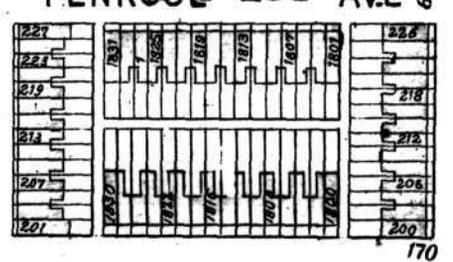
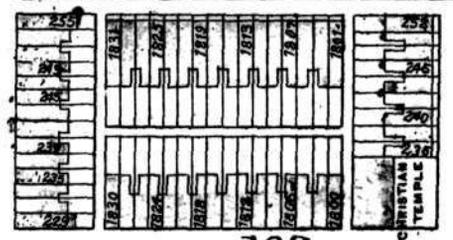
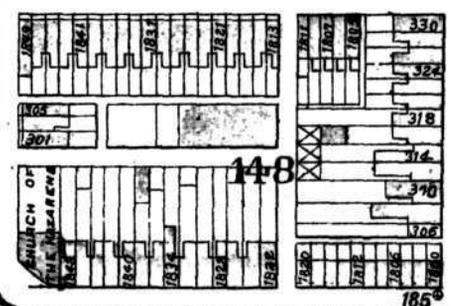
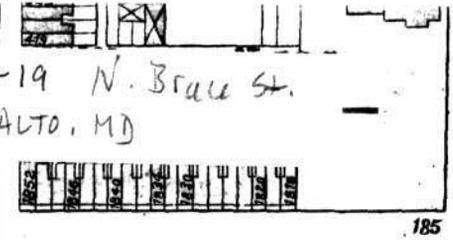
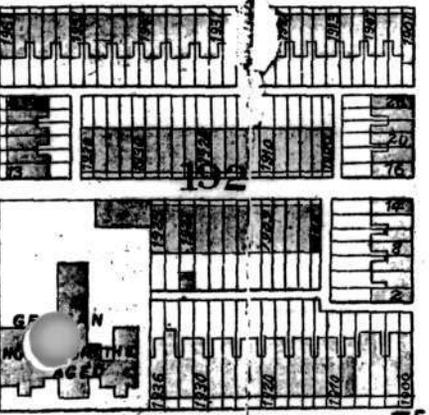
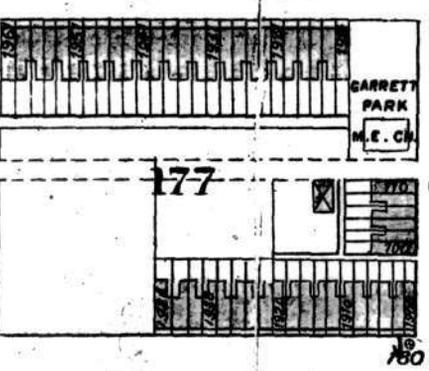
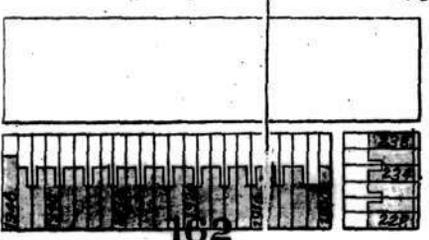
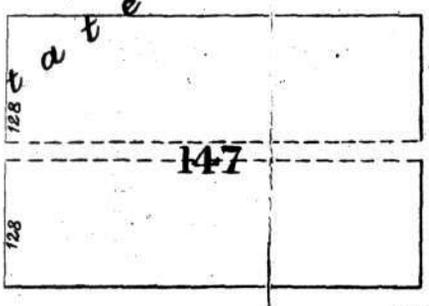
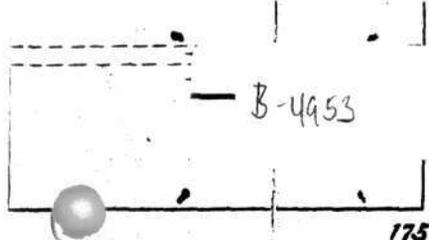
Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023

B-4953

7-19 N. Bruce St.  
BALTO, MD







B-4953

7-19 N. Bruce St

BALTO. MD

W. Nield

6/00

MS 5470

1/2



B-4953

11 N. Bruce St

BALTO. MD

W. Nield

6/00

MD SHPD

2/2