Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4962

1. Name

Historic: 307 – 323 South Bruce Street
and / common:

2. Location

street & number: 307 – 323 South Bruce 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	_x 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 nine two-story, two-bay wide early Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and simple, scroll-sawn bracketed cornices were built c. 1875. 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, two 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 at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by two simple scroll-sawn end brackets decorated with grooves that connect to a lower molding strip, as well as a row of simple, grooved scroll-sawn modillions.

The tall, narrow window and door openings have flat wood lintels and sills. None of the original 2/2 sash survive, and windows are filled with 1/1 replacement sash or boarded over. Doorways have single-light transoms, but no original doors survive. The houses sit on low basements, lit by a single-light sash. Each house is reached by two 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. 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

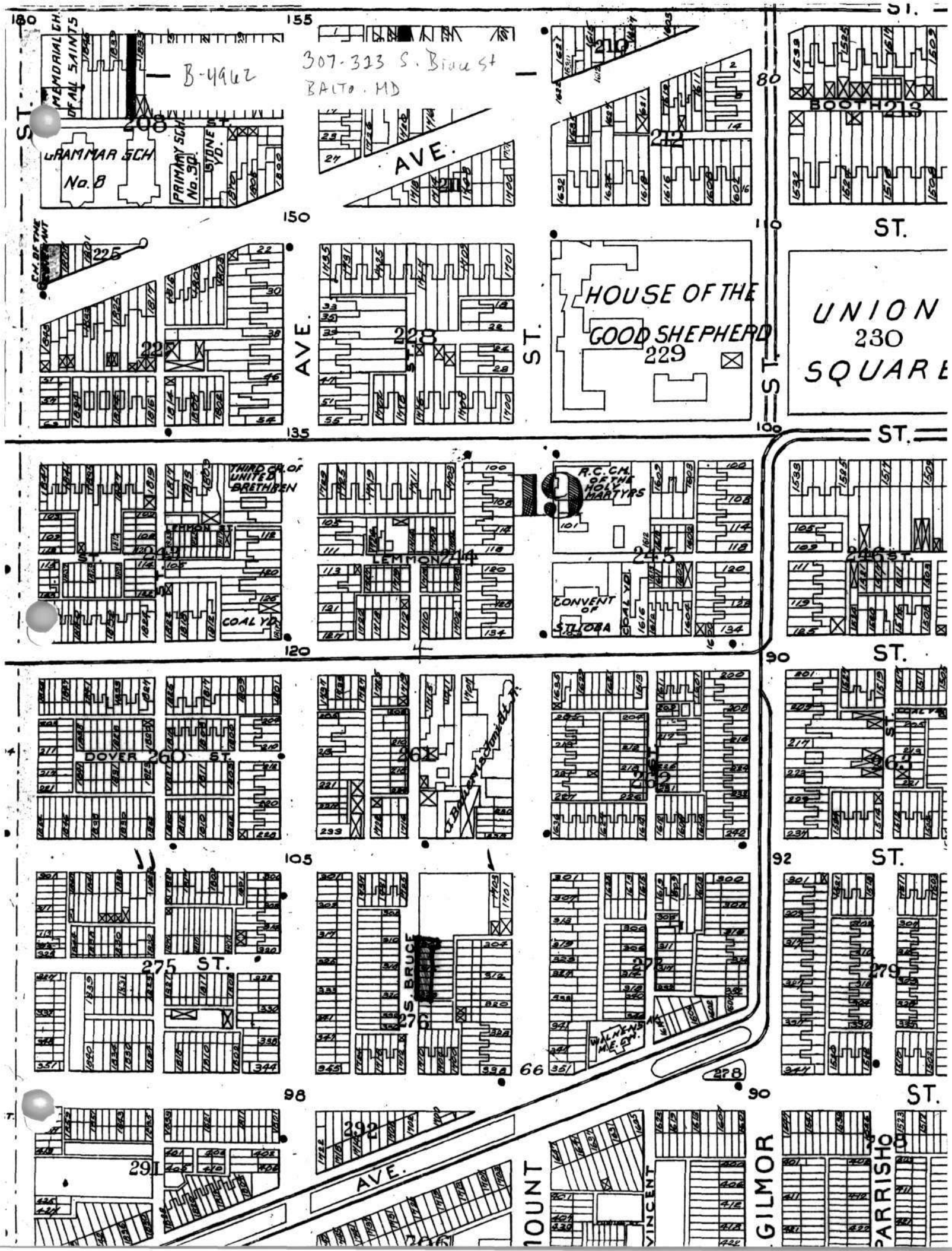
11. Form Prepared by

name / title	Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward		
Organization	The Alley House Project	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 Annotate 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 c rights.

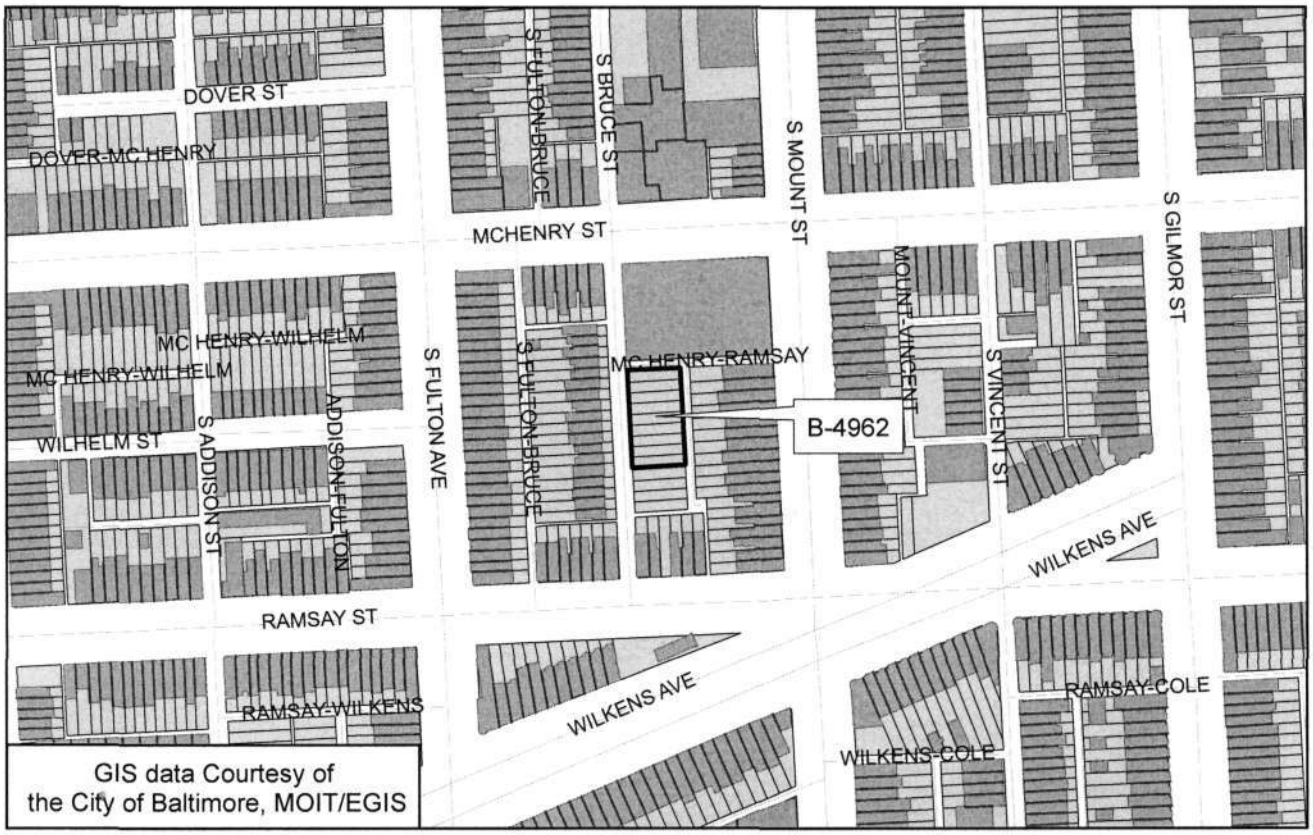
Return to:
DHCP/DHCD
Maryland Historical Trust
100 Community Place
Crownsville MD 21032-2023

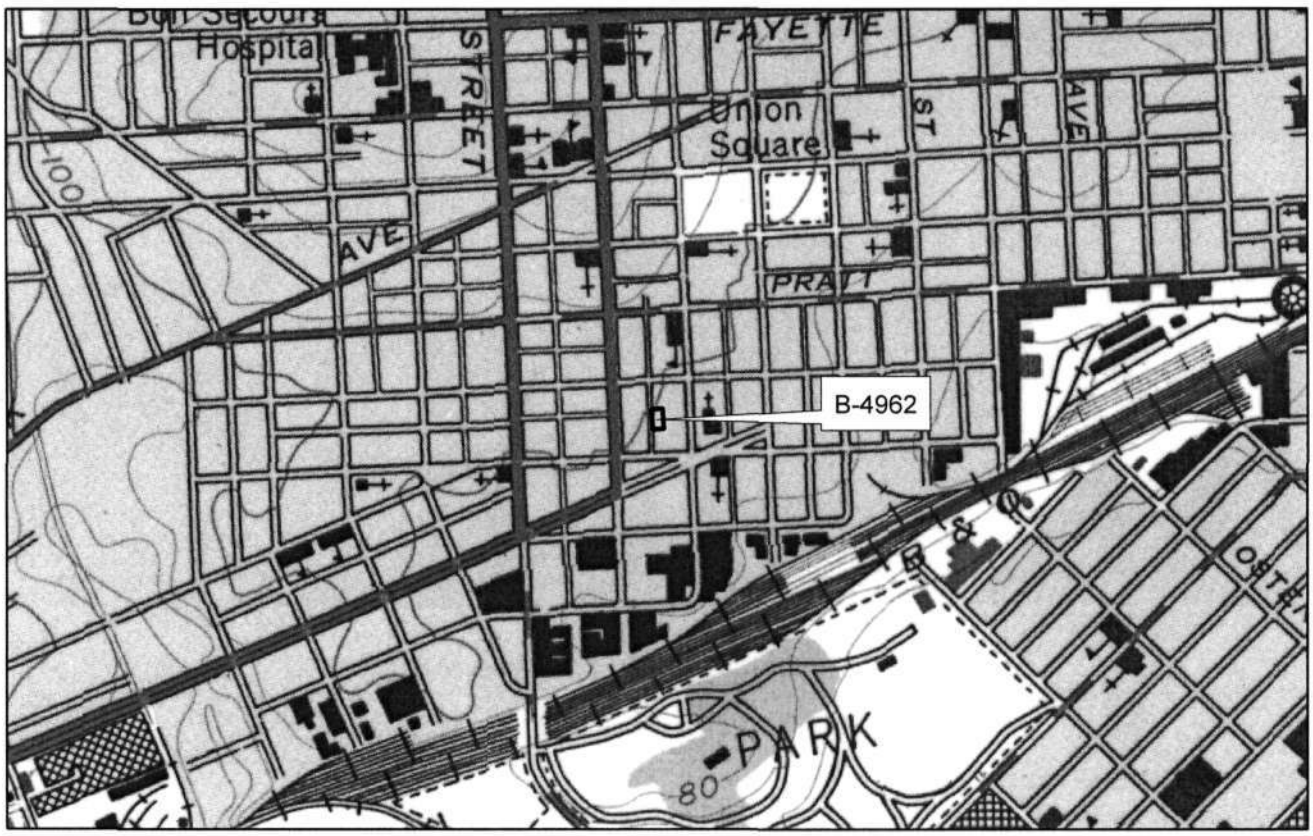


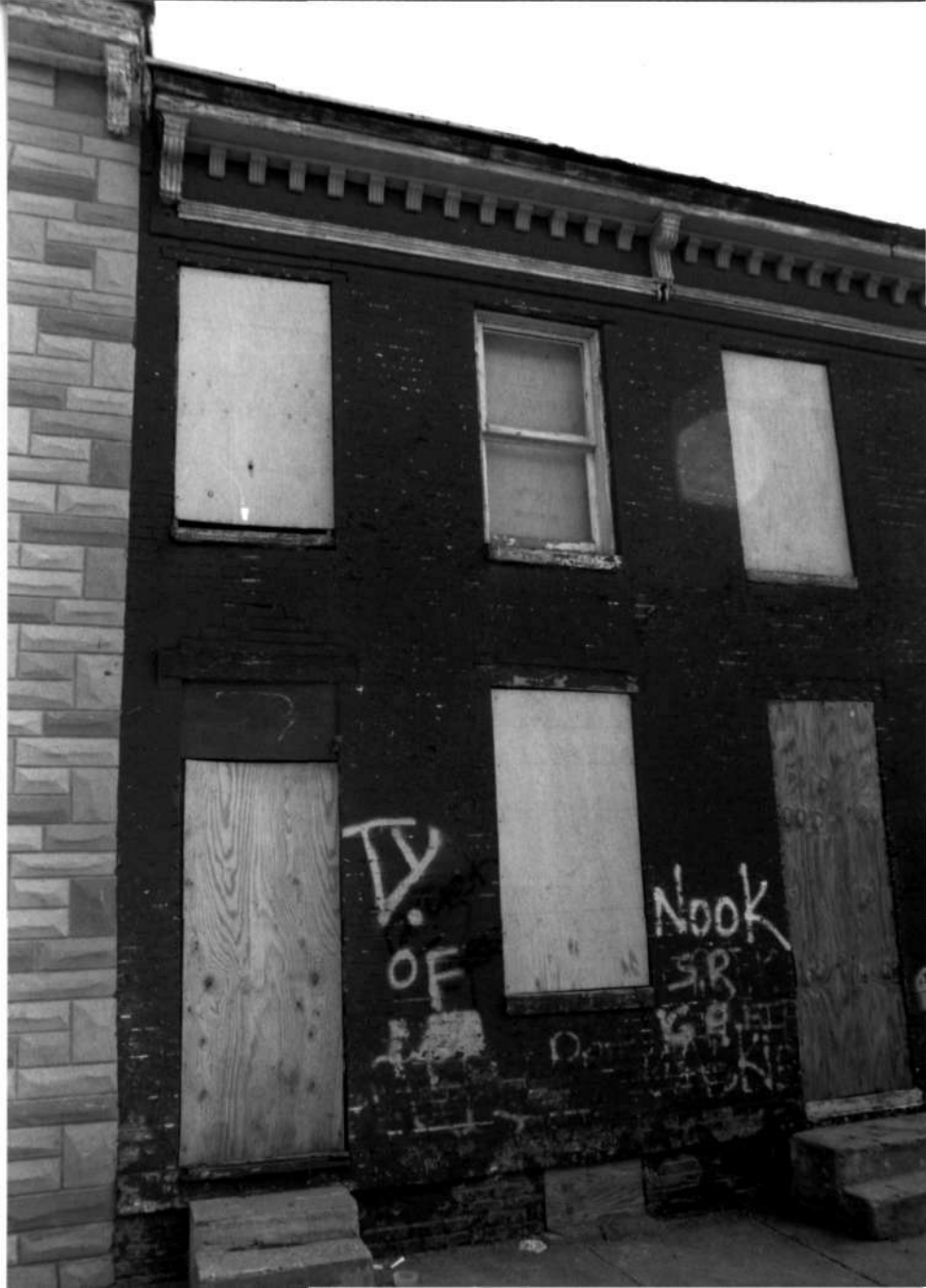
B-4962
307-313 S. Bruce St
BALTO. MD
MEMORIAL CH. OF ALL SAINTS
GRAMMAR SCH No. 8
PRIMARY SCH. No. 30
STONE YD.
AVE.
BOOTH
HOUSE OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
UNION SQUARE
THIRD CH. OF UNITED BRETHREN
LEMMON ST.
COAL YD.
R.C. CH. OF THE HOLY MARTYRS
CONVENT OF ST. LIOBA
DOVER ST.
S. BRUCE
WALKENS AV. M.E. CH.
MOUNT
VINCENT
GILMOR
PARRISH

B-4962
307-323 South Bruce Street
Block 0276
Baltimore City
Baltimore West Quad

Demolished






TY.
OF
NOOK

315 S Bruce
SWB-4

B-4962
315 S. Bruce St.
Balto. MD
P. Belfiore
3/98