

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4981

### 1. Name

Historic 301 - 323 South Norris Street  
and / common

### 2. Location

street & number 301 - 323 South Norris 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           | X occupied                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum         |
| X building(s)                      | X 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   | X 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       | X 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                                |                                       | Check One                                   | Check One   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good            | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved:                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> 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 twelve two-story, two-bay wide Renaissance Revival-style brick houses with shed roofs and sheet metal cornices were built c. 1900 – 1905. None of the houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted. The entire row has been covered with formstone, which has obscured all original details.

The houses are two stories in height, 12' wide and occupy lots 75' deep. Each house is three small rooms deep and there is no backbuilding. The houses were probably 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 simple sheet metal cornice consisting of a crown molding set above a frieze area decorated with a row of dentils.

The tall, narrow window and door openings probably had segmentally arched brick lintels with plain tympanums, and wood sills, but all are now covered with formstone. All windows have 1/1 replacement sash. The single-light doorway transoms are now all covered with aluminum siding and the entrances show a variety of replacement door types. The houses sit on medium-height basements, lit by a single-light sash. Each house is reached by four 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/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799       | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering                   | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | humanitarian                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899       | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration                   | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theatre            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900 | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry                      | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation     |
|  |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention                     |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other: specify     |

**Specific dates** c. 1900 - 1905

**Builder/Architect**

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

This group of houses significant as representing the level of architectural stylishness builders were willing to give to small street houses in the late nineteenth century and is testament to the fact that there was no stigma attached to small street living. The houses were built according to a pattern that was quite common to the city's working class neighborhoods of the period c. 1870 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 southwest of the central city. Builders acquired anywhere from an eighth to a half of a city block and built 14' to 15'-wide three-bay-wide, two-story houses on the main streets, and smaller, 11' to 13'-wide two-bay-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.

Occasionally, the builder retained ownership of his small street houses to provide income for himself as rental properties. 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 of their proximity to the Baltimore & Ohio railroad yards and related industries and to the slaughterhouses of southwest Baltimore and their related industries, particularly the William Wilkens & Co. Curled Hair Manufactory, one of the largest employers in the area. Moderately-priced housing was built to provide homes for the mainly German immigrants who came to southwest Baltimore to work in these rapidly expanding industries in the decades after the Civil War.

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfoure, *The Baltimore Rowhouse*  
(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999)

## 10. Geographic Data

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Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared by

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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 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

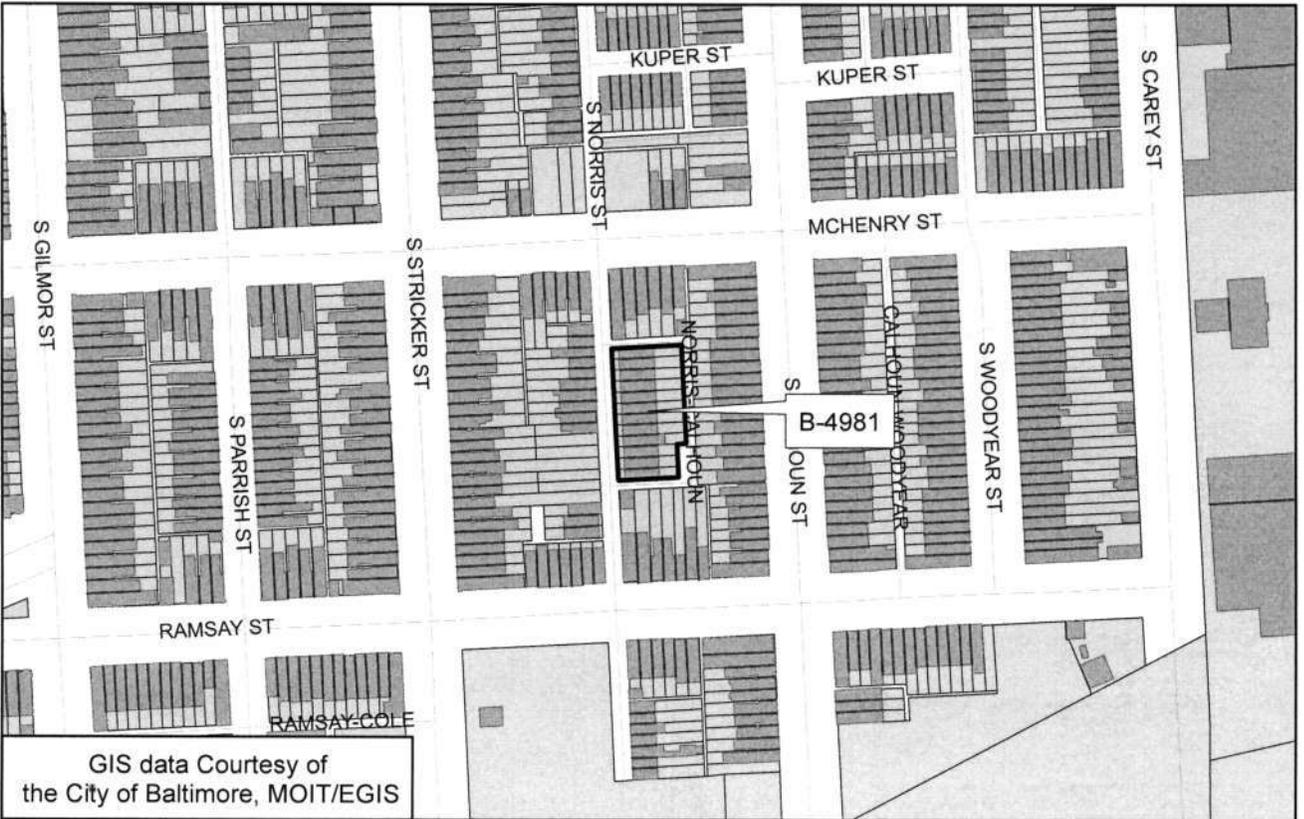
Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place

Crownsville MD 21032-2023



B-4981  
301-323 S. Norris Street  
Block 0280 Lots 079-090  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore West Quad





B-4981

301-323

S. Norris St

BACTO. MD

W. Nield

6/00

MO SAPD

1/2



301

301 S. Norris

Sub-3

B-4981

301 S. Norris St

BALTO. MD

P. Baylone

2/98

MB 1470

2/2

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