

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes \_\_\_\_\_  
no

Property Name: Kresson Street Residential District Inventory Number: B-5174  
 Address: Kresson St. between Pratt St. and Fayette St.; includes parts of Lombard and Janney Sts. Historic district:  yes \_\_\_\_\_ no  
 City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21224 County: Baltimore City  
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore East  
 Property Owner: various Tax Account ID Number: n/a  
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map Number: 26  
 Project: Red Line Transit Study - Bayview Extension Agency: MTA  
 Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.  
 Preparer's Name: Katherine Farnham Date Prepared: 2/8/2010  
 Documentation is presented in: See sources below.

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility recommended  Eligibility not recommended  
 Criteria:    A    B    C    D Considerations:    A    B    C    D    E    F    G

*Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:*  
 Name of the District/Property: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inventory Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Eligible: \_\_\_\_\_ yes Listed: \_\_\_\_\_ yes  
 Have visit by MHT Staff    yes  no Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*  
 This small, early-twentieth-century residential enclave is centered along Kresson St. between Lombard St. and Fayette St., and also includes portions of Janney and E. Lombard Sts. It is bisected by the elevated remains of a ca. 1890s Baltimore & Ohio (B & O) Railroad siding that serviced industrial operations located to the west of Haven St. The residential neighborhood is surrounded on all sides by railroad lines and industrial buildings, giving it an isolated character.

Most houses in the Kresson Street Residential District are two-story, two-bay flat-front brick Italianate rowhouses with shed roofs, marble front steps and foundation stringcourses, full basements, and projecting sheet metal cornices, and segmental-arched window and door openings. The houses on the east side of Kresson St., north of the railroad bridge, have one-story full-width front porches, and those on the west side of N. Kresson St. have round-arched transoms and first-floor window openings. Houses at the ends of rows on E. Lombard St. have corner storefronts on the first floor. A cluster of nine houses on the west side of Kresson St., north of Fairmount St., features slightly larger three-bay houses, and there is one large three-story Italianate house with a front porch on the east side of Kresson St., just north of the railroad bridge.

The houses in each row were virtually identical when built, but alterations by different owners have given them some variety. The

<b>MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW</b>	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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MHT Comments: <i>Isolated, lacks cohesiveness</i>	
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>3/25/10</u> Date
<u>[Signature]</u> Reviewer, National Register Program	<u>4/5/10</u> Date

neighborhood's houses today exhibit a mixture of original façade brick and Formstone, varying house to house. The majority of the houses have replacement windows and doors, and original transoms have been infilled with siding in several instances. A few houses are adorned with painted window screens. The front porches on the houses on the east side of Kresson St. are extant but virtually all have been altered with new floors, steps, and columns.

This housing type was common to working-class East Baltimore neighborhoods that were developed during the 1890s and early 1900s. Speculators such as Edward J. Gallagher constructed rows of similar houses throughout developing parts of the city, capitalizing on the proximity of these homes to new streetcar lines and employment sources. While rowhouses were the predominant form of residential construction for Baltimoreans of different economic brackets during this time, these differences were reflected in the size and detail of new houses. More upscale houses were wider, had more architectural detail and higher quality building materials, and builders often varied the design of houses within a particular row. Working-class houses were narrower and period architectural details were limited to stonework, cornices and stained-glass windows and transoms. The Renaissance Revival dwellings of the Kresson Street Residential District were of the smallest type, and were constructed with minimal architectural detail and relatively inexpensive mass-produced materials. Despite their modest scale, they still featured the white marble stringcourses and front steps seen on most Renaissance Revival rowhouses of this period, elevating them somewhat above the lowest tier of houses that had all-brick facades and wooden steps.

It is not known who constructed the neighborhood's houses or why this fragmentary location was chosen. It appears that the land belonged to the Canton Company, which owned most of the land in the vicinity prior to the early 1900s. The B & O Railroad made its first connection into this area in the 1880s. The Pennsylvania Railroad's adjacent Orangeville Locomotive Terminal and the Philadelphia Wilmington & Baltimore (PW & B) Railroad's Bay View railroad yard and shops provided a ready source of employment. It appears that a few different builders may have been at work, given some of the differences between blocks. The Maryland Real Property tax records consistently give 1900 as the construction date for the houses. Based on stylistic and other evidence, this appears to be an accurate date. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps do not exist for this neighborhood in 1902, but all of the extant rowhouses in the neighborhood were completed prior to 1914. At that time, the land around the neighborhood and bordering the railroad lines was largely vacant. Historic maps do not show any indication that further residential development was ever planned, and industrial businesses eventually filled in the vacant surrounding properties. While these larger industrial concerns dominated the streets surrounding the neighborhood, a few small pockets of industrial activity emerged by the 1920s on scattered, odd-shaped vacant lots within the neighborhood. These pockets continue to exist at the ends of house rows and in back alley areas bordering the railroad tracks. By the 1950s, the land surrounding the northeast corner of the neighborhood housed a junkyard and coal yard.

Census records indicate that the Kresson St. neighborhood was initially populated by whites. Though the majority were American-born, they were descended from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, including German, Italian, French, English, Welsh, Irish, Austrian, Russian, and Polish extraction. Nearly all households derived their income from blue-collar jobs. Common employers included the railroads, steel mills, can mills, pickle, bottle, and barrel factories, oil companies, and the veneer mill on Haven St. A small number of female residents held jobs as secretaries, lunchroom staff, or household help. By 1930, the neighborhood was occupied by a relatively balanced mixture of owners and renters. The houses rented for between \$25 and \$35 a month and were worth between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Despite their relatively small size, many housed large families and a number of households included at least one boarder.

Following World War II, industrial decline eroded the traditional employment bases for this neighborhood, as with many in the city. The nearby mills, factories, and Orangeville railroad yard disappeared, forcing residents to seek employment further from home. The population diversified in more recent years to include African American and Latino homeowners. There is still a mixture of owner-occupied and rental housing. While the majority of the neighborhood's houses are still occupied and maintained,

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Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

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MHT Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer, National Register Program

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

a handful of houses are vacant and blighted. Light industrial use continues in the scattered industrial properties around the neighborhood.

The Kresson Street Residential District is an example of a small turn-of-the-century residential enclave tucked among industrial properties and railroad lines. It provided a home for hundreds of industrial and railroad employees during southeast Baltimore's industrial heyday of the early twentieth century. While the neighborhood is largely intact, it historically has had a fragmented setting due to the street and railroad patterns within it. The loss of railroad service has made the neighborhood quieter, but it now has a sense of isolation. Its speculator-built homes are of a common type and collectively exhibit little distinctive character. Though the houses retain their basic form and design, their collective integrity is diminished by the widespread use of replacement windows and doors and frequent infill of original transom openings. While the neighborhood overall retains integrity of location and design, it generally lacks integrity of setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Although associated with the industry and railroad yards that dominated this part of Baltimore, the neighborhood is not directly connected to any significant persons, businesses or trends, and thus does not meet National Register Criteria A or B. Due to its fragmentary character, it also is not a good example of a speculative turn-of-the-century working-class neighborhood. Better-preserved and more cohesive examples of historic residential neighborhoods for industrial workers can be found elsewhere in the city, including nearby Canton. Given this lack of cohesiveness and distinctive character, the district does not meet the requirements of National Register Criterion C. This district was not evaluated for eligibility under National Register Criterion D during the historic architecture survey. Due to lack of significance and integrity, the Kresson Street Residential District is recommended not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

## Sources:

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

Maryland Real Property Tax Database. Available online at: [http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp\\_rewrite/](http://sdatcert3.resiusa.org/rp_rewrite/).

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1902, 1914, 1928, 1936, 1951, 1953.

U.S. Census 1910, 1920, 1930.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended \_\_\_\_\_ Eligibility not recommended \_\_\_\_\_

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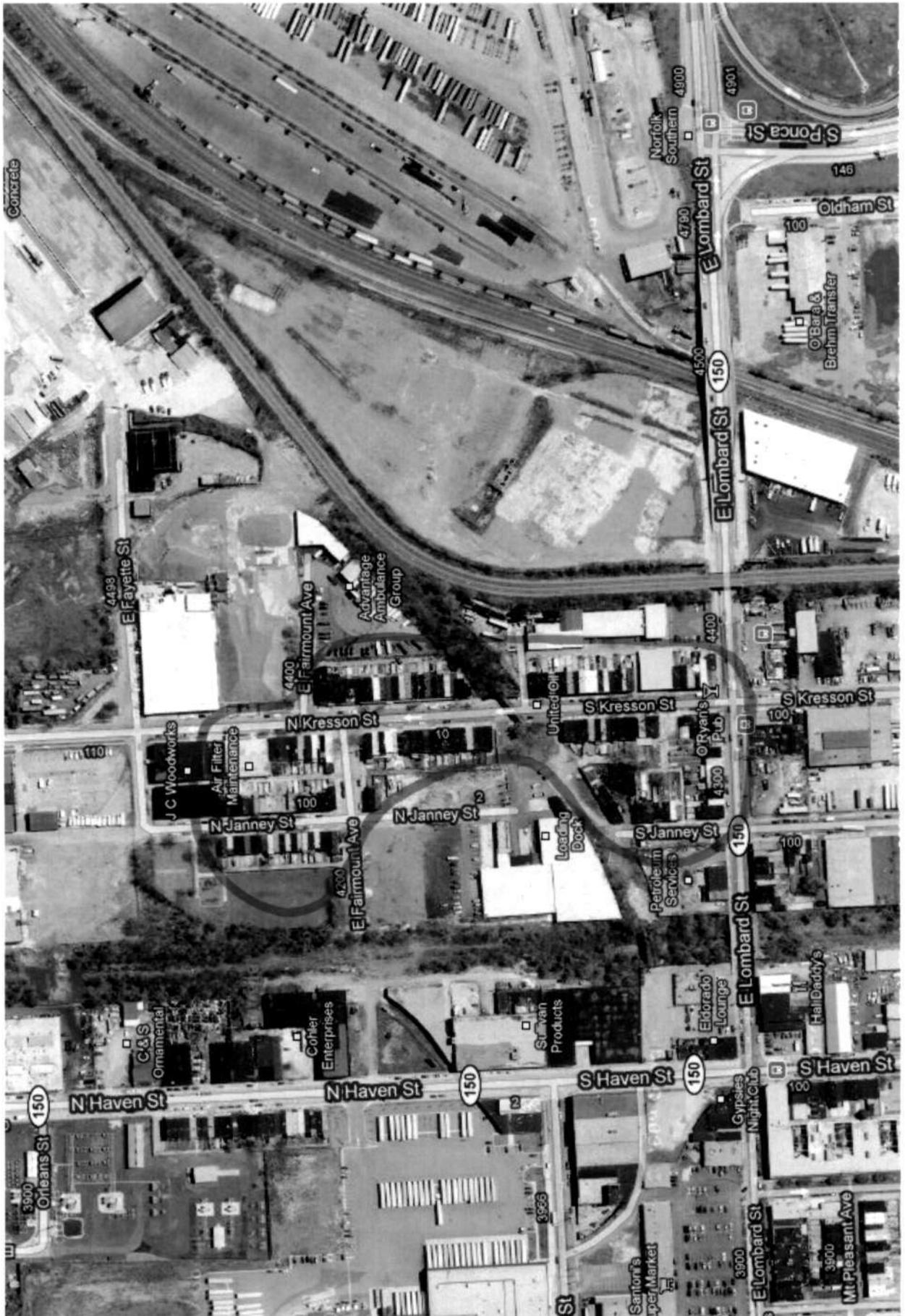
MHT Comments:

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

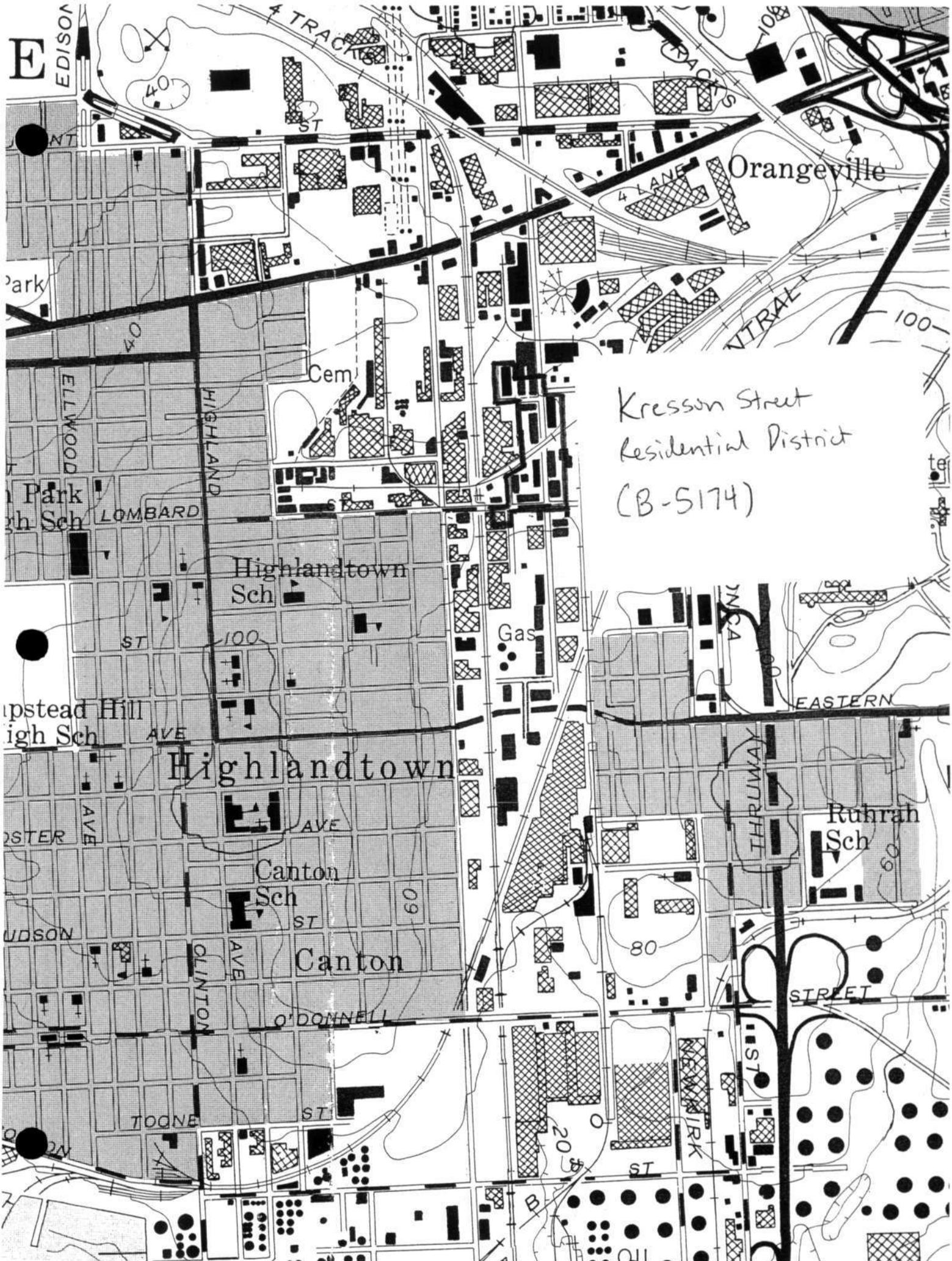
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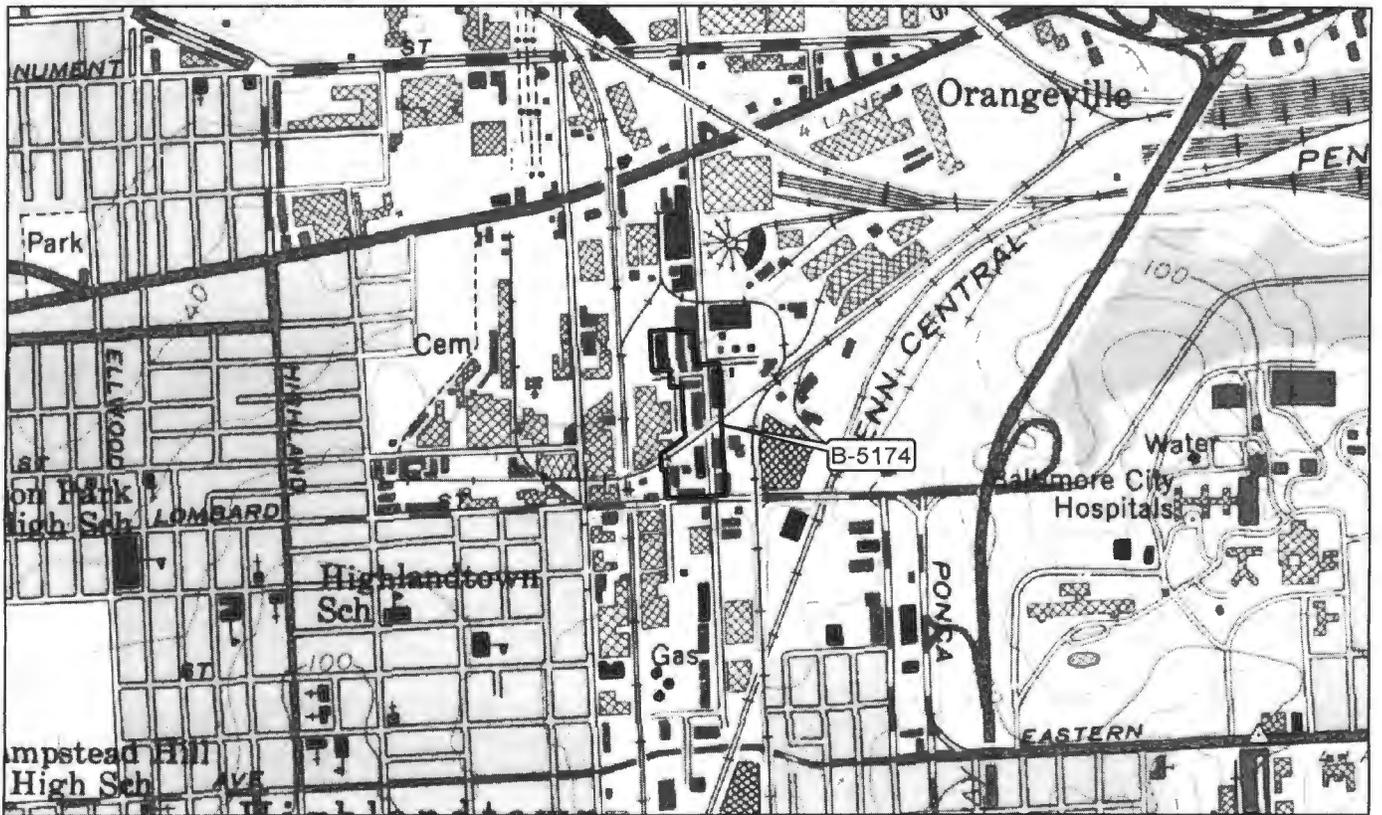
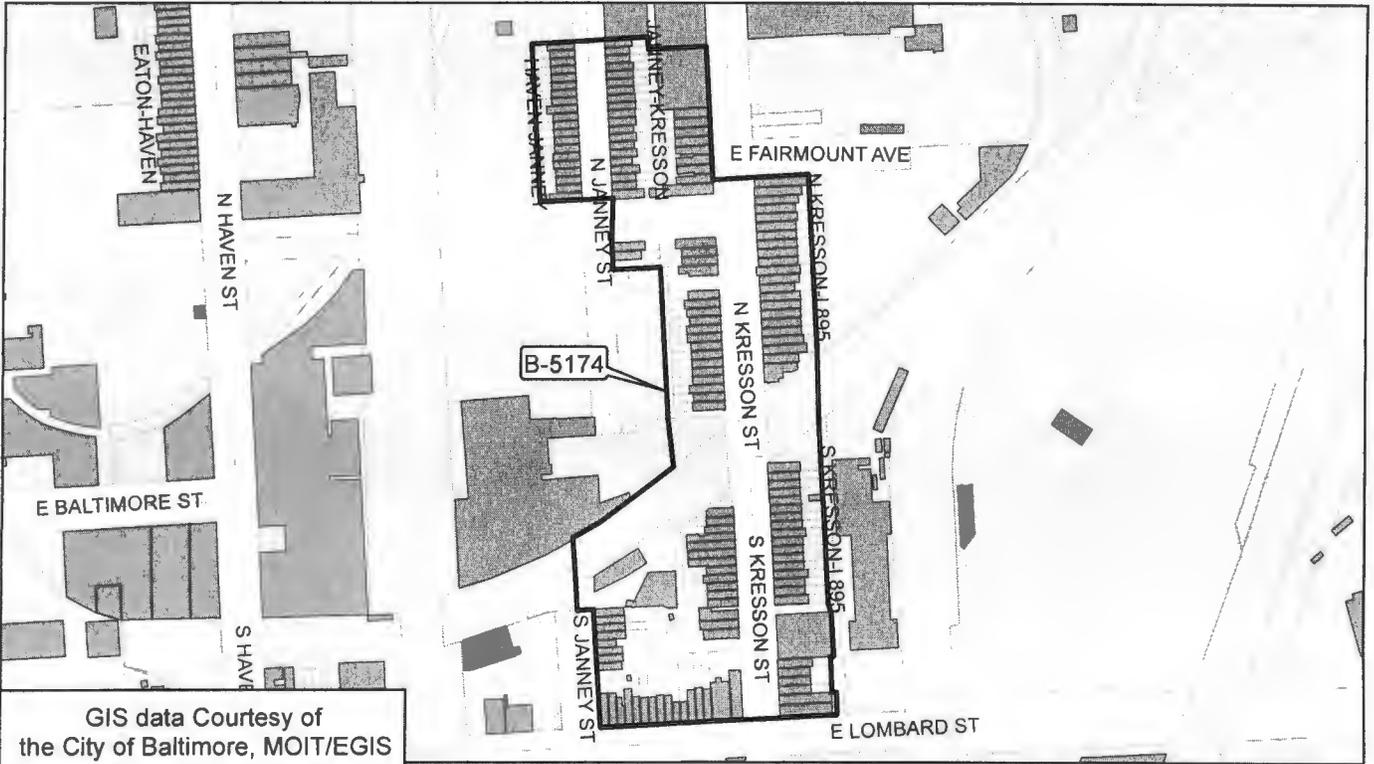


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Kresson Street  
Residential District  
(B-5174)

B-5174  
Kresson Street Residential District  
Kresson Street between Pratt Street and Fayette Street,  
includes parts of Lombard and Janney Streets  
Parts of blocks 6242, 6254, 6262, and 6263  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad





B-5174

Kresson St. Residential District

Baltimore City, MD

K. Farnham

4/15/08

MD SHPO

S. Kresson St, view to NE from cor. Lombard St.

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B-5174

Kresson St. Residential District

Baltimore City, MD

K. Farnham

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MD SHPO

Houses on east side of 1st block of S. Kresson St., view to E.

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Kresson St. Residential District

Baltimore City, MD

K. Farnham

4/15/08

MD SHPO

View NE on unit block N. Kresson St.

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Kresson St. Residential District

Baltimore City, MD

K. Farnham

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View to N on N. Kresson St. from bridge vicinity

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B-5174

Kresson St. Residential District

Baltimore City, MD

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View N on Janney St, from Fairmont St.

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Kresson St. Residential District

Baltimore City, MD

K. Farnham

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4400 block E. Lombard St., view to NW toward Kresson St.

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Kresson St. Residential District

Baltimore City, MD

K. Farnham

4/15/08

MD SHPO

4300 block E. Lombard St., view to NW

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Kresson St. Residential District  
Baltimore City, MD

K. Farrah

4/15/08

MD SHPO

E. Lombard St. at S. Janney St., view to NE

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B-5174

Kresson St. Residential District

Baltimore City, MD

K. Farnham

4/15/08

MD SHPO

4200 blk. E. Lombard St. at Jarney St, looking SW

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B-5174

Kresson St. Residential District

Baltimore City, MD

K. Farnham

10/2009

MD SHPO

Industrial pocket on S. Janney St. north of Lombard St.  
view to SE

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