

B-4921

Alley Houses

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 08-09-2011

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Survey No. B-4921

1. Name

Historic 2101 - 2123 Boyd Street
and / common

2. Location

street & number 2101 - 2123 Boyd 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

☐ 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.

The south side of the 2100 block of Boyd St. is comprised of four different groups of two-story, brick houses that were built between c. 1888 and c. 1900.

2101 – 2105 are a row of three Renaissance Revival-style houses with sheet metal cornices that probably date to c. 1900. They have been covered with formstone and all original details are obscured. They are three small rooms deep and each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roof is capped with a sheet metal cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by two end brackets with arched caps that rise slightly above the roofline. Although less than 12' wide, the first floor of these houses are three-bays-wide, with two tall, narrow windows. Door and window openings seem to have had flat lintels and the openings are filled with 1/1 sash or are boarded over. The houses sit on fairly high basements, lit by two single-light sashes, located under each of the two windows. Entrances are reached by four concrete steps.

2115 – 2119 are very similar Renaissance Revival-style houses that are three-bays-wide on both floors, despite being only 12' wide. Two retain their original brick facades, which were always painted, one has been covered with formstone. The sheet metal cornice consists of a crown molding set over a row of dentils and a plain frieze area. The door and window openings are especially tall and narrow and have segmentally arched brick lintels and brick sills. All windows are filled with 1/1 sash or are boarded over. The houses sit on fairly high basements, lit by two single-light sashes, located under each of the two windows. Entrances are reached by four concrete steps.

2107 – 2113 are a row four two-story, two-bay wide late Italianate-style brick houses with shed roofs and wooden scroll-sawn bracketed cornices built c.1888. The houses retain their original brick facades, which were always painted. They are constructed in running bond and are only two rooms deep, the kitchen being located in the tall basement story. Each house has a single hooded chimney located at the rear corner of the house. The shed roofs are capped by a continuous wooden cornice consisting of a crown molding supported by three long scroll-sawn brackets decorated with grooves, that connect to a lower molding strip. The frieze panel, which also serves as ventilation for the attic, is decorated with a row of arabesque-like shapes, created with a jig saw. Beneath it there is a deep, plain wood, lower frieze area. The tall, narrow window and door openings have flat wood lintels and sills. The original 4/4 sash survive in one house, 2111; the rest of the openings have been boarded over. Also at 2111, the original wooden, arched doorway enframing survives, with an arched single-light transom. No original doors survive. Three of the houses sit on high basements, lit by a tall four-light sash (at 2111). Each house is reached by six metal steps, set parallel to the facade. 2107 sits on a low basement, reached by two wooden steps.

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8. Significance

Period	Area of significance	check one & justify			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☒ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☒ social/	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian	
☒ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration	☐ philosophy	☐ theatre	
☐ 1900	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation	
		☐ invention		☐ other: specify	

Specific dates c. 1888 - 1900

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 their 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.

The houses are especially significant because of their proximity 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. A number of German-American owned breweries were also located in this section of the city. 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.

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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

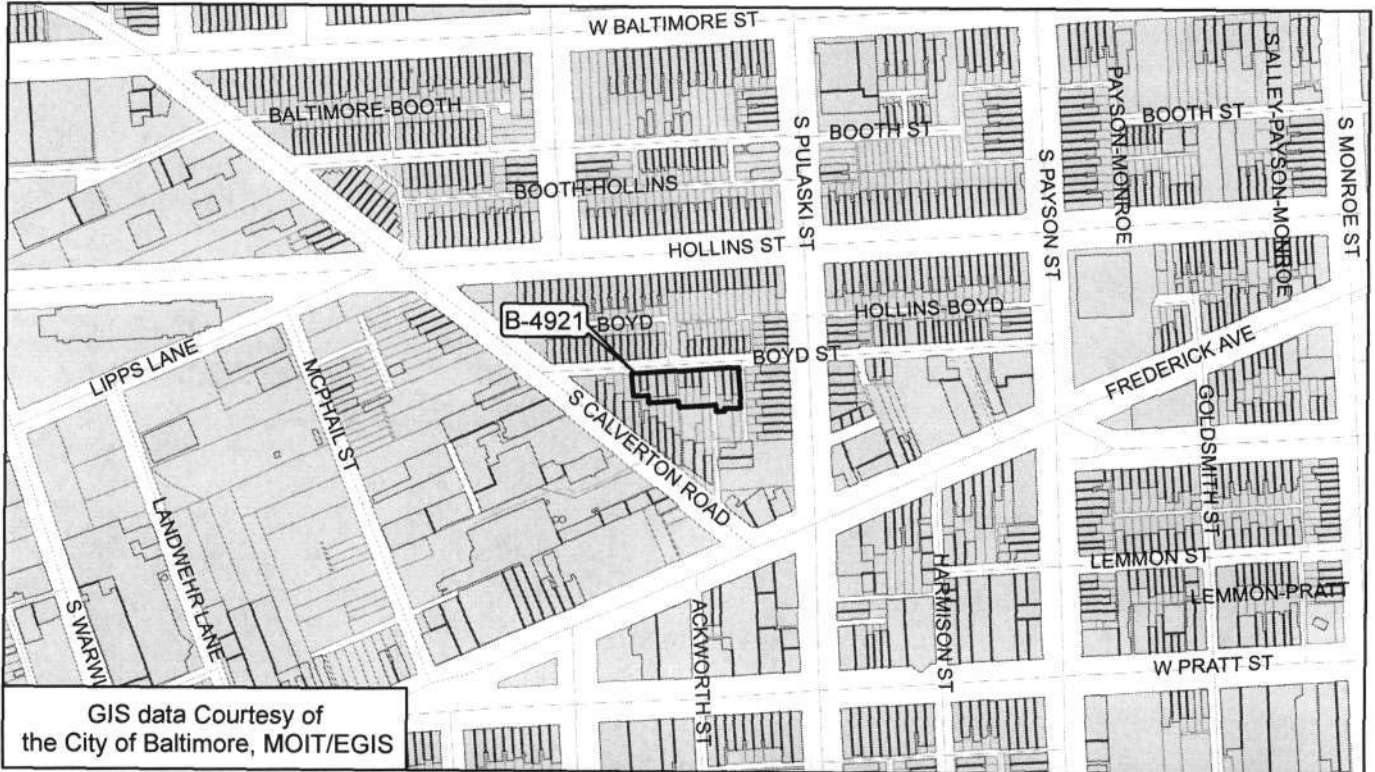
name / title	Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward	date	
Organization	The Alley House Project	telephone	
street & number	1306 Carrollton Ave.	state & zip code	Maryland 21204
city, town	Baltimore		

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-4921
2101-2123 Boyd Street
Block 0222, Lots 62-73
Baltimore City
Baltimore West Quad.





B-4921

2101-2123 Boyd St.

[2101-2105]

BACTO. HD

W. Nield

6100

MD SAPD

113



B-4921

2101-2123 Bay St.

[2107-2123]

BALTO, MD

W. Nield

6/00

MD SHPO

7/3



B-4921

2111 Boyd St.

BALTO. MD

W. Nield

6/00

MD SATO

3/3