

HARRY DAVIS BARBER SHOP
1404 Laurens Street
Baltimore
Baltimore ~~County~~ City
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1010

HABS
MD
4-BALT,
192-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
Philadelphia Support Office
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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HARRY DAVIS BARBER SHOP

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Location:

1404 Laurens Street, Baltimore (City),
Maryland

USGS Baltimore West, Maryland Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
18.358/500.4351/530

Significance:

The Harry Davis Barber Shop illustrates the changing character of the 19th century west Baltimore neighborhood currently known as Sandtown-Winchester as a residential building altered for commercial/residential use by the addition of a barber shop in front of the original facade.

Description:

The building is a two-story, three-bay brick structure with a storefront facade. The facade has a large single opening in the center, currently boarded, flanked by two solid panel doors topped by double light transoms. The storefront cornice is pressed metal. The facade brick is textured iron spot with raked joints. The second story windows are one over one wood sash with brick sills. The pressed metal main cornice is topped by three courses of green metal mission tile. Brick parapets bracket the tile. The barber shop commercial space is at ground level, fronting the original residence where the floor level is raised. Access to the rear portion of the building is via stairs from the shop level and through an enclosed hallway along the east side of the building. The interior of the barber shop has a pressed metal ceiling, but most of the other fixtures are missing. The space is filled with broken furniture and trash. A glazed upper panel in one of the doors to the hall is stenciled with the words "Entrance Waveing". The rear portion of the building and the upper floors were sectioned off by various means for use as individual rooms with shared kitchens and baths. These also are filled with debris, with little other than door and window moldings remaining from the original building. At the rear or north end of the lot is a one-story brick garage with double entry doors with 8-light upper panels.

History:

Built about 1870 as a residence set back from Laurens Street, the present facade and commercial space on the first floor was added in the mid-1920's, probably by Harry Davis, a black barber who had leased space at 1402 Laurens since 1918. Davis had lived at 1404 since 1920 and after 1926, also had his shop there, indicating that the front addition was probably added about 1927. He and his family continued to occupy the building until at least the mid-1960's. Over the years since then, additional rooms for renters were added piecemeal at the rear of the house on both floors. A storage room at the north end of the first floor contains signs and small furnishings such as a shoe shine stand. The building is currently unoccupied and scheduled for demolition for a housing project.

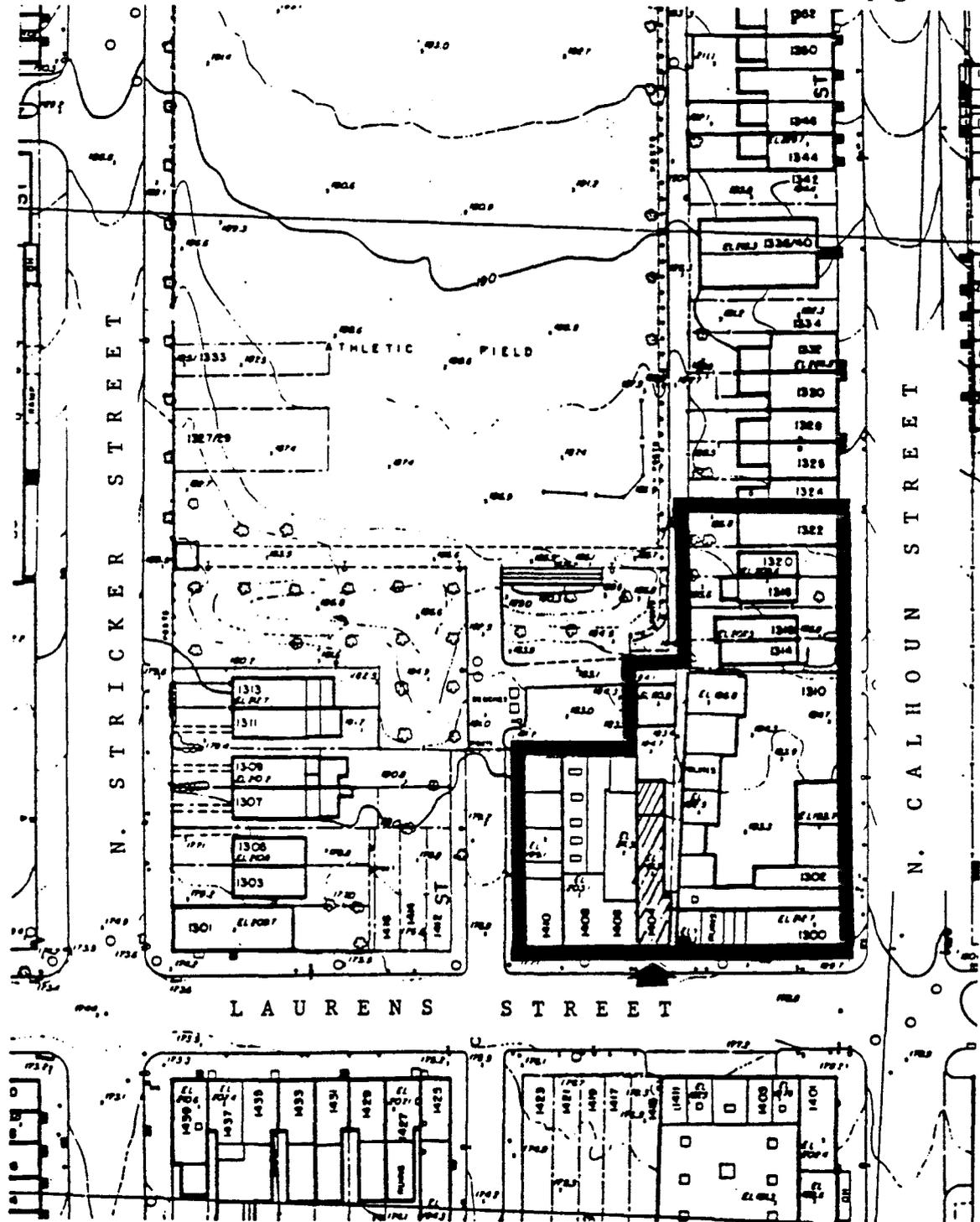
Sources:

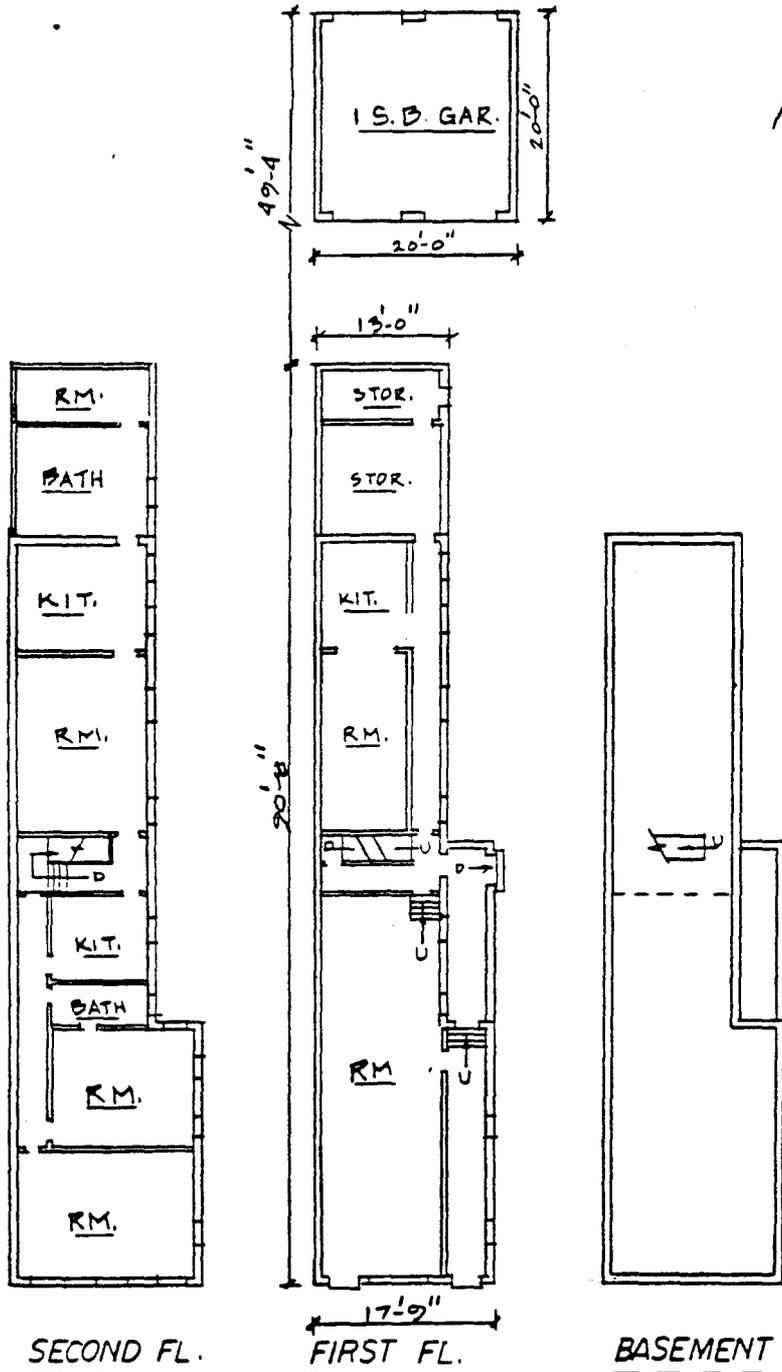
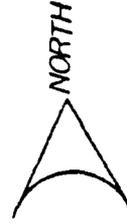
Land Records of Baltimore City;
Bromley's Atlas of Baltimore City, 1896;
Topographical Survey Commission Map of Baltimore, 1914;
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Baltimore, 1914
City Directories of Baltimore, 1870 - 1964

Historian:

Janet L. Davis
Baltimore City Commission for Historical and
Architectural Preservation
April 17, 1990

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