

A WALK
DOWN
WEST BALTIMORE
STREET

A WALK
DOWN
WEST BALTIMORE
STREET

A WALK
DOWN
WEST BALTIMORE
STREET

Intro



Walk Down West Baltimore Street features historical research and fieldwork on the 1000 to the 1500 blocks of West Baltimore Street. The final products include a public history zine and video recorded interviews debuting on Saturday, May 18 at the Lion Brothers Building. The project is a collaboration between two UMBC courses during spring 2019.

American Studies 422: Preserving Places, Making Spaces in Baltimore is an applied research course that addresses the importance of place to the diverse history and culture of Baltimore by developing innovative preservation and public humanities projects. We worked with Media & Communication Studies 484: Production Fellows, who recorded our interviews as part of the cultural documentation project.

AMST 422: (Prof. Nicole King) DeAndre Bright, (teaching assistant) Dawn Baskins (SOWK), Olivia Grimes (INDS), Zack Herd (AMST), Shadia Musa (AMST)

MCS 484: (Prof. Bill Shewbridge) Tony Cano, Adam Czarnecki, Daniel Eiskant, Christian Howe, Kenneth M'Balé

Baltimore Traces Fellows (alumni): Adam Droneburg (AMST) + Markele Cullins (VARTS, graphic designer for the zine)

Baltimore Traces is a project-based interdisciplinary teaching initiative, bringing faculty, students, and community members together to create media and public programming on Baltimore's changing neighborhoods.

For more see:

<https://baltimoretraces.umbc.edu>

This project was funded by the Hrabowski Innovation Grant, BreakingGround, and the CAHSS Grants for Pedagogy and Teaching



A Walk Down West Baltimore Street: A Celebration of a Street

You cannot separate the street from the people who built, inhabited, rebuilt, and sometimes abandoned the place. All places change. But the history of a street is really a collection of stories or glimpses and pieces of people's stories as they lived out their lives.

A classified ad in the Baltimore Afro-American newspaper from a woman in New York looking for her sister in Baltimore tells a story:

DO YOU KNOW HER !

I desire to know the whereabouts of my sister Mary C. Lewis, last known she was working in the county, but the letter was sent to 1326 West Baltimore street. I will give \$5.00 reward to any reliable person that know her and will send me right information as to her whereabouts. No attention paid whatever to postal cards.

ROSA BELLE LEWIS.
1m-no9. Brewster, N. Y.

This ad first appeared in the newspaper on November 9, 1901. On December 28, 1901 the reward increased from \$5 to \$10 and "Mary C. Lewis" was changed to "Mary Ellen Lewis" the wording of the ad remained the same until it disappeared after February of 1902.

We will never know if Rosa Belle Lewis ever found her sister Mary or why she would pay no attention to postal cards in the search for her. But we do have an inkling that Mary Lewis walked down West Baltimore Street.

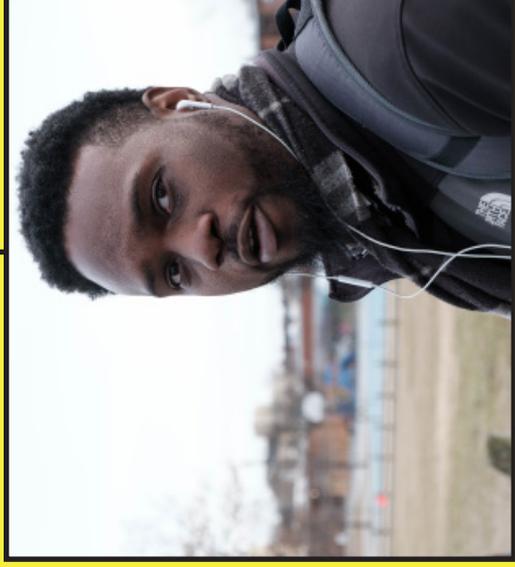
In this class, I teach my students how to search old newspapers, look at Sanborn maps, find deeds, etc. all in trying to put together a story of a place. But the glimpses of people's lives, especially the lives of everyday, working-class, and poor people, rarely make it into the historical record... unless there's tragedy. Crime, loss, and death are the main ways many ordinary people make it into the newspaper and then, like Mary Lewis, they may disappear from the historical record.

We apologize for what we get wrong. We are not the experts. Those who live and work in Southwest Baltimore are. The following pages have some thoughts on the history of West Baltimore Street as told to us by those we interviewed this semester. We've done our best to honor the stories of a few of the people who walked this street.

Thanks for reading our zine and coming to our event. And a special thanks to everyone who took the time to talk to us and share their stories this semester. It was a pleasure to walk this street with you all. The research is ongoing. If you have a story to share please let me know.

Dr. Nicole King
Associate Professor & Chair
Department of American Studies, UMBC
nking@umbc.edu
(410) 455-1457 (work)
(202) 345-6250 (cell)

STORIES OF A STREET:
“We are of great people.”



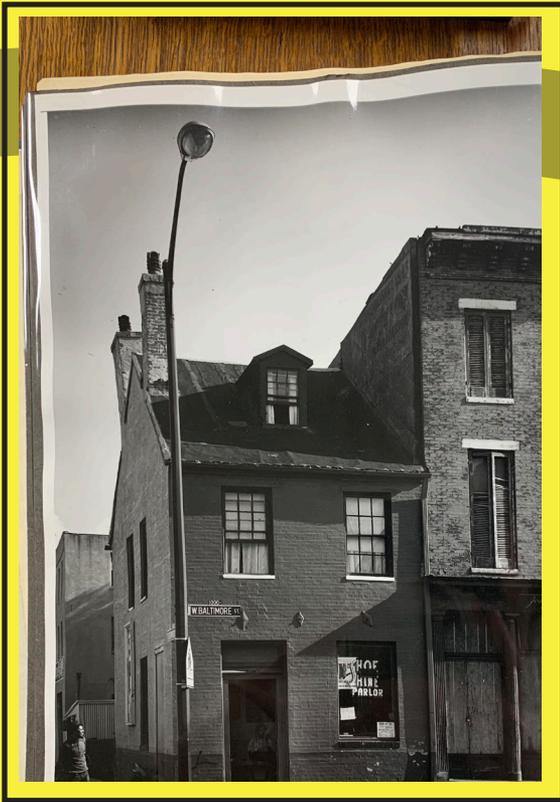
Being able to appreciate Baltimore history. I think my grandfather being a piece of the history, with the Arabber stable. I learned my grandmother, my mom's mom, she was actually the first female transportation company owner in Baltimore. So that's actually like two things to highlight, because she was an African-American and a female business owner, and this was in the 70s... So like, my grandmother being a part of Baltimore history, my grandfather being a part of Baltimore history, it built a sense of pride in myself. Like, "We are of great people."

--Curtis Eaddy

1000 BLOCK







The PAST of 1000 West Baltimore Street ...

On the corner at **W. 1000 Baltimore Street** was the *“barrel house”* of George C. S. Reus from 1898 until the 1960s. The Reus family were German American and had been in the booze business since the 1870s. According to a 1952 article in the Baltimore Sun by George G.S. Reus, Jr., a barrel house “was a saloon to which customers came with bottles, jugs, pitchers and even pans, and bought whisky and wine direct from big kegs that lined the walls.” According to Reus “consumption of whisky per person was very high” at the time... especially workers from the Mount Clare shops or the ice plant on Schroeder street. The barrel house would open at 5 in the morning and was filled all day.

The text and picture above are from the Department of Housing & Community Development “Poppleton Historic Study” from July 1975. Both homes from the early 19th century and the historic businesses like the George Reus barrel bar that once lined the block have now been torn down.

We begin the walking tour headed west on Baltimore Street and stop at the 1000 block...

On the southern (left) side of the street the odd number buildings have all been torn down (excluding a solitary arc structure that remains)... even though the 1975 study recommended saving and restoring the buildings as historically important.

On the northern (right) side of the street (even numbers) a public housing complex, Hollins Homes, was built in 1983

I Remember

That Vanished Institution Called The Barrel House

A BAR WAS THE "BARREL HOUSE" AND BAR KEPT BY GEORGE REUK, SR.—THE MAN OF RIGHT—AS IT LOOKED IN 1899.

BY ARBO, AS. REUK, JR.

I you're now young to remember the days before that our experiment called prohibition began, you'll probably still look a barrel house was some place where barrels were sold and used. But there are all plenty of old timers who, if a day's work in the 'n, will tell you different. A barrel house was a saloon, which customers came with their jugs, pitches and cans, and brought whiskey and tin glasses from big kegs that set the walls. My father ran an establishment at 1001 East Baltimore Street. I

whiskey from the barrel called the middleman. My father bought the whiskey directly from the distillers or blenders—in most the cases you may believe.

I mean by that, he bought confidence when the whiskey was made—and four years later, after it had been carefully aged, he moved in the confidence and got the whiskey, which, of course, was much more valuable. Considering that the barrel cost some thing like 25 cents a year when it was new and that he sold it for three times that

For Christmas, in 1899, Mr. Reuk decorated his Pal. Bruce Street establishment in this festive manner.

Present



Hollins House: How will Privatization of Public Housing Affect Residents of Southwest?

Despite the **1975 Poppleton Study** and its recommendation to save the historic structure along the 1000 block of West Baltimore Street, nearly 70 percent of the block has been town down. The entire northern part of 1000 that borders the Franklin Square neighborhood was torn down to make way for the Hollins House public housing complex that was completed and opened in 1983. **Hollins House** has 130 one-bedroom units and serves the city's elderly and disabled populations. Neighboring **Poe Homes** (800 W. Lexington St.) is the oldest surviving public housing complex in Baltimore. **Poe Homes** opened on the last day of 1940 after public housing was established in the city in 1937.

The future of the 10 Baltimore Street....

“We want change. We just want it to be inclusive and we want to be at the table,” Clarke said. “Even though we think it will do some good ... there is still resistance. There is still suspicion as to what [change] is all about.”

--Cecil Clarke, quoted in Natalie Sherman, “Common cause: Southwest Partnership aims to unite diverse neighborhoods to spur improvement, while fighting fatigue of past failed efforts,” Baltimore Sun, April 5, 2015

1000 block of West ...?



Cecil Clarke, a Gaithersburg-based real estate investor owns the row of remaining properties on the 1000 block of West Baltimore Street. According to a 2015 Baltimore Sun article on the founding of the Southwest Partnership, Clarke stated that the Commercial Property and Business Owners Association, which represents firms on West Baltimore Street, should have a stake in any plan calling for facade improvements, code enforcement, or targeted demolition. Clarke also supported the Poppleton \$58.6 million tax increment (TIF) bond for the New York-based La Cite housing development, telling a journalist, "The community is desperate for this project to see a new birth." Clarke recently sold the Lord Baltimore Theater (1110 W. Baltimore St.) to the Southwest Partnership, which plans to turn the historic theater into a community cultural arts center as part of the revival of West Baltimore Street.



In 2018, the dozen properties that Clarke owns on the 1000 block of V Street received facade improvement grants from the Baltimore Development Corporation. A beauty salon and a pharmacy have already moved into the storefronts and Clarke has renovated apartments above taking the block back to its original use where small independent businesses were located in storefronts along with residential space above.

Curtis Eaddy of the Southwest Partnership takes UMBC students on a tour of the 1000 block of Baltimore Street...

*he pauses in front of the
brightly painted
properties owned
by Cecil Clarke on the 1000 block.*



West Baltimore
ment
ne storefronts
historic roots
the streets and

tour of West

1100 BLOCK

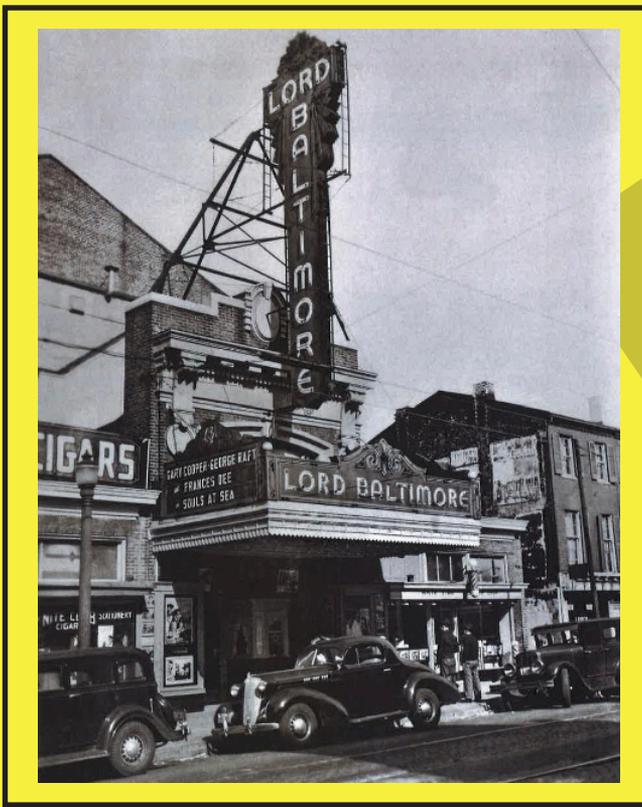






The 1100 block is connected to the city's long history in the medical and performing arts.

The Maryland Medical College was founded in 1898 at 1114-1120 W. Baltimore Street, which was previously the Newton Academy. The Maryland Medical College and National Temperance Hospital was founded by "dissenting members of the faculty" who left the Baltimore University School of Medicine. The Baltimore Sun reported, "The hospital will be run on strictly temperance principles, and no alcoholic drinks will be given the patients under any circumstances." The College was crowded and planned to move to a space attached to Franklin Square Hospital. However, by 1913 the American Medical Association gave the school a C rating for "colleges requiring a complete reorganization to make them acceptable," which led to its closure.



The Lord Baltimore Theater opened on November 24, 1913.

It had an ornamental brick façade, a 45-foot-wide stage with footlights, and a steeply sloped auditorium floor. When it opened, the Lord Baltimore was the largest theater in Baltimore outside the downtown theater district. By the 1930s, its owners added a neon marquee outfitted in the Calvert family arms. While the theater was being remodeled in 1941, the marquee fell and three persons narrowly escaped injury. The theater closed in mid-1970 and by 1973 was converted into a church. The Southwest Partnership purchased the building from Cecil Clarke to develop a community and arts space, much in the style of the successful conversion of the historic Patterson Theater into the Creative Alliance in East Baltimore.

What would you like to see in the New Lord Baltimore Theater?



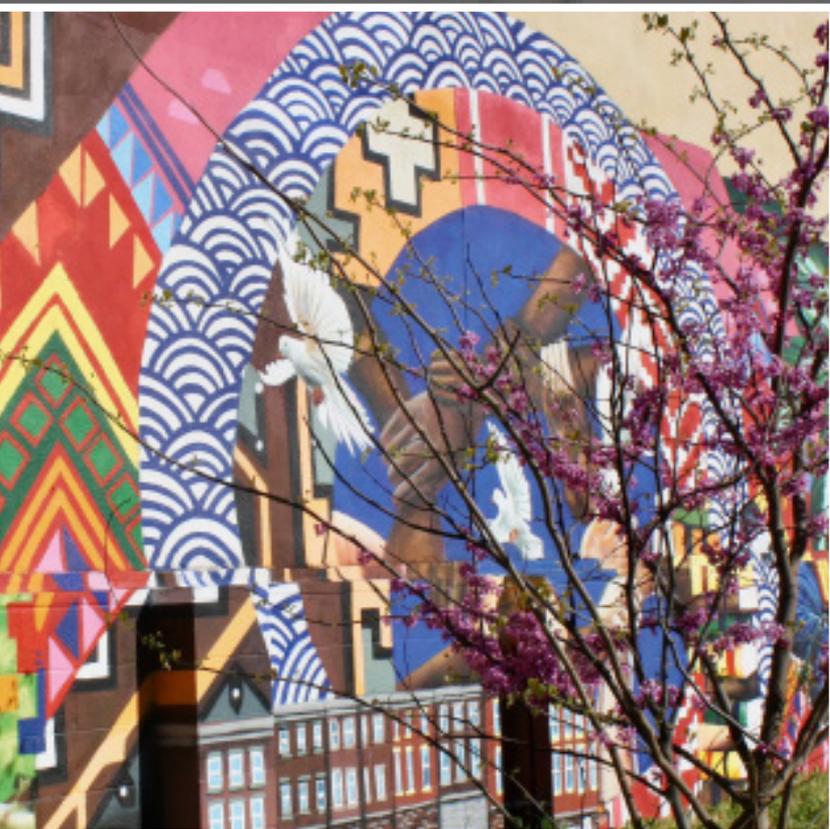
When I bought the Lord Baltimore about 12, 13 years ago... I started to do some research on the history. It started out as vaudeville and then it was converted into a movie house. And at that time, it was all white to begin with, and then it was integrated later. And then it became the Black movie theater because those were the people who were patronizing it. From an important historical point of view, it's one of the oldest movies houses in the city. And from the point of view of the Black experience, it has been a fundamental part of entertainment for the Black community in years gone by. And so, this is why at this point in time an effort has been launched with the help of Southwest Partnership under the leadership of Michael Seipp.

He has had the vision to realize that if we can bring back the Lord Baltimore... as a entertainment, as a training center, as a artist center, then it would help to stimulate, it's one of the largest buildings on West Baltimore Street. The idea is, that if we can do this block, the 10-hundred block, we do the 1100 block, the 1400 block and then the 1500 block, they are actively working on that now.

--Cecil Clarke

1200 BLOCK







The Mercantile Bank opened its doors at 1208 West Baltimore Street in 1893. Two years later in 1905 opened the new space at the corner of West Baltimore and West Lexington. The new building at 1201 West Baltimore Street was completed in 1907. In 1933 during the years of the Great Depression, the building was converted into the Carrollton Bank of Baltimore. In a 1979 article in the Baltimore Sun, the bank's presidents attributed their success to being a part of the community and their pride in its connection with its neighbors and community. The building was bought by a corporate bank. Today the building is one of the many historic storefronts on W. Baltimore St.

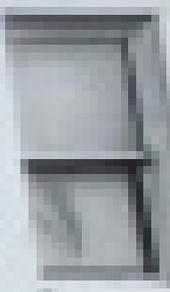


Baltimore Street in 1903. The bank grew and
corner of West Baltimore and Carrollton Street.
s made of white brick, granite, and limestone.
the bank was reorganized and renamed the
the Baltimore Sun, the past and current bank
the community as a local bank. The bank took
nities. The beloved local bank moved and then
is used for religious services like many of the

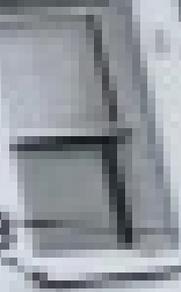
My dad would go to Oriole's Hardware. That was a place, a hardware store. Been there for forever. It was really convenient for my dad to go down there and get whatever he needed to help renovate the house.

--Brooks Long

GLASS



KEYS
MADE



JOINTS

TOOLS

HARDWARE



PAINTS



PAINTS

**ORIOLE
HARDWARE CO.**

SECTION
C
277
1921
1922
1923
1924
1925
1926
1927



In 2017, I hosted my own performance, it was a part of a Baltimore Ceasefire event, it was at the corner of Carey and Enoch, an open space there, public lot, and it was a very welcoming space. I got some support from neighbors, but I think because I was the only one and, “Hey everybody, let’s do something different!” So for me to come and gather an audience of over 500 people, so it wasn’t promoted. And just to see the response. Because we are we doing this? Is this something that we’re gonna

--Curtis Eaddy



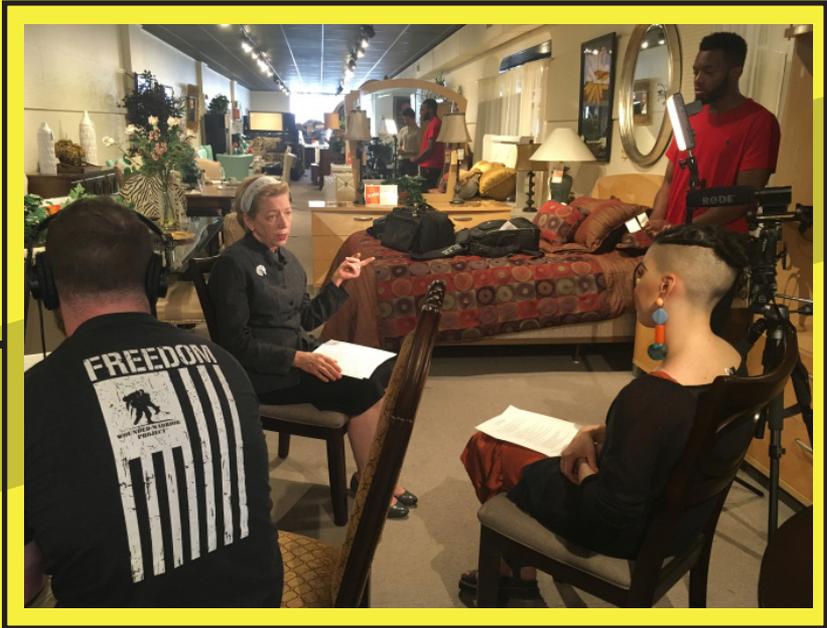
pop-up performance, for the Ceasefire. The
ey and Baltimore Street. They had a big grand
ming experience. As a community member, I
I pushed the envelope of this positive content
You know, a lot of people don't like change.
people, a lot of young people, it was a pop-up
business owners came out and they like, "Man,
be doing frequently?"

*Littlepages Furniture Store: The last
100 year business*

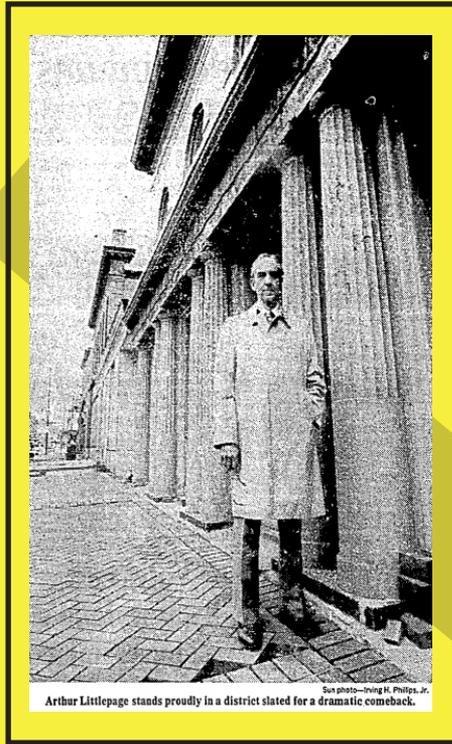
1317 West Baltimore Street

Well, what I would like you to realize is that we have a store in Baltimore on West Baltimore and we have thrived for 126 years in the same family. I think that's an important part of it. -- **Sarah Littlepage**

ast



remember is that a business
e Street managed to survive
ame ownership, of the same
nt story to tell. We're proud



The Littlepage family has been on West Baltimore Street for 126 years. The Littlepage’s furniture company was founded in 1893 on North Gilmore and West Baltimore Street by William T. Littlepage and his son. In the early 1900s, the company moved to Baltimore and Calhoun Street. In 1934, Arthur Littlepage, grandson of William T. Littlepage, joined the family’s furniture business, eventually taking over. Littlepage’s distinguished itself from other furniture stores in the city by selling unique and inexpensive pieces made for narrow Baltimore rowhomes. The store was known for its clothes trees and hall seats. According to The Baltimore Sun, “the hall seats, which became indispensable in Baltimore rowhouses with few closets, offered homeowners a place to store rubber boots and overshoes, and hooks for coats and hats.”

The company moved to 1317 West Baltimore Street in 1971. Arthur Littlepage was known as an active member of his community, preferring to interact with customers instead of sitting behind a desk. He ran the store until his death in 1999. The store is now run by David and Sarah Littlepage, Arthur's children. Littlepage's is currently open but plans to close in the next year and the Southwest Partnership has bought the building.

Open YOUR Charge Account at

Littlepage's

BIG UPTOWN STORE
Baltimore & Calhoun

**Just What You Want
---AND FOR LESS**
AT THE

Big Uptown Store

Sole Agents for the **Te-Be-De**

4-Piece Special Bed-Room Suite, \$64.75
Choice of Mahogany Finish or Satin Walnut



\$64.75

This REED RUNABOUT \$17.75
The beautiful reed is made of woven and has wood and chrome in the top, a large amount of seat, body is chrome-plated on steel springs and finished in a beautiful chrome.



\$17.75

Solid Oak Porch Swing \$1.98



\$1.98

This All Grass Stroller \$5.79



\$5.79

Solid Oak Kitchen Dresser \$8.75
With Glass Doors
This attractive dresser is made of solid oak and has a beautiful finish. It has two drawers and two doors with glass fronts. It is a beautiful addition to any kitchen.



\$8.75

Special Reductions on Rhinelanders Refrigerators



\$6.98 **\$11.85** **\$14.75** **\$22.75**

774 61800 - 4121, COUNTRYS



Sarah Little Page and Sho



adia Musa

1320 West Baltimore Street

Gelato & Family Fun

It was a lot of mixed use up and down
even the old gelato factory was moving
going there, playing miniature golf
city, you know? To have little space
for families just to come.

--Curtis Eaddy



own West Baltimore Street,
made into like a Jeeper's. So
olf, you don't get that in the
ces for community things or

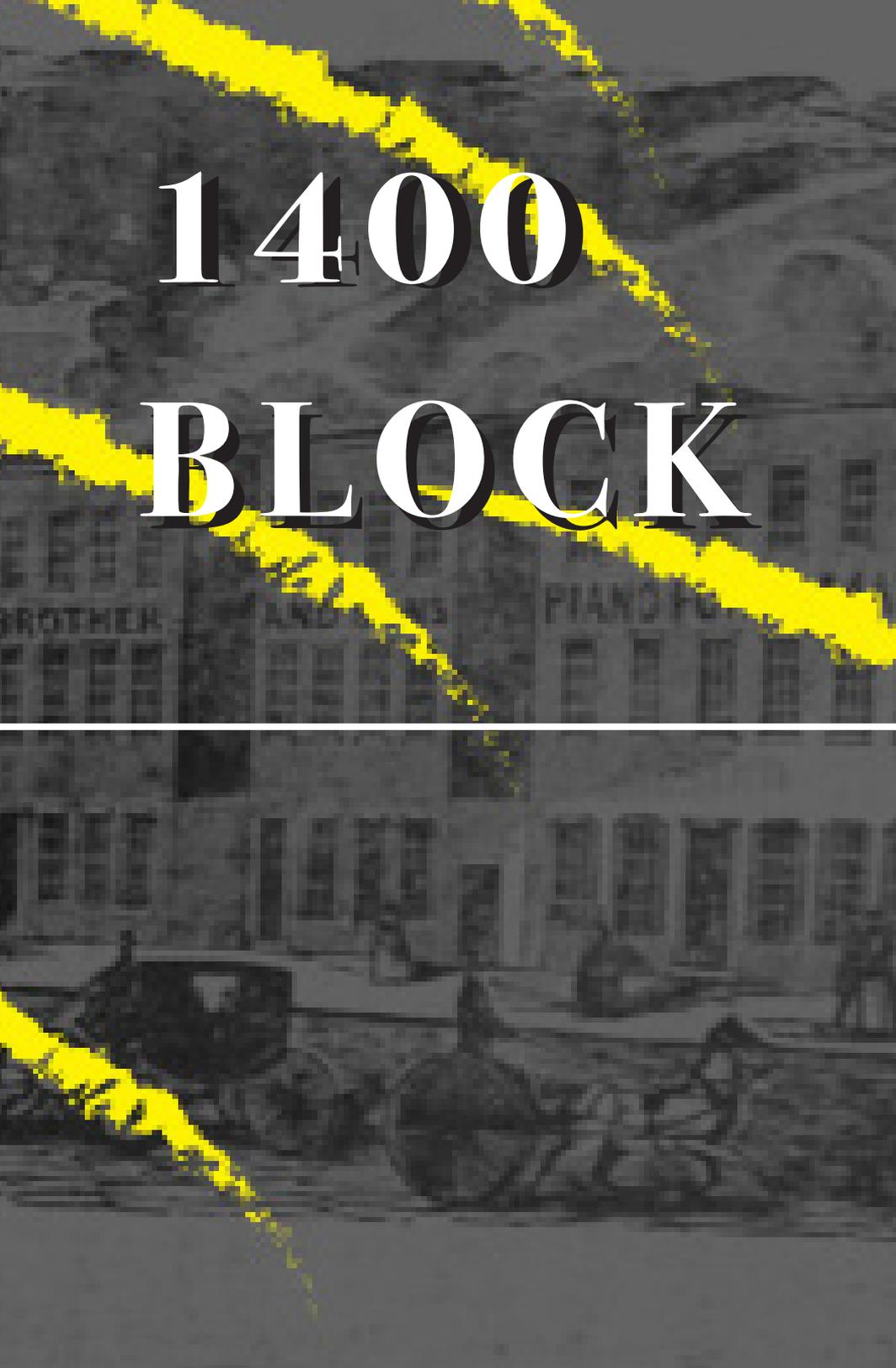


Aromi d'Italia

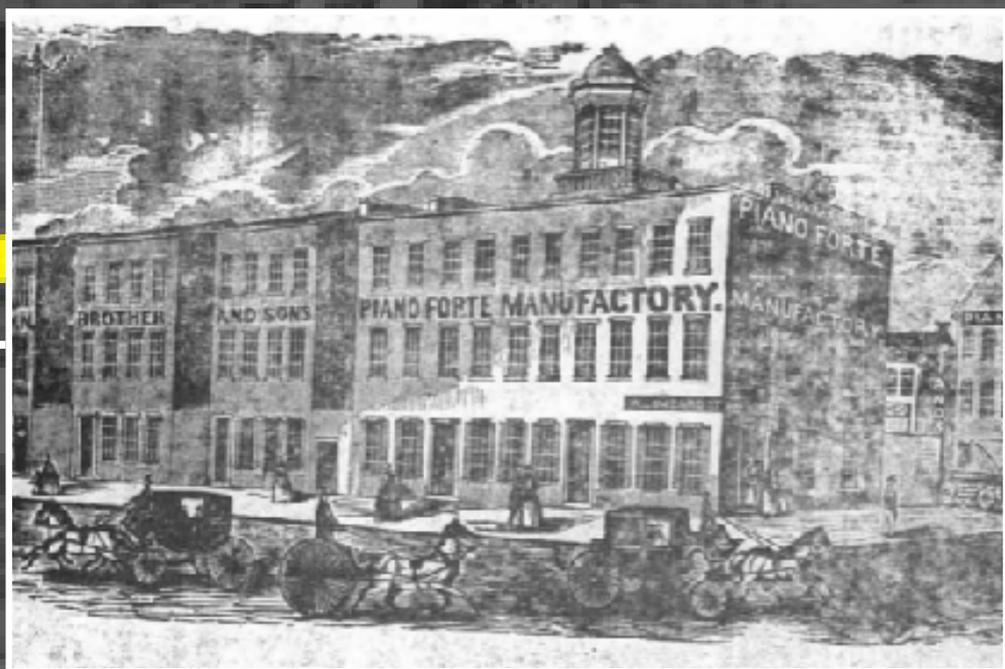
A large warehouse space sits on the corner of West Baltimore Street and Calhoun Street. From the street, you can see big green gates. If you look closely, you can see a faint image the Aromi D'Italia logo next to the green door. The building was constructed in 1953, but in the early 2000s, it would become home to a distribution center for gelato. In 1998, the gelato company Aromi D'Italia was founded by Armenian/Italian immigrant Boris Ghazarian. Ghazarian purchased 1320 West Baltimore Street for his distribution warehouse. After Aromi D'Italia closed its doors, the warehouse on 1320 West Baltimore Street became "The Works Family Fun Center," a Jeoper's like play house for kids. The center had arcade games, birthday party rooms, bumper cars, mini bowling, and much more. The business closed in 2015 and the warehouse has been vacant ever since.



What would you like
to see for kids on W.
Baltimore St.?



1400 BLOCK



The 1400 Block...

“Baltimore was a piano town.”

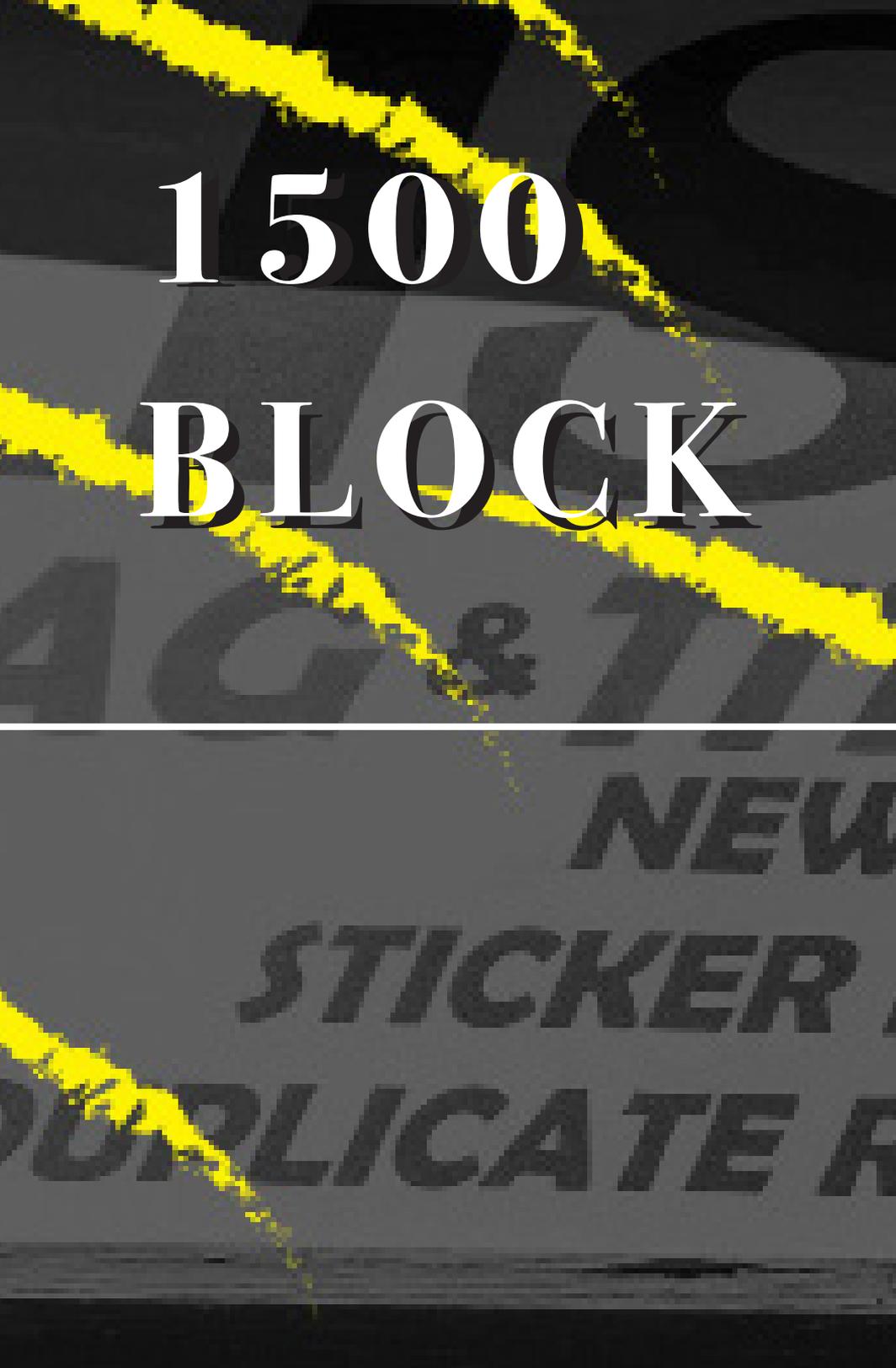
In the late 1890s, Albert. G Schumacher, a Baltimore native of German descent, operated an “artistic piano and organ tuner” service. He tuned pianos (which cost \$1), repaired all types of pianos, and did piano inspections for potential buyers. He operated out of several locations on West Baltimore Street. Then in 1911, he opened a storefront at 1421 and 1423 W. Baltimore. He was then able to sell pianos and organs in addition to his other services. In more recent history, Sam Blackman, a Baltimore native, owned and operated Blackman’s Piano Company on the 1400 block of West Baltimore Street. The store opened in 1967 and stayed in operation for over 33 years. Blackman was known for offering pianos at affordable prices, making piano purchases accessible to many people. In a 1998 Baltimore Sun interview, Blackman reminisced that at one time there were five piano stores within a few blocks on West Baltimore Street. Pianos were popular purchases after World War II until the 1980s when electronic keyboards became popular. Today Tony King runs Tony’s Treasure Chest at 1429-31 W. Baltimore St. where he advertises “Not Junk... The BEST Junk” and there’s always something interesting... maybe even a piano or keyboard.



“I think it needs to be like a supermarket around here, fresh fruits, vegetables and juice, things that are healthy.” --Lisa Gee, business owner at 1514 W. Baltimore St.

Several grocery stores were once on the 1400 block of West Baltimore at the turn of the twentieth century. One prominent store was the Knatz and Son Grocery, which operated for over 38 years at 1417 West Baltimore. The founder, Phili Knatz Sr., immigrated as a young man from Germany in 1853. A few years later he opened his grocery store at 1417 and eventually his sons joined him in running the family business. After his death, his sons continued the business, with his son Elmer handling the day to day transactions. The Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, commonly called The A&P, also had a grocery store on the block at 1401 West Baltimore Street in the early 1900s. A&P was the country's largest commercial grocery chain throughout most of the twentieth century. The Knoop brothers owned a grocery store on the 1500 block.

Could a grocery store return to West Baltimore Street?

A diagonal strip of yellow caution tape with a black border and the word 'CAUTION' printed in black, runs from the top-left to the bottom-right across the entire image. The background is a dark grey with faint, large, bold letters and symbols like 'S', '4', 'G', '&', '7', 'NEW', 'STICKER', and 'DUPLICATE R' scattered across it.

1500 BLOCK



RENEWAL
REGISTRATION

1525-1527

W. Baltimore Street: The Three Germans

The Knoop brothers were three melancholy Germans who kept a grocery-store at the northeast corner of Baltimore and Gilmor streets, opposite Thiernau's. It was a dirty place, and we never patronized it, but my brother Charlie and I often lifted apples, sweet potatoes, turnips, etc., from the baskets which stood outside. The Knoops made money, invested it in the coal business, and died rich. In my boyhood only one of them was married. When he died his widow married one of his brothers. —H.L. Menken, *Happy Days*, 1880-1892



Past

John Knoop built a “handsome store and dwelling” of three stories which was made of pressed brick at the northeast corner of Gilmor and West Baltimore Streets in the late 1800s. The oldest brother, John died in 1902 he left most of his estate to his slightly younger brother George Knoop. The third brother, Allmer Knoop was a “well known grocer” in West Baltimore and “beloved husband” of Frieda Knoop. When Allmer died his brother George married his widow. George and Frieda Knoop moved, along with many other successful German Americans in West Baltimore to Baltimore County, where George died of a heart attack in 1914.

According to deed records in 1949 the U.S. seized the Knoop property on West Baltimore Street as the “owners were residents of Germany and therefore they were the nationals of a designated enemy country.” The post-World War II era began a period of decline along Baltimore Street due to a host of trends, such as the rise of the suburbs, white flight, car ownership, and road development.



Tony's Treasure Chest

Not Junk...The **BEST** Junk

Open 10am – 6pm

Gifts

Tony King

Pawn

(443) 413-1778

Consignment

1429-31 W. Baltimore Street

Moving & Hauling

Baltimore, MD 21223



Have you ever walked past the tiny house which sits at 1504 West Baltimore Street? The Malachi Mills House was built in 1843 and is one of the last wood frame houses in West Baltimore. Malachi Mills (1802-1886) was an African American carpenter, perhaps building his own home. Mills lived and worked with his family in Southwest Baltimore during the 19th century. The Malachi Mills House is a symbol of the long and important history of African Americans on West Baltimore Street.

The future of the 15 Baltimore Street....

The Capitol Theater was built in 1921. The original marquee was replaced in the late 1930s with a neon sign that featured large images of the Capitol dome. In the 1964 the theater became vacant. In November 1968 the Baltimore Sun ran a story about the United Western Front's efforts to buy the theater and turn it into a community center focused on recreation and job training. Neyland Vaughn was the head of the UWF, "a militant black organization" serving several neighborhood groups in the Southwest.

The UWF worked with a group of designers from the University of Maryland School of Architecture to re-envisioned the theater as a possible space for co-operative businesses, recreation, and educational for the neighborhood.

However, there were tensions between the UWF and predominantly white groups coming into the neighborhood. Vaughn explains:

500 block of West ...?

“We don’t want planners comin’ in here tellin’ us what we want. We know what we want. We’re planners too. We want City Hall to help us with our plans. We’ll buy up the houses and fix ‘em ourselves if that’s what it takes. We don’t want conflict. We just want to be left alone to run our program.”



The community space never happened for complicated reasons. By 1973 the marquee was removed and The Capital was sold and converted into a plastics factory and then a warehouse. The building was recently purchased by the Southwest Partnership.



The plan of the United Western Front for the Lippincott Theatre, drawn up by University of Maryland architects.

The Changing City Advocates For Baltimore: United Western Front Volunteer Planners And Architects Helping Militant Group With Project

By JAMES D. DILTS

IT IS the bed, the main body, the function of the United Western Front to have a multi-purpose building," says Vaughn. "We can't take no sticks in no statement from down there (City Hall). From now on they get all the pressure, fire and hell we can put on 'em."

Vaughn admits to being somewhat "outraged" as he puts it. There is an implied threat in what he says, and yet his area of West Baltimore was relatively untouched by the April riots in part, he says, to the activities of the United Western Front in cooling the situation.

Other Projects

Encouraged by their partial success with the vacant street playground, the UWF took on other projects. A rat control program for the area, new vapor lights for the streets. Last July they applied to the Urban Commission of the Catholic Archdiocese for funds. They again became the main one of developing the Capitol Theater where "in act as a center to establish small businesses; to develop coops and credit unions; to support efforts of welfare groups; to move the city to action on vacant, city-owned properties; to improve and initiate new channels of communications between the community and city agencies; and to develop local leadership."

The results was a \$100,000 grant. At Echo House, a community center in West Baltimore and planners and architects from the University of Maryland school of architecture had begun dropping in to help them draw up their plans. Jim Hickey, a VISTA volunteer who is working with the UWF and Robert C. Wood, another VISTA, were a street-city architecture student at the University of Maryland, aided in designing the vacant street playground and then turned their energies to the Capitol Theater.

"The UWF produced a soundside film with photographs taken by architects and neighborhood people and a sound track put together by Vaughn and Bob Wood consisting of comments recorded on the street and in shops superimposed over music by the Temptations and Smokey Robinson and the Miracles. It is a down-home production."

The pictures show children playing in a trash-strewn alley and in back lots among abandoned automobiles. Vaughn is quoted to the effect that the community is "lacking in social justice." The particular urgency, "We want to stop the people from moving out to Liberty Heights avenue. To do that, we got to have something for the people to stop for." The film has been shown effectively, with drawings and models prepared by the architecture students. In Urban America, banks and neighborhood groups.

Asking Price For Theater

Negotiations for the theater have been dragging on the air. It Paul Rome of the University of Maryland says he got \$200,000 for the building (it's solidly built and air-conditioned) but would sell it to a group like the UWF for \$80,000. The United Western Front says he was asking \$400,000 for the building. Rome says he found they had some foundation stones. Then the area's Model Cities community center decided that the theater was admirably suited for their purposes. (So have been other groups, one of which wants it for a church, the other for a skating rink.)

There follows a brief but intense struggle which has now evidently been resolved in favor of the United Western Front. "By force," says Vaughn matter of factly. "The greater the numbers, the greater the chance." Meanwhile, the UWF wants to use some of the \$100,000 grant to buy and rehabilitate seven shanties on Bruce street. The interiors would be renovated by vocational high school students and neighborhood residents in on-the-job training programs in plumbing and electrical work.

Vaughn himself is a former vocational student from Margardale who has had

experience in on-the-job training. Two years ago, working full time as an electrician, he was injured in an industrial accident; he was burned by 620 volts of direct current, fortunately of low amperage. Partially immobilized and casting about for something to do after the accident, he came up with the United Western Front.

Street Leader

Vaughn exemplifies the type of street leader that advocates planners can work well with, for he understands the community and can mobilize its forces. For example, the owner of a local market has having trouble with left-handed, around 1000 and was starting to quit some merchandise. Vaughn got the left-handed guy to go them out to the park to play football if he would put up some money to buy equipment. "We had to go to do business that way but . . ." (The owner has to get them up with the equipment but the kids are playing football anyway.) The UWF turned out a substantial vote for the market and the 20th and 21st wards of their district in the primary they campaigned.

The University of Maryland advocate who has been working most closely with Vaughn is Bob Wood from Buffalo, He joined VISTA, was assigned to Tobey town, a small community in Montgomery county where he helped set up a rent-to-own housing program and where he met Dick Eckstrom, an architect from nearby Potomac. Mr. Eckstrom, who is an associate professor of architecture at the University of Maryland, got him interested in the school.

He had just started last fall when Mr. Wood enrolled. Under the direction of Dean John William Hill and with such enlightened architects as Mr. Eckstrom and John Willard, who designed West Aframe but housing for Restriction City on the staff, the school is embarked on an ambitious program of advocate work.

"A lot of things in the time we're in say that students ought to be involved in the community. Students all over the world are saying that the university ought to be involved in the community, that it should be activist as well as academic," says Dean Hill. "Everybody recognizes the problem. We have a crisis situation in cities and communities around the world. There's no formal body of ideas to transmit to students. Everywhere here's how you solve the problems of the cities. One way of learning about it would be to involve students in a heuristic motion."

Students Meet Situation

"The center of a architectural school is the design studio. The students' contact problems made up by professors and describe architectural solutions. Most of the problems are abstract and sometimes they're fairly ridiculous. We'd like to have exercises in which students are brought into contact with actual problems, and we'd like the problems to result in something tangible."

"They have," a four core student, designed and built by University of Maryland students (with community help) additions in Scotland and on his own. Travis Travell, small towns like Tobey town in Montgomery county. These are not solid structures to be sure but says Dean Hill, "What the students get out of it is the experience of being involved in the building." The learning process, both for the advocates and their community clients, is fully as important as the buildings.

There have been problems of course. The CEO was unwilling to make a concession to Travell (hence the possible need for his shelters) but the project fell through and so the shelters are just standing there.

Another problem that will crop up increasingly in the future is where advocacy costs and more direct action costs. "We chose many communities," says Dean Hill, "because they're relatively free of advocacy costs. We've had advocacy problems when advocacy

comes confrontation politics." ("I draw the line," says Bob Wood. "I'm a technician, not a community organizer.")

An Effect On Systems

Other advocates disagree. Michael J. Maser, chief of the CEO's housing branch for its community action programs told James Britton of the American Institute of Architects: "An advocacy system is not in the first instance oriented toward production. Its purpose is not to produce goods for the poor—jobs, houses, or what have you—but to affect the system which produces these goods."

Mr. Maser's predecessor at OEO was Edward Grant, now assistant director of the Baltimore's Model Cities program. Since June, Mr. Grant has been meeting with representatives of the local planning and architectural professions with the hope of setting up a community design center on the order of those in Philadelphia and San Francisco. The CEO's housing branch projects and coordinate advocates effort.

The Baltimore Chapter of the A.I.A.

An organization that in the past has seldom been accused of conservatism, the Baltimore chapter of the American Institute of Architects, which has a membership of 1,000, is now a Model City.

"They came in about a month ago with a proposal," said Mr. Grant. "It was not too ambitious. It amounted to a modest proposal to set up a center for a secretary, etc. It doesn't address itself to the need and scope of what's to be done." Mr. Grant wanted a board for the center made up of community people. The architects wanted one made up of professionals. "We haven't talked since."

Two Groups Disagree

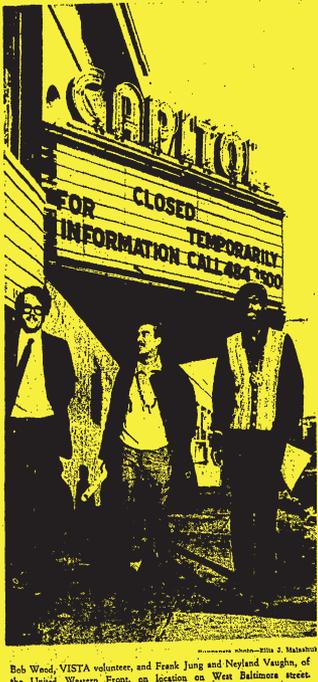
"It got involved with all sorts of check politics," said Mr. Grant. "I think they'd go ahead with the project if they should be so advised by a director for it but it's not advocacy planning."

Actually, about fifteen younger members of the local A.I.A. have for some time been acting as advocates with neighborhood groups like the United Western Front. So the work goes on in the quiet and scope of what's to be done in the ghetto where suspicion of white planners from downtown is intense. "They've got a good idea about the movements in their neighborhood when they're out there," says Vaughn. "The question now is whether society's ways and urban renewal" demands a young advocate.

"We do want planners' come in here tellin' us what we want," says Vaughn. "We know what we want. We want City Hall to help us with our plans. We'll buy up the land and build our own houses. We'll build it takes. We won't wait off. We just want to be left alone to run our own thing."

But such fierce pride as that of "we do want planners' come in here tellin' us what we want," says Vaughn. "We know what we want. We want City Hall to help us with our plans. We'll buy up the land and build our own houses. We'll build it takes. We won't wait off. We just want to be left alone to run our own thing."

But such fierce pride as that of "we do want planners' come in here tellin' us what we want," says Vaughn. "We know what we want. We want City Hall to help us with our plans. We'll buy up the land and build our own houses. We'll build it takes. We won't wait off. We just want to be left alone to run our own thing."



Bob Wood, VISTA volunteers, and Frank Jung and Neyland Vaughn, of the United Western Front, on location on West Baltimore street.

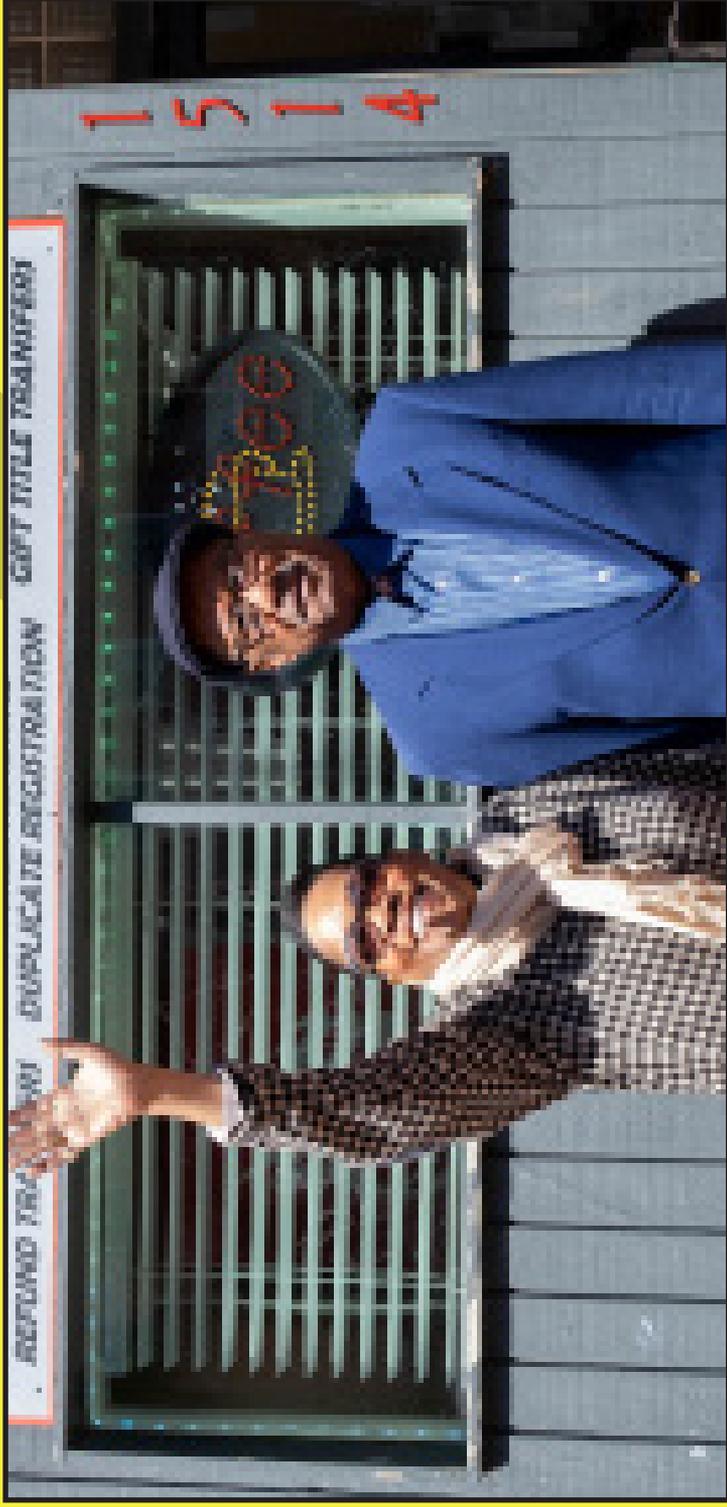
**Lisa Gee and Lonnie Coombs,
business owners on the 1500
block discuss what they
would like to see on the 1500
block...**

And that's what I think, housing for the homeless, more things for kids, a nice market with some healthy food. Mr. Lonnie was talking about some high-end retail stores. I don't know about that because most of the folks around here are first of the month people. They have money, first of the month, and then around the 10th, everybody's struggling, business owners as well.

--Lisa Gee

You could get some good investors to say well look, let's put an apartment place in here, and let's charge them \$1300 a month, and the neighborhood would automatically change. Not saying that you would push the low income people out, but you could mingle these two groups of people could actually mingle together, the low income and the high income people. They can mingle. And that's my thing.

--Loonie Coombs



Lisa Gee and Lonnie Coombs

I'll be on Baltimore Street until the end. And my undertaking is right up the street, so he'll come right here and pick me up, he don't have far to go. Come here, pick up my body, and just take me on up the street. Because I just love this area. And I just want to be a part of the change. I want to be a part of the change that's going to come in this particular block.

--Lonnie Coombs

We're hard workers. We're hard workers and we're here everyday. We're here everyday. We're committed to what we do. And that's another thing a lot of the kids around here have learned by watching us. We're here everyday. So that's the one thing I'd like for you to take with you.

--Lisa Gee

THOUGHTS ON

This area has a history, and it has people here that believe in it and is that this is a place that has been definitely be in better ones. The that are unfortunate that happen happen in other places in the world. That's unfortunate, but beauty of the place and its people

--Brooks Long

CHANGE

as a future. There are a lot of
see the long game of it. Which
en in worse situations and will
re are things that happen here
in other places in the city, that
ountry, and other places in the
it doesn't take away from the
e.

Many thanks to those we interviewed:

Lisa Gee & Lonnie Coombs:
1514 W. Baltimore St.

Curtis Eaddy: (April 2) grew up in
works in the Southwest

Brooks Long: (April 9) local
Franklin Square

Cecil Clarke: (April 16) real
property owner on W. Baltimore

Sarah Littlepage: (April 23)
established 1893, with her brother

erviewed this semester:

(March 26) business owners,

up in Poppleton and still

musician who grew up in

estate developer, major
ore St.

runs Littlepage's furniture,
rother David

