

Press Release 02/22/2022

Contact: Sonia Eaddy (Poppleton resident and organizer)
Nicole King, Ph.D. (American Studies, UMBC)

Email: soniaeaddy@gmail.com and nking@umbc.edu

Call/Text: Sonia (443) 520-5181 and Nicole (202) 345-6250

Twitter: @organizepopple1

Instagram: @organizepoppleton

Website: <https://baltimoretraces.umbc.edu/poppleton/>

Save Our Block: Poppleton Filmfest + Info Session

Saturday, April 2, 2022 at 10am The Charles Theater - 1711 N Charles Street

to build support for the

CHAP Local Historic District in Poppleton Hearing - April 12, 2022 at 1pm (virtual)

*Join Poppleton residents, preservationists, and affordable housing advocates
as we call on Baltimore City to preserve the Eaddy & Sarah Ann Street homes in Poppleton*

Black people are being displaced from their homes in Poppleton for a long-stalled redevelopment deal that began in 2004. We demand the City of Baltimore stop eminent domain abuse and preserve the Eaddy and Sarah Ann Street homes. Designating the Eaddy and Sarah Ann Streets homes as a historic district could preserve a piece of the Black history and culture in West Baltimore.

The mayor has recently expressed a commitment to “resetting” the conversation around redevelopment in Poppleton, but the proof of the city’s desire to preserve Black history and Black neighborhoods will come with the CHAP designation of a historic district in April that includes the Eaddy family home.

In advance of the April 12 CHAP hearing, we are hosting a Poppleton film festival Saturday, April 2 at 10am at The Charles Theater to share this story of development with displacement and what the public can do to stand with the Eaddy family, preservationists, and affordable housing advocates to preserve and SAVE OUR BLOCK and stop the abuse of eminent domain—taking private property for a public use. We must stop the harm and trauma done to Black neighborhoods in Baltimore now.

The Sarah Ann Street alley houses (built in 1870) provided affordable housing for Black people in the period right after the Civil War while the larger three-story Italianate row house on 319 N. Carrollton Avenue (built in 1871) demonstrates the perseverance and upward mobility of Black homeowners in the early 20th century. From the beginning of the 2006 development agreement the City signed with the NYC developers La Cité, the Sarah Ann Street alley houses were listed as homes that were to be preserved and rehabilitated for homeownership. Now sixteen years later, the developer is trying to change the agreement. But even if the Sarah Ann Street homes are preserved, the historic picture would not be complete without the Eaddy house on Carrollton Avenue, which adds to the important architectural and social significance of the rare surviving row of homes representing Black homeownership in Poppleton and West Baltimore.

Due to demolition for redevelopment of a 14 acre parcel of land in Poppleton, this block is one of the only remaining contiguous rows of homes of this diverse type and character in solid condition in Poppleton. The uninterrupted group of a dozen row and alley houses beginning on 319 N. Carrollton Avenue and ending at 1102 Sarah Ann Street provides a significant

representation of the under-documented Black history and homeownership in Southwest Baltimore spanning more than 150 years.

Alley houses are an endangered architectural form, and Sarah Ann offers a rare example of affordable housing for Black residents from 1870 until 2021, when the City displaced numerous residents—many who had been on this block for over 20 years—from their homes. We must preserve these homes in place with the residents in them. The Eaddy family has owned their home for three decades. Sonia Eaddy has been fighting to save her home from development for nearly 20 years. Residents remain in Sarah Ann Street. These homes are part of Baltimore's Black history.

The home at 319 N. Carrollton Avenue was built in 1871 by local carpenter George Mallonee, and was typical of many rowhouses built on speculation for house-hungry White Baltimoreans—Black Baltimoreans often being denied homeownership options in post-Civil War Baltimore and for decades beyond.

[J. Thomas Scharf](#), who fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War and is known for his histories of Baltimore, was 319 N. Carrollton's first owner. Scharf's ownership was short-lived, which became a pattern over the next decade as the property changed hands several times. However, since 1882, 319 N. Carrollton stabilized and has been owned by only four families (some of whom rented it out at various times). And since 1928 (for 94 years), 319 N. Carrollton Ave. has been home to two Black families, the Sewells and then the Waugh/Eaddys.

Donald "China" Waugh grew up and still lives in Poppleton. He was one of the early arabbers at the Carlton Street stable. He is featured in Roland Freeman's iconic book *The Arabbers of Baltimore* (1989) among other research on Baltimore arabbers. This personal history deepens the significance of 319 N. Carrollton. Also, Waugh purchased the home to build generational wealth—which was often denied to Black homeowners throughout U.S. history due to redlining and racist lending practices.

Waugh passed down the home to his daughter Sonia and her husband Curtis Eaddy. Curtis Eaddy Sr. is a small business owner and Pastor. He has been the Senior volunteer Pastor at the Baltimore City Penitentiary (MTC) for well over 20 years. Sonia Eaddy is a dedicated community volunteer and caregiver. Sonia and Curtis Eaddy, Sr. raised their five children and now host their many grandchildren in their rowhouse, which has been meticulously restored and maintains its historical integrity. The Eaddy family rebuilt and restored their home after a fire in 2012 with City permits and want to stay and continue the work to build a better future for Poppleton and West Baltimore.

The Eaddy family are fighting to save their home while waiting on the appeal on the condemnation case *Mayor And City Council of Baltimore vs Curtis Eaddy, et al.* The City is taking their home using eminent domain, the right of a government or its agent to take private property for public use. But here the "public use" is a private development. Baltimore is in danger of losing protected historic properties and the homes of Black legacy residents, the very people Mayor Brandon Scott and his administration have [vowed to keep in the City](#).

We are hosting a Poppleton film festival on April 2 to share this story of development with displacement and what the public can do to stand with the Eaddy family, preservationists, and affordable housing advocates to preserve and SAVE OUR BLOCK and stop the abuse of eminent domain to take Black family's homes and ability to build wealth. We must stop the harm to Black neighborhoods now. [#BlackNeighborhoodsMatter](#)

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This is a brief overview of the extensive historical research performed by Dr. Mary Ellen Hayward, Dean Krimmel of Creative Museum Services, and Dr. Nicole King (Department of American Studies, UMBC) in collaboration with Poppleton residents.

For more information: See the *Baltimore Traces* project A Place Called Poppleton:
<https://baltimoretraces.umbc.edu/poppleton/>

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Save Our Block petition on Change.org

<https://www.change.org/p/baltimore-city-council-save-our-block-in-poppleton-baltimore>

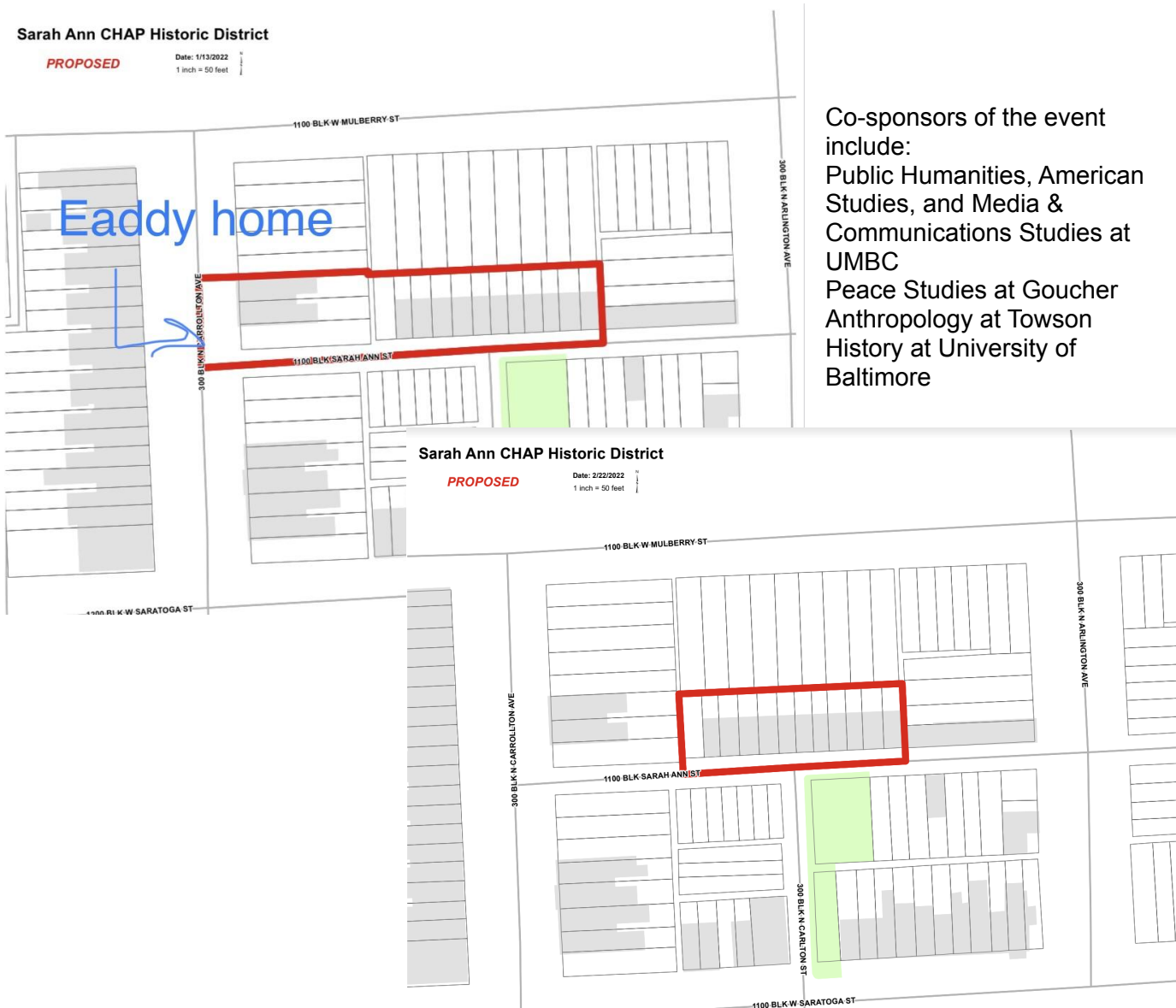
Put the Eddy House BACK in the boundaries of the Local Historic District

<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/support-for-the-chap-local-historic-district-in-poppleton-eddy-sarah-ann-homes>

Sarah Ann CHAP Historic District

PROPOSED

Date: 1/13/2022
1 inch = 50 feet



Co-sponsors of the event include:
Public Humanities, American Studies, and Media & Communications Studies at UMBC
Peace Studies at Goucher
Anthropology at Towson
History at University of Baltimore