



A Place Called Poppleton

*Special Preservation Issue
May 15, 2025*



Introduction to A Place Called Poppleton

“Preserving Places, Making Spaces in Baltimore” (American Studies 422/682) is a public humanities seminar focusing on documenting the history of neighborhoods in West Baltimore, where UMBC’s Lion Brothers downtown classroom is located. As part of the Baltimore Traces: Communities in Transition project (founded in 2015), students in this course explored the city’s social history and developed a preservation project for Baltimore neighborhoods in partnership with residents.

The Baltimore Traces project has focused on the Poppleton neighborhood of West Baltimore since 2020. The story of this historically Black neighborhood is a case study of the harm imposed by urban renewal, highway construction, and extractive redevelopment, which disregard the people already living and working on the land. Yet, Poppleton’s story also includes inspiring narratives of residents organizing for their neighborhood, as well as rich traditions of Black history and culture in the west side of Baltimore City.



For the Spring 2025 semester, our class worked with residents to draft a Preservation & Public History Study on Poppleton's west side, which has suffered for decades from widespread displacement, demolition, and long-stalled redevelopment. This zine provides an overview of the work we've done for that Study, and a sample of the stories included in it.

Our preservation study coincides with the 50th anniversary of Phoebe Stanton's 1975 Poppleton Historic Study and the expiration of the Poppleton Urban Renewal Area designation (March 31, 2025).

For their invaluable help on this project as well as their continued dedication to the neighborhood of Poppleton, we want to thank Sonia Eaddy, president of the Poppleton Now Community Association, as well the association's officers and board members: Dianne Bradley, Yvonne Gunn, Tisha Guthrie, Mildred Newman, Pat Nickerson, Francina Walker, and UMBC alumna Pastor Brenda White. We would also like to thank the residents and other contributors who shared their time and stories with us: Joe Kirk, Anthony Weathers, Yvonne and Skip Gunn, Valerie Thomas, Amanda Talbot, Pastor Clarence Fowler, Kevin Carolina, and Donald Waugh.

CHAP director Eric Holcomb, Southwest City Planner Nick Chupein, Aiden Faust of UB special collections, and Dean Krimmel of Creative Museum Services have assisted our research. Photographer and urban farmer Shae McCoy grew up in Poppleton and assisted our greenspace project this semester.




This zine was designed by artist Markele Cullins, a UMBC alum and current MFA candidate in UCLA's New Genres program. The end of the zine features signage for community assets designed by the Poppleton community and funded by a grant awarded by the Southwest Partnership to the Poppleton Collaborative.

Poppleton's story belongs to its residents, both past and present. We apologize for any inaccuracies in our work. If you have feedback or a story to share, please contact Professor Nicole King at nking@umbc.edu or (202) 345-6250.


UMBC Students: Finley Bandy, Sarah Beyers, Kyle Cassamento, Christina Chaffman, Dylan Hendrix, Hannah Jones, Ellie Lawton, Kyra Madunich, Juno Pedida, Emily Peterson, Alexis Rolle, and Justin Webber.

The zine is funded by a Maryland State Arts Council Maryland Folklife Network grant:





Preservation & Public History Study



The Goals of the Preservation & Public History Study:

- 1** Preserve the historically significant structures and community spaces that together create the unique historic and architectural character for the Poppleton neighborhood and that are worthy of preservation for future generations.
 - 2** Provide public design review for remaining historic structures and greenspaces to make sure the community is involved in the preservation and redevelopment of their neighborhood.
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Timeline of Poppleton History

1822

2025

Early History

1822

Thomas Poppleton surveys the streets and alleys of Baltimore and produces the map that "made" the city.

1910

Baltimore passes the nation's first residential segregation ordinance.

1930s

As part of "slum clearance," Black people's homes are taken for the development of public housing.

1940

Poe Homes opens as the first public housing complex (298 units) in Baltimore City.

1958

The Lexington Terrace public housing high-rise apartments (667 units) open.

1960-1975

The construction of the "Highway to Nowhere" (Interstate 170) divides Poppleton, cutting off the section of the neighborhood north of Franklin-Mulberry.

1970s

The federal government clears land of homes for the Greater Model Park and Recreation Center.

1975

The Poppleton Urban Renewal Area is created and Phoebe Stanton conducts her Poppleton Study.

1982

The MLK Jr. boulevard expressway opens, cutting Poppleton off from downtown Baltimore.

1995

Poppleton becomes part of Baltimore's Empowerment Zone, a \$100M federal program.



Detail of a 1906 Map of Poppleton Area
Credit: Baltimore City Archives

From Poppleton to Center\West?

2004

The groundbreaking for the UMD BioPark takes place, marking the first time the university crosses MLK Blvd.

2004

The City plans to use eminent domain to clear and redevelop 14 acres in Poppleton.

2005

New-York based developer La Cité (Poppleton I LLC) is awarded the right to develop the 14-acre parcel seized by the City.

2006

The City and La Cité sign a Land Disposition and Development Agreement (LDDA) and an MOA for the preservation of Poppleton's historic properties.

2007-2012

The La Cité project stalls, while the City clears more land using eminent domain.

2012

The City cancels its development deal with La Cité.

2013

La Cité sues the city and keeps the right to redevelop Poppleton.

2015

La Cité is awarded \$58M in tax increment financing (TIF), a public financing method used as a subsidy for redevelopment, infrastructure, and other community-improvements.

2017

La Cité breaks ground on its Center\West apartment complex.

2018

The Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) receives a planning grant for the Transform Poe project, which will redevelop the City's oldest public housing complex.

2019

The Center\West apartments open, after a delay due to water damage.

2020

The City seeks to condemn the Eaddy home as part of the La Cité development's expansion.

Save Our Block Movement

2021 (March)

The residents of Sarah Ann street are relocated as part of the La Cité development. The developer announces that a Black-owned grocery store (Market Gourmet) is coming to Center West.

2021 (July 11)

The Save Our Block rally is hosted by residents and Organize Poppleton.

2021 (July 13)

The "Boss Kelly" row of homes on 1102-1106 W. Saratoga St. is demolished by the City.

2021 (August)

Poppleton residents and Organize Poppleton submit an application to form the Sarah Ann Street Local Historic District.

2022 (July 18)

Mayor Brandon Scott holds a press conference on Sarah Ann Street to announce that the Eaddy house would be saved, and that Sarah Ann Street would be preserved and rehabbed for homeownership by Shelley Halstead of Black Women Build.

2023 (April 3)

The Mayor signs the paperwork creating the Sarah Ann Street Local Historic District.



Photo of Organize Poppleton receiving the Community Partner Award from Economic Action Maryland on November 9, 2023. Photo credit Baynard Woods

Unresolved Legal Troubles

2023 (Feb. 13)

Economic Action Maryland files a complaint with the department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that La Cité's development plan violates the Fair Housing Act.

2023 (April 3)

The Mayor signs the paperwork creating the Sarah Ann Street Local Historic District.

2024 (Aug. 13) 2024 (Aug. 21)

One of La Cité's investors (Arctaris) sues La Cité for control as the Poppleton project flounders.

Poppleton residents sue La Cité and several city leaders behind the stalled revitalization plan.

2025 (April 7)

The City files two lawsuits against La Cité for nearly \$800,000 in unpaid water bills.

2024 (June 3)

The City terminates its development deal with La Cité.





Preservation Losses

Preservation Losses

Preservation Losses

Preservation Losses

Highway to



Nowhere



Highway to Nowhere

In the mid-twentieth century, Baltimore City began planning an East-West Expressway, which was meant to provide residents from the surrounding counties a streamlined route to travel through the city, without necessarily being in the city. The central part of this highway was slated to go through the Franklin-Mulberry corridor, which, at the time, contained neighborhoods filled with homes, schools, churches and businesses. It wouldn't be until the late 1960s when Baltimore City would follow through with the plans to develop the highway, which would lead to mass condemnation of every structure along the corridor, and the mass displacement of more than 1,500 residents and businesses from the neighborhood. This destruction did not go unchallenged. Several grassroots community organizations formed to oppose the road which threatened their community, and protested the injustices perpetrated by the eminent highway. This community pushback was successful in saving the historically White neighborhoods of Federal Hill and Fells Point from destruction, but the historically Black neighborhoods like Poppleton were not given that same consideration. The expressway is now known as **"The Highway to Nowhere."** The separation of communities caused by the highway construction led to ramifications still seen today, and its legacy is echoed in Poppleton's story.

As of 2024, the Baltimore City Department of Transportation has been leading a project called "West Baltimore United," which aims to reconnect the communities that are impacted by the Highway to Nowhere. This project is still in early stages, and the City is maintaining a group of Shareholders from the communities to inform and guide the project team as it moves forward.

“Boss” Kelly Row



Since their construction in around 1830, the collection of rowhouses from **1100 - 1122 W. Saratoga St.** were home to citizens and businesses. Named the “Boss” Kelly House and Row, their name comes from one of their most famous residents, Democratic political boss John S. Kelly. It was their connection to him and their construction by Robert Carey Long Jr. that earned the collection of houses their consideration for preservation by Baltimore Heritage in 2005.



However, the buildings only continued to deteriorate through neglect when purchased by Baltimore City. The buildings sat abandoned for years, slowly deteriorating and crumbling until only 1102, 1104, and Kelly's home of 1106 were left standing. The row of historic homes were demolished by Baltimore City on July 12, 2021, just two days after Organize Poppleton rallied to save their block.

Preservation Success: The Sarah Ann Street Local Historic District



On April 3, Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott signed the legislation to create the Sarah Ann Street Local Historic District. Now Black Women Build will redevelop these historic homes.

Situated in the northwest section of the Poppleton neighborhood, this group of houses demonstrates the distinctive characteristics of construction in the 1870s. The Sarah Ann Street alley houses represent an increasingly rare building type in Baltimore and other older East Coast cities. Alley houses represent a small-scale house type built on narrow, small streets that paralleled or bisected wider streets with middle class houses. Alley houses provided housing for Baltimore's working-class residents. Today, the majority of alley houses built in Baltimore (and in other East Coast cities) have been demolished, making Sarah Ann Street a rare survivor. The houses on Sarah Ann Street are the last block of alley houses standing in Poppleton. The properties within the district also provide a significant representation of the under-documented history of Black homeownership in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The houses on North Carrollton Street, constructed in the early 1870s, have been in African American ownership since 1928. The Sarah Ann Street alley houses, built in the same time period, provided affordable housing for African-Americans after the Civil War. Together this grouping of historic homes serve as important resources on Black history in West Baltimore.

A Place Called Poppleton: Preservation & Public History Study, 2025



To read a full draft of the study visit : <https://baltimoretraces.umbc.edu/poppleton/>

Or scan the QR code above

Places to Preserve:

Morning Star Baptist Church: 1063 W. Fayette St.
Historic Homes: 1124 - 1134 Saratoga St.
Katie R. Williams Funeral Home: 321 N. Schroeder St.
EXCEL Academy at Francis M. Wood High School: 1001 W. Saratoga St. (School 161 Fannie L. Barbour)
Poppleton (Greater Model) Rec Center: 1051 W. Saratoga St.
The Metro Metals building: 900-904 West Saratoga St.
St. Luke's Episcopal Church / SLYC: 217 N. Carey St
Allen AME Church: 1130 W. Lexington St.
Gunn home: 1050-1064 w. Fayette Street
Morning Star Baptist Church: 1063 W. Fayette St.
(owned by church leadership)
Lord Baltimore Theater: 1100 W. Baltimore St.

Greenspaces to Restore & Preserve:

Pop Farm: 14 N Schroeder St.
Allen AME community garden
Sarah Ann Street Park
St. Luke's / SLYC
Greater Model Park

Public History ArcGIS Virtual Walking Tour



A Place Called Poppleton Special Edition

Baltimore Traces Story Map

Updated by Tristan Diaz



Designed by Tristan Diaz

Preservation Goals

Documenting Places & People: *Where to Start*

Dean Krimmel
Creative Museum Services
deankrimmel@pm2.org
410-746-8350
February 27, 2025



Residents want to make this a community and cultural center to honor the rich history and future of Poppleton.

Katie R. Williams (1886-1963)
Poppleton Funeral Director, 321-323 N. Schroeder Street

Katie (Ringgold) Williams, a Baltimore native and lifelong west side resident, operated a funeral home at 321-323 N. Schroeder Street from 1929 until her death in 1963. These three-story properties were built in 1868-1869 by west Baltimore tradesmen. Williams lived across the street from her business at 319.

The Katie Williams properties are comparable in age to the nearby Eaddy home on Carrollton and Sarah Ann Street alley houses — all of them emblematic of rowhouse development after the Civil War in what we now call Poppleton, as well as much of west Baltimore. Williams was one of a handful of Black women funeral directors in Baltimore. But, as Donna Tyler Hollie wrote in 2020 in "African American Morticians in Maryland," Williams was "the first to obtain a license without inheriting a business from her deceased husband." Williams was also among the most successful, burying a reported 10,000 or more people during her career. Her business acumen extended to real estate, as well. Williams left her heirs at least 10 properties in the Baltimore area along with her personal estate valued at \$50,000 (more than \$500,000 in 2024). Williams' January 1963 funeral at St. John's AME Church on Lafayette Square, where she was a life member, attracted a crowd of some 3,000 people—filling the church and spilling over into the square. One of her 12 eulogists called Williams "a friend to those in need," saying that "She fed the hungry, she clothed the naked, and she sheltered the homeless."

What would you like to see
in a potential community
and cultural center honoring
Poppleton's history?



In 1981, Julius Hoffman sold the properties to the Metro Metals Company for \$90,000. The Metro Metals building is vital to Baltimore's architectural and industrial past, symbolizing the city's unique Art Deco heritage and early twentieth-century urban growth. According to a 2006 development agreement Metro Metals was to be preserved. Yet the building sits decaying and crumbling as redevelopment has stalled for nearly 20 years. In 2014 Mary Ellen Hayward wrote the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the building arguing that the Metro Metal build met NR Criteria A and C. In 2023, the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) purchased the land that contains the Metro Metal building for over \$500,000 from the La Cité Developers for the Transform Poe project. The next stages for the Transform Poe are unclear.

Metro Metals

The Metro Metals building at 900-904 West Saratoga Street is a significant example of Art Deco industrial architecture in Baltimore. The building features distinct Art Deco details, including a Roman brick façade with ornamental cornices and roofline decorations. The building was constructed in the early 1920s by Harry and Ida Hoffman, Russian Jewish immigrants. The Hoffmans purchased the property from junk dealer Herman Segal. In the 1950s the property was improved with the addition of three-story apartments.

What's next for the Metro Metals building?

1056 W. Fayette Street



“This terrace should be rehabilitated and considered for protection as an historical landmark.”

- Phoebe Stanton, architectural historian, describing the rowhouses at 1050-1064 W. Fayette Street in *Poppleton Historic Survey* (1975)

The three-story Italianate-style rowhouse at 1056 W. Fayette Street has been home to members of the Brooks-Gunn families since the mid-1930s—some 90 years and counting. South Carolina natives Melton and Julia Brooks paid rent to five different owners until 1973 when Julia Brooks and two sons purchased the property.

The 1990 sale by Wesley U. Brooks to William “Skip” Gunn and Yvonne (Brooks) Gunn, Wesley’s niece and the granddaughter of Julia and Melton Brooks, kept the house in the family’s hands. The Brooks family has now lived in, and owned, 1056 W. Fayette Street longer than anyone since it was built more than 170 years ago.



“This is where my strength comes from, my courage, my importance to Baltimore city to the world, this is where it comes from, knowing about my history.”

-Yvonne Gunn (2024)

Morning Star Baptist Church - 1063 W. Fayette Street

“ You know, we saw a lot of houses in this block that were probably historical sites. There were some that needed to be torn down, but just to tear them all down because they want the plot of land, you know, to me, to put the strength of the neighborhood, the heritage of the neighborhood, you know. This neighborhood is built off of people that are hard working people. You’re not going to see that now. ”

-Skip Gunn (2024)



The Morning Star Baptist Church of Christ was founded in 1890 by Reverend Robert T. Winn. The church started in his house, located on 909 Pierce Street, met in various places until it moved to 1063 West Fayette Street in 1925. Through the years, the church flourished with the help of different pastors. Reverend Clarence E. Fowler ascended to pastor in 2015 and continued the church's mission in 2017. Today Morning Star Baptist Church remains an integral part of the Baltimore community: a source of faith, guidance, and support for its members.

Lord Baltimore Theater: 1100 W. Baltimore St

Built on the site of the former Maryland Medical College building, the Lord Baltimore Theater opened in 1913 as a home for movies and vaudeville shows in West Baltimore. At the time, it was the largest theater outside the downtown theater district, with seating for almost 1,000 people. Owners Marion Pearce and Philip Scheck brought vaudeville shows to the Lord Baltimore briefly in 1913, and again throughout the 1930s, when the theater played host to many local performers.



LORD BALTIMORE (1941)

Like most theaters at the time, the Lord Baltimore was racially segregated until the 1960s. It catered almost exclusively to white patrons, while the nearby Capitol Theater served the Black residents of West Baltimore. Shortly after desegregating, the theater closed its doors in 1966 – although it continued to be a screening location for the Baltimore Film Society until 1970.

The theater later served the community of West Baltimore as a church, until it was sold in 2004 to a local developer. It was sold again in 2016 to the Southwest Partnership, who have spent the past several years stabilizing the property in the hopes that it will eventually be developed into a community arts and culture space.

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



Southwest Partnership. Photo Credit: Photographer Unknown.

1124-26 Saratoga Street: Bring Back Displaced Residents

These homes were recently inhabited by 1134 (Thurston Butler) 1132 (Angie Banks) and 1128 (Parcha & Trinity McFadden).

The three-story Italianate rowhouses that remain on the north side of the 1100 block of W. Saratoga Street between 1124 and 1134 represent working-class history and small businesses in Baltimore from the late-19th and into the 21st century in Southwest Baltimore. These traditional Baltimore rowhomes were constructed almost 150 years ago to accommodate the city's growing population. Built in approximately 1872, 1124 and 1126 W. Saratoga Street were used as a mixed-use manufacturing, commercial, and residential space.

After their construction around 1882: 1128, 1130, 1132, and 1134 W. Saratoga Street were rented almost exclusively by Black working-class families. The 1130 W. Saratoga Street rowhouse was demolished or destroyed sometime between 1970 and 1975 while under the care of Baltimore City. The other homes should be preserved and rehabilitated before they suffer a similar fate so that they might continue to provide housing to the Black working-class residents of Baltimore City.

Beginning in 2006, the residents on this block began to be displaced for the La Cité redevelopment project. However, almost 20 years later nothing has been done with the land despite public outcries for equity and affordable housing. The preservation of these houses and offering them as affordable housing would be a meaningful step towards repairing the damage caused by urban renewal projects.



Letter from Poppleton Now Community Association



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - 118 N. SCHROEDER ST. - BALTIMORE MD 21223

March 4, 2024

Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development (DHCD)
417 E Fayette St #1339 / Baltimore, MD 21202

Dear Mayor Scott and Commissioner Kennedy,

We are writing to follow up on your commitment to work collaboratively with the neighbors of Poppleton on the plans to reinvigorate our neighborhood after long-term neglect. These changes will affect our lives and our contribution will ensure that the impact will, ultimately, be positive. We want to be an active part of revitalizing our neighborhood.

We request that DHCD affirm Housing Commissioner Alice Kennedy's promise for a walkthrough concerning the 6th amendment to the Poppleton LDDA and her statement on June 18, 2022 concerning the 5th amendment: "With this amendment, we are entering the next chapter for the Poppleton Redevelopment Project. This is a chapter that will build trust, embrace community engagement, as well as refocus on increased homeownership opportunities." In addition, we agreed with the Mayor's statement on July 18, 2022: "This [5th amendment] is a great example of the diverse partnerships necessary to advance equitable neighborhood development in tandem with the needs of our residents." However, residents have, again, been left out of negotiations for next steps on the 6th amendment to the LDDA, the Transform Poe project, and the city-created strategy to address the city-wide vacancy issue.

Residents want to be involved, not just informed, on zoning, planning, development, and other changes that directly affect our lives. We write to request DHCD address item 3 from Mayor Scott's letter of commitment to residents (January 25, 2022):

"As your Mayor, I am committed to doing everything that I can to advance the redevelopment of Poppleton, and to do so in a truly collaborative, community-led, and transparent process..."

3. DHCD will work with the community to identify public green spaces in the Poppleton neighborhood."

Through an extensive community-led planning process, residents, community assets, and supporters request the following land for public use:

- **Allen A.M.E. Church's** community garden/green space (the church stewards the unit block 1100 Lexington to Saratoga streets)
- **Pop Farm**, a community garden at 14 N. Schroeder Street, founded by Del. Ruth Kirk in 1997, should be returned to the community before the start of the growing season in April 2024
- **Sarah Ann Street park** and lot 367 N. Carrollton Ave. (adjacent to the Eaddy home)
- **(SLYC) St. Luke's Youth Center** provides services to local youth and a historic campus that is in dire need of preservation and redevelopment for the community (three parcels on Carrollton Ave.) 204, 206, 208 Carrollton Ave & 215, 213, 211 Carey St.
- **Model Park** land use (adjacent to Excel Academy/United Way) *Model Recreation Center / Poppleton Recreation Center is requesting w/ Southwest Sports & Fitness Alliance managing programming*



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION - 118 N. SCHROEDER ST. - BALTIMORE MD 21223

We request a meeting to discuss acquiring the land. We would also like the historic [Katie B. Williams properties](#) at 319-321 Schroeder Street to be preserved and used as a Poppleton community center as part of the Poe Homes redevelopment (part of the forthcoming Poppleton Preservation & Public History Study discussed with DOP and CHAP).

We also request an update on La Citi's Senior Building as the April 2024 funding deadline (in the 5th amendment to the LDDA) is quickly approaching and the designs are still under UDAAP review. Will the developer meet that deadline and will the City/DHCD extend the deadline for the 60 days?

Thank you for your time and consideration. We request a response from DHCD before our March 21, 2024 Poppleton Now general meeting at Morning Star Baptist Church at 6:30pm. An invitation is extended to the Mayor/DHCD representatives to attend and answer residents' questions on these pressing issues.

Sincerely,

Sonia Eaddy, President, Poppleton Now Community Association, Inc. (PNCA)

Mildred Newman, Treasurer, PNCA

Tisha Guthrie, Secretary, PNCA

Yvonne Gunn, Board member, PNCA

Francina Walker, Board member, PNCA

Patricia Nickerson, Board member, PNCA

Rev. Brenda D. White, Board member, PNCA

Dianne Bradley, Board member, PNCA

Curtis Eaddy Sr., Poppleton resident

Curtis Eaddy II, Poppleton resident

Nicole King, Organize Poppleton, Hollins Market resident

Amanda Talbot, Executive Director, Saint Luke's Youth Center

Howard Hughes, Hollins Market resident

Loraine Arkat, Organize Poppleton, Hollins Market resident

Chi Oguh, Organize Poppleton

Cecilia Gonzalez, Organize Poppleton, Franklin Square resident

Nate Tarter, Organize Poppleton, Franklin Square resident

Scott Kashnow, Franklin Square resident

Theresa Smith, Townes at the Terraces resident

Marina Protopapas, Poppleton business owner

Pastor Daunetta Hagens, Poppleton pastor

Pastor Lisha Gibson, Poppleton pastor

CC:

Senator Antonio Hayes antonio.hayes@senate.state.md.us

Kate Edwards, DHCD kate.edwards@balimoresp.org

Chris Ryer, DOP chris.ryer@balimoresp.org

Nick Chuprin, DOP nicholas.chuprin@balimoresp.org

Dr. John Bullock, City Council john.bullock@balimoresp.org

Justin Williams, Deputy Mayor for Community & Economic Development jwilliams@balimoresp.org

Eric Holcomb, CHAP eric.holcomb@balimoresp.org

Donny James, ED Southwest Partnership Donny@swspbf.org & Elizabeth Weber, elizabeth@swspbf.org

Cerie Baraszewski, Southwest Partnership cerie@southwestpartnershipofindm.org

Meghan Cardoso, Southwest Partnership meghan@southwestpartnershipofindm.org



Learn more about Poppleton's Community Assets...

BETWEEN 2023-2025, THE POPPLETON COMMUNITY WORKED ON A SIGNAGE PROJECT FUNDED BY THE SOUTHWEST PARTNERSHIP. THESE COMMUNITY ASSETS SHOULD BE PRESERVED AND SUPPORTED IN ANY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT THAT MOVES FORWARD IN POPPLETON.

SARAH ANN STREET LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

In 1870, Baltimore merchant Miles White built eleven brick "alley houses" in the northwest Poppleton neighborhood. These narrow, two-story homes were designed for working-class families, offering affordable housing to many African American residents settling in the area after the Civil War. During this period 8 rowhouse were built on Carrollton St by George Mallonnee.

1870

The first homeowner of the property was a Black woman, Kate Kennedy, who owned it for numerous years. She had tenants and used the property to build wealth at a time when lending practices did not benefit Black people. By 1928, 14 families occupied the community, working in jobs such as porters, coal drivers, dressmakers, and other labor services.

1928

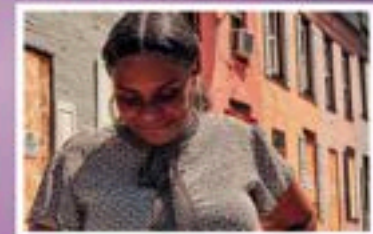
After years of advocacy, Mayor Brandon Scott signed the "Sarah Ann Street Local Historic District" into law on April 3, 2023. Resident Sonia Eaddy was able to save her home from condemnation, while the remaining properties were granted to Black Women Build Baltimore for restoration.

2023



COMMUNITY

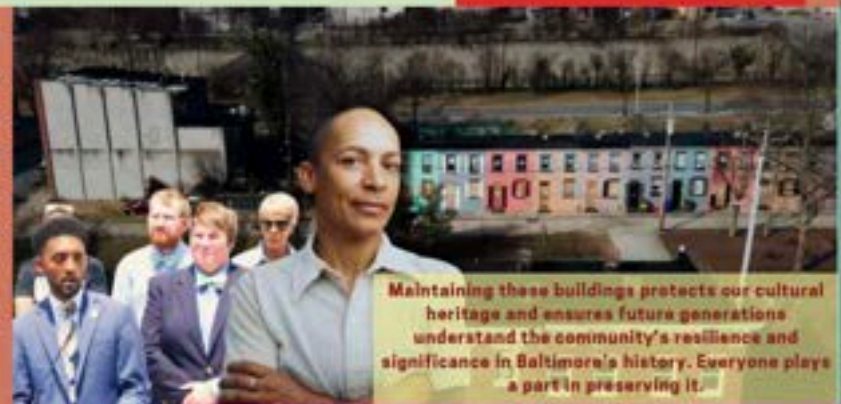
“These homes are not just buildings; they are a testament to our history and resilience.”
Sonia Eaddy, Community Advocate

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Alley houses in Baltimore and other East Coast cities have been demolished, making Sarah Ann Street a rare survivor. These alley houses are key to Baltimore's historic rowhouse neighborhoods, contributing to the city's 19th-century architectural character.



The houses at 319-321 N. Carrollton Street are the last two three-story brick rowhouses out of eight which occupied 317-331 N. Carrollton St.

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Maintaining these buildings protects our cultural heritage and ensures future generations understand the community's resilience and significance in Baltimore's history. Everyone plays a part in preserving it.



Learn more about Sarah Ann Street Local Historic District
chap.baltimorecity.gov/sarah-ann-street
(410) 587-0467



Access and opportunity have not always been plentiful in this neighborhood. Even so, our solidarity have driven efforts to create pathways for economic growth and a brighter future for residents.



Unity and collaboration have become apart of the identity for community members who have long fought against displacement in the face of external pressures and changing urban landscapes.



Strength and craftsmanship of the community and organizations like Black Women Build Baltimore underscore the hard work and dedication that have established the neighborhoods lasting legacy.



THE EADDY HOME: A LEGACY OF RESILIENCE

Over 150 Years of Black Homeownership in Poppleton



Historic Significance

Constructed in 1871 by local carpenter George Mallonee, this three-story Italianate rowhouse. Since 1928, the home has been owned by two Black families—the Sewells and later the Waugh/Eaddy family. Donald “China” Waugh, an early Arabber featured in *Relaxed Freeman’s The Arabbers of Baltimore* (1989), purchased the home in 1992 to build generational wealth. His daughter, Sonia, and her husband, Curtis Eaddy Sr., have meticulously maintained the property’s historical integrity, even restoring it after a 2012 fire.



Cultural Importance

The Eaddy home is part of an uninterrupted row of houses representing over 150 years of Black homeownership in West Baltimore. This block includes the Sarah Ann Street alley houses, built in 1870, which provided affordable housing for Black residents post-Civil War. The preservation of these structures is vital for honoring the history and spirit of the community.



Fighting Displacement

In February 2020, the Eaddy family received a condemnation notice due to a redevelopment project initiated in 2004. This sparked a community-led movement to “Save Our Block,” aiming to protect residents from displacement and preserve the neighborhood’s historical fabric. Their efforts culminated in a victory on July 18, 2022, when Baltimore officials announced that the Eaddy family could retain their home, and the Sarah Ann Street houses would be redeveloped for homeownership by Black Women Build.

The Eaddy home stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of Black homeownership and the community’s commitment to preserving its rich history in the face of urban development pressures.



A Place Called Poppleton
walking tour

SLYC

SAINT LUKE'S YOUTH CENTER

Led by Local Families for Local Families

*Honoring Our Past,
Building Our Future*

SLYC is transforming our historic campus into a community-led Family Resource Center, expanding child care, mental health services, and employment.

Community-Led & Family-Centered

Designed and run by local leaders who understand and respond to community needs

Expanding Youth Programs

Future home of MSDE-certified child care, after-school clubs, and summer camps

Mental Health & Family Resources

On-site mental health services and case management to stabilize households and break cycles of poverty

Workforce Development

Investing in local residents by creating careers in child care and case management, strengthening economic mobility

Historic Preservation

Restoring our historic campus into a hub of opportunity, where Baltimore's past fuels a stronger, more vibrant future.



Join Us!

Be a part of this transformational project.

Learn more and get involved at www.BmoreSLYC.org



Allen African Methodist Episcopal Church

Rooted in Faith, Committed to Community, Building a Brighter Future Together

"The people of the community know the importance of Allen and Allen knows the importance of the community."

— ODELL JONES; Legacy member

Allen African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church is a church that stands for service and community. The church was founded in 1860 in a small house on Stockton Street known as Allen Chapel AME Church. The church moved to its present location at 1126-1130 West Lexington Street in 1902. Since then Allen has been a community asset in the Poppleton Community of West Baltimore, however, the church does not simply rest upon its history. Allen AME is committed to the future of the community.

Allen has been in Poppleton since its founding in 1860. Though Allen AME has an important past, that has not stopped the Church from striving to create a strong sense of community for the future. Under the leadership of Rev. Brenda D. White (an alumna of UMBC), the Allen AME Church is experiencing transformational spiritual growth through its teaching, ministries, and community engagement.

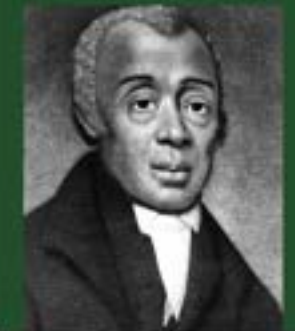
WRITTEN BY: TRISTAN DIAZ | UMBC CLASS OF 2024



PICTURED HERE:
Rev. Brenda D. White

ABOUT RICHARD ALLEN

Minister, educator and writer
Richard Allen was born into slavery in 1760. He later converted to Methodism and bought his freedom. Fed up with the treatment of African American parishioners at the St. George Episcopal congregation, he eventually founded the first national Black church in the United States, the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was also an activist and abolitionist whose ardent writings would inspire future visionaries.



HEALTH ADVOCACY



Promoting the mental and physical well-being of our community through programs like the community garden.

EDUCATION



Supporting lifelong learning with Bible study, scholarship, funding and entrepreneurial career development.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH



Welcoming individuals to connect, be themselves, and join in a movement of faith and community.



**PATHWAY
FORWARD INC.**

20 BALTIMORE 21

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learn more about
RESTORE 1130



HISTORY



Opened on June 21, 1976, the Greater Model Community Recreation Center in Poppleton was funded by President Johnson's Model Cities program. Since then, the Center closed and fell into disrepair for over 20 years before being leased to the Southwest Partnership to offer improved programs and services to the community.



In 2023, the Southwest Partnership launched a \$3 million renovation project to restore the Center. As part of this initiative, the facility was subleased to the Southwest Sports & Fitness Alliance (SSFA), a nonprofit dedicated to empowering youth and families through sports, fitness, and wellness programs. By revitalizing the Poppleton Rec Center, SSFA is ensuring that youth have the support, structure, and programs they need to thrive—building a healthier, more connected community for future generations.



POPPLETON RECREATIONAL CAMPUS

Uniting Southwest Baltimore Through Sports and Fitness



COMMUNITY HUB



AQUATIC CENTER



OUR VISION

We envision creating a community structure within southwest Baltimore that:

1. Provides safe spaces for youth to play
2. Provides accessible and affordable programs
3. Delivers programs through trained coaches and staff
4. Utilizes intentional curriculum on and off the field
5. Provides a meaningful program evaluation process
6. Focuses on the development of the child, not just the athlete
7. Is community driven

PROGRAMS

Engage in guided mindfulness, gentle movement sessions, and creative expression activities designed to promote relaxation and emotional well-being



Experience our dynamic classes that blend technique, fitness, and self-defense for all skill levels. Build strength, improve coordination, and boost confidence in a fun, energetic environment



Through STEAM programming and content creation spaces, we empower voices of the next generation to shape the future of sports media and entertainment



Learn more about Poppleton Recreational Campus
www.sportsfitnessalliance.org
info@sportsfitnessalliance.org

The Future of Poppleton is Bright



Scan the QR code below to support



On April 16, 2025 there was a community celebration for the reopening of the Poppleton Recreation Center, which was restored by the community and will be run by the community organization the Southwest Sports & Fitness Alliance

*The Future of Our Neighborhood:
I See a Place Where_____*





Cover and Back Photo Credit: Amy Davis, "1110 West Baltimore Street," 2012. In Amy Davis, *Flickering Treasures: Rediscovering Baltimore's Forgotten Movie Theaters* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017), pg.71.