



Bernard C. "Jack" Young
Mayor

**COMMISSION FOR
HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL
PRESERVATION**

Tom Liebel, Chairman

STAFF REPORT



Chris Ryer
Director

October 13, 2020

REQUEST: Review and Respond to City Council Bill #20-0607 - City Streets - Naming an unnamed alley, located in the rear of 216 East Biddle Street, Mura Alley

RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends a finding of no objection.

STAFF: Stacy Montgomery

PETITIONER(S): Councilman Stokes

SITE/HISTORIC DISTRICT

The unnamed alley is located between the 1200 block of Hunter Street and the 1200 block of Guilford Avenue, north of the 200 block of East Biddle Street and south of the 200 block of East Preston Street within the Mount Vernon Historic District. The Mount Vernon Historic District encompasses roughly 40 blocks surrounding Mount Vernon Place. The contributing buildings within the historic district include a diversity of styles and building types including mansions, apartments, offices, and religious structures. The period of significance for the Mount Vernon Historic District extends from 1810 to 1945.

Site Conditions/Architectural Description: The site is an alley that runs east to west from Hunter Street to Guilford Avenue. The alley is the southernmost of the two narrow alleys that are between East Preston Street and East Biddle Street. The alley appears on Sanborn maps dating from 1890 and does not appear to have ever been named, although it was elongated over time.

BACKGROUND

- There are no previous CHAP actions regarding this site.
- This bill has been referred to CHAP for review under Article 26 Section 7-3, which states "*Procedure for change. (a) Referral to Department and CHAP. Whenever an ordinance or resolution is introduced in the City Council of Baltimore to change the name of any public street, avenue, or other thoroughfare within the corporate limits of Baltimore City, or to name any street, avenue, or other thoroughfare within said corporate limits, the same shall at once be referred to the Department of Public Works and to the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation for a written report as to the advisability of the passage of such ordinance or the adoption of such resolution.*"

PROPOSAL

Bill 20-0607– City Streets –Naming an unnamed alley, located in the rear of 216 East Biddle Street, between Hunter Street and Guilford Avenue, Mura Alley proposes the change for an alley located between the 1200 block of Hunter Street and the 1200 block of Guilford Avenue. The alley is located within the Mount Vernon Historic District and uses a street name that is consistent with other alleys located between Preston and Biddle Streets through East Baltimore.

ANALYSIS

CHAP staff finds that the proposed name change will not impact any historic buildings. Further, the proposed name is already used for other alleys in Baltimore City between Biddle and Preston Streets which run at about the same location at blocks 1200 north.

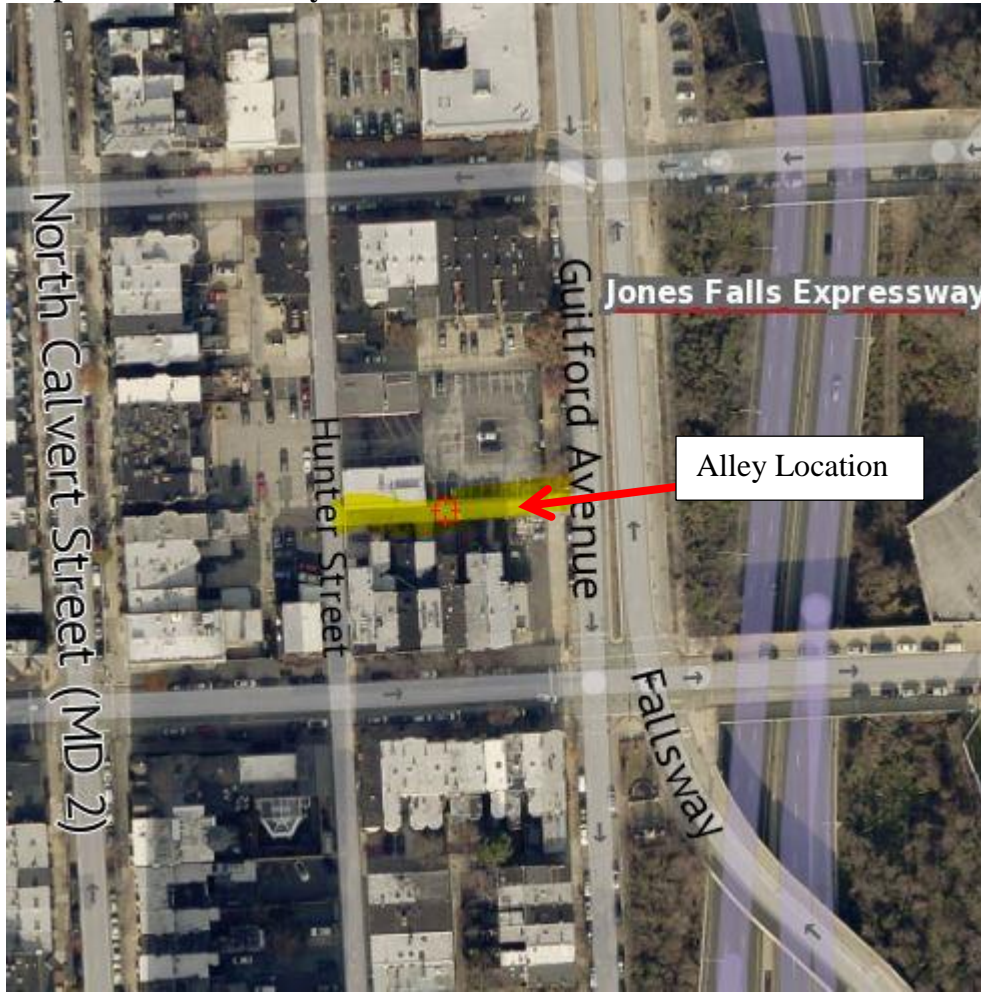
Staff recommends a finding of no objection to the proposed naming of an unnamed alley, located in the rear of 216 East Biddle Street, between Hunter Street and Guilford Avenue, Mura Alley.



**Eric Holcomb
Director**

MAPS & IMAGES

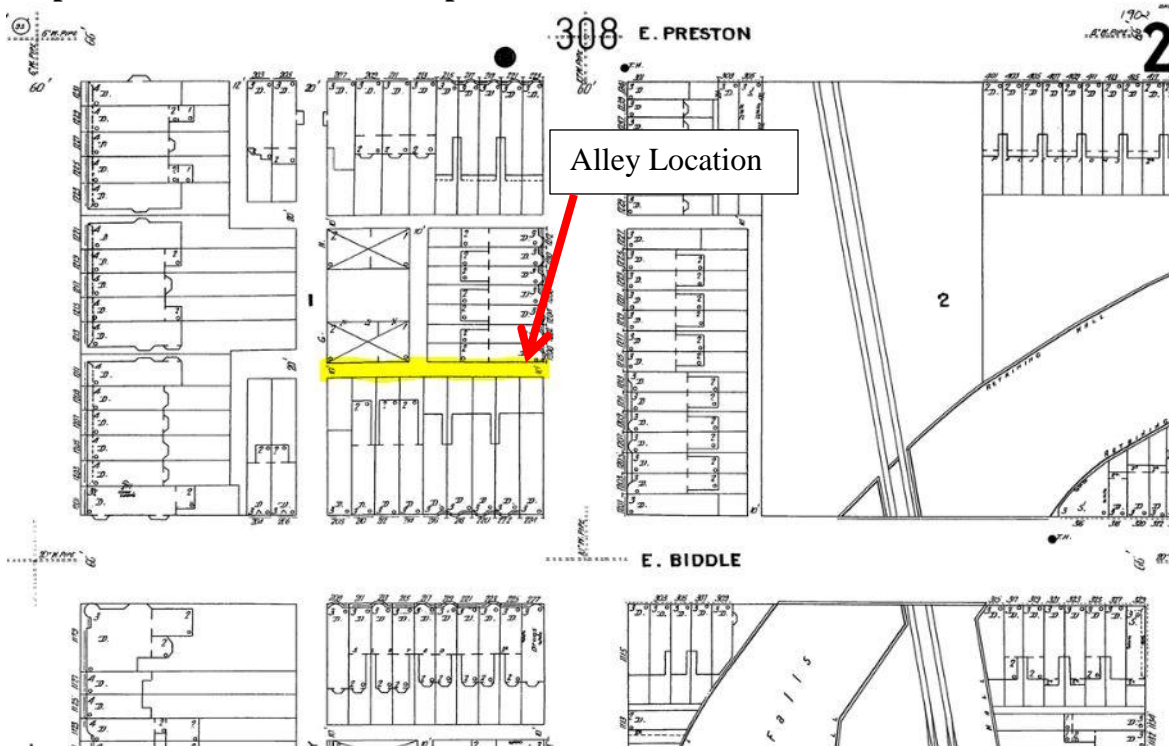
Map 1.1 Aerial of Alley Location in Yellow



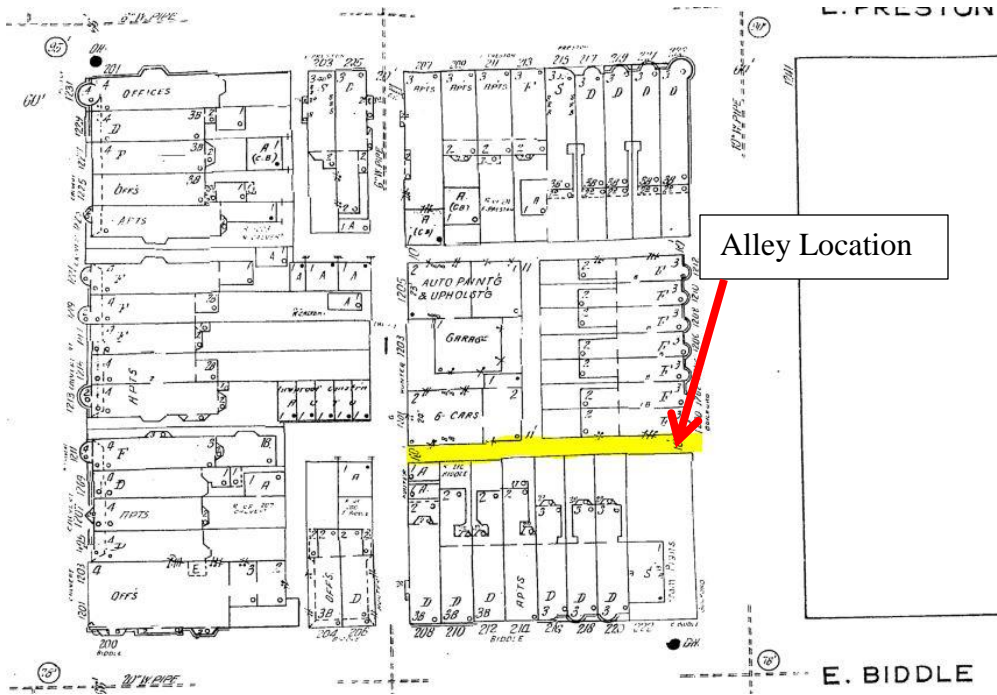
Map 1.2 1890 Sanborn Map



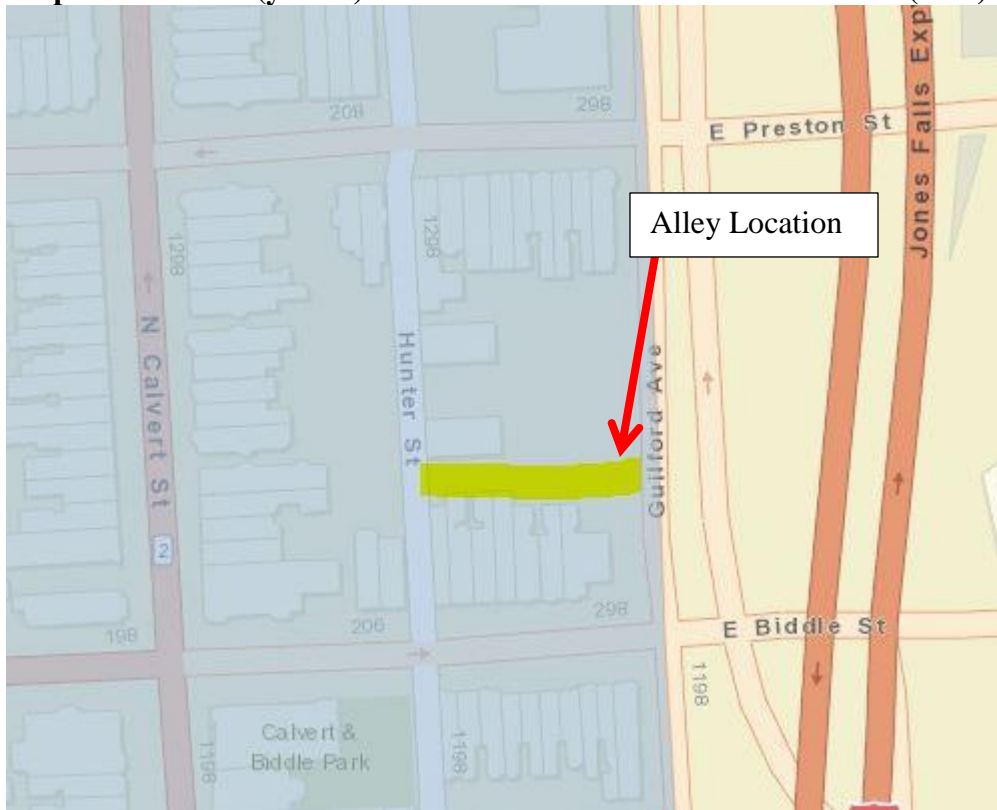
Map 1.3 1901-1902 Sanborn Map



Map 1.4 1914-1951 Sanborn Map



Map 1.5 Location (yellow) within Mount Vernon Historic District (blue)



Alley from Guilford Avenue



Alley from Hunter Street

