

Peale's Baltimore Museum
(Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore)
225 North Holliday Street
Baltimore
City

The Peale's Baltimore Museum building is a seven-bay three-story brick building with a two-story wing to the rear. Two large flush chimneys rise from each gable end of the building, with a small double window in the attic gable between. The center three bays of the front facade, facing west, consists of a stone recessed entrance porch on the first floor and three 6/6 sash windows surmounted by round-arched panels on the second. Both these floors and a large rectangular panel with an elaborate bas relief sculpture on the third story are of stone. This portico and loggia are a 1931 replacement based on the original. The bas relief sculpture was designed by R. McGill Mackall and installed in 1931 through the generosity of the Baltimore Gas & Electric Company. This relief depicts *Wisdom seated between an American eagle and a sailing ship*. The same company donated the historic elliptically arched sculpture mounted on the garden wall. Carved in 1807 by the French sculptor, Augustin Chevalier, it had originally graced the Union Bank building which had been designed by Robert Cary Long, Sr. The outer two bays on each floor of the front facade of the building hold 6/6 sash windows with splayed jack arches. A brick course separates the first and second floor, and a modillion cornice edges the gable roof. Inside, the central hallway opens onto four small rooms on the first floor, in which scientific and natural exhibits were originally displayed. A large drawing room occupied the second floor, and the third floor held a painting gallery. Very

little of the original interior woodwork remained when the building was restored in 1931. Existing woodwork including moldings, doors, locks, mantels, and balustrade were salvaged from a group of rowhouses which were being demolished at the time. Other detail such as the plaster cornices and ceiling and the elaborate door frames on the second floor were copied from authentic examples of the museum's period. Behind the museum building is a small courtyard with statues, which now contains the salvaged bas relief sculpture from the Union Bank.

Peale's Baltimore Museum was the first in the United States to be designed and erected exclusively for museum use. Under the direction of its builder, Rembrandt Peale, and later his brother Rubens, the museum operated for 15 years as "Peale's Baltimore Museum and Gallery of Fine Arts." Its early exhibits included portraits of famous Americans (many by the founder) and the complete skeleton of a prehistoric mastodon exhumed by C.W. Peale in 1801. In 1816, the building became the first public building in America to use gas lighting. In 1830, the building was sold to the City of Baltimore, becoming the first City Hall. When a new City Hall was built in 1876, the building was converted into the second home of "Number 1 Colored Primary School," one of Baltimore's first public schools for black students. In 1887, the building became the home of the city's Water Board. The back yard became a stable, and the building was used for both administration and the storage of pipe and equipment. In the early 20th century, the Peale Museum was on the verge of being sold when the Mayor was convinced to forestall the sale and restore the building. The museum housed

both painting exhibitions and permanent exhibits concerning Rembrandt Peale and the history of Baltimore, becoming part of the Baltimore City Life Museums system in 1985. When this system was closed in 1997, the Peale Museum closed as well.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL HISTORIC

LAND MARKS) (Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Baltimore (City)
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Peale's Baltimore Museum
AND/OR HISTORIC: Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 225 North Holliday Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 3rd	
STATE: Maryland	CODE: 24	COUNTY: Baltimore	CODE: 510

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: City of Baltimore	STATE: Maryland
STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall (St. Paul and Lexington Streets)	
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore	
STATE: Maryland	
CODE: 24	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Recorder of Deeds	COUNTY: Baltimore
STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall (St. Paul and Lexington Streets)	
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore	
STATE: Maryland	
CODE: 24	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Building Survey	FOR NPS USE ONLY	
DATE OF SURVEY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress/Annex		
STREET AND NUMBER: Division of Prints and Photographs		
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.	CODE: 11

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Baltimore
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore, at 225 North Holliday Street occupies the first building erected as a museum in the United States. Rembrant Peale, the artist son of Charles Willson Peale, opened the museum on August 15, 1814.

Peale advertised in Baltimore in April, 1813, his intention to build a museum, and on August 15 of the following year, he inaugurated his new undertaking. Having no plan to follow, he erected a brick three-story house that had a two-story wing in back. Inside, the central hallway opened onto four small rooms on the first floor, in which were placed scientific and natural exhibits. A large drawing room occupied the second floor and the third floor held a painting gallery. Peale struggled to operate the museum for about eight years, but his creditors forced him to sell his interest in it to his brother, Reubens, in 1822. Reubens Peale continued the museum until 1829, when his creditors forced him to vacate the building.

The Museum underwent numerous alterations before becoming the Municipal Museum in 1931. It was used as the Baltimore City Hall from 1830 until 1875. At this time it was made into a Negro School and served this function until 1887. From that time until 1931 the building was occupied by the Water Board as well as several businesses.

In renewing the building for Museum use, the front wall was rebuilt, the original portico was reconstructed and the interior was almost completely reconstructed.

Today, the building is completely devoted to museum purposes. The two front rooms on the first floor have permanent exhibits that are associated with Rembrant Peale. Located in the rear wing are the offices of the curator. On the second floor are exhibition rooms used for portraits. The third floor at present is not used; located here is the central air conditioning until situated behind standing partitions. An addition was made in the basement so as to accomodate museum records. Outside the museum in back is a small court with statues.

BOUNDARY INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION

The museum is located on the east side of North Holliday Street between a warehouse on the north side and a church across a small alley on the south. The building sits about halfway between East Saratoga Street and East Lexington Street. The Municipal Museum building is approximately 40 feet wide facing North Holliday Street, and about 50 feet long. The museum lot is circa 40 feet by 100 feet. The boundary line is contiguous with the property line as described above.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Peale's Baltimore Museum was the first building in the United States to be designed and erected expressly for museum use. Under the direction of its founder, builder and first operator, Rembrant Peale, and later his brother Reubens, the museum was opened to the public for 15 years. Having served a number of purposes in the interim, the building again became the Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore in 1931. Presently the museum houses both painting and perminant exhibits concerning Rembrant Peale, the Peale family and the history of Baltimore.

BIOGRAPHY

Rembrant Peale was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania on February 22, 1778. Charles Willson Peale, his father had evidently expected that his offspring should be artists for he named them all after the old masters, i.e. Rembrant, Reubens, Van Dyck, Raphael and Titian. With all this circumstance as events turned out only two of the five became artists.

Rembrant showed early signs of extradordinary talent. He "began to draw at the age of eight years and by the time he was thirteen he had painted a portrait of himself."¹

Upon the retirement of Charles Willson Peale in 1796, Rembrant was given his father's seal of approval and the title of his success. However, this did not lead to instant success. Rembrant thereupon, ventured to Charleston, South Carolina, where he remained several years until 1801 at which time he journeyed to England to study with Benjamin West.

It was here in London that Rembrant Peale was confronted for the first time with the continental art form or "with good art".² Peale's heart was not strong and the climate in England was critically against his health, at this time Rembrant Peale decided to return to the United States and give up painting for agriculture. However, immediate success upon his return changed these plans.

After living in Boston some years, Peale moved to Baltimore in 1812. It was here in Baltimore that Peale opened the first building in

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

America to be used solely as a museum and art gallery. Here Peale lived for nine years and painted a number of his most famous works including "The Ascent of Elijah," and "The Court of Death," which was painted on canvas measuring 24 by 13 feet, and it contained twenty-three lifesize figures. This work became one of Peale's most famous; it was placed on exhibition in every major city of the United States. From 1822 to 1829 Peale again returned north where he painted portraits in Philadelphia New York and Boston.

Peale once more returned to Europe where he exhibited his portrait of George Washington drawn to Peale's own exacting specifications of likeness. The portrait received raves of critics. Upon Peale's return, the portrait was purchased by the United States Government and now hangs in the Vice President's room in the Senate wing of the Capitol. Peale's works include; "The Court of Death," his most famous, "Song of the Shirt," "Errina," "Wine and Cake," and "Italian Peasant." Peale died on October 3, 1860.

¹Cyclopedia of American Biography, James T. White and Company:
New York, 1907, vol. 5., p. 320.

²Ibid

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cyclopedia of American Biography, James T. White and Company:
New York, 5 vols., 1907.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		UTM	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

18.361100.4350200

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Joseph S. Mendinghall, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service DATE: 2/28/75

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L. Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. 20240 CODE: 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Title _____

Date (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the

National Register
(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Peale's Baltimore Museum
U.S.G.S. 7.5' series map
Baltimore, Maryland East
Quadrangle
UTM
18.361100.4350200

B-13

R E

B-13



Form No. 10-301
Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: <u>Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore</u>			
AND/OR HISTORIC: <u>Peale's Baltimore Museum</u>			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>225 North Holliday Street</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Baltimore</u>			
STATE: <u>Maryland</u>	CODE <u>24</u>	COUNTY: <u>Baltimore</u>	CODE <u>510</u>
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: <u>U.S. Geological Survey, 7.5 Baltimore East Quadrangle</u>			
SCALE: <u>1:24,000</u>			
DATE: <u>1953 (Photorevised 1966)</u>			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore

AND/OR COMMON

Peale's Baltimore Museum

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Joseph S. Mendinghall

DATE OF PHOTO 7/74

NEGATIVE FILED AT Historic Sites Survey

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Frontal view, looking east.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore

AND/OR COMMON

Peale's Baltimore Museum

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

Baltimore

COUNTY

STATE
Maryland

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Joseph S. Mendinghall

DATE OF PHOTO 7/74

NEGATIVE FILED AT Historic Sites Survey

4 IDENTIFICATION

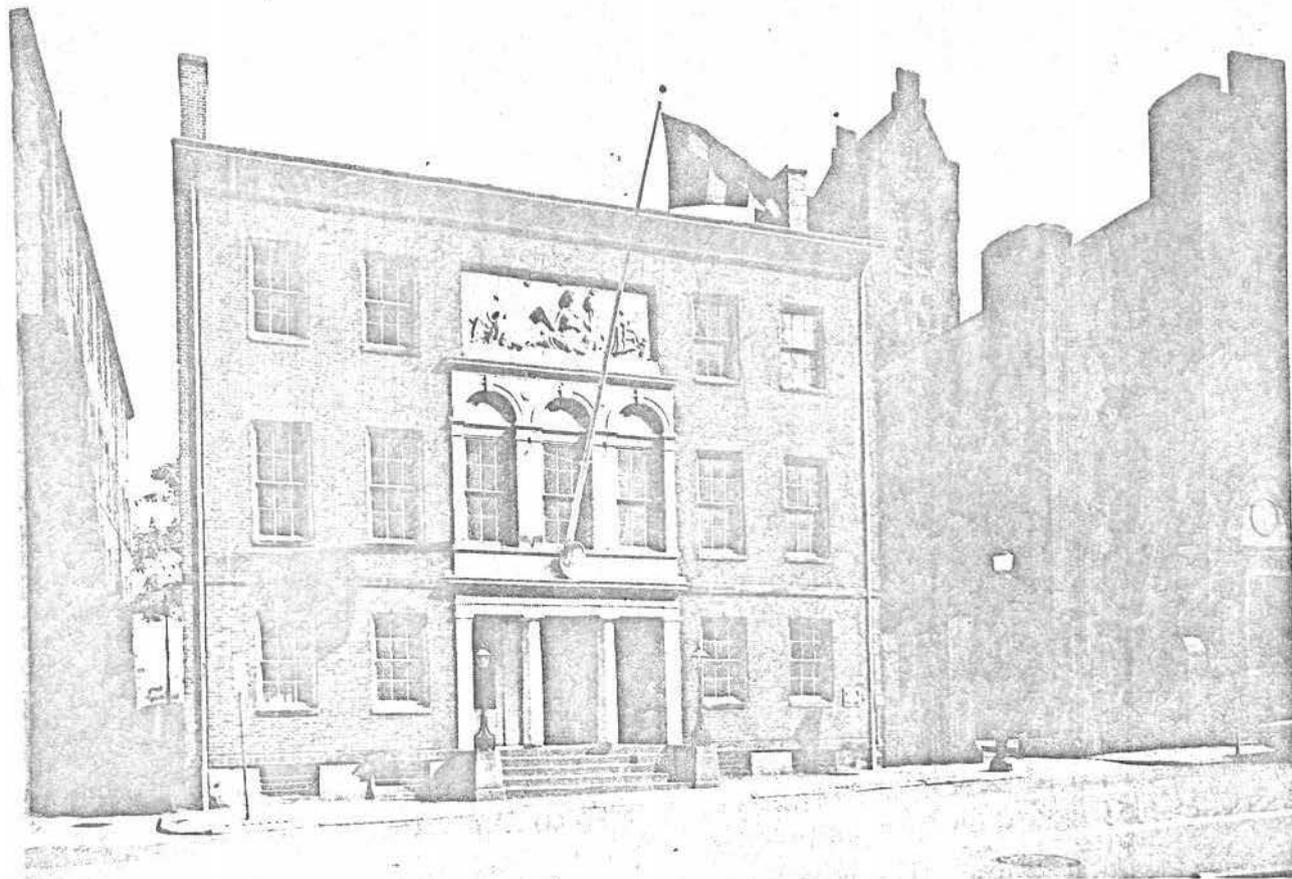
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

View of rear, looking west

THE MUNICIPAL MUSEUM OF BALTIMORE

(Peale Museum)



225 N. Holliday Street

1814

Architect: Robert Cary Long, Sr.

Erected by the artist Rembrandt Peale as his "Baltimore Museum and Gallery of Fine Arts" in 1814, the Peale Museum, as it is popularly known, is the oldest museum building in the United States and the second structure in modern history to be specifically designed and built as a museum for the public. The first was the Old Ashmolean Museum erected in 1682 at Oxford University. Robert Cary Long, Sr. was the architect for Peale's Gallery. Founded as an "elegant Rendezvous for taste, curiosity and leisure," it was an institution devoted to science as well as art. Peale's demonstration of gas illumination led to the founding of The Gas Light Company of Baltimore in 1817.

When Peale sold the building to the City in 1830, it became Baltimore's first City Hall. In 1876, the #1 Negro Grammar School opened there. The school was later expanded to include a high school curriculum and teacher-training courses. Restored and opened to the public in 1931 as "The Museum of the Life and History of Baltimore," it now contains a large collection of prints, paintings, photographs, etc. concerning Baltimore history as well as important paintings by members of the Peale family.

Deed ref: RO 1883/429

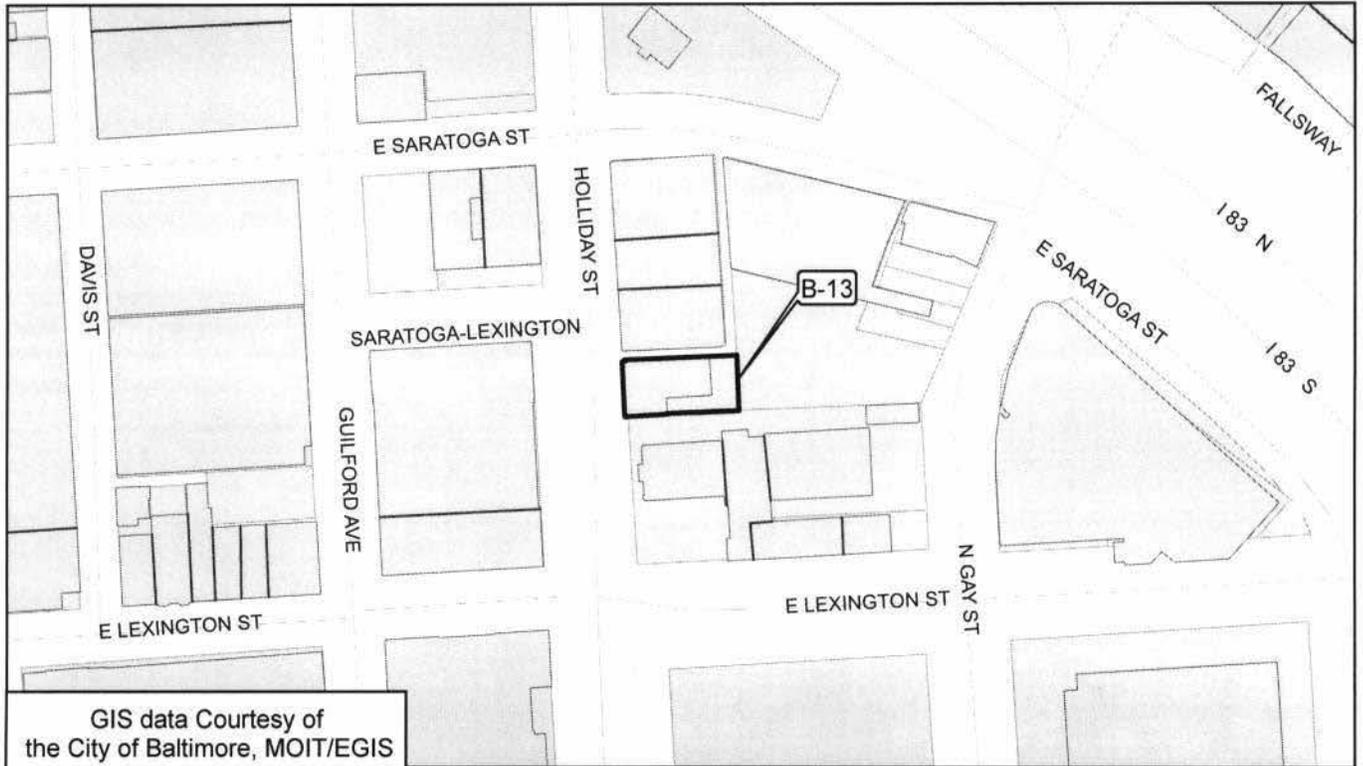
Lot size: 51' x 109'

Wd: 4 Sec: 12

Blk: 1303A Lot: 15

Owner: Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

B-13
Peale Museum
225 N. Holliday Street
Block 1303A, Lot 015
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





Peale Museum
225 N. Holliday St.
Baltimore, Md

R.C. Long, Sr.
1814