

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Spencer Hall

AND/OR COMMON Spencer Hall

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Morgan State University, Cold Spring and Hillen Lanes

CITY, TOWN Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

— VICINITY OF

STATE Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Morgan State University

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER Cold Spring and Hillen Lanes

CITY, TOWN Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-1408

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Spencer Hall is located southeast of the main quadrangle at Morgan State University, Cold Spring and Hillen Lanes, Baltimore. It is connected by a later wing to Carnegie Hall(1919) on the northwest. The building is three stories high, and constructed of stone and brick in a Federal Revival style which is expressed most clearly on its principal(south) facade. This facade is symmetrically composed, with a slightly projecting pedimented pavilion in the center which echoes Carnegie Hall. This central pavilion, however, is three bays wide, and its upper two stories are unified by pilasters; the ground story is expressed as a full basement. This arrangement, and the semicircular round arched windows on the main(central)floor of this section, are derived from Federal period aechitecture, particularly seen in public buildings of the Federal period. The main entrance is located in the center of the ground floor of the pavilion. The pediment contains a semicircular fanlight window. With the exception of the round arched windows in the central pavilion, all other windows in the building on each side of the pavilion are rectangular sash. Those in the central pavilion, both rectangular and round arched, are edged with brick.

In plan, Spencer Hall is organized by a central hallway which runs the length of the building, with laboratories, classrooms, and offices arranged along the hallways on each floor. Stairways are located at each end. The building appears to be well maintained and in good condition.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

B-1408

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1928-30

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Spencer Hall, located on the Morgan State University campus in northeast Baltimore, was built during 1928-30, and was named after Morgan College president Dr. John Oakley Spencer. It is significant in two areas, education and architecture. Originally built as a science building and still serving the same function, Spencer Hall has historical associations with the development of Morgan, a long established black educational institution. It was the third major new building to be constructed on the then Morgan College's new campus which was acquired in 1917. Originally located in west Baltimore, the College was established in 1867 as Centenary Biblical Institute,, for the training of black Methodist ministers. In 1890, it became Morgan College, named for donor Dr. Lyttleton Morgan, offering college level program which included teacher training. In 1939, it was bought by the state and became part of the state educational system.

When Morgan College acquired its new site in 1917, the few houses and barns then on the property were converted to college use; in 1919, Carnegie Hall was the first new college building constructed on the new campus. After the construction of Morgan's heating plant in 1919, Baldwin Hall appears to have been the second major new building, a dormitory. The third was Spencer Hall, a science building, which like Carnegie Hall, was built through hard fund raising efforts on the part of the college. It was funded by a grant from the state legislature, a grant from the General Education Board (a Rockefeller foundation), and by funds raised by the college.

The building is also significant architecturally as a graceful, well-designed Federal Revival style building which is still in good condition, relates well to neighboring buildings, and visually enhances this area of the campus. At the time it was built, Jackson Davis of the General Education Board had high praise for Spencer Hall's design. The architect is not known at this time. The stone, Federal Revival design of Spencer Hall, together with the earlier, Georgian Revival style of Carnegie Hall, also built of stone, established the pattern for the design of many of Morgan's later buildings.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

B-1408

Davis Room, Soper Library, Morgan State University: clippings files, "MSU-Buildings":
MSU yearbook (1976 commemorative edition) Promethean; Morgan memorabilia.
Wilson, Edward N., The History of Morgan State College, N.Y. 1975.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Peggy Bruns Weissman

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

February 1981

STREET & NUMBER

Shaw House, 21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

(301) 269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

BALTIMORE EAST QUAD

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS

INTERIOR
KEY



SPENCER HALL (B-1408)

Montebello Park

Lauraville

Gardenville

HERRING

CLIFTON PARK
AND GOLF COURSE



Spencer Hall, Morgan State University
Cold Spring and Hillen Lanes
Baltimore, MD

B-1408

South facade

Peggy Bruns Weissman, MHT November 1980