

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-145
MAGI 0401452611

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Watchman Fire Company/
South Baltimore Mechanics Library Company
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 125 E. Montgomery St.
CITY, TOWN Baltimore VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE Maryland COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input 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 Telephone #:
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code
VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, RECORDS OFFICE, ETC. Records Office Room 601 Liber #:
Folio #:
STREET & NUMBER Baltimore City Courthouse
CITY, TOWN Baltimore STATE Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three story, three bay brick building with shed roof was originally built in 1855 with a gable roof and tall central tower as the Watchman Fire Company, one of several volunteer fire departments in the area. Later the building served as a local library. The present Classical Revival facade probably dates to the period around the turn of the century.

The building is three stories in height, about 24' wide, and occupies a lot about 85' deep. The building is constructed in running bond. The shed roof is capped by a simple wood and metal cornice consisting of a deep crown molding. There are no extant roof chimneys. The Classical Revival facade has a projecting central bay capped by its own elaborate, pedimented cornice. This secondary cornice extends across the entire width of the facade just below the level of the roof cornice. A deeply projecting crown molding is supported by a row of thick modillions and set above a deep plain freize area decorated with applied moldings.

All of the window openings have also been given Classical Revival treatments. The windows of the second floor level have been accorded the most elaborate treatment. The window openings are framed by heavy molded wood architraves and surmounted by projecting wooden pediments. The central window has a segmentally arched pediment supported by carved wooden consoles; the two side windows have triangular pediments. The window openings are filled with 12/12 double hung sash. A wooden balustrade runs across the facade at the lower level of the windows. The third floor windows have heavily molded wooden architraves with eared wooden lintels and a slightly projecting molded wooden sill supported by consoles. The windows are filled with 8/8 double hung sash.

The first floor area of the facade has been converted into a storefront. There is a centrally located double glass paneled door set beneath a deep single light transom. There are also two side glass paneled doors set back a few feet from the facade under openings cut all the way to the second floor level. The entire store-front area is surmounted by a simple cornice consisting of a deeply projecting crown molding set above a deep freize area. The basement area of the facade is faced with cut stone trim.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input 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 1855 (orig.)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Watchman?

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building is important for having served as one of the early volunteer fire companies in the area, before the days of municipal fire departments. The 1858 Sachse Bird's Eye View of Baltimore shows the building has having a tall central tower, undoubtedly housing the fire alarm bell. The second floor of the building was leased by the South Baltimore Mechanics Library Association. The first floor was occupied by the Watchman Fire Company's engine house from 1855 until about 1874 when the entire building was sold to the Mechanics Library Association.¹ Thus the building has served a dual role in the community as both a fire company and an educational resource.

The original building may have been built by John Watchman, who organized the fire company opened in these premises in 1855. Watchman lived across the street at 200 E. Montgomery St. and was a partner in the firm of Watchman and Bratt, steam engine manufacturers, whose business was located along Hughes St. east of Light.

original to be used as a fire bell
 as well as a library
 as well as a library

¹Baltimore City Land Records, Liber GR 660, Folio 237; Baltimore City Directory, 1855-56, 1858, 1864, 1867-68, 1874

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

M.E. Hayward / Historical Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust/ Struever Bros. & Eccles

6/79

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

1745 Circle Rd.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Ruxton

Maryland 21204

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.

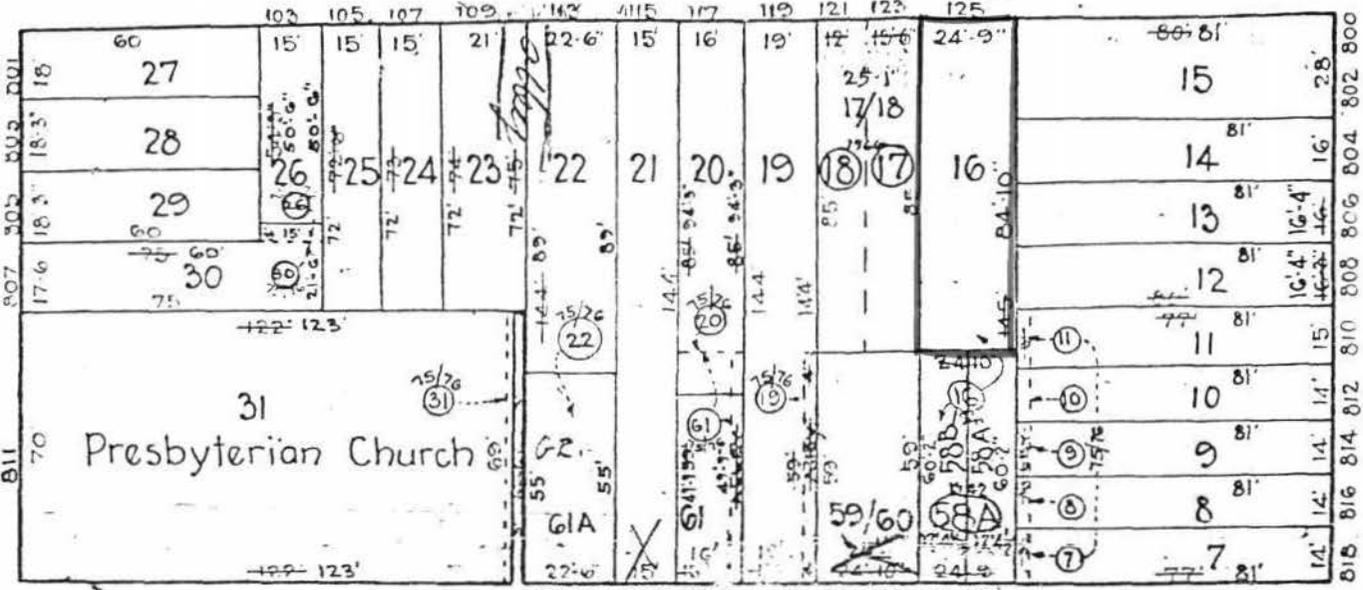
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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

MONTGOMERY

ST.

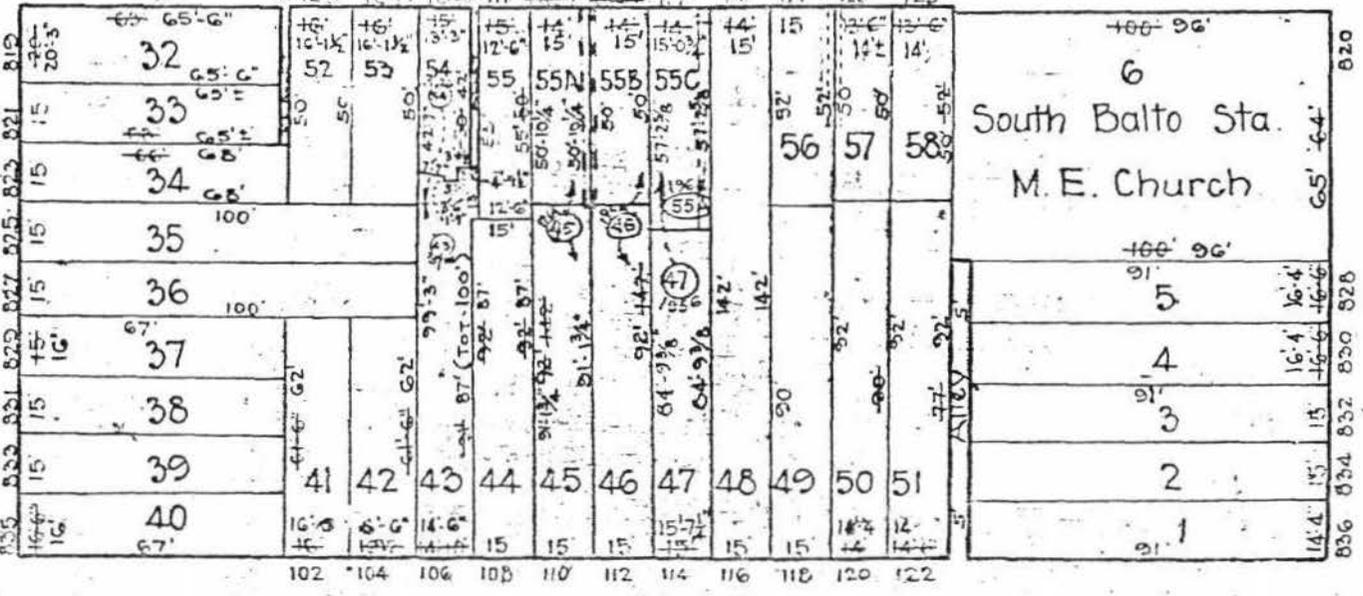
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ST.

E. CHURCHILL

ST.

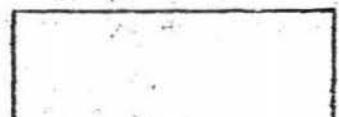


14

WILLIAM

WARREN

AVE.



B-145

CITY

B-145
125 E. Montgomery Street
Block 0906 Lots 016
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





John H. BURKE & CO. SUPPLIES FOR THE PRINTER

PARKING
See Sign

B-1452 125 E. Montgomery St.

M.E.H. 4/79

North elevation