

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

( NHL ) B-1880

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Henry August Rowland Home

AND/OR COMMON

915 Cathedral Street

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 915 Cathedral Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

--- VICINITY OF

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd

STATE

Maryland

CODE

02

COUNTY

Baltimore

CODE

510

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. Peter Lewis

STREET & NUMBER

915 Cathedral Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, Baltimore City Registry of Deeds  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

--- FEDERAL --- STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

( 32 )

# **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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Henry August Rowland, one of America's leading nineteenth century physicists, was born November 27, 1846, in Hornsdale, Pennsylvania. Both his father, who graduated from Yale, and his grandfather were clergymen and the family hoped that the young Rowland would also enter the ministry. At sixteen Rowland was sent to the Phillips Academy in preparation for entering Yale. At Phillips he studied Latin, Greek, and the classics, but his true interest was in science. When Rowland wrote his family, "Oh take me home!" they agreed that he should be allowed to pursue a career in science.

Rowland attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York, and graduated from the school in 1870 with a degree in civil engineering. From 1870 to 1872 he taught at Wooster College in Ohio and then returned to Rensselaer until 1875. While at Rensselaer Rowland published a paper on electromagnetism that attracted the attention of European physicists. When in 1875 Daniel C. Gilman was organizing a faculty for the new Johns Hopkins physics department, he was advised to offer a position to the young Rowland. Rowland agreed to accept on the condition that he be allowed to spend a year in Europe studying the latest advances in physics. Gilman agreed. Rowland returned to the United States in 1876 and began an association with Johns Hopkins that lasted until his death in 1901. Under his direction the physics department at Johns Hopkins, which like the school's other departments embodied the German dedication to pure science, became one of the finest in the United States. On April 16, 1901, Rowland died of cancer at the relatively young of 54.

According to his Dictionary of American Biography biographer, Henry August Rowland possessed an unusual combination of abilities. He had a physicist's grasp of theoretical principles and an engineer's understanding practical mechanics. To these were added a high mathematical aptitude and manual dexterity. The latter was an important skill in an age when scientists built their own delicate apparatus.

Rowland's most important contribution to physics was in the area of electromagnetism. In the early 1870's he prepared a paper, "On Magnetic Permeability, and the Maximum Magnetism of Iron, Steel, and Nickel." After failing to find a publisher for the paper in this country, Rowland sent it to Clark Maxwell in England. Maxwell immediately recognized its value and it was published in the Philosophical Magazine, August, 1873. According to the physicist Thomas C. Mendenhall, Rowland, "...anticipated all others in the discovery and announcement of the beautifully simple law of the magnetic circuit...Rowland laid the foundation for the accurate measurement and study of magnetic permeability." Another expert wrote that in this piece of pure

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

Statement of Significance:

915 Cathedral Street

science physics research Rowland, "...laid the basis for the subsequent study of both permanent and induced magnetization and the starting point for all calculations for the design of dynamos and transformers."

Rowland's best known achievement, or at least the one most popularly known, was in the area of spectrum analysis. He devised a method for preparing gratings on concave glass and metal that made the gratings far more accurate than any previously known. By means of this method Rowland was able to produce per inch 15,000 lines which were uniformly spaced. The uniformity of spacing was the crucial moment for upon it depended the perfection or the purity of the spectrum produced. Rowland then built a large diffraction spectrometer which he used in his researchs on the spectrum of the sun.

Rowland also devised an important formula for determining the mechanical equivalent of heat, i.e. the number of units of work necessary to raise one pound of water one degree in temperature. In a sense, Mendenhall points out, Rowland completed the work started by Benjamin Thompson. In addition, Rowland experimented with a telegraph system that employed alternating current and such a system was put in service in Germany.

Issac Asimov sums up Rowland's significance in the history of science in America in saying, "Henry August Rowland was one of the few important 19th century American physicists." Rowland was the leading American physicist of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. During this period American science, with a few exceptions, had not yet attained the qualitative excellence of European, and especially German, science. Rowland was the equal of his European counterparts.

A second element in Rowland's significance is the influence of the physics department at Johns Hopkins. Rowland was a reserved individual and was not noted as a great teacher. But the department he shaped and led had a major impact on the teaching of physics in American universities. As was the case in other fields of science, Johns Hopkins physics department, with its emphasis on research, became a model which spread to other universities across the country. In this sense Rowland was an institution builder who helped prepare the way for the outburst of American scientific achievement in the 20th century.

Finally, Rowland illustrates the nature of physics during the last quarter of the 19th century. Like its sister physical sciences, physics by the turn of the century had become a highly specialized pursuit of knowledge. Individuals such as Rowland could still make significant contributions, but only well trained professionals working in well organized institutions equipped with the best

(Continued)

B-1880

Form No. 10-300a  
(Rev. 10-74)

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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

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PAGE 2

Statement of Significance:

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research facilities and apparatus were capable of mastering the discipline. The days of the gentleman amateur were long dead. The time of team research on mission oriented projects was yet to come.

25

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

B-1880

- Issac Asimov, The Intelligent Man's Guide to Science, (New York, 1960).  
 Issac Asimov, Biographical Encyclopedia of Science and Technology (New York, 1972).  
 "Henry August Rowland," Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 16, (New York, 1935).  
 Thomas C. Mendenhall, "Henry August Rowland," National Academy of Science Biographical Memoirs, Vol. 5, (Washington, 1905).

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	360510	4341270	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James Sheire, Historian

March 1975

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

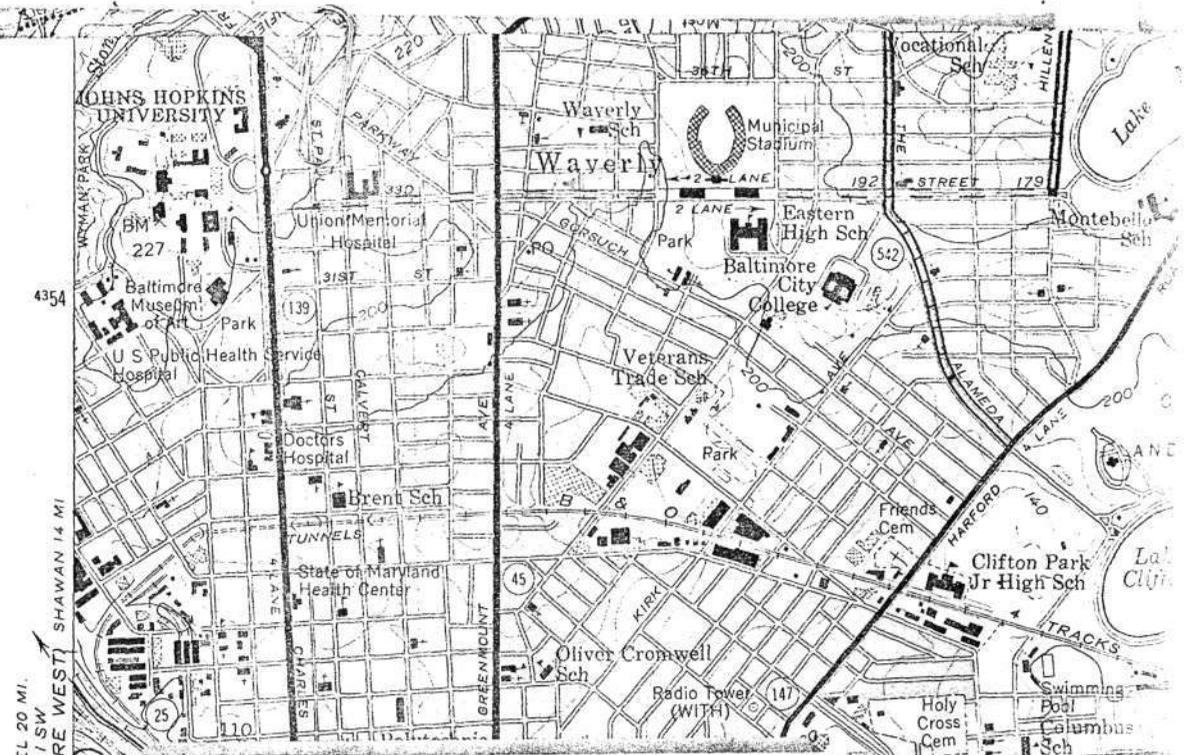
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(37)



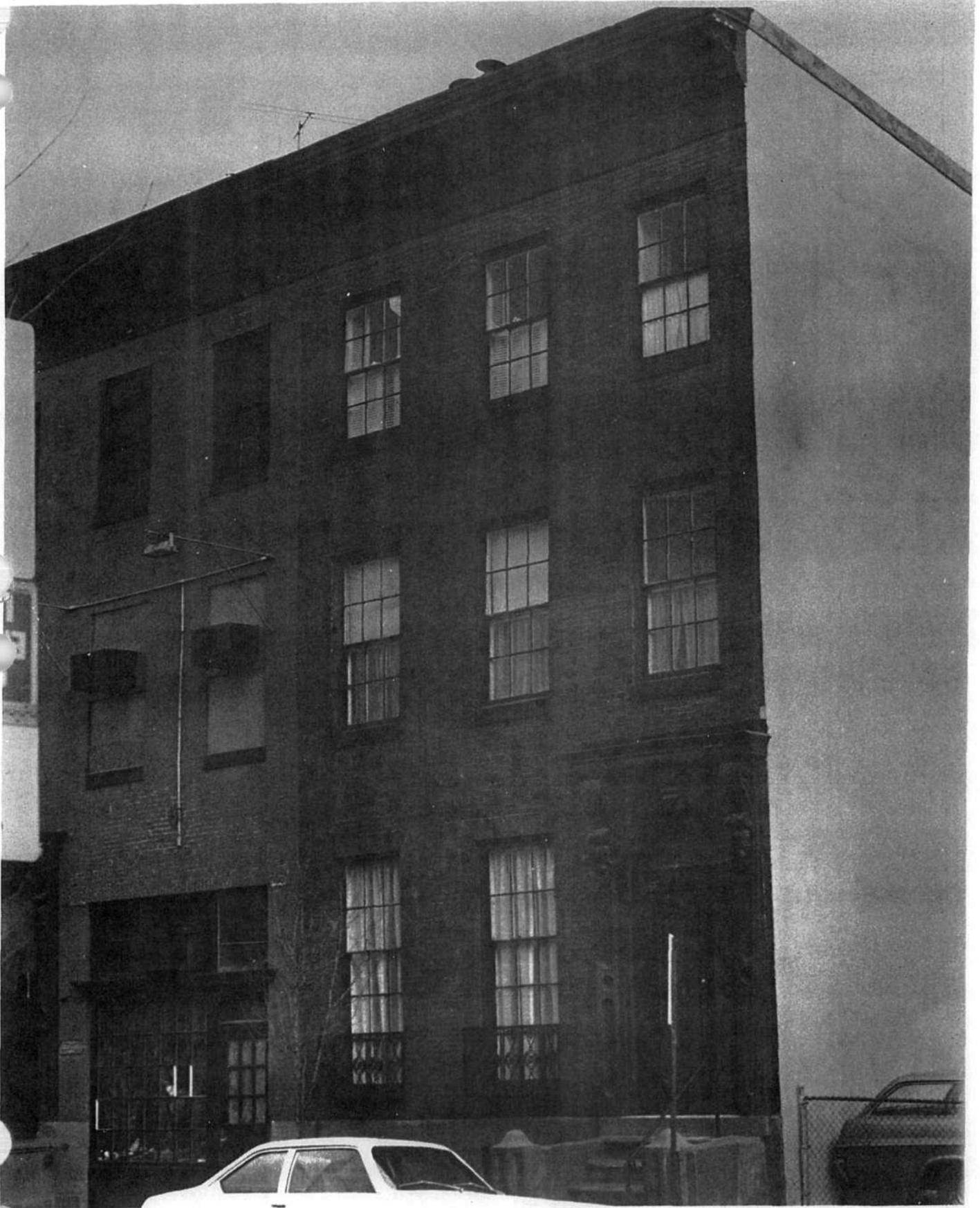
Henry A. Rowland House  
 USGS 7.5' Series: Baltimore East,  
 Maryland, 1953 photorevised 1966  
 UTM  
 18.360510.43512<sup>6</sup>0



LAUREL 20 MI.  
 5662 1 SW  
 (BALTIMORE WEST)  
 SHAWAN 14 MI.

4352  
 4350  
 17'30"  
 4350  
 C. 31 MI.  
 FREDERICK 45 MI.  
 PINE ORCHARD 14 MI.

B-1880



~~BA1880~~  
MAGI #0418805904  
B-1880

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>				
COMMON: 915 Cathedral Street				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
<b>2. LOCATION</b>				
STREET AND NUMBER: 915 Cathedral Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore				
STATE Maryland		COUNTY:		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)		Public Acquisition:		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>				
OWNER'S NAME: Samuel T. Longstreet, et al.				
STREET AND NUMBER: 915 Cathedral Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		STATE: Maryland		21201
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Records Office, Room 601				
STREET AND NUMBER: Baltimore City Courthouse				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		STATE: Maryland		21202
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): RHB 3077-159 11/7/73				
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>				
TITLE OF SURVEY: City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1975 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation				
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 900, 26 South Calvert Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore		STATE: Maryland		21202

**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"/> Uncltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three story, three bay, common-bonded brick and brownstone dwelling has been much less altered than the house adjoining it on the North, 917 Cathedral, an originally identical house with reversed facade. A base of stone is punctuated with a basement entrance on the left and a small central window. A short flight of stone steps, flanked by stubby octagonal stone newells with flattened bell caps, leads to the first floor entrance.

The round-arched entrance is surrounded by a wooden frame and door cap. The framing members are decorated with lozenge and bull's eye carvings, a motif which is repeated in the paneling of the double door. The semi-circular transom is sheltered by a projecting, flat-arched door cap which is supported by bold consoles with acanthus detail, which flank a rolled keystone.

All windows are original. First floor windows are double-hung with 6/9 lights and are capped with flat-arched lintels. Decorative iron grills project slightly from the surface. Second and third story windows have flat-arched lintels, but there are no lintels above those of the third floor. A high wooden cornice with a row of dentils and modillions with rosettes adorns the roof.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

See 917 Cathedral Street.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Empty box for Major Bibliographical References.

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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"	0	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

22'6" x 140'

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Billy Pencek, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

DATE: 10/7/75

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 900, 26 South Calveet Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland

21202

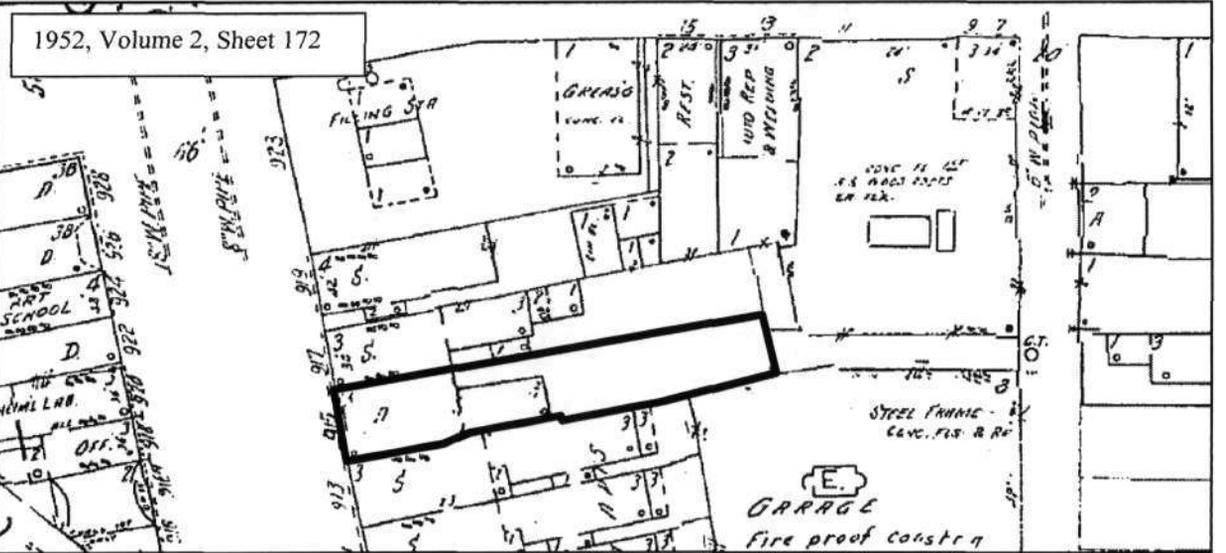
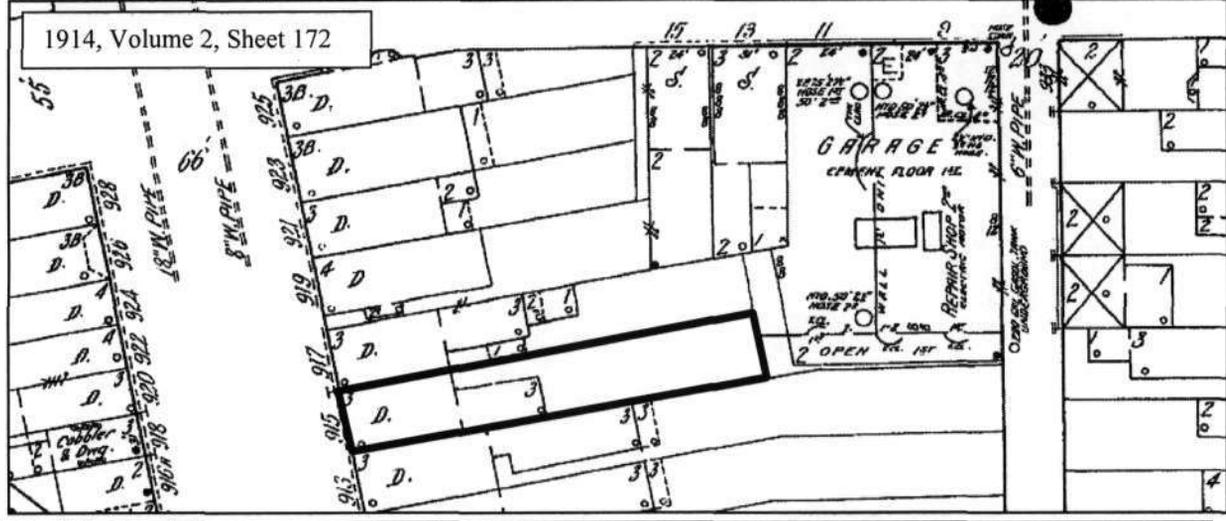
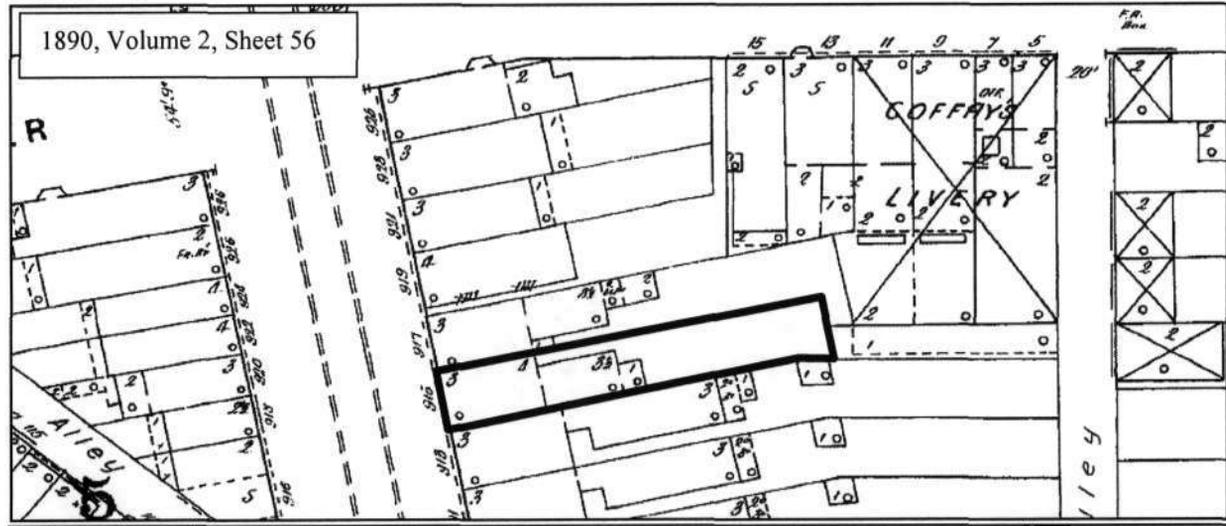
12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

B-1880  
Henry August Rowland Home  
915 Cathedral Street  
Sanborn Maps



B-1880

Henry August Rowland Home

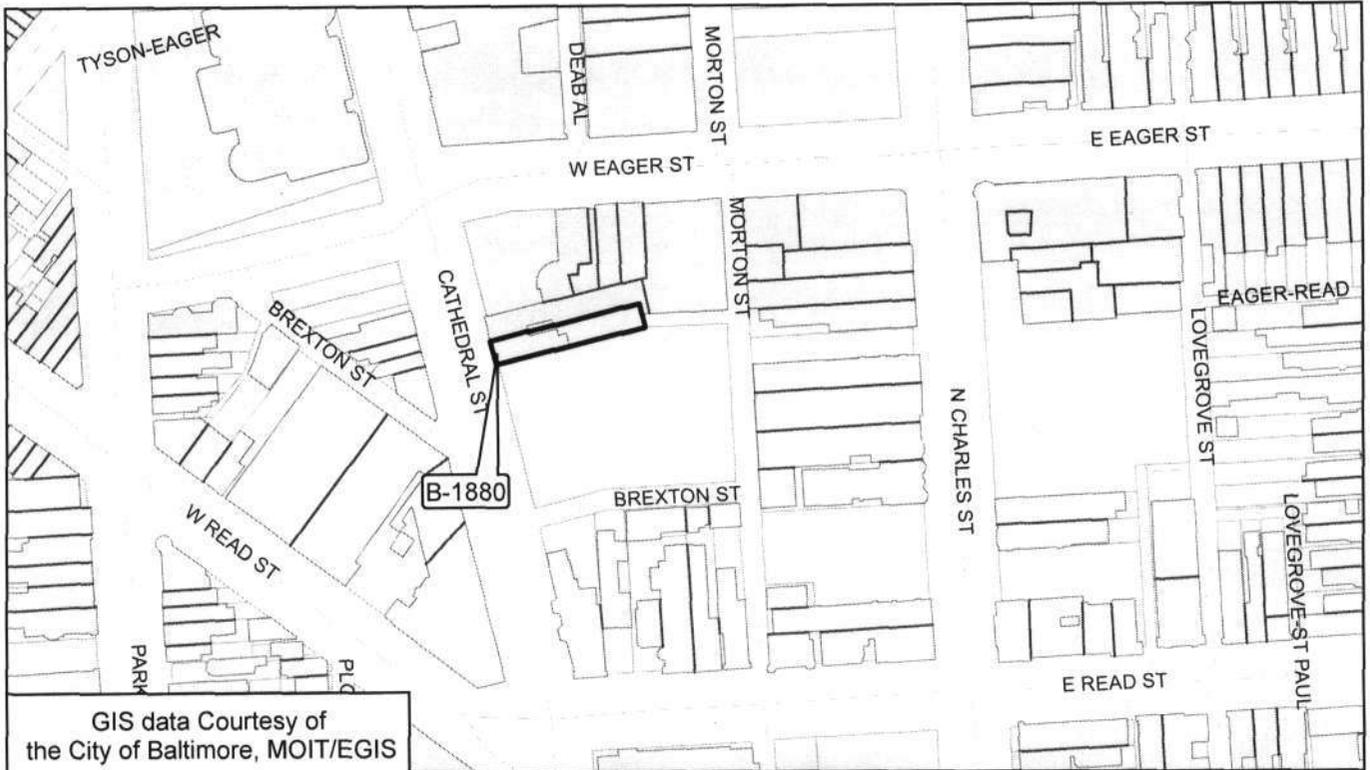
915 Cathedral Street, Baltimore

Block 0511, Lot 031

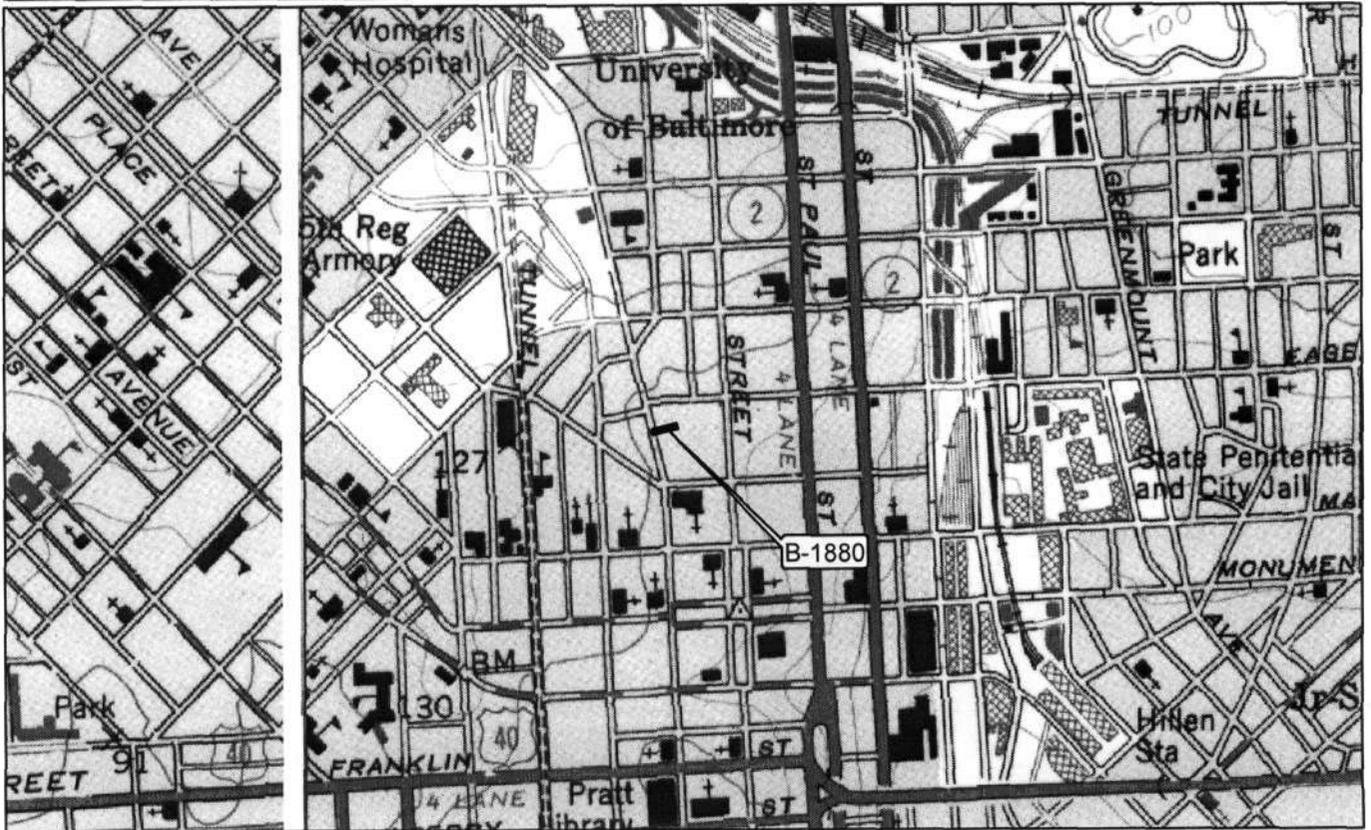
Baltimore Department of Public Works Tax Map, Ward 11, Section 2, Block 511



B-1880  
Henry August Rowland Home  
915 Cathedral Street  
Block 0511, Lot 031  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of  
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS





915 Cathedral St

B-1880

8

Shooter  
59%

The Baltimore residence of the noted 19th century physicist Henry A. Rowland.

BIK 511  
N.18 R2 AUG 1



915 Cathedral

B-1880

Block 511  
Neg 18  
C.B. Thompson  
Aug, 1950