

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: The Sunpapers Building				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Calvert and Centre Streets				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY:	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
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
Public Acquisition:		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC		
<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No		
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <u>Communication</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: The A. S. Abell Company				
STREET AND NUMBER: Calvert and Centre Streets				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			STATE: Maryland	21203
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
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. #): MLP 7241-116 10/16/47				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
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: Room 900, 26 S. Calvert Street				
STREET AND NUMBER: Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			STATE: Maryland	21202

JFC 1986-410 11/17/65

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

This International Style inspired brick building with setbacks was built in 1949 as the main office and plant of the Baltimore Sunpapers. Occupying an entire block site, the irregularly massed pile is arranged in two main building sections, and is organized to take advantage of its Guilford Avenue, trackside location.

The front of the building is set back from Calvert Street behind a grassy landscaped border. A wide flight of stone steps cuts through the border to lead to an entrance level terrace, fitted with three flag poles at its front edge. The terrace opens into the main lobby of the office portion of the building.

The office portion of the building is composed of three principal architectural units, arranged in a rigid cubistic geometry:

- 1) a six story high, three bay wide, six bay deep brick office section, with setbacks at the fifth and sixth floor levels, with banded fenestration
- 2) a two story high, five bay wide entrance, built of stone, which projects from the left side of the office section
- 3) a seven story high, one bay wide brick office slab, which abuts the first two sections on the north, and which extends slightly beyond the building line of the entrance

The six story high office section is fenestrated, on all but the first floor level, with bays of double hung windows with blue tinted glass. The bays are defined by grey-green stone panels at each level, which return on the side of the building at the corners and mark the placement of the piers behind. A string of stone banding accentuates the horizontality of the fenestration at each level, in unbroken outlining which also turns the corner of the building, and is carried on as thin cornices for the walls extending beyond the upper floor setbacks.

The entrance of five bays is filled with clear glass set in metal frames, recessed into the sheer stone walls. Two bays are fitted with fixed plate glass which is etched with the insignia of the Sun, and separate the three doorway bays. Set above the metal lintels of each of these, tall planes of glass rise and reveal the suspended mezzanine of the lobby interior. Freestanding aluminum letters atop the entrance identify the building as "THE SUNPAPERS".

Flanking the entrance on the right, a stairway runs along the face of the offices, leading to the parking lots to the south, and is sheltered by a stone portico. To the left of the entrance the projection of the seven story office section is sheathed in stone on the first two floors. On the sputern side of the five upper floors, single, stone framed, double hung windows mark each floor.

Extending northward from this highest portion of the office section is the six story plant and pressroom. Recessed far behind the building line of

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Journalism</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1948 the Pennsylvania Railroad put up for sale Block 554, its obsolete Calvert Station property. Built for the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad in 1855 to the designs of prominent Baltimore architects, J. Rudolph Niernsee and J. Crawford Neilson, the Italianate station, modelled after Richard Upjohn's new St. Paul's Church, had also served passengers on the Northern Central line. In October 1949, the cornerstone of the Sunpapers building was laid.

Although popular taste has yet to find the building in its favor, the building is perhaps the most thorough example of the International Style in Baltimore. Designed to house the most technologically advanced printing, material handling, and communications equipment that was available in the early post World War II years, the exterior of the building was designed to be the slickest architectural package possible.

The Sunpapers has a tradition in this regard, having been responsible for the commissioning of the cast iron spectacle, the Sun Iron Building (built 1851, destroyed by fire 1904), which stood at the southeast corner of Baltimore Street and Guilford Avenue, and for the Sun Building (built 1906, demolished for John Johansen's Mechanic Theatre, built 1966), a Beaux Arts-Mannerist conglomeration, which stood at the southwest corner of Baltimore and Charles Street. Although ungainly to modern eyes, the dramatic massing of the present building, with its Manhattan-styled setbacks, generally succeeds in provoking a viewer response.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. 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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 615' x 325'

Acreeage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William Pencek, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation DATE: 11/75

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 900, 26 S. Calvert Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore STATE: Maryland ZIP: 21202

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

Significance of this property is:
National State Local

Signature _____

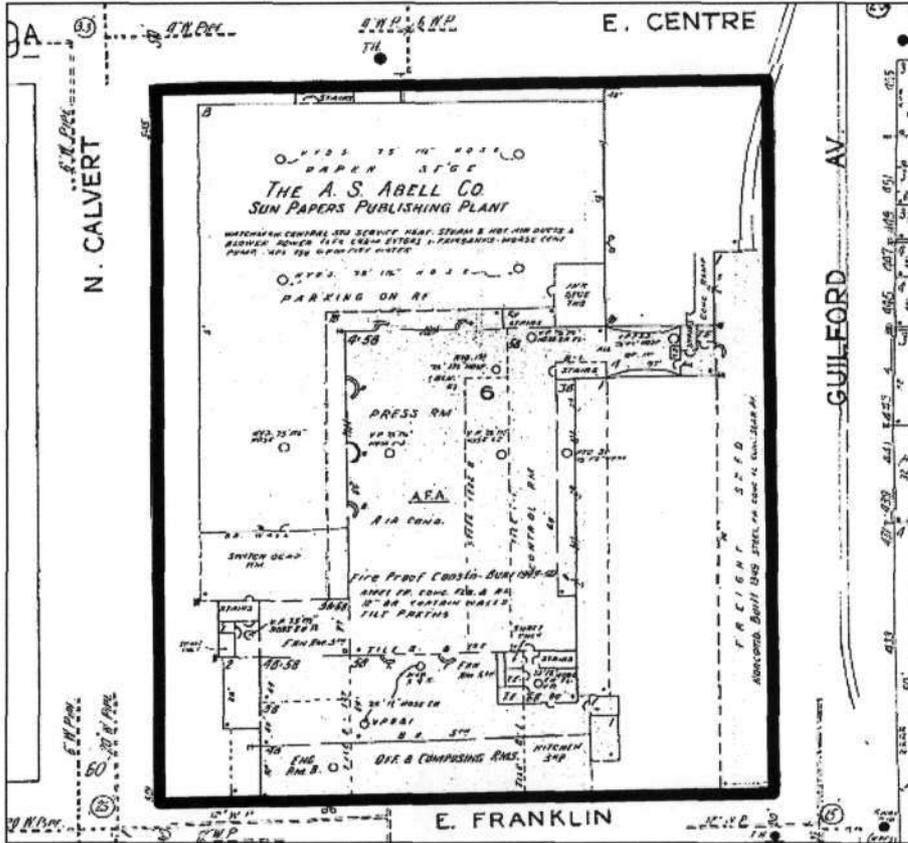
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Continuation Sheet #1

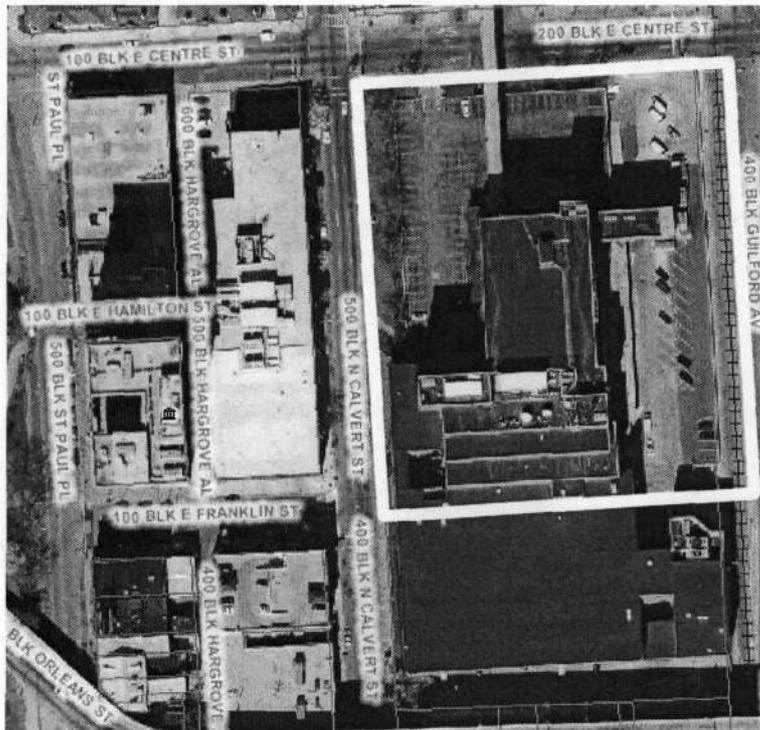
the office section, it is set behind a low brick wall and a landscaped, gravel paved terrace. The two story high first level pressroom is entirely sheathed in an uninterrupted curtain of square panes of blue tinted glass set in metal sash, which turns the northern corner. The top four floors are fenestrated like the six story office section, with stone panels marking the bays where the structural piers ascend. A brick, six story high stair tower with an unbroken vertical of glazing rises at the northwestern corner of the plant. Parking lots extend to the north to a low brick wall which separates the lots from the landscaped, Centre Street border. On the Guilford Avenue, rear side of the plant, a six car railroad siding facilitates the delivery of newsprint, and a bank of loading docks for route delivery trucks are provided.

A notable feature of the building's interior is a large mural in the lobby, which depicts an 1837 view of Baltimore as seen from the southern edge of Howard's Park (now, approximately, the corner of St. Paul and Madison Streets; 1837 is the year of the founding of the Sun), taken from a contemporary watercolor. Almost impossible to detect are the additions made to the building in 1961, when each section of the structure was heightened by an additional floor.

B-2040
 The Sunpapers Building
 501 N. Calvert Street, Baltimore
 Sanborn Map 1914 (revised 1953)



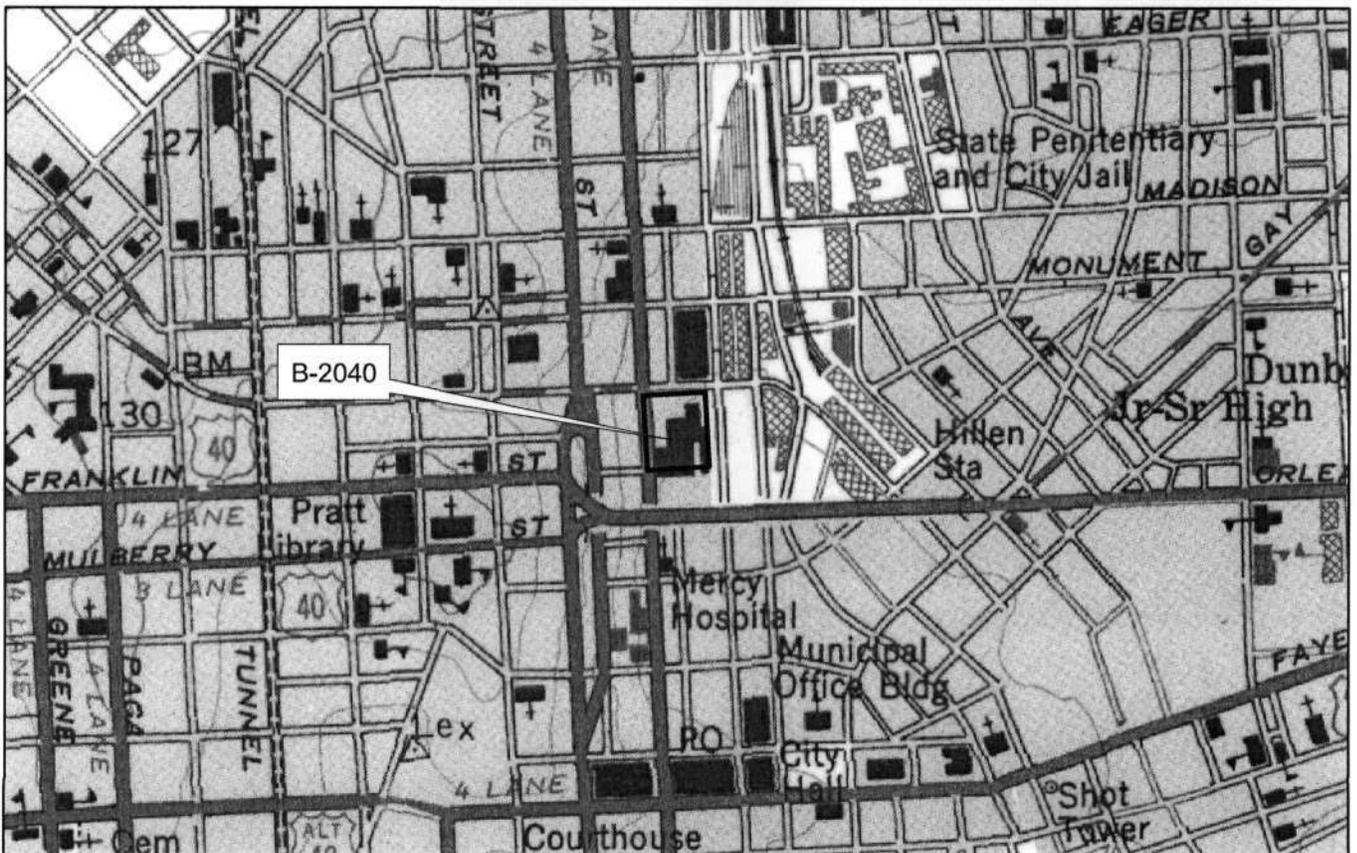
Baltimore City iMap image, 2006



B-2040
Sunpapers Building (The A.S. Abell Co., Sun Papers Publishing Plant)
501 N. Calvert Street
Block 0554 Lot 001
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad



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





NOV
AGENCY
ROUTE
PARKING
BUSINESS
VEHICLES TOWED
AWAY
STOPPING
8-9 AM
6:30 PM
PARKING
N 3 PM

B-2040

JP

~~BLK 554~~
Sunpapers
Bldg.