

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-2055

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 400-404 Park Avenue

and/or common Parking

2. Location

street & number 400-404 Park Avenue not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity of Seventh congressional district

state Maryland county Baltimore

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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Nachman M. Gerber

street & number 4 Jonathans Court

telephone no.:

city, town Cockeysville

state and zip code MD 21030

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse SEB66 liber

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 99 folio

city, town Baltimore state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-2055

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This circa 1920s parking structure sits on the northwest corner of Park Avenue (80' frontage) and Mulberry Street (154 frontage). The garage abuts a partywall structure to the west and an alley to the north. The two-story garage has a geometric zig-zag design running across the low walls of the second story, contributing to the Art Deco appearance of the structure.

The Park Avenue facade is three bays wide. The bays are defined by square concrete posts that support the upper story. The first bay is half filled with a cinder block wall with a small window set in. The rest of the bay has a low concrete wall that is capped with a concrete sill. The second bay is open, serving as an entrance/exit to the first story. The third bay has a low concrete wall that is capped by a concrete sill.

The second story is divided into three bays by the posts that rise up beyond the low wall and form three stubby towers or blocks. The low walls are embellished by raised zig-zag patterns in each bay. There is no roof-top shelter over the second story.

The Mulberry Street facade is five bays wide. The first, third, and fifth bays have low concrete walls with concrete sills. The fifth bay is partially filled in by a cinder block wall with one window at the corner. The second and fourth bays are open, serving as entrances and exits for the first story.

The second story is divided into five bays by the posts that rise up beyond the low wall and form five stubby towers or blocks. The bays have additional blocks in between the post blocks. These crenellations function as anchors for the tube handrail that runs across the top. The low walls are embellished by raised zig-zag patterns in each bay. There is no roof-top shelter over the second story.

The west wall is bricked and parged where it abuts the partywall neighbor.

The north wall faces the alley. The north wall is divided into five bays. The only entrance to the second story of the garage is through the alley to a ramp in the fifth bay (the NW corner of the structure). Each bay in the first story is open to the alley, with no low wall. The second-story low wall does not have the zig-zag pattern of the facade.

The parking structure is supported by concrete posts running four rows deep and six rows across. Thus there are a fair number of posts distributed across the floor of the garage. The ceiling is of coffered concrete panels. The parking office is on the SE corner of the structure. The cinder block office has a window in the south, west and east walls and a door in the north.

8. Significance

Survey No.

B-2055

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" 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 unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This 1920s parking structure is a significant building type in the Baltimore commercial streetscape and is a unique example of one of the earliest experiments in ramped parking. The need for parking structures is a twentieth-century phenomenon that accompanied that rise of the automobile. The two-story height of this structure indicates the insufficiency of ground lot parking due to the increasing density of traffic of both office workers and shoppers. The garage also indicates the prevalence of commuter traffic in the downtown area in the post-War period and, as such, makes a contrast with the walking, residential city of the downtown in the nineteenth-century or the commuting via rail lines city at the turn of the century.

The style of the garage is an excellent example of a 1920s early Art Deco structure. The utilitarian function is the primary aesthetic, but the zig-zags on the walls makes a nod to the geometric designs that were popular then.

The interior of the garage shows the shortcomings of early ramped structures. The many posts needed to support the second story create a field of obstacles in the parking lot. In the future the bays would be more spaced out, but here we see an early case of experimentation with a new building type.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

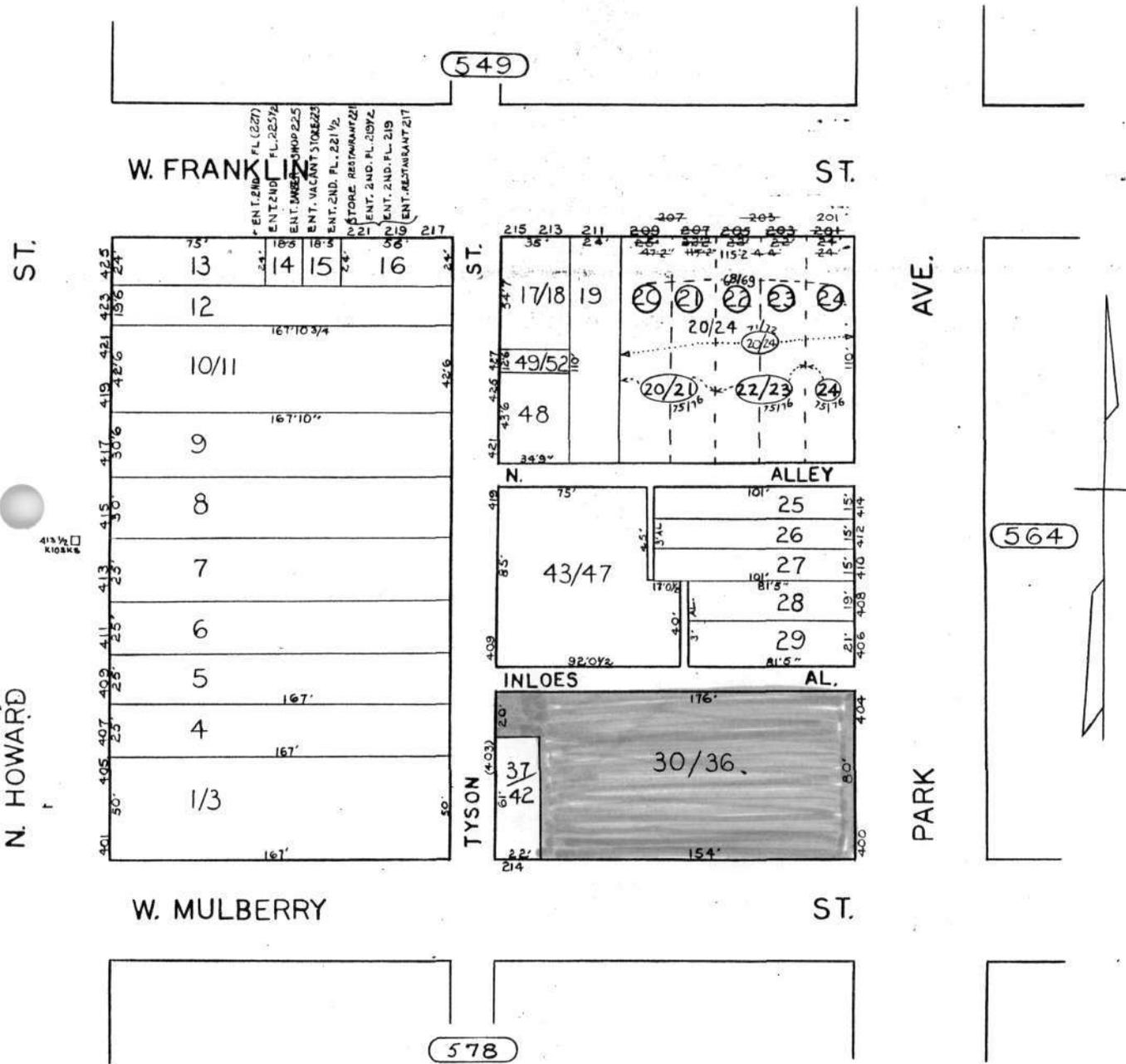
Historic Environment:
Urban

Historic Function and Use:
Transportation

Known Design Source:
None

REVISIONS

LOTS 20 TO 24 COM'S'D PER O.C. S.H. 10053
LOTS 20/21, 22, 23, 24 PER DEED, C. S.H. 330
LOT 20/24 PER O.O.; C.S.H. 76-128



ENT. 2ND. FL. (227)
 ENT. 2ND. FL. (227A)
 ENT. 2ND. FL. (225)
 ENT. VACANT STORE (223)
 ENT. 2ND. FL. (221 1/2)
 STORE, RESTAURANT (21)
 ENT. 2ND. FL. (209A)
 ENT. 2ND. FL. (219)
 ENT. RESTAURANT (217)

CITY OF BALTIMORE
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION
 WARD 4 SECTION 2
 BLOCK 563
 SCALE 1"=50' DATE NOV. 1966

NOTICE
 THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

PREPARED BY P. WAINWRIGHT
 CHECKED BY



B-2055

400-404 N Park Avenue - Parking

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8191

Maryland SHPO

SE Elevation

1/1

MAGI# 042055811
563
B-2055

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: NW Corner W. Mulberry and Park Avenue				
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Same 400-404 Park Ave				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore				
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY:	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" 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: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: XX <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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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) Parking Garage		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
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. #):				
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: Commission for Hist. and Arch. Preservation				
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 900, S. Calvert Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			STATE: Maryland	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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 one story steel, concrete, and concrete block parking structure is one of the oldest facilities erected for this purpose, standing in Baltimore. Built c. 1925, the square, three bay by three bay corner structure has a floor of ground level parking covered by a roof-top parking level. Supported on a system of regularly spaced concrete-covered steel piers, the low wall of the upper level is decorated with concrete zig-zags in low relief.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th 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 | osophy | _____ |
| <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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*In statement please see 401-405 N. Howard
Block 563, 1-3
Baltimore Md*

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:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Marilyn Wachs, Elizabeth Gipson, Judith Warrington, and
Constance Beims, Students, Goucher College

ORGANIZATION	DATE
Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation	1975

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

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE
Baltimore	Maryland 21202

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

Significance of this property is:

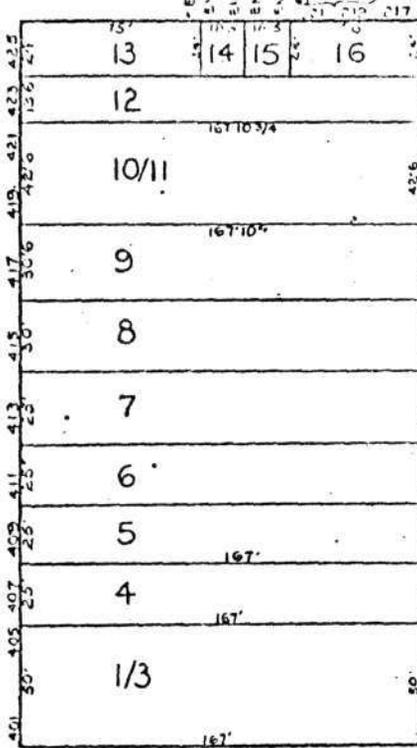
National State Local

Signature

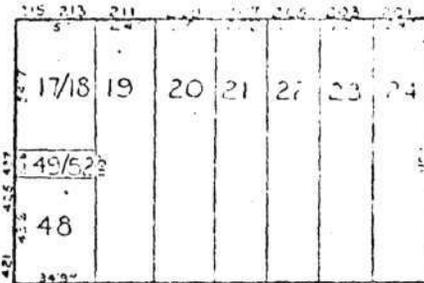
549

W. FRANKLIN ST.

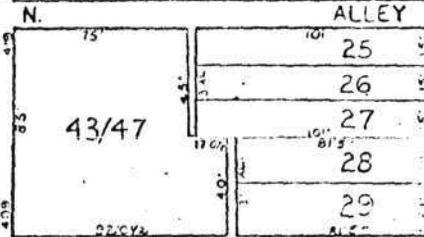
ST.



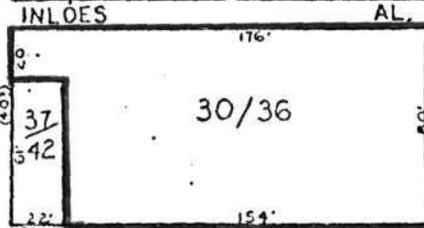
ST.



AVE.



564



PARK

W. MULBERRY ST.

578

562

N. HOWARD

DRAWN BY P. WAINWRIGHT
LETTERED BY P. WAINWRIGHT
CHECKED BY

NOTICE
THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY DEED AS PROVIDED
FOR UNDER ARTICLE 20.40 OF THE CITY CHARTER
IT IS CORRECTED FROM TITLE AND OTHER
SOURCE DOCUMENTS FOR AN AMENDMENT ONLY

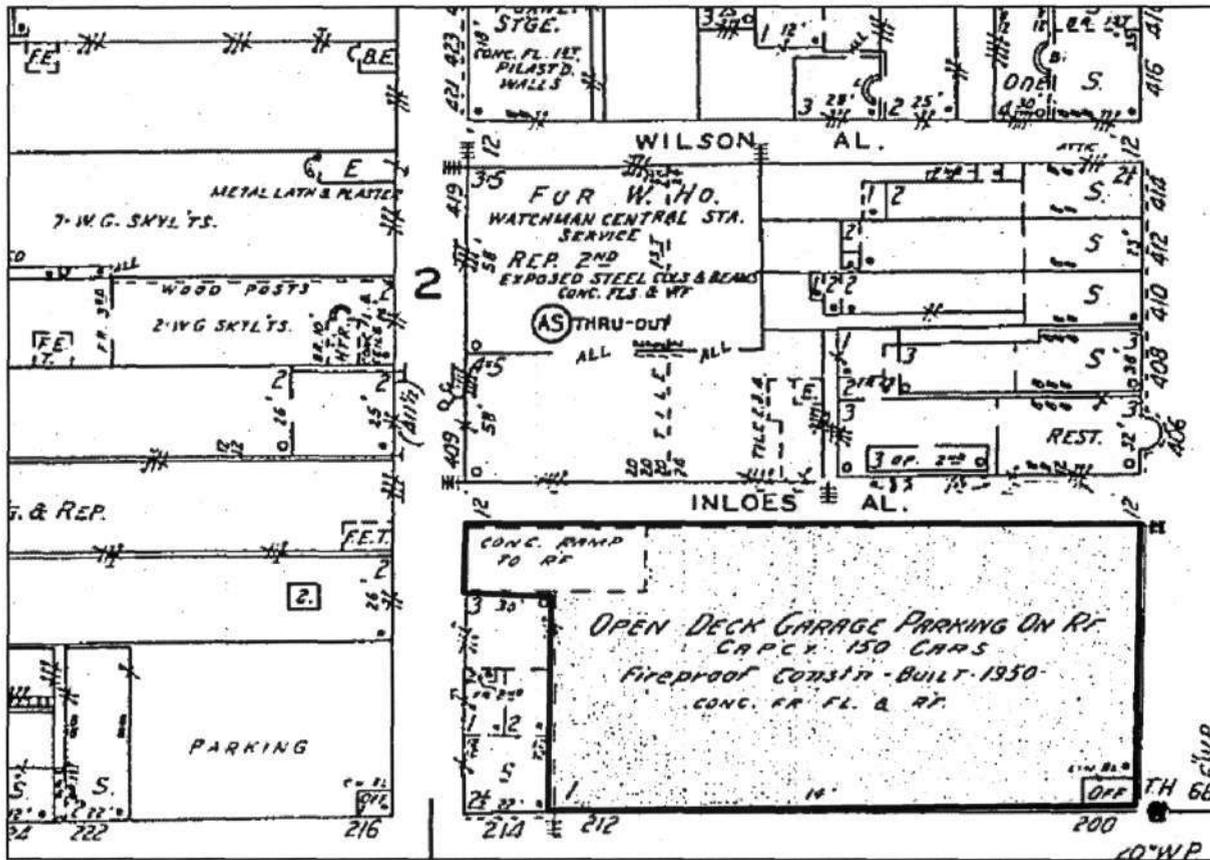
CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

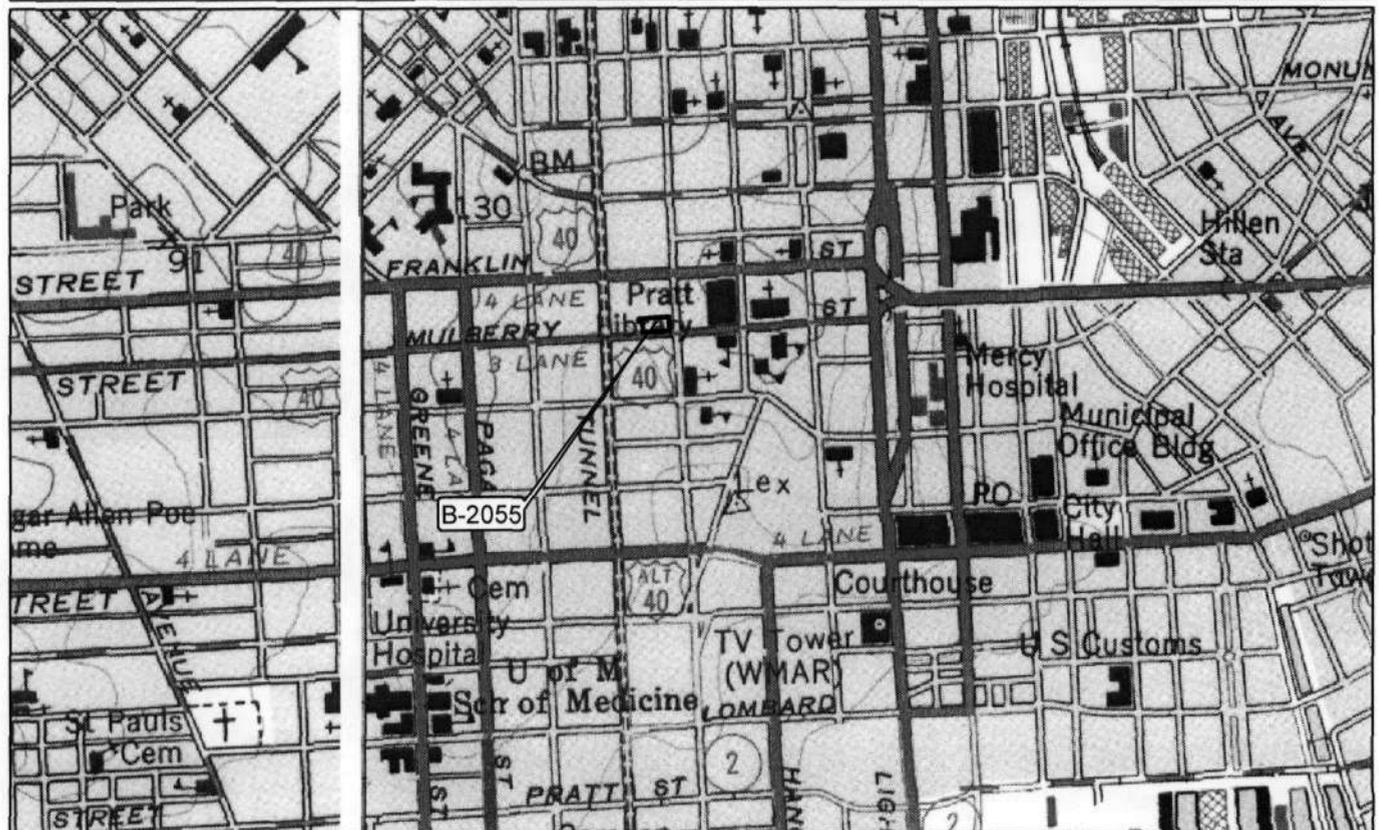
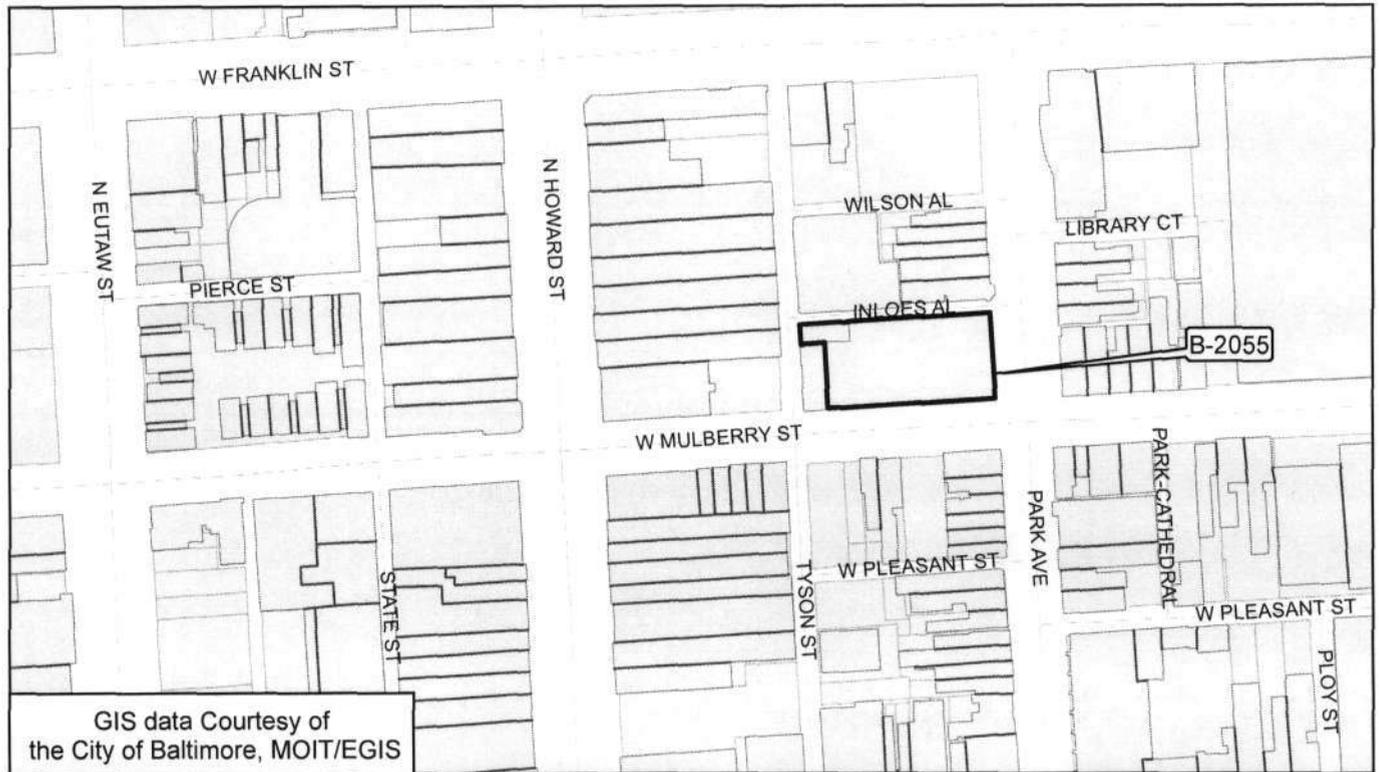
WARD 4 SECTION 2
BLOCK 503

SCALE 1"=50' NOVEMBER 1968

B-2055
Parking Garage
400-404 Park Avenue
Sanborn Map, 1952



B-2055
Parking Garage
400-404 Park Avenue
Block 0563, Lot 030
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





N.W. Corner W. Mulberry & Park Ave

B-2035

BIK 563

Neg 1