

B-2268

Engine Co. No. 1 Fire House (preferred)  
(Stars Palace)  
323-325 North Paca Street  
Private

1908

Engine Co. No. 1 is one of a series of early 20th century fire houses built following the Fire of 1904. Many of these houses were designed by the firm of Simonson and Pietsch and display the typical characteristics embodied in Engine House No. 1: rectangular plan, elaborate one or two bay facade, two story height and rear hose drying tower. This station was the second house of Engine Co. No 1. which previously was located at 106-108 North Paca Street (Truck Co. No. 2; National Register; B-3695).

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Engine Co. No. 1 Fire House (preferred)

and/or common Stars Palace

## 2. Location

street & number 323-325 North Paca Street  not for publication

city, town Baltimore  vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state Maryland county

## 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Maurice H. Annenberg et al

street & number 320 N. Eutaw Street telephone no.: 837-3634

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21201

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber RHB 3446

street & number Calvert and Fayette Streets folio 565

city, town Baltimore state

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Baltimore City Neighborhoods Survey

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No. B-2268

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

## SUMMARY:

The Old Engine Co. No. 1 Fire House is a two story brick Classical Revival fire house built in 1908 and located on the east side of North Paca Street between Mulberry and Saratoga Streets in central Baltimore, Maryland. The building is a long rectangle with one bay in the principal facade on Paca Street. Elaborate terra cotta decorative details embellish the facade, including a swagged cartouche and lion's head above a wide segmental arch. The north and south elevations are undecorated with functional fenestration. The hose drying tower and roof cupolas remain intact, although with minor alterations. The building is in fair condition. The interior has been significantly altered for use as a discotheque.

## General Description:

The main elevation facing North Paca Street features a large segmental arched opening which is currently filled in with stucco surrounding double wood doors bearing the logo "Stars Palace". The arch is framed in terra cotta and is decorated above with an elaborate carved cartouche with a lion's head flanked by swags. The cartouche bears the script lettering "BFD". Flanking the arched entrance are two projecting brick piers resting on granite bases trimmed with wave molding.

The second story has three rectangular windows, separated by small brick pilasters and terra cotta details. The large flanking piers terminate at the second story and are decorated with cartouches and garlands. The cartouches are repeated at the north and south elevations where the decoration of the piers returns. The windows have various treatments ranging from plate glass to boarding. Above the second story windows is a dark terra cotta panel inscribed "Baltimore City Fire Department". The cornice projects above the panel with guttae and a brick parapet. The cornice returns on the north and south elevations.

The north and south elevations have nine 1/1 windows with segmental arches on the upper story, the location of the original firemen's quarters. The first floor has five large window openings which have been boarded and painted for advertising the present night club tenant. A cast iron gate is attached to the building near the northwest corner, formerly closing the alley between the fire house and the now-demolished building to the north.

The east or rear elevation faces an alley and appears to be in poor condition. Both windows and the central doors are boarded and an open circular hole is located on the second floor. An old pulley remains in place. The roof of the fire house is gabled, with two ventilation cupolas straddling the ridge. The windows in the cupolas have been boarded. The hose tower at the northeast corner has a hipped roof and its exterior is covered with corrugated metal.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-2268

Baltimore City Archives, R.G. 35; Contract and Bonds 1907-1917, Box 17, No.83  
Board of Fire Commissioners, Annual Report 1908.  
Forrest, Clarence. Official History of the Fire Dept. of the City of Balto., 1898.  
Murray, William A. The Unheralded Heroes of Baltimore's Big Blazes, Balto. Schmitz 1969.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Baltimore EastQuadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

B 

Zone	Easting			Northing							

C 

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D 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

co-terminous with lot 41 ft. 4 inches by approx. 140 ft.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Davis, Historical Preservation Analystorganization Comm. for Hist. & Arch. Pres. (C.H.A.P.) date December, 1985street & number 606 Tower Suites, 118 N. Howard Street telephone (301) 396-4866city or town Baltimore state Maryland 21201

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.

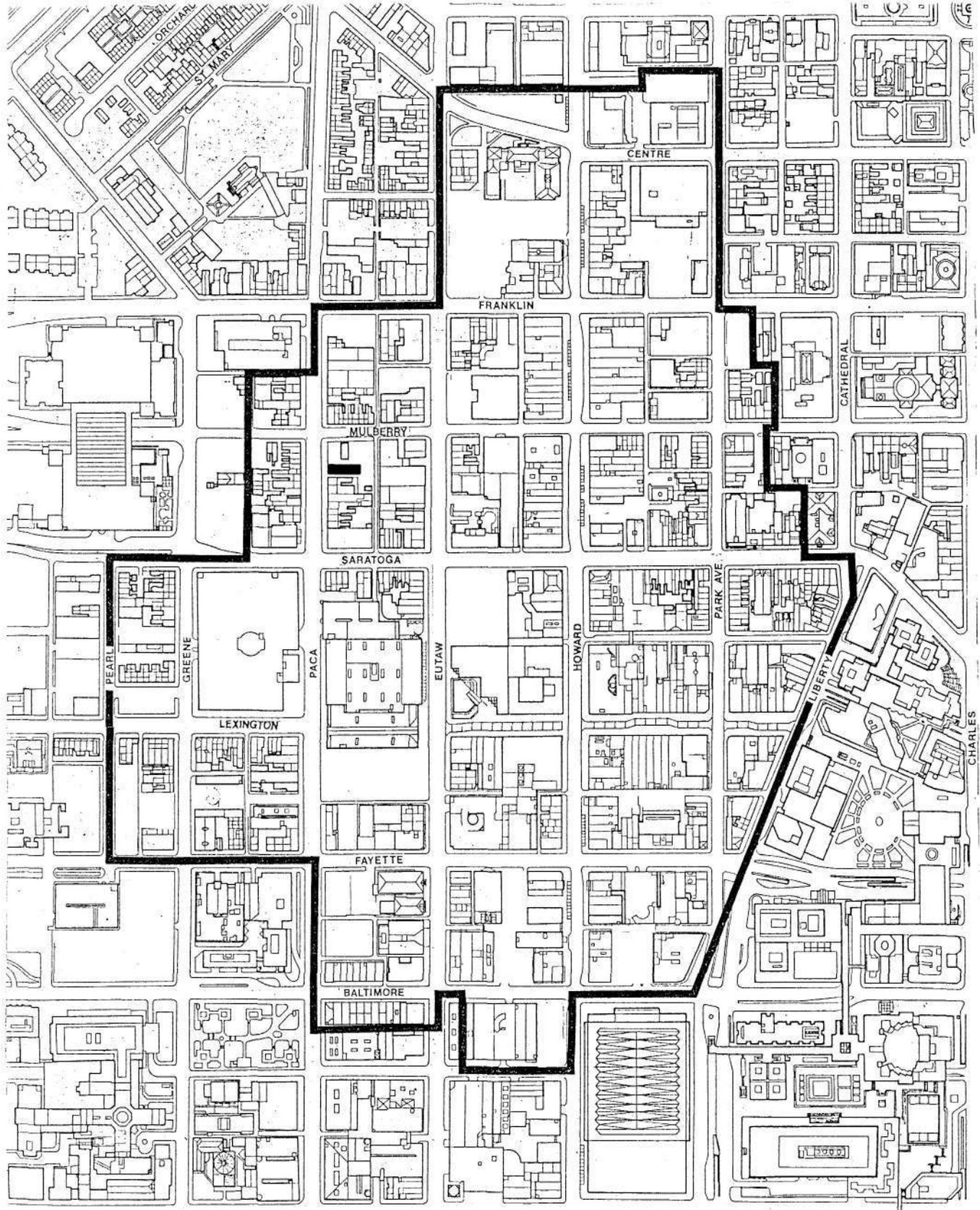
return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

No. 2 (later Truck Co, No. 2) occupied the old Howard Fire house, while Engine No. 1 moved into a new addition to the old building. The new section's tower contained a 2,470-lb. bell, formerly owned by the volunteer First Baltimore Hose Co. The two companies shared the fire house for the next 49 years. In 1908, the new Engine Co. No. 1 fire house at 323-325 North Paca was completed.

The new Engine Co. No. 1 station reflected the modernization efforts of the Department in its design. The building is a long rectangle with a single wide opening to the street. The original plan placed horse stalls and equipment on the main floor and living quarters and office space on the upper floor. The latest improvements in telephonic and telegraphic communication between the main Fire Dispatcher's office and the stations were provided for in the specifications and, within the station itself, automatic chain releases on the horse stalls were included. A hose drying tower to facilitate proper care of the hoses was an important feature. Glazed terra cotta walls on the main floor improved cleanliness and also made equipment maintenance easier.

As important as the functional nature of the fire station was the design by Simonson and Pietsch. The fire house presented a street facade which incorporated many of the Classical Revival details found in larger public and commercial buildings of the period. Ornamental terra cotta was used in scrolls and cartouches above the arched opening and at the lower cornice line. The subtle recess of the arch and three upper floor windows emphasizes the perception of the flanking piers as pilasters supporting the parapet and entablature above the central bay.

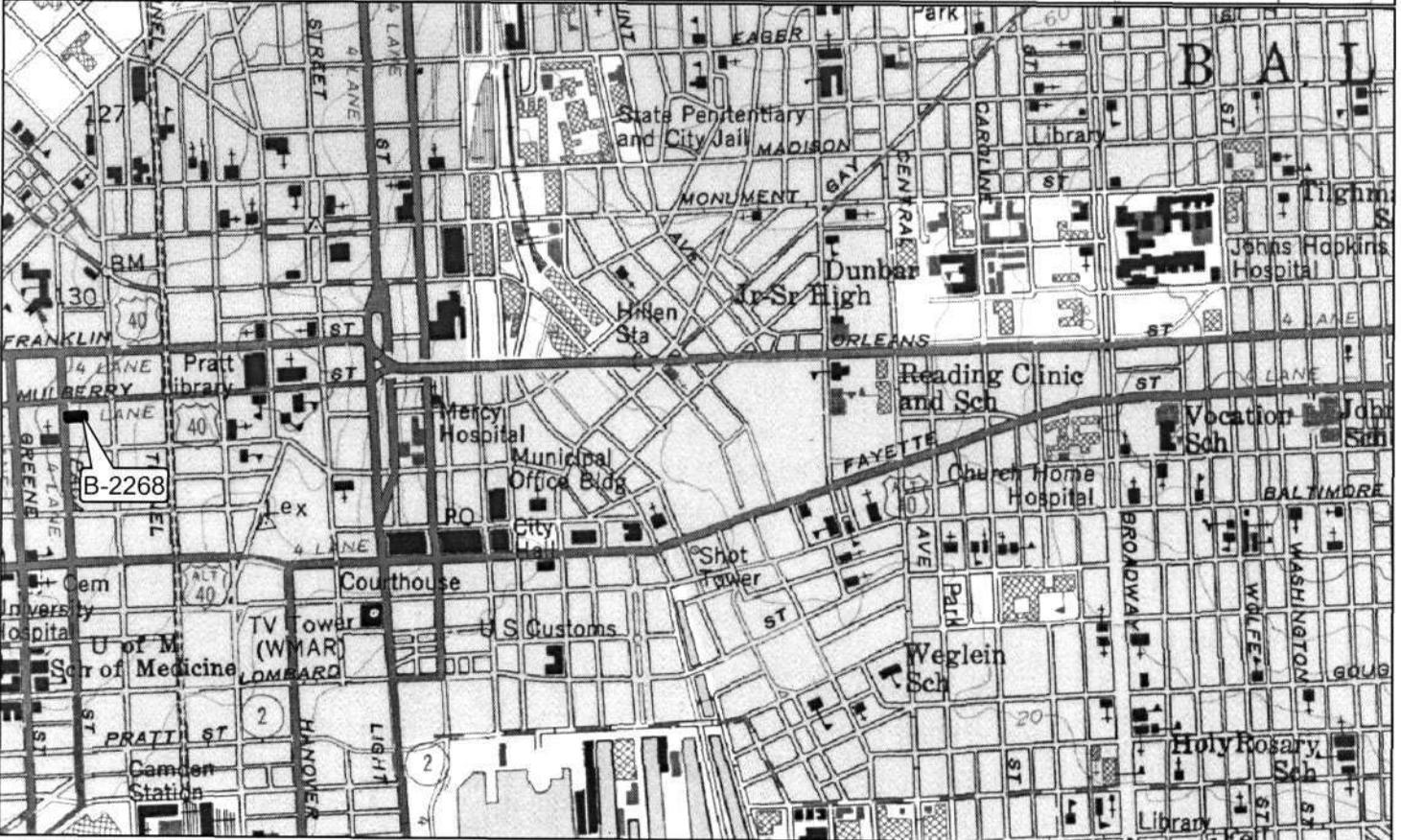
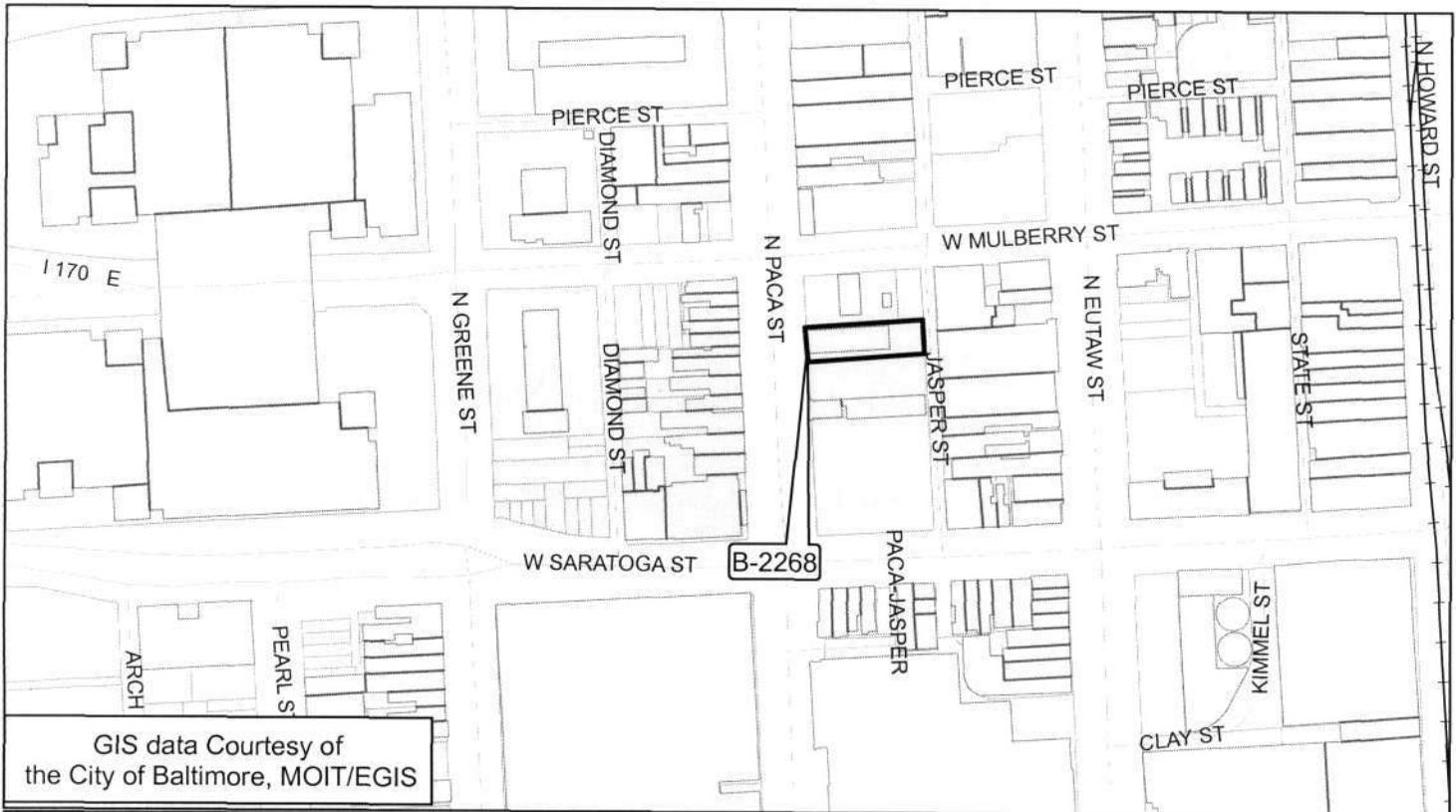
Engine Co. No. 1 remained in active service until 1972, when it was closed. The building was vacant until sold in 1977. In 1978, a discotheque opened in the greatly altered interior. The arch was filled in to allow a standard modern door. With further alterations, the former fire house remains in use as a night club.



Baltimore Metrocenter Survey  
Market Center  
Engine Co. No. 1 Fire House  
323-325 North Paca Street  
B-2268



B-2268  
Engine Co. #1 Fire House (Stars Palace)  
323-325 N. Paca Street  
Block 0576 Lot 018  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





Engine Co. #1 Fire House                      B-2268  
323-325 North Paca Street  
Market Center - Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Janet Davis  
February 1986  
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
West elevation  
1/3



Engine Co. #1 Fire House            B-2268  
323-325 North Paca Street  
Market Center - Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Caroline Hardy  
October 1985  
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
North elevation



Engine Co. #1 Fire House B-2268

323-325 North Paca Street

Market Center - Metrocenter Survey

Baltimore (City), Maryland

Photo: Caroline Hardy

October 1985

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

East elevation

3/3

B 2268

576

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

MAGI #04 22685701

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Engine Company #1 Baltimore City Fire Department

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 323-25 N. Paca Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland COUNTY:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
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 checked="" 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)
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No			

**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

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1976  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 900

CITY OR TOWN: 26 South Calvert St STATE: Baltimore, Md 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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This fire station, located near the South East corner of Paca and Mulberry streets, is designed in a monumental style similar to that used in many other fire stations in the early 20th century.

A large entrance arch fills the center of this structure. Beginning with the surrounding facade, a massive projecting brick Corinthian column with a cartouche joining the capital to the column rises from either of the facade. These rest on stone bases projecting from the stone foundation. The remainder of the wall is brick. The columns support a large bracketed stone cornice, above which rises a brick parapet capped by a stone ledge.

The arch itself is framed in stone, a Baltimore Fire Department emblem and insignia dominates the frame above the arch. A horizontal stone ledge tops the frame. Four brick posts rise from the ledge, supporting with stone brackets, a Baltimore City Fire Department sign. Between the posts are single light windows.

At the rear of the recessment of the arch, are massive double wooden doors under a segmental arch. On the left flank is a stone framed flat door; on the right, a stone framed single light window. The brick walls and stone foundation are carried over from the facade.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century
- 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1907

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Historic</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Art</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Communications</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Education</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Industry</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Invention</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Literature</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Military</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Music</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Political</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Science</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Theater</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> <li>_____</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|--|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This well-proportioned station firmly anchors the South East corner of its block, yet remains within the comfortable scale of the surrounding structures.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Blank area 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		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:

Blank area for acreage justification.

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Planning Assistants

ORGANIZATION: COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

DATE: 1976

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 900

CITY OR TOWN: 26 South Calvert St. Baltimore, Md. 21202

STATE: [Blank]

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

Significance of this property is:

National  State  Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



3-23-25 N. Paca

89228  
b-2268

Neg #20 (3)

2/76

B. Pencek

Block

576