

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4358

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 418-420 North Howard Street/Augusta Building & Loan
 and/or common Augusta Federal Savings Bank

2. Location

street & number 418-420 N. Howard Street _____ not for publication
 city, town Baltimore _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district seventh
 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Augusta Building & Loan Association, Inc.
 street & number 418-420 N. Howard Street telephone no. MD 21201
 city, town Baltimore state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse CWM8441
 street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 286
 city, town Baltimore state MD
 liber
 folio

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____
 te _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local
 depository for survey records _____
 city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. B-4358

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

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

Resource Count: 1

This 1957 bank faces east on N. Howard Street and abuts two partywall structures. The enframed window wall design consists of a glass curtain wall surrounded by polished black marble facing at the sides, top, and foundation. The street frontage is 50' and the depth is 120'.

The glass curtain wall is divided into six bays of large plate glass divided by metal mullions. The glass expanse runs from the floor to ceiling of the three story building. The bays are horizontally divided by a row of metal mullions creating a 2/3 to 1/3 height ratio. The lower stories, as represented by the taller section of plate glass, look onto the two-story lobby interior. The upper story, represented by the shorter plate glass windows, demarcates the private banking offices.

The glass double door entrance is in the northernmost fourth and fifth bays. A low iron fence runs in front of the windows at ground level. A date block with "1957" etched on it is position in the lower south corner.

The back of the building (west wall) faces an alley (State Street). It has an irregular fenestration pattern with exhaust vents in the north side and two loading docks in the south side of the wall. Three small, 18-light windows run up the far southern side of the wall. The common bond masonry has struck joints. The south wall is blank.

The interior of the first floor is a large rectangular space rising two stories. The banking floor has a row of teller counters along the south wall, a series of account desks along the north wall, and customer banking counters along the middle of the bank floor.

The glass curtain wall (east) has floor-to-ceiling drapes. The south and north walls are decorated in a gold and sky blue color scheme. The south wall has gold wallpaper on the lower half and blue painting on the upper half. The north wall is painted sky blue from floor to ceiling in the eastern half of the wall; a curved protrusion into the room towards the west wall is entirely covered in gold wallpaper. The west (rear) wall has a mural on the upper level entitled "Birthplace of the Star Spangled Banner" executed by R. Gill in 1957. It depicts the sea battle at Fort McHenry. The lower, floor level contains the bank vault. An office mezzanine on the third story runs along the west wall. A bank employee explained that the furnishings and interior finish are original to the building.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4358

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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 1957 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 1957 bank is a rare Howard Street example of the 1950s Moderne style. The large plate glass facade with marble frame and the interior open mezzanine level express the open, airy plan of the building that is stripped of extraneous or heavy details. The interior color scheme too is bright and bold, with wide swaths of color blocking out zones within the banking room. The glass window wall is an excellent example of how steel skeleton construction freed the facade from being a load bearing wall.

The interior mural is a rare example of commercial art in the Howard Street commercial district. It is also noteworthy for its lack of commercial message, emphasizing instead Baltimore's importance in our nation's history.

This building is one of several banks in the Howard Street neighborhood. The banks served both local personal accounts and the corporate accounts of the retail establishments downtown. The presence of banks attests to the already-established commercial nature to the area; the banks follow after commercial activity is established. The showy design of this bank further attests to the commercial vitality of the Howard Street commercial district during the 1950s. The bank is now being closed, another victim of the Savings and Loan crisis of the 1990s.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4358

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="checkbox"/>								
	Zone	Easting		Northing					

B	<input type="checkbox"/>								
	Zone	Easting		Northing					

C	<input type="checkbox"/>								
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D	<input type="checkbox"/>								
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E	<input type="checkbox"/>								
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F	<input type="checkbox"/>								
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G	<input type="checkbox"/>								
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H	<input type="checkbox"/>								
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Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Diane Shaw, Architectural Historian

organization CHAP, Room 1037 date December 18, 1991

street & number 417 E. Fayette Street telephone 301-396-4866

city or town Baltimore state MD

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATAHISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:
Modern Period, 1930-present

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

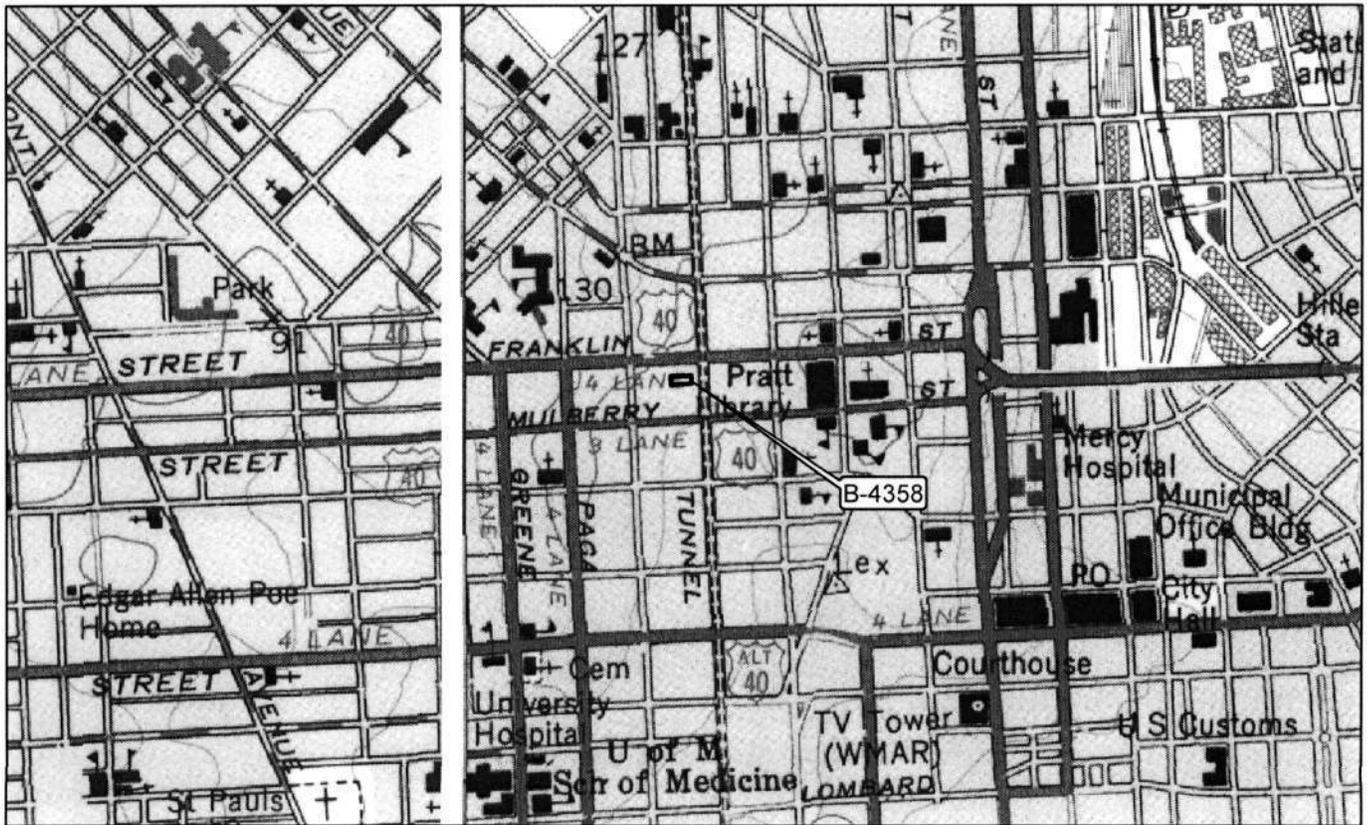
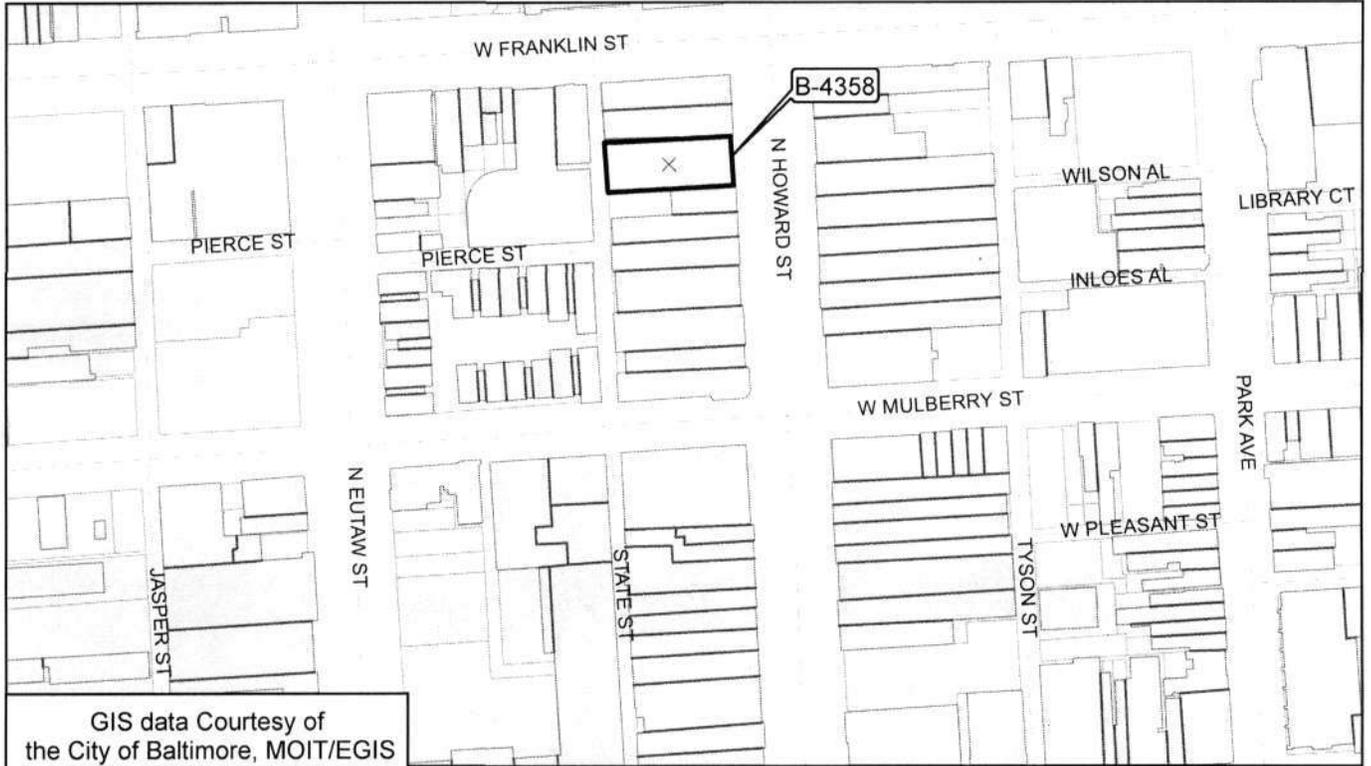
Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

Historic Function and Use:
Banking

Known Design Source:
None

B-4358
Augusta Federal Savings Bank
418-420 N. Howard Street
Block 0562, Lot 008 (Formerly Lot 010)
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-4358

418-420 N. Howard St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, west elevation

113



B-4358

418-420 N. Howard St.

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Interior, west & north walls

2/3



B-4358

418-420 N. Howard St.

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Interior, east wall

3/3