

B-4437

PSALMIST BAPTIST CHURCH

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

Built between 1901 and 1914, this simple one-story Italianate vernacular church stands on a corner at the end of a two-story rowhouse block. It is a contextual partner. Access is restricted to times when the church is open.

D INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES FORM
SANDTOWN-WINCHESTER SURVEY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Psalmist Baptist Church

other names/site number Wayside Baptist Church of Baltimore/ B-4437

2. Location

street & number 1308 Riggs Rd.

not for publication _____

city or town Baltimore

vicinity N/A

state Maryland

code MD

county Baltimore City

code 510

zip code 21217

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

_____ buildings

_____ sites

_____ structures

_____ objects

_____ Total

1

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION

Sub: Religious Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RELIGION

Sub: Religious Facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation not visible

roof not visible

walls BRICK

other SYNTHETICS

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance See continuation sheet.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Religion

Community Planning and Development

Ethnic Heritage

=====
Period of Significance 1901-1940

Significant Dates 1901-14

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.
=====

9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

Maps

- Bromley, G.W. and Co. Atlas of the City of Baltimore, Vol. 1. Philadelphia: 1885, 1896.
Hopkins, G.M. Map of the City of Baltimore, Maryland. 1876, 1877.
Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps, Baltimore, Maryland, Vols. 2,3, and 7. New York: 1890, 1901, 1914, 1928.
Simmons, Isaac. 1852 Revision of the Thomas H. Poppleton Map. Baltimore: 1852.

See continuation sheet.
=====

10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 25' x 64'

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	—	_____	_____	3	—	_____
2	—	_____	_____	4	—	_____

— See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Block 55B, Lot 77

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are based on a city lot(s) which retains its original property lines.

1. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Jo Lampl & Kay Fanning/Architectural Historians
organization Robinson & Associates date July 1992
street & number 1710 Connecticut Ave., NW telephone (202) 234-2333
city or town Washington state DC zip code 20009

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Wayside Baptist Church of Baltimore
street&number 1308-10 Riggs telephone _____
city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21217

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NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 5 & 6 Page 1

Psalmist Baptist Church
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape
Architecture, and Community Planning; Religion;
Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Type:

Category: building(s)

Historic Environment: urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): religion

Known Design Source: none

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Psalmist Baptist Church
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

DESCRIPTION

This simple one-story Italianate vernacular church stands on a corner at the end of a block of two-story rowhouses and is a well-scaled, contextual partner to its neighbors. Built between 1901 and 1914, it has a three-bay facade, with a central entrance, false gable, and flat roof above. Its side elevation mirrors the commercial/residential appearance of end-row units with stepped rooflines.

Two flights of stairs set parallel to the facade plane rise to a small landing in front of the entrance. The entrance itself is an arched opening with replacement double-leaf doors and transom. It is flanked by two large arched windows with stained glass set in double-hung windows of four-over-four sash. (Some of the window panes contain more recent colored glass.) There are two small segmental-headed windows placed side by side just above the entrance; a small plastic cross is set between.

The facade is entirely covered with formstone, and is capped by a simplified cornice, also of formstone. This creates a small central gabled parapet, behind which is a flat roof. Five windows, similar to the larger facade windows, are arrayed along the alley elevation at the sanctuary level. Two windows have air-conditioning units. Two smaller segmental-headed openings, set at different levels, occupy the northern bays; one is filled in, and the other contains an air-conditioning unit.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Psalmist Baptist Church
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

SIGNIFICANCE

The Psalmist Baptist Church was constructed between 1901 and 1914 in a simplified vernacular, Italianate style, and is a significant, extant indicator of numerous small churches constructed after the turn-of-the-century throughout the Sandtown portion of the survey area.

As such, the church is a reminder of a specific type of ecclesiastical building form, a rowhouse-scaled vernacular structure, often located at the intersection of a primary street and an alley. Other church forms in the survey area include the large, grand stone edifices erected on prominent corners and along Lafayette Square, and the alley and storefront churches which were typically transformations of residences into houses of worship. The small-scale vernacular churches represent both black and white congregations, while the storefront/alley churches almost always reflect African American congregations.

At the time that the Psalmist Baptist was constructed, the Baptists had substantial prominence in the neighborhood, and were represented by several churches--of both black and white congregants. According to the current Psalmist Baptist Office, the congregation at Riggs Street at the turn-of-the-century was an African American congregation which continues to function in a new location outside of the neighborhood.¹ The members of the church constructed a folk version of the more high-style First Colored Baptist Church of Baltimore, which also had a tripartite primary elevation, a high basement, and an auditorium level of narrow, round-arched windows (see attached).

The second occupant of the church was the missionary extension of the Greater New Hope Baptist Church, which purchased the building in 1964. The Greater New Hope Church was started in the neighborhood in the 1960s by Reverend Leonard Hicks, at meetings held at 2023 N. Monroe. The Psalmist Baptist Church sold its structure to the congregation in 1964. Over the course of

¹ The Sanborn Map of 1914 does not identify the church as to race. Typically, African American denominations are identified as such on historical maps.

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he next ten years, the church was renovated both on the interior and exterior, resulting in the current Formstone facade, new furniture, new rooms for the pastor and trustees, and the renovation of the lower auditorium.

Finally, in 1974, the Greater New Hope Baptist Church sold the structure to the Wayside Baptist Church, which currently is housed in the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Psalmist Baptist Church
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Maryland Churches United. Christian Bicentennial Witness. Baltimore:
undated.

Interview: Office of the New Psalmist Baptist Church.

SANDTOWN-WINCHESTER/PENN-NORTH
RECONNAISSANCE-LEVEL SURVEY FORM

Survey No. B-4437

Neg. No. 8/24

Historic Name Psalmist Baptist Church

Current Name/Use Wayside Baptist Church

Address(es) 1308 Riggs Road

Resource/Property Type

- Rowhouses
 Commercial Structure
 Public/Institutional Building
 Public Housing
 Site
 Other

Attached
 Freestanding

Note: church at corner of row

Stories 1 (2)

Primary Material brick Secondary Material _____

Roof Form flat

No. of Bays in Unit/Facade 3 If Rowhouse: Flat Front Swell Front Porch

Window Type: Double-Hung
 1/1 Sash
 2/2 Sash
 2/1 Sash
 Other Sash
 Transom

Door Type: Single-Leaf
 Double-Leaf
 Number of panels (if visible)
 Transom

Architectural Style Late Victorian Vernacular Date c. 1901-14

Noteworthy Features: Arched openings: two windows flank central entrance, five windows along alley side. Two small segmental windows above door, small cross set between. Center gable with metal cornice.

Alterations: Formstone Stucco
 Vinyl/Aluminum Window/Door Changes
 Awnings ? Missing Cornice Elements
 First-Floor Use Change Other: _____

Status: Occupied Vacant Mixed

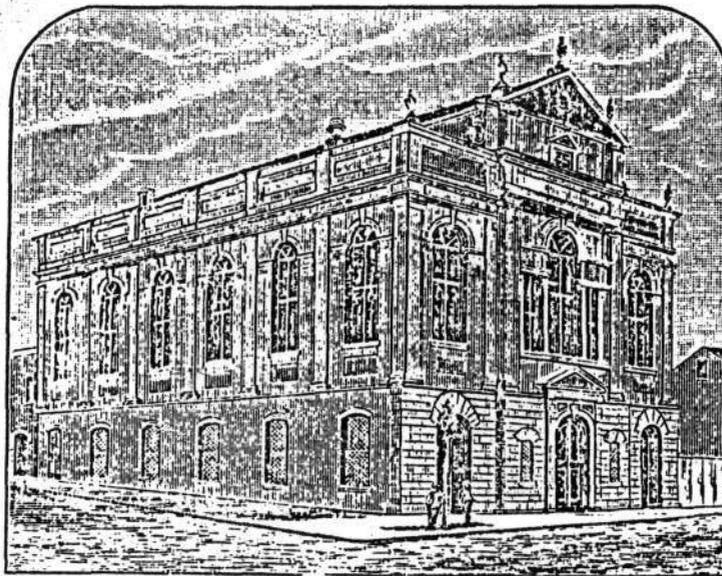
NR Evaluation: Contributing Non-Contributing

Recommended for Intensive Level: Yes No

Surveyor: Joey Lampl

Affiliation: Robinson & Associates

Date: February-April 1992

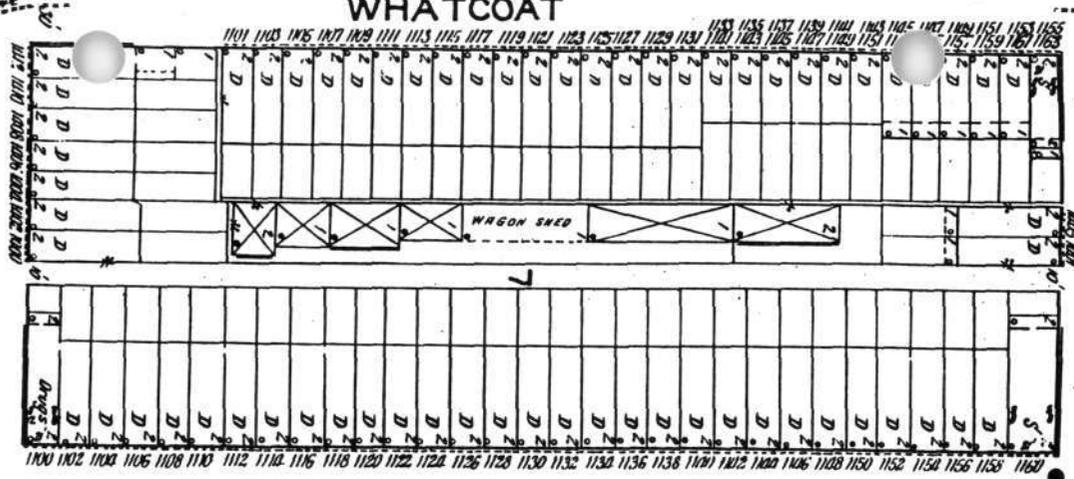


Erected 1880.

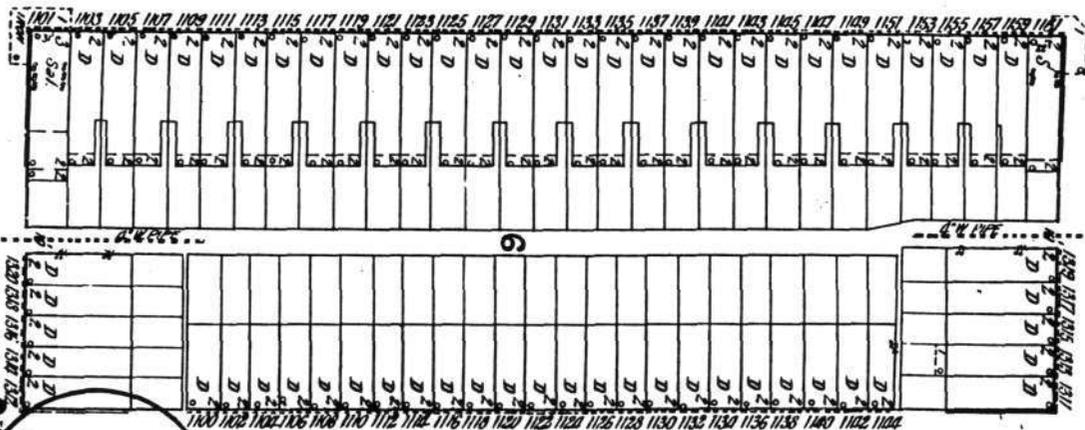
FIRST COLORED BAPTIST CHURCH

BALTIMORE.

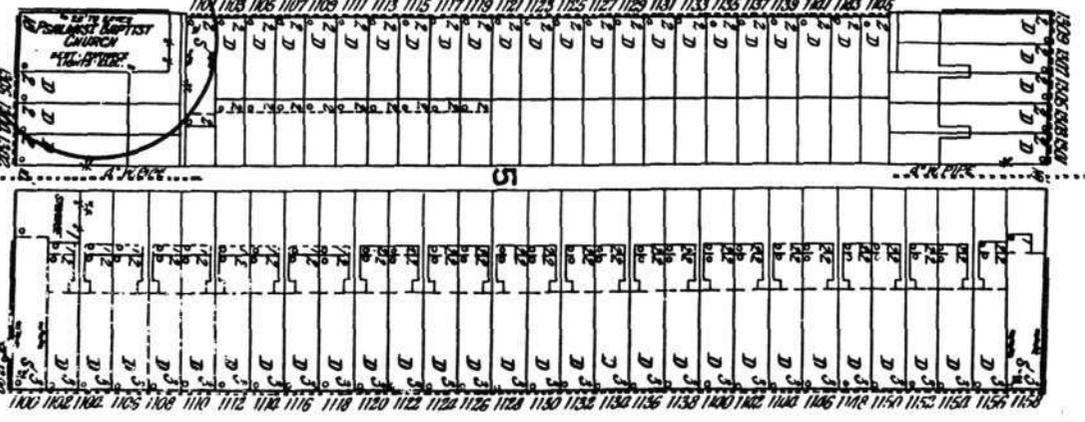
WHATCOAT



N. CALHOUN



N. WOODYEAR

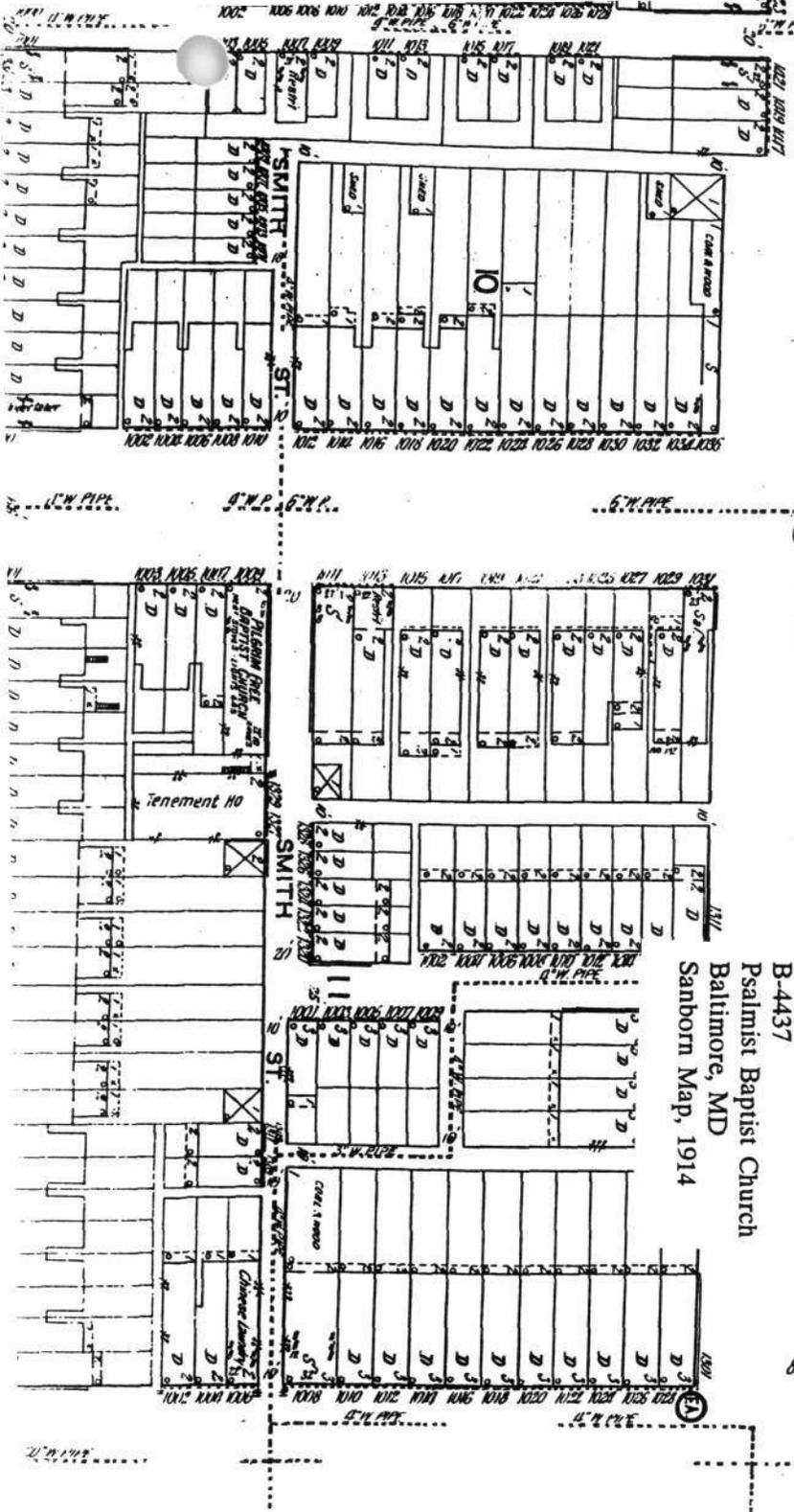


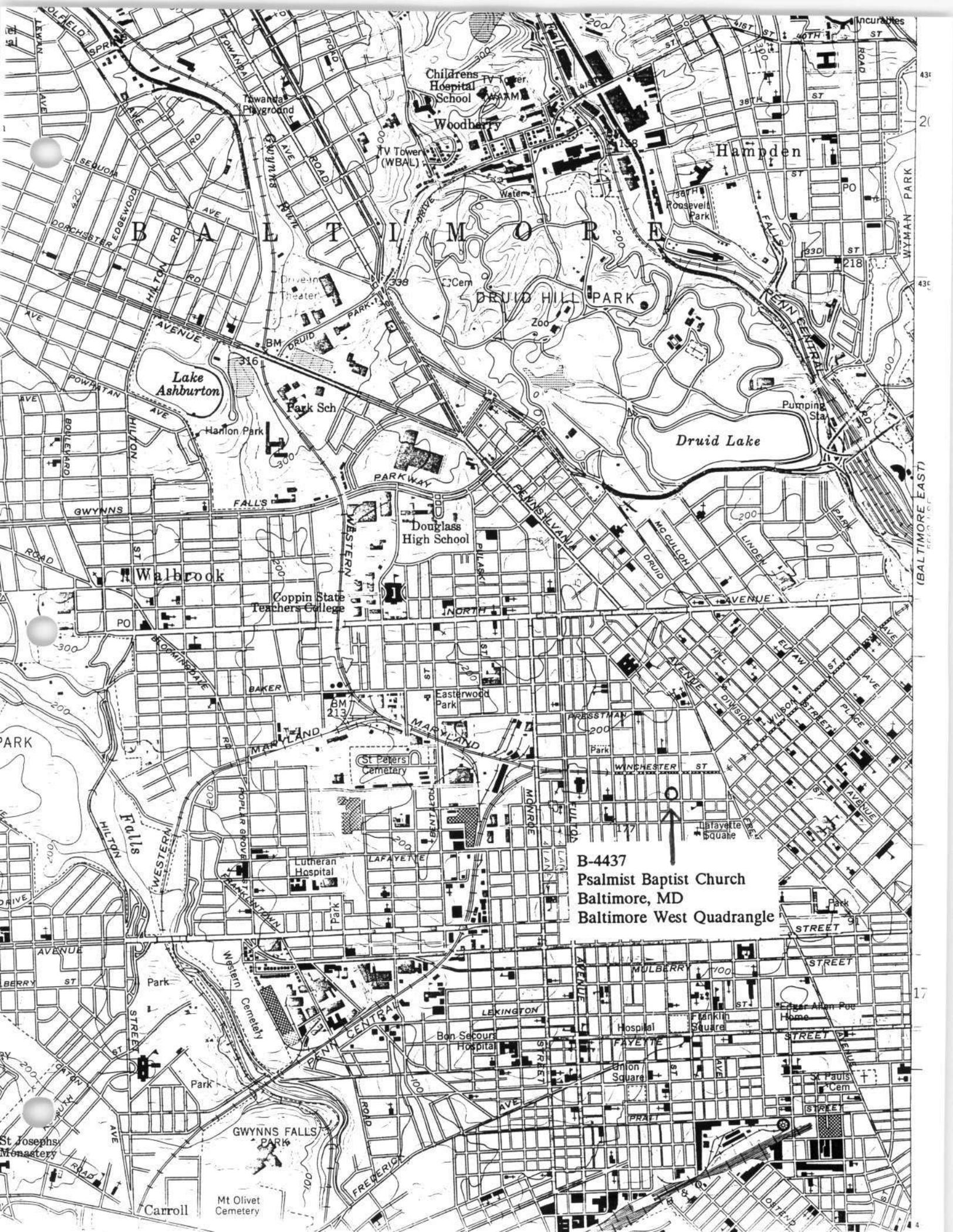
N. CAREY

RIGGS

AV.

B-4437
 Palmist Baptist Church
 Baltimore, MD
 Sanborn Map, 1914





Childrens Hospital
School
Woodberry
TV Tower (WBAL)

Hampden

DRUID HILL PARK

Lake Ashburton

Druid Lake

Douglass High School

Walbrook

Coppin State Teachers College

St. Peter's Cemetery

Lutheran Hospital

B-4437
Psalmist Baptist Church
Baltimore, MD
Baltimore West Quadrangle

Bon Secours Hospital

Gwynns Falls Park

Carroll

Mt Olivet Cemetery

43c
20
43c
17
4



SANDTOWN-WINCHESTER / PENN-NORTH

#B-4437

BALTIMORE, MD

ELIZABETH QD LAMPL

MARCH 1992

CITY OF BALTIMORE, COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

HISTORIC: PSALMIST BAPTIST CHURCH

CURRENT: WAYSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

1308 RIGGS ST.

SOUTH ELEVATION

ROLL 8 / NEG 24

1 of 2



QUYNSIDE
BAPTIST
CHURCH

665 AV

Sandtown-Winchester/Penn-North

B-4437

Baltimore, MD

Leonard Jackson

July 1992

City of Baltimore, Commission for Historical
and Architectural Preservation

Historic: Psalmist Baptist Church

Current: Wayside Baptist Church

1308 Riggs Road

(SOUTH ELEVATION)

Roll 9/Neg 12

2 of 2