

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: Baltimore Fire Department Co. No. 53 Inventory Number: B-5126
 Address: 608 Swann Avenue Historic district: yes no
 City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21229 County: Baltimore City
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore West
 Property Owner: Mayor and City Council Tax Account ID Number: 28057900005
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): _____ Tax Map Number: 28
 Project: Red Line Corridor Transit Study Agency: Mass Transit Administration
 Agency Prepared By: John Milner Associates, Inc.
 Preparer's Name: Katherine Larson Farnham Date Prepared: 1/24/2006

Documentation is presented in: Enoch Pratt Free Library--Maryland Room vertical files; Hunting Ridge Community Assembly, Hunting Ridge: the Story of a Neighborhood (2001).

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: _____

Inventory Number: _____ Eligible: yes no Listed: yes no

Site visit by MHT Staff yes no Name: _____ Date: _____

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

The Baltimore Fire Department's Company No. 53 Firehouse is a two-story hip-roofed fire station that is a mixture of Colonial Revival and Shingle Style architecture. It is an oblong building situated with its narrow end facing east on Swann Ave., adjacent to shopping centers on Edmondson Ave. on the south and to residential Rognel Heights on the north. The firehouse has a hipped slate roof with semicircular dormer vents on either side. The façade is clad in dark brown wooden shingles up to the level of the second-floor windowsills. Above this level, marked by a band of yellow wooden molding, the façade is covered with stucco. Windows throughout the building are primarily eight-over-eight wooden double-hung sash, with some four-over four sash seen as well. The front façade has a single truck bay deeply recessed within a projecting shingled surround. The truck bay has a modern rolldown door. The surround has Classical-style wooden molding around the door aperture with a plain frieze surmounted by a projecting cornice. Letters mounted on the frieze spell out "B.F.D. No 53." Directly above the truck bay is a recessed second-floor porch, featuring plain inset Doric wood columns and a projecting balcony with a wooden balustrade. The center of the balustrade contains a Colonial Revival fretwork star pattern. Within the porch recess is a set of paired windows with four-over-four sash, flanked on each side by a narrow French door with a two-light transom. The building is approximately five bays deep, with both single and paired windows on the side exposures. One set of windows on the first floor of the south side has been

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G

MHT Comments:

John Farnham
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

7/26/06

Date

[Signature]
Reviewer, National Register Program

8/7/06

Date

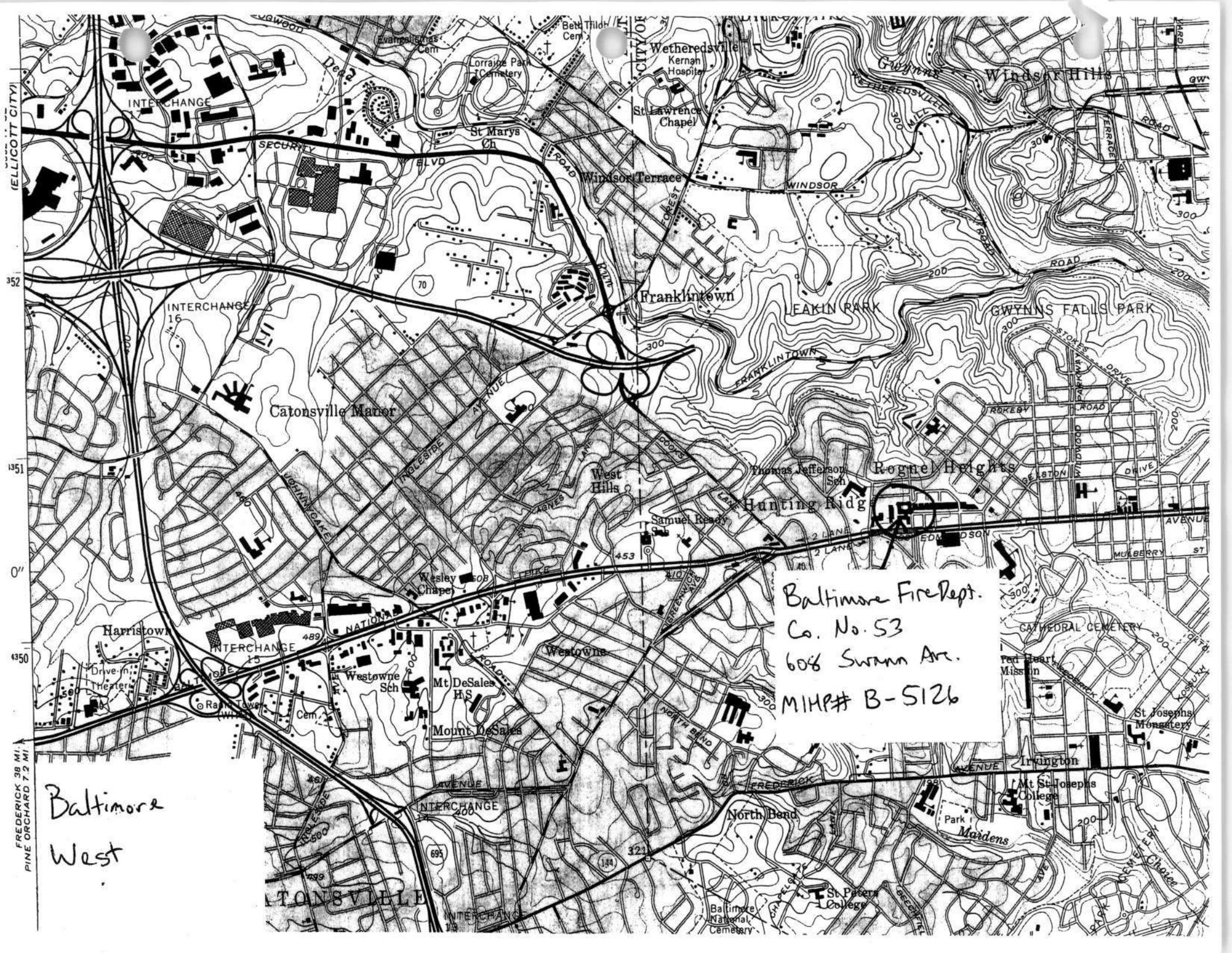
200601766

converted to metal louvered vents. On the north side, the building has a two-story one-bay-wide extension that projects a few feet from the side wall. This appears to be a stairwell. It has a ground-level entrance sheltered by a hip-roofed overhang, above which are oblong paired sixteen-light casement windows. Toward the rear of the north side is a pair of horizontal three-light windows. At the back end of the building is a four-story brick hose tower, which has a pyramidal roof and paired six-light casement windows that have been painted over. There is also a brick exterior chimney on the back wall.

This firehouse was constructed in 1921-1922 to provide fire protection services in the developing streetcar suburbs of Rognel Heights, Edmondson Village, and Ten Hills. Other neighborhoods soon developed. In a city still mindful of the destruction caused by the Great Fire of 1904, adequate fire protection throughout the city was a priority. No specifics are known about the architect or construction of this particular station.

Baltimore Fire Department Engine Co. No. 53 is a well-preserved and good example of an early suburban-style fire station that was built to harmonize with the styles seen on nearby homes. It differs significantly from its urban counterparts in its somewhat rustic appearance and use of wooden shingles. It is distinctive in appearance and has an unusually high level of integrity, despite some changes to its setting on its south side. As such, it appears to meet NRHP Criterion C and is recommended eligible for the NRHP.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended _____
Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D	Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G
MHT Comments:	
_____	_____
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date
_____	_____
Reviewer, National Register Program	Date



(ELLIOTT CITY)

352

351

0'

350

FREDERICK 38 MI.
PINE ORCHARD 7.2 MI.

Baltimore
West

Baltimore Fire Dept.
Co. No. 53
606 Swann Ave.
MIHP# B-5126

Catonsville Manor

Franklinton

LEAKIN PARK

GWYNNS FALLS PARK

Rogue Heights

Hunting Ridg

Harristown

Westown

North Bend

Irvington

CATONSVILLE

Baltimore
National
Cemetery

St. Peter's
College

Mt. St. Josephs
College

Maidens

St. Josephs
Monastery

Red Heart
Mission

CATHEDRAL CEMETERY

Wetheredsville
Kernah
Hospital

St. Lawrence
Chapel

Lorraine Park
Cemetery

St. Marys
Ch

INTERCHANGE

INTERCHANGE
16

INTERCHANGE
15

INTERCHANGE
200

695

194

323

INTERCHANGE

695

70

489

453

453

453

453

453

453

453

453

453

453

453

WINDSOR

WINDSOR

FRANKLINTOWN

ROAD

GW

ROAD

SECURITY

WINDSOR



B.F.D. No 53



17W-01

17W-01

B-5126

Baltimore Fire Dept. Co. No. 53, 608 Swann Ave.

Baltimore City, MD

Lynn Jones, JMA

12/29/2015

MD SHPO

View to SW

#1 of 4 013

247

EDMONDSON
SQUARE

GIANT

FOOD & PHARMACY
CHEVY CHASE BANK

JH DOLLAR & PARTY

Advance Auto Parts

Vanguard Equities Inc. 410-236-1770

Does your family have a car
etc. (Age limit?)

B. F. D. N^o 53

808

SALT
BOX

B-5126

Baltimore Fire Dept. Co. No. 53, 608 Swann Ave.

Baltimore City, MD

Lynn Jones, JMA

BA 20X200 INN- 1 8625

12/29/2005

MD SHPO

view to NW

#2 of 4 017

251



PRIVATE
PROPERTY

EDMO
SQ

GI
FOOD &
CHEVY

JH DOL
Advance

Y Vanguard Eq

B-5126

Baltimore Fire Dept. Co. No. 53, 608 Swann Ave.

Baltimore City, MD

Lynn Jones, JMA 2ANKXND NNH- 1 8825

12/29/2005

MD SHPD

Hose tower, view to NW

#3 of 4

016

250

•MAYOR•
WILLIAM F. BROENING

FIRE COMMISSIONERS
CLINTON O. RICHARDSON
SIDNEY T. MANNING
WALTER R. HOUGH

CHIEF FIRE DEPARTMENT
AUGUST EMRICH

INSPECTOR OF BUILDINGS
J. FRANK CROWTHER

•1921•

B-5126

Baltimore Fire Dept. Co. No. 53, 608 Swann Ave.

Baltimore City, MD

Lynn Jones, JMA

12/29/2005

MD SHPO

Detail of dedication plaque, to N

#4 of 4 015

249