
7. Description

Inventory No. B-5257

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

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

The building at 360 N. Gay Street occupies the center of a three-building complex of buildings situated at the southwest intersection of N. Gay and Orleans streets in the area historically known as Old Town in the City of Baltimore, Maryland. The three-story brick commercial building was constructed ca. 1880. The property, which has been vacant since the 1980s, is in a state of disrepair and slated for demolition.

The *circa*-1880 three-story commercial building is oriented on an east-west axis, facing east toward Gay Street.¹ The building at 358 N. Gay Street (B-5256) appends the south elevation, and the building at 362-364 N. Gay Street (B-5258) appends the north elevation (Photograph 1). A small grass area stretches from the rear of the building to a high concrete retaining wall that lines Orleans Street, which borders the west side of the building lot.

The building at 360 N. Gay Street measures three stories in height and two bays wide atop a masonry foundation (Photograph 2). The building includes approximately 1,687 square feet. The north and south elevations are concealed by the adjacent buildings. A parapet lines the east elevation of the built-up flat roof, which consists of tar and gravel. A wide decorative metal cornice with oversized dentils accentuates the roof line.

The east elevation (façade) of the building at 360 N. Gay Street contains the former storefront at the first story. The storefront has been concealed with plywood; however, the metal roof denoting the former centrally located oriel plate-glass display window remains. Single pedestrian entries flank the central window. The southernmost entry consists of a two-light steel door concealed with plywood. The northernmost entry has been concealed by a wood panel sheltered by a steel mesh security door. A metal cornice caps the first story. The second and third stories each consist of a ribbon of four, metal-frame, one-over-one-light, double-hung windows, the lights of which have been replaced with plywood. A metal continuous spandrel panel separates the second and third stories (Photographs 3 and 4). A band of tin decorated with pressed dentils surmounts the third-story windows (Photographs 3 and 4).

The west elevation is largely concealed by vining, vegetative overgrowth; however, the design of the three evenly spaced bays in the elevation remains visible (Photograph 5). The southernmost bay of the first story consists of a single-leaf pedestrian entry that is concealed with plywood. Two former window openings are situated to the north, and each bay is surmounted by a brick segmented arch lintel. A metal exterior fire escape leads to a second-story entry situated in the southernmost bay, while a third-story entry is also accessed by the fire escape and located in the northernmost bay. The remaining bays in the second and third stories contain former window openings. The third-story windows retain their two-over-two light, double-hung, wood sash window frames (Photograph 6). A brick interior chimney stack is visible near the northern edge of the roof ridge (Photographs 5 and 6).

¹ For the purposes of this form, N. Gay Street runs north-south so that the building is oriented on an east-west axis.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-5257

Name 360 N. Gay Street
Continuation Sheet

Number 7 Page 1

The interior of the building at 360 N. Gay Street retains the decorative dropped-panel tin ceiling (Photograph 7); however, the remaining interior was inaccessible due to safety concerns.

INTEGRITY

The building at 360 N. Gay Street retains integrity of location on the west side of N. Gay Street. Integrity of setting has been slightly compromised through the construction of the Department of Juvenile Services complex to the south and associated improvements to the south and west. The building has suffered a slight loss of integrity of materials and workmanship through the concealment of the storefront window and openings with plywood; however, the building retains its overall footprint and the majority of exterior detailing, including the cornice and spandrel panel, thereby retaining integrity of design. The overall mass and scaling of the building and the retention of the footprint, as well as the evidence of the former storefront, contributes to retention of integrity of feeling and association as a late-nineteenth-century commercial building.

8. Significance

Inventory No. B-5257

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates 1880; 1890; 1902

Architect/Builder

Construction dates ca. 1880

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The building at 360 N. Gay Street was constructed ca. 1880 for use as a store. The building accommodated various businesses and companies until it fell into disuse in the 1980s. The property occupies a prominent location in a group of three buildings situated at the north end of the 300 block of North Gay Street, at the northern edge of the Gay Street Historic District (B-3994). The building at 360 N. Gay Street is a contributing property to the historic district (listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2003) in the area of architecture for its notable collection of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century small-scale urban commercial architecture that conveys the area's history as a local commercial corridor.

HISTORY OF GAY STREET AREA

The area that includes the Old Town Insurance Company Building was part of a larger settlement originally known as Jones Town, which was authorized by the Maryland Colonial Assembly in 1732 as an independent city before it was incorporated into the Baltimore city limits in 1745. After that time, the area that now encompasses 360 N. Gay Street and lands further to the west was commonly called "Old Town."²

The area was initially developed as agrarian, but its location to downtown Baltimore and the Inner Harbor rapidly fostered commercialization and industrialization. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, the development of Old Town was proceeding rapidly. Most residents consisted of working class people, such as "flour millers, blacksmiths, stay makers, tanners, and brass founders."³ Between 1820 and 1865, the overall land use pattern within Old Town, including Gay Street (then known as Bridge Street), began to shift. Immigrants replaced middle class residents, and commercial and industrial brick buildings replaced the frame dwellings after the 1812 ban on wooden construction.⁴ Mixed-use buildings that combined residential space

² Sherry Olson, *Baltimore: The Building of an American City* (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980), 8.

³ Betty Cosans and Daniel G. Roberts, *An Archival Investigation of Archeological Resources Associated with Interstate Route 83, Gay Street to I-95, Baltimore, Maryland*. Submitted to Interstate Division for Baltimore City, Maryland Department of Transportation by John Milner & Associates, Inc., 1982: 41-42.

⁴ Elaine Kiernan, *MHIT Documentation for the Gay Street Historic District*. Prepared for the Maryland Department of General Services by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., February 1998, 8.3.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-5257

Name 360 N. Gay Street
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

with commercial and retail uses replaced single-family, owner-occupied buildings. Gay Street began to emerge as the principal commercial thoroughfare, with small retail enterprises that included a shoemaking shop, bakery, and tailor's shop occupying the first floor of multi-story buildings.⁵

Despite the emergence of businesses and retail at the street level throughout the area, the Gay Street area prior to the Civil War largely retained the residential character established during the eighteenth century. Conversely, by the late nineteenth century, the area had lost almost all of its residential buildings as part of the industrial boom that swept Baltimore in the wake of the Civil War. The street's advantageous location for industries resulted in increased congestion, noxious fumes, and noise that prompted the majority of remaining residents to relocate elsewhere. The 1865 Baltimore City Directories note a shoe store, tobacconists, a brush factory, a weaver, a wholesale grocer, and a hardware store within the Gay Street area.⁶

By 1895, a number of Jewish immigrants founded clothing businesses within the area and were common until the garment business shifted to other areas of the city at the end of the 1920s. By 1902, the area was wholly commercial, with some light industry. Gay Street's relative isolation east of downtown attracted some light manufacturing industries, such as tanneries, livery services, furniture manufactures, and sweatshops. In addition, hardware stores, shoe shops, wholesale food shops, insurance, and banking industries were also present.⁷

The construction of the Fallsway in 1914 increased the accessibility by automobile to the east and west sections of Baltimore, but it also resulted in the isolation of the Gay Street area that includes 360 N. Gay Street from the rest of the city. Further, the completion of the Orleans Street Viaduct in 1935 destroyed several businesses and dwellings and effectively cut Gay Street at the northwest corner of Gay and Exeter streets, immediately north of the building at 360 N. Gay Street. After 1935, the area suffered a slow decline so that by 1951, virtually all of the buildings within the 300 block of Gay Street and the surrounding blocks were empty.⁸

HISTORY OF 360 N. GAY STREET

Prior to the construction of the building at 360 N. Gay Street ca. 1880, tax records indicate the presence of some farm dwellings in the area; however, it is unknown if the lot that presently houses the building was developed at that time. The *Tax Assessors Field Notebook for 1876* describes a three-story brick store and dwelling and a three-story back building owned by John Black.⁹ The 1880 and 1890 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps

⁵ Stephanie Foell and Judith Robison, *Gay Street Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination*. Prepared by Robinson & Associates, Inc., January 2003, 8.2.

⁶ Foell and Robison 2003, 8.2; Kiernan 1998, 8.4.

⁷ Foell and Robison 2003, 8.3.

⁸ Kiernan 1998, 8.8.

⁹ Alfred M. Best Company, *Best's Insurance Reports*. (Alfred M. Best Company, New York, 1902), 160; Kiernan 1998, n.p.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-5257

Name 360 N. Gay Street
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

illustrate a three-story brick building, with an addition consisting of a two-story and one-story section, to the rear.¹⁰ By 1902, the rear additions were unified into the footprint of the building so that the building assumed its present configuration by this time.¹¹

On Sunday morning, February 7, 1904, fire broke out at John E. Hurst & Company, located between Hopkins Place and Liberty Street in Baltimore. Due in part to the lack of national standards in firefighting equipment and fireproofing building methods, the fire burned throughout the city for 30 hours until it was finally suppressed.¹² The 300 block of North Gay Street lay far north of the fire, so the building at 360 N. Gay Street remained untouched. Throughout the early decades of the twentieth century, the building was used for storage, as indicated in the 1914 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map.¹³ The Baltimore City Directories do not include a listing for the building from 1928 to 1930; however, later listings indicate that the first floor of the building accommodated a restaurant, while the upper floors housed a meeting space for various unions and other organizations throughout the twentieth century.¹⁴ The first recorded deed for the lot dates to 1936, when Phillip E. Wolf conveyed the property to Mabel Wolf Smith for \$1500 on October 21, 1936.¹⁵ In 1936, Winter Brother's Restaurant occupied the first floor, while the Iron Workers Union utilized the upper floors. The restaurant remained for 20 years and was eventually replaced by G&S Restaurant in 1956. The Painters Local Union also met at the building, in addition to the Structural Iron Workers Union No. 1, which was renamed the International Bridge and Structural Iron Workers Union No. 16 in 1943. The Painters Union became the Brotherhood of Painters, Decorators, and Paperhangers of America Local No. 1 in 1953. The restaurant vacated the property in the late 1950s; however, the unions continued to utilize the building throughout the late twentieth century. The Electric Motor Supply Company, which also occupied the buildings at 354 to 385 N. Gay Street, used the first-floor space, while the Brotherhood of Painters met in the upper floors.¹⁶ The Smith family continued to own the property until 1957, when the heirs of Mabel Wolf Smith sold the property to Anna U. Rice on July 26, 1957; the property was one of 11 parcels of land that Anna U. Rice owned throughout the City in the late twentieth century.¹⁷ Rice's property was conveyed to Bernard D. Rice and Walter E. Black, trustees, through Anna Rice's last will and testament in 1966; the trustees most likely retained ownership of the lot until the 1990s.¹⁸ The building was most likely vacated during the 1980s, as no business listings were located for its address during this decade.

¹⁰ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, *Map of the City of Baltimore, Volume 3*. (Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, New York, 1880 and 1890).

¹¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1902.

¹² Olson 1997, 246.

¹³ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1914.

¹⁴ Kiernan 1998, n.p.

¹⁵ Baltimore City Superior Court Land Records Liber SCL 5668, Folio 002.

¹⁶ Kiernan 1998, n.p.

¹⁷ Baltimore City Superior Court Land Records Liber 163, Folio 175.

¹⁸ Kiernan 1998, n.p.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-5257

Name 360 N. Gay Street
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

The State of Maryland's Department of Juvenile Services acquired the three-building complex, which includes the building at 360 N. Gay Street during the 1990s, and continues to own the building at 360 N. Gay Street in 2012. The property remains vacant and is currently slated for demolition due to safety concerns resulting from its vacancy and disuse.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. B-5257

Baltimore City Superior Court Land Records Liber 163, Folio 175.

Elaine Kiernan, *MHT Documentation for the Gay Street Historic District*. Prepared for the Maryland Department of General Services by R. Christopher Goodwin & Associates, Inc., February 1998.

Stephanie Foell and Judith Robison, *Gay Street Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination*. Prepared by Robinson & Associates, Inc., January 2003.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Maps, 1880, 1890, 1902, 1914.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 0.15 acres

Acreage of historical setting 0.279 acres

Quadrangle name Baltimore East

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The building at 360 N. Gay Street is Lot Number 6 of Block 1266 in the City of Baltimore, Maryland.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Emma Diehl/Sr. Architectural Historian		
organization	A.D. Marble & Company	date	August 20, 2012
street & number	10989 Red Run Boulevard, Suite 209	telephone	410.902.1421
city or town	Owings Mills	state	Maryland

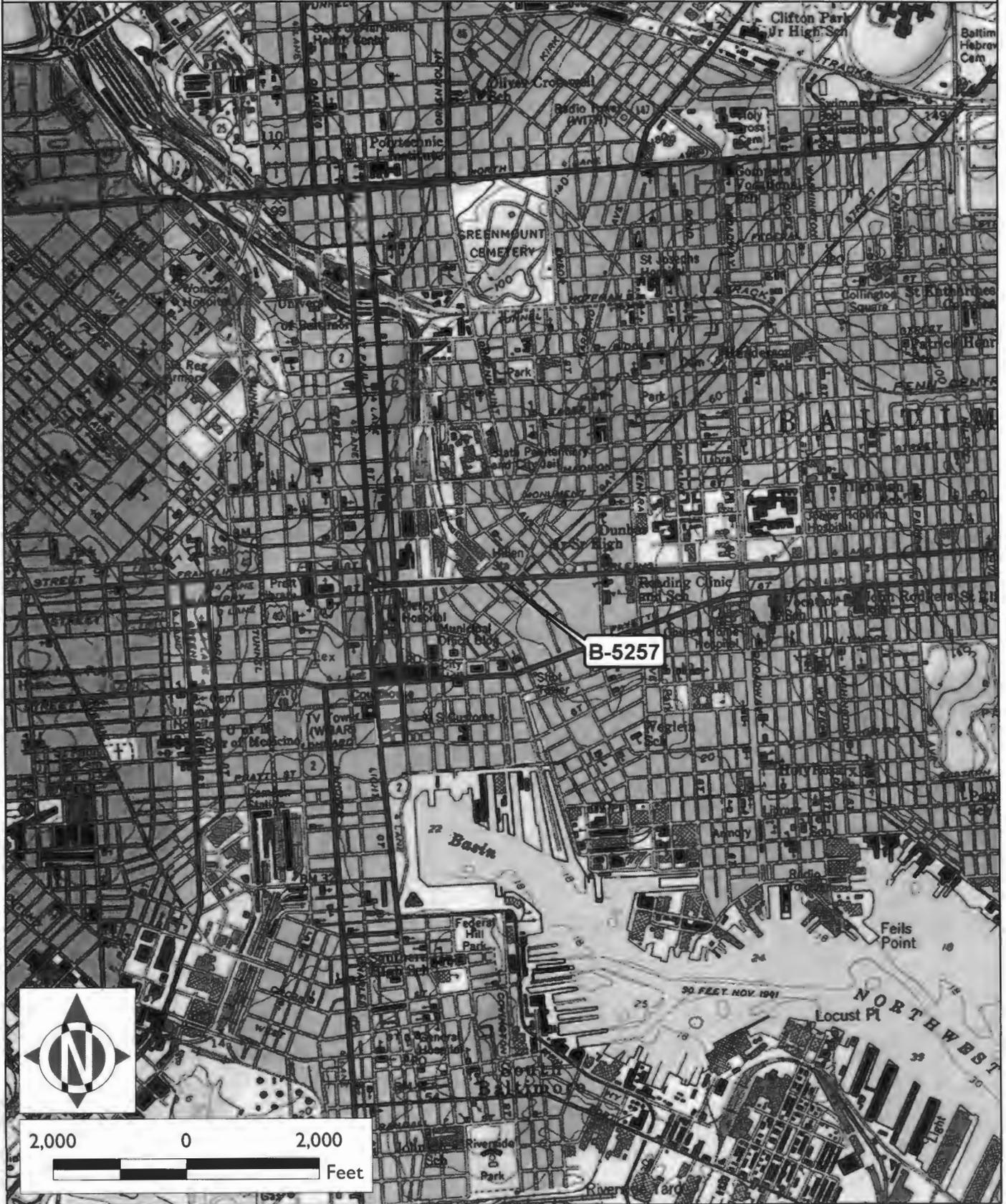
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

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
Maryland Department of Planning
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

B-5257

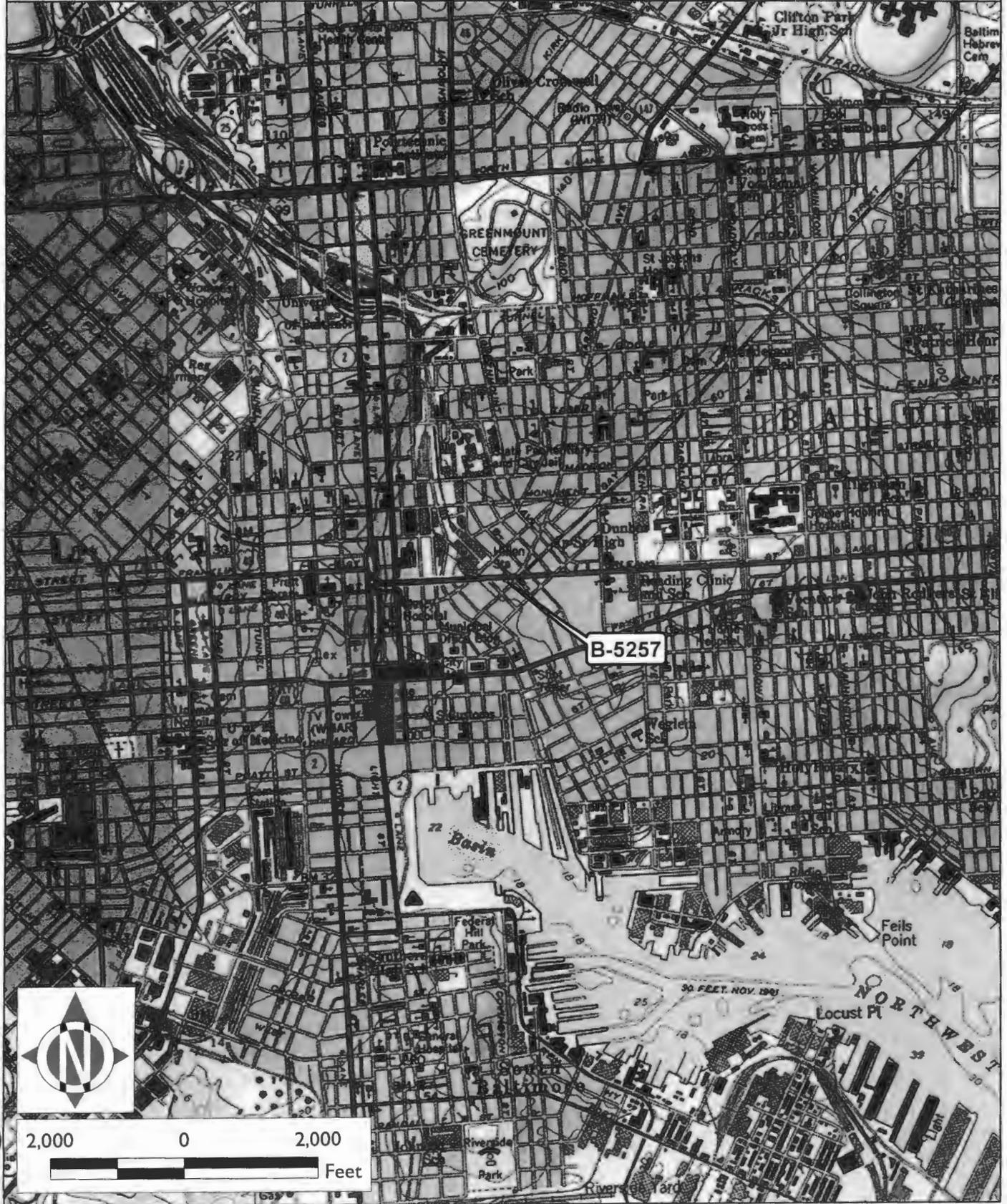
360 N. Gay Street
Baltimore, Maryland



Source: USGS 1976; Baltimore East Quadrangle

B-5257

360 N. Gay Street
Baltimore, Maryland





360 N. Gay Street (B-5257)

Digital Photo Log: All photographs printed using Epson Ultrachrome Pigmented Ink on Epson Premium Matte Photo Paper

Photo File Name	MIHP #	Property Name	County	Photographer	Date of Photo	Photo Description	Photo Sequence
B5257_201207_01	B-5257	360 N. Gay Street	Baltimore City	E. Diehl	07/2012	360 N. Gay Street (center), east elevation, to northwest.	1 of 7
B5257_201207_02	"	"	"	"	"	360 N. Gay Street (center), east elevation, to northwest.	2 of 7
B5257_201207_03	"	"	"	"	"	Detail of second and third stories, east elevation, to west. Note dentiled cornice.	3 of 7
B5257_201207_04	"	"	"	"	"	Detail of second and third stories, east elevation, to northwest.	4 of 7
B5257_201207_05	"	"	"	"	"	West (rear) elevation, to east.	5 of 7
B5257_201207_06	"	"	"	"	"	West (rear) elevation, detail of third story, to east.	6 of 7
B5257_201207_07	"	"	"	"	"	Interior, first floor, south room, to west. Note pressed-tin dropped ceiling.	7 of 7



B-5257

360 N. Gay Street

Baltimore City, MARYLAND

E. DIEHL

07.2012

MD SHPO

360 N. Gay Street (center), EAST ELEVATION, TO NORTHWEST

PHOTO # 1 of 7



B-5257

360 N. Gay Street

Baltimore City, MARYLAND

E. DIEHL

07. 2012

MD SHPO

360 N. Gay Street (center), EAST ELEVATION, TO NORTHWEST.

PHOTO # 2 of 7



B-5257

360 N. Gay Street

Baltimore City, MARYLAND

E. DIEHL

07.2012

MD SHPO

DETAIL OF SECOND & THIRD STORIES, EAST ELEVATION, TO
WEST. NOTE DENTILLED CORNICE.

PHOTO # 3 OF 7



B-5257

360 N. Gay Street

Baltimore City, MARYLAND

E. DIEHL

07.2012

MD SHPO

DETAIL OF SECOND & THIRD STORIES, EAST ELEVATION, TO
NORTHWEST.

PHOTO # 4 of 7



B-5257

360 N. Gay Street

Baltimore City, MARYLAND

K. DIEHL

07.2012

MD SHPO

WEST (REAR) ELEVATION, TO EAST.

PHOTO # 5 of 7



B-5257

360 N. Gay Street

Baltimore City, MARYLAND

E. DIEHL

07.2012

MD SHPO

WEST (REAR) ELEVATION, DETAIL OF THIRD STORY, TO EAST

PHOTO # 6 of 7



B-5257

360 N. Gay Street

Baltimore City, MARYLAND

E. DIEHL

07.2012

MD SHPO

INTERIOR, FIRST FLOOR, SOUTH ROOM, TO WEST. NOTE PRESSED-TIN DROP CEILING.

PHOTO # 7 OF 7