

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes _____
no

Property Name: Mount Royal Reservoir Pipe Vault Inventory Number: B-5295
 Address: 560 W. North Avenue Historic district: yes no
 City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21217 County: Baltimore City
 USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore East
 Property Owner: Baltimore Mayor and City Council Tax Account ID Number: 0313113438B 005
 Tax Map Parcel Number(s): N/A Tax Map Number: 13
 Project: Baltimore & Potomac Tunnel Project Agency: Federal Railroad Administration
 Agency Prepared By: RK&K
 Preparer's Name: Elizabeth Fagan & J. Andrew Ross Date Prepared: 9/11/2015

Documentation is presented in: Baltimore City Archives, Enoch Pratt Library - Maryland Room, Google Books, HathiTrust Digital Library, Johns Hopkins University Libraries, Maryland Historical Society, ProQuest Historical Newspapers, www.HistoricAerials.com

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 Listed: yes

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

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

Architectural Description

The Mount Royal Reservoir Pipe Vault is located within the Baltimore Department of Transportation facility at 560 West North Avenue, near the north end of the property. The property is adjacent to the Jones Falls Expressway, and is close to the Reservoir Hill neighborhood of Baltimore City. The pipe vault building is on a north-south orientation and is located within an oval-shaped area of land. The building is built into the side of a hill, mostly surrounded by wooded areas of the property, except to the south where the core of the Baltimore Department of Transportation maintenance facility is located.

The pipe vault building is a masonry structure built into the side of an embankment. This embankment is an existing landscape feature of the former Mount Royal Reservoir. The Mount Royal Reservoir, built from 1857 to 1861, was an elevated, circular reservoir with a decorative fountain in the center, iron fence around the perimeter, and park-like landscaping around the sides of its embankment. The pipe vault building, the only existing reservoir building, originally contained machinery that would control the flow of water from the reservoir. The building is partially-subterranean, with a single portal doorway forming the whole of the

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended _____	Eligibility not recommended <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Criteria: <u>A</u> <u>B</u> <u>C</u> <u>D</u>	Considerations: <u>A</u> <u>B</u> <u>C</u> <u>D</u> <u>E</u> <u>F</u> <u>G</u>
MHT Comments:	
<u>Jim Talman</u> Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	<u>9/22/2015</u> Date
<u>B. Kuntz</u> Reviewer, National Register Program	<u>9/24/15</u> Date

drawn from Jones Falls. The new system would consist of three reservoirs, connected by conduits using a gravity system to supply the city. The largest of the three new reservoirs to be built was the Swann Lake Reservoir (Lake Roland), near the headwaters of Jones Falls. When completed, the reservoir had a capacity of 500 million gallons and was connected via a newly-constructed conduit system to two new smaller reservoirs in Hampden and Mount Royal. The Lake Hampden Reservoir (Roosevelt Park) had a 40 million gallon capacity, and was connected to the 30 million gallon Mount Royal Reservoir. When completed in 1863, the three reservoirs provided service to 19,640 of the 38,881 buildings in the city (Scharf, 1881), and the 30 million gallon capacity of the Mount Royal Reservoir was 20 percent greater than the combined capacity of the old Mount Royal and Chase Reservoirs it was designed to replace (Ordinances of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, 1862).

Plans for the Mount Royal Reservoir involved a partial subterranean excavation, yet most of the 550 foot circular design was above grade. The containment walls were 50 feet thick and 40 feet high, with a ten foot wide walking promenade. The graduation and masonry of the reservoir was completed by the firm Burke and Green. The grounds around the reservoir contained a gate-keeper's house and a pump house, constructed by Binyon and Andoun. Charles Manning served as the chief engineer and Robert K. Martin was the resident engineer (Scharf, 1881). Martin would later design and oversee the construction of the world's largest earthen dam in America (at that time) when Druid Park was selected as the site for another reservoir in 1863 (Dennis, 2015).

The pipe vault building, which contained the stopcocks, would control the flow of water coming into and out of the reservoir. This facility is the only extant building from the Mount Royal reservoir. A large, central fountain (similar to the fountain in Druid Lake today) served as an intake from the Hampden conduit and provided an idyllic, park-like setting with views of the city and bay to the south and the country to the north and west. Construction on the Mount Royal reservoir was completed in 1861. The completion of conduits linking the Lake Hampden and Lake Roland Reservoirs in 1862 made the entire water system fully operational, although water from the Mount Royal Reservoir was reportedly being used as early as 1861 (Dennis, 2012).

Although the pipe vault building is not located within a historic district, the adjacent Reservoir Hill Historic District (B-1379) is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The construction of the Mount Royal Reservoir heavily influenced the development of this neighborhood, which consists of rowhouses, mansions, and apartment buildings dating from the 1870s to the 1940s. Prior to 1870, the area surrounding the Mount Royal Reservoir consisted of rural farms and estates. The completion of Druid Hill Park in 1860 and the Mount Royal Reservoir in 1861 attracted visitors looking for a scenic recreational spot. The Mount Royal Reservoir, though, was located just outside of the Baltimore City boundary – North Avenue served as the city limit until 1889 (Shoken, Section 8, 1). By the 1870s, streetcar lines had extended to Druid Hill Park, making the area more accessible and enabling the first batch of rowhouses in the area. By 1900, the City had purchased land to the west of the Reservoir and created the Mount Royal Terrace drive, which directly fronted the Reservoir. Queen Anne style homes along the Mount Royal Terrace were highly desirable for their unique, terraced landscaping and views overlooking the Reservoir.

Unfortunately, once completed the new system of reservoirs and conduits soon proved to be inadequate to meet the growth and demands of the city, and new reservoirs were being planned as early as 1863 (Dennis, 2012). In 1910 the Mount Royal Reservoir was transferred from the City Water Department to the Parks Department, and was no longer used to provide water. In 1924, the City Park Board began dismantling the empty reservoir, removing 50,000 cubic feet of earthen berm fill to create a park. By dismantling the reservoir, the Park Department hoped to end some of the contention with local residences as to what should be done with the abandoned reservoir. Local residents were not fond of the empty bowl, and some wanted it filled again. Proposed development for the lot included a swimming pool, or building an athletic stadium or art museum - none of which fared well with many local residents ("Razing is Begun of Mount Royal Ave. Reservoir"). The Parks Department eventually developed the lot into a public park until construction of the Jones Falls Expressway in the 1960s bisected the former reservoir.

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_____ Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services							_____ Date						
_____ Reviewer, National Register Program							_____ Date						

Mount Royal Reservoir Pipe Vault (B-5295)

Baltimore, Maryland



USGS Baltimore East
Quadrangle 7.5 minute series

USGS
National File
Topographic Model

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty
Medium-duty
Light-duty
Unimproved dirt



0 1,750 3,500 7,000 Feet

Location Map

Date: September 2015

Mount Royal Reservoir Pipe Vault (B-5295)

Baltimore, Maryland



0 250 500 1,000 Feet

Location Map

Date: September 2015

Mount Royal Reservoir Pipe Vault (B-5295)

Baltimore, Maryland



ArcGIS World Imagery
2015

Legend

Parcel Boundaries



0 50 100 200 Feet

Location Map

Date: September 2015

Photo Log
MIHP# B-5295
Mount Royal Reservoir Pipe Vault
560 West North Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21217
Photographer: Elizabeth Fagan
Date: August 10, 2015

#	Digital Image File Name	Description of View
1	B-5295_2015-08-10_01.tif	<i>Pipe vault - Façade, looking west</i>
2	B-5295_2015-08-10_02.tif	<i>Pipe vault - Façade, looking west</i>
3	B-5295_2015-08-10_03.tif	<i>Pipe vault - Detail of façade, looking west</i>
4	B-5295_2015-08-10_04.tif	<i>Pipe vault - Façade, south elevation, and surrounding area, looking west</i>
5	B-5295_2015-08-10_05.tif	<i>Pipe vault - South elevation, looking north</i>
6	B-5295_2015-08-10_06.tif	<i>Pipe vault - Interior view showing machinery, looking northeast</i>
7	B-5295_2015-08-10_07.tif	<i>Embankment above pipe vault - Looking northeast</i>

Prints:

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Verbatim, UltraLife Gold, Metal Azo dye



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Mount Royal Reservoir Pipe Vault

Baltimore, MD

Elizabeth Fagan

August 10, 2015

MD SHPO

Pipe vault - facade, looking west

B-5295_2015-08-10_01.tif

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Mount Royal Reservoir Pipe Vault

Baltimore, MD

Elisabeth Fagan

August 10, 2015

MD SHPO

Pipe vault - facade, looking west

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B-5295

Mount Royal Reservoir Pipe Vault

Baltimore, MD

Elizabeth Fagan

August 10, 2015

MD SHPO

Pipe vault - detail of facade, looking west

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Mount Royal Reservoir Pipe Vault

Baltimore, MD

Elizabeth Fagan

August 10, 2015

MD SHPO

Pipe vault - facade, south elevation, and surrounding area,
looking west

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Mount Royal Reservoir Pipe Vault

Baltimore, MD

Elizabeth Fagan

August 10, 2015

MD SHPO

Pipe vault - south elevation, looking north

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Mount Royal Reservoir Pipe Vault

Baltimore, MD

Elizabeth Fagan

August 10, 2015

MD SHPO

Pipe Vault - interior view showing machinery, looking
northeast

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Mount Royal Reservoir Pipe Vault

Baltimore, MD

Elizabeth Fagan

August 10, 2015

MD SHPO

Embankment above pipe vault - looking northeast

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