

B-11

Otterbein Church, (Old Otterbein Evangelical United Brethren Church)

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 03-10-2011

Easement

MHT B-11
MAGI #0400112208

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON: Otterbein Church	
AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Otterbein Evangelical United Brethren Church	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 112 W. Conway Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			
STATE Maryland	CODE 19	COUNTY: Baltimore City	CODE 510

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Old Otterbein Evangelical United Brethren Church			
STREET AND NUMBER: 112 W. Conway Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore	STATE: Maryland	CODE 19	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Land Record Office of the Superior Court of Baltimore City			
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 610, Baltimore City Court House			
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore	STATE: Maryland	CODE 19	

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: January 1964 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE 08	

STATE: Maryland	COUNTY: Baltimore City
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Otterbein Church is a two-story brick Georgian structure, built in 1785-86 by Jacob Small, Sr., a local carpenter. The design for the building is also attributed to Small.

The peaked roof is topped on the west gable by a square tower with octagonal cupola-on-cupola, reminiscent of the style of Christopher Wren.

The entrance, in the second (w) of five bays, is covered by a pedimented vestibule. A double door, panelled, has leaded stained glass sidelights and an arched transom.

The windows on each floor have semi-circular arches with radiating muntins and twenty-two over fifteen sash. Much of the original glass still remains. Between floor levels there is a white limestone belt course. A wooden cornice with modillions encircles the building forming pediments on the gables.

A major remodeling in 1839 created a projection with hipped roof in the east wall which houses the pulpit and marks the aspe. These renovations also resulted in the removal of the interior balconies.

The nails throughout the building were hand-made. The bells, cast in Germany, and installed in 1789, are still used.

The Otterbein Church is located within a large Urban Renewal area which surrounds the Baltimore harbor. This will result in the removal of the commercial structures which now surround it and the creation of parks and new dwelling places. Accordingly, the church has long-range plans for restoring the building and grounds to their former beauty.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☒ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1785-1786

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☒ Religion/Phi-☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry

losophy

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Science☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Sculpture☒ Art☐ Architecture☐ Social/Human-☐ Commerce☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Otterbein Church is the only eighteenth-century church building of any denomination in continuous use which remains in Baltimore. It was built in 1785-1786 by Jacob Small, Sr., for a congregation of Germans who, under the leadership of Pastor Phillip Wilhelm Otterbein, had separated from the Lutheran Church.

Here, in 1789, the first Conference of United Brethren preachers was held, resulting in the official organization of the Church of the United Brethren in Christ, and in the election of Pastor Otterbein as a bishop of the new church.

Otterbein's grave, in the churchyard, is marked by a monument, erected in 1913, one hundred years following his death.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Otterbein Church

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Commission for Historical & Architectural Preservation
Survey
1966

402 City Hall

Baltimore, Maryland Code: 19

Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks
May 1969

Maryland Historical Trust

Post Office Box 1704

Annapolis, Maryland Code: 19

#9. REFERENCES

Rose, Howard Wickliffe, The Colonial Houses of Worship
in America (1607-1789) (New York: Hastings House, 1963),
pp. 178.

Scharf, J. Thomas, The Chronicles of Baltimore
(Baltimore: Turnbull Brothers, 1874), pp. 40-42, 76, 136.

* Liber WG 87 Folio 517, Land Record Office of the Superior
Court of Baltimore City, Room 610, Baltimore City Court
House, Baltimore, Maryland

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: Romaine S. Somerville, Executive Secretary, and Catharine F. Black, Commission Member, Commission for Historical & Architectural Preservation, 402 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland. Code: 19

Howland, Richard Hubbard, and Spencer, Elizabeth Patterson, The Architecture of Baltimore (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1953), pp. 19-20; Plate XXIII.

[see continuation sheet]

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds		LATITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .6 acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register	
ORGANIZATION Maryland Historical Trust	DATE Oct. 10, 1969
STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 1704	
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis	STATE Maryland 21404 CODE 19

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name Orlando Ridout IV
Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Liaison Officer
for Maryland

Date October 13, 1969

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
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AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Otterbein Evangelical United Brethren Church			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 112 W. Conway Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			
STATE: Maryland	CODE 19	COUNTY: Baltimore City	CODE 510
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle Baltimore East			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1953			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

Army Map Service
U.S.G.S.
1:24,000
1953

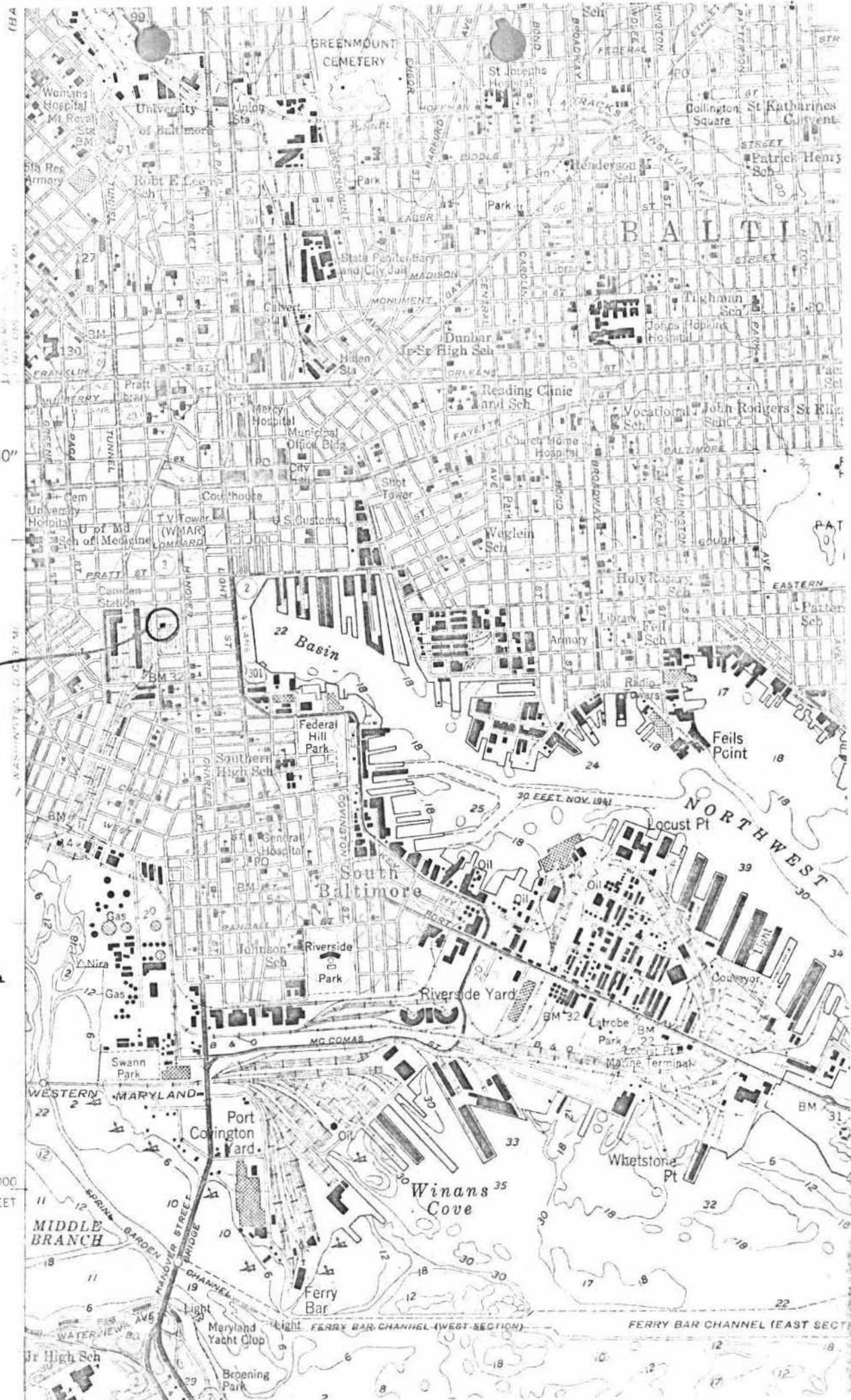
OTTERBEIN CHURCH
LATITUDE 39°17'03.8"
LONGITUDE 76°37'02.7"



520,000
FEET

17°30"

B-11



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

MHT B-11

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2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 112 W. Conway Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			
STATE: Maryland	CODE 19	COUNTY: Baltimore City	CODE 510
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Baltimore Dept. of Planning - Phil Sibley			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Commission for Historical & Architectural Preservation, 402 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Otterbein Church from the south			

B-11

This print went to National Register for their files. There is no duplicate at MHT. Our files for similar photo.





Archbishop Carroll



The Roman Catholic Cathedral as Benjamin Latrobe designed it, completed in 1821. The present onion towers were added later

The Seed that Fell into Good Ground

BALTIMORE holds a unique place in the religious history of the nation, appropriate to the chief city of Maryland, where religious freedom in America had its beginning.

Following the Revolution, the Pope appointed Father John Carroll, a Marylander, Vicar General of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. In 1789 Father Carroll became the first Roman Catholic Bishop in this country. In 1808 the Baltimore Cathedral, which he had planned, was elevated to the rank of a metropolitan church and Dr. Carroll was invested with the dignity of Archbishop. Thus Baltimore became the birthplace of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in this country.

Baltimore may claim also the country's first Methodist Bishop. December 27, 1784, Francis Asbury was ordained in Lovely Lane Meeting House. At the same conference the Methodist Church in the United States was born.

Otterbein Church, on Conway Street near Sharp, erected in 1784 and the oldest church edifice still standing in the city, was named for Bishop Philip William Otterbein, on whose teaching the Church of the United Brethren in Christ was based.

In 1842, Baltimore saw the organization of Har Sinai Congregation, first Jewish congregation founded on Reform principles in the United States. This group held its first regular services in 1843 in a second-floor front room in the home of Moses Hutzler, Exeter Street and Eastern Avenue (right).



Otterbein Church




HUTZLER ARCHIVES

the ordination
op Asbury in
Lane Meeting
n Redwood St.,
he Merchants'
ow stands.

RES ON THE PAGES,
B N O M THE
D HIS SOCIETY

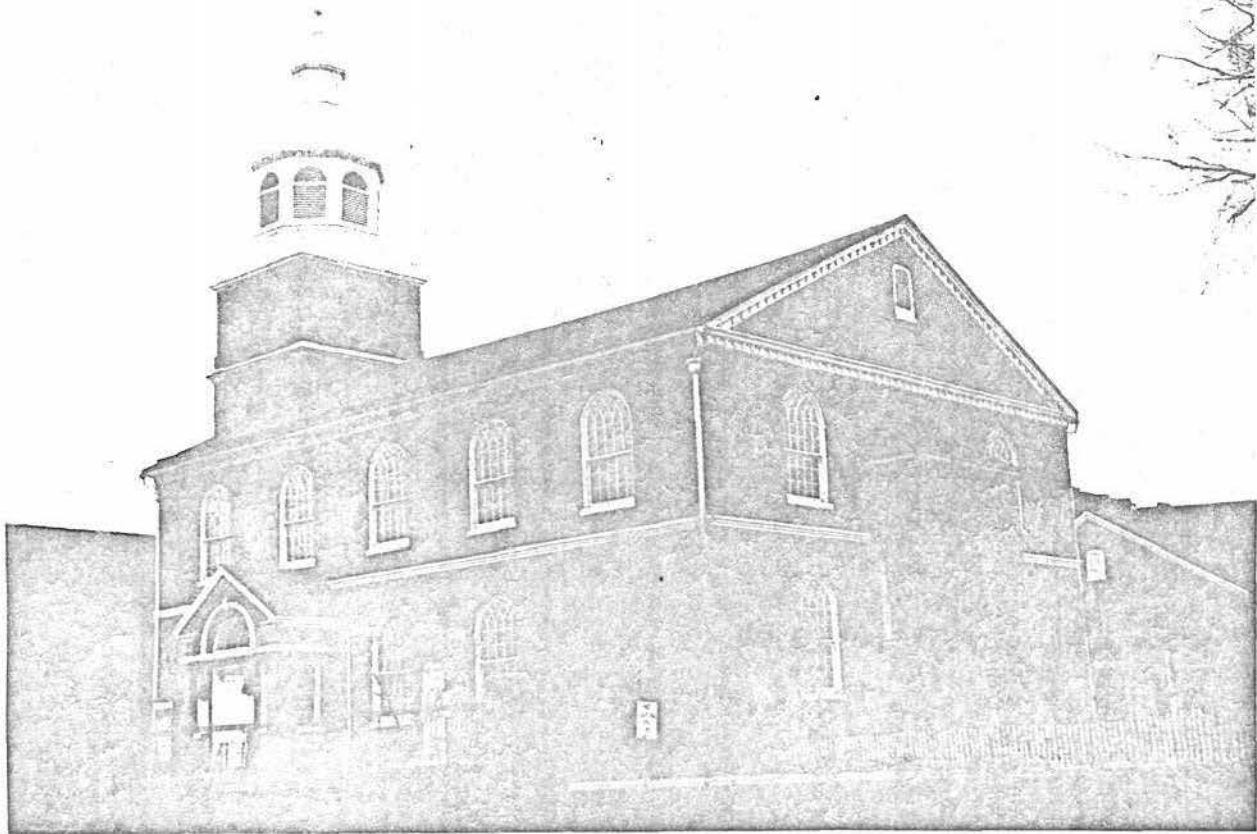
Easement

0011

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore City TOWN _____ VICINITY _____ STREET NO. Conway at Sharp Street ORIGINAL OWNER _____ ORIGINAL USE _____ PRESENT OWNER _____ PRESENT USE _____ WALL CONSTRUCTION _____ NO. OF STORIES _____		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY B-11 2. NAME Otterbein Church Otterbein United Methodist Church DATE OR PERIOD _____ STYLE _____ ARCHITECT _____ BUILDER _____	
3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE _____			
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <div style="text-align: center; padding: 20px;"> <p>(see National Register Nomination form)</p> </div>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="width: 45%;">  <p>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</p> </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> <p>7. PHOTOGRAPH</p> </div> </div>			
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER DATE OF RECORD _____	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

OTTERBEIN CHURCH



112 W. Conway Street

1785-86

Architect: Jacob Small, Sr.

Designed by Jacob Small, Sr., this is Baltimore's only 18th century Georgian style church building still in use today. It was built between 1785-86 for a congregation of Germans who, under the leadership of Pastor Phillip Wilhelm Otterbein, had separated from the Lutheran church. In 1789, in this building, the Church of the United Brethren was organized and Pastor Otterbein was elected bishop. Now the church is part of the United Methodist denomination, following a merger in the 1960's.

The building is unique architecturally. Its octagonal cupola is reminiscent of the work of the English architect, Christopher Wren. Much of the original glass remains in the arched windows. The nails throughout the building were handmade and the bells, cast in Germany and installed in 1789, are still in use.

Pastor Otterbein's grave is in the churchyard, marked by a monument erected 100 years after his death.

Deed ref: WG 87/517

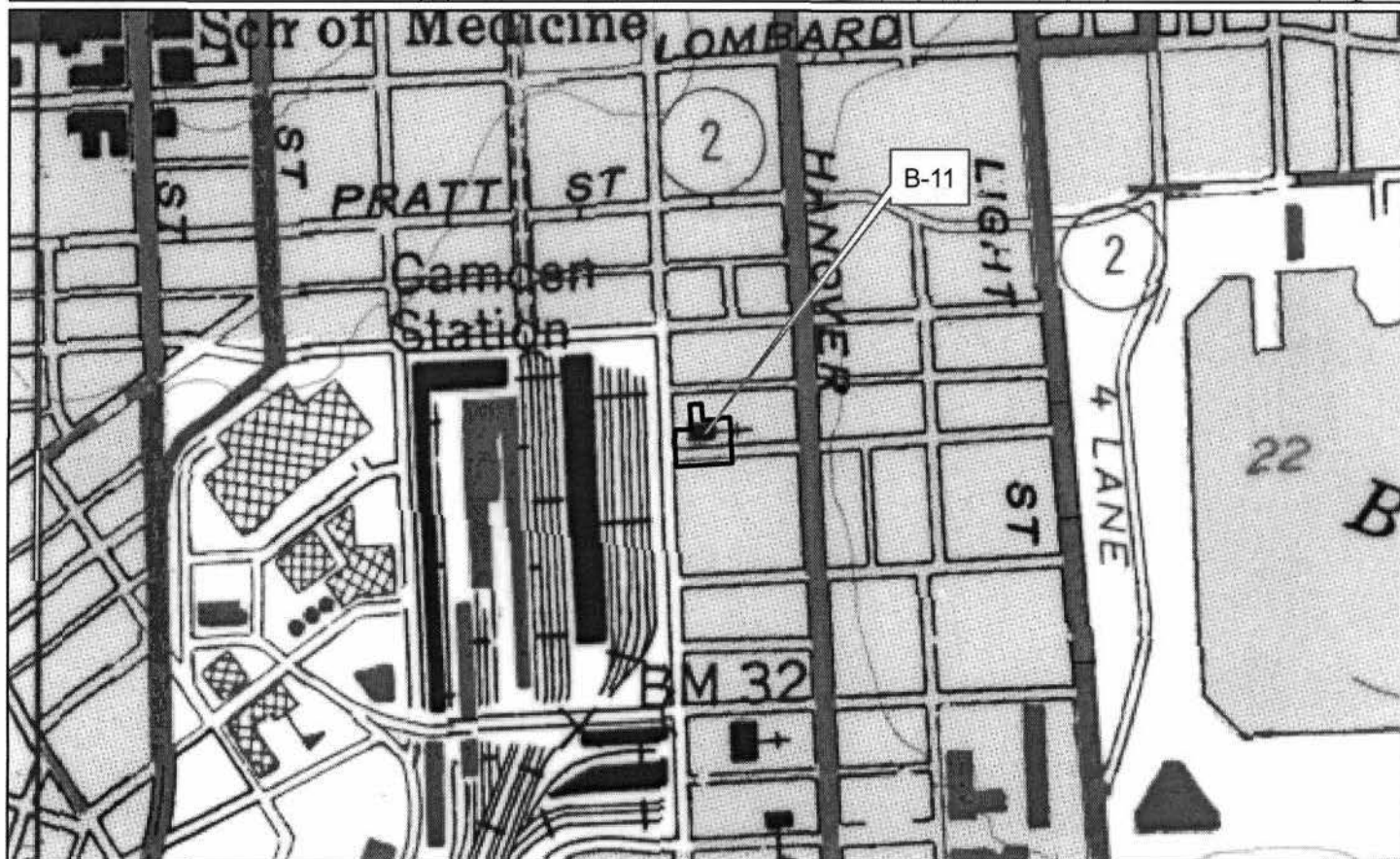
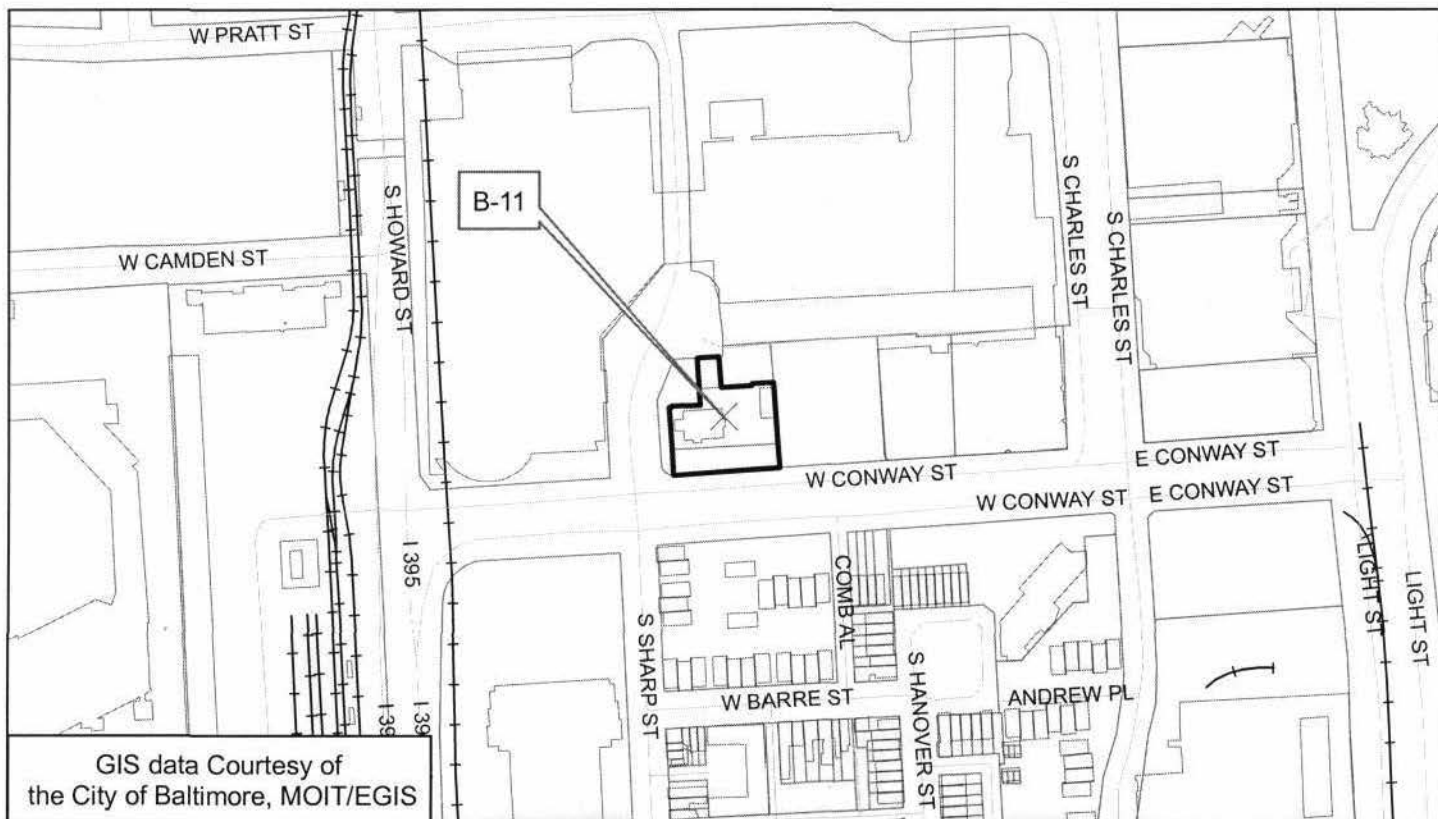
Lot size: 180' x 155'

Wd: 22 Sec: 2

Blk: 692 Lot: 2

Owner: Otterbein United Methodist Church

B-11
Otterbein Church (Old Otterbein Evangelical United Brethren Church)
112 W. Conway Street
Block 0692 Lot 001
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





CENTRAL MARYLAND

B-11

Old Otterbein Church

Conway at Sharp St

Baltimore, ^{city} Md

1785-86 J. Small

1
6
1