

B-12

## First Presbyterian Church & Manse, (First and Franklin Street Presbyterian 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](http://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***

MAG#0400122508 B-12

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON: First Presbyterian Church and Manse

AND/OR HISTORIC: First Presbyterian Church and Manse

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 200-210 West Madison Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fourth

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

COUNTY: Baltimore City

CODE: 510

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)  | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE<br>TO THE PUBLIC                      |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building | <input type="checkbox"/> Public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied              | Yes:   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private | <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Object  | <input type="checkbox"/> Both               | <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work<br>in progress | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No  |   |   |  |

PUBLIC ACQUISITION:

☐ In Process

☐ Being Considered

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|   |                                     |   |  |                                   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural           | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial             | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |                                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious         |  |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment          | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific                   |  |                                   |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: The Committee of the First Presbyterian Church

STREET AND NUMBER: 200-208 West Madison Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

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 Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey (see continuation sheet)

DATE OF SURVEY: April, 1960

☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: District of Columbia

CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Baltimore City

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

|           |   |                                    |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                   |                                    |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input 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

The First Presbyterian Church, located on the northwest corner of Madison Street and Park Avenue, is a notable example of Gothic Revival architecture and a landmark in the City of Baltimore. The English-born architect Nathan Gibson Starkweather<sup>1</sup> was educated at Oxford University during the period of the "Oxford Movement;" although classical forms had been popular for a long period, the perpendicular Gothic style was revived as a by-product of this "Oxford Movement." In this church the religious spirit is portrayed inside and out by elongated arches and elaborate symbolism, and the building is particularly interesting for its use of structural iron.

The church proper is rectangular, and at the south front the base of the central tower protrudes from the wall and is flanked by protruding octagonal turrets at each corner of the building. The southwest turret is 78 feet high, divided into three stories, and topped by an ogee roof with pinnacles. The southeast turret is decorated with crocketed pediments with pinnacles, and tapers in a spire 128 feet from ground level.

At the north end of the edifice is a two-story building which appears from the outside to be a "transept," sharing a common roof with the church proper, but is separated from the auditorium by a bearing wall. The area now contains a chapel and upstairs office rooms; its end projects slightly beyond the east wall.

All the walls are brick; the exterior walls on Madison Street and Park Avenue are faced with brown New Brunswick freestone and are elaborately decorated with carvings in window tracery, hood molds, window sills, entrance arches, cornices, and pinnacles. Five buttresses on each side of the church proper rise above the roofline; there are larger buttresses at the corners of the "transept" on Park Avenue. The north or rear wall is plain brick, and the west wall is stuccoed.

The main tower and spire, 268 feet high, rest on special stone piers which are connected with, but apparently independent of, the rest of the foundations. The spire is supported by four cast iron pillars, rising at the rear gallery of the auditorium, and forming a core to which the freestone was attached by iron locking devices--the same method by which modern skyscrapers are constructed.

The square tower is strengthened by buttresses at each corner and is terminated on each face by a high crocketed pediment with finial. The exterior cornices have a pattern of long tongue-shaped dentils. The corner buttresses of the tower are terminated by pinnacles, and between them rises the octagonal spire, decorated by louvred openings, pinnacles,

[see continuation sheet]

<sup>1</sup>Research compiled by Phoebe B. Stanton, Chairman, Department of History of Art, Johns Hopkins University, has indicated that Starkweather's assistant, E. G. Lind, was largely responsible for the completed design of the church.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|  |                                       |   |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| 8. SIGNIFICANCE  |                                       |   |  |
| PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |                                       |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian   | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century   | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | XX 19th Century                         |  |
| SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)   |                                       | 1854-59                                 |  |
| AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)   |                                       |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal  | <input type="checkbox"/> Education    | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric   | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering  | XX Religion Phi-                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic  | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | osophy                                  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        |  |
| XX Architecture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art   | Architecture                          | XX Social Human-                        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce  | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | itarian                                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications  | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |  |
| STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  |                                       |   |  |
| <p>The First Presbyterian Church is the original congregation of Presbyterians in Baltimore; the present church is the congregation's fourth, although it is the first on this site. The congregation began to assemble in the early eighteenth century as a few families gathered together, some moving from Pennsylvania and Europe. The formal commencement of the church was in 1761, and the first building of logs was located on Fayette Street near Gay Street. The Reverend Patrick Allison was its first stated minister, serving as pastor from 1763 to 1802; in 1786 he was elected as the first moderator of the Presbytery of Baltimore. The founders included the prominent Baltimore family names of Sterrett, Gilmor, McHenry, Patterson, Stricker, and Poe. Among the early members were James Calhoun, the first elected Mayor of Baltimore, and General Samuel Smith, in charge of Baltimore's defense in 1814.</p> <p>The Reverend John Chester Backus, pastor from 1836 to 1879, was the motivating influence for building a new church. Ground was broken in 1854, and the church was dedicated on October 2, 1859; the spires were added in 1873-74. In 1940 the lecture room was converted into the Reid Memorial Chapel, named for a mission in east Baltimore under the care of the First Presbyterian Church from 1894 to 1940; the mission had been started by a gift of Andrew and Fanny B. Reid in memory of their children.</p> <p>The spire of this church is the most frequently photographed in the city. It was a favorite subject for A. Aubrey Bodine, a famous Baltimore photographer, and was also used as a vantage point for a series of photographs made in 1873 by William H. Weaver, showing the view from all directions.</p> <p>The Manse of the First Presbyterian Church was constructed in 1854 as the private home of Reverend Backus and was originally called the Backus House. The congregation purchased the residence for use in 1923.</p> <p>The First Presbyterian Church is one of the outstanding landmarks of Maryland Gothic Revival architecture. Until recently architectural historians attributed its design to Nathan O. Starkweather, an English born architect. However, Phoebe B. Stanton, Chairman of the Department of the History of Art at the Johns Hopkins University, has challenged that assertion. Her study of E. G. Lind and of the construction of the Church has indicated that Lind was more responsible for the final building than Starkweather who was frequently absent from the site. Lind's architectural career included several major Baltimore [see continuation sheet]</p> |                                       |   |  |

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Gardner, John H., Jr., D.D. The First Presbyterian Church of Baltimore - A Two-Century Chronicle. Baltimore: First Presbyterian Church, 1962.

Hunter, Wilbur H., Jr., and Ranney, F. Garner. Historic American Buildings Survey: First Presbyterian Church. HABS No. MD-195. Baltimore: April 1960.

Stanton, Phoebe B. The Johns Hopkins University. Notes on the career of E. J. Lind. Interview, September 1971.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |          |         |         | O<br>R  | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |         |         |         |         |
|--|----------|---------|---------|---------|---|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE |         |         |         | LONGITUDE   |         |         |         |         |
|  | Degrees  | Minutes | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes   | Seconds | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW   | 0        | '       | "       | 0       | '   | "       | 39°     | 17'     | 55"     |
| NE   | 0        | '       | "       | 0       | '   | "       | 76°     | 37'     | 09"     |
| SE   | 0        | '       | "       | 0       | '   | "       |         |         |         |
| SW   | 0        | '       | "       | 0       | '   | "       |         |         |         |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY  | CODE |
|--------|------|---------|------|
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |
| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY: | CODE |

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

|                    |  |  |  |
|--------------------|--|--|--|
| NAME AND TITLE:    |  | Joyce Maclay and Catharine Black                         |  |
| ORGANIZATION       |  | Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation |  |
| STREET AND NUMBER: |  | 402 City Hall  |  |
| CITY OR TOWN:      |  | Baltimore  |  |
| STATE              |  | Maryland   |  |
| CODE               |  | 24   |  |
| DATE               |  | Oct. 17, 1972  |  |

## 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 18, 1972

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| STATE            |      |
| Maryland B-12    |      |
| COUNTY           |      |
| Baltimore City   |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |
|                  |      |

(Number all entries)

First Presbyterian Church and Manse

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks  
1972 State  
Maryland Historical Trust  
2525 Riva Road  
Annapolis, Maryland Code: 24

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

lozenge shaped openings, vertical ribs, and a very large deeply-incised finial. The tapering lines of the spire are gracefully bent very slightly inward.

The interior plan is rectangular, divided transversely into the narthex, the auditorium, two ambulatory corridors on either side of the pulpit recess, and a modern chapel in the rear. The yoke-shaped narthex runs the width of the church; its low ceiling and crypt-like design impart an air of Gothic mystery to the approaches, contrasting with the high and spacious rectangular auditorium. Inside the auditorium a gallery of black walnut runs along part of the area over the narthex and along the east and west side walls; the choir balcony and organ console are on the south side.

The intricate ceiling is the main decorative and conceptual element of the whole interior design. Suspended at least 30 feet below the roof, it appears very heavy yet is supported not by columns but by an elaborate system of arches and trusses, which serve to keep the nave free from visual obstructions. Elaborate fan-vaulting springs from the walls and from massive pendants which correspond to the missing columnar capitals; this fan-vaulting is reminiscent of the Henry VII Chapel in Westminster Abbey. The luxuriant plaster foliage on bosses, pendants, and corbels is similar to some Decorated Gothic carvings in Winchester Cathedral. The exuberant richness of these forms is counter-balanced by the massive solidity of the over-all design.

At the northern end of the church is the pulpit recess, its wall covered with rich plaster tracery. The oak pulpit projects from a massive pedestal and is richly carved with Gothic pediments and cusped designs, with buttresses and heavy pendants at the corners. The Gothic sofa and chairs by the pulpit were made by Robert O. Renwick about 1860.

There are five stained glass windows along the east and west walls from the top of the panelled wainscoting to above the gallery. There are also windows in the high bay behind the choir balcony, and on either side of this bay in the south wall is a group of three lancets by the Connick Associates of Boston.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

|                  |      |
|------------------|------|
| STATE            |      |
| Maryland B-12    |      |
| COUNTY           |      |
| Baltimore City   |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE |
|                  |      |

(Number all entries)

First Presbyterian Church and Manse

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

In 1940 the rear meeting hall was remodeled by Ralph Adams Cram, of Cram and Goodhue in Boston, to become the Reid Memorial Chapel. The axis of this chapel is east and west; its Tudor Gothic style is restrained and modified by certain modern elements. Its woodwork is finely carved, and cathedral chairs are used instead of pews. Three stained-glass windows of two lancets each in the north wall are all designed by Connick.

The Manse of the First Presbyterian Church, located at 210 West Madison Street, was also designed in 1854 by Nathan G. Starkweather. The exterior of the three-story structure is faced with the same stone as the church. The facade is symmetrical and elaborately decorated. The interior depicts the elegance and graciousness of a former day. An unusual and beautiful spiral staircase curves upward from the entrance hall to the second floor. To the right of the entrance is a double parlor running the length of the house. The marble fireplaces, designed by William H. Rinehart, are an outstanding feature. Crystal chandeliers, high ceilings, carved woodwork, and arched doorways and windows contribute to the beauty of the building.

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

buildings, notably the Peabody Institute on Mount Vernon Place.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

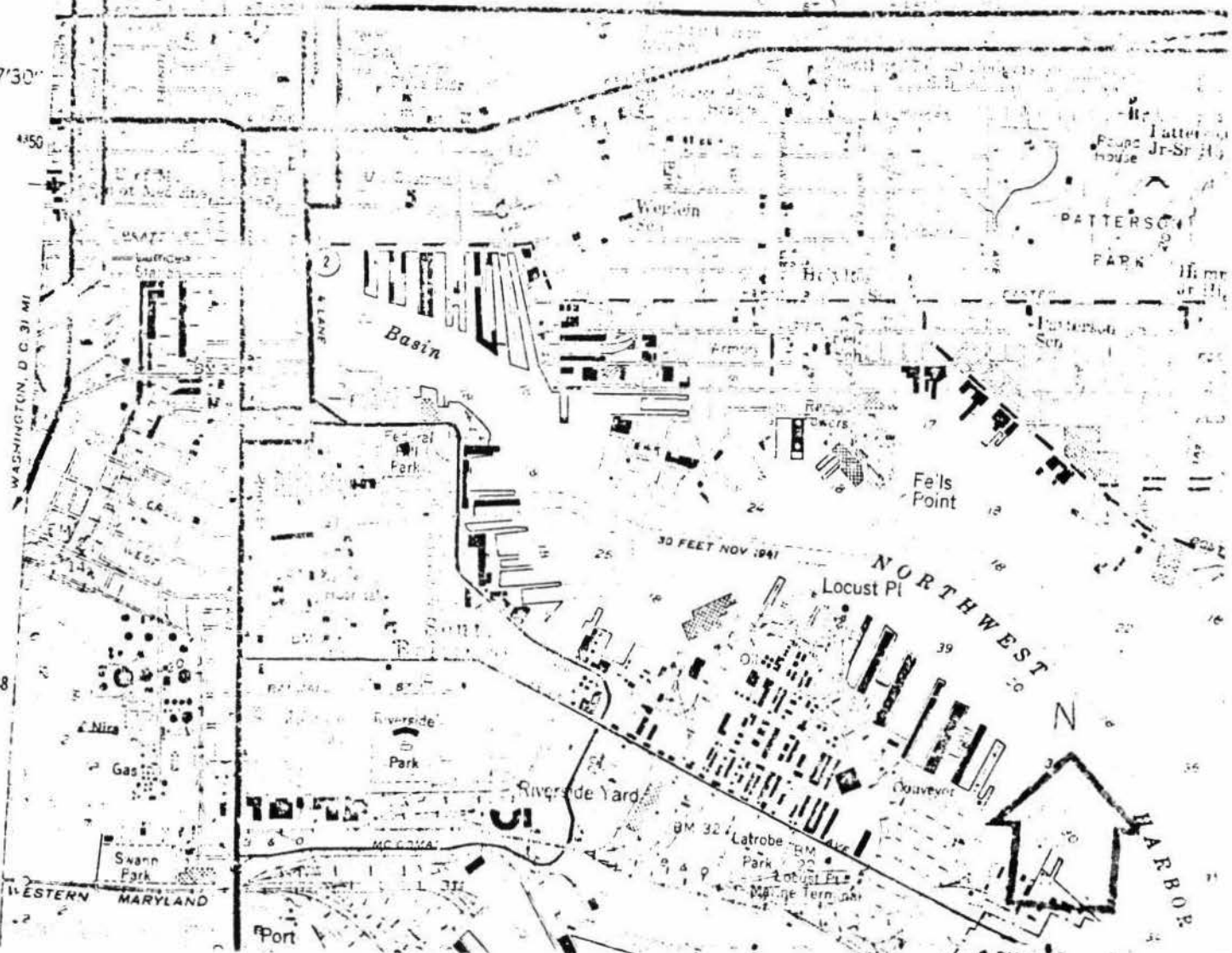
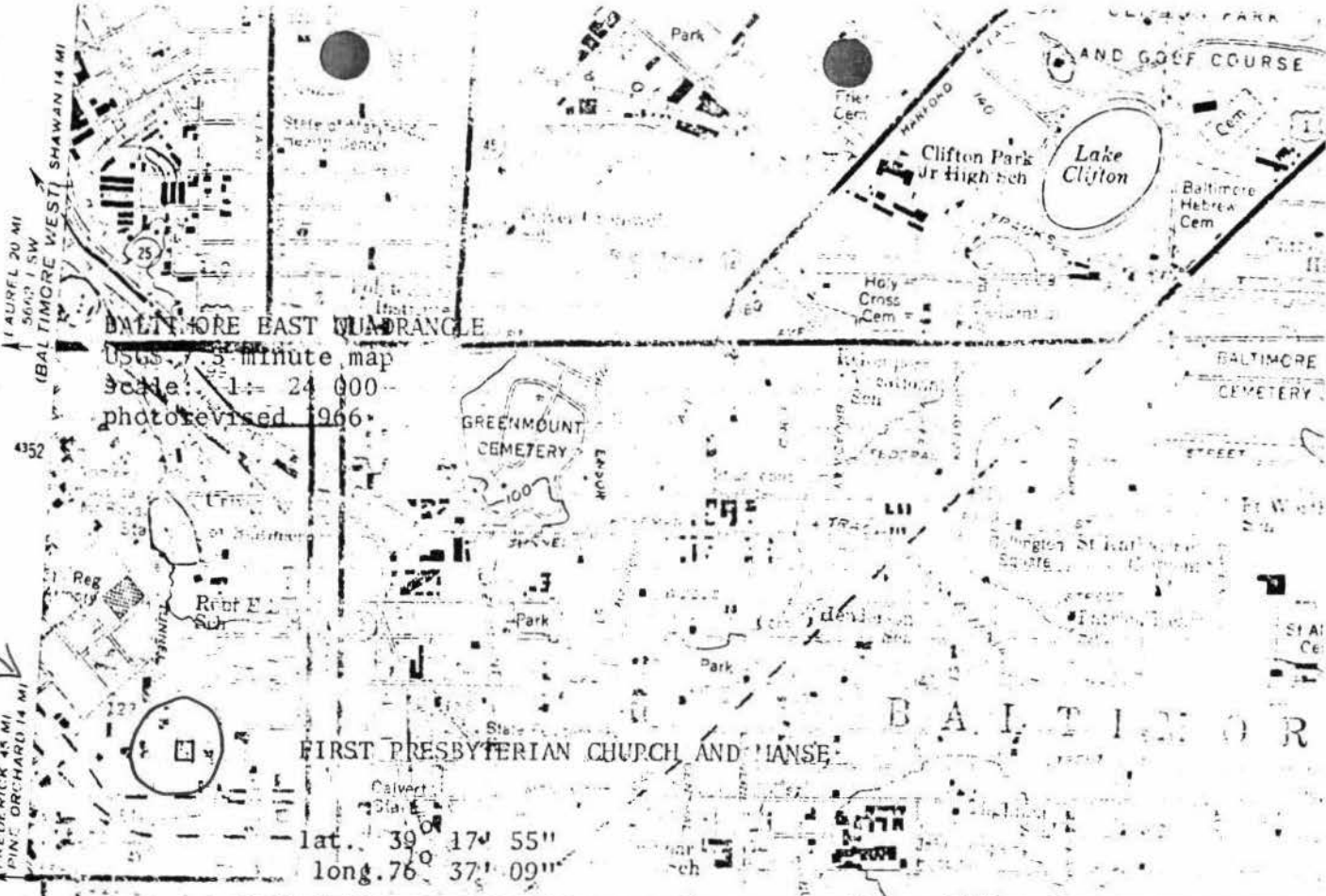
B-12

|                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| STATE<br>Maryland        |      |
| COUNTY<br>Baltimore City |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY         |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER             | DATE |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|   |            |                           |             |
|---|------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| <b>1. NAME</b>  |            |                           |             |
| COMMON: First Presbyterian Church and Manse                   |            |                           |             |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: First Presbyterian Church and Manse          |            |                           |             |
| <b>2. LOCATION</b>  |            |                           |             |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>200-210 West Madison Street             |            |                           |             |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Baltimore                                    |            |                           |             |
| STATE:<br>Maryland  | CODE<br>24 | COUNTY:<br>Baltimore City | CODE<br>510 |
| <b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>                                       |            |                           |             |
| SOURCE:<br>U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map; Baltimore East quadrangle |            |                           |             |
| SCALE: 1: 24,000  |            |                           |             |
| DATE: 1953 Photorevised 1966                                  |            |                           |             |
| <b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>  |            |                           |             |
| TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS                                    |            |                           |             |
| 1. Property boundaries where required.                        |            |                           |             |
| 2. North arrow.   |            |                           |             |
| 3. Latitude and longitude reference.                          |            |                           |             |





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

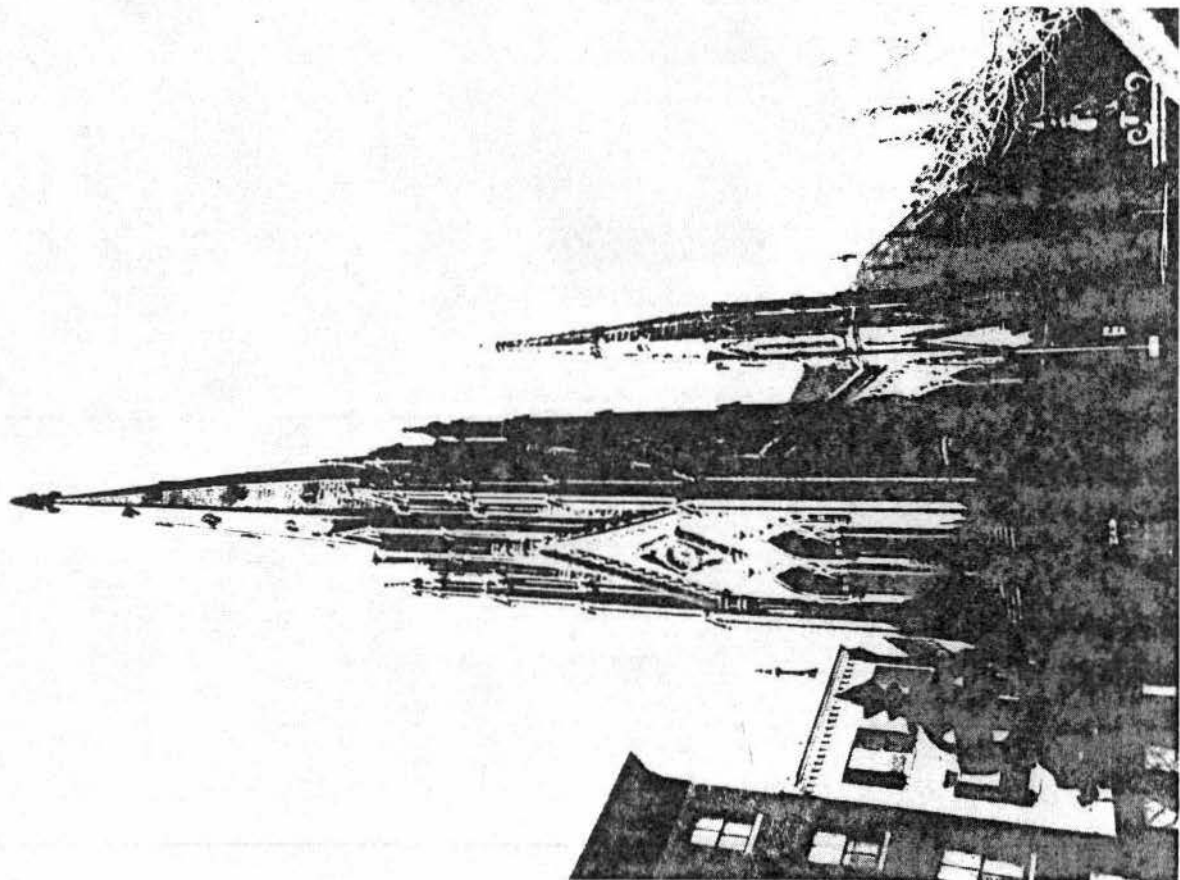
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

|                          |      |      |
|--------------------------|------|------|
| STATE<br>Maryland        |      | B-12 |
| COUNTY<br>Baltimore City |      |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY         |      |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER             | DATE |      |
|                          |      |      |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|   |            |                           |             |
|---|------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| <b>1. NAME</b>  |            |                           |             |
| COMMON: First Presbyterian Church   |            |                           |             |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:  |            |                           |             |
| <b>2. LOCATION</b>  |            |                           |             |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>200-210 West Madison Street   |            |                           |             |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Baltimore  |            |                           |             |
| STATE:<br>Maryland  | CODE<br>24 | COUNTY:<br>Baltimore City | CODE<br>510 |
| <b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>   |            |                           |             |
| PHOTO CREDIT: Philip Sibley   |            |                           |             |
| DATE OF PHOTO: 1969   |            |                           |             |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation<br>402 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland |            |                           |             |
| <b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>  |            |                           |             |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.<br><br>First Presbyterian Church from the southeast                                |            |                           |             |

GPO 921-737



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

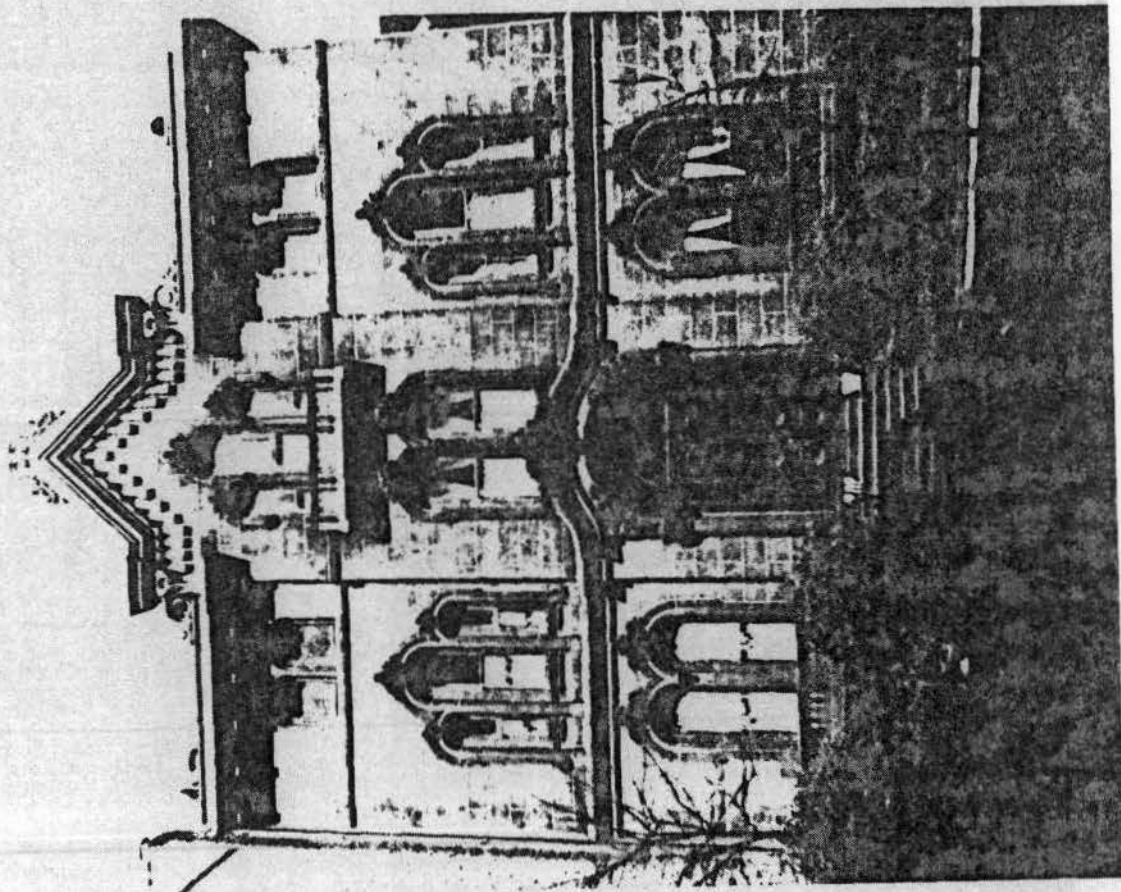
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

|                          |      |
|--------------------------|------|
| STATE<br>Maryland B-12   |      |
| COUNTY<br>Baltimore City |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY         |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER             | DATE |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

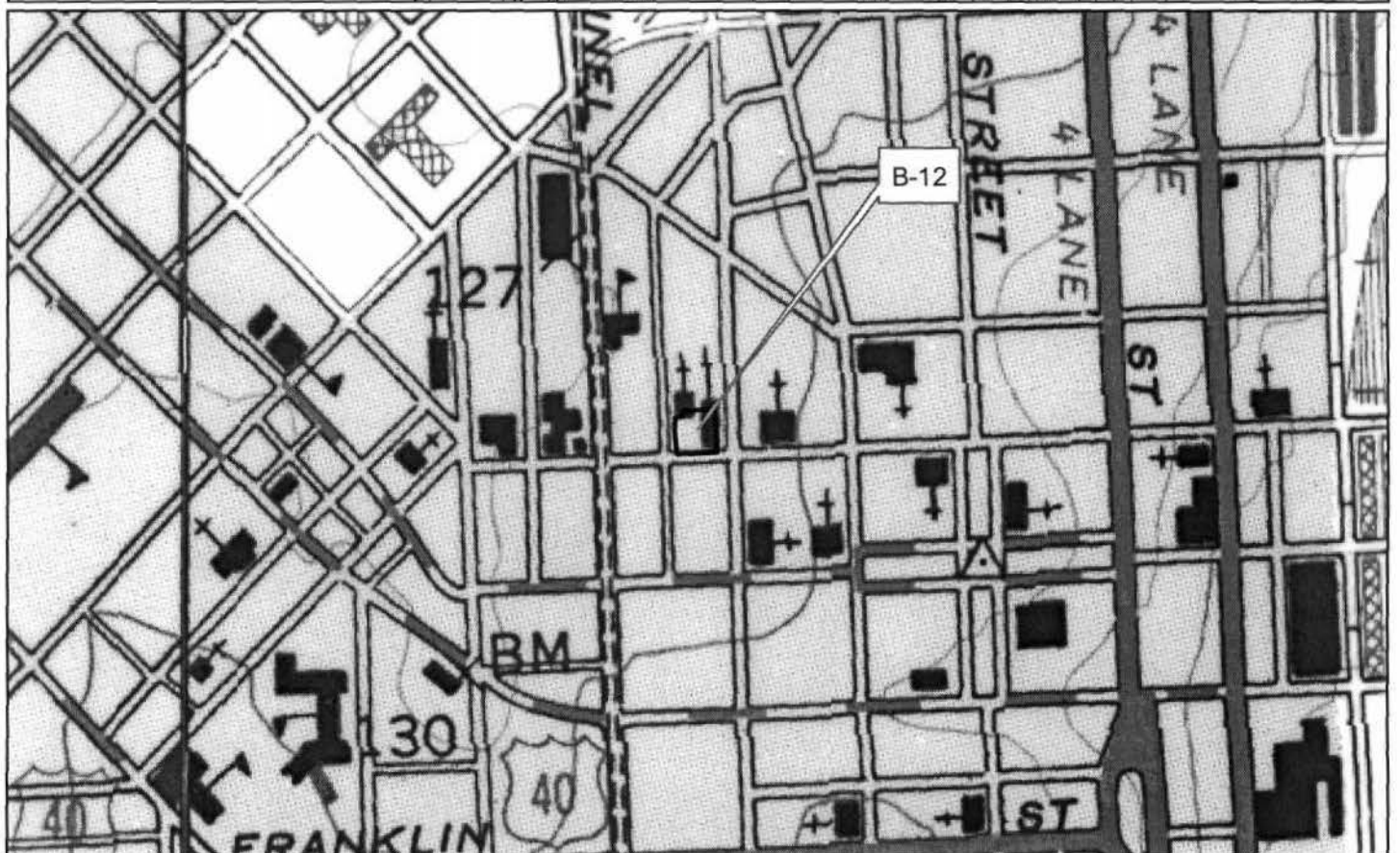
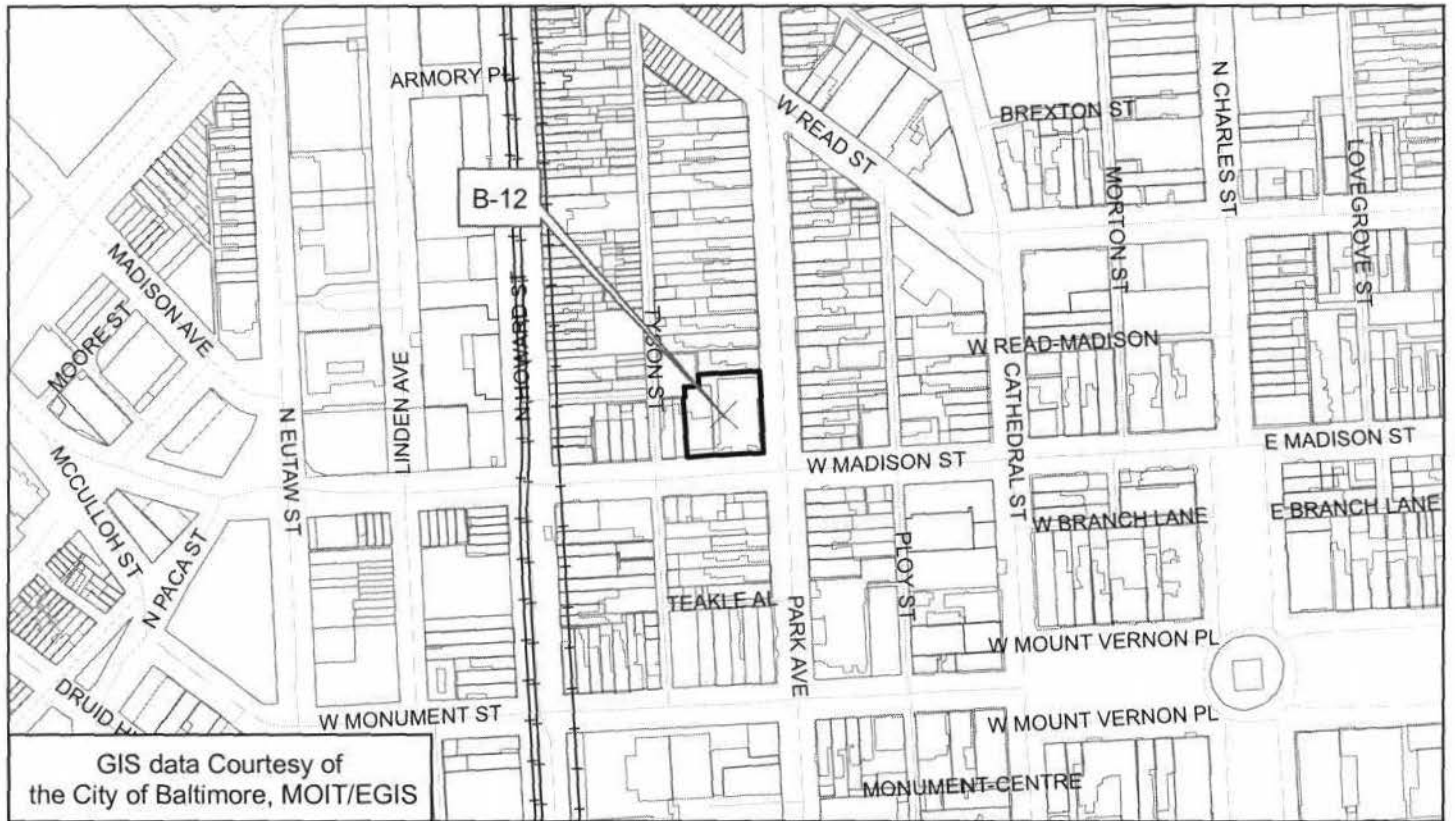
|   |            |                           |             |
|---|------------|---------------------------|-------------|
| <b>1. NAME</b>  |            |                           |             |
| COMMON: First Presbyterian Church Manse   |            |                           |             |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:  |            |                           |             |
| <b>2. LOCATION</b>  |            |                           |             |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>210 West Madison Street   |            |                           |             |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Baltimore  |            |                           |             |
| STATE:<br>Maryland  | CODE<br>24 | COUNTY:<br>Baltimore City | CODE<br>510 |
| <b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>   |            |                           |             |
| PHOTO CREDIT: Gretchen Redden   |            |                           |             |
| DATE OF PHOTO: 1971   |            |                           |             |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation<br>402 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland |            |                           |             |
| <b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>  |            |                           |             |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.<br><br>First Presbyterian Church Manse from the south                              |            |                           |             |

GPO 921-737





B-12  
First Presbyterian Church and Manse  
200-210 West Madison Street  
Block 0509 Lot 018-019  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.







First Presbyterian Church Manse B-12  
(Mt. Vernon District)  
Baltimore

from the South

Negative  
WCHAP

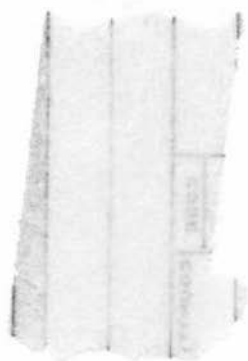


Photo by Gretchen Redden, March 1971



1st Presbyterian Church

Madison + Park, Baltimore, Md.  
1853-59 Spires, c. 1875

Starkweather

Lind + Murdoch

B-12