

B-14

Battle Monument

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.

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Last Updated: 03-10-2011

Form 10-300
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL 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: The Battle Monument	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Center of Calvert Street (between Fayette & Lexington Sts.)			
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			
STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Baltimore City	CODE 510

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input 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: The Mayor and City Council of Baltimore			
STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall - 100 North Holliday Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore	STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Department of Legislative Reference, City Hall - Document #494			
STREET AND NUMBER: 100 North Holliday Street			
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: November 1959 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: Dist. of Columbia	CODE 11	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Battle Monument, constructed partly of white Italian marble and partly of a lower grade local marble, consists of the following parts: platform and base, podium, column, and sculpture group.

At the bottom is the platform of granite curbs, rounded at the corners, with a concrete pavement surface. An iron anchor chain of reinforced links is stretched between 12 marble posts; the four corner posts once held gas lamps. The square base, about 30 inches above the pavement, is faced and topped with marble slabs. The sides have three panels, and the lower edge of the top slab has a simple molding. At the solid blocks of each corner on low plinths are bronze facsimile cannon pointing upwards. The muzzle of each cannon is closed with a hemisphere to appear as if a ball were issuing from it. Between the cannon is an iron fence composed of palings of darts, each with a bronze or brass point, capped with a rounded terminal at the bottom. Two intermediate posts on each side are made of bundles of the same darts bound with iron strip fillets like a fasces. Near the top and bottom of the palings is an iron stretcher, and at several points the fence rests on iron balls. On the south side of the base is a bronze plaque, placed there in 1915, and inscribed with a history of the monument.

On each side of the rusticated marble podium is a false door like that of the Temple of Vesta at Tivoli, closed by a black slab. The podium rests on a low platform with three steps cut into it at each doorway in allusion to the three days of the Battle of Baltimore. The carved moldings around the doors are classical, but the podium is essentially Egyptian in style. Carved in the cavetto cornice are winged solar disk emblems over each door and stylized lotus designs; at each corner is a kind of anthemion device. Above the cornice are two stages of slabs. At each corner of the upper stage is a white marble griffin, the symbol of immortality, with a head in the form of an eagle to represent the emblem of the United States. Above this are three more stages of slabs of equal size; on the south side are bronze letters commemorating the Battles of North Point and Fort McHenry and the 39 years of American independence.

The white marble column rests on a very low molded foot of the darker marble. It appears to be made in five or six horizontal sections; three joints are clearly visible. The shaft is sculptured to resemble a fasces, with a broad band at the top and the bottom, three narrow decorative bands, and two fillets laced about the central section. On the north and south sides of the lower band are bas reliefs depicting the two battles; above that is a band of 15 stars. The upper two bands have

[see continuation sheet]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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)

1815

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 Battle Monument is the first significant war memorial built in the United States, and contributes to Baltimore's fame as "The Monumental City." It commemorates those Americans who died in the Battle of Baltimore, during which our national anthem was written.

The Battle of Baltimore took place from September 12th to 14th, 1814. The city was successfully defended against British attack both from land, at the Battle of North Point, and from the sea, during the bombardment of Fort McHenry. Francis Scott Key wrote "The Star-Spangled Banner" on the morning of September 14th after observing this attack on Fort McHenry by the British fleet. The repulse of the British forces at Baltimore was an important factor in determining the outcome of the War of 1812. Construction of the monument was begun on the first anniversary of the battle.

The Battle Monument was designed by the French architect Maximilian Godefroy, who had helped to plan the fortifications of the city during the British attack. Godefroy was the first professional teacher of architecture in the city. His unusual "Fascial" design for the monument combined Classical elements, based on the fasces, a bundle of rods bound about an ax with projecting blade and used as the ancient Roman symbol of authority; and Egyptian elements, reflecting French interest following Napoleon's conquest of Egypt in 1798. The sculptured figure on the top of the monument, the griffins, and the two sculptured reliefs on the shaft were made by the Spanish sculptor Antonio Capellano, and are among the oldest existing monumental sculptures in the country.

The monument is the official emblem of the City of Baltimore, having been adopted for the City Seal in 1827; as such it appears on Baltimore's City Flag.

The location of the Battle Monument is also of historic interest since it was once the site of the first Baltimore Courthouse, where the Declaration of Independence was publicly read on July 29th, 1776. Now known as Battle Monument Plaza,
[see continuation sheet]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arnett, Earl. "Battle Monument Memorial To Defense Of City."
The Sun, Baltimore: September 12, 1969.

Hunter, Wilbur Harvey, Jr. Historic American Buildings Survey -
The Battle Monument. HABS No. MD-185. Baltimore:
 November, 1959.

[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			LONGITUDE		LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees		Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	39 ⁰	17'	26.0"	76 ⁰	36'	45.5"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
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

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

Sept. 20, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

CODE

24

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

Sept. 27, 1972

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
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

(Number all entries)

The Battle Monument

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

1970 State

Maryland Historical Trust

2525 River Road

Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Code: 24

#7. DESCRIPTION continued

classical motifs. The names of the three American officers and 36 enlisted men who died in the battles are written in bronze letters on the fillets and on the upper broad band.

On top of the column is a statue of a female classical figure of Victory, facing south, representing the city of Baltimore paying homage to her defenders. On her left side is a cannon ball and an antique rudder, a symbol of navigation and stability; in her right hand is a bronze laurel wreath, a symbol of glory. Beside the figure is an eagle, representing the United States.

Today the monument is dwarfed by tall buildings on all sides, but is somewhat protected from traffic by a small park built to enclose it in 1964. In 1972 a statue of a Black Soldier was placed at the northern end of the park in memory of black involvement in all major wars of the United States.

#8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

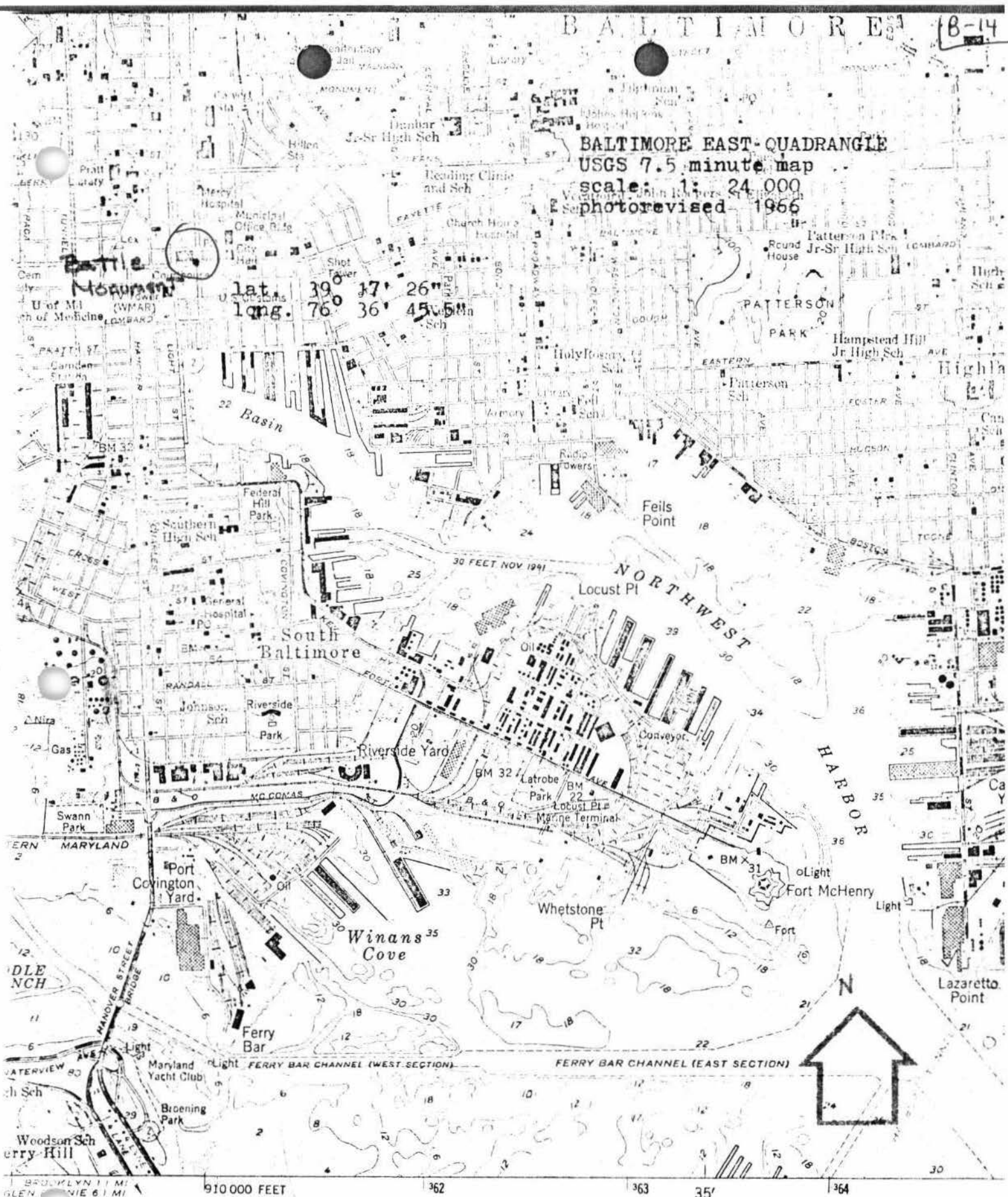
the surrounding area was called Monument Square in the mid-nineteenth century and was frequently the scene of public assemblies.

#9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES continued

Howland, Richard Hubbard and Spencer, Eleanor Patterson. The Architecture of Baltimore - A Pictorial History. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1953. Pp. 39-43.

BALTIMORE EAST-QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1: 24 000
photorevised 1966

lat. 39° 17' 26"
long. 76° 36' 45.5"



ed by the Army Map Service
ed and published by the Geological Survey
ol by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and City of Baltimore
graphy from aerial photographs by photogrammetric
ods. Aerial photographs taken 1943. Field checked 1944

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Form 10-301
(July 1969)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL 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

COMMON: The Battle Monument
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Center of Calvert Street (between Fayette and Lexington Sts.)

CITY OR TOWN:

Baltimore

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY:

Baltimore City

CODE

510

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map Baltimore East Quadrangle (Maryland)

SCALE:

1: 24,000

DATE:

1953

Photorevised 1966

4. REQUIREMENTS

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

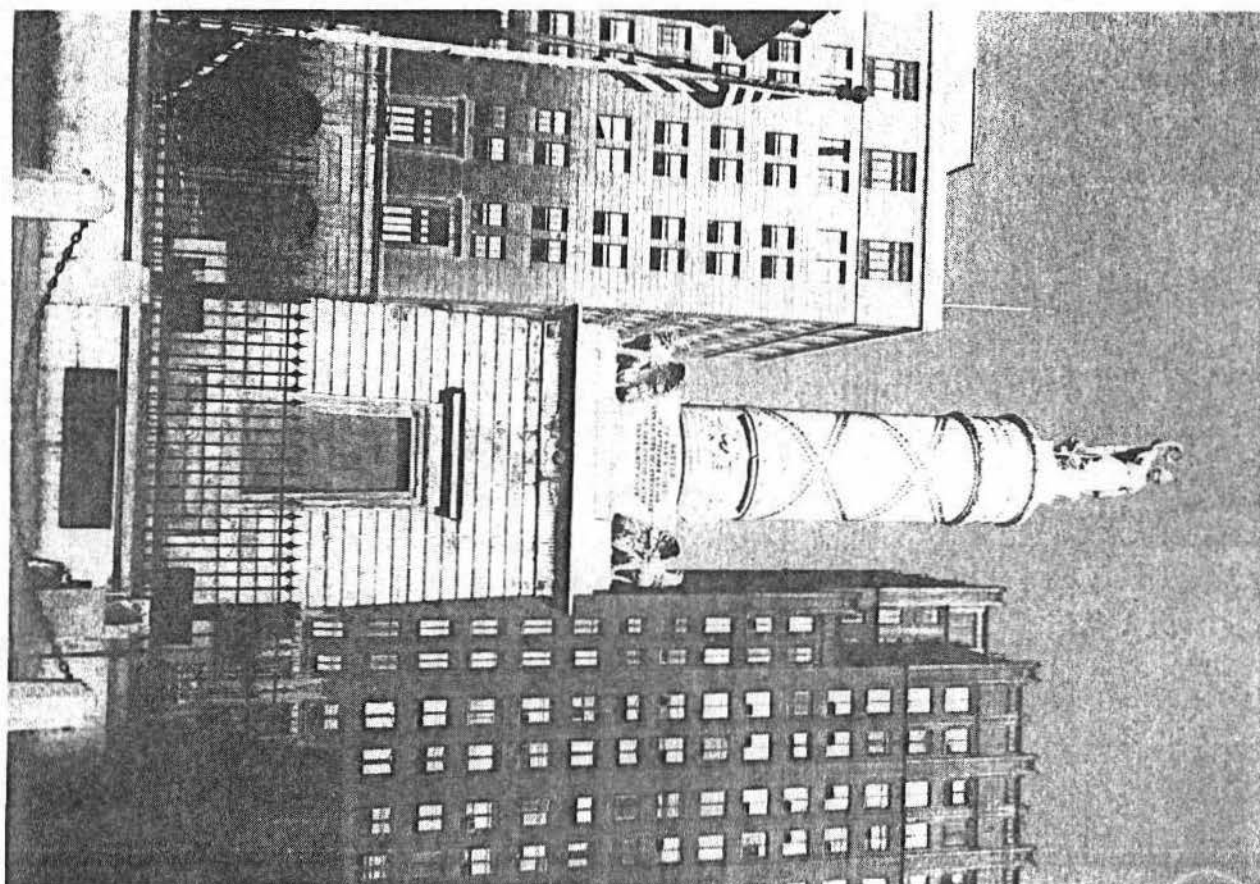
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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

B-14

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: The Battle Monument			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Center of Calvert Street (between Fayette and Lexington Sts.)			
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			
STATE: Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Baltimore City	CODE 510
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Gretchen Redden			
DATE OF PHOTO: March 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, 402 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. The Battle Monument from the south			



AREA: Financial District

MAGI NO.: 0400143332

Address: Middle of the 100 block of North Calvert Street
Current Name: Battle Monument

Block:	Lot:	Lot size:
Height:		Materials: Marble
Condition: Good		Owner: City of Baltimore
Use: Monument		Accessible: Yes
Designation: NR/BCL		Liber/Folio:



Historic Name: Battle Monument

Date: 1815-1825

Architect/Builder: Maximillian Godefroy; Antonio Capellano, sculptor

Style (if appropriate):

Description:

The fifty-two foot high marble Battle Monument which is located at the southern edge of Monument Square features an Egyptian base surmounted by a shaft with Roman detailing, and it is capped by a statue. The monument stands on a marble platform surrounded by a decorative iron railing. The base is made up of eighteen layers of marble designed as an Egyptian tomb with blank openings and winged disc ornamentation. Four griffins are perched over the base. At the bottom of the shaft, which rises from the base, are two bas reliefs of the Battle of North Point and the Bombardment of Fort McHenry. The shaft is made of vertical rods held together by bands displaying the names of thirty-six soldiers that died in the defense of Baltimore in the War of 1812. Engraved at the top of the column are the names of the three officers that died in the battle. Above the column is an eagle and bomb and a lady statue of Baltimore holding a wreath of victory. Two historical markers are placed in front of the monument. One is from 1915, the anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone and the other is a recent aluminum marker with graphics.

Significance:

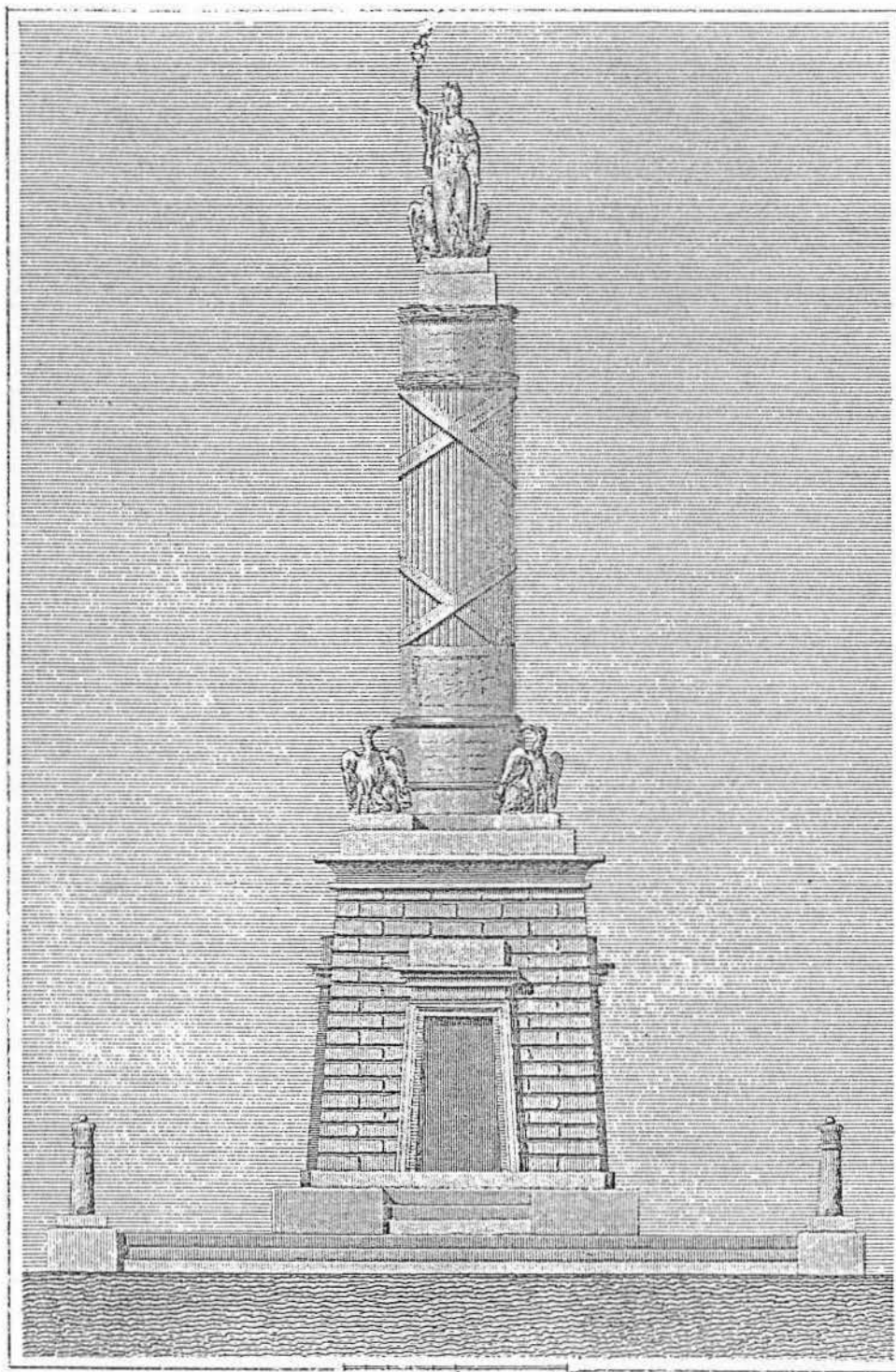
Area: Architecture, Art, History

Level: Local

The Battle Monument is second only to the Washington Monument as the finest early monument in Baltimore and one of the reasons Baltimore was called "the Monumental City." It is significant for its Egyptian Revival architectural design and as a democratic monument displaying all the names of those who died in the Battle of Baltimore, regardless of rank. It was designed by Maximillian Godefroy, an important early architect in Baltimore. Godefroy also designed Saint Mary's Chapel and the First Unitarian Church. The sculptor of the statue was Antonio Capellano, the artist of the bas reliefs of Christ and Moses on St. Paul's P.E. Church. The monument is rich in symbolism: the eighteen layers of marble at the base represent the eighteen states in the Union at the time of the battle; the column is made up of staves or rods, a symbol of unity held together by the bands inscribed with the names of those who fell in the battle; the statue holds a wreath of victory standing next to the eagle, the symbol for the United States; and in her left hand is a rudder, symbolizing stability. Although the surroundings of the Battle Monument have changed a great deal since 1825, it remains an impressive monument and a centerpiece of Monument Square. It is the most important monument in the Financial District and the oldest structure in this part of the downtown area.

Sources:

Surveyor and Date: Fred B. Shoken, July 1985.



BATTLE MONUMENT.

*The Corner Stone of which was laid in Baltimore at the Solemnity
of the 12th of Sep. 1815, in Commemoration of the Defenders of this City
who fell on the 11th of Sep. 1814, at the Battle of North Point &
the 13th during the Bombardment of Fort M^o Henry.*

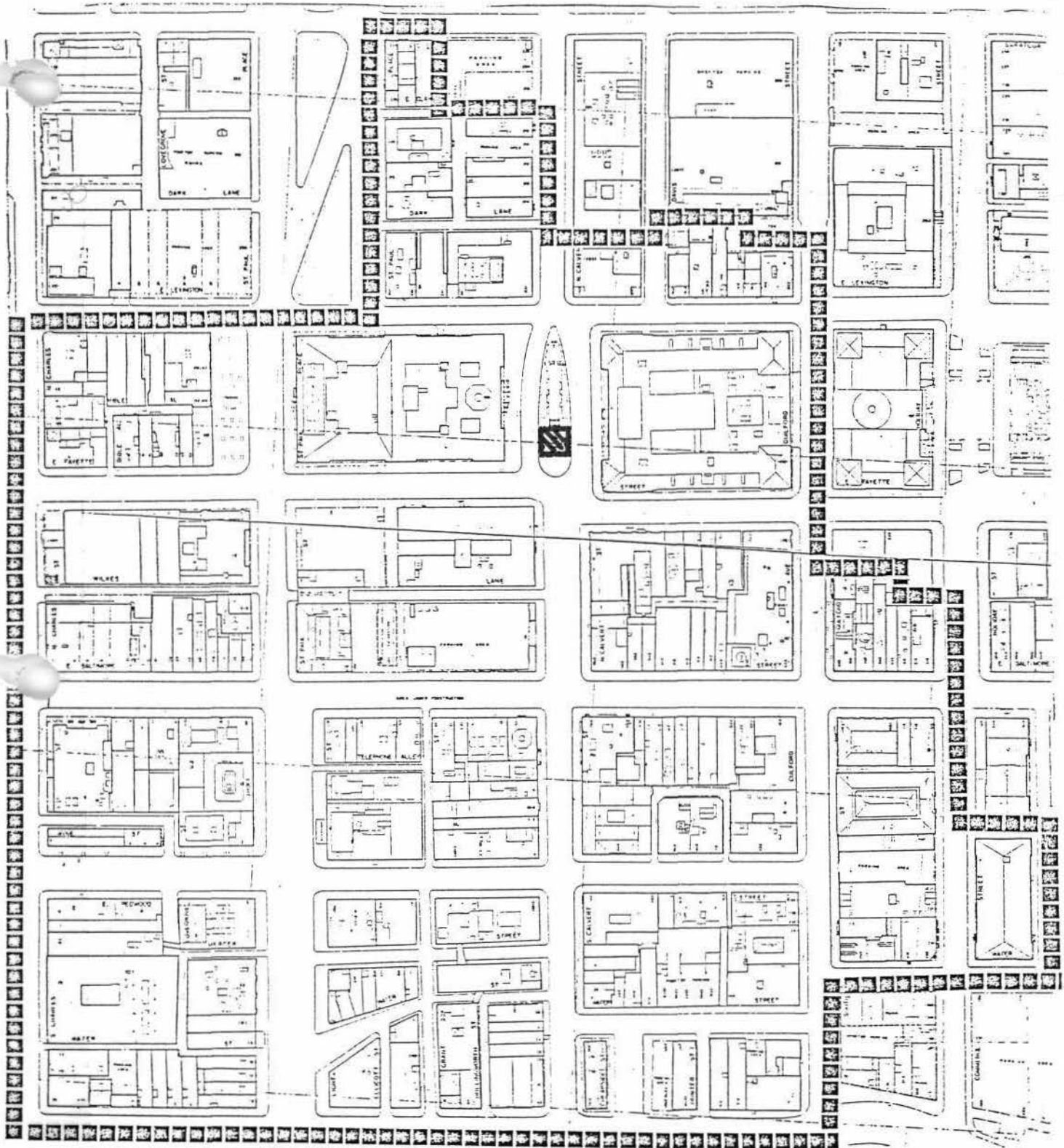
Plate 26.

Published by S.C. Atkinson, for the Casket.

[Map Number 13]

[63]

From: The Architecture of Baltimore, by Howland & Spencer, p. 63.



Baltimore Financial District Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland



B-0014 Battle Monument
100 block North Calvert Street

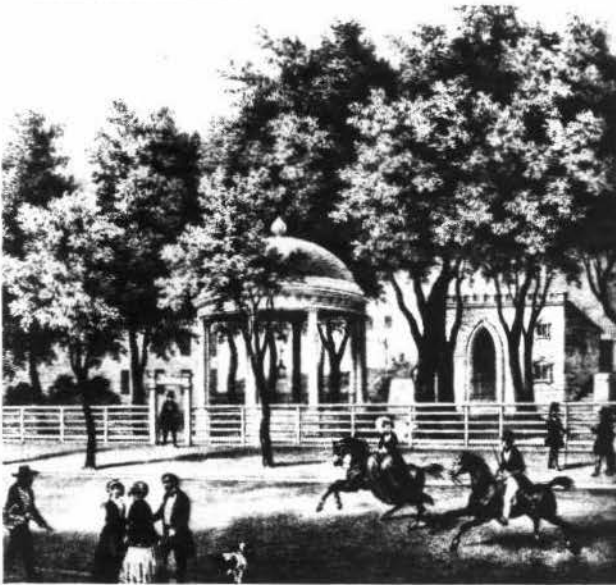


Monument Square, 1848

B-14

ALL PICTURES ON THESE PAGES,
EXCEPT AS NOTED, FROM THE
MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY



City Spring, at Calvert and Saratoga Streets



Medical College, University of Maryland, Lombard and
Greene Streets. Designed by R. C. Long, Sr. (1812)

Landmarks

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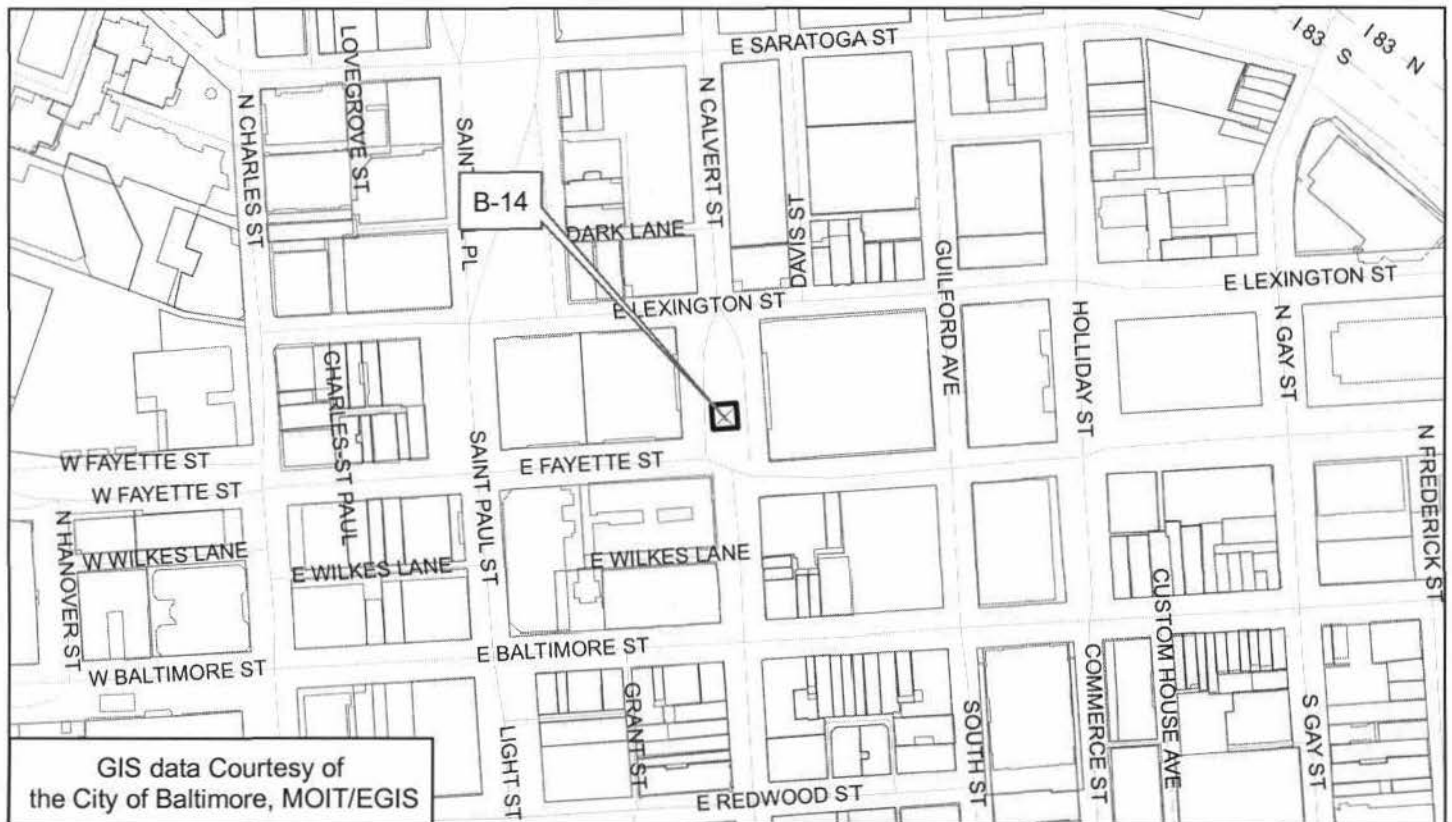
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B-14
Battle Monument
Middle of the 100 block of North Calvert Street
Block N/A Lot N/A
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-0014

Battle Monument
Middle of 100 block of N. Calvert
Street
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Fred Shoken
Date: July 1985
Neg.loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
View from the south