

B-15

## Star-Spangled Banner Flag House, (Flag House)

### **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/1#04000150204

THEME: Major American Wars

B-15

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

SUBTHEME: War of 1812 (IV)

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE*Easement*NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

STATE:

Maryland

COUNTY:

Baltimore (City)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Star-Spangled Banner Flag House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Star-Spangled Banner Flag House

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

844 East Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

Third

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY:

Baltimore

CODE

510

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY  
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building  
☐ Site ☐ Structure  
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ Public  
☐ Private  
☐ Both

- Public Acquisition:  
☐ In Process  
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied  
☐ Unoccupied  
☐ Preservation work  
in progress

ACCESSIBLE  
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:  
☐ Restricted  
☒ Unrestricted  
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments  
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Entertainment ☒ Museum ☐ Scientific \_\_\_\_\_

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

STREET AND NUMBER:

City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:

Baltimore

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

24

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Baltimore City Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

Lexington and St. Paul Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Maryland State Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 2/28/69 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:

Box 1704

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland  
COUNTY: Baltimore  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 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

The Flag House is a two-and-one-half story Federal corner row house of salmon brick laid in Flemish bond. Three bays wide, it has a black slate hipped roof and a chimney on the left side. Apparently, built in 1793 and added to in 1820, the house has a living room, dining room-kitchen and hall on the first floor, two bedrooms on the second and servants' quarters on the third.

Mary Young Pickersgill bought the house in 1820, after renting it for thirteen years. Almost immediately after acquiring the property, Mrs. Pickersgill added a two story wing in the rear (a kitchen on the ground floor and a boarder's room on the second). She lived in this house until her death in 1857, and it remained in the family until 1864. During the next six decades, the house changed hands frequently and served a variety of purposes, including those of saloon and warehouse. Alterations included the construction of a display window in front.

The City of Baltimore purchased the building in 1929, and since that time it has been maintained as an historic building. One of the first things the city did was to remove the storefront window and restore the original facade on the Pratt Street side. Other restoration work included reconstruction of a partition between the dining room and living room. Workmen added steel beams under the first floor for greater strength. The staircase and two of the six mantels in the house are original.

In 1953 the city erected a one-and-one-half story dependency building behind the main house. The new building, built in the same style, conforms well with the Flag House and is connected to it by a covered breezeway. Presently called the 1812 Museum, the building contains, on the first floor, two rooms in which are placed mementoes of the War of 1812 that had originally been displayed in the Flag House. Located on the second floor are the offices of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association, Incorporated. This building is included in the landmark.

Boundary Information and Justification

The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House sits on a lot located at 844 East Pratt Street and faces south. Beginning at the point of intersection of East Pratt and Albemarle Streets proceed due north along the western side of Albemarle Street to a point of intersection with Granby Street; thence proceed west along the southern side of Granby Street to a point of intersection with Slimmers Alley; thence proceed south along the eastern side of Slimmers Alley to a point of intersection with East Pratt Street; thence east along the northern side of East Pratt Street to the point of origin. An iron fence with interposing brick columns completely surrounds this property, and runs parallel to each street. Located in a garden on the west side of the house is a memorial map of the Continental United States composed of stones from each of the then 48 states.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <b>8. SIGNIFICANCE</b>  |  |  |  |
| 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        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |
| SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1793-1857  |  |  |  |
| 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         | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic   | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry            | losophy  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention           | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape           | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art  | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture        | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce   | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature          | itarian  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation          |  |
| STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE   |  |  |  |
| <p>In her home at 844 East Pratt Street, Mary Young Pickersgill (1776-1857) designed and fabricated the flag that floated over Fort McHenry in the Battle of Baltimore, September 13-14, 1814. From an American sloop within the enemy fleet, Francis Scott Key, inspired by the sight of the "Star-Spangled Banner," as she withstood heavy bombardment by the British secret weapon of rockets, wrote the poem which today is heard around the world as the National Anthem of the United States of America.</p> <p>Assisted in the work by her daughter, her niece, and her mother, Mrs. Pickersgill completed the flag on August 13, 1813, to fulfill her contract with local military authorities. Thirty by 42 feet, the flag upon its completion was the largest in the world and featured 15 giant stars and 15 mammoth stripes. The flag, which has been preserved in fairly good condition, is the property of the Smithsonian Institution and may be seen on display in the museum of History and Technology in Washington, D.C.</p> |  |  |  |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mary-Paulfing Martin, "The Flag House," September 9, 1969 in files of Maryland Historical Trust.  
 Mary-Paulfing Martin, "The Making of the Star Spangled Banner," typescript, September 9, 1969 in files of the Maryland Historical Trust.  
 Admiral George Henry Preble, The Origin and History of the American Flag, (No publisher given, 1917).

## 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               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   | UTM    | 18.361700.4349700   |                         |  |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |        |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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:<br>Joseph Scott Mendinghall, Historian       |               |                 |
| ORGANIZATION<br>Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service |               | DATE<br>2/12/75 |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>1100 L Street NW.                      |               |                 |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Washington                                  | STATE<br>D.C. | CODE<br>11      |

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 ☐

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Landmark  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

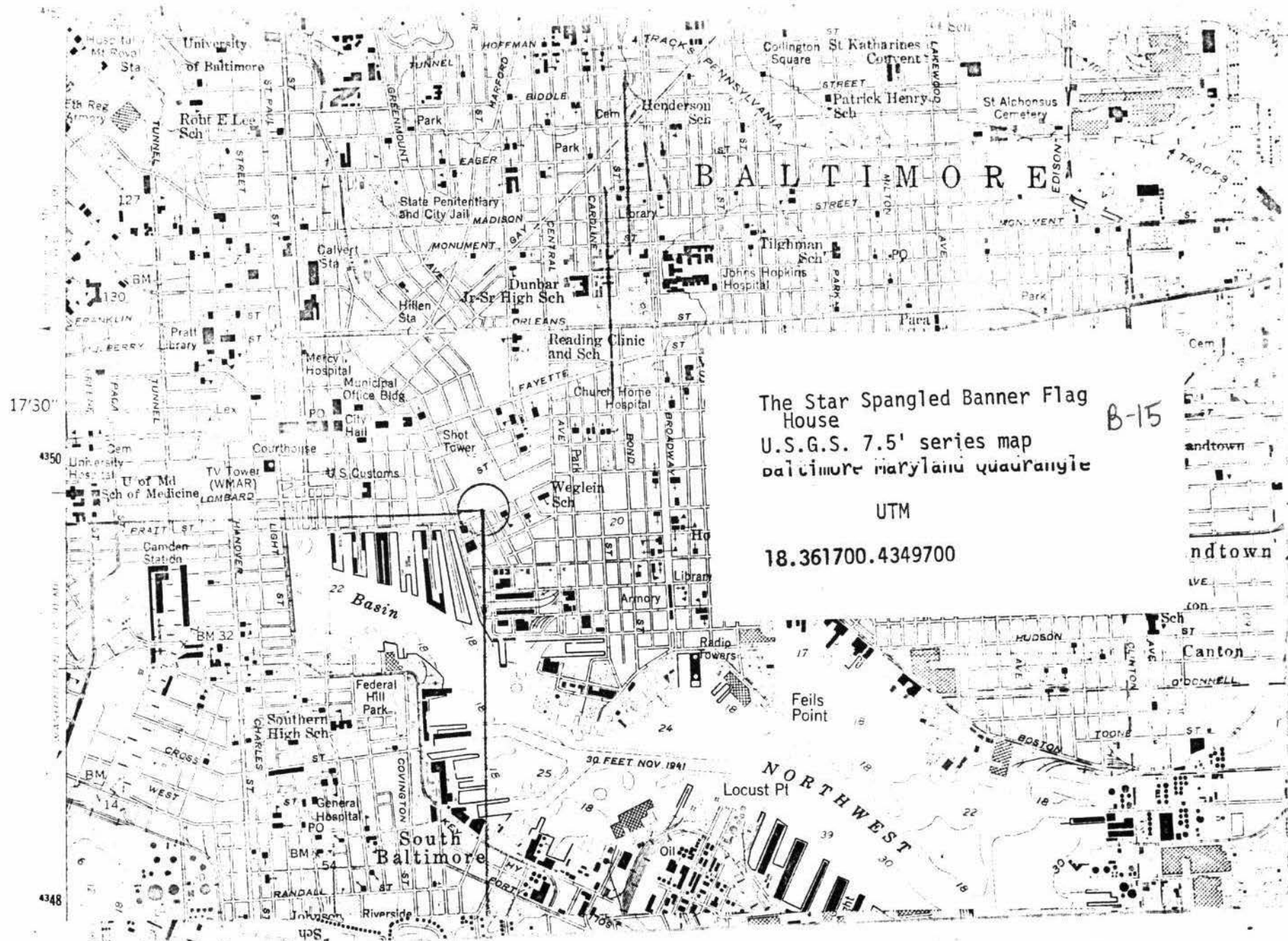
Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





The Star Spangled Banner Flag  
House  
U.S.G.S. 7.5' series map  
Baltimore Maryland quadrangle

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UTM

18.361700.4349700

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

|   |      |                                     |      |
|---|------|-------------------------------------|------|
| <b>1. NAME</b>                                |      |                                     |      |
| COMMON:                                       |      | The Star Spangled Banner Flag House |      |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:                              |      | The Star Spangled Banner Flag House |      |
| <b>2. LOCATION</b>                            |      |                                     |      |
| STREET AND NUMBER:                            |      |                                     |      |
| 844 East Pratt Street                         |      |                                     |      |
| CITY OR TOWN:                                 |      |                                     |      |
| Baltimore                                     |      |                                     |      |
| STATE:  | CODE | COUNTY:                             | CODE |
| Maryland                                      | 24   | Baltimore                           | 510  |
| <b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>                       |      |                                     |      |
| SOURCE:                                       |      |                                     |      |
| U.S.G.S. 7.5 series 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)

B-15

|                  |             |
|------------------|-------------|
| Maryland         |             |
| COUNTY           |             |
| Ba               | more (City) |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE        |

|                                |      |                                     |      |
|--------------------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|
| 1. NAME                        |      |                                     |      |
| COMMON:                        |      | The Star Spangled Banner Flag House |      |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:               |      | The Star Spangled Banner Flag House |      |
| 2. LOCATION                    |      |                                     |      |
| STREET AND NUMBER:             |      |                                     |      |
| 844 East Pratt Street          |      |                                     |      |
| CITY OR TOWN:                  |      |                                     |      |
| Baltimore                      |      |                                     |      |
| STATE:                         | CODE | COUNTY:                             | CODE |
| Maryland                       | 24   | Baltimore                           | 510  |
| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE             |      |                                     |      |
| PHOTO CREDIT:                  |      | Joseph S. Mendinghall               |      |
| DATE OF PHOTO:                 |      | 7/74                                |      |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT:             |      | Historic Sites Survey               |      |
| 4. IDENTIFICATION              |      |                                     |      |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. |      |                                     |      |
| Rear view, looking southeast.  |      |                                     |      |

Form No. 10-301a  
(7/72)

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             |

|  |      |                                     |      |
|--|------|-------------------------------------|------|
| 1. NAME  |      |                                     |      |
| COMMON:  |      | The Star Spangled Banner Flag House |      |
| AND/OR HISTORIC:                               |      | The Star Spangled Banner Flag House |      |
| 2. LOCATION                                    |      |                                     |      |
| STREET AND NUMBER:                             |      |                                     |      |
| 844 East Pratt Street                          |      |                                     |      |
| CITY OR TOWN:                                  |      |                                     |      |
| Baltimore                                      |      |                                     |      |
| STATE:   | CODE | COUNTY:                             | CODE |
| Maryland                                       | 24   | Baltimore                           | 510  |
| 3. PHOTO REFERENCE                             |      |                                     |      |
| PHOTO CREDIT:                                  |      | Joseph S. Mendinghall               |      |
| DATE OF PHOTO:                                 |      | 7/74                                |      |
| NEGATIVE FILED AT:                             |      | Historic Sites Survey               |      |
| 4. IDENTIFICATION                              |      |                                     |      |
| DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.                 |      |                                     |      |
| View of front and east side, looking northwest |      |                                     |      |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| ST. Maryland           |      |
| COUNTY: Baltimore City |      |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY       |      |
| ENTRY NUMBER           | DATE |

B-15

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

The Flag House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

844 East Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

CODE

19

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<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both  | Public Acquisition:<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work<br>in progress                               |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)  |  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commercial<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational<br><input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment             | <input type="checkbox"/> Government<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industrial<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park<br><input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religious<br><input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Comments<br>_____<br>_____<br>_____ |

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Department of Real Estate, City of Baltimore

STREET AND NUMBER:

212 City Hall, Fayette and Holliday Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

Baltimore

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

19

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Baltimore City Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

St. Paul and Fayette Streets

CITY OR TOWN:

Baltimore

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

19

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Commission for Historical &amp; Architectural Preservation

DATE OF SURVEY:

1969

☒ Federal☒ State☒ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

402 City Hall

CITY OR TOWN:

Baltimore

STATE:

Maryland 21202

CODE

19

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 |
|           | (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 Star-Spangled Banner Flag House is located on the northwest corner of East Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

The approximate square foot ground coverage of the house is 854 square feet. The property is 0.443 acres (19,317 square feet).

Built about 1793, one of the oldest houses in the area, it is a two-and-a-half-story, rectangular, corner row house of salmon brick laid in Flemish bond with black slate hipped roof. Facing on Pratt Street, the narrow facade has three second-floor windows, two first-floor windows and an entrance. The longer elevation on Albemarle Street has a grouping of five windows on each floor. The north bays form an addition of about 1820.

The entrance door on Pratt Street is in the southeast corner of the house. The entrance used by the public through the Albemarle Street gate is on the northeast corner of the north (1820) addition. The roofline runs north/south.

Restored in the Federal (1800-1825) period, the house contains many original mantels and doors, butterfly shelves and cupboards. The stairway with poplar rail and half rail is original. Many Pickersgill possessions have been returned to the house including a desk, tea set, Lowestoft platter, Waterford pitchers and a punchbowl, French Empire clock, and scent bottles.

On the yard a Stone Map of the United States, composed of stones native to each state, gives a graphic geography lesson.

In 1953, a Museum was built north of the main building, attached by an open, roofed breezeway. It houses exhibits of the War of 1812, ship models, muskets, pistols, swords, epaulets and bright figurines.

The house is situated south of the Shot Tower and the Carroll Mansion.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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## 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)

1793

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☒ Education☒ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Philosophy☒ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ Science

Culture

☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Sculpture☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Social/Humanitarian☐ Art

Architecture

☒ Theater☐ Commerce☐ Literature☐ Transportation☐ Communications☒ Military☐ Theater☐ Conservation☐ Music☐ Transportation

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

wrote  
material  
for

The national significance of this building is its association with the creation, representation, interpretation and symbolism of our original Star Spangled Banner flag; the subsequent and lasting sight of the flag flying which inspired Francis Scott Key, on September 14, 1814, to compose the Star Spangled Banner, our National Anthem.

Mrs. Mary Young Pickersgill was the niece of Colonel Benjamin Flower, Commissary General for George Washington, whose portrait by Charles Willson Peale now hangs in the house. Mrs. Pickersgill was the owner at the time she and her daughter (sewed) in this building, the fifteen star - fifteen stripe original Star Spangled Banner that so defiantly flew over Fort McHenry through the night of bombardment during the Battle of Baltimore in 1813-1814. The symbol of American independence and the patriotism that over the years has grown in stature by stars and stripes, flies proudly twenty-four hours of each day over the Fort.

Mrs. Pickersgill's home was recognized by an act of Congress June 1954, thereby according it, also, the privilege of flying an American flag twenty-four hours a day. Thus Baltimore is privileged to have two of the five such distinguished national sites.

During the remainder of the nineteenth century the house was a rowhouse on Pratt Street in Baltimore. The patriotic fervor engendered during the ceremonies surrounding the Star Spangled Banner Centennial in 1914 awakened an interest in the structure because of its relation to the Star Spangled Banner flag, the American symbol. In 1927, the City of Baltimore purchased the house, to preserve the tangible remnant of the story and events relating to the flag of 1814.

The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association was created to preserve the meaning and the message enacted at Fort McHenry; to interpret the evolution and representation

[see continuation sheet]

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorders: Mrs. Hugh D. Martin, Director of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association, Inc.; 844 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland.

Miss Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust, P. O. Box 1704, Annapolis, Md. 21404

Mary-Paulding Martin, "The Flag House," typescript, September 9, 1969, photostat in files of Maryland Historical Trust.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |          |         |         | 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 |  |
| NW   | 0        |         | "       | 0   |         | "       |  |
| NE   | 0        |         | "       | 0   |         | "       |  |
| SE   | 0        |         | "       | 0   |         | "       |  |
| SW   | 0        |         | "       | 0   |         | "       |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 0.443 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:<br>Mrs. Preston Parish, Keeper of the Maryland Register |                         |
| ORGANIZATION<br>Maryland Historical Trust                               | DATE<br>Oct. 31, 1969   |
| STREET AND NUMBER:<br>P. O. Box 1704                                    |                         |
| CITY OR TOWN:<br>Annapolis  | STATE<br>Maryland 21404 |

## 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

NOV 10 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  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

B-15

(Number all entries)

The Flag House

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (continued)

Historic American Buildings Survey

1964

Library of Congress

Washington, D. C. 20540      Code: 08

Maryland Register of historic sites & landmarks

1969

Maryland Historical Trust

P. O. Box 1704

Annapolis, Maryland 21404      Code: 19

#8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

of the tangible evidence of our national symbols, the flag and the National Anthem.

The Association maintains the building to house a museum endemic to the War of 1812 as a permanent exhibit; to act as the clearing house for all questions relating to the several flags of the nation; to serve the several thousand school children visitors annually; to distribute the regulations for the use of our national flag, The United States Flag Code and kits containing information and instructions for classroom use.

Since 1939, the Association has sponsored National Flag Week, a seven-day commemoration of our flag.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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

B-15

(Number all entries)

The Flag House

#9. REFERENCES

\_\_\_\_\_, "The Making of the Star Spangled Banner," typescript, September 9, 1969, in files of Maryland Historical Trust

James Calhoun to Mary Pickersgill, Receipt for the Star Spangled Banner Flag, August 13, 1813 (photostat in files of Maryland Historical Trust).

Admiral George Henry Preble, The Origin and History of the American Flag, (no publisher given, 1917)

Mrs. Hugh D. Martin, Director of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association, Inc.; Interview, October 16, 1969

"Noteworthy Echos of the Great Star-Spangled Banner Centennial," Baltimore Municipal Journal, III (April 23, 1913), 10-11. Pratt Library, Baltimore, Maryland.

The Baltimore Sun, March 16, 1954 and June 9, 1954.

Map City of Baltimore  
Department of Public Works

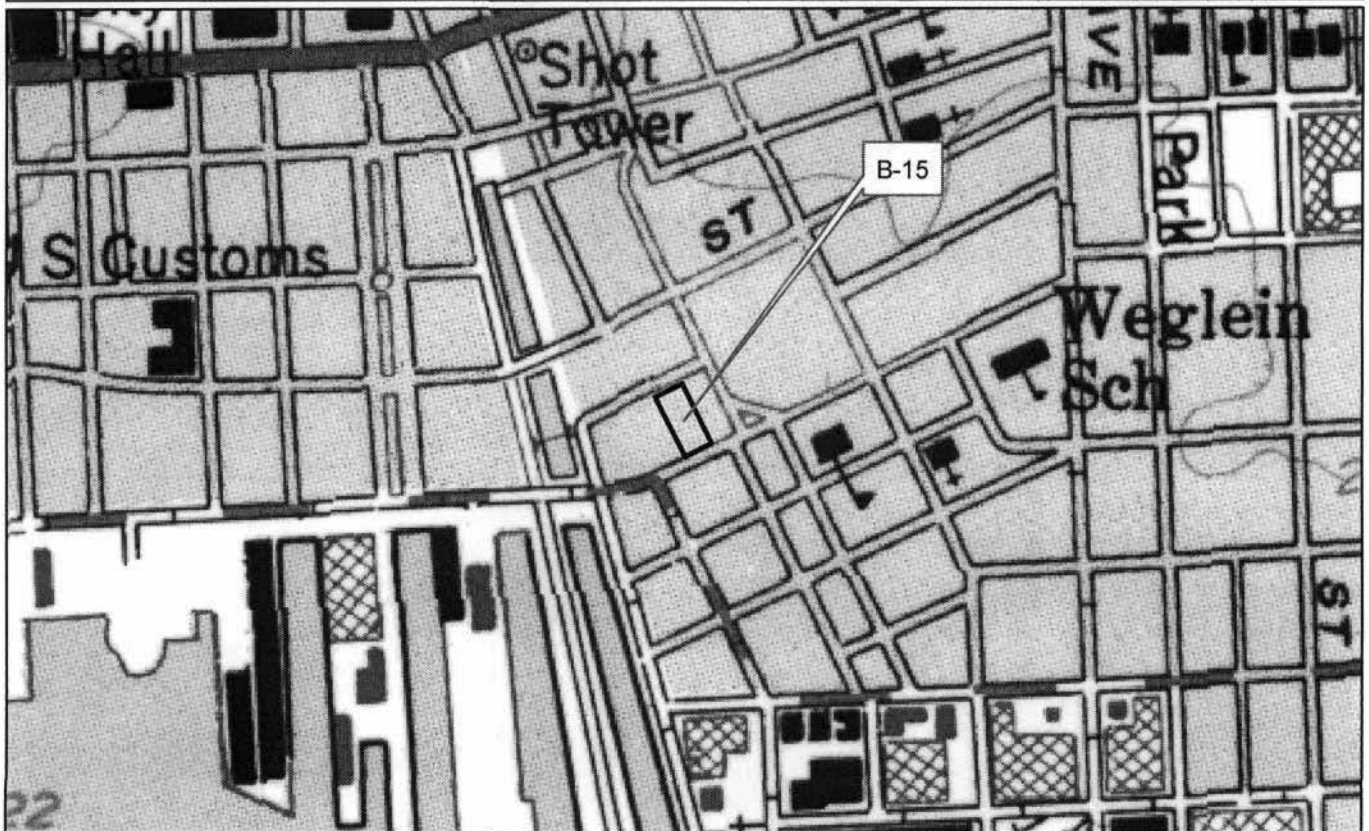
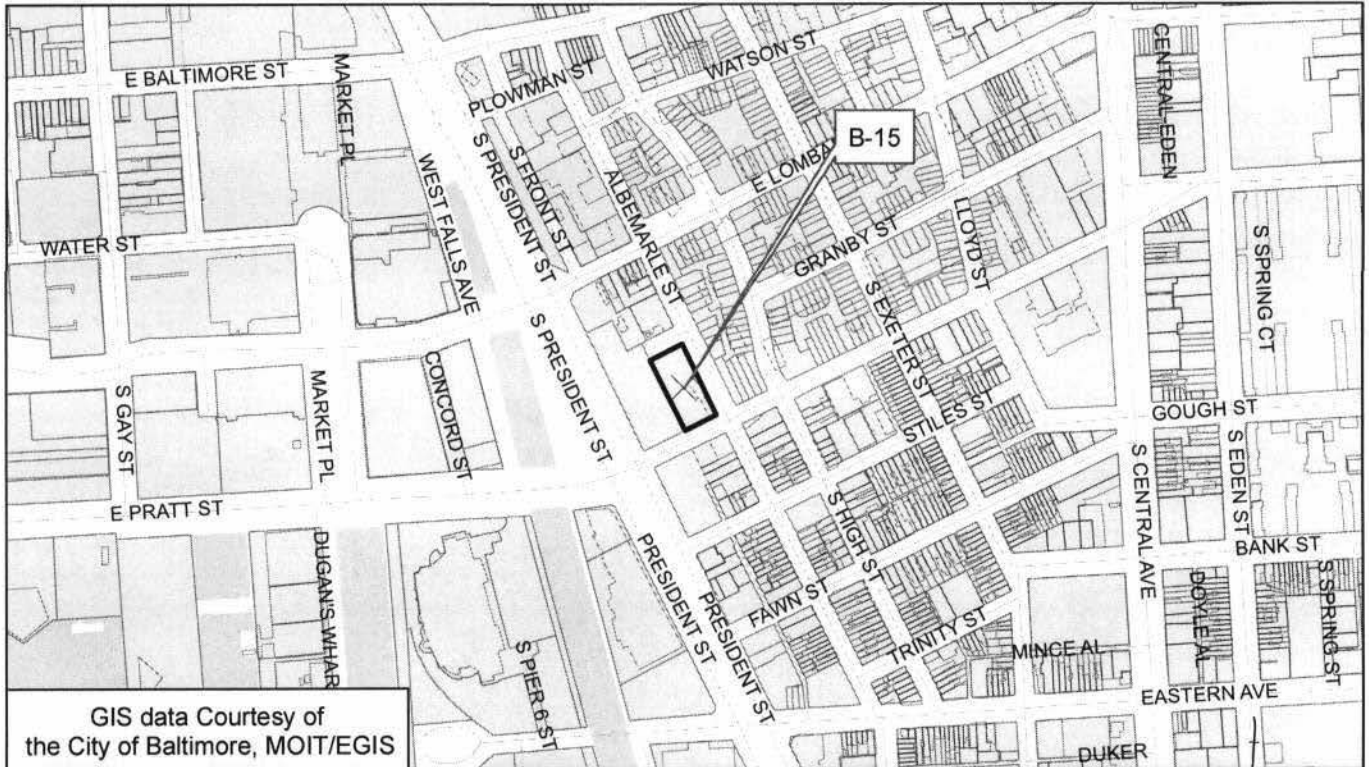
1967

Scale: 1 inch = 1500 feet

B-15



B-15  
Flag House (Star-Spangled Banner Flag House)  
844 E. Pratt Street  
Block 1377 Lot 016  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





B-15  
Flag House  
(Star-Spangled Banner Flag House)  
844 East Pratt Street  
Baltimore  
City

c. 1793, 1820

Apparently built c. 1793 and added to in 1820, the Flag House is a 2 1/2-story Federal corner rowhouse of salmon brick laid in Flemish bond. Three bays wide on its south or front side, the house was originally three bays long on the east facade, but was expanded to the north by two additional bays. A large chimney protrudes from the west side of the hip roof, and a smaller chimney rises from the north end. Two gable-roofed dormers with 6/6 sash windows pierce the east slope of the roof, and a single dormer pierces the south slope. First and second floor windows throughout hold 9/6 sash. These represent restoration work, as a 1953 photograph shows 6/6 sash on the first floor. First floor windows have paneled shutters, while those on the second floor have louvered shutters. At the time of the photograph, a combination door and shop window comprised the center and east bays of the south facade. This facade has undergone a restoration, and the entrance with a three-light transom and paneled reveal stands in the east bay, with two windows to the left. The center bay of the east facade also contained a door in the 1953 photograph, but this has been restored to a window opening. A brick watertable spans only the south facade. On the interior, the house has a living room, a dining room-kitchen, and hall on the first floor, two bedrooms on the second floor, and servants' quarters on the third. A display building was constructed in the front of the building in the late 19th or early 20th century. After the City of Baltimore purchased the building, the facade

was restored to its original appearance, an original interior partition was reconstructed, and steel beams were added under the first floor for greater strength. The staircase and two of the six mantels in the house are original. In 1953 a 1 1/2-story dependency building was constructed to the rear, connected to the main house by a covered breezeway.

In August of 1813, Mrs. Mary Young Pickersgill and her daughter finished sewing a 15-star, 15-stripe American flag commissioned to be flown over Fort McHenry. The flag measured 30 feet by 42 feet. It flew over Fort McHenry during the British attack on Baltimore, and on the night of September 13-14, 1814, served as the inspiration for a poem by Francis Scott Key which eventually became the national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner."





Flag House

Baltimore, Md.

B.15

~~DO NOT USE~~

C.H.A.P.

1953



The Star Spangled Banner Flag House  
844 E. Pratt St., Baltimore, Md.

Photo credit: Mrs. Gretchen Redden

B. - 15

war of 1812