B-63

Clifton Park Valve House, (Lake Clifton Valve 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) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 03-10-2011
**National Register of Historic Places**

**Inventory - Nomination Form**

**Type all entries - complete applicable sections**

### 1. NAME

**Common:**

Clifton Park Valve House (Lake Clifton Valve House)

**And/or Historic:**

Lake Clifton Gate House

### 2. LOCATION

**Street and Number:**

2801 Harford Road (Clifton Park)

**City or Town:**

Baltimore

**State:**

Maryland

**County Code:**

24

**County:**

Baltimore City

**County Code:**

510

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

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<th>CATEGORY (Check One)</th>
<th>OWNERSHIP</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District</td>
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<td>Site</td>
<td>Structure</td>
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**PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate):**

- Agricultural
- Commercial
- Educational
- Entertainment
- Industrial
- Military
- Private Residence
- Religious
- Scientific

**Transportation**

- Other (Specify)

**Comments**

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

**Owner's Name:**

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.:**

Land Record Office of Superior Court of Baltimore City. Liber:JB 1393; Folio 6; and Liber:JB 105; Room 610; Calvert & Fayette Streets

**City or Town:**

Baltimore

**State:**

Maryland

**Code:**

24

### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

**TITLE OF SURVEY:**

Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

**DATE OF SURVEY:**

1967

**EXPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:**

Room 402, City Hall

**Street and Number:**

100 North Holliday Street

**City or Town:**

Baltimore

**State:**

Maryland

**Code:**

24

---

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET
The Lake Clifton Valve House, or Gate House, is a massive octagonal stone structure. Large Romanesque archways alternate with Gothic style windows which once contained stained glass. Remnants of the colorful glass patterns may still be seen in the turret, atop an intricate tile roof supported by a complicated system of iron trusses. The interior contains the wheels by which the water gates were opened and closed. There is also a marble tablet inside which commemorates the completion of the Lake Clifton project in 1888.

The Valve House stands at the juncture of two tree-lined drives, constructed at the same time, to afford the Victorians a fine carriage ride around the lake and a vantage point from which to view the entire eastern section of the City.

A thorough search of City records has failed to reveal the name of an architect for the building, although the engineers for the project were Edward Heffner, Jr., Samuel W. Knapman and Charles A. Hook. In all probability, the style of the structure was copied from a similar building or a sketchbook of architectural studies, as was usual in those days. (A detailed description of the Lake Montebello Valve House, which closely resembles this one, is included in the Water Department report of December 31, 1878.)

The exceptional quality of this building results not only from its unique design and sturdy construction, but more from the fact that it is one of the few remaining relics of an era when men of imagination ventured to create a temple to fill a mundane need.
The Valve House (Gate House) at Clifton Park is one of several unique structures built by the Baltimore City Water Department during the period of its expansion in the late 1800's.*

Following several periods of drought, the State Legislature appropriated $4 million to dam the Gunpowder River at Loch Raven and bring water through a tunnel into the north-eastern section of the City. This project, begun in 1876, was scarcely underway when it became evident that the capacity of the distributing reservoir (Lake Montebello) was insufficient for the rapidly increasing needs of Baltimore City. A second reservoir was necessary and it was located at Clifton, the summer home of Johns Hopkins, less than a mile south of Montebello.

The new Lake Clifton and its gate chambers were completed in 1888. The Water Department annual report for that year states that water was let into Lake Clifton on December 27, 1888 and that the "gatehouse is completed and is now in working order."

In 1894, Clifton was purchased by the City for a park and the reservoir remained in service until it was no longer needed. In 1968, the lake was drained and filled as the site of a new senior high school. At the present time the only vestige of Lake Clifton remaining is the old Valve House, a remarkable Victorian structure still housing the machinery of a bygone age.

* Other interesting structures are located at Lake Montebello and at the Druid Hill Park reservoir.
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


'"Baltimore's Busiest Sports Field," The Sun (July 14, 1957).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

<table>
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<th>LONGITUDE</th>
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<td>SW</td>
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

12. STATE LIASON 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 [X]

Name Orlando Ridout IV
Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland
Date DEC 2 1970
Clifton Park Valve House

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (continued)

1970 Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks

Maryland Historical Trust
P. O. Box 1704
Annapolis, Maryland 21404 code: 24

#9. REFERENCES

Annual Reports of the Water Department to the Mayor and City Council 1880-1890. (Located in the Baltimore City Hall, Department of Legislative Reference Library).

Recorder: Catharine F. Black, Member, Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, 402 City Hall, 100 North Holliday Street, Baltimore, Maryland.
**1. NAME**

COMMON: Clifton Park Valve House (Lake Clifton Valve House)

AND/OR HISTORIC: Lake Clifton Gate House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

2801 Harford Road (Clifton Park)

CITY OR TOWN:

Baltimore.

STATE:

Maryland

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE:

U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map; Baltimore East Quadrangle, Maryland

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.
### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

**PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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

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<thead>
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<tbody>
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<td><strong>CITY OR TOWN:</strong> Baltimore</td>
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<td><strong>CODE:</strong> 24</td>
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<td><strong>COUNTY:</strong> Baltimore City</td>
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<td><strong>DATE OF PHOTO:</strong> Spring, 1970</td>
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<td><strong>NEGATIVE FILED AT:</strong> Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, 402 City Hall, Baltimore, Maryland 21202</td>
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<th>4. IDENTIFICATION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.:</strong> Valve House, Clifton Park, Baltimore City from the southwest</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**1. NAME**

COMMON: CLIFTON PARK VALVE HOUSE  
AND/OR HISTORIC: LAKE CLIFTON GATE HOUSE

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 2801 Harford Road (Clifton Park)  
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore  
STATE: Maryland

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Object</td>
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<td>Both</td>
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</table>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural: Government: Park: X Transportation: Comments:  
Commercial: Industrial: X Private Residence: Other (Specify):  
Educational: Military: Religious:  
Entertainment: Museum: Scientific:  

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME: Mayor and City Council  
STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall - 100 N. Holliday Street  
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore,  STATE: Maryland

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Land Record Office of the Superior Court of Baltimore City. Liber:JB 1393; Folio 6; and Liber:JB 105; Folio 365  
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 610, Baltimore City Court House, Calvert & Fayette St., Balto., Md.  
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore,  STATE: Maryland

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3 acres

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation  
DATE OF SURVEY: 1967  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Room 402, City Hall  
STREET AND NUMBER: 100 N. Holliday Street  
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore,  STATE: Maryland
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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Catharine F. Black, Member

ORGANIZATION: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

DATE: 1970

STREET AND NUMBER: 402 City Hall - 100 N. Holliday Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland

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 [x] State [ ] Local [ ]

Name ____________________________

Title ____________________________

Date ____________________________

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 ____________________________
8. **SIGNIFICANCE**

* Other interesting structures are located at Lake Montebello and at the Druid Hill Park reservoir.*
B-63
Clifton Park Valve House
(Lake Clifton Valve House)
2803 Saint Lo Drive
Block 4199, Lot 008
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.

GIS data Courtesy of the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS