NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

B-2294

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name SANITARY LAUNDRY COMPANY BUILDING

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 118-120 North Paca Street N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore N/A ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Independent City code 510 zip code 21201

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
☒ private	☒ building(s)	1	0	buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district			sites
☐ public-State	☐ site			structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure			objects
	☐ object			
		1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
Cast Iron Architecture of Baltimore, Maryland 1850-1904

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 9/1/94

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store	VACANT/NOT IN USE
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/ manufacturing facility	

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
QUEEN ANNE	foundation Brick
	walls Iron
	Brick
	roof Asphalt
	other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Sanitary Laundry Building is a five-story structure located on the west side of North Paca Street between West Baltimore and Lexington Streets in downtown Baltimore City, Maryland. It is located in the neighborhood which was a center of Baltimore's "needle trades" in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The building comprises a cast-iron storefront at street level; the upper facade is characterized by elaborate decorative brickwork and terra cotta ornament. The facade retains a high degree of architectural integrity; the store front retains it's important cast-iron elements, and the upper floors are essentially unchanged.

[X] See continuation sheet no. 1 for General Description

8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
ARCHITECTURE	c.1883	c.1883

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

THEME:

Cast Iron Architecture in Baltimore, Maryland 1850 - 1904

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Sanitary Laundry Building is significant as representing a Cast Iron Storefronts: Multistory Loft Building type building.

☒ See continuation sheet no. 3 for Historic Context & Maryland Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan data

9. Major Bibliographical References

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[X] See continuation sheet no. 6

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [ ] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- [ ] previously listed in the National Register
- [ ] previously determined eligible by the National Register
- [ ] designated a National Historic Landmark
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- [ ] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- [ ] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

USGS Quad: Baltimore East, Maryland

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	360050	4350100	B			
C				D			

[ ] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries are defined as a single city lot, specifically identified as Block 617, Lot 35, recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore City, Maryland.

[ ] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property comprises the city lot upon which the resource stands.

[ ] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian

organization for Baltimore Heritage, Inc. date October 21, 1990

street & number 109 Brandon Road telephone (410) 296-7538

city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21212

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Sanitary Laundry Building is a five-story brick loft building with a cast iron street facade. Its upper facade is characterized by elaborate decorative brickwork and terra cotta ornament reflecting the influence of the Queen Anne style of the 1880s. The building apparently was constructed after July 18, 1883, when Ormond Hammond, Jr. acquired the property; it originally functioned as a slaughterhouse and meat packing plant, and continued in this use until 1897, when it was converted to a commercial laundry.

The building is five bays wide; the central bay projects beyond the plane of the facade, forming a pavilion which rises the full height of the building and terminates in a pediment with filigree decoration. Brick piers marking the facade corners also project, rising to pyramidal finials.

The street level has a cast iron storefront, comprising fluted square columns treated with molded chamfers and decorated with rosettes at the level of the transom bars. The storefront is capped with a complex molded metal cornice terminating in pedimented elements at the building corners.

Above the storefront, the facade is of pressed brick laid in common bond with fine mortar joints; the brickwork incorporates a variety of decorative molded brick and terra cotta elements. The second story windows have cut brown stone sills and lintels: the tall central window has a segmental arched head, with a decorative brick arch above the lintel and foliated terra cotta decoration at the imposts; a band of diamond-shaped molded bricks ornament the lower part of the central pavilion flanking this window. In the outer bays, the windows are paired under a brownstone lintel treated with a French bracket form on the bottom edge; above each lintel, a segmental arch is formed with bricks laid in a checkerboard pattern, surmounted by a decorative brick keystone. Each of the successive floor levels is marked by a course of corbeling. The central bay holds a round-arched 2/2 window on the third, fourth, and fifth floors, with the outer bays defined by 2/2 sash set in segmental arched openings. All these arches are formed of molded brick; the openings in the outer bays have what appears

See Continuation No.2

to be applied wooden French-bracket decoration. Deeply-recessed brick panels appear below the outer windows on the third and fourth floors, and similar panels are located above the outer windows on the fifth and sixth floors. The upper story windows have brownstone sills: elaborate foliated terra cotta plaques are set into the masonry below the central window on each of the upper three floors. An ornate cornice of corbeled and molded brick caps the facade. A recessed panel over the central bay appears to have lost a date plaque or sign. The storefront is currently boarded. The exterior of the building retains a high level of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship; the interior and roof have suffered from vandalism, fire, and weather damage.

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing facility

Known Design Source: None

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

The property on which the building stands was purchased on July 18, 1883 by Ormond Hammond, Jr., and the building was likely constructed shortly thereafter.[1] Its original function was as a slaughterhouse and meat packing plant. The Baltimore City Directory for 1884 lists the firm of Hammond & Wilmer, wholesale meats, at this address. Hammond & Wilmer was reorganized as National Consumers Meat Company in 1887, and operated ten retail stores in the various locations in the city as well as the wholesale enterprise. In 1891, the Charles Rohr Packing Company purchased the business. The building was converted to laundry use in 1897, and occupied by the Star Laundry Company. In 1902, the Star Laundry Company was replaced in the building by the Sanitary Laundry Company, a commercial launderer which served numerous Baltimore institutions and individuals. By 1911, the American Mantle Company, gas mantle manufacturers, had joined Sanitary Laundry in the building, which also housed the Sanitary Steam Carpet Cleaning and Storage Company.

A disastrous fire gutted the building on February 24, 1914. The fire apparently started shortly after noon; the site of ignition was variously reported as the American Mantle Company factory on the third floor, or the fifth floor workroom of the Sanitary Laundry Company. The building was fully involved within a half hour, and three alarms were issued, drawing a total of twenty pieces of equipment from all parts of the city as well as a large crowd of spectators (News, February 24, 1914). Between 30 and 75 young women were at work in the laundry at the time; most of the girls fled the building, but one, a Miss Lizzie Manford, had to be removed by firemen using ladders to reach an upper floor. Unusually cold February temperatures interfered with efforts to fight the fire, and left the adjoining buildings and streets

[1] A search of the "Local Matters" column of the Baltimore Sun and the "Building Intelligence" section of American Architect and Building News for 1883-84 failed to reveal specific information concerning the construction of the building.

See Continuation No.5

thickly coated with ice.[2] The News followed up its initial report on the fire on an optimistic note, observing "Fire Loss is Less Than First Believed" (February 25, 1914), but the building was abandoned by its tenants; both the Sanitary Laundry Company and the American Mantle Company moved into the new Industrial Building at 501-509 East Preston Street.

The building appears to have remained vacant until 1928, when it was occupied by the Gordon Lavin Paper Box Company. It continued in the tenancy of successors to this firm into the 1970s.

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[2] This account of the fire is compiled from newspaper articles and William A. Murray, The Unheralded Heroes of Baltimore's Big Blazes, pp. 68-69.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Baltimore City Directories, 1890s-1940s

Baltimore News, February 24 and 25, 1914.

Illustrated Baltimore: The Monumental City. n.p.: American Publishing & Engraving Co., 1890.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

Murray, William A. The Unheralded Heroes of Baltimore's Big Blazes: A Story About Baltimore Firefighters. n.p.: author, 1969

Sanitary Laundry Building

B-2294

Baltimore Maryland

17'30"

18/360050/4350100

Balt East

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

SANITARY
LAUNDRY
COMPANY

LEX
GE
Pat Smith
Pat Smith
Pat Smith

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Sanitary Laundry Bldg
Baltimore, Maryland
7 August 1994
photo: Ron Andrews
neg. MD SHPO
SE elevation
1/2

B-2294

Sanitary Laundry Bldg
Baltimore, Maryland
7 August 1994
photo: Ron Andrews
neg: MD SHPO
Storefront
2/2

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GET CASH B

B-2294

SANITARY LAUNDRY BUILDING

118-120 NORTH PACA STREET

BALTIMORE CITY CAST-IRON MULTI-PROPERTY GROUP

BALTIMORE (CITY), MARYLAND

FRED SHOKEN

2/94

MARYLAND SHPO

EAST ELEVATION

LEXACO QUICK
GET CASH

B-2294

SANITARY LAUNDRY BUILDING

118-120 NORTH PACA STREET

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EAST ELEVATION

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