NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Northern District Police Station

other names B-1339

2. Location

street & number 3355 Keswick Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Baltimore ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county N/A code 510 zip code 21211

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 11-9-01

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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

B-1339

Northern District Police Station
Name of Property

Baltimore MD
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- [x] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT / Police Station

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT / Police Station

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian / French Renaissance

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls brick
roof slate
other base-granite

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Refer to continuation sheet 7-1

Description Summary:

The Northern District Police Station is located on a 1.07 acre parcel measuring 155 feet by 300 feet on the southeast corner of West 34th Street and Keswick Road in Hampden in the northern section of Baltimore City. The neighborhood, situated between the Homewood Campus of Johns Hopkins University and Druid Hill Park has historically been a working class, rowhouse community but is now experiencing increasing gentrification with artists and young professionals buying homes and commercial property.

The Northern District is a complex of interconnected buildings totaling 44,309 square feet, designed in the Late Victorian / French Renaissance style consisting of a three-story main station house with a hipped roof and dormers. A two story building which originally housed the cellblock connects to the rear of the station house. The main building is in turn attached to a pair of hipped roofed garages which were originally used as livery buildings. They are in turn connected to an L-shaped building consisting of the original clerestoried stable and flat roofed garage. Along with another separate garage on the southern edge of the lot, the buildings encircle a courtyard which is now used as a parking lot. It is accessed from West 34th Street through an arched entry between the two livery buildings. The walls are brick with a granite base and brownstone trim and the hipped roofs are sheathed in slate with wrought iron finials and ridge cresting. The unattached garage is built in brick with a flat roof. The main façade which fronts on Keswick Road is symmetrical in design with identical two-story slate roofed turrets at each end. The detailing includes stained glass transoms set in keystoned brownstone arches and carved brownstone bases that seat brick pilasters.

The interior consists mainly of plaster walls with wood wainscoting and pressed tin ceilings and wood stripped floor now covered with vinyl tile. The original wrought iron stair is still intact. The original gymnasium on the third floor is still used.

Non-contributing appendages include a juvenile lock-up built in 1962 which is attached to the south end of the main station house and a flat roofed, brick and glass air-lock vestibule also built in 1962 located in the center of the main façade obscuring the original main entry.

The entire property is in excellent structural condition with very minor facade deterioration. The roof and dormers are in very good condition. The interior of the main building is in fair to good condition with peeling paint on all surfaces. Most all of the original windows are in fair to good condition and are repairable. The interiors of the stable and the garages are in poor to fair condition.

General Description:

The original buildings of the Northern District Police Station were built in 1899 and were made up of the main station house, 85' in length and 52' in depth with a 50' by 30' building connected to its rear façade that housed the original cellblock. It fronts on the west side of the lot along Keswick Road and is connected at a right angle to a series of structures that front directly on the north side along West 34th Street that include a pair of livery buildings, 85' in length and 50' in depth which adjoin a stable, 150' in length and 35' in depth. A garage, 100' in length and 30' in depth was built in the 1920's and connected to the end of the stable and fronts on Beech Avenue or the east side of the lot. A separate garage, 96' in length and 25' in depth was also built in the 1920's along the southern side of the lot.

The main station house is built of pressed red brick with red-tinted mortar with brownstone trim and a granite base and is designed in the chateauesque manner of the French Renaissance typical of Victorian eclecticism of this period. It has a symmetrically composed main (west) facade flanked by by two story octagonal turrets topped by copper finials. The hipped, slate roof is topped by wrought iron ornamental cresting along its ridge and sits atop a simple, flat copper edged cornice. The roof on the Keswick Rd. side consists of a large central dormer with triple arrangement of windows and an ocular window flanked by smaller dormers each with a pair of windows. The large central dormer by itself is repeated on the north and south facades with a smaller version of the dormer on the east. All dormers gables are topped with a squared copper cap. The main facade is broken up into three stories by bands of brownstone trim with two center triple windowed bays flanking the entry on the first floor topped by an eliptical arched stained-glass transom depicting a plant motif. The brownstone keystones above the transoms are detailed with carved acanthus leaves. The main entry and its transom has been obscured by a 1962 airlock entry addition which removed the original oak double doors. The arch over the main entry still remains. The center bay above the main entry projects forward with recessed brick panels below a triple window-transom arrangement. Brick pilasters frame the second story of the center bay and are supported on brownstone bases carved in the image of a man-beast. All windows on all facades of the main building are tall, single and upward acting with a heavy transom bar, lintel and sill made of brownstone. Windows in the two story cellblock building are segmentally arched, double hung windows. Abutting the south side of the original building is a one story, flat roofed addition built in 1962 which serves as a lock-up for juveniles.

The interior of the main station house consists of a large roll-call room on the first floor accessed directly from the main entry on Keswick Rd and has a series of arches that serves as the central structural support for the wood framing on the floors above. A large fireplace is at the south end of the room that has intricate wood detailing around it. Wooden wainscoting surrounds the entire room. A door flanked by single windows with the same elliptical transom as on the main facade leads to the courtyard on the east. Offices on the first and second floors in the north turret contain marble fireplaces. Access to the floors above which consist almost entirely of offices in their original locations is by a central stair made of wrought iron with slate treads. Ceilings throughout the building are covered in pressed tin, some of which are covered by dropped ceilings. First and second-floor rooms have wainscoted walls and all floors are oak strip covered by vinyl flooring. A gym and a former drill room with the original oak strip flooring are located on the third floor with sliding wood doors leading to flanking adjoining rooms.

Connected to the main building on W.34th St. is a pair of stables which are connected by an arched opening into the courtyard with a pair of wrought iron gates. The buildings share the same detailing as the main station including hipped roofs with cresting and smaller versions of the dormers. The original sliding doors with transoms remain in the western-most livery building and have been replaced with an overhead garage door in the livery building to the east. Both spaces are now used as garages. The floors above were used for hay storage accessed by a door in the east building under the covered entry. Adjoining these two buildings is a one

story, slate roofed, brick stable complex with continuous clerestory built along W.34th St. where horses were housed and given air under a roof overhang supported by unfluted iron columns. A veterinary hospital was also originally located in this space. It has since been used as a shooting range and is now used for storage and a lecture space. On the east side of the lot along Beech Ave and also along the south side are two garage buildings with steel windows and hinged doors believed to be built in the 1920's for the transition from horse to automobile patrol. The garages are now used for storage. The prison cells in the building to the rear of the main station are no longer extant except for two located in the basement that were used as isolation cells. They are both approximately 6' x 8' with metal doors, each containing a vision panel. The rest of the basement serves as storage and space for mechanical equipment.

The courtyard which was originally used as a paddock for horses is now an asphalt paved parking area still accessed through the arched entry between the livery buildings.

Despite its age and continuous use as a police station, the Northern District has retained a great deal of its historic integrity with almost all of its exterior detailing including its windows intact. The interior spaces except for the installation of dropped ceilings have remained intact and retained almost all its historic integrity. The building' original spaces like the roll-call room, the gym and the offices have undergone little alteration and still serve the same basic functions they did when the building opened. While 1962 addition of an airlock vestibule obscured the main entry with its stained glass transom and double oak doors, the juvenile addition done at the same time has not greatly impacted the original building.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Law
Government

Period of Significance

1899-1951

Significant Dates

1899

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Henry Brauns, architect

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (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

Name of repository:

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Northern District Police Station is architecturally significant under National Register Criterion "C." as an outstanding example of late nineteenth century Victorian eclectic design in Baltimore's public buildings. It's massing and impressive architectural detailing demonstrate the high degree of regard that governments of the period in American cities gave aesthetics when it came to the design of important civic structures. The structure was meant to symbolize law and order in a growing industrial city and it does so by its handsome design and its sheer size, physically towering over the rowhouse community of Hampden, a village that was brought into Baltimore City by annexation 11 years before the construction of the station. Compared to the city's other station houses both extant and non-extant, the Northern District is by far the largest and most architecturally complex.

The building embodies the distinctive characteristics of a particular type of construction. The use of the French Renaissance chateauesque style was a strain of late nineteenth century Victorian eclecticism with its detailing and palette of red brick and brownstone, using such materials as stained glass, pressed tin ceilings, wainscoting, and a central steel and wrought iron stair. This is probably the best and most intact example of this style in Baltimore.

The Northern District Police Station was designed by Henry Brauns, one of the founding members of the Baltimore Chapter of the American Institute of Architects in 1870. Braun's specialty was the design of industrial and municipal structures like the G.W.Gail & Ax Tobacco Warehouse (1886) and Eastern Ave. Sewage Pumping Station (1907). Although they were utilitarian in function, they were extremely well designed with a high level of ornament. These buildings along with the Northern District followed the dictum of the times that a municipal building was a reflection of the city and should be examples of design excellence, a thinking that has gone by the wayside for most of the twentieth century. The police station is considered to be among Brauns' best work.

The building is also historically significant under National Register Criterion "A." It has played an important role in the category of government and law for over 100 years, serving Baltimoreans in the northern section of the city which almost doubled in size from land taken in by annexation from 1888 to 1917. The building chronicles the evolution of police work from the Late Victorian era to the present.. Suspected felons were brought to the station and processed before being sent downtown to the main prison or jailed until they were brought before a magistrate's court that was located at the south end of the roll-call room. As law enforcement became more sophisticated in the early twentieth century, a criminal investigative unit was established in all the station houses including the Northern District. As drugs became a more serious problem, a drug enforcement unit was established along with the computerization of all police duties.

Out of the city's three remaining stations from this period, the Northern District is the most intact and is the only one used in its original function. Even now, the complex still shows the historic operation of the police force with its remaining cells, roll-call room which was once also included a magistrates court, offices that have undergone surprisingly little alteration, the third floor gym and drill space and most interestingly, its intact stable complex which shows how important the horse was to the mobility of the police in this period, right before the widespread introduction of the automobile. The courtyard which remains was a paddock for the department's horses. The stable also included a veterinary hospital. The garages which surround the courtyard on the east and south sides show the change in means of mobility from the horse to automobile.

As the police prepare to move into a new station house, the Northern District will be converted into an office-retail complex that will keep the building almost totally intact, both on the exterior and interior.

Resource History and Historic Context:

The Northern District Police Station illustrates the evolution of law enforcement in the late nineteenth century in the United States as well as the City of Baltimore. America basically inherited England's common law and its system of law enforcement through the uses of constables and eventually, a paid police force. After much debate, the Metropolitan Police Act was passed in England in 1829 creating a uniformed police force that was paid a salary. It was limited to London. Policing was meant to be preventative with the primary means of policing being the patrol of officers. Until the act of 1829, policemen were called watchmen and were paid stipends for solving crimes and recovering stolen property. They also called out the time, watched for fires, and lit lamps.

The passage of the act was the beginning of modern policing and was largely the work of Sir Robert Peel and the policemen were nicknamed "bobbies" after him. At first, the police were thought by the English to be an infringement on social life, but within a short time crime and disorder declined markedly in London. Eventually, police forces were created in the provinces.

As America become more urban in the early 1800's, crime, rioting, and disorder became more commonplace and the need to create a police force whose main effort would be to be prevent crime became more urgent. With the increase in German and Irish immigration, the social, economic and political fabric of American life was thought to be threatened. At first, Americans used watchmen and constables and volunteers to control crime but it became apparent that a formal method of policing was needed. New York City formed its police department in 1844 modeled on London's and soon most other cities followed, including Baltimore.

Baltimore's original policing was also based on the watch system. By 1800, the city had become a major American shipping and mercantile center and acquired a reputation as an unruly place. Restricted by a tight budget, the city could not hire enough watchmen to keep trouble under control. After complaints by residents in 1810, the city reorganized the system by designating 30 captains with a squad of 8 men under each captain. The War of 1812 brought serious rioting to the city and established Baltimore's nickname of "Mobtown." Disputes between Federalists and Republicans over declaration of war with England were the cause of one particularly violent mob attack which the police were helpless to put down. In 1826, control of the police was given to the mayor who set up a district concept consisting of Eastern, Middle and Western districts including the construction of watch houses, the forerunners of station houses.

The Civil War brought worse rioting to Baltimore. Although it never seceded from the Union, Maryland was sympathetic to the Southern cause. Mob action against Union troops could not be quelled by the police alone and the Union army had to be often called in. As a result of the war, lawlessness increased to the point where most men armed themselves. To counter this trend, in 1867, the city increased the power of the police. By 1870. There were 563 men on the force.

A turning point for the police department in terms of public confidence came in 1877 when it responded to a general strike by Baltimore and Ohio railroad workers in the city. With the help of militiamen, the police quelled a riot that could have brought widespread terror and anarchy throughout the city. By 1880's, Baltimore was changing from a mercantile city to a major manufacturing center that produced goods, notably clothing for markets in the South. A new influx of workers from surrounding rural areas came to Baltimore to secure positions in the expanding factories. As a result, the population greatly increased, adding to the burden of the police department. In 1888, the city annexed land from adjacent Baltimore County that included the mill village of Hampden, a working-class enclave

near the factories along the Jones Falls. A Northern District was added to the police department's territories and land was purchased in 1898 at the corner of what were then called Cedar and Second avenues. The population increase had caused the police to replace its older stations. The city had also just built a new station house for the Southern District in 1897. The architect, Henry Brauns, is reported to have made a study of station houses in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia to incorporate provisions for the latest methods of law enforcement and criminal investigation. At this time in America, those included CID's (criminal investigative divisions). The forerunner of detective squads, a CID sub-unit was established at the Northern District that used the Bertillion method, an anthropometric photographic record of criminals. By 1905, it used fingerprinting which had been recently accepted as a reliable investigative technique.

The judiciary as well as police enforcement had been decentralized as well by the end of the nineteenth century. A magistrate's court to hear misdemeanors and arraign suspects had been incorporated into the station house in the same main room as the lieutenant's desk. Brauns designed a 16 cell prison block in a two story building at the rear of the main station adjacent to the magistrate's court to hold prisoners until transfer to the main jail downtown. The cells were constructed of steel and could all be opened at the same time. Two disciplinary cells were located in the basement for troublesome prisoners.

The horse was the main means of mobility in addition to foot patrol in this era. The Northern District was still largely rural at this time and a mounted patrol was the most efficient way to cover the area. A large stable with a continuous clerestory window was added to the rear of the main station along with two livery buildings that housed police or "paddy wagons." The courtyard was a small paddock for the horses. Because of the lack of space in its existing station houses to care for its horses, a veterinary stable was included in the building.

The telephone was by this time commonplace and a communications network existed between call boxes and the station houses. Besides the telephone, the building was wired for electricity and piped for gas during its construction.

In 1900, a Board of Police Examiners was created to review candidates for police service. At the turn of the century, a new emphasis was placed on the training of police officers including physical conditioning. This is why Brauns included a large gym and drill room on the third floor for exercise.

By the early 1920's, the police department made the transition from horses to automobile patrol and two garages were built on the lot. By the 1960's they were no longer large enough to accommodate patrol cars and the courtyard was used as a parking lot. By the 1990's, the police sought a new site for a replacement station that offered more parking, operational space on one level as opposed to three, a brand new communication systems and a better heating and cooling system.

Major Bibliographical References:

Walker, Samuel. Police in America. New York: McGraw Hill College Division, 1992.

Encyclopaedia Britannica. The History of Policing. 2001

History of the Baltimore Police Department, 1797 to 1997
Turner Publishing Company: Paducah, Kentucky 1997

McCabe, Clinton. History of the Baltimore Police Department, 1774 to 1909

Baltimore Sun, July 7,1898

Baltimore American, October 28, 1898

Baltimore Sun, August 4, 1899

Photographs

1/15 Main (west) façade
2/15 South & west facades
3/15 North & west façade
4/15 North façade (livery bldgs.)
5/15 North façade (gate to courtyard)
6/15 North facde (livery bldgs. & stable)
7/15 North façade (livery bldgs. & entire stable)
8/15 East façade (stable & garage)
9/15 East façade of main bldg. / south façade of livery bldgs.
10/15 East & south facades of livery bldgs. / south façade of stable
11/15 South façade of stable with overhang
12/15 West façade of garage & end of stable
13/15 North façade of garage with end of garage
14/15 Roll call rm. – 1st flr.
15/15 Gym – 3rd flr.

Drawings

Site Plan	1:40
Existing Basement Plan	1:20
Existing First Floor Plan	1:20
Existing Second Floor Plan	1:20
Existing Third Floor Plan	1:20

Baltimore MD West Quadrangle USGS Map

Other Illustrations

Copy of 1899 photograph from History of the Baltimore Police Department

Northern District Police Station
Name of Property

Baltimore MD
County and State

B-1339

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.07 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	359720	4354270	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charles Belfoure

Organization _____ date 4/22/01

street & number 4596 Wilders Run Lane telephone 410-840-4494

city or town Westminster state MD zip code 21158

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name Stanley Keyser, Managing Member / 1899 L.L.C.

street & number 1018 North Charles Street telephone 410-752-1616

city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21201

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

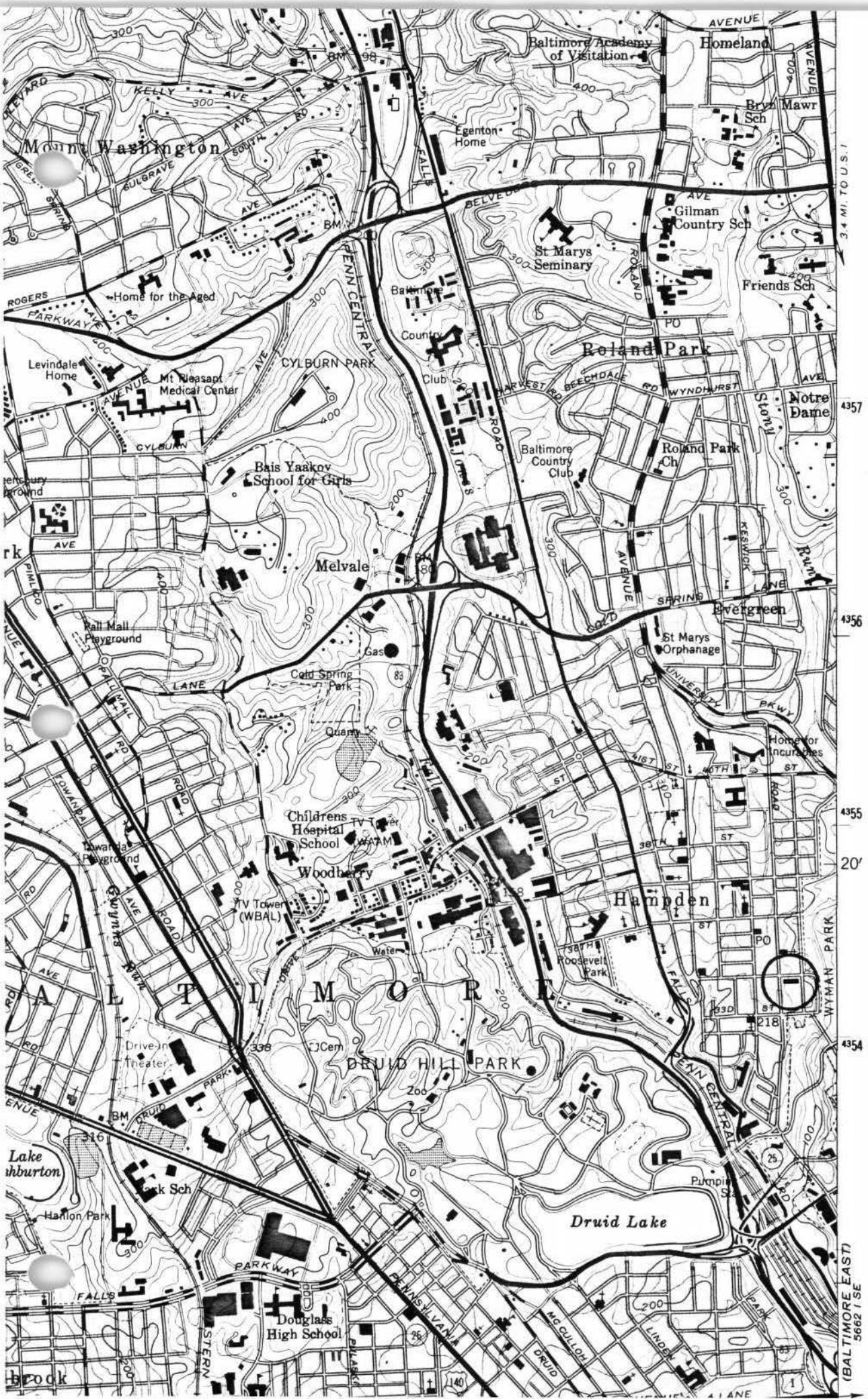
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of this historic resource are bounded by West 34th Street 300' on the north, Beech Avenue 155' on the east, along a property line 300' on the south and Keswick Road 155' on the west.

Boundary Justification:

This is the boundary of the original 1.07 acre lot purchased by the City of Baltimore in 1898 for the construction of the Northern District Police Station. All construction took place within this lot.



B-1339

NORTHERN DISTRICT POLICE STATION

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

18-359720-4354270