

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(NATIONAL HISTORIC

*LINK RELINGS (Type all entries complete applicable sections)*

STATE: <b>Maryland</b>
COUNTY: <b>Baltimore (City)</b>
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON: <b>Peale's Baltimore Museum</b>
AND/OR HISTORIC: <b>Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore</b>

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: <b>225 North Holliday Street</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Baltimore</b>		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: <b>3rd</b>	
STATE <b>Maryland</b>	CODE <b>24</b>	COUNTY: <b>Baltimore</b>	CODE <b>510</b>

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: <b>City of Baltimore</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>City Hall (St. Paul and Lexington Streets)</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Baltimore</b>		STATE: <b>Maryland</b>	CODE <b>24</b>

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: <b>Recorder of Deeds</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>City Hall (St. Paul and Lexington Streets)</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Baltimore</b>		STATE: <b>Maryland</b>	CODE <b>24</b>

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: <b>Historic American Building Survey</b>			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: <b>Library of Congress/Annex</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <b>Division of Prints and Photographs</b>			
CITY OR TOWN: <b>Washington</b>		STATE: <b>D.C.</b>	CODE <b>11</b>

STATE: <b>Maryland</b>
COUNTY: <b>Baltimore</b>
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 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 Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore, at 225 North Holliday Street occupies the first building erected as a museum in the United States. Rembrant Peale, the artist son of Charles Willson Peale, opened the museum on August 15, 1814.

Peale advertised in Baltimore in April, 1813, his intention to build a museum, and on August 15 of the following year, he inaugurated his new undertaking. Having no plan to follow, he erected a brick three-story house that had a two-story wing in back. Inside, the central hallway opened onto four small rooms on the first floor, in which were placed scientific and natural exhibits. A large drawing room occupied the second floor and the third floor held a painting gallery. Peale struggled to operate the museum for about eight years, but his creditors forced him to sell his interest in it to his brother, Reubens, in 1822. Reubens Peale continued the museum until 1829, when his creditors forced him to vacate the building.

The Museum underwent numerous alterations before becoming the Municipal Museum in 1931. It was used as the Baltimore City Hall from 1830 until 1875. At this time it was made into a Negro School and served this function until 1887. From that time until 1931 the building was occupied by the Water Board as well as several businesses.

In renewing the building for Museum use, the front wall was rebuilt, the original portico was reconstructed and the interior was almost completely reconstructed.

Today, the building is completely devoted to museum purposes. The two front rooms on the first floor have permanent exhibits that are associated with Rembrant Peale. Located in the rear wing are the offices of the curator. On the second floor are exhibition rooms used for portraits. The third floor at present is not used; located here is the central air conditioning until situated behind standing partitions. An addition was made in the basement so as to accomodate museum records. Outside the museum in back is a small court with statues.

BOUNDARY INFORMATION AND JUSTIFICATION

The museum is located on the east side of North Holliday Street between a warehouse on the north side and a church across a small alley on the south. The building sits about halfway between East Saratoga Street and East Lexington Street. The Municipal Museum building is approximately 40 feet wide facing North Holliday Street, and about 50 feet long. The museum lot is circa 40 feet by 100 feet. The boundary line is contiguous with the property line as described above.

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

## 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)

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Peale's Baltimore Museum was the first building in the United States to be designed and erected expressly for museum use. Under the direction of its founder, builder and first operator, Rembrant Peale, and later his brother Reubens, the museum was opened to the public for 15 years. Having served a number of purposes in the interim, the building again became the Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore in 1931. Presently the museum houses both painting and permanent exhibits concerning Rembrant Peale, the Peale family and the history of Baltimore.

BIOGRAPHY

Rembrant Peale was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania on February 22, 1778. Charles Willson Peale, his father had evidently expected that his offspring should be artists for he named them all after the old masters, i.e. Rembrant, Reubens, Van Dyck, Raphael and Titian. With all this circumstance as events turned out only two of the five became artists.

Rembrant showed early signs of extraordinary talent. He "began to draw at the age of eight years and by the time he was thirteen he had painted a portrait of himself."<sup>1</sup>

Upon the retirement of Charles Willson Peale in 1796, Rembrant was given his father's seal of approval and the title of his success. However, this did not lead to instant success. Rembrant thereupon, ventured to Charleston, South Carolina, where he remained several years until 1801 at which time he journeyed to England to study with Benjamin West.

It was here in London that Rembrant Peale was confronted for the first time with the continental art form or "with good art".<sup>2</sup> Peale's heart was not strong and the climate in England was critically against his health, at this time Rembrant Peale decided to return to the United States and give up painting for agriculture. However, immediate success upon his return changed these plans.

After living in Boston some years, Peale moved to Baltimore in 1812. It was here in Baltimore that Peale opened the first building in

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

America to be used solely as a museum and art gallery. Here Peale lived for nine years and painted a number of his most famous works including "The Ascent of Elijah," and "The Court of Death," which was painted on canvas measuring 24 by 13 feet, and it contained twenty-three lifesize figures. This work became one of Peale's most famous; it was placed on exhibition in every major city of the United States. From 1822 to 1829 Peale again returned north where he painted portraits in Philadelphia New York and Boston.

Peale once more returned to Europe where he exhibited his portrait of George Washington drawn to Peale's own exacting specifications of likeness. The portrait received raves of critics. Upon Peale's return, the portrait was purchased by the United States Government and now hangs in the Vice President's room in the Senate wing of the Capitol. Peale's works include; "The Court of Death," his most famous, "Song of the Shirt," "Errina," "Wine and Cake," and "Italian Peasant." Peale died on October 3, 1860.

<sup>1</sup>Cyclopedia of American Biography, James T. White and Company:  
New York, 1907, vol. 5., p. 320.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cyclopedia of American Biography, James T. White and Company:  
New York, 5 vols., 1907.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		UTM	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

18.361100.4350200

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Joseph S. Mendinghall, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service DATE: 2/28/75

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L. Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. 20240 CODE: 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

Name (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Del. 2/19/65

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation 9-4

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: A. R. W. T. Jensen 9/25/75  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Peale's Baltimore Museum  
U.S.G.S. 7.5' series map  
Baltimore, Maryland East  
Quadrangle  
UTM  
18.361100.4350200

B-13

R E

B-13



5662 1 SA

452

127

130

30"

450

WASHINGTON D.C. 20541

BM

451

110

99

127

130

130

130

130

130

130

130

130

130

130

130

130

130

150

150

150

150

150

150

150

150

150

150

150

150

150

150

150

150

190

190

190

190

190

190

190

190

190

190

190

190

190

190

190

190

230

230

230

230

230

230

230

230

230

230

230

230

230

230

230

230

270

270

270

270

270

270

270

270

270

270

270

270

270

270

270

270

310

310

310

310

310

310

310

310

310

310

310

310

310

310

310

310

350

350

350

350

350

350

350

350

350

350

350

350

350

350

350

350

390

390

390

390

390

390

390

390

390

390

390

390

390

390

390

390

430

430

430

430

430

430

430

430

430

430

430

430

430

430

430

430

470

470

470

470

470

470

470

470

470

470

470

470

470

470

470

470

510

510

510

510

510

510

510

510

510

510

510

510

510

510

510

510

550

550

550

550

550

550

550

550

550

550

550

550

550

550

550

550

590

590

590

590

590

590

590

590

590

590

590

590

590

590

590

590

630

630

630

630

630

630

630

630

630

630

630

630

630

630

630

630

670

670

670

670

670

670

670

670

670

670

670

670

670

670

670

670

710

710

710

710

710

710

710

710

710

710

710

710

710

710

710

710

750

750

750

750

750

750

750

750

750

750

750

750

750

750

750

750

790

790

790

790

790

790

790

790

790

790

790

790

790

790

790

790

830

830

830

830

830

830

830

830

830

830

830

830

830

830

830

830

870

870

870

870

870

870

870

870

870

870

870

870

870

870

870

870

910

910

910

910

910

910

910

Form No. 10-301  
Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Baltimore	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON: <u>Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore</u>			
AND/OR HISTORIC: <u>Peale's Baltimore Museum</u>			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>225 North Holliday Street</u>			
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Baltimore</u>			
STATE: <u>Maryland</u>	CODE <u>24</u>	COUNTY: <u>Baltimore</u>	CODE <u>510</u>
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE: <u>U.S. Geological Survey, 7.5 Baltimore East Quadrangle</u>			
SCALE: <u>1:24,000</u>			
DATE: <u>1953 (Photorevised 1966)</u>			
<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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore

AND/OR COMMON

Peale's Baltimore Museum

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

**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. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Frontal view, looking east.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Municipal Museum of the City of Baltimore

AND/OR COMMON

Peale's Baltimore Museum

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

**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. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

View of rear, looking west