

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

B-94

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Eutaw Savings Bank

AND/OR COMMON

Baltimore Equitable Society for insuring houses from loss by fire (preferred)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Southeast Corner Eutaw and Fayette Streets (21 North Eutaw Street)

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Baltimore City

CODE

510

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Baltimore Equitable Society, c/o Mr. Stephen J. Bernhardt, Treasurer

STREET & NUMBER

21 North Eutaw Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore City Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Baltimore City Landmarks List

DATE

January, 1969

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

**7 DESCRIPTION**

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CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the southeast corner of Eutaw and Fayette Streets (21 North Eutaw Street) stands the Baltimore Equitable Society. The two-story building with brownstone front and brick sides was constructed in 1857 in the Italian Renaissance style, and was originally the headquarters of the Eutaw Savings Bank. The central entrance on the three-bay Eutaw Street side is most handsome: five marble steps lead to a pair of heavy wooden doors that are paneled and studded, and topped with a stained-glass fanlight. These doors are flanked by simple square pilasters that end in elaborate capitals in a scrolled acanthus leaf design. Above the fanlight is an intricately carved panel and over all a plain classical pediment. This decorative work is done in the same Connecticut brownstone with which the Eutaw Street facade is covered. The first-story windows have six-over-six sash with the upper sash arched and glazed; those on the main facade feature a decorative treatment similar to that of the entrance. These decorative elements are seen again in the heavy brownstone lintels and brackets over the five first-level windows on the Fayette Street side. The second-story windows are six-over-six with a flattened arch. Those on the main facade are rimmed with a simple brownstone molding, which is repeated in an abbreviated form on those on the Fayette Street side. The windows on the south side (alley) are identical to their north and west counterparts, but are without embellishment. All windows have brownstone sills.

Above the second-story windows is a complete entablature, with a simple architrave and frieze, and a wooden cornice featuring dentils below and carved modillions above. The gable end facing Eutaw Street is pedimented and the roof is covered with tin.

Inside the front doors is a small vestibule, whose interior partitions are pierced by windows and doors with Tudor arches. The main banking area measures 32 feet by 41 feet, and takes up the entire width of the building and two-thirds of its length. It is divided by a curving counter and grille of solid mahogany with walnut trim. The walls are plastered and the floor is of tile outside the counter and of wood planks in the employees' area. Half of the remainder of the first floor is taken up by the President's office, entered via a solid door from the customer area, or through double doors with glass inserts from behind the counter. Here is found a fireplace faced with black marble and a collection of eighteenth century fire marks. There is, in addition, a vault on this level which contains a Corless revolving safe, and a circular staircase to the second floor, with walnut handrail and oak balusters. The second story is one large room that was at one time divided by a partition, and which now houses an exhibit of antique fire equipment. The floors are of wood planks, the walls are of plaster and the ceiling, like that of the lower level, is of coffered metal.

**SIGNIFICANCE**

B-94

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 10-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1857

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joseph F.K. Kemp, Architect  
Gardner & Matthews, Builders

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building occupied by the Baltimore Equitable Society is representative of an architectural genre that has all but disappeared from the streets of Baltimore. The Fire of 1904, urban renewal and modernization have taken most of the city's mid-nineteenth century commercial structures, and have left others altered beyond recognition. This handsome Italian Renaissance building on the corner of Eutaw and Fayette Streets not only survives, but has been maintained with great care, and is still in use. Today it houses the oldest corporation in the city, and a fine collection of vintage fire equipment and paraphernalia.

The lot on which the building stands was originally part of a larger tract bounded by West Fayette Street on the north, North Eutaw Street on the west, and Garrett Street on the south. On September 19, 1795, this tract, composed of five parcels, was leased for a period of 99 years by Abraham Miller, who sold part of the property to Aquilla Brown, Jr., in 1799, and bequeathed the remainder to his daughter Hetty, wife of Samuel Keyser, a china merchant. The tract was inherited by their son, Michael F. Keyser, in 1840; sixteen years later Keyser died, and the administrator of his estate, John H.B. Latrobe, conveyed two of the remaining four lots to the Eutaw Savings Bank.

Incorporated in 1847, the Eutaw Savings Bank has since that time had its offices in the Eutaw House. On July 7, 1856, the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of the lot 77 feet on Eutaw Street, by 66 feet on Fayette Street, southeast corner, subject to one cent ground rent, for the sum of \$12,000. After nearly two months of deliberation, the Board decided on May 8, 1857, to erect a banking house for the institution on part of the recently purchased property. A design submitted by architect Joseph F.K. Kemp was accepted for a fee of \$400, and builders Gardner and Matthews were chosen at their bid of \$14,825. Construction was begun in June, 1857, and completed on December 31, 1857; the cost of the building was \$16,103.48, and this amount plus the \$6,000 estimated value of the land used, made a total cost of \$22,103.48. The Building Committee of the Board of Directors expressed the opinion in February, 1858, "that for neatness, convenience and durability, it is at its cost unequaled by any other banking house in our city."

(See Continuation Sheet No. 1)

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Eutaw Savings Bank  
Baltimore City

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The Eutaw Savings Bank grew rapidly, and within a few decades the building had become inadequate for the firm's needs. A larger building was built across Eutaw Street, and in 1889 the original brick and brown-stone structure was conveyed to the Baltimore Equitable Society. The oldest corporation in the city, and the fourth oldest insurance company in the United States, the Baltimore Equitable Society had been insuring houses from loss by fire since 1794. The Society retains all of its official records and information on properties insured since 1794, which provide a good historical reference and source of information.

Baltimore Equitable continues to occupy this building, carrying on its business and maintaining a museum of antique fire fighting equipment and related articles and an extensive collection of eighteenth century fire marks. Included in the collection are a small hand pump engine of the late 1780's, a large hose reel from 1805, two smaller hose reels of later vintage, a large collection of fire helmets, parade hats, buckets, rumpets, uniforms and other paraphernalia of this era. The collection of 286 fire marks is one of the largest exhibits of such plaques on display. Also included in the museum are many old books, maps, and pamphlets about fire fighting and much of the original furniture of the bank, including high benches, chairs, and a desk. The installation of the modern conveniences of heat, air conditioning and electricity were done with care and do not alter the nineteenth century appearance of the building.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Baltimore Equitable Society records, research done by previous employees of the Society a number of years ago whose sources are now known.  
Eutaw Savings Bank-Directors Minutes and Proceedings

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 66' x 45' 8"

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	36,020,0	4,35,01,40	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stephen J. Bernhardt, Treasurer/ Randolph M. Cornell, Summer Intern

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore Equitable Society/ Maryland Historical Trust DATE September, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

21 North Eutaw Street/ 21 State Circle TELEPHONE 301-539-1072/ 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore/ Annapolis STATE Maryland 21201/ 21401

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Jim N. Pearce* 4/14/77

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

B-94  
17'30"



**BALTIMORE  
SQUATABLE  
SOCIETY**

**BALTO. EAST  
QUAD**

**HARBOR**

**NORTHWEST**

**South  
Baltimore**

**Basin**

**Lake  
Clifton**

**BALTIMORE  
CEMETERY**

**PATTERSON  
PARK**

**GREENMOUNT  
CEMETERY**

**Baltimore  
Hebrew  
Cem**

**Catholic  
High Sch**

**Gompers  
Vocational  
Sch**

**Ft. Worthington  
Sch**

**St. Alphonsus  
Cemetery**

**Dunbar  
High Sch**

**Johns Hopkins  
Hospital**

**Patterson Park  
Jr-Sr High Sch**

**Reading Clinic  
and Sch**

**Vocational  
Sch**

**John Rodgers  
Sch**

**St. Elizabeth  
Sch**

**Weglein  
Sch**

**Holy Rosary  
Sch**

**Ball Sch**

**Patterson  
Sch**

**Feils Point**

**Locust Pt**

**Johnson  
Sch**

**Riverside  
Park**

**Riverside Yard**

**Latrobe  
Park**

**Conveyor**

WASHINGTON, D. C. 31 MI.

FREDERICK 45 MI.  
PINE ORCHARD 14 MI.

WESTERN MARYLAND

Port Covington Yard

4348

30 FEET NOV. 1941

4347

4346

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