

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

JAN 29 1979

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

JUN 19 1979

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

Walters Bath No. 2

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

900 Washington Boulevard

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Maryland

24

Baltimore City

510

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

X PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

X YES: RESTRICTED

X GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mayor & City Council of Baltimore

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall, 100 North Holiday Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Land Record Office of the Superior Court of Baltimore City

STREET & NUMBER

Room 610, Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Walters Bath No. 2 was built for the City of Baltimore during 1901-02 by Henry Walters (1848-1931). Mr. Walters, a Baltimore art collector and philanthropist, contributed four bath houses to the city even though he was living in New York City after 1894. Located at Washington Boulevard (then known as Columbia Avenue) and Callender Alley, this second bath house was built so as to serve congested neighborhoods in southeast Baltimore in the Parkin Street area. It was designed by architect George Archer.

The design of Walters Bath No. 2 is a very simplified form of Renaissance Revival popularized at the turn of the century by architects such as McKim, Mead and White. In the Bath Commissioners' report, the design is called 'Free Colonial'. The Bath is a small brick building of 40'-0" x 70'-6" laid in Flemish bond with black headers and Maryland limestone trimming. The forty-foot facade of four bays facing south onto Washington Boulevard is the only part which is not strictly utilitarian in design. It is of one story on a high basement with a solid brick balustrade. In the center are two large windows which light the administrative office. These have heavy limestone lintels with oversized keystones and stone sills. A wide belt course of limestone forming the lintels for the two central basement windows is intersected by the two end doors. Each of the double doors has been set within an arched opening of brick with a plain tympanum, limestone impost blocks and large keystone. The entrance vestibules have steps and wainscoting of McMullin gray marble and ceramic tile floors. Above the two central windows within the frieze there was, until recently plastered over, a stone plaque reading 'THE WALTERS PUBLIC BATHS'. At the corner of the facade finishing the end toward the alley is an abstraction of a brick pilaster on a pedestal. The cornice of the pedestal is formed by the belt course inscribed with the date '1901' and the base is an extension of the floor of a shallow terrace elevated midway between the sidewalk and the first floor level.

While the exterior of the Bath has remained unchanged with the exception of the sign, the baths and laundry have been removed. The left door led into the women's waiting room and the right, into the men's. These two rooms, now without the wooden benches which lined their walls, and the office have not been remodelled. Interior architraves are wide, half-round members. A rectangular transom extends to the ceiling above each door. The bath facilities were on the first floor, and a stairway with a skylight led down to the basement laundry and boiler room.

The plan for Bath No. 1 (131-3 S. High Street) has been included since the two schemes were identical, except for a few improvements in equipment when Bath No. 2 was built. While the building was being used for its intended purposes, the basement contained large laundry and boiler rooms. The largest portion of the laundry which was for public use accommodated three women at one time, each provided with two earthenware washtrays, hot and cold water, a steam wringer and steam dry-room space. The steam dry-room

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1901

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George Archer, Architect
John Hughes, Jr., Contractor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bathing establishments in Baltimore began as far back as 1800, when William Finn was keeper of the baths on the west side of Jones Falls. As a private enterprise, the service they provided was considered to be a luxury. Even though the bathtub began to be installed in homes during the second half of the nineteenth century, only 10% of the dwellings of Baltimore's densely populated sections had them by the 1890's. Thus, the Walters Baths were the first such structures designed in Baltimore, not for recreation, but to provide an opportunity for cleanliness to all persons by offering them a shower, spray or tub bath, not a swimming tank.

All of the Walters Baths in Baltimore are principally the result of the efforts of two men, Reverend Thomas M. Beadenkoph, who originated the humanitarian proposal and Henry Walters who provided the funds. They evolved from previous projects of Reverend Beadenkoph, the pastor of Canton Congregational Church, who in 1893 began operating a bathing shore during the warmer months along the waterfront at the west end of Second Street. The Canton Beach was such a success that he acquired an old gospel tent which became a portable shower stall using water from a fireplug. By 1894, the City had appropriated \$500.00 for the operation of Canton Beach and, at Mayor Latrobe's suggestion, a Bath Commission was created and two more bathing shores established.

On November 27, 1898, a public meeting was held to discuss the possible erection of public baths for Baltimore which was far behind other cities in this movement. Boston was spending \$35,000 annually for this purpose; New York \$48,000; Philadelphia, Chicago, Buffalo, Detroit and Wilmington, Delaware were spending much larger amounts. An appeal for subscriptions was made but the only significant interest in the subject came from Mr. Henry Walters. Two of the Bath Commissioners, Messrs. Levering and Morriss, conferred with him in January of 1899; and, on February 2nd, Walters agreed to erect three Baths at a maximum of \$15,000 each. After construction, they were to be given to the city who would assume the maintenance costs. Actually, the original estimated cost was too low and Mr. Walters agreed to donate \$50,000 for the first two baths. In the final accounting, Walters Bath No. 2 cost \$27,000. When it opened in April of 1902, Bath No. 2 charged three cents for adults and one cent for children for soap and towels and two and one-half cents per hour for laundry privileges. Later, baths cost five cents when one could afford the fee, a charge that remained until the public bath system was abolished at the end of 1959.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 2

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8
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3	5	9	2	7	0
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4	3	4	9	2	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George J. Andreye, Assistant Arch. Historian

(cs)

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

June, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

269-2438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 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

1-8-79

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 8-17-77

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: Emma Jane Saye

DATE 6-18-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Regional Review Coordinator

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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Walters Bath No. 2
900 Washington Boulevard

CONTINUATION SHEET Baltimore, Md. ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION, ITEM NUMBER 7

was entirely of metal and contained twenty racks. The private laundry was reserved for washing bath towels, using a 46-inch rotary washer and a 20-inch centrifugal extractor. To the rear of the basement was the boiler room with two 15 horse power boilers, a Tobey's hot water heater and an 8 horse power engine.

Much attention was given to designing sanitary facilities. The bath cabins had cement floors and partitions, seats, etc., of Vermont green slate with nickel-plated fittings. Each cabin had two compartments, for dressing and for bathing. A ventilation system of ducts pulled in fresh air through openings along the longitudinal walls and then forced 'vitiated' air out of a large brick vent-shaft at the rear of the building. Four large skylights provided illumination and additional ventilation throughout the bath area.

SIGNIFICANCE, ITEM NUMBER 8, CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 1 continued

Walters Bath No. 2 - 900 Washington Boulevard - Baltimore, Md.

Bath No. 2 is the only surviving example of Walters' gifts to the people of Baltimore. These Baths represented a solution to improve sanitary conditions in crowded, industrial cities. Reverend Beadenkoph's stated reasons for supporting the Baths were that personal cleanliness had a close relationship with health and self-respect, that a bath toned up the moral and made one feel better, and that a family, however poor, which bathed regularly has an "esprit de corps" lacking in other families who did not. This was entirely consistent with contemporary efforts to improve health and living conditions for the urban working classes, a movement which was present during the latter nineteenth century and increased, as did the number of Baltimore's baths, during the early twentieth century.

Walters Bath No. 2 is the only surviving building of a series of four which Walters gave to the city. It was the duty of the Free Public Bath Commission, increased to seven members in 1900, to supervise these baths as well as comfort stations, swimming pools, school shower programs and portable shower baths, all of which were operating by 1925.

(See Continuation Sheet No. 2)

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Walters Bath No. 2
900 Washington Boulevard

CONTINUATION SHEET Baltimore, Md. ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

SIGNIFICANCE, ITEM NUMBER 8 continued

This surviving Walters Bath building, then, represents a significant part of Baltimore's cleanliness campaign to improve public welfare, a movement which began late but became a model program for other cities.

The building is presently occupied by the maintenance division of the public schools. However, the Baltimore City Planning Department has plans to use the building for a mini multiple purpose center. This project has been included in their capital budget.

BIBLIOGRAPHY, ITEM NUMBER 9, CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 2

Report of the Public Baths of Baltimore, with Illustrations. Annual Report of The Free Public Bath Commission for the Year 1900, also a report of the inception and progress of the Public Bath Movement in The City of Baltimore. Baltimore, January, 1901.

Seventh Annual Report of The Free Public Bath Commission of the City of Baltimore for the Year 1901, also a summary of the Report for The Year 1900, and an account of the inception and progress of the Public Bath Movement in The City of Baltimore. Baltimore, January, 1902.

"A Harmless and Inexpensive Luxury." Evening Sun, July 17, 1940.

Frank, Richard. "Public Bath System Abolished." Evening Sun, October 22, 1959.

Johnston, William R. "The Walters Public Baths." The Bulletin of The Walters Art Gallery. May, 1974.

Levering, Eugene. "History of our Public Baths." Typed paper in Maryland Room of Enoch Pratt Free Library, 1925.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

Walter's Bath #2
Baltimore City
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

BEGINNING at the northwest corner of Washington Boulevard and Calendar Street heading west for a distance of 61'5"; thence, north bounding on the adjacent lot for a distance of 101'; thence, easterly parallel to Washington Boulevard for a distance of 61'5"; thence, south on Calendar Street for a distance of 101' to the point of beginning.