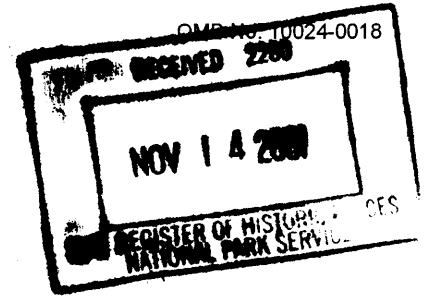


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



BTB

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 Southern District Police Station

other names B-4289

2. Location

street & number 28 East Ostend Street

not for publication

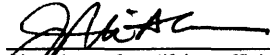
city or town Baltimore

vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Baltimore City code 510 zip code 21230

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

11-9-01
Date

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

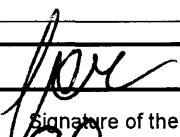
Date

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

Elson A. Beal 12/28/01

Southern District Police Station (B-4289)
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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: police station

EDUCATION: learning center
COMMERCE/TRADE: office building

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival

foundation STONE: sandstone
walls STONE: sandstone
BRICK
roof STONE: slate
other N/A

Narrative Description

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

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Southern District Police Station, constructed in 1896, is a monumental Romanesque Revival style steel-frame building faced in stone and brick. The station is comprised of a three-story cubic main block (set on a full basement), a two-story rear ell, and two ca. 1950s additions that fill most of the remainder of the lot. The building is located on an .2 acre corner lot, with a primary facade facing south onto East Ostend Street and secondary facades that face west onto Patapsco Street and east onto a mid-block alley. The organization of the building reflects its original function as a Baltimore Police Department station house. The architectural design incorporates a rich vocabulary of round-arched openings and foliate carved surfaces. In the late 1950s, the police department altered window openings, fenestration, and the interior of the building. In 1990, a more recent owner, Baltimore Jobs and Energy Projects, further altered the interior. The clarity of the architectural design has survived these changes and the building retains sufficient integrity to convey the architectural image employed by the Baltimore Police Department at the end of the 19th century.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Setting

The Southern District Police Station is sited on a 7700 square-foot lot at the corner of East Ostend and Patapsco streets, in a residential section of South Baltimore. The main (south) facade faces East Ostend Street and secondary facades face west onto Patapsco Street and east onto a mid-block alley. A group of two-story Romanesque Revival rowhouses (1897) work in ensemble with the station on Ostend Street between Patapsco and Marshall. The building has an imposing presence in an area characterized by modest two- and three-story rowhouses between Light and Charles streets, the primary commercial streets that run parallel through the Federal Hill neighborhood. Cross Street Market, a Federal Hill hub, is located at the northern end of Patapsco Street, a few blocks north of the station.

Exterior

The Southern District Police Station is a square, three-story Romanesque Revival style building. The cubical mass is capped by a hipped slate roof, pierced by single large dormers on three sides. The steel-frame building is faced on the 1st story with quarry-faced ashlar stone. The 2nd story is faced in pressed brick laid in a running bond detailed with stone. An original ell and a ca. 1950s addition, each two stories in height, extend from the rear (north) facade. The original ell is a utilitarian brick structure that once housed the cellblock. The ca. 1950s utilitarian addition, constructed on the site of the original wagon house, has a rectangular footprint. A second, small late 1950s brick addition projects out from the east facade of the main block, filling the side yard of the building between the station and the rowhouses along East Ostend Street.

A ca. 1896 historic photograph documents the original appearance of the Southern District Police Station (see attached photograph). The facades of the station are rhythmically arranged with a series of round-arched openings set within the massive masonry structure. The building had a tiled roof. The three-bay primary (south) facade is symmetrical and originally had a centered entry. The size and location of the openings reflect the hierarchy of the original composition of the interior spaces. For example, the double-height arrangement of the front (south) facade and the southern bay of the east and west facades faced the sergeant's desk and roll-call room on the 1st floor and gymnasium above. The secondary

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(east and west) facades display balanced asymmetrical opening configurations, reflecting the two- and three-story spaces enclosed. The rear ell was pierced by a series of segmentally arched door and window openings.

The ornamentation of the Southern District Police Station is representative of the Romanesque Revival style. The stone-faced 1st floor is rusticated. Round arched openings enclose doors and windows. Decorative elements such as stone and corbelled brick beltcourses define the stories. Stone springcourses unify the rhythm of round arches. Bartizan-inspired piers frame the center bays and punctuate the roofline buttressing the gabled dormer windows. The carved stonework features grotesques and foliate elements. The building name, "Southern District Police Station," and date of construction, "1896," are carved over the center bay of the front (south) facade. Multi-light top sash and arched transom lights filling the tympanums highlight the fenestration. A stone wall, continuing the line of the water table, curves out from the main (south) facade enfolding the public space at the front of the building. A wrought iron fence follows the lot line along the Patapsco Street (west) facade. The two-story cellblock ell is without ornamentation.

The current appearance of the Southern District Police Station reflects alterations made by the Baltimore Police Department in the late 1950s to the exterior of the building, including two additions and alterations to the fenestration. The ca. 1950s additions are blind. The police department infilled several of the window openings, replaced windows, and moved the entrance door in the ca. 1950s alteration.

Interior

Originally, the floorplan of the Southern District Police Station was arranged with large public, administration, and training spaces on the first floor and in the front of the building and additional administration spaces on upper floors of the main block with cells contained in an adjoining ell (see attached diagram). The circulation of the building was arranged with a central corridor. On the 1st floor the corridor led from the front door to the cellblock. The original stairwell, accessible from the corridor and an entry in the Patapsco Street (west) facade, is situated just south of the northwest corner of the building.

The interior of the building has been largely altered on the 1st floor. The corridor now dog-legs on the 1st floor to lead to the entrance, which was moved in the late 1950s to the east bay of the front (south) facade. The only remaining historic elements on the 1st floor consist of structural arches spanning the central corridor, which are hidden by the dropped ceiling. Some partitions have been added on the upper floors, most notably a floor has been added within the double height gymnasium space. Many of the changes on the upper floors are associated with the 1990 renovation and reversibility was considered in their execution. Original interior finishes extant on upper floors include plaster wall surfaces with wood beadboard wainscoting and chair rails, oak strip flooring and pressed tin ceilings.

Exterior Alterations

The primary alterations to the exterior consist of two additions and changes to door and window openings and fenestration. The police department constructed two additions in the late 1950s. The additions are simple brick boxes that employ a stripped modernist design vocabulary. One two-story addition covers the 1st two stories of the northernmost bay of the Patapsco Street (west) facade. This addition was constructed on the site of the stable and police patrol wagon yard (both now gone), which was later used as a garage. The stairhall was altered to provide access to the addition. The adjacent two-story entry-door into the station building is now enclosed in a planar concrete surround. Another

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addition, one-story high, fills the narrow strip of open space between the east side of the station building and the adjacent rowhouses and obscures the 1st floor of the east wall of the main block.

The police department altered several of the window openings and changed a large portion of the window fenestration during the late 1950s renovation. A new entry was cut into the eastern bay of the front (south) facade. The large window openings on the 1st floor of the front (south) facade and southern bay of the Patapsco Street (west) facade were filled with stone that appears identical to that used elsewhere in the building.¹ The entry door in the 1st floor of the northern bay of the west facade is topped by large single pane transom window cut through the wall, replacing a pair of 2nd story window openings. The double window opening on the 1st floor, center-bay, of the Patapsco Street (west) facade has been cut for a single opening and the fenestration replaced with an aluminum jalousie window, infilled with brick above. The segmental arched window openings in the cellblock ell have been infilled with brick and new openings for metal windows and doors have been cut into the facade. One of the 3rd floor window openings on the east facade is infilled with a door leading to a metal fixed-stair fire escape attached to the building. Many of the original wood windows with multiple pane upper sash have been replaced with aluminum windows.

Integrity

Despite these changes the Southern District Police Station retains ample architectural fabric to convey its identity as a Baltimore Police Station. Essential physical features like its spatial footprint, monumental scale, Romanesque Revival architectural style, and relationship to its surrounding residential neighborhood remain intact. The building retains sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association to convey its association with the architectural image established by the Baltimore Police Department.

Integrity of location and setting are important for police stations associated with 19th century municipal expansion in Baltimore. The location of this facility on a residential street in South Baltimore, surrounded by modest rowhouses, is essential to understanding the neighborhood role of 19th century urban police forces. The architectural styles and date of construction of many of the houses in the immediate vicinity illustrate the growth of the city at the end of the 19th century, enhancing understanding of the police station sited in their midst.

Despite alterations and additions to the building, the structure retains its pattern of round-arched openings and decorative stone and brickwork. Most of the changes to the exterior of the building and the upper floors of the interior are reversible and the original conditions can be easily discerned. Because the decorative detail of the facade is executed in stone and brick, the skilled workmanship is readily apparent. The scale of the building and vigor of the original design elements retain integrity of feeling and association. More importantly, sufficient fabric of the *tout ensemble* survives to illustrate both the physical relationship of public, private, training, and prisoner spaces in the building and the attention the City of Baltimore lavished on the design and construction of municipal buildings.

¹ This stone could have come from other building elements, such as the wagon house, that were removed for the alterations.

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)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1896-1951

Significant Dates

1896

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Jackson C. Gott, 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: _____

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SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Southern District Police Station, built in 1896, meets National Register Criterion A because of its locally significant association with the development of the Baltimore Police Department. The station is an important artifact of municipal expansion in Baltimore neighborhoods. Constructed at the dawn of an era of police reform, the building marks the implementation of new technology and ideology in police work. The building remained in use by the Baltimore Police Department until the mid 1980s, when it was sold to a local non-profit group. The Southern District Police Station remains as a significant reminder of municipal expansion and police reform ideals in Baltimore at the turn of the 19th century. It derives additional significance under Criterion C as an example of Romanesque Revival architecture.

NARRATIVE HISTORY

Baltimore Police History 1775-1875

Police departments, defined as “permanent agenc[ies] employing full-time officers who engage in continuous patrol of fixed beats to prevent crime,” evolved in the United States out of a watch system.² In 1775, a citizen night watch was organized in Baltimore, with a committee that is a direct ancestor of the Board of Police Commissioners to supervise the watch. Derived from the English organization, this system was characterized by limited police authority and local control. In 1784, the Maryland Assembly codified the night watch in Baltimore as a paid watch supervised by constables.

In the second quarter of the 19th century, the role of police shifted from reactive to proactive with crime prevention as the goal, under the influence of the English movement led by Sir Robert Poole. Continual police presence established authority by means of 24-hour patrols conducted by uniformed patrolmen organized in a quasi-military structure working out of district station houses. In 1826, the Baltimore police became a municipal body, when an ordinance handed jurisdiction to the mayor. Baltimore introduced the Eastern, Middle, and Western Districts at that time forming the foundation of the current territorial concept. In 1835, watch houses were constructed for the districts, each containing a cell or two and marked by a belfry, rendering the police presence visible in the neighborhoods. In February 1845, the Southern District was created by ordinance and the watch house followed. In 1853, around the clock policing was authorized. The patrol was conducted by 350 officers for a population of over 175,000 beginning in 1857, when Baltimore had the third police force in America to begin wearing uniforms.³

Local politics quickly infiltrated the Baltimore Police Department. The effectiveness of the Baltimore Police was undercut by a strong leadership affiliation with the anti-immigrant “Know Nothing” Party and Baltimore gained its “Mob Town” moniker, with riots marring elections throughout the 1850s. Since the police were primarily a political tool rather than a professional law enforcement agency, the constitution of the force and its relationship with the community changed with the prevailing political party, which diminished police authority. In 1860, management responsibility for the Police Department was transferred to the Board of the Police Commissioners, in the first effort to remove political influence.

In 1861, at the outset of the Civil War, the Baltimore police protected Union troops from mob attack as they traveled through Baltimore by train to Washington, D.C. The military, however, unofficially occupied Baltimore later that year for

² Samuel Walker, *A Critical History of Police Reform*, (Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, 1977), p. 3.

³ Eric Monkkonen, *Police in urban America: 1860-1920*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981), p.164.

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the course of the war when the political leadership of the city came at odds with the Union agenda. The Baltimore police department was essentially dormant until after 1867. Between 1870-75 Baltimore municipal construction rebounded strongly; at this point the architecturally imposing City Hall, Middle District, and Northwestern District police stations were built and the Southern, Eastern, and Western district stations were expanded.⁴

Municipal Expansion and the Baltimore Police Department

The Southern District Police Station, constructed in 1896, is representative of Baltimore's municipal expansion. Following the Civil War, the population of Baltimore grew 25% per decade to reach 500,000 residents in 1893.⁵ Police stations are an element of urban public works structures, defined as "physical structures and facilities developed or acquired by public agencies to house governmental functions and provide water, waste disposal, power, transportation and similar services to facilitate the achievement of common social and economic objectives."⁶ The public works systems, which public works buildings mark, developed hastily in response to the explosion in urban population in the last quarter of the 19th century and were often hazardously chaotic as public and private spheres divided and solidified. The growing municipal systems suffered a lack of funding, which was complicated by Baltimore's 1888 annexation of 23 square miles of suburban land. In order to pass the annexation, the city sold its tax privileges to the county for an area that needed a great deal of infrastructure.

At the end of the 19th century, the Baltimore Police Department had inadequate buildings and staff to handle the growth of land area, population, and development in the city. Baltimore constructed the previous wave of police buildings in the mid-19th century and policing had grown in all of the districts since their construction. In 1887 there were 575 patrolmen. Annexation added 45 men and the General Assembly added another 20 men in 1888, establishing a 640-man police force patrolling a population of 416,805, which equals one policeman to 651 male residents. The population swelled to 500,723 men by 1898; with the annex alone seeing a 70% increase between 1888 and 1898, from 35,980 to 61,371, creating a police/resident ratio reaching 1 to 800, which was a larger proportion than seen in other cities with similar populations in U.S. and Europe. Not only were the patrolmen expected to monitor a greater number of people, but they had to cover many more miles. The city encompassed a total of 514.38 miles of streets, alleys and 140,090 buildings as of April 1897 and the number of buildings in the annex increased from 10,448 to 14,715 between 1891 and 1898, with many additional miles of street and alleys.⁷ Police Commission requests for more officers were a constant refrain in the *Annual Reports* at the end of the 19th century.

Monumental Architecture and the Baltimore Police Department

In an era when a slowly growing police force was monitoring an exploding population, imposing police stations were a significant feature of the police department. The *Annual Report of the Board of Police Commissioners* notes the effect of the Southern District Police Station in the neighborhood:

⁴ *Baltimore Police 1797-1997*, (Paducah, KY: Turner Publishing, 1997), p. 19-32.

⁵ Sherry H. Olson, *Baltimore: The Building of an American City*, (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 2nd ed., 1997), p. 199.

⁶ Ann Durkin Keating, *Invisible Networks: Exploring the History of Local Utilities and Public Works*, (Malabar: Florida: Krieger Publishing Company, 1994), p.6.

⁷ Office Board of Police Commissioners for the City of Baltimore, *Report of the Board of Police Commissioner for the City of Baltimore to the General Assembly of Maryland for 1896 and 1897*, p.7-8.

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The new Southern District station-house is Romanesque in style of architecture, and while thoroughly and substantially built and completely equipped with points of advantage as suggested by experience in the erection of such buildings, it is ornamental as well, and quite an addition to the neighborhood in which it stands.⁸

The Romanesque Revival, which came into style in the 1870s, continued in popular use in 1896. The Romanesque Revival style is noted for the use of rounded arched openings set within a bold masonry mass, often delicately ornamented with a carved surface of foliated designs. The style was clearly perceived as appropriate for the Southern District Police Station, where the balance of substance and enrichment was important to public perception of the Baltimore Police Department.

Jackson Coale Gott designed the Southern District Police Station. A Baltimore native, Gott was born in 1829 on the Coale estate near Lake Roland. Gott initially apprenticed carpentry and following private study of architecture and a brief apprenticeship in an architectural office he established his own firm in 1863. Gott joined the American Institute of Architects in 1871 and was raised to Fellowship in 1889. His commission for the Southern District Police Station is typical of his body of work, which includes institutional, commercial, and industrial buildings such as the Maryland Penitentiary (1894), stations for the Western Maryland Railroad at Glyndon and Union Bridge (1894), and the Johnston and Rombro loft buildings (26-30 and 22-24 South Howard Street, 1880 and 1881). A lifetime bachelor, Gott lived in downtown residential hotels and kept offices at Paca Street (1863-1866), N. Greene Street (1867-1870), and Charles and Fayette streets (1872-1899). He died in 1909 at the apartment of his sisters in the Bristol Apartments in Bolton Hill, Baltimore. At the time of his death, he was recognized as the “dean of Baltimore architects.”⁹

Police Reform and the Baltimore Police Department

The Southern District Police station is a physical manifestation of the turn-of-the-century revolution in police work that was coupled with the need for a larger police force. The Southern District Police Station was a monumental building denoting a police presence and housing specialized spaces for police work. The main goal of police department reformers in 1896 was to bolster the legitimacy of the police by distinguishing them from the population they were monitoring. Reformers worked to limit the societal role of the police to crime prevention and detection, eliminate the influence of politics in creating a police force, integrate new technology in police work and officer supervision, and professionalize the police force through hiring and training practices.

Social service, crime prevention, and officer health

In 19th century cities, prior to institutionalized social services, police were a crucial social welfare institution. As Baltimore grew, the police provided overnight lodging in the station houses for a growing indigent population. The reformers worked to eliminate housing of homeless people in police stations because they felt that it was an impediment to police focus on scientific crime prevention, an inappropriate environment for policemen where they closely associated with an undesirable population, and a breeding ground for disease that would infect the officers. In 1870, Baltimore’s

⁸ Report of the Board of Police Commissioner for the City of Baltimore to the General Assembly of Maryland for 1896 and 1897, p. 12.

⁹ Maryland Historical Trust and Commission on Historic and Architectural Preservation file on Jackson C. Gott.

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Station houses lodged 14,532 people overnight; male and female, black and white, in addition to prisoners; by 1893 this number had grown to 39,976. Chapter 150 of the Laws of 1888 provided for the appointment of three police physicians who, in addition to examining new recruits and caring for police officers injured in the line of duty, visited every officer who was absent from his duties due to illness and recorded the type and cause of ailment found.¹⁰ In 1896, Superintendent of the Brooklyn police, W. J. McKelvey, clearly stated at the annual convention of the National Association of Police Chiefs that new police roles required a change in police stations:

How different are the sanitary conditions of the police stations [than they were 30 years ago]. Prisons and lodging rooms were located in the cellars, policemen slept in rooms poorly ventilated.... They were forced to sleep in an atmosphere poisoned with the rankest effluvia from the cells and lodging rooms. How changed are the conditions now. Their sleeping rooms are spacious, clean and well ventilated. Most of the houses are new and built on plans approved by the health department, with a cubic air space which guarantees a supply of wholesome air to every man. The prisons are distinct from the main building and the men's quarters are equipped with plunge and shower baths, lavatories and other conveniences of first-class hotels. These improvements have caused a positive gain to the city and a decrease of sickness. There is a falling off of sixty per cent in the sick leave now.¹¹

This shift is visible in the Southern District Police Station, which housed the cellblock in a separate annex. In 1897, the year the Southern District Police Station opened, the police, citywide, provided overnight lodging for only 54 indigent people. At the opening of the Southern District Police Station the captain "pointed out the many advantages to the new building and told the men, above all things, to preserve its cleanliness."¹²

The Police Commissioners gave an explanation for the change that focused on controlling the numbers of indigent persons coming to Baltimore:

It became apparent...that this form of encouragement of the tramp element tended to make this State and city particularly attracted [sic] to this class.... This system drew numbers of persistent mendicants, among whom were criminals.... ...modification of this hospitality was necessary, and, except in extraordinary instances, applicants for lodgings as the station-houses were referred to the charity association homes,¹³

noted the *Annual Report of Baltimore Police Commissioners, 1902-1903*.

Technology

Increased supervision of police staff within the decentralized structure of the police organization was another benchmark of the reformation. The Baltimore Police Chief, with offices downtown, was unable to supervise captains effectively at the district station houses. Captains, in turn, were isolated from the patrolmen out on their beats. Police behavior,

¹⁰ *Report of the Board Commissioners of the City of Baltimore to the General Assembly of Maryland, 1889-1890*, p. 16.

¹¹ W. J. McKelvey, in *Proceedings of the Third Annual Convention of the National Association of Chiefs of Police in the United States and Canada*, Atlanta, GA, May 12-14, 1896 from *Proceedings of the Annual Conventions of the International Association of Chiefs of Police: 1893-1905*, Vol. 1 (New York: Arno Press and the New York Times, 1971) in *The Role of Police in American Society: a documentary history*, (Westport CT: Greenwood Press, 1999), p. 60.

¹² "Southern Police Station: Officers Take Possession of Their Spick-and-Span New Quarters on Ostend Street," *Baltimore Sun*, February 2, 1897, p. 6.

¹³ *Report of the Board Commissioners of the City of Baltimore to the General Assembly of Maryland, 1902-1903*, p. 12.

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therefore, was primarily defined by the interaction between individual officers and individual citizens.¹⁴ Two technological advances of the 1880's, the telephone and the patrol wagon, reduced this seclusion and enforced systematic police work. The Baltimore Police integrated call-boxes, telephones placed on corners, and patrol wagons in 1885. The Annual Report notes:

The steady growth and development of the city, and rapid building up of hitherto unimproved sections, so taxed the resources of the Force, that the Board determined to supply the deficiency in the number of men, with the Police-Alarm-Telephone and Patrol-Wagon Service.... By this means offenders when arrested are sent to the Station-house without necessitating the policeman leaving his post; officers are required to report constantly the condition of affairs on their posts, thus insuring better service....¹⁵

The Southern District Police Station was organized to accommodate these new systems. According to the recollection and sketched floorplan provided by officers who served in the Southern District in the 1950s, communication and supervision spaces were located immediately inside the front door (see attached diagram). The original sergeants' desk, with connections to the call boxes, was located just inside the main entry, directly across from the roll-call room, where each officer reported at the beginning and end of his shift. The captain's office overlooked both of these spaces.¹⁶ The stables and yard for the patrol wagon were attached to the holding block for ease of prisoner transport.

Segregating the police officers from the general population and creating an impression of objectivity of the law was essential to the reform movement. Since, the "crime" problem was largely one of social control, it was crucial to try to dissociate the police force from criminal activities.¹⁷ Baltimore police officers faced fines and trials for violation of rules such as sleeping, smoking, drinking, unofficerlike conduct on duty, and feigning illness to escape duty. Division from the masses was also advanced through the use of technology. Implementation of the call-box and patrol wagon allowed the officers to transport prisoners above the throng of the pedestrian population. The first history of the Baltimore Police, published in 1888, comments on the use of the call box:

It establishes a thorough, business-like way of handling a police department – vigilance, efficiency and discipline.... Electricity is the one thing that criminals most dread. It circumvents all their skill and cunning....¹⁸

In 1896, Brooklyn Police Superintendent McKelvey noted at the Annual Convention for Police Chiefs, that removing the policeman from the street often elevated his behavior:

...An officer [previously] was forced to lug his tipsy prisoner on a wheelbarrow for miles sometimes to the station.

Since the advent of the patrol wagon the once not infrequent clubbing by policemen is almost a thing of the past. The policeman is longer required to pull and haul his prisoner through the public streets, collecting a rabble on the

¹⁴ Samuel Walker, *A Critical History of Police Reform*, (Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, 1977), pp. 13-14.

¹⁵ *Report of the Board Commissioners of the City of Baltimore to the General Assembly of Maryland*, 1884-1885, p. 13.

¹⁶ Spatial analyses based on a diagram drawn by Officer C. F. White (retired), Curator of the Baltimore Police Department Museum, who began service in the Southern District in 1953. Officer White also consulted Officer Julius Neveker, Baltimore's oldest active officer who started working as a clerk at the Southern District Police Station as a teenager prior to 1953.

¹⁷ Walker, p. 24.

¹⁸ De Francois Folsom, *Our Police*, (Baltimore: J. M. Beers, 1888), p. 474.

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way. The mob in the old days derided and exasperated the officer to such a degree that he frequently lost both temper and judgment and then somebody was clubbed.¹⁹

Training

Specialized training was necessary to professionalize the police department. Police training at the end of the 19th century focused on teaching local ordinances and methodologies at the beginning of the career and continual physical education, designed to give the officers an intellectual and physical advantage over the public. The Baltimore Police Academy was located in the Northern District Police Station, in Hampden, completed in 1899. Each new police station incorporated a gymnasium. *Our Police* promotes the positive influence of physical training:

...There is no dispute regarding the leading influence which systematic physical training has had in bringing about the present great results. As their gymnasium exercise made them healthful and good-natured, the springing up of the new fellowship and athletic rivalry seemed to brighten their wits and smooth the roughness of their manners, besides inciting them to observe more propriety about their dress.

The competency of a police officer...is often measured by the rarity with which he uses his club. In many precincts clubbing is practically done away with, for when an officer is sure he can hold his man he will rarely draw his club....²⁰

The room that was originally used as the gymnasium of the Southern District Police Station is located in a prominent space in the front of the building on the second floor and occupies a double-height space.

Conclusion

The Southern District Police Station survives as an important physical reminder of municipal expansion and police reform ideals in Baltimore at the turn of the 19th century. Despite alterations, the Southern District Police Station retains its distinctive form, recognizable as a turn of the century police station. Although the building has had several eras of renovations as the requirements of the Police Department changed and the building gained a new use as the headquarters for several non-profit activities, the monumental architectural expression remains and the building maintains a robust presence in a neighborhood characterized by rowhouses. Furthermore, the interior arrangement of the building that established specific zones for police practices is still legible in features such as the gymnasium and wing for the holding cells.

The period of significance, 1896-1951, begins with the construction of the building and ends with a date fifty years in the past, following current National Register conventions.

¹⁹ McKelvey, pp. 60, 61.

²⁰ Folsom, p. 423, 460.

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Vertical Files. Commission on Historic and Architectural Preservation Archives. Baltimore, Maryland.

Vertical Files. Enoch Pratt Free Library, Main Branch, Maryland Room. Baltimore, Maryland.

Vertical Files. Maryland Historic Trust. Crownsville, Maryland.

Walker, Samuel. *A Critical History of Police Reform: The Emergence of Professionalism*. Lexington, Massachusetts: Lexington Books, 1977.

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White, C. F., Police Officer (retired), interviews conducted by Jennifer Goold, June 21, July 31 and August 3, 2001.

--. *The Police in America: an Introduction*. New York: McGraw Hill, 2nd ed., 1992.

South Baltimore Police Station (B-4289)
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 0.2 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1 8 Zone	3 6 0 8 5 0 Easting	4 3 4 8 3 2 0 Northing	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 Jennifer Goold & Betty Bird

Organization Betty Bird & Associates date July 1, 2001

street & number 2607 24th St., Suite 3 telephone 202-588-9033

city or town Washington D.C. state N/A zip code 20008

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 South Baltimore Learning Corporation

street & number 28 East Ostend Street telephone 410-625-4215

city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21230

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.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The property is known as Lot 13 as shown on the Plat for Ward 23, Block 965, as recorded in the Plat Records of Baltimore City.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary corresponds with the present legal description of the record lot occupied by the Southern District Police Station, and comprises the single city lot historically associated with the resource.