

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

VICINITY OF

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

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

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.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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	<u>18</u>	<u>36,020,0</u>	<u>4,35,01,40</u>	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

William N. Pearce
SHPO

4/14/77
DATE

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Charles A. Harris

DATE

10/6/77

DATE

5.21.77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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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 brownstone 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, trumpets, 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 pamphlet 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.