

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland	
COUNTY: Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 8 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Baltimore City Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
City Hall

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
100 North Holliday Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore

STATE Maryland	CODE 24	COUNTY: Baltimore City	CODE 510
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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:
Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall, 100 North Holliday Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore

STATE:
Maryland

CODE:
24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hall of Records

STREET AND NUMBER:
St. John's College Campus, College Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Annapolis

STATE:
Maryland

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Maryland Historical Trust

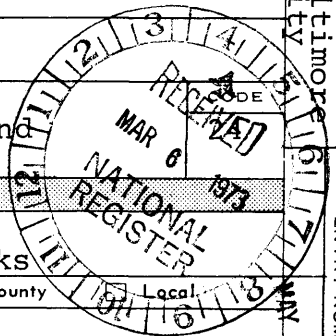
STREET AND NUMBER:
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Annapolis

STATE:
Maryland

CODE:
24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



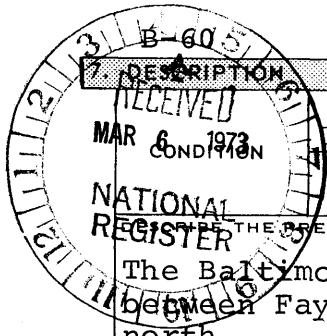
STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Baltimore City

ENTRY NUMBER: 8

DATE: MAY 8 1973

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DESCRIPTION		(Check One)	
RECEIVED MAR 6 1973 CONDITION	<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 type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Baltimore City Hall is located at 100 North Holliday Street between Fayette Street on the south and Lexington Street on the north.

"The design for the City Hall consists of a center structure four stories high, surmounted by a dome and flanked by three-story wings connected laterally to the main element. The center is finished with a plain pediment, originally designed to contain a frieze representing Trade, Commerce, and the Arts, but never executed. The other portions of the building are capped by a mansard roof. Each story is well marked by strong projecting cornices, as well as a broken balustrade, which forms horizontal divisions between the stories and at the base of the roof.

"The exterior foundation walls, which are five feet six inches thick, are built of Falls Road bluestone to within 18 inches of the ground. All of the interior walls are of dark red or arch brick, varying in thickness from two feet six inches to seven feet. The widest dimension occurs at the base of the dome where the foundation walls support the central mass.

"Above ground, all of the exterior walls are faced with Baltimore County marble, a type of white magnesia limestone referred to as Beaver Dam Marble. The stone was obtained from the John B. Connolly quarries, located near Cockeysville. The basement story is heavily rusticated, and contains four sets of four double-recessed, arched windows. The center section was designed to include five doorways, but at present only the middle one is in use. Bronze doors had been planned by the architect, but the building committee decided upon the use of less-expensive mahogany. The doors were designed and carved by J. M. Sudsberg, with the center one bearing the seal of Baltimore and the Battle Monument. The bronze doorknobs also feature the city seal.

"The first, second, and third stories are relieved by projecting pilasters, and fully-detached columns which flank each of the deeply recessed windows. The windows are surmounted by semi-circular archivolt and elaborate keystones. The mansard roof, which is of slate secured by iron purlins, contains dormer windows constructed of marble. Three dormers are grouped on each wing of the main facade, the larger central ones having arched windows, while the others form the shape of elongated ovoids. The corners of the roof on the projecting wings are crowned with ornamental posts which emphasize the vertical element in the structure. *JW*

"The basement floor of the central section of the facade contains a portico, above which are six fluted composite columns with pilasters of the same order behind them. The columns on

-see continuation sheet-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

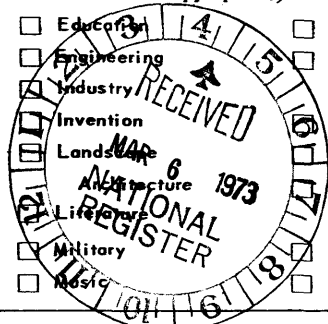
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century
- 19th Century
- 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1867-1875

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/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>history of</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Baltimore</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Lands | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Baltimore City Hall is one of the early examples of French Renaissance Revival architecture in the United States.

George A. Frederick (1842-1924), an important but little studied Maryland architect, designed the City Hall when he was only twenty-two years of age.

The French Renaissance-Revival-style is commonly associated with Alfred B. Mullett, Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department in Washington, D. C., and with the buildings to his credit, such as the Executive Office Building in Washington and the old post office in St. Louis. The latter is currently (1971) the object of strong preservation efforts. Mullett's buildings and John McArthur, Jr.'s date from the 1870's. In contrast, the Baltimore City Hall was designed in the mid-1860's--one of the first Renaissance-Revival buildings in the country. Frederick cannot be given the credit for introducing the style in America, however. It must go to James A. Renwick and the art gallery he designed for W. W. Corcoran, now the Renwick Building, in Washington, D. C., as well as a building at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York, and the 1862 Boston City Hall in Boston, Massachusetts.

The Baltimore City Hall was the first commission of a twenty-four year old architect who had just begun his architectural practice in 1862. A native of Baltimore, George A. Frederick studied architecture as a draughtsman for the Baltimore, Maryland, architectural firm of E. G. Lind and William T. Murdock. The city hall competition in 1864 launched his career which lasted until 1903. Frederick's other work for the City of Baltimore consists chiefly of park furniture, pavillions and gates. Frederick designed churches, public buildings and hospitals. His numerous private houses include Cylburn House (National Register), a Renaissance Revival mansion and a part of the Baltimore City Park System. Frederick was selected to work on the restoratonn of the Maryland State House in Annapolis, indicating his high standing among his contemporaries.

The City Hall holds a unique place in the history of American public buildings. The total expenditure for the building, -see continuation sheet-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Recorder: Nancy Miller, Historian, Maryland Historical Trust, 2525 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Lehman, Donald J., Architectural Historian, Public Buildings Service, General Services Administration, Washington, D. C. Interview, November 29, 1971.

Lehman, Donald J. Executive Office Building. General Services Administration Historical Study No. 3. Washington: -see continuation sheet-

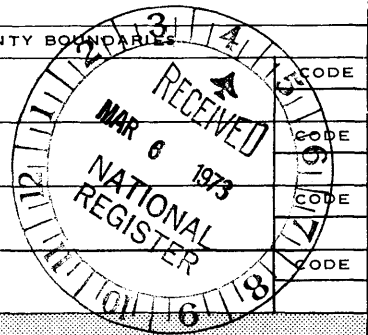
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		39 17 26	76 36 40	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .9 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Arthur Townsend, Associate Director, and staff

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: June 20, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Orlando Ridout IV</u> <u>Orlando Ridout IV</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer for Maryland</u></p> <p>Date <u>June 20, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Robert M. Utley</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date <u>5/8/73</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>W. M. [Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>4 30 73</u></p>
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

MAY 8 1973

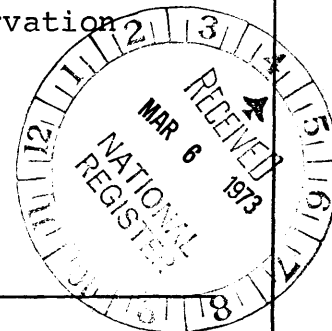
(Number all entries)

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS, continued

Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

1971 state x local x

Room 402, Baltimore City Hall
100 North Holliday Street
Baltimore, Maryland 24



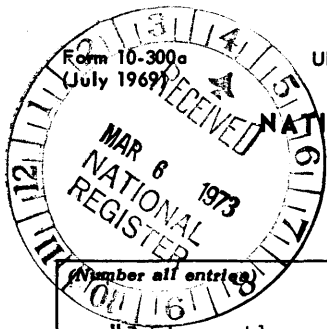
7. DESCRIPTION, continued

the Holliday Street facade are monoliths and support a cornice and balustraded parapet, which forms a spacious balcony on the second story.

"The base of the tower, which rises behind the central section of the main facade, is constructed of marble to the height of the colonnade. From this point to the finial of the dome iron was employed, and 12 cast iron columns support the dome on the interior. Housed within the uppermost portion of the dome is a massive alarm bell. The first one, nicknamed "Big Sam," weighed 6,000 pounds, but in 1889 it developed a crack and was replaced in September of that year by "Lord Baltimore," the present 7,403 pound bell.

"On the interior of the building all of the first floor offices are designed with lofty ceilings, giving the illusion that they are two stories in height. The second floor, rather than the third as in Mr. Marshall's plan, was designated as a grand hall, later becoming an armory for the National Guard. Rising through the center of the structure, the rotunda has a diameter of 44 feet at its base and a height of 119 feet three inches. In its uppermost portion, four figures representing Commerce, Agriculture, Manufactures, and the Arts are colored on glass which fits into the interior dome. Horizontal divisions of the rotunda agree with the heights of the different stories, with walls on each floor being divided into eight parts. The architectural order of the first story is Roman Doric; of the second, Roman Ionic; and of the third, Roman Corinthian. The rotunda is made of Scagliola, a type of hard, polished plaster work imitating marble. It is also of different varieties, with that of the first floor simulating marble from Tennessee; the second, Lisbon; and the third, Siena.

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 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE		Maryland	
COUNTY		Baltimore City	
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	MAY 8 1973		

"After the city hall design had been approved, and bids based on these plans had been advertised, a Building Committee was appointed by Mayor Chapman in the spring of 1867. One of the first acts of the Committee was the selection of Frederick as Consulting Architect, to assist in carrying out his own plans. On October 18, 1867, the cornerstone was laid with elaborate ceremonies, and during the following year the cellar was excavated, some of the foundation walls erected, and the new City Hall seemed well on its way to completion.

"But in the summer of 1869, the ugly charge of "fraud" was publicly hurled at the Building Committee, and on September 28 of that year the members of the committee were asked to resign their positions. This action followed a thorough investigation of the charges, which had to do with the awarding of the building material contracts for marble, brick, lumber, and cement. . . .

"During the 75 years since its completion, the appearance of the City Hall has remained relatively unchanged. The only extensive repairs were executed in 1928, after an inspection of the building had disclosed the total disintegration of a number of marble balusters, dentils, and other small ornamental pieces. The damage was attributed to a strong cleaning acid which had been used on the exterior of the building some years before.

"The City Hall's existence was endangered in 1904, when the Great Fire came to within a block of the building. It was threatened even more recently when the City Comptroller, in 1944, suggested that a new City Hall be erected on the same site."¹

¹Bernard B. Perlman, "The City Hall, Baltimore," Maryland Historical Magazine, Vol. XLVII (1952), 50-53.

8. SIGNIFICANCE, continued

including fees, interior furnishings and landscaping, amounted to \$2,271,135.64, \$200,000 under the appropriation.

Frederick's building was Baltimore's first City Hall. Since the 1790's the Baltimore government had been housed in converted quarters. From 1823 to 1830, the city government had rented space in the Baltimore Exchange, designed by Benjamin H. La-

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(Number all entries)

trobe. In 1830, the city government bought Peale's Museum and Gallery of Fine Arts, designed by Robert Cary Long, Sr., to be used as office space. Thirty years later the city held the first competition for designs for a city hall. The winning design never left the drawing board. A second competition failed to produce a building. The third competition in 1864 had two entrants, Thomas S. Goodwin and George A. Frederick.

Actual construction did not begin until 1867 owing to the Civil War. The building was completed in 1875.

The ironwork for the Baltimore City Hall staircase and dome was the work of Wendel Bollman, inventor of the Bollman truss, an innovational bridging principle used by nineteenth-century railroad companies.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, continued

General Services Administration, 1970.

Perlman, Bernard B. "The City Hall, Baltimore." Maryland Historical Magazine. Vol. XLVII (1952), 40-54.

Wodehouse, Lawrence. "John McArthur, Jr. (1823-1900)." Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians. Vol. XXVIII (December 1969), 271-283.

