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

histori	c				
and/or	common	Little Montgo	omery Street Histor	cic District	
2.	Loca	tion			
street	& number	West Montgome	ery Street and Lead	lenhall Street≶, _	not for publication
city, to	wn	Baltimore	vicinity of	congressional district	
state		Marvland code	24 county	Baltimare (ind city)	code 510
3.	Clas	sification			
st	strict Jilding(s) ructure	Ownership public Xprivate Xboth Public Acquisition in process being considered	Status <u>X</u> occupied <u>X</u> unoccupied <u>X</u> work in progress Accessible <u>yes: restricted</u> <u>X</u> yes: unrestricted <u>no</u>	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park x private residence religious scientific transportation other:
	& number				
city, to 5.		tion of Lega	al Description	state	
		try of deeds, etc.	Baltimore City Co	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
street &	& number				
city, to	wn	Baltimore		state	Maryland
6.	Repr	esentation i	in Existing	Surveys	
title	5	l Historical Trust c Sites Survey	has this pro	perty been determined ele	gible? <u>X</u> yes no
date	1981			federalX_ state	e county loca
deposit	tory for sur	vey records Maryland	Historical Trust		
city, to	wn	Annapolis		state	Maryland

7. Description

X good

fair

excellent

Check one deteriorated _ unaltered X_ altered

Check one $\frac{X}{2}$ original site moved date

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY ON CONTINUATION SHEET #8

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

ruins

unexposed

The Little Montgomery Street Historic District is a residential area located in South Baltimore a few blocks to the southwest of the Inner Harbor area. It is composed of approximately fifteen nineteenth century brick houses, some of which are double, that line the 100 block of West Montgomery Street and the northwestern portion of the 800 block of Leadenhall Street. The district is located in the present Ward 22 of Baltimore city and includes parts of blocks 896, 902, and 903. Immediately to the north of the district is vacant land along both sides of Hughes Street with the Otterbein Homesteading area further north. To the west of the district is more vacant land that is to be developed as single family townhouses. Bordering the south side of the district on the west side of Leadenhall Street is a mid twentieth century industrial structure. To the east of Leadenhall Street south of the district is a parking lot for the new St. Martini Lutheran Church at Hanover and Henrietta Streets. Immediately to the east of the Little Montgomery Street Historic District is a concrete block commercial building and related parking area, both of which front on Hanover Street.

Nine of the structures are 'half houses' that are only one room deep with a single pitch roof. The house at 117 West Montgomery Street, one of these nine, was built circa 1820 and is the oldest remaining building in the Sharp-Leadenhall area. It is uncommon, being that it is three bays wide instead of the normal two. Originally a 21/2 storey house, the roof was raised to a slighter higher pitch thereby allowing small attic-style windows on the third floor. The interior of the house is almost completely intact with the original mantlepiece, chair rail, window frames and trim and cupboards. This house is the only structure in the area that appears on the Poppleton Map of 1823 and still remains. A later nineteenth century addition is attached to the rear of the house.

The north side of Montgomery Street is lined with four pairs of semi-detached half houses. Because the property lines for these lots were projected from the street grid to the north, the fronts of these houses do not parallel with Montgomery Street. All built at the same time, circa 1835 for freed blacks from the Otterbein area to the north, there were originally six pairs of these houses. Of the eight houses that remain, only one, #108, has been altered significantly. All are laid in common bond and are 2¹/₂ stories high and two bays wide. All but 108 have the original dormers. The houses at 110 and 112 have been restored on the exterior. The building at 108 was altered sometime in the late nineteenth century to a full three floors with a simple wood cornice. It is currently under restoration to the original appearance.

Located at the southeast corner of Leadenhall and Montgomery Streets are 109-113 West Montgomery. The three buildings are very similar in style and size but were built individually. Number 113 was built circa 1845 as a store and residence and still remains as one today. It has been owned by the present family since the turn of the century. Like 113, 109 was also built as a store in 1849. The middle dwelling was built in 1848. All three buildings are two bays wide and are two storeys with low attics. The exterior of 109 has been restored to the original appearance. The facade of 113 is circa 1980.

8. Significance

B-1400

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899 X 1900–	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below archeology-prehistoric conservation landscape architection archeology-historic conservation law agriculture conservation literature architecture education military art engineering music communications Xindustry politics/governmer invention invention	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899	archeology-prehistoric community planning landscape architection architecture conservation law art education music commerce exploration/settlement philosophy communications Xindustry politics/governmer	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

Applicable criteria: C

The Little Montgomery Street Historic District draws significance from two sources. First, as the earliest and only coherent remnant of the Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhood in South Baltimore, the Little Montgomery Street Historic District is associated with a working class urban community where, throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Baltimore's native poor, struggling German and Irish immigrants, and freed southern blacks lived side by side competing for the same space and the same railroad and port-related jobs. By the 1890s, the twenty-four blocks of Sharp-Leadenhall were a thriving residential-industrial community with three chruches, three public schools, a police station, and dozens of major and minor manufactories. Secondly, the Little Montgomery Street Historic District also achieves significance through the collection of buildings which are examples of a type of early and midnineteenth century vernacular architecture in Baltimore. All the buildings are small in scale and of brick construction, abut the sidewalks, are closely spaced, and are generally two to three stories high with two bay facades.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Little Montgomery District is a distinct part of the South Baltimore peninsula. Originally the northernmost portion of the Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhood, it is the earliest and the only coherent part of that neighborhood that is still intact. Urban renewal and highway construction resulted in the demolition of much of Sharp-Leadenhall in the two block wide corridor south of Henrietta Street. This along with the clearing of the east side of Leadenhall Street north of Henrietta has resulted in the isolation of Little Montgomery from the remains of the old community, now three blocks to the south. New housing, now under construction in the blocks between will strengthen the isolation to a point where no ties will remain. Although Little Montgomery was slated for demolition in the early 1970s, preservations kept these buildings along with those along Montgomery Street east of Hanover from the wrecking ball. The plans for the highway that was to follow the bed of Montgomery Street were scrapped. This occurred. unfortunately, after its residents were forced to leave in the mid 1970s. The condemned buildings became city properties until they were auctioned to private owners in 1978-1980. In accepting these houses, the owners have agreed to restore the exteriors of the houses along strict guidelines. A design review committee has been set up by the city to review all exterior plans for these buildings. The retention of as much of the original building facade as is feasible is required. New elements are to duplicate unusable or missing pieces of the facade. Cosmetic changes that are not harmonious to the original style of the buildings must be removed. These guidelines assure the retention of the original fabric of the area. Being included in this Montgomery Urban Renewal Area, Little Montgomery will be preserved as it stands today.

Being the only substantial remains of the Sharp-Leadenhall neighborhood, these buildings intimately share its past. Settled by German immigrants and freed Blacks in the early to mid-nineteenth century, Sharp-Leadenhall became a neighborhood where the two very distinct groups lived side by side. In his 1976 Sharp-Leadenhall Survey

9. Major Bibli graphical Reference

B-1400

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10. Geographical Data	NERELEE !!	
Acreage of nominated property <u>approximately 2</u>	acres	
Quadrangle name <u>Baltimore East</u> , Maryland	Qu.	adrangle scale <u>1:24000</u>
UMT References	UNIX NOT VEDICIS	Ϊ. Π
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c 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		
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/erbal boundary description and justification		······································
The boundaries for this nomination are labeled "Boundary Map" and drawn to a s See Continuation Sheet #4 for justif List all states and counties for properties overlap	cale of 1" = 40'.	:
state code	county	code
state code	county	code
name/tile Robert Mitchell Quilter		1 1001
organization	(3	orch 1981 001) 396-1120 001) 685-8725
rganization treet & number 806 Leadenhall Street	(3	01) 396-1120 01) 685-8725
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Continuation sheet	Item number	4	Page 1
Baltimo	Little Montgomery Street Historic Dis re city Maryland	strict	:
OWNER OF PROPERTY			
West Montgomery Stree	t		
106	Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Landrum 5626 Thicket Lane Columbia, Maryland 21044		
108	Roland A. Brown, Jr., 108 West Montgomery Street Baltimore, Maryland 2123 0		
109	Richard J. Waldman 109 W. Montgomery Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230		202–566–3620
110	Joyce E. Leviton 110 W. Montgomery Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230		•
111	Lawrence E. Heck 511 S. Sharp Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230		837–2045
112	Shareholders Industries, Inc. P. O. Box 13001 Baltimore, Maryland 21203		
113	Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Shemer 113 W. Montgomery Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230		
114	Calvert McCabe 114 West Montgomery Street Baltimore, Maryland 2123 0		
116	Leo J. Baumgarten 116 W. Montgomery Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230		
117	Robert A. Wyatt 4601 Forest View Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21206		1-652-7035 866-8437
118/120	Noel J. List 120 Ridervale Road Baltimore, Maryland 21204		

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



ntinuation sheet	Item number 4	Page 2
Name: Little Mon Baltimore city Maryland	tgomery Street Historic District	
OWNER OF PROPERTY		
West Montgomery Street	•	
119	Mary E. Lapides 216 Goodale Road Baltimore, Maryland 21212	272–3720 532–8197
121/123	Mayor & City Council 222 East Saratoga Street, Rm. 530 Baltimore, Maryland 21202	
125	Mayor & City Council 222 East Saratoga Street, Rm. 53 Baltimore, Maryland 21202	0
127	James W. Smith 114-B Cross Keys Road Baltimore, Maryland 21210	752–6760 532–7475
129	Mayor and City Council 222 East Saratoga Street, Room 53 Baltimore, Maryland 21202	0
Leadenhall Street		
800	Stephen M. Broache and Miriam Boy 800 Leadenhall Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230	er 752-1891 752-2017
802	Alan R. Engel 3220 Guilford Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21218	685–4797 383–8173
804	Earl D. Lowery 20 804 Leadenhall Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230	2-566-4335
806	Robert M. Quilter 806 Leadenhall Street Baltimore, Maryland 21230	396–1120 685–8725
808		2-387-1327 2-387-7680

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Name: Little Montgomery Street Historic District City: Baltimore State: Maryland

DESCRIPTION

Continuation sheet

The five dwellings on the west side of Leadenhall Street were also built individually with the exception of 802-804 which was erected as a double house. Number 808 Leadenhall Street is a two-bay, three-storey dwelling built in 1849, originally as a two storey and low attic house. The roof was raised between 1876 and 1898 to create a full third floor. A wood bracketed cornice with ventilator panels was added at that time. Built in 1852, 806 is a two-bay, two-storey and attic dwelling. Like all of the other buildings on Leadenhall Street it has segmental arched brick lintels and typanums and wood sills. This house has 3/6 lights in the third floor which is lower than the neighboring buildings. The building has been restored on the exterior. Numbers 802-804 Leadenhall were built together in 1861 and are similar to 806 except for their full third floor height. Built in 1855 as a store and residence, 800 Leadenhall is similar to 802-804 and includes a two storey later addition to the rear.

Item number

Number 119 West Montgomery Street is two storeys in height and three bays wide. The front of this building has been rebuilt to match the original frontwhich was in unstable condition. Numbers 121-123 West Montgomery Street, like 119, was built around the turn of the century replacing earlier houses. It is four bays wide on the second floor and has a large opening, a window and a door on the first floor. It was used as a garage and funeral home. Numbers 125-127 were built in the late nineteenth century and are two bays wide and two storeys plus attic in height. The windows have segmental arched openings with corbelled arches in relief. The building at 129 West Montgomery was built circa 1875 and is two bays wide and three storeys high. The original storefront has been filled in but the metal dentilled cornice remains intact. The windows on the second and third floors of the building are headed by wood lintels with wave-like relief. A bracketed cornice with ventilator panels is located at the roofline.

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Continuation sheet

Item number

1.

Name: Little Montgomery Street Historic District City: Baltimore State: Maryland

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Although the Little Montgomery Street Historic District is included within the boundaries of the larger Federal Hill-Riverside Park Historic District determined eligible for listing in the National Register in 1977, it is being nominated separately from the larger Determination of Eligibility district because Little Montgomery Street is a separate unit to itself. This separateness is created by visual and physical features which also determine the district boundaries. 1. The Little Montgomery Street Historic District is surrounded on almost all sides by vacant land (see boundary map) that clearly sets the district apart from the larger district. Most of the vacant land had buildings standing upon it when the determination was made. 2. Montgomery Street in the Little Montgomery Street Historic District is different in size and plan from that in the larger district where it is a five-lane avenue fifty feet wide following the grid of downtown Baltimore and most of South Baltimore. In the Little Montgomery Street Historic District, Montgomery Street is only twenty feet wide and eskewed twenty-four degrees to the grid of the surrounding areas. 3. The Little Montgomery Street Historic District also has a scale more intimate than most of the Federal Hill-Riverside Park Historic District. The buildings in the Little Montgomery Street area tend to be smaller and more consistant in scale and design than those of the surrounding regions.

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Name: Little Montgomery Street Historic District City: Baltimore State: Maryland

SIGNIFICANCE

Continuation sheet

for Baltimore's Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP), Mr. William Pencek wrote of its history:

". . . Sharp-Leadenhall managed to come into its own as an identifiable area in South Baltimore between 1860 and 1875, a neighborhood of Blacks, Germans, and native whites of the laboring class, with strong links to the port, to Camden Station, and to the manufactories that had begun to line the tracks of the B&O. Previously dependent on the schools and churches of the similarly composed neighborhoods to the north, east and west, Sharp-Leadenhall residents began to build supporting institutions for themselves.".

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He then goes on to say:

". . The period between 1875 and 1900, rather than marking a time of stability for the neighborhood, brought only greater pressures. By 1890, the older housing in the blocks north of Hamburg Street were sheltering great numbers of the new waves of the Polish Jews and Italian immigrants, as well as the existing Negro and German population. Businesses, manufactories, and lumber and coal yards competed for the residential space, which was already densely settled. But some of the same systems which were at work in antebellum Sharp-Leadenhall held through the turn of the century. The black population, always the most economically depressed, was always the last to leave.".

The Little Montgomery District was the earliest development in Sharp-Leadenhall and experienced all of the developments that Mr. Pencek mentions. The pairs of double houses on the north side of Montgomery Street were built for freed blacks from the Otterbein area to the north around 1835 (also substantiated by Mr. Pencek). The houses on Leadenhall Street and the south side of Montgomery were built mostly by German imigrants between 1845 and 1861. These houses replaced earlier frame houses that were at the corner of Leadenhall and Montgomery as early as 1823. Mostly built as owner occupied houses, they became rental properties for the most part by the twentieth century - the tenants black.

The Little Montgomery District, too, had the influence of the larger industrial uses that crept into Sharp-Leadenhall by the late nineteenth century. The box factory that is presently on the west side of Leadenhall Street next to the district was built in 1899 and was enlarged after 1950. This establishment was the third manufactory on the site. Between the Civil War and 1899 a four storey planing mill and related facilities was located on the site. This replaced an earlier foundry complex that was in existence before 1845. There is presently talk of the AFL-CIO expanding it planned complex straddling Sharp Street directly to the west to include the demolition of the box factory for new facility space.

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Name: Little Montgomery Street Historic District City: Baltimore State: Maryland

SIGNIFICANCE

Continuation sheet

The portion of West Montgomery Street that lies in the district has a history of its own that is significant to Baltimore. It was originally a line that was part of the southern boundary of John Howard's "Howard's Timber Neck" which was patented in 1667.

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This area then became part of Ridgely's Delight when it was passed into the Ridgely family. Sometime before 1800 the northern part which included the Little Montgomery District was sold to John McDonough. John McDonough, who began as a bricklayer, built a fortune and reputation from various building projects he had done. At that time he established his residence on Timber Neck Lane near the corner of the present Leadenhall Street. This site falls on the south side of present day Montgomery Street and within the boundaries of the Little Montgomery Historic District. Timber Neck Lane was the earliest name given to what is presently Montgomery Street between Sharp and Hanover. Until 1816 it served as the southern boundary of the city. John McDonough died in 1811. His land was auctioned off and during that same year it was surveyed for streets. It was at this time that the Sharp-Leadenhall brid was laid out, using the only street at that time, Timber Neck Lane, as the basis for the new street pattern. Because of the angling of Timber Neck Lane, the grid became eskewed from the existing street pattern in Baltimore.

As time wore on, Timber Neck Lane came to be known as Little Montgomery Street. Assessment and Field books used the latter by the 1840s although for a period they were both used. The Little Montgomery title distinguished the street from the rest of Montgomery (east of Hanover) which was known as Great Montgomery Street. These adjectives obviously described the vastly differing widths of the same street. By the late nineteenth century, the adjectives had been dropped and became East Montgomery Street east of Charles and West Montgomery Street west of Charles.

The feel for Little Montgomery Street still remains today, however. The intimate scale that such a street possesses along with the juxtaposition of the two grids makes the Little Montgomery District a unique space within the urban environment. Now surrounded by larger scale commercial buildings, new housing and open space, this part of Montgomery Street acts as an interface of two periods of the social, economical and architectural history of Baltimore and serves as the past of a neighborhood that has architecturally changed over the last ten years. Continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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Name: Little Montgomery Street Historical District City: Baltimore State: Maryland

Item number

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore City Land and Tax Records, Courthouse, Baltimore, Maryland

Baltimore City Directories, Enoch Pratt Library, Baltimore, Maryland

City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey: Sharp-Leandenhall Neighborhood, 1977. Commission on Historic and Architectural Preservation City Hall Baltimore, Maryland



DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Little Montgomery Street Historic District is a residential area located in South Baltimore a few blocks to the southwest of the Inner Harbor area. It is composed of approximately fifteen nineteenth century brick houses, some of which are double, that line the 100 block of West Montgomery Street and the northwestern portion of the 800 block of Leadenhall Street. The district is located in the present Ward 22 of Baltimore city and includes parts of blocks 896, 902, and 903. Nine of the structures are 'half houses' that are only one room deep with a single pitch roof. The north side of Montgomery Street is lined with four pairs of semi-detached half houses. Because the property lines for these lots were projected from the street grid to the north, the fronts of these houses do not parallel with Montgomery Street.

