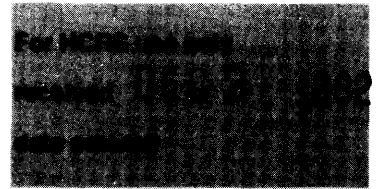


United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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 Barre Circle Historic District

and/or common Barre Circle Historic District

2. Location *Roughly bounded by Scott, Ramsey, Boyd, and Harbor C.*

street & number Vicinity of Lombard Street, Fremont Avenue and Scott Street *Bldg/S. Fremont Sts.*
N/A not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity of congressional district Third

state Maryland code 24 county Independent City code 510

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Over 100 owners plus the City of Baltimore

street & number

city, town Baltimore vicinity of state Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

street & number Calvert and Lexington Streets

city, town Baltimore state Maryland 21202

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date January 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

For Description Summary See Continuation Sheet # 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Barre Circle Historic District, located in the western section of Baltimore City, Maryland, is a highly cohesive collection of approximately 200 structure primarily mid-19th Century working class rowhouses which have remained relatively intact and unaltered. The neighborhood is circumscribed by the Koppers Plant (formerly Hayward & Bartlett Iron Works) to the west, the early and traditional thoroughfare of Fremont Avenue (formerly Cove) to its east, including an area cleared for the new Harbor City Boulevard, and a combination of commercial structures, intrusions, and irregular housing to the south. To the north and northwest corner is the continued rowhousing of the Poppleton area, more pretentious as well as physically separated from Barre Circle by a higher elevation and the greater width of Lombard Street. Scott Street north of Pratt includes the actual incline as well as an architectural transition to the uphill area. The remainder of the district is relatively flat. Precise boundaries for the area include Fremont Avenue on the east, Ramsey Street on the south, Scott Street between Ramsey and Pratt and Hayes Alley between Pratt and Lombard on the west, and Lombard Street on the north.

Today the district is further defined by a homesteading project initiated in 1976 by the City of Baltimore, including about 75% of the structures in the district. Additional buildings complete block patterns. Approximately 80 structures have been renovated in conformance with exterior standards developed jointly by the homesteading community and the City. Of unrenovated structures, about 25 are currently vacant, windowless and in deteriorated condition.

The street pattern in the Barre Circle Historic District remains essentially as surveyed by Thomas Poppleton and published in 1823. The only deviation from a rigid grid pattern are the trapezoids formed by the pre-existing Cove Street running from the northwest to the southeast. The Poppleton Plan includes all north-south alleys found in the neighborhood with the exception of the alley dividing the block bounded by Scott, McHenry, Otterbein and Ramsey. This block was quartered by two perpendicular alleys after 1851. No east-west alleys were present in the Poppleton Plan. However, two of these alleys had been laid out by 1851. Furthermore, by the time of the Poppleton survey, development had not yet occurred west of Fremont Avenue as the land remained part of large estates.

The architecture of Barre Circle is that of the modest brick rowhouse, arranged in highly unified and consistent blocks. Variation of major elements occurs primarily between blocks. Reinforcing unity is the existence of identical structures in a series of six to twelve contiguous units, differing from adjacent groupings by a single detail: window type, fenestration, or height. The entire district is consistent in its lack of pretention, illustrated by the narrow and uniform widths of the structures (12-14 feet) and the general lack of ornamentation. Repetition of common elements, their combination and arrangement, create a feeling of rhythm within particular rows.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca.1850 to early 20th century **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criteria: A and C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Barre Circle Historic District is significant for its architecture and for its association with the industrial development of Baltimore City. Its cohesive streetscapes of modest, unadorned brick rowhouses reflect the architectural response to Baltimore's rapid industrial expansion in the mid-19th century, and typify urban worker's housing of the period. In the context of Baltimore's mid-19th century neighborhoods, Barre Circle is unusual in the consistently unpretentious character of its architecture, which reflects the historic social homogeneity of the area; whereas other rowhouse neighborhoods housed a mixture of white- and blue-collar workers, the managerial class - and their more elaborate dwellings - were, and are, conspicuously absent from Barre Circle.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Barre Circle Historic District evolved as a homogeneous architectural and social enclave in direct response to adjacent industrial expansion of the 1840s - 1850s. A primarily working class neighborhood, it lacked both the mixture of economic groups and the architectural variety often found in the neighboring expansion areas of Ridgely's Delight and Poppleton.

Whereas in these later areas draftsmen and workers lived on the smaller streets, alleys and block interiors, white collar workers and managers lived on the large streets. The latter group was noticeably absent in Barre Circle. The primary distinction was between craftsmen who occupied the houses on main streets and the semi-skilled laborers and free blacks who lived on the smaller streets and alleys. The architectural homogeneity can be explained in part by the area's rapid development within limited time frames and the lack of evolutionary growth found in other neighborhoods.

The Thomas Poppleton map of 1823 shows the area to be undeveloped land, much of which was still contained in the Judge McHenry estate. Within seven years of the map's publication, James McHenry was selling parcels of the McHenry estate to developers.

Most of the housing north of McHenry Street was built prior to 1852 and much of Barre Circle, with the exception of Scott Street (south of McHenry), North ow Ramsey Street and the southern part of Barre Street was built up before the Civil War.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET # 8

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 16 + acres

Quadrangle name Baltimore West

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	8	3	5	9	5	4	0	4	3	4	9	7	2	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

1	8	3	5	9	7	2	0	4	3	4	9	3	2	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

1	8	3	5	9	4	8	0	4	3	4	9	3	2	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

1	8	3	5	9	3	8	0	4	3	4	9	7	2	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET # 1

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ms. Kathleen Gold, Chairman

organization Barre Circle Historic Committee date July 28, 1982

street & number 757 McHenry Street telephone

city or town Baltimore state Maryland 21230

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature] 11-29-82

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register of Historic Places.
[Signature] 11/10/82
Director of the National Register
date

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Barre Circle Historic District
Continuation sheet Baltimore city, Maryland Item number 7 and 10 Page 1

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Barre Circle Historic District is an urban district comprising approximately 200 structures, located in the western section of Baltimore City, Maryland. The district is characterized by highly unified and consistent blocks of brick rowhouses, most of which were constructed between ca. 1850 and the Civil War, with some blocks and groups representing later dates into the early 20th century. These buildings are generally two bays wide, uniformly narrow (12 - 14 feet), and from two to three stories in height, with low-pitched gable or shed roofs and small back buildings. They are notably unpretentious and devoid of all but the most minimal ornament; projecting brick courses sometimes form cornices or belts, segmental-arched openings and simple bracketed cornices of wood or tin occasionally appear, but the overall impression evoked by these buildings is one of remarkable austerity, consistent with their origins as quickly-constructed housing for the burgeoning masses of blue-collar workers attracted by the booming industrial development of the adjacent areas which began in the mid-nineteenth century.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Barre Circle Historic District is bounded on the east by Fremont Avenue; on the south by Ramsey Street; on the west by Scott Street Between Ramsey and Pratt Streets, and Hayes Alley between Pratt and Lombard Streets; and on the north by Lombard Street, as depicted on the attached sketch map labeled BOUNDARY MAP.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Barre Circle Historic District were selected to encompass the maximum contiguous concentration of buildings which retain sufficient integrity to represent the district's significant character as an area of 19th-century working-class housing. Outside the district boundary to the west is an area of heavy industrial use; to the east is the broad historic thoroughfare of Fremont Avenue and a large open area, recently cleared for the construction of the multi-lane Harbor City Boulevard; the area to the south includes commercial structures, housing, vacant (cleared) lots and intrusions in random combinations lacking the cohesiveness which characterizes the resources within the district. A higher concentration of middle- and upper-class housing changes the character of the rowhouse neighborhoods which adjoin the district on the north; also, a topographic shift from the relatively level plane of the district to a marked incline, and the breadth of Lombard Street, a major thoroughfare, reinforce the district's disjunction from the area to its north.

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Continuation sheet Barre Circle Historic District
Baltimore city, Maryland Item number 7 Page 2GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Structures are generally of two bays, divided into an entrance and single window on the first floor, and either two, two and one half, or three stories. This latter feature relates strongly to location within the District. The structures in the northern block (Lombard, Fremont, Pratt, Hayes) of the District are primarily three-story buildings, while those in the middle block (Pratt, Fremont, McHenry, Scott) are two and one half story structures, but of varying height. The southern-most block (McHenry, Fremont, Scott, Ramsey) is again occupied by three-story structures, with greater variation in height than in the other two blocks. With few exceptions, the more modest and later-period two-story structures exist in southern portions of the District.

Virtually all structures are set on basements, which vary in height. Basement window treatments range from a single 6/6 window with sills below grade, to a pair of nearly square single pane sashes at grade. Entrances are reached generally by three or four steps. Some stone steps are present, but wooden stairs were more common (although these have been replaced by concrete over the years). A number of structures in the southern block, particularly on West Barre Street, have entranceways one or two steps above grade. Those with entrances at grade tend also to have narrow sallyports with wooden lintels, a feature generally found only in this section of the District.

Two roof types dominate the area: the low pitch gable, ridge parallel to the street, and the flat roof. Gable roofs are predominant in the northern and middle blocks; nearly excluded in the southern block. They tend to be steeper in pitch in the northernmost block. The slope of Scott Street (upward toward Pratt) prompted staggered building heights which are reflected in the march of gables, a distinctive visual feature. Shed roofs are found at 773 and 775 Pratt Street, which are 2½ story structures. Notably lacking in the gable roof houses is the use of a single gable dormer. Chimneys are often opposite the entranceway. Many chimneys have pointed-arch brick hoods.

Where windows are not boarded, 6/6 sash is generally used, although some houses employ a 4/4 sash. The half-story windows are generally narrow rectangles of a single or split pane. Lintels are often flat, arched brick. However, there is an abundance of wooden block lintels and sills, and segmented brick arches are also used. Wooden sills often appear with brick lintels. Later houses have segmented arch windows and small inset panels with a simple, decorative jigsaw scroll. Finally, rounded arch windows occur in even later structures.

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Continuation sheet Barre Circle Historic District Item number 7 Page 3
Baltimore city, Maryland

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

A common Baltimore rowhouse appendage found in all parts of Barre Circle is the back building, which started as a separate summer kitchen, and grew in size and complexity to become part of the house. The modesty, simplicity, and relatively small size of these structures is consistent with the character of the houses. Both one and two-story structures are the norm, with some three-story houses appearing on Scott Street south of McHenry. Back building halves of adjacent buildings often form a common gable. Many structures, particularly on West Barre Street, have a window and door between the house and back building. In some cases, as the northeast corner of Scott and McHenry, what appears to be an attached back building to the house has a side entrance.

The two and one-half story structures of the middle block have simple brick cornices formed by slightly projected courses of brick, below which brick modillions are formed by a course of alternately projecting headers. Many of these same houses have a projected stretcher course immediately below the half-story windows, followed by three normal courses and then a repeated stretcher course. These crude belts served both as foil for the modest cornice and a frame for the half-story windows. This simple brickwork is the extent of ornamentation found in these structures.

Another uniform row is the three-story, two-bay structures terraced into the hill forming a staggered roofline of steeper gables north of Pratt on the east side of Scott. Again, either flat-arched brick lintels or wooden blocks are employed. Cornices are simple header laid brick in two courses extending progressively from the face. Ornamentation is notably absent with the exception of #121, which has a pedimented front entrance with modest Green Revival details.

The southern terminus of the district along the south end of West Barre Street and Ramsey Street was built primarily after 1880. While houses conform in scale, height, and width to the earlier structures, they vary radically in window type and fenestration. Six units at the southwestern end of the district are notably different. These two story, two bay structures with flat roofs, have a large rounded window at the entrance level and a comparatively slender entranceway also with a round arched window. The structures have paired square windows in the basement and employ a stone belt course between the basement and the first floor. Stone is also used for window sills. The heavy cornices have three brackets which extend and meet a lower wooden belt forming a single decorative unit with inset jigsaw ventilators. Interior columns divide the two first-floor rooms. This grouping is an exceptional illustration of the use of rhythm within the area.

Two-story structures are generally found in the alleys or back streets, although a five unit block exists on Ramsey Street. The structures are approximately 12 feet by 25 feet, have flat roofs and cornices with a patterned brick frieze below, giving the structure its only ornamentation. The structures on Ramsey, however, have later period ornamental cornices often with ventilators, the only ornamentation present. 6/6 sash is generally used in these structures most of which do have back buildings.

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Continuation sheet Barre Circle Historic District Baltimore City, Maryland Item number 8 Page 4

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

Architecturally, Barre Circle is a cohesive collection of intact, brick rowhouses, highly consistent and uniform within each block and extremely modest in scale and decoration, two characteristics which further strengthen the unity of the area and set it off architecturally from other neighborhoods. Rows of Barre Circle houses were generally built together, perhaps by carpenter entrepreneurs, as it is not uncommon to have six to twelve nearly identical units within a block.

Today approximately three-quarters of Barre Circle is comprised of a homesteading project undertaken by Baltimore City's Department of Housing and Community Development. Well over 100 structures, the heart of the District, have been offered for \$1 each to prospective owners. Barre Circle is one of the largest and most concentrated homesteading projects currently underway.

Land division in Barre Circle followed the traditional pattern of partitioning larger estates into smaller parcels and finally into individual lots, often through the leasing process and the use of annual ground rents averaging \$40. Barre Circle was originally part of the estate known as Ridgely's Delight. In 1799, Dr. James McHenry, George Washington's Secretary of War (for whom Fort McHenry was named), purchased a large tract of land from the Ridgely family. At his death, Dr. McHenry's rural estate was divided chiefly between his daughter, Anna McHenry Boyd, and his nephew, Ramsey McHenry. James Howard McHenry was responsible for the sale of much of the land in Barre Circle. He sold a northern portion to Joshua and Charles Barney and Stephen Thompson as early as 1830 and a southern portion to William Hamilton. While the Barneys and Thompson partitioned their land amongst themselves, Hamilton's land remained in his estate and was not subleased until as late as 1869.¹

In a more complex and later agreement, James McHenry transferred the two blocks fronting on the east side of Scott Street south of McHenry Street to Maria Cole with the provision that houses be built on the land. Maria transferred this obligation to Charles Cole, who in turn transferred it to Augustus Conrades. Conrades fulfilled the obligation dating the development of Scott Street, below McHenry, in 1873-1874 and then received a lease from James McHenry. Conrades in turn leased the fourteen houses and lots to various individuals.²

The land purchased by the Barneys and Thompson lay north of McHenry Street. Their early purchase from McHenry and subsequent partitioning helped account for its development prior to 1851. For example, William Burns bought the parcel of land including 113-131 Scott Street (north of Pratt) between 1847 and 1848 and then leased lots to various individuals. Shortly thereafter, house were built at 113 and 115, probably the first on the block.

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Continuation sheet Barre Circle Historic District
Baltimore City, Maryland Item number 8 Page 5

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

The division of larger parcels of land for development purposes coincided with the expansion of the city to the west, and with a change in the nature of the area. Between 1837 and 1869 Baltimore felt the force of the industrial revolution. It changed from a city with agricultural and seafaring interests, to a place involved with railway, iron, and other heavy industrial interests. In these 23 years, Baltimore doubled its population, its workforce, and the mileage of its streets. House completions in the 1830s had stood at about 400 a year. By 1851 they had reached 2000 annually. Much of Barre Circle, particularly north of McHenry Street, was part of this phenomenon.³ The area immediately west of Barre Circle developed as one of Baltimore's earliest industrial centers. The B&O Railroad established the Mount Clare station and yards in 1930 at Poppleton and Pratt Streets. Circa 1840, Ross Winans started his locomotive works just east of the railroad yards at Scott and Pratt Streets. In 1852, the Hayward & Bartlett Foundary relocated in a portion of the Winans Factory.

By 1852 the Mount Clare shops employed one thousand workers, while Winan's factory and Hayward & Bartlett employed three hundred and fifty men each. In addition to these major concerns, the surrounding neighborhood contained a wide range of smaller industries which supplied piecework for the larger operations.

As a direct result of the development of the industry, housing began to be constructed to the north and east of the factories. By 1850 most of the houses on Lombard Street between Parkin and Fremont Streets had been built. They are generally among the earliest houses standing in Barre Circle. By 1852 much of the block bounded by West Pratt, Scott, McHenry, and Fremont Streets had been built. Also built were a significant number of houses along the south side of McHenry Street as well as some structures on West Barre Street (then Sterret) between McHenry and Ramsey Streets. Sterret (West Barre) Street from McHenry to Ramsey was opened by the City in 1861, although some houses were already there.

By the time of the Civil War, settlement in Barre Circle was virtually complete, with the exception of Scott Street between McHenry and Ramsey Street, which was still owned by the McHenry family and not yet subdivided. Also unsettled were the northern side of Ramsey (houses built between 1895-1903) and the southwestern end of West Barre (completed around 1900). However, the next attempt at massive housing was not the completion of the blocks on Scott Street or the southern end of West Barre, but rather the ambitious scheme by locomotive magnate Winans to build over one hundred three-story houses on Parkin, between Ramsey and Pratt, as model housing for workers. The houses, erected around 1867, had less than a fifteen year lifespan before demolition for expansion of the Hayward & Bartlett foundry occurred. Had they succeeded as a housing project, Hayward & Bartlett's expansion may have been eastward. Hence, the area east of Scott Street remained as working class housing, and blocks on Scott Street south of McHenry were completed about this time. The

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Continuation sheet Barre Circle Historic District
Baltimore City, Maryland Item number 8 Page 6

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

company's building on the west side of Scott Street was sympathetic in scale and material to its residential neighbors.

From the beginning Barre Circle was a working class neighborhood occupied by craftsmen and industrial workers. The neighborhood's residents included carpenters, sailors, bakers, hucksters, machinists, shoemakers, railroad workers, and pattern makers, in addition to the neighborhood grocers and tavern keepers. Unlike the Poppleton area, located to the north of Lombard Street, Barre Circle was relatively devoid of white collar and upper class residents.

The vast majority of Barre Circle inhabitants had their family origins in the British Isles or Germany. St. Peter's Church on Hollins Street to the north, one of the few Roman Catholic churches in Baltimore at the time, undoubtedly attracted a large number of Irish Catholic immigrants to the area as well.

By the end of the Civil War, a public school was situated at the corner of Fremont and Lemmon. Heil's Bakery and McCullough's coal and lumber yard occupied Pratt west of Fremont, and Lewis Wise's tavern occupied the northeast corner of Scott and McHenry. The Irish and German segments still made up the largest portion of the neighborhood's population. The Civil War had stimulated production in the Mount Clare shops and at Hayward & Bartlett, who, in turn, in 1863, had taken over Winan's locomotive works. The proportion of industrial workers and common laborers in the neighborhood increased, although Barre Circle was still the home of cabinet makers, carpenters, clocksmiths, and even a few piano makers who may have worked at the Newman Brother and Son Piano Forte Factory at Lombard and Arlington Streets.

Two furniture factories existed within the Barre Circle Area, as did two wagon factories. G. W. Landon Furniture Factory, S. C. Ridgeway Safe Manufacturer, and S. T. Richardson Sash, Door and Blind Manufacturer were located between Pratt and Dover Streets west of Fremont Avenue. N. A. Pfeifers Furniture Factory appears on Ramsey Street at the southeast end of Barre Street on the 1869 Sachse map.

Throughout many parts of Baltimore at this time, it was common for the relatively higher income people to live on the wider, more important streets, while relatively poorer people and free blacks often lived in smaller houses on the alleys and smaller streets on the inside of the blocks. Barre Circle was no exception. On Lombard Street were homes and offices of most of the small number of white collar workers and many craftsmen, while Pratt had a large proportion of skilled craftsmen. Conversely, streets like Ramsey, Dover, and Otterbein (with some exceptions) were the home of laborers and industrial workers. Dover Street residents were almost all black, as was a section of Otterbein. Common laborers represented a large group of the work force, and workers often lived together in single housing units in Barre Circle.

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Continuation sheet Barre Circle Historic District Item number 8 Page 7
Baltimore City, Maryland

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

By the turn of the century, the smaller industries began to disappear. Housing was erected at the southwestern end of Barre Street and on northern Ramsey Street. Throughout the 20th century little physical change occurred. Industry began a slow decline, led by the railroads. While Hayward & Bartlett, which became the Koppers Company, survived, it finally left the neighborhood in 1976. The neighborhood itself began to decline in the 1960s. Demolition occurred in the early 1970s along the west side of Fremont for a proposed road, now the Harbor City Boulevard. Other houses acquired by the city stood vacant.

In 1973, by resolution of the City Board of Estimates, an urban homesteading project was created in the area, consisting of approximately 128 structures. Barre Circle was the common name given to the newly-isolated area by the surrounding community. Origins of the homesteading concept in the United States date to the Federal Homestead and Extension Law of 1862 under which millions of acres of land were given to settlers of the west. United States citizens, after paying a nominal fee, could obtain up to 160 acres of public land. After cultivating it for five years or more, they received title. Today the concept of awarding property under the condition that it be improved and occupied within a given period of time has been revived in order to reintroduce into the housing stock vacant and deteriorated structures.

Baltimore was one of the first cities in the United States to include homesteading of its housing stock, and is considered the most successful. Baltimore's program, which includes large, concentrated areas of vacant houses, primarily received its stock through city tax foreclosure and was initially backed by an existing city-funded loan program. Under the original homesteading agreement, homeowners agreed to renovate the properties and live in them for at least 18 months after the completion of the renovation. In Baltimore, three concentrated homestead areas - Stirling Street, Otterbein, and Barre Circle - were established, in addition to scattered site properties.

Barre Circle represents a unique District, delineated from other neighborhoods by its architectural unity, cohesive site arrangement, and working class heritage. This uniqueness is today reinforced by its development as a concentrated urban homesteading area, maintaining both its historical and contemporary identities with the new name of Barre Circle.

Footnotes

¹Baltimore City Land Records. Liber TK245, Folio 64.

²Ibid Liber GR631, Folio 540, Liber 650, Folio 189.

³"Baltimore City Poppleton Survey 1975"

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Continuation sheet Barre Circle Historic District
Baltimore City, Maryland Item number 9 Page 8

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BOUNDARY MAP
 Barre Circle Historic District
 Baltimore (independent city)
 Maryland

proposed boundaries for
 nomination to the National
 Register of Historic Places
 1982

