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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Old West Baltimore Historic District
other names Harlem Park/Upton/Sandtown/Druid Heights/Madison Park (B-1373)

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by North Ave., Madison Ave., Dolphin St., Franklin St.,
Fulton Ave. not for publication
city or town Baltimore vicinity
state Maryland Code MD county Independent City code 510 zip code 21217

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] 11-9-04
Signature of certifying official/Title 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] 12/23/04
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall

Old West Baltimore Historic District (B-1378)

Baltimore (Independent City), Maryland

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5987	585	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
5987	585	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:

9 (see attached list)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling and multiple dwelling

RELIGION: religious facility and church school

EDUCATION: school and library

COMMERCE: specialty store, financial

institution, restaurant and warehouse

GOVERNMENT: fire station and post office

RECREATION & CULTURE: theatre and monument

LANDSCAPE: park

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling and multiple dwelling

RELIGION: religious facility and church school

EDUCATION: school and library

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store, financial

institution, restaurant and warehouse

GOVERNMENT: fire station and post office

RECREATION & CULTURE: theatre and monument

LANDSCAPE: park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID 19TH CENTURY Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN Italianate, Second Empire,

Queen Anne, Romanesque

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Beaux Arts, Classical Revival, Late Gothic Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, STONE

walls BRICK, STONE

roof SLATE, CERAMIC TILE, ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

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)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK
 ARCHITECTURE
 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1838-1954

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Multiple known and unknown; see continuation sheet.

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: _____

Old West Baltimore Historic District (B-1373)

Name of Property

Baltimore (Independent City), Maryland

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 675 acres

UTM References

(Place UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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 Fred B. Shoken, Preservation Consultant

Organization _____ date February 2, 2004

street & number 1707 Park Avenue telephone (410) 669-5669

city or town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21217

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 Multiple Ownership (more than 50 owners) Contact: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

street & number 417 E. Fayette Street, 8th Floor telephone (410) 396-4866

city or town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21202

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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B-1373
Old West Baltimore Historic District

Name of Property

Baltimore (Independent City), Maryland

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

Description Summary:

Old West Baltimore is primarily a row house neighborhood of approximately 175 city blocks directly northwest of downtown Baltimore, Maryland. Strict diagonal and north-south street grids converge within this district roughly bounded by North Avenue, Madison Avenue, Dolphin Street, Hoffman Street, Fremont Avenue, Franklin Street and Fulton Avenue. Most of the properties are row houses, but the district includes other housing from grand mansions to alley houses, as well as churches, public buildings (primarily schools), commercial buildings, and landscaped squares. Older traditional brick houses with flat facades and refined detailing predominate, but eclectic designs with projecting bays, turrets and terra cotta decorations are well represented within the district. Massive stone churches, often located at street corners, feature towers and spires that rise above the surrounding row houses creating dynamic streetscapes (photograph #1). The majority of commercial buildings, with the exception of corner stores, are clustered along Pennsylvania Avenue, the main street of the community featuring a later twentieth century municipal market house. Although some older buildings have been meticulously rehabilitated, many are vacant and in a dilapidated condition. Vacant lots can be found throughout the area. Newer houses, commercial buildings and churches have replaced large sections of older structures, especially in the vicinity of Pennsylvania Avenue, Gilmore Homes and the Laurens Street-Winchester Street corridor. Despite these intrusions, the historic character of the area has been maintained due to the retention of significant streetscapes and the preponderance of surviving houses, churches, institutions and civic monuments that relate to Baltimore's premier historic African-American community.

General Description:

A table is attached as an addendum to this nomination, listing the properties within the Old West Baltimore Historic District, and indicating each property's street address, building type, approximate construction date, and Contributing (C) or Non-Contributing (NC) status.

The eastern portion of Old West Baltimore was built along a diagonal street grid running parallel to Pennsylvania Avenue, an old turnpike route from Baltimore to the northwest. The blocks from Druid Hill Avenue to Madison Avenue are narrow eliminating alleys bisecting main streets. From Druid Hill Avenue to Fremont Avenue, the blocks are wider, featuring parallel alley streets, such as Etting Street, Brunt Street and Shields Place. Fremont Avenue slices

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through the diagonal street grid at a sharper angle creating triangular shaped blocks. The remainder of the district west of Fremont Avenue features the regular north-south street grid that predominates in Baltimore's inner city. Carey and Calhoun streets, north of Presstman Street, are exceptions to this street pattern as they follow the diagonal street grid.

The street grid has been disrupted by later developments. Large blocks were created when Gilmore Homes, an early public housing project, was built in the neighborhood in the early 1940s. A few mid-to-late twentieth century schools have also been built on large blocks requiring the closure of some streets.

While the area is densely built-up, there are some parks and open space within the district, as well as vacant lots where housing has been demolished. Lafayette Square and Harlem Park are older public squares similar to Franklin Square and Union Square in southwest Baltimore. Other recreational open space exists at school and recreation centers, adjacent to Booker T. Washington Middle School (Old Western High School) at McCulloh and Lanvale streets, Furman Templeton Elementary School at Pennsylvania and Lafayette avenues, and William Pinderhughes Elementary School at Fremont Avenue and Laurens Street.

The old Pennsylvania Railroad, now used by Amtrak, bisects the district at Winchester Street, east of Fremont Avenue and along Wilson Street, west of Fremont Avenue. It is primarily located in a tunnel, but portions are exposed west of Gilmore Street and between Fremont and Pennsylvania avenues. Baltimore's subway also tunnels under the neighborhood primarily along Pennsylvania Avenue, but cannot be detected except for the North Avenue and Upton Metro Stations.

The general topography of the neighborhood gently rises from the southeastern corner at Franklin Street and Fremont Avenue to the northwest at Pennsylvania and North Avenues. The earliest building in the neighborhood overlooks its immediate surroundings atop a hill in the vicinity of Lanvale Street and Fremont Avenue.

Residential Buildings

The Upton Mansion at 811 West Lanvale Street (photograph #2) was built in 1838. It is a three-story Greek Revival brick estate house – a rare surviving structure within Baltimore's

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urban setting. It represents an era when country houses dotted the landscape of the district prior to urbanization.

As urban development spread to the area after 1850, traditional residential buildings were constructed. Some of the earliest housing types were built along the Pennsylvania Avenue, an early turnpike route. Small 2½-story gabled roof houses with dormers fronted on the street, however, none has survived recent redevelopment activity. A few antebellum row houses survive, primarily along Franklin Street and Pennsylvania Avenue (photograph #3). These houses have slightly pitched gable roofs and smaller windows at the third floor attic level. Often built in groups of threes or fours, the houses features flat brick facades and little decoration.

A few early porch front houses set back from the street are also indicative of the early stages of urbanization (photograph #4). Several groups of these houses survive in the district. They were built individually or as duplexes, with cornices at times disguising gable roofs that are perpendicular to the street.

The primary housing type built from the 1860s through the 1900, when much of the district was developed, were three-story traditional red brick Baltimore row houses with flat facades, bracketed cornices and decorative door surrounds (photograph #5). Smaller two-story versions of these houses were built for working class households (photograph #6). Even smaller houses were built in alleyways (photograph #7). Many of these alley houses were demolished as a part of urban renewal efforts. Within the Harlem Park Urban Renewal Area, all alley houses were razed for inner block parks in the 1960s.

Traditional Baltimore row houses gave way to more eclectic designs in the late nineteenth century. Unusual window styles, a break from the traditional, appear on some houses along Edmondson Avenue (photograph #8). Long rows with terra cotta decorations and corbelled brick cornices are also indicative of changes from the traditional row house style (photograph #9). Bay windows breaking the plane of row house facades alters the traditional appearance (photograph #10). A rounded corner tower capped with a conical roof and a recessed entrance set into a keyhole porch on the house at McCulloh and McMechen streets attests to the degree that later houses broke from traditional styles (photograph #11). The corbelled brick work, wall dormers and varied window styles on each floor level of a small row in the 1300 block of Division Streets contrast sharply with the adjoining traditional houses (photograph #12).

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By the turn of the century, tan brick had replaced the traditional red brick of older houses and rounded bays were a complete departure from the traditional flat facades (photograph #13). There are even a few later two-story porch-front row houses that fill in the gaps within some older blocks in the neighborhood. By 1915, the row house development of the area was substantially complete.

Although row housing predominates throughout Old West Baltimore, there are also some noteworthy individual buildings. The Sellers Mansion at 801 N. Arlington Street fronting Lafayette Square is a five-bay brick house with ground level porticoes and a mansard roof (photograph #14). Large brick duplexes rather than row houses front on Lafayette Square. Other individual houses are located in row house contexts, such as the two late nineteenth-century houses at the corner of McCulloh and Robert streets featuring mansard roofs and projecting bays (photograph #15). The five-story Belview-Manchester apartment building at Madison Avenue and Bloom Street is one of the larger residential buildings within the district (photograph #16). It was designed as an apartment building and towers above three-story row houses. Another multi-story early twentieth century apartment building is located at Madison Avenue and Wilson Street.

Starting in 1940, redevelopment began to remove slum conditions and create modern housing. McCulloh Homes, just outside the southern district boundary replaced five city blocks in the vicinity of Druid Hill Avenue and Preston Street. These new two- and three-story brick buildings front on inner block courtyards rather than vehicular streets – a major departure from previous housing configurations (photograph #17). A similar development took place in the northwest portion of the district at Gilmore Homes.

Older row houses were rehabilitated in Harlem Park as part of urban renewal efforts in the 1960s, but historic facades were replaced with new modern fronts (photograph #18). In the 1970s, garden apartments were built along Pennsylvania Avenue and scattered sites fronting Madison Avenue. High-rise apartment buildings for seniors were constructed at several locations including Lafayette Square, Pennsylvania Avenue and a Dolphin Street expansion of McCulloh Homes. In the 1980s and 1990s, new market rate and subsidized housing was built in the Sandtown section (photograph #19). One of the newer residential groupings in the 2200 block of Brunt Street features ground level garages facing the street, more reminiscent of suburban townhouses than urban residential development (photograph #20).

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The southeast corner of the district takes in a few houses of the recently completed Heritage Crossing development that replaced the high-rise public housing project of Murphy Homes. These duplexes with small front yards on winding streets are also a major departure from traditional residential development (photograph #21), yet the streets connect to the existing street grid instead of the super block configuration of the former high-rise housing project on this site.

The residential development of the district spans a 160-year time period from an early country estate to urban row housing to later suburban style townhouses. Despite the great variety in housing types, the row house form predominates. Many notable African-American leaders resided in these houses in addition to large numbers of working people. They created a distinctive community that shaped the social and political history on both a local and national level.

Religious Buildings

Dozens of religious buildings take up corner lots within the district providing visual landmarks within row house streetscapes (photograph #22). The rusticated white marble spire of Bethel A.M.E. Church at Druid Hill Avenue and Lanvale Street towers above surrounding houses (photograph #23). Nearby, Sharp Street M.E. Church is also located on a corner lot at Dolphin and Etting streets, where it features a square corner tower of Woodstock Granite (photograph #24). Four distinctive stone churches front onto Lafayette Square creating a special character for this urban square (photograph #25). Since most squares began as real estate ventures to create a special environment for housing to be developed fronting onto the square, it is unusual that so much land facing this square is non-residential. The Union Baptist Church in the 1200 block of Druid Hill Avenue is one of the few mid-block churches in the area (photograph #26).

The cottage-like appearance of Saint Katherine's Episcopal Church at Division and Prestman streets stands in contrast to other churches that tower over their immediate streetscapes (photograph #27). The classical design of the Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church also differs in both material and style from most churches within the district (photograph #28). Another rare example of a brick church is St. Peter Claver Church on Fremont Avenue (photograph #29).

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In addition to the dozens of churches within the district, three former synagogues stand along the northeastern edge of the district. Berea Temple, built by the Baltimore Hebrew Congregation at Madison Avenue and Robert Street, occupies a Byzantine stone design with towers flanking a central dome (photograph #30). The former Shearith Israel Congregation at 2105 McCulloh Street is a mid-block structure of corbelled tan brick, with a covered central circular window and two minarets flanking a central gable (photograph #31). A third synagogue building, now housing a church, was built at McCulloh and Mosher streets.

Several newer churches have been built on Pennsylvania and Madison avenues, as well as other locations within the district. Some notable early churches including St. Gregory, a stone Baldwin and Pennington design at Baker and Gilmor streets, and the Immaculate Conception Church at Druid Hill Avenue and Mosher Street, have been razed and replaced with newer religious buildings.

Public Buildings

The Old West Baltimore district was a complete neighborhood with not only housing and religious buildings, but also a variety of public buildings to serve the needs of residents. The school buildings of the area are of special note.

The earliest surviving public school building in Baltimore City stands in the 1200 block of Argyle Avenue. Harriet Beecher School #158 was built in 1858. A small gable-roofed brick structure, it had been converted into housing but now stands vacant (photograph #32). School #103 (Old School #6) at 1315-27 Division Street dates from 1877. It is a three-bay brick building featuring an ornate entrance bay capped with a pedimented roof, as well as stone band courses and window surrounds (photograph #33). Public School #111, now vacant, two blocks north of Lafayette Square, is another traditional brick schoolhouse dating from 1892 (photograph #34).

School #104 (Old Colored School #9), designed by Alfred Mason at 1431 N. Carey Street, dates from 1897. It is a Renaissance Revival design featuring arched windows, rusticated brick walls and an overhanging hipped roof (photograph #35). It has been renovated for housing. The same architect had previously designed the Romanesque Old Western High School in 1894 at McCulloh Street and Lafayette Avenue. It features intricate terra cotta details and a distinctive roofline (photograph #36). Now functioning as Booker T. Washington Middle School

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it is the oldest public school building in Baltimore City still used to educate children. Old Frederick Douglass High School at 1601 N. Calhoun Street is a late Gothic Revival building dating from 1924 (photograph #37). Previously converted into housing, it is now vacant. Other public school buildings dating from the 1920s and 1930s survive within the district, as do newer schools from the 1960s and later.

One of the original four Enoch Pratt Free Library branches opened in 1886 at Fremont Avenue and Pitcher Street. Although covered with formstone, it retains the original roofline, a design element identical on branch libraries constructed in Canton, South Baltimore, Southwest Baltimore and Old West Baltimore (photograph #38). The library was replaced by a modern design at the corner of North and Pennsylvania avenues. Fire Engine House #25, a rusticated stone design at McCulloh and Gold streets, dates from 1903. It is currently being converted into a community center (photograph #39). Newer fire houses from the 1960s currently serve the community at McCulloh and McMechen streets and on the 1500 block of Lafayette Avenue.

Institutional and Commercial Buildings

Other institutional buildings in the area include the old Home of the Friendless at 1313 Druid Hill Avenue built in 1870. A five-story brick building with mansard roof, it originally housed an orphanage but was converted into offices for the Baltimore City Health Department and later the Department of Housing and Community Development (photograph #40). Another orphanage operated by the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Division and Lanvale streets was converted into apartments in the 1940s. Dating from c. 1865, it features two pedimented wings and a central section capped by a mansard roof (photograph #41). The first "colored" YWCA for Baltimore occupied a row house at 1200 Druid Hill Avenue (photograph #42). The Druid Hill YMCA is still active in a group of buildings dating from the 1920s to 1940s (photograph #43).

The highest concentration of commercial buildings within the district is located along Pennsylvania Avenue. At one time, movie theatres, nightclubs, stores and other commercial uses stretched the entire length of "the Avenue" within the district. Today only small groupings remain. The 1700 and 1800 blocks retain a commercial character (photograph #44). Although many of the storefronts are converted row houses, a few individual commercial buildings survive, including the small classically styled Bank of America branch at 1806 Pennsylvania Avenue dating from 1916 (photograph #45).

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Other commercial buildings are scattered throughout the district. A three-story brick building with corbelled brickwork and a corner entrance at Druid Hill Avenue and Robert Street was built for a dairy. A sign panel reads “Wester Ogle” – the name of a Baltimore County estate that operated the dairy (photograph #46). Directly across the street is a small brick and rusticated stone telephone company building with classical detailing (photograph #47).

An early two-story, twentieth-century garage in the 1700 block of McCulloh Street has been converted to residential use (photograph #48). A surviving commercial building that once housed a coal dealer is extant at Division and Gold streets (photograph #49). Three original movie houses survive. The Fulton Theatre, built in 1916 at 1563 Fulton Avenue, no longer has a projecting marquee but retains a central archway, Doric columns and cornice (photograph #50). The Schanze Theatre, built in 1912 at 2426 Pennsylvania Avenue, depicts beautiful sculpted muses on its central arch (photograph #51). The former Lennox Theatre still stands at 2115-17 Pennsylvania Avenue.

There are many other commercial buildings in the area including corner stores, commercial bakeries, a storage building and garage-type structures. The building now housing the Avenue Market (originally Lafayette Market) dates from 1956, but its exterior has been significantly altered. An older wood market house formerly stood at the site.

Landscaping – Monuments/Sculptures

Lafayette Square, bounded by Carrolton Avenue, Arlington Avenue, Lafayette Avenue and Lanvale Street, is the premier public space in the district. The square block public park features urns, curving concrete walkways and a fountain. Four stone churches dating from the 1870s, large brick houses, the Seller’s Mansion and the single non-contributing property (a high-rise apartment building for seniors), surround the square (photograph #52).

Harlem Park originally occupied two city blocks, but half of the park has been taken over for active recreation space by Harlem Park Elementary and Middle School. The school also bounds the park on the north. At the present time the park is fenced and undergoing rehabilitation. The James L. Ridgely Monument (1885), memorializing a key figure of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, stands at the center of the landscaped square (photograph #53).

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A few notable sculptures and civic monument relate to the African-American history of the community. Just outside of the district, two concrete sculptures depicting African-American children, a boy playing the harmonica and a girl reading, stand in front of McCulloh Homes (photograph #54). A more recent statue of Billie Holiday is located at Pennsylvania Avenue and Lanvale Street (photograph #55). Often considered a Baltimore native, recent evidence has shown that the noted jazz singer was actually born in Philadelphia, although she was raised in Baltimore. A monument to the Royal Theatre is currently under construction diagonally opposite the Billie Holliday Monument. The monument will display a marquee reminiscent of the theatre (photograph #56). The Royal Theatre was the premier African-American Theatre in Baltimore, once ranking with the Apollo in Harlem, the Howard in Washington, DC, the Regal in Chicago, and the Earl in Philadelphia.

New Construction and Redevelopment

Today, large portions of Old West Baltimore reflect urban renewal and redevelopment activities that have affected the historic character of the district. Much of Pennsylvania Avenue has been completely rebuilt with garden apartments, churches, public buildings and commercial structures. These new buildings stand in sharp contrast to the original character of the street. The Shake and Bake Recreation Center is a long, low building occupying a location where the Regent Theatre once stood (photograph #57). The Furman Templeton Elementary School and Recreation Center occupies both sides of Pennsylvania Avenue north of Dolphin Street with a pedestrian bridge spanning the street (photograph #58). An earlier school and the Northwest District Police Station once stood at this location. McCulloh Homes and Murphy Homes (the latter subsequently replaced by Heritage Crossing) eliminated the earliest housing in the neighborhood and define the southeast edge of the district.

In addition to portions of the neighborhood where redevelopment has taken place, row houses have been demolished at many locations, and those sites remain vacant. This has created a "tooth gap" appearance in sections of the district (photograph #59). The effect of these vacant lots, however, has not been as devastating as other public projects that have created sharp physical boundaries on the south edge of the district. Highway construction for Route 40 (originally designed as a spur of I-70) cleared over a mile of city blocks in the Franklin-Mulberry corridor (photograph #60).

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Summary Statement of Significance:

Old West Baltimore is significant under National Register Criterion A as Baltimore's premier early African-American neighborhood. Beginning in the 1890s, African Americans began occupying houses on the main streets of this area, most notably Druid Hill Avenue. Prior to that time, African Americans were relegated to alley housing spread throughout the city. In this community, African Americans living in Baltimore gained political power, established social institutions, started businesses and empowered churches to not only guide the spiritual life of the community, but to spearhead social progress. Such noteworthy figures as Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, Congressman Parren Mitchell, Baltimore City Councilman Harry S. Cummings, jazz artist Cab Calloway, civil rights leader Lillie Mae Carroll Jackson, and Carl Murphy, editor of the *Afro-American* newspaper, lived and/or worked in the area. The area derives additional significance under National Register Criterion C as an example of a type of urban development that characterized the city from the second quarter of the nineteenth century through the first half of the twentieth. Its streetscapes include numerous individual buildings designed by noteworthy local architects, important public squares and surviving residential buildings representing the evolving character of the district from scattered country estates to an urban rowhouse neighborhood. Although a certain degree of redevelopment has occurred within the area, the district retains the majority of its significant streetscapes, buildings, public spaces and civic monuments.

Resource History and Historic Context:

Development of the Built Environment

Old West Baltimore is an extension of the City of Baltimore that was founded along the northwest branch of the Patapsco River in 1729. By 1850, the population of Baltimore had risen to nearly 170,000 people and the expanding city approached the outskirts of Old West Baltimore, as depicted in an 1848 view of Baltimore from the northwest by August Köllner (Illustration #1). Most of the built environment of the district dates from 1860-1915, but at least one notable pre-urban structure survives, the Upton Mansion at 811 Lanvale Street.

This estate house was built in 1838 by David Stewart, a prominent lawyer, who served for a month in the U.S. Senate filling out the term of Reverdy Johnson who left the Senate in 1849 to

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become U. S. Attorney General. This three-story brick Greek Revival Style house is a rare surviving example of an estate house of this style and period. Although it has been altered with the enclosure of a two-story portico facing southeast and much interior modification, the house retains some original details including decorative ironwork and an interior staircase. The only other surviving nearby estate is the old Norwegian Seaman's House or the Bond Estate, now servicing as a multi-purpose center for the Reservoir Hill community northeast of this district.

Some of the earliest buildings in the district were built along Pennsylvania Avenue, an early turnpike route to the northwest. Originally part of the Reisterstown Turnpike (also called the Hookstown Pike), the road was begun in 1806 and completed in 1815. A milestone bearing the inscription "1 Mile to Baltimore" stood at Pennsylvania Avenue and Robert Street until the 1960s. Some older traditional brick houses with gabled roofs and dormers stood on Pennsylvania Avenue, but were razed as recently as the 1990s. A few early houses, including a wooden building at Pennsylvania Avenue and Baker Street that has been significantly altered, survive, representing the earliest examples of development along the turnpike.

The unusual street pattern in the district is a result of a survey conducted by Thomas H. Poppleton for the Baltimore Board of Commissioners (Illustration #2). His 1823 plan laid out streets primarily on a north-south grid, but in a few locations, most notably along Pennsylvania Avenue (Reisterstown Road), Columbia Avenue (Washington Boulevard) and Fort Avenue, the grid followed diagonal streets leading directly to specific destinations: Reisterstown, District of Columbia and Fort McHenry. Although the street pattern dates from 1823, few houses were built in Old West Baltimore prior to the Civil War.

A few early buildings also survive at the southeast edge of the district on Franklin Street. Some freestanding houses or duplexes set back from the street and featuring front porches were built on Druid Hill Avenue, Lanvale Street and Gilmor Street. Constructed during the first stages of urbanization, when land costs did not demand houses built up to the building line, these houses have small front yards and, in some cases, side entrances.

In addition to housing, the oldest extant Baltimore City public school (built in 1858) stands on Argyle Avenue south of Lanvale Street. By 1864, Lafayette Market was established at Laurens Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, indicative of the growth in this area. Lafayette Square was sold to the city in 1857, providing a public park to enhance the development of housing. During the Civil War, the park was turned into a camp for Union soldiers (Illustration #3).

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Elegant duplexes and row houses were built around the square in the 1860s and 1870s. A similar type of development took place surrounding Harlem Park, donated to the city in 1868. Fulton Avenue also was developed as a boulevard with park squares donated to the city in 1866, but this landscaping no longer exists.

As urbanization took place in Old West Baltimore, row housing became the predominant building type. Some of the early rows were built in groups of three and four houses, but by the 1880s entire blocks of houses were built by a single developer/builder. Row housing ranged from the simple to the elaborate. Some were the designs of builders, while other were planned by noted local architects.

Between 1870 and 1872, E. Francis Baldwin designed four houses at 1520-26 Druid Hill Avenue; one was used as his residence. Joseph Cone became a major builder of row houses in the vicinity of Harlem Park. In a little over fifteen years, he built 500 houses. While most houses in the area were three stories and featured traditional design, smaller two-story houses were built on alleys and side streets.

In the last decades of the nineteenth century, row house styles were influenced by national architectural trends. The traditional house featuring red brick facades, bracketed cornices and refined decorative surrounds at windows and doors was embellished in a number of ways. Unusual window styles with diamond-shaped panes are found on Edmondson Avenue in this area. Corbelled brickwork and terra cotta decorative panels relieved the relatively plain facades. Projecting bay windows broke the planes of flat facades. Corner towers and keyhole entrances can be found in later row houses in this district. Eventually, tan Roman brick replaced the traditional red brick houses at the last stages of row house development in the early twentieth century. A few daylight-style houses with front porches filled gaps in the row house development by 1920. The Old West Baltimore district with its thousands of row houses is architecturally significant, representing of the evolution of Baltimore row houses from 1860-1915. Virtually all row house styles and designs popular in Baltimore during that period can be found in the district.

The district is also architecturally noteworthy for many outstanding examples of church architecture, providing diversity to streetscapes in the area. Some of the finest churches can be found surrounding Lafayette Square, along Fremont Avenue and in the Druid Hill Avenue corridor. Many of these churches have been listed individually in the National Register of

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Historic Places: Cummins Memorial Church, now Emmanuel Christian Community Church, at 1210 W. Lanvale Street on Lafayette Park; Madison Avenue M.E. Church, now Douglass Memorial Church, at 1327 Madison Avenue; and Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church at 508 Dolphin Street. The old Baltimore Hebrew Synagogue (Berea Temple), at 1901 Madison Avenue, is also listed in the National Register.

Old West Baltimore has the greatest diversity in public school buildings of any Baltimore City neighborhood. It retains schools buildings from the 1850s, 1870s, 1890s and the early twentieth century. These buildings represent the evolution of schools from small vernacular structures to Romanesque designs, and later to Gothic Revival-styled buildings. School #158 at Argyle Avenue near Lanvale Street is the oldest surviving public school house in Baltimore. The old Western High School (now Booker T. Washington Middle School) at 1301 McCulloh Street is the oldest school building still in operation in Baltimore City. The stone carvings and decorations are the most elaborate on any surviving school building.

Many outstanding local architects are responsible for individual buildings in Old West Baltimore. They represent the work of Baltimore's most significant architects of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries: Thomas Balbirnie designed Madison Avenue Methodist Church (now Douglass Memorial Church); E. Francis Baldwin designed 1520-26 Druid Hill Avenue; Charles E. Cassell designed Bishop Whittingham Memorial Church (now St. Katherine P.E. Church); Charles Carson designed Enoch Pratt Library Branch #1 and Baltimore Hebrew Synagogue (now Berea Temple); Dixon & Carson designed Lafayette Square Presbyterian Church (now St. John A.M.E. Church); Paul Emmart designed the Schanze Theatre (now Arch Social Club); George Frederick designed Pius Memorial Church; Hutton & Murdoch designed St. Peters P.E. Church (now Bethel A.M.E. Church); Louis Levi designed Shearith Israel Synagogue; Alfred Mason designed Western High School (now Booker T. Washington Middle School) and School #104 (Old Colored School #9); Joseph Evans Sperry designed old Chizuk Amuno Synagogue (McCulloh Street); and Frances E. Tormey designed the Fulton Theatre.

The Evolution of Baltimore's Premier African-American Neighborhood

Prior to the 1890s, Baltimore City neighborhoods were not racially segregated. African Americans lived in proximity to their white neighbors; however, African Americans, along with poorer immigrants, lived in alley housing located behind the large houses for the wealthy on

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main streets. This demographic pattern applied to Old West Baltimore. Germans were the major ethnic group in the community. A German-English School was established at Pennsylvania Avenue and Dolphin Street in the 1870s. From 1892-1905, all the major German Jewish synagogues moved from downtown and east Baltimore to the area bounded by Lanale Street, Park Avenue, North Avenue and McCulloh Street. The African-American population was relegated to the smaller houses along alleys, such as Etting Street, Shields Place, Vincent Alley and Parrish Alley.

In 1880, African Americans were scattered among the 20 wards of the city and never made up more than one-third of the population of any ward; within ten years a predominately black neighborhood developed in the area now occupied by McCulloh Homes, just southeast of the district. While alleys generally bisect main streets in most nineteenth century Baltimore neighborhoods, in the area directly north of Seton Hill a series of alley-like streets ran parallel to Orchard Street, extending northward to Hoffman Street. With the growth of Baltimore's African-American population at the end of the nineteenth century, a substantial African-American neighborhood spread along these alley streets: Orchard Street, Biddle Street, Union Avenue, Preston Street and Oxford Street. As African Americans prospered, professionals could afford the larger main street houses, and a majority African-American neighborhood developed in Old West Baltimore centering on Druid Hill Avenue.

In 1909, Booker T. Washington wrote about the expansion of this neighborhood in his book, *The Story of the Negro*, "So far as I know there is no city in the United States where the coloured people own so many comfortable and attractive homes to proportion to the population, as in the city of Baltimore. In what is known as the Druid Hill district of the city, there are, perhaps, fifteen thousand coloured people. For fifteen blocks along Druid Hill Avenue nearly every house is occupied or owned by coloured people. In the later part of the ninties Dr. R. M. Hall, who is one of the oldest coloured physicians and one of the wealthiest coloured men in Baltimore, moved into 1019 Druid Hill Avenue. He was almost the first coloured man to make his home upon that street. Since that time the white people who lived there have moved out into the suburbs and the coloured people have moved in to take their places. I have been told that fully 50 per cent of the coloured people on Druid Hill Avenue own their homes, though, so far as I know, no systematic investigation has been made of the facts."¹

The concentration of African Americans in this neighborhood led to growing political power. Harry S. Cummings, an 1889 graduate of the University of Maryland Law School (prior

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to the banning of black students until 1935), became the first African American elected to the Baltimore City Council in 1890. In 1906, a Colored Law and Order League was established and worked to close down disorderly saloons just southeast of this district.

As more and more African Americans moved into the area, churches and institutions were established in the district. Many churches that were built by white congregations sold to black congregations at the turn of the twentieth century, such as converting St. Peters P.E. Church to Bethel A.M.E. Church in 1910. Other established churches moved to this area from other neighborhoods and built anew; for example, Sharp Street Church relocated to Dolphin and Etting streets in 1898. Union Baptist in the 1200 block of Druid Hill Avenue represents a new church established in this area. These churches not only provided for the spiritual needs of Baltimore's African-American citizens, but church leaders became activists encouraging the improvement of the conditions in the African-American community. Church schools were established to educate young people. Morgan State University had its start as the Centenary Biblical Institute of the Sharp Street Church. A church leader started the *Afro-American* newspaper. Civil rights speakers addressed audiences of young people at local church auditoriums.

In addition to churches, other African-American institutions were established in this area. Provident Hospital at Division Street north of Lafayette Avenue (no longer standing) was the only hospital where black physicians and nurses could practice medicine. The Colored YWCA was established at Druid Hill Avenue and Dolphin Street in 1896 (a cornerstone displaying CYWCA is extant on the building). By 1921 nearly all the major African-American civic organizations listed in the 9th Annual Colored Directory of Baltimore City were located within Old West Baltimore: ²

Arch Social, W. Herman Layne, Sec., 1106 McCulloh St.
Baltimore Dramatic Club, H. M. Gross, Pres., 1106 Myrtle Ave.
Baltimore Educational Association, H. M. Gross, Pres., 1106 Myrtle Ave.
Baptist Orphans' Home, 509 McMechen St., Mrs. Q. Creditt in charge.
Colored H. S. Alumni Association, G. S. Whyte, Pres., George St.
Co-operative Women's Civic League, Mrs. M. A. Hawkins, Pres., 1532 Druid Hill Ave.
Cosmopolitan Choral Society, Dr. C. E. Stewart.
Day Nursery, Mrs. J. H. Ross, Pres., 2047 Division St.
Dubois Circle, Miss Carrie Cook, Pres., 517 W. Lanvale St.
E. J. Neighborhood Club, Mrs. Alice Chambers, Pres., 2021 McCulloh St.
Inter-Racial Conference, Prof. M. A. Hawkins, Sec'y-Treas., 1532 Druid Hill Ave.

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- Maryland Association, Colored Blind, W. H. Langley, Pres., 1506 McCulloh St.
- Maryland Association for Social Service, J. R. L. Diggs, Pres., 713 Mosher St.
- Md. Colored Public Health Association, Prof. M. A. Hawkins, Pres., 1532 Druid Hill Ave.
- Md. Medical Dental and Ph. Assn., J. W. McRae, 1126 Druid Hill Ave.
- Md. State Teachers' Association, Geo. B. Murphy, Pres, 1404 Argyle Ave
- N. A. A. C. P., Mr. J. A. Callis, Pres., 2113 Druid Hill Ave.
- Nat. Mut. Imp. Assn., J. A. Jones, Sec., 223 Biddle St.
- Old Folks' Home for Men, Druid Hill Ave. near McMechen St.
- Public School Assn., Mrs. Bauerenschmidt, Pres, 609 Fidelity Bldg (W.).
- St. Cath. Home for Boys, Presstman and Bruce Sts.
- St. Cath. Home for Girls, Presstman and Druid Hill Ave.
- Social Center of Washington Conf., Baker & Carey Sts., Rev. E. S. Williams, Chr.
- Sharp St. Church, Community Center, Rev. E. Y. Trigg, Chr., Dolphin & Etting.
- Universal Negro Improvement Assn., Rev. J. J. Cranston, 1917 Penna. Ave.
- Y. M. C. A., S. S. Booker, Sec., 1619 Druid Hill Ave.
- Y. W. C. A., Miss M. E. Cooper, Pres., 1216 Drud Hill Ave.
- Woman's Suffrage Org., Mrs. H. E. Young, Pres.. 1100 Druid Hill Ave.

Public schools originally built for white students became “colored” schools in Baltimore’s segregated school system. New schools built specifically for African Americans were built in this area, most notably Douglass High School at Calhoun and Baker streets, replacing cramped quarters in the vicinity of Pennsylvania Avenue and Dolphin Street.

Old West Baltimore became the most populous African-American neighborhood in Baltimore. Block by block the neighborhood spread to the north and west. By 1910, 23,000 African Americans lived east of Pennsylvania Avenue compared to 7,500 white residents. The spread of the black population led to legislative action by the Baltimore City Council to restrict blocks to white occupancy. The courts overruled these efforts, yet private measures such as real estate deed restrictions, mortgage practices and physical intimidation limited areas where African Americans could live.

In the twenty years after 1910, the African-American population in the area doubled with the largest growth occurring between Pennsylvania and Fulton avenues. By 1940, 60,000 African Americans lived in the eight census tracts that made up the district accounting for 93.5% of the population in the district.

As the African-American population became predominant in this area, Pennsylvania Avenue became the community’s main street. In this Jim Crow era, many businesses in the

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downtown area and other neighborhoods refused service to African Americans. Downtown department stores did not allow African Americans to try on clothes. Hotels would not accommodate African-American visitors. Most restaurants were for whites only. Theatres would restrict African Americans to the balcony, if allowing them admission at all.

Restricted where they could shop, dine and attend performances, African Americans flocked to the businesses located on Pennsylvania Avenue that catered to the needs of this community. Although whites owned a majority of businesses, some African-American owned businesses operated on and around Pennsylvania Avenue. Some of the white businesses refused to employ African Americans, despite the fact that their clientele was nearly all African American. A "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work" protest and boycott of Pennsylvania Avenue in the 1930s was a precursor of the civil rights demonstrations that affected social and legal change in the 1950s and 1960s.

In 1921, the Douglass Theatre opened as an African-American owned and operated theatre, but it was not a financial success. Within four years it closed, soon to re-open under white ownership with a new name, the Royal Theatre. The Royal was the largest and most famous theatre along "the Avenue." Over the years, top national music entertainers performed at the Royal, including Nat King Cole, Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, Billie Holliday, Count Bassie, Dizzy Gillespie, Stan Kenton, Earl Hines, Pearl Bailey, Charley Parker, the Orioles, Platters, Temptations and Supremes. African-American comedians such as Moms Mabley and Slappy White also performed there.

In addition to the Royal, many establishments catered to a growing entertainment center in the heart of Old West Baltimore. They included the Regnet Theatre, the Sphinx Club, Club Casino, the Strand Ballroom, Albert Hall, the Avenue Bar, Gamby's, Club Frolic and Buck's Bar.

Cab Calloway, who grew up in Old West Baltimore, described the types of acts performed at the Regent Theatre in the 1920s: "The revues at the Regent Theatre usually consisted of various bands that would play instrumentals or accompany singers like me doing pop tunes like 'Bye, Bye Blackbird.' Then the chorus line would come on and the girls would dance up a storm: tap dance, soft shoe, and jazzed-up ballet numbers. The costumes were always out of sight, colorful and flamboyant, and the guys in the band always dressed formally, in black tuxedos with white shirts and bow ties. It was something to see."³

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Performers stayed at the Penn Hotel, a black-run establishment, and patronized restaurants on the Avenue. Unlike downtown theatres, these entertainment venues were not racially restricted. Whites attended performances of black musicians at Pennsylvania Avenue theatres and nightclubs. It was the only place in town where these entertainers could perform.

While Old West Baltimore was not the only major African-American neighborhood in Baltimore, it was the largest and most influential. By the 1920s, East Baltimore also had a substantial African-American population centered on the current Old Town Mall area. This neighborhood included Dunbar High School, African-American oriented businesses and even some important entertainment venues, such as the Apollo Theatre, but no other Baltimore neighborhood compared with the size and influence of Old West Baltimore in the social, political, economic, and spiritual development of Baltimore's African-American community.

Important People of the Community

The most famous resident of Old West Baltimore was Thurgood Marshall, US Supreme Court Justice and NAACP lawyer responsible for ending de jure segregation in the United States. Marshall spent his formative years living in this neighborhood. He was born at 543 McMechen Street and later lived at 1632 Division Street and 1838 Druid Hill Avenue. He attended School #103 on Division Street and later went to Douglass High School with classmate Cab Calloway. He worked after school running errands for Mr. Schoen's hat shop on Pennsylvania Avenue. He joined St. Katherine's Episcopal Church on Division Street. His grandfather, Thorney Marshall, operated a grocery store at 533 Dolphin Street. His mother later taught at School #103.

Unable to attend University of Maryland Law School, since they would not accept African-American students, Thurgood Marshall took the train daily from Baltimore to Howard Law School in Washington. After becoming a lawyer, he set up a practice in downtown Baltimore and achieved his first major legal success, in the case of Murray vs. Maryland, where the court ruled that the University of Maryland Law School had to admit an African-American student, since no other law school existed in the state and no out of state law school specialized in teaching Maryland law. Within a year of winning this case, the NAACP Headquarters in New York hired him, catapulting his legal career. He was soon arguing segregation cases before the Supreme Court and in 1967, President Lyndon Johnson selected him as a Supreme Court Justice, the highest government position obtained by an African American at that time.

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Juan Williams, the author of Thurgood Marshall: American-Revolutionary, stated in an interview that growing up in Old West Baltimore was influential in shaping Thurgood Marshall, "and in Marshall's case, the fact that he comes from Baltimore, Maryland, is essential to understanding what gives him the vision and the drive. He has a sense, I think, that the world should be like Baltimore, as Baltimore was for him as a child. And what it was, was a port city, where there were lots of immigrants; immigrants from Russia, Germany, Ireland, coming and living in Old West Baltimore. In the black area, he grows up next to a Jewish family, best friend is a Jewish kid, and he has a sense also that black people have some political voice, that they can speak out if there's anything being done incorrectly. He has a sense of black people having the capacity to run their own businesses, lead their own religious institutions, have their own newspapers. He sees this as the way the world is. If he'd been farther South, he would have been too much under the thumb of very much intense oppression in terms of the aftermath of slavery and reconstruction and harsh Jim Crow. And if he'd been up North, of course, then he would have been experiencing the kind of alienation that comes from being one family among many in terms of the small number of black people." ⁴

In addition to Thurgood Marshall, Clarence Mitchell, Jr., a native of Old West Baltimore, was influential in the national civil rights movement. Called the "101st Senator," he was Director of the Washington Bureau of the NAACP and led the struggle for passage of Civil Rights acts in 1957, 1960 and 1964, the Voting Rights Act in 1965 and the Fair Housing Act of 1968. In 1980 President Carter awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Other members of the Mitchell family were important in national, state and local politics and the Civil Rights movement: Parren J. Mitchell, first African-American member of the United States House of Representatives from Maryland (1971-1987); Lillie Carroll Jackson, Director of the Baltimore NAACP from the 1930s through the 1970s; and Juanita Jackson Mitchell, National Youth Director of the NAACP. More recently Clarence Mitchell IV, Michael Mitchell and Keiffer Mitchell have held state and local legislative office.

Members of the Murphy family, the editors of the *Afro-American* newspaper, lived in this community. The *Afro-American* was begun by Reverend William Alexander in 1892 and was published on North Fremont Street. By 1896, John H. Murphy, Sr., became the editor and later his son, Carl Murphy, published the paper for nearly fifty years. The *Afro* became a national

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chain. It battled local segregation in education, recreation, employment and housing. Its sports editor, Sam Lacey, influenced the end of the color barrier in professional baseball in the 1940s.

The Maryland State Archives website "From Frederick to Thurgood" [<http://www.mdarchives.state.md.us/msa/stagser/s1259/121/6050/html/1000.html>] documents other important early African-American leaders in this neighborhood. Harry S. Cummings, first African-American City Councilman, lived at 1234 and 1318 Druid Hill Avenue. Dr. Henry J. Brown, a physician and political activist, lived at 426 N. Gilmore Street. George M. Lane, the first African American to run for Mayor in 1897, lived at 1353 N. Carey Street and 1607 Division Street. W. Ashbie Hawkins, an early African-American lawyer and political leader, lived at 529 Prestman Street. George McMechen, an attorney and first African American appointed to the Board of School Commissioners, lived at 1429 North Mount Street and 1834 McCulloh Street; Walter T. McGuin, an African-American Baltimore City Councilman in the 1920s, lived at 1911 Division Street. Roberta Sheridan, the first African-American teacher in Baltimore City Schools, lived at 1441 North Carey Street.

Noted jazz performers Cab Calloway and Billie Holliday lived in Old West Baltimore. Cab Calloway was one of the jazz era's most noted bandleaders. He led the band at New York's Cotton Club gaining radio exposure and national recognition. While Cab Calloway lived in the neighborhood for most of his youth, attended Douglass High School and first performed on Pennsylvania Avenue, Billie Holliday mostly lived on Baltimore's eastside. For a short time, Billie Holliday, then known as Eleanora Fagan, lived in the 1400 block of Fremont Avenue and was registered to attend School #104 (the old Colored School #9) on Carey Street. Her frequent absences resulted in being sent to the House of Good Shepherd for Colored Girls when the courts found her to be a "minor without proper care and guardianship." After moving to Harlem as a teenager, she was discovered and later sang for Count Bassie and Artie Shaw, becoming one of the first African-American singers to perform with a white orchestra. A statue of Billie Holliday now stands at Pennsylvania and Lafayette avenues.

While Old West Baltimore is associated with lives of significant persons in our past, it was also the home to working class African Americans who performed basic jobs in Baltimore, raised families and contributed to the community. Most of these people are little-known, but a Ladies Home Journal article of April 1951 entitled, "Our Children Are Going to College," documented the lives of James and Eledith Peters of 1635 W. Lafayette Avenue. A railway porter and substitute schoolteacher, the Peterses scraped by on meager earnings to buy their

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Baltimore row house and raise three children, sending two to college while their youngest was still in high school at the time of the article. The article describes their life in Old West Baltimore, economic struggles, participation in schools and civic associations in the neighborhood (School #132, Frederick Douglass High School, Payne Memorial A.M.E. Church and the NAACP) and dealing with racism. Old West Baltimore is not only significant for its association with the lives of Thurgood Marshall, Clarence Mitchell, Jr., Cab Calloway and Billie Holliday, but the Peters family and all the working class African-American residents who lived in the row houses of the community.

Redevelopment and Historic Integrity

Older houses just southeast of Old West Baltimore area were torn down for redevelopment as early as 1927. In that year the Samuel C. Taylor Elementary School at Preston Street near Dolphin Street was built on the site of a dilapidated area known as Lung Block, because it had the highest number of tuberculosis cases in the city. In August 1941, McCulloh Homes, one of the earliest public housing projects in Baltimore, was opened on five square blocks in the vicinity of Druid Hill Avenue and Preston Street. Within the district, Gilmor Homes at Prestman and Gilmor streets, east of Pennsylvania Avenue, was completed in June 1942. This housing project differed from the older row houses since entrances into units faced inner block courts, instead of streets.

One of the major changes in the community took place with the success of the civil rights movement and the end of legally-mandated segregation, partially due to the efforts of the district's most noteworthy citizen, Thurgood Marshall. While civil rights efforts took place over a substantial period of time, the landmark Brown vs. the Board of Education decision in 1954 put an end to the "separate but equal" doctrine that was the law of the land since the 1890s. Subsequent fair housing laws ended racial restrictions in residential areas. Middle class African Americans were free to follow white citizens to more suburban neighborhoods and many left Old West Baltimore for Ashburton, Forrest Park, Randallstown, and Woodlawn.

The end of racial segregation in public accommodation allowed African Americans to shop, dine and seek entertainment in areas where they were once forbidden. This led to a decline of Pennsylvania Avenue as a viable retail and entertainment center. The historic neighborhoods of Old West Baltimore became the enclaves of the poor and were soon designated urban renewal areas: Upton, Harlem Park, Madison Park, Sandtown-Winchester and Druid Heights.

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Massive demolition and abandonment took place in the 1960s and 1970s when urban renewal plans resulted in considerable change to the built environment. Within Harlem Park, inner block alley houses were cleared and replaced with parks, while rehabilitation was encouraged for larger houses. At the time, rehabilitation largely involved substantial remodeling and modernizing of facades. Within the Upton area, most of Pennsylvania Avenue was demolished and replaced with new townhouses, garden apartments, churches and public buildings.

Housing abandonment and clearance without replacement left large vacant lots scattered throughout the community. In the 1990s, the Schmoke administration undertook a massive effort to redevelop the Sandtown area with the construction of new homes, subsidized and at market rate, and with the substantial rehabilitation of blocks of row houses. A new development in the 2200 block of Brunt Street featuring houses with front garages is more reminiscent of recent suburban developments than the traditional appearance of urban row house communities.

While redevelopment has impacted the integrity of the historic character of the district, the overall appearance of the neighborhood is still dominated by row housing, and many significant churches, public buildings and even some of the commercial buildings have survived. New market rate housing has encouraged home ownership and may help recapture a middle class African-American population that left this area with the end of legalized housing segregation. The recent installation of a mural depicting important historic citizens of Marble Hill (illustration #4), placement of a historic marker at the boyhood home of Thurgood Marshall, and the construction of a Royal Theatre memorial are some of the activities that may lead to a better public understanding of the significance of this area.

Other Baltimore National Register historic districts have similar conditions of dilapidated buildings and vacant lots, most notably the Baltimore East/South Clifton Park district. Established historic districts like Bolton Hill include portions that were demolished and replaced by later townhouses, high rise apartment buildings, schools, college dormitories and a small shopping center. A single historic block of Linden Avenue is all that remains of one of the major streets within Bolton Hill. Therefore, despite challenges to the integrity of its built environment, Old West Baltimore merits designation not only for its significant structures, but its unique history as Baltimore's premier African-American neighborhood of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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Architects and Builders

Architects whose work is represented in the district include: E. Francis Baldwin, George Frederick, Alfred Mason, Joseph Evans Sperry, Thomas Balbirnie, Charles E. Cassell, Charles Carson, Thomas Dixon, Paul Emmart, Nathaniel Henry Hutton, John Murdoch, Louis Levi, Alfred Mason and Frances E. Tormey. Joseph Cone was a major builder active in the area.

Period of Significance Justification:

The period of significance is defined as 1838-1954. The 1838 date relates to the construction of the earliest known building in the district, the Upton Mansion. The 1954 date marks the Brown vs. Board of Education decision that ended the "separate but equal" doctrine and led to the end of legally mandated segregation in housing. Following this landmark case, middle-class African Americans began to move out of Old West Baltimore, and the neighborhood's historic character as a vibrant community of African Americans of all social strata began to change.

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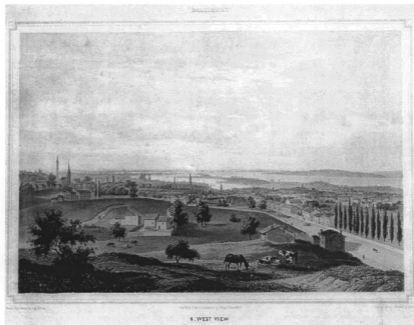


Illustration #1 **Baltimore - Northwest View, 1848.**
<http://www.epfl.net/exhibits/catorprints/images/large/cator111.jpg>

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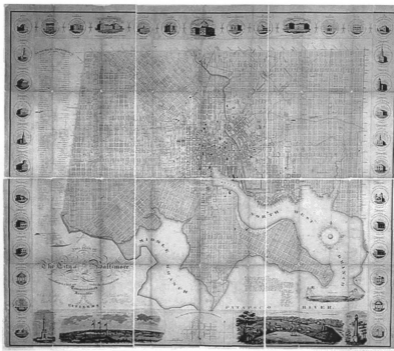


Illustration #2 Baltimore – Plan of the City of Baltimore 1823
<http://www.mdhs.org/library/MappingMD/image19f.html>

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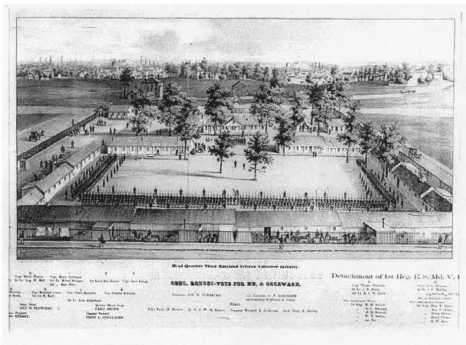


Illustration #3 Lafayette Barracks, Baltimore, Md. Headquarters Third Maryland Veteran Volunteer Infantry. 1862.

<http://www.epfl.net/exhibits/catorprints/images/large/cator122.jpg>

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Illustration #4 The Marble Hill Mural at 1740 Druid Hill Avenue. 2001.
<http://www.goucher.edu/oldwestbaltimore/1740druidhill.htm>

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Old West Baltimore Historic District Photo List:

- 1/60 1000 Block W. Lanvale Street
- 2/60 Upton Mansion, 811 W. Lanvale Street
- 3/60 900 Block W. Franklin Street
- 4/60 1528-30 Druid Hill Avenue
- 5/60 1603-05 Edmondson Avenue
- 6/60 1000 Block N. Calhoun Street
- 7/60 1100 Block Shields Place
- 8/60 1034 Edmondson Avenue
- 9/60 2000 Block Madison Avenue
- 10/60 1600 Block Edmondson Avenue
- 11/60 1538 McCulloh Street
- 12/60 1336 Division Street
- 13/60 1800 Block Mount Street
- 14/60 Sellers Mansion, 801 N. Arlington Avenue
- 15/60 2000-2002 McCulloh Street
- 16/60 Bellview – Manchester Apartments, 2101 Madison Avenue
- 17/60 McCulloh Homes, Cummings Court* (outside of district boundaries)
- 18/60 601-05 N. Carey Street
- 19/60 1316-22 Riggs Street
- 20/60 2200 Block Brunt Street
- 21/60 Perkins Square Gazebo, Heritage Crossing* (outside of district boundaries)
- 22/60 700 Block N. Freemont Avenue
- 23/60 Bethel A.M.E. Church, 1300 Druid Hill Avenue
- 24/60 Sharp Street Memorial U.M. Church, 508 Dolphin Street
- 25/60 Cummins Memorial and Lafayette Square Presbyterian Church, Carrollton Avenue at Lanvale Street
- 26/60 Union Baptist Church, 1227 Druid Hill Avenue
- 27/60 St. Katherine's P.E. Church, 2001 Division Street
- 28/60 Madison Avenue M.E. Church, 1327 Madison Avenue
- 29/60 St. Peter Claver R.C. Church, 1532 N. Freemont Avenue
- 30/60 Berea Temple, 1901 Madison Avenue
- 31/60 Shearith Israel Synagogue, 2105 McCulloh Street

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- 32/60 School #158, 1223 Argyle Avenue
- 33/60 School #103, 1315 Division Street
- 34/60 School #111, 1024 N. Carrollton Avenue
- 35/60 School #104, 1431 N. Carey Street
- 36/60 Old Western High School, 1301 McCulloh Street
- 37/60 Frederick Douglass High School, 1601 N. Calhoun Street
- 38/60 Enoch Pratt Free Library Branch #1, 664 Pitcher Street
- 39/60 Engine House #25, 2140 McCulloh Street
- 40/60 Home of the Friendless, 1313 Druid Hill Avenue
- 41/60 Saint Vincent's Infant Asylum, 1411 Division Street
- 42/60 Colored YWCA, 1200 Druid Hill Avenue
- 43/60 Druid YMCA, 1609 Druid Hill Avenue
- 44/60 1800 Block Pennsylvania Avenue
- 45/60 Bank of America Branch, 1806 Pennsylvania Avenue
- 46/60 Wester Ogle Dairy, 1847 Druid Hill Avenue
- 47/60 Telephone Building, 1901 Druid Hill Avenue
- 48/60 Garage, 1711 McCulloh Street
- 49/60 Adams Coal Company, Gold Street at Division Street
- 50/60 Fulton Theatre, 1563 Fulton Avenue
- 51/60 Schanze Theatre (Arch Social Club), 2426 Pennsylvania Avenue
- 52/60 Lafayette Square
- 53/60 Harlem Park
- 54/60 McCulloh Homes Statues, 1000 Block McCulloh Street* (outside of district boundaries)
- 55/60 Billie Holliday Statue, Pennsylvania and Lafayette avenues
- 56/60 Royal Theatre Memorial, Pennsylvania and Lafayette avenues
- 57/60 Shake and Bake Family Fun Center, 1601 Pennsylvania Avenue
- 58/60 Furman L. Templeton Elementary School, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue
- 59/60 500 Block Robert Street
- 60/60 1100 Block Franklin Street

Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register

Baltimore Hebrew Congregation Synagogue, 1901 Madison Avenue, B-3702
Cummins Memorial Church, 1210 W. Lanvale Street, B-127
Frederick Douglass High School, 1601 N. Calhoun Street, B-4210

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Home of Friendless, 1313 Druid Hill Avenue, B-2968
Madison Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, 1327 Madison Avenue, B-4432
Public School #111, 1024 N. Carrollton Avenue, B-3930
Sellers Mansion, 801 N. Arlington Avenue, B-87
Sharp Street Memorial United Methodist Church & Community House, 508 Dolphin Street,
B-2963, B-3609
Upton, 811 W. Lanvale Street, B-2980

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Endnotes:

¹ The Story of the Negro: The Rise of the Race from Slavery (vol. 2), Booker T. Washington, New York: Doubleday, Page & Company, 1909, p. 257-58.

² THE FIRST COLORED Professional, Clerical and Business DIRECTORY OF BALTIMORE CITY 9th Annual Edition, 1921-1922, p. 13.

³ Minnie the Moocher and Me. Cab Calloway and Bryant Rollins, New York: Thomas Y. Cromwell Co, 1976, p. 28.

⁴ "American Revolutionary?" David Gergen interview of Juan Williams in News Hour with Jim Lehrer Transcript, November 3, 1998,
[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/gergen/november98/gergen_11-3.html]

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UTM References:

Baltimore West, MD Quadrangle

1. 18-357978-4352442
2. 18-359040-4352478
3. 18-359832-4351630
4. 18-359360-4350838
5. 18-359253-4350736
6. 18-358013-4350695

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the northwest corner of Fremont Avenue and Franklin Street, Old West Baltimore borders on the north side of Franklin Street westerly until it intersects the alley directly west of Fulton Avenue; thence northerly including properties on both sides of Fulton Avenue to the southwestern corner of Fulton Avenue and North Avenue; thence easterly along the south side of North Avenue until it intersects the western boundary of the Bolton Hill Historic District defined by the extension of Morris Street (between Eutaw Place and Madison Avenue); thence binding on Morris Street southeasterly until it intersects with Dolphin Street; thence binding on the north side of Dolphin Street southwesterly until it intersects with first alley west of Pennsylvania Avenue (once known as Wilmer Court); thence binding on said alley southeasterly until it intersects with Hoffman Street; thence binding on Hoffman Street southwesterly until it intersects with Harlem Avenue; thence binding on Harlem Avenue westerly until it intersects with Brune Street; thence binding on Brune Street southerly until it intersects with a 16' alley south of Edmondson Avenue; thence binding on said alley westerly and northerly to intersect with Edmondson Avenue; thence binding on Edmondson Avenue westerly to intersect with Fremont Avenue; thence binding on west side of Fremont Avenue until it intersects with Franklin Street, the place of the beginning.

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Boundary Justification:

Franklin Street is a sharp southern boundary since highway construction has cut off this area from other neighborhoods. The somewhat jagged southeastern boundary was defined to exclude major redevelopment projects. The eastern boundary abuts the Bolton Hill National Register Historic District receding to Madison Avenue south of Dolphin Street since Morris Street ends at that point. South of Dolphin Street, the State Office Complex takes up three city blocks that have been entirely cleared except for a c. 1960s state building. North Avenue was defined as the boundary on the north, since this was the city boundary prior to 1919 and is consistent with the northern boundary of the Bolton Hill Historic District. The western boundary takes in both sides of Fulton Avenue that was developed as a boulevard with park-like medians and is much wider than other streets in the area. Historically, Fulton Avenue was the dividing line between the African-American community of Old West Baltimore and white neighborhoods to the west.

The boundaries of the Old West Baltimore Historic District are consistent with the area that was predominantly occupied by African Americans beginning in 1890 through 1954. The name Old West Baltimore has been used recently by historians to define this area, most notably in Ryon Roderick's 1982 *Maryland Historical Magazine* article, in Karen Olsen's article for the Baltimore Book and in Juan Williams' biography of Thurgood Marshall.

Historically, sections of Old West Baltimore were popularly known as Sugar Hill, Marble Hill, Sandtown, Lafayette Park and Harlem Park; boundaries of these neighborhoods were not clearly defined. Although there were always subsections of Old West Baltimore, the unifying racial characteristic of the overall area was significant in a time of housing segregation and Jim Crow laws. The boundaries were defined to embrace the full extent of the African-American community rather than divide it between smaller subsections that cannot be specifically defined.

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National Park Service**

Old West Baltimore:
Harlem Park/Upton/Santown/Druid
Heights/Madison Park
B-1373

Name of Property

Baltimore (Independent City) Maryland

County or State

Address List

Address	Even	Odd
Allegany Place		703-715
Argyle Avenue	1116-1600	1109-1535
N. Arlington Avenue	502-1036	503-1019
Bakbury Court	1600-1612	1601-1679
Baker Street	502-1532	503-1723
Balmor Court	1600-1612	1601-1679
Bennett Place	900-1028	901-1029
Bloom Street	342-516	309-549
Booker Court	1600-1628	1601-1639
Brantley Avenue	1000-1048	1001-1049
Bruce Court	1600-1678	
N. Bruce Street	1520-1526	1701-1715
Brune Street	700-728	
Brunt Street	1806-2128	1705 1/2 -2229
N. Calhoun Street	500-1742	501-1729
N. Carey Street	500-1802	501-1747
N. Carrollton Avenue	502-1156	501-1157
Cumberland Street	602-738	501-719
Delano Court	1600-1658	
Division Street	1300-2216	1205-2309
Dolphin Street	500-758	701-753
Druid Hill Avenue	1200-2230	1201-2239
Edmondson Avenue	802-1700	805-1739
Etting Street	1206-2332	1201-2025
W. Franklin Street	900-1722	
N. Fremont Avenue	500-1536	701-1125
N. Fulton Avenue	504-1826	501-1827
N. Gilmor Street	502-1632	501-1637
Gold Street	402-710	501-711
Harlem Avenue	800-1724	803-1725
Hoffman Street	648-650	
W. Lafayette Avenue	502-1724	513-1723
W. Lanvale Street	520-1708	505-1729
Laurens Street	410-1716	501-1633
Leslie Street	1500-1520	1501-1531
Lorman Court	1600-1648	1601-1649
Lorman Street	1702-1720	1703-1717
Madison Avenue	1400-2100	1213-2039
McCulloh Street	1208-2212	1305-2135
McMechen Street	502-558	401-543
Mosher Street	630-1714	309-1717
N. Mount Street	512-1828	615-1831
Mountmor Court	1400-1678	1401-1539
Myrtle Avenue	1104-1500	1101-1505

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Old West Baltimore:
Harlem Park/Upton/Santown/Druid
Heights/Madison Park
B-1373

Name of Property

Baltimore (Independent City) Maryland
County or State

Address List

Address	Even	Odd
W. North Avenue		1129-1741
N. Parrish Street	1204-1434	1003-1225
Pennsylvania Ave.	1200-2426	1211-2327
Pitcher Street	602-664	601-643
Presbury Street	1610-1720	
Presser Court	1500-1528	1501-1519
Presstman Street	332-1722	401-1721
Riggs Avenue	1100-1720	1115-1619
Robert Street	428-528	341-559
Sanford Place	500-534	501-545
N. Schroeder Street	504-524	503-645
Shields Place	1110-1154	1109-1131
Smithson Street	636-1214	629-1225
Spray Court	1600-1604	1601-1605
N. Stockton Street	1020-2434	1309-2413
N. Stricker Street	504-1548	503-1539
Vincent Court	1600-1612	1515-1679
Westwood Avenue	1612-1716	1613-1729
Whatcoat Street	1100-1224	1101-1223
Wilson Street	414-582	529-543
Winchester Street	1520	1105-1519
N. Woodyear Street	1100-1826	1101-1559



NON CONTRIBUTING
BUILDING

Old West Baltimore:
Harlem Park/Upton/Sandtown/Druid Heights/Madison Park

(B-1373)





OLD WEST
BALTIMORE:

HARLEM PARK
UPTON
SANDTOWN
DRUID HEIGHTS
MADISON PARK

B-1273

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