

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Mount Vernon Place Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Mount Vernon Place Historic District

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Mount Vernon Place and Washington Place

CITY OR TOWN:
Baltimore

STATE: **Maryland** CODE: COUNTY: **Baltimore** CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Baltimore

STREET AND NUMBER:
Baltimore City Hall

CITY OR TOWN: **Baltimore** STATE: **Maryland** CODE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Land Record Office of the Superior Court of Baltimore City

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 610 Baltimore City Court House

CITY OR TOWN: **Baltimore** STATE: **Maryland** CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1936** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The dominant feature of the Mount Vernon Place Historic District is the Washington Monument by Robert Mills which was constructed between 1815 and 1829. As built, the monument is much simpler than the prize-winning design. Basically the monument is a monumental Doric column and capital placed on a high square pedestal and topped with a 15-foot high standing statue of George Washington. The monument is constructed of marble quarried in neighboring Baltimore county. The contractors were the firm of Towson and Steuart. The Monument is 165 feet high to the top of the column. The original design called for applied bronze ornament to the column shaft, and "trophy" sculpture for the top of the pedestal. These refinements were never carried out. However, during the decade of the 1830's the handsome Mills circular cast iron fence, with paired gate posts resembling Roman fasces, was completed and the bronze lettering was applied to the four elevations of the pedestal. This lettering forms the following inscription:

To George Washington by the State of Maryland
 Born 22 February 1732
 Died 14 December 1799
 Commander in Chief of the American
 Army 15 June 1775
 Commissioned Resigned at Annapolis
 23 December 1783
 Trenton, 26 December 1776
 Yorktown, 19 October 1781
 President of the United States
 4 March 1789
 Retired to Mount Vernon
 4 March 1797

The monument has four entrance doors, one on each face. The monument is entered from the south door and there is an open corridor on all four sides surrounding the base of the shaft. From the north corridor a doorway leads to the narrow circular stone stairway that leads to the roof of the pedestal and to the top of the column shaft.

The four rectangular parks that radiate for one city block to the north, south, east, and west of the monument to form open space in the shape of a Greek cross. The east-west axis, Mount Vernon Place, is 200 feet wide and 744 feet long; the north-south axis, Washington Place, is 150 feet wide and 744 feet long. Originally these rectangles were merely open grass. About 1850 they were fenced in and lined with trees, then in 1880's the fences were removed and the parkes were redesigned as sculpture gardens to receive various works of art including five bronzes by Antoine-Louis Baryé. In 1916 they were relandscaped to their present appearance by the firm of Carrère and Hastings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

4. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The area known commonly as "Mount Vernon Place" in Baltimore, Maryland, is composed of four rectangular parks, East and West Mount Vernon Place and North and South Washington Place. These garden-parks, and the houses that line them, form the setting for the Washington Monument designed by Robert Mills and completed in 1829. This 165-foot Doric column, on a rectangular base, is surmounted by a 15-foot high standing statue of George Washington by Enrico Causici. This is the first major monument in the country built to honor the first president, and is one of the finest examples of monumental architecture in the United States. It is based on the precedent of the great triumphal columns of Roman antiquity and also perhaps on the more recent monument to the victims of the Great London Fire by Wren or the Napoleon column in the Place Vendome in Paris. Viewed from a distance and in the context of its symbolic function, this vigorous monument is a singularly appropriate memorial to the man who came to be regarded as the father of his country.

Mount Vernon Place is one of the first examples in the United States of deliberate city planning to create a dramatic setting for an existing monument. The success of the scheme, laid out in 1831, is shown by the exceptionally high quality of the architecture that was erected around the four squares. Most notable buildings are the Thomas-Jencks House built in 1851 in the late Greek Revival style by Niernsee and Nielson; the Jacobs house built in 1884 by Stanford White and enlarged in 1902 by John Russell Pope; the Peabody Institute built from 1859 to 1866 by E.G. Lind in the Italianate style; and the Walters Art Gallery built from 1905 to 1909 in the Italian Renaissance Revival style by Delano and Aldrich. The Washington Monument by Robert Mills is most certainly an example of American architecture of the first importance and it became the focus and the reason for one of the best conceived and executed city planning projects ever carried out in 19th-century America.

History

From the time of the death of George Washington in 1799, there were numerous efforts to honor him all across the growing country. However the first successful proposal to erect a major monument to him did not take form until 1810 when the General Assembly of Maryland authorized a lottery to raise \$100,000 to build a monument to him. A Board of Managers was appointed to oversee the project and a site was chosen on Calvert Street on the site of the old Courthouse. French émigré architect Maximilien Godefroy

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Henry Russell Hitchcock, Architecture, 19th and 20th Centuries, (Baltimore 1963), 80; Fiske Kimball, American Architecture, (Indianapolis, 1928), 225; Wayne Andrews, Architecture, Ambition, and Americans, (New York, 1955), 86; Richard H. Howland and Eleanor P. Spencer, The Architecture of Baltimore, (Baltimore, 1953), 51, 52, 75; Wilbur H. Hunter, Jr. and Charles H. Elam, Century of Baltimore Architecture, (Baltimore, 1957), plates 6 through 12; Helen Pierce Gallagher, Robert Mills, (New York, 1935), 104-109.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
W. Brown Morton III

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Survey, OAHP, National Park Service** DATE: **7/28/71**

STREET AND NUMBER:
801 19th Street, N. W.

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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Mount Vernon Place Historic District property description:

Property bounded on the south by Hamilton Street; on the west by the alley between Cathedral Street and Park Avenue; in the north by Read Street to the east end of Lot 31, following the eastern edge of Lots 31, 30, 29, 28, and 27 the northern edge of Lots 17, 16, 15, 14, 13, 12, 11, 10, 9, 8 (all Block 517), crossing St. Paul Place to northern edge of Lot 21, Block 518; and on the east by Gore Alley.

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8. Significance

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prepared several proposals for the monument in 1810 but none of them were accepted. The Board published a notice in 1813 of an architectural competition with a prize of \$500 for the winning entry. Entries survive from Godefroy, Joseph-Jaques Remeé, Robert Mills, and an anonymous entry thought to be that of B.H. Latrobe.

The prize was awarded to Robert Mills, then working in Charleston, South Carolina. His winning project called for a 140-foot Doric column rising from a rectangular base with an open vault under it. A sculpture group of Washington being driven in a chariot pulled by four horses was planned for the top of the column.

In competitions of this nature, the prize winning design often turns out to cost too much and so the finished product is somewhat simplified. In the case of the Washington Monument this was true. First of all the site was changed in 1814 from Calvert Street to a new site north of the city on axis with Charles Street extended. This site was donated by Colonel John Eager Howard from a portion of his estate, Belvidere. This marked the beginning of what is now Mount Vernon Place.

The monument was commenced in the spring of 1815 and by 1824 the base, column and capital were completed. By this time the monument had already exceeded the available funding by \$13,000. In 1826 the sculptor Enrico Causici of Verona, Italy, was engaged to make a 15 foot high stone statue of a standing Washington holding a scroll of his military commission. The statue was finished in November 1829 and lifted into place atop the 165 foot shaft. During the next decade the bronze inscriptions on the base were put up, the landscaping and fencing completed. However the proposed "trophy" sculpture groups for the four corners of the base were never realized.

In 1829 Charles Howard completed an imposing Greek revival house at the northeast corner of the monument. In 1831, the Howard family executors were granted permission to create the four, one block long, rectangular parks leading away from the monument. Those east and west along Monument Street were named Mount Vernon Place. Those north and south on the axis of Charles Street were named Washington Place. The resulting cross shaped park with the monument in the center has become known familiarly in its entirety as Mount Vernon Place.

From its inception this place became a fashionable and sought-after residential district. The Howard executors deliberately created a sensitively scaled setting for the Washington Monument and at the same time created the finest urban development project in the city.

Mount Vernon Place reached the zenith of its development in the last half of the 19th century. Great private houses such as the Thomas-Jencks House by Niernsee and Nielson, the Jacobs House by Stanford White and John

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(Number all entries)

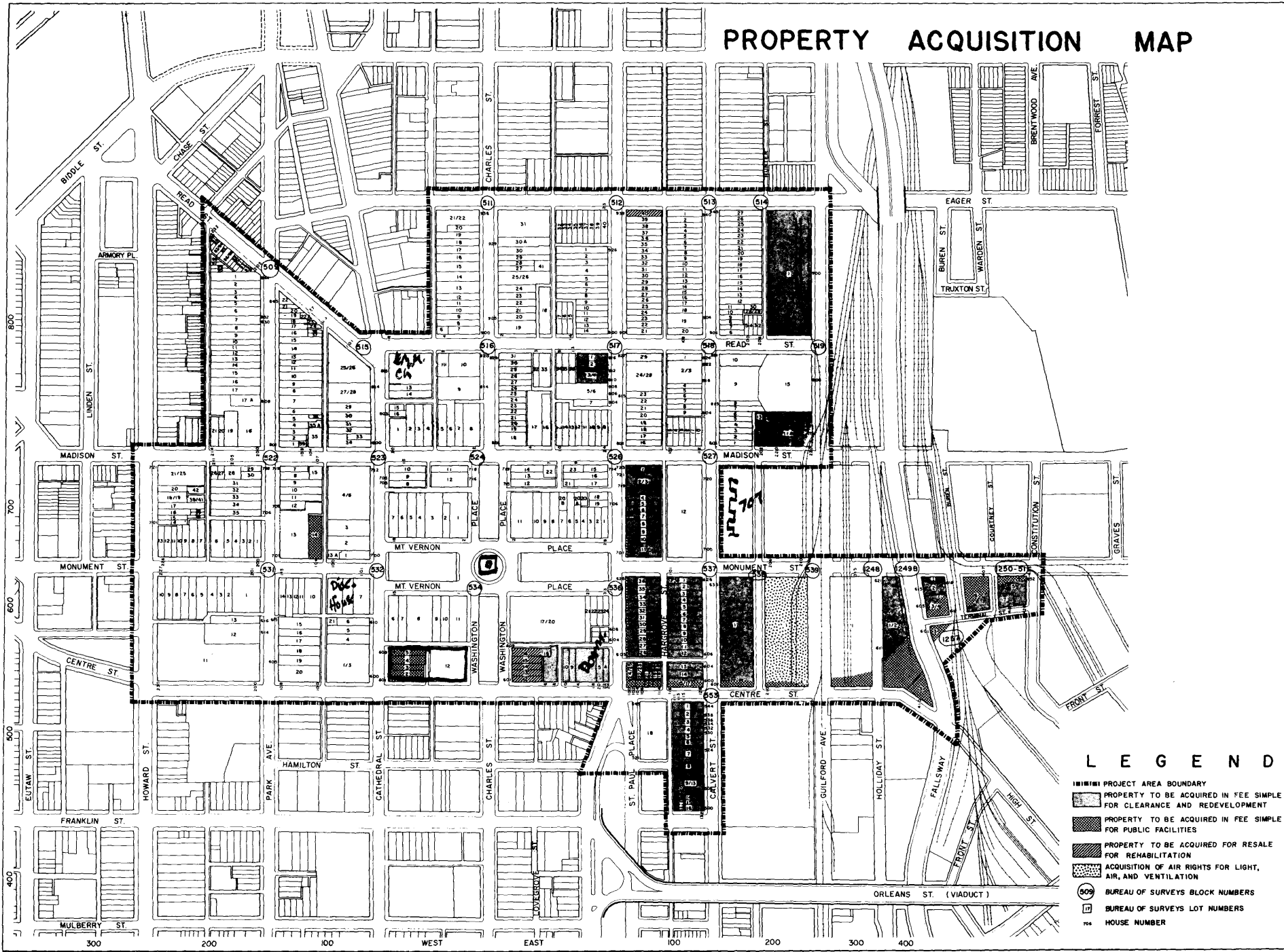
8. Significance

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Russell Pope shared the square with the Peabody Institute designed and built by E. G. Lind from 1859 to 1866. In 1905 the great art collector Henry Walters built the Walters Art Gallery, designed by Delano and Aldreich on South Washington Place. Since the first world war Mount Vernon Place has undergone a steady transformation from being a neighborhood of large single family town houses for the wealthy to its present condition where the same buildings for the most part are divided into apartments or serve as clubs or offices.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION MAP

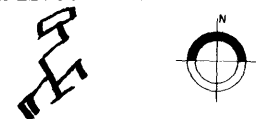


LEGEND

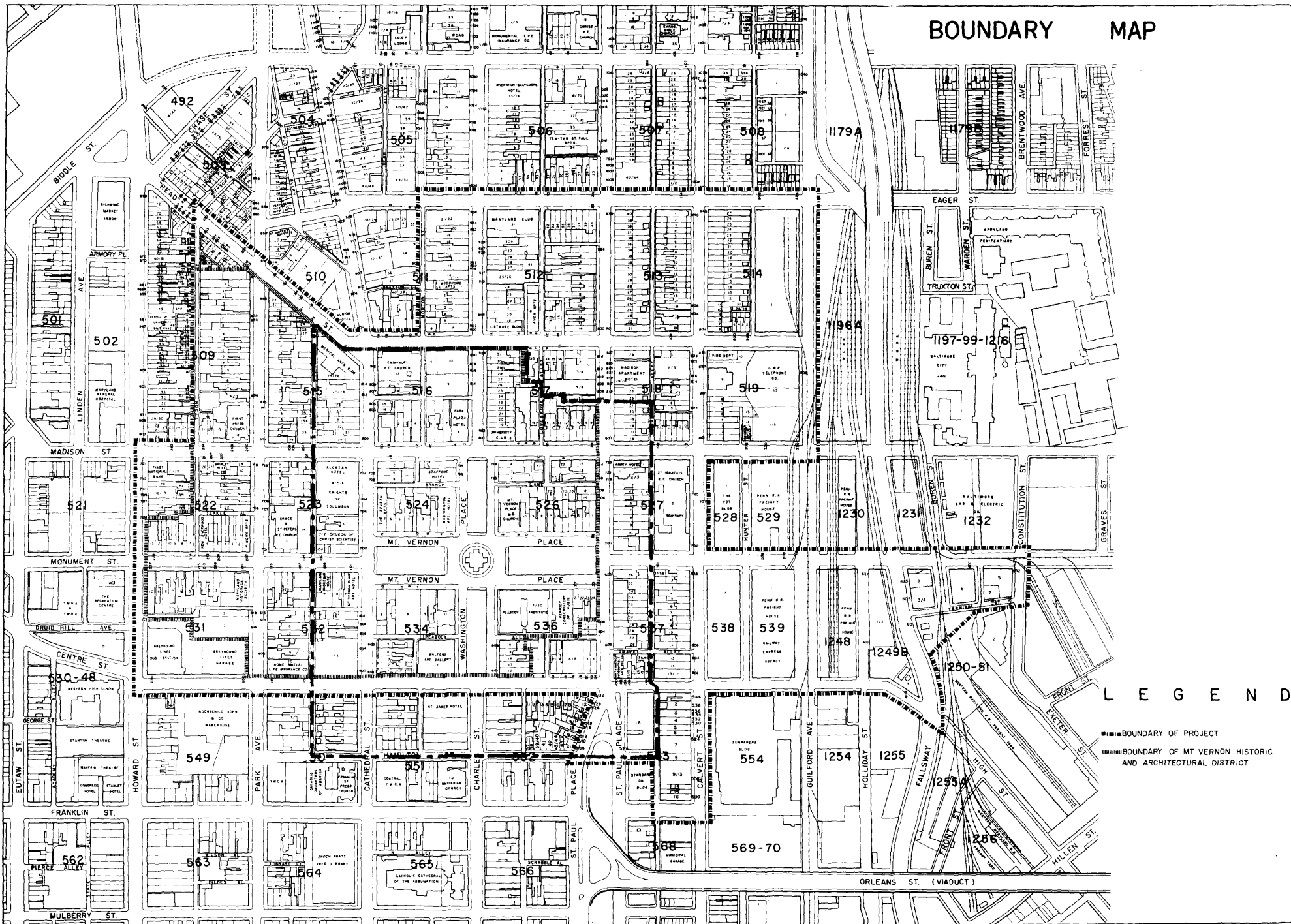
- PROJECT AREA BOUNDARY
- PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED IN FEE SIMPLE FOR CLEARANCE AND REDEVELOPMENT
- PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED IN FEE SIMPLE FOR PUBLIC FACILITIES
- PROPERTY TO BE ACQUIRED FOR RESALE FOR REHABILITATION
- ACQUISITION OF AIR RIGHTS FOR LIGHT, AIR, AND VENTILATION
- BUREAU OF SURVEYS BLOCK NUMBERS
- BUREAU OF SURVEYS LOT NUMBERS
- HOUSE NUMBER

MOUNT VERNON

BALTIMORE URBAN RENEWAL AND HOUSING AGENCY



BOUNDARY MAP



LEGEND

- BOUNDARY OF PROJECT
- BOUNDARY OF MT. VERNON HISTORIC AND ARCHITECTURAL DISTRICT

MOUNT VERNON

BALTIMORE URBAN RENEWAL AND HOUSING AGENCY

