

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Baltimore City

FOR NP USE ONLY

ENTRY RECEIVED

NOV 13 1972

DATE MAY 22 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER

1. NAME

COMMON: Druid Hill Park Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC: Druid Hill, Druid Hill Park

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: East of Reisterstown Road and east of Swann Drive north of Cloverdale Street, west of Jones Falls Expressway,

CITY OR TOWN: south of Druid Park Drive  
Baltimore

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Baltimore City CODE: 510

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall, St. Paul and Fayette Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Baltimore City Courthouse, Room 610

STREET AND NUMBER: St. Paul and Fayette Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Baltimore City

ENTRY NUMBER: 22

DATE: MAY 22 1973

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 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 type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The 746 acres<sup>1</sup> comprise Druid Hill Park, some of the loveliest wooded natural terrain in any urban setting in the country. Credit for first laying out the Rogers estate, the largest portion of the park, is given to Lloyd Nicholas Rogers, grandson of Colonel Nicholas Rogers, who acquired the property in 1709. He is said to have "laid it out in the best style of English landscape gardening",<sup>2</sup> planting the area so that there would be a harmony of color and natural beauty.

In 1860, when the City of Baltimore purchased the Rogers estate and neighboring land for the park, Howard Daniels was employed as the landscape architect and George A. Frederick as the architect for the various park structures. John H.B. Latrobe, one of the Park Commissioners, helped design the gateways to the park and the alterations to the Mansion, while the details of the work were left to Frederick.<sup>3</sup>

The park was financed largely through revenue produced by a system of public horse railways. Several of these routes ended at the entrances to the park at Madison Avenue, Eutaw Place, Mount Royal Avenue, and Druid Hill Avenue. Other accesses to the park such as Cedar Avenue, Greenspring Avenue, Parkdale Drive, Liberty Heights Avenue, and Gwynns Falls Parkway were originally designed "exits."

One gate, the Main Entrance, is still in existence (1972) at Madison Avenue. This was erected, between 1867-1868, of Nova Scotia freestone, by George A. Frederick, after a design of John H.B. Latrobe. It led to the "Grand Avenue" and thence to the Promenade which was adorned with rows of urns, overflowing with flowers and lined with benches. At the end of this mall stood the Rotunda, the Moorish Bandstand, long since removed, as were the urns.

Many miles of carriage and bridle paths still traverse the wooded park land. Well-known areas include the Prospect and Tempest Hills, famous for their vistas, Philosopher's Walk, Terrapin's Back, Reservoir Hill and the Dell. A drive, one and one-half miles in length, circles the Druid Lake the east end of

<sup>1</sup>Baltimore City Survey, 1970.

<sup>2</sup>J. Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County land from the Earliest Period to the Present Day . . . (Philadelphia, 1881), 274.

<sup>3</sup>Edith Rossiter Bevan, "Druid Hill, Country Seat of the Rogers and Buchanan Families," Maryland Historical Magazine, vol. 44, (September 1949), 191.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

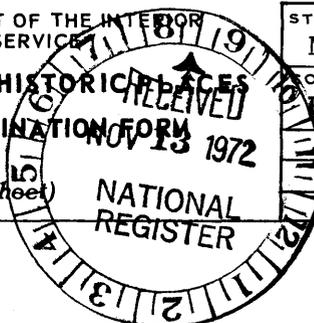
NOV 13 1972

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Baltimore City
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	221970



(Number all entries)

## 7. DESCRIPTION continued

which is formed by a dam, designated an Engineering Landmark by the American Society of Engineers in 1971. Another lake in the park is the Boat Lake, formerly used for boating, sailing model boats and winter ice-skating. Now, there are no boats on the lake and it is surrounded by a high chain-link fence, designed to protect a flock of swans and other animals which form the zoological collection. There is, additionally, Spring Lake and a group of lakes known as the Three Sisters. Spring Lake has been converted from a duck lake to an area where mountain goats and small monkeys are displayed on a man-made island, surrounded by a moat. A few ducks may still be seen (1972) on the Three Sisters. There are also a number of natural springs which feed the lakes and are equipped with drinking fountains for the public.

When the park was first opened (1860's) a small steam-driven train met passengers at Druid Hill Avenue and transported them into the park. It was equipped with a dummy engine, the boiler covered with a passenger car body, so as not to scare the horses it encountered. The train was replaced by a fleet of phaetons, but the stations along the route continued in use for many years. They were known as The Chinese Station, which was the southern terminal, the Orem's Way Station and Council Grove Station located elsewhere along the route. Of these, only a part of the Chinese Station remains, lacking its ornate Chinese roofline; the Council Grove Station has become a picnic shelter, and Orem's Way Station has been moved, but remains relatively unspoiled.

In the center of the park is the Mansion House. This was the home of the Rogers family, erected in 1801 by Colonel Nicholas Rogers after a fire destroyed his townhouse. There had been at least two earlier mansions on the estate, one the home of Dr. George Buchanan, called "Auchentorlie", built about 1720, and the other, a house built by Colonel Rogers, c. 1783, which was destroyed by lightning. The new mansion was designed in the early Federal-style and it was intended that there should be wings flanking it. A photograph of the house as it actually appeared, without the wings, is to be found between pages 192 and 193 of the Maryland Historical Magazine, vol. 44. The author of the article, Edith Rossiter Bevans, states that the house was similar in style to Homewood (B-4, a National Historic Landmark and National Register of Historic Places property) the Charles Carroll, Jr. home, built several years afterward. When Baltimore City purchased the land and the house for a park, Howard Daniels determined to convert the structure into a public pavilion and he surrounded it with broad porches, twenty feet wide, constructed an arcade for refreshment shops in the basement, and raised the roof, adding wide bracketed overhangs and an ornate

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

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE MAY 22 1972

(Continuation Sheet)



(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION continued

belvedere. The building houses refreshment stands, some park offices and a bird collection.

Next to the Mansion House stands the Maryland House, a frame structure which has been variously described as English Tudor and Swiss Chalet style. It was the State's display building at the 1876 U.S. Centennial Fair in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and, after the fair, was re-erected on this site. It houses a museum of natural history, including rocks, Indian artifacts, stuffed animals and birds and botanical specimens. None of these were the originals displayed in Philadelphia, for that exhibit was lost when it was loaned to the New Orleans Cotton Exposition in 1884.

The little octagonal pavilion in the center of the zoo was erected for the members of the Park Board to tie up their horses while they attended meetings in the Mansion House. It contained a cast iron feeding trough in its center and stalls for 11 horses, and has become the peanut stand and a snack bar (1972).

The Conservatory, on the western edge of the park was originally called the "Palm House". It was completed in 1888 and stocked with many types of domestic and exotic plants. It is constructed of glass panes divided by wooden members, forming a high, vaulted structure, capable of accomodating the tall palm trees. A modern building is the Reptile House, formerly the Aquarium, and before that a pumping station for the High Service Reservoir, which has now been filled and is an athletic field. The Reptile House was built about 1938 of brown brick, decorated with a band of diamond-shaped tiles under the eaves and a green tile roof.

There are two small cemeteries in the park. One which the Baltimore City government never acquired is the St. Paul's Lutheran Cemetery, the other is the Rogers family cemetery which is located behind the Mansion House.

A number of statues have been erected within the park. Most widely known are the Columbus statue and the George Washington statue. The Columbus statue at the northern end of Druid Lake is the scene of a yearly wreath-laying ceremony on Columbus Day. It was sculpted by Achille Canessa and given to Baltimore City by the Italians of Baltimore in 1892. The Washington statue is of interest because it formerly graced the facade of the

**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1860-c. 1890

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Architecture</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>Urban History</u>
<input 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			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Druid Hill Park in Baltimore, Central Park in New York City, and Fairmont Park in Philadelphia, represent the vanguard of city parks in the United States. Established before the Civil War these three parks were precursors of the development of urban parks resulting from the Columbian Exposition of 1893 and the contemporaneous "city beautiful" movement.

Druid Hill Park holds an unusual place in American urban parks history through the unique method by which it was financed: a city tax on the gross receipts from the privately franchised street railways. Instituted in 1858 the street railways were one of the first methods of urban mass transit in Baltimore. The Mayor of Baltimore, Thomas Swann (1805-1883), insisted that twenty per cent of the gross revenue from the railways go to a special fund set aside for the purchase of city parks. Within two years of operation, the street railway tax had provided enough funds to open Druid Hill Park.

In the summer of 1860 the Baltimore Park Commission, chaired by Mayor Swann, purchased an estate. "Druid Hill," at the north-western city limits from the Rogers family who had lived on the tract since the seventeenth century. One of the family owners of the tract, Lloyd Nicholas Rogers, had landscaped the grounds grouping trees according to the effects produced by their autumnal colors.

When Druid Hill became public property, the Baltimore Park Commissioners' landscape architect, Howard Daniels, made few major alterations to the planting on the Rogers' estate except for the elimination of an extensive pear orchard. Daniels job consisted of designing and improving roads and pathways. The Commission chose Daniels because of his landscaping experience enhanced by a tour he made of Europe studying landscape architecture. In the 1840's he designed the Montgomery County Courthouse in Dayton, Ohio. A decade later he was in New York City where he won fourth prize in the Central Park competition for a layout plan for Central Park, won by Frederick Law Olmstead. After completing his work at Druid Hill Park he designed the plans for the grounds of Vassar College at Poughkeepsie, New

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore American and Commercial Advertiser, July 25, 27 and October 20, 1860

Beirne, Francis F. Baltimore . . . A Picture History, 1858-1958. New York: Hastings House, 1957.

Bevan, Edith Rossiter. "Druid Hill, Country Seat of the Rogers and Buchanan Families." Maryland Historical Magazine. Vol. 44 (September 1949), 190-199.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(See Continuation Sheet)

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	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 39° 19' 38"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 76° 39' 33"		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	39° 20' 06"	76° 38' 45"				
SE	39° 19' 06"	76° 57' 38"				
SW	39° 18' 45"	76° 38' 54"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **746 acres**

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



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Mrs. Walter Black, Jr., and Nancy Miller, Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Maryland Historical Trust** DATE: **July 14, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**2525 Riva Road**

CITY OR TOWN: **Annapolis,** STATE: **Maryland** CODE: **24**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Orlando Ridout IV  
**Orlando Ridout IV**

Title State Liaison Officer for Maryland

Date July 18, 1972

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

Robert M. Utley  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/22/73

ATTEST:  
St. Paul Ford  
Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date 5/17/73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 22 1972

(Number all entries)

## 7. DESCRIPTION continued

"Washington Buildings" of Noah Walker and Company,<sup>4</sup> a dry-goods firm. It was sculpted by Edward S. Bartholomew and given by its owner to be placed on a pedestal provided by Enoch Pratt.

Twentieth-century visitors to the park find many areas for recreation and relaxation. There are ten picnic groves and shelters, facilities for tennis, baseball, lacrosse, archery, swimming and an excellent zoological exhibit, as well as a Children's Zoo.

<sup>4</sup>Francis F. Beirne, Baltimore . . . A Picture History, 1858-1958, (New York, 1957), 59.

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE continued

York.

To complement Daniels' landscaping ~~at the~~ ~~NATIONAL~~ the Commissioners hired George A. Frederick, the architect of the Baltimore City Hall, to design a series of park buildings. One of the outstanding nineteenth century architects, Frederick did an Etruscan triple arch at the Madison Street entrance to the park, a group of thirteen picnic shelters, the conservatory, an octagonal stable and a series of shelters at the stops of the street railway system through the park. His designs for the park extend from 1864 to the 1890's.

9.

## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES continued

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAY 22 1973

(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES continued

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Green, Constance McLaughlin. The Rise of Urban America. New York: Harper and Row, 1965.

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Latrobe, Ferdinand C. "History of Baltimore City Parks." n.p.: Harlem Improvement Association, 1908.

Levin, Alexandra Lee. "Enoch Pratt as a Patron of Edward S. Bartholomew, Sculptor." Maryland Historical Magazine. Vol. 51. (December 1956), 267-272.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE MAY 22 1972

(Number all entries)

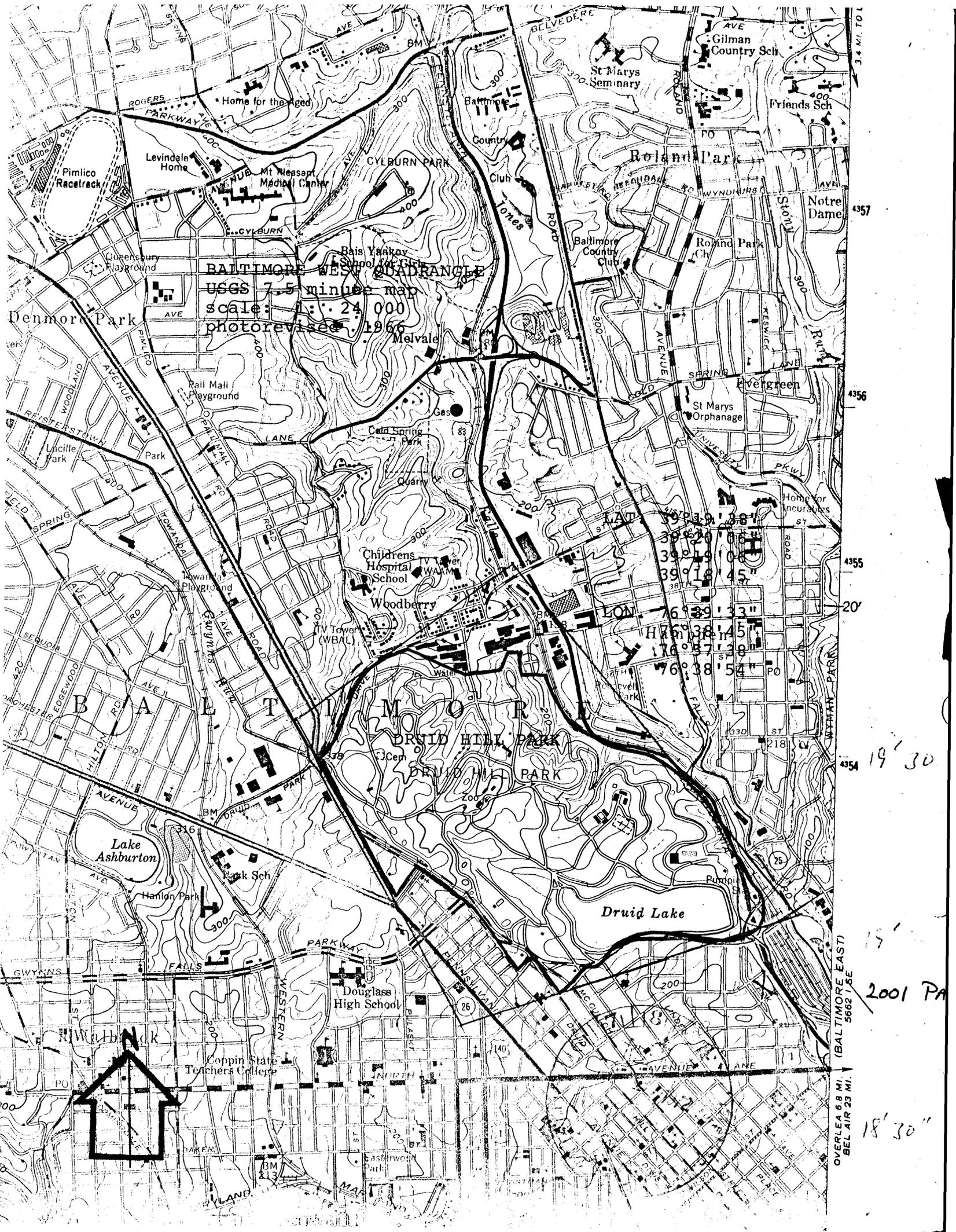
## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES continued

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Tunnard, Christopher and Henry Hope Reed. American Skyline: The Growth and Form of Our Cities and Towns. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1955.

Vertical File, Maryland Room, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Maryland.





BALTIMORE WEST QUADRANGLE  
USGS 7.5 minute map  
scale: 1:24,000  
photorevised 1966

39° 29' 33" N  
76° 38' 54" W  
39° 29' 06" N  
76° 38' 54" W  
39° 18' 45" N  
76° 38' 54" W  
39° 29' 33" N  
76° 38' 54" W

OVERLEA 6.8 MI. (BALTIMORE EAST)  
BEL AIR 23 MI. 5662 1 SE

34 MI. TO L  
4357  
4356  
4355  
20'  
4354  
19' 30"  
19'  
2001 PA  
18' 30"

