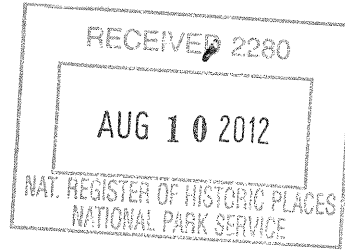


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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### 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 Hamilton Library  
other names Enoch Pratt Free Library - Hamilton Branch; B-5227

#### 2. Location

street & number 3006 Hamilton Avenue  not for publication  
city or town Baltimore  vicinity  
state Maryland code MD county Independent city code 510 zip code 21214

#### 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] 7-6-12  
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] 9-25-12  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall

Old Hamilton Library (B-5227)  
Name of Property

Baltimore City, MD  
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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/library

COMMERCE/TRADE/organizational

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY  
REVIVALS/Beaux Arts

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

walls BRICK

roof STONE/SLATE

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)

- Architecture
- Community Planning and Development
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

**Period of Significance**

1920-1959

**Significant Dates**

1920

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Pietsch, Theodore Wells (architect)  
Mason, R.B. (builder)

**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 Hamilton Library (B-5227)  
Name of Property

Baltimore City, MD  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .229 acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	1	8	3	6	5	5	0	9	4	3	5	6	9	7	5
	Zone			Easting				Northing							
2															

3															
	Zone			Easting				Northing							
4															

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 Eli Pousson, Field Officer  
Organization Baltimore Heritage date March 2012  
street & number 11 1/2 West Chase Street telephone 410-332-9992  
city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21201

### 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 3006 HAMILTON AVENUE, LLC  
street & number 2901 S OCEAN BLVD UNIT 402 telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town HIGHLAND BEACH state FL zip code 33487-0000

**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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National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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B-5227  
Old Hamilton Library

Name of Property

Baltimore, MD

County and State

## Description Summary:

The Old Hamilton Library is a three-story building, rectangular in plan, seven bays wide by three bays deep, designed in a modest Beaux Arts style. The historic entrance is located on the south face of the building at the first floor above ground level flanked by two Ionic pilasters supporting an open triangular pediment. The basement entrance is a steel door located immediately below the historic entrance on the ground floor. The building has been modified since its original construction with the first floor divided into two stories, likely during the 1940s. Later use of the building, divided the first level into two corridors of offices divided by wood paneled walls. In addition, a paired set of stairs that flanked the historic entrance were removed and replaced by a concrete porch with a metal hand rail.

## General Description:

Built in 1920, the Old Hamilton Library is a three-story building, seven bays wide by three bays deep, designed in a modest Beaux Arts style. Originally built as a one-story building with a one-story basement, the structure was modified during the mid-20th century to divide the tall first level into two stories and remove the stairs that served the historic front entrance. The building has a rectangular plan and a hip roof with an east-west ridge clad with slate tile. On the rear north side of the structure there is a two bay wide, one bay deep brick projection also sheltered by a hip roof. This description begins with the exterior moving from the ground level to the roof followed by a description of the interior and a brief discussion on integrity.

The walls are composed of brick laid in a stretcher bond. The south and east face of the building, which face on to the street, have been painted white with the north and west face remaining unfinished brick. All four corners of the building are detailed with decorative brick quoins from the base of the first floor up to the roof line. On the ground floor the primary entrance is centered between six wooden sash 6/6 windows, with three windows on each side of a projecting brick bay in which a contemporary painted steel door is installed. A cement path extends from the sidewalk at the property line up to the ground floor entrance. A low brick wall in line with the front edge of the porch on the first level extends on both sides of the front entrance.

The first level features a concrete slab porch running the full width of the building held up by a series of six metal support columns resting on a low brick wall that runs along the ground floor of the building. There is a metal railing running along the edge of the concrete slab of the porch, with a break at the eastern edge of the porch where concrete steps. The railing continues the follow the stairs as a handrail and baluster, on brick piers that flank the stair on both sides.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-5227  
Old Hamilton Library  
Name of Property

Baltimore, MD  
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Section 7 Page 2

On the first floor is the primary entrance with a door surround that extends up to the second floor of the structure. Originally designed and built as a one-story building with basement, the window openings on the first floor also extend up to the second floor interrupted by wooden panels that are a later addition. On the first floor are four wooden sash 6/6 windows, located in the eastern and western most bays on both sides of the front entrance. In the center bay on both sides of the door, the window opening has been filled in with brick. Above all four windows and both filled window openings are wooden panels that define the bottom edge of a row of six separate window openings on the second floor.

On the second floor are six arched wood windows arranged with three on each side of the pediment above the front entrance. The arched portion of the window has three sections about a small arched element with a more standard 3/2 fixed element below. The front door is a contemporary steel door with a small glass window. The door is set in an semi-circular arched opening composed of header bricks with a sign for the building installed in the arched portion. Beyond this arched opening are two Ionic brick pilasters on either side of the door, extending up to the top of the arched opening. These pilasters support a modest Ionic entablature and an open triangular pediment, composed of stone and painted white.

Above the third level is a single course of brick laid in a rowlock pattern quins then a wood cornice painted light yellow that continues to follow the Ionic order of the door surround, with a simple design built up with a row of closely spaced dentils below an ogee below the projecting roof line. This cornice wraps around all four sides of the building. At the roof line is a white metal gutter that extend around all four sides of the roof. The roof is a moderately pitched hip roof with a ridge running east-west. There is a small metal chimney located at the northwestern corner of the roof.

On the east face of the building facing on Richard Avenue, are three tall window openings closely spaced and centered on the face of the building. The set of windows are nearly identical to the set of windows one each side of the front entrance, with two two-story height windows flanking a smaller window opening. All the windows are wood sash, with stone sills with the same insertion of a wood panel at the center of the window to separate the first from the second floor. At the base of the east face are two hatches to access the ground floor level.

On the north face of the building facing a parking lot that separates the building from Wisteria Avenue, the facade features a substantial brick projection two bays wide by one bay deep with one 6/6 wooden sash window on both the east and west sides and two identical windows on the north side. The eastern most bay on the main block has a two story window opening with a 6/6 wooden sash window in the lower half of the opening and a fire door served by a metal fire escape inserted in the upper half of the opening. In the westernmost bay at the northwest corner of the building is a brick chimney.

On the ground floor of the structure, the interior is largely composed of a single open space. The metal front door opens on a small rectangular foyer that opens on a large room that largely fills the footprint of

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-5227

Old Hamilton Library

Name of Property

Baltimore, MD

County and State

Section 7 Page 3

the building. The lobby and the main room are separated by a batten door that appears to be original to the building. The floor in the main room is covered with white and black linoleum tile and the ceiling is a drop ceiling with acoustic tile supporting series of fluorescent lighting fixtures. The window openings on both the east and west side of the room have been filled with wood panels. The doors for the closet and restrooms are contemporary wooden doors. The door at the rear of the building is a paneled wood door, likely original to the building.

On the first floor the interior is roughly symmetrical with a central lobby, flanked by two halls that both connect to a large room at the rear of the structure. In the central lobby is a short hall that leads to a small restroom. A short staircase leads from the central lobby up to the second floor. The floor in the central lobby and the staircase are both covered with a contemporary low pile carpet. The stair hand rail and banister appears to date from the mid-20th century renovation of the building. On each side of the central lobby and a pair of swinging glass doors that open on to north-south halls. The halls are lined with a series of smaller rooms established by wood paneled walls erected while the building was occupied as a union hall. The doors in these two corridors are contemporary hollow core doors. The rear projection of the building is separated by a interior brick wall with a pair of door openings on each side matching the two parallel corridors. In this rear projection, the original solid wood panel doors and cast iron hardware remains in place.

One the second floor the interior repeats the symmetry of the first floor with two large open rooms flanking a small enclosed area at the top of the stairs. Around the perimeter of the second floor is a wood molding that runs along the same line as the top edge of the second floor windows and the edge of the ceiling is defined by a second wood molding. In the room on the west side of the building, a low hatch at the rear provides access to the roof of the rear projection and to a metal fire stair that continues down to ground level.

Despite the changes the building retains significant historic integrity. Much of the interior details, including trim and mouldings are intact, along with the original wood windows, despite the modifications to the window openings. The most significant modification is the removal of the original stair and the installation of the concrete porch. This concrete porch is fortunately removable without further impairing the integrity of the structure.

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Old Hamilton Library

Name of Property

Baltimore, MD

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

## Summary Statement of Significance:

The Old Hamilton Library at 3006 Hamilton is a historic branch library building constructed in 1920 to serve the community of Hamilton in the then rapidly developing corner of northeast Baltimore. The building remained in use as a library through 1959 when a new Hamilton Branch Library building opened on Harford Road. The Old Hamilton Library is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its association with the history of development in the Harford Road corridor of northeast Baltimore and under criterion C as the work of architect Theodore W. Pietsch and as an example of a early 20th century branch library in the Enoch Pratt Free Library system.

## Resource History and Historic Context:

Designed by Baltimore architect Theodore W. Pietsch and built by Baltimore contractor R.B. Mason on a property donated through the organized efforts of the Woman's Club of Hamilton and the Hamilton Improvement Association, the Old Hamilton Branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library is a handsome example of the work of an accomplished Beaux Arts architect and an enduring legacy of the enterprising efforts of civic and social organizations in promoting community development and civic life of northeast Baltimore during the early 20th century. In addition, the Old Hamilton Library is further distinguished as one of a collection of libraries in Baltimore and across the nation built from the late 1900s through the 1920s with support from Pittsburgh industrialist Andrew Carnegie. This resource history begins by providing context on the growth of the Enoch Pratt Free Library from its beginning in 1882 through the early 20th century and how that growth led to the gift by Andrew Carnegie that made the Hamilton Library possible. The history continues with a discussion on the growth of the Harford Road corridor and northeast Baltimore during the early 20th century thanks to some of the same individuals and organizations that supported the development of the Hamilton Library in 1920.

### Enoch Pratt Free Library and the Carnegie Gift

Enoch Pratt created the Enoch Pratt Free Library in 1882, with a gift of \$1,058,333 by to the City of Baltimore to support the construction Central library and four branch libraries and an endowment for their operation. Born in North Middleborough, Massachusetts, Pratt came to Baltimore in 1830 and over the next few decades became a successful merchant, railroad director and ship operator. Like his Baltimore contemporaries Johns Hopkins, George Peabody, Moses Shepherd, and Thomas Kelso, Pratt became a philanthropist serving as a trustee of the Peabody Institute, as treasurer and chairman of its library committee, founding the Maryland School for the Deaf and Dumb in Frederick (1867), as well as the House of Reformation and Instruction for Colored Children at Cheltenham (1870). The Mayor and City Council accepted the gift and after enacting the necessary legislation, Enoch Pratt formally transferred the management of the new libraries to the new Board of Trustees on October 1, 1884,



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sharing his wish for the library buildings to remain "accessible to the people... they being for all, rich and poor, without distinction of race or color, who, when properly accredited, can take out the books if they will handle them carefully and return them."<sup>1</sup>

On January 5, 1886, the Central Library on Mulberry Street opened to patrons followed within the next three months by four branches serving the residential neighborhood of Baltimore including Branch 1 (at Fremont and Pitcher Streets), Branch 2 (at Hollins and Calhoun Streets), Branch 3 (at Light and Gittings Streets), Branch 4 (at Canton and O'Donnell Streets) all designed by architect Charles Carson. The library continued to grow throughout the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries becoming one of the nation's largest library systems in both the size of its collection and the scale of its circulation. Only three public library systems--Boston, Chicago, and Cincinnati--had larger collections of books and only three--Boston, Chicago, and New York--had greater circulation.

By 1902, the library included 9 branches and 76 staff-- a scale proving impossible to support with the proceeds of the original endowment yielding only \$50,000 a year. Fortunately for the library system and patrons in Baltimore, Andrew Carnegie had recently dedicated his philanthropic efforts to supporting the development of public and university libraries across the United States. In 1889, Carnegie argued in favor of philanthropy for libraries writing in *The Best Fields for Philanthropy*, "No millionaire will go far wrong in his search for one of the best forms for the use of his surplus who chooses to establish a free library in any community that is willing to maintain and develop it."<sup>2</sup> In 1906, Andrew Carnegie responded to a request by the Enoch Pratt Library with a gift of \$500,000 for the construction of new branch libraries.

The gift was accepted on October 1, 1907, opening a "new era of its existence" with the new funds. While this gift came with a condition, similar to the requirements for all new Carnegie Libraries, that "the city was to acquire the lots and equip and maintain the buildings yearly with a sum which was to be not less than 10 per cent of the amount expended in construction."<sup>3</sup> This condition did not prove much of a barrier, as even with this announcement the library trustees shared that they had already been "offered many lots throughout the city, and one in Walbrook has been deeded by Mr. Francis A. White."<sup>4</sup>

### Growth of Hamilton and the creation of the Hamilton library

Even as the Enoch Pratt Library grew to serve Baltimore City and its neighborhoods, much of northeast Baltimore remained as part of Baltimore County up through the early 20th century. The annexation of Baltimore County in 1888 moved the city boundary from North Avenue up to the intersection of Harford

<sup>1</sup> Kent and Lancour, *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Science*.

<sup>2</sup> Carnegie, "The Best Fields for Philanthropy."

<sup>3</sup> "HALF-MILLION FOR LIBRARIES."

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

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Road and Montebello Terrace, followed by a second annexation in 1918 that brought Hamilton into the City of Baltimore as the boundary moved north to Taylor Road.<sup>5</sup>

Despite its rural location, the Harford Road corridor began to experience residential and commercial development beginning in the early 1900s. In 1894, City Directories identified only 33 businesses located on Harford Road but by 1928 that number had jumped to 195 businesses.<sup>6</sup> Baltimore's streetcar began service on Harford Road as early as 1894. Similarly over 12 churches were built on or in close proximity to Harford Road between 1900 and 1930.<sup>7</sup> Just south of the area, the Clifton Park golf course, the first public golf course in the city, opened in May 1916.

During the same period, the Hamilton Association president William McCallister advocated for numerous infrastructure and public service improvements for the community including elimination of toll gates on Harford Road, the extension of telephone service, the construction of gas lines, sewers and electric lights, as well as improved mail delivery and increased salaries for teachers.<sup>8</sup> The first documented interest in Hamilton of organizing a library in their community came in January 1915, led by the nascent efforts of the Woman's Club of Hamilton--

"To stimulate greater interest in the Woman's Club of Hamilton, Mrs. B.W. Cochran, Jr., president of the Women's Civic League and former president of the Woman's Club of Roland Park, addressed a meeting in the rooms of the Hamilton Fire Company Hall last Tuesday night. She spoke on the needs of a public library in Hamilton."<sup>9</sup>

The involvement of a Women's Club is characteristic as such organizations led the effort to build libraries in communities across the nation, including fundraising and building local support for their continuing operation.<sup>10</sup> Meeting regularly at the home of Mrs. Bradley K. Purdum, the Hamilton Woman's Club worked with the Red Cross and organized "Liberty Socials" during WWI.<sup>11</sup>

By May 1917, the Woman's Club of Hamilton "with the assistance of Miss E.W.H. Scott, library organizer of the Maryland Public Library Association," established a "library organization" with the goal of building "a free public library in Hamilton, from which books may be borrowed by every resident."<sup>12</sup> They combined their efforts with the Hamilton Improvement Association to raise funds and purchase a lot for the library at the northwest corner of Hamilton. In December 1918, the Library accepted a gift of a lot for a new library, as the *Baltimore Sun* noted--

<sup>5</sup> Holcomb, *The city as suburb*, 121-122.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 170.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 177.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 176.

<sup>9</sup> "HAMILTON."

<sup>10</sup> Watson, "Founding Mothers."

<sup>11</sup> Holcomb, *The City as Suburb*, 177.

<sup>12</sup> "Club Notes."

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Old Hamilton Library  
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Section 8 Page 4

Baltimore, MD  
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"The building committee of the Enoch Pratt Free Library has accepted a site for a branch library in the suburb of Hamilton, offered to the city for library purposes by the Hamilton Improvement Association, upon which it is expected when the proper title shall have been transferred to the city, to erect Branch No. 20. This is the first site accepted in the new Annex, and it is hoped that other portions of the Annex will also be provided with suitable sites."<sup>13</sup>

Following on this goal, outlying Baltimore communities in Mount Washington and Lauraville identified sites, similarly located near central gathering places by March 1919--

"The Mr. Washington Improvement Association is offering a lot opposite the public school for library purposes, the lot being given by the family of the late John M. Carter in his memory. The Lauraville Improvement Association has offered a lot on the west side of Harford avenue, near the terminus of the car line."<sup>14</sup>

In Hamilton, the committee that organized to purchase the property included William McCallister, the unofficial "mayor of Hamilton" through his death in 1933, who organized the Hamilton Improvement Association in 1904 and served as its president for 28 consecutive years. His contributions were honored in 1938 with the installation of a plaque at the library in a ceremony attended by Theodore McKeldin and then Mayor Howard Jackson.<sup>15</sup>

In July 1, 1920, the library submitted a building permit application for a 1-story structure, to measure 30'x51' at a cost of \$20,000.<sup>16</sup> Construction proceeded throughout the fall and the library opened with an opening ceremony at 4:00pm on December 15, 1920.<sup>17</sup> The new library was designed by Baltimore architect Theodore W. Pietsch (1868-1930) and built by builder R.B. Mason.

Born in Chicago in 1868, Theodore Wells Pietsch started his education in architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology from 1885 to 1889 followed by a brief time at the office of Burnham & Root. In 1892, Pietsch travelled to Paris, France to study at the Ecole des Beaux Arts where he received a diploma in 1897 and honorable mention in the Salon of 1898. When he returned to the United States, Pietsch worked for Howard & Cauldwell in New York then joined the office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Government receiving an appointment as their chief designer in July 1902. Elected to the Baltimore Chapter of the AIA in 1903, he opened his Baltimore office in 1904 in partnership with Otto G. Simonson (1862-1922).<sup>18</sup>

<sup>13</sup> "CHILDREN'S DAY AT FORD'S."

<sup>14</sup> "IN SUBURBS AND COUNTY."

<sup>15</sup> "HAMILTON HONORS LATE CIVIC LEADER."

<sup>16</sup> "Real Estate Transaction 1 -- No Title."

<sup>17</sup> "Sun Linotype Operator Displays Oil Paintings"; "Movies In Library Hall."

<sup>18</sup> "Baltimore Architecture Foundation □» Theodore Wells Pietsch."

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Pietsch developed a specialty in public buildings, with the Broadway Pier (1914) on Thames Street, Jackson Place Elementary School (1922), and the Maryland House of Correction (1918-19) in Jessup, Maryland. His partnership with Simonson lasted through 1908, including the Eastern High School (1905) on North Avenue as one of the most significant products of their work together. Pietch's notable commercial buildings included the U.S. Fidelity & Guarantee Building (1906), the Lanahan Warehouse, the Tin Decorating Company plant, Sonneborn Building, the Association of Commerce Building, and movie theater facades across the city. Finally, one of his most significant works is the St. Philip and St. James Catholic Church located at 2801 North Charles Street completed in 1929. Pietsch committed suicide on January 1, 1930 apparently distraught over a great financial loss with the 1929 stock market crash and the onset of the Great Depression.

Builder R.B. Mason was active throughout the early 20th century, first as a partner in Willis and Mason with builder Joseph J. Willis and independently under his own name following Willis's death in July 1907.<sup>19</sup> Mason's projects included the Engine House No. 38 at Baltimore Street and Fremont Avenue, the Commonwealth Bank (designed by Joseph Evans Sperry), the Waldorf Store at 701-705 South Broadway, and the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute on North Avenue at Calvert Street.<sup>20</sup>

The building remained in use as a library for nearly three decades, providing books to patrons and serving as a social center for the broader community with exhibits from local painters and evening movie screenings in the 1940s. By the mid to late 1940s, however, the growth of northeast Baltimore put pressure on the small institution, making it challenging for the structure to meet the "needs and demands of this growing population." After years of efforts by local residents, construction began on a new library building designed by architects Cochran, Stephenson and Wing on April 2, 1957. In 1959, a new Hamilton Branch Library opened on Harford Road at Glenmore. The original building passed into use as commercial office building and remained occupied in this use by a variety of tenants through the early 2000s.

<sup>19</sup> "MR. J. J. WILLIS BURIED."

<sup>20</sup> "Mason, R. B. -- Philadelphia Architects and Buildings."

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Old Hamilton Library

Name of Property

Baltimore, MD

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## Major Bibliographical References:

- "Baltimore Architecture Foundation"» Theodore Wells Pietsch", n.d.  
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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 1

B-5227  
Old Hamilton Library

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Name of Property

Baltimore, MD

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County and State

## Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of this nomination include an area measuring 80 feet by 125 feet at the northwestern corner of the intersection of Hamilton Avenue and Richard Avenue. This property is identified among the land records of Baltimore City with the block/lot number 5772 007.

## Boundary Justification:

These boundaries include the entire property historically associated with the Old Hamilton Library.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-5227  
Old Hamilton Library  
Name of Property

Baltimore City, MD  
County and State

Section PHOTO Page 1

## Index to Photographs

The following information applies to all photographs which accompany this documentation:

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) Number: B-5227  
Name of Property: Old Hamilton Library  
Location: Baltimore City, Maryland  
Photographer: Eli Pousson  
Date taken: March 2012  
Location of original digital files: MD SHPO

File name	Caption
MD_BaltimoreCity_OldHamiltonLibrary_0001	Exterior view facing northwest.
MD_BaltimoreCity_OldHamiltonLibrary_0002	Exterior view of the primary facade facing north.
MD_BaltimoreCity_OldHamiltonLibrary_0003	Exterior view facing east.
MD_BaltimoreCity_OldHamiltonLibrary_0004	Exterior view facing southeast.
MD_BaltimoreCity_OldHamiltonLibrary_0005	Exterior view facing south.
MD_BaltimoreCity_OldHamiltonLibrary_0006	Exterior view facing southwest.
MD_BaltimoreCity_OldHamiltonLibrary_0007	Exterior view facing west.
MD_BaltimoreCity_OldHamiltonLibrary_0008	Detail of the decorative iron light fixture to the right of the primary entrance.
MD_BaltimoreCity_OldHamiltonLibrary_0009	Interior view of the first floor foyer with stair facing north.
MD_BaltimoreCity_OldHamiltonLibrary_0010	Interior view of the second floor meeting hall facing southeast.
MD_BaltimoreCity_OldHamiltonLibrary_0011	Interior view of the first floor hall from the west side of the rear wing.
MD_BaltimoreCity_OldHamiltonLibrary_0012	Interior view of the ground level basement facing west.