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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY:

Baltimore City.

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER DATE (Type all entries - complete applicable sections) 70.4.19.000 1. NAME COMMON Federal Hill Historic District AND/OR HISTORIC: Federal Hill Historic District 2. LOCATION STREET AND NUMBER: See attached (location map with boundaries) CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore City STATE COUNTY: CODE CODE Maryland Baltimore City 19 510 3. CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY ACCESSIBLE **OWNERSHIP** STATUS TO THE PUBLIC (Check One) Public Public Acquisition: X Yes: X District X Building Occupied \Box X Restricted Private X In Process Unoccupied Site Structure Being Considered Unrestricted 🗌 Both X Preservation work Object X in progress No: PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) Agricultural Government \Box X Transportation X Comments Commercial Industrial X Private Residence X Other (Specify) Educational X Military X Religious X Entertainment X Museum Scientific 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY OWNERS NAME: Multiple public and private, City of Baltimore ш STREET AND NUMBER: STATE: CITY OR TOWN: CODE Maryland Baltimore City Maryland 19 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Baltimore City Court House - 6th Floor STREET AND NUMBER: West block of Calvert St., Between Fayette & Lexington Sts. CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE വയ്യ Saltimore Lity Maryland Baltimore City 19 APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland Register of historic sites and landmarks ENTRY NUMBER DATE OF SURVEY: Federal 🗍 State X Local 1969 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: FOR NPS USE ONLY Maryland Historical Trust STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 1704 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE DATE Annapolis Maryland 19

7.	DESCRIPTION							
	CONDITION	(Check One)						
		Excellent 🗌	Good 🛛	Fair 🔲	Deterior	ated 🗌	Ruins 🗌	Unexposed 🔲
	INITECDITY		(Check O	ne)			(Che	ck One)
	INTEGRITY	Altered	X	Unaltered 🗌		Move	ed 🗌	Original Site 🛛

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

An original 1752 wash drawing by John Moale at the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, Maryland, is the first known recorded view, from Federal Hill, of "Baltimore Town." Other views show cattle grazing on raw, steep, eroded, open land sloping to the water.

The property was first developed on the harbor at the end of the eighteenth century primarily as a commercial and industrial enterprise relating to the seafaring trades. On the Hill,

...on May 9, 1797, David Porter notified the commercial port of Baltimore that his observatory rooms were then ready...at an elevation of one hundred and fifty feet above the tide...the signals that notify of approaching craft identifying the thousands of vessels that make up the commerce of this city.

In the early 1880's the Signal Observatory was replaced with an ornate mid-nineteenth-century tower and pavilion. The signal service was discontinued when the observatory tower was felled in 1902 by high winds. The pavilion existed until the 1950's when it was razed for the construction of the present bandshell.

Beneath Federal Hill, from Hughes Street to Cross Street, from the harbor on the east, to Camden Station on the west, is a large complex of tunnels, caves, and storage Some are brick-vaulted and others are earthen. Most were formed from the excavation for clay and white sand which began on Henry Street in 1799. During the Civil War the Union Army rebuilt some of these tunnels for escape routes and for storage. They were rendered useless with explosive mines until the end of the nineteenth century. After the mines were removed the tunnels were used by breweries for beer storage and in the early twentieth century were abandoned commercially. The city backfilled certain dangerous tunnel entrances due to caveins.

Federal Hill Park, an almost perfect square, is an elevated plateau, 82 feet above its base, 150 feet above tidewater, bounded by Hughes, Warren, Covington and Johnson Streets. The base covers $8\frac{1}{2}$ acres and the plateau surface measures $4\frac{1}{4}$ acres. The existing six-foot high stone walls were constructed in 1881 on Hughes, Warren and Johnson Streets. In 1881, the historian, J. Thomas Scharf, described the slope angle as one and one half to one foot and "On the north side, Hughes Street...two slopes with a terrace between before the upper terrace is reached, which is four hundred feet long and twenty feet wide...the other

[see Continuation Sheet]

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Federal Hill Historic District

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Information for 36 East Montgomery Street, Federal Hill, Baltimore, Maryland, Code: 19/510 [36 Montgomery Street] will be found in the following survey:

Historic American Building Survey 1964 Library of Congress Washington, D. C. Code: 08



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Federal Hill Historic District

#7. DESCRIPTION (continued) (page 2)

sides will be similarly arranged..." The plateau today is divided into walk-ways landscaped with shrubs and flowers and has many specimens of large trees. The stone walls also remain.

Baltimore City surrounds the Hill. Immediately north and to the east of the Hill is the harbor of Baltimore City which is deep enough to serve large cargo vessels. The Baltimore Drydock Yards of the Bethlehem Steel Company occupy the length of the waterfront to the east of the Federal Hill area. Several hundred early dwelling houses remain from the eighteenth century and mid-nineteenth century. These were originally, and are still, occupied by merchants and seamen associated with waterfront industries. Some examples of these are:

- example of a small townhouse. The architecturally important front door frame has been removed to the Baltimore Museum of Art, Baltimore, Maryland, for exhibit. A carved wood cornice remains with other woodwork and trim. It has a brick belt course and water table of early design.
- 118 East Montgomery Street (c. 1780) is considered the earliest brick house in the area, structurally sound but in need of renovation.
- 110 Montgomery Street (c. 1845) is a brick house laid in Flemish bond; has interior woodwork of the period.
- 105 East Montgomery Street (c. 1830) is a transition town-house, small in size with a Federal style, characterized by the use of some Greek Revival motifs. Greek Revival style medallions are used at frequent intervals as ornaments on the window lintels. The dormer details are noteworthy.

An increasing number of these houses are being restored. Examples are 413 Hamburg Street, 125 East Montgomery Street and 104 East Montgomery Street.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Federal Hill Historic District

#7. DESCRIPTION

At the present time the historic district of Federal Hill consists of Federal Hill Park and the houses on the streets facing and sloping away from the park to the west and south. The hill is bounded on the north and east by the waterfront. That part of Federal Hill which is now a park of about eight acres is the focal point of the historic district. It is planted with large trees and grass and contains a curving drive, walks, a pavilion, and many benches facing west, north, and east. From the hill, about eighty feet above the water, there are panoramic views of the city and harbor.

The majority of houses date from the mid to late nine-teenth century with a scattering of earlier structures. All are of brick construction with extensive use of white marble trim. The majority are attached rowhouses of two or three stories, approximately fifteen feet in width. Dormer windows are common on the older houses and provide considerable variation in roofline within a block. With the exception of those facing the park, these are modest houses with little exterior ornamentation.

As evidence that the Federal Hill Historic District is a viable and actively developing area, we cite that:

- nately twenty houses restored or renovated in keeping with the architecture of the building. This includes nine houses on Warren Avenue, two houses on East Hamburg Street, and nine houses on East Montgomery Street. This does not include those which have been well maintained in approximately their original condition over the years or those which have been "improved and modernized" in a manner not in keeping with the period of the house. There are houses immaculately maintained by their owners and representing a continuing investment in the area. There are other houses which have been appropriately restored during the last thirty years.
- 2. Local realtors confirm the rise in property values (i.e. purchase prices) over the last decade in the area immediately around Federal Hill Park. Prices in the 400 block of Warren Avenue facing the park have more than doubled during this period. The nearer the houses to the park, the greater has been its increase in value.

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Federal Hill Historic District

#7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

- 3. The Federal Hill Celebration, commemorating the anniversary of the naming of the hill, held on May 11, 1969, was an outstanding success. Three aspects of the Federal Hill area were emphasized by the Celebration: its importance as a nautical and commercial center, its historical prominence, and an acknowledgment to those people in the community and city whose efforts preserved Federal Hill from destruction by the East-West expressway. This event was planned entirely by neighborhood residents, but attracted visitors from all over Baltimore. The historical marker recently erected by the Maryland Historical Society was dedicated at this time. There were booths representing a variety of community organizations, a major exhibit of old prints and maps of the area sponsored by the Peale Museum, an art exhibit, children's events, etc. Five hundred tickets were sold for a tour of seven restored houses. The Celebration is planned as an annual event.
- 4. The extensive Inner Harbor Redevelopment project plans of 1969 immediately to the north of Federal Hill eventually will include new office buildings, a hotel with marina, headquarters of the Maryland Academy of Sciences, restaurants, parks and promenades, and housing. The "U.S.F. Constellation," a major tourist attraction, is permanently located in this area at Pier 1, Pratt and Light Streets. Federal Hill is one of the prominent features seen from its deck.

The hill itself is to be enhanced in a later stage of the project, since warehouses and industrial buildings at the foot of the north slope are slated for clearance, to be replaced by open space and playing fields for Southern High School.

5. The South Baltimore Community Council was organized in 1968 as a non-profit association to promote through research, education, public discussion, corporate action and other appropriate means, the rehabilitation, renewal and improvement of South Baltimore. The Council formally opposed the plans for the interstate expressway which would have destroyed much of Montgomery Street and Federal Hill Park. It has actively encouraged development in the Federal Hill area and has helped through its sponsorship of the Federal Hill Celebration

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Federal Hill Historic District

#7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

and other projects to generate local and city-wide appreciation for the area.

- 6. The Society for the Preservation of Federal Hill, Montgomery Street and Fells Point is a city-wide group pledged to take every possible and necessary action to save and restore the heritage of Baltimore's early waterfront communities of Federal Hill and Fells Point. Since its organization in 1967, representatives of the Society have met with federal, state, and city officials to enlist their support in saving these areas. Popular events, such as the annual Fells Point Fun Festival, the Federal Hill Celebration, and park band concerts sponsored by the Society have attracted widespread favorable notice and support.
- 7. Southern High School which faces Federal Hill Park is one of ten Community Schools in Baltimore. It is open to all adults and children in South Baltimore for educational and recreational services. The school has been made available year-round for use by the community at no charge. This school on Federal Hill continues the long tradition of the Hill as a center for community activities.
- 8. Federal Hill is an attraction for tourists, especially during the summer. It is included in bus tours of the city, is seen and described on tours of Baltimore Harbor, and is featured in guidebooks of the city. The Hill has long been a favorite spot for school children, photographers, and artists.

SIGNIFIC	ANCE							
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	Conservation	\mathbf{x}	Military	X	Theater			
			Music	X	Transportation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Maryland Historical Society marker to be dedicated in May, 1969, will read:

FEDERAL HILL

SINCE THE FOUNDING OF BALTIMORE, 1729, THIS HILL HAS BEEN A POPULAR POINT FOR VIEWING THE CITY'S GRAVIH. HERE 4000 PEOPLE FEASTED, 1788, TO CELEBRATE THE PADIFICATION BY MARYLAND OF THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION AND IN HONOR OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT GAVE THE PLACE ITS NAME. AN OBSERVATORY, BUILT HERE, 1795, SIGNALLED CITY MERCHANTS OF THE APPROACH OF THEIR VESSELS, A SERVICE WHICH LASTED A CENTURY. SHIPYARDS HAVE LONG BEEN LOCATED NEAR THE HILL, AND IT HAS BEEN MINED FOR CLAY AND SAND. DURING THE CIVIL WAR UNION TROOPS FORTIFIED THE SITE, AND IT WAS MADE A PUBLIC PARK, 1880.

In May 1788, to celebrate Maryland's ratification of the Constitution, 4000 marchers accompanied Commodore Joshua Barney, Revolutionary hero, and his "Federalist," a fifteen-foot model of a full-rigged ship, in a triumphant parade up this hill from Fells Point where the model was built.

The ship, followed by all the captains, mates, and seamen in the port of Baltimore at the time was

"...finally anchored on the lofty bank southwest of the basin, from which that occurance received, and has ever since borne, the name of "Federal Hill."

On the Hill the event was celebrated by a banquet for the 4000 accompanied by bonfires and fireworks. After the pageant, the "Federalist" was navigated, by Commodore Barney personally, to Mount Vernon and presented as a gift to General George Washington. The original bill listing the banquet fare is in existence. Thanks to William Goddard, then editor of the "Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser" and financier of the affair, untold gallons of grog and toddy were consumed as well as

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Scharf, J. Thomas, History						
Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Baltimore City & County, 1881.						
Owens, Hamilton, Baltimore on the Chesapeake, 1941.						
Semmes, Baltimore as Seen by Visitors, 1953.						
The Baltimore Sunday Sun	The Baltimore Sunday Sun "Metrogravure" Magazine, Feb. 3, 1957.					
Maryland - A Guide to the	Old I	Line State. American Guide	1			
Maryland - A Guide to the Old Line State, American Guide Series. (WPA) Oxford Press, 1940, pp. 252.						
Hunter, Wilbur, Baltimore During the Civil War, The Peale						
Museum, 1961. see Continuation Sheet						
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Federal Hill Historic District

#8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued) (page 2)

tons of beef, ham and cheeses.

The Duke de la Rochefoucauld-Liancourt visited Baltimore in 1796. He was particularly impressed with the Signal Observatory, founded 1795, atop the Hill by Captain David Porter, father of Commodore David Porter, War of 1812, in cooperation with the Maritime Exchange. The Exchange was located adjacent to the Observatory in a broad-porched frame house in which resided Captain David Porter. His house may be seen in many of the 1861-64 prints of the Hill.

A constant watch over the lower Patapsco River was kept from the Hill. A flag was hoisted on the Observatory Tower to give advance notice of an incoming vessel approachint the merchants and owners in the Exchange downtown.
"...this little establishment is not only grateful to the merchants..." but was also "already encouraged with many subscriptions..."

In 1799, the city's first glass manufactory made the first recorded excavations in and about Henry Street.

Other prominent industries that owed their existence to the Hill were brick-making and pottery. There is little doubt that the tunnels that criss-cross one another under the Hill, tunnels that periodically mystify the town when they cause cave-ins, or turn up during excavations, were dug by the clay quarriers. For about 50 years the area was extensively mined for its excellent red clay and fine white sand. In the 1850's, Rittenhouse's was the big pottery in the neighborhood, and may have been responsible for, at least, some of the tunnels.

During the War of 1812 intensive digging was begun for a tunnel leading from "Barney's Warf" into the northern side of Federal Hill. It was here that Commodore Joshua Barney ran privateers, a prototype of the renowned, swift Baltimore clipper-ships, out of Baltimore Town to attack British ships; and in the same tunnel he stored munitions.

There were guns on the Hill in 1819 which fired a welcome salute to General Andrew Jackson. Five years later, in 1824, the guns were fired again to welcome the Marquis de Lafayette.

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(continued) (page 3) #8. SIGNIFICANCE

Frances Trollope visited Baltimore in 1830. She and a companion strolled along "a fine terrace of beautiful verdure (Federal Hill) which commands a magnificient view of the city, with its columns, towers, domes, and shipping; and also of the Patapsco River, which is here so wide as to present almost a seaview. This terrace is ornamented with abundance of evergreens, and wild roses innumerable..."

By the early 1840's the base of Federal Hill was jammed with a hodgepodge of oyster-boat docks and shipyards. Ruark's, Bixler's, Booze's, Waite's, Beecham's, Skinner's and Woodall's were the famous yards in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Such vessels as the barkentines "Good News" and "White Wings" and such steamers as the "Tred Avon", "Emma Giles", "Mason L. Weems" and "Cambridge" were built in its shadow. Large ships from all over the world, having always drydocked for repairs in the shipyards at the foot of the Hill, continue an activity prominent for over a century and a half.

Sir Arthur Cunynghame, a colonel in the British Army visited Baltimore in 1850 and published an account of his travels. "During my walk to Federal Hill, which commands a good view of the city and harbor, the noise produced by the constant hammering at shipbuilding, and steamboilers, etc. etc. was quite deafening. I observed many pretty clippers in the harbor, for which class of schooner this town is celebrated."

In 1851 a mob of several hundreds, angered at the execution of 50 Americans in a Cuban revolution, marched to Federal Hill to burn in effigy the remiss American consul at Havana.

During the Civil War, Union forces built and maintained fortifications on the Hill.

Some of the tunnels under Federal Hill were discovered by the Army at the time of General Butler's occupation of the Hill; and were believed to have been constructed by Southern supporters to blow up the fortifi-This was disproven as further investigation revealed abandoned miners' tools. The tunnels were enlarged to form a route from Fort Federal to the Camden Railroad Station and also an escape route to an awaiting boat in

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Federal Hill Historic District

#8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued) (page 4) the nearby harbor.

When South Carolina seceded from the Union in 1861, an ecstatic mob of Southern supporters raised an unidentified flag on Federal Hill and proceeded to fire salutes from a cannon which they brought; Union supporters battled them, burned their flag, and ran up the American flag, threatening to kill anyone who attempted to bring it down.

A month later, on the night of May 13, 1861, General Benjamin F. Butler led the 6th Massachusetts Regiment and elements of Cook's Light Artillery into Baltimore to occupy The 6th Regiment was replaced three months Federal Hill. later by "Duryea's Zouaves" who built the earthworks on Federal Hill. In the meantime, the signal service continued uninterrupted throughout the Civil War.

> ... the post of Federal Hill was amply garrisoned, and strong fortifications, mounting upwards of fifty heavy guns, and commanding the greater portion of Baltimore and Fort McHenry, were thrown up by the Fifth New York Zouave Regiment... This fort inclosed the entire crown of the hill. The angles of the bastions were so arranged that the guns mounted on them could rake by an entire filading fire all the streets by which the hill could be approached. When completed the work was a very strong one, its huge cannon in close proximity to South Baltimore...and the basin...below.

After the war. Fort Federal, as it was known, was purchased by the city for use as a park. Its present shape is in part the result of the 1861 fort known as Fort Federal.

In 1882 the Armistead Monument was erected on the Hill to honor Colonel George Armistead, commander of Fort McHenry when the British attacked in the Battle of Baltimore on September 13, 1814.

Since its origin, Federal Hill Park has always been "crowded with the pleasure-seekers of South Baltimore." It has long been a favorite rendezvous for sweethearts, a playground for children who slide down its slopes on large pieces of flattened cardboard (a South Baltimore tradition), and a leisurely promenade for strollers and tourists.

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Federal Hill Historic District

#8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued) (page 5)

The "Inner Harbor" is no longer seething with sailing ships and steamboats. Large modern cargo vessels - freighters, barges, and tankers, armed naval ships, numerous tug boats, and assorted pleasure craft - now support the trade and provide the romance for which the area is famous.

Federal Hill has always afforded the best panoramic view of Baltimore City and harbor. Visitors and residents still are drawn to the park on the Hill to observe the everchanging downtown skyline and waterfront activities.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Maryland COUNTY

STATE

Baltimore City

20,4019,800

FOR NPS USE ONLY Ar. 18 1969 ENTRY NUMBER DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Federal Hill Historic District

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Maryland				
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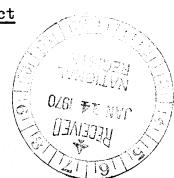
Federal Hill Historic District

#9. REFERENCES

Mr. Robert L. Baker 407 Warren Avenue Recorder:

Federal Hill

Baltimore, Maryland



#12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

lando Ridontiv

Orlando Ridout IV State Liaison Officer for Maryland National Historic Preservation Act, 1966 January 8, 1970