form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

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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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DATA

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SEE II	NSTRUCTIONS IN <i>HOW T</i> TYPE ALL ENTRIES (S
NAME	•			
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	vings Bank			
AND/OR COMMON		Unarthan		(preferred)
Baltimor	e Equitable Societ	y for insuring	houses from los	ss by fire
LOCATION				
STREET & NUMBER		_		
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CITY, TOWN	_			RICT
Baltimor	e	VICINITY OF	<u> </u>	CODE
Maryland	2	24	Baltimore City	
CLASSIFIC				<u> </u>
CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC		AGRICULTURE	XXMUSEUM
_XBUILDING(S)		UNOCCUPIED	XXCOMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTURE	вотн	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENC
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XYES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY	OTHER:
STREET & NUMBER 21 North CITY, TOWN	Equitable Society Eutaw Street		STATE	t, Treasurer
Baltimore		VICINITY OF	Maryland	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS,E	OF LEGAL DESCR TC. Baltimore Ci	IPTION ty Courthouse		
STREET & NUMBER				
CITY, TOWN	-		STATE	
	Baltimore		Maryland	21202
REPRESEN'	TATION IN EXISTI	ING SURVEYS		
TITLE				
Baltimore	City Landmarks Li	st		
DATE				
January,	1969	FEDERAL	_STATECOUNTY XLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR	ommission for Hist	orical and Arc	hitectural Prese	ervation
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
B	altimore		Marylar	nd 21202

7 DESCRIPTION

CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK C	DNE
XEXCELLENT	DETERIORATED	XUNALTERED	XORIGINAL	SITE
G00D	RUINS	ALTERED	MOVED	DATE
FAIR	UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

On the southeast corner of Eutaw and Fayette Streets (21 North Eutaw Street) stands the Baltimore Equitable Society. The two-story building with brownstone front and brick sides was constructed in 1857 in the Italian Renaissance style, and was originally the headquarters of the Eutaw Savings Bank. The central entrance on the three-bay Eutaw Street five marble steps lead to a pair of heavy wooden side is most handsome: doors that are paneled and studded, and topped with a stained-glass fan-These doors are flanked by simple square pilasters that end in light. elaborate capitals in a scrolled acanthus leaf design. Above the fanlight is an intricately carved panel and over all a plain classical pedi-This decorative work is done in the same Connecticut brownstone ment. with which the Eutaw Street facade is covered. The first-story windows have six-over-six sash with the upper sash arched and glazed; those on the main facade feature a decorative treatment similar to that of the entrance. These decorative elements are seen again in the heavy brownstone lintels and brackets over the five first-level windows on the Fayette Street side. The second-story windows are six-over-six with a flattened arch. Those on the main facade are rimmed with a simple brownstone molding, which is repeated in an abbreviated form on those on the Fayette Street side. The windows on the south side (alley) are identical to their north and west counterparts, but are without embellishment. All windows have brownstone sills.

Above the second-story windows is a complete entablature, with a simple architrave and frieze, and a wooden cornice featuring dentils below and carved modillions above. The gable end facing Eutaw Street is pedimented and the roof is covered with tin.

Inside the front doors is a small vestibule, whose interior partitions are pierced by windows and doors with Tudor arches. The main banking area measures 32 feet by 41 feet, and takes up the entire width of the building and two-thirds of its length. It is divided by a curving counter and grille of solid mahogany with walnut trim. The walls are plastered and the floor is of tile outside the counter and of wood planks in the employees' area. Half of the remainder of the first floor is taken up by the President's office, entered via a solid door from the customer area, or through double doors with glass inserts from behind the counter. Here is found a fireplace faced with black marble and a collection of eighteent century fire marks. There is, in addition, a vault on this level which contains a Corless revolving safe, and a circular staircase to the second floor, with walnut handrail and oak balusters. The second story is one large room that was at one time divided by a partition, and which now houses an exhibit of antique fire equipment. The floors are of wood planks, the walls are of plaster and the ceiling, like that of the lower level, is of coffered metal.



PERIOD	AR	EAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	ECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	XXARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X 1800-1899	XXCOMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1857

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Joseph F.K. Kemp, Architect Gardner & Matthews, Builders

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building occupied by the Baltimore Equitable Society is representative of an architectural genre that has all but disappeared from the streets of Baltimore. The Fire of 1904, urban renewal and modernization have taken most of the city's mid-nineteenth century commercial structures, and have left others altered beyond recognition. This handsome Italian Renaissance building on the corner of Eutaw and Fayette Streets not only survives, but has been maintained with great care, and is still in use. Today it houses the oldest corporation in the city, and a fine collection of vintage fire equipment and paraphernalia.

The lot on which the building stands was originally part of a larger tract bounded by West Fayette Street on the north, North Eutaw Street on the west and Garrett Street on the south. On September 19, 1795, this tract, composed of five parcels, was leased for a period of 99 years by Abraham Sitler, who sold part of the property to Aquilla Brown, Jr., in 1799, and bequeathed the remainder to his daughter Hetty, wife of Samuel Keyser, a china merchant. The tract was inherited by their son, Michael F. Keyser, in 1840; sixteen years later Keyser died, and the administrator of his estate, John H.B. Latrobe, conveyed two of the remaining four lots to the Eutaw Savings Bank.

Incorporated in 1847, the Eutaw Savings Bank has since that time had its offices in the Eutaw House. On July 7, 1856, the Board of Directors authorized the purchase of the lot 77 feet on Eutaw Street, by 66 feet on Fayette Street, southeast corner, subject to one cent ground rent, for the sum of \$12,000. After nearly two months of deliberation, the Board decided on May 8, 1857, to erect a banking house for the institution on part of the recently purchased property. A design submitted by architect Joseph F.K. Kemp was accepted for a fee of \$400, and builders Gardner and Matthews were chosen at their bid of \$14,825. Construction was begun in June, 1857, and completed on December 31, 1857; the cost of the building was \$16,103.48, and this amount plus the \$6,000 estimated value of the land used, made a total cost of \$22,103.48. The Building Committee of the Board of Directors expressed the opinion in February, 1858, "that for neatness, convenience and durability, it is at its cost unequaled by any other banking house in our city."

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baltimore Equitable Society records, research done by previous employees of the Society a number of years ago whose sources are now known. Eutaw Savings Bank-Directors Minutes and Proceedings

10 GEOGRAPHICAL D ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERT UTM REFERENCES				
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRI	PTION			
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
11 FORM PREPARED NAME / TITLE Stephen J. Bernhardt ORGANIZATION		ndolph M. Cor	mell, Summer I	intern
Baltimore Equitable	Society/ Marylar	nd Historical		ember, 1976
STREET & NUMBER 21 North Eutaw Stree			TELEPHONE 1-539-1072/ 26	
CITY OR TOWN Baltimore/ Annapolis		M	STATE Iaryland 21201	/ 21401
12 STATE HISTORIC 				
	ATED SIGNIFICANCE OF TH			
NATIONAL	STATE	<u> </u>	LOCAL	
As the designated State Historic Pre hereby nominate this property for i criteria and procedures set forth by	inclusion in the National Reg			
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFI	/Wasa/	N-Peance	4/14/77	
TITLE	S	4 P()	DATE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		<u>/// ~ </u>		
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Eutaw Savings Bank Baltimore City CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The Eutaw Savings Bank grew rapidly, and within a few decades the building had become inadequate for the firm's needs. A larger building was built across Eutaw Street, and in 1889 the original brick and brownstone structure was conveyed to the Baltimore Equitable Society. The oldest corporation in the city, and the fourth oldest insurance company in the United States, the Baltimore Equitable Society had been insuring houses from loss by fire since 1794. The Society retains all of its official records and information on properties insured since 1794, which provide a good historical reference and source of information.

Baltimore Equitable continues to occupy this building, carrying on its business and maintaining a museum of antique fire fighting equipment and related articles and an extensive collection of eighteenth century fire marks. Included in the collection are a small hand pump engine of the late 1780's, a large hose reel from 1805, two smaller hose reels of later vintage, a large collection of fire helmets, parade hats, buckets, trumpets, uniforms and other paraphernalia of this era. The collection of 286 fire marks is one of the largest exhibits of such plaques on display. Also included in the museum are many old books, maps, and pamphlet about fire fighting and much of the original furniture of the bank, including high benches, chairs, and a desk. The installation of the modern conveniences of heat, air conditioning and electricity were done with care and do not alter the nineteenth century appearance of the building.