MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM

NR Eligible: yes ___ no ___

Property Name: Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices Inventory Number: B-5320

Address: 2100 Guilford Avenue Historic district: ___ yes X no

City: Baltimore Zip Code: 21218 County: Baltimore City

USGS Quadrangle(s): Baltimore East

Property Owner: State of Maryland Tax Account ID Number: 3812017

Tax Map Parcel Number(s): 0017 Tax Map Number: 0012

Project: ___ Agency: Maryland Department of General Services

Agency Prepared By: Applied Archaeology & History Assoc. Inc

Preparer's Name: David Berg Date Prepared: 3/8/2019

Documentation is presented in: ___

Preparer's Eligibility Recommendation: X Eligibility recommended ___ Eligibility not recommended

Criteria: X A X B X C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

Complete if the property is a contributing or non-contributing resource to a NR district/property:

Name of the District/Property: ___

Inventory Number: ___ Eligible: ___ yes Listed: ___ yes

Site visit by MHT Staff ___ yes X no Name: ___ Date: ___

Description of Property and Justification: *(Please attach map and photo)*

Statement of Significance:

The former Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices at 2100 Guilford Avenue in Baltimore, Maryland was the first dedicated home of the fast growing Maryland agency during the early days of the automobile age. It holds significance at the state level for its role in the early history of the automobile age and the development of the Maryland Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Administration as well as the early history of the Maryland State Police. The building is also associated with Edwin Austin Baughman, commissioner of the Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission during its formative years and also first commissioner of the new State Police which originated within the Motor Vehicle Commission. The main building is also significant for its architecture as an intact example of the Stripped Classicism Style in Maryland government buildings. An addition to the west side of the building completed in 2007 does not materially detract from the building's design, materials and workmanship. Although modern in style, it continues both the lines of the water table and roof as well as utilizing compatible materials in strategic areas. The addition is not highly visible from major views of the historic building's façade and removal of this addition could be accomplished in such a way as to leave the essential elements of the original building intact. The secondary

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended X **Eligibility not recommended** ___

Criteria: X A X B X C ___ D **Considerations:** ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G

MHT Comments:

Heather Lamb 5/6/2019

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date**

[signature] 5/23/19

Reviewer, National Register Program **Date**

201902135

garage/office building at the west portion of the property is not considered a contributing resource due to loss of integrity of materials. The Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices at 2100 Guilford Avenue retains integrity of materials, design, workmanship, setting, location, feeling and association.

Historic Context:

The Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission was formed in 1910 from the office of the Maryland Secretary of State. In 1916, Edwin Austin Baughman, who served as the Commissioner for 19 years, operated his staff out of three rooms within the Garrett building at 221 E. Redwood Street. By the mid-1920s, the eight employees of the Commission had outgrown their offices in the Garrett building due to the volume of automobiles and increasing complexity of administration of the new mode of transportation (The News Frederick MD, August 1, 1946 p.1, 11).

The lot encompassing the two buildings at 2100 Guilford Avenue, currently home to the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Home Detention Unit was formerly occupied by the Home for Incurables building opened in 1884. In 1926, the trustees of the home offered the site to the State of Maryland for the sum of $60,000 for the new Motor Vehicle Commissioner's office (The Evening Sun, September 28, 1926 p.44).

The architect of the new building was William Gordon Beecher of Philadelphia, who maintained an office at 12 E. Pleasant Street in Baltimore. Beecher had previously been involved in the development of Roland Park. The consulting engineer was James Posey of Baltimore. A sum of $225,000 was appropriated for the new building (The Evening Sun, January 6, 1928 p.3). In October of 1927, the Baltimore Evening Sun published a rendering of the proposed new building which was a two and three-story, stone I-shaped building. On October 12, 1928 the paper reported that files were being moved into the office as the workers finished the interior (The Evening Sun, October 27, 1927 p. 50; The Evening Sun, October 12, 1928 p. 3). Despite the fact that the original sketch of the building published in 1927 showed an "I" shaped building identical to the present plan, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps show that the north and south wings were not constructed immediately, but were completed 19 years later in 1947 (The Baltimore Sun, February 17, 1948 p. 28; Sanborn Map Company, 1928-1950). By 1928, the site contained a two-story steel frame and stone building housing the Department of Motor Vehicles along Guilford Avenue and a second one and two-story steel and concrete building facing the alley to the west that served as a garage and a police station (Sanborn Map Company, 1928-1950). In 2007, a two-story addition was completed on the west site of the building that filled the central portion of the "I" between the wings.

Edwin Austin Baughman was appointed the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles by Governor Albert C. Ritchie on May 1, 1916. Baughman was the driving force in the evolution of the Commission from its beginnings as a small agency in the early twentieth century to the important place it held by the middle of the century. He helped organize the Eastern Conference of Motor Vehicle Administrators in 1921, later to become the American Conference of Motor Vehicle Administrators. Baughman initiated the Maryland title law and sponsored the creation of the Baltimore City Traffic Court in 1918. He also initiated the issuing of operators' licenses in 1918, requiring operators to demonstrate their ability to drive. He also promoted uniform motor vehicle laws among all the states. When he took office, there were eight employees in the administration and 50,734 automobiles in the state. At the end of his tenure in 1935, the department had grown to 212 employees and 341,452 motor vehicles (The News Frederick MD, August 1, 1946 p.1, 11).

Baughman initiated a small corps of motorcycle officers to enforce the motor vehicle laws in 1914 and in 1921, coinciding with the first Federal Highway Act of 1921, the new State Police Department emerged as a small emergency force directed by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles. Thus Baughman is also known as the "father" of the Maryland State Police. The first recruits were former World War I servicemen. By 1922, these men, originally deputized by county sheriffs, had statewide jurisdiction over

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ **Eligibility not recommended** _____

Criteria: ___A ___B ___C ___D **Considerations:** ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G

MHT Comments:

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Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services **Date**

_____ _____

Reviewer, National Register Program **Date**

criminal cases as well (https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual).

Architectural Description:

The main building is a 13x4-bay two and three-story edifice best described as built in the Stripped or Starved Classicism style. In plan, it appears as a north-south oriented "I"-shaped building having a long central section with wings at both ends. The building is constructed of a steel frame with tile walls faced with sandstone. The foundation is concrete and the base of the building has a stone water table.

The central section is seven bays wide with the main façade facing Guilford Avenue. The first story consists of a high ceilinged façade of paired windows capped by round arches with a central entrance. Set back from the first story is a second story mezzanine level having regularly spaced double-hung windows with flat lintels. The roof is flat with a stone parapet and there is a cyma recta cornice at the base of the parapet surrounding the building.

The wings, although part of the original 1928 design, were not constructed until 1948. Each wing is three bays wide on the east and west sides and five bays wide on the north and south sides. The wings read as three stories, with rectangular double-hung windows and central entrances on the north and south sides having paired entrance doors capped by arched windows and plain stone arches. The east and west sides of the wings continue the fenestration pattern with paired double-hung windows capped by a stone arch with rectangular windows on the bays to both sides. All windows throughout the building have been replaced with double insulated bronzed aluminum sashes with mullion inserts. The replacement windows do not detract from the integirty of design of the building.

A new addition, constructed in 2007, sits between the wings of the west side of the building. It is two stories high with a stone water table that matches the lines of the original building. The façade is composed of continuous windows in a slightly arched plan, terminating at a two-story stone, rectangular section at the south wing.

On the western portion of the property is a one and two-story building with low pitched shed roof. It appears to have originally been constructed of a steel frame and tile walls with some evidence of a brick façade that appears to have been later clad with stucco. The southern portion of this building serves as a garage with six overhead door bays on the east side and three overhead bays on the south side. The central portion of the building houses offices and is two stories high, four bays wide and four bays deep. This section has rectangular steel sash windows and the central entrance faces east towards the main building. There is a concrete chimney centered on the west end of the roof. The north portion of this building is a one-story section two bays wide with a personnel door and overhead bay. The building appears to be in a state of deterioration with cracked and spalling concrete and rusting window sashes.

While the interior of the main building is relatively intact, the garage/office building is in an advanced state of deterioration, having signs of numerous structural failures that are evidenced by large cracks in the tile constructon. The interior plaster is crumbling and water damage is evident in numerous places from a leaky roof. Original steel framed awning style windows are damaged and missing in many places. It no longer possesses adequate integrity of materials to be considered a contributing element to the property.

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_____ _____

Reviewer, National Register Program **Date**

Boundary Description:

The 1.51-acre property encompassing 2100 Guilford Avenue consists of Lot 17 of block 3812 of Ward 12, Section 13 in Baltimore City, containing the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services Home Detention Unit building and garage. The entire lot has been the boundaries of the property since the two buildings were constructed in 1928.

References:

The Baltimore Sun, Evening Sun
Various, as found in: https://www.newspapers.com/

Bromley, Walter S.; Bromley, George W. (Bromley)
1906 - Atlas of the City of Baltimore, Published in Philadelphia.

Maryland Manual Online: (https://msa.maryland.gov/msa/mdmanual).

The News, (Frederick Maryland)
Various, as found in: https://www.newspapers.com/

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map Company (Sanborn)
1928-1950 - Baltimore, Maryland. Published in New York.

Shirley, Joseph W. Chief Engineer
Atlas of the City of Baltimore, Maryland (City of Baltimore Topographical Survey), 1914.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

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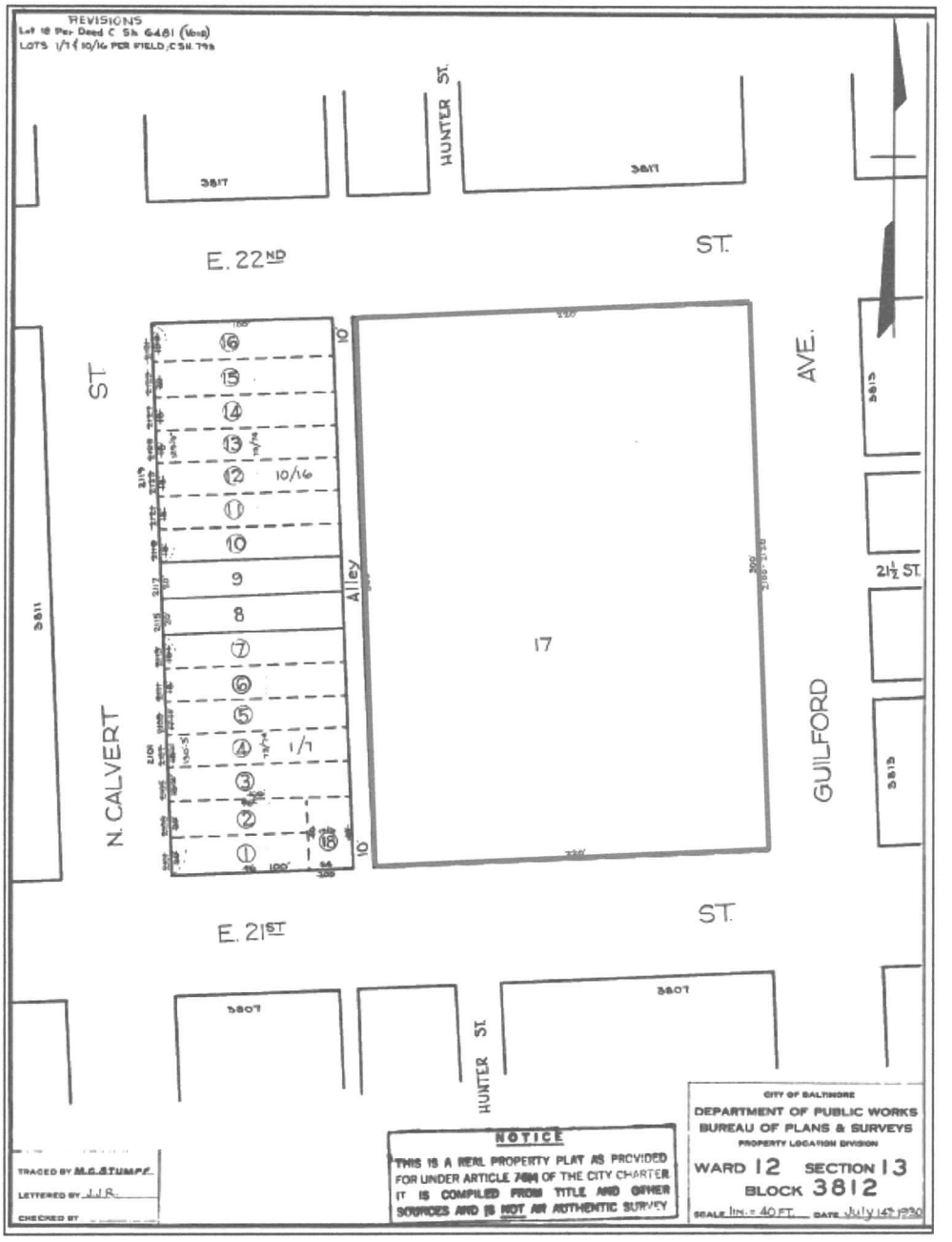
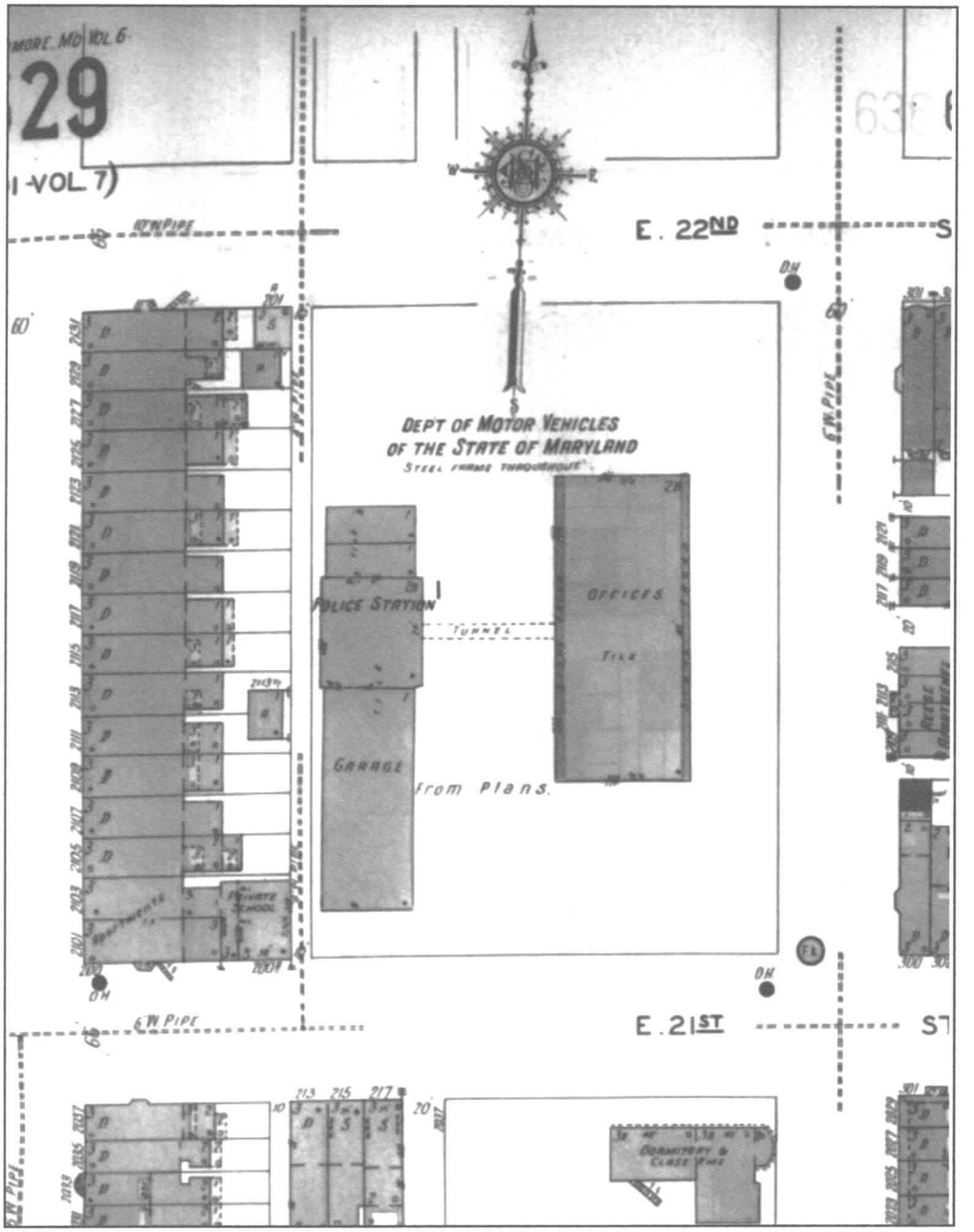
Location of 2100 Guilford Avenue on the Baltimore East, Maryland 7.5-Minute USGS Quadrangle (2016).

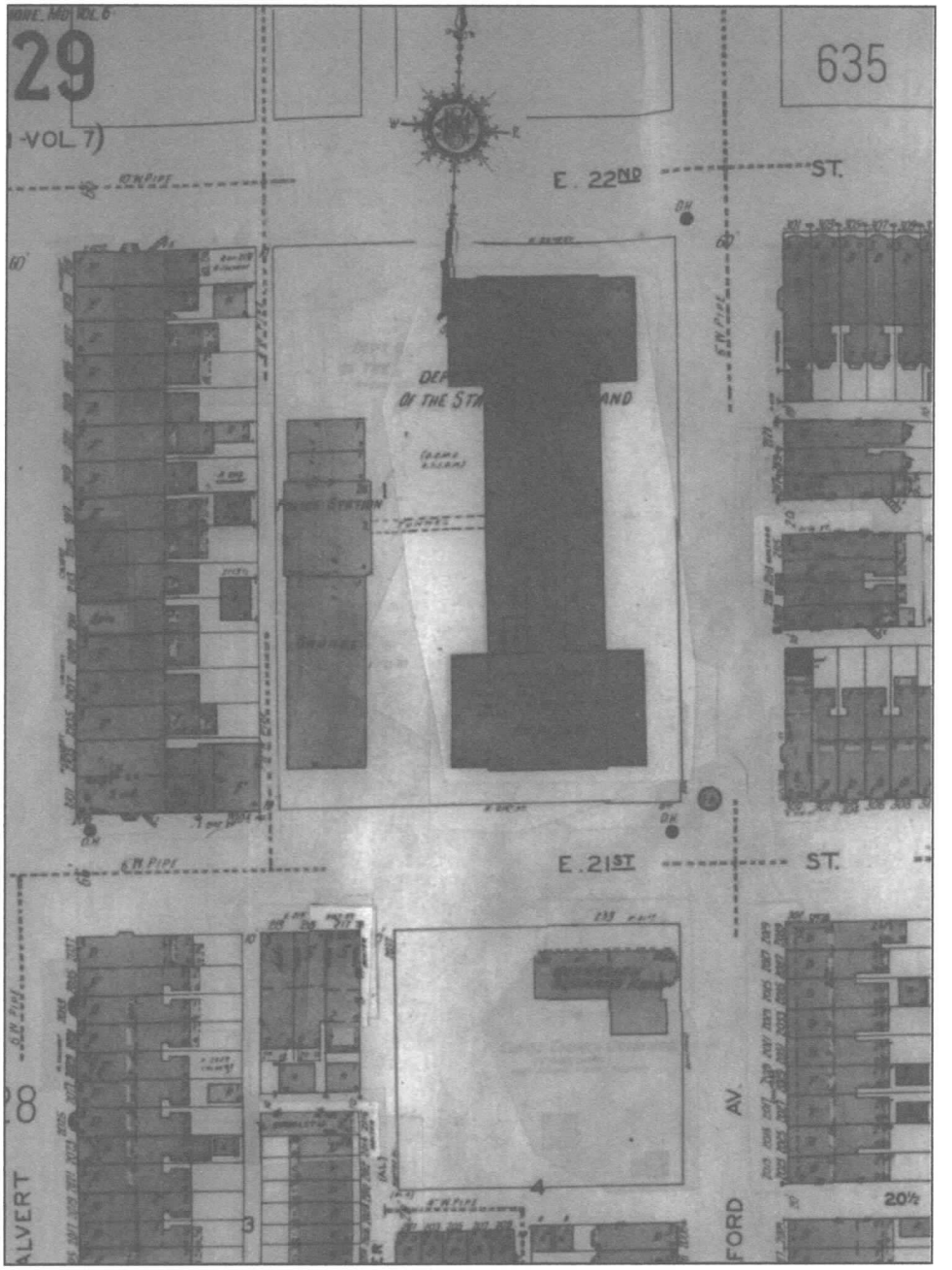
Detail view of location of 2100 Guilford Avenue on the Baltimore East, Maryland 7.5-Minute USGS Quadrangle (2016).



Tax Map showing 2100 Guilford Avenue (Lot 17).

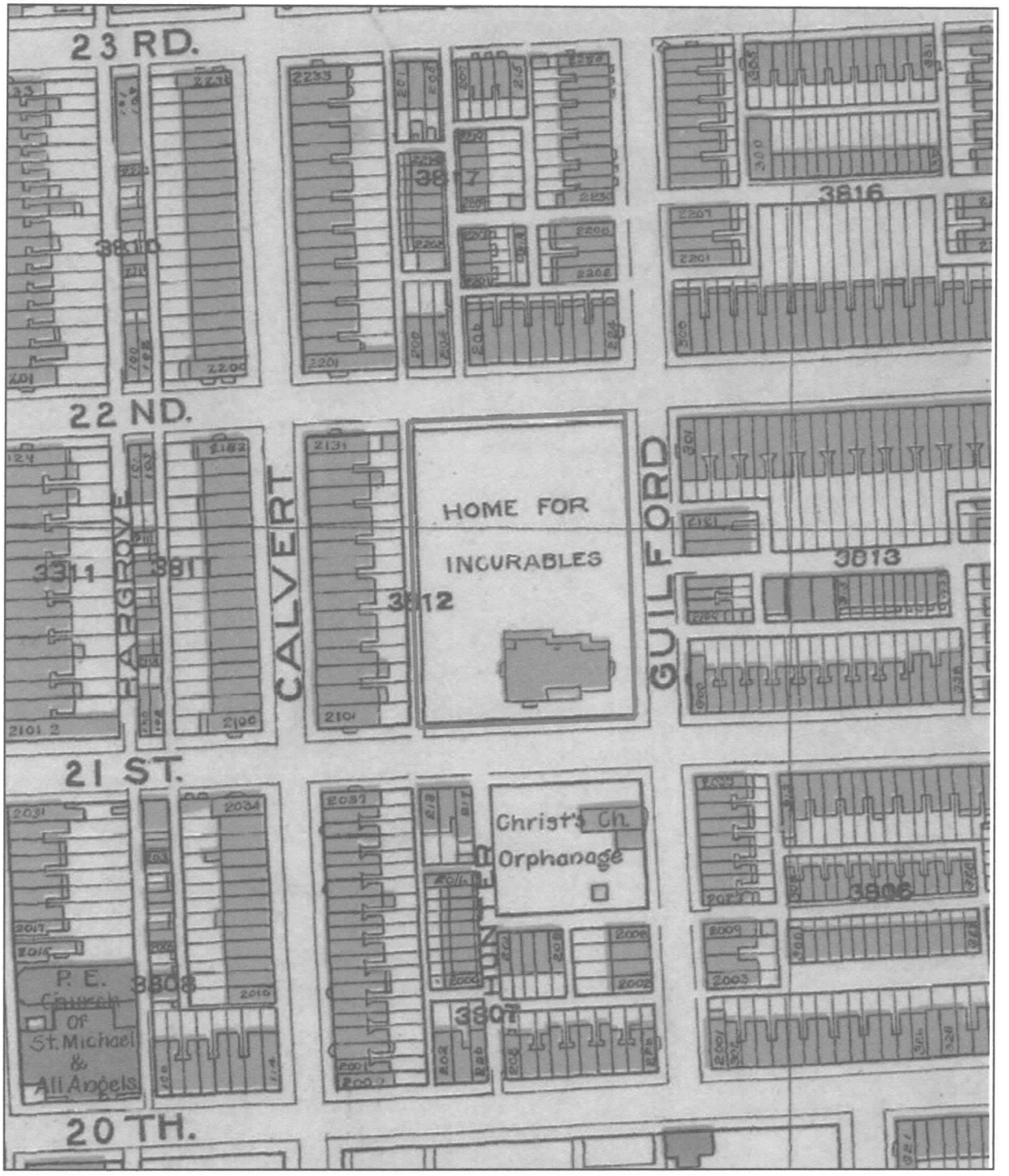


2100 Guilford Avenue depicted on the 1928 (updated 1936) Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

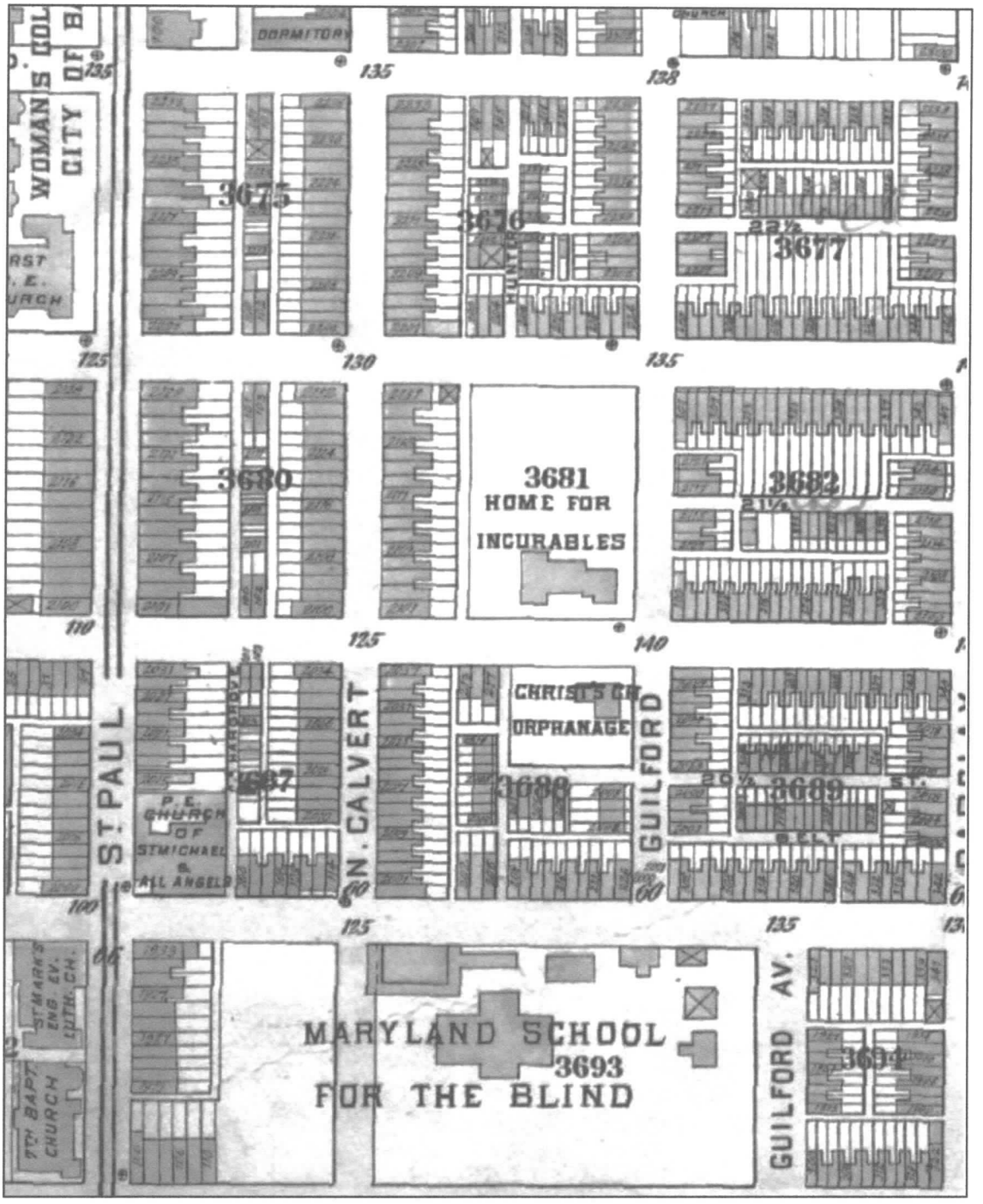


2100 Guilford Avenue depicted on the 1928 (updated 1951) Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

Study Area on 1927 Aerial Photograph of Baltimore.



Study Area on 1914 Atlas of the City of Baltimore.



Study Area on 1906 Bromley Atlas of the City of Baltimore.

THE EVENING SUN, BALTIMORE, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1927.

As New Office Building For St.te Motor Vehicle Commissioner Will Look

Rendition of the new Motor Vehicle Commission Building from the Baltimore Evening Sun, October 27, 1927.

Photo Log:

TIFF Image File Name	Description	Ink	Paper	Brand, Make & Dye Type of CD
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_01	Main Building, East and North Facades, View to Southwest	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_02	Main Building, Detail of East Facade, View to West	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_03	Main Building, East and South Facades, View to Northwest	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_04	Main Building, South Facade, View to North	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_05	Main Building, South and West Facades, View to Northeast	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_06	Main Building, North and West Facades, View to Southeast	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_07	Interior of Main Building, View to West	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_08	Interior of Main Building, View to South	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_09	Interior of Main Building Detail of Office at Main Entrance, View to Northeast	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_10	Interior of Main Building, Basement Hallway, View to South	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_11	Garage, North and East Facades, View to Southwest	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_12	Garage, Detail of East Facade, View to Southwest	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_13	Garage, Detail of North Facade, View to Southwest	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_14	Garage, Detail of East Façade Overhead Bays, View to Southwest	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_15	Garage, West Facade, View to Northeast	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo

Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_16	Garage, Detail of West Facade, View to East	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_17	Interior View of Garage Ground Floor, North Section, View to West	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_18	Interior View of Garage Ground Floor, South Section, View to Southwest	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_19	Interior View of Garage Second Floor, North Section, View to Northwest	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_20	Interior View of Garage Second Floor, North Section, View to Southwest	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo
Inventory No. B-5320_2019-03-05_21	Detail View of Garage Second Floor, North Section, View to West	Epson UltraChrome	Epson Premium Glossy	Verbatim Archival Gold CD-R, Azo

MIHP No. [illegible]-5320
Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices
Baltimore City, Maryland
David C. Berg
03/05/2019
MD SHPO
Main Building, East and North Facades, View to Southwest
1 of 21

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MIHP No. B-5320
Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices
Baltimore City, Maryland
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03/05/2019
MD SHPO
Main Building, detail of East Façade, View to west
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MIHP No. B-5320
Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission offices
Baltimore City, Maryland
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MD SHPO
Main Building, East and South Façades, View to Northwest
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MIHP No. B-5320
Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices
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MD SHPO
Main Building, South Façade, View to North
1 of 21

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Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices
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MD SHPO
Main Building, South and West Façades, View to Northeast
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MIHP No. B-5320
Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices
Baltimore City, Maryland
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03/05/2019
MD SHPO
Main Building, North and West Façades, View to Southeast
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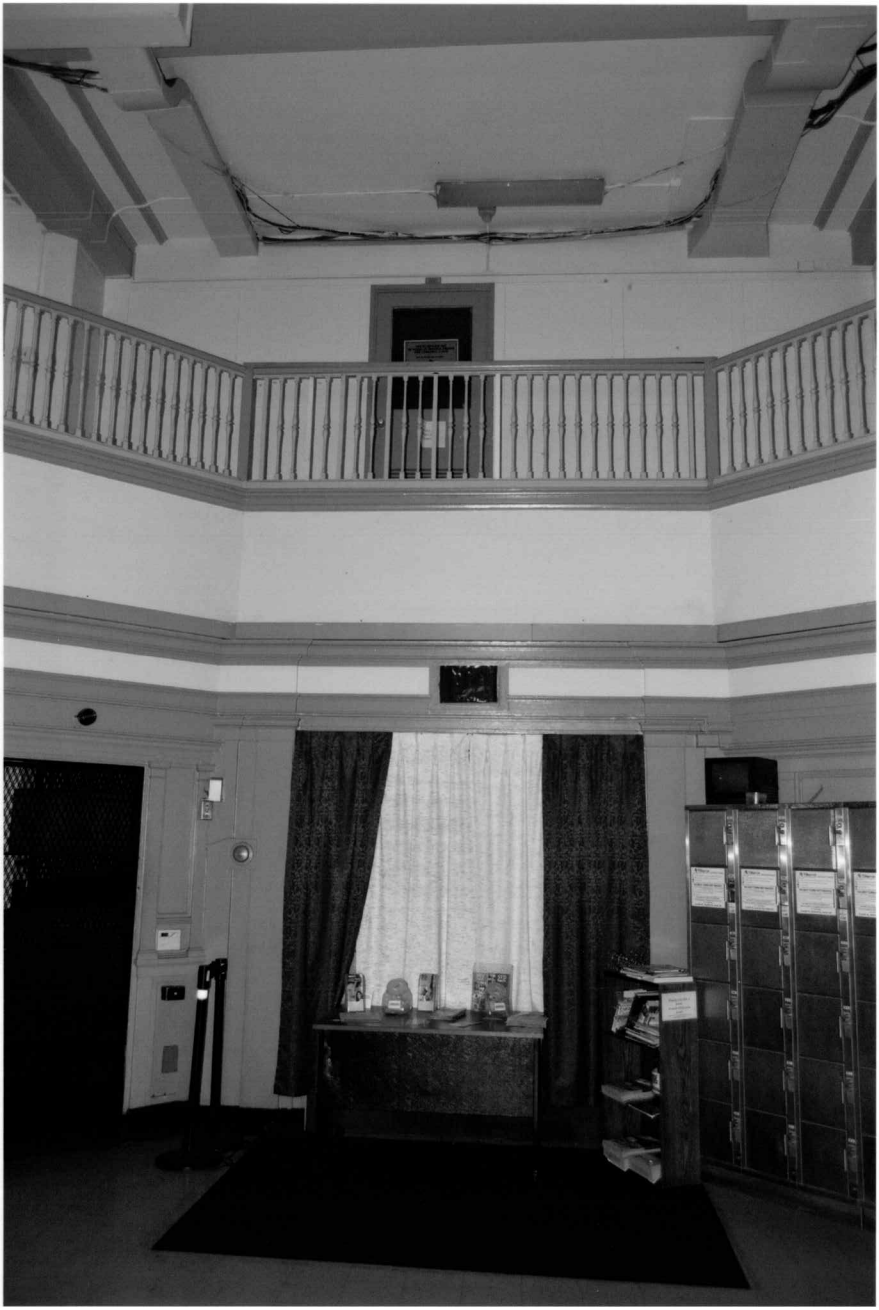

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MD SHPO
Interior of Main Building, View to West
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Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices
Baltimore City, Maryland
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MD SHPO
Interior of Main Building, view to South
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Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices
Baltimore City, Maryland
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03/05/2019
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Interior of Main Building, Detail of office at Main Entrance, View to Northeast
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MIHP No. B-5320
Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices
Baltimore City, Maryland
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03/05/2019
MD SHPO
Interior of Main Building, Basement Hallway, View to South
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Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices
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MD SHPO
Garage, North and East Façades, View to South west
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MIHP No. B-5320
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Garage, Detail of East Façade, View to Southwest
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MIHP No. 15-5520
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Garage, Detail of North Façade, View to Southwest
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Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices
Baltimore City, Maryland
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MD SHPO
Garage, Detail of East Façade Overhead Bays, View to Southwest
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Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices
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MD SHPO
Garage, West Façade, View to Northeast
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Garage, Detail of west façade, View to East
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MD SHPO
Interior View of Garage Ground Floor, North Section, View to West
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MIHP No. B-5320
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Interior View of Garage Ground Floor, South section, View to Southwest
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Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices
Baltimore City, Maryland
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MD SHPO
Interior View of Garage Second Floor, North Section, View to Northwest
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Baltimore City, Maryland
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MD SHPO
Interior View of Garage Second Floor, North section, View to Southwest
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MIHP No. B-5320
Maryland Motor Vehicle Commission Offices
Baltimore City, Maryland
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03/05/2019
MD SHPO
Detail View of Garage Second Floor, North Section, View to West
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