

B-52

## Roland Park Water Tower

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 03-10-2011***

B-52

Roland Park Water Tower  
4210 Roland Avenue  
Baltimore  
Baltimore West Quad

The Roland Park Water Tower is a monumental Italianate tower concealing a large stand pipe that supplied water to the Hampden neighborhood from 1905-1930. The tower was designed by William J. Fizone, architect for the City Water Department. The tower's location is testimony to both rapid growth of Baltimore's west side and the concurrent investment in infrastructure in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Fizone's Italian Renaissance-inspired design reflects the preference for monumental structures seen the urban architecture of the period.



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## 7. Description

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### Condition

excellent       deteriorated  
 good             ruins  
 fair               altered

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Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Roland Park Water Tower is a monumental Italianate structure built in 1904-5. The 148-foot structure is situated in a small park surrounded by mature trees. The tower is octagonal from its foundations to finial and is composed of three principal sections: base, shaft and Belvedere. The base sits atop a two course foundation built of cut limestone block topped with a carved water table. The main section of the base comprise a dado with cap molding, walls of buff, Flemish-bond brick and limestone laid in alternating bands, and an entablature consisting of a frieze and cornice. The shaft is constructed of buff brick, also laid in Flemish bond. Each of the eight sides of the shaft features a large recessed panel. The terracotta cornice of the shaft features a recess-paneled frieze with brackets at the corners, and a cornice. The Belvedere is also terracotta and each side includes corner pilasters flanking a recessed archway. The arch is supported by Tuscan columns that stand in tall pedestals; a balustrade occupies the space between the pedestals. The green tile roof is also octagonal and has a slight kick. The eaves are decorated with false rafter ends. The octagonal finial has a pointed cap. A monumental entrance way occupies the east side of the base. The entrance has a limestone surround with a jack arch with a keystone. The double door has a transom above and the opening is crowned with a small horizontal hood supported by brackets. Above the hood is a tripartite window with an apron featuring a projecting center section decorated with two sets of three guttae. The window openings are fitted with neo-classical grates. The window bears a terracotta hood in the form of *fasces*, or Roman ceremonial reed bundles, which extends partway down the window jambs. The keystone of the door surround projects down into the hood. Dedicatory bronze plaques, with surrounds mimicking the main entranceway, occupy the lower part of the sides flanking east side of the base. The south, west and north faces of the base each have a tall narrow window. These windows have plain surrounds and are fitted with neo-classical grates.

The shaft is pierced by three windows all bearing plain architraves. A window is centered halfway up the east face of the tower shaft, another three-quarters of the way up the north face, and a third at the top of the north face. The positions of the window follow the rise of the interior stair.

The interior of the tower was not accessed for this description, the tower contains a 213,000 –gallon steel tank that is 20 feet wide and 92 feet, six inches tall. A 154-step stair winds between the pipe and the masonry exterior and leads to the belvedere.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. B-52

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

**Specific dates** 1904-1905; 1930 **Architect/Builder** William J. Fizone

**Construction dates** 1904-1905

Evaluation for:

National Register  Maryland Register  not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Roland Park Water Tower was constructed in 1904-1905. The tower provided water to the Hampden, which lay downhill from the Roland Park section of Baltimore which was constructed between 1890 and 1920 by the Roland Park Company. The location of the tower is midway between Hampden and the older Western Pumping Station which was situated in what is now Druid Hill Park, and reflects both the rapid growth of Baltimore's west side and the concurrent investment in infrastructure during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The tower was designed by William J. Fizone, who was born in Baltimore in 1870. Fizone worked at the architect of the city Water Department between 1900 and 1912. He served as the Secretary of the Baltimore Architectural club, was a member of the Photography Club, the Maryland Athletic Club and the Oriental Lodge of Masons. He died suddenly at his home on 2115 Linden Avenue on December 21, 1912.

Fizone's Italian Renaissance-inspired design reflects the preference for monumental structures seen the urban architecture of the period.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Chalkley, Tom, "High and Dry", Baltimore City Paper (website), February 6, 2000.  
<http://www2.citypaper.com/news/story.asp?id=2496>

Clayton Colman (ed.) Baltimore: Its history and Its People (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company: 1912) p. 422

"William J. Fizone Dead", *The Sun*, December 22, 1912.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 0.8 acres  
Acreage of historical setting 0.0 acres  
Quadrangle name Baltimore West

Quadrangle scale: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The resource occupies a landscaped lot (Lot 5 if Block 3591A) which is situated between Roland Avenue and Evans Chapel Road at the head of Providence Street. This represents the original historic setting of the resource.

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## 11. Form Prepared by

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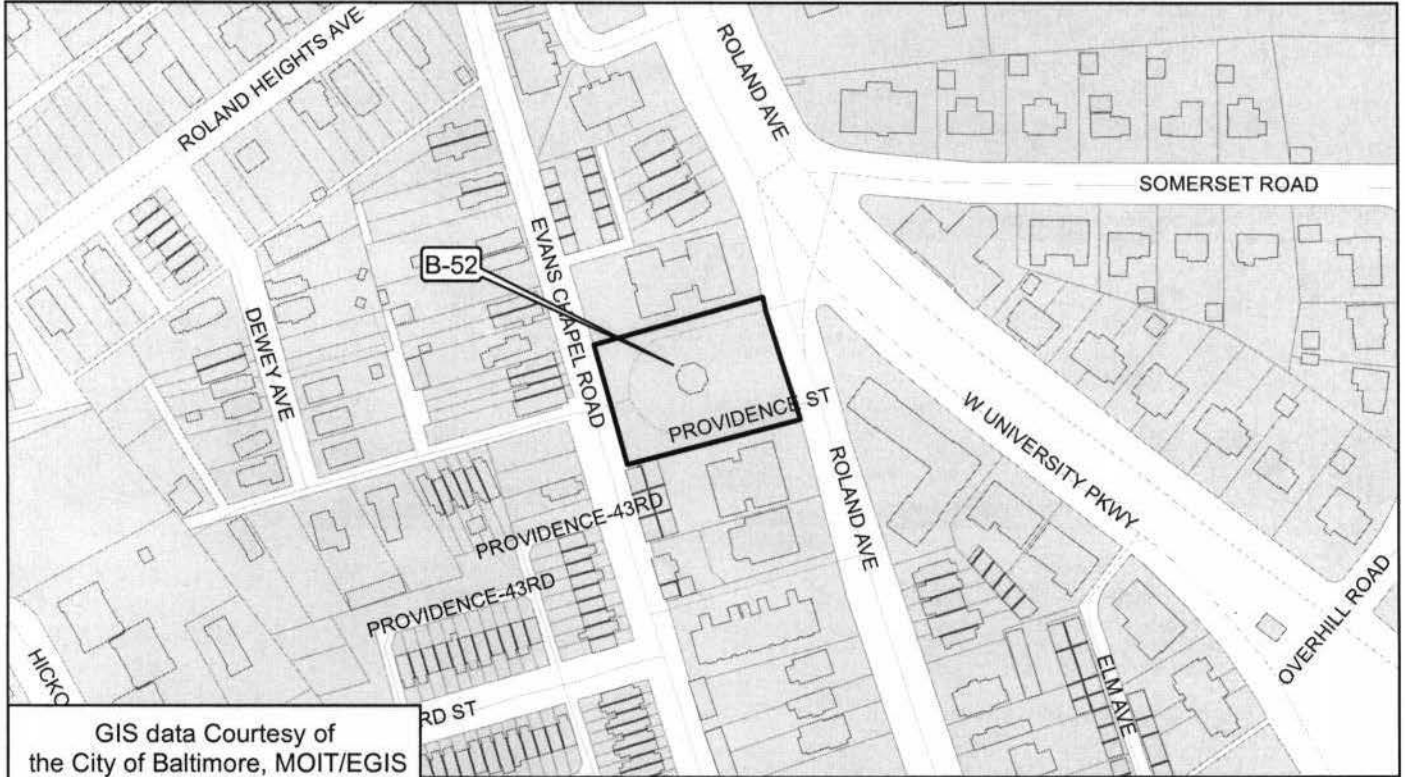
name/title	Thomas A. Reinhart, Administrator of Architectural Resource		
organization	Maryland Historical Trust	date	February 15, 2011
street & number	100 Community Place	telephone	410-514-7645
city or town	Crownsville	state	MD, 21032

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

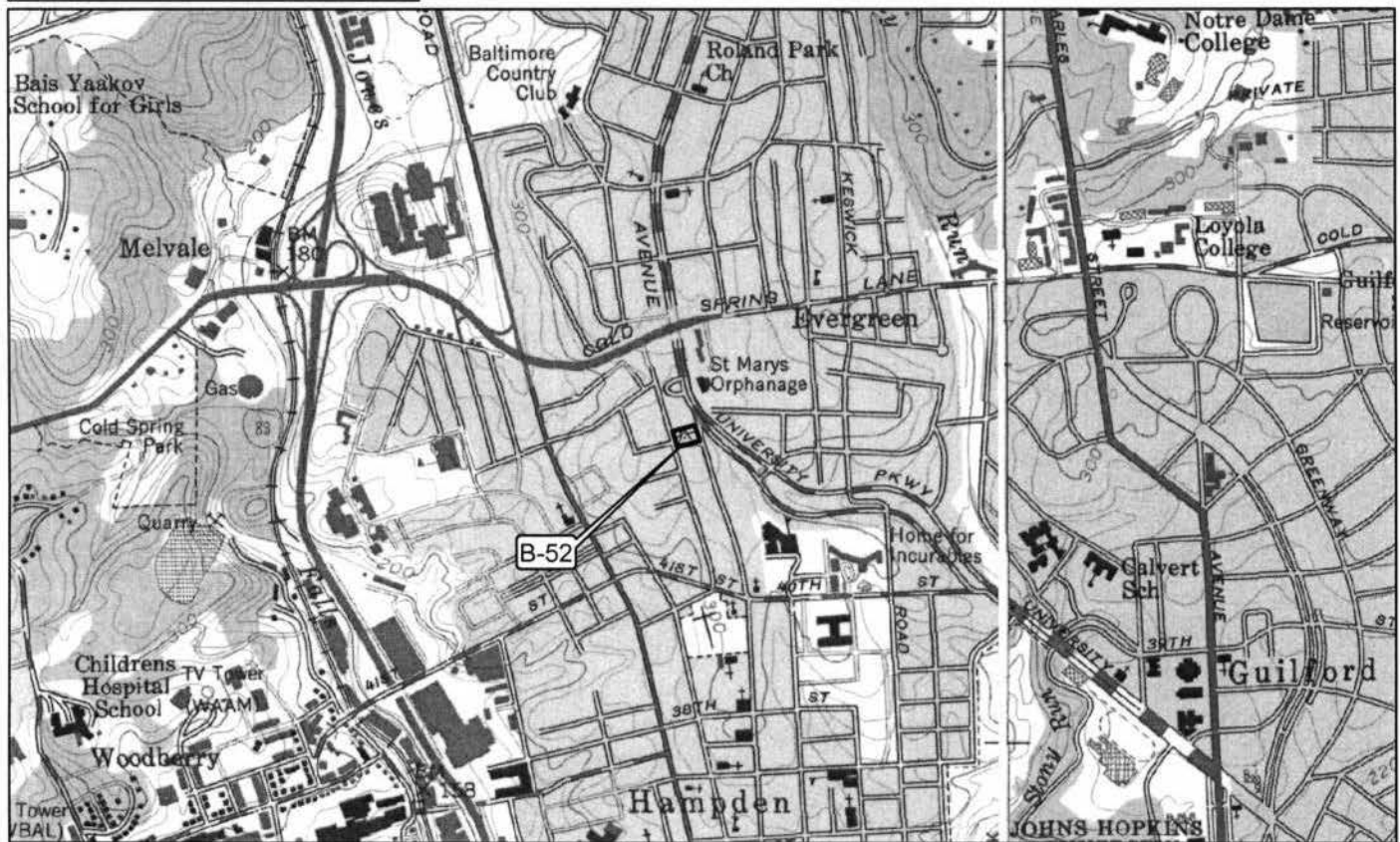
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Maryland Department of Planning  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600

B-52  
Roland Park Water Tower  
4210 Roland Ave.  
Block 3591A, Lot 5  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore West Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of  
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS





CITY WATER TOWER NEAR ROLAND PARK

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Roland Park Water Tower

C. 1911 Postcard showing Elevation

1 of 2



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Roland Park Water Tower

c. 1980

West Elevation

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