

**B-1373-4**

**Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17 (Pennsylvania Avenue Pratt Library)**

**1531 W. North Avenue**

**Baltimore City**

**1952**

**Public**

The Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL) Branch 17, at the southeast corner of North and Pennsylvania Avenues in Old West Baltimore, was designed by the architectural firm of Smith & Veale and constructed in 1952. The architecturally distinctive two-story, Mid-Century Modern building is irregularly shaped with a primary entrance in a curved window wall at the northwest corner.

EPFL Branch 17 was constructed as part of an effort by the EPFL system to build new branches in densely populated and well trafficked neighborhoods in the postwar period. The building served the populous and predominantly African American community that had grown in West Baltimore over the first half of the twentieth century. The architecturally distinctive building opened in January 1953 and became a major local landmark. It has served the community continuously since its opening, providing not only books, but also educational programs of interest to the community.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1373-4

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17  
 other Pennsylvania Avenue Pratt Library

### 2. Location

street and number 1531 W. North Avenue \_\_\_ not for publication  
 city, town Baltimore \_\_\_ vicinity  
 county Baltimore City

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mayor and City Council  
 street and number 1531 West North Avenue telephone  
 city, town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21217

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Deeds liber 7946 folio 146  
 city, town Baltimore tax map 14 tax parcel tax ID number 14-05-0295-001

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			<b>Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory</b> 0	

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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.

### Summary

The Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL) Branch 17, at the southeast corner of North and Pennsylvania Avenues in Old West Baltimore, was designed by the architectural firm of Smith & Veale and constructed in 1952. The architecturally distinctive two-story, Mid-Century Modern building is irregularly shaped with a primary entrance in a curved window wall at the northwest corner.

### Setting

The Enoch Pratt Free Library (EPFL) Branch Number 17 is at the southeast corner of North and Pennsylvania Avenues in the Old West Baltimore Historic District (B-1373). The building takes up the entirety of the irregularly shaped lot and is set right up the sidewalks. It is in a densely developed urban area with a mix of residential and commercial buildings. To the east, a brick building abuts the library. South is a parking lot. The Penn-North Metro station is west, across Pennsylvania Avenue.

### Building Description

The irregularly shaped, two-story building was constructed in 1952 of metal and cast concrete with brick cladding. It has a flat roof with a band of limestone at the cornice covered in metal coping that continues across the north and west elevations. One- and three-story sections project to the south. The main entrance is in a curved wall at the northwest corner. There are paired metal and glass doors set in a window wall of fixed panes in varying sizes. An image of a child reading a book has been applied to the glass.

The north elevation faces North Avenue. The first story consists of a band of windows, generally alternating paired aluminum windows with a fixed pane above a hopper window and narrow vertical fixed-pane windows. This bank is set on a brick-clad foundation, with a taller area of brick at the east end. The second story has a taller band of windows that also generally alternate paired windows with a fixed pane above a hopper window and narrow vertical fixed-pane windows. At the top is a row of smaller fixed-pane windows. Between the first and second stories is a concrete band with widely spaced three-dimensional letters spelling "LIBRARY." At the eastern end is a two-story brick pillar and a recessed solid metal door on the first story. Between the north elevation and the curved entry wall is a solid expanse of brick with library signage.

The two-story north section of the west elevation has no fenestration. To the south is a one-story brick section with a flat roof and cast-stone coping. It has a band of seven windows with a fixed pane above a hopper window. At the south end is a solid metal door. Recessed from the one-story section is a two-story section with a band of four large fixed-pane windows topped by three-light transoms.

The south (rear) elevation consists of three separate sections of varying heights. The westernmost section has a solid wall at the first story and a single fixed-pane window with a two-light transom in the deeply recessed second story. The central section is three stories. The first story has a mural on the west side and a large glass-block window and smaller window opening to the east. The second story has a single fixed-pane window with a two-

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light transom. At the southeast corner is a flush brick chimney. Recessed deeply from the second story is a small third story that has a solid metal door that provides access to the flat roof over the second story. The easternmost section has four horizontally oriented glass-block windows divided by brick piers. Within each glass-block are two operable single-pane windows. The second story is recessed and has a band of glass-block divided into four parts by metal dividers. Below the windows at the east end is a solid metal door.

The majority of the east elevation is obscured by the two-story building at 1515 West North Avenue. Only visible on the east elevation is the east side of the three-story rear section. That contains a single fixed-pane window with a two-light transom, a large, vertically oriented glass-block window, and a solid metal door. The partial third story contains a single fixed-pane window with a two-light transom.

***Interior***

From the corner entrance, one enters a small glass-and-metal vestibule that leads to a bright lobby set between the first and second stories. Stairs with metal railings lead upstairs to a large reading room and downstairs to a smaller room, auditorium, and separate children's area. The second story is primarily a large open space with an acoustical-tile ceiling and dropped florescent lights. The space is also lighted by the large window wall on the north and the band of glass-block windows to the south. At the southeast corner is an enclosed computer lab with bands of windows near the center of the walls. There is also a two-story enclosed office space at the west side of the building, south of the lobby stairs.

The lobby stairs lead down to a small first-story reading room. South of this is an east-west oriented auditorium with concrete-block walls, vinyl-tile floors and an acoustical-tile ceiling with recessed florescent lights. It is also lighted by bands of glass-block windows. There are folded moveable walls that can divide the space into two when necessary. East of the reading room, at the northeast side of the building is a large, enclosed area that houses the children's reading room. It is lighted by the North Avenue window wall and windows high along the west interior wall. A north-south running hallway at the east end provides access to North Avenue as well as to the auditorium and children's room. A concrete-block stair provides access to office and storage space in the three-story section on the south side.

The building underwent a renovation circa-2012, but all major interior spaces were retained. New aluminum and glass windows were installed, as was new carpeting, and interior surfaces were painted.

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*Branch 17, circa 1953 (Digital Maryland, EPFL)*



*Interior of Branch 17, circa 1953 (Digital Maryland, EPFL).*

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*Second-story reading area, Branch 17, circa 1953 (Digital Maryland)*

## 8. Significance

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input 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 checked="" 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** 1952

**Archited/Builder** Smith & Veale

**Construction dates** 1952

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.)

### Summary

The Enoch Pratt Free Library Branch 17 was constructed in 1952 as part of an effort by the EPFL system to build new branches in densely populated and well trafficked neighborhoods in the postwar period. The building served the populous and predominantly African American community that had grown in West Baltimore over the first half of the twentieth century. The architecturally distinctive building opened in January 1953 and became a major local landmark. It has served the community continuously since its opening, providing not only books, but also educational programs of interest to the community.

### The Enoch Pratt Free Library System and West Baltimore Branches

Enoch Pratt was a wealthy Baltimore merchant and philanthropist, who began building a free library on Mulberry Street in 1881, but it was not until January 1882 that he offered the city of Baltimore a central library building and four branch libraries, as well as an endowment. The City Council accepted immediately, and voters approved the offer that fall. His library was to “be for all, rich and poor without distinction of race or color.” The first five buildings were completed by 1884. At that time Pratt turned over library management to a Board of Trustees with the caveat that “no Trustee or officer shall be appointed or removed on religious or political grounds.” (EPFL). Formal dedication ceremonies were held in January 1886. In the twentieth century, another philanthropist, steel baron Andrew Carnegie, gave the library system \$500,000 to construct additional branches, 14 of which were constructed between 1908 and 1923 (EPFL).

Old West Baltimore was first served by Branch Number 1 (B-2993) at Fremont Avenue and Pitcher Street, which was one of the original four branches. The building was designed by Charles L. Carson and opened in 1886, when the neighborhood was primarily occupied by German immigrants. (Kelly 1986, 187). A second branch, known as the Easterwood Branch 17, operated in the neighborhood between 1914 and 1953. The building, designed by John Appleton Wilson, was at 2217 W. North Avenue. This building was one of 14 in the system constructed with funds from the Carnegie donation. It was constructed on land donated by the widow of Leon Lauer, a Gay Street department store owner. This branch closed in 1953 immediately following the opening of the new Branch 17 building at North and Pennsylvania Avenues, and was sold to Philip Weinberg. It currently houses the Mount Zion United Church of God (Kelly 1986, 192; EPFL; *The Sun* 1954a). The opening of the new Pennsylvania branch also

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caused a 52 percent decline in the use of the Fremont Avenue branch, leading to its closure in 1957. That building was eventually sold and converted into a church (*The Sun* 1957, 12).



*Undated photo of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, Easterwood Branch 17 (Digital Maryland).*

### Changing Demographics in Old West Baltimore

Old West Baltimore, which includes a variety of neighborhoods including Upton, Marble Hill, Harlem Park, and Sandtown Winchester, was established after the Civil War as an elite suburb of the rapidly growing city and was primarily occupied by white German immigrants, with some African Americans living in smaller houses along alleys, such as Etting Street, Shields Place, Vincent Alley, and Parrish Alley. The new neighborhood included prominent focal points such as Lafayette Square and Harlem Park. Between 1892 and 1905, all the major German Jewish synagogues moved to the area bounded by Lanvale Street, Park Avenue, North Avenue and McCulloh Street. Prior to the 1910s and 1920s, the population of the neighborhood was largely segregated white, with many areas enforcing segregation through deed restrictions, local legislation, and even physical attacks on black families that attempted to move into the neighborhood. By the early twentieth century, the area was built out and could not complete with the detached, single-family houses and modern amenities found in new residential suburbs such as Ten Hills (circa 1909) and Hunting Ridge (circa 1920s) that were easily accessible to downtown by new electric streetcars. This reduced demand for housing in Old West Baltimore provided an opportunity for black households to move into previously segregated neighborhoods (Diehlmann 2020, 9-10).

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The population shift was rapid and often fraught with racial strife as the remaining white residents fought the arrival of new black residents. Passage of a series of segregated housing ordinances beginning in 1910 attempted to keep the area segregated, but black attorneys fought to overturn the ordinances. Despite being ultimately being ruled illegal by the Supreme Court in 1917, the segregated housing ordinances had a lasting imprint on where blacks in the city lived. Other new suburbs, such as those developed by the Roland Park Company, included racially restrictive covenants that prohibited blacks, and often Jewish people, from living in those neighborhoods. With the rare exception of neighborhoods such as Morgan Park and Wilson Park near Morgan State College, and Day Village in Dundalk, developers almost never built homes for black buyers. Black residents had very few housing options within the region, and Old West Baltimore was the neighborhood of choice. By 1904, half of the city's black population was living in Old West Baltimore. It was a diverse neighborhood housing maids, chauffeurs, cooks, and laborers, as well as professionals such as dentists, physicians, attorneys, and schoolteachers. The wealthier professional residents tended to live in the northern part of the district in the large three-story rowhouses along the major streets like Druid Hill Avenue and McCulloh Street, while the working class lived in smaller houses like those on Etting Street. The poorest residents lived in the alley houses in the centers of the blocks. This concentration of black residents, particularly affluent and well-educated professionals, resulted in Old West Baltimore's development as the city's premier African American neighborhood (Diehlmann 2020, 9-10).

Pennsylvania Avenue became the community's primary commercial street. In the Jim Crow era, many businesses in the downtown area, including the large department stores and five and dime shops at Howard and Lexington Street as well as theaters and restaurants, refused or limited service to African Americans. Many of the businesses located on Pennsylvania Avenue catered to the needs of the black community. Most were still owned by whites, but there were also some African American-owned businesses (Diehlmann 2020, 9-10).

The population in the district continued to grow. Between 1910 and 1930, the African American population in the area doubled with most of the growth occurring on the west side of the district between Pennsylvania and Fulton Avenues. By 1940, there were 60,000 African Americans living in the district, comprising 93.5 percent of the population. As more black men and women moved to the city to work defense jobs during World War II, the district experienced severe overcrowding, mostly because segregation limited their housing options. This prompted many owners and landlords to convert formerly single-family houses to multiple apartments. Housing vacancies for units open to black occupancy shrank from 0.8 percent to 0.1 percent between January 1941 to November 1941. In response to this housing shortage, black residents began to move into blocks at the western, northern, and southern edges of the district, but were occasionally met with violence and vandalism by white neighbors. Even more changes came to the neighborhood following the US Supreme Court's 1948 decision in *Shelley v. Kraemer*, a landmark decision that ended the legal enforcement of racially restrictive covenants. This decision significantly expanded access to new houses for black households that could afford the cost of new homes. This resulted in the wealthiest black households leaving the district, while the poorer residents remained (Diehlmann 2020, 9-10).

### **Branch 17**

The property on which Branch 17 stands was owned by the Baltimore City Passenger Railway Company in 1890 and contained a lumber shed, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, and painting and glazing building (Sanborn 1890, 110-111). By 1901 a car barn occupied the northern part of the parcel (Sanborn 1901, 201). By 1914, the property

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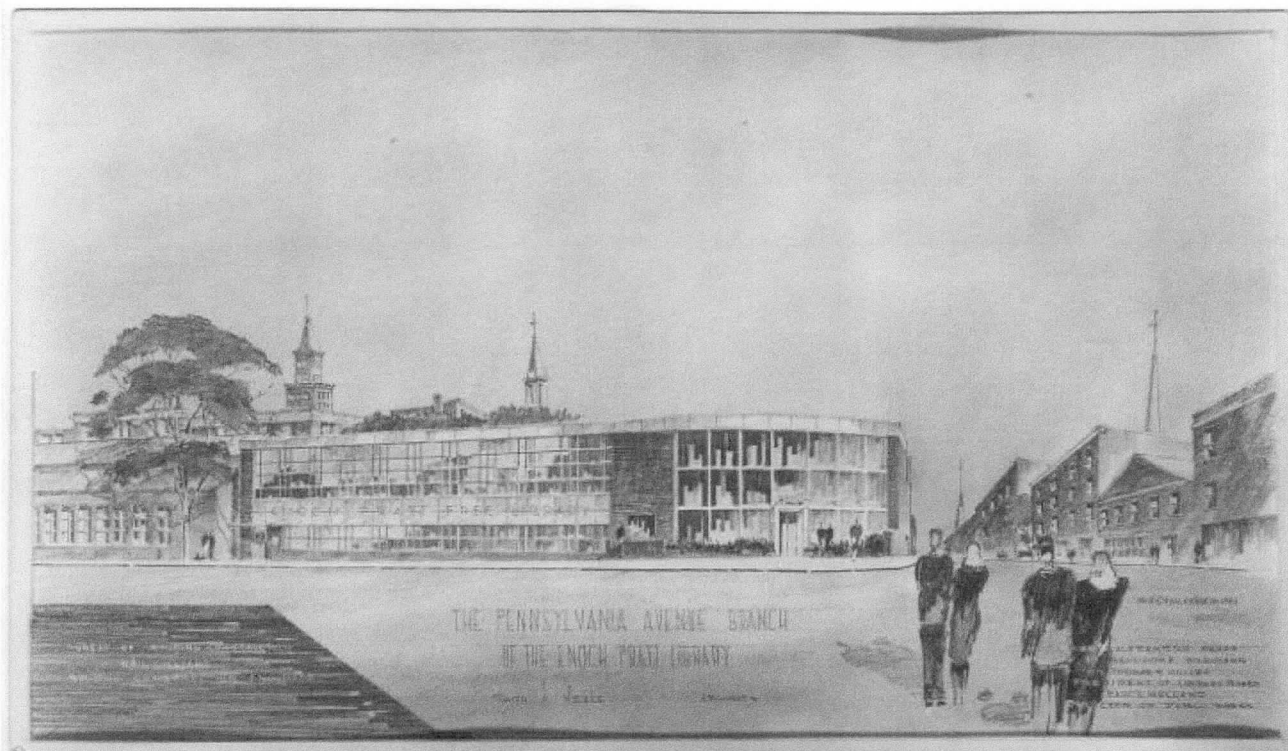
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was owned by the United Railways & Electric Company and occupied by the "Pennsylvania Avenue Car Barn," which was wood building with an iron frame and a concrete floor (Sanborn 1914, 215). By 1935, the United Railways and Electric Company had declared bankruptcy, and the property was sold to the Baltimore Transit Company (BCLR SCL 5540/465). In 1949, the Baltimore Transit Company sold the property to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, who, by the following year, was using the 75-by-140-foot property as an auto storage garage (BCLR 07946/146; Sanborn 1950, 215)

Branch 17 was constructed as part of a postwar building effort by the EPFL system to build new branches in densely populated and well trafficked neighborhoods (Kelly 1986, 192). In 1947, one half of a proposed \$3 million state loan was approved by the city for a general library expansion plan that included the construction of new library branches as well as maintenance on existing buildings and equipment. The three proposed branch libraries were in Pimlico (at Park Heights Avenue and Garrison Boulevard,) Edmondson Village, and West Baltimore (at Pennsylvania and North Avenues). These were the first branch libraries to be constructed since 1929 and were selected based on the greatest need and the greatest number of people. The Pennsylvania Avenue branch was noted as being in a populous section of the city with a large African American population. The location was far from the Central Branch and the older branch serving the area was insufficiently sized. The architecture firm of Smith & Veale was selected to design all three branches (*The Sun* 1950; Williams 1952, 2108)



*Circa 1952 rendering of the Pennsylvania Avenue Branch (Digital Maryland)*

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The projects were delayed by postwar supply shortages, particularly that of steel. (*The Sun* 1952a, 22). The second installment of the \$3 million loan was approved by voters in 1952 and involved the construction of five new branches and remodeling of two more. A third installment of \$1.5 million was approved in 1956. The Edmondson Village branch was the first of the three new branches to be completed, opening in August 1952. The Pimlico branch opened in October 1952, followed by the Pennsylvania Avenue location in January 1953. A Pratt Library official stated that these buildings "represent the latest developments in architectural design, equipment, lighting, and decoration, and in planning for effective service. Each will provide carefully collected collections of from 20,000 to 35,000 volumes for its community" (*The Sun* 1952b, 38).

The \$314,000 brick and limestone building was planned to be painted in soft pastel colors and have fluorescent lighting, acoustical ceilings, and cork-tile flooring. The bookshelves and furniture was to be of blond wood in a modern design and was planned for "comfort as well as for attractiveness and convenience." (*The Sun* 1950). The branch was constructed by the J. H. Williams Company and was air conditioned. When it opened, it was soundproofed and "equipped with the best in present day lighting." There was a 200-person auditorium and a sitting room and kitchen for staff members. It was intended to serve the approximately 100,000 people in the surrounding area. It contained 30,000 books when it opened--children's books were on the lower level and adult and teen material was upstairs. Its number of reference books was larger than any of the other branches. The library was planned to shortly meet its 35,000-book capacity and loan 1000 books a day (*The Sun* 1953, 10). A distinguishing feature of the design was the placement of the librarian's desk at the intermediate level, allowing the librarian to supervise both floors at the same time. (*The Sun* 1955)

An opening ceremony for the building was held on January 14, 1953, in front of a 1,500-person crowd. Former Pratt Library director Dr. Joseph L. Wheeler stated that "it's the finest public library [branch] in the country. It has the rest of them backed off the boards." (Kelly 1986, 192-3). *Sun* articles lauded the facility for its air conditioning, open two-story lobby, and special book lift to move books between levels. The large glass wall allowed passers-by to see what was happening inside, and attract new patrons, who would not normally go into the library. It opened to the public the following day.

The new branches were well-used. A library history notes that "the openness of the layout and the attractive, inviting appearance of the furnishings have vastly increased patronage at the libraries which have been well stocked with materials for recreational and informational needs of adults, young adults, and children" (EPFL). The *Baltimore News-Post* noted that the Pennsylvania Avenue branch was "being used by both Negroes and whites, and ... many motorists and people who transfer at the point are borrowing books on their way home from work." (*The Baltimore News-Post* 1953). One year after opening, 144,168 books had been checked out of the Pennsylvania Avenue branch (*The Sun* 1954b, 18).

In the 1960s, the library system increased efforts to serve the surrounding communities. In 1969, after the civil unrest in reaction to the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., the branch saw an increase in demand for books about black history and culture and began programming in that area, including an "Evening with Langston Hughes" that was intended to bring teens into the library (Arnett 1969, 8). It offered a variety of programming for community residents, including a 1976 discussion of civil rights and how citizens should interact with the police, voter registration drives, and Black History Month programming (*The Sun* 1976, T3; *The Sun* 1972, C10; *The Sun* 1980, N7). As it had decades earlier, the library provided a stabilizing force in the community after the 2015 unrest

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in reaction to the death of Freddie Gray in police custody. The library continues to serve as a beacon for the community today.

**Smith and Veale**

Thomas W. Smith and Graham Veale established the firm of Smith & Veale in 1940. Their work included schools, churches, libraries, and banks. By the 1970s, the firm had become Smith, Veale and Patton, and, in 1976, it merged with Meyers & D'Aleo Inc. Smith earned a degree from the University of Virginia and served in the Navy During World War II. Veale was born in Philadelphia but moved to Baltimore as a child. He attended Harvard for two years, later earning a degree in architecture from the University of Pennsylvania. He served in the Air Force during World War II as a photo reconnaissance expert (*The Sun* 1998, 20; *The Sun* 1996, 5B)

The firm was mostly known for its Modernist buildings with lots of light. They designed the president's house and Shaffer Hall on the Johns Hopkins University campus (*The Sun* 1998, 20). Schools included the 1956 Hampton Elementary School off Dulaney Valley Road in Baltimore County, and the 1971 Walbrook Senior High School and Southwestern High School, both in Baltimore City (*The Sun* 1956, 22; *The Sun* 1991, 36). In addition to the Pennsylvania Avenue, Pimlico, and Edmonson Village Pratt libraries, the firm also designed the 1962 Catonsville and North Point Branches of the Baltimore County Public Library system. They also designed the chapel and library at Garrison Forest School (*The Sun* 1954c, 10; *The Sun* 1962, 109; Pousson 2015). Notable banks designs include the Westview Federal Savings and Loan Association at 1000 Ingleside Avenue in Catonsville (*The Sun* 1960, 79)

The firm won awards from the Baltimore Association of Commerce for their designs of Campfield Elementary and Dumbarton Junior High Schools in Baltimore County, as well as the Brooklyn Branch of the Union Trust Company in Anne Arundel County, which featured a drive-through (*The Sun* 1955a, 12; *The Sun* 1957b, 18). Their design for the Pennsylvania Avenue Pratt Library Branch was even featured in an Italian magazine, *Vitrum*, that was published by the Information and Research Center for Glass Applications in Architecture and Furniture. The article notes, "glass has found a vast, harmonious and most useful employment in this library." It further notes that the library is "distinguished by its high degree of functionalism, by its purity of line, obtained through the correct employment of glass" (*The Sun* 1955)

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Digital Maryland. n.d. "Enoch Pratt Free Library Branch Number 17 (Easterwood Branch), Baltimore, Maryland." Accessed July 3, 2021.

<https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/api/singleitem/image/scpr/391/default.jpg?highlightTerms=easterwood%20library>

----- 1952. "Architectural drawing of proposed Enoch Pratt Free Library Branch Number 17 (Pennsylvania Avenue Branch), Baltimore, Maryland, circa 1952." Accessed June 19, 2021.

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----- 1953a. "Enoch Pratt Free Library Branch Number 17 (Pennsylvania Avenue Branch), Baltimore, Maryland." Accessed June 19, 2021. <https://collections.digitalmaryland.org/digital/collection/scpr/id/410/rec/5>.

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Williams, Raymond E. 1952. "Building for the Future." *Library Journal*. December 15, 1952: 2103-8.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. B-1373-4

See Section 8.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 0.18  
Acreage of historical setting 0.18 acres  
Quadrangle name Baltimore West      Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property consists of Baltimore City tax parcel 14-05-0295-001, which has been historically associated with the property.

---

## 11. Form Prepared by

---

name/title	Nicole A. Diehlmann		
organization	Consultant for Baltimore Heritage	date	June 19, 2021
street & number	100 N. Charles Street	telephone	
city or town	Baltimore	state	Maryland

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  
410-697-9591

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1373-4

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number Photo Log Page 1

---

**Name of Property:** Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17  
**City or Vicinity:** Baltimore  
**County:** Baltimore City      **State:** Maryland  
**Photographer:** Nicole A. Diehlmann  
**Date Photographed:** May 18, 2021  
**Location of Original Digital File:** MD SHPO

Photo 1 of 12  
B-1373-4\_2021-05-18\_001.tif  
North elevation and corner entrance, looking southeast

Photo 2 of 12  
B-1373-4\_2021-05-18\_002.tif  
Corner entrance detail, looking southeast

Photo 3 of 12  
B-1373-4\_2021-05-18\_003.tif  
Corner entrance and west elevation, looking southeast

Photo 4 of 12  
B-1373-4\_2021-05-18\_004.tif  
South elevation, looking north

Photo 5 of 12  
B-1373-4\_2021-05-18\_005.tif  
Detail of north elevation, looking southwest

Photo 6 of 12  
B-1373-4\_2021-05-18\_006.tif  
Lobby, looking southeast

Photo 7 of 12  
B-1373-4\_2021-05-18\_007.tif  
Second-story reading room, looking northeast

Photo 8 of 12  
B-1373-4\_2021-05-18\_008.tif  
Second-story reading room, looking southeast

Photo 9 of 12  
B-1373-4\_2021-05-18\_009.tif

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1373-4

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17  
**Continuation Sheet**

Number Photo Log Page 2

---

Second-story reading room, looking southwest

Photo 10 of 12

B-1373-4\_2021-05-18\_010.tif

First-story auditorium, looking southeast

Photo 11 of 12

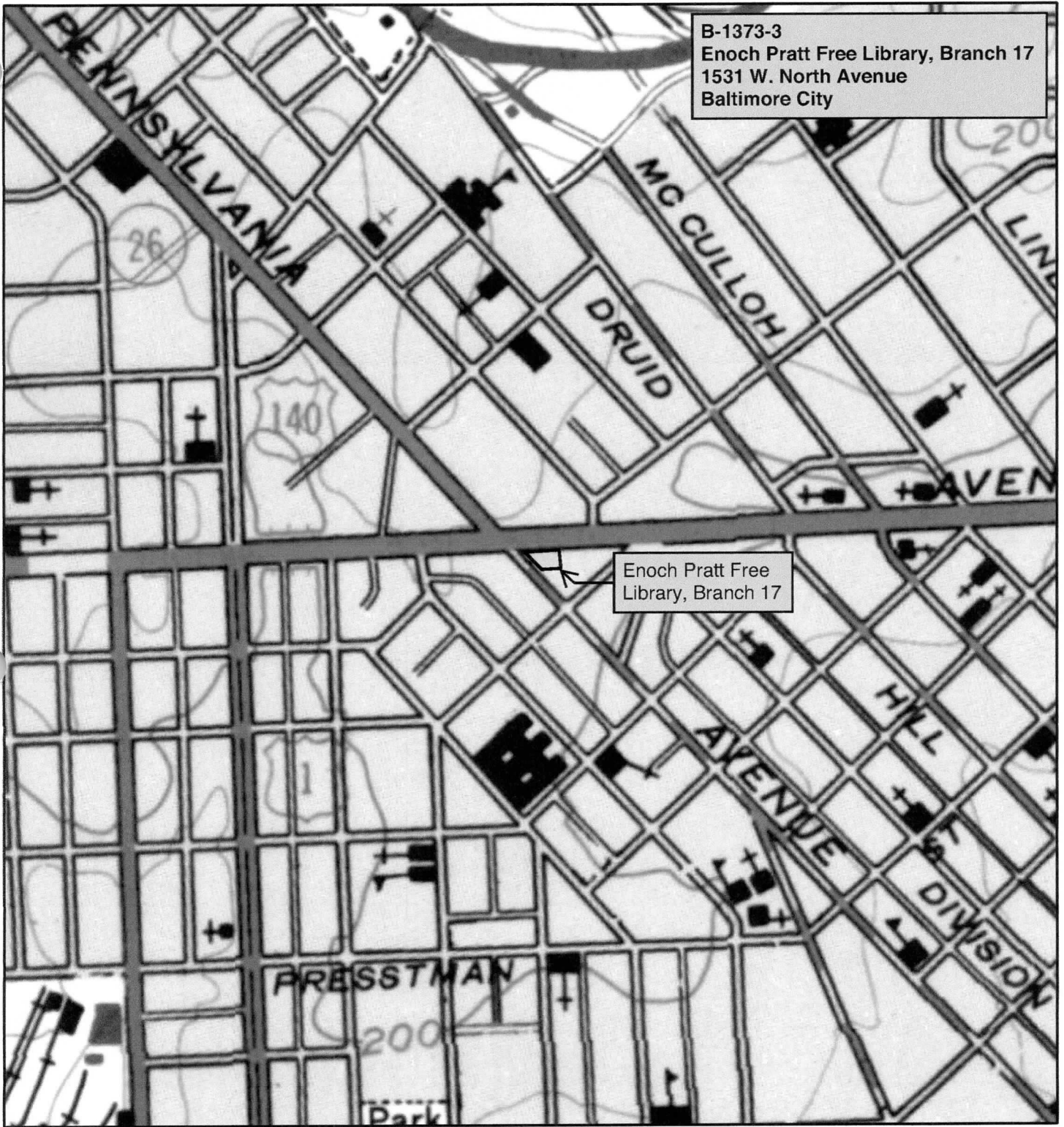
B-1373-4\_2021-05-18\_011.tif

First-story children's room, looking northwest

Photo 12 of 12

B-1373-4\_2021-05-18\_012.tif

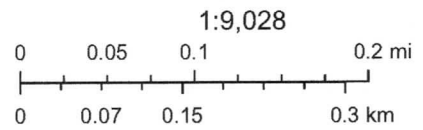
Stair, looking southwest



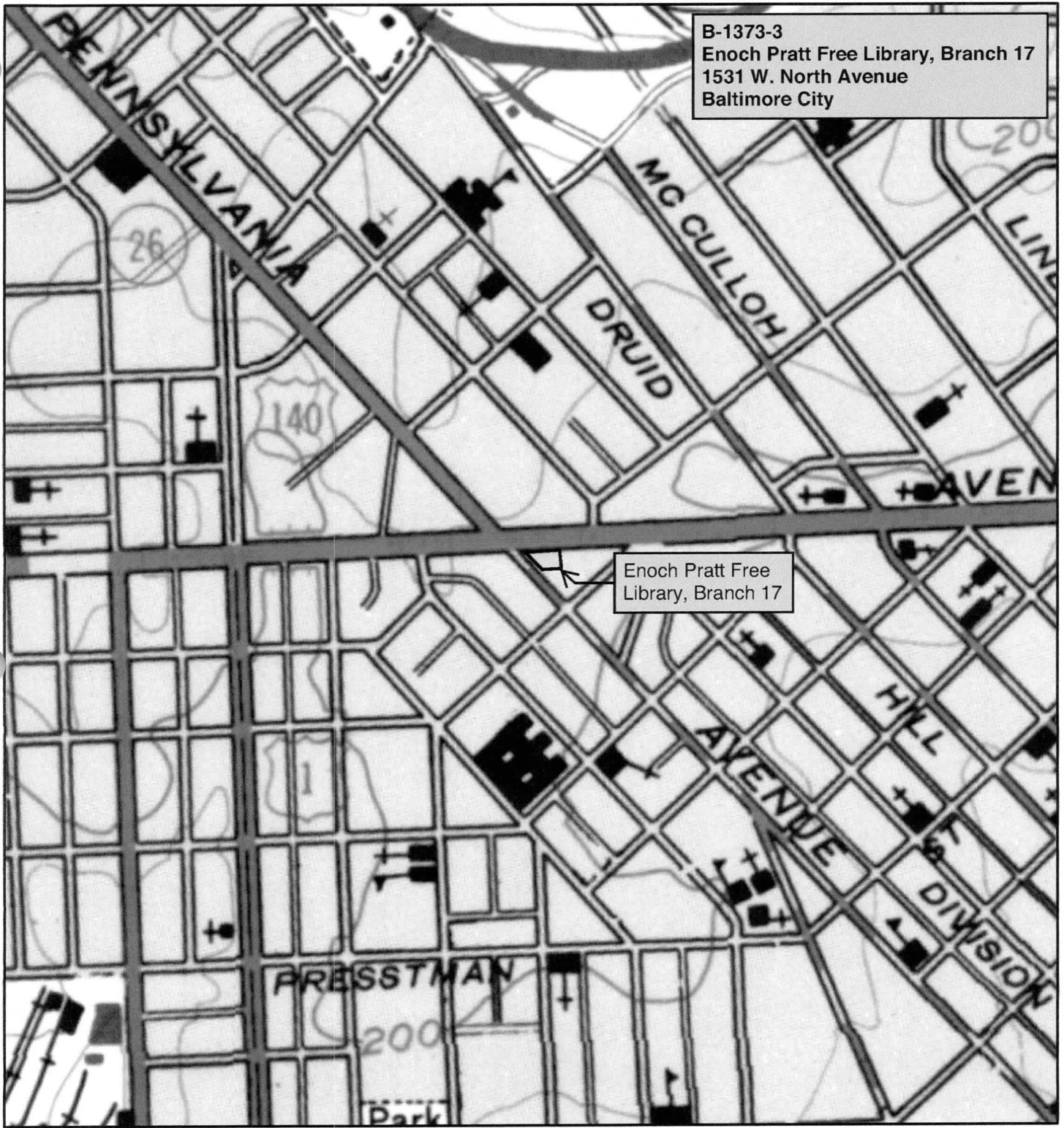
B-1373-3  
Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17  
1531 W. North Avenue  
Baltimore City

Enoch Pratt Free  
Library, Branch 17

August 8, 2021



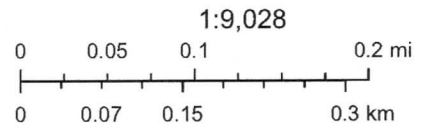
MD IMAP, USGS



B-1373-3  
Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17  
1531 W. North Avenue  
Baltimore City

Enoch Pratt Free  
Library, Branch 17

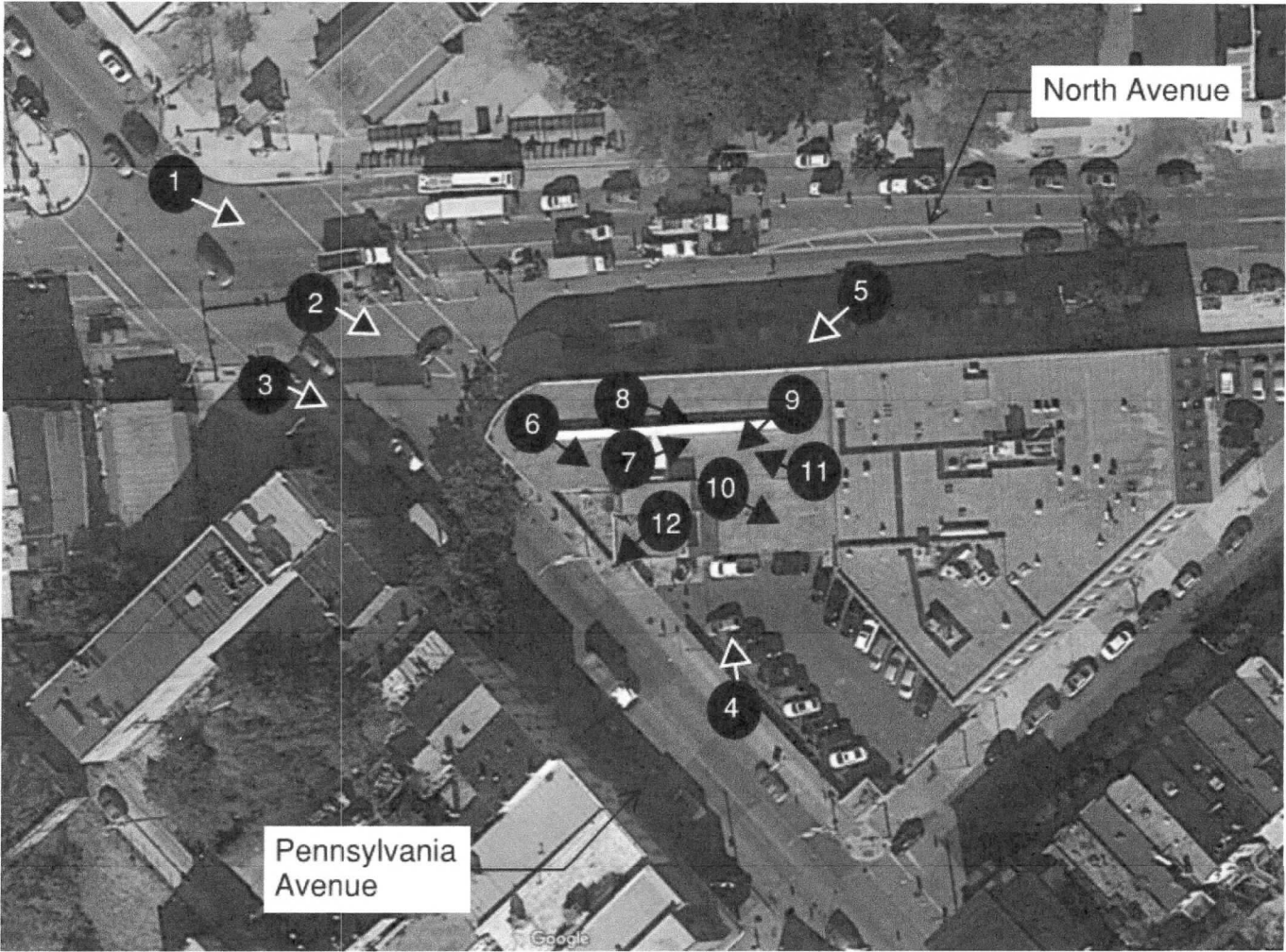
August 8, 2021



MD IMAP, USGS

**B-1373-4**  
**Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17 (Pennsylvania Avenue Pratt Library)**  
**1531 W. North Avenue**  
**Baltimore City**

Site Plan with Photograph Locations





EXPOS RELATY  
PHILADELPHIA  
Avenue of Books

PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA

NO PARKING

PHILADELPHIA

B-1373 -4

Enoch Pratt Free Library, No. 17

Baltimore City, MD

Nicole A. Steinmann

5 18-21

MD STATE

Nathaniel, looking SE

1912

WWW.SMAPFISH.COM - Baltimore, MD  
23021300321412#27-27 5-25645 C9 10/18/21

PENNSYLVANIA



  
ENOUGH FRUIT  
for LIBRARY  
Pennsylvania  
Avenue Branch

BUS  
LANE  
BUSES  
BIKES  
ONLY  
ALL  
TIMES

  
Library of the  
Commonwealth of  
Pennsylvania



B-1373-4

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17

Baltimore City, MD

Nicole A. Diehlman

5-18-21

ms. - H70

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Cornel Entrance Detail, looking SE

Zof 12

PENNSYLVANIA AVE



NO  
TURN  
ON RED  
PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA

AMERICAN QUALITY  
FINE LIBRARY  
PENNSYLVANIA  
AVENUE BRANCH



B-1373-4

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17  
Baltimore City, MD  
Nicole A. Niehlman

5-18-21

MS SHZ

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Corner Entrance & West elevation, looking SE  
3 of 12



B-1373-4

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17

Baltimore, MD

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5/18/21

MS SH2C

Southwestern, looking north

4 of 12

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F13 B4

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17  
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5-16-21

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MD 5072

Northwestern, looking SW

5 of 12



B-1373-4

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17

Baltimore City, MD

Nicole A. Viehlmann

5-18-21

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ML SHPC

lobby, looking E

6 of 12



B-1373 -4

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17

Baltimore City, MD

Nicole N. Niehlmann

5-18-21

17th St

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Second story reading room, looking NE

7 of 12



TEEN ZONE

Computer Lab



B-1373-4

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17

Baltimore City, MD

Irma A. Neuhmann

5-18-21

MD SHAW

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Second story reading room, looking SE

8 of 12



B-1373-4

Knock Plot Free Library, Branch 17

Calhoun County, MD

Nicole A. Nightman

F-13-21

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MS SHAR

Second story reading room, looking SW

9 of 12



B-1373-4

Ernoch Post Free Library, Branch 17

Baltimore city, MD

Nicole A. Bushman

5-18-21

MD STATE

Andover, taking SE

10 of 12

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23021300321412#29-29 5-25645 09 10/18/21



B-1373-4

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Branch 17

Kathleen Gray, MD

Nicole A. Niehlman

5-10-21

MS SH20

Frostburg Children's Reading, looking for

11/12

WWW.SHAPFISH.COM - BELLEVILLE, MD  
23021300321412#36-36 5-25645 C9 10/18/21



B-1373-4

Enclosed in the library, Branch 17

Baltimore City, MD

Nicole A. Yehlians

5-16-21

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23021300321412#35-35 5-25645 C9 10/18/21

MD State

issue, looking SW

12a 12