THEME: Major American Wars
SUBTHEME: W of 1812 (IV)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: Maryland
COUNTY: Baltimore (City)
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) *(Type all entries complete applicable sections)*

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Star-Spangled Banner Flag House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Star-Spangled Banner Flag House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 844 East Pratt Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third

STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

COUNTY: Baltimore — CODE: 510

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☒ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

STREET AND NUMBER: City Hall

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore — STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Baltimore City Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: Lexington and St. Paul Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore — STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Maryland State Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 2/28/69 ☒ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 1704

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis — STATE: Maryland — CODE: 24

Maryland

Baltimore

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Flag House is a two-and-one-half story Federal corner row house of salmon brick laid in Flemish bond. Three bays wide, it has a black slate hipped roof and a chimney on the left side. Apparently, built in 1793 and added to in 1820, the house has a living room, dining room-kitchen and hall on the first floor, two bedrooms on the second and servants' quarters on the third.

Mary Young Pickersgill bought the house in 1820, after renting it for thirteen years. Almost immediately after acquiring the property, Mrs. Pickersgill added a two story wing in the rear (a kitchen on the ground floor and a boarder's room on the second). She lived in this house until her death in 1857, and it remained in the family until 1864. During the next six decades, the house changed hands frequently and served a variety of purposes, including those of saloon and warehouse. Alterations included the construction of a display window in front.

The City of Baltimore purchased the building in 1929, and since that time it has been maintained as an historic building. One of the first things the city did was to remove the storefront window and restore the original facade on the Pratt Street side. Other restoration work included reconstruction of a partition between the dining room and living room. Workmen added steel beams under the first floor for greater strength. The staircase and two of the six mantels in the house are original.

In 1953 the city erected a one-and-one-half story dependency building behind the main house. The new building, built in the same style, conforms well with the Flag House and is connected to it by a covered breezeway. Present called the 1812 Museum, the building contains, on the first floor, two rooms in which are placed momentoes of the War of 1812 that had originally been displayed in the Flag House. Located on the second floor are the offices of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag House Association, Incorporated. This building is included in the landmark.

Boundary Information and Justification

The Star-Spangled Banner Flag House sits on a lot located at 844 East Pratt Street and faces south. Beginning at the point of intersection of East Pratt and Albemarle Streets proceed due north along the western side of Albemarle Street to a point of intersection with Granby Street; thence proceed west along the southern side of Granby Street to a point of intersection with Slimmers Alley; thence proceed south along the eastern side of Slimmers Alley to a point of intersection with East Pratt Street; thence east along the northern side of East Pratt Street to the point of origin. An iron fence with interposing brick columns completely surrounds this property, and runs parellel to each street. Located in a garden on the west side of the house is a memorial map of the Continental United States composed of stones from each of the then 48 states.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- [ ] Pre-Columbian
- [ ] 15th Century
- [ ] 16th Century
- [ ] 17th Century
- [ ] 18th Century
- [x] 19th Century
- [ ] 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1793-1857

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- Aboriginal
  - [ ] Prehistoric
  - [ ] Historic
- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Architecture
- [ ] Art
- [ ] Commerce
- [ ] Communications
- [ ] Conservation
- [ ] Education
- [ ] Engineering
- [ ] Industry
- [ ] Invention
- [ ] Landscape Architecture
- [ ] Literature
- [x] Military
- [ ] Music
- [ ] Political
- [ ] Religion/Philosophy
- [ ] Science
- [ ] Sculpture
- [ ] Social/Humanitarian
- [ ] Theater
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Urban Planning
- [ ] Other *(Specify)*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In her home at 844 East Pratt Street, Mary Young Pickersgill (1776-1857) designed and fabricated the flag that floated over Fort McHenry in the Battle of Baltimore, September 13-14, 1814. From an American sloop within the enemy fleet, Francis Scott Key, inspired by the sight of the "Star-Spangled Banner," as she withstood heavy bombardment by the British secret weapon of rockets, wrote the poem which today is heard around the world as the National Anthem of the United States of America.

Assisted in the work by her daughter, her niece, and her mother, Mrs. Pickersgill completed the flag on August 13, 1813, to fulfill her contract with local military authorities. Thirty by 42 feet, the flag upon its completion was the largest in the world and featured 15 giant stars and 15 mammoth stripes. The flag, which has been preserved in fairly good condition, is the property of the Smithsonian Institution and may be seen on display in the museum of History and Technology in Washington, D.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mary-Paulfing Martin, "The Flag House," September 9, 1969 in files of Maryland Historical Trust.

Mary-Paulfing Martin, "The Making of the Star Spangled Banner," typescript, September 9, 1969 in fiels of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Admiral George Henry Preble, The Origin and History of the American Flag, (No publisher given, 1917).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY						OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	UTM 18.361700.4349700					
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Joseph Scott Mendinghall, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE: 2/12/75

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C.

CODE: 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Title

Date (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

Landmark Signed: Dec. 16, 1969

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Boundary Certified: date

Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys date

Boundary Approved: 9/25/75

Director, OAHP date

☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1973-729-147/1442 3-1