


FROM	NAME & TITLE	Eric Holcomb, Executive Director CHAP 	CITY of BALTIMORE  <b>MEMO</b>	
	AGENCY NAME & ADDRESS	Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation 417 East Fayette Street, 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor		
	SUBJECT	COUNCIL BILL 22-0262 – Landmark List: Exteriors – Baltimore City Engine Company 14 Firehouse		

TO

The Honorable President and  
Members of the City Council  
City Hall, Room 400  
100 North Holliday Street

DATE:

January 12, 2022

The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation is in support of approval of the landmark designation of City Council Bill 22-0262 for the purpose of designating the Baltimore City Engine Company 14 Firehouse, 1908 Hollins Street (Block 0207, lot 005), as a Baltimore City Historical Landmark: exterior.

The Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) read the staff report and the designation report and concluded that the building meets landmark criteria for designation

1. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Baltimore history; and
3. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

CHAP has reviewed CC Bill 22-0262 at the January 10, 2023 hearing and unanimously supports landmark designation (9 members present; 9 members in support). Attached please find the staff report and the landmark designation report.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Eric Holcomb, Executive Director, at 410-371-5667.



*Brandon M. Scott*  
Mayor

## COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

*Harry Spikes, Chairman*

### STAFF REPORT



*Chris Ryer*  
Director

**January 10, 2023**

**REQUEST:** City Council Bill #2022-0262 - Designate as a Baltimore City Landmark

**ADDRESS:** 1908 Hollins Street

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approval of designation as a Baltimore City Landmark

**STAFF:** Lauren Schiszik

**PETITIONER(S):** Councilmember John Bullock

**OWNER:** Mayor and City Council of Baltimore

### **SITE/HISTORIC DISTRICT**

General Area: This property is located on the north side of the 1900 block of Hollins Street in the Boyd-Booth neighborhood, between South Monroe Street to the east and South Payson Street to the west. The rear of the property is accessed from Booth Street, an alley street, which due to a significant change in topography, is a full story higher than Hollins Street. The firehouse is located on a block of two- and three-story brick rowhouses mixed with empty lots where rowhouses have been demolished. About half of the homes are vacant and in various states of deterioration. At the west end of the block on the south side of the street is the Bon Secours Community Works Community Resource Center, opened in April 2022. This firehouse is also located is a block south and east of the Grace Medical Center, formerly known as Bon Secours Hospital.

Site Conditions/Architectural Description: The semi-detached two-story firehouse is located on the east portion of the lot, abutting a two-story rowhouse. The remainder of the lot serves as a parking lot for the firehouse. There is a stone retaining wall at the rear of the lot adjacent to the building, at grade with Booth Street. The firehouse is faced with ironstone Roman brick on the façade, and common brick on the side and rear elevations. The first floor of the façade features a marble base with two half-glazed wood pedestrian doors flanking a large central non-historic garage door. There is a pressed metal cornice above the first floor. The second floor features five arched window openings that hold non-wood replacement windows with rusticated brownstone sills and a projecting brownstone belt course. The façade is topped with an ornate pressed metal false cornice. A large flagpole is located below the center window on the second floor. The building is the full depth of the lot, and has windows on first and second stories of the west elevation. The frame hometower is located towards the rear of the building, atop the roof. The

rear elevation is accessible from Booth Street. Due to the significant topographical change, the second story is at grade on this street.

## **BACKGROUND**

- Councilmember Bullock introduced the landmark designation bill in August 2022.
- This firehouse is slated to receive Capital Improvement funds in the next few fiscal years for improvements and repairs to the building, such as electrical upgrades, renovation of bathroom facilities, and lead abatement. Additionally, there is \$5 million in state funding allocated for the renovation or replacement of the firehouse.

## **PROPOSAL & PROCEDURES**

The proposal is to designate this property as a Baltimore City Landmark.

## **APPLICATION OF GUIDELINES**

For requests to designate properties as Baltimore City Landmarks, CHAP staff applies the guidelines for the designation of properties as Baltimore City Landmarks, which considers the quality of significance in Baltimore history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, public interiors, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and

1. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Baltimore history; or
2. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in Baltimore's past; or
3. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represents the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
4. That have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in Baltimore prehistory or history.

Staff has determined that the Engine Company 14 Firehouse meets two of the four designation criteria:

1. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Baltimore history; or
3. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction

The Engine Company 14 firehouse in the Boyd-Booth neighborhood was originally constructed in 1888, and is the longest-operating firehouse in Baltimore City. This firehouse was long advocated for by residents of this portion of the city in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The building was altered in 1902, when it received a new façade and a rear addition, resulting in the building that is stands today. Originally designed by Inspector of Buildings J. Theodore Ostler, the alterations

were designed by a subsequent inspector of Buildings, Edward D. Preston and is a handsome example of late nineteenth and early twentieth century municipal architecture. The building retains sufficient physical integrity to convey its historic association. This firehouse and the generations of firefighters in Engine Company 14 have tirelessly served southwest Baltimore City for over 130 years.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD COMMENTS**

The property is not located within a CHAP district; therefore, comments from an Architectural Review Committee are not applicable. However, CHAP notified Baltimore Heritage Inc., Baltimore National Heritage Area, the African American Firefighters Museum, Box 414, the Fire Museum of Maryland, Boyd-Booth Concerned Citizens Org, Fayette Street Outreach Organization, Southwest Partnership, Carrollton Ridge, Shipley Hill Community Association, Union Square Association, and the Restivo Square Community Association.

Staff has received a letter of support for the landmark designation from Thelma Terrell and Edna Manns-Lake, co-chairs of the West Baltimore Anchor Group, which is a collaborative working group with representation from the Boyd-Booth Community Association, Fayette Street Outreach Community Association, Franklin Square Community Association, Tabernacle of the Lord Church, Central Baptist Church, Celebration Church at Monroe Street, LifeBridge Health, Kaiser Permanente, and Bon Secours Community Works.

Staff also received a letter of support from Rodney T. Morton, Senior Pastor, Central Baptist Church, who noted in his letter of support that that “the designation of this firehouse makes a powerful statement to the residents that their community is valued.”

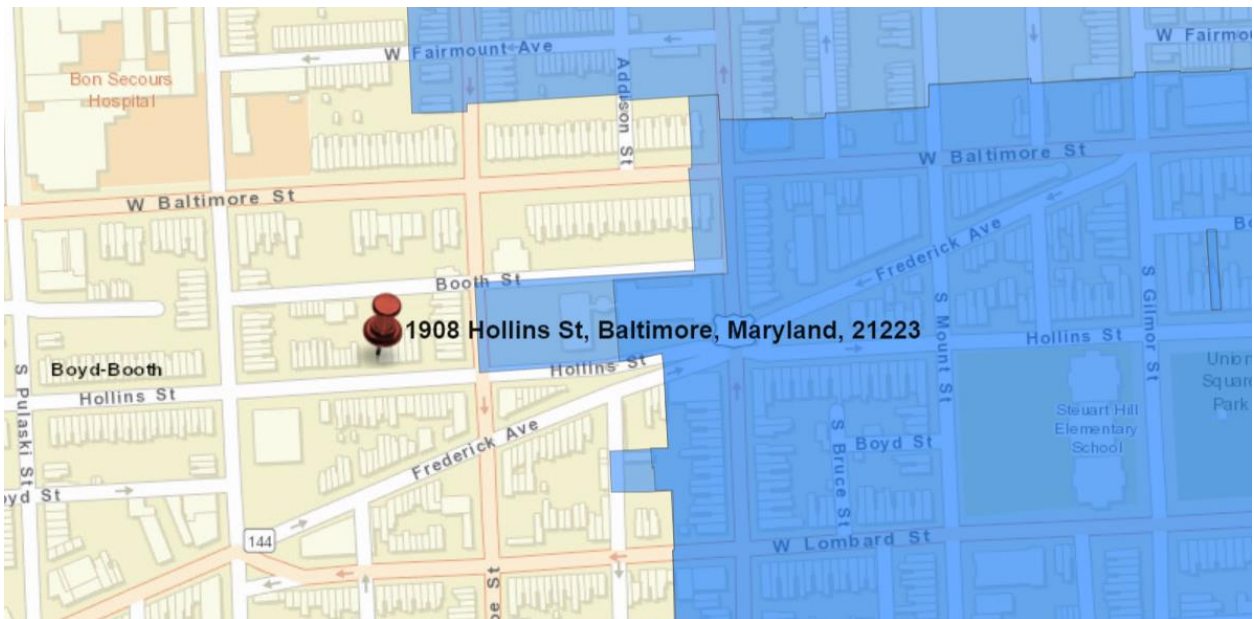
## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Staff recommends a finding of approval for the designation of this property as a Baltimore City Landmark, because it meets criteria 1 and 3 of CHAP’s criteria for designation.**

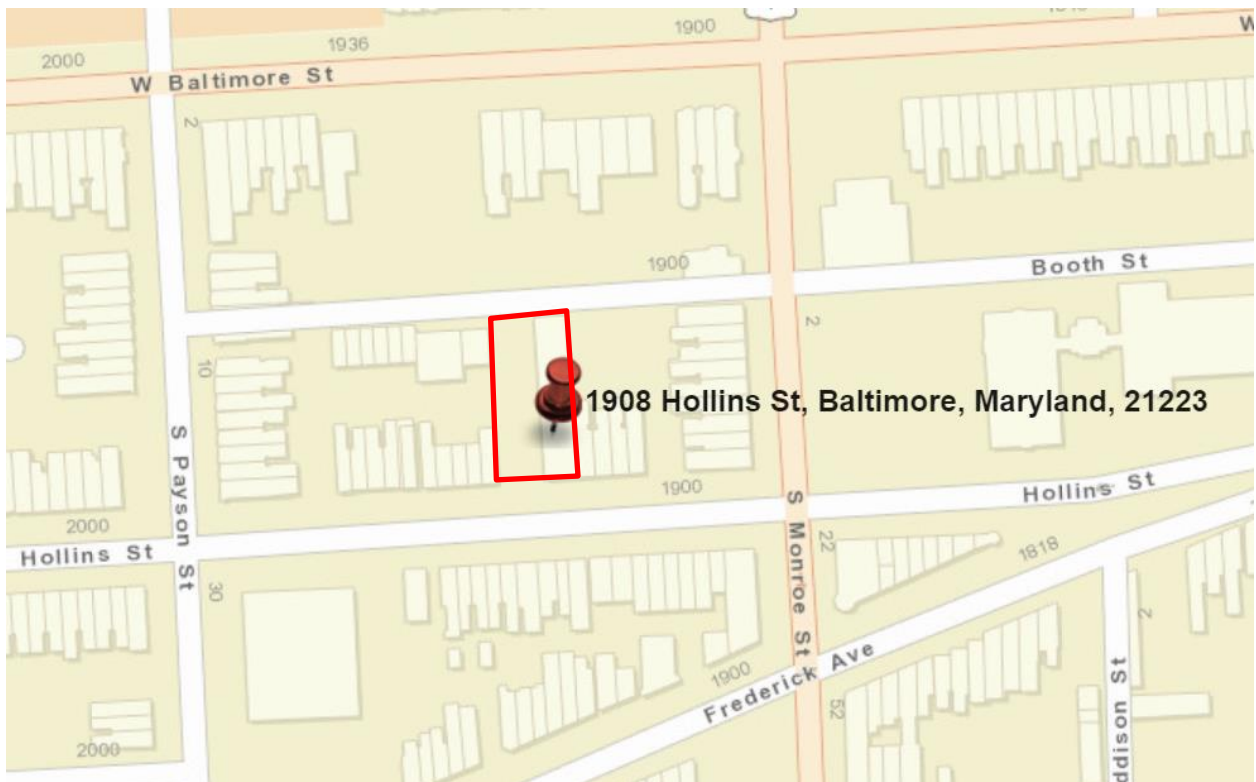


**Eric L. Holcomb**  
**Executive Director**

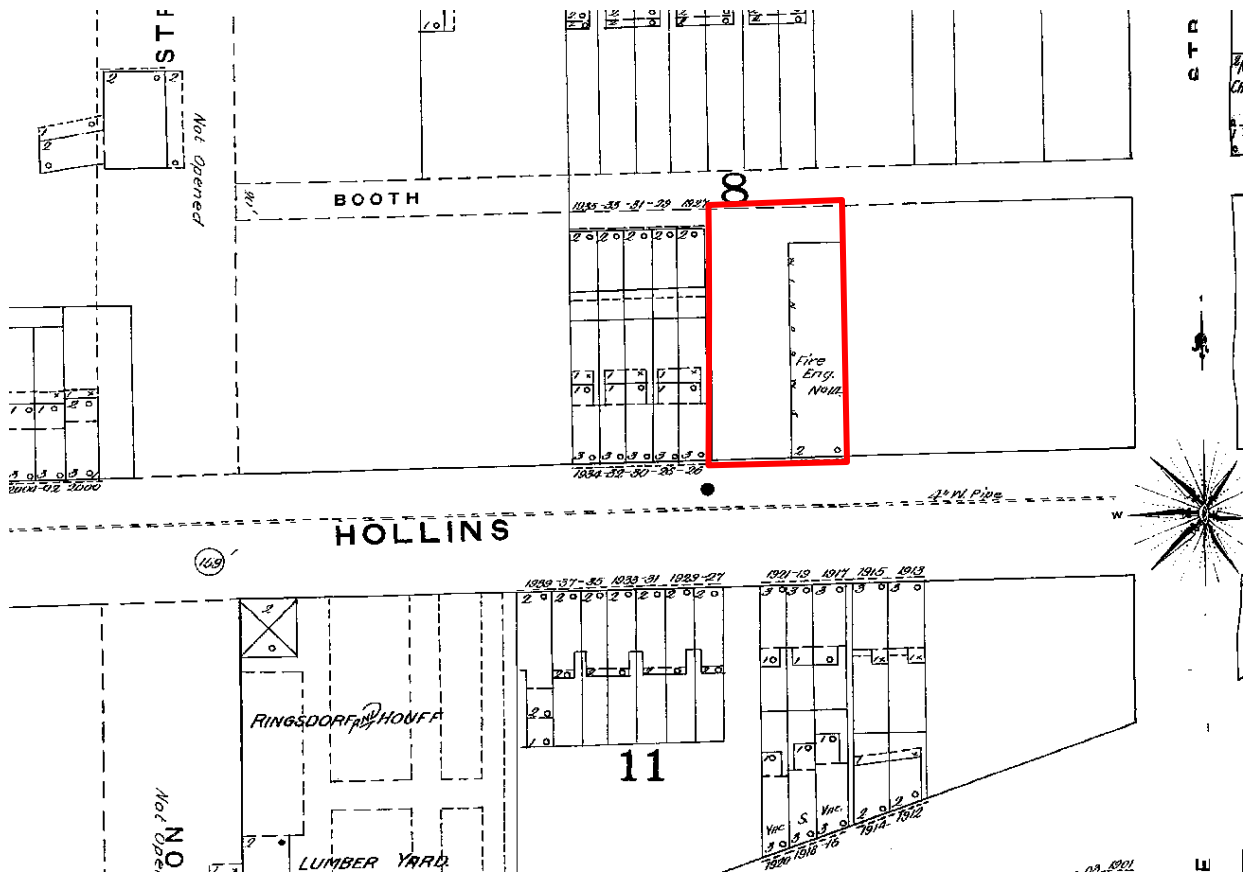
## MAPS AND PHOTOS



*Map 1:* Location of the property. The blue overlay shows federal and local historic districts.

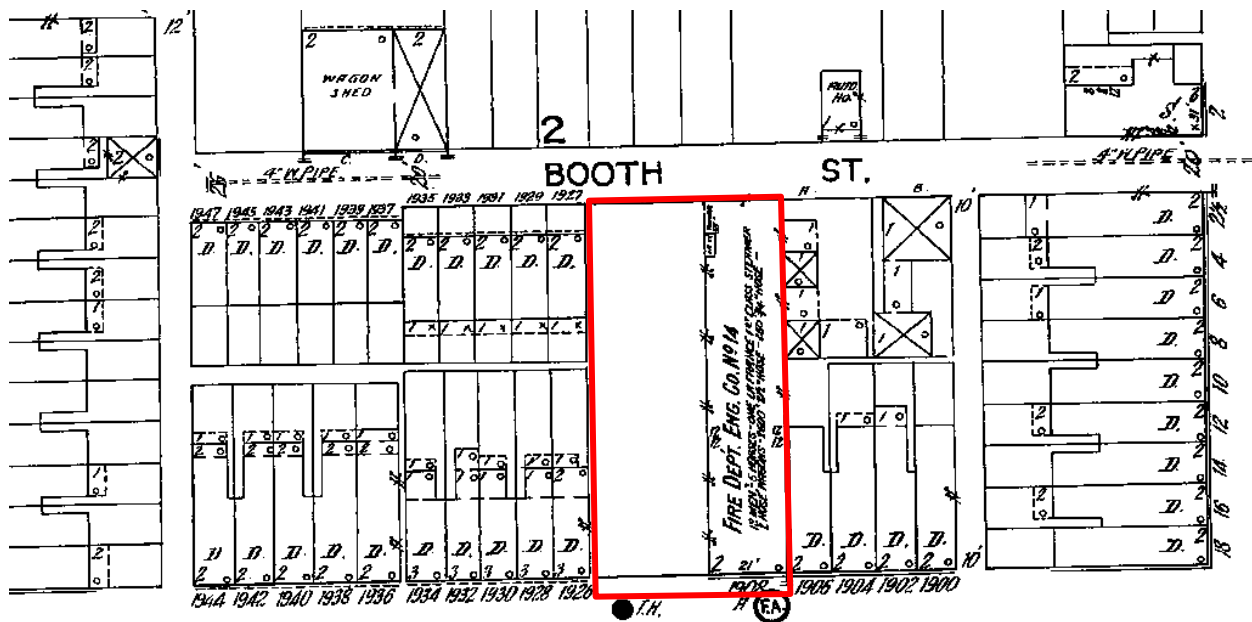


*Map 2:* Location of the property, outlined in red.

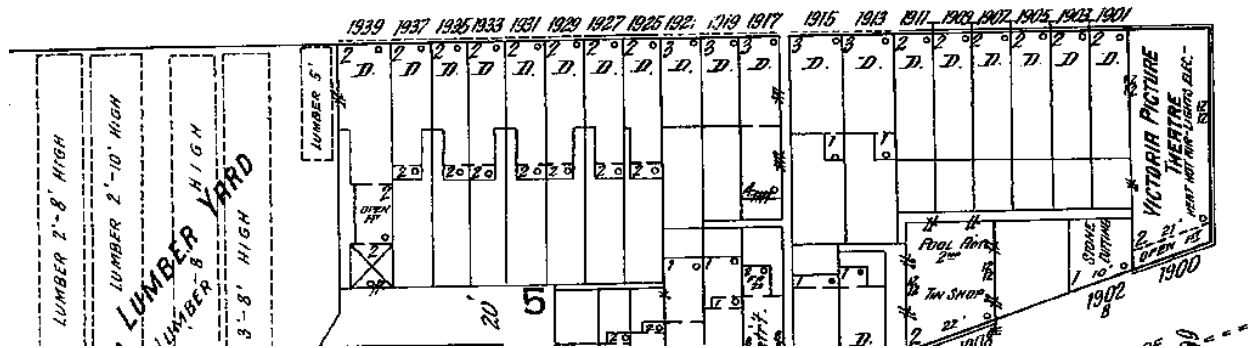


Map 3: 1890 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Volume 3, Page 90A), depicting the 1888 building.

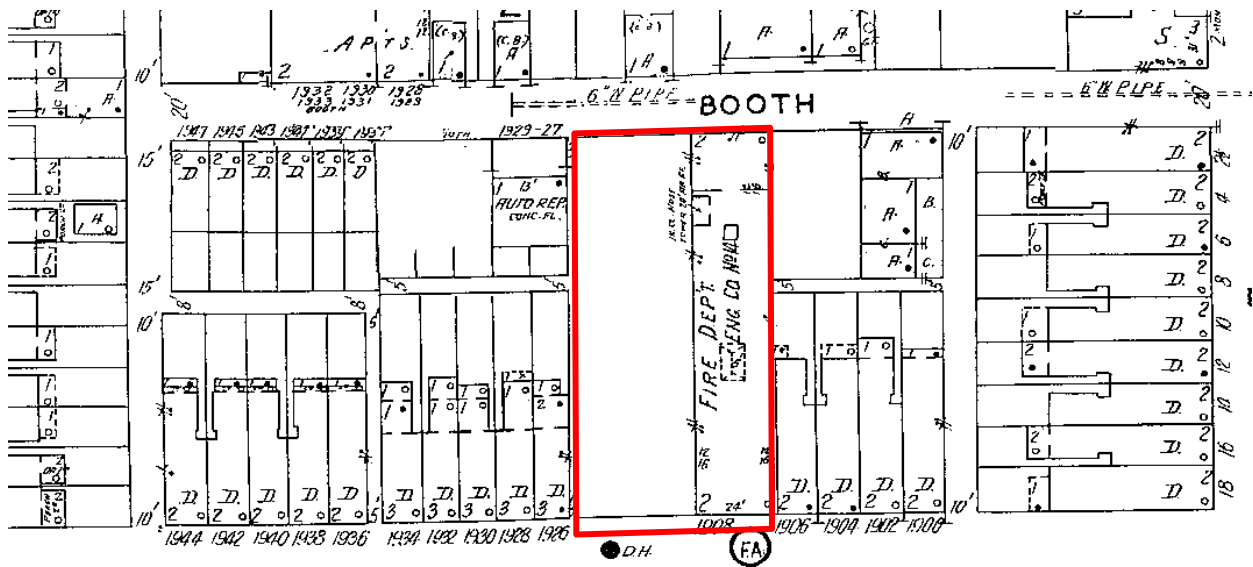




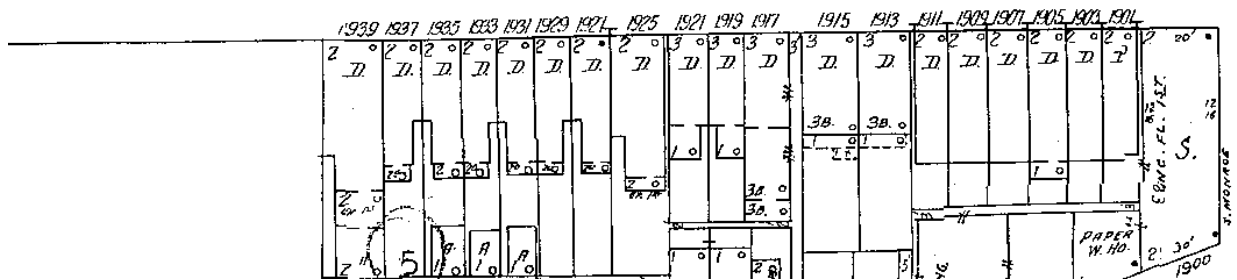
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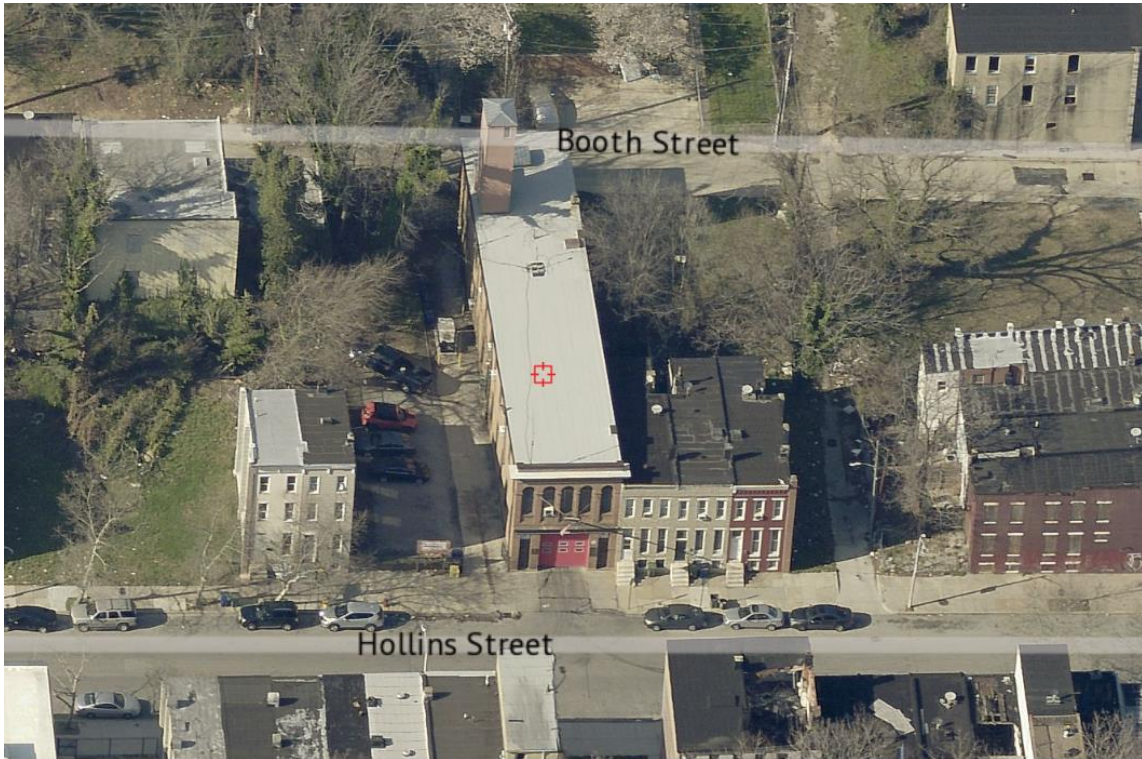
Map 5: 1914-1915 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Volume 6, 1914, Sheet 536) The building now extends the full depth of the lot [add more]



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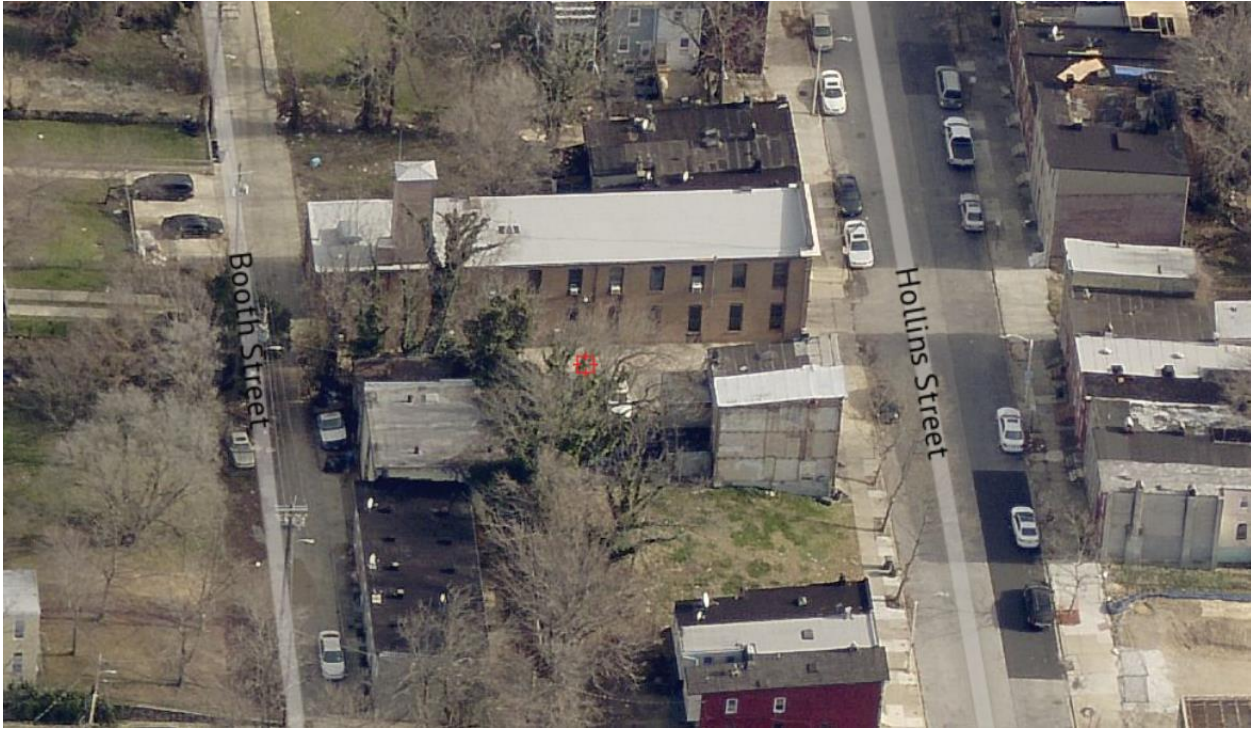
Map 5: 1914-1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map (Volume 8, 1928-1951, Sheet 1205)



*Image 1: 2022 Aerial Photo of property, view from South. (Eagleview)*



*Image 2: 2022 Aerial Photo of property, view from North. (Eagleview)*



*Image 3: 2020 Aerial Photo of property, view from West. (Eagleview)*



*Image 4: 2022 Aerial Photo of property, view from East. (Eagleview)*



Image 5: Façade of property.



Image 6: Front and side elevation.



*Image 6: Architectural details of façade.*



Image 7: Plaque on façade.



*Image 8:* West elevation at the rear of the property. The rear two bays of this elevation are a 1902 addition. Also visible is the stone retaining wall, which demonstrates the significant grade change between Booth Street, an alley street, and Hollins Street.



*Image 9: East and rear elevation, viewed from Booth Street.*



*Image 10: Rear elevation.*



*Image 12: Rear and west elevation.*