

The Martenet Guide to Interpreting Martenet Packets.

So, you may ask, "What's to know? Data is data."

That's true, to a point. However, our historical data assumes a certain understanding of our firm's procedures and methods; and the records, because of that assumption, are silent on the subject. After all, none of our "surveying ancestors" in their wildest dreams would have anticipated that others would be peeking over their shoulders via cyberspace. This data was intended for internal consumption. Period.

And we, as distributors, have not always remembered to pass on to others seeking data what we have learned about those methods and concepts. Sorry about that. This document, and others written with similar focus, is our attempt to remedy that situation. After all, if we give out information likely to be misinterpreted, what's the point?

On the following pages we dissect a sample packet, outlining what the various notes mean, what is a result and what is not, etc. Let us know if you see ways to improve it, or if something remains unclear.

So, here is a sample packet, the record of a survey conducted in 1921. The cover page lists all the resources used or considered during the work.

First is the location of the survey (generally a street name, and which side of the street, followed by a reference to a cross street).

The Client

The filing date of the survey (usually the date of the last fieldwork, but not always).

The fieldbook/first page of fieldnotes. There may be several pages following, and there may be several book references, depending on the size of the effort.

References to prior surveys upon which this effort was based.

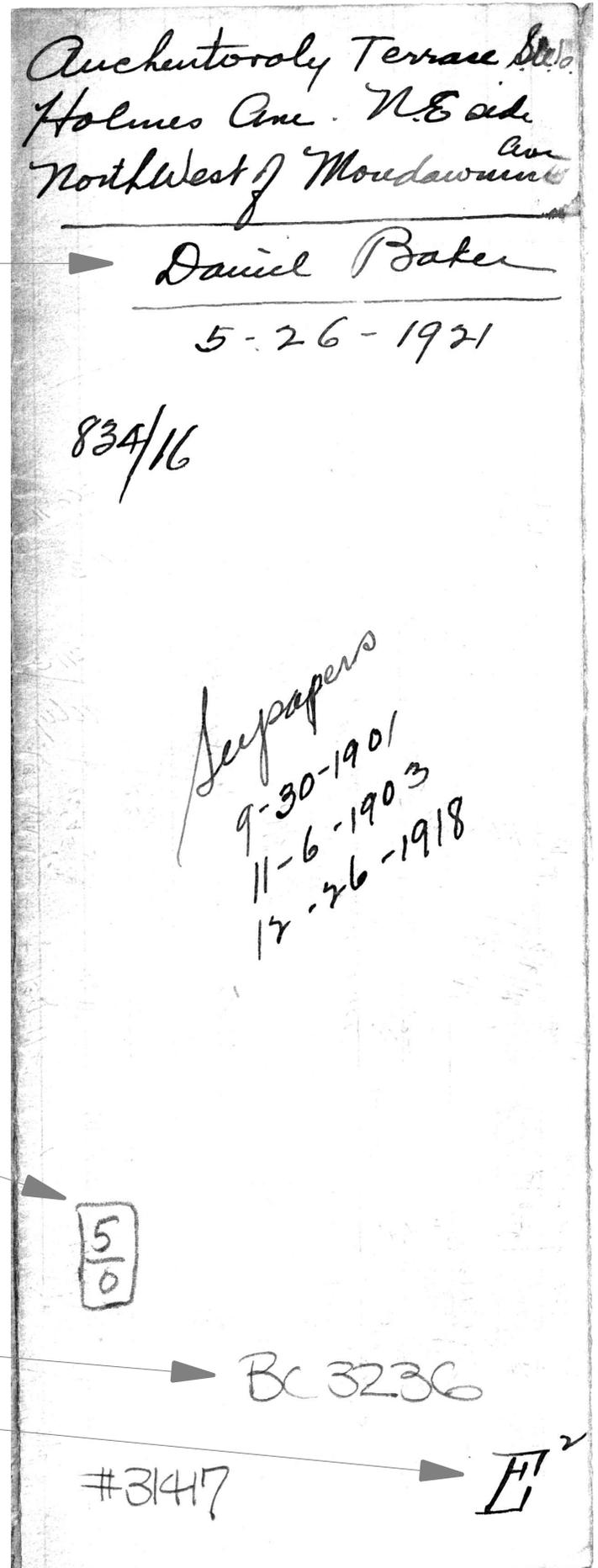
There may also be a "Plat" reference in this area, which refers to an oversized roll. That roll may contain part of the results of this survey, along with older and younger surveys in the same area. Multiple packets can refer to the same Plat roll.

The "fraction." The number of legal sized (or smaller) images in the packet over the number of oversized images in the packet. You should have the sum of these numbers for the packet pagecount.

The Geo-reference. This survey concerns Baltimore City Block 3236.

The SJM "section," which was a division (like a zip code) which the firm historically used to organize its archives;

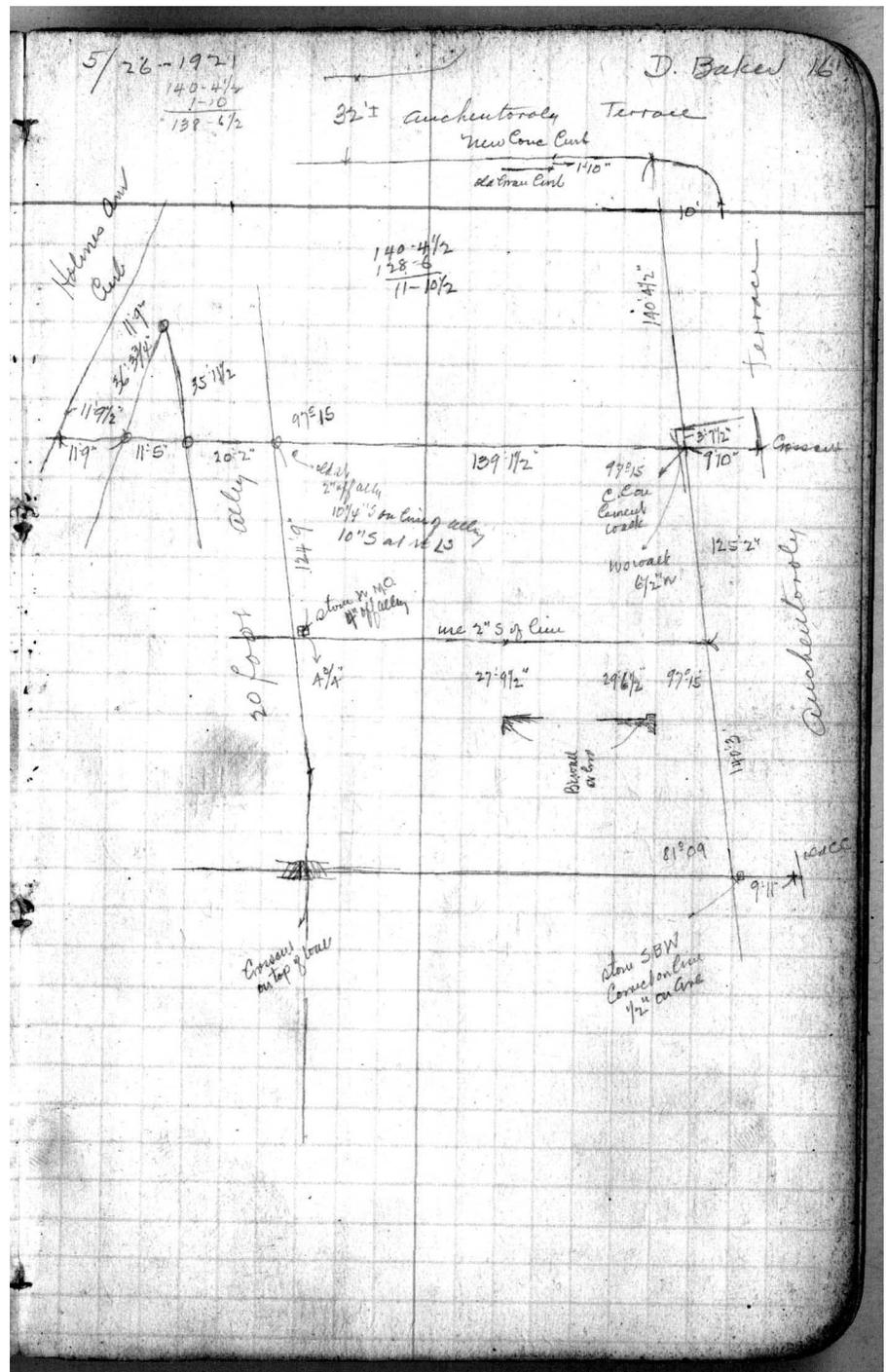
And the packet serial number.



Here are the field notes referenced in the packet. A comparison with the evidence along street lines (we call them "hard offsets") on the previous page with the outermost offsets in these notes will give a clue as to how the surveyor approached the project.

Remember, he would have been standing on-site holding what is on the previous page, looking for objects "called" on it. Upon identifying a sufficient amount of that evidence, he would have begun running his own lines based on that monumentation. And, he would have noted new offsets to objects now present but not mentioned on the data sheet. For the next time.

A word of warning: ancient survey fieldnotes, in general, are more important to understanding the survey than are modern notes. Very often the notes will contain information that is not recorded anywhere else. *Ignore the notes at your peril!* That's why we declined to give outside access to our website until the notes were all digitally available as well. They are a vital component to retracement.



But we're getting a bit ahead of ourselves. Also in a packet can be copies of deeds, computations based on the fieldwork, and correspondence -- like on this and the following page.

Daniel Baker,
EQUITABLE BUILDING.

Baltimore, Md.,

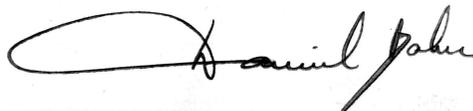
May 20, 1921.

Mr. W. O. Atwood,
18 E. Lexington St.,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Mr. Atwood:-

Would you please advise if it would be convenient for you to have a line run on the northern part of my lot adjoining my house and adjacent to the lot on which the Synagogue is being built in order that there will not be any misunderstanding as to where this property is divided? Would you kindly advise if this could be arranged by you in the near future, and very much oblige,

Yours very truly,



JDB Jr:S

Daniel Baker,
EQUITABLE BUILDING.

Baltimore, Md., May 24, 1921.

Mr. W. O. Atwood,
Baltimore, Md.

Dear Sir:

I hand you herewith copy of deed covering the lot above my house, recorded in Deed Book RO-2049, folio 421, ✓ copy of deed from W. H. West & wife, recorded in RO-2074, folio 541, photostatic copy ✓ of this lot and letter of June 13, 1907 from Mr. L. B. Mather bearing on same.

Trusting that you will be able to get the necessary information from these to run the line on the North side of my property, and thanking you to return same after finishing with them, I am,

Very truly yours,

Daniel Baker

DBB:M

