

AL-IV-A-012

Embassy Theatre, (Cumberland Cloak & Suit Store)

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) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 12-11-2003

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

0100304811

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: Cumberland Cloak & Suit Store Building (South building)				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Embassy Theatre				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 49-53 Baltimore Street (south side of street)				
CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Allegany		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: L. J. Kauffman				
STREET AND NUMBER: 54 Baltimore Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland		STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Allegany County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: 30 Washington Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland		STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): 164-352				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building stands on the south side of Baltimore Street near the middle of the block formed by Mechanic and Liberty Streets. It is located in the second block east of Wills Creek in Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland. The property is known as 49-53 Baltimore Street.

The building is a modernistic style structure approximately three stories high and of masonry construction. It is the full width of the property, approximately thirty-three feet, with only the facade (north side) and back visible. All of the aesthetic treatment is on the facade with the back being a plain brick wall with a few openings. The building was erected about 1933 as a movie theater and is presently used as a department store.

The facade of the first floor is faced with large black ceramic tiles and has large show windows of recent vintage. The upper levels of the facade are covered with flat, cut stone and have a feeling of verticality to them. There are six pilasters of which the center two are fluted and topped with an arch with a radiating motif in low relief. Between the fluted pilasters and three openings with black marble panels above and below them. Flanking the center pilasters are two sets of plain pilasters that extend to the top of the building. Between each set of these piers are narrow windows with black marble panels from the top of the bottom windows to the bottom of the top windows. Three metal, cage-like finials top the facade.

The interior has been altered from the movie theater to large show rooms. The general condition of the building is good.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

6. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century

15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1933

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The building that stands at 49-53 Baltimore Street in Cumberland is significant for its architectural merit and its preservation through an adaptive use.

The building is an example of the ^{Art Deco} ~~Modernistic~~ style of architecture. Popular in the era between the 1920's and the early 1940's, the style stressed verticality with rectilinear ornament. A common motif is fluting and geometrical curves usually play a secondary role. Normally the ornament is in low relief.

Presently, the building is being used as a shop by the Cumberland Cloak and Suit Store which has its main store across the street at 52 Baltimore Street. The building was erected about 1932-1933 as a movie theater. For several years, the Embassy theater was located here. The theater is first listed in the city directory in 1933. At the end of the 1950s the theater was out of business and the building was taken over by the Cumberland Cloak and Suit Store. The store is first listed in the city directory for this location in 1959.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

RL-012

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Polk's Cumberland City Directory,
Pittsburgh: R. L. Polk and Company. 1933 and 1958 - 1959
issues.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

The property is approximately 33'x89'.

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

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ronald L. Andrews, Consultant - Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Tri-County Council for W. Md., Inc. DATE: 7/31/74

STREET AND NUMBER:
Suite 510, Algonquin Motor Inn

CITY OR TOWN: Cumberland STATE: Maryland

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:
National State Local

Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ADDENDUM AND CORRECTION SHEET:

(Andrews, 1975)

#1. common name: 49-53 Baltimore Street

#4. owner of property: Mrs. Lena J. Kauffman

#8. significance:

style: Art Deco

date built: 1931-1932

architect: Hodgens and Hills, Philadelphia

contractor: George Hazelwood, Cumberland

built as Embassy Theatre which was owned by
Mrs. Grace Fisher who owned other theaters
in Cumberland

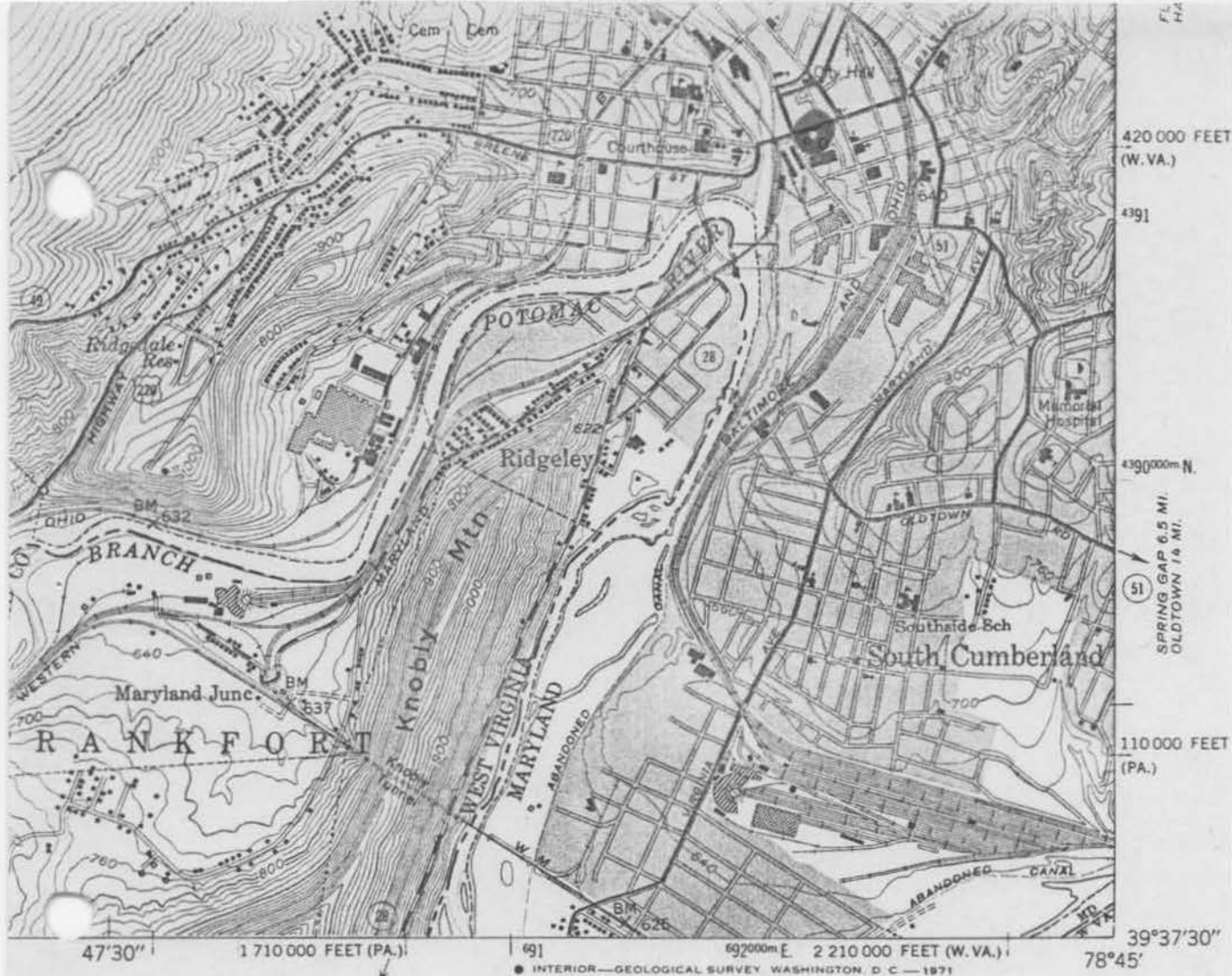
building permit issued by city 21 July 1931
to Lena J. Kauffman who still owns the
property - apparently the building was built
to Fisher specifications for Kauffman

#9. bibliography:

Polk's Cumberland City Directory. Pittsburgh:
R. L. Polk and Company, various years.

Allegheny County Land Records, Courthouse,
Cumberland, Maryland.

Cumberland Building Permits, Cumberland,
Maryland.



420 000 FEET (W.VA.)
 4391
 4390000m N.
 SPRING GAP 6.5 MI. OLDTOWN 14 MI.
 110 000 FEET (PA.)
 39°37'30"
 78°45'

47'30" 1 710 000 FEET (PA.) 691 692000m E. 2 210 000 FEET (W.VA.)

● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY WASHINGTON, D. C.—1971

1 MILE

SHORT GAP 6.2 MI. FORT ASHBY 11 MI.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

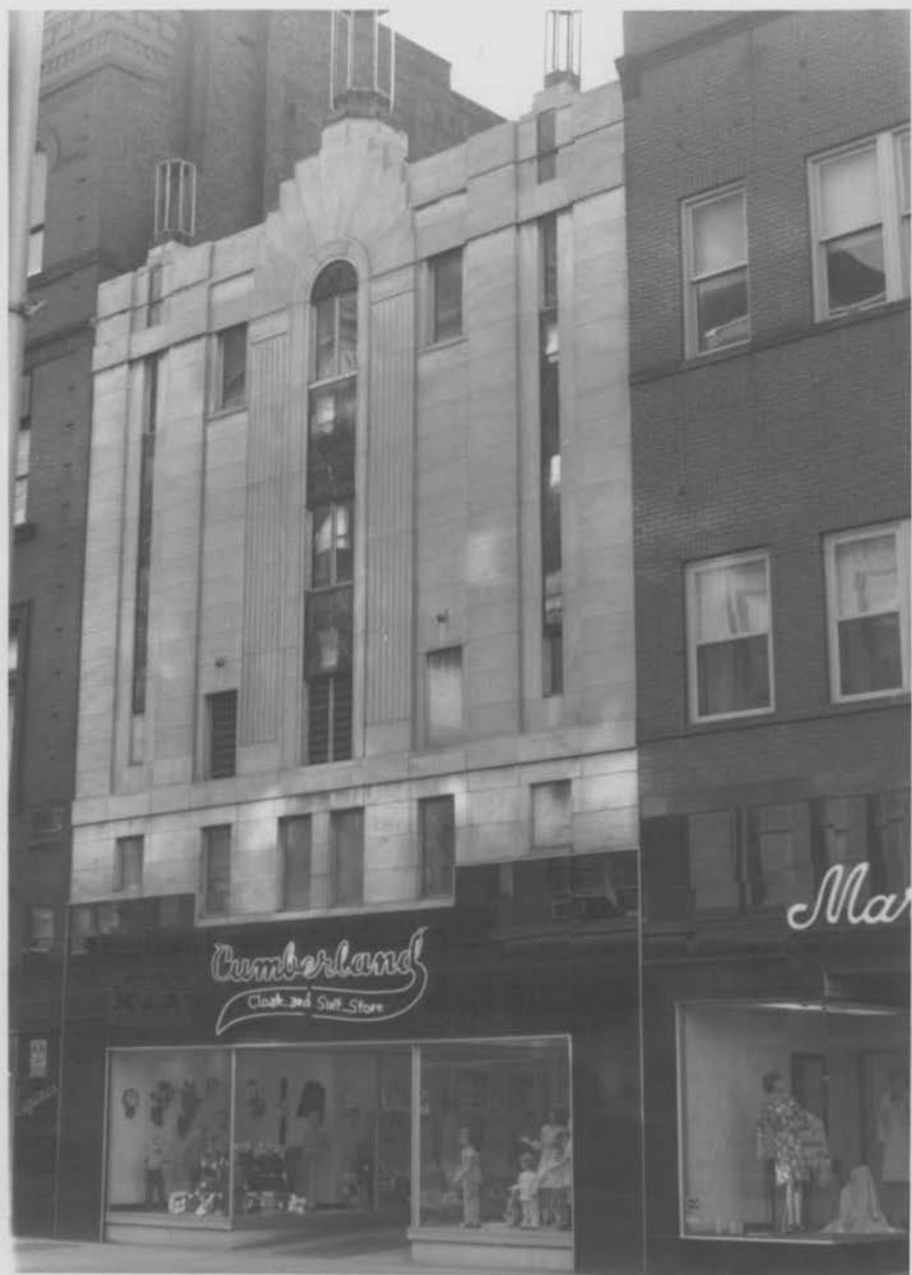
- Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————
- Medium-duty - - - - - Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- U. S. Route (shield symbol) State Route (circle symbol)



CUMBERLAND, MD.-PA.-W.VA.
 NE/4 FROSTBURG 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3937.5—W7845/7.5
 1949
 AMS 5263 III NE—SERIES V833

(PATTERSON CREEK)
 5263 11 SW

Cumberland Cloak and Suit
 Store Building
 49-53 Baltimore Street
 Cumberland, Allegany Co.
 Maryland



Embarkment Block and Suit Stone Bldg
Embassy Theatre
49-53 Baltimore Street
Embarkment, Allegany Co.
Maryland
north side
February, 1974

RONALD L. ANDREWS