

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

B-1017
~~B-2364~~
MHT Inventory No.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

(see also B-1017)

=====
1. Name of Property
=====

historic name: Abell Building; 329-335 West Baltimore Street

other name/site number: n/a

=====
2. Location
=====

street & number: 329-335 West Baltimore Street not for publication: n/a

city/town: Baltimore vicinity: n/a

state: MD county: (independent city) code: 510 zip code: 21201

=====
3. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1 (Loft Historic District, North)

Name of related multiple property listing: Cast-iron Architecture of Baltimore

=====
4. State/Federal Agency Certification
=====

X See continuation sheet.

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register _____
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register _____
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- removed from the National Register _____
- other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: warehouse
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXT. manufacturing facility

Current : COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: business

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN
Gothic

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation _____ roof _____
walls _____ other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet.

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, B, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : n/a

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE

Period(s) of Significance: ca. 1878-1941 _____

Significant Dates: ca. 1878 _____

Significant Person(s): A. S. Abell

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: George A. Frederick, architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency Federal agency Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

B-1017

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property: _____
USGS quad: Baltimore East, MD

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A _____ _____ B _____ _____
C _____ _____ D _____ _____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

The nominated property comprises the city lot upon which the resource stands.

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian

Organization: for Baltimore Heritage, Inc. Date: May 14, 1990

Street & Number: 109 Brandon Road Telephone: (301) 828-1644

City or Town: Baltimore State: MD ZIP: 21212

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number _____ Page # _____
=====

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance,
1870-1930;
Modern, 1930-[1941]

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape
Architecture and Community
Planning;
Economic (Commercial and
Industrial)

Resource Type: Architecture:
urban vernacular; standing structure
Economic (Commercial and Industrial):
manufacturing/warehouse/store; standing structure

Category: Building

Historic Environment: dense urban development

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): industrial/commercial;
manufacturing, warehouse,
store

Known Design Source: unknown

B-1017

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 4 Page #

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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7. Description

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Description Summary:

The Abell Building is a five-story brick commercial building with a cast-iron street level facade, erected about 1878, located at 329-335 West Baltimore Street in central Baltimore city, Maryland. Designed by prominent Baltimore architect George A. Frederick, it represents one of the most emphatic examples of the polychrome High Victorian Gothic style in Baltimore, and is considered the finest warehouse of the period surviving in the city. Each of its three street elevations is enriched with a wide variety of decorative brickwork and trim of marble, bluestone, and terra cotta. Despite the enclosure of parts of the iron front, and the addition of a low sixth story, the building retains a high level of integrity.

General Description:

329-335 West Baltimore Street, known as the Abell Building, is a five-story brick commercial building with a cast-iron street level facade, erected about 1878. It is located on the southeast corner of West Baltimore Street and Eutaw Street, and extends the full depth of the block to Redwood (formerly German) Street in central Baltimore city, Maryland. Designed by prominent Baltimore architect George A. Frederick, it represents one of the most emphatic examples of the polychrome High Victorian Gothic style surviving in the city; each of its three street elevations is enriched with a wide variety of decorative brickwork and trim of marble, bluestone, and terra cotta. The building is six bays wide on Baltimore and Redwood streets, and nineteen bays wide on Eutaw Street; projecting brick pilasters subdivide the Baltimore and Redwood street elevations into two groups of three bays each, and the Eutaw Street facade into a five-bay central section, flanked by two seven-bay parts. The street level features an elaborate cast iron front; plaques on the facade document its production by the important Baltimore foundry of Bartlett, Robbins and Company. On the Eutaw Street facade, the iron front is composed of Corinthian columns resting on stepped plinths; the area below the display windows is paneled. Transom bars span the capitals of the columns; above this level, segmental-arched transoms are framed by chamfered posts. On the Redwood Street facade, the sloping grade creates a raised basement, and the front features chamfered posts with Eastlake-influenced detailing resting on tall piers. The corners of both facades are defined by fluted pilasters with foliated capitals. The iron front is completely obscured by modern metal paneling on the Baltimore Street elevation; on the central and northern

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7. Description
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sections of the Eutaw Street facade, metal paneling covers the front up to the level of the transom bars. On the projecting piers dividing the facades, the floor levels are marked by marble courses running between the window sills, and decorative glazed terra cotta bands at the level of the imposts of the window arches. The upper levels of all three facades are treated similarly. On the second, third, and fourth stories, the bays are defined by segmental arched windows with marble trim at sill level, decorative brick arches, and terra cotta trim at the imposts. Bands of decorative terra cotta run below the sills of the third and fourth story windows. On the fourth story, the arches are elaborated with marble keys and imposts. The central section of the Eutaw Street facade has a window in the central bay on the fifth story, framed by marble Corinthian columns and flanked by blind arches holding quarter-circle panels of fish-scale tile. The remainder of the fifth story, on all elevations, is characterized by an arcade of narrow round-arched windows, two per bay, separated by marble Corinthian columns. An elaborate fascia of arched corbeled brickwork supports a complex cornice of molded brick and terra cotta. The central section of the Eutaw Street facade is capped with a parapet; early illustrations show the legend "Abell Building" within this space. A low sixth story has been added, set back slightly from the cornice line; this addition does not rise above the level of the endblocks framing the central parapet, and its restrained brickwork and fenestration pattern harmonize with the original structure. The building retains an exceptionally high level of integrity despite the covering of parts of the street front.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

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8. Statement of Significance
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State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Significance summary:

329-335 West Baltimore Street is significant for its architecture, and for its association with two individuals significant in late nineteenth century Baltimore: the newspaper magnate and philanthropist A. S. Abell for whom the building was constructed, and architect George A. Frederick. Constructed about 1878, it is a rare surviving example in Baltimore of the iron front commercial building type. Its cast iron facade, produced by the local foundry of Bartlett, Robbins & Company, represents a type of architecture which characterized loft buildings in Baltimore in the latter half of the nineteenth century; many such buildings were lost in the fire of 1904. Despite alterations at street level, the building's cast-iron structural elements remain clearly expressed. The building derives additional significance from its association with the important garment manufacturing and sales industries which flourished in this area of Baltimore in the third quarter of the nineteenth century and first quarter of the twentieth. The building housed a series of clothing firms beginning in 1878, and retained its association with the garment industry into the mid-twentieth century; its period of significance is defined as continuing until World War II, in accord with current National Park Service guidelines.

History & Support:

Documentary and architectural evidence suggests that the present structure was built around 1878, replacing a group of two and three-story brick houses. Tax records for 1866 show that the site was then occupied by a tailor and a dealer in hosiery and notions.

The building is one of the most prominent surviving examples of the work of the important Baltimore architect, George A. Frederick (1842-1924). Born and educated in Baltimore, Frederick began his architectural career at the age of sixteen as a draftsman in the office of Lind & Murdoch. He established his own practice in 1862, and in 1868 was elected a charter member of the Baltimore Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Frederick won the commission to design the Baltimore City Hall and supervised its construction between 1868 and 1878; this early fireproof structure was considered the finest municipal building in the country at the time of its construction. Other important works include St. James' and St. Paul's Catholic Churches,

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8. Statement of Significance
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and many of the buildings and structures in Druid Hill Park. Frederick was elevated to Fellowship in the American Institute of Architects in 1877, and served on the Institute's national Board of Directors. He retired from active practice in 1903. A plaque on the Abell Building documents the source of its ironwork as the foundry of Bartlett, Robbins & Co. of Baltimore. This company, successor to a partnership established in 1832, produced much of the structural and decorative architectural ironwork which formerly characterized the city, and shipped its products as far as New Orleans. Another documented product of the works is the nationally-significant cast iron interior of the Peabody Library.

The Abell building was among the many ventures of A. S. Abell, founder of the Baltimore Sun newspaper, entrepreneur and philanthropist. The impressive polychrome building was celebrated at the time of its construction as a valuable enhancement of the Baltimore scene. It was illustrated by local historian J. Thomas Scharf, on page 624 of the 1880 edition of his History of Baltimore City and County. Scharf provided an extensive description of the new structure: "Among the most conspicuous improvements erected by Mr. Abell is the 'Abell Block,' situated at the southeast corner of Eutaw and Baltimore Streets. This magnificent edifice is five stories high, built of Baltimore pressed brick, with white marble trimmings, relieved with terra-cotta mouldings and bluestone. There are two handsome warehouses fronting fifty-two feet on Baltimore Street, with a depth of one hundred and seventy-two feet to German Street. The first story is of iron, and the upper stories of brick. The store-rooms, offices, etc., are finished in elegant style with hardwood, and the entire building is furnished with all the modern conveniences and comforts. In each store there are two hydraulic elevators, and four fire and burglar-proof vaults. A dry, paved basement extends under both warehouse and the adjoining sidewalks, being thirteen thousand square feet in extent." (p. 623)

The large, multi-story structure was adaptable to a wide variety of uses, and accommodated a broad range of tenants both successively and simultaneously. The building developed an association with Baltimore's garment industry beginning with its first tenants, and maintained that association well into the twentieth century. Among the original occupants of the Abell Building were H. & E. Hartman, wholesale clothiers, and the dry goods and notions wholesalers, Bruff, Faulkner & Company. The latter firm was profiled by Scharf, who noted their location "in the magnificent Abell building:" founded by John W. Bruff (1818-1868), the firm consisted in 1880 of son Joseph E.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Bruff, William Adams, Albert B. Faulkner and William R. Hallett.

These needle-trades enterprises had other commercial and industrial establishments as their neighbors, including J. C. Wartman, cigars; H. M. Carter, carpenter and builder; Hobb & Harris; John M. Peacock, roofing and spouting; John D. Hammond & Co., saddles and harnesses; and N. C. Thomas, confectionery.

The building housed a seemingly infinite parade of tenants, only a sample of whom are listed in the following paragraphs. Lloyd's Baltimore Elevated Building Map of 1891 indicates the firm of Cone Brothers, Lowman & Burger, manufacturing clothiers, as the principal tenant of 329-331 West Baltimore Street. In 1895, 329-331 was occupied by R. Walter's Sons, clothing manufacturers and wholesalers; three years later, this address was listed for rent. In 1898, 333 was occupied by the Prudential Insurance Co., signaling a long and intensive association with the insurance industry, as agents and brokers for various insurance firms continued to occupy offices in the Abell Building throughout the early decades of the twentieth century; 335 housed the Friedenwald Co., printing & lithography, engraving, bookbinding. The Friedenwald Company was founded by Isaac Friedenwald (1831-1904). Active in Baltimore beginning ca. 1871, the Friedenwald company operated a printing and engraving business at 103 West Fayette Street from 1878 to 1888, when it moved to South Paca Street; by 1898, it had moved again, "to larger quarters on the corner of Baltimore and Eutaw Streets where the company continued in business until 1907. It was engaged in a variety of printing and allied trades including wood engraving, lithography, and book binding. The company also made wooden boxes and printed a wide variety of labels" (McCauley, p. 229).

Frank & Adler, boot and shoe wholesalers, occupied #329 in 1903. In 1915, 329-31 housed the wholesale boot and shoe firm of S. Halle Sons. Philip Levin & Co., clothing manufacturers and wholesalers, moved into #331 the following year.

In 1914, the trustees of the Abell estate sold the property to Jacob Epstein, president of the American Wholesale Clothing Factory (a. k. a. the American Wholesale Corporation), which manufactured clothing for sale by the Baltimore Bargain House, a wholesale and retail firm which was located elsewhere. From about that time until 1930, the manufacturing facility of the company was

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8. Statement of Significance

located in the Abell Building; it had sales rooms/offices, warehouses elsewhere in Baltimore, and also operated a cloak and suit factory in Cumberland, Maryland. The officers in 1921 were Jacob Epstein, President; A. Ray Katz, 1st VP; Sidney Lansburgh 2nd VP; Abraham I. Weinberg, Treasurer; Nathan Epstein, Secretary. The company was sold to Butler Bros. about 1921, but retained its trade name. At that time, it shared space in the Abell Building with several other clothing manufacturers, including Baker Culman & Co., J. S. Balser & Son, H. W. Rothstein & Co., and S. Ginsberg Sons. Other garment firms located in the building during the 1920s; throughout this period, the building contained the offices of numerous insurance agents and real estate brokers as well. The roster of tenants in 1928 includes twelve clothing manufacturers and tailors, a dealer in radio equipment, and a billiard parlor.

The 1930 city directory lists occupants of #329 including DeLuxe Clothing manufacturing company; Jacob Ginsberg, cap manufacturer; S. Ginsberg & Sons, clothing manufacturers, and Benchley Furniture Company. Occupants of #333 were New York Stock House, wholesale clothing; DeLuxe Clothing manufacturing company; Modern Manufacturing Company [also clothing]; Superior Coat Pad Manufacturers [later Wilner (Kahn, p. 90n)]; Snyder & Schweitzer, ladies' coat manufacturers; Made Right Tailoring & Clothing manufacturers; and Commonwealth Custom Garment Company.

The 1940 city directory shows the first floor vacant; occupants included A. Bradunas & Co., tailors, second floor; Ginsberg & Sons storeroom and William Wilner & Sons, coat pads, third floor; Ginsberg & Sons clothing manufacturer, fourth floor; L. Mayers & Son, men's furnishings, fifth floor; Anthony Rakowsky, tailor, sixth floor.

In 1961, the building was sold by Edith and Mendel Silberman to David & Annie Abrams (Abrams Realty Co.)

B-1017

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 9 Page # 1

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorsey, John, and James D. Dilts, A Guide to Baltimore Architecture
(Centreville, MD: Tidewater Publishers, 1981), p. 98.

Kahn, Philip, Jr. A Stitch in Time: The Four Seasons of Baltimore's Needle
Trades (Baltimore: The Maryland Historical Society, 1989).

McCauley, Lois B., Maryland Historical Prints (Baltimore: Maryland
Historical Society, 1975), p. 229.

Baltimore City Directories, 1870s-1940s

Statement of Significance

The Abell Building has been an outstanding landmark in Baltimore's loft district since 1876. Constructed of brick, terra cotta and marble, its first floor cast iron facade remains as the work of nationally known Bartlett-Hayward foundry. It was designed by George A. Frederick, architect of the Baltimore City Hall, for A. S. Abell to rent to clothing manufacturers. The Abell Building has been called the finest non-ecclesiastical Victorian Gothic structure still standing in Baltimore.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-1017
MAGI#-041075514

(See B-2364)

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Abell Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
329-335 W. Baltimore Street

CITY, TOWN Baltimore VICINITY OF CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 3rd

STATE Maryland COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Medical

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME David & Annie Abrams Realty Corp. Telephone #: 301-837-0699

STREET & NUMBER 335 West Baltimore Street

CITY, TOWN Baltimore VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21201

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Records Office

Liber #: JFC 819
Folio #: 400

STREET & NUMBER Baltimore City Courthouse, Fayette and Calvert Sts.

CITY, TOWN Baltimore STATE Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1876

BUILDER/ARCHITECT *George A. Frederick*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Abell Building has been an outstanding landmark in Baltimore's loft district since 1876. Constructed of brick, terra cotta and marble, its first floor cast iron facade remains as the work of nationally known Bartlett-Hayward foundry. It was designed by George A. Frederick, architect of the Baltimore City Hall, for A. S. Abell to rent to clothing manufacturers. The Abell Building has been called the finest non-ecclesiastical Victorian Gothic structure still standing in Baltimore.

Historical Significance

A. S. Abell was a prominent Baltimore businessman who founded the Baltimore Sun in 1837. His decision to construct a building in the loft district reflects the importance of Baltimore's emerging clothing industry. In the early twentieth century, Baltimore became one of six major clothing manufacturing cities and housed the world's largest clothing factory.

One of the earliest occupants of Abell's building was the firm of Bruff, Faulkner & Co., importers and wholesalers of dry goods to the garment trades. The company had direct links to the dry goods business as far back as 1837 when John W. Bruff became associated **with** James A. Sangston & Co., a large Baltimore wholesale house. Bruff stayed with the firm for several years and, branching out on his own, formed a partnership to continue in the trade. The new firm grew substantially and survived the war years without damage.

Bruff, Faulkner & Co. was formed in 1867 with the addition of several new partners. By 1881 they were established in the Abell Building, supplying the growing needles trades who supplied a rapidly expanding population with ready-to-wear clothes.

In 1891 the Friedenwald Company, lithographers, took space in the building. Issac Friedenwald had established his firm in 1875 in a small house on Fayette Street. Several years later the Friedenwald Company acquired a small bindery and began to establish itself as a

Cont'd.--

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

Abell Building
Arch. Desc.
p. 2

The corbeled brick cornice with rounded arches stretches above the roofline. It is enriched by a broder of rosette and foliated detail above the fascia. Above the cornice, a pediment with terra cotta detailing in the walls is flanked by vaulted domes on drums.

leading printer of books in Baltimore. H. L. Mencken wrote that the company boasted it could print a book in any language ever known; whether this is true or not is questionable, but they did have one of the most extensive sets of foreign types in the United States. Mencken used to rummage through their discarded type to get characters for his own hand press. In 1887, after a move to 32 South Paca Street, the firm began also to make folding paper boxes; and in 1891 they expanded and leased the Abell Building for their operations. Simon Dalsheimer, who had taken over the business in 1889, continued to expand their production; and by 1906 they were ready to move into new quarters built especially for them at Greenmount Avenue and Oliver Streets. At that time the name was changed to the Lord Baltimore Press. Soon after they stopped printing altogether and made paper boxes--becoming part of the International Paper Company before closing in 1979.

The building has housed many other businesses, mostly associated with the needles trades and today is used for clothing manufacture.

1. SITE I.D. NO

R 1 0 1 7

NAER INVENTORY

U.S. Department of Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION
Manufacturing

3. PRIORITY

4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?
(SPECIFY THREAT) YES NO UNKNOWN

5. DATE

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN

Abrams Realty Corp.

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Abell Building

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

335 W. Baltimore Street

10. STATE
COUNTY

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG.
DIST.

3

STATE
COUNTY

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG.
DIST.

3

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

329 - 335 West Baltimore Street

12. EXISTING
SURVEYS NR NHL HABS HAER-I HAER NPS CLB
 CONF STATE COUNTY LOCAL OTHER

13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW)

 INTERIOR INTACT EXTERIOR INTACT ENVIRONS INTACT

14. UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING SIGN

1 8 3 6 0 4 9 5 4 3 4 9 6 3 9

SCALE

 1:24 1:62.5 OTHERQUAD
NAME

Baltimore East

UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING SIGN

SCALE

 1:24 1:62.5 OTHERQUAD
NAME15. CONDITION 70 EXCELLENT 71 GOOD 72 FAIR 73 DETERIORATED 74 RUINS 75 UNEXPOSED 76 ALTERED 77 DESTROYED 85 DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

Robert Weis, Philip Kahn

AFFILIATION

Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE

November 1980

17. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), HISTORICAL DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, EXTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

The Abell Building has been an outstanding landmark in Baltimore's loft district since 1876. Constructed of brick, terra cotta and marble, its first floor cast iron facade remains as the work of nationally known Barlett-Hayward foundry. It was designed by George A. Frederick, architect of the Baltimore City Hall, for A.S. Abell to rent to clothing manufacturers. The Abell Building has been called the finest non-ecclesiastical Victorian Gothic structure still standing in Baltimore.

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE

Dry Good Wholesalers, lithographers, etc.

PRESENT USE

Various

ADAPTIVE USE

19. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

Vertical Files, Baltimore Industrial Museum

(CONT OVER)

20. URBAN AREA 50,000
POP. OR MORE? YES NO

21.

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

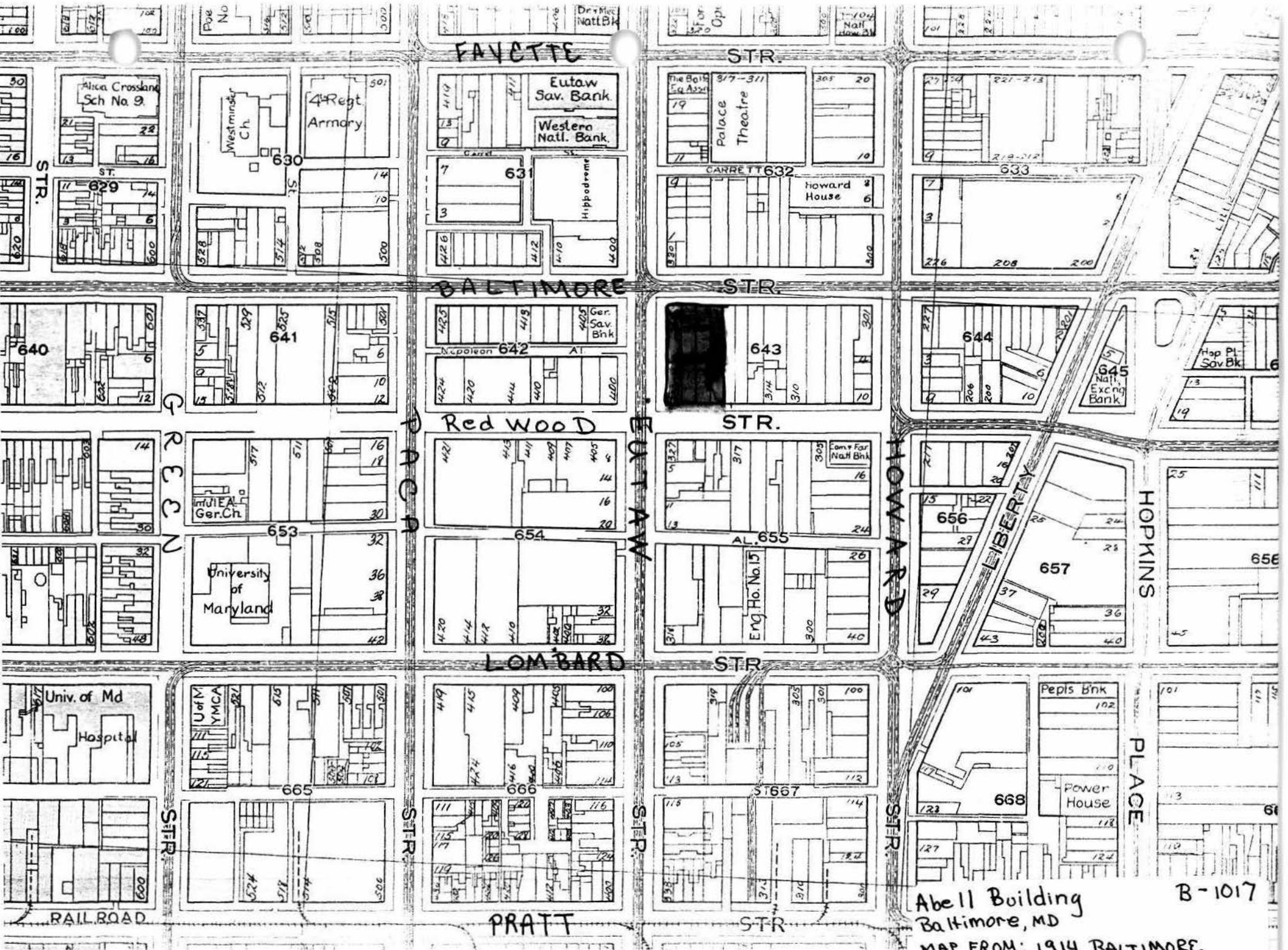
 YES, LIMITED YES, UNLIMITED NO UNKNOWN23. EDITOR
INDEXER

24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

 YES NO

NAME

DISTRICT I.D. NO



Abell Building
 Baltimore, MD
 MAP FROM: 1914 BALTIMORE
 TO POGRAPIHICAL Survey Commission

B-1017



ABELL BUILDING
BALTIMORE, MD
U.S.G.S. 7.5# BALTIMORE
EAST QUAD
18360495 43 49639

B-1017

LONG HARBOR CHANNEL (WEST SECTION)

FERRY HARBOR CHANNEL (EAST SECTION)



B-1017

Abell Building
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust
Dec. 1980

Looking NE (Redwood + Eutaw Sts.)



MARCUS MARCUS
PANTS
CONSUMERS

MARCUS MARCUS
Maverick

WHOLESALE
TRADE ONLY

SPORTSWEAR
SPORTSWEAR

WHOLESALE
TRADE ONLY

B-1017

Abell Building

Baltimore, MD

Photo: Dennis Zembala

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

Dec. 1980/Detail - upper floors,

Baltimore Street facade



Worldman Inc.
WHOLESALE
& IMPORTER

1000
1000

1000
1000

1000
1000

1000
1000

B-1017

Abell Building

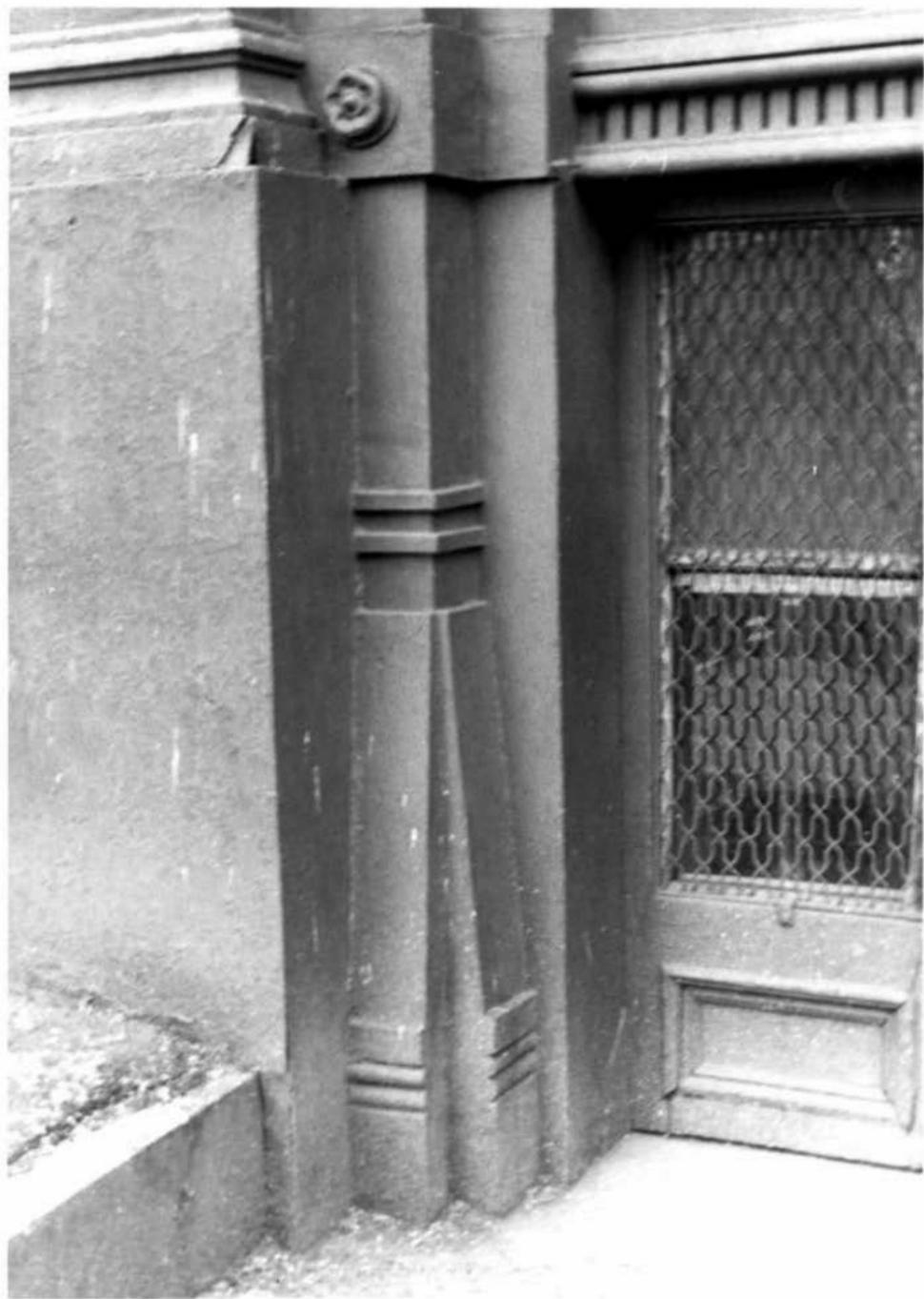
Baltimore, MD

Photo: Dennis Zembala

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

Dec. 1980

Baltimore St. facade - looking SW



B-1017

Abell Building

Baltimore, MD

Photo: Dennis Zembala

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

Dec. 1980 / *Doorway detail, Redwood St.*



B-1017

Abell Building

Baltimore, MD

Photo: Dennis Zembala

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

Dec. 1980

Detail - corner of Redwood +
Eutaw Streets



SQUARE DEAL
SEWING MACHINE CO
328 W Redwood St - 539-5944

B-1017

Abell Building

Baltimore, MD

Photo: Dennis Zemba

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

Dec. 1980 / Detail - Redwood Street



B-1017

12/80

Abell Building

Baltimore, MD

Photo: Dennis Zembala

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

Detail - "Bartlett-Robbins Co."

Eutaw Street facade

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
ARCHITECTURAL
IRON WORKS
COR. SCOTT & BALTIMORE STS.
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

B-1017

Abell Building
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust
Dec. 1980

Detail - "Bartlett-Robbins Co" sign -
Eutaw Street facade



B-1017

Abell Building

Baltimore, MD

Photo: Dennis Zembala

Neg. Loc.; MD Historic Trust

December 1980

*Looking SE - Eutaw + Baltimore
Sts. facades*

B-1017 B 2364 1410
MAG#0423645511643

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
(See B-1017)

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

The A. S. Abell Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

329-335 W. Baltimore Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office Room 601

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey

DATE

1976

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL &
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

CITY, TOWN

Room 900

STATE

25 South Calvert St.
Baltimore, Md. 21202

B-1017

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The abell building forms an impressive corner at Baltimore and Eutaw Streets. Six bays wide on Baltimore Street and 21 bays wide on Eutaw Streets. The 5 story building is further subdivided brick protections into groups of 3 on Baltimore and into a 5-7-5 grouping on Eutaw. Symmetrical fenestration and corinthian pilasters strenghten the vertical lines of the facade, which are broken by the fifth story polychromé arcade.

The street level facade on Eutaw is typical cast-iron construction, though most of it has been wrapped in blue glass. Varying numbers of metal steps lead to 3 separate, central entrances. Corthian columns enclose the windows surmounted by bipartite glass transoms with segmentally arched caps. A perimetric running band course underlines the transoms. On Baltimore Street most of the cast-iron facade has been covered by corrugated metal.

A bracketed cornice defines the transition from cast-iron to stone.

The second and third floors are identical.

The round-headed, double hung 1/1 windows are divided by corinthian pilasters and set back from the wall. The flat arched brick spandrels with blue stone bandings are accented by classical detailing just below the third story windows. Terra cotta plaques decorate upper columns,

The central bay is divided by wide, projecting doric pilasters with interspersed white stone string courses.

The 4th floor windows are defined by polychromatic brick and white stone spandrel panels, with white stone facings and naturalistic retailing repeated above the columns.

A polychromatic arcaded 5th floors attracts immediate attention. Corinthian columns support brick and white stone round arches which are emphasized by white stone banding.

The central bay is unique. The double hung windows with incised tympanums are surmounted by polychromatic spandrel panels. The second and fourth window panels are obtuse angeled incised stone and brickwork.

The corbeled brick cornice with rounded arches stretches above the roofline. It is enriched by a broder of rosette and foliated detail above the fascia. Above the cornice, a pediment with terra cotta detailing in the walls is flanked by vaulted domes on drums.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES *C. 1870*

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built by Newspaper magnate A. S. Abell, this office buiding is Baltimore's finest example of Victorian Gothic commercial design, based directly on the theories of Ruskin. The first floor cast-iron front, which remains intact behind several later shopfront additions, still bears the name of the manufacturers of the iron work, "Bartlett, Robbins and Company" of Baltimore, precursors to the Bartlett, Hayward Company, of national prominence.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Planning Assistants

ORGANIZATION

COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL &
ARCHITECTURAL PRESERVATION

DATE

1976

STREET & NUMBER

Room 900

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

26 South Calvert St.
Baltimore, Md. 21202

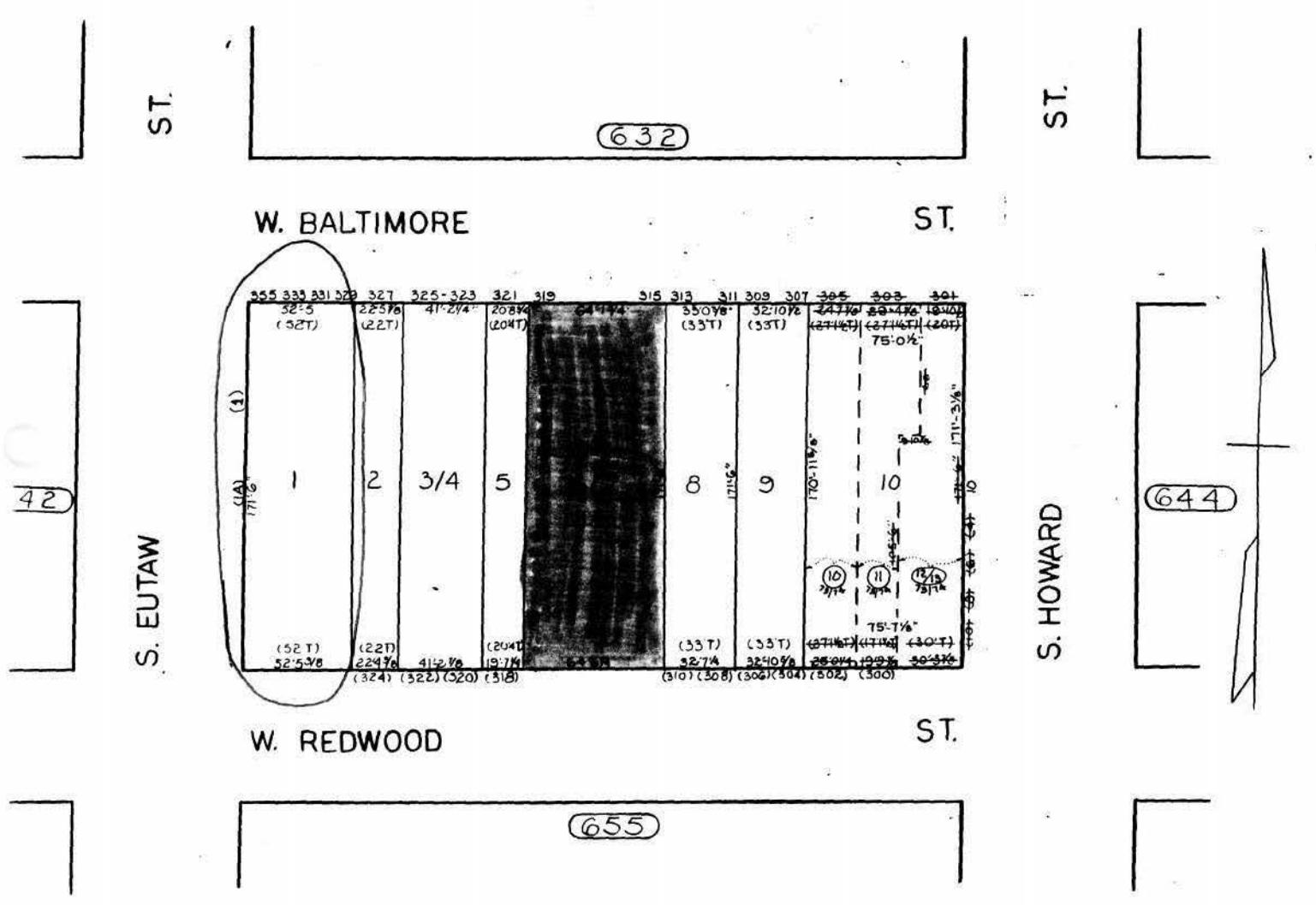
STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

B-1017
~~B-23677~~



DESIGNED BY P. WAINWRIGHT
 CHECKED BY P.W.
 CHECKED BY

NOTICE
 THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION
 WARD 4 SECTION 10
 BLOCK 643
 SCALE 1"=50'0" DATE DEC. 1966



329-335

W. Baltimore St.

~~B-2367~~

B-1017

Ney ^{II}

2/76

B. Pincok

Block

643