

AREA: Financial District

MAGI NO.: 0411765711

Address: 11 South Charles Street  
Current Name: Hansa Haus

Block: 648	Lot: 14	Lot size: 29 x 114
Height: 2 1/2 stories		Materials: Stucco & Brick
Condition: Excellent		Owner: Savings Bank of Baltimore
Use: Retail & Office		Accessible: Yes
Designation: None		Liber/Folio: SCL 2518-106



Historic Name: Hansa Haus  
Date: 1911  
Architect/Builder: Parker, Thomas and Rice  
Style (if appropriate): Germanic

## Description:

The Hansa Haus is a 2 1/2 story, brick and stucco Germanic style structure located at the corner of Charles and Redwood Streets. It is nine bays wide on Redwood Street and a single bay wide on Charles Street. The first floor is stuccoed and features large arched openings. The entrance to the retail store is on Charles Street, while the main entrance is at the sixth bay from the corner on Redwood Street. The second floor is defined by a wood bracketed band course of triangular brick decoration between stucco panels displaying the shields of Germanic cities. The shields are located below grouped single pane windows with transoms and wood timber surrounds on the second floor. The Charles Street gabled end features a vented window opening on the third floor which is surmounted by a ceramic tile decoration of a ship and jerkinhead roof. The tile, steep gabled roof along Redwood Street is punctuated by pedimented dormers and triangular vents. The entrance bay on Redwood Street projects from the second floor walls and ends in a large wall dormer with jerkinhead. The design of the building wraps around to the alley side where all of the first floor windows are filled, the upper floor windows used as vents and the gabled roof punctuated by skylights and dormers with triangular projecting hoods.

## Significance:

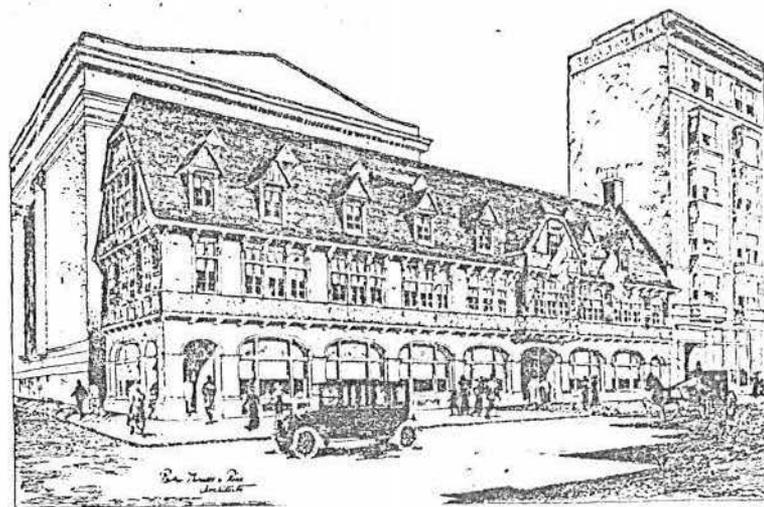
Area: Architecture/Commerce

Level: Local

The Hansa Haus is one of the most unique structures in the Financial District and in Baltimore in general. Although Baltimore had a large German population, this is perhaps the only early Germanic style building in the city. The style is appropriate considering that the building was located on German Street and housed the North German Lloyd Steamship Company and the German consulate. Designed by Parker, Thomas and Rice, the building is praised in an Architectural Record article on the architects, stating, "This Germanized building is quite the most sympathetic, tasteful and entertaining experiment in this exotic style with which we are familiar, and it proves ... that the best quality in the work of this firm is derived from a very genuine and a very versatile gift." The shields on the building represent the various cities of the Hanseatic League, and the structure is said to have been based on either an ancient courthouse in Halberstadt or a house in Wolfenbuettel. In the 1930s, the German Consulate flew a flag with the swastika and a hammer was thrown through a window in the building to protest Hitler's atrocities. The building was rehabilitated by the Savings Bank of Baltimore in the late 1970s. It is in excellent, near original condition, except for the aluminum frame windows.

Sources: BDR 12/23/11; AR 8/1913; Distinguished Men of Baltimore, 1914.  
Surveyor and Date: Fred B. Shoken, February, 1985.

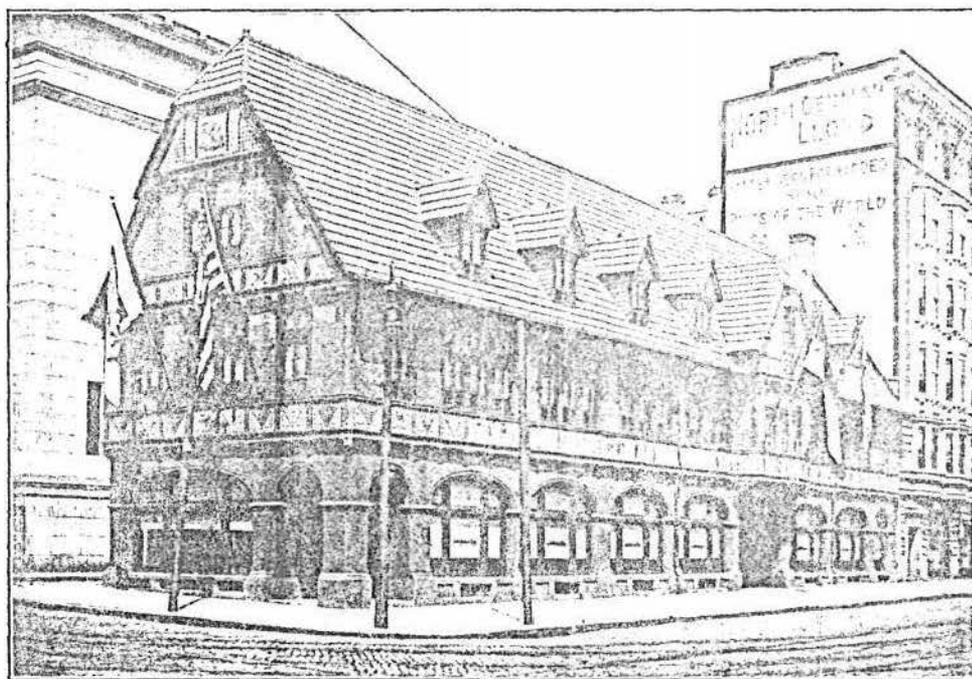
Hansa House  
11 South Charles Street



"THE HANSA HAUS"

Corner Charles and German Streets

1913 Baltimore City Directory



The "HANSA HAUS," office of the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, A. Schunacher & Company, General Agents, Baltimore; location, N. E. Corner of Charles and German streets; completed December 16, 1912; architects, Parker, Thomas & Rice; name derived from the Hansatic League or German Hansa, a medieval confederation of the so-called Hanse Towns of Northern Europe, formed for the protection of commerce and trade; motive of building taken from the "Zwickeln," an ancient Court-house in Hallerstadt, a city of Northern Germany; constructed in the style of the German Renaissance, the half-timbered architecture being a distinctive feature; chief decorations, the coat-of-arms of the members of the Hansatic League painted in colors under each of the second-story windows, and the old Viking ship in full sail constructed of tile in the Charles-street gable. Besides the North German Lloyd, the Imperial German Consulate and the Royal Swedish Vice Consulate have their offices in this building.

Distinguished Men of Baltimore, 1914



B-1176  
Hansa Haus  
11 S. Charles Street  
Block 0648, Lot 013  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





B-1176

Hansa Haus  
11 South Charles Street  
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Fred Shoken  
Date: October 1983  
Neg.loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Southwest corner view