

AREA: Financial District

MAGI NO.: 0411975711

Address: 231 East Baltimore Street
Current Name: American Building

Block: 650	Lot: 13	Lot size: 64' x 111'
Height: 16 stories		Materials: Brick
Condition: Good		Owner: Northfield Development, Inc.
Use: Offices		Accessible: Yes
Designation: None		Liber/Folio: RHB 3489-338



Historic Name: American Building
Date: 1904
Architect/Builder: Simonson & Pietsch/George A. Fuller & Co.
Style (if appropriate):

Description:

This sixteen story high rusticated brick building is located at the southwest corner of Baltimore and South Streets. It is six bays wide along Baltimore Street and ten bays wide at South Street. The first two floors have been covered over and altered. A dentilled cornice caps the altered base of the building. New aluminum frame windows have been installed on the upper floors. The third floor level is decorated by shields and panels between the windows. A band course is located above the fourth floor level. The next eight floors are sparsely decorated. A dentilled cornice with end brackets and cartouches are located at the twelfth floor level. The top of the building features a great deal of ornamentation including garlands, cartouches and decorative panels. Pilasters surround the upper floor windows. A simple cornice completes the facade.

Significance:

Area: Architecture

Level: Local

The American Building is one of the early high rise office buildings built in the Financial District after the Baltimore Fire. The structure was built for the Baltimore American, one of the newspapers that merged to form the present day News American. It replaced a cast iron structure designed by Charles L. Carson. Despite alterations primarily to the base of the building, much of the original architectural detailing is extant on the exterior. The building serves as an important anchor to the south side of the 200 block of East Baltimore Street. The smaller commercial buildings which make up the character of this block are located between two high rise office buildings, the Continental Building and the American Building. If the American Building were to be renovated in a manner similar to the Continental Building, the building would contribute to the historic character of the area and would become an asset to the eastern edge of the Financial District.

Sources: BA 6/9/1904 (article & illustration)
Surveyor and Date: Fred B. Shoken, June 1985.

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Baltimore Financial District Survey
American Building
231 East Baltimore Street

Old American Building which stood on this site before the Baltimore Fire, from: Lost Baltimore Landmarks by Carlton Jones, p. 52.



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Baltimore Financial District Survey
American Building

231 East Baltimore Street

THE AMERICAN IN ITS NEW HOME



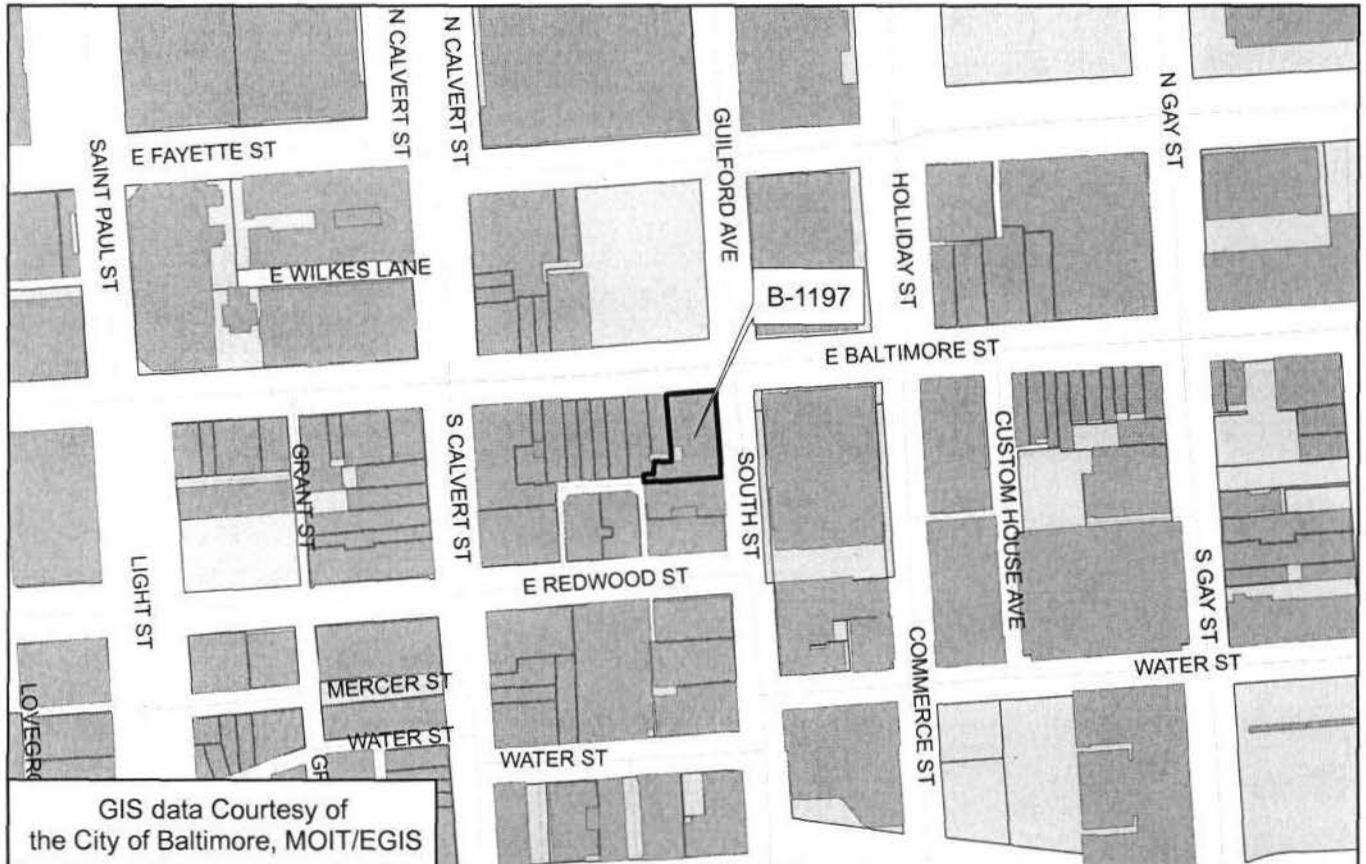
SOUTHWEST CORNER OF BALTIMORE AND SOUTH STREETS

The editorial and mechanical departments of the Baltimore American have been moved into the new American Building, which has been erected on the old site at the southwest corner of Baltimore and South streets, and Tuesday's issue of that paper was printed in its new home.

The new structure has been erected on an enlarged site, fronting 84 feet on Baltimore street and 112 feet on South street. The building is 14 stories high with two stories under ground. The office portion of the structure is not yet completed. An entirely new mechanical plant has been

installed. The building was designed by architects Simonson & Pietach, and was erected by the George A. Fuller Company. The work of construction and installing the new plant was done in record-breaking time.

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American Building (Baltimore American Building)
231-239 E. Baltimore Street
Block 0650 Lot 013
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad





American Building B-1197
231 East Baltimore Street
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Fred Shoken
Date: June 1985
Neg.loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Northeast corner view