

AREA: Financial District

MAGI NO.: 0412045711

Address: 19-21 South Street
Current Name: Furness House

Block: 1348 Lot: 7	Lot size: 55' x 146'
Height: 2 stories	Materials: Brick and limestone
Condition: Good	Owner: Maryland Realty Co.
Use: Offices	Accessible: Yes
Designation: None	Liber/Folio: RHB 2807-228



Historic Name: Furness House
Date: 1917
Architect/Builder: Edward H. Glidden
Style (if appropriate): English Palladian

Description:

The Furness House is a two story high, three bay wide Palladian style structure featuring a central arcade and decorative stone detailing. The central entrance is recessed behind an iron gate and two Doric columns. A main door with sidelights and two side doors lead into the building. All of the doors have arched fanlights and are made up of small glass panes. Flanking the central entrance are large three part multi-pane windows with mullions featuring engaged columns. Carved into the limestone of the first floor at the southern corner near a simple cornice is the name of the architect, E. H. Glidden. The brick second floor is defined by a large central arched window and fluted stone pilasters supporting an ornamental pediment. The arched window features an iron railing, engaged Doric columns, a fanlight, wood and glass French windows, and a large stone arch with delicate trim replicating a fan light design. On the entablature of the pediment above the central window, the name "FVRNESS HOVSE" is carved. Within the pediment is a marble tablet displaying the figure of a sphinx. The sides of the second floor feature smaller arched windows and side windows with a stone garland above the window. A small dentilled band and stone coping wall is capped by urn finials to complete the facade. The rear Commerce Street side of the building is similar in design as the front. The manager's office on the second floor front of the interior is noteworthy for its ornate plaster work.

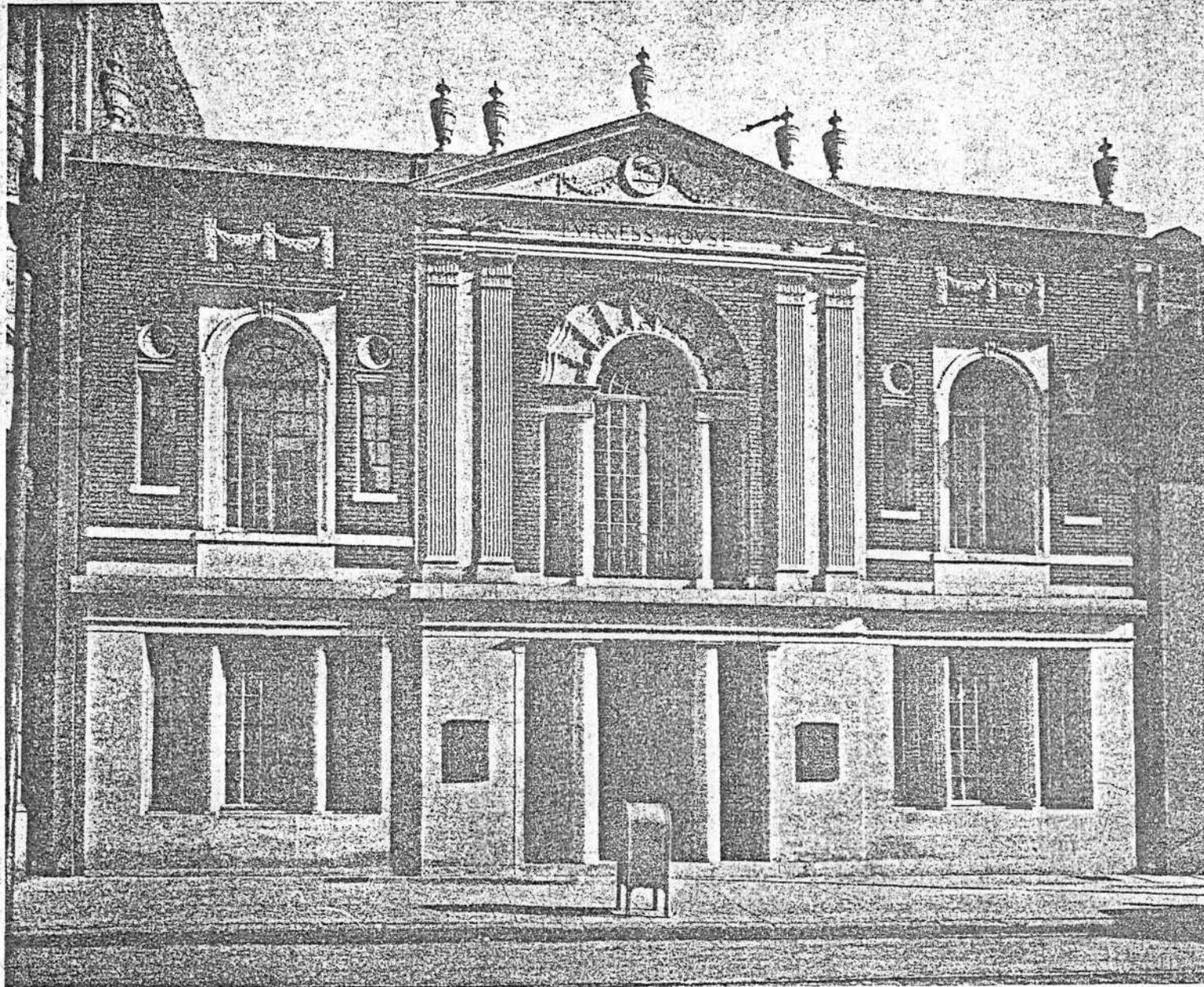
Significance:

Area: Architecture

Level: Local

The Furness House and Hansa Haus are similar in that each was built for a steamship company and designed in the native architectural style of the company. Since this building was built for Furness Withy and Company, one of the great steamship enterprises of Great Britain, it was designed in a traditional English style. It is one of the finest buildings in the Financial District and has a straight forward, classical design with refined detailing. The Furness House is one of five buildings in the Financial District that is designed as a revival of a particular foreign architectural style. It represents the finest in English architectural traditions. The other four post-Baltimore Fire revivalist style buildings are: Savings Bank of Baltimore (Greek Temple), Five Lexington Street (Dutch), Hansa Haus (Germanic), and Macht Building (French Renaissance). The Furness House is one the finest works of E. H. Glidden, an important local architect. The carving of his name on the facade may indicate the pride which he took in this design.

Sources: American Architect 2/19/1919 p. 272.
Surveyor and Date: Fred B. Shoken, April 1985.



Baltimore Financial District Survey
19-21 South Street
Furness House
B-1204

PLATE 56

"FURNESS HOUSE," BALTIMORE, MD., OFFICES OF FURNESS, WITHEY & CO., LTD.,

EDWARD HUGHES GLIDDEN, ARCHITECT

THE AMERICAN ARCHITECT

VOL. CXV, NO. 2252

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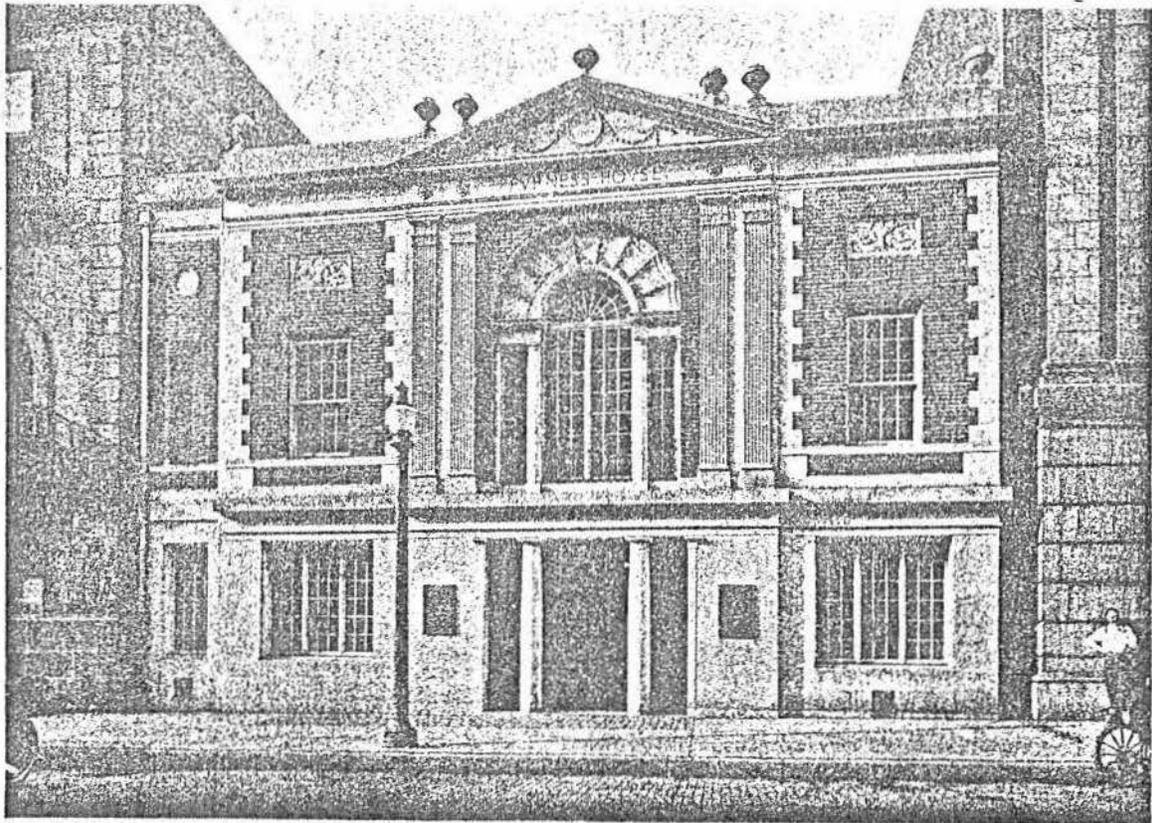
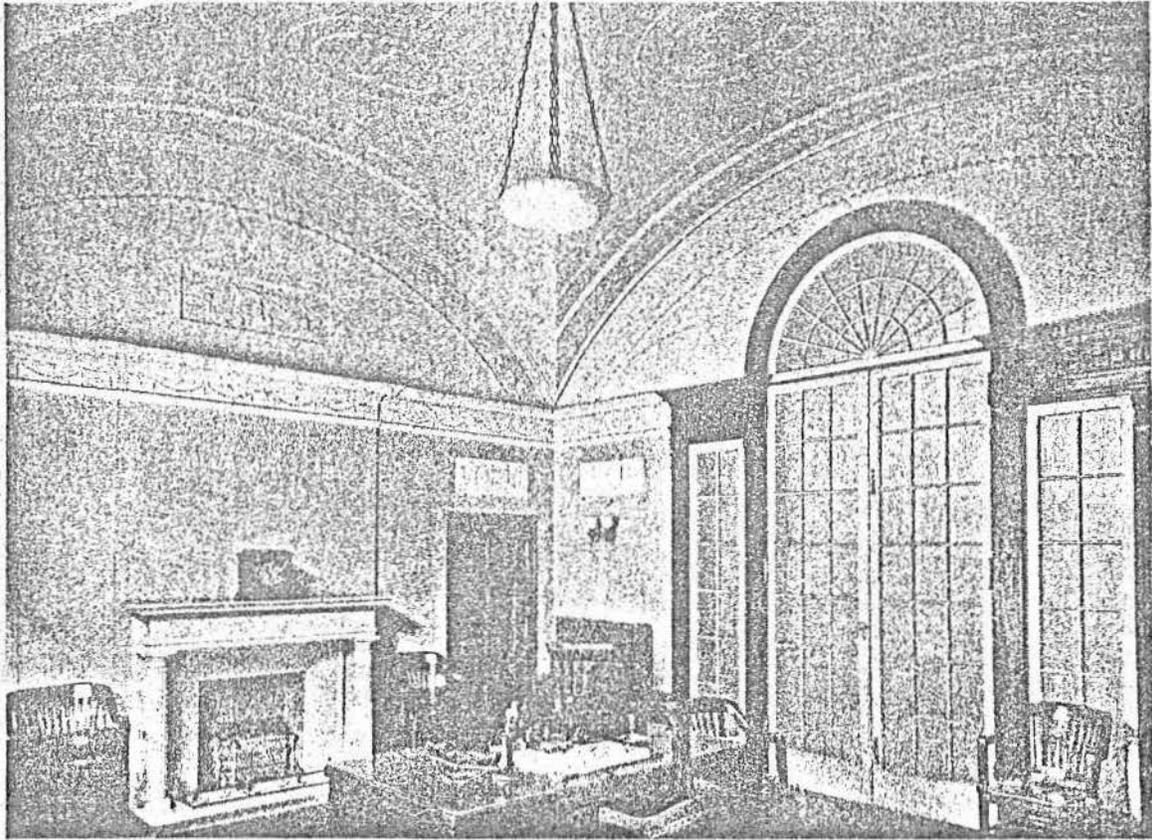
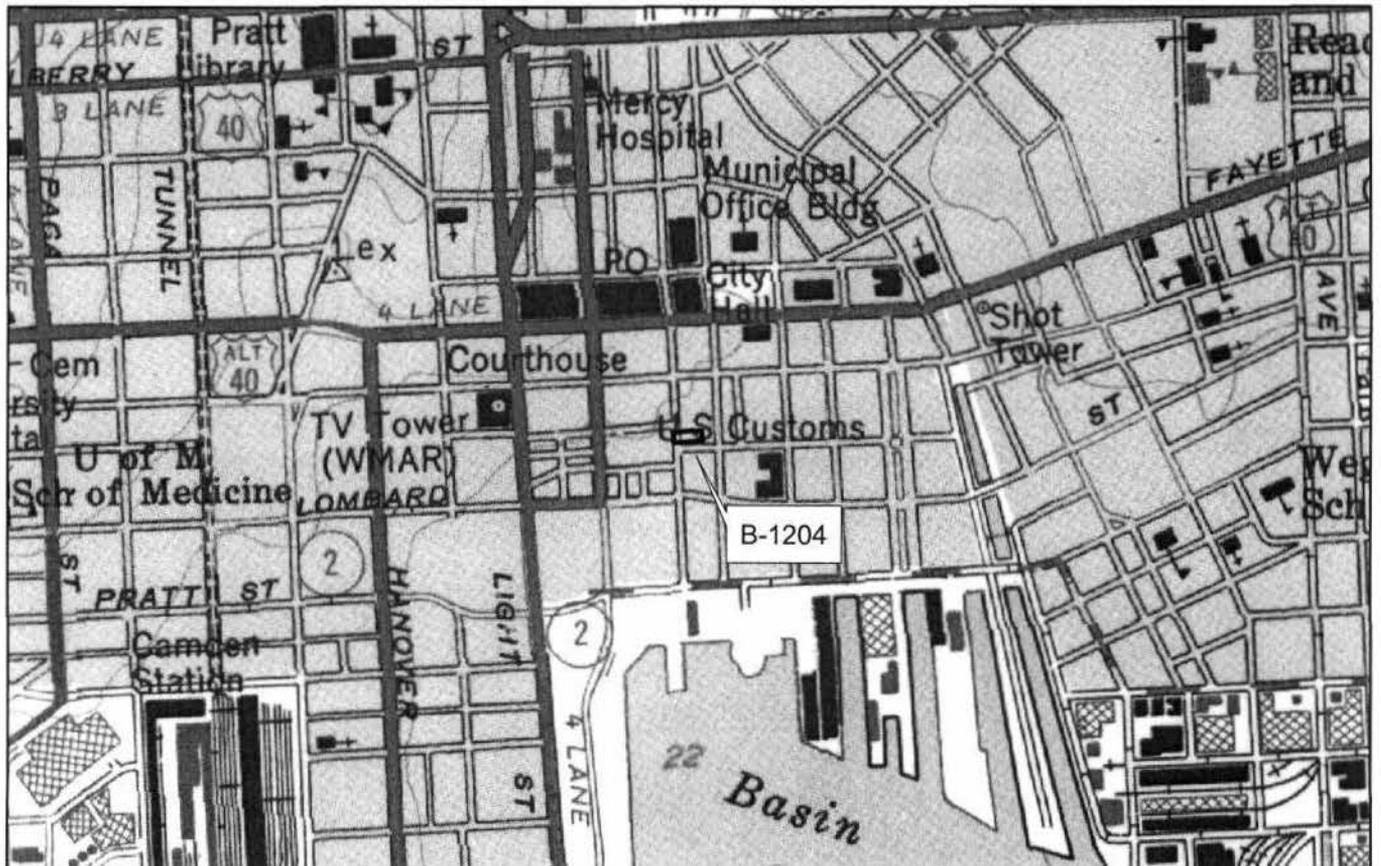
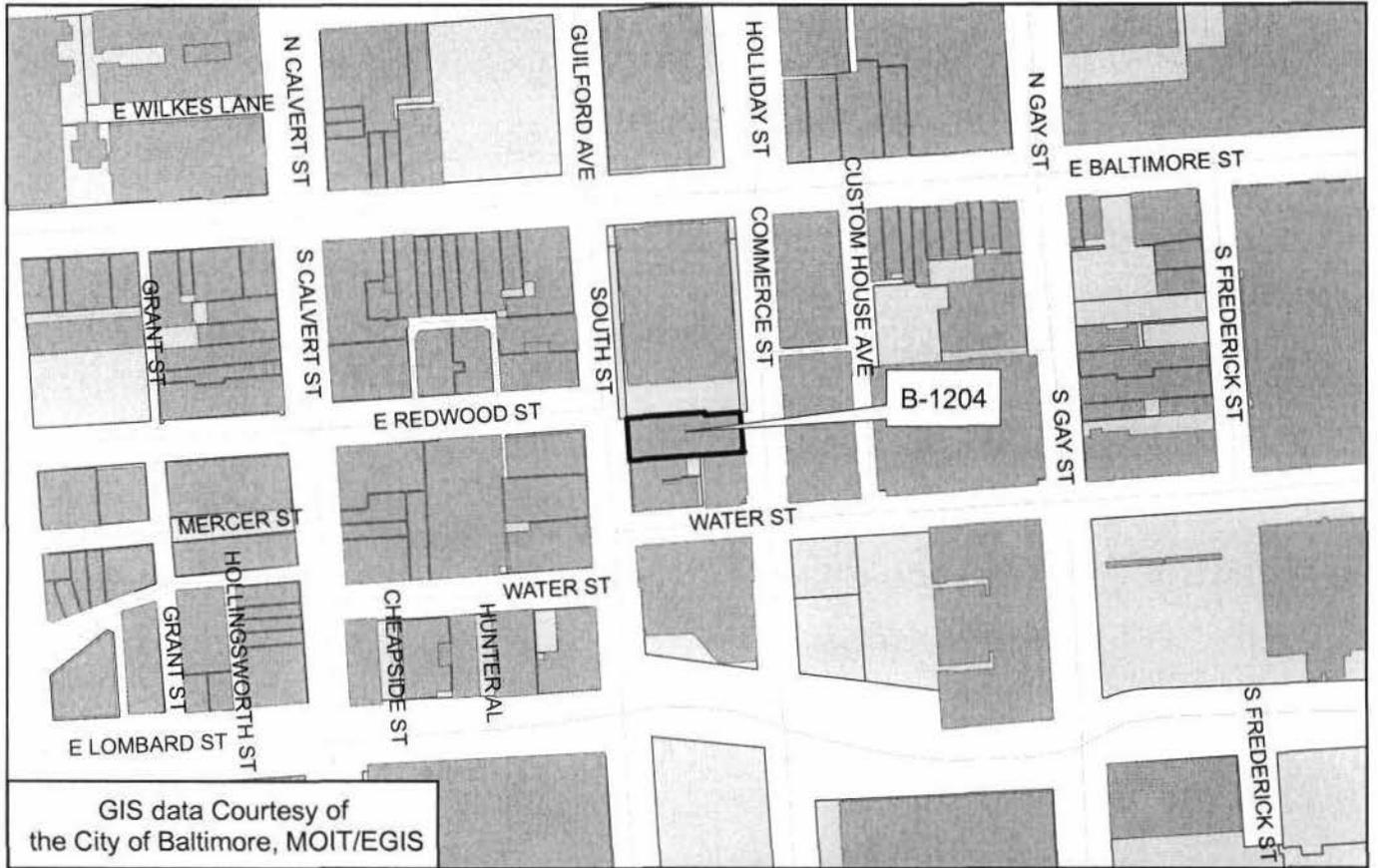


PLATE 59

"FURNESS HOUSE," BALTIMORE, MD., OFFICES OF
FURNESS, WITHEY & CO., LTD.

EDWARD HUGHES GLIDDEN, ARCHITECT

B-1204
Furness House
19-21 South Street
Block 1348 Lot 007
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad





14-21 South Street

B-1204

Furness House
19-21 South Street
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Fred Shoken
Date: October 1983
Neg.loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
West elevation