

AREA: Financial District

MAGI NO.: 0412535731

Address: 44 South Street

Current Name: Uncle Lee's Restaurant

Block: 662 Lot: 4

Lot size: 54' x 83'

Height: 1 story

Materials: Brick and stone

Condition: Good

Owner: Sunho Enterprises Inc.

Use: Restaurant

Accessible: Yes

Designation: None

Liber/Folio: CWM 4213-318



Historic Name: Farmers and Merchants Bank

Date: 1905

Architect/Builder: Baldwin &amp; Pennington/Wells Brothers, Co.

Style (if appropriate):

## Description:

This former one story high brick bank building is three bays wide at South Street and four bays wide along Lombard Street. A large central arched entrance on South Street features an aluminum and glass door set into a bracketed stone surround. Two small cast iron light poles flank the entrance. A decorative arched iron grill surrounds the entrance and three part arched window transom. The arch is decorated by brick guaged voussiors in an elliptical shape converging on a keystone featuring a cartouche. Flanking the arch above a granite base and stone water table are small six over six segmentally arched windows with six pane transoms. The brick building walls are rusticated and feature four pilasters with decorative stone capitals. The massive cornice with lion head brackets, modillion blocks, a stone parapet and a balustrade completes this richly detailed facade. The Lombard Street elevation has a similar design. Despite the construction of a mezzanine level on the interior, the adaptive re-use of this building as a restaurant has been fairly sympathetic to the architectural design of the building and many original architectural elements remain.

## Significance:

Area: Architecture

Level: Local

This is one of the many excellent small bank buildings constructed after the Baltimore Fire. Many of the other post-Fire banks have been destroyed or completely altered. Several of these buildings were demolished for Charles Center, and recently the Union Trust Bank at Saint Paul and Baltimore Streets was destroyed. This building and the Savings Bank of Baltimore are the last of the post-Fire banks that are relatively intact. This bank replaced a Romanesque bank building which was completely destroyed by the fire. Designed by the noteworthy architectural firm of Baldwin and Pennington, the building is characteristic of banks built after the fire. It is a small, symmetrical structure with classical details and a strong roof line. It symbolizes the strength and stability of the financial organization that it housed. As modern bank buildings seek smaller spaces for bank branches and high rise offices for their headquarters, these buildings will have to be adapted to new uses. The re-use of this building as a restaurant has been relatively preservation conscious.

Sources: BS 12/21/1904 p. 7 c. 4-6 (illustration); BS 1/10/1905 p. 7 c. 6 (article); BS 1/27/1905 p. 11 c. 2 (permit issued)

Surveyor and Date: Fred B. Shoken, May 1985.

B-1253

Baltimore Financial District Survey  
44 South Street

Old Farmers and Merchants National Bank which stood on this site  
before the Baltimore Fire, from: Lost Baltimore Landmarks by  
Carlton Jones, p. 55.

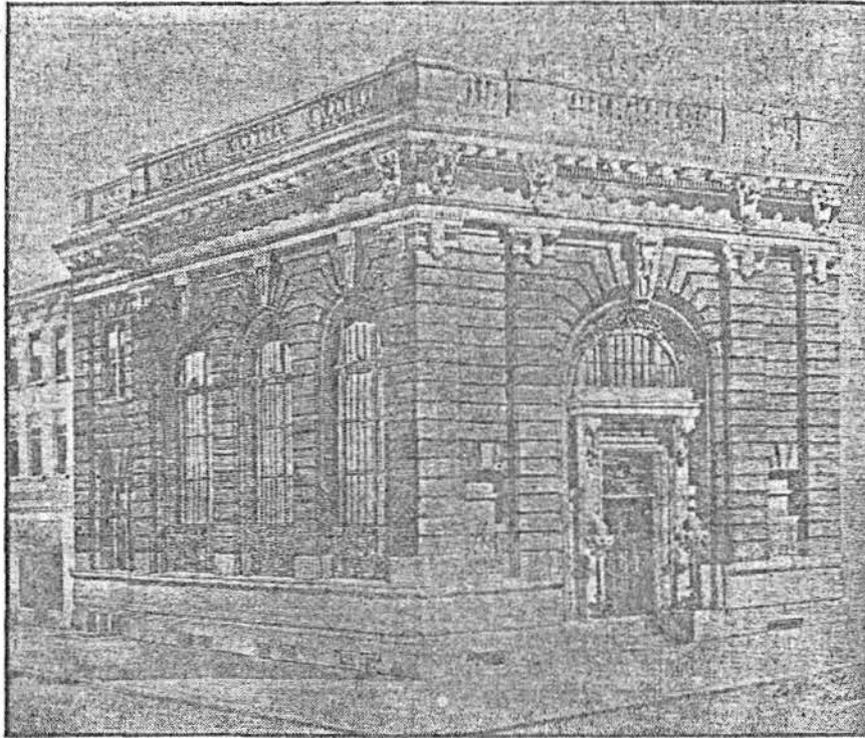


B-1253

BALTIMORE FINANCIAL DISTRICT SURVEY

Address: 44 South Street

*Design For New Home Of Farmers And Merchants' Bank.*



The illustration above shows the accepted design, prepared by Messrs. Baldwin & Pennington, architects, for the new bank building to be erected for the Farmers and Merchants' National Bank upon the location of its former five-story building, at the northwest corner of South and Lombard streets. Its new home will be a one-story building, 55 feet high above the sidewalk, with a frontage of 53 feet on South street and 82 feet on Lombard street.

The building, which is designed in the modern French renaissance, will be constructed of fireproof materials

throughout, the outside walls being built of red brick, with limestone cornice and trimmings and a granite base. The structure will be lighted entirely from the outside windows, which are over 12 feet wide and 35 feet high, there by requiring no skylights. The entrance doors, window frames and sash will be of bronze, the latter glazed with wire glass and protected with ornamental iron guards.

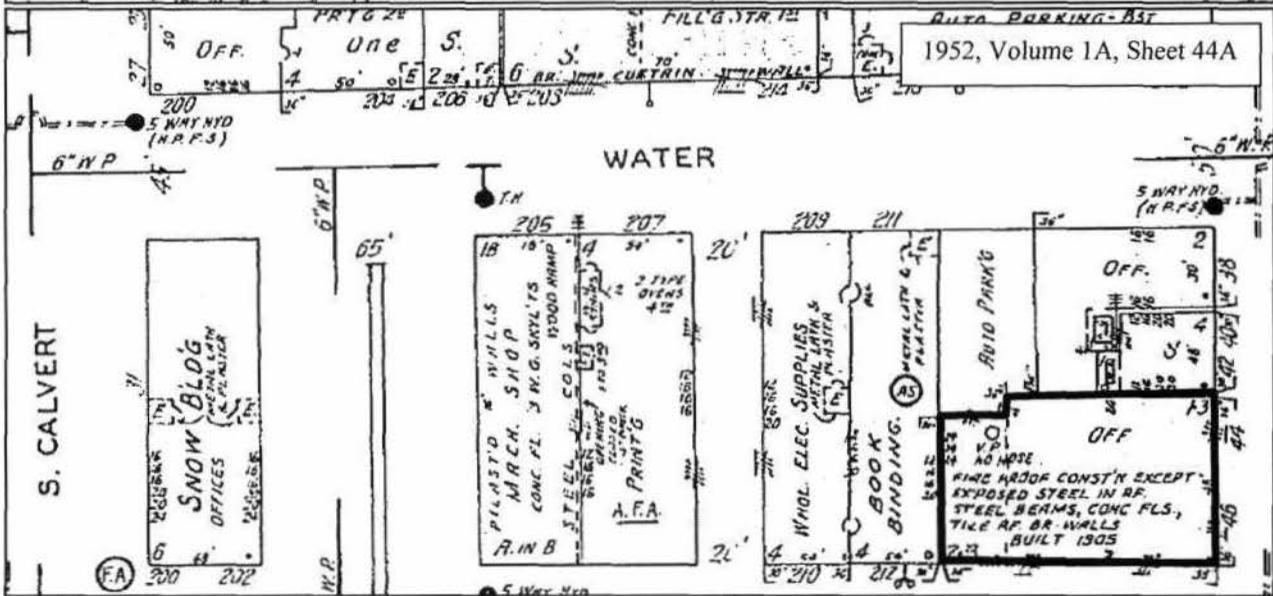
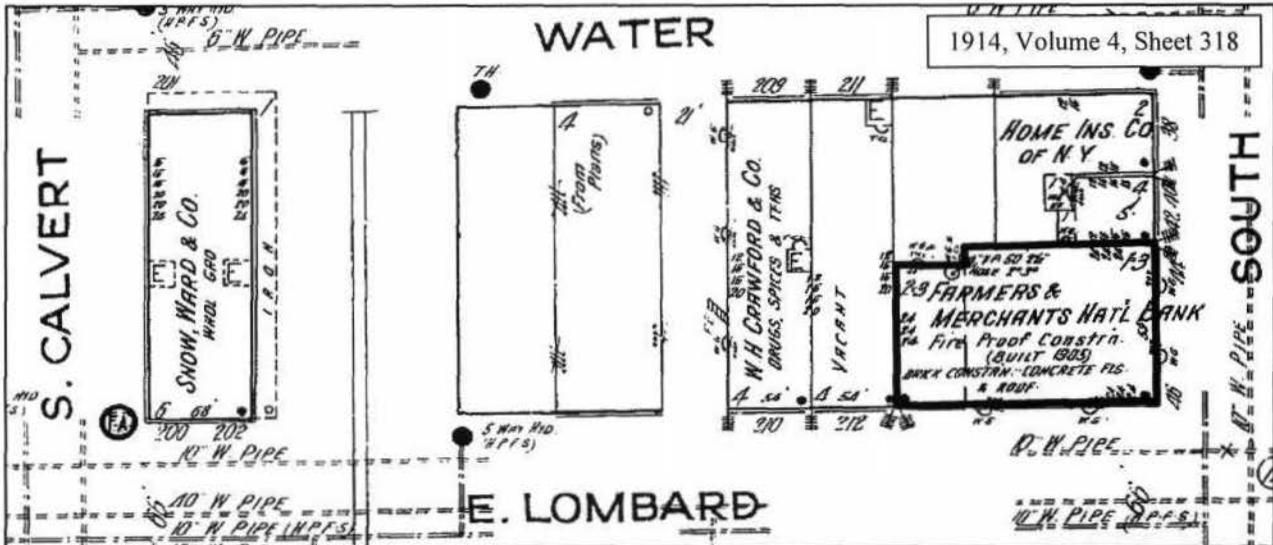
The interior will be finished with marble floors, paneled oak wainscoting 9 feet high, with decorated plastered walls above supporting the ornamental plastered ceiling, making one large banking-room 33 feet high covering the

whole lot. The directors' room and the president's room will be placed at the rear, as they were in the old building, and over them will be a mezzanine floor for additional working space. The officers' room and the working space for bank clerks will be separated from the public space with an ornamental wrought-iron and glass screen supported on a paneled oak counter. There will be a cash and book vault on the first floor, made absolutely fire and burglar proof, with fireproof storage vaults in basement.

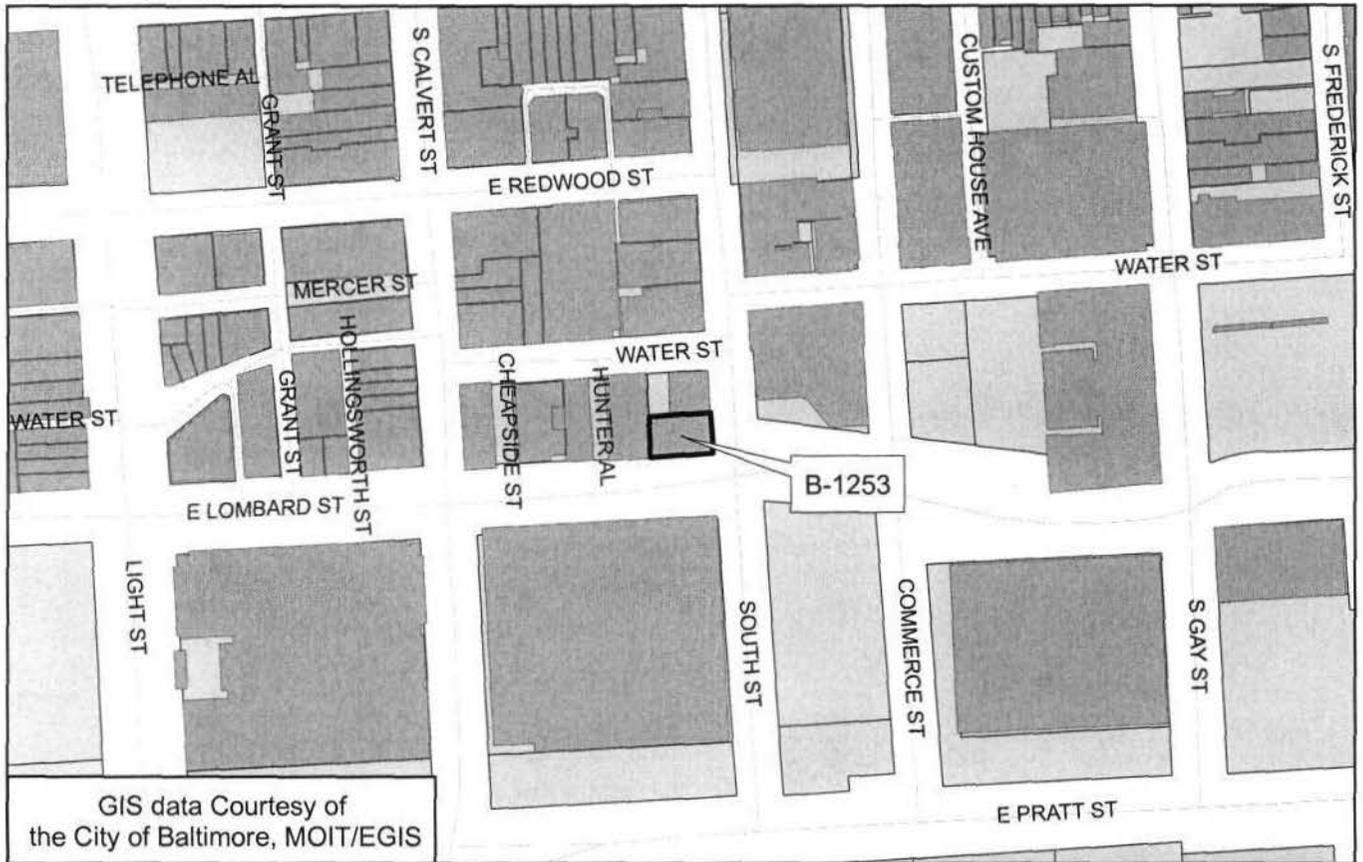
In the front of the basement will be located the clerks' lockers, lunchrooms and bathrooms.



B-1253  
 Farmers & Merchants National Bank (Uncle Lee's Restaurant)  
 44 South Street  
 Sanborn Maps

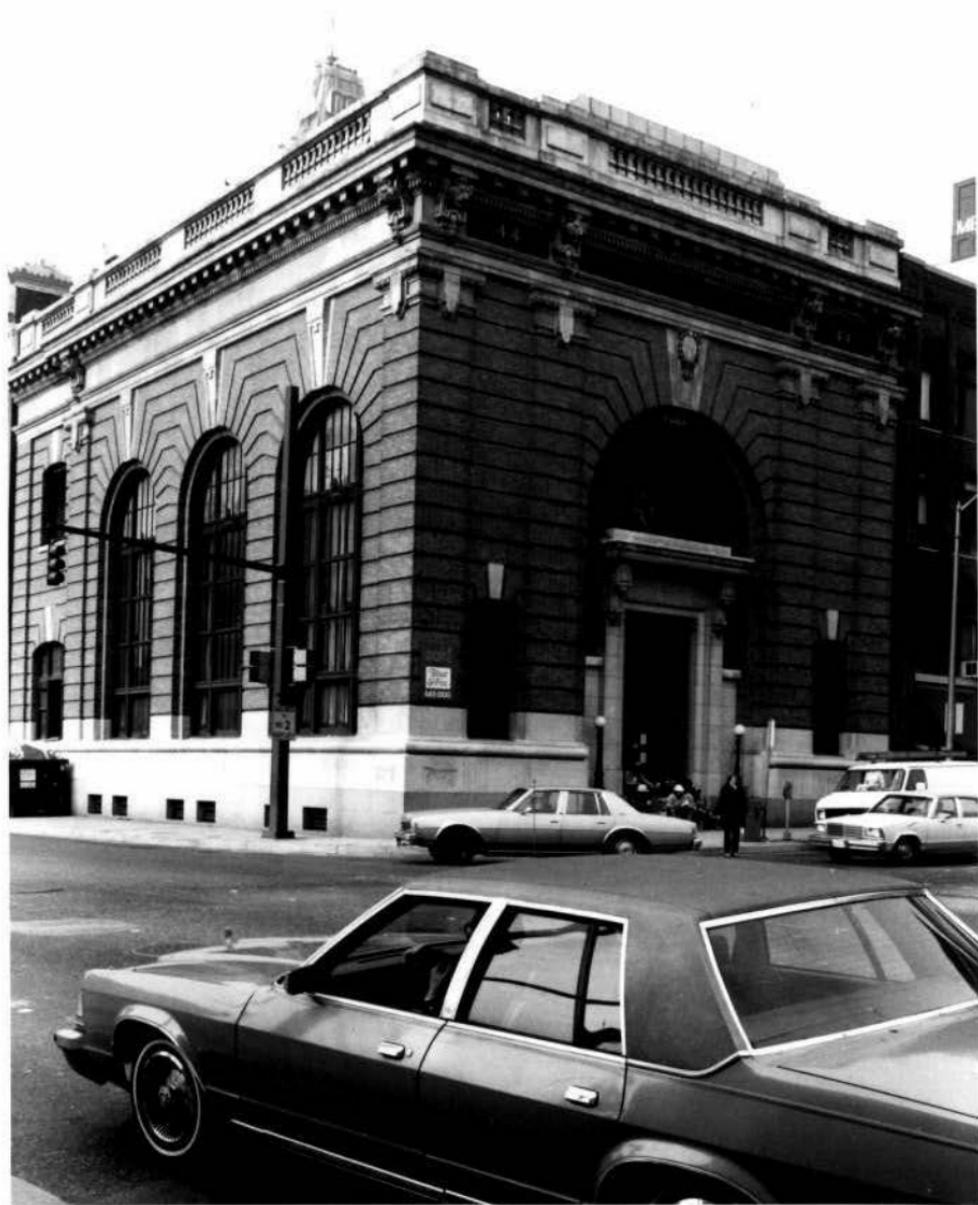


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Farmers & Merchants National Bank (Uncle Lee's Restaurant)  
44 South Street  
Block 0662 Lot 004  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad



GIS data Courtesy of the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS





B-1253

Farmers and Merchants Bank  
44 South Street  
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Fred Shoken  
Date: October 1983  
Neg.loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Southeast corner view