

## BALTIMORE METROCENTER SURVEY

SURVEY NO.: B-2092

AREA: Cathedral Hill

MAGI NO.: 0420925711

Address: 407 North Charles Street  
 Current Name: Purnell Art Company

Block: 566      Lot: 4      Lot size: 26 ft. x 126 ft.  
 Height: 4      Materials: Stone  
 Condition: Good      Owner: Roger Brown et al  
 Use: Commercial      Accessible: yes, restricted  
 Designation:      Liber/Folio: RHB 3606/145



Historic Name:  
 Date: ca. 1921  
 Architect/Builder: A. Lowther Forrest, arch.  
 Style (if appropriate): Classical Revival

**Description:** The three-bay facade has a smooth ashlar limestone wall surface with a storefront on the first floor. The storefront has a flat bell-arched stone frame in which the off-center recessed doorway and plate glass display window are set. The entry has mosaic tile with the address number inlaid. The transom has vertical muntins. Applied letters above the transom identify the art firm. A plain projecting string course sets off the upper stories. The second floor has plain pilasters framing the windows, which are single plate glass with vertically muntined transoms. The entablature above forms the sill for the third floor windows, which are 8/1 and have blind arches above each. The fourth floor windows are 6/6 and have plain surrounds. The cornice has modillions, dentils, and lion heads. The parapet above the cornice has three balustrades alternating with panels. The side wall on the north at the fourth floor indicates the fourth story was formerly a mansard.

**Significance:**

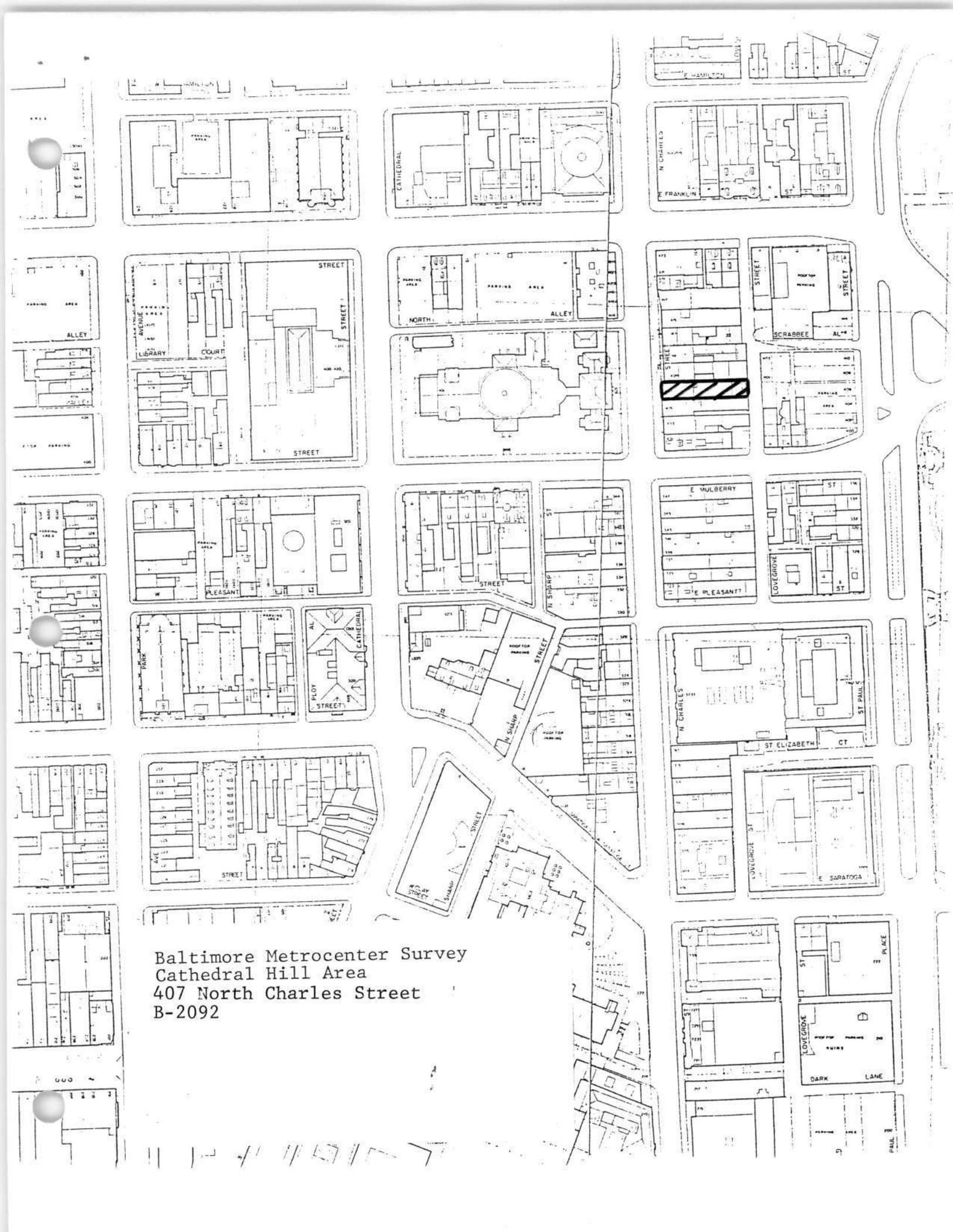
Area: architecture

Level: local

The restrained symmetry of this Classical Revival facade is a visual counterpoint to the elaborate neighboring Bowen & King facade on the south. A. Lowther Forrest was also capable of highly ornamented designs, as indicated by the 1905 Macht Building on Fayette Street. The Purnell Art Company has occupied the building since 1921. In May 1985, Purnell Art Company moved to 309 Cathedral Street (B-2179).

Sources: Tercentenary Hist. of Md. (1925); city directories  
 Surveyor and Date: Janet Davis, April 1985

Baltimore Metrocenter Survey  
Cathedral Hill Area  
407 North Charles Street  
B-2092





PURNELL · ART · COMPANY

407 North Charles Street                      B-2092  
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Janet Davis  
Date: August 1984  
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
West elevation

B-2092

MAGI#0420925611

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM  
for the  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>					
COMMON: The Purnell Galleries					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
<b>2. LOCATION</b>					
STREET AND NUMBER: 407 North Charles Street					
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore					
STATE Maryland			COUNTY:		
<b>3. CLASSIFICATION</b>					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	Public Acquisition:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____	
<b>4. OWNER OF PROPERTY</b>					
OWNER'S NAME: Jone Berman et al.					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:		
<b>5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION</b>					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Records Office, Room 601, Baltimore City Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER: Calvert and Fayette Streets					
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			STATE: Maryland		21202
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): RHB 2939-635					
<b>6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS</b>					
TITLE OF SURVEY: City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1975 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Commission for Hist. and Arch. Pres.					
STREET AND NUMBER: 26 S. Calvert Street					
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore			STATE: Maryland		21202

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>This ashlar building is four stories high and three bays wide.</p> <p>In the first story, the door is on the left; to its right is a plate glass window. The door and the window are contained in a large, flat arch which is rounded at the corners. Above the door and window is a transom divided into four sections of three lights each. Above this (outside the arch) is a cornice.</p> <p>The second floor windows are single hung with one light placed in a flat-arched frame. There is a five light frame over each window. Flat pilasters flank and are in between the windows; they support a blank entablature with a cornice above.</p> <p>Third floor windows are double hung, eight-over-one, placed in a flat-arched frame with a tympanum above. This entire arrangement is contained in a keystone round arch.</p> <p>In the fourth story, the windows are double hung, six-over-six, and are placed in moulded, flat-arched frames. Above these windows is a dentil row, then a braced cornice. A parapet containing a blind balustrade tops the facade.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian                       16th Century                       18th Century                       20th Century
- 15th Century                       17th Century                       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal<br><input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric<br><input type="checkbox"/> Historic<br><input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Art<br><input type="checkbox"/> Commerce<br><input type="checkbox"/> Communications<br><input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Education<br><input type="checkbox"/> Engineering<br><input type="checkbox"/> Industry<br><input type="checkbox"/> Invention<br><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape<br><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Literature<br><input type="checkbox"/> Military<br><input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Political<br><input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-<br>losophy<br><input type="checkbox"/> Science<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture<br><input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-<br>itarian<br><input type="checkbox"/> Theater<br><input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/><br><hr/> |
|--|--|---|---|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Refer to 421 North Charles

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Blank area for Major Bibliographical References.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

26x126'

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Joseph Potts, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Commission for Hist. and Arch. Pres.      DATE: 11/26/75

STREET AND NUMBER:  
26 S. Calvert Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore      STATE: Maryland      ZIP: 21202

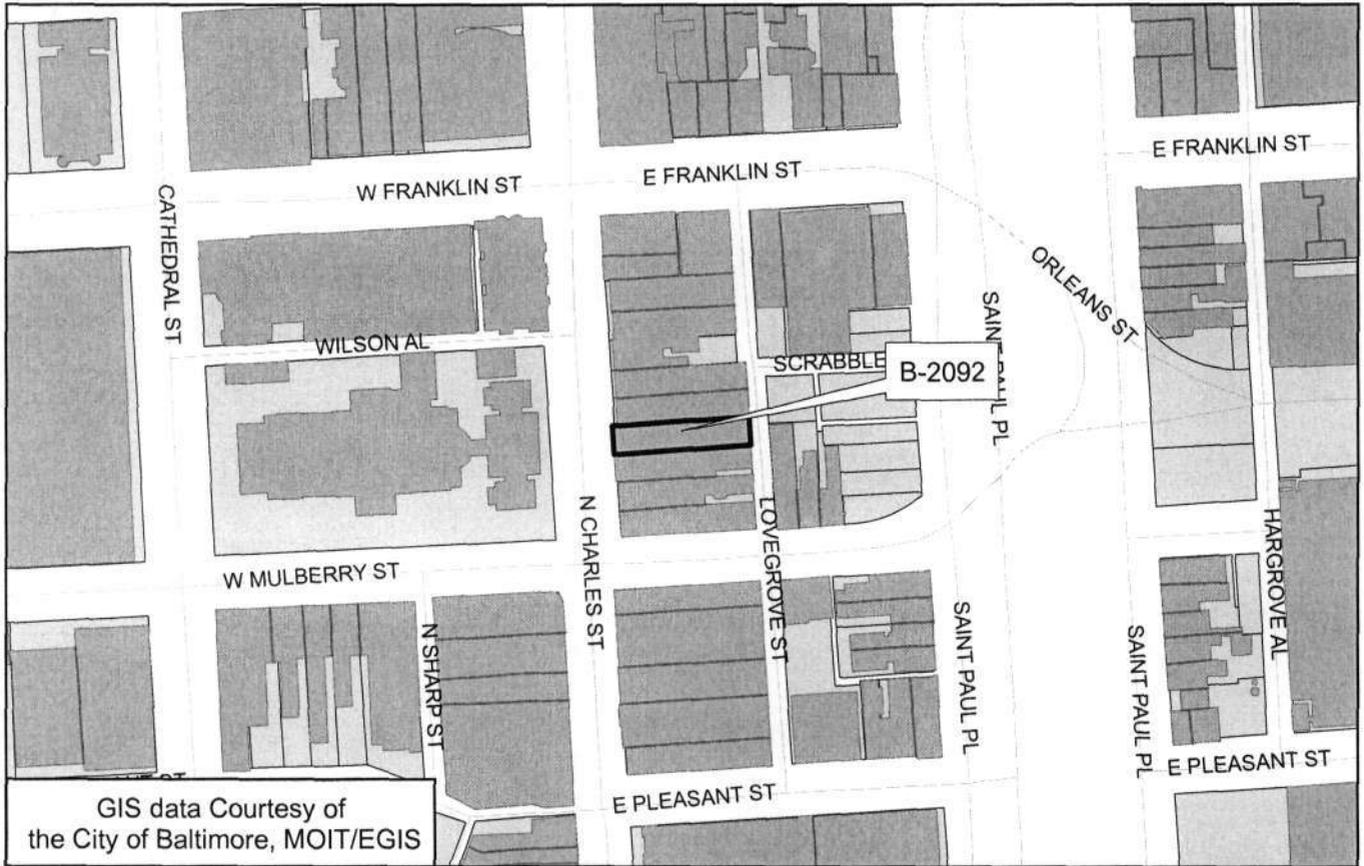
**12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)**

Significance of this property is:  
 National       State       Local

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



B-2092  
Purnell Art Company  
407 North Charles Street  
Block 0566 Lot 004  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad





B-2092

BLK 566  
407 N. CHARLES  
JP