BALTIMORE METROCENTER SURVEY

SURVEY NO.: B-2161

AREA: Cathedral Hill

MAGI NO.: 0421615711

**Address:** 314 North Charles Street
**Current Name:** Oscar Caplan and Sons Jewelers

**Block:** 580 **Lot:** 18 **Lot size:** 23 ft. x 76 ft.
**Height:** 3 **Materials:** Stone
**Condition:** Good **Owner:** Brown's Arcade J.V.
**Use:** Commercial **Accessible:** Yes, unrestricted
**Designation:** **Liber/Folio:** CWM 4082/818

**Historic Name:**
**Date:** ca. 1928
**Architect/Builder:**
**Style (if appropriate):** Modern

**Description:**

The facade has a smooth ashlar stone covering with simple geometric ornamentation. The first floor storefront has a center recessed entrance between display windows. A fixed transom with vertical muntins unites the store facade. A narrow flat molding band with a central keystone is above the storefront. A flat raised panel above this has applied letters spelling out "Oscar Caplan". The second and third floors have identical fenestration. Each has a group of five 1/1 windows with plain surrounds and separated by engaged columns. Above the third floor group is a central keystone. A frieze outlined by simple moldings has dogtooth and circular ornamentation. An unusual feature of this facade is the retention and treatment of the passage on the south corner of the building. Few Charles Street facades still have discernible passages, although it was a common element in the early 19th century rowhouse. The opening is closed by a modern metal door under a shallow blind arch with a flat circular shape in the tympanum.

**Significance:**

**Area:** architecture **Level:** local

The facade of the Caplan store is similar to that of 313 North Charles in its transition between the Classical Revival of the early 20th century and the Modern styles of the 1930's. It retains some Classical details in the columns framing the windows and the placement of the keystones and frieze, but these are in a flat, stripped-down style. The original rowhouse, dating from about 1810-1820, was the residence of Henry R. Hazelhurst, an iron founder in the mid-1850's. It remained in the Hazelhurst family until 1900. In 1911, the Charles D. Fisher Estate hired Lawrence H. Fowler to design a facade and interior staircase for the Dutch Tea Room at 314. The resulting quaint aspect (see attached photocopy) was such a departure from the Classical Revival style then popular along Charles Street that H.L. Mencken was moved to give his approval: "In a street filled with houses of abominable ugliness, the facade of this one immediately arrests the eye. It has color, it has character, it has distinction..." (See attached for complete quote.) In the late 1920's, A.H. Fetting jewelers occupied the building and the present facade was probably built at that time. The Fetting store remained at 314 until the late 1970's.

**Sources:** Fowler collection, JHU Evergreen House; ES 11-28-11; DR 1-21-11; City directories.
**Surveyor and Date:** Janet Davis, February 1985

B-2161

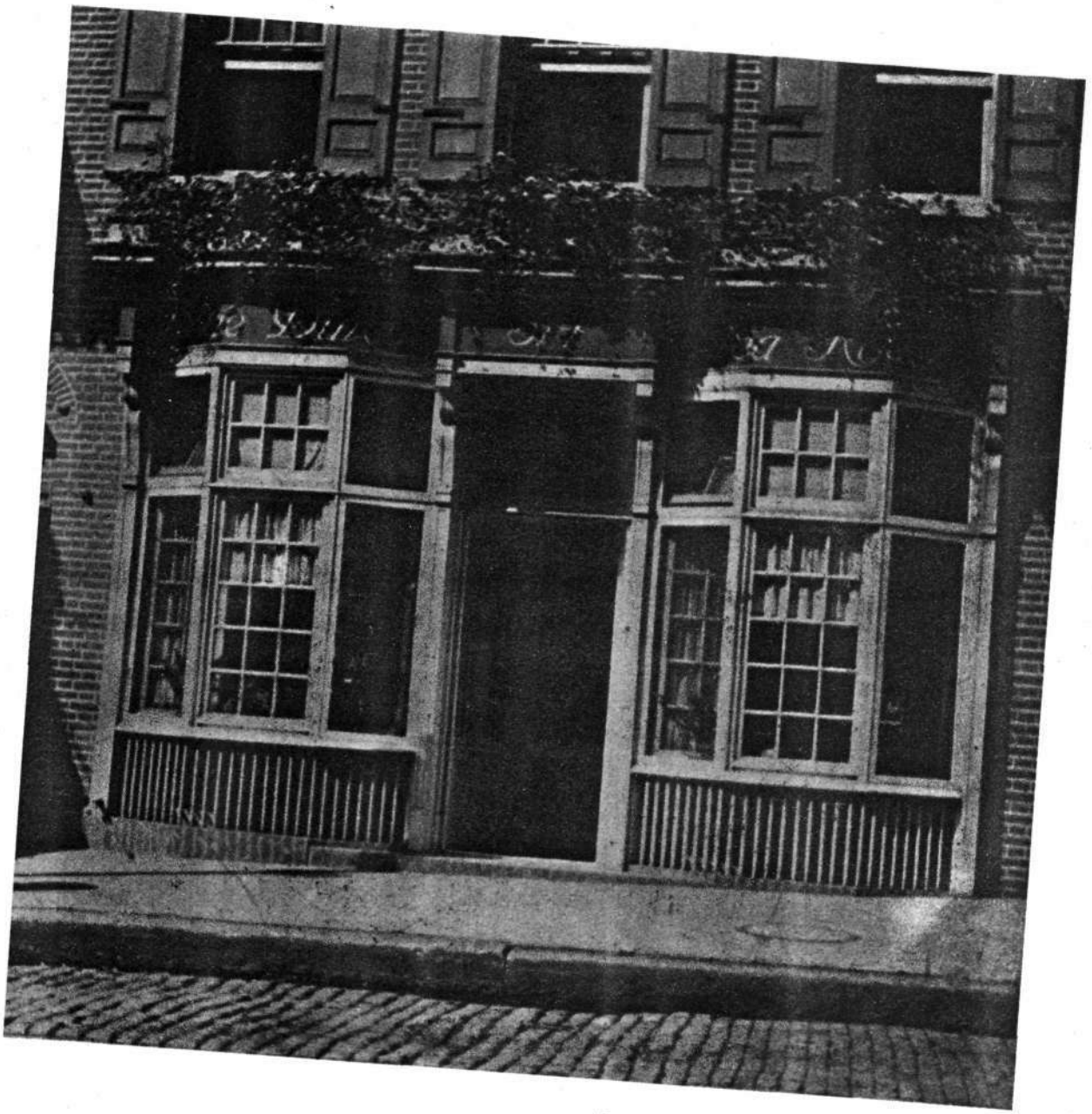
314 North Charles Street

Evening Sun, Nov. 28, 1911:

P. 6: "The Free Lance" H. L. Mencken

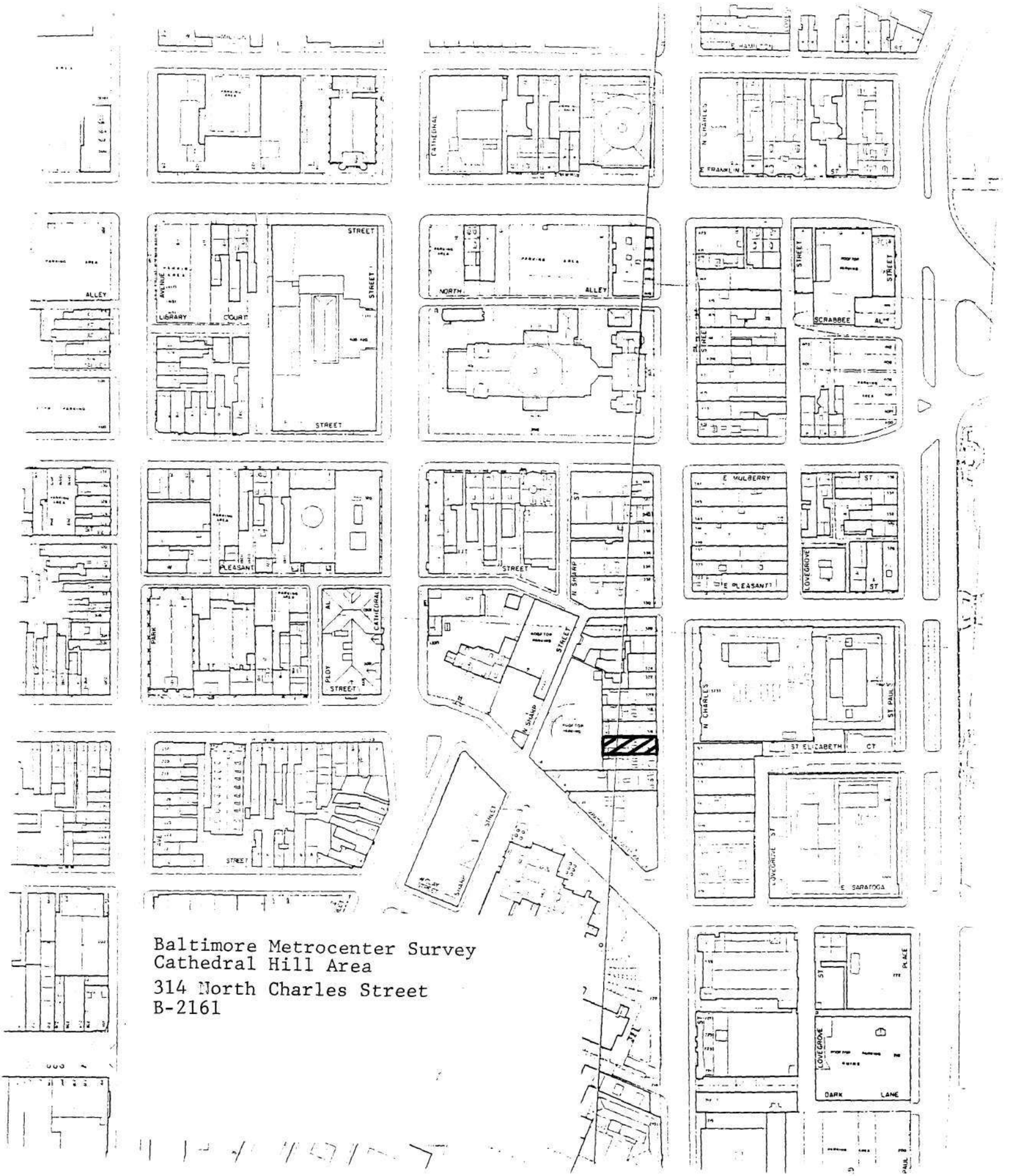
"A paragraph of praise for whoever designed the new building at 314 North Charles Street. In a street filled with houses of abominable ugliness, the facade of this one immediately arrests the eye. It has color, it has character, it has distinction -- and buildings of distinction are almost as rare in Baltimore as Prominent Baltimoreans of sense."

B-2161



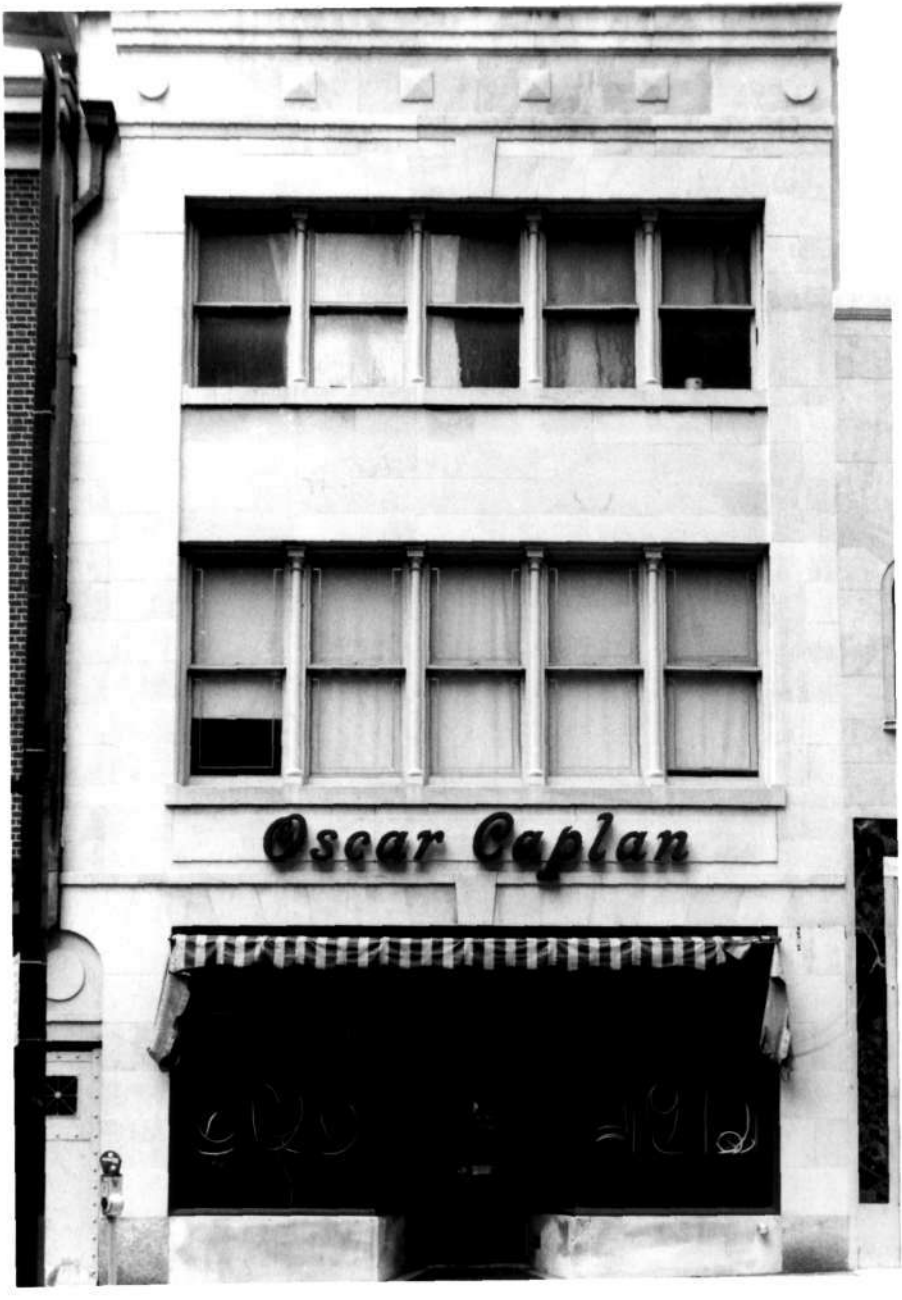
This document is the property of
The Johns Hopkins University, and
may not be reproduced without the
prior written permission of
The Johns Hopkins University.

Facade, Dutch Tea Room
314 North Charles Street
(Now Oscar Caplan & Sons Jwlr.)
Ca. 1911
L. H. Fowler Collection,
Eisenhower Library,
Johns Hopkins University




Baltimore Metrocenter Survey
Cathedral Hill Area

314 North Charles Street
B-2161


Oscar Caplan

314 North Charles Street B-2161
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Janet Davis
Date: August 1984
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
East elevation

B-2161

MAGI #0421615711

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: 314 N. Charles - A.H. Fetting Co.

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 314 N. Charles

Block 580
Lot 18

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY:

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ District ☒ Building<br>☐ Site ☐ Structure<br>☐ Object | ☒ Public<br>☐ Private<br>☐ Both | Public Acquisition:<br>☐ In Process<br>☐ Being Considered | ☒ Occupied<br>☐ Unoccupied<br>☐ Preservation work in progress | Yes:<br>☐ Restricted<br>☒ Unrestricted<br>☐ No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Agricultural | ☐ Government | ☐ Park | ☐ Transportation | ☐ Comments |
| ☒ Commercial | ☐ Industrial | ☐ Private Residence | ☐ Other (Specify) | |
| ☐ Educational | ☐ Military | ☐ Religious | | |
| ☐ Entertainment | ☐ Museum | ☐ Scientific | | |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Arcade Realty Corp.

STREET AND NUMBER: 501 St. Paul Place, Suite 1009-11

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore | STATE: Maryland | 21202

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Records Office, Room 601

STREET AND NUMBER: Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore | STATE: Maryland | 21202

Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): JFC 2340-210

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☒ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 900, 26 S. Calvert St.

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore | STATE: Maryland | 21202

B-2161

7. DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | ☐ Excellent | ☑ Good | ☐ Fair | ☐ Deteriorated | ☐ Ruins | ☐ Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | (Check One) | | | |
| | ☑ Altered | ☐ Unaltered | ☐ Moved | ☑ Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (*if known*) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

314 North Charles, lot# 18, is an attached building with a front facade of stone. It has three stories, one bay and a stone watertable. Between the buildings an lots 18 and 19 there is an alleyway shared by the two lots.

The first story is a store front consisting of a central rectangular door with a small vestibule. There are two large panes on either side of the vestibule. Over each pane there is an eyebrow window which appears to be seven windows connected, each window having three by three panes of leaded glass. A straight arched lintel of stone is over the eyebrow windows. Between the first and second stories there is a belt course showing FETTING in metal letters.

The second story has five windows, each 1x2 panes which are seperated by engaged columns. There are no lintels but wooden sills painted brown.

The windows of the third story are similar to these previously described. A stone arched lintel springs over the bay. Above the lintel there is a freeze showing an alternating circle and square design. A stone cornice lies above the freeze hiding a flat roof.

The back of the building is connected to a parking lot and is not exposed. The building is in proportion with other attached buildings on Charles street.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B-2161

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Aboriginal
- ☐ Prehistoric
- ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☑ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other *(Specify)* _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

see 512 (Architect)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B-2161

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | | | | OR | 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:

23 x 75

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Nancy Venditti, Amanda McQuiddy, Aohsah O'Donovan

ORGANIZATION: CHAP

DATE: 11/20/75

STREET AND NUMBER: 965 ~~Eutaw~~ Calvert Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland

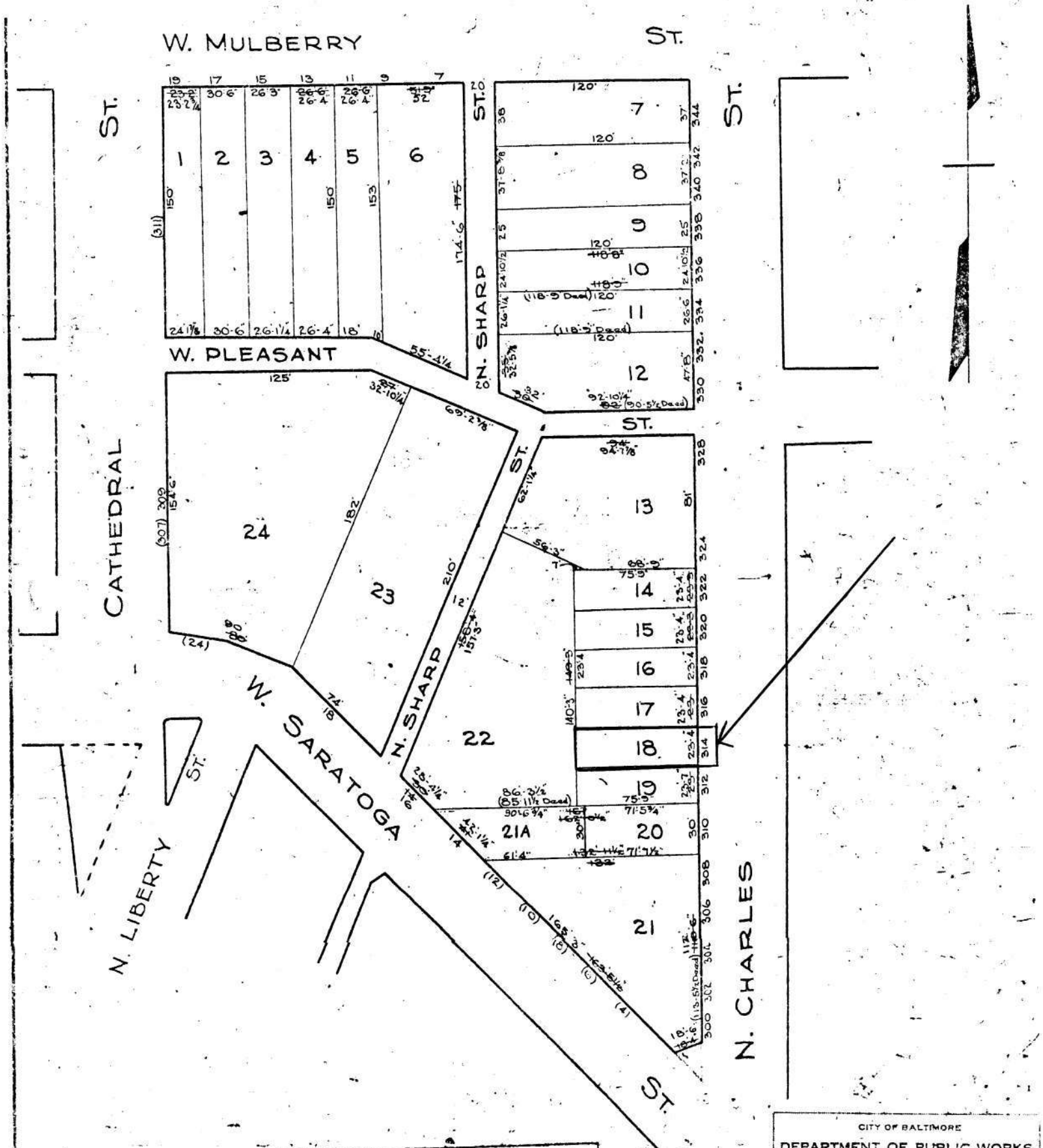
## 12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

B-2161




NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(a) OF THE CITY CHARTER IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND SOURCES [illegible]

D BY McCORPHEAD

LETTERED BY JOS. J. ROKOSKY

[illegible] BY W. M. LEE

CITY OF BALTIMORE

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

BUREAU OF PLANS & SURVEYS

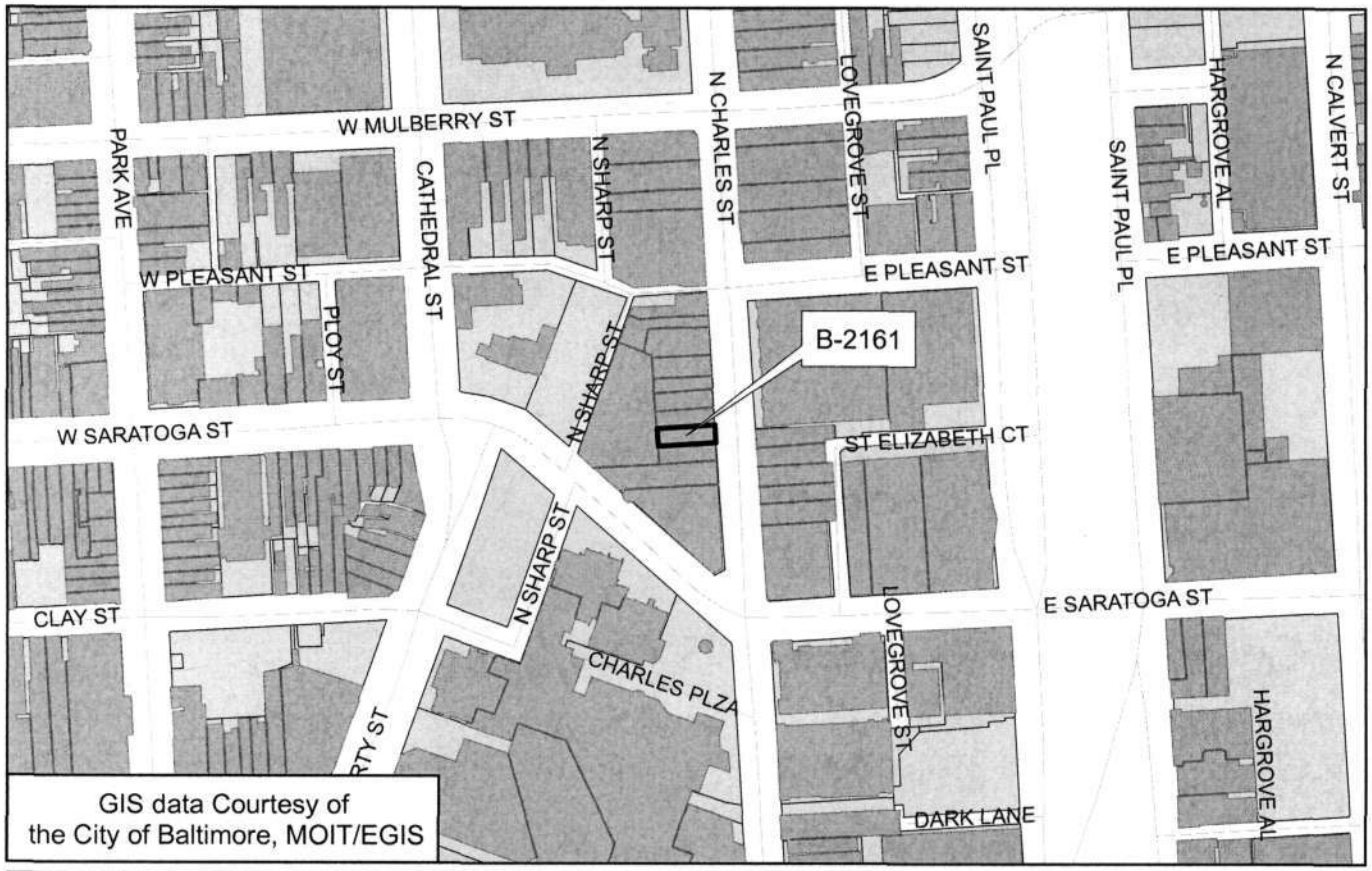
PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

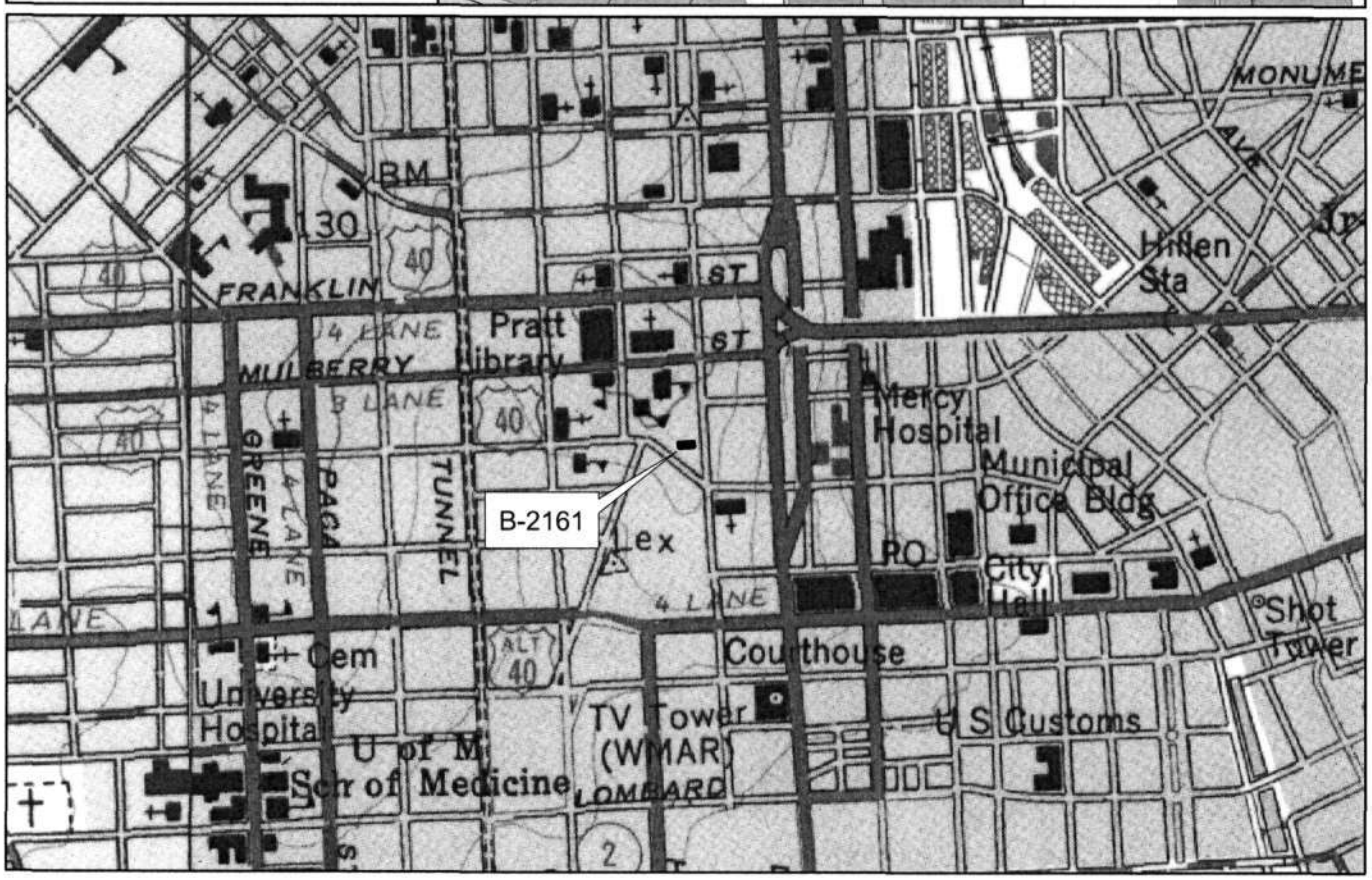
WARD 4 SECTION 2

BLOCK 580

SCALE 1 INCH = 50 FT. [illegible]

B-2161
Oscar Caplan & Sons, Jewelers (A. H. Fetting Co., Dutch Tea Room)
314 N. Charles Street
Block 0580 Lot 018
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad



FETTING

B-2161

Block 580
Sept. 1975
314 N. Charles St.