

B-3334 - B-3341  
1044-1000 Light St. (West side)  
Baltimore, Md.  
Private and semi-public access

1840-1875/1920's

The west side of the 1000 block of Light St. has a number of quite interesting and unusual buildings. 1040-1044 Light St. is a typical group of three story, two and three bay wide brick buildings with shed roofs and bracketed cornices which has always served a mixed commercial/residential function and dates from the 1870's. At 1036-1038 Light St. there is the McHenry Theatre, an Art-Deco style brown brick structure built in the 1920's to serve as one of three neighborhood movie houses, the other two of which are now gone. The original interior of the theatre is still intact, with community plans underway to reopen it as a movie theatre, but the old lobby area has been converted into two modern storefronts. At 1024 Light St. Public School #15 survives in its original Tuscan Revival form, two stories high, six bays wide with a low-pitched gable roof running perpendicular to Light St. with deeply projecting eaves supported by thin wooden brackets. The first floor area of the building has been converted into a modern storefront. Across Poultney St., to the north, at 1022 Light St. is a typical three story, three bay wide combination commercial/residential structure with shed roof and bracketed cornice dating from the early 1850's (it originally had a gable roof). At 1016-1020 Light St. there is a group of three story, two bay wide brick houses with gable roofs built in the early 1850's and currently used as both residences and storefronts. To the north, at 1008-1014 Light St., stands the large two and a half story, three bay wide, brick Queen Anne style Salvation Army Building, which was built as a Friends Meeting House in the 1870's. Finally, at 1000-1006 Light St. there is a row of two and a half story, late Federal style brick houses built about 1840 by John S. Gittings and others. All of the houses retain their original exterior form except for 1000 Light St. which has been enlarged and is now three stories in height with a shed roof and bracketed cornice. All of the first floor areas of this group of houses have been converted to modern storefronts.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

McHenry Theatre

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1036-1038 Light St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED (store-front)	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

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

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

B-3335

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This three story brick building with Classical Revival facade and Art Deco interior originally served as a neighborhood movie theater. The first floor area has recently been converted to a large modern commercial restaurant space but the theater space itself is still intact.

The building is three stories in height, about 35' wide (including a later three story addition to the south) and occupies a lot about 275' deep. Both buildings are constructed of brown brick laid both in common bond and in decorative brickwork patterns. The main theatre building has a shed roof with a Classical Revival parapet-type cornice decorated with cut stonework. The cornice consists of a deeply projecting crown molding supported by a row of block modillions set above a row of egg and dart carvings, a row of dentils, and a row of leaf carvings. Beneath this projecting cornice there is a deep stone frieze area with the name of the theatre carved in the stone and bordered at its lower edge by three stone molding strips. Above the projecting cornice a brick parapet is flanked on each side by a wide, paneled stone pier. A narrower paneled pier is located in the center of the parapet. A simple stone crown molding caps both the brick and stone portions of the parapet.

The main decorative feature of the facade is a tall arched window which extends from the first floor level to the cornice and is framed in cut stonework. The round arch lintel of the window is supported by two paneled stone piers with stylized, Art Deco-influenced capitals. The arch itself is decorated with bas-relief circular stone carvings and has a carved central stone console. The window opening is now filled with modern smoked glass panels--two upper curved panels set above 2/2 fixed lower panels. The addition to the theatre, located to the south, has a flat roof with cornice simply capped by a stone molding. The facade is articulated by two slightly projecting brick piers which run the full height of the facade and project above the roof line, and by two narrower brick piers with pointed stone capitals set in the center of the facade. In each of the three bays created by these piers there are square-shaped brick accent motifs, composed of a row of headers set vertically and horizontally to form a square, the corners marked by dark, glazed bricks. These decorative squares are to be found above both rows of windows. The window openings have vertical stretcher lintels and header sills. All of the window openings are filled with 1/1 double hung sash.

The first floor area of the facade has been remodeled and converted to a modern restaurant. The new facade consists of five brick piers supporting a wide aluminum sign area which extends across the entire width of the facade. The entrance is located in the southernmost bay, set perpendicular to the street. The other three bays are filled with modern plate glass windows supported on new brick bases. The entrance is reached directly from the street.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1915-1917 BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This building is quite important to the Federal Hill/South Baltimore neighborhood as it was one of the first community movie houses to open in the area and is the only one of three such theatres originally located in the blocks near the Cross St. Market to survive. The original Art Deco interior of the theatre remains intact and currently there is an active neighborhood project underway to restore the theatre to an operating movie house. This would be a non-profit venture designed to benefit the neighborhood, and hopefully will be funded by various grants, loans, and contributions from individuals and foundations. The "Ginos" restaurant located on the first floor of the building will remain and the entrance to the theatre will be from Poultney St.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. & Eccles

DATE

6/79

STREET & NUMBER

1745 Circle Rd.

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Ruxton

STATE

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

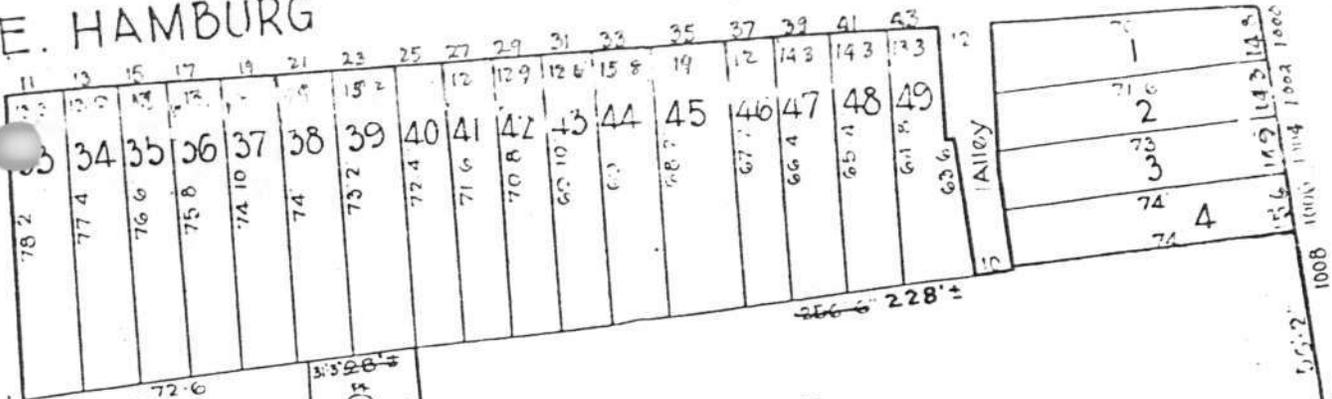
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

ST

E. HAMBURG

ST

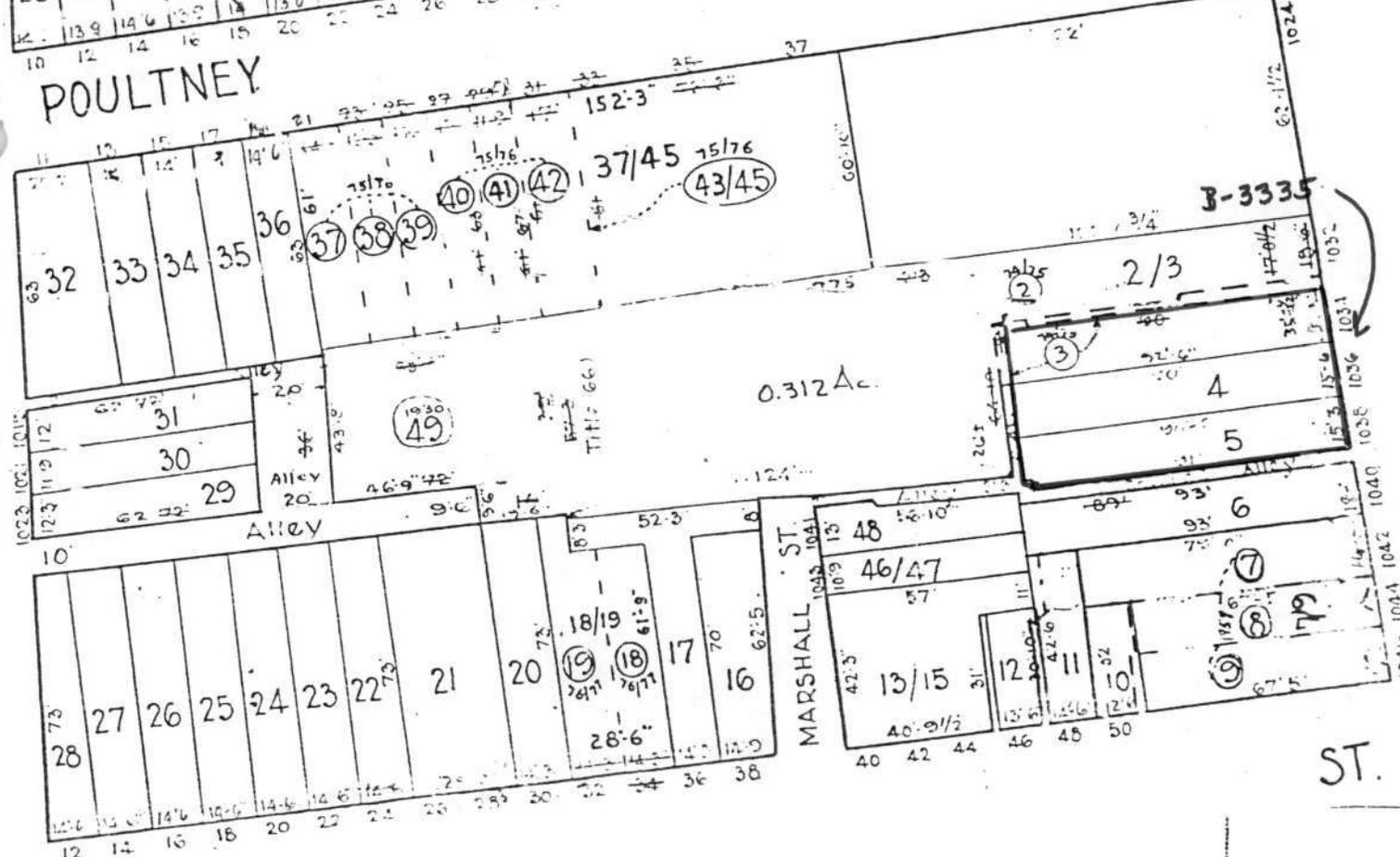
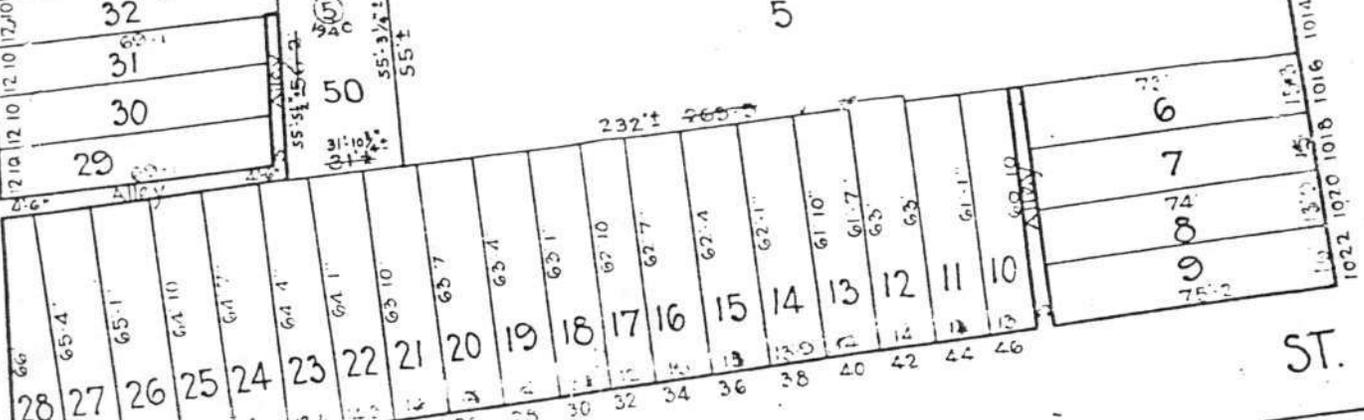


PATAPSCO

POULTNEY

LIGHT

ST.



E. CROSS

ST.

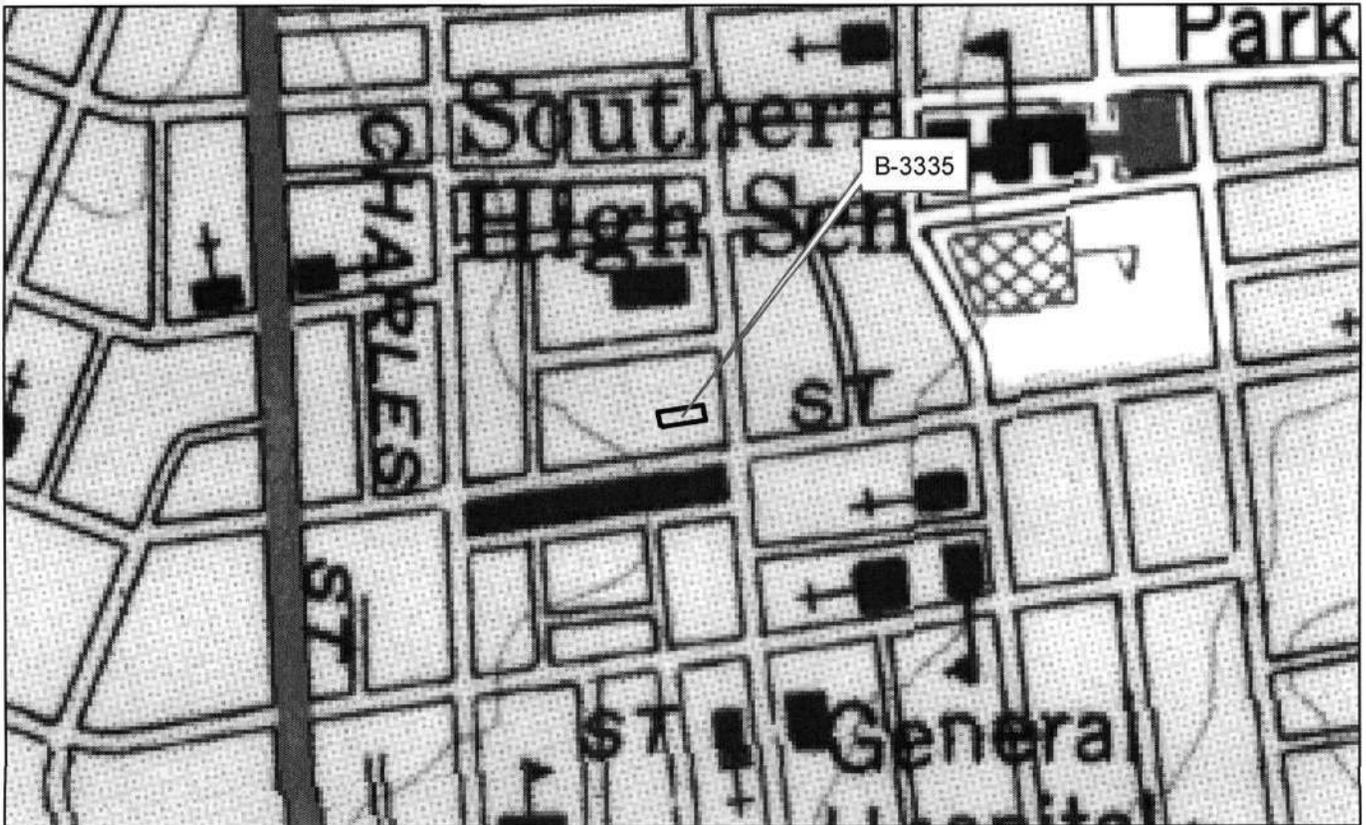
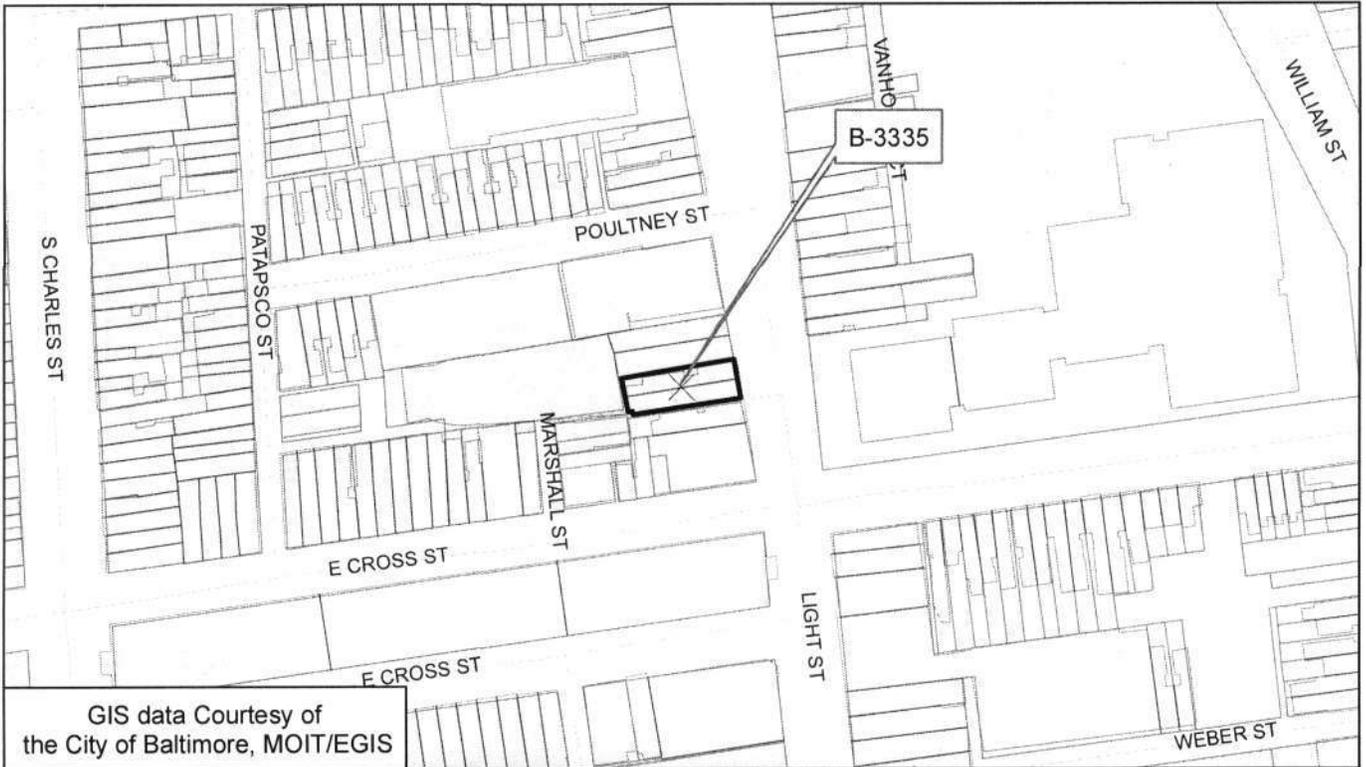
DEPARTMENT OF  
BUREAU OF  
PROPE

**NOTICE**

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED

WARD

B-3335  
McHenry Theatre  
1036-1038 Light Street  
Block 0935A Lots 004-005  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





B-3335

1032-1034 Light St.

M.E.H.

5/79

East elevation