

AREA: Financial District

MAGI NO.: 0400405711

Address: 200 East Redwood Street

Current Name: Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company

Block: 650 Lot: 3

Lot size: 72' x 100'

Height: 2 stories

Materials: Brick and Stone

Condition: Good

Owner: One Calvert Co.

Use: Bank

Accessible: Yes

Designation: NR

Liber/Folio: RHB 2966-686



Historic Name: Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company

Date: 1885; 1886; 1904

Architect/Builder: Wyatt and Sperry

Style (if appropriate): Romanesque

Description:

This massive two story high Romanesque style building features a stone central entrance flanked by two brick gable end building sections with large arched windows. The recessed entrance to the bank is located between wide stone columns with highly ornamented capitals. Above the entrance is a large sign panel with richly detailed lion head decorations. Copper clad two over two windows are located at the second floor level with four pane transoms above. The entrance section is capped by a band of decorative molding and the date, 1885, carved in Roman numerals. The brick gable ends flanking the entrance feature alternating brick and stone bands on the first floor above a rough stone water table. Five windows protected by heavy grills and set into a stone surround punctuate the first floor building walls of the western bay. Above an ornamental, foliated band course are small single pane windows set between squat columns and a brown stone surround. Above these windows is a large window set into a stone arch with beed and reel, foliated and billet moldings. The end of these brick building sections feature a series of stone decorative bands, ventilation panels, and a simple pinnacle. The two bay wide Calvert Street facade is also richly decorated. It was constructed in two parts, and the original southern section can be distinguished by squat columns and a bas relief of Mercury on the decorative stone panel between floor levels. The interior of the building has been altered with the construction of a mezzanine level, however huge Corinthian columns of the central banking space are intact.

Significance:

Area: Architecture

Level: Local

The Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company Building acquires significance from several sources. It is the finest Romanesque style building in downtown Baltimore. Several commercial buildings in the city, particularly in the retail and loft districts, have Romanesque detailing on the facade, but none have the heavy massing and weight formed by the masonry construction reinforced by deep window reveals, the broad planes of the roofs, and the general largeness and simplicity of form found in the Mercantile Building. Secondly, it is the work of the notable architectural firm of Wyatt and Sperry. Both J. B. Noel Wyatt and Joseph Evans Sperry went on to design many other important buildings in Baltimore. The building is also significant as a building which survived the Baltimore Fire of 1904, although the interior was damaged. The fourth source of significance is the historical role the bank played in the financial development of Baltimore. The exterior of the bank is in excellent condition, but the interior has been altered with the construction of a mezzanine level.

Sources:

Surveyor and Date: Fred B. Shoken, April 1985

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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received
date entered

1. Name

historic Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company

and/or common Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Company

2. Location

street & number 202 East Redwood Street N/A not for publication

city, town Baltimore N/A vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Maryland code 24 county Independent city code 510

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name RGBV Associates

street & number 7000 Security Boulevard, Suite 316

city, town Baltimore N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21207

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

street & number 100 North Calvert Street

city, town Baltimore state Maryland 21202

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust
Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

B-40

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company Building, located on the northeast corner of East Redwood and South Calvert Streets in Baltimore, is a mid 1880s brick-with-stone-ornamentation Romanesque influenced bank building which was constructed in two parts. The original section is the front portion along Redwood Street and the second section is to the north along Calvert. The exterior is characterized by heavy weight and massiveness reinforced by deeply set windows, round arch window openings, squat columns with foliated capitals, broad plane roofs steeply pitched, and straight-topped windows in groups. The street elevations have foliated stone belt courses and smooth stone belt courses. The date 1885 appears in Roman numerals along the roof line above the recessed entranceway on the Redwood Street (south) elevation. The interior consists of a large banking room with a balcony around the west, north, and east sides. Interior decoration consists of Corinthian columns and ornate wall plaster work dating from when the interior was rebuilt following the Great Fire of 1904 with 1950s remodeling elements.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Redwood Street (south) or main elevation is symmetrically arranged into three parts. The outer sections have parapeted gables round arch windows surmounting groups of rectangular windows divided by squat columns, and tripartite openings in the gables. The eastern section is plain on the street-level except for a small window opening near the central portion of the facade. The west section has a row of fine rectangular windows on the street level. This group of windows does not appear on the drawing published in the American Architect and Building News and may have been inserted about 1887 when the north section was added. The treatment of this set of windows is more similar to those in the addition than to the window groups in the original section.

The central portion of the main elevation is slightly set back with a recessed entrance flanked by squat columns rising from balustrades below square windows. Above the entranceway is a three-part panel with the name of the institution in the central panel with animal and foliated designed panels flanking. Fine rectangular windows with transoms rise above these panels and below a decorated frieze with the date 1885 in Roman numerals.

The west or Calvert Street elevation is divided into two bays corresponding to construction. Both bays have sets of rectangular windows, four to a group, on both levels. The street level set in the south or original bay have squat columns dividing the openings. Decorated rectangular stone panels the width of the window groupings exist between the groupings on each floor. The panels are foliated in design except that the south or original-section panel bears a face in the design.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

B-40

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Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company

Continuation sheet Baltimore City, Maryland Item number

7

Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The north elevation abuts the neighboring building and is not exposed. The east elevation, along an alley is brick and almost devoid of decoration except for a simple corbeled brick cornice.

In 1904 during the Great Fire, the roof of the building collapsed. The interior was rebuilt in the Colonial Revival style, some elements of which still remain. The exterior remains almost completely intact for the 1880 period.

8. Significance

B-40

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1885-1886; 1904 Builder/Architect Wyatt and Sperry, architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criteria: A and C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company Building, erected in the 1880s, acquires significance from several sources. First, as a highly ornamented bank building executed in the Romanesque style, the Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company Building embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of architecture that was not commonly employed in Baltimore for commercial structures. Several commercial buildings in the city, particularly in the retail area, have Romanesque detailing on the facade but none have the heavy massing and weight formed by the masonry construction reinforced by deep window reveals, the broad planes of the roofs, and the general largeness and simplicity of form found in the Mercantile Building. Secondly, the structure represents one of the finest examples of the work of the Baltimore architectural firm of Wyatt and Sperry which designed several major commercial and ecclesiastical buildings in Baltimore. The third source of significance is the historic role the bank played in the development of Baltimore as a financial, commercial and urban center on the east coast. The Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company underwrote bonds for several southern communities such as Norfolk, Virginia, Ashville, South Carolina, and Montgomery, Alabama.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Romanesque influenced building was erected in 1885 for the Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company, a firm which was founded a year earlier. As constructed, the building was only half the size of the present structure, being the full length along Redwood Street but only one bay deep along Calvert Street. About 1887, the building was enlarged to its present size, two bays deep. The addition was also carried out in the Romanesque manner. The Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company was one of the first financial institutions in Baltimore to offer several services (loans, savings accounts, safe deposit boxes) under one roof. The firm took an active role in rebuilding the South in the late nineteenth century by underwriting bonds for various cities and companies. The exterior of the building survived the Great Fire of 1904 which destroyed a hundred plus acres surrounding the bank. The present interior reflects 1950s renovations but still retains elements (Corinthian columns and ornate plaster-work) from the post-fire rebuilding. In 1953, the bank merged with the Safe Deposit and Trust Company to form the Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Company.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company
Baltimore City, Maryland Item number

8 and 9 Page 2

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

The architectural firm of Wyatt and Sperry was formed in 1880 by James Bosley Noel Wyatt (1847-1926) and Joseph Evans Sperry (1854-1930). The firm existed for about six years during which several churches and commercial buildings were designed including the Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company Building. The addition to the Mercantile building was designed by Sperry following dissolution of the firm.

An illustration of the street elevations and the principal floor plans appeared in an 1885 issue of the American Architect and Building News.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Architect and Building News (elevation and plans), 1885.

Baltimore Land Records, City Courthouse, Baltimore, Md.

Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation, files, City Hall,
Baltimore, Md.

Dorsey, John and James D. Dilts. A Guide to Baltimore Architecture.
Cambridge, Md: Tidewater Publications, 1973, p. 68.

Mooney, E. Financial Interest of Baltimore. Baltimore, Md: n.p., 1912, pp. 46-48.

9. Major Bibliographical References

B-40

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Baltimore, East, Md.

Quadrangle scale 1-24:000

UMT References

A	1 8	3 6 0 9 4 0	4 3 4 9 8 9 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
---	--	--	--

D			
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E			
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F			
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G			
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H			
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are delineated on the attached map.
The property consists of a city lot.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Ronald L. Andrews, National Register Administrator		
organization	Maryland Historical Trust	date	1983
street & number	21 State Circle	telephone	(301) 269-2438
city or town	Annapolis	state	Maryland 21401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *J. Mitche* 1-28-83

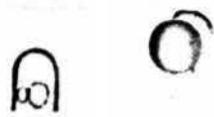
title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

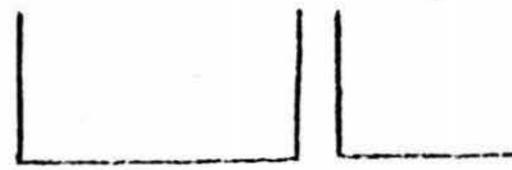
Chief of Registration



Mercantile Trust and Depo : Co.
Baltimore, Maryland

boundaries for NR nomination

ST



WEST

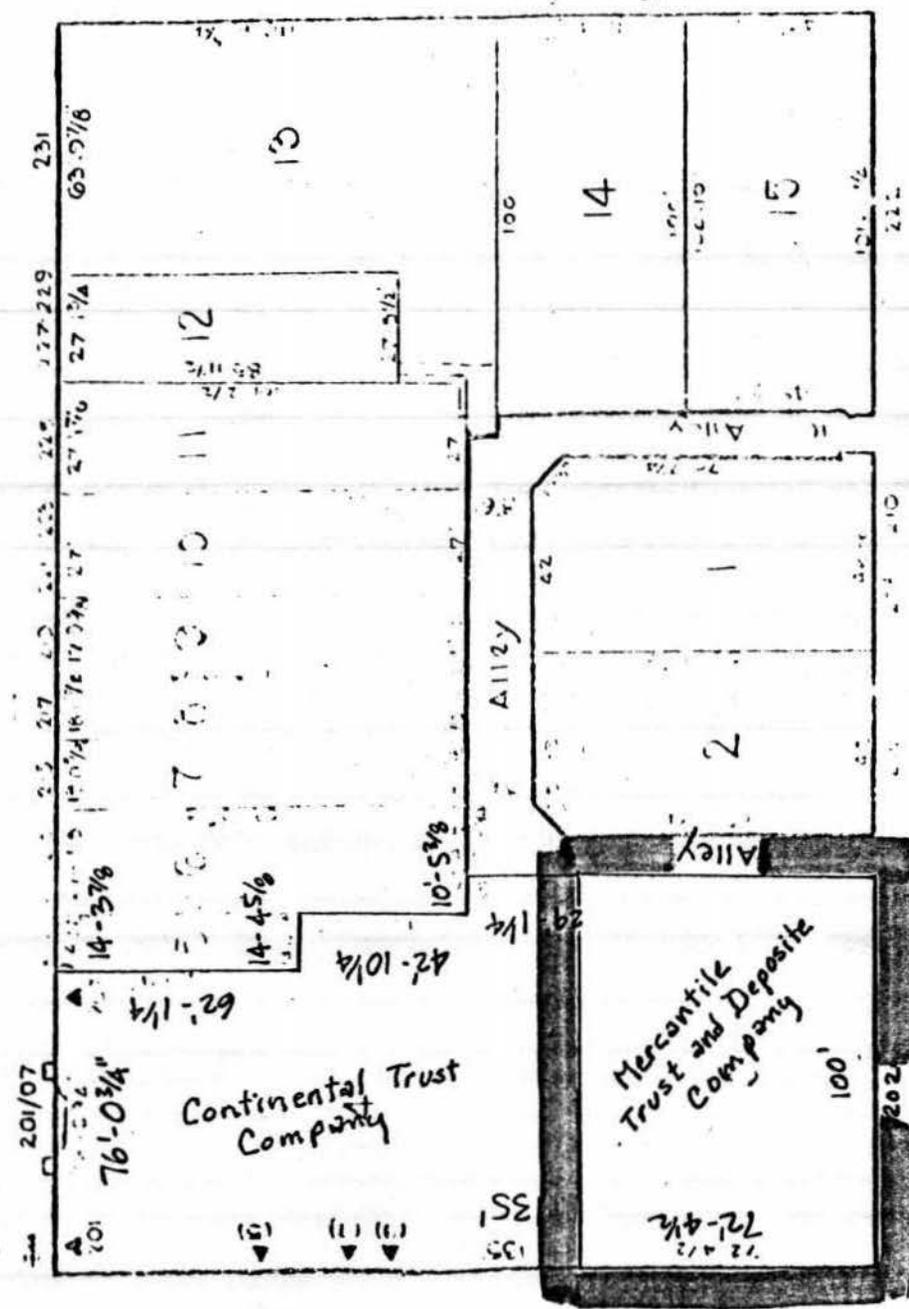
SOUTH

A
GUI

ST.

(657)

E BALTIMORE



(762)

E. REDWOOD

S CALVERT

S

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B-40
Mercantile Trust and
Deposit Company
Baltimore
Maryland

4347

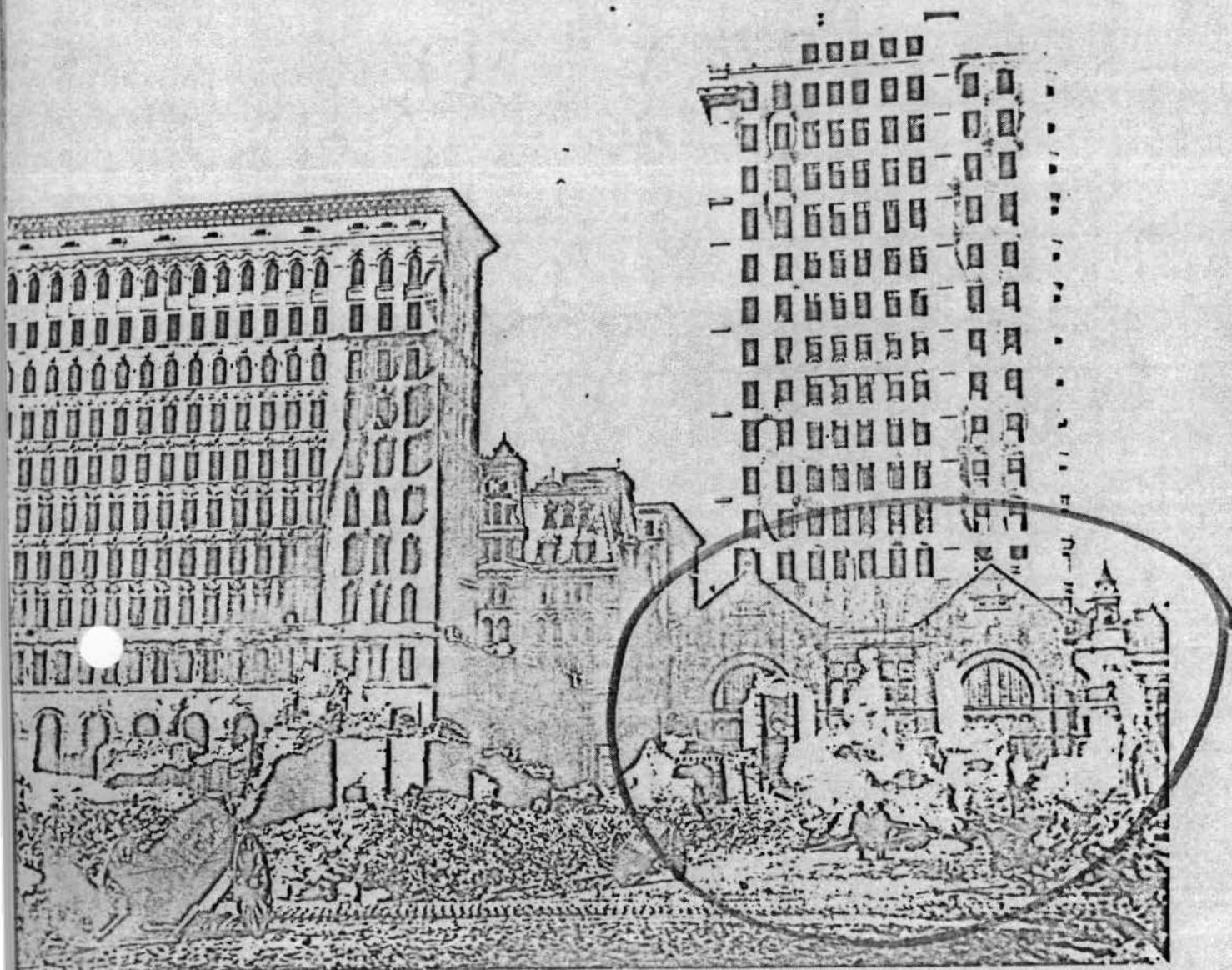
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39°15' 76°37'30" BROOKLYN 1.1 MI. 910 000 FEET
4346 360 GLEN BURNIE 6.1 MI. 361

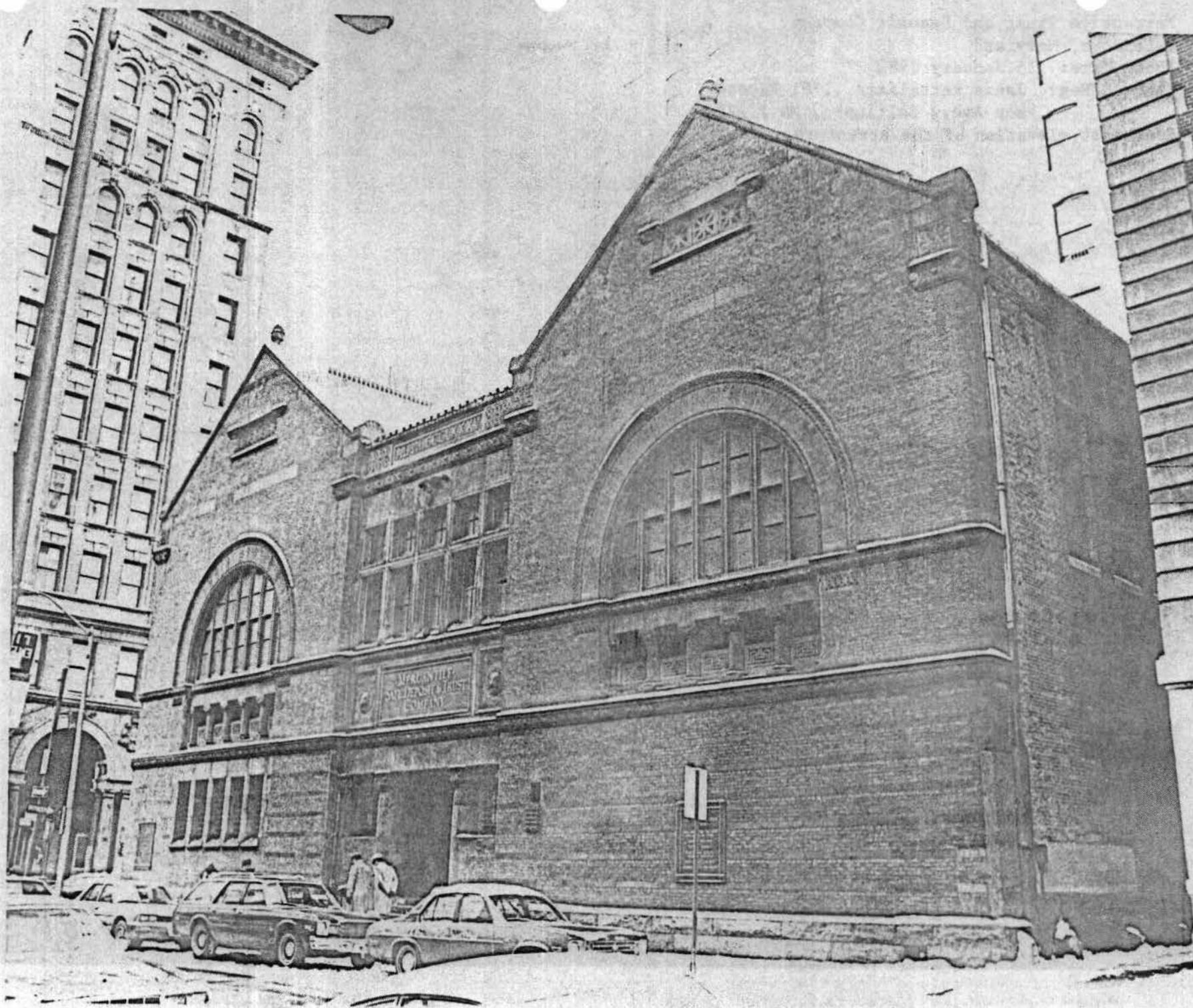
Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

(RELAY)
462 11 NW



The Maryland Trust, left, B&O, and Continental Trust buildings were burned inside and out. The Mercantile Bank (bottom right) was saved through an accident of wind drafts. The photograph is looking toward the corner of Calvert and Redwood streets. Enoch Pratt Free Library photo

Source: Bygone Baltimore: A Historical Portrait
 Jacques Kelly, 1982



ARGENTINE
SALESMAN'S HOUSE
EST. 1911

B-410

Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company
Baltimore, Maryland
Photo date: 15 January 1982
Photo & Neg: Janis Rettaliata, 1702 Edmond-
son Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228
Southeast elevation of the structure
1/10

B-40

14 - Mercantile - Redwood
Street facade.

#1982-05a
c02fr06

15 Jan 82

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Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company

Baltimore, Maryland

Photo date: 15 January 1982

Photo & Neg.: Janis Rettaliata, 1702 Edmond-
son Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228

West (Calvert Street) elevation of the struc-
ture

2/10

B-40

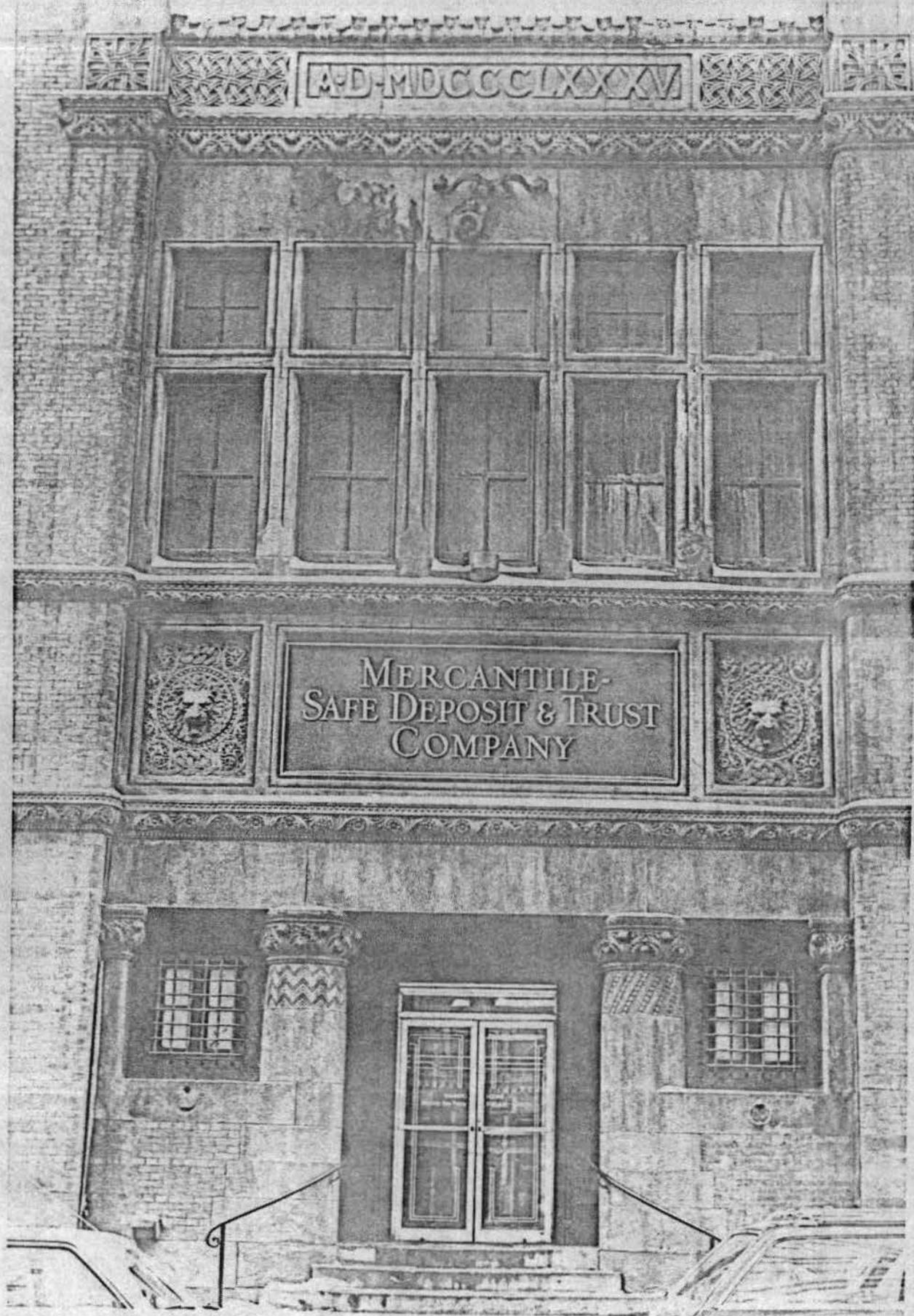
15 - Mercantile - Calvert
Street facade.

#1982-05a
c02fr35

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MERCANTILE-
SAFE DEPOSIT & TRUST
COMPANY

Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company
Baltimore, Maryland

Photo date: 15 January 1982

Photo & Neg: Janis Rettaliata, 1702 Edmond-
son Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228

Detail of entranceway in south (Redwood St.)
elevation

3/10

B-40

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17
15a

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16 - Mercantile - main
entrance (Redwood
Street)



B-40

Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company
Baltimore, Maryland
Photo date: 15 January 1982
Photo & Neg: Janis Rettaliata, 1702 Edmond-
son Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228
Detail of south elevation
4/10

B-40

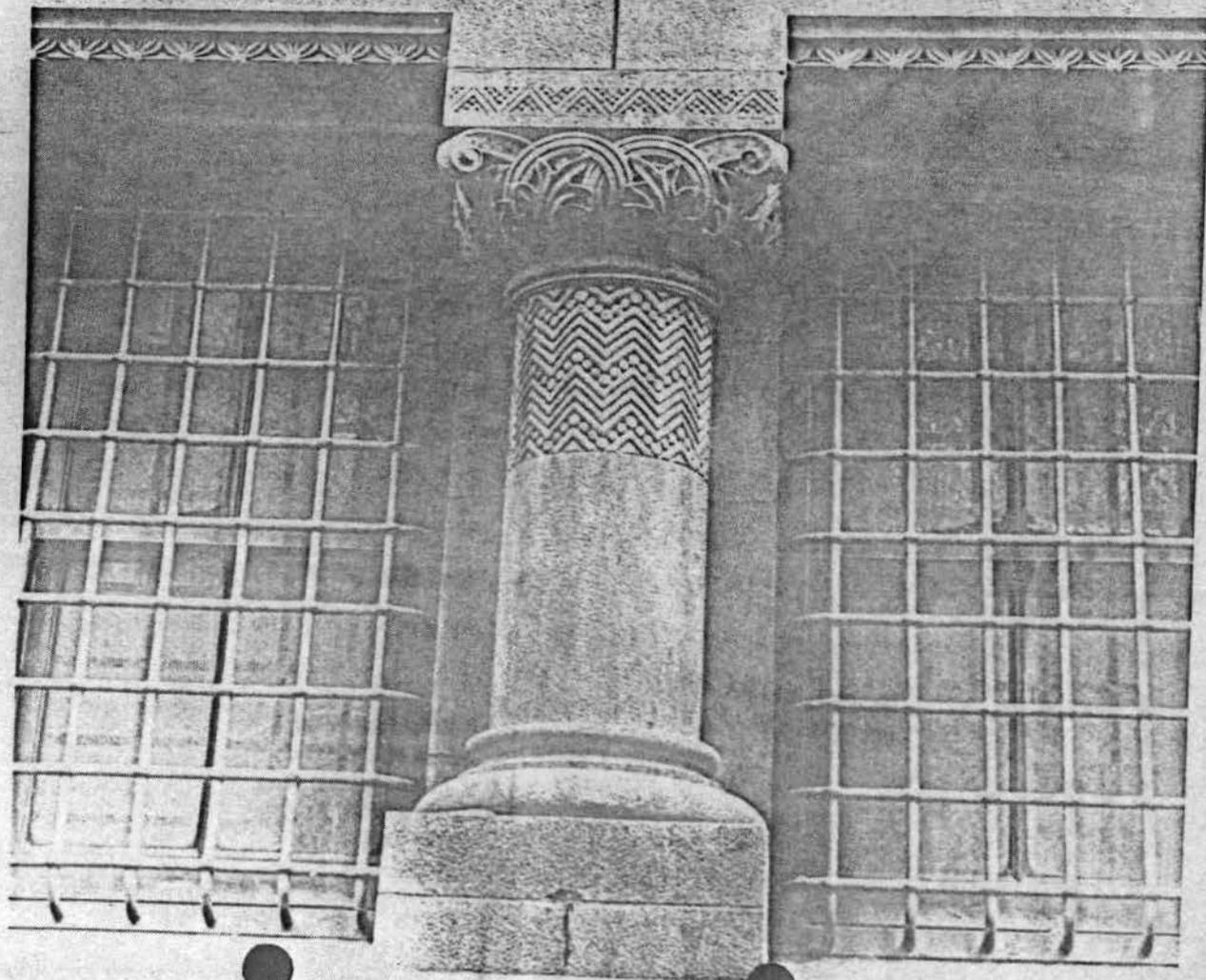
20 - Mercantile - frieze
above main entrance.

#1982-05a
c03frl8a

15 Jan 82

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Baltimore, Maryland

Photo date: 15 January 1982

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son Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228

Detail of west elevation
5/10

B-40

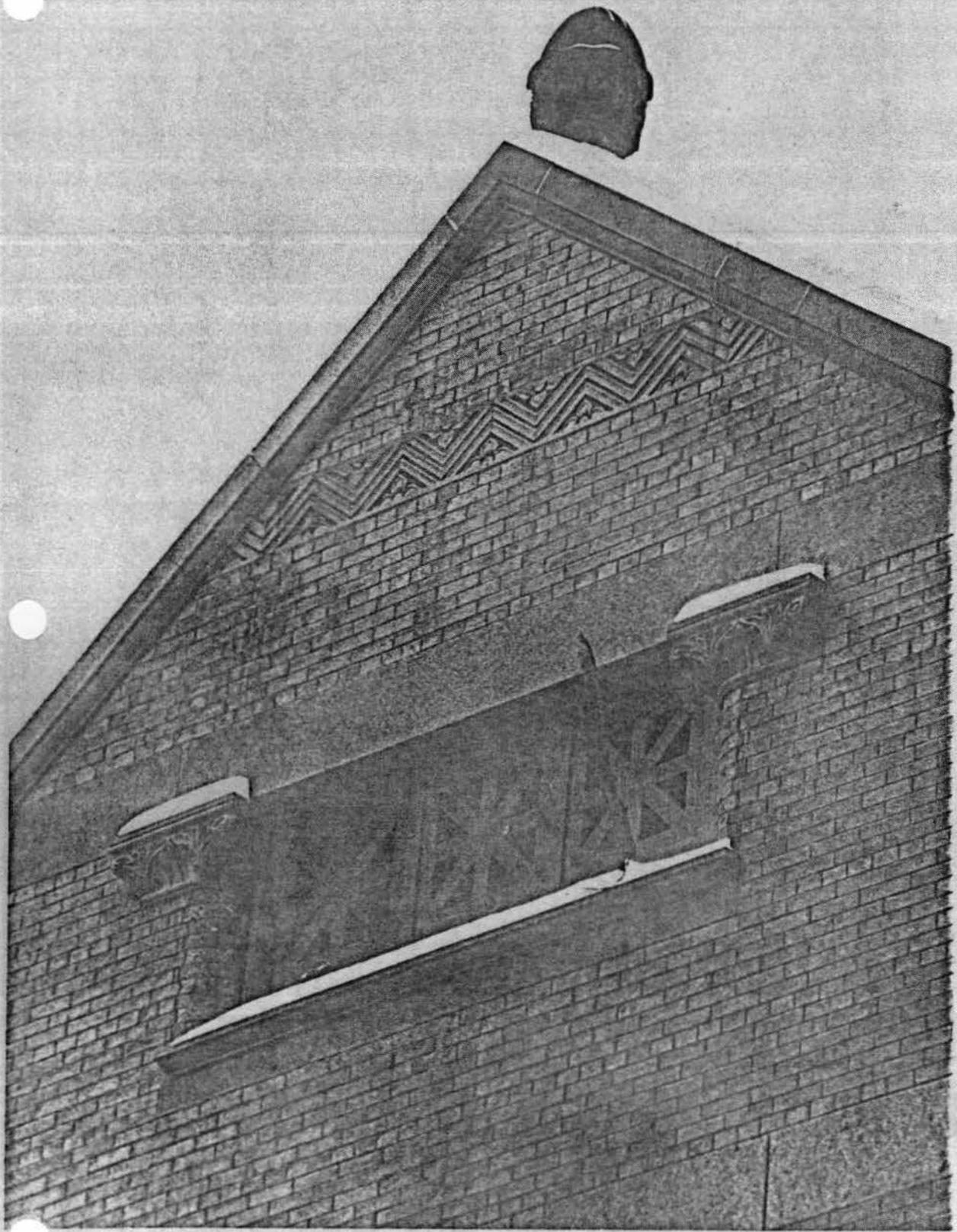
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18 - Mercantile - column on
west facade.

B-40



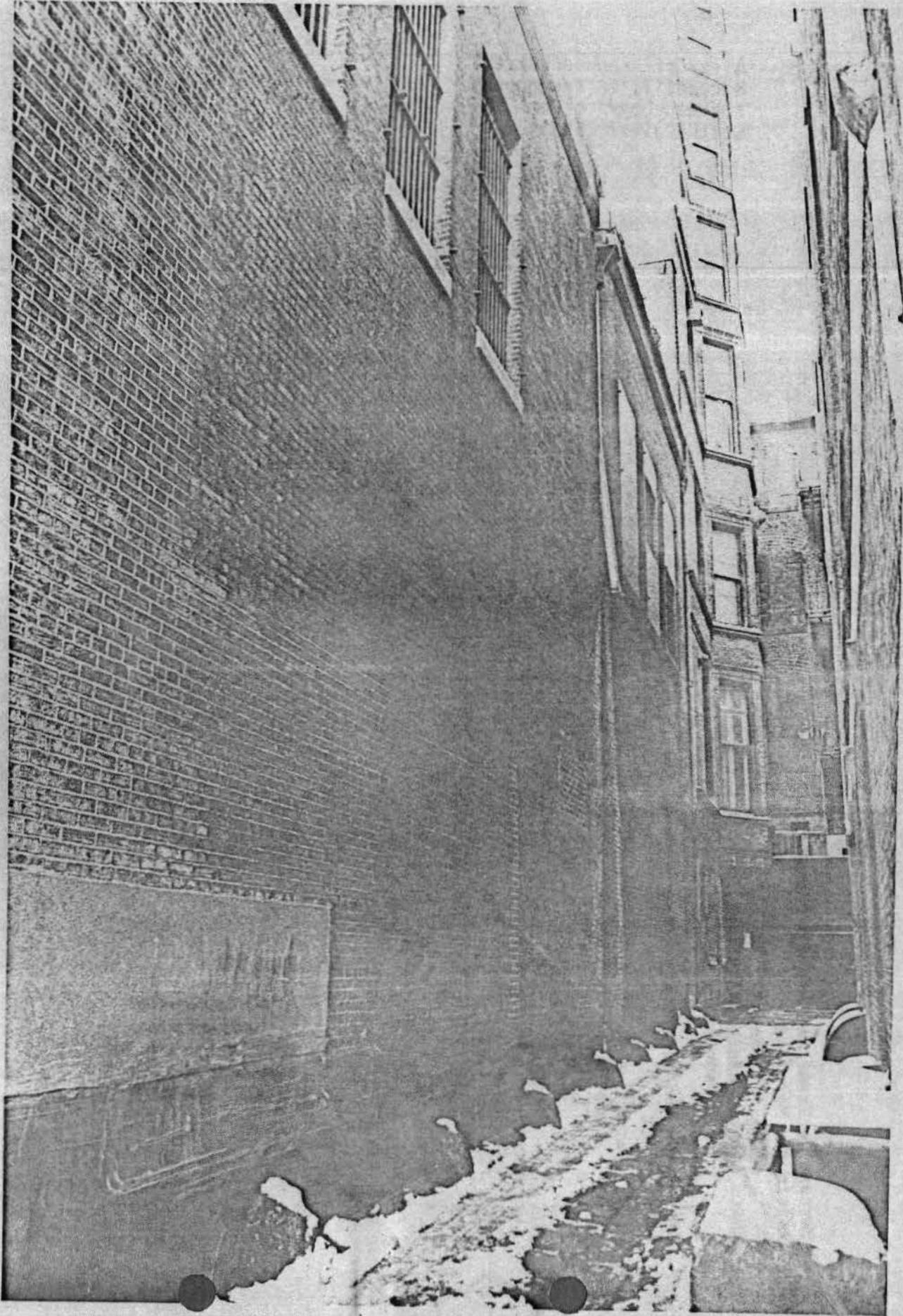
Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company
Baltimore, Maryland
Photo date: 15 January 1982
Photo & Neg: Janis Rettaliata, 1702 Edmond-
son Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228
Detail of south elevation
6/10

TALIATA

B-40

#1982-05a
c03fr17a

15 Jan 82
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Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company
Baltimore, Maryland

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East elevation of the structure
7/10

E. RETTALIATA
SERVED

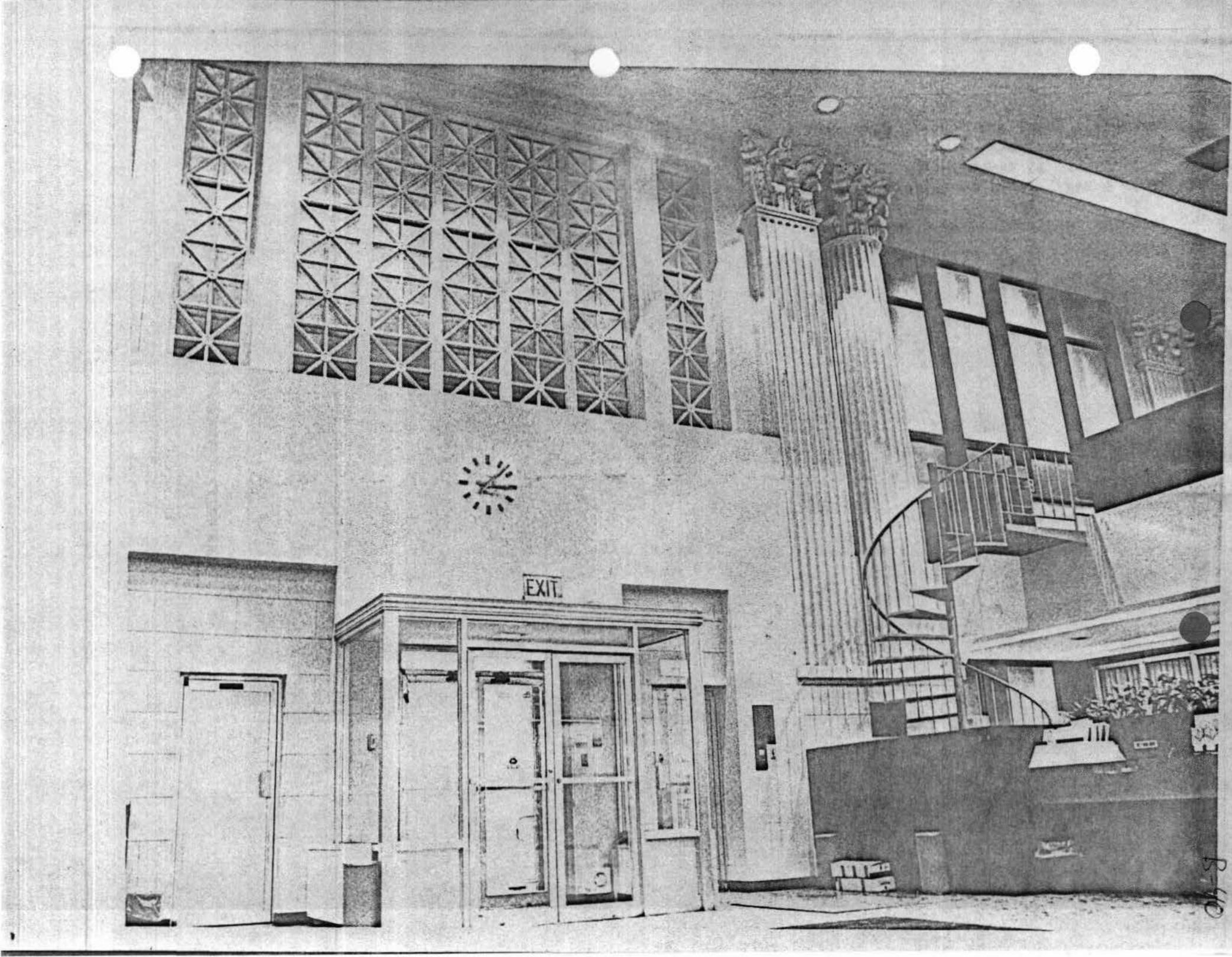
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15 Jan 82

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Baltimore, MD 21228
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8 - Alley off Redwood Street.
Mercantile in foreground.
"Chicago bay" of One
South Calvert visible.



EXIT

R-40

Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company
Baltimore, Maryland

Photo date: 15 January 1982

Photo & Neg: Janis Rettaliata, 1702 Edmond-
son Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228

Interior, south or Redwood Street wall

8/10

B-40

22 - MERCANTILE - INTERIOR LOOKING
SOUTH

15 Jan 82
Mercantile Bldg
c01fr28

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Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company
Baltimore, Maryland

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Interior, north wall

9/10

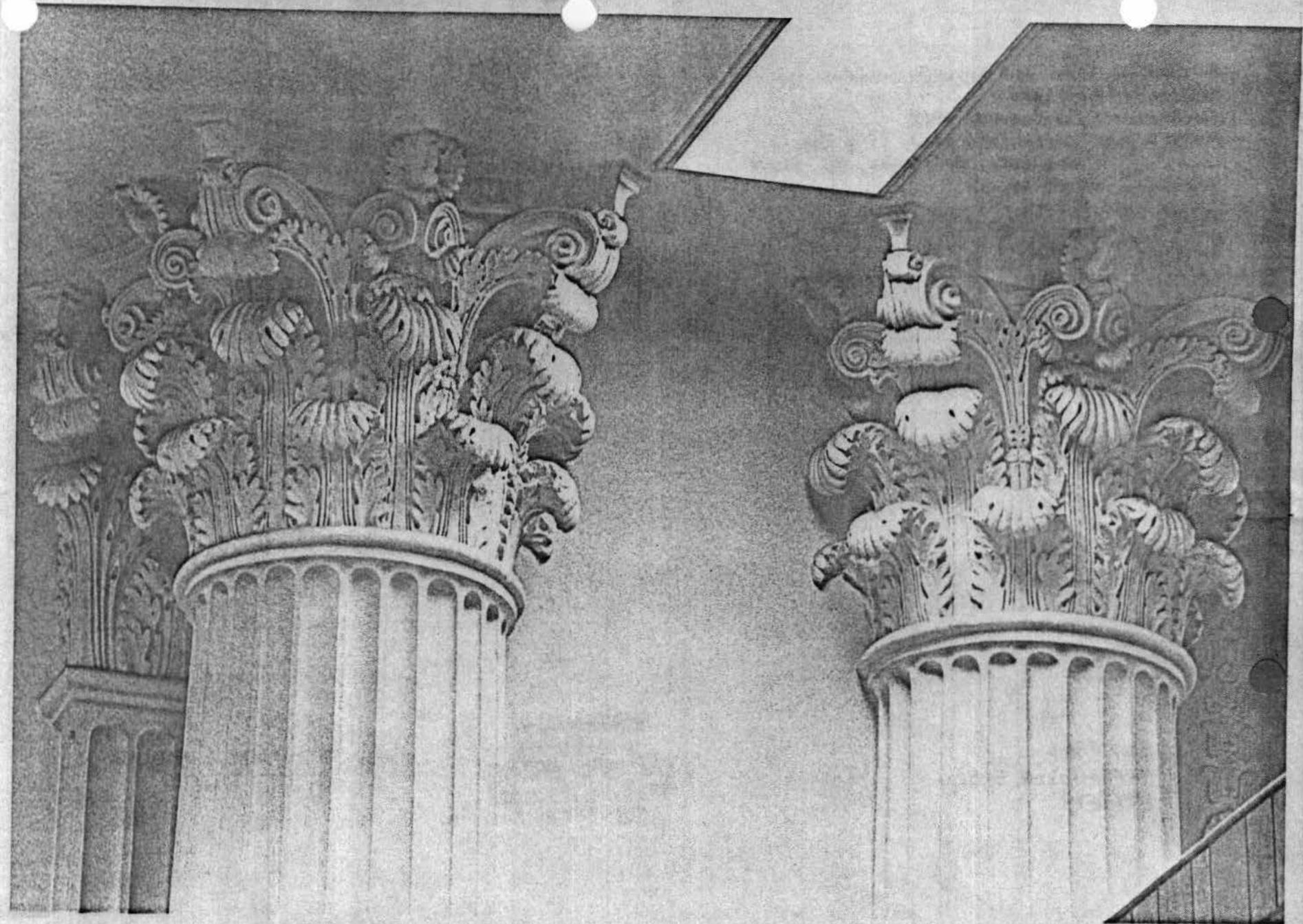
B-40

13 - MERCANTILE - INTERIOR LOOKING
NORTH

15 Jan 82
Mercantile Bldg
c0lfr36a

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Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company
Baltimore, Maryland

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son Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228

Interior, column detail

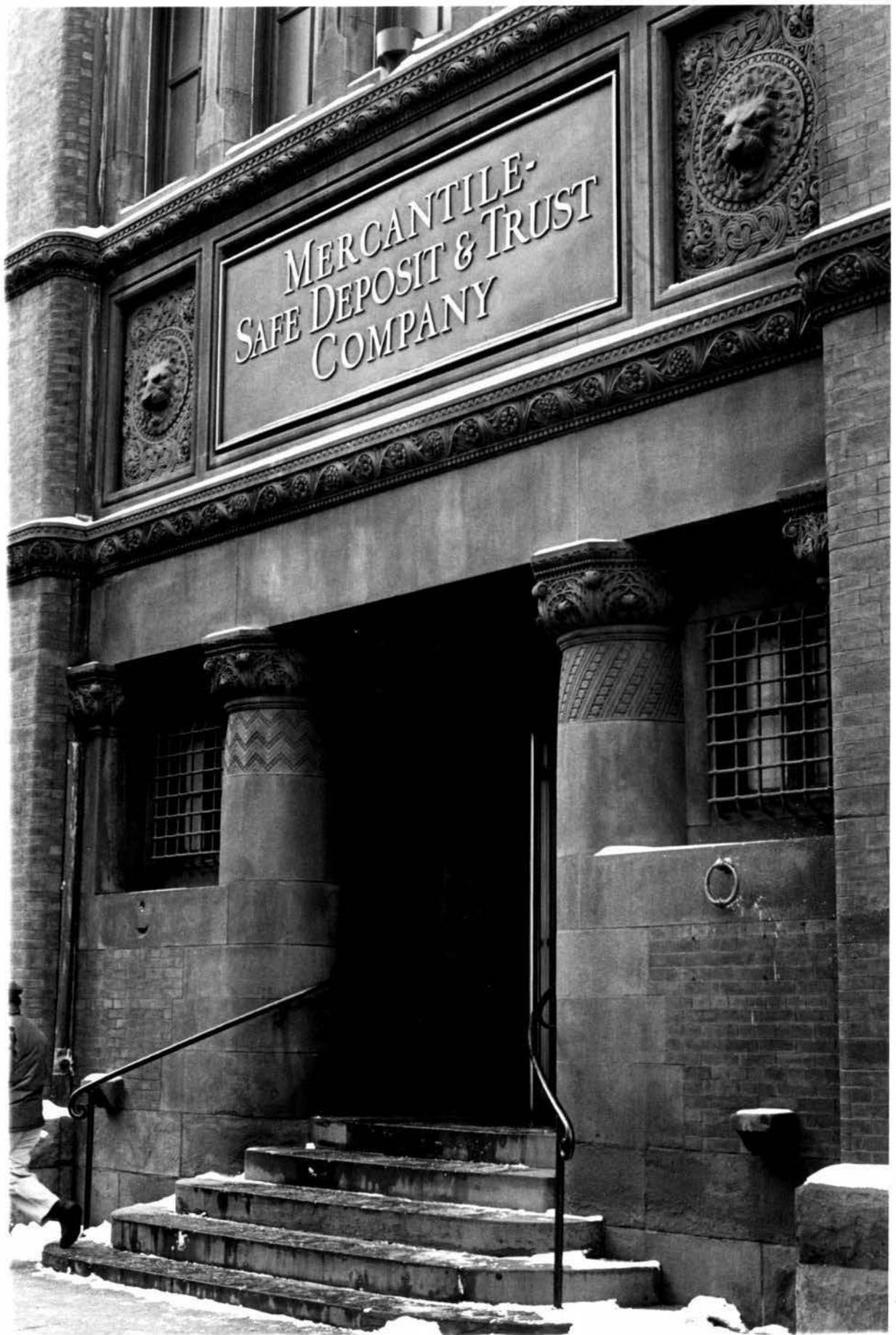
10/10

B-40

Jan 1982
Mercantile Bldg
c07fr18

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MERCANTILE-
SAFE DEPOSIT & TRUST
COMPANY

B-40

19 - Mercantile - main
entrance.

Baltimore

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c02fr13

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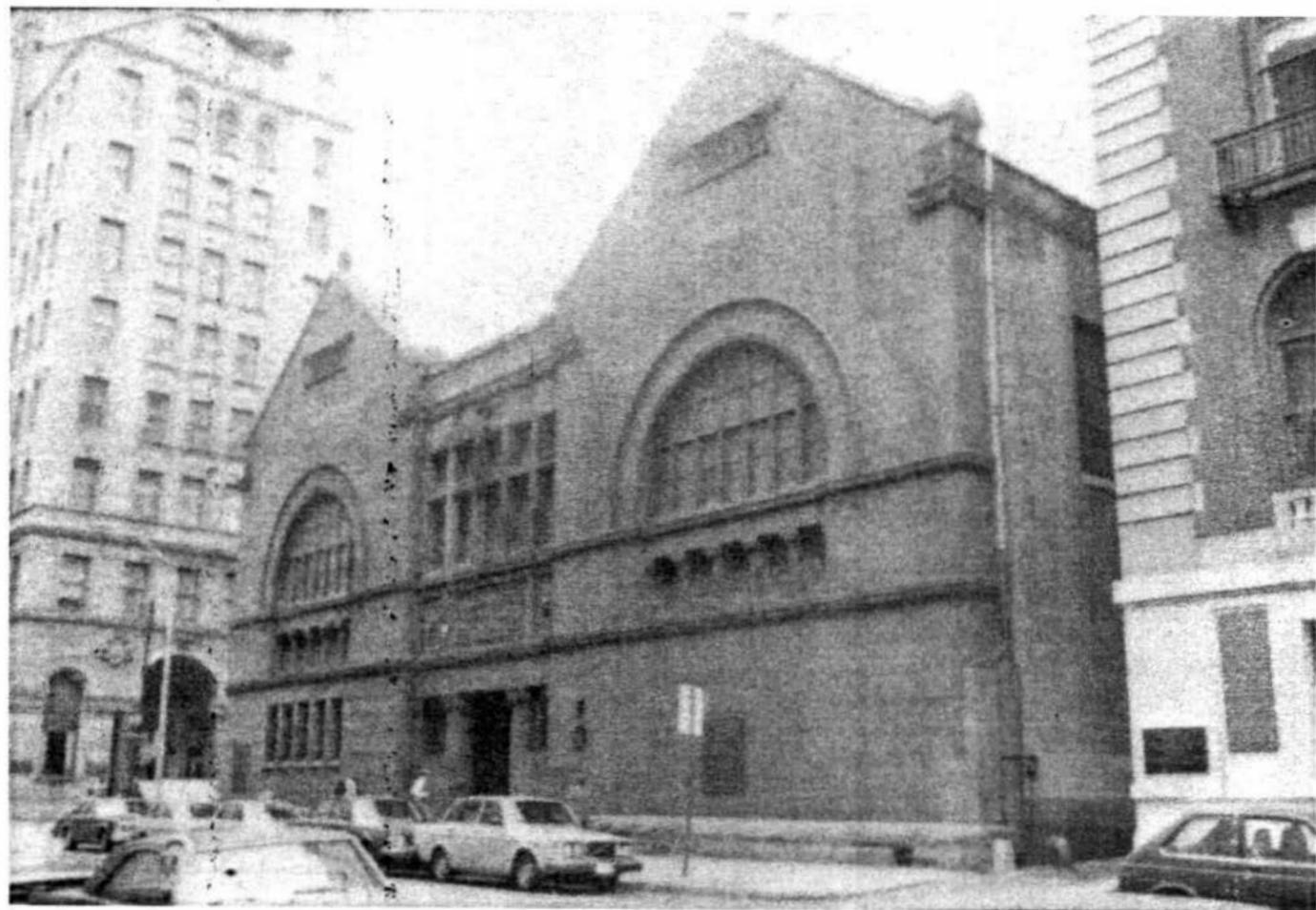
15 Jan 82

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301 - 744-8614



B-0040

Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company
200 E. Redwood Street
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Fred Shoken
Date: October 1983
Neg.loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Southwest corner view



B-0040

Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company

200 E. Redwood Street

Financial District-Metrocenter Survey

Baltimore (City), Maryland

Photo: Fred Shoken

Date: October 1983

Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Southwest corner view