

Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4335

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

105-107 N. Howard Street

historic

Just Casual Clothing & One Hour Martinizing

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 105-107 N. Howard Street

not for publication

city, town Baltimore

vicinity of

congressional district Seventh

state Maryland

county Baltimore

**3. Classification**

**Category**

district  
 building(s)  
 structure  
 site  
 object

**Ownership**

public  
 private  
 both  
**Public Acquisition**  
 in process  
 being considered  
 not applicable

**Status**

occupied  
 unoccupied  
 work in progress  
**Accessible**  
 yes: restricted  
 yes: unrestricted  
 no

**Present Use**

agriculture  museum  
 commercial  park  
 educational  private residence  
 entertainment  religious  
 government  scientific  
 industrial  transportation  
 military  other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name The Gutman Realty Corp.

street & number 5518 Baltimore National Pike

telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code

MD 21228

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

RHB ~~3449~~

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610

175 folio

city, town Baltimore

state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date

federal  state  county  local

pository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. B-4335

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This six-bay, four-story, pressed brick building dates to the third quarter of the nineteenth century. It is actually two three-bay units that do not communicate. The shed-roofed building faces west on N. Howard Street and abuts two partywall structures. The street frontage is 40' and the depth is 90' for #105 (the south unit) and 22'4 for #107 (the north unit).

The first story has two post-WWII store fronts. #105 (the south store) has a recessed entrance in the third bay and a large display window with transoms in the first two bays. Wood panelling with ventilators cover the brick foundation wall. An awning and signboard stretch across the facade between the first and second stories. #107 (the north store) has a glass curtain wall subdivided into a glass door, window, door, and two smaller windows. Both the door of #107 open into the same space, which has a stairway along the north wall and the shop space to the south. A partition wall, however, once separated the stair hall from the commercial space. The door and window openings are framed by textured brick laid to resemble stone slabs. A sign board with an awning suspended below run across the first story.

The second, third, and fourth stories each have six windows, grouped in threes. The height of the windows decrease as the stories rise. The windows have stone sills and wood, dog-eared lintels with a cast iron scallop shell in the center. The exception is the first three bays of the second story where the lintels have been removed.

The second-story windows are single pane casements with transoms. The transom bar has a delicate wood dentil course. The third-story windows have 6/6 sash. The fourth-story windows have shorter 6/6 sash.

A projecting cornice is supported by alternating L-shaped brackets and dentils. The projecting arms of the L brackets have planed, sloping tops. Triangular pendants hang from the brackets. The cornice wraps the corner before terminating

The parged south wall is only partially visible.

The interior of #107 is covered in mock wood panelling, wall boarding, and suspended acoustical tile ceilings. The interior of #105 retains a coat rail along the south wall. Ornate ventilator grates are built into the south wall just beyond the door.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. B-4335

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates circa 1875, 1950s Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
 and/or  
 Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G  
 Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The architectural design of this four-story, four-bay building is a good example of a double, two-part commercial block dating to the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The first story of each two-bay unit would have been used for a sales or display area and the upper stories would have been used as offices or light manufacturing areas. Although the first story has been substantially altered, it likely contained a glazed display window that was part of a new commercial aesthetic of bigger display windows that was made possible by technological advances in glass making and the casting of iron supports.

The design of the commercial building reflects the changing nature of the neighborhood in the mid-nineteenth century. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "the gradual abandonment of the shop-house as the dominant form of commercial architecture was due to the ever-increasing demands for trade and professional services along with a corresponding increase in land values, all of which fostered the design of buildings used entirely for commercial purposes. Early two-part commercial blocks, erected mostly during the 1840s and 1850s, look quite similar to their shop-house ancestors. However, these newer buildings tend to be taller (four or even five stories) and were built in uniform rows or as large blocks."<sup>1</sup> This building is more embellished than others in the neighborhood. Its facade is trimmed with decorative cast iron lintels and an ornate cornice that are typical of the Victorian period's taste for ornamentation, even on utilitarian buildings.

The recessed entrance permitted additional display areas along the vestibule walls and was a common feature of post-1930 commercial architecture.

<sup>1</sup> Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, pp. 24, 29.



**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA**HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:  
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Modern Period, 1930-present, alterations

Historic Period Themes:  
Architecture  
Economics

Resource Type:  
Building

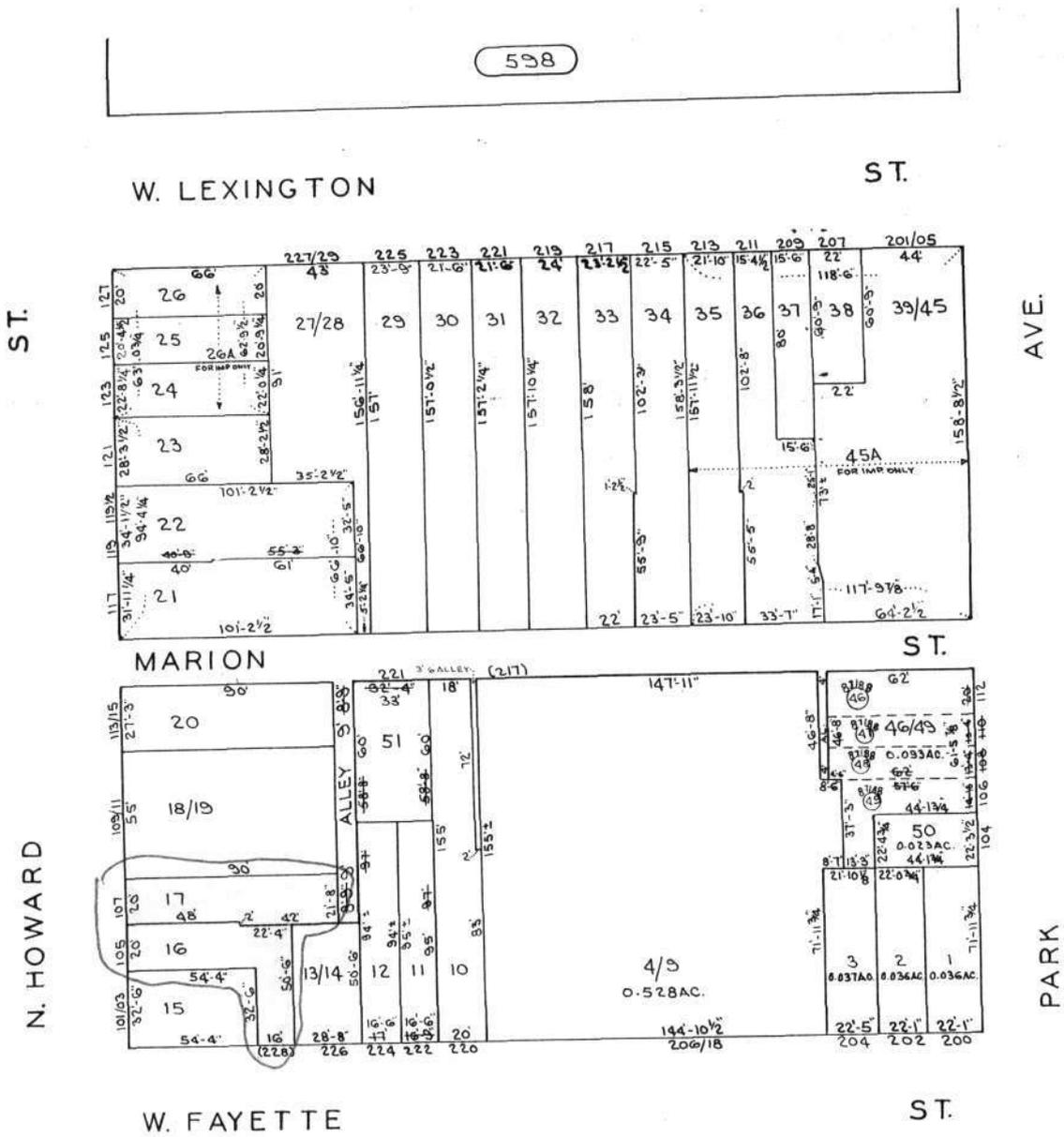
Historic Environment:  
Urban

Historic Function and Use:  
Commercial/Manufacturing

Known Design Source:  
None

REVISIONS

LOTS 4/9, 11/12, 23A, 46/49 & 51 PER DEED, O.O.F.P.L.S. C.34.88-222



598

621

633

D.P.Y. D.G.  
RED BY D.G.

**NOTICE**  
 THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED  
 FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER  
 IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
 PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION  
 WARD **4** SECTION **10**  
 BLOCK **620**  
 SCALE 1" = 50' DATE DEC 1987

B-4335  
Just Casual Clothing & One Hour Martinizing  
105-107 N. Howard Street  
Block 0620, Lots 016 & 017  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.

