

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. B-4341

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 225 North Howard Street

and/or common Dimensions II Lady's Fashions

2. Location

street & number 225 N. Howard Street not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity of _____ congressional district Seventh

state Maryland county Baltimore

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Myung Sup and Young Ja Lee

street & number 233 N. Howard Street

telephone no.:

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, Baltimore City Courthouse SEB2244
liber

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 folio 596

city, town Baltimore state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-4341

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 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 circa 1900 commercial building faces west on N. Howard Street and abuts two partywall structures. The five-story, three-bay, brick building is a three-part vertical block with architectural differences the bottom, middle, and top stories of the facade. The street frontage is 24 feet and the depth is 73'-5".

The first story is substantially altered. It now consists of a circa 1940s glass curtain wall facade of floor-to-ceiling glass panes. The window wall is subdivided into five bays by metal mullions. The glass door with fixed transom is located in the second bay. Silver tape outlines geometric borders around the perimeter of each sheet of glass. A fabric awning is suspended over the first story. A large sign board is hung above the awning.

The second, third, and fourth stories are three-bay, stacked versions of one another. The recessed 1/1 sash windows are corbelled back between piers. They have stone sills. The second and fourth stories have brick splayed jack arches and the third story has arched lintels. Recessed spandrels further enhance the verticality of the window sections. The spandrels are embellished with molded brick panels. Piers at the edges of the wall and between the bays emphasize the vertical rise of the building. The outer piers have rondels affixed: sunflower rondels between the second and third stories, and daisy rondels between the third and fourth. An incised horizontal groove runs between the rondels across the spandrels.

An elaborate cornice divides the fourth and fifth stories. An entablature runs across the facade, breaking forward to form capitals over the piers. A projecting cornice with an unusual dentil course formed of hollow tubes runs above the entablature. A pair of ornate brackets support each end.

The fifth story has a different rhythm of fenestration. It has four 1/1 sash recessed windows. Brick piers divide the wall into three bays, with the wider second bay containing the paired windows. A stone entablature runs across the facade breaking forward to form capitals for the piers and recessing to form lintels for the windows.

An elaborate cornice bisects the parapet wall. The cornice is composed of many fillets above a band of metopes and triglyphs. Four large brackets support the cornice. These brackets are on axis the piers of the fifth story and essentially form three spandrels below the cornice. The first and third bays have the same molded brick details as the lower second through fourth stories. The second bay spandrel has a blind, flattened arch. Above the cornice, the parapet wall is embellished with four cast iron piers. Recessed panels embellish the wall between the piers.

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225 North Howard Street
Baltimore, MD
Section 7 Description
7.1

The whole is topped by a cornice of fillets with a cast iron scrolled medallion crowning the center. The medallion has a fleur-de-lis and a fluted surround.

The interior is finished with mock wood panelling and an acoustic tile ceiling.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4341

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 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 type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

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 design of this five-story, three-part vertical block is unusual for the two hundred block of North Howard Street. The five-story height reflects the growing land values that encouraged builders to build tall buildings. This five-story building, however, stands out among the three- and four-story buildings that are characteristic of the block, revealing this to be a transitional zone between upper Howard Street (with two- and three-story buildings) and lower Howard Street (with four- and five-story buildings). The continuation of the narrow street frontage, however, reveals the ongoing economic competition for lots along North Howard Street.

Architecturally, the facade is divided into three horizontal parts. The first story has been substantially altered. The second through fourth stories form a three bay, three-story block whose verticality is accentuated by pilasters and piers which divide the bays. The top, fifth story is set apart from the composition by the four-bay fenestration pattern and ornamental brick work under the cornice. The distinctly different treatment at the top floor separates the two-part vertical block from the three-part block. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "The composition is analogous to the divisions of a classical column: base, shaft and capital" adding that this form of expression was experimented with during the last half of the nineteenth century and was fully developed by the end of the century.¹ This particular building, however, is less ornate than many of the three-part vertical blocks discussed in architectural histories. The relative plainness of the architectural details is indicative of its commercial-manufacturing use; only a minimal amount of decoration embellished this utilitarian Victorian building.

The remodelling of the first story is in keeping with the post-World War II commercial design aesthetics of plate glass window walls that, in effect, open up the entire facade into a display case.

¹ Longstreth, Buildings of Main Street, p. 93.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATAHISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Modern Period, 1930-present, alterations

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

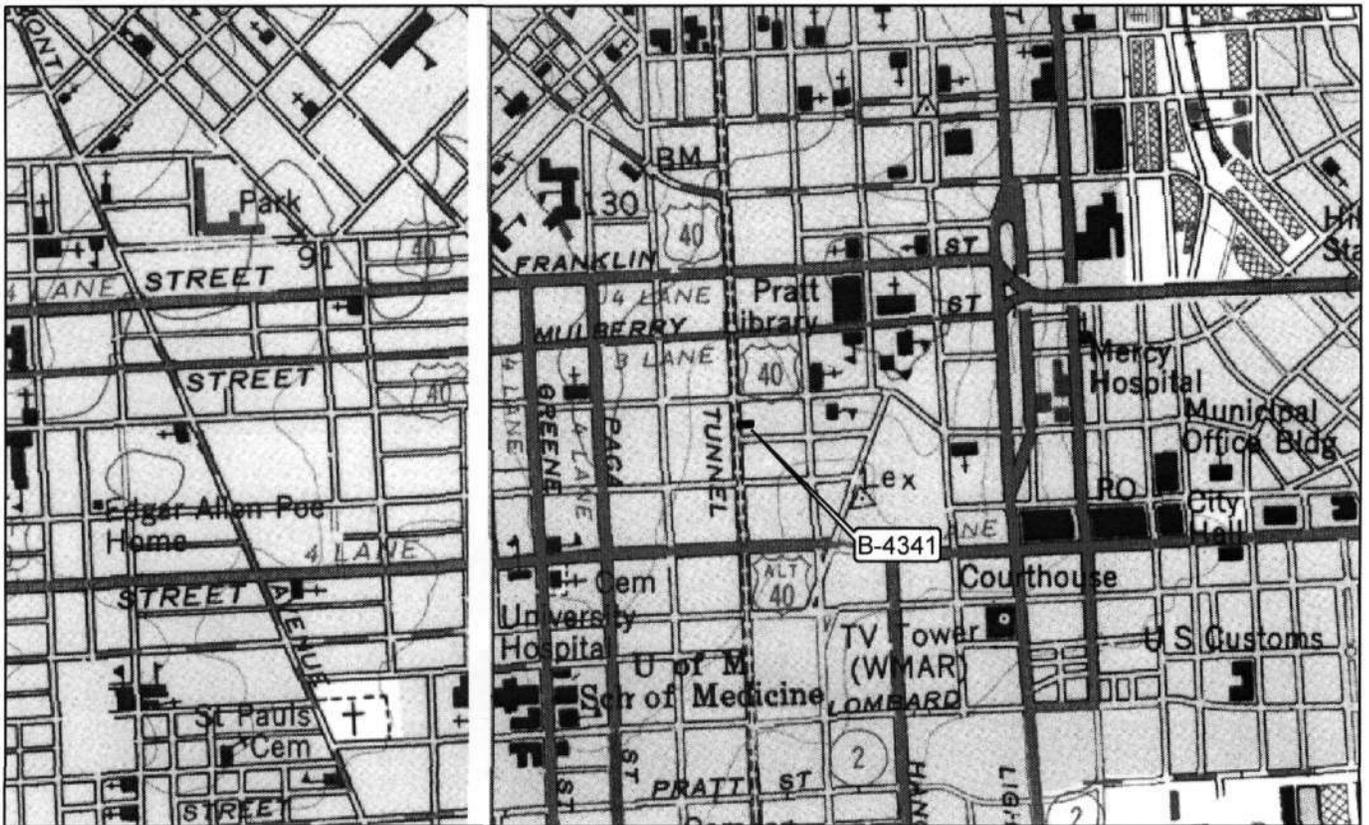
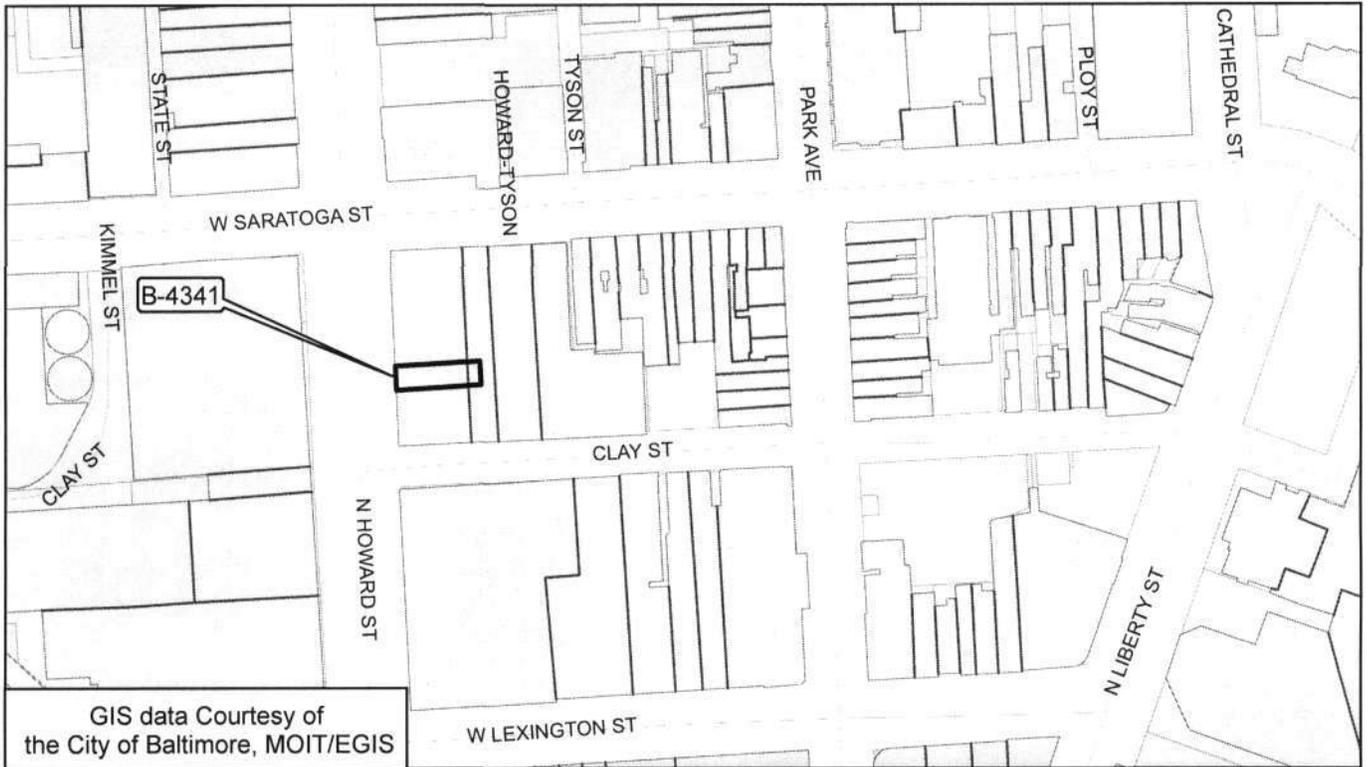
Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

Historic Function and Use:
Commercial/office/manufacturing

Known Design Source:
None

B-4341
Dimensions II Lady's Fashions
225 N. Howard Street
Block 0597, Lot 004
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





DIMENSIONS

Lady's Fashion
JUNIOR • MISSY • LARG

DIMENSIONS
225
JUNIOR • MISSY • LARG

D OF BALTIMORE

B-4341

225 N. Howard St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, west elevation

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