

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
 HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4429

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 227 W. Monument Street/629-631 N. Howard Street

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 227 W. Monument Street/629-631 N. Howard Street not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> occupied	<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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

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

name Maryland Historical Society

street & number 201 W. Monument Street telephone no.: MD 21201

city, town Baltimore state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse JFC2171
 liber

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 248
 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-4429

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 1915 commercial block building faces west on N. Howard Street, north on Monument Street and south on Druid Hill Avenue and east to a parking lot. The legal street address is 227 W. Monument Street, but the majority of the store fronts face Howard Street. The building is 28'6" facing Monument Street and 150'7" facing Howard.

The two-story, brick building was built as a single commercial block with eight separate Howard Street store fronts (#629 through #643) and one Monument Street store front. The individual store fronts are unified by the horizontal lines of the second story facade with a peaked gable parapet along the flat roof and bricks laid in simple geometric patterns typical of the early Art Deco period.

The Howard Street first-story facade is a series of eight store fronts with large plate glass display windows and transoms punctuated by angled, recessed entryways. All the fenestration is presently boarded up. Vertically laid bricks outline the border of the openings. There are slight variations in the rhythm of the fenestration of each store front; some have doors flanked by display windows, others have side entrances with wider windows. With the exception of the end units, all the store fronts have slightly recessed entryways with pressed tin ceilings and deep orange and white tiled vestibule floors. The entryway to #629 (southernmost unit) is boarded up flush to the facade and no vestibule is discernable; a seam in the brick work indicates some sort of alteration, although the brick and mortar match the rest of the building. The entry to #643 is on the clipped corner of Howard and Monument streets and has an overhanging second story.

The Howard Street facade of the second story has a row of sash windows that are unevenly spaced in a thirteen-bay pattern. In the center bays (numbers five through ten) are five tripartite windows. Each tripartite window consists of a large 1/1 sash central window flanked by narrower 1/1 sash windows. Four individual 1/1 sash windows occupy bays one through four and bays eleven through thirteen. The individual windows are not equidistant from one another, but the overall effect is symmetrical. Vertically laid bricks create geometric borders around the windows. A continuous row of header bricks runs along between the tops of the second-story windows reinforcing the horizontal lines of the building.

A projecting metal cornice runs along the facade and wraps around to the Monument Street and Druid Hill Avenue facades as well. The cornice has a cove molding that caps alternating panels of recessed and ribbed panels of pressed metal. A parapet wall rises above this cornice. The parapet has a peaked gable centered on the facade. The bricks are laid in geometric diamond patterns.

B-4429
227 W. Monument/629-631 N. Howard Street
Baltimore, MD
Section 7 Description
7.1

The north wall of the building, facing Monument Street, is three bays wide. The first story has the entrance to #643 in the third, clipped bay on the corner. There is a boarded up display window in the second bay, and a double door (#227 Monument St.) in the first bay. The second story has one 1/1 sash window in the first bay, a pair of 1/1 sash windows in the second, and one 1/1 sash in the third bay that overhangs the clipped corner.

The south wall of the building, facing Druid Hill Avenue, is three bays wide. The first story has a display window in the first (west) bay and a service door and window in the second and third (east) bays. The east bay fenestration has two-brick soldier courses. All the openings are boarded up. The second story has a small single light window in the first bay and a pair of 1/1 sash windows in the second and third bays. The wall is topped by a 2 brick corbelled cornice.

The back, east wall is blank.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4429

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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	Builder/Architect	unknown
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D and/or Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G		
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local		

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

The architectural details and massing of this two-story brick building provide a good example of an early Art Deco two-part commercial block. The low horizontal lines of the block are accentuated by its great width and few stories, by the cornice and peaked parapet wall, and by the rhythmic pattern of display and second-story windows marching across the facade. The overall aesthetic is one of simple geometric shapes, punctuated by white tile accents. The first-story shops would have been used for retail and the second story could have been used for offices or possibly light manufacturing.

In massing and details (such as the clipped corner, rectilinear brick work, and the distinct second story set above multiple first-story storefronts which have inset entrances) this commercial block is similar to #20 N. Howard Street.) These two examples are otherwise unique for their width-to-height ratio within the commercial district.

The low height of this commercial building reveals the changing commercial nature of the upper reaches of North Howard Street. Unlike the lower blocks where land values forced property owners to build tall in order to maximize their narrow lots' potential, in the upper reaches land values are lower and hence intensification diminishes. This appears to be particularly true during the early decades of the twentieth century, as evidenced in the land-consuming bus station down the block and the large manufacturing block across the street. Additionally it is significant to note the absence of any sort of residential component to this building, indicating the demographic shift of the Howard Street away from having a residential character along the main street, (although residences persisted on the cross streets).

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:
Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

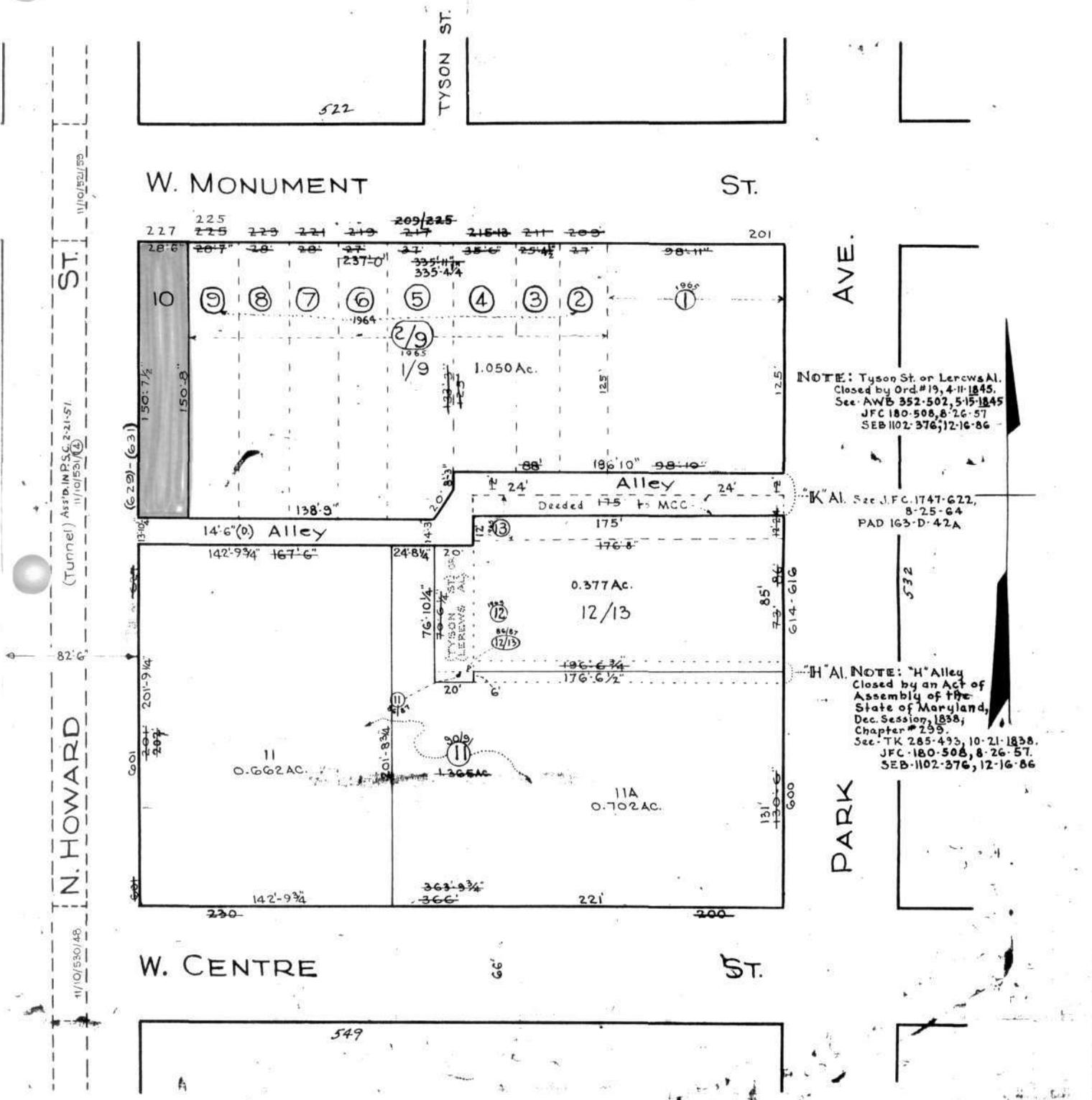
Historic Function and Use:
Commercial

Known Design Source:
None

REVISIONS

House No Changed on Lot 11 Per P.S. C.Sh. 2840A
 Lot 14 Ass'd. in P.S.C. Per BofA, C.Sh. 5278
 Lots 2,7,9 Cons'd Per O.O. C.Sh. 92.91
 Lot 6 If 2/9 Cons'd - Ho No Changed Per App C. Sh. 9407
 Lots 12/13 Cons'd & Div. Per App. C.Sh. 9424
 Lots 1/9, 11, & 12/13 Cor. Per Deeds & P.L.S.; C.Sh. 87-244.
 Lot 11 Div Per Deed, Sub-Div & App, C.Sh. 91-175

B-4439



NOTE: Tyson St. or Lerows Al.
 Closed by Ord #19, 4-11-1845.
 See: AWB 352-502, 5-15-1845
 JFC 180-508, 8-26-57
 SEB 1102-376, 12-16-86

K Al. See J.F.C. 1747-622,
 8-25-64
 PAD 163-D-42A

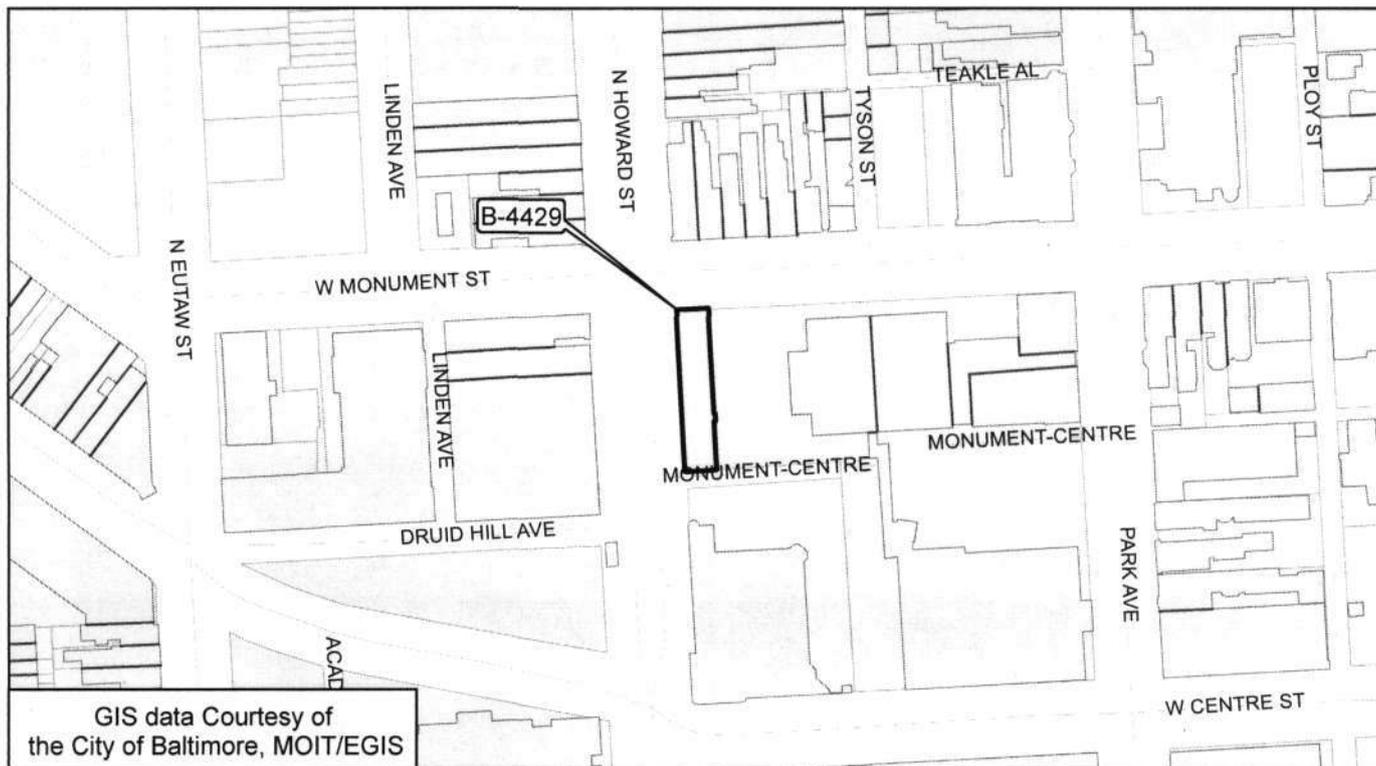
H Al. NOTE: "H" Alley
 Closed by an Act of
 Assembly of the
 State of Maryland,
 Dec. Session, 1838,
 Chapter # 295.
 See: TK 285-493, 10-21-1838.
 JFC 180-508, 8-26-57.
 SEB-1102-376, 12-16-86

NOTICE
 THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED
 FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76 OF THE CITY CHARTER.
 IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER
 SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

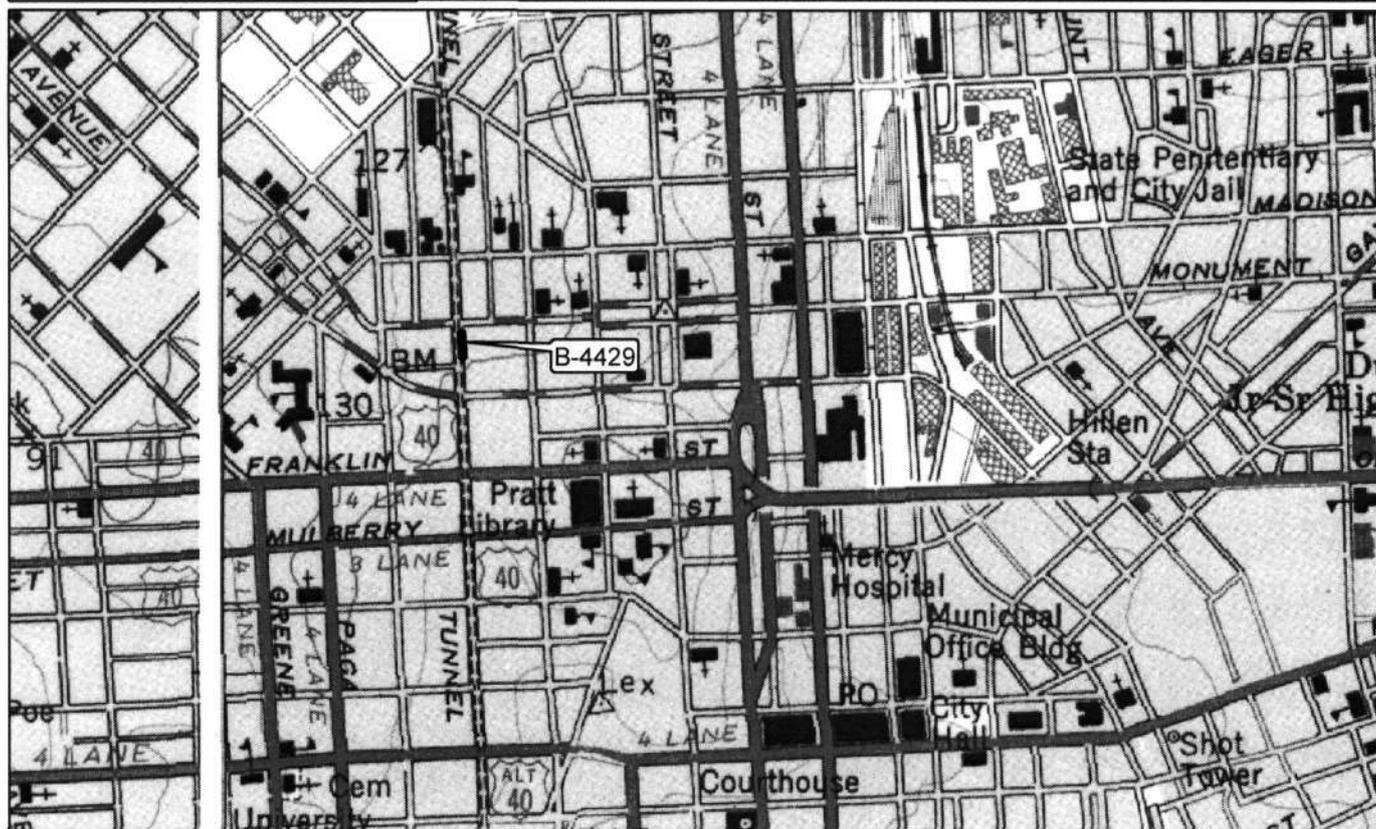
CITY OF BALTIMORE
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 BUREAU OF PLANS & SURVEYS
 PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION
 WARD 11 SECTION 10
 BLOCK 531
 SCALE 1 IN. = 50 FT. DATE JUNE 1979

DRAWN BY C. H. BAIN
 CHECKED BY J. R. KOSKY
 DATE 6/1/79

B-4429
629-631 N. Howard Street (227 W. Monument Street)
Block 0531, Lot 001 (Formerly lot 010)
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS





B-4429

227 W. Monument St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

NW Elevation

VI