

B-4474

THE CAPITOL CAKE COMPANY

BALTIMORE CITY, MD

This is a simple, brick commercial building constructed in 1922. All of the original, wide-paned windows have been filled in with concrete. The door opening also has been filled with concrete and a smaller door set within the concrete. An original, tile-roofed canopy/cornice element is also gone. The original company still operates out of this building.

FD INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES FORM
SANDTOWN-WINCHESTER SURVEY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name The Capitol Cake Company

other names/site number The Capitol Cake Company/B-4474

2. Location

street & number 1314 Laurens St.

not for publication

city or town Baltimore

vicinity N/A

state Maryland

code MD

county Baltimore City

code 510

zip code 21217

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

N/A

4. National Park Service Certification

N/A

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

1

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

1

ISDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
(The Capitol Cake Company)
(Baltimore City, MD)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: specialty store

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Patterned Brick Commercial

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

roof

walls BRICK

other STONE

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance See continuation sheet.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce
Architecture

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
(The Capitol Cake Company)
(Baltimore City, MD)

=====
Period of Significance 1922-1940

Significant Dates 1922

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.
=====

9. Major Bibliographical References
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Maps

- Bromley, G.W. and Co. Atlas of the City of Baltimore, Vol. 1. Philadelphia: 1885, 1896.
- Hopkins, G.M. Map of the City of Baltimore, Maryland. 1876, 1877.
- Sanborn Map Company. Insurance Maps, Baltimore, Maryland, Vols. 2,3, and 7. New York: 1890, 1901, 1914, 1928.
- Simmons, Isaac. 1852 Revision of the Thomas H. Poppleton Map. Baltimore: 1852.

Interview with Ted Kunkel, Capitol Cake Company, June 16, 1992
=====

10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property .274 acres

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(Baltimore City, MD)

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UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	—	—	3	—
2	—	—	4	—

— See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Block 36A, Lot 2

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries are based on a city lot(s) retaining original property lines.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Jo Lampl & Kay Fanning/Architectural Historians
 organization Robinson & Associates date July 1992
 street & number 1710 Connecticut Ave., NW telephone (202) 234-2333
 city or town Washington state DC zip code 20009

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name The Capitol Cake Co.
 street&number 1314 Laurens, P.O. Box 3797 telephone _____
 city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21217

B-4474

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 5 & 6 Page 1

The Capitol Cake Company
name of property
Baltimore City, Maryland
county and State

HISTORIC CONTEXT

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s): Industrial/Urban Dominance

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s): Architecture, Landscape
Architecture, and Community Planning; Economic

Resource Type:

Category: building(s)

Historic Environment: urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): commerce/trade

Known Design Source: none

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Section 7 Page 1

The Capitol Cake Company
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DESCRIPTION

The Capitol Cake Company building is a simple, patterned brick commercial structure, the main design elements of which are the arcade and stepped parapet. Originally, the building had a more inviting appeal, due to its large, segmentally arched windows with wide-paned glass on the first floor (see attached). In addition, the building originally featured a tiled shed-roofed canopy, which served as a cornice. This canopy was decorated with repeating drop pendants, creating a shadow pattern on the broad wall.

The building stands two stories high above a raised marble basement, and is seven bays wide. The facade has a parapet rising above a broad, plain stucco beltcourse which occurs at the location of the original canopy. The parapet steps down, bay by bay, from the tallest section over the center bay, and then steps up again slightly over the end bays.

There are three openings to either side of the central doorway: a large segmentally arched window, a narrow, round-arched door, and another matching segmentally arched window. The entrance is set in the arched recess and originally contained a glazed door. The original windows were removed and sealed following the 1968 riots in the city. Only occasional small window or door openings are left within the infill. The original appearance of the building was much more open and slightly more decorative than today. (See attached historical photograph.) The windows were originally fitted with wide-pane glass (with only one horizontal division) surmounted by a shallow, segmental transom. The building also originally featured a small pent roof bracketed cornice. This feature was covered in clay tile and contained molded wooden(?) drop pendants.

The window arches are formed of three rows of brick headers, and have marble keystones and voussoirs at the spring level. The windows have marble sills as well.

Simple decorative brick and stone work found on the building includes a rectangular panel in the center of the parapet (defined by bricks and square marble blocks), and a horizontal line of metal plates just above the windows, used to secure tie rods.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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The Capitol Cake Company
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On the interior of the building, giant timbers shore up the roof. There is a rumor that these timbers came from the old Baltimore City Hall, being demolished that same year.¹

¹ Ibid.

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Section 8 Page 1

The Capitol Cake Company
name of property
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SIGNIFICANCE

The Kunkel family began the Capitol Cake Company in 1922, building and outfitting this light industrial structure in Sandtown. Today, the company still operates its bakery from this building. In addition to being a longstanding neighborhood institution, the building is a significant, extant example of a historical industry in the Sandtown neighborhood--the baking business.

Begun in people's homes, the baking business became a large employer of residents in the Sandtown neighborhood in the first part of the 20th century. Along with Chinese laundries, blacksmiths, cobblers, barbers, and corner store, bakeries were part of the commercial quilt of the late 19th- and early 20th-century neighborhoods of Sandtown-Winchester. Bakeries were typically run out of rowhouses converted to commercial use (with or without storefronts), and appear on the neighborhood insurance maps in the following locations:

1890 Sanborn Insurance map:
917 N. Calhoun Street (rowhouse)

1901 Sanborn Insurance Map:
1801 W. Lafayette (rowhouse)
1658 N. Calhoun, at the corner of Presbury (rowhouse with an attached stables, presumably for delivery)
2304 Pennsylvania Avenue (a bake house at the rear of a storefront)

1914 Map:
2304 Pennsylvania Avenue (storefront)
2408 Pennsylvania Avenue (storefront)
1611 Clifton Street (rowhouse)

The first bakeries to appear in purpose-built bakery buildings appear on the 1914 insurance maps. One, the William B. Forrest Bakery and Bake Shop is just south of the survey area on N. Calhoun between Harlem and Lanvale. In the survey area itself, the City Baking Co. Schmidt Branch, is the first

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large-scale commercial bakery. With the advent of a bakery of Schmidt's magnitude, most of the earlier family bakeries, located in the interior streets of the neighborhoods, disappeared (as is evident from a review of historical maps). Only the Pennsylvania Avenue bakeries remained intact during this period, one of which would become the longest-operating bakery in the survey area, the Pariser Bakery (see B-4434, 2304 Pennsylvania Avenue).

The Capital Cake Company, constructed in 1922, represents an innovative era in the baking industry:

The period 1900-1930 was one of major change for the baking industry in the United States, as the business moved from one that was predominantly handicraft to one of full automation.²

During the same era, the following bakeries were built/established in the survey area³:

2141 N. Fulton (probably a storefront)
2265 N. Fulton (a pie baking concern)
Robert C. Kolb Bakery, 2513 Pennsylvania Avenue (large, commercial structures)

Like the former Schmidt Baking Company (constructed in 1913-14), the Capitol Cake Company chose to locate in the Sandtown neighborhood of West Baltimore. The exact reasons are unclear, but the owners, who lived across from Carver Vocational School, may have been inspired by the success of the Schmidt bakery, or, may have liked the appeal of a neighborhood setting. A densely built-up residential neighborhood offered an easy way to attract employees. As it turned out, most of the employees of the bakery lived within walking

² Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation, "Schmidt Baking Company," Historic American Engineering Record (HAER No. MD-80).

³ These bakeries are taken from the 1928 Sanborn Insurance Map, for which only Penn-North was available.

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Section 8 Page 3

The Capital Cake Company
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county and Statedistance of the building.⁴

The bakery began as a "variety type" of bakery, selling "a little bit of everything," recalls Ted Kunkel, current business owner and grandson of the original owner, Mr. Kunkel.⁵ The original distribution network for the bakery's goods was fairly confined and the company relied upon horse-drawn carriages. The stables where the company's horses were kept was located within walking distance of the bakery itself. As the company prospered, the distribution network grew to the point where "electric trucks" were used to disseminate goods on a regional basis.⁶ Today, the bakery distributes its products on a nationwide basis and has consolidated its product line to just two items: pound cake and holiday fruit cakes.

The Capital Cake Company employed many neighborhood people during the course of its operation. Over the course of the company's history, Ted Kunkel recalls that both African Americans and whites worked at the bakery. The census of 1930 shows a substantial number of people who listed their occupations as either confectioners or bakers. While most of these were males, there were a few females who worked in these occupations as well.

The building constructed to house the Capital Cake Company was seemingly inspired by the concept of a "sunlight bakery," with its wide-paned, arched windows on its facade. This architectural development stressed the role that natural light, ventilation, and sanitary conditions played in the production of wholesome baked goods.

⁴ Interview with Ted Kunkel, 6/16/92.

⁵ Interview with Ted Kunkel, June 16, 1992.

⁶ Per Mr. Kunkel

⁷ HAER Nomination, page 2.

SANDTOWN-WINCHESTER/PENN-NORTH
RECONNAISSANCE-LEVEL SURVEY FORM

Survey No. B-4474

Neg. No. 6/5

Historic Name The Capitol Cake Company

Current Name/Use ?

Address(es) 1314 Laurens Street

Resource/Property Type

- Rowhouses
 Commercial Structure
 Public/Institutional Building
 Public Housing
 Site
 Other

Attached
 Freestanding

Note: _____

Stories 2 + B

Primary Material brick Secondary Material stone (marble?)

Roof Form flat

No. of Bays in Unit/Facade 7 If Rowhouse: Flat Front Swell Front Porch

Window Type: Double-Hung 1/1 Sash 2/2 Sash 2/1 Sash Other Sash Transom
Door Type: Single-Leaf Double-Leaf Number of panels (if visible) Transom

Architectural Style Renaissance Revival Date c. 1922

Noteworthy Features: Stepped parapet above broad stone beltcourse. Windows alternate large segmental-headed openings with narrow arched openings in-between; arched, recessed entrance in center. All original openings have been filled in, with only occasional small window or door openings left. Brick header voussoirs, some simple decorative brick and stone work.

Alterations: Formstone Stucco
 Vinyl/Aluminum Window/Door Changes
 Awnings Missing Cornice Elements
 ? First-Floor Use Change Other: _____

Status: Occupied Vacant Mixed

NR Evaluation: Contributing Non-Contributing

Recommended for Intensive Level: Yes No

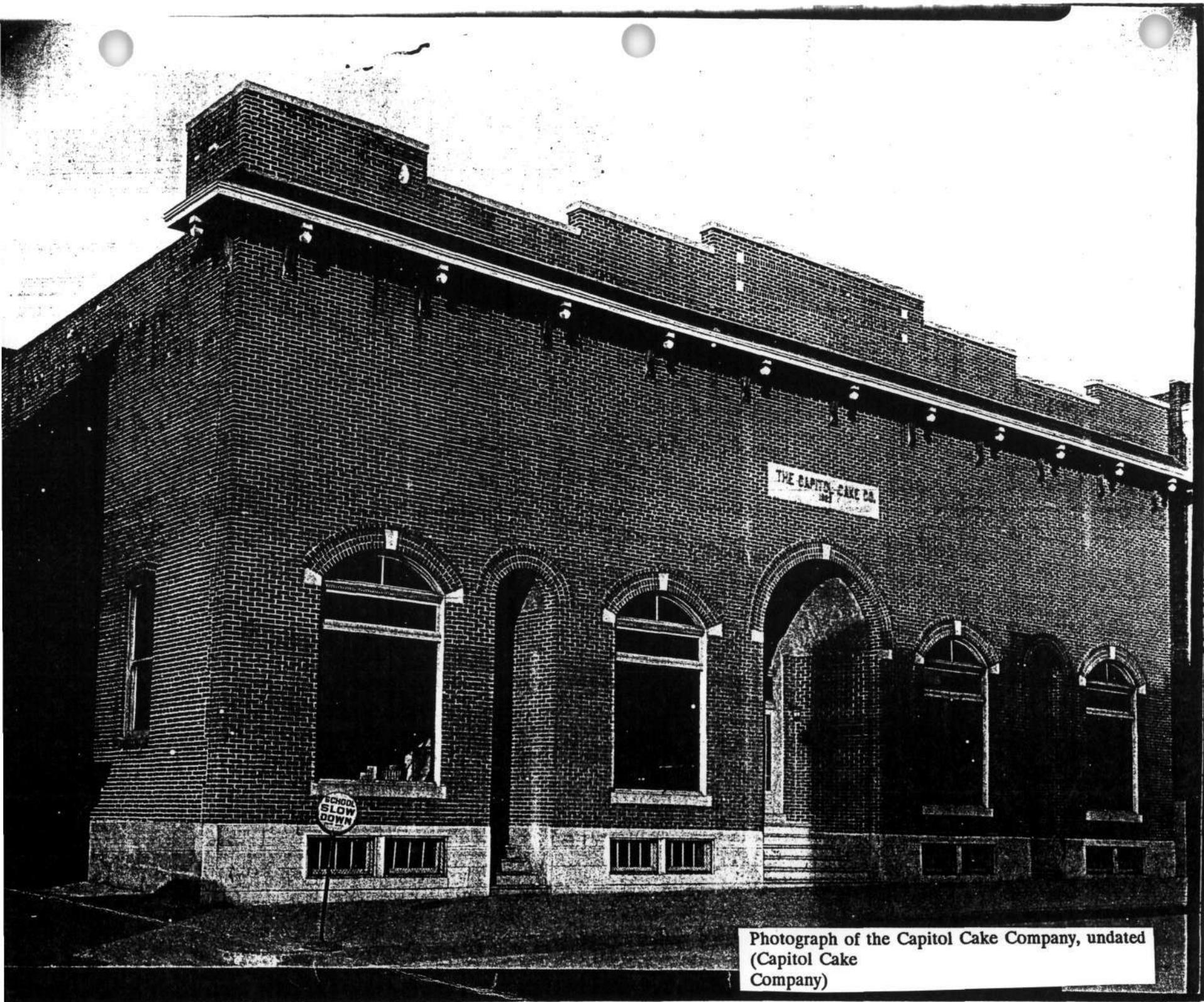
Surveyor: Joey Lamp

Affiliation: Robinson & Associates

Date: February-April 1992



B-4474
The Capitol Cake Company
Baltimore, MD
Baltimore West Quadrangle



Photograph of the Capitol Cake Company, undated
(Capitol Cake
Company)

B-4674

THE DAPITS BAKE CO.
1932

FLAS



#B. 4474

BALTIMORE, MD

ELIZABETH GO LAMPL

MARCH 1992

CITY OF BALTIMORE, COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL
PRESERVATION

CAPITOL CAFE CO.

LAURENS ST. AT CAREY

SOUTH ELEVATION

ROLL 6/NEG 5

1 of 2

THE CAPITOL BAKE CO.
1933



Sandtown-Winchester / Penn-North

#B-4474

Baltimore, MD

Leonard Jackson

July 1992

City of Baltimore, Commission for Historical and Architectural
Preservation

Historic : the Capitol Cake Company

Current : THE CAPITOL CAKE COMPANY

1314 Laurens Street . SOUTH ELEVATION

2 of 2

Roll 10/neg 19