

AREA: Cathedral Hill

MAGI NO.: 0409755540

Address: 221-227 North Charles Street
Current Name: Masonic Temple

Block: 608	Lot: 5	Lot size: 112 ft.x147 ft.
Height: 6		Materials: Marble
Condition: Excellent		Owner: Grand Lodge of Maryland
Use: Institutional		Accessible: Yes, restricted
Designation:		Liber/Folio: AM 306/127



Historic Name: Masonic Temple
 Date: 1866-67; 1909
 Architect/Builder: E.G. Lind (1866); J.E. Sperry (1909)
 Style (if appropriate): Renaissance Revival/Beaux-Arts Classical Revival

Description:

The five-bay facade is divided above the first floor storefronts by composite paneled pilasters. The windows in each bay are tightly organized in vertical groups of three with the topmost an arched 1/1 window and the other two vertically linked by consoles and entablatures. The first cornice has modillions and dentils. Above this cornice is the section rebuilt after the 1908 fire in a Beaux-Arts Classical Revival style. A slate mansard with elaborate pedimented dormers has copper coping. The top floor has groups of rectangular windows. The 1909 rebuilding also included a new main entrance with a semi-circular pedimented doorway ornamented with a heraldic shield.

Significance:

Area: Architecture; social/humanitarian Level: Local

The Masonic Temple is significant in local architectural history as a good example, in part, of the Renaissance Revival style and for its fine mansard roof and dormers in the Beaux-Arts-influenced Classical Revival style. The transition between the two styles is carefully composed so that the later addition is not immediately apparent. The Temple is also significant as the main headquarters of the Masonic lodge of Maryland. Although not the original building of the Masons, the present Temple was symbolic as one of the first points of reunion for Masons from both north and south after the Civil War. The importance of the Temple in this respect was emphasized by the presence of President Andrew Johnson at the cornerstone-laying ceremony on November 20, 1866.

(See Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form)

Sources: BA 1-17 or 18-08; BN 2-1-28; BS 12-21-19, 12-23-51;
 Peale Museum prints and photos
 Surveyor and Date: Janet Davis, February 1985

B-975

Masonic Temple
221-227 North Charles Street
Private

1866-67; 1909

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Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Masonic Temple

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 221-227 North Charles Street not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity of congressional district 3rd

state Maryland county

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 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Inst'l

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

name Grand Lodge F & A Masons of Maryland

street & number 221-227 North Charles Street telephone no.: 752-1198

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber AM 306

street & number Fayette and Calvert Streets folio 127

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-975

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date of move _____

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

SUMMARY

The Masonic Temple is a 6-story marble-fronted institutional building originally erected in 1866-67 in a Renaissance Revival style on the east side of North Charles Street between Saratoga and Lexington Streets in central Baltimore, Maryland. Fires in 1890 and 1908 resulted in extensive interior reconstructions and, principally because of the latter fire, the addition of a mansard roof in the Beaux-Arts Classical style. The 5-bay facade with arched windows, consoles, and composite pilasters remains mostly as built. A new entrance with an elaborate semi-circular pediment was also a later addition. Storefronts occupy the outer bays of the first floor.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The central part of the facade, from the second floor to the first cornice, is contained within quoins and is divided into the five bays by paneled pilasters with composite capitals. Paired pilasters emphasize the center bay. Within each bay, the windows are tightly organized in vertical order as follows: a 1/1 rectangular with plain entablature surround; a small rectangular window with a curved upper frame and a single vertical muntin, enclosed by consoles linking the entablature of the second floor window with the deep sills of the fourth story; a 1/1 arched window on a paneled base above the projecting sill. The cornice above the fourth story has modillions and dentils.

The fifth and sixth stories and the attic story were rebuilt in 1908-1909 following the second fire with considerable changes from the original design. The original building had only a fifth floor with groups of arched windows below a wide pediment centered with the symbolic "all-seeing eye." Restored after the 1890 fire, the fifth story was re-designed after the 1908 fire by Joseph E. Sperry and the mansard roof and two extra stories were added. The fifth floor now has groups of lancet windows, four in the center bay, two in the intermediate bays, and one in the outer bays. The slate mansard has a projecting center section with an elaborate central dormer which has a "piggy-back" smaller dormer. The smaller dormers in the flanking bays have carved pediments with a shell motif. Decorative copper coping outlines the edges of the roof and the bulls-eye attic windows. Stone coping at the gable ends of the roof have globe ornamentation at the cornice level.

(continue, please)

8. Significance

Survey No. B-975

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

Specific dates 1867; 1909 **Builder/Architect** E.G. Lind (1867); J.E. Sperry (1909)

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.

SUMMARY

The Masonic Temple is significant in local architectural history as a good example, in part, of the Renaissance Revival style and for its fine mansard roof and dormers in the Beaux-Arts-influenced Classical Revival style. The transition between the two styles is carefully composed so that the later addition is not immediately apparent. The Temple is also significant as the main headquarters of the Masonic lodges of Maryland. Although not the original building of the Masons, the present Temple was symbolic as one of the first points of reunion for Masons from both north and south after the Civil War. The importance of the Temple in this respect was emphasized by the presence of President Andrew Johnson at the cornerstone-laying ceremony on November 20, 1866.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The original home of the Masonic lodges in Baltimore was located at the northeast corner of St. Paul and Lexington Streets. Designed by Maximilien Godefroy, it was built in 1814 in what was then considered Greek Revival style. After the present Masonic Temple was built, the old Hall served as the Federal Court Building before being demolished in 1895.

An account of the laying of the cornerstone of the new Temple appeared in Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper along with drawings of the old and new buildings (see attached). The published design was the result of a revised plan by Edmund G. Lind. The first design featured a facade with a recessed loggia and colonnade, a profusion of pilasters, and a rooftop pavilion punctuated by finials on the parapets. (See attached). This was probably too costly to build and the final design had a single-plane facade with more restrained pilastering and roofline. Lind apparently also favored a domed roof, but this was also deleted from the design.

On December 25, 1890, a disastrous fire gutted much of the interior of the Temple. The fire started in the auditorium, which the Masons had leased as a theater, first to Patrick Harris and later to John A.

(continue, please)

Description

General Description, continued

Page 7

The storefronts originally occupied every bay except the central one, but in the 20th century, the inner bays were redesigned for office use by the Masons. The present leased stores fill the outer bays of the ground floor. Flanking the entrance to the Temple are two large bronze lamp standards with glass globes.

Summary
History and Support, continued
Page 8

Forepaugh. The Temple Theater had occupied the second and third floor former drill hall of the Knights Templar since 1885 and featured popular priced entertainments. The play that day was "Vesper Bells", billed as "that beautiful moral comedy". The fire was discovered at 12:30 p.m. about two hours before the scheduled performance. It took almost 7 hours to control and the resulting damage was extensive. Only the lower floors were not burned and these received much water and smoke damage. The building was restored, however, and the main facade remained mostly as originally built. The theater did not resume operation in the Temple.

On January 17, 1908, a second fire again gutted the building above the second floor. This time, Joseph E. Sperry was hired to redesign the upper part of the facade. He also provided a new, more elaborate main entrance. The interior is largely as rebuilt in 1909. The lodge rooms are very elaborately decorated according to different themes: Gothic, Composite, Oriental, Roman, etc. Much of the furniture dates from the original 1867 interior, having been saved from the fires. Murals in the Roman Room by E.G. Dabour (d.1905) painted in 1891-92 and damaged during the 1908 fire were restored by his daughter, Emma Dabour (d.1966).

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Bibliographical References, cont'd.
Page 9

New Baltimore. Baltimore: Jones & Groeninger, 1906.
Peale Museum, prints and photographs.
The Firemen's Record, Albert Cassedy, ed.
Baltimore: William U. Day & Co., 1891.



from postcard
M3784

Md. Masonic Temple

Masonic Temple B-975
Baltimore, Maryland
Enlargement of postcard view,
ca. 1900
Peale Museum

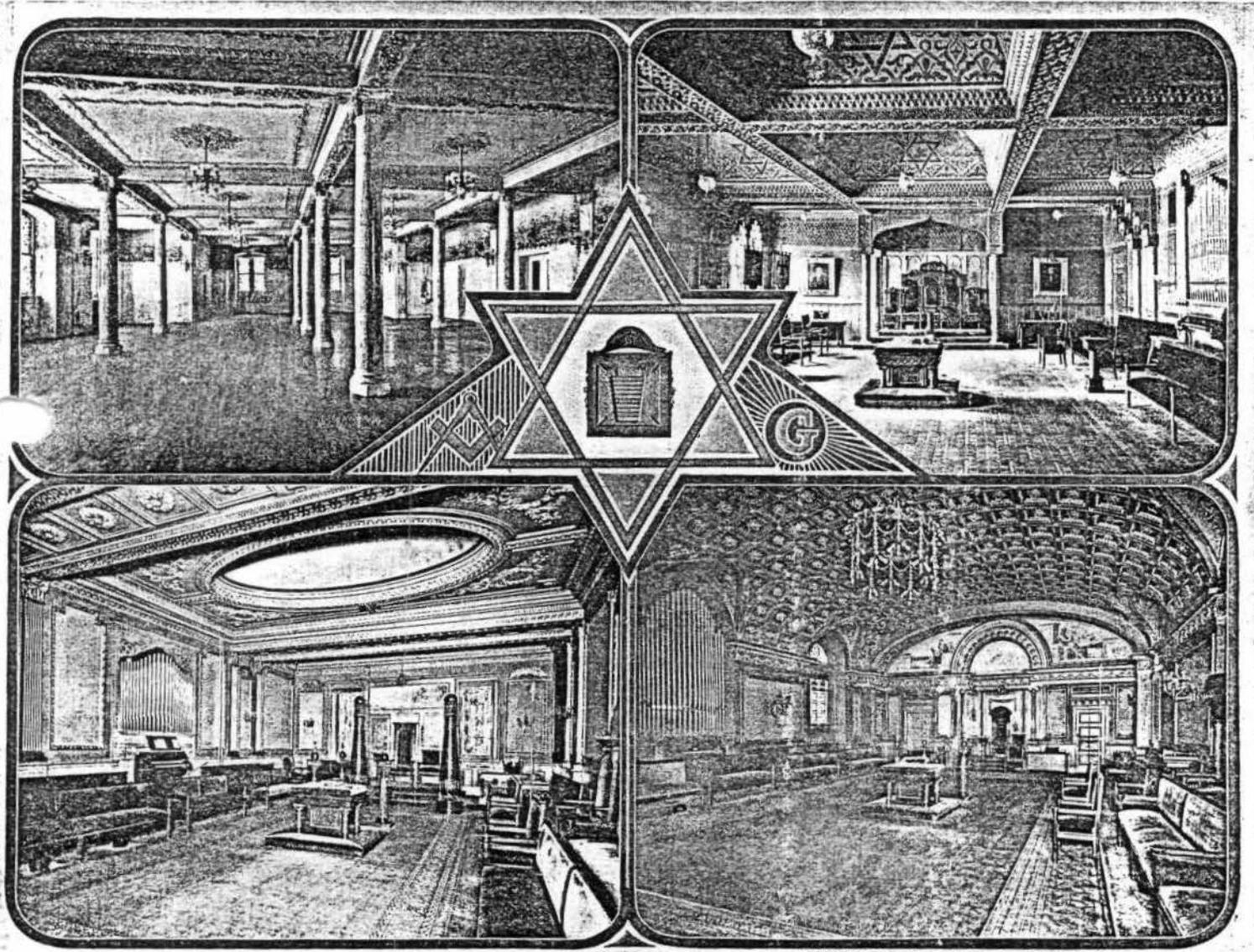


Grand Lodge or Corinthian Hall

Gen'l Thos. J. Shryock, Grand Master.
Gothic Hall.

Masonic Temple.

Masonic Temple B-975
 Baltimore, Maryland
 Interior views
 New Baltimore, 1906



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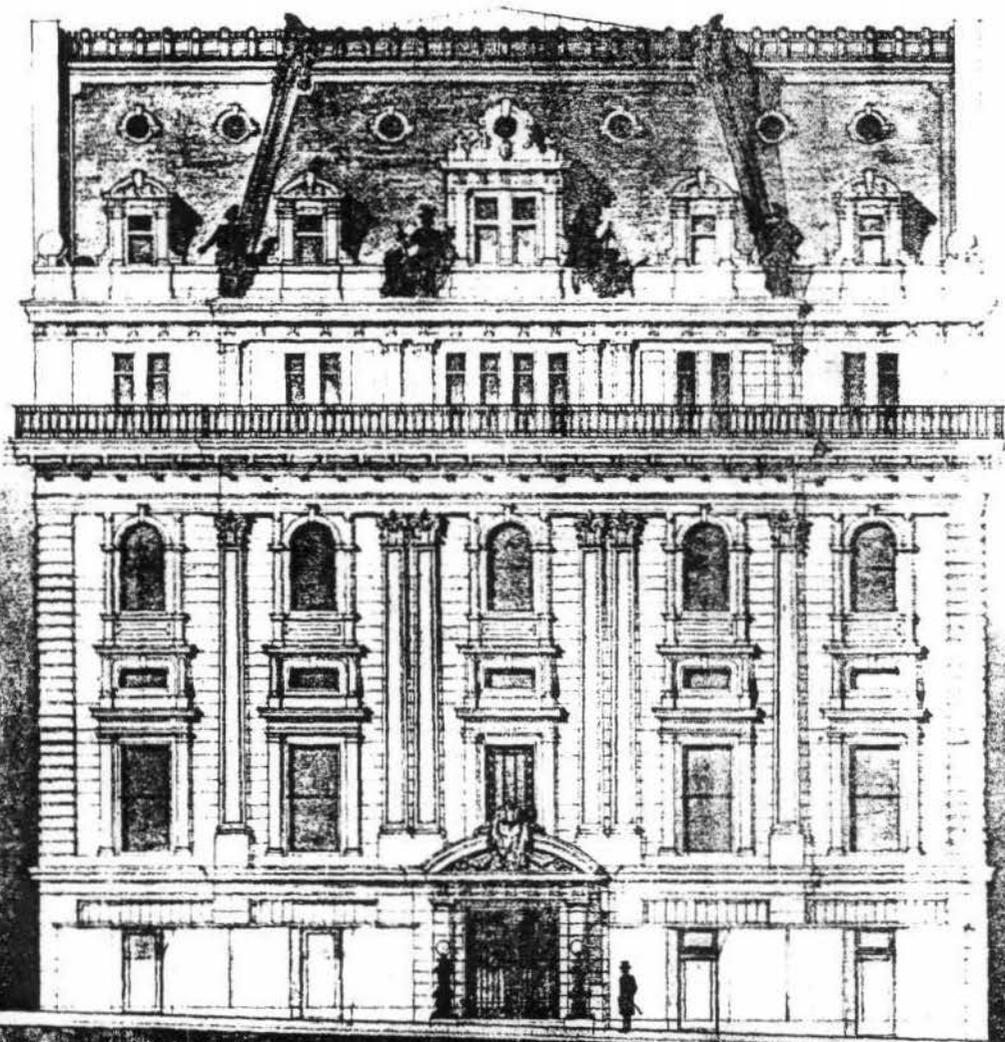
Assembly Hall.
Composite Hall.

Masonic Temple.

Oriental Hall.
Roman Hall.

Masonic Temple B-975
Baltimore, Maryland
Interior views
New Baltimore, 1906

MC 3039



STANDARD ARCHITECTURE

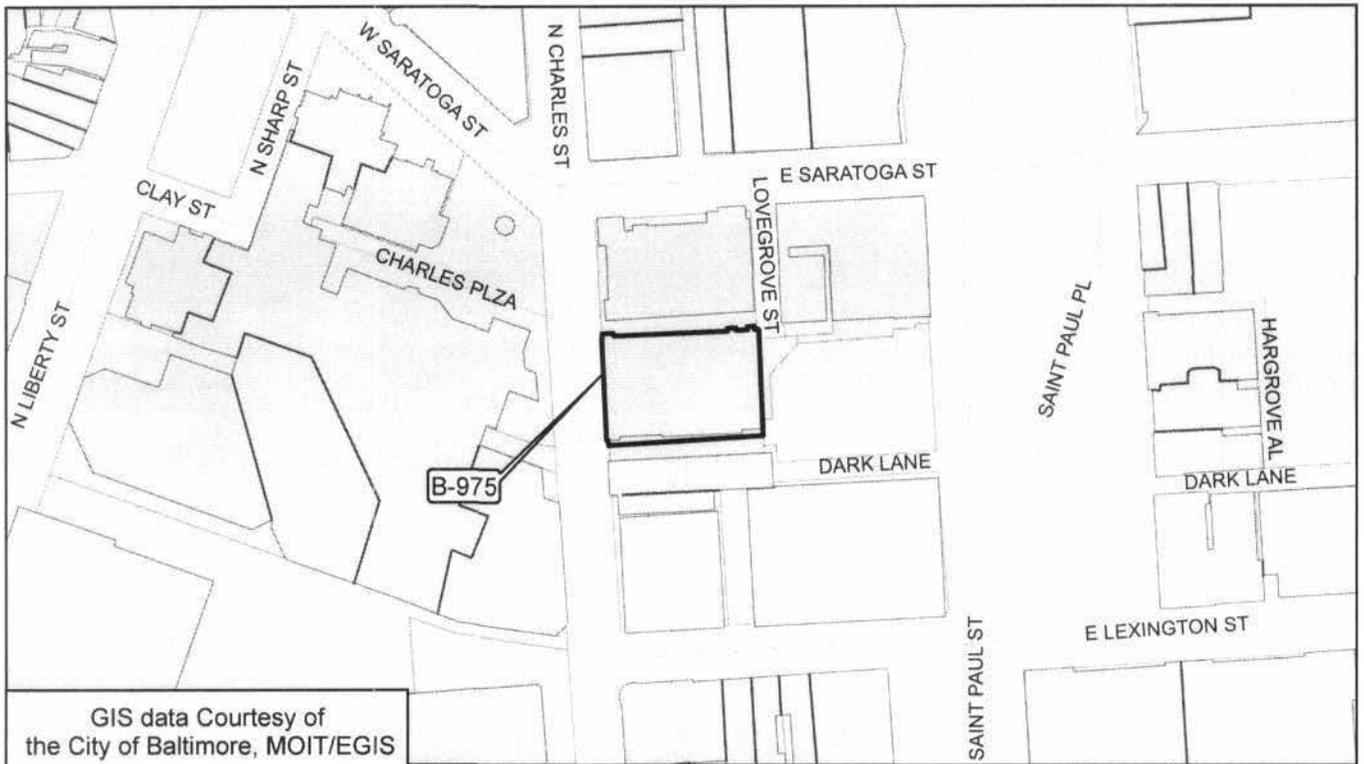
• MASONIC TEMPLE BALTIMORE MD •

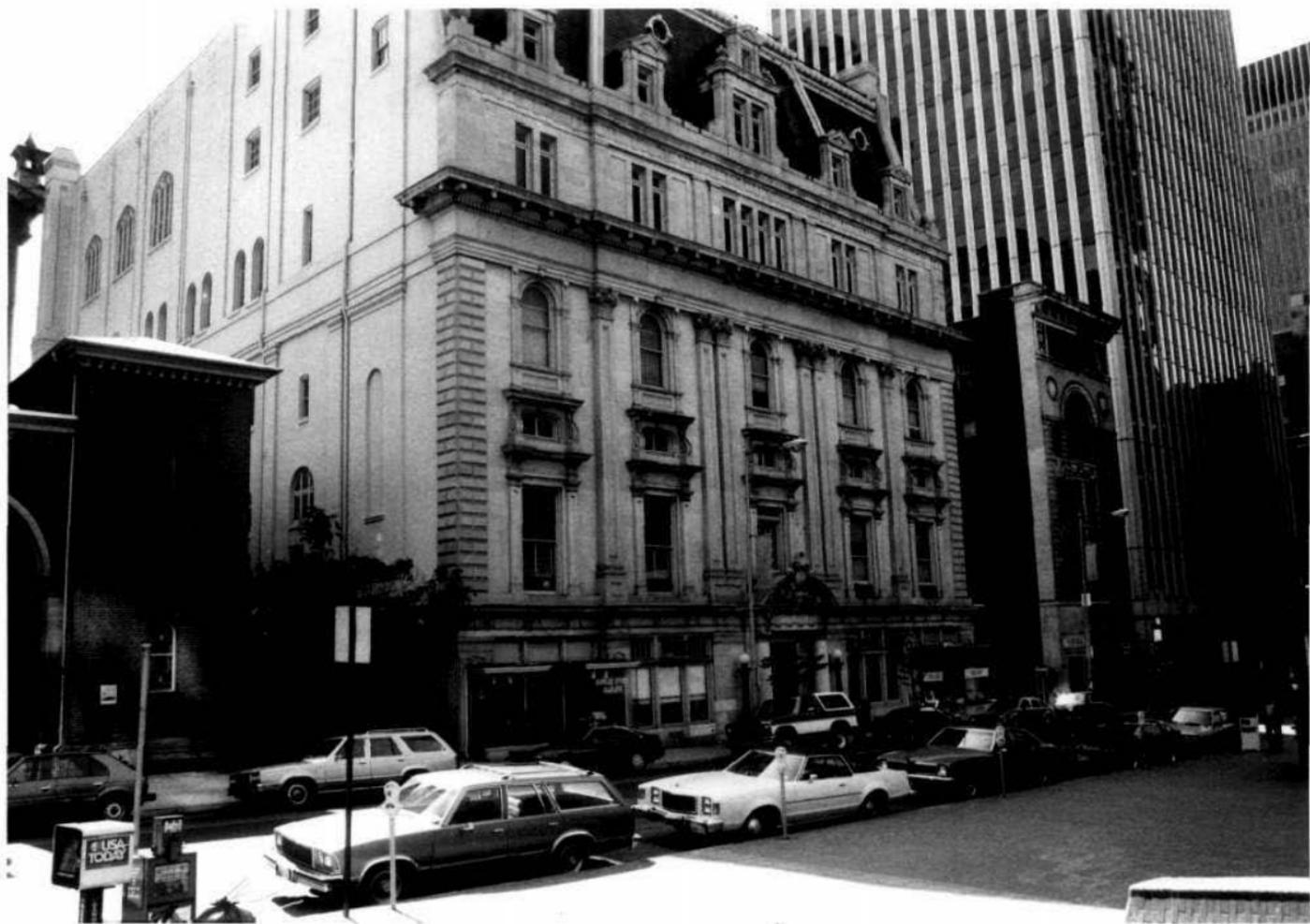
JOHN H. HARRIS
• ARCHT.

Masonic Temple
Elevation drawing
Peale Museum

B-975

B-975
Masonic Temple
221-227 N. Charles Street
Block 0608, Lot 005
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





Masonic Temple B-975
221-227 North Charles Street
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Janet Davis
Date: May 1985
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
West elevation