

AREA: Cathedral Hill

MAGI NO.: 0409765611

Address: 217 North Charles Street
Current Name:

Block: 608 Lot: 4 Lot size: 38 ft. x 147 ft.
 Height: 6 Materials: Brick and terra cotta
 Condition: Fair Owner: Eli Lippman et al
 Use: Commercial Accessible: yes, unrestricted
 Designation: Liber/Folio: RHB 2761/562



Historic Name: P. Hanson Hiss Mfg. Co. Bldg.
 Date: ca. 1890
 Architect/Builder:
 Style (if appropriate): Renaissance Revival

Description:

The altered first floor originally had a central display window flanked by entrances. In the mid-20th century, the first story facade was faced with stone and now has a modern recessed glass and metal exterior for a restaurant (Charles Street Eatery) and side entrance to the upper floors (now occupied by Phil Thomas' Yogi Magic Mart). The rest of the facade is mostly unchanged. A four-story central bay contains an arched window at its top and l/l windows in pairs on the second and third floors. Single l/l windows flank the center bay. Cable moldings ornament the openings and terra cotta swag panels separate the floors. The brick walls are "rusticated" with bands of egg-and-dart terra cotta moldings. The arch spandrels on the fifth story are buff brick with blank medallions encircled by wreaths. The sixth floor is set off by a running molding and has five l/l windows alternating with engaged columns. The outer bays have terra cotta wreath and festoon panels. The elaborate projecting cornice has egg and dart, fluted, and lion's head molding courses and scroll console brackets.

Significance:

Area: Architecture

Level: Local

The upper part of this facade is a good example of the florid Renaissance Revival style which characterized the pre-1904 commercial building in Baltimore. Built by the P. Hanson Hiss Furniture Manufacturing Company about 1890, the building was occupied in 1898 by McDowell and Company, carpets, which remained until 1945, when they moved to their present location at 339-341 North Charles Street (B-2188). The Hiss Company was one of the leading interior decorating and custom furniture manufacturing firms in the late 19th century in Baltimore. A large factory building formerly located across Lovegrove Alley to the east and connecting with the Hiss Building has been demolished. Prior to the erection of the building, the site was occupied by a 3-bay brick Greek Revival style rowhouse which was owned by the King family from about 1835 until 1871, when the Hiss Company purchased the property. Francis J. King, the last residential occupant, was the president of the Central Savings Bank.

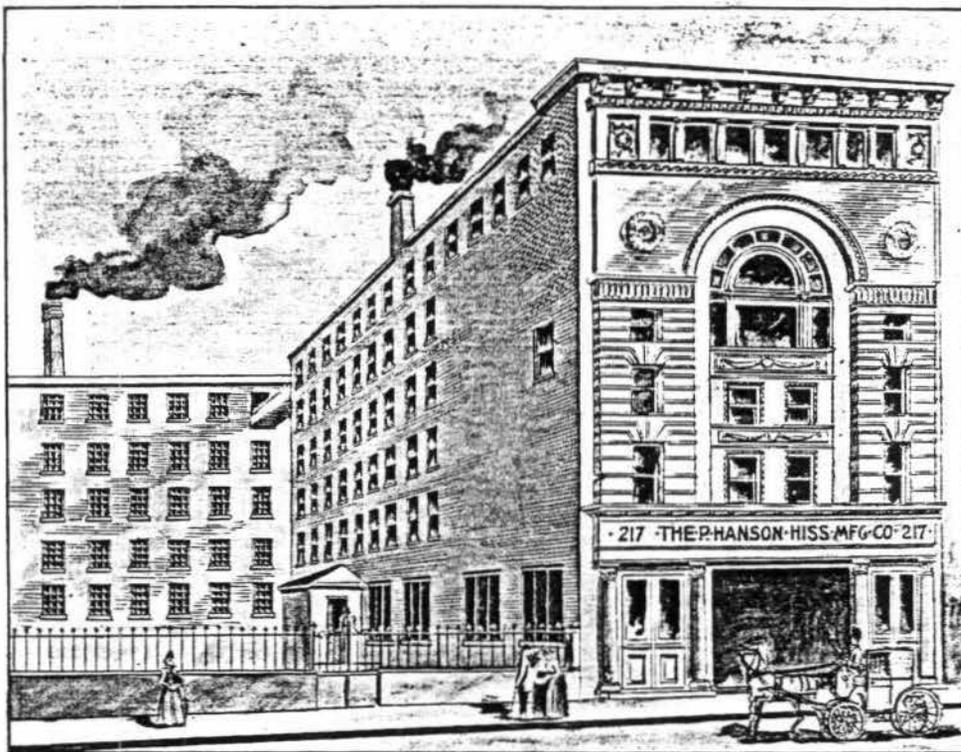
Sources: Baltimore, The Book of Its Board of Trade, p. 149; Furn. in Md.
 1740-1940, p. 207-208.
 Surveyor and Date: Janet Davis, February 1985

unique and classical conceptions of skilled artists is employed, and at the native man; hence their works are firm, beautiful and original designs,

of this house is that it has no stockholders of homes; but every piece of new design, embodying the best process must appeal to the highest per-

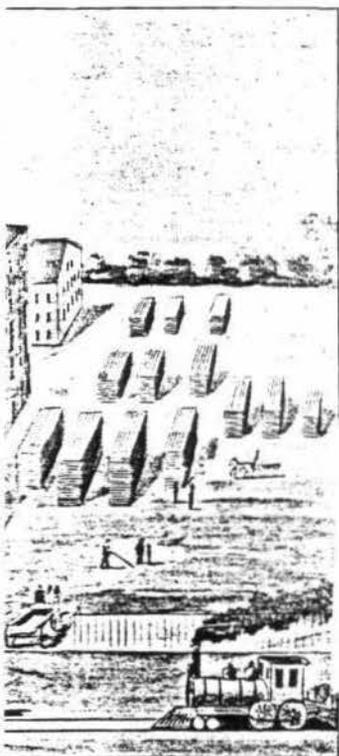
ished homes in our large cities have company, and are marvels of beauty only result from a combination of excellent workmanship.

ed some offices in New York, Washington by Philip Hiss and George Ausons of Philip Hiss, — P. Hanson and Bro. They dissolved partnership in the firm known as P. Hanson Hiss & Co. site on Charles Street. Under his progress, the business received a developed into its present perfection. Hanson Hiss president, and his son, as succeeded by his sons, Philip as and treasurer. Mr. Philip Hiss is by his father. Through study and presses his strong individuality upon ing. Aided by his talented brother rine its line in this country.



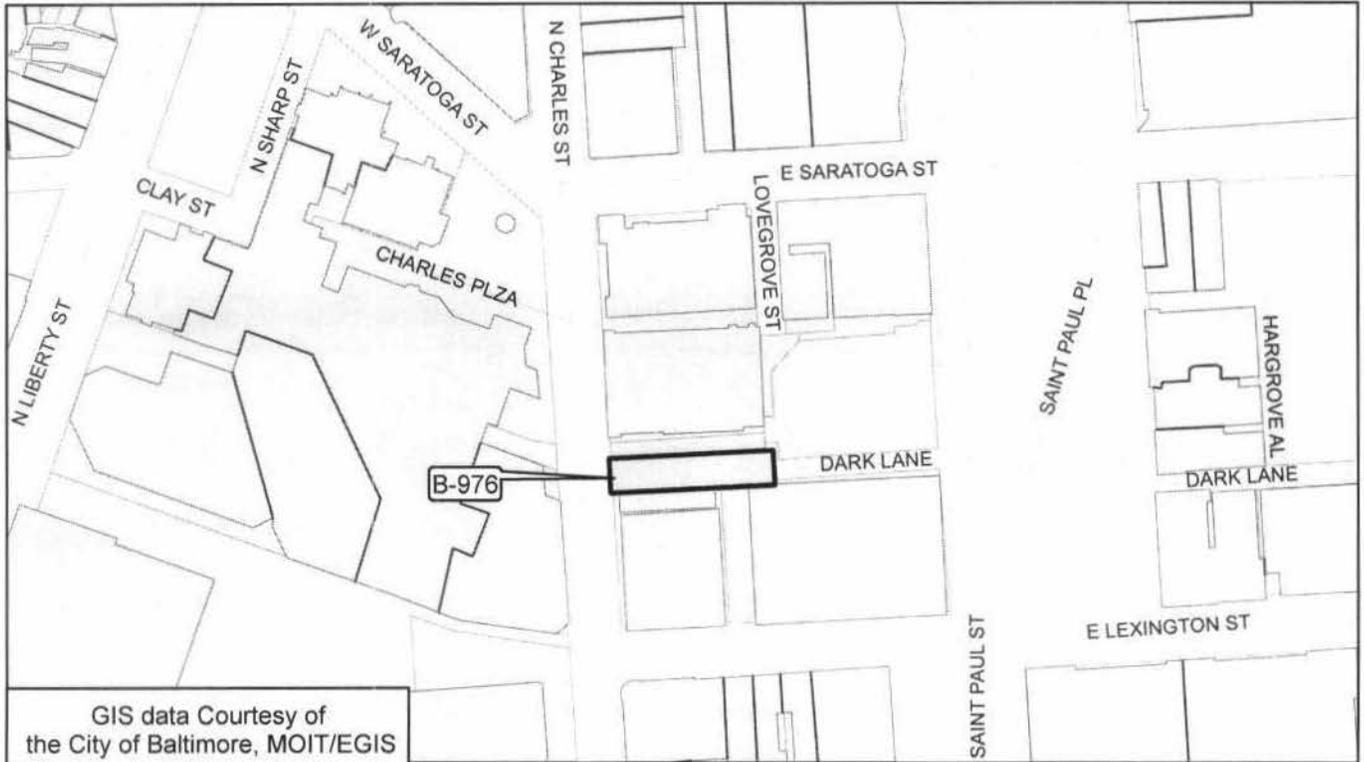
P. Hanson Hiss Manufacturing Company, Artistic Furniture and Woodwork, etc., North Charles Street.

P. Hanson Hiss Mfg. Co. Bldg.
B-976
Baltimore, Maryland
Illustration, Baltimore, The
Book of Its Board of Trade,
(1895)



Earl,

B-976
Hiss Building
217 N. Charles Street
Block 0608, Lot 004
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





YOGI
MAGIC MART

217

TURT & HILLS
Charles Street
Eatery

P. Hanson Hiss Co. Bldg. B-976
217 North Charles Street
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Janet Davis
Date: May 1985
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
West elevation