

B-40

## Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company, (Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Company)

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

***Last Updated: 03-10-2011***

AREA: Financial District

MAGI NO.: 0400405711

Address: 200 East Redwood Street

Current Name: Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company

Block: 650 Lot: 3

Lot size: 72' x 100'

Height: 2 stories

Materials: Brick and Stone

Condition: Good

Owner: One Calvert Co.

Use: Bank

Accessible: Yes

Designation: NR

Liber/Folio: RHB 2966-686



Historic Name: Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company

Date: 1885; 1886; 1904

Architect/Builder: Wyatt and Sperry

Style (if appropriate): Romanesque

## Description:

This massive two story high Romanesque style building features a stone central entrance flanked by two brick gable end building sections with large arched windows. The recessed entrance to the bank is located between wide stone columns with highly ornamented capitals. Above the entrance is a large sign panel with richly detailed lion head decorations. Copper clad two over two windows are located at the second floor level with four pane transoms above. The entrance section is capped by a band of decorative molding and the date, 1885, carved in Roman numerals. The brick gable ends flanking the entrance feature alternating brick and stone bands on the first floor above a rough stone water table. Five windows protected by heavy grills and set into a stone surround punctuate the first floor building walls of the western bay. Above an ornamental, foliated band course are small single pane windows set between squat columns and a brown stone surround. Above these windows is a large window set into a stone arch with beed and reel, foliated and billet moldings. The end of these brick building sections feature a series of stone decorative bands, ventillation panels, and a simple pinnacle. The two bay wide Calvert Street facade is also richly decorated. It was constructed in two parts, and the original southern section can be distinguished by squat columns and a bas relief of Mercury on the decorative stone panel between floor levels. The interior of the building has been altered with the construction of a mezzanine level, however huge Corinthian columns of the central banking space are intact.

## Significance:

Area: Architecture

Level: Local

The Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company Building acquires significance from several sources. It is the finest Romanesque style building in downtown Baltimore. Several commercial buildings in the city, particularly in the retail and loft districts, have Romanesque detailing on the facade, but none have the heavy massing and weight formed by the masonry construction reinforced by deep window reveals, the broad planes of the roofs, and the general largeness and simplicity of form found in the Mercantile Building. Secondly, it is the work of the notable architectural firm of Wyatt and Sperry. Both J. B. Noel Wyatt and Joseph Evans Sperry went on to design many other important buildings in Baltimore. The building is also significant as a building which survived the Baltimore Fire of 1904, although the interior was damaged. The fourth source of significance is the historical role the bank played in the financial development of Baltimore. The exterior of the bank is in excellent condition, but the interior has been altered with the construction of a mezzanine level.

## Sources:

Surveyor and Date: Fred B. Shoken, April 1985

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

## 1. Name

historic Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company

and/or common Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Company

## 2. Location

street & number 202 East Redwood Street N/A not for publication

city, town Baltimore N/A vicinity of congressional district Seventh

state Maryland code 24 county Independent city code 510

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name RGBV Associates

street & number 7000 Security Boulevard, Suite 316

city, town Baltimore N/A vicinity of state Maryland 21207

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

street & number 100 North Calvert Street

city, town Baltimore state Maryland 21202

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Historic Sites Survey

has this property been determined eligible? ☒ yes ☐ no

date 1982 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

## 7. Description

B-40

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company Building, located on the northeast corner of East Redwood and South Calvert Streets in Baltimore, is a mid 1880s brick-with-stone-ornamentation Romanesque influenced bank building which was constructed in two parts. The original section is the front portion along Redwood Street and the second section is to the north along Calvert. The exterior is characterized by heavy weight and massiveness reinforced by deeply set windows, round arch window openings, squat columns with foliated capitals, broad plane roofs steeply pitched, and straight-topped windows in groups. The street elevations have foliated stone belt courses and smooth stone belt courses. The date 1885 appears in Roman numerals along the roof line above the recessed entranceway on the Redwood Street (south) elevation. The interior consists of a large banking room with a balcony around the west, north, and east sides. Interior decoration consists of Corinthian columns and ornate wall plaster work dating from when the interior was rebuilt following the Great Fire of 1904 with 1950s remodeling elements.

#### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Redwood Street (south) or main elevation is symmetrically arranged into three parts. The outer sections have parapeted gables round arch windows surmounting groups of rectangular windows divided by squat columns, and tripartite openings in the gables. The eastern section is plain on the street-level except for a small window opening near the central portion of the facade. The west section has a row of fine rectangular windows on the street level. This group of windows does not appear on the drawing published in the American Architect and Building News and may have been inserted about 1887 when the north section was added. The treatment of this set of windows is more similar to those in the addition than to the window groups in the original section.

The central portion of the main elevation is slightly set back with a recessed entrance flanked by squat columns rising from balustrades below square windows. Above the entranceway is a three-part panel with the name of the institution in the central panel with animal and foliated designed panels flanking. Fine rectangular windows with transoms rise above these panels and below a decorated frieze with the date 1885 in Roman numerals.

The west or Calvert Street elevation is divided into two bays corresponding to construction. Both bays have sets of rectangular windows, four to a group, on both levels. The street level set in the south or original bay have squat columns dividing the openings. Decorated rectangular stone panels the width of the window groupings exist between the groupings on each floor. The panels are foliated in design except that the south or original-section panel bears a face in the design.

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company

Continuation sheet Baltimore City, Maryland Item number

7

Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The north elevation abuts the neighboring building and is not exposed. The east elevation, along an alley is brick and almost devoid of decoration except for a simple corbeled brick cornice.

In 1904 during the Great Fire, the roof of the building collapsed. The interior was rebuilt in the Colonial Revival style, some elements of which still remain. The exterior remains almost completely intact for the 1880 period.



## 8. Significance

B-40

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 checked="" 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/
<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 checked="" 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 1885-1886; 1904

Builder/Architect Wyatt and Sperry, architects

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A and C

### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company Building, erected in the 1880s, acquires significance from several sources. First, as a highly ornamented bank building executed in the Romanesque style, the Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company Building embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type and period of architecture that was not commonly employed in Baltimore for commercial structures. Several commercial buildings in the city, particularly in the retail area, have Romanesque detailing on the facade but none have the heavy massing and weight formed by the masonry construction reinforced by deep window reveals, the broad planes of the roofs, and the general largeness and simplicity of form found in the Mercantile Building. Secondly, the structure represents one of the finest examples of the work of the Baltimore architectural firm of Wyatt and Sperry which designed several major commercial and ecclesiastical buildings in Baltimore. The third source of significance is the historic role the bank played in the development of Baltimore as a financial, commercial and urban center on the east coast. The Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company underwrote bonds for several southern communities such as Norfolk, Virginia, Ashville, South Carolina, and Montgomery, Alabama.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The Romanesque influenced building was erected in 1885 for the Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company, a firm which was founded a year earlier. As constructed, the building was only half the size of the present structure, being the full length along Redwood Street but only one bay deep along Calvert Street. About 1887, the building was enlarged to its present size, two bays deep. The addition was also carried out in the Romanesque manner. The Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company was one of the first financial institutions in Baltimore to offer several services (loans, savings accounts, safe deposit boxes) under one roof. The firm took an active role in rebuilding the South in the late nineteenth century by underwriting bonds for various cities and companies. The exterior of the building survived the Great Fire of 1904 which destroyed a hundred plus acres surrounding the bank. The present interior reflects 1950s renovations but still retains elements (Corinthian columns and ornate plaster-work) from the post-fire rebuilding. In 1953, the bank merged with the Safe Deposit and Trust Company to form the Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Company.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company  
Baltimore City, Maryland Item number

8 and 9 Page 2

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

The architectural firm of Wyatt and Sperry was formed in 1880 by James Bosley Noel Wyatt (1847-1926) and Joseph Evans Sperry (1854-1930). The firm existed for about six years during which several churches and commercial buildings were designed including the Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company Building. The addition to the Mercantile building was designed by Sperry following dissolution of the firm.

An illustration of the street elevations and the principal floor plans appeared in an 1885 issue of the American Architect and Building News.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Architect and Building News (elevation and plans), 1885.

Baltimore Land Records, City Courthouse, Baltimore, Md.

Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation, files, City Hall, Baltimore, Md.

Dorsey, John and James D. Dilts. A Guide to Baltimore Architecture.  
Cambridge, Md: Tidewater Publications, 1973, p. 68.

Mooney, E. Financial Interest of Baltimore. Baltimore, Md: n.p., 1912, pp. 46-48.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

B-40

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acreQuadrangle name Baltimore, East, Md.Quadrangle scale 1-24:000

UMT References

A 

1	8	3	6	0	9	4	0	4	3	4	9	8	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are delineated on the attached map.

The property consists of a city lot.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ronald L. Andrews, National Register Administratororganization Maryland Historical Trust date 1983street & number 21 State Circle telephone (301) 269-2438city or town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

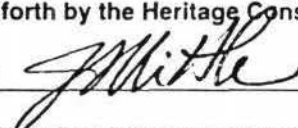
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

1-28-83title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



B-40

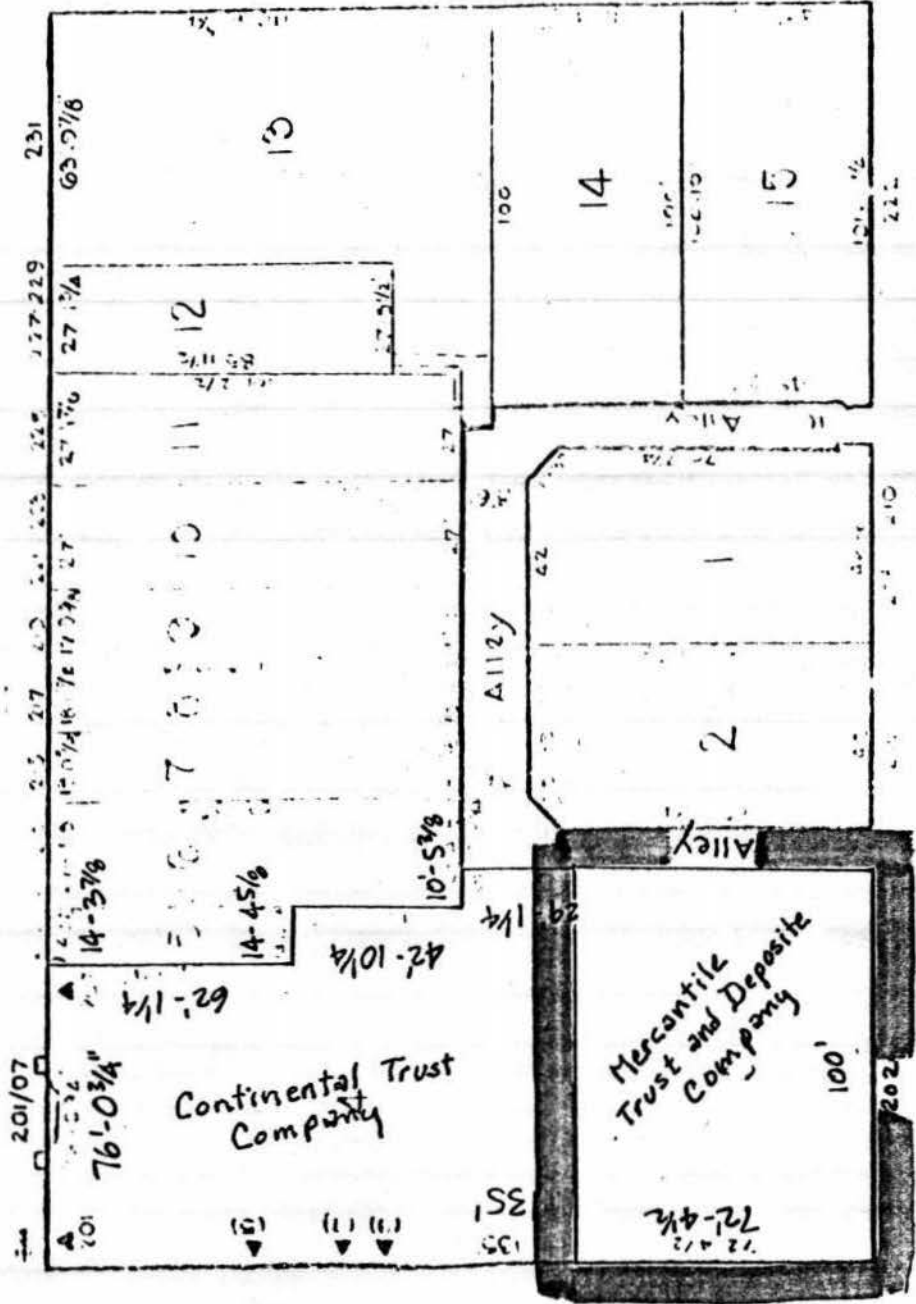
S

(637)

E BALTIMORE

GUI A

ST



ST

SOUTH

ST.

E. REDWOOD

S CALVERT

Mercantile Trust and Depo : Co.  
Baltimore, Maryland

boundaries for NR nomination

(62)

B-40  
 Mercantile Trust and  
 Deposit Company  
 Baltimore  
 Maryland

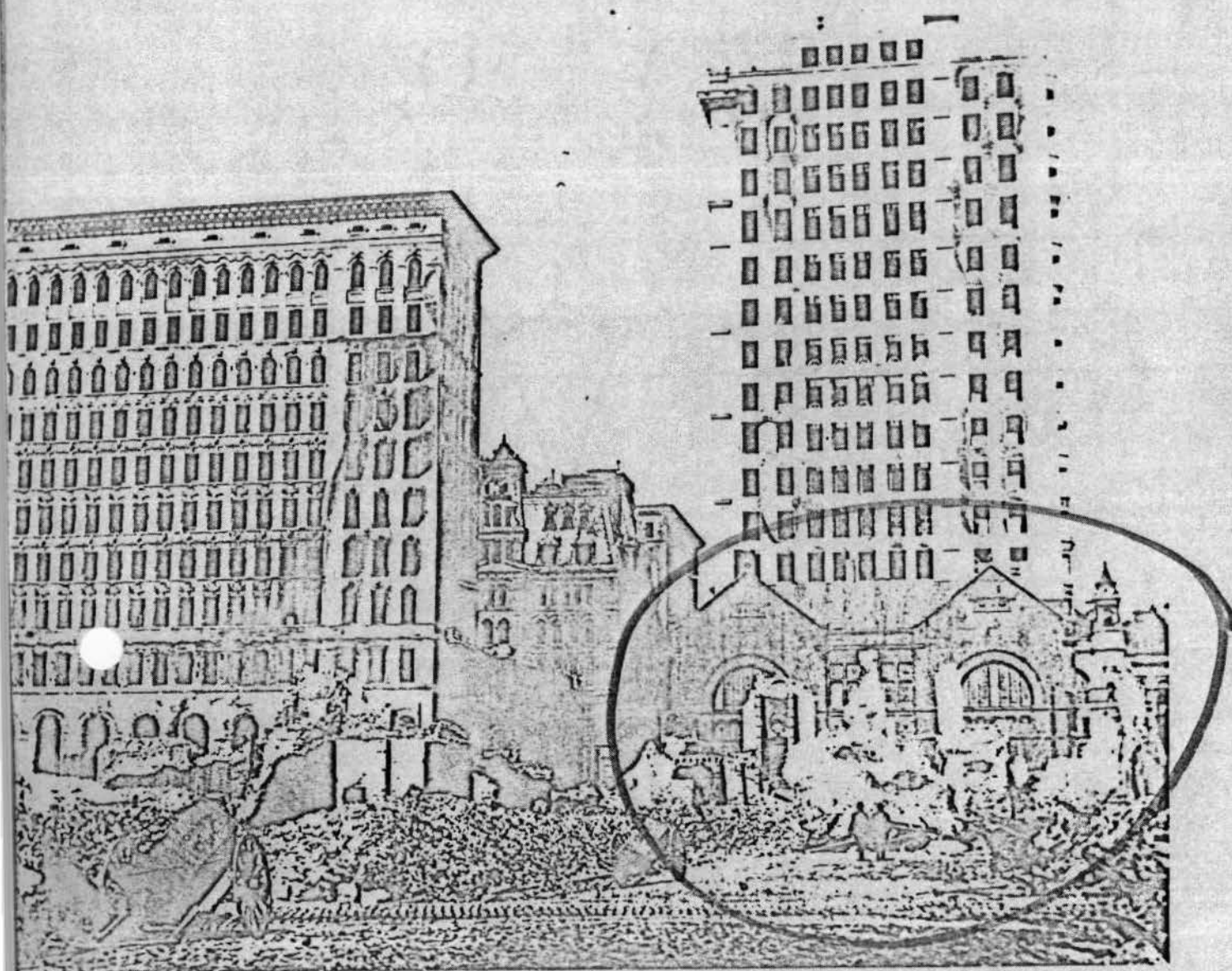
4349

18/360940/434890



(RELAY)  
 402 11 NW

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey



The Maryland Trust, left, B&O, and Continental Trust buildings were burned inside and out. The Mercantile Bank (bottom right) was saved through an accident of wind drafts. The photograph is looking toward the corner of Calvert and Redwood streets. Enoch Pratt Free Library photo

source: Bygone Baltimore: A Historical Portrait  
 Jacques Kelly, 1982





Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company  
Baltimore, Maryland

Photo date: 15 January 1982

Photo & Neg: Janis Rettaliata, 1702 Edmond-  
son Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228

Southeast elevation of the structure  
1/10

B-40

14 - Mercantile - Redwood  
Street facade.

#1982-05a  
c02fr06

15 Jan 82

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Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company

Baltimore, Maryland

Photo date: 15 January 1982

Photo & Neg.: Janis Rettaliata, 1702 Edmond-  
son Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228

West (Calvert Street) elevation of the struc-  
ture

2/10

B-40

15 - Mercantile - Calvert  
Street facade.

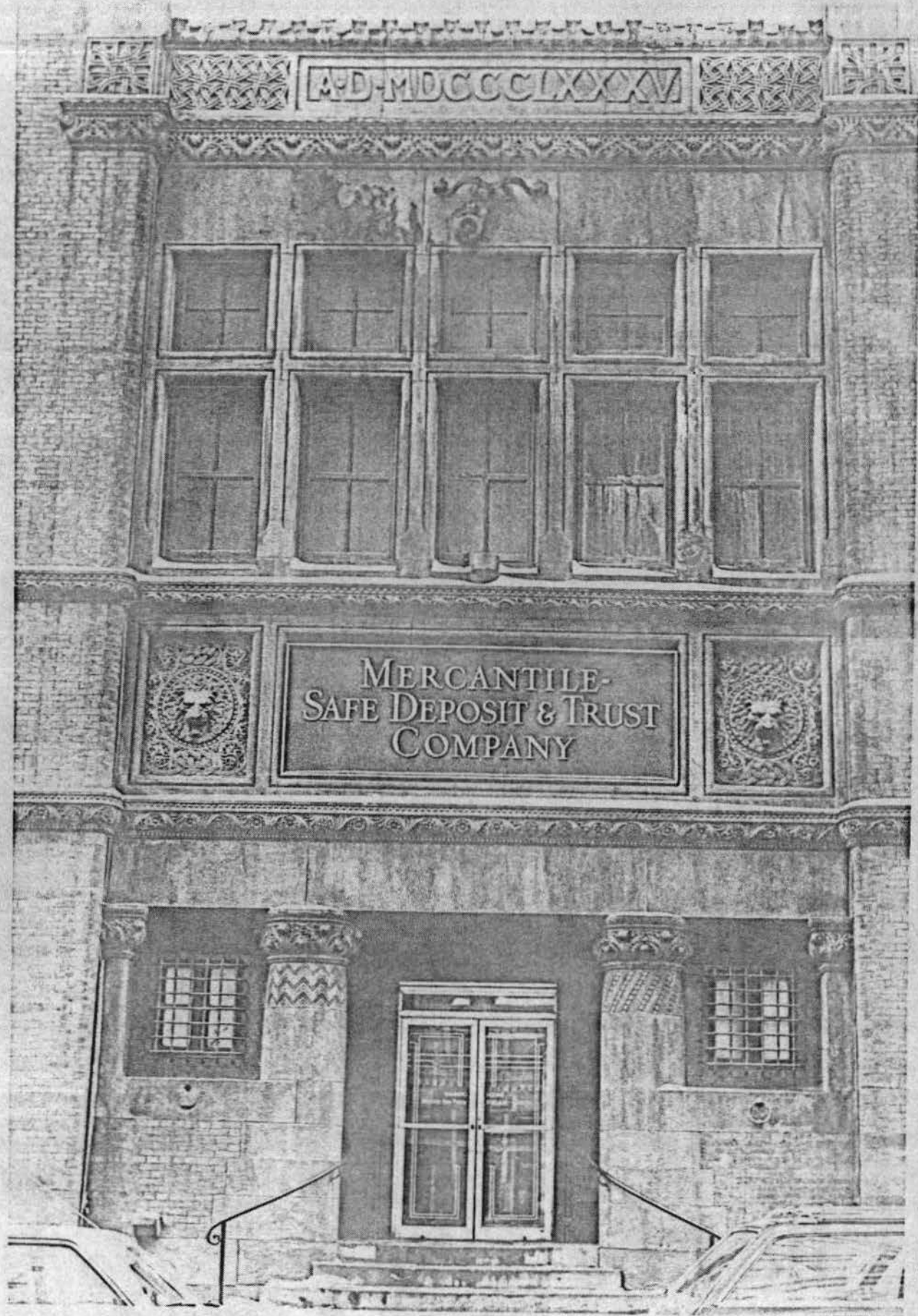
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Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company  
Baltimore, Maryland

Photo date: 15 January 1982

Photo & Neg: Janis Rettaliata, 1702 Edmond-  
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Detail of entranceway in south (Redwood St.)  
elevation

3/10

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17  
15a

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16 - Mercantile - main  
entrance (Redwood  
Street)







Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Photo date: 15 January 1982  
Photo & Neg: Janis Rettaliata, 1702 Edmond-  
son Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228  
Detail of south elevation  
4/10

B-40

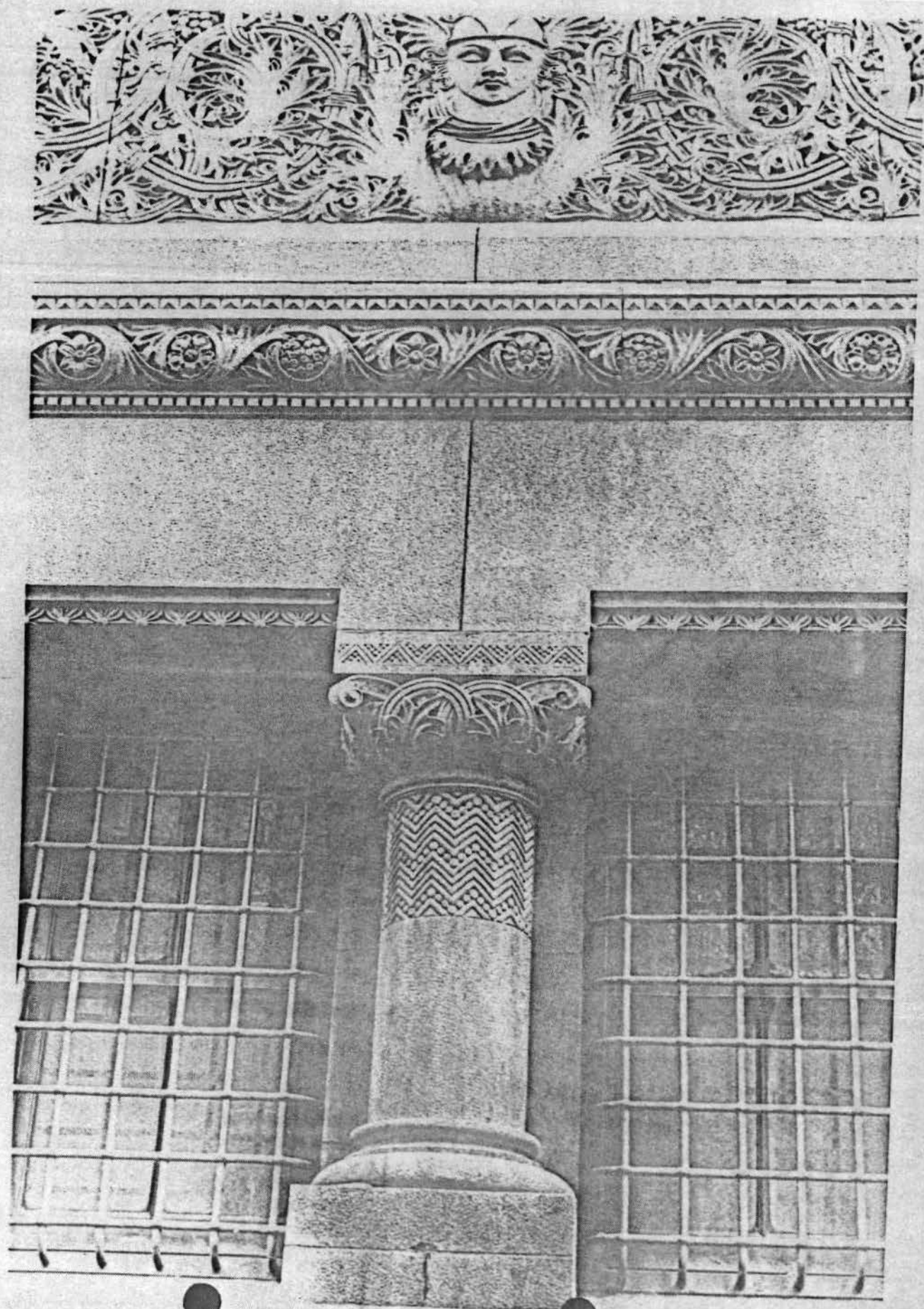
20 - Mercantile - frieze  
above main entrance.

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c03frl8a

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Baltimore, Maryland

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Detail of west elevation  
5/10

B-40

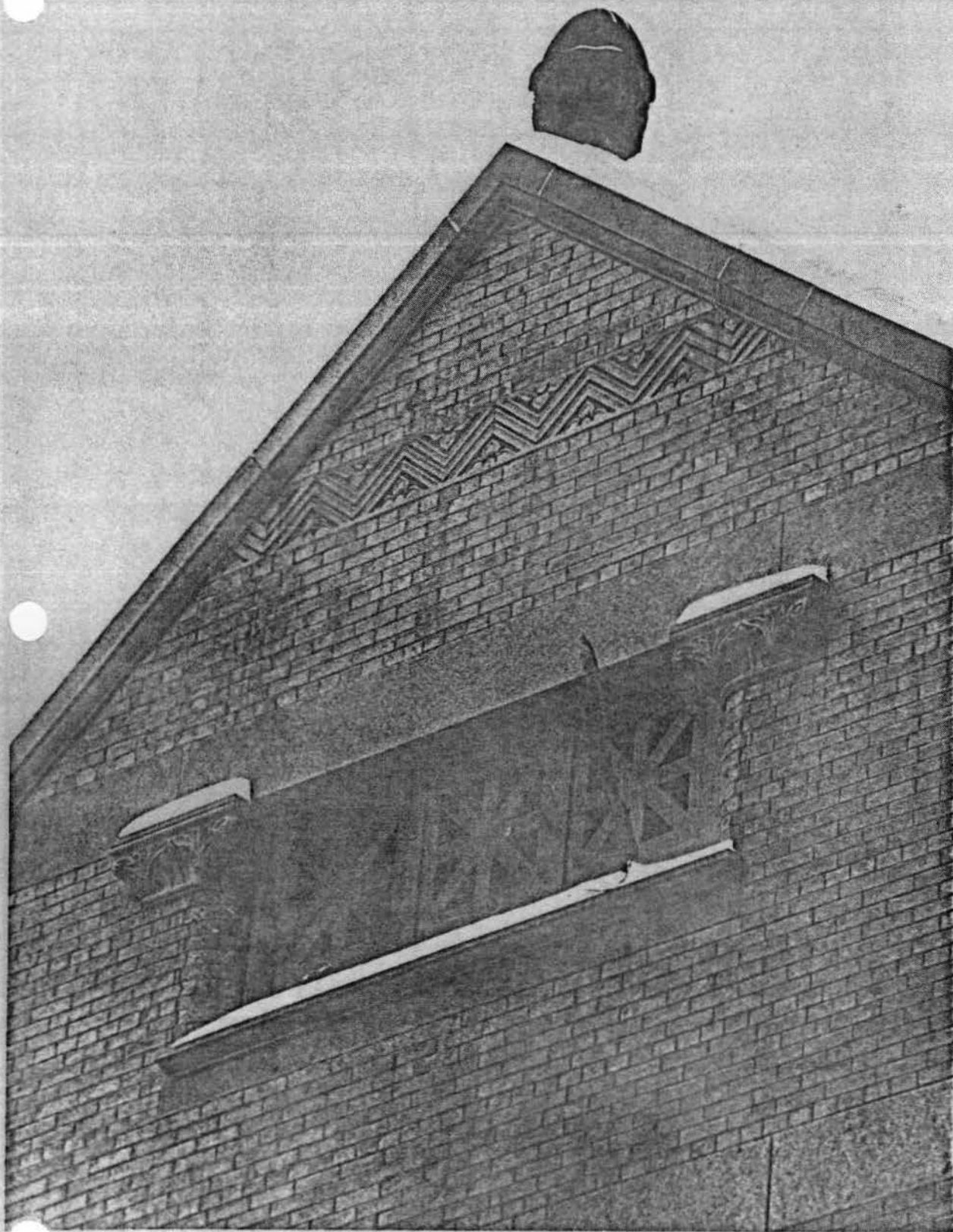
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15 Jan 82

18 - Mercantile - column on  
west facade.

B-40





Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company  
Baltimore, Maryland  
Photo date: 15 January 1982  
Photo & Neg: Janis Rettaliata, 1702 Edmond-  
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Detail of south elevation  
6/10

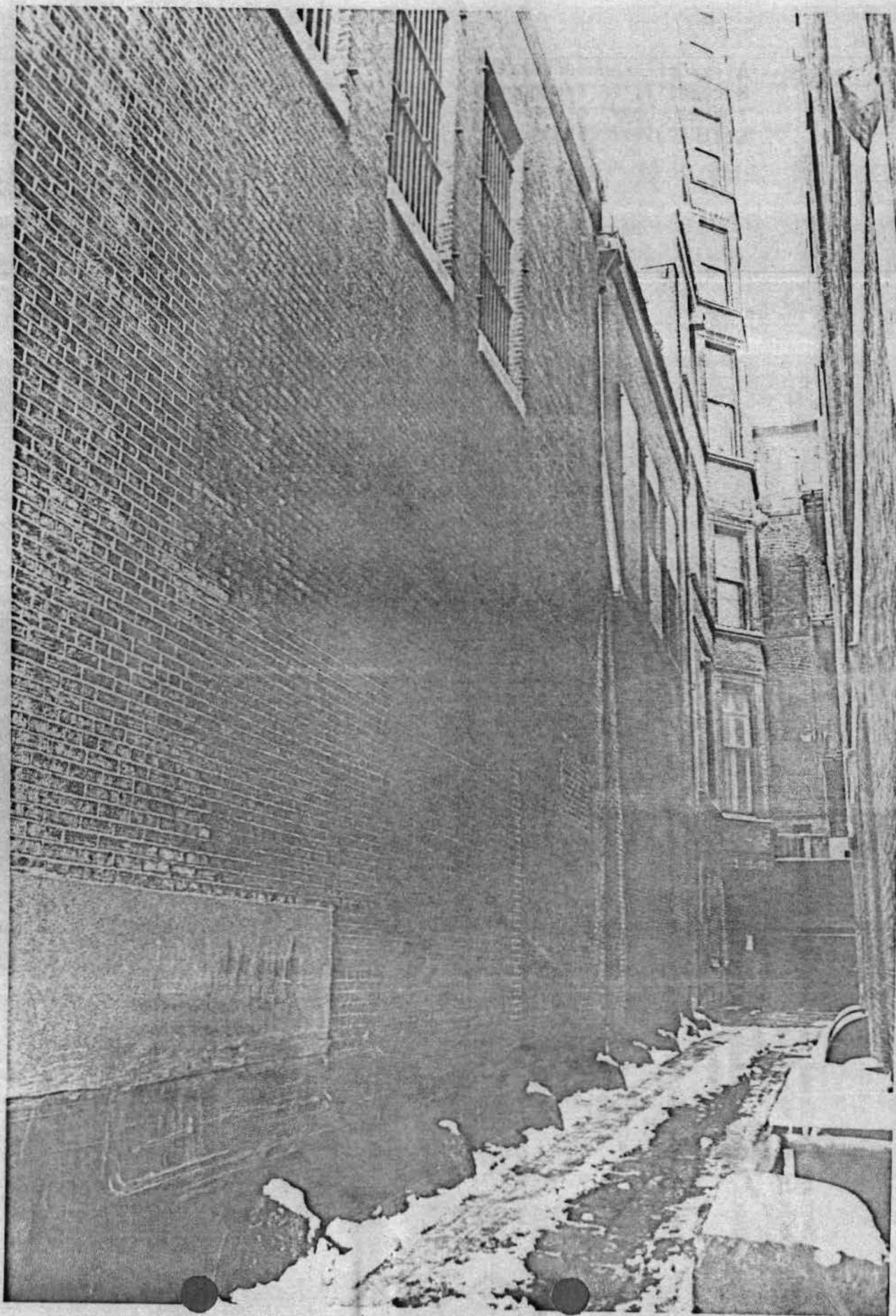
ITALIATA

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#1982-05a  
c03fr17a

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Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company  
Baltimore, Maryland

Photo date: 15 January 1982

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East elevation of the structure  
7/10

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8 - Alley off Redwood Street.  
Mercantile in foreground.  
"Chicago bay" of One  
South Calvert visible.





Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company  
Baltimore, Maryland

Photo date: 15 January 1982

Photo & Neg: Janis Rettaliata, 1702 Edmond-  
son Ave., Baltimore, MD 21228

Interior, south or Redwood Street wall

8/10

B-40

22 - Mercantile - Interior Looking  
South

15 Jan 82  
Mercantile Bldg  
c01fr28

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Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company  
Baltimore, Maryland

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Interior, north wall

9/10

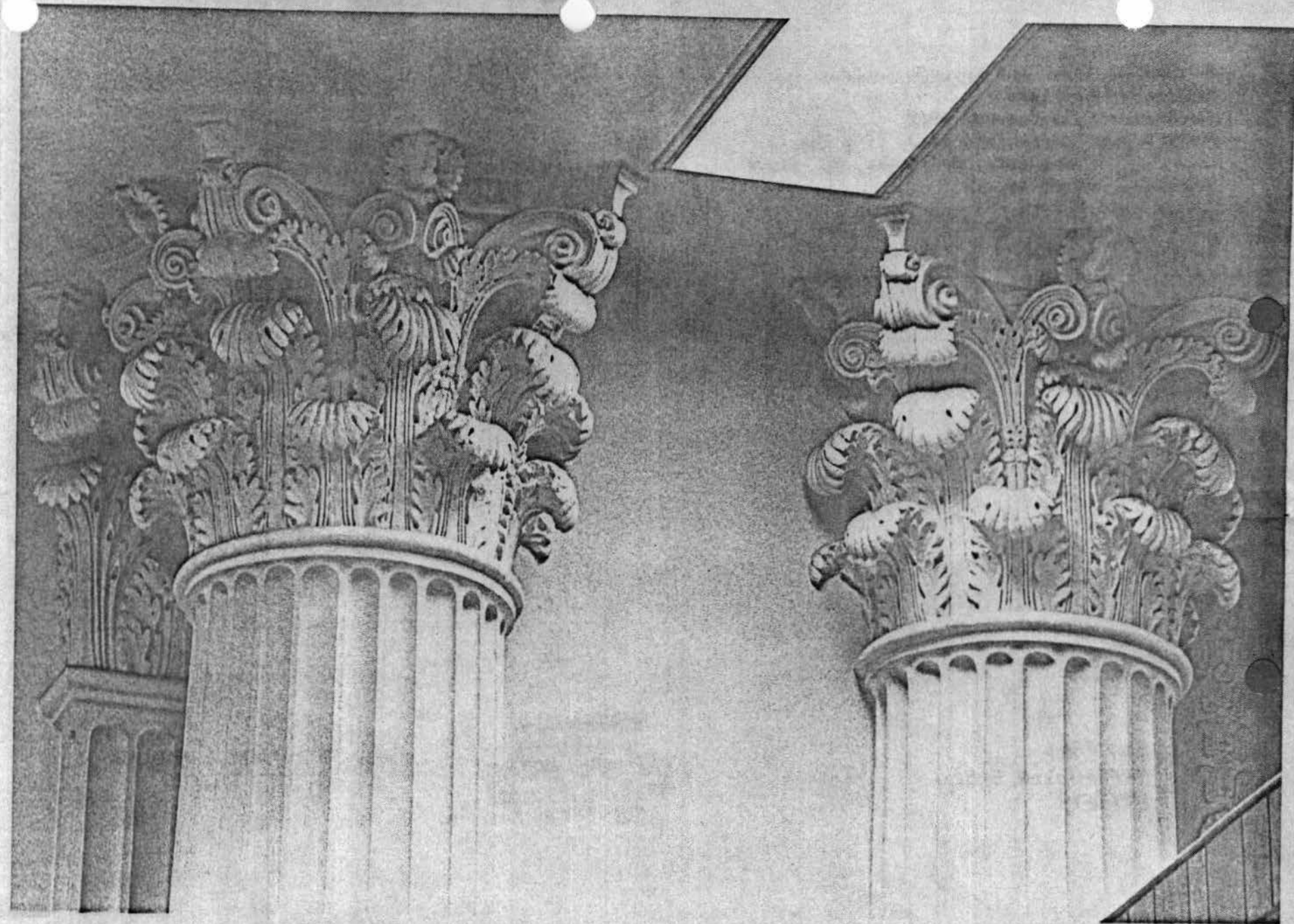
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23 - MERCANTILE - INTERIOR LOOKING  
NORTH

15 Jan 82  
Mercantile Bldg  
c0lfr36a

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Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company  
Baltimore, Maryland

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Interior, column detail

10/10

B-40

Jan 1982  
Mercantile Bldg  
c07frl8

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19 - Mercantile - main  
entrance.

*Baltimore*

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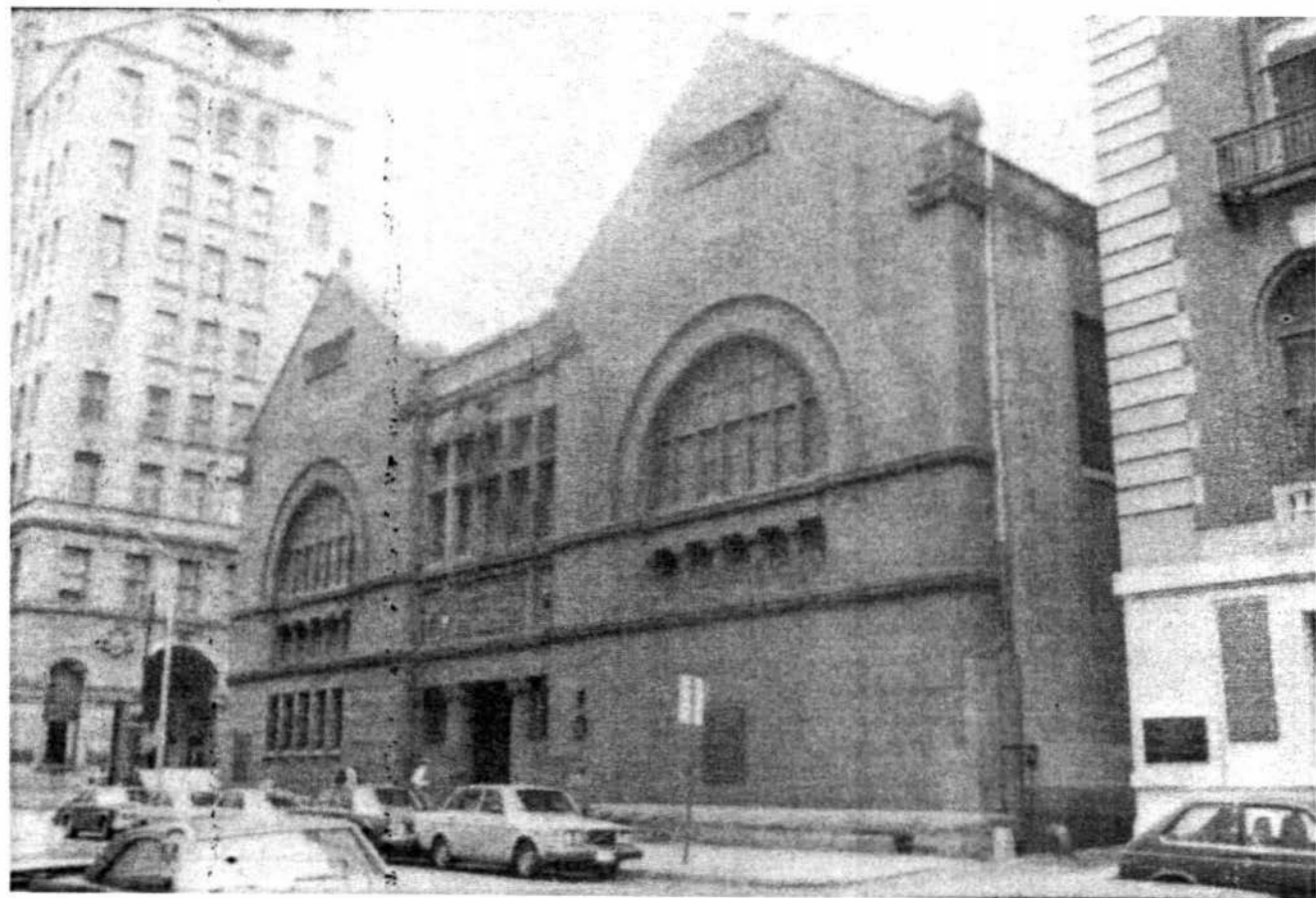
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B-0040

Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company  
200 E. Redwood Street  
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Fred Shoken  
Date: October 1983  
Neg.loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Southwest corner view



B-0040

Mercantile Trust and Deposit Company  
200 E. Redwood Street  
Financial District-Metrocenter Survey  
Baltimore (City), Maryland  
Photo: Fred Shoken  
Date: October 1983  
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust  
Southwest corner view