Herbert Hearn Hardware 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) for details about how to make an appointment.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

Last Updated: 01-31-2013
In April 1914, Martin F. Slacum sold to the United Stores Company a parcel of Race Street property that had been improved by small one and two-story shops in the midst of a primary residential district south of the intersection of Muir Street. But since the devastating July 1910 fire that destroyed a large portion of the best commercial buildings in the county seat, the nature of this end of Race Street was changing from residential to an extension of the business district. Approximately a half-dozen years prior to the fire, Henry C. Patchett financed a pair of tall, three-story, three-bay brick commercial blocks next door to the parsonage for the Grace M. E. Church, South. (See D-791 and D-792)

With the purchase of the adjacent parcel by the United Stores Company, plans advanced to erect another large scale three-story commercial building, four bays across by twelve deep. Its Race Street façade, assembled in pressed red brick laid in a fine butter joint, was defined by paired window units and highly decorative pressed metal cornices, an architectural finish established by earlier buildings up the street designed by Cambridge architect J. Benjamin Brown (1849-1922). In March 1919, the United Stores Company formally changed its chartered name to the Herbert Hearn Hardware Company, by which the property was known until the company sold the commercial block in June 1975.
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

1. Name of Property  
   (indicate preferred name)
   - historic: Herbert Hearn Hardware Company
   - other: United Stores Company

2. Location
   - street and number: 509-511 Race Street
   - city, town: Cambridge
   - county: Dorchester

3. Owner of Property  
   (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)
   - name: The Corporate Services, LLC
   - street and number: 1354 Montague Street, NW
   - city, town: Washington
   - state: DC
   - zip code: 20011

4. Location of Legal Description
   - courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Dorchester County Clerk of Court
   - liber: MLB 577
   - folio: 129
   - city, town: Cambridge
   - tax map: 301
   - tax parcel: 4536
   - tax ID number: 7-119402

5. Primary Location of Additional Data
   - Contributing Resource in National Register District
   - Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
   - Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
   - Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
   - Recorded by HABS/HAER
   - Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
   - Other:

6. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Current Function</th>
<th>Resource Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
<td>Contributing 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x building(s)</td>
<td>x private</td>
<td>commerce/trade</td>
<td>Noncontributing buildings 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x structure</td>
<td></td>
<td>defense</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>domestic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td></td>
<td>education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>funerary</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>government</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>health care</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>industry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>landscape</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>recreation/culture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>religion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>social</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>transportation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>x vacant/not in use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
deteriorated
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- altered

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

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Herbert Hearn Hardware Company building, known initially as the United Stores Company building, is located at 509-511 Race Street in the center of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The three-story, four-bay by twelve-bay stretcher and common bond brick commercial block was built around 1914. The three-story, four-bay Race Street elevation is dominated by recessed double door entrances on the first floor and double window units spanned by segmental brick jack arches on the second and third floors. Surviving as well are highly decorative pressed metal cornices at the storefront level as well as the top parapet. The side walls are laid in seven-course common bond with six-over-six sash window openings spanned by double rowlock arches. The overall building design and finish is akin to many other early twentieth century commercial blocks in Cambridge and it was very likely designed by architect J. Benjamin Brown.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Herbert Hearn Hardware Company building, known at first as the United Stores Company building, is located at 509-511 Race Street in the midst of Cambridge’s central business district. The three-story, four-bay by twelve-bay commercial block has a pressed brick stretcher bond face and seven-course common bond side walls laid in ordinary early twentieth century wall brick. The front pressed brick façade is laid in a thin butter joint. The building, erected around 1914, faces east with the flat roof sloping gradually to a lower three-story elevation.

The Race Street façade (east) is a broad four-bay pressed brick stretcher bond elevation with a first floor storefront featuring double recessed double door entrances flanked by large plate glass display windows. Stretching across the top of the storefront is an intact early 20th-century century pressed metal cornice enhanced with tapered modillion blocks similar to those found on the Phillips Hardware Company building (See D-350) and the Harrington & Bayly building (D-379) a block away. Above the storefront cornice, the wall elevation is divided into four distinct bays by plain brick pilasters, while the window walls in between the pilasters are slightly recessed. Piercing the wall surface between the pilasters are double window units of single pane sash windows. The second floor windows are slightly larger than those on the third floor with the addition of multi-pane transoms overhead. All of the window units have segmental jack arches with a raised, header brick top edge. Atop the third floor window units the wall surface corbels outward in three levels in a decorative finish to the plane of the outer wall surface. The top of the parapet front wall is finished with an elaborate pressed metal cornice of tapering modillion blocks. Interrupting the cornice block at five locations is a slightly larger bracket block featuring a decorated face with an acanthus leaf form under the curve of the top half of the bracket while the vertical lower face is finished with a panel of horizontal reeding. In between the bracket blocks, the frieze of the cornice is enriched with a series of square acanthus leaf medallions. The full cornice turns on each outer edge to extend approximately two feet on a side.
The side walls are laid in seven course common bond with three tiers of window units topped by segmental arched rowlock arches. The second floor is defined by a series of six-over-six sash windows spanned by double rowlock arches as is the third floor. Each of the window units feature molded concrete sills.

The rear (west) wall is defined by an asymmetrical four-bay fenestration. Rising on the southwest corner is a brick stove flue built against the original brickwork. The random assortment of freight doors and window units are spanned by segmental arches of two or three courses of rowlocks. Fixed above a few openings are smaller window units spanned by double rowlock arches. There are three unequally spaced two-over-two sash window units on the second floor, and the third floor is defined by smaller six-pane window units topped by double rowlock arches. The edge of the roof is finished flush with a gutter system draining storm water off the shed roof.

The first floor interior has survived with vertical beaded board walls and a pressed metal ceiling.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance</th>
<th>Check and justify below</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1800-1899</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
<td>economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800-1899</td>
<td>archeology</td>
<td>education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x 1900-1999</td>
<td>architecture</td>
<td>engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x 1900-1999</td>
<td>art</td>
<td>entertainment/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x 1900-1999</td>
<td>commerce</td>
<td>recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x 1900-1999</td>
<td>communications</td>
<td>ethnic heritage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>community planning</td>
<td>exploration/</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>conservation</td>
<td>settlement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000-</td>
<td>commerce</td>
<td>architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>communications</td>
<td>law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>community planning</td>
<td>science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>conservation</td>
<td>social history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>transportation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>other:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Specific dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construction dates</th>
<th>Architect/Builder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1914-15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Evaluation for:

- National Register
- Maryland Register
- x not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The former Herbert Hearn Hardware Company building is a dominant three-story stretcher and common bond brick commercial block that stands on the west side of Race Street in central Cambridge. Built around 1914, the four-bay by twelve-bay brick structure repeats design features linked to the work of J. Benjamin Brown, the city’s principal architect/contractor during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The well preserved Race Street elevation is executed in a pressed stretcher bond brick with thin butter joints in a four-bay format. Doubled window units spanned by broad segmental arches define the upper two floors, and intact early twentieth century cornices enrich the original storefront and top of the parapet. Now currently vacant, the building is a key commercial block in the city’s principal business district.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

In April 1914, Martin F. Slacum sold this Race Street parcel to the United Stores Company, a piece of Race Street ground that had been improved by small one and two story shops in the midst of a primarily residential district south of the intersection with Muir Street. But since the devastating July 1910 fire that destroyed a large portion of the best commercial district in the county seat, the nature of this portion of Race Street was changing from residential to an extension of the business district. Approximately a half dozen years prior to the fire, Henry C. Patchett had financed a pair of tall, three-bay, three-bay brick commercial blocks next door to the Grace M. E. Parsonage. (See D-791 and 792) With the purchase of the adjacent parcel by the United Stores Company, plans advanced to erect another large scale three-story commercial building, four-bays across by twelve deep. Its Race Street façade, assembled in pressed brick laid in fine mortar joints and defined by paired window units, followed an architectural pattern established by earlier buildings up the street designed by Cambridge architect J. Benjamin Brown. In March 1919, the United Stores Company formally changed its

1 Dorchester County Land Record, WLR 7/482, 13 April 1914, Dorchester County Courthouse.
charters name to the Herbert Hearn Hardware Company,\(^2\) by which the property was known until the company sold the commercial block in June 1975.\(^3\)

\(^2\) Dorchester County Corporate Record Book, WHM 2/48, 11 March 1919.

\(^3\) Dorchester County Land Record, 190/411, 26 June 1975, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Herbert Hearn Hardware Company
509-511 Race Street
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland
Map 301, Parcel 4536

MLB 577/129
Douglas R. Fozwell and M. Ralph Foxwell

to

5.12.2004
The Corporate Services, LLC

$550,000

272/834
M. Ralph Fozwell and Douglas R. Foxwell

to

2.7.1992
M. Ralph Foxwell and Douglas R. Foxwell

190/411
Herbert Hearn Hardware Company

to

6.26.1975
M. Ralph Foxwell and Douglas R. Foxwell

By Charter Amendment dated March 11, 1919, and recorded among the Corporate Record books of Dorchester County, WHM 2/48, the United Stores Company changed its corporate name to the Herbert Hearn Hardware Co.
Name: Herbert Hearn Hardware Company

Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

WLR 7/482

Martin F. Slacum et al.

to

4.13.1914

United Stores Company
9. Major Bibliographical References

Dorchester County Land Record, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, various volumes, Library of Congress.

10. Geographical Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acreage of surveyed property</td>
<td>23,556 square feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acreage of historical setting</td>
<td>23,556 square feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadrangle name</td>
<td>Cambridge, MD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadrangle scale</td>
<td>1:24,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name/Title</th>
<th>Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Chesapeake Country Heritage &amp; Preservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>2/25/2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>410-651-1094</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Maryland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zip Code</td>
<td>21871</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name    Herbert Hearn Hardware Company Building
Continuation Sheet

Number  9  Page 3

Sanborn Insurance Map, 1906
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Name Herbert Hearn Hardware Company Building
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 4
D-793
Herbert Stearn Harrison C.
Cambridge, Dorchester C., MA.
NORTHEAST ELEVATION
2.2010 Paul B. Touart, P. I.T.
W.E.A. / W.T. HISTORIC TRUST

1 of 4
D-793
HERBERT HENRY HAMMERSMITH Sr.
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER C., AND
WEST ELEVATION
2.2010, PAUL B. TOUARD, PICTORI
WZ. / MD. RESTORATION TRUST

2 of 4
D-793

Herbert Team Hardware Co.

Cambridge, MA

October 21, 2010, Inc.

Rouari, Pitt Co.
D. 798
40 Euston Street Hardware Co.
Cambridge, Dorchester Co., Md.

WE cannery of cornice
2. 2010 Paul B. Tovar, Pitteo.

1st. J. M. Historical Trust

4 of 4