

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

B-1272

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name BUILDING AT 419 WEST BALTIMORE STREET (preferred)  
other names/site number Harry Guss, Inc.

**2. Location**

street & number 419 West Baltimore Street N/A  not for publication  
city, town Baltimore N/A  vicinity  
state Maryland code MD county Independent City code 510 zip code 21201

**3. Classification**

|  |   |   |              |                 |          |          |  |           |  |       |  |            |  |         |          |          |  |       |
|--|---|---|--------------|-----------------|----------|----------|--|-----------|--|-------|--|------------|--|---------|----------|----------|--|-------|
| <p>Ownership of Property</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-local</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-State</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal</p> | <p>Category of Property</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> district</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> site</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> structure</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> object</p> | <p>Number of Resources within Property</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Contributing</td> <td>Noncontributing</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">buildings</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">sites</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">structures</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">objects</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>1</u></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><u>0</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">Total</td> </tr> </table> | Contributing | Noncontributing | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> |  | buildings |  | sites |  | structures |  | objects | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> |  | Total |
| Contributing   | Noncontributing   |   |              |                 |          |          |  |           |  |       |  |            |  |         |          |          |  |       |
| <u>1</u>   | <u>0</u>  |   |              |                 |          |          |  |           |  |       |  |            |  |         |          |          |  |       |
|  | buildings   |   |              |                 |          |          |  |           |  |       |  |            |  |         |          |          |  |       |
|  | sites   |   |              |                 |          |          |  |           |  |       |  |            |  |         |          |          |  |       |
|  | structures  |   |              |                 |          |          |  |           |  |       |  |            |  |         |          |          |  |       |
|  | objects   |   |              |                 |          |          |  |           |  |       |  |            |  |         |          |          |  |       |
| <u>1</u>   | <u>0</u>  |   |              |                 |          |          |  |           |  |       |  |            |  |         |          |          |  |       |
|  | Total   |   |              |                 |          |          |  |           |  |       |  |            |  |         |          |          |  |       |

Name of related multiple property listing:  
East Iron Architecture of Baltimore, Maryland, 1850-1904

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER Date 8/26/94

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

B-1272

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouseINDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufactur-  
ing facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

FEDERALITALIANATE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICKwalls IRONBRICKroof METALother WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:**

The building at 419 West Baltimore Street is a ca. 1840 three-story gable-roofed brick Federal-style dwelling, three bays wide. Around 1875, a cast-iron storefront was added at street level, converting the building to commercial use. This storefront comprises an entrance in the second bay from the east, flanked by transomed display windows framed by iron piers. The piers have raised molded panels with a central bulls-eye motif; similarly-detailed iron pilasters mark the corners.

**8. Statement of Significance**

B-1272

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

c.1875  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

c.1875  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

THEME:

Cast Iron Architecture in Baltimore, Maryland, 1850-1904

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The building at 419 West Baltimore Street is significant as representing a Cast Iron Storefront: Storefront Alterations type building.

See continuation sheet

No. 2

For HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

## Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

 See continuation sheet No. 5

## Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property Less than one acre

USGS Quad: Baltimore East, MD

## UTM References

A 18 360090 4349900

Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

 See continuation sheet

## Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries are defined as a single city lot, specifically identified as Block 642, Lot 11, recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore City, Maryland.

 See continuation sheet

## Boundary Justification

The nominated property comprises the city lot upon which the resource stands.

 See continuation sheet**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian

organization for Baltimore Heritage, Inc. date May 14, 1990

street & number 109 Brandon Road telephone (410) 296-7538

city or town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21212

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The building at 419 West Baltimore Street is a three-story gable-roofed brick Federal-style dwelling, probably constructed in the 1840s, with a Victorian-period cast-iron storefront at street level. It is located on the south side of West Baltimore Street about halfway between North Eutaw and North Paca Streets in central Baltimore city, Maryland. The building is three bays wide, constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. On the upper stories, jack-arched window openings hold 1/1 replacement sash in early bullnosed frames. The roofline is defined by a brick cornice, with corbeling above a course of cove-molded bricks. Probably in the third quarter of the nineteenth century, the structure was converted to commercial use by the addition of a four-bay, cast-iron storefront. The principal elements of this storefront survive intact, comprising an entrance in the second bay from the east, flanked by transomed display windows framed by iron piers. The piers are enriched with raised molding forming panels focusing on a central bulls-eye motif. The corners of the storefront are defined by similarly-treated iron pilasters. The building currently houses a dry goods distributor.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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## HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural/Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870  
Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930  
Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning  
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s):

COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse  
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing facility

Known Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet No. 3

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

HISTORY & SUPPORT:

In the 1860s, the c.1840 building apparently served as a liquor store, operated by J. C. Nicodemus and various partners. In 1876, it was occupied by Samuel R. Smith. By the 1880s, the building had been taken over by Joshua Robinson & Co., a prominent manufacturer and wholesaler of iron stoves and ranges, and dealer in Japan and Britannia ware. Previously located in a four-story, iron-front loft building at 414 West Baltimore Street, the Robinson firm moved to smaller quarters at 419 in 1882. Shortly before this move, the company was described in Industries of Maryland: A Descriptive Review of the Manufacturing and Mercantile Industries of the City of Baltimore as having been established in 1846 and serving a market extending to Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. Ten years later, the building was occupied by another dealer of stoves, furnaces, etc., one Frank J. Murphy, whose premises extended to include 415 and 417 West Baltimore Street as well. After the turn of the twentieth century, the building became the location of a series of firms associated with aspects of the garment industry. The converted Federal-style rowhouse lacked the broad open floor space and oversize windows of the neighboring loft structures, so it tended to attract tenants whose operations were smaller in scale than the large clothing manufacturers, or uses which did not depend as heavily upon ample lighting. Tobias Baker & Co., a clothing manufacturer and wholesaler, located here in 1903. An association with the tailor's trimmings and "notions" trade had begun by 1910, and would continue into the 1940s. The tenants in 1910 were two button wholesalers, the German-American Button Company and Raymond Button Company, which featured its "patent steel" button; button companies remained in the building into the 1920s. By 1916, Herman M. Fink, clothing manufacturer, had established operations here. Tenants through the 1920s included the Etco Manufacturing Co., clothing manufacturers; the Baltimore Hosiery Co.; GBS Tailoring Company; Liberty Clothes Shop; Empire Furniture Company (Joseph N. Berlin and Mrs. Belle C. Kleiman); Seidman Transfer Company; Abraham Shalowitz, tailors' trimmings; and Harris Fisher, tailor. The 1930 city directory lists occupants including Isaac M. Cohen, tailors' trimmings; Seidman Transfer Company; Sidney Wasserman, manufacturers' agent; and Harris Fisher, tailor. By 1940, only the tailors' trimmings enterprise of Isaac M. Cohen remained in the building; the upper

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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two floors were vacant. The building has a significant association with Baltimore's garment industry by virtue of the numerous tenants engaged in small-scale enterprises on the peripheries of the clothing and dry goods trades throughout the early decades of the twentieth century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

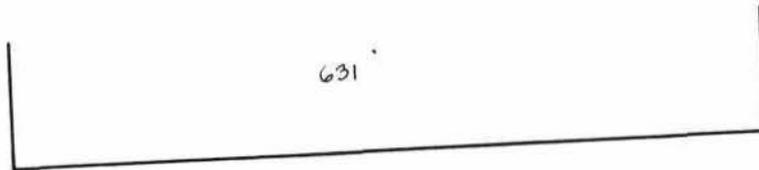
Baltimore City Directories, 1870s-1940s

Industries of Maryland: A Descriptive Review of the Manufacturing and Mercantile Industries of the City of Baltimore.  
(Baltimore: Historical Publishing Co., 1882), p. 338.

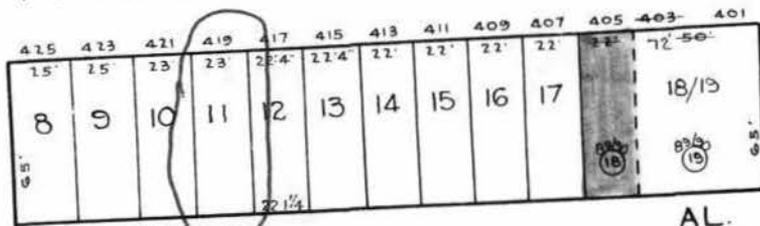
Kahn, Philip, Jr. A Stitch in Time: The Four Seasons of Baltimore's Needle Trades (Baltimore: The Maryland Historical Society, 1989).

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Baltimore City, Maryland  
Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.

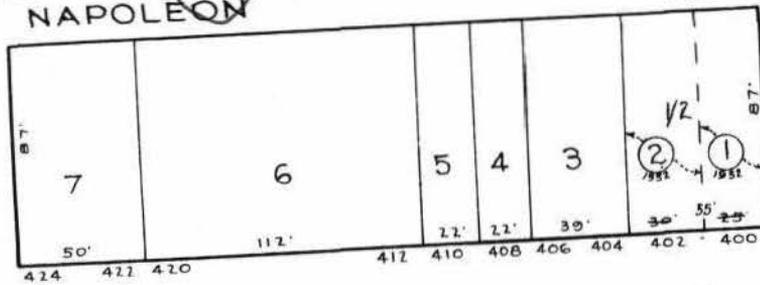
B-1272  
 419 W. Baltimore Street



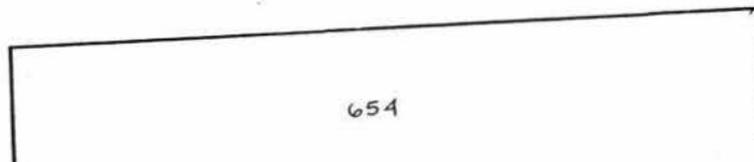
W. BALTIMORE ST.



NAPOLEON AL.



W. REDWOOD ST.



S. PACA ST.

S. EUTAW ST.

**NOTICE**  
 THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(H) OF THE CITY CHARTER. IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE  
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
 BUREAU OF PLANS & SURVEYS  
 PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION  
 WARD 4 SECTION 8  
 BLOCK 642  
 SCALE 1/4" = 50' FT. DATE JULY 1929

DRAWN BY G. Moorehead  
 LETTERED BY C. H. BAIN  
 JOB J. Rekesky  
 CHECKED BY

B-1272

419 West  
Baltimore St.

Baltimore  
Maryland  
B-1272

18/360090/4349900

Balt East



39°15'  
76°37'30"  
Mapped by the Army Map Service