

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

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** 239  
 historic name BUILDING AT 235 NORTH GAY STREET (preferred)  
 other names/site number Spartana Electronics

**2. Location** 239  
 street & number 235 North Gay Street N/A  not for publication  
 city, town Baltimore N/A  vicinity  
 state Maryland code MD county Independent City code 510 zip code 21202

**3. Classification**

<b>Ownership of Property</b>	<b>Category of Property</b>	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Cast 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 8/31/94

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**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/  
manufacturing facility

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

(enter categories from instructions)

ITALIANATE

foundation Brick

walls Iron

Brick

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The building at <sup>239</sup>235 North Gay Street is located on the southwest corner of North Gay and Front Streets. Built around 1875, the building is a tall three-story iron front structure.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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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 <sup>239</sup>~~235~~ North Gay Street is significant as representing a Full Cast Iron Front and Major Exterior Cast Iron Detailing type building.

See continuation sheet no. 4 for  
Historic Context & 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

creage of property Less than 1 acreUSGS Quad: Baltimore East, Maryland

## UTM References

A 18 3613910 43504110  
 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 1306C, Lot 20, 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 MD zip code 21212

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetBUILDING AT <sup>239</sup>235 NORTH GAY STREET  
Baltimore  
MarylandSection number 7 Page 1GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The principal facade of <sup>239</sup>235 North Gay Street was altered at street level by the construction of a modern facade of Carrara glass, metallic panels, and display windows, uniting this building with the adjacent structure. Some of the original cast iron framing elements may remain in place behind this modern screen. The upper stories of the building remain essentially unaltered, displaying a three-bay cast-iron facade which wraps around the north corner of the building (Front Street elevation) a distance of one bay. Large window openings are flanked by Corinthian columns and headed by segmental arches. The windows are set deeply within the openings; the edge of the spandrels between the arches is decorated with a continuous molded band. Solid panels have been installed over the double-hung sash. Between the second and third floor levels, an intermediary cornice comprising crown molding above a dentil course runs between consoles decorated with heraldic shields. Piers at the corners of the facade are decorated with recessed panels. The building cornice has a deep overhang, supported on large curvilinear brackets with stylized modillions; the cornice returns at the north corner, and continues completely across the Front Street elevation. The Front Street facade is six bays wide, constructed of brick laid in common bond. The northern half of the street level has been altered, with infill and small glass-block windows. A secondary entrance remains in the south bay, and a small window is located in the second bay from the south on the street level; these openings are topped with brick segmental arches. On the second and third stories, the cast-iron structure and detailing is repeated in the westernmost bay; the remaining bays are defined by tall 2/2 sash windows with segmental-arched heads, decorated with heavy molded hoods of cast iron. The rear elevation is two bays wide, with infilled openings at each level, and a corbeled brick cornice. The interior is now connected with the neighboring building at 233 North Gay Street.

The decorative detailing of the iron front at <sup>239</sup>235 North Gay Street is similar to that of 121 North Howard Street, and to that of the Fava Fruit Company Building, which stood in the 200 block of South Charles Street until it was dismantled in 1976. Similar elements include the building cornice, Corinthian columns, side piers, and heraldic shield motif. It is likely that these

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

United States Department of the Interior  
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BUILDING AT <sup>239</sup>235 NORTH GAY STREET  
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structures were the products of the same local works, although it is impossible at this time to determine which of the seven Baltimore foundries which manufactured building facades during the period may have been responsible.

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BUILDING AT <sup>239</sup>~~235~~ NORTH GAY STREET  
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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

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):

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing facility

Known Design Source: None

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

BUILDING AT <sup>239</sup>~~235~~ NORTH GAY STREET  
Baltimore  
Maryland

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## HISTORY & SUPPORT:

The extensive alteration of the street pattern and numbering system occasioned by the construction of the Fallsway in 1912, and the more recent development of the Jones Falls Expressway, complicates historical research in this area of Baltimore. 235 North Gay Street achieved its present configuration about 1875. The 1880 Sanborn map shows an iron front store, 3 stories, 50' high, at this location. In 1896, Emanuel Schloss was assessed for a 3 story iron front building; M. Rosenblatt, clothier, was listed as tenant.

In 1974, the property was purchased by Anthony R. Spartana (RHB 3180/321); Spartana had founded an electronic supplies business in 1925.

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National Park Service

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Maryland

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:

Baltimore City Directories, 1870s-1940s

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

Sun, June 16, 1988 (Obituary, Anthony R. Spartana).

239  
235 North Gay St  
B-4293  
Baltimore  
Maryland

18/361390/4350410



39°15' 76°37'30" GLEN BURNIE 6.1 MI. 910 000 FEET 362 363

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Published by the Geological Survey

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239

~~235~~ North Gay Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

7 August 1994

neg: MD SHPO

photo: Ron Andrews

NE elevations

1/2

B-4293

239

~~235~~ North Gay Street  
Baltimore Maryland

7 August 1994

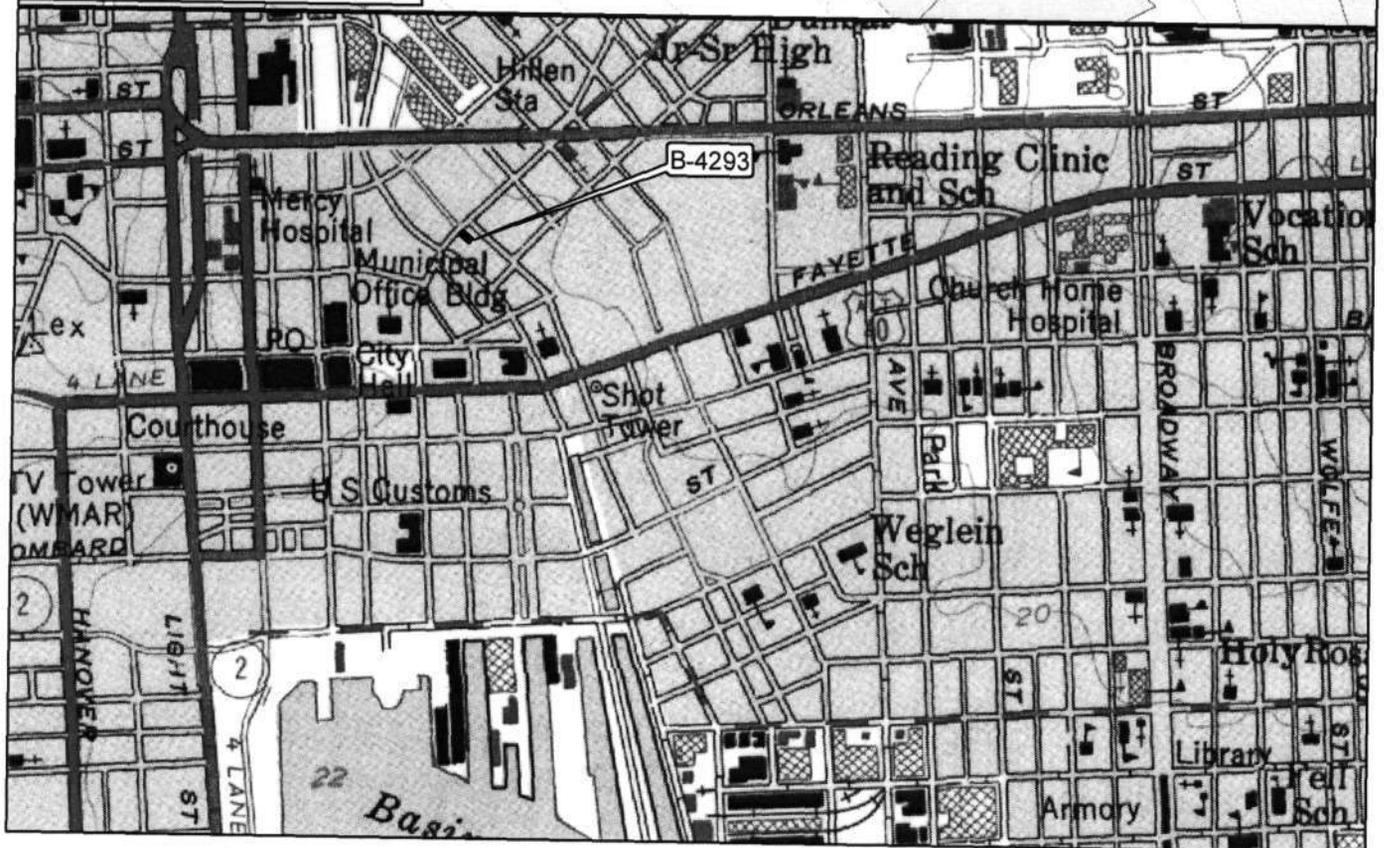
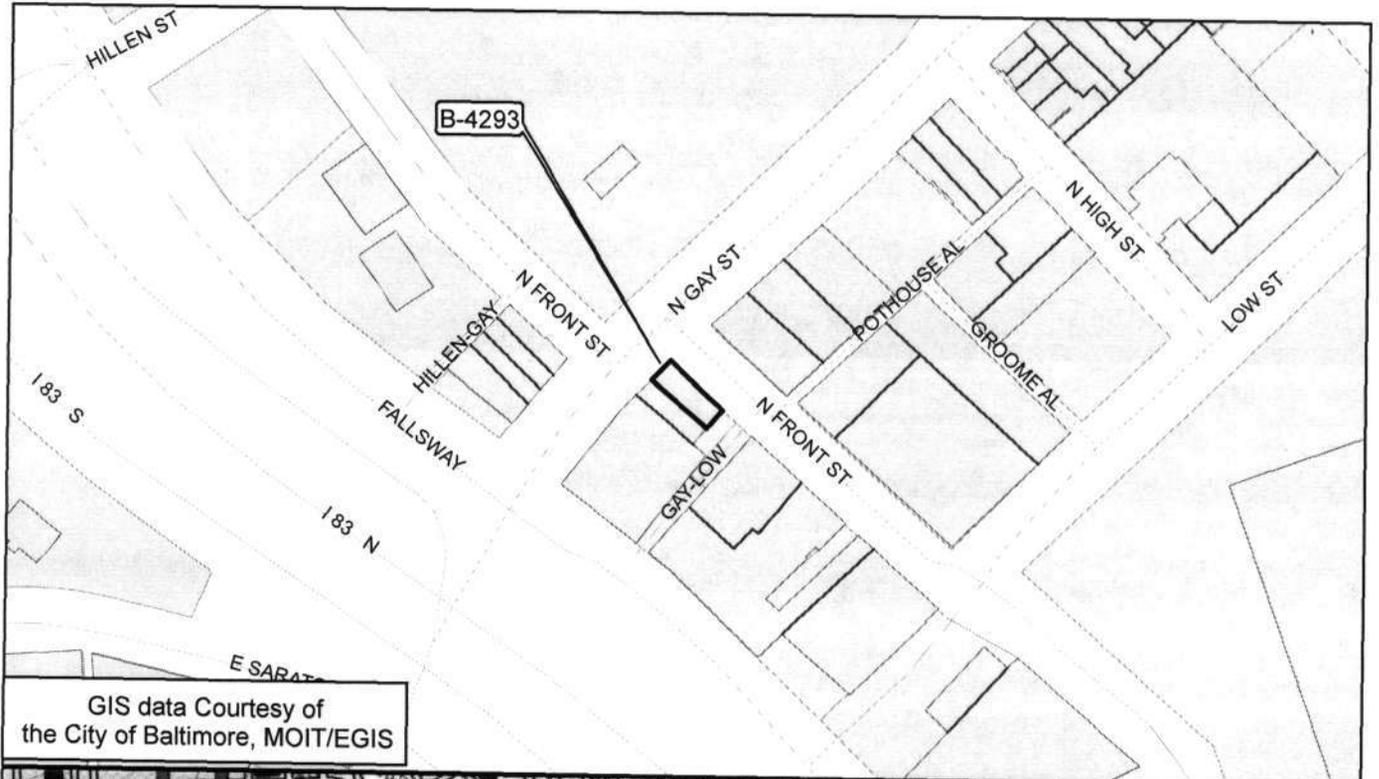
photo: Ron Andrews

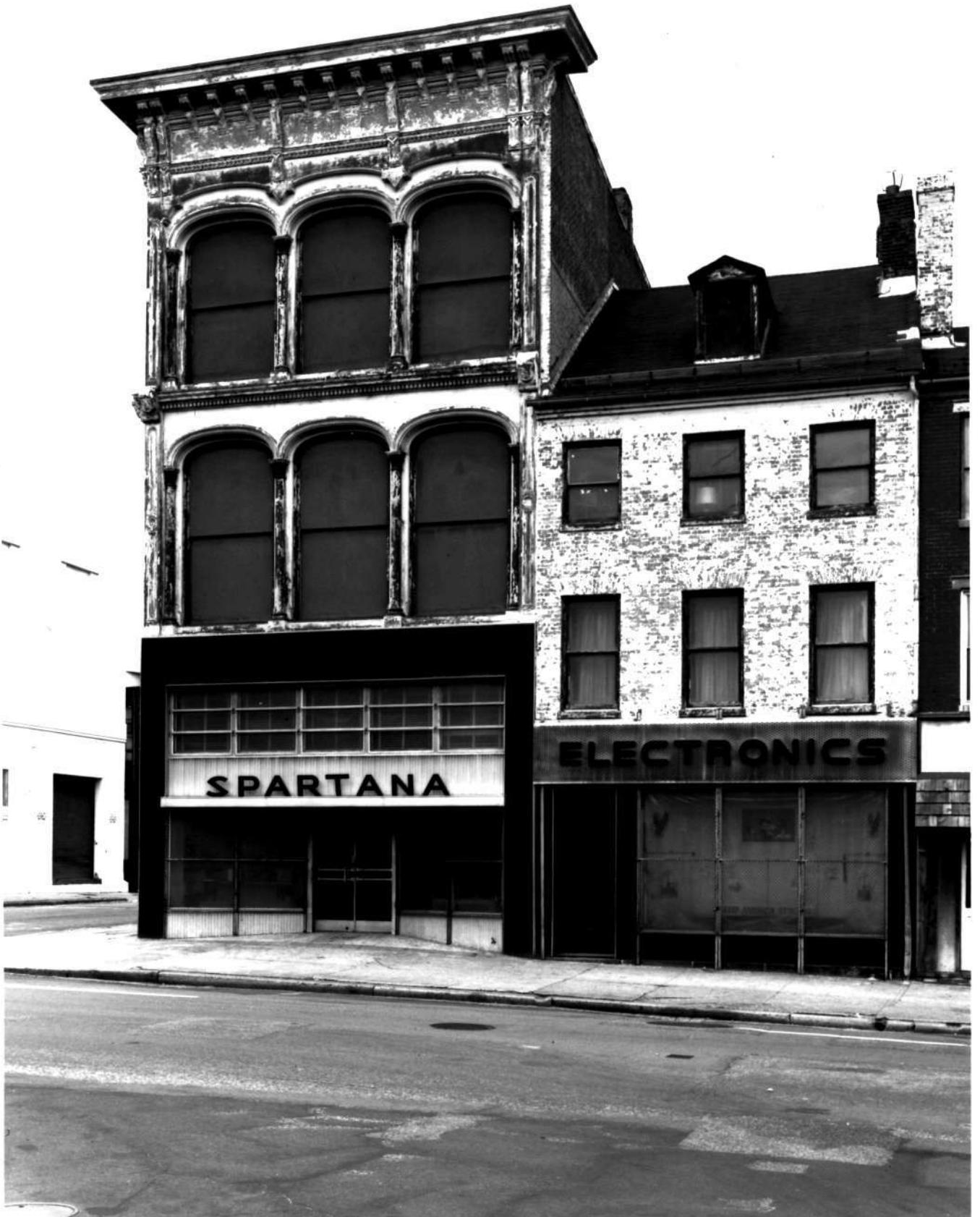
neg: MD SHPO

NE elevations detail

2/2

B-4293  
Spartana Electronics  
239 N. Gay Street  
Block 1306C, Lot 020  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





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239

~~233-255~~ N. GAY ST.

BALTIMORE CITY MD

AARON M. LEVIN 1987

NEG AT 3000 CHESTNUT AVE #102

BALTO MD 21211

FROM NE

# 1 OF 3

BALTIMORE HERITAGE

Bldg Name SPARTANA ELECTRONICS

Loc ~~233-255 N. GAY ST.~~

BALTIMORE, MD

© Aaron M. Levin 1987 # 87-314-1

Date 3/87

Neg at: 3000 Chestnut Ave. #102

Baltimore, MD 21211

From ENE # 1 of 3



B-4293

239 ~~233-235~~ N. GAY ST.

BALTIMORE CITY MD

AARON M LEVIN 1987

NEG AT 3000 CHESTNUT AVE #102

BALTO MD 21211

FROM N

# 2 OF 3

BALTIMORE HERITAGE

Bldg Name SPARTANA ELECTRONICS

Loc ~~233-235 N. GAY ST.~~

BALTIMORE, MD

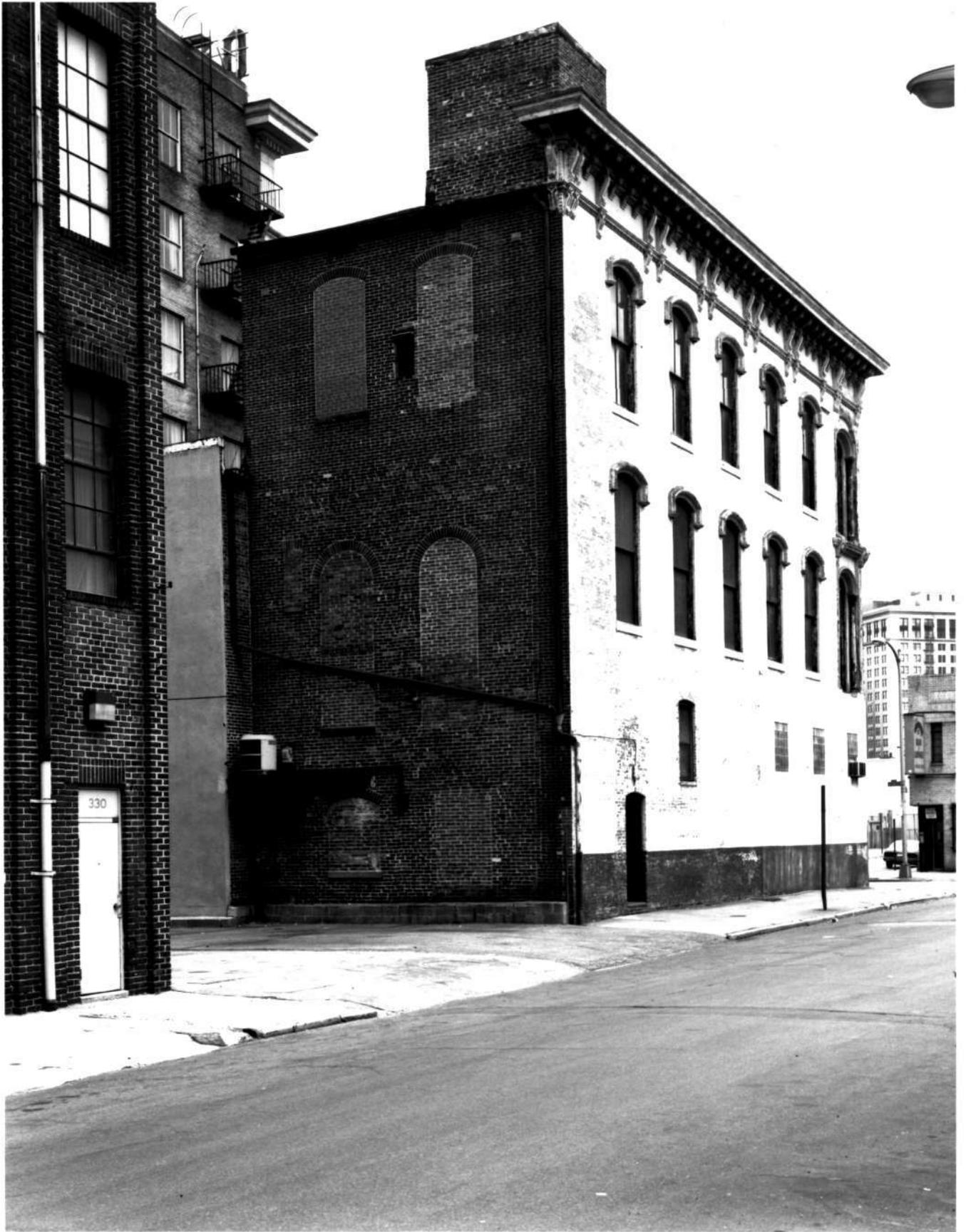
© Aaron M. Levin 1987 # 87-314-2

Date 3/87

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Baltimore, MD 21211

From N # 2 of 3



B-4293

239 ~~233-235~~ N. GAY ST.

BALTIMORE CITY MD

AARON M LEVIN 1987

NEG AT 3000 CHESTNUT AVE #102

BALTO MD 21211

FROM SE

# 3 OF 3

BALTIMORE HERITAGE	
Bldg Name	<u>SPARTANA ELECTRONICS</u>
Loc	<u><del>233-235</del> N. GAY ST.</u>
	<u>BALTIMORE, MD</u>
©	<u>Aaron M. Levin 1987 # 87-314-3</u>
Date	<u>3/87</u>
Neg at:	<u>3000 Chestnut Ave. #102</u>
	<u>Baltimore, MD 21211</u>
From	<u>SE #3 of 3</u>