

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

historic name FAUST BROTHERS BUILDING  
other names/site number Trading Post

### 2. Location

street & number 307-309 West Baltimore Street N/A  not for publication  
city, town Baltimore N/A  vicinity  
state Maryland code MD county independant city code 510 zip code 21201

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

#### Number of Resources within Property

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, MD 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 10/24/94

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-1081

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse

COMMERCE/TRADE/business

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing  
facility**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 Faust Brothers Building is a five-story brick commercial building with a cast-iron facade above an altered storefront, erected about 1875. It is located on the south side of West Baltimore Street, about 100' west of North Howard Street in central Baltimore city, Maryland. The upper facade remains virtually intact, with four bays of arched window openings framed by Corinthian columns. The side piers are articulated by alternating rusticated and paneled quoin forms.

**8. Statement of Significance**

B-1081

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

Bennett, Benjamin F., builder  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 Faust Brothers Building is significant as representing a Full Cast Iron Front type building. It is also noteworthy for the two story cast iron front on the south side along Redwood Street. The building is the only known example of cast-iron fronts on the front and back elevations.

See continuation sheet no. 3  
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. 6

## 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 acreUSGS quad Baltimore East, MD

## UTM References

A 

1	8	3	6	0	2	8	0	4	3	4	9	9	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

 See continuation sheet

## Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries are defined as a single city lot, specifically identified as Block 643, Lot 9, 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	<u>Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Historian</u>	date	<u>14 May 1990</u>
organization	<u>Baltimore Heritage, Inc.</u>	telephone	<u>(410) 296-7538</u>
street & number	<u>109 Brandon Road</u>	state	<u>MD</u>
city or town	<u>Baltimore</u>	zip code	<u>21212</u>

B-1081

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

FAUST BROTHERS BUILDING  
Baltimore  
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 1

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### GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Faust Brothers Building is a flat-roofed brick commercial building erected about 1875 for a wholesaler of boots and shoes. The building is five stories high, and features a cast-iron facade above an altered storefront. The upper facade is four bays wide, defined by Corinthian columns framing segmental-arched window openings. The top-story openings hold 2/4 sash; the second, third and fourth floors are lighted by large 4/4 windows. The windows are set deeply within the openings, which have paneled soffits; the spandrels between the arches are decorated with molded panels. The floor levels are marked by intermediary cornices with modillions. The building cornice has a deep overhang, supported on paired foliated consoles above a row of dentils and a paneled frieze. The corners of the facade are defined by alternating rusticated and paneled iron blocks, imitating stone quoins.

The facade was altered at street level about 1940 by the addition of horizontal panels of black Carrara glass above the existing storefront. Later additions resulted in the present storefront, which has display windows flanking a recessed plate glass window and entrance. At the front building line, a single supporting pier remains, sheathed in fluted stainless steel; the same material covers the area below the sills of the display windows. The windows are surmounted by horizontal metal molding setting off panels of black Carrara glass; standing lighted letters from a sign reading "Trading Post". The original storefront is documented in nineteenth-century illustrations, and comprised four open bays defined by flat arches with rounded corners framed by fluted piers with Corinthian capitals. The two inner bays had double-leaf doors, and the outer bays held display windows. Early illustrations also show a paneled parapet with scrolled decoration at the roofline; this feature was removed before 1910.

The building adjoins a nineteenth century brick commercial building on the west; a four-story structure formerly abutted the building on the east, but this has been demolished and the exposed party wall treated with stucco.

The rear elevation, fronting on Redwood Street, is six stories

See Continuation Sheet No. 2

B-1081

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

FAUST BROTHERS BUILDING  
Baltimore  
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 2

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high, with a loading dock at the street level. The two lower stories are cast iron, with four segmental-arched openings flanked by paneled pilasters with Corinthian capitals. Each arch opening has a foliated keystone decoration; the spandrels are enriched with small cartouches. The intermediary cornices have modillions and dentils. The upper four stories are brick. The third, fourth, and fifth floors have four tall 4/4 windows in round-headed openings below projecting arches of molded brick. The corners of the facade have brick quoins, interrupted at each floor level by a projecting brick cornice. A patterned brick cornice separates the fifth floor from the sixth; the top floor has six round-arched 4/4 windows. This elevation is surmounted by a simple molded cornice.

B-1081

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

FAUST BROTHERS BUILDING  
Baltimore  
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 3

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## HISTORIC CONTEXT:

### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930  
Modern, 1930-1941

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. 4

B-1081

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFAUST BROTHERS BUILDING  
Baltimore  
MarylandSection number 8 Page 4**HISTORY & SUPPORT:**

The Faust Brother Building achieved its present configuration about 1875. Tax records for 1866 indicate a three-story brick dwelling on this site, owned by George J. Appold and occupied by Joshua Robinson, a tinware manufacturer (1st floor) and George Winder, photographer (second floor). About 1875, this structure was replaced or extensively altered in the campaign which resulted in the present five-story, iron front loft building. The building was constructed for John and H. Faust of Harford County, who operated a wholesale boot and shoe company under the name Faust Brothers. The builder was Benjamin F. Bennett, a prominent nineteenth-century contractor whose office was located at 123 (old #44) South Howard Street. He was active beginning about 1851; by about 1886, he was credited with building the Academy of Music, Broadway Market, First M.E. Church, Mt. Vernon M.E. Church, Guilford Avenue Church Bennett Memorial M.E. Church, Strawbridge M.E. Church, Woman's College, Home for the Aged, "and numerous private residences of more or less pretension to beauty and ornamentation". (Half Century's Progress of the City of Baltimore, p. 121). His advertisement in Howard's Monumental City (c.1876) illustrates 307-309 West Baltimore Street as an example of his work (p. 452). In 1876, John & H. Faust of Harford County (Faust Bros.) were taxed for a five-story iron warehouse. The Faust Brothers apparently used the upper three floors of the building for their operations, and leased the remaining space; the tenant in 1876 was Hull, Lanier & Company; this firm was succeeded the following year by Lucius L. Lanier & Company, (Lucius L. Lanier, E.C. Sylvester), wholesale dry goods and clothing. by 1887, Faust Brothers had been reorganized as J. Faust & Son (John H. Faust, Charles H. Faust, Herman Schocke), boot and shoe manufacturers. The building was purchased in 1895 by William Keyser (1835-1904), a prominent Baltimore entrepreneur, who began his career operating an iron importing business with his brother Irvine. The two started working for their father in 1852, and took over the business five years later. William Keyser also became President of the Baltimore Copper Smelting & Rolling company, a copper wire manufacturing enterprise, and Vice President of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. Following the Baltimore fire of 1904, Mayor Robert McLane appointed him to head the Burnt District Commission, formed to plan for the

See Continuation Sheet No. 5

B-1081

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetFAUST BROTHERS BUILDING  
Baltimore  
MarylandSection number 8 Page 5

reconstruction of the city's mercantile center (Greene, p. 124). Keyser married Mary Brent in 1858, and the couple had two sons, Robert Brent and William, and one daughter, Mathilde Lawrence. At about the time of Keyser's purchase, an illustration of the building appeared in Baltimore: the Book of its Board of Trade (p. 105). In 1889, Pearre Brothers & Co., wholesale dry goods and notions, moved into the building. The firm was established in 1866 as Boyd, Pearre & Co., and changed to Pearre Bros. in 1870. Aubrey Pearre, a principal in this firm, was originally from Frederick; his forebears took part in the Revolution. Pearre joined the Confederate Army in 1858, and had a distinguished career as an artillery officer. Coming to Baltimore in 1866, he started a wholesale dry goods business with his brother, O.H. Pearre. Pearre Bros. handled both domestic and imported goods, and specialized in woolens for men's clothing. They established a market in the Mid-Atlantic and South, employing 27 salesmen (Kahn, P. 48). From about 1910 to 1912, the building was occupied by Lavenstein & Lubin, wholesale boots and shoes (see Jews of Baltimore, p. 372). Israel Lavenstein was born in Russia in 1860, went to Sweden at age 15 as a peddler, and emigrated from there to Baltimore. In 1908, he and Joseph Lubin founded the firm of Lavenstein & Lubin, trading as the Baltimore Shoe House; the company served markets in the Mid-Atlantic and the South, and as far west as Texas and Oklahoma (Kahn, p. 111-12). From about 1915 to 1922, the boot and shoe wholesale firm of Frank & Adler was located at this address. Founded in 1873 by Solomon Frank, Simon C. Frank, and Charles Adler, this firm became one of the leading shoe wholesalers in Baltimore, and one of the organizers in 1880 of the Baltimore Shoe and Leather Board of Trade (Kahn, p. 111). For most of the 1920s and 30s, the building housed a series of men's furnishings enterprises owned by Harry M. Blum. Around 1940, the estate of R. Brent Keyser sold the property to Irvin and Sadie Okum and George and Josephine Epstein, who operated a retail men's clothing store, "The Trading Post," in the building.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

FAUST BROTHERS BUILDING  
Baltimore  
Maryland

Section number   9   Page   6  

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**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:**

Baltimore City Directories, 1870s-1940s

Blum, Isidor The Jews of Baltimore (Baltimore: Historical Review Publishing Co., 1910).

Engelhardt, George W. Baltimore: the Book of its Board of Trade. (Baltimore: by the Board of Trade, 1895), p. 105.

Half Century's Progress of the City of Baltimore (New York: International Publishing Co., n.d. [c.1886]), p. 121.

Howard, Monumental City (Baltimore: n.p., n.d. [c.1876]).

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, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland

Foust Brothers Bldg  
B-1081  
Baltimore  
Maryland

18/360280/4349910

Balt E



(RELAY)  
5662 II NW

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and City of Baltimore  
Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric

