FHR-8-300 (11-78)

Easement

B-3720

United States Departn t of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only
received
date entered 105

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Lord Baltimore Hotel

and/or common Lord Baltimore Hotel

2. Location

street & number 20 West Baltimore Street N/A not for publication

city, town Baltimore ___ vicinity of congressional district Third

state Maryland code 24 county Baltimore (independent city) code 510

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	X commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	X yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	X N/A	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Federated Hotel Corporation

street & number 20 West Baltimore Street

city, town Baltimore ___ vicinity of state Maryland 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore Records Office

street & number Baltimore City Courthouse, Room 601

city, town Baltimore state Maryland 21202

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date 1981 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Lord Baltimore Hotel is a 22 story, 120' X 150' building located at Charles Center in downtown Baltimore. This steel frame structure with a brick veneer and granite base is capped with an octagonal tower and French Renaissance style mansard roof. The base of the building features three large arched multi-paned windows which can be considered Georgian in style. The base is decorated with Indian Head and Lord Baltimore stone medallions. The U-shaped brick shaft which rises above the base is sparsely decorated except for Benedict stone trim on the upper and lower levels and large lion head stone ornaments at the 17th floor. The tower which caps the building features granite trim at the roof line and a copper covered mansard with carved stone dormers. The major interior spaces, the lobby, main dining room and Cavelier Room, and banquet hall or grand ballroom, feature Italian Renaissance styling. The 5,377 square foot lobby was originally finished in marble. It has large squared piers with Corinthian capitals, brass chandelier and is surrounded by a mezzanine. The main dining room off a marble stairway from the lobby features a high ceiling, mirrored transoms and large windows. The banquet hall on the second floor can seat 1,250 people. It features large arched windows and crystal chandeliers. The hotel originally housed 700 rooms, but this has been reduced to the present 600 rooms.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The exterior of the Baltimore and Hanover Street elevations is constructed of granite on the first floor and mezzanine level. Street level storefronts flank the entrances to the hotel on these elevations. They were altered in the early 1970s with aluminum framed curved windows, an aluminum signboard extending across the facades and new stone panel walls. The Hanover Street entrance is protected by an aluminum marquee displaying "LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL" in large letters. The windows of the mezzanine level were originally multi-paned, but have been replaced with large single paned glazing. A pedestrian bridge which connects the hotel to the Charles Center pedestrian system enters the building at the mezzanine level on the Hanover Street side. The granite base of the building ends at the second floor with a simple dentilled cornice. Below the cornice is a series of Indian Head and Lord Baltimore stone medallions and a decorative stone panel at the Hanover Street entrance.

Above the granite base levels are two floors primarily constructed of brick, but featuring Benedict stone surrounds on the windows, false stone balconies and carved stone decorative panels above the third floor. Flag poles were originally located directly above the cornice at the entrances, but they have been removed on the Baltimore Street side. Above the Baltimore Street entrance on the second and third floors are the grand ballroom's three arched multi-paned windows set in stone trim. A stone cornice with decorative details and a central shield surmount these three windows. The central portion of the Baltimore Street facade is recessed above the grand ballroom creating a U-shaped floor plan.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The next eleven floors feature simple one over one windows with stone sills and brick lintels. The windows on the Hanover Street facade are arranged in alternating groups of two between single windows. A large vertical sign displays "LORD BALTIMORE HOTEL" on the Hanover Street facade at the corner with Baltimore Street.

The fifteenth through 17th floors feature large segmentally arched stone window surrounds extending along the three floors. The corners of the building have been beveled at the top three floors and large lion head ornaments are located at these diagonally cut corners on the 17th floor. The building walls end with a slightly projecting decorative stone cornice.

An octagonal tower is located on the roof. It features brick walls, stone trim, and a copper covered mansard with carved stone Chatauesque dormer windows. Lion with shield pinnacles project above the stone cornice of the tower. Copper finials and cresting complete the mansard roof, which also includes a brick smoke stack that projects through the roof at the rear.

The hotel is entered from either the Hanover Street side or the Baltimore Street side. Revolving doors of the Hanover Street entrance lead directly into the lobby, while a short flight of stairs must be climbed up to the lobby from the Baltimore Street entrance. The lobby is a spacious carpeted room with a surrounding mezzanine and high coffered ceilings richly decorated in octagonal designs. From the Hanover Street entrance, the check-in desk is straight ahead, the elevators are to the left and the main dining room is a short flight of stairs up to the right. The floors are now carpeted, but were originally Terazzo marble of colored marble squares laid off by brass strips. The eight squared off by brass strips. The eight squared off marble piers supporting the mezzanien are now covered with wall paper up to gold Corinthia capitals. The lobby walls were also originally marble of rose Traventine with a base of Italian Levanto marble. The mezzanine facing features a delicate arcaded design surmounted by a bronze railing. In the center of the lobby is a large brass chandelier. Marble stairs with bronze railings lead up to the mezzanine on the left, near the elevators and just to the right of the check-in desk. To the left of the check-in desk is an entrance to a restaurant. Small stores including a barber shop and a beauty salon are located at the mezzanine.

The main dining room (now called the Cavelier Room) is off a marble stairway a half level above the south side of the lobby. The dining room is a long, narrow room featuring brass chandeliers, a high decorated beam ceiling, pilasters with gold painted decorations at the capitals and cornice, and large windows along Baltimore Street. The red carpeting is complimented by red drapes and the red painted ceiling areas between beams.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The entire second floor is devoted to the grand ballroom or banquet hall which is flanked by a series of meeting rooms. The ballroom bisects the hotel in a north-south direction. The immense ballroom includes a balcony, large arched windows, crystal chandeliers, and a ceiling which is slightly vaulted at the balconies. The balcony facing and walls are now finished in wood paneling. The small meeting rooms next to the balconies feature attractive murals of historical Baltimore scenes painted in 1944.

The third floor of the hotel features the hotel offices and some additional meeting rooms. A few meeting rooms are located on the fourth floor as well, but the fourth through seventeenth floors primarily house sleeping rooms for guests. The original room size of 700 has been reduced by a hundred, these rooms have been remodelled a great deal over the years. The original size of rooms was much smaller than contemporary standards. The sleeping rooms are located along the U-shaped plan of the upper levels of the building. The tower originally housed a laundry and various hotel services; today it is primarily used for storage.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	
___ 1800–1899	X commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
X 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1928 **Builder/Architect** William L. Stoddart

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criteria: A and C

The Lord Baltimore Hotel embodies the distinctive architectural characteristics of early twentieth century high rise hotels, reminiscent of such famous American hotels as New York's Vanderbilt Hotel and Chicago's Palmer House. Built in a transitional architectural period when classical design was being abandoned in favor of Art Deco and early modernism, the Lord Baltimore Hotel was the last high rise building constructed with classical ornamentation in downtown Baltimore. It is also architecturally significant as the largest hotel building ever constructed in Maryland; one of the four high rise structures in downtown Baltimore with a distinctive roof line; and the design of a noteworthy New York architect who specialized in hotel buildings. The building of the Lord Baltimore Hotel marked a commercial milestone in Baltimore's history. It was the last of the great downtown hotels constructed before the decline of downtown Baltimore after World War II and until the area's rebirth with Charles Center, the Inner Harbor and the construction of new hotels such as the Hilton and Hyatt. The Lord Baltimore alone has survived as a hotel throughout this entire period. This immense building will soon undergo a renovation which will retain the classicism of the past while modernizing its services to fulfill an increasing demand for quality hotel space in downtown Baltimore.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The site of the Lord Baltimore Hotel was part of the 63 acre area of downtown Baltimore destroyed in the Baltimore Fire of 1904. After the fire, Harry Busick, a native of Kent County, built the Caswell Hotel, a seven story building at Baltimore and Hanover Streets. Busick had been a manager of the New Howard Hotel and before that was a clerk at the Carrollton Hotel. The Caswell Hotel was successful for many years, and Mr. Busick saw the need for a larger hotel on the site. In the late 1920s, W. L. Stoddart, a New York architect, was hired to design a new hotel – the largest ever built in the State of Maryland – on the site of the Caswell Hotel and two adjoining commercial buildings.

William Lee Stoddart was born in Tenafly, New Jersey in 1869 and studied architecture at Columbia University. After 1908, he worked under his own name specializing in hotel architecture. Among the many hotels he designed are the Francis Marion in Charleston, South Carolina (recently renovated); the Penn-Harris Hotel in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; the Yorktown Hotel in York, Pennsylvania; and the Tutweiler in Birmingham, Alabama (associate architect with William Welton), demolished in 1970. Stoddart also designed the Federal Building in East Akron, Ohio, and many banks. He died in 1940.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

The Lord Baltimore Hotel can be considered his finest achievement. The building was designed in a style which was popular for large urban hotels of the early twentieth century. The buildings are characterized by a base featuring stone ornamentation taking up the entire site of the building and housing lobby, street level stores, and major public meeting and banquet spaces. Rising above the base are two or more brick shafts in a "U" or "E" shape which house the sleeping rooms for guests. The shape of the brick shaft provided light and ventilation for the guest rooms. Large hotels of this type, such as the Palmer House in Chicago and the Vanderbilt Hotel in New York, were designed in an "E" shape because of their size. The Conrad Hilton Hotel of Chicago is an extreme example of this type of building where numerous brick shafts are needed considering the enormous amount of guest rooms. The brick shafts of these hotels are sparsely ornamented, however all feature stone decoration at the roof line to cap the building. While the exteriors of these hotels feature restrained classical ornamentation, the major interior public spaces were lavishly decorated.

The tower of the Lord Baltimore Hotel adds a special characteristic to this type of hotel and provides the building with a greater classical definition. This type of roof tower is rare in Baltimore, making the Lord Baltimore Hotel one of only four highrise buildings in the downtown area with a distinctive roofline. The Maryland National Bank Building and the Tower Building have similar roofs; the Bromo Seltzer Tower is the other highrise building in the downtown area with a distinctive roof design.

The Lord Baltimore Hotel in downtown Baltimore represents the last highrise building constructed with classical details. Later highrise buildings: the Commercial Credit Building, Maryland National Bank, C & P Telephone Building and Hutzler's Tower are characterized primarily by Art Deco styling rather than classical design. Later highrise buildings are of modern architecture.

The Lord Baltimore Hotel features a style of architecture which was incorporated into some of the finest hotel structures of the early twentieth century. When built it was the latest in moder hotel disign. The building features many excellent public spaces of Italian Renaissance design and retains much of its lavishness despite the covering of some original materials. The finest materials were used in its construction which was contracted to one of the City's largest firms, Consolidated Engineering Company. Interior spaces were designed by H. Chambers and Company, one of Baltimore's best known interior designers. At the time, except for the Fifth Regiment Armory, the Lord Baltimore banquet hall was the largest convention facility in Baltimore.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4

HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

The hotel was opened to great fanfare on December 30, 1928, at the start of the depression. The Governor, Mayor and oldest representative of the Lord Baltimore family were in attendance, and WBAL radio broadcast the opening ceremonies. Harry Busick, the owner of the hotel, died shortly after the opening and his sons continued to run the hotel until 1960. The hotel survived even though it became known as a prime jumping off point for suicide attempts during the depression years. In the 1940s the guests visits had to be limited as housing demands swelled in the City during World War II.

Over the years many improvements were made to the hotel. In 1938 air conditioning was installed. In 1944, the murals in the meeting rooms were painted by John and Mabel Giorgi, two well known artists who also decorated Rosa Ponsell's mansion, Villa Pace. In 1947, a steel bridge connected the roof of the B & O Building providing an alternate fire escape route.

Business at the hotel declined in the 1950s and 1960s as the downtown area, as a whole, felt the pangs of urban decay. The Lord Baltimore Hotel, however, continued its operations as a hotel throughout the entire period. Other major downtown hotels of that era did not fare as well. The Hotel Belvedere was converted into housing. The Southern Hotel was reused as an Engineering School, and the Emerson Hotel was demolished.

The hotel changed hands twice in the 1960s. Federated Hotels, Inc. began making renovations in the early 1970s which included modernizing some rooms, redesigning the storefronts and connecting the hotel to the pedestrian system of Charles Center with a pedestrian bridge. The hotel's location near the Mechanic Theatre has been an advantage for visitors, and many broadway stars have stayed at the Lord Baltimore when performing in Baltimore.

With the rebirth of downtown Baltimore through construction of the Charles Center and Inner Harbor projects, the Lord Baltimore is being faced with competition from newer hotels. The owners are planning to make major renovations to the building capitalizing on the tax advantages provided in the Economic Recovery Act of 1981. Renovation will allow this last expression of hotel classicism to survive in downtown Baltimore, giving visitors to Baltimrore an elegant and traditional alternative to the modern hotels recently constructed or proposed in the downtown area.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Advertisement for Opening of Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore Sun, October 27, 1928.

Article on Lord Baltimore Hotel, Baltimore Magazine, September 1928, p.11.

Bibliographical Dictionary of American Architects, J/F. & E.R. Whitey, Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc.: Los Angeles, 1970.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northeastern intersection of Baltimore Street and Hanover Street, thence northernly 149' 6 3/8" binding on the east side of Hanover Street to intersect Wilkes Lane, thence easternly 120' 10 7/8" binding in the south side of Wilkes Lane to intersect the dividing line between the properties known as 20 West Baltimore Street and 2 North Charles Street, thence binding southernly 151' 9 3/4" on said dividing line to intersect West Baltimore Street to the place of the beginning.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .413 acres

Quadrangle name Baltimore East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	360640	4137960	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5

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

state	N/A	code	county		code
state		code	county		code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Fred B. Shoken, Research Analyst

organization Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

date March 17, 1982

street & number City Hall, Room 601

telephone 301-396-4866

city or town Baltimore

state Maryland 21202

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 [signature] 10-29-82

title 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

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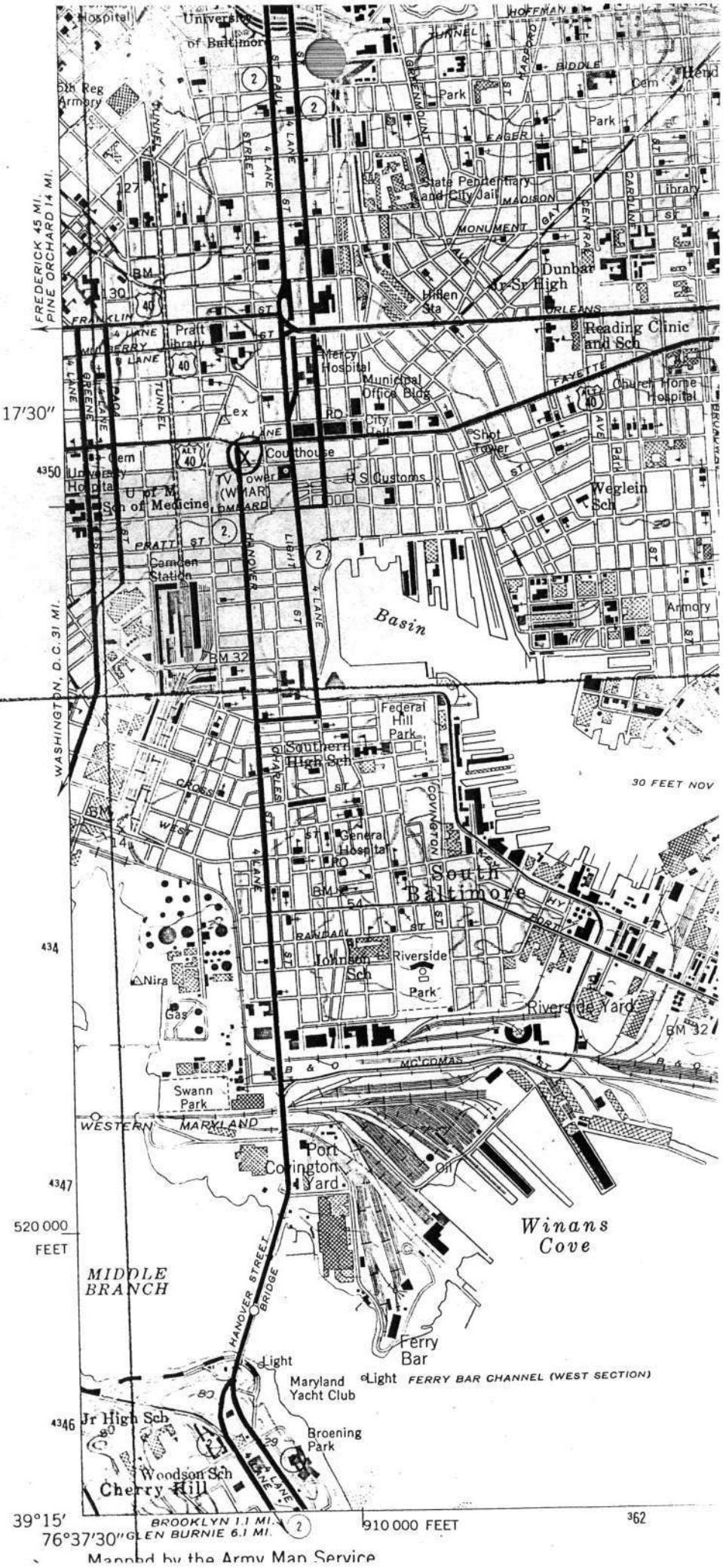
Lord Baltimore Hotel
Baltimore, Md.

18/360640/4349960



Lord Baltimore Hotel
Baltimore City
USGS Map Baltimore East Quadrangle
1:24000
B-3720
UTM Reference: 18. 360640 .4349960
N
BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE CEMETERY
GREENMOUNT CEMETERY
St Josephs Hospital
Collington Square
St Katharines Convent
Patrick Henry Sch
St Alphonsus Cemetery
Worthington Sch
Henderson Sch
PENN CENTRAL
State Penitentiary and City Jail
Pratt Library
Lex
City Hall
Shot Tower
U S Customs
Weglein Sch
Holy Rosary Sch
Patterson Sch
Patterson Park Jr-Sr High Sch
Round House
PATTERSON PARK
Hampstead Jr High Sch
Library
Armory
Radio Tower
Feils Point
Basin
Federal Hill Park
Southern High Sch
General Hospital
South Baltimore
Riverside Park
Riverside Yard
Latrobe Park
Locust Pt
Marine Terminal
Swann Park
Port Covington Yard
Whetstone Pt
Fort McHenry
Winans Cove
MIDDLE BRANCH
NORTHWEST HARBOR
30 FEET NOV 1941
17'30"
520 000 FEET
LAUREL 20 MI. 5662 I SW (BALTIMORE WEST)
FREDERICK 45 MI. PINE ORCHARD 14 MI.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 31 MI.

1/14 Baltimore Street Elevation

2/14 Hanover Street Elevation, view from west

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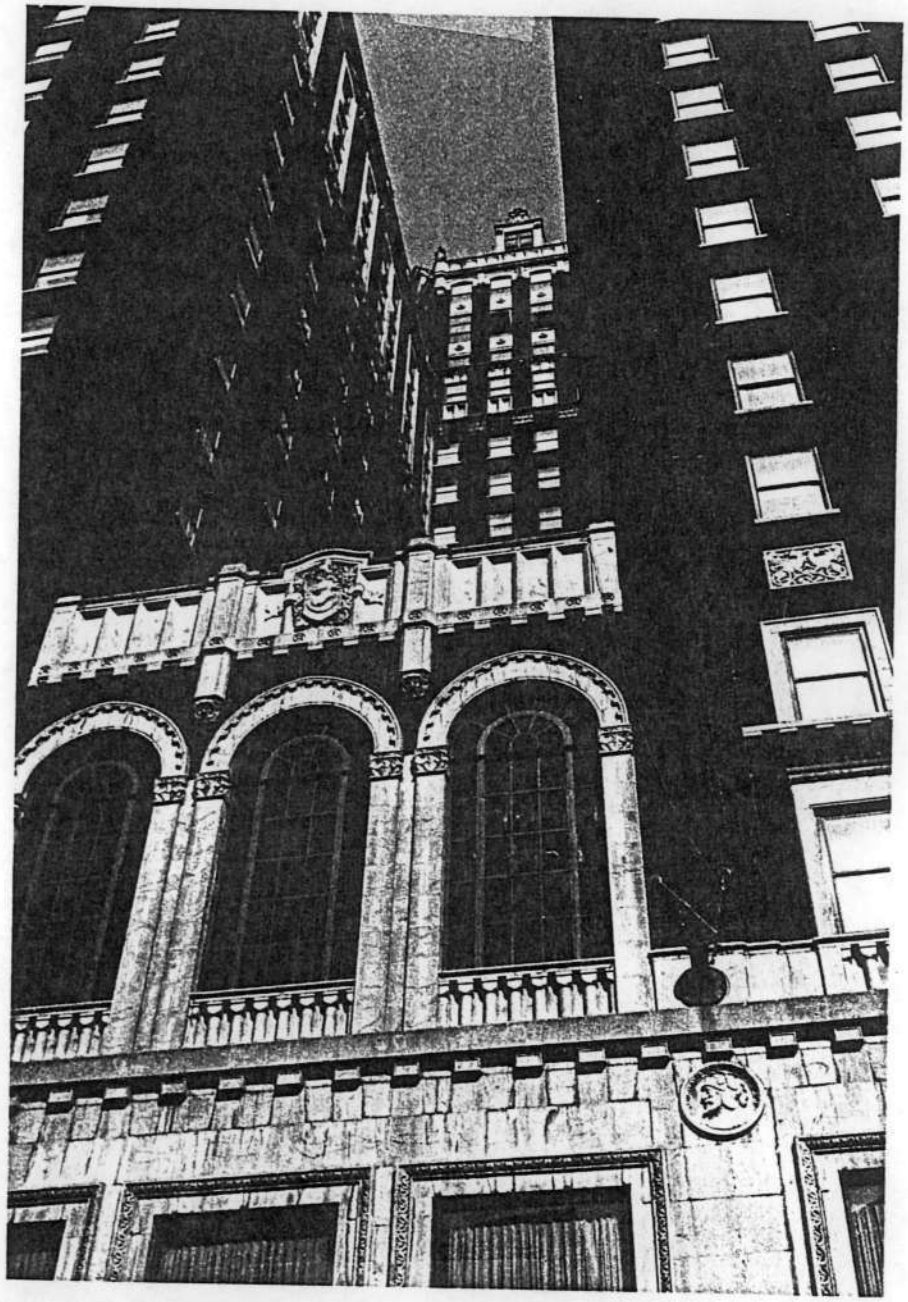
3/14 Hanover Street Elevation, lower floors, view from north

4/14 Hanover Street Elevation, lower floors, detail

5/14 Baltimore Street Elevation, lower floors, view from east



6/14 Baltimore Street Elevation, upper floors

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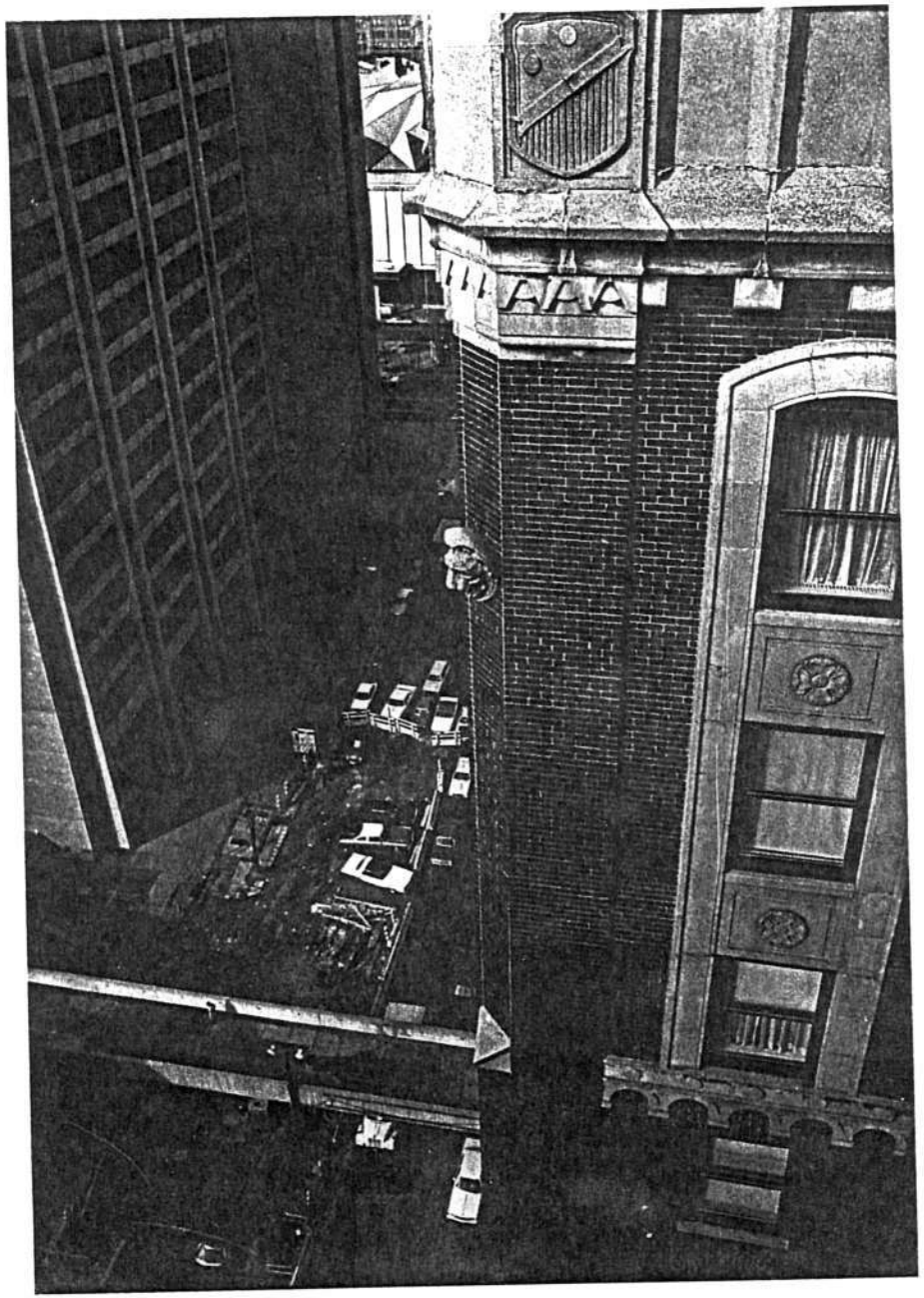
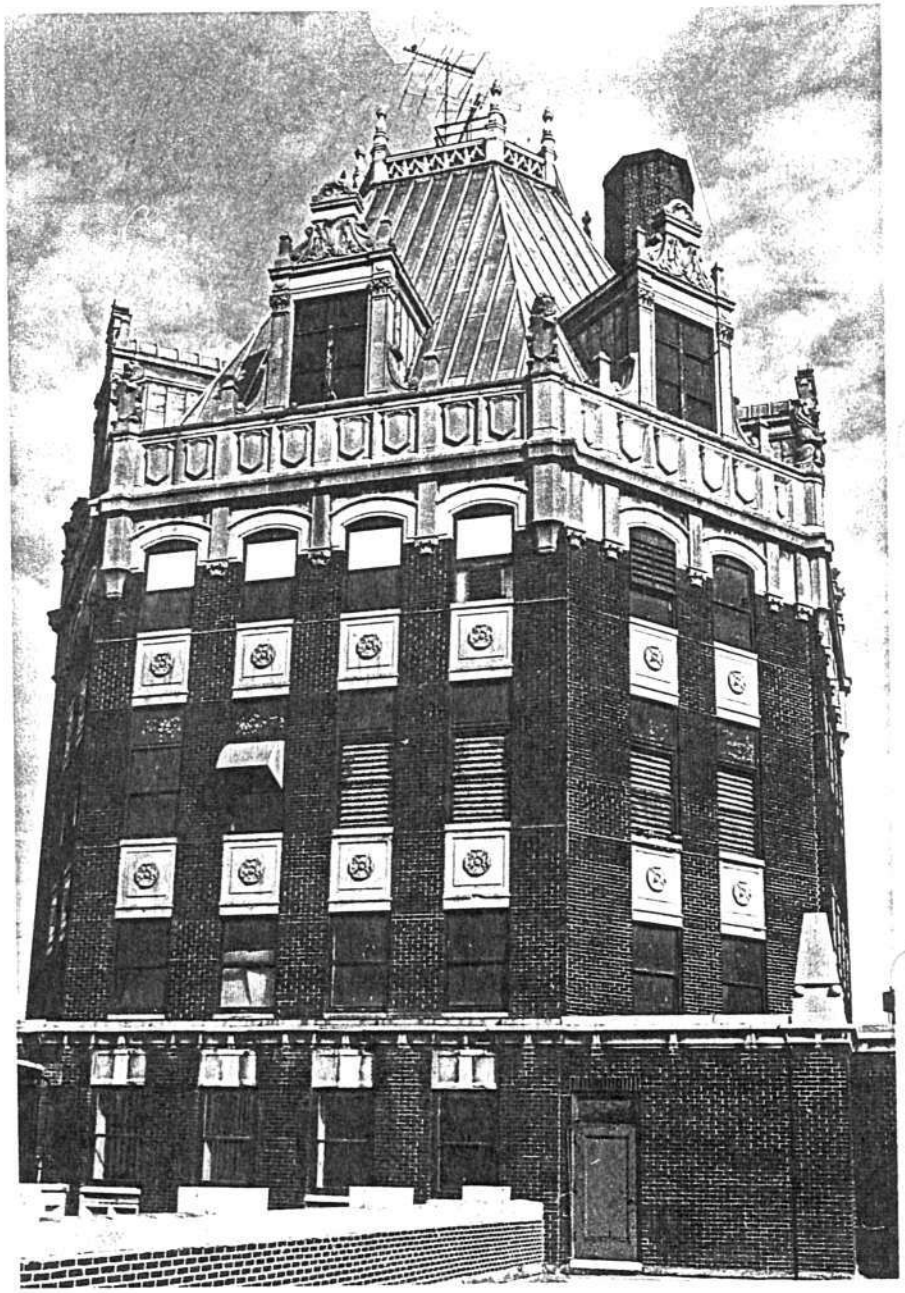


7/14 Decorative Detail near roof line of Baltimore Street Elevation



8/14 View of Tower from roof, Baltimore Street Elevation

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9/14 Rear (northern) Elevation

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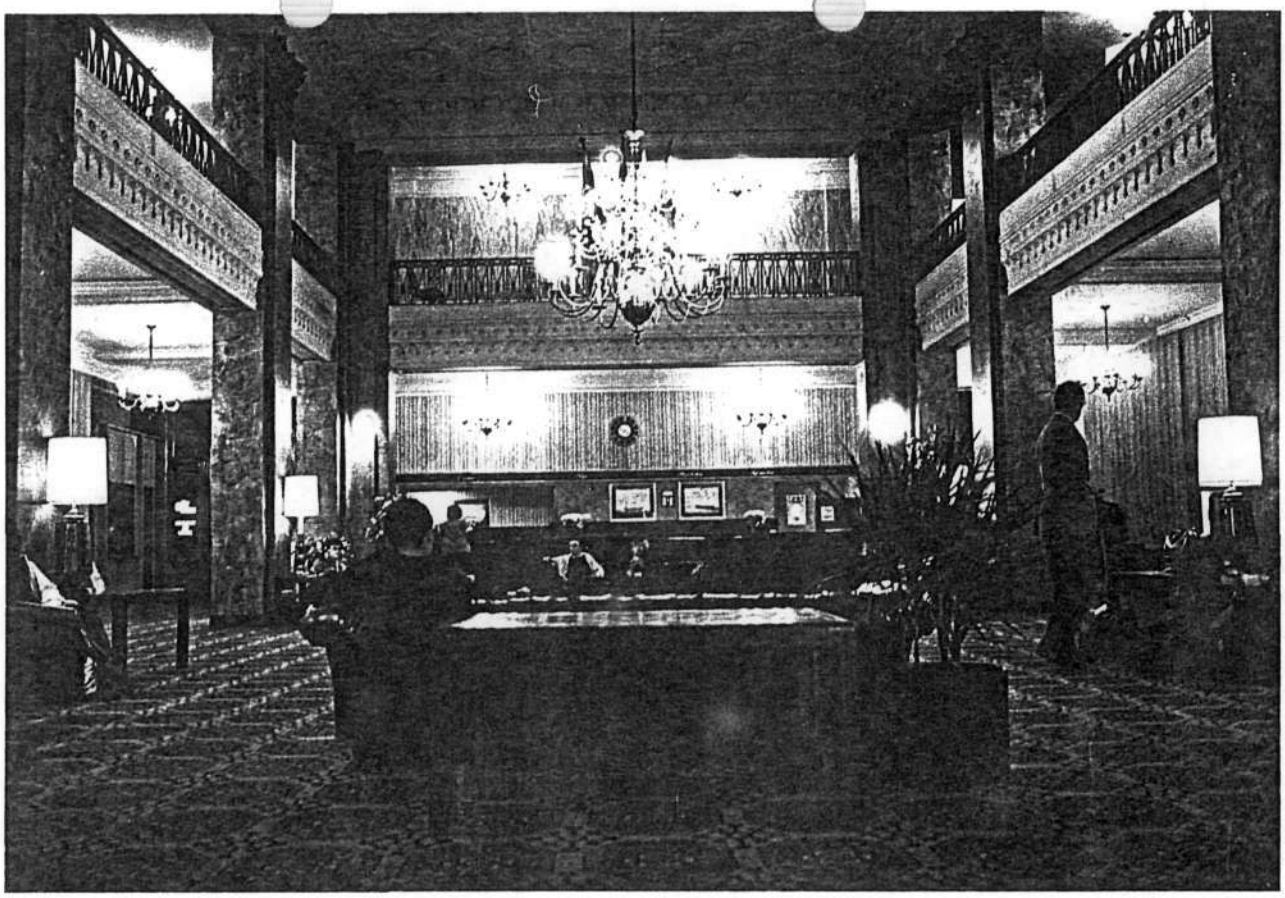
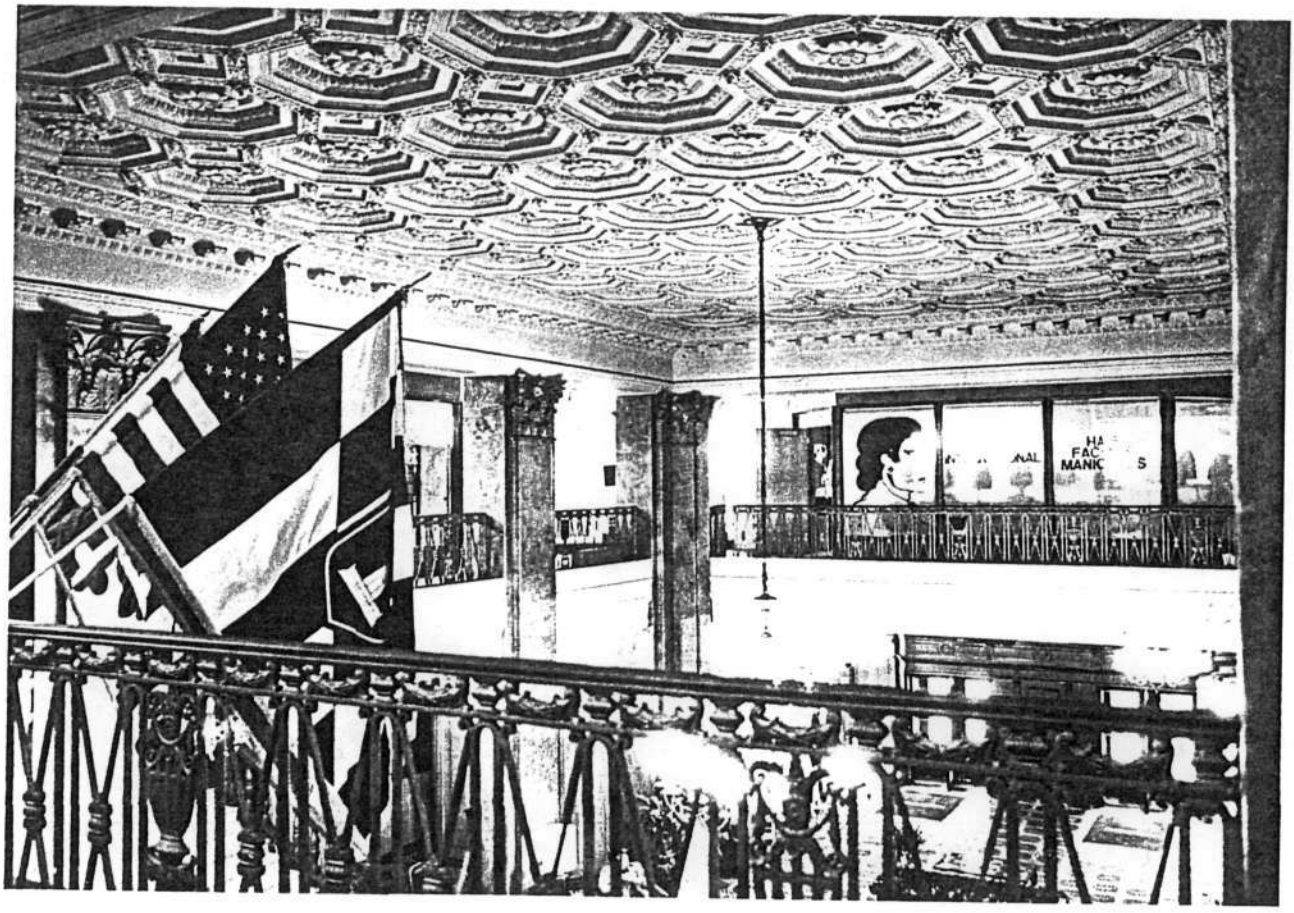


10/14 Interior - Lobby



11/14 Interior - Lobby Ceiling and Mezzanine

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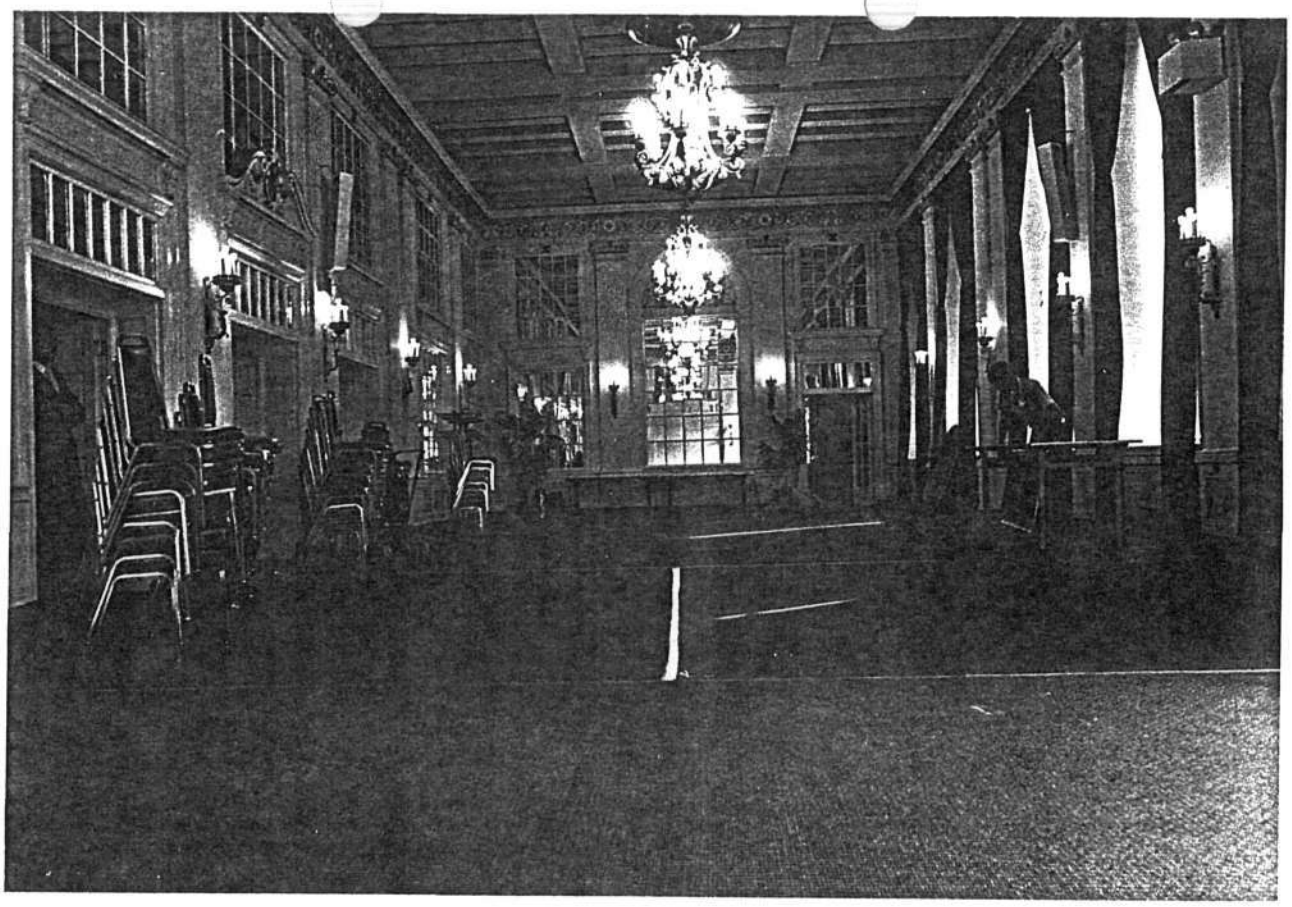

12/14 Interior - Old Dining Room (now Cavelier Room)

13/14 Interior - Grand Ballroom

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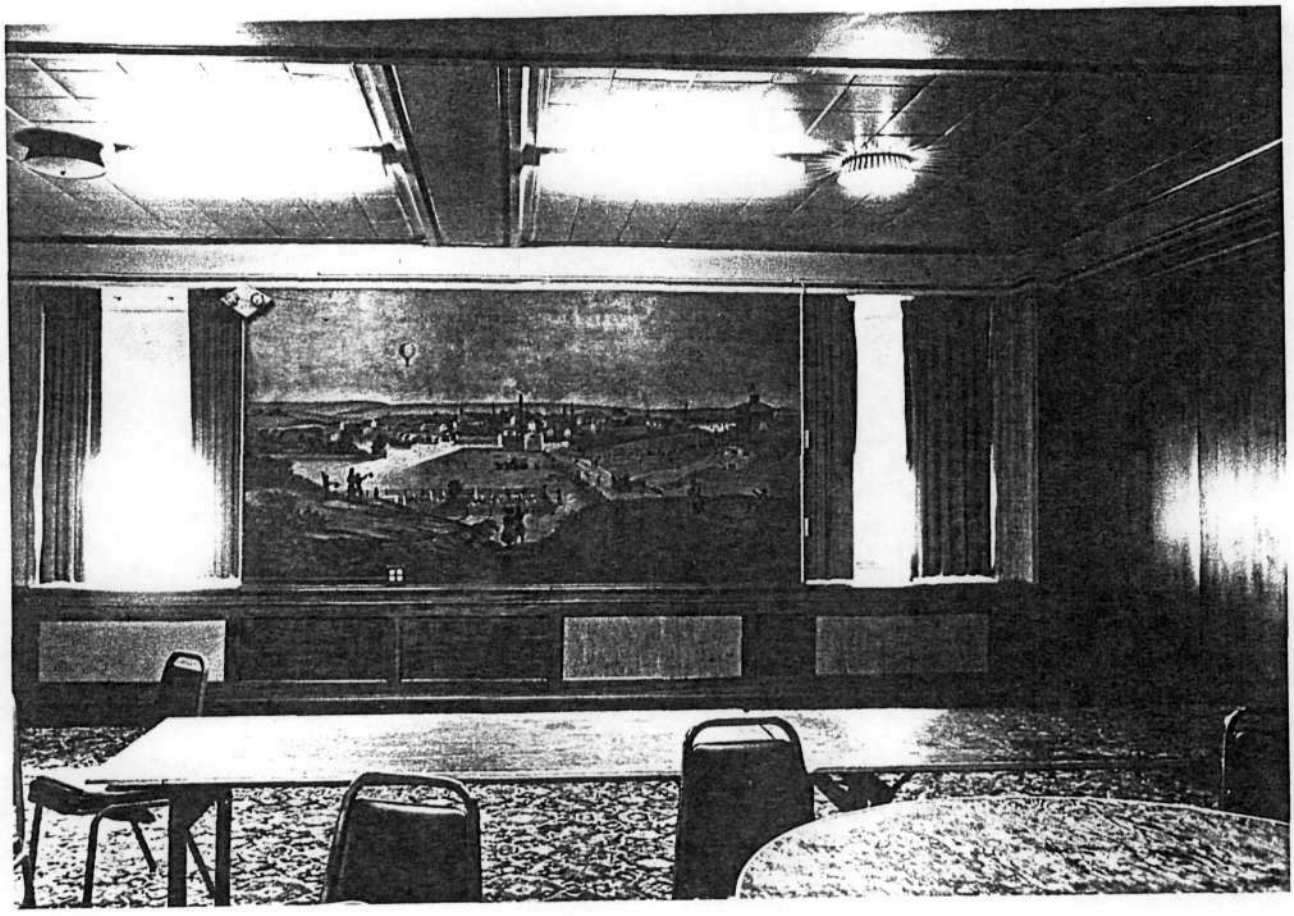

14/14 Interior - Meeting Room showing mural

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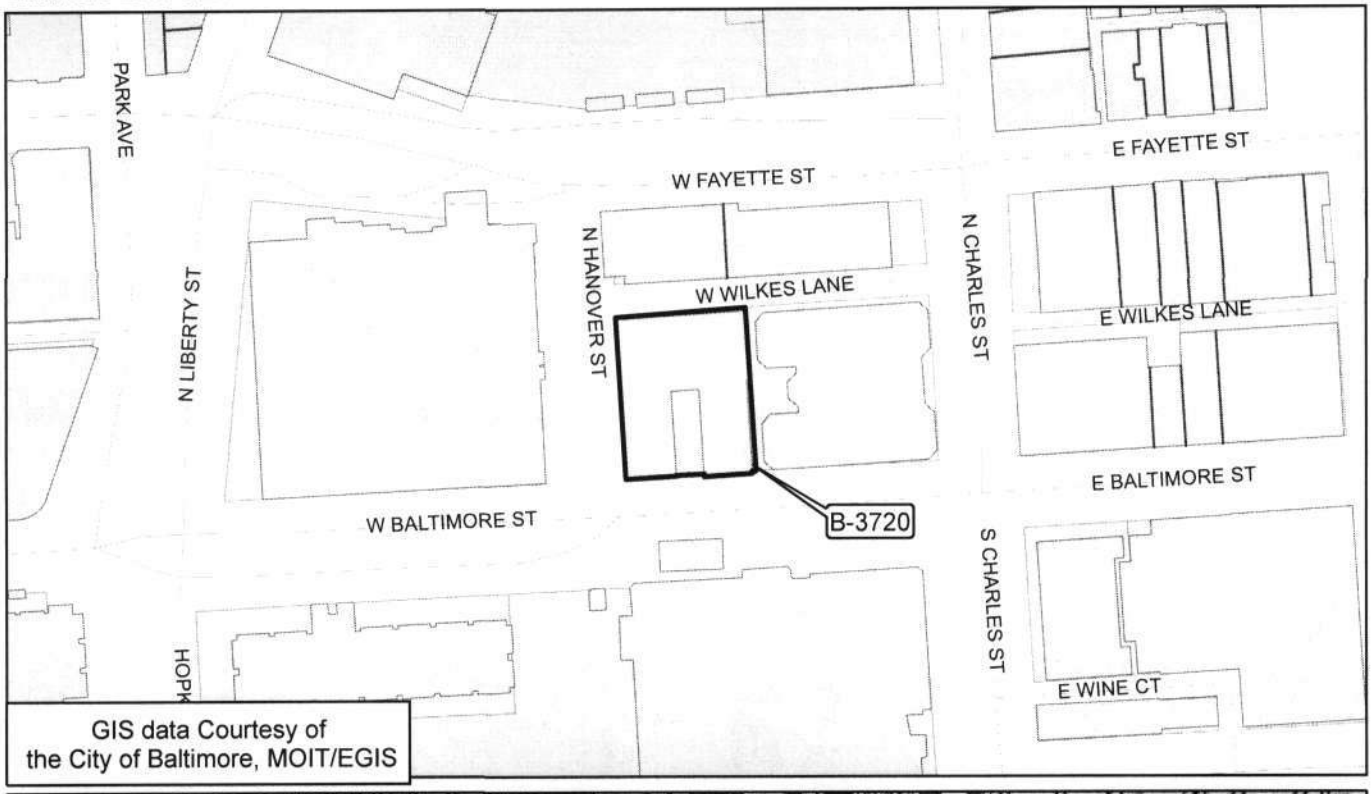
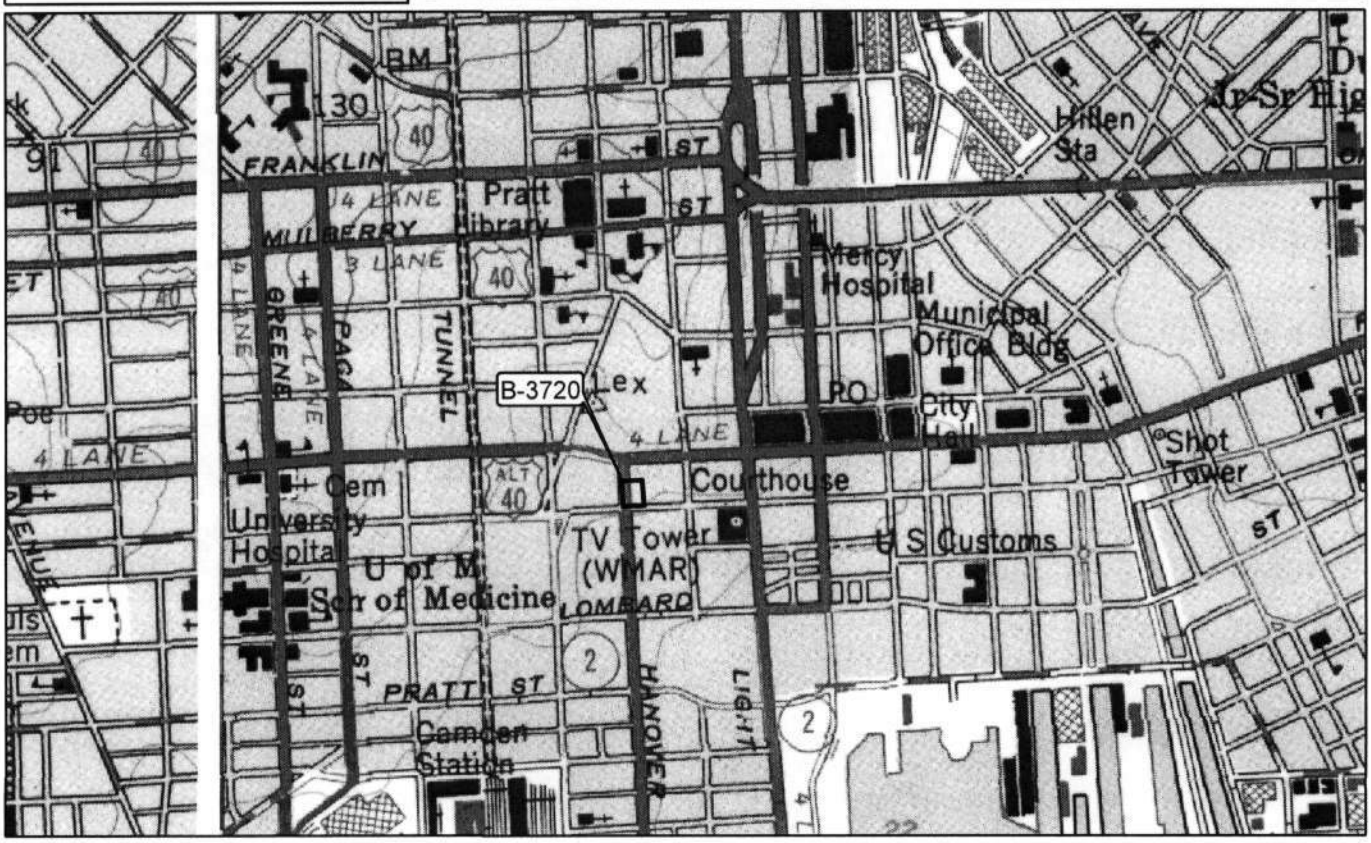
Lord Baltimore Hotel
20 W. Baltimore Street
Block 0601, Lot 010
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS