OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

received APR 6 1987
date entered MAY -8 1987

	-complete app	icable sec	tions					
1. Nam	<u> </u>							
historic	Baltimor	Baltimore College of Dental Surgery						
and or common	Charles	Charles Fish and Sons Building						
2. Loca	ation							
street & number	429-433	North Eu	taw Street	N/Anot for publication				
city, town	Baltimor	e	N/A vicinity of	Sev	enth Congression	al District	<u> </u>	
state	Maryland	code	24 cou	nty i	ndependent city	code	510	
3. Clas	sificatio	n						
Category district _X building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisit in process being consider X not applic	t ion dered	Status occupiedX unoccupied work in progre Accessible _X yes: restricted yes: unrestrict		Present Use agricultureX commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museu park private religion scienti transpo	residence us fic	
4. Own	er of Pro	pert	У					
name	429 N. Euta	w Limite	d Partnership,	. c/o	The French Compa	iny, Inc.		
street & number	Wheaton Pla	za Offic	e Building, No	orth,	Suite 403		and a skill and	
city, town	Wheaton		N/A vicinity of		state	Maryland	20902	
5. Loca	tion of	Lega	Descrip	tior	1			
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Baltim	ore City Court	house				
street & number		Record	s Office Room	601				
city, town		Baltim	ore		state	Maryland	21202	
	esentat		Existing	a Sı	urvevs	naryrana		
Marylan	d Historical c Sites Inven	Trust			ty been determined e	ligibie? y	es <u>x</u> n	
date 1986					federal _X_ sta	tecounty	loc	
depository for su	rvey records	Maryla	nd Historical	Trust				
city, town		Annapo	lis		state	Maryland	21401	

_X good ru	check one unaltered unaltered ins altered exposed	$\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Check one} \\ \underline{X} \text{original site} \\ \underline{\qquad} \text{moved} \qquad \text{date} \underline{\qquad} N/A \\ \end{array}$				
Describe the present a	nd original (if known) phy	sical appearance				
Number of Reso	urces	Number of previously listed National				
Contributing1	Noncontributing 0 buildings 0 sites	Register properties included in this nomination: 0				
 0	0 structures 0 objects	Original and historic functions and uses: educational, commercial				

B-2258

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

0 Total

7. Description

The Baltimore College of Dental Surgery building, constructed in 1881 on the southeast corner of North Eutaw and West Franklin Streets in downtown Baltimore, Maryland, is a three-story pressed-brick commercial building. of the street facades is three bays wide; the bays are articulated by projecting brick pilasters, and the three stories are defined by granite belt Windows on the second level are tall paired 2/2 sash with peaked granite hoods decorated with incised, Eastlake-influenced designs; the third story is lighted by triple 1/1 windows, with round-arched granite heads. projecting bracketed wooden cornice caps the flat-roofed building. projecting bay between the center and south bays on the west facade defines the original entrance location. The first story has always been given to commercial use; it now features a Streamline Moderne storefront of etched black glass and aluminum, added c. 1942 when the entire building was adapted for use as a department store. The interior of the upper floors (the spaces used by the College) remains almost entirely intact, retaining the original stair and balustrade, door and window architraves, plaster cornices and medallions; the only alteration consists of the insertion of a mezzanine in the north room of the second floor, which is reversible and was accomplished without significant disruption of original fabric. The building retains a high level of integrity.

For General Description see Continuation Sheet No. 1

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The building is situated at the southeast corner of the intersection of West Franklin and North Eutaw Streets, northwest of the heart of downtown Baltimore. The three-story, commercial building faces onto two of the city's retail streets.

The two, fine pressed brick, streetfront sides are clearly the architecturally important facades. They each have three bays defined by pilasters. The western facade has the additional component of a bay, projecting by the depth of the pilasters, that originally served to define the entrance to the upper stories. On the second floor, extremely tall, narrow, two-over-two windows are paired and proportionately smaller, arched, single-pane, double-hung windows are clustered three to each bay of the building on the third floor. Granite belt courses wrap the building at the window sill levels of the second and third floors. Unfortunately, the structure has lost the detail of its original iron cresting atop the cornice.

This brick structure is typically Victorian in its architectural styling. The boxy volume of the structure, flat roof, and projecting wooden cornice supported by single and paired brackets interspersed with modillions are indicative of the building's predominately Italianate architecture. The peaked, granite window hoods on the middle level have incised and carved decorations reflecting Eastlake influence.

An etched, black glass storefront, trimmed with aluminum, extends out from the face of the building and wraps around the corner in a streamlined fashion. The Art Deco storefront was added c. 1942 by the Charles Fish & Sons business, as indicated by the bold and stylistically typical lettering of the signage. The motif of the curved corner is repeated at the entrance at the center of the Eutaw Street side. The striped terrazzo flooring once drew customers back to the recessed entry.

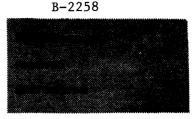
This Deco storefront replaced three Victorian wood and glass storefronts facing Eutaw Street. Lost in the conversion was the exterior opening to the basement staircase, surrounded by a picket fence, and the original entrance of the upper floors. The double-leaf paneled doors and granite steps still remain in the basement, covered over by the projecting show windows. The first flight of steps leading upstairs was turned around and integrated into the remodeled ground floor store. The Fish family added an elevator in the northeast corner and a mezzanine balcony at the southern end of the ground floor, used for clothing racks and dressing rooms. The pressed metal ceilings from the two northern stores are still in fairly good condition.

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The staircase leading up from the landing between the first and second floors is broad with continuous wooden handrails on either side that follow the profile of the steps and intermediate landing. Then the staircase takes on a more residential appearance as it ascends from the second level newel in straight runs with tightly turned corners. The heavy balustrade is in remarkably good condition for its age and continuous usage. Not one baluster is missing.

On the second floor, the grand room on the north side of the hallway with windows on three sides was originally used as the "Infirmary Hall," its large volume interrupted only by two Corinthian iron columns. These columns have stacked polygonal bases and two pairs of bands around the shaft. A mezzanine level was inserted, dividing the room into two rooms stacked one atop the other. The spandrel beams, now seen atop the inserted mezzanine level, divided the ceiling of "Infirmary Hall" into a grid, each of the six areas with its own plaster medallion. The cove crown molding with deep double bands accents the structural grid of ceiling beams.

Plaster crown molding outlines the ceilings of the hallways as well as the rooms. On the second floor, there are handsome plaster medallions in the two major rooms and in the hallway. Most are intact, requiring only minor repairs. The two that have been lost could be replicated from adjacent ones in the same room. On the third floor, the outline shadows of former medallions can be seen on the ceiling of the hallway and the north room.

The original, wide, painted wooden trim throughout the upper floors is formed with composite moldings. The window sills were extended, wrapping the two major rooms on the second floor with chair rail. Attention to detail can be seen in the use of molded plinths at the base of the door frames, chamfered plaster corner beads in the north room on the second floor, and decorative plaster consoles at the entrance to the ancillary hall on the second floor. Written just after the completion of construction, the following description clearly indicates the quality of the original finishes throughout the building. The hall had "crimson lambrequins with gilt cornices, and beautiful and costly chandeliers, which latter are found in every room, adorn the windows and walls" (American Journal of Dental Sciences, Vol. XV, June 1881, pp. 88-90).

The room at the southwest corner of the second floor served as the Museum for the College, devoted to the extensive collection of dental pathological specimens. This tall, bright room maintains its original wainscoting, plaster cornice, and one of its two ceiling medallions. Seeing the ceiling height of over 18 feet in this room, one can imagine the grand appearance of the "Infirmary Hall" prior to the installation of the mezzanine. In the southeast corner of the second floor "is a handsome room devoted to the

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extraction of teeth, which is sufficiently distant from the Infirmary to prevent any noise made by patients undergoing such an operation, being heard in the latter Hall." (American Journal of Dental Sciences, Vol XV, June 1881, pp. 88-90.) On the south side of the hallway were three laboratories, "two of which were large halls and the third separate room [in the center] devoted exclusively to plaster and furnace work, vulcanizing, etc." (Ibid.)

In conclusion, the building is in good condition. Although water damage has occurred in some areas of the plaster ceilings and cornices, these areas could be repaired during renovation. Most of the heavily molded trim and paneled doors remain in situ in the upper levels. The building retains much of its integrity. Its typical Victorian features have been altered only in the installation of an elevator and two mezzanine levels, alterations that are reversible, and in the remodeling for the Art Deco storefront, a handsome architectural statement of its own period. The grandeur of the structure, intended to promote an enhance the study of dental surgery, can still be identified, tying together the architectural and historical significance of the the building.

1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 _X 1800–1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications		landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1881	Builder/Architect un	known	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, C Applicable Exceptions: none Significance Evaluated: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Baltimore College of Dental Surgery building at 429-433 North Eutaw Street is significant for its association with the development of dental education in America. The Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, founded in 1840, was the world's first institution devoted to the training of practitioners in this emerging medical specialty. The building at 429-433 North Eutaw Street, constructed in 1881, was the fifth location occupied by the College; its scale and architectural elaboration reflect the growth of the institution, both in number of students and in prominence within the field. Lauded by a contemporary publication as "the most complete and handsome building devoted to dental education in the world," the pressed-brick building featured granite exterior ornament and a wealth of decorative detailing on the interior, executed in wood, plaster, and pressed metal. Its interior spaces are fully adapted to its educational functions, providing spacious, well-lighted lecture and infirmary halls as well as a museum and laboratory rooms. The building retains considerable integrity, with the majority of its original exterior and interior fabric remaining intact. Alterations made in the second quarter of the present century when the building was converted to retail use are mostly reversible; the black glass storefront is significant in its own right as an unusually well-preserved example of this treatment, one of few extant Streamline Moderne storefronts in Baltimore.

For history and supporting documentation, see Continuation Sheet No. $4\,$

See Continuation Sheets Nos. 8 and 9.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

In 1881, the first occupant of the building, the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery moved to its fifth location at the southeast corner of Franklin and Eutaw Streets. As the dental college, it was said to be as complete and handsome a building as any devoted to dental education in the world. (The Baltimore College of Dental Surgery," Dental Advertiser, July 1881.)

The school originally met in the offices of the professors and later had shared both facilities and administration for four years beginning in 1847 with Newton University on Lexington Street near Calvert Street. The second quarters of record, the New Assembly Rooms, offered larger quarters at Lombard and Hanover Streets that were shared on a split schedule with Washington University. This site was the first of several buildings in which the college shared space with businesses rather than a scholastic enterprise. As the student body increased, the expansion necessitated the conversion of a facility next door for an infirmary. Then the school moved to a circa 1870s mansard-roofed structure at the corner of Eutaw and Lexington Streets. (Milner, p. 39)

All five of the school's first facilities were leased. During the early years of the school, founded in 1840, the term of study was only five months. The entrepreneurs who started the school chose to rent both assembly halls and laboratory/classrooms rather than make the capital investment in construction. (Milner, pp. 2-3)

Although advertisements beginning in 1845 strongly insinuated that the college had invested in real estate, the lack of such evidence in Baltimore land records suggests that such was not the case. The founders, however, must have recognized the value of property ownership as a strong indication of solvency and promoted its endeavor as astute businessmen would. Suggesting ownership, when in fact the college was a lessee, was an important business tactic which provided a sense of solvency." (Milner, p. 3)

The Baltimore College of Dental Surgery was the first dental college in the world. This school, now part of the University of Maryland, has graduated more than 10,000 dentists. The founding fathers and faculty members of the school included two physicians, Dr. Thomas E. Bond, Jr. and Dr. A. Willis Baxley, contributing in the areas of anatomy, physiology, pathology, and therapeutics. More notable were the pioneer dental practitioner, Horace Hayden, and his protege, Chapin Harris. These two men were responsible for proposing and then organizing the American Society of Dental Surgeons with 13 other dentists. They projected the American Journal of Dental Sciences,

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established in 1839, the world's first dental periodical (Lee McCarden, "Dentistry as a Profession," <u>Baltimore Evening Sun</u>, February 20, 1940). As President and Dean of the College, these men are credited with being founders of dental education, dental literature, and dental organization.

Both were men of intellectual curiosity that ranged from the natural sciences to liberal arts, although neither man was college educated nor born of wealth. Hayden was involved with Philadelphia institutions of philosophy and natural science and the Baltimore Delphian Society where he matched wits with nationally known men of intellect. Harris was a man of literature and a prolific writer, publishing his encyclopedic Dictionary of Dental Sciences. These men, critical to the founding and shaping of the college, chose challenging intellectual pursuits of the arts as their pastimes. As a sign of their time, their diverse interests argue for the use of the arts, including the architecture of their school buildings, in furthering the professional goals of scientific dentistry. (Milner, pp. 5-6)

Dental school competition increased as the Maryland Dental College was founded in 1873, absorbed by the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1878. Then in 1882, as the school moved into its newly constructed building at Franklin and Eutaw streets, the Dental College of the University of Maryland was established. Thirteen years later, the Dental Department of the University of Maryland was initiated. During this vigorous period of competition, the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery was able to retain its independent status, attracting students with its museum and spacious, well-appointed facilities, filled with natural daylight.

The school remained in this structure until the merger of the Baltimore Medical College with the University of Maryland School of Medicine. At that time, the dental students of the Medical College transferred to the Dental Department of the University of Maryland and a building on the east side of Howard Street, north of Madison Avenue, was deeded to the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1913.

The Italianate structure under discussion was important to the evolution of the College of Dental Surgery because it well suited the needs of the school during an important growth period. Although no documentation has been uncovered concerning the construction contract, it seems unlikely such a structure would have been built without a lease commitment from the college. The large "Infirmary Hall" on the second floor was able to accommodate hundreds of patients and the "Lecture Hall" on the third floor could comfortably seat over three hundred students. "Devoted wholly to dental purposes, and unlike some other institutions connected with Medical Colleges, which make a considerable display of buildings wherein they are compelled to occupy the basement rooms only, while the more pleasant and acceptable ones are assigned to the Medical department, we can truthfully assert that the

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Baltimore College of Dental Surgery now occupies the most complete building in America devoted to dental education." (American Journal of Dental Sciences, Vol XV, June 1881, pp. 88-90.)

This corner structure afforded a desirable location, adaptable spaces, and optimum natural lighting. In the area surrounding the facility was a mixture of retail and residential buildings. Lexington Market, the city's oldest food market, is located two and a half blocks to the south. By 1890, to the west was found a church, wholesale liquor business, carriage works, confectionery manufacturers, and and oyster packing plant. Just to the north was the Academy of Music and Johns Hopkins University's biological department and chemical laboratory and lecture Hall. A convent was located to the northeast. (Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Insurance Maps of Baltimore, Philadelphia, 1896.)

During the ensuing years, the building was occupied by a series of retail businesses including a confectionery, a haberdashers, and a hairdresser. The Co-operative Dental Laboratories occupied the building in the 1920s and 1930s, logically taking over the facilities of the dental college. When this 71 year old business closed in 1981, the \$2 million per year company had 70 workers making false teeth, dental plates, and crowns. ("Closure of dental laboratory leaves 70 local workers without a job." Baltimore Sun, March 28, 1981)

Charles Fish, an immigrant from Russia, established his department store business in 1927. He had operated from small stores at 520 North Gay Street and 328 North Eutaw Street before moving into 429-433 North Eutaw Street in 1942. He and his two sons, Eugene and Herman, undertook the storefront renovation at the time of their relocation. The three separate shops on the first floor were combined and the space enlarged into the projecting storefront. The mezzanine level was added in 1946 when steel support beams were acquired from a theater on Lexington Street. As owner of the expanding business, Charles Fish was well known among Baltimore merchants as a philanthropist and leader in the city's Hebrew community when he died in 1956. The Fish family continued to offer full-credit department store services in the building until it closed the doors in 1980.

The "Charles Fish and Sons" signs etched into the black glass storefront were used as an example of the relatively simple, geometric, angular characteristics of the style in a book published on Baltimore's Art Deco architecture. *There are few other etched glass storefronts of the period that remain intact. Although a number of smaller stores in the area along Franklin, Howard, and Charles Street had glass applied to earlier facades, few have the expanded storefront which wraps around this building.

^{*(}See Cucchiella, S., Baltimore Deco).

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The historical significance of the structure has been retained through the architectural integrity of the upper story spaces used for the dental college. The lower story and the storefront, those areas of greatest significance to the use of the building as the Charles Fish & Sons business, also retain their historical integrity as the appearance of the mid-twentieth century department store has not been changed.

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Interview with Dr. James Craig, Dental School Historian, Department of Educational and Instructional Resources, College of Dental Surgery, University of Maryland, 666 W. Baltimore Street, Baltimore on November 4, 1986.

Interview with Eugene Fish, son of Charles Fish, on November 12, 1986.

Interview with Roland P. Fish, grandson of Charles Fish, on November 12, 1986.

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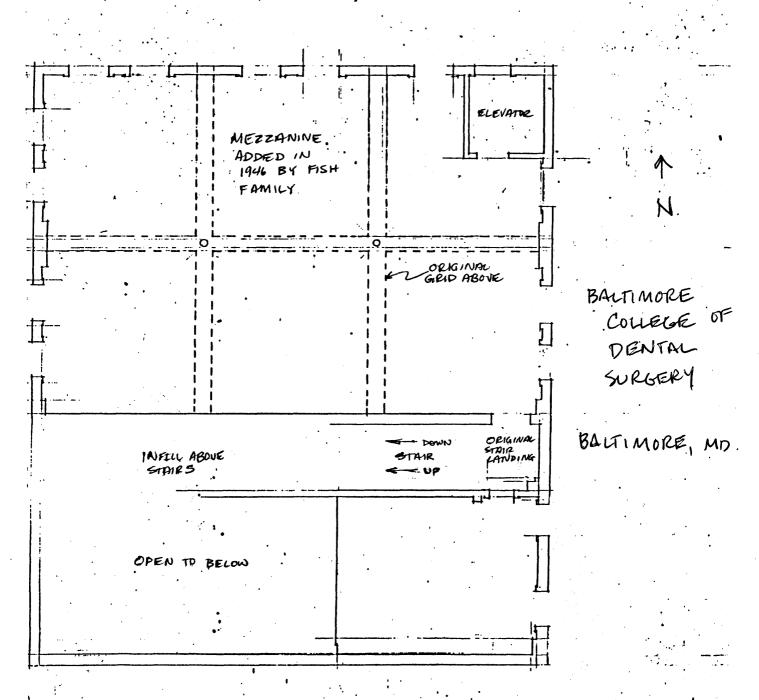


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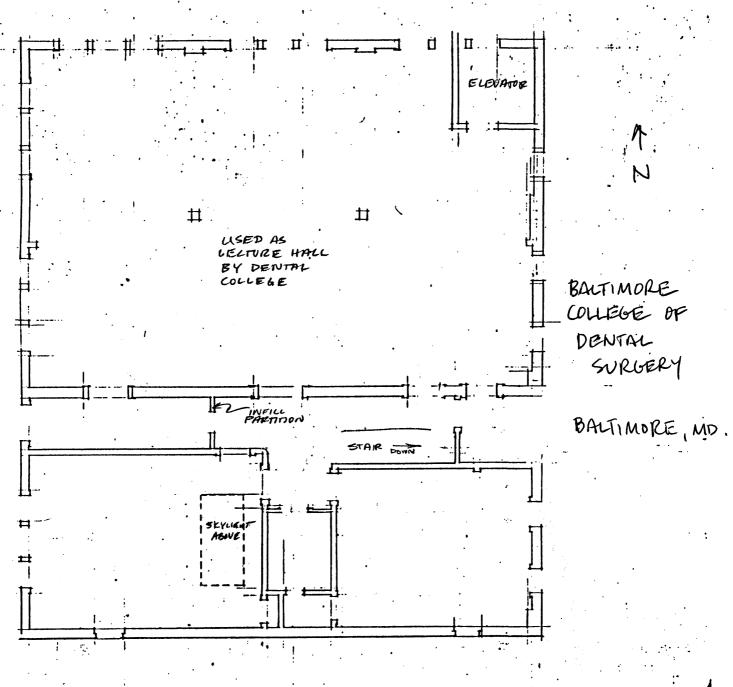
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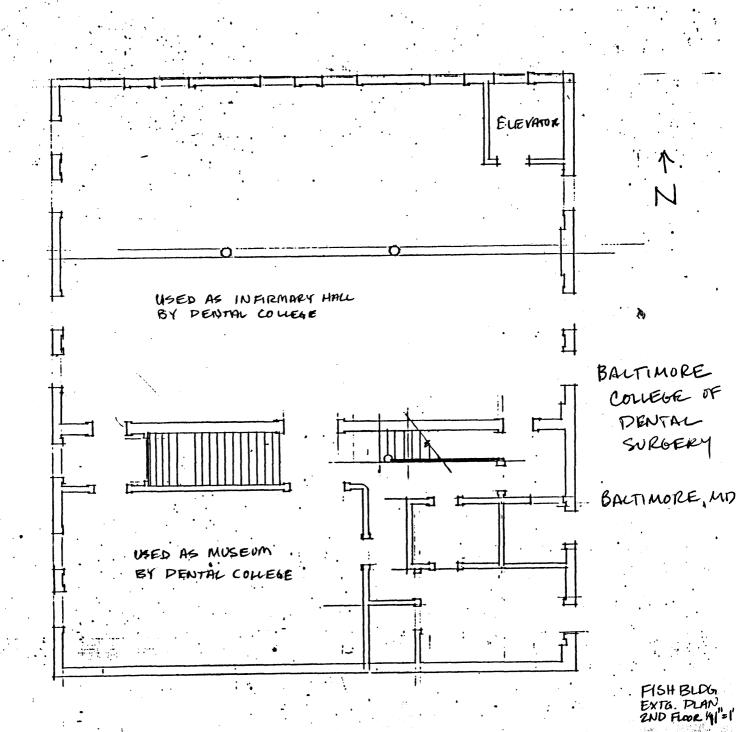
Beginning for the same on the south side of Franklin Street at the northwest corner of the lot heretofore leased by John Eager Howard to Joshua Sensency, which place of beginning has been ascertained by a recent survey to be at the distance of two hundred and eighty-one feet west from the corner formed by the intersection of the south side of Franklin Street and the west side of Howard Street, and running thence west bounding on the south side of Franklin Street sixty-one feet five inches to the line of the east side of Eutaw Street, thence southerly bounding on the east side of Eutaw Street seventy feet, thence easterly parallel with Franklin Street sixty-one feet five inches, more or less, to the ground leased to Joshua Sensency as aforesaid, and thence northerly binding thereon seventy feet to the place of beginning. improvements thereon being at present known as No. 429, 431 and 433 North Eutaw Street, Baltimore, Maryland. The nominated property, approximately .1 acre, comprises only the city lot upon which the resource stands.

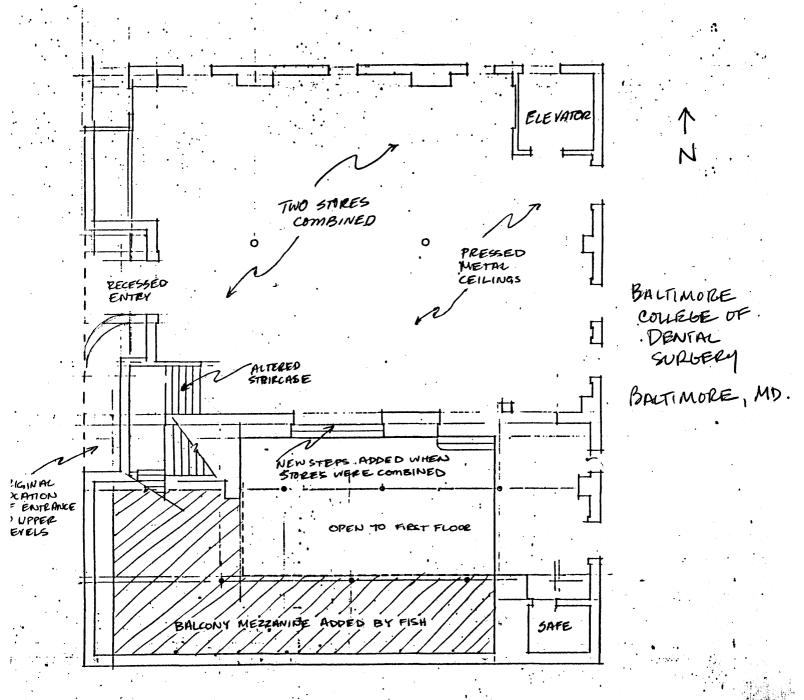


FISHBLOG N HEZZANINE LEVEL EXTG PLAN 1121



FISH BLDG 1 EXTG PLAN 1/1/1 3RD FLOOR





FISH BLDG. EXTE PLAN IST FLOOR 18"=1