

6. Function or Use

B-2360

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
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

ITALIANATE

foundation Brick

walls Iron

Brick

roof Asphalt

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Erected about 1875, the L. Frank & Sons Building is a four-story brick commercial building with a cast-iron facade. It is located on the south side of West Baltimore Street about 160' west of North Eutaw Street in central Baltimore. The principal elevation faces north. The first floor storefront is obscured by a plain brick wall with a plate glass window flanking the off-center entrance. The upper window openings on the facade are filled in and covered with stucco. The cast iron arches have rounded corners and flat tops. The bracketed cornice is matched by brackets at the intermediary cornices at each floor level.

B-2360

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

L. FRANK & SONS BUILDING
Baltimore
Maryland

Section number 7 Page 1

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The L. Frank & Sons Building has a flat sloping roof and a partially exposed east elevation which adjoins a covered drive-through bank. At street level, the brick wall is pierced by a plate glass window; a canvas awning is located above the window and off-center door. The storefront cornice is enclosed in a box. Above this level, the three-bay cast-iron facade survives, defined by window openings topped with flat arches with rounded corners and framed by chamfered piers with floral capitals. Intermediary cornices at each floor level are terminated by scrolled brackets. The main cornice has a paneled frieze and scrolled consoles. The cast-iron facade is painted in shades of cream and brown.

8. Statement of Significance

B-2360

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
N/A

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 L. Frank and Sons Building is significant as representing a Full Cast Iron Front type building.

See continuation sheet no. 2
for Historic Context and Maryland
Comprehensive Historic Preservation
Plan data.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Baltimore City Directories, 1870s-1940s.

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.

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

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

1	8	3	6	0	1	4	0	4	3	4	9	9	0	0	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 642, Lot 17, 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 Baltimore Heritage, Inc. date May 14, 1990
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B-2360

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

L. FRANK & SONS BUILDING
Baltimore
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 2

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930

Modern A.D. 1930

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

B-2360

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

L. FRANK & SONS BUILDING
Baltimore
Maryland

Section number 8 Page 3

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Documentary and architectural evidence suggest that the four-story iron front building at 407 West Baltimore Street was constructed at the same time as the adjacent #409, about 1875. The 1866 tax records show the site occupied by William E. Wood, Baltimore's earliest manufacturer of heating apparatus; the description of improvements on the property, however, does not conform to the present structure. About 1875, the present building was constructed for Samuel Stein & Bros., who had started in business as clothing manufacturers in 1852 but switched to banking in the 1870s [Kahn p. 30, 30n]. Presumably the building was a speculative venture for the firm. The tenant at this time was Charles Weatherby, a dealer in iron ranges and furnaces, who remained at this address until 1877. The shoe manufacturing concern of L. Frank and Sons moved into the building in 1878 and remained there until 1886. By 1890, the building accommodated the Dannenberg Manufacturing Co., manufacturers of infants' wear; their fifty operatives occupied three floors. In 1898, ownership of the property passed to A.J. Strauss & Co., pants manufacturers. In the early twentieth century, the ground floor became a restaurant called the New York Fancy Cake Bakery, operated by Osias Schonfeld, who purchased the building in 1919. The restaurant was succeeded by the Traffic Cafeteria. The upper floors continued to be leased to tailors and other garment-related industries throughout the historic period.