OMB No. 10024-0018

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

. Name of Property	
nistoric name	OLD TOWN SAVINGS BANK
other names/site number	Cala Brothers - B-4294
. Location	
treet & number	353 North Gay Street N/A not for publication
ity or town	Baltimore N/A vicinity
tate Maryland	code MD county Independent City code 510 zip code 21202
State/Federal Agency	Certification
nationally statewid	eet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant in [as III IIII III III III III III III III I
Signature of certifying offi	e ☑ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.) 3/25/96 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER cial/Title Date
Signature of certifying office. State of Federal agency and the property of t	e ☑ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.) 3/25/96 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER cial/Title nd bureau y ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional
Signature of certifying office. State of Federal agency and an agency and agency are comments.)	See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
In my opinion, the proper comments.) Signature of certifying offi State of Federal agency a	locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) 3 25 96 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
In my opinion, the proper comments.) State of Federal agency at the proper comments. Signature of certifying office state or Federal agency at the property certify that the property entered in the National Inc. See continuation.	See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
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In my opinion, the proper comments.) Signature of certifying office state of Federal agency at the proper comments. Signature of certifying office state or Federal agency at the property of the property o	STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER State

Old Town Savings Bank Name of Property	Baltimore City, MD B-4294 County and State
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check with bine begins in the control of the contr	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)
☐ private ☐ building(s) ☐ public-local ☐ district ☐ site	Contributing Noncontributing 1 0 buildings
☐ public-Federal ☐ structure ☐ object	sites structure
	objects1
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resources previously liste in the National Register
Cast-Iron Architecture of Baltimore, MD,	0
6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
COMMERCE/TRADE/business	COMMERCE/TRADE/business
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
ITALIANATE	foundation Brick
	walls <u>Iron</u>
	Brick
	roof <u>Asphalt</u>
	other

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet OLD TOWN SAVINGS BANK Baltimore

Section number $\underline{}^{7}$ Page $\underline{}^{1}$

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Old Town Savings Bank is a three-story loft structure located on the southwest corner of North Gay and Exeter Streets in the Old Town section of Baltimore city, Maryland. The building was designed by architect Frank E. Davis and was constructed in 1871.¹ Both the street facades are cast iron, four bays wide on Gay Street and eight bays wide on Exeter Street. The former storefronts have been bricked up; the cast iron framing elements remain exposed, however, and the upper stories remain virtually unchanged save for the infill of the window openings.

Maryland

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The original configuration of the Gay Street front is shown in a historic photograph in the collection of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.² This facade was three bays wide at street level, with the bank entrance located in the central bay under a small Classical portico, and flanked by transomed plateglass windows in segmental-arched openings with paneling below the sills. The portico has been removed, and the street level facade has been altered by the construction of a modern glazed-brick wall, obscuring most of its original features; only the iron piers at the corners remain exposed, with a chamfered inner edge with lamb'stongue stops. The storefront cornice, however, remains intact; at the south pier, a scrolled console supports a bracketed cornice, probably made of galvanized sheet iron, which wraps around the Exeter Street facade. On the Exeter Street elevation, the streetlevel openings have been infilled with brick, but the original cast iron structural elements remain expressed, consisting of slender columns framing window openings topped with segmental arches. On the upper stories of both facades, the window openings have been filled with light plywood paneling, but the structural elements are unchanged and remain fully expressed. The large window openings have rounded corners, and are flanked by piers with stylized

¹ Information concerning the building's construction date and architect was supplied by Carlos Avery.

²reproduced in Sherry H. Olson, <u>Baltimore: The Building of an American City</u> (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980), p. 114.

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OLD TOWN SAVINGS BANK Baltimore Maryland

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foliated capitals. The edges of the openings are chamfered, with lamb's tongue stops. The spandrels are enriched with foliated cartouches. The intermediary cornice between the second and third floors is simply molded; the building cornice has a deep, bracketed overhang above a plain frieze. The two cornices wrap around both facades, and end with a scrolled console at the corner of the Gay Street elevation. The building retains a relatively high degree of integrity in its essential cast iron elements despite modern alterations.

8. St	atement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)		Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) ARCHITECTURE
□ A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	
□В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
Ŭ C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance
□ D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
	ria Considerations "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates
Prope	erty is:	
□ A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
□В	removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
\Box C	a birthplace or grave.	
□ D	a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
□ F	a commemorative property.	
\square G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	Architect/Builder
	within the past 50 years.	Frank E. Davis, Architect
Narra (Explai	tive Statement of Significance SEE CONTINUATION n the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	SHEET NO. 4
9. Ma	ajor Bibliographical References SEE CONTINUATION	SHEET NO. 7
	ography ne books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on on	e or more continuation sheets.)
Previ	ous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
	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	☐ State Historic Preservation Office ☐ Other State agency ☐ Federal agency ☐ Local government ☐ University ☐ Other Name of repository:
	#recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	

01d	Town	Savings	Bank	
Name	of Prope	ertv		

<u>Baltimore</u>	City,	MD	<u>B</u> -4294
County and Stat			

10. Geographica	il Data		
USGS quad: UTM References	erty <u>less than one acre</u> Baltimore East, MD Moreoferences on a continuation sheet.)		
1 1 8 3 6 Easting 2 1	1 4 5 0 4 3 5 0 4 7 0 Northing	3 Zone Easting Northing 4 See continuation sheet	
Verbal Boundary (Describe the boundary	Description SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. ries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	8	
Boundary Justifi (Explain why the bou	cation SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. ndaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)	8	
11. Form Prepar	red By	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
name/title	Peter E. Kurtze, Architectural Histori	an	
organization	for Baltimore Heritage, Inc.	date 14 May 1990	
street & number	109 Brandon Road	telephone (410) 296-7538	
city or town	Baltimore state	<u>MD</u> zip code <u>21212</u>	
Additional Docu			
Submit the following	items with the completed form:		
Continuation She	eets		
Maps			
A USGS	map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's	location.	
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.			
Photographs			
Representative black and white photographs of the property.			
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)			
Property Owner			
(Complete this item a	t the request of SHPO or FPO.)		
name	Joseph and Carroll Cala, Cala Brothers	, Inc.	
street & number	11818 Chapman Road	telephone	
city or town	Kingsville state	MD zip code 21087-1520	
Demonstrate Deducation	Ast Ctatament. This information is being callected for application	to the Matter of Decision of Ultransia Bloom to a series	

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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OLD TOWN SAVINGS BANK Baltimore Maryland

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930

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/bank/pharmacy

Known Design Source: unknown

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet OLD TOWN S Raltimore

OLD TOWN SAVINGS BANK Baltimore Maryland

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THEME:

Cast Iron Architecture in Baltimore, Maryland; 1850-1904

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The building at 353 North Gay Street is significant as representing a Full Cast Iron Front building.

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OLD TOWN SAVINGS BANK Baltimore Maryland

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HISTORY & SUPPORT:

The Old Town Savings Institution was incorporated March 2, 1858. The charter provided that the institution would be located east of the Jones Falls and north of Baltimore Street. The institution acquired the property at the southwest corner of Gay and Exeter Streets in 1861, and it first appears in Baltimore City Directories in 1868/9, on an upper floor ("over") at the present location. This is most likely a reference to a previous structure on the site. The present building was constructed in 1871 to a design by prominent Baltimore architect Frank E. Davis (1839-1921). In 1872, the name of the institution was changed to the Old Town Savings Bank of Baltimore.

The bank is shown on the Hopkins Atlas for 1876, and the tax description for that year mentions a vault, bank fixtures and furniture. The 1880 Sanborn insurance map shows an iron front structure housing the Old Town Bank, with the third floor occupied by a druggist. The druggist was presumably Franklin Metzger, whose business was profiled in the 1882 edition of <u>Industries of</u> Maryland: A Descriptive Review of the Manufacturing and Mercantile <u>Industries of the City of Baltimore</u>, which reported that this pharmacy had been one of the leading stores in the Old Town section of Baltimore since its establishment in 1854. The writer described the "handsome three-story iron structure, fifteen [sic] feet on Gay street, and running back to a depth of about ninety feet," and noted that the store was "well arranged for the business. stock is large and varied, embracing drugs, medicines, chemicals, etc., which is supplemented by a fine assortment of fancy goods, perfumeries, toilet articles, and everything kept in a wellappointed drug store. The prescription department receives special attention. Rheumatic medicines are the specialty of the house . . Y. "(p. 286). Tax records for 1896 show the Old Town Bank assessed for a three story iron and brick building with vault, bank fixtures and furniture. By 1920, the name of the institution had changed again, to Old Town National Bank; the Old Town Merchants and Manufacturers Association was also located in the building. 1923 city directory indicates that the building contained the Old Bank Hall, presumably public meeting National Town Ownership of the property passed out of the hands of the Old Town Bank in 1927, when the institution was absorbed by the Drovers & Mechanics National Bank, a commercial bank prominently associated with providing financial services to Baltimore's needle trades.

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The banking facility housed the Monumental City Bank from 1927 until 1930, when a branch of Union Trust Company was established at this address; the Old Town Merchants and Manufacturers Association also continued to occupy the building. By 1940, 353 North Gay Street no longer appears in the Baltimore City Directory. The building was acquired by the present owner in 1988, and currently houses a wholesale distributor of tobacco and confectionery.

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OLD TOWN SAVINGS BANK Baltimore Maryland

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Baltimore City Directories, 1860s-1940s

- Industries of Maryland: A Descriptive Review of the Manufacturing and Mercantile Industries of the City of Baltimore. (Baltimore: Historical Publishing Co., 1882), p. 338.
- Kahn, Philip, Jr. <u>A Stitch in Time: The Four Seasons of Baltimore's Needle Trades</u> (Baltimore: The Maryland Historical Society, 1989).
- The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Maryland Historical Trust, Crownsville, MD.
- Olson, Sherry H. <u>Baltimore: The Building of an American City</u>. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980), p. 114.
- Scharf, J. Thomas. <u>History of Baltimore City and County</u>. (Philadelphia: n. p., 1881), p. 466.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Boundaries are defined as a single city lot, specifically identified as Block 1284, Lot 11, recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore City, Maryland.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property comprises the city lot upon which the resource stands and represents the entire property historically associated with the resource.