

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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AUG 31 1994

B-1272

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 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 BUILDING AT 419 WEST BALTIMORE STREET (preferred) other names/site number Harry Guss, Inc.

2. Location

street & number 419 West Baltimore Street city, town Baltimore state Maryland code MD county Independent City code 510 zip code 21201

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: [X] private, [] public-local, [] public-State, [] public-Federal. Category of Property: [X] building(s), [] district, [] site, [] structure, [] object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0 buildings, 0 sites, 0 structures, 0 objects. Total 1.

Name of related multiple property listing: Cast Iron Architecture of Baltimore, Maryland, 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 [X] 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 [X] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER. Date: 8/26/94.

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: [X] 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: Edson H. Ball. Date of Action: 9/30/94.

6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufactur-
ing facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL

ITALIANATE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls IRON

BRICK

roof METAL

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

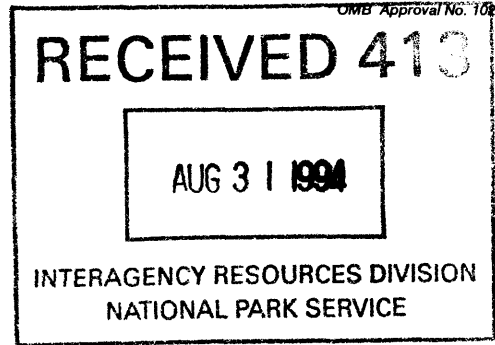
DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The building at 419 West Baltimore Street is a ca. 1840 three-story gable-roofed brick Federal-style dwelling, three bays wide. Around 1875, a cast-iron storefront was added at street level, converting the building to commercial use. This storefront comprises an entrance in the second bay from the east, flanked by transomed display windows framed by iron piers. The piers have raised molded panels with a central bulls-eye motif; similarly-detailed iron pilasters mark the corners.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The building at 419 West Baltimore Street is a three-story gable-roofed brick Federal-style dwelling, probably constructed in the 1840s, with a Victorian-period cast-iron storefront at street level. It is located on the south side of West Baltimore Street about halfway between North Eutaw and North Paca Streets in central Baltimore city, Maryland. The building is three bays wide, constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond. On the upper stories, jack-arched window openings hold 1/1 replacement sash in early bullnosed frames. The roofline is defined by a brick cornice, with corbeling above a course of cove-molded bricks. Probably in the third quarter of the nineteenth century, the structure was converted to commercial use by the addition of a four-bay, cast-iron storefront. The principal elements of this storefront survive intact, comprising an entrance in the second bay from the east, flanked by transomed display windows framed by iron piers. The piers are enriched with raised molding forming panels focusing on a central bulls-eye motif. The corners of the storefront are defined by similarly-treated iron pilasters. The building currently houses a dry goods distributor.

8. Statement of Significance

B-1272

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
Unknown

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 building at 419 West Baltimore Street is significant as representing a Cast Iron Storefront: Storefront Alterations type building.

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. 5

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than one acre
 USGS Quad: Baltimore East, MD

UTM References

A

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4	3	4	9	9	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Boundaries are defined as a single city lot, specifically identified as Block 642, Lot 11, 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 for Baltimore Heritage, Inc. date May 14, 1990
 street & number 109 Brandon Road telephone (410) 296-7538
 city or town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21212

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HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural/Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

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

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HISTORY & SUPPORT:

In the 1860s, the c.1840 building apparently served as a liquor store, operated by J. C. Nicodemus and various partners. In 1876, it was occupied by Samuel R. Smith. By the 1880s, the building had been taken over by Joshua Robinson & Co., a prominent manufacturer and wholesaler of iron stoves and ranges, and dealer in Japan and Britannia ware. Previously located in a four-story, iron-front loft building at 414 West Baltimore Street, the Robinson firm moved to smaller quarters at 419 in 1882. Shortly before this move, the company was described in Industries of Maryland: A Descriptive Review of the Manufacturing and Mercantile Industries of the City of Baltimore as having been established in 1846 and serving a market extending to Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. Ten years later, the building was occupied by another dealer of stoves, furnaces, etc., one Frank J. Murphy, whose premises extended to include 415 and 417 West Baltimore Street as well. After the turn of the twentieth century, the building became the location of a series of firms associated with aspects of the garment industry. The converted Federal-style rowhouse lacked the broad open floor space and oversize windows of the neighboring loft structures, so it tended to attract tenants whose operations were smaller in scale than the large clothing manufacturers, or uses which did not depend as heavily upon ample lighting. Tobias Baker & Co., a clothing manufacturer and wholesaler, located here in 1903. An association with the tailor's trimmings and "notions" trade had begun by 1910, and would continue into the 1940s. The tenants in 1910 were two button wholesalers, the German-American Button Company and Raymond Button Company, which featured its "patent steel" button; button companies remained in the building into the 1920s. By 1916, Herman M. Fink, clothing manufacturer, had established operations here. Tenants through the 1920s included the Etco Manufacturing Co., clothing manufacturers; the Baltimore Hosiery Co.; GBS Tailoring Company; Liberty Clothes Shop; Empire Furniture Company (Joseph N. Berlin and Mrs. Belle C. Kleiman); Seidman Transfer Company; Abraham Shalowitz, tailors' trimmings; and Harris Fisher, tailor. The 1930 city directory lists occupants including Isaac M. Cohen, tailors' trimmings; Seidman Transfer Company; Sidney Wasserman, manufacturers' agent; and Harris Fisher, tailor. By 1940, only the tailors' trimmings enterprise of Isaac M. Cohen remained in the building; the upper

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two floors were vacant. The building has a significant association with Baltimore's garment industry by virtue of the numerous tenants engaged in small-scale enterprises on the peripheries of the clothing and dry goods trades throughout the early decades of the twentieth century.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Baltimore City Directories, 1870s-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. A Stitch in Time: The Four Seasons of
Baltimore's Needle Trades (Baltimore: The Maryland Historical
Society, 1989).

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, Baltimore City, Maryland
Historical Trust, Crownsville, Maryland.