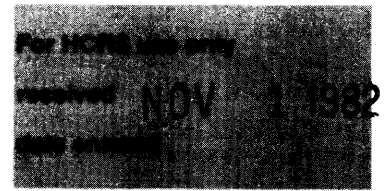


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Garrett Building

and/or common Garrett Building

**2. Location**

street & number 233-239 Redwood Street N/A not for publication

city, town Baltimore vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district \_\_\_\_\_

state Maryland code 024 county Independent city code 510

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name Garrett Associates Partnership, c/o Herbert Goldman, Gordon Feinblatt

street & number 233-239 Redwood Street

city, town Baltimore vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Maryland 21202

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

street & number 100 North Calvert Street

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 7. Description

B-3688

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Garrett Building, erected in 1913, is a thirteen story, limestone faced office building which combines the Commercial style with Renaissance Revival detailing. It is located at the southwest corner of Redwood and South Streets in Baltimore's financial district, which is just north of the Inner Harbor. A highrise, concrete encased steel frame structure, it reflects the early 20th century transitional era in American architecture when historical styles were applied to buildings in non-academic ways. Exterior details include rustication, pedimented windows, loggias, Chicago style windows, and a large entablature. The interior has more of a Neo-Classical Revival style than Renaissance Revival, with Greek order employed on the first floor and a grand banking room using the Corinthian order on the second floor. The plaster ceiling is richly detailed with coffering and moldings. The walls and floors are variously finished with polished marble, paneled wood, and molded plaster. On the second floor, adjacent to the banking room, there is a conference room with a decorative plaster ceiling, leaded glass doors, and paneled wood walls. On the upper floors, the office space has been altered throughout the 20th century. The integrity of this building has been well preserved since its construction. The exterior is virtually unaltered; and only some of the significant interior finishes of the first two floors were superficially covered during remodeling in the 1960s. All of the original finishing and molding will be restored during current rehabilitation of the structure. The offices on the upper floors have little significant detail and will be redecorated according to the tenants' plans.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Garrett Building is an early 20th century office structure in Baltimore's municipal and financial districts. The building is a thirteen story, seven bay, flat roof building with a parapet, which combines the Renaissance Revival style with the Commercial style. Built in 1913, in the "M" method of construction which consists of concrete poured around a steel frame, the structure is faced with coursed limestone above a granite base.

The main doorway lies in the central bay of the northern facade. It consists of plate glass double doors in a stainless steel metal frame(not original to the structure) with an identical pair of doors behind it forming a vestibule which has polished white marble walls and floors. Surrounding the exterior doorway is a simplified architrave surround.

Windows on the first story are plate glass framed in stainless steel and are recessed due to the thickness of the wall. The end bay windows are more narrow than those in the adjacent interior bay which also has a simplified architrave surround. In recent years, these four openings have had cement planters placed below the window sills. In the third and fifth bay are much smaller windows. The complete fenestration pattern on this floor is A-B-C-D-C-B-A. Facade spaces between all of these openings are rusticated except for the lower two stone courses which comprise the granite base.

# 8. Significance

B-3688

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

**Specific dates** 1913-1914 **Builder/Architect** Wyatt and Nolting, Architects

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** Applicable Criteria: B and C

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Garrett Building, designed and built in 1913 by the Baltimore architects J. B. Noel Wyatt and William G. Nolting, possesses significant architectural and historical value for the city of Baltimore. A clear example of the early 20th century Commercial style of architecture, it combines thirteen floors, flat wall planes, regular fenestration, and flat skyline with Renaissance Revival details such as rustication, pedimented windows, niches, and loggias. Although several other buildings share its style, few possess such a balance between traditional and progressive influences in their design. The building has neither the degree of academism and decoration possessed by the Maryland Trust Building, the Munsey Building and the Equitable Building, nor the degree of modernism and abstraction possessed by the Keyser Building and the Continental Trust Building. Moreover, no other structure incorporates such strong, dramatic use of cast and wrought metalwork in its design. The architects, Wyatt and Nolting, were a prolific firm who designed many significant structures in the city. This building's commercial importance lies in its construction for the Garrett and Sons investment banking company. Founded in 1835 as the nation's second such bank, the firm made enormous contributions to Baltimore's economy and the success of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Throughout its years in the building, from 1914 to 1974, Garrett and Sons was a leading Baltimore financial institution offering a wide variety of services in several cities. Robert Garrett, who initiated the buildings's construction and who was the original Robert Garrett's great-grandson, rose to a level of unparalleled social prestige and became extremely influential in the civic life of Baltimore. For example, he founded Baltimore's Bureau of Recreation, began the Boy Scouts of America in the city and headed the Young Men's Christian Association, as well as the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

Robert Garrett emigrated to America with his family in 1790 when he was seven and grew up on America's frontier: Washington County, Pennsylvania. On a trading expedition at age 16 with his brother, he had to spend the winter with Indians in Marietta, Ohio. According to all accounts, this trip firmly impressed upon him the West's vast undeveloped resources, as well as its substantial need for basic supplies and finished goods. He moved to Baltimore in 1801, worked in the Patrick Dinsmore produce and commission house for three years, began his own firm of Wallace and Garrett, but then returned to his home county in 1812.

However, his interest in Baltimore's trading and his wife's affection for the city motivated him to return in 1819. That same year he founded Robert Garrett and Company. His business achieved early success mainly due to contacts

# 9. Major Bibliographical Reference

B-3688

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #10

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre (.122 acre)

Quadrangle name Baltimore East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	8	3	6	1	0	6	0	4	3	4	9	8	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

For boundary description see Continuation Sheet #10  
For boundary justification see Continuation Sheet #10

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara A. Hoff, Director of Development

organization Dalsemer, Catzen and Associates, Inc. date November 1981

street & number 14 Light Street telephone (301) 837-3691

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  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 *J. M. Smith* date 10-29-82

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Roman M. ...* date 11/16/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Item number

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1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: City of Baltimore Neighborhood Survey

DATE: November 1981

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS: C.H.A.P., Room 601, City Hall

CITY: Baltimore STATE: Maryland 21201

TITLE: Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Historic Sites, B-3688

DATE: November 1981

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS: Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

CITY: Annapolis STATE: Maryland 21401

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

B-3688

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Continuation sheet Garrett Building Baltimore city, Maryland Item number 7 Page 2

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

At the second floor level, a belt course with an ovolo molding below marks the floor level. Above this line, the seventh through sixth bays on both the second and third stories are linked in a rather complex blind loggia. The second, fourth, and sixth numbered bays contain 20 light, steel and bronze frame windows. On either side of them are engaged fluted Ionic columns with pilasters linking them to the walls. The third and fifth bays contain a niche with a raised panel below. The columns support a full entablature containing "1839 Robert Garrett and Sons 1913" carved in the frieze. Dentils and modillion blocks decorate the cornice. On either side of this grouping there are copper single light plate glass windows with pediments above which have recessed horizontal cornices. Supporting these are drops consisting of a stone block with a pyramid face above a stylized triglyph. A recessed panel descends from these pediments to the base of the surround. Beneath these recessed windows is found a raised panel. In front of all the second floor windows there are limestone parapets and balustrades in which the top rail and base continue across the facade to form broken string courses.

Above the third floor the fenestration changes. A decorative iron fencing links the even numbered bays in continuous bands of Chicago style windows from the fourth to tenth floors. Engaged columnettes with bell capitals decorated with acanthus leaves divide the window units. A simple entablature surmounts each unit; a wrought iron balustrade extends in front of each unit. The bands of windows are recessed as a single plane into the stone facade. The odd numbered bays, including the end bays on the second floor, contain copper and anodized aluminum (not original) six over six double hung windows with stone subsills.

At the tenth floor level there is a cast iron balcony stretching across the second through sixth bays. Supported by elaborate cast iron brackets decorated with curving, lacy, foliated motifs, the balcony's base is coffered with rosettes in each panel. The railing of the balcony also is highly decorative with balusters consisting of arabesque patterns between paired square balusters. A medallion marks the center of the railing. The balcony has deteriorated.

Above the balcony, from the eleventh to twelfth floors, engaged Ionic columns are placed in the same bays in combinations with the metal window units. Above them lies the roof architrave and cornice (no frieze) which has plain paterae in the architrave. Above this cornice at the roof line is a paneled parapet with recessed corners.

The east facade of the Garrett Building, though subordinate to the north facade, presents nearly an equal amount of detail. It is five bays, and differs from the north facade only in its openings. On the first floor, the end bays contain a wood, single light window and transom; the east window contains a vent in the transom. The central bay contains a dual light wood window (altered from a single light at some point) with a transom above which has also been divided.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

The even numbered bays contain doorways closed with an iron grill. Both doors have transoms and the east one has vents and duct work. Above these openings runs the belt course described earlier.

In the central three bays of the second and third floors there is a blind loggia which is similar to that of the north elevation. Fluted Ionic engaged columns, linked to the walls with pilasters, stand between each bay to support an entablature. The fenestration in the second story loggia bays consists of paired, copper, four over four, double hung windows. At the side of each window there is a partial Doric pilaster with a decorative necking. These small pilasters support a small entablature which divides the two floors. The third floor has identical fenestration without the pilasters. A parapet with raised panels runs in front of the second floor loggia windows, and the base and top rail of the balustrade link with the string courses of the north facade. The third floor loggia windows have a wrought iron balustrade with an arabesque pattern in front of them.

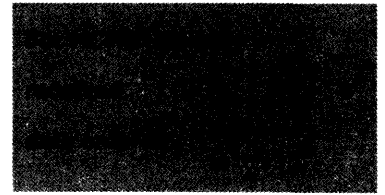
The end bays of the second story also have elaborate windows identical to those in the main (north) facade end bays. The rest of the windows are copper one over one double hung with stone subsills. A balcony and loggia identical in form and location to the western balcony projects from the wall. The cornice, architrave, and parapet continue from the main facade across this elevation. The iron balcony has deteriorated.

The western facade is adjacent to an alley and another building, and therefore contains less embellishment. The walls are constructed of yellow brick laid in four course common bond. The corners have marble quoins, and the roof cornice and parapet continue at the top of this facade. Another loggia arrangement and balcony identical to that of the east facade adorns the eleventh and twelfth floors. The iron balcony has deteriorated.

The south facade is even simpler. Its corners are detailed with returns for the cornice, parapet, and the limestone facade treatment. The rest of this facade consists of unpainted, four course common bond brick. The second and sixth bays are recessed and light air wells. Only the stories above the sixth are exposed, since another building is attached to the lower stories.

The first floor interior is a "T" shaped plan and contains offices and an elevator utility shaft surrounding a carefully designed entrance hall. The floors and walls are polished white marble. The floor marble has deteriorated. The ceiling and its decorative moldings are built of plaster. Doors to offices open off the east and west ends on the cross-axis, while the south wall is composed of elevators and, on either side, stairwells. Spaced along the walls are Doric order pilasters which form a grid with two columns in the central space. This grid is reflected by a paneled ceiling and a green marble grid on the floor. Egg and dart motifs border these ceiling panels, which also contain rectangular coffers with the egg and dart motifs. The stairs have

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

closed metal string and wrought iron balusters in an arabesque pattern. Geometric patterns decorate the stair carriage.

The second floor plan consists of a single, two story space with a service core against the south wall. Two Remington Sherman vaults project from the northern wall. On either side of the service space are two-run stairs leading up to the second story. Along the east and west wall are offices. Part of the floor, now covered with carpeting, was a herringbone wood floor inlaid with mahogany, which echoes the ceiling pattern. The walls consist of polished marble on the first floor level, and paneled plaster with wave molding on the second level. A molded belt course divides these floors. Above them, there is a crown molding with an egg and dart motif and Greek fret.

Two parallel rows of pilasters and piers with panels and stylized Corinthian capitals are located on the service core wall and between it and the vaults. Structural beams between the piers and pilasters are expressed in plaster with moldings creating a series of large panels across the ceiling. The walls have a variety of treatments. The entrance from the service core is a double metal glass door with a transom above containing a decorative iron screen. A marble hood supported by consoles and an architrave surround marks this doorway. On the east and west walls, there is paneled wood up to the door height, polished marble above, and then the plasterwork. On each side of the second floor there is a central balcony. The balconies have a marble balustrade supported by marble consoles.

Some of the offices on the east and west side have wood paneled and plaster walls on the interior. The openings have architrave surrounds, and the doors have cornices above the door head and scrolls on either side. A crown molding circumscribes the room. The floors are a herringbone pattern with inlaid mahogany along the circumference.

The stairs leading up to the mezzanine level are closed string metal stairs with paneled marble risers. The railing contains a geometric pattern of rectangles and festooned paneled posts. Above the wells are leaded skylights, which are thought to be Tiffany glass. These were covered with an acoustical ceiling.

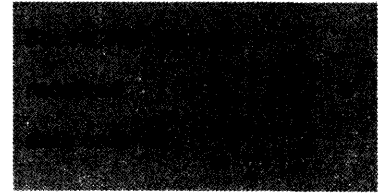
The east room (room number 309) on this level contains the old conference room which has a shallow plaster barrel vault ceiling and paneled wood walls. The wood flooring has a basketweave pattern; the walls have small baseboards and crown moldings. The ceiling is decorated with a simple arabesque pattern in plaster.



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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

On the east wall of this space is a wood three bay loggia. The center bay contains four leaded glass French doors with fluted engaged Doric columns on either side. The other two bays are blind and have Doric pilasters on either side. The necking of each has rosettes, while the echinus is an egg and dart motif. The piers between the French doors are paneled and, on their interior planes, are pilasters with bell capitals and acanthus leaf molding. The room's windows are of leaded glass. A kitchen adjoins the north side of this conference room.

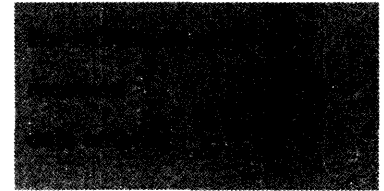
On the west side is a simple room (room number 311) with no interior decoration. There are wood framed French doors in the west wall which match those on the east side of the floor.

The upper floors have been completely altered from their original appearance. The floors are all carpeted, the ceilings consist of suspended acoustical tile. The walls have a variety of finishes, usually paint or fabric. The doors all have metal or painted wood surrounds. The windows do have their original wood architrave surrounds.

The library on the 13th floor has a linoleum floor, partially paneled walls, and plain wood surrounds on the windows.

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Garrett Building  
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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

he had developed while living in Pennsylvania. These people traded through Garrett, and recommended him to new settlers establishing the frontier stores and trading posts. His name spread further westward as his contacts moved on and continued to recommend his firm.

Garrett achieved ultimate success through sound business judgement and remarkable intuitive thinking. He realized Baltimore's geographic advantage as a port, being further inland than Philadelphia, New York or Boston, and was unafraid of experimenting with unproven modes of transporting freight. Moreover, he was able to make good decisions at a time when the state of the business markets was vague due to poor communication and fragmented domestic currency. His basic strategy was to be the first merchant established in an area and to provide the shortest route with the fastest transportation. By providing an excellent service to the West, he encouraged more people to move there, which in turn increased his clientele. In 1839, his sons became partners, and Robert Garrett and Sons was formed.

Recognizing the settlers' needs for finished products, Garrett began importing foreign goods, which led to his involvement in banking. Foreign buyers paid the Garretts in sterling for their goods and services, which the firm subsequently sold for profit. This activity began a foreign exchange for the Garretts.

Robert Garrett and Sons switched from trading, shipping, and commission interests to almost solely banking, as a result of its involvement in the early stages of development of the B & O Railroad. The progressive-minded Garrett was an early supporter of efforts to establish the B & O. After its incorporation, Garrett used his foreign business contacts to sell bonds abroad to help finance the B & O's construction. The fledgling railroad struggled along until John Work Garrett became its president in 1857 on the suggestion of Johns Hopkins after a rousing speech delivered by Garrett at a director's meeting. Thus the B & O and Robert Garrett and Sons began their intimate relationship.

The firm sold bonds not only for the B & O, but also for other lines which could provide western connections for it. The Central Railroad, the Northern Virginia Railroad, and the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad all received financial support and advice from the Garrett and Sons. In order to foster western development and the extension of these western lines, the firm sold bonds for Ohio counties and townships. Gradually, the commission and grocery business of Garrett and Sons diminished; by 1859 it was winding up affairs with several customers.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

The period from 1860-1907 was a time of slowly diminishing activity for the firm. Henry Garrett had taken over most of the day-to-day operation of the firm in 1855, while his brother continued to work with the B & O. Their father died in 1857.

By the late 1860s, Garrett and Sons had virtually ended all commissions and forwarding work, but it was still involved in shipping. In fact, the Garrett's trans-Atlantic shipping line to Europe, established soon after the Civil War, was one of the first American lines operating at that time.

In 1870 the business moved from the merchant area of the city on North Howard near Lexington Street to the financial district (now the Municipal Center). Garrett's sons became partners in the firm, and because Robert was heavily involved in work for the B & O, T. Harrison Garrett became the firm's operating manager. The firm had involved itself in brokerage by this time, and in April of 1875 became members of the Baltimore Stock Board (later in 1881, the Baltimore Stock Exchange). From 1884 until the 1900s the firm operated essentially as a private bank looking after the family interests.

When T. Harrison's son Robert formally joined the firm in 1907, it experienced a new period of growth which attempted to regain the firm's former importance and glory. On October 1, 1911, he reorganized the firm and added a bond and investment department. Partners were added in 1916; a new bond department branch opened in Philadelphia in 1917, and the firm became a representative of J. P. Morgan and Company for the sale of loans for Britain and France. Following World War I, the firm added several more offices as well as Baltimore's first direct private telephone wire to New York's financial center. It continued to limit its banking as a private one for family and business associates. Although it survived the Depression, its business almost came to a standstill. The Securities Act of 1933 required Garrett and Sons to terminate banking altogether.

Robert's son Harrison continued to expand and to develop the firm. In January of 1947 it became a member of the New York Stock Exchange, and in 1950 an associate of the New York Curb Exchange. July of 1963 marked its full membership in the American Stock Exchange. In 1964, the firm transformed itself from a partnership to a corporation, thereby reducing its liability. By 1965 it had absorbed two other local investment firms, and offered services such as underwriting new issues of local and national securities, dealing in all stocks and bonds, municipal financing, and research services. 1974 was the end of the Robert Garrett and Sons Company, for it merged with Alexander Brown and Sons, the nation's first investment banking house, founded in 1800.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #8

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

In addition to owning and operating one of Baltimore's most important commercial enterprises, the Garrett family became the leading family in Baltimore; it attained a position of power, wealth, and social prominence with which few citizens could compete. Robert Garrett began this achievement by actively working to improve the city of Baltimore. He served as director for the Baltimore Water Company, Baltimore Gas Company, and Baltimore Shot Tower Company. He was a director for several banks, and established quality hotels in the city. Although these efforts were altruistic, they also attracted more people to Baltimore, which in turn increased demand for his commission trading.

In the late 18th and the 19th century, the Garretts restricted themselves solely to civic and philanthropic pursuits. All served as directors on numerous boards of financial institutions and were members of civic, religious, and social organizations. Robert Garrett epitomized this trend. A devotee of physical recreation, he founded and directed Baltimore's Bureau of Recreation; he was vice president and later chairman of the board of the Playground Association of America; he initiated the Boy Scouts of America in Baltimore; and he served as director and president of the YMCA for 44 years. He was Chairman of the Public Improvement Commission, sponsor of the Baltimore Museum of Art, trustee of the Walters Art Gallery, and president of the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities. He also was involved with religious organizations by serving as a trustee of the Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church and president of the Baltimore Federation of Churches, and in 1948 cited by the International Council of Religious Education as the year's outstanding layman in religious education. These activities of the Garretts as well as their immense, spectacular residences on Mount Vernon Square and in Baltimore County gave the family a social position equivalent to the Astors of New York.

The Garrett building was constructed during the regeneration of the company. In 1912 the firm hired J. B. Noel Wyatt and William G. Nolting, partners, to design a new office building. They had formed their partnership in 1887 and were responsible for some of Baltimore's finest late 19th and early 20th century buildings. Their work is virtually a catalogue of architectural styles of that time including the Tudor half-timber style Roland Park Shopping Center, 1896 (considered to be the first shopping center in the United States and listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Roland Park Historic District); the Second Renaissance Revival Baltimore City Courthouse, 1900; Queen Anne and Shingle style residences, 1902; the Commercial and Second Renaissance Revival style Keyser Building, 1904; the Gothic Revival wings to Mount Clare Mansion (1753-1787) in the 1930s; and the Bauhaus style Patterson Park High School, 1933.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #9

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (Continued)

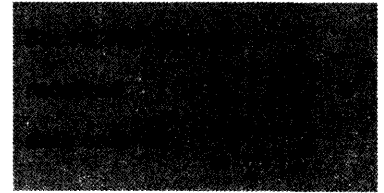
Wyatt and Nolting's design is important for Baltimore because its combination of the Commercial style with Renaissance Revival detailing is not only a significant example of early 20th century design, but also a distinctive example in the context of Baltimore's central business district architecture. The building possesses a monumental scale and simplicity of form juxtaposed against detailing such as rustication, pedimented windows, loggias, and entablatures. These details have been exaggerated and simplified, and this mixture of academic details applied in a non-academic manner clearly illustrates the movement from revivalism to modernism. Moreover, the detail and scale of the interior exhibit the means then used to impress people with a company's power and wealth. The detail also shows the high level of craftsmanship existing in the building trades in the early twentieth century.

This design is also distinctive within its area, which was completely rebuilt following the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904 and thus contains numerous examples of the early 20th century period of architecture. The building's design exhibits a balance between revivalism and modernism which very few other large scale buildings possess. Structures such as the Maryland Trust Building, the Munsey Building, and the Equitable Building show a conservative attention to accurate reproduction and employment of historical details as well as extensive use of decoration to enliven the large expanses of wall and fenestration on the facades. Other structures, such as the Keyser Building and the Continental Trust Building exhibit very progressive influences in their abstracted decoration and amount of fenestration. The Garrett Building's design lies between these two extremes with its careful, but free, use of historical detail and fenestration. Moreover, the use of cast and wrought iron in enormous balconies is not found on any other structure, and the embellishment, scale, and integrity of the main banking room are found in only three other existing bank buildings.

As a result, the Garrett Building is not only associated with one of Baltimore's most pre-eminent and influential businesses, but also physically reflects those qualities. And just as the company was integral in shaping Baltimore's early economic life, the building is integral in shaping Baltimore's financial district. Currently the building is also participating in Baltimore's downtown renewal along with several office buildings, such as the Redwood Building, the old United States Fidelity and Guaranty buildings, and the Water Street stores. The Garrett building has served as a prominent business address since its construction in the early 20th century. The building will soon be rehabilitated and restored by its owner, the distinguished law firm of Gordon, Feinblatt, Rothman, Hoffberger and Hollander. The plans include the reuse and restoration of the architecturally significant rooms and details. In this way the building will continue to contribute to the architectural heritage of Baltimore.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number

9 and 10

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the corner formed by the intersection of the west side of South Street and the north side of German (now Redwood) Street, running thence south on the west side of South Street 53 feet 2 inches to the north side of a 13 inch wall there situate thence west in a straight line binding on the north side of said wall 100 feet to a 6 foot alley there situate thence north binding on said alley with the use thereof in common 53 feet 10 3/4 inches to the south side of Redwood Street. thence east binding on the south side of Redwood Street 100 feet to the place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The property being nominated includes only the city lot upon which the resource stands.