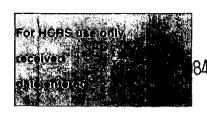
United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form





Type all entries	-complete applica	able sections					
1. Nam	e						
historic	The Gandy I	Belting Company	Building				
and/or common	The Gandy I	Belting Company	Building				
2. Loca	ation						
street & number	726-734 Wes	st Pratt Street-			n/	a not for publi	cation
city, town	Baltimore	ind. of n/a vicir	nity of	congressional	district	Third	
state	Maryland	code 24	county	Independent	City	code	510
3. Clas	sification					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Category district X_ building(s) structure site object	Ownership public _X_ private both Public Acquisition in process being consider _X not applica	X_ yes: rest	pied progress tricted	Present Use agricultu X commerc educatio entertain governm industria military	re cial nal ment ent	museum park perivate re religious scientific transpor	esidence :
4. Own	er of Prop	perty					
name	Hutzler's	Attn:	Robert S	. Ehmann, Vi	ce Pres	ident	*** * * *** *** *** *** *** ***
street & number	222 North H	Howard Street					
city, town	Baltimore	n/a_vicir	nity of	•	state	Maryland	21201
5. Loca	ition of L	egal Desc	riptic	n			
courthouse, regis	stry of deeds, etc.	Records Off	ice, Roo	m 601			
street & number	-	Baltimore C	ity Cour	thouse			
city, town		Baltimore			state	Maryland	21202
6. Repr	esentatio	on in Exis	ting S	Surveys			
	and Historical Tric Sites Invent	rust ory h	as this prop	perty been deterr	nined eleg	jible? ye:	s <u>X</u> no
date 1984				federal	X state	county	local
depository for su	rvey records M	Maryland Histori	cal Trus	t, 21 State	Circle		
city, town	A	nnapolis			state	Maryland	21401

7. Description

ent deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaiteredX altered	Check oneX original site moved date	n/a	 	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
ent deteriorated ruins	unaitered	_X original site	n/a	 		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Number of Reso	ources				
Contributing Noncontributing		Number of previously listed			
1	o_buildings	National Register properties			
0	o_sites	included in this nomination: none			
	o structures				
0	0 objects	Original and historic functions			
· <u> </u>	0 Total	and uses: commercial			

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

The Gandy Belting Company building is a brick masonry bearing-wall loft structure, located at the northeast corner of Pratt and Fremont Streets, seven blocks west of the center of Baltimore City. It was built in five sections. sections built in 1888, 1890, and 1908 are four stories in height. The remaining two sections, built in 1908-1911 and 1911, are five stories in height. first (1888) section to be built fronts on Pratt Street near the southeast corner of the lot. The succeeding sections were added in a clockwise ring, which encloses a small court, about twenty-two feet wide by sixty-eight feet long. south, west, and north facades generally conform to their respective street lines. Fremont Street, on the west, is at an angle to the orthogonal city grid, making the building trapezoidal in plan. The east facade sets back approximately thirtythree feet from the property line to make room for a loading dock. The south and west facades of the building, fronting on Pratt and Fremont (now Martin Luther King, Jr.) Streets, respectively, are ornate. These facades are of a high-fired molded brick which is corbeled below the parapets to form a continuous cornice. This brick cornice is bracketed on the 1888 and 1890 sections and dentiled on the 1908 section. The Pratt Street facades of the 1888 and 1890 sections are nearly identical, each having three groups of three window bays. A low pedimented parapet over the central group in each section is inscribed, on an inset stone plaque, with the year of construction. This lends a Victorian flavor to the structure. At ground level, each of the two sections has a round-arched central vehicular opening, flanked by a pair of segmental-arched openings. Window sills and heads on these facades are of rusticated stone.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799X 1800–1899X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications	• •	landscape architectur iaw literature military music philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1888-1911	Builder/Architect	unknown	-

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, C Applicable Exceptions: none

Level of Significance for Evaluation: local

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Gandy Belting Company, (1880-1931) which was the builder and original owner (1888-1931) of the subject building, was a transitional development in the history of Baltimore's important textile industry. It adapted the textile technologies of the early and mid-nineteenth century, when sailcloth was the major use for cotton duck, to the manufacture of machinery belting for the transmission of power at the turn of the twentieth century. Its patented belts were once widely known and used around the world. The subject building was an integral part of a clearly defined district of manufacturing and warehouse buildings, most of which are now demolished, extending along the B&O Railroad tracks on West Pratt Street. It is a prime example of the early elevator factories which once ringed downtown, but are now rare.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Footnotes in Section 8 (Continuation Sheets 7, 8 and 9).

10. Geo	graphical Data		
Acreage of nomina Quadrangle name UMT References	Poltimore Most Marriand	cre	Quadrangle scale 1:24,000
A 1 8 3 5 9 Zone Easting	0 6 14 10 4 13 4 19 6 12 10 Northing	B Zone E	asting Northing
C		о	
The proper	description and justification rty consists of the urban looundaries are illustrated		
List all states a	nd counties for properties overla	pping state or cou	nty boundaries ,
state n/a	code	county	code
state	code	county	code
11. For	m Prepared By		
name/title	Marc A. Schabb, A.I.A.		<u> </u>
organization	Goldberg Associates	date	April 30, 1984
street & number	2645 North Calvert Stree	t telep	hone (301) 243-4687
city or town	Baltimore	state	Maryland 21218
12. Stat	te Historic Prese	rvation O	fficer Certification
The evaluated sign	ificance of this property within the st	ate is: X local	
665), I hereby nomi	State Historic Preservation Officer fo inate this property for inclusion in the literia and procedures set forth by the	e National Register an	n and Recreation Service.
State Historic Pres	ervation Officer signature	Miffe-	8-2-84
title	STATE HISTORIC PRESERVAT	ION OFFICER	date
Keeper of the Na	ify that this property is included in the residual form. Entitional Register	e National Register ered in this ional Register	date /0-25-84
Chief of Registra	tion for the second second		

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Continuation sheet

Gandy Belting Company Building
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Gandy Belting Company building is a brick masonry bearing-wall loft structure, located at the northeast corner of Pratt and Fremont Streets, seven blocks west of the center of Baltimore City, Maryland.

It was built in five sections. The sections which were built in 1888, 1890, and 1908 are four stories in height. The remaining two sections, built in 1908-1911 and 1911, are five stories in height. The first (1888) section to be built fronts on Pratt Street near the southeast corner of the lot. The succeeding sections were added in a clockwise ring, which encloses a small court, about twenty-two feet wide by sixty-eight feet long. The court has been roofed over (after 1915) at the first floor level.

The south, west, and north facades generally conform to their respective street lines. Fremont Street, on the west, is at an angle to the orthogonal city grid, making the building trapezoidal in plan. The east facade sets back approximately thirty-three feet from the property line to make room for a loading dock. This is served by a spur of the B&O Railroad's main track on Pratt Street (1831, paved over in 1972), which enters the boiler room of the building.

The south and west facades of the building, fronting on Pratt and Fremont (now Martin Luther King, Jr.) Streets, respectively, are somewhat ornate. These facades are of a high-fired molded brick which is corbeled below the parapets to form a continuous cornice. This brick cornice is bracketed on the 1888 and 1890 sections and dentiled on the 1908 section. The Pratt Street facades of the 1888 and 1890 sections are nearly identical, each having three groups of three window bays. A low pedimented parapet over the central group in each section is inscribed, on an inset stone plaque, with the year of construction. This lends a Victorian flavor to the structure. At ground level, each of the two sections has a round-arched central vehicular opening, flanked by a pair of segmental arched openings. Window sills and heads on these facades are of rusticated stone.

The west facade of the 1908 section, facing Fremont Street, has five full-height triple-width window bays. These bays are headed by segmental arches, the lowest courses of which are set back to match reentrant corners at the jambs. The other (north and east) facades are plain. Windows on these facades are headed by segmental arches. All of the openings on the south and west facades have been blocked up or covered by metal grills. The remaining fenestration, on part of the north and east facades and in the open court, is three-over-three metal or metal-clad sash, some of which is double-hung and some of which is pivoting.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The brickwork on the principal facades is in running bond. On the other facades and in the central court, common bond is used. What little of the building's foundations are visible are of granite, perhaps from the yard of Matthew Gault and Sons which occupied the lot just east of the Gandy Belting Company's site, at the corner of Pratt and Penn Streets, from 1832 until the early 1890s. There is no basement. The ground level is concrete slab-on-grade throughout. The floors are all wood plank on timber except in the section built in 1911. There, the first and second floors are brick arch and the third and fourth floors are of reinforced concrete supported on the bottom flanges of steel I-beams.

The roofs are also of plank-on-timber construction except for the 1911 section which is reinforced concrete. The original roofing material, as shown on a 1915 insurance drawing — was tin sheet on the 1888 and 1890 sections, slag on the 1908 and 1911 sections, and asbestos roofing on the 1908-1911 section. All of the roof sections drain toward the open central court. The same drawing shows two cylindrical water tanks, of 20,000 and 33,000 gallons, on round-arched brick towers above the roof. These tanks fed the sprinkler system, which was probably installed after the Great Baltimore Fire in 1904. One of them has been replaced by a modern cooling tower. The tanks were painted with the name, "the GANDY Belting Company." — The weathered remains of these inscriptions are still visible on the remaining tank.

Two twin boiler units are housed in a boiler room in the northeast corner, which is partially beneath the 1911 section of the building, and which extends an additional thirty-three feet to the east property line, where it abuts Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's Penn Substation. In the extreme northeast corner is an eight-foot-square brick smokestack which rises vertically for some distance, above which its walls are battered. The smokestack was extended, apparently at the time of the construction of a six story warehouse (1914) across narrow Lemmon Street to the north. There is a vertical notch in the north corner of the west face of the smokestack, extending to just below the point at which the walls are battered, the purpose of which is unknown.

A stair tower is located in the building's interior between the 1888 and 1890 sections. Other stair towers are located at the northwest corners of the 1890, 1908, and 1908-1911 sections. An iron-clad stair tower outside the structure is located at the northeast corner of the 1911 section. Three original elevator shafts, including one with openings on all sides, are still in place. Two of the elevators are operable, but the vintage of their machinery is unknown. The interior of the building is entirely open on all floors, and all of the Gandy Company's machinery has been removed. The heating system, apparently original, consists of "harps," or branches of uninsulated steam piping, running along the underside of the floor decks.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

A neighboring six-story warehouse building (1914) on West Lombard Street was also built by the Gandy Belting Company, apparently as a speculative development, but was never occupied by them. Its tenant from the time of completion until 1929 was the Morton Samuels Shoe Company, maker of Newark brand shoes. The manufacturer changed its name to Newark Shoe Company in 1930, but was out of business by 1931. This building is not included in the nomination, although it was subsequently linked to the subject building by a sheet-iron-clad bridge across Lemmon Street at the second, third and fourth levels above ground. This connection was probably planned for the eventual expansion of Gandy Gelting, since the floor levels of the two buildings are exactly alike. However, the bridge does not appear on a 1915 insurance drawing, while an adjoining iron-clad stair tower above the boiler room does appear.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

Fremont Avenue, originally Cove Street, is the earliest development at the site, dating back into the eighteenth century. It served to bypass Baltimore, connecting the Annapolis Road, to the south, with the Reisterstown Road to the northwest.

The other streets in the vicinity of the subject property, Pratt, Lombard, Penn, and Lemmon (originally King), were laid out under Poppleton's Plan of 1818.

The B&O Railroad's original station at Mt. Clare (ca. 1830) is two blocks further west. By 1831, strap-iron rail in Pratt Street, laid on stone railbeds, connected this terminal with the waterfront. Because of public opposition to steam locomotives being run on the then-residential street, all traffic along this line was horse-drawn until the late nineteenth century.⁵

Due to the proximity of the railroad, industrial firms soon began to locate in Pratt Street. Probably the first of these was M. Gault & Son, stonecutters, who occupied the adjoining property at the northwest corner of Pratt and Penn Streets. This yard, founded as a cooperative in 1830, was responsible for the stone contributed by Baltimore City to the construction of the Washington Monument. A bird's-eye view from 1889 shows smoke rising from the several industrial buildings at the site, still separated by a short distance from the cluster of industrial buildings at Greene and Paca Streets.

The subject property was originally owned by Joseph and Elizabeth Young. By 1866 it was owned by the firm of A. W. Field & Solomon, who operated an adjoining oyster packing house at the southeast corner of Lombard and Fremont Streets. Throughout most of the nineteenth century, however, the tenant appears to have been the Joseph Thomas or Griffith and Thomas Lumber Yard, 9 a sawmill. An 1876 map shows the corner as occupied by "Germond & Co., m'f'g. of (c) a(b)s & hickory fell(ows)."

The story of the Gandy Belting Company begins with William Kennedy (1801-1873). Kennedy, a renowned sea captain by age nineteen, sailed the famous clipper ships out of Baltimore until 1834. Abandoning the sea, he made a fortune in his father-in-law's business (William Jenkins & Sons) and in 1845 or 1846 entered the cotton business. With his contacts in the maritime trade, Kennedy was successful at promoting the sale of sailcloth, and by 1849 was named president of the Mount Vernon Cotton Manufacturing Company of Baltimore. 11

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

By the 1880's, Kennedy's grandson, Richard Cromwell, also the great-grandson of Samuel Owings of Owings Mills, had inherited the firm. It is a matter of dispute as to whether the Maryland Cromwells are descended from Sir Oliver Cromwell of Hichinbrook, England, uncle of Oliver Cromwell the Protector. A William Cromwell immigrated to Maryland in 1667, taking up land on the Patapsco River at Curtis Creek, in Anne Arundel County. His descendants continued to own hundreds of acres of waterfront adjoining the town of Brooklyn until at least 1890. Richard Cromwell's father, also Richard (1806?-1890), opened a ferry to Baltimore and later built the Light Street Bridge.

By 1880, the sailing industry was in decline, and with it the market for sailcloth. "Maurice Gandy of England,...conceived the idea of making belting out of a modified form of sailcloth which he had for years been selling to ship owners for sails. He exploited a company for carrying out ideas in England, and duplicated that company in America in 1880, locating in Baltimore as the place for manufacturing his belting. In 1886 the company went into the hands of a receiver, and Mr. Richard Cromwell was appointed the receiver. Mr. Cromwell ...conducted the business so successfully that by 1896 he had paid all of its debts with interest, and when in that year it was reorganized, Mr. William K (ennedy) Crowell (1862-1933, son of Richard Cromwell) was elected its president..."

Though little is known of the personalities involved in the design and construction of the various sections of the building, it is likely that the bricks were fired at the Cromwell Brothers Brick Yards (R. Cromwell, Jr. and C. H. Cromwell) at Rossville in Baltimore County, about nine miles from the city. Their product was "a soft-tempered, machine-made brick of the highest quality." 14

There are two types of cotton machinery belting: woven and stitched. The Gandy product was of the latter type, which was said to be the better-wearing of the two. It consisted of a number of laminations of heavy cotton cloth which were stitched together lengthwise while under tension. This type of belt was far cheaper than leather belting, which was the industry standard, and had the advantage of being resistant to hot environments, which caused leather to dry out and crack. Its main drawbacks were its original stiffness, requiring greater tension and reducing efficiency, and its sensitivity to changes in humidity. These defects were to a certain extent corrected by the use of belting dressings, which Gandy sold in later years; and the Gandy's patented (1887) impregnation of the belt with a compound of red oxide which made the belt waterproof and gave it a distinctive bright red color.

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Cloth belting was very heavily used in situations requiring a clean environment, particularly in the textile industry and by the United States Post Office. An 1898 commercial guide relates: "[Gandy's] goods ... have received prizes, medals and first awards wherever they have been exhibited in the world's great expositions. such as that at Berlin, 1879, Chicago, 1893, Hamburg, 1878, Sidney [sic], 1879, Cincinnati, 1880, New Zealand, 1882, Cork, 1883, [sic], 1879, Cincinnati, 1880, New Tynemouth, 1882, Atlanta, 1881, and Chicago World's Fair."

Another primary use of these belts was in the operation of farm machinery, such as hammer mills to grind grain. Steam engines set at the center of a factory floor might be connected by belt in order to power machinery up to fifty feet away. This type of system had its dangers, and factory workers had to constantly take care to stay clear of the belts.

A 1915 insurance map details the operation of the company: "Magnitude - 160 hands employed 40 men on premises by day, 1 at night. No fire brigade." The ground floor shows offices at the south-east corner of the building, as well as storage of duck, splicing and shipping. The first floor had oiling and storage of belting, and painting machines, rolling and stretching machines, belt drying, and storage of red rolls. The second floor contained the weaving, bobbin winding and stitching areas. The third floor, also weaving, sewing and stitching, as well as folding and a machine and carpentry shop. The partial fourth floor had yarn twisters, yarn storage, and another machine shop.

The factors which contributed to the decline of canvas belting were the perfection of the vulcanizing process, which made rubber belts practical, and the growing popularity of electric motors. On February 16, 1931, ownership of the building was transferred to the W. K. Cromwell Company, a real estate company, which according to a 1930 photograph, was in the process of attempting to sell both the Gandy Building and the Newark Shoe Building. They apparently had little success. The W. K. Cromwell Co. maintained an office in the former Gandy Building, leasing the remainder of the building to other concerns. On August 27, 1946, the Hutzler Brothers Department Stores bought the two buildings, converting them to warehouse facilities, which is the current use.

Built over a thirteen year period, the Gandy Belting Company Building illustrates clearly the changing technology of industrial construction, from heavy timber to reinforced concrete, at the turn of the twentieth century.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

One other Baltimore company, the M. E. Hooper Company, made similar belts, which were sold under the "Leviathan" label. Apparently only one other similar type of belt, called "Teon," was manufactured in the united States.²¹

Footnotes for Sections 7 and 8

¹Insurance map "The Gandy Belting Company of Baltimore City" Plan Department of the Associated Mutual Insurance Cos., Boston, Mass. Dated May 5, 1915, Private Collection.

The Industries of Maryland: Historical, Descriptive & Biographical, Historical Publishing Company, New York, 1883. p. 304

3 Baltimore City Directory (Polk's) 1915-1931.

4Photograph: 719 W. Lombard St., September 1930 Prints and Photographs Collection, the Peale Museum, Baltimore Index number MC 7402

5 Impossible Challenge: the B&O Railroad in Maryland Herbert H. Harwood Barnard, Roberts & Co., Baltimore, 1979. pp 26,182

Lithograph: "Baltimore in 1889"
Isaac Friedenwald, Baltimore, 1889.
see Maryland Historical Prints, 1752-1889
Lois McCauley
Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1975 p.39

7
Baltimore City Tax Assessment Records
Baltimore City Archives
Pleasant Street at Guilford Avenue, Baltimore
Ward 12, 1882: "1 lot N.E. corner of Pratt & Cove Sts. 48 x 175 ft. to Whiskey
Alley
1 lot S.S. of Pratt St. E. of Cove St. 10 by 120 ft to alley"

Ward 14, 1858 p. 71: "N.E. cor. Pratt and Fremont Sts. Elizabeth Young Lot 47 x 176 to Carpenter Alley widening to 113 feet Imp B Office & Stable

See Continuation Sheet No. 8

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

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Footnotes (continued)
 7 (continued)
  William Stinchcomb tenant
  Stock, Lumbert & c."
 ^{8}Baltimore City Assessment Records
  14th Ward - 1866. vol. 2 p. 120:
  "Improvements 2 Offices & Stables...
  1 2SBD (two story brick dwelling)
  2 2SBD on King St., No. 171-173"
 ^9\mathrm{Baltimore} City Tax Assessment Records
  14th Ward - 1876.
  p. 9: "N.S. Pratt St. betw. Penn & Fremont - No. 434 Pratt
  Jos. Thomas
  Lot 2 comcg. 86 ft. W. of Penn St.
  Lumber Yard 110 x 76"
  p.11: "N.E. Corner Pratt & Fremont
  Samuel Harrington
  Steam Saw Mill...
  Imp. 1 2S.B. Shop, Boiler & Engine Room & Sheds...
  Imp. Cor. Fremont & King Sts.
  1 SS..B. Store & Dwelling...."
10 City Atlas of Baltimore and Its Environs
  G.M. Hopkins, Philadelphia, 1876. vol. 1, plate G
11 The Biographical Cyclopedia of Representative Men of Maryland
  National Biographical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1879
  pp. 331-332 w/portrait
12 Newspaper clipping: The Baltimore Sun, December 1, 1890
  Biographical file, Enoch Pratt Free Library Maryland Room
  "Cromwell. Richard
13Men of Mark in Maryland
 D.H. Carroll and T. G. Boggs, B. F. Johnson, Inc. 1911
  vol. 3, pp. 131-135 w/ portrait
14 Baltimore City, Maryland
 George W. Engelhardt
  Baltimore Board of Trade 1895. p. 152
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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Footnotes (continued)

15 Transmission Belting and Belt Drives H. Stuart Jude Trade and Technical Press, Ltd., London 1947 pp. 126-131 also-Journal of the Association of Engineering Societies VOL. 7 number 11, November 1888 pp. 429-430 "The transmission of Power by Belting" Hoarace B. Gale 16 Telephone interview April 26, 1984: Mr. Joe Holland, Head of Belting Division C.R. Daniels Co., Baltimore, Maryland

17 Baltimore: the Gateway to the South Mercantile Advancement Co., Baltimore 1898 p. 65

¹⁸Baltimore City Tax Records, 1931

¹⁹Baltimore City Tax Records, 1946

20"Penn Street Substation Extension" The Baltimore Gas and Electric News October 1926, photograph, p. 286

²¹The Belt Book Cling-Surface Company Buffalo, N.Y. 1916 (copy in Library of Congress)

