

W. Lexington St., No. 316-318 (Commercial Building)
Baltimore
Maryland

HABS No. MD-77-D

HABS
MD,
4-BALT,
178 D-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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178 D-

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Maryland	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY Baltimore
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) W. Lexington St., No. 316-318 (Commercial Bldg.)		HABS NO. MD-77-D
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 316-318 W. Lexington Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) c. 1820	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Urban townhouse before the commercialization of this block. While greatly altered, it still retains vestiges of its original form and design.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 32' x 58' rectangular plan, 3½ stories, two bays		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Art Moderne storefront with neon sign; brick corbelled roof cornice and single dormer unit remains from the original early 19th century facade		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) See attached		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Facade seriously altered by plaster applied to second and third stories (c. 1920); first floor facade altered (c. 1940)		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Demolished 1979		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Lexington Market Station Value Capture/Joint Development Project Inventory		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Russell Wright, AIA	DATE June 1980	

316-318 West Lexington Street Interior Features:

Cellar-The original rear wall of the mid 19th century structure can be identified by the presence of a heavy brick relieving arch. The arch has been partially closed-in, and it is possible that there was a window in the interior of the arch. The original timber framing system is exposed in most of the cellar, with girders and summer beams measuring 10"x 16".

First Floor-This space has been completely altered when it was converted to commercial use. There is nothing of architectural value remaining.

Second Floor-The second floor has also been greatly altered, with modern stairs located front and rear. All doors and windows have been recased, c.1920. There is nothing of significance on this floor.

Third Floor-While all interior doors and casings are 20th C, the molded architrave trim to the windows appears to date from the mid-19th century. There is a masonry partition dividing this space into two halves, corresponding to the location of the probable original rear wall in the cellar. Ghostings of a window in this wall further indicate the extent of the mid-19th C construction. There is no cornice, but sections of a molded chair rail, which continued by the windows to form a stool, and a flat base mold with a quirk and bead at the top edge remain.

Attic -The stair to the attic is original, consisting of turned newels, square balusters, molded hand rail and paneled skirt. There is also a good four panel door, and a six panel door, which has been rehung but retains its original iron latch. The ceiling is plaster on split lath, exposed in places due to water damage. The dormers, centered on each slope of the gable roof, appear original, but have later casement windows.

Summary-With the exception of the attic space, there is little of architectural significance remaining in this structure. If the building is to be demolished, the two attic doors should be salvaged, and the stair from the third floor to the attic photographed.