

1300 NORTH CALHOUN STREET (Commercial Building)  
Baltimore  
Baltimore ~~County~~ City  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-1004

HABS  
MD  
4-BALT,  
214-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

1300 NORTH CALHOUN STREET (COMMERCIAL BUILDING)

HABS No. MD- 1004

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214-

- Location: 1300 North Calhoun Street, Baltimore (City), Maryland
- USGS Baltimore West, Maryland Quadrangle  
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:  
18.358/520.4351/530
- Significance: The corner commercial/residential building at 1300 North Calhoun Street exemplifies the increasing commercialization of the Sandtown-Winchester neighborhood of Baltimore in the early 20th century through its successive shop additions on the rear of the building facing one of the main streets leading to the Lafayette Market.
- Description: The building is a three-story, three-bay brick corner structure with its original entry facade oriented east toward North Calhoun Street. The red brick is laid in running bond. The entry is in the center of the facade, with no porch or flanking windows and a plain wood panel surround, painted green. The doorway is currently boarded. Full height windows with jack arches on the second floor are open, as are the third floor windows. The sills and the console cornice are wood. The south elevation, facing Laurens Street, reveals a two-story brick addition with an open frame porch on the second floor rear elevation. The street level has two separate entries, both boarded, in the main section. One is flanked by plate glass windows and a transom. The second entry is probably the original side entrance, with a granite block step. A one-story brick addition extends from the rear of the main building to the west lot line. A steel I-beam supported on 4 brick piers spans three storefronts with a partial metal cornice. All windows and door frames are open and the roof of the addition has collapsed, leaving the shop areas filled with debris. The upper stories of the main building are fire-damaged and inaccessible.

History:

The building was erected about 1870 for combined commercial and residential use, as was common in late 19th century neighborhoods for lots at strategic street corners. The nearby Lafayette Market generated small businesses on Laurens Street as well as other surrounding streets. Nothing is known of its early history, but in 1908, Solomon Silverman opened a men's furnishings and tailor shop in the building and occupied the upper floors as his residence. In 1909, Silverman changed the principal store entry and address to 1400 Patterson Avenue (later Laurens Street). By 1918-1919, 1402 and 1402-1/2 Laurens Street were erected and were leased until the late 1920's by Harry Davis, a barber, and Obediah Martin, a fish dealer, both black. After that time, a succession of small black-owned businesses occupied the commercial addition, including a confectionary, shoe shine and repair shop, and a beauty shop. Silverman's men's store continued until the early 1930's, then became a restaurant and ice cream shop. For a brief period in the 1920's and 1930's, a locksmith and a hauling business occupied the original entry address at 1300 North Calhoun Street. The building is currently unoccupied and slated for demolition for a housing project.

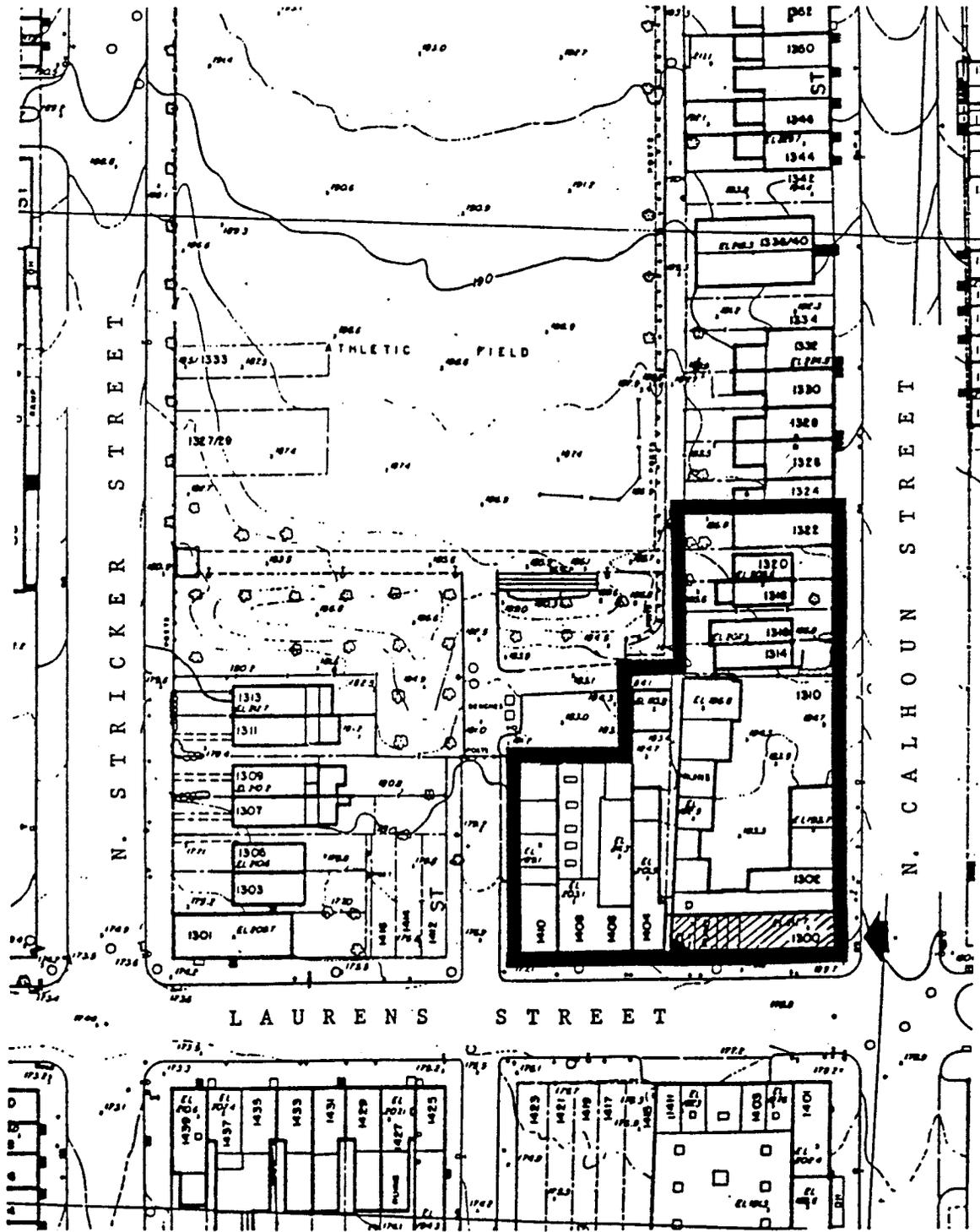
Sources:

Land Records of Baltimore City  
Bromley's Atlas of Baltimore City, 1896  
Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Baltimore, 1914  
City Directories of Baltimore, 1908 - 1964

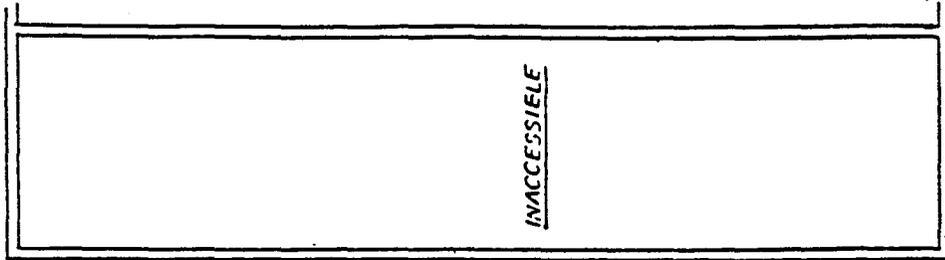
Historian:

Janet L. Davis  
Baltimore City Commission for Historical and  
Architectural Preservation  
April 17, 1990

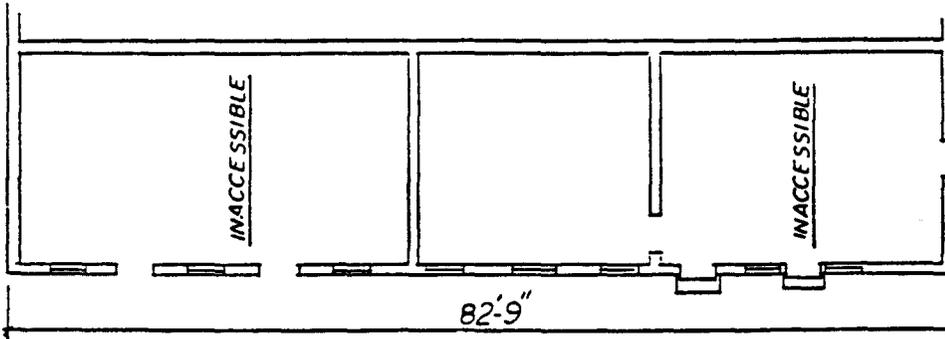
1300 N. Calhoun Street  
(Commercial Building)  
HABS No. MD-1004 (page 3)



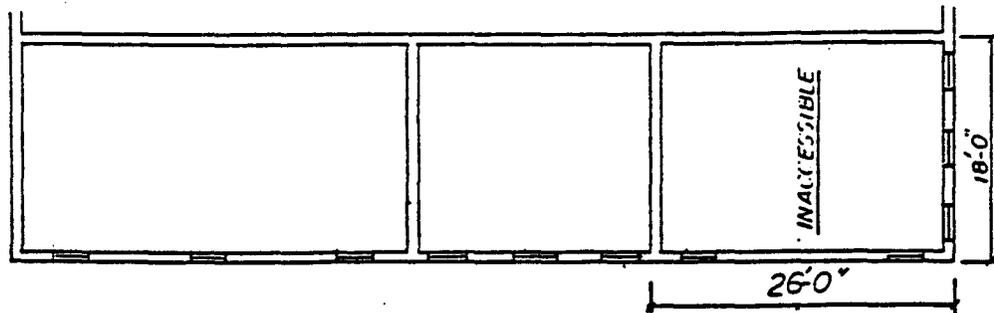
1300 N. Calhoun Street  
(Commercial Building)  
HABS No. MD-1004 (page 4)



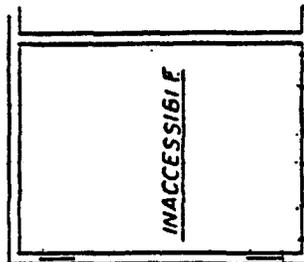
BASEMENT



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR

1300 N. CALHOUN ST.