

D-793
Herbert Hearn Hardware Company Building
Cambridge
1914-15
Private

In April 1914, Martin F. Slacum sold to the United Stores Company a parcel of Race Street property that had been improved by small one and two-story shops in the midst of a primary residential district south of the intersection of Muir Street. But since the devastating July 1910 fire that destroyed a large portion of the best commercial buildings in the county seat, the nature of this end of Race Street was changing from residential to an extension of the business district. Approximately a half-dozen years prior to the fire, Henry C. Patchett financed a pair of tall, three-story, three-bay brick commercial blocks next door to the parsonage for the Grace M. E. Church, South. (See D-791 and D-792)

With the purchase of the adjacent parcel by the United Stores Company, plans advanced to erect another large scale three-story commercial building, four bays across by twelve deep. Its Race Street façade, assembled in pressed red brick laid in a fine butter joint, was defined by paired window units and highly decorative pressed metal cornices, an architectural finish established by earlier buildings up the street designed by Cambridge architect J. Benjamin Brown (1849-1922). In March 1919, the United Stores Company formally changed its chartered name to the Herbert Hearn Hardware Company, by which the property was known until the company sold the commercial block in June 1975.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-793

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Herbert Hearn Hardware Company
other United Stores Company

2. Location

street and number 509-511 Race Street not for publication
city, town Cambridge vicinity
county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name The Corporate Services, LLC
street and number 1354 Montague Street, NW telephone _____
city, town Washington state DC zip code 20011

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber MLB 577 folio 129
city, town Cambridge tax map 301 tax parcel 4536 tax ID number 7-119402

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
 Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
 Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
 Recorded by HABS/HAER
 Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
 Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	_____	_____ objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<u>1</u>	_____ Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:		

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-793

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The Herbert Hearn Hardware Company building, know initially as the United Stores Company building, is located at 509-511 Race Street in the center of Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland. The three-story, four-bay by twelve-bay stretcher and common bond brick commercial block was built around 1914. The three-story, four-bay Race Street elevation is dominated by recessed double door entrances on the first floor and double window units spanned by segmental brick jack arches on the second and third floors. Surviving as well are highly decorative pressed metal cornices at the storefront level as well as the top parapet. The side walls are laid in seven-course common bond with six-over-six sash window openings spanned by double rowlock arches. The overall building design and finish is akin to many other early twentieth century commercial blocks in Cambridge and it was very likely designed by architect J. Benjamin Brown.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Herbert Hearn Hardware Company building, known at first as the United Stores Company building, is located at 509-511 Race Street in the midst of Cambridge's central business district. The three-story, four-bay by twelve-bay commercial block has a pressed brick stretcher bond face and seven-course common bond side walls laid in ordinary early twentieth century wall brick. The front pressed brick façade is laid in a thin butter joint. The building, erected around 1914, faces east with the flat roof sloping gradually to a lower three-story elevation.

The Race Street façade (east) is a broad four-bay pressed brick stretcher bond elevation with a first floor storefront featuring double recessed double door entrances flanked by large plate glass display windows. Stretching across the top of the storefront is an intact early 20th-century century pressed metal cornice enhanced with tapered modillion blocks similar to those found on the Phillips Hardware Company building (See D-350) and the Harrington & Bayly building (D-379) a block away. Above the storefront cornice, the wall elevation is divided into four distinct bays by plain brick pilasters, while the window walls in between the pilasters are slightly recessed. Piercing the wall surface between the pilasters are double window units of single pane sash windows. The second floor windows are slightly larger than those on the third floor with the addition of multi-pane transoms overhead. All of the window units have segmental jack arches with a raised, header brick top edge. Atop the third floor window units the wall surface corbels outward in three levels in a decorative finish to the plane of the outer wall surface. The top of the parapet front wall is finished with an elaborate pressed metal cornice of tapering modillion blocks. Interrupting the cornice block at five locations is a slightly larger bracket block featuring a decorated face with an acanthus leaf form under the curve of the top half of the bracket while the vertical lower face is finished with a panel of horizontal reeding. In between the bracket blocks, the frieze of the cornice is enriched with a series of square acanthus leaf medallions. The full cornice turns on each outer edge to extend approximately two feet on a side.

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The side walls are laid in seven course common bond with three tiers of window units topped by segmental arched rowlock arches. The second floor is defined by a series of six-over-six sash windows spanned by double rowlock arches as is the third floor. Each of the window units feature molded concrete sills.

The rear (west) wall is defined by an asymmetrical four-bay fenestration. Rising on the southwest corner is a brick stove flue built against the original brickwork. The random assortment of freight doors and window units are spanned by segmental arches of two or three courses of rowlocks. Fixed above a few openings are smaller window units spanned by double rowlock arches. There are three unevenly spaced two-over-two sash window units on the second floor, and the third floor is defined by smaller six pane window units topped by double rowlock arches. The edge of the roof is finished flush with a gutter system draining storm water off the shed roof.

The first floor interior has survived with vertical beaded board walls and a pressed metal ceiling.

8. Significance

Inventory No. D-793

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates 1914-15

Evaluation for:

National Register

Maryland Register

not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The former Herbert Hearn Hardware Company building is a dominant three-story stretcher and common bond brick commercial block that stands on the west side of Race Street in central Cambridge. Built around 1914, the four-bay by twelve-bay brick structure repeats design features linked to the work of J. Benjamin Brown, the city's principal architect/contractor during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The well preserved Race Street elevation is executed in a pressed stretcher bond brick with thin butter joints in a four-bay format. Doubled window units spanned by broad segmental arches define the upper two floors, and intact early twentieth century cornices enrich the original storefront and top of the parapet. Now currently vacant, the building is a key commercial block in the city's principal business district.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

In April 1914,¹ Martin F. Slacum sold this Race Street parcel to the United Stores Company, a piece of Race Street ground that had been improved by small one and two story shops in the midst of a primarily residential district south of the intersection with Muir Street. But since the devastating July 1910 fire that destroyed a large portion of the best commercial district in the county seat, the nature of this portion of Race Street was changing from residential to an extension of the business district. Approximately a half dozen years prior to the fire, Henry C. Patchett had financed a pair of tall, three-bay, three-bay brick commercial blocks next door to the Grace M. E. Parsonage. (See D-791 and 792) With the purchase of the adjacent parcel by the United Stores Company, plans advanced to erect another large scale three-story commercial building, four-bays across by twelve deep. Its Race Street façade, assembled in pressed brick laid in fine mortar joints and defined by paired window units, followed an architectural pattern established by earlier buildings up the street designed by Cambridge architect J. Benjamin Brown. In March 1919, the United Stores Company formally changed its

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, WLR 7/482, 13 April 1914, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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chartered name to the Herbert Hearn Hardware Company,² by which the property was known until the company sold the commercial block in June 1975.³

² Dorchester County Corporate Record Book, WHM 2/48, 11 March 1919.

³ Dorchester County Land Record, 190/411, 26 June 1975, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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Herbert Hearn Hardware Company
509-511 Race Street
Cambridge, Dorchester County, Maryland
Map 301, Parcel 4536

MLB 577/129 Douglas R. Fozwell and M.Ralph Foxwell

to

5.12.2004 The Corporate Services, LLC

\$550,000

272/834 M. Ralph Fozwell and Douglas R. Foxwell

to

2.7.1992 M. Ralph Foxwell and Douglas R. Foxwell

190/411 Herbert Hearn Hardware Company

to

6.26.1975 M. Ralph Foxwell and Douglas R. Foxwell

By Charter Amendment dated March 11, 1919, and recorded among the
Corporate Record books of Dorchester County, WHM 2/48, the United Stores
Company changed its corporate name to the Herbert Hearn Hardware Co.

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WLR 7/482

Martin F. Slacum et al.

to

4.13.1914

United Stores Company

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Record, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.
Sanborn Insurance Maps, various volumes, Library of Congress.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 23,556 square feet
Acreage of historical setting 23,556 square feet
Quadrangle name Cambridge, MD Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	2/25/2010
street & number	P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

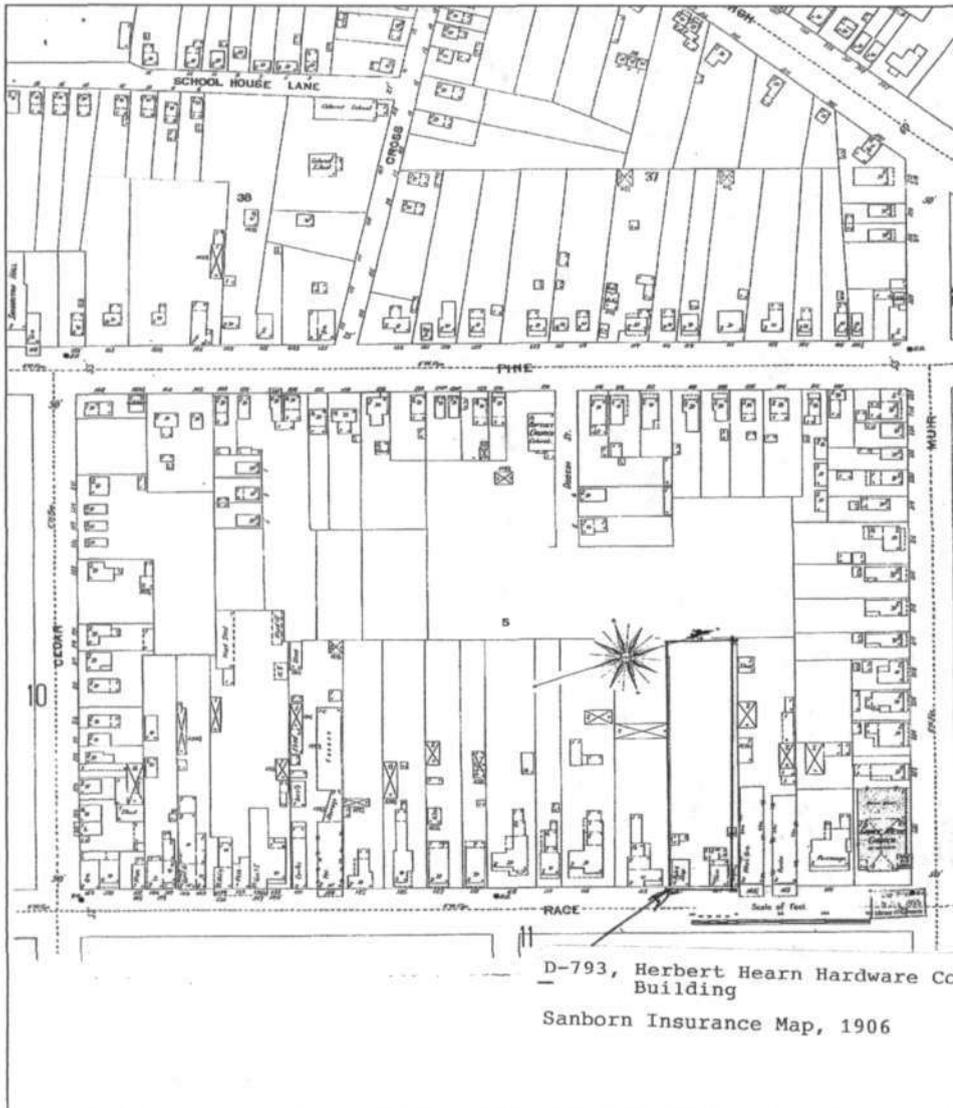
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

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D-793, Herbert Hearn Hardware Co
Building
Sanborn Insurance Map, 1918

TALBOT CO
DORCHESTER CO

Light

Hambrooks
Bar

Slagle 3

Boat
Ramp

Great Marsh
Point

Radio
Tower
(WCEN)

Sandy Hill
Sch

Middle
Sch

Glascow
Sch

Golden Shore
Sch

Long Wharf
Park

Tidal
Sta

Boat
Ramps

Heliport

Hosp

Greenlawn
Cem

Chesapeake
College

St. Clair
Sch

CAMBRIDGE

Bethel
Cem

D-793, Herbert Hearn Hardware Co.,
Building
Cambridge MD Quadrangle



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D-793

HERBERT STEVEN HARSHMAN Cr.
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Cr. ^{BLOS.} M.D.

NORTHEAST ELEVATION

2.. 2010 PAUL B. TOWARI, PITUITO.
WEL. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

1 of 4



D-793

HERBERT HEARN HARDWARE Co.
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co. ^{Building} and

WEST ELEVATION

2.210, PAUL B. THOMAS, PITTS.

W.F. / M.D. HISTORICAL TRUST

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D-793

HERBERT HEARN HARDWARE Co.
BUILDING

CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co., MA.

FAST ELEVATION

2. 2010, Paul B. Touart, PITUTO.

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D-798

ITHEBENT ITHARN ITHARDWARE Co.
CAMBRIDGE, DORCHESTER Co., MD. ^{Buildings}

NE CORNER OF CORNICE

2. 2010 PAUL B. TOWART, PITOTO.

NEG. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

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