

THE MACHT BUILDING

The Macht Building, one of the first buildings in Baltimore to be designed by English-born architect Alfred Lowther Forrest, is one of the City's most architecturally unique, elaborately adorned commercial structures. Its most distinctive feature, the mansard roof, is one of only three such roofs built on a commercial building in the City after the Fire of 1904. Other features include: a pronounced cornice, enriched Ionic entablature and elaborate detail, such as cartouches, consoles, lion heads, shields, and lead and scroll ornamentation.

Ephraim Macht (1866-1944), who according to the Baltimore News Post was the first Jewish real estate broker in Baltimore, came to America from Russia in 1886 and supported himself by selling hats and doing odd jobs. He started his own business, the Macht Real Estate and Banking Business, by buying old houses and inexpensively renovating them for resale or rental.

In 1911, Macht, reacting to the harsh anti-Semitism which prevailed in Baltimore during the first quarter of the twentieth century, used the name of Irish real estate salesman John Welsh and began building homes under the name Welsh Construction. Eventually, the two companies merged and formed the Welsh Construction Company which served all functions. Macht, his son Morris, and nephew Morton greatly contributed to Baltimore's urban development by building over eight thousand homes.

The Macht Building is still occupied by real estate businesses that evolved from the Macht Real Estate and Banking business and the Welsh Construction Company. The building, which is in excellent condition, has had no significant exterior changes since it was built in 1908.

Kurt L. Schmoke, Mayor

Baltimore City Landmark