

HISTORIC OTTERBEIN

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The Hanover Market



by David Safier

This segment of the 1869 pictorial map of Baltimore shows the Hanover Market at the corner of Hanover and Camden, now the site of the Sheraton Hotel and the Convention Center. Though the market was open for 172 years -- 1787 to 1959 -- and was the second oldest public market in the city, little has been written about it, and I was unable to find any photos.

John Eager Howard (Revolutionary War Hero, Governor, State Senator, U.S. Representative, U.S. Senator and major Baltimore land owner whose holdings included the Otterbein neighborhood) sponsored the market to draw people to the area. Half a century after it was built, the city couldn't decide whether to tear the market down or improve it; they opted to rebuild it in the 1850s.

For most of its life, the Hanover Market was a retail market with numerous stalls, but in the 1930s it became more of a wholesale area as shoppers moved their trade to modern all-purpose markets. It was demolished in 1959. Nothing permanent was put in its place until the Convention Center was built in the 1970s.