

Statement of Significance

The headquarters building of the A.K. Robins Company at 713 E. Lombard is significant as the home of one of Baltimore's oldest manufacturers of canning machinery. The canning and food processing machinery industry in Baltimore was a natural offshoot of the city's huge canning industry in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Baltimore was the home of many important developments on canning machinery, such as the Shriver Pressure Kettle and the Chisholm-Scott Pea Podder and Viner. The A.K. Robins Company is one of the last remnants of this once thriving industry. The four-story building, originally built to house the H.D. Dreyer Box Manufacturing Company, was the first factory erected in Baltimore's "burnt district" after the Great Fire of 1904.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

A.K. Robins Canning Machine Company

AND/OR COMMON

A. K. Robins Company

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

713 E. Lombard Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME A.K. Robins and Company

Telephone #: 301-539-1987

STREET & NUMBER

(Same as above)

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Records Office

Liber #: RHB 3189

Folio #: 345

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse, Fayette & Calvert Sts.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE
Maryland 21202**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

None

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-1004

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This classic three-story timber frame and brick factory is one of many industrial buildings in Baltimore built in a 19th century manner. Single sash windows in each bay give the facades a repetitive feeling that anticipates the functionalist aesthetic of modernism. The broken cornice of the north or principle facade and a slight segmental arch over each window are the only attempts at ornamentation. This facade is 12 bays wide.

The west ^{facade} ~~bay~~ is divided into two sections of four and five bays. Here the windows vary somewhat, there are two doors and a second-level loading bay. The east facade is divided into three sections of three, eight, and three bays. Here again the window pattern varies, and there are two loading bays on the first level, one of which has been bricked up.

The building has a flat roof. The floors are carried on a system of wooden posts, beams and joists. The first floor contains offices and storage for finished machinery, and the top floors contain the machine shops where canning machinery is produced.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The headquarters building of the A.K. Robins Company at 713 E. Lombard is significant as the home of one of Baltimore's oldest manufacturers of canning machinery. The canning and food processing machinery industry in Baltimore was a natural offshoot of the city's huge canning industry in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Baltimore was the home of many important developments on canning machinery, such as the Shriver Pressure Kettle and the Chisholm-Scott Pea Podder and Viner. The A.K. Robins Company is one of the last remnants of this once thriving industry. The three-story building, originally built to house the H.D. Dreyer Box Manufacturing Company, was the first factory erected in Baltimore's "burnt district" after the Great Fire of 1904.

Historical Significance:

In the late nineteenth and early 20th centuries Baltimore was the center of the nation's canning industry. A major branch of that industry was the manufacture of canning and food handling machinery, and many such machines were invented in Baltimore. One of the few manufacturers of canning machinery still in production today is A.K. Robins and Company at 713 East Lombard Street.

A.K. Robins and Company was established in 1855, as a tinsmith shop, by Samuel Sindall. It grew to include marine hardware, and devoted itself completely to canning machinery by the turn of the century. Samuel M. Sindall joined his father Samuel in 1870, when they borrowed \$5000 from Albert K. Robins. In return for the loan, Mr. Robins insisted that the company be named for him, even though he had no further association with it. A.K. Robins and Company has been located within the same four block area since it was founded. They moved from a Market Place address to the East Lombard Street building in 1925. Originally the home of the H.D. Dreyer and Company, box manufacturers, the building was the first factory after the great Baltimore fire of 1904.

cont'd

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with and articles provided by Louis Kibbler, Sr.,
President of A.K. Robins Co.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Kathleen Stacey, Dennis Zembala

ORGANIZATION Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE December, 1980

STREET & NUMBER 217 North Charles St.

TELEPHONE 301-396-1931

CITY OR TOWN Baltimore

STATE Maryland 21202

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory 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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438



BALTIMORE

A. K. ROBINS CO

30 FEET NOV 1941 18³6161543 49760

Locust Pt NORTHWEST

A. K. ROBINS CO. B-1004
BALTIMORE, MD
U.S.G.S. 7.5 # BALTO. EAST QUAD
18³61615 42 49760

In 1899, Robert A. Sindall joined his father Samuel M. Sindall, who had taken over the presidency from the founder. It was Robert who changed the inventory and production to include only canning machinery, clearing everything else out of the factory while his father was on a July 4th vacation. Robert A. Sindall was president until 1947, when his son, Robert Jr., took over.

The Sindall family was determined to keep A.K. Robins and Company a private corporation, as it had been since its founding. In July of 1980, the Sindall interest was purchased by three members of the Kibler family, who also intend to keep the Company a private corporation. The Kiblers have had a long association with A.K. Robins; the current president, Louis E. Kibler, Sr., has been with the company for 53 years.

Prior to 1947, A.K. Robins and Company was best known as a representative for other manufacturers of canning machinery. Since then, the firm has also been researching, engineering and manufacturing machinery of its own design. Some of the processes they pioneered include the caustic process for the peeling of tomatoes, canning and packing of mushrooms, and machines to shell Maryland's famous crabs. The company can supply everything from individual machines to an entire food processing plant.

A.K. Robins and Company distributes their own machinery as well as that from other manufacturers all over the U.S. and abroad.

NAER INVENTORY

1. SITE I.D. NO B 1 0 0 4		3. PRIORITY		4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT)		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	
2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION Manufacturing		5. DATE		6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT		OWNER ADMIN	
8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE A. K. Robins Company		9. OWNER'S ADDRESS 813 East Lombard Street		7. OWNER/ADMIN A. K. Robins & Co., Inc.			
10. STATE COUNTY M D		COUNTY NAME Baltimore		CITY/VICINITY Baltimore		CONG. DIST. 3	
11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO) 713 East Lombard Street		12. EXISTING SURVEYS		13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW)			
14. UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING SIGN		SCALE		QUAD NAME			
15. CONDITION		70 <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT		71 <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD		72 <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	
16. INVENTORIED BY Dennis Zembala, Kathleen Stacey		AFFILIATION Baltimore Industrial Museum		DATE 12/80			
17. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), HISTORICAL DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, EXTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ENGINEERS, ETC.							
The headquarters building of the A.K. Robins Company at 713 E. Lombard is significant as the home of one of Baltimore's oldest manufacturers of canning machinery. The canning and food processing machinery industry in Baltimore was a natural offshoot of the city's huge canning industry in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Baltimore was the home of many important developments on canning machinery, such as the Shriver Pressure Kettle and the Chisholm-Scott Pea Podder and Viner. The A.K. Robins Company is one of the last remnants of this once thriving industry. The four-story building, originally built to house the H.D. Dreyer Box Manufacturing Company, was the first factory erected in Baltimore's "burnt district" after the Great Fire of 1904.							
(CONT OVER)							
18. ORIGINAL USE Box Factory		PRESENT USE Canning Machine Factory		ADAPTIVE USE			
19. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER							
Louis Kibbler, Sr., President of A. K. Robins Co. Vertical Files, Baltimore Industrial Museum							
(CONT OVER)							
20. URBAN AREA 50,000 POP OR MORE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		21.		22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY		23. EDITOR INDEXER	
24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?		<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		NAME		DISTRICT I.D. NO	

B-1004

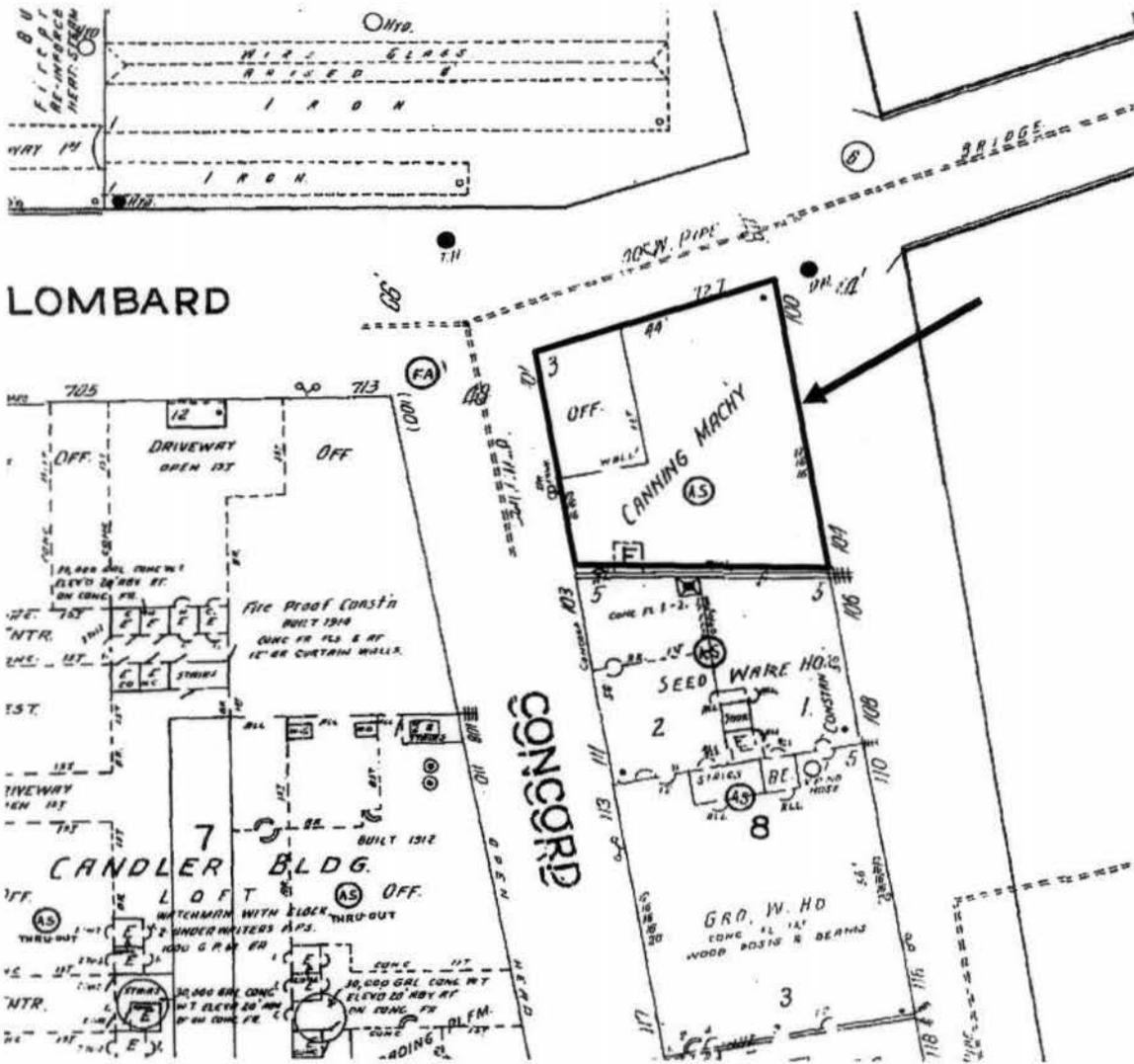
Demolished

A.K. Robins Company, site

713 E. Lombard Street

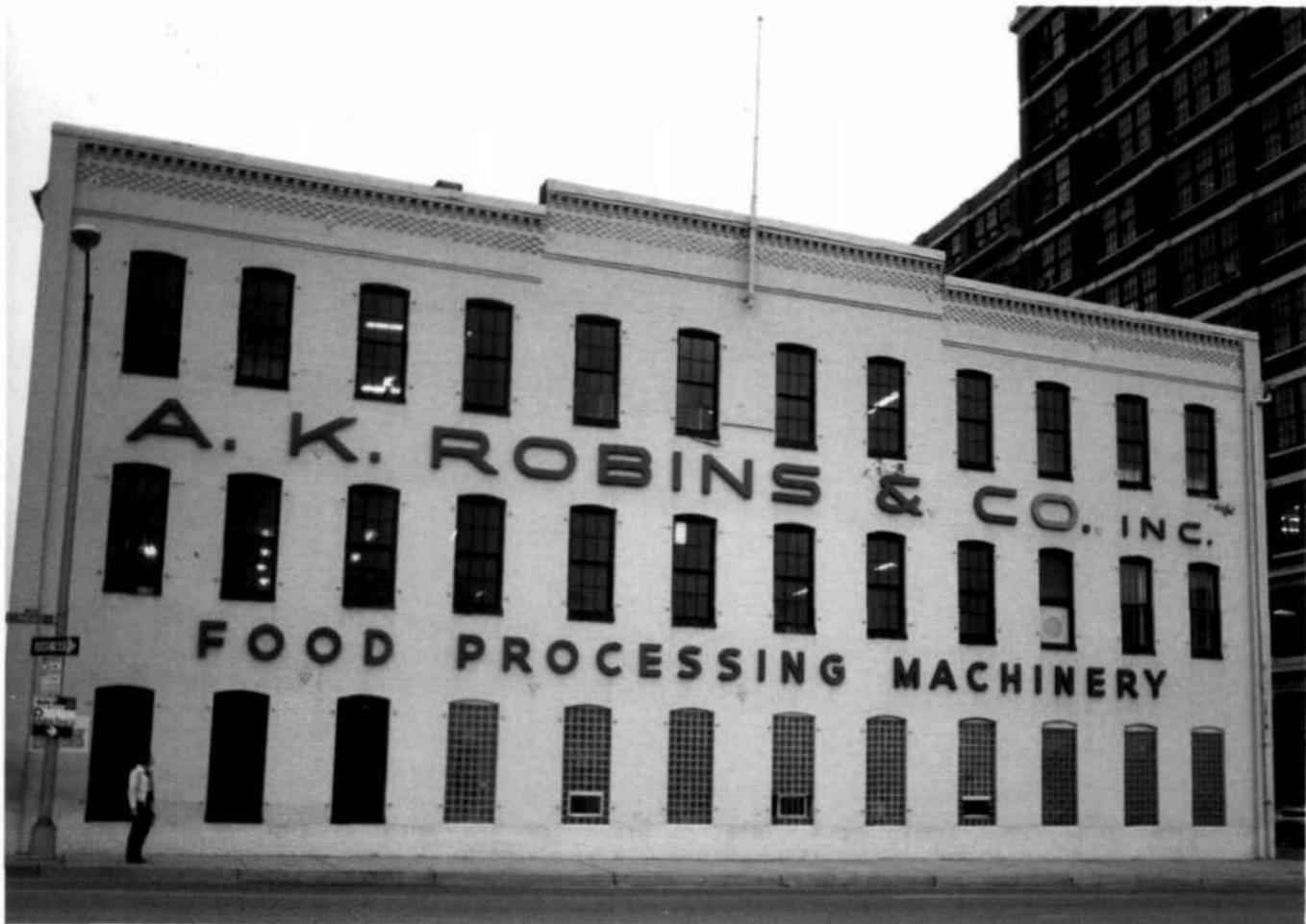
Sanborn Map 1914, reprinted 1951

Volume 4, Sheet 320



A. K. ROBINS & CO. INC.

FOOD PROCESSING MACHINERY



A.K. ROBINS CO.

B-1004

BALTIMORE CITY, MD.

PHOTO: ANN STEELE

NEG.LOC.: MD. Historic Trust

DEC 1980

North (Lombard St.) facade



A.K. ROBINS CO.

B-1004

BALTIMORE CITY, MD.

PHOTO: ANN STEELE

NEG. LOC.: MD. Historic Trust FIL

East facade DEC. 1980

(Falls Road)



A. K. ROBINS & CO. INC.

FOOD PROCESSING MACHINERY

A. K. ROBINS & CO.

COMPANY
PRODUCTS

A.K. ROBINS CO. B-1004
BALTIMORE CITY, MD.
PHOTO: ANN STEELE
NEG.LOC.: MD. Historic Trust
DEC. 1980
Looking south/west EAST.



A.K. ROBINS CO.

B-1004

BALTIMRE CITY, MD.

PHOTO: ANN STEELE

NEG.LOC.: MD. Historic Trust

DEC. 1980

Looking South ~~east~~ west