

#B1010
Crown, Cork & Seal Company
Baltimore
Private

1897

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The fine five-story structure which stands at 1515 Guilford was constructed in 1897 to house the rapidly expanding Crown Cork and Seal Company, one of Baltimore's best known and most interesting companies. Invented by William Painter in 1892, the "crown cork"-- a crimped metal bottle cap with a cork liner-- was destined to revolutionize the soft drink, beer, and bottling industries and is still the most popular form of bottle closure for carbonated beverages around the world. Architecturally, the building in its three sections shows an interesting and eclectic array of 19th century building styles, and serves as an illustration of how national trends in architecture show up in industrial structures.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Crown, Cork and Seal Company

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1515 Guilford Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Garrison Realty Company

Telephone #: 301-296-4420

STREET & NUMBER
Investment Plaza

CITY, TOWN
Towson,

___ VICINITY OF

Maryland STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore City Courthouse

Liber #: WA 3924
Folio #: 713

STREET & NUMBER
Calvert & Fayette Street

CITY, TOWN
Baltimore

STATE
Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-1010

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Crown Cork and Seal Company buildings offer an interesting illustration of how national trends in architecture show up in industrial structures. The central building on Guilford Avenue contains the massing and stylistic elements characteristic of H.H. Richardson while the structure to the south recalls the Monadock Building of Louis Sullivan. The powerhouse on the northern corner of the block also has Richardsonian elements. Together they are an important example of the eclectic approach which dominated late 19th century architecture.

The center building is a low two-story structure which probably served as a machine shop. Its central feature is the pedimented portico which frames a large garage door. The pediment contains three romanesque windows with semi-circular lintels. Its top one-third is faced with random-coursed stone and carries a date stone dated 1898. The portico is set off from the rest of the facade by rounded pilasters which terminate in finials above the roofline. It is three bays wide flanked by wings of six bays each. At the first floor level the large garage door is flanked by three small, innocuous personnel doors. A belt course of stone incorporates the lintels above the first floor windows. The second floor windows, each crowned by a semi-circular arch, are divided into five groups of three.

The structure on the northeast corner of Guilford and Federal Streets is a steel frame structure of six stories with a brick curtain wall. The southern and western facades recall the early buildings of Sullivan and Furness. On the south, five bays are described by soaring colonades which terminate at the fifth floor in semi-circular arches. The bays are filled with glass in the form of double-hung sash windows. Smaller arched windows on the sixth floor form a band at the top of the building.

The powerhouse at the northern corner of this complex provided electric power for the machinery. Most plants at the time were still independent of the public utilities. The pyramidal hip roof and the hip-roofed monitor also are vaguely Richardsonian adding an elegant look to this purely functional building. A large chimney stack behind the building indicated that the power produced here was quite large. The letters "C. C. & S. Co" are present in dark brick on its side.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1897 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The fine three-part, five-story structure which stands at 1515 Guilford was constructed in 1897 to house the rapidly expanding Crown Cork and Seal Company, one of Baltimore's best known and most interesting companies. Invented by William Painter in 1892, the "crown cork"-- a crimped metal bottle cap with a cork liner -- was destined to revolutionize the soft drink, beer and bottling industries and is still the most popular form of bottle closure for carbonated beverages around the world. Architecturally, the building in its three sections shows an interesting and eclectic array of 19th century building styles.

Historical Significance:

The fine five story structure which stands at 1515 Guilford Avenue was constructed in 1897 to house the rapidly expanding Crown Cork and Seal Company, one of Baltimore's best known and most interesting companies. The Crown Cork and Seal Company was started in 1892 by William Painter, an inventor and machine shop foreman, who had recently (February 2, 1892) received a patent on a new bottle stopper with a crimped metal edge and a cork liner. The "crown cork", as he called it, was destined to revolutionize the bottling and capping industries. 60 years later this new bottle cap, its basic principle unchanged, is still in universal demand, and the company is the largest manufacture of its kind in the world.

William Painter, an amateur inventor with a knack for mechanical gadgets had long been interested in finding a better way of sealing a bottle. Beverages had long been sold in bottles, and the most usual method of sealing was the cork (as used in wire bottles. When, after the Civil War, beer and soft drinks - "sasparilla," "pop," or "soda water") began to be sold in bottles at bars and local drug stores, it was soon apparent that the high carbonation (and chemical content) of these beverages made the cork method of sealing impractical because it leaked out or popped the cork out. The search was on for a new method of sealing. In the late 19th century, over 100 patents were issued for different bottle "caps." William Painter himself had received patents on several devices since 1885, including the "loop real," a rubber plug with a wire loop (similar to a champagne cork) which attained some popularity with bottlers. Next he experimented

cont'd.....

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ivery and vertical Files, Enoch Pratt Free Library
Brochures issued by Crown, Cork and Seal
John J. Riley, "A History of the American Savings and Loan Bank
Industry: Bottled Carbonated Beverages, in Washington, D.C.:
Bottlers of Carbonated Beverages, 1958

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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Ann E. Steele	DATE September, 1980
ORGANIZATION Baltimore Industrial Museum	TELEPHONE 301-396-1931
STREET & NUMBER 217 North Charles Street	STATE Maryland
CITY OR TOWN Baltimore,	

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

experimented with a metal cap which covered the bottle top. Holes in the cap provided leverage for removed by a small hand instrument. The problem with this device was to have a cork disc thick enough to prevent leakage through the holes. Intent upon simplifying the stopper, Painter discovered that the cap could easily be removed from the bottle by forcing an opener tool against the crimped flange or "skirt". This made it possible to do away with the holes. Continuing his experiments, the inventor found that a much thinner cork disc could be used and when it was compressed against the mouth of the bottle by means of the metal flange, it formed the perfect seal.

Upon organizing the Crown, Cork and Seal Company in 1892, Painter than worked out the means of applying the crown cork to a bottle. Although the new crown was a vastly improved bottle stopper, the company had to put forth a full-scale ad and sales campaign to convince the bottling industry to adopt it, because this entailed an investment in new bottling equipment. In order to utilize the crown cork, bottles had to be made with a new, uniform finish - something which required new bottling and bottle-making techniques as well as new openers. At first sceptical that frail-looking little metal crown would hold carbonation, the trade was not long in accepting the new stopper, as it did an excellent job of sealing and made possible increased production.

To make possible widespread use of the stoppers possible, the company began producing a line of bottling and bottle-capping machinery as well as seals. Crown, Cork and Seal led the way in developing faster bottling machines, the forerunners of today's completely automatic bottling lines.

In 1904, the Company opened its first branch plant in Highlandtown. Crown cork manufacturing facilities were transferred to Highlandtown, and the Guilford plant was used exclusively for the manufacture of bottling machines and equipment. In later years, other manufacturing plants were established in this country and abroad. In 1927, the Crown, Cork and Seal Company merged with the New Process Cork Company, setting of a period of expansion of facilities and increased production. A large program was launched to increase Crown's cap business in the food and dairy fields. New lines of automatic, high-speed bottling machinery were also designed for the beverage, brewing and dairy industries. Feeling the pinch of competition from the metal can industry, which was taking beverage business away from glass bottle manufacturers, Crown, Cork and Seal set up and ran its own can-making plant between O'Donnell and Boston Street in East Baltimore.

In 1928 the Machinery Division moved from Guilford Avenue to Highlandtown when a large modern facility was completed there, in an effort to concentrate all of Crown's Baltimore facilities in one general area. The combined plants now cover 63 acres of ground and approximately 1,900,000 square feet of floor space.

(continued)

#B1010

Crown Cork & Seal Company
8) Historical Significance
Page 3

The company continues to expand and diversify operations today. The Baltimore operations employ 5,000 workers, although the headquarters for C.C.&S's worldwide organization of manufacturing plants and branch warehouses is now located in Philadelphia.

Today the Guilford Avenue buildings are used by a number of light manufacturing firms.

1. SITE I.D. NO

B 1 0 1 0

NAER INVENTORY

U.S. Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION
Manufacturing

3. PRIORITY

4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?
(SPECIFY THREAT) YES NO UNKNOWN

5. DATE

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN

Garrison Realty Co.

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

CROWN CORK AND SEAL CO.

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

Investment Plaza

10. STATE COUNTY M D COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

CONG. DIST.

Baltimore

3

STATE COUNTY M D COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

CONG. DIST.

Baltimore

Towson

3

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

1515 Guilford Avenue

12. EXISTING SURVEYS

 NR NHL HABS HAER-I HAER NPS CL6 CONF STATE COUNTY LOCAL OTHER

13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW)

 INTERIOR INTACT EXTERIOR INTACT ENVIRONS INTACT

14. UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING SIGN

SCALE

 1:24 1:62.5 OTHER

QUAD NAME

Baltimore East

UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING SIGN

SCALE

 1:24 1:62.5 OTHER

QUAD NAME

15. CONDITION 70 EXCELLENT 71 GOOD 72 FAIR 73 DETERIORATED 74 RUINS 75 UNEXPOSED 76 ALTERED 77 DESTROYED 85 DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

Ann Steele

AFFILIATION

Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE

September 1980

17. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY, INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), HISTORICAL DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, EXTANT EQUIPMENT, AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ENGINEERS, ETC.

The fine five story structure which stands at 1515 Guilford Ave. was constructed in 1897 to house the rapidly expanding Crown Cork and Seal Co., one of Baltimore's best known and most interesting companies. The Crown Cork and Seal Co. was started in 1892 by William Painter, an inventor and machine shop foreman, who had recently (Feb. 2, 1892) received a patent on a new bottle stopper with a crimped metal edge and a cork liner. The "crown cork", as he called it, was destined to revolutionize the bottling and capping industries. Sixty years later this new bottle cap, its basic principle unchanged, is in universal demand, and the company is the largest manufacturer of its kind in the world.

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE

Bottle cap factory

PRESENT USE

Mixed light industries

ADAPTIVE USE

19. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER

Query and vertical files, Enoch Pratt Free Library
Brochures issued by Crown Cork and Seal

John J. Riley, "A History of the American Savings and Loan Bank". Industry: Bottled Carbonated Beverages, in Washington D. C.: Bottlers of Carbonated Beverages, 1958.

(CONT OVER)

20. URBAN AREA 50,000 POP. OR MORE?

 YES NO

21.

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

 YES, LIMITED YES, UNLIMITED NO UNKNOWN

23. EDITOR

INDEXER

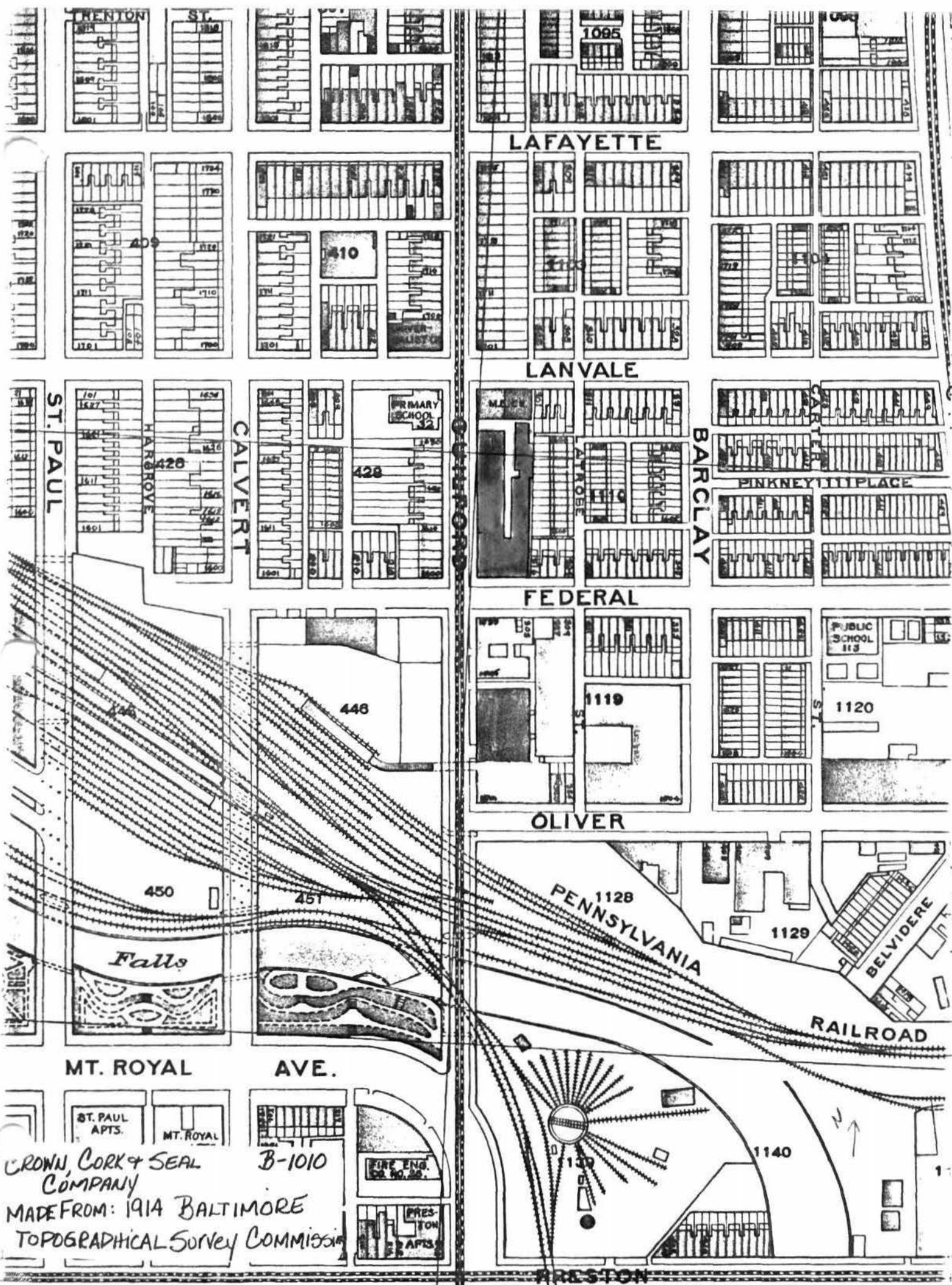
24. LOCATED IN AN H

C DISTRICT?

 YES NO

NAME

DISTRICT I.D. NO



CROWN, CORK & SEAL
 COMPANY
 MADE FROM: 1914 BALTIMORE
 TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY COMMISSION

B-1010

FIRE ENG.
 CO. NO. 26.

PRESTON
 APTS.

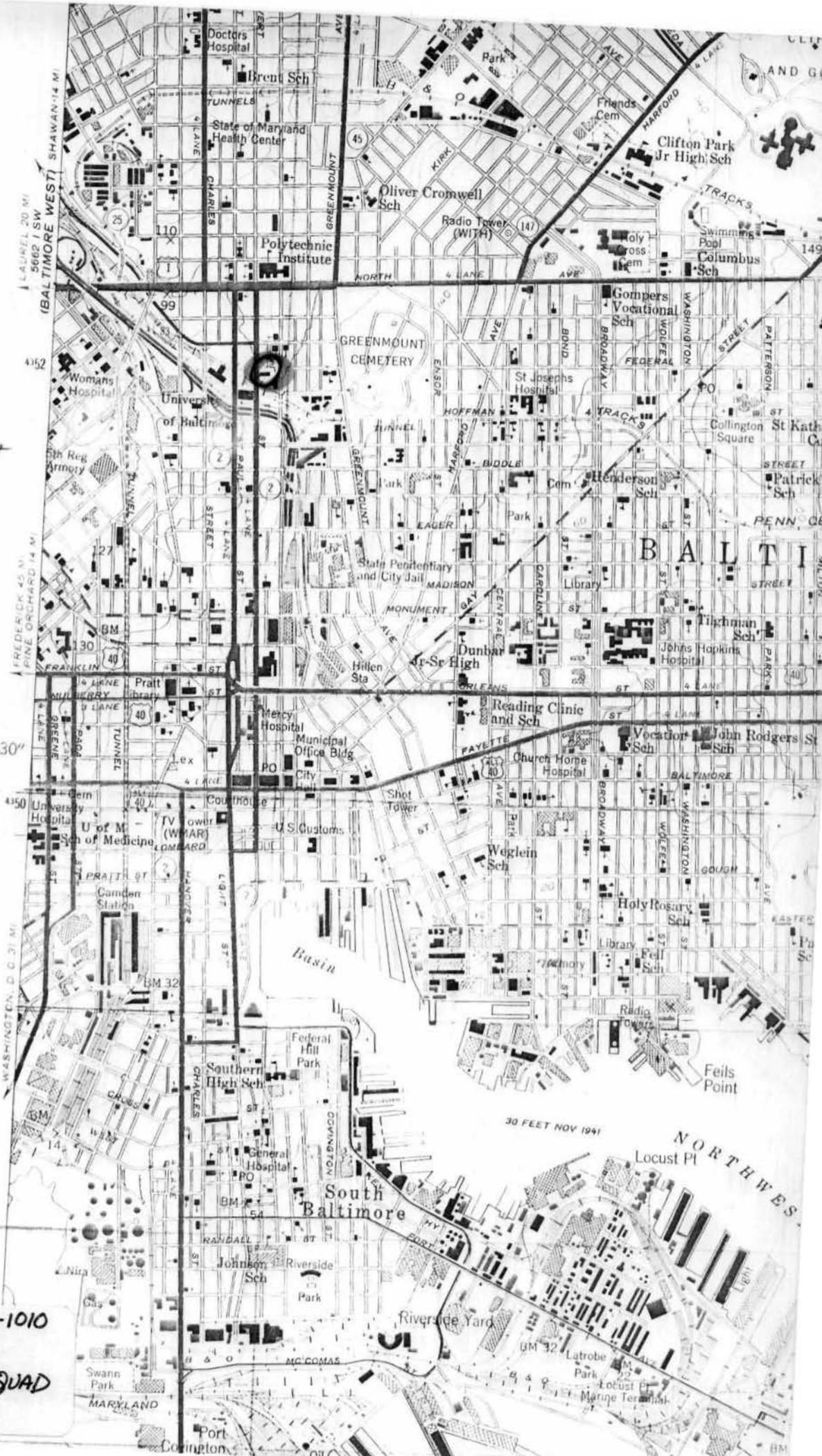
PRESTON

CROWN CORK +
SEAL CO.

18³60720 43 51690

17'30"

CROWN CORK & SEAL CO. B-1010
BALTIMORE, MD
S.B.S. 7.5^H BALTO. EAST QUAD
18³60720 42 51690





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CROWN, CORK, & SEAL B-1010

BALTIMORE CITY, MD.

PHOTO: ANN STEELE

NEG. LOC.: MD HISTORIC TRUST

DEC. 1980

EAST FACADE



CROWN, CORK, & SEAL B-1010
BLATIMORE CITY, MD.
PHOTO: ANN STEELE

NEG. LOC.: MD HISTORIC TRUST
DEC. 1980

Looking S/E down Guilford Ave.



CROWN, CORK, & SEAL
BALTIMORE CITY, MD.

B-1010

PHOTO: ANN STEELE

NEG. LOC. MD HISTORIC TRUST

DEC 1980

SOUTH EAST FACADES & SMOKESTACK



CROWN, CORK, AND SEAL B-1010
BALTIMORE CITY, MD.

PHOTO: ANN STEELE

NEG. LOC.: MD HISTORIC TRUST

DEC. 1980

SOUTH FACADE



CROWN, CORK, & SEAL
BALTIMORE CITY, MD.
PHOTO: ANN STEELE

B-1010

NEG. LOC.: MD HISTORIC TRUST
DEC 1980
EAST FACADE-CENTER

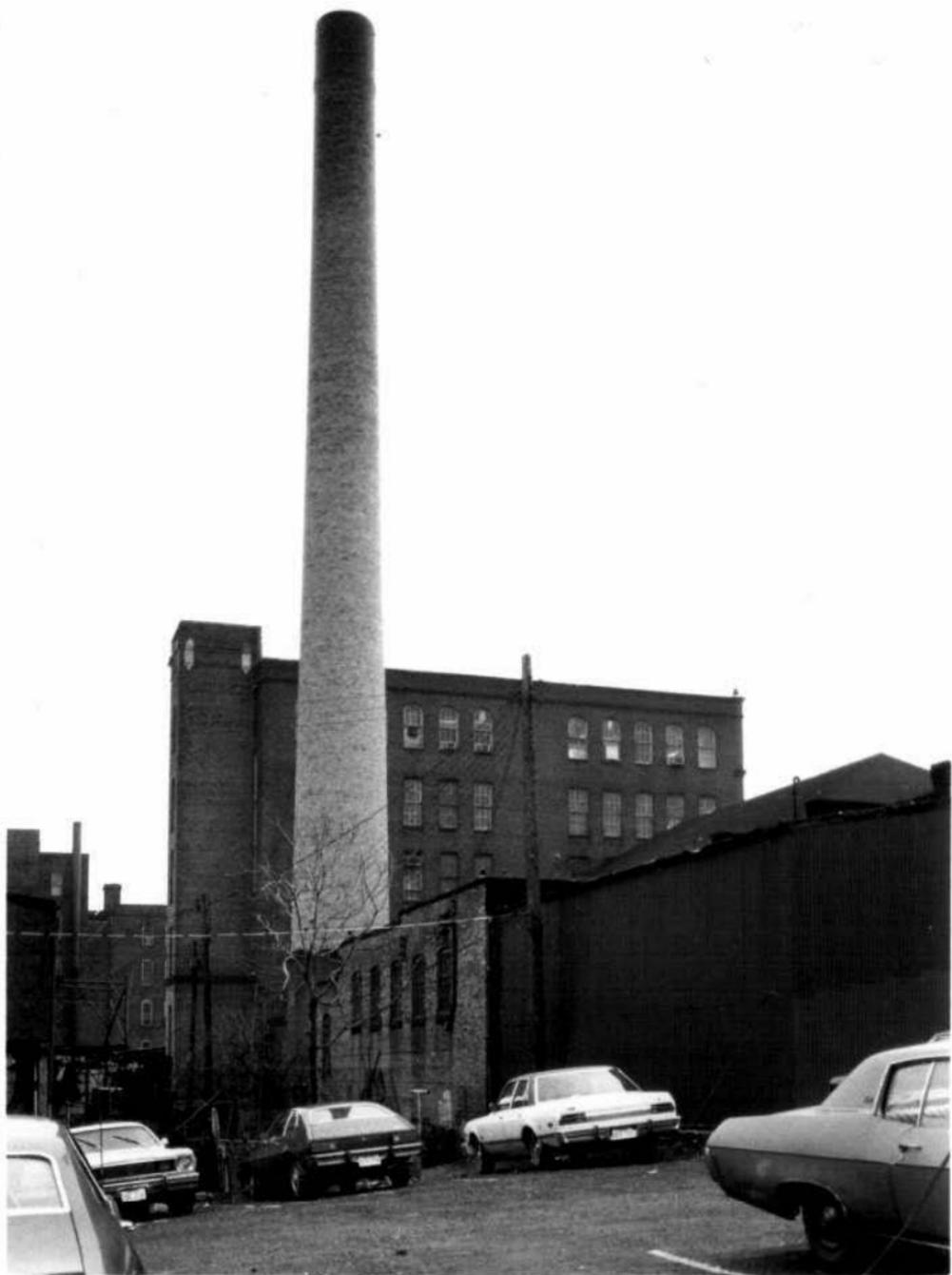


CROWN, CORK, & SEAL
BLATIMORE CITY, MD.
PHOTO: ANN STEELE

B-1010

NEG. LOC.: MD HISTORIC TRUST
DEC. 1980

Powerhouse West facade



CROWN, CORK, & SEAL B-1010

BALTIMORE CITY, MD.

PHOTO: ANN STEELE

NEG. LOC.: MAD HISTORIC TRUST

DEC. 1980

North Facade