

Statement of Significance
B&O Railroad Fort Avenue Warehouse
Baltimore City, Maryland (1880)
(B-1014)
Private

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad constructed the Fort Avenue Warehouse in 1880 to serve as a storage facility, primarily for tobacco. During the last half of the nineteenth century, Maryland was one of the country's three major tobacco producing areas, (along with Virginia and the West). Baltimore served as the principal market for the region. An excellent harbor encouraged steamers and schooners to deposit their tobacco from the southern tidewater region at Baltimore, while the major railroad lines diverted much of the Ohio River trade to the city as well. In addition to tobacco, other merchandise was stored at the Fort Avenue Warehouse. It was an integral part of the B&O's transportation network, which had its base at Locust Point.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic B & O Railroad Fort Avenue Warehouse

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1900 Fort Avenue not for publication

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Chessie Systems

street & number Baltimore and Charles Streets telephone no.: 237-2000

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21201

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber

street & number Fayette and Calvert Streets folio

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

8. Significance

Survey No. B-1014

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or

Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad constructed the Fort Avenue Warehouse in 1880 to serve as a storage facility, primarily for tobacco. During the last half of the nineteenth century, Maryland was one of the country's three major tobacco producing areas, (along with Virginia and the West). Baltimore served as the principal market for the region. An excellent harbor encouraged steamers and schooners to deposit their tobacco from the southern tidewater region at Baltimore, while the major railroad lines diverted much of the Ohio River trade to the city as well. In addition to tobacco, other merchandise was stored at the Fort Avenue Warehouse. It was an intergral part of the B & O's transportation network, which had its base at Locust Point.

The Fort Avenue Warehouse is significant as an integral part of the system of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, the first passenger-carrying railroad in the United States. Starting in 1828, the B & O lines went west from the present Mt. Clare station, and by the late nineteenth century comprised a vast national network of tracks and stations. After the Civil War, the B & O built many facilities to hold specialized cargoes, signing long-term contracts with shipowners and receivers. Soon as involved in the warehouse and terminal business as the railroad business, the company constructed a large number of warehouses, grain elevators and other structures in the Baltimore area during the 1870's and 1880's. Locust Point, in particular, was a center of these facilities.

The Fort Avenue Warehouse was built in 1880. The 95,000 square feet building was used for the storage of export tobacco, and imported wood pulp, toys, crockery and rubber, as well as other products. In order to facilitate cargo handling, railroad tracks ran the entire length of both sides of the building. The warehouse had elevators, and was divided into three sections by firewalls and doors. It also had its own pier facilities.

486 68 4239

2023

2007 AL.

1994

Fort Avenue

ST.

040

2024

2008

ST.

041 AL.

FREIGHT YARD

BALTIMORE AND OHIO RAIL ROAD

2009

ST.

042 ST.

2020

ST.

043 ST.

2027

WAREHOUSE

WAREHOUSE

2073

J.R.R. FORT AVENUE WAREHOUSE
(8-1014)
BALTIMORE CITY, MD.
1896 BROMLEY ATLAS

1. SITE NO

B-1014

HAER INVENTORY

Historic American Engineering Record
Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

warehouse

3. PRIORITY

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

5. DATE

1880

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN

Chessie Systems

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

B+O R.R. Fort Avenue Warehouse

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

Baltimore + Charles Streets
Fort Avenue10. STATE
COUNTY

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG.
DIST.

03

STATE
COUNTY

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG.
DIST.

3

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

1900 Fort Avenue

12. EXISTING
SURVEYS NR NHL HABS HAER-I HAER NPS CLB 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

QUAD

Baltimore East

 OTHER

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

 1:24 1:62.5

QUAD

NAME

15. CONDITION

70 EXCELLENT71 GOOD72 FAIR73 DETERIORATED74 RUINS75 UNEXPOSED76 ALTERED82 DESTROYED85 DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

Leslie Barr

AFFILIATION

Baltimore Museum of Industry

DATE

3/83

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

See attached

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE

warehouse

PRESENT USE

warehouse

ADAPTIVE USE

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

Warehouse Facilities of the B+O 1923

(CONT OVER)

20. URBAN AREA 50,000
POP. OR MORE? YES NO

21. NPS REGION

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

 YES, LIMITED YES, UNLIMITED NO UNKNOWN23. EDITOR
INDEXER

24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

 YES NO

NAME

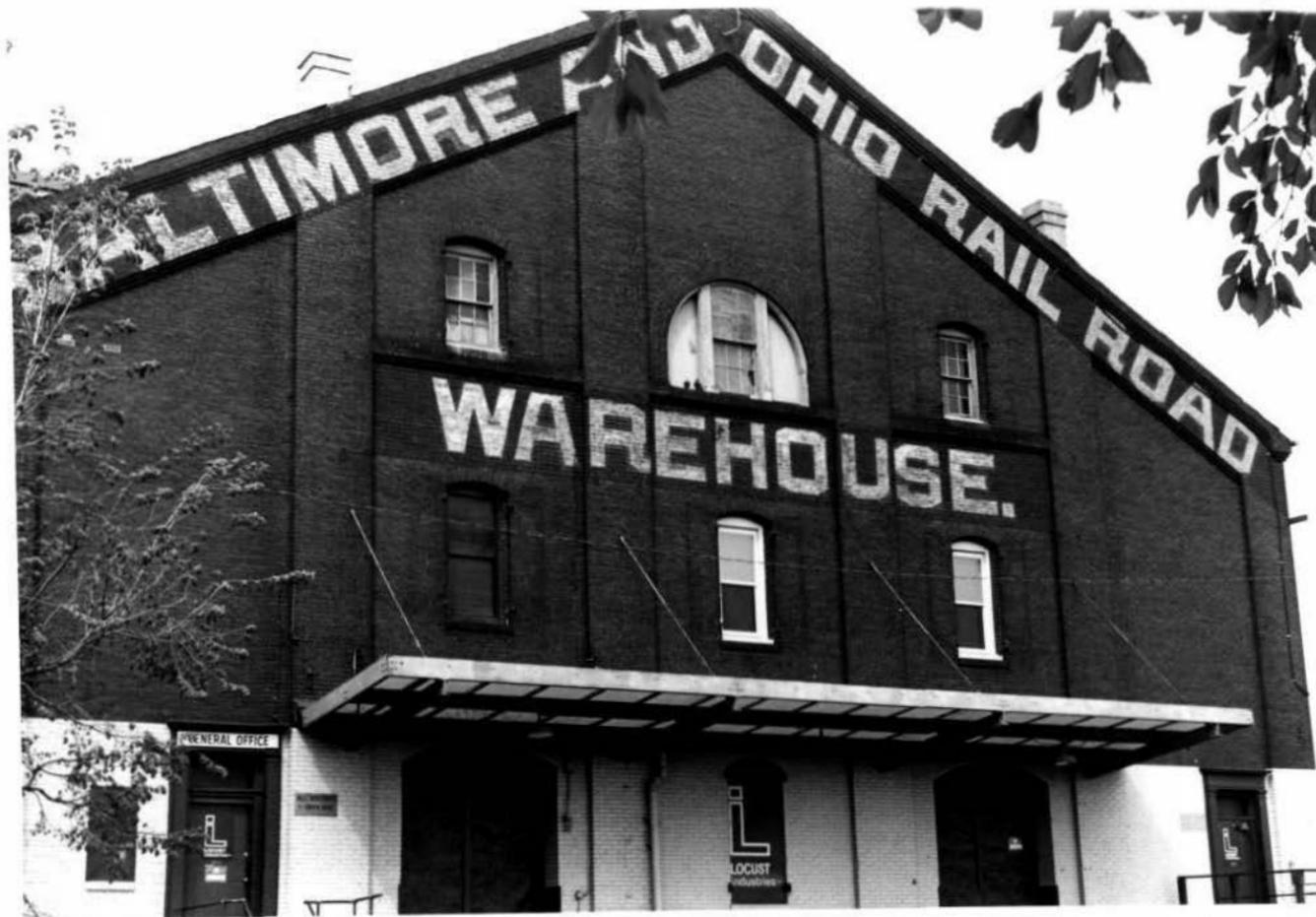
DISTRICT I.D. NO



B+O RR FORT AVENUE WAREHOUSE
 (8-1014)
 BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND
 U.S.G.S. 7.5# BALTO. EAST QVAD
 18³ 62930 43 48484

17°30"
 49°15'
 76°37'30"
 Mapped by the Army Map Service
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey

35' 1364
 (CURTIS BAY
 5062 II NE
 SCALE 1:240



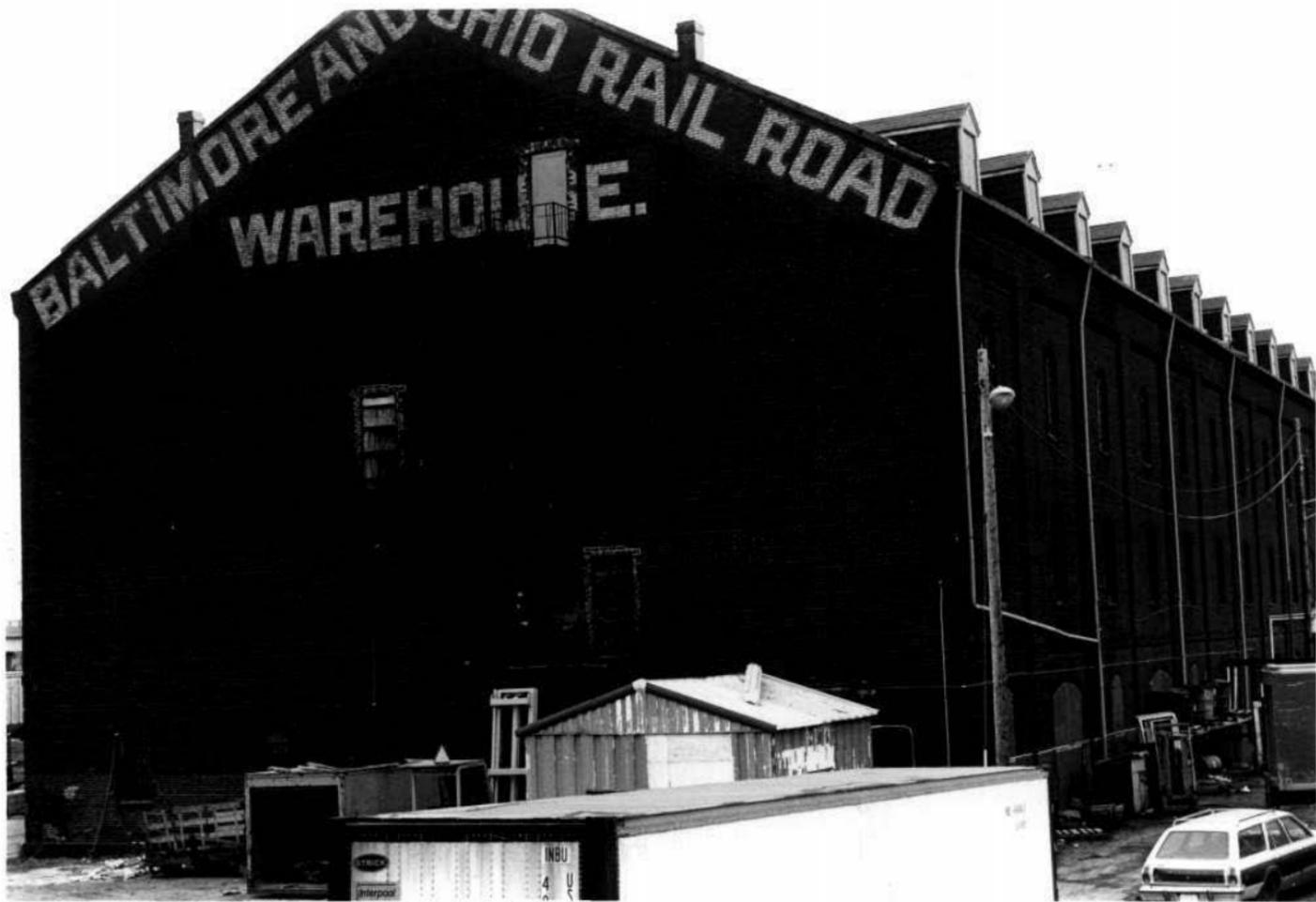
Fort Avenue Warehouse

Baltimore City, MD.

Peter Liebhold. 5183

Front Facade - Looking N.E.

B-1014



Fort Avenue Warehouse
Baltimore City, Md.
Peter Liebhold 5183
Rear, Looking South

B-1014



Fort Avenue Warehouse

Baltimore, Md.

Peter Liebhold 5/83

Looking N.W.

B-1014.



USED
PALLETS
WANTED
at \$1.00 per C.O.D.
Phone
332-4094

NO
STOPPING
ANY
TIME
→

Fort Avenue warehouse

Baltimore City, Md.

Peter Liebhold 5/83.

Locking North.

B-1014



100-100-100

9

9

100-100-100

Fort Avenue Warehouse

Baltimore City, MD.

B-1014.

Peter Lieb hold 5/83

Detail - South East Facade



Fort Avenue Warehouse
Baltimore City, Md.
Peter Liebhold 5183
Looking S.W.

B-1014

1880

B & O

Fort Avenue Warehouse
Baltimore City, MD.

B-1014.

Peter Liebhold 5183.

Jamb Plate.



Fort Avenue warehouse.

Baltimore, Md.

Peter Liebhold 5183.

B-1014

Roof Truss, 1st Floor Front.



Fort Avenue Warehouse

Baltimore City, MD.

Peter Liebold. S/83

Detail - Typical Column.

B-1014.