

B-1026

Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Company Mill #3

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Company Mill #3 is one of the region's best preserved 19th century textile mill complexes, and is a dominant feature in the picturesque Baltimore mill village of Hampden. The imposing brick mill with its small ~~with its~~ ancillary structures and nearby company store, boarding house, and rows of company housing, remain much as they were a century ago. The main mill building (1853) is one of the city's oldest mills of brick (rather than stone) construction. The complex, along with neighboring Mt. Vernon Mill #1, served as the headquarters of the Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Company, which by the end of the 19th century owned a chain of mills and was the nation's largest manufacturer of cotton duck and Hampden's major employer, dominating all aspects of village life.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Company Mill #3

AND/OR COMMON Mt. Vernon #3 (or #2)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Falls Road at Chestnut Avenue

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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Storage

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Rockland Industries Telephone #: 301-461-9517

STREET & NUMBER 2876 N. Rogers Avenue

CITY, TOWN Baltimore VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 212

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore City Courthouse

Liber #: RHB 3142  
Folio #: 239

STREET & NUMBER Calvert & Fayette Sts.

CITY, TOWN Baltimore STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

B-1026

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

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Built in 1853, Mill #3 is the oldest of the remaining Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Company structures. The original section of the main mill was the first the company constructed to run off steam power rather than water power, and included the three story (plus basement) structure at the western end of the present building. This section is of brick construction 463 ft. long by 52 ft. 6 inches wide. Its walls are 38 inches thick at the base. At the western end is an addition which housed the boilers. This structure, 80 ft. by 51 ft. 6 inches, is of stone construction with a shed roof; it has been raised two stories since 1874. Attached to this addition is a small room, now covered by a porch, which served as a blacksmith shop. At the eastern end of the main building was a brick picker house of two stories which has since been integrated into a later addition.

In 1874 the ground floor of the main building housed the machine shop, carpenter shop and the large steam engine which powered the entire factory. At the eastern end was the cloth office, where finished products were shipped. The picker house at this level was where cotton bales were opened and the cotton beaten. Because of the excessive dust created by this process, and the resulting danger of fire, the picker house was separated from the rest of the main building by a firewall. The carding of the fibers took place on the second floor where the drawing and slubbing processes also put the initial twist into the thread. The third floor was occupied by the spinning department. Spun thread was also prepared for weaving here, before being sent down to the first floor. Warp beams were prepared and fabric woven on the first floor where it was most convenient to the shipping department.

The entire building followed the best principles of fire-proof mill construction of its day. The floor system was supported on heavy 13-inch timbers supported at midline by nineteen cast iron columns. Flooring was 3-inch planks covered by 1½ inch tongue and groove. The roof was supported by an unusual modified queen-post truss whose extraneous members point to the fact that truss principles were still poorly understood at this time. Many of these construction features can still be seen inside the mill, having been little altered.

Mt. Vernon Mill #3 was expanded in 1881 by a large addition at its eastern end, encompassing the old picker house and replacing it with a new four-story picker house extending northward. During the 1870s several smaller buildings were added to the complex including a long-narrow two-story brick building on the north side and a smaller two-story structure next to it. These buildings saw a variety of uses over the years and the larger one became the employees lunch room in the 20th century.

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 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 type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1853, 1881

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mount Vernon Manufacturing Company Mill #3 is one of the region's best preserved 19th century textile mill complexes, and is a dominant structure in the picturesque Baltimore mill village of Hampden. The imposing brick mill with its smaller ancillary structures and nearby company store, boarding house, and rows of company housing, remain much as they were a century ago. The 1853 main mill building is one of the city's oldest mills of brick (rather than stone) construction. The complex, along with its neighboring Mt. Vernon Mill #1, served as the headquarters for the Mount Vernon Manufacturing Company, which by the end of the 19th century was the nation's largest manufacturer of cotton duck and Hampden's major employer, dominating all aspects of village life.

Historical Background:

The Baltimore textile industry had its origins in the rush of American entrepreneurs to fill a void created by the War of 1812 and the national embargo of British goods which preceded it. By 1810 there were 87 cotton mills operating in the United States. Eleven of these were in or near Baltimore where the various streams emptying into the Chesapeake Bay offered the advantages of cheap water power close to equally inexpensive water transportation. A large number of these early factories were spinning mills which converted the raw cotton into yarn, as the weaving of fabrics for home use was still a widespread "cottage craft." The demand for cotton yarn expanded as it replaced the more expensive linen warp of colonial fabrics.

The demand for yarn, and later woven cloth, in Baltimore came largely from the need of the local shipping and shipbuilding industries for sailcloth ("duck"). All American port cities had long relied on large amounts of linen duck, mostly supplied by Holland. About 1809, Seth Bemis of Watertown, Massachusetts began making duck from machine spun cotton, a thread capable of matching the strength of linen. The new material was not accepted at first but the Embargo and War of 1812 made imported linen duck scarce or unavailable. In 1812-1813 one Baltimore firm sold \$20,000 worth of Bemis cotton duck and another retailer sold \$21,000 worth in 1815.

(cont.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Vertical files, Baltimore Museum of Industry (Textile Industry)  
 Vertical files, Enoch Pratt Central Library

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

Ann Steele, Dennis Zembala

Sept., 1981

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore Museum of Industry

DATE

301-727-4808

STREET & NUMBER

1415 Key Highway

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland

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

B-1026

Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Company Mill #3  
Historical Significance, cont., page 2

The first of Baltimore's businessmen to capitalize on these developments were David Carroll and Horatio Gambrill. In 1832 Carroll and Gambrill bought the mill of the Washington Manufacturing Company at Mt. Washington. Begun in 1810, this early textile mill most likely produced cotton warp yarn for home consumption; Gambrill and Carroll probably used the output of this mill to supply weavers of sailcloth. By 1839 the advantages of integrating spinning and weaving in one mill using the newly perfected power looms had become apparent. Gambrill and Carroll, with other local investors, bought and converted the Whitehall flour mill (on the site of the present Clipper Mill) to just such an operation with five power looms. In 1842 they converted another flour mill at Woodberry into a spinning mill, and in 1847 added the Laurel Mill on the site of the present Mt. Vernon Mill #1. Carroll and Gambrill parted company in that year and the former started the Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Company in partnership with William Kennedy and other investors. In 1853 the firm added a second mill, built on the hill up from the Laurel Mill, expanding the company's capacity to 10,000 spindles. This building would be called Mt. Vernon Mill #3 (and later, #2)

On June 20, 1873 Mt. Vernon #1 burned to the ground, causing a loss of \$250,000. By the following September, however, a new and much larger structure had been erected on the same site, and in 1881 a large addition and a packing house had been added to the northern end. About this time Thomas Scharf in his history of Baltimore noted that the Mount Vernon Manufacturing Company Mills #1 and #3 provided "cotton duck and felting, the latter being used in making paper," and gave employment "to a sufficient number of operatives to make up a village of 800 inhabitants." The total number of Jones Falls Valley workers employed by the company in its many mills, he noted, was about 1600.

Several additions were made to the Mt. Vernon #3 complex between 1874 and 1904, including storage houses, a new picker house, new wings to the main structure, an office building and a long building housing the machine shop and a large steam engine. Original

By the late 19th century the Mt. Vernon Company and the William Hooper Company in Woodberry held a near-monopoly on the domestic production of cotton duck. Baltimore became the world's leading provider of this type of textiles. As sailing vessels disappeared from the shipping scene, other uses were being found for the sturdy cloth. During both World Wars the company did a booming business in supplying cloth for uniforms, knapsacks, tents and even parachutes. The Mount Vernon Company continued to

(cont.)

expand, and added mill after mill throughout the 20th century, most in North and South Carolina. When these sites proved to be more profitable, operations in Baltimore tapered off. Textile production at the Mt. Vernon #3 complex ceased in 1973, and the company sold the buildings to Rockland Mills, which operates a modern textile plant farther up the Valley as well as plants around the world. The company is currently using the mill #3 as an fabric outlet and for storage.

The Mount Vernon complex of textile mills was developed along the lines of the so-called "Rhode Island System" which recruited and employed entire families as its labor force, providing housing and other social welfare arrangements for them. During the 1840s and 50s the company built several dozen stone duplex residential units on the hillside above the mill (called Stone Hill). When expansion took place in 1873 and 1881 several blocks of brick rowhouses were constructed to provide more housing (Brick Hill). The Mt. Vernon Company still owned several of these houses as late as 1973. A company store, boarding house for single women, company-sponsored churches and social activities added to the community's sense of dependence on the mills. This is reflected in the pages of the company magazine, "The Mt. Vernon-Woodberry News," in which village and company activities appear closely intertwined. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries families from the rural South came to Hampden-Woodberry to work in the mills, and their descendants still comprise the majority of residents of these close-knit neighborhoods, even though the textile companies themselves have all but ceased operations and moved South.

Although the textile industry is largely gone from the Jones Falls Valley, the many beautiful and sturdy stone and brick mills, such as Mt. Vernon #3, built to house their operations remain. The Hampden-Woodberry area is a rare area where a large 19th century industrial village remains virtually unchanged.

1. SITE NO

B - 1 0 2 6

## HAER INVENTORY

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

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

Manufacturing

3. PRIORITY

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

5. DATE

1853,  
1881

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER ADMIN

Rockland Industries

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Co. Mill #3

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

2876 N. Rogers Ave.

10. STATE  
COUNTY

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG  
DISTSTATE  
COUNTY

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG  
DIST

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET &amp; NO.)

Falls Rd. at Chestnut Avenue

12. EXISTING  
SURVEYS: NR NHL HABS HAER-1 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 1:62.5QUAD  
NAME

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

 1:24 1:62.5QUAD  
NAME

15. CONDITION

70  EXCELLENT71  GOOD72  FAIR73  DETERIORATED74  RUINS75  UNEXPOSED76  ALTERED82  DESTROYED85  DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

Ann Steele, Dennis Zembala

AFFILIATION

Balto. Museum of Industry

DATE

Sept., 1981

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

[See attached sheet]

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE

Textile manufacturing

PRESENT USE

Storage + <sup>commercial</sup> ~~retail~~ outlet

ADAPTIVE USE

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

Vertical files, Baltimore Museum of Industry (Textile Industry)  
Vertical files, Enoch Pratt Central Library

(CONT OVER)

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

21. NPS REGION

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

 YES LIMITED YES UNLIMITED

23. EDITOR

INDEXER

 NO UNKNOWN

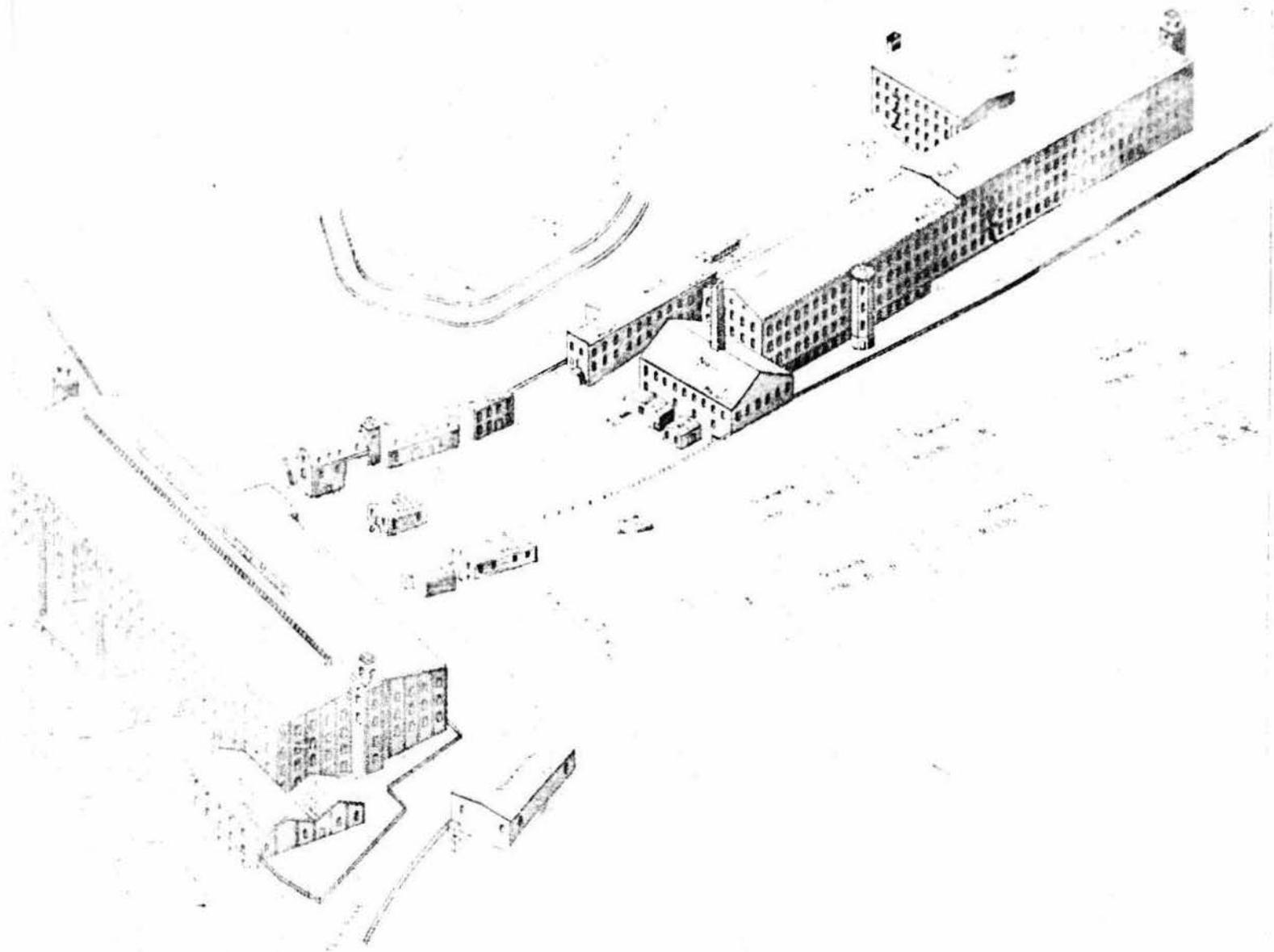
24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

 YES NO

NAME

DISTRICT ID NO

B-1026  
Mt. Vernon Mill #3



MT. VERNON-WOODBERRY COTTON DUCK CO.  
"MT. VERNON MILLS NOS. 1 & 3"  
Baltimore, Md.

FOR PLAN SEE SHEET SERIAL NO 10228  
FOR TENEMENT PLAN SEE SHEET SERIAL NO 10230

From 1912 Fire  
Insurance Map



PLAN, SECTIONS AND REPORT OF MT. VERNON COTTON MILLS, No. 3,  
SITUATE HALF A MILE FROM BALTIMORE CITY, MD.

By EDWARD LEONARD, Civil Engineer and Insurance Surveyor.

1874.

This Mill has no external exposure with the exception of Cotton shed and waste house, both frame buildings, situated as on plan. Mill is worked by steam power only, generated outside of Mill, boilers all brick arched. Boiler house 1 story, built of stone, with shed roof, covered with slate, smoke stack rising near centre, 70 feet high, with two lightning rods sunk 7 feet into the ground; window into forge at end of boilers. Forge has slate roof. Main building 3 story, basement and attic, built of brick, 30 inch main walls, each floor supported down the centre by 18 metal columns. Basement contains Machine and Carpenter's Shop for mill repairs only, also Engine Room, Cloth Office and a few supplies. This basement is 4 ft. 10 in. deeper at engine room and machine shop, south end, than at cloth office. Floor 18-inch joists, covered by 11-inch tongued floor—no ceiling. Floor over solid, 2-inch plank, matched and dowelled, laid on 12-inch girders, and covered by 11-inch tongued floor over. 1st Story, Weaving and Reaming. One inch floor tongued ceiling, on 3-inch plank, (matched and dowelled) resting on 18-inch girders and covered above by 11-inch floor tongued. 2d Story, Cabling, Drawing, Spinners and Sprockets. Ceiling and floor over same as last described. 3d Story, Spinning, Spooling and Twisting. Ceiling 1-inch tongued on joists of roof. For construction of roof see Section A H. Attic, Unoccupied. Slate roof on matched boards, no ceiling. Has one window overlooking Picking House, with iron shutter, closed. 3d Story has 5 windows overlooking Picking House, with iron shutters, closed at night. Stairway in Tower to each floor. Elevators, two—one from 1st to 3d, boxed in 3d, and one from 3d to 3d, each closed at night.

Picking House—4 story, built of brick, with the roof, and divided from main building by 24-inch brick wall, with one opening on 3d

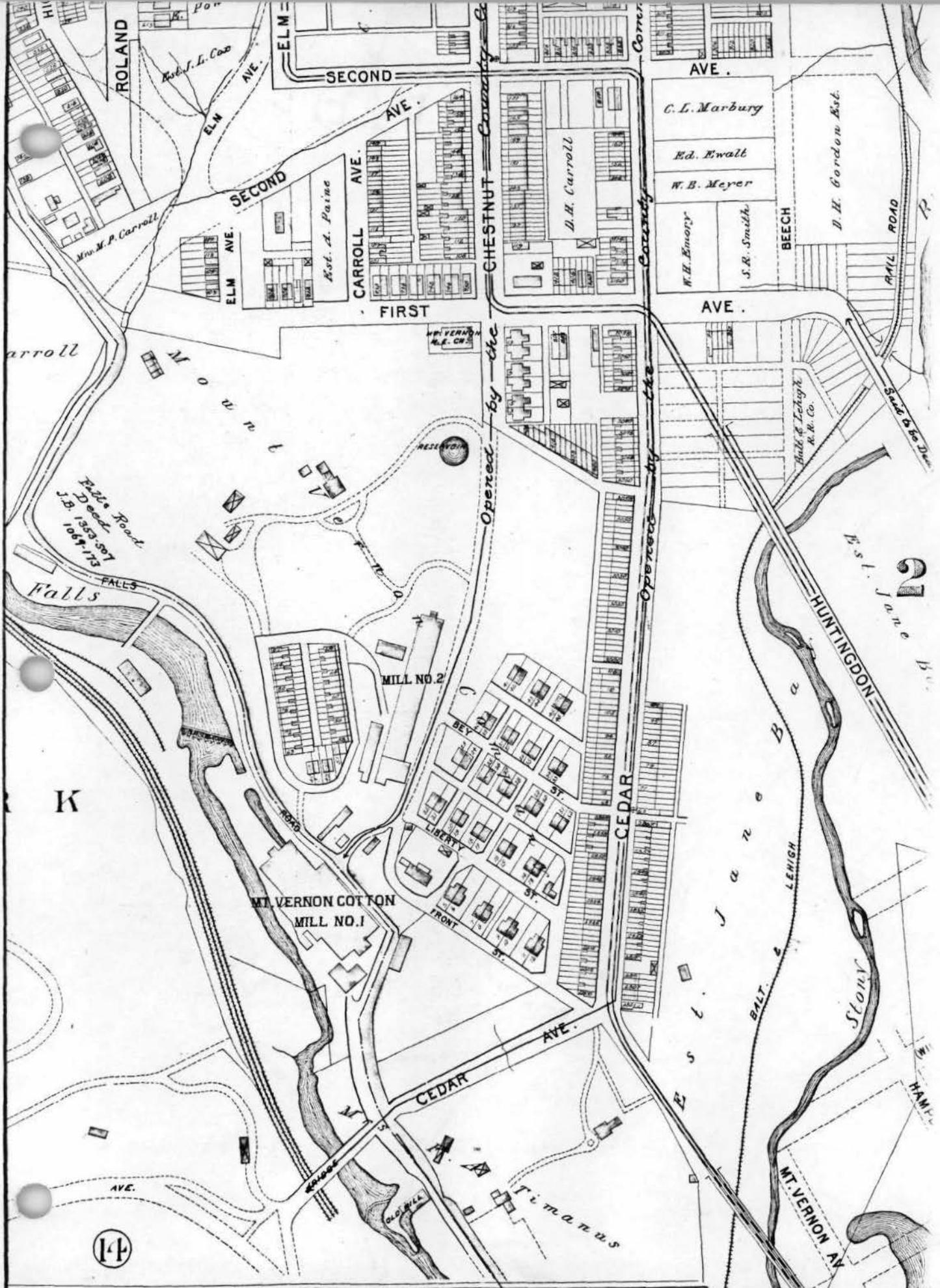
story, with heavy iron door on each side, leaving air chamber between them. First Floor—14-inch, tongued on 18-inch joists. Occupation Willow. Tongued floor ceiling on 3-inch plank, (matched and dowelled) resting on 18-inch girders and covered above by 11-inch tongued floor. 2d Story—Sprockets and Cotton Box, (then sheathed inside) iron covered ceiling. Inside suit way from 1st to 3d story. For construction of roof see Section C H.

Means of Extinguishing Fire.—There is a 3-inch stand pipe outside of main building, as shown on plan, with metal platform and railing around, at each story. These platforms are reached by an iron ladder, which passing them, extends over the roof. There are four 3-inch attachments on this stand pipe—one at basement, one at 1st, one at 2d, and one at 3d stories. The three latter are on the platforms at windows, and have 10 feet of 2-inch hose always attached at each, protected by wooden cover, so that if these four 2-inch attachments were worked at the same time, their consumption would amount to decimal .5 less than the supply of one 4-inch pipe, and they can be worked together, into the one floor, and off the one platform, as 40 feet of additional hose is appropriated to each, and kept close at hand, each length being more than sufficient to reach from the basement plug to the 3d platform, or from the latter to the ground. There are 3 more vertical 2-inch pipes, as shown on plan, with 50 feet of 2-inch hose attached inside on each floor of main building. These attachments are controlled by valves outside of Mill. There are two more vertical water pipes similar to the last, situated outside of Picking House, as shown on plan; these supply the 4 sprinkler pipes on ceiling of each story. There is also one 1 1/2-inch and one 2-inch steam jet in each story of Picking House. In 1st Story 2 water barrels and 8 fire buckets filled. In 2d

Story one barrel of water and 8 fire buckets filled. Lighted by gasline in tin lamps on brackets outside of windows. One 4-inch steam jet in roof. There are 50 sprinkler pipes, 2 feet apart, running clear across the ceiling in each story of main building, including the basement. These, and the sprinklers in Picking House, are perforated every 18 inches each side, the holes being bored so as to throw the water upwards, and obliquely striking the ceiling 15 inches from the pipe, and scattering with such force as to form an unbroken shower all over the room; thus the ceiling is kept so entirely wet as to render it impossible for fire to burst upwards through it. There is another sprinkler pipe the full length of building, placed in roof or attic, and running down the centre of it, perforated same as already described. There is one 2-inch attachment in Boiler House near outside door, on 2-inch main supply pipe, with 50 feet of 2-inch hose attached, available either for Carpenter and Machine Shop, through large door into same, or for outside operation. There is also one large steam force pump situated between boilers, as shown on plan, capacity 500 gallons per minute, one attachment. There are two other city pipes, with one attachment each, situated, one on the East and one on the West side of Mill; these are not shown on plan, as they are distant 200 feet and 187 feet respectively. There is one other fire-plug, East of the Picking House, as shown on plan, with wooden box over, containing hose. All the pipes in or around this Mill receive their supply from the City Mainworks and from the large Force Pump situated at Mt. Vernon Mill, No. 1, distant 817 feet. This pump is G. F. Blake & Co's manufacture, and has a capacity of 1000 gallons per minute, and together, with adding its supply of water from head or fall race, or both, of the Mill waste if it situated, will also add 180 pounds pressure on every plug or hose attachment above mentioned, so that 18 heavy streams

can be thrown into this Mill at the one time—three from the Tower, containing stairway, four from the stand pipe, two from the Boiler House, and three from the outside plugs. And this is independent of any of the valuable assistance so easily obtainable from the great water arrangements at Mill No. 1, both belonging to the same Company. Steam jets in main building: There is one 1-inch and one 1 1/2 inch steam jet in each story and basement of main building; and 1-inch steam jets in loft or attic. Mill and Picking House have metal gutters and brick copings. No copings on Boiler House. Floors of Mill and Picking House all arranged for flooding.

Lightning Rod—5 on Mill, 1 on Tower and 3 on smoke stack, each 7 feet into ground. Water Barrels and Fire Buckets—one barrel of water and 4 buckets filled in Cloth Office basement; 1st Story—one barrel of water and 18 buckets filled; 2d Story—3 barrels of water and 18 fire buckets filled, mostly around cariers; 3d Story—1 barrel of water and 18 fire buckets filled. Babcock—one in Tower at each story, one in each story of Picking House and one in Engine Room. There is a second Iron Ladder, as shown on plan, reaching over roof of Mill. Mill lighted by gasline from tank 127 feet from Mill. Waste removed daily 26 feet from Mill. Lubricators—Paraffine and Sperm. Watchman—one Watchman, night and Sunday; carries key of mill; stationary Watch Clock. Hours worked—24 hours per week. Goods made—Cotton Duck, etc. Managed by one of the proprietors. Signed, E. LEONARD, C. E.



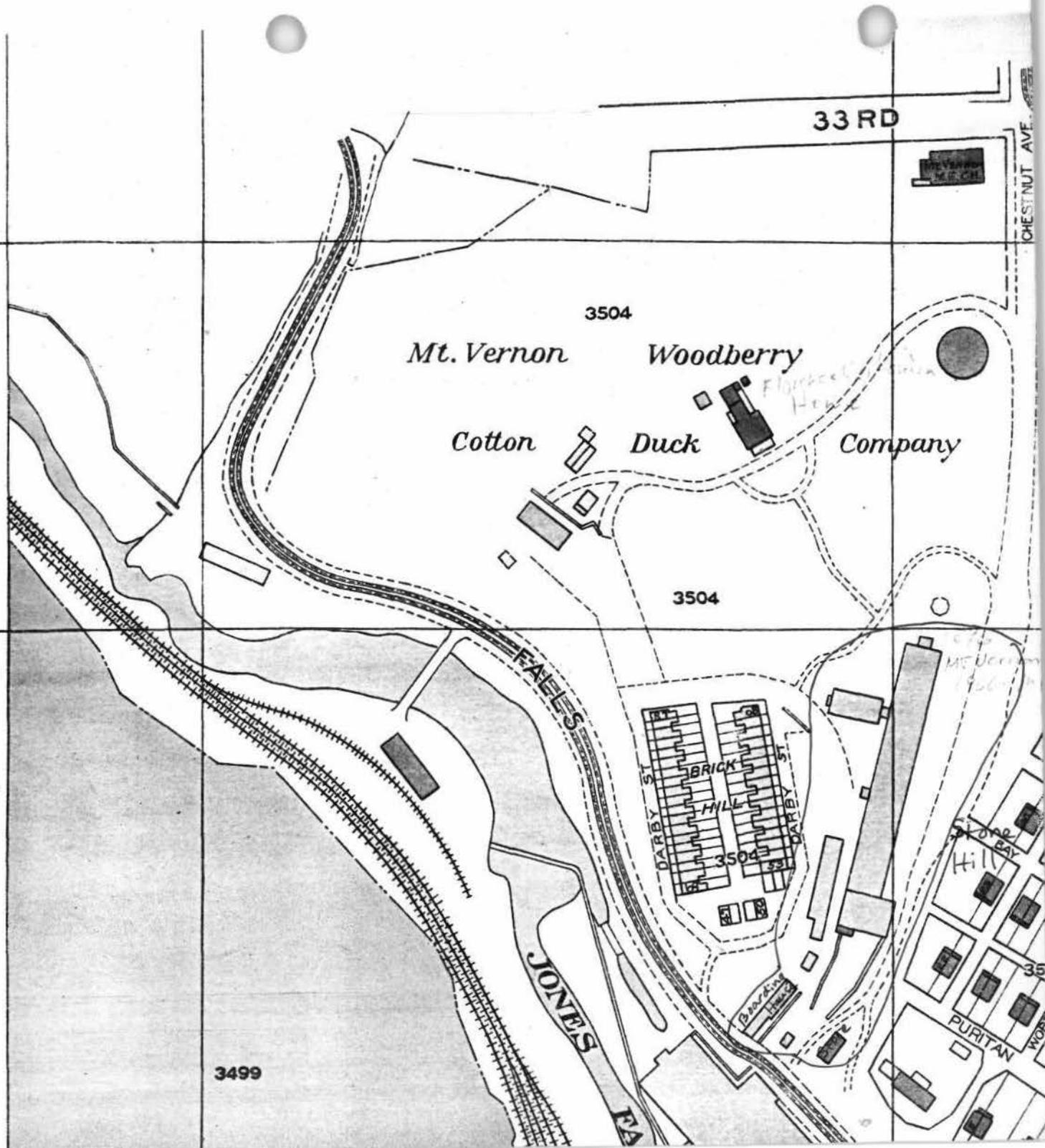
B-1026 Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Co. Mill #3  
From Bromley's 1896 Atlas of Baltimore City

2 MILES NORTH.

10,000' NORTH.

B-1026  
Mt. Vernon Mill #3  
Balto., MD

Baltimore City Atlas,  
1914



3499



B-1026  
Mt. Vernon Mill #3  
Baltimore, MD

U.S.G.S. 7.5  
Balto. West Quad  
18<sup>5</sup>594854<sup>3</sup>54840

(BALTIMORE EAST)  
5662 7 SE

MI TO MD 7  
1/4 RE DE GRACE 37 MI.

## 3. PHOENIX (MERCHANT'S) SHOT TOWER (continued)

floors and terminating on the second floor near the adjoining building. Next dumped into a revolving drum heated by steam, the shot was thoroughly dried. It was then put into a revolving cask along with black lead, and a high polish was produced.

In the building adjoining the tower the shot was rolled down an incline consisting of five plates of French plate glass. The perfect shot ran freely down this incline, jumping the spaces between the plates, while the imperfect shot slid slowly and fell between the plates, being collected for remelting in a trough at the bottom. The angle of this incline could be changed so that only certain sizes of shot would reach the bottom. The perfect shot was then put through sieves of different sizes. In the early days, these sieves, made of drawn sheepskin, were set in a mahogany rocking chest which shook the smaller shot to the bottom; later, a rack of revolving perforated cone-shaped cylinders was used, the shot which had not fallen through the holes of one cylinder passing thus on to the next cylinder. The shot was then run again down an incline, this time made up of mahogany plates, and the resulting high grade shot weighed and sewn into bags for shipment. The Shot Tower's capacity was 100,000 bags of 25 lbs in season, which could be raised to 500,000 bags annually if necessary. No shot was manufactured after 1892. In 1847 the Merchant's Shot Company bought out Phoenix.

This structure is a registered National Historic Landmark.

## 4. MOUNT VERNON MILLS NO. 1 &amp; 2

1873, 1879, 1881

Falls Road at foot of Chestnut St., N. of Cedar Avenue  
Jones Falls Valley

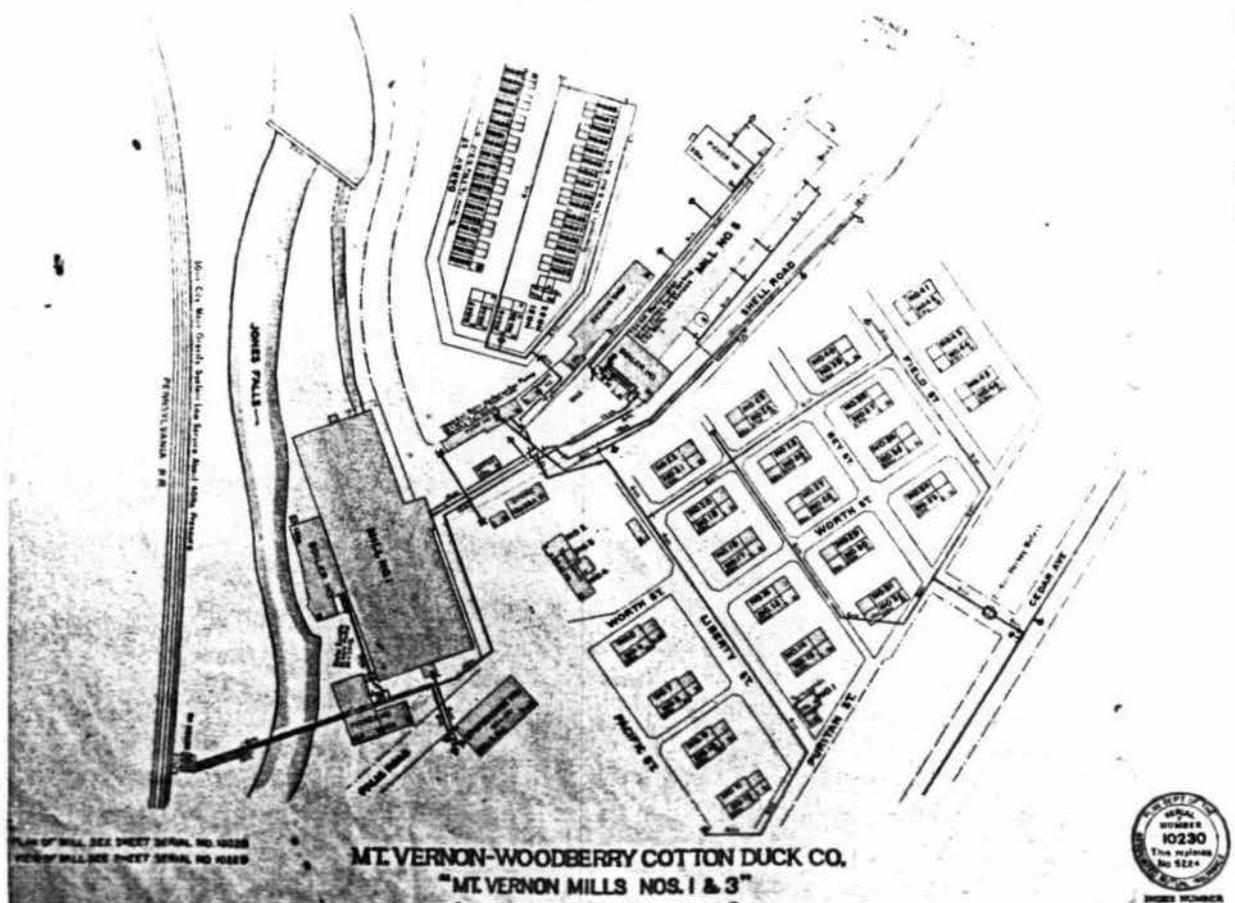
This southernmost mill complex along the Falls was the last of the group to make the transition in 1973 from the manufacture of cloth to synthetic fabrics. The No. 1 Mill, directly facing Falls Road, is a three-story brick building, on stone foundation with towers at either end, which has been rendered somewhat nondescript by the removal of all its tower window frames and the bricking in of these openings, except for the several that survive near the entrance. Mill No. 2, of less architectural distinction, is located to the east, up Chestnut Street.

The surrounding ancillary buildings include a small Mansard-roofed office building between the mills, south of which once was located the corporation store, further south, at the bend of Falls Road, is the cotton house where the bales were stored, characterized by small, iron-shuttered windows (so designed to shut off the air supply in the event of fire). Just southwest of Mill No. 1, across the road from the cotton house, is a striking pair of brick gable-roofed cotton or picker houses (where bales were broken, and impurities removed before the compressed cotton, in the form of laps, was transferred to the carding machines) bearing massive datestones 1873 and 1879. To the east of these, on the south face of the mill's stairtower, is a large name and date tablet.

4. MOUNT VERNON MILLS NO. 1 & <sup>3</sup> (continued)

In 1874, the mill complex was described in a fire insurance report as follows. The basement of the original building contained the cloth office and the engine room, which housed a steam engine with fly wheel rising above the first floor. The first floor contained the belt driven carding, drawing, slubbing (the process of slightly twisting cotton fibers onto bobbins for weaving) and speeding machines. Weaving, beaming (placing warp spools onto large rollers that were placed in a loom) and warping were done on the second floor, while spinning, spooling and twisting machines were located on the third floor. The building was warmed by steam and lit by gasoline lamps.

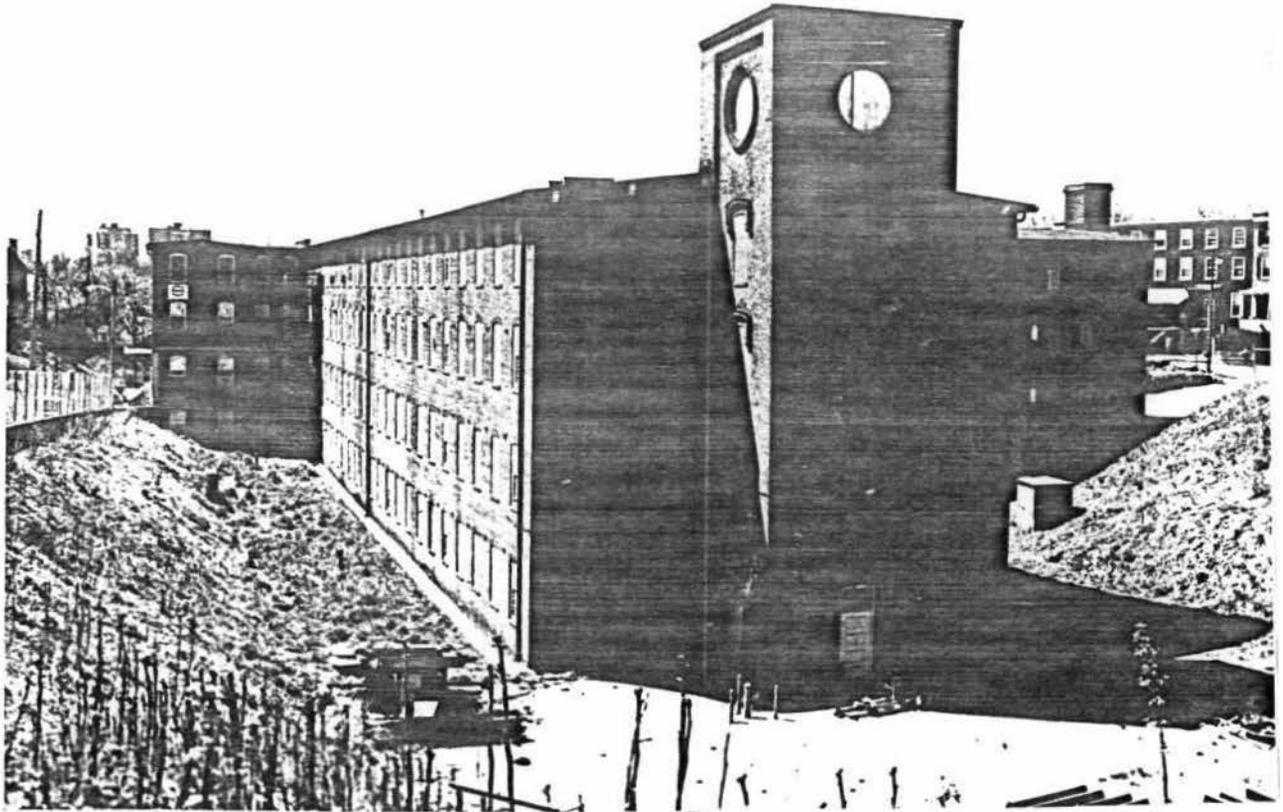
Perhaps the most outstanding element of the complex today, is the enclave of stone duplex corporation houses on the bank above, known as "Stone Hill", built between c. 1845 (the date of the first mill on the site) and 1877. These houses, constructed of granite from the Lake Roland section of the valley, exhibit Greek Revival characteristics (in massing, use of attic windows, etc.). In plan, room follows room with divided one story gable roofed rear wings serving as kitchens to each pair of houses. Also noteworthy is the massive stone Superintendent's House, which overlooks Mill No. 1. A later grouping of tenements, known as Brick Hill, overlooks Mill No. 2.



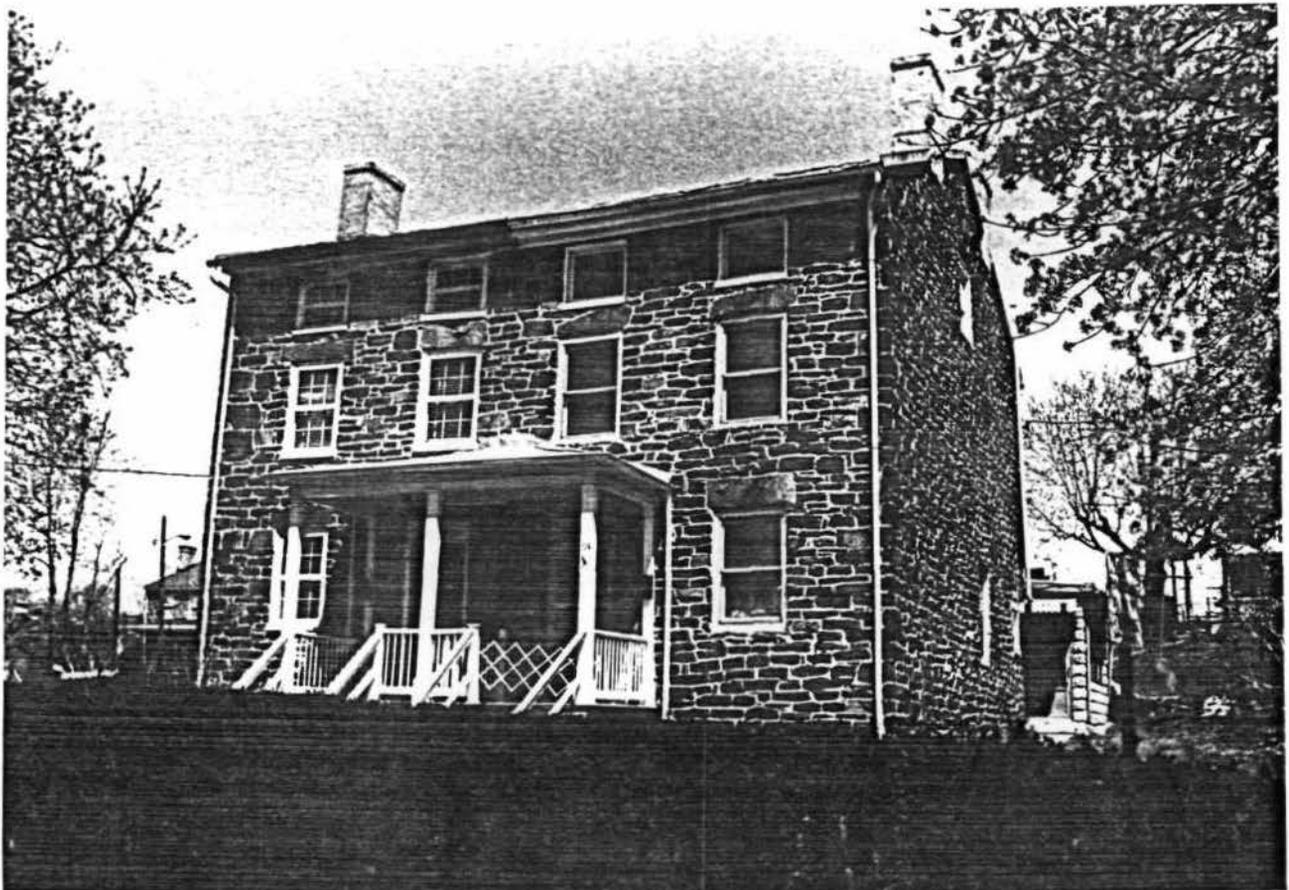
PLAN OF MILL, SEE SHEET SERIAL NO. 10228  
REAR WALLS SEE SHEET SERIAL NO. 10229

MT. VERNON-WOODBERRY COTTON DUCK CO.  
"MT. VERNON MILLS NOS. 1 & 3"





MOUNT VERNON MILL NO. 2: View From East  
3



"STONE HILL" DUPLEX c 1845



B-1026 MT. VERNON MILL NO. 3  
dormitories, shops and related buildings

Mark R. Edwards

April, 1980



Mt. Vernon Mill

B-62

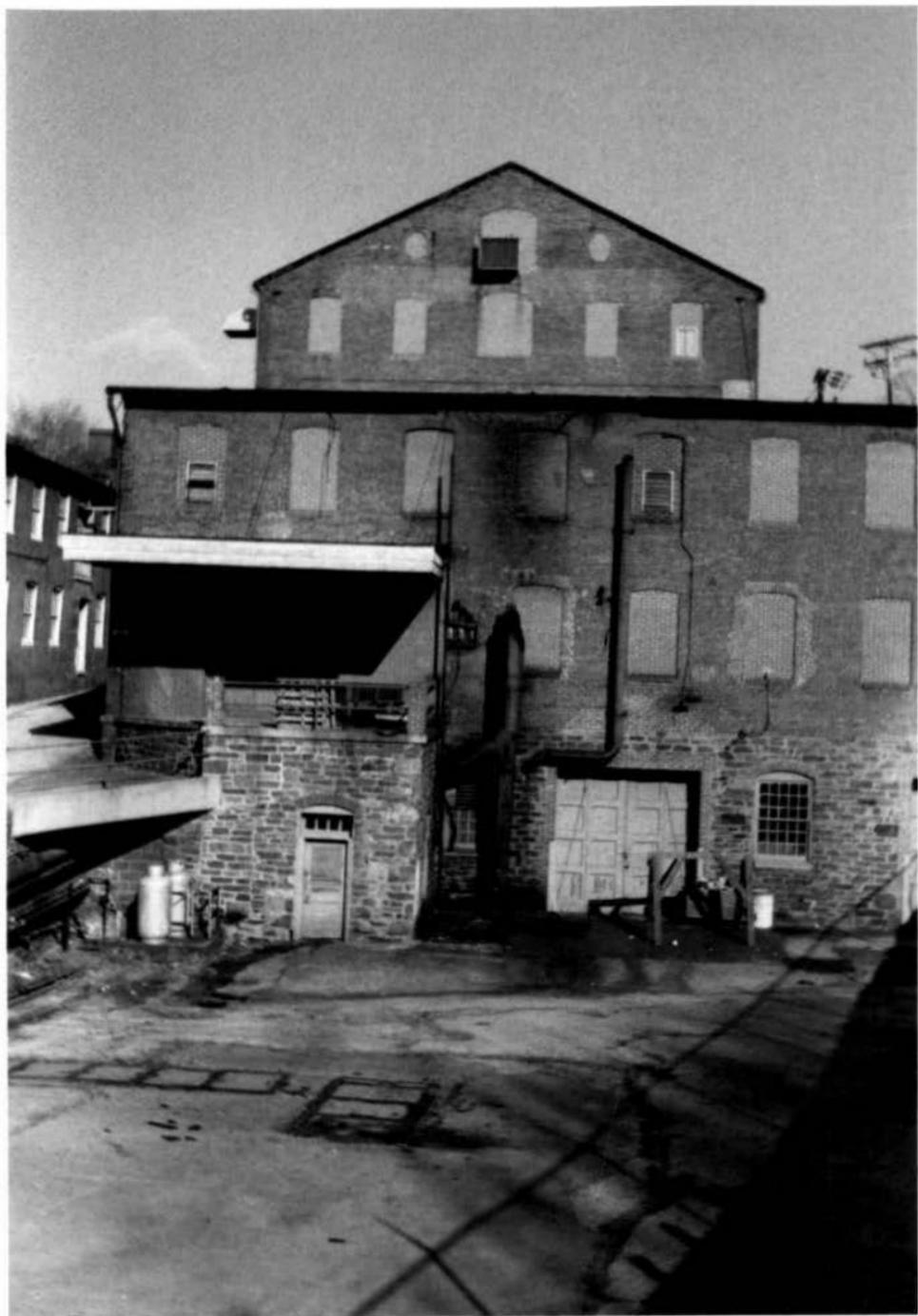
Baltimore, MD.

B-1026

Photo: Dennis Zembala

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

Mar. 1980/Womens Boarding House



MT. VERNON MILL #3 B-62  
BALTIMORE, MD B-1026  
PHOTO: DENNIS ZEMBALA  
NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST  
MARCH 1980 West Facade



B-62

Mt. Vernon Mill

Baltimore, MD

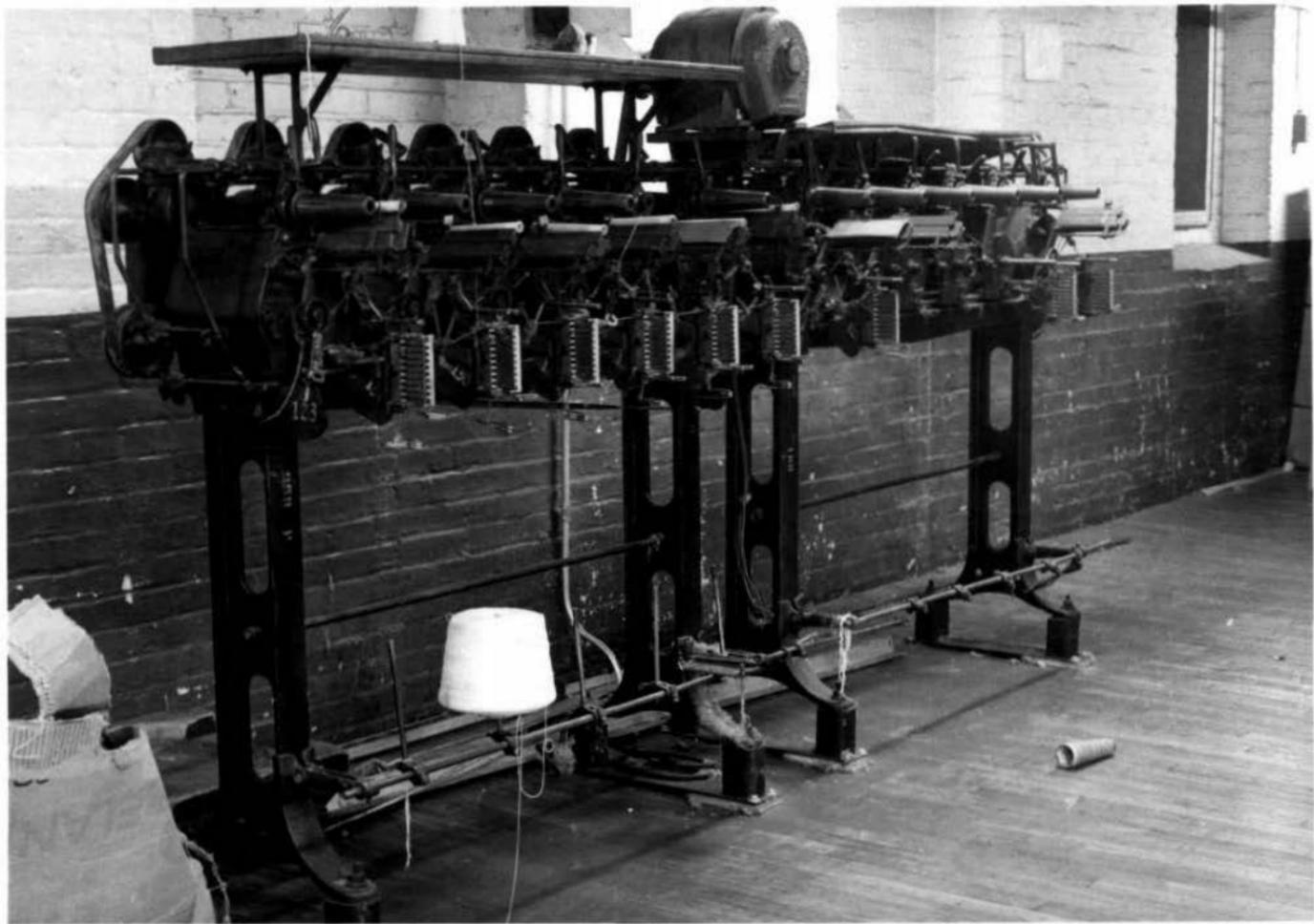
Photo: Dennis Zembala 3/80

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

Looking East



Mt. VERNON MILL #3 B-62  
BALTIMORE, MD B-1026  
PHOTO: DENNIS ZEMBALA  
NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST  
MAR. 1980 ~~Mt. Vernon~~ 2nd Floor - Look east



Mt. VERNON Mill  
BALTIMORE, MD

B-62

B-1026

PHOTO: DENNIS ZEMBALA

NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST

MAR. 1980 Spooling Machine



Mt. VERNON Mill #3 B-62  
BALTIMORE, MD B-1026  
PHOTO: DENNIS ZEMBALA  
NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST  
MARCH 1980 1853 Truss



MT. VERNON Mill

B62

BALTIMORE, MD

B-1026

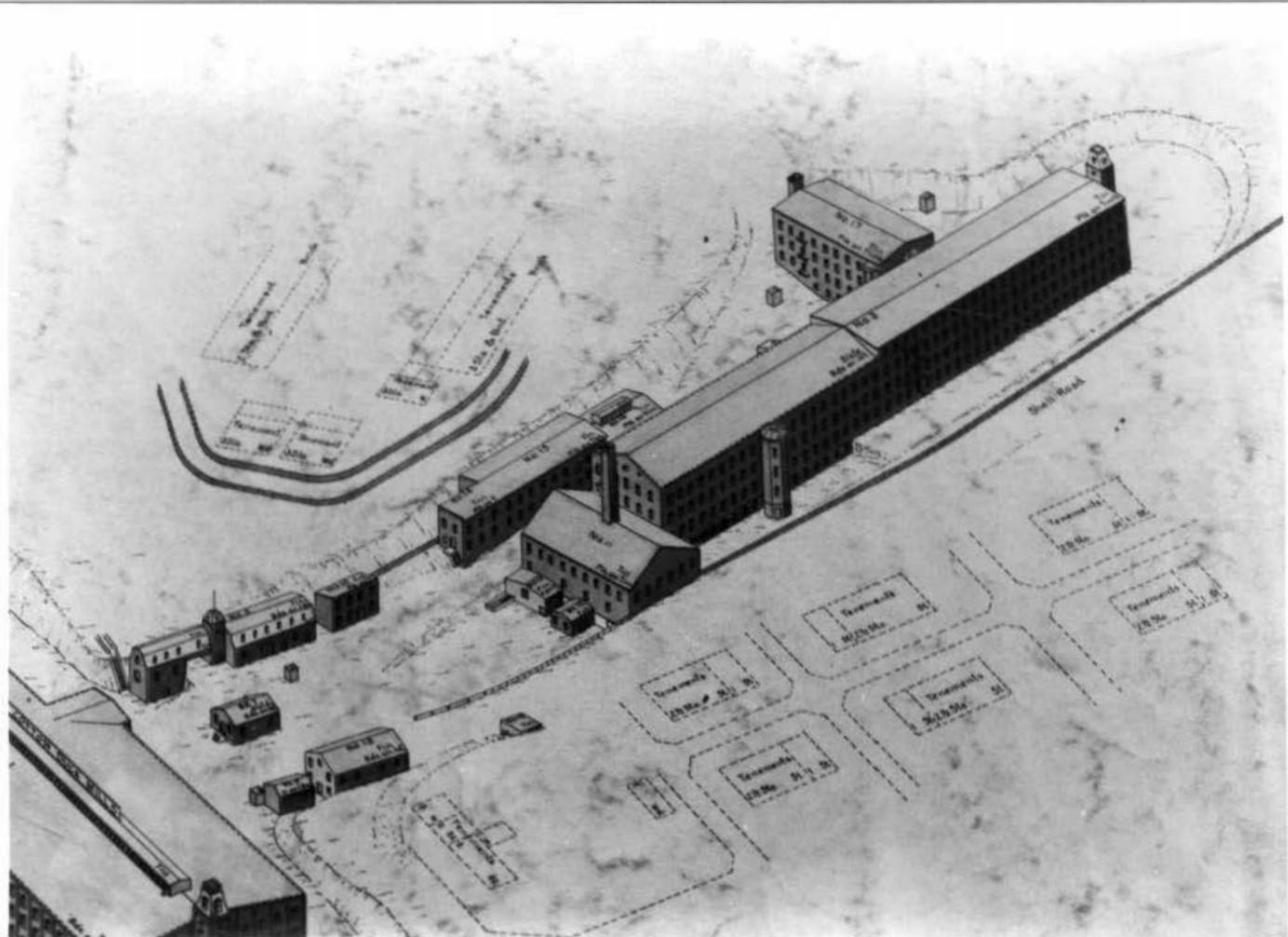
PHOTO: DENNIS ZEMBALA

NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST

MARCH 1980 Picker House

ROOF CONSTRUCTION

Faded handwritten notes, possibly including "VNU" and "const."



B-1026

MT. VERNON MILL NO. 3

(taken June c. 1912 for insurance map)

Mark R. Edwards

April, 1990