

#B-1031

Heise & Brun Lumber Company (Wallbrook)

Statement of Significance

The Wallbrook Lumber Company, still operating on Caroline Street in Fells Point, represents only one of the numerous lumber firms which occupied the site. Sawmills, woodworking plants, lumber-yards and shipyards were common in Baltimore--particularly along the waterfront east of the Back Basin--throughout the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. The Wallbrook Lumber Company and its two predecessors at the Caroline Street site--the Thiemeyer and Bruns Lumber Companies--symbolize this continuity and close interaction of woodworking businesses during the past 150 years.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Heise and Brun's Lumber Company

AND/OR COMMON

Wallbrook Lumber Company

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

901 South Caroline Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

21231

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Wallbrook Lumber Company

Telephone #: (301) 462-2200

STREET & NUMBER

2636 North Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21203

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore City Courthouse

Liber #: WA 3730

Folio #: 663

STREET & NUMBER

Fayette and Calvert Streets

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-1031

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

This complex of buildings is an example of the process of growth by accretion as an expanding lumber manufacturer altered a number of residential structures to suit its demands for space. Four rowhouses facing Caroline Street form the nucleus of the whole, to which a stable and a three-story garage were later added. The latter face Dallas Street and at one time a courtyard was between them and the four rowhouses. This space has since been covered over and only the irregular roofline reveals the heterogeneous origins of the complex.

On the interior, the ground floor gives the impression of being a unified space. The brick bearing walls of the four rowhouses have been pierced at several places to suit material handling requirements. The rear walls of the two center ones have been completely removed and replaced with a steel I-beam. On the upper floors the individual buildings retain more of their own integrity. This is particularly true of the B-story structure facing Dallas Street. This is typical of numerous alley manufacturing sites in the city where small scale artisan production went on well into the present century.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Wallbrook Lumber Company, still operating on Caroline Street in Fells Point, represents only one of the numerous lumber firms which occupied the site. Sawmills, wood-working plants, lumberyards and shipyards were common in Baltimore--particularly along the waterfront east of the Back Basin--throughout the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. The Wallbrook Lumber Company and its two predecessors at the Caroline Street site--the Thiemeyer and Bruns Lumber Companies--symbolize this continuity and close interaction of wood working businesses during the past 150 years.

Historical Significance

The J. H. Thiemeyer Company started business in Fells Point as a small box manufacturing operation and lumberyard in 1848. The business, located close to many canneries, expanded rapidly throughout the late 19th century. By 1904, when the firm incorporated, it had established a local reputation as one of the biggest box suppliers in the city and the "Thiemeyer Patent" beer and bottle boxes were in great demand throughout the United States. According to a 1910 report, "the plant, located at 901 S. Caroline Street,... covers the greater part of a city block, about 300 by 300 feet and contains a two and three story building furnished with steam power... Capacity is from 35,000 to 38,000 boxes of all kinds per day."(1)

About 1915, however, the Thiemeyer Company ceased operation at the Caroline Street plant; and another lumber Company--the Duker Box Factory--took over. This company operated here until 1932 when the Bruns Lumber Company, started in 1849, bought the property and transformed it into a factory. This firm, one of the oldest and largest in the city, also owned other properties in Fells Point, principally a large lumber yard on Concord Street and Eastern Avenue and a sash and door factory on Caroline Street and Canton Avenue. Throughout the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's the Bruns Lumber Company expanded its operation to include box and cabinet making during

Cont'd--

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCESVertical and Query files at Enoch Pratt Free LibraryBaltimore American, The City of Baltimore, (Baltimore, Williams
and Wilkens Co., 1902, p. 214

Cont'd--

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

Liza Reich, Dennis Zembala

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE

November 1980

STREET & NUMBER

217 N. Charles Street

TELEPHONE

301-396-1931

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland 21201

STATE

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

Blum, Isidor: The History of Jews of Baltimore
(Baltimore Historical Review Publishing Co.)
1910, p. 446

Scharf, Thomas: History of Baltimore City & County
(Phila., Louis H. Everts) 1881 p. 465

VERTICAL AND QUERY FILES AT ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY

BALTIMORE AMERICAN, THE CITY OF BALTIMORE, (BALTIMORE,
WILLIAMS AND WILKENS CO., 1902,
P. 214

NAER INVENTORY

U.S. Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

1. SITE I.D. NO B 1 0 3 1		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 Heise and Brun Lumber Company (Wallbrook Lumber Company)		9. OWNER'S ADDRESS 2636 North Avenue			
10. STATE COUNTY M D COUNTY NAME CITY/VICINITY CONG. DIST. 3		STATE COUNTY M D COUNTY NAME CITY/VICINITY CONG. DIST. 3		12. EXISTING SURVEYS <input type="checkbox"/> NR <input type="checkbox"/> NHL <input type="checkbox"/> HABS <input type="checkbox"/> HAER-I <input type="checkbox"/> HAER <input type="checkbox"/> NPS <input type="checkbox"/> CLB <input type="checkbox"/> CONF <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER	
11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO) 901 South Caroline Street		13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW) <input type="checkbox"/> INTERIOR INTACT <input type="checkbox"/> EXTERIOR INTACT <input type="checkbox"/> ENVIRONS INTACT			
14. UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING SIGN SCALE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1:24 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:62.5 1 8 3 6 2 2 7 0 4 3 4 9 0 2 0		QUAD NAME Baltimore East			
15. CONDITION 70 <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT 71 <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD 72 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR 73 <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED 74 <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS 75 <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED 76 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED 77 <input type="checkbox"/> DESTROYED 85 <input type="checkbox"/> DEMOLISHED					
16. INVENTORIED BY Liza Reich, Dennis Zembala		AFFILIATION Baltimore Industrial Museum		DATE Nov., 1980	

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

The Wallbrook Lumber Company, still operating on Caroline Street in Fells Point, represents only one of the numerous lumber firms which occupied the site. Sawmills, woodworking plants, lumberyards, and shipyards were common in Baltimore - particularly along the waterfront east of the Back Basin - throughout the 18th, 19th, and early 20th centuries. The Wallbrook Lumber Company and its two predecessors at the Caroline Street site - the Thiemeyer and Bruns Lumber Companies - symbolize this continuity and close interaction of woodworking businesses during the past 150 years.

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE Box manufacture and lumber yard		PRESENT USE Lumber company		ADAPTIVE USE	
19. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER					

See attached sheet

(CONT OVER)

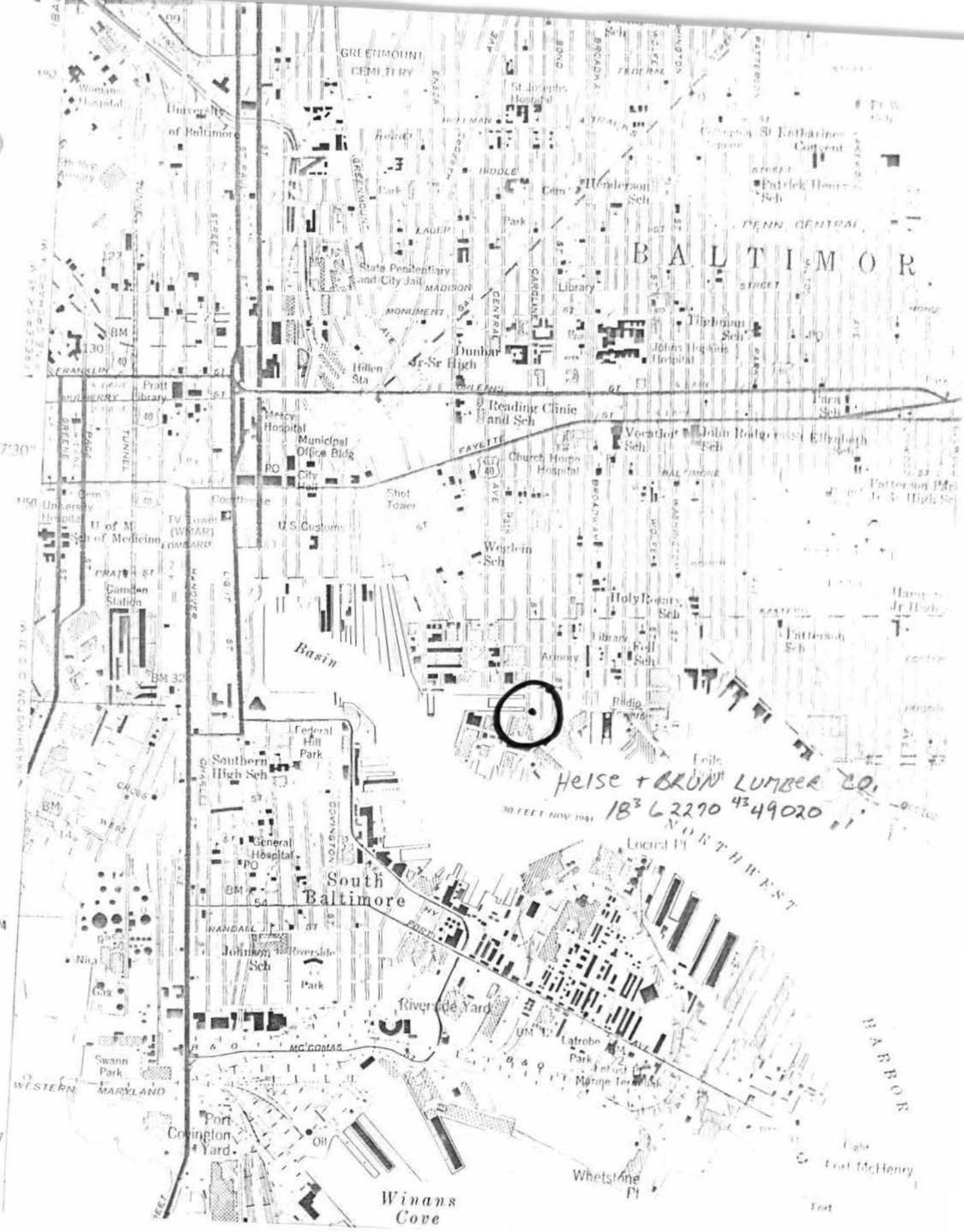
20. URBAN AREA 50,000 POP. OR MORE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		21. <input type="checkbox"/> YES, LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNLIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN		23. EDITOR INDEXER	
24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		NAME		DISTRICT I.D. NO	

Significance

REFERENCES (CONTINUED)

ABSTRACT	HAER NO	LC	TECH REPORT	HIST REPORT	CONTEMP PHOTO	HIST PHOTO	CONTEMP DRWG	HIST DRWG	COLOR PLATE	PHOTOGRAM	SW	FILM

B-1031



Heise + BRUN LUMBER CO.
 18362270 4349020

B-1031

Heise & Brun Lumber Company
 U.S.G.S. 7.5# Baltimore E. Quad
 183622704349020

(WEST SECTION)

FERRY BAR CHANNEL (EAST SECTION)



BRUNS
MILL WORK-LUMBER

LUMBER BILLINGS
MILLING SUPPLIES
DRESSING STEEL

JOHN J. BRUNS, INC.

B-1031

Heise & Bruns Lumber Co.
Baltimore, MD
Dennis Zembala 1/81
Looking Northeast



LUMBER MILLWORK
BUILDING SUPPLY
WHOLESALE

JOHN J. BRUNS, INC.

B-1031

Heise & Bruns Lumber Company

Baltimore City, MD

Dennis Zembala 1/81

Caroline St. facade