

# Addendum to Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. B-1033

Page 1 of 1

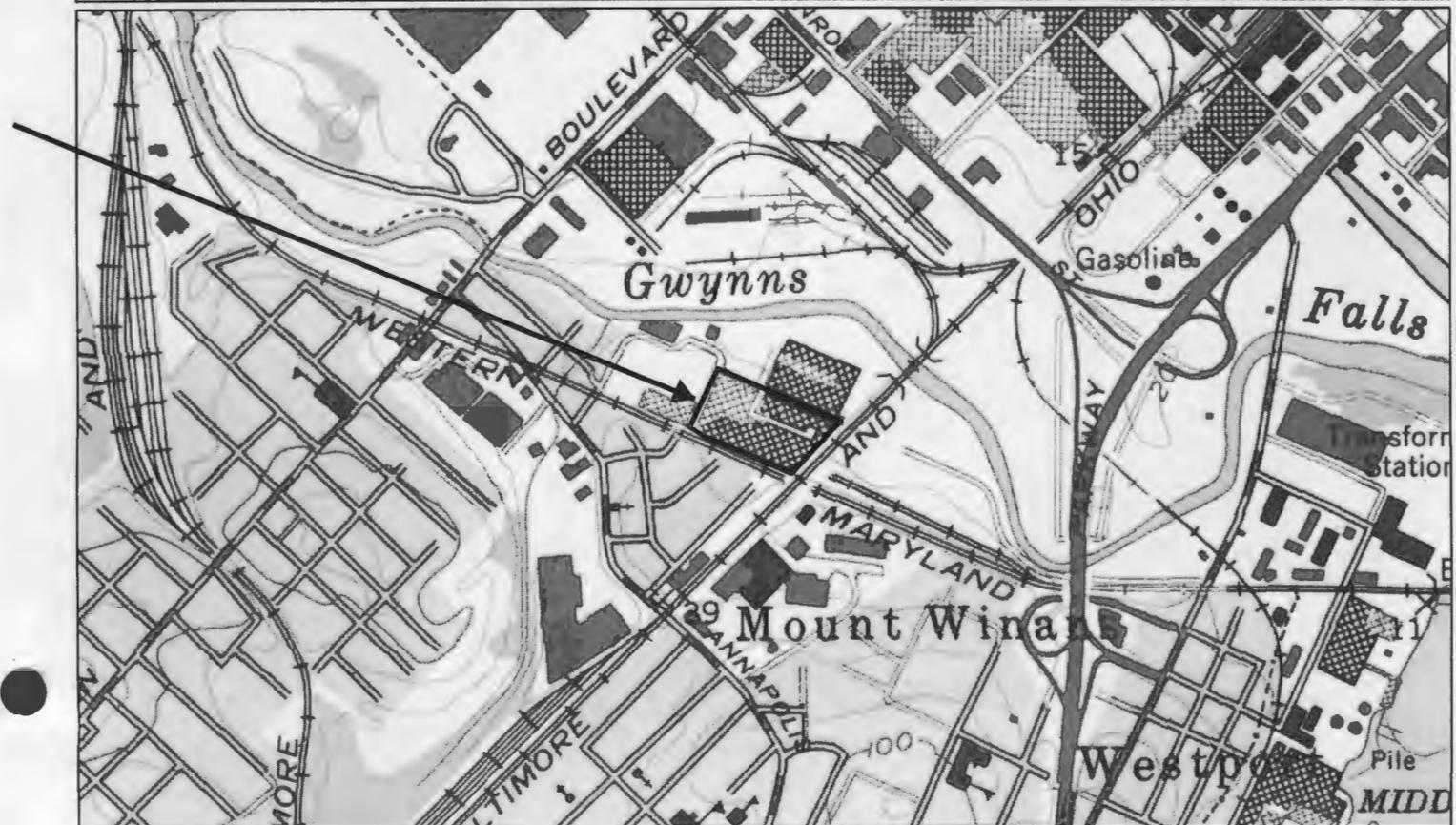
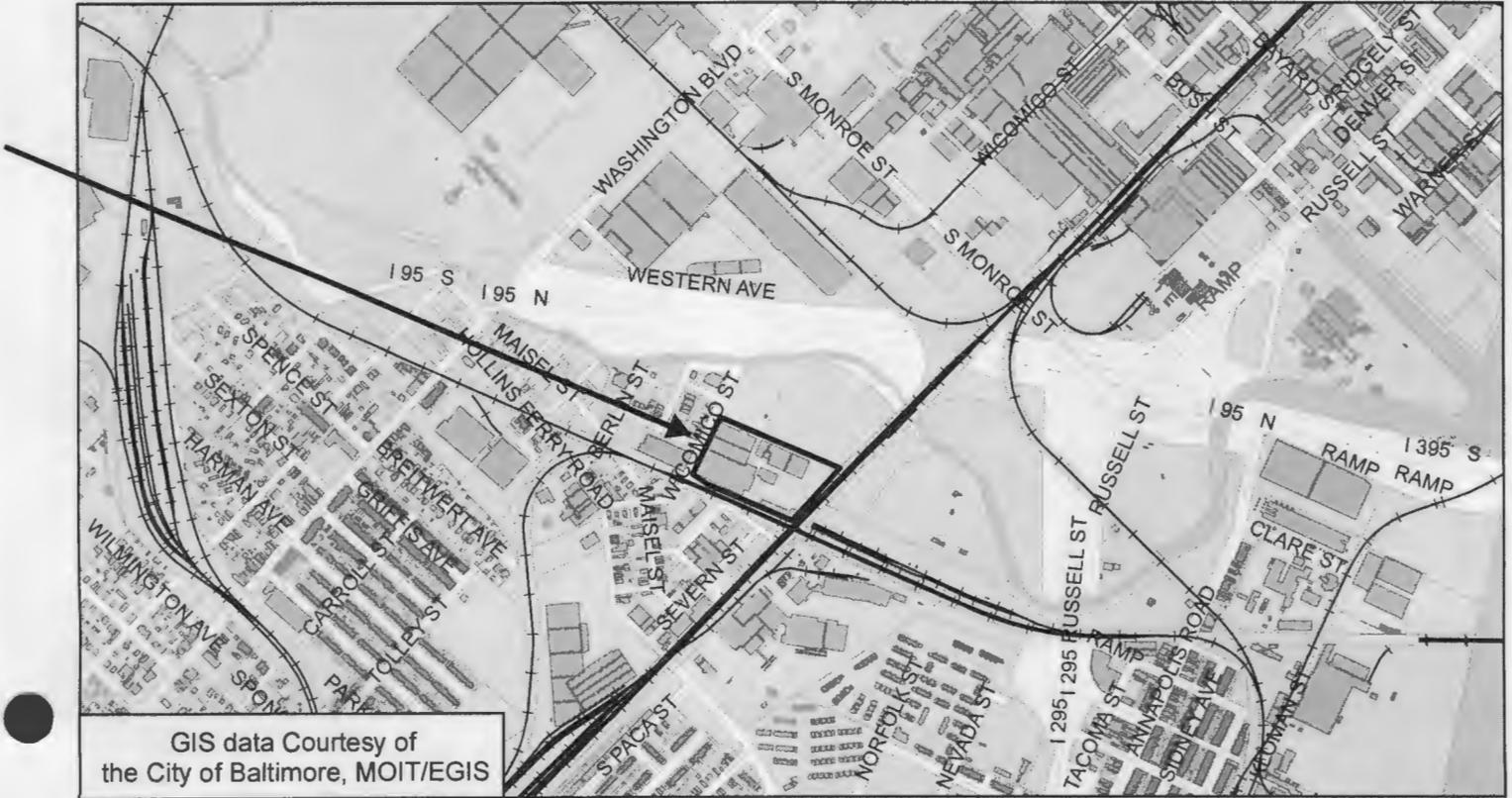
**Name of Property:** Maryland Glass Company

**Location:** 2121 Wicomico Street, Baltimore, MD

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Most of the Maryland Glass Company was demolished during December of 2014 and January of 2015. As of July 2015, the only remaining buildings or structures were two single-story east-west oriented buildings at the corner of Wicomico and Erie Streets and the exterior walls of a smaller multi-story brick building in the southeast corner of the property (where the railroad rights-of-way cross). Of the larger buildings, the southern wall of the southern building is brick and the structure of the eastern wall appears to be concrete posts. The northern building has a steel frame.

B-1033  
Maryland Glass Company  
2121 Wicomico Street  
(formerly inventoried as 2147 Wicomico Street)  
Block 7887 Lot 001  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore West Quad.



Maryland Glass Company (private, 1910)  
B-1033

Baltimore City, Md  
Statement of Significance

The Maryland Glass Company, a subsidiary of the Emerson Drug Company, was well known for its manufacture of "Maryland Blue" glass bottles. These were used by Emerson for such products as "Bromo-Seltzer". The company also was noted for pioneering modern automatic glass making machinery. Their bottles and jars sold throughout the world.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

Survey No. B-1033

Magi No. 0410335714

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Maryland Glass Company

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 2147 Wicomico Street  not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> occupied              | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private        | <input checked="" 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                   | <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no         | <input type="checkbox"/> military      | <input type="checkbox"/> other:            |

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

name National Can Corp.

street & number Resevoir Road telephone no.: 477-3131

city, town Sparrows Point state and zip code Maryland

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber RHB 3679

street & number Fayette and Calvert Streets folio 796

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

## 7. Description

Survey No. B-1033

|  |                                       |   |   |                    |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| <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 type="checkbox"/> good            | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved                    | date of move _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |   |   |                    |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The earliest remaining portion of the Maryland Glass complex is the brick masonry structure adjacent to the railroad tracks which comprise the eastern boundary of the site. This is a specialized building built to accommodate the large glass melting tank (A) and provide maximum ventilation to exhaust the great heat given off in glassworking. The structure is a high single story with a stepped-up central monitor. The monitor has continuous operable windows along its entire length and square sheet metal vents on top. The roof consists of a light metal truss and timber purlins supporting corrugated sheet metal. The glass furnace tank and its pipes project upwards into this space. The plant was originally opened with some hand bottle blowers in its work force, but they were replaced by an Owens automatic bottle machine shortly thereafter. Although the automatic machines have been removed, evidence of their location can still be seen. East of the furnace tank, an annealing Lehr runs about fifty feet, through the north wall into the second floor of the packing house, a two-story building whose axis runs perpendicular to the furnace. This structure was a later addition (c.1918) and also housed inspection and packing departments.\*

Two larger but almost identical structures adjoin the original plant on the west. They contain slightly larger and later models of the tank furnace and Lehr. The blowing machines have been removed from all three structures. The furnaces, while they retain their original shape, have been rebuilt numerous times since the average life of the refractory material in them is only three or four years.

A long brick building to the south of the three furnaces houses the machine shop, mold shop and electrical control room. This structure is divided into two parts, an earlier three-story building on the east end and a long one-story structure to the west. The whole is connected to the furnaces by an enclosed walkway. The earlier structure contained the machine and mold shop until expansion of the plant took place in the 1920s. The pattern shop and machine shop were located off the furnace room on the first floor while the upper floor and basement were used for mold storage. After the mold making facilities were expanded the old mold shop was used for machine repair.

The large brick structure to the north of the furnace buildings contains the box factory, as well as the quality-control laboratory, offices and storage for raw materials, vehicles, etc. Interior floors are all timber post and beam supported. Later additions include a large furnace building, an office building and several large corrugated metal storage sheds on the western portion of the site. With the exception of the office structure (c. 1930), all of these buildings date from after World War II.

\* Corrugated boxes came from the company's box plant next door, through an overhead conveyor and into the packing section. Boxes of bottles were sent to the first floor and from there shipped out to customers.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. B-1033

| 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications         | <input checked="" 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 Maryland Glass Company, a subsidiary of the Emerson Drug Company, was well known for its manufacture of "Maryland Blue" glass bottles. These were used by Emerson for such products as "Bromo Seltzer". The company also is noted for pioneering modern automatic glass making machinery. Their bottles and jars were sold throughout the world.

In 1910, the Emerson Drug Company was unable to buy enough bottles to keep up with the demand of sales and decided to manufacture its own containers for drugs and medicines. It purchased the building in the 2100 block of Wicomico Street, built in 1872. The buildings, which had recently suffered from a fire, were repaired and given the name of the Maryland Glass Company. In August 1956 an additional one story warehouse was built, adding 12,000 square feet.

One of the primary functions of the new subsidiary company was to manufacture blue bottles for Bromo-Seltzer, also owned by the Emerson Drug Company. The Maryland Glass Company received national recognition for its "Maryland Blue" bottles, known for their outstanding purity of color, and attractiveness of design. The "Maryland Blue" was also used for Noxema and Philips Milk of Magnesia containers. Although bottles and jars were produced in clear and various shades for different types of consumers, such as food jars, soda bottles and bottles for breweries, the nationwide reputation was with the specialty "Maryland Blue".

The Maryland Glass Company was a pioneer in the field of engineering and mechanics. There was no hand blown glass produced here. The Maryland Glass Company was the first company in Baltimore and one of the first in the United States to equip its plant with modern automatic machinery. In the hands of skilled workers it was possible on the same specialized machine to manufacture plain bottles and jars up to a foot high and the smaller, more elaborate flasks used mostly for perfumes.

The factory operated continuously seven days a week on four



Maryland Glass Company B-1033

8.1

shifts of six hours each, producing four containers each second or 250 each minute. Raw materials were secured from California, Canada, Ohio, New York, North Carolina, and Western Maryland. The finished articles were used extensively in the United States, and were also exported to Canada, South America and South Africa.

1. SITE NO

B-10033

## HAER INVENTORY

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

2 INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

manufacture

3 PRIORITY

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

5 DATE

1910

6 GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7 OWNER ADMIN

National Can Co.

8 NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Maryland Glass Co.

9 OWNER'S ADDRESS

Reservoir Road

10 STATE  
COUNTY

MD

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG  
DISTSTATE  
COUNTY

MD

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG  
DIST

11 SITE ADDRESS (STREET &amp; NO)

2147 Wicomico St

12 EXISTING  
SURVEYS NH  NHL  HAE  HAE-  HAER  NPS  CLS  
 CONF  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  OTHER

13 SPECIAL FEATURE(S) DESCRIBE BELOW:

 INTERIOR INTACT  EXTERIOR INTACT  ENVIRONS INTACT

14 UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

18 358350 4348390

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  ALTERED80  DESTROYED85  DEMOLISHED

16 INVENTORIED BY

Lynn Satterfield

AFFILIATION

Balto. Museum of Industry

DATE

5/83

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

PRESENT USE

unoccupied

ADAPTIVE USE

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

Baltimore magazine February 1935  
vertical file Enoch Pratt Library

(CONT OVER)

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

21 NPS REGION

22 PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

 YES, LIMITED YES, UNLIMITED NO UNKNOWN

23 EDITOR

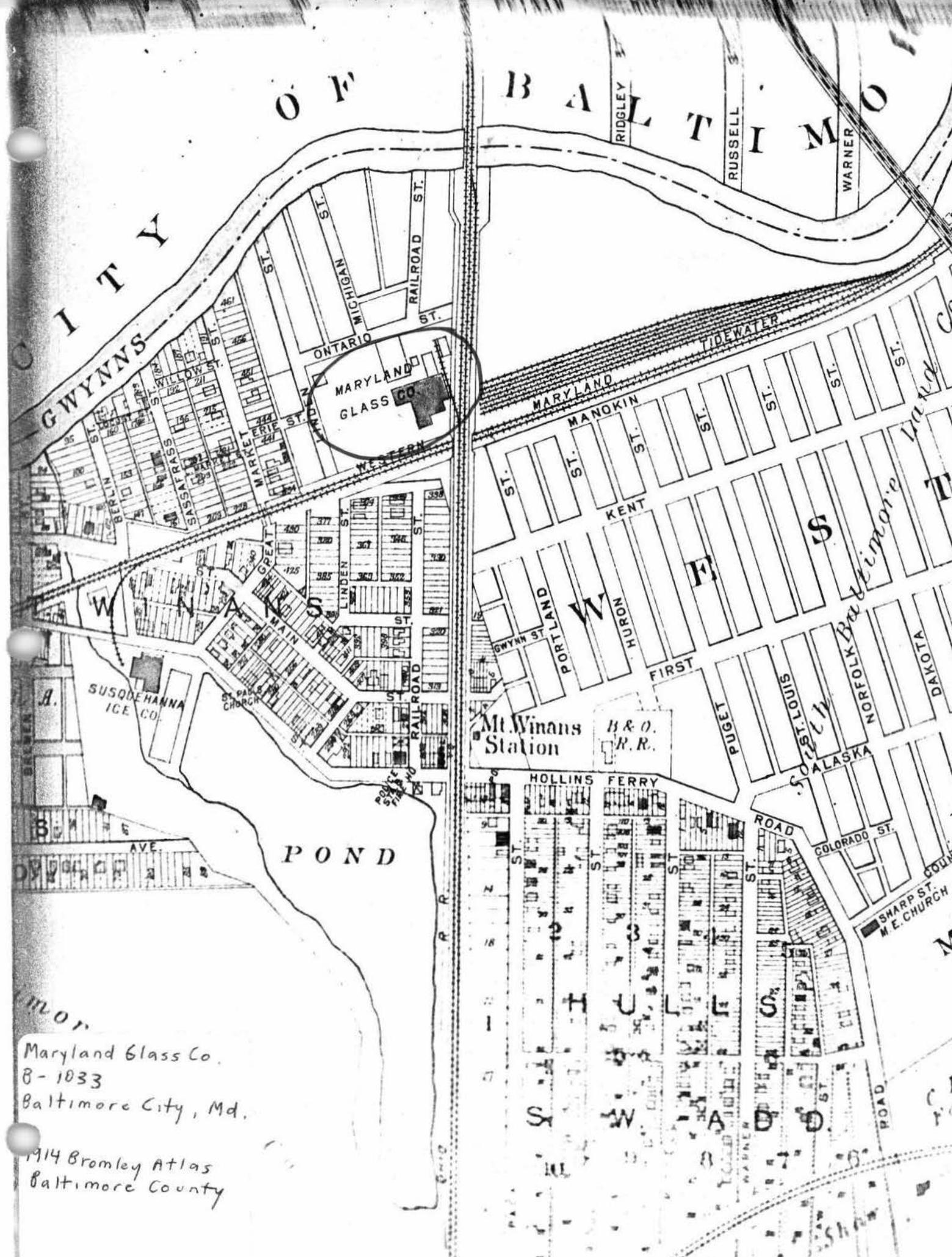
INDEXER

24 LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

 YES NO

NAME

DISTRICT ID NO



MARYLAND  
GLASS CO.

SUSQUEHANNA  
ICE CO.

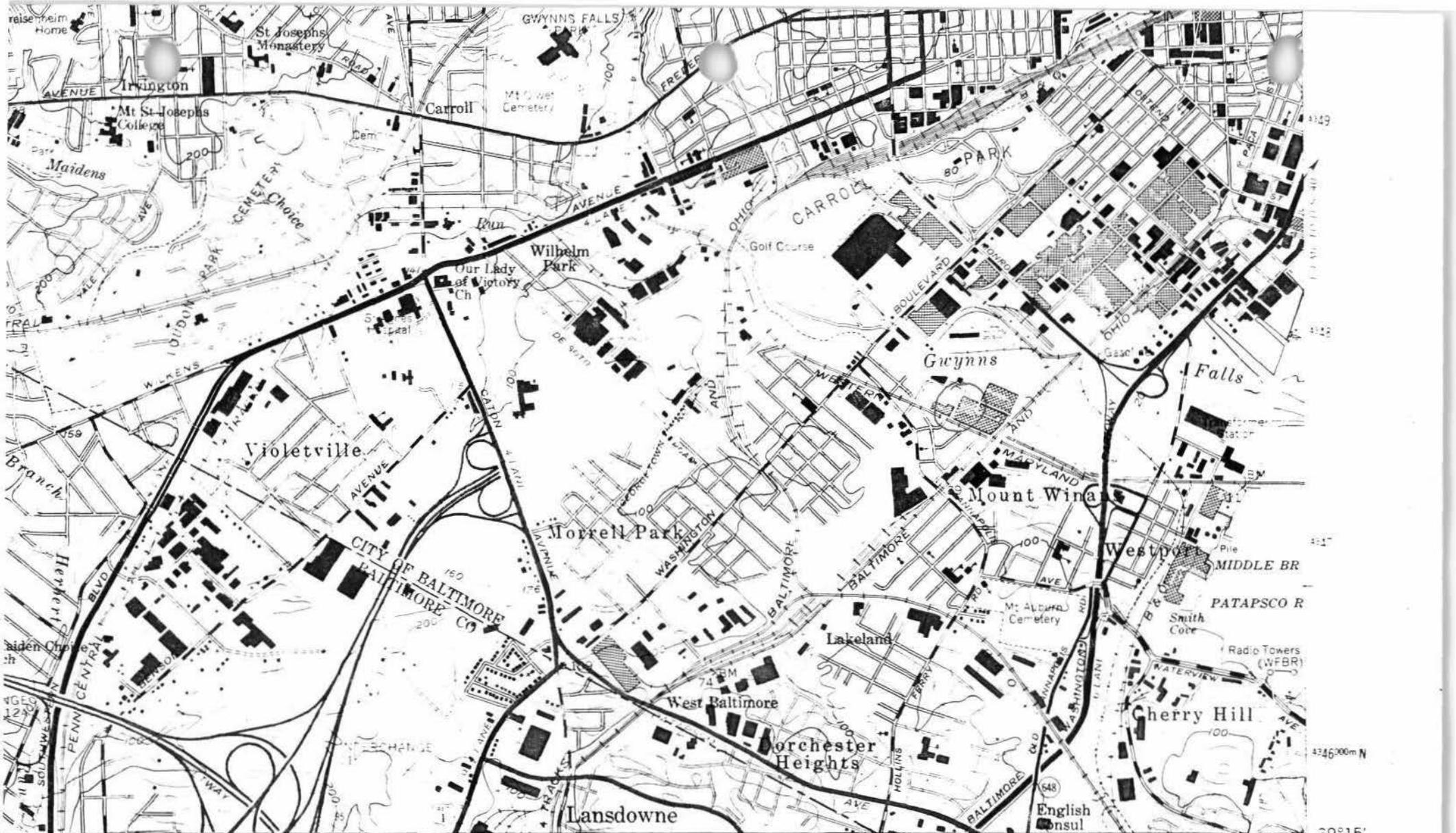
Mt. Winans  
Station

B & O  
R.R.

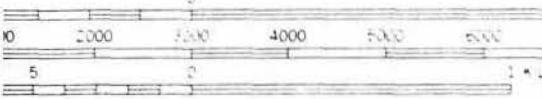
POND

Maryland Glass Co.  
B-1033  
Baltimore City, Md.

1914 Bromley Atlas  
Baltimore County

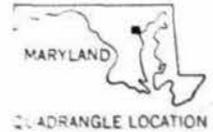


(RELAY)  
5662 II NW  
SCALE 1:24,000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER  
DASHED LINE REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER  
MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 1.1 FEET

Maryland Glass Co  
Baltimore City MP  
USGS #7.5 WEST QUAD  
18° 58' 35" 73° 48' 39"



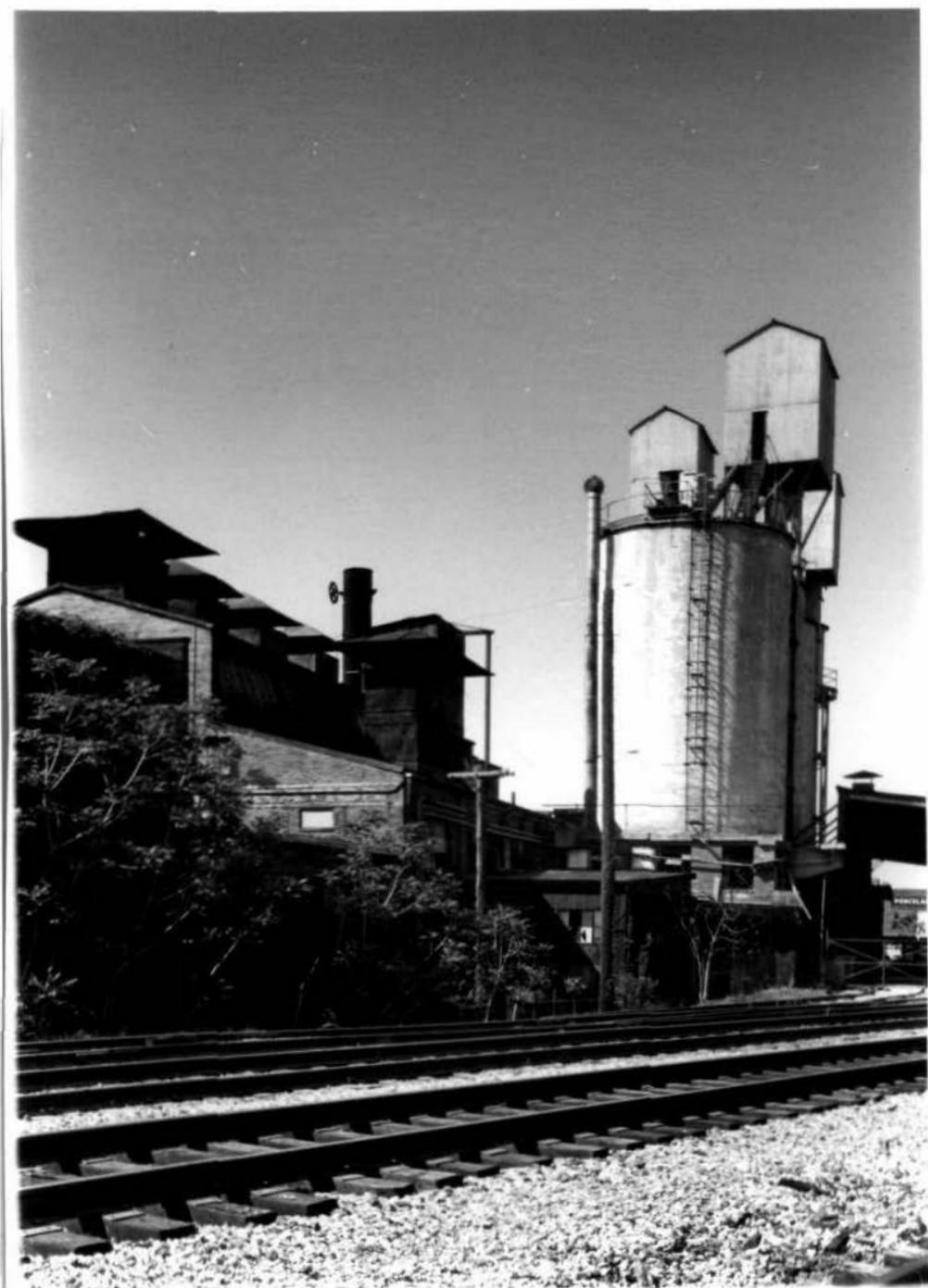
B-1033

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

|                  |           |                 |       |
|------------------|-----------|-----------------|-------|
| Heavy-duty       | —————     | Light-duty      | ----- |
| Medium-duty      | - - - - - | Unimproved dirt | ..... |
| Interstate Route | ⊖         | U. S. Route     | ⊖     |
|                  |           | State Route     | ⊖     |

**BALTIMORE WEST, MD.**  
SW/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3915—W7627 5/7 5

(CURTIS BAY)  
5662 II NE



Plant 5/83  
Storage Silos + 1907 Plant, Looking North/  
West

B-1033

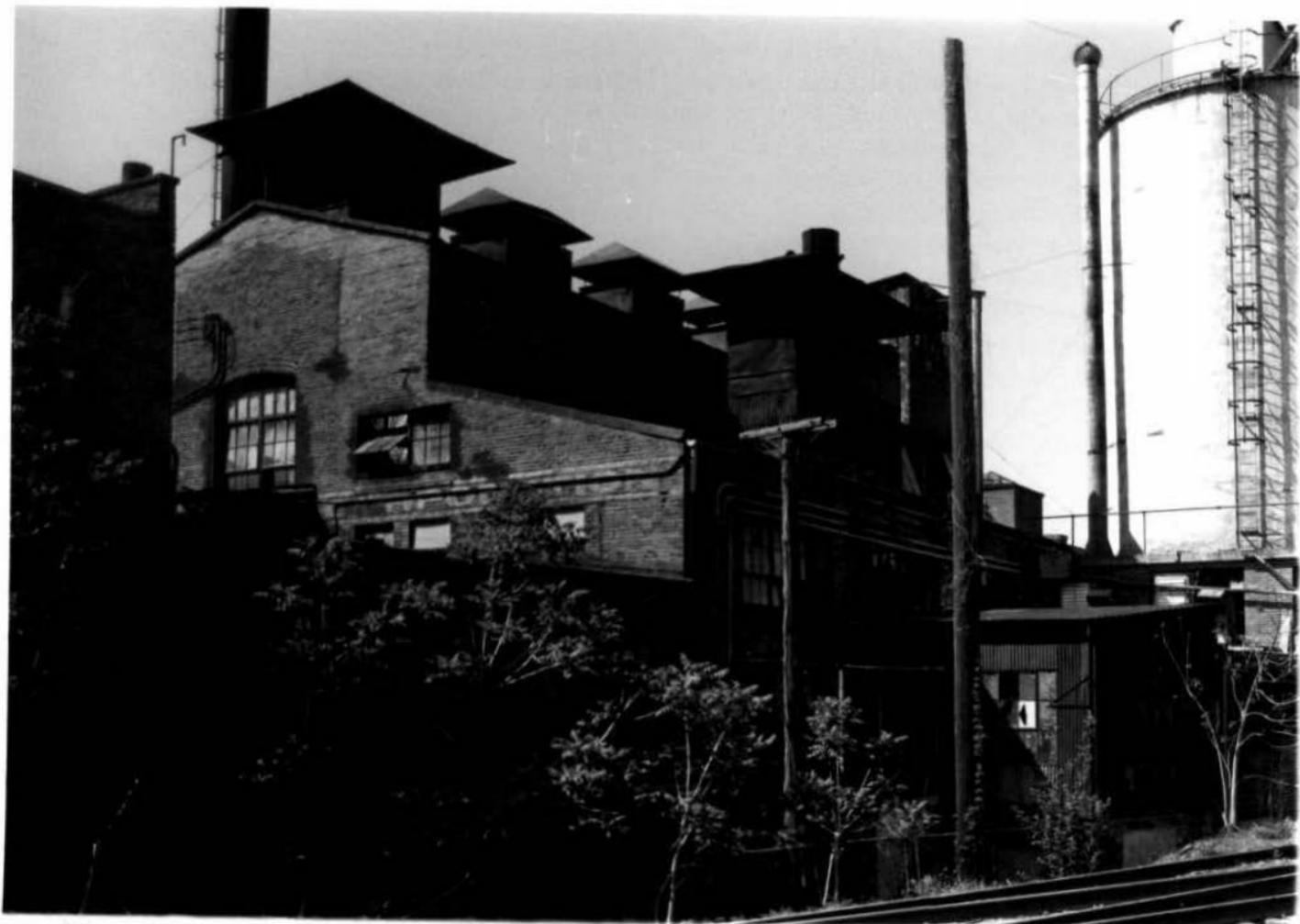
Maryland Glass Company

Baltimore City, MD

Dennis Zembala, 5/83

Storage Silos & 1907 Plant,

Looking northwest

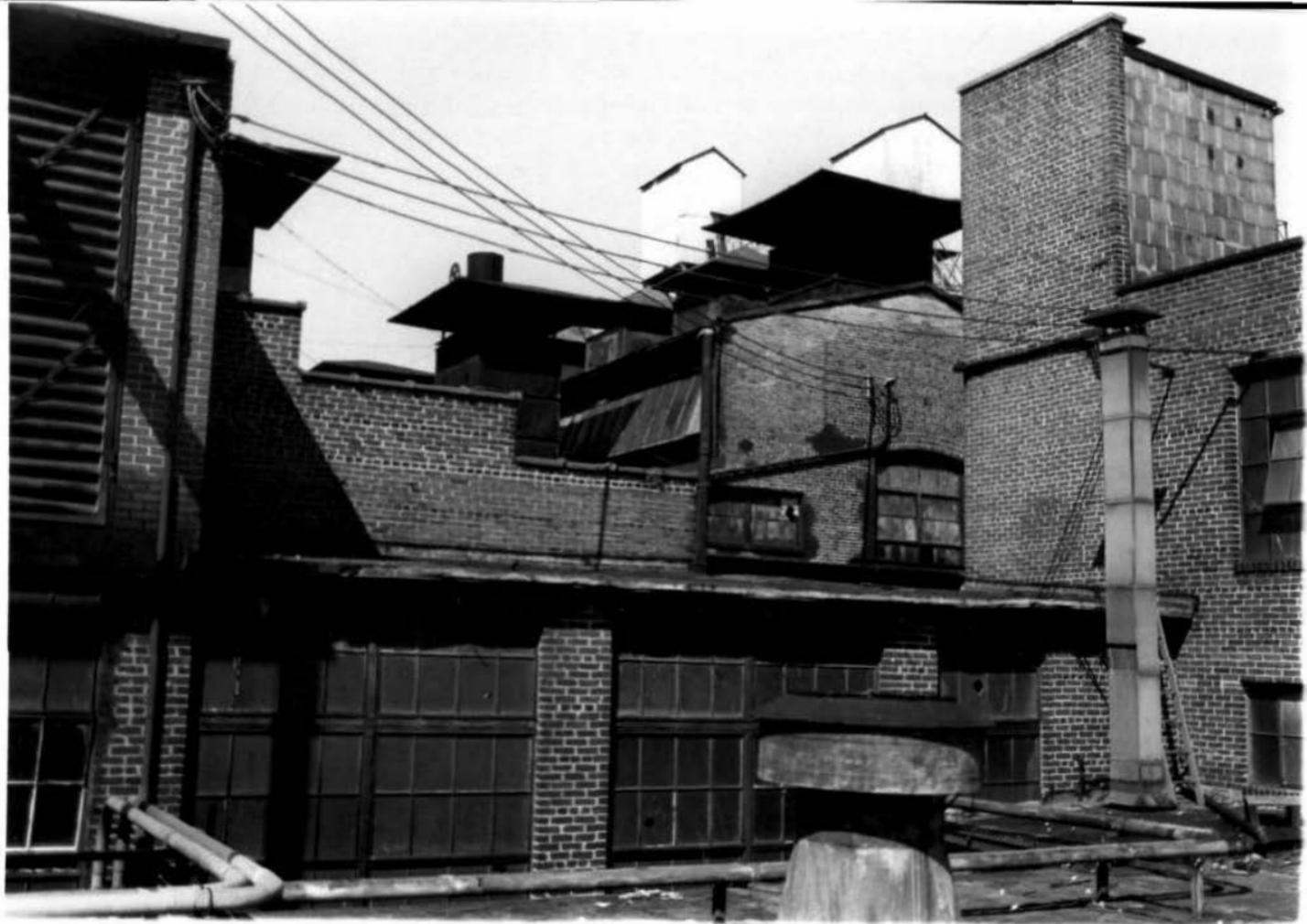


Maryland Glass Co. 8-1033

Baltimore City MD

Dennis Zembala 5/83

Original Plant (1907) Looking Northwest



Maryland Glass Co B-1033

Baltimore City Md

Dennis Zembala 5/83

1907 Plant. Rooftop Ventilators/Looking North



MO. GLASS CO. 8-1033

BALTO. CITY, MO.

DENNIS ZEMBALA 5/83

glass melting

Interior 1907 Structure showing tank +  
metal roof trusses

8 PAPER  
FACTORY  
KODAK



MD. GLASS CO. B-1033

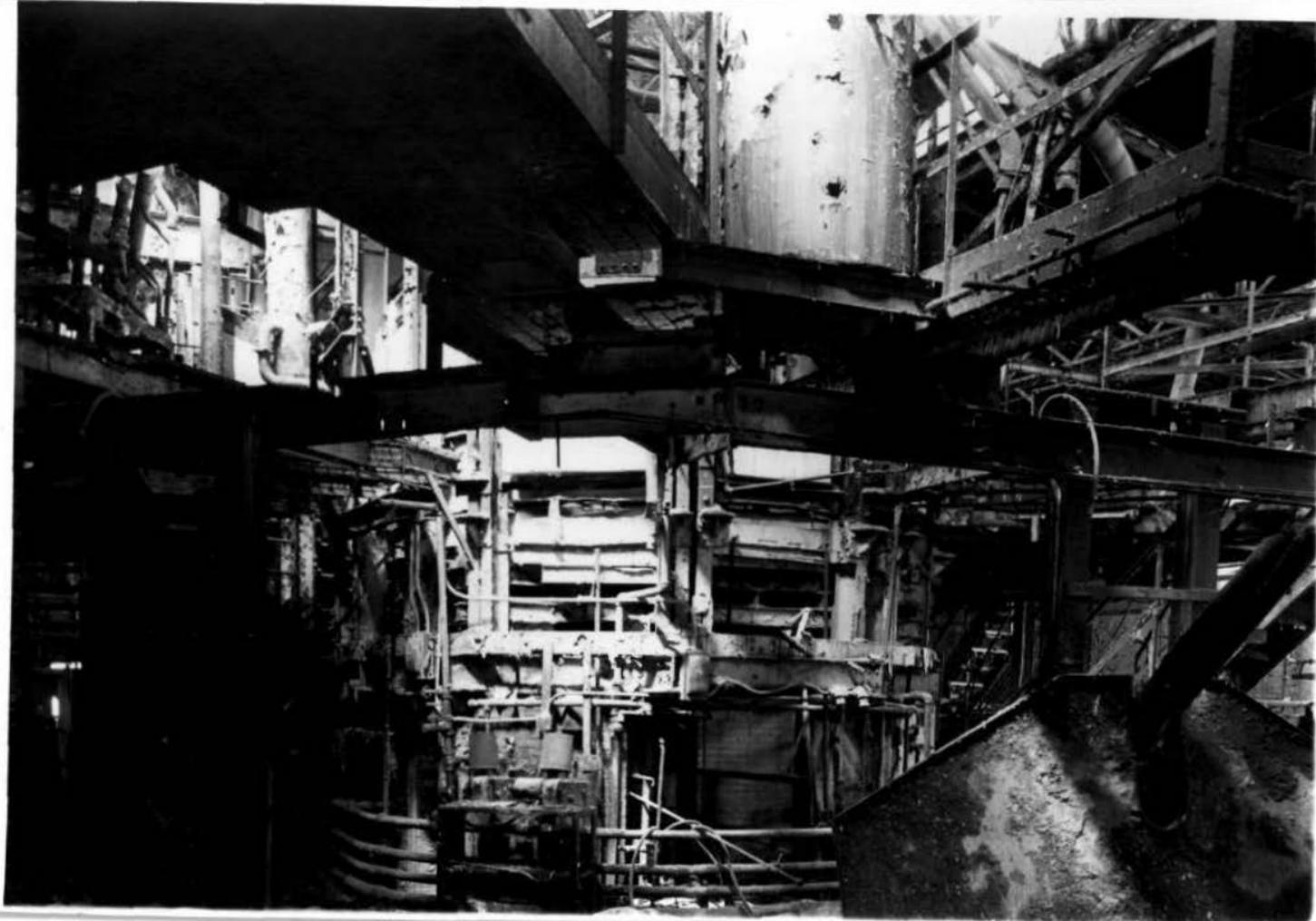
BALTO. CITY MD.

DENNIS ZAMBALTA 5/83

Roof trusses, Bldg. "A"

5 DAY  
IMPACT  
52 KNOT

PARTIC  
TURED

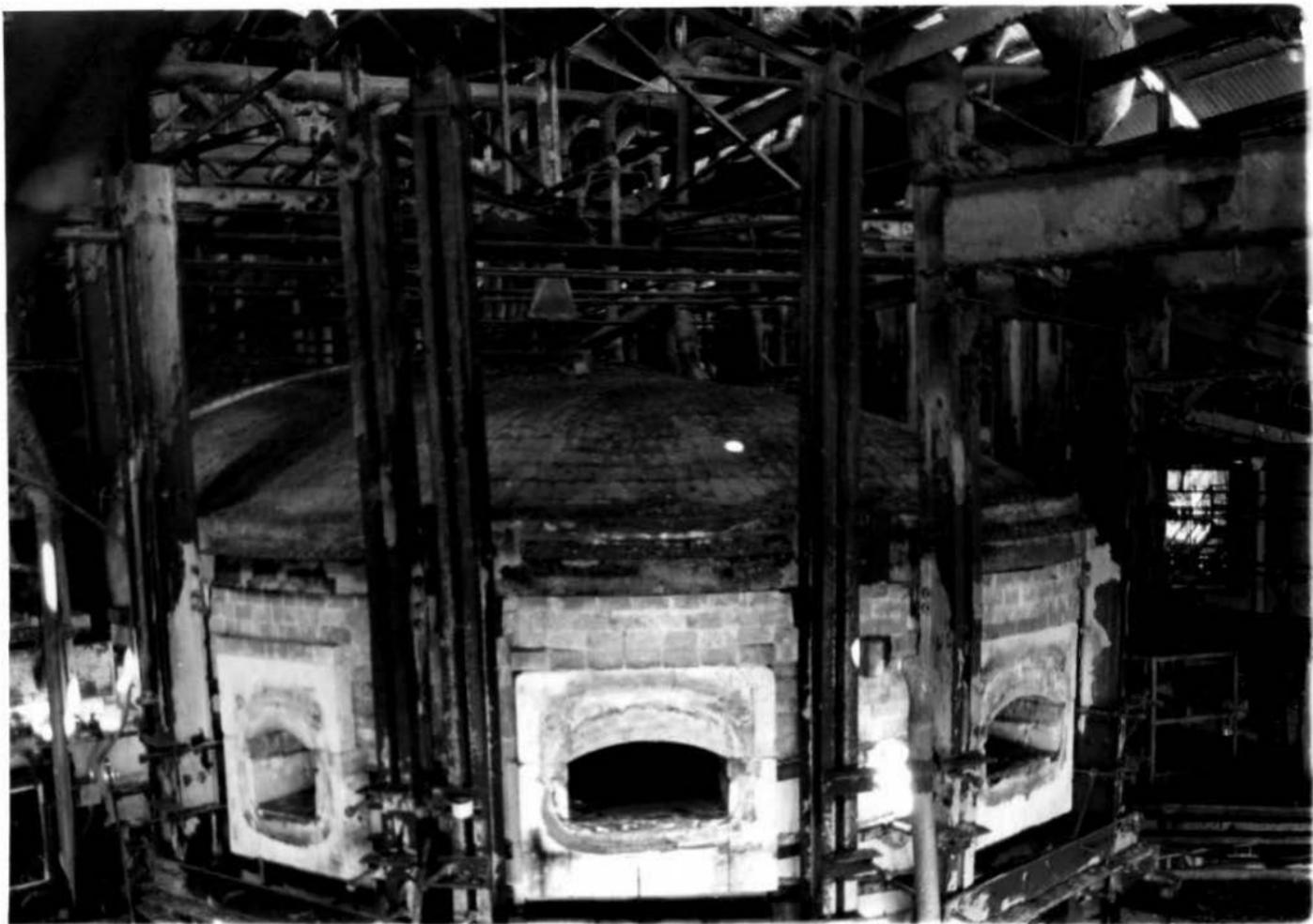


MD. GLASS CO. 8-1033

DALTO. CITY MD.

DENNIS EDMAN 5/83

Furnace "B" - Foundation



MO. GLASS CO. B-1033

DALTON, CITY, MD.

DENNIS ZEMBALA 5/83

Second furnace (B)

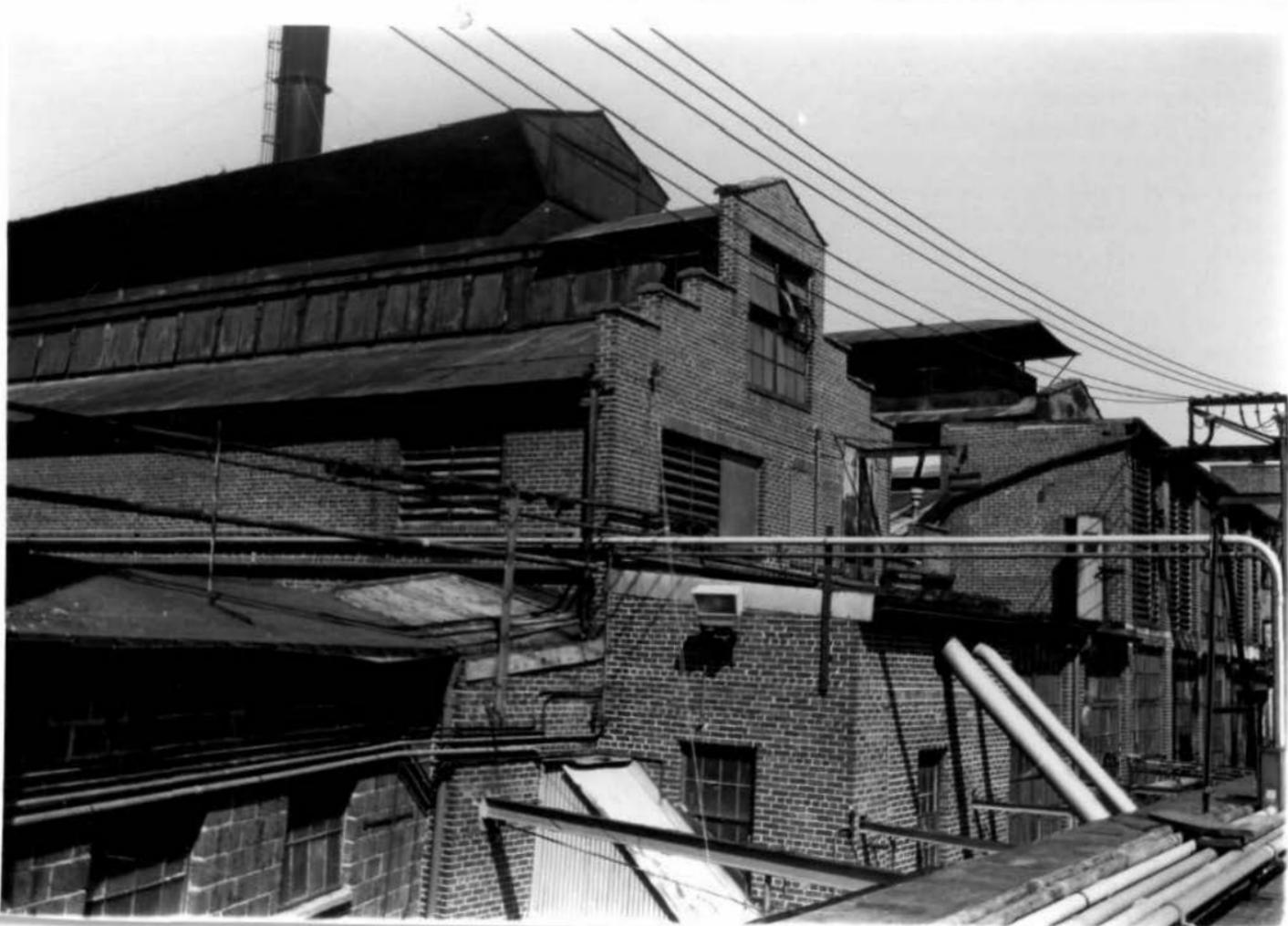


MO. GLASS CO. B-1033

BALTO. CITY MO.

DENNIS ZEMBALA 5/63

Working door, Furnace "B"



Maryland Glass Co. 8-1033

Baltimore city Md

Dennis Zembala 5/83

Looking northeast from mold shop roof



MO. GLASS CO. B-1033

BALTO. CITY MD. 5/03

DENNIS ZEMBALA

Sample bottles in mold shop



Maryland Glass Co. B-1033

Baltimore Md

Dennis Zembala 5/83

Mold room