

Cathell Brothers (B-1034)
Baltimore City, Md.

private, c. 1917

Statement of Significance

The two-story triangular brick building on Lawrence Street has been the home of the machine shop Cathell Brothers since about 1917. Members of the Cathell family, however, have worked as machinists in South Baltimore since the late nineteenth century. Because of their location, marine repair work has always been a shop specialty.

Survey No. B-1034

Magi No. 0410345714

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Cathell Brothers

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1421 Lawrence Street

___ not for publication

city, town Baltimore

___ vicinity of

congressional district

state Maryland

county

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

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

name Harry E. Klages

street & number 4920 La Salle Avenue

telephone no.: 485-1578

city, town Baltimore

state and zip code

Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

liber RHB 3110

street & number Fayette and Calvert Streets

folio 340

city, town Baltimore

state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date

___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Survey No. B-1034

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date of move _____

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

The Cathell Brothers complex is typical of the many small metalworking shops which serviced the waterfront industries from the mid-nineteenth century. It consists of a small office building and a simple shed for fabrication. The office is an unusual triangular shape so as to accommodate the piece of land wedged between the street and the railroad tracks. Two rooms upstairs accommodated a draftsman and the business records while the lower floor was used for storage. The shop is a gable roofed building with two shed additions on the north and south. A single trussed beam on columns supports the roof along the ridge pole. This may have been a prefabricated structure since it conforms to a type offered by a local firm at that time.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-1034

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 two-story triangular brick building on Lawrence Street has been the home of the machine shop Cathell Brothers and Co. since about 1917. The Cathell family, however, have worked as machinists in South Baltimore since the late nineteenth century. Because of their location, marine repair work has always been a shop specialty.

Cathell Brothers and Co. is a small, family-owned machine shop that has operated in South Baltimore since the turn of the century. In 1890, James. Robert and Charles Cathell were listed as "boilermakers" in the Baltimore City directory. John Fluskey, a machinist, joined the Cathells in 1902 to form Fluskey, Cathell and Co. By 1910 they were called Cathell Brothers. They advertised themselves as practical boilermakers, machinists, blacksmiths and pipe workers. Like other machine shops near the harbor, marine repair work was a specialty. The shop was located at 702-708 Covington Street until 1915, when it was moved to the 900 block. In 1917 the shop was moved again to its present location at Lawrence Street and Fort Avenue. Here the machinists, as "industrial metal fabricators", work with steel, aluminum, and stainless steel.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-1034

Baltimore City Directories
interviews with employees and owner (Harry Klages, nephew of Cathell Bros.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie Barr, Dennis Zembala

organization Baltimore Museum of Industry

date May 1983

street & number 1415 Key Highway

telephone 727-4808

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

1. SITE I.D. NO

B-1034

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

c. 1917

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN

Harry E Klages

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Cathell Brothers

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

4920 La Salle Ave

10. STATE

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG. DIST

3

STATE

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG. DIST

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO.)

1421 Lawrence St.

12. EXISTING SURVEYS

 NR NHL HABS HAER-I HAER NPS CLS 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 NAME

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

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

Manufacturing (machine shop)

PRESENT USE

Manufacturing (machine shops)

ADAPTIVE USE

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

Baltimore City directories

Interviews with employees & owner (Harry Klages, nephew of Cathell Bros.)

(CONT OVER)

20. URBAN AREA LOCATION
POP OR MORE? YES NO

21. NATURE OF USE

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

 YES LIMITED YES UNLIMITED NO UNKNOWN

23. EDITOR

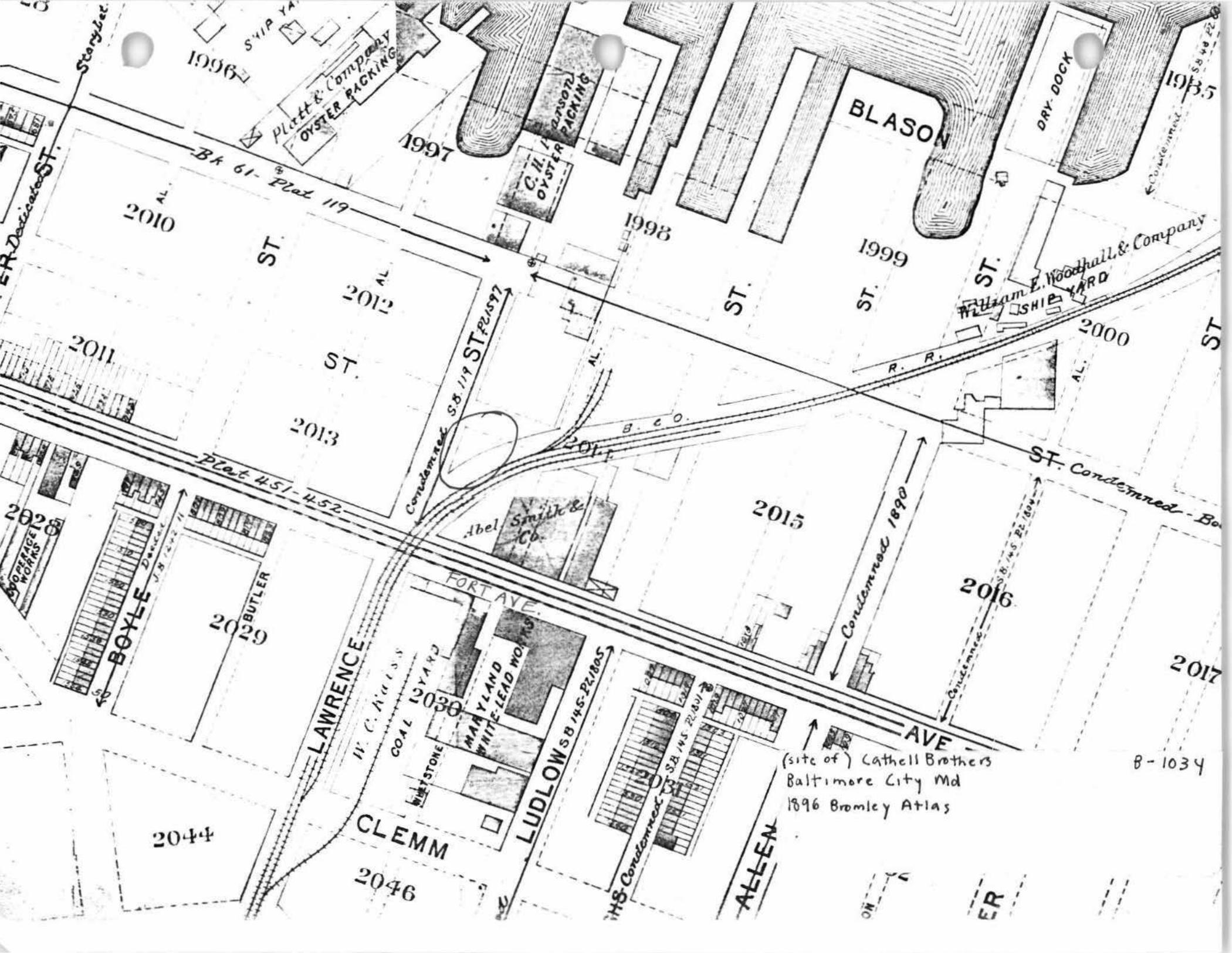
INDEXER

24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

 YES NO

NAME

DISTRICT I.D. NO



1996

PLATT & COMPANY
OYSTER PACKING

1997

C.H. OYSTER
PACKING

1998

BLASON

DRY DOCK

1935

2010

ST.

2012

ST.

2013

2011

1999

ST.

William E. Woodhall & Company
SHIP YARD

2000

Plat 451-452

Condemned S.B. 119 ST. PL. 197

Abel Smith & Co.

2015

Condemned 1890

2016

ST. Condemned - Bo

BOYER & WORKS

BOYLE

2019

BUTLER

LAWRENCE

FORT AVE

MARYLAND
WHITE-LEAD WORKS

LUDLOW S.B. 145-221805

Condemned S.B. 145-221805

ALLEN

AVE

(site of) Cathell Brothers
Baltimore City Md
1896 Bromley Atlas

B-1034

2044

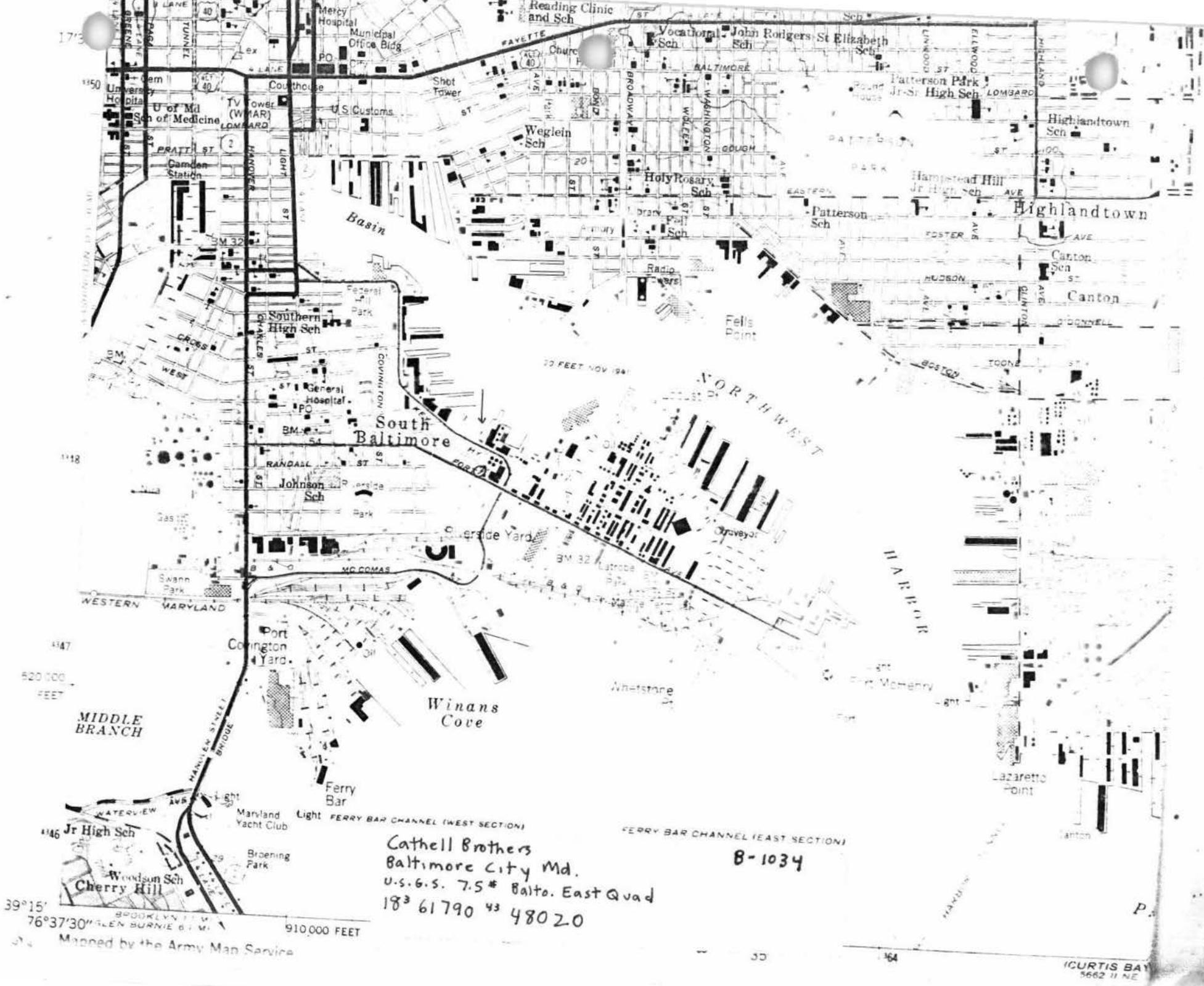
CLEMM

2046

2017

ON

ER



Cathell Brothers
 Baltimore City Md.
 U.S.G.S. 7.5" Balto. East Quad
 18° 61790 43 48020

B-1034

39° 15'
 76° 37' 30"
 Mapped by the Army Map Service

CURTIS BAY
 5662 II NE

CATHELL BROS. & CO.

SALES SERVICE INSTALLATION

CATHELL BROS. & CO.
INC.

INDUSTRIAL METAL FABRICATORS
ALUMINUM • STEEL • STAINLESS STEEL

GENERAL
APPARATUS SER



CATHELL BROTHERS B-1034

BALTIMORE CITY MD

PETER LIEBHOLD 5/83

Looking South/East

CATHLETT BROS. & CO

INDUSTRIAL
METAL
FABRICATORS
• STEEL •
ALUMINUM • STAINLESS STEEL

NO
PARKING
ANY
TIME



Cathell Brothers
Baltimore City Md
Peter Liebhold 5/83
Locking North/East

B-1034



BALTIMORE CITY MD

PETER LIEBHOLD 5/83

Erecting Shed, looking South/East