

#B1043

Broom Machinery Company
Baltimore
Private

20th century

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Baltimore Broom Machinery Company, located at 2800 Sisson Street, has been manufacturing the machinery that makes brooms since 1896. Today, they are the only company in the U.S. to make such machinery, supplying it to six continents. The company's present building, built in the early 20th century by the Baltimore City public works department, is unusual and anachronistic. Its reinforced concrete construction is hidden by a brick facade, which gives it the appearance of a much earlier structure.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI #0410433614

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Broom Machinery Company

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2800 Sisson Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

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 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

Edmund McCaffray, Jr.

Telephone #: 235-7519

STREET & NUMBER

Broom Machinery - 2800 Sisson

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland

STATE, zip code

21211

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore City Courthouse

Liber #: WA 3903

Folio #: 382

STREET & NUMBER

Fayette and Calvert Streets

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore, Maryland 21202

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

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

The Broom Machinery Company building on Sisson Street was built as a shop and utility structure for the city's bureau of public works. Its reinforced concrete construction is hidden by a brick veneer which gives it the appearance of a much earlier style. It is eight bays long, with each bay set off by pilasters and corbelling which disguise the concrete structural elements. The roof is a flat concrete slab with a raised monitor which runs along the midline. Since it lies on the side of the valley of the Jones Falls, two stories are below the grade level of 28th Street. The south facade is a flat curtain wall two stories high with three randomly placed windows and a central door, all of which are now bricked up. On the north side the top floor is at grade.

The interior of the first floor is divided into storage and modern office space. The top floor is basically one long open room, with long rows of concrete pillars and a concrete floor. This level, the central manufacturing area, is filled with large machine tools of every description. This space is well lit by the large windows and the long windowed monitor which runs the length of the building, which also has an exposed concrete truss system.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

<p>PERIOD</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 <input type="checkbox"/> ART</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS</p>	<p>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LAW</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> THEATER</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)</p>
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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Baltimore Broom Machine Company, located at 2800 Sisson Street, has been manufacturing the machinery that makes brooms since 1896. Today, they are the only company in the U.S. to make such machinery, supplying it to six continents. The building, built by the Baltimore City public works, is unusual and anachronistic. Its 20th century reinforced concrete construction is hidden by a brick facade, which gives it the appearance of a much earlier building.

Historical Significance:

The company began on Holliday Street under the name of Herbert and Cassard. After about ten years, the McCaffray family assumed control of the company. Edmund McCaffray, Sr., was president. They designed a new automatic machine to sew brooms, which soon replaced all other models on the market. With this success they began to export their machines abroad, starting with European markets. The first broom machine slated to go to Europe fell off of a loading sling and into the Baltimore Harbor, but soon luck (and loading methods) improved and the "Baltimore Stitcher" was in operation all over the world.

Baltimore Broom Machine moved to 2800 Sisson Street in 1955. The building was believed to have once been a city incinerator. Shortly after moving in, the city decided to extend 28th Street and built it right through part of the building.

A machine manufacturer for the world, Baltimore Broom Machine is always inventing new equipment. Their products include broomstraw sorting bins, fiber trimmers, seeders, dye vats, straw bunchers, broom winders, hand sewing rises, final trimmers, and power stitchers. Edmund McCaffray, who took over the company from his father in 1956, is proud of the fact that broom-making is the first "real" industry in many developing communities. A complete machinery package, plus all supplies for five hundred brooms, costs less than \$5000. Baltimore Broom machines are operating in such far flung places as Israel, New Zealand, New Guinea, and Shanghai.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Phone conversation with Mr. McCaffray, President, Broom Machinery Co.
Articles and pamphlets provided by Mr. McCaffray

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

Kathleen Stacey

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE

January 1981

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

1. SITE I.D. NO

B 1 0 4 3

NAER INVENTORY

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

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

Manufacturing

3. PRIORITY

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

5. DATE

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN

Edmund McCaffray, Jr.

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

BROOM MACHINERY COMPANY

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

2800 Sisson Street

10. STATE

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG.

DIST.

STATE

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG.

DIST.

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

2800 Sisson Street

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 OTHER

QUAD

NAME

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

 1:24 1:62.5 OTHER

QUAD

NAME

Baltimore East

15. CONDITION

70 EXCELLENT71 GOOD72 FAIR73 DETERIORATED74 RUINS75 UNEXPOSED76 ALTERED77 DESTROYED85 DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

Kathleen Stacey

AFFILIATION

Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE

January 1981

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

See Statement of Significance

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE

City incinerator

PRESENT USE

Broom making machinery factory

ADAPTIVE USE

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

Phone conversation with Mr. McCaffray, President, Broom Machinery Co.
Articles and pamphlets provided by Mr. McCaffray

(CONT OVER)

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

21.

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

 YES, LIMITED YES, UNLIMITED NO UNKNOWN

23. EDITOR

INDEXER

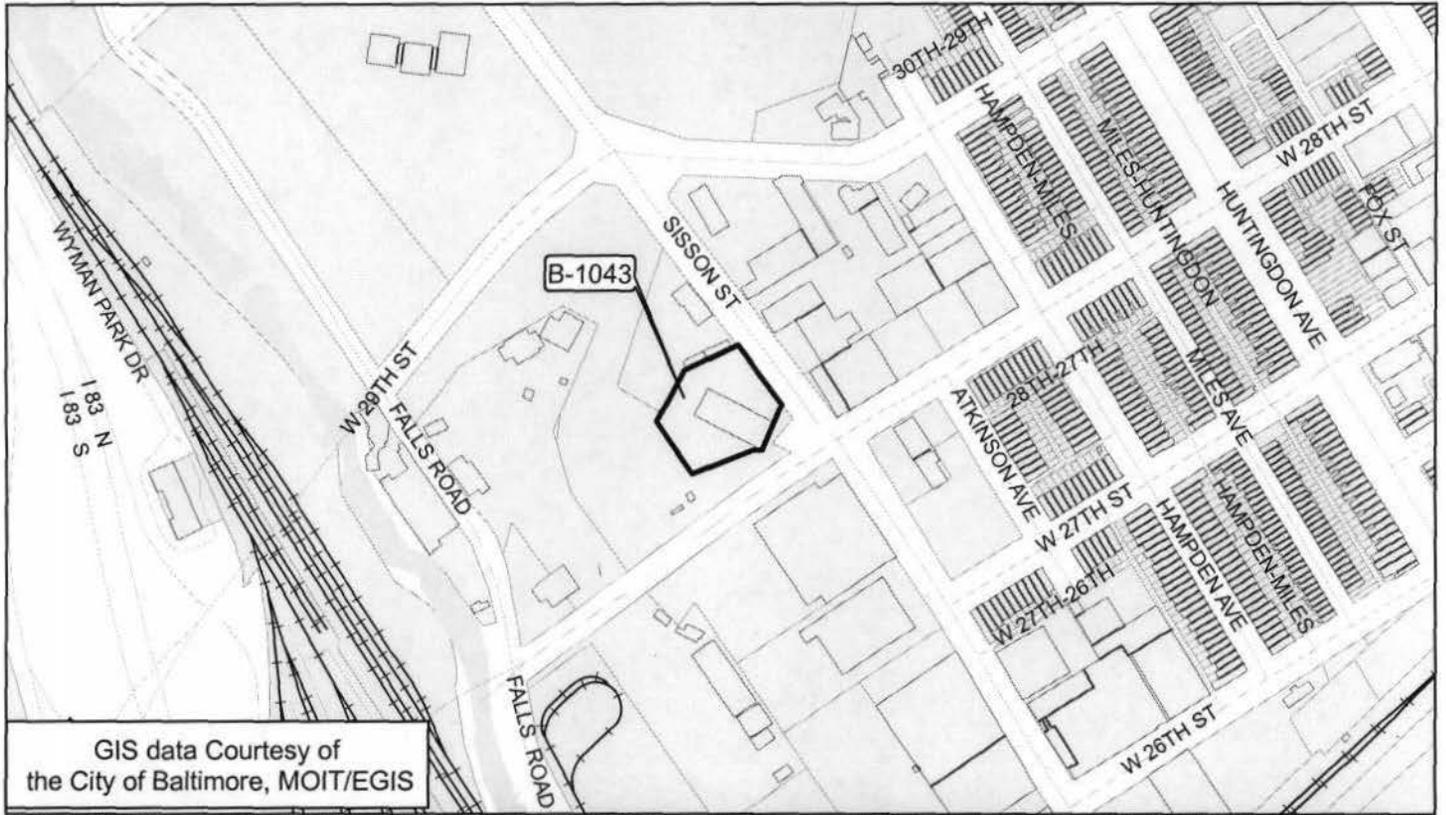
24. LOCATED IN AN HIS DISTRICT?

 YES NO

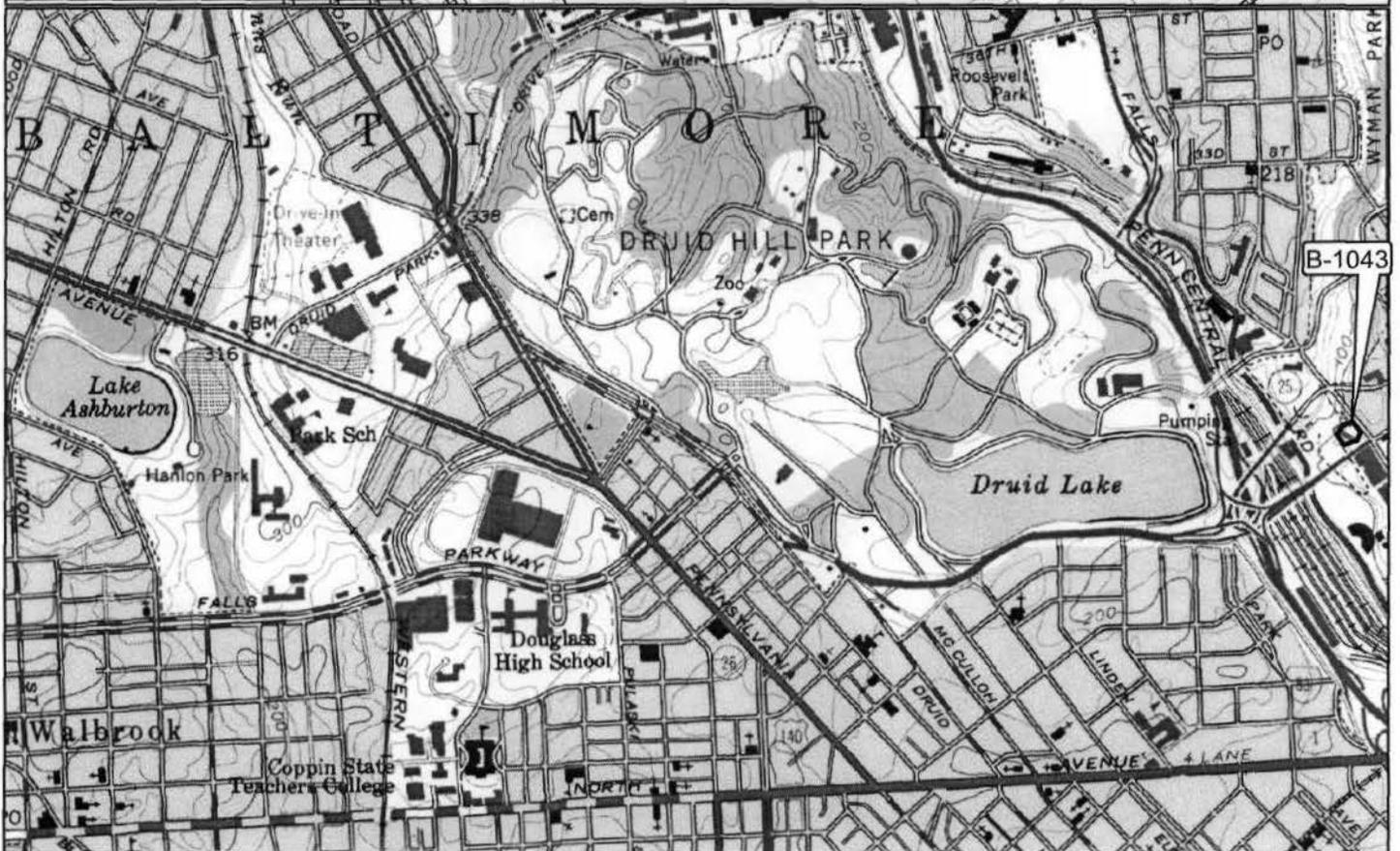
NAME

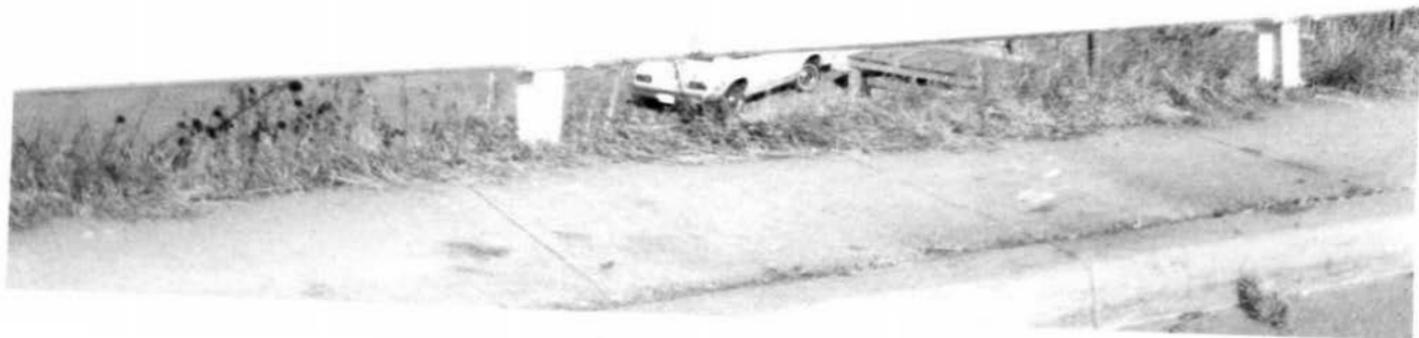
DISTRICT I.D. NO

B-1043
Broom Machinery Company
2800 Sisson Street
Block 3642D Block 006A
Baltimore City
Baltimore West Quad.



GIS data Courtesy of
the City of Baltimore, MOIT/EGIS





B1043

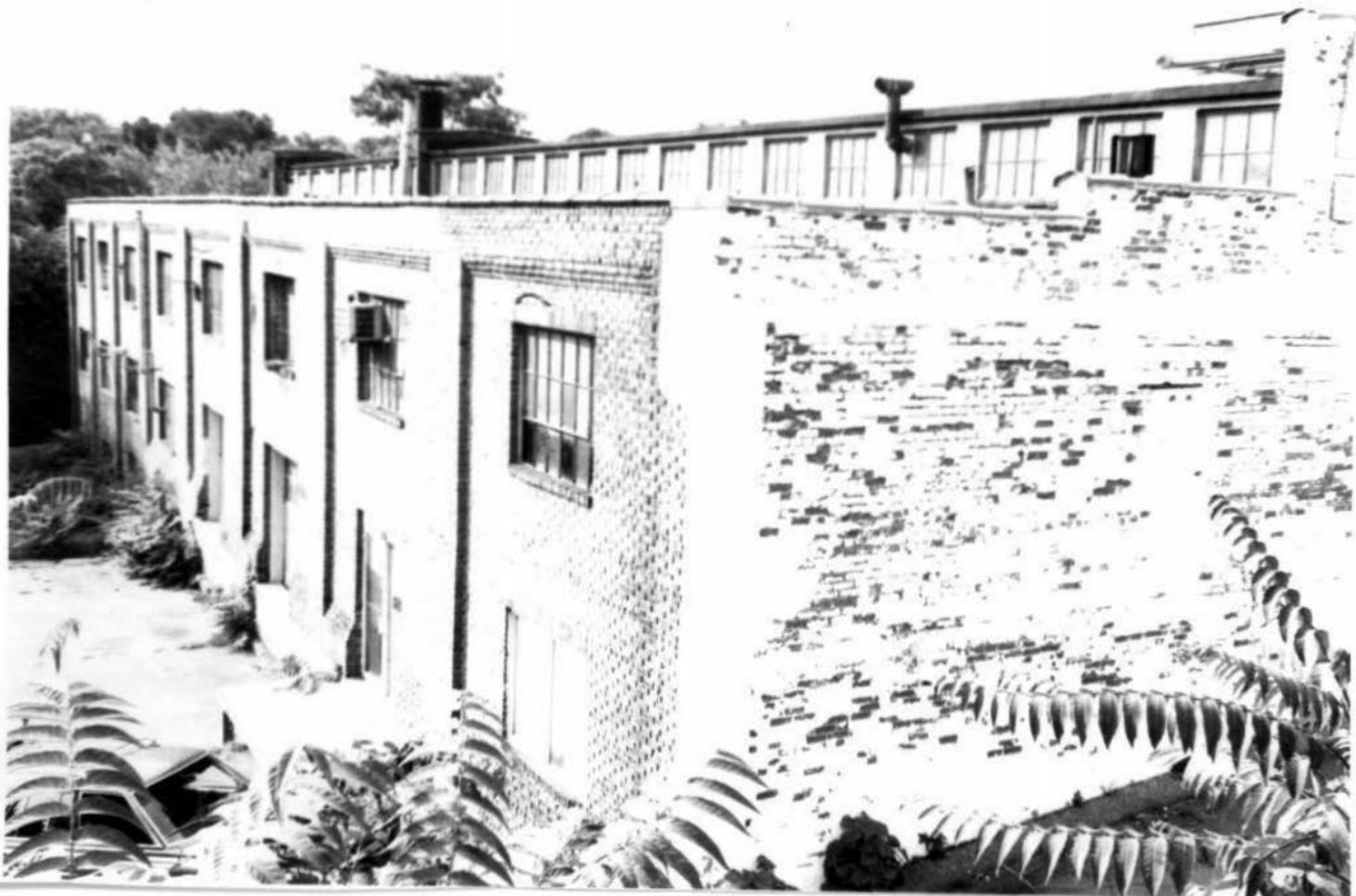
Broom Machinery Co.

Baltimore City, MD

Neg.loc.: MD Historic T.

Ann Steele 1/81

Looking NE from 28th St.



B-1043

Broom Machinery Company

Baltimore, MD

Peter Liebhold 8/81

Looking N/E from 28th St.

Nea ... MD ...



B-1043

Broom Machinery Company
Baltimore City, MD
Peter Liebhold 8/81
Detail, north facade--stack
opening

Neg. loc: MD 11 101-1 Trust