

Furst Brothers  
Baltimore City, Maryland  
B-1061  
private, 1880's

Statement of Significance

Access to Southern timber and excellent transportation facilities allowed Baltimore to develop an important lumber trade. In the last decades of the nineteenth century, as a result of increasing industrialization, Baltimore became a center of furniture and other wood products manufacture. The Furst Brothers company, founded in 1890 to produce wooden picture frames and mouldings, is an example of this successful development. The complex of brick buildings which are this firm's headquarters has housed a variety of woodworking enterprises since the 1880's.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Furst Brothers  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 1203/19 Leadenhall 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Furst Brothers Telephone #: 752-0325  
 STREET & NUMBER 1203/19 Leadenhall Street Maryland 21230  
 CITY, TOWN Baltimore STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore City Courthouse Liber #: MLP 5802-405  
 STREET & NUMBER Fayette and Calvert Streets Folio #: RHB 3036-555  
 CITY, TOWN Baltimore, Maryland STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE none

DATE  
 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
 CITY, TOWN STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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

The Furst Brothers frame company occupies a series of buildings which have been the site of wood processing industries since the late nineteenth century. Most have been drastically altered and modernized but several early features remain which are of interest.

The two-story brick structure at the corner of Ostend and leadenhall Streets was a typical late nineteenth century factory with heavy timber floor systems. The western end of this structure has been reduced to two stories but the heavy posts and beams still remain on the second floor, though supporting only the roof. The remainder of the building is now one high story with a modern steel roof. All windows in this section have been bricked up.

Adjacent to this on the east is a short trapezoidal building which forms the angle between it and the building along Creek Alley. Because of its odd shape, the roof of this high one-story building has an unusual configuration sloping to the center where it is supported by a beam on the cast iron fluted columns.

The structure whose axis is parallel to Creek Alley has been lowered one story and its west wall has been replaced with concrete block. Its sole importance is in the massive trussed beams which once supported a second floor but now support only the roof. These beams are composed of a twelve inch square timber with wrought iron tie rods running into a morticed groove and pinned at each end. The rod runs over two cast iron posts and is secured at the center by a large turnbuckle. The beams are supported on timber posts along each wall, providing a clear space of about twenty feet in height for the manufacture of large wooden tanks by a former occupant.

Two parallel shed buildings form the northern boundary of the complex. Both are typical of post-bellum manufacturing spaces. Each is of brick masonry construction with a line of timber posts and beams running longitudinally down the center to support the roof joists. A large frame timber storage shed which occupied the courtyard of this complex has been demolished.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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 checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Access to Southern timber and excellent transportation facilities allowed Baltimore to develop an important lumber trade. In the last decades of the nineteenth century, as a result of increasing industrialization, Baltimore became a center of furniture and other wood products manufacture. The Furst Brothers Company, founded in 1890 to produce wooden picture frames and mouldings, is an example of this successful development. The complex of brick buildings which are this firm's headquarters has housed a variety of woodworking enterprises since the 1880's.

The first recorded occupant of this site was the Baltimore Cooperage Company, a barrel-making operation which, in 1900, began specializing in large wooden tanks and towers. In 1926, the company operated the South's largest plant of its kind, producing a varied line of troughs, silos and boxes. In the 1930's, the two southernmost (only one remains today) and the eastern buildings of the complex were occupied by the Baltimore Tank and Tower Company, possibly a successor to Baltimore Cooperage. The three northern buildings and a wooden shed (now gone) were used as a warehouse the Furst Brothers Company, whose main plant was then located in a large, four-story building immediately to the east of the site (now owned by the Durapak Company). Furst Brothers also used a building across Ostend Street.

The Furst Brothers Company had been founded in 1890 to produce primarily wooden picture frames and mouldings. Located at 213 West Camden Street, it was considered at the time to be one of the largest plants of its kind. Their motto was "Furst line - second to none". In 1910, Furst Brothers moved their factory to Ostend and Leadenhall Streets. They maintained their own freight yards, and had a sales department at 38 Hopkins Place.

Sometime around 1925 the company was taken over by Max Nusbaum, who retained the Furst Brothers name. The business declined as a result of the Depression, and in 1931, the

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

vertical file, Enoch Pratt Public Library Maryland Room  
interview with company employees

Power Pictorial, v.6 (Nov. 1925), p.21

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, Rick Riehl, Dennis Zembala

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore Museum of Industry

DATE

August 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  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

Furst Brothers  
Baltimore City, Maryland  
B-1061

8.1

company's bookkeeper, William Hall, bought it out. The company prospered again in the late 1930's. Under William Hall's daughter's ownership, the company mainly produced frame mouldings. In 1973, when the company was transferred to her sons, it began to produce finished picture frames.

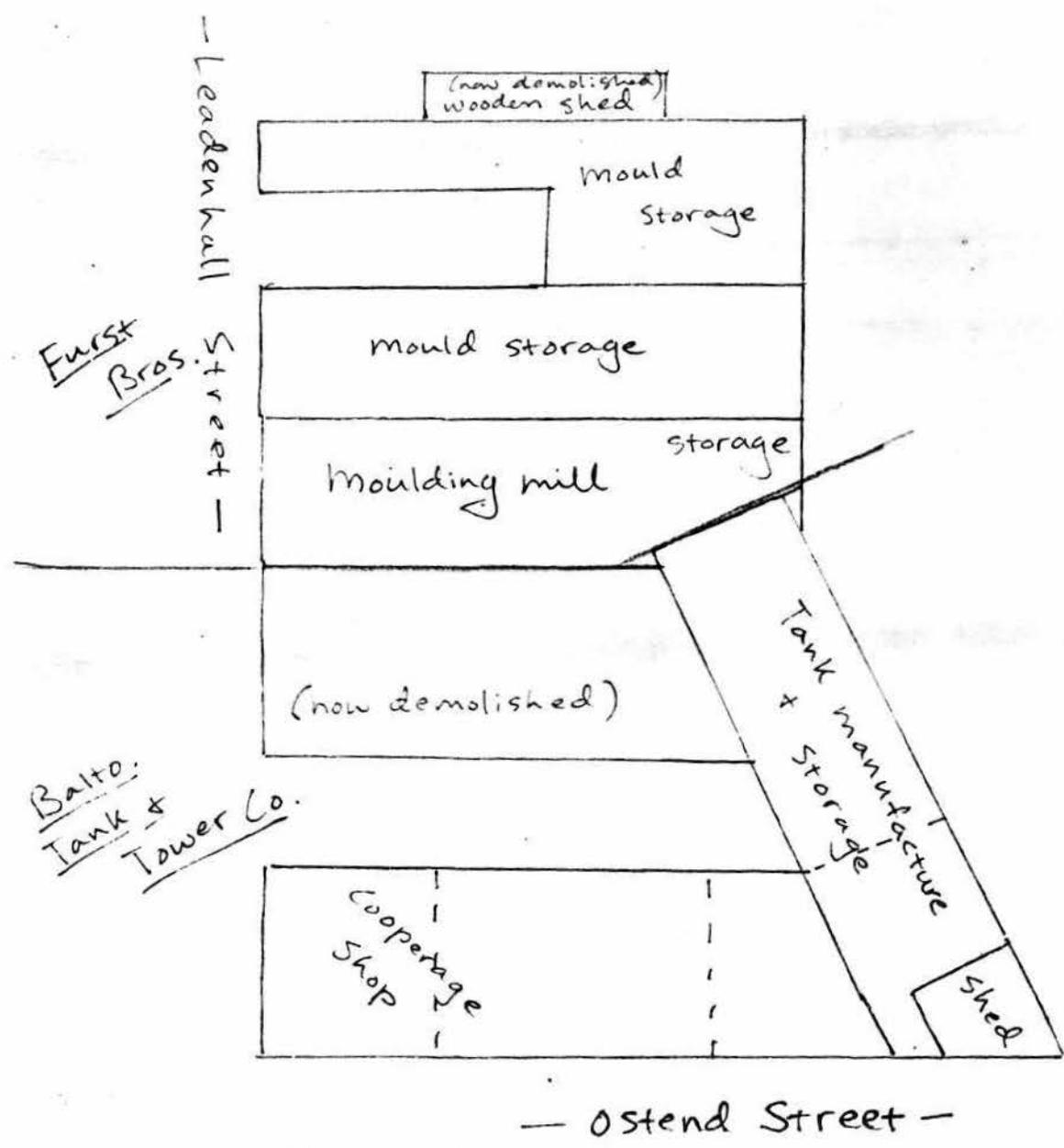
The Furst Brothers complex is one of the most active wood-working enterprises remaining in South West Baltimore, which has been a bustling center of box, furniture and other wood product manufacture since the Civil War.

# HAER INVENTORY

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

1. SITE I.D. NO <b>B-1061</b>		3. PRIORITY		4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT) <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	
2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION <b>manufacture</b>		5. DATE <b>c. 1910</b>		6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT OWNER: [ ] ADMIN: [ ]	
8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE <b>Furst Brothers</b>		9. OWNER'S ADDRESS <b>1203/19 Leadenhall Street</b>			
10. STATE COUNTY: <b>M D</b> COUNTY NAME: CITY/VICINITY: <b>Baltimore</b> CONG. DIST: [ ]		10. STATE COUNTY: <b>M D</b> COUNTY NAME: CITY/VICINITY: <b>Baltimore</b> CONG. DIST: [ ]			
11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO): <b>1203/19 Leadenhall St</b> <del>1203/19 Leadenhall St</del>		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"/> CL5 <input type="checkbox"/> CONF <input type="checkbox"/> STATE <input type="checkbox"/> COUNTY <input type="checkbox"/> LOCAL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER			
14. UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING SIGN SCALE: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1:24 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:62.5		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 type="checkbox"/> 1:24 <input type="checkbox"/> 1:62.5		QUAD NAME: <b>Baltimore East</b>			
15. CONDITION: 70 <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT 71 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD 72 <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR 73 <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED 74 <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS 75 <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED 76 <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED 82 <input type="checkbox"/> DESTROYED 85 <input type="checkbox"/> DEMOLISHED					
16. INVENTORIED BY: <b>Ann Steele</b>		AFFILIATION: <b>Balto. Museum of Industry</b>		DATE: <b>August 1983</b>	
17. DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND HISTORY (INCLUDING CONSTRUCTION DATE(S), HISTORICAL DATE(S), PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS, MATERIALS, EXTANT EQUIPMENT AND IMPORTANT BUILDERS, ENGINEERS, ETC.)  <b>see attached</b>					
(CONT OVER)					
18. ORIGINAL USE: <b>manufacture</b>		PRESENT USE: <b>manufacture</b>		ADAPTIVE USE:	
19. REFERENCES—HISTORICAL REFERENCES, PERSONAL CONTACTS, AND/OR OTHER <b>interview w/ employees</b> <b>History of the Jews in Baltimore Blum 1910</b>					
(CONT OVER)					
20. URBAN AREA 50,000 POP. OR MORE? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		21. NPS REGION: [ ]		22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, LIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNLIMITED <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN	
24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		NAME:		DISTRICT I.D. NO: [ ]	

Furst Bros. #B-1061  
Baltimore City, MD  
Site plan, c. 1930



Site plan, c. 1930

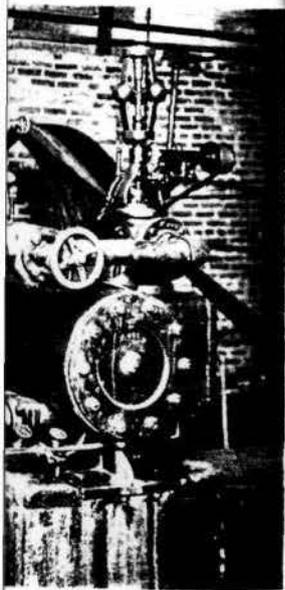
### The Baltimore Cooperage Company

Twenty-five years ago, The Baltimore Cooperage Company started specializing in the manufacture of tanks and towers, and today they have the largest plant of its kind in the South, at Ostend and Leadenhall Streets.

The plant is equipped to manufacture wooden tanks of a capacity from 50 gallons to 250,000 gallons. They manufacture stock tanks, round tanks, half-round tanks, rectangular tanks, windmill tanks, drier tanks, wash tanks, spraying tanks, bakers' dough troughs, canners' pasteurizing tanks, bottlers' and dairymen's pasteurizing tanks, portable wooden troughs, wood steam cylinders and wood stave pipes, frost-proof boxes, hardwood kegs, silos, cider and fruit press tanks, steel-pressure tanks, steel towers, steel bell towers, steel storage tanks, square-end steel stock tanks, round stock tanks, steel round-end



Md.



RMS DAIRY.

[ 20 ]



BALTIMORE COOPERAGE COMPANY, Ostend and Leadenhall Streets.

[ 21 ]

Furst Bros. #B-1061  
 (Power Pictorial, v. 6  
 (1921), p. 21)

1798

# OF BALTIMORE

ST. PAUL STREETS

\$1,650,000



...DIRECTORS...

- JAMES L. McLANE
- JOSHUA LEVERING
- WILTON SNOWDEN
- DECATUR H. MILLER, Jr.
- C. MORTON STEWART, Jr.
- JOHN K. SHAW, Jr.
- HENRY C. JAMES



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Sold  
ON  
Merit

FURST BROS. & CO.  
BALTIMORE, MD.

FRID

Max Herzog,  
Col. Jerome H. Joy  
R. E. Lee,  
The parade will  
toon of mounted po

King  
Hi  
Troop A, Cava  
FIRST I

R. J. W.  
SECON  
F  
Paul Quinn,

RIDING CLU

H. D. Vansant, Fra

FOURTH DI

Henry Pollack, Ge

FIFT  
W  
SIXTH  
H

Christian Hax, T

EIGHTH DIV

Robert Wiesenfel

NINT  
M  
Captain Albert S  
Each division  
of music.

Furst Bros. #B-1061

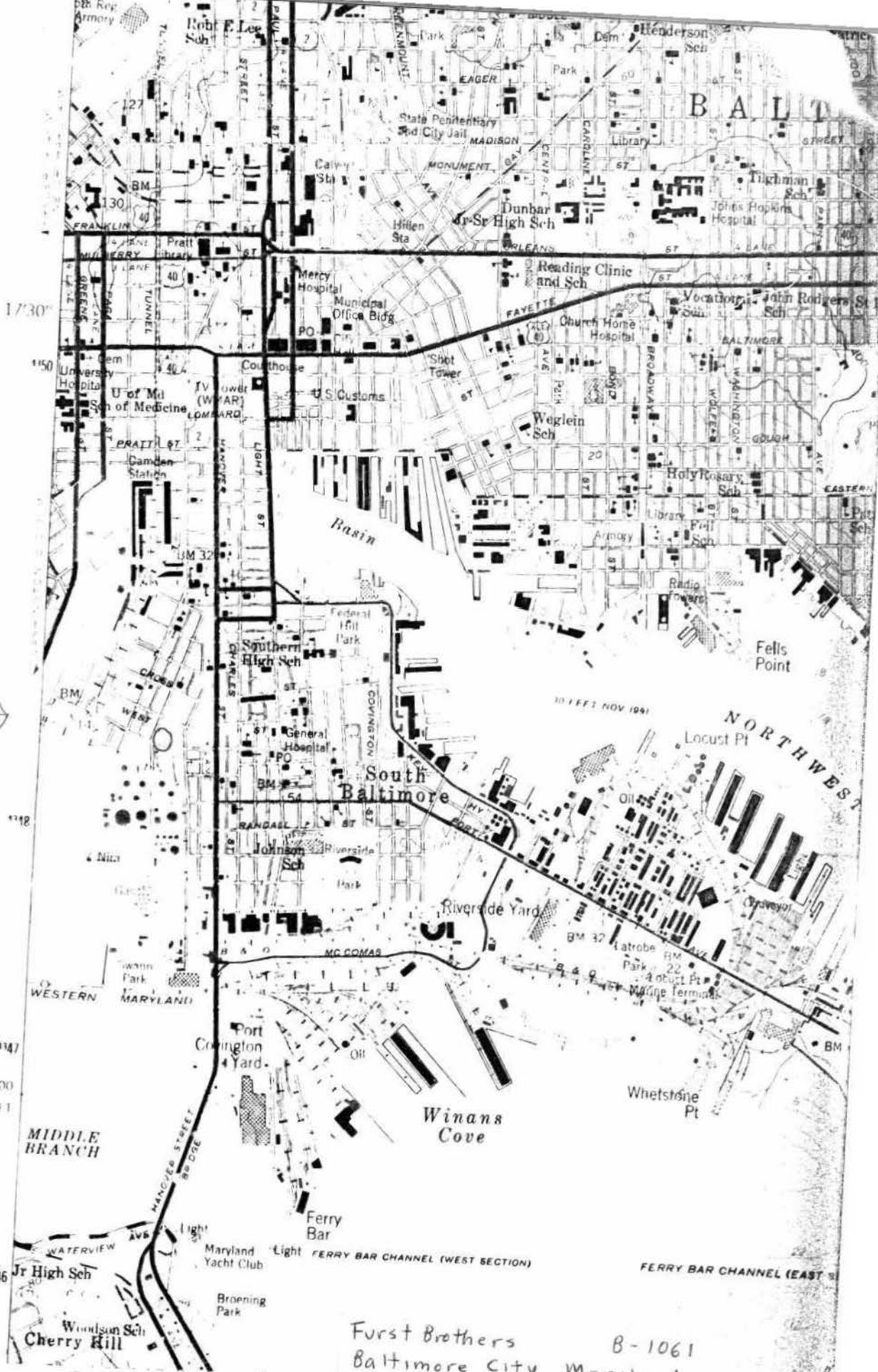


8000 SOUTH.

9000 SOUTH.

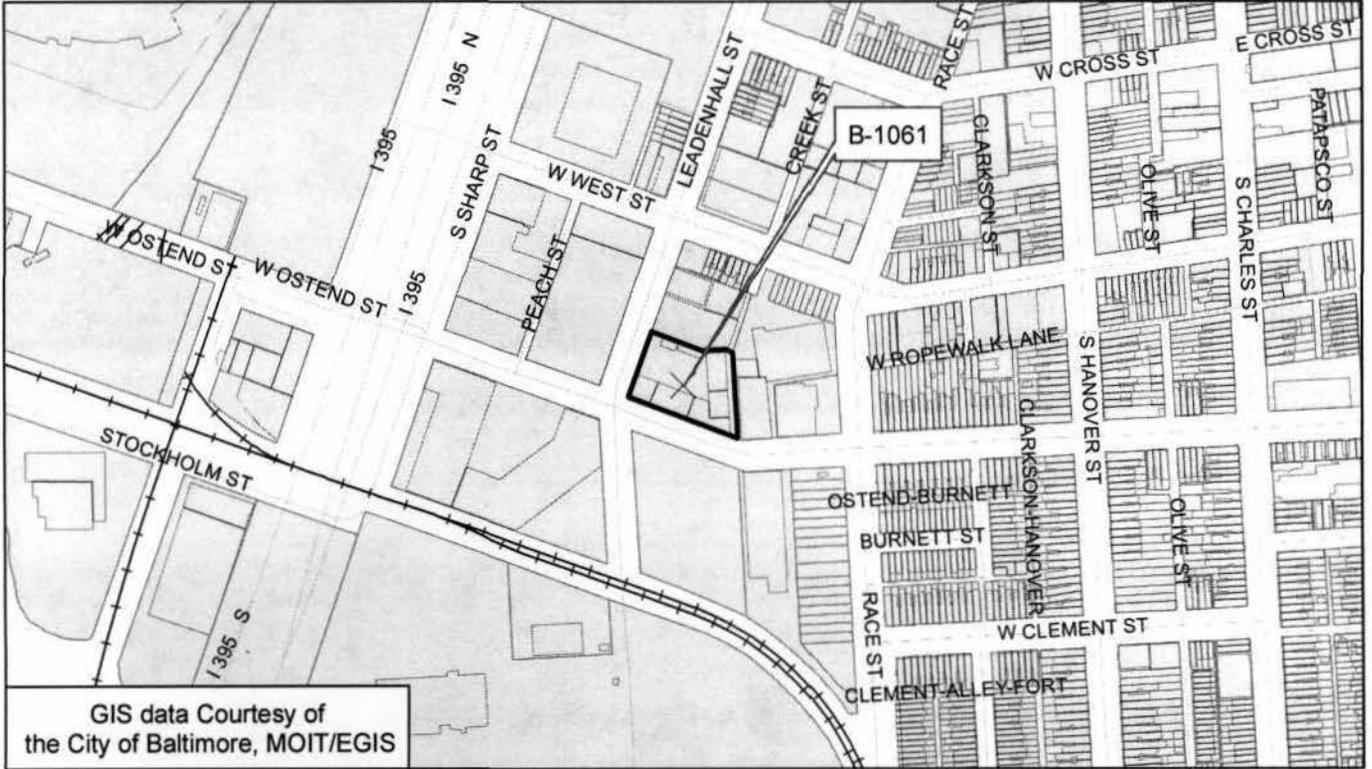
*Furst*

FURST BROTHERS  
 B-1016 B-1061  
 Baltimore City, Md  
 1914 Bromley Atlas



Mapped by the Army Map Service  
 Edited and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and City of Baltimore  
 Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetry

B-1061  
Furst Brothers  
1203-1219 Leadenhall Street  
Block 0962 Lot 030  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.



FURST BROS. Co. INC.  
AND  
TOWNHOUSE frames INC.

Picture Frames Wholesale  
WHOLESALE-RETAIL

FURST Bros.  
Co. INC.  
AND  
Townhouse  
FRAMES  
INC.

FACTORY  
OUTLET

OFFICE ... ENTRANCE

LEADENHALL ST.



①

First Brothers B-1061

Baltimore City Md

Peter Liebhold 4/83

east corner

from the north

FURST Bros.  
Co. INC.  
AND  
Townhouse  
FRAMES  
INC.

OFFICE \*\*\* ENTRANCE LEADENHALL ST.

FACTORY  
OUTLET

FURST Bros. Co. - TOWNHOUSE  
FACTORY FRAMES AND WALLS





Furst Brothers · B-1061

Baltimore City Md

Peter Liebhold 4/83

west corner

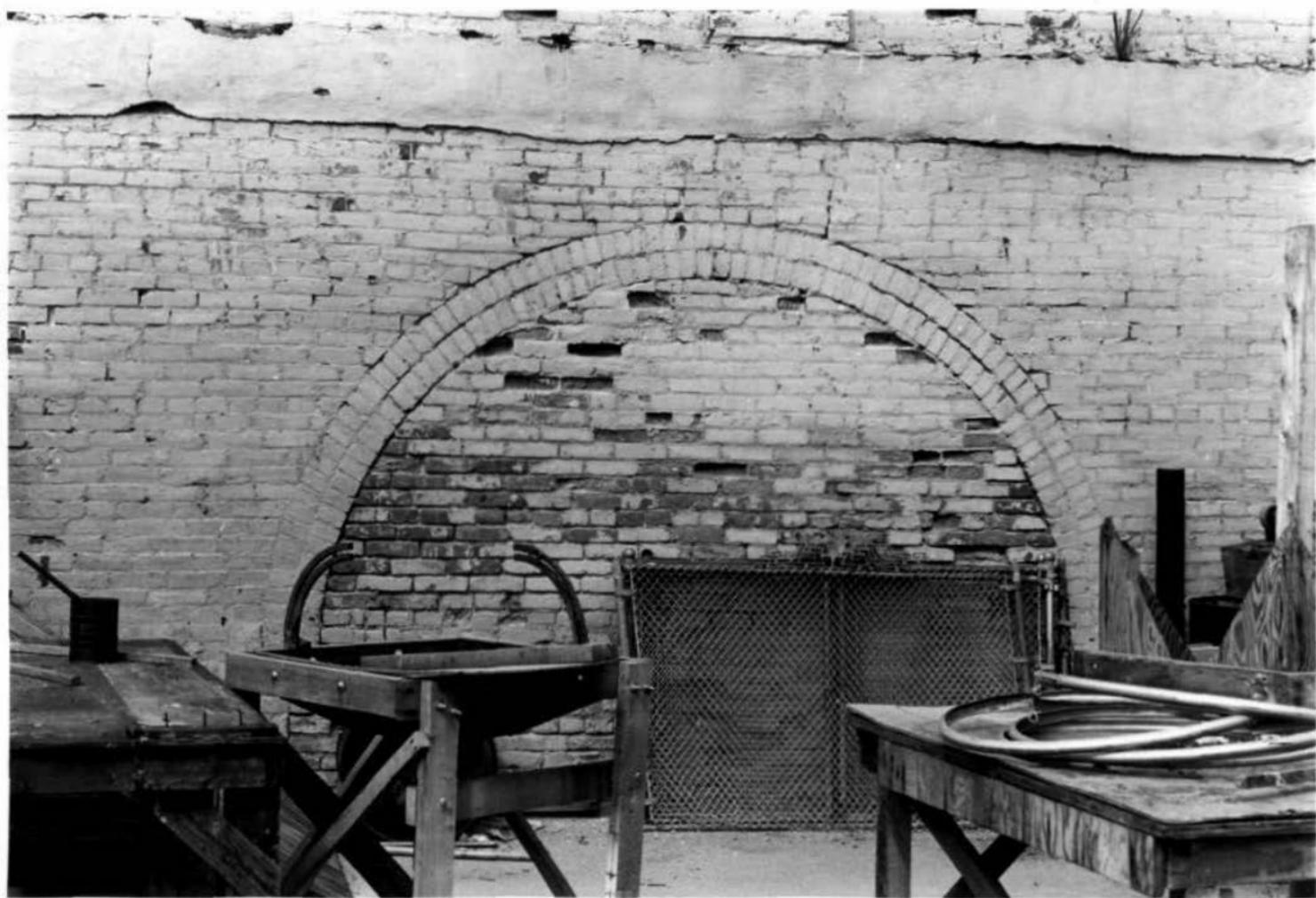
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Furst Brothers B-1061  
Baltimore City Md  
Peter Liebhold 4/83

facade detail  
(ostend st.)



6

Furst Brothers B-1061  
Baltimore City Md  
Peter Liebhold 4/83

wall detail, looking North



5

Furst Brothers 8-1061

Baltimore City Md

Peter Liebhold 4/83

looking east



④ Furst Brothers B-1061  
Baltimore City Md  
Peter Liebhold 4/83

looking north