

B-1065

Durapak Company

Statement of Significance

Constructed between 1896 and 1911, the classic four story industrial building at 150 W. Ostend Street has housed a number of operations, including the Furst Brothers Frame Company and the Gatch Wire Company. Since 1956 it has been the site of the Durapak Company, which specializes in the manufacture of polyethylene bags for food processors and distributors. As a manufacturer of the latest in food packaging, the Durapak Company takes its place in a long line of Baltimore container industries, including tin cans, paper boxes, and metal tins.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MAGI #0410655614

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Furst Brothers Frame Company

AND/OR COMMON

Durapak Company

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

150 W. Ostend Street

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Vac Pac Manufacturing Company

Telephone #: 301-685-5181

STREET &amp; NUMBER

150 W. Ostend Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code  
Maryland**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore City CourthouseLiber #: RHB 2878  
Folio #: 816

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Clavert &amp; Fayette Sts.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE  
Maryland**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

B-1065

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 building is four stories and is of brick construction. The south (Ostend Street) facade is painted light gray-green. It is six bays wide with 9/9 windows, arched header lintels, stone tills, and shutter fixtures. A castellated brick cornice runs atop the facade. The first floor level is covered with red-orange ceramic tiles. There is a door in the first bay, a garage door in the third and fourth bays, and a door in the fifth bay.

The first floor interior walls are brick and the floor is concrete. Wood columns 12 inches by 12 inches and wood beams 12 inches by 14 inches support the ceiling.

The second and third floor interiors have brick walls and diagonal wood flooring. A Conveyor chute connects all four floors. In the late 1950's some windows were cinderblocked, and several partitions were erected by Durapak; this is true of all floors.

The fourth floor interior has plywood floors, 4 inch by 6 inch wood columns, and 6 inch by 10 inch wood beams supporting a sloping ceiling. New (1979) partitions surround a tile-floored room for the manufacture of plastic food nets.

A circa 1967 warehouse on the N.E. corner of the building is the only addition. It has steel girders. There is no basement.

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 1900 to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Constructed between 1896 and 1911, the classic four story industrial building at 150 W. Ostend Street has housed a number of operations, including the Furst Brothers Frame Company and the Gatch Wire Company. Since 1956 it has been the site of the Durapak Company, which specializes in the manufacture of polyethylene bags for food processors and distributors. As a manufacturer of the latest in food packaging, the Durapak Company takes its place in a long line of Baltimore container industries, including makers of tin cans, paper boxes, and metal tins.

Historical Significance:

The building was constructed between 1896 and 1911 on the site of the Spring Garden Tannery. From about 1911 to the early 1950's it housed the Furst Brothers Frame Company and in the mid-1950's the Gatch Wire Company. In 1956 the Durapak Company moved into the building from 1003 Madison Avenue. Durapak was founded around 1950 and made polyethylene bags for A&P, Wilson & Company, and other food processors and distributors, as well as Stieff Silver and other customers.

An important Durapak invention was the polyethylene bag for carrots. Carrots were retailed loose with their green tops until a freeze in the 1950's blackened the carrot tops in a major carrot-producing area, the Rio Grande Valley in Texas, thus prompting polyethylene packaging of the still unharmed carrots by A&P. In 1980, Durapak manufactured polyethylene bags for several major food chains one one floor of the building, while its subsidiary, Vac Pac Manufacturing Company, made mylar bags for meats and other foods on another floor. Printing, warehousing, and other ancillary activities were carried out on the remaining two floors.

The Durapak Company is in one sense a direct descendant of the thriving paper container industry which was centered in Baltimore at the end of the last century, as well as the active tin can and the packing industries which also thrived in the City before World War II.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

George Howard, The Monumental City, p. 176.  
Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore,  
Baltimore, Trade Queen of the South, 1902  
Baltimore Magazine, Dec. 1933  
Query & Vertical Files, Enoch Pratt Central Library

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

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Roger White

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE

11/21/80

STREET & NUMBER

217 N. Charles Street

TELEPHONE

301-396-1931

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21201

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

# NAER INVENTORY

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

1. SITE I.D. NO

B 1 0 6 5

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

3. PRIORITY

4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?  
(SPECIFY THREAT)

YES  NO  UNKNOWN

5. DATE

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN

Vac Pac Manufacturing Company

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Furst Bros. Frame Company/Durapak Company

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

150 W. Ostend Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

10. STATE COUNTY M D COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY  
Baltimore

CONG. DIST. 3

STATE COUNTY M D COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY  
Baltimore

CONG. DIST. 3

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

150 W. Ostend Street

12. EXISTING SURVEYS

NR  NHL  HABS  HAER-I  HAER  NPS  CL6  
 CONF  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  OTHER

13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW)

INTERIOR INTACT  EXTERIOR INTACT  ENVIRONS INTACT

14. UTM ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	SIGN
UTM ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	SIGN

SCALE  1:24  1:62.5

QUAD NAME

SCALE  1:24  1:62.5

QUAD NAME

15. CONDITION 70  EXCELLENT 71  GOOD 72  FAIR 73  DETERIORATED 74  RUINS 75  UNEXPOSED 76  ALTERED 77  DESTROYED 85  DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

Roger White

AFFILIATION

Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE

November 21, 1980

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

Constructed between 1896 and 1911, the classic four story industrial building at 150 W. Ostend Street has housed a number of operations, including the Furst Bros. Frame Company and Gatch Wire Company. Since 1956 it has been the site of the Durapak Company, which specializes in the manufacture of polyethylene bags for food processors and distributors.

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE

Industrial (Frame Factory)

PRESENT USE

Industrial (Polyethylene packaging factory)

ADAPTIVE USE

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

G. Howard, The Monumental City, p. 196  
T. Scharf, History of Baltimore  
Baltimore, Trade Queen of the South

Baltimore Magazine, Dec. 1933  
Query & vertical files, Enoch Pratt Central Library, Baltimore

(CONT OVER)

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

21.

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

YES, LIMITED  YES, UNLIMITED  
 NO  UNKNOWN

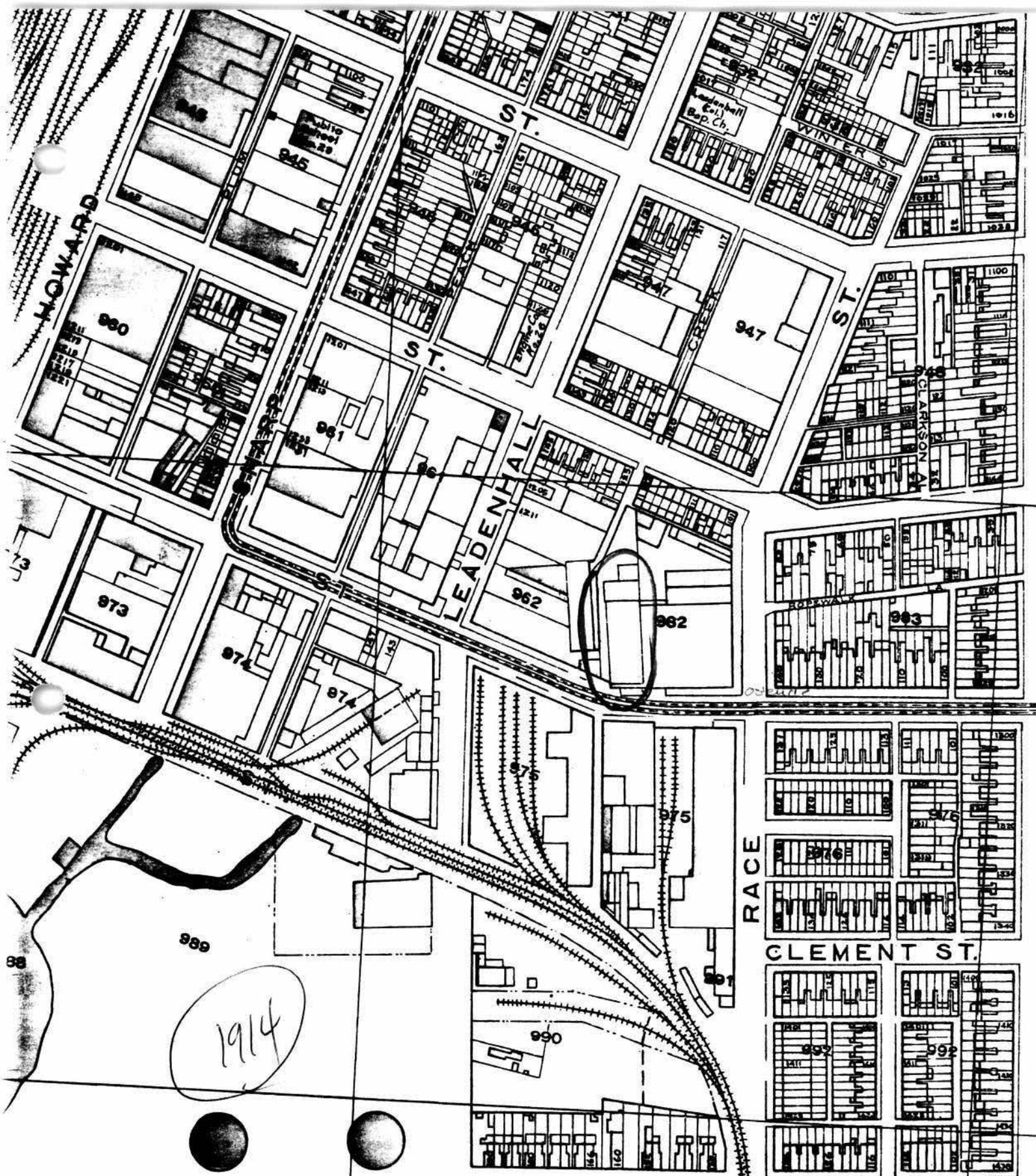
23. EDITOR INDEXER

24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

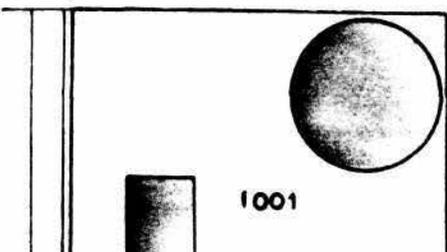
YES  NO

NAME

DISTRICT I.D. NO



Consolidated Gas Electric  
 Light & Power Company  
 DURAPAK COMPANY  
 BALTIMORE CITY, MD  
 MAP FROM: 1914 BALTIMORE  
 TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY COMMISSION





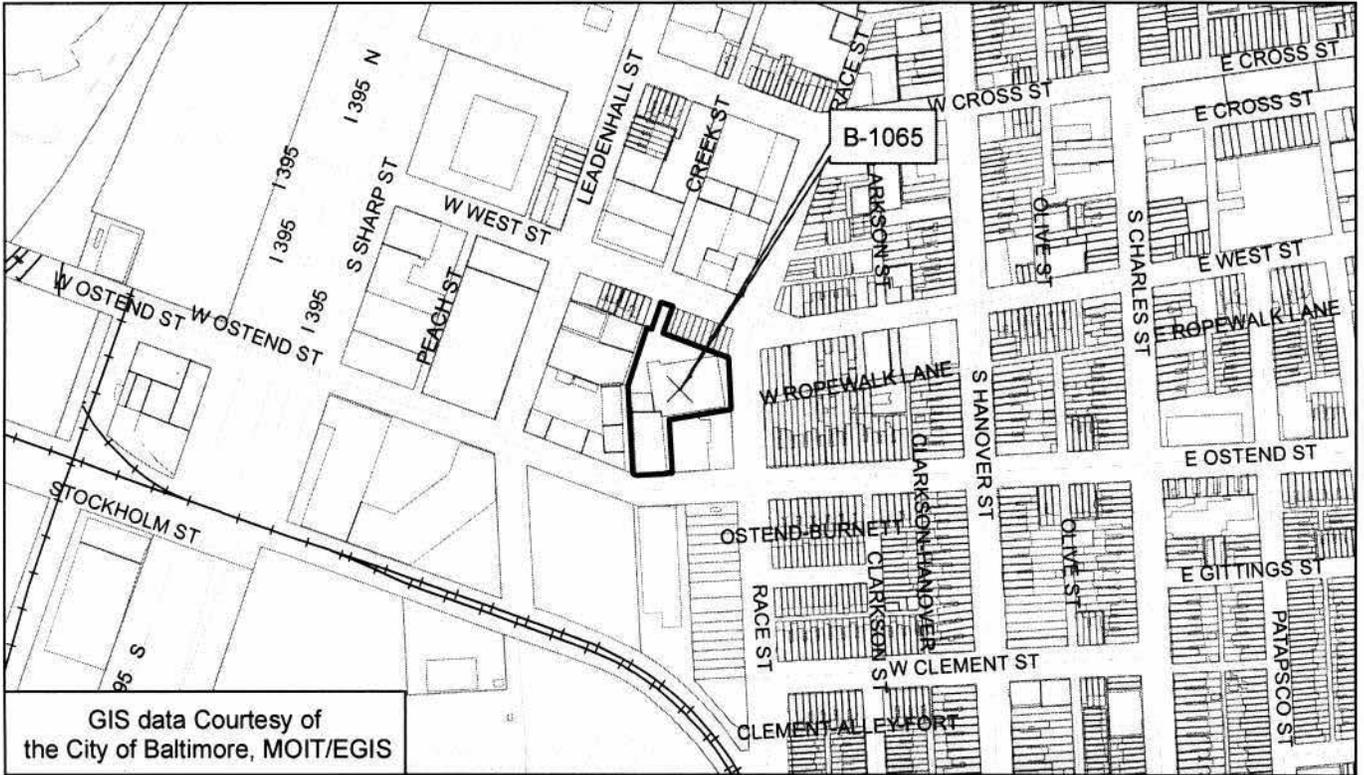
DURAPAK COMPANY.  
 U.S.G.S 7.5#Balto. E. Quad  
 18<sup>3</sup>60555<sup>43</sup>48320

B1065

DURAPAK COMPANY  
 18<sup>3</sup>60.555<sup>43</sup>48320

FERRY BAR CHANNEL (EAST SECTION)

B-1065  
Furst Brothers Frame Company (Durapak Company)  
150 W. Ostend Street  
Block 0962 Lot 031  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





DURAPAK CO. VAC PAC CO. PRINTERS - CONVERTERS - FLEXIBLE PACKAGING

THE DURADAK Co. ~~181~~ #B-1065  
BALTIMORE CITY  
NEG. LOC.: MARYLAND HISTORIC TRUST  
AUGUST 1980  
Looking Northwest

B-1065

ROBERT WHITE

2. AUG. 1980



THE DURAPAK CO. ~~STATE~~ # B-1065  
BALTIMORE CITY  
NEG. LOC. MARYLAND HISTORIC TRUST  
NOV. 1980  
LOOKING NORTH EAST

DURAPAK Co.

BALTD CITY

LOOKING NE

ROGER WHITE

NOV 1980

B-1065



B-1065

THE DURAPAK CO. ~~M1~~ #B-1065  
BALTIMORE CITY  
NEG. LOC.: MARYLAND HISTORIC TRUST  
AUGUST 1980

ROGER WHITE

AUG 1980



THE DURAPAK CO. ~~MESI~~#B-1065  
BALTIMORE CITY  
NEG. LOC. 1 MARYLAND HISTORIC TRUST  
AUGUST 1980

B-1065

ROGER WHITE

Aug 1980