

John Marr Malt House
Baltimore City, Maryland
B-1095

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The classic 19th century brick industrial building which was the site of the John Marr Malt House is one of the oldest industrial structures remaining in this southwest area of Baltimore. Despite extensive alterations made during its later years as a grain mill and a warehouse, the structure retains many of its original character and features.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC John Marr Malt House
 AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
 1411-19 Warner Street

CITY, TOWN Baltimore CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 VICINITY OF

STATE Maryland 21230 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	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
	X Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The Westport Corporation Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER
 1411-19 Warner Street

CITY, TOWN Baltimore VICINITY OF STATE, zip code
 Maryland 21230

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore City Courthouse

Liber #: R.H.B. 3115
 Folio #: 884

STREET & NUMBER
 Fayette & Calvert Street

CITY, TOWN Baltimore STATE
 Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
 None

DATE
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-1095

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

By 1876 Baltimore was the home of numerous malt houses which specialized in making malt for the City's breweries. The process of making malt was highly specialized and the quality of the malt largely influenced the flavor of the brew. Malt is made by soaking and germinating grain, usually barley, then kiln-drying or roasting it.

Built sometime before 1876 the malt house contained several structures of which only three remain. The most prominent of these is the 2-story brick building which served as the grain warehouse. Located adjacent to the B. & O. tracks, the warehouse has loading doors on both levels. These have been somewhat altered over the years so the original configuration is not clear. The north facade contains three levels of windows which have been bricked up but which were probably ventilators originally.

Attached to the south end of the grain warehouse was a kiln house and processing building which have been demolished. Two small one-story brick structures west of the kilns probably contained the malt bins. The two eastern bays of this three bay group have small windows high up on the wall - a typical feature of drying sheds where ventilation was necessary even when the doors were closed.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

The classic 19th century brick industrial building which was the site of the John Marr Malt house is one of the oldest industrial structures remaining in this southwest area of Baltimore. Despite extensive alterations made during its later years as a grain mill and a warehouse, the structure retains may of its original character and features.

The John Marr Malt House was the final Baltimore enterprise of one of the city's most interesting brewery figures. John Marr, of German parentage, was never trained as a brewer, something which was highly unusual in the brewing industry. He was, however, the brother-in-law of the owner of one of the city's large breweries, John Bauernschmidt. Marr was said to have had experience in the malt business, and was working as a clerk and bookkeeper in 1879 when Bauernschmidt died. His widow, took her brother in as a partner. It was said that Mrs. Bauernschmidt needed the capital her brother brought into the south Baltimore business, as her husband had not been very successful. Marr proved to be an energetic and capable manager, and by 1886, when his sister died, Marr was in complete control of a prospering brewery, now called the Bauernschmidt and Marr Spring Gardens Brewery. (Located on Ridgley Street, this building now houses the Allied Cordage Company.)

In 1889 Marr, believing a gypsy fortune teller's prediction that the passage of prohibition was imminent, sold his brewery to a British brewing syndicate. His fortunes seemed to have declined somewhat after the sale. He remained as manager of the brewery until 1891, and then appears in the City Directories as a maltster at 416 North Howard with a residence at 2238 Eutaw Street. From 1896 until 1899 he was President of the Standard Brewery. It is believed that Marr was named President because the brewery had a large unpaid malt bill with his firm. In 1900 when Standard was also sold to a beer trust, Marr organized the Independent Brewery at the Former Beck plant at 44-46 Franklinton Road, but after a year that organization was bankrupt.

(con't.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Polk's Baltimore City Directions
 William Kelley, Brewing in Maryland 1964
 p. 514-518

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, Dennis Zembala

July, 1983

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore Museum of Industry

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

1415 Key Highway

(301) 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

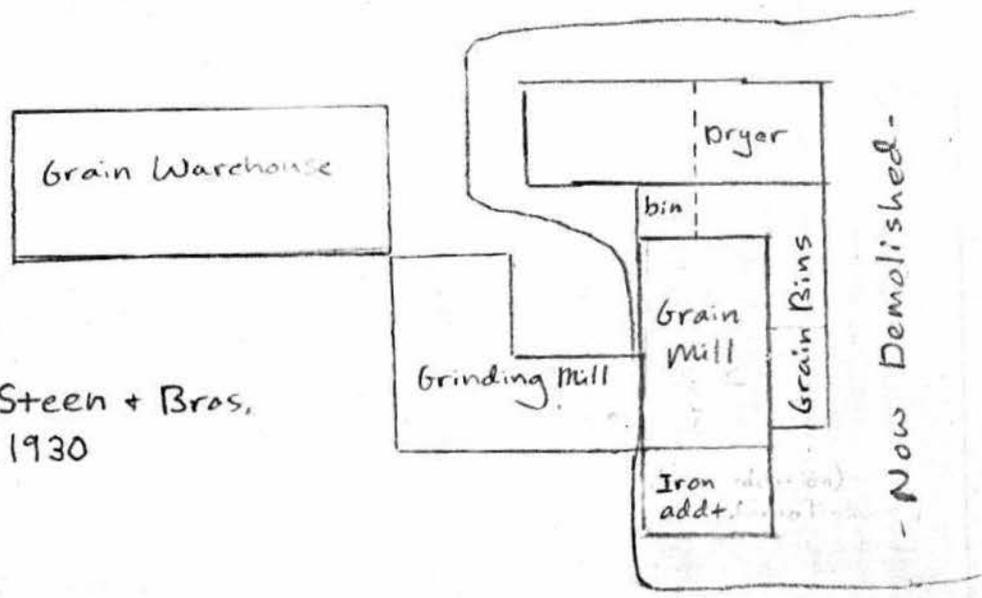
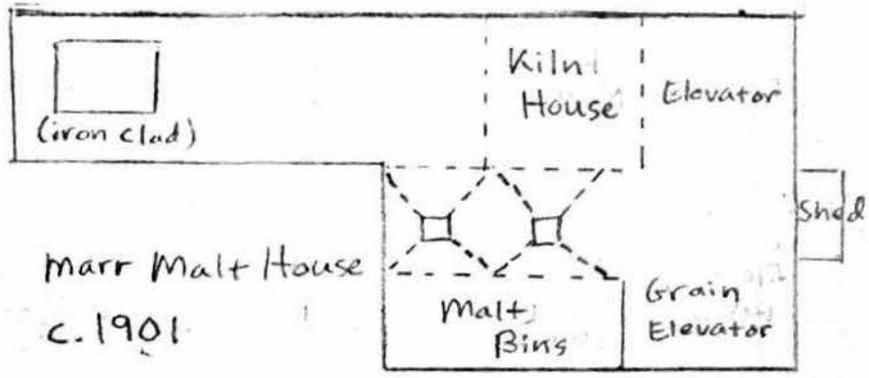
John Marr Malt House
Baltimore City, Maryland
B-1095

8. Significance - (continued)

That same year, 1901, Marr became manager of the Marr Malting Company, which had been located in the Warner and Ostend building since 1896. Its incorporators were listed as Susan Marr, August Wilkens, John H. Biemiller, George Marr and Harry L. Drake, with a capital stock of \$1000. Wilkens was president until 1904, when John Marr took over that post. The company was advertised manufacturers of choice barley and rye malt and as dealers in hops. By 1902 it had established a downtown branch at the southwest corner of Guilford (then North) and Saratoga Streets, formerly the malt house of Solomon and William Straus. By 1907, however, the Marr Malting Company was in receivership to a bank of which Marr had been a director some years earlier. Marr and his wife Emma then appear to have left Baltimore to seek their fortune in the malting business of another state, although his daughter Maggi remained and is buried in the Loudon Park lot of her Bauernschmidt aunt and uncle.

The Warner and Ostend buildings then became the site of E. Steen Bros. Grain Company, a firm which was probably attracted to the malt house's existing grain elevator and storage bins. The Steen Company went out of business in 1945, Steen and Bros. appears to have made significant alterations to the building, tearing down the old kiln house and building a new grinding house (since demolished). They also added concrete grain bins on the south end of the site (since demolished).

The building was purchased by the Holtite Manufacturing Company, a major manufacturer of rubber products (including Cat's Paw shoe parts) whose main factory building is located across Warner Street. Holtite also bought a set of structures to the north of the malthouse. The site is currently owned by the Westport Corporation, which uses what remains of the building for storage.



Marr Malt House B-1095
 Baltimore City, MD
 Site plans (not to scale)

1. SITE I.D. NO

B-1095

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

OWNER

ADMIN

7 OWNER ADMIN

Westport Corp

8 NAMES OF STRUCTURE

Marr Malt House

9 OWNER'S ADDRESS

10 STATE
COUNTY

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG
DIST

3

STATE
COUNTY

COUNTY NAME

CITY VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG
DIST

11 SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO.)

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

SCALE

 1:24 1:62.5QUAD
NAME

Balto East

 OTHER

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

 1:24 1:62.5QUAD
NAME

15 CONDITION

70 EXCELLENT71 GOOD72 FAIR73 DETERIORATED74 RUINS75 UNEXPOSED76 ALTERED82 DESTROYED85 DEMOLISHED

16 INVENTORIED BY

Ann Steele

AFFILIATION

Balto. Museum of Industry

DATE

August 1983

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

manufacture

PRESENT USE

ADAPTIVE USE

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

Brewing in Maryland Wm Kelley

(CONT OVER)

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

21 NPS REGION

22 PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

 YES, LIMITED YES, UNLIMITED

23 EDITOR

INDEXER

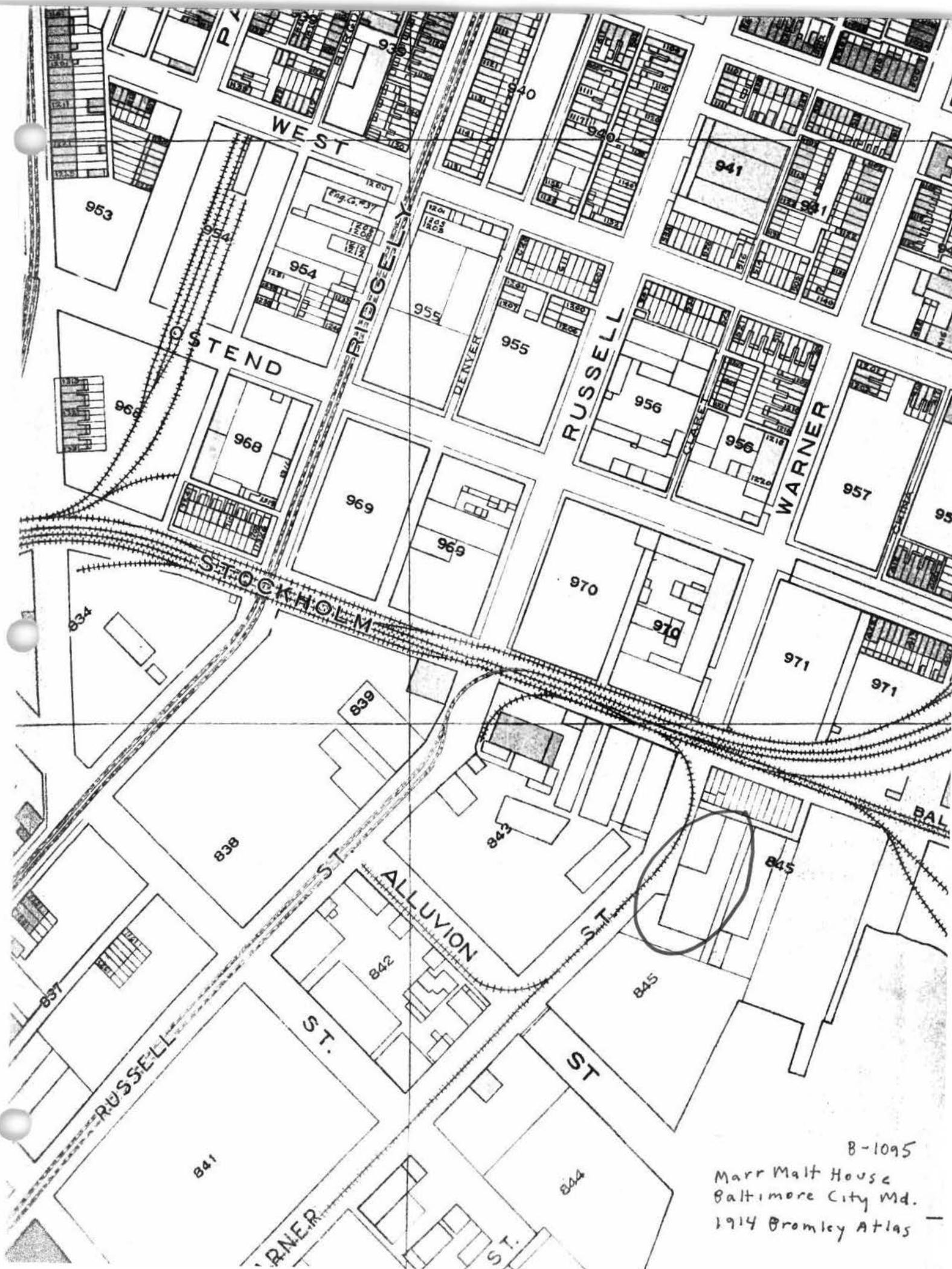
 NO UNKNOWN

24 LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

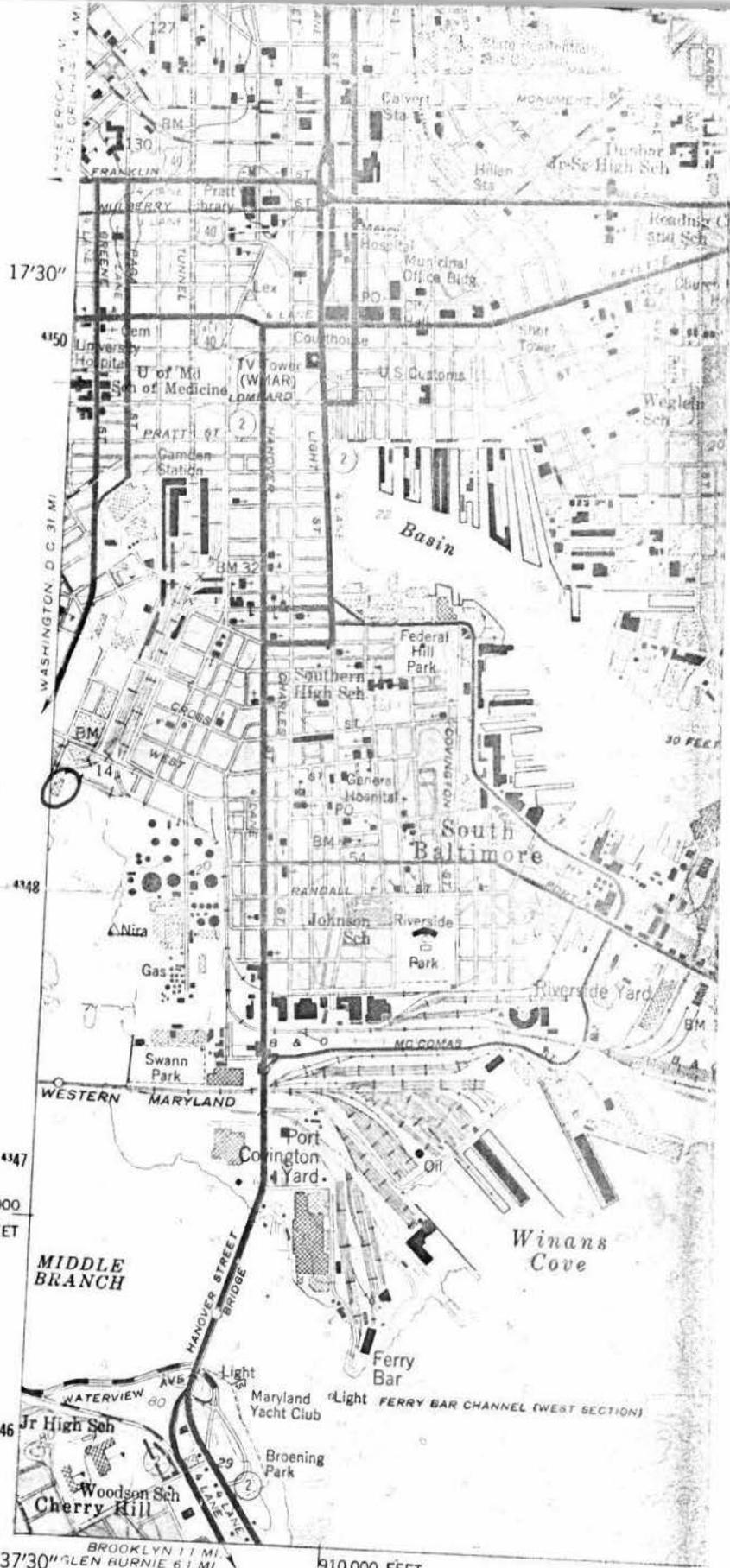
 YES NO

NAME

DISTRICT I.D. NO



8-1095
Marr Malt House
Baltimore City Md.
1914 Bromley Atlas



B-1095
 Marr Malt House
 Baltimore City Md
 USGS 7.5" Balto East
 183 59820⁴³ 49690

(RELAY)
 5462 II NW

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 photogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1943. Field checked 1944
 Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953
 Hydrography compiled from USC&GS Chart 545 (1951)
 Polyconic projection



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B-1095

Marr Malt House
Baltimore City md
Peter Liebhold 8/83
looking south from
Warner street

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED



2

B-1095

Marr Milt House
Baltimore City Md
Peter Liebhold 8/83
looking SW at back
of buildings



(4)

B-1095

Marr Malt House
Baltimore City Md
Peter Lidhold 8/83
looking south from Warner
street

COPIED
PAPER
REPRODUCED
FOR PAPER
ACTUAL
SIZE



3
B-1095

Marr Malt House
Baltimore City Md
Peter Liebhold 8/83
looking SW