

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
Addendum

MIHP Number: B-1099

Property Name: William G. Scarlett Seed Co. (South Building)
Property Address: Corner of Aliceanna St. and E. Falls St., Baltimore, MD 21202

Based on a site visit conducted on December 14, 2005 by John Milner Associates, on behalf of Maryland Mass Transit Administration (MTA), this property is no longer extant.

B-1099

Scarlett Seed Company (South Building)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The South Building of the William G. Scarlett Company (c.1910) is significant both as a good example of early 20th century Baltimore manufacturing and warehousing structures, and also as the site of one of the country's oldest seed processing companies (1894). A family enterprise, the Scarlett Seed Company today continues to use the same processes and machinery it has for over seventy years.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC William G. Scarlett Seed Company (South)
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER S.E. corner Aliceanna St. and East Falls Ave.
CITY, TOWN Baltimore CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
VICINITY OF
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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 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 Scarlett Seeds Telephone #: 301-752-3415
STREET & NUMBER 632 President Street
CITY, TOWN Baltimore VICINITY OF STATE, zip code MD 21202

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore City Courthouse Liber #: Folio #:
STREET & NUMBER Calvert & Lexington Sts.
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

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 South Building of the William Scarlett Seed Company was acquired by the company in ^{the 1940s} served as a temporary location when its Pratt Street building burned in 1948. It was formerly the Marsh Elevator Company.

The South Building is representative of turn-of-the-century, multi-story manufacturing and warehouse structures in the area. The construction of the brick masonry walls is interesting in that there was an obvious attempt to provide as much window area as possible. In the south facade, the pilasters between the bays carry the bulk of internal floor loading. The bays each have three double-hung sash windows, approaching the concept of the "window wall" of ten years later. Even though the interior is not a self-supporting steel frame, the structure shows that a similar effect was possible within the limits of the materials used.

The Scarlett Seed South Building is essentially a square mass of five bays by five bays. Fenestration is irregular with groupings of one, two and three windows, some of which have been bricked in to provide elevator and stairwell enclosures. A flat room is hidden by the cornice and parapet wall, one of the few architectural embellishments of this otherwise functional building.

There are loading docks on three sides of the structure since the first floor was totally devoted to material handling: weighing, inspecting, packing and shipping. The north facade contains a one-story addition with its own loading dock. The interior of this addition contains a fumigation chamber where incoming seeds are decontaminated. The problem of pests was constant in the seed business, and the basement contains areas protected by wire screening from rodent infestation.

No milling or sorting equipment remains but a spiral bag chute to facilitate loading still descends through the middle of the building and a bag-filling machine is still present on the first floor. The southern half of the second floor is partitioned off to serve as offices.

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

The South Building of the William G. Scarlett Company is significant both as a good example of early 20th century Baltimore manufacturing and warehousing structures, and also as the site of one of the country's oldest seed processing companies (1894). A family business, the Scarlett Seed Company today continues to use the same processes and machinery it has for over seventy years, including a gravity cleaning system.

Historical Background:

In 1894 William G. Scarlett borrowed \$500 to start his own seed business. He began a seed importing and cleaning operation on Spear's Wharf, now Pier 2. Scarlett realized the potential market for such services in Maryland, a heavily agricultural state. He also saw the advantages that both the Inner Harbor and the rail system of Baltimore's industrial port could provide.

At the turn of the century Scarlett's operation was one of six seed businesses in Baltimore. Today, the company is the only one of its kind left in the City and one of two seed cleaning houses in the state of Maryland. Scarlett's early line of goods emphasized grains and grasses. They also provided such specialty services as golf course seed mixtures and special feed for birds, especially canaries. The company's retention of the old gravity cleaning process (the chutes for which are visible on the east facade of the North Building) has enabled them to continue to produce a line of high-quality specialty products and remain competitive despite the vast technological change which had occurred in the seed industry. In the early days, Scarlett carried many brands of seed including his own which became known as "Oriole Brand," the company's trademark, and a well-known bird seed today.

In addition to his early recognition of a need for specialty seed products, Scarlett also saw the advantages of combining sales and service. In addition to his cleaning plant, Scarlett installed a complete seed testing and disinfectant laboratory, which is still an active part of the company's business. Scarlett Seed tests seed brought in by farmers and importers and then takes appropriate

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(cont.)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interviews with Scarlett family
** N.R.H.P.I. Nomination form, "Scarlett Seed Company (North),"
Steven S. Levy, 3-10-77
City Directories (Baltimore, Polk Directories)

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

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore Museum of Industry

DATE

December, 1981

STREET & NUMBER

1415 Key Highway

TELEPHONE

301-727-4808

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21230

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

B-1099
Scarlett Seed Company (South Building)
Historical Significance (cont.)

steps to produce the desired purity and mixtures.

The Scarlett Company was originally housed in a set of small buildings on the Pratt & Falls Road site until 1911, when the architectural firm of Owings and Scisco was engaged to design a modern gravity seed cleaning plant to Scarlett's specifications. The building caught fire in 1948, receiving severe damage. The company had acquired the South Building in 1942, and moved its operations into this building while the North Building was restored. After the repair work was complete, operations were moved back, but the company continued to use the South Building as a warehouse and for packing and decontamination of seeds. The South Building was ideally situated for shipping and receiving, as it border the Jones Falls on the west, with docking facilities, and with rail car and truck access on the south side.

The South Building had been built between 1900 and 1914* as a general industrial structure, and was occupied by a number of firms including the Marsh Elevator Company in the late 1920s, and the S. Shapiro & Son junk dealers and the National Wiping Cloth Company in the late 1930s. In the 1970s the building was slated to be demolished for a highway extension, but this plan was later abandoned and today the building is still owned and utilized by Scarlett Seeds.

* The South Building does not appear on the 1902 (revised 1911) Sandborn Insurance map. ORV 1/85

HAER INVENTORY

1. SITE I.D. NO. **B-1099**

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

Processing

3. PRIORITY

4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?
(SPECIFY THREAT)

YES NO UNKNOWN

5. DATE

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

William G. Scarlett Seed Co. (South Building)

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

10. STATE COUNTY

MD

COUNTY NAME

—

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG DIST

STATE COUNTY

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

CONG DIST

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO.)

Aliceanna St. + East Falls Rd.

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

18 **361640** **4349600**

SCALE

1:24 1:62.5

QUAD NAME *Balto. East*

UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING SIGN

SCALE

1:24 1:62.5

QUAD NAME

15. CONDITION 70 EXCELLENT 71 GOOD 72 FAIR 73 DETERIORATED 74 RUINS 75 UNEXPOSED 76 ALTERED 82 DESTROYED 85 DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY *Ann Steele*

AFFILIATION

Balto. Museum of Industry

DATE

Dec. 1981

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

[See attached sheet]

18. ORIGINAL USE

PRESENT USE

Warehouse

ADAPTIVE USE

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

*Interviews with Scarlett family
Nat. Reg. ~~Form~~ Nomination form, "Scarlett Seed Company (North), Steven S. Levy, 3-10-77*

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

21. NPS REGION

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

YES LIMITED NO

YES UNLIMITED UNKNOWN

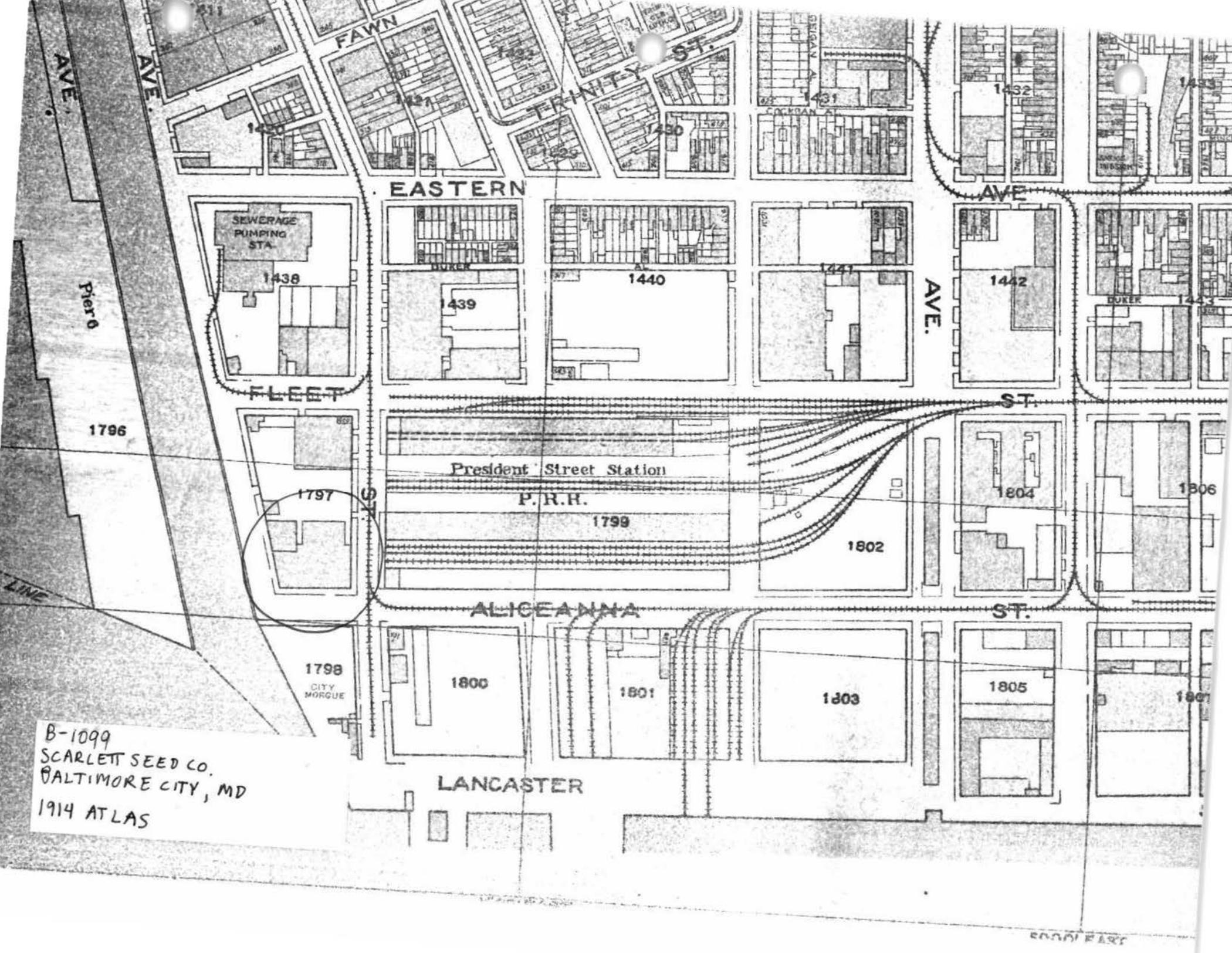
23. EDITOR INDEXER

24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

YES NO

NAME

DISTRICT I.D. NO.



B-1099
SCARLETT SEED CO.
BALTIMORE CITY, MD
1914 ATLAS

AVE.
Pier 6

AVE.

FAWN ST.

TRINITY ST.

EASTERN

AVE

SEWERAGE
PUMPING
STA.

1438

1439

1440

1441

1442

1443

FLEET

ST.

1796

President Street Station

P.R.R.

1799

1802

1804

1806

1797

ALICEANNA

ST.

1798

CITY
MORGUE

1800

1801

1803

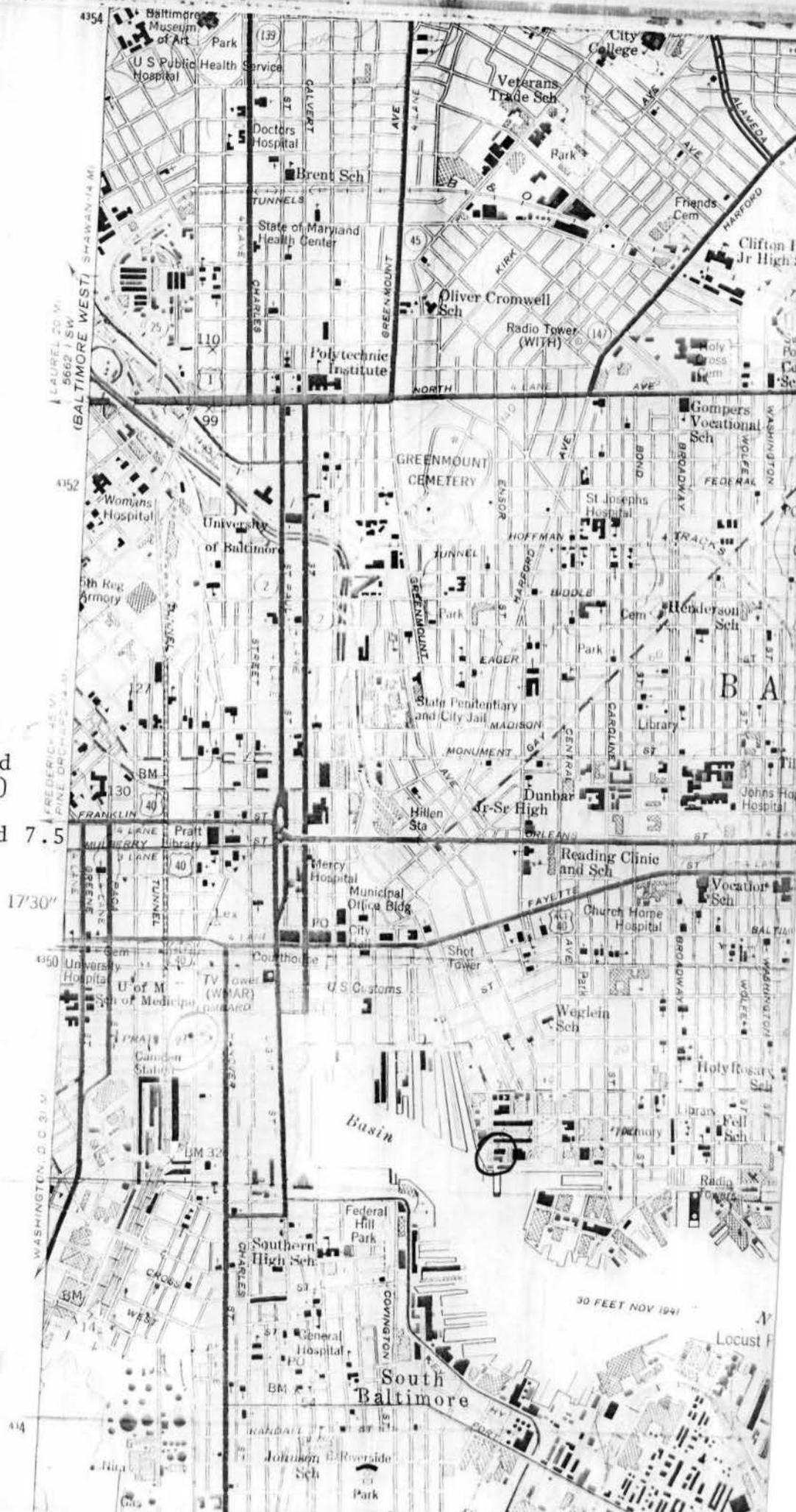
1805

1807

LANCASTER

ROAD EAST

B-1099
William G. Scarlett Seed
Company (South Bld.)
Baltimore, MD
U.S.G.S Balto. East Quad 7.5
18 361640 4349600





WM. G. SCARLETT & CO.

SCARLETT

WM. G. SCARLETT & CO.

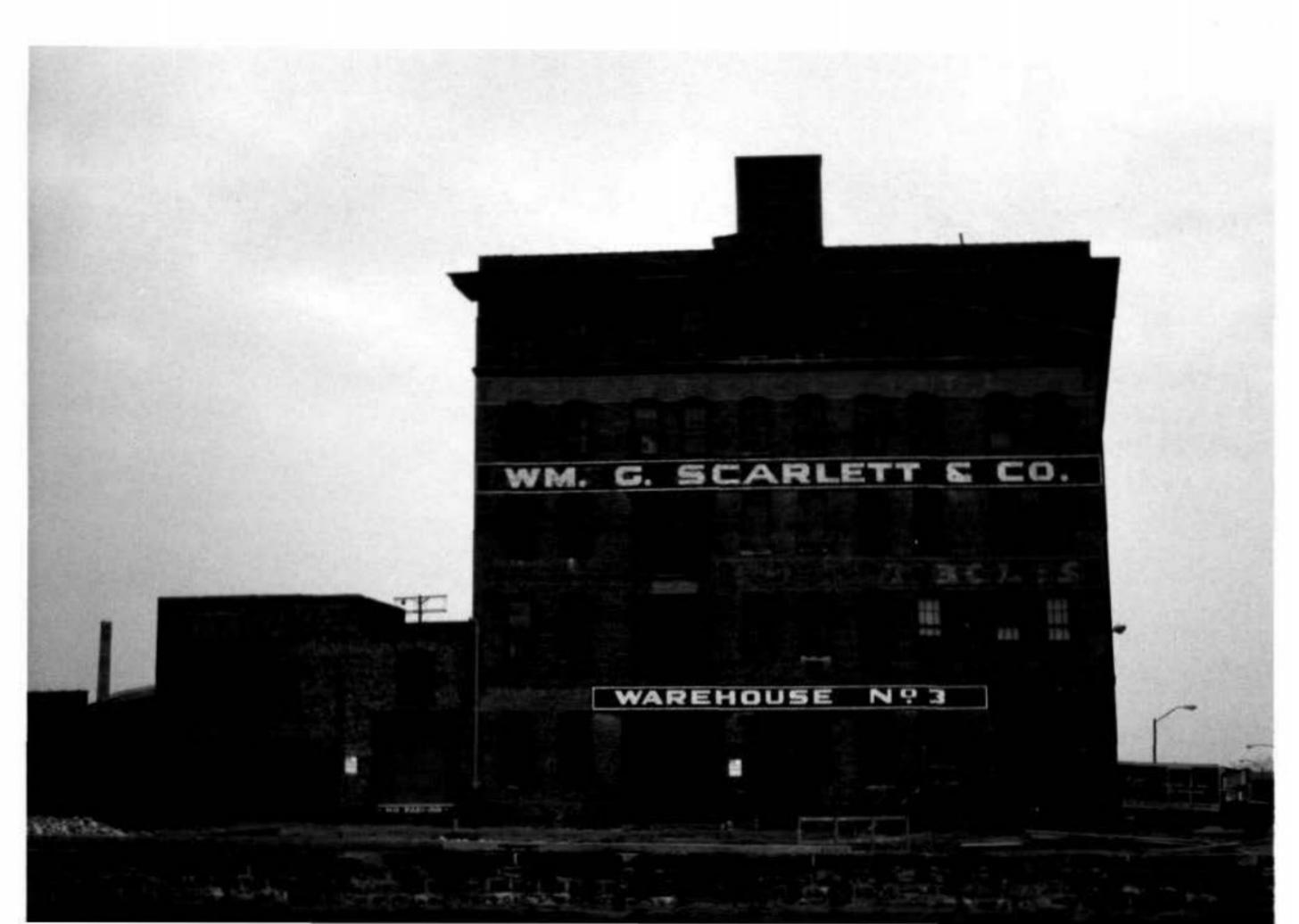
SCARLETT

WAREHOUSE NO 3

WAREHOUSE NO 3

W. Scarlett Seed Co. B-1099
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Ann Steele
Neg. Loc: MD Historic Trust
Dec. 1980 West^{South} Facades,

across Jones Falls



WM. G. SCARLETT & CO.

WAREHOUSE No 3

W. Scarlett Seed Co. B-1099

Baltimore, MD

Photo: Ann Steele

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

Dec. 1980 *West facade*

W.M.G. SCARLETT & CO.

W.M. G. SCARLETT & CO.

W.M.G. SCARLETT & CO.

W.M. G. SCARLETT & CO.



W. Scarlett Seed Co.

Baltimore, MD

Photo: Ann Steele

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

Dec. 1980 Looking Southwest

B-1099



WM. G. SCARLETT & CO.

SEEDS

SEEDS

W. G. SCARLETT & CO.

W. Scarlett Seed Co.

Baltimore, MD

Photo: Ann Steele

B-1099

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

Dec. 1980 Looking South



W. Scarlett Seed Co. B-1099
Baltimore, MD
Photo: MD Historic Trust
Neg. Loc: MD Historic Trust
Dec. 1980 Looking Northwest



W. Scarlett Seed Co. B-1099
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Ann Steele
Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust
Dec. 1980 South facade



W. Scarlett Seed Co.

Baltimore, MD

Photo: Ann Steele

B-1099

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

Dec. 1980 Garage



W. Scarlett Seed Co.

Baltimore, MD

Photo: Ann Steele

B-1099

Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust

Dec. 1980 Fumigation Room/East
Fac.