

Continental Can Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
B-1104
1907, private

Significance

This turn of the century complex of brick industrial buildings located at Fayette Street, near Kresson Street, is significant as the first Baltimore site of the Continental Can Company. Built as a can and metal products plant in 1907, the complex was one of the earliest branch plants of what would become a giant corporation, producing thirty percent of the country's metal containers by the early 1930's. The company helped make Baltimore into the metal container capital of the world.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Continental Can Company

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4600 E. Fayette Street not for publication

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name B.S.L. Partnership

street & number unknown telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber CWM 4148

street & number Fayette and Calvert Streets folio 552

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title none

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-1104

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Adjacent to the rail line of the Pennsylvania Railroad in northeast Baltimore, the Continental Can Company built a major can manufacturing facility at the turn of the century. The railroad provided easy access to the tin mills in east Baltimore and Sparrows Point and to western markets. The original buildings on the site are those on the south but all the structures were built in a short period with similar materials. Most are of timber post and beam construction with timber joists and wood floors. All are two-story brick masonry with steel casement industrial windows.

The south structures begin with the building at the east end which is a high two-story structure with about twenty feet clearance on both floors. It is seven bays wide and fourteen bays long and the low, pitched roof is supported on simple post and beam. The ridge line of the roof is off center so that posts can be placed to create a central bay on both floors.

Adjacent to this structure on the west is an addition ten bays long. The two side bays are only one story while the center five bays are two stories. The windows on the second story form a clerestory that admits light to the interior. A second floor covers only the three central bays so light penetrates even on the first floor. Timber stringers still in place show that power was distributed throughout the building by lineshafting.

A similar twelve bay addition extends to the west. This structure is seven bays wide on the first floor but only four on the second. Timbers posts and beams support the roof and the small monitor which runs the length of the ridgeline.

At the west end of this group is a former powerhouse whose axis is perpendicular to the rest. This space has no intervening posts since the roof and monitor are supported on a simple timber Pratt truss with a wrought iron hanger in the center.

Slightly to the north of the east end of this complex is an irregularly shaped building which was part of the original complex. This one-story brick structure has two parts, a seven by eight bay section to the west and a triangular section to the east. Both were probably shipping warehouses since rail sidings and freight doors provide easy access to the high-bay storage inside. Both have timber frame roof systems.

A similar row of buildings lies along the rail line to the northwest. The east section is the earliest. It is a two-story brick structure of timber post and beam construction. On the second floor the middle three of the seven bays are raised to form a high central space with clerestory windows. At the east end semi-circular arched windows add a decorative effect to an otherwise plain structure. A second section to the west formerly housed the manufacturing offices. It has timber posts supporting steel beams and each bay is braced by diagonal ties rods and turnbuckles. The offices occupy only the southern part of the first floor.

(continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. B-1104

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	1907	Builder/Architect
check: Applicable Criteria:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or		
Applicable Exception:	<input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance:	<input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The turn of the century complex of brick industrial buildings located at Fayette Street, near Kresson Street, is significant as the first Baltimore site of the Continental Can Company. Built as a can and metal products plant in 1907, the complex was one of the earliest branch plants of what would become a giant coporation, producing thirty percent of the country's metal containers by the early 1930's. The company helped make Baltimore into the metal container capital of the world.

The large complex at Fayette Street, near Kresson, was the first Baltimore site of the Continental Can Company, a giant Connecticut-based manufacturer of tin cans and other packaging products. The plant was built in 1907, two years after the firm was founded. Continental produced tin cans for Baltimore's thriving food packing industry. Baltimore had been a center of the canning industry since the 1840's, but it spawned an even larger can-making trade. By the 1930's the city was the largest can making area in the world, and of the city's major firms - American Can, National Can, Independent Can - Continental Can was the largest. In 1951, for example, the firm's national production accounted for thirty percent of all metal containers used in the United States.

The Continental Can Company was founded in 1905 with a capital of a half million dollars by a group of investors who wished to break away from a giant "tin combine" which had acquired ninety percent of the country's can plants in 1901. The firm grew steadily, and by the 1950's it operated 65 plants across the country. By 1964, this huge coporation had grown to 140 plants, 59 of which produced metal products and 81 of which produced paper products and plastics.

In 1927, Continental acquired a much larger site in Baltimore on East Biddle Street. A large part of the company's can and can machinery production was transfered to the new 21 acre site, but the firm continued to utilize the Fayette Street plant until 1944, when it was sold to the Atlantic Waste Paper Company. Continental went on to build a third large facility on E. Biddle Street to house a cannery equipment service facility. Today, all these plants are closed, and the company's local operations, still sizable, are centered in a modern facility in Sparrows Point.

No information is available on the Atlantic Waste Paper Company, which went out of business in 1982. Today the site is owned by a partnership and is used as a warehouse for Tuscany Imports, Inc.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-1104

vertical files, Enoch Pratt Public Library, Maryland Room

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Steele, Dennis Zembala

organization 1415 Key Highway date December 1983

street & number Baltimore Museum of Industry 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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Continental Can Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
B-1104

7.1

A third addition to the west is of later date. It has a high story on the first floor and a lower second floor. Concrete posts and beams on the first floor support an unusual steel construction on the second. Massive trussed steel beams and posts support the roof in this area. A small one story power house at the south of this section is inaccessible.

1. SITE I.D.

8-1104

HAER INVENTORY

Historic American Engineering Record
Department of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

manufacture

3. PRIORITY

DANGER OF DEMOLITION?
(SPECIFY THREAT) YES NO UNKNOWN

5. DATE

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN

B.S.L. Partnership

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Continental Can Co.

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

4600 E. Fayette

10. STATE

MD

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG. DIST.

STATE

MD

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG. DIST.

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO.)

4600 E. Fayette 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

QUAD NAME

Balto East

 OTHER

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

 1:24 1:62.5

QUAD NAME

15. CONDITION

70 EXCELLENT71 GOOD72 FAIR73 DETERIORATED74 RUINS75 UNEXPOSED76 ALTERED82 DESTROYED85 DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

Leslie Barr

AFFILIATION

Balto. Museum of Industry

DATE

9/83

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

(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

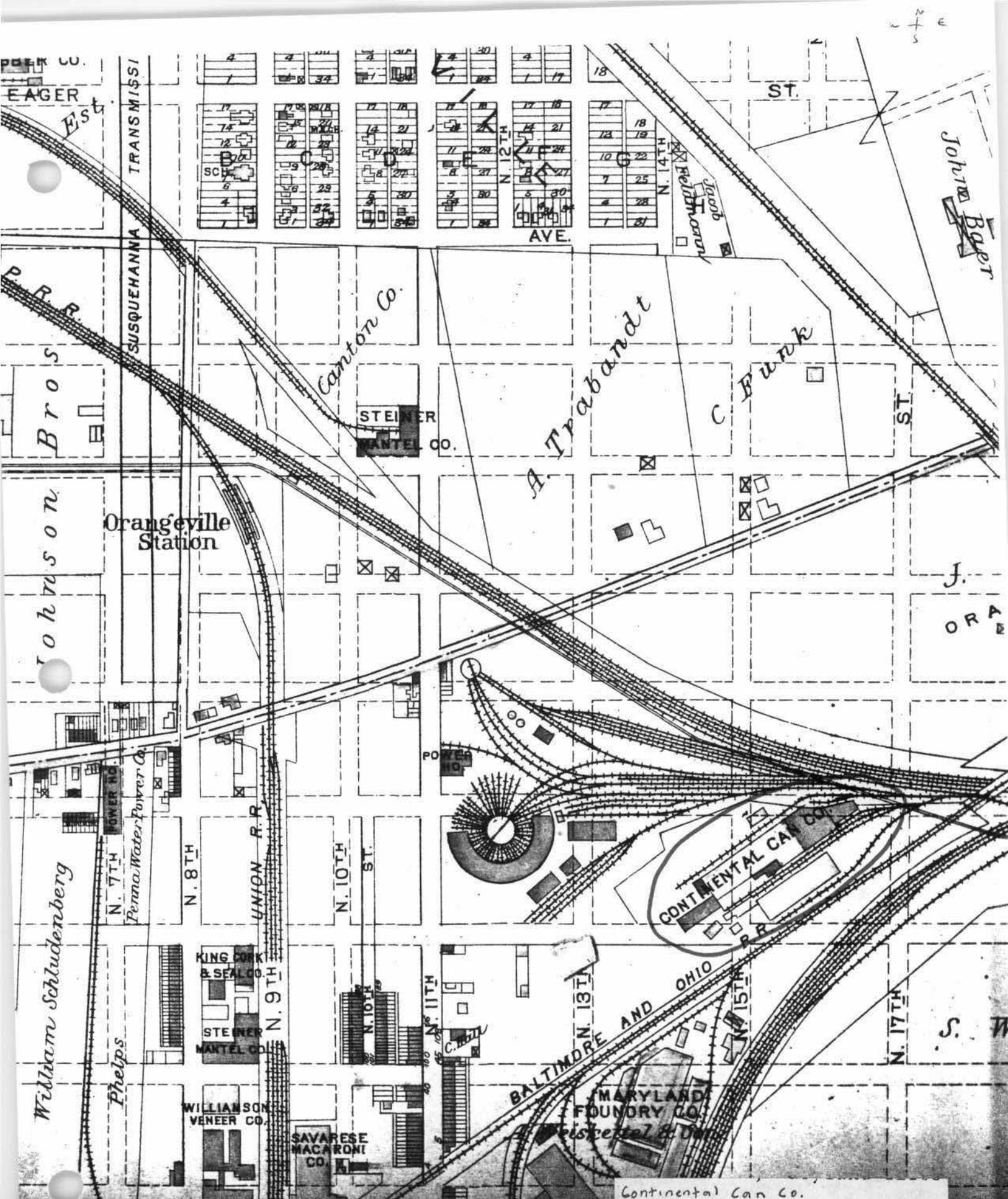
 NO UNKNOWN

24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

 YES NO

NAME

DISTRICT I.D. NO



Continental Can Co.
 Balto. City Md.
 B-1104

1914 Bromley Atlas (Baltimore County)



EAST SECTION)
Continental Can Co.
Baltimore City Md
B-1104
vs65 7.5 Balto East
183 65 759 43 51570

PATAPSCO RIVER

Point Breeze

CITY OF BALTIMORE
BALTIMORE CO



Continental Can Company B-1104
Baltimore City, Md
Peter Liebhold 10/83

looking East



Continental Can Company B-1104
Baltimore City, Md.

Peter Liebhold 10183

looking west