NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Vernon Mill No. 1

other names B-62

2. Location

street & number 3000 Falls Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Baltimore ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Independent city code 510 zip code 21211

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 3-12-01

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

Mount Vernon Mill No. 1
Name of Property

Baltimore city, Maryland
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
4	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/textile mill

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/factory
COMMERCE/studio

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls BRICK
roof METAL
other WOOD, CONCRETE

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Mount Vernon Mill No. 1
Name of Property

Baltimore city, Maryland
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a *significant contribution to the broad pattern of our* history.

☐ B Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ B removed from its original location.

☐ C a birthplace or grave.

☐ D a cemetery.

☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ F a commemorative property.

☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1873-1945

Significant Dates

1873, 1881, 1923

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of repository:
Baltimore Museum of Industry

Mount Vernon Mill No. 1
Name of Property

Baltimore city, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5.073 acres

UTM References Baltimore West, MD quad
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	359400	4353700	3			
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Betty Bird and Rebecca Plant

Organization Betty Bird & Associates date June 30, 2000

street & number 2607 24th Street, NW telephone (202) 588-9033

city or town Washington state DC zip code 20008

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Mount Vernon Mill No. 1, constructed serially between 1873 and 1918, is a complex of four buildings situated along Jones Falls in Baltimore, Maryland. The complex consists of three closely associated 19th-century buildings on the east side of Jones Falls and a 20th century warehouse on the west side of Jones Falls. Structures include a large, three-story brick Mill Building (1873) constructed above a stone basement; a two-story, brick, L-shaped Picker House (1873); a two-story, brick Store House (c. 1881); and a later, reinforced-concrete warehouse (1918). The Mill Building is the largest and most important building in the complex. No machinery dating to Mount Vernon Mill use remains. Typical of mill buildings in continuous use, the Mill Building has been altered over the years. Its monitor, north stair tower, and Mansart roof over the south stair tower have been removed and most window openings have been infilled with brick or concrete block. With the exception of the north stair tower, which was removed for a loading dock addition, these changes are reversible and do not affect the overall integrity of the resource.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Mount Vernon Mill No. 1, constructed serially between 1873 and 1918, is a complex of four buildings situated along Jones Falls in Baltimore, Maryland. The complex is the southernmost mill complex of a series of 19th century textile mills constructed in the Jones Falls valley in Hampden, a neighborhood comprised of mill villages. Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 is located on the east side of Jones Falls on a narrow site circumscribed by Jones Falls and Falls Road, which follows the contours of the steeply sloping Jones Falls valley and winds around the east and south sides of the Mill Building and Picker House. (The 1918 Warehouse is situated on the west side of Jones Falls; the Store House across Falls Road to the south of the Mill Building.)[1] The old Penn Central tracks, now used for Baltimore light rail, and the Jones Falls Expressway are located immediately west of the site on the west side of Jones Falls. The remnant of an old raceway runs under the Mill Building. The 1918 Warehouse is sited on the west side of Jones Falls between the Falls and the railroad tracks. This building, which follows the axis established by the railroad tracks rather than the axis of the older buildings, is connected to the Mill Building by a bridge connecting the 1st floor of the Mill Building with the 3rd floor of the 1918 Warehouse.

Within the Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 complex, the Mill Building dominates the site, occupying most of the property. The L-shaped Picker House occupies the southwest corner of the site. The east and north walls of the Picker House follow the contours of the southwest corner of the Mill Building. A bridge, now gone, once connected the north end of the Picker House with the south end of the Mill Building. Fire insurance maps and a c. 1925 historic photograph show that a stone retaining wall extended along the west side of the east bank of Jones Falls; the west walls of both the former Boiler House and the Picker House appear to rise from this retaining wall.

A commemorative card documents the appearance of the complex in the late 19th century. The card, which depicts a birds-eye view of the mill from the northwest, shows smoke-belching factories surrounded by trees. The twin towers at the north and south ends of Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 are topped by dormered Mansart roofs. A finial

[1]While the axis of the mill runs northwest to southeast, to simplify description the axis has been shifted to north-south. Thus the northwest facade becomes north; the northeast along Falls Road, east; the southeast, south; and the southwest along Jones Falls, west.

with a weather vane rises from the north tower, a flag pole from the south. The long Boiler House on the west side of the building, replaced by the present Boiler House, is flanked by two huge stacks. A monitor extending almost the entire length of the building supports an enormous sign bearing the legend, "MOUNT VERNON COTTON DUCK MILLS."[2] Both the Picker House and the Store House can be seen in this view, which is not dated.

Mill Building (1873, 1881, early 20th c.)

The Mill Building is a 27 bay x 11 bay, cross-shaped, three-story brick building that rests on a full stone basement. The basement is at ground level; the 1st floor, at the level of Falls Road. The building is topped with a shallow gable roof. The long axis of the mill runs north-south, roughly parallel to Jones Falls on the west and Falls Road on the east. A two-story Boiler House, constructed between 1914 and 1922, is attached to the west side of the center of the main block of the building. A five story stair tower survives at the center of the south facade. Entrances to the building are presently located in an early 20th c. stairtower adjacent to the cross gable on the east side of the building.

The roughly cross-shaped configuration of the present Mill Building reflects the form of three building campaigns. The original 1873 building, the southern portion of the mill, was roughly rectangular and extended to the north wall of the three-bay cross-gable projecting from the east side of the building. In 1881, the building was extended 10 bays to the north during the second building campaign. The third building campaign encompassed early 20th c. work. Some time after 1914, a small, two-story stair tower and entrance were added to the north of the cross-gabled section facing Falls Road. Between 1914 and 1924, a four-bay addition housing a hoist and toilet rooms was added to the west side of the building against the north wall of the Boiler House. All three major campaigns adopted the distinctive architectural vocabulary of the 1873 building.[3]

The facades of the Mill Building are delineated by full-height brick piers demarcating the structural bays of the building. Double piers articulate the corners. The piers rise to a corbelled brick cornice. The brick bond features a row of headers every sixth course. The south tower is the most highly ornamented element of the building. A projecting brick stringcourse decorated with honeycomb crosses runs between the corner piers at each floor level. The circular window openings at the top of the tower feature brick surrounds embellished with four brick keystones. Above the first floor, a marble panel bears the legend, "Mount Vernon Mills No. 1" and includes the dates 1845 (the date the mill was established) and 1873 (the date the mill was constructed). Original window openings, which remain on the south side of the stair tower and the west side of the rear wing of the mill, consist of paired arched window surrounds with crossettes. A key consisting of a dogtooth topped by an incised cap, also executed in wood, graces the top of the surround. Windows consist of 12-over-12 sash. A monitor roof that extended the length of the building was removed some time after 1953. A fire escape with an ornate cast iron rail is attached to the southern portion of the west wall of the building.

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[2]A copy of this card may be found attached to Maryland Inventory of Historic Sites Survey Form B-62 at the Baltimore Museum of Industry.

[3]While there is no known design source for Mount Vernon Mill No. 1, Ruben Gladfelter, a carpenter long-associated with the Mount Vernon-Woodberry Mills may well have had a hand in the design, particularly the distinctive window frames. The November 22 issue of *The Mt. Vernon-Woodberry News* states that "He [Gladfelter] had been connected with these mills, he informed us, as far back as seventy years ago, and when Clipper Mill [1865] was built, as head carpenter, he was in charge of construction."

Subsequent 20th c. exterior alterations adapted the Mill Building to changes in the textile industry and transportation requirements for raw materials and products. A late 20th century transformer room has been attached to the west end of the south facade. A loading dock now extends north of the north facade and openings along the north end of the east facade have been enlarged for loading bays. The most significant exterior change has been the removal of window surrounds and the installation of brick infill and louvers in many of the window openings. This alteration is directly associated with the conversion of Mount Vernon Mill to the production of synthetic fibers in the mid-20th century. Requirements for controlled temperature and humidity resulted in this infill, which is typical of older mill buildings still in operation in the late 20th century.

The open plan interior of the Mill Building also reveals the layers of construction on the site. The basement appears to date to the Laurel Mill (1845), which burned in 1873. The basement has stone walls, some of which are covered with stucco, and features fluted cast iron columns supporting wood beams. The structural system of the building shows signs of 20th century alterations. There are blocks between columns and floor joists and large areas of joists appear to have been reworked. While some changes undoubtedly date to floor infill in sections formerly devoted to drive belts and fly wheels, other changes may date to replacement flooring installed in the early 20th century in response to federal Workmen's Compensation legislation passed in June 1914. A company newsletter from the period stated that existing pine floors were being replaced with maple to prevent injuries.[4]

None of the alterations impair the essential form and integrity of the mill. The relationship among buildings in the complex and the relationship of the buildings to the Jones Falls Valley and mill village of Stone Hill; the overall size, scale, and massing of the Mill Building itself; the distinctive roughly coursed stone foundation and corbelled brick work; and remaining windows and detailing clearly convey the architectural character of Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 and the scale of its operations.

Boiler House (c. 1920)

The present brick Boiler House, an irregularly shaped one-story addition attached to the west side of the Mill Building, was constructed between 1914 and 1924.[5] The building is topped by a flat roof with a tile coping and is lit by a gabled monitor. A square, tapered brick stack rises from the west side of the building, extending above the roofline of the Mill Building. The 1st floor of the west side of the Boiler House facing Jones Falls and the base of the south side of the Boiler House are faced with concrete. The Boiler House has paired 6-over-6 windows. The openings have concrete sills and flat lintels comprised of headers. Loading bay doors are situated within the projecting bay on the south side of the building near the Mill Building. While the interior of the Boiler House has been completely altered with concrete block partitions and a steel structural system, the original stone basement walls of the Mill Building can still be seen within.

[4] "Our Medical Work -- A Review" in *Mt. Vernon- Woodberry News* (Feb. 1921), p. 3. The article does not specify which mills this change affected.

[5] A larger Boiler House extending further toward Jones Falls can be seen in the 1914 Sanborn Map. The present Boiler House is visible in a 1924 photograph.

Picker House (1873-1879)

The Picker House is a three-and-one-half story, ell-shaped, brick building comprised of a long, rectangular original building constructed in 1873 and a smaller, square addition constructed in 1879. (These dates can be seen in stone panels on the south facade facing Falls Road.) Falls Road is level with the 3rd floor of the south facade as the road rises in a sharp right-angle turn around the southeastern corner of the site; the ground floor of the building is visible only on the north and east facades. The foundation of the 1873 section is coursed stone; the foundation of the 1879 section is brick with a projecting watertable. The Picker House is topped by parallel gable roofs, clad in galvanized metal, one over each section of the ell. Originally connected to the Mill Building by a bridge (now gone) at the north end of the east facade of the 1873 section, the Picker House incorporates the corbelled cornices and pilasters distinguishing the brickwork of the Mill Building. Openings are framed by segmental arches of stretcher brick and granite sills. Most of the metal fire shutters are closed; some 9-over-9 sash is visible on the east facade. The Picker House also incorporates distinctive small round-arched openings that once held gas lights. These openings, which once had steel shutters, are now infilled with brick. Entrances are presently located on the east and south facades of the building. The entrance on the east facade is at the 2nd floor level. A large opening on the east facade above the entrance, probably associated with an exterior elevator (now gone) shown in the 1953 Sanborn Map, has been infilled with brick. A massive dust flue that obscured most of the north facade of the 1873 section was removed some time after 1953. Nevertheless, the distinctive form of the Picker House and its relationship to the Mill Building can still be clearly read despite changes to the grade of Jones Falls Road and these minor alterations.

Store House No. 1 (c. 1881)

The Store House is a c. 1881 three-story, rectangular, brick building with a shallow gable roof situated across Falls Road south of the Mill Building. A large, shed-roofed element, presumably housing a hoist overrun, projects from the roof over the north end of the building. Sanborn Maps show that the building, which originally housed only a basement and two floors, had an additional floor inserted between 1914 and 1953. The Store House is simpler and more utilitarian in architectural character than the Mill Building or the Picker House. Remnants of a stepped brick watertable are visible at the east end of the north facade. A corbelled brick cornice runs below the corrugated tin roof; widely spaced wood brackets support gutters. The building was constructed with minimal openings; later openings have been punched into the walls, especially on the south facade, which is not visible from the street. Original openings have stone sills and are topped by brick segmental arches. Like the Picker House, the Store House features small arched openings that would have been used to house gas lamps. Entrances are situated on the north and south facades of the building. There is a loading bay with a canopy above the entrance on the north, which appears to be the only original entrance to the building. This loading bay corresponds with the location of a freight elevator on the interior of the building. The interior of the building consists of open plan space with wood posts supporting massive timber beams.

1918 Warehouse

The 1918 Warehouse, a four-story rectangular reinforced concrete structure that appears to have housed storage for finished goods, is situated along the former Penn Central railroad tracks on the west side of Jones Falls. The Jones

Falls Expressway (Interstate 83), the Mill Building, and foliage along Jones Falls limit visibility of the warehouse, which was oriented to the Mill Building and railroad tracks rather than to any roadway. The 1918 Warehouse is accessed from a pedestrian bridge that connects the top level of the warehouse to the first floor of the Mill Building and from a loading dock facing the Penn Central tracks along the west side of the building. Constructed partially on brick piers over Jones Falls, the building is topped by a flat roof and has 6-light steel hopper windows. Many windows along the east and south facades have been blocked. Unlike the three older buildings, this non-descript, utilitarian building has no ornamentation and little architectural character. The interior of the building incorporates four levels with low floor-to-floor height. The exposed structural system consists of squat round and octagonal columns supporting reinforced concrete floors. A hoist and fire stair are situated on the east side of the building adjacent to the bridge to the Mill Building.

SUMMARY SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed from 1873 to 1918, Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 is the southernmost surviving textile mill along Jones Falls. Part of a group of textile mills built by Horatio Gambrill, David Carroll, and William Hooper, along with Mount Vernon Mill No. 3, it served as headquarters for Mount Vernon-Woodberry Mills, one of the world's largest producers of cotton duck. The mill complex meets National Register Criterion A because of the significant role that it played in the development of Baltimore's textile industry. Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 also meets National Register Criterion C because it exemplifies locally important changes in mill construction during the 1870s and 1880s, namely a marked expansion in size and scale and a consequent shift from stone to brick buildings. The period of significance for the complex extends from 1873, the date the present Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 was constructed, to 1923, the year of a bitter strike that marked the end of an era for Baltimore's textile industry.

HISTORY

Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 originated in the transition from grist mills to cotton mills along Jones Falls in the early 19th century. In 1808 a consortium of investors constructed the Union Mill along the Patapsco in Oella. Other mills soon followed on the Gunpowder River, Gwynn's Falls, and Jones Falls. The first building to occupy the site of Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 was the Laurel Flouring Mill, erected by Hugh Jenkins in 1845.[1] Flour milling, however, was soon superseded by textile production. Thwarted by Thomas Jefferson's embargo on American exports, Baltimore's merchants and shippers turned their attention to domestic markets, investing their capital in the emerging textile industry.[2] Baltimore's thriving ship building and ship repair industry offered a ready market for cotton duck, used for sails. By 1810, the United States boasted 87 cotton mills, eleven of which were situated in or near Baltimore. The area proved attractive, because its numerous streams emptying into the Chesapeake Bay offered cheap power and easy transportation.

In 1815 the Washington Manufacturing Company purchased the ca. 1810 Mount Washington Flour Mill, converting it into the first cotton mill in the area. Like other early mills, this water-powered mill was designed to convert raw cotton into yarn.[3] In 1832, David Carroll and Horatio Gambrill, two entrepreneurs who spearheaded the development of textile production in the Jones Falls Valley, jointly purchased the Mount Washington Mill. In 1839, they acquired the nearby Whitehall Flouring Mill and retooled it to manufacture textiles. Because yarn production could not keep pace with the weaving output, in 1842 they

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[1]Bill Harvey, *The People Is Grass*, p. 6-7.

[2]Robert Brugger, *Maryland, A Middle Temperament*, p. 177.

[3]Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Site Surveys, completed for Mt. Vernon Mill No. 1, prepared by Dennis Zembala and Anne Steele, 1980, Vertical Files, Baltimore Museum of Industry (BMI), sec. 8, p. 1.

purchased the Woodberry Flouring Mill and converted it into a yarn spinning mill. When water power failed in 1845, the two men switched to steam, doubling the capacity of Woodberry Mill. Then in 1847, they bought the Laurel Flouring Mill, which was turned into a cotton mill and renamed Mount Vernon Mill No. 1.[4] A writer for the *Baltimore Sun* described the newly transformed building and its operations in glowing terms:

> Mount Vernon is...one mile this side of Woodbury; it is also propelled by water power, aided by a steam engine, from the same patterns as the one at Woodbury. The building is large and commodious, being 5 stories in height; different kinds of fabrics are here manufactured — such as muslins and a lighter kind of duck, but the proprietors are adding heavy duck loom . . .the lower story being still vacant."[5]

On June 20, 1873 the first Mount Vernon Mill burned to the ground. Carroll and Gambrill immediately rebuilt the present larger, brick mill over the foundations of the older mill and constructed the Picker House southwest of the Mill Building. The new Mount Vernon Mill No. 1, built as a textile mill, epitomized the change in scale and materials found along Jones Falls in the latter part of the 19th century. Although constructed along the remnant of an earlier raceway, Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 was steam powered.

In December 1874 Edward Leonard, Civil Engineer and Insurance Surveyor, filed a lengthy report describing the first stage of development of the present Mount Vernon Mill No. 1. Leonard wrote that Mount Vernon Mill No. 1, which produced "cotton, duck, twine &c." was "remarkable for cleanness and strict observance of its rules."[6] Managed by one of the proprietors, the mill was in operation 66 hours/week.

Leonard recorded that the southern section of the present Mill Building, which was constructed over a stone foundation, was three stories high with exterior measurements of 200 ft. x 126 ft. Walls were three to four ft. thick. The basement level was subdivided into four sections; upper floors were open plan space. The cloth office, engine room, and storage for stock and "old iron" occupied the basement. The steam engine's fly wheel penetrated the 1st floor. Two of the four basement sections were unfinished. The 1st floor housed carders, drawers, slubbers, and speeders; the 2nd floor, weaving, beaming, and warping. The manager's office, no longer extant, was also located on the 2nd floor. Drive belts and pullies encased in iron extended from the 1st to the 2nd floor. Spinning, spooling, and twisting took place on the 3rd floor, which was lit by

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[4]James G. Bullock, "A Brief History of the Textile Manufacturing Mills along Jones Falls," (Baltimore, 1971), p. 5-6 and Phillip Kahn, Jr. *A Stitch in Time*, p. 16.

[5]Harvey, *The People Is Grass,* p. 11.

[6]Edward Leonard, "Plans, Sections, and Report of Mt. Vernon Cotton Mill, No. 1," n.p. Attention to cleanliness continued into the 20th century. A worker familiar with the mill in the years following World War II recalled, "I was fascinated how clean it was for a textile plant. They kept the place immaculate." (Hollyday, *Stone Hill*, p. 47.)

a 178 ft. long "ventilator" [roof monitor], now gone. Support functions such as the machine shop, carpenter shop, and blacksmith shop that could pose fire hazards were located at Mill No. 8 some 200 ft. away.[7]

The Mill Building boasted three "elevators." One went from the basement to the 2nd floor, one from the 1st to the 3rd floor, and one from the 2nd to the 3rd floor. None penetrated all four floors, enhancing fire separation between floors. The Mill Building's only stair was isolated in the south tower. Leonard reported that the stair led to a "French roof, which forms a neat observatory and is plastered and plaster ceiled." Other fire precautions included standpipes, at least nine sets of hoses with a combined length of 1100 ft. of hose, fire buckets, and watchmen.

Leonard also described the 1873 Picker House, which was connected to Mount Vernon Mill by a bridge. Cotton bales were stored in the basement. As an additional fire prevention measure, the Picker House was lit by glass-enclosed gas lights set in small openings in the exterior walls and lit from platforms on the outside of the building. Hoses could be threaded through these small openings in the event of fire. Picker Houses typically functioned to prepare raw cotton for the spinning process.[8] Bales of cotton, transferred to the Picker House from the Store House, were broken apart and machines removed impurities from the raw material. The picked cotton then was put through cards to untangle and align the fibers to prepare them for spinning.

In 1879 the Picker House was enlarged by the construction of a square, gabled section attached to the south end of the east facade of the building.[9] (The 1914 Sanborn Map depicts the later section used for "waste pickers" and "waste storage;" the earlier section housed a "dust room" in its basement.) In 1881, a three-story addition, measuring 170 ft. x 55 ft., was constructed on the northern end of the Mount Vernon Mill along with a separate "packing house" measuring 80 ft. x 40 ft.[10] The "packing house" is most likely Store House No. 1 since these dimensions describe the footprint and approximate size of the Store House.[11] (The 1914 Sanborn Map notes that burlap and machinery were housed in the basement, cotton on the 1st floor, and finished goods on the 2nd floor.) According to Baltimore chronicler Thomas Scharf, the Mount Vernon Manufacturing Company mills then provided "cotton duck and felting, the latter being used in making paper." The new addition increased the company's total employment to 1,600.[12]

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[7]Edward Leonard, "Plans, Sections, and Report of Mt. Vernon Cotton Mill, No. 1," n.p.

[8]The initial part of the Picker House description in the facsimile copy of Leonard's report is virtually illegible.

[9]Date stone on south facade.

[10]"Mount Vernon Mills," in "Mills and Mill Work—Baltimore—Mt. Vernon," Vertical Files, BMI.

[11]The size of structural members within the Store House suggest that it was designed specifically to house the heavy floor loads dense cotton bales created.

[12]Quoted in Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Site Surveys, completed for Mt. Vernon Mill No. 1, sec. 8, p. 2.

The Mount Vernon Mill complex exemplifies the second phase of mill construction along the Jones Falls Valley. Earlier mills such as Mount Washington Mill (1810), the earliest section of Woodberry Mill (1843), and Park Mill (1855) were typically constructed of stone and were smaller in size and scale than the first phase of Mount Vernon Mill No. 1. Many of the earlier operations adapted structures designed to house flour mills rather than construct new buildings specifically designed to house spinning and textile production. The first generation of mills depended on Jones Falls for their source of power, although Park Mill's boiler house demonstrated that Jones Falls supplied inadequate power for even pre-Civil War demand. Druid Mill, constructed by Horatio Gambrill as a textile mill in 1866, was a transitional structure. The largest stone mill in Maryland, it was the last stone mill to be constructed along Jones Falls and relied entirely on steam as a source of power.[13]

Later mills like the Clipper Mill (1865), Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 (1873), and Meadow Mill (1877) displayed a different typology dictated by the specific needs of textile production. Increasing demand for textiles, improved technology and power sources, and the increasing capital available to meet growing market demand resulted in a corresponding increase in the size of mills. Purpose-built textile mills required fire-proof construction and structures that could withstand the vibrations caused by the looms. While experts considered stone an appropriate material for foundations, brick was clearly the first choice for mill construction. Brick walls facilitated larger buildings that could be easily expanded in modular fashion to increase production. Building in brick afforded better quality control during construction, especially in the detailing of structural joints -- a critical element in a structural system designed to withstand vibration. Fire separation was also important. Stair towers were to be held separate from buildings to retard the spread of fire between floors. Separate buildings devoted to specialized functions isolated high risk activities and allowed structural systems to be tailored to specific load demands. For example, the density of cotton bales produced a load three times greater than the load created by textile machinery.[14]

Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 is typical of steam-powered mills built after the Civil War. Its brick construction and modular articulation permitted the building to be easily expanded, as indeed it was in 1881 and again in the early 20th century. Its distinctive stair tower, small-paned windows, structural bays articulated by pilasters, and structural system comprised of heavy timber beams supported by cast iron columns were important features of textile mill typology. Secondary buildings also incorporated important architectural characteristics displayed by textile mills of the period. The Store House featured heavy timber construction that could support loads posed by cotton bales; the Picker House isolated activities like unbaling and cleaning cotton, processes that generated dust and carried a high risk of fire.

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[13]Dennis M. Zembala, ed., *Baltimore: Industrial Gateway on the Chesapeake Bay*, pp. 102-105.

[14]Charles T. Main's *Notes on Mill Construction* (1886), written by the assistant superintendent of the Lower Pacific Mills for mechanical engineering students, provides an excellent discussion of the technical requirements of textile mills of the period.

By the date of the 1914 Sanborn Map, Mount Vernon Mill had essentially achieved its present form. Although the reinforced concrete warehouse across Jones Falls was not constructed until 1918, all of the other functional areas of the mill were in place. The 1914 map details how the enlarged Mill Building was used. As in 1874, the engine room was in the basement, carding on the 1st floor, weaving on the 2nd, and spinning on the 3rd. The expansion of the Mill Building, however, permitted multiple activities to take place on each floor. By 1914 weaving took place on all floors, including the basement; warp rooms were located in both the basement and the 3rd floor. Fly frames were situated on the 1st floor, along with the carding process. The only functional change to the 2nd floor appears to have been the relocation of the Cloth Room from the basement; the 3rd floor continued to house "ring spinning, spooling, and twisting."

Later interviews further illuminate operations at Mount Vernon Mill No. 1.

> Raw cotton came to Mt. Vernon Mill No. 1, to the "opening room." There the cotton was put in the picker, which rolled it up. Then it went to a carder --a two-ton, big wheel with a wire on it, turning real fast. It came out in a roll about two inches in diameter -- in a can. Then it went to the twisters, which twisted it down small; then to the spinners, which made smaller yarn. Then they ply it together: two-ply, seven-ply, just like the thread you buy. From there it went to the slasher room -- to be on the warp.... Later, everything changed from hand looms to automatic. We made mail bags, lamp wicks, and so on.[15]

Mount Vernon Mills operated under a paternalistic system characteristic of American textile mills. The owners adopted the "Rhode Island System," which recruited and employed entire families, in contrast to recruiting single workers housed in boarding houses. During the 1840s and 1850s, David Carroll and Horatio Gambrill built several dozen stone duplex residential units for their workers on a hill overlooking Mount Vernon Mill No. 1.[16] Known as Stone Hill because of the stone houses, the village of workers housing soon formed the nucleus of the Hampden neighborhood. At the time the first stone houses were constructed, the Jones Falls valley consisted of a few small hamlets clustered around individual mills. As late as 1860, the combined workforce of all the area's textile mills totaled only 536.[17] Employment in the industry leaped from 616 in 1870 to 2,931 in 1880.[18] Gradually the area took the form of an industrial mill town.[19]

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[15]Guy Hollyday, ed. *Stone Hill: The People and Their Stories*, p. 43

[16]Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Site Surveys, completed for Mt. Vernon Mill No. 1, p. 15.

[17]Harvey, *The People Is Grass*, p. 7.

[18]Ibid., p. 17.

[19]Beirne, "Hampden-Woodberry," p. 10.

David Carroll and his son, Albert Carroll, epitomized the paternalist management style that permitted mill owners to exercise enormous control over the lives of their employees. The Carrolls closely monitored operations at Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 from their spacious homes on a ridge above the mills (today the Florence Crittenton Home and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals). In addition to workers housing, they constructed the Mount Vernon M.E. Church, the Hampden Hall Community Center, the Hampden Library, and a boarding house for single women.[20]

By the 1890s, the mills along Jones Falls were operating at their peak. The symbiotic nature of Baltimore's industrial development continued to fuel the growth of the Jones Falls textile mills. As the downtown needle trades, "the largest generators and users of capital in the city," expanded their production, the number of looms in the region increased as well.[21] With almost 4,000 workers, Baltimore's textile mills constituted a substantial employer.[22] One reason for Baltimore's dominance was the relatively low cost of non-union labor due to Baltimore's relative proximity to poor, rural areas. (Most of the mills' workers came from rural Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina.)[23] Although the mills also produced other cotton products, such as rope, netting, mops and "shoddy" (leftovers for pillows and mattresses), duck was still the most important product.[24]

Efforts to consolidate textile operations along Jones Falls finally came to fruition in the late 1890s. In 1898 seven companies joined together to form the Mount Vernon-Woodberry Cotton Duck Company, creating a virtual monopoly for cotton duck.[25] Nine of the fourteen mills operated by the new company, including Mount Vernon Mill No. 1, were located along Jones Falls. In 1915, another major reorganization occurred, and the company adopted the new name of Mount Vernon-Woodberry Mills.

World War I, as other wars, generated extensive government work for textile mills. Uniforms, knapsacks, tents, and parachutes all required cotton fabric.[26] The last building constructed at Mount Vernon Mill No. 1, a reinforced concrete warehouse adjacent to the Penn Central railroad tracks and across Jones Falls from the Mill Building, was completed in 1918.[27] World War I also transformed the attitudes of the Hampden-Woodberry labor force. The war time boom yielded more jobs, increased hours, and significantly higher

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[20]Phillip Kahn, Jr., *A Stitch in Time*, p. 68n.
[21]Phillip Kahn, Jr. *A Stitch in Time,* p. 67.
[22]Harvey, "Hampden-Woodberry," p. 43.
[23]Karen Lewand, "North Baltimore: From Real Estate to Development," in D. Randall Beirne, ed., *Baltimore Neighborhoods: A Community Fact Book*, (Baltimore: Baltimore City Department of Planning and the University of Baltimore, 1989), p. 67.
[24]Harvey, *The People Is Grass,* p. 45.
[25]Bill Harvey, "Hampden-Woodbery: Baltimore's Mill Villages," in Elizabeth Fee, Linda Shopes and Linda Zeidman, eds., *The Baltimore Book: New Views of Local History*, (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1991), p. 43.
[26]Harvey, *The People Is Grass*, p. 45.
[27]The 1953 Sanborn Map has the date of the building's construction.

wages. After World War I demand slackened but the expectations of an expanded work force remained. In April 1923 Mount Vernon-Woodberry Mills announced a 54 hour work week and a 7.5% increase in pay; workers demanded a 48 hour week and a 25% increase in pay. When the company refused, a bitter strike lasting many months ensued. The 1923 strike marked a watershed in the history of the Mount Vernon-Woodberry Mills. It resulted in the end of the paternalistic system that governed mill operations and the end of an era of general prosperity and expansion of the textile industry in Baltimore. While owners had offered concessions in the earlier years, they now became intransigent. Management broke the strike by refusing to recognize the United Textile Workers, refusing to meet with a committee of workers, businessmen, and clergy formed by Mayor Howard Jackson, and evicting strike leaders from company housing. By 1925 they began selling off company housing. Three mill buildings were sold and operations were moved to Alabama and South Carolina, areas so poor that unions could never obtain a foothold.[28]

Textile manufacturing dropped off precipitously during the Depression. After 1939, when the U.S. began arming itself and its allies, orders for war materials revived production. By 1940, the Mount Vernon-Woodberry Mills were inundated with requests for almost one and half million packs and parachutes, as well as a million tents. In 1942, the mills began operating three shifts a day, seven days a week.[29] Because wartime industries like shipbuilding paid higher wages, the mills had difficulty attracting workers. As a result, the company began to employ more women and older workers. For the first time, they also began to recruit local African Americans.[30] The wartime revival proved short-lived. Particularly after the Korean War, Baltimore's textile industry entered another period of sharp decline exacerbated by the introduction of synthetic fibers and the lure of the non-union workforce in southern states. Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 was among the first mills to be converted for synthetic production.[31]

> When Dacron first came out, we were one of the first to use it for sailboats -- it repels water and is light. In the 1950s we made upholstering for Cadillacs. For at least ten years we had a steady order for ten thousand yards for tablecloths for California. We had one million yards in storage.[32]

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[28]Bill Harvey, "Hampden-Woodberry" in *The Baltimore Book*, pp. 46-49. The strike was so traumatic that residents literally erased it from memory. Interviews with over 250 people yielded only fragmentary first hand recollection; no one was willing to talk extensively on tape.

[29]Article from the *Baltimore Sun*, (March 17, 1942), Vertical Files, BMI.

[30]Randall Beirne, "Hampden-Woodberry: The Mill Village in an Urban Setting," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 77(Spring 1982): 22-23.

[31]J.T. Ward, "Meadow and Mt. Vernon Mills Join Trend in Processing of Synthetics," *Baltimore Sun*, June 24, 1948, Vertical Files, BMI.

[32]Guy Hollyday, *Stone Hill*, p. 43. Workers recalled that "we were one of the first mills that tried to weave polyester and polypropylene." (p. 43)

By 1971, most of the mills along Jones Falls had closed: only the yarn unit in Mount Vernon Mill No. 1, which produced synthetic novelty yarns, and the cloth unit in Mount Vernon Mill No. 3 continued to operate. Together, they employed a total of 299 workers.[33] In 1972, the company announced that it would close the plants and liquidate all of its real estate holdings in the Jones Falls valley. Although the buildings remained in "excellent shape," officials claimed that new manufacturing methods had rendered multi-story textile buildings obsolete, and the lure of cheaper labor drew them south.[34]

The period of significance, 1873-1945, encompasses the period between the initial construction of the mill and the end of World War II.

[33]Bullock, "A Brief History of Textile Mills along Jones Falls," pp. 11-12.
[34]Textile Firm to Sell Plants," *Baltimore Sun*, (May 21, 1972), Vertical Files, BMI.

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10. GEOGRAHICAL DATA

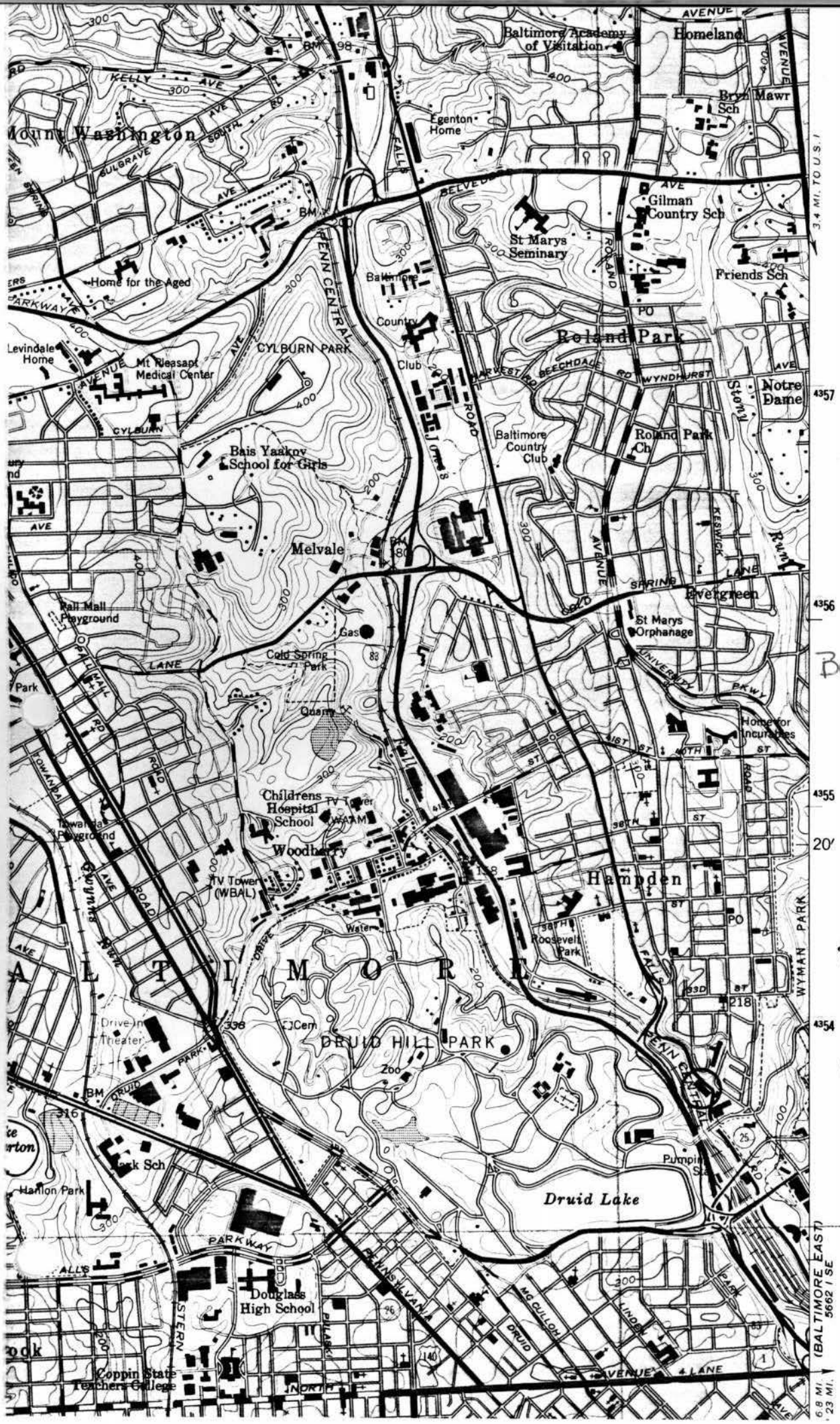
Verbal Boundary Description

The Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 occupies an irregular oblong-shaped group of four lots between Falls Road on the northeast and the M.T.A. Light Rail right-of-way on the southwest, with adjacent property lines forming the northwestern and southeastern boundaries. The four lots are Ward 13, Section 12, Block 3500, Lots number 1 (Mill); 1A (Picker House); 7 (Store House); and 3 (1918 Building). Jones Falls bisects the property and Lot 7 lies east of Falls Road.

Falls Road forms the northeastern boundary of the property. The northwestern boundary is formed by a property line set 29 ft from Falls Road, where the boundary crosses Jones Falls and is continued by the Falls itself for approximately 300 ft. The southwestern boundary of the property is formed by the M.T.A. Light Rail right-of-way. The irregular southeastern boundary is formed by a property line set 118 ft. east of the M.T.A. Right-of-way, at which point the boundary crosses Jones Falls again; the boundary continues along Jones Falls 291 ft. to the south, where the boundary is set back 104 ft. from Falls Road; the boundary continues along Falls Road approximately 300 ft. where it crosses the road to encompass the Store House. The Store House property is bordered on the south by a property line set back 65 ft. from Falls Road; on the southeast by a property line set back 163 ft. from Pacific Street; on the northeast by Pacific Street; and on the northwest by a property line set back from Falls Road 55 ft.

Boundary Justification

The boundary corresponds with the legal description of the property and encompasses the full extent of the site of Mount Vernon Mill No. 1.



Balto. West Quad

B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL NO. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

18-359400

4353700

B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

FEBRUARY 2000

MD SHPO

COMPLEX FROM SW ACROSS JONES FALLS

S023 -1 T01038 P037

1 OF 18

23

MOUNT VERNON MILLS
No 1

B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

FEBRUARY 2000

MD SHPO

S. FACADE - MILL BUILDING FROM SW

S024NOR T00293 P048

2 OF 18

B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL NO. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

FEBRUARY 2000

MD SHPO

E FACADE OF MILL BUILDING FROM SE

84 P029

3 OF 18

2B

B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

FEBRUARY 2000

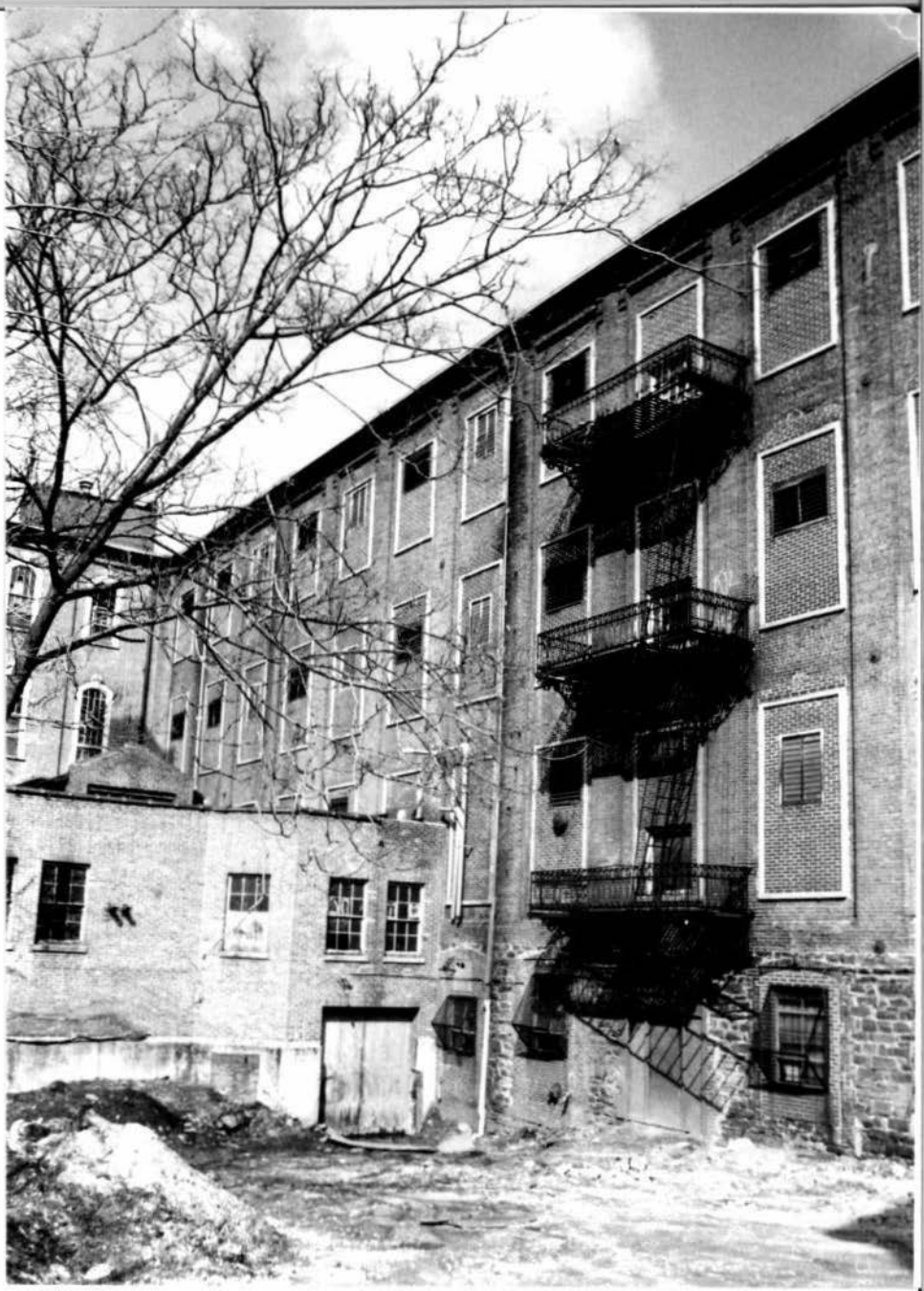
MD SHPO

E AND N FACADES OF MILL BUILDING FROM NE

S023 -1 101192 P001

4 OF 18

2A



B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

FEBRUARY 2000

MD SHPO

W. FACADE OF MILL BUILDING, S FACADE OF BOILER
S025 - 2 T00629 P012

HOUSE FROM SW

5 OF 18

2B

ac B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

FEBRUARY 2000

MD SHPO

S023 +2 T00852 P048

WJ FACADES OF MILL BUILDING AND BOILER HOUSE;
N AND W FACADES OF PICKER HOUSE FROM NW

6 OF 18

2B

B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

FEBRUARY 2000

MD SHPO

S023NOR T00904 P022

BOILER HOUSE, STACK, S FACADE OF W SECTION OF MILL BUILDING, E FACADE OF 1918 BUILDING FROM SE

7 OF 18

2B

1879

B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

FEBRUARY 2000

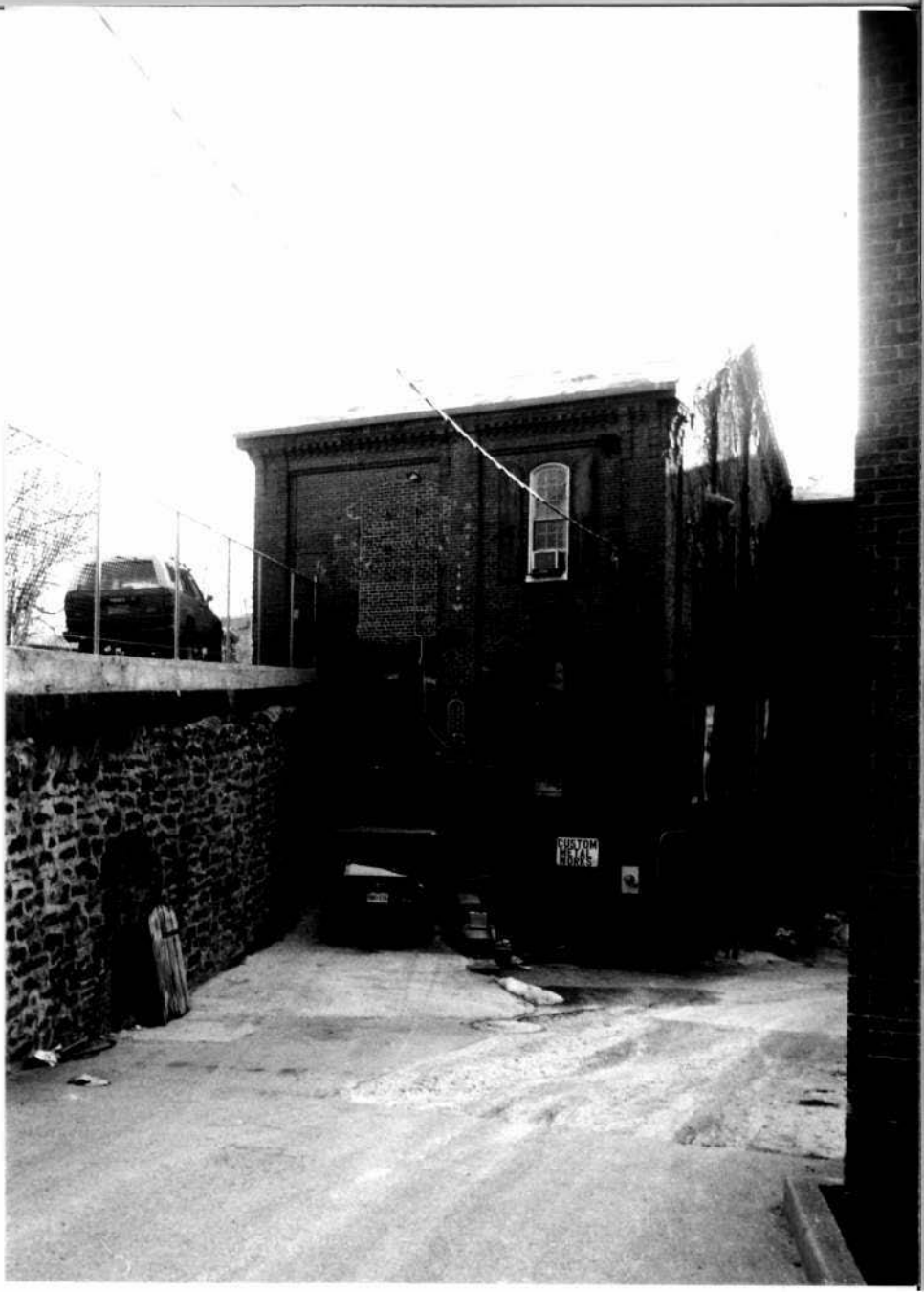
MD SHPO

S023 -2 T08447 P027

PICKER HOUSE - SOUTH AND EAST FACADES FROM SE

8 OF 18

2B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METAL
WORKS

B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

FEBRUARY 2000

MD SHPO

S023 -2 T01788 P056

EAST SECTION OF PICKER HOUSE FROM NE - VIEW OF E FACADE

9 OF 18

2B

B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRO

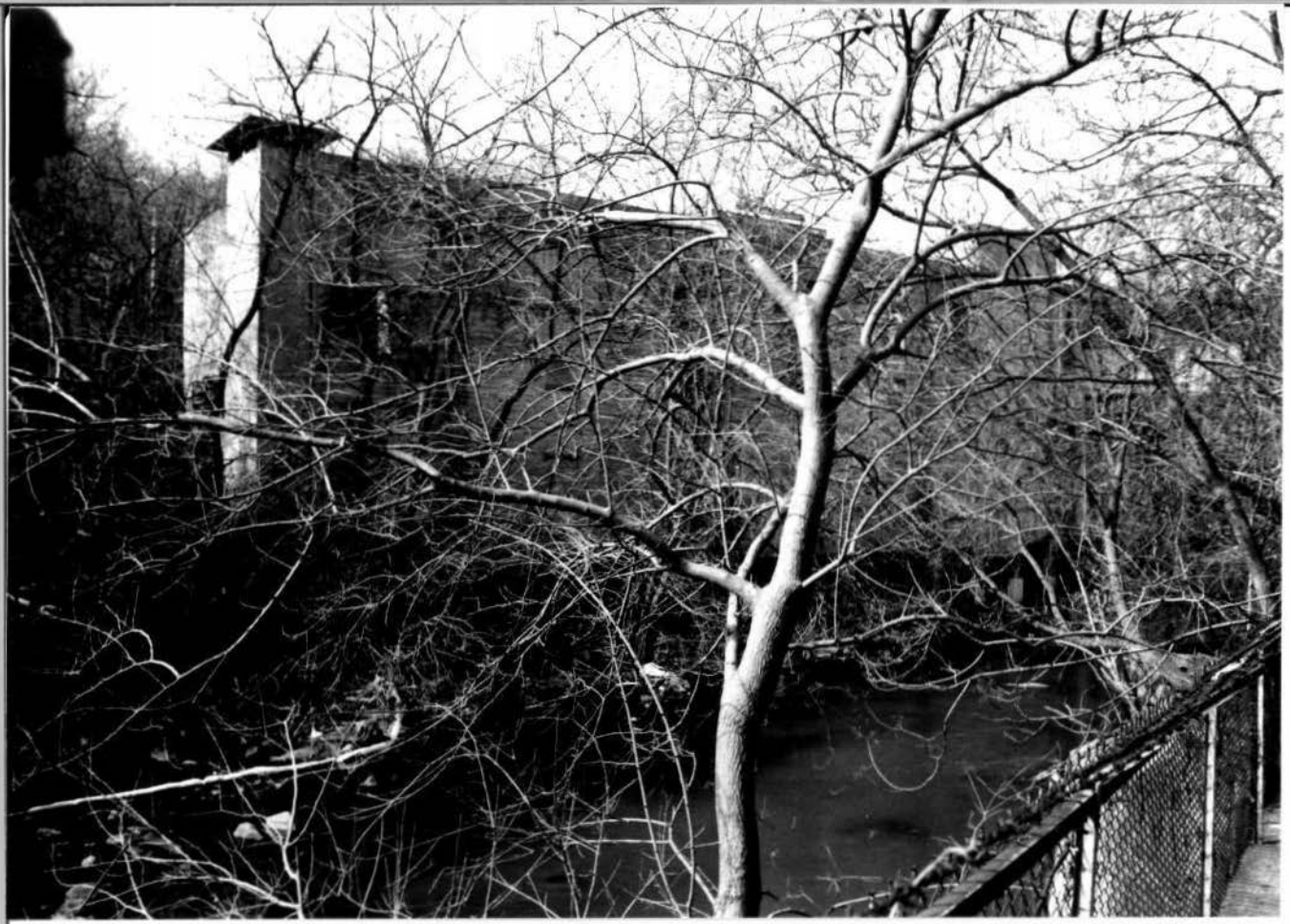
JUNE 2000

MD SHPO

STORE HOUSE FROM NW SHOWING N AND W FACADES

10 OF 18

S026 +2 100465 P027



B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

FEBRUARY 2000

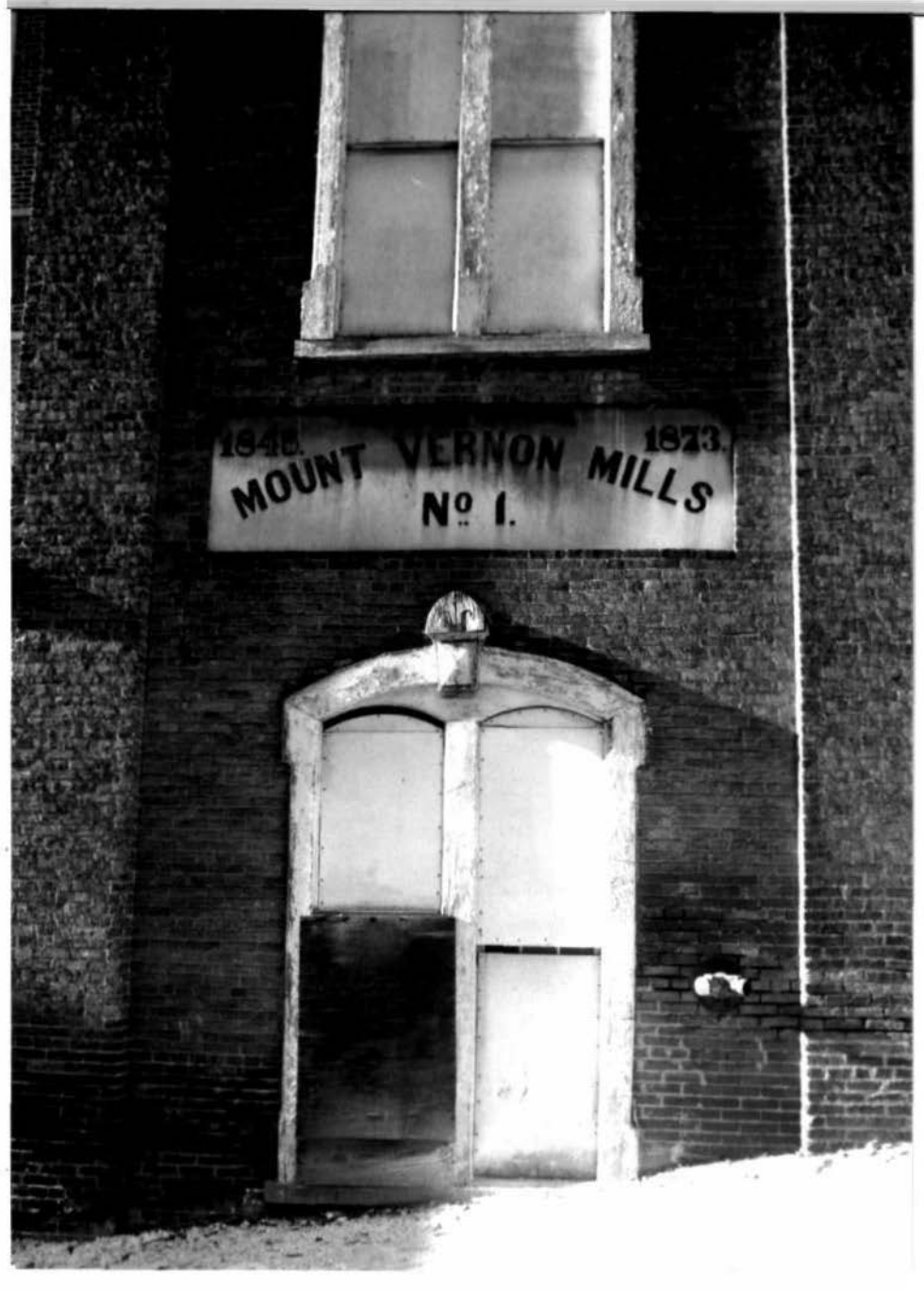
MD SHPO

S023NOR T00717 P013

1918 BUILDING FROM SE SHOWING EAST FACADE

11 OF 18

2B


1846.
1873.
MOUNT VERNON MILLS
No 1.

B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

FEBRUARY 2000

MD SHPO

S025 +1 T00234 P044

DETAIL OF DATE STONE AND WINDOW SURROUND - MILL BUILDING

12 OF 18

B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

FEBRUARY 2000

MD SHPO

S023 -1 T00657 P015

DETAIL OF WINDOWS AND CORNICE - MILL BUILDING

13 OF 18

28

B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

FEBRUARY 2000

MD SHPO

DETAIL OF ENTRY DOORS AND CANOPY - S. TOWER - MILL BUILDING

S023 -2 T00740 P053

14 OF 18

2B

B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

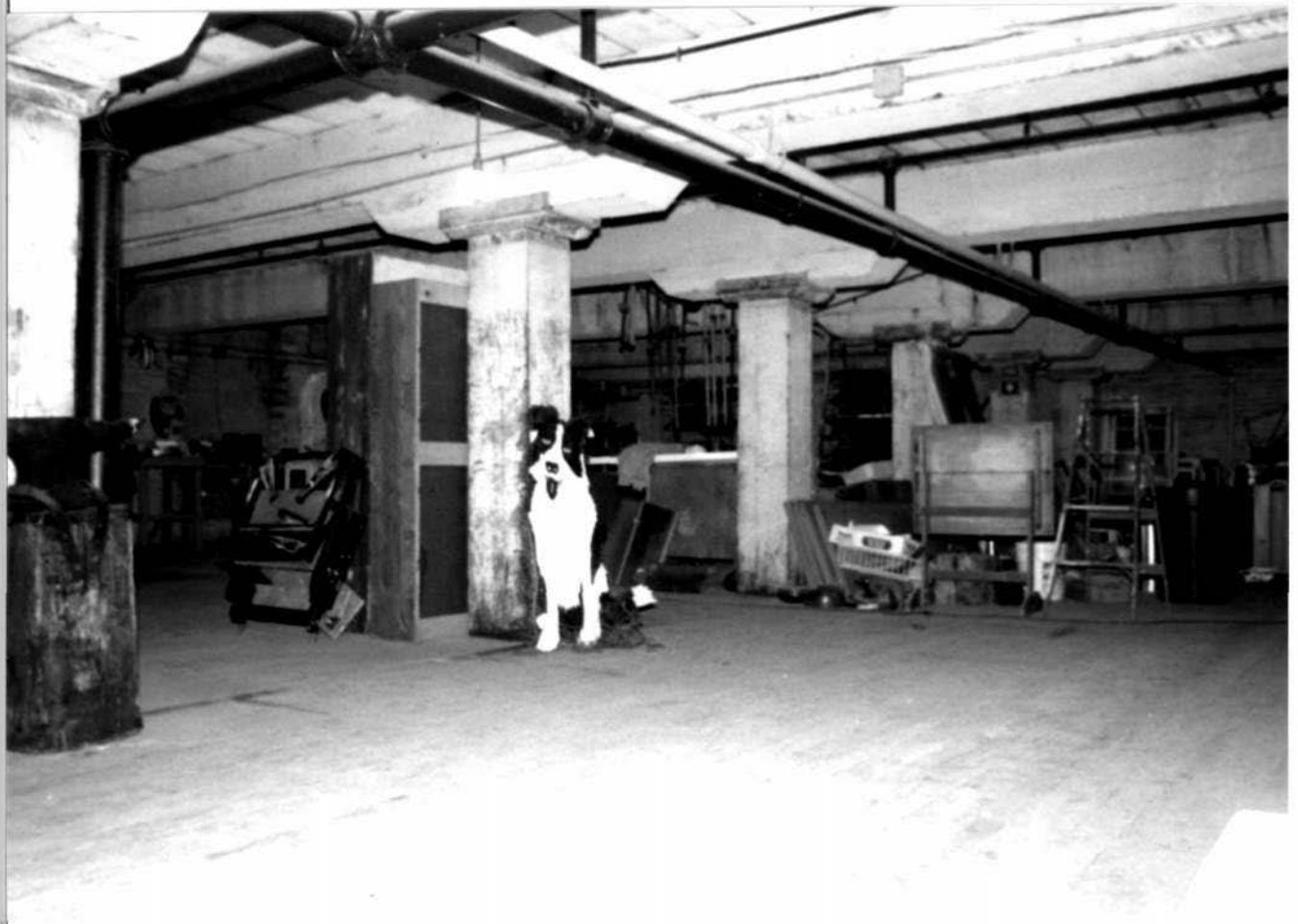
FEBRUARY 2000

MD SHPO

S024NOR T00508 P034

INTERIOR OF MILL BUILDING BASEMENT

15 OF 18



B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

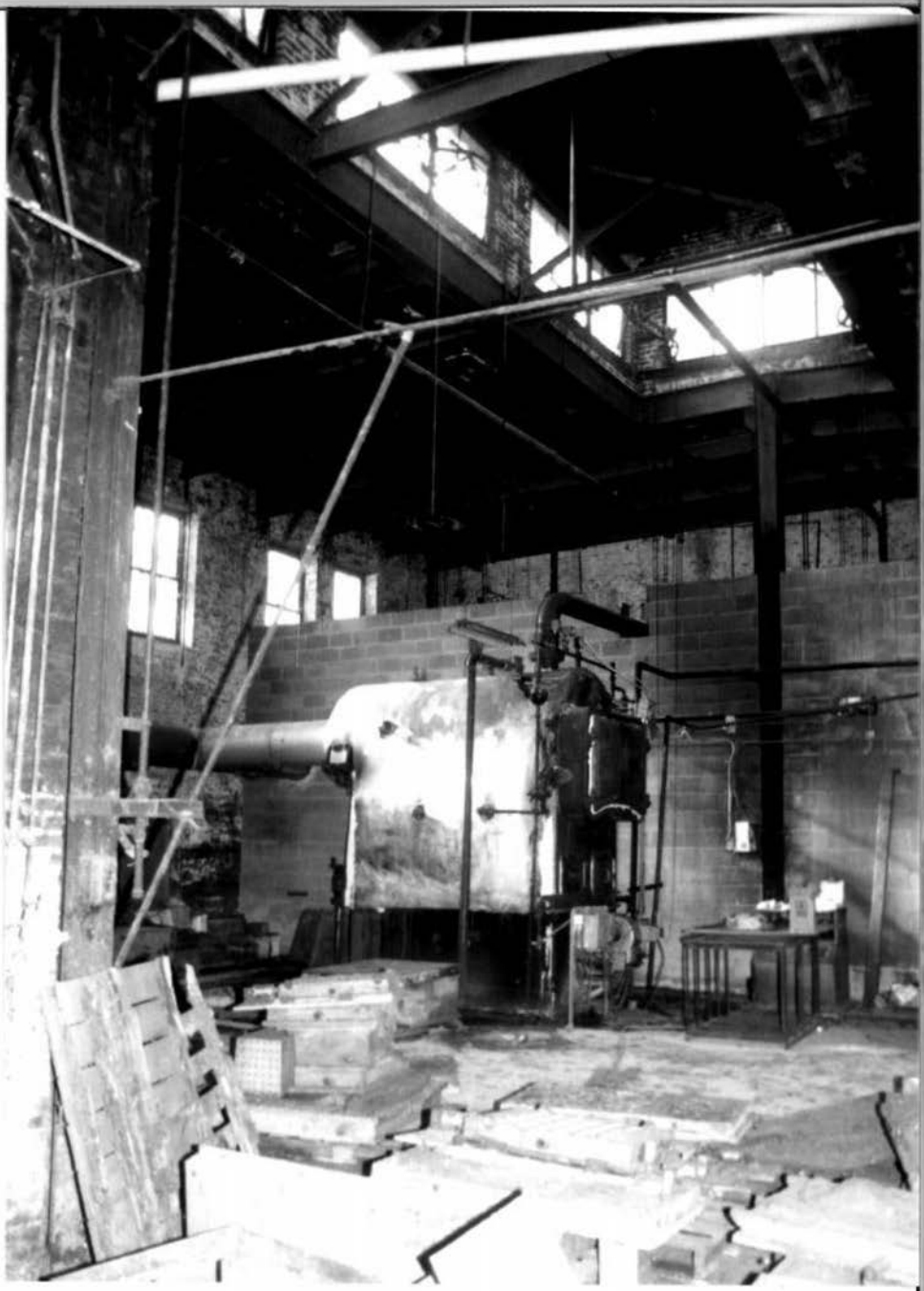
JUNE 2000

MD SHPO

STORE HOUSE INTERIOR

16 OF 18

S02SMOR 100668 P039



B-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

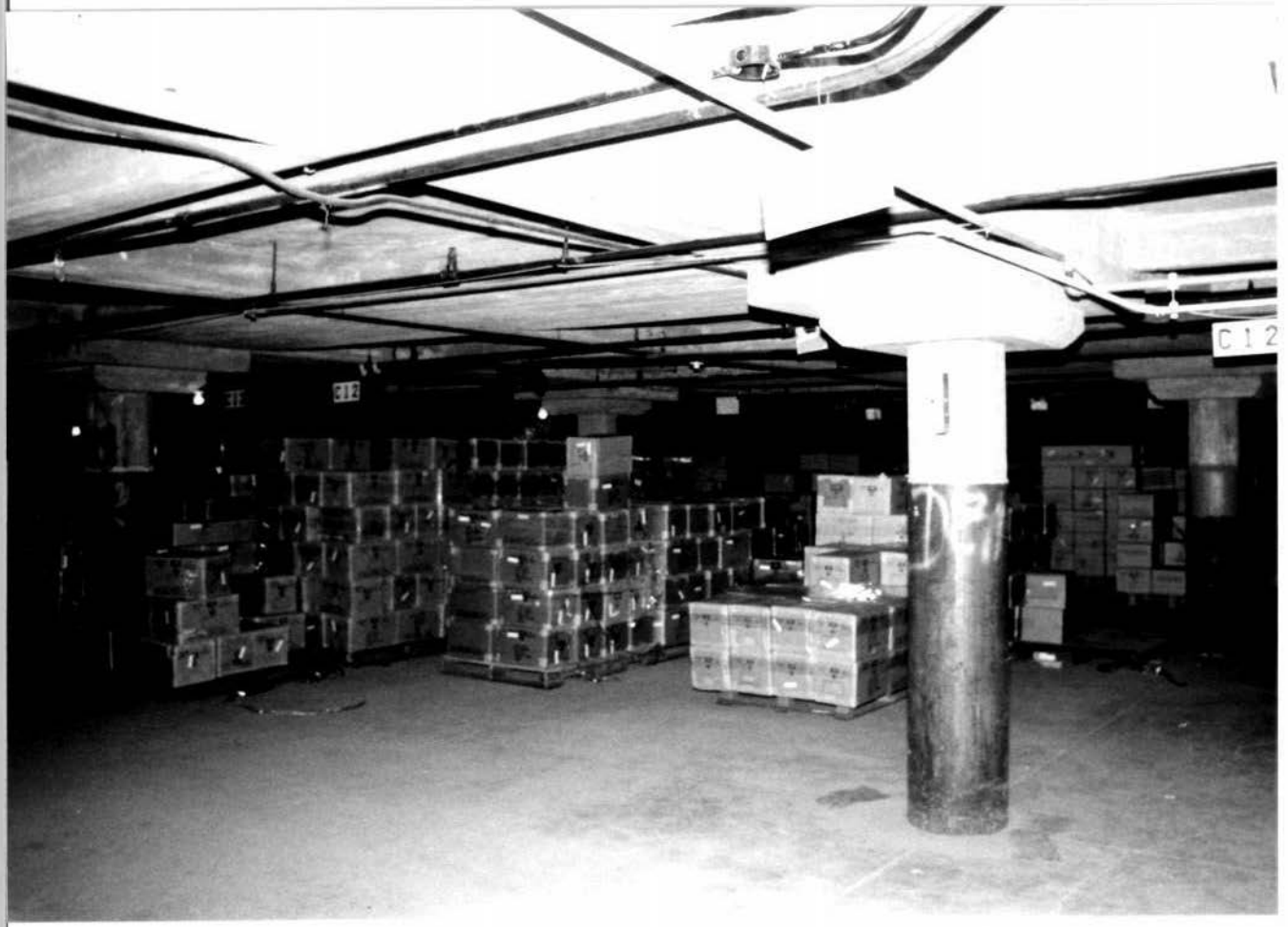
FEBRUARY 2000

MD SHPO

S025 +1 T00324 P029

INTERIOR OF BOILER HOUSE - VIEW FROM SW

17 OF 18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BCB-62

MOUNT VERNON MILL No. 1

BALTIMORE CITY, MARYLAND

BETTY BIRD

FEBRUARY 2000

MD SHPO

INTERIOR OF 1918 BUILDING

S023 -1 T00898 P041

18 OF 18

23

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property Name: Mount Vernon Mill No. 1 Inventory Number: B-0062

Address: 3000-3030 Falls Road, Baltimore (Woodberry)

Owner: Lifelike Products, 1600 Union Avenue, Baltimore, MD

Tax Parcel Number: Sect. 12, Block 3500, lot 1 &3 Tax Map Number: 13

Project: Central Light Rail Double Track-North Line Agency: Mass Transit Administration

Site visit by: John Milner Associates, Inc. Staff: ☐no ☒yes

Name: Kerri Culhane Date: February 2000

Eligibility recommended ☒ Eligibility **not** recommended ☐

Criteria: ☒A ☐B ☒C ☐D Considerations: ☐A ☐B ☐C ☐D ☐E ☐F ☐G ☐None

Is property located within a historic district? ☒no ☐yes Is district listed? ☐no ☐yes

Name of district:

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: *(provide name of Report)* ***Cultural Resources Investigations for the Proposed Construction of Double Track for the North Half of Central Light Rail, City of Baltimore and Baltimore County, Maryland*** (John Milner Associates 1999).

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

The brick Mount Vernon Mill no. 1 (1873, 1880s), was well surveyed in 1980, however the twentieth-century reinforced concrete warehouse/mill associated with the synthetic textile manufacturing to which Mount Vernon converted, was not included as a secondary resource on the MIHP form.. The structure was built along the steep embankment of the Jones Falls, between the river and the former Northern Central Railway tracks, now the Central Light Rail alignment. The falls side is four stories, and the building is supported on reinforced concrete posts extending into the middle of the river. The railroad side is one to two stories with a flat roof. The only notable features of the building's exterior are the southeast corner tower capped with a pyramidal hip roof, and the cantilevered concrete loading dock and frame canopy that runs the length of the western elevation. The former Mount Vernon Mills sign has been grafittied. The building appears to be vacant at this time. Access was limited due to its location on the active rail corridor and the falls.

The Mt. Vernon Mill no. 1 is one of a complex of nineteenth century textile mills in the Jones Falls Valley. This mill, which manufactured cotton duck and later converted to synthetics, is representative of the thriving mill industry of the nineteenth century Jones Falls Valley and its transition in the twentieth century. It is recommended as eligible under Criteria A and C. Mt. Vernon Mill would also contribute to an MPD of mills in the Jones Falls Valley.

Prepared by: Kerri Culhane, Project Architectural Historian, John Milner Associates, Inc.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW
Eligibility recommended ☒ **Eligibility not recommended** ☐
Criteria: ☒**A** ☐**B** ☒**C** ☐**D** **Considerations:** ☐**A** ☐**B** ☐**C** ☐**D** ☐**E** ☐**F** ☐**G** ☐**None**
Comments:

8/15/00 8/14/00

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	**Date**
Reviewer, NR program	**Date**

Inventory No. B-0062

PRESERVATION VISION 2000; THE MARYLAND PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS

I. Geographic Region:

- ☐ Eastern Shore (all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
- ☐ Western Shore (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
- ☒ Piedmont (Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
- ☐ Western Maryland (Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

- ☐ Rural Agrarian Intensification A.D. 1680-1815
- ☒ Agricultural-Industrial Transition A.D. 1815-1870
- ☒ Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930
- ☐ Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present
- ☐ Unknown Period (☐prehistoric; ☐historic)

III. Historic Period Themes:

- ☐ Agriculture
- ☒ Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
- ☒ Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
- ☐ Government/Law
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Religion
- ☐ Social/Educational/Cultural
- ☐ Transportation

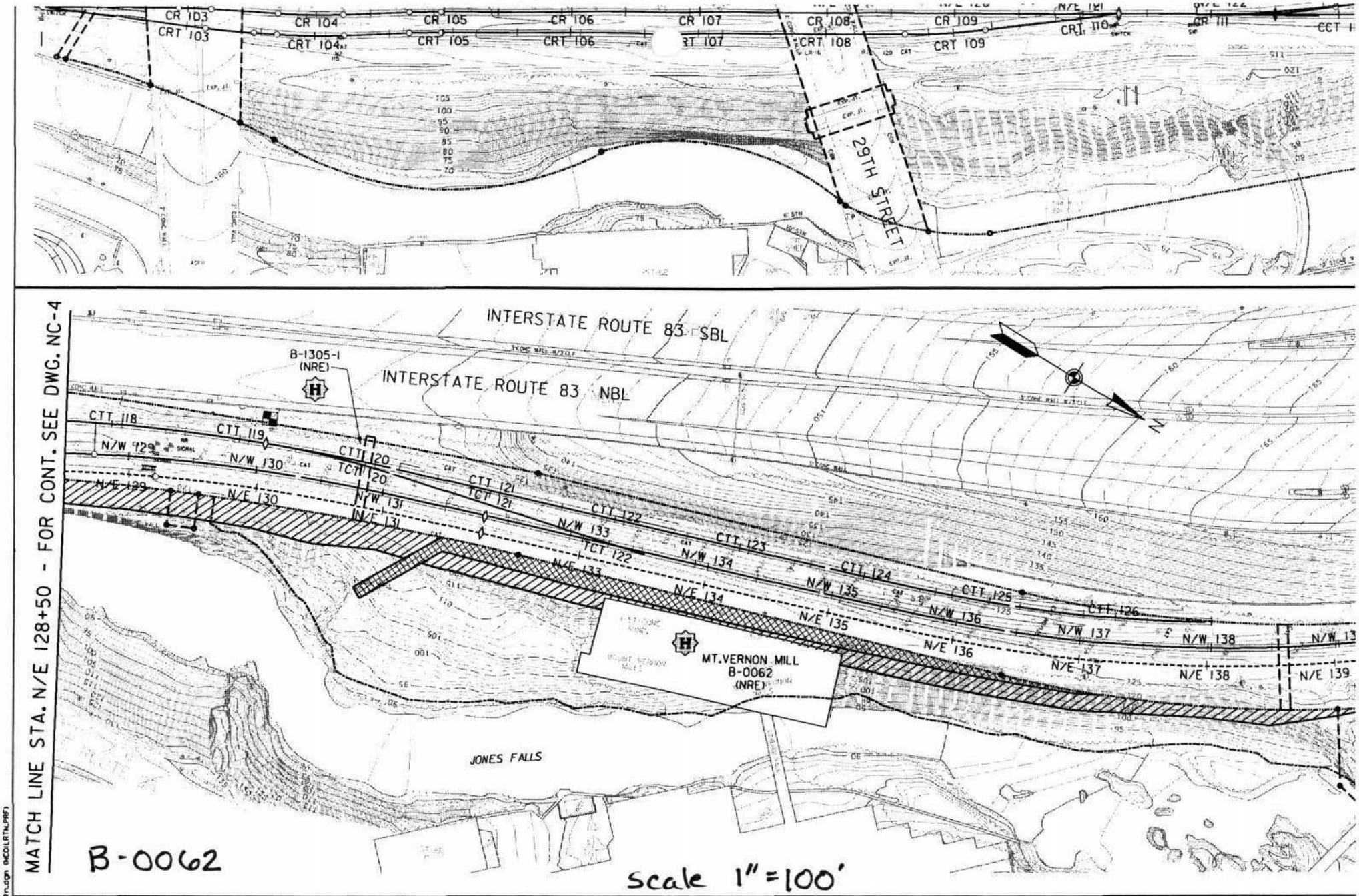
IV. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Village/Urban

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Industry/Processing/Extraction: manufacturing facility; mill

Known Design Source: none



STATE OF MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MTA MASS TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION

RUMMEL, KLEPPER & KAHL, LLP
Consulting Engineers

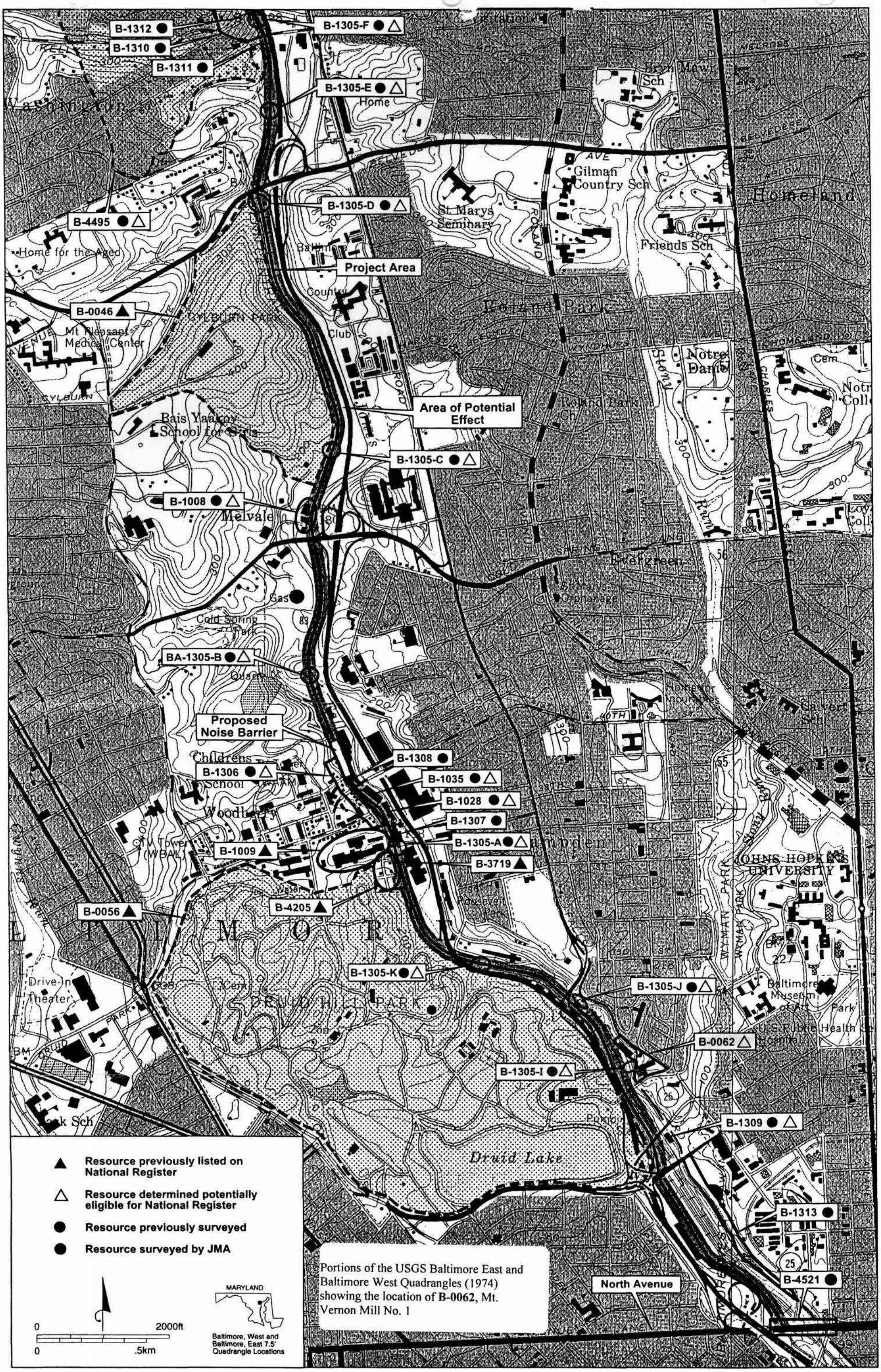
John Milner Associates, Inc. : Cultural Resources

Staiano Engineering, inc. : Noise / Vibration Analysis

LEGEND

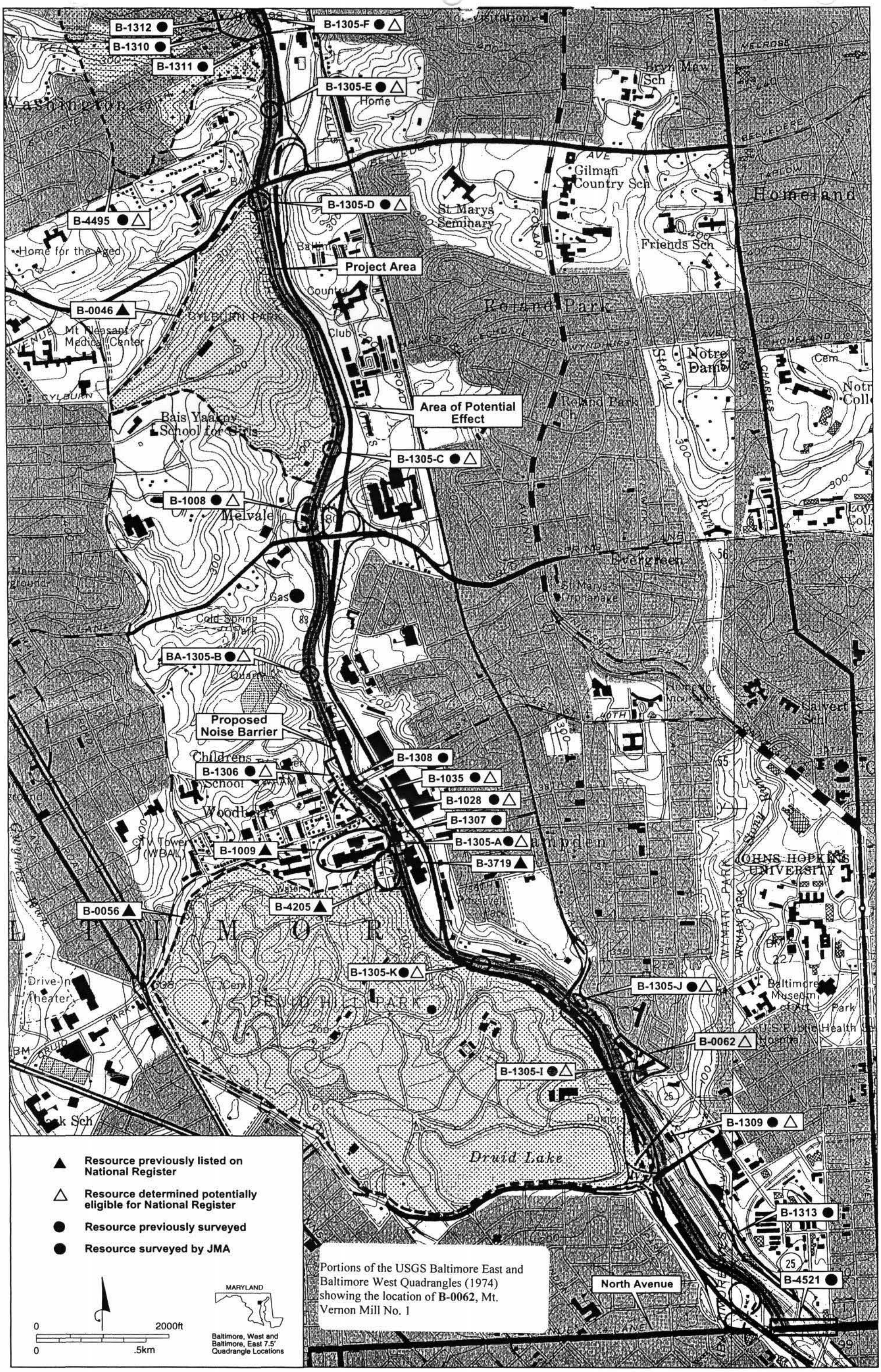
(H)	CULTURAL RESOURCE
(NR)	NATIONAL REGISTER
(NRE)	NATIONAL REGISTER ELIGIBLE
—H—	CULTURAL RESOURCE BOUNDARY
—P—	PARK BOUNDARY
--- N2 ---	SEVERE NOISE IMPACT
—N8—	NOISE BARRIER
———	RIGHT-OF-WAY
	TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT
	PERMANENT DRAINAGE EASEMENT
	PERMANENT ACCESS EASEMENT
	FEE SIMPLE

3/10/00 12:10:50
p:\data1\98-29-1\noise\ncDir1n.dgn (NCDILRTN.PRF)



Portions of the USGS Baltimore East and Baltimore West Quadrangles (1974) showing the location of **B-0062**, Mt. Vernon Mill No. 1

B-62



Portions of the USGS Baltimore East and Baltimore West Quadrangles (1974) showing the location of **B-0062**, Mt. Vernon Mill No. 1

B-62

B-0062

Mt. Vernon Mills Warehouse

Baltimore, MD

K. CURTANE

2/2000

MDSHPO

PROTEC2000< >023
221 07** N N N N 07 2(040)

3/4 view to northeast. Reinforced concrete warehouse and loading dock associated with Mt. Vernon Mill no. 1 (B-0062).

1 of 5

B-0062

Mt. Vernon Mill no. 1 - Warehouse + Loading Dock

Baltimore, MD

K. Culhane

2/2000

MDSHPO

3/4 view to northeast. Taken from RR tracks.

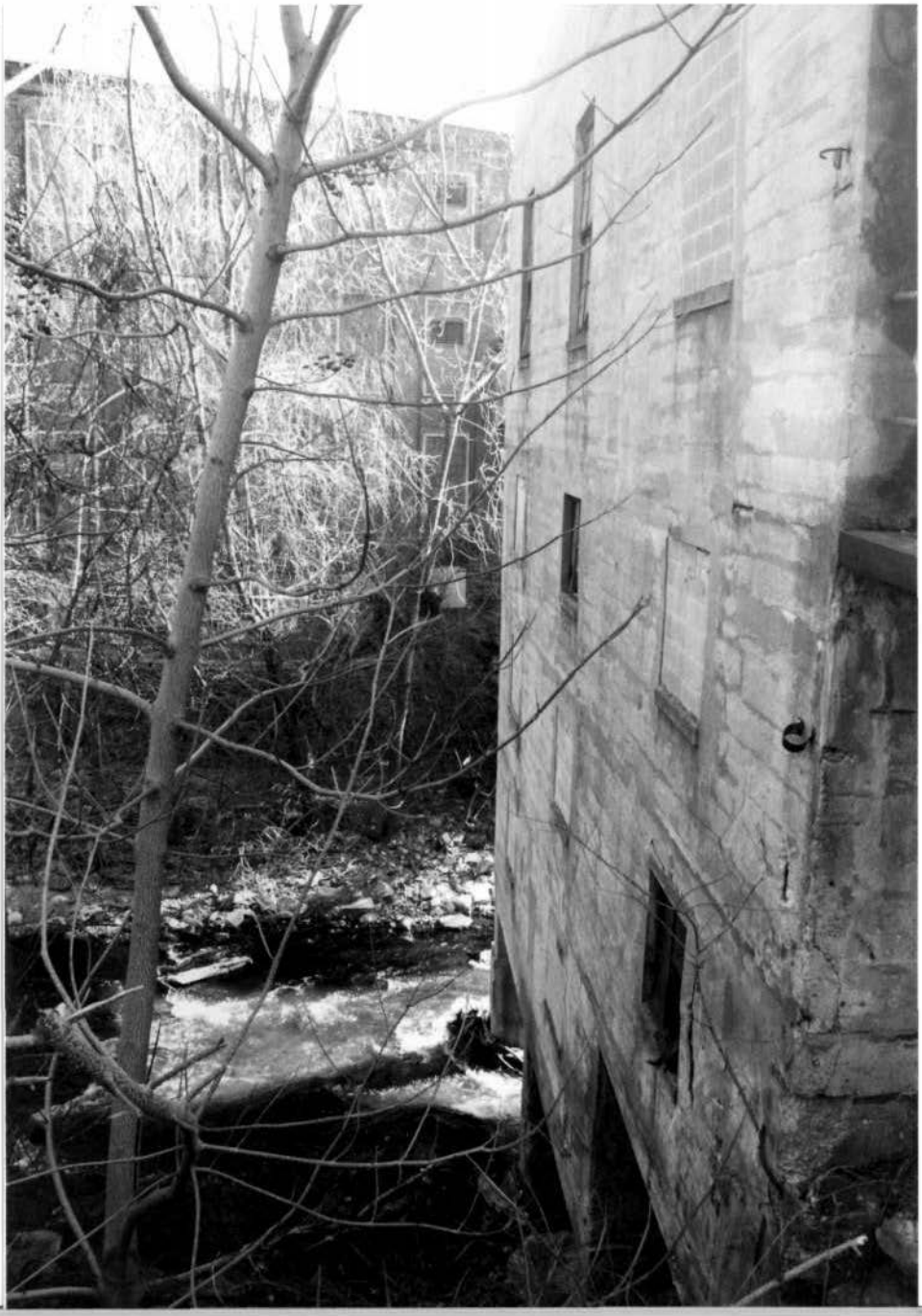
PROTEC2000< >015
221 07** N N N-1 05 2(040)

B-0062
Mt. Vernon Mill no. 1 - Warehouse and
Loading Dock
Baltimore, MD
K. Culhane
2/2000
MDSHPO

PROTEC2000< >016
221 07** N N N-2 11 2(040)

Loading Dock. view to north.

3 of 5



B-0062

Mt. Vernon Mill no. 1 - warehouse + loading dock

Baltimore, MD

K. Culhane

2/2000

MDSHPO

PROTEC2000K >018
221 07** N N N-1 05 2(040)

Oblique view of north elevation. View to east. Jones Falls and main mill complex are visible in left side of frame.

4 of 5

STAR
MOUNT ESPO MILLS
SYNTHETIC YARNS & FABRICS

B-0062
Mt. Vernon Mills No. 1. Warehouse + loading dock
Baltimore, MD
K. Culhane
2/2000
MDSHPO

PROTEC2000< >017
221 07** N N N-1 09 2(040)

West elevation showing sign. View to east.

5 OF 5

B-62
MOUNT VERNON MILL #1 1873/1881

Baltimore
Private

Mount Vernon Mill #1 is significant both architecturally and as part of the network of textile mills built by Horatio Gambrill, David Carroll and William Hooper. This network established the Jones Falls Valley as the world's largest producer of cotton duck by the end of the 19th century. This distinctive red brick structure with its gable roof, square tower, distinctive north-east facade and long rows of windows was built in 1873 and expanded in 1881 on the site of the earlier Laurel Mill (c. 1945). Mount Vernon #1, with its sister mill #3, is representative of the "second phase" of textile mill construction in the Valley, during which mills were constructed in brick and on a larger scale than the earlier stone mills such as Park, Woodberry and Washington Mills.

B-62

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

MAGI #0400623514

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Mt. Vernon Mill#1

AND/OR COMMON:

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: Falls Road & Union Avenue, Hampden

CITY, TOWN: Baltimore ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 7th

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY:

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	__OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Life-Like Products Inc. Telephone #: 301-889-1023

STREET & NUMBER: Falls Road & Union Avenue (1600 Union Avenue)

CITY, TOWN: Baltimore ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code: Maryland 212

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Baltimore City Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER: Calvert & Fayette Streets

CITY, TOWN: Baltimore,

STATE: Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The earliest part of Mt. Vernon Mill #1 was built in 1873. The main building is a three-story brick building (with stone basement) and a center tower on either end. The original building, the wider southern section built in 1873, has a gable roof with prominent eaves. On the northeast side there is one gabled side entrance, which juts out slightly from the rest of the building. This building had only one tower, which is still standing but without its original mansard roof and large statue. A windowed monitor running not quite the length of the section has been removed. The addition of identical design, but approximately 30 ft. narrower and with a slightly less gabled roof, was built in 1881 and includes the second tower. In 1874 the basement of the original building contained the cloth office and the engine room, which housed a steam engine with a fly wheel which rose above the first floor and was covered with sheet metal. The first floor contained the belt-driven carding, drawing, slubbing and speeding machines. Weaving, beaming and warping were done on the second floor, while spinning, spooling and twisting machines were located on the third floor. The building at this time was warmed by steam and lit by gasoline lamps.

On the southwest side of the main building is a four-story, 3 ft. x 3 ft bay, pitched-roof addition with projecting beaux arts arched lintels. Also on this side is the boiler house. Originally two "boilers bricked arched" were housed within one long and one square building with sloping roofs surrounding the 90 ft. smoke stack. The present boiler house is a laterstructure with a flat roof and a small skylight.

Adjacent to the main building, next to the boiler house and connected to the main building by a bridge is a two-story picker house, built in 1873. This structure has a high, pitched roof, a chimney on the northwest side and 30 to 32 inch walls. The two ceilings in this building are "constructed by a series of cemented brick arches, supported by iron girders resting on metal columns, made level at the top and thickly covered with sand, with brick floor over." The framework of the roof is all iron and covered with slate. There was originally an elevator between the first and second floors, gas lights set in the walls, and outside lights on metal platforms. The doors were iron covered and all windows had solid iron shutters. Heavy steel I-beams have been installed on top of the floor on the second level, probably to support machinery suspended from the ceiling below. A second, smaller 1879 addition to the picker house joins it on the north side. It is of similar construction, windowless with heavy corbelling under the eaves, pilasters and an exterior central door for the delivery of cotton bales.

The floors in the main building were described in 1874 as "one inch with tongued ceiling, on 12-ing joists resting on 14-inch

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	X INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1873, 1879 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mt. Vernon Mill #1 is significant as part of the network of textile mills built by Horatio Gambrill, David Carroll and William Hooper which established Baltimore's Hampden-Woodberry area as the world's largest producer of cotton duck by the end of the 19th century. Located on the banks of the Jones Falls, this distinctive three-story brick structure with its double-gable roof, square tower, and rows of elaborate windows, was built on the site of the 1845 Laurel Mill. Today it houses the operations of the Life-Like Products Company, manufacturers of toys and Christmas decorations. Mount Vernon #1 is representative of the shift from stone to brick construction on a larger and more modern scale which characterized the "second phase" of textile mill construction in the Jones Falls Valley during the 1870s and 80s.

Historical Significance:

The Baltimore textile industry had its origins in the rush of American entrepeneurs to fill a void created by the War of 1812 and the national embargo of British goods which preceded it. American demand for yarn and cloth which had formerly been supplied by British imports went begging for lack of supplies, and merchants sought to create new manufacturing plants with the capital formerly tied up in that trade. Cities and towns in New England and along the Atlantic seaboard saw the appearance of new cotton mills in such numbers that by 1810 there were 87 such mills operating in the U.S. Eleven of these were in or near Baltimore where the various streams emptying into the Chesapeake Bay offered the advantages of cheap water power close to equally inexpensive water transport. These early factories were largely spinning mills which converted the raw cotton into yarn. Weaving of fabrics remained mainly a "cottage craft".

The demand for yarn in Baltimore came largely from the needs of the shipping industry for sailcloth or duck. All American port cities had long relied on linen duck, mostly supplied by Holland. After the Revolutionary War there was a surge of interest in sailcloth manufacture in the ports. In about 1809 Seth Bemis of Watertown, Massachusetts began making duck from machine-spun cotton, a thread capable of matching the strength of linen. The new material was slow in being accepted at first but the Embargo and later the War of 1812 made imported

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(cont.)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Vertical files, Baltimore Industrial Museum
(see: Jones Falls Valley Textile Industry)

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
Dennis Zembala, Ann Steele

ORGANIZATION: Baltimore Industrial Museum
DATE: April, 1980

STREET & NUMBER: 217 E. Fayette St.
TELEPHONE: 301-396-1931

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore
STATE: Maryland 21202

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

girders, and covered above by 2¼ inch double floor, tongued." The floors are supported by two rows of cast-iron columns. The basement floor is raised 2 feet with space underneath for air pumps. There were once two iron-cased openings for driving belts between the first and second floors,"raised 3½ inches for flooding."

The manager's office on the second floor was furnished by 1912 with "vacuum, steam, and Edison's recording steam gauge, back pressure and water gauges" to indicate the state of the running powers and water pressure in the fire pumps.

The most distinctive features of the present building are the double pitched south/east facade, and the one over one sash windows with elaborate pendant moldings and segmental arch crowned by a keystone which appear on some sections of the building.

(All quotes taken from 1912 Mutual Fire Insurance Company map)

duck scarce. In 1812-13 one Baltimore firm sold $20,000 worth of Bemis cotton duck and another firm sold $21,000 worth in 1815.

The first of Baltimore's businessmen to capitalize on these developments were David Carroll and Horatio Gambrill. In 1832 Carroll and Gambrill bought the mill of the Washington Manufacturing Company at Mt. Washinton. Begun in 1809, this mill, one of the earliest in the country, most likely produced cotton warp yarn for home consumption before its purchase. By 1839 the advantages of an integrated spinning and weaving mill using the newly perfected power looms had become apparent. Gambrill and Carroll with other local financial support converted the Whitehall flour mill (on the site of the present Clipper Mill) to just such an operation with five power looms. In 1842 they converted another flour mill at Woodberry into a spinning mill, and in 1847 added the Laurel Mill on the site of the present Mt. Vernon Mill #1. Carroll and Gambrill parted company in that year and the former started the Mt. Varnon Manufacturing Company in partnership with William Kennedy and others. In 1853 this company added a second mill up the hillside from the Laurel Mill, expanding the firm's capacity to 10,000 spindles.

On June 20, 1873 Mt. Vernon #1 burned to the ground, involving a loss of $250,000. By the following September a new and much larger structure was erected on the same site. In 1881 a large addition and a packing house were added to the northern end of the factory. About this time Thomas Scharf in his history of Baltimore noted that these two Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Company mills provided "cotton duck and felting, the latter being used in making paper," and gave employment "to a sufficient number of operatives to make up a village of 800 inhabitants." The total number of workers employed in the company's mills at this time, he stated, was about 1600.

Several additions were made to the Mt. Vernon complex between 1874 and 1904, including an office building, storage houses, and new wings to the main structures. By the late 19th century the Mt. Vernon Manufacturing Company and the William Hooper Company (which owned Druid, Park, Woodberry, Hooperwood and Washington Mill) held a monopoly on the production of cotton duck. Baltimore became the world's leading provider of this type of textile. As sailing ships disappeared from the scene, other uses were found for the sturdy cloth. During both World Wars the Company did a booming business in supplying cloth for uniforms, knapsacks, tents and parachutes. The Mount Vernon Company concontinued to expand, and throughout the 20th century it has added mill after mill, mostly in more southern states such as North and South Carolina. When these mills proved more profitable, operations in Baltimore tapered off. Textile production at the Mount Vernon complex on Falls Road ceased in 1973, and the Company sold the buildings to ~~Rockland Mills, which operates a modern textile plant farther up the Valley as well as factories around the world.~~ Life-Like Products, manufacturers of model train equipment (originally Tyco).

(continued)

The Mount Vernon complex was developed along the lines of the so-called "Rhode Island System" which employed entire families as its labor force. In the long run this system was more paternalistic than the boarding-house system which employed mostly young single women, because it provided company housing and other social welfare arrangements to keep workers contented. During the 1840s and 50s the Mt. Vernon Company built several dozen stone duplex residential units on the hillsides around the mill. When expansion took place in 1873 and 1881, several blocks of brick rowhouses provided more housing. The Company still owned several of these houses as late as 1973. A company store and company-sponsored church added to the community's sense of dependence on the mills. This is also reflected in the pages of the company magazine, "The Mt.Vernon-Woodberry News," in which village and company activities appear closely intertwined. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries families from rural areas came to Hampden-Woodberry to work in the mills, and their descendants still comprise the core of these close-knit working-class neighborhoods, even though the textile companies themselves have all but ceased operations there.

Although the textile industry is largely gone from the Jones Falls Valley, the many beautiful and sturdy stone and brick buildings built to house their operations remain. The Hampden-Woodberry area is one of the few in this country where a large 19th century industrial village remains virtually intact. The Mt. Vernon Company buildings, together with the Stone Hill housing complex, company store and Methodist church nearby, is one of the highlights of th area, and one of the best preserved 19th century mill complexes in the Mid-Atlantic States.

DRUID MILLS CO., BALTIMORE, MARYLAND.

MANUFACTURERS OF

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COTTON DUCK,

FOR

Sails, Tarpaulins, Wagon Covers, Harvester Machines, &c., also Awning Stripes, Yarns and Twines, and Paper Machine Felts,

AND

DRUID FABRIC ROOFING,

the most economical roof covering on the market. It is Weather, Water, Acid and Fire Proof. Can be easily applied without the aid of skilled labor,

ALSO

DRUID ELASTIC PAINT,

a durable and ecocomical paint for roofs and all wood and metallic surfaces. It is desirable for use in all climates, as it will not peel, blister, or crack.

FOR EXPORT BY

THE SEEGER & GUERNSEY CO., NEW YORK.

88

Cyclopedia of the Manufactures & Products of the US 1892

NMHT

B-62

B-62 MF 212 B192

WOODBERRY
REG. IN U.S. PAT. OFF.

MT. VERNON
REG. IN U.S. PAT. OFF.

Mt. Vernon-Woodberry Mills, Inc.
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

COTTON DUCK
OF ALL KINDS

DRILLS, TWILLS AND SHEETINGS
COTTON ROPE AND TWINE

"SELKIRK" "HARTFORD" "PRAIRIE"

TURNER, HALSEY CO., *Sales Agent*
NEW YORK, N. Y.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Baltimore 1, Maryland

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CLARE & KLOMAN STS.
BALTIMORE MD.

The Fisher Automatic Brush Machine Co.
(Incorporated)
Brush Machine Manufacturers
CHARLES E. FISHER, President
165-167 W. West Street Baltimore, Md.

John L. Alcock & Co.
1528 Munsey Building
Buyers of
Black Walnut Trees
Yellow Poplar Logs

1. SITE I.D. NO. B - 6 2

NAER INVENTORY

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

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION: Manufacturing

3. PRIORITY

4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT) ☐ YES ■ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

5. DATE

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT: OWNER ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN: Life-Like Products, Inc.

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE: MOUNT VERNON MILL #1

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS: 1600 Union Avenue

10. STATE: M D COUNTY: COUNTY NAME: CITY/VICINITY: Baltimore CONG. DIST.: 7

STATE: M D COUNTY: COUNTY NAME: CITY/VICINITY: Baltimore CONG. DIST.: 7

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO.): Falls Road and Chestnut Street

12. EXISTING SURVEYS: ☐ NR ☐ NHL ☐ HABS ☐ HAER—I ☐ HAER ☐ NPS ☐ CLG ☐ CONF ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL ☐ OTHER

13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW): ☐ INTERIOR INTACT ☐ EXTERIOR INTACT ☐ ENVIRONS INTACT

14. UTM ZONE: 18 EASTING: 359549 NORTHING: 4353695 SIGN: SCALE: ■ 1:24 ☐ 1:62.5 ☐ OTHER QUAD NAME: Baltimore West

UTM ZONE: EASTING: NORTHING: SIGN: SCALE: ☐ 1:24 ☐ 1:62.5 ☐ OTHER 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: Dennis Zembala, Ann Steele AFFILIATION: Baltimore Industrial Museum DATE: April 1980

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

See Statement of Significance

(CONT OVER)

18. Manufacturing = Textiles PRESENT USE: Manufacturing - train set models ADAPTIVE USE:

19. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES AND/OR CONTACTS AND/OR OTHER

Files (Jones Falls Valley) - Baltimore Industrial Museum

(CONT OVER)

20. IS IT ON AREA 50,000 OR MORE? ☐ YES ☐ NO

21.

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY: ■ YES, LIMITED ☐ YES, UNLIMITED ☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

23. EDITOR INDEXER

IS IT LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ YES ☐ NO NAME DISTRICT I.D. NO.

HCRS REGION

GPO 871 981

B-62

25 PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION

Significance

Mount Vernon Mill #1 is significant both architecturally and as part of the network of textile mills built by Horatio Gambrill, David Carroll and William Hooper. This network established the Jones Falls Valley as the world's largest producer of cotton duck by the end of the 19th century. The distinctive red brick structure with its gable roof, square tower, distinctive north-east facade and long rows of windows was built in 1873 and expanded in 1881 on the site of the earlier Lewis Mill (c. 1945). Mount Vernon #1, with its sister mill #3, is representative of the "second phase" of textile mill construction in the Valley, during which mills were constructed in brick and on a larger scale than the earlier stone mills such as Park, Woodberry and Washington Mills.

REFERENCES (CONTINUED)

ABSTRACT

HABS NO | LC | TECH REPORT | HIST REPORT | CONTEMP PHOTO | HIST PHOTO | CONTEMP DRWG | HIST DRWG | COLOR PLATE | PHOTOGRAM | SW

B-62

B-62

3. PHOENIX (MERCHANT'S) SHOT TOWER (continued)

floors and terminating on the second floor near the adjoining building. Next dumped into a revolving drum heated by steam, the shot was thoroughly dried. It was then put into a revolving cask along with black lead, and a high polish was produced.

In the building adjoining the tower the shot was rolled down an incline consisting of five plates of French plate glass. The perfect shot ran freely down this incline, jumping the spaces between the plates, while the imperfect shot slid slowly and fell between the plates, being collected for remelting in a trough at the bottom. The angle of this incline could be changed so that only certain sizes of shot would reach the bottom. The perfect shot was then put through sieves of different sizes. In the early days, these sieves, made of drawn sheepskin, were set in a mahogany rocking chest which shook the smaller shot to the bottom; later, a rack of revolving perforated cone-shaped cylinders was used, the shot which had not fallen through the holes of one cylinder passing thus on to the next cylinder. The shot was then run again down an incline, this time made up of mahogany plates, and the resulting high grade shot weighed and sewn into bags for shipment. The Shot Tower's capacity was 100,000 bags of 25 lbs in season, which could be raised to 500,000 bags annually if necessary. No shot was manufactured after 1892. In 1847 the Merchant's Shot Company bought out Phoenix.

This structure is a registered National Historic Landmark.

4. MOUNT VERNON MILLS NO. 1 & ~~2~~ 3 — 1873, 1879, 1881 B-62
Falls Road at foot of Chestnut St., N. of Cedar Avenue
Jones Falls Valley — & B-1026

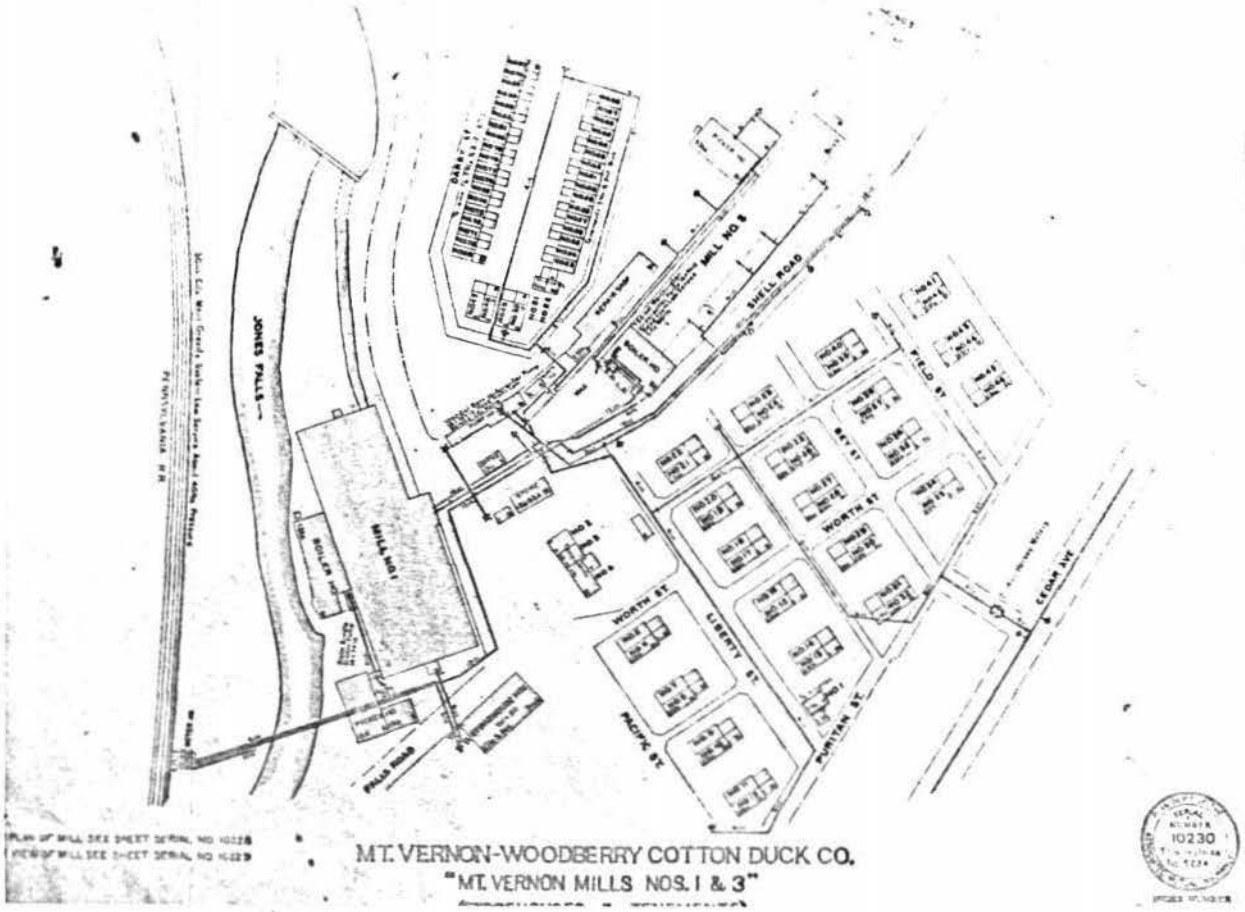
This southernmost mill complex along the Falls was the last of the group to make the transition in 1973 from the manufacture of cloth to synthetic fabrics. The No. 1 Mill, directly facing Falls Road, is a three-story brick building, on stone foundation with towers at either end, which has been rendered somewhat nondescript by the removal of all its tower window frames and the bricking in of these openings, except for the several that survive near the entrance. Mill No. 2, of less architectural distinction, is located to the east, up Chestnut Street.

The surrounding ancillary buildings include a small Mansard-roofed office building between the mills, south of which once was located the corporation store, further south, at the bend of Falls Road, is the cotton house where the bales were stored, characterized by small, iron-shuttered windows (so designed to shut off the air supply in the event of fire). Just southwest of Mill No. 1, across the road from the cotton house, is a striking pair of brick gable-roofed cotton or picker houses (where bales were broken, and impurities removed before the compressed cotton, in the form of laps, was transferred to the carding machines) bearing massive datestones 1873 and 1879. To the east of these, on the south face of the mill's stairtower, is a large name and date tablet.

4. MOUNT VERNON MILLS NO. 1 & 2 (continued)

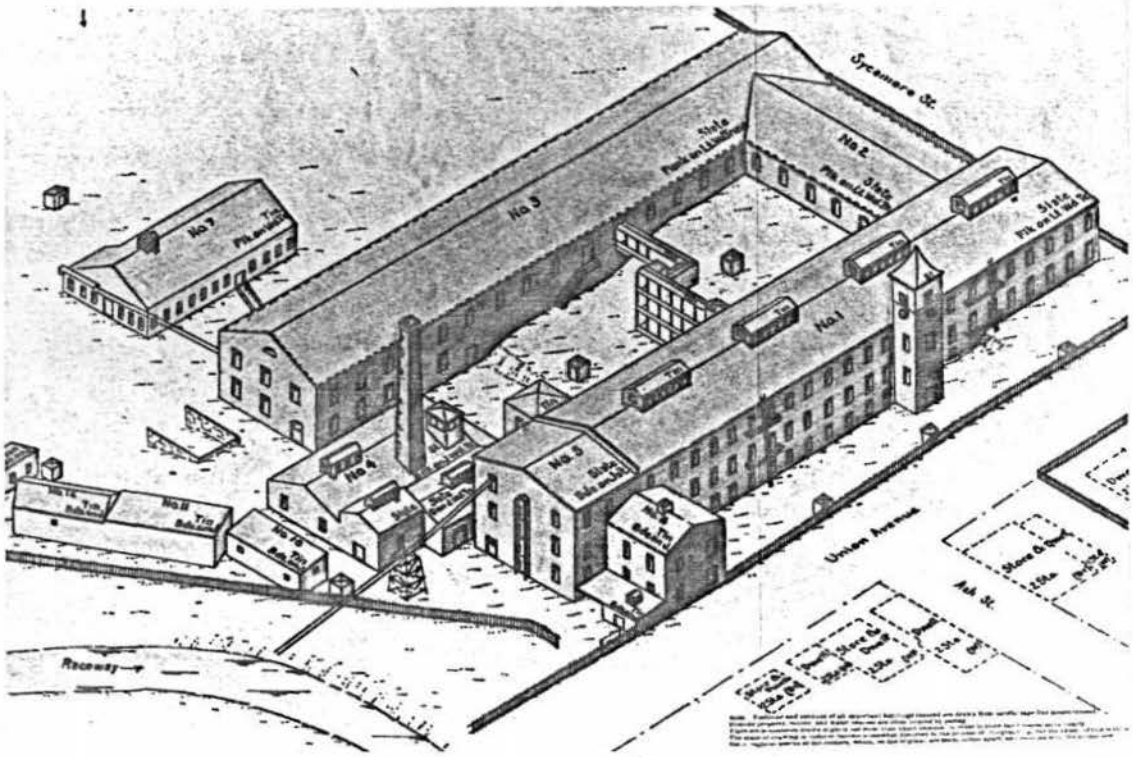
In 1874, the mill complex was described in a fire insurance report as follows. The basement of the original building contained the cloth office and the engine room, which housed a steam engine with fly wheel rising above the first floor. The first floor contained the belt driven carding, drawing, slubbing (the process of slightly twisting cotton fibers onto bobbins for weaving) and speeding machines. Weaving, beaming (placing warp spools onto large rollers that were placed in a loom) and warping were done on the second floor, while spinning, spooling and twisting machines were located on the third floor. The building was warmed by steam and lit by gasoline lamps.

Perhaps the most outstanding element of the complex today, is the enclave of stone duplex corporation houses on the bank above, known as "Stone Hill", built between c. 1845 (the date of the first mill on the site) and 1877. These houses, constructed of granite from the Lake Roland section of the valley, exhibit Greek Revival characteristics (in massing, use of attic windows, etc.). In plan, room follows room with divided one story gable roofed rear wings serving as kitchens to each pair of houses. Also noteworthy is the massive stone Superintendent's House, which overlooks Mill No. 1. A later grouping of tenements, known as Brick Hill, overlooks Mill No. 2.

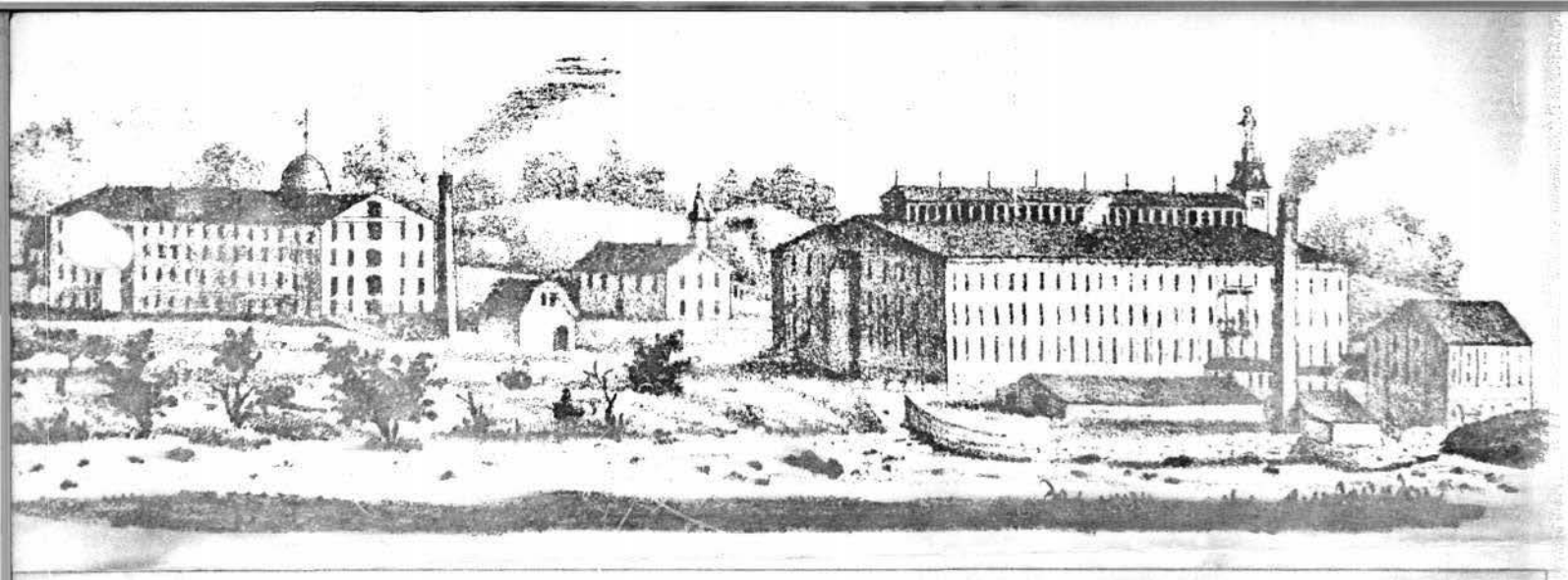


B-62

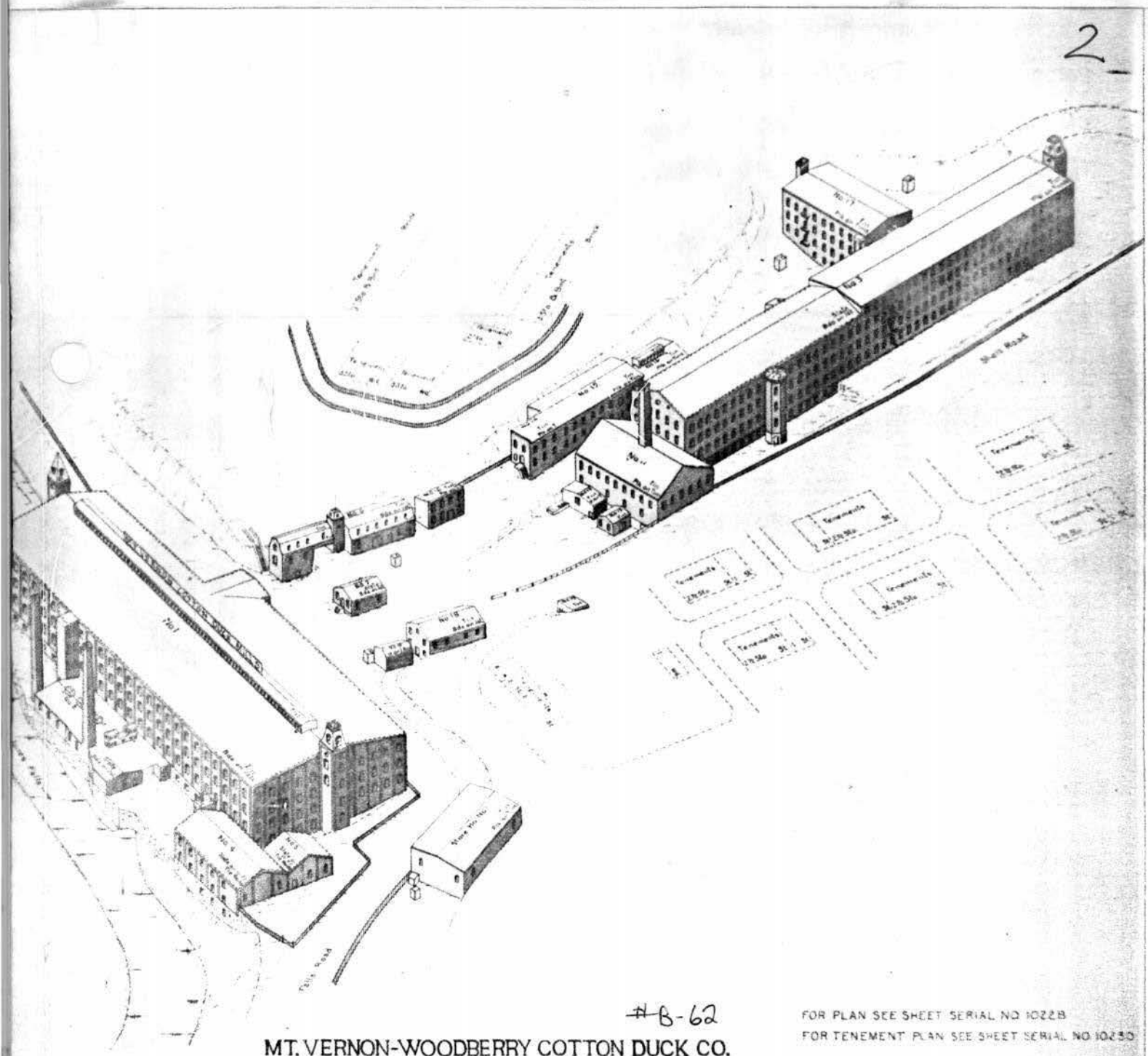
VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE CONFERENCE



Washington, D.C.
May 8-11, 1980.



2



#B-62

FOR PLAN SEE SHEET SERIAL NO 10228

FOR TENEMENT PLAN SEE SHEET SERIAL NO 10230

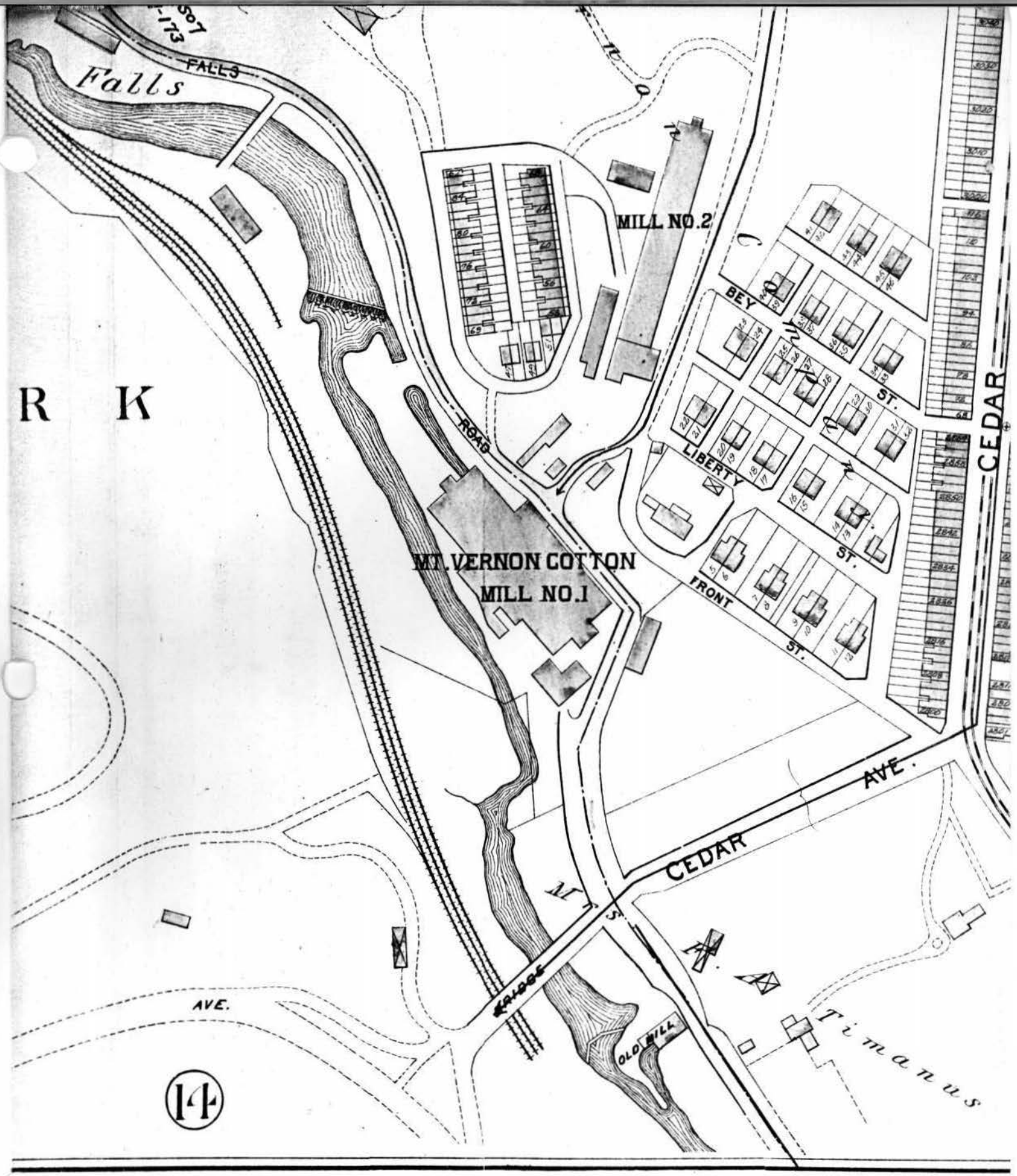
MT. VERNON-WOODBERRY COTTON DUCK CO.

"MT. VERNON MILLS NOS. 1 & 3"

Baltimore, Md.

Surveyed March 14 1902

Scale, 1in = 50 ft.



B62

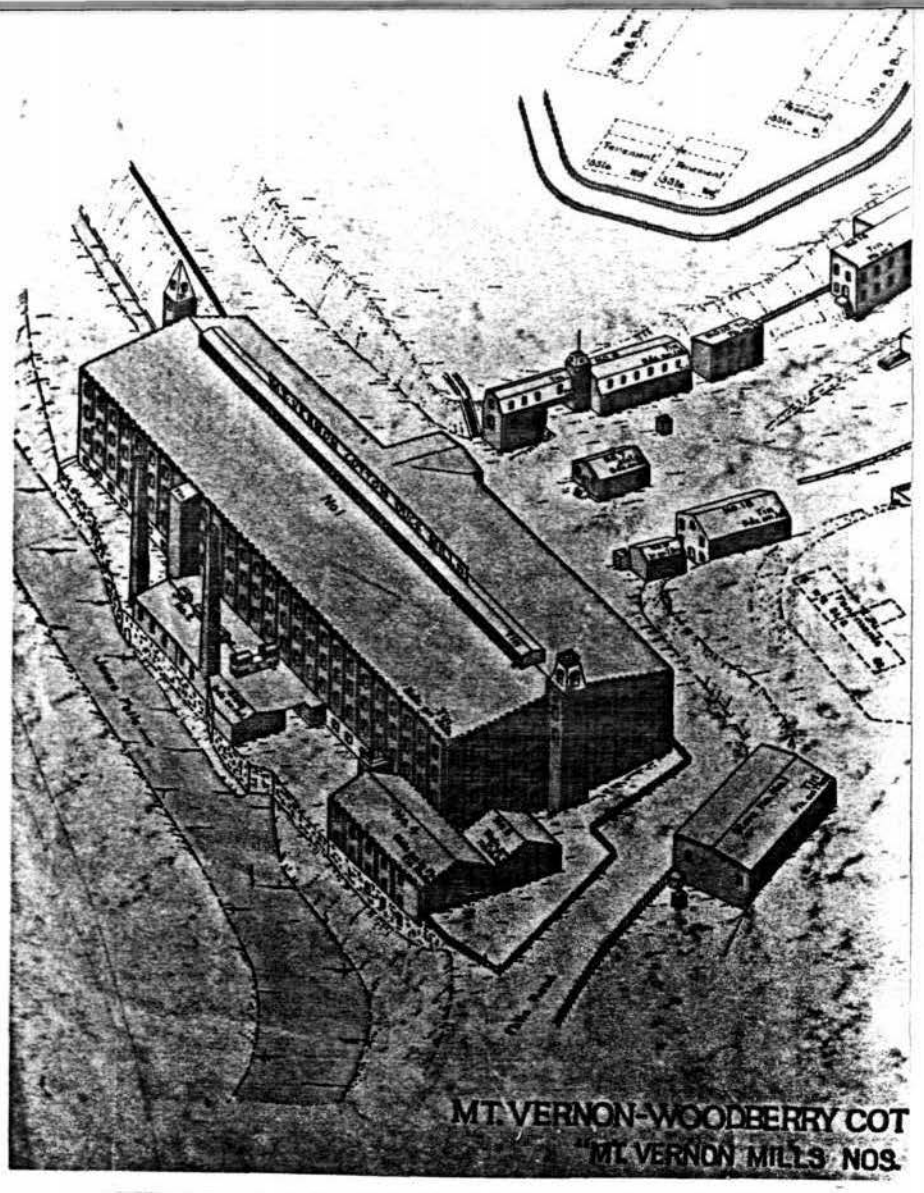
Mt. Vernon Mills # 1

Baltimore City, MD

1896 Bromley's Atlas

1896

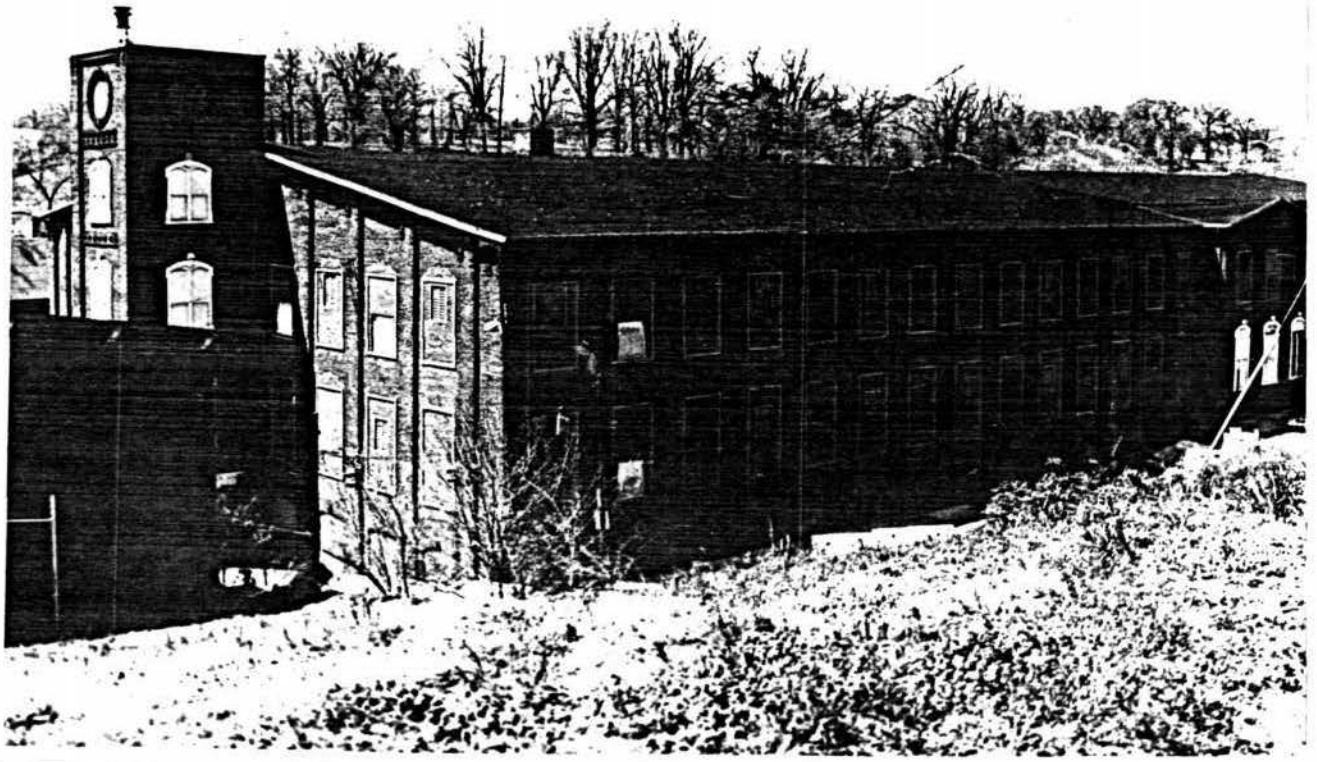
~~1944~~

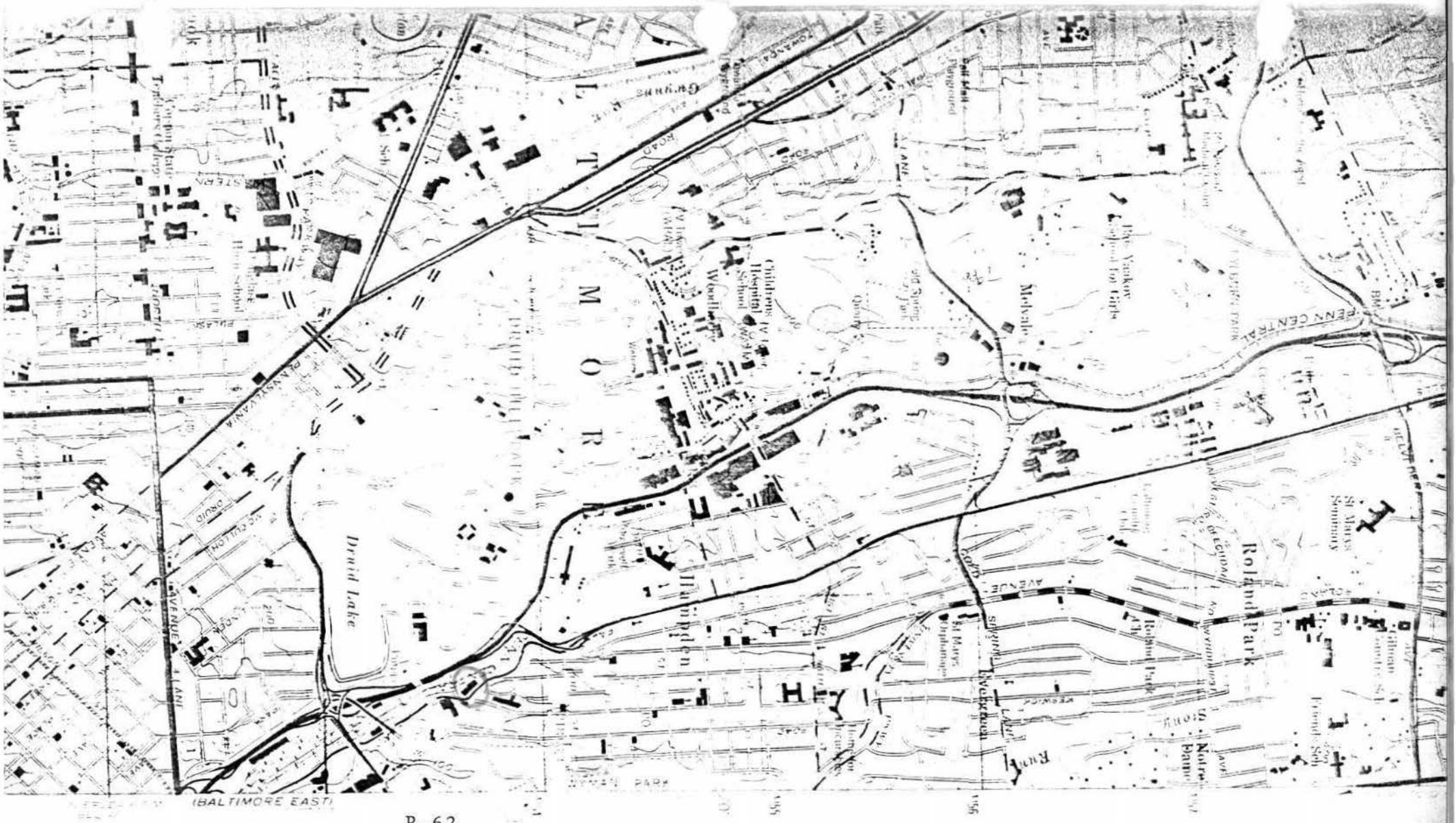


MOUNT VERNON MILL NO 1

Left: view of mill in c. 1912 fire insurance map

Below: northeast corner of mill, from Pacific Avenue, "Stone Hill"





B-62

Mount Vernon Mill #1
USGS #7.5 Balto. W. Quad
18 59549 4 53695

GIN
NE
AY
AFFIC

B-62 "STONE HILL" HOUSING, associated with Mt. Vernon Mill No. 1
(OVERSEER'S HOUSE)

Mark R. Edwards
April, 1990

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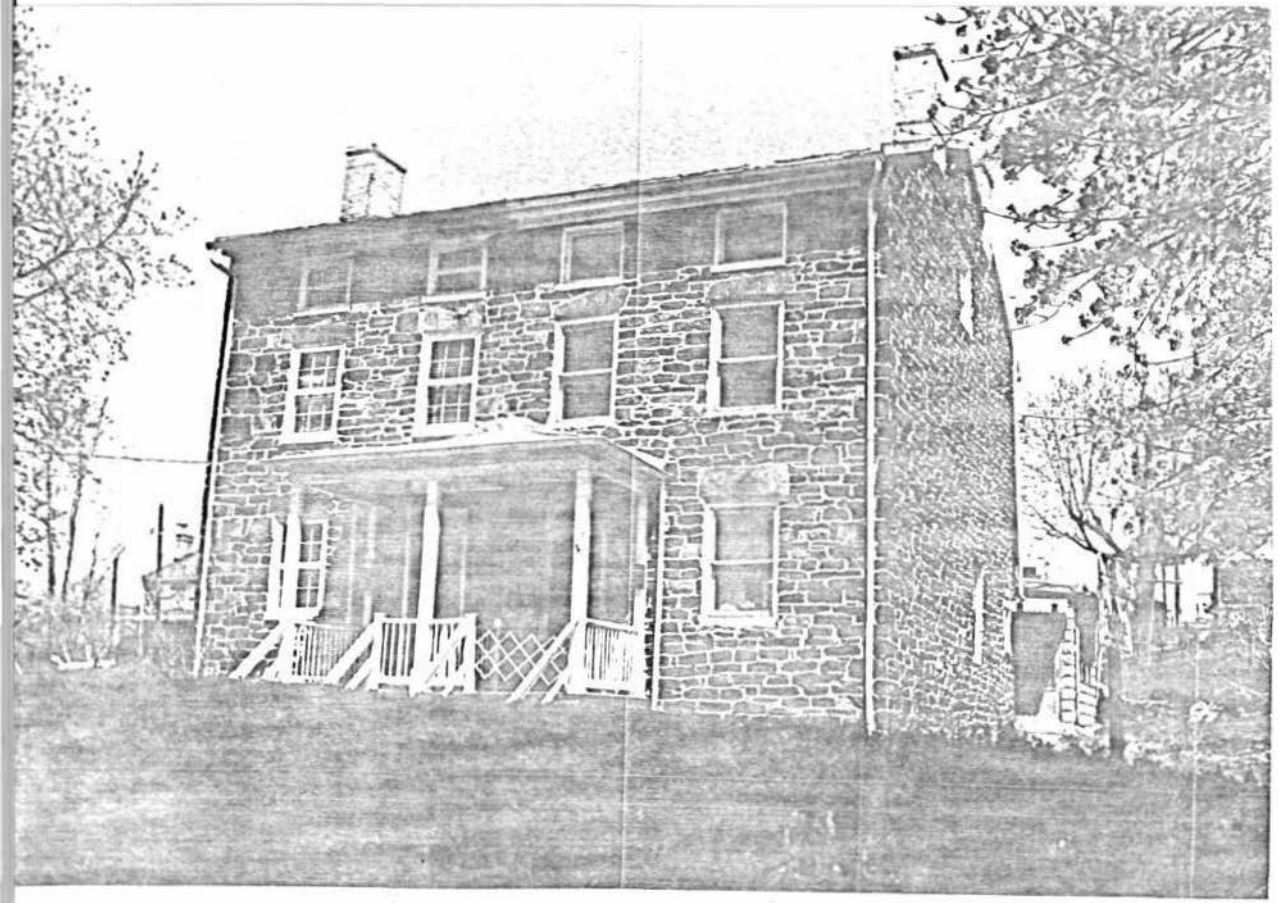
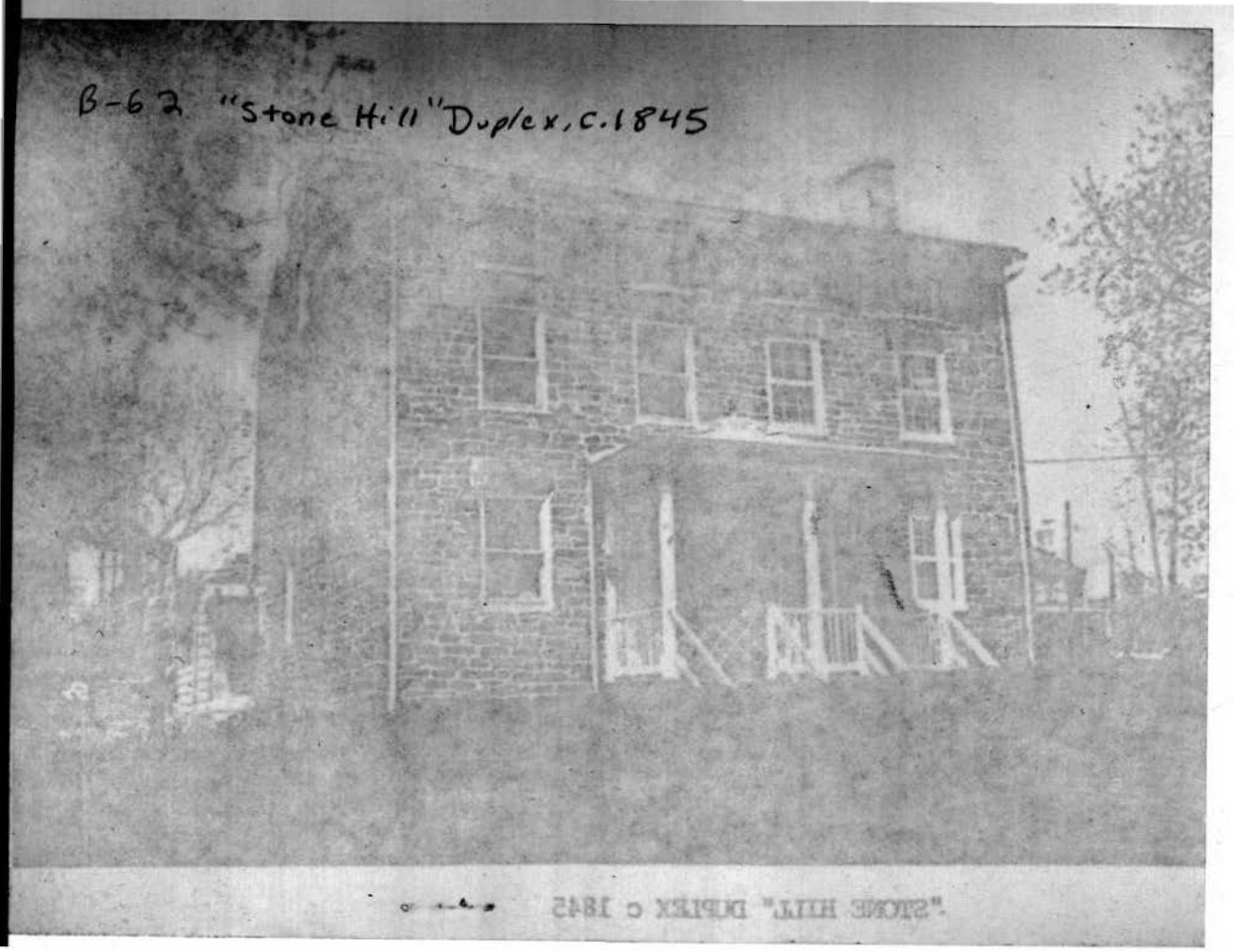
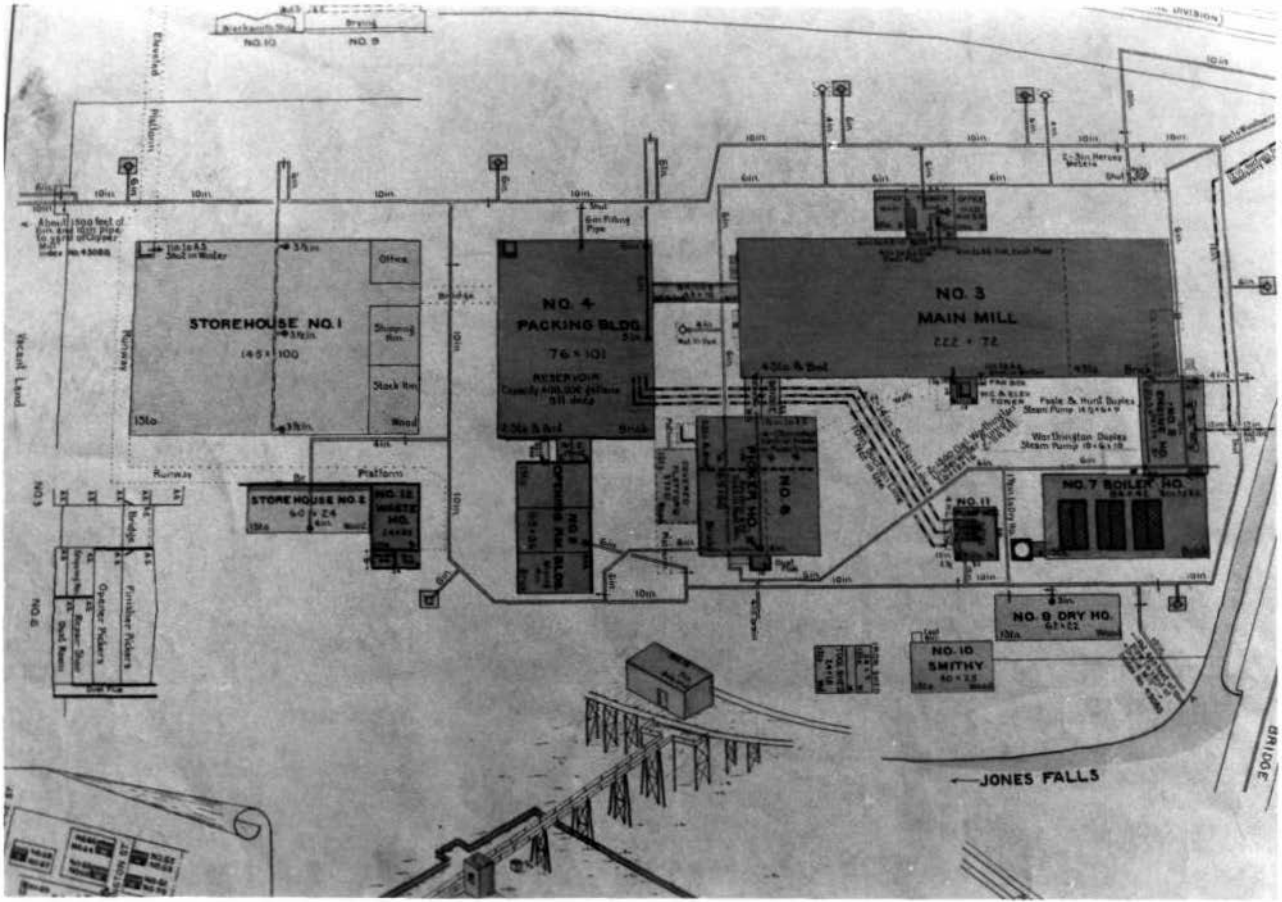


"STONE HILL" DUPLEX c 1845

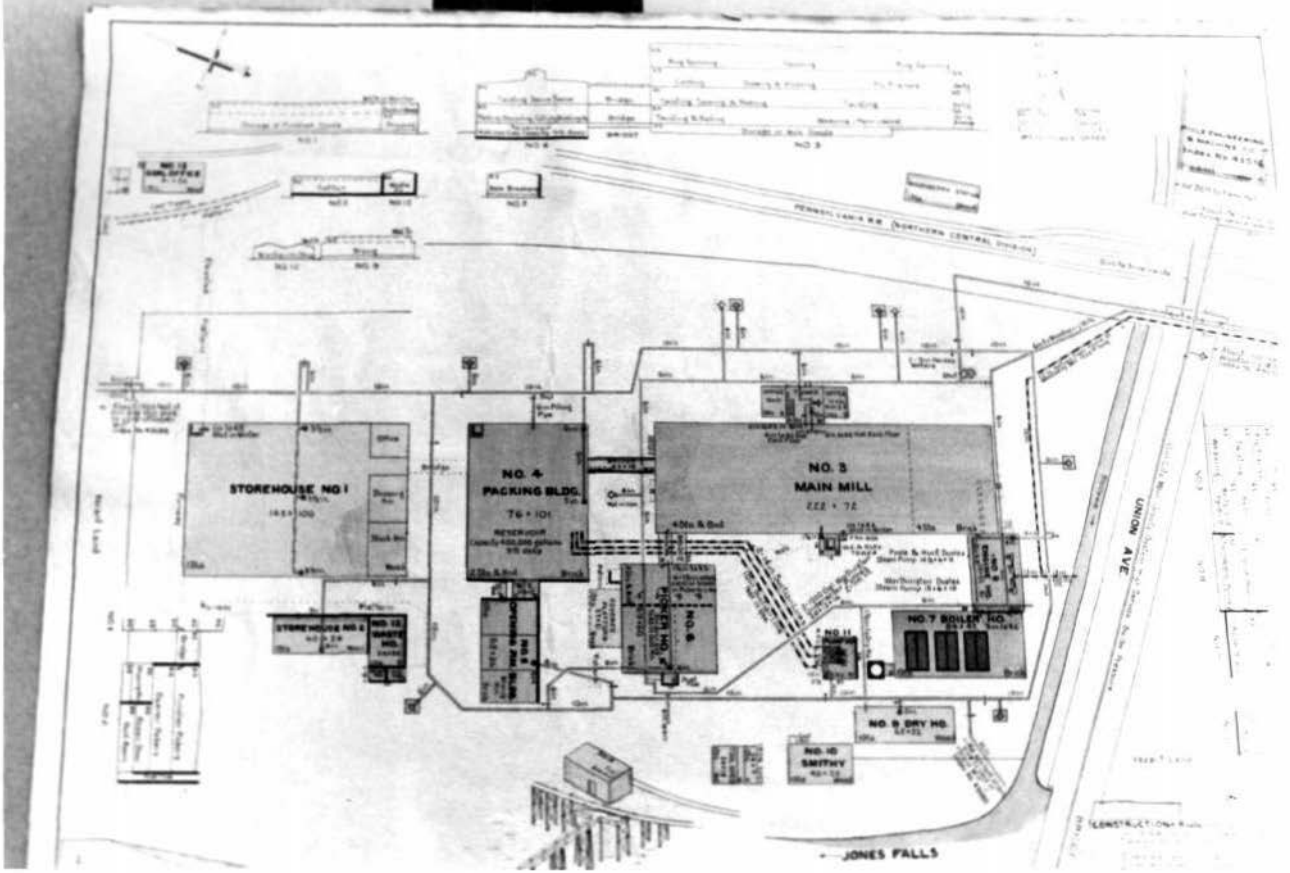

B-62 "Stone Hill" Duplex, c.1845


NO. 10
NO. 9
STOREHOUSE NO. 1
145 × 100
Office
Shipping Rm.
Stock Rm.
Wood
NO. 4
PACKING BLDG.
76 × 101
RESERVOIR
NO. 3
MAIN MILL
222 × 72
Paule & Hurd Duplex Steam Pump
Worthington Duplex Steam Pump
NO. 7 BOILER HO.
NO. 11
NO. 8 DRY HO.
NO. 10
SMITHY
STOREHOUSE NO. 2
60 × 24
NO. 12
WASTE HO.
Platform
Runway
Bridge
Finisher Polishers
Oyster Polishers
Roller Shop
Shed Room
Wood Land
NO. 3
NO. 8
JONES FALLS
BRIDGE

B-62 MT. VERNON MILL NO. 1

(taken from c. 1912 fire insurance map)

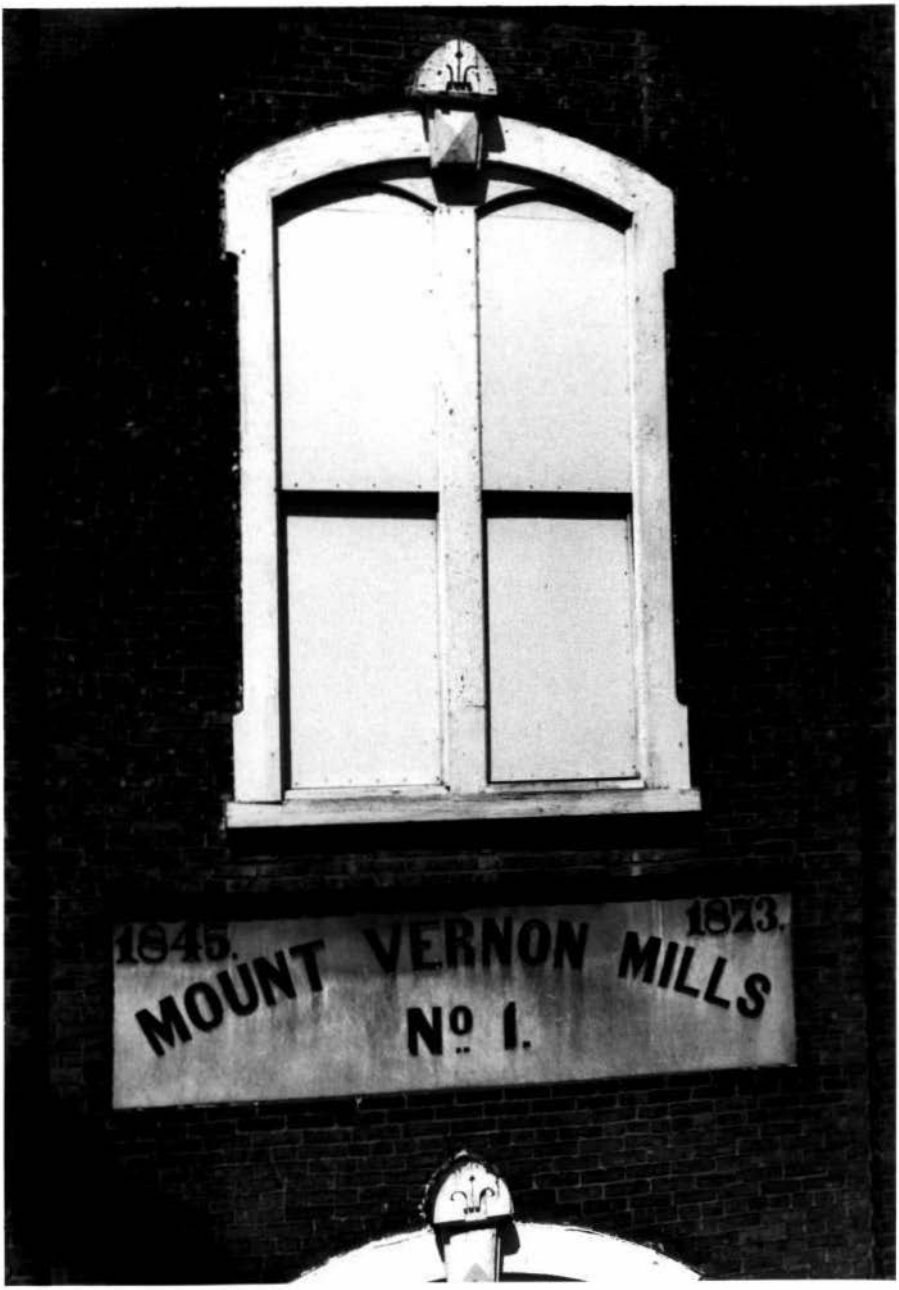
Mark R. Edwards
April 1980


STOREHOUSE NO 1
NO. 4
PACKING BLDG.
NO. 3
MAIN MILL
NO. 7 BOILER NO.
NO. 9 DRY HO.
NO. 10
SMITHY
UNION AVE
JONES FALLS

B-62 MT. VERNON MILL NO. 1

(taken from c. 1912 fire insurance map)

Mark R. Edwards
April, 1980


1845.
1873.
MOUNT VERNON MILLS
No 1.

B-62 MT. VERNON MILL NO. 1

dolostone

Mark R. Edwards
April, 1980

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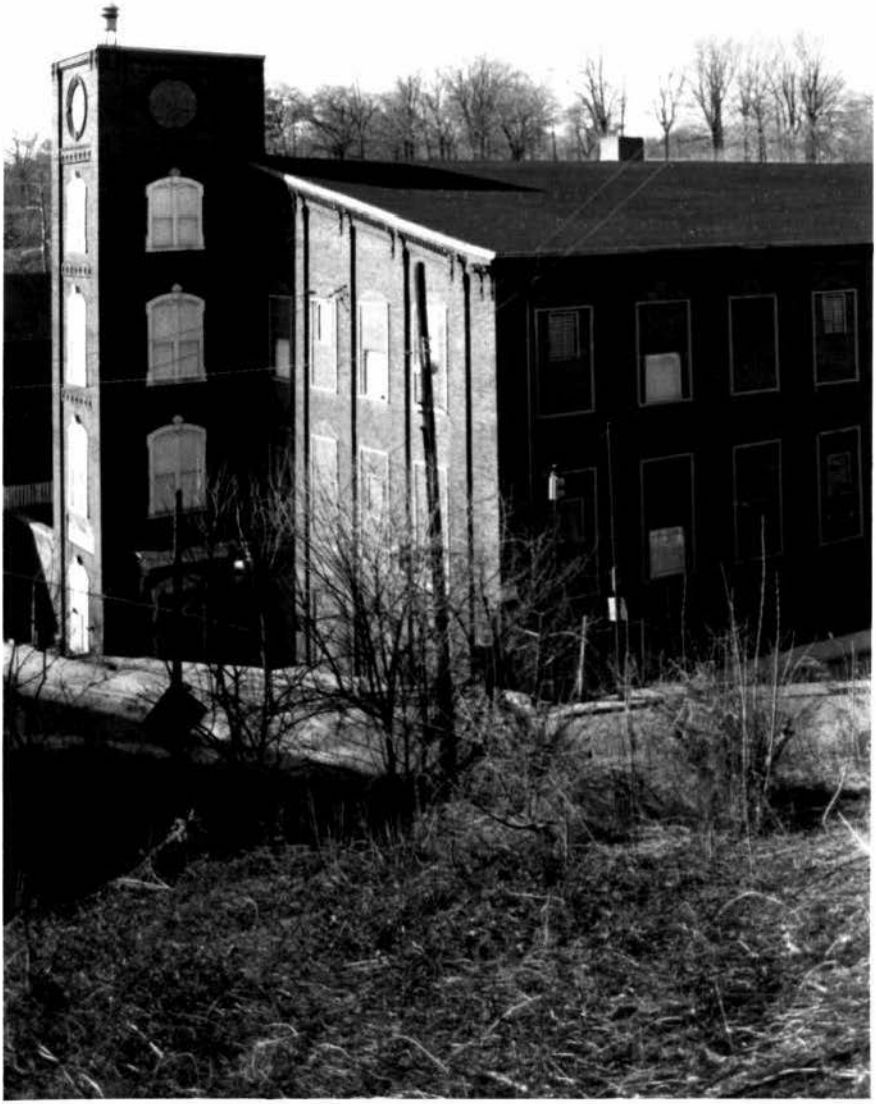
B-62 MT. VERNON MILL NO. 1

Corporation store

Mark R. Edwards

April, 1980

Mt. Vernon Mill #1 B-62
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
Mar. 1980 East Facade



Mt. Vernon Mill #1 B-62
Baltimore, MD.
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust
Mar. 1980 Looking West

MT. VERNON MILL #1 B-62
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg. Loc: MD HISTORIC TRUST
3/80 Looking North

1873
1879

MT. VERNON MILL #1 B-62
BALTIMORE, MD
PHOTO: DENNIS ZEMBALA
NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST
South Facade

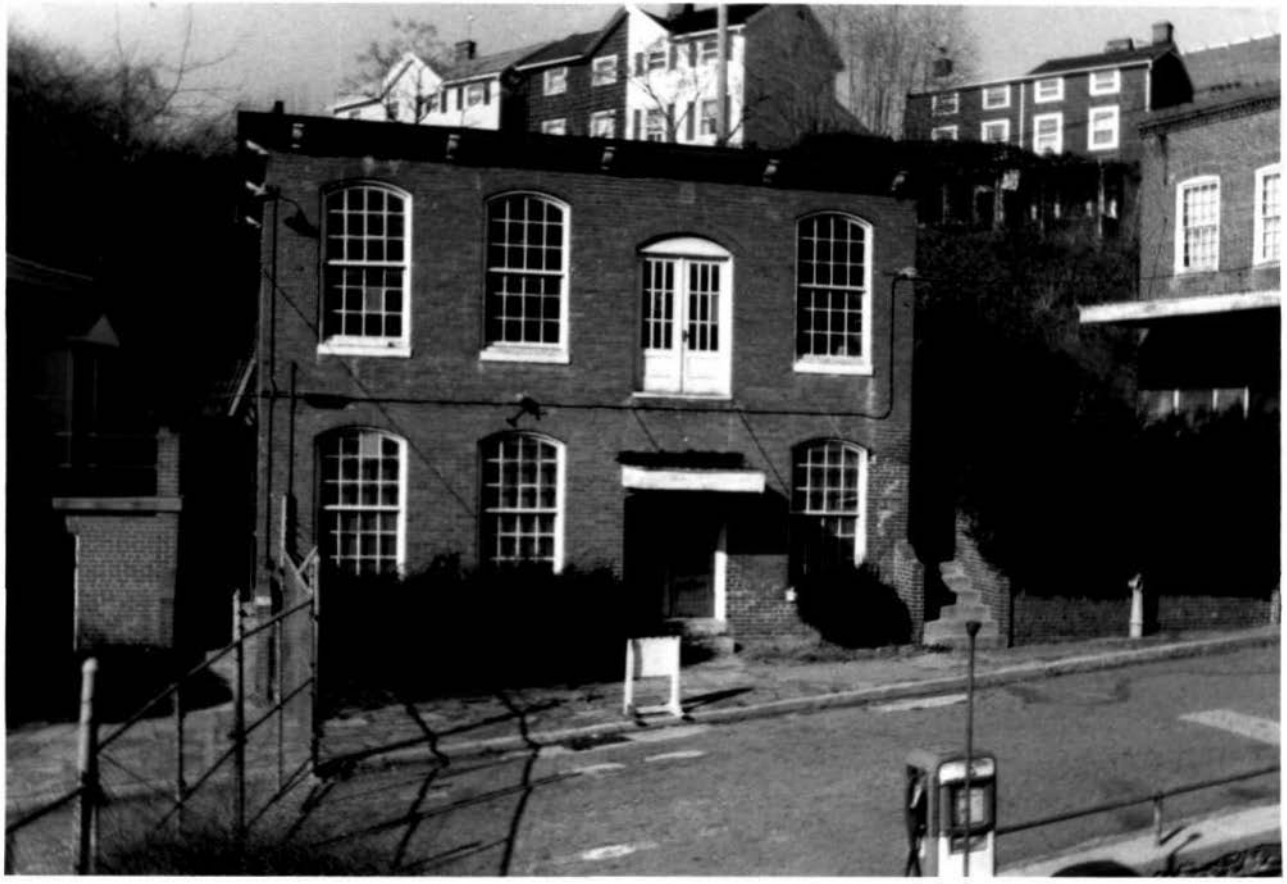
LIFE-LINE
3000 FALLS RD
SHIPPING

MT. VERNON MILL #1 B-62
BALTIMORE, MD
PHOTO: DENNIS ZEMBALA
NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST
MARCH 1980 Detail: East Facade

PRIVATE
PROPERTY
NO
TRESPASSIN

Mt. Vernon Mill #1 B-62
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala 3/80
Neg. Loc: MD Historic Trust
Det: Stair Tower

Mt. VERNON MILL B-62
BALTIMORE, MD
PHOTO: DENNIS ZEMBALA
NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST
MAR. 1980 2nd Floor/Looking east



Mt. Vernon Mill B-62
Baltimore, MD.
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust
Mar. 1980 Office for Shop

Mt. Vernon Mill B-62
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust
Mar. 1980 Boarding House

B-62

Mt. Vernon Mill

Baltimore, MD

Photo: Dennis Zembala

Negative location: MHT

March 1980

Boarding House