

Addenda

B-982

Levering and Co. Coffee Roasters and Importers
1401 Thames Street, Fells Point
Baltimore, Maryland

See comments regarding the history and significance of this property as discussed in:

- 1) Memorandum dated December 13, 1983 from Nancy Miller to Mark Edwards; and
- 2) Memorandum prepared for MHT files by Dr. Ethel Eaton in 1984 based on extensive research and archeological fieldwork on the sites at 1401 Thames Street and adjacent properties.

Based on these documents, the history and significance of the site known as B-982 can be reassessed. A more detailed discussion of the history and significance can be found in the archeological report prepared by Dr. Eaton and a file at the Maryland Historical Trust.

Orlando Ridout V

September 1985

OR V/hec

LEVERING and Co. COFFEE ROASTERS and IMPORTERS
B-982

Suggested Corrections for Inventory Forms

ADDRESS: 1401 Thames

TITLE: SEB 93, 709

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: The warehouse with rounded corners at 1401 Thames was very probably associated with the trade in sugar and coffee that characterized Baltimore shipping in from the late 18th and through the 19th C. There is no documented association of E. Levering & Co. with the property before 1896 (the Bromley Atlas). The address of that firm in the city directories is given as Commerce St. or South St. until 1940. At no time has the firm held either feehold or leasehold of the property. Apparently the firm rented the warehouses for their coffee roasting activities.

The warehouse was most probably built by the firm of Kirkland, Chase and Co. who acquired an undivided half interest in the property in 1846 and full title in the 1860s after the death of Thorndick Chase (2). A date of 1867 has been attributed to this building on the basis of a dated iron bumper now no longer available. (Personal communication by Dennis Zymbala). Among the iron plates still present is one with the initials 'B&O'. The B & O Railroad acquired the property in 1873 following the celebrated bankruptcy of Kirkland, Chase & Co. in the same year. A warehouse of identical dimensions and in the same location appears on Diagram 75 of the Tax Assessor's Fieldbook for 1876. While this map does seem to confirm that this warehouse was standing by 1876, to date no clear record of the date of its erection has been found. There are no maps earlier than 1876 showing this building and although the 1823 Poppleton Plan shows a building of somewhat different dimensions in the approximate location, the style of the standing warehouse is not consistent with an early 19th C. date. Tax records earlier than 1876 list warehouses by material and number of stories, but without dimensions or maps and so provide no indisputable evidence. One possible source not yet located is the record of the bankruptcy proceedings of the firm Kirkland, Chase and Co.

Kirkland, Chase and Co. was a leading coffee and sugar firm in Baltimore. It seems likely from creditors' receipts that the firm of Thorndick Chase and Co., prior owners of the property, was also involved in the coffee and sugar trade. A better title for the property and one used in documentary sources from the very early 19th Century to the present would be Chase's Wharf. The Thorndick Chase family used the property as the principal place of business from 1798 to 1866 and retained the feehold of part (East 1/2 lot 54) up to the 1950s.

The statement of significance as it stands suggests - wrongly - that the firm of E. Levering & Co. occupied the property from the 1840s to the 1950s. Sentences such as "During this busy period (i.e. 1865 - 1900) the company replaced its early wooden structures with the fine brick warehouses at 1400 Thames (1867) and 1401 Thames (1879) in order to provide more storage and office space." ~~are~~ is wildly erroneous. The addresses given are wrong. Even numbered addresses are on the north side of the street. The address of the property on which the rounded corner standing structure stands (i.e. lots 53 and 54) is 1401. The adjacent

warehouse, with an entirely distinct history of ownership and use, is 1409-11 Thames. The former may or may not have been built in 1867 as discussed above. The latter, whose construction appears to have been a series of events rather than a single erection based on the fabric of the building itself as well as on the tax records, was complete by 1876 (see Diagram 72 Tax Assessor's Fieldbook 1876), not 1879. It is highly unlikely that Levering & Co. built either warehouse and most certainly not to replace early wooden structures. The documentary evidence confirmed by excavation places brick structures on stone foundations on the property as early as the late 18th C. The major activities of Levering & Co. never took place on this site and were relatively unimportant for its development.

RECEIVED

DEC 15 1983

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

December 13, 1983

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mark Edwards, Maryland Historical Trust
FROM: Nancy Miller
RE: Research on Fell's Point

Many thanks for sending me the copies of the material from the Inventory on Brown's Wharf (B-89) and the Levering Company Coffee Warehouses (B-982).

On reading the Levering form I was drawn to some research I had done and have enclosed copies of historic maps for the site. If you look at the Sandborn map 1902-1911 you will see the Levering building at 1401 to 1407 Thames Street. The building we now call Chase's Wharf is, according to the map, a B & O facility.

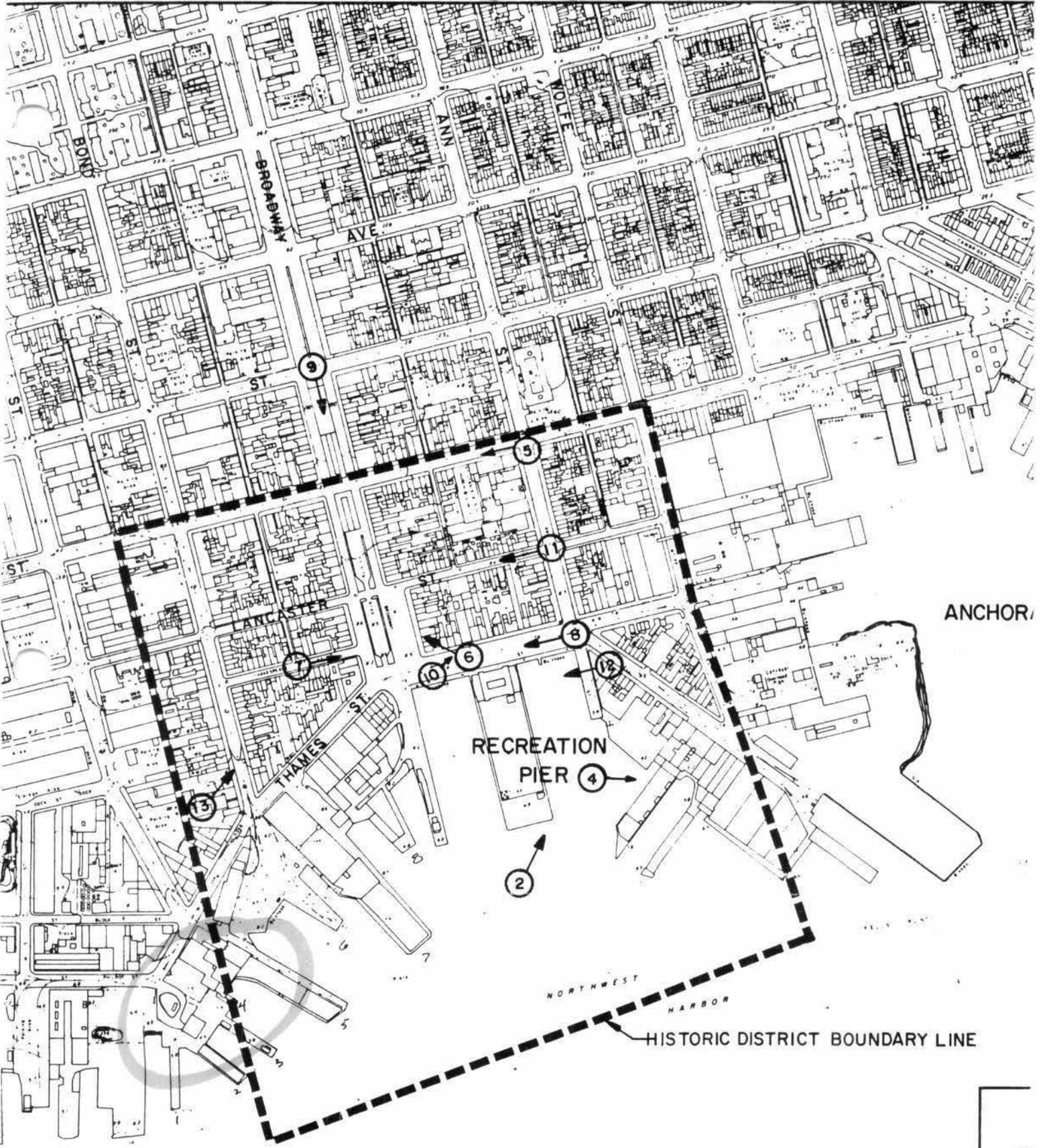
The 1953 map shows the Levering building standing. However, the later map prepared by IDBC in the early 1970's shows that the Levering building has been demolished. What remains today are buildings at the addresses 1409 to 1407 Thames Street. Historically this was called Miller's Wharf (see Sandborn, Bromley and Hopkins).

the map may not show it, but the Levering building is no more.

I thought you might want to know and to take a look for yourself.

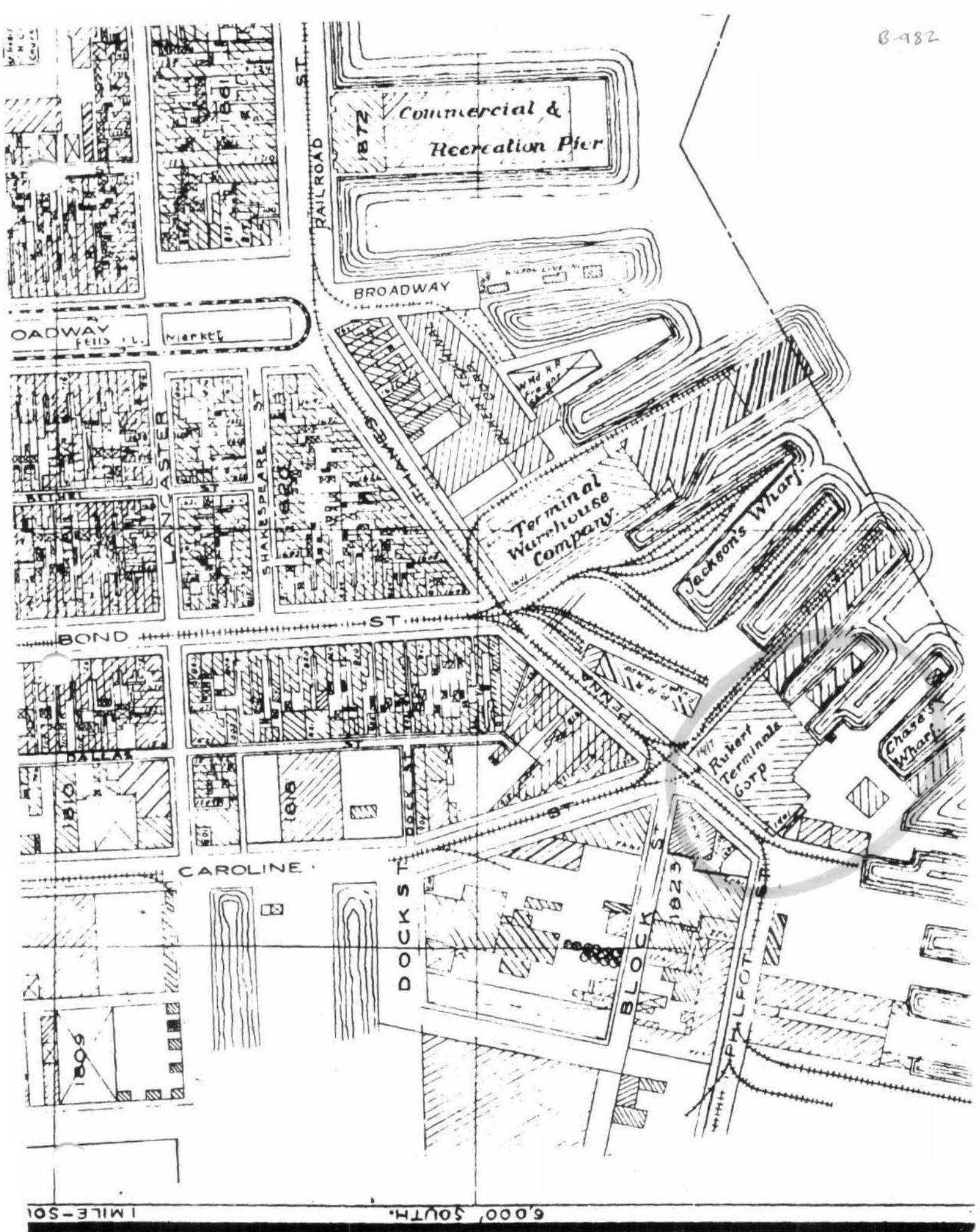
Any thoughts on the Hnedak/Greenwood Determination of Eligibility?

P.S. Is there any info on Jackson's Wharf in the Inventory? Was the industrial survey intended to be comprehensive? In other words Dennis made a positive decision not to include Jackson's Wharf



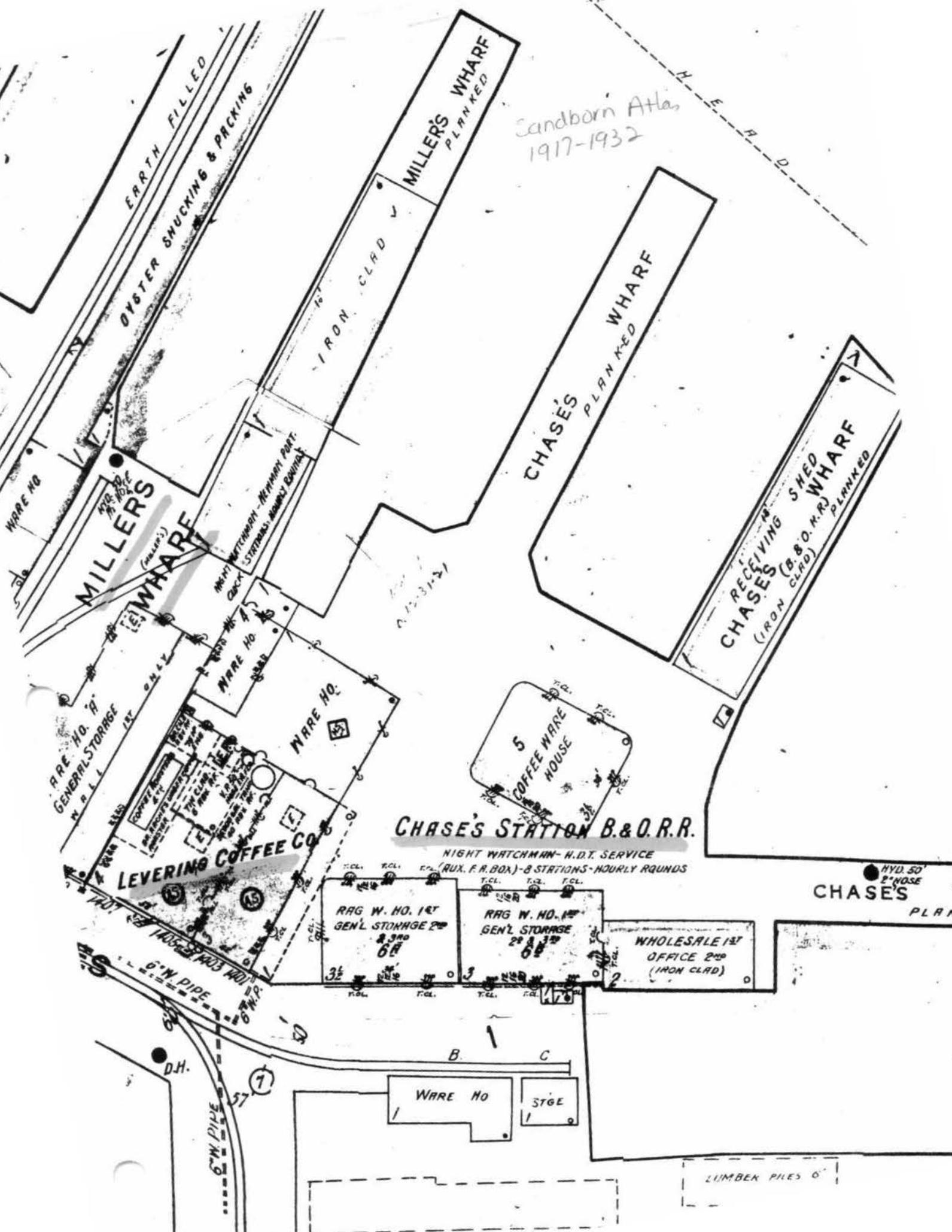
IOBC 1970's for EIS on
1-83

P
O
PHO
NUM



1 MILE SOUTH.

Sandborn Atlas
1917-1932



EARTH FILLED
OYSTER SHUCKING & PACKING

MILLERS WHARF
PLANKED

IRON CLAD

CHASE'S WHARF
PLANKED

CHASE'S RECEIVING SHED WHARF
(IRON CLAD) PLANKED

MILLERS WHARF
(IRON CLAD)

CHASE'S STATION B.&O.R.R.

NIGHT WATCHMAN - N.D.T. SERVICE
(RUX. F.R. BOX) - 8 STATIONS - HOURLY ROUNDS

WARE NO. 1
GENERAL STORAGE

LEVERING COFFEE CO.

5
COFFEE WARE HOUSE

WARE NO. 1ST
GEN'L STORAGE 2ND
68

WARE NO. 1ST
GEN'L STORAGE 2ND
68

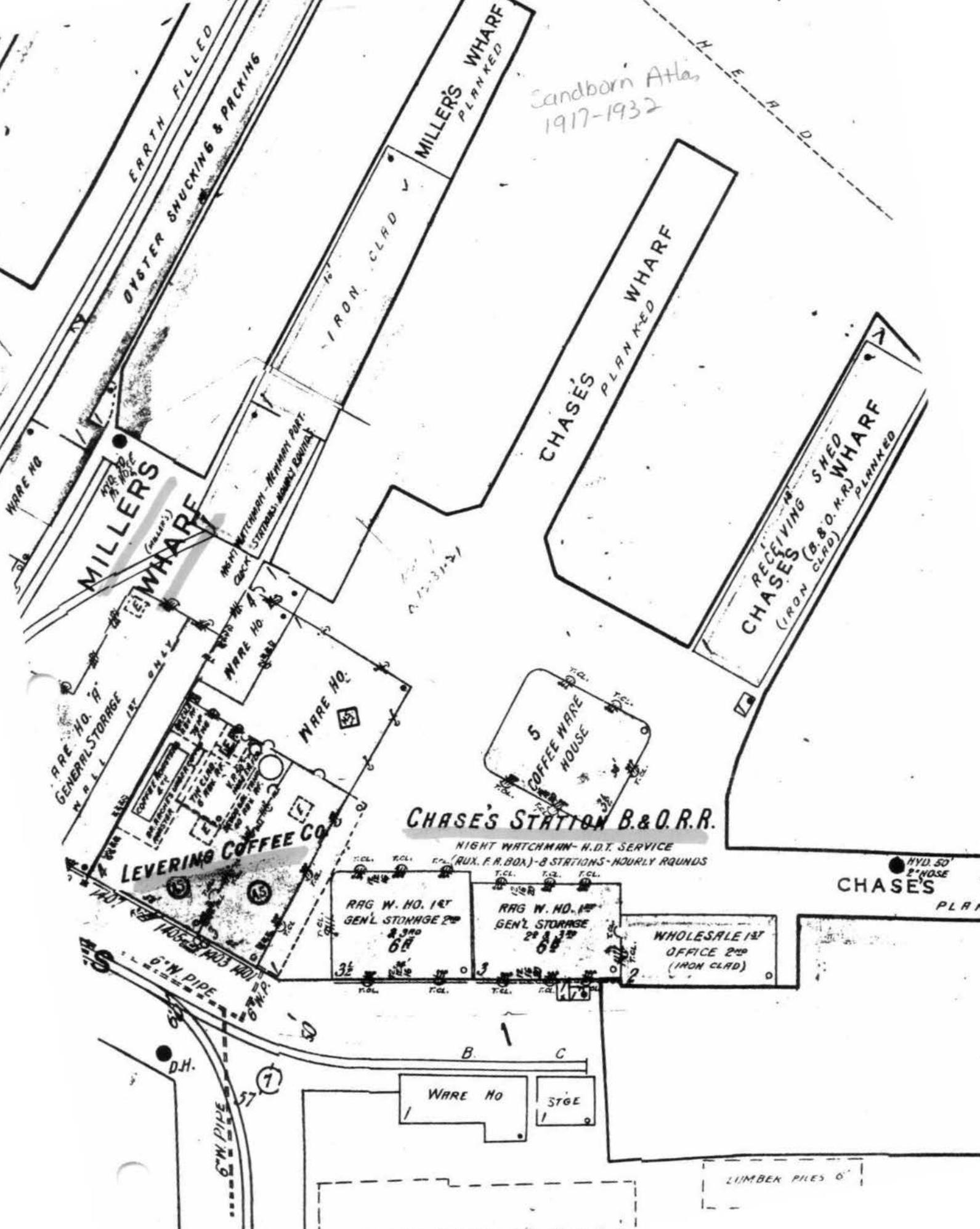
WHOLESALE 1ST
OFFICE 2ND
(IRON CLAD)

CHASE'S
PLAN

WARE NO
1

STGE
1

LUMBER PILES 6'



cell
brick

NIGHT WATCHMAN
300 FT MOSE

Sandborn Atlas
1902-1911

W. C. ROBINSON & SON
OIL WARE HO. &
OIL MIXING

GLENDENIN BROS.
B. METALS, NAILS & C.

MILLER'S WHARF

MILLER

BROS. WARE HO'S

NITRATE OF SODA F.

COFFEE ROASTERS
CLEANING & HANDLING
STORAGE

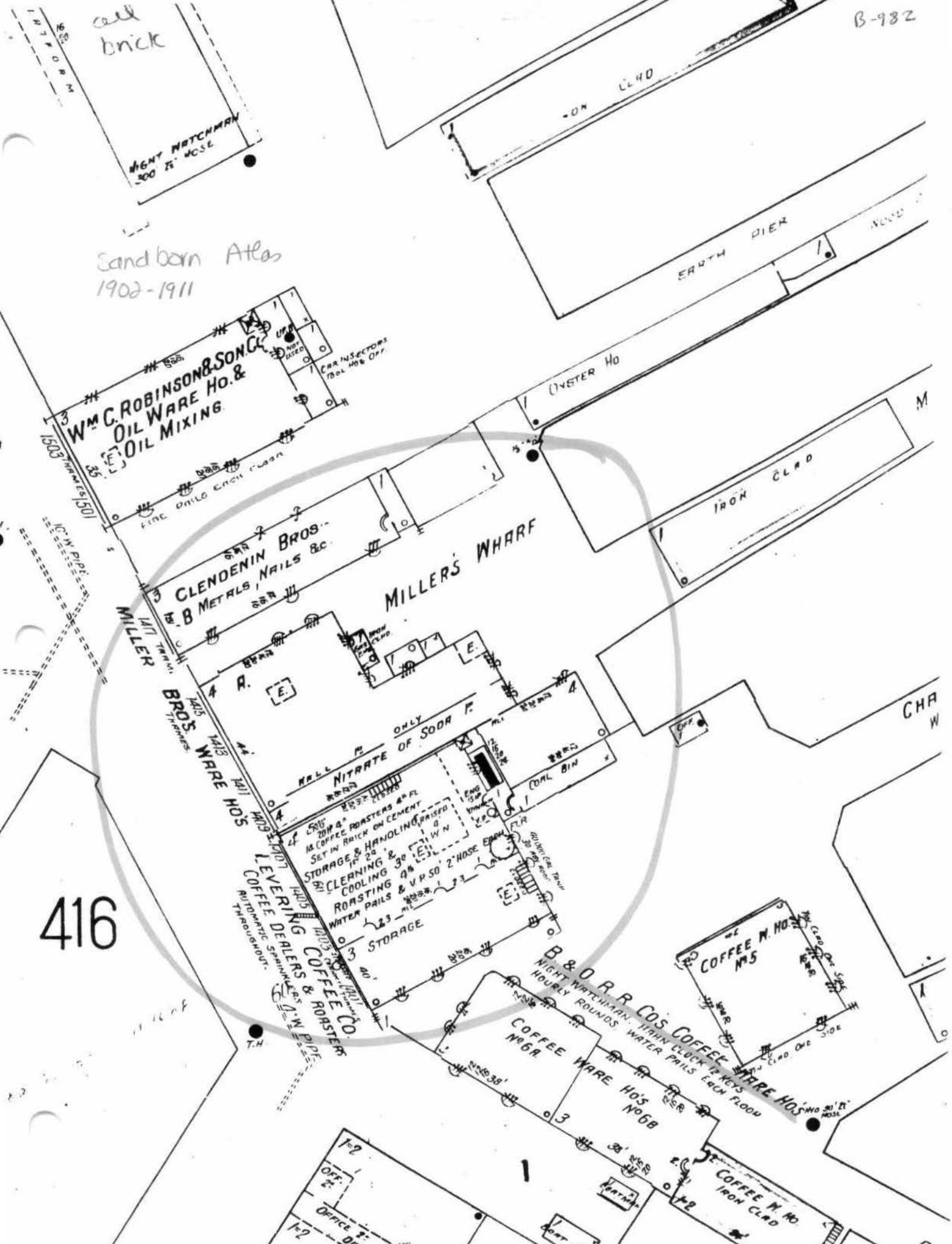
B & O R R COS
COFFEE WARE HO'S

COFFEE WARE HO'S
NO 6A

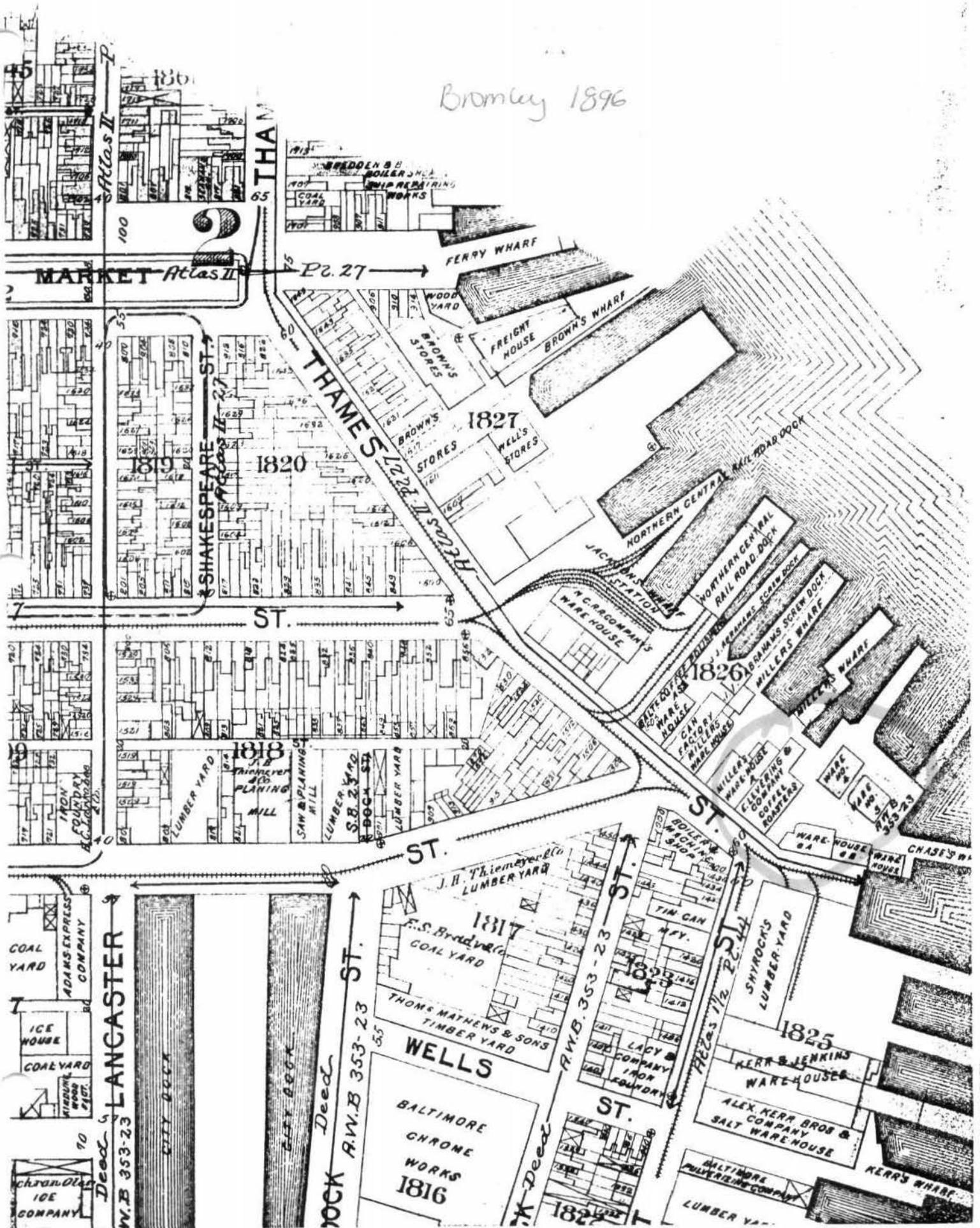
COFFEE WARE HO'S
NO 5

COFFEE WARE HO'S
IRON CLAD

416



Bromley 1896



Market

Atlas II

THAMES

THAMES ST.

SHAKESPEARE ST.

LANCASTER

Deed R.W.B. 353-23

Deed R.W.B. 353-23

Deed R.W.B. 353-23

J.H. Thiemeyer & Co LUMBER YARD

E.S. Broad & Co COAL YARD

THOMAS MATHEWS & SONS TIMBER YARD

WELLS

BALTIMORE

CHROME

WORKS 1816

1817

1818

1819

1820

1821

1822

1823

1824

1825

1826

1827

1828

1829

1830

1831

1832

1833

1834

1835

1836

1837

1838

1839

1840

1841

1842

1843

1844

1845

1846

1847

1848

1849

1850

1851

1852

COAL YARD

ICE HOUSE

COAL YARD

ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY

ICE COMPANY

ICE COMPANY

ICE COMPANY

LANCASTER

Demolished

B-982
Levering and Co. Coffee Roasters and Importers
1401 Thames Street
Block 1826 Lot 001
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.

