

B-984

Lacy Foundry

Statement of Significance

The Lacy Iron and Brass Foundry, located at 1401 Block Street in Fells Point, is one of Baltimore's oldest metalworking firms still in operation at its original location. Founded in 1865, Lacy has produced a variety of decorative and functional castings over the years, including ship parts, manhole covers, columns, and sash and door weights. At the end of the 19th Century, the City of Baltimore gave the Lacy Foundry an exclusive contract to make castings for city street lampposts and hardware. Today, the small but active foundry still uses the old wet sand method of producing casting molds.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Lacy Foundry

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1401 Block Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME James J. Lacy Co. (Brass) and James
 J. Lacy (Iron)

Telephone #: 301-342-1148

STREET & NUMBER

1401 Block Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21202

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Baltimore City Courthouse

Liber #: RO-233

Folio #: 485

STREET & NUMBER

200 St. Paul Street

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

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CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original section of the Lacy Foundry complex was built in 1865 at the corner of Block, Philpot and Wills Streets. This section is a two story brick structure with a decorative, parapet cornice. This section has three bays on Block Street, 19 bays on Wills Street and 26 bays on Philpot Street.

The Block Street section has two open doors and one bricked-in door on the first level. The second level has three evenly spaced 4/4 windows. The first level Wills Street facade has 18 4/4 windows occupying every bay except the center bay which is occupied by an arched garage door. The first level of the Philpot Street facade has garage door openings occupying the 11th, 12th, 23rd and 24th bays. The 25th bay has a green wooden door with a transom. The remaining bays have 4/4 windows, as does the second level.

There are a series of additions to the north end of the Philpot Street and Block Street additions. The east facade of the Block Street section has a two story brick addition which is one bay wide and one bay in length. There is one 6/6 window on the first and second levels of this addition. South of this addition is a one story brick addition which is two bays wide and one bay deep. There are two 4/4 windows on this addition. East of this addition is a tin shed leanto, which is attached to the north side of the Philpot Street section. East of the tin shed are several silo-like structures raised on girders. East of these structures there are two one story concrete additions. They are six bays in length and have two 6/6 windows. East of these concrete additions is a two story brick addition which is three bays wide. The first floor has two brick windows on either side of a large door with an iron lintel. The second level has two 6/6 windows on either side of two double wood doors with an eight paned window above the door. East of these sections is a one story brick section which is six bays wide. There are two 16-paned picture windows which flank a wooden door. West of this is a garage door and a wooden door with a three-paned transom.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1865 to present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lacy Iron and Brass Foundry, located at 1401 Block Street in Fell's Point, is one of Baltimore's oldest metalworking firms still in operation at its original location. Founded in 1865, Lacy has produced a variety of decorative and functional castings over the years, including ship parts, manhole covers, columns, and sash and door weights. At the end of the 19th Century, the City of Baltimore gave the Lacy Foundry an exclusive contract to make castings for city street lamp posts and hardware. Today, the small but active foundry still uses the old wet sand method of producing casting molds.

Historical Significance

Industrial development in the United States during the mid-19th Century was fostered by the railroad. In 1850 the President Street Station began to provide railroad service to Fells Point. As a result, surrounding communities started to industrialize as the railroad allowed access to coal from Pennsylvania which made steam powered factories a reality. Most of the industries focused on the maritime trade. One example is the James Lacy Iron Foundry, founded by five veterans of the Civil War who specialized in castings for the maritime industry.

The foundry has occupied the southeast corner of Block, Wills and Philpot Streets since its inception in 1865. An 1898 report compiled by the Mercantile Advancement Co. indicates that the present day site was at that time complete. Though the company began as an auxillary service to the maritime trade in Fells Point, they later expanded their manufacturing line to include castings for gutter plates, manhole covers, structural work for buildings, sash and door weights, railings, columns and pillars. One of the foundry's most significant and important contracts was with the City of Baltimore at the end of the 19th Century, when they were commissioned to produce all the iron castings for city street hardware and lamp posts.

(CONTINUED, PAGE 2)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) Illustrated Baltimore, The Monumental City (NY, American Publishing and Engineering Co.) 1890.
- 2) Half-Century's Progress of the City of Baltimore (NY, International Publishing Co.) 1886.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(CONTINUED)

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

Elizabeth Reich and David O'Conner, Interns

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE

July 1980

STREET & NUMBER

217 N. Charles Street

TELEPHONE

301-396-1931

CITY OR TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21201

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

Lacy Foundry

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Continued. Page 2

Historical Significance

In competition with King and Son Ironworks, the Bartlett-Hayward Company (now Koppers), Poole & Hunt Foundry and Baltimore's many other metal foundries, Lacy Foundry continued to produce iron and brass castings for a variety of uses into the 20th Century. The firm continues in operation today at its original site, and is one of the last foundries in Baltimore to use the old wet sand method of making molds.

3. Baltimore, The Gateway to the South, The Liverpool of America,
(Baltimore, Merchantile Advancement Co.,) 1898.
4. Industries of Maryland; Manufactureres and Merchantile Industires
of the City of Baltimore, (Baltimore, Historical Publishing
Co.,) 1882
5. Vertical and Query File, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD
6. Schaff, The Chronicles of Baltimore,(Baltimore, Board of Trade) 1896

1. SITE I.D. NO

B 9 8 4

NAER INVENTORY

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

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

3. PRIORITY

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

5. DATE

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN

James J. Lacy Co. and Joseph J. Lacy

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

Lacy Foundry

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

1401 Block Street

10. STATE COUNTY

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG. DIST.

3

STATE COUNTY

M D

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG. DIST.

3

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

1401 Block Street

12. EXISTING SURVEYS

 NR NHL HABS HAER-I HAER NPS CLB CONF STATE COUNTY LOCAL OTHER

13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW)

 INTERIOR INTACT EXTERIOR INTACT ENVIRONS INTACT

14. UTM ZONE EASTING NORTHING SIGN

1 8 3 6 2 0 3 0 4 3 4 8 9 1 0

SCALE

 1:24 1:62.5 OTHER

QUAD NAME

Baltimore East

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 77 DESTROYED 85 DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

Elizabeth Reich and David O'Conner

AFFILIATION

Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE

July 1980

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

The two story brick Lacy Iron foundry has occupied the Southeast corner of Block, Wills and Philpot Streets since its inception in 1865. An 1898 report compiled by the Mercantile Advancement Co. indicates that the present day site was at that time complete. Though the company began as an auxillary service to the maritime trade in Fells Point, they later expanded their manufacturing line to include castings for gutter plates, man hole covers, structural work for buildings, sash and door weights, railings, columns and pillars. One of the foundry's most significant and important contracts was with the city of Baltimore at the end of the nineteenth century, when they were commissioned to produce all the iron castings for the city street hardware and lampposts.

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE

PRESENT USE

ADAPTIVE USE

Industrial (Iron Foundry)

Industrial (Iron and Brass Foundry)

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

Baltimore, The Gateway to the South, The Liverpool of America, (Baltimore, Mercantile Advancement Co.) 1898.
Industries of Maryland; Manufacturers and Mercantile Industries of the City of Baltimore, (Baltimore, Historical Publishing Co.,) 1882.

Vertical and Query File, Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, MD. (cont.)

(CONT OVER)

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

21.

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

 YES, LIMITED YES, UNLIMITED NO UNKNOWN

23. EDITOR INDEXER

24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

 YES NO

NAME

DISTRICT I.D. NO

B-984



N. W. B R O M L E Y A T L A S

B-9-84

Fells Point, The 1896 Bromley Atlas

Lacy Company Iron Foundry



LACY FOUNDRY
18362030 4348910

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Lacy Foundry
Baltimore City
U.S.G.S. 7.5" Balto. East Qu
183620304348910

Pt 4



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Lacy Foundry

Baltimore City, Maryland

Photo: Dennis Zembala

Neg. loc: MD Historic Trust

Dec. 1980

(Wills St.)

North facade, looking west



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Lacey Foundry
Baltimore City, Maryland
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg. loc: MD Historic Trust
Dec. 1980
North facade



BLOCK

OFFICE

NOTICE

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Lacy Foundry
Baltimore City, Maryland
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg. loc: MD Historic Trust
East facade, (Black St.)



B-984

Lacy Foundry
Baltimore City, Maryland
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg. Loc: MD Historic Trust
Dec 1980
Foundry Yard - (Black Street)