

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Franklinville Cotton Factory

AND/OR COMMON

Belko Corporation

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

11935 Jericho Road

CITY, TOWN

Franklinville

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2d

STATE

MD

COUNTY

Baltimore Co.

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Belko Corp.

Telephone #: 301-592-9191

STREET & NUMBER

11935 Jericho Road

CITY, TOWN

Franklinville

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

MD 21087

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: County Courts Building

Liber #: 5014
Folio #: 104

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

MD 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE None. The adjoining village was surveyed by Goucher students in 1983.

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

BA-2408

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

UNALTERED ORIGINAL SITE
 ALTERED MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Franklinville Factory was built as two stories of brick, 28 bays in length when depicted in 1942 by a Baltimore news photographer. It was a fairly simple building when designed by its owner in 1883, a "modern" and functional, largely undecorated structure built for maximum open floor space and good natural lighting. The original dimensions were 46 by 166 feet. 1

The roofing is gabled at a very low pitch. Windows were originally 9-over-8 double-hung sash types. The building was extended in 1895. 2 The 1918 tax ledger gave dimensions as 47 by 203 feet. 3

The building looked much the same in the 1915 auction catalog and in the 1942 newspaper photos. Mr. William F. Barton in 1989 still possessed a zinc-plate engraving mounted on a wood block from which the 1916 photo had been reused in a hand bill offering the property at a later sale. This engraving was printed for the author by the Jeffersonian pressman using a now obsolete proof press. 4

Photos show the only decorative features as exposed rafters and prominent lintels over the windows. The building was topped by a small cupola used for the traditional mill bell. After 1954, the Belko Corporation began to add wings and add-on extensions necessary to their manufacturing operations. By the 1970s, the only facade that showed the original brickwork and window pattern was the northern or long dimension along the Little Gunpowder Falls. The cupola can be seen from the river bank or by going into the company town street, Woodberry Place.

NOTES:

1. "The Franklinville Mills," Maryland Journal, Towson, October 13, 1883.
2. "Extensive Improvements at a Factory," Baltimore County Union, Towson, May 5, 1895.
3. Baltimore County Tax Ledger, 1918, Districts 10-11, folio 722.
4. "Franklinville Appears Sleepy--But It Isn't," Baltimore Evening Sun, November 27, 1942. Also, Samuel T. Freeman & Co., Liquidation Sale, The Laurel Mills, The Mt. Washington Mills, The Phoenix Mills, The Franklinville Mills, All Near Baltimore, Md. (Philadelphia, 1915).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

It took ten years to sell Franklinville, and the purchaser, Oak Tire and Rubber Company, was unable to pay its mortgage to Mount Vernon Mills and the property reverted to the textile company. 10

In 1930, Mount Vernon began to sell the houses to individuals, and in 1931, William T. Barton purchased the mill and manager's mansion. 11 At one point the Reifschneider company manufactured piston rings there but by 1942 when the Evening Sun reported on the "sleepy" looking town, the mill was idle and the citizens hoped some war industry would settle there. The feature story, fortunately unsigned, angered the long term residents by describing them as bumpkins. 12

The article was still remembered in 1976 by May Rinkers, relative of the Bartons, and in 1983, Mrs. Ruth Leedy was still indignant and listed the number of villagers who could play piano and organ and named persons who had degrees and diplomas. 13

In November 1945, shortly after the end of World War II, Barton sold the factory to some investors who conveyed to Franklinville Industries; the mill was reopened trading as Dorfman Plastics to exploit the newly available substances, but there was much to learn about plastics, and both management and workers had difficulty making the raw material take the desired forms: barbershop signs, toy pianos, and other items. The factory closed again. In 1954, the Belko Corporation acquired title to the factory and continues to manufacture rubber belting products for industry. 14

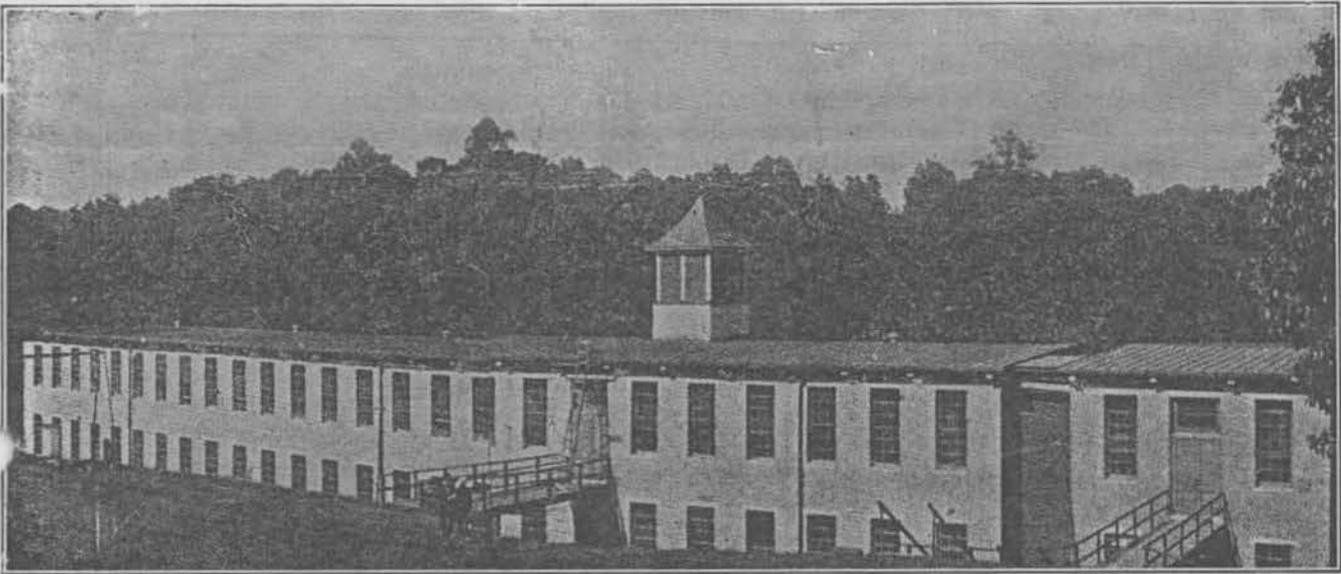
NOTES:

1. Baltimore County Union, Towson, November 19, 1881.
2. Baltimore County Deeds, WMI 134:469.
3. Baltimore County Union, September 9, 1899.
4. Baltimore County Union, September 8, 15, 1883.
5. Baltimore County Union, June 29, 1895.
6. Baltimore County Union, September 9, 1899.
7. Baltimore Sun, October 30, 1899. Baltimore County Deeds, NBM 241:43.
8. Maryland Journal, Towson, May 9, 1903.
9. Sun, June 25, 1915, p. 13.
10. Baltimore County Deeds 808:230. Judicial Records, WMN 338:167, advertisement of 1928 offering mill and 20 dwellings.
11. Baltimore County Deeds, LMCLM 870:221.
12. Baltimore Evening Sun, November 27, 1942, "Franklinville Appears Sleepy-- But It Isn't."
13. Author's interviews with May Rinkers, 1976, and Ruth Leedy, 1983; also William F. Barton, nephew of former owner, 1987.

BA-2408

Franklinville Factory

14. Baltimore County Deeds, RJS 1387:523; RJS 1414:136. Judicial Records, TBS 536:319 (1948). Distress sale advertisement, Jeffersonian, Towson, September 17, 1948. Deed to Belko Corporation (1951). 4011:101.



1915 Photo from surviving zinc engraving owned by William F. Barton

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MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The Franklinville Mills," Maryland Journal, Towson, October 13, 1883, p. 3.
John W. McGrain, Pig Iron and Cotton Duck, Vol. 2 (forthcoming, 1989-90).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded by Jericho Road on south; Little Gunpowder Falls on north; by private homes in former mill village on the east; by State Park property on west. See Tax Map 55, Parcel P49. Also, layout of town, 1930, Plat Book LMcLM 9:65.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES.

STATE N/A COUNTY North or river frontage borders Harford County.

STATE N/A COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
John McGrain, Planner II

ORGANIZATION
Office of Planning

DATE
July 7, 1989

STREET & NUMBER
401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE
301-887-3495

CITY OR TOWN
Towson

STATE
Maryland 21204

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

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