

MA011F0400822511

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Baltimore City
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE:	

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: American Brewery

AND OR HISTORIC: Wiessner Brewery

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 1701 North Gay Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third District

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

COUNTY: Baltimore City

CODE: 510

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Allegheny Beverage Corporation

STREET AND NUMBER: 2216 North Charles Street

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Land Record Office of the Superior Court of Baltimore City

STREET AND NUMBER: Room 610, Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: [see continuation sheet]
Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

DATE OF SURVEY: 1965

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation

STREET AND NUMBER: 402 City Hall

CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Baltimore City

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER:

DATE:

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The American Brewery brew house is a unique example of nineteenth century industrial architecture. Its height and organization of interior spaces were predetermined by the requirements of brewing but the exterior details are expressions of the age and of the people who lived and worked in the area. In style, it can best be described as "middle-European Chalet."

The brew house is five stories high but its three towers make it seem taller. The central tower is seven stories and the two on either side are six. The building's stained glass windows, detailed exterior brickwork and varied windows with arched, rounded, rectangular, and square shapes add a sense of the unusual to the residential neighborhood. The interior of the structure is largely unaltered although some sections have been modernized and others are no longer in use.

There are two buildings across the street from the brew house that were built during the same period and the three together show how a late nineteenth century brewery would have appeared. The southernmost of these was built in 1896 as a residence for the brewery owners. It is a three story brick building with brownstone trim. The door frame and cornice are brownstone with rosette decorations. The rosette motif is repeated in the cornices of the windows with a corbel in the center. The building itself has a wooden cornice now painted green. At present, the windows are boarded up and the interior is gutted.

The office building next door is two stories high and has three sections. The southernmost section has a rusticated brownstone facade. Brownstone archivolts frame the first floor door and window. The four rectangular windows of the second floor are arranged symmetrically over the first floor divisions. Above the roof line, there is a triangular section of stone with the date 1892 inscribed on it. The middle section is the same as the first described except that it is brick with stone archivolts. The triangular stone section has the date 1896 on it. The last and northernmost section was built in 1900 and is also brick. The facade has six divisions implied by brick arches and a slightly larger central section where the garage door is. Each of the smaller sections includes one semi-arched first floor window and one arched second floor window. The central section is slightly taller than the others and includes two windows above the large door.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	osophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Human-	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The American Brewery is a monument to the development of brewing, one of Baltimore's major industries, and to the Germans who worked there and lived in the area. The first brewery on the site was erected in 1863 by John Frederick Wiessner on land leased from Charles Rogers. At the time, there were 21 other breweries in Baltimore City and nearby sections of Baltimore County. Wiessner's brewery was a great success and the business quickly outgrew the original building. The present structure was built in 1887 to enlarge and modernize the brewery. The brewery was one of the finest in the state and it continued to operate until Prohibition. The Wiessners unsuccessfully attempted to produce "near-beer," 3.2% added, but, in 1931 they were forced to sell the brewery to the FitzSimmons family who owned the American Malt Company, subsequently the American Brewery. The brewery is still used to brew beer although it is now a division of Allegheny Beverage Corporation. The products made there today are Heibrau, Keg, American and Arrow beers. They also make Malta Schaefer for the Schaefer Company.

Many of the Wiessners employees were Germans who had been brewers before their emigration, and they settled near the brewery. The owners also lived in the area. The residence across the street from the brew house was built for the Wiessners and was later used by the FitzSimmons.

The keg office was in the southernmost end of the other building across the street from the brew house. The bottle shop was in the middle section and the bottling plant was in the northernmost section. The entire building is now used for office space and storage.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
- Electrical Contractors, Vol. 3, no. 6, January 1941, p. 9.
- Industries of Maryland, Baltimore: Historical Publishing Company, 1882, p. 279.
- Kelley, William J., Brewing in Maryland; from Colonial Times to the Present, Baltimore, Remington's, 1965, p. 292ff.
- Power Pictorial, no. 26, September 1933, p. 9-11.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		39 ° 18 ' 34 "	76 ° 35 ' 16 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2.75 acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Catharine F. Black and A. McClellan

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: Sept. 27, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Orlando Ridout IV</u> <u>Orlando Ridout IV</u></p> <p>Title <u>State Liaison Officer</u> <u>for Maryland</u></p> <p>Date <u>Sept. 27, 1972</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register</p> <p>_____ <i>Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

American Brewery

#6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS continued

Maryland Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

1972 State

Maryland Historical Trust
2525 Riva Road
Annapolis, Maryland 21401 Code: 24

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Baltimore City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:		American Brewery	
AND/OR HISTORIC:		Wiessner Brewery	
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
1701 North Gay Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Baltimore			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute map quadrangle Baltimore East			
SCALE: 1: 24,000			
DATE: 1953			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

B-82

BALTIMORE EAST QUADRANGLE
USGS 7.5 minute map
scale: 1:24,000
photorevised 1966



455
20'
454
452
17'30"
450

lat 39° 16'
long 76° 16'



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY	Baltimore City
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:	American Brewery		
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Wiessner Brewery		
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
1701 North Gay Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Baltimore			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Maryland	24	Baltimore City	510
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:	Michael Bourne		
DATE OF PHOTO:	April 1972		
NEGATIVE FILED AT:	Maryland Historical Trust 2525 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21401		
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
West elevation			

GPO 921-737



NAME American Brewery

LOCATION 1700 North Gay Street
 Baltimore, Maryland

ARCHITECT

DATES 1887

OWNER American Brewery Company

The American Brewery is not only a unique piece of nineteenth-century industrial architecture, but also played an important role in the history of Baltimore business and the development of one of its major industries, brewing.

With its variety of stained glass windows, three incredible towers, detailed exterior brickwork, and exuberant silhouette, it dominates the skyline of east Baltimore. Its style of architecture, easily identifiable with the ethnic background of the Germans whose homes surrounded it and who worked there, can best be described as "Middle European Chalet."

The structure was erected in 1887 for John Frederick Wiessner who had owned a small brewery on that site since 1863. No record naming the architect has been found. The area was replete with breweries, there being 21 separate operations in Baltimore City and the surrounding county at the time Wiessner opened his new building. It covered an area of about two acres and was equipped with the latest brewing machinery and ice equipment. Its capacity in 1887 was 100,000 barrels.

The Wiessner family operated the business until Prohibition when they sold it to the FitzSimmons family who continued in operation as the American Malt Company until after the repeal of Prohibition in 1933. American, a division of the Allegheny-Pepsi Beverage Corporation, continues to produce beer in the brewery.

Across the street from the brewery stand three brick buildings. One is a three-story, three-bay long townhouse

(continued)

(page 2)

with large side yard enclosed by a brick and cast iron fence. The brownstone window sills and segmental arches continue in unbroken lines across the facade, giving the needed horizontal effect to the otherwise vertical building. Its details are in the Eastlake and North Italian Renaissance styles.

The double, two-story building north of the aforementioned yard is built in the Romanesque style, half in rough brownstone, half in brick and granite. Both parts of the double building are nearly identical, the former having a door in one of its two arches.

Adjoining the double building is a two-story, seven-bay long structure used for a warehouse. Each bay is separated by pilaster strips. The central bay has a large opening for a wagon entrance. A small pediment above the roof is flanked by two small dome-like objects.

The entire complex of buildings on the west side of Gay Street contribute to the effect which the brewery has over the entire area.

Recorders: Catharine F. Black
Maryland Historical Trust
April 24, 1972

Michael Bourne
Maryland Historical Trust
May 1, 1972

NAME American Brewery
LOCATION 1700 North Gay Street
Baltimore, Maryland
ARCHITECT
DATES 1887
OWNER American Brewery Company

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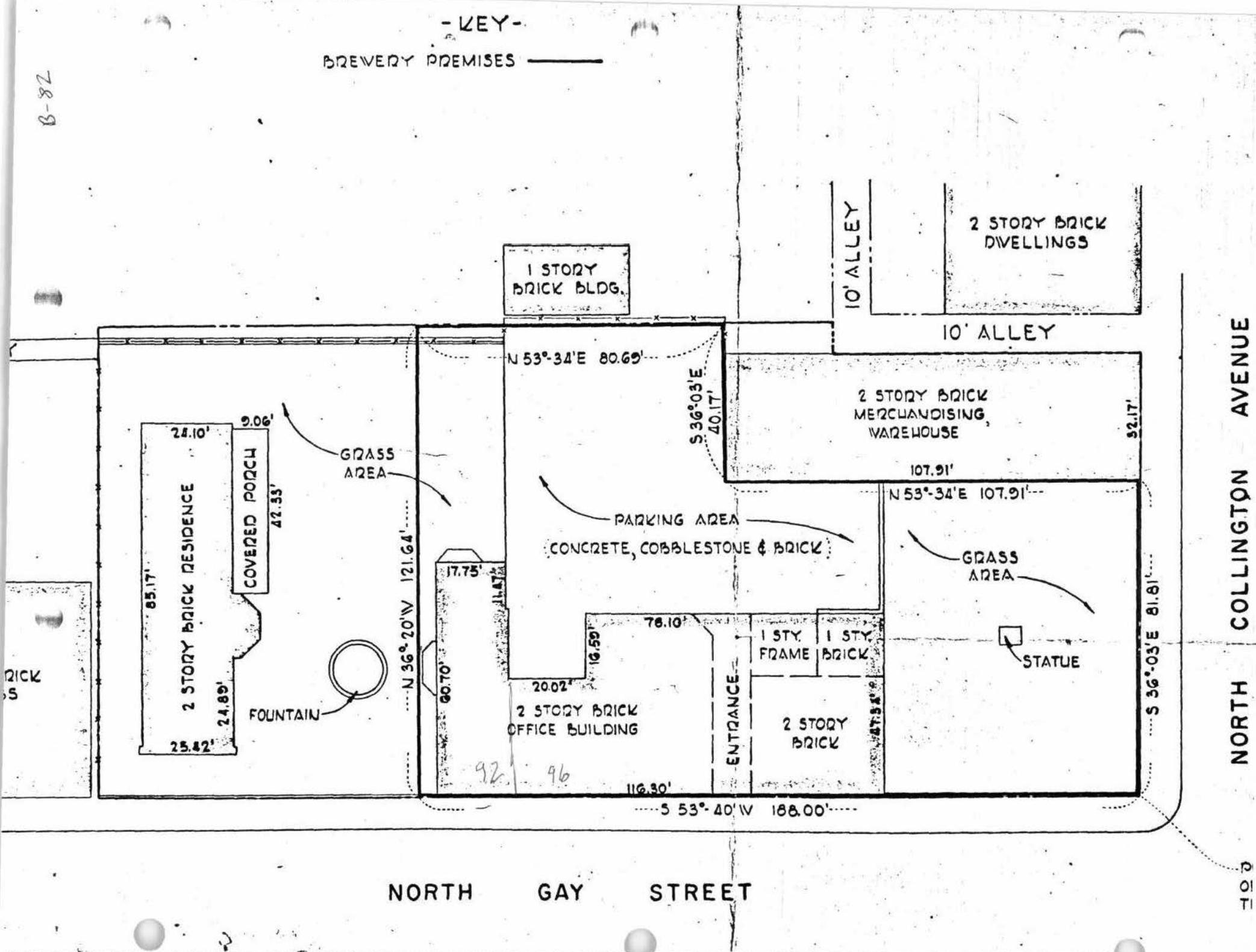
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Recorders: Catharine F. Black
Maryland Historical Trust
April 24, 1972

Michael Bourne
Maryland Historical Trust
May 1, 1972

B-82

- KEY -
BREWERY PREMISES ———



BRICK
S

NORTH GAY STREET

NORTH COLLINGTON AVENUE

100

