

B-1058

August Beck Brewery

Architectural Survey File

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site (mht.maryland.gov) for details about how to make an appointment.

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Last Updated: 03-10-2011

August Beck Brewery
Baltimore City, Maryland
B-1058
private, 1865

Statement of Significance

Baltimore was a major brewing center in the nineteenth century, partly because of its large German population, and also because of its ready supply of grain. By the end of the century there were dozens of small, independently owned breweries. The industry remained a prosperous one until Prohibition crippled it in 1920. Brewery architecture, the only remains of this once thriving industry, with its romantic, Germanic character and elaborate decoration, has given Baltimore some of its most interesting industrial structures. The August Beck Brewery, built in 1865 on Franklinton Road in West Baltimore, is one of the earliest remaining brewery structures. The site includes large underground cellars which were used before modern refrigeration, and a mansion house, part of which was used as a tavern.

Survey No. B-1058

Magi No. 0410585514

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic August Beck Brewery

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 200 S. Franklinton Road ☐ not for publicationcity, town Baltimore ☐ vicinity of congressional district

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
	☒ not applicable	☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name 200 S. Franklinton Realty Company

street & number 200 S. Franklinton Road telephone no.: 947-6300

city, town Baltimore state and zip code Maryland 21223

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber RHB 3054

street & number Fayette and Calvert Streets folio 535

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

☐ nonedate ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-1058

Condition		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☒ original site
☐ good	☐ ruins	☒ altered	☐ moved date of move _____
☒ fair	☐ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The scale of this brewery remained virtually unchanged from the 1870's until the mid 1930's, when it became a paint factory. Its 12,000 barrel per year capacity was typical of the more than 25 breweries that operated in Baltimore at the turn of the century. The brewhouse burned in 1969 and was replaced by a modern building but the rest of the complex remains. In 1883 the brewery consisted of a brewhouse 30 by 250 feet and a warehouse 20 by 250 feet on a site 140 by 500 feet deep. A ten horse stable and a concert hall and garden also occupied the site.

Both the 1865 two-story dwelling occupied by August Beck and his later, more elaborate three-story beaux arts mansion still remain. The former is a center hall, gable roofed building of modest proportions. Beck used the ground floor front of this structure as a tavern. A vaulted beer cellar still remains beneath it. A two-story rear addition provided more living space for the early owners and now houses the offices of the paint factory. Attached to the house are the original warehouses of the brewery. These are all two-story brick buildings with sash windows on south and north facades. They have shed roofs which slope from the higher north wall down toward the brewing yard. The last warehouse contains a vertical shaft which descends to the beer cellars.

The beer cellars are intact, although two are still used for storage by the paint company. The large square shaft which descends to the cellar probably contained a storage tank at one time. A stair descends about thirty-five feet below grade to the floor. From the shaft, two corridors lead to separate banks of vaulted cellars. One series lies under the warehouse and one under the former brewhouse. Each cellar is a brick vault about fifteen by thirty feet and twelve feet high. Each has a ventilator shaft about eighteen inches in diameter which opens to the surface. The corridor which connects the warehouse cellars contains two additional vertical shafts about six feet square, formerly used to hoist barrels to the surface. A similar shaft separates two of the cellars under the brewhouse and one also has a staircase which formerly led to the surface there.

The former mansion is the only other building on the site of significance. This has been totally converted on the interior into the laboratory of the paint company and no residential appearance remains. Post and beam reinforcement has been added at the center to accommodate greater loading on the upper floors. The exterior has been covered by formstone, an invention of one of the proprietors of the paint company which purchased the site in the thirties.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-1058

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	☐ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700-1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800-1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900-	☐ communications	☒ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1865

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Baltimore was a major brewing center in the nineteenth century, partly because of its large German population, and also because of its ready supply of grain. By the end of the century there were dozens of small, independently owned breweries. The industry remained prosperous until Prohibition crippled it in 1920. Brewery architecture, the only remains of this once thriving industry, with its romantic, Germanic character and elaborate decoration, has given Baltimore some of its most interesting industrial structures. The August Beck Brewery, built in 1865 on Franklinton Road in West Baltimore, is one of the earliest remaining brewery structures. The site includes large underground cellars which were used before the advent of modern refrigeration, and a mansion houses, part of which was used as a tavern.

August Beck, born in Germany in 1821, came to Baltimore in 1854. He worked as a brewmaster for his half brother Thomas, and then in 1865 started his own brewery on Franklinton Road, opposite Pratt Street. The brewery was small at the start, but by the time of Beck's death in 1879 it had become fairly substantial. It had a large brewhouse and warehouse, and a beer garden and concert hall on the property. The front part of Beck's first house was used as a tavern. (In 1876, Beck had built an additional house which was quite elaborate - a three story red brick with a mansard roof.)

Beck's son August Jr. became brewmaster after his father's death. He installed new machinery and modernized the plant. In 1899, however, he sold the plant to John Marr, brewer and maltster. It is believed that he was having financial difficulties at this time - at one point he was mortgaged to the malt firm H. Straus Brothers. It is also possible that he assumed the beer trust of the Maryland Brewing Company would have tried to buy him out anyway. In 1901 the brewery was bought by the Frank Steil Brewing Company, who owned it until Prohibition. August Beck Jr. died in 1902.

The property was later owned by the Lasting Products Company, manufacturers of paints, plasters, and the ubiquitous "formstone". It is currently occupied by the Contact Paint Company.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-1058

Brewing in Maryland William Kelley, 1964

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie Barr, Dennis Zembala, Ann Steele

organization Baltimore Museum of Industry date September 1983

street & number 1415 Key Highway telephone 727-4808

city or town Baltimore state Maryland

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

HAER INVENTORY

Historic American Engineering Record
Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240

1. SITE I.D. NO

B-1058

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION

manufacture

3. PRIORITY

4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION?
(SPECIFY THREAT)

☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

5. DATE

1865

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT

OWNER

ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN

200 S. Franklinton Realty Co

8. OWNER'S ADDRESS

200 S. Franklinton Rd

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

AUGUST BECK BREWERY

10. STATE

MD

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

BALTIMORE

CONG.
DIST.

STATE

MD

COUNTY NAME

CITY/VICINITY

Baltimore

CONG.
DIST.

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO)

200 S. Franklinton Road

12. EXISTING
SURVEYS

☐ NR

☐ NHL

☐ HABS

☐ HAER-I

☐ HAER

☐ NPS

☐ CL6

☐ CONF

☐ STATE

☐ COUNTY

☐ LOCAL

☐ OTHER

13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW)

☐ INTERIOR INTACT

☒ EXTERIOR INTACT

☐ ENVIRONS INTACT

14. UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

☒ 1:24

☐ 1:62.5

QUAD

NAME BALTO. WEST

☐ OTHER

UTM ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

SIGN

SCALE

☐ 1:24

☐ 1:62.5

QUAD

NAME

☐ OTHER

15. CONDITION

70 ☐ EXCELLENT

71 ☐ GOOD

72 ☒ FAIR

73 ☐ DETERIORATED

74 ☐ RUINS

75 ☐ UNEXPOSED

76 ☒ ALTERED

82 ☐ DESTROYED

85 ☐ DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY

Leslie Barr

AFFILIATION

Balto. Museum of Industry

DATE

9/83

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

see attached

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE

brewery

PRESENT USE

paint manufacture

ADAPTIVE USE

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

Brewing in Maryland Kelly (1964)

(CONT OVER)

20. URBAN AREA 50,000
POP. OR MORE?

☒ YES ☐ NO

21. NPS REGION

22. PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY

☒ YES, LIMITED

☐ YES, UNLIMITED

☐ NO

☐ UNKNOWN

23. EDITOR

INDEXER

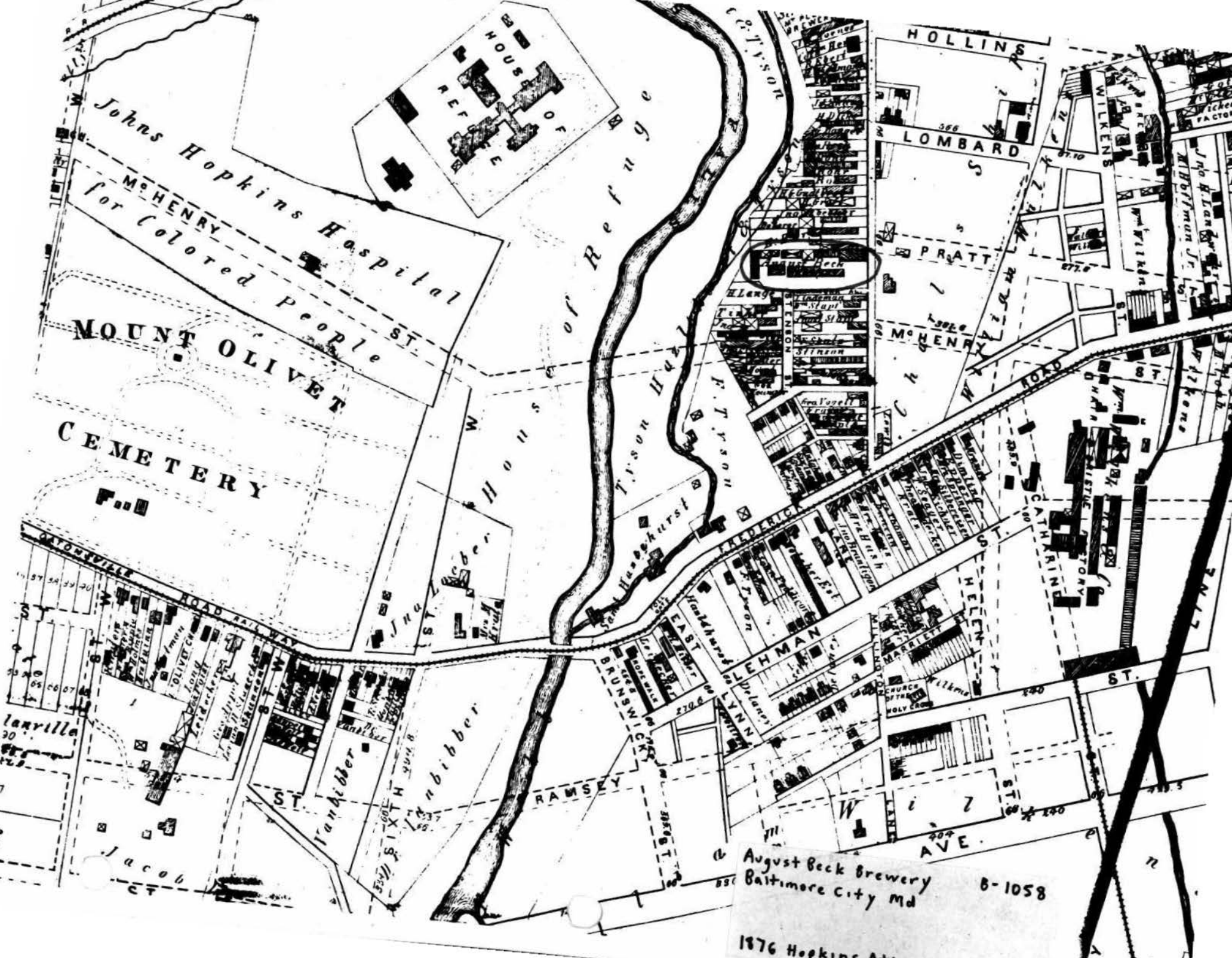
24. LOCATED IN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT?

☐ YES

☒ NO

NAME

DISTRICT I.D. NO



August Beck Brewery
Baltimore City Md

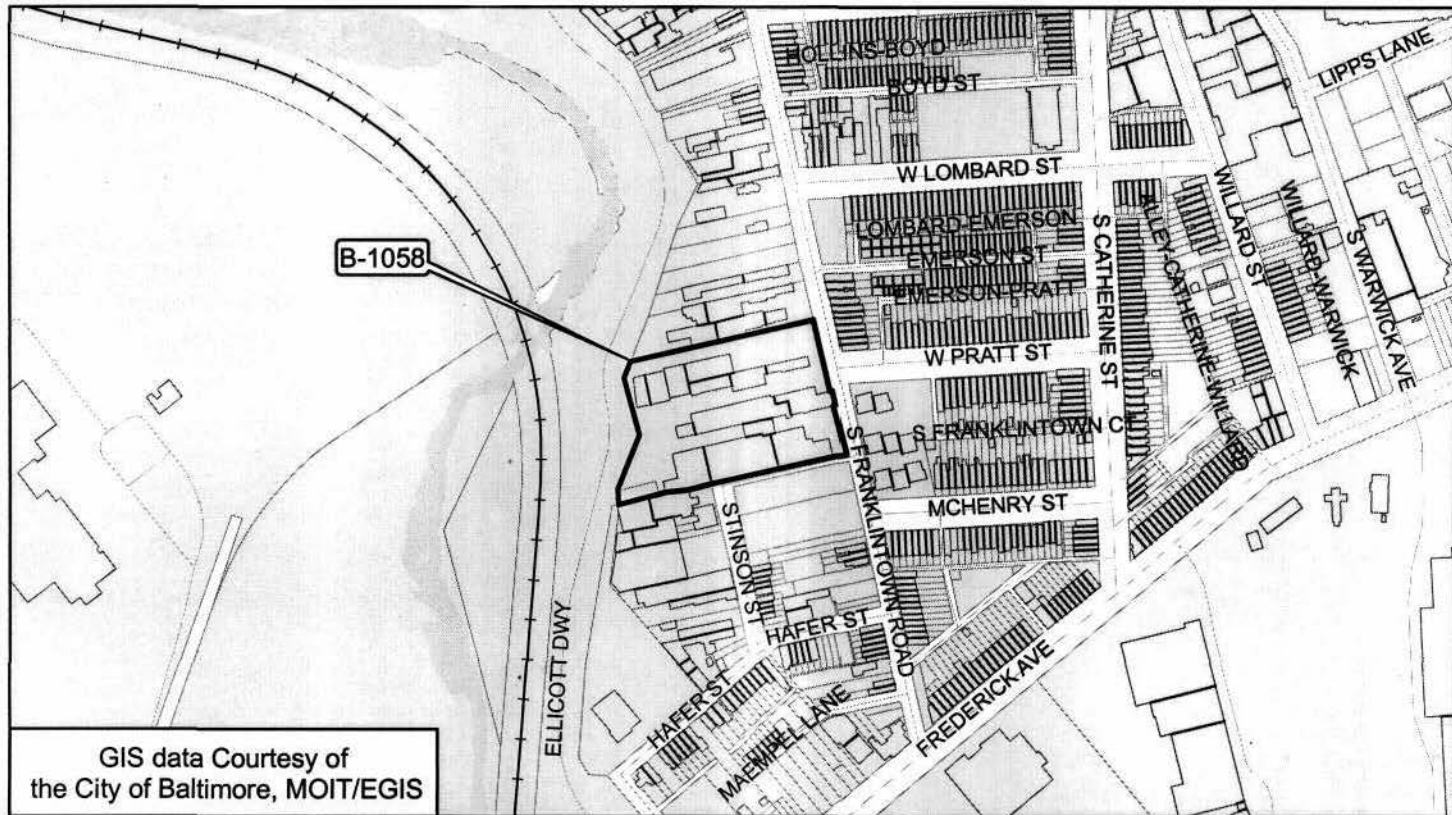
B-1058

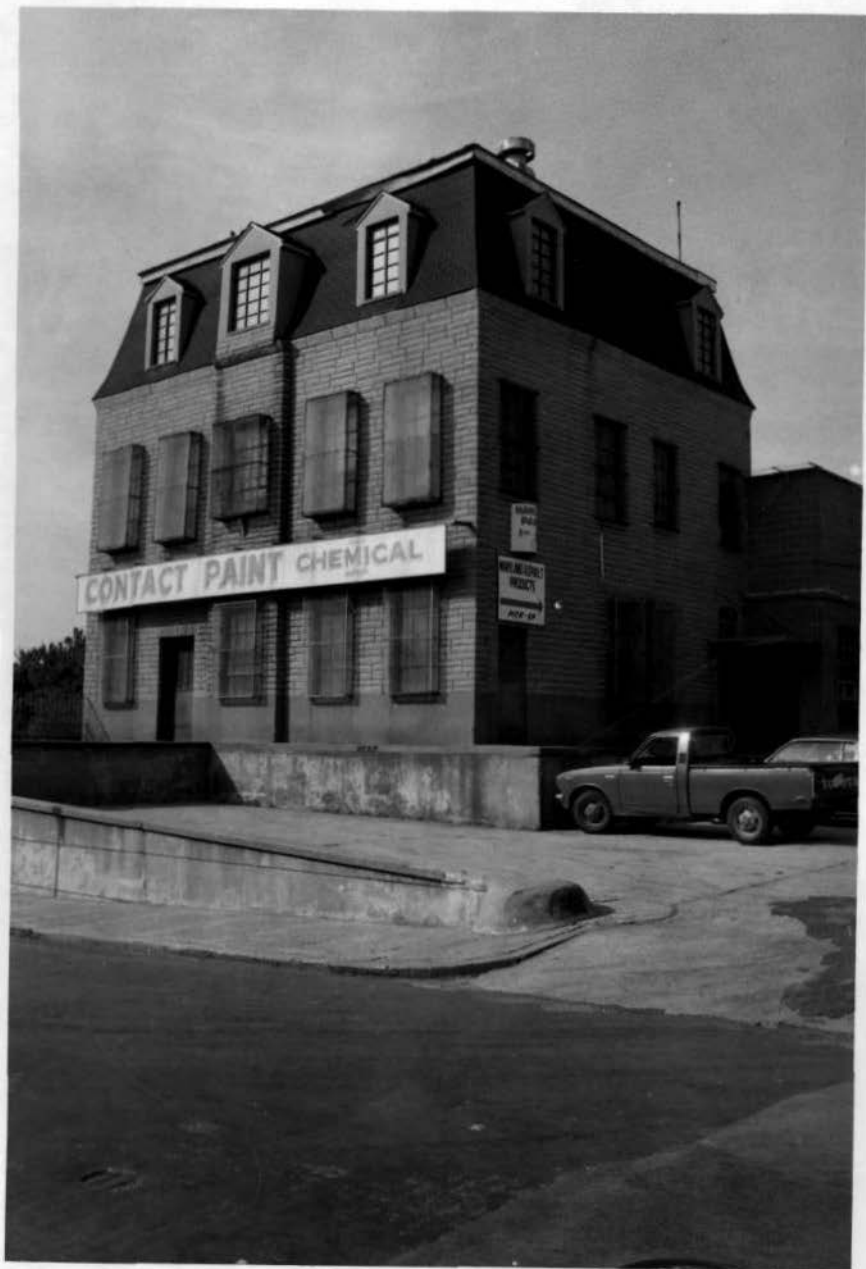
1876 Hooking Ave



AUGUST BECK BREWERY B-1058
BALTIMORE CITY, MD
1545 7.5' BALTO. WEST
8° 56820 4349370

B-1058
August Beck Brewery
200 S. Franklinton Road
Block 2183B, Lot 001
Baltimore City
Baltimore West Quad.





August Beck Brewery
Baltimore City Md
Peter Liebhold 9/83

8-1058

Looking S.W.



August Beck Brewery
Baltimore City Md
Peter C. Liebhold 9/83

B-1058

underground vault