NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Klots Throwing Company Mill

other names AL-IV-A-172

2. Location

street & number 917 Gay Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Cumberland ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Allegany code 001 zip code 21502

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Elizabeth A. Hughes, Deputy SHPO 12·14·2009
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Maryland Historical Trust
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:
- ☐ entered in the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
  - ☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ Determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
- ☐ public-local
- ☐ public-State
- ☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
- ☐ district
- ☐ site
- ☐ structure
- ☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY: Mill

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT: NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1902–1958

Significant Dates

1902–1903

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Lansing C. Holden, Sr.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on files (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #_____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Klots Throwing Company Mill, AL-IV-A-172
Name of Property

Allegany County, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.37 acres

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	692026	4390265
2			
3			
4			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ashley Neville and John Salmon

Organization Ashley Neville, LLC. date April 10, 2008

street & number 112 Thompson Street, Suite B-1 telephone 804-798-2124

city or town Ashland state Virginia zip code 23005

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et. seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Description Summary:

The Klots Throwing Company Mill, built in 1902–1903, is a long, two-story, brick building that stands out in a predominantly residential area of smaller-scale houses. The double-gable roofs with paired stepped parapets are a striking and distinctive feature of this mill. A flat-roof section on the front, three bays deep, contained the offices. The remainder of the building is eighteen bays long with two-story pilasters that taper at the second story and at the eaves dividing each window bay. A tower at the rear of the building housed a stair and bathrooms on each floor. The interior of the main block is undifferentiated with a large open space on each floor. Utilitarian in character, the brick walls are exposed and the posts, beams, floors, and ceiling are of wood. Two rows of slender posts divide the first floor into three bays while the second floor is divided into two wide bays with a row of timber posts located in the center at the valley of the double-gable roof. A one-story boiler room and coal bin are located at the north corner of the mill and a one-story addition was constructed along the south wall at the basement level in 1909. Both are now roofless and in ruins. Today the mill stands as evidence of the industrial character of Cumberland and of a vanished industry that once flourished in this country.

General Description:

The former Klots Throwing Company Mill sits on level, open ground in South Cumberland, in the Rolling Mill section of the city. The main line and yard tracks of the former Baltimore & Ohio Railroad are located just to the rear of the mill, and a spur line once served it. The raised bed where the rail spur was located is still visible on the northeast side of the building. There is an open, gravel-covered area on the northeast side of the mill. The areas southeast and southwest of the mill are residential with houses located across the street. Open land northeast of the mill separates it from a modern shopping center and the more densely built commercial and residential areas of the city.

The silk mill is a long, two-story, brick building on a raised foundation that is divided into a short front section and a long eighteen-bay main block. The front section is twelve bays wide and three bays deep. One-story pilasters divide the façade into thirds and there is a projecting cornice. Triple-header arches top each window on the façade and sides of this section. The slightly off-center entrance has a double-leaf door and a transom infilled with a wood panel. This section has a flat roof. Projecting from the rear of the building is a roughly four-bay-wide tower that contained a stair and bathrooms on each floor.

The remainder of the building is eighteen bays long with two-story pilasters dividing each window bay. Most windows have been removed and replaced with large corrugated plastic panels. The original windows appear to have been paired and may have had wooden sash, but windows toward the rear of the north side are large single windows with industrial steel sash. Most basement windows, which are topped by triple-header arches, have been infilled with brick or concrete block. The main block of the building has a double-gable roof with stepped parapets on the end of each gable. The bottom of the V formed where the two gables meet is the center line of the building. Round-headed tripartite windows, now infilled with brick, decorate each gable end although the front windows and parapets are somewhat obscured by the front section.

Both sides of the building have similar projections. A one-by-two-bay projection on the north wall housed small restrooms on each floor. The function of a smaller projection on the south side of the building is unclear; it created an alcove on the second floor.

The interior of the mill is divided into two sections; the front section and the mill floor. The front section contained the offices on the first floor and the drying room on the second floor. The basement of this section was divided between the silk vault and the soak room where the newly arrived silk skeins were soaked in water to remove the last residue of the sericin that hardened of the silk cocoons. The entrance accessed a corridor that bisected the front section and ultimately provided access to the mill itself through double-leaf, five-panel doors. The walls of the corridor are sheathed with vertical boards with a series of windows and doors that opened into the

smaller offices. The offices have been remodeled over the years and have walls and ceilings of gypsum wall board or modern paneling. Brick is exposed on the exterior walls of this section. The second floor of the front section is one large open room with wooden floors and ceiling and exposed brick on the walls. The walls have been painted with white above a grey wainscot. Two rows of chamfered wood posts support beams that run across the space.

An enclosed stair rises along the exterior wall in the southeast corner of the front section. The entry to the stair is through double-leaf, five-panel doors. The stairs have a solid balustrade of vertical boards on the upper level. An elevator is also located in the front section.

The main block of Klots silk mill is a large open room on each floor and very utilitarian in character. The walls on both floors are exposed brick that have been painted. The floors and ceilings are wood. Two rows of slender wooden posts running from front to rear divide the space into three bays on the first floor. Although seemingly plain, the posts each have chamfered edges and an unusual haunch to distribute the weight of the beam above. The second floor has one row of heavier posts with up-braces in the center creating two large open bays. The center line is also the lowest point of the V formed by the double gable roofs. Each section of the roof has its own truss system and metal rods suspended from the collar beams of the trusses to the horizontal beams to provide additional support and stability. Metal rods also connect each of the beams horizontally. All mechanical systems are exposed in the mill, including sprinkler pipes and the later heating and cooling ducts.

In 1909, an addition that housed the repair shop and the hot blast room was built onto the south side of the mill. The long, low addition measured 21 feet 6 inches by 132 feet and extended from the front of the main block twelve bays to the rear. The windows appear to have been the same as the basement windows on the main block. Architectural evidence suggests that front section of the addition had a shed roof with a stepped parapet on each end while the rear section apparently had a flat roof. Only the walls and window openings, which are covered with metal bars, survive today.

On the north side of the mill and immediately adjacent to it is a one-story building that housed the boiler room, with a coal bin to the rear. Constructed of brick on a stone foundation, its windows have the same triple-header arches as the front section of the main building. This building is connected with the mill on the basement level by a later concrete-block wall. The boiler room is in ruinous condition with only the walls standing. The railroad spur was located immediately behind the boiler room on a raised berm and terminated at the coal bin. Today only two walls of the coal bin survive but it was a one-story brick building on a stone and concrete foundation. These structures appear to have been built at the same time as the mill.

The Klots mill is a type of building and construction that was used for large factory and warehouse buildings that required an undifferentiated open interior that could accommodate different uses. This mill has brick walls with buttresses and curtain window-walls and wooden post and beam interior framing. It was a transition from mid-nineteenth century warehouse and mill buildings with brick load-bearing walls and small windows to reinforced-concrete construction of the later Klots mill in Carbondale.

The Sanborn Insurance Company maps indicate how this mill was used initially and how it little it changed over time. The basement in the main block housed shafting. The spinning was done on the first floor, and the winding and doubling occurred on the second floor. The basement of the front section contained the silk vault and the soaking room. The first floor housed the offices and the second floor contained the drying room. Processing silk required large quantities of water and the mill had its own reservoir that held 145,000 gallons. It was located just northeast of the boiler room. According to Sanborn maps, the reservoir survived until 1949 but was gone by 1956. With the exception of the removal of the reservoir, few other changes occurred at the mill as documented on the Sanborn maps after the 1909 addition.

Several extant Klots Throwing Company mills have been identified, two in Maryland, three in Pennsylvania, and one in Virginia. The Virginia mill was located in Fredericksburg on the fall line of the Rappahannock River. Klots Throwing Company did not design and build this mill but purchased an existing mill.

The two in Maryland include the Cumberland mill and one in Lonaconing located about 16 miles southwest of Cumberland. The Lonaconing mill opened in April 1907 only five years after the Cumberland mill and ran for fifty years shutting its doors in 1957.[1] These two mills show similarities in both form and materials. The Lonaconing mill, constrained by its siting between a road and a hill, is not quite as large as the Cumberland mill—only eight bays wide and seventeen bays long. Consequently, without the necessity of spanning a wide space, the Lonaconing mill does not have the distinctive double gable roof with parapet ends found on the Cumberland mill. Both mills are two-story brick buildings with large paired windows lining each side. The pilasters that separate each window bay are the same as at the Cumberland mill, tapering at the second floor and at the eaves. The rear of the original section at Lonaconing is very similar to the Cumberland mill, with a rear tower four bays wide and a one-story building at the rear corner that may have functioned as a power plant. This mill has a single gable roof with front and rear parapets. The Lonaconing mill has a concrete-block and brick addition to the rear that may have served as an office.

Two of the three Klots mills known to exist in Pennsylvania have been documented by the Pennsylvania Bureau for Historic Preservation; one in Scranton and one in Carbondale. The third mill is also located in Carbondale. The Scranton mill was built some time between 1900 and 1912 and has several striking similarities to the Cumberland mill. The front section of this mill is taller than the balance of the building, which is two stories in height. The mill measures 110 feet by 330 feet and has the same double-gable roof as the Cumberland mill. The upper-floor interior framing is also like that of the Cumberland mill, with a single row of piers located in the middle of the building at the bottom of the V formed by the two roofs.[2] The Klots mill in Scranton is described as having one of the more architecturally distinctive facades compared to other mills in the Lackawanna Valley. Its Palladian windows and decorative brickwork on the facade provide an aesthetic appearance to an otherwise utilitarian building.[3]

The Carbondale mill was built between 1917 and 1923 and is described as a two-story, rectangular-plan building, five bays wide and six bays deep. This mill is of reinforced-concrete, flat-slab construction with concrete columns with mushroom capitals. Although it has a brick veneer, it is a significant departure from the earlier brick buildings. Also unlike the earlier mills, the Carbondale mill has a flat roof but it does have the large multi-light windows typical of other extant Klots mills. The design of this mill exhibits an industrial interpretation of the Classical Revival style with its symmetrical façade, its Classical Revival-style frontispiece, and Renaissance palazzo-inspired modillion cornice.[4]

A comparison of four of the six extant mills indicates they share some commonalities, particularly the Cumberland and Scranton mills. The Fredericksburg mill, having burned and been rebuilt as a one-story building in the 1930s, is distinctly different from the other four mills. It was the most recent of the five and the only one-story building. The similarities of the other mills include the large scale of the buildings and the use of brick either for the entire building or as a veneer in the case of the Carbondale mill. The large windows are a hallmark of all four mills. The Carbondale mill is the newest, is the most stylistically sophisticated, and features the most modern materials in the use of reinforced-concrete construction. The two that have the most in common are the Cumberland and Scranton mills with their double or paired gable roofs, similar framing, and distinctive massing of a shallow section attached to the front of a longer section that contained the area where the spinning actually occurred.

---

[1] Anne Failing, "The Lonaconing Silk Mill, 1907-1957," on file at the Allegany County Library, Cumberland, Maryland.
[2] Patrick McMahon, owner, personal communication, 28 March 2008.
[3] *Pennsylvania Industrial Resource Survey Form, Bureau of Historic Preservation, Harrisburg, Pa., December 1989.*
[4] Margarita J. Wuellner, Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form, Bureau of Historic Preservation, Harrisburg, Pa., April 1992.

The architect of the Cumberland mill has not been definitively identified but the architect for the 1909 addition was Lansing C. Holden, Sr.[5] The similarities in the architecture of the addition with the original building suggest that Holden may have been the architect for the mill. Lansing Holden was a New York City-based architect who designed buildings built in several states including New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Ohio. Holden appears to have been adept at designing buildings in revival styles. One of his best-known commissions was the four buildings that replaced the original Main Building at Wooster College in Wooster, Ohio, after it burned in 1901. Holden was a graduate of the college and his brother was president there at the time. Executed in the Collegiate Gothic style, they remain a centerpiece of the college today. The massive timber framing was more commonly seen in warehouses of the period. Holden executed a number of projects in the Scranton, Pennsylvania, area, including the Scranton Armory, an imposing Romanesque Revival building. The paired stepped parapets of the Klots mill in Cumberland are reminiscent of the Tudor Revival style although stepped parapets are also found on buildings, residential and commercial, in areas settled during the migration of the Pennsylvania Germans through western Maryland and Virginia in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The designer of the Cumberland mill could have drawn inspiration from the local or regional architectural idiom as well as styles popular nationally.

[5] Cumberland, Maryland, Building Permit No. 2564, 7 September 1909.

Summary Statement of Significance:

The Klots Throwing Company Mill is located on Gay Street in Cumberland, Maryland. Constructed in 1902–1903, with an addition built in 1909, the mill operated until about 1972, after which it was used for storage. The mill epitomizes the management philosophy of the era in which it was built: its location the western Maryland coal belt, its proximity to inexpensive fuel and transportation, and the employment of low-wage, mostly female labor. Its utilitarian design also is in keeping with then-current thought regarding the construction of silk mills. Today, the mill stands as a reminder of an important aspect of Cumberland's industrial past. The period of significance begins in 1902, when construction started, and ends in 1958, fifty years ago.

Justification of Criteria

The Klots Throwing Company Mill is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with an industry in which at the time of its construction the United States was a world leader. It is also eligible under Criterion A because its location in western Maryland's coal belt reflects contemporary assumptions and practices regarding ideal locations for such mills and the availability of inexpensive labor. The mill is eligible for listing under Criterion C as an example of a utilitarian purpose-built factory that retains the integrity of its historic location, association, setting, feeling, design, materials, and workmanship.

Resource History and Historic Context:

The Klots Throwing Company constructed its Cumberland, Maryland, mill on Gay Street in 1902–1903, during the heyday of both the company and the United States silk-manufacturing industry. In its design, its location, and its available labor pool, the mill typified the construction, manufacturing, and management practices of the silk industry at the turn of the twentieth century.

American interest in silk manufacture—sericulture—dates to the earliest years of the colonies. Even as the first permanent English settlers struggled to survive at Jamestown, Virginia, the Virginia Company of London as well as the monarch, King James, urged them to cultivate silkworms. Encouraged by the fact that mulberry trees grew wild in Virginia, the colonists tried but failed, again and again. The story repeated itself in other North American colonies, as weather, disease, impatience, and ignorance of the cultivation process took their toll on the prospective industry. Although there were occasional successes, by the end of the Revolutionary War the hope of a comprehensive and self-contained American silk industry from silkworm to fabric had collapsed. One reason for this failure was that Americans seemed to have little aptitude or patience for the first part of the manufacturing process: "reeling" or unwinding the silk cocoons. This step involved soaking the cocoons in near-boiling water until the sericin—the sticky substance emitted with the silk by the silkworm—partially dissolved to reveal the end of the thread for each cocoon. Then the worker fished several cocoons hot from the water and began the tedious and delicate process of unwinding the almost-invisible half-mile length of thread from each cocoon. She (workers were usually women and girls) then wound several threads together until she had a skein of raw silk. In countries that had produced silk for centuries, this skill was learned first by children at their mothers' knees and then perfected by apprenticing with masters. Americans, it was said, believed that they could learn the skill with a cocoon in one hand a manual in the other.[6]

By 1860, most of the silk fabric purchased in the United States was the product of foreign manufacture, especially Chinese, despite so-called protective tariffs designed to encourage domestic manufactures and suppress foreign competition. During the Civil War, the U.S. Congress increased the tariffs, first in 1861 and again in 1864, but exempted raw silk—the product of reeling the silk cocoons.

---

[6] Jacqueline Field, Marjorie Senechal, and Madelyn Shaw, *American Silk, 1830–1930: Entrepreneurs and Artifacts* (Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press, 2007), 8–14, 49–50.

This made the raw material available cheaply and enabled American manufacturers to sidestep the part of the process better left to the experts abroad. Because the mechanical technology developed in other American fabric industries, especially in woolen mills and cotton mills, could also be applied with modifications to the production of silk goods, American manufacturers were well prepared to enter the market once the war ended. The Japanese proved more adept than the Chinese at altering the reeling process to produce stronger threads that could withstand machine-spinning in the United States; soon, most of the silk threads used in American mills were imported from Japan.[7]

As the American silk industry grew during the postwar years, so too did the town of Cumberland, Maryland. Allegany County's seat since the county's creation in 1789, the town was incorporated in 1834. Its location on the Potomac River and the National Highway was strategically important. It became the western terminus of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1842, and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal arrived the next year. As a transportation center, Cumberland and the surrounding county attracted both extractive and manufacturing industries, including coal mining, clay mining and brick manufacture, and iron manufacturing. Before the end of the nineteenth century, Cumberland had also become a center for glassmaking. By 1911, Cumberland had

> many factories, mills and plants of various kinds, among which [were] N. & G. Taylor Tin Plate Company, U.S. Rail Company, Potomac Glass Company, Wellington Glass Company, Eastern Glass Company, Maryland Glass Etching Works, Cumberland Gas Light Company, Edison Electric Illuminating Company, Klots Throwing Company Silk Mills, McKaig Foundry and Machine Works, Cumberland Steel and Shafting Works, Footer's Dye Works, United States Tannery, four large Milling Companies, several Planing Mills, Sash and Door factories, Candy Factories, Distilleries, Breweries, Brick Yards, Garages, etc.[8]

The "Klots Throwing Company Silk Mills" noted above came to Cumberland in 1902. Brothers Henry Durell Klots and George Klots founded the company in 1894, although they had operated a mill in New York City beginning in the 1880s. That mill burned in 1894, and the brothers' bookkeeper, Marcus Frieder, suggested that they move to Carbondale, Pennsylvania. There, in the coal-mining fields, the miners' wives and daughters could be hired as silk-mill operatives, generally considered work suitable for women and girls. Soon, the Klots enterprise expanded, and mills were constructed in Archbald, Scranton, and Forest City in the Pennsylvania coal region, and at Cumberland and then Lonaconing in Maryland's coal belt. The brothers also purchased a mill in 1900 in Fredericksburg, Virginia, that C. W. Wilder of New York and George F. Wheeler of Baltimore had constructed there in 1889–1890. The Fredericksburg mill burned in 1934; the Klots mills at Carbondale, Scranton, Lonaconing, and Cumberland still stand.[9]

The Klots brothers were silk throwsters—their factories produced not cloth but the processed thread from which cloth was made. Throwing silk involved soaking raw silk skeins in water to remove more of their gummy natural coating, and transferring them to reels and then to bobbins. During this process, the silk threads were "doubled," twisted, doubled again, and twisted again, to make a

---

[7] Ibid., xxi–xxii.

[8] Land and Community Associates, "An Architectural and Historic Survey of the City of Cumberland, Md." (Charlottesville, Va.: n.p., 1976); Robert C. Chidester, "A Historic Context for the Archaeology of Industrial Labor in the State of Maryland," on the University of Maryland, College Park, *Center for Heritage Resource Studies Web site*, www.heritage.umd.edu/CHRSWeb/AssociatedProjects/chidesterreport, accessed March 23, 2008; Clarence E. Weaver, *Story of Cumberland, Maryland, The Queen City of the Alleghenies* (Cumberland, Md.: Eddy Press Corp., 1911), excerpted on Web site at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com; accessed March 23, 2008.

[9] G. Thomas Houghton, "Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, Former General Textile Mills Corporation, Gay Street, Cumberland, Maryland," Swift Creek Environmental, Inc., Disputanta, Virginia, February 22, 2007, pp. 12–13; "A Walking Tour of Fredericksburg's Historic Old Mill District," on The Historical Marker Database Web site, www.hmdb.org, accessed March 31, 2008; "Walk Through History: Mill Sites and Water Power . . . C. W. Wilder and Company Silk Mill, Klotz [*sic*] Company," on Historypoint Web site, www.historypoint.org, accessed March 31, 2008.

useable thread for the dyeing and weaving mills. Although the process was largely mechanized, the whirring reels and bobbins required close attention to prevent breaks in the thread or quickly repair any that occurred. It was work well suited to the women and girls of Cumberland.[10]

In 1913, silk industry expert and "consulting silk specialist" James Chittick published *Silk Manufacturing and Its Problems*, a collection of articles that he had written for *Silk*, the industry's trade journal, between 1907 and 1912. Chittick wrote that the ideal location for a silk mill

> would be one in which labor was abundant, intelligent, skilled and cheap; where there were no labor unions or strikes; where the laws of the State made no restrictions as to hours of work or age of workers; where people were accustomed to mill life, and where there were no other textile mills in the vicinity to share in the labor and bid up its price. The land, too, should be cheap and situated on the edge of a river, or lake, which would afford ample and suitable water for all manufacturing purposes. The railway facilities should be good, with a siding into the mill yard. It should be near the market, making freight, express, and traveling charges small. Fuel should be very cheap, or water power or natural gas might be available.[11]

Chittick's description very closely described the site of the Cumberland mill: located adjacent to the Potomac River and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, on a direct line to the markets and mills of the East Coast, with cheap coal available for fuel, and in a town full of mining, brick-making, or glass-manufacturing industries and factories (but no competing fabric mills) that employed men, whose wives and daughters were thus available to work for low wages at the silk mill.

Chittick also wrote of issues involved in the design and construction of throwing mills.

> A building of one story has many advantages, though, of course, it covers more ground, and it is undesirable to go higher than two stories. It may be of brick or of reinforced concrete. The lighting, both natural and artificial, is of great importance. Roofs, skylights, floors, ventilation, heating, sanitation, and many other points are all problems in themselves.[12]

The Cumberland mill is two stories high, constructed of locally made brick, and had abundant natural lighting, in keeping with Chittick's recommendations for economy and efficiency. The main section was completed in 1903 at a cost of $30,000, with an addition built in 1909 along the southeastern two-thirds of the mill's south wall to house the repair shop and an hot blast room.[13]

The building permit for the 1909 addition lists L. C. Holden of New York as the designer. The architecture of the addition is so similar to the design of the original section, that it is possible that Holden designed the entire building. Lansing C. Holden, Sr. (his son also became an architect), was born in Rome, New York, in 1858 and was educated in Utica and Buffalo before graduating from the College of Wooster in Ohio. His obituary, published in the *New York Times* on May 16, 1930, indicates that he was active both in architecture and in business.

---

[10] Betty Van Newkirk, "The Lonaconing Silk Mill," in *Lonaconing: Home in the Hills* (Lonaconing, Md.: 150th Anniversary Committee for the Town of Lonaconing, n.d.), 52–53.

[11] James Chittick, *Silk Manufacturing and Its Problems* (New York: James Chittick, 1913), 2.

[12] Ibid., 71.

[13] Cumberland, Maryland, Construction Permits, November 11, 1902, Permit 509; ibid., September 7, 1909, Permit 2564; ibid., May 5, 1914, Permit 3890; Sanborn Insurance Company, Fire Insurance Maps, Cumberland, Maryland, 1904, 1910, and 1921, reproduced in Houghton, "Phase I Environmental Site Assessment," Appendix A.

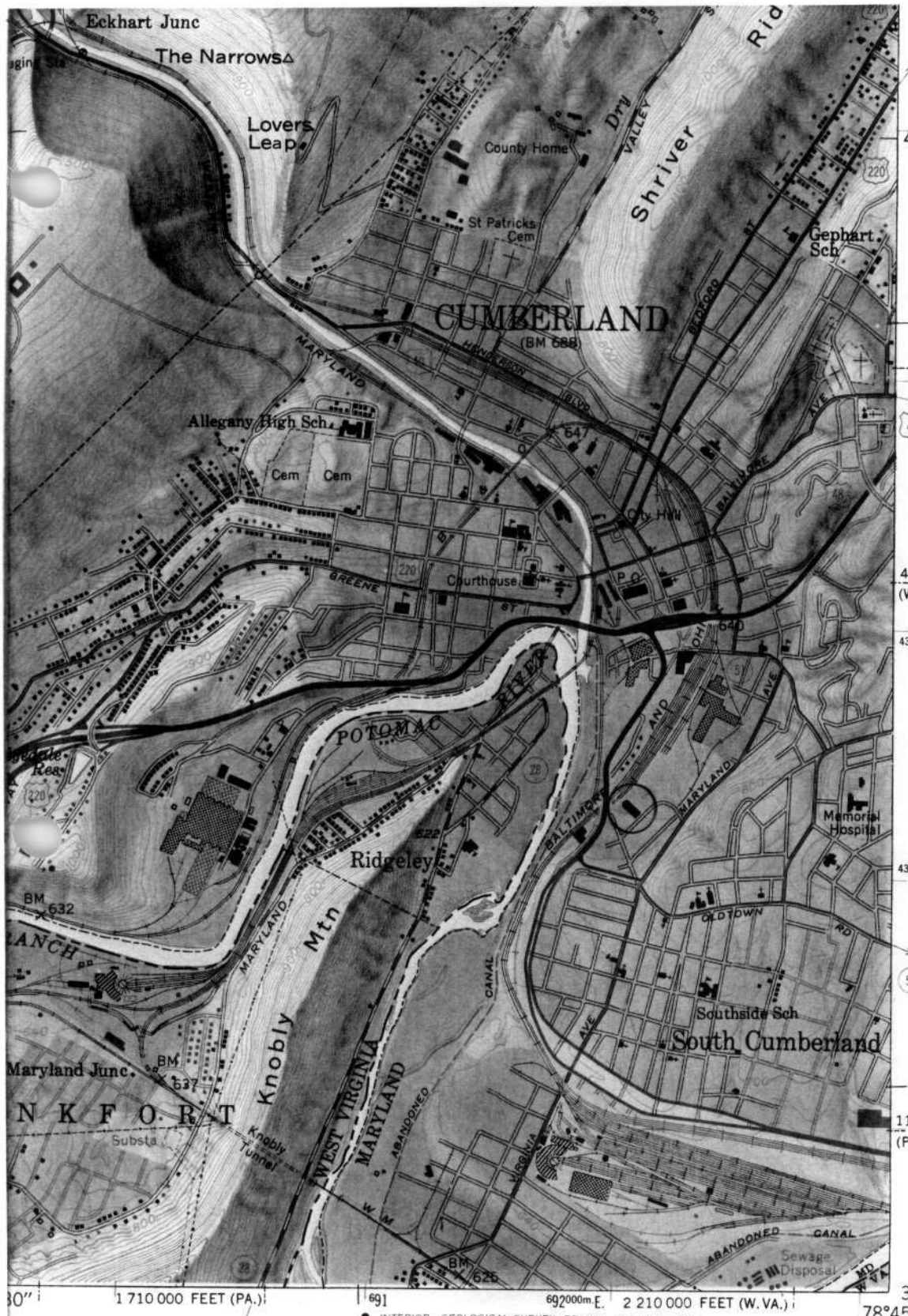
He began his practice as an architect early in life. He served on various committees of the American Institute of Architects and was largely responsible for the institute's code of ethics in its present form. He was elected a fellow of the institute in 1912 and had been president of the New York Chapter. He had been a member of the Board of Examiners of the City of New York in 1916 and a member of the Board of Standards and Appears from 1916 to 1918. He also had served as architect for the Lackawanna Railroad.

He was president of the Bronx Refrigerating Company from 1908 until this year. He also had been president of the Greater New York Cold Storage Company and president of the Tri-Boro Trucking Company. He was a director of the Engineers Club and an honorary member of the Manhattanville Day Nursery.

Mr. Holden was quite active in the Scranton, Pennsylvania, area, designing the Scranton Armory (1900), the Scranton Savings Bank, the Connell Building, and the Brooks Building (1891). He also designed the four main buildings at Wooster College after the original building was destroyed by fire in 1901.

When Henry D. Klots died in 1914, Marcus Frieder became president of Klots Throwing Company, which soon became one of the larger silk manufacturers in the country. In its heyday, late in the 1920s, Klots operated fourteen mills with six thousand employees and annual sales of $50 million, was one of America's largest importers and sellers of raw silk, and operated the largest spun-silk mill in the United States at New Bedford, Massachusetts. In 1932, however, the combined effects of the Great Depression and the rise of rayon, or "artificial silk," forced the company into bankruptcy. Frieder and his son, Leonard P. Frieder, reorganized the Carbondale, Lonaconing, and Cumberland mills as General Textile Mills, Inc., renamed Gentex Corporation in 1958. After manufacturing other fabrics, the mill—which in the 1940s and 1950s housed the Cumberland Undergarment Company—closed about 1972 and was used for storage.[14]

[14] Houghton, "Phase I Environmental Site Assessment," 12–13; ibid., Sanborn maps, 1949, 1956, 1972; only fragments of the Klots Throwing Company records survive, in the collections of the Hagley Museum and Library, Wilmington, Delaware, and they include no documents relating to the Cumberland mill.



AL-IV-A-172

KLOTZ THROWING COMPANY MILL

ALLEGANY COUNTY, MD

17-692026-4390265

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1976

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———

Medium-duty — — — Unimproved dirt - - - - - -

U. S. Route ○ State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ons shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
1974. This information not field checked
tint indicates extension of urban areas

CUMBERLAND, MD.–PA.–W.VA.

NE/4 FROSTBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

N3937.5—W7845/7.5

1949

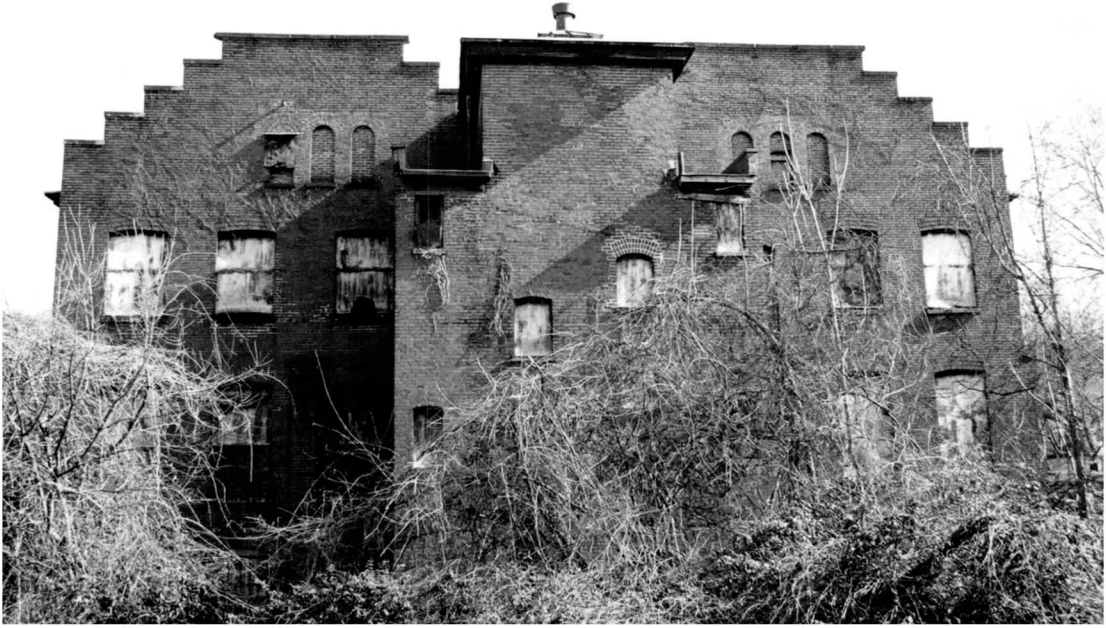
AMS 5263 III NE—SERIES V833

1.
AL-IV-A-172
Klotz Throwing Co Mill
Allegany Co Maryland
A Neville
3/2008
Facade & N.E. Elevation
1 of 10

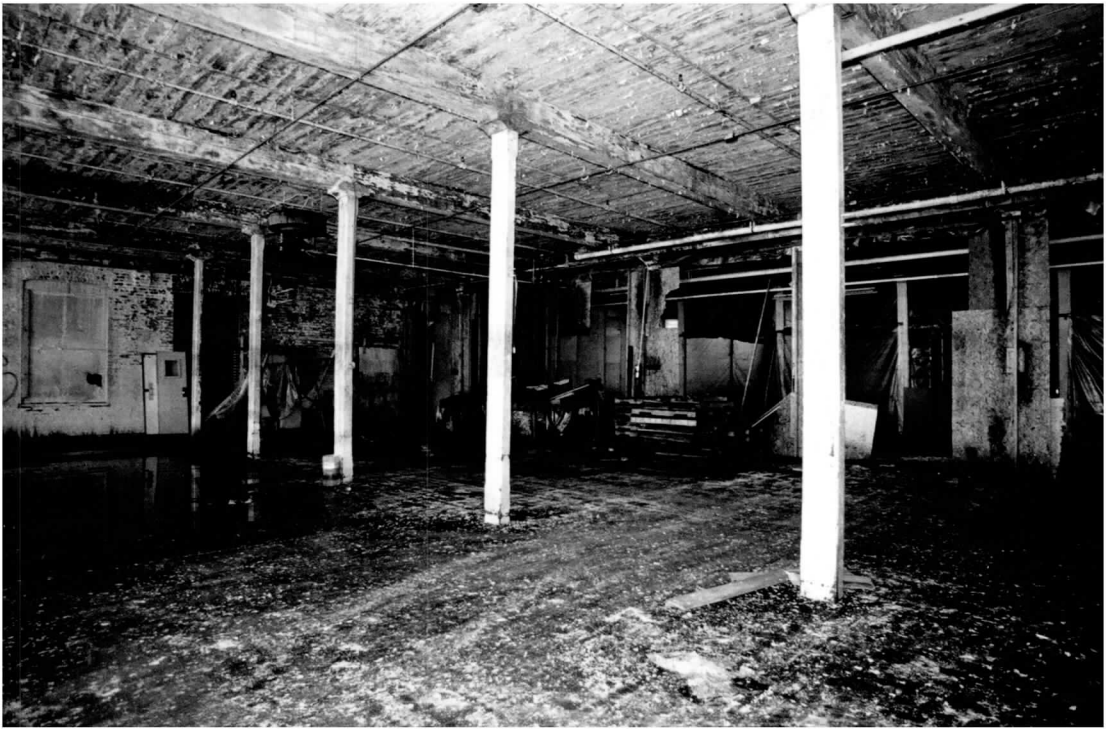
3
AL-IV-A-172
Klotz Throwing Co Mill
Allegany Co. Md
A Neville
5/2008
Facade
2 of 10

3
AL-IV-A-172
Klotz Throwing Co Mill
Allegany Co. Md
A. Neville
2/2008
Southeast Elevation
3 of 10

AL-IV-A-172
Klotz Throwing Co Mill
Allegany Co Md
A. Neville
3/2008
Rear & southeast elevation
4 of 10



5
AL-IV-A-172
Klotz Throwing Co Mill
Allegany Co Md
A. Neville
3) 2008
Rear
5 of 10



6
AL-IV-A-172
Klots Throwing Co Mill
Allegany Co MD
A. Neville
3/2008
1st Floor
6 of 10

7
AL-IV-A-172
Klotz throwing Co Mill
Allegany Co Md
A. Neville
3/2008
1st Floor - Roofs + Framing
7 of 10

8
AL-IV-A-172
Klotz Throwing Co Mill
Allegany Co Md
A. Neville
3/2008
2nd Floor - Drying Room
8 of 10

9
AL-IV-A-17Z
Klots Throwing Co Mill
Allegany Co Md
A. Neville
3) 2008
2nd Floor - Drying room windows
9 of 10

10

AL-IV-A-17Z

Klots throwing Co mill

Allegany Co Md

A Neville

3/2008

2nd Floor

10 of 10