

## **CAPSULE SUMMARY**

**BA-3012**

### **Frankfort Distillery**

**1919 Willow Spring Road**

**Dundalk, Baltimore County**

**1936**

**Private**

After the 1933 repeal of Prohibition, Dundalk became a leading center in the production of rye whiskey. The presence of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line attracted producers of bottled spirits and in 1936 the Frankfort Distillery Company of Kentucky constructed a complex on Willow Spring Road. The whiskey was poured into casks, stored in the four large brick buildings on Willow Spring Road and allowed to age for four years before being sold for consumption. In 1942 the complex was sold to Joseph E. Seagram & Sons Inc. who continued to produce whiskey on the site. During WWII Seagram produced alcohol for rubber manufacturing and medicinal purposes. Dundalk's population and building stock grew considerably after the creation of industrial jobs brought on by United States involvement in World War I. This expansion had a negative effect on prior efforts at managed growth in the community. At the end of the war, the temporary housing quickly constructed for the war industry often remained empty. A short period of stagnation between 1920 and 1924 ended with the re-involvement of the Dundalk Company in the community. It was at this point that the commercial district was created, forming a central core in the town. Whereas Dundalk's population in 1920 was only 2,000 inhabitants, this number had climbed to 8,000 only ten years later.

The distillery complex, built circa 1936, contains numerous buildings, structures, and objects placed on a level grassy lot between Willow Spring Road in the east, the Baltimore and Ohio railway in the north and west, and Key Way in the south. A chain link fence topped with barbed wire encloses the complex. Dominating the site are four ten story, nine bay buildings placed evenly along Willow Spring Road. The buildings are clad with terra cotta tiles and the bay and story divisions are marked by bands of concrete. Each building has two two-leaf metal doors on the first floor. The window openings of the first few floors have been bricked over but the upper stories retain their original metal frame windows with six-lights. All the openings have cast concrete sills. The two northern buildings feature reinforced concrete buttresses which divide each of the bays. All the buildings have concrete cornices and flat roofs. Square eleven-story towers with flat roofs are sited at the rear of each of the buildings. Four historic buildings, one historic structure, one non-historic building, and a set of non-historic objects are associated with the property.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3012

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Frankfort Distillery Company

other Seagram's Distillery

### 2. Location

street and number 1919 Willow Spring Road not for publication

city, town Dundalk vicinity

county Baltimore County

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

name Montebello Brands Inc.

street and number 1919 Willow Spring Road telephone Not Available

city, town Baltimore state MD zip code 21222-2939

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse tax map and parcel: 103, 717

city, town Towson liber 8847 folio 1

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report
- Other

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count	
			Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	8	1
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense		
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	1	
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education		1
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	9	2
		<input type="checkbox"/> government		
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care		
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry		
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape		
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture		
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
		<input type="checkbox"/> social		
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress		
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown		
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use		
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:		
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
			0	

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## 7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3012

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### Condition

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent       | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair            | <input type="checkbox"/> altered      |
- 

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

The distillery complex, built circa 1936, contains numerous buildings, structures, and objects placed on a level grassy lot between Willow Spring Road in the east, the Baltimore and Ohio railway in the north and west, and Key Way in the south. A chain link fence topped with barbed wire encloses the complex. Dominating the site are four ten story, nine bay buildings placed evenly along Willow Spring Road. The buildings are clad with terra cotta tiles and the bay and story divisions are marked by bands of concrete. Each building has two two-leaf metal doors on the first floor. The window openings of the first few floors have been bricked over but the upper stories retain their original metal frame windows with six-lights. All the openings have cast concrete sills. The two northern buildings feature reinforced concrete buttresses which divide each of the bays. All the buildings have concrete cornices and flat roofs. Square eleven-story towers with flat roofs are sited at the rear of each of the buildings.

Four historic buildings, one historic structure, one non-historic building, and a set of non-historic objects are associated with the property.

Three brick gate houses, built circa 1945, are sited at the entrances to the complex. These gatehouses are all one-story and two-bays. The stretcher bond brick buildings are supported by solid parged foundations. The buildings have one-leaf metal doors and wood sash windows with 2/2 horizontal lights. A soldier course string course decorates the walls. The buildings have flat roofs and overhanging eaves with an aluminum clad soffitt.

Visible only from Key Way is a one-story brick building (circa 1940) with a shed roof hidden behind a stepped parapet and a metal stovepipe.

A metal water tower, circa 1940, is sited at the north end of the property.

A non-historic brick building lies near the railroad tracks and is difficult to view from the public right-of-way. The three-story building has evenly spaced windows with multiple lights and a gable roof.

A set of non-historic metal vats is sited on the property behind the four large distillery buildings.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-3012

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime industry	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

<b>Specific dates</b>	1936	<b>Architect/Builder</b>	unknown
<b>Construction dates</b>	1936		

Evaluation for:

National Register       Maryland Register       not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance reports, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

Dundalk initially developed as a station along the Baltimore and Sparrows Point Railroad and was named for the home of Henry McShane, who operated a foundry in the community. The community's early 20th century landscape was traversed by farmland owned by only a few families. Dundalk's growth occurred over two distinct phases. The purchase by the Bethlehem Steel Corporation in 1916 of 1,000 acres for the construction of worker housing was the initial spark that ignited the community's expansion. The Dundalk Company formed shortly thereafter in an effort to manage the community's growth and establish a model suburb on the east side of Baltimore City. Within one year, the town featured sixty-two dwellings, two stores, and one post office. Dundalk's population and building stock grew considerably after the creation of industrial jobs brought on by United States involvement in World War I. This expansion had a negative effect on prior efforts at managed growth in the community. At the end of the war, the temporary housing quickly constructed for the war industry often remained empty. A short period of stagnation between 1920 and 1924 ended with the re-involvement of the Dundalk Company in the community. It was at this point that the commercial district was created, forming a central core in the town. Whereas Dundalk's population in 1920 was only 2,000 inhabitants, this number had climbed to 8,000 only ten years later.

After the 1933 repeal of Prohibition, Dundalk became a leading center in the production of rye whiskey. The presence of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad line attracted producers of bottled spirits and in 1936 the Frankfort Distillery Company of Kentucky constructed a complex on Willow Spring Road. The whiskey was poured into casks, stored in the four large brick buildings on Willow Spring Road and allowed to age for four years before being sold for consumption. In 1942 the complex was sold to Joseph E. Seagram & Sons Inc. who continued to produce whiskey on the site. During WWII Seagram produced alcohol for rubber manufacturing and medicinal purposes. In 1991 Seagrams relocated and sold the complex to Montebello Brands Inc. a bottling firm. (1)

### ENDNOTES

1. J.K. O'Neill, "What's up with the distillery warehouses?" [www.dundalkeagle.com/features/extras/column/wuwtdistillery.cfm](http://www.dundalkeagle.com/features/extras/column/wuwtdistillery.cfm) 2002

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Inventory No. BA-3012

See continuation sheet.

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of surveyed property 20.56 acresAcreage of historical setting 20.56 acresQuadrangle name Baltimore EastQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The distillery buildings at 1919 Willow Spring Road are located near the town of Dundalk in the Twelfth District of Baltimore County. It has historically been associated with tax map 103, parcel 717 since its construction.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title J. Riggle, Architectural Historianorganization E.H.T. Traaceriesdate 9/17/02street and number 1121 5th Street NWtelephone 202-393-1199city or town Washingtonstate DC zip code 20001

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties 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  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville MD 21032  
410-514-7600

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-3012

Name Frankfort Distillery Company

Continuation Sheet

Number   9   Page   1  

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Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.

Baltimore County Historic Inventory.

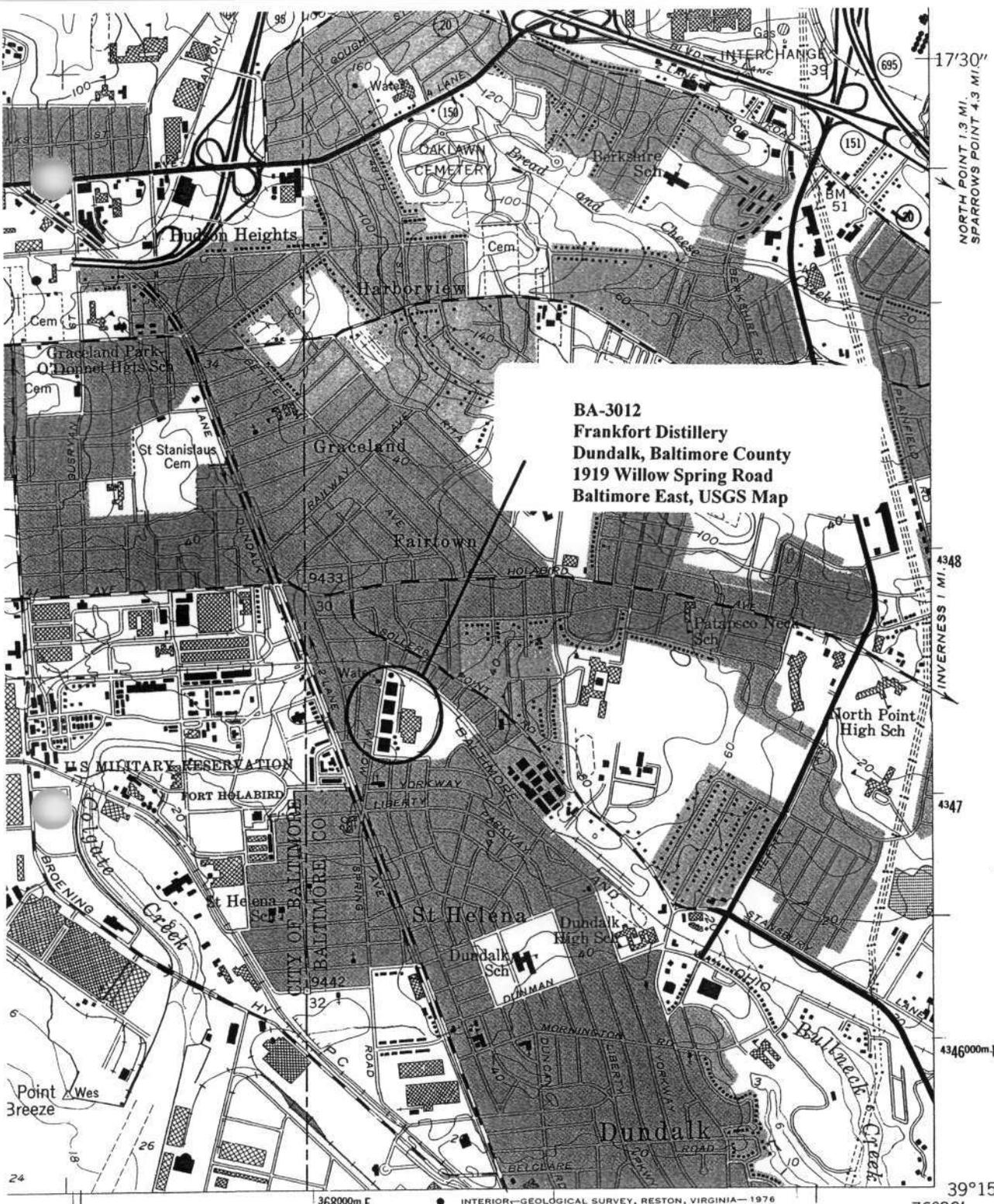
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. A History of Baltimore County. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.

O'Neill, J.K. "What's up with the distillery warehouse?" [www.dundalk.eagle.com/features/extras/column/wuwtdistillery.cfm](http://www.dundalk.eagle.com/features/extras/column/wuwtdistillery.cfm)  
2002

Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.

Sidney, J. C. Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.



**BA-3012**  
**Frankfort Distillery**  
**Dundalk, Baltimore County**  
**1919 Willow Spring Road**  
**Baltimore East, USGS Map**

17°30'  
 NORTH POINT 1.3 MI.  
 SPARROWS POINT 4.3 MI/0

4348

4347

4346000m.N.

39°15'  
 76°30'

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1976  
 SPARROWS POINT 3.4 MI.

1 MILE



**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

- Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————
- Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- Ⓜ Interstate Route    Ⓡ U. S. Route    ○ State Route

SPARROWS POINT  
 5702 III NW

**BALTIMORE EAST, MD.**  
 SE/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE  
 N3915—W7630/7.5  
 1953  
 PHOTOREVISED 1966 AND 1974  
 AMS 5662 I SE—SERIES V833



BA-3012

FRANKFORT DISTILLERY

1919 WILLOW SPRING ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

9/2002

MD SHPO

VIEW LOOKING NORTH

1 of 3



BA-3012

FRANKFORT DISTILLERY  
1919 WILLOW SPRING ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD  
TRACERIES

9/2002

MD SHPD

VIEW LOOKING SOUTH

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BA-3012

FRANKFORT DISTILLERY

1919 WILLOW SPRING ROAD

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

9/2002

MD SHPO

VIEW LOOKING NW

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