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 National Enameling & Stamping Company, B-1069 (preferred)

other names Matthai, Ingram & Company; NESCO, Inc.

2. Location

street & number 1901 Light Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Baltimore City ☐ vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Baltimore City code 510 zip code 21230

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).

Signature of certifying official/Title — Date 11-14-02

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	
15	2	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
16	2	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

None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility
COMMERCE/TRADE: warehouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility
COMMERCE/TRADE: warehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NONE: industrial vernacular;.
OTHER: Romanesque Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK; STONE; CONCRETE
walls BRICK; CONCRETE; METAL
roof OTHER: PAPER AND TAR
other WOOD; STONE

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; COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1887-1952

Significant Dates

1887 – Matthai, Ingram & Co. move to South Baltimore
1899 – Est. of National Enameling & Stamping Co.
1952 – Baltimore branch of NESCO refitted for new product lines

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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:
Baltimore Museum of Industry Research Center

National Enameling & Stamping Company (B-1069)
Name of Property

Baltimore City, Maryland
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 4.8

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

BALTIMORE EAST QUAD

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	361050	4347510	3			
2				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 Jennifer Goold and Betty Bird

Organization Betty Bird & Associates date June 28, 2002

street & number 2607 24th Street, NW, Suite 3 telephone 202-588-9033

city or town Washington, District of Columbia state N/A zip code 20008

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 (See Continuation Sheet)

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.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Matthai, Ingram & Co. and the National Enameling & Stamping Co. constructed the National Enameling and Stamping Co. (NESCO) complex (ca. 1887-1945)[1] to serve as the works of Maryland's largest tinware manufacturer, the Baltimore branch of a nationally prominent manufacturer. The densely packed complex fills an almost five acre site south of Wells Street at the industrial edge of South Baltimore. A remarkable spread of transportation arteries, including a major CSX rail yard, Interstate 95, and the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River, are arrayed south of the site. The NESCO complex consists of 17 interconnected buildings and one structure that vary in height from one to five stories. The complex was organized to house three primary functions in discrete sections: the manufacture of tinware, the manufacture of enameled and japanned wares, and storage, warehousing, and distribution. Most components, which are in poor to good condition, consist of common mill construction with timber framing and brick bearing walls. Roof forms vary to reflect building uses. In a manner typical of industrial complexes, the NESCO complex has been altered over the years. Segments of the powerhouse and part of the production center, comprising a total of five components, have been lost to demolition.[2] Alterations to the doorways are common and most of the windows have been infilled. The interiors are largely unaltered, although no manufacturing equipment remains. Two of the complex's 17 buildings are non-contributing. Both non-contributing buildings are metal sheds, one of which occupies an open lot adjacent to the complex and another that replaced one portion of the production center at the rear of the complex. The vast portion of the complex remains intact, and the location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association of the complex remain clearly legible. The complex continues to embody the Maryland facet of a nationally significant firm and industry.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Matthai, Ingram and Co. branch of the National Enameling and Stamping Co. (NESCO) complex (ca. 1887-1945) is composed of 15 purpose-built manufacturing, storage, and warehouse buildings that housed the Baltimore branch of NESCO, a leading national corporation of metal housewares producers and the largest tinware producer in Maryland. The NESCO manufactory fills two city blocks, covering almost five acres, at the southern end of South Baltimore. The pair of blocks is bounded on the north by East Wells Street, on the east by Johnson Street, on the south by Winder Street, and on the west by Light Street. Of these streets, only East Wells and Light Street (which terminates in this block) remain functioning public ways. The section of South Baltimore occupied by the NESCO property is part of an industrial and transportation corridor. Railroad lines border the complex on three sides, with a CSX rail yard to the east, a wide swath of CSX tracks to the south, and the remains of a rail spur fronting the complex to the north. Visible beyond the railroad lines to the south, a raised section of I-95 looms over the mouth of the Middle Branch River, which is edged with ship yards. Representative 19th and early 20th century South Baltimore working class rowhouses fill the blocks north of the manufactory.

The complex components represent a range of 19th and 20th construction technologies, from mill construction, with brick bearing walls and wood structural members to steel frame construction. Individual component footprints are primarily

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[1] Building dates are derived from the date that Matthai, Ingram & Co. relocated their manufactory to the Light Street location in 1887, lithographs of the complex ca. 1890, 1895, and 1910, Sanborn Maps ca. 1890, 1902, 1914, and 1951, and Baltimore City building permits, ca. 1924-1961.

[2] None of the demolished components were visible from a public way.

rectangular and adjacent buildings are interconnected. The NESCO manufactory features arched openings, corbelled brick cornices, and engaged brick pilasters, typically found in 19th century industrial buildings. Most openings are arched, in round, segmental, and jack arch forms, and windows primarily have wood sills. Loading docks typically have granite sills. Almost every window opening in the complex has been infilled with infill materials including corrugated metal, plywood, concrete masonry units, and brick. Some remaining multiple-pane wood sash, which are in poor condition, are found scattered throughout the complex. Roof forms reflect original building uses: flat, gable, monitor, hipped, and sawtooth roofs are all present. Warehouse and storage buildings typically have flat roofs, most of the loft buildings have low gabled and or hipped roofs, and production sheds have monitor roofs. Visible roof surfaces are papered and tarred. Most interior floor surfaces consist of diagonally laid wood planks, frequently overlaid with steel plates or plywood: first floors have often been relaid with poured concrete. Building interiors are largely unaltered, save insertion of partitioned office space in the 1st floor of three components. No equipment associated with NESCO remains.

NESCO's densely packed two block site was developed to facilitate efficient production and distribution and to provide separation between volatile chemical and mechanical processes and product storage. Constructed as an industrial quadrangle occupying one block split by an alley, the original complex consisted of a manufactory surrounding an open yard that was connected by a bridge to the Storage Warehouse. Over time the complex accretively filled the open space of its original block and grew to fill a second block. The component buildings are grouped in three sets: the production center; specialty production; and warehousing, storage, and distribution. (See Attachment D.) The detailed description of individual components, below, adheres to this division, for greater clarity.

Production Center

The production center is the core of the NESCO manufactory, where the original primary product line, tinware, was produced. Building and structure names, uses, and numbers are derived from the 1890, 1902, and 1914 Sanborn maps to reflect their purpose-built descriptions. The following contributing buildings and structure comprise the production center:

- (2) **Stack** and **Pumphouse** (ca. 1902-1914), (ca. 1914-1951)
- (4, 4A) **Tinshop 1** (ca. 1887)
- (5) **Tinshop 2** (ca. 1895)
- (3) **Black Iron & Tinware Department** (ca. 1895).

A cluster of small, 1 story brick production sheds that housed the spinning room, and retinning and plate tinning department (4B, 7, 10, and 11) has been demolished. A single metal shed, which does not contribute to the complex, now stands on the site of these components in the southeastern section of the production center.

Stack and Pumphouse (2) The *Stack* (ca. 1914-1951), which is in good condition, and an adjacent, small, one story brick *Pumphouse* (ca. 1902-1914), in poor condition, are located west of the *Black Iron & Tinware Department* (3) in an open yard at the core of the production center. The yard is accessible through a sally port that passes through the *Black Iron & Tinware Department* (3) from Byrd Street. The *Pumphouse* was constructed to house a force pump and an earlier stack. The boiler and engine rooms have been demolished: their shadows and joist pockets are visible on the exterior walls

within the yard. The *Stack* and *Pumphouse* are an integral part of the NESCO manufactory and contribute to the significance of the resource.

Tinshop 1 (4, 4A) *Tinshop 1* (ca. 1887) consists of two functionally related, connected, brick loft buildings with rectangular footprints and gable roofs where the tinware pieces were cut, stamped, and assembled. Buildings 4 and 4A are open between connected floors. Building 4 is a three story loft that housed a cutting room on the 1st floor, and a tin shop on the 2nd and 3rd floors. Polishing also occurred on the 3rd floor. Building 4A is a two story brick loft that also had cutting machinery on the first floor, with a press room and a tin shop on the 2nd floor. Building 4 is connected to *Tinshop 2* (5) on the east and the *Warehouse* (12E) on the north. *Tinshop 1*, which is in good condition, has two visible facades (west and south) that feature a regular grid of infilled window openings with brick segmental arched openings and wood sills. Two large vehicular openings access the 1st floors from the vestige of Clayton Alley. The interior of *Tinshop 1* is an open plan space with an exposed wood post and beam structural system. *Tinshop 1* is an integral part of the NESCO manufactory and contributes to the significance of the resource.

Tinshop 2 (5) *Tinshop 2* (ca. 1895) is a four story brick loft building with a rectangular footprint and a hipped roof that housed similar functions to *Tinshop 1*. The building was used for stamping and storage on the 1st floor, a tin shop on the 2nd floor, bench work on the 3rd floor, and packing on the 4th floor. The building also housed two of the four water tanks that maintained a reserve of 102,000 gallons of water on site (now gone). This component is connected to the *Black Iron & Tinware Department* (3) to the north, the *Enamel Burning Room* (6), via bridge, to the east, *Tinshop 1* (4) to the west, and *Metal Shed 2* (noncontributing) to the south. *Tinshop 2*, which is good condition, has one exterior eight bay façade facing east, fronting Byrd Street. The façade features a regular grid of infilled window openings with segmental arched lintels and wood and brick sills. A vehicular opening, which has a recent concrete lintel, marks the center of the 1st story. A three story metal clad wood bridge is located on the southern bay that connects *Tinshop 2* to the *Tinware & Japan Department* (13) across Byrd Street. Its interior is an open plan space with an exposed wood post and beam structural system. *Tinshop 2* is an integral part of the NESCO manufactory and contributes to the significance of the resource.

Black Iron & Tinware Department (3) The *Black Iron & Tinware Department* (ca. 1895) is a four and five story brick loft building that housed the printed tinware department, with the print shop on the 5th floor. This component, which is connected to the *Warehouse* (12E) to the west and *Tinshop 2* (5) to the south, has three exterior facades (north, east, and west) facing East Wells Street, Byrd Street, and the yard. Constructed as four story loft with a hipped roof, a 5th story with a flat roof was added (ca. 1900) to the northern section of the building when the long range of five story warehouses was constructed along Wells Street. Street facing exterior facades (north and east) of the *Black Iron & Tinware Department* display features flavored with Romanesque Revival details, such as engaged brick pilasters, a decorative corbelled brick cornice, and round arched openings in the 1st floor. Remaining facades feature a regular grid of segmental arched window openings with wood and brick sills. The sally port to the yard passes through the east façade. Some alterations have been made to the exterior of the *Black Iron & Tinware Department*, which is in fair condition. A vehicular opening on the front (north) façade has been enlarged, a concrete loading dock has been added to the east façade, and the bridge to the *Packing & shipping building* (15) has been removed. The interior of the *Black Iron & Tinware Department* is an open plan space with an exposed wood post and beam structural system. The building is an integral part of the NESCO manufactory and contributes to the significance of the resource.

Specialty Production

The specialty production center, which groups the enameling and japanning buildings, an annealing building, and a stamping and pressing building, occupies the eastern block of the NESCO manufactory complex. This section of the complex represents NESCO's specialization and expansion between 1895 and 1945. Consequently, the specialty production center consists of a series of production sheds and a loft that housed the chemical processes required for enameling and japanning, as well as banks of ovens to bake the finishes (now gone). Building names, uses, and numbers are derived from the 1901-1902, 1914, and 1951 Sanborn maps, depending on when the components were completed, to reflect their purpose built uses. The specialty production center consists of the:

- (6) **Enamel Burning Room** (ca. 1895)
- (6) **Enameling Department Extension** (ca. 1910-1914)
- (14) **Enamel & Dipping Room** (ca. 1895)
- (13) **Tinware & Japan Department** (ca. 1895)
- (19) **Annealing Room** (ca. 1914-1951), and
- (18) **Stamping & Pressing Room** (ca. 1914-1951)

Enamel Burning Room (6) The *Enamel Burning Room* (ca. 1895) is a one and one-half story brick production shed that housed a series of mufflers and the dryer box (now gone) for baking enamel onto steel, as well as a 70,000 gallon cistern (now gone). The *Enamel Burning Room*, which has a rectangular footprint, is capped by a ventilated monitor roof with sidelights (now infilled), and retains a stack. Located south of the *Packing & Storage Building* (15) and the *Annealing Room* (19), west of the *Enameling Department Extension* (6), and north of the *Enamel & Dipping Room* (14), the *Enamel Burning Room* has one visible façade, which faces west fronting Byrd Street. This façade, which features brick pilasters and a corbelled cornice with stylized drop pendents, has a large vehicular entry with a recent concrete lintel, and a series of infilled segmental arched openings. The interior of the *Enamel Burning Room* is an open plan space with a hybrid structural system, consisting of cast iron posts at the 1st floor level supporting wood beams and trusses. The *Enamel Burning Room* is in fair condition, is an integral part of the NESCO manufactory, and contributes to the significance of the resource.

Enameling Department Extension (6) The *Enameling Department Extension* (ca. 1910-1914) is a two and one-half story brick production shed that housed additional mufflers (now gone) on the 1st floor and held stock on the 2nd floor. The *Enameling Department Extension* continues the basic form the *Enamel Burning Room* (6) and also has a rectangular footprint and a monitor roof. The building, which is connected to the *Enamel Burning Room* (6) to the west, the *Annealing Room* (19) to the north, and the *Stamping & Pressing Room* (18) to the south, has three visible exterior façades (east, north, and south). These facades feature pilasters, corbelled details and round and segmental arched infilled window openings with brick sills. A concrete loading dock, sheltered by a shed roof, extends from the east façade. The interior of the *Enameling Department Extension* is an open plan space with an exposed steel structural system. The *Enameling Department Extension* is in good condition, is an integral part of the NESCO manufactory, and contributes to the significance of the resource.

Enamel & Dipping Room (14) The *Enamel & Dipping Room* (ca. 1895) is one story brick production shed that housed enamel dipping vats and smelters, in addition to more mufflers and another dryer box (all now gone). Running parallel to

the south of the *Enamel Burning Room* (6), the building has a narrow, rectangular footprint and a monitor roof. The enamel and dipping room is connected to the *Enamel Burning Room* (6) to the north, the *Tinware & Japan Department* (13) to the south, and the *Stamping & Pressing Room* (18) to the east. The west façade is mostly blocked by the structure of the bridge that connects *Tinshop 2* (5) to the *Tinware & Japan Department* (13); the visible portion has been rebuilt or covered with concrete masonry units. The interior of the *Enamel & Dipping Room* is an open plan space with an exposed wood post and truss structural system that spans the building. The *Enamel & Dipping Room* is in fair condition, is an integral part of the NESCO manufactory, and contributes to the significance of the resource.

Tinware & Japan Department (13) The *Tinware & Japan Department* (1895) is a four story brick loft building that housed stamping on the 1st and 3rd floors, stamping and soldering on the 2nd floor, and painting and japanning on the 4th floor. The building, which is in good condition, has a rectangular footprint and a gable roof. Sited along the southern property line, the *Tinware & Japan Department* is connected to the *Enamel & Dipping Room* (14) to the north and the *Stamping & Pressing Room* (18) to the east. A three story bridge connects the building to *Tinshop 2* (5) across Byrd Street. The *Tinware & Japan Department* has three exterior facades (east, south, and west) that feature a corbelled brick cornice with stylized drop pendants on the east and west facades, facing the streets, and brick pilasters on the south façade. The building displays a regular grid of segmental arched infilled window openings with wood and brick sills. A round arched pedestrian entry and large vehicular opening (with a recent concrete lintel, now infilled) mark the west facade. The interior of the *Tinware & Japan Department* is an open plan space with an exposed wood post and beam structural system. The wood posts on the 1st floor are exceptionally heavy due to the mechanical processes that occurred on the upper floors. The *Tinware & Japan Department* is an integral part of the NESCO manufactory and contributes to the significance of the resource.

Annealing Room (19) The *Annealing Room* (ca. 1914-1951) is a two story brick, concrete, and corrugated metal clad building that housed the annealing furnaces (now gone). It replaced earlier annealing and pickling buildings (ca. 1895 and ca. 1900). This building, which is in fair condition, has a rectangular footprint, a sloped flat roof, and two lean-to appendages. It is connected to the *Enameling Department Extension* (6) to the south and the *Packing & Storage Building* (15) to the west. The exterior facades of the building (north and east) are blank. The interior of the *Annealing Room* is an open plan space with an exposed steel structural system and concrete floor. The *Annealing Room* is an integral part of the NESCO manufactory and contributes to the significance of the resource.

Stamping & Pressing Room (18) The *Stamping & Pressing Room* (ca. 1914-1951) is a one story brick building with a trapezoidal footprint and sawtooth roof. This building was constructed on the site of an earlier housing row that had been converted to house a chemical room, a mixing room, a melting room, and storage. It served to separate a function that had been located within the *Tinware & Japan Department* (13). The building, which is in fair condition, has two exterior facades (east and south) and is set upon a raised concrete foundation, which extends beyond the interior footprint and acts as a loading dock. The east façade is partially parged and displays a single large vehicular opening, now infilled with a metal door. The south façade has a series of large scale infilled openings. The interior of the *Stamping & Pressing Room* is an open plan space with an exposed steel structural system. The *Stamping & Pressing Room* is an integral part of the NESCO manufactory and contributes to the significance of the resource.

Storage, Warehousing, and Distribution

The storage, warehousing, and distribution buildings of the NESCO complex are sited along the northern boundary of the complex, fronting Wells Street along the railroad spur, and on the western half of the western block. NESCO's five story brick warehouse buildings are the largest and most prominent buildings in the complex. Building names, uses, and numbers are derived from the 1890, 1902, and 1914 Sanborn maps to reflect their purpose built uses. The Storage, Warehousing, and Distribution center is comprised of:

- (1) **Storage Warehouse** (ca. 1887)
- (12E, 12W) **Warehouse** (between 1895-1901)
- (15) **Packing & Storage Building** (between 1902-1910).

Storage Warehouse (1) The *Storage Warehouse* (ca. 1887), a five story brick, eight bay by 14 bay, loft building with a rectangular footprint and gable roof, was the complex's original storage, warehouse, and distribution center. As depicted in the 1890 lithograph of the complex (Attachment J), this building was the complex's front door. Before the rail spur and large warehouses were constructed along the northern edge of the property, this building faced an open yard to the north that served as the loading area for incoming raw materials and outgoing products. The *Storage Warehouse*, which is in good condition, is connected to the *Warehouse* (12E, 12W) to the north and to *Tinshop 1* (2), by bridge, to the east. This building, originally freestanding, has four exterior facades. The front (west) façade of the *Storage Warehouse* displays elements of the Rundbogenstil style. This facade is symmetrically arranged with a classical division of base, shaft, and crown. A pair of pedestrian entries flank the central element. The gable roof is disguised by a parapet wall ornamented with a detailed corbelled brick and metal cornice (the brick pediment that marked the center element is now gone). The façade is further embellished by full height brick pilasters and round arched openings in the 1st story and gable end. Secondary facades display a regular grid of segmental arched window openings. Window openings, which have wood sills, are infilled. Vehicular and pedestrian openings (some of which have been added) provide interior access in each secondary façade and a two story metal clad bridge is located on the eastern façade. The interior of the *Storage Warehouse* is an open plan space with an exposed wood post and beam structural system. Partitioned office space has been inserted into the 1st floor. The *Storage Warehouse* is an integral part of the NESCO manufactory and contributes to the significance of the resource.

Warehouse (12E, 12W) The *Warehouse* (ca. 1900) is a five story brick, six bay by 28 bay, loft building with a rectangular footprint, a flat roof, and a three bay hyphen. This building, which is in good condition, is the largest in the complex and long served as its warehouse and distribution center. The *Warehouse* is connected by a hyphen to the *Storage Warehouse* (1), *Tinshop 1* (4) to the south, and the *Black Iron & Tinware Department* (3) to the east and has three exterior facades (north, west, and south). The long northern façade of the *Warehouse* fronts East Wells Street and the rail spur. This façade displays six regularly spaced loading docks and a huge painted ribbon sign that reads "NATIONAL ENAMELING & STAMPING COMPANY." The manufactory office was housed in the western end of the *Warehouse*, distinguished on the exterior by jack arch lintels on the 1st story, bay windows on the 2nd story, and a double stair on the west facade. The street facing facades (north and west) feature Romanesque influenced elements, including brick pilasters and corbelled brick and metal cornices. Window openings, which have segmental arched openings and wood sills are primarily infilled, although some multiple-pane wood sash, in poor condition, remain. The 1st story of the three bay hyphen that connects the *Warehouse* to the *Storage Warehouse* (1) is penetrated by a sally port with an arched

opening (now infilled by a metal door). The interior of the *Warehouse* is an open plan space with an exposed wood post and beam structural system. Partitioned office space has been inserted into the eastern section of the 1st floor. The *Warehouse* is an integral part of the NESCO manufactory and contributes to the significance of the resource.

Packing & Storage Building (15) The *Packing & Storage Building* (ca. 1905) is a four story, six bay by eight bay, loft building with a rectangular footprint and a flat roof. Located along Wells Street, the building was constructed to centralize storage of raw materials and packing functions for the specialty production center. The *Packing & Storage Building* is connected to the *Annealing Room* (19) to the east and the *Enamel Burning Room* (6) to the south. Originally the building was connected by bridge (now gone) to the *Black Iron & Tinware Department (3)* to the west. The packing and storage uses, rather than distribution, are indicated by the absence of large entries in the building facades, which display a grid of brick segmental arched infilled window openings with wood sills. The planar facades feature shallow panels and brick corbelled cornices. The 1st story has been harshly cleaned and repointed with wide mortar joints. The *Packing & Storage Building* is in fair condition. The interior of the *Packing & Storage Building* is an open plan space with an exposed wood post and beam structural system; partitioned space has been inserted into the 1st floor. The *Packing & Storage Building* is an integral part of the NESCO manufactory and contributes to the significance of the resource.

Non-contributing Buildings and Alterations

NESCO refitted all of the building interiors in 1952. After this date, manufacturing components were no longer used for their original purposes, and the Baltimore branch was closed in 1958 (NESCO remains in business in Wisconsin). The complex currently has two owners and three users and functions as a warehouse and light manufacturing space. As is typical for industrial complexes with new uses, further changes were made to the complex after 1958. Several of the smallest one-story building components, including the engine room and boiler house (2), the spinning room (4B), and the retinning and plate tinning department (7, 10, and 11), that were presumably difficult to reuse, have been demolished. One of the bridges has also been lost. Other alterations, including infilled window and door openings, enlarged door openings, and inserted partitioned offices, are relatively minor, and most are reversible. The reconstruction of the west façade of the *Enamel & Dipping Room* (14) with concrete masonry units constitutes the most substantial loss of original exterior masonry in the complex. Replacement of floor surface materials is the primary change to the interiors. Two recent metal sheds have been added to the complex.

Metal Shed 1 *Metal Shed 1* is located in the southwestern corner of the complex, on the site of NESCO's truck yard, south of the *Storage Warehouse* (1). Although *Metal Shed 1* occupies NESCO's lot, it is not connected to any buildings on the site. *Metal Shed 1* was constructed after the period of significance and does not contribute to the complex.

Metal Shed 2 *Metal Shed 2* is located east of *Tinshop 1* (4A) and south of *Tinshop 2* (5), on the site of the Spinning Room (4B) and the Retinning and Plate-Tinning department (7, 10, and 11). *Metal Shed 2* was constructed after the period of significance and does not contribute to the complex.

Integrity

The NESCO manufactory retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, feeling, and association. The Matthai, Ingram & Company branch of the National Enameling and Stamping Company (NESCO) stands to represent its association with Maryland's largest manufacturer of tinware, which was historically one of Baltimore's most prominent industries. The location of the NESCO plant -- within the industrial belt at the southern edge of South Baltimore -- and its setting adjacent to the CSX terminal, the mouth of the Middle Branch of the Patapsco River, and South Baltimore's working class rowhouse neighborhood -- remain intact as physical evidence of NESCO's industrial strength. Comparison of the present appearance of the site with early lithographs of the NESCO complex shows that the complex retains the vast majority of its buildings and its massive stack. The structural systems and spaces in the individual buildings, the massing of the buildings as a complex, the pattern of window and door openings, roof forms, and textures and colors of surface materials remain intact to reflect NESCO's historic function. The diversity of these elements and the massive size of the complex contribute to the feeling of a 19th and early 20th century industry leader, illustrating the scale of Baltimore's former industrial giants.

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The NESCO manufactory, located on the industrial edge of South Baltimore, stands to represent its 70 year history as the site of the works of Matthai, Ingram & Co., later the National Enameling & Stamping Co. (NESCO). The NESCO works meet Criterion A because they housed Maryland's largest tinware manufactory, which was one of most significant components of Maryland's industrial base during the period of significance. The NESCO manufactory illustrates how the tinware industry evolved through the changing technologies that developed in the metal houseware industry from the late 19th century through the middle of the 20th century. The period of significance for the works extends from 1887, when the manufactory of the Matthai, Ingram and Co. moved to South Baltimore, to 1952, when the plant ceased production of tinware and enameled wares.

RESOURCE HISTORY AND HISTORIC CONTEXT

An alchemy of location, timing, and innovation propelled the Matthai, Ingram & Co. branch of the National Enameling & Stamping Co. (NESCO) to the top of the tinware market. Matthai, Ingram & Co. (1869-1899) occupied the leading edge of mechanized tinware production just as the United States became the global leader in tinplate production. The firm quickly entered emerging markets, adopted new technologies, and became nationally incorporated to take advantage of market dominance and economies of scale, steps that can largely be attributed to the talent and acuity of the founders of Matthai, Ingram & Co. After their corporate merger, the National Enameling & Stamping Co. (1899-1958) utilized consolidated production, distribution, and patent development to dominate the market, and used advertising to create its brand image. The manufactory of the Matthai, Ingram & Co. branch of the National Enameling & Stamping Co. was one of the largest employers in the South Baltimore community, a neighborhood that is significant within Baltimore's working class history.

Tinplate Industry in the United States, 1891-1920

The substantial success of the Matthai, Ingram & Co. was built upon its earliest endeavor: mass production of tinplate housewares. Ready supply of tinplate, thin sheets of iron or steel coated with tin, was a crucial element of that success. Tinplate was the most widely used metal container and houseware material in the industrialized world by the end of 19th century, a position it held through the middle of the 20th century when technological developments led to its eclipse by other materials (stainless steel, galvanized metal, aluminum, and plastic). From the end of the 19th century through the mid 20th century, the United States was the world's largest producer of tinplate. Tinplate was supremely popular because it was a highly economical combination of the rust-proof quality of tin with the strength of iron, preventing corrosion by keeping oxygen from coming in contact with the iron or steel substrate.

Great Britain was the world leader in tinplate production and exportation through much of the 19th century, and British tinplate was cheap and readily available to the United States at that time.[3] Reacting to improvements in the tin-can industry, U.S. consumption of tinplate mushroomed in the 1880s when this country became the largest consumer of tinplate. Simultaneously, the U.S. became a leader in iron and steel production through improvements in transportation

[3] W. E. Hoare, et al. *The Technology of Tinplate*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1965. p. 3-5.

that readily brought raw materials and fuels together and a revolution in technology that created the Bessemer process.[4] It was only natural that domestic production of tinplate should closely follow. This progression was driven home in 1891, when the McKinley Tariff Act imposed a duty of 2.2 cents per pound on imported tinplate. In 1st quarter of 1892 the five tinplate works in the U.S. produced 152,489 pounds of tinplate. By the end of the year there were 26 manufactories and production in the last quarter of 1892 totaled 3,071,534 pounds. Although the tariff was moderated in following years, the American tinplate infrastructure was already well established. While Great Britain's tinplate production stagnated between 1891 and 1920, America's boomed, growing from negligible production in 1891 to 1,375,000 tons in 1920.[5]

Tinware: A Leading Baltimore and Maryland Industry

In 1880 Baltimore was the largest producer of tinware, copperware, & sheet-ironware in the United States.[6] At that date there were 144 tin, copper, and sheet-iron ware manufacturers in Baltimore, employing a total of 1913 workers with product value of $3,180,611[7], making it Baltimore's sixth largest industry.[8] Although, Baltimore never again led the nation in tinware manufacture, tinware production grew in importance as a component of Baltimore and Maryland industry.[9] In 1890, it was the fourth largest industry and in 1900 the fifth. By 1909, it had risen to the second largest industry in Baltimore, a position it held in 1914 as well.[10] Throughout this time, Matthai, Ingram & Co., which became the Matthai, Ingram & Co. branch of the National Enameling & Stamping Co., was the largest tinware producer in Baltimore and Maryland.

Matthai, Ingram & Company: Establishment of Baltimore's Largest Tinware Producer, 1869-1886

Founded in 1869, Matthai, Ingram & Co. possessed the geographical location and leadership to capitalize on the growth of the tinware industry in the United States. Matthai, Ingram & Co. pioneered the mechanization of tinware production in Baltimore at a time when urban demand had outstripped local small-shop fabrication. The firm began in 1869, when German immigrant John C. Matthai (1824-1899), opened a tinplate housewares shop in Baltimore.[11] The marriage of his daughter Amelia to James Ingram, who was listed as a tinner in directories at that time, might have prompted John Matthai to take up the new business at age 45. In 1870, Matthai made Ingram a partner in the new firm and Matthai & Ingram set up shop at Lexington and Howard streets.[12] In 1872, Matthai & Ingram made George N. Knapp a third partner. Knapp developed many patented machines for Matthai, Ingram & Co. and was widely recognized as the

[4] D. E. Dunbar. *The Tin-Plate Industry.* Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1915, p. 17.
[5] W. E. Hoare, et al. p. 7-11. The U.K. produced 586,000 tons in 1891, 500,000 tons in 1900 and 610,500 in 1920.
[6] Eleanor Stephens Bruchey, *The Business Elite in Baltimore 1880-1914,* Baltimore: The John Hopkins University, 1967, p. 30.
[7] J. Thomas Scharf. *History of Baltimore City and County.* Philadelphian: Louis H. Everts, 1881, p, 422.
[8] Bruchey, p. 35. The ranking of the top five industries for 1880, in descending order of importance, was: clothing; canning; fertilizer; iron foundry; and boots and shoes.
[9] *Ibid.*, p. 35-36. In 1890 the ranking of the top three industries, in descending order of importance, was: clothing; masonry,; and canning. In 1900 the ranking of the top four industries, in descending order of importance, was clothing; canning; tobacco; and iron foundry products.
[10] *Ibid,* p. 36-37. Clothing was the only industry that surpassed copper, tin & sheet iron products in 1909 and 1914.
[11] "NESCO, Inc. ...A Leading Baltimore Manufacturer," *Baltimore,* April, 1953, n.p.
[12] *Baltimore: Its History and Its People, Vol. II – Biography.* New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1912, p. 126.

technological genius of the firm. After Knapp joined the business, the company moved again to a substantial factory at Lexington and Arch street. This move also marked the addition of a new product line: japanned wares.[13]

Expansion of product lines, coupled with technological developments, fueled the growth of the firm's market share between 1870 and 1899. The enterprising nature of the partners and their ability to produce the top-quality wares in a bargain market is noted in many descriptive guides to Baltimore of the period. For example, the expansion of the firm to include japanned ware in 1872 brought notice in *The Monumental City* in 1873.[14] Japanned housewares of the period consisted of tinware coated with varnish or lacquer that was hardened by baking it in an oven and then often decoratively painted.[15] The guide notes:

> Until recently the manufacture of Japanned Ware was confined to the North, and our dealers were compelled to purchase abroad. In the year 1872, Messrs. Matthai, Ingram & Co. introduced in our city this branch of manufacture, and...have succeeded in establishing here one of the best factories in the United States, the only one south of Philadelphia, which now commands not only the local and Southern trade, but is supplying to a large extent the Northern and Eastern markets, where the older factories are located.[16]

The firm's ability to recognize trends in economical houseware production, move into new markets in the region, and develop both the machinery and chemical processes required to launch new product lines, quickly brought them to the fore in the tinware market.

In 1880, John C. Matthai's son, William, became a partner, and by 1882 he ran the firm's showroom located in a five story building at 56 Hanover Street, which was also used for offices, warehousing, and shipping. By 1882, local sources confirmed their role as a major player in the national tinware market. *A Descriptive Review of the Manufacturing and Mercantile Industries of the City of Baltimore* states that the "operations entitle it to rank with the most prominent business houses of the city of Baltimore" who "are now doing the largest business in their line in this city, and if they have equals they have no superiors in the United States."[17] Employing over 200 workers, their patented specialties included "fire-proof bottom coffee pots and boilers, covered buckets, saucepans, tin cups, kerosene oil cans, dish pans, the combination odorless slopjar, [and] Artic, Eclipse and Gem water coolers."[18] Matthai, Ingram & Co.'s manufactory remained at Lexington and Arch until 1886, when fire destroyed their downtown factory.

Matthai, Ingram & Co.: The New Manufactory and Market Dominance, 1887-1898

Turning loss into opportunity, Matthai, Ingram & Co. relocated their works to the newly developing industrial waterfront in South Baltimore. The site was ideally located near Baltimore's primary ports and railroad yards. The new location

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[13] *Ibid.*
[14] George Howard. *The Monumental City, its past history and present resources*. Ehlers publishing, 1873, p. 443.
[15] William. N. Brown. *A Handbook on Japanning*. London: Scott, Greenwood and Son, 1913, p. 1.
[16] Howard, p. 443.
[17] *A Descriptive Review of the Manufacturing and Mercantile Industries of the City of Baltimore.* New York: Historical Publishing Company, 1882, p. 250.
[18] Ibid, p. 335.

provided acreage for rapid physical expansion, a ready local workforce, and ease of product distribution. Matthai, Ingram & Co. custom fitted the new factory with machinery, much of which was designed and patented by Knapp.[19]

A sales slip from 1890 (Attachment J) reveals not only the structures that formed the original Matthai, Ingram & Co. works but the image the company intended to project to customers. This image carefully balances the representation of an orderly street presence and surrounding idyllic landscape with display of technology and industry. The symmetry of the warehouse's façade and the arrival of a horse-drawn streetcar at its front door is contrasted with the iconography of productivity represented by the factory's five smoking stacks and horse drawn trucks rushing in and out of the yard. The companies ability to take advantage of its fortunate position viz-viz shipping and railroad lines is clearly evident.

In 1895, Matthai, Ingram & Co. was described as "the largest concern in this particular line in the United States," which employed "between 800 and 900 hands, and turn out a product whose aggregate reaches into the millions."[20] By 1898, employment had grown to 1200.[21] The Baltimore office and showroom of Matthai, Ingram & Co. had also expanded by 1895 and moved to a seven story building at 109-113 Hanover Street. The firm opened branch houses in New York and Chicago.[22] Their market was also increasing beyond the U.S. boundaries to include distribution to Canada, Mexico, and Australia.[23]

Matthai, Ingram, & Co. developed new product lines and expanded existing product lines between 1890 and 1895, as seen in the new buildings visible on the ca. 1895 lithograph (Attachment K) and the 1901-1902 Sanborn map (Attachment G). Matthai, Ingram & Co. constructed new buildings to house the japanning department, an enameling department, and a plate tinning department. Enameled wares, which were made from steel coated with viscous glass that was baked hard,[24] required special buildings not only for the enameling work but also for preparing the steel sheets. These structures housed equipment such as pickling vats, which removed the layer of corrosion from the steel before enamel was applied, and annealing furnaces, which heated the steel to eliminate the brittleness associated with rolling it into thin sheets. The presence of a plate tinning department indicates that the firm was likely taking advantage of the upsurge in the U.S. tinplate industry after 1891, however, specialized tinplate production by other American companies quickly made Matthai, Ingram & Co.'s small facility for this line obsolete. Matthai, Ingram & Co. made advances in manufactory power as well. By 1895, the works were "propelled by three engines of a combined energy of 250 horsepower"[25] and in addition to the 250 h.p. Corliss engine, two other steam engines, a dynamo, and an electric motor were present, and a Worthington force-pump was housed in the yard.[26]

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[19] George Engelhardt. *Baltimore City, Maryland, the book of its Board of Trade....* Baltimore, 1895, p.136.
[20] Engelhardt, p. 135.
[21] *Baltimore; the gateway to the South, the Liverpool of America. Its glorious past: its brilliant future as a seat of learning, a home of manufacturers, and a center of commerce.* Baltimore, 1898, p. 61.
[22] Engelhardt, p. 136.
[23] *Baltimore; the gateway to the South...*, p. 61.
[24] Laurence R. Mernaugh. *Enamels: Their Manufacture and Application to Iron and Steel Ware.* London: Charles Griffith and Company. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1928, p. 21
[25] *Ibid.*
[26] Sanborn Map, Baltimore City, 1901-1902.

The image Matthai, Ingram and Co. projected in the 1895 lithograph was one of immense power and diversity in production and transportation. Instead of the profusion of small stacks depicted in the 1890 image, the 1895 lithograph shows three huge stacks. The range of product lines is emphasized in both the number and variety of buildings and is visible in horse-drawn trucks leaving from not only the warehouse, but from the enameling and black iron departments as well. Matthai, Ingram and Co.'s receipt of raw materials and distribution of goods is forcefully evident in the presence of their own rail spur, complete with B&O freight cars, the inclusion of a B&O roundhouse in the lower left corner of the lithograph, and the ships landing at the end of Light Street.

National Enameling & Stamping Co.: The Merger and Success of National Incorporation, 1898-1958

In 1899, during the first American era of corporate consolidation, Matthai, Ingram & Co. joined forces with three other national leaders in sheet metal wares: the St. Louis Stamping Co., Kieckhefer Brothers Co. of Milwaukee, and the Haberman Manufacturing Co. of New York, to become the National Enameling and Stamping Co., or NESCO, the biggest name in metal housewares. The National Enameling & Stamping Co. had capitalization of $30,000,000[27] and yielded their new leverage in litigation over enameling patents and through economy of scale in production and distribution.[28] Their national status gave them the advantage in the competition for control of technology and allowed them to tailor production and distribution from a variety of regional centers. NESCO's use of a brand name within the bargain metal houseware market set them apart from most of their competitors.

John Matthai, having secured his family's fortunes, died only months later on July 4th, 1899. The younger members of the Matthai, Ingram & Co. remained deeply involved in the National Enameling & Stamping Co., which had its executive offices in New York City. For example, William Matthai was Secretary of the National Enameling & Stamping Co. and manager of the Baltimore branch. Consolidation proved successful, and by 1910, the National Enameling & Stamping Co. was billing itself as "the world's largest manufacturer of housewares."[29] By 1910, the National Enameling and Stamping Company had six factories, in addition to their own steel works, rolling mill, tin plate mill, and galvanized sheet mill, as well as seven regional branch offices. The company's catalog from 1910 shows both its "unequalled" factories and shipping facilities and the "most complete line ever offered of Kitchen Utensils and other Household Goods."[30] This catalog gave special attention to reinforcing their brand name: "Our registered trade-mark "Nesco" stands for quality," and to specifying which of their products were patented, with the explicit intent of distinguishing them from their competitors.[31] NESCO made it clear that the customer could expect an ideal combination of qualities from their company's products: the most products, products no one else made, the best materials and workmanship, and the fastest delivery of product orders both large and small.

The National Enameling & Stamping Co. constructed massive warehouses to respond to the increase in production and rail distribution at the Baltimore works No. 1 since national incorporation, which are visible in the 1910 lithograph of the works. A telling quality of this new depiction of the works is the change in scale since the 1895 image; the works now dwarf the trains; humans and horse trucks appear as tiny specks. Gone are pastoral elements such as the tree-lined

[27] *Contemporary American Biography,* New York: Atlantic Publishing and Engraving Co., 1895- , p.492.
[28] *Ibid.*
[29] "Nesco, Inc. ...A Leading Baltimore Manufacturer," n.p.
[30] *National Enameling and Stamping Company, General Catalog Number 8.* New York: Executive Offices, 1910, prefatory note.
[31] *Ibid.*

waterfront. Ten enormous spewing stacks dominate the image. By 1914 power had increased to include a 250 h.p. engine, a 225 h.p. engine, a 35 h.p. engine, two dynamos, and five furnaces.[32] Indeed, production had outstripped the capacity of the Matthai & Ingram branch, and the National Enameling & Stamping Co. added a second Baltimore works in 1910, incorporating Keen & Hagerty, a smaller South Baltimore tinware factory that had been in business since before the Civil War. Keen & Hagerty operated as a part of the National Enameling & Stamping Co. until 1926.[33] NESCO added three more buildings to the complex between 1910 and 1952: the Enameling Department Extension, the annealing building, and the Stamping & Pressing Room, representing the expansion of these specialties, most likely through the 1920s and 1930s.

The National Enameling & Stamping Company branded their products aggressively through advertising in the 20th century (Attachment M). NESCO advertised widely in ladies magazines, and the role and image of the housewife that was codified within the magazines played a growing part in Nesco's marketing strategy. For example, a 1914 Nesco ad for Royal granite ware, which was enameled cookware, emphasized the economical properties of their housewares and prominently featured the Nesco logo and a motto: "they might imitate the ware, but they can't imitate the wear" that shows them defining their brand in respect to their competitors. The company offered special cookbooks for "all housewives" and "brides." By the 1920s, their full color ads showed sun-filled kitchens, modestly fashionable housewives, and mottoes such as "Make Your Kitchen Hours a Pleasure." NESCO reinforced magazine advertising with huge in-store displays that were provided free of charge to retailers, so that customers could easily distinguish their products while shopping.

By the 1950s, costs for aluminum had dropped and technological developments made stainless steel and plastic durable and readily available. In the 1950s, NESCO evolved in response to market demands, shifting their production to lithographed wares, such as picnic baskets and canister sets, and galvanized wares, such as trash cans. The firm changed their name to NESCO, Inc. in 1950, no longer explicitly associating themselves with the enameled and tinwares that were being phased out. Nesco eliminated the tinware and enameled ware lines at the Baltimore works in 1952, ending the period of significance for the Baltimore branch of the National Enameling & Stamping Co., since the works were no longer being used for their purpose-built function. This change also signifies the death knell of this branch, which shut down altogether in 1958. NESCO continues to produce electric roasters and dehydrators in Wisconsin today.

National Enameling & Stamping Company and the Workers of South Baltimore

South Baltimore is significant as a major industrial and working class community in Baltimore. The neighborhood occupies the peninsula south of Federal Hill Park between the Northwest and Middle Branches of the Patapsco River and includes the areas known as Federal Hill, Locust Point, and Sharp-Leadenhall. South Baltimore developed during the 19th century with industries lining the waterfront and a residential community inland. All of these industries required low-wage labor. Because laborers preferred to walk to work rather than spend scant wages on omnibuses or streetcars,[34] a strong working class neighborhood developed within walking distance of the industries. The spine of the neighborhood was the commercial district along Charles and Light Streets. At its center stood the Cross Street Market, first built in

[32] Sanborn Map, Baltimore, 1914.
[33] "Nesco, Inc. ...A Leading Baltimore Manufacturer," n.p.
[34] Hayward, 53.

1845. Two-story-and-attic rowhouses from the 1840s and 1850s, and 2-story Italianate rowhouses from the 1870s and 1880s lined gridded streets radiating out from the commercial district.[35]

NESCO, which employed as many as 1,200 workers, played a central role in the South Baltimore neighborhood where it was located and in the lives of the workers it employed. Predictably, little has been publicly recorded of these men and women. A 1979 oral history project, which documented the experiences of two workers, Josephine Purdy and Mary Doyle, somewhat rectified this situation.[36] These women make explicit the dangers of working in the NESCO factory, the power that the factory owners and managers exercised, strategies that workers employed to counteract this power, and the pleasures of social interaction on the job.

Mary Doyle, who was old enough to remember the Baltimore Fire in 1904, started working at the National Enameling & Stamping Co. when she was 18, well before unions played a role at NESCO. A press operator, she made buckets and toy washboards. NESCO dominated her family's life; they lived across the street from the factory and her mother, two sisters, and grandfather also worked there. The level of control that NESCO wielded came to the fore when she was injured on the job. Mary recounted the experience:

> The machine double wrapped on me. It come down on me twice. See, I put the board in with this hand and pulled them out with this hand, and the machine double wrapped on me. Cut my four fingers right off. Cut that one off too, I don't know what they did to it, but I guess they saved that one. Good thing that they did, cause I could have never done anything then. But it never bothered me until I took my bandage off. And, oh brother, that's when I looked at my hand and I didn't have any fingers on it.[37]

She received no compensation for the loss of her fingers, and could take no recourse since her family worked there too. She indicated that she could have sued, but that it would have meant putting her whole family out of work. She simply went back to her job, which she held until she married.

Mrs. Purdy remembers that workers' desire for better working conditions, stabilized pay, and sick benefits were the driving forces behind unionization. Memories of the poor working conditions and the accidents, though, are also her most dramatic:

> Just an old run-down building that was dilapidated; I mean, the lighting was bad and there was a lot of injuries in that plant and that's what the union improved. You know, made conditions better. That's what unions was known for them days, in the old days – was to improve conditions. Today, union is known for the amount of money they can get you, but their whole problem over there was very bad working conditions. And the safety was bad – didn't have guards on machinery. And there's men in South Baltimore walking around with hands cut off like that and fingers cut off and thumbs off and stuff like that. ...when I first went to work there, when you got hurt, you got fixed up and that was it. It was a real bad thing...you lost a finger or something and maybe you be off a week or so, until you healed up a little and come right back to work! See, that's what I meant to say when it was hard, tough work.[38]

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[35] Hayward, 39, 70, 40. Hayward describes these rowhouse types in detail.
[36] Baltimore Neighborhood Heritage Project. Baltimore: University of Baltimore, 1980. Doyle: 057; Purdy: 179.
[37] Doyle, 1:1:5.
[38] Purdy, I:2:23, 24

Mrs. Purdy did not remember the unionizing process being a violent one, although she did remember striking for eight or nine weeks in 1932, during the depression. She said

> I mean it wasn't a big fight or, you know like these gangster organizers and stuff that you hear! Well, it was nothing like that - I mean, that was like a cut-and-dried thing, but the company rebelled against it and the people walked out. So they thought they were punishing them by letting them walk out.[39]

But when nearly all of the workers were right there in the neighborhood and had already been trained to do specialized jobs, NESCO probably felt considerable pressure to return the work force to their posts. Mrs. Purdy confirmed that:

> Everybody who worked in that plant lived in South Baltimore; there was hardly anybody that were from the outer transit in there. Ninety percent of the people that worked in there walked to and from work...that's the truth. It was one of the foundations of South Baltimore, that plant was.... ...I'm not talking about shipyards and railroads or nothing like that. Talking about factories that you'd walk to and from work and that's where most of the people in South Baltimore worked! Where they grew up and did things, you know.[40]

Also, the role that unionization played for her may have had less of an impact since she was a young woman at the time, still living at home, and all but 50 cents of her weekly wages went to her father. In 1937, after organization of the Nesco Fabricated Metal Workers Union, No. 20618, the workers held another strike for 24 days to negotiate a 10 cent pay raise.

Nesco, Inc. did a thorough job of co-opting the positive changes made under union supervision. In 1953, Clair Helmer, assistant vice-president in charge of personnel and labor relations, claimed "the Baltimore plant's long record of harmonious relations with its employees and their unions is further evidence that the old industry has kept pace with the best of modern thinking in the matter of employee-management cooperation."[41] He further noted that "the company's safety record is unusually good, topping the national average by a wide margin."[42]

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[39] Purdy, I: 1:14
[40] Purdy, I:1:9-10.
[41] "Nesco, Inc. ...A Leading Baltimore Manufacturer," n.p.
[42] "Nesco, Inc. ...A Leading Baltimore Manufacturer," n.p.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the National Enameling & Stamping Company corresponds to the boundaries of Baltimore City, Ward 24, Section 6, Block 1038, Lots 1/3 and 5.

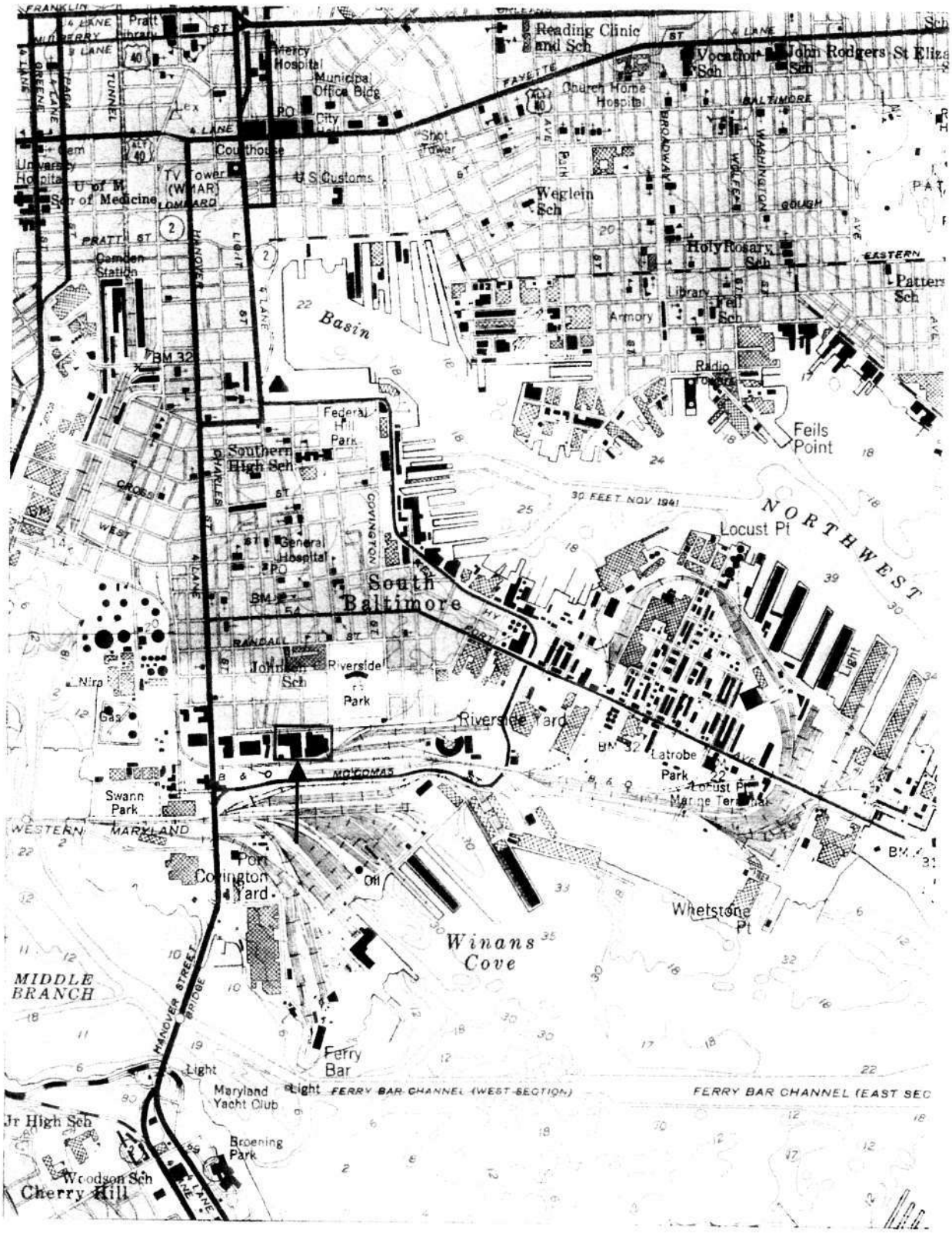
Boundary Justification:

The National Register Boundary corresponds with the present legal description of the record lot occupied by the National Enameling & Stamping Company and includes all extant buildings constructed by the firm for use as their manufactory.

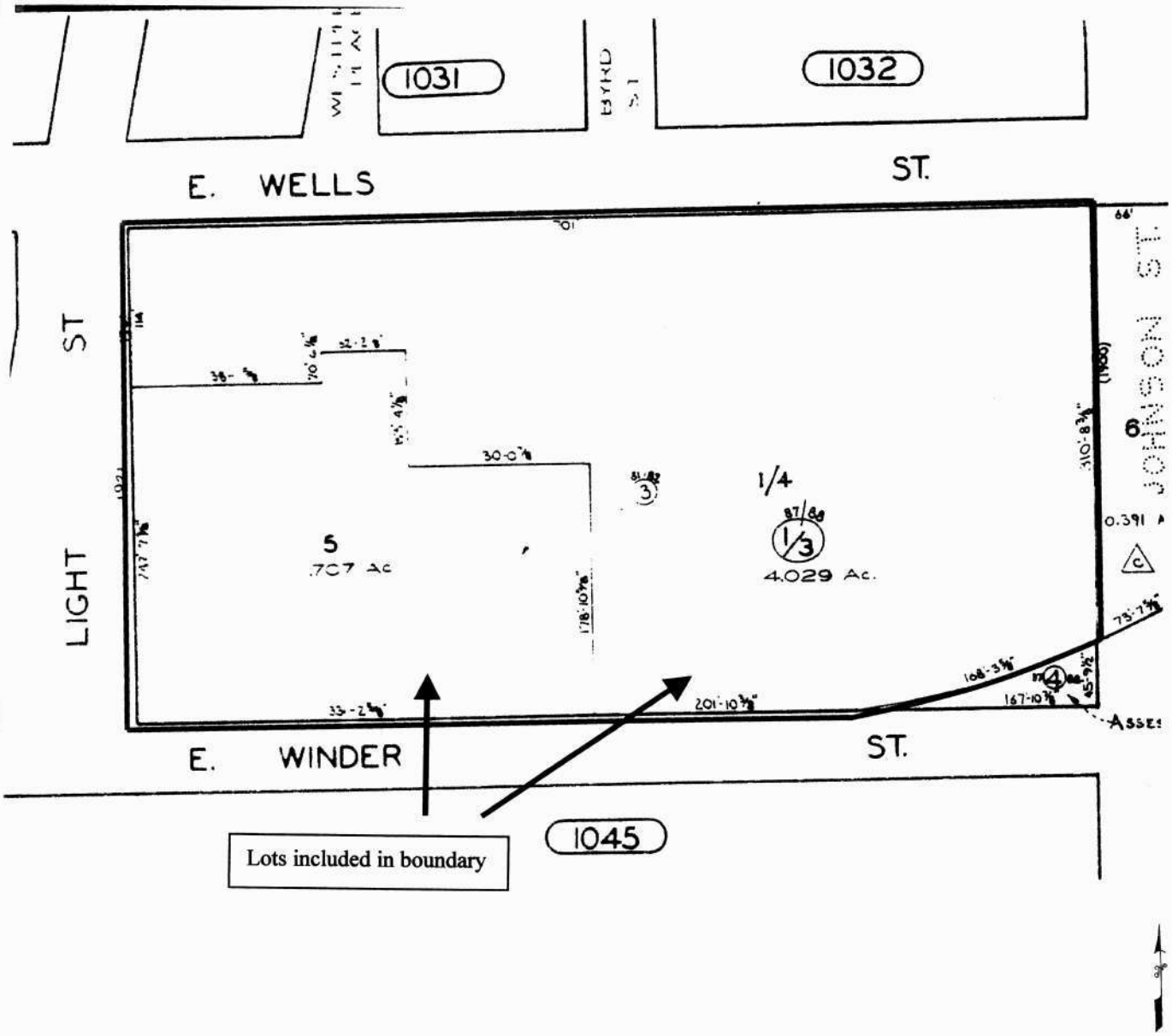
B-1069

List of Attachments

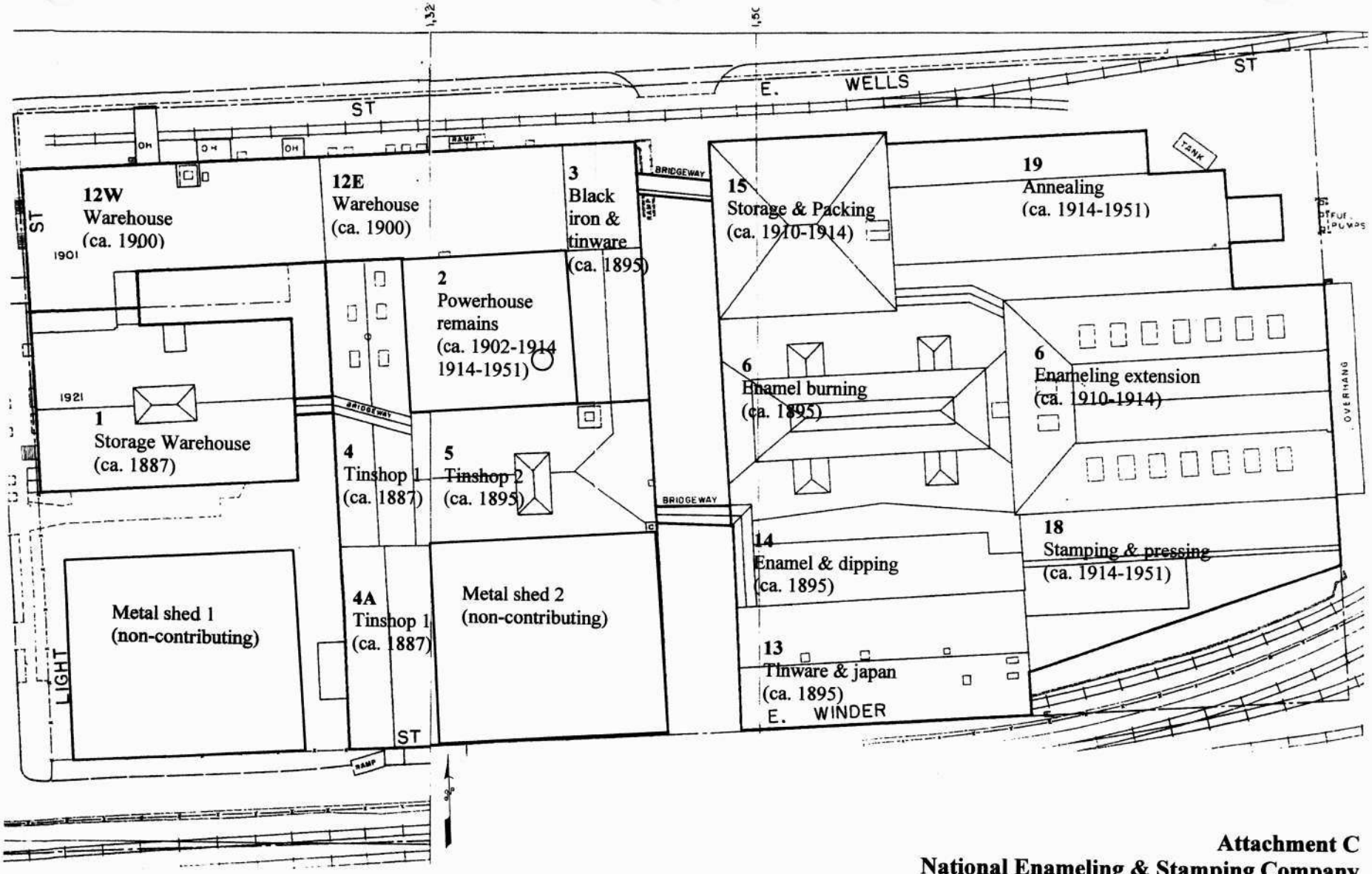
Attachment A	**USGS Map**
Attachment B	**National Register Boundary Map**
Attachment C	**Building Name Map showing Contributing and Noncontributing Buildings**
Attachment D	**Complex Sections Map**
Attachment F	**1890 Sanborn Map**
Attachment G	**1901-1902 Sanborn Map**
Attachment H	**1914 Sanborn Map**
Attachment I	**1951 Sanborn Map**
Attachment J	**1890 Lithograph**
Attachment K	**1895 Lithograph**
Attachment L	**1910 Lithograph**
Attachment M	**Nesco Advertisements**



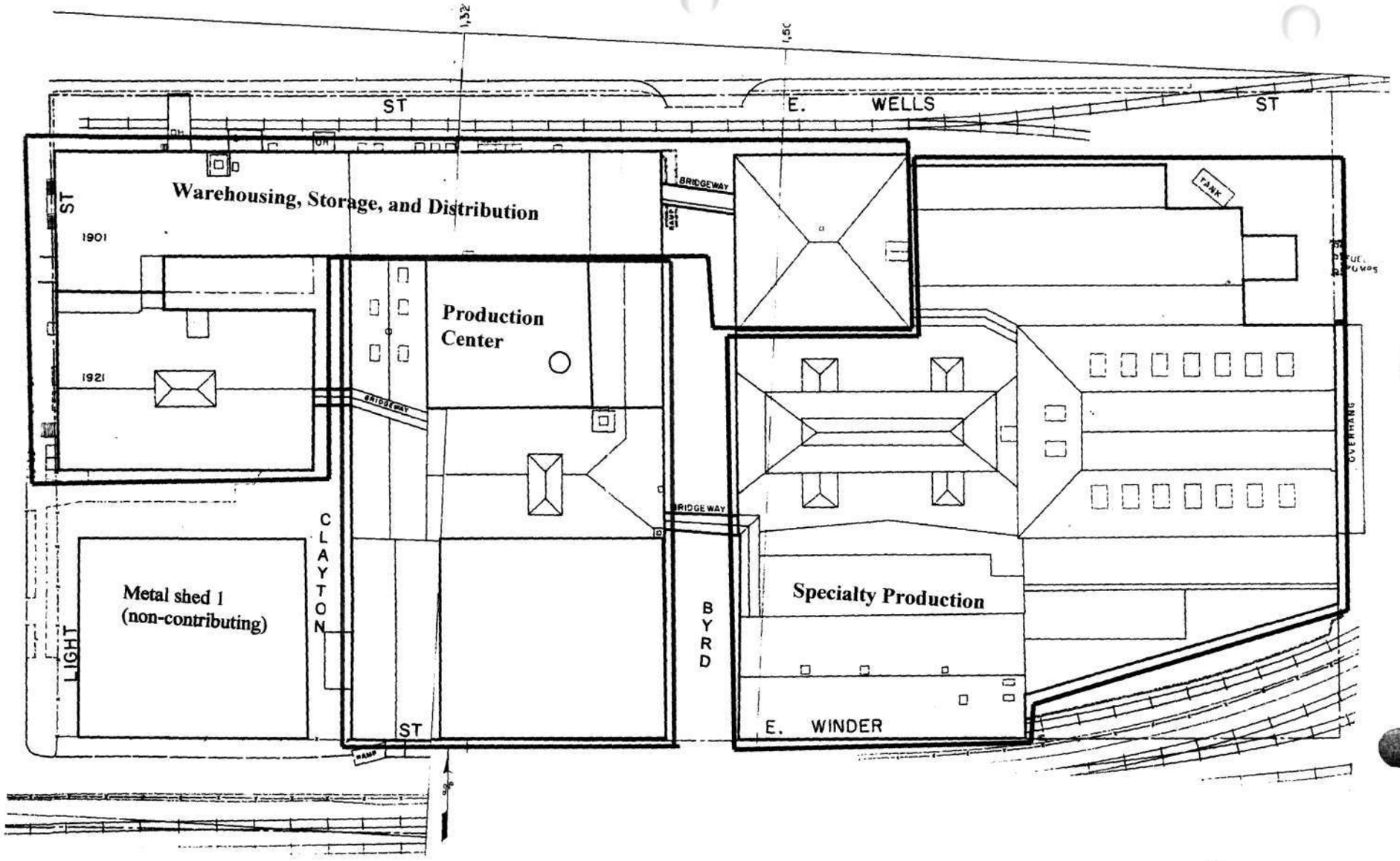
Attachment A
National Enameling & Stamping Company
B-1069
Baltimore, Maryland
Baltimore East, USGS Map
Scale 1:24,000



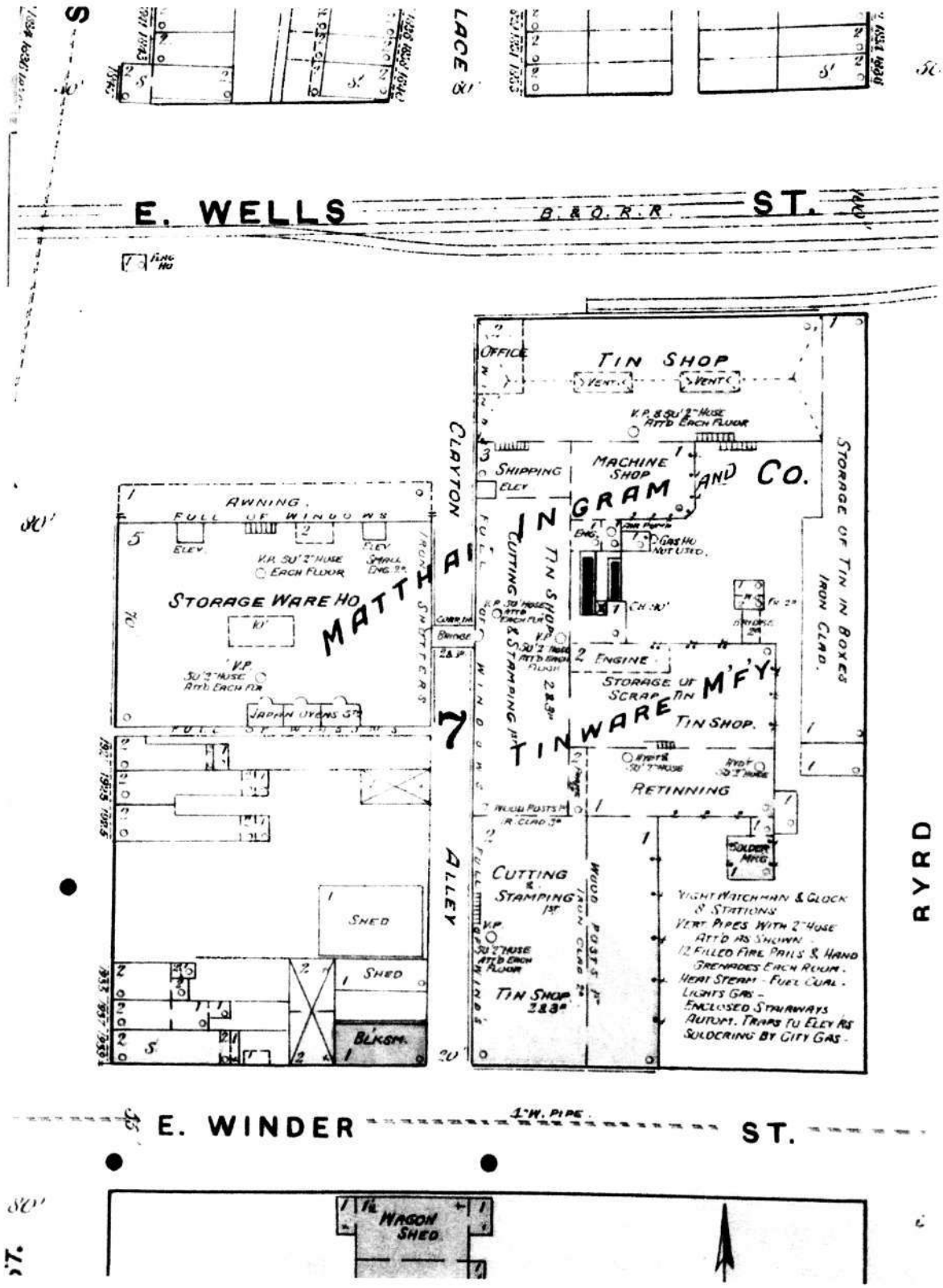
Attachment B
National Enameling & Stamping Company
B-1069
Baltimore, Maryland
National Register Boundary Map
City of Baltimore Plat Map: Ward 24, Section 6, Block 1038
Scale 1"=100'



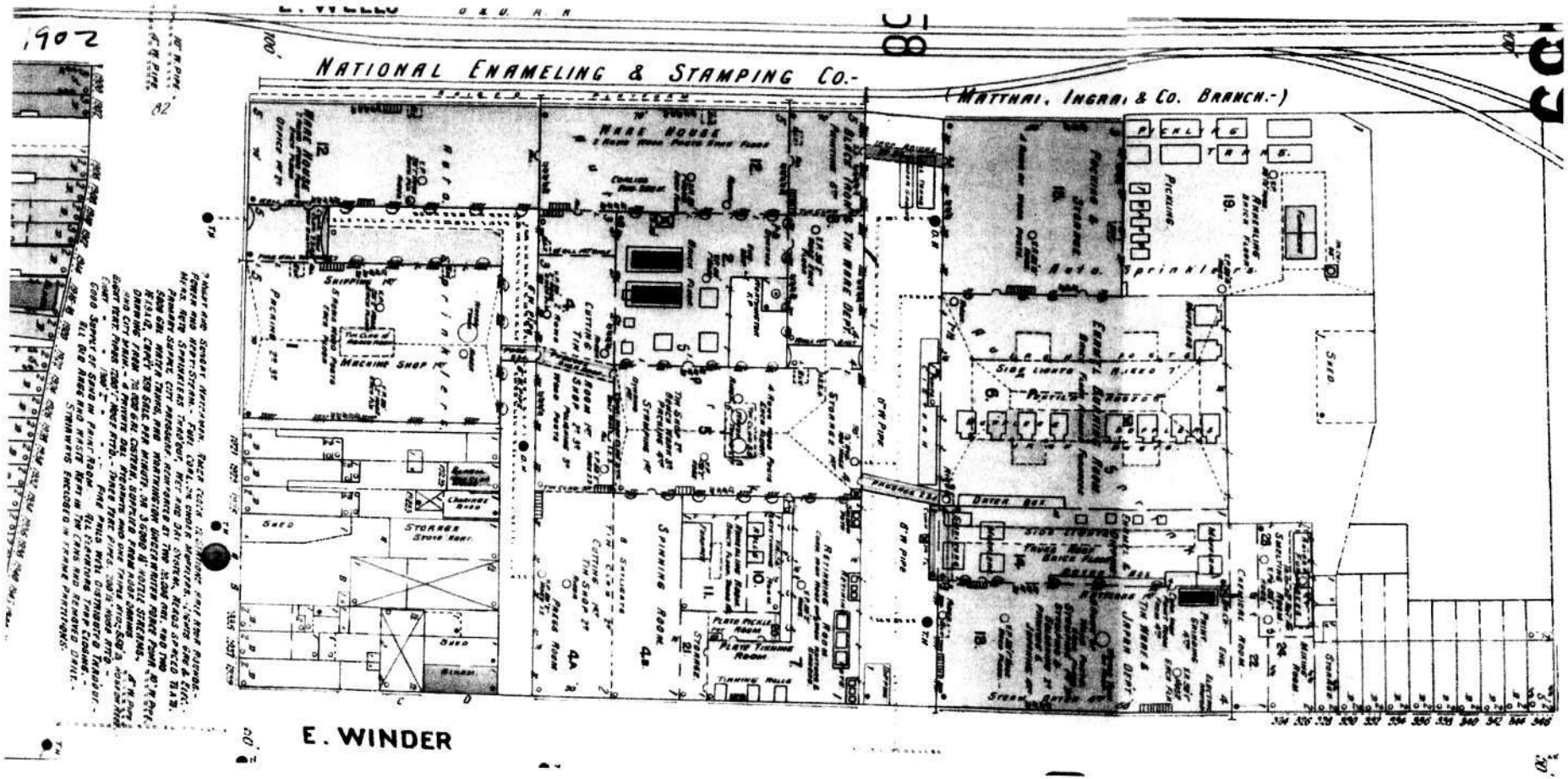
Attachment C
National Enameling & Stamping Company
B-1069
Baltimore, Maryland
Building Names
(non-contributing buildings shaded)



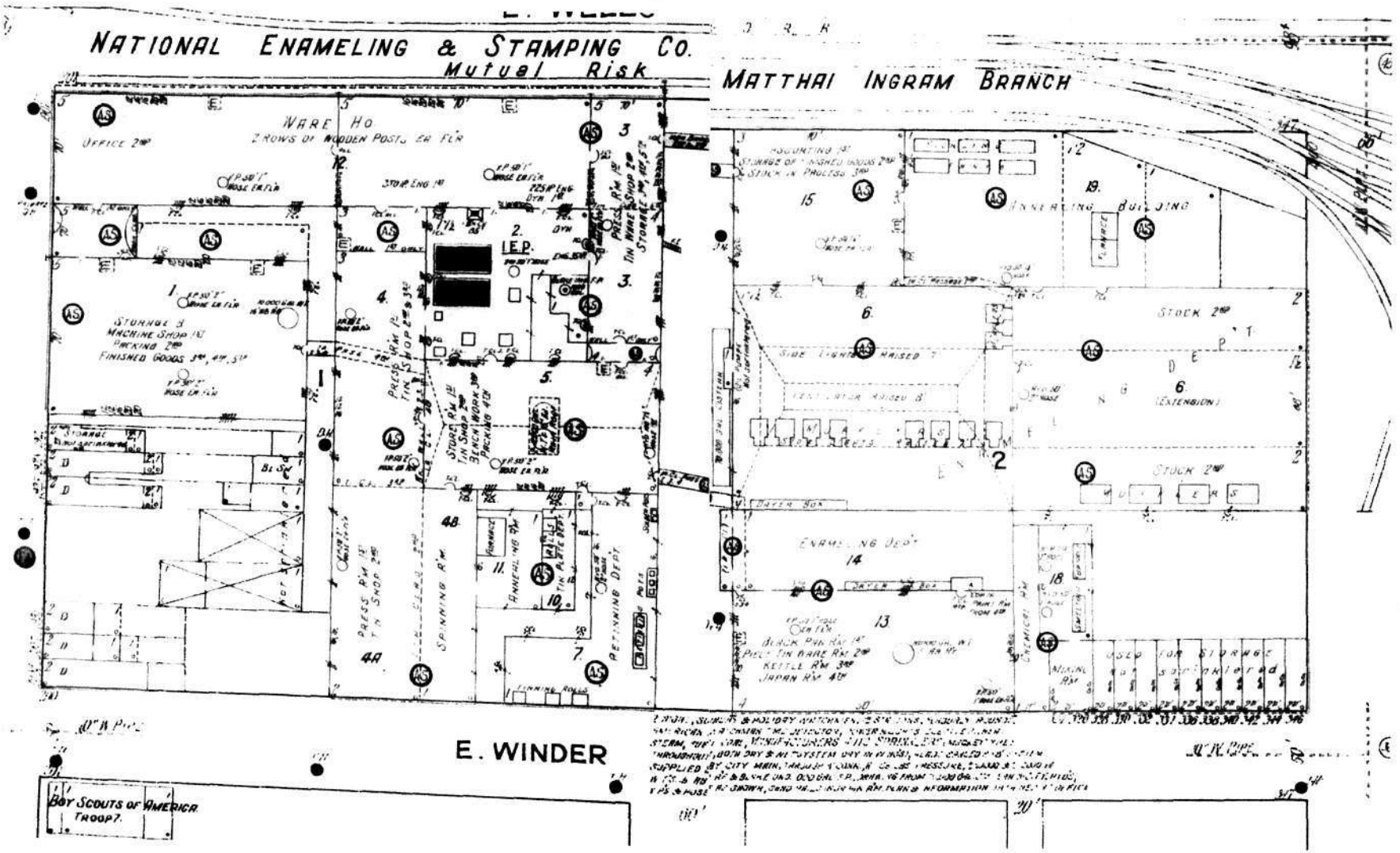
Attachment D
National Enameling & Stamping Company
B-1069
Baltimore, Maryland
Complex Sections



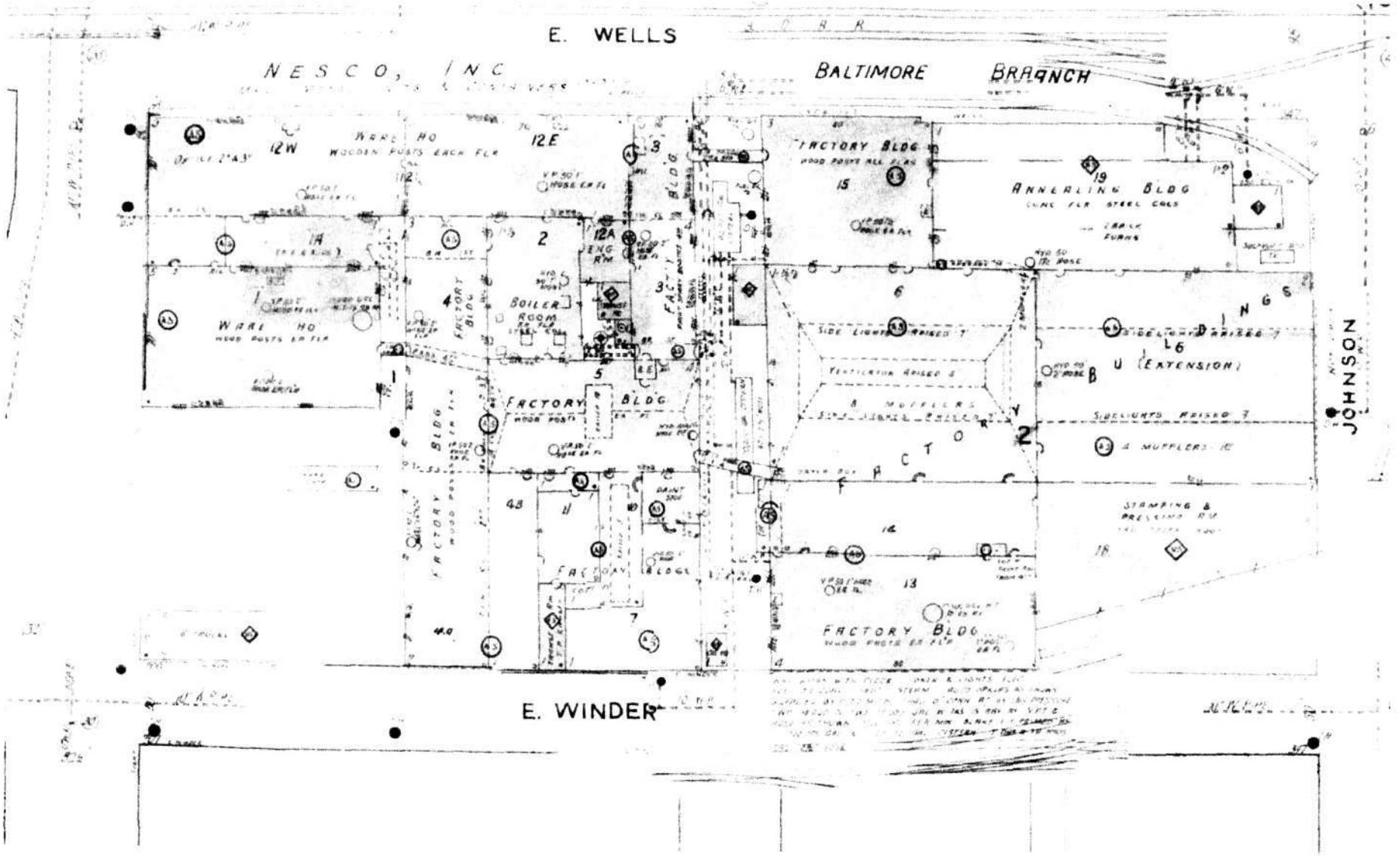
Attachment F
National Enameling & Stamping Company
B-1069
Baltimore, Maryland
1890 Sanborn Map



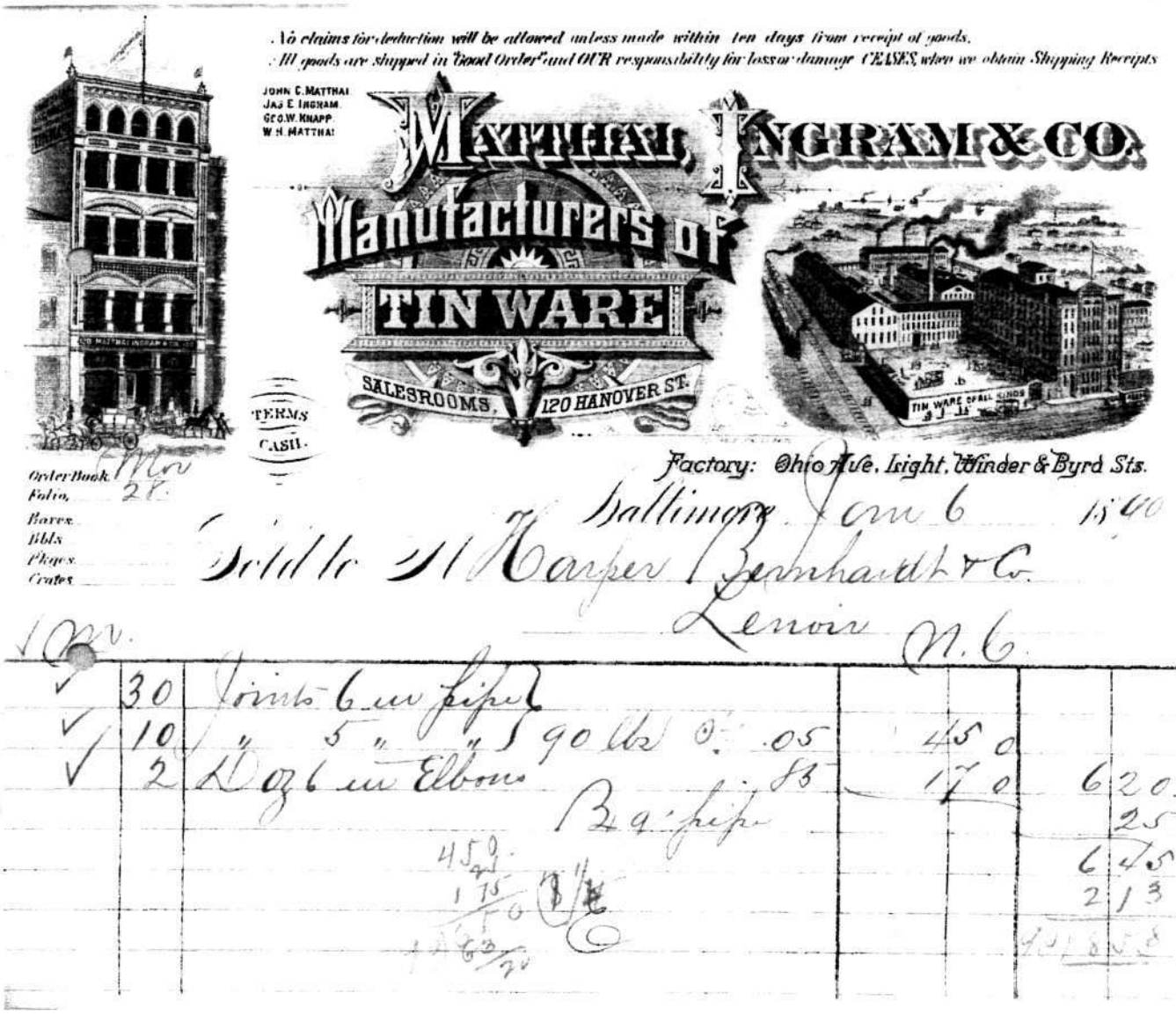
Attachment G
National Enameling & Stamping Company
B-1069
Baltimore, Maryland
1901-1902 Sanborn Map



Attachment H
National Enameling & Stamping Company
B-1069
Baltimore, Maryland
1914 Sanborn Map



Attachment I
National Enameling & Stamping Company
B-1069
Baltimore, Maryland
1951 Sanborn Map



No claims for deduction will be allowed unless made within ten days from receipt of goods.
All goods are shipped in "Good Order" and OUR responsibility for loss or damage CEASES when we obtain Shipping Receipts

JOHN C. MATTHAI
JAS E. INGRAM
GEO. W. KNAPP
W. H. MATTHAI

MATTHAI, INGRAM & CO.
Manufacturers of
TIN WARE
SALESROOMS, 120 HANOVER ST.

TERMS CASH

Factory: Ohio Ave. Light, Winder & Byrd Sts.

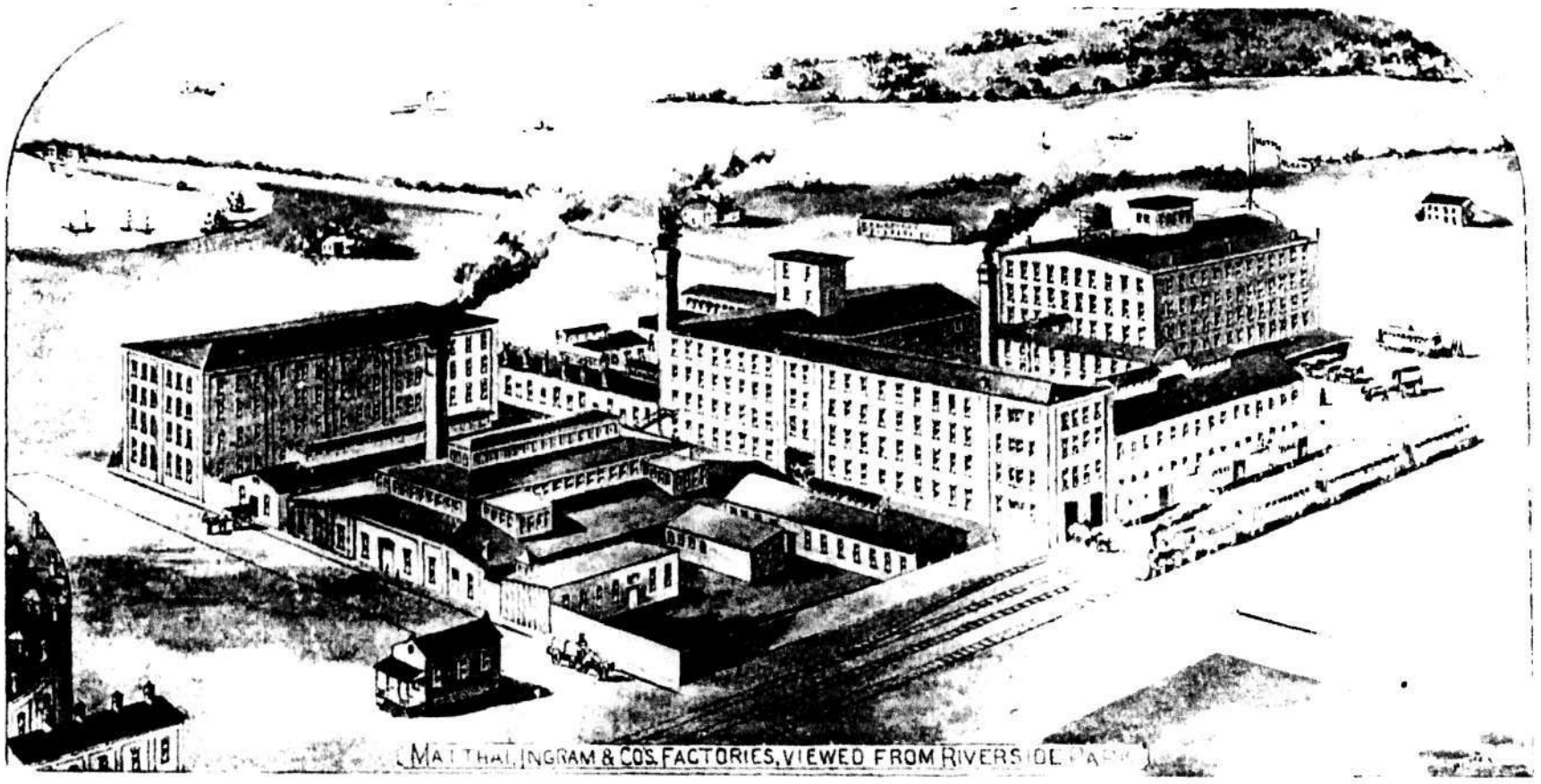
Order Book
Folio, 28
Boxes
Bbls
Pkgs
Crates

Baltimore Jan 6 1890

Sold to M Harper Bernhardt & Co.
Lenoir N.C.

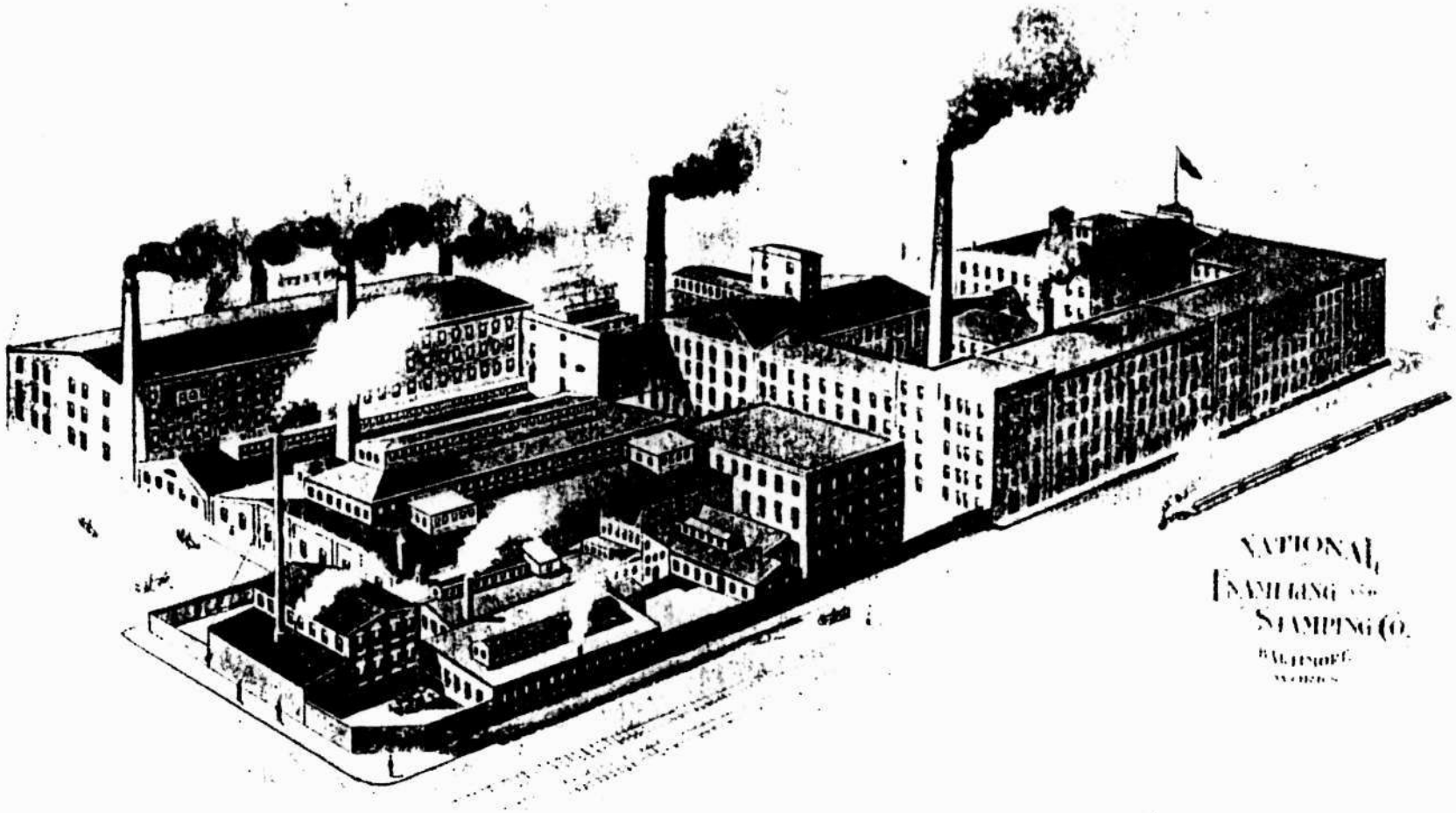
✓	30	Joints 6 in pipe			
✓	10	" 5 " " 90 lb @ .05	4 50		
✓	2	Doz 6 in Elbows .85	1 70	6 20	
		Bag pipe			25
		4 50		6 45	
		1 75		2 13	
		10			
		1 63/20		4 18 58	

Attachment J
Matthai, Ingram & Company (National Enameling and Stamping Company)
B-1069
Baltimore, Maryland
1890 Invoice



Works of Matthai, Ingram & Company, Manufacturers of Tinware, Sheet Metal Goods, etc., Ohio Avenue, Light, Winder, and Byrd Streets.

Attachment K
National Enameling & Stamping Company
B-1069
Baltimore, Maryland
George Engelhardt, *Baltimore City, Maryland*, 1895, p. 136



BALTIMORE WORKS No. 1

FLOOR SPACE, 450,000 SQUARE FEET

Attachment L
National Enameling & Stamping Company
B-1069
Baltimore, Maryland
National Enameling & Stamping Company, *General Catalog 8*, 1910.

¶ A Sauce Pan, for example, used for cooking two or three things for the same meal—filled, put on the fire, emptied, washed, filled again, onto the fire again, etc., being subjected, without rest to such continuous cooling and firing – no matter what it is made of—is bound to feel the effects more than it will the same amount of use at more widely separated periods. But if it rests between cookings the fires, as it were, of the utensil have a chance to readjust themselves for resisting better the next firing. This is no theory – it is practical fact. Ask your husband if he does not let his razors "rest." And in your own experience, haven't you found that two pairs of shoes, worn alternately, last more than twice as long as one pair worn continuously? There's the whole principle.

¶ So, as a matter of genuine money-care, have enough kitchen utensils to furnish a pot, kettle or pan for each dish—for resting them and stamping them, too.

¶ Take this hint – you'll understand it as epitomizing things – two coffee pots, used alternately will last more than twice as long and *make better coffee* than the same pot used every meal – all housewives know this.

¶ So – as in everything else – enough is economy; more or *less* than enough is waste.

¶ But—we will say frankly—if you *must* go slow in increasing your kitchen equipment—if you *must* use the same utensil for more than one dish for the same meal Nesco Royal Granite Enameled Ware will stand such usage best of all. So build up with Nesco—it will repay you in every way—cooking results and economy through service.

Royal Granite Enameled Ware

¶ Is easy to clean – stands hard knocks and hard wear. You'll recognize it by the label and its mottled gray appearance – but always look for the label to guard against those who have tried to imitate the appearance.

¶ Coated with an enamel made of the actual granite – real granite. Therefore hard, smooth and non-porous. Ask for Nesco—look for the label.

¶ Hardware and Department stores—everywhere.

STANDARD FOR TWENTY FIVE YEARS

ROYAL

ONLY THE GENUINE BEARS THIS LABEL

All Housewives

Brides

National Enameling & Stamping Company
Advertising Dep't. **Milwaukee, Wis.**

They might imitate the ware, but they cant imitate the wear

If you have any complaint or suggestion, use COMPLAINT BLANK on page 14

Attachment M
National Enameling & Stamping Company
B-1069
Baltimore, Maryland
Nesco Advertisements: 1914 "Kitchen Utensils need 'Rest'"
1923 "Make Your Kitchen Hours a Pleasure"

B-1069
NATIONAL
ENAMELING
& STAMPING
COMPANY,
BALTIMORE
CITY, MD

18-361050-
4347510

(RELAY)
5662 II NW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and City of Baltimore

Topography from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1943. Field checked 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1953

MN GN
8½°
151 MILS
0°59'
18 MILS

B-1069

National Enameling + Stamping Company

Baltimore City, Maryland

Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates

July 2002

MD SHPO

View southwest showing north + east facades of Black Iron + Tinware Department (3) + Warehouse (12).

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View southwest showing north facade of warehouse (12).

#1
#5

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
view northeast showing south and west facades of
Storage Warehouse (1) + west facade of Warehouse (12)
Note non-contributing Metal Shed 1 to south and
Tinshop 1 (4) to east.

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird - Associates
July, 2002
MD SHPO

View southeast showing North + West facades of Warehouse (12) and Storage Warehouse (1)

DO NOT
BLOCK

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July, 2002
MD SHPO
View south down Westphal Street to Warehouse (12) showing relationship of manufactory to neighboring rowhouse-lined streets.

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View west showing east elevation of Annealing Building (19), Enameling Extension (6) and Stamping + Pressing Room (18).

OPEN
OPEN
OPEN

B-1069
National Enameling and Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goad, Betty Bird & Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View southwest showing east facade of Tinshop 2 (5)
and connection to bridge.

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View southwest showing north and east facades of northern section of Blacklron + Tinware Department (3) with 5th story addition. Note ghost of bridge (now gone) and painted sign.

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Godd, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View west showing south facade of Storage Warehouse (1) and east facade of hyphen connecting Storage Warehouse (1) to Warehouse (12). Note remnants of painted ribbon sign + metal awning.

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July, 2002
MD SHPO
View northwest in yard showing south elevation of Warehouse (12E) and east elevation of Tinshop 1 (4). Note ghost of Powerhouse (now gone).

OPEN
OPEN

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View south, down Byrd Street (now closed) showing East facades of Black Iron + Tinware Department (3) and Tinshop 2 (5) and Bridge. Note chain link fence covering Sally Port to yard with stack.

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Byrd + Associates
July 2002
View northeast from Byrd Street showing
west facades of Tinware + Japan Department (13)
Enamel + Dipping Room (14), Enamel Burning Room (6)
+ bridge connecting Tinshop 2 (5) to Tinware and Japan
Department (13).

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View east in yard showing stack with west elevation of Black Iron + Tinware Department (3) and North elevation of Tinshop 2 (5).

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View north in yard showing south elevation of Pumphouse
and base of stack.

B-1069
National Enameling & Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO

View northeast south and west facades of Tinware and Japan Department (13). Note railroad tracks located south of building.

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View southeast showing west facade of Enamel Burning Room (16) from Byrd Street.

THE BECKER
GROUP

B-1069
National Enameling and Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View southwest showing north and east elevations of Enameling Extension (6).

5020102 100566 0086

GROUP
OFFICE

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View southeast showing north + west facades
of Storage and Packing Building (15)

B-1069
National Enameling and Stamping Company.
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View west showing south and east elevations of
Stamping and Pressing Room (18).

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View west showing north and east elevations of
Annealing Building (19).

#4

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
view southeast showing detail of Warehouse (12).
Note remnant of rail spur, loading docks + bay
windows that mark historic location of office.

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View northwest showing non-contributing building
Metal Shed 2

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View northwest Warehouse (12E), ground floor,
showing heavy timber structure.

RENTA
LEASING

B-1069

National Enameling and Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates

July 2002

MD SHPO

View east Warehoose (12W) into Warehouse (12E), ground floor, showing firewall construction. Note early 20th c. graffiti.

ARDIAN
CHINT

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View southeast Storage Warehouse (1), ground floor, showing open plan space + timber structure.

834 D

B-1069
National Enameling & Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird & Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View northeast Tinshop 2 (5), ground floor, showing open plan space and timber structure

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View east Tinware and Japan Department (13) ground floor. Note heavy timber structure and diagonal wood strip flooring.

9

B-1069

National Enameling + Stamping Company

Baltimore City, Maryland

Jennifer Godd, Betty Bird + Associates

July 2002

MD SHPO

View east, ground floor, Enamel + Dipping Room (14)

Note truss span and skylit monitor.

BECKER G

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Goold, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View Northwest ground floor Enameling Extension
(6) showing steel columns and beams and wood joists
forming structural system + open plan space

FIRE EXIT

B-1069
National Enameling + Stamping Company
Baltimore City, Maryland
Jennifer Gould, Betty Bird + Associates
July 2002
MD SHPO
View southwest, ground floor, Enamel Burning Room(6)
Showing cast iron columns with wood beams and
joists. Note skylit monitor.

#B-1069
National Enameling and Stamping
Company

Statement of Significance

Between 1888 and 1956 the buildings at 1901 Light Street in Baltimore were the home of Nesco, Inc. formerly National Enameling and Stamping Company and Matthai, Ingram and Company one of the world's largest and most important manufacturers of tin ware. They were innovative in the mechanization of household tinware production and were instrumental in changing the tinware industry from a semi-skilled trade into a major commercial enterprise. Its directors were men of great ability who designed and patented their own machines and built the company into one of the largest of its kind in the world. Founded in 1869, by 1895 the company employed about 1000 people and had floor space of more than eight acres.

B-1069
MAGI#0410695614

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
National Enameling & Stamping Co. (Matthai, Ingram & Co.)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1901 Light Street

CITY, TOWN
Baltimore ___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	X UNOCCUPIED	X COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
MLS Company (Mark Eisenberg) Telephone #: (301) 467-2900

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN ___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: RHB 3598
Folio #: 152

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Baltimore City Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Fayette and Calvert Streets

CITY, TOWN
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
None

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-1069

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
X FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Matthai, Ingram and Company moved to 1901 Light Street after a fire in their factory at Lexington and Arch Streets in 1886. They purchased existing heavy timber and masonry buildings on the site, to which they added, in 1887, a five-story heavy timber framed brick building on the east side of Light, between Wells and Winder Streets. This building has large timber columns, five rows across and nine rows deep, on each floor and was used for packing and shipping finished products as well as having a machine shop on the first floor. The roof is surmounted by a monitor. The loading platforms on the Light Street facade have cast iron plates in the door recesses into which are cast the date and company's initials. Matthai, Ingram and Company were to include this feature on two other buildings - in 1895 and 1897, both heavy timber framed as well.

The enamel burning shop occupies an interesting one-story building fronting on Byrd Street but otherwise surrounded by other construction. Probably built in the late 1880's or early 1890's, it has an elaborate truss system which supports a gently sloping roof and provides a large uninterrupted space. A clerestory with with twenty-pane windows, above which is a long monitor, provides light and ventilation for the smoke and heat generated by eight or ten mufflers - a special type of oven/furnace - for fusing the vitreous enamel on the sheet iron housewares. Although the truss members themselves are wooden, there is extensive use of iron in the system. A row of cast iron columns, one on each side, directly below the windows, supports wooden beams and braces which are set into metal shoes. In addition the truss is held together by vertical iron rods bolted through the beams; iron rods in tension around hanging metal plates support the side roofs.

A two-story eastern addition to the enamel burning shop built early in the 20th century employs lattice steel columns and trusses without any structural timber, the only building of its kind at the site.

A multi-purpose timber frame building was constructed at the northeast corner of Winder and Byrd, using eight large wooden posts on each of the four floors. Stamping was undertaken on the first and second floors, soldering on the second floor, and paint grinding, and painting and japanning on the fourth floor. Stamping was the process by which the flat metal plates were formed into useful shapes. Japanning is a procedure for coating tinware (and other materials) with opaque varnishes;

cont'd.....

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

B-1069

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/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	X ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	X INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		X INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Between 1888 and 1956 the buildings at 1901 Light Street in Baltimore were the home of Nesco, Inc. formerly National Enameling and Stamping Co., and Matthai, Ingram & Co., one of the world's largest and most important manufacturers of tin ware. They were innovative in the mechanization of household tinware production and were instrumental in changing the tinware industry from a semi-skilled trade into a major commercial enterprise. Its directors were men of great ability who designed and patented their own machines and built the company into one of the largest of its kind in the world. Founded in 1869, by 1895 the company employed about 1000 people and had floor space of more than eight acres.

Historical Significance

Although the company that became Nesco, Inc. did not occupy space at 1901 Light Street until 1887 it was already a major factor in the tinware industry. John C. Matthai, a blacksmith and carriage builder, had opened a small tin shop in 1869 at 131 Lexington Street and soon realized the potential of mechanizing the production of tin housewares. In 1870 Matthai formed a partnership with his son-in-law James Ingram--also a tinner--and called the company Matthai & Ingram. Together they produced coffee pots, covered buckets, oil and lard cans, wash boilers, milk pails, etc. and business grew such that they moved to 52 N. Howard Street in 1872. In the new quarters they added japanned wares to their production and were joined by another tinner--George W. Knapp--calling themselves Matthai, Ingram & Company.

Knapp was the mechanical genius of the company and built and patented machines which increased production to such an extent that they moved again--to Lexington and Arch Streets; and in 1881 they opened offices and store rooms in a new multi-story building on Hanover Street--between Pratt and Lombard. As the company continued to grow they were joined by Matthai's son, William Henry (who in 1896 became one of the founders of United States Fidelity and Guaranty) and in the mid 1880's they expanded into national markets.

Cont'd.--

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

B-1069

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ivory and Vertical Files, Enoch Pratt Free Library
Maryon Herbert, Metal Work and Enamelling (London, Champman and Hull, Ltd. 1912)
Blinn, Leroy J., TM, Sheet-iron and Copper-plate Worker, (New York Henry Carey Baird & Co., Inc., 1920)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Robert Weis, Researcher

ORGANIZATION
Baltimore Industrial Museum

DATE
December 1980

STREET & NUMBER
217 North Charles Street

TELEPHONE
(301) 396-1931-36

CITY OR TOWN
Baltimore

STATE
Maryland 21201

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

B-1069

The enamel and dipping room was located in a long narrow one-story building between the 1895 building and the enamel burning room. This building contained smelters and dryers for coating and drying the wares which then went into the enamel burning rooms.

The buildings on the northwest corner of Winder and Byrd were used for preparing the tin plates. A small interior building was the platetinning room, attached to which, with a brick floor and truss roof, was the annealing room. Along Byrd Street was a large retinning room with Belgian trusses holding a corrugated iron roof.

Across Byrd Street from the enamel burning room is a large four-story wood framed building which had stamping machines on the first floor, a tin shop on the second, with the third floor used for bench work and the fourth floor for packing. The building to the west of this one, fronting on the alley, wood framed also, but only three floors, was used for cutting on the first floor, with a tin shop on the second and third floors, and polishing taking place on the third floor as well.

A long five-story building on the West side of Byrd with a four-bay front on Wells Street housed the black iron and tin ware department. Painting was undertaken on the fifth floor. Like most of the other buildings, this is also brick with the interior framed by a single row of heavy timber columns in the middle of each floor.

Because B & O rail siding ran along Wells Street,buildings with frontage there were used for handling finished products, except at the very east end, where the building (no longer standing) held pickling tanks used to clean iron and steel with dilute sulphuric acid before tinning or enameling. The other buildings, all dating from 1897 or later were, built using heavy timber posts, some with iron collars at their junction with the beams. The building on the east side of Byrd Street, three stories, was used for packing and storage, and the long narrow building running east along Wells from its intersection with Light was the warehouse built in 1897, and which had offices on the lower three floors at the corner. At the ground floor was a wooden loading platform, now removed and replaced in some places by concrete piers.

The courtyard formed by the 1897 warehouse, the black iron and tin ware department building, and the t n cutting room and stamping room buildings are housed in the smokestack and boiler room. Two coal-converted-to-oil boilers remain, although no longer in use. They produced steam for three engines which in 1898 had a combined energy of 250 h.p. By 1912 there was a 250 h.p. Corliss engine in the 1897

B-1069

warehouse and electric motors were in use in other parts of the factory.

The buildings on Winder Street behind the annealing rooms and cutting and stamping rooms, are possibly the oldest buildings at the site, predating Matthai, Ingram and Company's move in 1887. They used the western most timber and brick building as a continuation of the cutting room and tin shop, and it also contained a press room. The eastern half housed the spinning room, where flat sheets of iron or steel could be formed into rounded seamless objects by bending over a form while it spun on a lathe.

Stylistically the site is very plain. There are few special details - bay windows in the offices of the 1897 warehouse, and brick corbelling at the cornices of several buildings - but in its entirety the complex is very impressive for its size and by the fact that it is nearly complete to this day. All the buildings have large sash windows, now almost entirely covered to prevent vandalism, which would give the facility a uniform appearance - from the outside - in spite of slight differences of detail and construction dates.

B-1069

After a fire in the factory in 1886 they purchased and renovated the buildings at Light Street, moving shortly thereafter. They continually enlarged and improved the facilities and quickly became one of the largest physical plants in Baltimore--employing about 1000 people and occupying nearly half a million square feet. They remained at the site until Nesco, Inc. left Baltimore in the mid 1950's.

Having achieved a remarkable degree of success, in 1899 Matthai, Ingram & Company merged with three other large and successful tinware manufacturers in Milwaukee, St. Louis and New York to form National Enameling and Stamping Company--producing tin, enamel and galvanized wares at plants in the four cities. In 1910 they added Keen & Hagerty, a Baltimore firm which had made tin cups and camp stoves during the Civil War. Keen and Hagerty produced at a separate Baltimore location until 1926 when they moved their operations to the Light Street plant. By World War I the Company advertised as one of the largest manufacturers of housewares in the world.

In 1950 the name was changed to Nesco, Inc., and in 1953 the Light Street plant was producing five million dollars in tin goods--including dust pans, radiator covers, trash, garbage and waste paper cans, oil cans, canister sets, wash tubs, frying pans, buckets, watering cans, trays and picnic baskets. Shortly thereafter they stopped making tinware and specialized in galvanized and lithographed wares: such as buckets, garbage cans, decorated serving trays and boxes. The plant closed completely by 1958.

Their supplies and markets through the years had both foreign and local connections. Tin was not mined in the United States so a convenient port was necessary for the manufacturer. As business expanded South and West, the railroad played a major role in the distribution of the products. Much was sold locally as well: in 1952 100,000 garbage cans were sold in the Baltimore area alone. In later years 95% of the 12,000 tons of steel used by Nesco, Inc. for the lithographed metal products came from the Sparrows Point mills of Bethlehem Steel. Many local men and women were employed by Nesco at their Light Street plant; and in 1937, 375 workers struck the company for 24 days--complaining that, among other things, Nesco employees made more in Milwaukee than in Baltimore.

Since 1958 the property has been used as warehouses for several local commercial, industrial and shipping enterprises.

National Enameling & Stamping Co. (Matthai, Ingram & Co.)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES, con'd, page 2

Singer, Charles, ed., A History of Technology, vol. 5 (Oxford U. Press, 1958)

Howard, George, Monumental City (1876) pp. 443-4

Mercantile Advancement, Co., Baltimore: The Gateway to the South, 1898, p.61

Baltimore American, The Monumental City: The Liverpool of America (Illustrated Ed. 1895), p. 108

Historical Publishing Company, 1882, Industries of Maryland (Baltimore, April 1953), pp. 250, 335

Baltimore, Its History and Its People, V. II (Biographies) (N.Y. & Chicago, Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1912), pp. 126-29

NAER INVENTORY

U.S. Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

1. SITE I.D. NO: B 1 0 6 9

2. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION: Manufacturing

3. PRIORITY

4. DANGER OF DEMOLITION? (SPECIFY THREAT) ☐ YES ☐ NO ☐ UNKNOWN

5. DATE

6. GOVT SOURCE OF THREAT — OWNER — ADMIN

7. OWNER/ADMIN: MLS Company (Mark Eisenberg)

8. NAME(S) OF STRUCTURE

9. OWNER'S ADDRESS

10. STATE / COUNTY: M D — COUNTY NAME — CITY/VICINITY: Baltimore — CONG. DIST. 3

STATE / COUNTY: M D — COUNTY NAME — CITY/VICINITY: Baltimore — CONG. DIST. 3

11. SITE ADDRESS (STREET & NO): 1901 Light Street

12. EXISTING SURVEYS: ☐ NR ☐ NHL ☐ HABS ☐ HAER—I ☐ HAER ☐ NPS ☐ CLG ☐ CONF ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL ☐ OTHER

13. SPECIAL FEATURES (DESCRIBE BELOW): ☐ INTERIOR INTACT ☐ EXTERIOR INTACT ☐ ENVIRONS INTACT

14. UTM ZONE: 18 — EASTING: 361000 — NORTHING: 4347560 — SIGN — SCALE: ☒ 1:24 ☐ 1:62.5 ☐ OTHER — QUAD NAME

UTM ZONE — EASTING — NORTHING — SIGN — SCALE: ☐ 1:24 ☐ 1:62.5 ☐ OTHER — QUAD NAME

15. CONDITION: 70 ☐ EXCELLENT 71 ☐ GOOD 72 ☐ FAIR 73 ☐ DETERIORATED 74 ☐ RUINS 75 ☐ UNEXPOSED 76 ☒ ALTERED ☐ DESTROYED 85 ☐ DEMOLISHED

16. INVENTORIED BY: Robert Weis — AFFILIATION: Baltimore Industrial Museum — DATE: Dec., 1980

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

Between 1888 and 1956 the buildings at 1901 Light Street in Baltimore were the home of Nesco Inc., one of the world's largest and most important manufacturers of tinware. The were innovative in the mechanization of household tinware production and were instrumental in changing the tinware industry from a semi-skilled trade into a major commercial enterprise. Its directors were men of great ability who designed and patented their own machines and built the company into one of the largest of its kine in the world. Founded in 1869, by 1895 the company employed about 1000 people and had floor space of more than eight acres.

(CONT OVER)

18. ORIGINAL USE: Tinware factory — PRESENT USE: Vacant — ADAPTIVE USE:

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

Vertical files, Enoch Pratt Central Library
M. Herbert, Metal Work and Enameling (1912) (London)
L.J. Blinn, Tin, Sheet-iron, and Copper Plate Worker (N.Y. 1920)

(CONT OVER)

20. URBAN AREA 50,000 POP. OR MORE? ☒ YES ☐ NO

21.

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

B-1069

25. PHOTOS AND SKETCH MAP OF LOCATION

Significance

REFERENCES (CONTINUED)

ABSTRACT

HAER NO	LC	TECH REPORT	HIST REPORT	CONTEMP PHOTO	HIST PHOTO	CONTEMP DRWG	HIST DRWG	COLOR PLATE	PHOTOGRAM	SW	FILM

NATIONAL ENAMELING + STAMPING CO.

18³ 61000 4347560

NATIONAL ENAMELING & STAMPING COMPANY
BALTIMORE, MD
U.S.G.S. 7.5' BALTO. EAST QUAD
18³ 6100 4347560

B-1069

OPEN

B-1069

Nat'l Enameling & Stamping
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 South Building Looking East

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 Looking Northeast

OPEN
OPEN

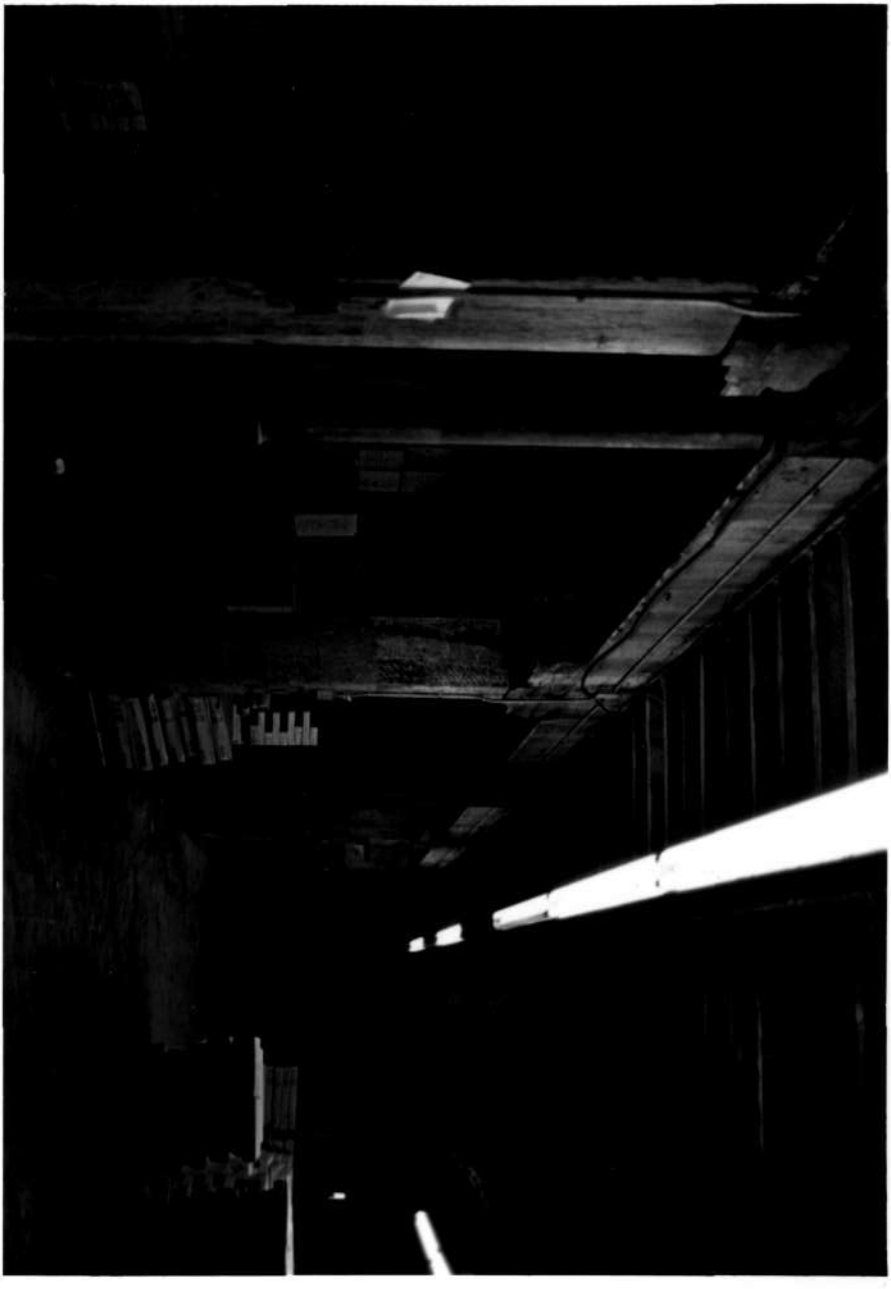
B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November. 1980 South Building

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 South Building

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 East facade/Storage

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November. 1980

West Building - Det
Ground Floor



B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980

West Building - Det

SOL

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980

West Building
Det.

NO
SMOKING

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980

West Building - Det. of roof construction

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November. 1980 ROOF FRAMING 97

roof framing

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 TOP FLOOR-LOOKING W.

West Building - 3
(1897) Top floor looking west

CB 1897 Bldg
Top floor - looking west

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Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980

West Building
Top floor

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 ROOF FRAMING AT L

1897 Bldg

roof framing at L

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980

Southwest Building (1887)
roof framing

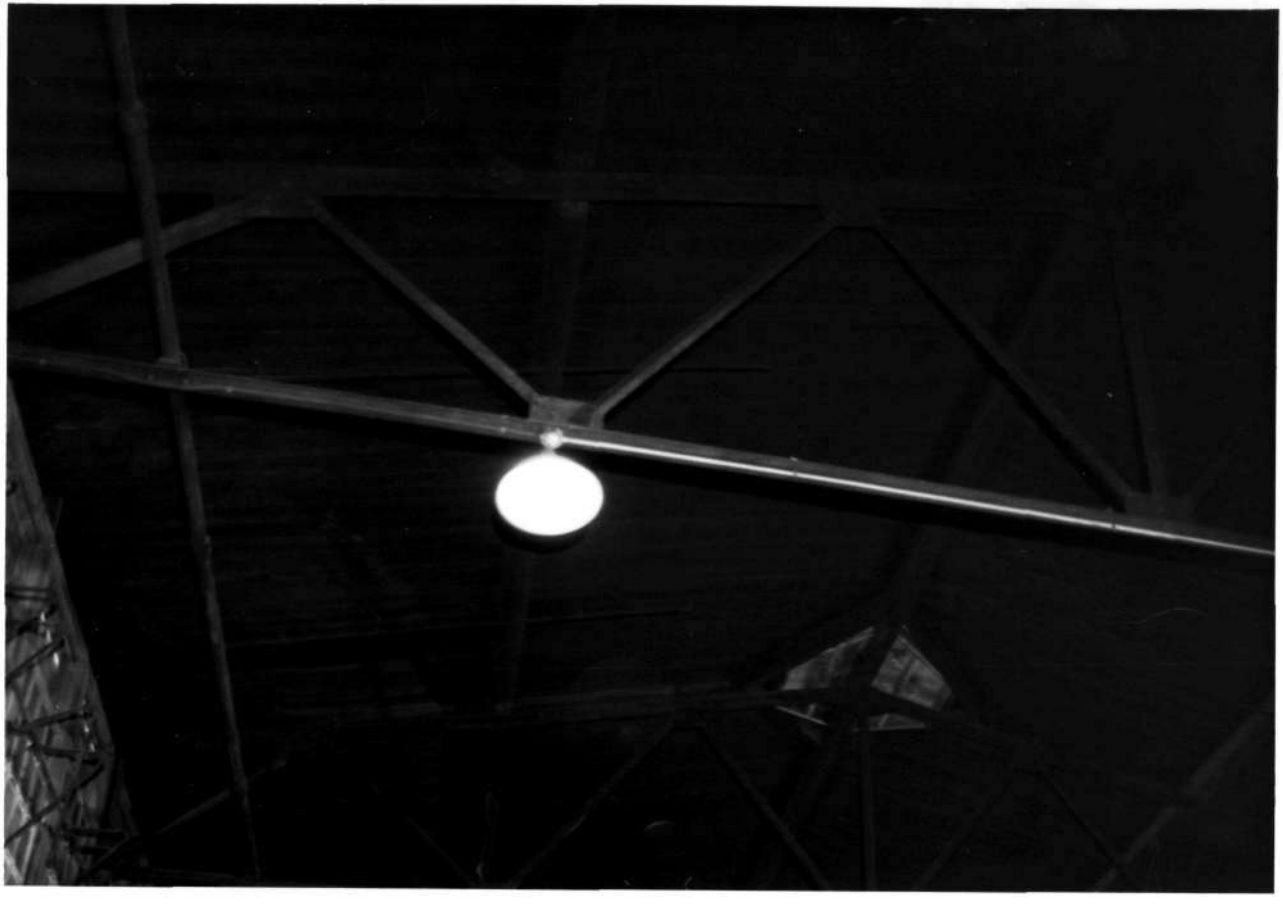
B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 2ND FLOOR - LOOKING EAST

1897 Bldg

2nd fl looking east

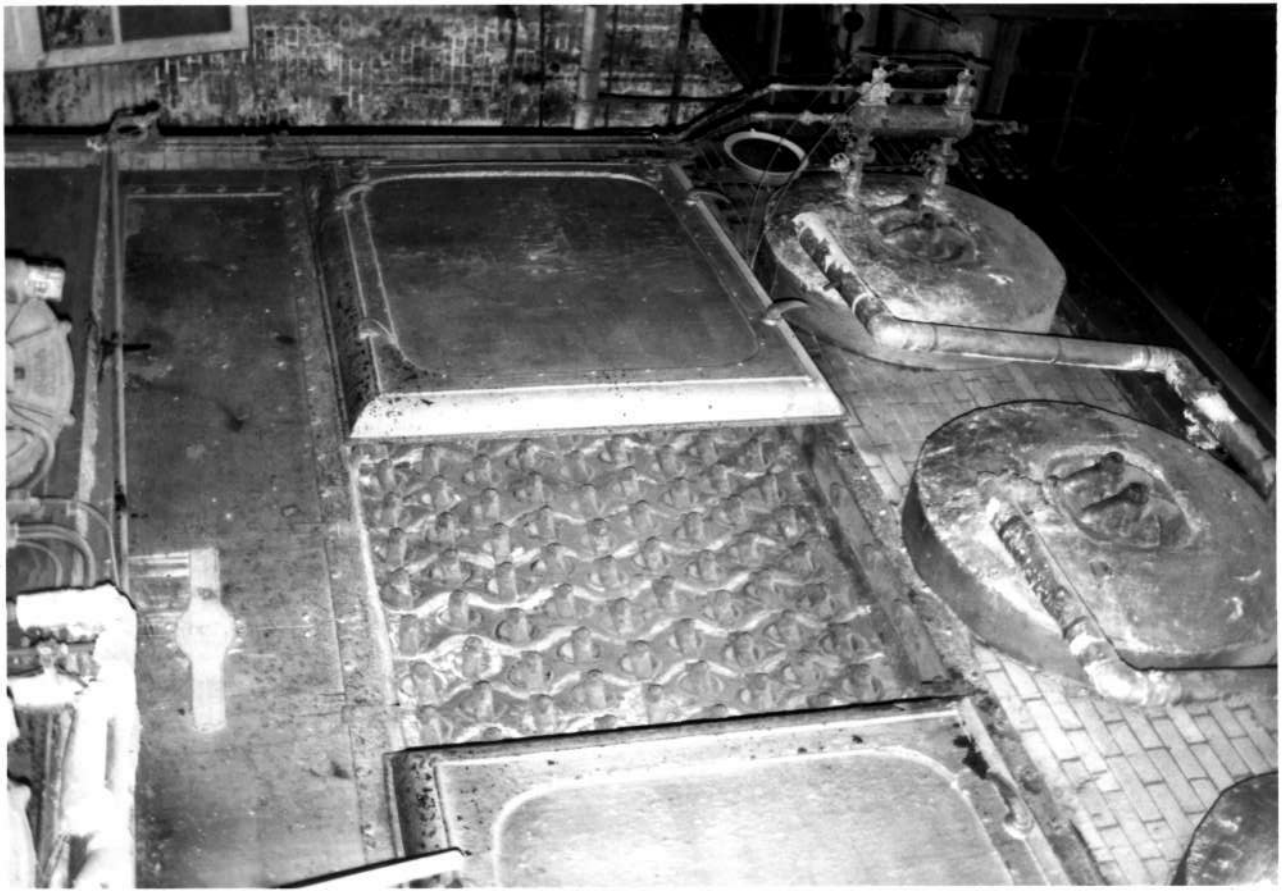
B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala 11-80
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
3RD FLOOR - S.W. Building

1887
3rd fl.



B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & StampingCo
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980

Eastern Storage Building
Metal truss



BOILERS

B-1069

Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala 11-80
Neg. Loc.: MD Historic Trust
Boilers

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
NOvember, 1980

Eastern Storage Building
webbed column + riveted
truss

NAT'L ENAMELING & STAMPING CO.
BALTIMORE, MD
PHOTO: DENNIS ZEMBALA
NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST
NOV. 1980 West Bldg./Machine Shaft

B-1069

hanger bracket

E. HUMBOLDT
(U.S.A.)

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & StampingCo.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.; MD Historic Trust
November, 1980

south wall of enameling building/now enclosed

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 LOOKING WEST

Enameling House

looking west

12
16

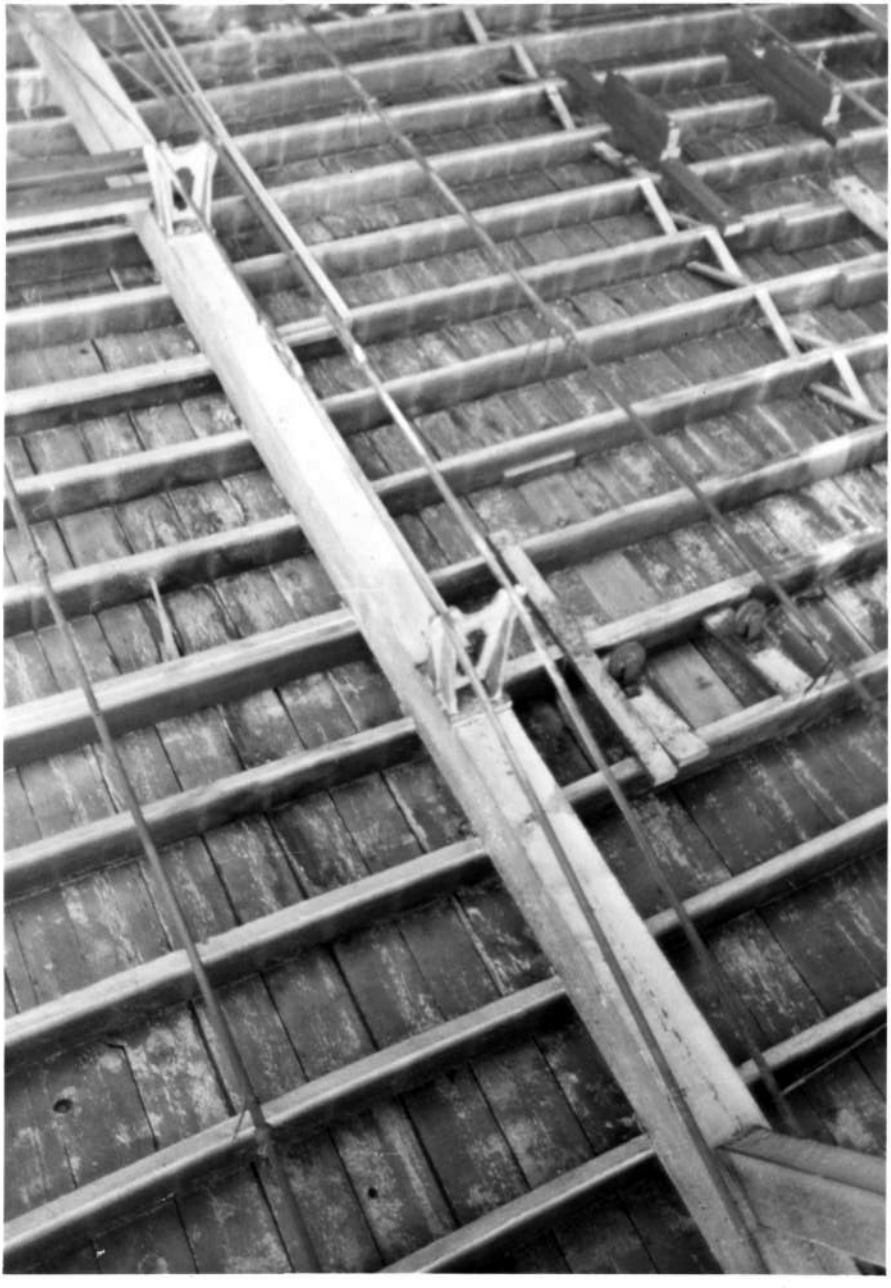
B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November. 1980 Enameling House

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980

Enameling House
Det: Truss

looking North

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 Enameling House



B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 Enameling House
Trussed beam

STOP

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 Looking Southeast

STOP

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 West facade

OPEN
OPEN
OPEN
OPEN

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 Looking South

BLDG
GW
B.K
KKBE
KK
B.E
BK

NATIONAL ENAMELING & STAMPING CO.
BALTIMORE, MD
PHOTO: DENNIS ZEMBALA 11/80
NEG. LOC: MD HISTORIC TRUST
West Facade - Enameling House

B-1069

MPANY.
LEASE

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 Northwest Corner

OPEN
OPEN
SHAFTWAY
OPEN
SHAFTWAY
OPEN
SHAFTWAY

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Hsitoric Trust
November, 1980 North facade

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 West Facade

B-1069

Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co
Baltimore, MD
photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 Det. West facade

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 Det. Enameling House

M.I.T. Col
1887

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co
Baltimore, MD
Photo; Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 Det. West facade

1

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping Co.
Baltimore, MD
Photo: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November, 1980 Det. West facade

NO TRESPASSING
1K.1.00
1897

B-1069
Nat'l Enameling & Stamping CO
Baltimore, MD
'hoto: Dennis Zembala
Neg.Loc.: MD Historic Trust
November 1980 Cast-iron plaque