

HA-814

S.J. SENECA WAREHOUSE  
Havre de Grace, Md.

c. 1880

The S.J. Seneca Warehouse is a long, three story, three bay by eight bay brick and stone building with a three and a half story, three bay by five bay brick and stone addition on the rear. The warehouse was built between 1878-1885 for S.J. Seneca as part of his Fruit Packing and Can Manufacturing operation. (Mr. Seneca lived in the S.J. Seneca Mansion (HA-815) and donated the Methodist Church (HA-1125) to the town). One of the most interesting features of the warehouse is the rear section supported by massive granite buttresses on the first two stories. The facade is severely classical.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA-814

~~1308~~  
1308144611

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

S.J. Seneca Warehouse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

St. John Street and Pennington Ave., Northeast corner

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Havre de Grace

— VICINITY OF

6

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. Phillip Golbin

Telephone #: 939-4084

STREET & NUMBER

667 Chesapeake Drive

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Havre de Grace

— VICINITY OF

Maryland 21078

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Bel Air

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7A-814

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The S.J. Seneca Warehouse is a long, three story, three bay by eight bay brick and stone building with a three and a half story, three bay by five bay brick and stone addition on the rear. The warehouse was built between 1878 and 1885 for S.J. Seneca as part of his Fruit Packing and Can Manufacturing operation. Located on the Susquehanna River, the front of the building faces west on St. John Street. The grade level is higher on the front and south elevation than on the north and rear where it slopes off. Thus the first floor on the north elevation of the main block is uncoursed granite blocks surmounted by common bond brick while the facade and south elevation are common bond brick. The first two stories of the rear section are uncoursed granite buttresses—two on the east elevation and four on the north. The upper stories are common bond brick. A one story metal addition, built by American Cyanamid, who are presently rented the building, extends from the north elevation, main block and a loading platform is on the south elevation. The severely classical facade has four brick pilasters flanking three recessed panels divided by a band of brick into two stories with a recessed gable in the wall above them. This treatment continues on the first two bays of the flanks. At the rear a grassy vacant lot extends to the edge of the river. Once a railroad spur went down St. Clair Street past the warehouse to a wharf. But the railroad cut was paved over in the mid 1950's and the name of the street was changed from St. Clair Street to Pennington Ave.

Windows in the main block are 1/1 light double hung sash; most of them have small panes in the upper sash with a transom above. All of them have granite sills and lintels. On the rear sections the windows openings, having granite sills and lintels, are bricked over.

An above grade entrance to the warehouse office is in the south bay of the facade. The doorway, containing a one light transom, is recessed while the door has five panels; a granite lintel is in the wall above the entrance. Other entrances are located on the sides and rear. A vertical board door with a large wooden lintel above it is in the center of the rear elevation.

The main block has a low pitched gable roof while the roof on the rear section has a high pitch; both have ridges running east to west, covered asphalt shingles and have ventilators housing machinery rising from the ridge. A small brick interior chimney is found on the front of the main block roof.

Interior: The building, essentially one large room on each floor, contains an old freight elevator of late 19th or early 20th century vintage rising through the building to the attic. Structural framing and supports throughout the building are predictably massive.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

---

SPECIFIC DATES	c. 1880	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
----------------	---------	-------------------

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The S.J. Seneca Warehouse is a very good example of a late 19th century brick industrial building. With its severally classical facade and massive stone buttresses on the rear, the structure makes a definite architectural contribution to the Havre de Grace Waterfront.

S.J. Seneca opened a fruit packing factory with a tin can factory next to sometime shortly after 1878. The factory complex shown on the 1885 Sanborn Insurance map had grown considerably by 1899 when it was depicted on another Sanborn map. Also by 1899, Seneca had become a canned goods broker. Since the original railroad had run down St. Clair Street (now Pennington Ave.) to the river the location of the factory was advantageous for both water and rail shipping. Up until the Second World War many farmers in Harford County brought their produce to the Seneca Factory later run as Stockhams Cannery. S.J. Seneca lived at 200 North Union Ave. (HA-815), was Mayor of Havre de Grace 1893-1894 and donated the Methodist Church (HA-1125). During the Spanish-American War (1898) the U.S. Government bought Red Cross brand canned goods from the Seneca Factory.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Harford County Directory, 1953 State Directories Publ. Co.  
Sanborn Map-1885, Sanborn Map and Publ. Co. N.Y.  
Sanborn Map-1899, Sanborn-Perris Map Co. Ltd. N.Y.

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

Marion Morton-Historical Sites Surveyor

April 14, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

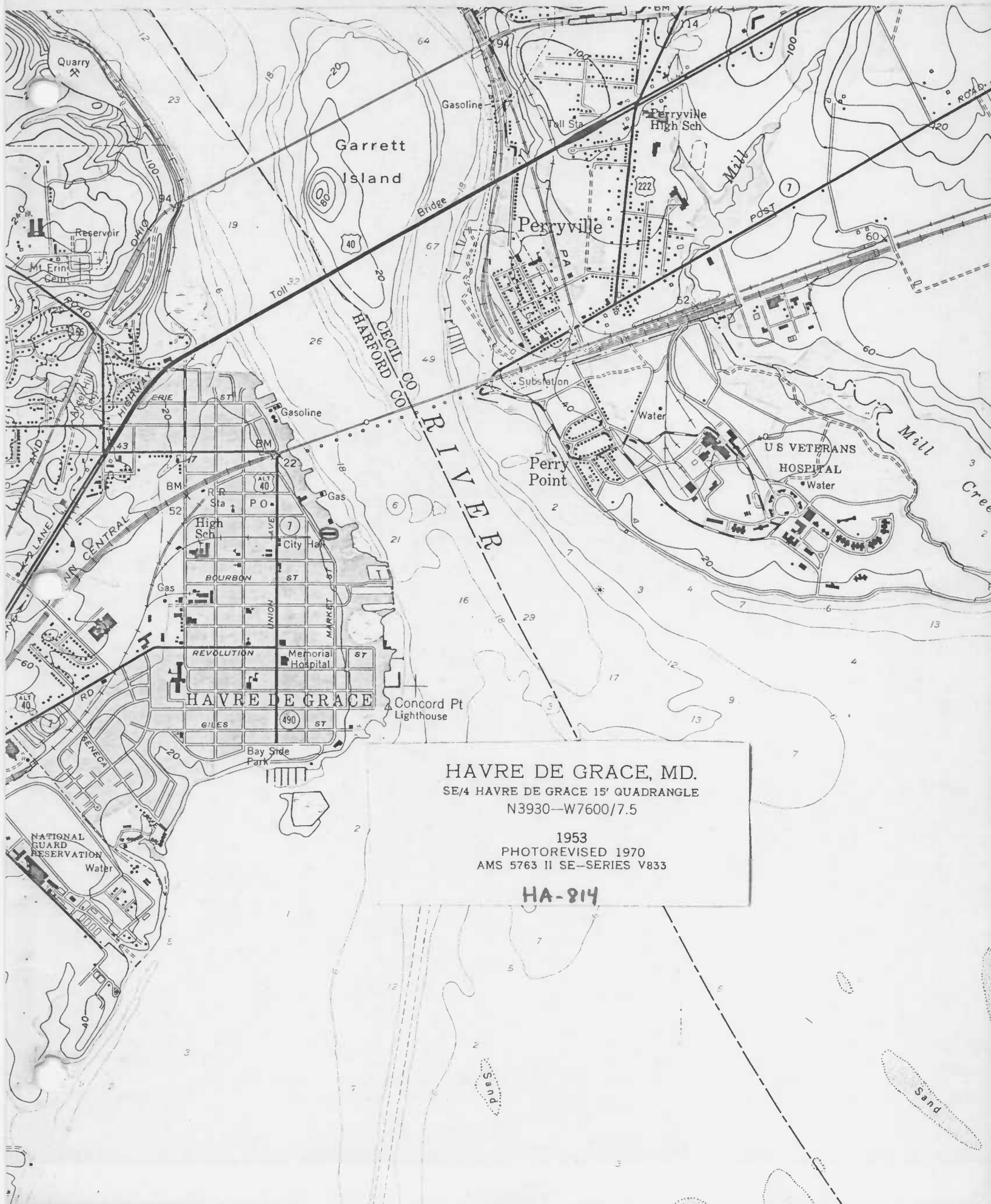
Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

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



HAVRE DE GRACE, MD.

SE/4 HAVRE DE GRACE 15' QUADRANGLE

N3930—W7600/7.5

1953

PHOTOREVISED 1970

AMS 5763 II SE—SERIES V833

HA-814



AMERICAN  
CYRAMID  
RECORDS  
BY PHONE  
TRAK 2

AMERICAN  
CYRAMID  
RECORDS  
BY PHONE  
TRAK 2

S. J. Seneca Warehouse HA-814  
St. John St + Pennington Ave.,  
Northeast corner,  
HARRODSBURG, Md.

South west Elevation / Marion Morton  
APRIL 19, 1977

22





S.J. Seneca Warehouse HA-814  
St. John St. + Pennington Ave.,  
Northeast Corner  
N. de. G. Md.  
Northeast Elevation  
Marion Morton

April 14, 1977

4