

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



459

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 American Ice Company

other names B-1040; Baltimore American Ice Company

2. Location

street & number 2100 W. Franklin Street  not for publication

city or town Baltimore  vicinity

state Maryland code MD county Baltimore (City) code 510 zip code 21233

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] 5-9-13  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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] 7.9.13  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

American Ice Company (B-1040)  
Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

**number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

VACANT/NOT IN USE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

foundation \_\_\_\_\_  
walls BRICK \_\_\_\_\_  
roof ASPHALT \_\_\_\_\_  
other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

American Ice Company (B-1040)  
Name of Property

Baltimore, MD  
County and State

### 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

#### Period of Significance

1911

#### Significant Dates

1911

#### Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Mortimer & Co., New York (architect)

Fidelity Construction Company, Baltimore (builder)

### 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:

\_\_\_\_\_

American Ice Company (B-1040)  
Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre

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

1	1	8	3	5	7	5	6	7	4	3	5	0	6	8	7
	Zone		Easting			Northing									
2															

3															
	Zone		Easting			Northing									
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 Eli Pousson, Field Officer  
Organization Baltimore Heritage date October 2012  
street & number 11 1/2 West Chase Street telephone 410-332-9992  
city or town Baltimore state MD zip code 21201

### 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 AIC Development c/o Mr. Ilya Alter, Principal  
street & number 400 MASSACHUSETTS AVE, NW #1219 telephone 301-806-0666  
city or town WASHINGTON state DC zip code 20001-6817

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-1040  
American Ice Company

---

Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD

---

County and State

Section 7 Page 1

### Description Summary:

The American Ice Company is a two-story building, rectangular in plan with a width of 21 bays along its primary facade facing south on West Franklin Street. The building is composed of two elements – a boiler room and engine room on the west side of the building and a long, narrow extension attached to the powerhouse at the east side of the building that served as the tank house where the ice was actually produced. Historically, ice storage warehouses were located at the rear of the building, beginning with a 1911 warehouse that was replaced in the 1950s by a new structure that included a row of garages. This later addition was replaced again during the 1970s with a large complex of storage warehouses that were all destroyed in a 2004 fire.

### General Description:

#### Exterior Description

The façade of the building is 21 bays wide and faces south on W. Franklin Street. The building is two stories in height with an asymmetrical façade and is constructed of red bricks laid in an American bond pattern. Each bay is slightly recessed from the main plane of the façade giving the appearance of the bays being divided by pilasters.

The most prominent portion of the façade is the entrance area -- three bays in width with a parapet that rises above the ridgeline of the rest of the structure. While the façade of the building is not symmetrical, the entrance bays are symmetrical. The entrance contains double, wood doors with glass panes. The doors are in poor condition, with missing wood panels and panes of glass. A transom tops the doors. The doors are reached by a small set of concrete steps.

Two openings flank the doors. One opening has been filled in with a louvered vent and brick. The other opening contains the original windows, which are separated by a wood mullion. The windows are proportionately tall and narrow. Multi-pane windows are topped with a four-pane hopper window. A concrete sill is present.

On the second level, there is a set of double doors that are contained in a segmental-arch opening. Like the doors on the first level, they are in poor condition with missing glass panes and wood panels. The doors are flanked by two sets of multi-pane, wood sash windows contained in segmental-arch openings.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-1040  
American Ice Company  
Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD  
County and State

Section 7 Page 2

The central portion of the entrance area features a brick parapet wall that extends from the second story on corbelled brickwork. The parapet, which extends beyond the ridgeline of the building, contains a corbelled cornice. A plaque reading "AMERICAN ICE COMPANY" is located in a recessed area of the parapet. The recessed area is topped with a brick dentil course.

No openings except the door and flanking windows are located on the first level. Recessed areas of brick are evenly spaced along the entire first level. Each area is topped with a brick dentil course.

The second level contains a series of evenly spaced window openings. Each window is enclosed in a segmental-arch opening and has a concrete sill. A band of decorative brickwork surrounds each arch head, and each recessed bay is topped with a brick dentil course. The original windows were four-over-four, double-hung, wood-frame configurations, but most are now missing, or only remnants remain. The arched openings on the easternmost two bays are filled in with bricks.

The façade displays ornate brickwork, including corbelling and dentil courses. A course of recessed, offset brickwork tops the windows, and a brick dentil course is located at the cornice line.

The original smokestack, which is now truncated, is located at the western end of the building. The smokestack is constructed of brick.

The northern elevation of the 1911 building is four bays deep and contains segmental-arched openings that have been partially filled in with concrete blocks. Small, multi-pane windows remain in the heads of the arches.

The entire eastern wall of the 1911 portion of the building has collapsed as a result of the 2004 fire. Portions of the later additions remain on this elevation and are sheathed in sheet metal that was heavily damaged in the fire. Concrete loading docks also remain. A rectangular, four-bay-deep, cinder-block addition projects off of the northern elevation as well. The north (rear) elevation of the 1911 building was connected to later additions which were destroyed in the fire.

The flat roof is covered with built-up asphalt roofing material.

The American Ice Company building is located very close to W. Franklin Street, and is separated from the roadway by only the narrow sidewalk. A parking lot is located to the east of the building. In several areas of the parking lot, Belgian block shows through asphalt. Several mature, deciduous trees are

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-1040  
American Ice Company  
Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD  
County and State

Section 7 Page 3

located on the western and northwestern portions of the property. A woven-wire fence encircles the property.

### Interior Description

The interior of the 1911 building remains largely intact, although some damage from the fire is present. The damage is concentrated primarily on sections of the north and east elevations and associated portions of the ceiling. The flooring of the building is composed of both concrete and wood planks. Interior walls are primarily exposed brick. A large room is located in the front of the building. Ice was produced in this room and much of the original equipment, including wooden block frames (located in the floor) and crane is present.

A two-story office and equipment area is located on the western end of the building. The first floor of this portion of the interior has original equipment and machinery used to cool the building to maintain an appropriate temperature for ice production. The second level, which is reached by a set of metal, spiral stairs, contains former office space that has not been used for a number of years. The fire did not impact this area.

### Integrity

Although the property's integrity of setting has been compromised by the loss of the support structures that completed the complex, the main building retains sufficient integrity to reflect both its architectural character and the property's role in Baltimore's ice industry.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-1040  
American Ice Company

---

Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD

---

County and State

Section 8 Page 1

## Summary Statement of Significance:

Constructed in 1911, the American Ice Company is an enduring reminder of West Baltimore's industrial development with a striking brick facade on W. Franklin Street and a powerhouse that backs up to the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks. At the time of its construction in the early 20th century, West Baltimore was quickly developing beyond the 1816 city line as small developers built rowhouses that soon extended west out to the Gwynns Falls. The previous decade had also witnessed significant changes in the ice industry as the business of importing natural ice from rivers and lakes in the Northeast to Mid-Atlantic and Southern cities dwindled in the face of competition from new factories that enabled businesses to supply a more regular and consistent supply of manufactured ice.

The American Ice Company is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its role in the history of the ice industry in Baltimore. As a modern ice manufacturing plant in the 1910s, the building reflects the adaptation of a large industrial enterprise to a changing technological and social landscape. The plant successfully served the growing community of residents and businesses in Baltimore, and used the adjoining railroad line to transport ice to cities that included New York and Washington, DC with greater year-round demand.

The American Ice Company building is also eligible under Criterion C as an intact example of a purpose-built ice-manufacturing plant. The rhythmic façade, arched window openings, and use of decorative brickwork are all characteristic of industrial architecture from the early 20th century. The American Ice Company developed scores of ice manufacturing plants across the east coast, but few have survived to the present.

## Resource History and Historic Context:

The American Ice Company plant on West Franklin Street is a landmark of Baltimore industrial architecture, a rare surviving ice plant that helped to replace the supply of natural ice harvested from the Susquehanna River with a manufactured product in the early 20th century. Built in 1911 as "one of the largest and most modern of its kind in the State" by the local Fidelity Construction Company with plans

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-1040  
American Ice Company

---

Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD

---

County and State

Section 8 Page 2

from New York architects Mortimer & Co., the American Ice Company building marked a major transition in the history of ice in Baltimore that began in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>1</sup>

### Growth of the ice industry in Baltimore

One of the earliest reports of ice being sold commercially in Baltimore is in 1825 when Francis Ravigneaux, a French-born confectioner, sold ice to local hotels and restaurants along with his confections.<sup>2</sup> In the same year, the developing industry of exporting natural ice from far northeast lakes and rivers to sweltering southern cities made a major advance with the invention of the horse-drawn ice plow by Nathaniel Wyeth. The ice plow made it possible to score the surface of a frozen lake or river on an even checkerboard pattern, enabling the harvesting of ice on a larger commercial scale.

Ice production came to Baltimore in 1837, when Thomas J. Cochran built three large stone icehouses supplied in the winter by large artificial ponds excavated along Falls Road. In 1855, Cochran entered into a partnership with Woodward Abraham and the pair built three more icehouses at Stemmer's Run near Essex, Maryland. Baltimore's demand for ice grew from a modest start of 1,000 tons per year in 1835 to nearly 80,000 tons per year by 1870. The supply was delivered to Baltimore households and businesses by 500 workers and 250 teams of horses. In the 1870s, Thomas Cochran's enterprise, then known as Cochran & Co., provided approximately half of this local supply, supplementing local production with imported ice cut from the Penobscot and Kennebec rivers in Maine as early as the 1850s. In 1860, the business expanded further with large storage houses built along the Susquehanna River in Maryland.<sup>3</sup>

Initially ice was used primarily to preserve meats, fruits and vegetables during transport over long distances, but it soon took on a much wider range of uses, reflected in the vivid language of Baltimore historian George Washington Howard remarking on the essential role of ice for refreshment:

To conceive of the absence of the ice pitcher from our tables and buffets, the cooling virtue of the refrigerator departed, the water ices from our desserts, and the sparking crystals from our drink, is to imagine a calamity hardly less than insufferable.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> "BIG ICE PLANT STARTED."

<sup>2</sup> Howard, *The Monumental City*, 496.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 496-497.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 496.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-1040  
American Ice Company

Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD

County and State

Section 8 Page 3

The brewing industry, a prominent contributor to Baltimore's economy in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, consumed large quantities of natural ice, and played an important role in the development of a manufactured alternative. Weissner's Brewery on Gay Street had adopted ice-making equipment as early as 1883. Demand from breweries was an important stimulus to the manufactured ice industry.

The ice industry began to change in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century with increasing consolidation in the industry, culminating in the Mid-Atlantic with the establishment of the American Ice Company, also known as the "Ice Trust," and the growth of manufactured ice as an increasingly popular and reliable alternative to natural ice. These changes are exemplified by the American Ice Company factory on West Franklin Street that reflects the history of this transitional moment in an important American industry.

### Growth of the American Ice Company

With a quickly growing population and rising demand for ice in Baltimore following the Civil War, Cochran & Co. grew as well, consolidating with Oler & Co. (a successful retail and wholesale operation established by William H. Oler in the late 1850s) as the Cochran-Oler Ice Company in 1883.<sup>5</sup> The combined enterprise dominated the local market and, in June 1898, the company was sold to the Kickerbocker Ice Company based in Maine.<sup>6</sup>

Similar mergers took place throughout the industry and on March 11, 1899 the American Ice Company was established as a merger of the Consolidated Ice Company (established in 1897 and supplied a majority of the ice in New York City) and the Knickerbocker Ice Company operating in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, DC. Under the leadership of Charles W. Morse, the new enterprise took advantage of its monopoly and raised prices in the summer of 1900, prompting New York newspapers to undertake a crusade against the "Ice Trust," leading to civil and criminal cases against the firm.<sup>7</sup> This public relations disaster combined with quickly growing competition from manufactured-ice plants led the firm to take a loss in 1903 of over \$8,000.<sup>8</sup>

Technological advances in the ice industry saw the development of artificial ice, which proved to be a more economical and effective means to preserve perishable goods that were being transported via railroad over long distances. The demand for the manufacture of large quantities of artificial ice rapidly

<sup>5</sup> "Mr. James E. Cochran Dead"; "DEATH OF WM. H. OLER."

<sup>6</sup> "ICE COMPANY SELLS OUT."

<sup>7</sup> Hemenway, *Prices and Choices*, pp.189-203.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-1040  
American Ice Company  
Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD  
County and State

Section 8 Page 4

developed in commercial centers nationwide. Initially, artificial ice manufacturing plants were established in the southern states, beginning in New Orleans in 1866, because of the inability for these warmer, southern states to harvest natural ice during the winter or store large quantities during the summer. The *New York Times* reported that by 1900 over 787 ice plants had been established around the United States producing over 4 million tons of ice annually. The account continued:

To such a degree of perfection has the machinery of ice manufacture been brought that manufactured ice is produced now almost as cheaply as the natural ice can be cut and housed under the most favorable conditions. Ice is available in any of the Southern States at about the same cost as that at which the resident of Maine or Vermont obtains his supply.<sup>9</sup>

In 1906, the American Ice Company owned four major ice plants in Baltimore, described by then President Wesley M. Oler as representing the "finest ice-making equipment in the world."<sup>10</sup> These four industrial ice plants, producing a total of 103,000 tons per year, included

- West Baltimore Street Plant - 1030 West Baltimore Street
- Fell Street Plant - 927 South Wolfe Street (later occupied by the Arundel Corporation)
- Hughes Street Plant - Hughes Street wharf on the Inner Harbor
- American Ice Company Plant # 2 - 330 West 23rd Street (built 1905; updated 1919)

These plants, in addition to ice manufactured by other independent firms, provided 70% of the ice consumed in Baltimore; less than a third of ice consumed was harvested from natural sources such as the Susquehanna River. In 1909, the Mid-Atlantic region more broadly boasted a total of 375 ice plants.<sup>11</sup> The industry continued to boom over subsequent decades to 1920 when 4,800 commercial ice plants were operating in the United States with a total production amount of forty million tons per year.<sup>12</sup> In response to the heightened demand, ice plants such as those in Baltimore were structurally modified to accommodate greater ice storage and new technology. Ice storage facilities were constructed of massive, windowless walls supported by buttresses. The massive walls were necessary in order to insulate the ice blocks and prevent them from melting. During the 1920s, ice plants converted from steam energy to electrical power.

<sup>8</sup> Sun, "FINANCING AMERICAN ICE."

<sup>9</sup> "MAKING ICE BY MACHINERY. - View Article - NYTimes.com."

<sup>10</sup> Correspondent, "MORE ICE COMING HERE."

<sup>11</sup> Cummings, *The American Ice Harvests*, 171.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-1040  
American Ice Company  
Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD  
County and State

Section 8 Page 5

### American Ice Company plant on Franklin Street

The American Ice Company first purchased property on West Franklin Street in July 1910, including three large parcels on the north and south sides of the street near its intersection with Pulaski.<sup>13</sup> By September 1911, the company secured a building permit and started construction on a “large plant on Franklin street, near Pulaski street, to cost about \$70,000.” The plant included two brick and stone structures, the [surviving] two-story ice manufacturing plant and a 1-story storage warehouse.<sup>14</sup> Stables constructed on the south side of Franklin Street housed the horses that pulled the company's fleet of delivery wagons.

The architect for the plant is identified as Mortimer & Co., and the builder as the Fidelity Construction Company of Baltimore. The reference is limited in detail but Mortimer & Co. is later documented as a firm led by civil and electrical engineer James Daniel Mortimer with offices at 149 Broadway, New York, NY.<sup>15</sup> However, no other references have been located to work conducted by Mortimer & Co. in Baltimore or New York, so additional details on the firm are not available. Given the scale of the ice industry during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, many architects and engineers specialized in this building type – their work often was documented in trade publications such as *Cold Storage and Ice Trade Journal Company* published by the Ice Trade Journal Co., and *Industrial Refrigeration* published by the National Association of Practical Refrigerating Engineers. Ballinger & Perrot, established in 1901 by Walter F. Ballinger and Emile G. Perrot, is an example of a firm that specialized in industrial architecture with works including the 1910 American Ice Company factory at 30th Street and Glenwood Avenue in Philadelphia, PA.

Details on the Fidelity Construction Company are similarly limited. Projects attributed to the firm include the 1910 construction of the Starr Methodist Protestant Church at the southwest corner of Garrison Boulevard and Alto Road, the 1910 construction of a school building at the southeast corner of Francis Street and Clifton Avenue (designed by Architects Archer & Allen), an addition to the gas plant for the Consolidated Gas and Electric Light and Power Company on Leadenhall Street in 1911, and a

<sup>12</sup> Historic American Engineering Record, *Champion Ice Manufacturing & Cold Storage Company, 40 East Second Street, Covington, Kenton County, KY.*

<sup>13</sup> “BIG GROUND RENT DEAL.”

<sup>14</sup> “BIG ICE PLANT STARTED.”

<sup>15</sup> References to this firm include directories published by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and American Institute of Electrical Engineers from the late 1920s and early 1930s. The firm is also listed in a 1929 directory “Security Dealers of North America” where the firm is described as “Underwriters. Participating

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-1040  
American Ice Company  
Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD  
County and State

Section 8 Page 6

theatre on West Baltimore Street near Carrollton (designed by J.C. Spedden for Pearce & Scheck) in 1912.

The trade publication *Ice and Refrigeration* provided further details on the production capacity of the plant, noting "The ice factory is to be 125 tons daily capacity, 'Frick' machines, and the ice storage house in connection is to be of 14,000 tons capacity."<sup>16</sup> Two wells at the site, drilled down to 200 and 242 feet, provided as much as 60 gallons of water per minute for the facility.<sup>17</sup>

The Frick ammonia compressors and other equipment selected for the plant had been in widespread use at ice plants, breweries, packing houses and other industrial enterprises for nearly 20 years. The Frick Company of Waynesboro PA began manufacturing refrigeration equipment in 1883 that operated on the ammonia-compression cycle -- the most efficient and broadly used process in the industry. The process began when the ammonia gas was compressed and forced into condensers where circulating water was used to cool the gas to a liquid. This would run through pipes and expand, cooling large tanks of brine below freezing. Rows of sheet-metal cans filled with water were lowered into the brine tank until the water froze. The cans then were hoisted from the brine tank, and the ice blocks removed and transferred to the warehouse, which typically was insulated by blankets of straw or sawdust.<sup>18</sup>

The design of the building was characteristic of a manufactured ice plant with the row of brick buttresses along the south façade to support the heavy insulation around the tankhouse. In addition, the absence of windows along the ground level and the louvered ventilation openings near the top of the tankhouse match the design of the American Ice Company Baltimore Plant No. 2 (1905, 1919) located on W. 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. The building likely began with a coal-fired boiler but modernized with electric motors likely in the 1920s when many industrial operations electrified.

In 1941, the American Ice Company was the second largest distributor of manufactured ice in the United States with around \$6 million in ice sales annually.<sup>19</sup> The American Ice Company also provided coal delivery to homes and businesses providing a substantial portion of the firm's business. However, the competing home electric refrigerator grew in popularity through the 1920s and 1930s. Between 1945

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Distributors & Dealers in Municipal, Government & Public Utility Bonds," led by partners James D. Mortimer & William Baum.

<sup>16</sup> Southern Ice Exchange, *Ice and Refrigeration*, 139.

<sup>17</sup> Maryland Geological Survey, *Maryland Geological Survey*, 352–353.

<sup>18</sup> Historic American Engineering Record, *Champion Ice Manufacturing & Cold Storage Company*, 40 East Second Street, Covington, Kenton County, KY.

<sup>19</sup> Hemenway, *Prices and Choices*, 199.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-1040  
American Ice Company  
Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD  
County and State

Section 8 Page 7

and 1949, Americans purchased 20 million refrigerators and between 1940 and 1950 adoption of electric refrigerators in homes grew from 44% to 80%. While ice produced at home soon replaced manufactured ice for most American consumers, the American Ice Company remained in operation at the Franklin Street plant through the 1980s.

Prior to 1951, the American Ice Company had demolished and replaced the original ice warehouse at the north end of the site with a smaller structure attached to the plant at the northeast corner along with a long garage for the delivery trucks that had replaced the previous generation of horse-drawn wagons. In the 1960s, the American Ice Company sold the property to the local Baltimore American Ice Company.

By 1971, the garages had been demolished and replaced with a larger warehouse and truck-loading dock that expanded further in subsequent years as ice manufacturing at the site continued up through 2004. An extensive fire in that year destroyed all of these more recent additions and caused severe damage to the northeast corner of the original 1911 factory.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-1040  
American Ice Company

Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD

County and State

Section 9 Page 1

### Major Bibliographical References:

“BIG GROUND RENT DEAL.” *The Sun (1837-1985)*, July 26, 1910.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-1040  
American Ice Company

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Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD

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County and State

Section 9 Page 2

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1905.

[http://search.proquest.com/hnpbaltimoresun/docview/536937646/abstract/138672FBBD2D6750A7/1?  
accountid=10750.](http://search.proquest.com/hnpbaltimoresun/docview/536937646/abstract/138672FBBD2D6750A7/1?accountid=10750)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

B-1040  
American Ice Company

Name of Property

Baltimore (city), MD

County and State

Section 10 Page 1

## Geographical Data

### Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property is limited to the footprint of the surviving building, approximately 15,000 square feet, fronting on West Franklin Street in the southern portion of the parcel identified in Baltimore City Land Records as Block 0117, Lot 039.

### Boundary Justification:

These boundaries encompass the remnant of the American Ice Company plant which retains integrity. The lot formerly included secondary structures, primarily dating to the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, which were destroyed by fire in 2004 and removed in 2008. The remaining vacant lot provides no historic context for the 1911 ice company building.

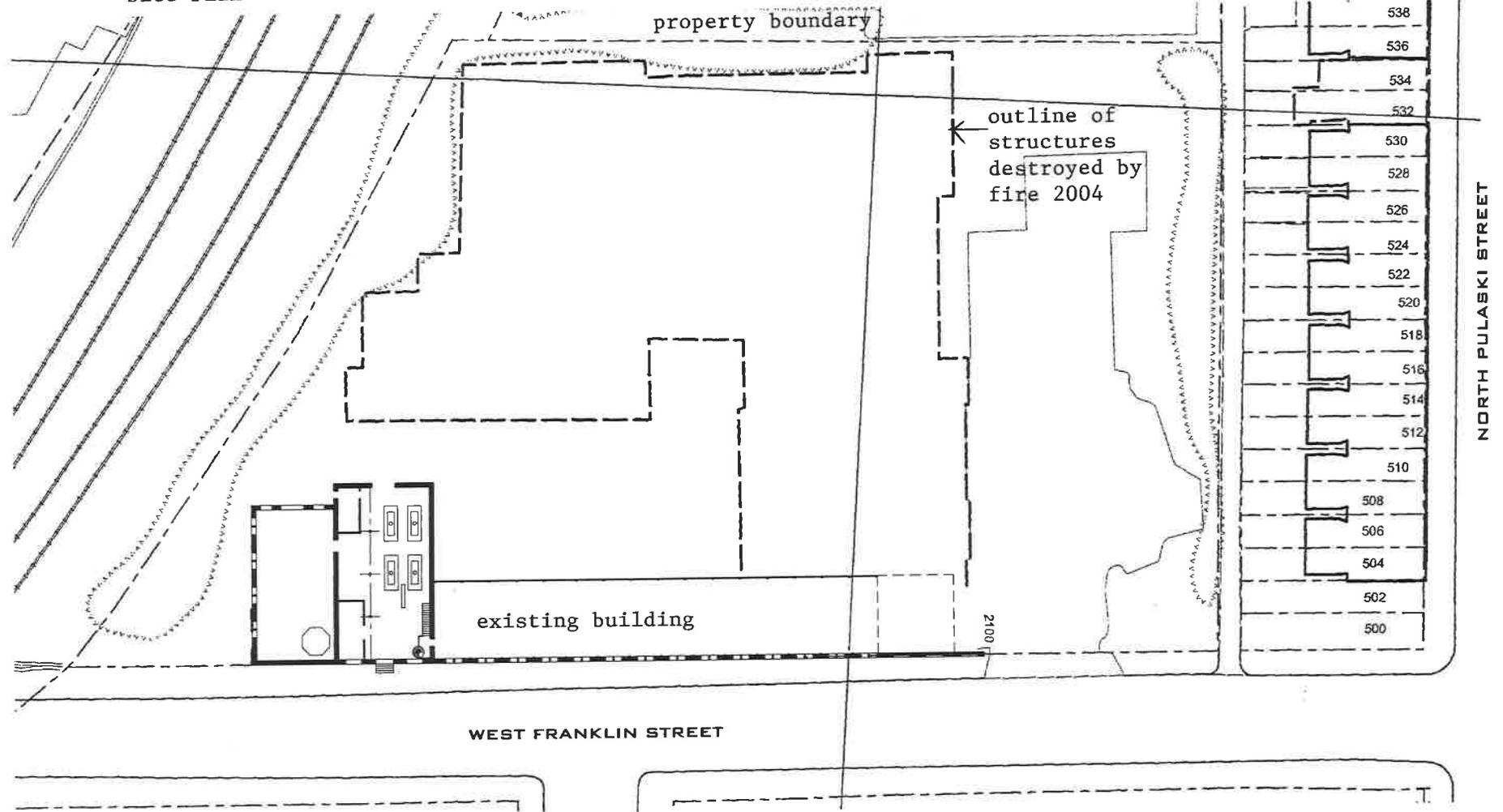
B-1040

AMERICAN ICE COMPANY

Baltimore (City), Maryland

Site Plan

Scale: 1"=75' (approx.)

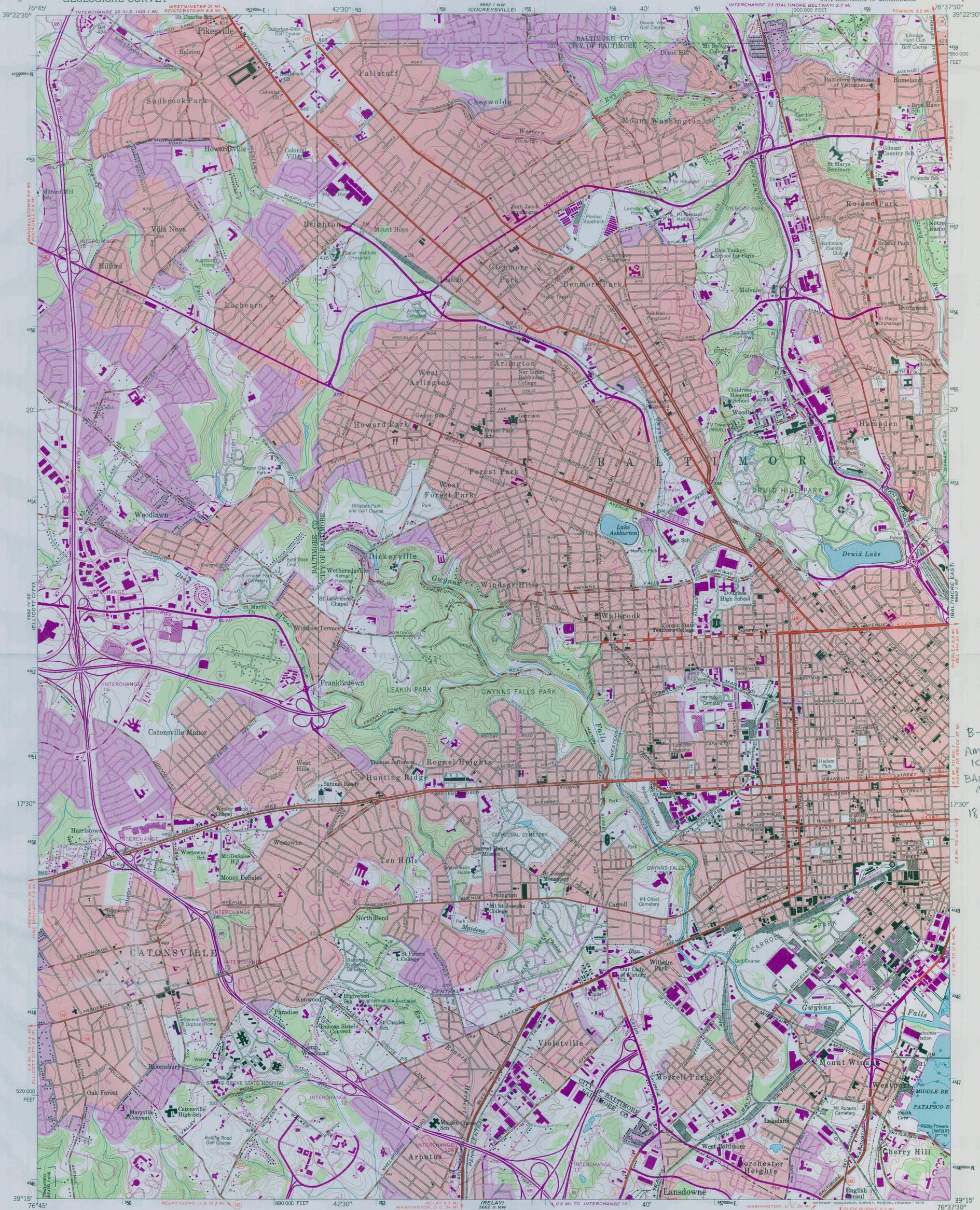


SITE PLAN -- 2100 W. FRANKLIN ST.



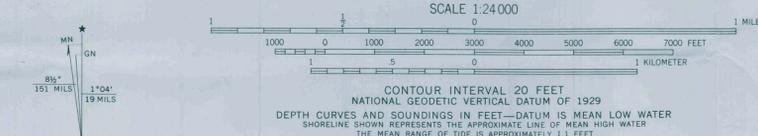
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BALTIMORE WEST QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SW/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE



B-1040  
AMERICAN  
ICE COMPANY  
BALTIMORE CITY  
MARYLAND  
18-357567-  
4350687

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  
Hydrography from USC&GS Chart 545 (1942)  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system,  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown  
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



BALTIMORE WEST, MD.  
SW/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3915—W7637.5/7.5  
1953  
PHOTOREVISED 1966 AND 1974  
AMS 5662 1 SW—SERIES V835



AMERICAN  
COMPANY



AMERICAN ICE  
COMPANY





AMERICAN STEEL

SPEED LIMIT 30



1-800-L  
S  
S

50

A photograph of a three-story red brick building, identified as the American Ice Company. The building features a prominent central gable with a sign that reads "AMERICAN ICE COMPANY". To the left, a large, cylindrical brick chimney rises. The facade is punctuated by three arched windows on the second floor, each with a decorative brick arch. The windows show signs of age and disrepair, with some broken panes and missing wood. The building is set against a clear blue sky.

AMERICAN ICE  
COMPANY



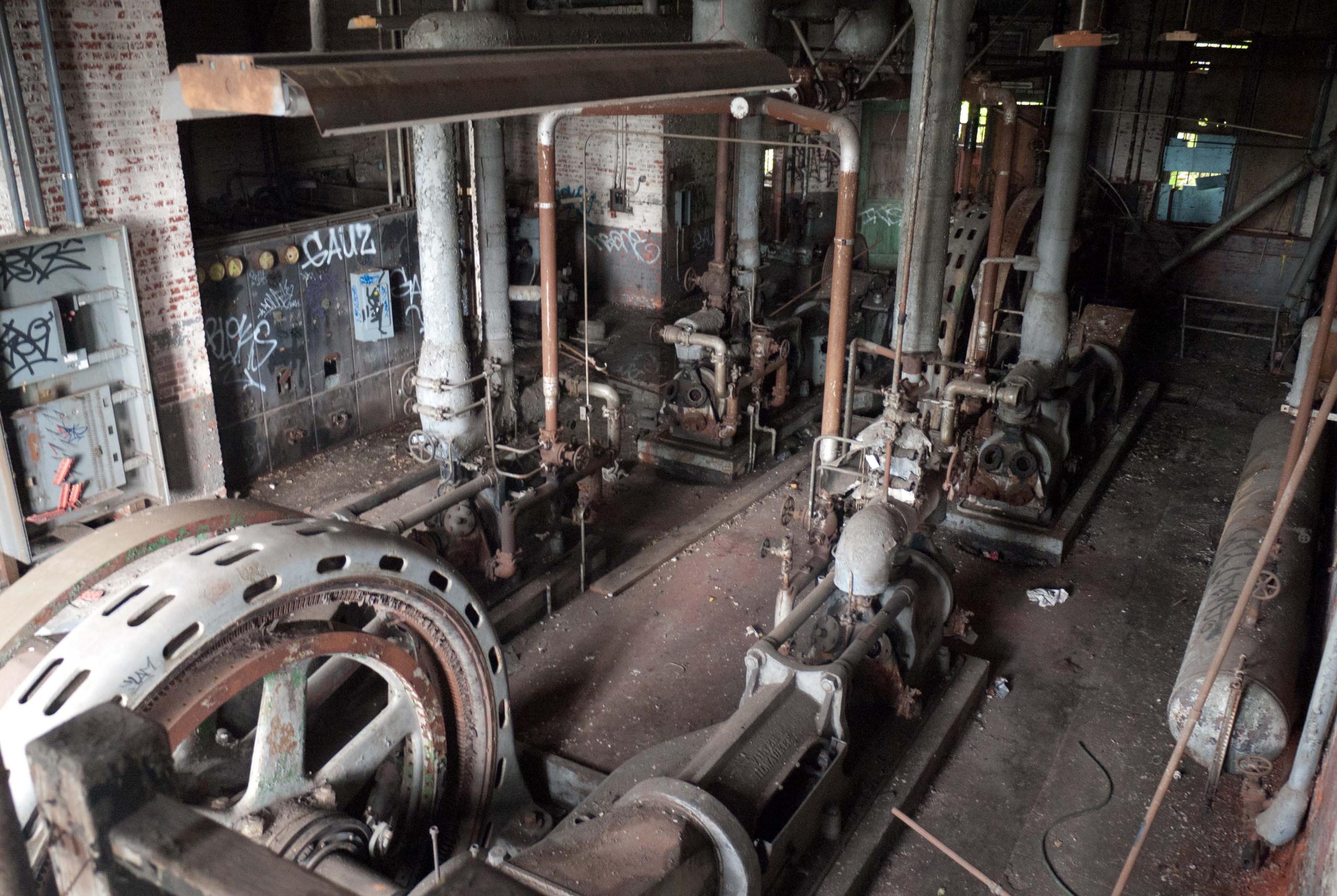






WARNING - ALL MAIN SWITCHES AND MAIN CIRCUIT BREAKERS MUST BE SHUT OFF BEFORE ANY WORK IS DONE

10 19 20 21 24 25 26 21







STOP

BALTIMORE

BUZ

GRACE

Abstract graffiti design in purple, pink, and white.

Large graffiti piece on a brick pillar, featuring stylized letters in red, maroon, and light green.



Small white graffiti tag consisting of the letters 'LU' stacked above '33'.

Large graffiti piece in gold and black, featuring stylized letters.

Small, faint graffiti tag in white and black, possibly containing the letters 'P' and 'A'.

