NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name: Mount Washington Mill

other names/site number: Washington Cotton Mill; Maryland Bolt & Nut Company B-1027

2. Location

street & number: 1330-1340 Smith Avenue N/A ☐ not for publication

city, town: Baltimore N/A ☐ vicinity

state: Maryland code: MD county: independent city code: 510 zip code: 21209

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
☒ private	☒ building(s)	3	6 buildings
☐ public-local	☐ district		sites
☐ public-State	☐ site	2	5 structures
☐ public-Federal	☐ structure		objects
	☐ object	5	11 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official — Date: 3/22/90

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:) _____

Entered in the National Register — 5/4/90

for Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/ manufacturing facility	INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/ manufacturing facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
No style	foundation: stone; brick walls: stone; brick roof: slate; metal other: wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Mount Washington Mill complex comprises eighteen brick, stone and metal structures, historic and non-historic, located along the Jones Falls in the Mount Washington section of northern Baltimore City. The industrial complex is hemmed by the Jones Falls Expressway, the Jones Falls, and Smith Avenue. All the buildings are characteristic of industrial design from the early nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. The wide range of buildings include: a 3-1/2 story vernacular stone mill with a slate roof, dormer windows and belfry; one and two story mid-nineteenth century factory type buildings with metal, multi-pane hopper windows; mid twentieth century pre-fabricated metal and steel warehouses; and two early brick structures with corbelled brick work connected to a smoke stack. The nineteenth century buildings are clustered around the original stone mill and are connected to it via several twentieth century buildings. Four free standing large twentieth century buildings stand to the south and west of the cluster of nineteenth century buildings. An overhead crane structure is connected to the two western most buildings. A single road runs through the center of the complex adjacent to the early cluster of buildings and turns along the western and northern edges of the complex near the Jones Falls Expressway. The early mill race and railroad siding are no longer evident. Two smaller structures are scattered along the periphery of the site housing chemical tanks and a guard house building is located on Smith Avenue. The complex is fenced with chain link along Smith Avenue and the western boundary. Five of the sixteen resources contribute to the historic character of the resource.

[XX] See continuation sheet 7.1 for GENERAL DESCRIPTION

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

The Mount Washington Mill complex is located in northern Baltimore City along Smith Avenue near the intersection of Falls Road and the Kelly Avenue Viaduct. This industrial complex is isolated from nearby residential and commercial buildings by two streams and an interstate highway. It is bounded by the Jones Falls on the north and east, the Western Run on the south and Jones Falls Expressway (I-83) on the west. To the west is the residential community of Mount Washington, and a commercial area, the Mount Washington Village Shops adjacent to I-83. Also, across the expressway is the old Mount Saint Agnes campus, now occupied by the USF & G insurance company. South of the complex beyond Smith Avenue and the Western Run is a church, the Kelly Avenue Viaduct, a post office, skating rink and Mount Washington Lacrosse Club fields. To the east, across the Jones Falls along Falls Road are residential and commercial buildings. Directly north, across the Jones Falls is another residential community of individual frame cottages.

The mill complex is on a roughly flat piece of land bisected by a single road which turns along the northern and western edges of the site. The older nineteenth century buildings are east of the road along the Jones Falls. The original stone mill, including wheel house and brick addition (resource #1 on map) is located near the center of the interconnected nineteenth century buildings. Directly south of the mill, and connected by a metal shed to the brick mill addition, is the machine shop and dye house (resource #2). A two story high carpenter shop (resource #3) is directly west of the machine shop and dye house. Directly north of the stone mill adjacent to a smoke stack are two small structures (resources #4 & #5). A one story brick building (resource #6) connects the carpenter shop to the wheel house of the stone mill. A large shed-like warehouse (resource #7) is located directly north of the original mill. It is connected to the mill by a one story brick building (resource #8) which only has a single exposed exterior wall along the Jones Falls. Directly south of the eight interconnected buildings listed above is a long one story high factory building (resource #9). Two smaller twentieth century structures are located along Smith Avenue: the office building (resource # 10), now used as a frame shop, and a small guard house (resource #11). The largest building in the complex is a twentieth century forge (resource #12) located directly west of the original mill. A metal crane structure (resource #13) runs along the northern and western elevations of the forge and connects the forge to a twentieth century prefabricated metal building to the west (resource #14). Two small cinder block structures containing tanks (resources # 15 &

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.2

#16) are located on the northern edge of the complex adjacent to the Jones Falls. Trees and shrubs grow along the northern and eastern edges of the complex, along the Jones Falls. The remainder of the site is asphalt and dirt with some small patches of lawn between older mill buildings and near the office and guard house.

1. **Mill Building,** 1808 and later additions, contributing building

The earliest building of the Mount Washington Mill complex is a 3-1/2 story high random rubble mill building with an adjoining 2-1/2 story stone wheel house to the west and a 3-1/2 story brick addition to the east. The original stone mill, dates from 1808 and measures 37' x 110'. The narrower eastern and western elevations of the original stone mill are obscured by additions. The first level of the northern elevation is also obscured by a connecting building. The side elevations are fifteen bays wide. The stone walls are punctuated by nine over six windows. The window arrangement is fairly regular and original, however a few of the windows on the southern elevation are blocked in by brick or converted into a doorway. A narrow scalloped shingle projection obscures the western most bay on the southern elevation. Most windows feature original splayed stone lintels, however five windows on the southern elevation display brick lintels. A semicircular, bricked arch on the seventh bay from the western edge of the building reveals the location of the original mill race. The fourth bay from the eastern edge of the building features large openings for loading. A slate gabled roof surmounts the building walls and is punctuated by seven gabled dormer windows. The second dormer from the eastern edge on the southern elevation is oversized with loading doors and cantilevered wood beam for hoisting materials. A simple belfry projects above the roofline at the eastern edge of the original stone mill.

The original interior of the stone mill features six, eight inch wide timber columns supporting a central beam running the length of the building. Two additional rows of columns were added on the first and second floors (probably to provide additional support for storage of heavy materials. Many original wood frame windows including early nineteenth century window panes survive. A stairway located at the northwestern corner of the building does not appear to be original and probably dates from c. 1925 when the building was used by Maryland Bolt and Nut Company. A heavy timber wooden truss system supports the slate roof capping the building. Despite some alteration and additions removing or obscuring the original design, this early stone mill building is remarkably intact.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.3

A smaller 2-1/2 story stone wheel house measuring 37' x 24' adjoins the stone mill to the west. This building dates from circa 1810 and is three bays wide on both the front and side elevations. The front gable end features an irregular arrangement of door and window openings. Two original twelve over six windows flank a second floor entrance located above a flight of metal stairs. Splayed brick lintels decorate the end windows while pointed brick arches surmount the central openings. A cantilevered wood beam at the top of the gable is a loading device for the building. A long dormer window provides additional space to the gabled roof. The southern elevation of the building is obscured by an addition. The northern elevation features a bricked-in arched opening revealing the original entrance for the mill race. Although the interior of the building has been modernized for its use as an office for the industrial complex, many original features of this building are intact.

The eastern three story brick addition to the original stone mill built in 1847 is approximately 37' x 55'. It is seven bays wide on the northern and southern elevations and three bays wide on the eastern elevation. The eastern most bay on the southern elevation has been obscured by a shingle clad projecting addition. The building walls are punctuated by six over six windows with simple brick lintels. The gabled end has been altered with a stepped gable, bricked up openings, the removal of exterior stairs and the addition of a corrugated metal shed on the first level. The most distinctive characteristic of the facade is a pointed arched window at the attic level. The interior of this building connects into the stone mill. The only major interior alteration is an elevator which was installed circa 1925 at the northeastern corner of the building. The attic level is inaccessible because of the large timber truss system supporting the roof. This building, despite some later alterations, still maintains its identity as an early brick addition to the original stone mill building.

2. **Machine shop and Dye House**, c. 1850, contributing building

A one-story high brick machine shop and dye house building measuring 38' x 110' runs parallel to the stone mill on the south. It is connected to the mill by a small metal shed-like addition. The building is three bays wide and thirteen bays long. The eastern seven bays comprise the original structure built circa 1850. The rear eastern elevation is punctuated by three sixteen over sixteen wood windows set into brick segmental arches flanked by brick piers and surmounted by a louvered fan light set into a pediment. The

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.4

original front western elevation, now within the interior of the structure features two large arched openings and a second fanlight. The side elevations also feature sixteen over sixteen windows set into brick stretcher segmental arches. Brick piers divide each bay with corbelled brick work below the roof. The windows of the older eastern section have chamfered frames. The newer front western elevation, built circa 1860, features a northern entrance and two twelve over twelve windows with segmental arches. A metal standing seam roof punctuated by metal stacks completes the exterior of the building. The heavy timber truss system is exposed on the interior as well as on the original front elevation. This building is relatively intact and contributes to the complex as an early ancillary structure to the original mill.

3. **Carpenter Shop**, c. 1870, contributing building

Directly west of the machine shop is the two story brick carpenter shop building. The building dates from circa 1870 and is three bays wide on the front elevation as well as on the side gabled end. The front facade features twelve over twelve wooden windows with wooden sills and splayed brick lintels. Two first floor bricked up windows flank a large garage type opening surmounted by a wooden lintel. The side gable-end elevation features an iron stairway leading to a second floor doorway. (There is no interior stairway in the building.) The second floor door is flanked by two windows. Another first floor entrance, and two bricked up openings along the exterior stair, are located on this elevation. A metal shed-like addition obscures much of the rear of the building. A connecting structure between the carpenter shop and wheel house obscures the northern elevation. A cast iron fluted column with decorative capital supports a central wood beam on the second floor interior of the building. This features and the wooden truss supporting the standing seam metal roof are the major notable interior details. Despite alterations and some poorly patched brick work the carpenter shop building contributes to the character of the early mill era significance of the complex.

4. **Boiler Room structure**, nineteenth century contributing structure

5. **Stack structure**, nineteenth century contributing structure

Adjoining the smoke stack of the complex are two small brick structures. The larger boiler room gable roof structure connecting to the stack on the north measures 38' x 44'. The second hipped roof structure which joins the boiler room at its southwest corner measures only 20' x 50'. Both buildings feature delicate corbelled

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.5

brick work below the roof line. The boiler room structure has an irregular arrangement of primarily bricked-up openings. The smaller structure features bricked up window openings surmounted by a blank single header arch. The octagonal smoke stack rises above the two buildings as the tallest structure in the complex. The interior of both structures features single two story high spaces. The "stack structures" are connected to other buildings of the complex through a set of infill additions. Both structures and stack are architecturally consistent with the early mill era character of much of the complex.

6. **Brick connecting structure**, probably c. 1940, non-contributing

Between the carpenter shop and the "wheel house" is a one story high connecting structure faced with brick and large industrial multi-pane windows, much of them bricked over. This is not truly an independent structure, but merely a front brick wall and corrugated metal rear with a roof bridging the space between two early mill era buildings. It apparently served for a twentieth century factory use and probably dates from c. 1940. This building does not contribute to the character of the district; in fact it detracts from the original mill era configuration by connecting two independently built structures.

7. **Steel Warehouse**, c. 1928, non-contributing building

A large steel warehouse building roughly 100' x 112' is located directly north of the original mill building. It sits on concrete piers which elevates the building approximately four feet. Built circa 1928, it features corrugated metal walls and roof. Metal and corrugated plastic overhang a loading platform. The building does not contribute to the early mill character of the complex.

8. **Brick and Steel connecting structure**, c. 1960, non-contributing structure

A large masonry and steel one story structure connects the steel warehouse to the stack buildings and original stone mill. This structure has a single plain brick exterior eastern wall facing the Jones Falls. It has no exterior windows, but includes several skylights. Built circa 1960, the structure obscures the early mill building. It does not contribute to the historic character of the complex.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.6

9. **Factory Building**, c. 1940, non-contributing building

Directly south of the carpenter shop, dye house and machine shop is a 200' x 62' factory building. Built circa 1940 out of red tile or block the building features large industrial windows without any of the decorative masonry of the earlier structures. The building is not consistent with earlier materials and design. It also acts to cut off the earlier structures from the entrance into the plant. This later building does not contribute to the character of the mill complex.

10. **Office Building**, c 1940, non-contributing building

11. **Guard House**, c. 1940, non-contributing building

The two-story Office Building and small Guard House built directly on Smith Avenue feature similar detailing on differing scales. Both brick buildings date from circa 1940 and feature a decorative band of tilted stretcher bricks near the roof line. The gate house is only 14' x 14' and features two doorways and a bricked over window. The office building is 30' x 60'. The office building features a central entrance flanked by a three part, double hung window on either side. It is presently used as a frame shop. These buildings contribute to the character of the district representing the later stage of industrial development at this location. Built after the conversion of the plant to metal works, the buildings retain the predominant brick character of the plant and provide a gateway to the plant along Smith Avenue. The buildings, however, do not contribute to the historic mill era character of the complex, since they were built after the period of significance.

12. **Hot Forge, c. 1890** rebuilt and enlarged in c. 1937, non-contributing building

Directly west and across the main road of the plant from the large grouping of interconnected structures which surround the stone mill, is the forge, the largest structure of the complex. This structure was built in two sections. The southern section known as the Hot Forge, measures 75' x 170'; and the northern section known as the Cold Forge measures 95' x 103'. The southern section originally dates from circa 1890, however it was severely damaged in a fire in 1937. It was rebuilt with the addition of the Cold Forge in 1937 and is predominately a structure from this period. This brick building features large steel hopper industrial style windows, a clerestory space, and a large water tank projecting above the roof

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.7

line. The Hot Forge section fronting on Smith Avenue is nine bays wide and features a stepped gable. This section is twenty one bays wide on the eastern and western elevations. Brick piers accentuate each bay with windows and openings surmounted by two courses of corbelled brick (similar to the styling of the bays on the machine shop). There are several indications that this building is an early twentieth century adaptation of a nineteenth century building. This section of the building is built upon a stone base. The brick courses above the windows are a different brick from the lower portions of the elevation. A brick arch at the base of the building in a section enclosed by a metal shed may reveal the trace of either a coal chute or a water source which ran through the building. Also the end interior building walls reveal a shadow line of the original gable roof before the stepped gable and clerestory were constructed. The Cold Forge addition, which is slightly wider than the earlier portion, features similar characteristics to the Hot Forge, except it lacks the indications of an earlier structure. The interiors of both buildings are large open spaces supported by steel columns and beams. The building does not contribute to the character of the district since it was largely rebuilt after the complex stopped functioning as a mill.

13. **Overhead Crane**, c. 1960, non-contributing structure

An overhead crane structure connects to the northern and western elevation of the forge. Built circa 1960, the structure does not contribute to the mill era character of the complex.

14. **Prefabricated Metal Building**, 1960s, non-contributing building

Directly west of the Forge is a prefabricated metal building dating from the 1960s. This prefabricated building features blue metal siding over a cinder block base with two garage entrance doors. It is not consistent with the character of the historic district.

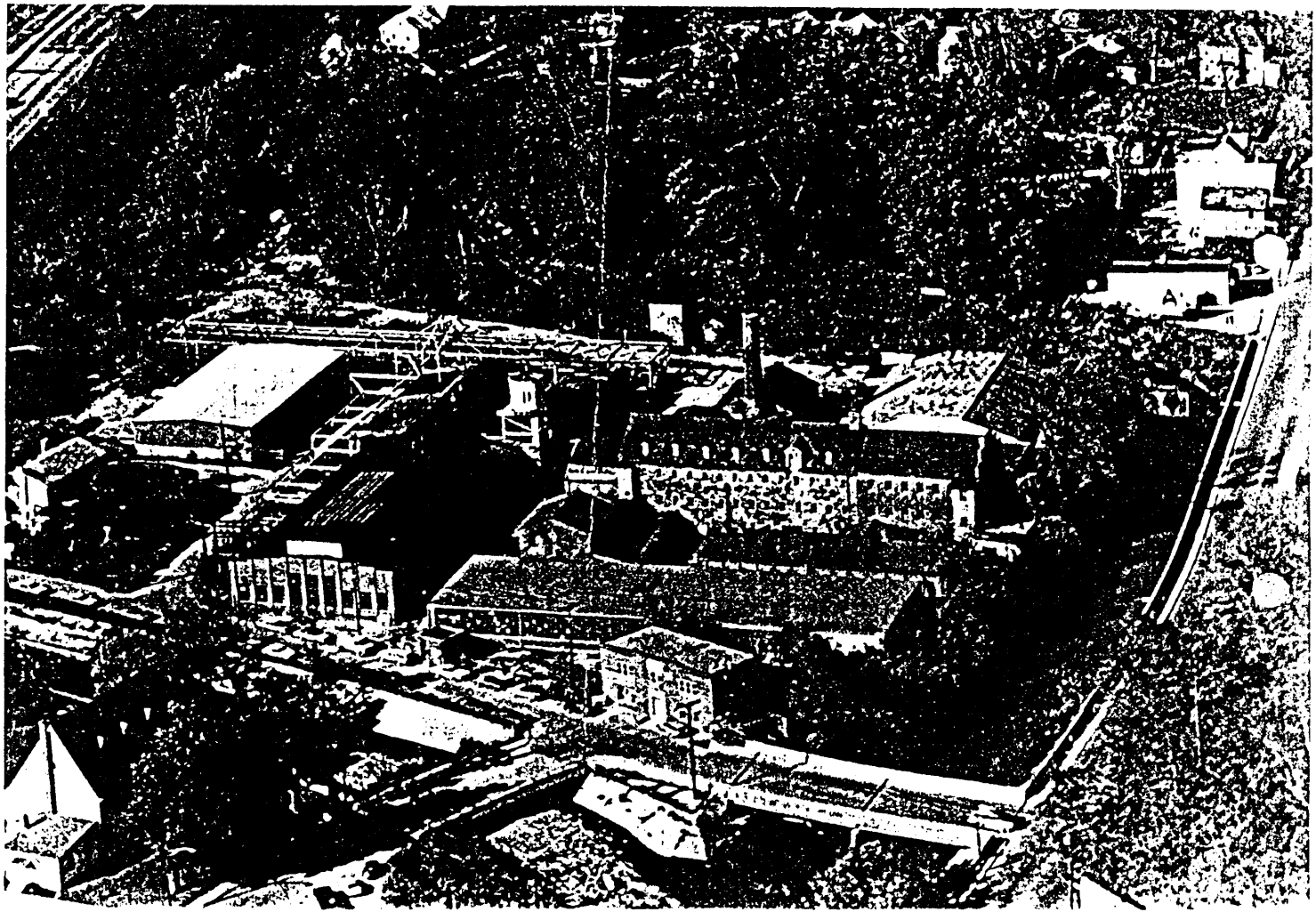
15. **Block Structure**, c. 1960, non-contributing structure

16. **Block Structure**, c. 1960, non-contributing structure

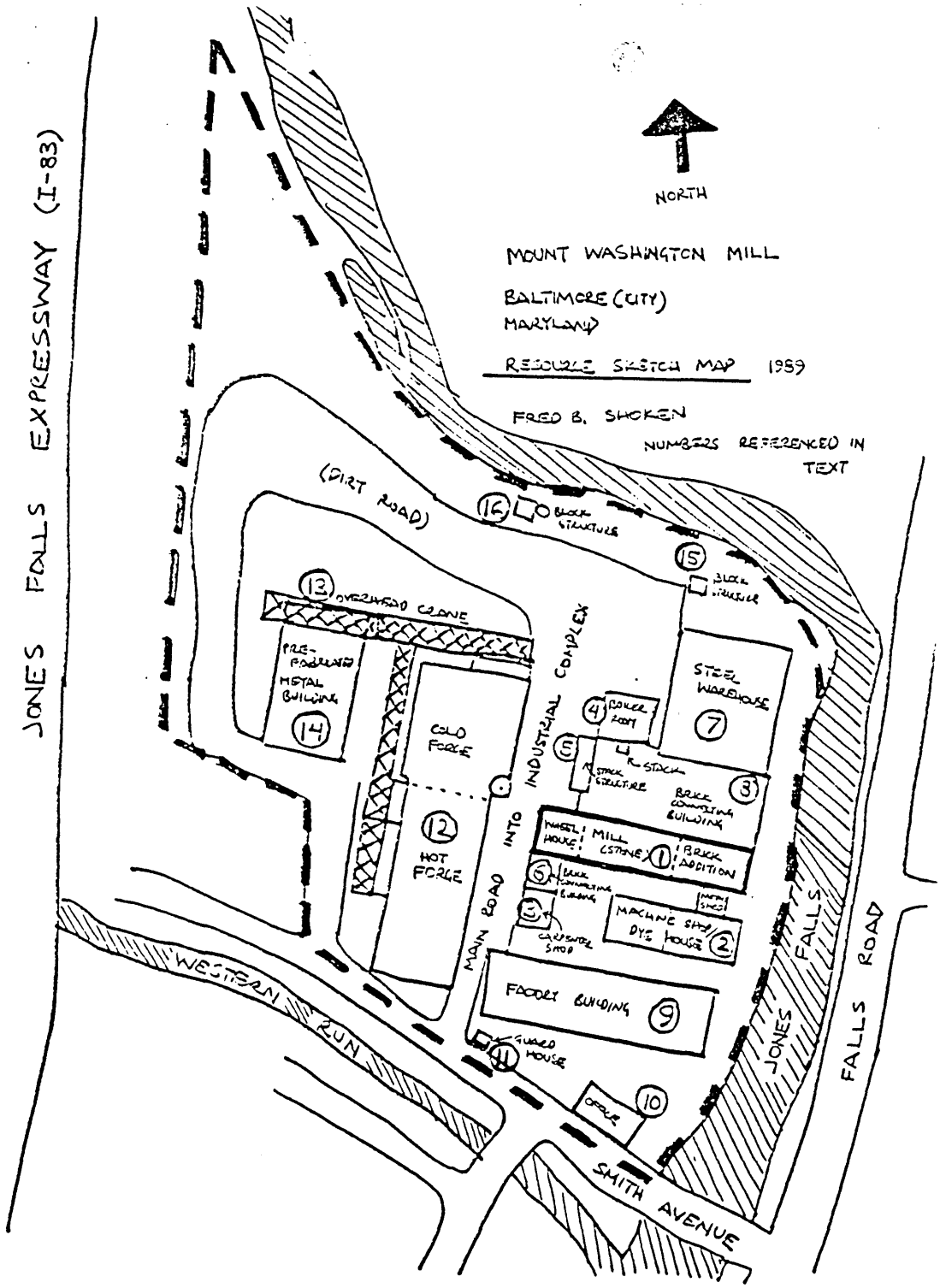
On the northern edge of the complex are two block structures each measuring approximately 15' x 15'. The eastern structure is painted white and features a metal door and blocked in opening. The western structure is cinder block and is connected to a cylindrical metal tank with conical roof. Both were apparently built circa 1960 and do not contribute to the character of the district.

See Continuation Sheet No. 7.8

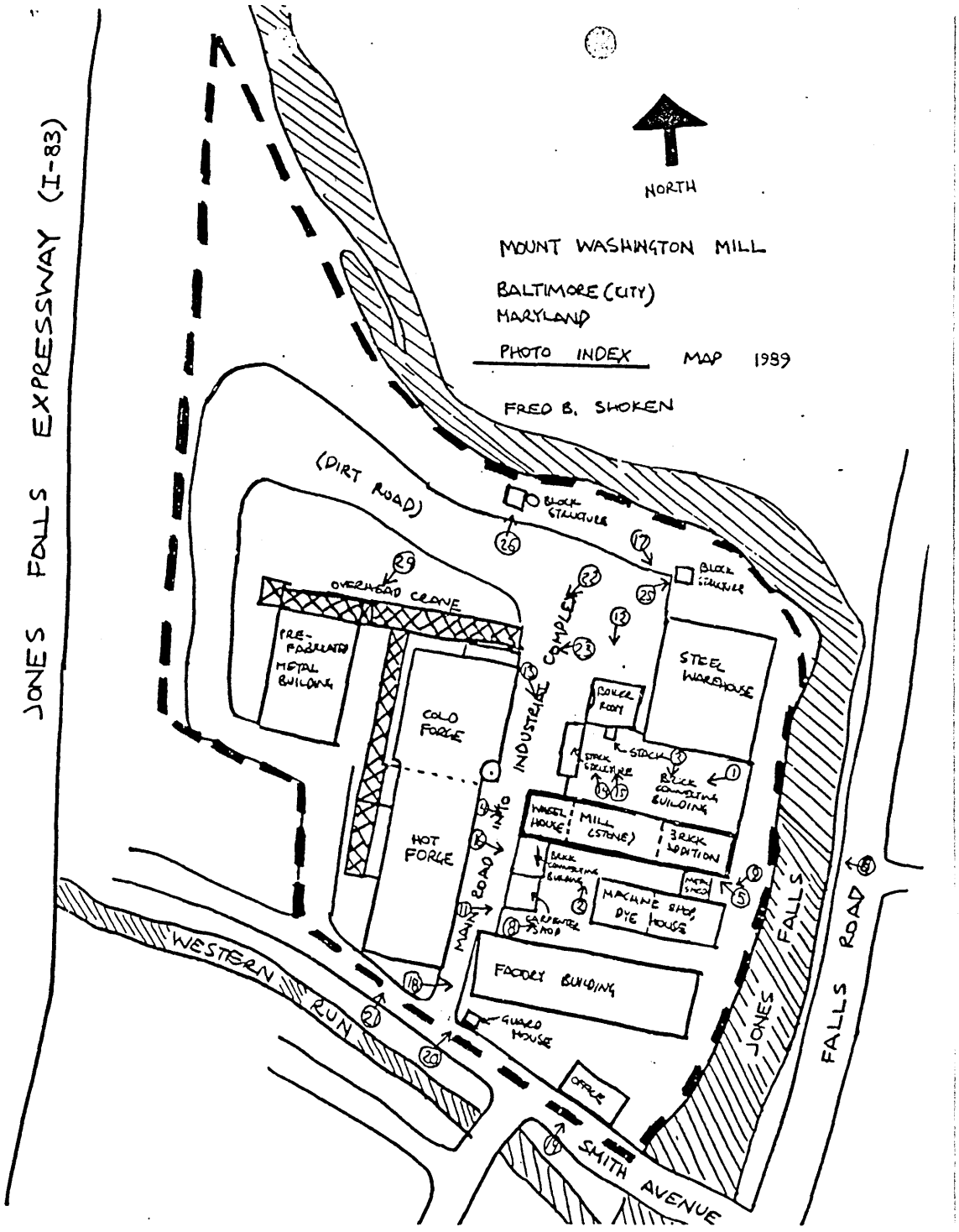
General Aerial View, 1989



See Continuation Sheet No. 7.9



See Continuation Sheet No. 7.10


JONES FALLS EXPRESSWAY (I-83)
NORTH
MOUNT WASHINGTON MILL
BALTIMORE (CITY)
MARYLAND
PHOTO INDEX MAP 1989
FRED B. SHOKEN
(DIRT ROAD)
OVERHEAD CRANE
PRE-FABRICATED METAL BUILDING
COLD FORGE
HOT FORGE
INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX
STEEL WAREHOUSE
COOLER ROOM
STACK
BRICK CONNECTING BUILDING
WHEEL HOUSE
MILL (STONE)
BRICK ADDITION
MACHINE SHOP DYE HOUSE
FACTORY BUILDING
GUARD HOUSE
OFFICE
MAIN ROAD
WESTERN RUN
SMITH AVENUE
JONES FALLS
FALLS ROAD

8. Statement of Significance

B-1027

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☐ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Industry	1808-1923	N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

Architect/Builder: unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

The Mount Washington Mill complex is historically significant for its role in the industrial development of the Piedmont region of Maryland during a transitional period in the early nineteenth century which saw the dominance of manufacturing over agriculture. First used as the Washington Cotton Factory, the Mount Washington Mill is the earliest surviving cotton manufacturing facility in the State of Maryland and is also believed to be the third oldest extant cotton factory in the United States. Although some other early mill structures survive from this era in Maryland, this is the earliest cotton mill. Conceived and built after Jefferson's embargo of foreign trade in 1807, it represents the first major attempt in Maryland to manufacture textile goods. Later in the nineteenth century, in a period of industrial and urban dominance, it became part of a chain of mills in the Jones Falls Valley owned by William E. Hooper and Sons, the leading manufacturer of cotton sail cloth in the country. In 1923 it was converted into the Maryland Bolt and Nut Company one of many representative firms of the diversified industrial economy of Baltimore City.

☒ See continuation sheet 8:1 for HISTORIC CONTEXT and MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN data.

9. Major Bibliographical References

B-1027

☒ See continuation sheet No. 9.1

Previous documentation on file (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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 4.81 acres

USGS quad Baltimore West, MD

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	357880	435850
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Block 4660, Lot 1 as recorded in Baltimore City Land Records.
The boundaries are delineated on Continuation Sheet No. 10.1

☒ See continuation sheet No. 10.1

Boundary Justification

The property consists only of the city lot upon which the resources stand.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Fred Shoken, Preservation Consultant
organization Old Waverly History Exchange & Tea Room date 6 December 1989
street & number 414 East 31st Street telephone 889-7112
city or town Baltimore state Maryland zip code 21218

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period(s):

Agricultural-Industrial Transition	1815-1870 A.D.
Industrial/Urban Dominance	1870-1930 A.D.

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning
Economic (Commercial and Industrial)

Resource Type:

Category: Buildings

Historic Environment: Rural

Historic Function(s) or Use(s):

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/manufacturing facility

Known Design Source: None

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.2

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

The Mount Washington Mill began as the Washington Cotton Factory in 1808. It was built approximately 5 miles outside of the city along the Jones Falls a source of water power. It is representative of the first major attempts to manufacture finished goods for local consumption in response to Thomas Jefferson's embargo of 1807 which virtually ended all foreign trade. In fact, the act of incorporation passed on January 7, 1810 for this factory stated that the investors had already established a cotton manufactory "on Jones's Falls, in Baltimore County, for the purpose of manufacturing necessary articles, which have hitherto been imported from foreign countries."[1]

The plant began operating in the early nineteenth century, although it never experienced run-away growth and was seldom filled with the number of spindles it could hold. The plant was incorporated by John Davis, John Hagerty, Moses Hand, William Edwards and Issac Burneston. Davis was a pioneer water supply engineer and probably designed the facility, according to his memoirs written in 1847.[2] Hagerty, acting as treasurer, advertised that the company had 288 spindles and six looms at work on March 12, 1810. A magazine entitled the Agricultural Museum reported in August of 1810 that the company had a capital of $80,000 and 1,000 functioning spindles, seven loom and a dye house.[3] The 1820 census of manufacturers showed that the mill had been rented out by its owners, with only half of its 1,800 spindles in operation. The tenants were Samuel Morton & Mallalueu, partners of English origin who came in contact with some other Maryland cotton plants. An advertisement in the Baltimore American of January 1, 1823 indicated that the mill had room for 3,000 spindles, but only had 1,600 in place. Only 2,000 working spindles were in operation when it was advertised for sale in 1845. These early advertisements note the original 3 1/2 story stone mill with measurements comparable to its current size, excluding the wheel house, which apparently dates from the same era.

In 1847, the Baltimore Sun reported that the new owner, Thomas H. Fulton, built the brick addition to the original stone mill.[4] Horatio N. Gambrill and William E. Hooper bought the Mount Washington Mill complex in 1853 adding it to other mill

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.3

owned by them in the Jones Falls Valley specializing in the manufacture of cotton duck used for sail cloth. The 1857 Taylor map of the County showed the plant as the Washington Ravin's Duck Cotton Factory, reflecting the switch from lighter grades of cotton for wearing apparel and sheeting to cotton canvas. In 1865, William E. Hooper acquired major control, which then passed to William E. Hooper and Sons and in 1899 to the Mount Vernon Mills, Inc. Many of the ancillary believed to be the third oldest extant cotton factory in the United States. During this era several Maryland industries began at Oella, Savage and other localities. The Mount Washington Mill was unique as the first attempt at a major textile manufacturing facility in Maryland. It is representative of the first American efforts to industrialize and manufacture goods, rather than importing finished goods from Europe as a result Jefferson's embargo of 1807. According to Dennis Zembala, director of the Baltimore Museum of Industry, this factory in the third oldest cotton factory in the United States, preceded only by the Old Slater Mill and Wilkinson Mill at Pawtucket, Rhode Island.[6]

The original stone mill is architecturally significant, embodying early nineteenth century design characteristics of this type of structure, including the brick arches revealing the original mill race, original small glass pane windows, indigenous stone construction, original belfry, and slate roof with gabled dormers. It is a remarkably intact structure. It is the only surviving mill of this era in Baltimore City. Other mills of the Jones Falls Valley date from the mid-nineteenth century. The mills of this era in Baltimore County and elsewhere in Maryland were usually built as grist mills. Few compare with the size of this structure and degree of integrity.

Other mill era buildings of this complex are architecturally complimentary to the original stone mill and relate to a period of industrial and urban dominance, when the mill complex became part of a chain of mills in the Jones Falls Valley owned by William E. Hooper and Sons, the leading manufacturer of cotton sail cloth in the country. Although built of brick rather than stone, these buildings retain many distinctive characteristics of mid-nineteenth century industrial design, including, multi-pane single and double hung windows, corbelled brick work, iron columns, heavy timber wood trusses, and standing seam roofs. The buildings are comparable

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.4

to ancillary mill buildings in other mid-nineteenth century industrial groupings in Maryland. They were largely built in the period when William E. Hooper and Sons owned the complex and are historically significant for their role in the growth of this company in the manufacture of cotton duck. The Meadow Mill in Woodberry, one of the other Jones Falls Valley mills owned by Hooper is already listed in the National Register. The other mills in Woodberry/Hampden would qualify for listing.

A few of the later buildings were built in the early twentieth century when the plant was converted into the Maryland Bolt and Nut Company, one of many representative firms of the diversified industrial economy of Baltimore City. These later additions to the complex display a wide variety of industrial buildings including the carpenter shop, "stack buildings," and the original structure which was converted into the Hot Forge appear to date from the era when Hooper owned the plant, as indicated in the 1877 Hopkins Atlas and 1898 Bromely Atlas. William E. Hooper and Sons were leading cotton duck manufacturers controlling seven mill buildings in the Jones Falls Valley, most located in the vicinity of Woodberry/Hampden. According to Scharf, before the enterprises of Gambrill and Hooper, most of the cotton duck produced in this country came from the Passaic and Phoenix Mills in Patterson, New Jersey, however the Baltimore goods "proving of such excellent quality, and selling at a greatly reduced price, soon effectually supplanted in the markets of the country the productions of all competitors." [5]

Facing competition from the south in the early twentieth century plus the demise of sailing ships and the needs for large supplies of sail cloth, the Mount Vernon Mills began selling off some of its factories. The Mount Washington Mill complex was sold in 1923 to the Maryland Bolt and Nut Company, ending one hundred and fifteen years of textile manufacturing at this site. After a fire in 1937, the Forge building was apparently extensively altered with the erection of the clerestory space and large Cold Forge addition. The Office building was built around 1940. Later the factory building fronted with glazed tile was constructed c. 1943. Connecting buildings to the mill date from this era through the 1960s. The Maryland Bolt and nut Company was a typical industrial entity during the early twentieth century in Baltimore, a period of industrial growth, expansion and

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.5

diversification. It does not appear to have made significant contributions to the development of Baltimore or stand out particulary in its field. In June 1972, the industrial operation was choked in mud and silt as a result of flooding after tropical storm Agnes. The facility and company was sold to the Leonard Jed Company and was subsequently bought by a former employee. A low level of manufacturing continues at the plant, but the real estate was recently purchased by Washingtonville Limited Partnership for conversion to office/retail use. Several of the more recent structures will be razed as a means of flood control, but the historically significant buildings will be rehabilitated to the Secretary of Interior's Standards as a tax credit project.

Resource Analysis

The Mount Washington Mill complex is historically significant for its role in the industrial development of the Piedmont region of Maryland during a transitional period in the early nineteenth century which saw the dominance of manufacturing over agriculture. First built as the Washington Cotton Factory, it is the earliest surviving cotton manufacturing facility in the State of Maryland and is also architectural design in the early to mid twentieth century. The Forge Building is characteristic of early twentieth century design, although some surviving mill era details are evident. Although, the Forge, Office Building and guard house maintain brick construction and some decorative detailing compatible to earlier mill era buildings, they can not be considered contributing to the early mill era character of the district. They are characteristic of industrial buildings for the Maryland Bolt an Nut Company, a company lacking the significance of the early cotton factories.

Later structures of the metal works plant, lack the construction characteristics of these buildings. Plus the buildings act to combine structures which were built independently or cut off the original structures from the entrance into the factory. These later buildings are intrusive to the early mill era arrangement of structures, during the earliest and most important time period when this resource became significant.

See Continuation Sheet No. 8.6

The site has tremendous historical archeological potential. Although numerous buildings were added to the property after conversion to metal industry use, construction of the new buildings and structures did not generally involve major ground disturbance. The site has the potential of revealing extensive information about the operations at this mill which could expand our knowledge of the textile industry in the state from a technological view to architectural.

Footnotes

1 Acts of 1809, Chapter 163.

2 Maryland Historical Magazine, Volume 30, March 1935, p. 24.

3 Agricultural Museum, June 1, 1823.

4 Baltimore Sun, September 8, 1847 p. 2

5 Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Baltimore City and County, 1881, p. 409.

6 McGrain, John, "Notes on Washington Factory," for forthcoming Volume 2 of From Pig Iron to Cotton Duck: A History of Manufacturing Villages in Baltimore County.

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Mount Washington Mill
Baltimore, Maryland

B-1027

Section number 10 **Page** 10.1