

National Brewery Company circa 1872



History

In 1872, the National Brewing Company was built at the intersection of Conkling and O'Donnell Street in Baltimore, Maryland. The company was then known exclusively for its National Premium beer. In 1885, National Brewery Company began brewing their flagship National Bohemian beer by the barrel. Nevertheless, they were still considered one of the city's smaller breweries. The brewery itself, still showing signs of stables from the days of horse-drawn beer wagons, was in dire need of renovations. Unavoidably, National Brewing Company was forced to shut down with the onset of the 13 year Noble Experiment in 1920; larger competitors, however, such as Gunther and Globe Brewing (maker of arrow beer), managed to sidestep Prohibition by producing near-beer.

Shortly after Prohibition was overturned on April 7, 1933, Samuel Hoffberger acquired and modernized the company, thereby reviving the National Brewing Company. When his son, Jerold Hoffberger, returned from World War II in 1945, Hoffberger made him treasurer of the company at age 26. A year later, Jerold Hoffberger was named President of the National Brewing Company, a position he would hold for 28 years. At the time, the company was producing approximately 230,000 barrels of beer.

Expanding the Market

It was also around this time that Mr. Boh, a one-eyed mascot with a handlebar-mustache, came to endorse National Bohemian, as the beer "From the Land of Pleasant Living." This notion was later adopted by the company's jingle, which boasted how National beer was proudly "brewed on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay." The brewery was quickly gaining a name for itself; and in the late 1940s, National became the first to place six-packs of canned beer on the market.

Moreover, in 1963, National Brewing Company started brewing Colt 45 (which contrary to popular beliefs, is named after 1963 Colts' running back Jerry Hill #45, and not the gun). Prior to its advent, the only major national brand of malt liquor was Country Club. (See also Colt 45 (malt liquor)) To emblemize its "extra kick" compared to competing brands, Colt 45 was accordingly labeled with a kicking horse and horse shoe.

National Bohemian, likewise, gained prominence in the 1965, when Jerold Hoffberger created the Baltimore Orioles (formerly, the St. Louis Browns) and began marketing "Natty Boh" at Memorial Stadium (Baltimore). National Bohemian would ultimately become the official

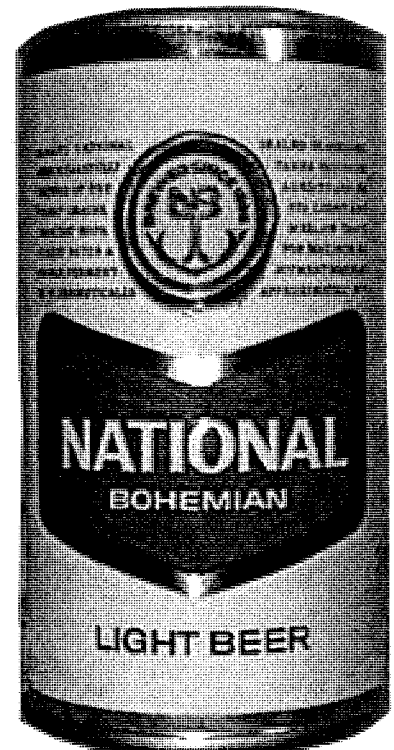
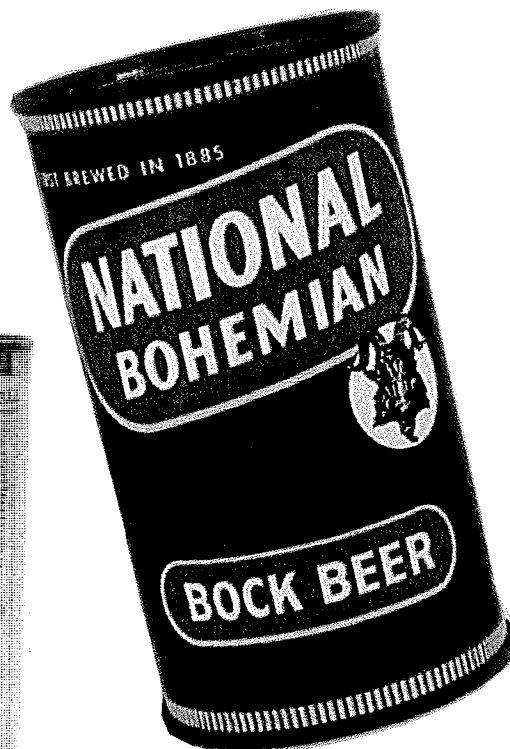
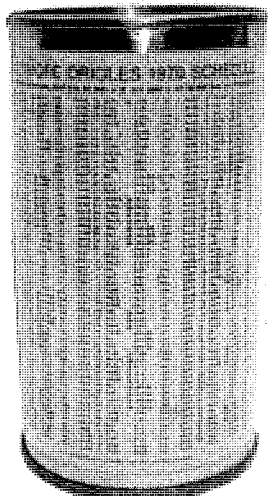
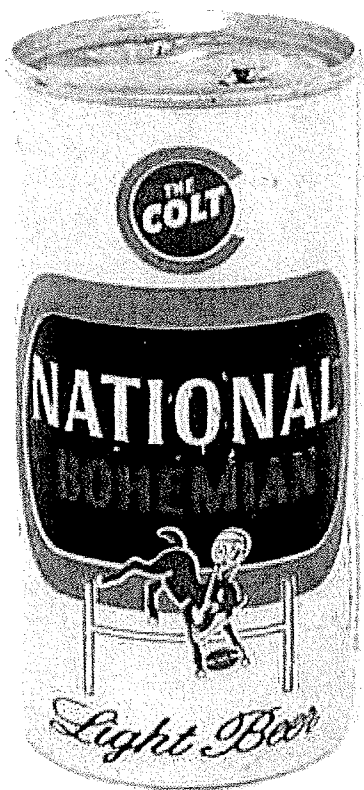
sponsor of the Baltimore Orioles and the official beer of Baltimore. Albeit, by the end of the decade, National Brewing Company, squeezed by high prices and increasing competition, could no longer afford to be an independent entity.

Mergers and Acquisitions

In 1975, National Brewing merged with Carling brewery in an attempt to save both companies. Although, the Hoffberger's managed to sell their beer holdings for more than \$16 million dollars, Jerold Hoffberger stayed on as head of Carling-National Breweries. At the time, National had two breweries (the other in Phoenix, Arizona) and Carling had seven; together they had the capacity to brew 1.9 million 60-gallon barrels a year, making it the 9th largest brewery of its kind in the country. Nevertheless, as Carling-National experienced a sharp decline in sales their first year, a merger with Pabst Brewing was subsequently proposed. The court, however, arguing that the fusion of the two companies would result in a monopoly, denied the merger. Merely three years later, Carling-National was sold to G. Heileman Brewing Company of LaCrosse, and the former brewing facility of Brewer's Hill was closed. Stroh' of Detroit later bought over the rights from Heileman in 1996. National Bohemian beer has not brewed in Baltimore ever since.

21st Century

As of today, the brewery has been converted to business and office spaces. National Bohemian, now only "National" in name, is brewed in North Carolina by Miller Brewing, under a contract agreement with Pabst Brewing Company of San Antonio, Texas. However, Mr. Boh, can still be found towering over the city of Baltimore and plastered on memorabilia across the country. He remains the official, self-proclaimed "uncrowned king" of Baltimore; and if you are lucky, he is said to "wink" at you.



National Beer
National Beer
You'll love the taste of National Beer
And while I'm singing
I'm proud to say
It's brewed on the shores
of Chesapeake Bay!



These are the lyrics of the National Bohemian song. "Natty Boh", has been a Baltimore symbol for a long time.

National Bohemian Beer was first brewed by the National Brewing Company of Baltimore in 1885. It was founded in 1885 by Joseph L. and William L. Straus, whose father Levy Straus gained control of a local brewery through foreclosure of a mortgage of malt debts, which was erected in 1872 by Frederick and Anna Wunder. The National Brewing Company merged with Carling, a Canadian firm that had built a large brewery in Halethorpe in 1961, and became Carling-National and became the nation's 10th-largest beer maker.



National Brewery introduced Colt 45 in 1963. When Colt 45 first hit liquor stores it was a premium product, priced higher than Boh and designed to compete with Bud, Pabst, and Schlitz. Dawson Farber, vice president of marketing for National Brewery, stated that the name was chosen to state the extra "bang" that Colt 45 had. (Malt liquor's alcohol content is as much as twice that of beer). "We had to be very careful to never show a gun in the advertising", Farber said. National Brewery was a major sponsor of the Baltimore Colts football at the time. Farber also said that, "he sometimes told people the brew was named for a Colt fullback who wore the number 45".

Colt 45 soon became National's first truly national brand. However, National Brewery had less luck with several follow-up products, including a "sparkling malt liquor" called French 76 ("It tasted just like champagne," Farber says eagerly) and 007 Special Blend, a mixture of beer and malt liquor whose cans

featured pretty models set against London landmarks.

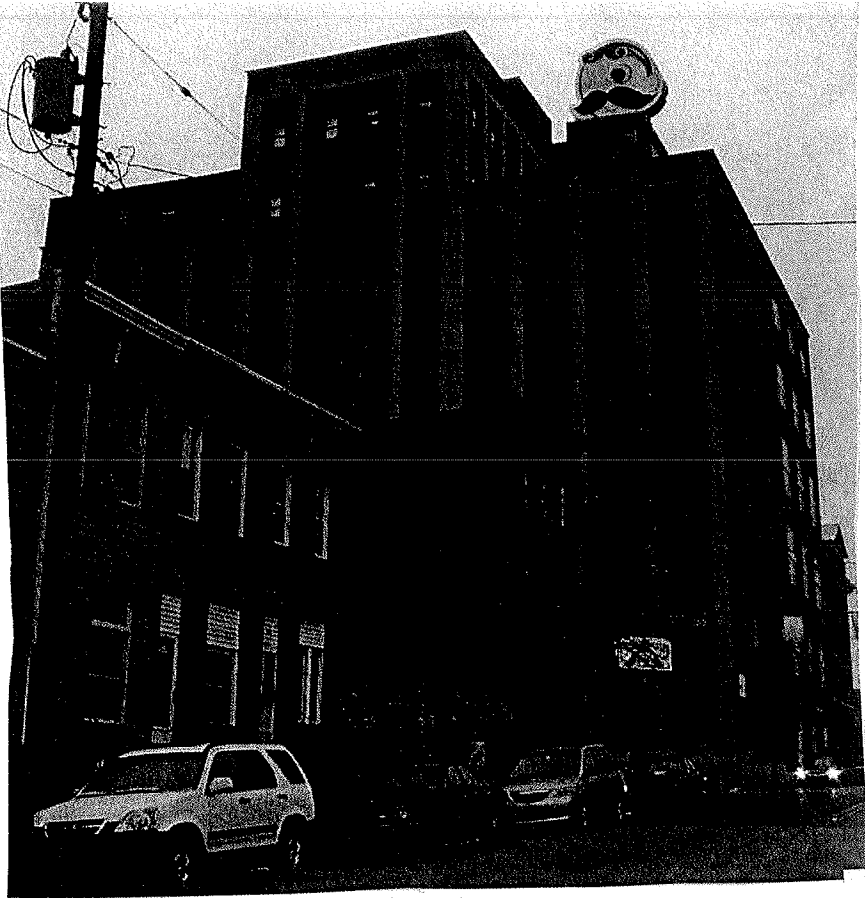
As a cost-cutting measure, National's Lager Beer Hill plant, (as we know now as the Brewers hill Plant), shut down in 1978 and moved to the Halethorpe facility. At its height, the brewery produced over two million barrels of beer in 1983 and employed over 550 people in Baltimore.

G Heileman Brewing Company bought out Carling National in the early 1980's. Heileman was then sold to the Stroh Brewery Company in 1996. Then it was sold to Pabst Brewing Company. The beer is now brewed in Eden, North Carolina by Miller. The Halethorpe brewery ceased production in 2000. It was razed in 2006.



The Whitman house, seen here on March 13, 1927, was for years used as offices for the National Brewing Company. It stood at the corner of Dillon and Dean (Fourth) Streets. (Courtesy John Rockstroh.)





That Beer from Maryland!

Some things that come from Maryland
 Are distinctly Maryland's own
 This golden beer is one of them ...
 Satisfying as a Maryland sunrise,
 And as sparkling as the sunlight
 On the waves of Chesapeake Bay!
 Once your palate has tasted
 The dry, pale-golden goodness
 Of its rich, full-bodied character,
 You'll know why connoisseurs include it
 Among the greatest beers on earth.
 Be home in Saratoga, Pocomoke. Try it soon!



BREWED AND BOTTLED BY THE NATIONAL BREWING CO. OF BALTIMORE, MD., MARYLAND

COMING YOUR WAY...

"Oh boy-what a beer!"

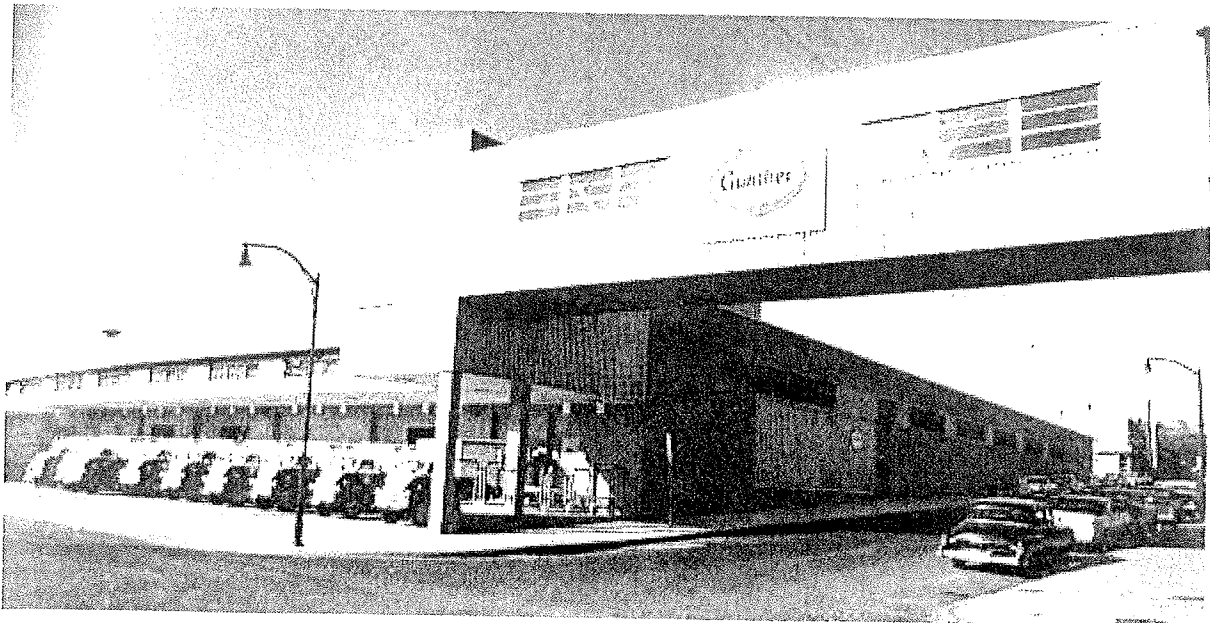
NATIONAL BEER IS A REGISTERED TRADEMARK OF THE NATIONAL BREWING CO., BALTIMORE, MD., MARYLAND

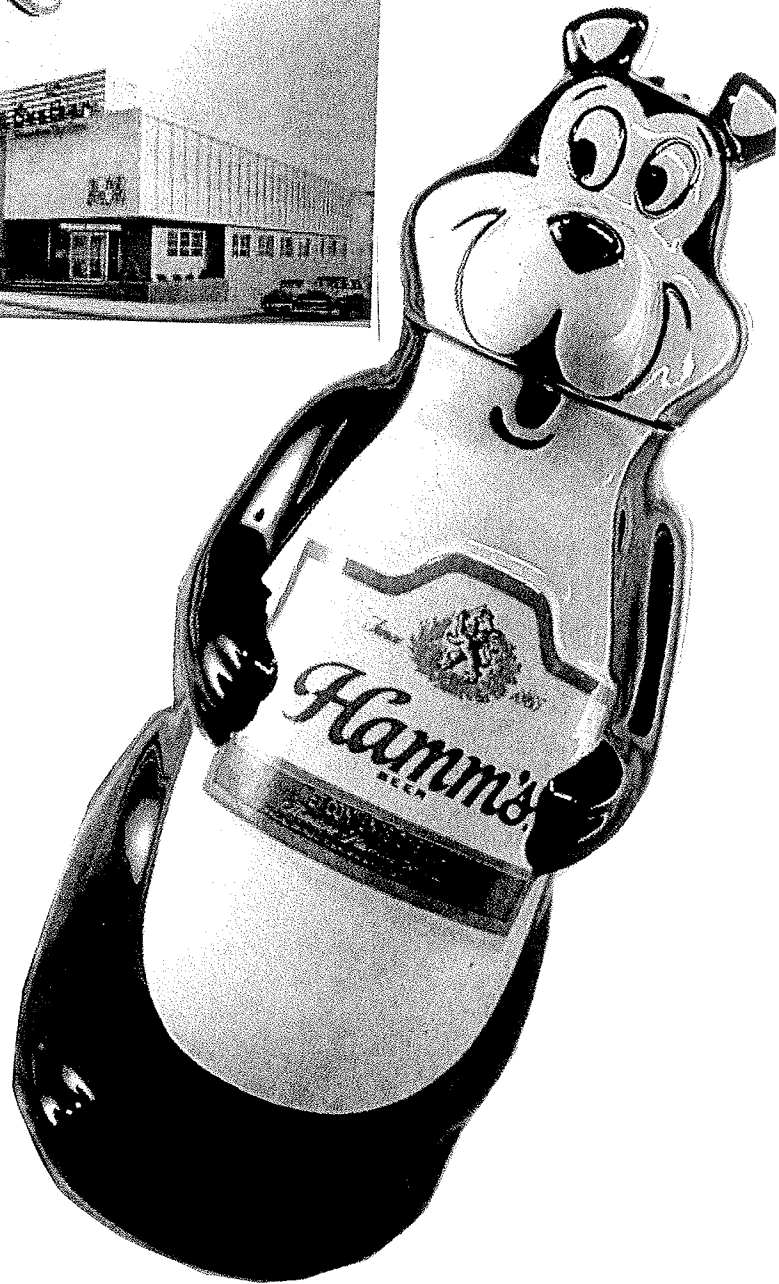
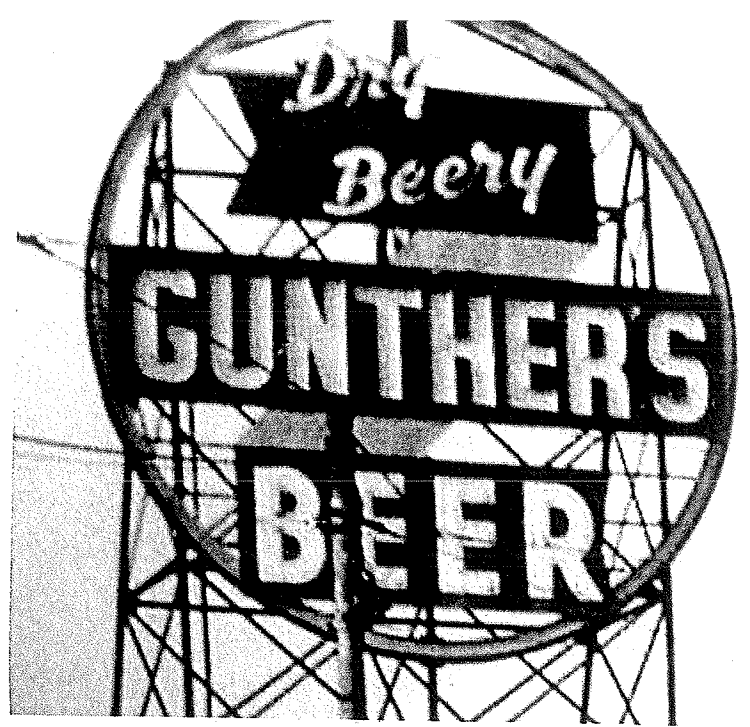
Gunther Brewing Company, founded 1900

Gunther Brewery is a historic brewery building located at Baltimore, Maryland, United States. The site comprises 15 masonry buildings. The main structure is a five story brick "L"-shaped Romanesque Revival-style brew house with a two-story brick ice plant built about 1910 and one- and two-story boiler room. Additional brew houses built in 1936 and 1950 are also on the property. The Tulkoff Factory and Warehouse was built about 1964. It was home to the George Gunther, Jr. Brewing Company, founded in 1900. By 1959 it was the second largest brewery in Baltimore, when it produced 800,000 barrels per year and employed approximately 600 people. Hamm's Brewing Company bought the Gunther Brewing Company in 1960. Later acquired by the F&M Schaefer Brewing Company in 1963, the plant was closed in 1978. The Tulkoff company briefly used the factory for their sauce products at the conclusion of all brewing operations.

After that, large portions of the rear walls of some buildings were demolished to facilitate salvage. The former brewery is being redeveloped into a modern, mixed-use building, much like other Canton buildings. Unfortunately, a recent fire in August 2011 destroyed large portions of the building.

Gunther Brewing Company was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002





J. F. Weissner Brewery, founded 1863

Became The American Brewery after Prohibition

The Wiessner Brewery was a major employer for the city of Baltimore in the late 1800's. The brewery was located in the 1700 block of East Gay Street. It was founded and built by Brewmaster John Frederick Wiessner in 1863 by the community that is known as the Greenwood estate. This area seemed to be a popular area for breweries. Down the street of the Wiessner Brewery location, a brewery was built in 1853 by George Rost(The Standard Brewery) and another brewery was built around the same area by George Bauernschmidt in 1864.

The Wiessner Brewery reached its highest peak of productivity in 1919. The brewery reached 110,000 barrels that year. They employed sixty one people; sixteen in brewery work, seventeen drivers, fourteen bottling house, eight garage men, and six office workers. It also helped that they had competition in its own neighborhood to vitalize the brewery and the neighborhood. "Those few blocks of Belle Air road(now Gay Street), must have been quite a site between 1886-1888 as both Wiessner and Bauernschmidt erected modern breweries, both said to be "show places of their day" ...The modern ice machines in these two plants were the first of their kind in Baltimore and created considerable interest and discussion".



With the new building being built, The Wiessner brewery was not only known as a vital employer for the city but as a piece of art. "The Flamboyant brew house, the complex's overwhelmingly distinctive feature and an example of the Teutonic Brewery Style, fondly referred to locally as "Germanic Pagoda" ...It has stained glass windows, three incredible towers and an altogether commanding silhouette".

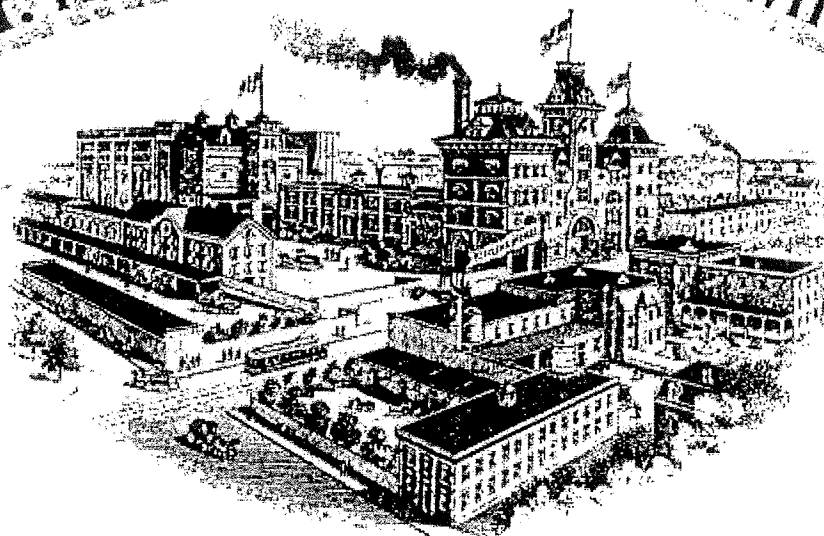
Wiesner's was an effective force in employing and vitalizing the neighborhood by bringing immigrants to the states. "Across the street is a three story townhouse surrounded by a brick and cast-iron fence, the residence of Wiessner and family. Its large size was strictly functional, for it housed not only the family but workers newly arrives from Germany'. Not only did he bring immigrants from Germany to work in the brewery, he brought in skilled professionals to the area. "They brought a brew-master, Dr. Eugene Schwoerer, graduate of Stuttgart and one of the finest brew-masters in Germany". This transition helped professionals move to Baltimore and help stabilize the neighborhood with potential homeowners.

In 1920, Wiessner Brewery closed its doors due to prohibition. The Wiessner property was sold to the American Malt Company in 1931. However, with the end of prohibition in 1933, the Wiessner brewery opened in production again as a brewery. The company name changed from the Wiessner Brewery to the American Brewing Company.

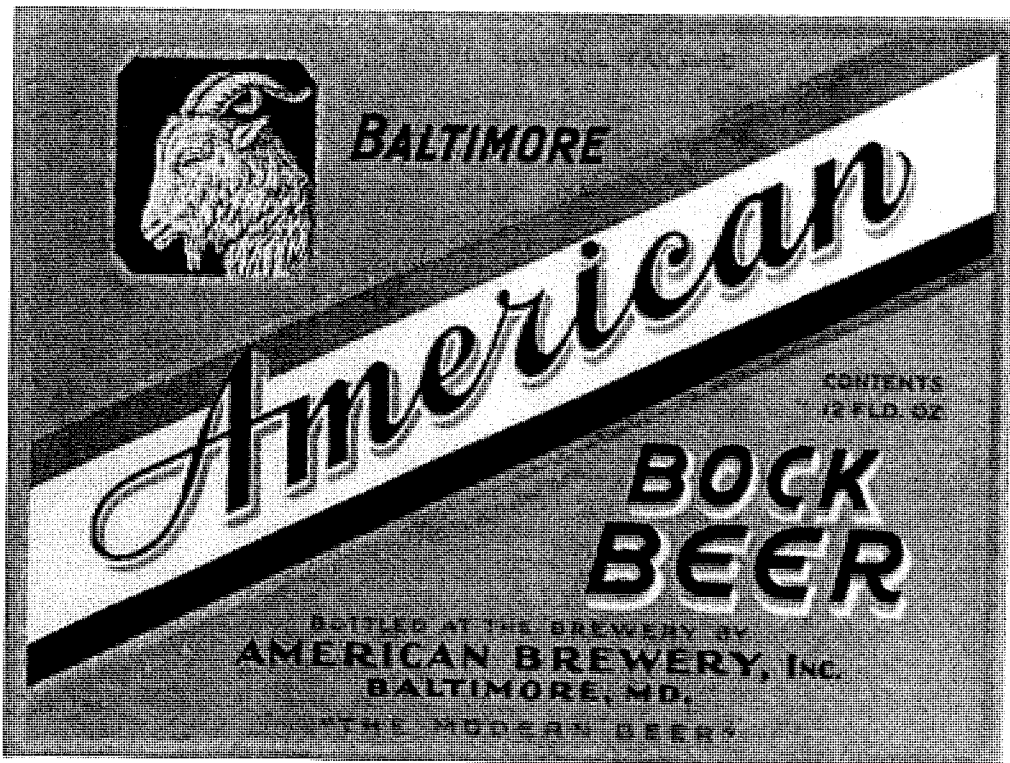
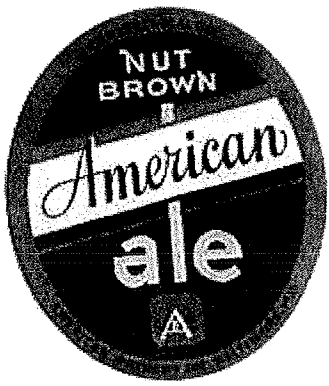
After prohibition ended, many people thought that beer making would revive the local economy and bring the promise of quality beer again to Baltimore. "They say that the return of beer will put forty thousand folks to work in Baltimore...I can well believe it".

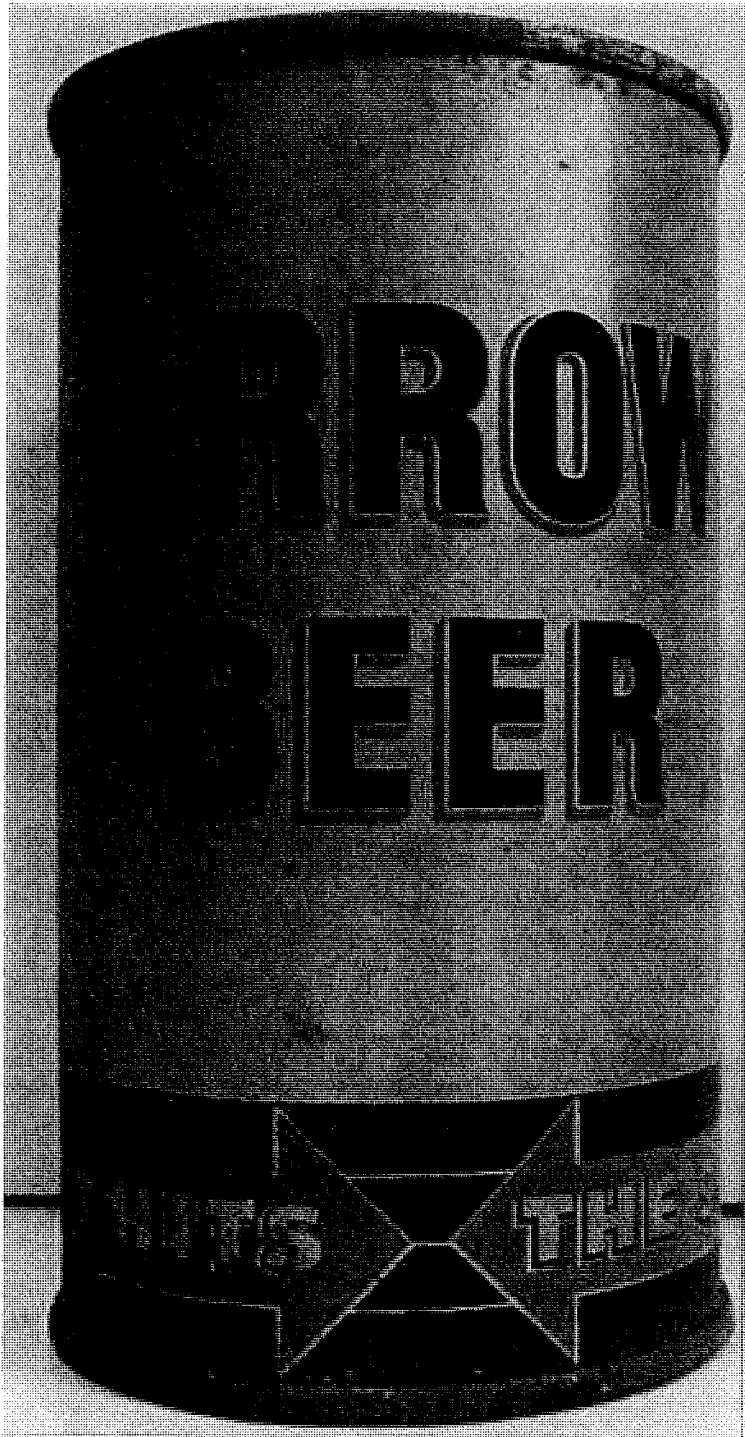
The Allegheny Beverage Company was the last company to occupy the brewery. They were one of twenty one breweries in operation around Baltimore. Its production was 1000-1500 barrels per year or about .07% of the national production. "American Beer" was produced here until 1973. In April 2009, the building, carefully rehabbed, opened its doors and became the Baltimore headquarters for Humanim.

THE J. F. WIESSNER & SONS BREWING CO.

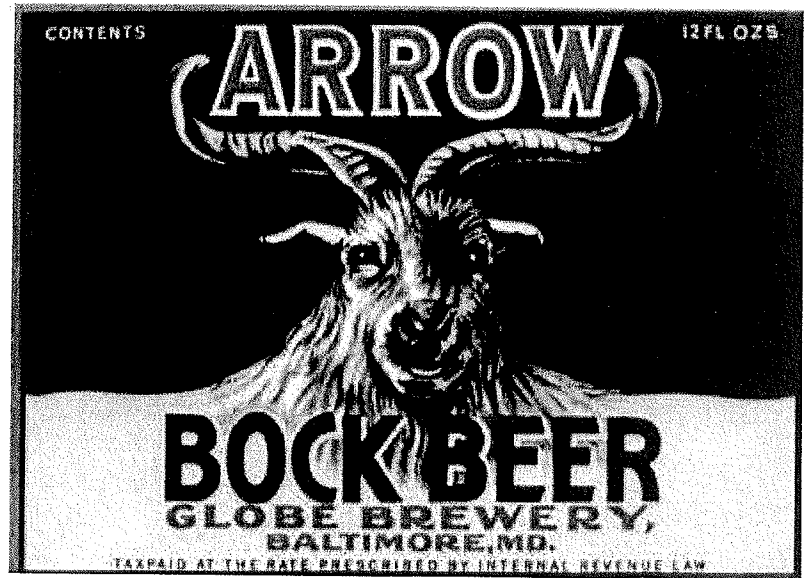
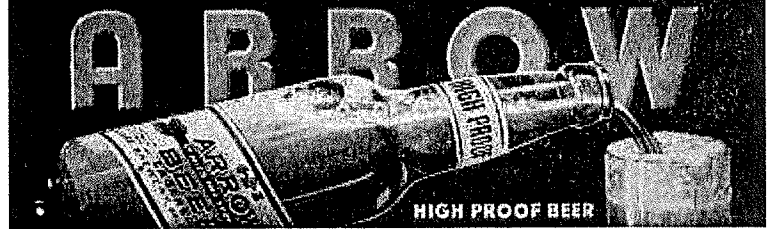


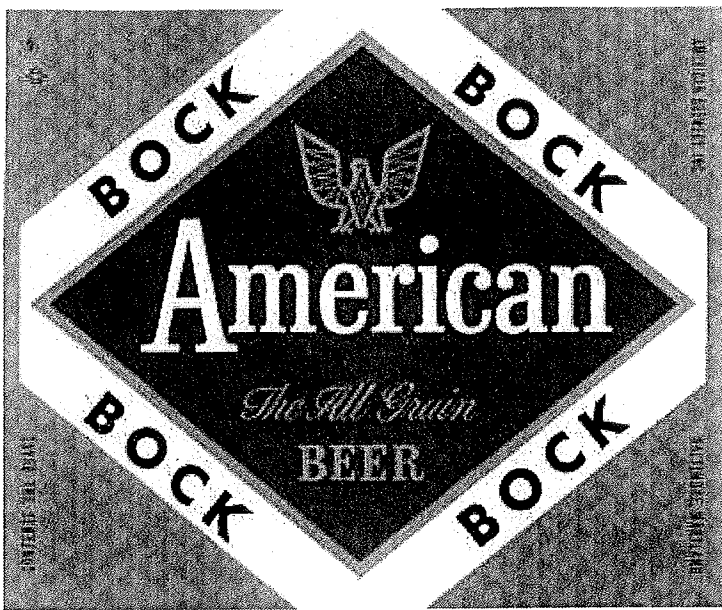
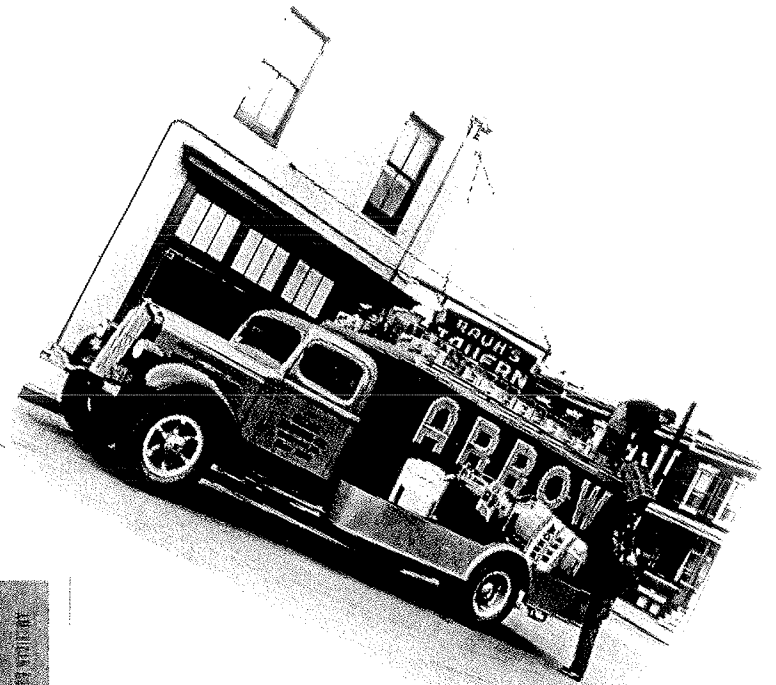
The John F. Wiessner & Sons'
BREWING COMPANY

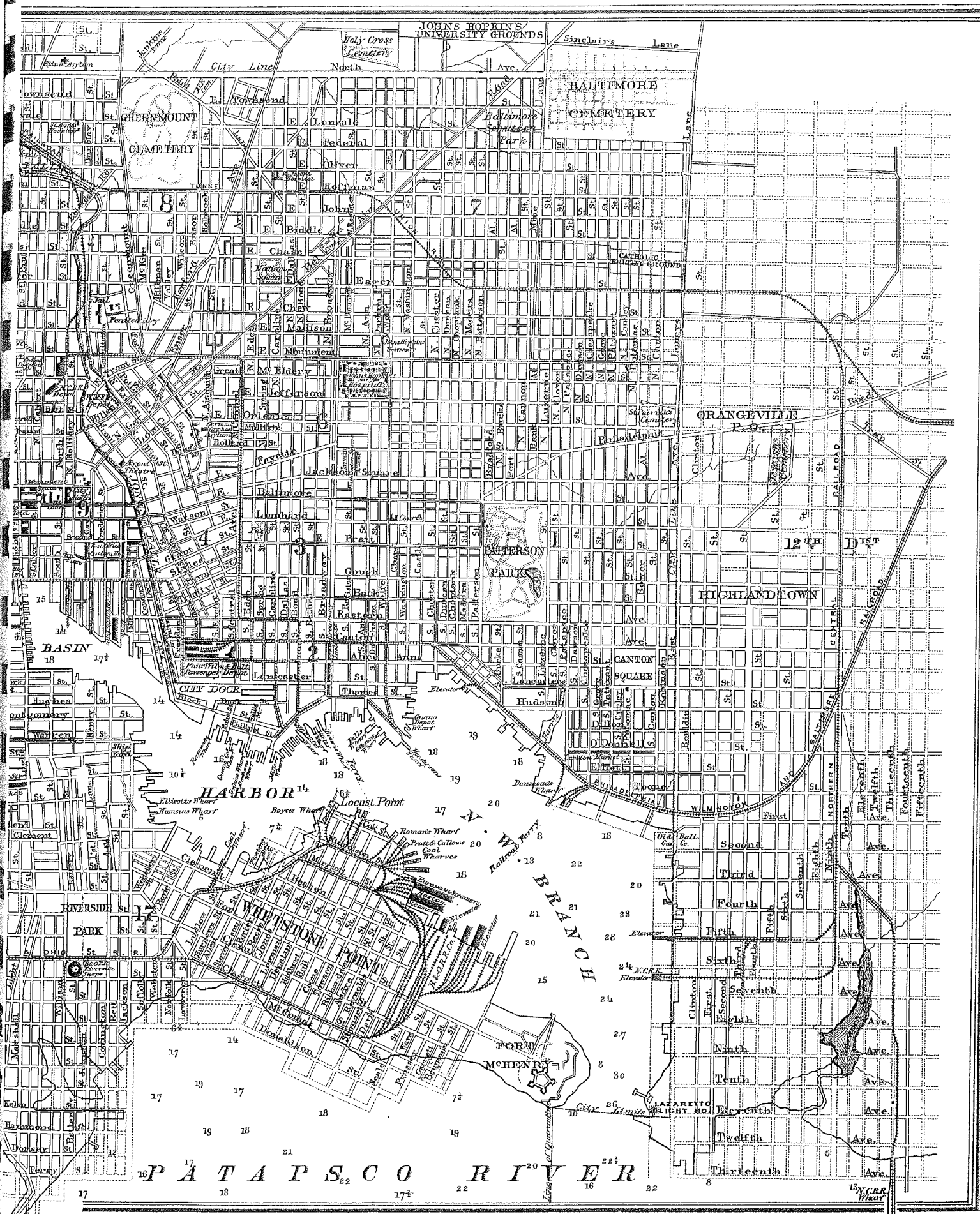




● Here's one beer that speaks for itself--in creaminess, flavor, power, lift--in everything that makes good beer good. But you have to speak for it first. So don't just say "Beer"--say "High Proof Arrow Beer". Your dealer has it. Globe Brewery, Plaza 8900.







JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY GROUNDS

BALTIMORE CEMETERY

GHERMOUNT CEMETERY

PATTERSON PARK

ORANGEVILLE P.O.

12TH DIST

HIGHLANDTOWN

CANTON SQUARE

HARBOR

BRANCH

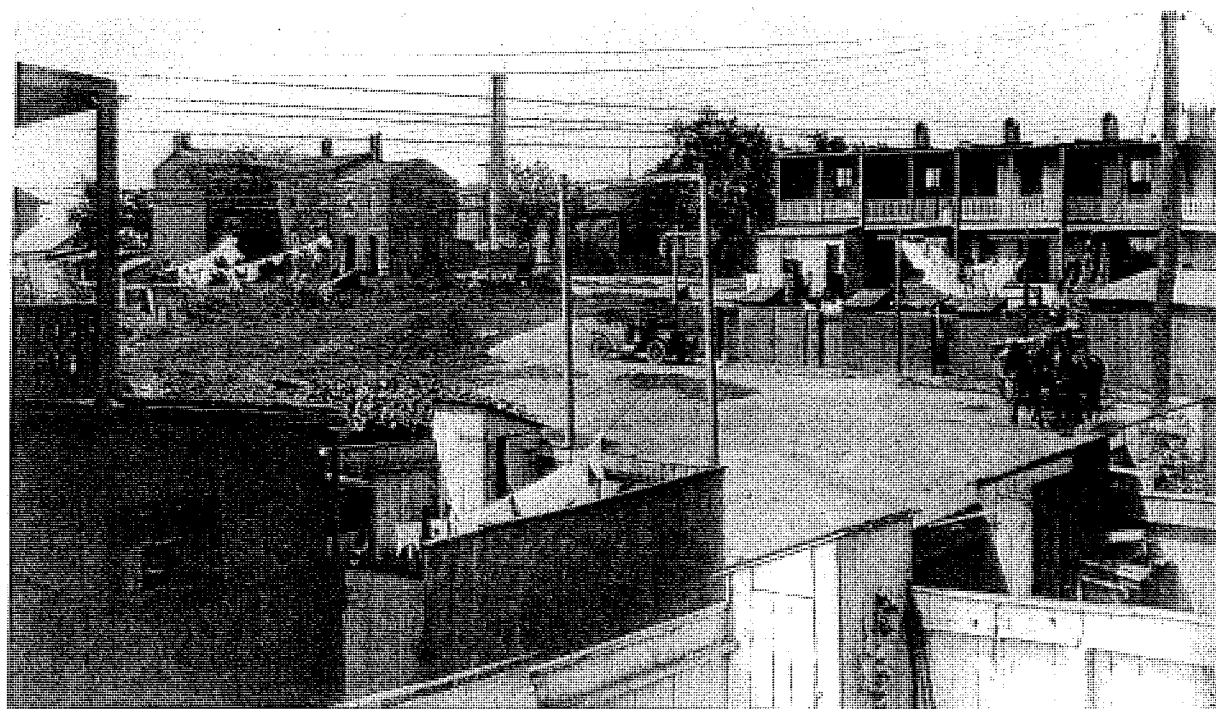
PATAPSCO RIVER

LAZARETTO LIGHT NO. 10

13TH DIST

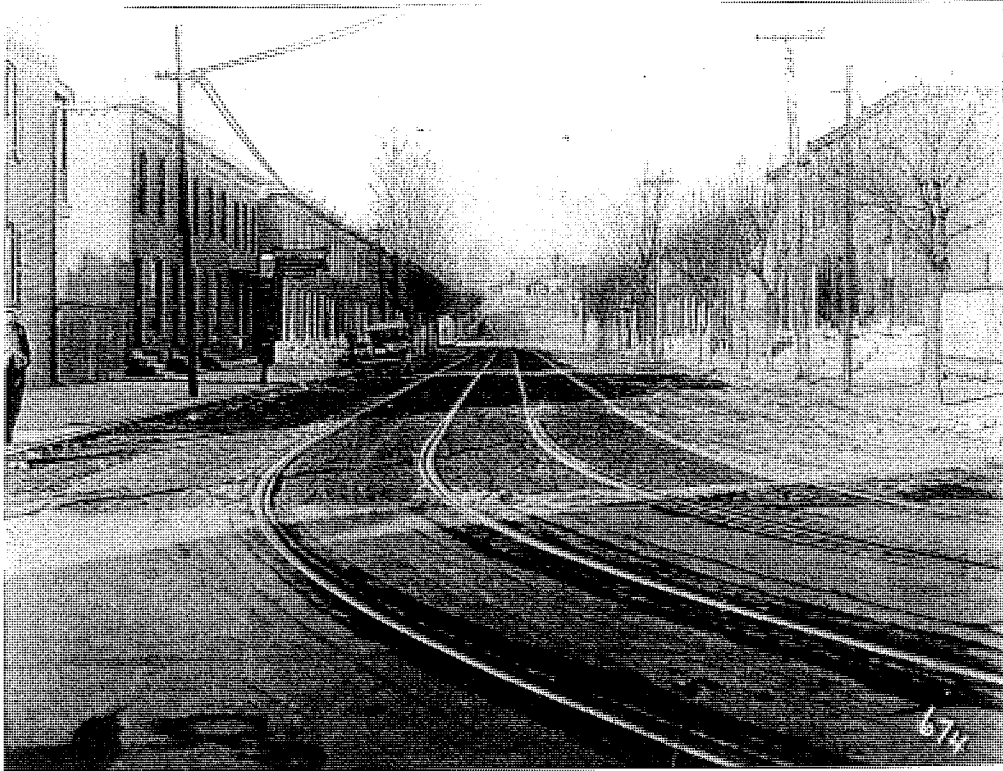


Sewer hookups were done largely with manual labor, which continued despite harsh winter weather. This shot from the 1920s was taken at Hudson and Dean Streets. (Courtesy John Rockstroh.)

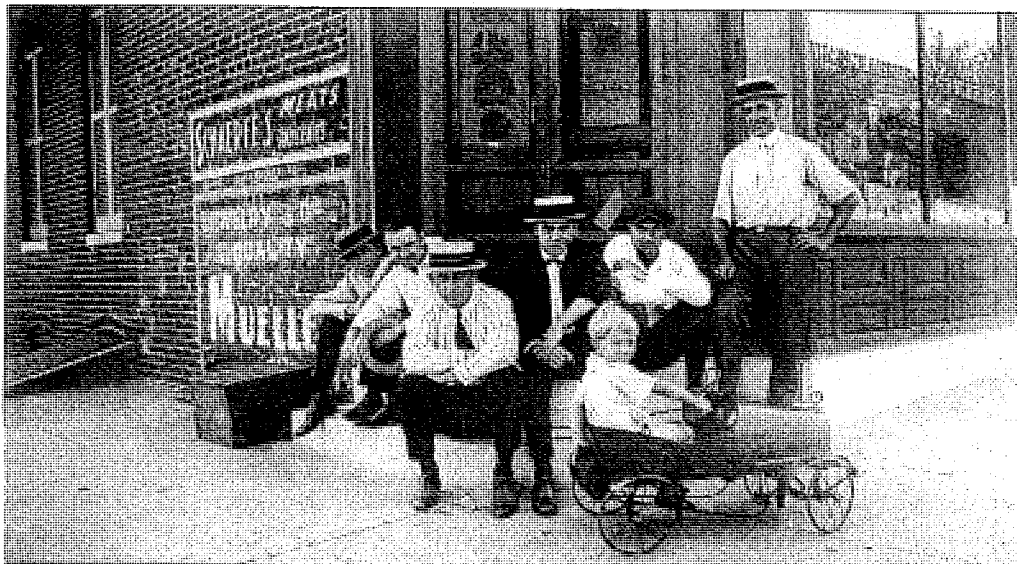


Living conditions in early Highlandtown could be crowded and foul smelling, as evidenced by this photograph taken in the rear of the 3800 block of Hudson Street in 1923. Outhouses or "earth closets" were in every yard, and stables were common. In addition, a south breeze off the water usually brought with it the unpleasant aromas of Canton-based industry.

The Knotty Pine is a charming bar and restaurant that has no knotty pine! The only thing that survived the fire was the oak bar and the trough that dates back to 1936 when the Knotty Pine's first liquor license was issued. Originally a stag bar, a wall divided the ladies from the men. The wall had a window through which the bartender delivered the ladies' beverages. They entered through a back door and could not see the men who stood by the bar, above the trough, "so they could spit or urinate," Alice March explained.



Original residents of Highlandtown referred to cars as "machines." This one had no trouble finding a parking place on East Avenue near Baltimore Street on January 8, 1917. To the left is Weber's Café, offering "Perfect Brew on Draught." (Courtesy the Maryland Rail Heritage Library of the Baltimore Streetcar Museum, Inc./Baltimore)



Back at Schaefer's Corner, Hudson and Seventh (Grundy) Streets, around 1925, straw hats suggest it's summertime. Check out the peddle car that youngster is driving. (Courtesy John Rockstroh.)



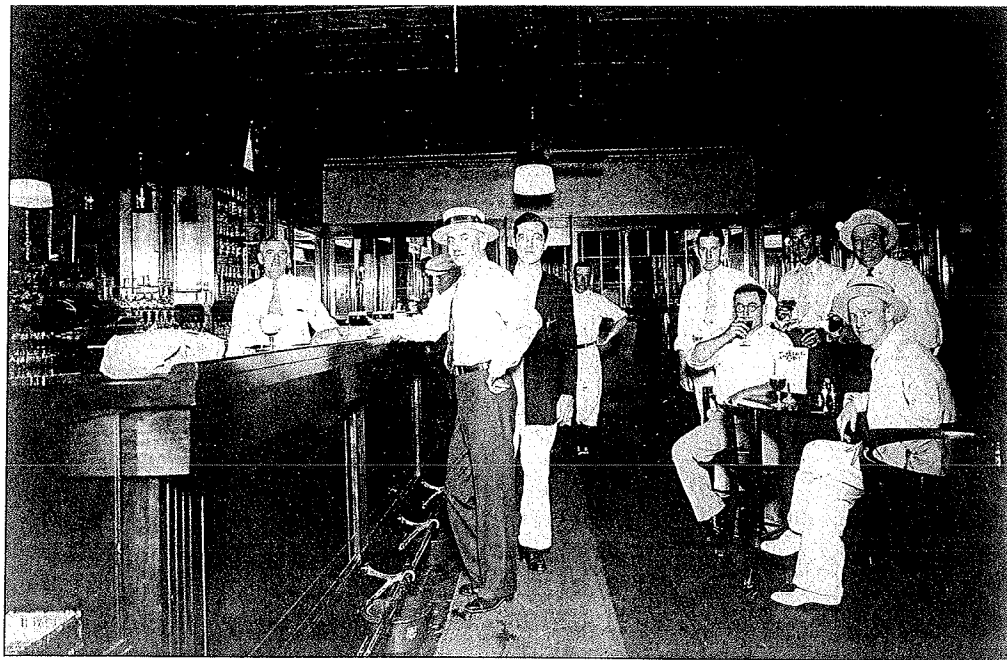
It was 1930, and the Al Jolson film *Big Boy* was playing at the brand new Patterson Theatre, at Eastern and East Avenues. Admission on this day was 15¢ for adults and a dime for kids. The Patterson was managed by the Grand Theatre Company, an affiliate of Durkee Enterprises, which razed the original theater in 1929. The new Patterson opened September 1930 and remained a Highlandtown institution until 1995. Today the building is home to the Creative Alliance. (Courtesy Enoch Pratt Free Library.)



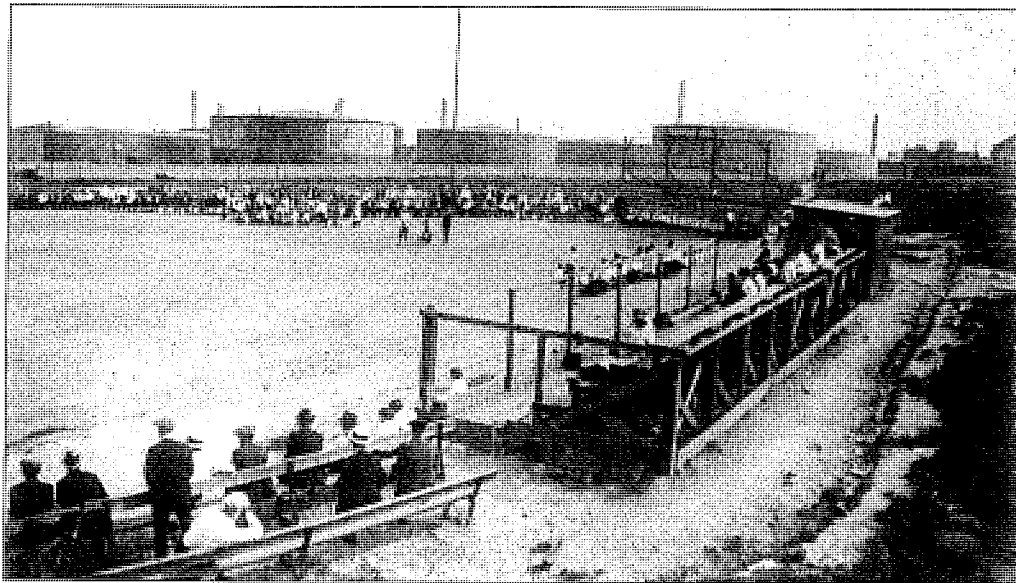
The original location of Haussner's Restaurant was on Eastern Avenue, next to Stella's Dress Shop. William Henry Haussner (1894–1963) came to Baltimore from Bavaria in 1925, opening this restaurant the next year. Haussner's remained at this location until 1936. Look closely at the small sign in the window on the right. It advertises crab cakes for 10¢! (Courtesy Southeast Community Development Corporation.)



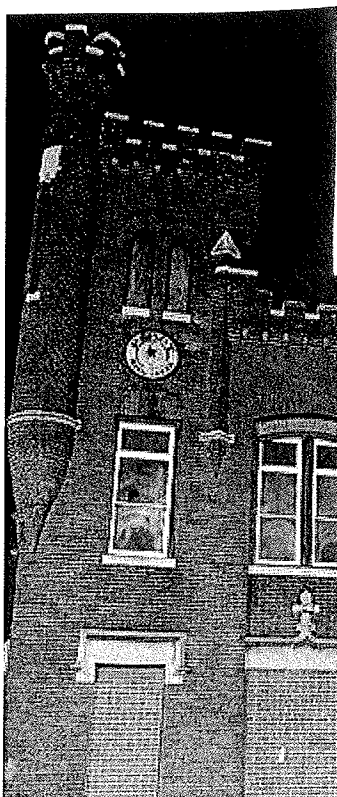
In 1936, Haussner's Restaurant moved to larger quarters across the street at Eastern Avenue and Clinton Street. This shot, from the late 1930s or early 1940s, shows separate entrances for the bar and dining room and large windows. Minor renovations were made over the years, and Haussner's remained popular until the day it closed in September 1999. (Courtesy Marion Zych)



On a warm day around 1920, men (unescorted women were not admitted) down glasses of Monumental Beer at the Grand Café in the 500 block of South Third (Conkling) Street. Joseph Regan Sr. (1884–1955) is behind the bar at the left. His nephew John Regan can be seen in the foreground at the bar with the straw hat. The remaining patrons are unidentified. Regan was a major baseball fan who sponsored and/or managed local teams for years. Babe Ruth was reportedly an occasional customer. (Courtesy Patrick Shannon Regan.)



With O'Donnell Street and the Esso facility in the background, a respectable crowd was on hand to take in this baseball game at the Fernwood Oval. Long ago, Hudson Street had been called Fernwood Avenue. When the National Brewing Company expanded, the field disappeared.





College Men Prefer Beer

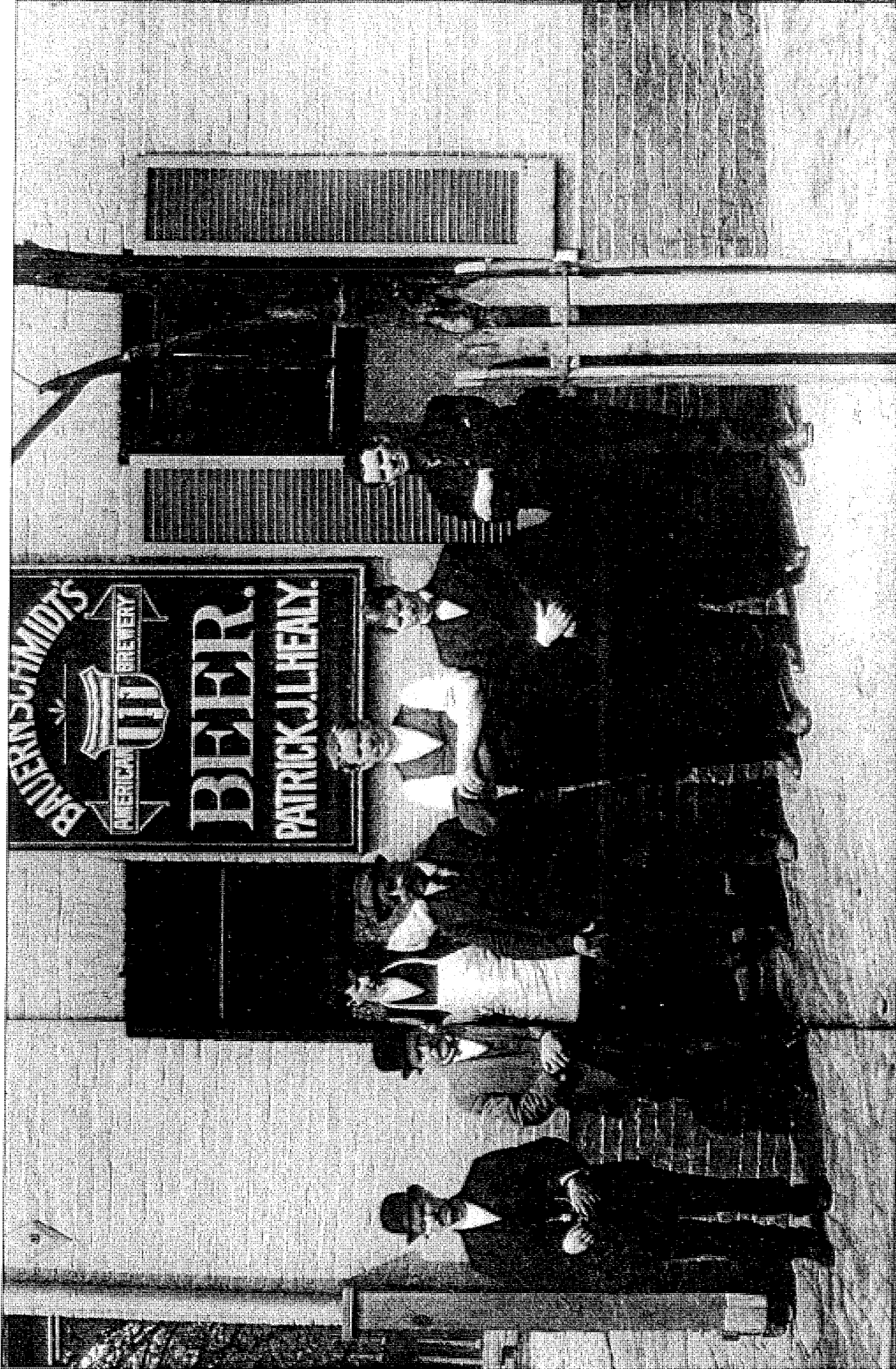
Hopkins Men--- Perry Edelstein and Morris Lazarus, are downing
Baltimore Beers a few of the best beer brewed. In fact, for us it is
the only beer. Why? It is made right here in
the Monumental City of Baltimore. First in
everything, especially good beer. Hopkins men
will be forever grateful to the

BALTIMORE BREWERS' ASSOCIATION

AMERICAN BREWERY, INC.
BRUTON BREWING COMPANY
FREE STATE BREWERY CORP.

GLOBE BREWERY
GUNTHER BREWING CO., INC.
NATIONAL BREWING COMPANY

THEODORE REICHHART, INC.



Healy's two sons, in still an operative mode at Wall, Wall and Schroeder streets and owned by descendants of the same family, were a good popular with the thousands of men

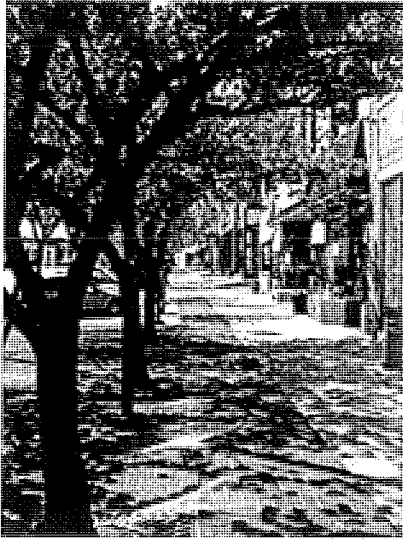
employed at the B-O Railroad's Main, Cline, Denny, Leominster, Worcester, and other points, were made at the prevailing industrial complex that was maintained by the

large numbers of men in the business of the town, which, in fact, was a place preserved here in the last years of the century, and had our industrial machinery at

the old firm, which had then also included St. Peter's, Francis, Catholic Church, and the Father's Market. From the eastern's children.

HISTORY OF HIGHLANDTOWN

The History of Highlandtown as a separate and distinct neighborhood really began in 1866, when Fort Marshall - located on what was then called Snake Hill - was abandoned by the Union troops.



A young Irish immigrant named Thomas McGuinness, under the direction of the Philadelphia Land Company, which owned the property, started the development of the area as a residential neighborhood. McGuinness planted trees and laid out streets, naming one Mt. Pleasant Avenue after his own birthplace in County South, Ireland.

For years, the neighborhood's only resident, McGuinness, lived on the northwest corner of Baylis and Bank Streets. His original house was an odd attraction, being the cabin of an old boat hauled to the site and roughly renovated into living quarters. He later built a frame house and still later a three- story brick dwelling.

Early Local Industry

Among the earliest industries to move into the little village was George F. Weissner's Fort Marshall Brewery at Highland and Eastern Avenues, which began producing beer in 1869. The brewery employed nine employees, and at the southern end was a beer garden, saloon and picnic ground. Later, Weissner added a bowling alley, a dancing pavilion and flying

horses. In 1899, the plant was purchased and closed by the Maryland Brewing Company, a trust which had bought 17 local breweries.

Another local industry was the Mickey Dorsey and Son Acid Factory, which later became Geyner's Lime Kiln. In addition, the three Schluderberg brothers - Conrad, William and George - bought land for a butcher shop. Theodore Maasch, butcher, and Adam Elgert, saloon-keeper, also opened businesses.

Lighting The Avenue



During these early days, a night watchman named Rapp would light the few street lamps each evening and patrol the streets, notifying residents that all was well.

Henry Miller was appointed the community's first policeman about 1875, and a member of the Elgert family was named the first magistrate.

On December 30, 1873, the Highlandtown Fire Department was organized as a hook and ladder company called "The Rescue." A cornerstone was laid on Main Street (now 400 North Conkling) in September 1875, and a 24' x 75' building was erected.

Snake Hill Becomes Highlandtown

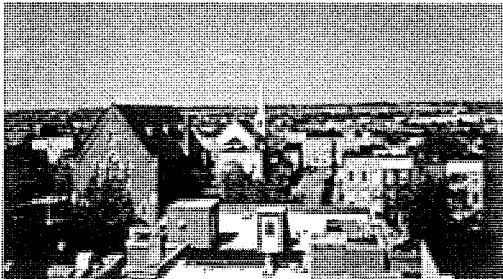
By 1870, the citizens objected to the original name of the community, Snake Hill. The village had already attracted two classes of businessmen, butchers and brewers: the butchers because they needed a thinly-populated area for their trade, and the brewers because of the potential for adequate space for the beer gardens that were popular and usually respectable gathering places for the whole family. Milkmen also found Snake Hill to be good pasture ground.

These dignified merchants called a meeting at Weissner's for the purpose of selecting a new, definite name for the community. The Committee finally decided on Highland Town for the central portion of the community, from which one could see the surrounding countryside for miles around. When Baltimore City annexed the area in 1918, the spelling was changed to avoid confusion.

Highlandtown As Oasis

In the late 1870's and early 1880's, few streets ran east of Patterson Park. Eastern Avenue was paved with cobblestones as far as the wooden bridge over Harris Creek. Beyond the bridge, the avenue was a small road. So, for years, Highlandtown remained a country village of detached brick and frame houses with picket-fenced front yards. Woods, corn fields, dairies and truck farms surrounded the village.

Church's Were a Cornerstone of Highlandtown



Many Germans resided in Highlandtown, the majority of whom were Roman Catholics. At first, these German-speaking Catholics walked a mile and a half from their homes, or rode the Green Line horse car that ran on Toone Street as far as Conkling Street, to St. Michael's Church and school located on Lombard and Wolfe Streets.

St. Michael's Church was administered by the Redemptorist Fathers who first came to Baltimore in 1840 when an agreement was reached between the Most Reverend Samuel Eccleston, Archbishop of Baltimore, and the Redemptorist Order that they assume charge of the German Catholics of the Arch-Episcopal City and of the whole diocese, by employing a number of German priests who were competent missionaries.

By 1870, these German-speaking Catholics petitioned the Archbishop of Baltimore, the Most Reverend James Roosevelt Bayley, for a church in their neighborhood. The

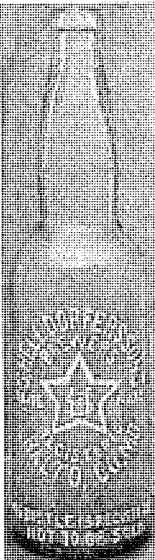
Redemptorist Fathers viewed the proposition favorably because many people were missing Mass and growing lax in the practice of their faith on account of the distance from the church.

Father Joseph Mueller visited the German families of Canton and Highlandtown, to take up subscriptions for the purchase of a site for the new church. In 1873, The Redemptorists bought three acres of land on the abandoned site of Fort Marshall for \$17,000. Under the enthusiastic direction of Father Mueller, the work of leveling the earthworks at the present corner of Highland and Foster Avenues was begun with plans calling for a combination church and school. By December 1873, the school and church were operating.

A Brewery is also Born

Around this time, Gottlieb Bauer and Frederick Buckler founded a brewery located on the southwest corner of Fait Avenue and Clinton Street, and sold it the following year to Sebastian Helldorfer. Mr. Helldorfer, a native Bavarian, was known in most circles as a highly skilled barrel maker and top coronet player who could quickly draw his friends around him into a place in the shade to sample the noble brew. When his brewery was completely destroyed by fire in 1880, it was quickly rebuilt and outfitted with the latest machinery and equipment. A tavern restaurant and park were new additions, making Sebastian Helldorfer's Star brewery the pride of the area.

The cooling tower for the brew was built on a hill and offered a far-reaching view. (The cooled brew was then stored in underground caverns that collapsed in later years when houses were built above them.) From the tower, you could see Baltimore's many monuments, churches and spires, smoking hills framed by the green hills southwest, west and northwest. But the greatest view was that of the magnificent Chesapeake Bay with its large and small sailing ships, luxurious excursion steamers and occasionally a gigantic English steamer carrying immigrants to this country.



Population Starts to Grow



By this time, the community was growing. In 1881, Canton had a population of 2,084 and Highlandtown had 644 residents. In 1888, the State Legislature authorized extensions of City boundaries one mile east. The eastern boundary at the time had been East Avenue. On Election Day, the residents of the community rejected the State's gracious offer by a vote of 485 to 317.

Population Expresses Desire for Own Mayor

To show their true feelings, the residents of Highlandtown/Canton had a bill introduced in the Legislature in 1892, requesting the authorization to allow the consolidation of the community into a separate municipality with its own mayor, city council, police and fire departments. The measure was defeated. Both City and County politicians were reluctant to allow a rival.

Taverns on the Rise

At about this time, the breweries in the area had decreased but the taverns were increasing. In the 3500 block Eastern Avenue were 23 taverns! Baltimore City at this time had a "Blue Law" which prohibited the sale of alcohol on Sundays. Therefore, the residents living in the eastern section of the City simply slipped across East Avenue to join their country cousins in the Highlandtown taverns every Sunday.

City Boundaries Moved to Include More of Highlandtown

But the community was getting too large and the City needed to expand its tax base. The Maryland Legislature of 1918 passed the new Annexation Act for Baltimore City in March of that year. The Act increased the City's area from 32.05 to 91.03 square miles. Highlandtown

was included in the annexation. The eastern City line moved from East Avenue to the current City line. Now Highlandtown was just a neighborhood within Baltimore City. Or was it? For years, people in the old neighborhood referred to the rest of Baltimore as "West Highlandtown."

Highlandtown Grows to Become a Major Shopping District



In the 1920's, Highlandtown began to grow into a major commercial district, one of only two shopping areas in the City (the other being Hampden) which did not have a market at its core. To fill the function of a market, Highlandtown had hucksters, who parked their carts or their trucks along the streets and sold goods out of the vehicles. Soon these were joined by a variety of stores.

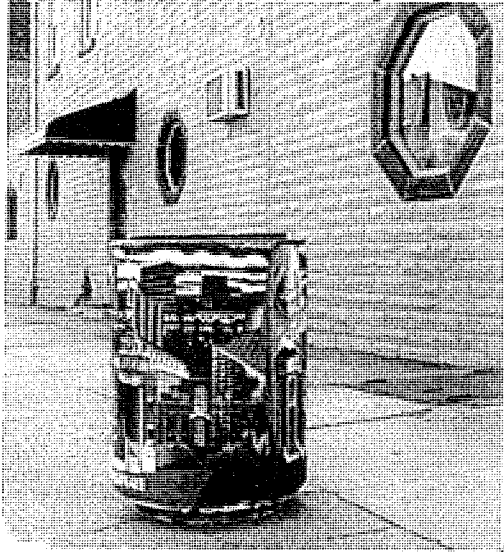
Shopping is Joined by Slaughter Industry

In addition to the thriving retail sector, Highlandtown in this period also had a number of slaughterhouses. Beef, veal and pork products were processed in the area, and, in fact, what is now Dean Street was known as Hog Alley. Chickens and ducks were also processed in Highlandtown. Many local residents worked at the packing houses (where no ability to speak English was required) or for the Pennsylvania or B & O railroads, whose yards were nearby.

1930's Saw Increase in Entertainment

After Prohibition ended, cabarets sprung up in the area. Admission was 50 cents, and you had to provide your own liquor and buy ice and set-ups from the cabaret owner. These flourished in the mid- to late 1930's.

Shopping District Hurt by Malls



After the war, Highlandtown continued to grow and prosper. Prosperity continued until the 1960's. Then, with the opening of Eastpoint Mall, shoppers began taking their business to the suburbs. Leading Highlandtown stores closed up, and were replaced by stores selling much lower quality goods. The decline continued into the early 1970's, when the Highlandtown merchants banded together into a strengthened businessmen's association. The Merchant's Association has done much in cooperation with the City and with other local groups to upgrade the area.

Brewers & Breweries

Sources

Maryland's Breweries:

<http://brucemobley.com/beerbottlelibrary/md/index.htm>

Breweries

[http://www.kilduffs.com/American Brewery Baltimore.html](http://www.kilduffs.com/American_Brewery_Baltimore.html)

<http://www.beerhistory.com/gallery/>

List of Breweries (If you have information and/or what like to add to the list, please email me at germanmarylanders@gmail.com)

Adler, E. F. Enterprise Brewery. E.E. Adler Proprietor

Albion Lager

Baltimore Brewing Company (1855 to 1935)

Bauernschmidt, Geo. Greenwood Park Brewery.

Bauernschmidt, Jr., John J. Mount Brewery

Bauernschmidt/Strauss Brewing

Bauernschmidt Frederick-American Brewery-1104-1126 Hillen Street

Greenwood Park Brewery, Geo. Bauernschmidt, proprietor

Bauernschmidt & Marr Brewing Co., Spring Garden Brewery.

Berger, Bernhardt Albion Brewery

J.M. Berger's

Bruton Brewing Company (1935-1940)

Chesapeake Brewing - 1528 to 1534 Pennsylvania Ave.

Darley Park Brewing (1868 to 1901)

Dawson Brewing

George Brehm Brewery-Brehm's Lane

Beck, August -Frank Steil Independent Brewing Co.

Dukehart, Thos. M. Maryland Brewery

Eigenbrot Brewery (1873 to 1920)-10 to 40 Wilkins Avenue

Freestate Brewing (1900 to 1950)

Gottlieb-Bauernschmidt-Straus Brewing Co.-313 South Hanover Street

Globe Brewing Company-Hanover and Congress Sts.

Gunther Brewery (1900 to 1959)-Corner of Third and Toone Sts.

Hals Brewing (1748 to 1952)

Charles Hamm Brewery (1868 to 1901)

Helldoerfer, Sebastian Star Brewery

Hoenervogt (also Henervogt Park)

Hecht, Miller & Co., Bayview Brewery

Imperial Brewing Company (1960 to 1973)

Klemm Brewing

Lucas Brewery - Globe Brewing Company (1748 to 1963)

Martz, Nicolas

Monumental Brewing Company-Corner of Eighth and Lombard Sts.

Mueller & Handloser

Muth, Louis & Son

National Brewing (1885 to 1974)-Third and O'Donnell Sts.

Phoenix Brewery (prior Nagengast & Bros)
Theodore Reichhart Brewing
Sandkuhler, Frank (101 N. Collington Ave.)
Schlaffer, Franz & Sons, Oriental Brewery
Schneider, Fred.
Jacob Seeger- Seeger's, Jacob Estate, Crystal Brewery
Sommerfeld, John
Ye Olde Steil (1865 to 1920) Frank Steil Brewing-202 Garrison Lane
Solomon Straus Malster
Standard Brewing-1766 North Gay St.
Stiefel, E W
Straus, H. Bro & Co., Darley Park Brewery.
Straus, J L. & Bro. National Brewery.
Straus W. H.
Union Brewing Co.
Von der Horst -Eagle
Wehr, Hobelmann & Gottlieb
Weber, F.
Wiessner, J. F. (1896 to 1916)-1700 North Gay Street
Wiessner, J. F. & Bro., Brewing Company
Wiessner, J. F. & Bro., Brewing Co., Fort Marshall Brewery.
Worner, Otto

Frederick- Baer, Heck, Hauser, Kuhn and Lipps founded breweries in Frederick Western Maryland-Beck, Fersenmeier, Hodel, Himmler and Zink

The 1870 Federal Census: There were 8 Brewers in Baltimore, employing 86 persons and having a production value of \$254,304.

In 1877 the production of the 65 breweries in the Revenue District amounted to 247,722 barrels
 The year-report for the year 1886 shows 529,111 bls..

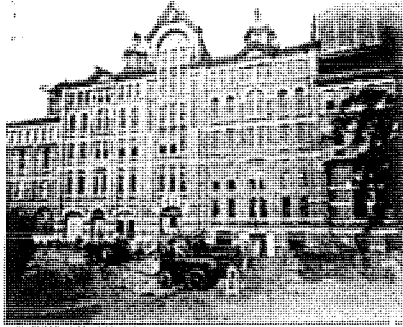
Volstead Act-1920 (Prohibition)

George Bauernschmidt ()-Brewer

Mr. Bauernschmidt was born in Germany and when arriving in the U.S. began working as a brewmaster in an existing brewery, but later opened his own brewery, the George Bauernschmidt plant, in 1864. It had humble beginnings being a small plant on Belair Avenue (Gay Street). It was in the neighborhood of Schützen Park. This plant was in the same vicinity as his wife's brother's (J. Frederick and Henry Wiessner) brewery. The Bauernschmidts' had seven children. George's business flourished and as his son's grew, they became involved in the business. Frederick (profile below) was treasurer of the company and his brother, John, was the vice president. According to Baltimore: Its' Past and Present-A Souvenir book for the U.S. Brewer's Assn. 1887, the plant put out about 60,000 barrels that year and a bottling establishment was built). In 1898, the Maryland Brewing Company was formed and because of the success of George's plant, the Maryland Company acquired it. George welcomed the sale, as he was ready to retire. Frederick wasn't quite ready, nor was John, so George bought out their interest in the plant.



Frederick Bauernschmidt (1-10-1864 to 1933) Brewer & Philanthropist



Geo. Bauernschmidt & Reserve, Gay and Oliver Streets

Frederick was the son of George and Margaretha (Wiessner) and was born in Baltimore. His father was born in Germany and both George and Margaretha's families were involved in the brewing business. When Frederick's father, George (see profile above) sold the plant to the Maryland Brewing Company, Frederick started his own business to compete with the brewing giant, which at the time had purchased and consolidated all of the breweries in the city of Baltimore. He chose to open his plant near the Belair Market, which had plenty of space available for parking wagons, etc. Frederick had long experience and the knowledge to undertake such a venture. He began construction of a modern brewery in 1897, when the country was still unsettled due to the recent 'panic of 1893'[1]. He borrowed large amounts of money to complete the plant and in 1899, his American Brewery began operations. He suffered through many years of difficulty in establishing his operation, but by 1918 his business had grown substantially. It was reported that an English syndicate offered him three million dollars for the business. He did not sell and due to the adoption of the Prohibition amendment, his brewing business became almost worthless overnight. At the time of the adoption of the amendment, he was brewing 350,000 barrels of beer a year. He was fifty-five and faced with forced retirement. He still maintained a large fortune.

His will reflected the type of person Frederick was. Shortly after his retirement in 1921, he made his will and established a legacy of \$500,000 for various charities in Baltimore in addition to a trust of \$1,000,000 payable after the death of his wife. Frederick had become a philanthropist. One of his most significant contributions to Baltimore, however, was the donation to the Union Memorial Hospital. After discussing particulars with Dr. J. M. Finney (Mr. Bauernschmidt's physician), once Senior Surgeon and Chief of Staff at the hospital, Mr. Bauernschmidt was determined to erect and equip the building on the Guilford Avenue front of the hospital, which was eventually named the Frederick Bauernschmidt Memorial Building.

He was generous to the point of being lavish in equipping the hospital throughout.

Mr. Bauernschmidt dedicated time and resources to the 'middle class'. He was persuaded that the well to do and the poor received the best hospital treatment and he wanted to help the great middle class who were sometimes unable to meet their obligations to the hospital. He established a trust fund of one millions dollars in securities, the income of which should be devoted to those who through unfortunate circumstances were unable to pay the cost of their hospitalization in full. In his letter dated March 12, 1925, to his Trustees, he indicates the goal toward which he is striving and gives practical directions, born of his long and successful business career, in the operation of the Fund.

Mr. Bauernschmidt's beneficiaries included, not only the Union Memorial Hospital, but also included hospitals operated under Jewish, Catholic and Protestant auspices and covered hospitals

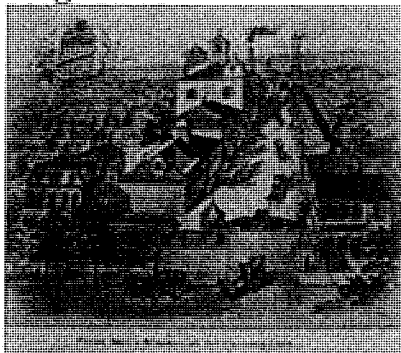
located in every section of the city. The trust was so successful that he conveyed all of his real estate holdings, except his home in Baltimore and a summer home in Middle River, to trustees to manage for the benefit of the Hospital for Consumptives at Eudowood and the Home for Incurables. The value of his real estate holdings was at one time estimated to be more than a million dollars. At the time of his death he gave one million additional to various hospitals in Baltimore, payable upon the death of his wife and \$500,000 to various other charities. He gave \$50,000 each to the General German Aged People's Home and to the General German Orphan Association, and equal sums for the Maryland School for the Blind and the Maryland School for the Deaf. An examination of the will discloses that there are not less than thirty separate charitable institutions receiving substantial legacies.

From the Baltimore Evening Sun at the time of his death, "Any man who has given away nearly \$3,000,000 must be regarded as a notable personage, but it was not merely the great size of his benefactions that made Frederick Bauernschmidt remarkable. The way in which he gave was as distinctive as the size of his donations". "He had small respect for that sort of charity that confines itself to scattering alms among the beggars. He believed that a little assistance given a hard-working man pursued by bad luck does more good in the world than much larger amounts spent in supporting the worthless. Thus, when he made his donations to the hospitals, he arranged it so that the benefit should accrue, not to paupers, but to self-respecting people accustomed to pay their own bills but not in position to pay the heavy bills that hospital treatment runs up. He furnished free treatment to nobody; but he made it possible for people with little money to pay with their little for the best of treatment for their loved ones.

The family is interred at Druid Ridge Cemetery.



August Beck



(Tom Beck's half brother) opened a brewery on what is now the 200 block of Franklintown Road back in 1865. In 1876 he built an impressive, three story mansard-roofed home at the brewery. By the 1900s, the brewery had changed hands and was functioning as the Frank Steil Independent Brewing Co.

H. August Beck took over at the death of his father, Mr. August Beck, Sr., the brewery and adorned it with many improvements. The buildings take a 140 front on Garrison Lane (now Franklintown Road) and extend to a ground complex of 500 feet deep. Two large ice houses provided storage space for 12,000 barrels. The grounds also included stables for 10 horses.

In the background of the brewery between shady trees, was a beautiful summer house, a favorite place of pilgrimage for the cities citizens.

When searching for the brewery all we found at that address was an auto repair shop and no existing buildings that could have operated as a brewery. 7-31-2010, however, further investigation indicates that the building is still present. An article found stated that it is pretty much covered in Formstone...and used by a paint company.



Thomas Beck

Dukehart, Thos. M. Maryland Brewery.- A sizable brewery that operated from 1856 to 1903 on the southwest corner of South Calverton Road and West Baltimore Street (a block from Eigenbrot's) It was founded by Thomas Beck in 1856, and later operated as the Dukehart Brewery until 1912. Unlike other breweries in the area that made lager, Dukehart's turned out ales and porters. The brewery nor any remnants of the buildings exist today.



Berger, Bernhardt

Albion Brewery-Belvedere Avenue near Greenmount Avenue on the old Belvedere Bridge/Pier. It was founded in 1848 by Luttwick. In 1887 it had capacity for 9500 barrels. It was housed in a four story, two being underground. There was also a summer garden that sat high enough for patrons to survey the handsome city.



J.M. Berger

818 South Bond Street: Berger, Mrs. E.- Founded by Mr V. Schwingler in 1858. In 1878 the late Mr JM Berger, the lager beer brewery established and provided with the best facilities. Since, unfortunately, too early deaths of the founder's, Mr. Berger's widow, Mrs. E. Berger continued the business in a manner worthy of every respect. A photo was not available because all that exists on this block as of 7-4-2010 are residences and a few converted shops.



George Brehm (5-1832 to 2-25-1904)

George Brehm procured Neisendorfer's Brewery in 1866 and renamed it Brehm's Brewery. The brewery was located at modern day Brehms and Bowleys Lane. At the time, the brewery was the largest employer in Georgetown. The 1880 census shows that George was born in Bavaria. He married Gertrude and they had two daughters and two sons. In 1899 Brehm sold his brewery for \$400,000 to the Maryland Brewing Company. Two years later he bought it back for just \$185,000. The 1900 census shows that his step-daughter, Mary Neisendorfer was living with he and his wife. This census also shows that he emigrated in 1864. He died in 1904 and his son

Henry took over the business. Henry expanded the brewery in 1907 by building a new brewhouse and storage house. During Prohibition, the brewery survived by producing sodas and resumed full beer production in 1933. In 1935 the Burton Brewing Company purchased the brewery and five years later went out of business.

George Brehm is buried at Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery in a family plot.

A sunpaper article on September 30, 1999, written by Jacques Kelly, reports that the 18 acre Edmondson Drive In was owned by the George Brehm family. The Drive In was bulldozed and a Home Depot built in that spot in 1999.

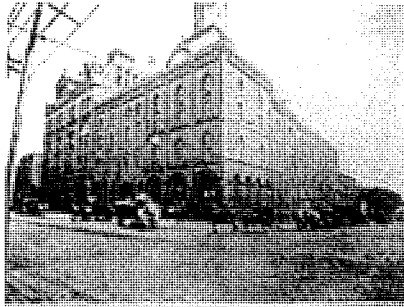
There is a legend that in the basement of Seidel's Bowling Alley (4443 Belair Road) across the street from the Cemetery there exists a blocked tunnel, which during the depression and prohibition, Brehm's Beer was bootlegged through this tunnel.



Globe Brewery:

The first Brewery (Southeast Corner Conway and Hanover Streets) was erected in 1748 by Barnitz Brothers. The building was situated on the Northeast Corner of Hanover and Conway Streets (later identified as 327 S. Hanover Street). The founders named it "Washington Brewery", but only brewed Ale, Porter and Brown Stout. It was in the same location as the magnificent Malthouse of Messrs. Wehr, Hobelmann & Gottlieb. (see profile). It was taken over in 1820 by Peter Gloninger and he operated it for 7 years and sold it to Samuel Lucas. While under the control of Lucas, it became the second largest brewery. Lucas died in 1856. It was then sold to Francis Dandeleet (a Frenchman who died in 1878). The name was changed to the Baltimore Brewery. In 1876 it was changed again when John Butterfield with his son-in-law, Frederick Gottlieb, operated the brewery.

All of these names have been associated with the 'Globe' Brewery.



GLOBE BREWERY, HANOVER AND CONWAY STREETS

Globe Brewery Name Changes:

Many of the names listed here have been written about on this page. Several of the early brewers above, but this appears to be the progression of the ownership/management of the Globe Brewery:

John Leonard Barnitz & Elias Daniel Barnitz (Baltimore & Hanover Strs) 1748-1749

Elias Daniel Barnitz (1749-1780)

John Hammond & Co. (1780-1794)

John G. Barnitz (1794-1795)

Thomas Kerr (1796-1809)
 (Captain) Joseph Leonard (1809-1816)
 (Captain) Joseph Leonard & Co. (Hanover and Conway & Perry Sts) 1816-1822
 Peter Gloninger, Washington Brewery (1822-1827)
 Gloninger & Johnson, Washington Brewery (1827-1829)
 J. Krouse, Washington Brewery (1829-1831)
 Graham & Silvey, Washington Brewery (1831-1832)
 Samuel Lucas, Washington Brewery (1832-1856)
 Francis Dandele, Baltimore Brewery (1856-1871)
 F. Dandele & Co. (Butterfield & English) (1871-1875)
 English & Co. (Peter Dahme) (1875-1876)
 John Butterfield & Co. (Frederick Gottlieb) (1876-1880)
 Frederick Gottlieb & Herman Hobelmann (1880-1881)
 Wehr-Hobelmann-Gottlieb & Co. (1881-1888)
 Wehr-Hobelmann-Gottlieb Brewing & Malting Co., Globe Brewery (1888-1899)
 Maryland Brewing Co., Globe Brewery (1899-1901)
 Gottlieb-Bauernschmidt-Straus Brwering Co., Globe Brewing (1901-1920)
 The Globe Brewing & Mfgr. Co., t/a Globe Bottling & Sales Co., ; Globe Brewery 313/327 S.
 Hanover Street (1920-1935)
 The Globe Brewing Co., t/a Hals Brewing Co., (1958-1963)
George Gunther (3-29-1846 to 9-1912)



George Gunther was born in Wirthheim, Germany. He came to this country in 1866 and a very poor young man. He began his career in New York at a brewery as an employee where he remained for three years. In 1869 he became the brewmaster for the Kress Brewery Co. of New York. In 1870 he came to Baltimore as a brewmaster for Geoege Rust. After a year he bought out Christian Gail and started in the brewery business for himself. Gunther was a brewery in Baltimore that was one of the city's greatest breweries. George Gunther, Jr., founded the brewery in 1900. It occupied a site east of the Canton Historic District in Baltimore. In the early days, it was called 'Guenther'. It was made up of 15 buildings, including the brew house itself, which was a five story brick building of Romanesque architecture. Even from a distance are the buildings visable. The architect, Mr. Otto C. Wolf of Philadelphia built the building as a model brewery. The edifices with granite foundations and pressed bricks were the latest building materials of that time. During its' day it was producing 800,000 barrels per year and employing at least 600 persons. In 1960, Theodore Hamm, founder of the Minnesota based Hamm's Brewing Company bought Gunther and discontinued the Gunther brand. It was sold three years

later to the F. & M. Schaefer Brewing Company, a New York based brewery. The brewery is listed on the Register of National Historic Places (2002). Mr. George Guenther wanted a clean, healthy stock of beer that will stand the equal of German beers. He was known as a public spirited and honored citizen in Baltimore. He lived in East Baltimore.

Gunther, George, cor. Third and O'Donnell. Canton (1888 Rippey Directory)



Helldoerfer, Sebastian Star Brewery

In the year 1874, Sebastian Helldoerfer's brewery burned and lie vacant until 1880. At that time, the brewery was rebuilt. The edifices occupy a full block and were equipped with the most modern facilities. The annual turnover, in 1880 amounted to 16 to 18,000 barrels, stabling for 12 horses, a carriage house and storerooms for 5000 completed barrels on the property. Two sons of Mr. Helldoerfer were active in business.

(From the Souvenir book, page 29)

From 1888 Rippey Directory: Star Lager Beer Brewery, S. Helldorfer, proprietor, corner Clinton and Lancaster



Ferdinand Joh (1827 to)-Eigenbrot Brewery



Joh was German born (according the the 1870 census, he emigrated from Baden. He was 43 in 1870) and opened a brewery in the 100 block of Willard Street, between Hollins Street and Frederick Avenue. Brewing began here in 1873 and ceased with the onset of prohibition. Nearly 100 barrels were rolled out each year. Brands brewed here included Extra Pale Adonis and Stock Lager. The brewery was expanded and renamed after Ferdinand's daughter's husband, Henry Eigenbrot. The 1880 Census shows Henry living with Ferdinand's daughter, Louisa on Wilkens Street in Snake Hollow Baltimore. He was 34 and Louisa was 24. The census shows that Henry was born in Maryland, but both parents were German born. Henry inherited the operations at the death of Ferdinand.

The Joh Family is buried, as is George Eigenbrot in Loudon Park Cemetery. Eleanor Joh is buried in the Family Plot. There was no entry for Ferdinand Joh.

Henry Eigenbrot (12-3-1845 to 4-19-1906) and family are buried at Loudon Park Cemetery.



Schlaffer, Franz & Sons, Oriental Brewery

Franz Schlaffer (8-21-1830 to 1906)

Anna Schlaffer (1830 to 1904)

The brewery was founded in 1872 by Franz Schlaffer and stood on Belair Road until it moved to Canton due to the poor water on Belair Road, where he ran the business from 1871 to 1881. It moved to Canton, Third and Lancaster Street, on Brewer's Hill, where the Oriental Brewery name came about. His sons, Charles, John, Andrew and Georg Schlaffer, worked with their father in two different breweries. It was a modern brewery with a large ice house and stalls for 12 horses. The yearly output in 1887 was 10,000 barrels. An old ad in a souvenir book indicates that it is an 'Oriental' Brewery. Franz was married to Anna. Both Franz and Anna were born in Augsburg, Bavaria. Franz studied the brewing business in Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1850 arriving in Baltimore.

The family is buried at Most Holy Redeemer Cemetery.

[Additional information provided by the ~~gg~~grandson of Franz Schlaffer, John G. Schlaffer]



Jacob Seeger (10-26-1809 to)-Crystal Brewery

Jacob Seeger was born in Reutlingen, Germany. His father was a silver-plater. Jacob received his education in his native town and pursued the same vocation as his father. He left Germany and came to Baltimore in 1831. He came with no funds and upon arrival and worked as an apprentice, when after three years, he established himself as a silver-plater. The business was profitable and in 1854 he became attracted to the brewery business and purchased a property on Frederick Road and entered into the brewing business. He retained his interest in the silver-plating business which he established on German Street (now Redwood Street).

His beer became so popular that in 1866 he sold his interest in the silver-plating business to devote full time to the brewery. Mr. Seeger was succeeded by his son, Paul August Seeger. The brewery: Seeger's, Jacob Estate, Crystal Brewery was located on Pratt Street between Smallwood and South Bentalou Streets in 1854. The shop sat where what was then referred to as 'Snake Hollow'. The brewery included a beer garden and flowerbeds behind a white picket fence at the corner of West Pratt Street and Frederick Avenue. Mr. Seeger was confined to his home on 311 West Fayette Street from 1876 until his death. He was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church.



Solomon Straus Malster

Established in 1866 and still stands today. The old building has been completely renovated and the new owners have built a new building next to it. The buildings are condominiums with the history preserved.

The Canal Street Malt House takes its name from its previous incarnation. Built in 1866 to store malt for the city's growing brewing industry, the building features red brick walls and colossal paned windows, which today reflect Baltimore's industrial past. To preserve the building's historic flavor, architectural features including exposed concrete columns and eighteen to twenty foot ceilings contribute to the post industrial residential feel of the residences.

http://www.innerharborcondos.com/canal_street_malt_house.html



J.H. Vonderhorst & Son-Eagle Brewery

Eagle Brewery. The Eagle Brewery was located on Belair Avenue (Gay Street). It was founded by J.H. Vonderhorst in 1866. The brewery building was built in 1880 and was five stories high. The malt house produces 100,000 bushels yearly. The yearly product output was 40,000 barrels. The use of three large steel boilers and two refrigeration units were utilized. They employed 32 persons and had stables with 36 horses. Mr. Vonderhorst's son, Henry was admitted to the firm in 1880 and the name was changed to J.H. Vonderhorst & Son.

According to Baltimore Baseball and Beer, by David Hagberg, in 1882 the American Association was formed and Baltimore received a last minute franchise for \$50. Baltimore was eager for a pro-baseball team and the search for a local owner led to Harry (Henry R.) Von der Horst, a prosperous brewer. He named the team the Orioles. His father John H. was of German-Swedish heritage. He was the builder and owner of the Eagle Brewery and Malt Works on Belair Avenue. It was one of the largest in Baltimore at that time. Mr. Von der Horst took the opportunity to sell plenty of his beer at the ballgames. He was not happy with the team's performance during the first season and he arranged for a new team and a new ballpark. Von der Horst built Union Park, and soon renamed it Oriole Park; it was a wooden, six thousand seat ballpark, at Fifth (later Huntingdon Avenue and later 25th Street) and York Road (later renamed Greenmount Avenue). The park had a big picnic area, beer stands stocked with kegs of Von der Horst's brew, and a large, clean restaurant. He later built another ballpark on Barclay Street, also named Union Park. The park was supposedly the American Associations largest, and the first in Baltimore to have double decked grandstands and the first stadium in Baltimore with lettered rows and numbered seats. Prior to this time, it was open seating. The first game played there was on May 11, 1891. The ball team did well for several years. Von der Horst advertised his 'Purest Extra ale Standard' beer on the game programs accepting advertising from others, as well. John H. Von der Horst died on July 4, 1894 at the age of 69. He died of cancer at his home on 1204 North Caroline Street.

There is a J.H. Von Der Horst Memorial and Family plot at the [Baltimore Cemetery](#). Hermann Von Der Horst (10-30-1862 to 5-2-1911) is buried at [Loudon Park Cemetery](#).



Wehr, Hobelmann & Gottlieb (Malt House) Corner of Hanover and Conway Sts. (Globe)

(Now: Camden Yards)

Began in 1880 when Gottlieb joined with Herman Hobelman & Frederick Wehr. They initially made barley and rye malt. A new plant was built in 1881. From 1881-1888, they produced malt not beer. They went back into the brewing business in 1888 and renamed the Company the Globe Brewing Company. In 1899 Globe joined with about 15 other breweries and formed the Maryland Brewing Company. The Maryland Brewing Company was succeeded in 1901 by Gottlieb-Bauernschmidt-Straus. In 1920, they went back to the Globe Brewing Company name. From 1888 Rippey Directory

Wehr, Hobelmann & Gottlieb, northeast corner Hanover and Conway [45-44]



Werner, Henry

Phoenix Brewery, formerly John Nagengast & Bros., was located in the northwestern part of the city on Pennsylvania Avenue, No. 1528-1534.

7-31-2010..off Mosher Street, all there is residential, primarily apartments. The brewery was taken over in 1879 by Mr. Henry Werner and became over the years a profitable establishment. The annual turnover of the brewery amounted to approximately 18 000 barrels. There were stables for 20 horses.

(From souvenir book, page 31)

On our investigation, there was nothing remaining of a brewery at this location.



John Frederick Wiessner (12-14-1831 to 1-1-1897)

Wiessner was born in Bavaria in 1831 and was the son of a brewer. He came to the U.S. in 1853 and served as brewmaster for the George Rost Brewery (later the Standard Brewery). He dreamed of owning a brewery of his own, but had little money. He returned to Bavaria in 1862 and returned to the U.S. the following year with enough money to open his brewery. The original brewery was founded in 1863 and was small. The output approximately 1500 barrels of lager beer per year. According to Baltimore: It's Past and Present-A Souvenir program for the U.S. Brewer's Assn in 1887, an ad for Wiessner's said they produced 40,000 bottles). The brewery was located in the 1700 block of North Gay Street, which was originally called Belair Avenue. He leased a little over 2 acres. He was able to build the brewery on funds extended by Levi and Henry Straus. He built a three story brewery on this site in this predominantly German neighborhood. From the early photos there was a boiler room with a stack, which would mean that he used steam to cook the mash, unlike the other breweries at the time, which were still using the copper cookers. The early brewery had nine employees. The site itself had a beer garden, saloon and picnic ground. It was later extended to include a bowling alley, dancing pavilion and merry-go-round. The site also had an ice house, stables and storage building. The brewery featured a giant cast pewter statue of Gambrinus, the patron of brewers. At the time there were approximately twenty one other brewers operating in Baltimore and the surrounding areas. It was located down the road from the George Rost Brewery, where he had worked upon his arrival in the U.S. The local community was named Highland Town and when annexed by Baltimore City in 1918, renamed Highlandtown. He was the first and only brewmaster. His son John, Jr. left at the age of 15 to learn brewing from the Ringler Brewery in New York. He returned at the age of 17, a Master Brewer and was taken into partnership with his father in 1882. At that time, the output was approximately 20,000 barrels per year. In 1885 John Neumeister came from Bavaria to Baltimore to become the Weissner family brewmaster. The first refrigeration was installed at the brewery in 1885. By 1886/87, the business had outgrown their facility and an extensive enlargement was started. A new five story brewery was build with three wooden towers. At that time another competitor, George Bauernschmdit began building his new facility, as was George Rost (Standard Brewery). After the new brewery began production, John F., and John F., Jr., took the other sons, Henry and George into the business. John F. operated it for 34 years until his death. At the time of his death John F., Jr., was named president. Building continued on the site because the Weissner family believed in the custom of housing his workers,

which were mostly German immigrants. In 1897, the brewery was incorporated as the John F. Weissner & Sons Brewing Company. By 1899, the brewery was again faced with the need for expansion, largely because the company began bottling their own products in 1886. Plans for expansion were announced on March 5, 1899 in the Sunday Herald. A four story warehouse was built of brick with a capacity of 100,000 barrels. It was at this time that a competitor, the Maryland Brewing Company, was attempting to buy all the breweries in the area. Weissner did not sell out and continued operating, which turned out to be a good decision. By 1901, the brewery had increased its capacity to 150,000 barrels. John F., Jr. died on September 22, 1906 and his brother George succeeded him as President. George and Henry continued the family business and the production reached 110,000 barrels by 1919. This was the year before prohibition and the year they were forced to close their doors. They made attempts at 'near beer' and attempts to reopen, but did not succeed. The property was sold in 1931 to the American Malt Company.

The Six-Point Brewer's Star

For centuries, it was customary for brewers -- particularly those in Europe and, later, in America -- to brand or paint a six-point star on the ends of their beer kegs. And, indeed, many brewers of the 19th and early 20th centuries actually fashioned their logos to incorporate the six-point star -- known as the "brewer's star." So, what exactly does the star have to do with beer or brewing?

Of course, there has been much speculation that the brewer's emblem was somehow descended from the Star of David -- a curious match to the brewer's star. It has even been suggested that King David himself was a brewer. But others assert that the emblem's use by beer-makers originated independently of the Jewish Star, and has no historical connection thereto.

The latter have some historical facts on their side. This geometric figure, which is technically called a hexagram, has existed throughout the world for several millennia, usually as a talisman. This includes the Middle East, Africa, and the Far East. The earliest appearance in a Jewish context is in the 13-16 centuries BCE, but long after that it continued in widespread use in other circumstances not associated with the Jewish faith.

The first use of the term "Shield of David" was about 1300 CE when a Spanish practitioner of Jewish mysticism wrote a commentary on the central book of that mysticism, the Zohar. The first actual linkage of the hexagram to a Jewish community appears in the early 1300s on the flag of the Jewish community of Prague, which was designed with permission of Charles IV when he became king of Bohemia. It is known that the star was the official insignia of the Brewer's Guild as early as the 1500s, and that its association with beer and brewing can be traced as far back as the late 1300s.

Whatever the case, it is clear that the brewer's star was intended to symbolize *purity*; that is, a brewer who affixed the insignia to his product was thereby declaring his brew be completely pure of additives, adjuncts, etc. In fact, folklore has it that the six points of the star represented the six aspects of brewing most critical to purity: the water, the hops, the grain, the malt, the yeast, and the brewer

