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SUGAR HOUSE (REFINERY)
Aliceanna and Chester Sts.,
Baltimore, Maryland.
BALTIMORE CITY COUNTY

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings

SUGAR HOUSE (REFINERY)
Aliceanna and Chester Streets
Baltimore, Maryland

OWNER: The Canton Company of Baltimore,
South and Water Streets,
Baltimore, Maryland.

DATE OF ERECTION: 1849

ARCHITECT: Unknown

BUILDER: Unknown

PRESENT CONDITION: Not usable. Rear upper story has
been added.

NUMBER OF STORIES: Four

MATERIALS OF CONSTRUCTION: Brick exterior walls. Wood mill con-
struction.

OTHER EXISTING RECORDS: "Canton Days, the First Hundred Years
or So" by The Canton Company of Bal-
timore 1928.

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HISTORICAL DATA:

Peter Cooper, a New York capitalist and philanthropist, founder of Cooper Union in New York, in the story of his life relates:

"In 1828... I was drawn into this speculation in Baltimore by two men who represented that they had large means and we bought together three thousand acres for \$100,000, taking the whole shore from Fell's Point dock for three miles. After paying my part of the money I soon found that I had paid all that had been paid upon the property. When we first purchased the property it was in the midst of a great excitement created by a promise of the rapid completion of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad."

In 1828 the founders of the Canton Company bought the twenty-five hundred acre farm developed by Col. John O'Donnell and in 1870 a part of some six thousand acres "between and beyond Harris' and Colegate's Creeks" which in 1722 Col. Richard Colegate had bequeathed to his wife and children.

"John O'Donnell, who had been a Captain in the East India merchant service and later became a colonel in the Maryland Militia, came to the United States and settled in Baltimore in 1780. Richard Parkinson in his book, "A Tour in America in 1798," says: "Mr. O'Donnell told me he had brought here between 60,000 and 70,000 pounds sterling from the East Indies. He had planted at Canton an orchard of great extent of red peaches for making peach brandy."

After Peter Cooper sold his Canton interest, William Gwynn, publisher of the Federal Gazette was elected President of the Company. From 1832 for five years the President was Sheppard C. Leakin, who later became Mayor of Baltimore.

Throughout many years of its History the people of Baltimore remained mostly in ignorance of the affairs of The Canton Company although its shares were largely dealt in by speculators. Notwithstanding "unwarranted dividends" and "fictitious sales" real progress was made. In 1850 improvements amounted to \$300,000 and the total estimated value of the property was \$2,000,000. In 1846 a cotton mill, Carey's Chesapeake Furnace and a distillery were located in Canton. In 1849 the Baltimore Copper Smelting and Rolling Company was established and the company erected a "completely fireproof" warehouse on Aliceanna and Chester Streets. The "completely fireproof" warehouse was rented, first to Eccles & Thom, sugar refineries. Often after that snips unloaded at the pier along side and hogsheads of molasses were piled three deep in Chester Street. Today the building has outlived its usefulness and lies idle and empty. The walls are badly cracked and show evidence of dangerous settlement. It is still the property of the Canton Company.

Rev. July 8th '36, TAC

John B. Scott

SUGAR HOUSE (REFINERY)
Alicanna and Chester Streets
Baltimore, Maryland

Folie's Maps of Baltimore published in 1792 shows a building designated as "Sugar House" at the harbor on about what would be an extension eastward of Alicanna Street. The map shows no nearby buildings.

John H. Scarff.