

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

### 1. Name of Property

historic name INTERNATIONAL SHIRT & COLLAR COMPANY

other names/site number Old Brick Furniture Company; Charles Conkey Malt House

### 2. Location

street & number 2 RIVER STREET  
city or town TROY  
state NEW YORK code NY county RENSSELAER code 083  
not for publication vicinity 12180

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Russell Purpant DBHPO 12/13/16  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register

other (explain):  
Olyvia Bernathy 2.14.17  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**INTERNATIONAL SHIRT & COLLAR COMPANY**  
 Name of Property

**RENSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK**  
 County and State

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
 in the National Register**

Textile Factory Buildings in Troy, New York, 1880-1920

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

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

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION:  
manufacturing facility  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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

MIXED USE  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

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

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate  
 LATE 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical  
Revival  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE, BRICK  
 walls: BRICK  
 roof: SYNTHETIC  
 other: WOOD, GLASS, METAL  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**INTERNATIONAL SHIRT & COLLAR COMPANY**

Name of Property

**RENSSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

---

**Narrative Description**

---

**Summary Paragraph**

The former International Shirt & Collar Company building, known otherwise as the Old Brick Furniture Company building and a portion of which was once a malt house, is a large-scale nineteenth-century industrial edifice located prominently on the northeast corner of River and Adams streets in the City of Troy, Rensselaer County, New York. Erected in multiple building campaigns during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the exterior envelope was formed with load-bearing common brick walls and cut-granite dressings. The first section of the building, built in 1876, was erected as a malt-house for Charles F. Conkey; it was subsequently acquired by International Shirt & Collar, ca. 1893, for use as a textile factory shortly after that business was organized and was expanded to achieve its present footprint and appearance by 1904. The nominated building is U-shaped and features the interplay of four and five-story sections built above a raised basement. When viewed from the southwest it presents as a substantial, largely self-contained edifice that dominates the immediate surroundings, an effect bolstered by the absence of building stock on its immediate west, south and portions of its east elevations. The original 1876 section is represented by the 15 northernmost bays on River Street (inclusive of the lower four stories of the six-story tower), which was married to a new south block in 1899, this addition utilizing mill construction principles common at that date for American textile factories. The date of the northern section is not definitely known, but it predates 1904 and may well be contemporary with the 1899 south block. The principal elevations are those which front on River Street and Adams Street, west and south respectively; towers rise from the main mass of the building above the roofline on its west and north sides. Windows with both round and segmental-arched heads punctuate the exterior walls in a regulated rhythm and a decidedly vertical emphasis is given by the placement of those windows above first-story level in recessed panels on the two principal elevations, an effect which also furthers the division of these elevations horizontally. The 1899 south block took design cues from the existing architecture, notably in the nature and rhythm of fenestration and the division of bays into recessed panels, in order to create harmony between the older and new sections. Ornamental features are limited and include modillioned pressed-metal cornices in the Neoclassical taste, present on the west and south elevations; simple corbelled brick work immediately below cornice level, which further articulates the subdivision of wall planes into recessed panels; and an arched and modillioned entrance on the River Street side. The interior of the building largely retains its historic open volumes of space but contrasts 1876 with ca. 1899-1904 construction techniques; the earlier phase employs wood framing in concert with cast-iron and wood columns, while the latter portion is of the mill construction type, combining large-scale timber posts and beams in characteristic fashion.

---

**Narrative Description**

The nominated building occupies a series of adjacent lots aligned on the east side of River Street, a north-south thoroughfare within the City of Troy. The International Shirt & Collar Company building is located in close proximity to downtown Troy, west of First Street and a short distance east of the Hudson River. The nineteenth-century neighborhood to the east of the building is largely intact and the residential character of that area remains. The south elevation of the building fronts on Adams Street; across that street, to the immediate south, is the northern terminus of the CDX railroad transit line. To the north of the nominated property are non-descript masonry garages in addition to other utilitarian buildings and the offices of the Capital District Community Gardens. To the west of the building's principal elevation, directly across River Street, is unoccupied land that presently serves as a parking lot and the vacant Levonian meat plant. The building's visual prominence is to some degree bolstered by the absence of building stock on some of the adjacent lots.

The original 1876 edifice did not extend to Adams Street; it was only with the 1899 addition that the building was extended so as to front on that street. This original section is still discernible within the expanded building and corresponds with the 15 northernmost bays on the west, or River Street, elevation. These 15 vertical bays were further divided into seven recessed panels, all of which contained two bays except the original center one, which has

**INTERNATIONAL SHIRT & COLLAR COMPANY**

Name of Property

**RENSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

three bays. Historic images indicate that this center section was originally crowned by a pediment motif which, along with an earlier Italianate-style bracketed cornice, was presumably removed when the Neoclassical-style cornice was introduced. The expansion added four additional bays to the River Street elevation to create a 19-bay elevation. These were also divided into recessed panels. This new block was an additional story in height so as to be five, and not four, stories above a raised basement. The tower on this elevation is six stories and corresponds with the original two southernmost bays of the malt house. As for the south elevation of the new block, it presents as a massive and decidedly symmetrical construct, consisting of 12 bays divided into six recessed panels. Here the division of wall plane horizontally in a tripartite manner is rendered with great clarity, although the overall emphasis remains one of verticality. The east wall of the new south block is six bays wide and that of the north projection five bays, both punctuating a flat wall expanse. Between them is visible the original rear elevation of the 1876 section which, like the opposite elevation, is divided into recessed wall panels with corbelling.

The 1885 Sanborn map shows the original northern section of the building, measuring roughly 165' by 75' in plan and assigned street numbers 6-20 River Street; by the time of the 1904 Sanborn map, the building had assumed its present U-shaped footprint, with a coal shed and water storage tank—no longer extant—being located at the rear, between the two projecting sections which form the U plan. By that time the facility was assigned numbers 2-20 River Street.

The building's brick walls were laid up in common bond with cut-stone dressings. Fenestration on the River and Adams streets elevations follows a consistent pattern and is as follows: the raised basement windows have segmental-arched heads; first story windows are round-arched; and second, third, fourth and fifth story (1899 section) are segmental arched. Exceptions include the principal entrance, corresponding with the River Street tower, which is recessed behind a projecting frontispiece that is presently concealed behind an entrance awning, and the windows in the upper portion of the tower, which are set within narrow, round-arched vertical bays recalling Richardsonian Romanesque precedent. There is a small rectangular transom above the cut-stone arched opening; entry is through a steel and glazed door that opens into a foyer where a staircase is located. An ancillary entrance is located in the northernmost first-story bay of this elevation, reached from street level by means of a metal stair.

The south elevation, which extends from the corner of Adams Street east towards the First Street alley, has a fully articulated pressed-metal cornice which terminates just after it turns the southeast corner. There is a small section of metal fire escape that turns the corner from the east elevation at first-story level, providing access to this feature. It is part of a fire escape that extends from the roof and fifth floors of the east elevation down to the second floor; there it turns the corner with the last run of stairs ending just above belt-course level.

Basement window openings along the west and south elevations are fitted with paired, wood casements recessed within the arched masonry opening with cut-stone sills; a few of these openings have been bricked in. The sills of the basement windows sit almost or at grade on the two principal elevations. Basement windows were also present on the east elevation of the south addition but have since been bricked in. Between basement and first-floor level on the west and south elevations, as well as on the rear elevation of the original section, is a belt-course formed of rock-faced stone with chiseled borders. The first-floor windows on the west elevation are paired, double-hung wood sash, one-over-one, above which are two quarter-round windows that occupy the round-arched head. A cut-stone impost is present at the spring line of the arched first-floor window openings on the west and south elevations. The first floor window openings on the south elevation are also paired but are fitted with two-over-two double-hung sash with quarter-round windows in the arched head. A second belt course is present above the first-story windows and serves to demarcate the transition from the base to the main body of the composition. It aligns the west and south elevations and is also present on the rear wall of the original section.

**INTERNATIONAL SHIRT & COLLAR COMPANY**

Name of Property

**RENSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

The second and third-story windows on the west elevation, moving from south to north and inclusive of the tower, consist of paired, two-over-two double-hung wood sash surmounted by a fixed five-light transom located in the segmental-arched head (though some have been covered or otherwise lost). This window configuration is also employed on the south elevation of the 1899 south block, with the fourth-story windows there treated in the same fashion. As for those bays north of the tower on the west elevation, the second-floor windows are boarded up while the third-story windows follow the configuration previously described, with paired two-over-two sash above which are five-light transoms. The 15 upper windows on the west elevation, moving from north to south and representing the original 1876 section (and inclusive of the tower), have paired two-over-two sash. These correspond in level with the fourth story windows of the south addition, which have two-over-two sash with transoms above. The fifth-story windows of the addition, on both the west and south elevations, are fitted with paired two-over-two sash but lack transoms.

The fenestration on the east elevation of the south block follows the pattern established on the south wall; the same goes for the original rear wall of the 1876 section, i.e. the window arrangement and glazing configuration follow the pattern established on the opposite elevation. On the rear wall of the original section are three piers, two of which have cut-stone caps, which extend upward through the corbelled cornice and which define panels such are present on the opposite west wall. The north addition has three elevations (west, north and south); the second, third and fourth-story windows have paired, two-over-two double-hung wood sash surmounted by a transom which occupies the segmental-arched heads. A tapered brick chimney stack rises above the roofline of this section. The north elevation of the original section has more limited fenestration, due in part to the location of an interior stair in the northwest corner. There are a total of six windows, two each at first, second and third-story level, these fitted with two-over-two wood sash and fixed transoms above; they are located near the original northeast corner of the 1876 section where it meets the addition. An enclosed wood-frame tower rises above the roof line on that side of the building and corresponds with the location of an interior elevator.

As previously noted, on the west elevation of the original section are recessed bays defined by raised piers and terminated by horizontal corbelling below cornice level. This device, employed for the south addition also, reinforces the vertical effect of the building and the desired tripartite regimentation of the wall plane. The corbelling, in concert with the pressed metal cornice with modillions, contributes to the latter effect.

The interior appears largely as it did historically and is characterized by unfinished interior surfaces of load-bearing brick and exposed wood framing. The tower on the west elevation functions as a central feature of the interior, allowing for vertical circulation and providing access to all floors. Large fireproof doors are present at the stair landings corresponding with this tower. The 1903 Sanborn map notes that a 12,000-gallon wood tank was situated within the tower at this date. Internal framing for this tank remains though it has since been removed.

The open floors on each level contain a series of exposed posts sustaining internal framing. Evident are differences in the framing which depict the building's multi-phase chronology and changes in construction technology. On the fourth floor of the original section are closely spaced, slender cast-iron columns that sustain beams which in turn carried a system of smaller cross-bridged joists, arranged perpendicular to the beams; in this instance the joists sustained the roof and are covered with narrow wood boards. A similar system is employed in what is presently the furniture showroom, on the first floor of the earlier section; although, in that instance wood columns, and not cast iron, support the principal beams. In the basement of the original section the posts carrying the principal beams are footed on piers and have a mushroom-profiled head, and, again, a system of larger principal beams and smaller sawn joists is employed. As for the later sections, those corresponding with the occupancy of International Shirt & Collar, these display typical aspects of later nineteenth century mill construction, employing a system of heavy posts and beams without joists.

**INTERNATIONAL SHIRT & COLLAR COMPANY**

Name of Property

**RENSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

**ARCHITECTURE**

**INDUSTRY**

**Period of Significance**

1876- ca. 1930

**Significant Dates**

1876; 1893; 1899; ca. 1904; ca. 1930

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The cited period of significance, 1876-ca. 1930, corresponds with the building's physical evolution, which was initiated with the construction of the earliest phase, as a malt house for Charles Conkey. The terminal date, ca. 1930, corresponds with the last period the building was occupied by the Troy Underwear Company, which followed Curtis, Leggett & Company and its predecessor, the International Shirt & Collar Company. Although not a dedicated cuff and collar manufacturer, the Troy Underwear Company nevertheless represented the continued use of the building by a locally based textile manufacturing company.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**INTERNATIONAL SHIRT & COLLAR COMPANY**

Name of Property

**RENSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The former International Shirt & Collar Company building is an architecturally and historically significant resource in the City of Troy, Rensselaer County, New York. It is one of a small number of large-scale industrial buildings that chronicle the growth and development of the textile industry in Troy at the turn of the twentieth century and, in particular, local cuff and collar manufacturing, which dominated this industry during the period between 1880 and 1920. The International Shirt & Collar Company shares salient connections to these historic developments; founded in 1893, this firm purchased and expanded the nominated building ca. 1899, operating in this location until it was caught in a series of mergers and closed in 1906. Like its competitors, the International Shirt & Collar Company produced thousands of detachable collars and cuffs daily for what was then a burgeoning market; by 1907 Troy interests produced about 90 percent of all detachable collars and cuffs produced in the United States. These detachable articles of clothing were seen as both fashionable and convenient, since they could be laundered apart from the shirt. The building is being nominated at the local significance level in association with Criterion A, in the area of Industry, for its associations with this important local industry. The building is also nominated under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, given its direct association with Troy textile manufacturing and as a significant example of that building type. Unlike some of the other examples of textile factories, this facility had been previously erected as a malt house for Charles F. Conkey in 1876. In this capacity it functioned in the processing of cereal grains into malt for brewing, which required soaking and kiln drying. The building was modified and expanded to serve as a textile factory. It is being nominated in association with the Multiple Property Documentation Form entitled "Textile Factory Buildings in Troy, New York, 1880-1920."

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

The manufacturing facility of the International Shirt & Collar Company remains a testament to Troy's preeminence in the field of detachable cuff and collar production and an intact example of "mill construction," specifically designed to increase production and reduce the risk of fire. This factory type remained a staple of American industrial architecture until the advent of reinforced concrete construction in the early twentieth century, the general acceptance of which corresponded with the fading fortunes of Troy's preeminent textile concern.

Troy was Incorporated in 1789; its prosperity depended first on the Hudson River for sloop trade, then on the Erie and Champlain canals, and, finally, on the convergence of four major railroads. These modes of transportation were critical to its manufacturing concerns and their development. Troy's first principal industry, iron and steel processing and manufacturing, peaked during the mid-nineteenth century but was losing traction in the 1870s due to labor strife and other factors. Corresponding with this development was the emerging field of detachable collar and cuff manufacturing. This innovation, whereby collars and cuffs could be removed from shirts for ease of cleaning, was invented in Troy in 1827 by the industrious Hannah Lord Montague and soon blossomed into a major industrial concern as means of mass production were developed and took hold. Montague's experiment, conducted so that she could launder soiled collars separately from an essentially clean shirt, began as a local cottage industry. Large-scale collar and cuff manufacturing became established with the introduction of the sewing machine in the mid-nineteenth century.

Between 1880 and 1917, a string of monumental factories was built along River Street, a north-south thoroughfare that paralleled the Hudson River. These buildings, built in the period 1880-1920, portray the ascendancy of the cuff and collar industry in Troy and represent the requirements placed on the major companies to meet the growing national demand for their products. Simply stated, manufacturers required as vast a space as possible to accommodate the swelling ranks of employees and the heavy machinery required to execute up to 24 steps in the making of a collar. The mill facilities of five of the largest firms were clustered in a half-mile stretch between Jacob Street and Ingalls Avenue, in what is defined as north central Troy, where workers also resided. With their

**INTERNATIONAL SHIRT & COLLAR COMPANY**

Name of Property

**RENSSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

numerous, large arched windows and prominent towers, these buildings signaled the importance of this industry and the scale of the business these companies were fielding.

The founding of the International Shirt & Collar Company was somewhat of an exception to that pattern of development. Incorporated in 1893 with capital of \$200,000, International did not build a new mill on the banks of the Hudson River but instead purchased a building which was erected as a malt house for C.F. Conkey in 1876.<sup>1</sup> Charles Conkey first entered the malting business in 1856, in partnership with John M. Van Buskirk. In 1864 he bought a malt house previously operated by Read Brothers and in 1867 purchased the land on which the original section of the nominated building was erected, in the spring of 1876. It opened for operation later that same year.<sup>2</sup> Conkey, one of Troy's leading businessmen and wealthiest citizens, sold malt produced at this factory to breweries in New York and New England. Having been diagnosed with cancer, Conkey began to settle his affairs, which included selling the malt house to Edward Murphy, Jr. for \$65,000, in advance of his death in early 1891.<sup>3</sup>

Located on River Street but at the opposite end of town from the industry's other major facilities, International took its place among lumber yards, a bell foundry and a hosiery company, all of which benefitted, from a transportation standpoint, from their proximity to the Hudson River and the New York Central Railroad. International was formed and managed by experts in collar-making who were accustomed to the shifting ownership among Troy's collar companies. The company's first president, George A. Spicer, was a partner in the firm Spicer & Beiermeister, which had been established in 1884 to manufacture the "Anchor" shirt brand. The original firm of Spicer & Beiermeister was subsumed during a consolidation of five companies into the United Shirt & Collar Company in 1890. International was, in turn, an outgrowth of United; by 1897 Frederick Beiermeister, Jr. had emerged as International's president and its largest stockholder.<sup>4</sup>

This industry was exceptionally competitive and, occasionally, companies clashed over patent infringement. Such a suit occurred in 1878 when collar maker Washington Wilson sued competitor Daniel W. Coon, alleging that Coon copied his unique collar banding, which provided a more comfortable fit. The case made its way to the Supreme Court of the United States, which decided that no infringement had occurred, since the construction of Coon's collar differed from that of Wilson's invention.<sup>5</sup> And in 1888, Corliss Brothers & Company and Beiermeister and Spicer "declared war" over Corliss's allegation that Beiermeister and Spicer had copied its "Top Royal" collar.<sup>6</sup>

International's growth occurred at a "rush and snap" pace, according to one contemporary account, requiring the 1899 addition of a 75' by 165' foot wing that provided much needed manufacturing space. The addition fronted on Adams Street by continuing southward from the original Conkey malt house. An image from an April 1899 issue of *The Troy Daily Times* shows the current building with a central pediment and ornate tower that no longer exist.<sup>7</sup> An 1886 view shows it prior to expansion by International, with a pediment and bracketed cornice.

As the new century approached, International's future seemed bright, with the company producing \$2 million worth of goods per year.<sup>8</sup> The firm brought in Daniel W. Coon was a director to oversee its New York City operations. Coon's career peaked in 1889 when Coon & Company and George B. Cluett, Brother & Company consolidated, creating the world's largest collar and cuff manufacturer. Coon spent a decade with the firm, retired, but then

---

<sup>1</sup> "Diversified Industries," *The Troy Daily Times*, 18 April 1899, 16.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> "Found Dying on a Lounge: Charles F. Conkey, one of Troy's Rich Men, Taken Away," *New York Times*, 1 March 1891.

<sup>4</sup> George B. Anderson, *Landmarks of Rensselaer County* (Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Co. Publishers, 1897), 395.

<sup>5</sup> *Coon v. Wilson*, 113 U.S. 268 (1885) (accessed August 29, 2013); available from [www.justia.com](http://www.justia.com).

<sup>6</sup> "Troy Collar & Cuff Industry," *The Clothier and Furnisher*, vol.18 (New York: The Gallison & Hobron Co, 1888).

<sup>7</sup> *The Troy Daily Times*, 18 April 1899, 16.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.



**INTERNATIONAL SHIRT & COLLAR COMPANY**

Name of Property

**RENSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

quickly joined International, becoming vice president.<sup>9</sup> In contemporary accounts he was described as a man who had “a genius for big things” and “rare judgment in dealing with business problems.”<sup>10</sup> At the height of its production approximately 48,000 collars and cuffs and 6,000 shirts were manufactured at this location daily.

Yet International’s existence was short-lived, unlike other textile companies that enjoyed much greater longevity in their operations, some well into the twentieth century. A 1906 merger ended the existence of the International Shirt & Collar Company and created Curtis, Leggett & Company, which in turn bought out H.C. Curtis & Company by paying off Curtis’s outstanding mortgage. But the following year, Curtis sued, alleging that officers of International and Curtis, Leggett & Company colluded to inflate their earnings in order to increase the value of stock included as part of the deal.<sup>11</sup> Curtis, Leggett & Company was adjudicated as bankrupt in November 1907.<sup>12</sup> The building’s next tenant was the Troy Underwear Company, and then, in 1935, Tiny Town Togs, a New York City company described as the nation’s largest manufacturer of children’s clothing.<sup>13</sup>

Particular interest is gleaned, in the architectural context, given that the original section was built and functioned as a malt house for Charles Conkey; it was this 1876 manufacturing building that was subsequently aggrandized to serve the textile operations of the International Shirt & Collar Company. Prior to its acquisition by International the building was used for malting, a process that entailed the soaking of cereal grains to produce sprouting; these were then dried to arrest the sprouting process. Malt was essential to the brewing of beer and whiskey and Conkey was a major player in this field; as noted in a contemporary source, his “success as a malster is apparent in the large shipments of malt to many brewers in the state of New York and in the New England states.”<sup>14</sup> The 1885 Sanborn map shows the building in this use and still under Conkey’s ownership. A grain elevator was present on the north side; vats and kilns were located in the basement, grain bins on the first floor, and drying kilns on the south side, which lacked windows. Five malting rooms were also noted.

The 1876 section employs heavy framing, but it is not fully developed mill construction given that the principal beams support a closely spaced system of cross-bridged joists. Cast iron supports are also employed, which they are not used in the later sections. The later sections exhibit a fully developed “mill construction” system with heavy timber ceiling beams and uprights but with the omission of smaller framing members; instead these were spaced so as to be capable of taking all the floor loads, in concert with the load-bearing brick wall.

While largely functional in nature the expansions of the building undertaken during the International period imparted it with a distinctly Neoclassical-style cornice in keeping with renewed contemporary interest in the architectural forms of classical antiquity. This feature served as an effective counterpoint to the original building’s division of bays within recessed panels—a feature carried forth on the principal elevations of the south addition—which provided a strong vertical emphasis.

---

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

N/A

---

<sup>9</sup> Anderson, *Landmarks of Rensselaer County*.

<sup>10</sup>“Successful American,” vol. 7, part 1; vol. 8, part 1 (New York: Writers’ Press Association, 1903).

<sup>11</sup>American Bankruptcy Reports, *Cleminshaw v. International Shirt & Collar Co.*, vol. 21 (Albany, NY: Matthew Bender & Co., 1909).

<sup>12</sup>*Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup>“Children’s Dress Factory to Give Work to 300 Here,” *Times Record*, September 28, 1935, 1.

<sup>14</sup>A.J. Weisse, *The City of Troy and its Vicinity* (Troy:Edward Green, 1886), 196.

**INTERNATIONAL SHIRT & COLLAR COMPANY**

Name of Property

**RENSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Anderson, George B. *Landmarks of Rensselaer County*. Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Co. Publishers, 1897.

*The Clothier and Furnisher*, vol.18. New York: The Gallison & Hobron Company, 1888.

Weisse, A.J. *The City of Troy and its Vicinity*. Troy: Edward Green, 1886.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** .75 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	606812	4730972	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary for this NRHP nomination is shown on enclosed mapping, all of which is entitled "International Shirt & Collar Factory, City of Troy, Rensselaer Co., NY." The maps were drawn at a scale of 1:24,000, 1: 12,000 and 1: 4,000.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary corresponds with the current legal tax parcel for the property, which reflects historic conditions. No additional or "buffer" land has been included within the boundary.

**INTERNATIONAL SHIRT & COLLAR COMPANY**

Name of Property

**RENSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title William E. Krattinger (NYS DHP), Michael Lopez and Judy Coyne Becker (TAP, Inc.)  
organization NYS Division for Historic Preservation date January 2014  
street & number PO Box 189 telephone (518) 237-8643  
city or town Waterford state NY zip code 12188  
e-mail William.Krattinger@parks.ny.gov

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

---

**Photographs:**

PHOTOGRAPHS, TIFF format, by William E. Krattinger (NYS Division for Historic Preservation) and Heritage Consulting, January 2014 and December 2016; original digital files maintained at NYS DHP, Waterford, NY 12188.

001 EXTERIOR, perspective view looking towards southwest corner, intersection of River Street and Adams Street  
002 EXTERIOR, view looking east towards west elevation  
003 EXTERIOR, view looking north towards south elevation  
004 EXTERIOR, view looking to northwest showing south elevation and portions of the rear (east) elevation  
005 EXTERIOR, view showing east elevation of original section (at center, flanked by later sections)  
006 EXTERIOR, detail view, west elevation, showing fenestration, corbelling and pressed-metal cornice  
007 INTERIOR, first floor, view looking north  
008 INTERIOR, first floor, view looking west  
009 INTERIOR, second floor, view looking east  
010 INTERIOR, fourth floor, view looking south

---

**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name 10 River Street LLC  
street & number PO Box 12206 telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Albany state NY zip code 12206

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

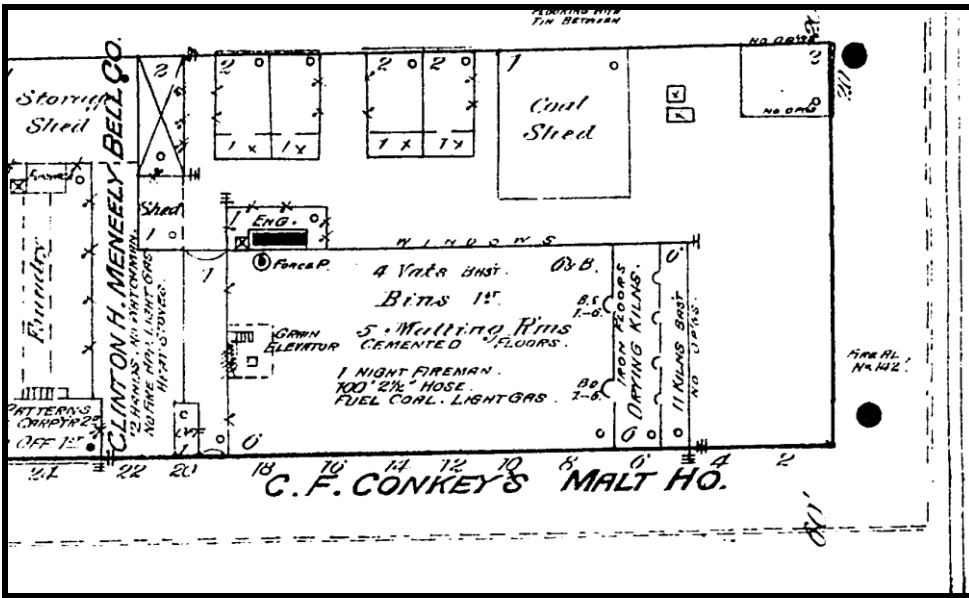
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**INTERNATIONAL SHIRT & COLLAR COMPANY**

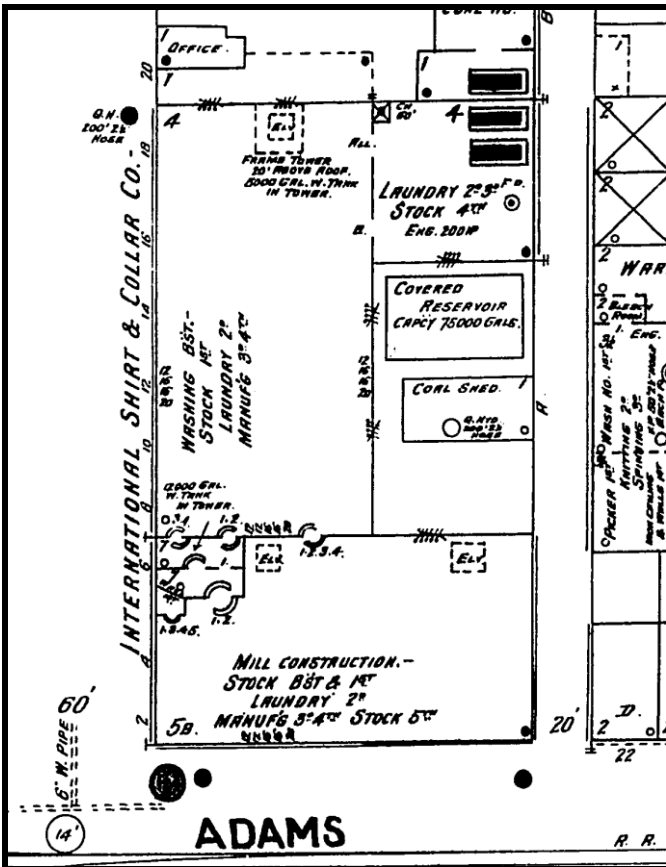
**RENSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

Name of Property

County and State



ABOVE, Sanborn map, 1885, vol. 1 sheet 14; BELOW, complex as expanded 1899, depicted on 1904 Sanborn map, vol. 2, sheet 99.

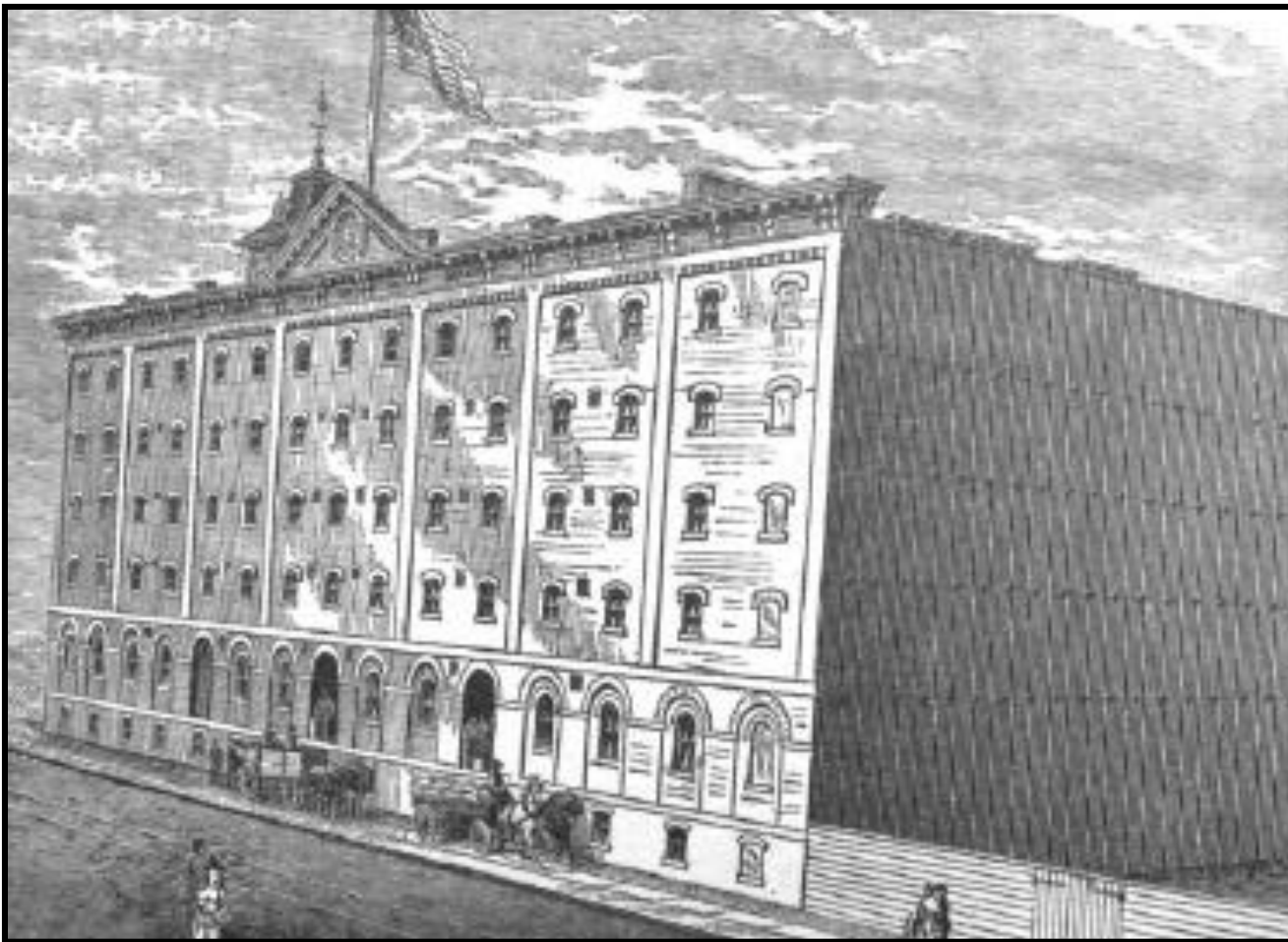


**INTERNATIONAL SHIRT & COLLAR COMPANY**

Name of Property

**RENSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

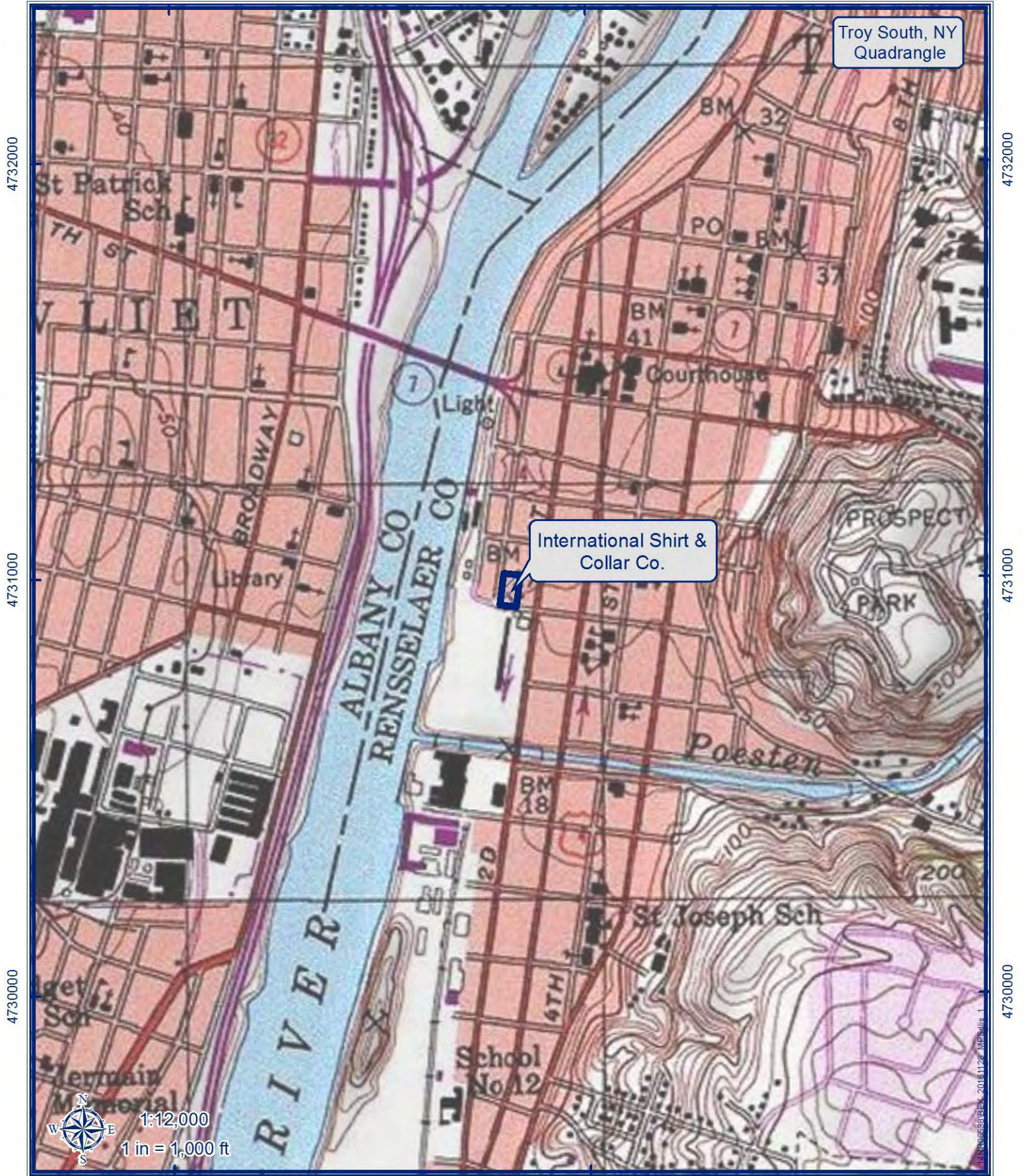


ABOVE, ca. 1876 Conkey Malt House as depicted in 1886 in A.J. Weisse, *The City of Troy and its Vicinity*









1:12,000  
1 in = 1,000 ft





$\Sigma = .75$  Acres

606812E 4730972N



1:4,000  
1 in = 333 ft

606600                      606800                      607000

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter



Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation





OLD BRICK

THE OLD BRICK COMPANY





OLD BRICK

OLD BRICK









OLD BRICK  
RENOVATED

NO PARKING

WATER  
IN  
PIPE  
DAY







CK

THIRTE



















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/30/2016      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day: 2/14/2017      Date of Weekly List: 2/23/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- |                                       |  |   |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape       | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver       | <input type="checkbox"/> National        | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other        | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP             | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG             |   |

Accept       Return       Reject      2/14/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Alexis Abernathy      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2236      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : No

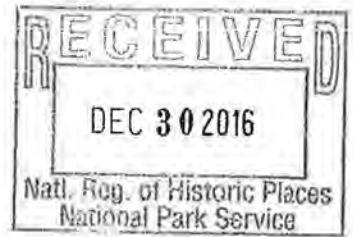
If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



**Parks, Recreation  
and Historic Preservation**

ANDREW M. CUOMO  
Governor

ROSE HARVEY  
Commissioner



16 December 2016

Alexis Abernathy  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St. NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following six nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

DuBois Farmhouse, Dutchess County  
Soldiers' Memorial Fountain and Park, Dutchess County  
Moss Street Cemetery, Washington County  
International Shirt and Collar Company, Rensselaer County  
John W. Jones Court, Chemung County  
Bridgehampton Presbyterian Church, Suffolk County

Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office