Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100001915 Date Listed: 12/29/2017

Property Name: Montgomery, J.R., Company Industrial Complex

County: Hartford State: CT

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation

Signature of the Keeper 1/3/2018 Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 7: Description

Under Architectural Classification change
Late Victorian: Romanesque Revival to **Late Victorian: Renaissance Revival.**
Other to **Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Movements**

These changes reflect the fact that the original sections of the factory reflects northern European Renaissance Revival design origins rather than Romanesque, and the twentieth century additions are very characteristic of early twentieth century American industrial design using reinforced concrete construction.

The CONNECTICUT SHPO was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

SG-1915

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: J.R. Montgomery Company Industrial Complex
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing:

_____
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: 25 Canal Bank Road
City or town: Windsor Locks State: CT County: Hartford
Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

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

Applicable National Register Criteria:

✓A ___B ✓C ___D

/SHPO 11/13/17

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

CT SHPO

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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action: 12/29/17

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:	x
Public – Local	
Public – State	
Public – Federal	

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)	
District	x
Site	
Structure	
Object	

J.R. Montgomery Co. Industrial Complex | Hartford Co., CT
Name of Property | County and State

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
6	0	buildings
		sites
1	0	structures
		objects
7	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
INDUSTRY: Factory
TRANSPORTATION: Footbridge

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque
OTHER

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: Stone, concrete.
Walls: Brick, concrete, with brick, stone, and concrete trim.
Roof: Rolled asphalt, tar and gravel.
Other: Steel, wood.

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary

The J.R. Montgomery Company Industrial Complex is a 2.28-acre former textile manufacturing facility located on the east bank of the Enfield Canal immediately north of Bridge Street (CT Route 140) in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. It occupies two parcels on a narrow strip of land flanked by the canal to the west and the Connecticut River to the east. The district contains a total of seven contributing resources constructed from ca. 1875 through 1939. These resources include three attached multi-story manufacturing lofts, a concrete warehouse, a concrete dyehouse, and a steel footbridge constructed by the

J.R. Montgomery Company, as well as a brick blacksmith shop associated with the E. Horton & Son Company. The nominated property is the most intact cluster of remaining manufacturing resources within the once densely developed historic industrial corridor along the Enfield Canal (Figure 1).

The J.R. Montgomery Company complex was previously included as a contributing resource in a larger National Register of Historic Places district nomination that received a Determination of Eligibility (DOE) from the Keeper of the National Register on May 24, 1990. Other contributing resources identified in the 1990 nomination were the Enfield Canal, the Windsor Locks Passenger Station, and a cluster of nineteenth century industrial buildings formerly located north of the complex.[1] The intention of this larger district was to document a remaining industrial corridor along the canal. In the 27 years since the DOE, notable losses have occurred within this larger corridor. The majority of industrial buildings formerly found immediately north of the J.R. Montgomery Company plant (erected and occupied by the E. E. Horton & Son Company) were demolished after fires damaged the complex between 2005 and 2006. The small, one-story red brick building standing on the parcel immediately north of the J.R. Montgomery Company factory was not associated with this plant, but was included in the present nomination due to the historical significance derived from its connection to the industrial activities that took place along this section of the Enfield Canal. The contributing resources described below are named according to a 1979 map included in the 1990 nomination (Figure 15).

Narrative Description

Setting

The J.R. Montgomery Company Industrial Complex is located immediately north of Bridge Street and is bounded to the east by the Connecticut River and to the west by the Enfield Canal. Asphalt paving surrounds the buildings comprising the complex and mature trees line the boundary of the parcel along the river. Scattered small trees and bushes have established themselves at random throughout the property as a result of a lack of maintenance since the plant's closure in 1989.

The canal begins roughly four miles north of the J.R. Montgomery Company Industrial Complex in the town of Suffield, Connecticut and terminates within Windsor Locks approximately one mile to the south. The land north and south of the plant is primarily flat, as is the area comprising Windsor Locks' central business district, which flanks the west bank of the canal and sprawls to the north, west, and south.

[1] The Windsor Locks Passenger Station had previously been individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 2, 1975; while the Enfield Canal was individually listed on the National Register on April 22, 1976.

A rail line abuts the west bank of the canal and roughly parallels its north-south course until splitting into eastern and western branches roughly six-tenths of a mile to the north. One of the town's primary thoroughfares, Main Street (CT Route 159), similarly follows the canal's course until veering to the northwest approximately three block's north of its intersection with Bridge Street. The central business district is developed with a mix of both historic and modern commercial, institutional, and residential buildings, while several industrial complexes are located south of Bridge Street.

Mill Complex

The J.R. Montgomery Company Industrial Complex is comprised of five one-, two-, and five-story red brick or reinforced concrete buildings (Photographs 1 and 2, Figures 1 and 2); a one-and-a-half-story freestanding red brick building built by the E. Horton & Son Company, a chuck manufacturer; and a steel-frame and wood footbridge built by the J.R. Montgomery Company. The oldest portion of the J.R. Montgomery Company plant was built along the canal in 1891. This consists of the five-story, 75' x 125' red brick loft (Building 1) located at the northern end of the factory complex. A second five-story, 172' x 62' red brick Romanesque Revival-style loft (Building 2) was erected along the canal adjoining Building 1's south elevation in 1904. Significant additions to the complex were completed in 1920 when two reinforced concrete manufacturing buildings (Buildings 3 and 4) were built to the south and southeast of Buildings 1 and 2. The more prominent of the two 1920 additions is a five-story, 265' x 62' loft (Building 3) that flanks the canal and adjoins the south elevation of Building 2. The basement level of the building's east elevation is exposed and the block's south elevation faces Bridge Street. The second of the two 1920 additions is a freestanding, two-story, 82' x 252' loft (Building 4) situated roughly 30 feet east of the aforementioned blocks (Photograph 4). A one-story, 52' x 21' red brick shipping building constructed ca. 1939 (Building 5) adjoins Building 2's east elevation (Photograph 3). The one-and-a-half-story freestanding red brick building erected by the E. Horton & Son Company was completed ca. 1875 and stands immediately north of Building 1 (Photograph 34). The footbridge built by the J.R. Montgomery Company was completed ca. 1920 (Photograph 33). It is located in the middle of the canal to the east of Building 2.

Contributing Resources

Building 1, Brick Loft (contributing building, 1891)

The façade (west elevation) of Building 1 is nine bays wide (Photograph 5). The primary entrance to the building is centered on the façade and is recessed within a segmental-arched red brick opening (Photograph 6). A short set of steel stairs with steel railings leads to the entry's brownstone landing. The entry doors consist of paired paneled wood units with glass lights set in a plain wood frame. Like the wood doors and trim throughout the remainder of the block, the doors, framing, and wood-strip porch ceiling above are all painted dark green.

Symmetrically placed segmental-arched door openings with brownstone sills are located on each of the four floors above the primary entrance. These served as loading bays and each has a pair of paneled wood doors set in plain wood frames. Four bays of windows set in segmental-arched openings with brownstone sills flank the north and south sides of the central bay. The ground floor window openings have been boarded up, while the original windows on the upper floors were replaced with aluminum-frame, one-over-one-over-one triple-hung sash at some point during the mid-twentieth century. The façade's roofline is topped by a red brick parapet with brick corbels and tile coping.

The north (side) elevation of the building is 15 bays wide (Photograph 7). The bays are delineated into five groups of three, by four brick piers with stone caps that rise to a point just below the building's roofline. Symmetrically placed, segmental-arched window openings with brownstone sills fill the bays. A number of the windows have been removed and the openings boarded up, however, the surviving fenestration throughout the elevation consists of a mix of 12-over-12, double-hung wood sash windows, multi-pane metal sash with pivot openings (comprising all of the windows on the fourth floor), and aluminum-frame, one-over-one-over-one, triple-hung units. The double-hung windows are original to the building, while the latter sash was installed during the early and mid-twentieth century, respectively. The roofline of the north elevation is topped by plain metal coping.

As noted, the grade of the J.R. Montgomery Company property slopes to the east, thus exposing the basement level of the east elevation (Photograph 8). Consequently, the elevation rises six stories above the building's rough-cut brownstone foundation. The elevation is divided into nine bays, the majority of these occupied by symmetrically arranged, segmental-arched window openings with brownstone sills. Several alterations, however, have created exceptions to these conditions. The first consists of masonry repairs above the sixth-story windows, during which flat brick lintels replaced the original segmental-arched brickwork. The second change impacted the fourth bay from the south side of

the elevation. In this case the original window openings were infilled with brick and new rectangular openings created. The purpose and period of construction of these new openings is unclear and they have since been infilled with brick. A number of the other window openings throughout the elevation have either been boarded or bricked up, while the others possess a mix of 12-over-12 double-hung wood windows, glass block and brick infill, and aluminum-frame one-over-one double-hung or one-over-one-over-one triple-hung units.

Like the east elevation, the south side of the block rises six stories above the building's rough-cut brownstone foundation (Photograph 9). Only seven bays are visible because a red brick stair tower and Building 2 obscure the western half of the building. The bays are largely filled by symmetrically arranged segmental-arched window openings with brownstone sills and a mix of fenestration similar to that found on the block's other elevation. A concrete loading dock with a shed roof supported by steel framing is located at the ground level and leads to a segmental-arched door opening in the fifth bay from the east side of the elevation. The loading dock abuts the east elevation of the stair tower, which was erected ca. 1930. The walls of the stair tower are blank except for two small rectangular window openings with brick sills and multipane metal sash located just below the roofline of the tower's east elevation, and a rectangular door opening on the north elevation that leads onto the building's tar and gravel roof.

Building 2, Brick Loft (contributing building, 1904)

Building 2 adjoins the western half of Building 1's south elevation and its façade (west elevation) lines up with that of the earlier building (Photograph 2). The façade is fifteen bays wide, not including the two-bay-wide engaged stair tower at the southern end of the elevation. The symmetrically arranged bays throughout the elevation are delineated by brick piers that terminate in the segmental-arched openings above the building's fifth-story windows. The remainder of the windows throughout the block are likewise set in segmental-arched openings and all have brownstone sills. Fenestration on the elevation's first through fourth floors consists of paired aluminum-frame, one-over-one-over-one, triple-hung sash, while the fifth floor retains its original wood casement units. The latter are comprised of paired six-pane sash topped by a fixed four-light transom. Similar windows are also found at the building's basement level within a poured concrete lightwell running along the elevation's nine southern bays (Photograph 10).

A one-bay-wide, round-arched opening is located at ground level within the first bay at the north end of the façade. This is partially enclosed by a board wall, paneled wood door, and a collapsible metal gate (Photograph 11). The opening leads to a recessed entry porch where a concrete landing and stairs

provide access to the basement and first-floor levels of the building (Photograph 12). The basement door consists of a paneled wood door set in a segmental-arched opening. The first-floor entry is set in a rectangular opening and consists of paired paneled wood doors with four-pane lights in their upper quarters topped by a three-light transom. A casement window with a brownstone sill and two-light transom is located to the north of the entry door, while a one-over-one, double-hung window set in a segmental-arched opening with a brownstone sill is located on a perpendicular wall to the south.

The engaged red brick stair tower at the south end of the façade rises six stories above ground level and is topped by a corbelled brick parapet with corner crenellations (Photographs 2 and 13). The tower is ornamented with brick corbels and a molded metal cornice. Ground-level access to the stair tower is located within a round-arched, molded brick opening that is topped by two small rectangular windows with brownstone sills and a brownstone stringcourse. Above the stringcourse, the tower is divided into two narrow bays by three brick piers that terminate in a pair of round-arched window openings on the sixth floor. The windows have brownstone sills and multi-pane wood casement sash topped by multi-pane transoms. Similar arrangements can be found on the three levels below the tower's upper floor, however, these are set in segmental-arched openings.

As the building is flanked by Building 1 to the north and Building 3 to the south, its east elevation is the only other exterior wall that is visible (Photograph 14). The elevation is 16 bays wide, these delineated by stepped brick piers with stone caps. The window openings are symmetrically arranged and have brownstone sills and segmental-arched brick lintels. Most of the windows have been removed, however, that which remains either consists of wood casement or replacement triple-hung windows identical to those found on the building's façade. Traversing the elevation from north to south the first, fourth, and 16th bays lack window openings as they house a six-story red brick stair tower, an 80-foot tall rectangular red brick chimney, and another six-story red brick stair tower, respectively. The first stair tower was described as part of Building 1 and the second tower is of similar detailing – although it lacks any window openings – and appears to have been erected around the same time (ca. 1930). The chimney is topped by a corbelled crown with a stone cap.

Building 3, Concrete Loft (contributing building, 1920)

Building 3 adjoins the south elevation of Building 2 and its façade (west elevation) continues the plane created by the facades of Buildings 1 and 2. The façade is 15 bays wide, these being of equal width except for those at the north and south ends of the building, which are more narrow (Photograph 1). The bays are symmetrically arranged and are delineated by concrete piers that rise into the building's molded

concrete cornice. Large rectangular window openings with original steel sash and molded concrete spandrels are visible on all floors, including within a concrete lightwell running the full length of the basement. The majority of the windows consist of multi-pane sash with pivot openings. Exceptions include several office windows on the second floor near the south end of the elevation, which are two-over-two, double-hung steel sash. Sections of the windows on the first, second, and third floors are penetrated by ventilators once required for manufacturing operations.

The primary entrance to the building is located at the south end of the façade (Photograph 15). It consists of a molded rectangular opening flanked by concrete half-walls. The entry doors have been removed, however, a hipped portico supported by heavy wood brackets has been preserved. A concrete panel with a molded cornice is located above the entry and immediately below the second floor windows. The roofline of the two bays rising above the entry are ornamented with three heavy concrete corbels, located along the building's concrete parapet wall. The two bays at the north end of façade are nearly identical to those at the south end, however, rather than a formal entry, the first-floor level is occupied by a large rectangular opening that leads into the building's basement. Large metal lettering rises above the roofline of the facade and spans nearly the full length of the block. This once read, "THE MONTGOMERY CO EST 1871 DECORATIVE AND ELECTRIC TINSELS," however, a number of the letters have been lost.

The details of the south and east elevations are nearly identical to those found on the façade. The south elevation is three bays wide and except for a number of two-over-two, double-hung steel sash found on the second floor, all of the windows consist of multi-pane, pivot sash. A sloped driveway leads around the building to the east elevation, where the basement level is exposed (Photograph 16). There are garage openings with roll-up doors in the first four bays at the south end of the east elevation, which provide access to the basement. The majority of the east elevation windows consist of two-over-two, double-hung steel sash (again, only found on the second floor) and multi-pane pivot sash. Fixed windows are located in the two stair towers. Three heavy concrete corbels are present along the roofline of the elevation's two southernmost bays.

Building 4, Dyehouse (contributing building, 1920)

The J.R. Montgomery Company's dyehouse stands roughly 30 feet east of the aforementioned blocks (Photograph 4). The façade (south elevation) is four bays wide and two stories tall. The bays are delineated by heavy concrete piers that rise above the building's roofline as concrete capped crenellations. Full-width window openings and molded spandrels span the majority of the bays, however, there is a

garage roll door in the second bay from the west at the ground level. None of the original fenestration remains and several of the window openings have been filled in with parged concrete block. The details of the southern halves of the dyehouse's east and west elevations are identical to the façade. Moving to the northern half of the building, however, the block is only one story tall and the concrete piers that delineate the large rectangular window openings do not rise above the roofline. Similar details can be found on the north side of the building where concrete piers separate the elevation into four bays (Photograph 17). Unlike the south elevation, however, the bays on the north side of the building are divided into small window openings by concrete mullions. All of the windows have been removed and the openings are boarded up.

Building 5, Warehouse (contributing building, 1939)

Building 5 is a small, one-story warehouse that adjoins the south end of Building 2's east elevation. The warehouse has a raised concrete foundation, red brick walls, and a flat roof with tile coping. The façade (south elevation) is one bay wide and consists of a loading bay with a roll-up door topped by a flat-roof awning. The east elevation is delineated into five bays by partial-height brick piers with concrete caps. Each bay has a single rectangular opening with a concrete sill and glass block windows. The north elevation has a single window opening flanked to the west by a metal pass-through door. The window opening is filled with glass blocks, while the door has a small rectangular window centered in its upper half.

E. Horton & Son Company Blacksmith Shop (contributing building, ca. 1875)

The one-and-a-half-story building formerly associated with the E. Horton & Son Company was erected ca. 1875 (Photograph 34). The building housed a blacksmith shop for the majority of its history and it stands just four feet north of Building 1. The building measures 49' x 25' and has a roughly rectangular footprint, red brick walls, a corbelled red brick cornice with cornice returns, and a front-gable roof (the ridgeline is oriented east-west). The building has rectangular window openings with heavy stone sills and lintels. Most of the openings have been boarded up or the sash removed, however, some of the original fenestration remains in place. A one-story red brick entry porch with a shed roof is located on the building's west elevation. The entry porch is not original to the building and appears to have been constructed after a one-story storage building formerly adjoining the west elevation was removed at some point during the mid-to-late twentieth century. The interior of the building has a poured concrete

foundation and exposed heavy timber framing (Photograph 35). The interior is divided into two rooms by a non-original wood-frame and sheetrock partition.

Footbridge (contributing structure, ca. 1920)

The footbridge associated with the J.R. Montgomery Company Industrial Complex was built ca. 1920 to allow workers to access the mill directly from Main Street by crossing over the canal (Photograph 33). It is situated in the middle of the canal near the approximate intersection of the Buildings 1 and 2. The footbridge is a swivel-style pony truss bridge supported by a single poured concrete pier. The bridge has a steel frame and wood decking. It measures roughly 64' long and 5' wide.

Interior Description of the J.R. Montgomery Company Factory

The J.R. Montgomery Company Industrial Complex incorporates approximately 260,000 square feet with manufacturing and storage space on six levels of Building 1; manufacturing, storage, and utility space on six levels of Building 2; manufacturing, office, storage, bathroom, locker room, and utility space on six levels of Building 3; and manufacturing space on two levels of the Dyehouse/Building 4. The interiors of all of the buildings consist of generally open floor plans, however, dedicated spaces for office, utility, and various ancillary uses are delineated by wood-frame, brick, masonry block, or chain link walls. Stair towers lead between the floors of the adjoining loft buildings and brick firewalls separate the Buildings 2 and 3. The brick wall between Buildings 1 and 2, however, was removed at the time of the latter building's construction resulting in an open L-shaped floorplan.

The primary entrance to the J.R. Montgomery Company Industrial Complex is that located at the southern end of Building 3's west elevation. The door opens to a stairwell that provides access between the block's six levels and rooftop (Photograph 18). The floor, walls, stairs, and ceiling of the stairwell are all of plain concrete, and the stair handrails are made of metal pipe rail. All but the floors have been painted and the stairs have metal tread reinforcements along the edges.

A single run of stairs leads from the first-floor entry landing to the basement where the building's girder-less reinforced concrete slab floors and mushroom columns are visible (Photograph 19). The ceiling bears the impression of the wood boards used to cast the concrete floors above, while small secondary spaces such as workshops, storage areas, or utility rooms within the basement are built of tile

or concrete block. The basement walls, columns, doors, and ceilings have been painted, while the floor has not.

The floorplans of the first through fifth floors of the Building 3 are nearly identical. Each level consists of a largely open space with concrete slab floors supported by 24 evenly spaced mushroom columns (Photograph 20). The first through third floors have 1-inch-thick, tongue-and-groove maple and 2-inch-thick, tongue-and-groove spruce flooring laid over the concrete slab. Men's and women's restrooms are located on each floor in the projecting bay roughly centered on the east elevation (Photograph 21). The restrooms have paneled wood doors with large glass lights in their upper halves. The floors, walls, and ceilings of the restrooms are painted concrete and most of the fixtures have been removed. Freight elevators are located within projecting shafts situated several bays both north and south of the restrooms. These run between the basement through fifth floors and have either galvanized metal or wire screen enclosures (Photograph 22). Small wood-frame foreman's offices are located on each floor, typically near the main stairwell or at the northeast corner of the building near the northern freight elevator (Photograph 23).

The main difference between the first through fifth floor plans of Building 3 is the presence of the plant's main offices at the south end of the second floor. These are delineated by wood-frame and plaster walls and have asbestos tile floors, molded wood wall and door trim, paneled wood doors with large glass lights in their upper halves, and acoustic tile ceilings (Photograph 24). Several of the offices have been altered through the addition of wood wall paneling and drop ceilings, however, most of the additions have failed, thus revealing the original conditions.

Large door openings with sliding fire doors lead from the first through fifth floors of Building 3 into Building 2 (Photograph 25). As noted, the interior wall dividing Buildings 1 and 2 been removed resulting in a generally open L-shaped floorplan on all levels of the plant. The structural components of these buildings are clearly visible from inside the factory and both have heavy timber girders and floor joists, chamfered wood posts with metal capitals, and tongue-and-groove wood subfloors and decking (Photograph 26). The girders in Building 1 are oriented on a north-south axis, while those in Building 2 run east-west.

The stair tower at the southwest corner of Building 2 is the primary means of access between the block's basement level and five upper floors. The stairs have wood stringers, risers, and treads; wood balusters with beadboard walls and molded rails on the interior side of the stairwell; and wood rails mounted to the brick comprising the outer walls (Photograph 27). A number of the stairs have been modified through the addition of metal tread reinforcements, however, the majority bear an original detail

in which the inner portions of the tread is filled with small pieces of wood installed with the butt ends of the blocks facing upwards (Photograph 28).

The primary entrance to the Dyehouse/Building 4 is roughly centered on the building's west elevation. This provides access to a small stairwell with concrete stairs and metal pipe railings. The stairs lead to the second floor (Photograph 29). Both levels of the building have concrete slab floors and ceilings supported by mushroom columns (Photograph 30). The first floor is an entirely open space divided roughly in half by a concrete block wall with a central door opening. The north half of the building has large sawtooth monitors with reinforced concrete structural supports (Photograph 31). The original steel windows have been removed and most of the openings are filled in with plywood. Non-original wood framing once divided the second floor of the dyehouse into small storage areas (Photograph 32). This was largely destroyed by a fire that impacted the building during the early 2000s. The original masonry details of the block, however, were minimally impacted by the fire.

Integrity and Alterations

The J.R. Montgomery Company Industrial Complex remained in operation until 1989.[2] Despite between 69 and 98 years of continuous use, as well as 27 years of vacancy, the overall plan of the plant remains intact and the majority of the original features of the various buildings and structures have been preserved. These include all of the original wood or concrete floors and many of the original or early windows and interior details.

The J.R. Montgomery Company plant retains its historic property boundary, which was first acquired in 1880 and expanded and finalized in 1916, when the J.R. Montgomery Company purchased the parcel immediately to the south of Building 2 for the purpose of accommodating future expansion. Existing buildings on the new property in 1916 (originally built and operated by the A.W. Converse & Company during the mid-nineteenth century) were occupied by the J.R. Montgomery Company after the purchase, but were eventually replaced over the course of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This work was completed ca. 1939 with the last addition to the J.R. Montgomery Company (Building 5).

Since operations at the J.R. Montgomery Company plant ceased in 1989, the former factory has stood vacant except for several periods of use as a storage facility. Subsequent deterioration due to a lack

[2] The E. Horton & Son Company ceased operations during the mid-to-late twentieth century after several acquisitions and mergers.

of occupants, as well as damage caused by scrap thieves and vandals, resulted in exposure to the elements, which has impacted the interior finishes such as the painted walls and ceilings, some of the wood floors and staircases, and many of the windows. However, overall, the facility's integrity as an industrial plant has been thoroughly preserved. The various blocks and associated footbridge retain a vast majority of original materials, although a number of the windows in Buildings 1 and 2 were replaced and the second-floor offices underwent superficial changes during the mid-to-late twentieth century. The factory fully expresses the feeling and associations of a late nineteenth and early twentieth century industrial facility that remained operational until 1989.

As has been noted, only one building formerly associated with the E. Horton & Son Company remains intact. This also retains its historic character, including original or early walls, framing structures, and windows, despite having stood vacant for several decades.

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.)

- [X] 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.
- [X] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

- [ ] 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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
INDUSTRY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
Ca. 1875-1967

Significant Dates
Ca. 1875: Construction of Blacksmith Shop
1891: Construction of Building 1
1904: Construction of Building 2
1920: Construction of Building 3
1920: Construction of Building 4
1920: Construction of Footbridge
1939: Construction of Building 5

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Buck & Sheldon, Inc. (firm, 1909-1911, 1920-1928)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Summary

The J.R. Montgomery Company Industrial Complex, located along the Enfield Canal in Windsor Locks, Connecticut, is significant at the state level under National Register Criterion A in the area of Industry, and at the local level under National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The period of significance extends from ca. 1875, the construction date of the blacksmith shop associated with the E. Horton & Son Company, to 1967, the 50-year closing date for historical significance. The property meets Criterion A at the state level because of the significant roles that the E. Horton & Son and J.R. Montgomery Companies played within the industrial landscapes of both the town of Windsor Locks and the state of Connecticut. The E. Horton & Son Company was established during the mid-nineteenth century and soon developed into one of the country's most notable manufacturers of adjustable chucks, while the J.R. Montgomery Company rose to prominence during the mid-to-late nineteenth century as a preeminent manufacturer of novelty yarns and tinsel products. In 1896, the company became the first in the United States to produce mercerized thread on a mass-market scale, further solidifying its status as one of the country's most significant textile firms.

The property meets Criterion C as a notable local example of late-nineteenth to early twentieth-century industrial construction techniques, and for its association with the prolific Hartford-based architectural and engineering firm of Buck & Sheldon, Inc. The plant functioned as the home of the J.R. Montgomery Company from the time of the earliest building's construction in 1891 until the firm ceased operations in 1989, making it a significant and long-tenured component of Windsor Locks's industrial heritage. The factory is one of a few remaining historic industrial complexes located along the Enfield Canal in Windsor Locks, an area once dominated by a diverse array of industrial activity and infrastructure.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Area of Significance: Criterion A, Industry

The J.R. Montgomery Company Industrial Complex meets Criteron A due to the fact that the firm was a long-lived and innovative manufacturing concern that managed to outlive many similar contemporary firms as a result of its ability to adapt to changing product demands and continually bring new products and technologies to the market. The company was established during the mid-to-late nineteenth century as a manufacturer of weft yarns, however, during the late 1890s and early 1900s operations were expanded to include the production of novelty yarns, tinsel products, and communications wire, niche lines of business that would differentiate the work of the J.R. Montgomery Company from the vast majority of large textile mills found throughout New England at the time. As has been noted, in 1896 the firm became the first in the United States to produce mercerized thread on a mass-market scale, thus providing another significant and unique line of business to the already well-diversified company. These avenues of specialization, along with the firm's consistent willingness to adopt new technologies and ability to build much of its machinery in-house, allowed the J.R. Montgomery Company to survive into the late 1980s, long after the region's other textile and wire firms had either moved to the American South or gone out of business entirely.

J.R. Montgomery & Company (1871-1891)

The J.R. Montgomery Company was originally established in 1871 as J.R. Montgomery & Company. The firm was led by John R. Montgomery (1845-1930), a native of Great Barrington, Massachusetts who had previously operated a cotton mill in the Housatonic section of Great Barrington. In 1871, Montgomery joined with several investors to organize J.R. Montgomery & Company for the purpose of manufacturing cotton yarn and thread. As Montgomery and his partners sought out a facility in which to conduct manufacturing operations, their gaze fell upon Windsor Locks, Connecticut, a bustling industrial village located along the Connecticut River.

Some 50 years earlier Windsor Locks (then known as Pine Meadows) was little more than a sleepy riverside hamlet of the town of Windsor, Connecticut. In 1825, however, a plan was devised to construct a 5.5-mile canal extending along the west bank of the river between the towns of Windsor and Suffield, Connecticut. Upon completion in 1829, the canal's owner, the Connecticut River Company, began renting land and water rights along the canal and numerous industrial firms soon gained a foothold in the area. As these industrial entities expanded, so too did the local population. As a result, a post office was established in Pine Meadow in 1833, whereupon the area was renamed Windsor Locks. By 1853, the

degree of development in Windsor Locks had led the local population to petition the State for the right to break away from the Town of Windsor in order to establish a new town, which passed both houses of the General Assembly in June 1853.[3]

The population of Windsor Locks increased from 300 persons in 1829, to more than 1,500 in 1859. By the latter year, there were approximately 14 mills along the canal, including six paper mills, two thread mills, one rolling mill, one silk mill, one stockinet mill, one wire mill, one saw mill, and one grist mill. A decade later, little had changed. A map of the area from 1869 shows a similar mix of textile, paper, and metalworking industries lining the canal bank. Among these were several mills operated by the Seymour Paper Company, a pair of stockinet factories maintained by the Medicott Company, C.H. Dexter & Sons' paper mill, and a chuck manufactory owned by the E. Horton & Son Company. The latter firm was organized by Eli Horton and his son Stoddard Ellsworth Horton in 1851. The company built up a substantial plant along the Enfield Canal during the mid-to-late nineteenth century (see Figures 5 and 6) and it remained in operation in town until the mid-to-late twentieth century. The firm was among the first in the world to design and manufacture a successful line of the adjustable tool- or material-holding devices known as chucks and its original product, known as the 'geared screw universal chuck,' revolutionized Connecticut's machine tool industry when it was unveiled in 1851 as it provided a functional alternative to the former practice of screwing tools or work directly to the oak blocks that were previously in turn affixed to lathes. The company eventually went on to develop chucks ranging in size from four to 36 inches in diameter and drill chucks with capacities ranging from one-quarter inch to one inch. The blacksmith shop included in this nomination is the last surviving structure formerly associated with the firm and it remains a significant relic of Windsor Locks' industrial past.[4]

Another mill present on the 1869 map was located at the foot of the canal, just north of the canal locks. No longer extant, this was a textile manufactory identified as the Connecticut River Cotton Mill. This firm apparently folded shortly after the 1869 map was created, as in 1871 its facility became home to J.R. Montgomery & Company, which soon began to produce cotton goods for sale to a variety of textile firms and weaving mills.[5]

J.R. Montgomery & Company survived the Panic of 1873 and remained stable through the roughly four-year depression that followed. In March 1880, John R. Montgomery bought out the assets of Joseph G. Fuller, the last founding partner still associated with the firm, and moved to expand production

[3] Henry R. Stiles M.D., *The History of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut.* New York, NY: Charles B. Norton Co., 1859, 501.
[4] Stiles, 504; Baker and Tilden. *Atlas of Hartford City and County.* Hartford, CT: Baker and Tilden, 1869.
[5] Stiles, 504; Baker and Tilden. *Atlas of Hartford City and County.* Hartford, CT: Baker and Tilden, 1869; "Well-Known Manufacturer Dead At 85," *Hartford Courant,* March 2, 1930, p. 8.

by acquiring a second mill. The latter was located on the site of the present facility roughly one mile north of the company's original plant. The facility had previously operated as a foundry by A.W. Converse & Company, yet it is no longer extant.[6] Once refitted, the J.R. Montgomery & Company's new upper mill had a total capacity of 5,000 spindles, this supplementing the 2,000-spindle capacity of the firm's lower mill.[7]

Over the course of the 1870s and 1880s J.R. Montgomery & Company shifted its focus away from the manufacture of cotton yarn and thread in order to focus on the production of specialty goods such as cotton warps, tinsel thread, and novelty weft, or filling, yarns. The latter involved twisting together multiple threads or yarns of different physical traits or appearances, which allowed textile manufacturers to produce fabrics with distinct visual characteristics and a diverse array of textures, such as knots, loops, and spiral effects. The production of tinsels, on the other hand, involved a process of rolling or drawing metal wire to foil thickness and then wrapping narrow strips of the foil around cotton thread. Tinsel threads were used by textile firms to produce decorative fabrics, such as lamé, and metallic piping, lacework, and other trim popular in men's and women's fashion during the mid-to-late nineteenth century.[8]

By the late 1880s, J.R. Montgomery & Company had established itself as both a pioneering developer and the largest manufacturer of tinsels and novelty weft in the United States.[9] The firm was also notable in that it designed and manufactured all of the special machinery used to produce its tinsels and novelty weft in-house. These engineering and technical capabilities allowed the company to quickly react to shifting fashion trends. As new European fashions arrived in the United States, mechanics at J.R. Montgomery & Company would rapidly design new or retrofit existing machines to replicate the trending look. As a result, demand for the firm's products often exceeded capacity and the need for expanded facilities was obvious by October 1890, when the company announced plans to incorporate the business and erect a sizeable addition to the upper mill. Work on the latter task was initiated first, with surveying of the site for a new warp mill having been completed by January 1891. A joint stock company was organized in order to help raise the roughly $350,000 in capital needed to build, equip, and operate the new factory (Building 1) in March 1891, whereupon the firm was reorganized as the J.R. Montgomery

[6] The former A.W. Converse & Company facility was removed by the J.R. Montgomery Company as the firm expanded during the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
[7] Barlow's Insurance Surveys, "J.R. Montgomery & Co., Cotton Warps, Windsor Locks, Conn.," New York, NY: Barlow's Insurance Surveys, 1880; Barlow's Insurance Surveys, "Montgomery's Cotton Mill, Windsor Locks, Conn.," New York, NY: Barlow's Insurance Surveys, 1875; "Notice of Dissolution," *Hartford Courant*, March 2, 1880, p. 1.
[8] Connecticut Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Annual Report of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, of the State of Connecticut; Volume 19, Part 1903," Connecticut Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1903, p. 355.
[9] "As A Corporation: J.R. Montgomery & Co. to Organize and Extend Its Plant," *Hartford Courant*, October 11, 1890, p. 5.

Company.[10]

The J.R. Montgomery Company (1891-1929)

Management of the J.R. Montgomery Company consisted of John R. Montgomery, who served as president; his younger brother George M. Montgomery, who had joined the business in 1885 and held the position of secretary; and S.E. Elmore, who served as the firm's treasurer. These men oversaw the construction of the company's new five-story red brick warp mill, which was completed in 1891. The substantial addition to the J.R. Montgomery Company's facilities allowed the firm to both increase output of established products, as well as develop new lines of goods. A notable example of the latter came in 1896, when the company introduced mercerized cotton yarn to the American market. Although the mercerization process had been devised by an Englishman, John Mercer, during the 1840s, the J.R. Montgomery Company was the first firm in the United States to employ the process, which both strengthened and imbued treated fibers with a lustrous, silken appearance and feel, on a mass-market scale. The company offered mercerized versions of the majority of its products and delivered them in a variety of forms. A contemporary publication, *Fibre and Fabric*, noted that such included, "cotton warp, in both plain and fancy colors, as well as double and twist yarns in carded and combed Egyptian, Sea Island and Peeler stocks in all colors and prints," and that they "gass (sp) and mercerize all of the above qualities in all sizes, and deliver them in skeins, on cones, tubes, jack spools, chain and ball warps, on loom beams, plain or in patterns."[11]

By 1903, the J.R. Montgomery Company's two Windsor Locks mills totaled 130,000 square feet of manufacturing space and employed roughly 400 hands, a majority of these being women. The firm's capital stock had increased to $500,000, and demand for the company's products continued to exceed capacity at many times of the year. Such led to the decision to construct Building 2 (the upper mill) in 1904. The new building replaced the remainder of structures at the upper mill that had not been demolished in order to erect Building 1. At the time of its completion, the new five-story red brick mill was lauded as a fine and thoroughly modern facility. *Fibre and Fabric* reported that, "In its construction

[10] Connecticut Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1903, p. 355; "As A Corporation: J.R. Montgomery & Co. to Organize and Extend Its Plant," *Hartford Courant*, October 11, 1890, p. 5; "Windsor Locks: J.R. Montgomery & Co. at Work on Their New Building," *Hartford Courant*, January 7, 1891, p. 6; "Windsor Locks: The J.R. Montgomery Stock Company Organized," *Hartford Courant*, March 21, 1891, p. 6.
[11] Connecticut Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1903, p. 356; "J.R. Montgomery Co.; Large Addition to its Cotton Mills Practically Completed," *Fibre and Fabric Vol. XLL, No. 1054*, Boston, MA: *Fibre and Fabric*, 1905, p. 317.

and equipment it embodies all the latest improvements in every feature, as regards fire proofing, heating, lighting, the distribution of power, etc. All the power and lighting in the new mill is supplied by electricity, and the electrical plant is one of the most complete in this section of the country."[12] The magazine also noted that in addition to increasing capacity, it was hoped that the new addition and machinery would allow the firm to improve upon the overall quality of its goods. The lines of cotton yarn and warps previously manufactured would be maintained but the company hoped to improve upon its reputation for overall quality. Employment levels remained steady at roughly 400 hands, however, the total area of the company's two mills rose to 200,000 square feet as a result of the installation of new machinery.[13]

Shortly after the completion of the J.R. Montgomery Company's second loft, the firm began to dabble in a new field, the manufacture of communication components. Engineers had recently discovered the conductive properties of copper tinsel thread, and it turned out that the product was particularly well suited for use in electrical applications such as telephone handset and switchboard cords. Demand for these uses increased exponentially during the First World War and in the years that followed and the J.R. Montgomery Company benefitted greatly due to the fact that competitors were unable to wind the copper foil around its fiber core tight enough to satisfy telephone manufacturers. The firm further diversified its catalog during this period by employing tinsels in the manufacture of decorative ribbons and Christmas decorations and these lines soon became notable contributors to the firm's profits.[14]

By the late 1910s, the J.R. Montgomery Company was faced with the familiar conflict of high demand and limited capacity. In April 1920, the firm announced plans to erect two new reinforced concrete buildings, consisting of a five-story manufacturing block (Building 3) and a two-story dyehouse (Building 5). They were designed by the Hartford-based architectural and engineering firm of Buck & Sheldon, Inc. and built by the Hartford-based Bent-Bartlett Company. The buildings were to be erected on land immediately south of the firm's 1904 addition (Building 2), on the land formerly occupied by the Anchor Mills Paper Company. The J.R. Montgomery Company acquired the property after the paper manufacturer filed for bankruptcy in 1916; the mid-nineteenth century mill on the site was destroyed by fire several years later.[15]

Once completed, the new building housed tinsel manufacturing on its first and second floors and

[12] The electrical plant has since been removed. *Fibre and Fabric*, p. 317.
[13] Ibid.
[14] David F. Ransom, Consultant, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, National Register Nomination for the "J.R. Montgomery & Company Industrial Complex, Windsor Locks, CT," D.O.E. April 6, 1990.
[15] "J.R. Montgomery Co. Acquires New Mill Site," *Hartford Courant*, October 18, 1916, p. 4; "New Montgomery Preferred." *Textile World, Vol. 57, Part 2*, New York, NY: Bragdon, Lord & Nagle Co., Inc., 1920, p. 161; "Windsor Locks Factory Increases Capital," *Hartford Courant*, April 2, 1920, p. 15.

an embroidery department on the fifth floor. Executive offices were located at the south end of the building's second floor, while the entire third and fourth floors were set aside for anticipated future growth. The additional space provided by the new manufacturing building and dyehouse also allowed the company to vacate its antiquated lower mill, which was eventually demolished at some point during the 1940s or 1950s.[16]

The consolidated J.R. Montgomery Company plant totaled 260,897 square feet of floor space and employed between 400 and 500 hands. The new additions were powered by electricity, however, the primary source of this power was the adjacent canal, not a coal- or gas-fired generator. This cost-conscious powerplant consisted of a 265 horsepower Leffel wheel direct-connected to a three-phase, 480-volt General Electric generator. This was supplemented by central station service, which could bypass the hydroelectric system in periods of high demand or low water. The majority of equipment throughout the mill was of a group drive arrangement, although a few machines were powered by individual motors.[17]

The Montgomery Company (1929-1989)

The new facilities allowed the J.R. Montgomery Company to increase output of tinsel products and as a result the firm solidified its status both as the country's preeminent manufacturer and a top global supplier of the goods. This boom period was not to last, however, as by the late 1920s the company had slipped into the same financial difficulties that many firms associated with the textile industry were experiencing at the time. Management avoided receivership by dissolving the J.R. Montgomery Company and reorganizing operations under a new corporation, known simply as the Montgomery Company, early in 1929.[18]

The reorganized Montgomery Company was soon faced with the additional challenges presented by the stock market crash of 1929 and the ensuing depression; however, as had been the case throughout much of its history, the firm was able to weather the difficult years to follow due to management's willingness to react to current conditions and to adopt new technologies. One of the first of these developments came in 1930, when an inventor by the name of Jacob Schick approached the company

[16] The lower mill was located on the east bank of the canal opposite the eastern terminus of Dexter Road. "J.R. Montgomery Company's Additions." *Textile World, Vol. 59, Part 1*, New York, NY: Bragdon, Lord & Nagle Co., Inc., 1921, p. 467.
[17] Ibid.
[18] "Montgomery Company to Reorganize," *Hartford Courant*, September 1, 1928, p. 1; "Notice of Dissolution; The J.R. Montgomery Company," *Hartford Courant*, February 14, 1929, p. 25.

with a design for an electric shaver that was in need of a cord. The Montgomery Company successfully fabricated and then manufactured the product and helped Schick Dry Shaver, Inc. to get off the ground. A decade later, during the Second World War, the Montgomery Company applied tinsel wiring to military applications, including communications cord and the wiring used in the heated flying suits used by American airmen.[19]

These military contracts effectively saved the firm and over the course of the mid-twentieth century the Montgomery Company phased out the manufacture of cotton warps and novelty yarns in order to focus on the specialty businesses of producing tinsel and wire goods. This continued to include the production of communications wire and decorative items such as metallic ribbons and Christmas decorations; however, a number of new applications were also developed. Many of these were related to the electronics industry and included materials used in electric razors, radios, televisions, radar units, hearing aids, walkie-talkies, electric blankets, cardiac pacemakers, hospital monitors, and computers, while others were used in more traditional wire products such as filtration meshes used in automobiles and air conditioning systems. Many of these items were produced in Lisbon, New Hampshire by the New England Electrical Wire Corporation, which the Montgomery Company acquired in 1960. One of the only finished wire products manufactured in Windsor Locks was the "Kwik-Scour," a stainless steel kitchen sponge.[20]

By the 1970s, employment at the Montgomery Company had dropped to roughly 200 hands, however; the business continued to be a family-run affair. In 1970, management included Spencer Montgomery, the son of George M. Montgomery, who was chairman of the board of directors; his son, Spencer Montgomery Jr., who was president of the company, and his nephew, George Montgomery, who was the firm's secretary. This family management continued until 1985, when the business was bought out by interests associated with the New England Electrical Wire Corporation. Despite continued attempts to innovate and diversify, both employment and sales continued to fall through the mid-1980s. In March 1988, management announced the decision to close the Windsor Locks plant and establish a new factory in Littleton, New Hampshire, where they argued that costs, particularly payroll costs, would be much less expensive. The company's remaining 125 employees were invited to apply for the roughly 100 positions that were to be available at the new factory; however, only two responded to the offer, with the majority of the remainder citing a reluctance to sever family and social ties in Windsor Locks. Staff levels at the Windsor Locks plant dwindled to a skeleton crew as machinery and operations were transferred to

[19] "Everyone Has the Same Name," *Hartford Courant*, September 26, 1971, p. 5B; "Business Will Relocate Without Family," *Hartford Courant*, April 30, 1988, p. D1F.
[20] Ibid.

Littleton over the course of the following year, and by the time of the mill's closure on August 31, 1989, just 27 employees remained. After the Montgomery Company ceased operations the Windsor Locks plant was leased for mixed light industrial and warehouse use. Building 4 had been occupied by the Fuller Russell Tobacco Company during the mid-to-late twentieth century and the firm continued to use the former dyehouse as a tobacco sorting and shredding facility until the late twentieth century.[21]

Area of Significance: Criterion C, Architecture

The J.R. Montgomery Company's industrial complex is architecturally significant as one of a dwindling number of historic industrial complexes that once lined and drew power from the Enfield Canal in Windsor Locks, Connecticut. The buildings that housed the J.R. Montgomery Company are notable both as designs typical of the period of their construction (manifested in both brick-and-timber and reinforced concrete masonry structures), and as evidence of the persistent growth and resultant physical expansion that many such institutions experienced throughout their operation. The 1920 additions to the plant are also noteworthy as designs completed by the prolific Hartford-based architectural and engineering firm of Buck & Sheldon, Inc., which was responsible for a number of other significant industrial plants throughout the northeast during the 1910s and 1920s. The various buildings are true to their original form and have been little changed since their respective construction in 1891, 1904, 1920, and ca. 1939.

By early 1900s, ten industrial concerns were concentrated along the Enfield Canal, including the J.R. Montgomery Company complex. Today, only the Montgomery complex and the former J.H. Dexter & Sons Company paper manufacturing complex remain out of the original ten facilities. The latter complex is located 0.3-mile to the south.[22] The J.R. Montgomery Company plant is the better preserved of the two.

Buildings 1 and 2 exemplify typical mid-to-late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century factory design through their standard brick mill construction with slow-burning heavy timber floors and framing and functional open floor plans. These arrangements resulted in relatively large, open, and well-lit and

[21] "Everyone Has the Same Name," *Hartford Courant*, September 26, 1971, p. 5B; "Company to Leave Windsor Locks," *Hartford Courant*, April 20, 1988, p. 5B; "Business Will Relocate Without Family," *Hartford Courant*, April 30, 1988, p. D1F; "Wire Plant Closes in 118th Year," *Hartford Courant*, September 1, 1989, p. D1; "A Piece of Local History Shuts Down," *Hartford Courant*, September 4, 1989, p. D12C.

[22] Since 2000 the former J.H. Dexter & Sons Company plant has been operated by Ahlstrom Nonwovens, LLC, a fiber-based materials company founded in Finland in 1851.

ventilated working environments, as well as provided adequate space for the large machinery and on-site storage of raw materials and finished product required by the firm. Buildings 3 and 5, completed in 1920, demonstrate the need for supplemental space as the company expanded production, and also illustrate the increased adoption of reinforced concrete as a primary building material in factory design by the late 1910s.

While the use of reinforced concrete as a primary structural medium was pioneered by the English-born engineer and architect Ernest L. Ransome (1852-1917) during the 1880s and 1890s, and the American architect Albert Kahn (1869-1942) during the early 1900s, it was not widely applied to factory construction until the mid-to-late 1910s. By the time that work on additions to the J.R. Montgomery Company facility began in 1920, the use of reinforced concrete was not revolutionary, nor, however, was it universal. This being said, the benefits of its use by the Windsor Locks firm were very clear as reinforced concrete has a number of conspicuous benefits over traditional brick masonry and timber construction. Reinforced concrete reduced the risk of fire by largely eliminating combustible wooden beams and structural members and it allowed the architect to create a facade that was dominated by windows, rather than load-bearing brick walls. As a result, windows spanning from several feet above floor to near ceiling height could run the length of a building's elevation with fewer interruptions from structural elements, thus providing more light and better ventilation. In addition, reinforced concrete construction allowed larger spans of uninterrupted floor space than was possible in traditional mill construction. This maximized available square footage and made for more cost-efficient designs. In the case of Buck & Sheldon, Inc.'s design for the J.R. Montgomery Company's new mill and dyehouse, the results were several expansive, largely fireproof structures, which both housed and more effectively protected the substantial and expensive machinery employed in tinsel production. Further insurance against fire came in the form of a Grinnell automatic sprinkler system, which was provided on all floors of Buildings 3 and 4, as well as a supplementary hydrant system located outside of the buildings and use of interlocking fireproof doors throughout the plant.[23]

Other notable factors were also considered by Buck & Sheldon when designing the J.R. Montgomery Company's new dyehouse. The most significant concern in this regard was related to alleviating the unpleasant – yet pervasive – conditions created by the mixing of steam, acids, and water used in industrial dyeing processes. An extensive ventilation system was created by the use of operable sawtooth monitors and placement of ventilators directly above troublesome equipment. The problem was further managed by the employment of a hot-blast heating system, which was fed into the building

[23] "J.R. Montgomery Company's Additions," *Textile World*, February 5, 1921, pg. 467-469.

through vents located six feet above the factory floor, and "designed so as to absorb and remove through the ventilators the quantities of steam and fumes escaping from the process work." This system was supplemented by installation of steam coils below the roof, which helped reduce condensation. Trench drains were also provided in order to prevent the pooling of waste materials on the factory floor and all of the sprinklers throughout the building were coated with a special paint in order to prevent acid corrosion.[24]

Buck & Sheldon, Inc.

Buildings 3 and 4 are significant as examples of the work of the architecture and engineering firm of Buck & Sheldon, Inc., which was established in Hartford in 1909 after a partnership was formed between two of that city's most prominent civil engineers, Henry Robinson Buck (1876-1934) and Paul Sheldon (1881-1931). The two men worked in the Hartford City Engineer's office under Frederick L. Ford (1871-1940) between 1902 and 1909. Buck served as the Assistant City Engineer in charge of all sewer work and Sheldon held the same position with responsibility for all bridge, masonry, heavy foundation, and structural steel construction. Buck and Sheldon left city service to go into private practice as Buck & Sheldon, Inc. in 1909, and Ford joined them to assume the role as the company's president in April 1911. The trio continued in partnership as the firm of Ford, Buck & Sheldon until 1920, despite Ford's relocation to New Haven to work as its City Engineer in March 1912. After Ford's departure, the firm reverted to Buck & Sheldon, Inc. and carried on under that name until the men parted ways in 1928.[25]

Both of the partners in Buck & Sheldon, Inc. were nationally recognized as talented professionals in their field. The various forms of their partnership were responsible for a variety of significant engineering and design work throughout Hartford and beyond. Notable among these was a substantial addition to the Deep River, Connecticut plant of Pratt, Read & Company (this listed on the National Register of Historic Places on August 30, 1984), which at the time of its design and construction in 1914 was Ford, Buck & Sheldon's first venture into the use of reinforced concrete as a primary building material. Other significant building projects completed by the partners included a substantial expansion to

[24] "J.R. Montgomery Company's Additions," *Textile World*, February 5, 1921, pg. 467-469.
[25] "Dinner Given to Engineer Ford," *Hartford Courant*, March 27, 1911, p. 5; "H.R. Buck Takes Son Into Firm," *Hartford Courant*, November 8, 1930, p. 23; "Paul Sheldon, Retired Civil Engineer Dies," *Hartford Courant*, July 30, 1931, p. 20; "Henry R. Buck Killed, 4 Others Injured in Avon Mountain Crash," *Hartford Courant*, August 12, 1934, p. 1; "F.L. Ford Dies, Former Hartford City Engineer," *Hartford Courant*, December 19, 1940, p. 4.

Trinity Church on Sigourney Street in Hartford in 1911; various additions to Pope Manufacturing Company-held factories throughout Hartford in 1912; a new office and warehouse for the Capitol City Lumber Company on Park Street in Hartford in 1914; a factory for the Hartford Special Machinery Company on Homestead Avenue in 1915; a wholesale drug plant – allegedly one of the largest in the country at the time of its construction – for the Walker and Gibson Company of Albany, New York in 1915; a factory for the Arrow-Hart and Hegeman Electric Company on Hawthorne Street in Hartford in 1918; and an office and factory for the M.S. Little Manufacturing Company on New Park Avenue in Hartford in 1917 and 1922; and a factory for the Fuller Brush Company on Main Street in Hartford in 1922. The firm's engineering projects were similarly notable and included the design and construction oversight of numerous sewer systems, among them being examples in the Connecticut towns of West Hartford, Windsor, Wethersfield, and Newington. The design for the J.R. Montgomery Company factory was one of the first projects completed after Frederick Ford left the firm (and his position as New Haven's City Engineer) to take a position as vice president and general manager of Connecticut National Pavements, Inc., a paving contractor, early in 1920.[26]

[26] "Hartford Rich in New Buildings: Private and Private Spring Up Everywhere," *Hartford Courant*, April 22, 1911, p. 15; "West Hartford News," *Hartford Courant*, November 20, 1911, p. 16; "Local Firm Has Big Albany Contract," *Hartford Courant*, March 7, 1915, p. 3; "Hartford Building Permits", City of Hartford, Hartford City Clerk's Office.

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"West Hartford News," *Hartford Courant,* November 20, 1911, p. 16.

"Local Firm Has Big Albany Contract," *Hartford Courant,* March 7, 1915, p. 3.

"J.R. Montgomery Co. Acquires New Mill Site," *Hartford Courant,* October 18, 1916, p. 4.

"Windsor Locks Factory Increases Capital," *Hartford Courant,* April 2, 1920, p. 15.

"Montgomery Company to Reorganize," *Hartford Courant,* September 1, 1928, p. 1.

"Notice of Dissolution; The J.R. Montgomery Company," *Hartford Courant,* February 14, 1929, p. 25.

"Well-Known Manufacturer Dead At 85," *Hartford Courant,* March 2, 1930, p. 8.

"H.R. Buck Takes Son Into Firm," *Hartford Courant,* November 8, 1930, p. 23.

"Paul Sheldon, Retired Civil Engineer Dies," *Hartford Courant,* July 30, 1931, p. 20.

"Henry R. Buck Killed, 4 Others Injured in Avon Mountain Crash," *Hartford Courant,* August 12, 1934, p. 1.

"F.L. Ford Dies, Former Hartford City Engineer," *Hartford Courant,* December 19, 1940, p. 4.

"Everyone Has the Same Name," *Hartford Courant,* September 26, 1971, p. 5B.

"Company to Leave Windsor Locks," *Hartford Courant,* April 20, 1988, p. 5B.

"Business Will Relocate Without Family," *Hartford Courant,* April 30, 1988, p. D1F.

"Wire Plant Closes in 118th Year," *Hartford Courant,* September 1, 1989, p. D1.

"A Piece of Local History Shuts Down," *Hartford Courant,* September 4, 1989, p. D12C.

Textile World -

"New Montgomery Preferred." *Textile World, Vol. 57, Part 2,* New York, NY: Bragdon, Lord & Nagle Co., Inc., 1920.

"J.R. Montgomery Company's Additions." *Textile World, Vol. 59, Part 1,* New York, NY: Bragdon, Lord & Nagle Co., Inc.,1921.

National and Connecticut State Register Nominations:

Clouette, Bruce, Consultant, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, National Register Nomination for the "Enfield Canal, Suffield and Windsor Locks, CT," April 22, 1976.

Karmazinas, Lucas A., Consultant, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut State Register Nomination for the "Hartford Rubber Works Company Boiler House and Tire Storage Building, Hartford, CT," January 7, 2015.

Karmazinas, Lucas A., Consultant, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut State Register Nomination for the "Parkville Historic District, Hartford, CT," April 9, 2015.

Karmazinas, Lucas A., Consultant, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, National Register Nomination for the "Underwood Computing Machine Company Factory, Hartford, CT," June 20, 2010.

Ransom, David F., Consultant, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, National Register Nomination for the "J.R. Montgomery & Company Industrial Complex, Windsor Locks, CT," D.O.E. April 6, 1990. Not listed on the National Register of Historic Places due to owner objection.

Ransom, David F., Consultant, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, National Register Nomination for the "Pratt, Read & Company Factory Complex, Deep River, CT," August 30, 1984.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

__X__ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
__X__ 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:

__X_ 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 2.28

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: Longitude:

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [X] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 18	Easting: 696789	Northing: 4644751
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

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

The boundary of the nominated property corresponds to the parcels identified by the Town of Windsor Locks Assessor's Office as Map 21, Lot 19-002 (Parcel ID 4581) and Map 29, Lot 19-001 Parcel ID 4668). The boundary encompasses the entirety of Map 29, Lot 19-001 and a portion of Map 21, Lot 19-002. It follows the parcel lines along the portion of this property containing standing buildings and includes the portion of the Enfield Canal that is adjacent to the buildings. The boundary follows the parcel lines of Map 21, Lot 19-002 at its south end, but cuts across the property in a line of convenience to the north of the extant industrial complex (Figure 1).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the entirety of this remaining cluster of standing industrial resources within the former corridor along the Enfield Canal. It is consistent with the historic property boundary of the J.R. Montgomery Company in 1916, when the parcel immediately to the south of Building 2 was purchased by the J.R. Montgomery Company (now the site of Buildings 3 and 4). It also includes a portion of the property boundary of the only surviving building formerly owned by the E. Horton & Son Company. The excluded terrestrial portion of that property does not contain any standing structures or known archaeological resources. The Enfield Canal is currently separately listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lucas A. Karmazinas, Architectural Historian
organization: FuturePast Preservation
street & number: 940 West Blvd.
city or town: Hartford state: CT zip code: 06105
e-mail: Lucas.Karmazinas@gmail.com
telephone: 860-428-7982
date: 05/24/2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: J.R. Montgomery & Company Industrial Complex

City or Vicinity: Windsor Locks

County: Hartford State: Connecticut

Photographer: Lucas A. Karmazinas

Date Photographed: 06/01/2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 35.
Façade (west elevation) of the J.R. Montgomery Company Industrial Complex, ca. 1875, 1891, 1904, 1920, ca. 1939.
Camera facing northeast.

2 of 35.
Façade (west elevation) of the J.R. Montgomery Company Industrial Complex, ca. 1875, 1891, 1904, 1920, ca. 1939.
Camera facing northeast.

3 of 35.
Façade (south) and east (side) elevations of Building 5 (ca. 1939).
Camera facing northwest.

4 of 35.
Façade (south) and west (side) elevations of Building 4 (1920).
Camera facing northeast.

5 of 35.
Façade (west) elevations of Building 1 (1891).
Camera facing northeast.

6 of 35.
Detail of the primary entrance and loading bays on the façade (west elevation) of Building 1 (1891).
Camera facing east.

7 of 35.
North elevation of Building 1 (1891).
Camera facing southwest.

8 of 35.
East elevation of Building 1 (1891).
Camera facing northwest.

9 of 35.
South elevation of Building 1 (1891, at right) and east elevation of Building 2 (1904, at left).
Camera facing northwest.

10 of 35.
Detail of a basement-level window located within the lightwell on the west side of Building 2 (1904).
Camera facing northeast.

11 of 35.
Detail of entries on the façade (west elevation) of Building 2 (1904).
Camera facing southeast.

12 of 35.
Detail of entries located within a recessed porch on the façade (west elevation) of Building 2 (1904).
Camera facing east.

13 of 35.
Details of the engaged stair tower on the façade (west elevation) of Building 2 (1904).
Camera facing southeast.

14 of 35.
East elevation of Building 2 (1904, at center and right) and north elevation of Building 4 (1920, at left).
Camera facing southwest.

15 of 35.
Detail of the primary entrance to Building 3 (1920).
Camera facing northeast.

16 of 35.
East elevation of Building 3 (1920).
Camera facing southwest.

17 of 35.
North elevation of Building 4 (1920).
Camera facing south.

18 of 35.
Detail of the interior of Building 3 (1920).
Camera facing west.

19 of 35.
Detail of the interior of the basement level of Building 3 (1920).
Camera facing northeast.

20 of 35.
Detail of the typical interior of the first through fifth floors of Building 3 (1920).
Camera facing north.

21 of 35.
Detail of the restrooms on the first through fifth floors of Building 3 (1920).
Camera facing southeast.

22 of 35.
Detail of a typical freight elevator on the first through fifth floors of Building 3 (1920).
Camera facing east.

23 of 35.
Detail of a typical foreman's office on the first through fifth floors of Building 3 (1920).
Camera facing north.

24 of 35.
Detail of a typical office entry on the second floor of Building 3 (1920).
Camera facing north.

25 of 35.
Detail of typical fire doors leading between the first through fifth floors of Building 3 (1920).
Camera facing north.

26 of 35.
Detail of typical view looking from Building 2 (1904) into Building 1 (1891).
Camera facing north.

27 of 35.
Detail of the main (southwest) stairwell within Building 2 (1904).
Camera facing northwest.

28 of 35.
Detail of the main (southwest) stairwell within Building 2 (1904).
Camera facing northwest.

29 of 35.
Detail of the stairwell within Building 4 (1920).
Camera facing north.

30 of 35.
Detail of the first floor of Building 4 (1920).
Camera facing northeast.

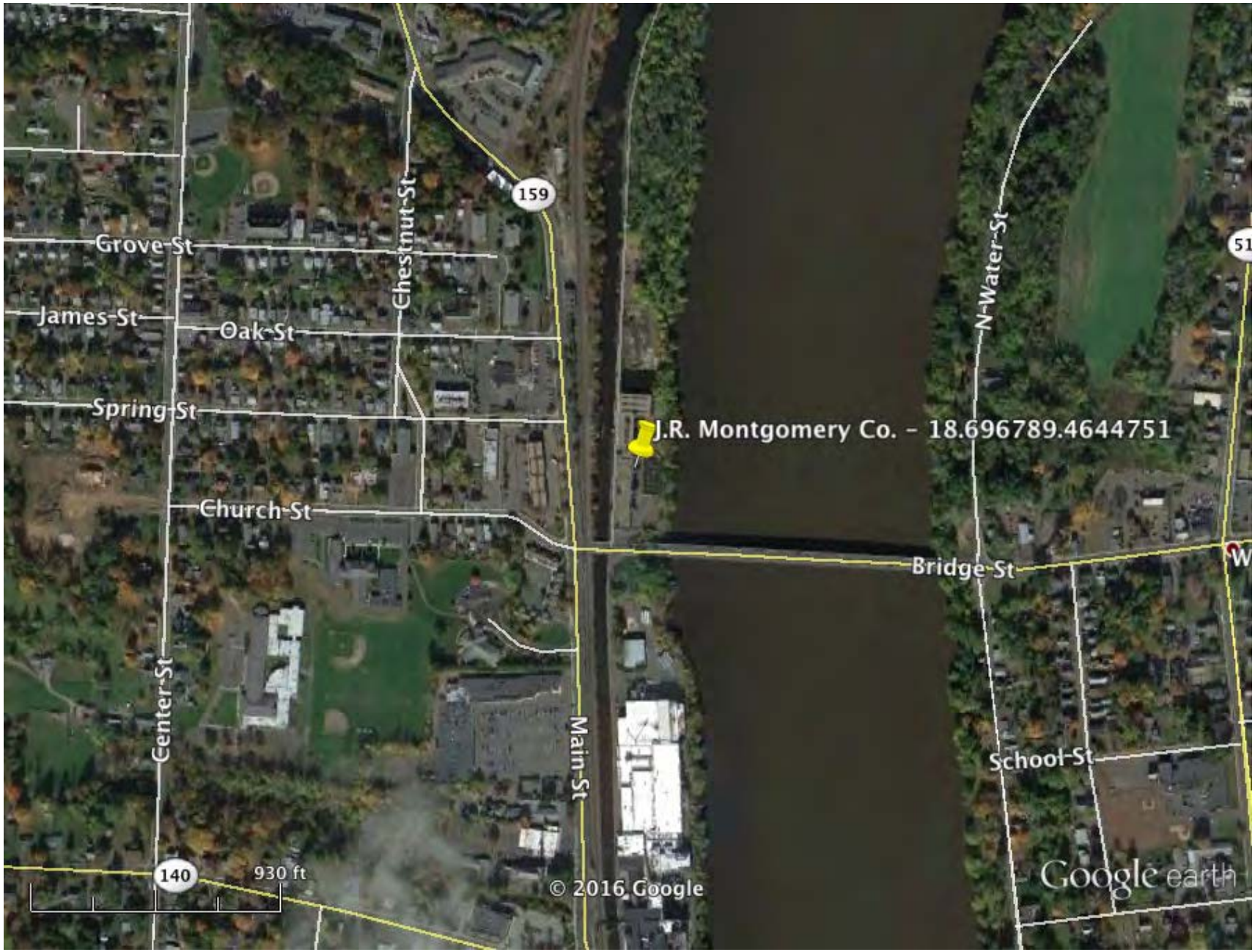
31 of 35.
Detail of the sawtooth monitors above the northern half of Building 4 (1920).
Camera facing northwest.

32 of 35.
Detail of the second floor of Building 4 (1920).
Camera facing southeast.

33 of 35.
View of the J.R. Montgomery Company footbridge, ca. 1920.
Camera facing west.

34 of 35.
East elevation of the E. Horton & Son Company blacksmith shop, ca. 1875.
Camera facing west.

35 of 35.
Detail of the interior of the E. Horton & Son Company blacksmith shop.
Camera facing west.

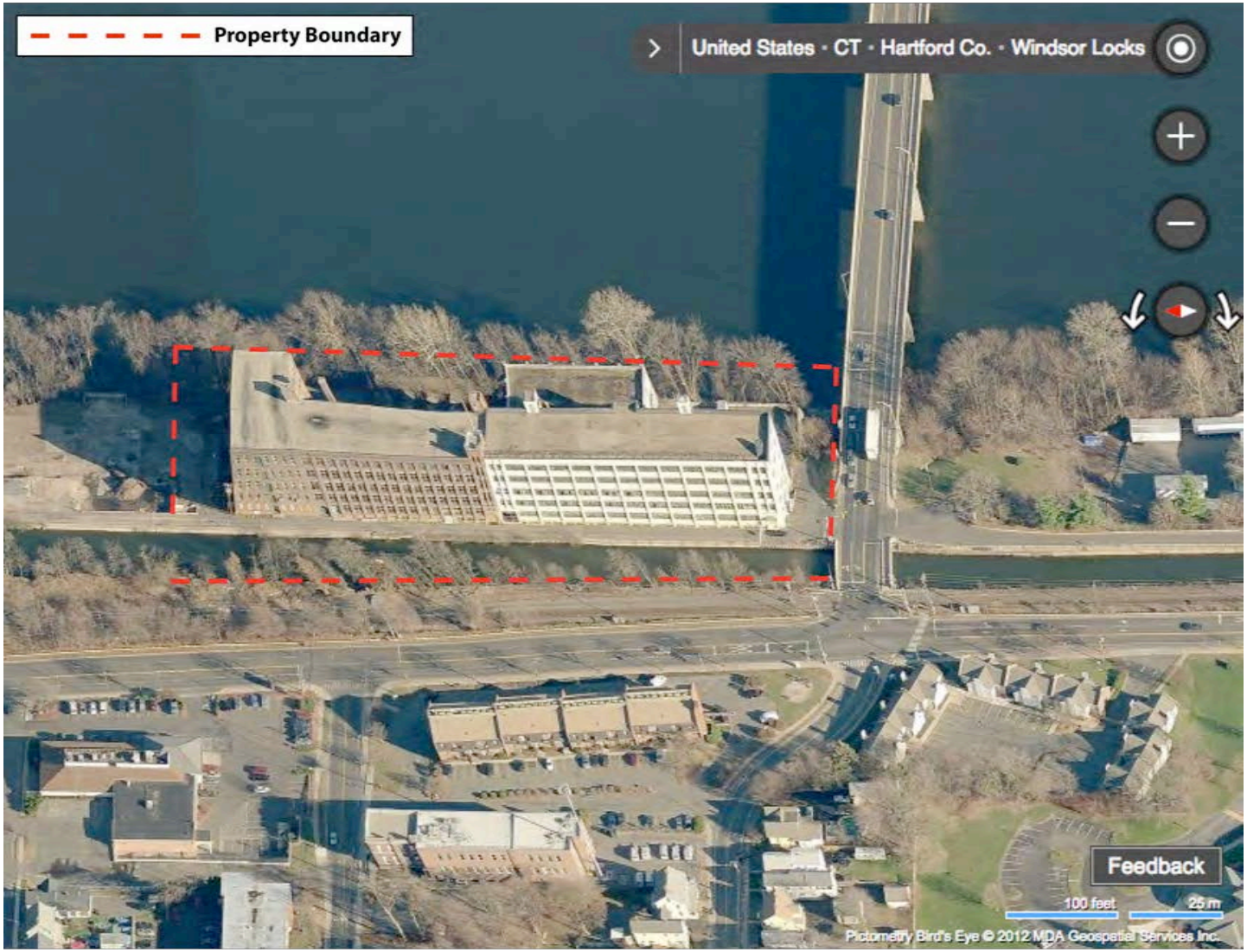


Google earth

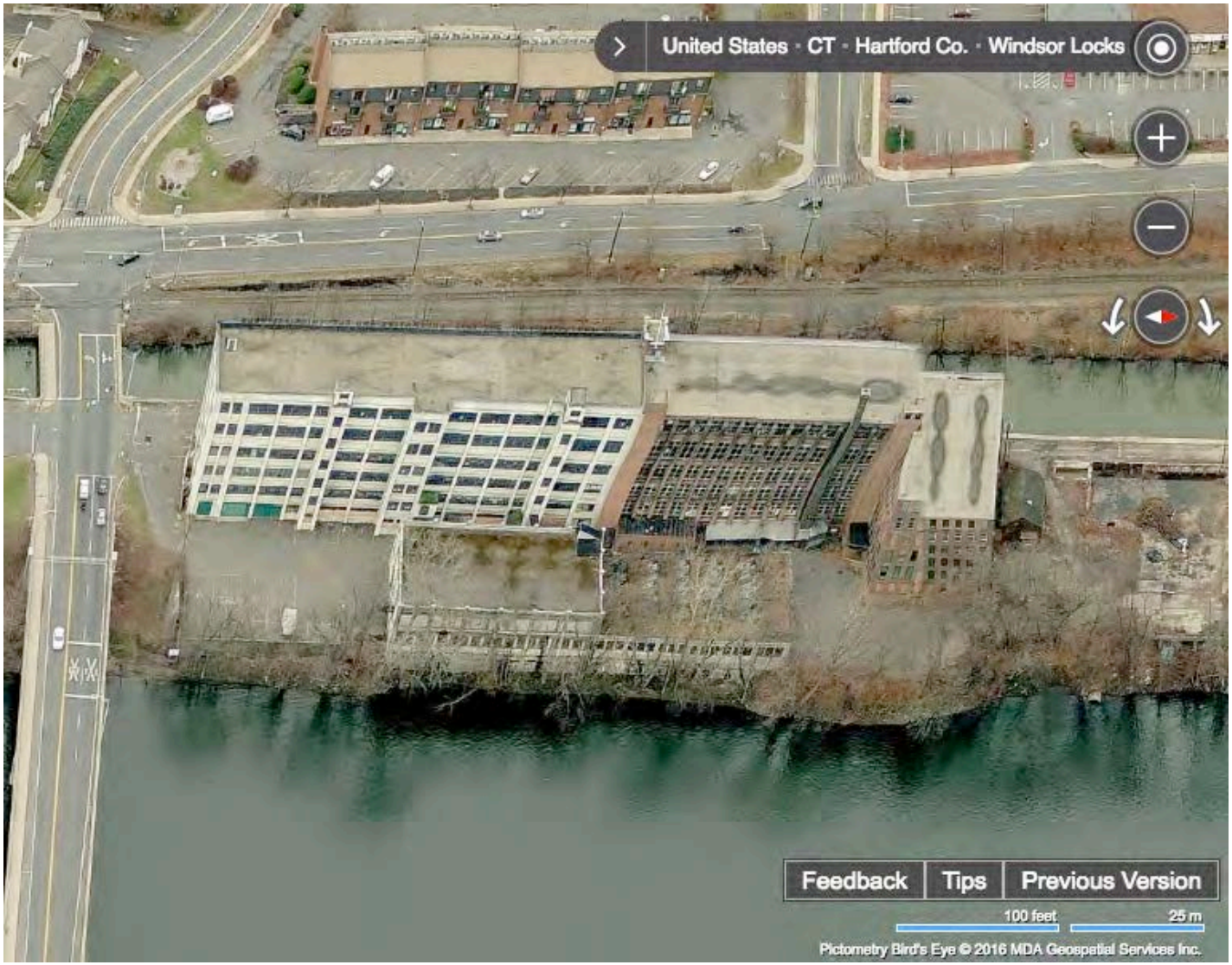
feet 3000
meters 900

Location Map - J.R. Montgomery Co. Industrial Complex: Hartford Co., Connecticut.

Site/Aerial Images:



Aerial image of the J.R. Montgomery Co. Industrial Complex, Canal Bank, Windsor Locks, Connecticut. Camera facing east. Accessed from Bing.com May 23, 2017.
Figure 1.



Aerial image of the J.R. Montgomery Co. Industrial Complex, Canal Bank, Windsor Locks, Connecticut. Camera facing west. Accessed from Bing.com May 25, 2016.
Figure 2.

Historic postcard of the J.R. Montgomery Co. Industrial Complex, showing the Buildings 1 and 2 (1891 and 1904).
Figure 3.

Historic image of the J.R. Montgomery Co. Industrial Complex, showing Buildings 1 and 2, and newly completed 1920 additions (Buildings 3 and 4).
Figure 4.

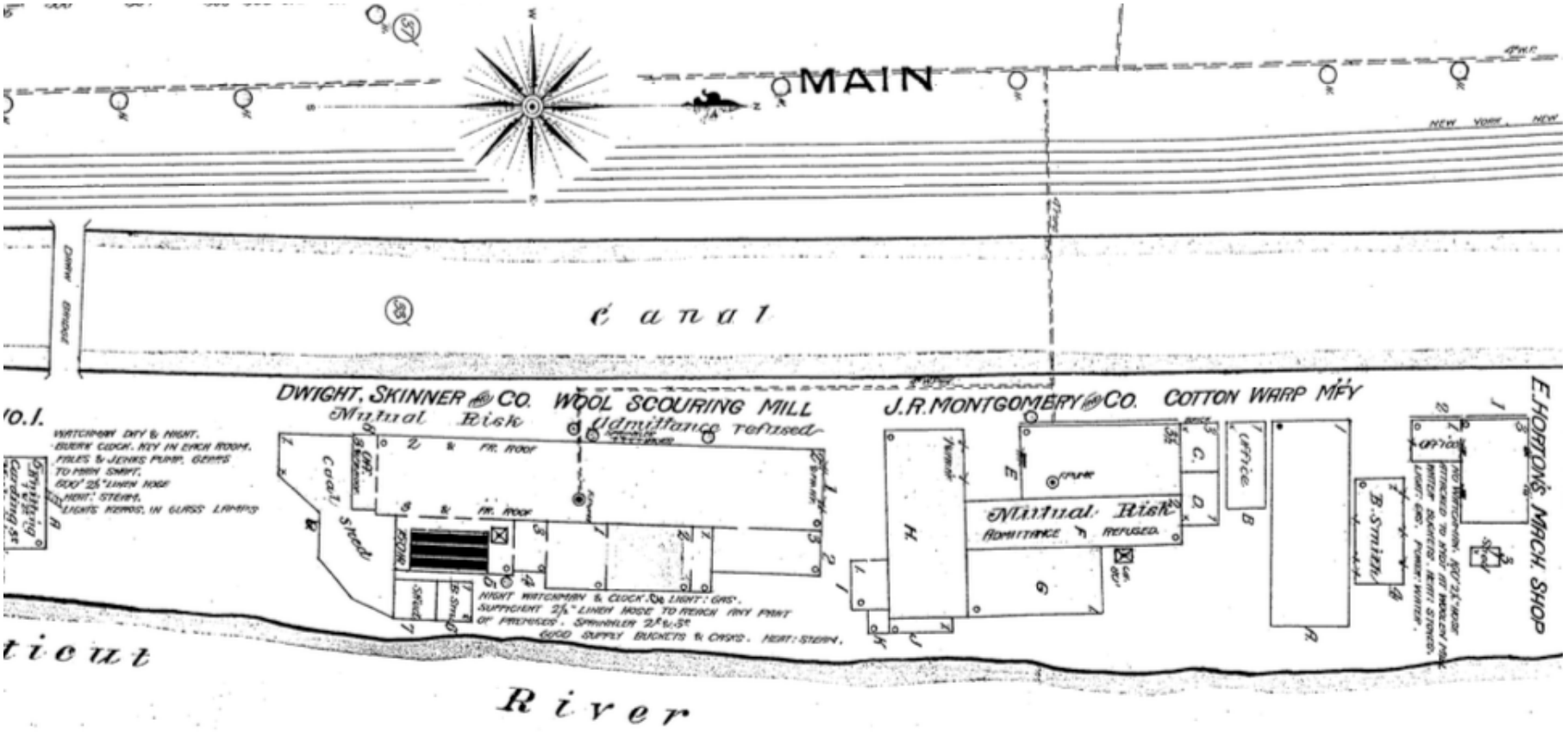


Image of the J.R. Montgomery Co. Industrial Complex as depicted in the 1885 Sanborn Insurance Atlas.
Figure 5.

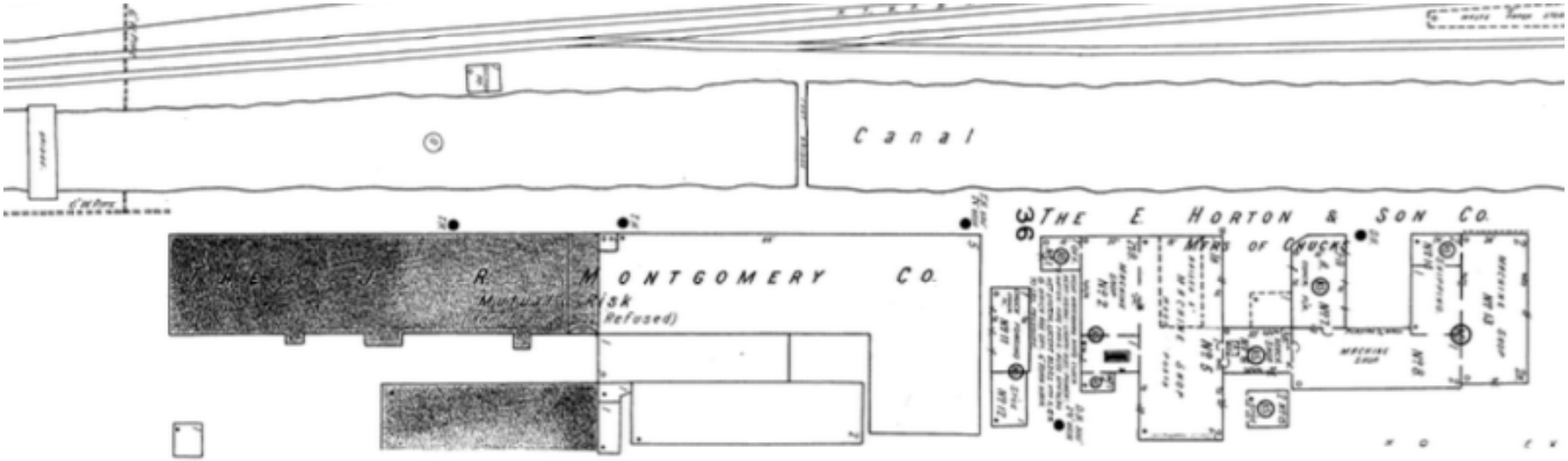


Image of the J.R. Montgomery Co. Industrial Complex as depicted in the 1925 Sanborn Insurance Atlas. Note the demolition of the Dwight, Skinner & Company facility and expansion of the J.R. Montgomery Company plant.
Figure 6.

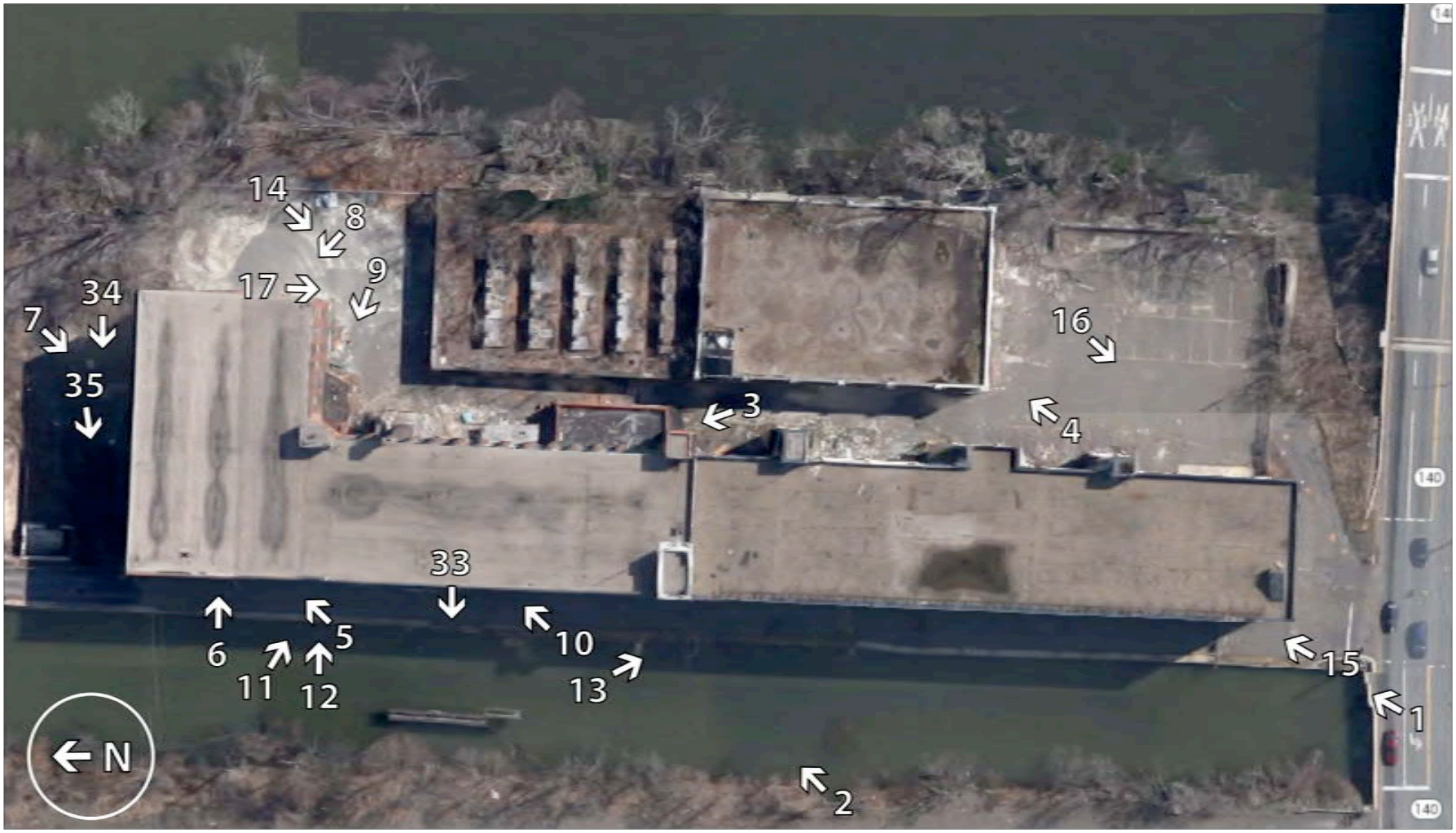
Photo Directions and Floor Plans:

Contributing Resources and J.R. Montgomery Co. Phases of Construction:

1. Building 1, 1891 Block. **2.** Building 2, 1904 Block. **3.** Building 3, 1920 Office and Manufacturing Block.
4. Building 4, 1920 Dyehouse. **5.** Building 5, ca. 1939 Block. **6.** ca. 1875 E. Horton & Sons Co. Blacksmith Shop.
7. ca. 1920 Footbridge.

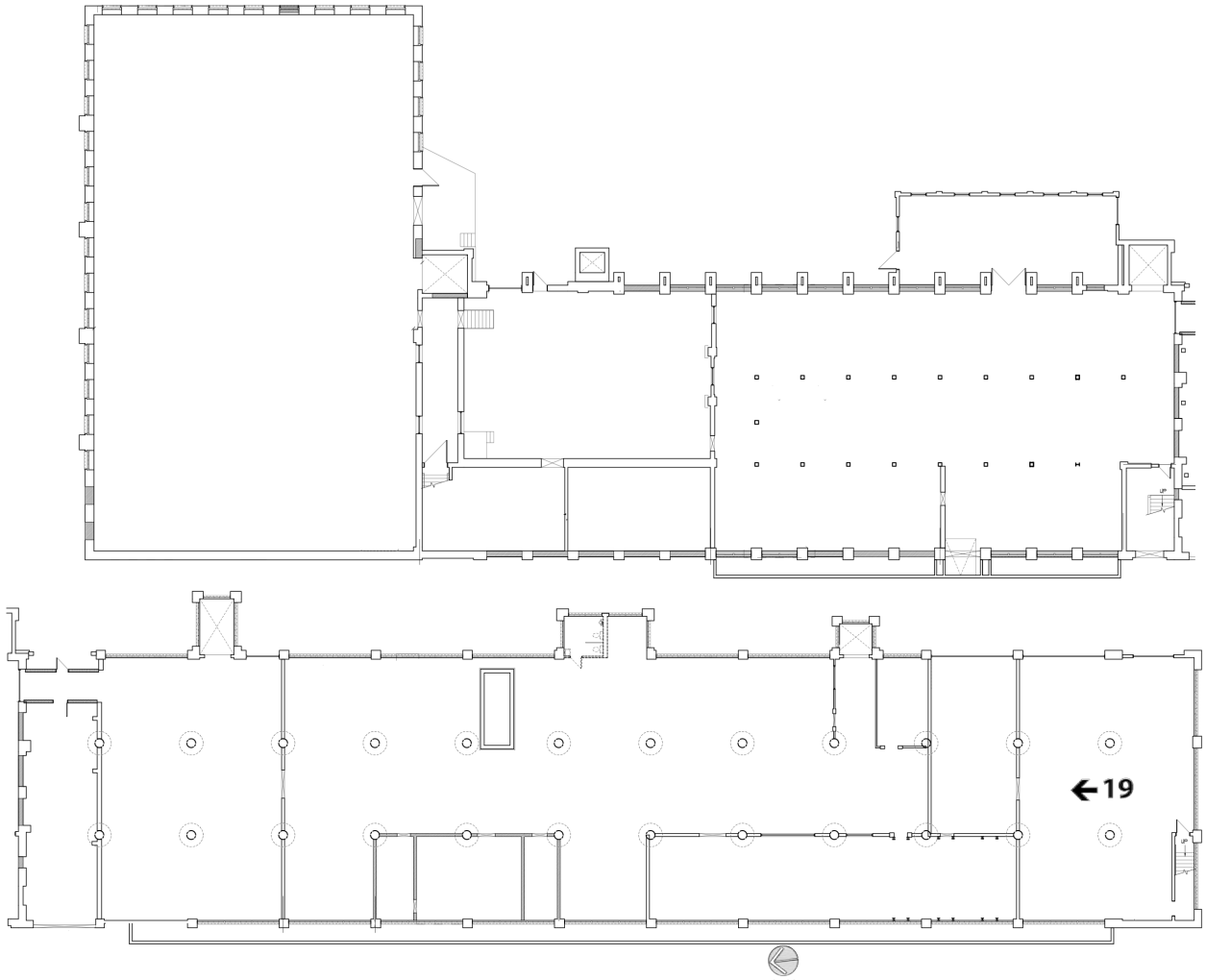
Figure: 7

Exterior Photos (and ca. 1875 Blacksmith Shop interior).



Interior Photos - Basement Level.

Figure: 8



Interior – First/Ground Floor.

Figure: 9

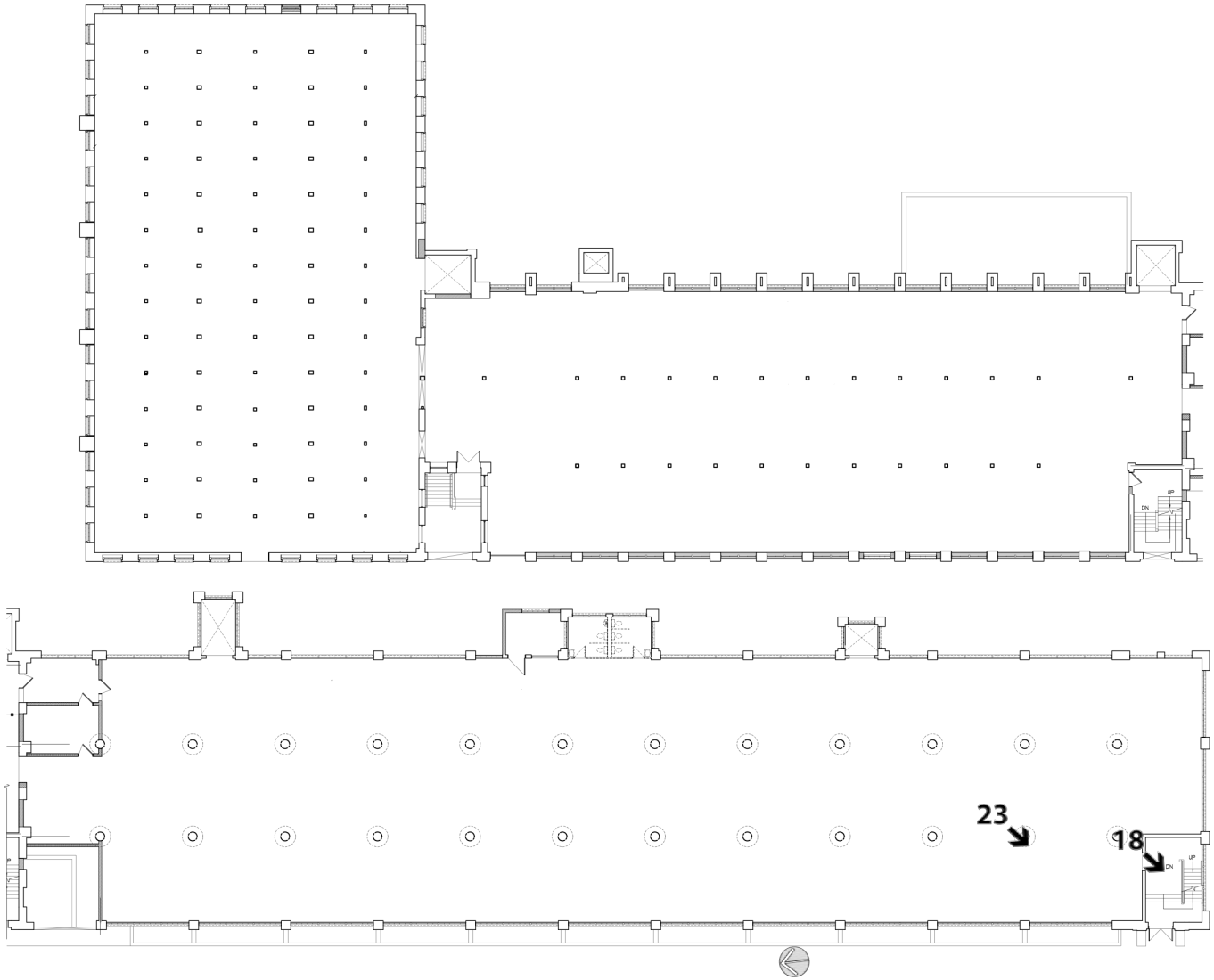
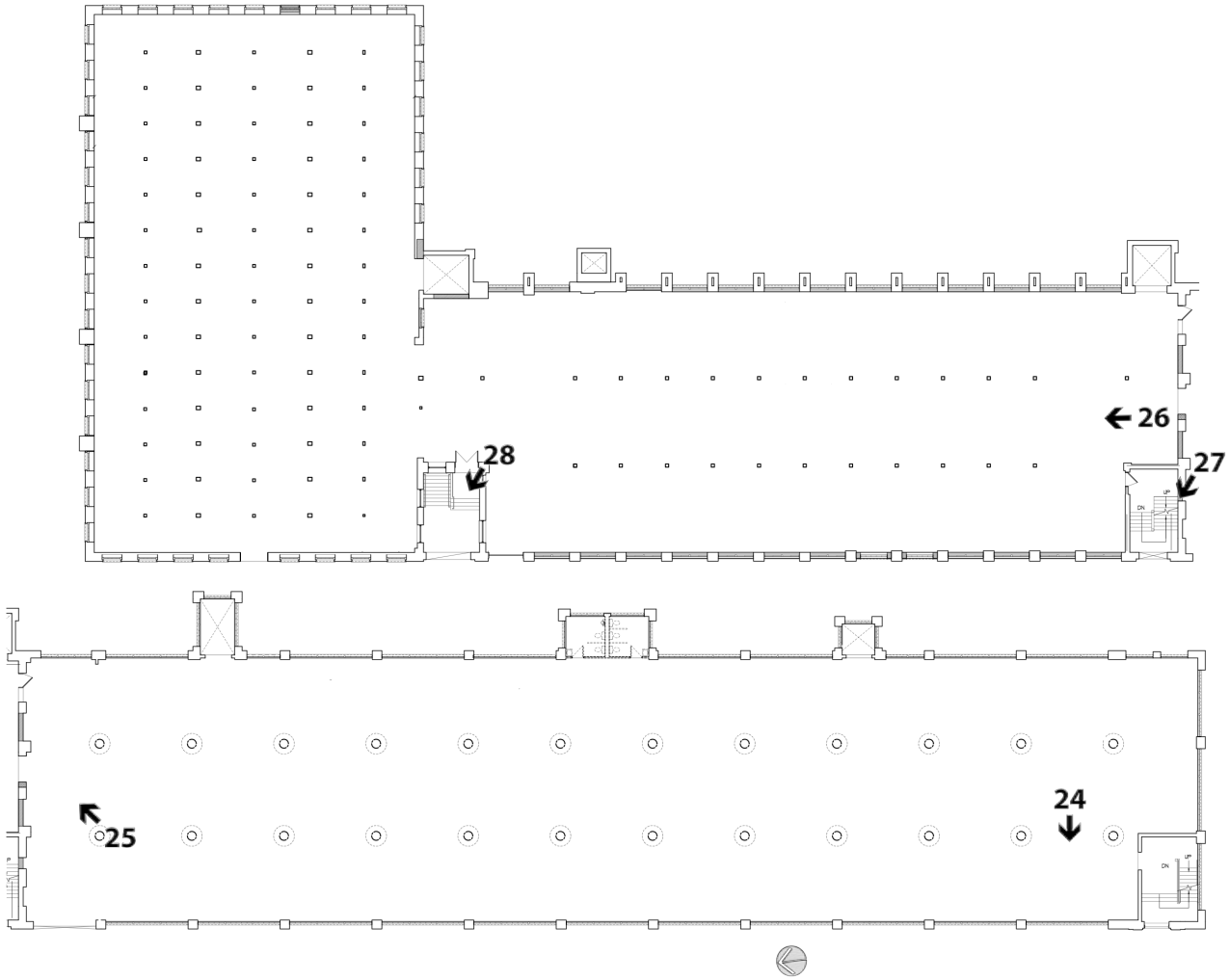


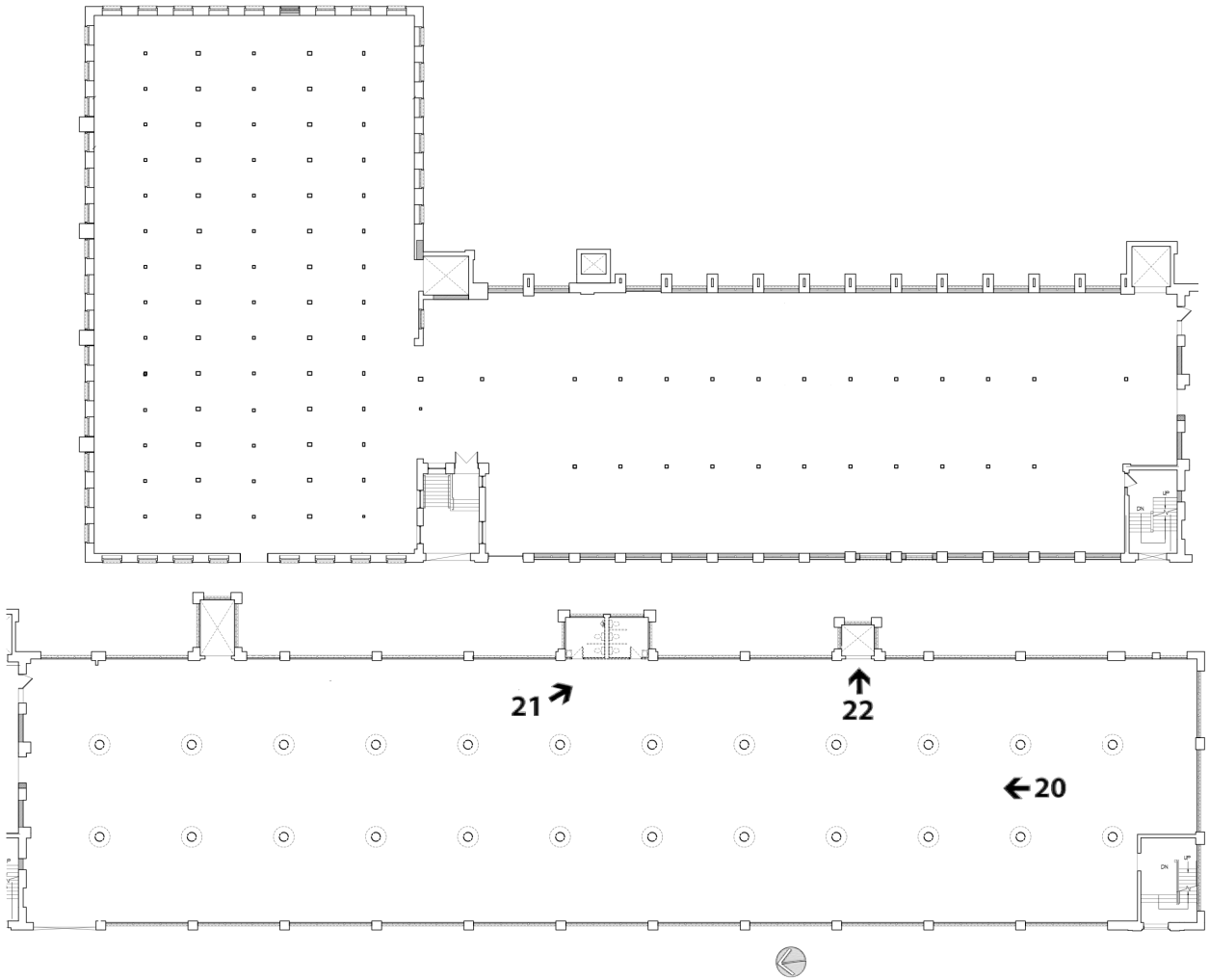
Figure: 10

Interior - Second Floor.



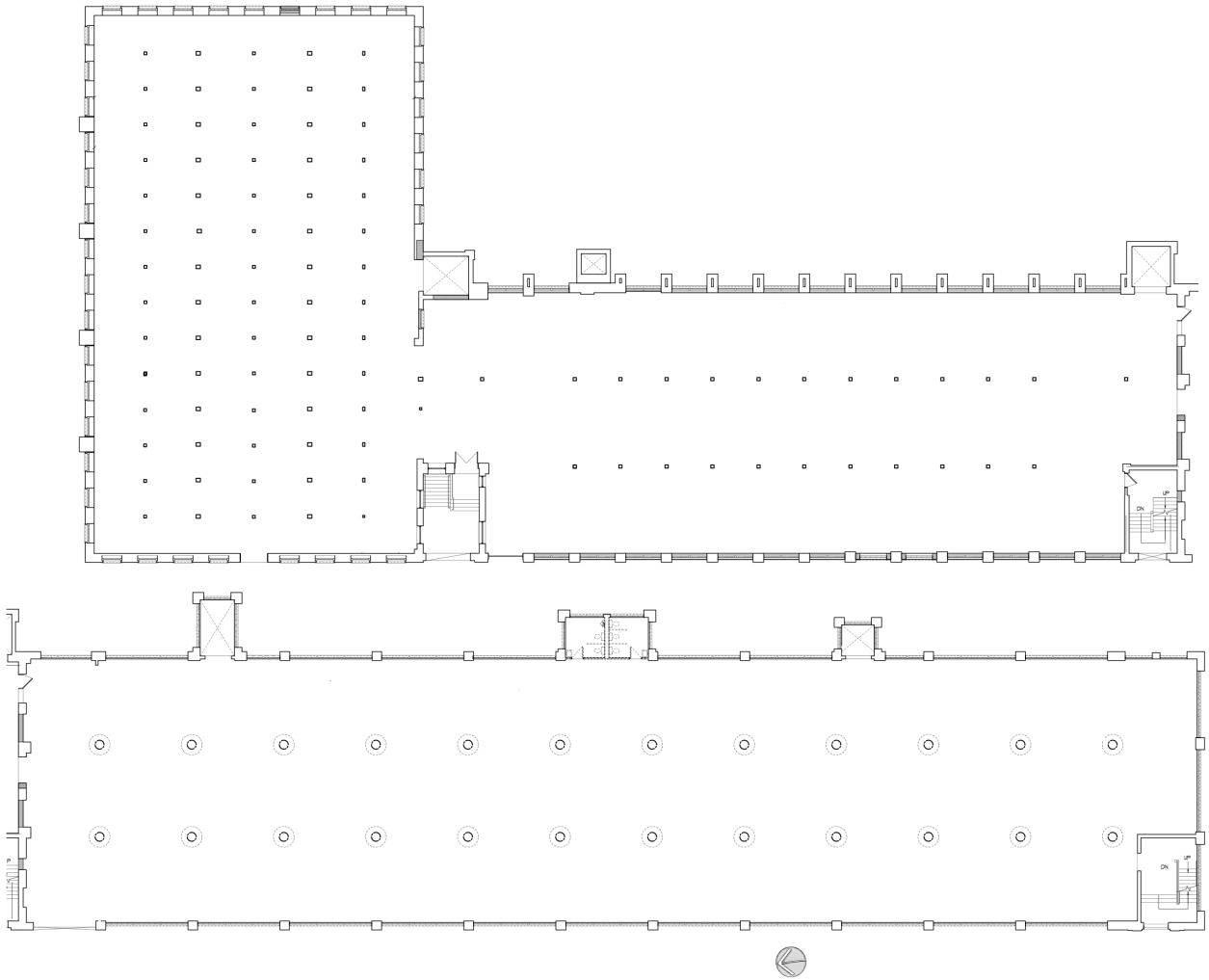
Interior - Third Floor.

Figure: 11



Interior - Fourth Floor.

Figure: 12

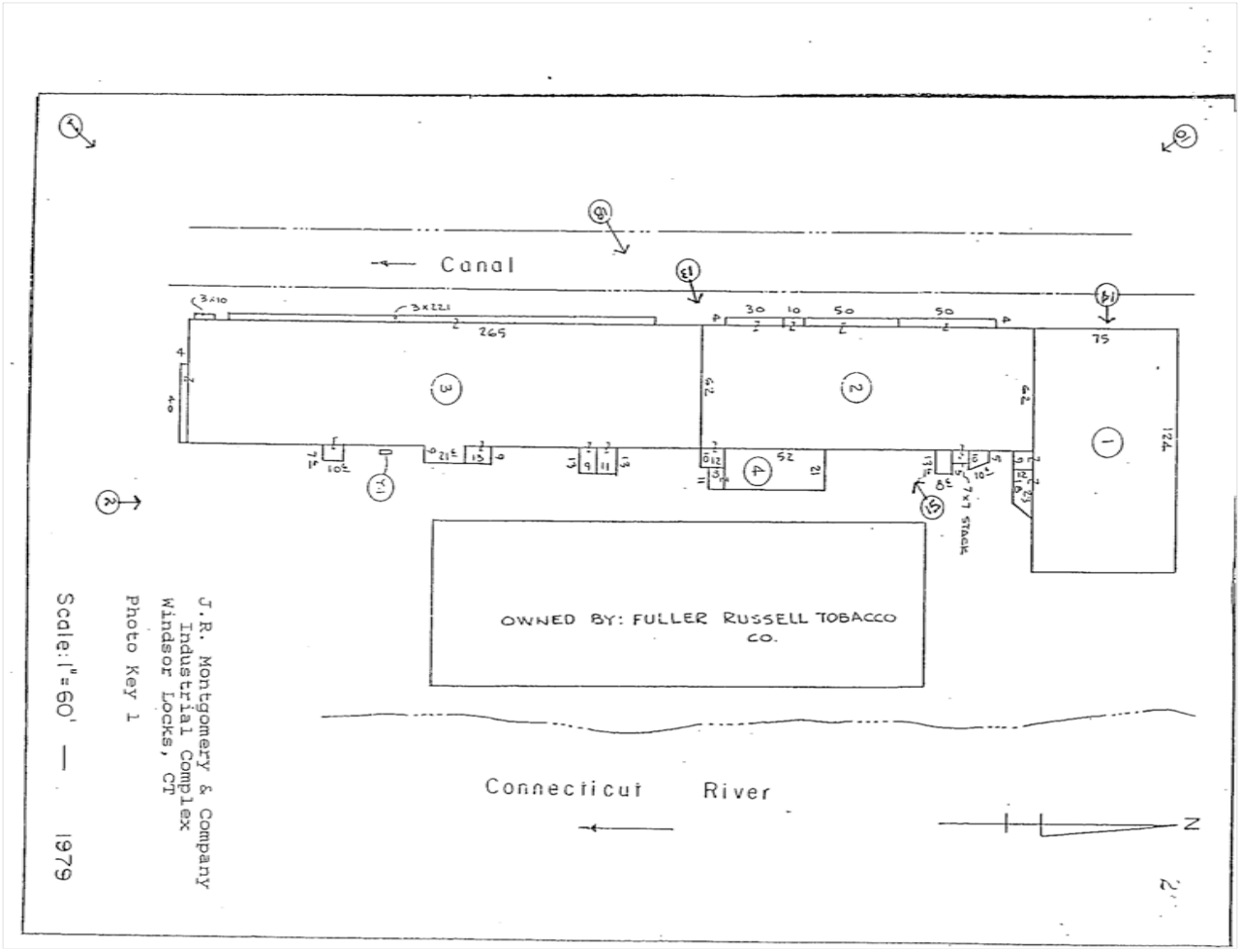


Interior - Fifth Floor.

Figure: 13

Interior – Building 4, First and Second Floors.

Figure: 14



A 1979 Sketch Map with Building Designations Included in the 1990 Historic District Nomination.

Figure: 15


PLATFORM
№ 2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National Register Information System

Evaluation/Return Sheet For Single/Multi Nomination

1 of 1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Montgomery, J.R., Company Industrial Complex

Multiple Name:

State & County: CONNECTICUT, Hartford

Date Received:	Date of Pending List:	Date of 16th Day:	Date of 45th Day:	Date of Weekly List:
11/15/2017	12/8/2017	12/26/2017	1/2/2018	

Reference number: SG100001915

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

__ Appeal	X PDIL	__ Text/Data Issue
__ SHPO Request	__ Landscape	__ Photo
__ Waiver	__ National	__ Map/Boundary
__ Resubmission	__ Mobile Resource	__ Period
X Other	__ TCP	__ Less than 50 years
	__ CLG	

__X__ Accept _____ Return _____ Reject __12/29/2017__ Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The architectural classifications need to be amended to reflect the influence of Renaissance Revival and American Commercial style rather than simply "Romanesque Revival" and an unspecified "Other".

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Roger Reed Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2278 Date 12/29/17

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.

<< Back

Connecticut
still revolutionary

Department of Economic and Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

November 13, 2017

Mr. Roger Reed
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Subject: J.R. Montgomery Industrial Complex, Hartford County Connecticut, National Register Nomination

Dear Mr. Reed:

The following National Register nomination materials are submitted for your review:

- Printed cover sheet
- CD of National Register text. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the J.R. Montgomery Industrial Complex to the National Register of Historic Places.
- 1 CD of Digital Photographs

This National Register nomination was approved by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Review Board on June 23, 2017. During that meeting, the State Review Board requested that the level of significance under Criterion A be raised to state level; this correction has been made.

The property included in this 2017 nomination was also encompassed within a larger geographic area nominated for the National Register in 1990. The 1990 nomination, entitled J.R. Montgomery & Company Industrial Complex, received a Determination of Eligibility from the Keeper on May 24, 1990. It was not listed in 1990 due to owner objection. Since that nomination is 27 years old and changes have occurred since that date, a new nomination was prepared.

The National Park Service approved a Historic Preservation Certification Application Part 1 on January 23, 2017 and a Part 2 on April 26, 2017.

During the noticing process for the 2017 National Register nomination, no letters of support or objection were received. The Town of Windsor Locks is not a CLG.

If you have any questions, or if this office can be of assistance, please call Jenny Scofield at 860-256-2766.

Sincerely,

Jenny F. Scofield

Jenny F. Scofield,
National Register Coordinator

Enclosures