

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: Jewett Piano Company Building

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: 140 Adams Street

City or town: Leominster State: MA County: Worcester

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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

<u>Brona Surin</u>	<u>September 12, 2019</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	SHPO
Date	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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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:)

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature of the Keeper

11/1/19

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Victorian eclectic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: 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 Paragraph

The Jewett Piano Company Building is a wood-frame industrial building located in a moderately settled residential neighborhood in the City of Leominster, a 19th century industrial city in central Massachusetts. Constructed in 1892, the Jewett factory is located one block west of Leominster City Hall and downtown Leominster in an area that developed for both industrial uses and residential housing along the Monoosnoc Brook east of Rockwell Pond. After renovations and additions in 1902 and 1912, the Victorian Eclectic style Jewett Piano Company Building is a rectangular four-story building with central stair tower that visually dominates the surrounding area. Following several decades of being vacant, the building recently underwent a tax advantaged certified rehabilitation for a new residential use. The Jewett Piano Company Building retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association and is significant as an intact example of industrial development in Leominster during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Narrative Description

The Jewett Piano Company Building is a late 19th century wood-frame industrial building located on a relatively flat lot on the north side of the Monoosnoc Brook one block west of downtown Leominster. The 1.51 acre parcel, which was previously two separate lots, includes both the building on its northern boundary and a surface parking area on the southern boundary closest to

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the brook. The property sits within a mixed-used neighborhood of multi-story single and multi-family wood frame houses and single-story masonry commercial buildings.

The Jewett Piano Company Building rises four stories from a red brick and granite block foundation. The rectangular building measures 33 bays wide and five bays deep, and features regularly spaced six-over-six double-hung replacement sash windows along all four elevations (Photos 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6). The building terminates at a flat rubber membrane covered roof with a wood molded cornice and slightly overhanging eaves. A square stair tower crowns the roof in the 10th and 11th bays of the north elevation (Photo 5). The tower is topped by a slate-covered pyramidal hipped roof supported by carved wooden brackets. Architectural ornamentation on the building's exterior is limited to existing corner brackets on the main building and the tower.

The current configuration of the Jewett Piano Company Building reflects additions added to the original factory building in 1902 and 1912. When originally constructed in 1892, the wood clapboard factory building measured 40 feet by 150 feet and was three stories tall, 19 bays wide, and five bays deep with a two-story square cupola (Figure 2).¹ In 1902, a 14-bay, four-story addition (40 feet by 112 feet) was added to the factory's west elevation, extending the building to its current footprint (Figure 3). By 1912, the original three-story section of the factory had been raised an additional story, giving the building its current uniform height of four stories and leaving only one story of the original stair tower exposed. By 1950, asbestos-cement shingle siding had been applied (since removed), covering the original wood clapboards.

The Jewett factory exhibits only minimal architectural ornamentation, in keeping with its original design. A 1902 elevation plan for the factory shows a simple exterior design with architectural embellishment restricted to molded cornerboards and cornice, and brackets along the roofline of the main building and cupola.² The building's fenestration pattern features regularly-spaced windows on all four elevations. The building terminates at a flat roof with slightly overhanging eaves. An off-center square tower projects from the north side of the roof and is topped by a slate-covered, pyramidal hipped roof with carved wooden brackets (Photo 5).

Between 2013-2018 the building underwent a substantial rehabilitation for a new residential use. The rehabilitation included the removal of the previously installed asbestos-cement shingle siding and installation of new wood clapboard siding to restore the appearance of the original clapboard siding. New wood clad, double-pane energy efficient windows were installed to match the configuration, profiles, and glazing areas of the few six-over-six sash that survived on the building. The interior of the building was rehabilitated for 40 residential units and common spaces.

The building's north elevation contains approximately 125 regularly set six-over-six double-hung, wood-clad replacement sash windows (Photos 1 and 2). The first floor of the elevation features four former loading bays sheltered beneath pent roofs. Bay 5 contains six-over-six double hung replacement sash within a former entrance bay sheltered beneath a pent roof

¹ Leominster Historical Society Archives.

² A. E. Lyons, "Jewett Piano Manufacturing Company Factory" building elevation 1902, Massachusetts Archives Case B - 4-3, #8558.

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supported by two square columns set on a raised concrete foundation. A former loading bay beneath a pent roof between bays 8 and 11 was enclosed; a former window opening within bay 7 contains a door sheltered beneath the retained pent roof. Two former loading doors in bays 23 and 26 were retained and are no longer operable. The existing pent roofs of these entrances have been retained and rest on a new raised concrete foundation. At the western end of the elevation the former loading dock at bay 17 is located beneath a pent roof on a new concrete foundation, the doors were secured and made inoperable. Bay 28 features a new door to access a new interior stair.

The five-bay east elevation (Cotton Street) features a symmetrical fenestration pattern of six-over-six double-hung wood clad replacement sash (Photos 1, 3). In 2013, a central two-bay wide four-story fire escape in deteriorated condition was removed. The central bays of the elevation containing the fire escape doors were restored with six-over-six double hung windows.

The south (rear) elevation contains approximately 129 six-over-six double hung wood clad replacement windows. (Photos 3, 4 and 6). A deteriorated single-story red brick power house at the eastern end of the elevation was removed for the construction of a new entrance addition. The one-bay deep addition extends five bays on either side of the existing smoke stack. The two, three-story additions are capped by a flat roof with a simple projecting wood cornice and connected by a one-story entrance structure in front of the smoke stack. The one-story portion of the addition features a central entrance within a full height glass surround sheltered by a projecting flat roof supported by square cut columns resting on concrete bases. The new addition is contemporary in appearance and distinctly different, yet complements, the historic structure (Photos 3, 4 and 6). In deteriorated condition, the upper courses of the existing smoke stack were rebuilt during the recent rehabilitation. The smoke stack continues to be a prominent architectural feature on the site.

The west elevation of the building features a raised red brick basement level with granite block visible at the northwest corner (Photo 2). The elevation contains 22 window openings between the basement level and fourth floor. The elevation contains six-over-six double hung wood clad replacement windows matching those installed throughout the building.

Interior

The Jewett Piano Company Building consists of a basement level and four upper story floor plates. Each level features evenly spaced rows of square wood columns supporting wood beams that span the width of the building. The beams terminate into pockets set within the exterior walls.

Recently the interior of the building underwent a substantial rehabilitation to accommodate the new residential use. While the original open floors of each level were divided to accommodate the new residential layout, many of the historic features were retained; most notably, the original

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timber columns and timber underdecking at the ceilings were retained and largely remain exposed throughout the building.

The basement level of the building received a new poured concrete floor and functions as general storage. The building includes a total of 40 residential units, including a mix of one and two bedroom units arranged on either side of a central corridor extending the length of the building. Corridor walls feature exposed timber columns and timber underdecking at the ceiling. The first floor of the building contains a vestibule, lobby, and mail room at the east end of the south elevation. The lobby contains a stair extending between the first floor and basement level. An elevator lobby is located across the hall from the main lobby area, containing a newly installed elevator and stair. A trash room, laundry room, and closet are located immediately west of the elevator.

As part of the recently completed rehabilitation project the original timber columns and timber underdecking at the ceilings were retained and largely remain exposed. The first floor of the building includes an entry vestibule elevator lobby, mail room, and community room. In addition, the recently completed project included the removal of the ca. 1945 asbestos siding, installation of new wood clapboards, restoration of the stair tower with its carved brackets and slate hip roof, and the installation of new windows with a six-over-six configuration, consistent with the building's original windows.

The upper floors feature the same configuration as the first floor. However the space occupied by the lobby on the first floor holds a community room on the second floor and residential units on the third and fourth floors. The main living areas in the residential units feature exposed underdecking at the ceiling, while the bathroom and kitchen areas have lower ceilings to conceal mechanical equipment. The wood framed exterior walls have been furred out and insulated.

The former stairs and elevator shaft were replaced to meet current building code requirements. Three former utilitarian stairs were removed due to their deteriorated condition and failure to meet current building and life-safety code requirements. Three new fire-rated fully enclosed stairways were constructed to meet egress requirements. One stair within the main entrance lobby extends between the first floor and basement level. A second stair extending from the first to fourth floors is located at the east end of the building's exterior north wall. A new elevator was installed adjacent to the eastern stair, located in the same general area of the building's former inoperable freight elevator. The freight elevator was removed due to its deteriorated condition and failure to meet current code requirements.

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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.

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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1892 – 1969

Significant Dates

1892 – Piano Factory constructed
1902 – Four-story addition constructed on factory's west elevation
1912 – Original factory building enlarged with fourth story
1934 – Factory purchased by New England Novelty Company

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Lyon, A.E., Builder

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.)

The Jewett Piano Company Building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level for its association with important Leominster industries of the late 19th and early 20th century and as a rare, representative example of wood-frame industrial architecture of its period. Piano and piano case manufacturing was one of the major industries that led to the growth of Leominster in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Constructed in 1892 for the Jewett Piano Company, manufacturers of upright and grand pianos and piano cases, the Jewett factory continued to manufacture pianos and piano cases until 1931 when the company closed. In 1934, the factory building was sold to the New England Novelty

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Company, manufacturers of celluloid novelties. This transition of uses mirrored the city's industrial transition from piano manufacturing to plastics, which became the most important industry in the city after the Great Depression. The Jewett Piano Company Building has a period of significance from 1892 to 1969, representing the building's original construction date as a piano factory through its use as a manufacturing facility for celluloid products.

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

INDUSTRY

The Jewett Piano Company Building is historically significant under Criterion A for its associations with the industrial development of Leominster in the late 19th and 20th centuries, and specifically with two very different manufacturing activities, both key to the city's history: piano making and plastics production. With the opening of the first piano case shop in 1845, piano manufacturing quickly became one of Leominster's most important industries, leading to the community's significant growth in the mid-19th century. By the 1860s, Leominster was home to a half dozen major companies manufacturing pianos and piano cases and by 1915, it claimed to be manufacturing two-thirds of all piano cases made in the United States. By the end of the 1930s, however, the piano industry had disappeared from Leominster, reflecting a national decline in the popularity of pianos that began after World War I and accelerated during the Great Depression. As piano manufacturing waned in Leominster, the production of plastic products grew as the city's most important industry. By 1928, the celluloid industry accounted for one-third of Leominster's manufactured products, and plastics continued to dominate the local economy through the early 1980s.

The Jewett Piano Company Building is one of two known extant purpose-built factory buildings associated with the piano industry in Leominster, and the only one producing complete, finished pianos. The other surviving factory is the Wellington Piano Case Company (LEO.233; 1895; NRIND 1984). The Wellington Company produced only the piano cases, making the Jewett Piano Company Building the last factory in Leominster to manufacture complete pianos. The building is also significant as a reflection of the city's industrial transition from piano manufacturing to the plastics industry during the early- and mid-20th century. After producing pianos for 40 years, the Jewett Piano Company Building served as the manufacturing center for the New England Novelty Company, later Commonwealth Plastics, which produced celluloid novelties in the building through the 1970s. The building was sold to Renzi Plastics in 1981; it is unclear whether plastic manufacturing continued during this period.

ARCHITECTURE

The Jewett Piano Company Building is architecturally significant under criterion C as a representative example of wood-frame industrial architecture constructed in the late 19th century. In terms of its massing and layout, the building is typical of frame factories from this period in Leominster. Rectangular in plan with a central stair tower and open interior floor plans, the

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Jewett factory was constructed specifically for industrial use. The building's open interior enabled it to easily be converted for use in Leominster's dominant plastic industry beginning in 1934. Largely utilitarian in design and intent, the building's architectural detailing is limited to the Italianate brackets at the cupola, characteristic of the Victorian Eclectic style. In addition to being one of two remaining purpose-built factories originally associated with the piano industry, the Jewett Piano Company Building is one of relatively few frame factories known in Leominster to date from the early and late industrial periods. While common during the early industrial period, most of Leominster's frame factories dating to the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century were replaced with larger brick factories or demolished in the mid-to-late twentieth century. Of the small group of known extant frame factories in Leominster, the Jewett Piano Company Building is the only with Victorian Eclectic detailing.

Significance of the Jewett Piano Company Building

Early Industry in Leominster

During the Early Industrial Period (1830-1870), the manufacturing of carriages, combs, and pianos and piano cases were the predominant industries in Leominster. While the majority of factories were concentrated along the Monoosnoc Brook east of Main Street, new factories were beginning to develop further west along the brook on Cotton and Pond Streets near Rockwell Pond.

During the Late Industrial Period (1870-1915), Monoosnoc Brook continued to serve as Leominster's major industrial focus, with carriage, shirt, comb, and piano manufacturers operating in the Water/Spruce Street area as well as in the Rockwell Pond area west of Leominster center. Intensive residential infill also occurred in the Pond area along Cottage and Pond Streets during this period. By the early 1890s, new roads, including Adams Street and Pearl Street, were laid out in the previously undeveloped area east of the Pond to accommodate this new growth. Industrial construction during this period included three and four-story brick and frame factories, most with central stair towers and minimal architectural detailing.³

As Leominster's industries grew, so did its industrial employment, which tripled during the period. Trade and clerical employment also grew to serve the town's increasingly complex economy. With this industrial expansion, Leominster's population grew dramatically, increasing 450% between 1870 and 1915 from 3,894 residents at the beginning of the period to 17,646 residents by period's end.⁴

Piano Manufacturing in Leominster

Pianos or "piano-fortes" as they were commonly known were a popular household item for American families during the 19th and early 20th centuries. In addition to their purpose as a musical instrument, pianos were also valued for their aesthetic beauty as drawing-room furniture, with highly finished cases of the finest wood veneers such as mahogany and chestnut. During

³ Massachusetts Historical Commission, "Reconnaissance Survey Town Report: Leominster", 1984.

⁴ Ibid, 8.

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the 19th century, factories and showrooms flourished in major cities such as Boston, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, as well as in smaller industrial communities such as Leominster. These factories specialized in the manufacturing of entire pianos, piano cases only, and individual piano parts and actions. Production of high-quality pianos relied on a contingent of workmen skilled in both furniture making and the fabrication of musical instruments.

The piano industry first began in Leominster in 1845 when J. C. Lane opened a small shop to make piano cases. Soon, other piano case shops opened in Leominster, as well as shops that created individual parts of the piano workings, such as piano keys.⁵ Within a few decades, Leominster's piano industry had expanded to a half-dozen major companies and had become a vital part of the economy of the town and the region. Leominster quickly became the undisputed leader in the manufacturing of pianos and piano cases in Worcester County, employing a large number of "very intelligent and skillful workmen".⁶

Between 1845 and the early 1930s, a total of 13 piano factories operated in Leominster and the piano industry was a significant contributor to the local economy. By the 1920s, piano production in Leominster exceeded \$1 million and the city was promoting itself as one of the primary producers of piano cases in the nation.⁷ A 1915 program for Leominster's 175th Anniversary claimed that Leominster produced 65% of all the cases used in the United States. However, this period marked the beginning of a national decline in the piano industry with increasing competition from player pianos, the Victrola, and the radio, as well as social changes that no longer considered piano playing an essential feminine accomplishment. Nationwide, piano sales dropped sharply following World War I and the Great Depression of the 1930s accelerated the decline.⁸

Jewett Piano Company

The Jewett Piano Company, in its various iterations, operated in Leominster for 70 years producing high quality, affordable upright and grand pianos that were marketed and sold throughout the United States. The company was originally established in 1861 by Wade H. Jewett in partnership with George Allen. Jewett, who was born in 1819 in Amesbury, Massachusetts, began his career as a cabinet maker after learning the trade as a youth. In 1840, he opened a fine furniture business in Amesbury with his brother A. H. Jewett and after this business dissolved in 1847, he moved to Worcester to work for Daniel Wilder, who manufactured piano cases. After later working for R. W. and D. W. Goss in Montague, Massachusetts, Jewett moved to Leominster to work in the piano case factory of Gove & Howard.

⁵ Gilbert P. Tremblay and Leominster Historical Commission, *Combining Through Leominster's History* (Leominster, MA: Office of the Mayor, 2006), 161.

⁶ William A. Emerson, *Leominster, Historical and Picturesque* (Gardner, MA: Lithotype Publishing, 1888), 256.

⁷ Nugent, Karen, "A City in the Making, from pianos to plastics", *Telegram & Gazette*, May 27, 2010.

⁸ Jenkins, 8.

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In 1861, Jewett and his partner George Allen, who was “well and favorably known in the music trade at the time,” opened a new piano company in a factory on Pond Street in Leominster.⁹ The business, known as the Allen & Jewett Piano Company, manufactured both piano-fortes and piano cases, quickly gaining a reputation for producing high quality instruments. In 1864, the Pond Street factory was destroyed in a fire and the company was forced to relocate its operations to the Allen’s Block, a brick three- and- one-half story Second Empire commercial block overlooking Monument Square in Leominster center.¹⁰ According to a newspaper article in 1868, the company employed 40 men, produced approximately 2,500 piano cases a year, and had an annual business of approximately \$100,000.¹¹ The article also noted the significant amount of lumber used each year by the Allen & Jewett Piano Company in the production of its piano cases, including 500,000 feet of chestnut alone.

The business continued as the Allen & Jewett Company until Allen retired in 1869. In 1870, R. B. Richardson of Woburn, MA joined the company, which was reorganized as W. H. Jewett & Company. When Richardson retired in 1888, Jewett’s two sons, Wendell P. and William G., and his nephew, Frank Jewett Woodbury, joined the company and the business was once again reorganized, this time as the Jewett Piano Company.¹² Jewett’s sons and his nephew had been involved in the factory since childhood and were seen as “thoroughly practical in the art of piano making, which combined with a complete commercial education, enables them to successfully conduct the business, which has made rapid strides of advancement under their management”.¹³ By 1890, Jewett Piano Company was one of a dozen firms in Leominster engaged in the piano business and was one of only two factories producing complete pianos, called piano-fortes, making both the piano cases and the instrumental workings.¹⁴ The other company that manufactured piano-fortes in Leominster during this period was A.G. Reckard. Established in 1875, the business was located in a small factory near Reckard’s residence at 24 Merriam Avenue (no longer extant; currently the site of the Mary A. Gallagher Junior High School, LEO.272, 1928, NRDIS 1982). A.G. Reckard seemingly went out of business in 1899, the first year it was not included in Leominster’s directory. Jewett Piano Company remained the only piano-forte manufacturer in Leominster until late 1905 when Freeborn Garrison Smith of the F.G. Smith Piano Case Company moved his Webster Piano Company from Brooklyn, New York to his F.G. Smith Piano Case factory complex at 53 Granite Street in Leominster (it is possible that one building from this complex is extant at 43 Granite Street).¹⁵

⁹ *Jewett Piano Company Catalogue*, <http://antiquepianoshop.com/online-museum/jewett>

¹⁰ William A. Emerson, *Leominster Traditions: Incidents, Anecdotes, Reminiscences, etc.* (Leominster, MA: Press of C.H. Wyatt, 1891), 47.

¹¹ *Fitchburg Sentinel*, March 14, 1868, 2.

¹² Leominster Street Directories, 1890-1893.

¹³ Emerson, 259.

¹⁴ J. D. Miller, “History of Leominster”, excerpt from *Hurd’s History of Worcester County* (1888), 1231.

¹⁵ Leominster Directories, 1885-1910; William A Emerson, *Leominster, Massachusetts: Historical and Picturesque* (Gardner, MA: Lithotype Publishing, 1888), 259; “New York Street Signs – 14th to 42nd Street,” <https://www.14to42.net/19street2.5.html>.

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Construction of Jewett Piano Company Building (1892)

Soon after Jewett reorganized the company to include his sons and his nephew, the company began a period of significant expansion. By the early 1890s, the company had outgrown its space in the Allen's Block and began construction on a new factory building west of Leominster center on the newly platted section of Adams Street along the Monoosnoc Brook. This section of Adams Street (west of Cottage Street) included both residential and industrial uses.¹⁶ Other factories in the area included the Leominster Worsted Company located opposite the Jewett factory on the east side of Cotton Street, Damon Howe & Company, manufacturers of horn and celluloid goods, located adjacent to the Jewett factory on Cotton Street, and the B. F. Blodgett Company, manufacturers of horn goods, located south of the Monoosnoc Brook on Cotton Street.¹⁷ (All no longer extant.)

In 1892, the Jewett Piano Company opened its three-story wood-frame factory that contained "every convenience for producing a first-class piano".¹⁸ A typical factory building by design, the Jewett building featured open floor plans able to house machinery and equipment used in the production of the pianos. Pre-rehabilitation floor plans and photographs suggest each floor was similarly open with select partitioned areas for use as office space. Connected via two freight elevators and three staircases, each floor of the building accommodated a specific process in the production of pianos. The process began on the third floor where piano cases were brought in and varnished and polished. The finished case was then moved to the second floor where the interior mechanicals and strings were installed. The first floor was dedicated to the finished hand-polishing of the case and the tuning and regulating of the instrument. The basement level was used as storage for the finished pianos.¹⁹

Expansion of the Jewett Piano Company in the Twentieth Century

After Wade Jewett's death in 1894, the business continued until 1901 when his nephew Frank Woodbury purchased the company, including its scales and patterns and the name "Jewett." The new Jewett Piano Company was incorporated with \$100,000 in capital and Woodbury quickly set about improving the factory, undertaking two major renovations during the next decade. In 1902, Woodbury constructed a new four-story addition on the west side of the building, which almost doubled the factory's production space. He also expanded the brick power house and added two dry kiln buildings (no longer extant). At the same time, Woodbury was marketing the Jewett Piano Company as the "best value in the piano world" while promoting his ownership of the company with the slogan, "The 1901 Jewett Piano surpasses any of its predecessors."²⁰ By 1904, the factory on Adams Street employed 150 skilled workers and produced about 3,500 "Jewett" pianos each year.

¹⁶ L. R. Burleigh, *Leominster, Massachusetts: Bird's Eye View*, 1886.

¹⁷ Sanborn Company, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map: Leominster, MA*.

¹⁸ Leominster Street Directories 1892-1893, 194.

¹⁹ Sanborn Map, 1896.

²⁰ *The Music Trade Review*, Vol. XXXIV, no. 20 (May 17, 1902), 65.

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In 1912, Woodbury added a fourth floor to the original section of the factory, giving the building a uniform height and appearance and further increasing its production capacity. The building's original bracketed, slate-covered hip roof stair tower remained intact, although only the top story was left exposed. This expansion was highlighted in a 1914 advertisement for the Company, "To meet the immense demand, we build Jewett Pianos in large quantities, which accounts for their reasonable price." The company, which manufactured pianos under several brand names, including "Jewett," "Curtis," "Woodbury," and "Berkshire," sold its pianos through Steinert & Sons, which operated a salesroom and office in Fitchburg as well as at 162 Boylston Street in Boston.²¹ By this time, the Jewett Piano Company had gained significant stature in Leominster's piano industry as evidenced by its selection as the only piano company to be highlighted in the City's 175th anniversary program in 1915.²² Steinert & Sons advertisements featured in the *Fitchburg Sentinel* in the 1910s describe the Jewett Piano Company as "New England's Favorite Piano," adding that more Jewett pianos are sold each year in stores across New England than other models of similar cost.

In 1917, Jewett Piano Company leased the former Horn Products Company factory at 171 Lancaster Street to produce its own piano cases. The factory opened in 1908 but shut down just a few years later in 1914 as demand for horn products dwindled, coinciding with the rise in plastic manufacturing. Located along the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, the building had direct access to the rail line.²³

Architectural Significance

The Jewett Piano Company Building is typical of industrial buildings constructed in Leominster at the end of the 19th century (Figure 2). The original three-story wood-frame factory building was utilitarian in design with limited architectural detailing, notably the ornamental brackets at the tower. Most factories in Leominster at the turn of the nineteenth century were simple, multi-story frame buildings with open interiors. All but one of the five factories in the piano industry depicted on the 1898 city map shared these characteristics. The exception was the Wellington Piano Case Building (LEO.233; 1895; NRIND 1984), a more elaborate, brick factory building on Green Street. In general, Leominster factories from this period were more similar in design to the Jewett Piano Company Building, rectangular in shape with central stair towers and limited ornamental detailing. When included, ornamental detail on late-nineteenth century factory buildings was often limited to Romantic or Victorian brackets or dentils at cornices and towers. Dormers provided an additional opportunity to add architectural interest in Second Empire factories.

The Jewett Piano Company Building is the only extant purpose-built factory in Leominster in which complete pianos were made. Only one other factory original to the piano industry is known to survive in Leominster, the aforementioned Wellington Piano Case Company.

²¹ *Jewett Piano Company Catalogue*, <http://antiquepianoshop.com/online-museum/jewett>.

²² *Leominster, Massachusetts: 175th Anniversary Souvenir Program*, (July 4 & 5, 1915).

²³ "Lease Lancaster Street Factory," *Fitchburg Sentinel*, December 20, 1917; Leominster Directories 1907-1915.

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Furthermore, the Jewett Piano Company Building is one of relatively few frame factories known to survive in Leominster. In addition to the Jewett Piano Company Building, five other frame factory buildings in Leominster are included in the Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System (MACRIS), two of which have since been demolished: the Crocker Perry and Company Leominster Mills (LEO.132; 1865; Greek Revival/Victorian Eclectic), a former textile mill at 20 Pond Street, and the William and Seth Pitts Nail Shop (LEO.144; ca. 1860; Italianate) at 96 Exchange Street.

Two frame factory buildings survive in the F.A. Whitney Carriage Company Complex District at 124 Water Street (LEO.L; NRDIS 1988). Mill Building #2 (LEO.207) consists of several sections built between 1872 and ca. 1920, of which two parts are of frame construction. These two sections date to 1872 and include the main section (originally two stories with a gable roof, raised to three stories with a flat roof about 1920) and a small two-story Second Empire wing. Ornamental detailing is limited to the wing and include segmental-arched dormers and a cupola with a bracketed cornice and round-arched windows. Also on the former F.A. Whitney Carriage Company site is Mill Building #5 (LEO.249), constructed in the 1870s and repeating the same configuration as Mill Building #2 with a rectangular main building and a Second Empire wing. The main building was originally two stories with a gable roof but was raised to three stories with a flat roof ca. 1920. Ornamentation is limited to pedimented dormers at the wing. A single story addition with a sawtooth monitor roof was attached at an unknown date.

Also extant and included in MACRIS is the Whitney and Company factory at 142 Water Street (LEO.265; NRIND 1989). This main four-story section of this box factory was constructed in 1893 in the Late Victorian/Queen Anne style. Several additions were built in the early part of the twentieth century. The building's tower originally featured a crenellated parapet but the top of the tower and its parapet were removed at an unknown date, possibly ca. 1940.

Two frame factory buildings dating to Leominster's industrial period are known to survive but have not been recorded in MACRIS. These include the former Horn Products Company factory at 171 Lancaster, constructed in 1908 and used by the Jewett Piano Company to produce piano cases beginning in 1917. Although exterior materials have been replaced, the two-story building is still extant and is used for light manufacturing. The second extant factory not included in MACRIS is at 43 Granite Street. Constructed pre-1898 based on the map from that year, this four-story frame building is void of ornamental detail. Its original use is unknown, however it was likely part of the F.G. Smith Piano Case complex and 53 Granite Street and was known to be used in the piano industry in the 1920s. While it is possible that other frame factories still remain in Leominster, most dating to the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century were demolished or replaced with larger brick plants or more modern industrial buildings. Others, such as the former William and Seth Pitts Nail Shop were replaced with a housing development.

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Decline of the Piano Industry in Leominster

The Jewett Piano Company and the Webster Piano Company remained the only two businesses in Leominster to manufacture complete pianos into the 1920s. F.G. Smith, a long-time case manufacturer and owner of the Webster Piano Company, is listed in the 1921 directory as a third complete piano manufacturer in the city. The following year, Jewett is the only company listed in the directory as a piano manufacturer; both the Webster Piano Company and F.G. Smith are not found in the 1922 or subsequent directories. The piano brands previously manufactured by the Webster Piano Company were made by the Bronx, New York-based W.P. Haines & Company, Inc. during this period. By 1924, W.P. Haines opened a factory at 43 Granite Street next to the former F.G. Smith Piano Case factory at 53 Granite Street. The exact nature of the relationship between the companies is unclear, nor is it known if the factory building at 43 Granite Street was historically associated with F.G. Smith. W.P. Haines closed its Leominster factory in 1930.²⁴

The last long-term producer of complete pianos in Leominster²⁵, the Jewett Piano Company closed in 1931, a victim of the Great Depression. The company was one of the last businesses involved in the manufacture of pianos to cease operations in Leominster, only outlived by two case manufacturers, the Richardson Piano Case Company at 289 North Main Street (not extant) and the Wellington Piano Case Company at 42-60 Green Street. By 1938, all of the city's piano-related production factories were closed.²⁶

Plastics Industry in Leominster

When the last piano company closed in Leominster in the late 1930s, the city was already home to a burgeoning plastics industry with new businesses producing combs, novelties, and other items out of celluloid and a plastic known as "Catalin." Leominster factories had been producing combs out of natural materials such as animal horn since the early 19th century. By the end of the century a shortage of natural materials and the introduction of an affordable substitute in celluloid set the stage for Leominster's comb factories to transition from the use of horn to plastic. Celluloid, which had been invented in 1868 by John Hyatt, was a semi-synthetic thermoplastic that could be dyed, molded, and cured to resemble expensive natural materials such as ivory, tortoise shell, amber, and coral. When soft, celluloid could be easily cut and decorated by embossing, carving, and stamping for popular items such as jewelry, ornamental hair combs, household and vanity items, buttons, boxes, toys, and cuffs and collars. Because of the versatility of celluloid, Leominster companies soon began manufacturing other plastic products in addition to combs. The first two decades of the 1900s witnessed the plastic

²⁴ Leominster Directories, 1910-1931; "New York Street Signs – 14th to 42nd Street," <https://www.14to42.net/19street2.5.html>.

²⁵ James & Holmstrom Piano Company is listed in the 1934 directory as a piano manufacturer, however this is the only year the company appears to have been in business in Leominster. The company was briefly located at the Wellington Piano Case Company property on Green Street.

²⁶ Don B. Cook, "My Home Town, Leominster, MA," (Economic Paper, Williams College, January 22, 1938); Leominster Directories, 1930-1938

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industry's greatest growth in Leominster. The invention of injection molding by Samuel Foster in the early 1920s further revolutionized the industry, lending Leominster the nickname "The Pioneer Plastics City." Celluloid's high flammability led to the development of other plastic materials that would ultimately replace celluloid in Leominster. In 1928, Catalin, a fully synthetic plastic that was flame and heat resistant, was introduced to the plastics industry and was quickly adopted by Leominster's plastics companies. By 1930, 30 plastics companies were operating in Leominster, "virtually controlling the market for novelties in plastics."²⁷ There were 60 plastic companies in Leominster in 1956, employing 5,500 people or 80 percent of the local workforce. The plastics industry dominated local manufacturing through much of the twentieth century. It was the fourth largest plastics industry in the nation by the mid-1970s; however, production slowed down as several major companies closed or left Leominster in the late 1970s including the DuPont Viscoloid Company, the Standard Tool and Die Company, and Foster Grant.²⁸

New England Novelty Company

After the Jewett Piano Company closed in 1931, the factory remained vacant until the New England Novelty Company purchased the building in 1934. The New England Novelty Company was one of Leominster's leading plastics companies in the 1930s, producing celluloid and Catalin products such as umbrella tips, buttons, shoe buckles, and jewelry that were sold throughout the United States and Europe. Originally established in Leominster in 1923 by brothers Louis and Harry Levine from New York, the company had grown from an initial workforce of 10 employees to 350 workers in less than a decade, outgrowing its original factory building at 39 Spruce Street. The purchase of the Jewett Piano Company Building on Adams Street provided an opportunity to increase the novelty company's production and workforce.²⁹

When the New England Novelty Company purchased the Jewett Piano Company Building in 1934, the property was assessed at \$18,700 and included the 60,000-square-foot main building and the two dry kiln outbuildings used for storage of materials. A newspaper article at the time noted that New England Novelty expected to make "necessary alterations" to the factory building but did not elaborate on specific changes that may have been done to the interior. A ca. 1945 photograph shows the factory building's original wood clapboards covered in asbestos siding, which may have been chosen for its fire resistance since celluloid was a highly flammable material. After moving to the Adams Street factory, the company began producing dolls for the Vogue Doll Company in addition to its other plastic items.

In 1937, the New England Novelty Company acquired the former B.F. Blodgett Company factory on Cotton Street, south of the Monoosnoc Creek. The factory was used as storage for the

²⁷ Orra L. Stone, *History of Massachusetts Industries Through Their Inception, Growth and Success Volume II*, (1930), 1842.

²⁸ Daniel A. Gross, "Plastic Town," Science History Institute, October 9, 2015, <https://www.sciencehistory.org/distillations/plastic-town>; Davis Bushnell, "The Plastics City," *The Boston Globe*, August 15, 1983.

²⁹ "New England Novelty Company Buys Jewett Factory," *Sentinel & Enterprise*, September 1, 1934.

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New England Novelty Company until the Commonwealth Plastic Company moved to the site, which then contained only three buildings from the Blodgett complex (Figures 4 and 5).³⁰ Also under the ownership of the Levines was the Commonwealth Plastic Company, a subsidiary of the New England Novelty Company formed in 1933. Both companies were headquartered at the New England Novelty Company on Adams Street and produced a range of plastic products from buttons and beads to toy whistles. In 1941, the Levines acquired the former Damon Company factory located at 65 Cotton Street, sandwiched between the New England Novelty Company and the Commonwealth Plastic Companies. The foreclosed property contained several buildings from the Damon Company's factory, all of which were demolished as required in the deed. The parcel was incorporated into the New England Novelty Company property at 140 Adams Street, and a powder storage building was constructed.

During World War II, the company doubled its workforce and began manufacturing war-related materials, including prime adapters for high explosives and helicopter parts.³¹ Advertisements in the Fitchburg Sentinel from this period marketed available "defense work" positions. Women were highly sought after by both the New England Novelty Company and Commonwealth Plastics. Leominster's war-time production peaked in 1943 as several plants, including the New England Novelty Company and Commonwealth Plastics, expanded production in anticipation of increased demand. This year also marked the greatest industrial payroll in the city's history.³² The New England Novelty Company filed plans for a \$75,000 addition in the fall of 1944 (Figure 5).³³ Towards the end of the Second World War, the two plastics companies were the first to begin employing soldiers from Fort Devens. Part-time and evening positions allowed these soldiers to work on war-related orders as well as novelty items.³⁴

In addition to providing war-related materials, the New England Novelty Company and Commonwealth Plastics published a monthly paper called the "Nenco News," which was distributed to men and women in the armed forces who were formerly employed at the factories. The paper was also distributed to employees working on the war production line at home. "Nenco News" featured general news from the home front, updates on local business and social activities, and announcements such as engagements, weddings, and births.³⁵

In 1947, Commonwealth Plastics and the New England Novelty Company merged with the New York-based Westchester Chemical Company and the Delaware corporation York Industries, Inc., forming a new corporation under the Commonwealth Plastics name. The Levines maintained controlling interest of the new organization. At the time of the merger, the two Leominster

³⁰ "Seek Ordinance Halting Removal of Sprinklers," *Fitchburg Sentinel*, September 4, 1937.

³¹ Louis Charpentier, "Commonwealth Plastic Company" and Gilbert P. Tremblay, *Combing Through Leominster's History*, 150.

³² "Rapidly Growing Service Roll, Peaks In Wages and Production Highlights In City of Past Year," *Fitchburg Sentinel*, December 31, 1943.

³³ "Leominster Briefs," *Fitchburg Sentinel*, October 11, 1944.

³⁴ "Soldiers at Devens Work in War Plants," *The North Adams Transcript*, March 9, 1945.

³⁵ "The Nenco News Tells Servicemen Of Home Doings," *Fitchburg Sentinel*, May 26, 1943.

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companies each employed an average of between 600 and 650 employees.³⁶ Commonwealth Plastics formally acquired 140 Adams Street from the Levine family in 1965....³⁷ Leominster's plastic industry had continued to grow through the period and Commonwealth Plastic was now one of the city's two largest companies (the other being Foster Grant). By the end of the 1960s, the city had more than 60 firms and more than one-half of its industrial establishments engaged in the plastics industry.³⁸

Commonwealth Plastics continued to own the Jewett Piano Company Building until 1981 when the property at 140 Adams Street was sold to Renzi Plastics. By this time, all of the later mid-20th century supporting outbuildings on the property had been demolished, including the two dry kiln buildings dating to the Jewett Piano Company and the powder storage building dating to the New England Novelty Company ownership (Figure 6). It is unclear whether plastic manufacturing continued in the building under the ownership of Renzi Plastic. In 1984, Renzi Plastics conveyed the westernmost portion of the property to the owners of the adjacent property at 158 Adams Street, giving 140 Adams Street its current configuration (Figure 7). Several attempts to renovate the building in the 1980s and 1990s were unsuccessful. In recent years the Jewett Piano Company Building underwent a certified historic rehabilitation and conversion to rental housing.

As part of the recently completed rehabilitation project, 40 residential units, including a mix of one and two bedroom units, were arranged on either side of a central corridor. The central corridor extends the length of each floor between the east and west ends of the building, providing access from the two new main stairs and elevator to the residential units. The existing timber columns and timber underdecking at the ceiling remain exposed in the corridors and within the residential units. The first floor of the building includes an entry vestibule elevator lobby, mail room, and community room. In addition, the recently completed project included the removal of the ca. 1945 asbestos siding, installation of new wood clapboards, restoration of the stair tower with its carved brackets and slate pyramidal hip roof, and the installation of new windows with a six-over-six configuration, consistent with the building's original windows.

³⁶ "Plastics Firms In Big Merger," *Fitchburg Sentinel*, August 4, 1947.

³⁷ Leominster Building Permit Records.

³⁸ John J. Keville, "History of Plastics in Leominster", presentation to Historical Society of Leominster, May 10, 1957.

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"The Nenco News Tells Servicemen Of Home Doings." *Fitchburg Sentinel*. May 26, 1943.

Archives

Leominster Historical Commission Archives.

Leominster Historical Society Archives.

Leominster Public Library Archives.

Massachusetts Archives.

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:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): LEO.141

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property 1.51 Acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 19 Easting: 272908 Northing: 4711864

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

The lot is bounded by Adams Street to the northeast, Cotton Street to the southeast, the Monoosnoc Brook to the southwest, and the adjoining residential property at 158 Adams Street to the northwest. The boundaries correspond to the lot lines for assessor's parcel number 006-003, which is outlined on the attached assessor's map and shown on Figure 1.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Since its construction in 1892, the Jewett Piano Company Building has occupied the property at the southwest corner of Adams and Cotton Street. In 1941, the owners of the New England Novelty Company acquired the former Damon Company property located at 65 Cotton Street. The parcel was incorporated into 140 Adams Street, expanding the property south to the Monoosnoc Brook (Figures 4 and 5). In 1984, the westernmost section of the property at 140 Adams Street was conveyed to the owners of the adjacent property at 158 Adams Street. This reduced the size of the parcel by 4,821 square feet, giving it its current size and configuration (Figures 6 and 7).

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Patricia Kelleher, Community Opportunities Group, Inc. and
Doug Kelleher, Epsilon Associates, Inc with Betsy Friedberg, National
Register Director, Massachusetts Historical Commission
Organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission
Street & number: 220 Morrissey Boulevard
City or town: Boston State: MA Zip code: 02125
e-mail: betsy.friedberg@sec.state.ma.us
Telephone: 617 727 8470
Date: August 2019

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.

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Photo Log

Name of Property: Jewett Piano Company Building
City or Vicinity: Leominster
County: Worcester State: MA
Photographer: Rachel Kelleher
Date Photographed: July 2018

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

Photo 1: East and north (primary) elevations, view southwest
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0001)

Photo 2: North (primary) and west elevations, view southeast
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0002)

Photo 3: South and east elevations, view northwest
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0003)

Photo 4: South (rear) elevation, view northwest
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0004)

Photo 5: Roof tower, view east
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0005)

Photo 6: South elevation entrance and chimney, view north
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0006)

Photo 7: Second floor apartment (Unit 209), wood columns, view west
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0007)

Photo 8: Second floor hallway, exposed wood columns, view east
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0008)

Photo 9: Third floor apartment (306), living space and kitchen, view west
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0009)

Photo 10: First floor elevator, original sliding panel door, view southwest
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0010)

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Photo 11: Second floor apartment (209), bedroom ceiling
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0011)

Photo 12: Third floor hallway, exposed wood column, view east
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0012)

Photo 13: Fourth floor apartment (Unit 403) column detail, view east
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0013)

Photo 14: Fourth floor apartment (Unit 403) column detail, view east
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0014)

Photo 15: Third floor hallway, column detail, view west
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0015)

Photo 16: Third floor hallway, column detail
(MA_WorcesterCounty_JewettPianoCoBld_0016)

Figures

- 1: City of Leominster Assessor's map.
- 2: View southwest of the primary (north) and side (east) elevations in ca. 1900, prior to the 1902, 1912 and mid-20th century additions.
- 3: View of the primary (north) elevation, published by local Leominster author A. C. Hosmer in 1907.
- 4: 1981 plan showing the consolidated parcel at 140 Adams Street
- 5: 1984 plan showing the transfer of the westernmost 4821 square foot section of the parcel at 140 Adams Street.

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.).

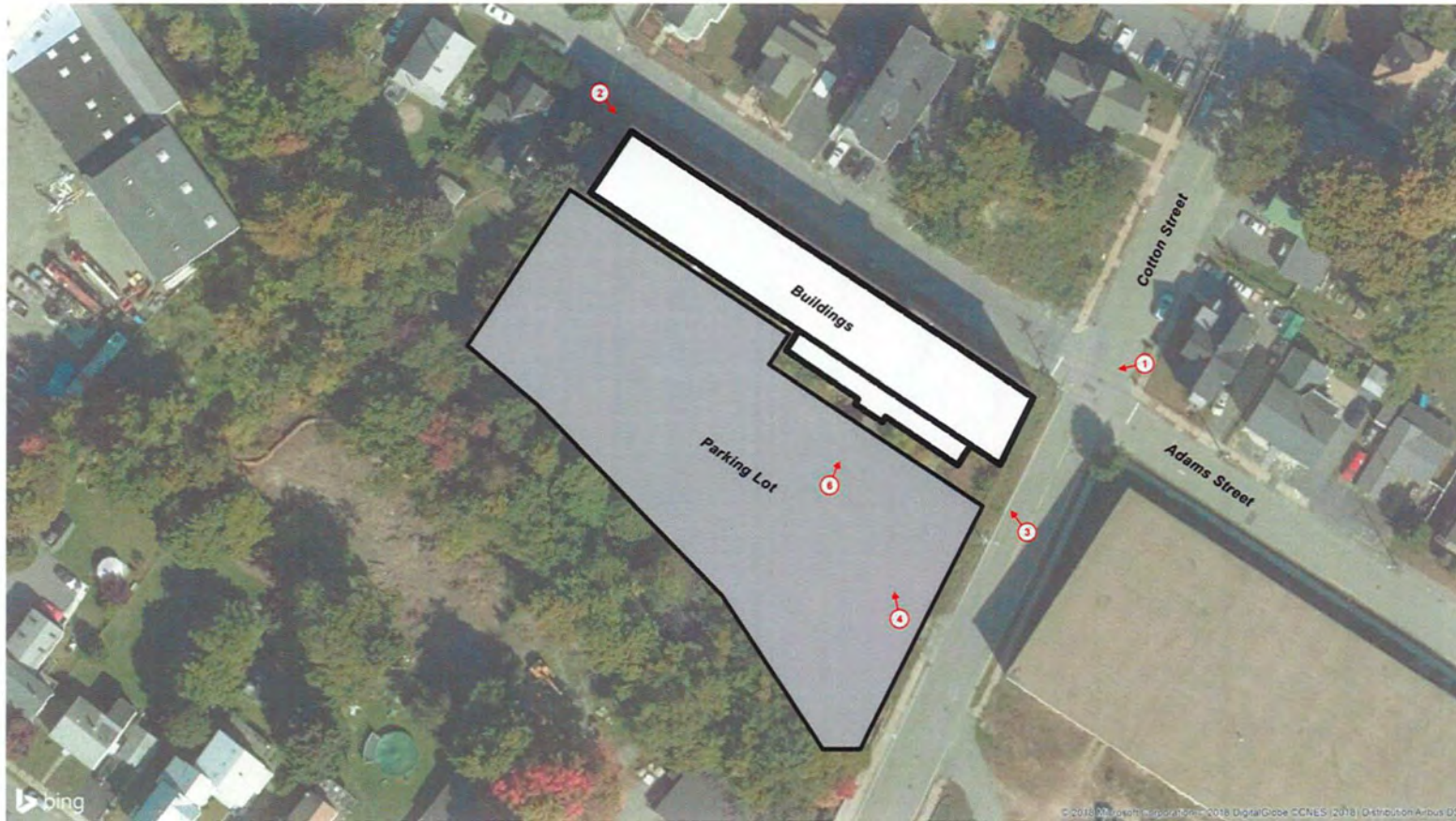
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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PHOTOGRAPH KEYS

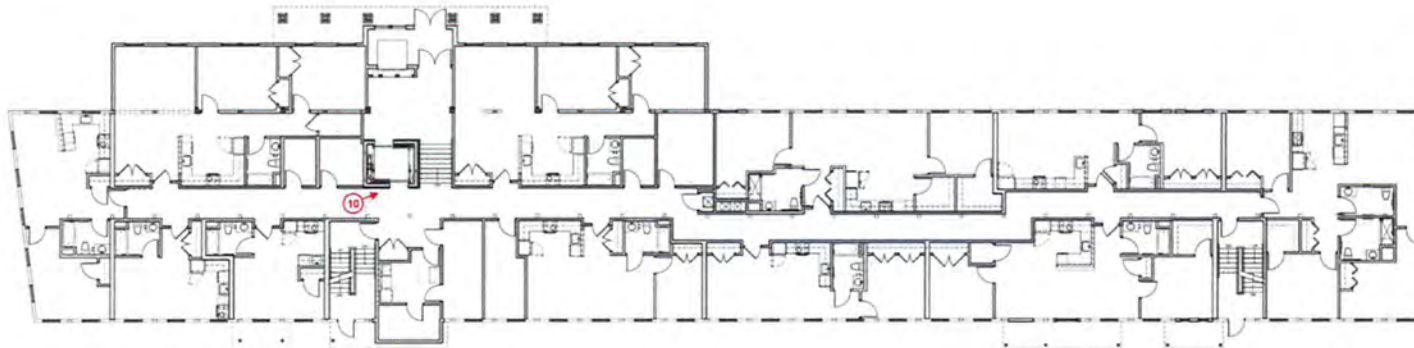
Exterior



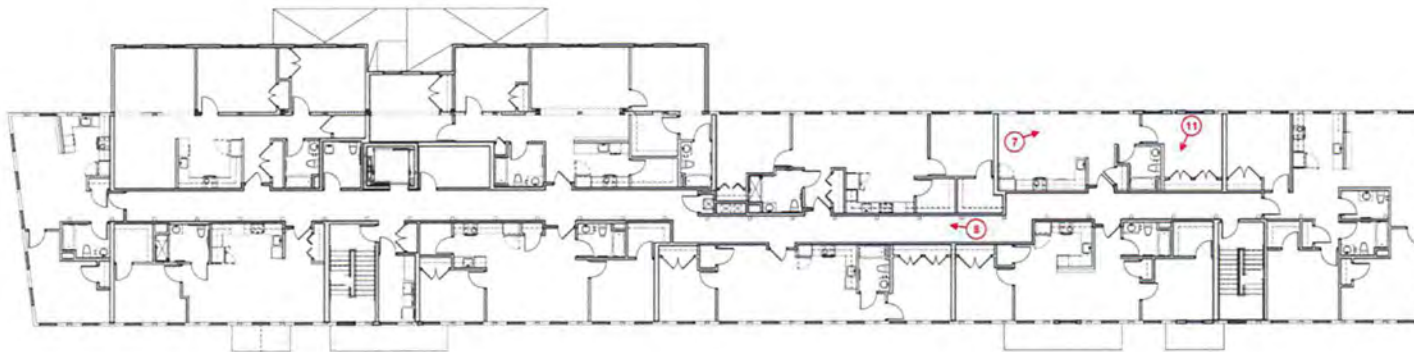
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Interior



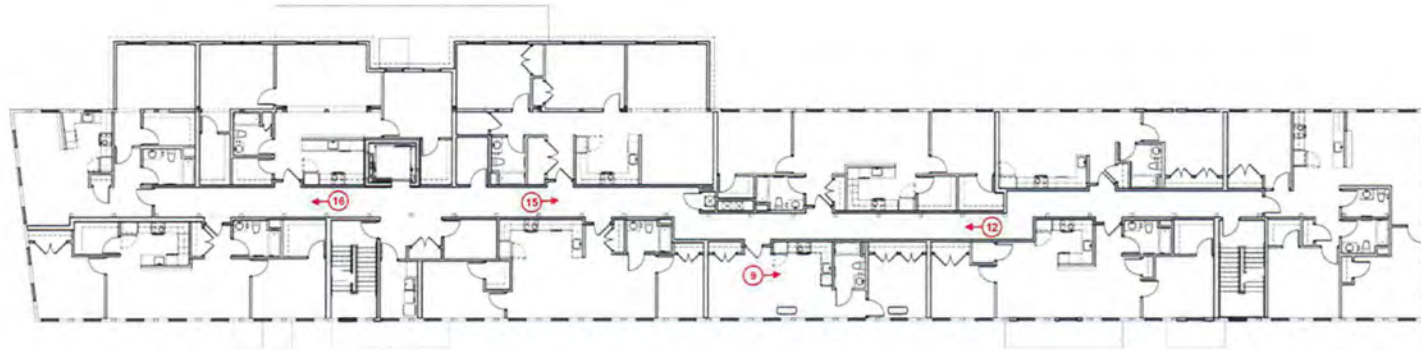
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0" ①



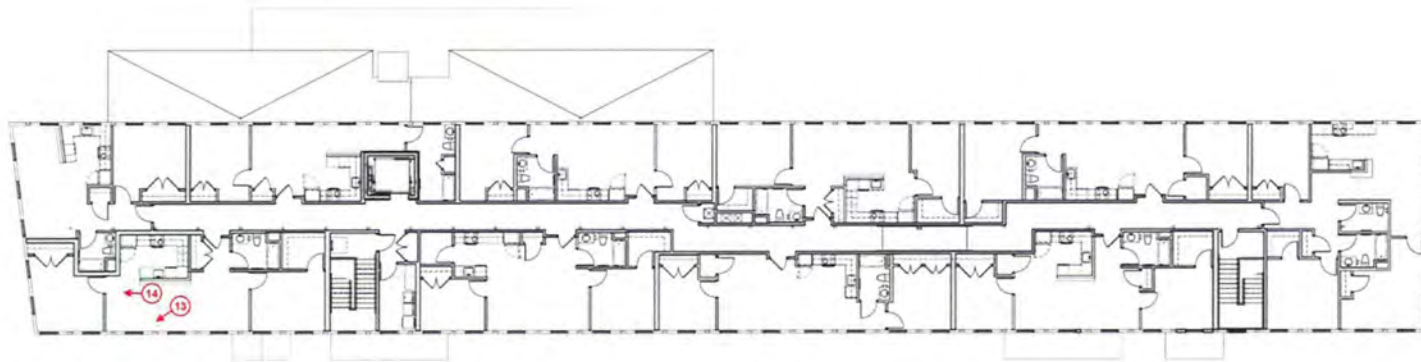
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0" ①

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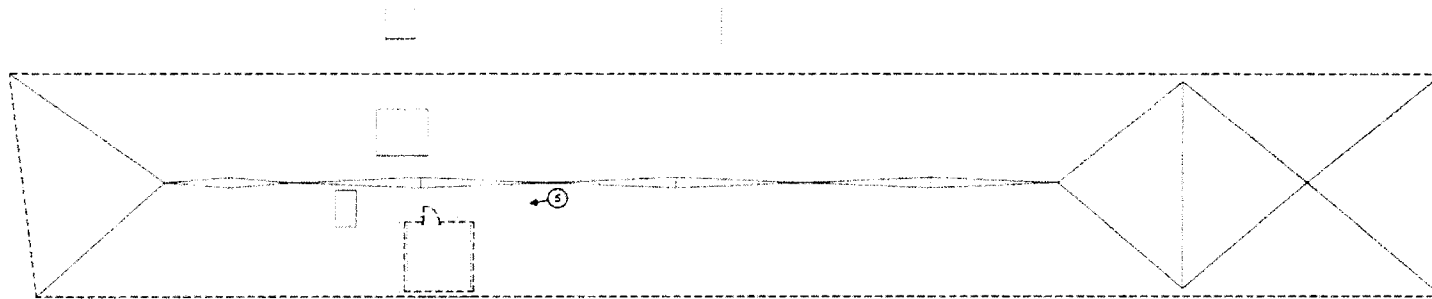
THIRD FLOOR PLAN 2
SCALE 3/32" = 1'-0"



FOURTH FLOOR PLAN 1
SCALE 3/32" = 1'-0"

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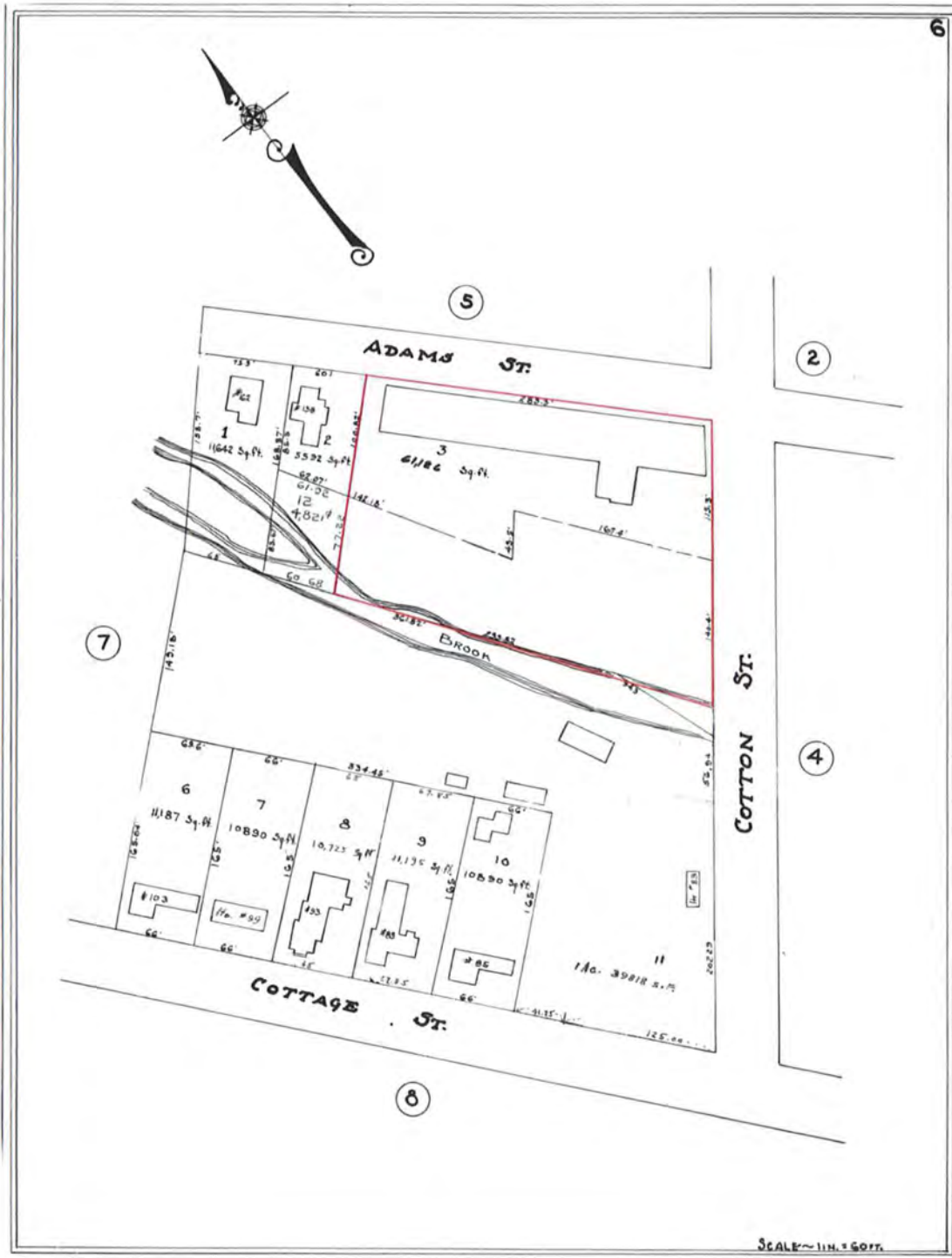


ROOF PLAN
SCALE 3/32" = 1'-0" 2

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Figure 1: CITY OF LEOMINSTER ASSESSOR'S MAP



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Worcester County, MA
County and State

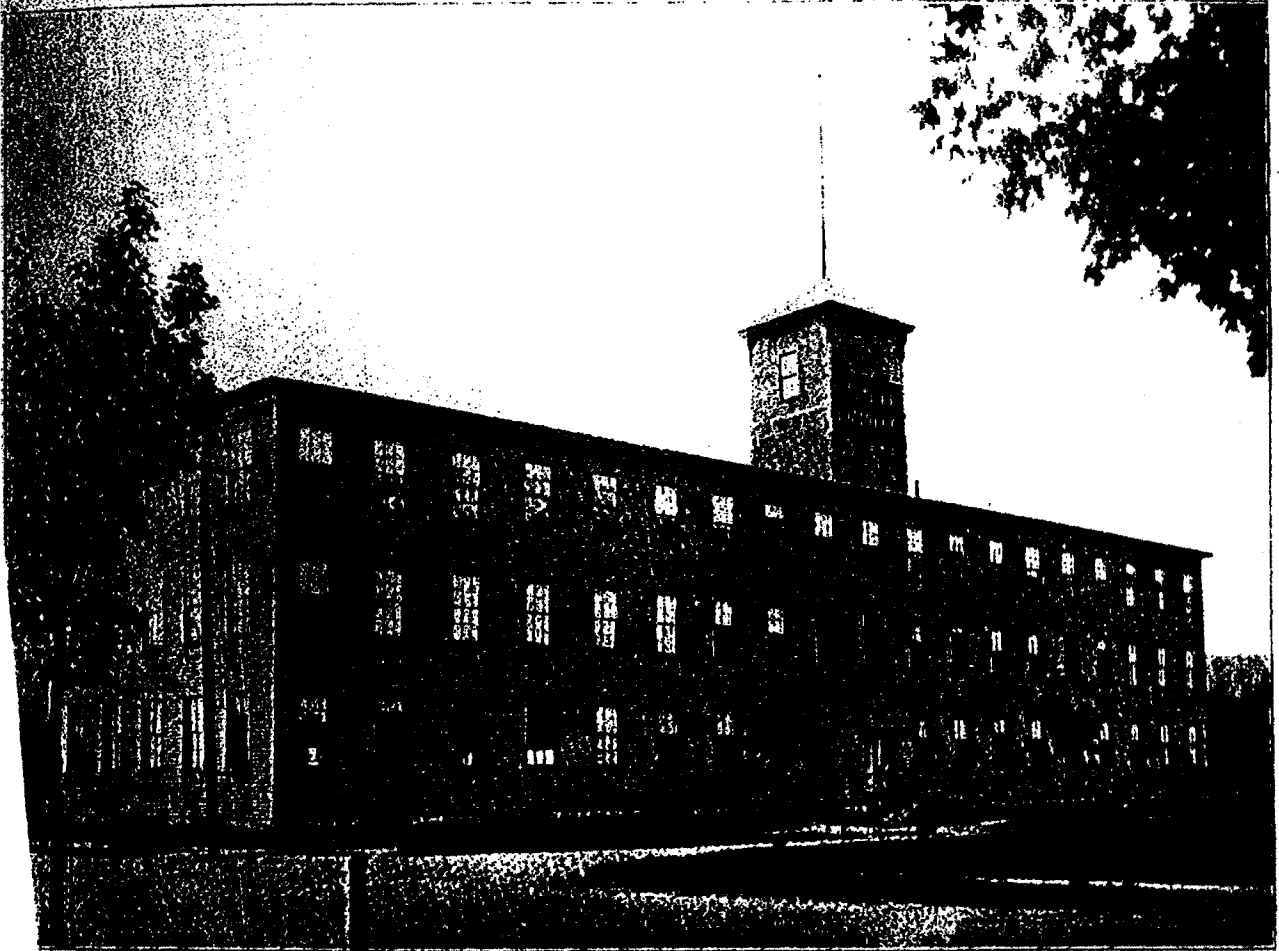
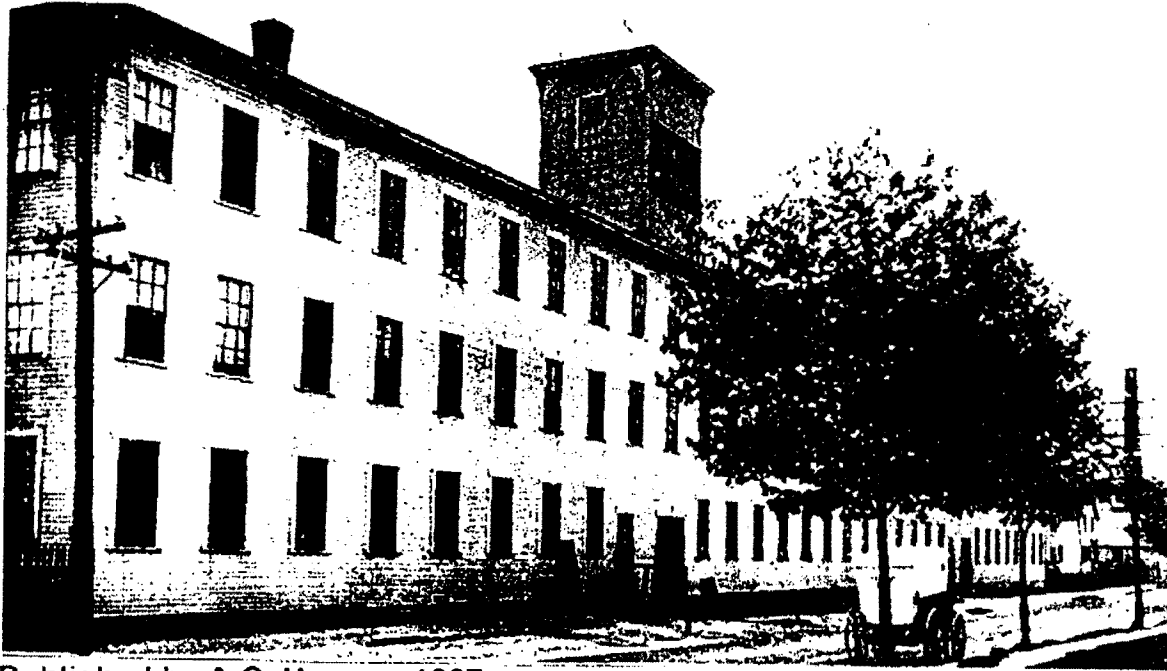


Figure 2: View southwest of the primary (north) and side (east) elevations in ca. 1900, prior to the 1902, 1912 and mid-20th century additions. (Source: Leominster Historical Commission Archives, used with permission.)

Jewett Piano Company Building
Name of Property

Worcester County, MA
County and State



Published by A.C. Hosmer 1907

Figure 3: View of the primary (north) elevation, published by local Leominster author A. C. Hosmer in 1907. (Source: Leominster Historical Commission Archives, used with permission.)

Jewett Piano Company Building
Name of Property

Worcester County, MA
County and State

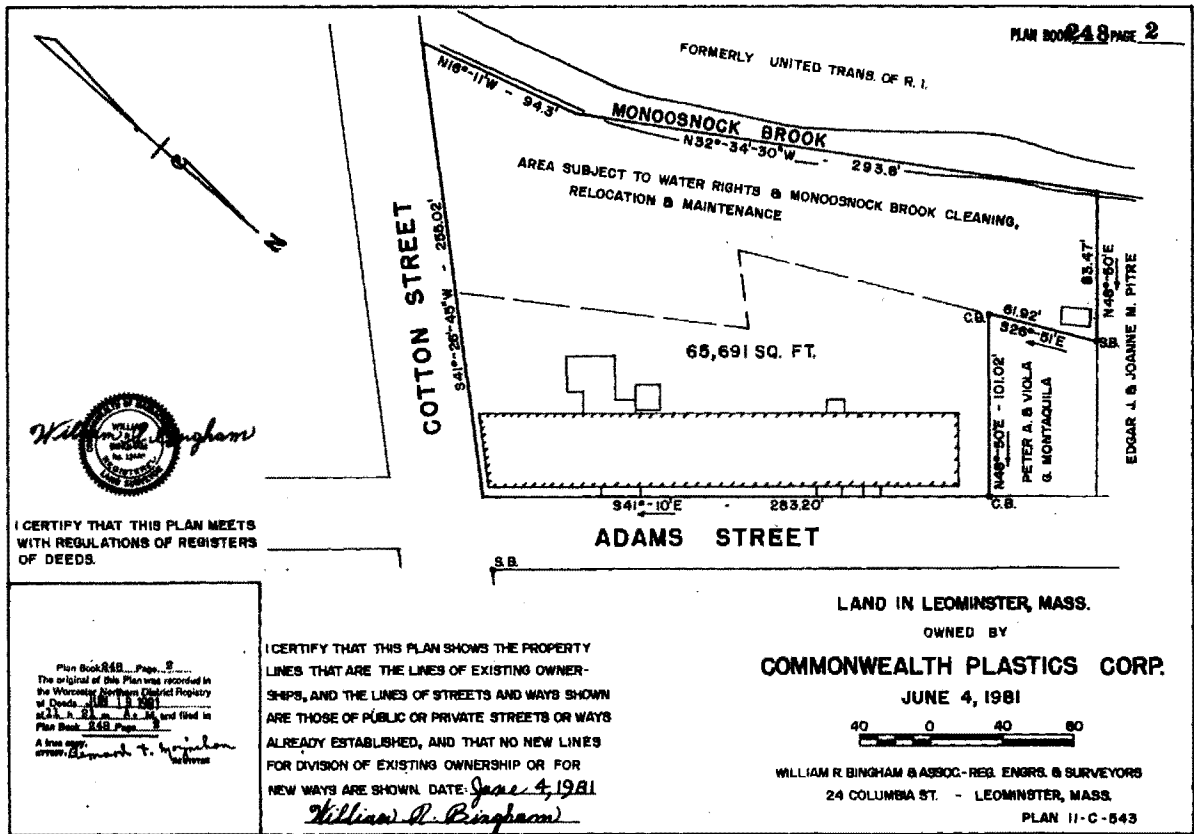


Figure 4: 1981 plan showing the consolidated parcel at 140 Adams Street, comprised of the former Jewett Piano Factory property and the former Damon Company property along the Monoosnoc Brook.

Jewett Piano Company Building
 Name of Property

Worcester County, MA
 County and State

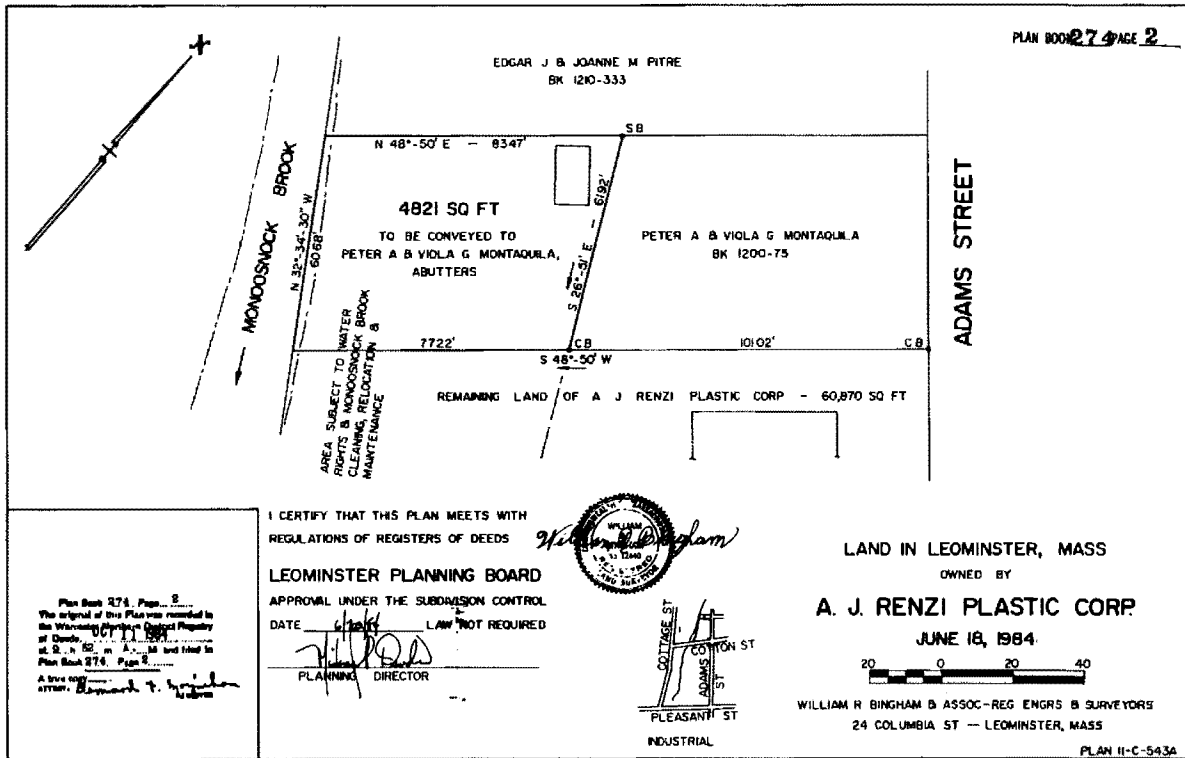


Figure 5: 1984 plan showing the transfer of the westernmost 4821 square foot section of the parcel at 140 Adams Street. The land was incorporated into the parcel at 158 Adams Street. (Source: Worcester Northern District Registry of Deeds, Recorded Land Plans, book 274, page 2, 1984.)

Fitchburg MASSACHUSETTS

1:25 000-scale metric topographic map



7.5 X 15 MINUTE QUADRANGLE SHOWING

- Contours and elevations in meters
- Highways, roads and other manmade structures
- Water features
- Woodland areas
- Geographic names



Produced by the United States Geological Survey in cooperation with Massachusetts Department of Public Works
 Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, and Commonwealth of Massachusetts agencies
 Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1980. Field checked 1981. Map edited 1988.
 Supersedes Fitchburg 1969 and Gardner 1970 1:25,000-scale maps
 Projection and 1000-meter grid, zone 19 Universal Transverse Mercator
 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Massachusetts coordinate system, maintained since 1927 North American Datum
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 39 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
 Gray tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

CONTOUR INTERVAL 3 METERS NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 METER OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.5 METER

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

CONVERSION TABLE		DECLINATION DIAGRAM		ADJOINING MAPS		
Meters	Fath	MAGNETIC		1	2	3
1	2.2009	197.7		4	5	8
2	5.5017	197.7		5	6	7
3	8.8025	197.7		6	7	8
4	11.3234	197.7		7	8	9
5	13.8442	197.7		8	9	10
6	16.3650	197.7		9	10	11
7	18.8859	197.7		10	11	12
8	21.4067	197.7		11	12	13
9	23.9275	197.7		12	13	14
10	26.4484	197.7		13	14	15
	28.9692	197.7		14	15	16
	31.4900	197.7		15	16	17
	34.0108	197.7		16	17	18
	36.5316	197.7		17	18	19
	39.0524	197.7		18	19	20
	41.5732	197.7		19	20	21
	44.0940	197.7		20	21	22
	46.6148	197.7		21	22	23
	49.1356	197.7		22	23	24
	51.6564	197.7		23	24	25
	54.1772	197.7		24	25	26
	56.6980	197.7		25	26	27
	59.2188	197.7		26	27	28
	61.7396	197.7		27	28	29
	64.2604	197.7		28	29	30
	66.7812	197.7		29	30	31
	69.3020	197.7		30	31	32
	71.8228	197.7		31	32	33
	74.3436	197.7		32	33	34
	76.8644	197.7		33	34	35
	79.3852	197.7		34	35	36
	81.9060	197.7		35	36	37
	84.4268	197.7		36	37	38
	86.9476	197.7		37	38	39
	89.4684	197.7		38	39	40
	91.9892	197.7		39	40	41
	94.5100	197.7		40	41	42
	97.0308	197.7		41	42	43
	99.5516	197.7		42	43	44
	102.0724	197.7		43	44	45
	104.5932	197.7		44	45	46
	107.1140	197.7		45	46	47
	109.6348	197.7		46	47	48
	112.1556	197.7		47	48	49
	114.6764	197.7		48	49	50
	117.1972	197.7		49	50	51
	119.7180	197.7		50	51	52
	122.2388	197.7		51	52	53
	124.7596	197.7		52	53	54
	127.2804	197.7		53	54	55
	129.8012	197.7		54	55	56
	132.3220	197.7		55	56	57
	134.8428	197.7		56	57	58
	137.3636	197.7		57	58	59
	139.8844	197.7		58	59	60
	142.4052	197.7		59	60	61
	144.9260	197.7		60	61	62
	147.4468	197.7		61	62	63
	149.9676	197.7		62	63	64
	152.4884	197.7		63	64	65
	155.0092	197.7		64	65	66
	157.5300	197.7		65	66	67
	160.0508	197.7		66	67	68
	162.5716	197.7		67	68	69
	165.0924	197.7		68	69	70
	167.6132	197.7		69	70	71
	170.1340	197.7		70	71	72
	172.6548	197.7		71	72	73
	175.1756	197.7		72	73	74
	177.6964	197.7		73	74	75
	180.2172	197.7		74	75	76
	182.7380	197.7		75	76	77
	185.2588	197.7		76	77	78
	187.7796	197.7		77	78	79
	190.3004	197.7		78	79	80
	192.8212	197.7		79	80	81
	195.3420	197.7		80	81	82
	197.8628	197.7		81	82	83
	200.3836	197.7		82	83	84
	202.9044	197.7		83	84	85
	205.4252	197.7		84	85	86
	207.9460	197.7		85	86	87
	210.4668	197.7		86	87	88
	212.9876	197.7		87	88	89
	215.5084	197.7		88	89	90
	218.0292	197.7		89	90	91
	220.5500	197.7		90	91	92
	223.0708	197.7		91	92	93
	225.5916	197.7		92	93	94
	228.1124	197.7		93	94	95
	230.6332	197.7		94	95	96
	233.1540	197.7		95	96	97
	235.6748	197.7		96	97	98
	238.1956	197.7		97	98	99
	240.7164	197.7		98	99	100

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092

Topographic Map Symbols

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road, track
- Route marker: Interstate, U.S. State
- Railroad: standard gauge, narrow gauge
- Bridge, drawbridge
- Footbridge, overpass, underpass
- Built-up area: only selected landmark buildings shown
- House: barn; church; school; large structure
- Boundary:
 - National, with monument
 - State
 - County, parish
 - Civil township, precinct, district
 - Incorporated city, village, town
 - National or State reservation: small park
 - Land grant with monument; forest section center
 - U.S. public lands survey: range, township, section
 - Range, township, section line: location approximate
- Fence or side line
- Power transmission line, located approximate
- Dam; dam with lock
- Canary: grave
- Campground; picnic area; U.S. location monument
- Mineral: water well, spring
- Mine shaft; prospect; adit or cave
- Control: horizontal station; vertical station; spot elevation
- Contours: index; intermediate; supplementary; depression
- Distorted surface: steep area, lava, sand
- Bathymetric contours: index; intermediate
- Parabolic lake and stream; intermittent lake and stream
- Rapids, large and small; falls, large and small
- Swamp; marsh
- Submerged marsh; land subject to occasional inundation
- Woodland; scattered trees
- Scrub; mangrove
- Orchard; vineyard













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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Jewett Piano Company Building

Multiple Name:

State & County: MASSACHUSETTS, Worcester

Date Received: 9/24/2019 Date of Pending List: 10/16/2019 Date of 16th Day: 10/31/2019 Date of 45th Day: 11/8/2019 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004559

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 11/1/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary NR Criteria: A & C
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria AOS: Industry, Architecture; POS: 1892-1969; LOS: local

Reviewer Lisa Deline

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239

Date 11/1/19

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.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

September 12, 2019

Kathryn Smith
Deputy Keeper
Acting Chief, National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW, Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Smith:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

Jewett Piano Company Building, Leominster (Worcester County), Massachusetts

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owner of the property was notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 75 days before the meeting and was afforded the opportunity to comment. A letter of support was received from Massachusetts State Senator Dean Tran.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

enclosure

cc: Louis Russo, Ivory Keys, LLC
Sen. Dean Tran, Worcester and Middlesex District
Dean J. Mazarella, Mayor of Leominster
Chair, Leominster Historical Commission
John J. Souza, Chairman, Leominster Planning Board
Doug Kelleher, Epsilon Associates