NPS Form 10-900

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

OMB No. 1024-0018

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: Saxe Embroidery Company Build	ling ner 1 9 20
Other names/site number:	WEG 2 8 Ed
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A	
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple pr	operty listing
2. Location	
Street & number: 511-513 E.164 th Street	
City or town: Bronx State: NY Not For Publication: Vicinity:	County:Bronx
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Hist	toric Preservation Act, as amended
I hereby certify that this X nomination required the documentation standards for registering property. Places and meets the procedural and professional results.	uest for determination of eligibility meets ties in the National Register of Historic
In my opinion, the property _X meets doe I recommend that this property be considered signilevel(s) of significance:	
Applicable National Register Criteria:	local
<u>X</u> A _B _C _D	
Roxe Down Wal	12/11/10
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Go	overnment
In my opinion, the property meets doe	s not meet the National Register criteria.
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title:	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Saxe Embroidery Company Building		Bronx County, NY
Name of Property	(County and State
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	2-2-1 Date of Action	8
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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ame of Property		County and State
Number of Resources within Prop (Do not include previously listed re	sources in the count)	
Contributing 1	Noncontributing	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.		
_INDUSTRY / Manufacturing Faci		
Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions. VACANT / Not in Use)	

xe Embroidery Company Building	Bronx County, NY
me of Property	County and State
7. Description	
Architectural Classification	
(Enter categories from instructions.)	
LATE 19 th AND EARLY 20 th CENTURY REVIVALS	
-	
Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)	
Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Limestone	
FILITODAL EXTERIOR MATERIALS OF THE DEODELLY. DETCK, LAMESTONE	

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 building at 511-513 E. 164th Street is located in the Morrisania neighborhood of the southwest Bronx. The 3-story building is clad in red brick with limestone and pressed metal detailing. It was built in 1904 and designed by the New York architectural firm of Hamilton and Mersereau.¹

The building stands on the north side of E. 164th Street between Third and Washington Avenues. It extends the width of the block, north to Weiher Court. The lot also slopes down to the north, leaving the basement level exposed on the north elevation. The south elevation, facing E. 164th Street, is bordered by a paved sidewalk and a street lamp. The north elevation faces a shallow paved lot with a painted metal fence to the north. There is a paved concrete sidewalk between the fence and Weiher Court. The remainder of the block contains a range of conditions, including an open, paved parking lot, low-scale industrial buildings and multi-story commercial buildings. The surrounding neighborhood primarily consists of early 20th century, low-rise residential

¹ Alternative spellings for Mersereau include Mesereau and Messereau.

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buildings and mid- to late 20th century, high-rise residential buildings. The building is located approximately one mile to the east of the Grand Concourse and Yankee Stadium and one and one-half miles south of Interstate 95.

Narrative Description

The building has a rectangular footprint with a flat roof and a brick parapet on all elevations. The south elevation, facing E. 164th Street, is four bays wide (Photographs #1 and 2). The elevation is clad in painted stone on the 1st floor and red brick with limestone detailing above. There is also a limestone stringcourse between the 1st and 2nd floor and a painted, pressed-metal cornice with modillions along the roofline. On the 1st floor, the westernmost bay contains an entrance opening with a centered painted rusticated stone keystone in the lintel. The opening itself contains a replacement double-leaf glazed aluminum door with a multi-light aluminum surround. It is located up three concrete steps with contemporary metal railings. The second bay from the west contains four 1/1 aluminum replacement windows with 1-light replacement aluminum transoms and a continuous stone sill. The windows are located behind a garage-style metal door. The third bay from the west contains a large rectangular entrance opening with a garage-style metal door. The concrete sidewalk slopes up in front of the entrance to provide access. The easternmost bay contains a window opening with contemporary painted infill, a painted limestone keystone and a stone sill. On the 2nd floor, all window openings contain limestone Gibbs surrounds with prominent keystones. The outermost bays contain paired 1/1 aluminum replacement windows with a continuous metal panel transom. The two center bays contain two 1/1 aluminum replacement windows with a metal panel transom. On the 3rd floor, all window openings contain stone Gibbs surrounds with arched heads and prominent keystones. The outermost bays contain paired 1/1 aluminum replacement windows with an arched continuous metal panel transom. The two center bays contain two 1/1 aluminum replacement windows with an arched metal panel transom.

The east elevation is entirely clad in red brick. The southern half is almost entirely abutted by 515 E. 164th Street with only a few courses of brick visible below the roofline. On the northern half, only the 1st floor is abutted. The 2nd and 3rd floors each contain eight regularly spaced window openings, which contain 1/1 aluminum replacement windows.

The north elevation is four bays wide and faces the paved lot and Weiher Court (Photograph #3). It is primarily clad in red painted brick and there is a wide stucco band along the roofline. A flat contemporary band sign extends along the three westernmost bays between the 1st and 2nd floors. In the basement, the easternmost bay projects from the remainder of the elevation and contains a large, elevated opening with a garage-style metal door. The projection also has a metal cap along the roofline. The second bay from the east contains a single-leaf entrance opening with a garage-

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style metal door. The two westernmost bays contain a double-width garage-style metal door. On the 1st through 3rd floors, the westernmost bay contains a contemporary projecting concrete block elevator shaft that sits on top of the 1st floor projection. The second bay from the east contains square window openings with stone sills and painted concrete block infill. The two westernmost bays contain paired 1/1 replacement aluminum windows with stone sills and painted metal heads.

The west elevation is entirely clad in red brick. The entire 1st floor is abutted by 507 E. 164th Street. At the northern end of the elevation is a three-sided recessed bay with each bay containing a 2/2 metal window with a stone sill and jack arched brick head. The southern end of the elevation contains eleven regularly spaced window openings, which contain 1/1 aluminum replacement windows.

Interior

On the interior of the building, all floors are primarily open in plan with a bisecting row of painted wood columns that extend from north to south (Photographs #4-8, 11 and 12). The 1st floor also has two enclosed areas, a small room near the center of the south elevation and a larger portioned space in the northwest corner. The extant historic finishes consist of wood floors, painted brick and plaster walls, exposed and painted wood ceiling joists and beams. The southeast corner of the 1st floor also has deteriorated, painted pressed metal ceilings. The extant contemporary finishes consist of painted drywall partitions, hard painted drywall ceilings and linoleum floors on the 1st floor, as well as fluorescent lighting and exposed sprinklers throughout.

The interior of the building has one freight elevator and three stairways. The freight elevator is located to the northeast of the building in a projecting, contemporary shaft. It provides access between all floors. The first stairway is located in the southwest corner of the floor plate and provides access between the basement and 3rd floor. The straight run stairway has painted concrete treads and risers and painted metal railings. The second stairway is located in the center of the east elevation and provides access between the basement and 3rd floor (Photograph #9). The straight run stairway has wood treads and risers and a wood handrail. The third stairway is located in the center of the north elevation and provides access between the basement and 1st floor (Photograph #10). The U-return stairway has painted wood treads and risers and a painted wood handrail.

Integrity

The building at 511-513 E. 164th Street retains integrity. Both the overall form and the defining interior and exterior industrial characteristics remain, including its brick masonry sections, limestone detailing, regular window openings, painted wood columns, exposed wood flooring and exposed painted wood ceiling systems and brick walls. While some of the window and entrance openings have been infilled or contain new units, the newer elements do not detract

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from the overall appearance and the original fenestration remain visible on all elevations. The quality, placement and condition of the construction materials, as well as the industrial style are highly characteristic of the period and remain wholly intact.

The building remains intact since the time of construction with no demolition or significant new construction. The projecting elevator shaft on the rear (north) elevation does not detract from the overall appearance of the building. On the interior of the building, all of the finishes remain similarly intact with all of the original elements exposed, such as the wood floors, painted wood columns and painted brick and plaster walls, and there have been no significant alterations or additions. As such, it continues to read as a light manufacturing building.

The location and setting of the building remain intact since the initial construction. The design and materials similarly retain their integrity. The workmanship is expressed in a consistent architectural style, is of good quality and is in keeping with contemporary trends. The building also retains a integrity of feeling and associations with its functions over time. Although the equipment, furnishings and people have long since departed, the intact finishes and the voluminous spaces effectively relay the sense of place and the industrial history of the historic building.

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8.	Sta	ten	nent of Significance	_
(Ma	-	x " i	e National Register Criteria in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for N	Vational Register
X	:	A.	Property is associated with events that have made a significant obroad patterns of our history.	contribution to the
		В.	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in ou	r past.
		C.	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose combindividual distinction.	sh artistic values,
		D.	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important history.	in prehistory or
Cod	· towi	. C	ancidoustions	
			onsiderations 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

Saxe Embroidery Company Building Name of Property
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.) INDUSTRY
Period of Significance 1904-1946
Significant Dates 1904
Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
Cultural Affiliation
Architect/Builder Hamilton and Mersereau

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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 Saxe Embroidery Company Building is locally significant under Criterion A, in the area of Industry, as an intact example of an archetypal Bronx tenant factory building, which was initially constructed for a family-owned business and ultimately housed a range of commercial enterprises that provide a view into small-scale local manufacturing in the Bronx in the early 20th century. The primary tenant of the building was the Saxe Embroidery Company, which specialized in "embroidered medallions and monograms" on a small scale. The building is also the only remaining architect-designed industrial building in the Morrisania section of the Bronx that relates to the textile industry, the dominant industry in that neighborhood at that time. The construction of the building and the founding of the business occurred at a pivotal point in the industrial history of the Bronx. Perhaps more than at any other time, the early 20th century saw the borough beginning to establish itself as an independent entity while continually needing to justify its prominence. The subject property benefitted from this initial set of circumstances and stands as a representative example of the opportunities that the Bronx afforded to industrial entities at that time. The period of significance begins in 1904 and ends in 1946, when the Saxe Realty Company sold the building.

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

Criterion A, Significance in Industry

A Brief Discussion of Late 19th and Early 20th Century Industry in the South Bronx
In the late 19th century, the Bronx had a population of approximately 100,000 people, which paled in comparison to the nearly 1.5 million people living in Manhattan.² Although largely underdeveloped, local boosters believed the Bronx could distinguish and promote itself as a self-sufficient entity, a place apart from the shining paragon of Manhattan. The strength of its natural, geographical advantages combined with the carefully orchestrated efforts for its infrastructure – good transit, clean water, open spaces, regulated apartment buildings, new schools – gave it potential that could allow for maximum growth.

² Evelyn Gonzalez, *The Bronx* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2006): 82; Jill Jonnes, *South Bronx Rising: The Rise, Fall and Resurrection of an American City* (New York: Fordham University Press, 2002): 27.

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The Bronx Board of Trade, originally known as the North Side Board of Trade, was founded in 1894 and was one of the primary promoters of this campaign.³ Known as "one of the most influential bodies in the upper section of Greater New York," the Bronx Board of Trade "set out to lure more industry and citizens to their wide open spaces. Progress and accomplishment – the twin gods – would be measured by the number of streets paved, bridges erected, stores opened, schools dedicated, factories established and houses built." It was these physical improvements on which they initially focused their efforts.

One of the first formal ways that the Bronx was able to achieve this was in 1898, when the Bronx was made a separate borough, as part of the consolidated City of New York.⁵ This not only had numerous legal and logistical benefits, but it also gave the Bronx an identity that extended beyond simply geographically defining itself as the northern end of the city.⁶

From the beginning, the Bronx was as primarily a residential borough, a status it maintains today, with "a section for homes for the great middle class, who are able to live here on account of the reasonable cost of land." At the time, there were no significant commercial or industrial interests to overshadow the dominant residential population, which was enabled by the numerous transportation improvements. By 1900, the population of the Bronx had doubled to 200,000. By 1910, it had more than doubled again to 430,980 and, by 1920, it was 732,016, nearly that of Baltimore, making it the equivalent of the ninth largest city in the country. In Stephen Jenkins's *The Story of the Bronx*, which was published in 1912 and was one of the first histories of the borough, the development of the Bronx and the people who lived there comprise nearly all of the book and the industrial history of the Bronx is touched upon in only a sentence or two.

³ The name was changed from the North Side Board of Trade to The Bronx Board of Trade in 1914 when the Bronx was made a separate county.

⁴ Jonnes, 23.

⁵ It had previously consisted of Wards 23 and 24.

⁶ The decision to annex the Bronx from Westchester County to the City of New York in 1874 and the creation of the Bronx as a borough in 1898 was part of a larger regional movement that was not instigated by the residents of the Bronx but one from which they certainly benefitted.

⁷ "Address of Olin J. Stephens, President of the North Side Board of Trade, January 23, 1907" (Bronx, NY: North Side Board of Trade, 1907): 3-4.

⁸ Jonnes, 35.

⁹ The Bronx Board of Trade, *The Bronx – New York's Fastest Growing Borough* (Bronx, NY: The Bronx Board of Trade, 1922): 3; James L. Wells, ed., *The Bronx and Its People: A History, 1609-1927*, Volume II (New York: The Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1927), 713.

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Even the Bronx Board of Trade did not establish a separate Industrial Committee until 1915, despite having formed over twenty years earlier, with the specific intent of promoting such things as industry.¹⁰ When the committee was formed, however, its objectives were to:

1. Permit no industry to leave the Borough of The Bronx. Investigate its grievances, and arrange for adjustment. Make The Bronx as attractive to manufacturers as elsewhere. 2. Secure new industries by selecting those that investigation proves can be profitably carried on in The Bronx.¹¹

It is important to note that the subject property was able to establish itself and thrive despite a general environment that only began to prioritize its presence ten years after the fact. Industry, however, was considered to be a vital component of the Bronx's development and strength by those who were working to promote the borough. In an 1897 promotion pamphlet published by the North Side Board of Trade, they advertised the manufacture of a "great variety of commodities," including ironwork, refrigeration, pianos, china, surgical instruments, paper boxes, window shades, toys, carpets, printing, soap and shirts. ¹²

It was not only the range of products of which the Bronx could boast, but also that it was "unexcelled in its natural advantages," those significant geographical and economical realities that were particularly advantageous to industry and commerce. The Bronx is located on a peninsula, which is surrounded on three sides by navigable riverways totaling sixty miles of waterfront, as well as the Harlem Ship Canal. The fourth side, to the north, is connected to mainland New York State, making it the only borough to be physically attached. It had also access to the best railway system in the country and every train line that entered New York, with the exception of the Pennsylvania Railroad, had a terminal in the Bronx. This appealed to companies because it gave them unparalleled access to raw materials coming in and finished products going out.

Economically, the Bronx could offer workers nearby housing, employers low priced land, and both good light, good transit, and easy access to Manhattan. ¹⁶ James L. Wells, who edited *The Bronx and Its People: A History, 1609-1927*, summarizes this situation:

¹⁰ Other committees, which they operated from the beginning, included Finance, Membership and Traffic and Waterways.

¹¹ The Bronx Board of Trade, Yearbook (Bronx, NY: North Side Board of Trade, 1915): 23.

¹² The North Side Board of Trade, *The Great North Side or Borough of the Bronx* (Bronx, NY: The North Side Board of Trade, 1897): 93.

¹³ "Address of Olin J. Stephens, President of the North Side Board of Trade, January 23, 1907", 4.

¹⁴ Harry T. Cook, The Borough of the Bronx: 1639-1913 (New York: Harry T. Cook, 1913): 41.

¹⁵ The Bronx – New York's Fastest Growing Borough, 5.

¹⁶ The Great North Side or Borough of the Bronx, 95.

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The Bronx is the logical industrial area of Greater New York. It has an abundant supply of high-class skilled and unskilled labor within its borders, freight and terminal facilities superior to those of any of the other boroughs, broad, highly improved thoroughfares, and transit facilities extending to the furthermost corners.¹⁷

Locating in the Bronx was also a cost-effective way for a new business to establish itself. It was obviously cheaper in terms of land or building costs, but it also meant that there was no need for a middleman, at least for certain types of products, as consumers could purchase directly from the factories, instead of from a showroom or a store in Manhattan.

In comparing the number of business and employees between 1912 and 1922, it is clear that these assets were more than just figurative. In 1912, the Bronx had 700 factories, which employed approximately 15,000 people.¹⁸ A decade later, the Bronx had 2,400 manufacturing establishments with 35,000 employees.¹⁹

The manufacture of these commodities was primarily concentrated in the neighborhoods of Mott Haven, Port Morris and Hunts Points, which are located in the southeast Bronx. These areas were considered to be particularly advantageous because they were the portions of the borough with waterfront access to the East River. Morrisania, the neighborhood in which the subject property is located, comes in a distant fourth. In general, the Morrisania neighborhood was largely residential and was primarily home to 5- and 6-story rental buildings with "manufacturing and commercial establishments here and there." As such, Morrisania was typically known for its "large number of small plants" with 4- or 5-story loft-style stories and smaller, vertical floor plates, rather than sprawling, low-rise, large-scale manufacturing plants. 22

While this form was typical of the neighborhood in general, and the subject property in particular, it was also a direct result of local legislation. In 1890, the first legislation was passed in New York against the operation of sweatshops, which provided for basic sanitary and safety conditions for workers and, in 1897, a second law was passed, which prohibited people from undertaking manufacturing in tenement houses.²³ The consequence of these laws, other than the

¹⁸ Cook, 41.

¹⁷ Wells, 713.

¹⁹ "Industrial Map of New York City," 1922.

²⁰ Mott Haven was the location of the first industrial building in the Bronx. In 1841, Jordan L. Mott founded and iron foundry there.

²¹ Gonzalez, 31.

²² Gonzalez, 103.

²³ A sweatshop is typically defined as a factory or workspace where manual labor is undertaken in poor conditions for low pay and for long hours.

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provision of basic humanitarian conditions, was the direct increase in the construction of "modern loft buildings designed for small factories..."²⁴ The subject property is a representative of its era with local legal, economic and geographical forces encouraging its construction and an industrial climate that facilitated the manufacture of the product itself.

Morrisania's industrial district developed due to its strategically important location near 3rd Avenue, one of the primary north-south arteries in the Bronx. It had an elevated railway line that extended between E. 149th Street and Gun Hill Road in the Bronx, with stops at both E. 161st Street and E. 166th Street. The line, which was completed in 1902, opened commercial, industrial and residential development northward to the Bronx, in particular by providing a direct transit link to Manhattan.²⁵ By 1905, over half of the population of the Bronx lived in the census tracts through which the railway ran.²⁶ Prior to construction of the railway, the Bronx was considered "a rustic backwater of old farms, modest frame houses, and quiet dirt roads that attracted ambitious immigrant families who wished to bring up their children away from the bustle of Manhattan."²⁷ However, the railroad accelerated residential, commercial and industrial development in the area. Morrisania's industrial district also developed one block east of the commercial railway lines along Park and Brook Avenues that transported freight to and from the borough. A 1915 survey of manufacturers by the Bronx Board of Trade found that one of the two priorities of manufacturers was to have "railway trackage at their door to quicken the handling of their output and reduce the expense of handling to a minimum."²⁸ The other was access to "light, airy, fireproof buildings to increase their labor efficiency and to reduce their insurance bills."29 The subject property is perfectly in line with these objectives and managed to achieve them nearly a decade ahead of other comparable buildings in the neighborhood.

Lastly, the subject property is centrally located between two primary industrial and commercial intersections of the Bronx: E. 149th Street and 3rd Avenue and E. 169th Street and Boston Road (McKinley Square). These locations framed the non-residential core of the Bronx, both because of the increase in and location of public transportation and because of the way in which the streets had been arranged. As such, they provided a clear indicator of a potential successful location for a business.

²⁴ Wells, 723.

²⁵ In 1904, a subway line was constructed beneath E. 149th Street, further connecting the Bronx to Manhattan.

²⁶ Gonzalez, 83.

²⁷ Jonnes, 29.

²⁸ The Bronx Board of Trade, Yearbook, 1915, 24.

²⁹ The Bronx Board of Trade, Yearbook, 1915, 24.

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Industrial surveys from 1914 and 1917, show that eleven and seventeen manufacturers of women's garments, respectively, had located in the Bronx.³⁰ In 1922, an industrial map of New York City charted the industries in all five boroughs by concentration, distribution and character (Figure #1). The larger area surrounding the subject property is shown to have a high concentration of industries that specialized in food products and tobacco. There is also a specific overlaid concentration of Women's Wear, which includes the categories of millenary and lace goods that were produced by the Saxe Embroidery Company. This industrial section is bounded by 3rd Avenue to the east, E. 163rd Street to the south, Park Avenue to the west and E. 168th Street to the north.³¹ Other similar companies in this area include the Troxler Lace Factory at 437-441 E. 164th Street (demolished), the Stolz Embroidery Works at 434 E. 165th Street (demolished) and the Morrisania Silk Mills at 421-437 E. 166th Street (extant).

An early 20th century history of the Bronx confirms the presence of this industrial subset, stating, "almost the most important industry in The Bronx is that of textile manufacturing," which is the larger category under which the Saxe Embroidery Company would be classified.³² It also specifically mentions the sub-categories of embroidery, lace, cotton threads, artificial silk yarns, netting and veilings.³³

All of these factors – the rise in population, the growth of industry, the establishment of a separate political borough – resulted in an "unprecedented amount of construction in the Bronx towards the end of the first decade of the 20th century," which is reflected in period maps.³⁴ Late 19th century maps of Morrisania show primarily residential construction with a large amount of underdeveloped or undeveloped land. Maps from the first decade of the 20th century show some small-scale industrial and commercial construction in the neighborhood, particularly along Brook Avenue, with such companies as Sheffield Dairy Farms and the Bronx branch of the Anheuser Busch Brewery, and along 3rd Avenue, with additional breweries, including Fidelio, Lion's and Liebermann's.³⁵ These new factories not only represented an increase of industry but also a shift in that industry. Previously, industry had been smaller scale, manufactured often by individuals living nearby or above their workspaces. These factories, however, "must have

³⁰ The Bronx Board of Trade, *Yearbook* (Bronx, NY: North Side Board of Trade, 1917): 25.

³¹ "Industrial Map of New York City." The largest concentration of women's wear in the Bronx was farther east, flanking Westchester Avenue. In total, the Bronx had 169 factories that specialized in Women's Wear with a total of 2,933 employees. "Industrial Map of New York City."

³² Wells, 721.

³³ Wells, 724.

³⁴ New York Landmarks Preservation Commission, *Grand Concourse Historic Designation Report* (October 25, 2011): 11.

³⁵ Lloyd Ultan and Gary Herman, *The Bronx in the Innocent Years*, 1890-1925 (Bronx, NY: The Bronx County Historical Society, 1964): 97.

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employed a number of people who were neither on-site residents nor independent artisans."³⁶ By the 1920s, the number of industrial and commercial enterprises had not only increased but had also become much more dispersed throughout the neighborhood and not only concentrated on the primary thoroughfares.

Beginning in the 1930s, however, spurred largely by the Great Depression, the Bronx lost most of its manufacturing jobs, more than Manhattan, Brooklyn or Queens.³⁷ This was primarily because of the nature of business in the Bronx. What had previously been considered assets – small business established by new entrepreneurs, less of a need of established capital, lack of reliance on Manhattan contacts – were now hindrances, providing no safety net if a business were to get in trouble.

It is important to note that, during this time, the subject property continued to thrive and had a constant stream of tenants. The nature of the tenant factory with one or two tenants per floor, each of whom had small overhead, limited product lines and limited specialized equipment, meant that the building had more flexibility to adapt to a range of circumstances. Just as the building and its companies had achieved initial success because of the combination of circumstances in the Bronx in the early 20th century, it was ultimately able to maintain that success in spite of those same dynamics.

This trend of decline continues to this day and the industrial section of the Morrisania neighborhood is only somewhat recognizable from its peak.³⁸ Of the over eighty industrial buildings that occupied these eleven blocks, only six remain, including the subject property. The other buildings are as follows:

- 1. The George N. Reinhart Company, which is located at 937 Brook Avenue. It was constructed in c. 1905 and was a feed and grain manufacturer.
- 2. The Anheuser Busch Brewery, which is located at 961 Brook Avenue. It was constructed in c. 1905 and was the brewery's only plant in the Bronx. It expanded its operations into the adjacent Reinhart Company building in 1921.
- 3. The Shults Bread Company, which is located at 3370 Park Avenue. It was constructed in c. 1910 and primarily specialized in loaf bread.

³⁶ Joan H. Geismar, "An Archeological Study of the Morrisania Urban Renewal Project." TAMS Consultants, Inc. (January 1992): 84.

³⁷ Gonzalez, 103.

³⁸ The industrial section of the Morrisania neighborhood is defined by 3rd Avenue to the east, E. 163rd Street to the south, Park Avenue to the west and E. 168th Street to the north. These boundaries were initially determined by the 1922 industrial survey and reiterated in the 1992 report titled "An Archeological Study of the Morrisania Urban Renewal Project."

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4. The Persian Rug Manufactory, which is located at 1112-1118 Brook Avenue. It was constructed in c. 1900 and specialized in handmade chenille Axminster rugs.

5. The Morrisania Silk Mills, which is located at 421-437 E. 166th Street. The complex consists of two buildings that were constructed in c. 1885. The company specialized in the manufacture of organzine, tram and silk ribbons.³⁹

Of these five companies, only two are related to the textile industry, which was such an anchor of the neighborhood. These two, the Persian Rug Manufactory and the Morrisania Silk Mills, are much larger buildings with more employees than the subject property. However, no architect is known for either of these buildings and they are vernacular, late 19th century industrial buildings, with purely functional brick expanses and regular window openings. Although the subject property is relatively small, deliberate thought was given to the design of the primary façade with a range of decorative elements and materials. Neither of the two other extant industrial buildings that relate to the textile industry is in any way distinct or reads as anything other than standard manufacturing buildings of their era.

Building and Company History

On April 24, 1902, John G. Borgstede, on behalf of Thomas W. Whittle, sold a plot of land to the Saxe Embroidery Company. The plot measured 50 by 200 feet and was located on the north side of E. 164th Street, approximately 100 feet west of Third Avenue. On March 5, 1901, the Saxe Embroidery Company, which specialized in "embroidered medallions and monograms," was incorporated with \$6,000 in capital and William C. Kempland Jr. as the president. Kempland, along with Louis L. Saxe and Harry S. Saxe, were the directors. Also on that day, the Saxe Realty Company was incorporated with \$15,000 in capital. Oscar J. Saxe of Boston was the president and Louis L. Saxe was the secretary. Both Saxes, along with Isaac Spier, sat on the board of directors.

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³⁹ Organzine is a silk thread made of multiple strands that are twisted together in the contrary direction to that of each individual strand. Tram is a double twisted silk thread that is primarily used as the weft (the horizontal threads) in fine silks and velvets.

⁴⁰ "Transactions." *The New York Times* (24 April 1902): np. Whittle was the Parks Commissioner for the Bronx at the time.

⁴¹ The Saxe Embroidery Company was originally located at 685 Elton Avenue in the Bronx, which is approximately ten blocks south of the subject property.

⁴² "Stock Companies." *Democrat and Chronicle* (5 March 1901): 2. Isaac Spier was Oscar's brother-in-law. Oscar later when on to become the president of the Dalton-Ingersoll Manufacturing Company. Louis, Oscar and Harry were brothers who were originally from Russia.

Saxe Embroidery Company Building

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Name of Property

On December 24, 1903, the Saxe Realty Company secured a \$20,000 mortgage from the Dollar Savings Bank in the Bronx. ⁴³ In August 1904, the *Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide* cited the construction of a 3-story brick factory, measuring 50 by 125 feet, at a cost of \$10,000 for the Saxe Embroidery Company (Figure #2). Hamilton and Mersereau, located at 32 Broadway, were noted as the architects. ⁴⁴

According the annual reports of the North Side Board of Trade, later the Bronx Board of Trade, "comparatively few of the applicants [to the board] gave any consideration to the purchase of land and the erection of buildings for their own use. The manufacturers of today, particularly those engaged in light manufacturing, do not show a disposition to use their capital for the purpose of investing in real estate." The company was also actively involved in the North Side Board of Trade as early as 1906. Numerous annual reports and yearbooks show the company as an active booster and financial contributor, as well as listing both William C. Kempland Jr and Isaac Spier on various committees pertaining to industry and trade. From the beginning, the Saxe Embroidery Company positioned itself as an archetypal company within the larger industrial history of the Bronx in the early 20th century, while maintaining its individual narrative.

The building is first shown on a 1908 Sanborn Map. 47 The building is annotated as having five skylights and is referred to as "Saxe Embroidery/store house." The programmatic functions are listed as, "Storage – B, 1, 2; Office – 2^{nd} ; hand embroidery – 3." From the beginning, and over the next decade, the company employed between twenty-five and thirty people, including two office personnel. 49

In August 1912, the *New York Times* reported that the Saxe Realty Company rented the 3rd floor of the building to the Saxe Embroidery Company for six years, at a cost of \$2,400 annually.⁵⁰

⁴³ "Real Estate Market News." *New York Herald* (24 December 1903): 2. The bank is located one mile directly south of the subject property.

⁴⁴ Real Estate Record and Builders' Guide (23 August 1904): 274.

⁴⁵ Annual Reports of the Standing Committees and of the Secretary for the Year 1907 to the North Side Board of Trade (Bronx, NY: North Side Board of Trade, 1908): 24.

⁴⁶ "Address of Olin J. Stephens, President of the North Side Board of Trade, January 23, 1907", 65, 68, 81.

⁴⁷ Earlier maps of the property simply show an empty lot.

⁴⁸ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1908. Later maps, including 1921 and 1942 Bromley Atlases and a 1952 Sanborn Map show no change to the building, which also matches the existing condition.

⁴⁹ Annual Report on Factory Inspection, 1904, 1909, 1912, 1915.

⁵⁰ "Transactions." *New York Times* (8 August 1912): 15. This was typical of period rents at the time, when entire buildings at the major intersection of E. 149th Street and 3rd Avenue were renting for \$6,000 per year in 1911. Cook, 36.

Saxe Embroidery Company Building

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Although it is not known why the company was consolidated, the basement through 2nd floors were then available for additional tenants.⁵¹ A newspaper advertisement from that time promoted the space as: "Light Lofts. Two fine lofts and basement; each 50/175 feet; steam heat; electric elevator; choice Bronx locations; unequaled facilities for manufacturing. Saxe Realty Building."

Beginning in 1913, the Saxe Embroidery Company consolidated and occupied only the 3rd floor. The company would remain in the building until the mid-1930s, when it relocated to 261 E. 31st Street in Manhattan. The basement through 2nd floors were leased to a range of tenants over the next several decades, including Van Horn and Sawtell, manufacturers of medical and surgical supplies, the National Storm Insurance Bureau, the Treftz Manufacturing Company, who manufactured piano strings, 20th Century Varieties, Inc., the Goldburg Furniture Co., the Periodical Publishers' Services Bureau, which was a small publishing house, and The Magazine Man, Inc, which promoted magazine subscriptions by mail. The two latter companies were operated by George C. Crowley, who was known as the "Orphan's Santa Claus," because, for over a decade, he organized holiday gifts for over 3,000 New York orphans annually.⁵³

Although it is not precisely known how these tenants were obtained and how their leases were organized, it is possible to assume that the nature of the Saxe Realty Company, as well as the company's active participation in the Bronx Board of Trade, gave them ready access to a wide range of small, local tenants.⁵⁴ On March 13, 1946, the building was sold by the Saxe Realty Company to a "a client of Thomas V. Tozzi." Since that time, the building has continued to operate as a commercial and manufacturing tenant building. It is currently vacant.

A tenant factory is defined as, "a building, separate parts of which are occupied by different persons and one or more parts of which constitute a factory. The majority of New York City factories are housed in tenant-factories rather than in special factories. The tenant-factories are found either in converted buildings or loft-buildings. Converted buildings are old houses of several stories whose separate floors, or parts of floors, have been altered for factory use. Loft-buildings are more recent structures, built for the purpose of accommodating a series of independent factories. Katherine Anthony for the Brooklyn Auxiliary of the Consumers' League of the City of New York, Labor Laws of New York, March 1, 1917. https://archive.org/stream/cu31924002405946/cu31924002405946_djvu.txt. Accessed on February 27, 2017.

⁵² *New York* Herald (27 August 1912): 9.

⁵³ "George C. Crowley, Magazine Man, Dies." New York Times (19 May 1931): np.

⁵⁴ "Address of Olin J. Stephens, President of the North Side Board of Trade, January 23, 1907", 65, 68, 81

⁵⁵ "On East 164th Street." New York Sun (13 March 1946): 8.

Saxe Embroidery Company Building
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Hamilton and Mersereau. Architects

John A. Hamilton (b. 1859) and William H. Mersereau (1862-1933) formed a partnership in 1887.⁵⁶ Their initial commissions consisted of residential buildings, primarily on Staten Island, where Mersereau's family had lived in the 1680s. Other work by the firm includes a brick and stone carriage house, located at 13 E. 56th Street in Manhattan (1889), a 2-story Colonial Revival style cottage in Montclair, NJ (1889), a 2-story school house on Staten Island (1889), a manufacturing plant for the Convertible Car Company in Bloomsburg, NJ (1902), the F.W. Woolworth Stables at 121 E. 83rd Street in Manhattan (1903), a 5-story tenement building at 1422 3rd Avenue in Manhattan (1905), and Cable's Hotel and Casino on Staten Island (1915).

During this somewhat odd and sporadic collaboration, both Mersereau and Hamilton also practiced independently, while always maintaining a joint office at 32 Broadway. Mersereau was the more prominent of the two and was best known for his restoration work. Some of his more prominent commissions in this area include the remodeling of Sunnyside, Washington Irving's home in Tarrytown (1897); Westover, "one of Virginia's earliest and grandest plantations" in 1902; and Fraunces Tavern in Manhattan (1906-1907).⁵⁷

Hamilton's portfolio, however, was somewhat more consistent with the subject property. He specialized in multi-story garages, stables, carriage houses and commercial and manufacturing buildings, including a 5-story stable located at 150 Amsterdam Avenue in Manhattan (1905). One of his most prominent commissions was a 13-story apartment building, located at 103 E. 82nd Street in Manhattan (1921).

The subject property is very much in keeping with the firm's portfolio of primarily smaller scale buildings for a range of functions. It does, however, stand out as distinct when viewed within the context of other industrial buildings in the Morrisania neighborhood of the Bronx. The general concept of an architect-designed industrial building was typically a public relations tool. As such, it was unusual for such a small, low profile company, such as the Saxe Embroidery Company, to employ one and not just a builder or contractor. Although the specific reason for the selection of this or any architect is not clear, it speaks to the company's confidence in itself and its desire to convey that confidence to others. As the only remaining architect-designed industrial building in the industrial section of the Morrisania neighborhood, it also speaks to a

⁵⁶ New York Landmarks Preservation Commission, Christ Church Complex (August 10, 2010): 6.

⁵⁷ Calder Loth, *The Virginia Landmarks Register* (Richmond, VA: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 1999): 100.

Saxe Embroidery Company Building	Bronx County, NY
Name of Property	County and State
pride of identity for a place that has now been rendered largely invisible with	thin the extant urban
landscape.	

Saxe Embroidery Company Building

Name of Property

Bronx County, NY
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

"Address of Olin J. Stephens, President of the North Side Board of Trade, January 23, 1907." Bronx, NY: North Side Board of Trade, 1907.

Annual Report on Factory Inspection. 1904, 1909, 1912, 1915.

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Katherine Anthony for the Brooklyn Auxiliary of the Consumers' League of the City of New York. *Labor Laws of New York, March 1, 1917*. https://archive.org/stream/cu31924002405946/cu31924002405946_djvu.txt.

Loth, Calder. *The Virginia Landmarks Register*. Richmond, VA: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 1999.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

Saxe Embroidery Company Building Name of Property	Bronx County, NY County and State
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	
Primary location of additional data:	
State Historic Preservation Office	
Other State agency	
Federal agency	
Local government	
University	
Other	
Name of repository:	

Saxe Embroidery Company Buil	ding			Bronx County, NY
Name of Property				County and State
10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property	.29 acres			
UTM References Datum (indicated on USC	SS map):			
NAD 1927 or	NAD 19	983		
1. Zone: 18	Easting:	592027	Northing:	4519995
2. Zone:	Easting:		Northing:	
3. Zone:	Easting:		Northing:	
4. Zone:	Easting:		Northing:	

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

The boundary of 511-513 E. 164th Street is shown as a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel on which the building is situated and all property historically associated with the nominated property during the period of significance. No extant or historically associated resources have been excluded.

Saxe Embroidery Company Building

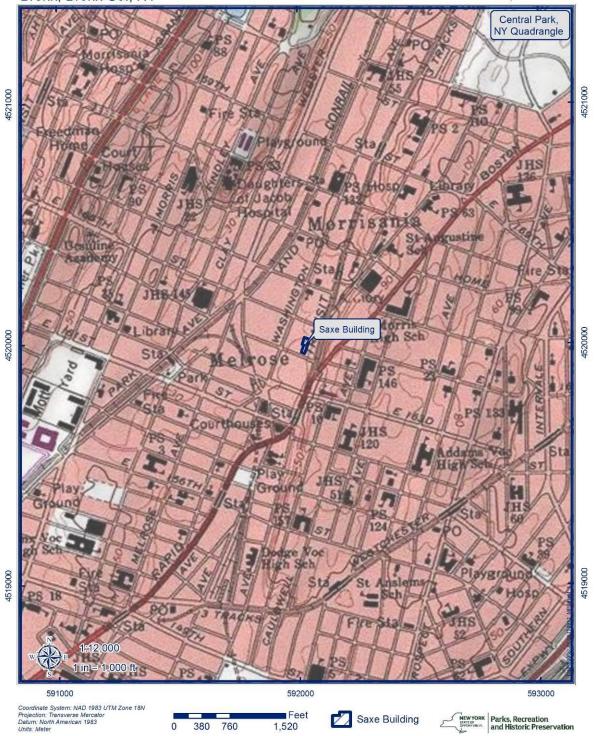
Name of Property

Bronx County, NY

County and State

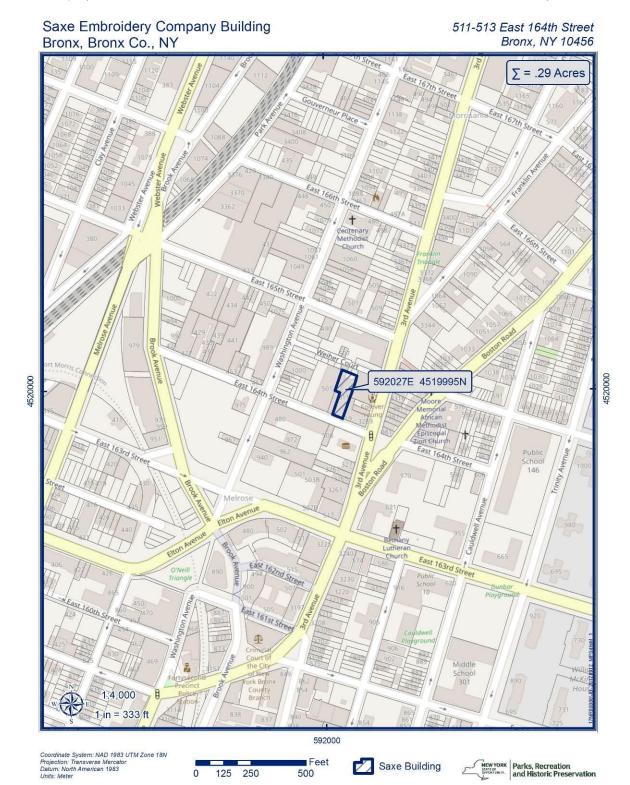
Saxe Embroidery Company Building Bronx, Bronx Co., NY

511-513 East 164th Street Bronx, NY 10456



Bronx County, NY

County and State



Saxe Embroidery Company Building			Bronx County, NY
Name of Property			County and State
11. Form Prepared By			
name/title: Logan I. Ferguson, Senior As organization: Powers and Company, In	c		
street & number: <u>1315 Walnut Street, Sucity or town: Philadelphia</u>	<u> </u>	zip code:	19107
e-maillogan@powersco.net telephone:(215) 636-0192 date:February 27, 2017	= = = = =	 	

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: Saxe Embroidery Company Building

City or Vicinity: Bronx

County: Bronx State: NY

Photographer: Robert Powers, Powers and Company, Inc.

Saxe Embroidery Company Building	Bronx County, NY
Name of Property	County and State

Date Photographed: December 2016

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

Photograph #	Description of Photograph
1.	South elevation, view northeast
2.	South elevation, view northwest
3.	North elevation, view south
4.	1 st floor, view south
5.	1 st floor, view south
6.	1 st floor, view north
7.	2 nd floor, view northwest
8.	2 nd floor, view southeast
9.	2 nd floor, East Stairway, view north
10.	2 nd floor, North Stairway, view southeast
11.	3 rd floor, view south
12.	3 rd floor, view north

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.

Bronx County, NY County and State

Index of Figures:

Figure #	Description of Figure
1.	Industrial Map of New York City, 1922.
2.	G.W. Bromley Atlas, 1904.
3.	Existing Site Plan with National Register Boundary
4.	Existing Plans with Photograph Key



Figure 1 – Industrial Map of New York City, 1922. The yellow area represents food products and tobacco and the brown represents women's wear, including embroidery.

Saxe Embroidery Company Building Name of Property Bronx County, NY
County and State

Figure 2 – G.W. Bromley Atlas, 1904. The subject property is the lot labeled "45."

Saxe Embroidery Company Building

Name of Property

Bronx County, NY
County and State

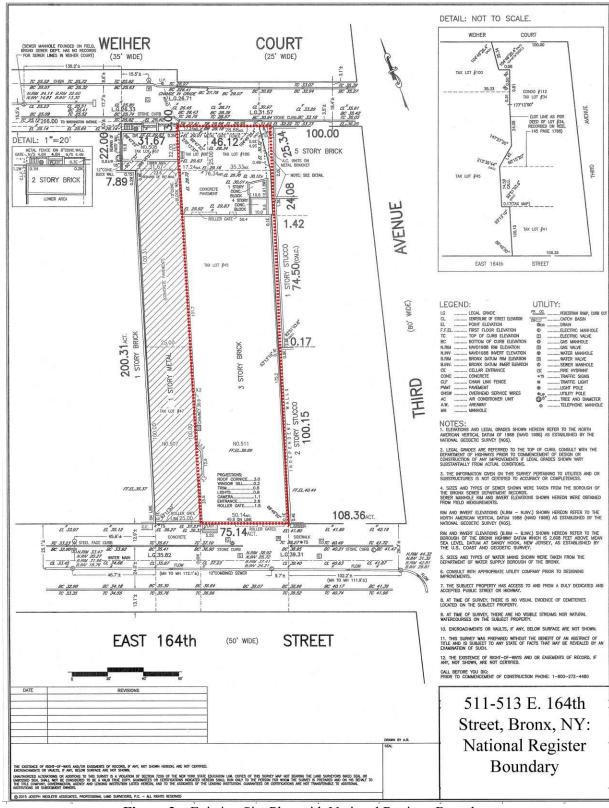
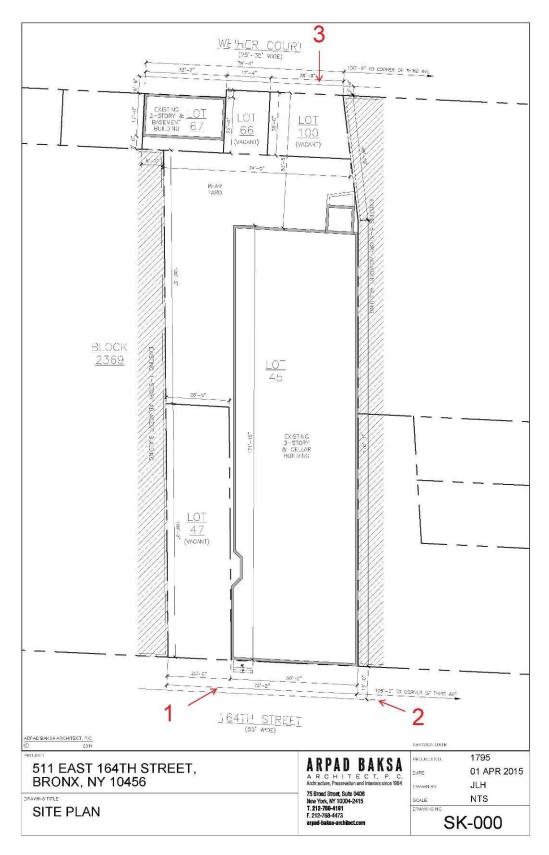


Figure 3 – Existing Site Plan with National Register Boundary

Bronx County, NY County and State



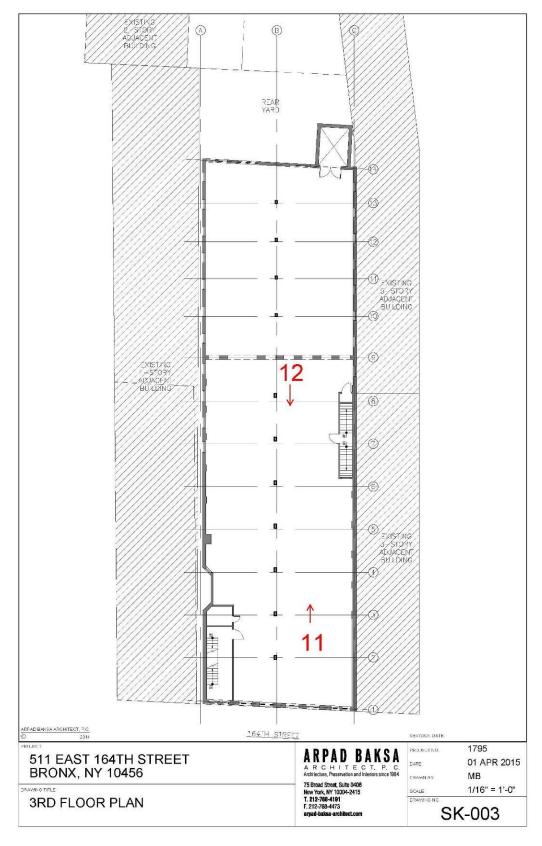
Bronx County, NY

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Bronx County, NY County and State

(B) REAR 8-STORX MDJACELY BUILDHA X STXIG - STO SY ADJACENT BUK DING (0) 0 8 ARPAD BAKSA ARCHITECT, P.C. 164 H STREET 1795 PROJECT NO. ARPAD BAKSA ARCHITECT, P. C. Archi:ecture, Preservation and Interiors since 1984 511 EAST 164TH STREET BRONX, NY 10456 01 APR 2015 MB 75 Broad Street, Suite 0406 New York, NY 10004-2415 T. 212-768-4191 F. 212-768-4473 arpad-baksa-archibet.com 1/16" = 1'-0" 2ND FLOOR PLAN SK-002

Bronx County, NY County and State



Saxe Embroidery Company Building Name of Property

Bronx County, NY

County and State

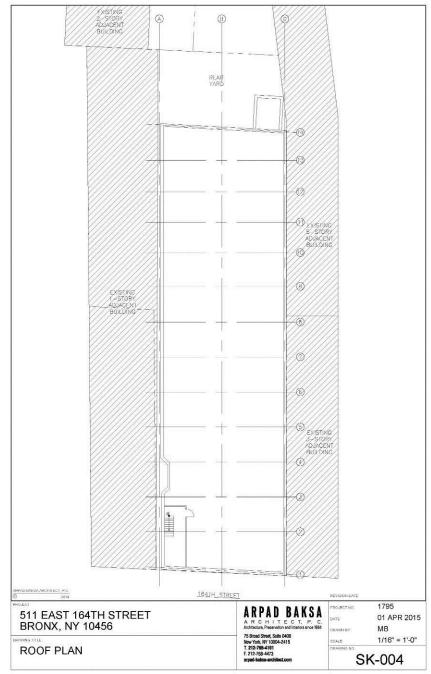


Figure 4 – Existing Plans with Photograph Key

























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination					
Property Name:	Saxe Embroidery Company Building					
Multiple Name:						
State & County:	NEW YORK, Bron	Х				
Date Rece 12/19/20			of 16th Day: [13/2018	Date of 45th Day: 2/2/2018	Date of Weekly List: 2/2/2018	
Reference number:	SG100002072					
Nominator:	State					
Reason For Review	:					
Appeal		X PDIL	X PDIL		Text/Data Issue	
SHPO Request		Landscape	Landscape		Photo	
Waiver		National	National		Map/Boundary	
Resubmission		Mobile Re	Mobile Resource		Period	
Other		TCP		Less than 50 years		
		CLG				
X Accept	Return	Reject	2/2/2	018 Date		
Abstract/Summary Comments:						
Recommendation/ Criteria	Crit A and industry	/				
Reviewer Alexis		Discipline	Historian			
Telephone (202)35		Date				
DOCUMENTATION	: see attached	comments : No se	e attached SL	R : No		

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



Meenakshi Srinivasan Chair

Sarah Carroll Executive Director SCarroll@Ipc.nyc.gov

1 Centre Street 9th Floor North New York, NY 10007

212 669 7902 tel 212 669 7797 fax November 30, 2017

Mr. Michael F. Lynch, P.E., AIA

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Director, Division for Historic Preservation

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

P.O. Box 189

Peebles Island Resource Center Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Re:

Saxe Embroidery Company Building, located at 511-513 East 164th Street,

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Bronx, NY

Dear Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Lynch:

oah (alcoll

I am writing on behalf of Chair Meenakshi Srinivasan in response to your request for comment on the eligibility of the **Saxe Embroidery Company Building**, located at 511-513 East 164th Street in the Bronx, for the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The New York Landmarks Preservation Commission's Director of Research Kate Lemon McHale has reviewed the materials you submitted and has determined that the Saxe Embroidery Company Building **may meet the criteria** for inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, though LPC has concerns about the building's integrity. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Carroll

CC:

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair, Landmarks Preservation Commission

Kate Lemos McHale, Director of Research, Landmarks Preservation Commission



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

DEC 1 9 2017

ANDREW M. CUOMO Governor ROSE HARVEY Commissioner

14 December 2017

Alexis Abernathy National Park Service National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

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

John and Sarah Trumbull House, Dutchess County
New Guinea Community Site, Dutchess County
George W. Bellows House, Ulster County
Wampsville Presbyterian Church, Madison County [not owned by religious]
Lipe -Rollaway Corporation Building, Onondaga County
Ridgewood Reservoir, Kings and Queens Counties
Greenacre Park, New York County
Lanai, New York County
Smith-Ransome Japanese Bridge, Suffolk County
Old Town of Flushing Burial Ground, Queens County
Saxe Embroidery Company Building, Bronx County
Kingston City Almshouse, Ulster County

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

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank

National Register Coordinator

New York State Historic Preservation Office