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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NOV 9 7 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

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: Albion Carpet Mill

Other names/site number: Acorn Paper Company

Name of related multiple property listing: Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia

2. Location

Street & number: 1821-1845 E. Hagert Street

City or town: Philadelphia State: PA County: Philadelphia

Not For Publication: _____ Vicinity: _____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 x 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 x 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 x local Applicable National Register Criteria: xA ___B ___C ___D

	<u>11/12/2015</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

	<u>1-12-16</u>
Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

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

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

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION—manufacturing facility

Current Functions

COMMERCE/TRADE—warehouse

DOMESTIC—single dwelling

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification: OTHER/Vernacular Industrial

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property: **Brick**

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 Albion Carpet Mill is located on the north side of E. Hagert Street between Jasper Street (to the east) and Kensington Avenue (to the west). Built in several phases between 1881 and 1962, the mill property extends north along Jasper Street to E. Letterly Street. From Jasper Street, the property extends roughly half a block west toward Kensington Avenue. The building consists of three sections – all five-stories tall with an elevated basement level and constructed of red brick – and has an L-shaped plan. Additionally, there is a small attached brick boiler house located at the northwest corner of the site. North of the site, along E. Letterly Street, there is a one-story brick garage and an overgrown vacant lot. Although once part of the Albion Mill property, this portion of the site was sold by the Bromleys in 1919, after which several small, ancillary structures were demolished and the present garage was built. The vacant lot and garage, which was never associated with textile production, are therefore excluded from the National Register Boundary (see Boundary Justification for more information).

Narrative Description

Neighborhood

The neighborhood surrounding the Albion Carpet Mill consists of medium- to large-sized manufacturing sites mixed in with blocks of two- to three-story brick rowhouses once housing workers, most of which were constructed in the late-nineteenth century (Figure 9). Several of the mills and factories that once populated the neighborhood have been demolished over the years leaving vacant lots, especially south of Jasper Street, where the Providence Dye Works and the William Emsley & Bro. Yarn Manufactory once stood (see Figure 9).¹ The Joseph T. Pearson Paper Box Factory, which is located directly across E. Hagert Street from the Albion

¹ The mills that have since disappeared from the immediate neighborhood include others that were formerly associated with the Bromley family (see Figure 9). Much of the vast John Bromley & Sons Mill along N. Front Street was destroyed by fire in the 1970s, although a heavily altered portion, fronting on Jasper Street, survives. The Bromley Brothers Carpet Mill on the southeast corner of Jasper and E. York Street was demolished and replaced with a surface parking lot around 1960. As a result, the Albion Carpet Mill is the only largely intact mill remaining in Kensington that was associated with the Bromley family.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Mill, survives.² The neighborhood's historic residential fabric remains largely intact with some modern infill construction of residential and commercial buildings.

The Albion Carpet Mill

The east elevation of the Albion Carpet Mill, which faces Jasper Street, is nine-bays wide. The first six bays north of E. Hagert Street comprise Section A, built in 1881. This section features a shallow gable end wall over the first five bays with the sixth bay consisting of a short, square "tower". Nearly all of the windows, which feature bluestone sills and segmental arched headers with "ears", have been covered with plywood with the historic sash remaining behind; infilled with modern CMU; or replaced with incompatible vinyl windows. However some intact 12/12, double-hung wood windows do remain in the sixth bay on the 2nd and 3rd floors. The third bay, which is centered beneath the gable end wall, contains a modern brick entrance "hut" with single-leaf metal door on the 1st floor while on the upper floors the center bay contains double-leaf, glazed wood loft doors, some of which have been partially or completely covered by plywood. There are iron star bolts located between the window bays at the 2nd through 5th floor levels which anchor the building's iron tie rod system. Above the 5th floor there is a simple brick cornice and gable end wall with copper flashing. The short brick tower above the sixth bay, which rises several feet above the adjacent parapet walls, has a simple brick cornice and copper flashing.

The northernmost three bays on the east elevation comprise Section B, which was built before 1887. At ground level there is a modern rolling overhead metal door in the southernmost bay and on the 1st floor, there is an arched door opening that has been partially infilled with concrete block and contains a modern metal door. This entrance is accessed via a small metal stair located parallel to the east elevation. On either side of the 1st floor doorway and on the upper floor, Section B continues the fenestration pattern of Section A; the window openings are located at the same levels on each floor and contain bluestone sills and segmental arched headers. The openings have likewise mostly been covered with plywood with the historic sash remaining behind, infilled with concrete block or replaced, however there are two intact 12/12 double-hung wood windows with arched upper sash on the 2nd floor. The 3rd through 5th floor windows are slightly narrower as the intact 9/9 double-hung wood windows on the 3rd floor demonstrate. Section B is topped by a simple brick cornice with copper flashing, identical to that on Section A and located at the same level.

The south elevation, which faces E. Hagert Street, is twenty-three bays wide. The first eighteen bays west of Jasper Street comprise the original south elevation of Section A while the remaining five bays comprise an addition, Section B, constructed before 1887. All bays, including at the basement level, contain segmental arched window openings with plain brick headers. At the basement level, on the 1st floor, and in some isolated bays on the 2nd through 5th floors, many of the openings have been infilled with painted or stuccoed concrete block. Elsewhere, the openings are covered by plywood with the historic sash remaining behind in most bays. Several historic 12/12 double-hung wood windows do remain intact on the upper floors. At each floor level beginning on the 2nd floor there are iron star bolts between each bay which anchor the building's iron tie rod system. The south elevation also contains two rolling overhead metal doors at the west end, in the eighteenth and twenty-first bays west of Jasper

² As shown in the several historic maps, E. Hagert Street was originally Adams Street (see Figures 9, 14 & 15). The name was changed after 1919.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Street. The door in the eighteenth bay opens to a small concrete loading dock. Other minor features on the south elevation include metal gutters and electrical conduit in some locations. Additionally, there is a metal fire escape attached to the building in front of the fourteenth and fifteenth bays east of Jasper Street. The fire escape extends only between the 2nd and 5th floors. The south elevation features the same brick cornice as the east, Jasper Street elevation.

The west elevation is eight-bays wide. The first five bays north of E. Hagert Street comprise Section B while the remaining three bays comprise Section C. Section B abuts a row of two-story brick rowhouses to the west and has window openings only on the 4th and 5th floors. Like the other elevations, most of the openings have been covered by plywood with the historic sash remaining behind or have been replaced with incompatible modern windows, however a fragment of a 12/12, double-hung wood window does remain on the 5th floor. The west elevation does not feature a cornice.

The north elevation is twenty-three-bays wide. The first seven bays west of Jasper Street comprise Section B while the remainder of the bays, which are set back to the south, comprise Sections A and C. The first two bays of the north elevation of Section A are recessed behind Section C. As on the other elevations, all window openings have bluestone sills, plain segmental arched headers and have largely been covered by plywood with the historic sash remaining behind, infilled with modern concrete block and stucco, or have been replaced with incompatible modern windows. Some intact 12/12, double-hung wood windows exist on the 2nd floor of Section C and some locations on Sections A and B while the 3rd floor of Section C retains nearly all of its 9/9 double-hung wood windows (like the east elevation of Section C, the windows on the 3rd through 5th floors are narrower than those below). All three sections have a simple brick cornice with copper flashing. Between the north elevation of Section C and the adjacent one-story garage, a disused asphalt driveway leads to a loading dock in Section E, but is now overgrown with trees and other plants. A chain-link fence secures the alley at the east end.

Section D, historically a boiler house, stands just north of Section C at the west end of the property and was built sometime in the 1880s, likely around the same time as Section C (see Photos 7 & 8). The building is a two-story brick shell and currently does not contain a roof. Like the other Sections, the building has numerous window openings with arched headers, although no windows remain and some of the openings have been infilled with brick. Due to the building's apparent structural instability, it was inaccessible at the time of the survey, therefore no interior photos are available.

Section E is a one-story, concrete block addition built in 1962 along the north elevation of Sections A and C (see Photos #9 & 10). The addition was constructed on what was largely open ground between Section B and Section D did not require the demolition of any previously existing structures, only the removal of a cylindrical water tank (see Figure 12, which shows the configuration of the buildings, including the water tank, in 1915). Section E obscures the first two floors on the east elevation of Section D, the Boiler House. The only exterior openings in Section E are two above-grade, rolling metal doors on the east elevation, which once opened to a previously removed loading dock. The loading dock was accessed by a narrow driveway leading from Jasper Street between Section C, Section E and the adjacent garage. As described above, the driveway is no longer used and is overgrown with trees and other plants.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Between Section E and the adjacent vacant lot, there is a freestanding brick wall that extends from the west elevation of the one-story garage. This wall once formed the south elevation of a larger garage structure constructed with the existing garage in 1920.

Interior

On the interior, the primary building is largely open in plan in Sections A and C, although some modern drywall partitions exist on the 1st floor. Sections A and C are separated by a brick party wall with a center opening. Both sections contain exposed brick perimeter walls, diagonal strip wood floors in most areas, and ceilings consisting of the wood plank sub floors above the exposed heavy timber floor joists. On the 1st through 4th floors, a single row of heavy timber square columns is located at intervals down the center of the space. The columns are chamfered at each corner except at the top and bottom portions, which remain square. At the top of each column there is simple wood cornice molding and a wood bolster, which supports the corresponding exposed heavy timber joists (see Photo #28). The 5th floor does not contain a center row of columns, however there are exposed, heavy timber gable roof trusses (see Photo #31).

Section A is separated from Section B by a brick party wall containing an opening with a rolling fire door near the east elevation. The 1st floor of Section B contains an office space with modern finishes such as linoleum tile floors, imitation wood paneling on the walls, and dropped acoustical tile ceilings (see Photo #12). As indicated by a 1915 insurance survey, this space served as James A. Bromley's office for a period of time, but it cannot be determined if the space was always used as an office. Based on the existing metal stair on the east elevation, it is likely that the office was also the primary entrance for clients and salespeople, however it is difficult to determine the historic appearance or configuration of this space based on surviving physical evidence. The 2nd and 3rd floors of Section B contain a residential apartment with carpeted and wood floors, drywall partitions and exposed heavy timber ceilings (because the apartment is still inhabited, it was not possible to gain access at the time of the survey). The 4th and 5th floors are open in plan and contain finishes similar to those found in Sections A and C, including diagonal wood strip floors, exposed brick perimeter walls and exposed heavy timber joists on the ceiling.

Throughout Sections A, B, and C there are modern exposed mechanical systems including metal ductwork, electrical conduit, and sprinkler lines. The building's lighting is all modern and largely consists of commercial grade hanging fluorescent fixtures.

The building contains one stairway and two relatively small freight elevators. Located at the southeast corner of Section B, the stairway is U-return in configuration and is utilitarian in design with wood treads and risers, beadboard guardrails, and painted brick walls (see Photos #11, 16 & 24). The first freight elevator is located to the west of the stairway in Section B while the second freight elevator is located along the east wall of Section C. Both elevators feature beadboard enclosures with wood and steel mesh gates (see Photo #34). It cannot be determined whether other stairways or elevators previously existed in the building. The limited means of vertical circulation on the interior of the building suggests that product was moved in and out of the building primarily by the exterior hoist, through the loft doors on the east, Jasper Street elevation.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Integrity

The Albion Carpet Mill retains integrity in the aspects of design and materials. Both the overall form and the defining industrial characteristics of the building remain, including its brick masonry, cornice detailing, consistent fenestration pattern, and characteristic wood loft doors. While many of the windows and doors have been replaced or have had their openings infilled, the overall rhythm and configuration of the windows remains intact. The interior of the building also strongly conveys the building's industrial past with its surviving wood floors, exposed heavy timber structural system, and exposed brick perimeter walls. Additionally, the open plan of the building remains largely intact as relatively few partition walls have been installed over the years; only a small portion of the 1st floor in Section A and the 2nd and 3rd floors of Section B (the apartment unit) have been altered in this way. Overall, the quality, placement and condition of the construction materials, as well as the building's vernacular form are both highly characteristic of northern industrial architecture during the late-nineteenth century period.

The Albion Carpet Mill also retains integrity in the aspects of setting and feeling. The mill remains on its original site and is still surrounded by small brick rowhouses and other industrial buildings. Although the Kensington neighborhood has lost several nineteenth- and early-twentieth century textile mills over the years, the mixed industrial-residential character of the area remains largely intact. Additionally, although the mill's equipment, furnishings and people have long since departed, the aspect of feeling is retained in the Albion Carpet Mill through its intact finishes, largely open spaces, and the periodic building campaigns. These features and characteristics effectively relay the sense of place and the notable industrial history of the highly prominent carpet manufacturer who once occupied this building.

As mentioned above, Section D, the Boiler House, is in poor structural condition and currently exists as a shell. The building's third story has been demolished and the chimney, visible in the 1915 Mutual Insurance Survey (see Figure 12), has been truncated. Despite these losses, however, the nature of the structure as a support building for the larger mill, even with a shortened chimney, is still apparent. Therefore the poor condition of the Boiler House has little impact on the overall integrity of the Albion Carpet Mill.

Although several ancillary mill structures were demolished after the Bromley family sold this portion of the property in 1919 (as shown in Figure 10, the Hexamer Fire Insurance Map; and Figures 11 & 12, the 1915 Mutual Insurance Survey), their loss does not affect the integrity of the Albion Carpet Mill. As a storage building, a wagon house and stable, and a dye house, respectively, these were minor structures performing secondary functions and therefore are not integral to conveying the significance of the Albion Carpet Mill.

Finally, although Section E was constructed outside the period of significance, its presence does not impact the integrity of the Albion Carpet Mill. The addition is fairly low at only one-story and therefore obscures very little of the north elevation of Sections A & C. Due to the location of the adjacent one-story garage, Section E is not visible from Jasper or E. Letterly Streets and does not have any impact on the overall form or massing of the Albion Carpet Mill. Lastly, the structure was built in an open yard and therefore did not require the demolition of any previously existing structures, only the removal of a relatively small water tank.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

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

Areas of Significance

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1881-1957

Significant Dates

1881, 1912, 1957

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

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 Albion Carpet Mill is significant under Criterion A, Industry, as a major producer of ingrain carpets in wool and cotton in Philadelphia during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century, and for its pivotal role in the development of new ingrain types and weaving methods. The mill was one of several owned and operated by the various branches of the Bromley family, the most prominent manufacturers of carpet in Philadelphia during a period when the city was by far the largest center of carpet production in the United States. Founded in 1881, the Albion Carpet Mill was the physical plant of the James & George D. Bromley Company, the eponymous firm operated by proprietor-brothers James and George D. Bromley. Building on the expertise they developed earlier while in partnership with their father, John D. Bromley, the brothers continually pushed for innovations in ingrain carpet weaving technology. In 1885, their “Bromley Weave” revolutionized ingrain production in the United States and abroad, enabling Albion to become the leading ingrain manufacturer in Philadelphia. Although by 1900 the mill had lost its position as the largest producer of ingrains, James & George D. Bromley’s company had a profound impact on the national ingrain market in the late-nineteenth century. After the James & George D. Bromley Company folded in 1912, the mill buildings continued to play a role in Kensington’s textile industry as a tenant factory, with numerous small to large hosiery and carpet manufacturers occupying various spaces within the mill. The Albion Carpet Mill’s period of significance begins in 1881, with the first phase of construction, and ends in 1957, when the Bromley family finally sold the property and the building ceased to function as a textile tenant factory.

The significance of the Albion Carpet Mill is evaluated within the historical context established by the Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF), *Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia*.³ The building is located in the north-central portion of the geographic area covered by the MPDF, which defines Albion as a “factory,” the MPDF’s primary property type. As constructed and initially used, the Albion Carpet Mill operated as a single-tenant factory, the home of James and George Bromley’s company. The Albion Carpet Mill is also classified under a second property subtype – a factory building occupied by *multiple* tenants. As defined by the MPDF, a multiple-tenant

³ On page 15 of the MPDF, an earlier Bromley Mill founded by John Bromley and known as “John Bromley & Sons” is misidentified as the Albion Mill. There were several Bromley family mills within several blocks of each other, which operated independently and were separately owned. The Albion Mill was the venture of James and George D. Bromley, started when they founded an independent business near the mills of their father and other brothers.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

factory may have been constructed as a speculative endeavor or was the result of a larger single tenant with a need to fill available extra space. After its completion in 1881 the property served as the home of the Albion Carpet Mill until 1912, after which the building was used by various other textile firms including hosiery and carpet manufacturers. The property meets the registration requirements set forth in the MPDF for both of these subtypes.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Criterion A, Significance in Industry

Philadelphia as a Center of Carpet Manufacturing

As early as the late-eighteenth century, Philadelphia became a major center of carpet manufacturing. Although carpet making had occurred in the Germantown area of Philadelphia as early as 1760, the first true carpet factory in the city (and the United States) was opened by William Peter Sprague on North 2nd Street in Kensington in 1791. "As if by clannish common consent," the *History of American Textiles* points out, nearly all subsequent carpet manufacturers also set up shop in the Kensington area, including Isaac McCauley, who opened an additional carpet mill near Sprague's in 1810. Ingrain carpets were the predominant weaving style in this early period, although McCauley is credited with weaving the first Brussels carpet, a type of looped pile carpet, in the United States.⁴ During the first half of the nineteenth century, Lowell, Massachusetts and several Connecticut towns and cities also became important carpet manufacturing centers, becoming major competitors with the Philadelphia mills.

The number of carpet mills in Philadelphia grew significantly through the first half of the nineteenth century, allowing the city to maintain its major position in the industry. Although many of their "wily" New England competitors were reluctant to share their power loom technology – developed by Erastus B. Bigelow in 1839 – the Philadelphia mills began voraciously importing a new type of power loom from England beginning in 1868. With the Murkland Loom, invented by Englishman William Murkland, Philadelphia's position as the dominant center of ingrain production was assured.⁵

In its most common form during the nineteenth century, the ingrain carpet had a flat weave, was produced in wool, cotton, or a combination of the two, and was reversible – the ground color on the face of the carpet served as the figure color on the other side. This form of carpet generally consisted of two plies, sometimes three, and was called *ingrain* due to the fact that the various colors of yarn, which were dyed before weaving, were intermixed and interwoven. The ingrain weave produced a fairly durable floor covering, especially when produced with all wool yarn.⁶

During the late-nineteenth century, ingrain carpets were one of the most popular forms of floor covering in the United States. Due to their low cost in comparison to plush, higher grade forms of pile carpet, such as Brussel, Wilton or Axminster, ingrain carpets were affordable to a vast share of the population. In Sears, Roebuck & Company's 1897 mail-order catalog, a typical ingrain carpet sold for around forty cents per yard while Brussels carpets commanded anywhere

⁴ *History of American Textiles* (American Wool and Cotton Reporter, 1922): 90.

⁵ Philip S. Klein and Ari Hoogenboom, *A History of Pennsylvania* (Pennsylvania State University, 1980): 345.

⁶ Arthur Harrison Cole, *The American Carpet Manufacture: A History and an Analysis* (Harvard University Press, 1941): 31.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

from fifty-five cents to \$1.05 per yard. Annual carpet production figures for 1882, which were reported by the *Textile Record* the following year, speak to the vast popularity of ingrain. That year, of the 63,000,000 yards of carpet produced in the United States, 27,400,000 yards consisted of ingrain, both cotton and wool, a far greater yield than the next most popular category, Brussels weave carpets, of which 13,500,000 yards were produced.⁷

Figures obtained from the same 1883 *Textile Record* report show that Philadelphia had already established its dominance in carpet manufacturing by that year – of all forms, not simply ingrain – and was home to 216 of the 340 carpet mills located throughout the United States. Philadelphia’s share of the market grew exponentially over the following years. As a result, in 1896, the *Textile World* called Philadelphia the “greatest carpet centre in the United States, and probably the world.”⁸ By 1883, a significantly larger total of 286 Philadelphia carpet manufacturers was recorded by Lorin Blodget in his *Census of Manufactures of Philadelphia*, the majority of which, over 170 in all, produced ingrain exclusively (many others produced ingrain in addition to other carpet types).⁹ Listed in Blodget’s *Census* by ward, there were 182 ingrain carpet operations in the 18th, 19th, 25th and 31st wards, those that comprised the greater Kensington neighborhood, a figure that made that neighborhood home to the largest concentration of carpet mills in the city, if not the nation.

The Bromley Family and Philadelphia’s Carpet Industry

The Albion Carpet Mill is a major component of the industrial legacy left by Philadelphia’s preeminent carpet manufacturing family of the nineteenth century, the Bromleys. After arriving in the United States from England in 1841, patriarch John Bromley and his family, which included his wife Elizabeth and five children – George D. (1828), James (1829), Mary (1831), Ellen (1833) and Thomas (1835) – settled briefly in New Jersey where John, formerly operator of a wool carding mill in the county of Yorkshire, England, found work as a wool spinner. After his wife’s death in 1845, John moved his family to Philadelphia where he remarried and began weaving ingrain carpets by hand in small rented quarters. Expanding his trade gradually over the next fifteen years, John eventually purchased a mill of his own in 1860, located in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia. That year, he began operations with 37 hand looms. By the end of the Civil War, John’s first three sons—George, James, and Thomas (with his second wife, Lucinda Smalley, he fathered three more sons and two daughters by 1861)—were admitted to their father’s firm, now officially incorporated as John Bromley & Sons.¹⁰

Throughout the late 1860s, John Bromley & Sons prospered, gradually purchasing additional looms for their mill at York and Jasper Streets, just two blocks southwest of the current Albion Carpet Mill.¹¹ Although ingrain carpets – a highly popular, reversible flat weave carpet with no

⁷ *Stoddart’s Encyclopædia Americana, Volume 1* (Philadelphia: J.M. Stoddart, 1883): 733.

⁸ *Textile World*, Vol. 10 (June 1896): 15.

⁹ Lorin Blodget, *Census of Manufactures of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: Dickson & Gilling, 1883): 159-163. The discrepancy in the number of carpet mills between the *Textile Record* report and Blodget’s *Census* may be due to the fact that Blodget included many cottage industry carpet makers with as few as two employees, while *Textile Record* did not.

¹⁰ Philip Scranton, “Build a Firm, Start Another: The Bromleys and Family Firm Entrepreneurship in the Philadelphia Region,” in *Family Capitalism*, edited by Geoffrey Jones and Mary Rose (London: Frank Cass, 1993): 116.

¹¹ Much of the John Bromley & Sons mill has been demolished, however a heavily altered portion fronting on Jasper Street remains.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

pile – remained Bromley & Son's specialty during this early period, the firm also increasingly experimented with new colors, styles and weaving techniques to satisfy changing tastes. By 1868, the carpet trade was expanding so rapidly that John Bromley made the decision to support his first three sons in the formation of their own carpet mill.¹² Founded as Bromley Brothers, the sons built their own four-story mill directly opposite their fathers, on the east side of Jasper Street, one block southwest of the current Albion Carpet Mill (see Figure 9).¹³ Despite early struggles – the original mill burned down in 1871, although it was quickly rebuilt – by 1875 Bromley Brothers was able to match John Bromley & Sons in employment with between 250 and 300 employees. Still, the trio of brothers had difficulty keeping up with their father's and half-brothers' rapid adoption of new power looms for Brussels and Smyrna forms of carpeting, two higher grade plush weaving styles that were increasing in popularity. Bromley Brothers remained focused on the production of ingrains, the price of which began decreasing during the 1870s.¹⁴

Of the three partners in Bromley Brothers, only Thomas pushed for investment in new machine technology, a point of contention that led him to separate from James and George in 1881. That year, Thomas bought out his brothers and continued to operate Bromley Brothers on his own terms, expanding his range of carpets to include Wilton, Brussels, and Venetian weaves in addition to the ingrains the company had previously specialized in. Shortly after the separation, the oldest two brothers formed a new partnership, James & George D. Bromley, and began construction on a new mill, which they named the Albion Carpet Mill, one block northwest of Bromley Brothers at Jasper and E. Hagert Streets. What is known today as Section A of the mill complex was completed that year.

History of the Building

The first phase of construction on the Albion Carpet Mill began in 1881 with the completion of Section A. Precise dates of construction for subsequent Sections B and C have yet to be determined, however both were completed prior to 1887, as they appear in the Bromley Atlas of the 18th, 19th and 31st Wards from that year.

Section D, a two-story boiler house, also appears to have been completed prior to 1887 as seen in the Bromley Atlas. Later documentation shows that this building was originally three-stories tall (see Figure 12, the Associated Mutual Insurance Company Survey from 1915).

Section E, a one-story modern concrete block infill structure that abuts the north elevation of Section A, was constructed in 1962. This structure enclosed what a building permit refers to as a loading dock, however no evidence of a loading dock in this area can be found in any previous insurance map or property atlas.

An additional building, a dye house, appears at the northwest corner of the property in the 1902 edition of the Hexamer Insurance Maps. Although it is unclear when the dye house was constructed, a building footprint of similar size does appear in this location in the Bromley Atlas of 1887. Around 1913, the dye house was apparently converted into a garage and appears

¹² John Bromley's four younger sons gradually succeeded their older brothers in partnership with their father.

¹³ The Bromley Brothers building was demolished around 1960 and the site currently exists as a surface parking lot.

¹⁴ Scranton, 119.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

labeled as such in later Sanborn maps from 1919 and 1951. Historical aerial photography shows that the dye house was demolished after 1957.

History of the Albion Carpet Mill

Despite their earlier reluctance to adopt new power looms to weave ingrains, partners James and George D. did just that in their new mill, an investment which quickly paid off. In fact, within two years of its founding, the brothers had firmly established the Albion Carpet Mill as a dominant player in the manufacture of ingrains. In 1883, of the 1,346 power looms operating in the city, Albion itself was home to 140, a share of over 10%.¹⁵ The mill also employed 305 workers at a time when the majority of ingrain operations had fewer than 50 employees. In 1883, Albion was surpassed in size only by the John and James Dobson Carpet Mill in the Manayunk neighborhood, with 1,435 employees; John Bromley & Sons, with 435 employees; Bromley Brothers, with 350 employees; and Horner Brothers at 4th Street and Lehigh Avenue, with 385 employees. Despite the greater size of these companies, each produced a diverse range of carpet types while James and George D. Bromley continued to specialize in ingrains. This made the Albion Carpet Mill the largest exclusive producer of ingrain carpets in Philadelphia during the 1880s.¹⁶

The decade between 1880 and 1889 proved to be a pivotal one for the Albion Carpet Mill. Not only did the mill quickly take control of a large share of the ingrain market, but the Bromley brothers and their employees were responsible for a number of artistic and technological innovations that ensured an elevated position among ingrain manufacturers. Between 1882 and 1883, one of Albion's carpet designers, Charles A. Righter, filed thirteen patents for new patterns that would form the basis of the mill's trade through the 1880s and beyond. In keeping with late-nineteenth century taste, nearly all of the patterns featured floral motifs. The creation of original, proprietary carpet designs as seen in these patents was a chief concern of the Bromley brothers, a fact that set them apart from many other carpet manufacturers at the time, who frequently stole patterns. In fact, in March of 1887, *The Decorator and Furnisher Supplement* estimated that of the 22,000,000 yards of ingrain carpets produced in Philadelphia the previous year, the patterns of nearly 20,000,000 of these were stolen even if they were patented. But "James & George D. Bromley are so prominent an exception to the rule of theft," the *Decorator and Furnisher* expounded, "as to merit special notice." The publication went on to praise the brothers for their "judicious" expenditures in their design department and pointed out that the Bromleys had "the liberality to secure the best design talent" and the "ability to use it to the best advantage."¹⁷ Fortunately for James & George D., their numerous patented designs gained greater protection from infringement under the Design Patent Act of 1887, a law passed by the United States Congress partly as a result of numerous lawsuits filed by carpet companies against their competitors over the previous few years.¹⁸

In addition to artistic concerns, James and George D. Bromley continually pushed for innovation in weaving technologies. In 1886, employee Harry Hardwick invented a new ingrain weaving process that would revolutionize the production of ingrains not only in the United States, but

¹⁵ *Stoddart's Encyclopedia*, 733.

¹⁶ *Blodget*, 161-162.

¹⁷ *The Decorator and Furnisher Supplement*, Vol. 9 (March 1887): 212-213.

¹⁸ Frederic H. Betts, "Some Questions Under the Design Patent Act of 1897," *Yale Law Journal* 1.5 (May, 1892): 182.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

internationally as well. Prior to 1886, the most common form of ingrain weaving began with four colors of weft threads and four corresponding colors of warp threads. Of the four colors, two were ground colors and two were figure colors. During the weaving process, every two figuring warps and every two ground warps were connected or "tailed" to a Jacquard needle, each of which would be raised by a lifter board in succession as the shuttle threaded the weft colors through the warps according to the desired pattern. This process created a two- or three-ply weave. However, because of the Jacquard needle's prescribed movement, that is an alternate lifting of both figuring warps and both ground warps, only a limited number of color combinations could be produced. With Hardwick's new process, however, the Jacquard needles could be operated in almost any order, allowing the reproduction of finer detail, new color combinations, and larger fields of solid colors. Although the new weave required as many as double the number of "cards" read by the loom to create a specific pattern, Hardwick nonetheless adapted the process to existing ingrain loom technology. As a result, the Albion Carpet Mill began producing the new weave almost immediately and with only a limited capital investment. Although Hardwick patented the new process himself in 1886, this innovative form of ingrain became known as the Bromley Weave, or sometimes the Hardwick-Bromley Weave. Due to its versatility and the fact that it could be produced on existing looms, the Bromley Weave quickly became an industry-wide standard for ingrain carpets. Nearly every ingrain manufacturer in Philadelphia obtained a license to use the new weave.¹⁹ By 1888, numerous carpet makers as far away as England and Scotland had also adopted the new method.²⁰

Later termed "The Wizard of the Loom," Hardwick also invented what became known as the Agra weave in 1891. This new type of ingrain was the first in which the multiple plies of the carpet were bound together, avoiding pockets and creating a much more durable floor covering.²¹ Although by 1891 Hardwick had left Albion, later forming his own Brussels carpet company, Hardwick & Magee, James & George D. Bromley nonetheless adopted Agra carpets as one of their principal offerings.²² George D. himself was "justly proud of the Agra carpet," his obituary the *American Carpet and Upholstery Journal* (hereafter *ACUJ*) remarked in 1903.²³ In addition to Agra weave ingrains, another of Albion's specialties were ingrain art squares. Unlike ingrain carpets, which were woven with a continuous pattern, art squares had a defined shape, typically oblong, with a self-contained design. Art squares were used as area rugs, while ingrain carpets were ideal as a wall-to-wall floor covering.²⁴

The ingrain carpets produced at Albion were marketed and sold nationally from the inception of James and George D. Bromley's partnership. In 1881, the brothers employed T.J. Keveney & Co., carpet selling agents, to represent their products nationally. With offices in Philadelphia, New York, Chicago and Kansas City, T.J. Keveney introduced Albion's products to retail outlets

¹⁹ "The Carpet Industry of Philadelphia," *Annual Report of the Secretary of Internal Affairs of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Part III. Industrial Statistics, Volume XVII* (Harrisburg: Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 1890): 18D.

²⁰ *Furniture Gazette* (April 1, 1888): 106.

²¹ Philip A. Hall, "The Rug and Carpet Industry of Philadelphia" (Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, 1917).

²² *American Carpet and Upholstery Journal*, Vol. 28 (Jan. 1911): 70.

²³ *ACUJ*, Vol. 21 (Nov. 1903): 67.

²⁴ Randal L. Patton, *Carpet Capital: The Rise of a New South Industry* (University of Georgia Press, 1999), 32, and U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farmers Bulletin No. 1219, Floors and Floor Coverings (1921), 15.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

throughout the Northeastern and Midwestern United States.²⁵ By the early 1890s, Albion's ingrain carpets could be found in department stores not only in the major urban centers, but in smaller cities as varied as Ann Arbor, Michigan; Springfield, Missouri; and Utica, New York. After George Bromley ended his relationship with T.J. Keveney in 1899, the proprietor began selling Albion carpets directly, opening new sales offices at the Albion Mill itself, on Fifth Avenue in New York City, and in Minneapolis.²⁶

Despite Albion's impressive growth through the 1880s, one of the mill's proprietor-brothers, James Bromley, witnessed very little of his company's early success. In August of 1884, while visiting his birthplace in the county of Yorkshire, England, James died. According to *The Times* of Philadelphia, James, who was with his brother George D. at the time of his death, had been in poor health for some time and had traveled to England with the hope of improving.²⁷ Shortly after his brother's death, George D. brought his own son, James A., and his son-in-law, Frank B. Birch, into partnership at James & George D. Bromley Company. Together the three men would continue to operate Albion Carpet Mill through the turn of the century.

Labor Troubles in Philadelphia's Ingrain Mills

Although the Albion Carpet Mill revolutionized the ingrain market and was commercially highly successful, the company was not immune to industry-wide labor issues. Beginning in November 1884, Albion, along with all other Kensington ingrain mills, came to a virtual standstill during a strike by weavers that lasted through the following April. During the intervening months, George D. Bromley played a major role in discussions between the ingrain manufacturers and the weavers, ultimately making a critical decision that precipitated an end to the strike.

On November 19, 1884, the Power Loom Ingrain Carpet Manufacturers Association, an assembly of company directors in Philadelphia, met to discuss the issue of wages for their workers. At the time, the standard city wage for ingrain weavers, specifically the operators of power looms, was six cents per yard. Because many of Philadelphia's ingrain manufacturers had steadily been investing in new, more efficient loom equipment for several years, they faced a "classic crisis of overproduction," as historian Susan Levine explains. The market was becoming flooded with ingrain carpets, driving down prices by as much as fifty percent in some cases. As a relief measure, the manufacturers agreed on November 19 to decrease the standard wage for loom operators from six cents to five cents per yard.²⁸

Deeply angered by the proposed wage cut, an informal body of over one thousand ingrain weavers, over two thirds of which were women, gathered three days later on November 22. The weavers formed a temporary organization to represent their interests, electing a president and secretary, and voted in favor of a general strike to begin that day. As a result, nearly every ingrain carpet mill in the city, including Albion, was shut down. By November 26, the Philadelphia-based Knights of Labor, a rapidly growing national labor organization founded in

²⁵ Several advertisements of the Albion Carpet Mill from the 1880s and 1890s indicate that T.J. Keveney & Co. were the company's exclusive agent.

²⁶ *American Wool and Cotton Reporter* (October 12, 1899): 26. Numerous advertisements of the Albion Carpet Mill in the *American Carpet and Upholstery Journal* between 1900 and 1910 indicate sales offices in these locations.

²⁷ *Philadelphia Times* (22 Aug 1884): 2.

²⁸ Susan Levine, *Labor's True Woman: Carpet Weavers, Industrialization, and Labor Reform in the Gilded Age* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1984): 65.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

1869, encouraged most of the ingrain strikers to join its ranks, promising protections that their informal body could not offer. Both the weavers and the manufacturers, initially led by George D. Bromley himself, stood firm over the following weeks.²⁹

As the strike extended into January, roughly two hundred weavers renounced their membership in the Knights of Labor and went back to work at the reduced wage. This enraged a group of other weavers who were determined not to accept the five cent wage, and led to violent protests involving hundreds of strikers who surrounded many of the Kensington ingrain mills between January 14 and 17, 1885. Increasing in violence, additional protests on February 26 resulted in the clubbing of strikers by the police, who were called in to quell the newest "uprising," as termed by the *Inquirer*.³⁰ Although Albion escaped the violence of these early protests, George D. Bromley's mill became the center of further demonstrations on April 10. That day, the strikers learned that many of Albion's power looms had been operating at the hands of weavers from other departments for a reduced wage of five-and-a-half cents, a rate offered by Bromley without the consent of the Manufacturers Association. The dispatch of a large number of police to the Albion Mill, however, prevented the gathering from devolving into an angry mob.³¹

Although George D. Bromley's concession to pay five-and-a-half cents per yard caused an uproar among those weavers who were unwilling to accept any cut in wages, his action is generally credited with being one of the catalysts which eventually ended the strike. With both sides weary and anxious for a settlement, the Manufacturers Association and the strikers' Executive Committee finally came to an agreement on April 17. Following Bromley's lead, the manufacturers offered a five-and-a-half cent wage through 1885, which the weavers accepted. Both sides also agreed that the weavers would not be required to renounce membership in the Knights of Labor, a major victory for the workers. "The news of the settlement was received with great rejoicing in Kensington last evening," the *Philadelphia Inquirer* noted the next day, "both by the strikers, their friends and the many shop-keepers, who have in many ways felt the hardships of the bitter struggle." The newspaper also estimated the loss to manufacturers and employees over the five-month strike to be in the range of \$2 million.³²

Although the strikers eventually accepted a lower wage than they had in November of the previous year, their ability to remain as members in the Knights of Labor was considered a major victory, even as the organization was declining in power nationally. They also won a partial victory in gaining any concession from the manufacturers to pay a wage above five cents, which they had steadfastly refused to do over the previous twenty-one weeks. Although the ingrain weavers strike was not the first among Philadelphia's carpet mill workers, it is notable due to its length, over eight months, and because a majority of the strikers, roughly two thirds, were women.

²⁹ "Employers Confer. They Declare War Against the Knights of Labor," *Philadelphia Inquirer* (26 Nov 1884): 8.

³⁰ "Desperate Strikers," *Philadelphia Inquirer* (14 Jan 1885): 1; "Clubbing Rioters, Policemen Quelling Another Uprising in Kensington," *Philadelphia Inquirer* (27 Feb 1885): 8.

³¹ "More Trouble Brewing: Excitement on the Increase in the Kensington Mill District," *Philadelphia Inquirer* (11 Apr 1885): 3;

³² "The Strike Ended. A Compromise Effected After Twenty-One Weeks' Idleness," *Philadelphia Inquirer* (18 Apr 1885): 2.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Albion's Later Years

Under the leadership of George D. Bromley, his son James, and his son-in-law, Frank Birch, the Albion Carpet mill continued to produce a full line of ingrain carpets and art square rugs through the 1890s. After successfully leading his company through more than two highly prosperous decades, George D. Bromley died on October 26, 1903. The importance of Bromley's contributions to the ingrain industry were noted in a full-page obituary in the November issue of *ACUJ*. "Mr. Bromley deserves a niche among the foremost of American manufacturers," *ACUJ* expounded, for his "determined adherence to high standards" and his "remarkable enterprise in showing the possibilities of the ingrain carpet."³³ In 1905, two years after George D.'s death, his successors, James Bromley and Frank Birch, split into two separate firms. James continued to operate his half as the James & George D. Bromley Company while Frank Birch brought his own son into partnership, forming Frank B. Birch & Son, which took over the spinning portion of the Bromley operation. Both companies continued to operate within the Albion mill building although it is unclear how long Birch remained at this location.³⁴

Despite being recognized for his major contribution to the ingrain trade, even before George D.'s death, the popularity of ingrains was beginning to decline. Consumers increasingly demanded higher grades of carpeting, and Albion's traditional ingrains could not satisfy this need. As ingrains continued to lose favor and command a lower price, James Bromley, now head of the Albion Mill, realized that he had to transition to other forms of carpet, particularly the Scotch Rug, to remain competitive. Like Albion's previously ubiquitous art squares, Scotch rugs were a type of reversible flat weave, ingrain rug, however the wool yarn used would be much heavier and the weave would be more tightly bound. Due to their higher grade and simpler, Craftsman-inspired patterns, which were overtaking elaborate floral designs, Scotch rugs became increasingly popular around the turn of the century. The rugs were first imported from Scotland; beginning in 1907, however, a Philadelphia manufacturer began to produce the rugs for the American market, and Albion was one of the first mills to follow.³⁵ The *ACUJ* reported in 1910 that James Bromley doubled Albion's loom capacity that year to handle the increasing demand for Scotch rugs, for which the mill produced 40 designs in 150 color combinations.³⁶ In an *ACUJ* advertisement, Scotch rugs were the most prominently featured item. The publication also praised Albion's "splendid line of [Scotch] rugs" and noted that James Bromley was "delighted with the cordial reception of his first line, [predicting] that if the present rate of business continues...it will be one of the biggest factors in his trade."

Unfortunately, *ACUJ*'s prediction was never realized. Despite James Bromley's quick changeover to the production of Scotch rugs, this move was not enough for Albion to maintain its major position in a carpet industry that was increasingly more agile in its ability to adapt to changing consumer tastes. Perhaps in recognition of Albion's declining fortunes, James Bromley formed a separate mail-order home furnishings business, the United Mills Manufacturing Company, in 1909.³⁷ The company produced rugs, carpets, curtains and blankets and operated out of the Albion Mill buildings. Although the James & George D.

³³ "George Day Bromley," *ACUJ* Vol. 21 (Nov 1903): 90.

³⁴ Scranton, 121.

³⁵ Kilmarnock Textile Manufacturing Company, located just one block south of the Albion Carpet Mill, was the first to produce Scotch rugs in the United States in 1907.

³⁶ "The New Scotch Rug Industry of America," *ACUJ* (January 1910): 67-69.

³⁷ *Textile World Record*, Vol. 37 (May 1909): 191.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Bromley Company finally folded in 1912, United Mills continued in business at the Albion Mill. Although the new company was briefly successful, United Mills was also forced to close in 1916 as it faced liabilities five times greater than its assets of \$6,000.³⁸

Although the Albion mill was no longer used by the Bromleys for carpet weaving after 1912, several other textile companies leased spaces in the building as tenants. Such an arrangement was common for manufacturers in Kensington and throughout Philadelphia. In fact, one of the property types defined by the MPDF for the "Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia" was the factory building occupied by multiple tenants. In the MPDF, this category is broken down further into those factories which were either constructed as speculative endeavors, or were the result of a larger single tenant vacating a factory and the subsequent need to fill the available space. Of these two subtypes, the Albion Carpet Mill typified the latter, becoming home to several small and large textile companies over the following decades.

An extensive 1915 survey of the Albion property, completed by the Associated Mutual Insurance Company, reveals both the names of these later tenants and their locations within the building (see Figures 11-13).³⁹ The largest tenant was William F. Taubel, Inc, who occupied the 3rd and 5th floors of Sections A and C. The company was founded in 1909 in Riverside, New Jersey, but eventually established a large Philadelphia presence. With 275 employees, Taubel was by far the largest tenant in the building, and this location was one of at least six branch manufacturing spaces owned and operated by the company in Philadelphia during the early twentieth century period. Taubel, who also operated a large mill in Shamokin, Pennsylvania, remained at the Albion Mill until about 1924.⁴⁰

Another hosiery company, Barger, Bains & Munn, operated a branch office and warehouse with 53 employees on the 4th floor of Section A. Founded in 1902, the company also had large mills in Bloomsburg and Nescopeck, Pennsylvania, where much of their hosiery production took place.⁴¹ According to the Mutual Insurance survey, the Philadelphia location housed the company's main office, but was otherwise used only for the steaming, mending, packing and storage of finished goods meant for the Philadelphia market. No hosiery production took place in the Philadelphia branch.

Although much of the building had been taken over by hosiery manufacturers, two companies carried on Albion's original function as a carpet mill. On the 1st floor of Sections A and C, E.W. Goodman & Company had a small carpet weaving operation with 40 employees. Previously located at Front Street and Lehigh Avenue, just two blocks northwest of Jasper and Adams Street, Goodman moved to the Albion Mill in 1910.⁴² Little else is known about Goodman,

³⁸ *ACUJ*, Vol. 34 (Feb. 1916): 67.

³⁹ Associated Mutual Insurance Company, Survey No. 3890 for James A. Bromley, Owner (July 13, 1915). Available on microfiche at the Free Library of Philadelphia, Central Library.

⁴⁰ *American Wool and Cotton Reporter, Section Two*, Vol. 36 (Feb 1922): 982. Taubel was listed in the AWCP with a Jasper and Adams address, however by 1923 numerous classified appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer seeking employees for three other hosiery companies on the 3rd, 4th and 5th floors, where Taubel had been located.

⁴¹ *Historical and Biographical Annals of Columbia and Montour Counties, Pennsylvania*, Vol. 1 (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1915): 117, 504.

⁴² *Textile World Record*, Vol. 39 (May 1910): 278.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

although the company is mentioned briefly in Macfarlane's *Textile Industries of Philadelphia* as a manufacturer of granite, damask, Venetian, and ingrain carpets.⁴³

In addition to Goodman, Henry Rath, Jr., a small carpet manufacturer with 35 employees, operated on the 2nd floor of Sections A, B, and C. Rath produced ingrain carpets and rugs using 33 broad and narrow looms. The company remained in the Albion Mill at least through the early 1930s according to various industrial directories.

The nature of the tenant factory in Kensington was one of transiency, with firms coming and going relatively frequently as production capacity and employment numbers fluctuated. Although it is difficult to precisely determine the tenure of each tenant, directories listing later tenants provide some evidence of how long each occupied space at the Albion Mill. By 1924 and 1925, for example, numerous classified ads appeared in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* seeking employees for the Logan Knitting Mills on the 3rd floor, Wear Best Knitting Company on the 4th floor, and Revere Knitting Mills on the 5th floor.⁴⁴ These floors were previously occupied by the William F. Taubel Company, which presumably left the building as their production capacity changed.⁴⁵ All three companies were small hosiery manufacturers, which by the 1920s had begun to eclipse carpet weaving as the predominant textile-related industry in Kensington.

Although many of Albion's later tenants were hosiery manufacturers, other types of textile companies occupied space at the mill. A textile manufacturers directory, *Davison's Textile Blue Book*, listed B. Wilmsen, Inc., ribbon maker, as a tenant as early as 1925, although it is unclear which parts of the building the company occupied. According to *Davison's*, the company had 75 ribbon looms. It appears that Wilmsen remained in the building at least until 1948, after which point the company's history is unclear.⁴⁶

In August of 1919, James A. Bromley sold the northern third of the property – currently occupied by the adjacent one-story brick garage and vacant lot – to William S. Ferguson.⁴⁷ The following year, Ferguson demolished Albion's previous one-story cotton and yarn storage building on that portion of the property and built the existing garage as an automobile repair and storage facility, which also contained an associated auto parts store.⁴⁸ Although the garage sits on land once part of the Albion Carpet Mill property, it was built by a separate owner and was not associated with or functionally related to the adjacent mill. Therefore, the garage has been excluded from the National Register boundary.

The Bromley family owned the remainder of the Albion Mill property, which continued to function as a tenant factory for textile firms, until 1956. In October of that year, Katherine G. Bromley, wife of James A. Bromley, sold the building to the Acorn Paper Company for \$75,000.⁴⁹ Acorn,

⁴³ John James Macfarlane, *Textile Industries of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: Philadelphia Commercial Museum, 1911): 25.

⁴⁴ *Philadelphia Inquirer*

⁴⁵ William F. Taubel remained in business after leaving the Albion Mill.

⁴⁶ *Davison's Textile Blue Book, Volume 84* (Davison Publishing Company, 1948): 495.

⁴⁷ Deed of Sale from James A. Bromley to William S. Ferguson, 13 Aug 1919, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, Deed Book 576, Page 524, Philadelphia City Archives.

⁴⁸ Philadelphia Building Permit #2683 (April 14, 1920).

⁴⁹ *Philadelphia Inquirer* (October 24, 1956), 45.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

a warehouse and distributor of paper products, having moved from its previous home at 118 S. Front Street in the Old City neighborhood of Philadelphia, adapted the Albion mill for its own use, installing new manufacturing equipment and replacing mechanical systems. Acorn occupied the building at least through the early 1980s. For the past several decades the buildings have functioned as a warehouse for a pet supply store, and as a private residence for the previous property owner.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

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Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property ~ 0.43 acres

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

1. Latitude: 39.986111 Longitude: -75.130139

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

The boundary of the property is shown as a dotted line on the accompanying map shown in Figure 1: National Register Boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel on which the present building is situated. No extant historically associated resources have been excluded. Although the area between the north side of the National Register Boundary and E. Letterly Street was historically associated with the Albion Carpet Mill, it was sold by the company in 1919, during the period of significance. None of the structures which once occupied this portion of the property under the Bromleys' ownership remain. The existing one-story brick garage at the northeast corner was built by a new owner, W.S. Ferguson, after he acquired the land in 1919. This portion of the property, in addition to the vacant lot west of the garage, remains a separate parcel from that on which the Albion Carpet Mill still stands. The garage, which once extended further west on the adjacent vacant lot (see Figure 15), was used for automobile service and storage and therefore was not functionally related to the mill or any textile related industry. For these reasons, the garage and vacant lot have been excluded from the National Register Boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kevin McMahon, Associate
organization: Powers & Company, Inc.
street & number: 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 1717
city or town: Philadelphia state: PA zip code: 19107
e-mail: kevin@powersco.net
telephone: (215) 636-0192
date: September 9, 2015

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.

Albion Carpet Mill
 Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
 County and State

Photo Log

Name of Property: Albion Carpet Mill

City or Vicinity: Philadelphia

County: Philadelphia

State: PA

Photographer: Robert Powers

Date Photographed: February 2015

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

<i>Photograph #</i>	<i>Description of Photograph</i>
1.	South and east elevations, view NW
2.	East elevation, view W
3.	East and north elevation, view SW
4.	South elevation, view N
5.	South elevation, view N
6.	West and south elevation, view NE
7.	North elevation, view SE
8.	North elevation, view S
9.	Concrete block addition along north elevation, view W
10.	Passageway between mill (Sections A & B) and adjacent garage
11.	1 st floor, Section A, stairway, view W
12.	1 st floor, Section B, view NW
13.	1 st floor, Section A, view SW
14.	1 st floor, Section A, view W
15.	1 st floor, Section C, view W
16.	2 nd floor, Section A, stairway, view W
17.	2 nd floor, Section A, view W
18.	2 nd floor, Section A, view SE
19.	2 nd floor, Section C, view N
20.	2 nd floor, Section C, view S
21.	3 rd floor, Section A, view W
22.	3 rd floor, Section A, view E
23.	3 rd floor, Section C, view W
24.	4 th floor, Section A, stairway, view W
25.	4 th floor, Section B, view E
26.	4 th floor, Section A, view W
27.	4 th floor, Section A, view E
28.	4 th floor, Section A, detail of structural column
29.	4 th floor, Section C, view NW
30.	5 th floor, Section B, view W
31.	5 th floor, Section A, view W
32.	5 th floor, Section A, view E
33.	5 th floor, Section C, view W
34.	5 th floor, Section C, freight elevator, view N

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Index of Figures

<i>Figure #</i>	<i>Description of Figure</i>
1.	Site Plan with National Register Boundary
2.	Site Plan with Building Chronology
3.	Photograph Key – Site
4.	Photograph Key – 1 st floor
5.	Photograph Key – 2 nd floor
6.	Photograph Key – 3 rd floor
7.	Photograph Key – 4 th floor
8.	Photograph Key – 5 th floor
9.	1895 Bromley Atlas of Philadelphia
10.	1902 Hexamer Fire Insurance Atlas
11.	1915 Associated Mutual Insurance Survey, Site Plan
12.	1915 Associated Mutual Insurance Survey, Birds Eye View
13.	1915 Associated Mutual Insurance Survey, Sectional Cut
14.	1919 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
15.	1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
16.	Advertisement from the <i>Decorator and Furnisher</i> , 1886.
17.	Advertisement from the <i>Carpet and Upholstery Trade Review</i> , 1896.
18.	Advertisement from the <i>American Carpet and Upholstery Journal</i> , 1910.
19.	Portrait of George D. Bromley, 1903.
20.	USGS map excerpt, Philadelphia quadrangle

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.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Figure 1

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Figure 2

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

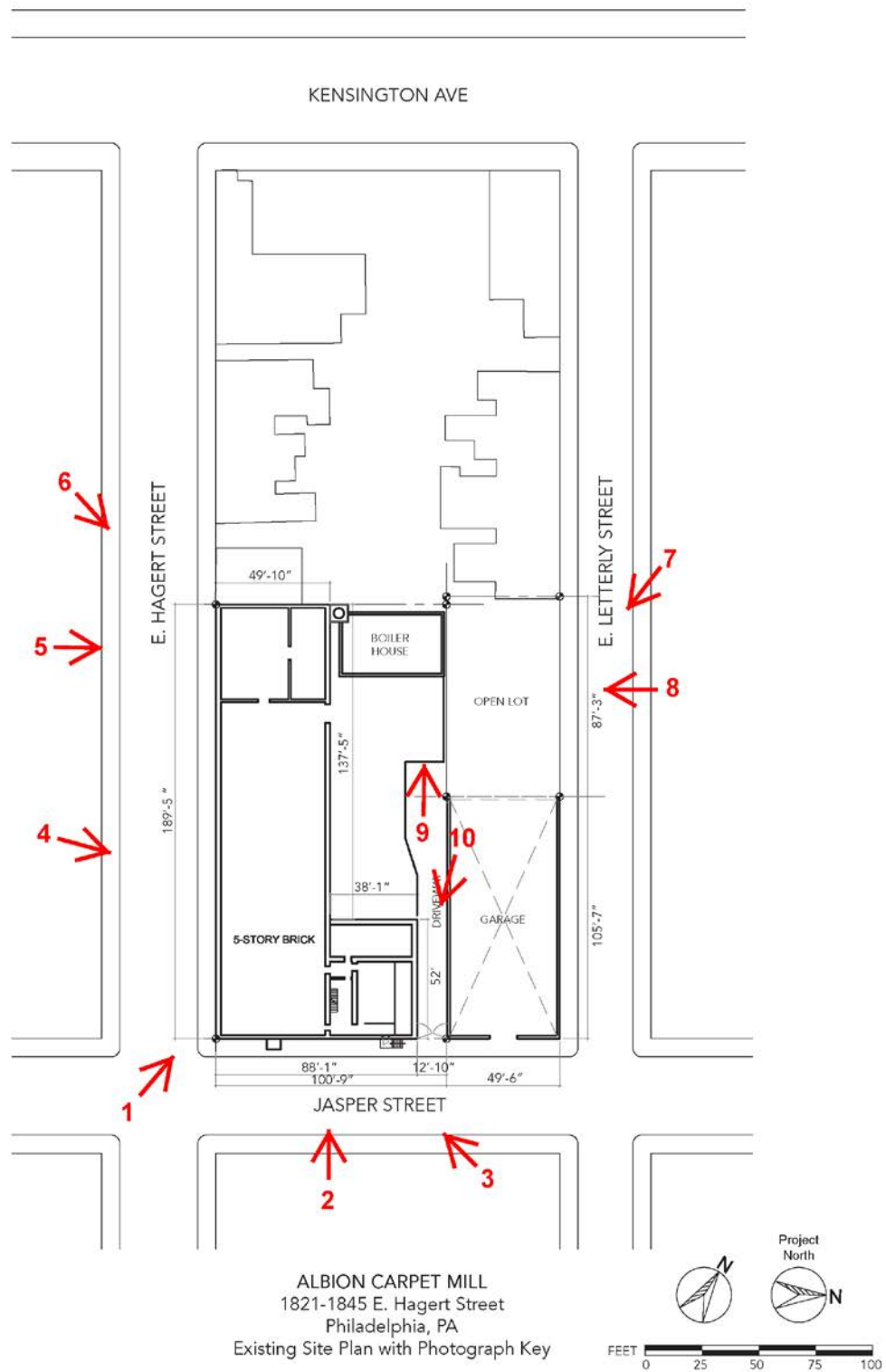


Figure 3

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

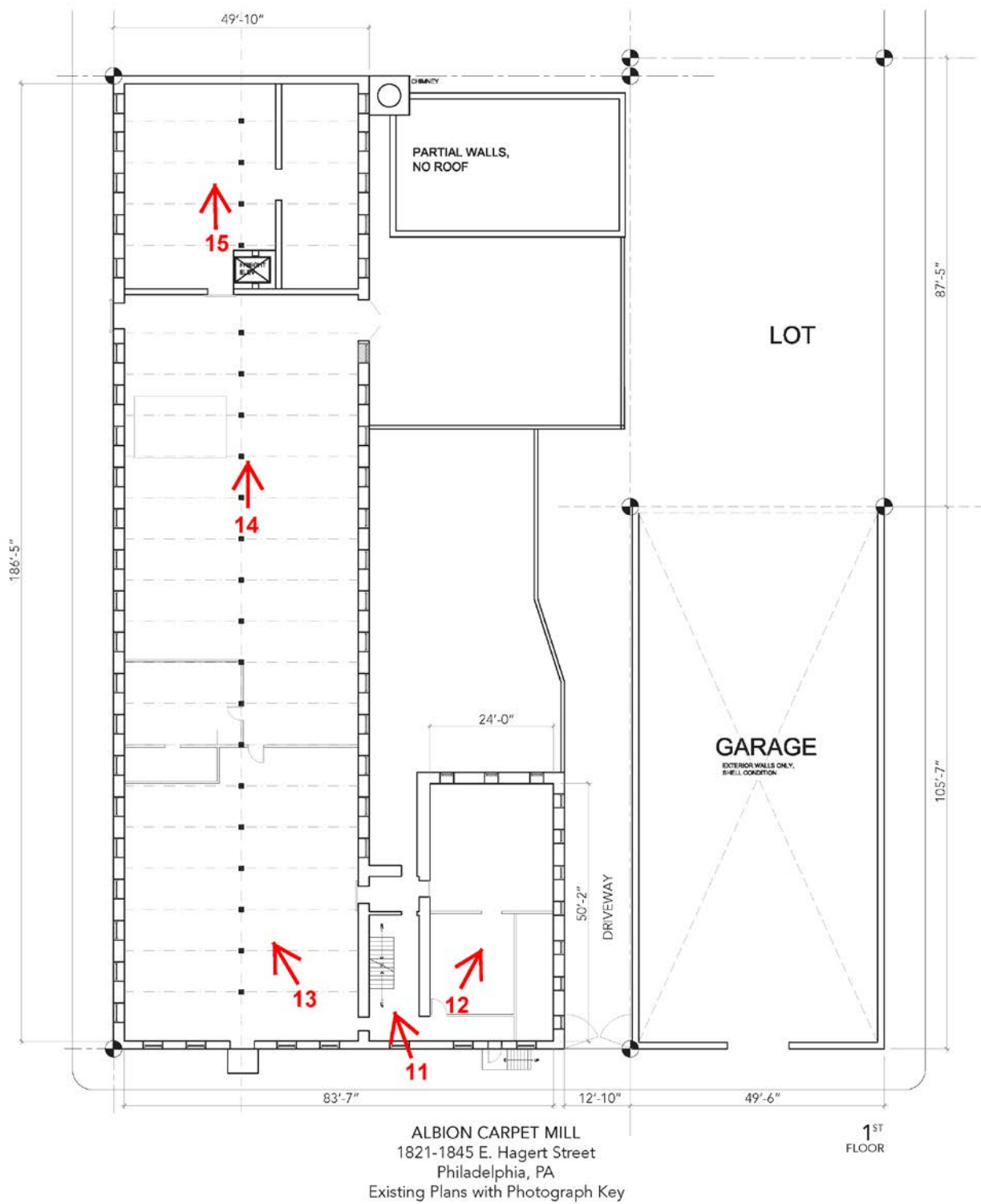


Figure 4

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

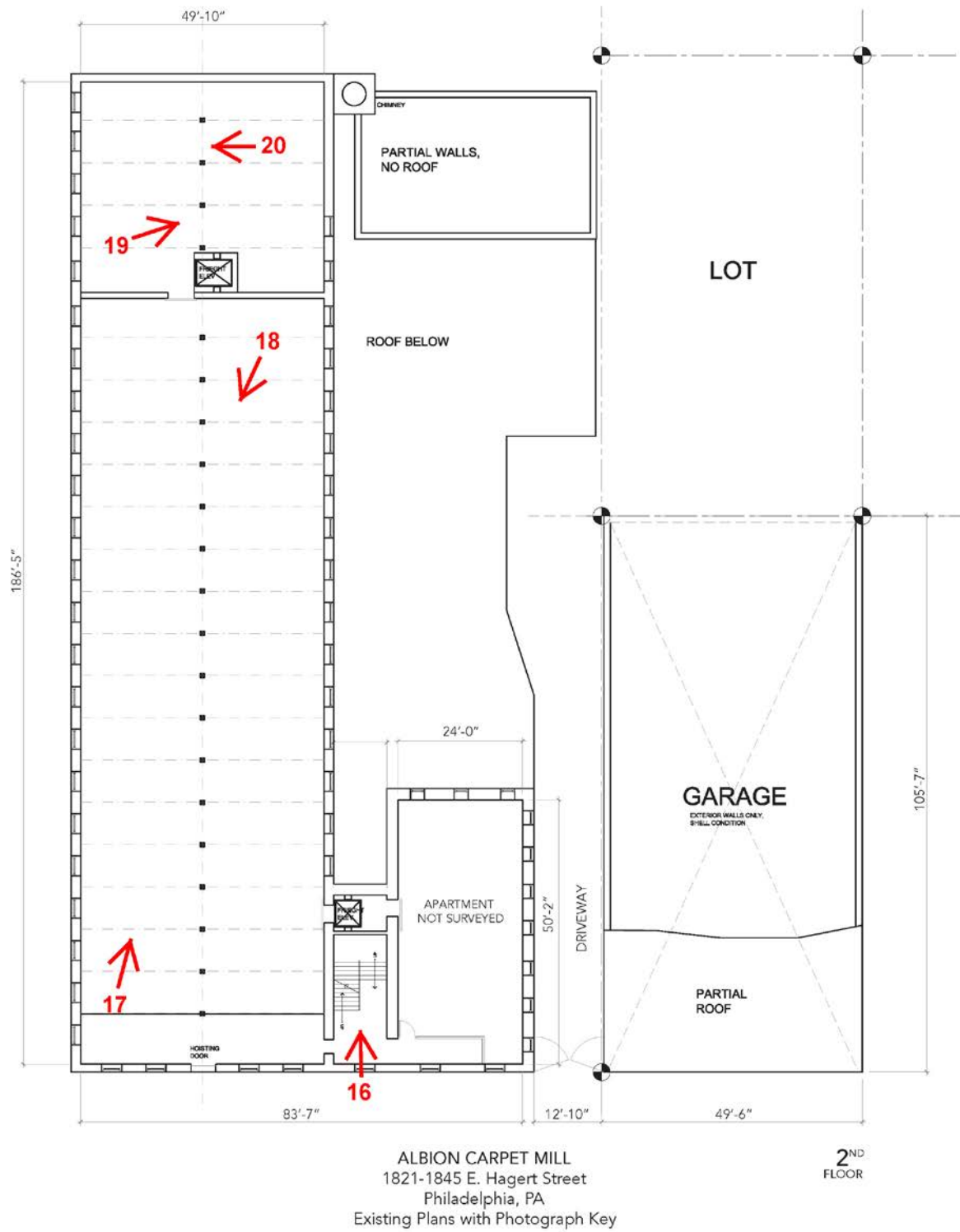
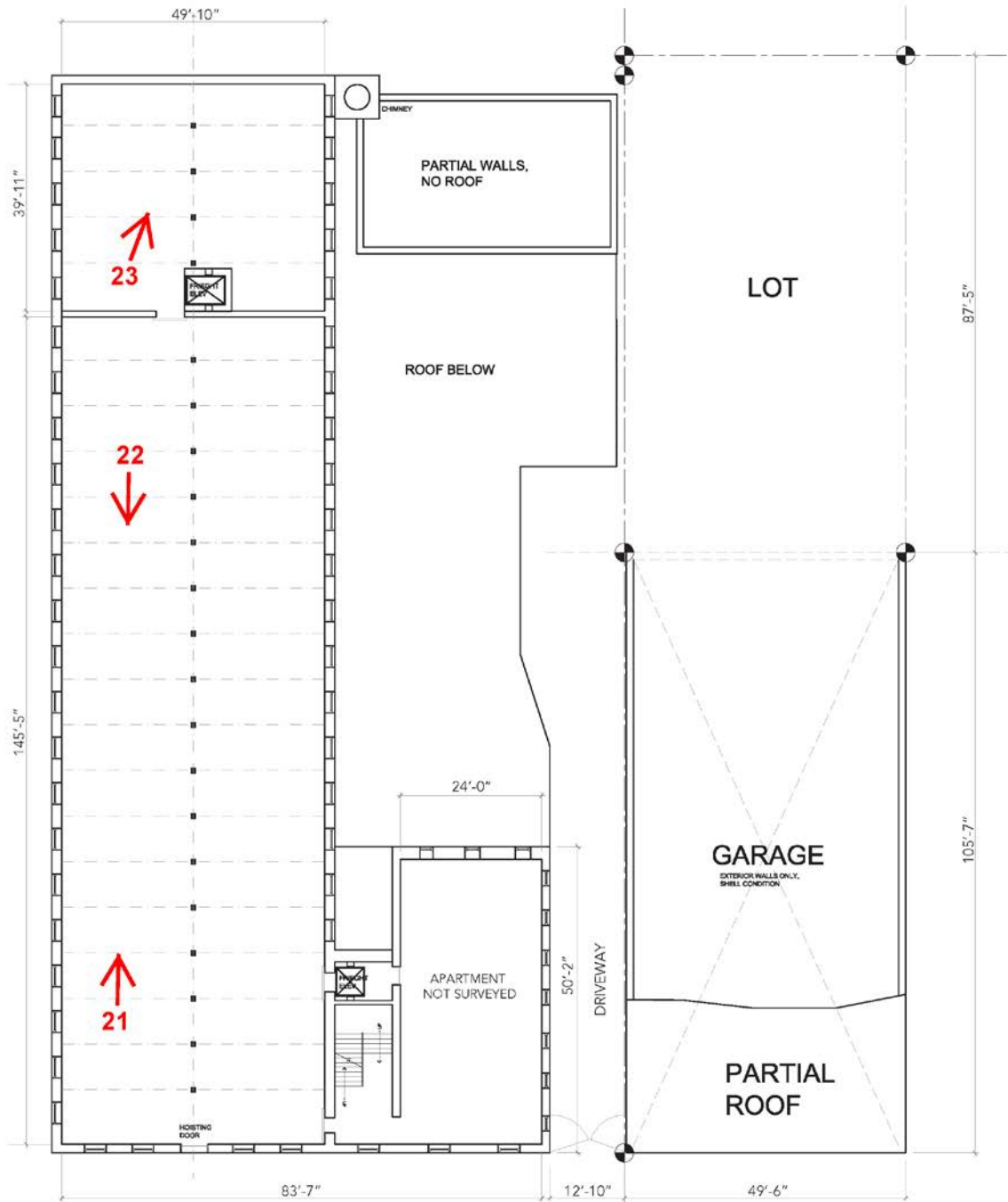


Figure 5

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



ALBION CARPET MILL
1821-1845 E. Hagert Street
Philadelphia, PA
Existing Plans with Photograph Key

3RD
FLOOR

Figure 6

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

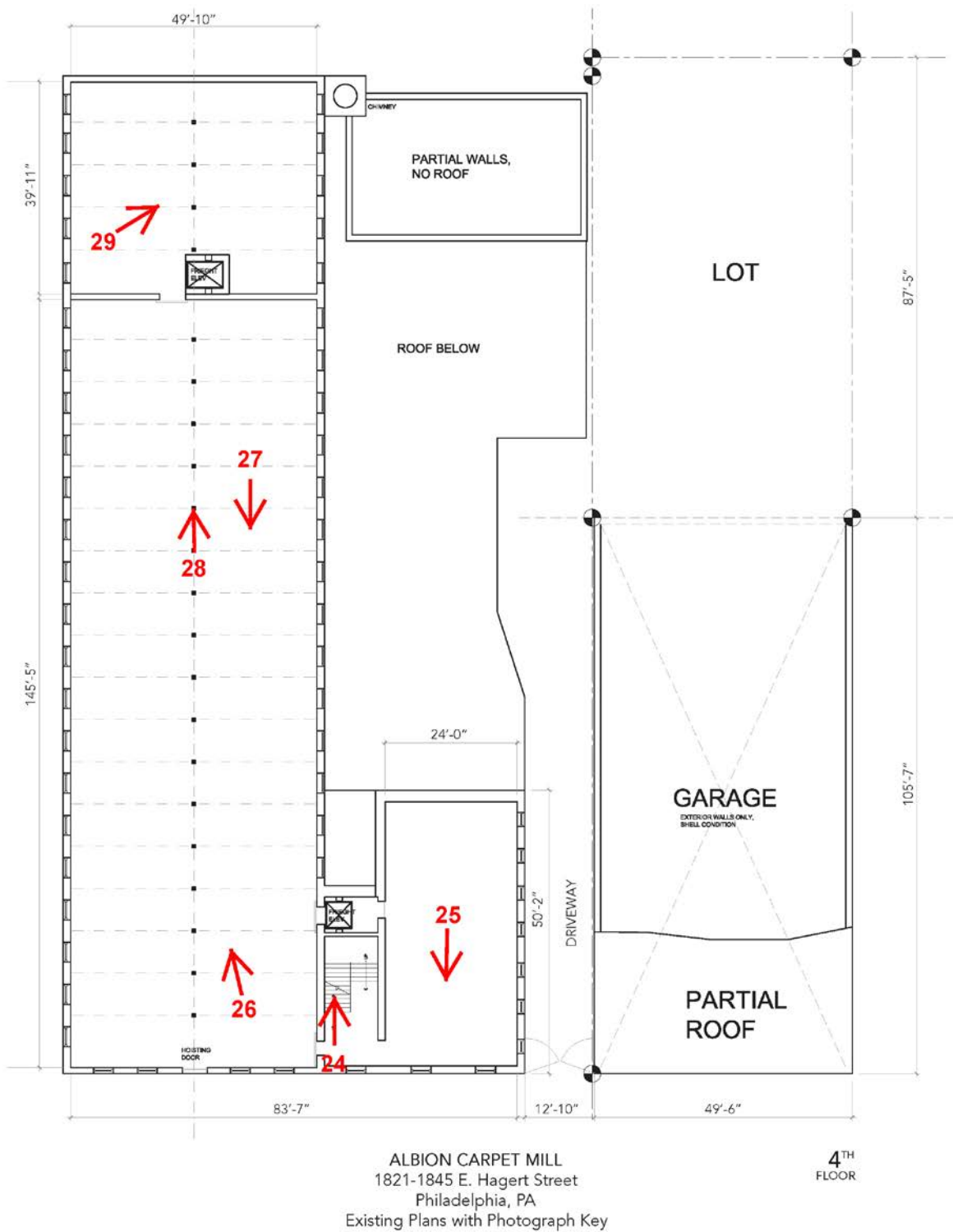


Figure 7

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

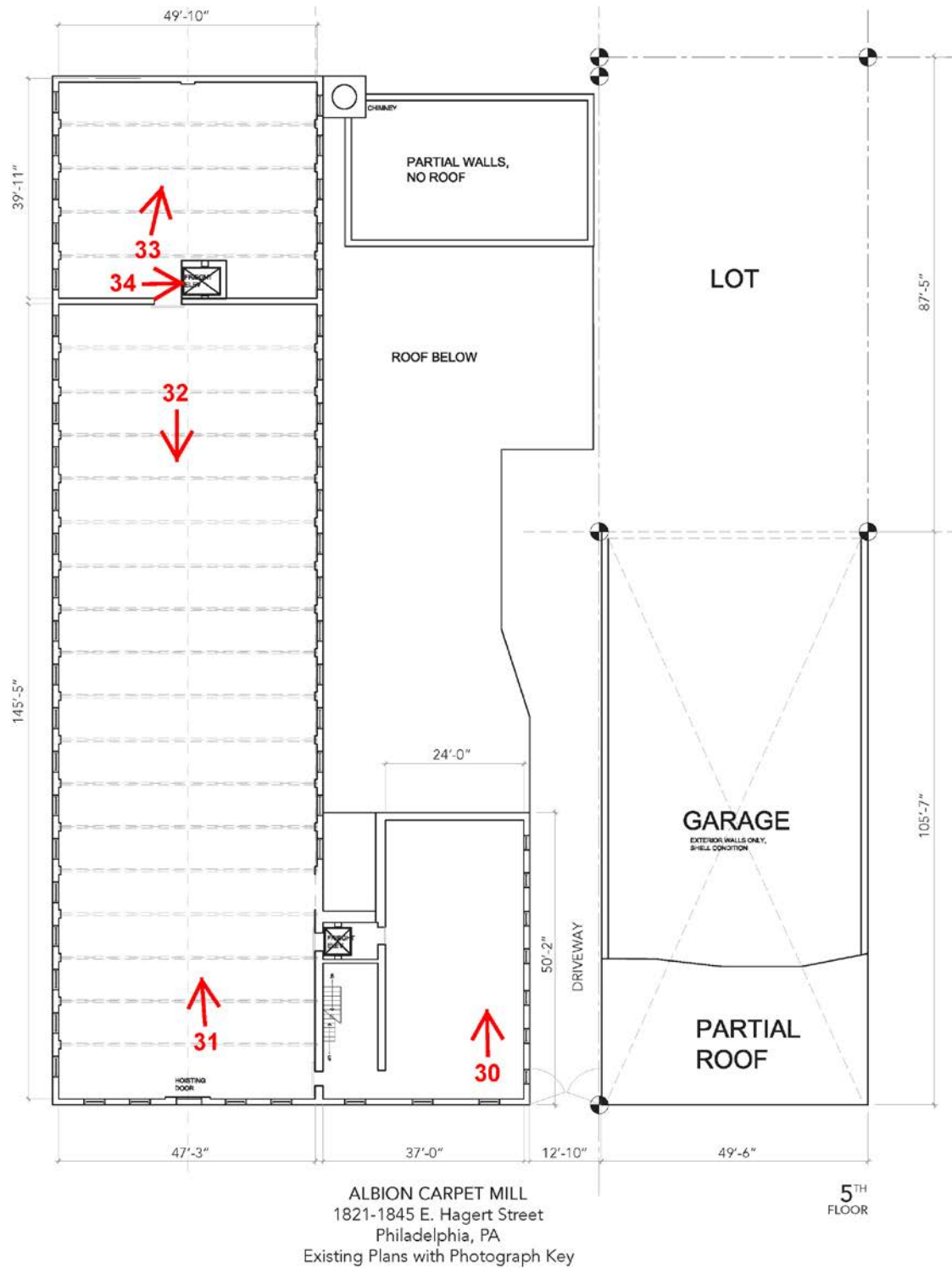


Figure 8

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

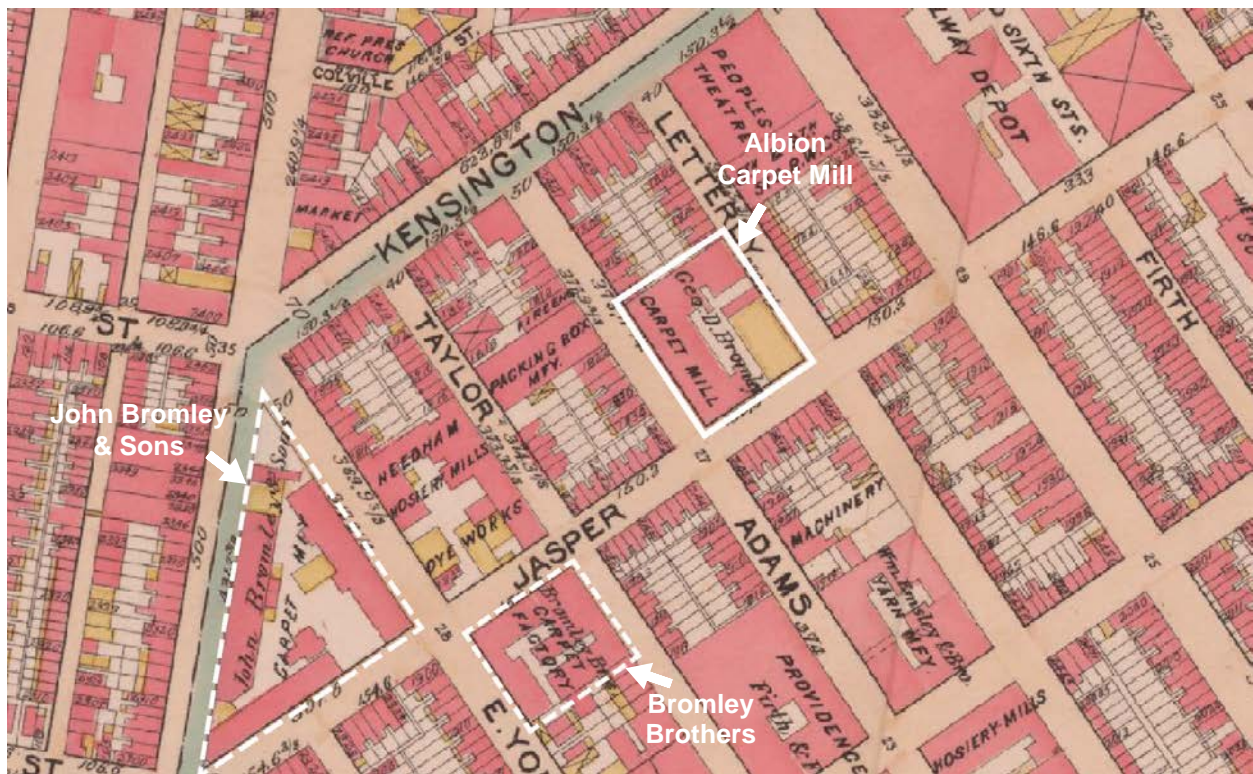


Figure 9 – 1895 Bromley Atlas of Philadelphia, showing original property boundary of the Albion Carpet Mill. Dotted lines indicate the former locations of the John Bromley & Sons and Bromley Brothers mills. (Athenaeum of Philadelphia)

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

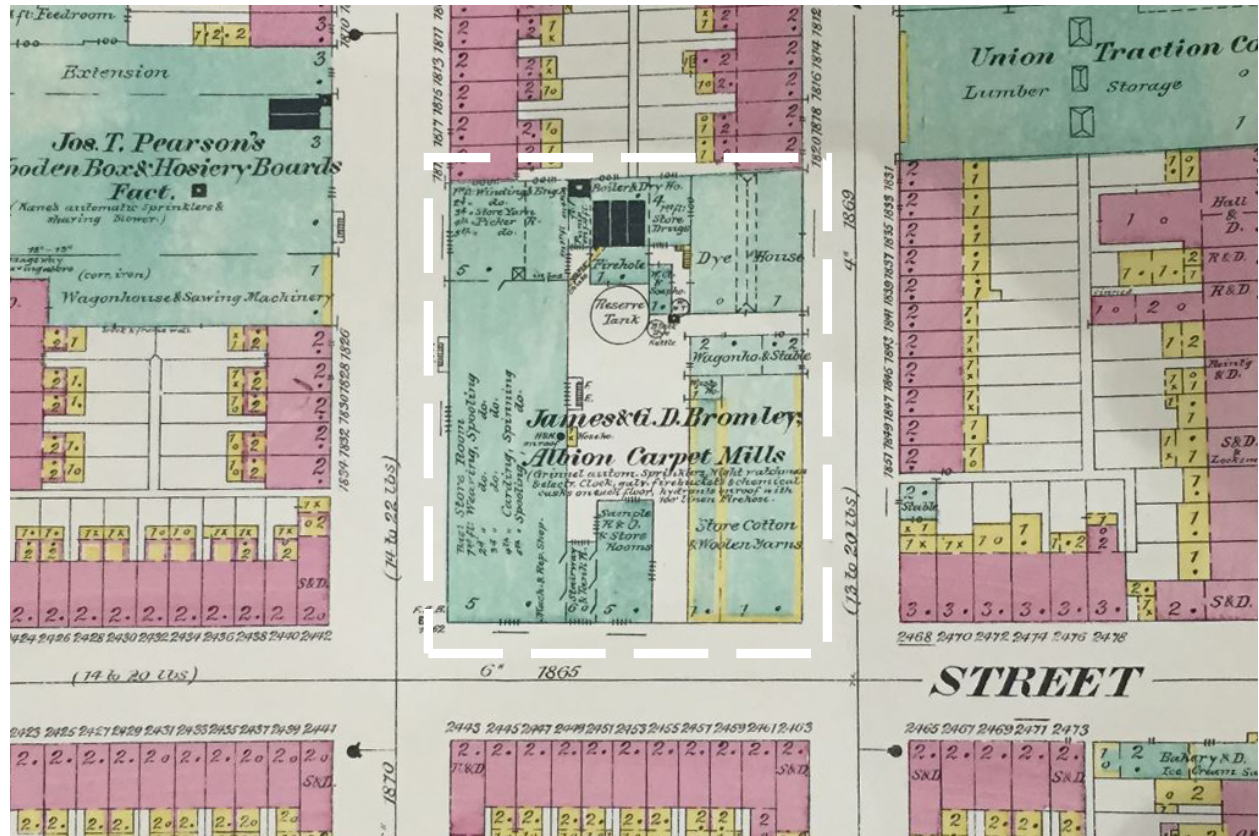


Figure 10 – 1902 Hexamer Fire Insurance Atlas, showing property boundary in white. (Free Library of Philadelphia)

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

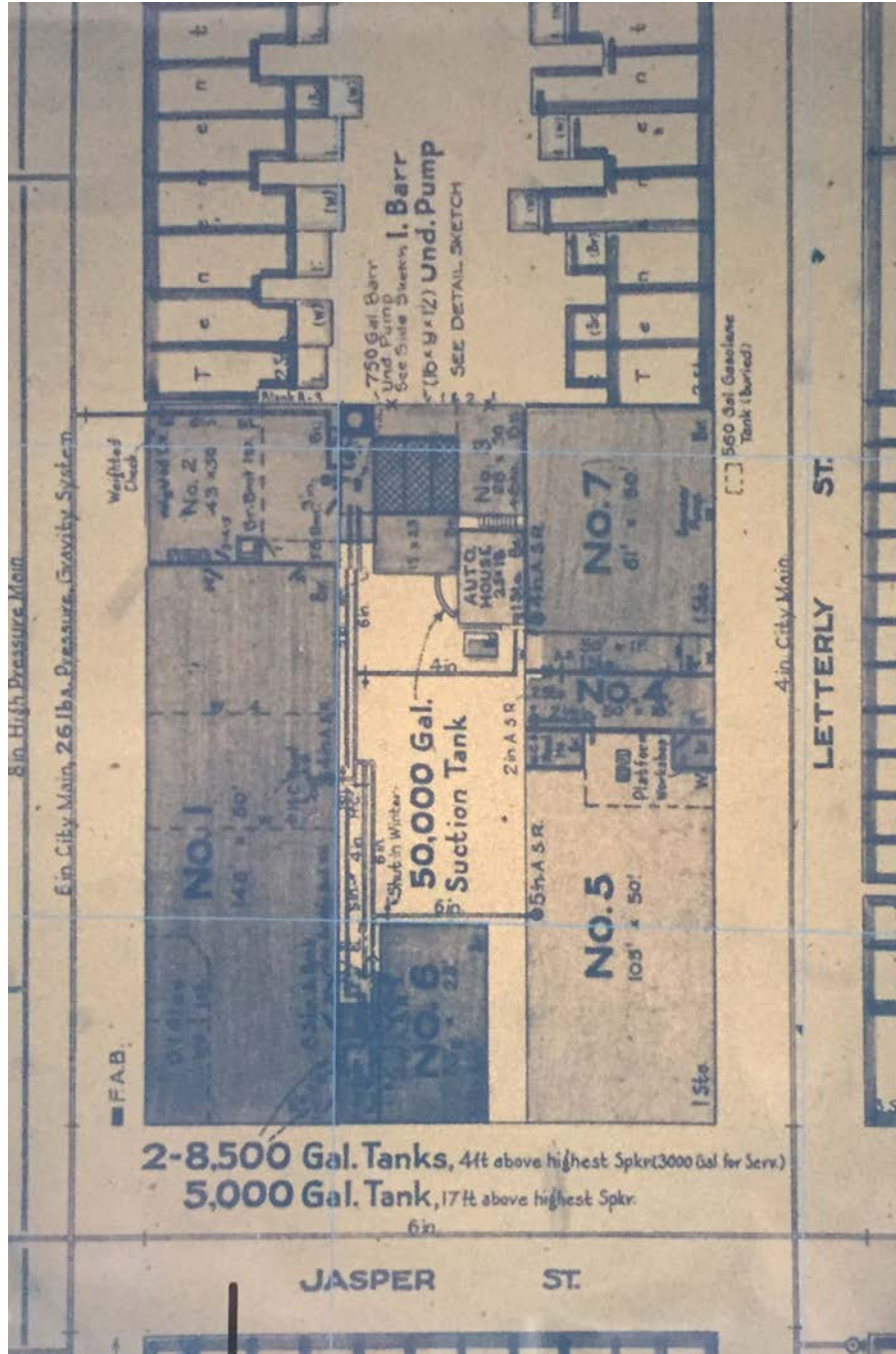


Figure 11 – 1915 Associated Mutual Insurance Survey, Site Plan.
(Free Library of Philadelphia)

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

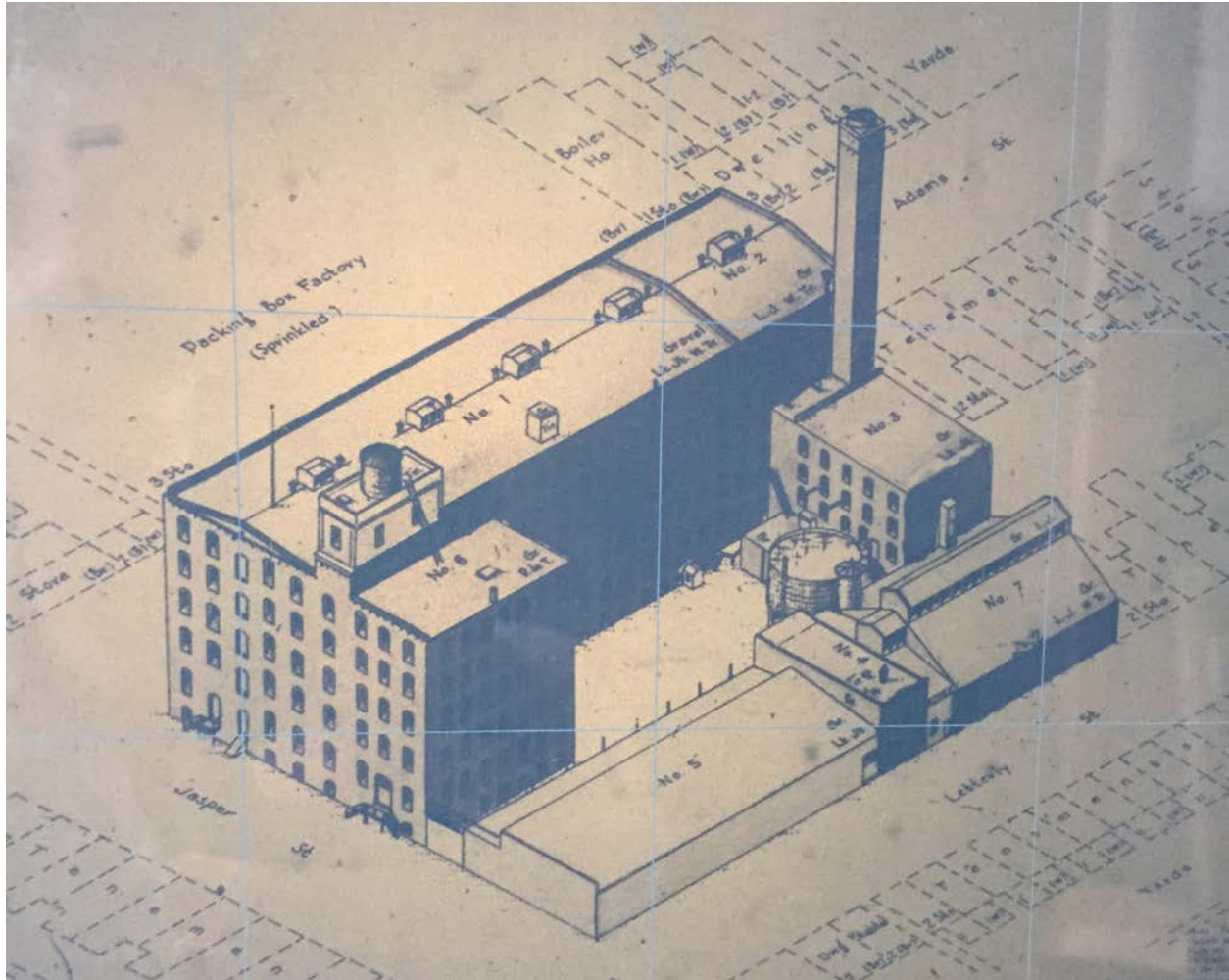


Figure 12 – 1915 Associated Mutual Insurance Survey, Birds Eye View. Shows the original one-story yarn and cotton storage building (No. 5) where the later garage now stands. (Free Library of Philadelphia)

Albion Carpet Mill
 Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
 County and State

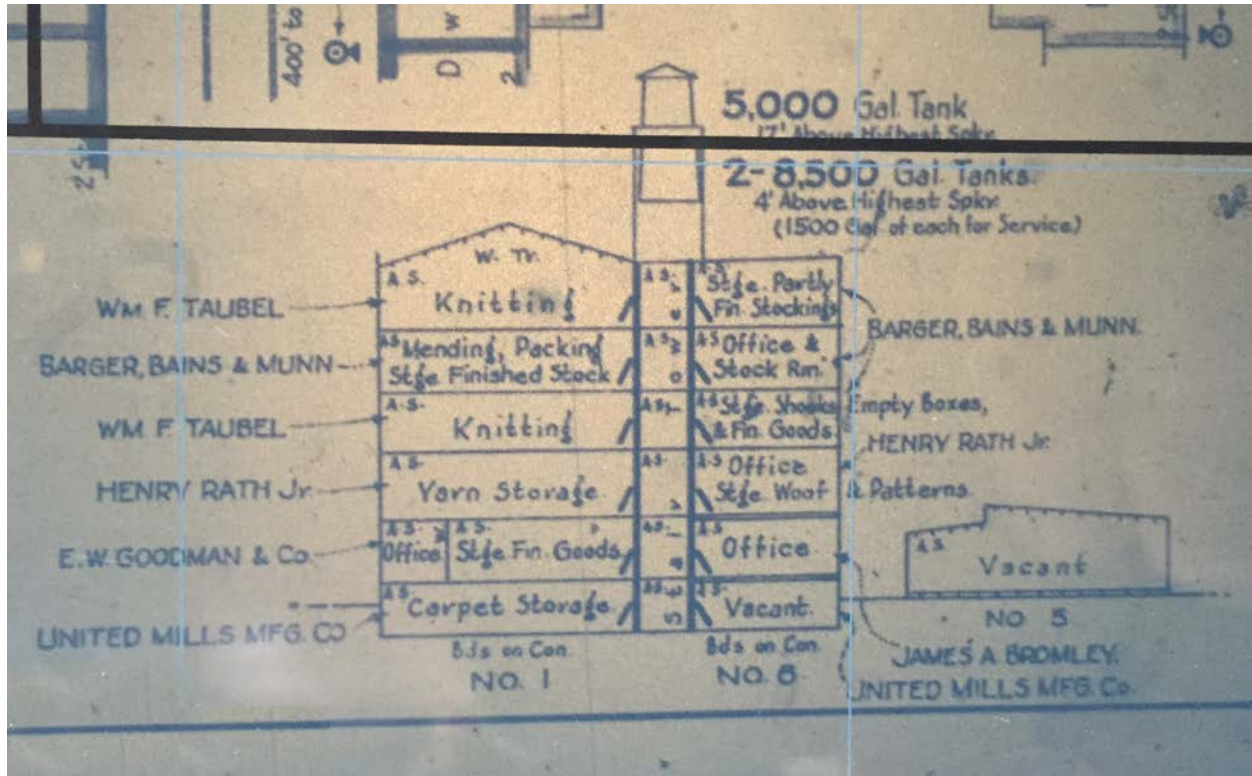


Figure 13 – 1915 Associated Mutual Insurance Survey. Sectional cut looking west, showing the tenancy and function of each floor in Sections A and B. The Bromley family's United Mills company continues to occupy portions of the building.
 (Free Library of Philadelphia)

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

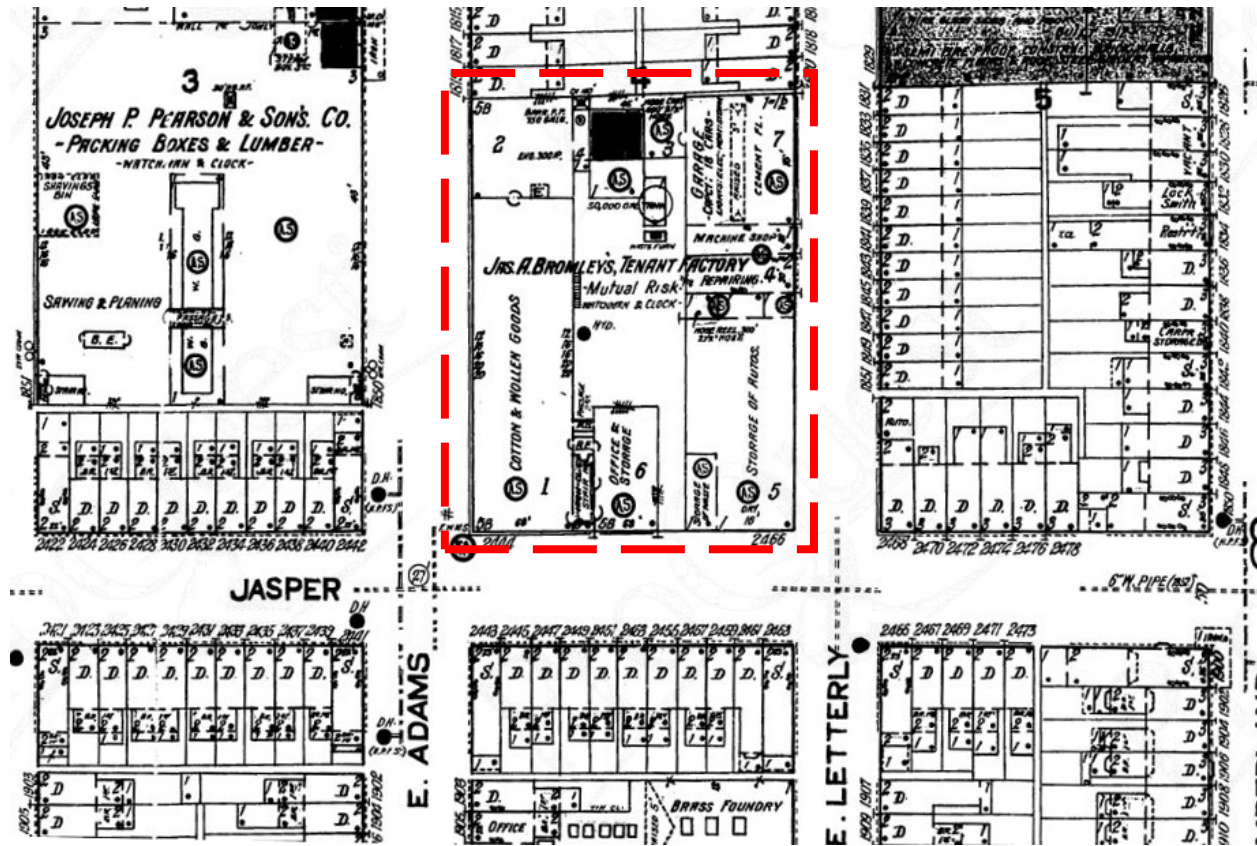


Figure 14 – 1919 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, showing original property boundary in red. (Free Library of Philadelphia) Note that the former Building 5, yarn and cotton storage, is now labeled “Storage of Autos” and the former dye house (Building 7) behind it is “Garage [capacity] 18 cars” with the spaces between labeled “Machine Shop” and “Repairing” (Building 4). These non-textile related buildings (or the sites of the former buildings) are excluded from the nominated property due to lack of association to the textile industry, the Bromley family company, and loss of integrity.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

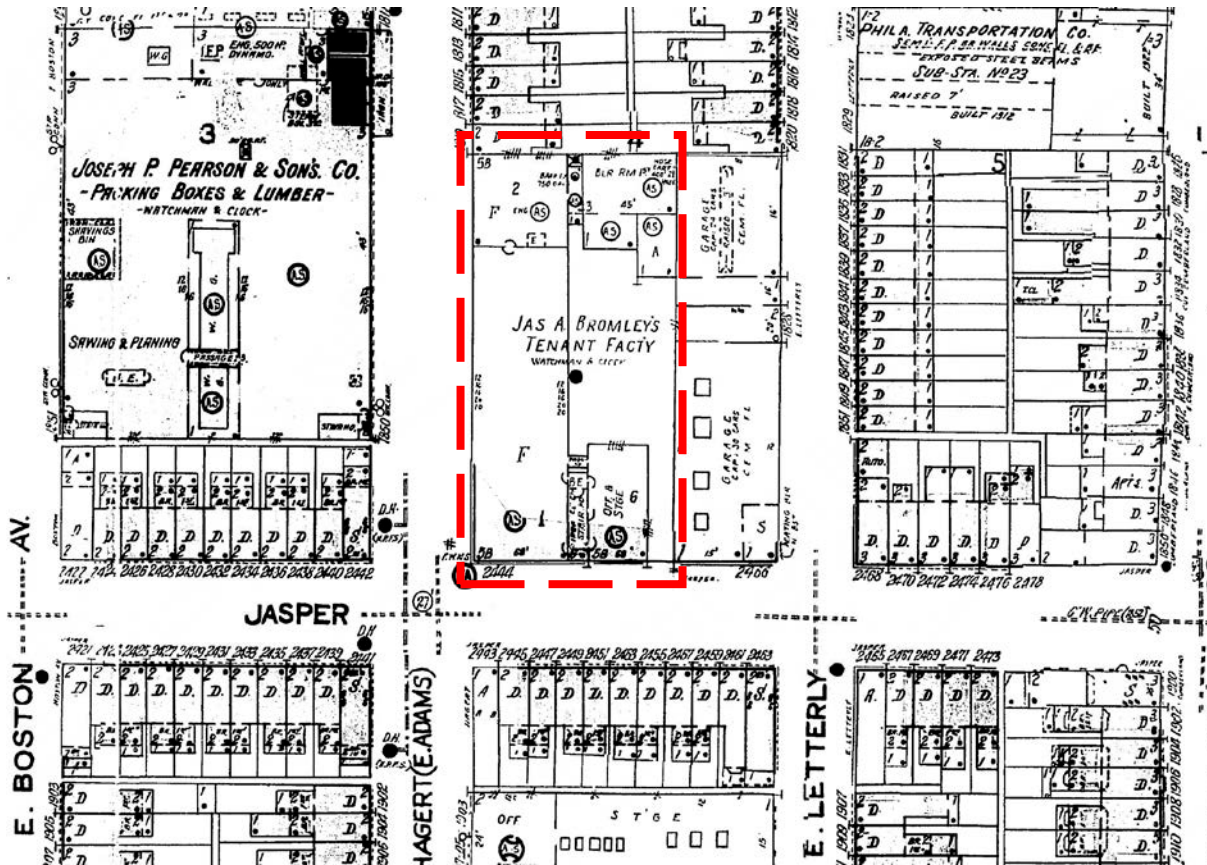


Figure 15 – 1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, showing post-1919 property within in red dashed line, following the sale of a portion of the original Albion property for automobile garage usage. (Free Library of Philadelphia)

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

SAMPLES OF ANY OF OUR GOODS
WILL BE SENT ON APPLICA-
TION TO OUR AGENTS.

Albion Carpet Mills.

JAS. & GEO. D. BROMLEY,
MANUFACTURERS OF
FINE EXTRA-SUPERS
AND
EXTRA-SUPER
COTTON-CHAINS,
ALBION ART SQUARES,
BRUSSELS,
Tapestry and Aubusson Damasks.

T. J. KEVENEY & CO.
Sole Agents,
319 BROADWAY - - - NEW YORK.
102 MARKET STREET - - CHICAGO.

Figure 16 – Advertisement from the *Decorator and Furnisher*, 1886.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

3 THE CARPET AND UPHOLSTERY TRADE REVIEW.

THE
Spring, 1896, Patterns
... OF ...

**ALBION
CARPET MILLS
INGRAINS**

Are Now Ready for Inspection.

SEE THE EXCLUSIVE
NOVELTIES IN OUR
**PATENTED
SPECIALTIES.**

ALBION

- AGRA CARPETS,
- AGRA ART SQUARES,
- ANGLO CARPETS,
- ANGLO ART SQUARES,
- EXTRA SUPER INGRAINS,
- EXTRA SUPER ART SQUARES,
- FLOOR TERRIES, All Colors,
- CALMUCS, All Colors,
- AYRSHIRE EXTRA SUPERS.
An All Wool Extra Super of Popular Quality.

**AYRSHIRE
EXTRA SUPER C. C.'S,**

ALEPPO CARPETS,
A Combination Cotton and Wool Extra Heavy
Fabric in Patented Weave.

ALEPPO ART SQUARES.
Same Fabric as Aleppo Carpets.

JAS. and GEO. D. BROMLEY,
Mills: Adams and Jasper Sts., PHILADELPHIA.

T. J. KEVENEY & CO.,
Sole Agents, 903, 905, 907 Broadway, NEW YORK.

237 Fifth Ave., CHICAGO.
601 Bourse, PHILADELPHIA.
838 Wyandotte St., KANSAS CITY.

Figure 17 – Advertisement from the *Carpet and Upholstery Trade Review*, 1896.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

ALBION CARPET MILLS
Fall (1910) Offerings

AGRA (Patented) Church Carpets	ART SQUARES
ALBION Extra Supers	DEKKAN New effects in popular grades
C. C.'s Full (Standard) 1080 ends	ALBION EXTRA Supers and C. C. Squares
DOUBLE GOLD EAGLE Extra Supers	
GOLD EAGLE Extra Supers	

SCOTCH ART RUGS
Wide range of mission patterns in 75 colorings. All sizes.

COLLEGE RUGS Plain centres, bands at each end. Woven in college colors. Something entirely new.	BUNGALOW RUGS Seamless, reversible. Plain and tone effects.
---	---

THE KHOTAN
A new grade of Seamless Art Rugs for refined furnishings

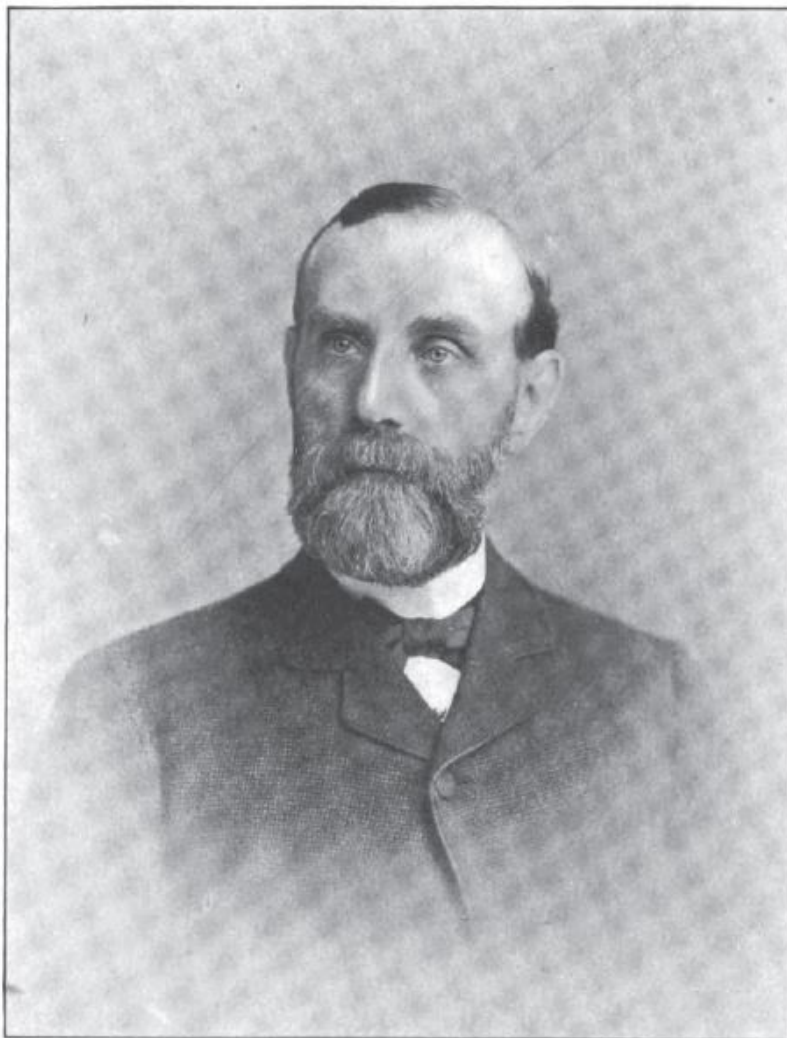
James & Geo. D. Bromley, Mills and Office
Adams and Jasper Streets
Philadelphia, Pa.

NEW YORK SALESROOM: 140 FIFTH AVENUE

Figure 18 – Advertisement from the *American Carpet and Upholstery Journal*, 1910.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



George Day Bromley.

Figure 19 – Portrait of George D. Bromley from the *American Carpet and Upholstery Journal*, 1903. Bromley died October 26, 1903, and was lauded with a full-page obituary in the journal's November issue.

Albion Carpet Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Figure 20: USGS Map, excerpt from Philadelphia Quadrangle.



For Sale
Call [phone number]
[address]

ONE WAY

LET'S GO
[phone number]
[address]







NO PARKING
ANY TIME

Home Inspection
Call 212-212-2122





513

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16 16

5-15

4

13

EXIT

JENSEN MOVERS & STORAGE

LOCAL & LONG DISTANCE
MIGRATION
EST. 1978



25 22





LEFT

25

20 21

WASH-LESS
ALL PURPOSE
CLEANER







E

D

1R

Parsons























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Albion Carpet Mill
NAME:

MULTIPLE Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelp
NAME: hia, Pennsylvania MPS

STATE & COUNTY: PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia

DATE RECEIVED: 11/27/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/30/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/14/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/12/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000973

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1-12-16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

Room 578 City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107
Tel: 215 686 7860
Fax: 215 686 7674

Sari Sherman, Jr.
Chair

Jonathan E. Farnham, Ph.D.
Executive Director

30 September 2015

April E. Frantz
Preservation Specialist
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Re: Albion Carpet Mill, 1821-1845 E. Hagert Street, Philadelphia

Dear Ms. Frantz:

I am writing in response to your request that the Philadelphia Historical Commission provide its official Certified Local Government recommendation on the nomination proposing to add the Albion Carpet Mill in Philadelphia to the National Register of Historic Places. At a staff meeting on 29 September 2015, the staff of the Philadelphia Historical Commission reviewed and discussed the nomination. The staff agreed that the building at 1821-1845 E. Hagert Street satisfies National Register Criterion A for industry. The history related to the Bromley family's multiple carpet production efforts in the immediate neighborhood, and the history related to the labor strike were of particular interest to our staff. The staff contends that the resource retains sufficient integrity to be added to the National Register.

The staff of the Philadelphia Historical Commission unanimously supports the listing of 1821-1845 E. Hagert Street in Philadelphia on the National Register of Historic Places. Thank you for providing the Philadelphia Historical Commission staff with the opportunity to comment on this nomination.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon F.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jonathan E. Farnham, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Pennsylvania
Historical & Museum
Commission

RECEIVED 2280

NOV 27 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

November 10, 2015

Stephanie Toothman, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, US Department of Interior
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, 8th Floor
Washington D.C. 20005

Re: Albion Carpet Mill, Philadelphia, PA

Dear Ms Toothman:

The Albion Carpet Mill National Register of Historic Places nomination is being submitted for your review. Enclosed please find a signed first page, a CD containing the true and correct copy of the nomination, a CD with tif images, and a paper copy of the letter of support from the CLG.

The proposed action for the nomination is listing in the National Register, and the recommended level of significance is "local." Our staff and Historic Preservation Board members support this nomination. If you have any questions regarding the nomination please contact me at 717-783-9922 or afrantz@pa.gov. Thank you for your consideration of this property.

Sincerely,

April E. Frantz
National Register Reviewer/Eastern Region

enc.

Historic Preservation Services
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093
www.phmc.state.pa.us
The Commonwealth's Official History Agency