

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Name of Property
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_ Page 1

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: SG100004785

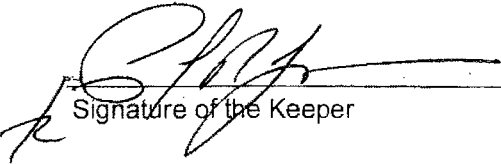
Date Listed: 12/19/2019

Property Name: Moore Fabric Company Plant

County: Providence

State: RI

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

  
Signature of the Keeper

12/19/2019  
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

**Significance**

The Period of Significance is revised to read: 1921-1955. [This correlates to the property's association with the Moore Fabric Company and modifications/alterations/additions made to the buildings to suit their textile production. The portions of the building associated with the Glendana Silk Mills were heavily altered by the Moore firm and the overall integrity of the building best reflects the significance of the Moore Fabric Company operation. The Glendana operation, while important to establishing an industrial foundation at this site, failed before commencing production at the new plant and appears to have been of limited industrial significance to the city.]

**Photographic Documentation**

The photographic images date from 2017 and 2019 and reflect the general current conditions of the property. [Original nomination failed to provide a date for the photos]

- November 2017: Photo 5
- March 2019: Photos 6-10, 13, 15, 16, 20, 23-25, 28, 29, 33
- April 2019: Photos 14, 18
- May 2019: Photos 2, 11, 12, 17, 19, 21, 22, 26, 27, 30-32, 34
- June 2019: Photos 1, 3, 4

**Bibliographical References**

Previous Documentation on File. The box for *Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing* (36 CFR 67) should be checked. [Part 1 certification approved 3/11/2019, Case No. 39778.]

The RHODE ISLAND SHPO was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

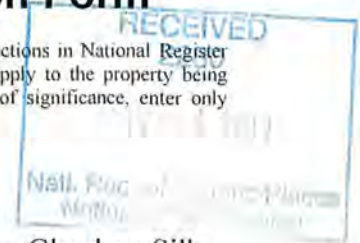
- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

4785

# 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: Moore Fabric Company Plant

Other names/site number: Washington Street School, Flynn Cigar Company, Glendana Silk Mill, General Fabric Company

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 45-47 Washington Street

City or town: Pawtucket State: RI County: Providence

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

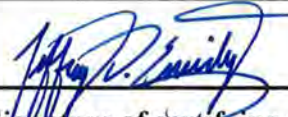
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

	<u>10-31-2019</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AND HERITAGE COMMISSION</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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

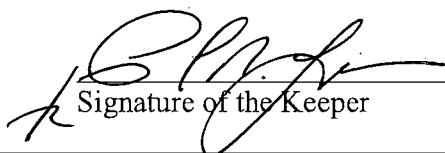
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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

  
Signature of the Keeper

12/19/2019  
Date of Action

#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

##### Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)   
District   
Site   
Structure   
Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	sites
<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	structures
<u>        </u>	<u>        </u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register         

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/20<sup>th</sup>-century industrial  
LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, METAL (aluminum), WOOD

### Narrative Description

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

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### Summary Paragraph

The Moore Fabric Company Plant is an intact mill complex of six connected buildings occupying a two-acre site in the densely-settled, predominantly residential Woodlawn neighborhood of Pawtucket, Rhode Island. The construction of buildings for textile use at the complex occurred from 1919 to 1920 under the ownership of the Glendana Silk Mills, and from 1921 to 1954 under the ownership of the Moore Fabric Company. Contributing resources include: an altered, wood-frame, two-room schoolhouse that was erected in 1878, decommissioned in 1902, and integrated into the textile-production process beginning in 1919; a brick sawtooth weave shed erected for the Glendana Silk Mills (1919) and its accompanying boiler house (1921); and two later weave sheds built by the Moore Fabric Company (ca. 1933 and 1949), also of brick. Frame additions to the schoolhouse (dating from 1921 to ca. 1950 and described collectively as Building 4) include the principal façade on Washington Street and infill connecting it to the 1919 weave shed.

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## Narrative Description

### Contributing Buildings

#### Building 1

##### Washington Street School (1878)

This is a 2½-story, frame, end-gable Italianate schoolhouse measuring 50' by 34'. Decommissioned in 1902, the school sat vacant until 1909. It was used for cigar manufacturing from 1909 to 1917 and adapted for textile manufacturing uses from 1919 to 2018. The gable roof survives, rising above surrounding industrial flat roofs. The foundation comprises a roughly 7'-high, coarse rubble base with approximately sixteen courses of brick set on top.

While the second story of this building is clear span, the first floor has nine steel and timber columns. These columns and their basement footings suggest that, during the Moore occupation, there was significant industrial loading on the second floor or weakened floor members that needed strengthening.

On the interior, most of the original hardwood floors survive. Other surviving elements of the schoolhouse are inventoried below.

#### North wall:

**Exterior.** This is the only schoolhouse wall with significant surviving interior and exterior architectural features. Beneath the aluminum siding is original clapboard sheathing with 7.25"-wide cornerboards. The original wooden bracketed cornice is intact and visible above the siding. Between 1923 and 1949, Moore Fabric built a single-story, concrete block addition (now aluminum sided) on this wall to enclose an exit. Originally 7'-deep by 7'-long, it was extended westerly after 1949 to its current 23' length.

Eight of the original ten window openings (four on each floor) survive with intact moulded trim, though the original double-hung windows have been replaced with vinyl sash. Though covered on the exterior, both sash of an original 6/6, double-hung, wood sash window exist in-situ within an interior wall. This sash is 40" wide by 44" high with 12" by 20" lights.

**Interior.** This wall retains areas of 3.25" beadboard wainscoting and a moulded chair rail from the schoolhouse period, along with flat window trim and sills. Extant wider (5.5") beadboard appears to be from the period of industrial use.

#### West wall:

A section of the first-floor exterior west wall survives in the form of framing and clapboard sheathing within a 20'-wide interior corridor between the schoolhouse and Building 2 (Glendana

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Silk Mill). The tarpaper-covered exterior of the original west gable with intact cornice brackets is visible.<sup>1</sup>

#### **East wall:**

Significant elements of the first floor east wall survive now as an interior wall between the schoolhouse and ca. 1922 eastward expansion of the Moore operation (Section B of Building 4). These elements include framing, cornerboards and clapboard sheathing. On the second floor, the wall was removed after 1949, its location marked by a single square-section timber column. As is the case with the west wall, the gable end survives and is visible from the exterior of the building. Similar to the west end, the wooden cornice and brackets survive intact and the wall is tarpaper-covered. It is likely that there was an oculus on this gable end.<sup>2</sup> In the 20<sup>th</sup> century this opening was filled with an exhaust fan. It is unknown whether an original oculus casing is intact.

#### **South wall:**

The sole indicator of this former wall is a succession of square-section timber columns on both floors. Sistered to these square columns are studs which support a simple truss; these are mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century Moore-era improvements.

### **Building No. 2**

#### **Glendana Silk Mill Weave Shed (1919)**

**Dwight Seabury, architect; C.I. Bigney Construction Co., builder**

This is a 2-story, predominantly brick, pier and spandrel building measuring 78' in width by 128' in length. Recessed panels between the piers are corbelled out to the plane of the piers above the second story windows. The foundation is brick. The east wall is of frame construction.<sup>3</sup> Attached to its northwest corner is a combined Boiler House and Machine Shop (see Building 3 below). Infill construction to the east provides communication to the 1878 schoolhouse and post-1923 southern additions to the schoolhouse (see Building 4). During the latter Moore Fabric period, the company built an enclosed stairway from the northeast corner of the second floor of Bldg. 2 down to the mill yard at the north end of the property.

The weave shed roof comprises six sawtooth structures combining timber elements with 16"-high steel *I*-beams. This roof is supported by 5.5" round-section, steel columns. Each sawtooth has a six-light oculus on its east and west gable ends. Originally glazed, the north-facing surfaces of the sawtooth have been replaced with translucent, ribbed fiberglass panels.

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<sup>1</sup> It is unknown whether original clapboard sheathing survives under its tarpaper surface.

<sup>2</sup> Evidence suggesting the location of a former oculus is found in an engraving of the Smithfield Avenue School, a schoolhouse of similar scale and design erected contemporaneously by the Town of Pawtucket (see Figure 2).

<sup>3</sup> It was relatively common for brick factories of this period to build one wall of frame construction with an eye toward later expansion. The original parcel as purchased by Moore in 1921 obviated expansion to the north or south. This, however, is an unsatisfactory explanation for the frame construction because of the close proximity of the schoolhouse. It is possible that Glendana anticipated demolition of the schoolhouse but abandoned that idea when market conditions placed the company in financial difficulties.

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The north elevation is eight bays wide, with freight entrances on each floor of the westernmost bay. The surviving second-floor freight doors are paired and of frame construction with a fixed six-light sash in each door. Segmental-arch window openings with simple cast-concrete sills occupy the remaining bays. Some window openings on the first floor are filled with plywood inserts while a few contain original, paired, 9/9, wood sash. Paired, vinyl, 1/1, replacement sash are found on the second floor. On the 13-bay west elevation, windows are predominantly original, paired, 9/9 wood sash set within segmental-arch openings with simple, cast-concrete sills. Although paired, original frame windows survive on the second-floor south elevation, no windows survive on the original first floor south wall as this became an interior wall when Building 4 was erected in the mid-1930s. As built in 1919, the east wall is of frame construction with no window openings.

### **Building No. 3**

**Moore Fabric Co. Boiler House/Machine Shop (1921 et seq.)**  
**Dwight Seabury, architect; C.I. Bigney Construction Co., builder**

This irregularly-shaped, single-story building with a near-flat roof extends off the north end of the west elevation of Building No. 2. Overall dimensions are 62' in length by a width that tapers from 22' at the north end to 12' at the south. It is comprised of two chambers separated by a brick interior wall: the north chamber, measuring 30' in length and built of brick, was constructed in 1921 while the south chamber, measuring 32' in length with wood-frame south and west walls, was added ca. 1935. The north chamber, which housed the plant's boiler, was built for the Glendana Silk Mill steam heating plant. The south chamber, built by the Moore Fabric Company, served as a machine shop.

#### **North chamber (1921).**

This room is characterized by brick walls, a concrete floor, molded wood cornice, and an approximately 18' high ceiling with a large, metal skylight. The skylight appears to date to the same period as the original 1930s skylights of Building 5 (now removed).

A freight door opens off the east elevation. A single, metal-frame, rectangular window on the west wall appears to be a later, likely 1930s, alteration. The original, 6-light, hopper has been modified to accept a plywood panel into which an exhaust fan has been mounted. Although the north chamber housed two boilers in 1949, in the latter years of Moore Fabric Company and its successor company, there was a single boiler (now removed).

#### **South chamber (ca. 1935).**

Built off the south end of the north chamber and alongside the west elevation of Building 2, this room has north and east walls of brick and wood-frame south and west walls. Its ceiling height is approximately 14' and the floor is concrete. Sole access to this room is by way of the interior of Building 2: the knee wall below a former segmental-arch exterior window was removed to create a doorway. To the immediate south of this doorway are two former west wall exterior window openings with casings and sash removed. Two, small, metal skylights provide light to the



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interior. This room is shown as a machine shop on the 1949 Sanborn drawing. The sole piece of textile-related equipment, a large, Moore-era air compressor survives in the southeast corner of this chamber.

#### **Building No. 4** **Moore Fabric Co. Extensions and Infill from Schoolhouse (1921 - ca. 1950)**

Building 4 is the result of several construction campaigns over a roughly thirty-year period. For sake of clarity, these contiguous additions and infill are treated as a single building with three distinct sections. In all sections the original clapboard is covered with vinyl or a combination of vinyl and aluminum siding. All sections have flat roofs. (See Building Key for a depiction of these building campaigns.)

**Section A.** After the construction of Building 2 in 1919, a narrow, frame walkway was built to provide communication between the former schoolhouse (Building 1) and the Glendana Silk Mill (Building 2). By 1949 Moore Fabric had extended this space, measuring roughly 20' by 65', to the south along the east wall of Building 2.

**Section B.** Shortly after acquiring the Glendana plant in July 1921, Moore Fabric built a two-story addition from the east wall of the former schoolhouse, extending the plant easterly to Washington Street. Originally used for inspection and packing, by 1949 the company had doubled the size of this addition, extending it to the south. The east elevation of Section B became the principal elevation of the plant, providing its main entrance, a single door (modern replacement) surmounted by an overhanging frame cornice. Windows in this section are trimmed with plain, flat boards and grouped<sup>4</sup> on the first floor and single on the second. First-floor sash are wooden; second-floor are 6/6, double hung, vinyl replacement sash. The interior of this section is clear span; the necessity for columns obviated by the later insertion of a 24" rolled steel *I*-beam. A mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century metal freight door is found on the first floor of the south elevation.

**Section C.** Between 1921 and 1923 Moore Fabric built a single-story, frame, 65' by 20' storehouse south of Section B. An enclosed walkway provided communication to the former schoolhouse. By 1949 Moore Fabric had raised this formerly freestanding building to two stories and connected it to the east wall of Building 2 and Sections A and B, thus forming an *L*-shape. Windows on the first floor of the east elevation are trimmed with plain board and grouped in threes; second floor windows are single. Windows on both floors of the south elevation are single. These are all late 20<sup>th</sup>-century replacement types.

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<sup>4</sup> On the first floor east elevation the groups are of (south to north) three, three, three, four, and three windows. The first floor of the north elevation has (east to west) a single, single, pair, and single window.

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### **Building No. 5** **Moore Fabric Co. First Weave Shed (ca. 1933)**

Originally built by Moore Fabric Co. for elastic narrow fabric weaving, this is a single-story, brick weave shed with a shallow gable roof that originally included a series of skylights (removed between 1951 and 1962); it is now covered with synthetic membrane. The roof has a slight overhang that features exposed rafter ends. Measuring 100' by 110', Building 5 shares the south wall of Building 2 and opens fully into Building 6. It is also attached to the south wall of the Moore-era extensions and infill labeled here as Building 4. Windows are 25-light, rectangular, steel sash with a central, six-light hopper, and have simple, concrete sills. Of particular interest are the 7'-high brick buttresses placed between windows at each bay along the east and west elevations.<sup>5</sup> These are 18" wide and 12" deep, with a sloped concrete cap. There are no exterior doors on this building: Entrance to the first floor of the attached Glendana weave shed (Building 2) is by way of two openings cut through Glendana's original exterior south wall. Interior framing consists of a single row of 10"-square, timber columns placed at the ridge line of the gable roof. The strength of the roof's timber truss work is reinforced by steel tie rods and turnbuckles at each bay. The floor is concrete. Extending from the east elevation and original to the building is a one-story, brick, 35' by 8' bathroom with a shallow-pitched, gable roof.

### **Building No. 6** **Moore Fabric Co. 2<sup>nd</sup> Weave Shed (1949)**

This is a single-story, brick weave shed measuring 88' by 110', extending from the south end of Building 5. No interior wall separates the two buildings. The shallow-pitched, gable roof has a slight overhang with exposed rafter ends and is covered with synthetic membrane. Windows are rectangular, steel-frame, 24-light with a 4-light, central hopper and have concrete sills and brick, flat arch lintels.

The south elevation is eleven bays wide with a pair of modern steel doors in the center bay. The center bay and the two end bays project slightly from the rest of the façade and are topped with a low, brick parapet with plain concrete coping. A decorative rectangular area of header-bond brick is set above the windows and doors of these three bays. The interior of Building 6 is characterized by the roof framing, which includes rolled steel *I*-beams supported by four rows of 8" round-section, steel columns, and a concrete floor.

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<sup>5</sup> This building is unlike the pier-and-spandrel design of the 1919 Glendana Weave Shed, which has thickened piers in the area between windows. The exterior buttresses may have been necessitated by fact that the building's roof is supported by a single row of center columns.

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**Non-Contributing:**

**Building No. 7**  
**Oil Tank Enclosure (late 20<sup>th</sup> century)**

This is a small, freestanding, single-story, concrete block building measuring roughly 18' by 25'. Located immediately north of the north (boiler room) chamber of Building 3, it houses a steel oil tank.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

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

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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1919-1955

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1919, 1921, ca. 1933, 1949

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Dwight Seabury, architect, and C.I. Bigney Construction Company, builder:  
Glendana Silk Mill Weave Shed (Building 2) and Moore Fabric Co. Boiler House (Building  
3, north chamber)

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### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Moore Fabric Company plant, built between 1919 and 1949<sup>6</sup>, exemplifies the high level of specialization characteristic of the Rhode Island textile industry following World War I, during the period of decline of massive-scale cotton and worsted production. The 1919 Glendana Silk Mill (Building 2) represents a period when Pawtucket emerged as a regional center of silk manufacture. Buildings 3-6 (ca. 1933-1949) represent the adaptation of the former silk plant and construction of new buildings for innovation in and manufacture of narrow elastic fabric. As such, the plant is significant on the local level under National Register **Criterion A**. The Period of Significance represents the period from the construction of the Glendana Silk Mill weave shed in 1919, through the adaptation of this mill for narrow fabric manufacture under John V. Moore in the 1930s, and to Moore's retirement and sale of the company in 1954-5.

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

By the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, textile innovators were adapting standard-width power looms to produce narrow fabric, or "web," for a wide range of uses. Contemporaneous with these innovations were efforts to introduce rubber elements into cotton weaving in order to give elasticity to the fabric. Practical experiments in the introduction of rubber elements into fabric, however, would have to wait until the invention of vulcanization in the mid-1830s, a process by which the coagulated sap of the rubber tree (normally sensitive to temperature change) was rendered stable.<sup>7</sup> By 1840, the Connecticut firm of Hotchkiss and Pritchard enjoyed some success in rolling raw rubber into sheets, slicing it into long strips, and integrating it into narrow fabric for the manufacture of men's suspenders.

Although many individuals in 19<sup>th</sup> century textile manufacture contributed to improvements in weaving narrow fabric, the work of George C. Moore (ca. 1857-1931), father of John V. Moore (whose plant is the subject of this nomination), deserves special note.

### The George C. Moore Company

George C. Moore was born in Congleton, England in 1857. As a boy in the 1870s, he served an apprenticeship in the weaving trades and, at age 18, emigrated to the United States in search of similar work. Within a year he had found work at Glendale Elastic Fabrics Co. in Easthampton, Massachusetts, a company that Moore returned to in 1882 after learning various aspects of the

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<sup>6</sup> Although the Washington Street School (Building 1) was erected in 1878 before the start date of the Period of Significance, it achieved significance as part of this plant with its acquisition by the Glendana Silk Mills in 1919 and continued industrial use until 2017.

<sup>7</sup> Vulcanization involved the treatment of latex with sulfur under the influence of heat. Although often attributed solely to Charles Goodyear, who noted in his autobiography that he first observed the phenomenon in 1835, Nathaniel Hayward and Friedrich Ludersdorf discovered sulfur's effect on raw rubber in the period 1832-4. Hayward was associated with Goodyear and may have been the source of Goodyear's inspiration to combine the action of sulfur with heat.

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elastic narrow fabric trade at several different companies. He returned as overseer of a department that wove “goring,” a type of cloth used in shoe manufacture, and within a year was made superintendent of the plant. Moore remained there until 1894, securing important patents in loom manufacture and elastic webbing.

The bicycle was gaining widespread popularity in the 1890s and, while at Glendale, Moore experimented in the weaving of a curvilinear fabric “tubing” to be used as a foundation for rubber bicycle tires. This foundation alleviated the distortion or “roll” caused in a plain rubber tire under the stress of cornering. Upon leaving Glendale in 1894, Moore organized the Conformable Tire Company in Worcester, Massachusetts to exploit a patent he held on this type of fabric. Although the company failed within two years, Moore would continue his innovations in narrow fabric and, in particular, specialty fabric used as a rubber tire foundation.<sup>8</sup> Interest in bias-woven, curvilinear fabric would come to play significantly in the career of George’s son, John V. Moore (1880-1959), who worked closely with his father from ca. 1897 to 1921.

After the failure of the Conformable Tire Co., the Moores relocated to Providence, Rhode Island, where, in association with investor and industrialist Charles Perkins,<sup>9</sup> they set up a narrow elastic fabric operation in the city’s south side at Long Pond, where Perkins had operated a number of successful, steam-powered industrial operations since the 1870s. Perkins introduced the Moores to Arthur Kelley, president of the Mechanical Fabric Company, a manufacturer of “clothing” for the mechanical carding of cotton and wool.<sup>10</sup> Along with its textile machinery work, this company experimented in and brought to market significant innovations in rubber thread and tire manufacture. Perkins set up the National Elastic Webbing Company with George C. Moore as general manager and Henry Kirby<sup>11</sup> as financial manager. The new company purchased 100 looms from a defunct Hopedale, Massachusetts, narrow fabric company, setting up a small number of them in South Providence and placing the remainder in storage. A fire broke out in the storage facility in late 1896, destroying the bulk of the looms intended for the new operation and forcing the company into bankruptcy.

In 1897 the Moores set up shop in a small barn in Revere, Massachusetts to develop a line of rubber sheeting for use in armbands and garters. Unlike previous efforts that integrated small strips of rubber into cotton fabric to provide elasticity, the Moores introduced rubber thread into the weaving process. In those early years rubber thread manufacture was a complex process in

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<sup>8</sup> Historian Clifford A. Richmond noted that the failure of the Conformable Tire Co. was due to the fact that the foundation fabric was plain woven, rather than woven on a bias (angle). Source: Richmond, p. 121.

<sup>9</sup> Perkins acquired a sizable industrial operation in South Providence after the failure of the Sprague textile holdings in the Panic of 1873. From this vantage point he invested in and assisted in the establishment of a number of different start-up operations, including the Mechanical Fabric Company (NR-listed, 2014) and a cluster of buildings that came to be known later as the Perkins Buildings (NR-listed, 2004). The Mechanical Fabric Company (Sprague and Cromwell Streets, Providence) carried out important innovations in rubber tire manufacture.

<sup>10</sup> The success of this company was based on its innovation in mounting a mesh of fine metal hooks into a base material comprised of layers of laminated rubber and cloth, a combination that proved to be particularly resistant to the normal wear and failure of prevailing methods of carding. This technology is discussed at length in the National Register nomination for Mechanical Fabric Company.

<sup>11</sup> Kirby was the son-in-law of Arthur Kelley, president of Mechanical Fabric Company.

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which thin sheets of cured (vulcanized) rubber were sliced into square-section threads. While proving to be of adequate strength and elasticity, these threads had ragged edges which were prone to tearing and breaking. Again, technical difficulties and the adverse economic climate of the 1890s ended the operation in Revere. It did not, however, end the indefatigable efforts of the Moores to establish a foothold in the fields of elastic fabric and tire fabric.

During this period in Revere, the Moores continued their experimentation in weaving what had come to be known as “tire fabric.” Although unsuccessful in rubber cloth manufacture, George C. Moore secured a patent in this period for a “cord tire,” a cloth-fabric predecessor to the steel belts molded into radial tires used today. Moore was paid \$7,000 for the rights to this patent, providing much needed capital for his innovations.<sup>12</sup>

In 1898, the Moores relocated to Pawtucket to set up a narrow elastic fabric operation at Hope Webbing Company. Established in 1889, Hope Webbing also had its roots in the Perkins operations in South Providence, building its own plant in Pawtucket in the following year. The father and son team left Hope Webbing in 1901 and, after stints in Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Jersey, set up the George C. Moore Company in Worcester in 1901. George C. Moore provided \$3,500 in capital for this operation, his son John providing \$800. The new company thrived in Worcester, eventually relocating to Westerly, Rhode Island, in 1913.<sup>13</sup> When John V. Moore set out on his own in 1921, that comparatively small share was purchased by his father for \$250,000. That windfall brought John V. Moore to Pawtucket in search of a manufacturing plant.

### **The Glendana Silk Mills (1919-1920)**

Pawtucket, Rhode Island, had emerged as a center of both narrow fabric and silk manufacture in the 1910s and 1920s. This specialization was born in part because a strike in the silk manufacturing center of Patterson, New Jersey in 1909-10 caused a decline in that area, and also of necessity—a number of economic factors were placing the New England textile industry under great strain. Among these were the flight of New England cotton spinning and weaving mills to the south, where proximity to cotton plantations, access to a pool of non-unionized labor, and comparatively less regulation and lower taxes beckoned. By the early 1920s many regional textile mills were in steep decline or freefall. Some of the more nimble were able to convert to woolen manufacture; some retooled for narrow fabric weaving, lacing or braiding. Others ventured into niche markets such as silk or synthetics like rayon. Pawtucket’s adaptability in addressing changing market conditions, economic climate and new technologies is well represented in textile listings found in a small 1917 “booster” booklet, published just before the massive changes ushered in by southern flight and economic depression: Among the massive cotton spinning and weaving plants of the town, Pawtucket counted eleven substantial

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<sup>12</sup> Moore received no royalties for this invention because the American and British licensees chose not to exploit this patent until after its protections had ended in 1914. Source: Richmond, p. 122.

<sup>13</sup> As of 2019, George C. Moore Narrow Elastic represents one division of the Moore Company, both based in Westerly.



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manufacturers in the fields of webbing, narrow fabric, braiding, and woven tape.<sup>14</sup> These relatively new enterprises included several silk weavers.

A July 1919 article in the trade magazine *Silk* forecast continued prosperity for the burgeoning Blackstone Valley silk industry: “According to all reports, the silk industry of Rhode Island has never faced more prosperous conditions than that which it is enjoying at the present time.” Brushing off the problems of labor shortages, transportation difficulties and availability of raw materials, the article was decidedly optimistic about prospects for the near future.

One of the Blackstone Valley silk weavers was the Glendana Silk Mills.<sup>15</sup> Shortly after its founding in 1919, the company, capitalized at \$100,000, purchased a parcel in the Woodlawn section of Pawtucket, upon which stood a decommissioned 1878 public schoolhouse (for information on the Washington Street School, Building 1, see *Additional Information*) and hired the C.I. Bigney Company to build a modern silk weaving plant to house 105 looms. Bigney retained Dwight Seabury (1860-1931), a Pawtucket-based architect with an established record of designing or improving industrial plants in the northeast. Seabury had begun his individual architectural practice in 1896 after serving for a number of years in the office of Frank Sheldon, an important regional industrial architect/engineer and early practitioner of the sawtooth roof weave shed.<sup>16</sup> This specialized New England building type employed sawtooth-shaped structures, the glazed surface of which was generally aligned to face due north to take advantage of the diffused, non-glare light coming from that direction.

The two-story Glendana weave shed was predominantly of brick construction with an attached boiler house (Building 2, erected by Moore Fabric Co. in 1921-2). As discussed in Section 7, the east wall (facing the old schoolhouse) was framed and sheathed in wood. The Glendana Silk Mills failed before commencing production at the new plant; construction ceased at the mill before the Boiler House was begun. The company filed for bankruptcy in August of 1920 in what the *Providence Journal* called a “disastrous slump.”<sup>17</sup> Several factors likely account for the company’s failure: a post-WWI economic recession occurring with the cessation of war production, overproduction, and competition for materials amidst a general shortage of raw silk. State *Factory Inspection* records give no account of any active staff at the company in 1920 or

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<sup>14</sup> *Pawtucket Past and Present*, published by Slater Trust Company (1917). Notable among the city’s narrow fabric manufacturers was Hope Webbing, said to be the largest narrow fabric manufacturer in the country. At that time Hope had 1,000 narrow-fabric looms and 250 braiders. Both George C. and John V. Moore worked at Hope Webbing between 1898 and 1901.

<sup>15</sup> The two principals of this company were George H. Collett (president) and Clarence Howe (treasurer). P.J. Poutre was the superintendent. It is worth noting that two other Pawtucket-area silk mills were chartered the same month: the New System Textile Co. (Central Falls) and the Queen Quality Silk Mills (Valley Falls).

<sup>16</sup> Sawtooth roof weave sheds were first introduced in the New England area in the 1890s. Sheldon designed a massive sawtooth building for the Bourne Mill in 1901 (now destroyed). One of Seabury’s earliest structures of this type (if not the first) is the Jenckes Spinning Company’s First Weave Shed (1909); this massive Pawtucket complex was listed on the National Register in 2018. Seabury’s weave shed is a contributing resource in the Jenckes Spinning Company Historic District.

<sup>17</sup> “Pawtucket mill plans to expand.” *Providence Journal* (18 August 1922): 8.

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1921.<sup>18</sup> A public auction of the Glendana Silk Mill property was held in May of 1921. John V. Moore, recently of the George C. Moore Company in Westerly, purchased the plant for \$65,000.<sup>19</sup>

Shortly after John V. Moore purchased the plant at public auction in May 1921, he contracted with C.I. Bigney to complete the plant as designed by architect Dwight Seabury.<sup>20</sup> Because the looms of both the Glendana Silk Mill and its successor Moore Fabric Co. were driven by individual electric motors, the main purpose of a boiler was for heat and hot water.

### **Moore Fabric Company (1921-1954)**

As recounted earlier, John V. Moore had worked at his father's side since about age 17 in the related fields of narrow elastic fabric weaving and the weaving of curvilinear fabric for use as a foundation in rubber tires. At age 40, Moore set off on his own with ample funding provided by the buyout of his interest in the George C. Moore Company. His specific intent for the reuse of the Glendana Mill was the manufacture of a curvilinear silk fabric for use in men's shirt collars. These softer collars had become a popular replacement for the detachable, stiff celluloid collars introduced in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. To this end Moore had secured an exclusive contract with the Phillips-Jones Company (New York), makers of Van Heusen shirts. Moore's entire production would be the furnishing of this fabric, which Phillips-Jones would form into detachable silk shirt collars.<sup>21</sup> John V. Moore was well prepared to commence this work based on the experimentation in curvilinear tire fabric carried out back in the formative days with his father at Glendale Elastic Fabric Company and Conformable Tire Company.

Moore noted in a letter to historian Clifford A. Richmond the highly technical nature of the weave necessary for the formation of the curved Van Heusen collar:

I played with the graduated reed in the warping which enabled me to get a coned warp—that meant that every thread in the fabric was laid in under absolutely the same tension and the coned warp gave an exact curvature to the fabric as established in the warp. About this time I began experimenting

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<sup>18</sup> Further evidence of the likelihood that Glendana failed soon after construction of the weave shed is found in the retention of C.I. Bigney by new-owner John V. Moore in July of 1921 to construct a boiler house for the plant. A September 1920 *Providence Journal* article made mention of a lawsuit by Bigney against the failed Glendana Silk Mills for about \$17,000. By that time Bigney had not begun construction of the plant's boiler house and was seeking payment for some portion of the weave shed's construction costs. Source: "Item." *Providence Journal* (13 September 1920): 14.

<sup>19</sup> Pawtucket Land Evidence Book 215: 47. Russell Handy (receiver) to Elizabeth Moore (wife of John V. Moore).  
<sup>20</sup> "Item." *Textile World* (30 July 1921): 49. The article erroneously cited the builder's name as "E.H. Bigney." E.H. Bigney's brother Ira had taken over the business by 1915, changing the name to C.I. Bigney Construction Company. This latter firm had built the Glendana Silk Mill weave shed in 1919 and was a likely choice for construction of its attached boiler house two years later.

<sup>21</sup> In 1910 Dutch immigrant John Manning Van Heusen invented a process that wove cloth on a curve, fashioning a "soft-folding collar" that captured the stiff-collar look of the era while affording the wearer a more comfortable fit. In 1919 Van Heusen joined Moses and Isaac Phillips in 1919 to combine that technology with their shirt manufacturing, established in 1881. Source: Van Heusen Shirts website (<http://fashiongear.fibre2fashion.com/brand-story/vanheusen/history.asp>), accessed April 26, 2019. See U.S. Patents 1,254,294 (issued Jan. 22, 1918) and 1,297,937 (issued March 18, 1919).

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with the graduated front reed in weaving the fabric. Due to the fact that it was a curved fabric with a straight reed, the threads were crowded on the inner side of the curve and were scant on the outside, but by using a graduated reed we succeeded in giving a balanced fabric to the customer where warp and weft threads were equal over the full width of the fabric; thus the curvature was not distorted and the fabric was uniform throughout.<sup>22</sup>

Moore began full-scale production of the Van Heusen collar fabric in 1922. At the same time, he began the first of several additions from the east and south walls of the old schoolhouse, creating a new principal façade for the plant on Washington Street. State *Factory Inspection Reports* from that year describe a workforce of 92 men, 43 women and two children under age 16. Although the precise year is unknown, after several years of exclusive manufacture for Phillips-Jones, the latter made the decision to weave their own collar material in-house. Undeterred by the decision, John V. Moore re-outfitted the plant, returning to his roots in the manufacture of narrow elastic fabric. Continuing his innovations in specialty weaving, he received his first U.S. patent, *Tubular Gauze Fabric*, in 1928.<sup>23</sup>

As noted earlier, until the mid-1920s rubber thread for weaving into fabric was produced by slicing thin sheets of vulcanized rubber into square-section threads. In 1925 Willis A. Gibbons and Hedwig Koenig patented a new process for the manufacture of rubber tubing and—by extension—rubber thread. In this process, latex in its liquid form is extruded through a circular orifice into a tank of acetic acid, which causes instant coagulation of the latex. The tubing or thread would then be drawn from the bath, dried and vulcanized. Although Gibbons and Koenig had not been the first to observe the coagulating effect of acetic acid on latex, they were the first to patent a manufacturing process using orifices of different sizes to produce tubing or thread of different gauges.<sup>24</sup>

By 1930, the U.S. Rubber Company's Providence plant (NR listed 2005) was putting this technology to use. In 1932 Arthur H. Carr (1878-1941), formerly of Mechanical Fabric Company (since 1917 a subsidiary of U.S. Rubber Company), established a company—in partnership with the principals of several elastic narrow fabric weavers—to furnish round-section rubber thread in industrial quantities to their respective concerns. Among the parties forming Carr Manufacturing Company in Bristol, Rhode Island, was John V. Moore.<sup>25</sup> The company was successful and, formed as it was in the depths of the Great Depression, a godsend for a town like Bristol suffering from high unemployment in the rubber factories established there in the late 19<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Quoted in Richmond (1946), p. 137. Although Moore's reminiscence is undated, it is likely that it was taken from correspondence between Moore and Richmond in the years immediately preceding the publication of the book.

<sup>23</sup> U.S. Patent No. 1,677,398, issued July 17, 1928. For a full list of John V. Moore patents, see *Additional Information*.

<sup>24</sup> U.S. Patent No. 1,551,553, *Process for manufacturing tubing*, issued to Wallace Gibbons et al, September 1, 1925.

<sup>25</sup> There is some confusion in the historical record as to the role John V. Moore played in the management of Carr Manufacturing Co. Arthur Carr, original president and treasurer, died in 1941; by 1946 John V. Moore was secretary and treasurer of the company. Moore's 1959 obituary also noted his role as secretary/treasurer.

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century.<sup>26</sup> Not coincidentally, the subsequent patenting in 1931 of “Lastex” thread married a cotton winding to a round rubber core.<sup>27</sup> Embracing both technologies, Moore Fabric Company began a major expansion of its plant in 1933.

Built from (and sharing) the south wall of the Glendana weave shed, the company erected Building 5 ca. 1933 (see Figure 4). This was a shallow gable-roofed, brick weave shed with a roof truss system of timber and steel elements permitting a single row of interior columns along the center axis of the building. Perhaps due to economic conditions, these columns were of square-section timber, rather than the steel columns employed some 15 years earlier in the construction of the Glendana weave shed. The 1933 edition of *Davison’s Blue Book* described the expanded Moore plant staffed by 350 operatives and housing 169 looms, two braiders and 2,000 cotton spindles—the latter likely for production of Lastex thread. Within a year Moore Fabric would add a second boiler to the original 1921 Boiler Room and commence textile dyeing and finishing.<sup>28</sup>

Despite the expansion of Moore Fabric in the difficult economic climate, the company was not immune to the Depression-era labor strife. The peak year of employment for Moore Fabric was 1934, with almost 800 operatives. Addressing national working conditions, wages and lack of union representation, the United Textile Workers called a 22-day general textile strike on September 1, 1934. Eventually engaging 300,000 to 500,000 workers, it is recognized as the largest labor action in the United States at that time. In Rhode Island, Governor Theodore Francis Green brought in the National Guard to quell riots at several mills. Although workers shut down Moore Fabric from September 17 until the end of the strike on September 22, there appeared to be little overall betterment in wages and conditions. Three years later, a CIO-organized sit-down strike over wages, hours and conditions caused a total evacuation of the Moore plant’s 200 employees.<sup>29</sup>

After the U.S. entry into World War II in 1941, Moore Fabric secured government contracts for military fabric. After the war the company, specializing in narrow fabric for the shoe and corset trades, operated 68 gang looms, 30 flyshots,<sup>30</sup> and 300 braiders. Moore carried out its final expansion of the plant (Building 6) in 1949, a \$50,000, brick, 91’ by 110’ southern addition to the earlier weave shed built in 1932-3 (see Figure 4).

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<sup>26</sup> The laying of the cornerstone was preceded by a parade from the town center with marching bands and speakers. See: “Speakers make optimistic predictions at laying of cornerstone of new factory,” *Bristol Phenix* (26 August 1932): 1.

<sup>27</sup> Invented by Percy Adamson in association with U.S. Rubber. *Elastic Yarn*, U.S. patent No. 1,822,847, issued Sept. 8, 1931. Referring to it as a “miracle yarn” and, humorously, a “Depression solvent,” historian Clifford A. Richmond noted in 1947 that Lastex “holds its elasticity and is not injured by washing.” Richmond, p. 205.

<sup>28</sup> Although *Davison’s* does not specify the type of finishing, it is likely that this was dyeing. Textile finishing appears to have ended by 1940.

<sup>29</sup> “Strikers evacuate Pawtucket plant.” *Providence Journal* (4 May 1937): 2.

<sup>30</sup> Gang looms are narrow fabric looms utilizing a number of independent shuttles. Fly shot looms are a specialized form of loom for narrow fabric weaving.

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Thomas V. Moore, an advocate of good government, found himself at odds with the corrupt Democratic city government machine of Mayor Thomas McCoy (Pawtucket mayor from 1936 to his death in 1945). Moore was a founding member and principal funder of the Citizens League of Pawtucket, a clean government group established in 1950. It was noted in Moore's 1959 *Providence Journal* obituary that when his funding of the organization was made public in 1950, taxes on the Washington Street plant were doubled for no apparent reason. Moore, accepting the tax increase as the cost of fighting the remains of the McCoy machine, stated at the time, "They're just trying to teach us 'bad boys' that we must behave."<sup>31</sup>

Moore sold the plant to a new company, Moore Fabrics, Inc., in 1954, staying on for one year to manage the operation. John V. Moore died in 1959. Moore Fabrics, Inc. sold the plant to General Fabrics Corporation in 1978. This company continued textile-related work until 2017. Sold to Moore Mill, LLC in 2018, the plant is being rehabilitated for adaptive reuse as affordable housing.

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<sup>31</sup> Quoted in: "J.V. Moore, manufacturer, dies." *Providence Journal* (29 January 1959): 18. See also: "High taxes not to halt Pawtucket industrialists fight for better rule." *Providence Journal* (3 June 1951): 52.

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## 9. Bibliographical References

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“Higher taxes not to halt Pawtucket industrialist’s fight for better rule.” *Providence Journal* (3 June 1951): 52.

Item. *Electrical World* 72 (21 September 1918): 582.

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Easthampton, MA: By the author, 1946.

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4 March 1878: 186.

U.S. Patent Office. Various patents secured by John V. Moore (1928-1956).

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1916-1937.

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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):** \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 2 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

### UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |             |                 |                   |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 301369 | Northing: 4638129 |
| 2. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:    | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:    | Easting :       | Northing:         |

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

The boundaries of the Moore Fabric Company Plant are coterminous with Pawtucket Assessor's Plat 55, Lot 554.

### Boundary Justification

These boundaries represent the original Washington Street School parcel purchased by the Glendana Silk Mills in 1919 and the adjoining lots later purchased by Moore Fabric Company (now combined). This parcel contains all contributing and non-contributing resources.



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**11. Form Prepared By**

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telephone: 401 595-0699  
date: May 2019

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## Additional Documentation

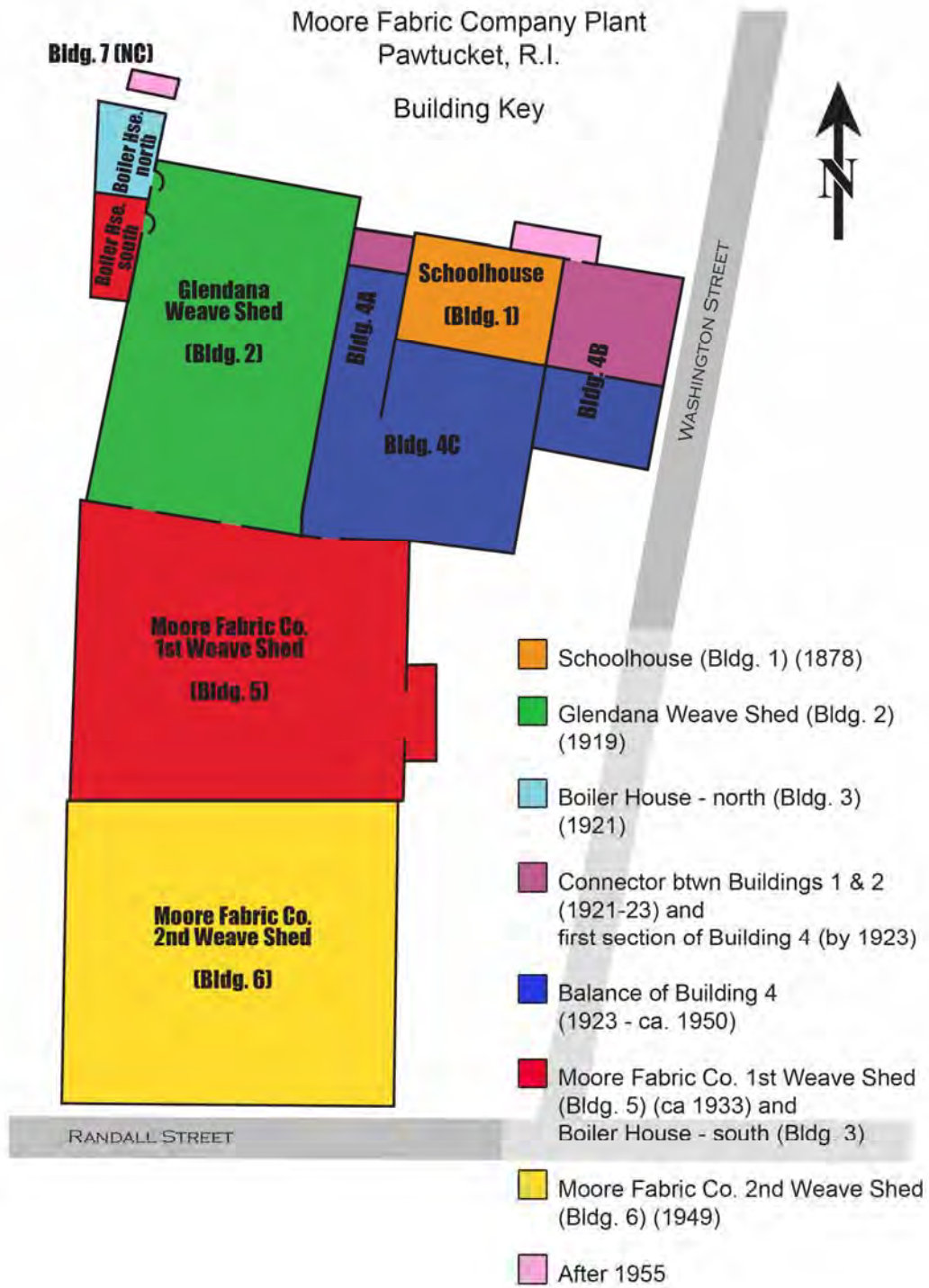
### John V. Moore U.S. patents (issued 1928-1955)

*Tubular Gauze Fabric*, 1,677,398, issued July 17, 1928  
*One-piece Semisoft Collar*, 1,721,404, issued July 16, 1929  
*Method of Making Curvilinear Elastic Fabric*, 1,772,956, issued April 12, 1930  
*Tie Liner*, 1,756,901, issued April 29, 1930  
*Curvilinear Elastic Fabric*, 1,770,740, issued July 15, 1930  
*Curved Garter*, 1,770,742, issued July 15, 1930  
*Mechanism and Method for Producing Elastic Fabric*, 1,772,957, issued August 12, 1930  
*Elastic Fabric*, 1,796,041, issued March 10, 1931  
*Machine for Winding Cone Warp*, 1,834,961, issued Dec. 8, 1931  
*Semi-soft Collar and Fabric Therefor*, 1,842,729, issued Jan. 26, 1932  
*Toilet Seat Cover*, 1,994,285, issued March 12, 1935  
*Woven Elastic Fabric*, 2,092,287, Sept. 7, 1937  
*Stiffening Rib for Supporting Garments*, 2,105,257, issued Jan. 11, 1938  
*Tubular Woven Elastic Garment*, 2,117,974, issued May 17, 1938  
*Elastic Fabric*, 2,117,975, issued May 17, 1938  
*Woven Elastic Fabric*, 2,173,976, issued Sept. 26, 1939  
*Woven Elastic Fabric*, 2,177,439, issued Oct. 24, 1939  
*Curvilinear Garment Support*, 2,195,894, issued April 2, 1940  
*Attaching Tape*, 2,195,895, issued April 2, 1940  
*Woven Elastic Fabric*, 2,195,896, issued April 2, 1940  
*Curvilinear Collar Liner*, 2,235,294, issues March 18, 1941  
*Elastic Binding Tape*, 2,322,382, issued June 22, 1943  
*Elastic Tape*, 2,418,187, issued April 1, 1947  
*Production of Narrow Curvilinear Nonelastic Tape*, 2,424,411, issued July 22, 1947  
*Woven Elastic Fabric*, 2,718,026, issued April 9, 1955  
*Woven Elastic Web*, 2,718,244, issued Sept. 20, 1955  
*Elastic Shoe Gore*, 2,718,905, issued Sept. 27, 1955  
*Process of Making Permanently Embossed Elastic Webbing*, 2,748,447, issued June 5, 1956

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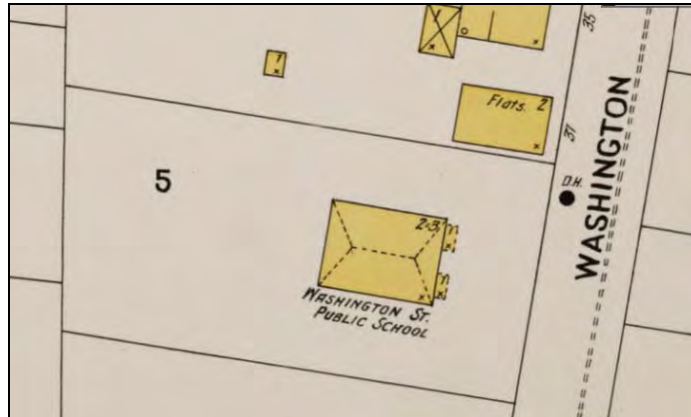
Providence, Rhode Island  
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**Graphic material:**



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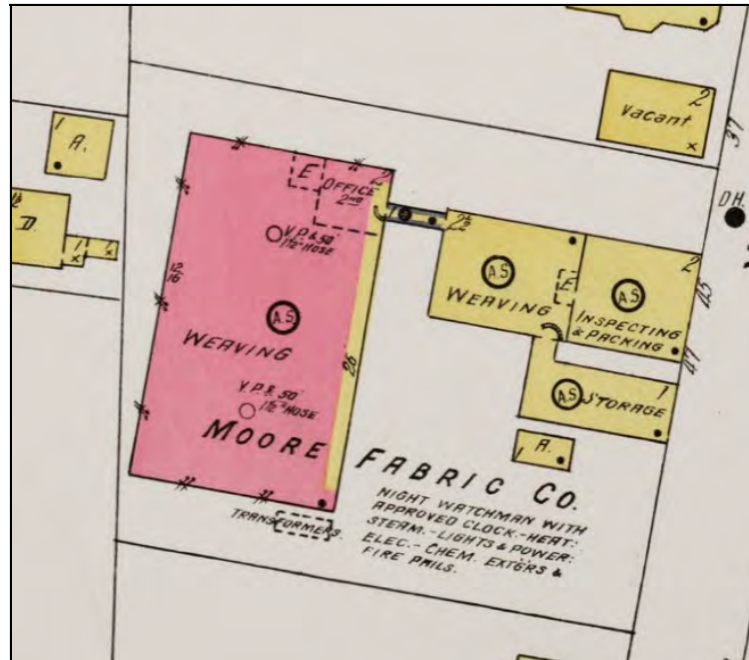
**Figure 1**  
Washington Street Schoolhouse (1902)  
Detail from Sanborn Fire Insurance drawing



**Figure 2**  
Halftone of Smithfield Avenue School (built 1876)  
showing similarity in design to Washington Street School

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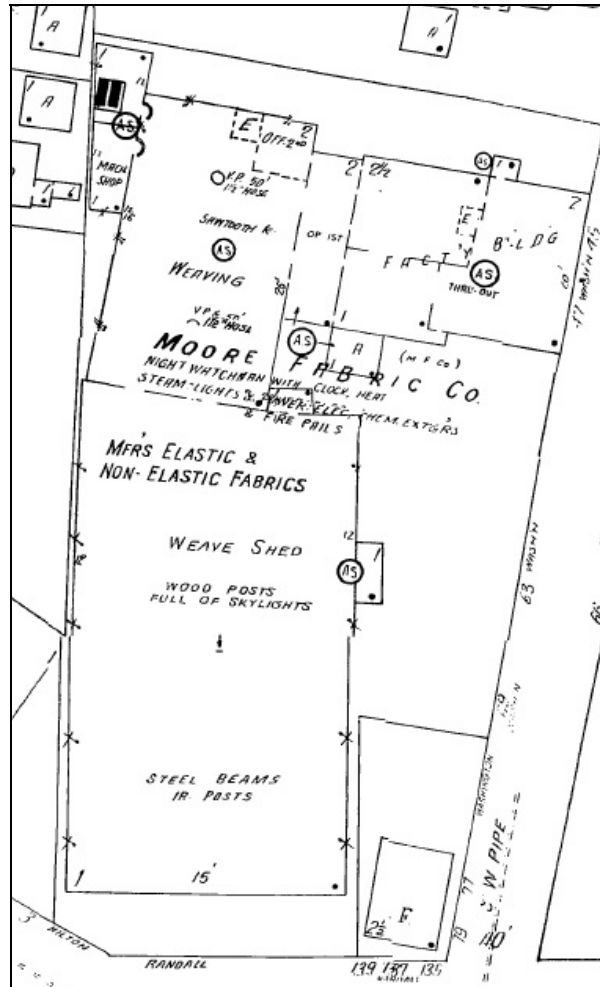


**Figure 3**  
Moore Fabric Company (1923)  
Detail from Sanborn Fire Insurance drawing  
showing former schoolhouse used for weaving,  
connector between school and Glendana Silk Mill weave shed,  
and east wall of schoolhouse extended to Washington Street

*Note yellow coloring of east wall of brick weave shed  
indicating frame construction.*

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**Figure 4**  
Moore Fabric Company (1951)  
Detail from Sanborn Fire Insurance drawing  
showing full expansion of Moore Fabric Co. plant

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Moore Fabric Company Plant  
45-47 Washington Street  
Pawtucket, RI  
UTM 19 301369 4638129

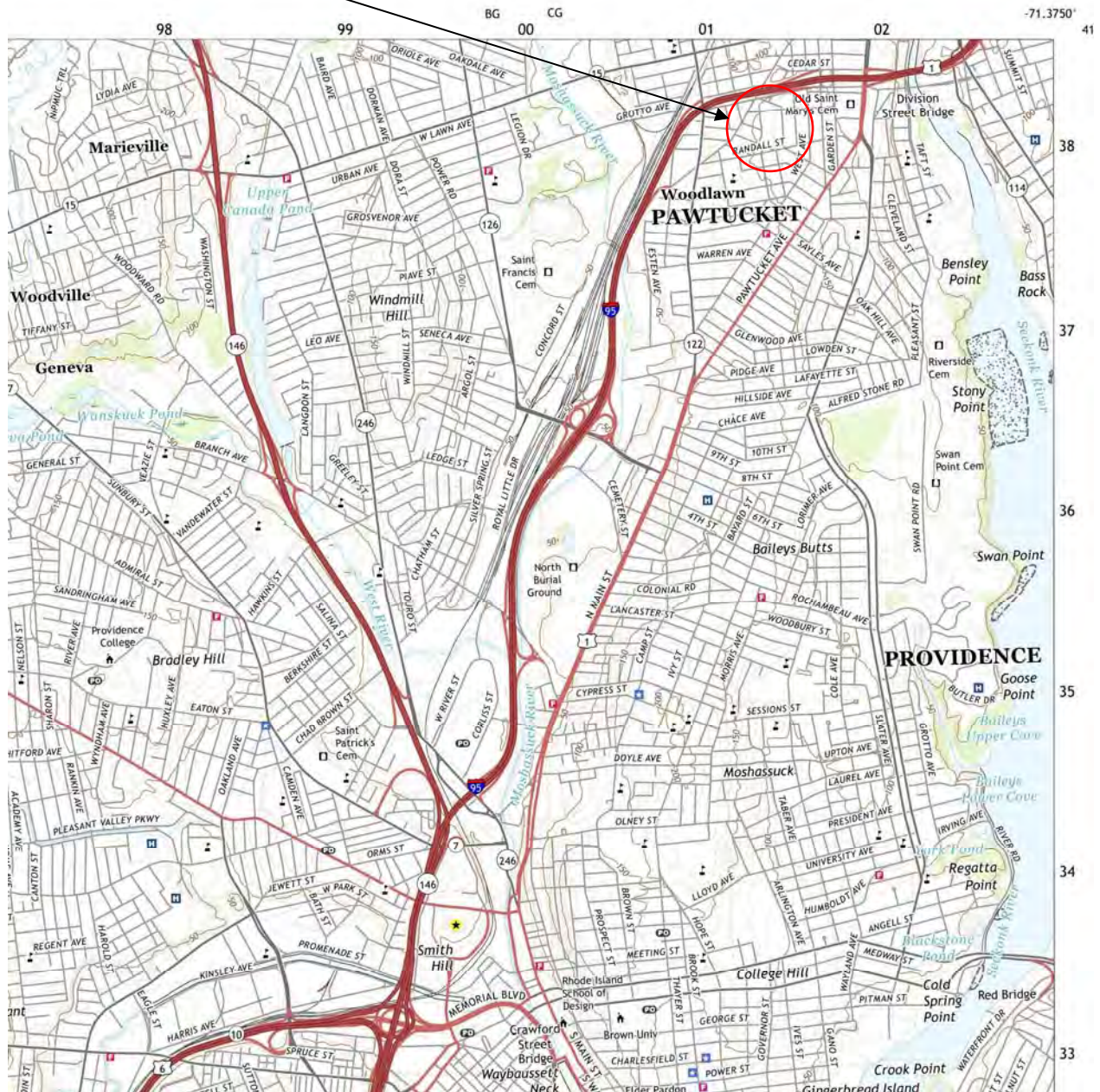


Figure 5  
Detail from USGS Quadrangle Map, Providence, RI (2018)

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### **The Washington Street Schoolhouse (1878)**

*Although the construction of this building predates the Period of Significance for the Moore Fabric Company Plant, the former school building housed industrial activity throughout the Moore Fabric era and that of its successor companies. For this reason, the schoolhouse is included as a Contributing Building in this nomination and the story of the school prior to its textile use is included here as Additional Information.*

The oldest building in the Moore Fabric Company Plant is the former Washington Street Schoolhouse, built by the Town of Pawtucket in 1878 and used as a two-room grammar school until 1902. Surviving elements of this schoolhouse are described in Section 7.

The Washington Street Schoolhouse is one of at least three two-room schoolhouses built by the town to address rapid population growth in the town's outer neighborhoods in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and inadequate schoolhouses. It was occupied from 1878 to 1902, at which time it was deemed overcrowded and unsafe. In its present state of alteration and industrial reuse, its surviving fabric and footprint are all that remains of Pawtucket's small public schools of the period.

At a town meeting of March 4, 1878, Pawtucket voters approved an appropriation of \$8,500 to build a new schoolhouse in what was then called the Fairmount<sup>32</sup> section of town. This replaced the old Fairmount one-room schoolhouse. Although the builder and architect are unknown, it is likely that the two-story, frame school was built according to standard plans that were adapted according to specific circumstances of intended student body, lot size, etc.<sup>33</sup> The Smithfield Avenue School, built in 1876, is strikingly similar in design (see *Additional Information/Graphic Materials*). Only a decade after construction, a *Providence Journal* article described the building as "full and more than full."<sup>34</sup> By 1902 the school was closed, its students reassigned to the Warren Avenue Schoolhouse for the following fall session.

In late 1907 a Joint Standing Committee on City Property visited the school to assess further use or sale. The city sold the school in January 1909 to local cigar makers James and Joseph Flynn, who had outgrown their factory on Mason Street.<sup>35</sup> By 1910, the Flynns were settled in the building, providing employment to twenty men and three women in the manufacture of "union-made cigars."<sup>36</sup> Possibly indicative of financial pressures, ca. 1916 the Flynns rented a portion of the former schoolhouse to Fairmount Poultry. A year later the company sold the schoolhouse property to Robert Harvey and relocated to a new shop on East Avenue.

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<sup>32</sup> Town Meeting Book 1, p. 186. The boundaries of the area now known as Woodlawn date to the 1970s establishment of economic development districts as part of Pawtucket's urban redevelopment plans.

<sup>33</sup> At that time Pawtucket was hiring two building firms for school construction: Bliss & Carpenter and Kenyon, Drown and Company.

<sup>34</sup> *Providence Journal* (12 May 1885): 3.

<sup>35</sup> "Old Schoolhouse Sold." *Providence Journal* (30 January 1909): 7.

<sup>36</sup> James Flynn was the president of Cigarmakers Union No. 94.



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Harvey sold the schoolhouse property to the Glendana Silk Mills in 1919.<sup>37</sup> As recounted in Section 8, the school building stood to the immediate east of a new brick weave shed designed by Pawtucket architect Dwight Seabury for manufacture of silk novelties.

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.)

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<sup>37</sup> Pawtucket Land Evidence Book 195: 342. Robert Harvey to Glendana Silk Mills (September 3, 1918).

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### 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: Moore Fabric Company Plant

City or Vicinity: Pawtucket

County: Providence

State: Rhode Island

Photographer: Edward Connors

Date Photographed:

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

- 1 of 34 Buildings (l-r) 4, 1 (view southwest)
- 2 of 34 Buildings (l-r) 5, 4 (view north)
- 3 of 34 Buildings (l-r) 4, 1, 2 (view southeast)
- 4 of 34 Building 1, north elevation (view south)
- 5 of 34 Building 1, north elevation bracket detail (view southwest)
- 6 of 34 Building 1: (l-r) original clapboard of east schoolhouse wall at first floor joint with later addition (view northwest)
- 7 of 34 Building 1, interior, first floor with columns inserted post-school era (view southeast)
- 8 of 34 Building 1, interior, second floor, view east through schoolhouse into Bldg. 4 (Section B), (view south)
- 9 of 34 Building 1, interior, rubble and brick schoolhouse (west elevation) foundation and clapboard visible from 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Bldg. 2 (view east)
- 10 of 34 Building 2, north elevation (view southwest)
- 11 of 34 Building 2, typical paired window, north elevation (view south)

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- 12 of 34 Building 2, freight doors, north elevation (view south)
- 13 of 34 Building 2, sawtooth roof and framing, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (view southwest)
- 14 of 34 Building 2, Former first floor window openings into Moore Machine Shop (Bldg 3, south chamber) showing pier and spandrel construction, rounded bricks (view west)
- 15 of 34 Building 2, sawtooth detail, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (view east)
- 16 of 34 Building 2, ground floor (view northwest)
- 17 of 34 Building 3, north Chamber (view west)
- 18 of 34 Building 3, skylight in Boiler House (view west)
- 19 of 34 Building 3, interior, south chamber (view southwest)
- 20 of 34 Building 3, Moore-era air compressor in south chamber (view east into Glendana Silk Mill)
- 21 of 34 Building 4 (l-r), south and east elevations (view northwest)
- 22 of 34 Building 4, principal entrance (Washington St.), (view west)
- 23 of 34 Building 4, interior, section 4A. Frame west wall of former schoolhouse at left, frame east wall of Glendana Silk Mill at right (view south)
- 24 of 34 Building 4, interior, section 4B. (view southeast)
- 25 of 34 Building 4, interior, view from 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Bldg. 1 southerly into Bldg. 4C (view south)
- 26 of 34 Building 5, east elevation (view northwest)
- 27 of 34 Building 5, east elevation, typical window (view west)
- 28 of 34 Building 5, interior, view southwesterly from Building 5 into Building 6
- 29 of 34 Building 5, interior, truss, tie rod and framing detail (view northeast)
- 30 of 34 Building 6, south elevation (view northwest)

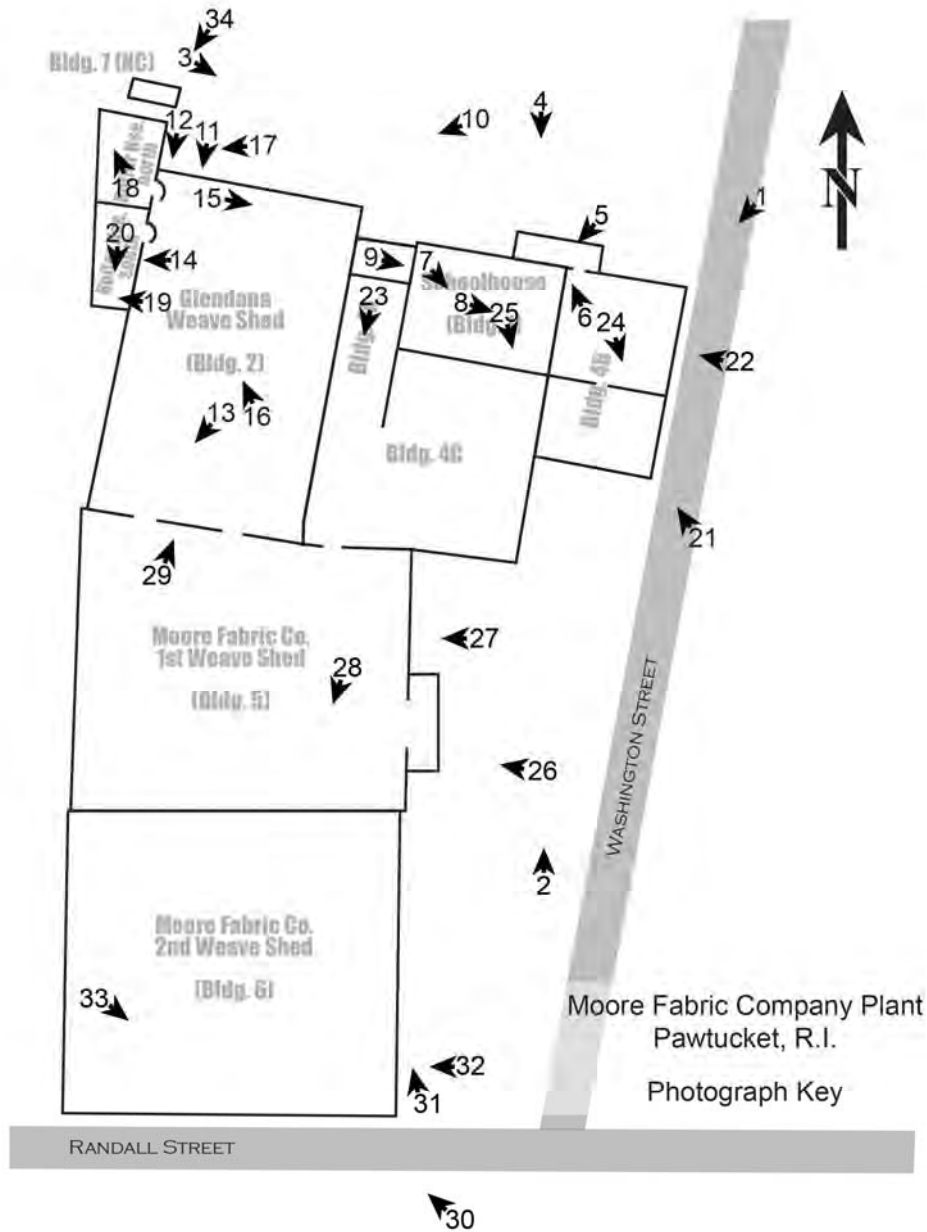
Moore Fabric Company Plant  
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- 31 of 34 Building 6, east elevation (view northwest)
- 32 of 34 Building 6, east elevation window detail (view west)
- 33 of 34 Building 6, interior, south wall (view southeast)
- 34 of 34 Building 7, (NC) (view southwest)

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**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.



GENERAL FABRICS  
OFFICE  
45-47

NO. 1 STREET  
1/2 A.S. DIST.  
C.P.P.







NO PARKING  
IN THIS ZONE  
EXCEPT AS NOTED  
ON THIS SIGN





A two-story light green building with a dark grey roof. The building features a white garage on the ground floor and a row of windows on the second floor. A black pickup truck is parked in the lot to the right, and several SUVs are parked on the left. The foreground is a cracked asphalt parking lot. The sky is overcast.

Several SUVs parked in the lot on the left side of the image.

A black pickup truck parked in the lot on the right side of the image.

NO TRUCKS  
OR BUSES  
ON STREETS

NO TRUCKS  
OR BUSES  
ON STREETS







































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APRIL 1954

PARKWAY  
APRIL 1954









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Moore Fabric Company Plant

Multiple Name:

State & County: RHODE ISLAND, Providence

Date Received: 11/4/2019      Date of Pending List: 12/6/2019      Date of 16th Day: 12/23/2019      Date of 45th Day: 12/19/2019      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100004785

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

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

Accept       Return       Reject      12/19/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary: The Moore Fabric Company Plant is locally significant and meets National Register Criterion A in the area of Industry. The result of several construction campaigns completed over a period of years from 1919 to 1949, by either the Glendana Silk Mills or the Moore Fabric Company, the mill complex reflects the ongoing development of specialized industrial manufacturing in Pawtucket during the post-World War I era. As massive scale cotton and worsted production increasingly declined, smaller specialized production operations were initiated to take advantage of local skilled labor and technical expertise, significantly adding to Pawtucket's rich industrial heritage and industrial building stock.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criterion A

Reviewer: Paul Lusignan      Discipline: Historian

Telephone: (202)354-2229      Date: 12/19/2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No      see attached SLR : **Yes**

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





STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION & HERITAGE COMMISSION

Old State House • 150 Benefit Street • Providence, R.I. 02903-1209

TEL (401) 222-2678

FAX (401) 222-2968

TTY / Relay 711

Website [www.preservation.ri.gov](http://www.preservation.ri.gov)



31 October 2019

Joy Beasley  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
Mail Stop 7228  
1849 C St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley:

The enclosed discs contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Moore Fabric Company Plant** in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, to the National Register of Historic Places.

Notification procedures required by law have been followed. The nomination has been reviewed by the Rhode Island Review Board and approved.

Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended in 1980, as Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer for Rhode Island, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey D. Emidy  
Deputy Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure