

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic HUMBOLDT BAY WOOLEN MILL; EUREKA WOOLEN MILLS

and/or common Woolen Mill

2. Location

street & number 1400 Broadway n/a not for publication

city, town Eureka n/a vicinity of congressional district 2

state CA code 06 county Humboldt code 023

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See Continuation Sheet

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. County Recorder's Office, Humboldt County Courthouse

street & number 825 Fifth Street

city, town Eureka state CA 95501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Eureka Heritage Society
Architectural Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1973 (File Number 3-143-2) federal state county local

depository for survey records 2424 H Street

city, town Eureka state CA 95501

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one		
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved		date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed				

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The original industrial building, located at the southwest corner of Broadway and Fourteenth Streets, Eureka, California, was constructed in 1900 to house the Humboldt Bay Woolen Mill Company. There were various additions to the original building over subsequent years. The resulting complex is a series of rectangular industrial building units with simple gables, and a large flat-roofed shed addition. The form and proportions of the main building, as well as the architectural detailing, are derived from the Greek Revival.

The main building is two stories in height. It is 58' wide and 140' in length, with a gabled roof. The structure is of wood frame, utilizing, almost exclusively, native redwood, including redwood joists, studs, beams, posts, sheathing, sub-flooring and decking. The second floor was the loft area and housed the looms. This area has a clear open space of 58' by 140' with generous fenestration of 9-over-9 pane double hung windows. These windows also occur at the first floor. The forms, proportions, and details of the eaves, soffits, and cornice returns are derived from a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival. Six-panel triangular Howe trusses span the 58' width at 10' on center and are supported by 10" x 10" wood posts. The trusses are in excellent condition. It is interesting to note that a truss is located in the south end wall with the 2" by 6" studs built around the truss. This may have been done for future expansion in this direction. The roof sheathing is 1" and straight. The exterior wall sheathing is 1" and diagonal. The floor construction is a post and beam system with wood decking, 4-3/4" thick by various widths. Pine tongue and groove flooring was laid over this decking for the finished floor. There are areas on the second floor where the finish flooring has been worn through to the decking with heavy use. At various locations, there are laminated redwood stud walls and laminated redwood beams. The exterior is finished in 1/2" x 6" redwood plain bevel siding. The siding and the windows are in need of repair.

An electric elevator is located in the southeast corner of the building. This was apparently installed in the first addition to the original building.

Settlement of floors has occurred in some areas; this condition is particularly noticeable at the first floor. The foundation of the original building appears to be in satisfactory condition, as this portion of the second floor appears to be without settlement. As the major structural elements remain in the building, restoration appears feasible.

The building has a number of construction systems and details unique to the Humboldt Bay area, especially the almost total use of redwood in the structure, the use of redwood decking, and laminated redwood stud walls and beams. It is also one of the only remaining industrial buildings constructed at the turn of the century in the local community, which retains significant architectural aspects.

Soon after the original building was completed, the front was extended out to the sidewalk on the east to accommodate larger milling equipment that would not fit the existing interior dimensions of the building. The original building was again altered by expansion of the north wall out to the sidewalk on Fourteenth Street; this second major alteration took place in 1922 as verified by a building permit for a \$12,000 alteration issued to Mercer-Fraser that year. Each of these two early expansions repeated the architectural design of the original 1900 building.

(See continuation sheet)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1900, altered 1920s **Builder/Architect** W. J. Little, Builder

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The Humboldt Bay Woolen Mill has major importance in the architectural and economic-industrial history of the City of Eureka. It is a notable example of turn-of-the-century industrial design, utilizing Classical architectural motifs. This vernacular interpretation of Classical sources is a very important building tradition in Eureka, dating back to almost a half century prior to the construction of the mill itself. There are residences and commercial buildings of this type; the frequency of their appearance in the cityscape makes them an important component of the city's architectural fabric. The Humboldt Bay Woolen Mill is by far the largest example of this type and the only surviving industrial structure of its type and period in the city. The woolen mill is the area's only major industrial complex which is not related to Eureka's primary enterprises, fishing and lumbering. It served as a major component of the region's economy throughout much of its existence.

In September of 1899, a promoter from San Francisco, A. W. Berr, who had years of experience in the field of production of wool, came to the Eureka area trying to "sell" his idea. He had evaluated the woolen mills already in production in California, determined their deficiencies and weaknesses. He made a proposal to the community which included the necessary policy modifications to correct previous mistakes of wool manufacturing so as to make the local mill a profitable venture.

The community leaders must have felt that A. W. Berr presented a good program as they were successful in selling shares of stock to local residents to get this new venture under way. Enough stock had been sold in the early part of 1900 so that the investors were able to incorporate by March 14, 1900.

The proposed mill was to be a profit-making mill bringing to the investors a high return on their investment. Many other benefits were to be derived such as providing a ready market for the local sheepherders, additional revenues to the city and county, but more importantly, the mill was designed to employ a crew of at least 65 people.

After a location was determined, the building was designed and the contract for construction was "let". Mr. W. J. Little was the contractor--the architect (unknown) was from San Francisco. The buildings themselves were complete by mid-August, 1900, at an expense of more than \$8,000. The mill went into production on a limited basis starting November 26, 1900; gradually production was increased as more areas were set-up and completed and as more personnel were trained to operate the various pieces of machinery.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.3 acres

Quadrangle name Eureka, California

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
-------	-----	------	--------	-----	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lynn Weichert, Office Manager (OHP Staff Revision 4/12/82)

organization Murrish and Associates date January 12, 1982

street & number 925 Sixth Street telephone (707) 445-2001

city or town Eureka state CA 95501

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *R. M. Egan*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date May 25, 1982

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Shelton Taylor Entered in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

- 1) Robert E. and Jennie Marie Canevari
3497 Rohnerville Road
Fortuna, CA 95540
- 2) Leroy E. and Delores L. Gates
2031 Second Street
Fortuna, CA 95540
- 3) Paul D. and Marilyn M. Mahan
403 Penny Lane
Fortuna, CA 95540
- 4) Donald L. and Betty A. Murrish
P. O. Box 562
Hydesville, CA 95547
- 5) D. D. and Ethel C. Weichert
1816 Henderson Street
Eureka, CA 95501

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The mill was sold in 1917 and again in 1920. Title was granted to the Eureka Woolen Mill on March 5, 1920; plans were made to expand the facility for additional milling space. The records of the city of Eureka show that permits were issued in 1923, 1924, 1925, and 1926 to the Eureka Woolen Mill. There was a large one-story structure added on the west side of the building. As shown in the diagram, this is a large L-shaped addition; it was used for drying room space for the wool. Windows were not used in the addition. Access was through large sliding doors. This immense area was utilitarian, and did not conform to the architectural character of the original building. Various other sheds were built at the rear of the property over the years. Most of these have deteriorated and will be removed.

After the building was sold in 1945, wool was no longer milled in the building. The original structure began to deteriorate. Some portions were rented to various retail establishments. Several alterations have been made since 1945, including the installation of sliding door shipping entrances on the north and south sides of the main building. Some of the original 9-over-9 pane windows on the ground floor on the east side of the building have been replaced by larger display windows. These windows have a canopy over them that extends out over the sidewalk. Various original windows have been removed; siding now covers the openings. The present owners plan to restore the building to its historic appearance during the proposed renovation.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HGRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

In 1904, the following was found written in the "Humboldt County Souvenir", a brochure published by Times Publishing Company regarding the "...Resources, Industries and Possibilities of this Magnificent Section of California":

"The Humboldt Woolen Mills is an industrial institution added to Humboldt's enterprises in 1901 (sic), and it proved very successful. In the first year of its operation, it accomplished the unparalleled and most satisfactory achievement of paying seven per cent on all money invested, after having educated an almost entirely raw set of help, getting new machinery into operation and working up a market for its product. It has orders far in excess of its capacity and steps are being taken to put in additional looms."

This building continued to be used as a wool producing mill up through the mid-1940s. However, during this forty plus year period, the mill did change ownerships and names several times. It remained the Humboldt Bay Woolen Mill until 1917. In 1917, there were several title transfers, the final one being to Woolknit Mills. In the early part of 1920, the woolen mill again changed ownership, this time to Eureka Woolen Mills. The Eureka Woolen Mills continued operating in this facility until the early 1940s; the building was sold by the company on March 5, 1944. Since that time, the building has been used for various commercial purposes such as a second hand store, warehousing space, and antique automobile parts sales.

The building has deteriorated over the years; however, much of the original fabric, including the structural timbers and the walls, remains in good condition. The main restoration of this structure will include the replacement of the 9-over-9 pane double-hung windows where they have been removed, the replacement of the missing and deteriorated exterior siding, rebuilding the floor, and reroofing the building. The new owners are confident that the building can be restored to its historic appearance.

A-0700H

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

_____. "At the Woolen Mill." Daily Humboldt Times, November 4, 1900.

Beach, John. Personal Communication. Architectural Historian, University of Southern California. Eureka Heritage Society, Architectural Survey (1973).

City of Eureka. Planning Department. Building Permit Records.

Humboldt County. County Recorder's Office.

_____. "Money Subscribed for Woolen Mill." Daily Humboldt Times, February 4, 1900.

_____. "Resources, Industries & Possibilities of this Magnificent Section of California." Humboldt County Souvenir. The Times Publishing Company, Second Edition, 199, 205 (1904).

_____. "That Woolen Mill." Daily Standard, February 6, 1900.

_____. "That Woolen Mill." Semi Weekly Standard, September 2, 1899.

_____. "The Woolen Mill Plant." Daily Humboldt Times, August 17, 1900.

Vellutini, Delores. Personal Communication. Director, Eureka Heritage Society Architectural Survey of 1973.

_____. "Woolen Mill Contract Let." Daily Humboldt Times, April 29, 1900.

_____. "Woolen Mill Incorporated." Daily Standard, March 15, 1900.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED.

CONTINUATION SHEET

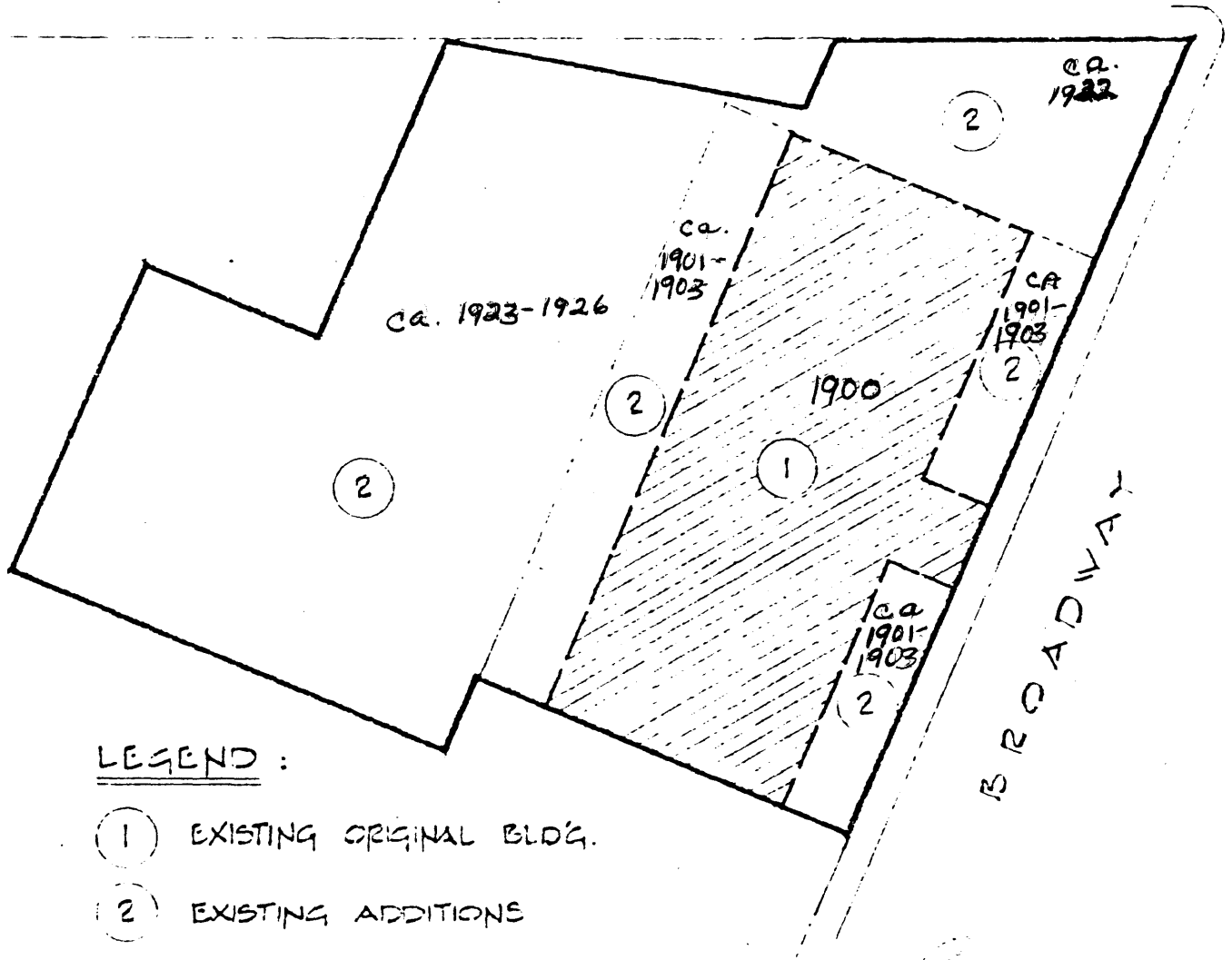
ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Verbal boundary description and justification

BEGINNING at the Southwest corner of Fourteenth Street, formerly Whipple Street & Broadway as established according to the official surveys and monuments of the City of Eureka, California; and running thence Southerly along the West line of Broadway 225.40 feet; thence North 66 degrees 48 minutes West 106 feet; thence West 162.88 feet to a point 190 feet East of Koster Street; thence North parallel with Koster Street 165.41 feet to the South line of Fourteenth Street; and thence East along the South line of Fourteenth Street 349.10 feet to the point of beginning.

Assessor's Parcel Number 3-143-02

14 TH. STREET



LEGEND :

(1) EXISTING ORIGINAL BLDG.

(2) EXISTING ADDITIONS

SITE PLAN

SC : 1" = 40'-0"

WOOLEN MILL BUILDING

BROADWAY & 14 TH. AVENUE
EUREKA - CALIFORNIA

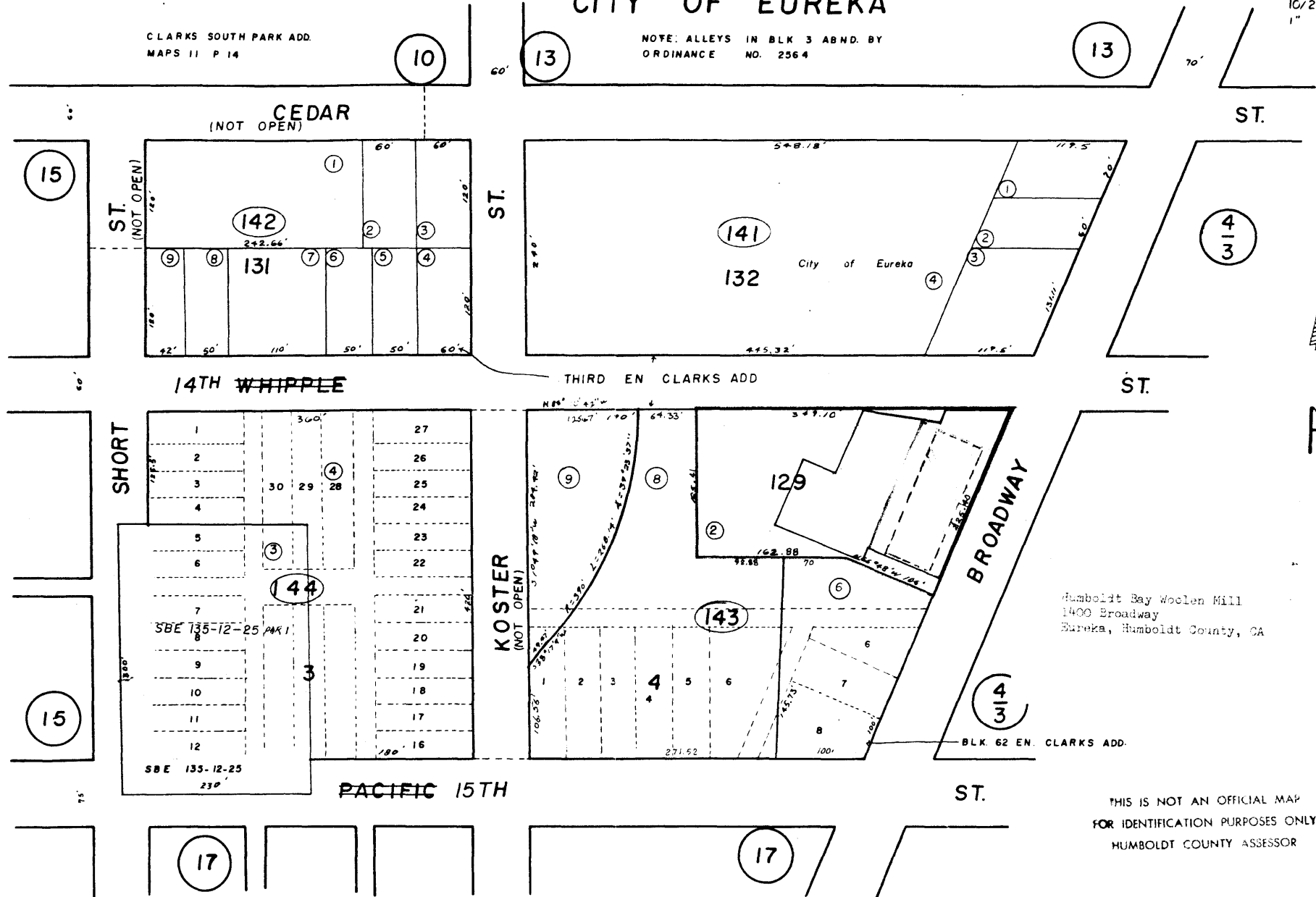
Humboldt Bay Woolen Mill
1400 Broadway
Eureka, Humboldt County, CA

GERALD D. MATSON, AIA - Architect
3174 T ST - EUREKA, CALIF. 95501
JOB # 25-20 - JULY 10 '81

CITY OF EUREKA

CLARKS SOUTH PARK ADD.
MAPS 11 P 14

NOTE: ALLEYS IN BLK 3 ABND. BY
ORDINANCE NO. 2564



Humboldt Bay Woolen Mill
1400 Broadway
Eureka, Humboldt County, CA

BLK. 62 EN. CLARKS ADD.

THIS IS NOT AN OFFICIAL MAP
FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES ONLY
HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSESSOR

711