

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received NOV 7 1985
date entered

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

DEC 5 1985

1. Name

historic Providence Jewelry Manufacturing Historic District

and/or common The Jewelry District

2. Location

street & number The area bounded by Route 195, Route 95, Point Street,
Parsonage, South, Hospital, Elbow, Ashcroft, not for publication

city, town Richmond, Eddy, and Ship Streets
Providence vicinity of Congressional Dist. #2
Hon. Claudine Schneider

state Rhode Island code 44 county Providence code 007

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple -- See list of owners on file at R.I. Historical Preservation
Commission

street & number 150 Benefit Street

city, town Providence vicinity of state Rhode Island 02903

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Providence City Hall

street & number 25 Dorrance Street

city, town Providence state Rhode Island 02903

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See Continuation Sheet #1 has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

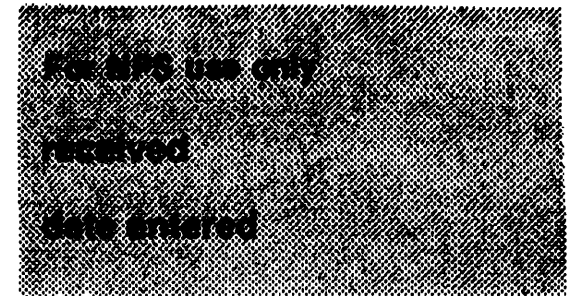
The Providence Jewelry Manufacturing Historic District, located just south of Downtown and west of the Providence River, contains fourteen multi-story factory buildings, a former City Mission laundry and four houses, three of which have been adapted to industrial uses, all representing the area's development from a fashionable residential neighborhood established in the first half of the nineteenth century to the center of Providence's jewelry industry in the early twentieth century. Now physically distinct because of the construction of Interstate 95 and 195 to the north and west, the Jewelry District is a small but intact fragment of the larger West Side area that followed a similar evolution from residential to industrial and commercial uses in the nineteenth century. The district occupies the better part of eleven blocks in an irregular grid pattern with Eddy, Richmond, Chestnut and Hospital Streets serving as the major thoroughfares and Clifford, Ship, Bassett, Elbow, Elm, South and Point Streets forming the cross streets. Large brick and reinforced-concrete factory buildings, often occupying entire blocks are the dominant visual elements. Interspersed among them are a variety of smaller buildings that range from the nineteenth-century frame and brick houses clustered near the center of the district, to the handsome stone Elm Street Machine Shop of 1848 and the brick laundry built by the Women's City Missionary Society in 1903. Noteworthy intrusions, in addition to the interstate highways, include the construction of two mid-twentieth-century industrial buildings on Clifford and Chestnut Streets, rear additions on several factory buildings and two houses, the parking lots created by the demolition of numerous houses and shops and the application of modern vinyl siding and new windows and other alterations on the houses.

The earliest of the jewelry factories are impressive five-, six-, and seven-story-tall brick and heavy timber structures with pier and panel bearing walls, segmental-arched windows and corbeled cornices. The first was the Champlin Building (1888), followed by the Irons and Russell Building (1903) and the James Doran & Sons Building (1907) and they are clustered on Chestnut Street, at the northern end of the district. A fourth building, the Vesta Knitting Mills (1893, 1903), located on Imperial Place on the western side of the district, is similar in appearance, though it was built in part as a textile mill. The brick mill construction factories were followed by reinforced-concrete buildings, including Rhode Island's earliest examples of the mushroom-column, flat-slab style of construction developed by C.A.P. Turner, the A.T. Wall Building (1910) and the Doran-Speidel Building (1912). The reinforced-concrete factories of the twenties exhibit curtain walls of brick and glass, accentuated in the case of the Little Nemo Building (1928) and the Coro Building (1929) by moderate Art Deco styling in their parapets. The Coro Building was particularly noteworthy at the time of its construction for the unprecedented amount of floorspace devoted to one jewelry company's operation, 160,000 square feet. These factories are for the most part still occupied by jewelry and other industrial firms, though in recent years residential and commercial usage has

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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Continuation sheet 1

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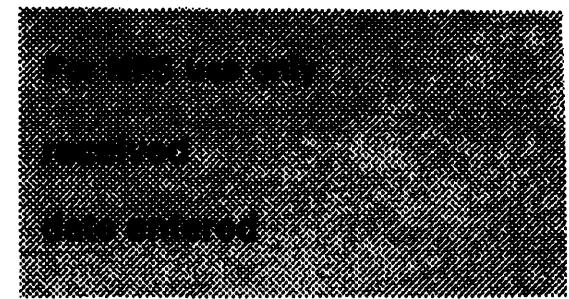
Rhode Island: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites.
(HAER) 1978.

Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission Statewide Planning Report.
P-P-6 Providence Industrial Sites. 1981.

Records on file at RIHPC, Providence, R.I.

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been introduced, most notably in the Champlin, Irons and Russell and Little Nemo Buildings. Only the Coro Building is vacant at present.

On the block bounded by Bassett, Chestnut and Elbow Streets are the district's oldest buildings. The Pardon Clarke House (c. 1823) and the Samuel Lewis House (c. 1825), two of the few surviving Federal houses on the west side of the Providence River, are two-and-a-half-story, end-gable roof, houses with side-hall plans. The Clarke House, a frame house with a center chimney, has a front doorway with sidelights, framed by two pairs of narrow Doric pilasters; above the doorway is an elaborate bracketed hood, added later in the nineteenth century. The Lewis House is brick, with flat stone lintels and a front entrance with a fanlight transom surmounted by a stone moulding with a keystone. 18 Bassett Street is a somewhat later (c. 1840), more modest, end-gable roof, frame house, originally one-and-a-half-stories with vernacular Greek Revival styling. It was raised over a brick ground story and a frame shopfront was installed when a bakery was established on the premises (c. 1910). The fourth house, and the only one to continue in use as a residence, is the two-and-a-half-story frame lodging-house at 27 Elbow Street (c. 1888), with a mansard roof and prominent classical moldings.

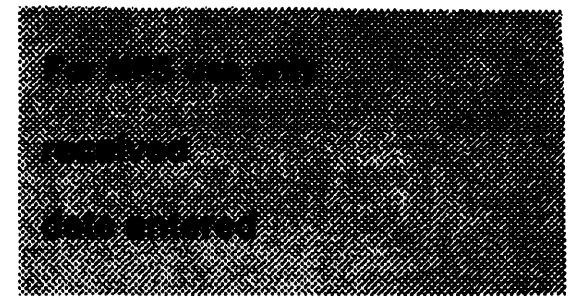
INVENTORY

Contributing structures include buildings erected during the jewelry district's period of growth and development from a residential neighborhood in the 1820s, to the center of the Providence jewelry industry in the 1920s. The majority of the buildings are examples of late 19th- and early 20th-century industrial design which are impressive by virtue of their size and the rhythmic repetition of horizontal and vertical patterns in their facades. Although the few early houses have been altered to varying degrees by the installation of new windows, the application of vinyl siding and asphalt shingles, or the construction of unsympathetic additions, in all cases original trim, such as door and window frames, cornices, etc., remains and the houses still constitute an important part of the historic fabric. This small number of houses remain as the representatives of the larger number of dwellings that stood side by side with the industrial buildings up until the last thirty years.

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CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

BASSETT STREET

- 18 House (c. 1840, enlarged c. 1910): This house was apparently built as a 1½-story, end-gable-roof, frame house with an interior brick chimney, trimmed in the vernacular Greek Revival style with a prominent cornice and a pedimented gable. About 1910 the house was raised on a brick ground story with segmentally arched windows and a shopfront on the north end. The storefront has two large showcase windows flanking recessed double doors, all surmounted by a band of transoms. The wooden frame of the storefront has a modest amount of built-up, vaguely classical trim. A single-story brick shop with a shallow gable roof and segmental-arched windows and doorways was built in the rear of the house at the same time. A small passageway connects the house and the shop. The shop was originally a bakery, but has been a cabinetmaker's shop since the 1930s. The upper stories of the house have been trimmed with vinyl siding and there are two single-story, concrete-block additions to the rear of the shop.

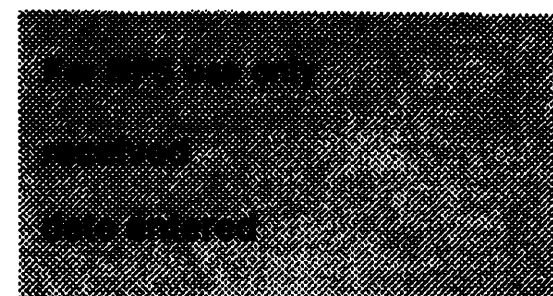
CHESTNUT STREET

- 95 Irons & Russell Building (1903-04): A 6-story, flat-roof, brick factory building with large segmental-arched windows separated by narrow piers and capped with a corbeled cornice. A rectangular building occupying a corner lot, it has side entrances to the upper stories on Chestnut and Clifford Streets. The Chestnut Street entrance has a brownstone surround with a round-arched doorway and a projecting entablature above with "Irons & Russell Building" engraved in the frieze. Originally designed to have two stores on the ground floor, the building had seven full-length showcase windows along Chestnut Street and three on Clifford Street, with a corner entrance and cast iron Roman Doric columns dividing the window bays. The windows have been replaced with stuccoed panels and small transoms and the commercial area is now occupied by a bar and restaurant.
- 116 Champlin Building, now known as the Hedison Building (1888, 1901): This is a 5-story, flat-roof, sharply-angled, brick building that conforms to its trapezoidally-shaped lot at the intersection of Chestnut and Ship Streets. The exterior pier and panel walls have segmental-arched windows and a corbeled cornice. The southern half of the building was added in 1901 in the same style as the northern half, but with a low, single-story, flat-roof, brick addition on the rear. There are plain entrances in both the Chestnut Street and Ship Street facades. In 1978 the building was converted to condominium

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Chestnut Street (cont.)

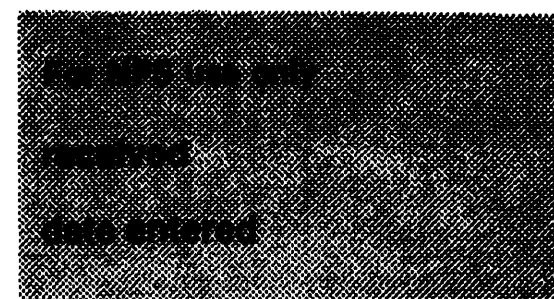
lofts and retains mixed commercial and residential use.

- 137 Samuel Lewis House (c. 1825): This is a 2½-story, end-gable, brick house with a side-hall plan, built in the Federal style. Three bays wide and five bays deep, on a raised basement of ashlar and rubble-stone masonry, the house has its front door slightly recessed within a doorway with a round stone arch with a keystone. Over the door there is a fanlight with a decorative wooden molding. The windows have flat stone lintels and wooden sills. The facade has all-stretcher brickwork, while the side walls have a brick bond of nine rows of stretchers to one of headers. There is an internal brick chimney. Since 1940 the building has been occupied by an electrical repair business. Alterations include an extra window added in the center of the north side. A two-story, flat-roof, brick building with a long 1-story wing has been erected in the rear of the house and a second-story passageway connects the two buildings.
- 150 Doran Building (1907): This is a 7-story, flat-roof, brick building with heavy timber framing, segmental-arched windows and doorways and a corbeled cornice. A large granite keystone over one of three entrances on Chestnut Street bears the date 1907. The building occupies a corner lot at Chestnut and Elbow Streets. It has been recently subdivided into condominiums for commercial and light industrial use.
- 155 Pardon Clarke House (c. 1823): This is a 2½-story, end-gable roof, frame house with a side-hall plan built in the Federal style. The house sits on a high granite ashlar and stuccoed rubblestone foundation, with a twin flight of stone steps, with a wrought iron hand rail on one flight, leading to the front door, which is flanked by three-pane sidelights framed by two pairs of narrow Doric pilasters. An elaborate bracketed hood and raised wooden paneling in the transom area beneath it were apparently added in the late nineteenth century. The house, which has a brick chimney near the center, has a 1-story and a 2-story back building, both with gable roofs. Several small jewelry firms have occupied the building since 1920. Alterations include asphalt shingles over the clapboards and new one-over-one double-hung sash windows, which apparently replace some earlier changes in the fenestration. There is a 2-story, flat-roof, brick and concrete block addition on the north side.

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CLIFFORD STREET

155 Women's City Missionary Society Laundry (1903): This is a single-story, flat-roof, brick building on a raised basement. Three bays wide and six bays deep, it has a central front entrance that is sheltered by a large shed roof with elaborate brackets. There is also a side entrance with a large, projecting, gable-roof hood with built-up brackets. The windows in the upper story have brick jack arches and quarry-faced granite sills. The basement windows have quarry-faced sills and lintels. The roof, which was originally enclosed by a picket fence and used for drying laundry, has a copper-sheathed coping and projecting eaves with blocklike brackets. Except for some replacement of the original six-over-six windows, the principal alteration has been the addition of a single-story, flat-roof, brick wing on the northeast corner, which contains a loading bay. The laundry is presently occupied by a manufacturer of plating equipment.

162 A.T. Wall Company (1908): Bowerman Brothers, architects. This is a 4-story, flat-roof, reinforced concrete structure, built with the mushroom-column, flat-slab construction system developed by C.A.P. Turner. It has concrete exterior walls arranged in the pier and spandrel style; the original multiple-pane windows with transoms over double-hung sashes have been replaced by new aluminum-sash casement windows. The main entrance in the center of the Clifford Street facade is through a four-bay, recessed, doorway with fluted Doric pilasters and an entablature framing the doors and transoms. There is a projecting cornice over the entrance that bears a Clark and Coombs signboard. The interior is notable for the 30-inch octagonal columns which have utility holes in the capitals to accommodate pipes and wires running from floor to floor. Reinforcing rods extend from the roof and north elevation to facilitate building expansion. There is a single-story wing in the rear that contains the annealing house.

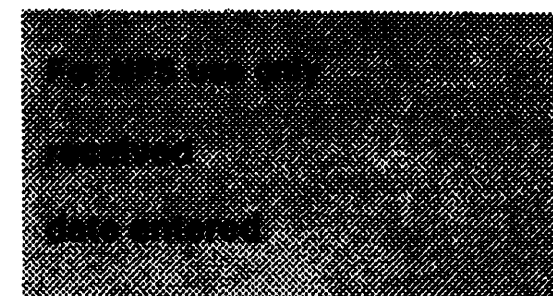
ELBOW STREET

29 House (c. 1888): This 2½-story, mansard-roof, frame house with a side-hall plan. Three bays wide and five bays deep, it has a front door flanked by sidelights and a transom recessed within a entryway. This entrance is framed by Doric pilasters and an entablature with modillions and dentil molding. The two-over-two double-hung sash windows have architrave trim and small triangular aprons. There are prominent bracketed cornices over the first-story windows. The main cornice is also pronounced and above it, on the slate-covered

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Elbow Street (cont.)

roof, there are dormers with slightly-projecting gables with incised designs in the tympana. The house has had few alterations aside from the application of asphalt shingles and, more recently, a small section of panel skirting on the first floor. The building continues to be used as a apartment building, the only residential building still used as such in the district.

ELM STREET

- 116 Elm Street Machine Shop (1848, c. 1863, 1907): This is a 2½-story, end-gable, random ashlar masonry building with a 1-story, end-gable wing of the same stone construction on the northeast. The building has huge round-arched freight doors, graduated in size, in each story of either gable end. Full-length multiple-pane windows with double-hung sashes light the interior, while the top story is lit by long trap-door monitors on either slope of the roof. A 2-story, double-gable-roof, brick addition was built parallel to the main building with its entrance on South Street c. 1863. The third addition (1907) is a 4-story, flat-roof, building on the corner of South and Hospital, which has segmental-arched windows, a round-arched doorway and a corbeled cornice. This part of the complex was built by the Providence Gas Burner Company. A 4-story, flat-roofed, brick tower, two bays square, with segmental-arched windows and a corbeled cornice was built on the east flank of the original building at the same time. There is also a towering brick chimney that tapers as it rises up to a corbeled cap.

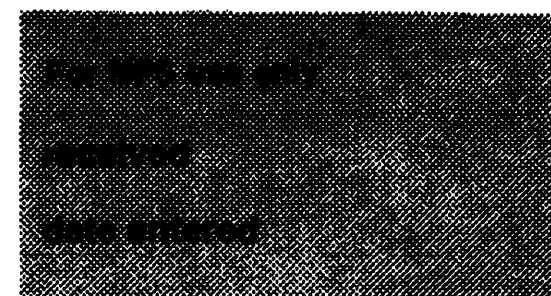
IMPERIAL PLACE

- 2 Vesta Knitting Mills, now known as Imperial Knife Company (1893, 1903): The 1893 factory is a 6-story, flat-roof brick building with rounded corners, segmental-arched windows and a corbeled cornice, that runs east along Bassett Street from the intersection of Imperial Place and Bassett. The 1903 factory is a plainer, L-shaped, 6-story, flat-roof brick building with segmental-arched windows with granite sills, that extends south along Imperial Place and east along Elm Street. Between the north and south wings formed by these two buildings there is a complex of smaller brick buildings, including a two-story, gable-roof, brick building with segmental-arched windows that dates from c. 1888. There are two brick and one concrete-block, single-story flat-roofed outbuildings attached to the east side of the complex that were added in the 1950s and 1960s.

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POINT STREET

- 167 Coro Building (1929, 1947): Frank S. Perry, architect. This is a 3-story, flat-roof, U-shaped, reinforced-concrete building with pier and panel exterior walls. The panels are filled with large banks of industrial sash windows, with bands of beige brick beneath. The piers rise up to a low parapet that is trimmed with a moderate amount of Art Deco styling. The main entrance is in the center of the south facade, recessed between two projecting wings. A large aluminum-sheathed marquee shelters the doorway; the legend, "CORO BUILDING 1929", adorns the wall above; and the parapet swells in an ogee arch at the roofline. Unlike the other factories in the district, the Coro Building has a front lawn planted with trees and shrubs and enclosed by an iron fence. The original contractor, the Edward Sturgeon Company, built a 4-story wing in a similar style (without the parapet), on the western end of the building in 1946-47.

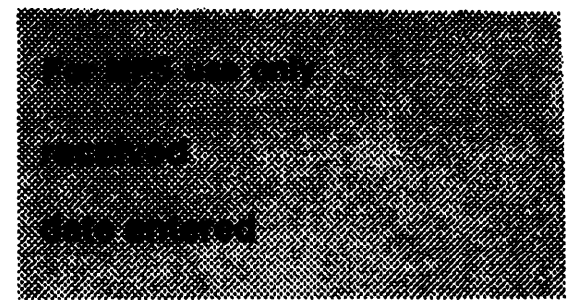
RICHMOND STREET

- 200 J. & H. Electric Company, originally Kiernan Wholesale Drug Company (1922-23): This is a 3-story, flat-roof, brick building with a steel frame and a raised basement. It has pier and panel exterior walls, with the piers rising up to a low parapet and the panels recessed, with corbeling at the top. Most of the large windows are filled with industrial sash, though aluminum-sash casement windows with red transom panels have been installed in some windows on the second floor, and glass blocks have been put in some of the first floor windows. The building, which conforms to its pentagonal corner lot, faces the intersection of Richmond and Ship Streets. The entrance is recessed within the corner bay. A neon sign with the company name is attached to the Richmond Street side of the entrance.
- 222 Little Nemo Building (1928): Frank S. Perry, architect. This is a 3-story, flat-roof, reinforced concrete building. It has curtain walls arranged in piers and spandrels with bands of windows with narrow Roman brick panels underneath. The wall is rounded at the corner of Ship and Richmond Streets. The concrete piers rise up to the roofline, where they are capped with arrow-like ornaments. There are also small corner parapets and a central parapet over the Richmond Street entrance with geometric Art Deco detailing. The Little Nemo Building was rehabilitated in 1978 for use as office space. The principal changes to the exterior were the removal of the original marquee and the installation of modern tinted glass with small corner casements in place of the original industrial sash windows.

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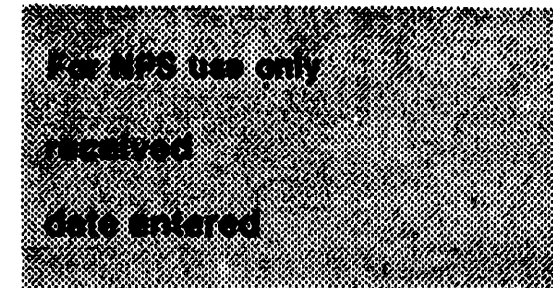
SHIP STREET

- 26 Manufacturers' Refining Company, now known as the Mills Coffee Roasting Company (1910): This is a small 2-story, flat-roof, brick building with segmental-arched windows with granite sills, a segmental-arched central doorway with a transom, and garage doors on both the north and east sides. A simple parapet with central and end piers provides the principal ornament to this modest building which was erected for a small gold-smelting company and has recently been taken over by a coffee-roasting company.
- 60 N.H. Haronian Building (1925): This is a 3-story, flat-roof, reinforced-concrete building with brick pier and panel walls, with large banks of industrial sash windows with flat brick arches and concrete sills. There is a recessed entrance, framed by piers with rounded corners, on the east side of the north facade. A cornice with a frieze band of vertical stretchers provides the principal ornament to this modestly-styled building. Built by Nazareth Haronian both to house his own small jewelry business and for rental use, the building was remodeled inside for use as an office building in 1983-84.
- 70 Doran-Speidel Building (1912, 1964): Monks and Johnson, architects, 1912. This is a 5-story, flat-roof, reinforced-concrete building, built with the mushroom-column, flat-slab construction system developed by C.A.P. Turner. The concrete pier and spandrel exterior walls have large rectangular industrial sash windows and some distinctive decorative touches. The parapet and the concrete bands under the windows are paneled, while the piers have horizontal grooves reminiscent of quoining. Over the central entrance there is a false balcony with two engaged piers topped with ball finials, all executed in concrete. There is a square Doric pilaster in the center of the two-bay entrance, with modern aluminum-frame glass doors on either side. The 1964 addition built by the Speidel Corporation on the western end of the building closely replicates the earlier building, though the paneling and other ornamental touches were eliminated. It also has a raised single-story vestibule with a flat roof with aluminum coping which faces Chestnut Street. Few changes have been made in the original building except along Elbow Street where several basement windows have been filled in with concrete blocks. The building is still occupied by the Speidel Company, now a division of Textron, Inc.

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Ship Street (cont.)

- 89 W.H. Coe Building (1925-26): This is a 2-story, flat-roof, steel-framed brick building, finished with limestone trim. The pier and panel exterior walls have large rectangular windows with limestone sills and flat brick arches. The building conforms to its trapezoidal lot and has a rounded corner at the intersection of Ship and Clifford Streets. The entrance, on the eastern end of the south facade, has a classical frontispiece, with a shallow pediment and a pair of composite Doric and Ionic columns framing the recessed doorway. There is also coping on top of the parapet and a paneled frieze band over the second-story windows, both executed in limestone. The Coe Building was rehabilitated in 1983-84 for use as an office building. The major change to the exterior was the installation of mirror glass in large fixed panes in place of the original industrial sash windows.

SOUTH STREET

- 100 Alfred Company Building (1926): This 2-story, flat-roof, steel-framed brick building is an L-shaped structure with pier and panel exterior walls and large rectangular industrial sash windows. The central entrance on South Street is flanked by two tall banks of glass blocks with rounded corners. A parapet wall with shallow inset panels runs across the front of the building; behind it, a large skylight lights the front stairhall. Built by an investment company as a jewelry factory, the building is presently occupied by jewelry manufacturers. There is a hip-roofed concrete-block garage in the rear of the lot.

NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

CHESTNUT STREET

- 111 Brian Supply Company (1956): A 2-story, flat-roofed building of Roman brick with window bands of glass block over aluminum sash casements. Occupies the southwestern corner of Chestnut and Clifford Streets with a large concrete brick extension, two stories high, along Clifford Street. An industrial supply company. A small frame kiosk for the parking lot attendant sits in the open lot to the south.

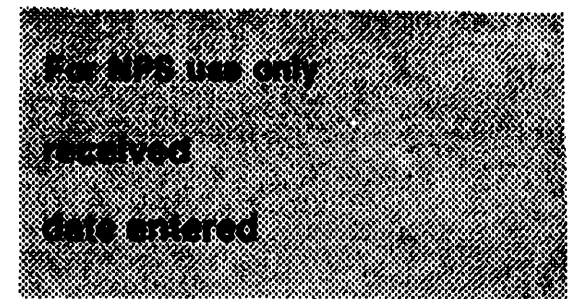
CLIFFORD STREET

- c. 153 Garages (1970s): Two single-story, end-gable garages with metal siding, used for storage by firm at 155 Clifford Street.
- 157 Claverick Building (1948): A 2-story, flat-roof, brick-faced, reinforced-concrete building with window bands and a recessed entrance bay. A multiple-tenant jewelry manufacturing building.

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POINT STREET

185 Collision Service Inc. (1950s): A single-story, flat-roof, brick garage.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	c. 1823, c. 1825, 1848, 1888,	Various Unknown, Samuel Lewis		
Specific dates	1893, 1901, 1903,	Builder/Architect	(137 Chestnut St.), Martin and	
	1907, 1910, 1912, 1928, 1929		Hall (Irons and Russell Building),	
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)			Bowerman Brothers, A.T. Wall	
			Building), Monks and Johnson (Doran-	
			Speidel Building), Frank S. Perry	
			(Little Nemo and Coro Buildings)	

The Providence Jewelry Manufacturing Historic District is significant as a visually distinctive concentration of buildings related to the area's development from a predominantly residential neighborhood to the center of the Providence jewelry industry in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Though late-nineteenth and early twentieth century brick and reinforced-concrete factories predominate in the district, there are also important examples of domestic and industrial architecture from the first half of the nineteenth century when the area was first developed as a part of Providence's West Side.

One of the houses in the district, 137 Chestnut Street, is significant for its associations with two prominent members of a Providence family, Thomas A. Doyle and his sister, Sarah E. Doyle. Thomas A. Doyle was mayor of Providence for eighteen years between 1864 and 1886, during which time he oversaw the completion of numerous public works and the improvement of the city services. Sarah E. Doyle, as a teacher in the Providence High School and a leading advocate for the establishment of the coeducational Rhode Island School of Design and the Pembroke College for Women associated with Brown University, was one of the most effective spokesmen for women's education in Rhode Island and the nation in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The factories erected by jewelry manufacturers and real estate investors illustrate broad trends in the development of the jewelry industry both in Rhode Island and in the United States as a whole. They are also significant representatives of major developments in 19th- and 20th-century industrial architecture in Rhode Island and the rest of the country. They demonstrate the evolution of architectural engineering techniques in the solution of basic industrial needs including fire-prevention construction, improved lighting and the efficient use of space.

The earliest factory in the district, the Elm Street Machine Shop, with its walls built of stone to reduce the dangers of fire, its large windows with flat lintels and the long continuous trapdoor monitors in the gable roof, designed to provide as much light as possible to the work areas, and the minimal classical styling seen in the plain stone cornice and the round arches of the freight doors, is a well-preserved example

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of the industrial architecture that emerged in the first half of the nineteenth century. The late-19th-century jewelry factories that followed are quite different. Built in a downtown location where real estate had become very expensive, they are taller than earlier buildings, some of them reaching seven stories high, and they use all of the available space in their often irregular lots. They are built with brick load-bearing walls and slow-burning heavy timber frames. In an effort to increase window space and improve natural lighting, their builders almost universally employed the segmental arch in the window openings, which concentrated more of the wall load in the piers between the windows, thereby allowing for larger windows. A further development in this trend was the creation of thicker piers which supported the wall, while the non-load bearing spandrels between the piers contained even larger windows. The flat or near-flat roof, which allowed for maximum use and improved lighting of the top story, had also become common following the introduction of coal-tar and tarpaper coatings. Stylistically, most of these turn-of-the-century buildings are similar and quite plain, with a corbeled cornice providing the major ornamental touch, as in the Champlin Building and the Doran Building. Occasionally the main entrance is the focus of more elaborate decoration, e.g. the Irons and Russell Building. In the second decade of the 20th century, the development of flat-slab reinforced-concrete construction transformed the nature of industrial building. In this type of construction, the concrete floor slab and the columns, reinforced by steel rods, became the only structural elements in a building, opening up the interior space and leaving eighty percent of the walls free for windows. First introduced in Rhode Island in the A.T. Wall Building of 1910, flat-slab reinforced-concrete construction was employed in the major factories built in the jewelry district after that year, including the Doran-Speidel Building, the Little Nemo Building and the Coro Building.

The jewelry industry in Providence had its origins in the late eighteenth century in the enterprises of two men, Seril Dodge, who was the first jeweler to open a shop in Providence, and his nephew, Nehemiah Dodge, who developed an early process for rolled plated gold. From these small beginnings Providence developed into the center of jewelry manufacturing in the United States in the late nineteenth century, a position which it has continued to hold.

The elder Dodge was in business in Providence by August, 1784, manufacturing watches, clocks and gold and silver jewelry. Dodge prospered, sharing in the town's success as a center of maritime trade, and he was soon sharing the local market with several other jewelers. In 1794, just about the time that Seril Dodge retired, Nehemiah Dodge opened his own shop for the manufacture of 18k gold jewelry. Before long, he abandoned this traditional craft and became the first manufacturer of rolled plated

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gold. The method which he developed, perhaps with techniques learned from his uncle, consisted of uniting a thin sheet of gold to a thicker sheet of copper with silver solder, and then hammering it and rolling it to the desired thickness. Dodge sold his plated gold to other goldsmiths and thus became the first "manufacturing jeweler." As such, he instituted two trends that would continue to characterize the Providence jewelry industry: the production of jewelry in the lower price ranges; and the specialization and innovation in the technology of jewelry manufacture.

On the foundations laid by the Dodges and their contemporaries, the Providence jewelry industry grew steadily if not rapidly in the early nineteenth century. One of the aspects of this growth was an expansion of the jewelers' markets. Not content with just local sales, Providence jewelers were soon traveling throughout the country, vending their gold chains and other wares as far away as New Orleans. Though the markets expanded, the average jewelry operation did not. The most common arrangement was the small partnership of two or more members, with one partner managing the shop and the other keeping the books and marketing the product. Within the shop, the traditional institution of apprenticeship prevailed. After serving their seven-year apprenticeships, two or more journeymen often combined their resources to form a new partnership. These partnerships were not heavily capitalized nor did they last more than ten years on the average. This was due largely to the volatile nature of the jewelry business. The sales of jewelry, a luxury item, have been particularly sensitive to downturns in the economy, which occurred regularly in the nineteenth century. Apart from the mood of the general economy, the jeweler also has had to deal with fluctuations in the prices of precious metals as well as changing tastes in fashion. At the same time, jewelry production in this era was mostly done by hand and it required little investment in machinery or other capital goods. These factors all combined to create an industry populated by a variety of small firms. A major exception to these conditions was the silverware industry as typified by the Gorham Manufacturing Company. Founded by Jabez Gorham, who served his apprenticeship under Nehemiah Dodge, the Gorham Company expanded early in its history, adopting steam-powered factory production in 1850 and incorporating in 1865. Despite their common origins, the jewelry and the silverware industries in Providence developed along quite different lines.

In 1830 there were twenty-seven jewelry firms employing 280 workers in Providence; by 1850, there were fifty-seven firms and 590 workers. The city's prominence as a jewelry center served to attract both native and foreign craftsmen. One of the most notable of the immigrants was Thomas Lowe of Birmingham, England, who brought with him a cheaper and more effective technique for making gold plate without using any solder.

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The Panic of 1857 and the Civil War retarded the industry as a whole, but the postwar economic boom stimulated unprecedented growth. From forty-five shops employing over 700 workers in 1865, the industry expanded to 130 companies with almost 2,700 workers by 1875. By 1880, Rhode Island was the leading state in the manufacture of jewelry, accounting for more than one quarter of the entire national jewelry production. Of the state's 148 firms, 142 of them were in Providence. By 1890, Providence's numbers had grown to more than 200 firms with almost 7,000 workers. This extensive growth in the final quarter of the nineteenth century was the result of an expanding market for inexpensive jewelry, the growing labor force, fed by immigration, and the process of mechanization which began to transform the industry.

Certain important technological innovations in this period originated in Providence, such as Levi Burdon's invention of seamless-filled wire (c. 1887) which stimulated the chain-making industry. Another technological advance, electroplating, was quickly taken up by Providence jewelers and applied to the manufacture of novelties, such as buttons, studs, emblems, badges and other metal ornaments. Mechanization also led to increasing specialization, with many firms contributing to the manufacture of a final product. One of the largest of these specialized industries was the production of jewelers' findings, the pin-stems, catches, hubs and dies and other hardware for pins, earrings, necklaces and novelties. Electroplating, coloring, engraving, chasing, refining, toolmaking and jewelry box and case-making were other areas where specialized firms emerged.

Within the individual firms, the craft traditions, while not disappearing completely, were being supplanted by specialization as well. Workers increasingly performed a single type of job, such as soldering, operating a press, polishing or stone-setting. There was in addition a large amount of low-skill work, such as stringing beads and assembling jewelry, that was done by semi- or unskilled workers at home. These workers, many of them immigrant women and children, often labored for low wages in unsafe working conditions. This type of work has been largely but not completely eliminated.

A major manifestation of the jewelry industry's expansion in the second half of the nineteenth century was the growth of a jewelry district. Prior to 1850 most of the jewelry shops had been on or near North Main Street. By the end of the Civil War, they had moved across the river to the West Side, where they concentrated in the area bounded by Richmond, Orange, Middle and Clifford Streets, south of the city's banking and commercial district. Here there began to appear the first multi-story factory buildings built by jewelers and real estate investors for multiple tenancy by the industry. One of the first was the Richardson and Hicks or the Bowen Building (1850) at Page and Friendship Streets. It was the

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largest jewelry building in the city until the Fitzgerald Building was erected on Eddy Street between Friendship and Clifford Streets in the early 1870s. As the industry's growth accelerated in the 1880s, jewelry manufacturers began to look outside the immediate boundaries of the jewelry district for new building sites and it was at this juncture that the district began to spread south and west down Eddy and Chestnut Streets and along the side streets between them.

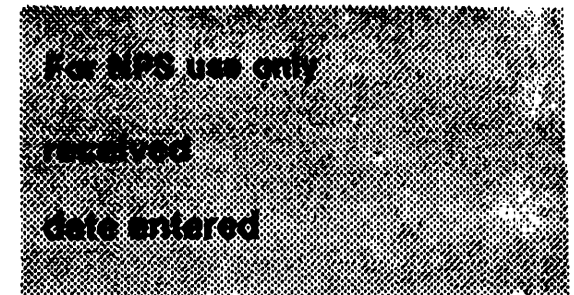
This area to the south of Friendship Street was largely residential, except for the industrial corridor along Eddy Street and the riverfront. Development had begun here in the late eighteenth century when the Eddy family and others established shipyards and wharves on Cowpen Point at the end of Ship Street (the present Ship and Eddy Streets). More intensive building followed in the early nineteenth century as a part of the general growth of Providence's West Side. Anthony's Map of Providence of 1823 shows that the present street pattern was largely in place by that date, and by the 1840s, this development was essentially complete. The neighborhood was home to a range of Providence society, from merchants and businessmen who worked in the business district to the north, to factory managers, artisans and skilled mechanics who were employed in neighboring factories or in the shipyards and on the wharves to the east. For example, the house at 137 Chestnut Street was built and initially occupied by Samuel Lewis, a mason. In 1844 it became the residence of Thomas A. Doyle and his family. Doyle (1827-1886), was an auctioneer and stock and real estate broker who entered politics as a member of the Common Council in 1852 and almost continuously thereafter held office in the Providence city government. After filling several different posts in the city government, he was elected mayor of Providence in 1864, a post which he held for eighteen years, serving from 1864-1869, 1870-1881, and from 1884 until his death in 1886. During his administrations, Providence more than doubled in size and wealth and the scope of city services expanded as well. The improvements included the establishment of regular drills and uniforms for the city police, the introduction of both a city water system and a sewage system and the creation of a city park and several other public buildings, including the present City Hall. Doyle had moved to a new residence in 1870, but his sisters, Charlotte and Sarah E. Doyle, continued to live here until 1892.

Sarah Doyle (1830-1922) was herself a figure of considerable stature as a suffragist and a proponent of women's education. She began her career as a teacher in the girls' department of Providence High School in 1856. From 1878 until she retired in 1892, she served as the principal of the girls' department. She was also a tireless volunteer on behalf of higher education for women and served as one of the leaders in the founding of the coeducational Rhode Island School of Design in 1877. At the request

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of the president of Brown University, she founded and chaired the Rhode Island Society for the Collegiate Education of Women, the organization that raised the funds for the establishment and construction of the Pembroke College for Women at Brown University in 1892. In 1893 she became one of the first recipients of an honorary A.M. from Pembroke College. She continued to exert a strong formative influence on Rhode Island society until her death in 1922.

The house at 155 Chestnut Street, originally the residence of Pardon Clarke, a painter, was for many years the home of Benjamin White, cashier of the Phenix Bank. A more modest house at 18 Bassett Street was a rental property that was probably the home of a mechanic or skilled worker.

Two major exceptions to the predominantly residential land use in the area west of Eddy Street were: the machine shop on Elm Street at Butler (Imperial Place), built by the Phenix Iron Foundry and Elm Street Machine Shop at Eddy and Elm Streets; and the Elba Mill on Butler Street between Elm and Bassett Streets, one of the few textile factories in that part of the city.

This community had developed as a part of the walking city, but by the late nineteenth century, the development of streetcar lines had made it possible to live a greater distance from the workplace. As new residential neighborhoods were developed to the south and west of the central part of the city, industry's claims on this area were growing more imperative. One of the last residential buildings erected in the neighborhood was at 29 Elbow Street. Built c. 1888 on a lot created by subdividing the 155 Chestnut Street parcel, 29 Elbow Street was a lodginghouse, with tenants who included, significantly, jewelers.

The first major landmark in the jewelry industry's expansion south of Friendship Street was the Champlin Building, erected in 1888 at the corner of Chestnut and Ship Streets. The S.B. Champlin Company had been founded in 1872 by Stanton B. Champlin and his son George to manufacture gold rings and gold-filled chains. Having outgrown its quarters at Eddy and Elm Streets, the Champlin Company built a five-story brick building large enough to house its own operations and to provide rental space for other manufacturers. The venture was such a success that the building was enlarged on the south in 1901. Among the other companies that occupied the building were: the E.M. Dart Company, manufacturers of pipe fittings and pumps, valves and regulators; the Edwin Lowe Company, successors to the plating business started by Thomas Lowe; and the Hedison Company, jewelry manufacturers.

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The next to follow the Champlin Company's lead was not a jewelry firm, but a textile company. The Vesta Knitting Mills built a six-story brick factory on the site of the Elba Mill in 1893 and rented a small amount of space to jewelry manufacturers. The demand for manufacturing space was so great that the company built a second large factory in 1903 and rented out five of the six floors to jewelers. Both buildings were eventually acquired by the Imperial Knife Company, founded by Felix Mirando, which was the first large American manufacturer of jack knives.

In 1903-04, the Irons and Russell Company, manufacturers of emblems, pins and charms, commissioned a new building to provide it with expanded quarters and to house other light industrial firms. Located on the corner of Chestnut and Clifford Streets, the six-story brick building was noted at the time of its construction for its use of electrical power, provided by its own plant, which eliminated much of the need for belting and shafting, making the workplace lighter and cleaner. The building was heated by the exhaust steam from the power-generating system, and water was supplied throughout the building from a spring discovered during the excavation of the foundations. Irons and Russell was one of a few Providence firms that succeeded in expanding beyond the customarily small scale of operations. By 1909, when the average number of workers in a jewelry company was thirty-two, Irons and Russell employed 170 people. The company continued to occupy the building until 1956.

The concentration of these multistory factories on Chestnut Street increased in 1907 when James Doran and Sons built the seven-story brick Doran Building at 150 Chestnut Street. The Dorans, who manufactured findings, occupied only one floor in their building and rented out the remainder.

A similar pattern of development but a different type of building technology produced the A.T. Wall Building at 162 Clifford Street in 1910. Ashbel T. Wall founded his company in 1888 for the production of gold-plated wire. In 1901, the company employed sixty workers, and by 1908, it had outgrown its rented quarters and had commissioned the Bowerman Brothers of Boston to design a new factory. The result, built by the Thomas F. Cullinan Company of Providence, was the first example in Rhode Island of mushroom-column, flat-slab reinforced-concrete construction. The mushroom-column system of flat-slab construction, developed by C.A.P. Turner in 1905-06, was one of the earliest successful flat-slab structural systems. The A.T. Wall Company occupied part of the building and rented the rest. One of the first tenants was the Clark and Coombs Manufacturing Company, makers of gold rings. Established in 1862, the Clark and Coombs firm is still in operation in the Wall Building.

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The mushroom-column, flat-slab system was used again two years later when James Doran and Sons erected a second factory building purely devoted to jewelry-manufacturing rental units. This five-story building at 70 Ship Street became known as the Doran-Speidel Building.

In contrast to these large multiple-unit factories, the Manufacturers' Refining Company building, erected at 26 Ship Street in 1910, was a small two-story brick building, devoted entirely to that company's business, which was the refining of the precious metals contained in the floor sweeping collected from the neighboring jewelry workshops.

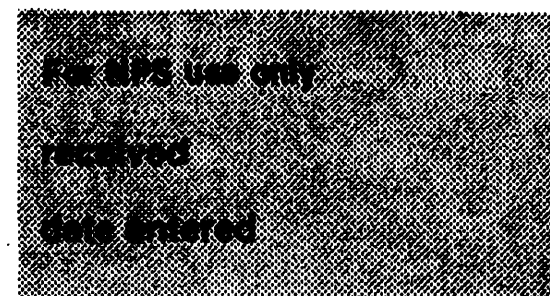
Not all of the building in this vicinity in the early twentieth century was related to the jewelry industry. An interesting exception was the Providence Women's City Missionary Society Laundry, built at 155 Clifford Street in 1903. The Providence Women's City Missionary Society was a voluntary society founded in 1867 to aid the city's indigent women. A basic goal in their efforts was to create an "industrial home" where women might learn skills that would enable them to earn a living. A lack of finances delayed the creation of such an institution until 1897, when the Society, following the example of Trinity Church, Boston, established a laundry where needy women could find employment and learn the trade. The laundry's success enabled the Society to move it out of rented quarters and into this new building, designed specifically as a laundry. For several years the laundry was able to support itself, but in 1908, a depression reduced the amount of business at the same time that large commercial laundries began to compete with the hand-wash laundries. By 1912, both business and the number of applicants for positions in the laundry had decreased to the extent that the Society closed the laundry and sold the building. In the course of its existence, the laundry paid \$42,000 to its employees, all of them needy women. The Society itself continued its other activities for many more years before publishing its final report in 1940. The laundry building was soon taken over by the J. & H. Electric Company, a firm that specialized in furnishing and servicing electrical motors and other apparatus for the jewelry industry and other manufacturers. After J. & H. Electric moved to a new building at 200 Richmond Street in 1929, the former laundry building was occupied by a succession of tenants, all involved in some aspect of the jewelry industry.

With the completion of the second Doran building in 1912, the building boom south of Friendship Street slowed down for a time. However, the jewelry industry continued to expand and diversify while Providence's other major industries, textiles and base metals, faltered. Because of the relative simplicity of machinery in the jewelry industry and the typical small capital investment in and personal ownership of jewelry

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companies, many new experimental companies continued to form. Though not all were successful, many made significant contributions in new products, processing and machinery.

Many products manufactured in the early twentieth century, particularly after World War I, represented an imaginative entrepreneurial response by jewelry manufacturers to changing social customs and tastes. One such product was the cigarette lighter, which became popular with the increasing number of men and women smokers. Another was the wristwatch, which became a fashionable item after its widespread use by the armed forces in World War I. The Speidel Manufacturing Company, one of the first companies to manufacture the metal watchband, traced its origins to Albert Speidel, a German immigrant, who began as a manufacturer of gold watch chains at 70 Ship Street before World War I. His brother Edwin designed an expandable metal watch bracelet in 1930 and went on to found the Speidel Corporation, which eventually acquired ownership of the building at 70 Ship Street.

New building in the southern end of the jewelry district in the 1920s included a number of moderately-sized, steel-framed, factories, as well as some of the largest buildings yet erected by the industry. There was an increasing tendency to locate the new factories south of the existing concentration at Chestnut and Clifford Streets. The smaller buildings, which appeared for the most part on the cross streets like Ship Street, Elm and South Streets. Among these smaller buildings were two built by manufacturers: the office and factory building of the W.H. Coe Company, manufacturers of goldleaf, at 89 Ship Street, and the N.H. Haronian Building at 60 Ship Street, built by Nazareth Haronian both to house his own small jewelry and novelty company and for rental use. An example of a similarly-sized factory built solely as an investment is the Alfred Company Building at 100 South Street, which housed tenants including the William C. Greene Company, a Providence jewelry firm that dated back to 1849.

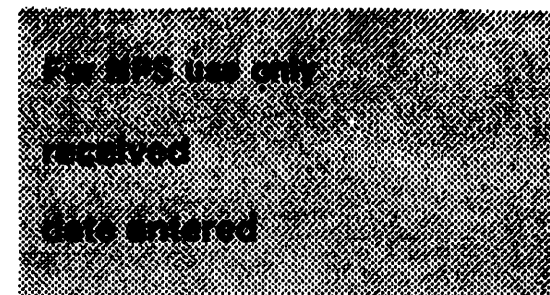
The two firms that built large factory buildings in the 1920s exemplified the general trend in the Providence jewelry industry toward high volume production of increasingly inexpensive jewelry.

The Little Nemo Manufacturing Company, founded in 1913 by Benjamin Brier, Charles Brier and Samuel Magid, specialized in imitation diamond jewelry, using stones imported from around the world that were cut, polished, and in some cases, set by machinery. In 1928, the company moved from rented quarters at 70 Ship Street, to their new factory at 222 Richmond Street, where they remained for half a century.

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The Coro Company, which started as the Cohen and Rosenburger jewelry firm in New York City, opened a Providence branch in 1911. In 1929, they moved into a new factory at 167 Point Street, built in the same flat-slab, reinforced concrete style of construction as the Little Nemo Building, which provided them with the largest factory in the jewelry business in Providence. Although the onset of the Great Depression made this expansion appear ill-timed, the Coro Company survived by becoming the leading manufacturer in the field of costume jewelry in the United States.

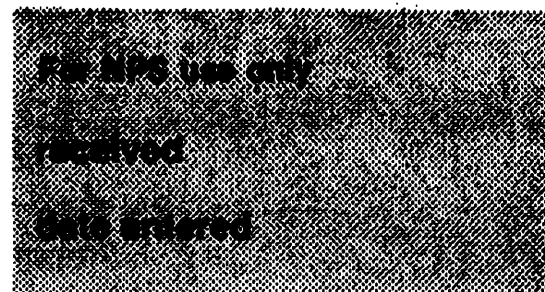
Paradoxically, the Depression of the 1930s, stimulated the Providence jewelry industry, as precious jewelry craftsmen applied their skills to the design of cheaper, mass-produced jewelry. By introducing a quality approach, they raised the production standards of costume jewelry and stimulated its consumption. Coro had been one of the first firms to experiment in costume jewelry, and with its new plant, it was the best equipped to respond to the new demand. It consolidated its early lead and went on to become the biggest manufacturer of costume jewelry, on into the 1960s. The Little Nemo Company enjoyed similar success as a "syndicate plant", manufacturing costume jewelry for chain stores such as Woolworths. Costume jewelry has continued to be a mainstay for the Providence jewelry industry.

Before the success of the costume jewelry industry was apparent, the Depression had effectively put an end to new building in the jewelry district until after World War II. Manufacturing had clearly become the dominant activity in the area though, and many of the existing houses were adapted for use by small jewelry firms. Perhaps the greatest losses to the old residential neighborhood came with urban renewal and the interstate highway program in the late 1950s and 1960s. Complete blocks of houses were razed to create parking lots, while the older industrial area to the north, the original jewelry district, largely disappeared with the construction of Route 195 and the subsequent completion of a court complex on Friendship Street. In recent years, the jewelry industry has done most of its new building in Providence farther south along Eddy Street, as well in the industrial parks in the surrounding suburbs.

Within the remaining portion of the jewelry district today, jewelry manufacturing and its associated industries are still an active presence, though several of the factory buildings have been adapted for reuse as office space and commercial, industrial and residential condominiums.

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MAPS AND ATLASES

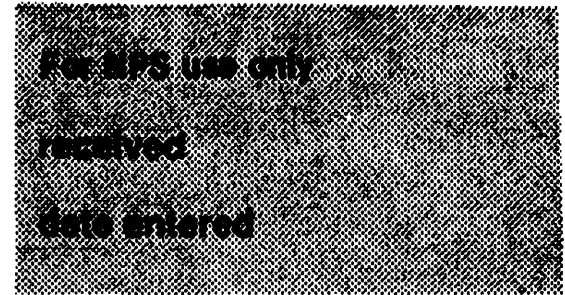
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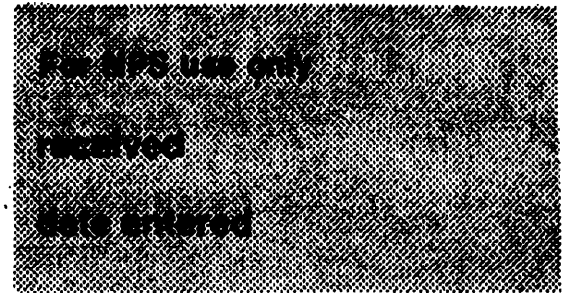
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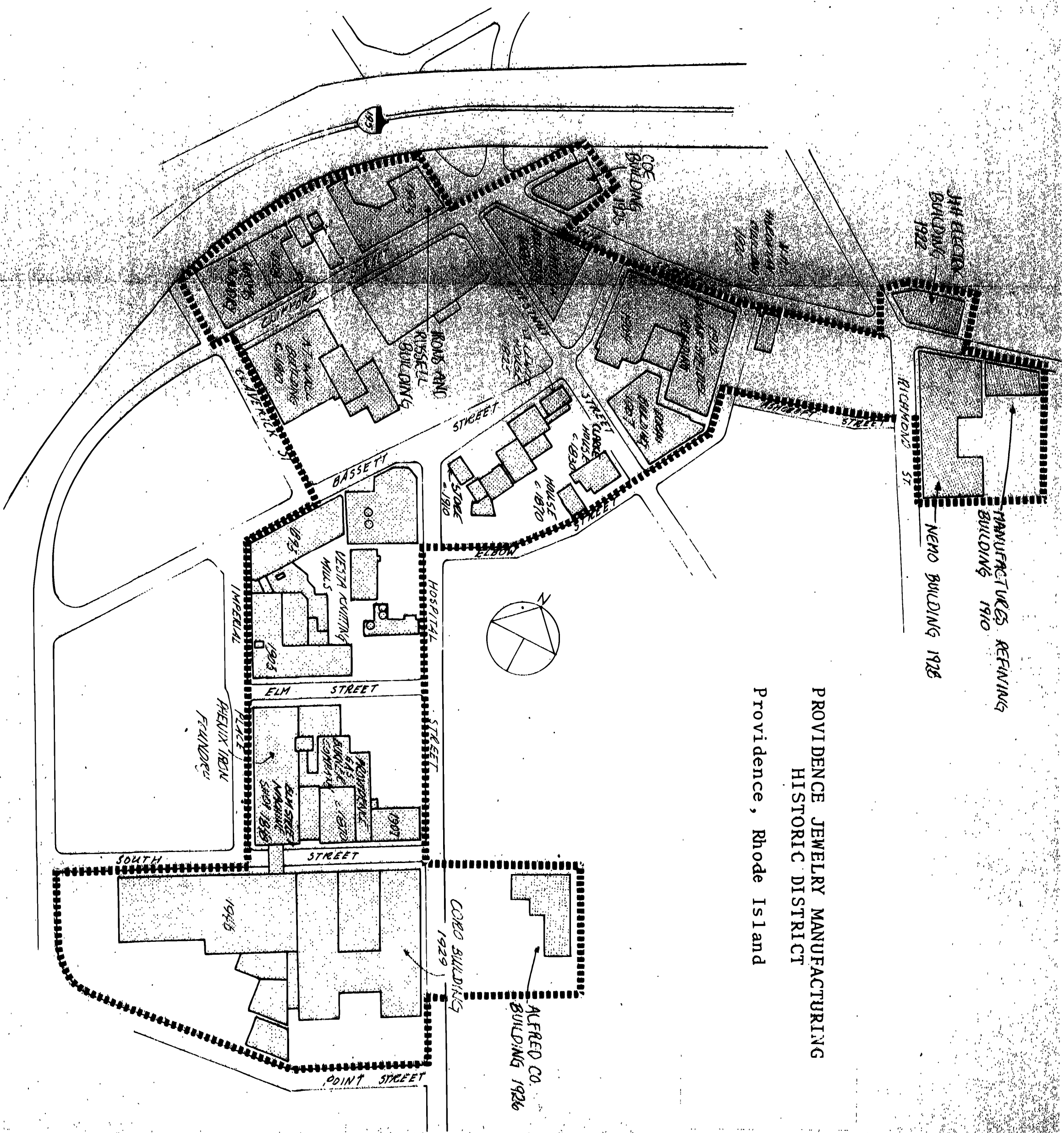
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"Jewelry Manufacturing Historic District", drawn at the scale of 160 feet to the inch.

The boundary of the Jewelry Manufacturing Historic District has been drawn to encompass the major historic jewelry factories in the vicinity, other industrial buildings historically associated with the growth of the jewelry industry in the vicinity and the few reasonably well-preserved early to mid-nineteenth century houses that are in close proximity to the major factories and that suggest the mixed-use neighborhood that existed here in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. At the same time the boundary has been drawn to exclude as much as possible non-contributing or intrusive modern buildings.



PROVIDENCE JEWELRY MANUFACTURING
 HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Providence, Rhode Island

J.H. BECK
 BUILDING
 1922

MANUFACTURES REFINING
 BUILDING 1910
 NENO BUILDING 1928

ALFRED CO.
 BUILDING 1926

CORO BUILDING
 1929

PHOENIX IRON
 FOUNDRY

RUSSELL
 BUILDING

COE
 BUILDING
 1928

VESTA KNITTING
 MILLS

ELM STREET
 MANUFACTURING
 1929

STIGEET
 STREET
 HOUSES
 ~1830
 HOUSES
 ~1870

W. W. WOODS
 BUILDING
 1928

BASSETT
 STREET

HOSPITAL
 STREET

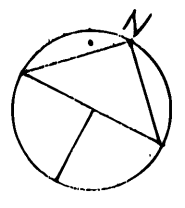
ELM STREET

STIGEET
 STREET

SOUTH
 STREET

POINT STREET

RICHMOND ST



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Providence Jewelry Manufacturing Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: RHODE ISLAND, Providence

DATE RECEIVED: 11/19/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/02/08
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 85003088

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 1/2/08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Additional Documentation - Patrice Andrews, 1/2/2008
REVIEWER Barbara Wyatt DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE 202-354-2252 DATE 1-2-08

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

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

<u>Providence Jewelry Mfg Historic District</u>	<u>Providence</u>	<u>Providence County, RI</u>
Name of Property	City/Town	County and State
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DESCRIPTION

Additional Documentation (change in period of significance):

The Providence Jewelry Manufacturing District was listed in the National Register in 1985. Buildings in the district which were not yet 50 years old were designated as non-contributing in the nomination. These included at least two whose visual character and historical associations were a part of the district's character but whose significance (though real) was not exceptional. Two of these buildings should now be considered contributing.

The district as a whole is significant as a visually distinctive concentration of buildings related to the area's development from a predominantly residential neighborhood to the center of the Providence jewelry industry in the 19th and 20th centuries. The factories and manufacturing-related buildings of the district illustrate broad trends in the development of the jewelry industry and are also good representatives of the major developments in industrial architecture in Rhode Island. They are for the most part multi-story masonry structures.

While the period of significance in the nomination ends at 1935 (the limit of the 50-year rule), the district's association with the jewelry industry extended well into the 1960s; the Coro Company, for example, remained one of the country's largest producers of costume jewelry well into the 1960s. In the decades following the 1960s, the jewelry industry declined, both in Rhode Island and in the nation as a whole, and the buildings of the Jewelry District were adapted for re-use as office space and as commercial, industrial, and residential condominiums. As late as 1985, when the district was nominated, there were still a number of jewelry manufacturers located in the district.

The depression of the 1930s and World War II effectively ended major construction projects in the district, but the years following the war saw some smaller structures built within the district which were directly related to its role as a center for jewelry. Among these are the following two buildings which should now be considered contributing as they are manifestly related to the significance of district and are older than 50 years.

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The buildings in question have been approved by the Rhode Island Review Board. The Board approved a change in the period of significance which now ends at 1956 and approved the change from NC to C of two buildings constructed before and at that date.

CHESTNUT STREET

111 Brian Supply Company (1956): A 2-story, flat-roofed building of Roman brick with window bands of glass block and aluminum sash casements. It occupies the southwestern corner of Chestnut and Clifford Streets and has a large concrete-block extension, two stories high, along Clifford Street. The building was constructed for a supply company for jewelry manufacture and general industrial needs.

CLIFFORD STREET

157 Claverick Building (1948): A 2-story, flat-roofed, brick-faced reinforced concrete building with window bands and a recessed entrance bay. Built as a multi-tenant jewelry manufacturing facility.

Additional Documentation (change to inventory):

CLIFFORD STREET

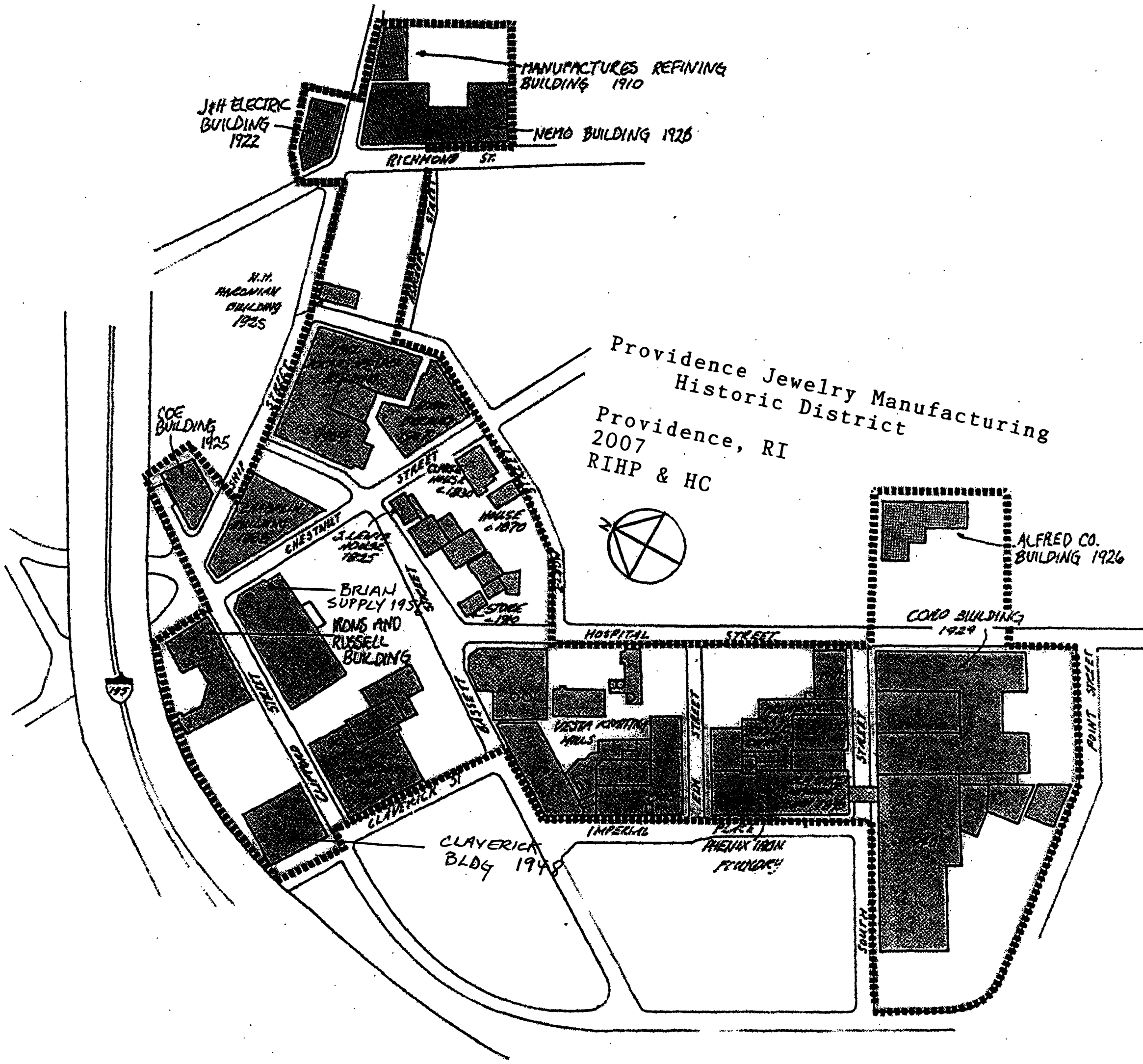
155 Demolished.

Photographs

1. Providence Jewelry Manufacturing Historic District
2. Providence, Providence County, Rhode Island
3. Date: August 2007
4. Filed at RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission, 150 Benefit St., Providence, RI 02903
5. Photographer: Pamela Kennedy

View of the Brian Supply Building, north corner, northwest elevation (right) and northeast elevation (left), photo #1

View of Claverick Building, southeast elevation (right), photo#2



MANUFACTURES REFINING BUILDING 1910

NEMO BUILDING 1928

J&H ELECTRIC BUILDING 1922

RICHMOND ST.

N.H. MACOMAN BUILDING 1925

Providence Jewelry Manufacturing Historic District

Providence, RI
2007
RIHP & HC

SOE BUILDING 1925

CHESTNUT ST.

J. LEWIS HOUSE 1825

HOUSE c. 1870

BRIAN SUPPLY 1958

RONS AND RUSSELL BUILDING

ESTATE c. 1890

HOSPITAL STREET

ALFRED CO. BUILDING 1926

CORD BUILDING 1929

VISTA KNITTING MILLS

CLAYRICK BLDG 1948

PHENIX TIRE PRODUCE

POINT STREET

IMPERIAL PLACE

SAULT STREET