

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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: International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia Branch House

Other names/site number: _____

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: 2903-2909 N. 16th Street

City or town: Philadelphia State: PA County: Philadelphia

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

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

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ A ___ B X C ___ D

	<u>3/5/2018</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	
<u>Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission – State Historic Preservation Office</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	
Date	
Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Patrick Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

4/26/2018
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

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRIAL – Manufacturing Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not In Use

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS – Commercial
Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Concrete

Description Summary Paragraph

The International Harvester Building stands at 2903-2909 N. 16th Street in the Allegheny West neighborhood of Philadelphia, PA. The 5-story, rectangular, reinforced concrete building is clad in red brick with a concrete frame and detailing. There is also a 1-story, irregularly shaped section to the south, which is also clad in matching red brick. The building retains all seven aspects of integrity.

The building is located on the east side of N. 16th Street, just south of W. Indiana Avenue. The north elevation of the building is directly abutted by 2917-2937 N. 16th Street; the east and south elevations are directly abutted by train tracks. Bordering the east elevation is a concrete sidewalk. The remainder of the block to the east and northeast contains an open concrete lot with perimeter trees and fencing. There is also a small grouping of late 19th century, 2- and 3-story rowhouses to the east, along W. Indiana Avenue. Additional train lines run from northwest to southeast and northeast to southwest, crossing at the bottom of the project site. The North Philadelphia train station (1896, NR 1999) is located approximately two blocks to the east, just off of N. Broad Street. The building is located approximately two miles east of the Schuylkill River and approximately two miles south of Route 1. The surrounding neighborhood consists of a mix of late 19th and early 20th century two- and three-story brick row houses and mid-rise industrial buildings.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

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.)

5-Story Section

On all elevations of the 5-story building, the exposed concrete frame and red brick spandrels and infill dominate, with a concrete base, concrete piers separating the bays and concrete window heads and sills.

The east elevation of the 5-story section, facing the train tracks, is eight bays wide (Photographs #1 and 2). The elevation is dominated by the exposed concrete frame, mentioned above, which includes the piers and a concrete cornice supported by scrolled concrete brackets in the outermost bays, which project slightly from the remainder of the façade. Above the cornice is a brick parapet with a concrete cap. The sections above the outermost bays have shallow pediments. The 1st floor is entirely clad in concrete. The first, second, fifth and eighth bays from the north contain contemporary, garage-style metal doors. The third, fourth, sixth and seventh bays from the north contain cinderblock infill with concrete bases. There is a concrete stringcourse separating the 1st and 2nd floors. On the 2nd floor, the bays contain full height window openings with contemporary infill and a concrete heads. On the 3rd through 5th floors, each bay has a red brick spandrel below a 15-light steel window flanked by 9-light steel windows with continuous concrete heads and sills.

The south elevation of the 5-story section is six bays wide and the concrete frame is exposed, as described above (Photograph #2). Along the roofline is a concrete cornice supported by scrolled concrete brackets in the outermost bays, which project slightly from the remainder of the façade. Above the cornice is a brick parapet with a concrete cap. The 1st floor is entirely abutted by the 1-story section (see description below). On the 2nd floor, the first through third and sixth bays from the east contain small, rectangular window openings with contemporary infill and concrete sills. The remainder of the bay has red brick infill. The fourth and fifth bays from the east contain two small, square window openings with contemporary infill and concrete sills. The remainder of the bay has red brick infill. On the 3rd through 5th floors, the first, fourth and sixth bays from the east have red brick infill and no openings. The second and third bays from the east contain a small square window opening with a multi-light steel window and concrete sill. The fifth bay from the east contains a rectangular window opening

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

with a multi-light steel window and concrete sill. There is also a large, exterior metal duct in front of the second bay from the east.

The west elevation, facing N. 16th Street, is eight bays wide and largely matches the east elevation (Photographs #5-8). The elevation is dominated by the exposed concrete frame, which includes the piers and a concrete cornice supported by scrolled concrete brackets in the outermost bays, which project slightly from the remainder of the façade. Above the cornice is a brick parapet with a concrete cap. The sections above the outermost bays have shallow pediments. The 1st floor is entirely clad in concrete and stucco. The four southernmost bays are recessed from the elevation and the façade is supported by three, round concrete Doric columns (Photograph #6). The recessed bays are elevated loading bays with a concrete surround and contemporary, garage-style metal doors. The fifth bay from the south contains an elevated entrance opening with cinderblock infill (Photograph #7). Accessed by one concrete step, the entrance has a stylized concrete pediment and surround. Above the entrance are three rectangular window openings with cinderblock infill. The sixth bay from the south contains one large window opening with cinderblock infill. The seventh bay from the south contains a small window opening with cinderblock infill to the south of an entrance at grade, which has cinderblock infill and a similar but simplified stylized concrete pediment and surround. The northernmost bay contains a large vehicular opening with cinderblock infill below a small, 4-light steel window. On the 2nd floor, the seven southernmost bays contain full height window openings with contemporary infill. The northernmost bay contains two door openings with no infill that provide access to a fire balcony with a concrete base and brackets and a decorative painted metal railing. On the 3rd through 5th floors, the seven southernmost bays contain a red brick spandrel below a 15-light steel window flanked by 9-light steel windows with continuous concrete heads and sills. The northernmost bay contains two door openings with no infill that provide access to a fire balcony with a concrete base and brackets and a decorative painted metal railing (Photograph #8).

The north elevation is entirely abutted by 2917-2937 N. 16th Street.

The building has a flat roof with a substantial parapet on all sides (Photographs #26 and 27). There are two small penthouses and a brick chimney in the center of the south elevation. There is also a larger, hipped roof brick penthouse with a metal roof to the south of the center of the floor plate. Large, metal billboard frames also extend along the inside of the east parapet and the outside of the south parapet.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

Interior

The interior of the building has one freight elevator and one stairway. The U-return stairway is located in the center of the south elevation and has concrete treads and risers and a wood railing (Photograph #17). The freight elevator is located directly to the north of the stairway (Photograph #11). Each circulation type provides access between all floors.

On the interior of the building, the 5-story section is bisected by an axial grid of round, concrete mushroom columns, which decrease in dimension as the floor levels increase (Photographs #12-15 and 18-24). The other existing finishes include concrete floors, exposed painted concrete ceilings and exposed painted brick perimeter walls. In the late 20th century, the building had a combined use with 2917-2937 N. 16th Street, the adjacent building to the north. Consequently, there is one small opening in the shared party wall on each floor (Photograph #22).

1-Story Section

The 1-story section is entirely clad in red brick with a simplified brick cornice and concrete cap along the roofline. The section has an irregular floor plate to maximize the unusual contours of the site.

The east elevation of the 1-story section, which faces the train tracks, was not accessible at the time of survey, but has a projecting metal awning that spans its length (Photograph #9).

The southeast elevation, which also faces the train tracks, is entirely clad in red brick with no openings (Photograph #3).

The southwest elevation, which also faces the train tracks, is seven bays wide. All bays contain rectangular window openings with cinderblock infill.

The west elevation, which faces N. 16th Street, is three bays wide (Photograph #4). All of the bays originally served as vehicular entrances and currently have cinderblock infill.

The north elevation is entirely abutted by the 5-story section of the building.

The roof of the 1-story section is flat with a shallow brick parapet on all sides (Photograph #25). There is a centered, hipped monitor running from north to south in the center of the floor plate and a large metal silo with extensive piping near the northwest corner (Photograph #4).

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Interior

The 1-story section is bisected by small painted steel columns that support exposed, painted steel I-beams. The section also has a concrete floor, exposed painted brick walls and a dropped metal tile ceiling (Photograph #10).

Integrity

The International Harvester Company Building retains all seven aspects of integrity. Both the overall form and the defining interior and exterior industrial characteristics remain, including its brick masonry sections and concrete frame, concrete detailing, regular window openings, painted concrete columns, exposed concrete flooring and ceiling systems and exposed painted brick walls. While some of the window openings have been infilled, the newer elements do not detract from the overall appearance and the original fenestration patterns remain visible on all elevations for both building sections. The quality, placement and condition of the construction materials, as well as the Commercial architectural style are both highly characteristic of the period and also all remain wholly intact.

The building remains intact from the date of construction in 1922 with no demolition or new construction. On the interior of the building, all of the finishes remain similarly intact with all of the original elements exposed and no significant alterations or additions.

The location and setting of the building remain intact since the initial construction, particularly the prominent and encircling train tracks that made operability of the building possible. The design and materials similarly retain their integrity. The workmanship is expressed in a consistent architectural style, is of good quality and is in keeping with contemporary trends. The feeling and associations of the building also have a high level of integrity, in large part because of the integrity of the previous five aspects. Although the equipment, furnishings and people have long since departed, the intact finishes, the voluminous spaces and the consistency of the two building campaigns effectively relay the sense of place and the notable industrial history of this once prominent manufacturer.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

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

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1922

Significant Dates

1922

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

W.D. Price

J.S. Rogers

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The International Harvester Company Building served as a branch house for the prominent International Harvester Company and, as such, managed distribution, sales and service of agricultural implements, specifically motor trucks, as well as offering a product showroom for the Philadelphia region. Known as “the largest and most influential manufacturer of agricultural implements in the 20th century”, the International Harvester Company specialized in the nationwide manufacturing of trucks and tractors.¹ The building has local significance under Criterion C, Architecture, as an intact example of an early-20th century, Commercial style industrial building and as a prominent example of the architectural standardization and continuity of design implemented nationally by the International Harvester Company to reinforce and promote its corporate image. The period of significance is 1922, which is the date of the construction of the primary, 5-story portion of the building.²

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

A Brief History of the International Harvester Company

The International Harvester Company was formed in 1902, with the mergers of the McCormick Company and the Deering Harvester Company, which were the two largest manufacturers of harvesting machinery, and the smaller Milwaukee Harvester Company, the Warder, Bushnell and Glessner Company and the Plano Manufacturing Company.³ The new company continued to manufacture a similar product line as before – primarily agricultural implements – but the “goals of the merger were to develop new products, diversify the line of equipment and to give more attention to the foreign market.”⁴ The formation of this company concluded a period known as the “Harvester War”, in which the great demand for machinery to facilitate efficient farming resulted in an enormous number of competitors on a national scale.⁵

¹ “McCormick-International Harvester Company Branch House.” *National Register Nomination* (2010): 8:1.

² Although the subject property was the only branch house/service station in Philadelphia during the period of significance, there were other freestanding service stations, including at 4500 Woodland Avenue and 660 E. Erie Avenue.

³ “International Harvester Building.” *National Register Nomination* (2002): 8:5.

⁴ “International Harvester Building”, 8:5. Specifically, the product line in the early 1900s included tractors, binders, cutters, seeding machinery, harrows, manure spreaders and threshers.

⁵ *History and Development of International Harvester* (1976): 5.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Shortly after the merger, the company began to expand throughout the Midwest and, after World War I, the expansion continued on a national scale. The subject property was constructed during this second phase of growth.

The company manufactured motor trucks beginning in 1907, but it was not until World War I that it was finally understood how significant trucking could be on the shipping industry, namely that trucks could carry heavy freight over long distances, rivaling railroads.⁶ Prior to World War I, the International Harvester Company considered trucks only as a “side line. We recommend that this business be separate from the harvester lines, [and be awarded] its own executive, sales, manufacturing and experimental departments.”⁷ As such, this emerging market represented a new opportunity for the company, which it quickly capitalized on, building three new manufacturing plants exclusively for trucks, developing new technologies, including a more durable type of pneumatic tire, and establishing a “multitude of specialty truck dealers and sales branches”, all of which became the “envy of the industry.”⁸ By the late 1930s, there were twenty-six sales branches exclusively devoted to trucks and, by 1937, the International Harvester Company was the largest manufacturer of medium- and heavy-duty trucks in the country and the third largest in overall truck production, behind General Motors and Ford.⁹

Brief History of the Philadelphia Branch House of the International Harvester Company

In February 1922, the International Harvester Company purchased “several large tracts” from the Connecting Railway Company at N. 16th and W. Indiana Streets for \$62,000.¹⁰ The building, which was completed in November 1922, was designed by W.D. Price, who was the supervisor of construction for all International Harvester Company buildings throughout the country, at an approximate cost of \$350,000 (Figures 1 and 2). J.S. Rogers Co. was the contractor. The construction of the building represented the first step of the company to “enter the Philadelphia territory in a bigger way, hence the new investments in this city.”¹¹

<http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm/ref/collection/ihc/id/4315>. Accessed on July 25, 2017.

⁶ Barbara Marsh, *A Corporate Tragedy: The Agony of the International Harvester Company* (New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1985): 55.

⁷ Marsh, 56.

⁸ Marsh, 56. The manufacturing plants were located in Springfield, OH, Fort Wayne, IN and Chatham, Canada.

⁹ Marsh, 57.

¹⁰ “Railway Company Sells Ground.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (19 February 1922): 64. The Connecting Railway Company was a subsidiary of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

¹¹ “Opens Truck Branch.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (22 September 1929): np.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

The project consisted of a 5-story branch house and a 1-story service building.¹² The former acted as a distribution building, containing shipping and receiving spaces on the 1st floor, a showroom and offices on the 2nd floor, and stock rooms and storage rooms in the basement and on the 3rd through 5th floors. The storage component was the largest of these functions, with 57,913 square feet of the overall 75,962 square footage allocated.¹³ The 1-story service building, which is located at the south end of the site, was a service and receiving area for all items needing repairs. Although the International Harvester Company had an enormous product line, the Philadelphia branch house specialized in motor trucks. Although the railway lines provided transportation for whatever products the building offered, it is logical that motor trucks, sold in an urban environment, were the primary offering. Two exterior billboards, which were originally installed on the building, reassert its function, reading “International Motor Trucks for low-cost hauling” and “International Harvester Company of America” (Figure 1).

It is not precisely known why the specific site was selected but there is no doubt that the adjacent railway lines along the east and south elevations of the building were a significant asset. In comparing the 1921 and the 1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, it is clear that the building not only had access to these existing lines, but also to a railway spur that was specifically constructed for the use of the building along its east elevation.

The concept of a branch house had been developed in the late 19th century by the McCormick Company. It was later adopted by the International Harvester Company and was considered to be integral to its national operations. Branch houses primarily served as distribution centers, “more efficiently accommodating the sale, financing, delivery and maintenance of their products in a manner more suitable to both manufacturer and customer” and not any substantive degree of manufacturing capability.¹⁴ Each branch house was also responsible for “sales, service, accounting, credit, advertising, shipping, repairs”, all of which was run through the branch manager, who then reported to the company’s headquarters in Chicago.¹⁵ Of these, the repairs department was considered to be “the most important of all”, as items were guaranteed to be fixed properly and at a reasonable price, thus ensuring customer loyalty.¹⁶

¹² “Contracts Awarded.” *American Contractor* 43:24 (17 June 1922): 52.

¹³ “International Harvester Company: Areas of Branch Houses, Service Stations and Dealers’ Buildings.” 1943. <http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm/ref/collection/ihc/id/43192>. Accessed on July 25, 2017.

¹⁴ “McCormick-International Harvester Company Branch House”, 8:4; “Annual Report.” *Pennsylvania Association of Dairy Owners* (1938): 197.

¹⁵ “Distribution in the United States.” *Harvester World* (September-October 1922): 37.

¹⁶ “Distribution in the United States”, 38.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

The 1-story service building and the 5-story branch house epitomized the sales objectives of the International Harvester Company in post-World War I America.

The branch houses worked as agents for the manufacturer and sold the products to dealers or individuals, while also offering repair services for their products. Each branch house also acted as a comprehensive distributor with either immediate or convenient access to a huge range of products. This was financially beneficial to the company for two reasons: first, smaller, local distributors could never compete with the same scale of stock and, second, items could be shipped on short notice. Farmers were not dependent on local dealers having what they wanted in stock and the dealers were not stuck with out of date models that no one wanted.

By 1925, the company had ninety-three branch houses throughout the country. Of these, none were constructed in 1922, other than the subject property. There was also only one other combination branch house and service station owned at the time that was larger than the subject property. The branch house and service station in Omaha, Nebraska totaled 146,498 square feet and was constructed in 1905.¹⁷

A 1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance map shows no change to the building's function since its 1922 construction (Figure 3). In 1958, the company relocated to the Pennsauken Industrial Park in Pennsauken, NJ and the building was sold to Robert Saligman for \$150,000.¹⁸ From that point onward, it was occupied by a number of tenants, including The Bunting Company, which manufactured and powder-coated metal furniture, and The Shore Company, distributors of shipping trailers.¹⁹ The building is currently vacant.

Architectural Standardization of the International Harvester Company

W.D. Price (d. 1939) was the official architect and superintendent of construction for the International Harvester Company (Figure 4). He was based out of the company headquarters in Chicago from 1897 to 1932, when he retired, and was responsible not only for the company's extensive building program but also for implementing the company's building strategy.²⁰

¹⁷ "International Harvester Company: Areas of Branch Houses, Service Stations and Dealers' Buildings." There were ultimately four other branch house/service stations owned by the company that were larger than the subject property: Indianapolis, IN was 166,734 square feet (1937); Oakland, CA was 142,540 square feet (1941); Charlotte, NC was 111,855 square feet (1941); and Dallas, TX was 165,137 square feet (1942). "International Harvester Company: Areas of Branch Houses, Service Stations and Dealers' Buildings."

¹⁸ "Uptown Plant Reported Sold for \$150,000." *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (12 July 1958): np.

¹⁹ 1962 Land Use Map.

²⁰ "Retirements." *Harvester World* 23 (March-April 1932): 20.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

From the time of the company's formation, both Price and the company directors "believed that the company was well served by the conservative, brick, loft-style buildings that all bore similar signage, decoration, and spatial arrangement" with "plain and moderate" exteriors "to prove that they are here to stay."²¹ Moreover, "through the express wish of management, these buildings have been made as nearly alike in appearance and design and the varying conditions of size, location and surroundings would permit; the ideal being that whether north, south, east or west, the appearance would stamp them at once as "International."²² Such intent was clearly understood by outside commentators, who noted,

Observe that their buildings are not flashy, not marred by vitreous gingerbread effect. Their conceptions are dignified, sturdy, light-flooded, commodiously compact, efficiently arranged, economically built and in quiet harmony with the character of the business. The exteriors and interiors are architecturally attractive and breathe an atmosphere of permanence, stability, efficiency and civic pride.²³

This standardization of company architecture as a way to reinforce the corporate image was not a new phenomenon – and something that certainly continues to this day – but it was an approach that was undertaken at a significant, national scale by the International Harvester Company and consequently served as a very effective marketing tactic.

A large part of this continuity of design was made possible by the internal construction department of the company, which developed drawings and specifications, placed contracts and oversaw all project management.²⁴ The benefit of these systems was threefold. There were significant savings of time, work and costs, which could not have been realized if the company had to start over with a new architect and a new contractor with every project.²⁵ Each building could be adapted according to its specific location or use, whether it was in the city or country and whether it sold tractors or repaired truck axles. Lastly, every new building could be counted on to convey the agenda and vision of the company. Each building was intended to "attract the eye and stimulate favorable attitudes of prospect, user, dealer, employee and the public. Primarily too, the buildings embody the highest type of facilities for the practical

²¹ Bruce William Littmann, *Manufacturing Obedience: Labor Relations and the Making of the American Industrial Landscape, 1880-1930*. PhD Dissertation (University of California, Berkeley, 2004): np; W.D. Price, "Construction Work for International Harvester Company of America." *Harvester World* 2:6 (March 1911): 5.

²² Price, "Construction Work for International Harvester Company of America", 5.

²³ "By Harvester Builders." *Harvester World* 17:6 (June 1926): 2.

²⁴ Price, "Construction Work for International Harvester Company of America", 4. By 1910, the company had constructed buildings in Maryland, North Dakota, Colorado, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Iowa, South Dakota, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, North Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana. Price, "Construction Work for International Harvester Company of America", 4.

²⁵ Price, "Construction Work for International Harvester Company of America", 4-5.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

conduct of the business and reflect the experience of many years in successfully keeping pace with the best professional practice.”²⁶

From the beginning, the company followed a fairly specific aesthetic and programmatic formula for its buildings, which it also was not hesitant to adapt to changing times.²⁷ In the 1900s, the company constructed brick and timber frame buildings with reinforced concrete floors.²⁸ However, beginning in 1911, it began to construct full reinforced concrete buildings, recognizing the benefits of the newly developed material. The Deering Works, constructed in 1911, was the company’s first fully reinforced concrete building.²⁹ In a number of journal articles written by W.D. Price, he notes the benefits of reinforced concrete as lower construction costs, increased fire protection, lack of vibration from the interior machinery and general adaptability of floor plate.³⁰

Specifically, the reinforced concrete buildings constructed by the International Harvester Company, including the subject property, all shared similar attributes that made them specifically suited to the needs of the company. For the most part, it was W.D. Price who established this standardized and economical formula. This approach included minimal columns, to allow for heavy machinery to be moved around the floor plate; large windows with small mullions to provide maximum light and reduce shadows; a two-way type of girder and joint reinforcement system, which allows for a smooth ceiling to increase flexibility and maximize light without interrupting girders; cutting edge heating, ventilation and mechanical systems; shipping and receiving on the 1st floor; sales and showrooms on the 2nd floor and warehousing above; proximity to railroad tracks, preferably on two sides; and special emphasis on the shipping and receiving bays, complete with canopies over these loading areas.³¹

Commercial Style Architecture

The Commercial style, known for its straightforward design and spandrel and pier construction visible on the exterior, prevailed during the early 20th century when the business community sought designs that were both economical and fireproof. The Commercial style flourished with the use of reinforced concrete, as it allowed buildings to be both functional and efficient. Early

²⁶ “By Harvester Builders.”

²⁷ “By Harvester Builders.”

²⁸ Price, “Construction Work for International Harvester Company of America”, 5.

²⁹ W.D. Price, “Deering Works, Concrete Manufacturing Building.” *The Harvester World* 3: 4 (April 1912): 28.

³⁰ Price, “Deering Works, Concrete Manufacturing Building”, 28.

³¹ Price, “Deering Works, Concrete Manufacturing Building”, 29. “By Harvester Builders”; “International Harvester Building” 8:5; Price, “Construction Work for International Harvester Company of America”, 6.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

in the 20th century, concrete was a “somewhat unfamiliar primary material for large buildings.”³² However, the advantages of entirely concrete construction were soon evident: in addition to being fireproof, concrete was readily available and relatively inexpensive to make. With the use of concrete, Commercial style buildings typically feature large banks of windows on every elevation, and large open interiors with widely-spaced columns. In a move towards streamlining with an emphasis on function, the architects of Commercial style buildings employed minimal ornamentation, often departing from traditional ornamentation or only incorporating a few simplified decorative elements of a period architectural style, such as the Classical or Colonial Revival styles. In the organization of the building’s exterior, Commercial style buildings commonly followed a base-shaft-capital format, often with belt courses delineating these areas.

Commercial style features of the International Harvester Building include the large window banks, made possible by the concrete frame, and a streamlined appearance with no reference to any particular period style. The minimal concrete entrance surrounds on the west elevation are minimally articulated and have no signage. On the interior, the Commercial style is visible in the straightforward use of reinforced concrete for the exposed concrete floors and ceilings, exposed brick perimeter walls and round concrete columns.

Other International Harvester Buildings in Philadelphia and Pennsylvania

During the period of significance, there were two other buildings related to the International Harvester Company in Philadelphia, but both were exclusively service stations. The first was 660 E. Erie Avenue in Northeast Philadelphia, which opened in 1929 (extant).³³ The second was 4500 Woodland Avenue in West Philadelphia, which opened in 1951 (partially intact).³⁴ In both buildings, the daily operations were similar, including complete vehicle service, work completed at a flat rate and a complete inventory of parts. In this aspect, the service station function is very comparable to that of the subject property. However, these service stations had none of the functions of a branch house, including sales, distribution, marketing and accounting. Although 1931 advertisement states that company had two company-owned “branches” in Philadelphia (Figure 5), this term was likely a conflation of the types of buildings owned and operated by International Harvester in Philadelphia. In reality, the ad was

³² Amy Slaton, *Reinforced Concrete and the Modernization of American Building, 1900-1930* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001): 134.

³³ “Opens Truck Branch.”

³⁴ “Advertisement.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (9 August 1951): 28.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

referring to both the official branch house (with service station), which is the subject of this nomination, and the separate service station on E. Erie Avenue, mentioned above.

The only other branch houses in Pennsylvania in the 1920s were in Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. The former, which consisted of a branch house (1913) and storage building (1916) at 810 W. North Avenue, was designed by W.D. Price and owned by the company (see Figure 11). The Pittsburgh building was approximately half the square footage of the Philadelphia branch house and did not have the service, repair or inspection functions found in the subject property (these functions may have taken place in satellite garages in other parts of the city). Additionally, because the Pittsburgh branch was built relatively early, it does not feature the same Commercial Style attributes as the Philadelphia branch house; rather, it represents the more Classically rooted Beaux Arts tradition, particularly in its base-shaft-capital composition, prominent cornice, and much smaller, punched window openings with conventional double-hung wood windows.

The Harrisburg branch, which was designed by W.D. Price and built at 813 Market Street in 1911 (to replace an earlier building), was similar stylistically to the Pittsburgh branch, but slightly smaller (see Figure 12). Unfortunately, this building was demolished in the 1960s. Reflecting the company's growth in later decades, International Harvester built a large new branch house at 1033 Maclay Street (the building covered a site bounded by Maclay, Julia and Delaware Streets), away from the downtown area, in 1939. This new building functioned in much the same way as other branch houses, including the subject property, but differed significantly in its streamlined, Moderne style (see Figure 13). Suggesting that the company placed less emphasis on standardization in construction after Price's departure, the new Harrisburg branch house was designed by a local architect, William Lynch Murray, rather than the company's own architect. The building remains largely intact today.

Comparable International Harvester Branch Houses Nationally

Nationally, four International Harvester Branch Houses have been individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, those in Madison, WI, Peoria, IL, Portland, OR and Wichita, KS.

The McCormick-International Harvester Company Branch House in Madison, WI (1898-1910, NR 2010), was originally built as a branch house for the McCormick Company in 1898 and expanded as a branch house for the International Harvester Company in 1910 (see Figure 14). It is the only known remaining branch house in the country that was constructed for the McCormick Company. The 3-story brick building shares many of the industrial characteristics

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

and branch house functions as the subject property; however, its lack of a service station, which was such an integral component of the subject property, places it in a separate category. Like some other early branch houses built by International Harvester itself, the building has spare treatment in brick with little ornamentation. Typically of International Harvester buildings prior to the utilization of reinforced concrete, the window openings are relatively small and contain conventional double-hung wood windows.

The International Harvester Building in Peoria, IL (1914, NR 2005) was originally constructed as a branch house with an adjoining service station added in 1925 (see Figures 15 and 16, respectively). Designed only a few years after the Philadelphia branch house, the Peoria building consequently shared many of the same aesthetic and programmatic functions as the subject property. Designed in the Commercial Style in brick and concrete, the building is defined by its tall brick piers, large window openings (the windows themselves have been replaced with incompatible aluminum units), pedimented parapets above the end bays, and spare, geometric ornamentation. As such, this is one of the closest comparables to the Philadelphia branch house.

The International Harvester Company Warehouse in Portland, OR (1912, NR 1989) was constructed as an expanded branch house, to replace an older, smaller building (see Figure 17). Like the Madison branch house, the 4-story brick building is similar to the 5-story portion of the subject property in terms of style and use, but lacks the addition of a service station. Stylistically, the building is typical of the period from 1900 to about 1915 when International Harvester embraced an aesthetic of simple form and spare ornamentation with smaller window openings than those that appeared after 1920 with the utilization of reinforced concrete construction.

The International Harvester Building in Wichita, KS (1910, NR 2003) was also constructed as an expanded branch house, to replace an earlier building (see Figure 18). Like the Madison and Portland buildings, the 4-story brick building was used as a standard branch house with salesrooms, showrooms and office on the 1st and 2nd floors and storage rooms above. However, there was no service station component. Stylistically, the building is very similar to that of the Madison branch house, described above, which emphasizes function and efficiency over ornamentation. The building is defined by its sharp, rectilinear form.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

“Advertisement.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (9 August 1951): 28.

“Annual Report.” *Pennsylvania Association of Dairy Owners*, 1938.

“By Harvester Builders.” *Harvester World* 17:6 (June 1926): 2.

“Contracts Awarded.” *American Contractor* 43:24 (17 June 1922): 52.

“Distribution in the United States.” *Harvester World* (September-October 1922): 35-41.

History and Development of International Harvester (1976): 5.
<http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm/ref/collection/ihc/id/4315>. Accessed on July 25, 2017.

“International Harvester Building.” *National Register Nomination*, 2002.

“International Harvester Company: Areas of Branch Houses, Service Stations and Dealers’ Buildings.” 1943. <http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm/ref/collection/ihc/id/43192>. Accessed on July 25, 2017.

Philadelphia Land Use Map, 1962. Accessed at <http://www.philageohistory.org/tiles/viewer/> on July 25, 2017.

Littmann, Bruce William. *Manufacturing Obedience: Labor Relations and the Making of the American Industrial Landscape, 1880-1930*. PhD Dissertation. University of California, Berkeley, 2004.

Marsh, Barbara. *A Corporate Tragedy: The Agony of the International Harvester Company*. New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1985.

“McCormick-International Harvester Company Branch House.” *National Register Nomination*, 2010.

“Opens Truck Branch.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (22 September 1929): np.

Price, W.D. “Construction Work for International Harvester Company of America.” *Harvester World* 2:6 (March 1911): 4-6.

Price, W.D. “Deering Works, Concrete Manufacturing Building.” *The Harvester World* 3: 4 (April 1912) 28-29.

“Railway Company Sells Ground.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (19 February 1922): 64.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

“Retirements.” *Harvester World* 23 (March-April 1932): 20.

Slaton, Amy. *Reinforced Concrete and the Modernization of American Building, 1900-1930*.
Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, Philadelphia, PA, Vol. 13 (Sheet 1234), 1951.

“Uptown Plant Reported Sold for \$150,000.” *The Philadelphia Inquirer* (12 July 1958): np.

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: Library of Congress

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 0.5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 39.997554 | Longitude: -75.158815 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

The boundary of the International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia Branch House is illustrated as a red line on the accompanying “Site Plan with NR Boundary” (Figure 10).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel on which the historic industrial operations of the International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia Branch House was located during the period of significance. No extant historically associated resources have been excluded.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Logan I. Ferguson, Senior Associate
organization: Powers and Company, Inc.
street & number: 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 1717
city or town: Philadelphia state: PA zip code: 19107
e-mail logan@powersco.net
telephone: (215) 636-0192
date: November 22, 2017

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.

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

Photograph Log

Name of Property: International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia Branch House

City or Vicinity: Philadelphia

County: Philadelphia

State: PA

Photographer: Robert Powers, Powers and Company, Inc.

Date Photographed: June 2017

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

<i>Photograph #</i>	<i>Description of Photograph</i>
1.	East elevation, view west
2.	East and south elevations, view northwest
3.	East and south elevations, view northwest
4.	West elevation, view southeast
5.	West and south elevations, view northeast
6.	West elevation, view east
7.	West elevation, view northeast
8.	West elevation, view southeast
9.	East elevation, view south
10.	1-story Section, 1 st floor, view southwest
11.	5-story Section, 1 st floor, Elevator, view east
12.	5-story Section, 1 st floor, view south
13.	5-story Section, 1 st floor, view north
14.	5-story Section, 2 nd floor, view southeast
15.	5-story Section, 2 nd floor, view south
16.	5-story Section, 2 nd floor, view northeast
17.	5-story Section, 3 rd floor, Stairway, view west
18.	5-story Section, 3 rd floor, view north
19.	5-story Section, 3 rd floor, view south
20.	5-story Section, 4 th floor, view south
21.	5-story Section, 4 th floor, view southeast
22.	5-story Section, 4 th floor, view northeast
23.	5-story Section, 5 th floor, view southeast
24.	5-story Section, 5 th floor, view south
25.	1-story Section, Roof, view south
26.	5-story Section, Roof, view north
27.	5-story Section, Roof, view south

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

Index of Figures:

<i>Figure #</i>	<i>Description of Figure</i>
1.	International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia Branch House, 1924.
2.	Dallin Aerial Survey, 1931.
3.	Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1951.
4.	W.D. Price. “Deering Works: Concrete Manufacturing Building.” <i>The Harvester World</i> 3:4 (April 1912): 28.
5.	International Harvester Advertisement, 1931.
6.	Aerial photograph with NR boundary, view north.
7.	Existing Plans with Photograph Key.
8.	Building Chronology.
9.	USGS Map.
10.	Site Plan with NR Boundary.
11.	Pittsburgh Branch House, Current View (Google Street View)
12.	Harrisburgh Branch House (1911), 1925.
13.	Harrisburgh Branch House (1939), Current View (Google Street View)
14.	Madison, WI Branch House, 1919.
15.	Peoria, IL Branch House (1914 Section), 1919.
16.	Peoria, IL Branch House (1925 Section), Current View (Google Street View)
17.	Portland, OR Branch House, 1925.
18.	Wichita, KS Branch House, 1925.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Figure 1 – International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia Branch House, 1924. Courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society. <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Image/IM85789>. Accessed on July 25, 2017.



Figure 2 – Dallin Aerial Survey, 1931. View southwest.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

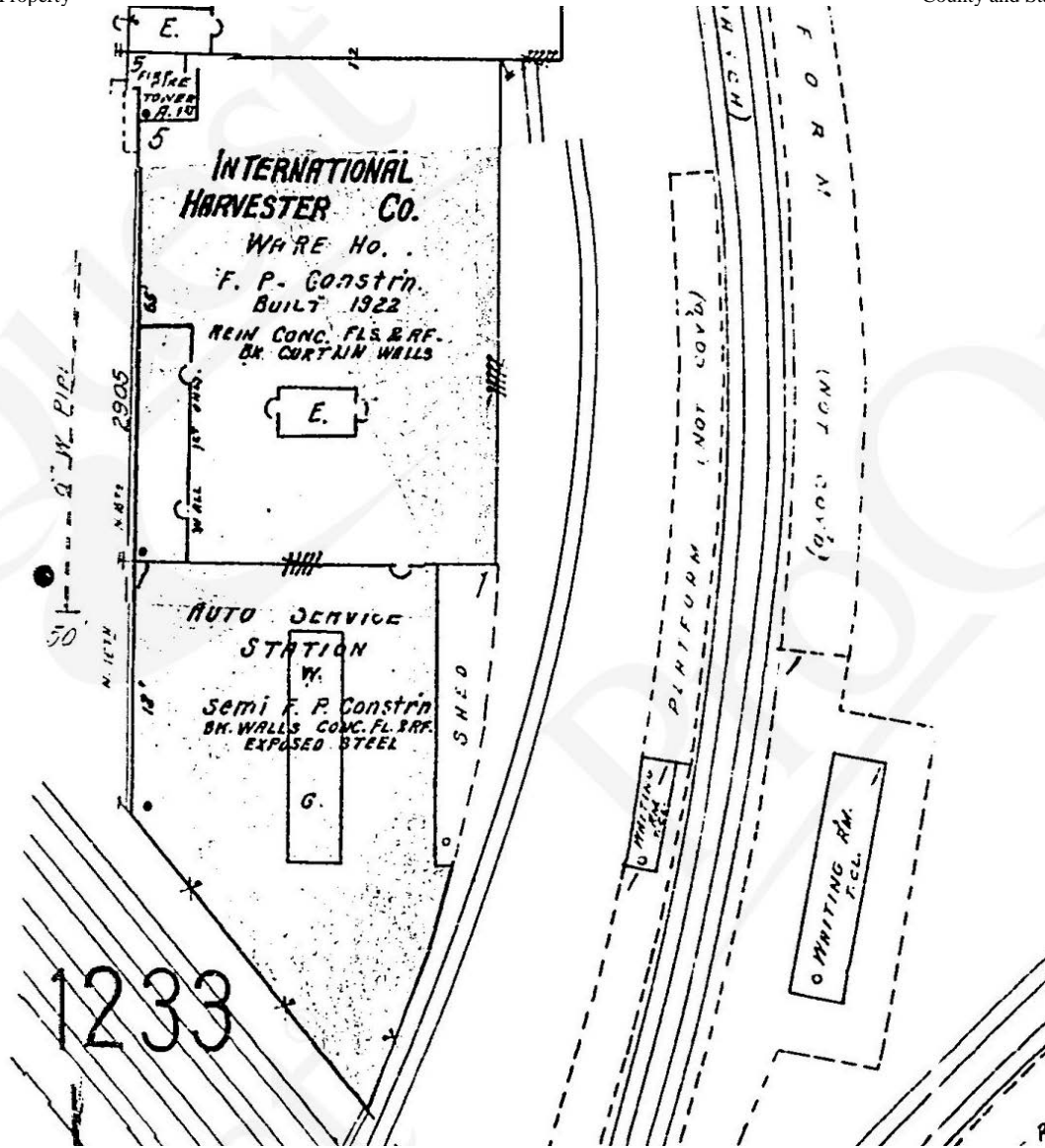


Figure 3 – Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1951. The building is on the far left side of the image.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



W. D. Price

Figure 4 – W.D. Price. “Deering Works: Concrete Manufacturing Building.” *The Harvester World* 3:4 (April 1912): 28.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

BUILDING THE HIGHWAYS OF PENNSYLVANIA

FROM the shores of Lake Erie across to Philadelphia stretches the Quaker State ... the beautiful "Sylvania" of William Penn ... a magnificent domain, great in history, great and strong in the present, and ever building for tomorrow.

This is a story of roads in Pennsylvania—a story of International Trucks. Pennsylvania knows full well that no state can afford to neglect her roads. She has gone on extending the vital arterials so that commerce may flow unobstructed and free. During 1930 over eighty million dollars were invested in major construction, replacement, and maintenance work by the Pennsylvania Department of Highways. Year after year more and more mileage opens to transportation.

During 1930, over seven hundred International Trucks helped to build the highways of this state alone—a surprising total, indicating the vogue of International haulage among construction men.

Pennsylvania is a difficult state for the road builder, as any man knows who knows the hills of Pittsburgh on the west, and the Alleghenies and the Blue Mountains toward the east. But good trucks are made for facing difficulties. Whatever the emergency, Internationals fill the bill and add to their reputation. Everywhere their owners attest their sterling performance and economy. Entrust your own hauling to trucks like these—they will give you both speed and stamina in good measure.

SERVICE HAS A LOT TO DO WITH IT

International Harvester maintains Company-owned branches at these points in Pennsylvania:

Altoona • Erie • Harrisburg
Philadelphia (2) • Pittsburgh
Reading • Scranton
Wilkes-Barre • Williamsport

Besides these, other Company-owned branches, just over the border, extend their service into Pennsylvania, and dealers are found everywhere close at hand. All over the United States International owners are served the same way.

The new International truck line includes trucks for every need: Special Delivery 3/4-ton; Six-Speed Special, 3/4-ton; Speed Trucks, 1 1/2, 2, and 3-ton; Heavy-Duty Trucks, 2 1/2, 3 1/2, and 5-ton.

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY
606 So. Michigan Ave. OF AMERICA Chicago, Illinois
Laboratory Road

INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS

Figure 5 – “Advertisement,” 1931. <https://www.periodpaper.com/products/1931-ad-construction-international-harvester-trucks-chicago-car-transportation-205144-yld5-007>. Accessed on November 10, 2017.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

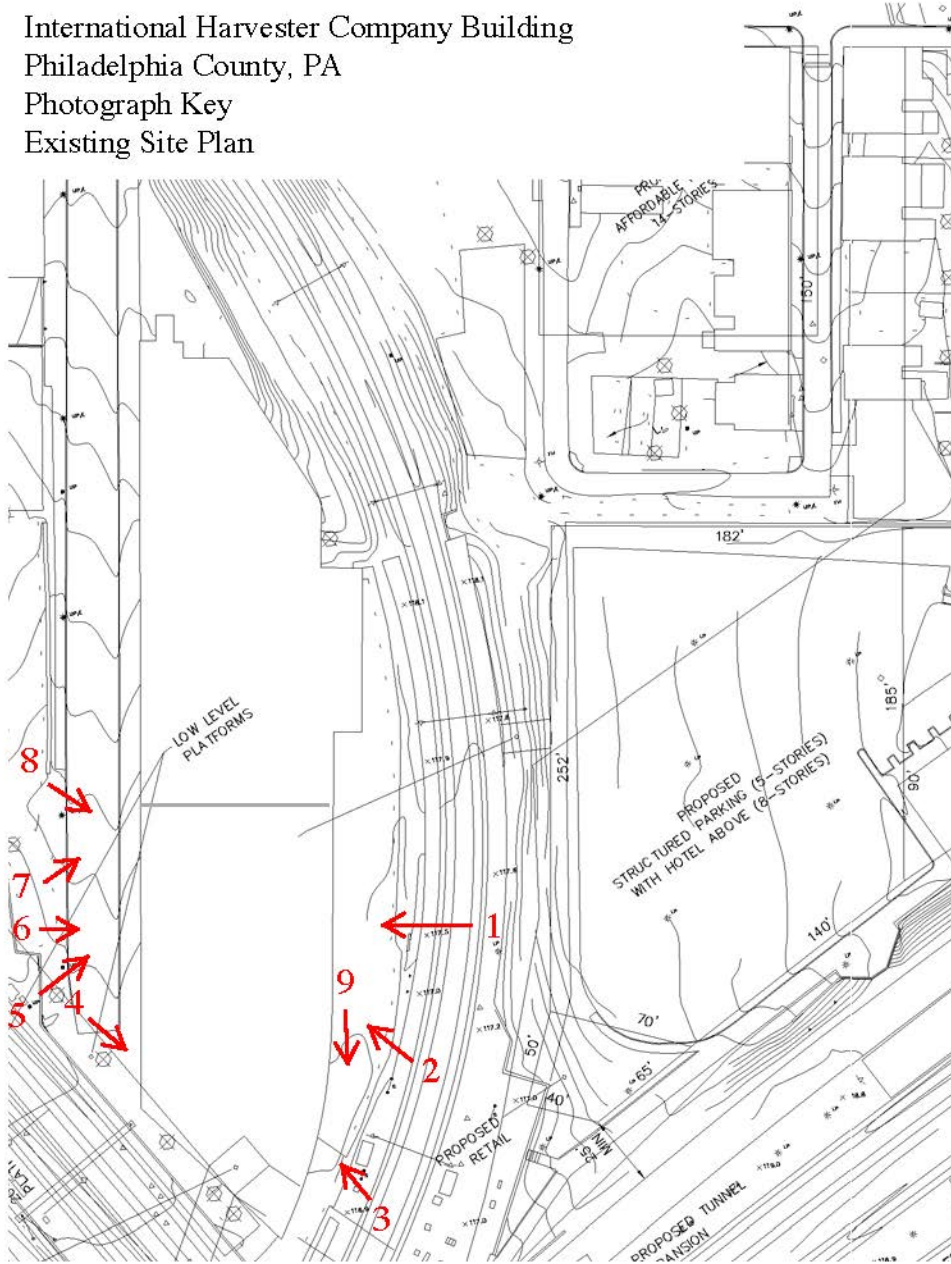


Figure 6 – Aerial photograph with NR boundary, view north. <https://www.bing.com/maps>. Accessed on November 10, 2017.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

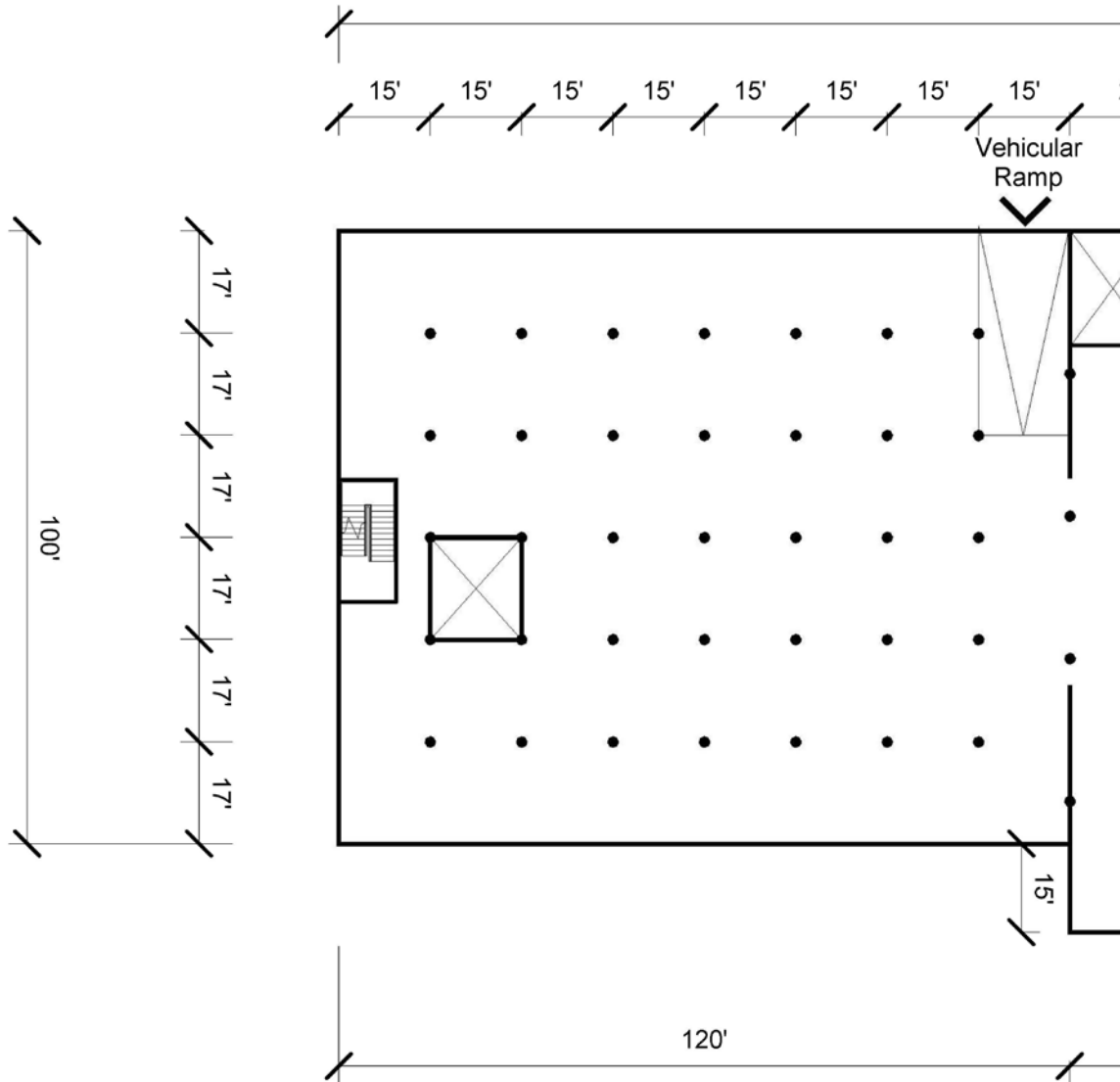
Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

International Harvester Company Building
Philadelphia County, PA
Photograph Key
Existing Site Plan



International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

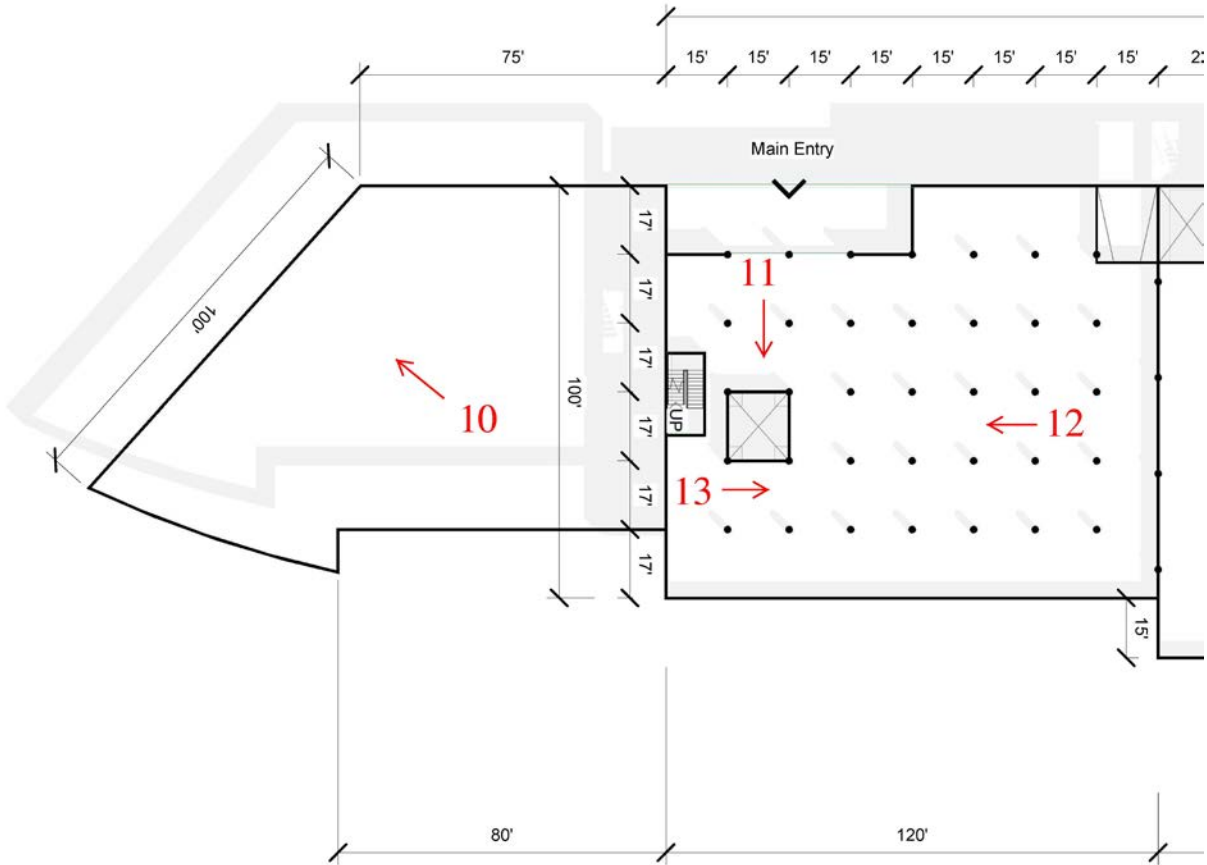
Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Existing Basement Plan

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

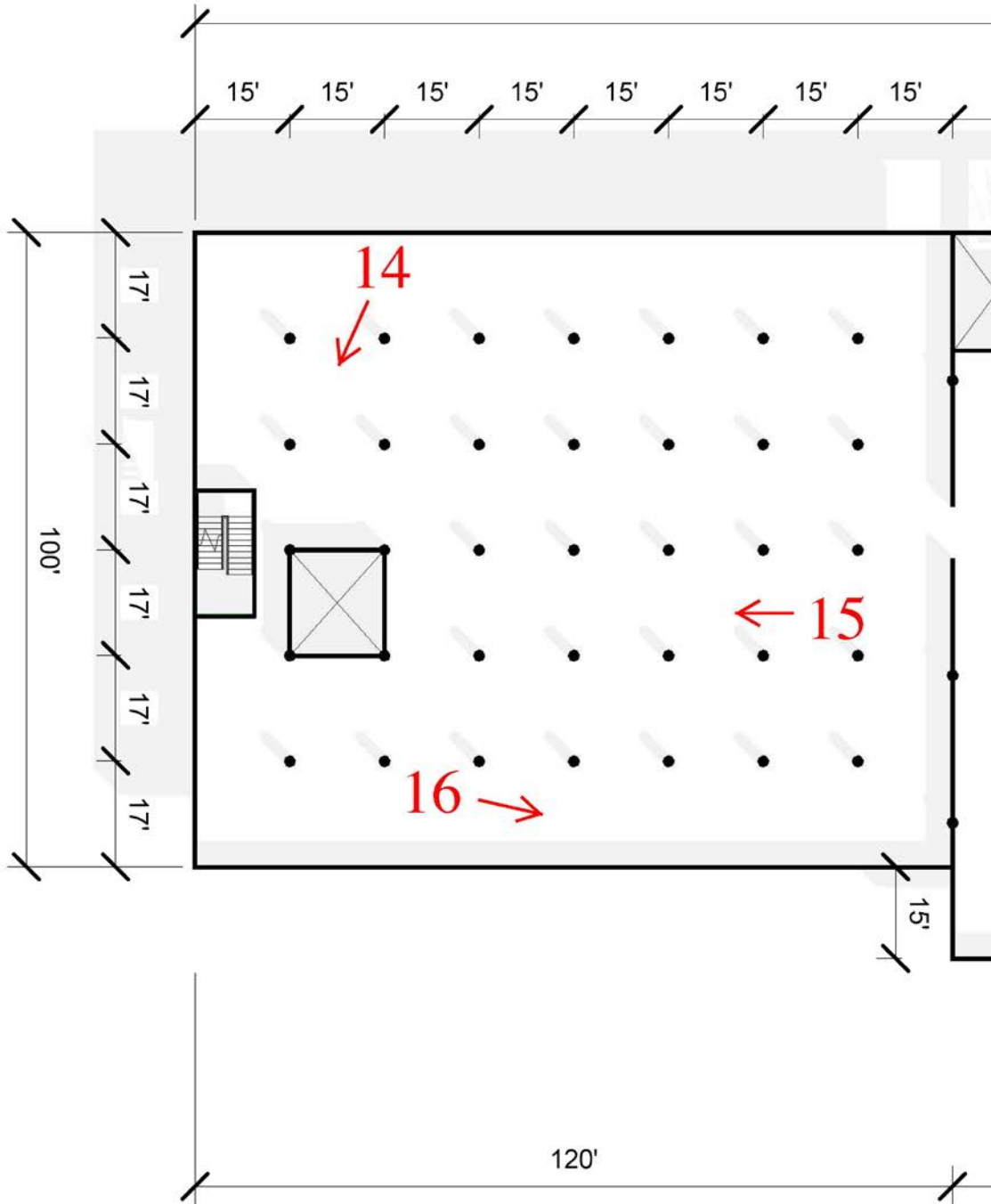
Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Existing 1st Floor Plan

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

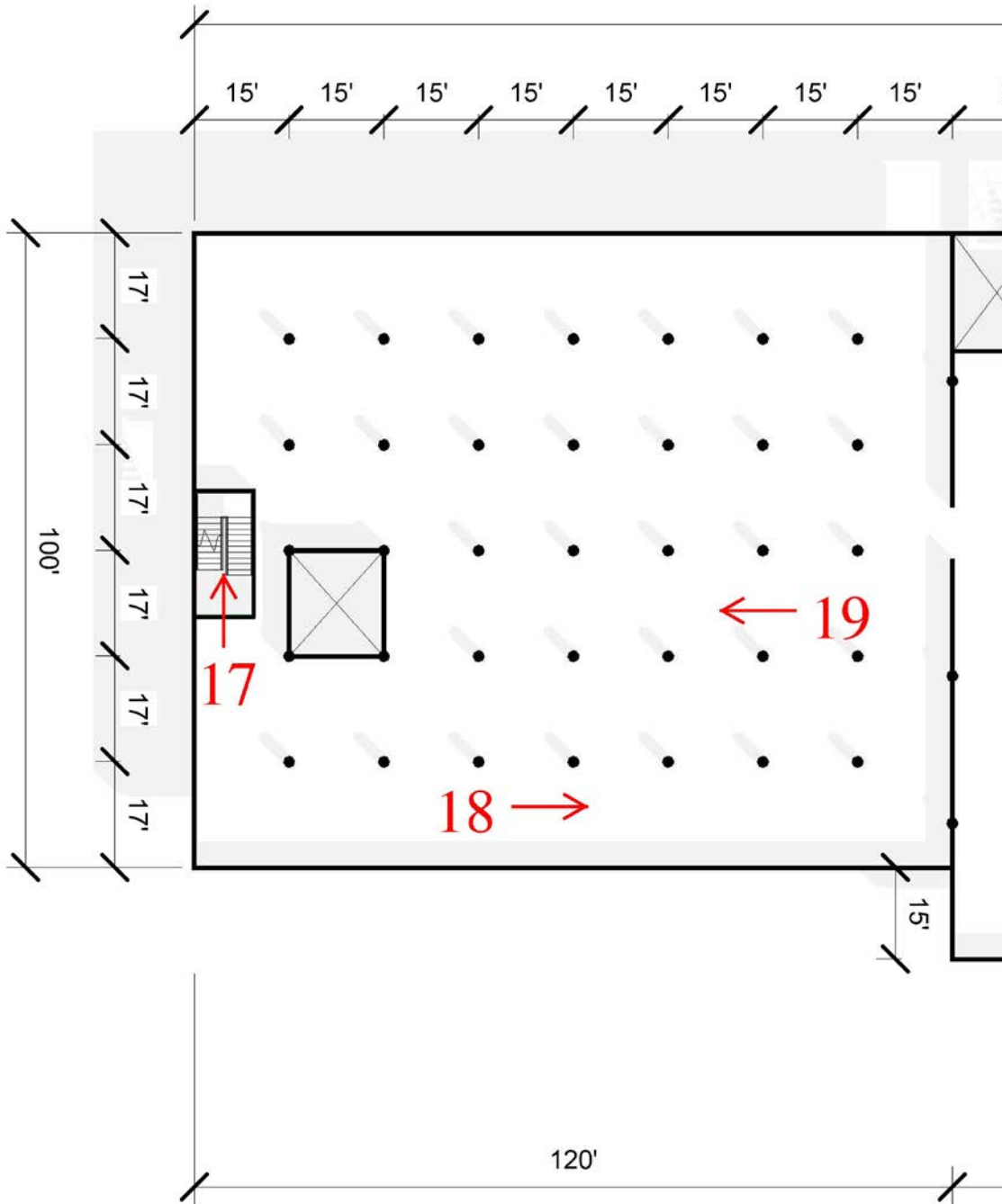
Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Existing 2nd Floor Plan

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

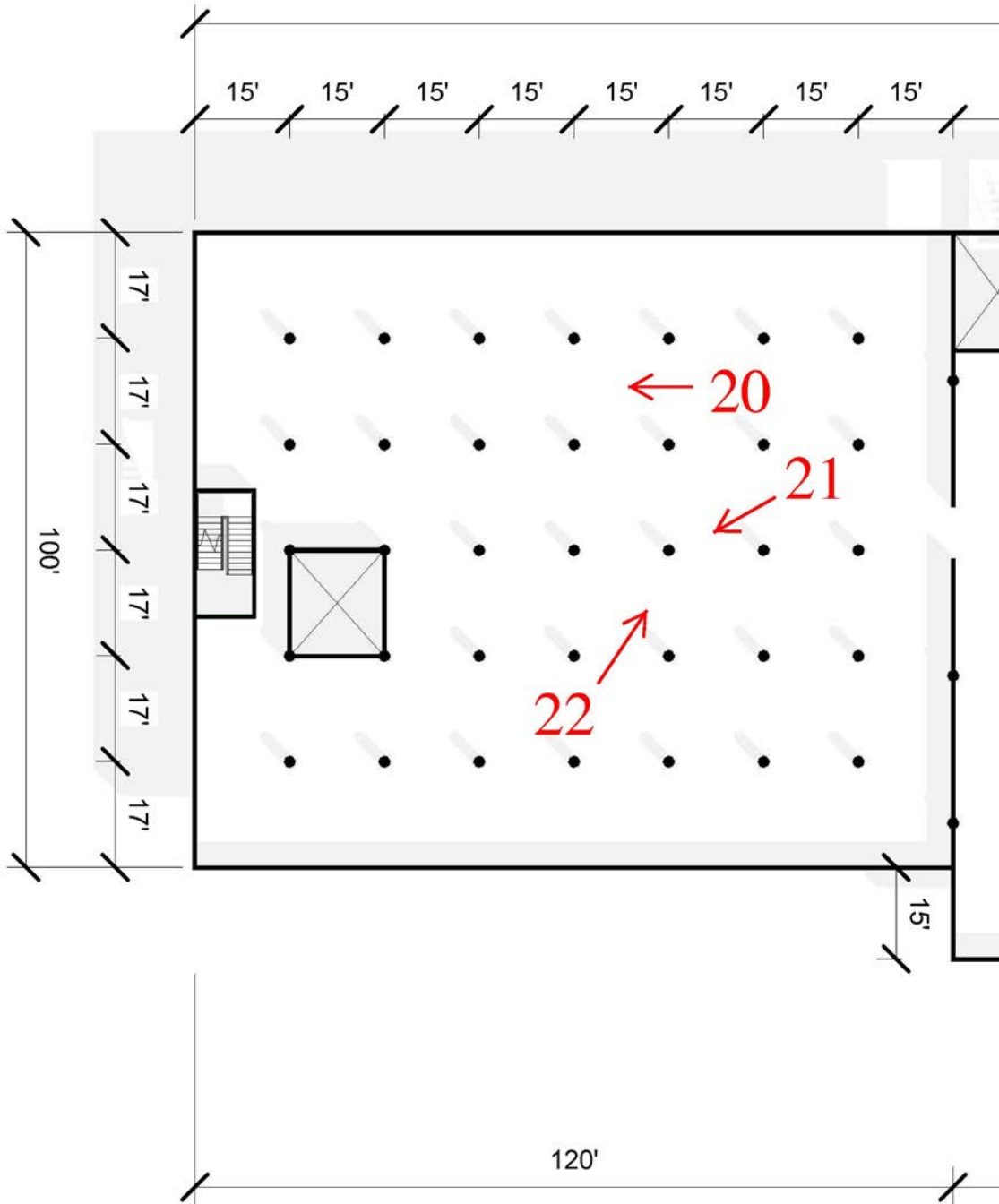
Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Existing 3rd Floor Plan

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

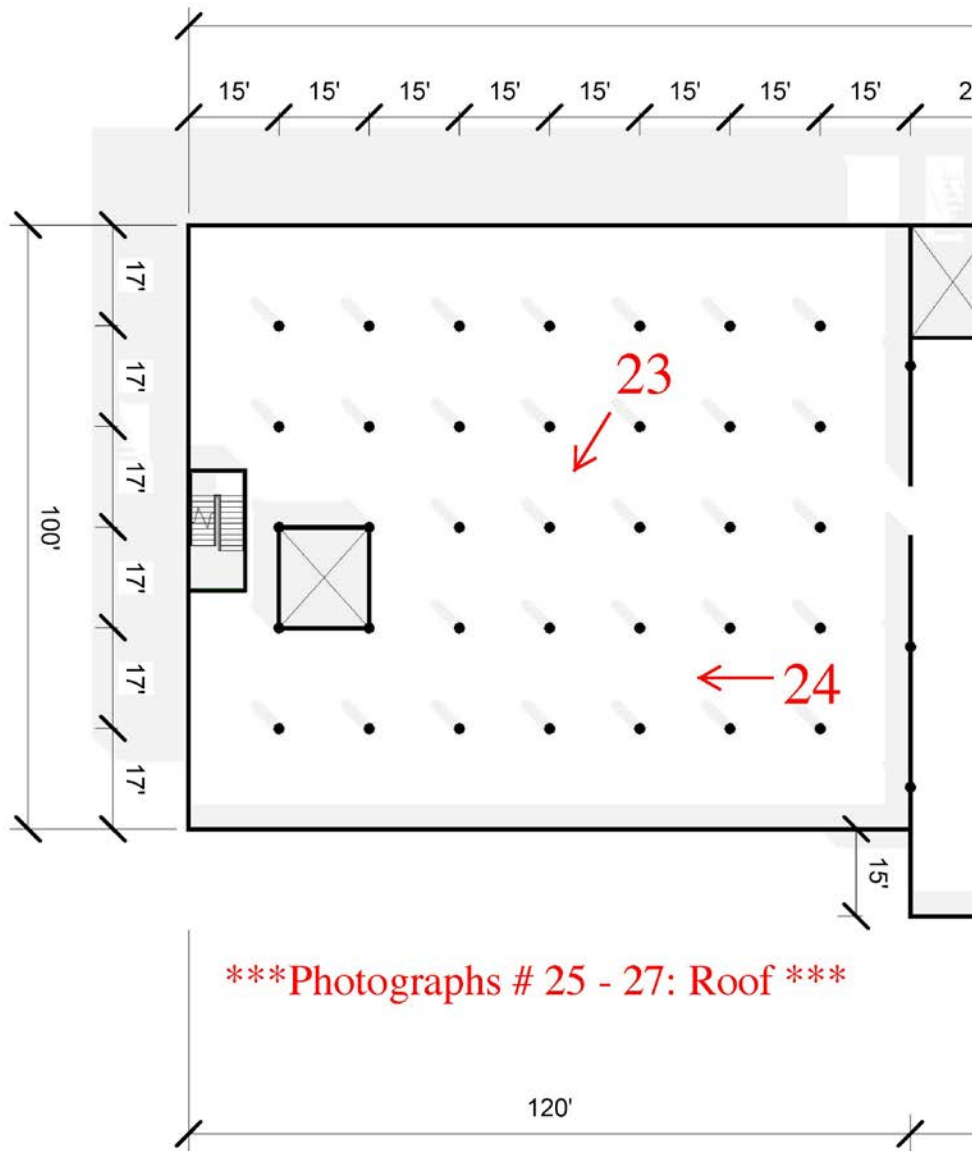
Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Existing 4th Floor Plan

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Existing 5th Floor Plan

Figure 7 – Existing Plans with Photograph Key

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House

Philadelphia County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

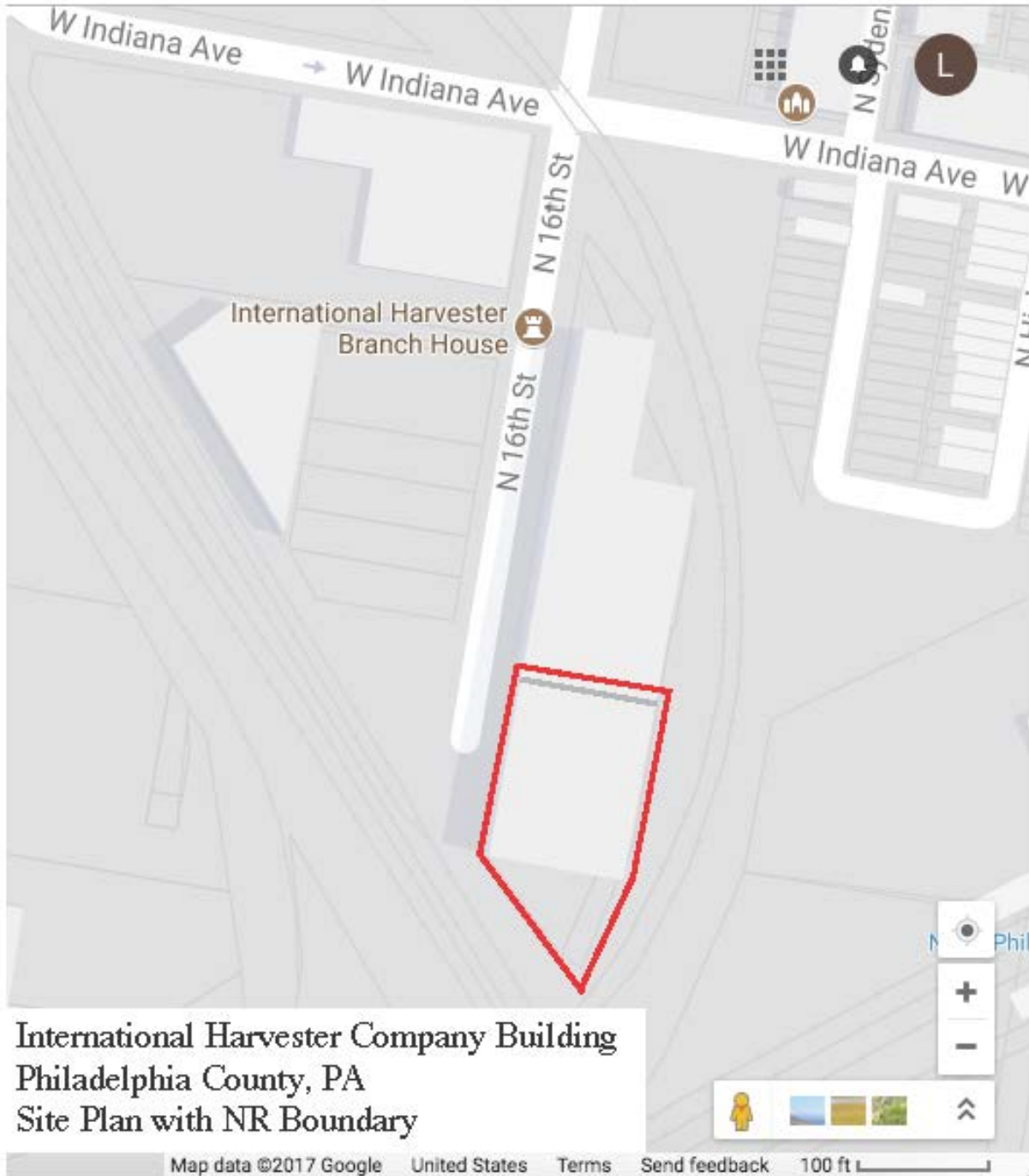


Figure 10 – Site Plan with NR Boundary.

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Figure 11 – Pittsburgh Branch House (Google Street View, July 2017).

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Figure 12 – Harrisburg Branch House, 1925. Courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society.



Figure 13 – Pittsburgh Branch House, built 1939 (Google Street View, July 2017).

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Figure 14 – Madison, WI Branch House, 1919. Courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society.



Figure 15 (L) – Peoria, IL Branch House, 1914 section in 1919. Courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society



Figure 16 (R) – Peoria, IL Branch House, 1925 Section (Google Street View, July 2017).

International Harvester Company Building – Philadelphia
Branch House
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State



Figure 17 – Portland, OR Branch House, 1925. Courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society.



Figure 18 – Wichita, KS Branch House, 1925. Courtesy Wisconsin Historical Society.





North Philadelphia























POOP

POOP
HOME
↓

MVA

POOP













Vertical graffiti on the leftmost pillar, featuring stylized black and white lettering.

Vertical graffiti on a central pillar, including the letters 'Z' and 'A'.

Large graffiti piece on the back wall, featuring the word 'CARBO' in bold, black letters with red and white outlines.

Vertical graffiti on a pillar to the right, featuring pink and black stylized characters.

Large, colorful graffiti piece on the far right wall, featuring various colors and styles.

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: International Harvester Company Building--Philadelphia Branch House

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia

Date Received: 3/14/2018 Date of Pending List: 4/11/2018 Date of 16th Day: 4/26/2018 Date of 45th Day: 4/30/2018 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100002370

Nominator: State

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 4/26/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept, National Register Criterion C.

Reviewer Patrick Andrus *Patrick Andrus* Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2218 Date 4/26/2018

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

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



CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102
Tel: 215.686.7680

Robert Thomas, AIA
Chair

Jonathan E. Farnham, Ph.D.
Executive Director

24 January 2018

Elizabeth Rairigh, Division Chief, Preservation Services
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
PA State Historic Preservation Office
400 North Street, Second Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: 2903-2909 N. 16th Street, International Harvester Company Building Philadelphia Branch House

Dear Ms. Rairigh:

I am writing in response to your request that the Philadelphia Historical Commission provide its official Certified Local Government recommendations on the nomination proposing to add the International Harvester Company Building Philadelphia Branch House, located at 2903-2909 N. 16th Street in Philadelphia to the National Register of Historic Places. At its monthly public meeting on 12 January 2018, the Philadelphia Historical Commission reviewed and discussed the nomination and accepted public testimony. The Commission agreed that the building satisfies National Register Criterion C, in the area of architecture, and recommended that the building be added to the National Register of Historic Places. The Commission contends that the property retains sufficient integrity, and notes that it is proposed for adaptive reuse in the Philadelphia City Planning Commission North District Plan. The property is not listed on the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Thank you for providing the Philadelphia Historical Commission with the opportunity to comment on this nomination.

Yours truly,

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

Jonathan E. Farnham, Ph.D.
Executive Director