

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUN 21 1993

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 18A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Folding Furniture Works Building

other names/site number Lullabye Furniture Warehouse and Plywood Mill

#### 2. Location

street & number 1020 First Street N/A  not for publication

city or town Stevens Point N/A  vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Portage code 097 zip code 54481

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Jeff Deam* Signature of certifying official/Title 7/29/93 Date

State Historic Preservation Officer-WI

State of Wisconsin State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper *Patrick Andrews* Date of Action 7/29/93

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1            | 2               |            |
| _____        | _____           | buildings  |
| _____        | _____           | sites      |
| _____        | _____           | structures |
| _____        | _____           | objects    |
| 1            | 2               | Total      |

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Manufacturing Facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry/ Industrial Storage

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century  
American Movements

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other wood

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

(see continuation sheets)

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The Folding Furniture Works building, presently known as the Lullabye Furniture Warehouse and Plywood Mill, is located at 1020 First Street on the west side of the street on an L-shaped unlandscaped lot in the area of the original settlement of Stevens Point. A road mat driveway serves as an approach to loading docks on the north and south side of the building. There is a large parking lot in the northwest portion of the L-shaped lot along Portage Street. The Folding Furniture Works property defines the northwest corner of the Stevens Point commercial district. To the north of the Folding Furniture Works building at 1004 First St. is a one-story stucco office building owned by Orwell Hagen and built in the mid 1980 s. This building presently houses the Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance Co. and Colorgraphics. The property was originally part of the Folding Furniture Works building property.

(Appendix A) To the south of the Folding Furniture Works building is a municipal parking lot and a vacant lot which is owned by Wisconsin Public Service and which was the original site of the Stevens Point Lighting Plant (presently Wisconsin Public Service). To the east across the street from the Folding Furniture Works building is a concrete block building used by the Milwaukee Journal as a distribution center and a strip shopping center comprised of The Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel offices, Point Glass, and K.P. Appliance Repair. To the west of the Folding Furniture Works building are backlots of small homes along Crosby Avenue and Portage Street. This begins the northside residential area of Stevens Point.

To the west directly behind the Folding Furniture Works building and on this property are two small outbuildings which were added after 1942. The first and closest to the Folding Furniture Works building is a concrete block structure 8'8" tall x 11' deep x 10' wide with a roof that slopes to the west. This building served to house the boiler and later served as a tornado shelter. It is easily accessible by a raised walkway between it and the main building. The second building located directly behind the tornado shelter is of concrete block and wood and is 8' high x 16' deep x 25'4" wide with a 19'2" addition. It has a boom town facade on the south side that conceals a roof that also slopes to the west. This building was used as a collection bin for sawdust. It is connected to the main building by a metal pipe extending from its roof to the first floor of the main building.

#### Exterior

The Folding Furniture Works building built in 1931 in a mid 1800 s factory form replaced the original Folding Furniture Works building which was built in 1919, measured 70' x 150', and was built in this same basic configuration. The original Folding Furniture Works building was located on this same property but was destroyed by fire in 1931. The building we see today is an enlarged replica of the original building which was built in 1919.

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The Folding Furniture Works building is a three story structure rectangular in shape measuring 58' on the east and west sides and 224' excluding the porch on the north and south sides. The building includes approximately 39,000 sq. ft. of space. The exceptions to the rectangular shape are the 10' deep x 22' wide hip roofed porch with a wood floor which is centered on the east side of the building and a 16' x 30' gable roofed loading dock on the south side which was added in the 1970's. The only ornamentation found on the exterior is the crisscross pattern of 2 x 4's which serve as the porch rail and the rectangular posts which support the porch roof. The foundation is of poured concrete and contains only a small crawl space beneath. In keeping with the mid 1800's style of industrial building, the exterior walls of the Folding Furniture Works building are of three inch lap wood clapboard siding of light and dark gray paint. The light and dark color is caused by the wearing away of the topcoat. A 10" wide trim board with a drip cap at the base of the siding runs the perimeter of the building. Each of the four corners contains a vertical trim board which the siding butts up against. At the top of the third story below the eave is an eight inch trim board. The eaves extend about two feet from the sides of the building. Above the eaves is a built up roof which drains to the center to allow water to pass through an interior roof drain. An 11' x 15' cupola covering the elevator shaft is located on the south facade. The vent pipe comes out of the roof on the north facade. An impressive feature of this building are the rectangular double hung four over four muntin pattern windows. The upper sash has four short lights over four longer lights. The pattern is reversed on the bottom sash with four longer lights over four shorter lights. Most of the windows have a triangular metal awning or hood projecting from the top of the window opening. These hoods were added shortly after the structure was built to allow for continuous ventilation at the top of each window. This was necessary because of the suction pressures created by the buildings sawdust collection system. The installation of these hoods eliminated the need to close all of the nearly 200 windows during rainstorms. All of the 53 large windows on the first floor measure 7' high x 2'11" wide. The longer lights are 8" x 24". The shorter lights are 8" x 12". On the second and third floor the windows are 6' x 2'11" with 8" x 20" and 8" x 12" lights. There are 65 of these windows on the second floor and 67 on the third floor. Their presence provides natural light and is typical of a mid 19th century factory building.

The east side of the Folding Furniture Works building is very symmetrical and contains two doors and five windows on the first level. The door on the north end of the porch enters directly into the factory and the main stairwell on that side. This door also features a picket fence like gate that covers the bottom half of the opening. This gate kept trespassers out of the factory while still allowing the door to be open for cross ventilation. The doors on the south end of the porch exclusively served the second floor offices. The second and third levels each contain seven windows on this elevation.

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The north side of the first level features two freight doors which appear to be original. Two small windows flank each side of the freight doors. There are 24 large windows on the first floor. Between the first and second floors, four metal stove pipes emerge from this side of the building serving forced air natural gas heaters. At the center of this elevation are two small windows one above the other which light a center stairwell. On the west are three small windows which light the west stairwell. On the second level there is a large overhead door opening directly over the freight door on the first level. This is not original to the building. There are 24 large windows on this second level and 27 large windows on the third level.

The west side of the first level contains two doors. One exits on the south end to a raised sidewalk leading to the tornado shelter. The other serves as an exit near the parking lot. There are five large windows on the first floor and seven each on the second and third floors.

The south side of the first level contains two freight doors, one east and one west of the gabled loading dock addition. The freight door west of the addition has two narrow windows flanking the opening. There are 22 large windows on the first floor south elevation. Between the first and second floors is a ventilator hood and three metal stove pipes to serve the forced air natural gas heaters. There are 27 large windows on the second floor as well as on the third floor.

The cupola has windows on the north and south sides and a door on the east side which provides access to the roof.

#### Interior

There are two entrances on the main (east) elevation of the Folding Furniture Works building located on the north and south ends of the porch. Upon entering through the north door one can go directly into the factory. A stairwell to the left leads to the second and third floors of the factory. Upon entering the Folding Furniture Works building through the south door is a stairwell leading exclusively to the second floor offices.

The interior of the Folding Furniture Works building is largely unfinished with most of the structure exposed. The building possesses little interior ornamentation. The first floor is open with some exceptions. On the north wall at the midpoint of the building is a room where the dry sprinkler system controls are kept. Inside this room is a stairwell leading to the second and third floors. To the west is the men's lavatory. On the north wall are two large doors near the center of the building west of the men's lavatory. Between these two sets of doors is a 19' partition from the north wall. The door nearest the

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east also serves a loading dock. The grade has been lowered here to accommodate loading trucks. The other is at grade level. The west wall of the first floor contains two doors. The south door leads to the tornado shelter directly behind the main building. The north door leads to the parking lot. On the south the only interruption of the wall is the 10' x 11' elevator shaft with a fence like gate. The fuse panels for the building are on the east wall of the elevator shaft. Over the elevator entrance is a built-in industrial clock. Three large doors for loading freight are located on the south wall near the center of the building. The center door is behind the freight elevator and opens into the 1970 s loading dock addition. The other two freight doors are located on either side of the elevator. The set of doors east of the elevator shaft are of the sliding type. The outside walls are mostly open with 2" x 6" studs 12" on center. Horizontal wood sheathing clads portions of the interior walls. Walls are 13' from the floor to the bottom of the second floor joists and are punctuated regularly by windows. To the east of the elevator near the south wall are trap doors leading to the crawlspace below the first floor. The floor is a mixture of narrow and wide boards interrupted by cement pads which once supported machinery. Running down the center of the building is a metal aisle which is secured to the wood floor. The metal aisle protected the wood floor from wear caused by carts transporting goods from one place to another. There is no ceiling. The most notable feature of the first floor is the 26 10" x 10" timber posts which support the two interior built up beams consisting of eight 2" x 12"s. The exposed second floor joists are 2" x 12"s also and 12" on center.

The second floor is also open with exceptions. The most notable feature on this floor are the factory offices located on the east wall which consist of four rooms: the main office, the center office, the reception/cashier's office, and a small closet size room. The main office measuring 11' wide x 12' deep is in the southeast corner. The main office has one door and two transomed windows opening out into the plant. Four transomed windows and a door separate the main and center offices. The center office is 7' wide x 12' deep and has four doors. The first door has a shuttered window opening into the factory. The second door opens into the reception/cashier's area and the third provides access to the main office. The fourth door opens into a closet size (3' wide x 4' deep) room. This closet size room also has an entrance to the factory. It shares a barred window with the reception/cashier's office. The reception/cashier's office is north of the main and center offices and measures 5' wide x 9' deep. This room contains four windows on the west wall. One of these is the barred window shared with the 3' x 4' room. The reception/cashier's office contains a bench along the north wall near the stairwell. A simple picture rail still exists in the second office and the reception/cashier's office. The interior of the second office, reception/cashier's office and main stairwell have faux marble paneling used as a wainscoting and 8" wood baseboards. To the north of the offices on the east wall in the factory is a door

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leading to the main stairwell serving the factory. On the east factory wall adjacent the offices is a steel radiator left from the early days of the factory and probably the original heating system. The building is presently heated by several hanging style natural gas forced air furnaces. Marks on the wood floors in a 33' x 49' area show that part of the factory probably served as an extension of the three enclosed offices. The walls on this factory side are also of faux marble as are three supporting pillars in this area. Like the enclosed offices the factory side offices have picture rail on the east and south walls in this area. The ceiling in this area as well as in the enclosed offices are of plaster and once contained light fixtures of an incandescent globe type. Light fixtures in the factory are presently of the fluorescent type. The incandescent light fixtures remain in the enclosed offices but have been removed from the ceiling of the factory offices.

Another exception to the openness of the second floor is the center stairwell and the women's lavatory located on the north wall. There are two plywood partitions from the north wall--one east of the stairwell and one west of the women's lavatory. Between the women's lavatory and the west partition is a wood garage door which is not original to the building. On the northwest corner the stairwell continues between the first and third floors. On the south wall is the elevator shaft. The second level contains wood plank flooring. The ceiling height on the second floor is 10'3" from floor to underside of the joists. Sidewalls are 2" x 6" studs 12" on center. The second floor like the first has 26 10" x 10" timber posts supporting the top (third) floor. Two built up beams consisting of eight 2" x 12"s in turn support 2" x 12" joists on the third floor and are 12" on center.

The third floor like the first and second is open with two exceptions. One exception is the elevator shaft on the south wall. On the east side of the elevator shaft is a built in ladder which provides access to the 11' x 15' cupola which facilitates the operation of the elevator and serves as access to the roof. The second exception is located on the northeast corner where an original wood partition remains. The east side of the partition is drywalled. Another partition to the east of the fixed partition is a wall suspended from two tracks to allow it to be moved up to 10' east or west as space requirements demanded. The third level also contains a wood plank floor. There are 26 8" x 8" timber posts supporting built up beams of five 2" x 8"s. The walls are 2" x 6" studs 12" on center. The ceiling height at the center of the floor is 8'11" while the exterior ceiling height is 10'11". The ceiling slopes from the outer walls to the inside to facilitate an interior roof drain which runs alongside the center beam on the north side of the building. A dry standpipe sprinkler system suspended from the joists is present on each floor.

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.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry \_\_\_\_\_

Architecture \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1931-1942 \_\_\_\_\_

1931 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1931 <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Unknown \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_



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### Introduction

The Folding Furniture Works, built in 1931 is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the Folding Furniture Works is locally significant for the role that the company played in the industrial history of Stevens Point. The Folding Furniture Works was one of many producers of furniture in this era of the city's industrial development and is a significant representation of the secondary wood products industry that grew up along with Wisconsin's timbering industry. The 1931 Folding Furniture Works building was built and thrived during the Great Depression due to the industriousness and hard work of company employees, a time during which furniture manufacturing in general faced a serious decline. The Folding Furniture Works is architecturally significant as an important local example of wood frame industrial building design. Due to the unusual circumstances surrounding its construction during the depths of the Depression, it is an anachronistic example of the continuation of a vernacular 18th and 19th century industrial building form well into the early 20th century.

### Historical Background

The origin of the Folding Furniture Works has its roots in a rural development venture in the Township of Kronenwetter, approximately 20 miles north of Stevens Point in Marathon County. The crossroads settlement was known as Peplin. Mr. Worzalla and his brothers, Steven H. and Joseph A., formed the Worzalla Brothers Land Company which owned a sawmill and planing mill. Peplin was named after the birthplace of their father in German-speaking Poland. The Peplin development, begun in 1914, involved 30,000 acres of mostly cutover tracts and 300 settler families. The community of Peplin contained three public schools and a Catholic church by 1917 and was a link between Wausau and Stevens Point.<sup>1</sup> The economy of Peplin revolved around the sawmill, its softwood logs being transported to a paper mill at nearby Mosinee. The land holdings also produced abundant hardwood logs for which there was no ready nearby market. The Folding Furniture Works was an outgrowth of the Peplin enterprise created as an outlet for the hardwood produced by Peplin.<sup>2</sup> The Folding Furniture Works was a personal venture of John Worzalla who perfected and patented a child's folding swing. The name "Folding Furniture Works" is likely an attempt to publicize his folding swing.

In 1917 Worzalla founded the company and arranged to use a vacant portion of the second floor of the Automatic Cradle Manufacturing Company's factory until he could erect a factory.<sup>3</sup> This latter company, later renamed Lullaby Furniture was founded by John J. Bukolt and manufactured "automatic" cradles, cribs and other furniture. Bolts of hardwood were purchased on contract from Peplin setters and shipped to Stevens Point.<sup>4</sup> John Worzalla contracted with Automatic Cradle to do some of their milling work as well and special machines based on Worzalla's design were developed. The enterprise started with two employees with some work done outside by others. About 100 swings were manufactured each day and plans were to quickly increase the work force to 10 men. It was Worzalla's intention to relocate the business to Peplin when

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employment reached 100 but the Worzalla Land Company dissolved and the Folding Furniture Works remained in Stevens Point.<sup>5</sup>

Worzalla's patented swing was described in the Stevens Point Daily Journal as follows:

The swing stands about five feet high and consists of a frame of four legs extending from a common bar at the top. From this bar is suspended a folding seat that can be turned either way. The seat swings freely and guards prevent it swinging too far. [Sic] It is adjustable in various positions and the whole may be folded into a compact piece like a camp chair.<sup>6</sup>

In 1919, Worzalla purchased land from W. W. Mitchell on a site bounded by Portage, River, First and West streets to build a factory. Construction of a factory for the concern may have been delayed by war time restrictions, since Worzalla had planned to construct his own plant within several months of beginning manufacturing at the Automatic Cradle factory. Part of River street was vacated by the city of Stevens Point to accommodate the railroad spur line. At the time of purchase Worzalla employed 35 men and 15 "girls" (assumed to be women) with some parts of the work continuing to be done elsewhere. The factory was expected to employ a crew of 100 of which 85 would be men.<sup>7</sup>

The first Folding Furniture Works building erected on the site was a 70' x 150', three story building with lumber sheds, boiler building and sawdust collection bins surrounding it. The 1922 Sanborn Insurance map shows a three story building with sawing and sanding on the first floor, assembly on the second, and painting and packing on the third floor. Six detached buildings served as freight receiving, storage, shipping and other utilitarian purposes. (see Appendix A) The building was sited in proximity to the Wisconsin River and adjacent to a railroad siding. It was noted on the legend as a manufacturer of baby cradles and later evidence suggests the company manufactured mattresses, presumably for these cradles and possibly for other furniture lines as well.<sup>8</sup> The Folding Furniture Works was the last of the wood-based millworks manufacturing enterprises to be built in Stevens Point following the north woods logging era of the late 1800s when Stevens Point was known as the "Gateway to the Pineries." Others included Automatic Cradle/Lullabye Furniture, Vetter Furniture, Joerns Brothers Furniture and Coye Furniture.

On May 16, 1931, the original factory was destroyed by fire. Damage was extensive with four outbuildings destroyed, and adjacent residences and the nearby Wisconsin Valley Electric Company Plant damaged. Over 1,200 completed cribs and beds were destroyed along with raw materials, industrial machinery and equipment.<sup>9</sup> By July the site was cleared and construction of a replacement structure began. The new factory was built with approximately the same square footage as the previous building and was built primarily by employees of the company who lost jobs when the factory was destroyed.<sup>10</sup>

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John Worzalla decided to keep as many workers as possible employed in building the new factory under the supervision of a master carpenter. The fact that carpenter's wages were \$.80 per hour as opposed to \$.35 per hour paid to the factory workers also influenced the decision.<sup>11</sup> Another factor may have been that only 60 per cent of the fire loss was covered by insurance.<sup>12</sup> This labor arrangement likely explains why the 1931 structure was built as a wood frame structure long after such structures were generally built of fireproof masonry construction and may account for the simple utilitarian form of the building. Construction work involved 60 men including 20 carpenters.<sup>13</sup> The building was built in sections on the ground that were then raised and nailed in place.

As demand for folding swings waned, the company manufactured wooden infant cribs, beds and similar furniture. Business was fairly good during the Depression years, primarily because the product line targeted low-cost furniture buyers. John Worzalla remained head of the company until his death in 1957. His obituary listed him as secretary, treasurer and general manager.<sup>14</sup> John's son Edmund took over the role as company president after his death with Vincent Kroll as Secretary-Treasurer. The family heirs decided to phase out operation of the company and for the next four years continued to operate, gradually using up the inventory of parts and materials. When the factory closed on February 16, 1961, the remaining 123 employees were laid off. The building was sold to Lullabye Furniture in March of 1962 and was used for warehouse space.<sup>15</sup>

**Industrial Significance**

According to Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, the manufacture of finished wood products in Wisconsin began almost as soon as timber logging itself. By the late nineteenth century, Wisconsin was a leader in the manufacture of wood products in the United States and among the top ten states in furniture production. During its peak at the turn of the century Wisconsin was home to over 250 furniture factories. Small scale shops and factories began to decline during this period in favor of large scale factories located along a major waterway or lakefront with direct rail access. Many factories of this period were constructed of wood, but the majority were built of brick or stone. A combination of economic depression, exhaustion of native hardwoods, high labor costs, unionization, and foreign competition all played a role in the decline of the state's furniture industry in the 1920s and 30s. The companies that survived commonly concentrated on a limited line of products such as office, children's, hospital or contract furnishings. The center of furniture production shifted to the southern United States after World War II.<sup>16</sup>

The Folding Furniture Works is locally significant for its role in the history of furniture manufacturing. The company illustrates the importance of the secondary wood products industry as an integral part of the exploitation of Wisconsin's rich timber reserves. The company notably survived a period of industry wide decline despite a devastating fire during the depths of the Depression.

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#### Architectural significance

The design of American factory building is acknowledged to have emerged from the design of early New England textile mills. The versatility and adaptability of design in these vernacular industrial buildings led to their widespread adoption by other industries not only in New England but throughout the entire United States during the nineteenth century.<sup>17</sup>

Early factories were commonly constructed of wood with heavy timber frames. With the exception of regular spacing of columns, the floors were wide open spans. Since early machines were powered by line shafts with belt drives, buildings tended to be long and narrow with high ceilings. Large regularly spaced windows optimized natural lighting. The vernacular factory building form remained essentially unchanged throughout the nineteenth century, although technological advances in fire protection, steel and concrete construction, and electric power allowed ever increasing flexibility in factory design.<sup>18</sup> By the time the Folding Furniture Works was erected in 1931, typical factory design had discarded the textile mill precedent in favor of sprawling, largely one-story steel and masonry complexes.

The Folding Furniture Works is architecturally significant as a distinctive local example of an industrial factory design. Despite its Twentieth Century date, the building embodies the general characteristics of vernacular factory design. Its rectangular form, open spans, regular fenestration pattern, and vertical movement of materials reflect a very late occurrence of a utilitarian approach to factory design, widespread in the 18th and 19th centuries, but largely abandoned by the date of construction of this factory. It is likely that this building's anachronistic design is a direct result of the harsh economic climate of the Great Depression and its simple construction a testimony to the determination of the company to survive its devastating economic setbacks.

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Endnotes

- 1 "Peplin Plans a Big Future," Stevens Point Daily Journal, March 23, 1917
- 2 Ibid.
- 3 "Opens a New Manufactory," Stevens Point Daily Journal, March 21, 1917
- 4 "Peplin Plans a Big Future," Stevens Point Daily Journal, March 23, 1917
- 5 "Opens a New Manufactory," Stevens Point Daily Journal, March 21, 1917
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 "Give Unused Street to Get a Factory," Stevens Point Daily Journal, February 14, 1919
- 8 Sanborn Perris Insurance Map, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, 1922, corrected to 1929.
- 9 "Folding Furniture Plant Destroyed," Stevens Point Daily Journal, May 16, 1931.
- 10 "Rebuilding Furniture Plant at Site of Big Fire in May; to Operate in 60 to 90 Days," Stevens Point Daily Journal, July 18, 1931.
- 11 Interview with Vincent Kroll by Thomas Brown in September 1991.
- 12 "Folding Furniture Plant Destroyed," Stevens Point Daily Journal, May 16, 1931.
- 13 "Rebuilding Furniture Plant at Site of Big Fire in May; to Operate in 60 to 90 Days," Stevens Point Daily Journal, July 18, 1931.
- 14 "John Worzalla, Furniture Co. Founder, Dies," Stevens Point Daily Journal, June 16, 1957.
- 15 "Lullabye Buys Folding Furn. Works Plant," Stevens Point Daily Journal, March 2, 1962.
- 16 Barbara Wyatt, ed., Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. 2 "Wood Products" Study Unit, Madison, Wisconsin: State Historical Society, 1986.
- 17 Reyner Banham, Concrete Atlantis: U.S. Industrial Building and European Modern Architecture 1900-1925, Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1986.
- 18 Ibid.

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Continuation Sheet

Folding Furniture Works Building  
Stevens Point, Portage County, WI

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#### Bibliographical References

- Banham, Reyner. Concrete Atlantis: U.S. Industrial Building and European Modern Architecture 1900-1925, Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1986.
- "Business Boom Predicted Here," Stevens Point Daily Journal, July 22, 1919.
- "Folding Furniture Plant Destroyed," Stevens Point Daily Journal, May 16, 1931.
- "Give Unused Street to Get a Factory," Stevens Point Daily Journal, February 14, 1919
- Interview with Vincent Kroll by Thomas Brown in September 1991.
- "John Worzalla, Furniture Co. Founder, Dies," Stevens Point Daily Journal, June 16, 1957.
- "Lullabye Buys Folding Furn. Works Plant," Stevens Point Daily Journal, March 2, 1962.
- "Opens a New Manufactory," Stevens Point Daily Journal, March 21, 1917
- "Peplin Plans a Big Future," Stevens Point Daily Journal, March 23, 1917
- "Rebuilding Furniture Plant at Site of Big Fire in May; to Operate in 60 to 90 Days," Stevens Point Daily Journal, July 18, 1931.
- Sanborn Perris Insurance Map, Stevens Point, Wisconsin, 1922, corrected to 1929.
- Wyatt, Barbara. Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin, Vol. 2 "Wood Products" Study Unit, Madison, Wisconsin: State Historical Society, 1986.

Folding Furniture Works Building

Portage County, Wisconsin

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.8 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 [1,6] [29,44,2,0] [4,93,3,3,0,0]
Zone Easting Northing
2 [ ] [ ] [ ]

3 [ ] [ ] [ ]
Zone Easting Northing
4 [ ] [ ] [ ]

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Bonita Maher, Consultant; Thomas Brown, Architect; edited by Jim Draeger, SHPO office

organization Terrence W. Martin, Architect date February 25, 1992

street & number 204 N. Main Street telephone 715-258-8826

city or town Waupaca, state Wisconsin zip code 54981

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Triple P of Stevens Point, Incorporated

street & number 3225 Whiting Ave. (P.O. Box 321) telephone 715-344-5465

city or town Stevens Point state Wisconsin zip code 54481

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet**

Folding Furniture Works Building  
Stevens Point, Portage County, WI

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Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 35, 36, 37, W. 1/2 Lot 38, S. 7' of E. 1/2 Lot 38, S. 7' of Lot 39, S. 7' of Lot 40, Lots 53, 54, 55, 56, 58, 58, 59 and part of River Street vacated, Block 18, Strong, Ellis and Others Addition, Stevens Point.

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel includes the entire parcel currently associated with the Folding Furniture Works building. Parcels once under the same ownership but no longer associated with the property have been excluded.



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Folding Furniture Works Building  
Stevens Point, Portage County, WI

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Folding Furniture Works Building  
1020 First Street  
Stevens Point, Portage County, Wisconsin  
Photos by Bonita Maher, February, 1992  
Negatives located at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

The above information applies to all of the following photographs:

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Photo 1 of 24  | Exterior, east (front) facade, view looking west   |
| Photo 2 of 24  | Exterior, porch, view looking northwest  |
| Photo 3 of 24  | Exterior, north facade, view looking southwest   |
| Photo 4 of 24  | Exterior, freight doors, north facade, view looking southwest                                |
| Photo 5 of 24  | Exterior, hood over window, first level, north facade, view looking south                    |
| Photo 6 of 24  | Exterior, stairwell window, north facade, view looking south                                 |
| Photo 7 of 24  | Exterior, tornado shelter and sawdust bin, view looking northwest                            |
| Photo 8 of 24  | Exterior, west facade, view looking northeast  |
| Photo 9 of 24  | Exterior, north and west facade, outbuildings, loading dock, view looking northeast          |
| Photo 10 of 24 | Exterior, south facade, view looking north   |
| Photo 11 of 24 | Exterior, foundation, trim board, drip cap, and lap siding, view looking north               |
| Photo 12 of 24 | Interior, first level, view looking west   |
| Photo 13 of 24 | Interior, first level, elevator, view looking south  |
| Photo 14 of 24 | Interior, second level, offices, view looking east   |
| Photo 15 of 24 | Interior, second level, transomed windows between main and center office, view looking north |

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Folding Furniture Works Building  
Stevens Point, Portage County, WI

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- Photo 16 of 24 Interior, second level, light fixture in main office, view looking east
- Photo 17 of 24 Interior, second level, barred window in reception/cashier's office, view looking west
- Photo 18 of 24 Interior, second level, center stairwell and women's lavatory, view looking north
- Photo 19 of 24 Interior, second level, northwest stairwell, view looking northwest
- Photo 20 of 24 Interior, third level, view looking northwest
- Photo 21 of 24 Interior, third level, elevator, view looking south
- Photo 22 of 24 Interior, third level, elevator shaft, view looking south
- Photo 23 of 24 Interior, third level, ladder to cupola, view looking southwest
- Photo 24 of 24 Interior, cupola, view looking south

PORTAGE

