

56-942

# 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: Lackawanna Mills and Scranton Button Historic District

Other names/site number: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

## 2. Location

Street & number: Block bounded by Cedar Avenue, Cherry Street, Remington Avenue and Brook Street

City or town: Scranton State: PA County: Lackawanna

Not For Publication: NA Vicinity: NA

## 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:

X A \_\_\_ B \_\_\_ C \_\_\_ D

<u>Ashley T. Donald</u>	<u>3/10/2017</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Pennsylvania Historical &amp; 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/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Patrick Andrus  
Signature of the Keeper

5/1/2017  
Date of Action

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**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	
<u>16</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>16</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.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION – Manufacturing Facility

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

COMMERCE/TRADE - Warehouse

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION – Manufacturing Facility

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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## 7. Description

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

OTHER: Industrial Vernacular

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick, Concrete

### Narrative Description

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

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#### Summary Paragraph

The Lackawanna Mills and Scranton Button Historic District is located in South Scranton, Pennsylvania, occupying the entire block bounded by Cedar Avenue (Route 11) to the east, Brook Street to the north, Remington Avenue to the west, and Cherry Street to the south. Approximately 5.5 acres in area, the site is located about 275' east of the Lackawanna River. The site, which is urban in nature and surrounded by concrete and bluestone sidewalks, contains sixteen buildings constructed in numerous stages between 1887 and c. 1965. Many of the buildings are located on the perimeter of the site, but there are several buildings found within the interior of the block, which are therefore not readily visible from the surrounding streets. The primary point of vehicular access to the interior of the block, which is largely paved in asphalt, is a driveway off of Cedar Avenue. The driveway, south of which is a small trapezoidal shaped plot of grass, slopes down to the west from Brook Street between Buildings S-3 and L-8. Another driveway is located on the south side of the block between Buildings M-1 and L-7. There are numerous points of pedestrian access to the interior of the site, however these are typically blocked by gates. On the west side of the site, there is a large loading area west of Building L-5 and south of Building C-3. A smaller loading area is located between Buildings C-1 and C-3. As used in this document, a "L" designation indicates buildings used by Lackawanna Mills, "S" by Scranton Button Company, "C" by Capitol Records. The "M" designation indicates miscellaneous or undetermined use. The district retains all seven aspects of integrity, and contains 16 buildings, all of which are considered contributing to the district.

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#### Narrative Description

##### Building L-1 (1887), Status: **Contributing**

The oldest surviving building within the Historic District, Building L-1 was completed in 1887 for the Lackawanna Mills. The first four stories and first eleven bays from the west comprise the original 1887 building. A 5<sup>th</sup> floor was added around 1900 and a five-story, five-bay wide addition was built to the east of the building around 1910. Utilitarian in treatment, but typical of industrial buildings of the late-nineteenth century period, Building L-1 is constructed of heavy timber framing and faced in red brick with a corbeled brick "cornice" above the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. All bays contain multi-light industrial steel windows with operable awning sash. Within the original 1887 building, it appears that the original window openings with arched heads – which likely once contained double-hung wood windows – were enlarged on either side to accommodate the steel

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windows.

A four-story wing extends from the western end of the south elevation. The southern wing is five-bays long and abuts Building L-2 to the east, Building L-3 to the south, and Building L-4 to the west, therefore it is largely surrounded by other buildings and is not readily visible. Only the east elevation can be easily viewed from the interior of the site. On that side, there is an irregular fenestration pattern – the northernmost three bays contain arched openings with plywood infill, the fourth bay from the north contains similar openings but only on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors, and the southernmost bay contains three-part wood windows, which have also been infilled with plywood.

**Building L-2** (c. 1890), Status: **Contributing**

Built alongside the east elevation of the south wing of Building L-1 in c. 1890, this one-story building functioned as a dye and wash house. At one-story tall, this framed building rests on a rubble stone foundation and is faced in red brick. On the south elevation, which is four bays wide, there is a small wood porch with a gabled roof, a feature which, according to aerial photos, appears to have been added sometime after 1969. The other three bays on the south elevation and the six bays on the east elevation contain rectangular window openings, which have been infilled with brick. The building has a very shallow pitched roof.

**Building L-3** (c. 1890), Status: **Contributing**

Built effectively as an extension of the south wing of Building L-1, Building L-3 is four-stories tall, three-bays wide on the south elevation, and ten-bays wide on the east and west elevations. The building rests on a rubble stone foundation and is faced in red brick. The foundation and the 1<sup>st</sup> floor have been painted. On the south elevation, there are two stucco-infilled openings on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor as well as an entrance with a modern, single-leaf metal door. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> floors, there are additional window openings that have been infilled with plywood. A large steel I-beam extends from a former window opening in the easternmost bay on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor to the northwest corner of Building S-2. On the east and west elevations, there is a regular fenestration pattern with openings of similar size to those on the south elevation, again with stucco infill on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and plywood infill on the 2<sup>nd</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> floors. All window openings have arched heads and bluestone sills. On all three elevations, the building is articulated by string courses of slightly projecting bricks at irregular intervals. The building has a shallow gabled roof. On the south elevation, there is a stepped parapet with bluestone coping following the pitch of the roof, except for the center portion, which extends several feet above the roof.

**Building L-4** (c. 1890), Status: **Contributing**

Extending from the southern end of the west elevation of Building L-1, Building L-4 is four-stories tall and ten-bays wide on the north and south elevations. The east and west elevations abut Building L-1 and Building L-5, respectively. Building L-4 is similar in treatment to Building L-3. It is faced in red brick and features various string courses of slightly projecting bricks. There is a corbeled brick cornice and the building has a flat roof. Most bays on the north and south elevations contain arched openings, many of which have been infilled with stucco or covered with plywood, but 6/6 double-hung wood windows do remain in some bays on the south elevation. At the east end of the south elevation, there are three-part windows with wood mullions, but the windows themselves have been covered with plywood.

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**Building L-5** (c. 1895), Status: **Contributing**

Located near the west end of the site, Building L-5 was built in c. 1895. The five-story building is three-bays wide on the north and south elevations and thirteen-bays long on the east and west elevations. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor is an extension of the rubble stone foundation. The building is otherwise faced in buff brick. On the south elevation, there is an entrance with double wood doors in the center bay, flanked by small arched window openings with plywood infill. The 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> floors contain three window openings per floor with bluestone sills and arched heads, although the windows have been covered by aluminum siding. Except in the northernmost four bays on the west elevation, the window openings on the east and west elevations alternate between small openings with arched heads similar to those on the south elevation, and larger rectangular openings. Again, all windows have been covered by aluminum siding. There are brick string courses at the window sill and head levels on each floor and the building features a corbeled brick cornice. The building has a shallow gabled roof. On the south elevation, there is a stepped parapet with bluestone coping following the pitch of the roof, except for the center portion, which extends several feet above the roof. Along a portion of the west elevation, there is a one-story concrete block "lean-to" structure with loading dock bays, a later addition, which contain overhead metal doors.

**Building L-6** (c. 1895), Status: **Contributing**

Located between Building L-3 and L-5, this one-story garage building was built in c. 1895. The east elevation is five bays wide and contains alternating arched window openings with stone sills and modern metal garage doors. All of the masonry has been painted and the window openings have been covered in plywood. The building has two parallel, shallow gable roofs with wood cornices on the east elevation. On the south side, the building abuts Building M-1, a two-story, Moderne-style commercial building. The north and west elevations were not accessible at the time of survey.

**Building L-7** (c. 1900), Status: **Contributing**

Fronting on Cherry Street, Building L-7 is a one-and-a-half story, five-bay wide garage building. The building is faced in brick, which is currently painted. On the south elevation (facing Cherry Street), the first two bays from the south consist of a one-story, flat-roof section with two modern metal garage doors. There is a corbeled brick cornice at the roofline along with terra cotta coping. The remaining three bays consist of a gabled roof section, which rises an additional half story above the adjacent flat roof section. There is a dormer on the west side of the roof, which has modern asphalt shingles. The 1<sup>st</sup> floor contains a modern metal garage door in the center, flanked by two arched window openings with stone sills. The second floor contains a center loft door and flanking arched window openings with stone sills. All of the window openings and the loft door are covered by plywood. On the west elevation, due to the change in grade (the site slopes down from east to west), the building's rubble stone foundation is visible. Above the foundation, the east elevation is faced in painted brick like the south elevation. There are four rectangular window openings and one door opening, but all have been infilled with what appears to be stucco coated concrete block. The north elevation consists largely of a blank brick wall, although there are two modern, single-leaf metal doors.

**Building L-8** (1914), Status: **Contributing**

Located at the northeast corner of the site, Building L-8 is eight-bays wide on the east elevation

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and nineteen-bays wide on the north and south elevations. It appears that the western half of the building (the westernmost nine bays as viewed on the north elevation, facing Brook Street) was built slightly before or after the eastern half. The western half, excluding the attached one-story structures on the south elevation, is, with only four bays on the west elevation, half as wide as the eastern half. In addition, the size of the window openings on the north elevation changes between each half, not to mention the western half has arched rather than square headed windows on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (all windows in the eastern half have square heads). The center or tenth bay, which is slightly recessed, also supports this conclusion. Although the eastern half of the buildings was built in 1914, it has not yet been determined if the western half was completed before or after this date.

Utilitarian in treatment, the building is faced in painted brick with tall piers dividing the bays. There is a simple corbeled brick cornice above the 4<sup>th</sup> floor and the building has a shallow gabled roof. All of the bays on the east, north and south elevations contain multi-light industrial steel windows with concrete sills except on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor where the openings have been infilled with concrete block. There is an entrance with a modern glazed metal door and canvas awning in the ninth bay from the east on the north elevation (facing Brook Street). There is also a loading dock with a modern metal door in the seventh bay from the east on the south elevation (facing the driveway).

**Building S-1 (1899-1909), Status: **Contributing****

Built in three stages between 1899 and 1909, Building S-1 is one-to-two-stories tall, sits on a quarried granite foundation, and is faced in brick, which is currently painted. The building's structure is heavy timber. The easternmost part of the building, which is two-stories tall and six-bays wide on the south elevation (facing Cherry Street), is rectilinear in form with a simple fenestration pattern of double-hung wood windows. Most of the windows have been covered by plywood, however two of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor windows, which are 6/6 in configuration, remain visible. The remainder of Building S-1 to the west consists of ten bays with a consistent, characteristic saw tooth roof with each bay forming one point on the "saw". On the west side of the saw-shaped roofs, there are three-light wood windows ranging in quantity from four windows at the short, western end of the building to twelve at the long, eastern end. The fenestration pattern on the south elevation (facing Cherry Street) varies by bay. Some bays contain modern metal garage doors with vertical wood lap siding above (Bays 3 and 4), some contain three window openings currently covered by plywood (Bays 5 and 8-10), some contain both bricked in window openings and metal loading doors (bays 6 and 7), Due to the change in grade – Cherry Street slopes down to the west – more of the foundation is visible in the westernmost bays, which for this reason contain larger basement windows. In the 1950s, a small addition was built alongside the east elevation with an entrance facing Cherry Street, which contains glazed aluminum double doors with side lights and transom.

**Building S-2 (1913), Status: **Contributing****

Designed in a utilitarian industrial style and constructed in 1913, Building S-2 is three-stories tall, built of structural steel, and faced in red brick. The building's sharply rectilinear form is articulated by tall brick piers between bays, of which there are four on the south and north elevations and thirteen on the east and west elevations. The fenestration pattern is fairly consistent with paired 6/6 double-hung wood windows with wood mullions and bluestone sills in nearly all bays on the south, east, and north elevations. On the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, the windows are

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covered by metal security screens. On the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, there is a modern garage door in the center bay on the south elevation and a single-leaf metal door in the northernmost bay on the east elevation. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the south elevation and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the east elevation, the windows have been covered by plywood, although the mullions are still visible. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the north elevation (and in the northernmost bay on the east elevation), the window openings are infilled with concrete block. Above the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor windows, the brick is corbelled slightly outward to the parapet wall, which itself is corbeled. The parapet contains a bluestone stringcourse and coping and, on the east elevation, features a large faded, painted sign reading THE SCRANTON BUTTON CO. The building has a flat roof with a long, rectangular monitor with hipped roof along the west elevation. Near the northwest corner of the building, a small three-story link was constructed in the 1950s to connect the building to Building S-4.

**Building S-3 (1917), Status: **Contributing****

Located between Building S-1 (to the south) and L-8 (to the south), Building S-3 was built in 1917, originally for coal storage on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor and general manufacturing space above. Unlike most of the other buildings on the site, only one elevation – the east – is readily visible from any of the surrounding streets. The north, west, and south elevations can only be viewed from the interior of the block. The long rectangular building consists roughly of two halves – the eastern half, which is three-stories tall and eight bays long; and the western half, which is two-stories tall and eight-bays long. Both the east and west elevations are three-bays wide. Due to the change in grade – the adjacent driveway slopes down from east to west – the basement is visible on the north elevation of the building making the eastern half appear as four-stories and the western half as two-stories. The eastern half of the building is framed by two brick stair towers, which rise an additional story above the roof, which is flat.

Constructed of reinforced concrete, Building S-3 is faced in red brick and is articulated by tall brick piers between the bays. All bays, including in the basement level on the north elevation, contain rectangular window openings, but there are a variety of window types such multi-light steel and aluminum industrial windows with operable awning sash, and double-hung, one-over-one vinyl replacement windows (the latter appearing on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the east elevation. Some window openings, particularly at the basement level and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the north elevation in the western half of the building, are infilled with concrete block.

**Building S-4 (1917), Status: **Contributing****

Located near the northwest corner of the site, Building S-4 was built in 1917 to accommodate Scranton Button's growing record manufacturing operation. L-shaped in plan and six-stories tall, the building is constructed of reinforced concrete and faced in red brick. The building is plainly treated, articulated only by tall brick piers at each corner and in between all bays. There is a stone belt course between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> floors and a simple, corbeled brick cornice at the roofline. The building is eleven-bays long on the north and south elevations and five-bays wide on the east and west elevations. All bays contain rectangular window openings. Although all windows on the north and west elevations have been covered by modern aluminum siding, the original multi-light steel industrial windows with operable awning sash remain visible on the south and east elevations, facing the interior of the site. On the north elevation, there is an entrance in the center bay on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor with a painted concrete door surround and glazed wood doors with a transom (the glazed portion of the doors and the transom have been covered by aluminum siding). The building has a flat roof and contains two brick stair towers that extend



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above the roof, one at the inside corner of the L-shaped plan, and one on the south end of the bottom leg. A small, one-story appendage is attached to the building on the south elevation. At the time of survey, this portion of the site was inaccessible, therefore the appearance or condition of the one-story section is unknown.

**Building C-1** (c. 1935), Status: **Contributing**

Located to the west of Building S-4 (the two buildings are connected on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor), this one-story stucco building with very shallow gable roof was built in c. 1935, possibly as offices for the American Record Company and, later, Capitol Records. A small, rectangular vestibule projects from the north elevation and contains an aluminum storefront system with glazed aluminum doors. This serves as the main entrance. The remainder of the north elevation and the west and south elevations contain 1/1 double-hung vinyl windows. Along the west elevation, there is a long wood ramp leading to a secondary entrance with modern paneled metal door. The building has a simple, bracketed wood cornice.

**Building C-2** (c. 1950), Status: **Contributing**

Located south of Building C-1, this small, one-story loading dock building was built around 1950. The building is only visible on the west elevation, which contains double-leaf metal doors in the northernmost bay and two metal garage doors in the other bay. The building is faced in brick, sits on a concrete block foundation, and has a flat roof.

**Building C-3** (c. 1950), Status: **Contributing**

This large concrete block warehouse building, was built around 1950. There are no openings except on the south elevation, which contains a large metal garage door and a single-leaf metal door. The building has a flat roof.

**Building M-1** (c. 1940), Status: **Contributing**

Located east of Building L-5 (the building also abuts Building L-6 on the north side), this two-story Moderne-style commercial building was built in c. 1940 for the John M. Vanston laundry company. The building, which has a symmetrical five-bay wide primary or south elevation (facing Cherry Street), is faced in red brick and contains multi-light steel casement windows with stone sills. Above the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor windows on the south elevation there is a carved limestone panel with the name John M. Vanston. The building has a flat roof.

*Integrity*

The Lackawanna Mills and Scranton Button Historic District retains integrity of design and materials. Both the overall form and the defining industrial characteristics of the District's twelve contributing resources remain, including their brick construction, consistent fenestration pattern, and cornice detailing. While many of the windows and doors have been replaced or have had their openings infilled or covered with plywood, the overall rhythm and configuration of the windows remains largely intact. Overall, the quality, placement and condition of the construction materials, as well as the buildings' vernacular form are both highly characteristic of northern industrial architecture during the late-nineteenth and early twentieth century period.

The Lackawanna Mills and Scranton Button Historic District also retains its setting and feeling. The buildings within the District remain on their original sites and continue to fully convey the significance of the companies that operated there as well as their various expansion campaigns.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Areas of Significance

Industry

### Period of Significance

1887-1973

### Significant Dates

1917, 1946

### Significant Person

N/A

### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

### Architect/Builder

Unknown

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**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 Lackawanna Mills and Scranton Button Historic District was, between 1887 and the late 1920s, home to two of the largest industrial concerns in Scranton and Northeastern Pennsylvania. Founded by William Connell, one of Scranton's most prominent businessmen of the nineteenth century, both companies were well regarded across the region and country as leaders in their fields. By many accounts, the Lackawanna Mills was the largest manufacturer of underwear in Pennsylvania outside of Philadelphia, producing a wide range of wool and cotton products and paper boxes, which were sold in department stores across the Northeastern United States. The Scranton Button Company, on the other hand, led the development of shellac compounds and button making machinery that made the company likely the largest of its kind in the world by the early twentieth century. Scranton Button held this position through the 1920s, when the company evolved primarily into a record manufacturer using the same shellac compounds previously found in their buttons. By 1929, when Scranton Button merged with Regal and Cameo Records to form the American Record Company (ARC), the complex became one of the largest record pressing plants in the country. ARC was acquired by Capitol Records in 1946 and subsequently became Capitol's largest record pressing plant where numerous iconic albums from the Beatles and Beach Boys, among other seminal artists of the twentieth century, were produced and distributed.

As a result of its association with three highly prominent manufacturers, the Lackawanna Mills and Scranton Button Historic District is significant under Criterion A, Industry. The period of significance for the District begins in 1887 when the Lackawanna Mills and the Scranton Button Company were founded, and ends in 1973, when Capitol Records sold the property and left Scranton, ending nearly a half-century of dominance in record pressing. The District also meets the requirements under National Register Criteria Consideration G.

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

William Connell and the Founding of Lackawanna Mills and Scranton Button

The Lackawanna Mills and the Scranton Button Company were founded in 1887 by William Connell, a highly prominent, self-made Scrantonian industrialist (see figure 17). Connell, who was born in Nova Scotia in 1827, moved with his family in 1844 to Hazleton, Pennsylvania, where he found employment as a driver boy in the nearby Pardee coal mines. Although never formally educated, Connell gradually worked his way through the ranks at the Pardee company. In 1856, Connell left Hazleton to accept a position as manager of the Susquehanna & Wyoming Valley Railroad and Coal Company's mines, whose offices were located in Scranton. Through his "perseverance, enterprise, and determination," not to mention his thrift, Connell's fortune increased, allowing him to purchase the Susquehanna & Wyoming mines when the company's charter expired in 1870. Connell reorganized the business as William Connell & Company, which eventually became the largest individual coal operator in the Wyoming coal region.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Col. Frederick L. Hitchcock, *History of Scranton and its People, Volume I* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1914), 92-93 and "Death has ended the successful career of Hon. William Connell," *The Scranton Truth*, March 22, 1909.

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### The Lackawanna Mills

By many accounts now a millionaire, Connell sought to diversify his investments, forming the Lackawanna Mills and Scranton Button Company in 1887.<sup>2</sup> Initially, most of Connell's attention went toward the mills, which quickly became one of the largest manufacturers of woolen undergarments in Pennsylvania outside of Philadelphia. Union suits, in particular, were a specialty. In 1893, the first year employment statistics are available for the company, the Lackawanna Mills had a workforce of 415, including 300 women, while Scranton Button had only 133 in total. Evidence of Lackawanna's success between its founding and the turn of the century is provided by its physical expansion. After 1888, the company built three large four-story buildings – L-3, L-4, and L-5 – and other smaller structures, adding significant square footage to their original building, L-1. The extra space also allowed the company to grow its workforce, which reached a total of 647 employees by 1901.<sup>3</sup>

Notable not only for its size and capacity, the Lackawanna Mills also became known for its innovative new machinery. In 1889, for example, the company patented an improved circular knitting machine developed to control a "plurality of threads or yarns of different colors, and constructed to automatically supply the different yarns to the needles in a manner to form any desired pattern" (see figure 13). The efficient manner in which the machine could be adjusted to create different patterns allowed Lackawanna to adapt quickly to ever changing fashion trends.<sup>4</sup>

After 1896, when William Connell was elected to the United States House of Representatives for Pennsylvania's 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, much of the responsibility for day-to-day management of the mills passed to his son, Charles R. Connell (see figures 19 and 20). Over the next decade, as William Connell served an additional three terms as congressman, his son led the company through a prosperous period of expansion. By 1909, Lackawanna's capital stock had increased to \$500,000 from \$100,000 at its founding in 1887. Also that year, the value of the mills' output was valued at "considerably over \$1,000,000 per annum."<sup>5</sup> The company also began to diversify its products shortly before the turn of the century, constructing Building L-3 in the late 1890s to house a new paper box operation. The company also began to produce a greater range of knitted goods including cotton underwear and sweaters, necessitating the construction of several new additions and freestanding buildings between 1910 and 1914. During this period, a five-story addition was built on the east side of the company's original home (Building L-1) and a large four-story building (Building L-8), was erected at the northeast corner of the site in 1914. The new buildings were needed in part to satisfy wartime contracts both from the United States government and from that of the United Kingdom, which ordered 250,000 suits of underwear for its soldiers in October of 1914. The order, which Lackawanna fulfilled at a rate of 4,000 suits per day, was valued at about \$500,000, a significant percentage

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<sup>2</sup> Burton W. Fulsom, *Urban Capitalists: Entrepreneurs and City Growth in Pennsylvania's Lackawanna and Lehigh Regions, 1800-1920* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1981), 64.

<sup>3</sup> *Twelfth Annual Report of the Factory Inspector of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the Year 1901* (Harrisburg, 1902), 647.

<sup>4</sup> Bean, C.E. Circular knitting machine. U.S. Patent 407,917, issued July 30, 1889.

<sup>5</sup> "Textile Interests," *The Scranton Truth*, December 15, 1909.

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of the company's annual output.<sup>6</sup> By the end of 1916, for example, at the height of World War I, the total annual output of the mills was estimated to be around \$2,500,000.<sup>7</sup>

In 1916, Lackawanna Mills reached a peak in employment, that year recording 806 workers – 246 men and 560 women. This figure made Lackawanna the largest manufacturer in Scranton, the next largest being the Scranton Nut & Bolt Company with 698 workers. Although the company had experienced over twenty years of steady growth, with the end of World War I in 1918 and, therefore, wartime contracts, Lackawanna faced an increasingly bleak market for its heavy woolen products. As more efficient heating became widely available in homes and workplaces, and as more automobiles became enclosed with roofs, consumers sought lighter underclothes.<sup>8</sup> As a result, over the next four years, the company gradually reduced its workforce, recording 760 employees in 1920 and 504 employees in 1922.<sup>9</sup> The company's postwar challenges were compounded when Charles Connell, long the driving force behind Lackawanna's success, died in September of 1922, leaving his son, Bernard L. Connell, as president of the company.<sup>10</sup> Connell's death followed his successful run for congress in 1920, having been elected to the United States House of Representatives from Pennsylvania's 10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, like his father over twenty-five years before.<sup>11</sup>

Under the leadership of Bernard Connell, and later James T. Johnson, who succeeded the younger Connell in 1928, Lackawanna sought to diversify its line of products yet again in order to remain competitive. The company developed several new lines, including lightweight underwear, athletic clothing, polo shirts, and bathing suits. In 1927, the *Scranton Republican* reported that Johnson, in a speech to the Scranton Chamber of Commerce in October of 1929, claimed that the readjustment had renewed Lackawanna's prosperity, but his comments masked the company's true state of affairs.<sup>12</sup> In fact, only a few months later, in February of 1930, Lackawanna was so short on cash that the company went into temporary receivership.<sup>13</sup> The mill continued to operate, but cash flow problems continued to plague the company and workers were laid off in increasing numbers. By August, Lackawanna was finally shut down and the last 50 employees were laid off.<sup>14</sup> Soon after, the mill's machinery was sold to other textile firms in order to satisfy Lackawanna's creditors.<sup>15</sup>

Apart from its inability to adapt to a changing market, other factors may have contributed to Lackawanna's demise. For one, Johnson blamed immigration restrictions – the Johnson-Reed Immigration Act was passed in 1924 – as another reason why the company faced slowing sales

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<sup>6</sup> "To Knit 250,000 Suits of Underwear Here for English Army," *The Scranton Truth*, October 24, 1914.

<sup>7</sup> "Entire Output of Mills Sold," *The Scranton Republican*, December 19, 1916.

<sup>8</sup> "New Products Tend to Raise Output of Plant," *The Scranton Republican*, October 18, 1929.

<sup>9</sup> Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, *Third Industrial Directory of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* (Harrisburg, 1920), 732; and *Fourth Industrial Directory of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* (Harrisburg, 1922), 922.

<sup>10</sup> "Bernard L. Connell is Named President," *The Scranton Republican*, November 30, 1922.

<sup>11</sup> *Encyclopedia of American Biography, New Series* (New York: American Historical Society, 1934), 236.

<sup>12</sup> "New Products Tend to Raise Output of Plant," *The Scranton Republican*, October 18, 1929.

<sup>13</sup> "Receiver Will Operate Plant of Mills Firm," *The Scranton Republican*, February 7, 1930.

<sup>14</sup> "Lackawanna Mills Shut Down Plant," *The Scranton Republican*, August 12, 1930.

<sup>15</sup> "Sell Mills' Machinery," *The Scranton Republican*, August 13, 1930.

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during the latter part of the decade.<sup>16</sup> In addition, beginning in the late 1920s many textile concerns moved to the south, attracted by cheaper labor and to escape the unions. Therefore, it is possible that Lackawanna Mills was unable to cope with an increasing number of competitors able to offer similar products at lower prices.<sup>17</sup> Although the Lackawanna Mills eventually came out of receivership in January 1931, only the paper box component of the business with about 50 employees, survived.<sup>18</sup>

Now occupying only Building L-3 and the south wing of Building L-1, Lackawanna held a vast inventory of vacant industrial space, which the company began to lease out to other, smaller manufacturers. Part of the complex, particularly Building L-5, was eventually taken over by Scranton Button to accommodate their growing record business, which was focused in Building S-4. Along Brook Street, the Jaunty Silk Company in April 1930 leased 60,000 square feet over several floors, although it is unclear whether the company occupied space in Building L-1 or L-8. Additionally, in July 1932, Belakov, Moteka & J. Urban, a maker of men's coats from Brooklyn, provided employment to 250 workers in over 10,000 square feet in one of the Lackawanna buildings facing Brook Street.<sup>19</sup> And, in June 1936, the Lackawanna Pants Manufacturing Company signed a five-year lease to occupy a portion of Building L-8.<sup>20</sup> Local newspapers also call out other firms who occupied space in former Lackawanna buildings, such as the United Vest Company, the Shutters Candy Company, and the Gold Star Brand Company, but it is unknown how much space these companies occupied or in which buildings. Lackawanna Mills survived at least until 1962 as a paper box manufacturer with about 50 employees. Afterwards, a series of small companies, some related to the textile industry occupied the various buildings, although some space was left vacant.

### The Scranton Button Company

The Scranton Button Company appears to have been formed as a side business to the Lackawanna Mills. Comparing Sanborn fire insurance maps of the site from 1888 and 1898 shows that the Lackawanna Mills greatly expanded over that decade while Scranton Button remained in its original three-story frame building at least until 1898 (see figures 7 and 8). During this early period, Scranton Button produced conventional horn buttons, a standard material for this type of product.<sup>21</sup> Currently, little else is known about the company during its first few years.

In 1891, however, William Connell brought in a new superintendent for the button works, Philip L. Sylvester (1852-1921) from Auburn, New York (see figure 18). Sylvester had for the previous fifteen years been involved in the Woodruff Brothers Button Company in that city, but after the business failed he sought employment elsewhere. Hiring Sylvester was a strategic move on Connell's part. During his time at Woodruff, Sylvester, who not only managed the plant but

<sup>16</sup> "New Products Tend to Raise Output of Plant," *The Scranton Republican*, October 18, 1929.

<sup>17</sup> U.S. Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, *Problems of the Domestic Textile Industry* (Washington, DC, 1963).

<sup>18</sup> "Lackawanna Mills Elects Officers," *The Scranton Republican*, January 29, 1931.

<sup>19</sup> "New Textile Industry," *The Scranton Republican*, July 30, 1932.

<sup>20</sup> "Pants Manufacturer Leases New Building," *The Scranton Republican*, June 27, 1936.

<sup>21</sup> *Seeger & Guernsey's Cyclopedia of the Manufactures and Products of the United States* (New York: Seeger & Guernsey, 1890), 855.

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constantly experimented with new button making machinery and materials, filed numerous patents for his inventions between 1880 and 1882. Sylvester has been credited, along with his colleague Charles Wicks, for being the first to develop a shellac composition from which buttons could successfully be made.<sup>22</sup> In such a composition a binder – in this case, shellac, a resinous compound secreted by the lac, a tree insect – was mixed with other ingredients and fillers as varied as asphalt and cotton to produce any desired finished effect.<sup>23</sup> At the time, genuine ivory or horn was becoming scarce, and therefore more expensive to use in the manufacture of a product as prosaic as buttons. As Connell was most likely well aware, shellac was an attractive alternative due to the fact that it was far less expensive than ivory, produced a durable product, and could easily reproduce intricate detail from a mold.<sup>24</sup>

Over the next decade, Connell and Sylvester, along with Connell's son, Charles R. Connell, who began serving as secretary-treasurer beginning in 1888, led Scranton Button through a major expansion, one based largely on the use of shellac. While in 1891 the company had only 100 employees, that figure grew steadily over the next decade, more than doubling to 261 by 1894.<sup>25</sup> By 1899, the company had grown too large for its original three-story frame building facing Brook Street (this building is indicated on the 1898 Sanborn map, but was later demolished during the construction of Building S-1). That year, the company began construction on Building S-2, erecting what are today the five center bays of the one-story building with saw tooth roof (additional bays were later built along the east and west sides of the building). The extra space provided by Building S-2, also known as the machine shop, allowed the company's workforce to expand yet again to 285 employees by 1902, the vast majority of which were women.<sup>26</sup>

During this period, Scranton Button not only produced more buttons, but constantly developed innovative manufacturing processes. Sylvester, in particular, took a leading role in developing new machinery designed specifically to produce buttons and other products from the shellac compositions he was expert in. In 1899, Sylvester filed two patents, one for a machine for mixing and preparing plastic material, i.e. shellac compositions, and one for an automatic button making machine (see figures 14 and 15).<sup>27</sup> As one source claims, Sylvester's machines "revolutionized the business," giving him and his associates "a great advantage over competitors." The construction of the machine shop (Building S-2) beginning in 1899 was likely the result of the need for a solid concrete floor surface on which such heavy machinery could operate, a use that the original frame building facing Brook Street could not support. As a result

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<sup>22</sup> Col. Frederick L. Hitchcock, *History of Scranton and its People, Volume II* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1914), 149.

<sup>23</sup> Thom Holmes, *The Routledge Guide to Music Technology* (New York: Routledge, 2006), 278.

<sup>24</sup> *National Painters Magazine* 41.1 (January 1914), 44.

<sup>25</sup> *Official Documents Comprising the Department and Other Reports Made to the Governor, Senate and House of Representatives of Pennsylvania, Vol. IV* (Harrisburg, 1892), E.60; and *Fifth Annual Report of the Factory Inspector of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the Year 1894* (Harrisburg, 1895), 244.

<sup>26</sup> *Thirteenth Annual Report of the Factory Inspector of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the Year 1902* (Harrisburg, 1903), 740-741.

<sup>27</sup> Sylvester, Philip L. Machine for mixing and preparing plastic material. U.S. Patent 644,810, issued March 6, 1900; and Machine for making buttons, U.S. Patent 644,811, issued March 6, 1900.

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of Sylvester's major contributions to the company, he was made vice-president only a few years after he arrived.<sup>28</sup>

Although William Connell remained president of Scranton Button, he was mainly a figurehead while his son Charles, along with Sylvester, led the company forward. In 1909, when the elder Connell died, Charles finally became president of Scranton Button (and of Lackawanna Mills). "This proved an efficient combination of talent," historian Frederick Hitchcock wrote in his 1914 *History of Scranton*, joining Connell's "aggressive business ability" with Sylvester's "inventive and industrial ability" and led to the company's greatest period of growth between 1909 and 1920. During this period, the company enlarged Building S-1, constructed an additional large manufacturing building (Building S-2) and expanded the boiler house (Building S-3), adding hundreds of employees and tens of thousands of square feet of production space to the complex (see figure 9). By 1914, when both S-1 and S-3 were both completed, the company was turning out over 3,000,000 buttons per day, a figure that one source claimed to be two-thirds of all shellac composition buttons produced in the United States.<sup>29</sup> Additionally, numerous sources between 1914 and 1920 declared Scranton Button to be the largest button factory in the world.<sup>30</sup> In addition, not only were the company's buttons shipped to all corners of the United States, but also to the "uttermost parts of the earth," including Canada, England, Australia, Brazil, and Cuba, according to the *Scranton Republican* in 1919.<sup>31</sup> The company also had an office in New York City.

In addition to buttons, Sylvester led the development of new molding materials such as "Lacanite" and "Paratherm," both of which were cost-effective, highly durable shellac compounds ideal for use in housings and casings for electrical devices, particularly telephones, radios, switch handles, push buttons, and contact plugs, among other items. Scranton Button began to produce such products in increasing quantity and variety around the turn of the century. Lacanite, in particular, a compound of shellac, manila gum, rosin, and asphalt, was extremely versatile, allowing Scranton Button to develop other products as diverse as bicycle handles, checkers, poker chips, dominoes, souvenirs of many types, and even buttons for clothing, which the company still manufactured in vast numbers. Scranton Button trademarked the Lacanite name in 1917.<sup>32</sup>

Also in 1917, Scranton Button entered the increasingly lucrative phonograph record business, a natural fit for the company. Already expert in the type of shellac compounds that were ideal for the reproduction of sound, the company made major investments in this sector of the plastics industry, constructing a new six-story building at the northwest corner of the site (Building S-4) in 1917 to handle its growing record business. Sylvester also patented a new type of die for

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<sup>28</sup> Hitchcock, *History of Scranton and its People, Volume II*, 149.

<sup>29</sup> Scranton Board of Trade, *Scranton, Being an Illustrated and Descriptive Booklet of the City of Scranton, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.* (Scranton, 1912), 57.

<sup>30</sup> Francis Washburn Hoadley, "How Railroads Aid Industrial Development," *Cassier's Magazine* vol. 41 no. 2 (February 1912), 192; and *American Biography: A New Cyclopaedia* (New York: American Historical Society, 1922), 208.

<sup>31</sup> "Scranton Buttons Used World Over," *Scranton Republican* (May 28, 1919).

<sup>32</sup> Sylvester, P.L. "Lacanite," a trademark for certain named raw or partly-prepared materials, U.S. Trademark 118, 339, registered August 28, 1917.



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phonograph records in 1923 (see figure 16).<sup>33</sup> Scranton Button initially pressed records – 25,000 daily, according to one account – for the Emerson Phonograph Company, which was founded in New York City in 1916 in an effort to satisfy the lower end of the market for popular music. It was common during the early twentieth century for smaller recording companies such as Emerson to outsource production in this way.<sup>34</sup> Ultimately, after the growing popularity of the radio ate into Emerson’s business, Scranton Button acquired Emerson in 1924.<sup>35</sup>

Even before Scranton Button took over Emerson’s operation, the company began to press records for a wide range of other small to mid-sized recording companies, including the New York labels Regal and Cameo, which, like Emerson, focused mainly on the lower end of the market. Their records, found primarily in department stores such as Macy’s, sold for 25 to 50 cents.<sup>36</sup> Gradually, the manufacture of records became more profitable than buttons, leading Scranton Button to focus its efforts in that sector. By 1929, the company merged with Regal and Cameo to create the American Record Company (ARC), of which Louis G. Sylvester, son of former Scranton Button vice-president, Philip L. Sylvester, became president. While Regal and Cameo would handle recording and sales, the Scranton Button wing would continue to focus on manufacturing. Although the onset of the Great Depression quickly crushed the recording industry, ARC thrived in the lower end of the market, taking over many small, failing labels at “bargain prices.” In 1931, Scranton Button produced a total of 17,000,000 records, or about 46,000 per day.<sup>37</sup> By all accounts, this level of output made Scranton Button one of the largest record manufacturing plants in the country, employing nearly 1,200 workers by 1934.<sup>38</sup>

### Capitol Records

Under the umbrella of American Record, Scranton Button continued to expand their record business, eventually taking over Building L-5, a four-story former Lackawanna Mills building, which was abandoned after that company ended their knitting operation in 1930. Additionally, around 1935, American Record built a small, one-story office structure, Building C-1, to house their expanding administrative functions. At this point, the company was also known as the Scranton Record Company, although it is unclear whether the business was ever formally incorporated under that name. By the early 1940s, the company was continuing to press records for a wide range of small recording companies, including newcomer Capitol Records, in which Scranton had begun to accumulate a stock interest. Founded in Los Angeles in 1942, Capitol was quickly becoming a major player in the recording industry and by 1946 had become one of the “Big Six” American labels, producing 42 million records annually.<sup>39</sup> Now with 700 employees – fewer than in the previous decade due to increasingly automated machinery – Scranton could claim to be one of the largest record pressing plants in the United States.

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<sup>33</sup> Sylvester, L.G. Die for phonograph record, U.S. Patent 1,582,704, issued April 27, 1926.

<sup>34</sup> Andre Millard, *America on Record: A History of Recorded Sound* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005), 73-74.

<sup>35</sup> Frank Hoffman, editor, *Encyclopedia of Recorded Sound, Volume 1* (New York: Routledge, 2005), 748.

<sup>36</sup> Millard, 74.

<sup>37</sup> Frank Hoffmann, *Chronology of American Popular Music, 1900-2000* (Routledge, 2016), 65.

<sup>38</sup> “Local Factory May be Moved to Bridgeport,” *The Scranton Republican*, September 25, 1934.

<sup>39</sup> Susan Schmidt Horning, *Chasing Sound: Technology, Culture & the Art of Studio Recording from Edison to the LP* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013), 85.

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As Capitol Records grew, it could no longer rely on outsourcing the production of its albums to companies like Scranton Button, which was unable to devote all of its resources to Capitol alone. However, not wanting to give up on Scranton's expertise in record pressing and the plant's strategic, northeastern location, Capitol simply acquired Scranton Button in April of 1946. From that point forward, the Scranton facility would operate as one of three Capitol pressing plants, the other two being in Los Angeles and Jacksonville, Illinois. Of the three, Scranton was the largest and would eventually produce about two-thirds of all Capitol albums. Recordings made in Los Angeles were sent to the company's New York studio for remastering then sent to Scranton for pressing.<sup>40</sup> Capitol occupied Scranton Button's former recording pressing facility, Building S-4, the offices in Building C-1, and also Building L-5, into which Scranton had expanded in the early 1930s. According to a c. 1950s insurance survey, the company also occupied space in some of all of Building L-1, Lackawanna's original nineteenth-century home.

Although Capitol's Scranton plant produced numerous popular records over its history, it is perhaps best known for pressing many if not most of the early Beatles albums made available in the United States beginning in 1964. Immediately after the Beatles made their debut on the Ed Sullivan show on February 9, 1964, the Scranton plant went into action, devoting much of its resources to pressing Beatles albums. The *Scranton Tribune* reported that for weeks following their debut, two all-cargo planes belonging to Allegheny Airlines left nightly from the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre airport to distribute the records nationally to cities including Chicago, Los Angeles, Cleveland, and Detroit. In a matter of days, the Scranton plant had sent out over 400,000 Beatles albums across the country.<sup>41</sup>

Over the following decade, Capitol's Scranton plant continued to turn out albums for the Beatles, and also for artists as diverse as the Beach Boys, Pink Floyd, and the Steve Miller Band, among others. By producing the albums of such major artists, the Scranton plant undoubtedly played a role in transforming popular culture in the 1960s, however it remained exclusively a site of manufacturing. Since the recordings occurred elsewhere (often in Los Angeles) and the artists never themselves visited the Scranton plant, the site's cultural significance is of secondary importance and therefore is unlikely to stand on its own as a separate area of significance in this National Register Nomination.

Despite the plant's pivotal role in the production and distribution of major albums during the 1960s, the former Scranton Button and Lackawanna Mills buildings, many of which dated from the late-nineteenth century, were increasingly ill-equipped to satisfy Capitol's ever increasing demand. Gradually, Capitol began transferring the production of its most popular albums to a new plant in Winchester, Virginia in 1969. By 1973, Capitol sold the Scranton plant to Pittsburgh-based North American Music Industries, which continued the production of records for several years, albeit for much smaller independent labels, like its predecessor Scranton Button decades before. North American appears to have occupied the former Capitol buildings at the west end of the property until the 1980s, after which they were used primarily as warehouses.

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<sup>40</sup> Horning 85.

<sup>41</sup> "Kept Busy by the Beatles," *Scranton Tribune*, February 13, 1964.

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Horning, Susan Schmidt. *Chasing Sound: Technology, Culture & the Art of Studio Recording from Edison to the LP*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2013.

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*National Painters Magazine* (Periodical. See footnotes for specific citations).

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Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry *Fourth Industrial Directory of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*. Harrisburg, PA, 1922.

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*The Scranton Republican* (Newspaper. See footnotes for specific citations).

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*The Scranton Tribune* (Newspaper. See footnotes for specific citations).

*The Scranton Truth* (Newspaper. See footnotes for specific citations).

*Seeger & Guernsey's Cyclopedia of the Manufactures and Products of the United States*. New York: Seeger & Guernsey, 1890.

U.S. Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. *Problems of the Domestic Textile Industry*. Washington, DC, 1963.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other/Name of repository:

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

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## 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** ~5.50 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: 41.393660                      Longitude: -75.674336
2. Latitude: 41.394432                      Longitude: -75.673443
3. Latitude: 41.395677                      Longitude: -75.675426
4. Latitude: 41.394788                      Longitude: -75.676110

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

The boundary of the property is shown as a dotted line on the accompanying map entitled "Site Plan with National Register Boundary" (Figure 2).

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the nominated property includes all existing resources that were historically associated with the Lackawanna Mills, the Scranton Button Company, and Capitol Records.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kevin McMahan, Associate                      organization: Powers & Company, Inc.  
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city or town: Philadelphia state: PA zip code: 19107  
e-mail: kevin@powersco.net                      telephone: (215) 636-0192  
date: November 4, 2016, revised February 28, 2017

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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## Photographs

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

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Lackawanna Mills and Scranton Button Historic District  
 City or Vicinity: Scranton County: Lackawanna State: PA  
 Photographer: Robert Powers  
 Date Photographed: August 2016

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

<i>Photograph #</i>	<i>Description of Photograph</i>
1.	Building L-1, north elevation, view SE
2.	Building S-2, north elevation, view SW
3.	Building S-2, north elevation, view SE
4.	Building C-1, north elevation, view S
5.	Buildings, C-1, C-2, and C-3 (Buildings S-2 and L-5 in background), view E
6.	Building L-5, west elevation, view NE
7.	Building L-5, west and south elevations, view NE
8.	Buildings L-5 and M-1, south elevations, view NW
9.	Building L-7, south elevation, view NW
10.	Building L-3, west and south elevations, view NE
11.	Building L-6, east elevation, view NW
12.	Building L-3, south elevation, N
13.	Building L-2, south elevation, N
14.	Building L-3, east elevation, view W
15.	Building L-2, east elevation, view W
16.	Building L-1, east and south elevations, view NW
17.	Building S-1, south elevation, view NE
18.	Building S-1, south elevation, view N
19.	Building S-1, north elevation, view S
20.	Building S-1, south elevation, view N
21.	Building S-2, south elevation, view N
22.	Building S-2, south and east elevations, view NW
23.	Building S-2, east elevation, view W
24.	Building S-2, north elevation, and Building S-3, view SW
25.	Building L-8, south and east elevations, view NW
26.	Building L-8, north elevation, view SW
27.	Building L-8, north elevation, view S
28.	Driveway between Buildings S-3 and L-8, view W
29.	Driveway between Buildings S-3 and L-8, view E
30.	Driveway between Buildings S-3 and L-8, view W
31.	Buildings L-8, south elevation, view NE

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32.	Buildings S-3, north elevation, view SE
33.	Building S-1, typical interior space.
34.	Building S-2, typical interior space.
35.	Building S-3, typical interior space.

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15.	Photographic portrait of William Connell from <i>Prominent and Progressive Pennsylvanians</i> (1898).
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17.	Photographic portrait of Charles L. Connell from <i>American Biography: A New Cyclopaedia</i> , Vol. X (1922).
18.	Caricature of Charles L. Connell from <i>Steinke's Story of Scranton</i> (1914).
19.	Purchase order from Capitol Records' Scranton plant for 400,000 Beatles album covers in January 1964.

**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.



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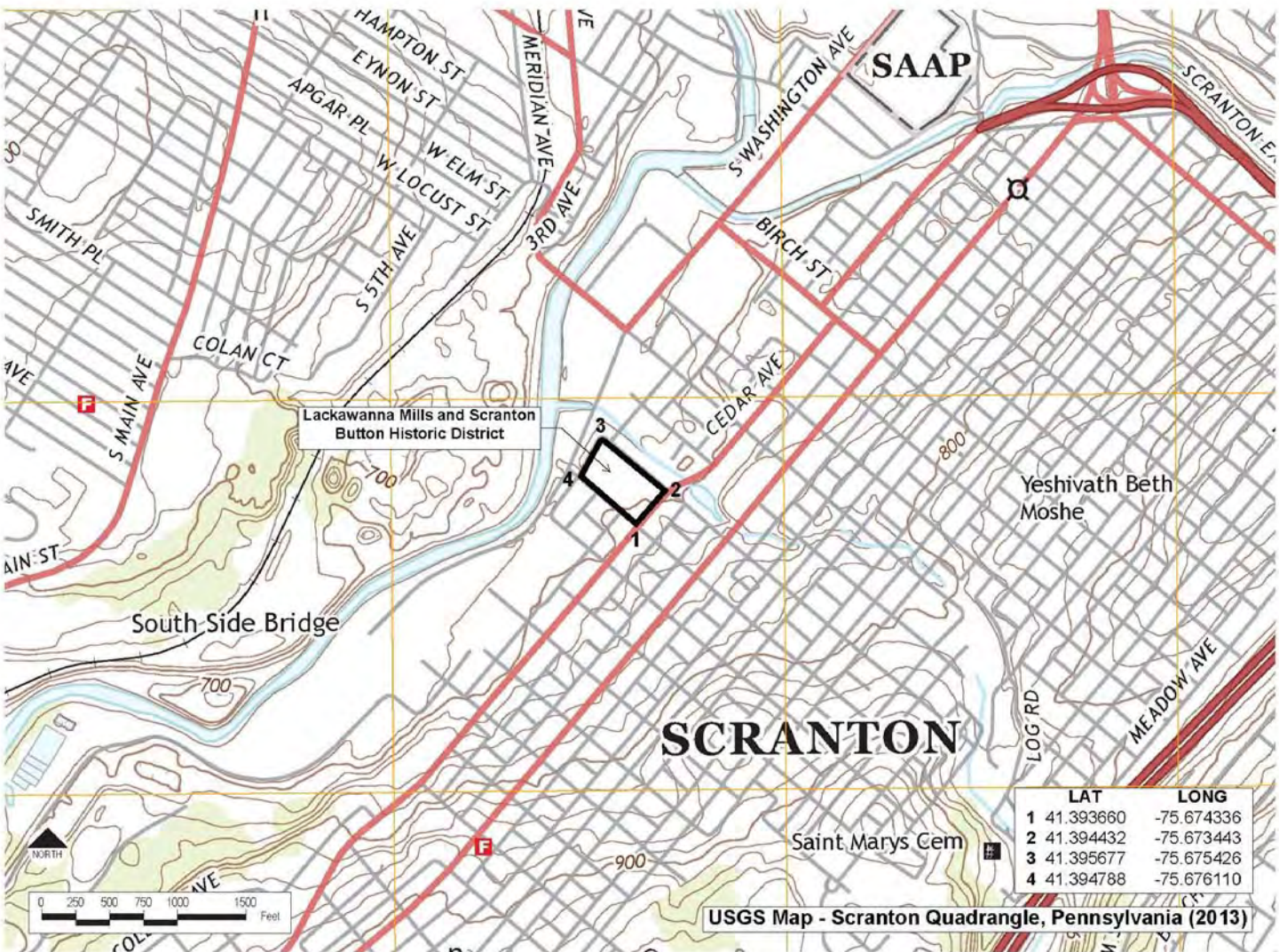


Figure 1 : USGS Map Excerpt – Scranton Quadrant, PA (2013).

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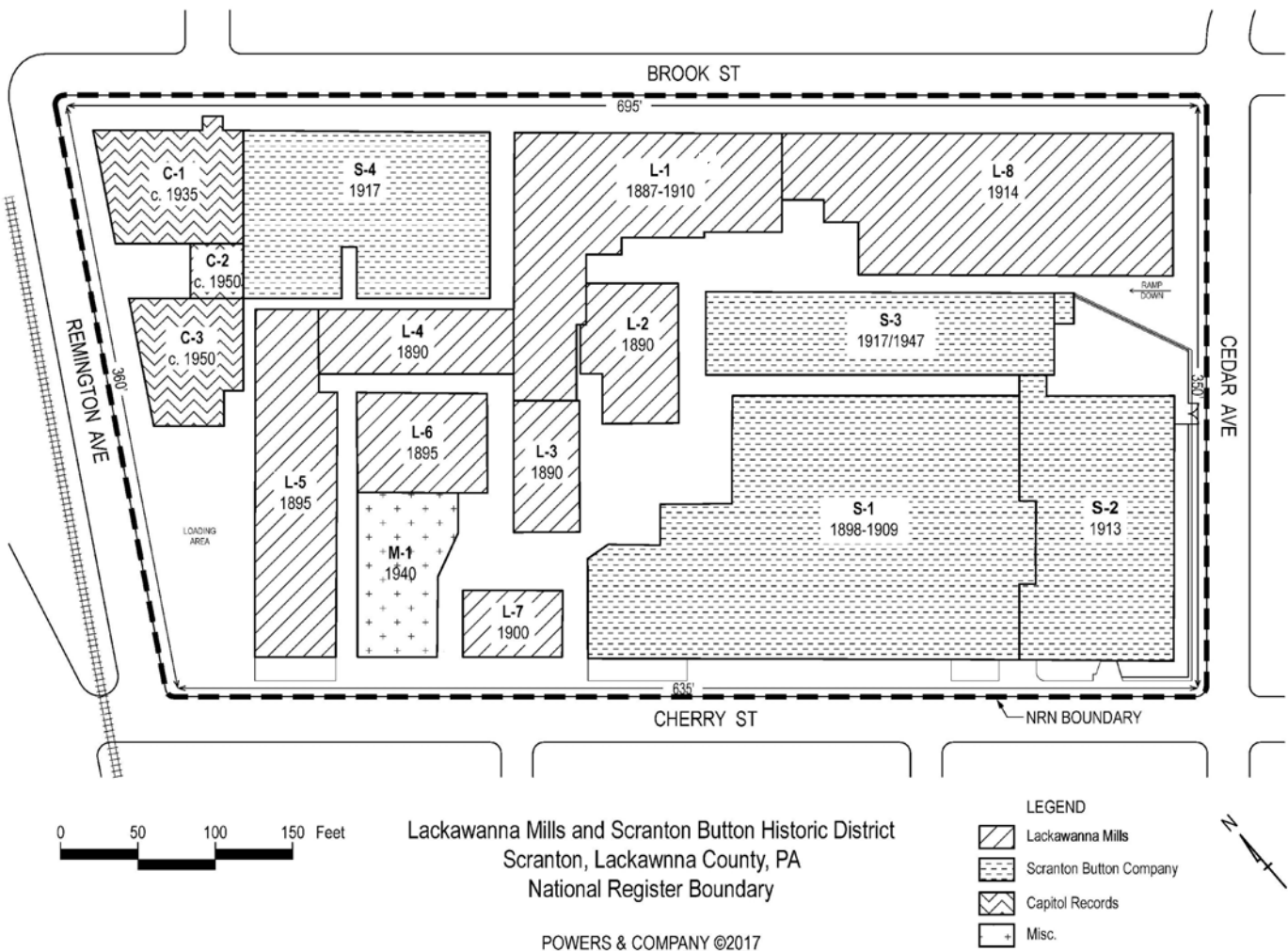


Figure 2: Site Plan with National Register Boundary and Building Dates.

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**Figure 3:** Aerial View (2014) with National Register Boundary.

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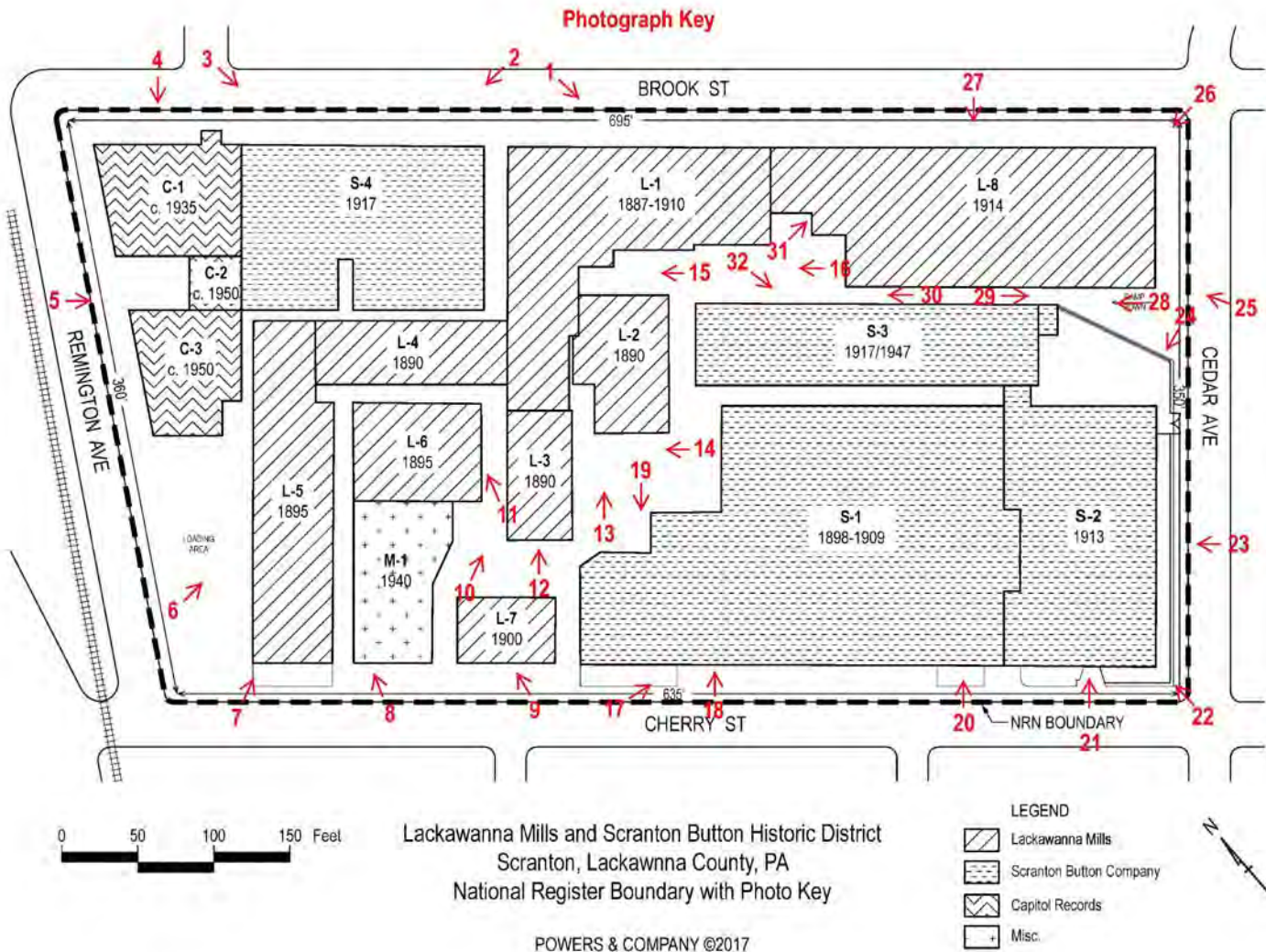


Figure 4A: Site Plan with National Register Boundary and Photo Key.

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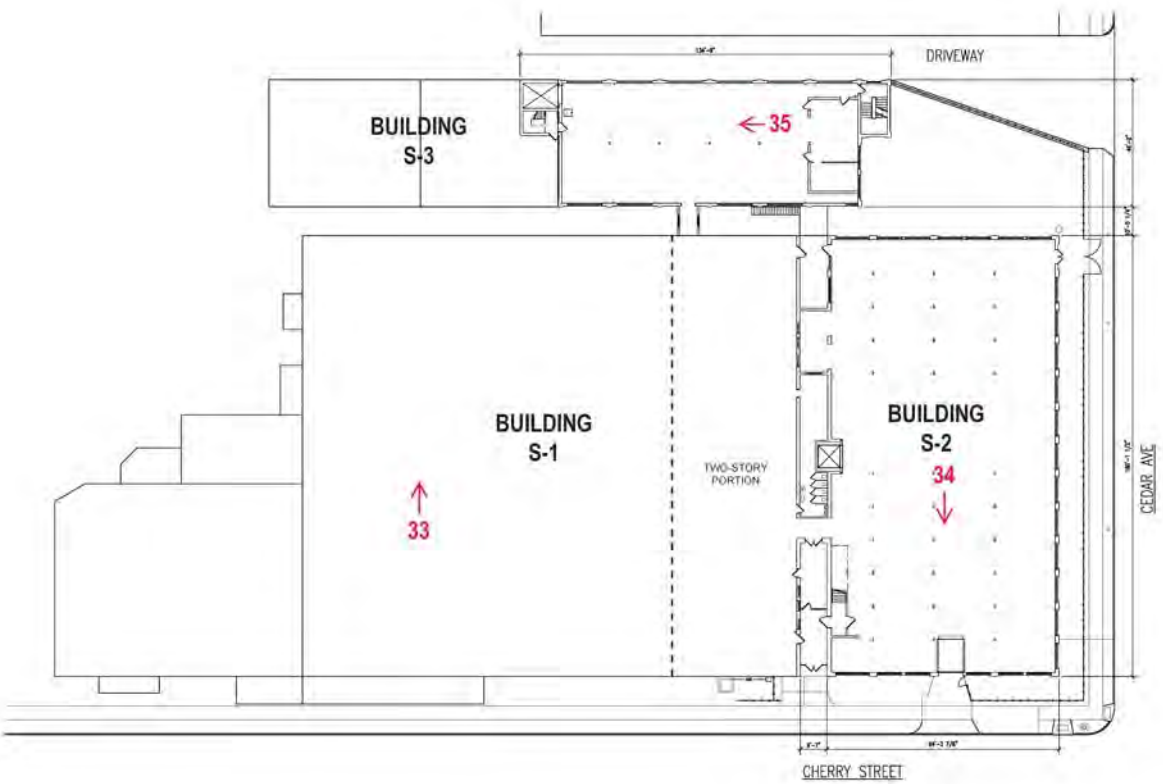


Figure 4B: Existing Plans (Building S-1, S-2 and S-3) with Interior Photo Key.

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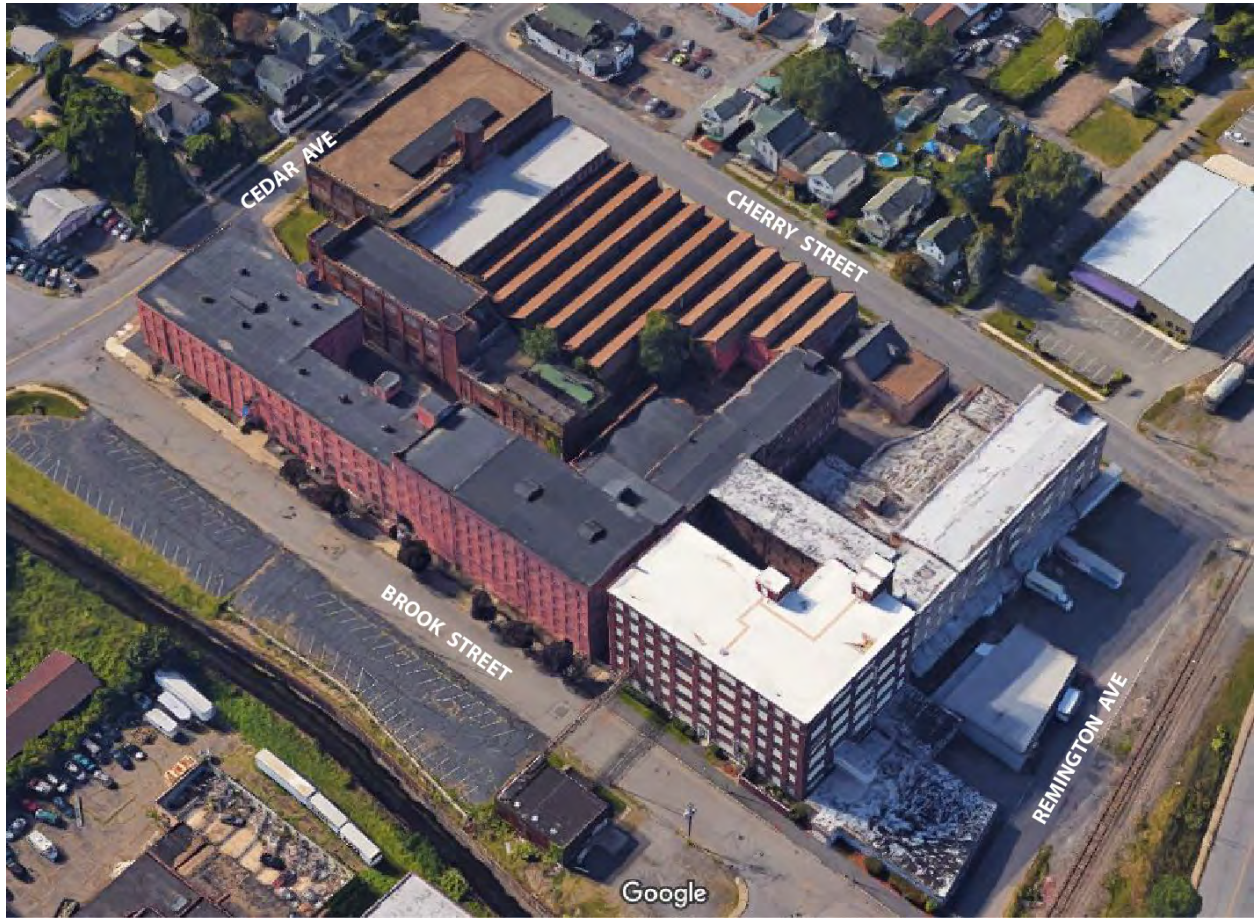
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**Figure 5:** Birds-eye view, looking northwest (2014).

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**Figure 6:** Birds-eye view, looking southeast (2014).

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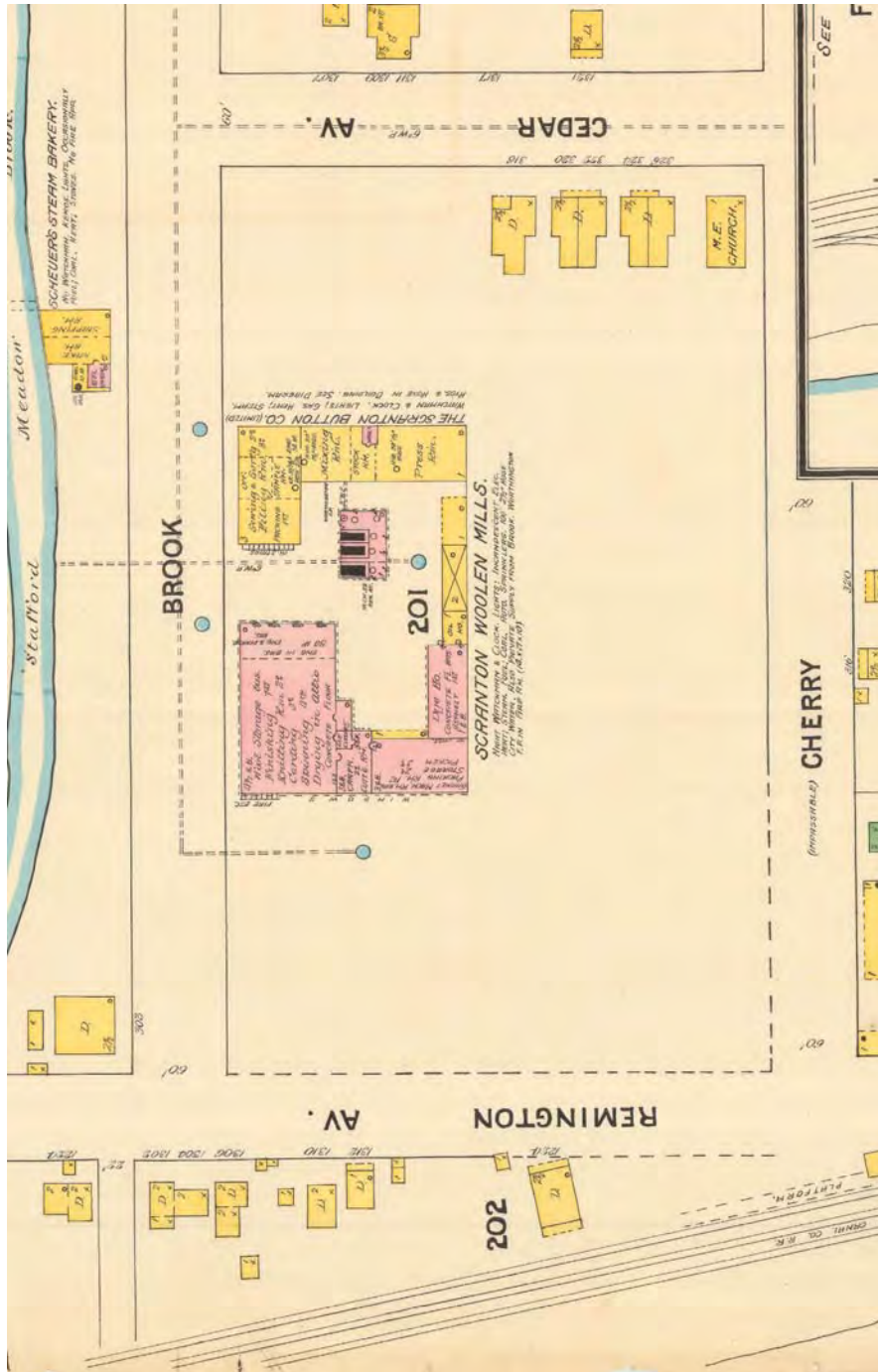


Figure 7: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1888 (Scranton, Sheet 37)



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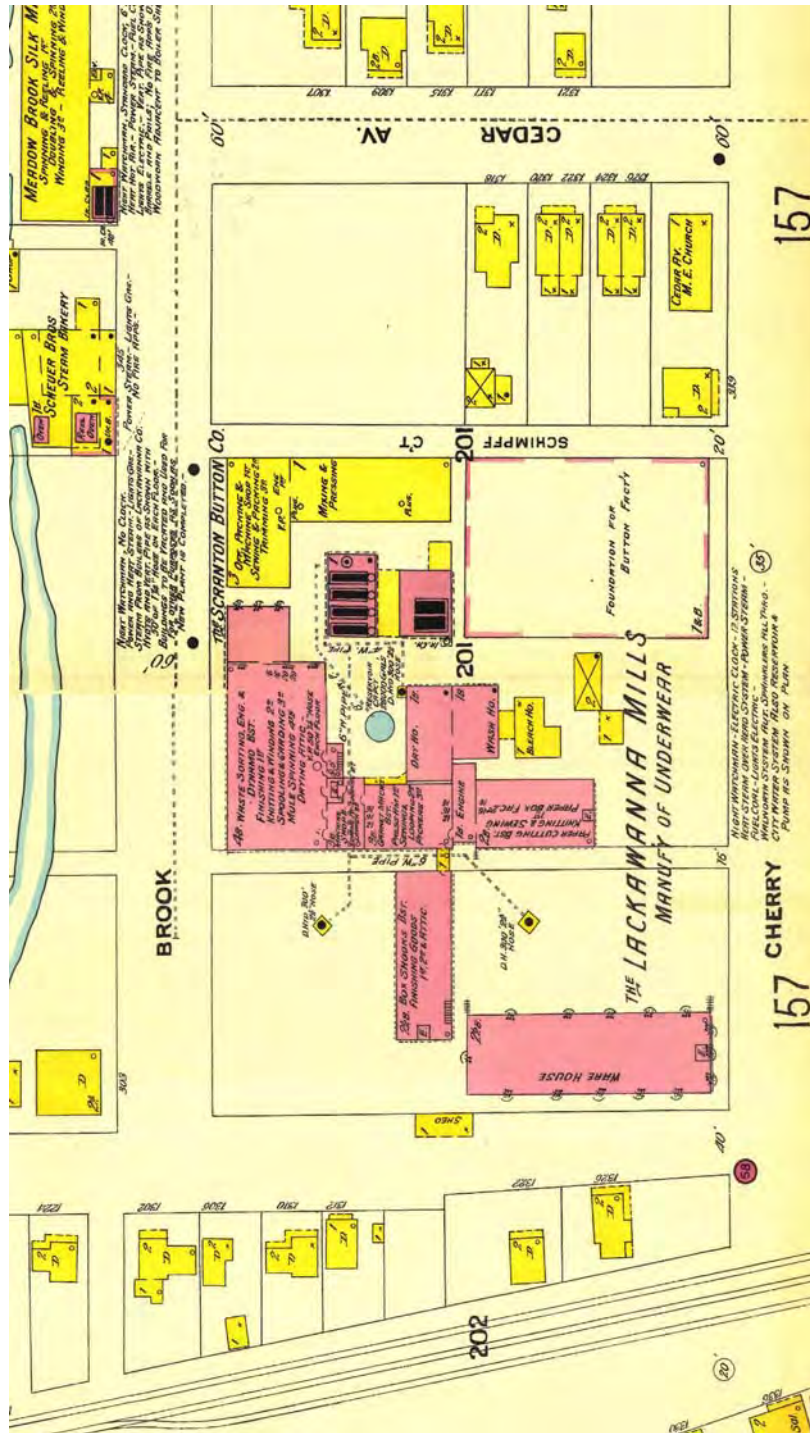


Figure 8: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1898 (Scranton, Vol. 2, Sheets 153 and 154)

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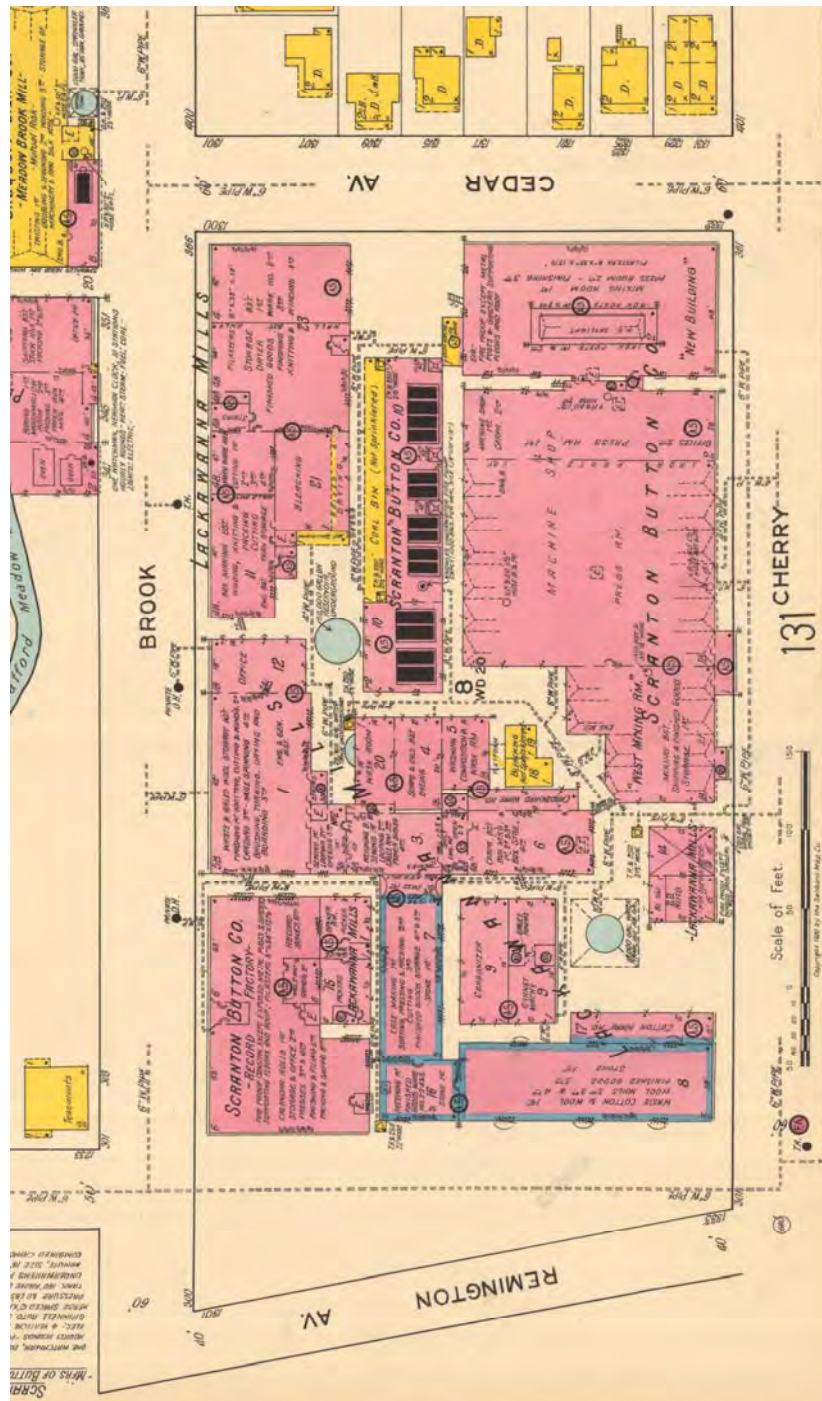


Figure 9: Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1919-1920 (Scranton, Vol. 2, Sheet 123)

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**Figure 10:** Aerial view, 1939. Shows all existing buildings except C-2, C-3, and M-1.  
(Courtesy <http://www.pennpilot.psu.edu/>)




**Figure 11:** Aerial view, 1959. Shows all existing buildings.  
(Courtesy <http://www.pennpilot.psu.edu/>)

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CHAS. R. CONNELL  
President

BERNARD R. CONNELL  
Sec'y and Treas.



**THE LACKAWANNA MILLS**  
SCRANTON, PA.

MANUFACTURERS OF  
**KNIT UNDERWEAR AND PAPER BOXES**



**THE SCRANTON BUTTON COMPANY**  
MANUFACTURERS OF  
Moulded Electrical Insulations  
Phonograph Records and Composition Buttons

CHAS. R. CONNELL, Pres. and Treas.  
E. E. CONNELL, Ass't Treasurer

F. C. STACKHOUSE, Secretary  
L. G. SYLVESTER, General Manager

**Figure 12:** Advertisement from *Chamber of Commerce and State Manufacturers' Journal* (February 1922).

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(No Model.)

8 Sheets—Sheet 1.

C. E. BEAN.  
CIRCULAR KNITTING MACHINE.

No. 407,917.

Patented July 30, 1889.

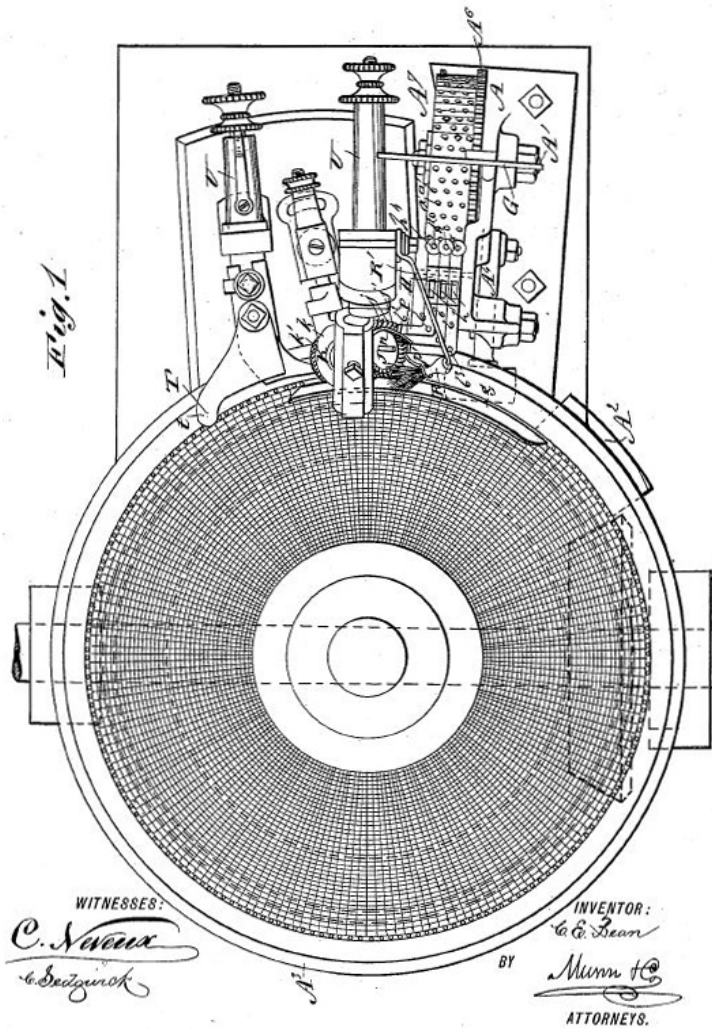


Figure 13: U.S. Patent 407917 showing a circular knitting machine patented by the Lackawanna Mills in July 1889 (Google Patents).

No. 644,810.

Patented Mar. 6, 1900.

P. L. SYLVESTER.

MACHINE FOR MIXING AND PREPARING PLASTIC MATERIAL.

(Application filed Sept. 18, 1900.)

(No Model.)

4 Sheets—Sheet 1.

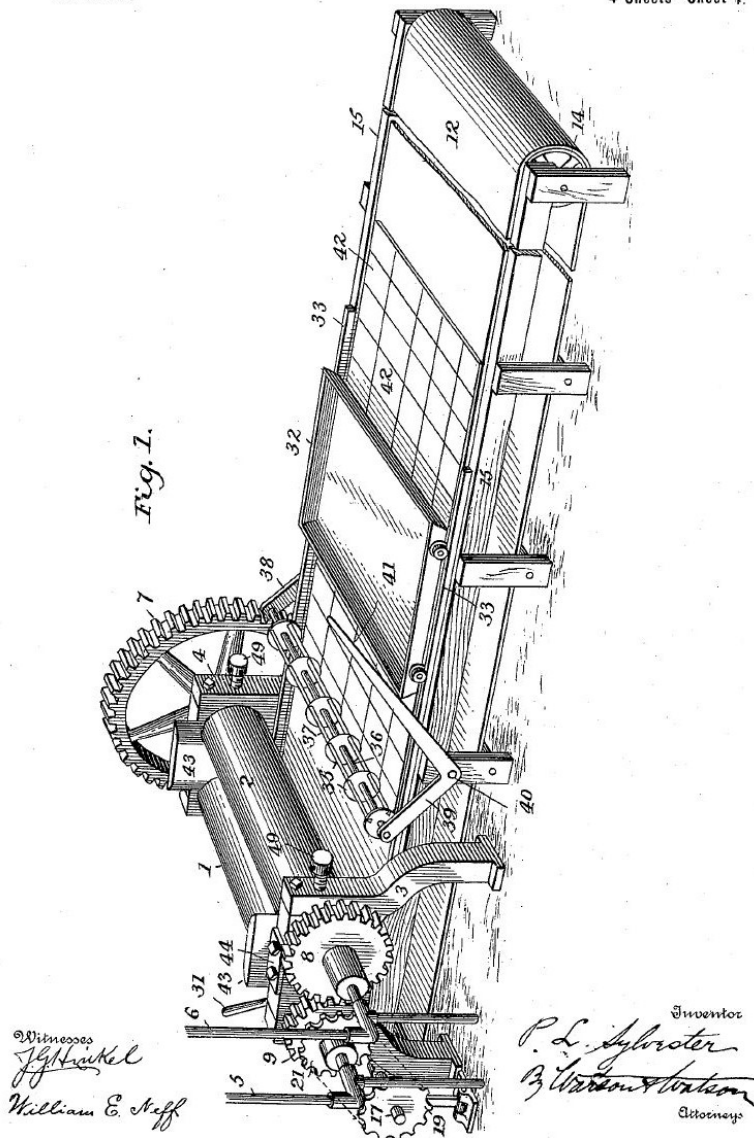


Figure 14: U.S. Patent 644810 showing a machine for mixing plastic material, patented by the Scranton Button Company in March 1900 (Google Patents).

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No. 644,811.

Patented Mar. 6, 1900.

**P. L. SYLVESTER.**  
**MACHINE FOR MAKING BUTTONS.**

(Application filed Oct. 18, 1899.)

(No Model.)

5 Sheets—Sheet 1.

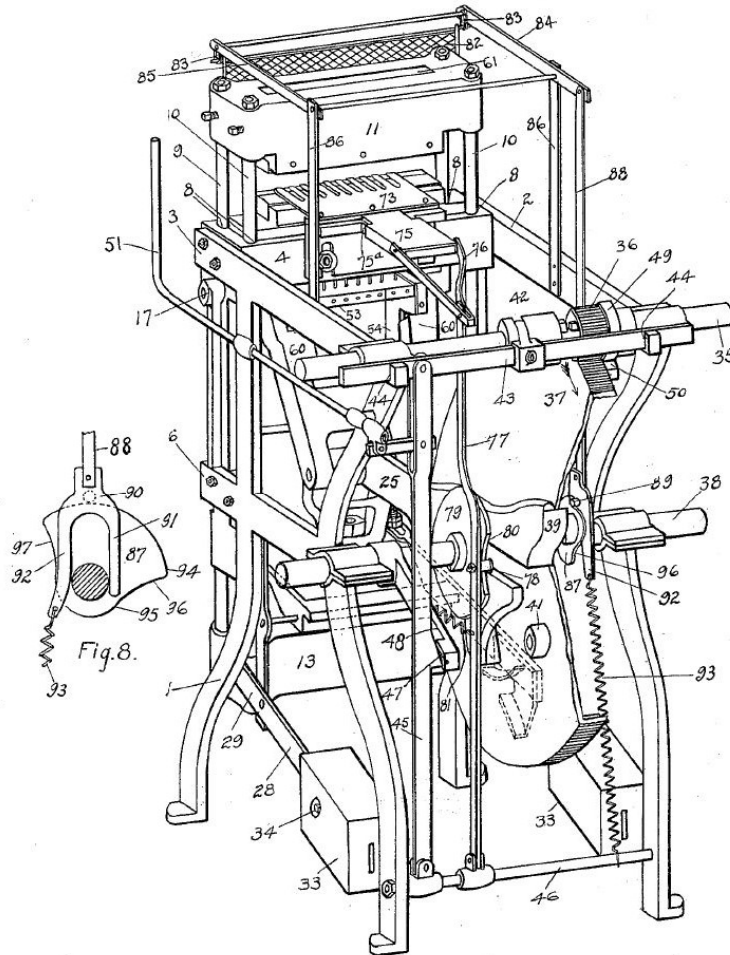


Fig. 1.

Witnesses  
*F. Lora Levi.*  
*Geo. F. Thomas.*

Inventor  
*Philip L. Sylvester*  
By *Watson & Watson*  
Attorneys

**Figure 15:** U.S. Patent 644811 showing a machine for making buttons, patented by the Scranton Button Company in March 1900 (Google Patents).

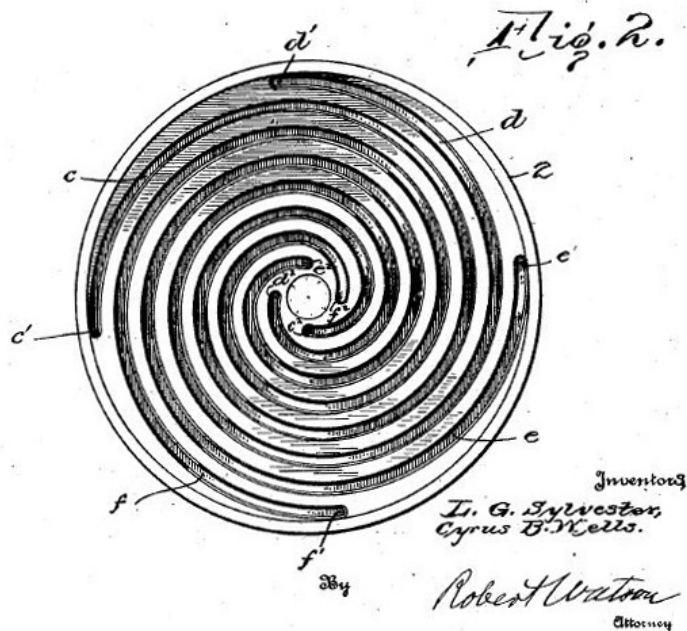
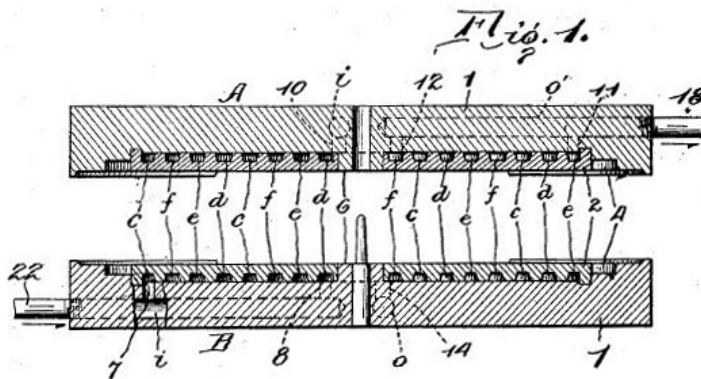
April 27, 1926.

1,582,704

L. G. SYLVESTER ET AL

DIE FOR PHONOGRAPH RECORDS

Original Filed Sept. 8, 1923 3 Sheets-Sheet 1



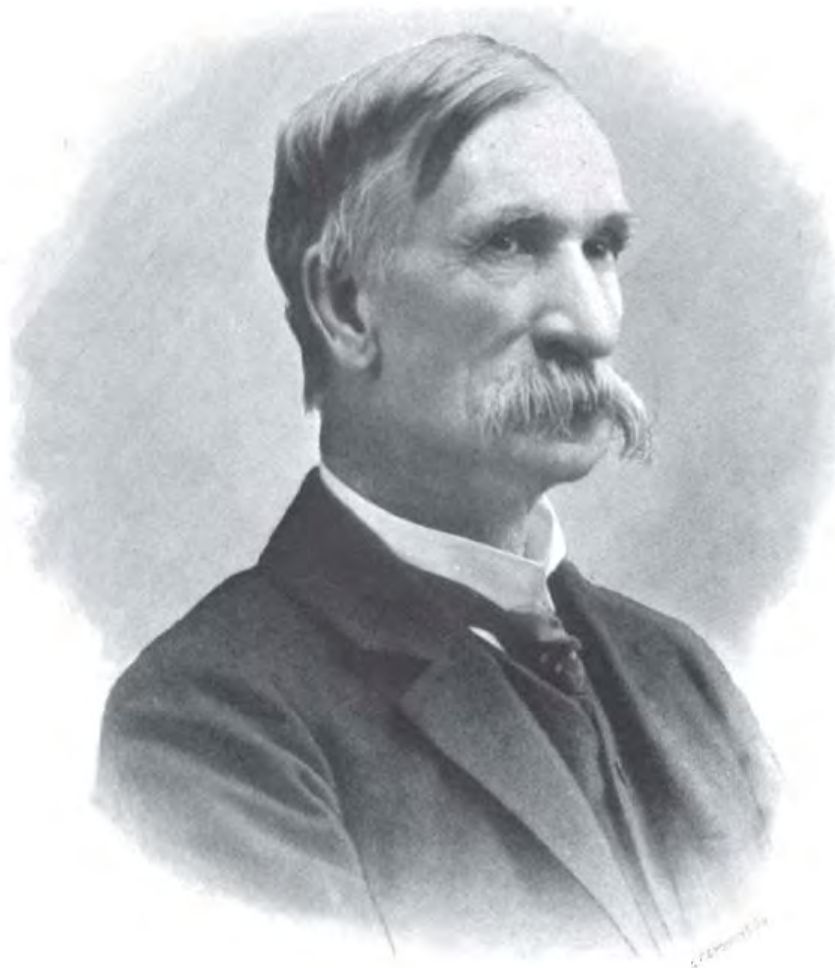
Inventors  
L. G. Sylvester,  
Cyrus B. Wells.  
Robert Watson  
Attorney

Figure 16: U.S. Patent 1582704 showing a die for making phonograph records, patented by the Scranton Button Company in September 1923 (Google Patents).



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*Wm Connell*

**Figure 17:** Photographic portrait of William Connell from *Prominent and Progressive Pennsylvanians* (1898).

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*Philip L. Sylvester,*

**Figure 18:** Photographic portrait of Philip L. Sylvester from Frederick L. Hitchcock's *History of Scranton and its People* (1914).

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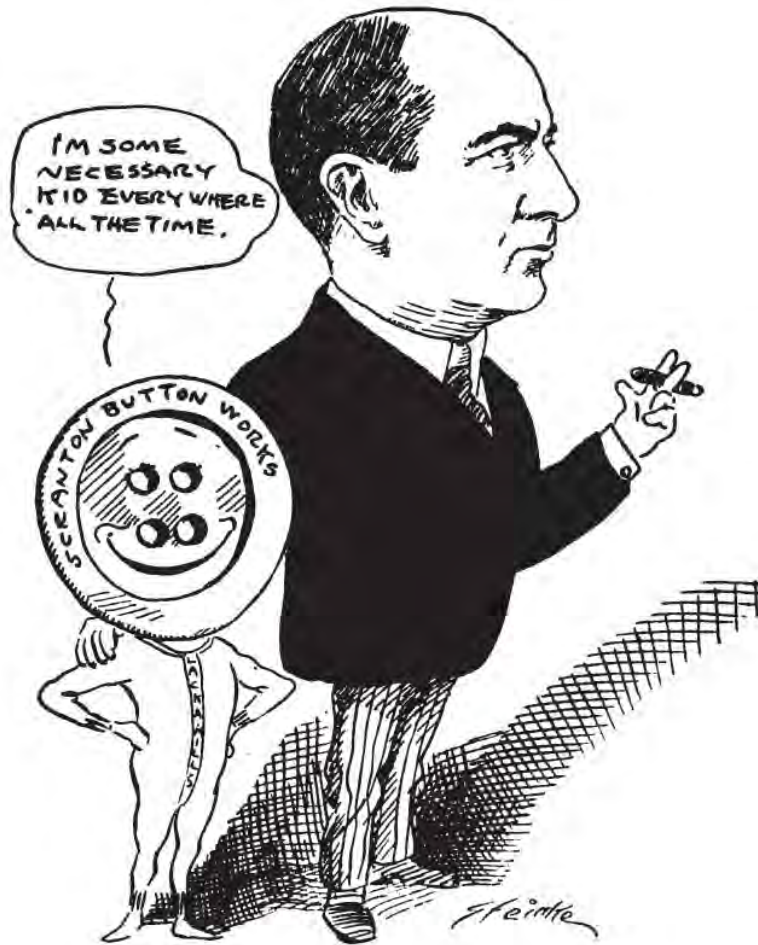


*Charles L. Connell*

**Figure 19:** Photographic portrait of Charles L. Connell from *American Biography: A New Cyclopaedia*, Vol. X (1922).

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CHARLES R. CONNELL

Figure 20: Caricature of Charles L. Connell from *Steinke's Story of Scranton* (1914).

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**PURCHASE ORDER**  
*Capitol Records, Inc.*

AMENDMENT #1  
 No. S 45025  
 1/21/64

BILL TO: P. O. BOX 30 • SCRANTON 1, PENNA.

DATE OF PURCHASE ORDER	Jan. 17, 1964	DATE TO BE SHIPPED	SAP - RUSH	SALES TAX	EXEMPT
TERMS	1 1/2 10 net 30	F.O.B.	New York	CHARGEABLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHIP VIA				PARTIAL CHARGEABLE	<input type="checkbox"/>
				RESALE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
				OUT OF STATE	<input type="checkbox"/>
				RENTAL OR SERVICE	<input type="checkbox"/>

TO Queens Lithographing Corp.  
 52-25 Barnett Ave.  
 Long Island City 4, New York

SHIP TO CAPITOL RECORDS, INC.  
 300 Brook St.  
 Scranton, Penna.

ITEM	QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL
1.	400,000	CHANGE OUR ORDER TO READ AS FOLLOWS: For printing the following 4-Color album material: T-2047 MEET THE BEATLES (With Stereo Bar) Trim Size: 12 1/2" x 12 5/8" Stock: 70 Lb. G1S Litho Ink: Standard IPI inks to match progs - pyroxcote finish Distribution: 8 samples to Bill Mathias, 300 Brook St., Scranton, Pa. 10 samples to Ray Polley, 1750 N. Vine St., Hollywood 28, Calif. Balance as per instructions from Bill Mathias 100,000 of the above print run to be press varnished. AMENDED TO INCREASE THE QUANTITY TO 400,000 CONFIRMED BY RAY POLLEY'S TELEPHONE CONVERSATION OF 1/21/64. The exact quantity on order is desired, however, Capitol will accept an overshipment not to exceed 10%. Likewise, Capitol will consider the order complete if less than 10% remains undelivered. NOTE: PLEASE SHIP TO IMPERIAL PAPER BOX CORP.	14.00 M	2800.00

CHANGE ACCT. NO.	ORIGINATING DEPT.	REQUISITION NO.	CONFIRMING CONVERSATION WITH	DELIVER TO DEPARTMENT
151 12	M. Control	-----		See Above

**NOTICE:** THE ABOVE PURCHASE ORDER NUMBER MUST APPEAR ON EACH PACKAGE, PACKING LIST, INVOICE, AND ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE.  
 INVOICE IN TRIPLICATE TO BILLING NAME AND ADDRESS SHOWN ABOVE.

THIS PURCHASE ORDER IS SUBJECT TO ALL TERMS ON REVERSE SIDE HEREOF. ANY DOCUMENT WHICH PURPORTS TO ACCEPT ON ANY DIFFERENT TERMS SHALL BE INEFFECTIVE.

CAPITOL RECORDS, INC.  
 BY *W. Mathias*  
 PURCHASING AGENT

FORM NO. 16788 REV. 8 12/68 ORIGINAL

**Figure 21:** Purchase order from Capitol Records' Scranton plant for 400,000 Beatles album covers in January 1964.













MR. D'S DETAILING

570-840-13  
TRUCK 3 AUTO

Mr. D's Detailing  
1570-840-1322  
TRUCK 3 AUTO

Mr. D's Detailing  
1570-840-1322

Business  
Hours





5204



JOHN VANSTONE

NORTHEAST  
COBH





























WAREHOUSE  
SPACE AVAILABLE  
347-3569

329



329

HHP-3209



 **FOR SALE**  
570-468-8810

 **FOR SALE**  
570-468-8810







ASTRO  
RECEIVING



ASTRO  
RECEIVING

ASTRO





















MADE  
IN  
CANADA

10





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 3/17/2017      Date of Pending List:      Date of 16th Day:      Date of 45th Day: 5/1/2017      Date of Weekly List: 5/11/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
|                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG             |  |

Accept       Return       Reject      5/1/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria

Reviewer Patrick Andrus      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2218      Date \_\_\_\_\_

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.



**Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office**  
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION



March 10, 2017

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Program  
National Register of Historic Places  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, NW, 8<sup>th</sup> floor  
Washington D.C. 20005

Re: NR nomination discs

Dear Mr. Loether:

The following nomination forms are being submitted electronically per the "Guidance on How to Submit a Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places on Disk Summary (5/06/2013)":

- Lackawanna Mills and Scranton Button Historic District, Lackawanna County

The enclosed discs contain the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Lackawanna Mills and Scranton Button Historic District. The proposed actions are for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If you have any questions regarding the nominations please contact David Maher at 717-783-9918.

Sincerely,

David Maher  
National Register section  
Preservation Services