

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number 3400-3412 J Street

NA
NA

 not for publication
city or town Philadelphia vicinity
state PA code PA county Philadelphia code 101 zip code 19134

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

Andrea MacDonald 11/20/2018
Signature of certifying official/Title Deputy SHPO Date
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
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 _____

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): _____

Lois Davis 1/17/19
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

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	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	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

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/industrial storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industrial

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete

walls: Brick

roof: Synthetic Membrane

other: Wood, Concrete

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA

County and State

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The William Brown Company Hosiery Mill is a former hosiery mill complex filling almost one-half of the block bounded by J, Ontario, I and Estaugh Streets. The one acre property has two contributing buildings of similar scale, massing, and use though of slightly different vintages. Building 1 was constructed c.1903 with an addition to its north elevation c.1923.¹ The building is a masonry bearing wall building with a heavy timber frame that is three stories in height with a full basement that is half below grade. Both phases of the building were constructed by the William Steele and Sons Company, a successful industrial builder based in Philadelphia. Building 2 was constructed c.1926. The building is a reinforced concrete building clad in painted brick that is three stories in height with a full basement that is partially below grade. The builder of Building 2 is unknown. The buildings fill most of the property, up to the sidewalks, with a narrow open space in the center accessed from J Street. The west portion of the block is occupied by an unrelated former industrial facility. An elevated rail line (the Market-Frankford commuter line) passes immediately to the southeast of the complex, running above the diagonally-positioned Kensington Avenue, which clips the corner formed by J and Ontario Streets. The William Brown Company Hosiery Mill retains its overall integrity and is readily able to convey its industrial role in a neighborhood traditionally consisting of dense rowhomes with scattered industrial complexes. The buildings are typical of Philadelphia's industrial resources of the early 20th century, with the brick exteriors, large industrial sash, smokestacks and other features commonly found in textile mills. The interior, now used for storage or as a showroom, is minimally altered and successfully reflects the evolution in industrial construction as concrete became the norm.

Narrative Description

Setting: The William Brown Company Hosiery Mill is located roughly 6 miles north of Center City Philadelphia. The neighborhood is a dense residential and commercial area featuring both residential and mixed use row-buildings, modest shops and stores, and large scale industrial buildings, many of which are vacant. Located to the east of the subject property is Harrowgate Park, a public park that covers an entire city block; two blocks north is the Scanlon Playground and Ice Rick. The subject property is located on a 45,842 square foot parcel and includes two buildings: Building 1 is located on the south side of the parcel at 3400-3408 J Street and Building 2 is due north at 3412 J Street. Building 1 is 90' x 200' and Building 2 is 98' x 200'. The two buildings occupy 82 percent of the parcel. The subject buildings are built to the lot lines on all four boundary lines. The north, south and east elevations abut a concrete sidewalk. The west elevation abuts an unrelated former industrial site. Between the Buildings 1 and 2 there is a paved courtyard area. Located at the west end of the central courtyard is a one-story brick loading dock that provides access between the two buildings. South of the loading dock is a one-story boiler room. There are two skybridges that provide access between the upper floors of the buildings. One is located at the second floor and one is located at the third floor.

Building 1 (3400-3408 J Street) (South): c.1903 Building with c.1923 Addition

Building 1 is a rectangular shaped masonry bearing wall building with a heavy timber frame that is three stories in height with a full basement that is half below grade. The brick on the south and east elevations is painted while the north elevation is primarily unpainted. The southern portion of the building was completed c.1903 while the north portion was completed as an addition c.1923. The building's 200 foot length is divided into 12 more or less equal bays and its 90 foot width is divided into eight more or less equal bays. The structure also includes a one-story boiler room at the west end with a roughly 80 foot tall brick smokestack located at the northwest corner of the building. Located directly to the east of the boiler room brick smokestack is a second brick smokestack that is roughly the same height.

Exterior:

¹ The dates of construction are taken from newspaper articles that describe the construction start dates. Completion dates were not confirmed, but are assumed to be within a year of start date.

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA

County and State

J Street Elevation: The east-facing J Street elevation is the primary elevation for Building 1 and includes both the original c.1903 elevation and a c.1923 addition. The five bays to the south are c.1903; the three bays to the north are c. 1923. The addition continues the materials and design of the c.1903 structure with some slight variations. (Photo 1).

The elevation is clad in painted brick. It is three-stories in height with a daylight basement and eight bays across. The windows are multi-light steel industrial-style sash. All windows on the first and basement levels have been covered with wood and skim coated with stucco and painted along with one window located on the second floor. The windows are still extant underneath the covering. All other extant windows that have not been covered have been painted. The windows on the c.1903 section feature a stone sill and steel lintel, while the windows on the c.1923 addition feature brick sills and lintels with the brick laid in a horizontal stacked fashion. Each window is slightly recessed from the elevation via brick piers that are located between each window bay. Above each window on the third floor is corbeled brick detailing. The elevation features a pressed metal cornice and parapet. The cornice extends roughly two feet from the roof line. Modern exterior signage is located throughout the elevation, both painted and mounted.

The main entrance is found on the first floor, located centrally on the elevation. The entrance door is elevated to the first floor level and has a modern single-leaf hollow metal door. Flanking the entrance to the north is another single-leaf metal door. Both are accessed via a concrete stair that runs parallel to the elevation. The stair is partially enclosed within a concrete bulkhead and includes a pipe-style rail. Located directly above the main entrance at the second and third floor are metal landings that span two bays in width and are located centrally on the elevation. Historically, these were part of a fire escape. Located above the third story landing is a sheet metal awning. Two single-leaf metal doors provide access to each landing respectively. The single-leaf metal doors located to the south have a painted transom in arched opening. Those to the south have been built into the existing steel sash window.

Ontario Street Elevation: The Ontario Street elevation is the south facing elevation for Building 1 (South). The elevation is similar to the J Street elevation in design and material representative of the c.1903 portion of the J Street elevation. The elevation is 12 bays in length and features steel multi-light industrial style windows. Many of the windows have been boarded with wood, skim coated with stucco and painted leaving only the windows located on the third floor and the five westernmost windows on the second floor exposed and painted red. All windows feature a stone sill and steel lintel. Similar to the J Street elevation, all windows are slightly recessed via brick piers located between each window bay. Above each window on the third floor is corbeled brick detailing. (Photo 10). Mounted modern exterior signage is located at the eastern end of the elevation.

The elevation features two entrances located at the westernmost bay. The entrances are both single-leaf metal doors with transoms in an arched opening. The entrances are accessed via a utilitarian metal stair with metal railings, leading to an elevated platform at the first floor exterior. Located directly above on both the second and third floors are metal landings that once were part of a fire escape, each with a pair of single-leaf metal doors with arched transoms. The eastern portion of the roofline features a metal parapet with a metal cornice line that extends roughly two feet from the roofline.

North Elevation: The north elevation faces the interior courtyard and reflects the c.1923 addition. The elevation is similar to the J Street elevation in design and material as representative of the c.1923 portion of the J Street elevation. The elevation is comprised of a three-story portion with a partially exposed basement. At the west end is a one-story boiler room. The three-story portion of the elevation, c.1923, is nine bays in length. All of the windows are steel framed industrial-style windows with brick sills and lintels constructed of horizontal stacked brick. Each bay is separated via vertical brick piers. Above each window on the third floor is corbeled brick detailing. The section is topped with a metal cornice. A square red brick smokestack at the west end rises roughly 80 feet in height. Access to the interior of the building at the north elevation is provided by one entrance located at the western most bay of the three-story section. The entrance is a single-leaf metal door.

The one-story boiler room is clad in red brick and is one bay in length, featuring a metal framed industrial window with a brick sill and lintel constructed of horizontal stacked brick. The north elevation of the one-story boiler room abuts the one-story brick loading dock constructed c.1926. Located at the west end of the boiler room is a circular red brick smokestack that rises roughly 80 feet. (Photo 5).

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA

County and State

Due to the location of the one-story boiler room, the second and third stories of the northwest portion of Building 1 are indented. More specifically, the north facing façade of the indentation is from the c.1903 portion Building 1, and the west facing façade of the indentation is from the c.1923 portion of Building 1. Both façades of the indentation feature steel sash industrial style windows on each floor. The north façade windows feature a stone sill and steel lintel while the west façade features brick sills and lintels laid in a horizontal stacked brick pattern. A mechanical penthouse clad in red brick is located in the corner of the indentation and extends from the roof of the boiler room to beyond the height of the three-story section, roughly 20 feet above the base of the roof. Red brick encased balconies are located at the north facing façade of the indentation and extends from the second to third floors of the three-story section. The rest of the west end is the loading dock which was built c. 1926 and will be discussed below.

Interior: The interior of the building reflects the former use as a hosiery textile mill. The floor plans are utilitarian and generally open in space with heavy timber square columns dividing each floor into evenly spaced bays. The center columns are constructed of the former c.1903 brick north wall and are larger than their partnering heavy timber columns. Finishes throughout floors 1-3 include wood flooring, painted brick walls, painted wood columns and beams, and painted wood ceiling that is exposed to the wood deck above. The basement mirrors these features with the exception of a concrete floor.

First Floor: The first floor is largely open with limited modern material. The first floor features a small modern office space located near the main entrance, constructed of gypsum board walls, modern single-leaf wood doors, and linoleum tile flooring. More modern office space is located along the north perimeter wall and extends its entire length. This space is constructed of gypsum board walls with modern single-leaf metal doors and modern window systems. Located centrally and upon entry to the space via the main entrance is a modern metal stair with metal railings that extends to the second floor. Flanking the stair is a modern office space constructed of gypsum board walls and modern window systems. Modern lighting and electricals hang throughout the ceiling and beams. The rear of the first floor, the western portion, features a storage area/office space that is divided from the rest of the first floor via a brick partition wall. (Photos 11 and 12).

Second Floor: The second floor is generally similar in plan and finishes to the first floor with the exception of the respective modern finishes. Modern features are limited on the floor. Located at the southwest corner of the floor is a small storage space constructed of gypsum board with a modern single-leaf metal door for entry. Located centrally on the floor is an opening that provides access to the modern metal stair from the first floor. Surrounding the stair opening is gypsum board wall with modern window systems. Modern lighting and electricals hang throughout the ceiling and beams. (Photo 13).

Third Floor: The third floor is generally similar in plan and finishes to the first and second floor. However, the third floor features no gypsum board wall partitions. Modern lighting and electricals hang from the ceiling and throughout the beams. (Photo 14).

Basement: The basement is similar in floor plan to floors 1-3. The floor features a space located at the southeast corner that is divided from the rest of the basement via a painted brick partition wall. Small spaces used for mechanicals are located at the northwest and northeast corners. (Photo 15).

Vertical Accesses: There are four additional vertical accesses located throughout the building that extend to all four floors, three wooden stairs and one elevator. All are original to the building and full height.

Roof: The roof is covered with a vinyl membrane. The c.1903 section features a slightly pitched roof with a roughly three foot parapet located at the east end and wraps slightly around to the south elevation along the southeast corner. Modern mechanical equipment is located centrally on the roof and at the west end. The c.1923 section is delineated via a sawtooth window pocket that runs east to west. Flanking the sawtooth window pocket on either side are mechanical penthouses clad in brick that rise roughly 20 feet from the roof. The rest of the roof is flat and features a 3 foot brick parapet located at the east end and wraps slightly around to the north elevation along the northeast corner.

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA

County and State

Alterations: The building has gone through minimal alterations throughout the years. On the exterior, the brick on the south, east and portion of the north elevation have been painted, all windows have been painted and many located on the south and east elevations have been infilled and covered with skim coated with stucco. On the interior, the first and second floor feature some modern intrusions including office space and a modern stair.

Building 2 (3412 J Street) (North): c.1926 Building

Building 2 is a reinforced concrete building clad in painted brick that is three stories in height with a full basement that is partially below grade. The entire structure was constructed c.1926. The building is 12 bays in length, east to west at 200 feet, and five bays in width, north to south at 90 feet. A small one-story loading dock extends from the southwest corner of the building and provides access to Building 1.

Exterior:

J Street Elevation: The J Street elevation is the primary elevation for Building 2. The elevation is three-stories in height and five bays in width with a partially visible basement exterior. The windows are paired self-mullioned multi-light steel industrial-style windows. The windows on floors 1-3 all have been painted. The windows feature brick sills and lintels laid in a horizontal stacked fashion, similar to the ones found on the c.1923 addition on Building 1. The windows are covered with protective chain link fencing. In lieu of windows, the southernmost bay features open Philadelphia fire stair balconies.² The ends of the elevation feature slightly recessed brick work with no window openings. At the top of each is corbeled brick detailing. There are two entrances located on the elevation, both at the basement level. One is located at the eastern end and one is located at the western end. The eastern end entrance is a double-leaf metal door that is painted. Located above the door is a modern metal rolling door. The western end entrance is a single-leaf metal door, also painted. (Photos 6 and 7). Modern exterior signage is located throughout the elevation, both painted and mounted.

Estaugh Street Elevation: The Estaugh Street elevation is the north facing elevation for Building 2 (North). The elevation is similar to the J Street elevation in design and materials. The elevation is 12 bays in length and features multi-light steel sash industrial-style windows. The windows feature brick sills and lintels laid in a horizontal stacked fashion, and are all encased in metal wire fencing. Above the third floor windows is corbeled brick detailing. The windows are in poor condition. (Photos 7 and 8). There is one entrance on the elevation located at the western end, a single-leaf glazed metal door, recessed within the opening. At the building plane, the opening is infilled with a modern metal security grille. Access to the entrance is provided via concrete steps with utilitarian metal railings. Located above the entrance are exterior Philadelphia fire stair landings. Access to these landings is provided by two modern single-leaf metal fire doors, one that provides access to the stair well and one that provides access to the floor. Located above the third story balcony is corbeled brick detailing. The cornice is topped with terra cotta paneling. Within the second bay from the west end there are loading doors at each floor. Within the third through sixth bays from the west end, the first floor windows were previously removed, the sills lowered, and the openings converted for use as loading doors. Mounted modern exterior signage is located at the western portion of the elevation.

West Elevation: The west elevation is constructed of red brick and features no substantial defining features except a metal smokestack located centrally on the elevation and slightly recessed into the elevation. The wall is topped with terra cotta coping. (Photo 9).

South Elevation: The south elevation faces the interior courtyard. The elevation is 12 bays in length with the easternmost bay painted. The first floor of the western most portion features a one-story loading dock extending south from the elevation. The windows are all multi-light steel industrial-style windows with brick sills and lintels constructed of horizontal stacked brick. Located above the third floor windows is corbeled brick detailing. The elevation is topped with a terra cotta coping. (Photo 3). The elevation features one entrance located at the western portion of the elevation at the

² A Philadelphia fire stair is a tower stairway that is completely enclosed on the interior of the building. On each floor, a person can walk through fire doors to a wide outside balcony, and in the middle of that balcony turn back into a solidly built stairway shaft where no fire can penetrate. (McClure's Magazine, S.S. McClure, 1911, page 481)

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA

County and State

first floor, a modern single-leaf metal door. Access to the door is provided via a wood stair and landing with wood railings. The eastern most bay of the elevation features slightly recessed brick work with no window openings. At the top is corbeled brick detailing. Modern painted signage is featured at this section.

Loading Dock: The utilitarian loading dock is a one-story extension from Building 2 (North), at the western end of its south elevation, extending south to Building 1. The loading dock's east elevation faces the courtyard and is two bays in width. The bays feature modern steel rolling doors and are slightly elevated from grade. The bays feature concrete sills with metal cladding and horizontal stacked brick lintels. A modern concrete ramp extends from one of the loading bays. The elevation is topped with a terra cotta coping. (Photos 3 and 4). The west elevation of the loading dock is red brick with no specific design features.

Interior: The interior of Building 2 reflects the former textile manufacturing use. The floor plans are generally similar throughout and are utilitarian and open in space, with two exceptions being a modern gypsum board wall partition on the second floor that runs the length of the building, east to west, and a small modern office space constructed of gypsum board wall and single-leaf metal doors located at the northeast corner of the basement. Finishes throughout floors 1-3 include wood flooring, painted brick walls, painted square concrete columns and beams, and painted wood paneled ceiling. The basement mirrors these features with the exception of a concrete floor. (Photos 16-20).

There are five vertical accesses located throughout the building that extend throughout each floor, four stairs and one elevator, located in the corners of the building. One of the stairs is wood and the remaining are concrete. All vertical accesses are original to the building.

Roof: The roof is covered with vinyl membrane, similar to Building 1. A roughly 3 foot parapet wraps around the entire roof line, capped with terra cotta coping. HVAC equipment is located throughout. There are two brick stair penthouses, one located at the southwest corner and one located at the northeast corner. The northwest and southeast corners are slightly raised.

Alterations: The building has gone through minimal alterations throughout the years. On the exterior, the east elevation has been painted, along with a portion of the south and north elevations. The windows located on the east elevation have been painted. A number of 1st floor windows have been removed and the openings converted for use as loading docks. On the interior, modern spaces constructed of gypsum board wall can be found at the basement level and on the second floor.

Integrity: The William Brown Company Hosiery Mill retains its integrity of materials, design, location, and setting convey its original association to hosiery industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia. The building retains integrity of materials, and design as there have been no major alterations to the exterior, and minimal alterations to the interior. The changes within the interior are not substantial, and do not disrupt the overall original character of the building as a hosiery factory, as each floor plan remains largely open. The original windows are still evident throughout the building, even though many have been painted and/or boarded. Workmanship is still evident in the brickwork. The building retains integrity of location as there have been no major changes to the spatial characteristics of the traditional grid pattern of the surrounding streets. The building retains integrity of setting as the surrounding area still features mixed residential row buildings dating to the early 20th century, along with numerous former textile mills located within the vicinity of the building. The building's integrity of materials, design, location, and setting help retain its integrity of feeling and association to the history of Kensington's textile manufacturing industry.

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Period of Significance

1909-1935

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

William Steele and Sons Company (Builder)

Significant Dates

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (In *one* paragraph, provide a summary that briefly states what the significance of the property/district is, and, for each claim, identifies the level of significance and applicable criteria that apply. The summary paragraph also needs to identify the period of significance.)

The William Brown Company Hosiery Mill is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Industry as an important example of a hosiery mill that produced full-fashion hosiery garments from 1909, when the William Brown Company took over the subject building, to 1935, when the William Brown Company vacated the site and ceased production. The William Brown Company was an important contributor to the textile industry in the greater Kensington area of Philadelphia,³ leading the way in innovation as one of the first full-size manufacturing mills to produce full-fashioned hosiery, and for its initial involvement in organized labor unions that helped define and stabilize the hosiery industry in Philadelphia. The Mill was built in stages, with building one being constructed by the Philadelphia-based William Steele & Sons Company, which specialized in industrial construction. Building two was constructed by an unknown builder. The Mill showcases both their timber-framed style of construction in Building 1 (c.1903) and their later concrete-framed construction in Building 2 (c.1926). The period of significance extends from 1909 when the William Brown Company took over operations of the building from the Lee Hosiery Mill to 1935 when the building ceased to operate as a textile factory specializing in hosiery goods.

Developmental history

Initial History of the Property Prior to the William Brown Company:

In 1902, the William Steele and Sons Company was contracted to construct a three-story mill building with a full basement at the corner of Ontario Street and Kensington Avenue for the Lee Hosiery Mill. The land was previously owned by C. Campbell Cooper.⁴ The dimensions of the mill building were to be 55x200 feet. Accompanying the mill building was to be a one-story power house located to its north. The dimensions of the power house were to be 36x60 feet and it was to be accompanied by a 100 foot high smoke stack.⁵

According to the 1895 Philadelphia Atlas Map, the area surrounding the prospected site was largely vacant, predominantly that which was north of Kensington Avenue. Located south of Kensington Avenue were a mixture of residential row homes and small businesses. At this time, most of the industry was located more towards the heart of Kensington, suggesting that as time progressed, the land that was unused further north became principal real-estate for new factory buildings such as the Lee Hosiery Mill. Common practice when constructing new factory buildings was the need for workers housing. Since transportation was still limited in the early 20th century, the need to live close to sources of work was paramount for sustainable living. This meant that many neighborhoods such as Kensington housed residents from a multitude of ethnicities such as German, Scottish and British whose catalyst for integration were factories like the Lee Hosiery Mill.⁶ The factories and houses were closely mixed.

The Lee Hosiery Mill occupied the building from 1903-1909. Prior to occupancy, they were located at the corner of West Cumberland and North 3rd Street. During their time at the subject location, they focused on producing both men's and women's fashioned cotton and cashmere hosiery. In 1905, their operation consisted of 24 spring needle machines, 14 full-fashioned knitting machines, and seven sewing machines. The building was also fully equipped with electricity and fully finished. The factory was also in a sales partnership with the Hinchaman, Vezin & Company, a New York City based

³ While not within the geographic boundary used in the *Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia* Multiple Property Documentation Form, that context was a useful tool for understanding the importance of the William Brown Company within Philadelphia's textile industry and in assessing the integrity of the property.

⁴ 1895 Philadelphia Atlas Map.

⁵ "Activities of the Day in Real Estate," *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. 29 Nov 1902. The powerhouse and smoke stack were demolished when the c.1923 addition was constructed.

⁶ McConell-Sidorick, 14.

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA

County and State

sales agency that specialized in the distribution of hosiery goods.⁷ In two years' time, the mill grew to housing 42 spring needle machines with 19 full fashion machines. The company also began to sell direct from the mill and no longer through a third party.⁸ In 1909, the William Brown Company took over operations at the mill building and absorbed the Lee Hosiery Mill. The move was put in motion due to the expiring contract that the William Brown Company had at its previous location and instead of renewing the lease, they opted for a larger and newer hosiery mill building.⁹

History of the Property in Conjunction with the William Brown Company:

The William Brown Company was a full-fashioned¹⁰ hosiery manufacturing company that specialized in both men's and women's full regular cotton, lisle and silk hosiery. The company was founded in 1907 and was named after its founder and president, William Brown. Prior to running his own company, William Brown was in a joint partnership with fellow textile manufacturing businessman Rowland Hunt, whose joint operation was called the Brown & Hunt Company, founded in 1892.¹¹ The company specialized in the manufacturing of cotton hosiery. The factory for the Brown & Hunt Company was located at the corner of Allegheny Avenue and A Street, roughly nine blocks west of the subject property at J Street. This partnership dissolved in 1907 when Rowland Hunt decided to create his own company, adequately called the Rowland Hunt Hosiery Company. As a result of the split, the Rowland Hunt Hosiery Company erected a new factory building located at the corner of Westmorland and Collins Streets while the newly formed William Brown Company retained the current building at the corner of Allegheny Avenue and A Street.¹² In 1909, the William Brown Company decided to move its operations to a larger factory building located at the corner of J and Ontario Streets, the nominated property, which was previously the home of the Lee Hosiery Mill.

In 1921, founder William Brown decided to step down from the position of presidency and appointed the then vice-president, James J. Sullivan, to be president of the company. Sullivan served as the president of the company from 1921-1928. He also served on the board of directors for the Textile National Bank, which was founded in 1904 with a goal to service and promote textile manufacturers in Philadelphia.¹³ During his time as president, he witnessed two construction projects at the mill complex: an addition to the original building constructed c.1923, and a new building c.1926.

By the 1920s, the William Brown Company had stabilized itself as a formidable figure in the hosiery industry of Kensington. In order to keep up with increased production rates, they required new equipment and a larger space. In 1923, due to the rapid growth of the company, the William Brown Company paid for a new three-story plus basement addition to be constructed at the north end of their extant building. This addition included two new fire towers located centrally, and a new one story boiler room located at the northwest corner. The total cost of construction for the addition was \$78,000.¹⁴

In only three years' time, additional plans were made to construct a completely new building located north of the current building. This construction was evidently encouraged by Harry Brocklehurst, a prominent banker and developer in the

⁷ "Ralph P. Hinchaman, Hosiery Distributer; Retired Senior Partner of Firm Here, Descendant of Colonial Families, Dead at 77." NY Times. 31 Jan 1938.

⁸ Textile World Record, Volume 32. Boston, MA: Lord and Nagle Company. 1907, 147.

⁹ Men's Wear. [semi-monthly], Volume 27. Clothing Trade. 1909, 94.

¹⁰ The National Register nomination for the Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill in Philadelphia (listed 2014) provides a detailed description of full-fashioned hosiery, which became increasingly popular in the 1910s in keeping with shorter hemlines and made more cost-effective by improvements in mechanization; stockings could be better fitted to the shape of a leg, and less baggy.

¹¹ "Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Pennsylvania, 1893," Pennsylvania Bureau of Statistics: Volume 20. B.F. Meyers, 100

¹² "America's Textile Reporter, For the Combined Textile Industries," 1907, 1136.

¹³ "Pope Honors Two: Philadelphians Get Rank of Papal Chamberlain," The Philadelphia Inquirer. 26 April 1924.

¹⁴ "Activities of the Day in Real Estate," The Philadelphia Inquirer. 17 Nov 1923.

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA

County and State

textile community who held the title of President for the Textile National Bank from 1912-1930. Throughout his tenure, Harry Brocklehurst assisted in the development of many textile manufacturing buildings.¹⁵

This new building, constructed c.1926, was three stories in height and included a full basement. The function and style ran consistent with the extant building on the property located to its south. This addition also featured a small one-story loading bay located at the southwest corner of the new building. The total cost of the new building was \$225,000.¹⁶

At this time, the area surrounding the William Brown Company was also witnessing growth and new construction. From 1903, when the first building was completed, to 1926, new manufacturing buildings, row houses and parks filled the neighboring land for blocks in each direction. Neighboring the subject building were two large scale manufacturing plants, the Model Mills Company Building located directly to the west on the same block, and the Luithlen Dye Corporation Building located across Estaugh Street to the north. The Model Mills Company, manufacturer of carpets and rugs, constructed their five-story building in 1909. Other companies, including those who manufactured hosiery goods, also used the building for their operations as tenants. These included the Brentmore Knitting Mills and the Henry Brown and Sons Company. Henry Brown was the brother of William Brown. In conjunction with running the William Brown Company, Henry Brown was also the acting treasurer for the Henry Brown and Sons Co. which was founded in 1915. The Luithen Dye Corporation Building was constructed in 1895, with an addition built early in the 20th century, and functioned as a cotton yarn dyeing and bleaching facility. The William Brown Company did not have any formal, functional relationship with the adjacent factories, beyond the familial relationship with Henry Brown.

In 1928, James J. Sullivan passed away and the presidency of the company transferred to John Monaghan, a former district attorney and judge of the Common Pleas Court. Coinciding with this change of presidency was the appointment of Harry Brocklehurst as member of the board of directors for the William Brown Company. As stated previously, Brocklehurst was a key figure in the proposal to construct the c.1926 building as well as in the textile manufacturing landscape of the greater Kensington area.

The William Brown Company continued to own and operate the complex until 1935 when the property was sold via an auction conducted by the order of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, held on November 20th and 21st, 1935.¹⁷ Within this auction was the sale of the company's real estate, machinery, equipment, patent rights and trade names. The winner of the auction was the Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Company who won with a bid of \$330,000.¹⁸ While there is no documentation discovered to date specifying why the William Brown Company closed, it can be speculated that the trend of moving labor to cheaper regions of the United States had a large influence on the decision to close. These regions were mainly located in southern states with Tennessee and North Carolina being the primary benefactors. Other major hosiery manufacturers, such as the Brownhill and Kramer Mill, suffered similar fates.

From 1936 to early 1940, the building was vacant. By early 1940, the building was sold again, this time to the Franklin Lamp Manufacturing Company.¹⁹ The Franklin Manufacturing Company remained tenants of the complex for the next couple decades, frequently renting out space to other small business ventures. By the late 1970s, the Diamond Furniture Company took over the complex and has remained the primary tenant to present day.²⁰

¹⁵ "Harry Brocklehurst," The Philadelphia Inquirer. 04 Nov 1932; "Harry Brocklehurst, Builder, Dies at 77," The New York Times. 04 Nov 1932.

¹⁶ "Activities of the Day in Real Estate," The Philadelphia Inquirer. 02 Dec 1926.

¹⁷ "At Auction: Real Estate, Machinery, Equipment, Patent Rights, Trade Names, "Granite," Etc. Of William Brown Company," The Philadelphia Inquirer. 19 Oct 1935.

¹⁸ "Activities of the Day in Real Estate," The Philadelphia Inquirer. 25 Nov 1935.

¹⁹ "Activities of the Day in Real Estate," The Philadelphia Inquirer. 25 April 1940.

²⁰ The Bell Telephone Company City Directories. EDR.

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA

County and State

The Textile Industry in Philadelphia:

During the 19th century, the city of Philadelphia changed from a predominantly commercial port to a major center of specialty and commodity production. For many industries during the 19th century, the city of Philadelphia was seen as a new canvas to promote the manufacturing of such goods as shoes, hats, steel and wood products, a rise that corresponded with the national trend spearheaded by the Industrial Revolution. Yet, while many new industries were being established in Philadelphia, the textile industry had already had a formidable presence in the city and at the time was its largest industry and had been one of the largest textile manufacturing centers in the United States.²¹ By the mid-19th century, the greater Philadelphia area achieved an unprecedented level of prominence within the textile industry and earned the title as the “world’s largest and most diversified textile center,” a title that was reinforced by the fact that the city of Philadelphia alone produced more fabric than any other city in the United States, and even out produced the entire state of New York.²²

The textile industry in Philadelphia dates to the late 17th century, shortly after the founding of the city in 1682, and quickly became one of its leading industries. The neighborhood of Germantown, located northwest of downtown Philadelphia, became the first focal point of the textile industry in the city. This was achieved by the mid-18th century when a high number of European immigrants arrived, primarily from Germany and Ireland, who brought with them the skills needed to advance the local textile industry.²³

The late-18th century in Philadelphia witnessed some of the earliest attempts at creating semi-large scale factories focused on the production of textiles. Prior to these attempts, textile manufacturing was done primarily as an independent means of production, typically in homes and small shops. New efforts in mechanical technology paved the way for this new vision, most notably through Christopher Tully’s new spinning jenny, which was capable of spinning twenty-four threads at one time, the first such machine built in the United States.²⁴ With this feat, the first established factory building was founded at the corner of Ninth and Market Streets in 1775, titled “The United Company of Philadelphia, for Promoting American Manufactures.”²⁵

The early 19th century saw a rapid increase in large scale textile manufacturing in Philadelphia. This was spurred by three reasons: the introduction and further development of steam power and rail transportation, the ease on restrictions on the transfer of technology from Europe to America, and the increased immigration of Europeans to America with an emphasis on those who understood European textile manufacturing. This development happened rather quickly and as a result, new neighborhoods in Philadelphia began to see an increase in textile production, including Manayunk, Frankford, and Kensington.²⁶

In 1855, the textile industry topped the list for the largest grossing industry in Philadelphia, valued at \$23,561,568.²⁷ Subcategories of the textile industry include cotton production, mixed cotton and wool production, print and dye works, carpets, wool production, silk production, hosiery, dyers, hair cloth, dry goods, and twine and nets. This extensive list of production was unique to Philadelphia. Typically, geographical regions specialized on one, or maybe two, textile productions. For example, New England was known for its cotton sheet printing and broad cloths.

²¹ Sharon McConell-Sidorick, “Chapter Title: Community of Labor,” *Silk Stockings and Socialism: Philadelphia’s Radical Hosiery Workers from the Jazz Age to the New Deal*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina. 2017), 14

²² Logan I. Ferguson, “Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia.” *National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form*. (2012): 10.

²³ Europe had been at the forefront of the textile industry.

²⁴ Perry Walton, “The Story of Textiles: A Bird’s Eye View of the History of the Beginning and the Growth of the Industry by which Mankind is Clothed.” (Boston, MA: J.S. Lawrence. 1912), 140.

²⁵ *Ibid*, 139.

²⁶ Jack McCarthy, “Textile Manufacturing and Textile Workers,” *The Encyclopedia of Greater Philadelphia*. (New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University) 2018.

²⁷ Ferguson, 10.

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA

County and State

According to the Philadelphia Board of Trade, dated 1855, the production of cotton was the highest grossing subcategory of textile production with a value set at \$5,879,963 and consisted of 101 manufacturing companies manned by 6,449 employees. The production of mixed cotton and wool was a close second with a total value of \$5,698,776 and consisted of 66 manufacturing companies with 3,434 employees, almost half of the workforce that made up cotton production. Two other categories that produced high quantities of manufacturers and employees were the carpet division (124 manufacturing companies with 2,680 employees) and the hosiery division (102 manufacturing companies with 2,673 employees).²⁸ Within five years, the total output and value of the textile industry rose to \$135 million with 464 manufacturing companies and 18,521.

New and more organized techniques of manufacturing were also developed and refined during the mid to late 19th century. This was achieved through textile factories producing or performing one specialty product/and or function and after that factory's task was complete, they would then pass their product on to the next factory. For example, textile fibers could be spun in one factory, woven in another, dyed in a third, and then finished in a final one.²⁹ This technique became a staple of the Philadelphia textile industry.

By the early 20th century, the textile manufacturing industry was "the most important industry in Philadelphia, their total value being over one-fifth that of all industries."³⁰ This statement is further enhanced by the fact that five of the twelve industries in Philadelphia whose categorization was "First," meaning most important, were considered textiles. These included such industries as 'dyeing and finishing textiles,' and 'hosiery and knit goods.'³¹ By 1909, the total value of the textile industry was \$152,462,000, with the top three industries being 'woolen and worsted goods,' 'hosiery and knit goods,' and 'carpets and rugs.'³² Nationally, the city of Philadelphia's textile output far exceeded that of any other city in the nation with the city of Lawrence, Massachusetts, coming in at second with \$70,000,000.³³

Labor unions were a major influence on the textile industry during the turn of the century. Officially organized in 1901, the National Union of Textile Workers was established to preserve the well-being of textile workers. To better insure the success of the unions, cities created local divisions. In Philadelphia, the name of the local division was the Local #706. One of the Local #706's most influential activities happened immediately following the conclusion of World War I, when the hosiery division saw great contradictions between its capital and labor force. This strife was brought upon the industry by the manufacturers' increasing attempts to "control the shop floor, enforce anti-union 'open shops,' and consolidate power unimpeded by organized workers."³⁴ In 1919, beginning in January of that year and ending in early April, the hosiery industry in Philadelphia witnessed perhaps its most important strike that included more than 4,000 hosiery workers across fifteen factories whose refusal to work was based on the fact that the workers were suffering from unfair wages and hours that were brought about through roll over war contracts that were signed during World War I. The unionized workers under the direction of the Local #706 demanded a 48-hour work week, a \$.25 cent increase in wages, and independent control of the industry in Philadelphia. The William Brown Company was one of the fifteen hosiery manufacturers that were affected by the strike.³⁵

In many Philadelphia neighborhoods workers lived adjacent to the factories. Due to transportation limits, neither they nor their employers had the ability to look elsewhere for work and workers. Most companies were independent, meaning there were no outside resources for them to depend on. As a result, unions took full advantage of this captive audience and held

²⁸ Ferguson, 11.

²⁹ McCarthy.

³⁰ John James MacFarlane, "Manufacturing in Philadelphia, 1683-1912, with photographs of some of the leading industrial establishments," (Philadelphia, PA: Philadelphia Commercial Museum. 1912), 11.

³¹ Ibid, 12.

³² Ibid, 13.

³³ MacFarlane, 14.

³⁴ McConell-Sidorick, 42.

³⁵ "Knitters Here End 3 Months Strike." Phil Inquirer. 13 April 1919.

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA

County and State

strikes in 1903, 1910, 1917, 1919, 1921, 1922, 1931 and 1934. By the 1920s, the hosiery workers union was so powerful that it ensured workers in the nearby Kensington neighborhood had the highest salary in the entire country.³⁶

The first significant manufacturing shift in the area came just prior to World War I when factories began receiving orders specifically for blankets, sweaters and underwear intended for militarized troops. Contracts for such manufacturing were not only exclusive to the United States troops, but also for the allied British, French, Russian and Italian troops.³⁷ Once the war had ended and the contracts were no longer needed, an ample void was created in Kensington's industrial sector. In an attempt to recover from this, the Philadelphia Textile Manufacturers Association was established in 1920 to "benefit and develop the textile industry in the city of Philadelphia and vicinity." This was generally considered to be a successful effort as the late 1920s the Kensington area alone had 350 textile mills operated by 35,000 employees. However, this upturn was stymied with the arrival of the Great Depression, resulting in a slight downtick in manufacturing companies.³⁸

Recovery from the Great Depression came in the form of the National Industrial Recovery Act 1933, a subsidiary of the New Deal. This act was written in two sections, one of which created the Works Progress Administration, an initiative to employ workers to construct public buildings. The second section was focused on manufacturing growth and "authorized the promulgation of industrial codes of fair competition, guaranteed trade union rights [and] permitted the regulation of working standards." This brief revival was tempered by the fact that by 1934, the textile industry was considerably diminished from its peak after World War I. By 1940, the Kensington area had only 265 remaining textile firms. The next few decades saw a steady decrease in manufacturing firms and by 1960, Kensington had only 75 remaining textile businesses.³⁹ These numbers are reflective of mills across the city. The textile industry continued to be a strong presence for the city of Philadelphia through to the mid-20th century. Yet by the end of World War II, the industry started to become weaker as cheaper labor and energy costs increasingly attracted facilities to relocate in other parts of the country.

Emergence of Full-Fashioned Hosiery in large-scale manufacturing and the growth of the industrial factory:

The hosiery industry in Philadelphia witnessed a major change in production during the early part of the 20th century due to the increased demand for full-fashioned hosiery⁴⁰. The leading factor for the transformation was a change in style for women's clothing. By 1912, women's skirts and dresses were starting to shorten in length. As a result, women's hosiery was becoming more visible and they wanted a more attractive garment. While full-fashioned hosiery was not a new invention, its commercial availability was very limited due to the time and money. The fabric of choice for full-fashioned hosiery was silk which was too expensive for most large scale manufacturers whose primary fabric of choice was cotton. In order to meet the demands for full-fashioned hosiery while saving on fabric cost, manufacturers developed a new technique called mercerizing. Mercerizing was a procedure that flattened the cotton yarns through a system of rollers and then waxing them with paraffin. The finished product was typically referred to as lisle.⁴¹ Evidence of the William Brown Company's involvement in the large-scale manufacturing of full-fashioned hosiery can be found as early as 1912 where advertisements for employment in the company are found in the pages of the Philadelphia Inquirer (Figure 9).

Techniques on how to better make an affordable, yet durable full-fashioned stocking were constantly being invented and applied. By 1915, the standard stocking consisted of a half silk boot, meaning the lower half of the leg was made of real

³⁶ Ferguson, 18. While the William Brown Hosiery Mill may not be within an area classified as the Kensington neighborhood, depending on current maps, it is approximately 1 mile northeast of the Kensington Textile MPDF boundary, and similar in development, and appears to have experienced similar trends.

³⁷ Ferguson, 18.

³⁸ Ferguson, 19.

³⁹ Ferguson, 19.

⁴⁰ Earlier hosiery was seamless, knitted on a rotary frame, and tended to sag after a few washings. Full-fashioned hosiery was better fitted, knitted on a flat frame and leg-shaped so that it retained its form over time. It was also knitted from silk, creating more transparency. The fit and the sheerness were well-suited for shorter hemlines.

⁴¹ The full-fashioned hosiery industry in Pennsylvania/Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Labor and Industry, Bureau of Employment and Unemployment Compensation. Harrisburg, Pa: The Bureau, 1950, 4.

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Philadelphia, PA

Name of Property

County and State

silk while the upper part was composed of mercerized cotton. The toe, sole, large square pocket heel and most of the foot was mercerized due to the constant wear and tear at these locations. Most of the stockings were 36 gauge and finished in a black color. By 1915, the William Brown Company had 70 knitting machines, 80 ribbing machines, 20 lopping machines, and 20 sewing machines while focusing on full-fashioned hosiery that was made from both silk and lisle.⁴² The company continued to operate at an efficient level in the following years with an average number of employees being around 250.⁴³ The employment was generally split evenly between male and female, with the former being slightly higher. Traditionally, the men worked the large knitting machinery while women worked the smaller sewing machines.⁴⁴

In 1918, the stocking was comprised of three-quarters silk with only one-quarter being mercerized cotton. The gauge was also increased to 39 with black still being the predominant color. In 1922, the gauge of stocking was increased yet again to 42. At the beginning of 1922, the Industrial Directory of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania lists 138 functioning hosiery mills in Philadelphia, with the average size of employment being roughly 100 employees. The William Brown Company had 226, making it the tenth largest hosiery mill in the city, slightly larger than that of other major hosiery manufacturers such as the Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill and the same number of employees as the Apex Hosiery Mill, both of which were co-leaders in the industry for Kensington.⁴⁵ By the end of 1922, the company had 300 employees, the most to date.⁴⁶

The continued growth and advancement of the full-fashioned industry is evident in the history of the William Brown Company. Circa 1923, the company sought to expand their facility by adding an addition to the north elevation of their current building with the intent to efficiently equip the factory with the needed machinery to make keep with the demands of full-fashioned hosiery. In three years' time, the company constructed another building located directly to the north of current building. With the addition of the building, the company nearly doubled its employee count to 549 in 1928, making it the sixth largest hosiery manufacturer in Philadelphia. For comparison, there were 110 hosiery companies functioning in 1928.⁴⁷

The company continued to grow in the following year, hitting its peak in employment in 1931 with 647 and continuing to be one of the largest hosiery manufacturers in Philadelphia. When the company closed the mill in 1935, the employment had dropped slightly to 510.

The William Brown Hosiery Mill as a locally significant remnant of the textile industry:

The William Brown Hosiery Mill conveys the importance of the history of Philadelphia's textile industry through the subject buildings' rich history along with physical integrity. The hosiery division of the textile industry in the greater Kensington area thrived during the early 20th century, coinciding with the period of significance for the William Brown Hosiery Mill, which was a key contributor to the city's rise in hosiery production. Philadelphia's textile industry prior to the turn of the century was more heavily focused on the production of carpets and wool products with the hosiery division being significantly less than it was during early 20th century.

In 2012, the *Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia Multiple Property Documentation Form (MPDF)* was endorsed for use by the National Park Service. For the purposes of the MPDF, the geographic area of focus was the central part of what is currently known as the Kensington neighborhood, where the concentration of textile buildings is the greatest. The William Brown Hosiery Mill is

⁴² "America's Textile Reporter, For the Combined Textile Industries," 1915, 1081.

⁴³ Based off of a sample size of roughly 20 hosiery mills in Kensington from the Industrial Directory of the Commonwealth of PA Volume 3, this number of employees is slightly higher than average.

⁴⁴ "Postwar Employment Prospects for Women in the Hosiery Industry," The United States Department of Labor: Bulletin No. 835.

⁴⁵ "Industrial Directory of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for 1922." *Pennsylvania. Dept. of Internal Affairs. Bureau of Statistics*, 1124.

⁴⁶ "America's Textile Reporter, For the Combined Textile Industries," 1922, 936.

⁴⁷ "Industrial Directory of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for 1928." *Pennsylvania. Dept. of Internal Affairs. Bureau of Statistics*, 541.

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA

County and State

approximately one mile from the area studied in the MPDF, shares the same trends and influences, and thrived alongside the centrally located manufacturing companies and complexes. The MPDF has proven a useful tool to support nominations for textile resources outside its geographic limits.

While not nominated under that cover document based on the MPDF's defined geographic limits, the William Brown Hosiery Mill essentially reflects and meets the MDPF registration requirements and contains the salient character-defining features defined by the MPDF. For example, the MPDF highlights the use of reinforced concrete construction in the hosiery industry in Kensington, and Building 2 is of reinforced concrete construction. When compared to other significant and recently-listed textile resources, such as the Brownhill and Kramer Mill, the Franklin Carpet Mill, and the Gotham Silk Hosiery Mill, the William Brown Company Hosiery Mill compares favorably.

William Steele and Sons Company:

The William Steele and Sons Company was founded in 1886 under the name William Steele and Son by William Steele and his son Joseph M. Steele. William Steele was born in Ulster, Ireland and immigrated to the United States in 1846. By 1864, he was becoming a prominent carpenter and builder with work based in North Philadelphia. In 1881, he began to work with his son, Joseph M. Steele, who trained at the Spring Garden Institute and within the next five years, the two solidified themselves as the firm William Steele and Son. In 1900, William Steele's other son, John Lyle Steele, joined the company and thus changed their name to William Steele and Sons. In 1908, William Steel passed away, leaving the company at the hands of his two sons.⁴⁸ After his passing, Joseph M. Steele took the title of President while his younger brother took the role of Vice President, and subsequently changed the name of the company to the William Steele and Sons Company. The company continued to operate until 1936.⁴⁹

The William Steele and Sons Company was responsible for the construction of numerous large scale buildings throughout Philadelphia during their tenure from 1886 to 1936. During this time, they constructed the Witherspoon Building (c.1896, NR 1977) located in Center City, the Ninth National Bank (c.1894) located at the corner of Front Street and Norris Street in Kensington, the Terminal Commerce Building (1929, NR 1996) and the Harris Building (1914, NR 2001), both located near Center City. They were also responsible for constructing numerous manufacturing plants located within and around the neighborhood of Kensington. These included the Bernstein Manufacturing Co. factory building (c.1906), the Franklin Carpet Mill (1909, NR 2016), the Dill and Collins Co. factory building (c.1912), the C.H. Wasland and Sons factory building (c.1913), the N. Snellenburg and Co. factory building (c.1913), the Brownhill and Kramer Hosiery Mill (1921, NR 2014) and the John Blood and Co. factory building (c.1922). They were also involved in the construction of the Berean Manual Training and Industrial School campus (c.1908) which was a specialized school for African Americans and Women who wished to learn about industrial practices.

The William Brown Company Hosiery Mill showcases their timber-framed style of construction in Building 1, and stands as their only extant timber-framed mill.. The current architectural integrity of the William Brown Company Hosiery Mill also showcases the building as an exemplary member of their work that parallels their other extant work found in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Brown Brothers:

Both independently and in association with his brothers Thomas and Henry, William Brown established himself as a formidable figure in Kensington's hosiery industry during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His endeavors in the industry began in 1888 when he along with his brothers partnered with Frederick C. Aberle, a German-born manufacturer and business man, to form the hosiery firm Brown Brothers and Aberle Co. As stated previously, William Brown

⁴⁸ "Steele, William (1839-1908)," Philadelphia Architects and Buildings.

https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/62820

⁴⁹ "Steele, Joseph Middleton (1865-1957)," Philadelphia Architects and Buildings.

https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/62819

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA

County and State

established the Brown & Hunt Company in 1892 and of course the William Brown Company in 1907. In that same year, Thomas Brown established the Brown-Moore Hosiery Company (later the Thomas Brown and Sons Co.) located at the corner of 2nd and Westmoreland Streets and specialized in full-fashioned hosiery. Eight years later in 1915, Henry Brown established the Henry Brown and Sons Co. That same year, Thomas Brown opened up another hosiery manufacturing plant called the Brown-Phelps. By 1922, the four plants had a total of 917 employees with a total capital gain of \$1.45 million. Alone, the William Brown Company and the Thomas Brown and Sons Co. employed more than the Brownhill and Kramer Hosiery Mill. Compared to the Apex Hosiery Mill, the William Brown Company employed only one fewer.⁵⁰ By 1928, it started to become evident that the William Brown Company was the most successful of the four mills/companies as reflected in the employment numbers. In 1931, the Henry Brown and Sons Co. had 210 as compared to the 647 that the William Brown Company employed. The William Brown Company was also the longest surviving of the Brown Brother companies with the 1935 industrial directory only stating the William Brown Company as operational. Today, all of the Brown Brother textile mills survive in good condition.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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⁵⁰ "America's Textile Reporter, For the Combined Textile Industries," 1922, 936.

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Philadelphia, PA

Name of Property

County and State

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https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/62820

“Steele, Joseph Middleton (1865-1957),” *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings.*
https://www.philadelphiabuildings.org/pab/app/ar_display.cfm/62819

Maps:

1895 Philadelphia Atlas Map

Newspapers, courtesy of Newspapers.com:

“Activities of the Day in Real Estate,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer.* 29 Nov 1902.

“Knitters Here End 3 Months Strike.” *Phil Inquirer.* 13 April 1919.

“Pope Honors Two: Philadelphians Get Rank of Papal Chamberlain,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer.* 26 April 1924.

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“Activities of the Day in Real Estate,” *The Philadelphia Inquirer.* 25 April 1940.

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):

NA

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.05 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude:	39.999088	Longitude:	-75.108751
2. Latitude:	39.999185	Longitude:	-75.109509
3. Latitude:	39.999871	Longitude:	-75.109343
4. Latitude:	39.999779	Longitude:	-75.108602

Verbal Boundary Description

The William Brown Company Hosiery Mill's boundary is inclusive of Philadelphia tax parcels 042N100076 and 042N100075.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundary consists of the legally recorded tax parcels associated with the Mill property within the period of significance. No known resources associated with the William Brown Company Hosiery Mill's operation at this location are excluded from the boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

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date October/2018

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Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets** (in ascending numerical order, by section and page number)
- **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.
Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for additional items, especially for "Photographs" below.)

Photographs:

Name of Property:	William Brown Company Hosiery Mill		
City or Vicinity:	Philadelphia		
County:	Philadelphia	State:	PA
Photographer:	Heritage Consulting Group		
Date Photographed:	April 2018		

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 20. Exterior View, east elevation of Building 1, looking west.
2 of 20. Exterior View, southeast corner of Building 2, looking northwest.

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA

County and State

- 3 of 20. Exterior View, looking west at central courtyard.
- 4 of 20. Exterior View, north elevation of Building 1, looking southwest.
- 5 of 20. Exterior View, north elevation of Building 1, looking south at boiler room and smoke stack.
- 6 of 20. Exterior View, east elevation of Building 2, looking west.
- 7 of 20. Exterior View, northeast corner of Building 2, looking southwest.
- 8 of 20. Exterior View, north elevation of Building 2, looking southeast.
- 9 of 20. Exterior View, west elevation of Building 2, looking southeast.
- 10 of 20. Exterior View, south elevation of Building 1, looking northeast.
- 11 of 20. Interior View, first floor of Building 1, looking east.
- 12 of 20. Interior View, first floor of Building 1, looking west.
- 13 of 20. Interior View, second floor of Building 1, looking east.
- 14 of 20. Interior View, third floor of Building 1, looking east.
- 15 of 20. Interior View, basement of Building 1, looking west.
- 16 of 20. Interior View, loading bay, looking north.
- 17 of 20. Interior View, first floor of Building 2, looking east.
- 18 of 20. Interior View, second floor of Building 2, looking west.
- 19 of 20. Interior View, third floor of Building 2, looking east.
- 20 of 20. Interior View, basement of Building 2, looking east.

Index of Figures:

- Figure 1. USGS Map
- Figure 2. National Register Boundary Map
- Figure 3. Site Development Map
- Figure 4. 1919 Sanborn Map
- Figure 5. 1951 Sanborn Map
- Figure 6. 1980 Sanborn Map
- Figure 7. 1989 Sanborn Map
- Figure 8. 1930 Historic Aerial Photograph
- Figure 9. Exterior Photograph Key: Site
- Figure 10. Interior Photograph Key: Building 1 (South) First Floor
- Figure 11. Photograph Key: Building 1 (South) Second Floor
- Figure 12. Photograph Key: Building 1 (South) Third Floor
- Figure 13. Photograph Key: Building 1 (South) Basement
- Figure 14. Photograph Key: Building 2 (North) First Floor
- Figure 15. Photograph Key: Building 2 (North) Second Floor
- Figure 16. Photograph Key: Building 2 (North) Third Floor
- Figure 17. Photograph Key: Building 2 (North) Basement

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

Figure 1. USGS Map. Location of property indicated by red square. Camden Quadrangle excerpt.



3400-3412 J Street



William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

Figure 2. National Register Boundary Map. The William Brown Company Hosiery Mill's boundary is inclusive of current Philadelphia tax parcels 042N100076 and 042N100075. Those tax parcels correspond to the historic boundary of the property within the period of significance. No known related resources have been excluded from the nominated boundary.



William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

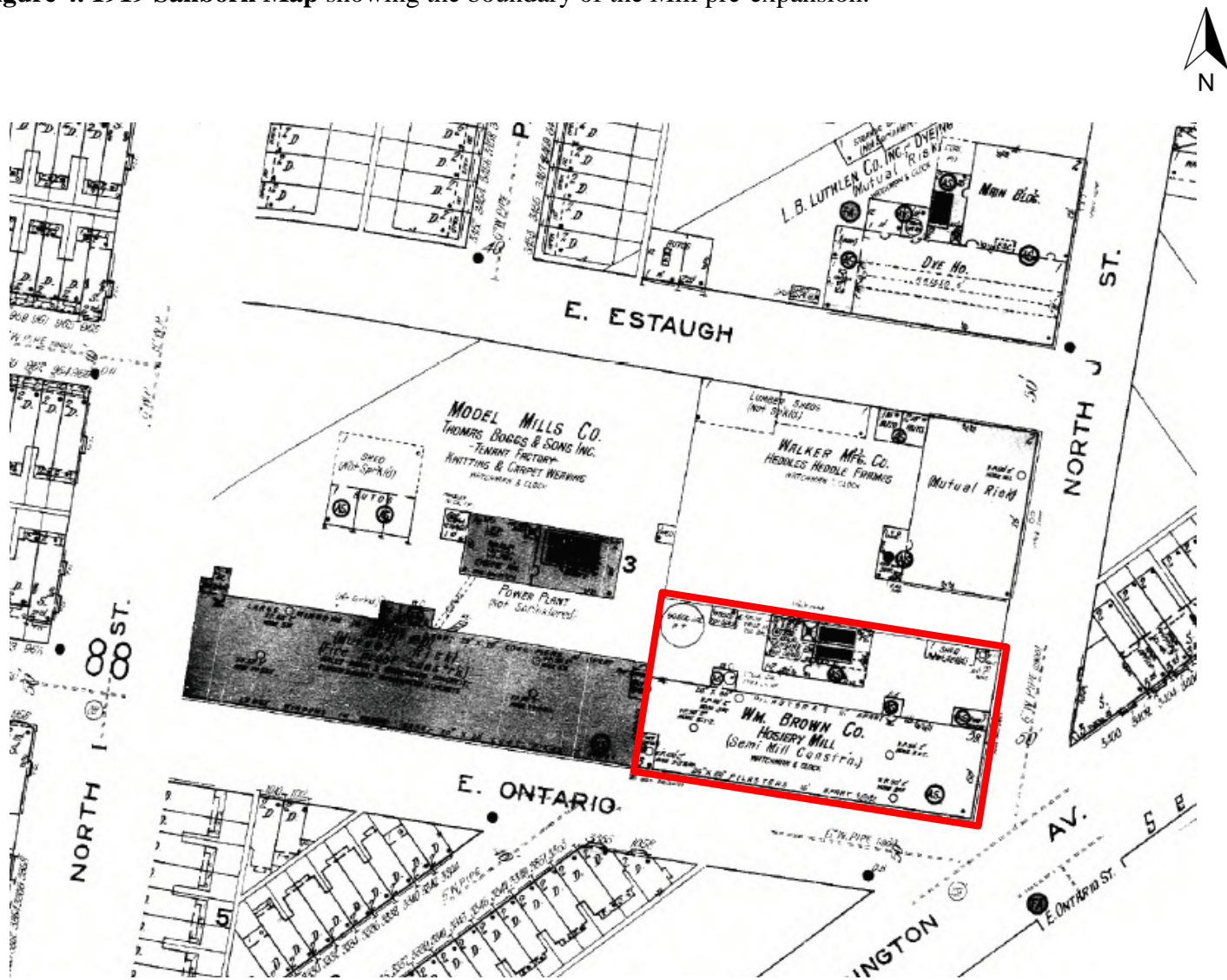
Figure 3. Site Development Map



William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

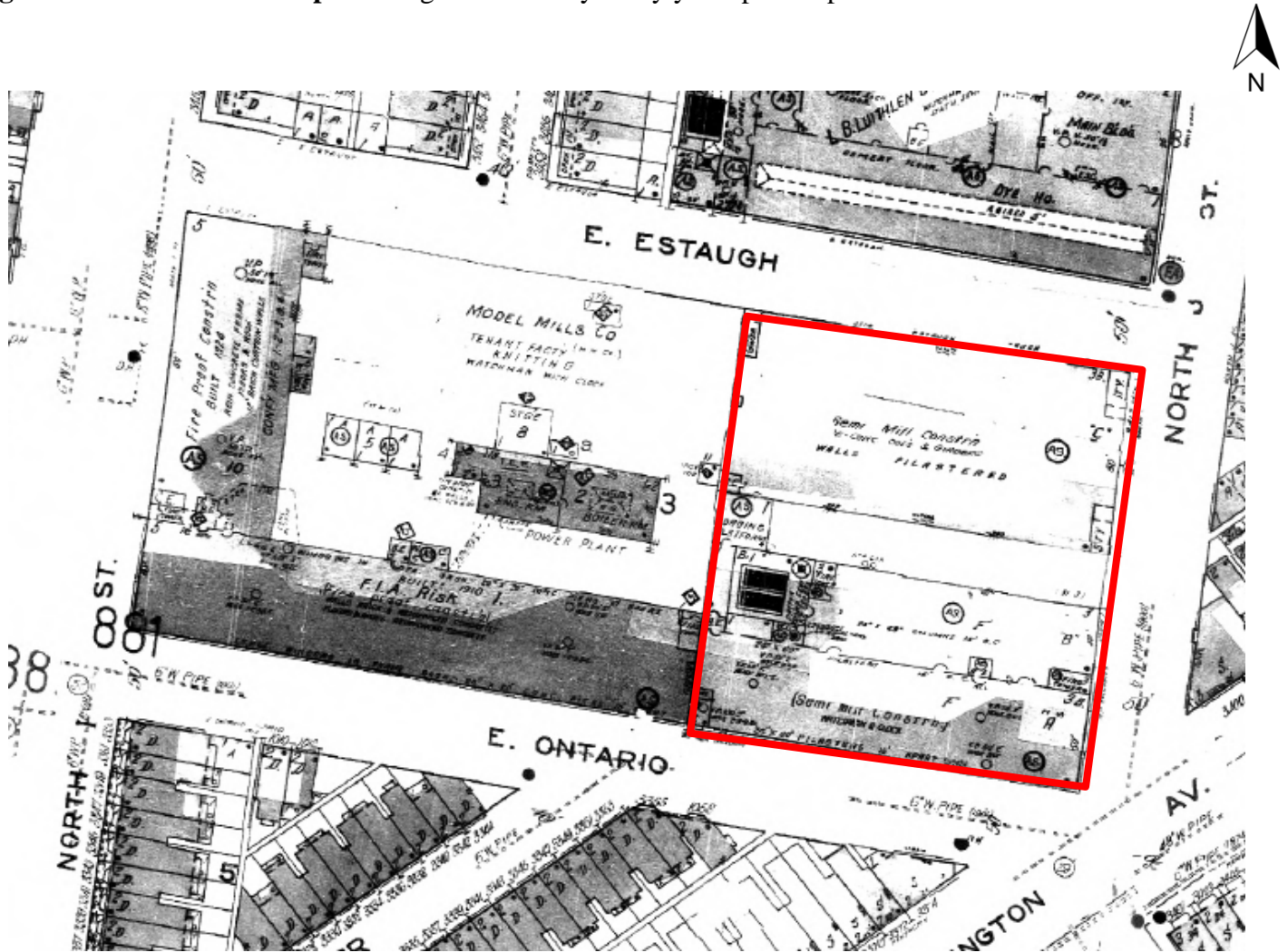
Figure 4. 1919 Sanborn Map showing the boundary of the Mill pre-expansion.



William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

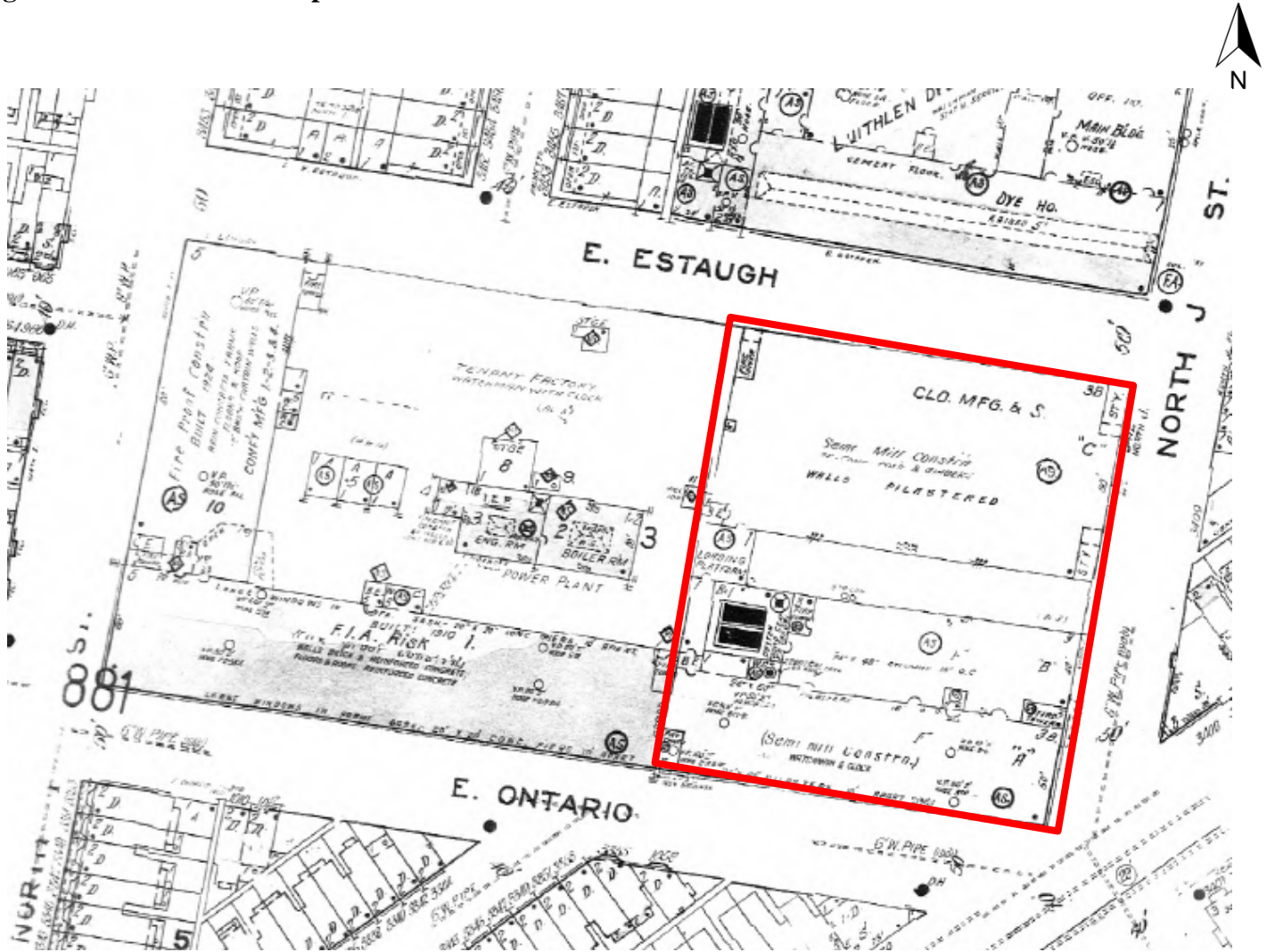
Figure 5. 1951 Sanborn Map showing the boundary many years post-expansion.



William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

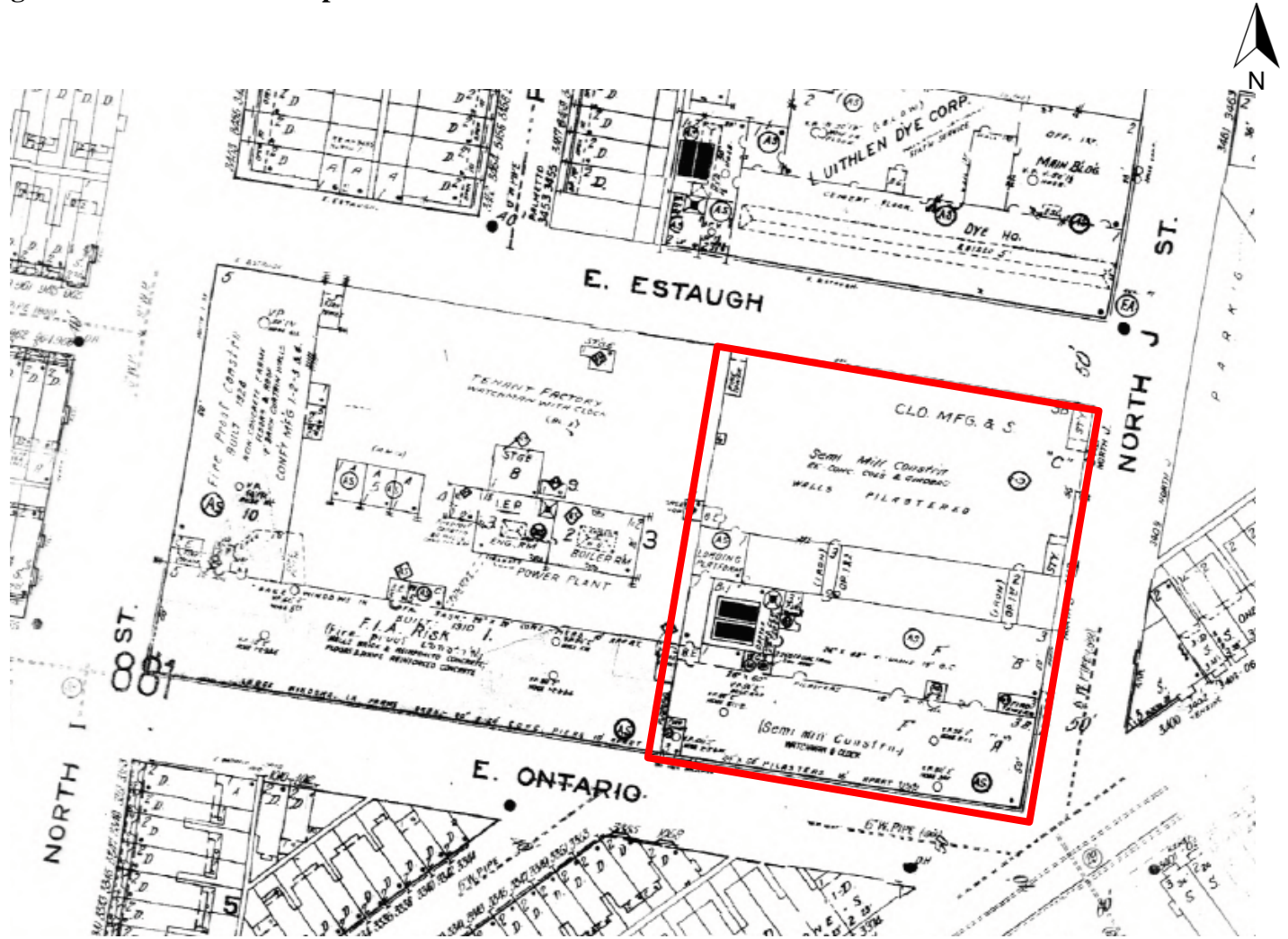
Figure 6. 1980 Sanborn Map



William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

Figure 7. 1989 Sanborn Map



William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

Figure 8. 1930 Historic Aerial Photograph showing Building 2 in place.

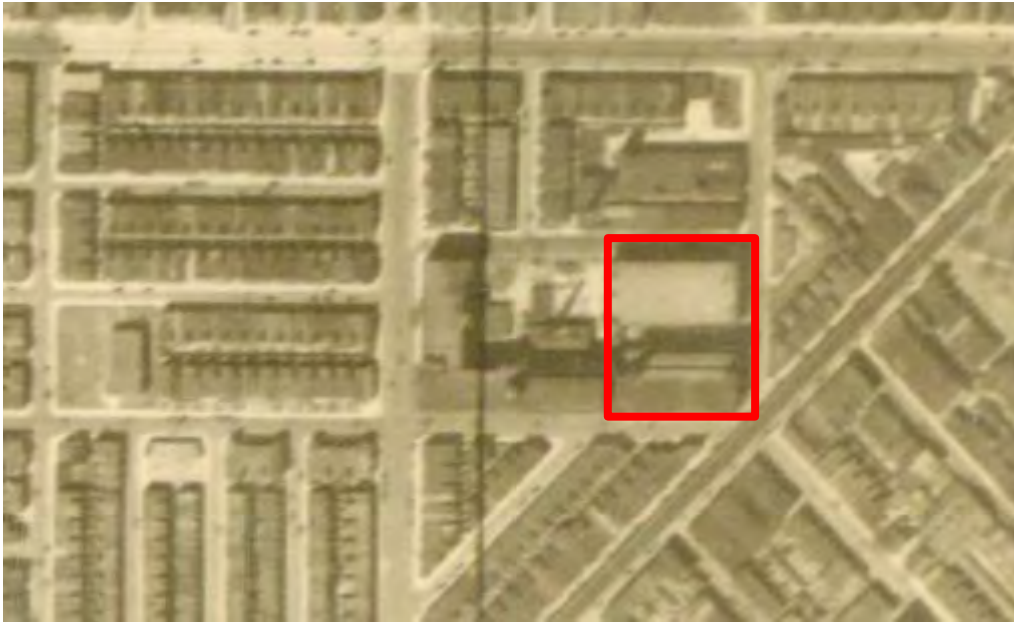


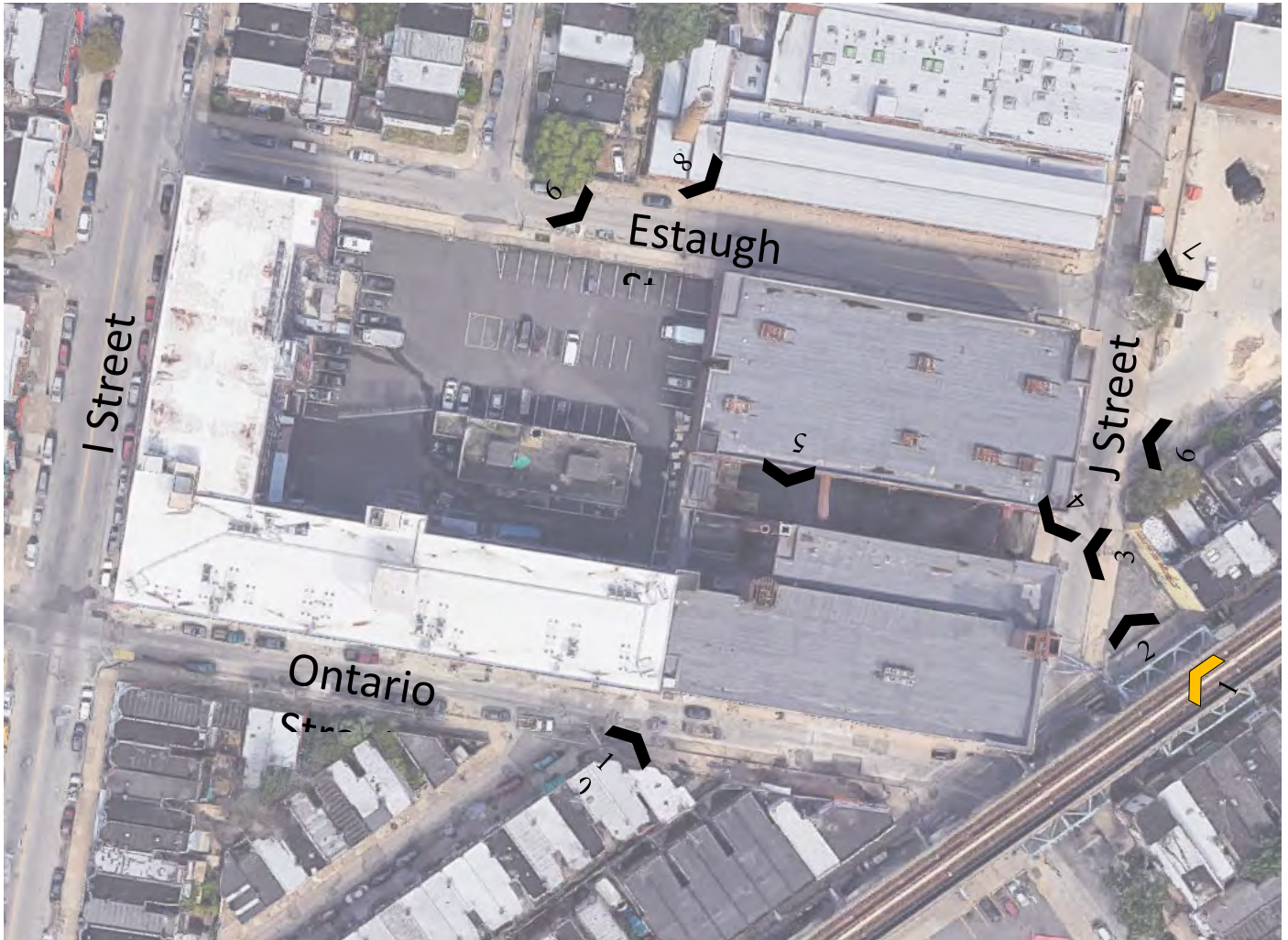
Figure 9. Newspaper Advertisement for the William Brown Company Hosiery Mill, c.1912 (Newspapers.com).

steady work. Miller & Sons Co., 5309 West-
minster ave.
HOSIERY—Experienced menders on press
work. William Brown Co., Kensington ave.
and Ontario.
HOSIERY—Experienced menders on white
work. Apply E. Sutro & Son Co., E. Thomp-

William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

Figure 9. Exterior Photograph Key



William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

Figure 10. Interior Photograph Key: Building 1 (South) First Floor

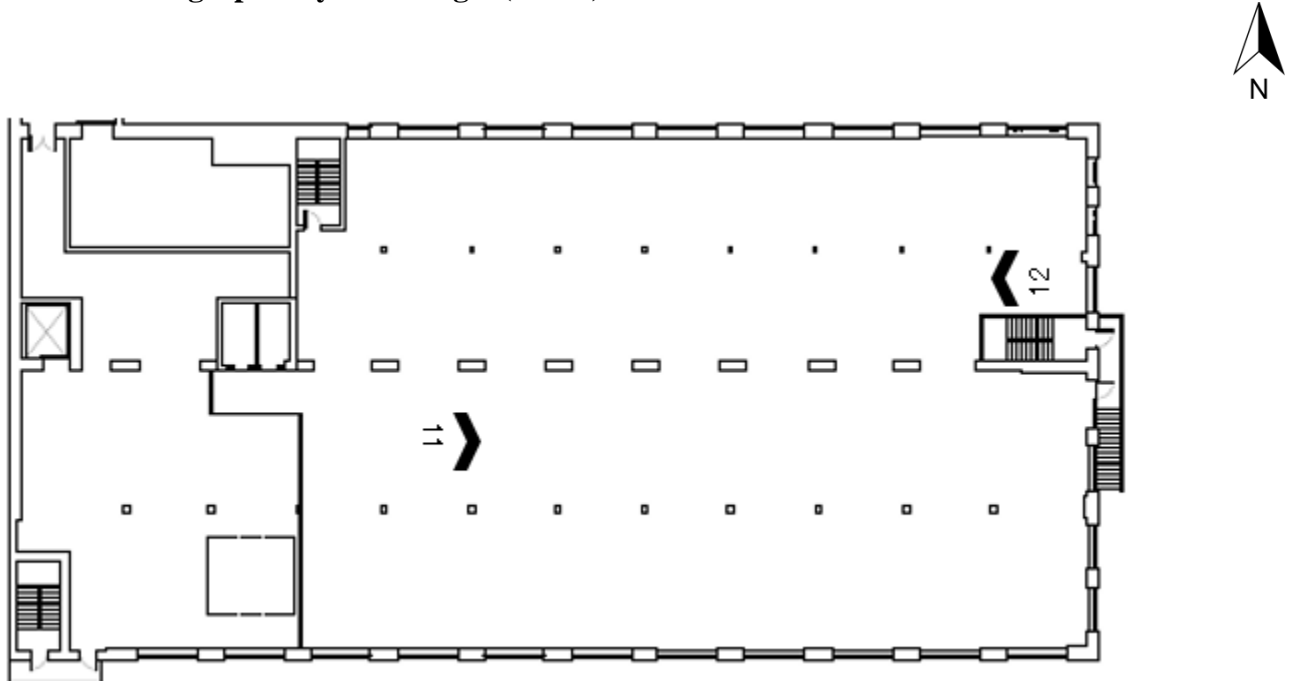
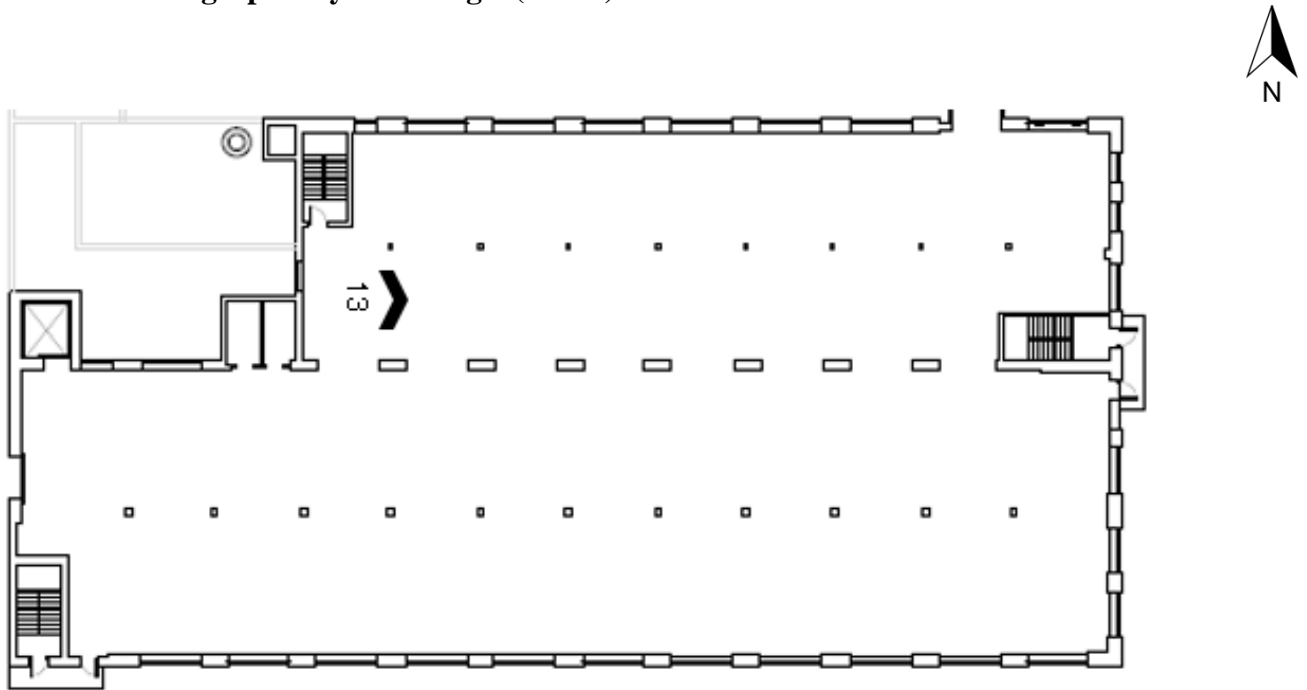


Figure 11. Interior Photograph Key: Building 1 (South) Second Floor



William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

Figure 12. Interior Photograph Key: Building 1 (South) Third Floor

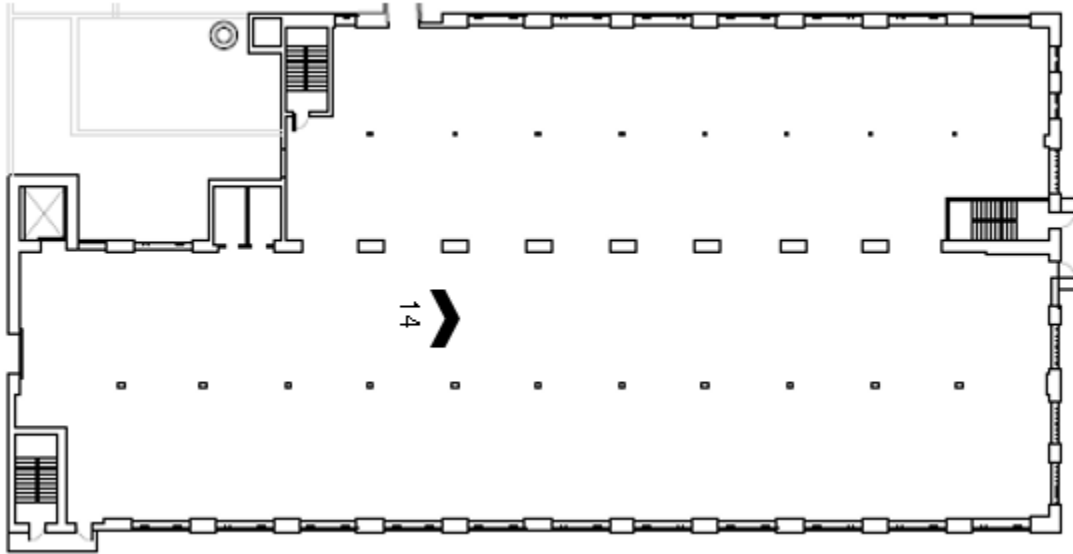
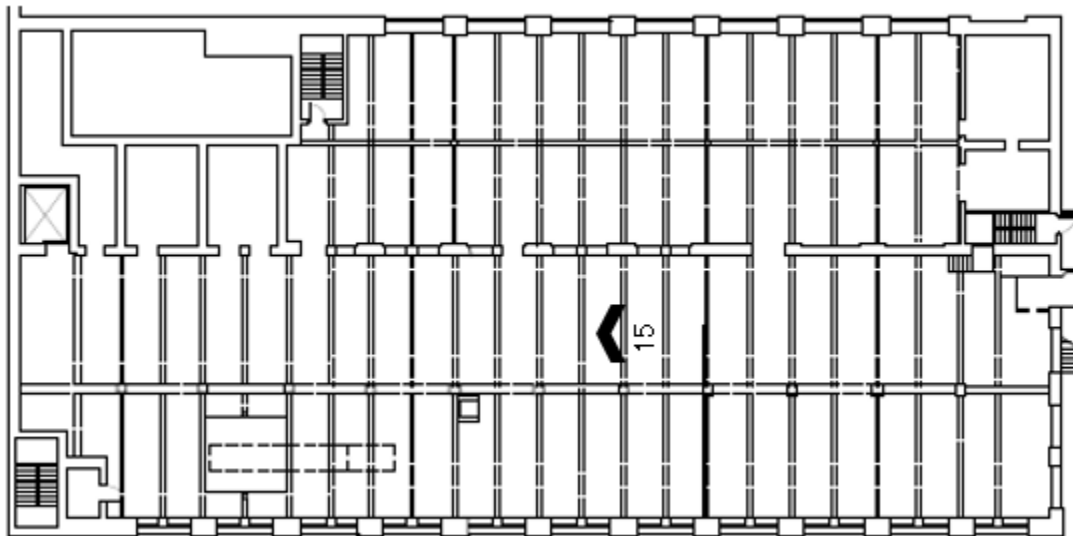


Figure 13. Interior Photograph Key: Building 1 (South) Basement



William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

Figure 14. Interior Photograph Key: Building 2 (North) First Floor

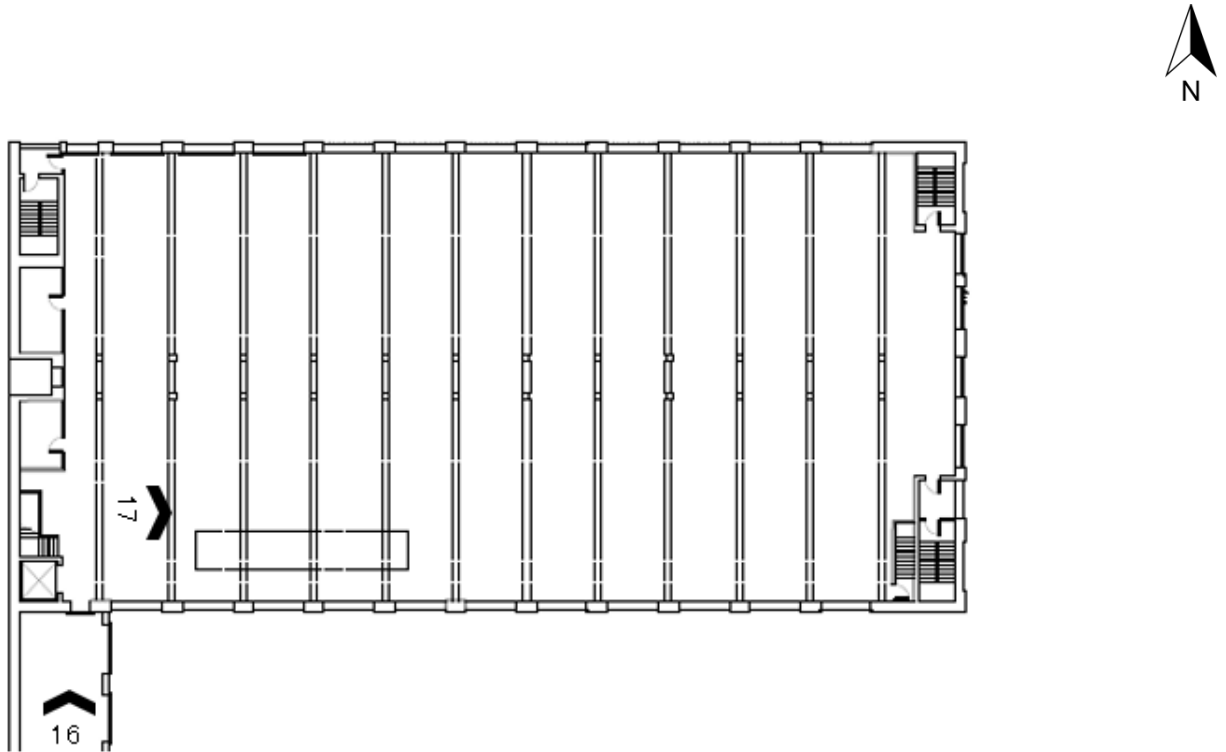
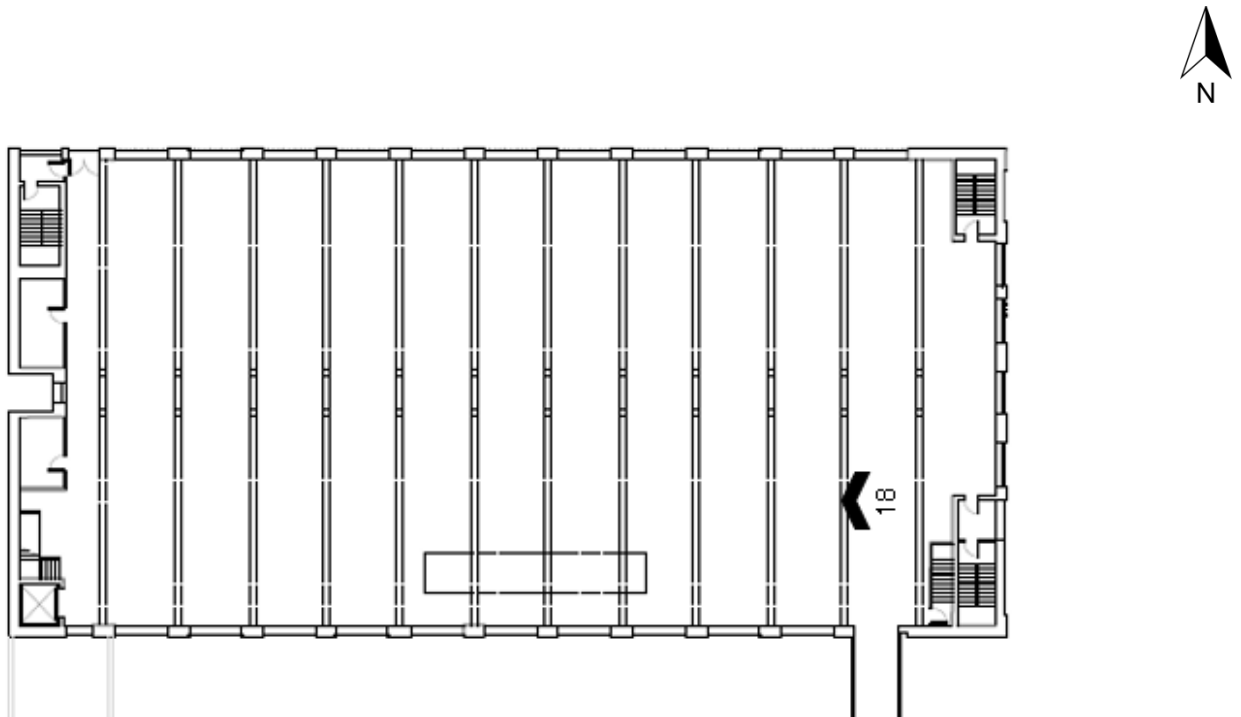


Figure 15. Interior Photograph Key: Building 2 (North) Second Floor



William Brown Company Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

Figure 16. Interior Photograph Key: Building 2 (North) Third Floor

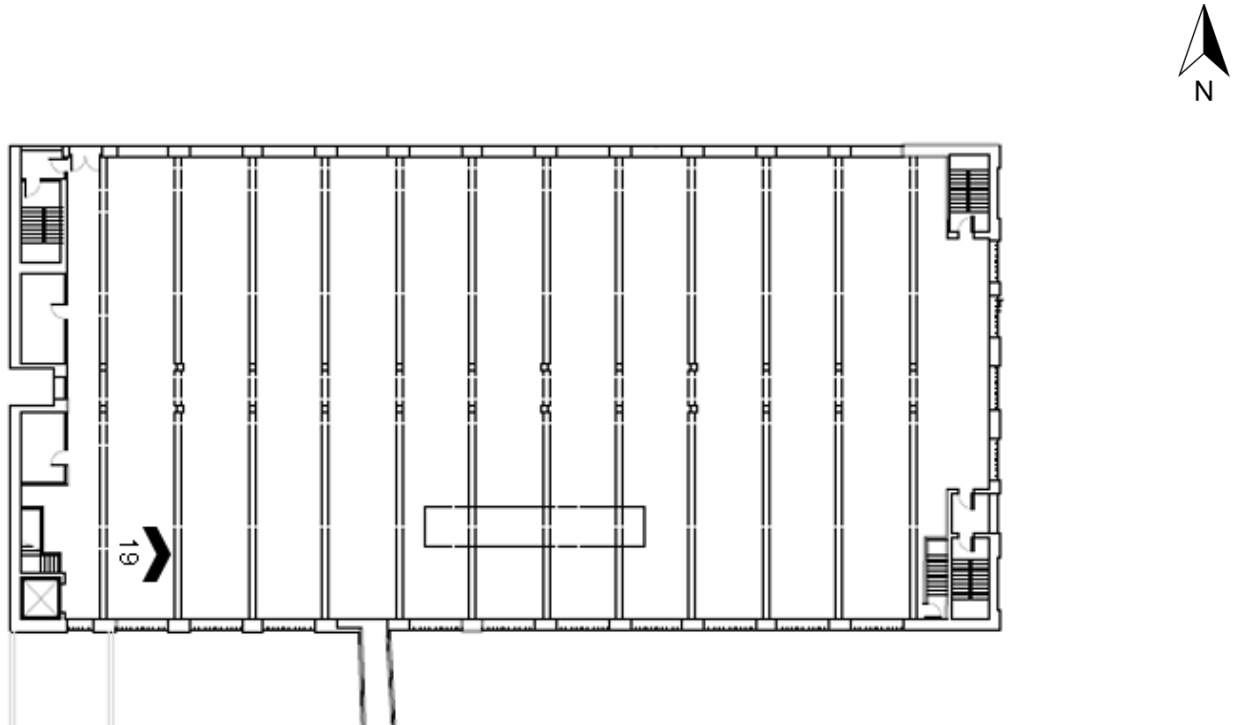
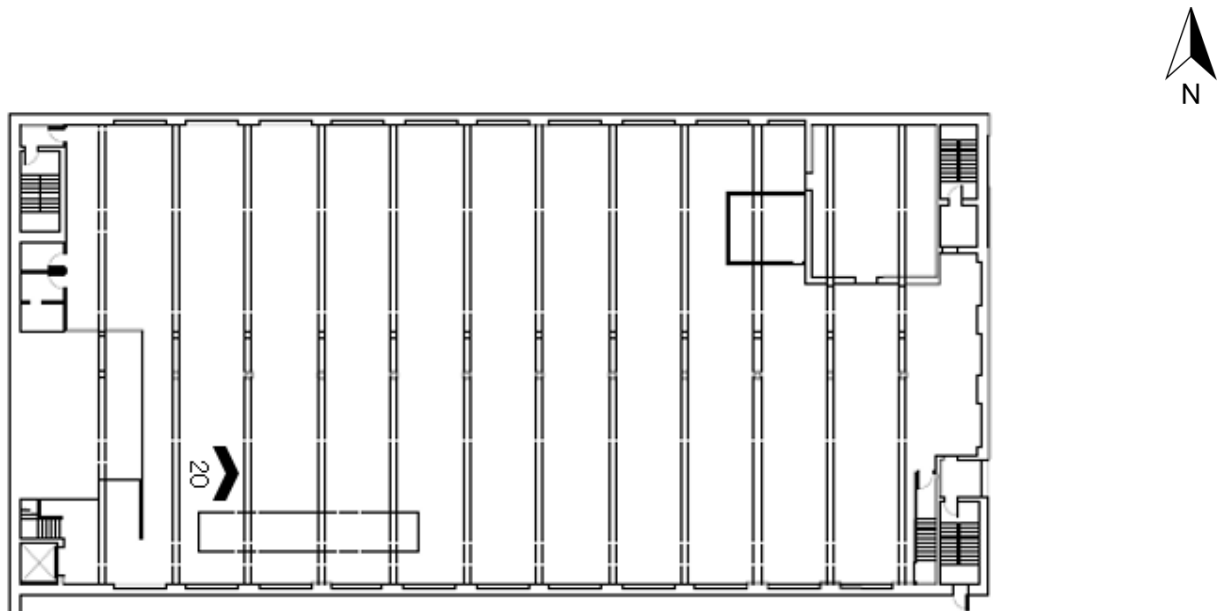


Figure 17. Interior Photograph Key: Building 2 (North) Basement



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 18 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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REMOVE
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SIGN



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PHILADELPHIA Furniture



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DIAMOND FURNITURE
CUSTOMER PICK-UP DOCK #1

DIAMOND FURNITURE
CUSTOMER PICK-UP

DIAMOND FURNITURE
CUSTOMER PICK-UP DOCK

DIAMOND FURNITURE
CUSTOMER PICK-UP DOCK

WARNING
DO NOT
PARK
OR
LOAD
IN
DOCK

B.I.R.L.



DIAMOND PERFORM
CUSTOMER PICK-UP

NO PARKING
ANY TIME

1774







EXIT

SR144

WAREHOUSE
34
INDUSTRIAL BUILDING
1000 10TH AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10018







NOTE
You are being
videotaped!
We Prosecute!











EXIT

MIRROR PAK
FRAGILE
HANDLE WITH CARE
DO NOT EXCEED THIS WEIGHT
DO NOT EXCEED THIS CAPACITY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: William Brown Company Hosiery Mill

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: PENNSYLVANIA, Philadelphia

Date Received: 12/3/2018 Date of Pending List: 12/28/2018 Date of 16th Day: 1/14/2019 Date of 45th Day: 1/17/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100003320

Nominator: Other Agency, SHPO

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 1/17/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Automatic listing due to lapse in appropriations.

Comments: AOS: Industry

Recommendation/ Criterion A
Criteria

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 1/17/19

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

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



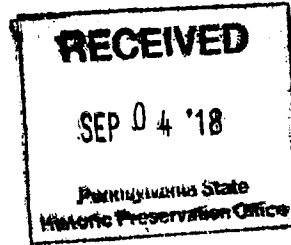
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102
Tel: 215.686.7660

Robert Thomas, AIA
Chair

Jonathan E. Farnham, Ph.D.
Executive Director



30 August 2018

Elizabeth Rairigh
Division Chief, Preservation Services
PA State Historic Preservation Office
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Re: 3400-3412 J Street, William Brown Hosiery Company

Dear Ms. Rairigh:

I am writing in response to your request that the Philadelphia Historical Commission provide its official Certified Local Government recommendations on the nomination proposing to add the William Brown Hosiery Company, 3400-3412 J Street in Philadelphia, to the National Register of Historic Places. At its monthly public meeting on 10 August 2018, the Philadelphia Historical Commission reviewed and discussed the nomination and accepted public testimony.

The Commission agreed that the building satisfies Criterion A in the area of Industry as an important example of a hosiery mill that contributed to the textile industry in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia, was innovative as one of the first full-size manufacturing mills to produce full-fashioned hosiery, and for its early involvement in organized labor unions that helped define and stabilize the hosiery industry in Philadelphia.

Dan McCoubrey, Commission member and Chair of the Architectural Committee recommended that the architectural description of Building 1 as a "heavy timber-framed building clad in brick" should technically be described as a "masonry bearing wall building with a heavy timber frame."

The Commission supported the National Register nomination for 3400-3412 J Street. Thank you for providing the Philadelphia Historical Commission with the opportunity to comment on this amendment.

Yours truly,

Jonathan E. Farnham, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office

PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

November 26, 2018

Joy Beasley, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service, US Department of Interior
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington DC 20240

Re: William Brown Hosiery Mill, Philadelphia, PA

Dear Ms. Beasley:

Enclosed please find the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the William Brown Hosiery Mill. Included is the signed first page of the nomination, a CD containing the true and correct copy of the nomination and a letter of support, and a CD with tif images. The proposed action for this property is listing in the National Register. Our Historic Preservation Board members support this nomination.

If you have any questions regarding the nomination or our request for action, please contact me at 717-783-9922 or afrantz@pa.gov. Thank you for your consideration of this submission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'April E. Frantz', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

April E. Frantz
NR Reviewer/Eastern Region

enc.