

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0688649

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 1 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 22 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Eclipse Woolen Mill

AND/OR COMMON

American Builders Supply Company

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

1044 East Chestnut Street

\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Louisville,

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 & 4

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

111

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: offices

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

American Builders Supply Company

STREET & NUMBER

1044 East Chestnut Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville,

\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Jefferson Street

CITY, TOWN

Louisville,

STATE

Kentucky

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Kentucky Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1978

\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_ COUNTY \_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Louisville,

STATE

Kentucky

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The old Eclipse Woolen Mill, which now houses the American Builders Supply Company, is located on Chestnut Street, east of downtown Louisville, in the Phoenix Hill neighborhood. The area derives its name from the old Phoenix Hill Brewery and Park, which no longer exists. The neighborhood, with modest nineteenth and early twentieth century residences and some commercial buildings, has been in decline for years but is now undergoing some revitalization. Several blocks west of the mill is The Cloister, formerly an Ursuline convent and girls' academy (c. 1867-1900) which has been adapted for use as a complex of shops, offices, and restaurants. (The Cloister was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in June, 1978.)

The mill, built in 1867-68, is a two-story structure of brick laid in common bond. It is a rectangular building, measuring 55 by 170 feet, and the exterior walls are 13 inches thick. A five-story tower is placed off-center at the front of the building. The upper three stories of the tower were a later addition, built to house an immense water barrel for a sprinkler system. (Photo 1)

Windows are recessed between brick pilasters which form segmental arches above the second story windows. The original windows were single-hung, 16 over 16 panes. Window sills are of limestone. The window openings have segmental arches of radiating bricks which repeat the arch formed by the pilasters. (Photo 2)

The tower has pilasters at the corners and contains the main entrance which is recessed. There are windows on each side of the tower at every story. On the fifth story three narrow, round-arched windows have bold, multiple arches of radiating bricks. The top of the tower has varied brick corbeling and dentils which are somewhat obscured by white paint and painted lettering. (Photo 1)

Brick corbeling and dentils finish the upper portion of the building's walls. There is no roof cornice, but there are interesting iron gutter supports. (Photo 2)

A wrought-iron fence with limestone gateposts separates the building from the sidewalk. It is not known when the fence was erected. (Photo 3)

Major alterations to adapt the building to its current use included removing existing floors to form an atrium, exposing the original poplar roof trusses (Photo 4) and building a new customer service entrance which repeats the arched motif above the windows. (Photo 5)

The structure is a handsome example of nineteenth-century industrial architecture, imaginatively adapted for today's uses.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1867-1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT (D. X. Murphy and Brothers, Unknown/1884, 1887, & 1895, additions)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Eclipse Woolen Mill is a handsome example of mid-nineteenth century industrial architecture, and it is one of the few surviving mill structures in the city. Part of the building is the work of one of the city's leading architectural firms. In addition, the building has been imaginatively adapted for use as offices, thus maintaining it as viable part of the community.

The Eclipse Woolen Mill was established and the mill built in 1867. The owners were Ebenezer Bustard and Sylvester Brownell, who had formed their partnership under the name of Bustard and Brownell in 1867.

In March, 1867 they purchased five tracts of land bounded by Garden Street (now Chestnut), the Louisville and Bardstown Turnpike (now Baxter Avenue), and Beargrass Creek. The property had a frontage of about 200 feet on Garden Street. They paid a total of \$6440 for the five tracts.

The city directory for 1867-68 listed, for the first time, the Eclipse Woolen Mill on the east side of Garden Street and the firm of Bustard and Brownell was listed as proprietor of the mill. This listing would indicate a construction date of 1867 for the mill.

This date is further corroborated by existing tax records for that period. The city tax Assessment Books have no listing for Bustard and Brownell in 1867, but in 1868 the tax records list the firm's property on Garden Street with taxable improvements valued at \$20,000.

Little is known about the two men who founded and built the Eclipse Woolen Mill. Ebenezer Bustard was the nephew of John Bustard, a prominent and wealthy Louisville merchant in the early years of the nineteenth century. Ebenezer Bustard was an heir to a considerable portion of his uncle's estate, as well as that of his aunt, John Bustard's sister. He was listed in the city directories as early as 1841 and was later listed as a partner in Bustard and Orr, wholesale grocers and commission merchants. In 1868 Ebenezer Bustard was listed as one of eight persons in Louisville with incomes of over \$20,000.

(continued)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

City of Louisville Tax Assessment Books, 1866-68. State Archives, Frankfort, Kentucky.  
 Collins, Lewis, History of Kentucky, 1874 (1966 Reprint) Vol. 1, p. 189.  
 Hogeland, A., Centennial Report of the Business of Louisville, Kentucky, (Louisville:  
 John P. Morton & Company, 1876), p.8.

(continued)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximatley .14

QUADRANGLE NAME Louisville East Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 16 610940 4234010  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B           
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

4th City District  
 Block 16-L  
 Lot 5

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Jena Kinsman, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

August 11, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

727 West Main Street

TELEPHONE

587-3501

CITY OR TOWN

Louisville

STATE

Kentucky

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Eldred H. Melton Lydell*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10-25-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*

DATE

12-22-78

ATTEST: *Ann H. Gilmore*

DATE

12/21/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Eclipse Woolen Mill

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In 1871 Bustard and Brownell sold the Eclipse Woolen Mill to William H. and Warren N. Hederson, but Brownell continued as a partner in the firm, afterward listed as Henderson and Brownell. Bustard died several months after the sale.

In 1873, Silas F. Miller, a former riverboat captain and owner of a packet line, purchased a half-interest in the woolen mill. In 1874, Henry W. Barret acquired an interest in the firm and he, Brownell, and Miller were associated for several years. By 1877 the firm was known as Henry W. Barret and Company, proprietor of the Eclipse Woolen Mill. During the Barret and Miller ownership, the mill prospered and several additions were made to the original building.

Louisville was one of the largest wool markets in the country in the nineteenth century. In 1876 there were three large mills manufacturing "Kentucky jeans," fabric which was sold in New Orleans, New York, St. Louis, and San Francisco, according to a business report of that year. The Eclipse Woolen Mill was one of those three.

An 1881 publication described the Eclipse Woolen Mill's growth from a capacity of 84 looms in 1874 to 180 looms in 1881. The mill then employed 175 persons and had a payroll of \$800 to \$1000 per week. It was capable of producing one million yards of fabric per year.

In 1902 Silas Miller died, Henry Barret retired from active business, and the mill was sold to D. A. and John Chenoweth, who operated it for several years. With the decline of the woolen industry, the mill eventually closed and the building was used at various times as a chair factory, carpenter shop, blacksmith shop, and a stable for mules.

The Henry Bickel Company, a construction company, acquired the property in 1913. The American Builders Supply Company, a subsidiary of the Bickel Company founded in 1925, used the mill until early 1977 as a warehouse for building materials. In late 1977 after renovation and remodeling, the company moved its offices into the building.

The architect of the mill is unknown. The firm of D. X. Murphy and Brothers, successor to the architectural practice of Henry Whitestone, made additions and alterations to the building in 1884, 1887, and 1895. Plans for these alterations exist and are in the Manuscript Collection of the Filson Club. It is possible that Whitestone was the architect of the mill in 1867. Stylistically it is similar to other work by Whitestone and the fact that

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his successor was working on the mill as early as 1884 could indicate that Whitestone designed the original building. However, there is no conclusive evidence for definitely attributing the mill to Henry Whitestone.

Most of the additions were frame and iron clad rooms at the rear of the mill which housed stock rooms, carding and spinning operations, dye rooms, etc. These additions no longer exist.

A major alteration increased the tower from two stories to five stories in height. The 1892 Sanborn Maps of the City of Louisville indicated that the tower had only two stories. (map 1) The Murphy plans include an elevation of the tower with two stories and an elevation of the tower with five stories, showing construction information and dated 1895. The 1905 Sanborn Maps show the tower as having five stories.

The brick work on the tower, especially the corbeling near the top, resembles other work done by the Murphy firm. Such corbeling appears on the old Jefferson County Jail (1905), designed by the Murphy firm. D.X. Murphy (1854-1933) was a native of Louisville who entered the architectural firm of Henry Whitestone (1819-1893) and became his successor when Whitestone retired in the 1880s. The Murphy firm, with two of Murphy's brothers as partners, was an outstanding architectural firm in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth centuries. Their work included the Churchill Downs grandstand (1894), the German Bank (1913), the City Hospital (1911), St. Boniface Church and rectory (1893) and numerous other buildings, churches, and residences.

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Industries of Louisville, (Louisville: A. N. Marquis, Publisher, 1881), p. 126.

Jefferson County (Ky.) Deed Books 4885, p. 768 (1976); 783, p. 336 (1913); 183, p. 37 (1874); 179, p. 327 (1874); 170, p. 289 (1873); 168, p. 349 (1873); 155, p. 170 (1871); 131, pp. 335, 337 (1867).

Jefferson County (Ky.) Will Books 3, p. 312 (1842); 5, p. 402 (1860).

Johnson, E. Polk, A History of Kentucky and Kentuckians, (Chicago and New York: Lewis Publishing Company, 1912), Vol. II, p. 991.

Louisville City Directories 1841-1903.

Murphy, D. X., Original plans for additions and alterations to Eclipse Woolen Mill, 1884, 1887, 1895. Manuscript Department, The Filson Club, 118 West Breckenridge Street, Louisville, Kentucky.

Sanborn-Perris Map Company, Sanborn Maps of the City of Louisville (New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co., 1892), p. 164.

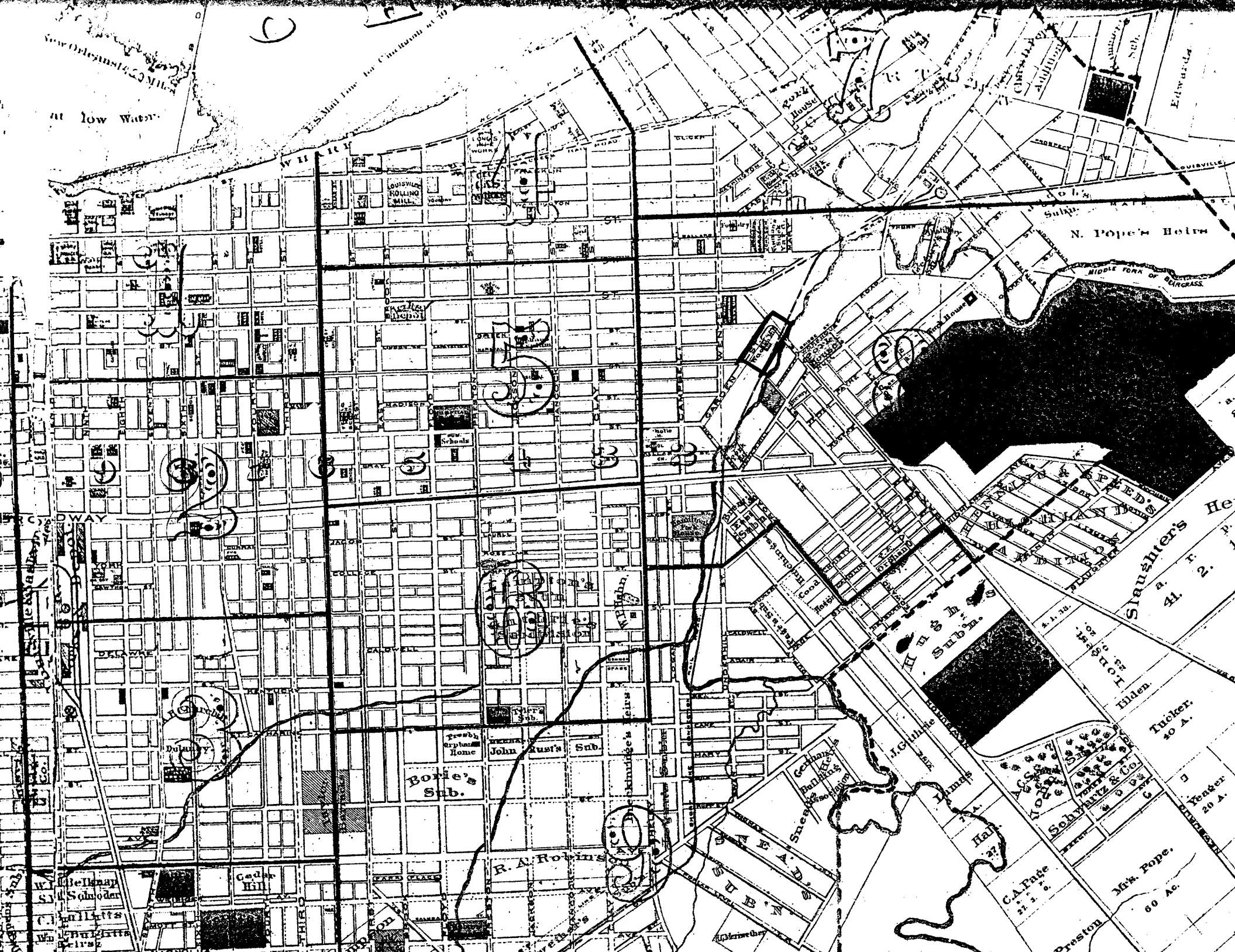




Eclipse Woolen Mill  
Louisville, Jefferson  
County, Kentucky

Sanborn-Perris Map Company  
New York, New York

Map 2 NOV 1 1978  
Sanborn map showing Eclipse  
Woolen Mill with two-story  
tower, 1892.



at low water

W. HILL

QUINCY ROLLING MILL

N. Pope's He

Schools

St. John's Church

M. S. H. S. Sub.

Slaughter's He

Borie's Sub.

John Rus's Sub.

Tucker 40 A.

R. A. Robins

S. E. A. D.'s SUB.

Vander 20 A.

Bellamy School

Cedar Hill

CA Pate 21 1/2 A.

M. A. Pope's 60 Ac.

Eclipse Woolen Mill  
Louisville, Jefferson  
County, Kentucky

Louisville Abstract & Loan  
Association, Atlas of  
Louisville, 1876

DEC 22 1978

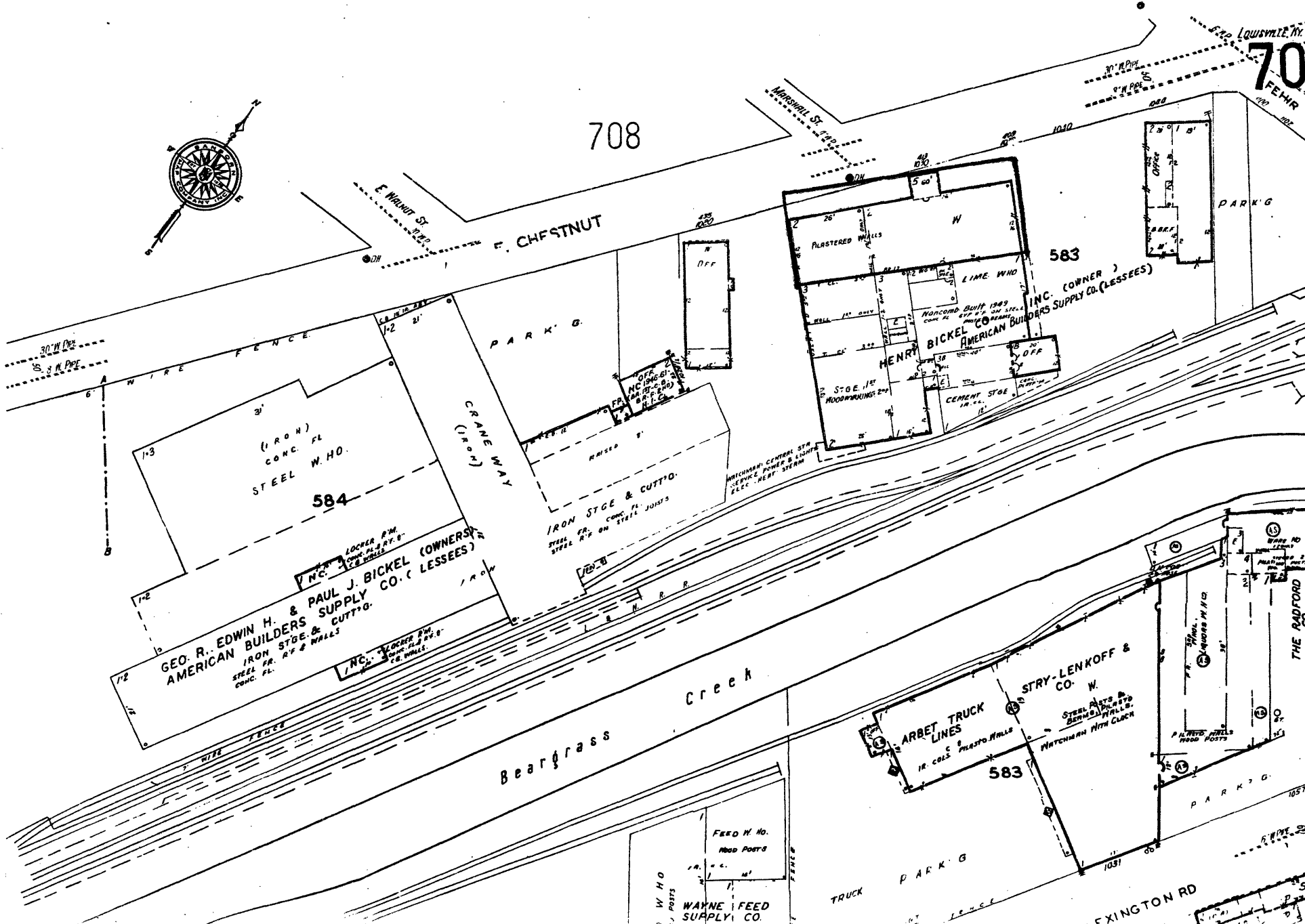
Map **3**  
Map of Eclipse Woolen Mill  
site in 1876.

NOV 1 1978



708

70



584  
 (IRON)  
 CONC. FL  
 STEEL W.H.O.  
 CRANE WAY  
 IRON STGE & CUTTING  
 STEEL FR. R.F. & WALLS  
 GEO. R. EDWIN H. & PAUL J. BICKEL (OWNERS)  
 AMERICAN BUILDERS SUPPLY CO. (LESSEES)  
 LOCKER R.M. CONC. FL. R.F. & WALLS  
 IN.C.

583  
 PLASTERED WALLS  
 LIME WHD  
 STGE. 1ST FLOOR  
 CEMENT STGE.  
 OFF  
 HENRY BICKEL CO. INC. (OWNER)  
 AMERICAN BUILDERS SUPPLY CO. (LESSEES)  
 Noncomb Built 1949  
 CORR. PL. CONC. FL.  
 MATCHMAN CENTRAL STA. SERVICE POWER & LIGHTS  
 STEEL HEAVY STEAM

583  
 ARRET TRUCK LINES  
 STRY-LENKOFF & CO. W.  
 STEEL FR. R.F. & WALLS  
 MATCHMAN WITH CLACK  
 PAVEMENT  
 THE RADFORD CO.

WAYNE FEED SUPPLY CO.  
 FEED H. No.  
 HOOD POSTS  
 W.H.O.  
 CONC. FL.  
 R.F. & WALLS

LEXINGTON RD

Eclipse Woolen Mill  
Louisville, Jefferson  
County, Kentucky

**DEC 22 1978**

Sanborn Map Company

Map **Q**

Map showing present site of  
mill building.

1 1/2" = 100 feet

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