

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

INTERAGENCY REVIEW

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Atlanta Spring Bed Company-Block Candy Company
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 512 Means Street
city, town Atlanta () vicinity of
county Fulton code GA 121
state Georgia code GA zip code 30318

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

6-19-95
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. 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:
- see continuation sheet

Edson A. Beall 7.28.95

Entered in the
National Register

Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility

Current Functions:

COMMERCE: professional

COMMERCE: business

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: utilitarian industrial

Materials:

foundation stone: granite

walls brick

roof asphalt

other n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The four-story, c.1900 Atlanta Spring Bed Company-Block Candy Company is located in the industrial section northwest of downtown Atlanta (photo #1). The building was originally constructed to house a furniture manufacturing company and was later used as warehouse space, candy manufacturing company, and a textile salvage company.

The building is functional in design and features heavy timber post-and-beam construction and masonry load bearing walls with first floor granite walls and upper floor brick walls (photo #2). Exterior features include segmentally arched windows, recessed window bays, brick belt course, double-hung and center-pivot windows, and brick elevator tower (photo #3).

The interior features include the original Dowman-Dozier fire doors, exposed mechanical systems including historic sprinkler system, and exposed wood posts and beams. On the first level there are brick and granite walls and posts resting on brick piers capped with granite slabs (photo #4). The second floor or main floor has tongue-and-groove floors, brick walls, wood ceilings, and arched window and door openings (photo #5). The upper floors have concrete floors, brick walls, wood ceilings, and arched window and door openings (photo #6).

The building has recently undergone a certified rehabilitation for use as office space. The Atlanta Spring Bed Company-Block Candy Company was once part of an industrial complex that included the National Register listed Atlanta Buggy Company and Ware Hatcher Brothers Furniture Company buildings, as well as others which have been demolished. There are no historic landscape features associated with the building.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture
Industry

Period of Significance:

1900-1936

Significant Dates:

1900 - Construction of Building

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

n/a

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Atlanta Spring Bed Company-Block Candy Company Building is significant in architecture as a good example of the utilitarian industrial design used for large manufacturing facilities at the turn of the century. Significant features include the masonry construction, segmentally arched windows, elevator tower, fire doors, and heavy timber framing and flooring. This building represents the typical utilitarian design used for industrial buildings during the early 20th century. In Atlanta, this type of historic building, although once common, is now increasingly rare due to demolition for new development or destruction by fire, neglect, etc. The majority of these buildings which survive are located in the Castleberry Hill Historic District (NR) southwest of Atlanta. Others, like this building and the adjacent furniture building and the buggy company, are found in isolated pockets, usually along railroad lines.

In terms of industry, the property is significant for representing early 1900s industrial activity in Atlanta. The building was constructed for William R. Ware, an Atlanta furniture manufacturer, who also built later buildings in the Means Street industrial area. The Atlanta Spring Bed Company, headed by John L. Coleman, was the original occupant of the space from 1900 to 1909. After housing several businesses, the building was then occupied from 1928 to 1936 by the Block Candy Company which was established in 1866. This property is one of two surviving resources associated with Atlanta's first confectionery manufacturer started by the post-Civil War entrepreneur, Frank E. Block. The Mouchet Corporation, a textile salvage company, occupied the building from 1944 till 1985.

National Register Criteria

The Atlanta Spring Bed Company-Block Candy Company is eligible under Criteria A and C for its significance as a good example of an early-twentieth century utilitarian industrial design and for its associations with the early 1900s industrial activity in Atlanta.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

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Period of significance (justification)

The period 1900-1936 represents the period during which the building was occupied by its two primary historic industries: The Atlanta Spring Bed Company (1900-1909) and the Block Candy Company (1928-1936).

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

There are no noncontributing resources.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

NOTE: The following history was taken from the "Atlanta Buggy Company-Ware Hatcher Bros. Furniture Company," National Register Nomination Form, 1 July 1992.

According to deed records, Means Street was platted in 1869 by W. B. Bass as part of the McMillan Subdivision. The street names Ponders and Means come from early landowners--"Ponders" for Ephraim Ponder, who bought land from Alexander Means, and "Means" from the same Alexander Means.

According to map evidence, the Means Street portion of the subdivided was cut into small lots--narrow and deep and typical of lots in industrial areas where developers intended to house workers. No plat was found for Means Street or McMillan Subdivision, but a residential section following this pattern did develop on the north side of the street.

The south side was assembled early into large parcels, and has always been occupied by larger land users. The 1899 Sanborn map shows the dual land uses. The presence of Standard Oil Company on the block, from about 1896 on, presaged the direction of future land use on the north side of the street as well. The entire area around Means Street has changed over time, since the section along Marietta was once residential too. Now, just two blocks from the campus of Georgia Institute of Technology, Means Street is a remnant of the early industrial and warehouse corridor along the tracks of the Western and Atlantic Railroad (now part of the Southern system).

At one time brick warehouses dominated the corridor along the railroad tracks, however, the area has lost many of these structures to fire, urban redevelopment, and general modernization. Means Street is an anachronism and relatively unchanged from the early forms of this

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warehouse section. The street is a remnant in another sense: it is only half its original length. The portion of Means Street south of Ponders was demolished in post World War II railroad and road expansions. There are in effect two separate Means Streets, one (where the buggy company and furniture company buildings are located) which runs between Bankhead Highway and Ponders Avenue, and the other which runs between Northside Drive and Boss Avenue. Although they share a similar historical character, the two streets pieces have different appearances and are not, and apparently never have been, contiguous.

A man named W. R. Ware changed the face of Means Street. A furniture manufacturer, Ware was involved in a succession of furniture companies, beginning with the Fenley Furniture Co., founded in 1881, which Ware co-owned with W. L. Fenley. Fenley was the second furniture company to be established in Atlanta. The Fenley Company had a factory near Fourth and Ponders (exact location not known) in the 1880s, and in 1889, Ware had plans to expand into a new factory. What happened to the first factory and the proposed second is unknown, but Ware began assembling properties on and near Ponders, including parcels on Means Street. By 1900-1901, he succeeded in assembling the entire parcel of land. The land became familiarly known as the Ware or Ware-Hatcher properties.

In 1900, the Atlanta Spring Bed Company appears in the City Directory at an address which corresponds with this general location, and a 1910 plat of the Ware property confirms the location of the spring bed company building on the site which corresponds to the building now located at 512 Means Street. This building was then occupied from 1928 to 1936 by the Block Candy Company which was established in 1866. This property is one of two surviving resources associated with Atlanta's first confectionery manufacturer started by the post-Civil War entrepreneur, Frank E. Block. The building at 512 Means Street is the Atlanta Spring Bed Company-Block Candy Company being proposed in this nomination. This is the oldest structure in the former complex.

The second building to be erected was the original Atlanta Buggy Company Building at 544 Means Street c. 1903. The buggy company appears in this general locale in the 1903 city directory (with no street address, but "next door" to the spring bed company) for the first time; its exact location is confirmed by the 1910 plat.

Still visible on the roof line of the building is a painted "Atlanta Buggy Company" sign with a white star at either end indicating the trade name of the vehicles made by the company. The company was a full assembly plant for buggies, manufacturing wheels and bodies, assembling, painting, and upholstering them. In 1907, the buggy

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company bought property on lower Means Street (below Ponders) and opened a factory devoted exclusively to the manufacture of automobiles under the White Star label. In late 1909, or early 1910, the buggy company itself moved to new, larger quarters across the street from the automobile factory. Both the auto factory and the second buggy company building are now gone. The Atlanta Buggy Company filed for bankruptcy in 1913, with much of the land reverting to original holders.

In 1907, the Ware-Hatcher Bros. Furniture Company took out a single building permit for a series of five "ordinary masonry" buildings on Means Street, specified to be from one to five stories tall. No numbers, locations, or other descriptions were given on the permit. It is impossible to know which buildings of the entire Ware Plant were covered by the permit, but it is suggested they included all of the structures fronting on Means Street from Bankhead to the Jackson-Orr furniture company property line, as shown on the 1911 Sanborn map, exclusive of the buildings at 544 and 512 Means Street, which were already there, and which were connected to each other by the Ware construction. Thus, the Ware Furniture building would date from 1907-1908, the years in which the Ware buildings were permitted and completed.

Despite the history of the buggy company, and the candy company, the structures on Means Street were dominated by furniture manufacturers. First Ware-Hatcher, then Southern, then the Fox Manufacturing Company, occupied the buildings. Southern Furniture went out of business in 1919 and Fox Manufacturing apparently met its demise during the Depression. Morrow Transfer & Storage, a large local moving firm, used part of the buildings for storage in the 1920s.

In 1951 J. L. Mouchet of the Mouchet Corporation, dealers in textile salvage, bought the properties on Means Street. Mouchet had been a tenant in the buildings since 1944, sharing space for a while with a feed and seed company, and then, with an affiliated company, the Fulton Warehouse.

The Atlanta Spring Bed Company-Block Candy Company building, the remaining portion of the Ware-Hatcher building, and the buggy company were recently rehabilitated, and are now used for office space. It is the Atlanta Spring Bed Company-Block Candy Company building that is being proposed in this nomination. The Ware-Hatcher building and buggy company were listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Raflo, Lisa. Atlanta Buggy Company-Ware Hatcher Bros. Furniture Company," National Register Nomination Form, 1 July 1992. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Roth, Darlene. "Atlanta Buggy Company," Historic Property Information Form, 6 November 1985 (with supporting documentation from Bamby Ray, 1991). On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): () N/A

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 740300 Northing 3739750

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary includes the c.1900 Atlanta Spring Bed Company-Block Candy Company building at 512 Means Street, Atlanta, Georgia, as indicated with a heavy black line on the attached map, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the c.1900 Atlanta Spring Bed Company-Block Candy Company building and the land on which the building sits.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Consultant
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building; 57 Forsyth Street, NW
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** June 19, 1995

(OHP form version 12-08-93)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Photographs


Name of Property: Atlanta Spring Bed Company-Block Candy Company
City or Vicinity: Atlanta
County: Fulton
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December 1994

Description of Photograph(s):

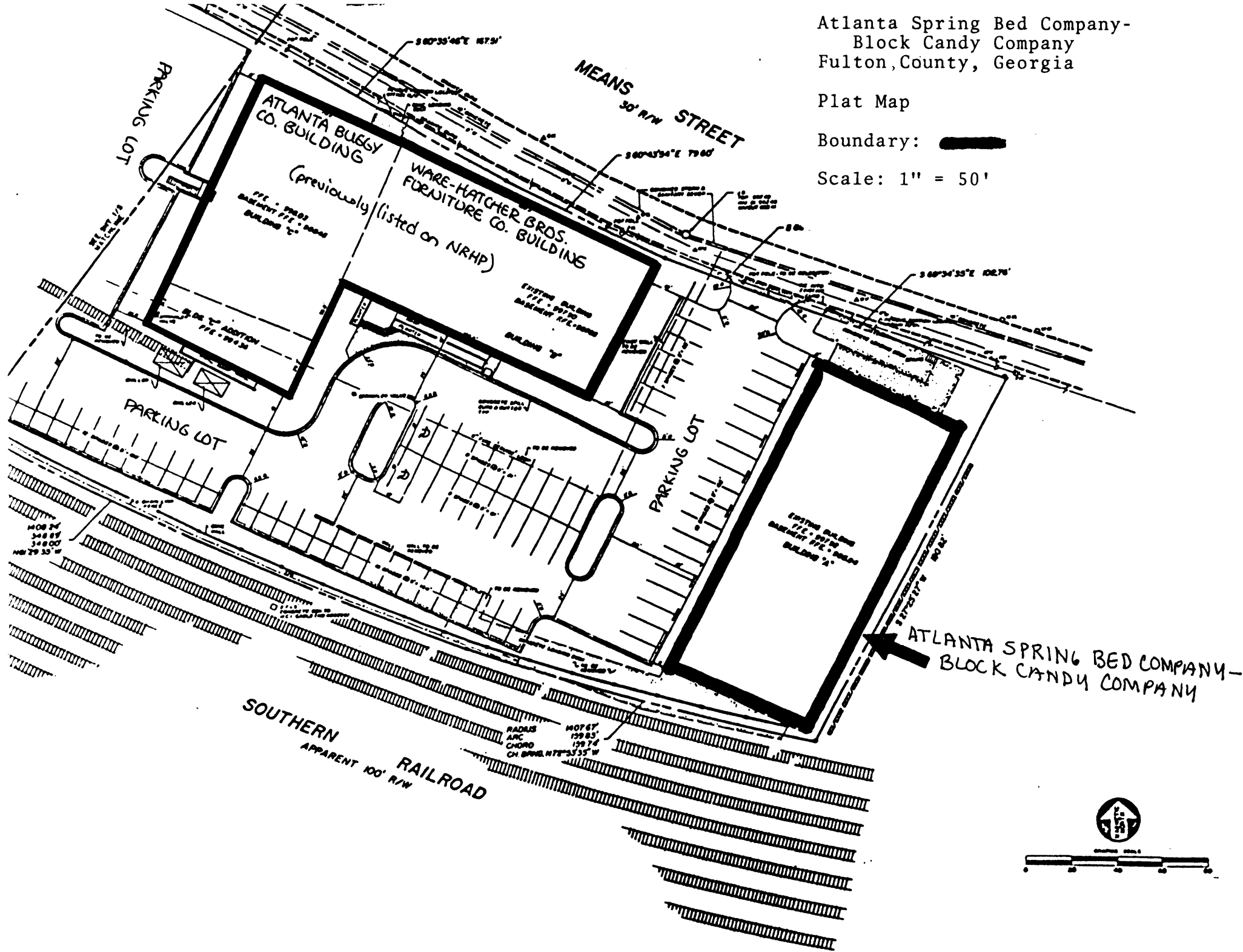
- 1 of 6: Northeast corner of the Atlanta Spring Bed Company-Block Candy Company building; photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 6: Northwest corner of building; photographer facing southeast.
- 3 of 6: West facade of building; photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 6: First floor office showing granite walls, fire door, and post with brick base and granite caps; photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 6: Second floor lobby and exhibition area showing exposed mechanical systems, fire door, and wood floors, posts, beams, and ceiling; photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 6: Third floor office space showing fire door, concrete floors, wood post, beam, and ceiling, and old elevator shaft used as an office; photographer facing east.

Atlanta Spring Bed Company-
Block Candy Company
Fulton, County, Georgia

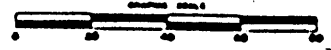
Plat Map



Boundary: 

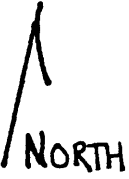
Scale: 1" = 50'



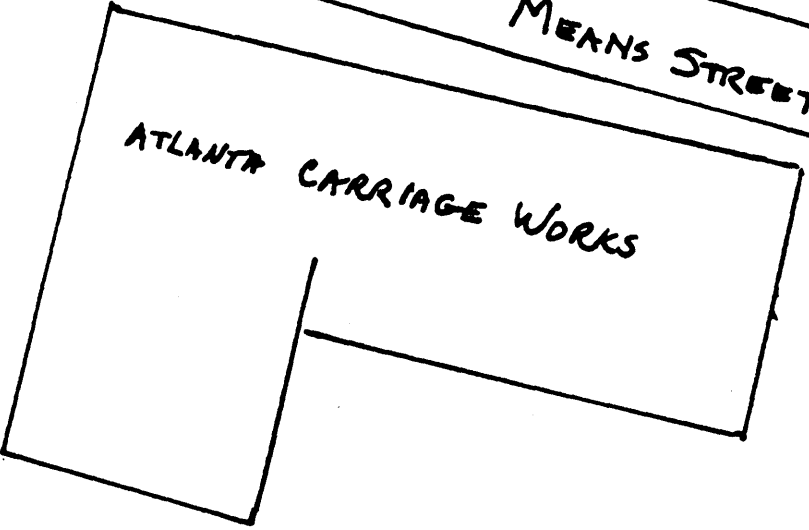
ATLANTA SPRING BED COMPANY-
BLOCK CANDY COMPANY



Atlanta Spring Bed Company-Block Candy Company
Fulton County, Georgia
Site Plan
National Register Boundary: 
Photographs/Direction of View: 
Scale: none

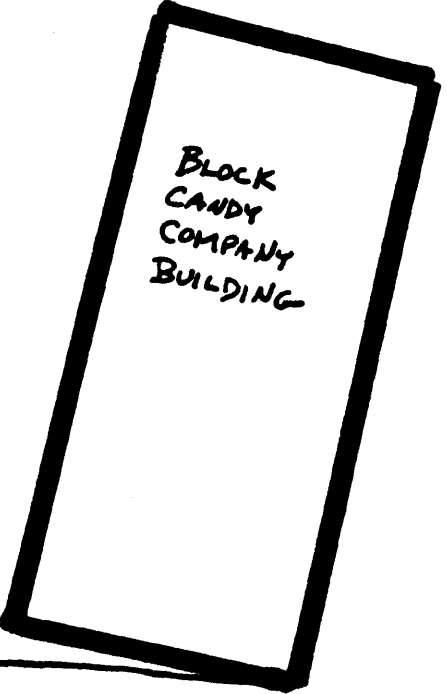


MEANS STREET



2

1



3

