

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



357

# 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 Le Roy Shirt Company Factory

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 11 Chestnut Street  not for publication

city or town Norwalk  vicinity

state Connecticut code CT county Fairfield code 001 zip code 06854

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Stacy Vaio / DSHPO 5.9.12  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

DECD / STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
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 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Jon Edson H. Beall 6.27.12  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

### 5. Classification

Le Roy Shirt Company  
Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut  
County and State

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

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1		<b>Total</b>

**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/Processing/Extraction: manufacturing  
facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce/Trade: warehouse

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19th & Early 20th Century American  
Movements

Other: Loft factory building

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: \_\_\_\_\_

walls: brick

roof: synthetics

Le Roy Shirt Company  
Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut  
County and State

other:

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Le Roy Shirt Company Factory is a two-story, red brick, loft manufacturing building. It has a flat roof hidden behind a parapet capped with cast stone. It was built in 1921 on a .34 acre lot in what was then a residential neighborhood (Figure 1). It is now a high density, mixed-use residential, commercial and light manufacturing district of Norwalk, Connecticut. The building is a typical light manufacturing structure of its era. Its most striking exterior feature is the rhythm of its nearly identical bays along all four elevations. Each bay has a slightly recessed center panel alternating with narrower piers. Each panel contains large, 66-light, steel-framed windows on both stories. There is a parking lot on the north side of the building and a retaining wall behind it. The lot is flat, but the land rises vertically behind the building, so that the second story of the factory is level with the parking lot of the train station behind it to the west.

The Le Roy Shirt Company building is structurally sound and both the exterior and interior are in good condition. It has a very high degree of architectural integrity and its appearance is unchanged since 1921.

### Narrative Description

The Le Roy Shirt Company Factory is a 24,704 square foot, two-story, loft building of load bearing brick construction with chamfered wood columns, exposed board ceilings and exposed beams on the interior. It is 24 feet wide and 106 feet long. The building faces east on Chestnut Street and the brick is laid in common bond with a header at every sixth course. The façade is divided into four bays of equal width. The bays are divided by piers and the panel walls within the bays are slightly recessed. On the first floor, the southern bay has a wide, three quarter-height, double-leaved steel door which is surrounded by a wide wooden frame. The two central bays have full-width steel-framed windows twelve lights wide and five lights high with cast concrete sills and four courses of brick corbels at the top. The northern bay has a double-leaved steel door on the first floor which is narrower than that in the eastern bay. On the second floor, all four bays have full-width windows similar to those on the first floor. They also have cast concrete sills and they are topped with four course brick corbels. There is a pedimented, stepped gable on the facade which is capped with cast concrete with a row of slightly protruding header bricks below the concrete cap (Photographs 1 and 2.) There is a round concrete medallion in the center of the façade just below the cornice. (Photograph 3.) Even on such a relatively modest building, this design creates the effect of a solid, strong and substantial structure.

The north and south elevations are nearly identical. Each consists of twelve, 6.5 foot wide bays separated by 1.5 foot wide piers. On the north elevation, the westernmost bay has a four foot wide by five foot high steel-framed window with 30 lights centered on the second floor and a blank wall on the first floor. All other bays have full-width, 66-light steel-framed windows, like those on the façade, on both floors. The windows are separated by two foot high brick spandrels. On the south elevation, all bays have full-width windows on both floors. The center panels of all windows can be opened for ventilation. These bays replicate the center bays of the façade. The cornice of the north and south elevations are capped with sections of rounded glazed tile (Photo 4). The south elevation includes a brick chimney between the seventh and eight bays. A concrete stair next to the chimney descends below grade to give access to the mechanical room. The west elevation mirrors the eastern façade except that there is a double-leaved wooden door in the second bay from the north side on the second floor.

The building is entered through the double-leaved door in the north bay of the façade. There is a vestibule with a wide, wooden staircase to the second floor and a doorway into the main area of the first floor (Photo 5). The interior of the first floor is divided into four open bays by rows of equally spaced square wooden columns set on a concrete floor which support the floor above. The floor joists, second story sub floor and brick walls are exposed. (Photo 6) A rest room

Le Roy Shirt Company  
Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut  
County and State

with vertical beadboard walls is located in the center of the south wall. A concrete block elevator shaft protrudes from the south wall to the west of the restroom. On the east side of the elevator shaft, there is a closet which contains the electrical switches and valves which control the water-powered elevator. (Photos 7 and 8) At the southwest corner of the first floor, there is an open wooden stairway (Photo 9). An office area is located at the east end of this floor which looks out onto Chestnut Street (Photo 10). The south wall also has two conveyor belt systems, one near the front of the building and one near the rear, which were install by a later owner of the building, the M. Aron Company, which manufactured Corday brand neckwear in this building from 1961 until 1994.<sup>1</sup> They were used to move finished ties from the manufacturing area on the second floor to the shipping areas on the first floor (Photos 11 and 12).

The second floor is reached by the wide, wooden staircase at the northeast corner of the building. The second story floors are wood and the space is divided into four open bays by square wooden columns which support the roof (Photos 13 and 14). There is a freight elevator, locker room and lavatory in the middle of the south wall of this floor, which are similar to those on the lower floor, except that there is a row of six three-over-three windows at the top of the north wall of the locker room and an entry extension on its west wall which has three of the same three over three windows. There are four small sinks on the exterior west wall of the locker room (Photos 15 and 16). There are two rectangular openings in the floor near the south wall at each end of the building, which serve the conveyor system noted above. There is a double door in the west wall in the second bay in from the north wall. This door may have once provided access to the train station, since the railroad parking lot at the rear of the building is higher than the factory lot and at the same level as the doors (Photo 17).

The flat roof is covered by a rolled membrane and it is hidden by a low parapet.

---

<sup>1</sup> Richard Aron, owner M. Aron and company, telephone interview with the author, June 21, 2011.

Le Roy Shirt Company  
Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut  
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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

- Architecture
- Industry
- Social History

**Period of Significance**

1922 – 1959

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The Leroy Shirt Company building was purpose built by that company for shirt manufacture in 1922. It was continuously used by them until the company went out of business in 1959.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

Le Roy Shirt Company  
Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Le Roy Shirt Company Factory is significant at the local level under Criterion A, because it is one of the few surviving buildings that tell the story of the once thriving hat, shoe and garment industry in Norwalk. When Le Roy Shirt opened in the 1920s, Norwalk boasted forty-three companies involved in shoe, garment and hat making along with their support companies, including those that made lace, tape and trimmings, paper boxes, labels, rough hats and others.<sup>2</sup> Taken together, this industry employed over half of Norwalk's entire industrial workforce in 1923.

The Le Roy Shirt Company Factory is locally significant under Criterion C, because it is entirely unchanged from the time of its construction and it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a light manufacturing loft building of the period. Its load-bearing masonry construction was inexpensive, but durable and its large windows provided plenty of light for the employees inside to assemble shirts. The interior was designed for the most efficient handling of raw materials, cutting, sewing, finishing and shipping. It is an unchanged artifact of Norwalk's industrial past.

---

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

**Criterion A**

The garment industry employed over 4,700 people or about 59% of Norwalk's entire industrial workforce in 1929.<sup>3</sup> Twenty-five of the forty-three manufacturers made items other than hats or shoes. The hatting industry was by far the largest and oldest, but manufacture of shirts, underwear, dresses, suits, bathrobes and other apparel were an important part of the local economy. Hatters were traditionally men, but a majority of the employees of the shirt, dress, underwear and other garment factories were women.<sup>4</sup>

The Leroy Shirt Company began advertising for workers as least as early as March of 1921, when they ran two ads under "Help Wanted Female" in the *Bridgeport Telegraph*. One of them advertised for a, "Shirt factory forelady who is thoroughly experienced and capable of instructing "it went on to offer, "Good pay, steady work, reasonable hours." Just below it was an ad for, "...experienced operators on all sections, good pay, steady work."<sup>5</sup> In October of the next year they were still looking for male employees and ran ads in the same newspaper under "Help Wanted Male" for cutters and a "strong young man" for the stock room.<sup>6</sup> The Le Roy Shirt Company would employ more than 100 people at 11 Chestnut Street and many of them were female. Even though all six of the cutters, the stock room staff, shipping department and management were men, most of the other workers and all of the machine operators were women.<sup>7</sup> In fact, in Connecticut, from 1921 to 1922, men were losing factory jobs while women were gaining them. There were still far more men than women employed in the state, but factory jobs for women increased by 3,739 during this period while factory jobs for men decreased by 1,159.<sup>8</sup>

No Le Roy Shirt Company employment records could be found, but a 1941 newspaper article in the *Norwalk Hour*, lists the four women and three men of the employee committee who were involved in negotiating a union

---

<sup>2</sup>Elsie Dannenberg, *The Romance of Norwalk*, (New York : The States History Company, 1929) 426-427.

<sup>3</sup> Deborah Wing Ray and Gloria Stewart. *Norwalk : being an historical account of that Connecticut town*(Canaan, New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing, 1979), 183.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 141.

<sup>5</sup> "Help Wanted Female," *The Bridgeport Telegram*, March 25, 1921.

<sup>6</sup> "Help Wanted Male," *The Bridgeport Telegram*, October 22, 1922.

<sup>7</sup> Margaret Byrnes (b. 1926), interview with the author, June 17, 2011. Ms. Byrnes' parents, Malcolm and Nellie Byrnes, worked at the Le Roy Shirt Company factory from the time it opened in 1922 until it closed in 1959. He was the foreman of the cutting department and she worked at a machine in the sewing department. Her mother started working there at the age of 15 and she met her future husband at work.

<sup>8</sup> Connecticut Factory Inspection Department, *Eighth Biennial Report to the Governor* (Hartford, 1922), 20.

Le Roy Shirt Company

Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut

County and State

contract for Local 125 of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America. The women were: Frances Flynn, Agnes Roux, Frances Datellie and Aurore Dube. The men of the committee were: Frank Gall, Nicholas Secchi and Joseph Di Florio.<sup>9</sup> The census records for 1930<sup>10</sup> and 1941 city directory listings<sup>11</sup> for these Le Roy Shirt Company employees present a profile of some of its workforce in the 1930s and 1940s. All of the committee members lived within a few blocks of the factory. Two of them were born in Italy and the others were born in the United States. All of the committee members who were born in the US had parents who were born in Europe. Their parents' nationalities included Hungarian, Italian, French Canadian and Irish.

### Le Roy Shirt Company

The Le Roy Shirt Company was founded in New York in 1909 by brothers Charles and Isadore Schnitzer.<sup>12</sup> The company slogan was, "The Shirt with a Standard." According to a letterhead included in a 1922 Sioux City, Iowa newspaper advertisement for a department store sale, they maintained an office at 320-322 Fifth Avenue in New York City, but listed a "General Office" in "So. Norwalk, Conn."<sup>13</sup> When the company opened its Norwalk plant in 1921, it also had factories in Orange and Freeland, New Jersey and Kingston, New York. They claimed, in a newspaper article, that they had kept all of their factories running during the worst economic times and that the Norwalk facility was guaranteed all the work it could handle. In the same article, officials of Le Roy Shirt talked about moving their main office to Norwalk and mentioned that they had bought the lot to the south of the factory for expansion. They were hoping to employ 400 people.<sup>14</sup> They did eventually employ about 200, but never built another factory in Norwalk.<sup>15</sup>

The company made shirts of all types. The Sioux City ad showed collarless shirts<sup>16</sup>, but according to Margaret Byrnes, whose parents worked at the Le Roy Shirt Company from the time it opened in 1922 until it closed in 1959, the Norwalk factory also made shirts with soft collars with all kinds of fabric.<sup>17</sup> The variety of material used for shirts is corroborated by the *Norwalk Hour*, which observed, "Great bolts of shirt-making material of an unusually wide range of patterns and texture percales madras and soft, silky, lustrous weaves..." being rolled out on cutting room tables.<sup>18</sup>

The company continued to prosper during World War II, when they were awarded a contract for 25,000 percale shirts in 1941.<sup>19</sup> They were still in business in 1950, when they took out an ad to congratulate a new clothing store in El Paso, Texas.<sup>20</sup> In all of these articles and ads, the Le Roy Shirt Company still gave its location as New York, NY. The business lasted another nine years, but it met its end on one afternoon in 1959, when Isadore Schnitzer came to the factory at 11 Chestnut Street to announce that they would close by the end of the week. The employees were stunned. They had little choice but to look for work elsewhere in Norwalk's garment industry, where most of them quickly found new jobs.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>9</sup> "Le Roy Shirt Co., Union Sign Contract," *Norwalk Hour*, August 15, 1941.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930*, (Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1931.)

<sup>11</sup> Price and Lee. *Norwalk City Directory 1941*. (New Haven, CT: Price & Lee Co., 1923).

<sup>12</sup> Dannenberg, *Romance*, 428.

<sup>13</sup> "Martin's Harvest Sale," *The Sioux City Journal*, October 6, 1922.

<sup>14</sup> "Leroy Shirt Co.," *Norwalk Hour*, April 23, 1921.

<sup>15</sup> Dannenberg, *Romance*, 428.

<sup>16</sup> "Martin's," *The Sioux City Journal*, October 6, 1922

<sup>17</sup> Byrnes, interview June 17, 2011.

<sup>18</sup> "Leroy Shirt Co.," *Norwalk Hour*, April 23, 1921.

<sup>19</sup> "Army buys shirts of khaki Percale," *The New York Times*, January 14, 1941.

<sup>20</sup> "Congratulation, Navarro Brothers," *El Paso Herald-Post*, August 26, 1950.

<sup>21</sup> Byrnes, interview, June 17, 2011

Le Roy Shirt Company  
Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut  
County and State

The factory at 11 Chestnut Street remained vacant until 1961, when it was purchased by M. Aron and Company, which made ties there until 1994.

### Criterion C

The Le Roy Shirt Company factory is locally significant under Criterion C, because it is an unchanged artifact of Norwalk's industrial past and it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a light manufacturing loft building of the period. Its simple construction and restrained, utilitarian ornament are the result of almost one hundred years of evolution in American factory design. It is one of only five buildings left in Norwalk that were exclusively used in the apparel industry.

From 1840 to 1940 industrial design evolved to take maximum advantage of sunlight and ventilation in buildings of maximum strength and size.<sup>22</sup> During this time factories also evolved from the "...passive shell built to house machines and workers," into "Master Machines" designed to improve workflow and maximize production.<sup>23</sup> The Leroy Shirt Company building clearly illustrates these industrial design principles as applied to a small garment factory.

### Exterior

The architect of the Le Roy Shirt Company factory is unknown, but many standardized factory building designs became generally available by the 1910s and by 1916 at least a dozen companies offered them. These standardized buildings were based on the regularity of the size and layout of bays and window openings. A basic design for a loft building like Le Roy Shirt could be extended to an almost infinite length.<sup>24</sup>

The overall design of American factory buildings had long been the province of engineers who regarded any attempt to include ornament to be frivolous, while architects belittled engineer's designs as, "blights to the public eye." By the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, architects began to design factories that used traditional architectural styles and elements to express the function of the building. They also began to work more closely with some engineers who believed in incorporating beautiful forms in their work that expressed the structure and use of the building, rather than ornament.<sup>25</sup> This alliance worked so well that by the early 1922, Engineer Willard Case wrote that they had created a "modern industrial spirit" that expressed, "...simplicity, lack of pretense and solidity" in factory design.<sup>26</sup> Corbels, concrete or masonry caps and terracotta were all used as both structural and ornamental elements, as they are in the Le Roy Shirt factory. In the Le Roy Shirt Factory Building corbels are used to reduce wall thickness in order to accommodate the thinner steel window frames.

American factories originally relied on framed structural systems for their construction, but even when the structure was load-bearing masonry, the exterior form expressed the idea of a framed structure. This approach allowed vertical loads to be concentrated in thick piers or pilasters.<sup>27</sup> In the Le Roy Shirt building, corner columns and repeating, strong vertical piers, interspersed with thinner slightly recessed horizontal spandrels in panel walls filled mostly with windows, illustrate this idea.

<sup>22</sup> Betsy Hunter Bradley, *The Works* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999), 2.

<sup>23</sup> Lindy Biggs, *The Rational Factory* (Baltimore : Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996), 2.

<sup>24</sup> Bradley, *The Works*, 229.

<sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, 208-221.

<sup>26</sup> Willard L. Case, *The Factory Buildings*, Vol. 7 of *Factory Management Course* (New York: Industrial Extension institute, 1922) Quoted in Bradley, *The Works*, 221.

<sup>27</sup> Bradley, *The Works*, 230.



Le Roy Shirt Company  
Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut  
County and State

These factory designs were also intended to give a sense of strength and solidity to both the buildings and the companies they housed. The success of this approach is proven by this comment in a 1921 *Norwalk Hour* article about the opening of the new Le Roy Shirt Company Factory, "Outwardly, the two-story factory building of brick presents an appearance that is both dignified and substantial and that comports with the solidity of the company and the reputation of the product..."<sup>28</sup>

Windows are both an important functional element and a major architectural feature of the Le Roy Shirt Company Factory. They provide nearly all of the building's interior illumination and they contribute to the unity of its design, since they constitute most of the building's wall area.

The first steel sash windows used in American factories were imported from England, but American companies began to manufacture them around 1910 and they quickly became the standard for industrial buildings. They were fire resistant and they admitted more light than wood framed windows, because of their narrow framing members. Pivoting sections of sash that allow for ventilation without admitting precipitation were included in American windows from the beginning. The windows in the Le Roy shirt Factory were probably American made.

### Interior

The Le Roy Shirt company factory is a loft building. The loft form was developed in the nineteenth century and its simple construction, with mostly open floors, is ideally suited to light manufacturing. This basic form can be adapted to house many different processes in the same structure. Like Le Roy Shirt, they are typically long and narrow with large windows. Manufacturing processes were arranged along the outer walls where light was the best and the center areas used for transit or materials storage.<sup>29</sup>

Loft buildings of the 1920s were also designed to minimize the damage and spread of fire. The construction and interior layout of the Leroy Shirt Company building is an evolution of various methods of "fireproof" construction that were developed by insurance companies in the wake of the Chicago Fire of 1871 and a series of textile mill fires in New England. Fireproof or, more precisely, fire-resistant, construction was intended to allow for better control of interior fires and to resist ignition from exterior conflagrations. Three of the major elements of this method of fireproofing were a heavy timber frame, which was thought to char rather than burn quickly in a fire, masonry exterior walls with no wooden ornamentation to catch fire and noncombustible roofing material.<sup>30</sup> In the Le Roy Shirt Factory, the wood frame for the outer walls was eliminated entirely and wood was used only for the interior structure, as well as partition walls, floors and stairs. Walls and ceilings were left unplastered to eliminate air pockets where fire could spread. Stairways, except for the open stair in the rear, where fire could spread vertically, were isolated. Interior wooden structural elements, columns, floor joists and rafters, were not as heavy as those that would have been used in classic "slow burn" construction, because the building also has a full sprinkler system.<sup>31</sup> The building's flat roof eliminates attic spaces and where a fire could burn unnoticed.<sup>32</sup>

By the early twentieth century, architects and engineers realized that factories designed for more efficient materials handling reduced labor costs and increased production.<sup>33</sup> The interior of the Le Roy Shirt Factory is laid out for the most efficient manufacture of its product. A newspaper article announcing the opening of the factory calls it,

<sup>28</sup> "Leroy Shirt Co.," *Norwalk Hour*, 1921.

<sup>29</sup> Bradley, *The Works*, 26-32.

<sup>30</sup> Sarah E. Wermiel, *The Fireproof Building: technology and public safety in the nineteenth-century American city*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000), 105-106.

<sup>31</sup> Sanborn Map Company. *Norwalk, Connecticut Insurance Map*, 1 inch : 100 feet, 1922, Sheet 5.

<sup>32</sup> Bradley, *The Works*, 117-118.

<sup>33</sup> Biggs, *Factory*, 77-78 .

Le Roy Shirt Company  
Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut  
County and State

"...one of the most modern in the state."<sup>34</sup> The article goes on to describe the layout of operations inside the plant. The second floor where light was the best, contained the cutting department on the north side of the building and the sewing department on the south side. The cutting department rolled out bolts of cloth on long table which stretched the entire length of the building and cut them into the pieces that the sewing department would assemble into finished shirts. The sewing department included over 100 machines. The receiving and examining room was at the rear of this floor in order to take advantage of the railroad station which is directly behind the factory. This room is on the second floor because the land rises steeply at the back of the lot and the doors at the rear of the second floor are at grade with the railroad station parking lot. The bridge that connected these doors to the lot no longer exists.

Downstairs on the first floor, the finished shirts went to the laundry, sorting, boxing and shipping departments. The executive offices were also on this floor.<sup>35</sup> Shirts would have been sent down on the freight elevator. The double doors on the south side of the façade were probably used for trucks.

---

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Congratulations Navarro Brothers." *El Paso Herald-Post*, August 28, 1950, 1950.

"Help Wanted Female." *The Bridgeport Telegram*, March 25, 1921, 1921.

"Help Wanted Male." *The Bridgeport Telegram*, October 20, 1922, 1922.

"Le Roy Shirt Co., Union Sign Contract," *Norwalk Hour*, August 15, 1941.

"Le Roy Shirt has Fine Plant." *Norwalk Hour*, April 23, 1921, 1921.

Biggs, Lindy. *The Rational Factory*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1999.

Bradley, Betsy Hunter. *The Works*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.

Danenberg, Elsie Nicholas. *The Romance of Norwalk*. New York: The States History Company, 1929.

Factory Inspection Department. *Eight Annual Biennial Report to the Governor*. Hartford: State of Connecticut, 1922.

Price and Lee. *Norwalk City Directory 1922*. New Haven, CT: Price and Lee Company, 1922.

Price and Lee. *Norwalk City Directory 1941*. New Haven, CT: Price & Lee Co., 1923.

---

<sup>34</sup> "Leroy Shirt Co.," *Norwalk Hour*, 1921.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*

Le Roy Shirt Company  
Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut  
County and State

Ray, Deborah Wing and Gloria Stewart. *Norwalk: Being an Historical Account of that Connecticut Town*. Canaan, NH: Phoenix Publishing, 1979.

Sanborn Map Company. *Norwalk, Connecticut Insurance Map*. Vol. 1 inch : 100 feet, 1922.

U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930*, Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1931.

Wermiel, Sarah E. *The Fireproof Building*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000.

**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): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** .34  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18T</u> Zone	<u>4550587</u> Easting	<u>632634</u> Northing	3	_____	_____	_____
					Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

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

Boundaries of the property are listed in the City of Norwalk Land Records – Lot 2-55-4-0

Le Roy Shirt Company  
Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut  
County and State

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

This nomination includes only the Le Roy Shirt Company factory building.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Tod Bryant  
organization Heritage Resources date 8/8/2011  
street & number 23 Morgan Avenue telephone 2  
city or town Norwalk state CT zip code 06851  
e-mail tod@heritageresourcesct.com

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

---

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Le Roy Shirt Company  
Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut  
County and State

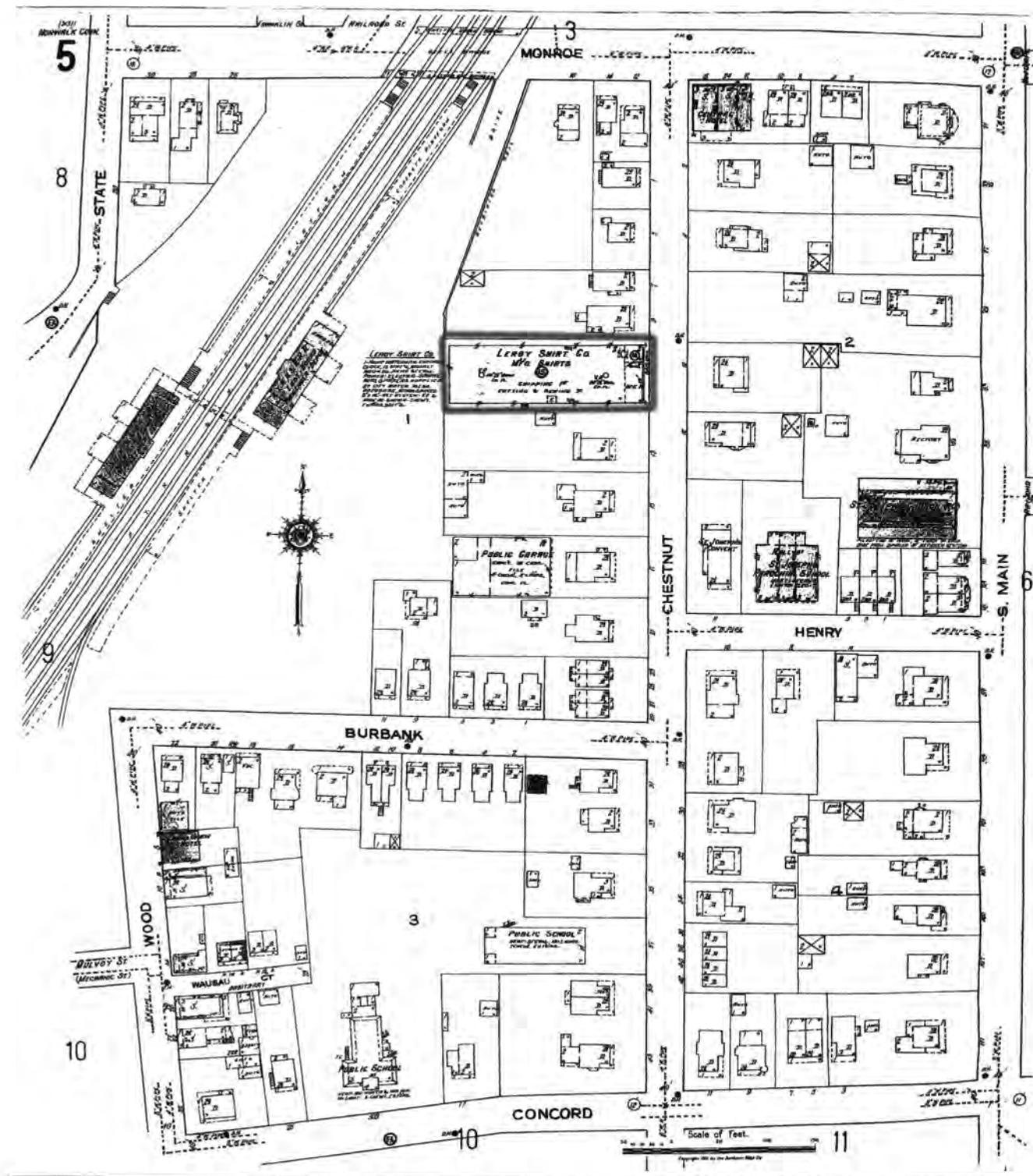


Figure 1. 1922 Sanborn Insurance map of Norwalk, Connecticut showing location of the Le Roy Shirt Company Factory.

Le Roy Shirt Company  
Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut  
County and State

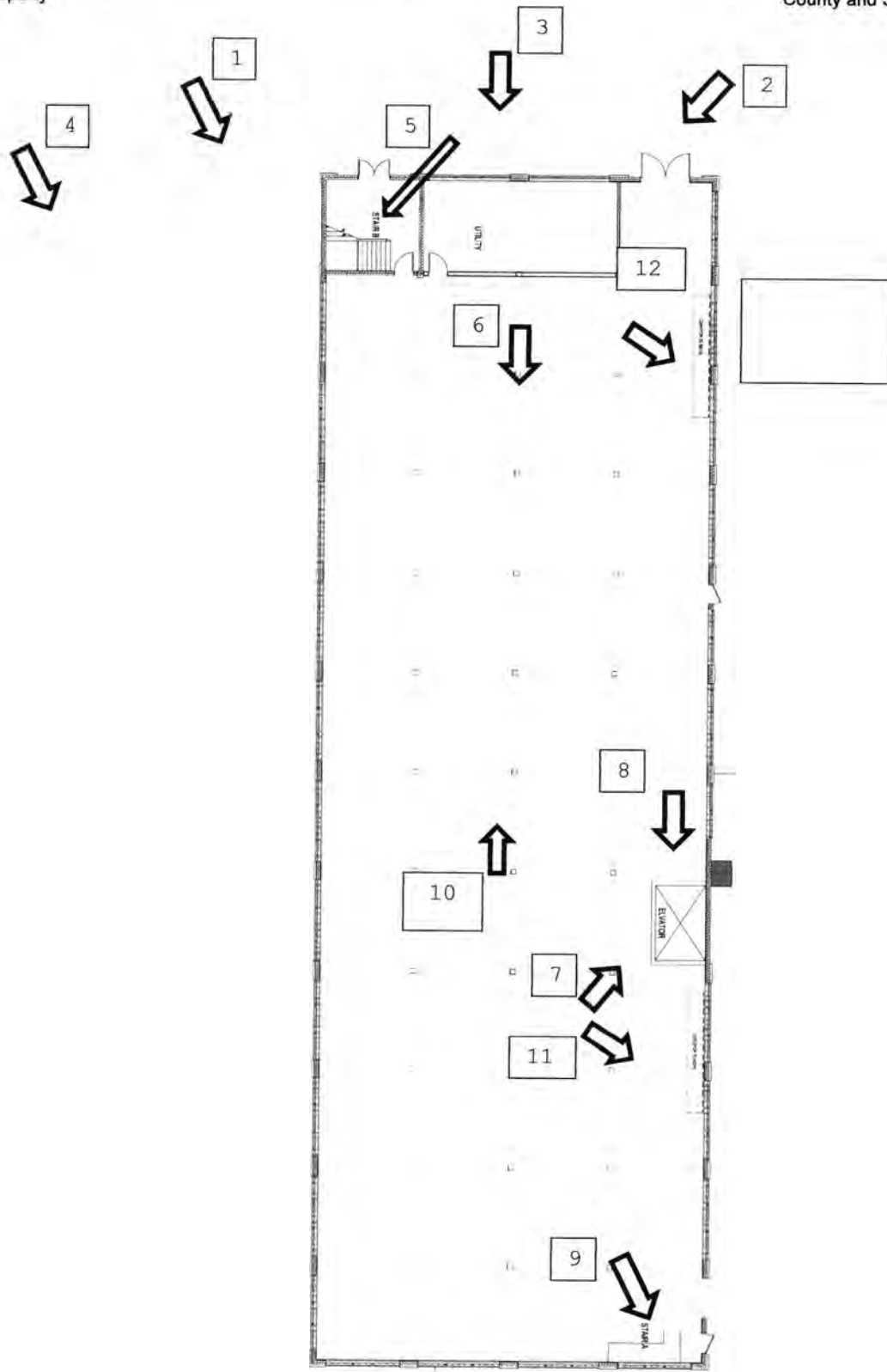


Figure 2. Exterior and first floor photo map.

Le Roy Shirt Company  
Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut  
County and State

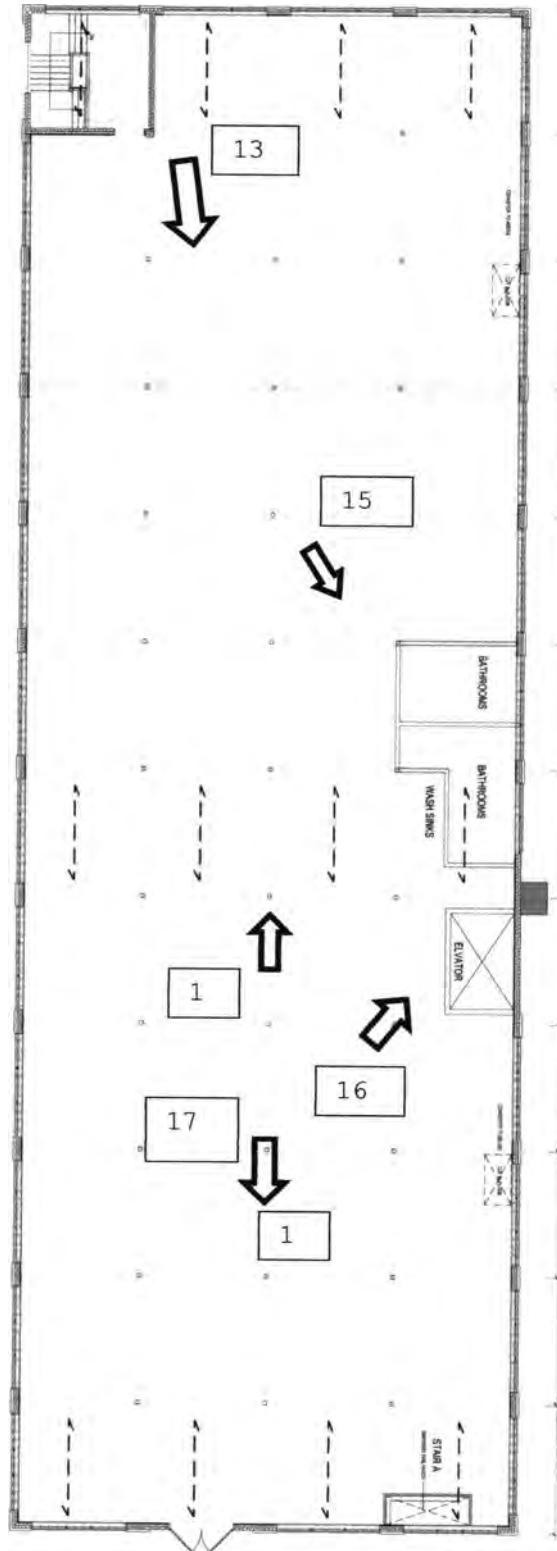


Figure 3. Second floor photo map.

Le Roy Shirt Company  
Name of Property

Fairfield, Connecticut  
County and State

---

**Property Owner:**

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

name Sono Metro, LLC  
street & number 11 Goldstein Place telephone 203-247-2897  
city or town Norwalk state CT zip code 06855

**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.

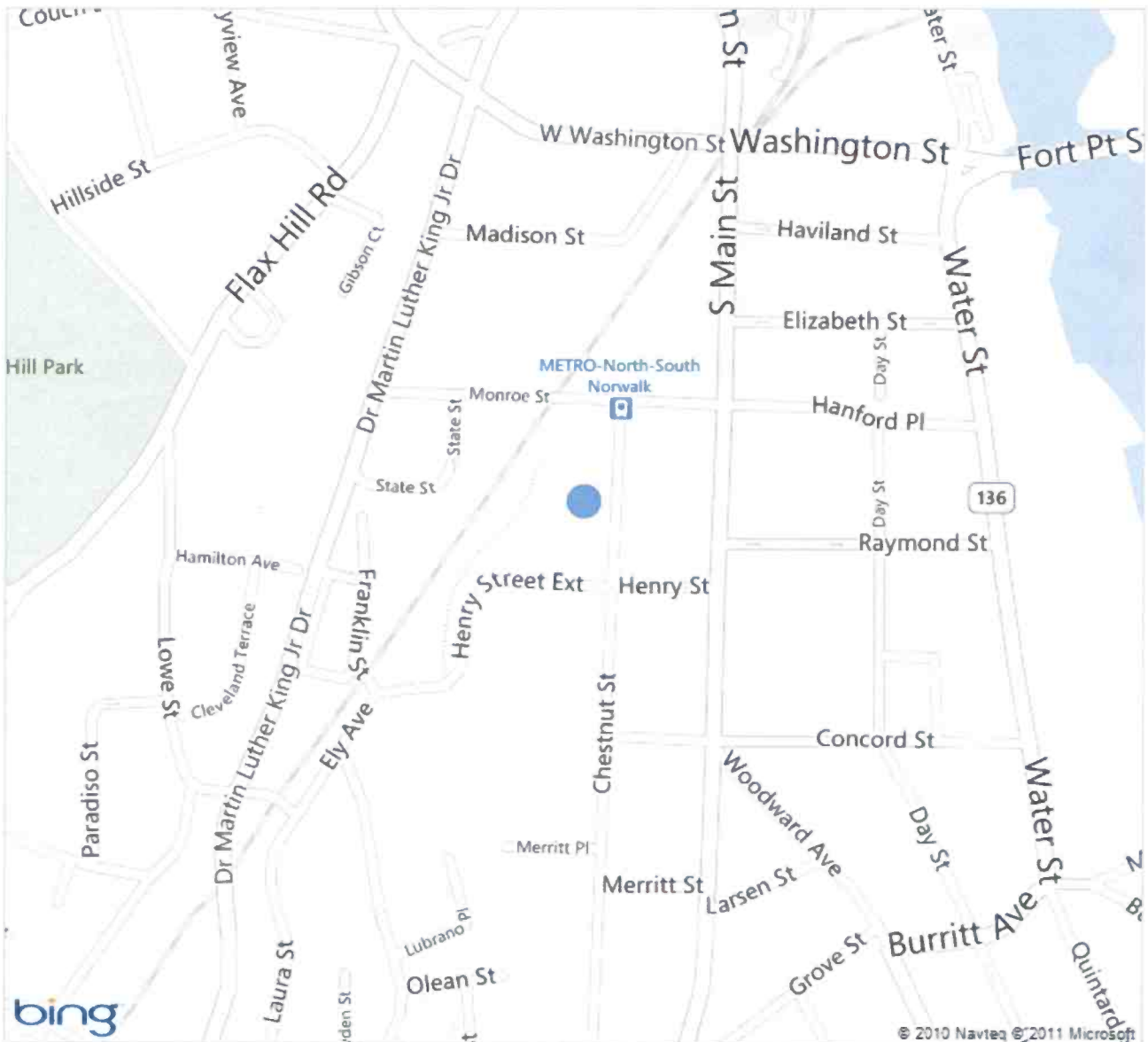




### 11 Chestnut St, Norwalk, CT 06854

Blue dot shows location of the Le Roy Shirt Company Factory at 11 Chestnut Street, Norwalk, Connecticut

On the go? Use [m.bing.com](http://m.bing.com) to find maps, directions, businesses, and more



## **NR Nomination Photograph Log Page**

Name of Property:	Le Roy Shirt Company Factory
City or Vicinity:	Norwalk
County:	Fairfield County
State:	CT
Name of Photographer:	Tod Bryant
Date of Photographs:	August, 2011
Location of Original Digital Files:	23 Morgan Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851

Photo 1. View southwest showing facade and north elevation.

Photo 2. View northwest showing facade and south elevation

Photo 3. View west showing facade with concrete cap on parapet, concrete medallion and corbelling above windows.

Photo 4. View south of north elevation showing windows.

Photo 5. Interior, view northeast showing main staircase.

Photo 6. First floor interior, view west.

Photo 7. First floor interior, view south showing elevator.

Photo 8. First floor interior, showing valves for water-powered elevator.

Photo 9. First floor interior, view west showing rear staircase.

Photo 10. First floor interior, view east showing temporary office wall.

Photo 11. First floor interior, view southwest showing rear conveyor.

Photo 12. First floor interior, view southwest showing front conveyor.

Photo 13. Second floor interior, view west.

Photo 14. Second floor interior view east.

Photo 15. Second floor interior, view southwest showing locker room.

Photo 16. Second floor interior, view northeast showing sinks, locker room and elevator.

Photo 17. Second floor interior, view west showing doors to train station

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY LeRoy Shirt Company Factory  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: CONNECTICUT, Fairfield

DATE RECEIVED: 5/11/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/11/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/26/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/27/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000357

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 6-27-12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Photo 1. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut View southwest showing facade and north elevation. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant



Photo 2. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut View northwest showing facade and south elevation. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant



Photo 3. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut View west showing facade with concrete cap on parapet, concrete medallion and corbelling above windows. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant



Photo 4. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut View south of north elevation showing windows. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant



Photo 5. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut. Interior view northeast showing main staircase. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant





Photo 6. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut. First floor interior view west. August 5, 2011  
Tod Bryant



Photo 7. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut. First floor interior view south showing elevator. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant



Photo 8. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut. First floor interior showing valves for water-powered elevator. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant



Photo 9. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut. First floor interior view west showing rear staircase. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant



PHoto 10. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut. First floor interior view east showing temporary office wall. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant



Photo 11. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut. First floor interior view southwest showing rear conveyor. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant



Photo 12. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut. First floor interior view southwest showing front conveyor. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant



Photo 13. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut. Second floor interior view west. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant.





Photo 14. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut. Second floor interior view east. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant



Photo 15. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut. Second floor interior view southwest showing locker room. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant



Photo 16. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut. Second floor interior view northeast showing sinks, locker room and elevator. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant



Photo 17. Le Roy Shirt Co., Norwalk, Fairfield County, Connecticut. Second floor interior view west showing doors to train station. August 5, 2011 Tod Bryant



TO: J. Paul Loether, Chief  
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Stacey Vairo, National Register Coordinator

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 9 day of May  
2012, for nomination of the Le Roy Shirt Company Factory  
Connecticut

to the National Register of Historic Places:

- Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- Photographs
- Original USGS maps – *Bing map substituted for topo* *USGS*
- Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s) *Please advise.*
- Pieces of correspondence
- Other CD of images

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objections do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_  
constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_