

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 10 1979
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Porter Screen Company

AND/OR COMMON
Central Distributing Corporation

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 110 East Spring Street

CITY, TOWN Winooski

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Vermont VICINITY OF CODE 50 COUNTY Chittenden CODE 007

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 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Central Distributing Corporation

STREET & NUMBER
110 East Spring Street

CITY, TOWN Winooski VICINITY OF STATE Vermont

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. City Clerks Office, City of Winooski

STREET & NUMBER
West Allen Street

CITY, TOWN Winooski STATE Vermont

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic Sites Survey, State of Vermont

DATE to be entered Summer 1979 ___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Division for Historic Preservation, Pavillion Building

CITY, TOWN Montpelier STATE Vermont

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DÉTERIORATED	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Building Description:

- A. Building #1 - The Porter Screen Company is a complex of mill buildings, grouped tightly on a triangular plot between a city street and rail line. The main building on the site is a huge three-story, rectangular mill building measuring 280 x 60 feet. It is of heavy wood frame construction, typical of all the mill buildings on the site, and unlike the other buildings, this structure (no. 1 on site plan) is sheathed in novelty siding.

The facade is broken up by a regular band of windows stretching the length of each side. These windows had 16 over 16 sash and simple frames displaying no exterior ornamentation. The building is capped by a gable roof with exposed eaves. There is no decorative cornice detail, and the present roof covering is tar paper. Fire galvanized metal chimneys rise from the ridge of the roof at regular intervals. The only other protrusion from the roof are a brick fire wall which separates the north quarter of the building from the rest, and a flag pole which rises from the peak of the north gable.

Inside, square posts support dimension lumber used in floors and walls. The interior is one large open space divided solely by the rows of these regularly spaced posts.

The building retains much of its original integrity. Its only major change is on the first floor, where the original floor was removed and the sub-floor excavated approximately six feet to increase the ceiling height. This change took place after 1952 when the building was first used for warehousing: wooden posts were replaced with steel columns, and a concrete slab floor was poured. Extra joists were also added to the floors above to support heavier loads. The sash in this structure was largely destroyed and in 1952, the windows were boarded up with plywood. An enclosed fire stair has been removed from the west elevation leaving only its outline on the wall, and several large openings have been cut into the interior walls to allow for easy shipping and handling of stored goods. A storage area extension was created between building one and six after 1952.

This building is salvageable. Its steel and wood frame are structurally sound, but the wood siding is in very poor shape and the roof is worn and needs replacement.

- B. Building #2 - Building 2 is attached to building 1 at the southwest corner and measured 65 x 80 feet. It is a three-story brick building with a heavy timber frame supporting interior floors. Two parapets rise above each

(See Continuation Sheet for Description - total 5 pgs.)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

gable end, the east one forming a fire-stop with building 1. The building has a sloping gable, and a simple but dignified stepped-brick cornice joins exterior wall to roof edge.

Regular fenestration breaks up the wall surface and the windows, again once fitted with 16 over 16 sash, have simple wood frames and cast iron sills. Flat arches exist above each window. Wooden shutters were once used. The only evidence of these are the metal brackets on the side of each window and two shutters found deteriorating near the building.

Changes to this building took place after 1952. A large loading bay was cut into the south elevation along the rail spur, and three windows were cut down to the floor level to facilitate loading. On the north side, a large storage area was constructed at the second and third floor, connecting building 2 with building 5.

The interior of the building has suffered the same alterations as building 1. The first floor was removed, the sub-floor excavated and steel posts installed. Wall openings have been cut to facilitate handling. Again, exterior windows have all been boarded or bricked in.

Building 2 remains in fair condition. The east fire wall has suffered water damage, as has the cornice and parts of the brick facade. There is some evidence of cracking and displacement of brick in the wall.

- C. Building #3 - Building 3 is a one-story rectangular brick building measuring 35 x 70 feet. It is a simple structure with a shed roof. The south facade had four windows matching those on building 2. The loading bays once located on the west elevation have been closed and incorporated into the newer loading dock attached at this location.

Alteration, beside the addition of the new loading dock include a large gate cut into the south wall.

- D. Building #4 - Built in the 1950's, this one-story structure with shed roof contains the loading platform and office of Central Distributing. The wood frame is reinforced with steel posts in the loading area. Vertical board and batten sheathing covers the exterior walls. The office annex has regular

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

fenestration five bays long and two bays wide. Three large truck bays create the elevation on the west side. This structure built later than the other buildings is much less substantial in its construction, and appears to have no potential for future significance.

- E. Building #5 - Building 5, constructed about 1910, is a rectangular mill structure measuring 50 x 175 feet. It stands two stories high and is heavy timber frame on the interior and brick walls like the other brick buildings on the site, its elevations had regular fenestration with 16 over 16 sash and cast iron sills. A flat arch forms the window heads. A stepped brick cornice joins wall to roof. Unlike the other buildings, building 5 has a very shallow double-pitched roof, almost flat in appearance. The entire structure sits on a concrete foundation.

This building is in good condition and has had little alteration. Much of the interior space remains the same except for changes that are similar to the other buildings. The floor has been removed and sub-floor excavated to raise ceiling heights. A concrete floor has been laid, openings have been cut in interior walls and windows have been boarded.

- F. Building #6 - Building 6 is a three-story brick structure 165 x 50 feet. It is situated parallel to building 1 and joined to it by a series of gangways. This mill structure is almost identical to the others already mentioned. It has heavy timber frame, brick walls broken by regular window openings like those in rest of the site. A gable roof runs the full length of the structure, interrupted only by a fire wall in the north quarter of the building. A single chimney rises from the roof in the north-east corner. Unlike the other buildings however, its west elevation has no windows, but serves as a solid fire wall 165 feet long.

A four-story, brick elevator tower attaches to the building at the southeast corner. This structure still houses an original freight elevator, still in service.

Changes made to this building have been more severe than elsewhere. A large opening has been carved out of the east elevation at the first level. A shed roof has been added to the exterior, and windows have been bricked in. All of these changes appear reversible though costly.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

The condition of the building is generally good, except at the first level where exposure to moisture (especially at the north end) has damaged brick and mortar, causing deterioration.

- G. Building #7 - Building 7 was the steam plant for the industrial complex. The giant boilers that supplied power to the steam engine take up one-third of the space in this building, a two-story square structure measuring 75 x 75 feet.

The elevations are unlike any others in the complex. The roof-line is similar to a monitor roof except there is no monitor: shed roofs rise up from each end to a flat section in the center. A broad parapet at the east gables mimicks the roof line. There are window openings on the east and south facade. The windows are placed in groupings and the doors are randomly situated. Unlike the windows in the rest of the complex, these have segmental heads. The doorway and double doors have this same treatment, and sash is 25 over 25 and still in place.

Severe alterations have taken place to the east and south walls of this building. From old site maps, one can identify a pump house that no longer stands in this corner of the building. Its destruction has left mismatched brick at this location, and the south half of the roof has been raised, disturbing the appearance of the building on the south and east sides. A covered loading platform has been added to the south side recently and its shoddy lally-column construction detracts from the former simple balance of the whole.

The interior spaces of this building have been changed: the two-story space which housed the steam engines has been divided into two separate floors, each for storage purposes, and all mechanical equipment has been removed. Nevertheless, in spite of the considerable brick repairs necessary, this building retains a greater proportion of its original trim than its neighbors, and has great potential for restoration.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1901 and 1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Not Know

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Porter Screen Company, Winooski, Vermont

The City of Winooski, now emerging from an economic slump, is typical of those industrial centers which made New England the very heart of America's 19th century Industrial Revolution. Today, Winooski is still a city dominated by mills, and its picturesque location on a terraced slope overlooking the fast-moving Winooski River across from Burlington give Winooski's mills a visual prominence which enhances their already impressive massing and array.

It is largely thanks to these long-underutilized mills that Winooski is now entering a new age of activity, and the preservation and adaptive reuse of several mill complexes as both housing and commercial space is greatly increasing the importance of this recently depressed city to its much larger and active neighbor.

Winooski's industrial importance originated during the Greek Revival era, when new immigrant labor and the availability of plentiful water-power fostered the founding of the first cotton mill. Textiles were the dominant activity throughout Winooski's golden era of peak industrial activity, and the Burlington cotton mills evolved into the large complex later known as the American Woolen Mills.

Interestingly enough, however, the ephemeral venture capital of 19th century development did not achieve stability for Winooski; companies and mills were constantly reorganized and liquidated, with much concomitant grief and suffering. It was not until many of the smaller mills finally reorganized into the American Woolen Mills, at the turn of the 20th century, that prosperity became a stable way of life, and Winooski reached its zenith and industrial maturity. This era was also one of diversification, and the Porter Screen Company was one of the most important secondary industries to demonstrate its faith in Winooski by relocating there.

The Porter Screen Company is an industrial site important to the social and cultural history of the City of Winooski and the State of Vermont. Its products, door and window screens, ironing boards and wooden ware, were distributed nationwide, and its existence and success contributed to the prosperity that made Winooski one of Vermont's leading industrial centers in the first half of the 20th century.

(See Continuation Sheet for Significance of Statement - total 2 pgs.)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chittenden County Historical Society, "Look Around Winooski, Vermont",
Heritage Series vol. 2, Sept. 1972 by Chittenden County Historical Society.
 Lord, Charles S., "History of Winooski," Expansion: Vermonts Industrial Magazine, vol. 1, no. 8, April 1904, p. 14.
 Rann, W.S., History of Chittenden County, D. Mason and Company, Publishers;
 Syracuse, New York, 1886

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Burlington Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	6,4,4	5,6,0	4,9	1,0	0,0,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING						
C							D					
E							F					
G							H					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Property is bounded on the south by the Central Vermont Railroad, on east and north by Spring Street, on west by Winooski Valley Family Health Center, and by Winooski Housing Authority. The property is triangular. (See Cont. sheet 10-1)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Preston Maynard, Preservation Consultant

ORGANIZATION Preservation Partnership

DATE June 16, 1979

STREET & NUMBER 30 Bradley Street

TELEPHONE (802) 862-0565

CITY OR TOWN Burlington

STATE Vermont

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

William B. Dunne

TITLE Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 9/28/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol O'Shall

DATE 11-15-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

DATE 11/15/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Much of the site remains intact and unaltered, increasing its significance as an historic and architectural landmark in this industrial city.

The Porter Screen Company was chartered in August 1881 by E. N. Porter of Hardwick, Vermont. The company was established first in Burlington but moved to Winooski in 1893, locating at the foot of Barlow Street. Unfortunately, a fire at this location destroyed the building in 1900 and a new site was chosen along the Central Vermont Rail lines between East Allen and Spring Street. Between 1901 and 1910, an impressive complex of mill buildings, warehouses, and service buildings were constructed to house Porter Screen, many of which still stand today.

Good business acumen, excellent transportation facilities, and a ready market helped make Porter Screen Company a financial success. Lumber was brought in by rail, stockpiled in huge yards across from the plant; sorted, cut, finished and assembled into windows, doors and other wood products. As early as 1904, two hundred and fifty people were employed making 6,000 window screens and 1,600 doors a day.

The company operated successfully through much of the first half of the 20th century. It was the largest company of its kind, devoted primarily to the manufacture of adjustable screens. Porter Screen expanded by merging and acquiring other screen plants. In 1906 it merged with the Continental Screen Company of Detroit greatly improving the distribution of its products to the Midwest. In 1911, Porter Screen acquired the Roll-A-Way Screen Company of Brocton, Massachusetts and moved it to Winooski. A two-story brick building was constructed to house the manufacture of "roll-a-way" metal screens. This operation was discontinued in 1916 because of the unreliable nature of the product. By 1950 the demand for wood screens had diminished as aluminum windows consumed more and more of the market. With this factor in mind, Henry T. Way, the last president, closed the plant on April 1, 1952 and converted the buildings into warehouses. In 1959 the entire complex was sold to Central Distributing Corporation who continue to use the buildings as warehouse space.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET significance

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 3

PORTER SCREEN COMPANY, WINOOSKI, CHITTENDEN COUNTY, VT

The two buildings within the nominated area and to the east of the main complex were found to have lost sufficient integrity through deterioration and alteration as to no longer meet the criteria for inclusion in the National Register.

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

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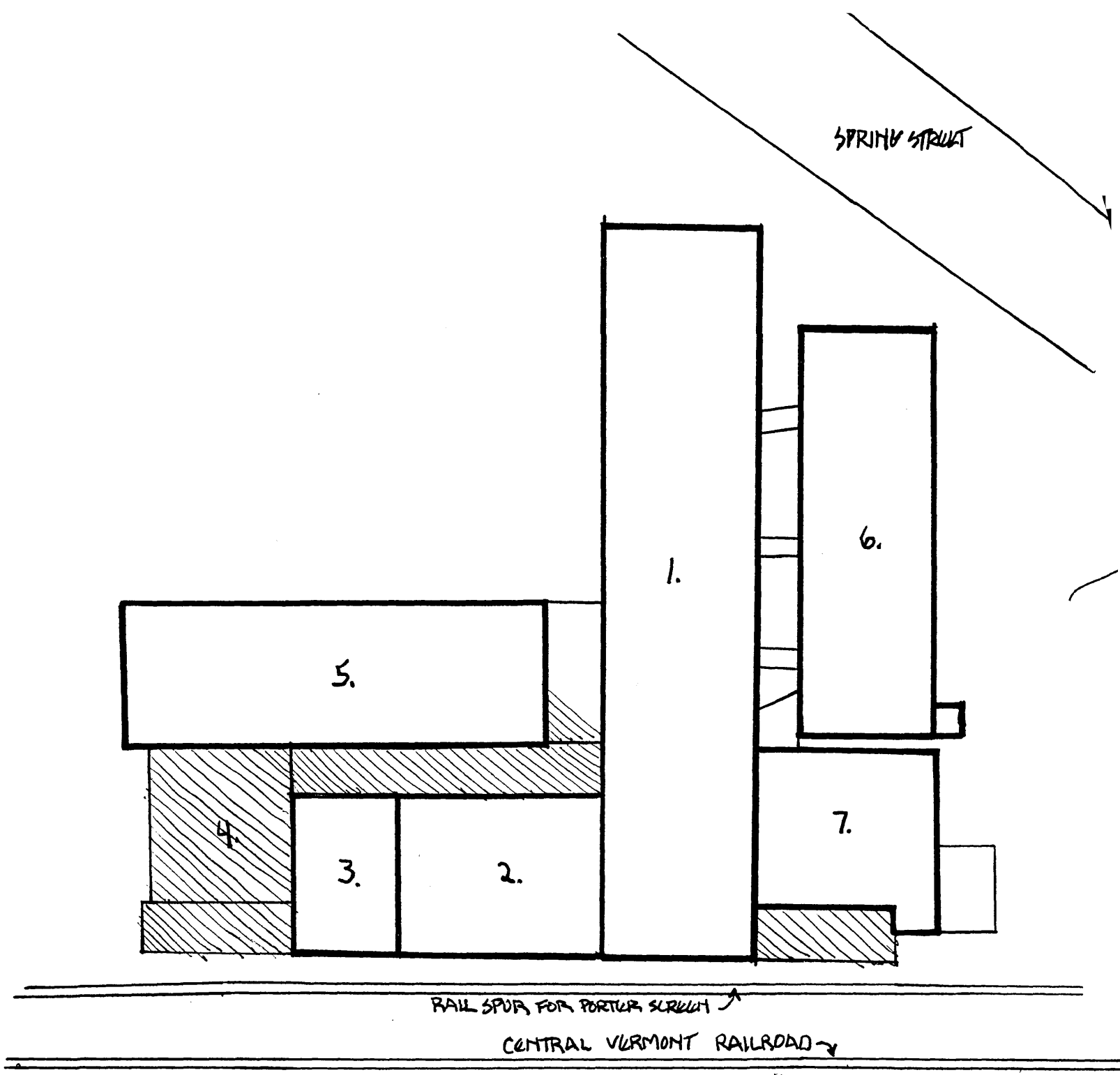
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET 10-1

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

On the south, the boundary extends approximately 810 feet along the north side of the Central Vermont Railroad tracks; on the north, approximately 750 feet along the south side of East Spring Street; and on the west approximately 625 feet along a property boundary shared with the Winooski Valley Family Health Center and the Winooski Housing Authority. The property is further described in Vol. 37, p. 478-481 of the Winooski Land Records at the City Clerk's Office.



SITE PLAN

PORTER SCREEN COMPANY
 110 E. SPRING ST. WINDSOR, VERMONT



NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES