



# 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 Albany Felt Company Complex

other names/site number Albany International (1969-present)

## 2. Location

street & number 1373 Broadway

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

not for publication

city or town Menands vicinity

state New York code NY county Albany code 001 zip code 12204

## 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

Ruth A Purpont DSHPO  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/23/13  
Date

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:)

Alexis Abernathy  
Signature of the Keeper

2/14/14  
Date of Action

ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX  
Name of Property

ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
0	0	sites
4	0	structures
3	1	objects
10	2	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing Facility, Industrial

VACANT

Storage

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business Offices

COMMERCE/TRADE : Business Offices

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

foundation: BRICK, CONCRETE

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Industrial Style,

walls: BRICK

Neoclassical, Colonial Revival

roof: SYNTHETICS

other: WOOD, METAL, GLASS

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

---

**Narrative Description**

**Summary Paragraph**

The Albany Felt Company is a remarkably intact industrial facility sited on property that spans the corporate boundary line between the City of Albany and Village of Menands, both located in Albany County, New York. The mill totals approximately 400,000 square feet of space on roughly 9 acres of land, including both the factory and its warehouses. Sited behind a 1902 ornamental cast-iron fence and manicured grass lawn on Broadway, the largest portion of the Albany Felt complex is comprised of four attached brick manufacturing wings at its north end (1902; 1910; 1920; 1938) with smaller administrative (1918) and office (1948; 1954) additions at its south end. Dependencies include two warehouses to the east of the mill (1902; 1941) and four pump houses (ca. 1920s) to the west. Two manmade ponds on site (1920s) are decorative features. The Albany Felt mill was originally constructed with load-bearing brick exterior walls and masonry foundations, characteristic of mill construction in the early twentieth century. New building materials were introduced as they became available. The 1902 and 1910 buildings employ brick envelopes, with internal wood framing, while the 1920 and 1938 portions use steel and concrete. The manufacturing portion has an open floor plan, well lighted by large industrial steel awning windows. The administrative and office wings employ smaller, less frequent, double-hung multi-pane windows, and its space is subdivided. The 1902 stair tower, which served as the original entrance, as well as the 1918 administrative wing and 1948 offices, are the only portions of the building which utilize any decorative architectural masonry detailing. All additions and alterations to the Albany Felt Company factory adopted a similar architectural vocabulary to the earlier construct, and as such do not diminish the integrity of the property, especially in terms of scale, massing, and materials.

---

**Summary**

Built in stages between 1902 and 1954, the Albany Felt Company mill and its supporting structures are located at 1373 Broadway in the Village of Menands and City of Albany, Albany County. The nominated property is located on the east side of Broadway. The Albany Felt Company Complex is situated on the west side of the Hudson River and south of the Menand Park Historic District, which encompasses 21 residences in the bungalow and prairie style designed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The roughly nine-acre site is bounded by railroad tracks and the Canal Road (formerly the Erie Canal) to its east, and Broadway, the historic road that connected Albany to Troy, to its west. The landscaped parking lot, a 1980s addition, is located south of the building on a parcel in the City of Albany. Privately held parcels are located to the north and south of the property on Broadway.

This turn-of-the-century industrial complex consists of a large, three-story brick mill comprised of seven connected buildings. At the north are the manufacturing wings (1902; 1910; 1920; 1938) with smaller office and administrative wings gathered at its south entrance facade (1918; 1948; 1954). Due south of the entrance is a small manmade pond (ca. 1920s) which separates the building from a landscaped parking lot. To the east of the mill, at the rear of the lot, is an asphalt-paved parking area where two warehouses (1902 and 1941) are situated. To the west of the mill, between it and Broadway, is a large green space that includes a manmade pond (1928) along with four scattered pump houses (ca. 1920s). An ornamental cast-iron fence (1902) separates Broadway traffic from Albany Felt Company property. All the buildings and structures aforementioned are contributing to the significance of the nomination. These additions and alterations were necessitated by the technological advances in the paper manufacturing process and also by company growth. The sole non-contributing building is the Gate House at the south driveway entrance, designed in the late 1980s. The sole non-contributing object is the fence that surrounds the pond west of the mill.

At the turn of the century, commercial and industrial growth was pushing development north of Albany. As a part of this development, industries were moving into what had been a residential area along Broadway, the north-south arterial that connected Albany to Troy. Today, many of the neighboring early twentieth century industrial structures have been demolished, though over twenty were accounted for in the Village of Menands, one hundred years ago.

**Albany Felt Building – Current Physical Appearance**

**Contributing Buildings**

At first glance, the Albany Felt Company Complex might be mistaken for an attractive college campus, rather than an industrial facility. The attention paid to the building's siting and landscape is indicative of the pride which the company took in its work. Albany Felt was, and remains, an attentive steward of its one-hundred-and-eleven year old building.

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

**Manufacturing Plant**

Built in 1902, the original manufacturing building of the Albany Felt Company was designed by the North Carolina architectural firm of Lockwood, Greene & Company. The mill is a red brick, three-story, flat roofed, rectangular industrial building with simple elevations and a five-story tile-roofed stair tower at its southwest corner, which served as the building's entrance. At this time, administrative offices remained in Albany, so the entire wing held industrial processes. The building is oriented north-south, parallel to, and fronting, Broadway. It sits back from Broadway, behind an ornamental wrought iron fence and an expanse of grassy lawn.

As with many industrial buildings, the elevations are treated as functional elements without excess decoration, and are punctuated only by windows, which accommodated ventilation and light. The fenestration patterns on all elevations prominently feature large metal industrial windows, with rounded heads and stone sills. Windows are 6'-8" wide, separated only by a 3'-4" section of brick. This pattern repeats for the entire length of the east and west elevations. A central vertical piece separates two identical windows in each opening. They are each Kalwall replacements at the top, with faux mullions totaling 18 panes. Below are operable awnings. So large and frequent are the windows that glass seems to be the primary building material of the elevation, rather than masonry. Above the third floor windows is a wood eave with brackets, constructed when the parapet was eliminated (date unknown).

Structurally, the building has brick exterior load-bearing walls, 24" deep at first-story level, 20" at second-story level, and 16" at the third and fourth-story level. Brick foundations and piers support timber columns and joists up through the second floor. The third floor columns carry the roof load. The building's floor height is roughly 15-feet high throughout all three stories.

In plan, the building is a long narrow rectangle with a square stair tower and measures roughly 164' x 85'. It is an open floor plan, with 4-6" thick, tongue-and-groove, thin-strip timber flooring, timber columns and timber joists, all exposed. The exterior masonry walls are also exposed, and painted. There are three parallel rows of painted timber columns, running north-south, aligned parallel to the exterior walls. The columns divide the interior space into four equal bays. The open floor plan at the south third of the building, on the first floor, has been subdivided into offices (1988). At the east side of the building, near the south end, is an attached three-story "L" shaped appendage, originally designed as a single-story Engine and Fan Room. Those rooms now function as mechanical spaces on the first floor. The additional floors above were constructed in 1954 as an office block, and the entire building was re-clad in brick in the Colonial Revival style. The windows are fitted with paired, double-hung sash. Centrally located on the south elevation is the entrance door to the offices, framed by a front-gabled porch that has a metal roof supported by square brick piers.

The stair tower, square in plan with 22' sides, rises two stories above the remainder of the mill; it is capped by a tile-covered hipped roof and has large, overhanging bracketed eaves. The first and second stories of the tower are obscured by the 1988 Lobby entrance addition. Windows are varied. At the third story level, the two 20-paned windows match in overall dimension to the others at the 1902 mill. Above, at what would be a fourth story level, two additional windows lack rounded heads, but maintain the multi-paned aesthetic. The uppermost windows, just below the roofline, are square, with decorative mullions that form "X" patterns. The fourth-story windows are set into a decorative brick design which alternates in horizontal bands that project outwards. The fourth and fifth story windows are separated by patterned masonry beneath a horizontal stone band. The brick appears to be cantilevered beneath the stone band to form a series of decorative brackets. Since the stair tower served as the principal entrance to the building on its west elevation decorative features are more pronounced.

The second phase of the manufacturing plant occurred in 1910, when the mill doubled in size, being expanded to the north. The same architect constructed this addition and it is almost impossible today to even tell that the 1902 and 1910 portions were not built in one campaign. On the interior there is no evidence at all, as the original north façade of the building was removed entirely when the 1910 building was added. It uses identical structure and building materials. A freight elevator is housed in the northwest corner of the addition. A single-story electrical room projects outwards from the east elevation.

In 1920, due to the large success of the business, the architect was asked once more by the Directors of Albany Felt to double the size of the mill towards the north. From the exterior, again, it would appear that the 1902, 1910 and 1920 wings were constructed as one long building, though a slight difference in brick color is discernible. Together, they

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

measure 602' long and match the original 85' width. On the interior slight variations are evident. Concrete was introduced as the foundation and pier material, while steel was introduced as the column and joist material. Column rhythm slightly differed in this portion of the building, as only two rows of columns were used instead of three, due to the increased strength of steel. Timber floors were installed to match the other portions of the manufacturing plant. A door opening was cut through the north wall of the 1910 building that closes with a sliding industrial door. Fire stairs are located at the northwest and southwest corners of the 1920 addition. Three one room, single-story appendages project from the first floor of the west elevation, and were designed in the 1980s to accommodate equipment.

The final portion of the manufacturing space was an addition in 1938. Instead of using Lockwood, Greene & Company, Albany Felt hired J.E. Serrine, who was a previous employee of that firm who worked on the early Albany Felt mills, and subsequently established his own practice. This portion of the mill has a distinctly different aesthetic than the others, likely a combination of a new architect, as well as the introduction of a 1930s design sensibility. This addition is located east of the 1920 building, and essentially doubled its size. The 1920 and 1938 portions both terminate at the same north exterior wall, which was extended east to accommodate the addition. They also share an identical structural vocabulary. Like its earlier neighbors, windows are the main feature on the otherwise plain exterior elevations. These replacement industrial metal windows are 8'-8" wide, rectangular, with 8 panes and a center mullion. The upper 6 are fixed, and the bottom units are hopper windows. As compared to the 1902, 1910 and 1920 elevations, there is even less brick between these larger sized windows; only 1'-4". Some windows have been bricked in to suit the needs of the interior of the space. A small exterior vestibule and other single-story mechanical spaces were added at first floor level in the 1980s on the east elevation. The first floor at the north side of the building serves a loading dock via three overhead doors, adjacent to an exterior freight elevator. On the interior, the 1920 and 1938 spaces are connected via the original exterior masonry wall of the 1920 building. The windows in that wall have been either been removed, or removed and framed out to accommodate smaller fixed plexiglass windows which allow the two spaces to share light. Occasionally they have been removed altogether down to the floor to allow passage. Interior stairs are located at the northwest and southeast corners of the building.

All the manufacturing buildings share a roofline, eave, and flat roof, covered in PVC material. The building's central stair provides roof access.

**Administrative Wing**

In 1918 Albany Felt decided to relocate its administrative functions from Albany to Menands, establishing their plant as the company's new headquarters. A 2-story brick addition was built adjacent to the west elevation of the stair tower at the southwest corner of the plant. A third and fourth story were added in 1927 and 1948, respectively. The building is oriented east-west and extends towards Broadway. It is "I" shaped in plan, long and narrow, having 8 bays, with a central interior hallway and offices on each side. Its asymmetrically located entrance is on south elevation, marked by a portico. A pair of doors is flanked by sidelights and a fanlight above. The entablature on the entry porch is supported by round columns, and its frieze carving reads "Albany Felt". A balustrade spans the entire cornice. The north elevation features a framed bay window which was installed in the Board Room in the 1930s, along with ornate wood paneling. Each story of the building, beyond the second, is separated by multiple horizontal string courses of cast stone, which project from the wall surface. The eave and string course directly below the third story windows have dentils. Windows are far smaller than those found at the mill, just 4' wide, 8-over-8 double-hung sash, with stone sills below, and stone keystones above.

**Office Additions**

There are two office additions at the Albany Felt Building, dating to 1948 and 1954. The 1954 Office was discussed above, and is located on the upper floors of the original Engine and Fan Room structure, projecting off the east side of the 1902 manufacturing mill.

The 1948 offices are referred to in its drawings set as a "vertical addition" to the 1902 building at its south end. At the west it terminates at the stair tower and extends east to match the east elevation of the manufacturing wing. It is equal in height to the plant, and was designed by architect F.D. Thomas. The architectural vocabulary is almost identical to the Administrative wing, except that the horizontal stone banding is flush with the brick wall.

The 1948 office, the stair tower, and the Administrative wing are all connected on the exterior by a brick 1988 Lobby Entrance designed by Einhorn Yaffee Prescott architects. The entrance has three bays, the middle one raised in height, with a front-gable metal roof. The two flanking bays are single-story with flat roofs. The lobby is a bright space with large

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

fixed windows that have rounded heads. Inside the lobby, the exterior masonry wall of the 1902 mill is exposed, and access to the stair tower is provided.

Warehouses

Two warehouses exist on site. The first, a storehouse, is original to Albany Felt, constructed in 1902 and located southeast of the mill. The second, a five-story brick warehouse, was constructed in 1941, is located north of the storehouse.

The 1902 storehouse is a single-story brick building, front-gabled with a rectangular plan. The purpose of the store house was to store finished product until it was ready to be delivered. Entrance is gained on the north side through an overhead door and adjacent person-door. East of the doors are three oversized windows which have structural glass block. A smaller bricked-in window sits directly below the gable peak. The window openings have round heads. On the interior is a timber floor and exposed wood trusses. A full length brick addition was built onto its east side to increase space.

The 1941 warehouse is a five story brick building, flat roofed with a square plan. The purpose of the warehouse was to store raw material until it was needed at the mill. Entrance can be gained on all elevations, either through overhead or smaller doors. Extending to the fifth floor, there are two vertical bays of windows on the north elevation, and two vertical bays of loading dock doors on the south elevation. A horizontal stone band separates the first floor from those above. The interior has a concrete floor and large concrete mushroom columns. Though the architect has not been determined, one may surmise that J.E. Sirrine, who built the 1938 portion of the mill just three years prior, might be responsible.

**Contributing Structures**

There are four brick pump houses located west of the mill, between the building and Broadway. These houses are miniature in scale, enclosing original hydrants installed as part of the fire suppression system at the plant, before Menands

had its own fire department. The south, west and north elevations of all pump houses are brick, with wood double-doors on the east side for access. Each house has a hipped slate roof.

**Contributing Objects**

There is one perimeter fence, and two manmade ponds, which are all contributing objects.

The decorative fence is original to the site and extends the length of the property, along Broadway. It is cast iron and approximately 8' tall. The pointed picket fence panels span large posts which are topped with an egg-shaped motif. There are two horizontal iron railings at the top of the each panel, and one at the bottom. Sandwiched between the upper railings are decorative "O" motifs, between each picket.

Both ponds were created in the 1920s, as part of a movement to beautify the growing headquarters of Albany Felt. The smaller pond is located at the south side of the property, opposite the building entrance, between the landscaped parking lot and the mill.

The larger round pond is situated between the mill and fence on Broadway, on the west side of the building. Originally it was fed by a creek on the opposite side of Broadway, whose parcel was purchased by Albany Felt for this purpose. It has a rounded rectangular shape, and operable fountains. Both are regularly maintained and cleaned.

**Albany Felt Building - Historic Appearance**

The above narrative accounts for the current physical description, most which is identical to its historic appearance as early alterations relate to the historic development and operation of the facility. However, some more recent changes are also evident, including those which are discernible by contrasting current conditions with historic photographs.

The Site

During the heyday of manufacturing at Albany Felt, trains and trolleys were a common site in Menands. Tracks not only ran just outside of the fence along Broadway for local passenger use, but also the Albany Northern had a right-of-way along the east of the site. In fact, a siding track curved into Albany Felt's property, terminating at the storehouse. Both the trolley and siding tracks have seen been removed or otherwise paved over. A chain link fence marks the edge of Albany Felt property at the east, no longer permitting train access.

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

The manmade pond at the west side of the site was originally designed as a rectangular 39,000 gallon reservoir, and continued in that function until 1928, when it was enlarged to become a decorative pond for swans.

Original water towers were removed between 1935 and 1951, as indicated by Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, and a large chimney was removed in the 1950s.

**The Mill**

Original windows in all the mill buildings were removed at an unknown date. In historic photos they appear as a pair of casements, each 20-paned, with a half-round fixed window above at the three older manufacturing buildings.

The mill-support buildings that were connected to the east side of the 1902 plant, as well as the outbuildings to the east of those, were frequently altered as the company grew and as paper technologies changed. Stories were added and subtracted, structures constructed and demolished. A variety of these were captured in photographs and Sanborn maps. The 1935 Sanborn Map fails to depict the original engine room and fan room connecting to a wool preparing building. Instead, the engine room was converted to a research laboratory and the wool preparation building gained a third floor and a new wool sorting function. A single-story dye house, to the east of the wool building, exists on the 1935 map. This was replaced by the 5-story brick warehouse in 1941, which was connected by bridge (since demolished) to the former wool building, which by then was even further extended and enlarged to include a boiler room. Between 1935 and 1951, the water tower and chimney were demolished. Drawings for these projects were not able to be located.

**The Administrative Wing**

When the third and fourth stories (1927; 1948) were added to the 1918 Administrative wing, the exterior was given an updated look to a more stately appearance. Originally the 6-bay building appeared far more plain, without the later stone string courses, dentils and elaborate entry.

**The Outbuildings**

Early photographs of the storehouse show it with a clapboard exterior finish, and not the brick seen today. However, the building has the same shape and profile in historic photographs, and is assumed to be an original structure based on its appearance in the 1909 Sanborn Map. Glass blocks replaced original windows at the storehouse.

**Alterations and Integrity**

Most alterations and removals at the Albany Felt plant happened during the period of significance and as such are part of the historical development of the property as described in the physical narrative above. However, some alterations occurred after the period of significance. For the most part, these changes did not substantially impair the building's integrity. They were instead sensitively completed without significantly damaging the historic fabric of the earlier construction.

- 1966 Interior laboratory design by A.C. McDowell
- 1976 Office stair addition by Cadman Droste & Thomas
- 1988 Einhorn Yaffee Prescott, architects completed a number of projects:
  - Second floor interior plant remodel, including architectural, electric, and HVAC.
  - Site Improvements, including parking lot and new guard house at gate entrance
  - Entrance lobby addition
- 1990 Boiler room addition by T.L. Owens, Engineers & Planners
- 1994 Office renovation by Einhorn Yaffee Prescott, architects

The only serious alteration to the historic integrity of the exterior is the removal of the wood historic windows in the manufacturing plant, which were replaced by aluminum windows which are not matches to the original in style, profile, or material. However, the rough openings of the windows remain, and as such the condition is reversible with appropriate window replacements.

The only serious deterioration evident is at the wrought-iron decorative fence, where many pickets are now only ¼" thick where the pickets meet the rail.

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

There have been major structural changes to the mill, notably with the introduction of steel. Some timber columns have been replaced with steel columns of similar sizes and in their original locations. In 1945, a large section of the second floor in the 1920 mill was reinforced for heavy machinery, which resulted in the lowering of the first floor ceiling height below.

The interior finishes of the plant are extraordinarily intact, holding vestiges of its life as a mill, decades after manufacturing ceased on site. The timber floor, painted brick walls and exposed ceiling match those found in historic photos. Though machinery and floor plates have been removed, grooves in the floor for equipment remain, as do various pulleys and hatches scattered throughout every floor of the manufacturing facility. Measurements engraved into the wood flooring to aid in sizing the felt remain visible in some areas. An industrial-strength scale is located on the third floor of the mill and was used to weigh the final product before shipping. Similarly, the warehouse and storehouse spaces were not altered, and presumably appear as they did when in use while felt was manufactured on site. In the more finished spaces, the interior also retains its integrity. For example, the woodwork of the 1930s Board Room has remained unchanged since it was installed. The stair tower, which was the single decorative feature of the original mill building, remains in use with its exposed exterior brick walls and open volume.



**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

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.)

within the past 50 years.

- 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

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1902-1954

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Lockwood, Greene & Co.

J.E. Serrine & Co.

Turner Construction Co.

**Significant Dates**

1902,1910,1920,1938

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance, 1902-1954, begins with the initial date of construction and is terminated by the year the last significant alteration was made to the building. This period roughly coincides with when the Albany Felt Company's operations expanded beyond the Menands mill and when the company established itself as an international corporation. During this period of growth, the building achieved its current configuration and Albany Felt served as both a local landmark, a global leader in the paper making industry, and an important presence in the Capital region industrial economy.

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

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph**

The Albany Felt Company Complex has been associated with local manufacturing since its construction in 1902. It is one of the oldest continually operating companies in the Village of Menands and surrounding Town of Colonie. The Albany Felt Company Complex is a prominent architectural and visual landmark and the company is a recognized global leader in the paper industry. The property meets National Register of Historic Places Criteria A and C in the local context.

The Albany Felt Company Complex is eligible under Criterion A, in the area of Industry, for its importance to the paper manufacturing industry in the Albany area during the period of significance, 1902-1954. Founded in 1895, Albany Felt grew throughout the early the twentieth century to become the world's leading maker of heavyweight industrial felt, which was critical to paper manufacturing. At that time most of the country's paper was made within a few hundred miles of the Albany area, due to the proximity of the forested Adirondack region, where wood was sourced. While many of these paper mills closed, Albany Felt thrived and expanded. The Menands mill was the principal home for Albany Felt until it expanded into both Canada and the southern United States, starting in 1952. Beginning in the early 1990s, the digital revolution began to reduce the need for paper and for the following 20 years the company solely used the building for administrative purposes, leaving behind a remarkably intact turn-of-the-century paper felt mill while they pursued other business opportunities.

The Albany Felt mill is also eligible under Criterion C, in the area of Architecture, as an example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century mill construction. The property is remarkably preserved, a credit to Albany Felt's attentive stewardship. Constructed of load-bearing brick for its exterior walls, and employing both heavy timber and steel in its structure, the mill is a prototype for

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

factories of its age, with narrow bays and multiple floors. It was enlarged in phases, illustrating the changes in manufacturing that came about as technology was improved, as well as the company's financial success. Outbuildings such as pump houses, warehouses and storehouses were erected using the same architectural vocabulary and are considered contributing buildings and structures. Though utilitarian in design, stylistic architectural and landscape features were incorporated which reflected the pride that Albany Felt took in its work, and in the community.

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

**Criterion A**

**Overview of the Paper Industry & the role of the Albany Felt Company**

In 1995, the Albany International Corporation—the parent company of Albany Felt since 1969—self-published a centennial history in honor of their long-standing service to the paper industry. A brief history of papermaking, and Albany Felt's role in it, served as its prologue:

The basic process of making paper by hand, from preparing the fibers to pressing the finished sheets, is so laborious, so time consuming that it has become either a fine art or after-school craft project. But handmade paper, produced one slow sheet at a time, was once the only paper in the world. It was not until the 1790s, after the Industrial Revolution had transformed most other crafts that the work of papermaking was entrusted to machinery. In 1799, Nicholas-Louis Robert, a clerk in a French paper mill, patented a small, hand-cranked machine that produced paper in a continuous roll. His was the first of several breakthroughs that launched the modern paper industry.

Robert took no part in the revolution that followed. The Frenchman sold his patent to the Fourdrinier brothers, a pair of English paper merchants who exhausted their funds (and their patience) in developing a truly commercial machine from Robert's prototype. Their labors were ultimately rewarded. Fourdrinier machines became standard equipment in British paper mills, and they soon made their way to the New World. The first arrived in Saugerties, New York in 1827. At roughly \$30,000, the device was expensive for its time, but it produced paper up to five feet wide at a speed of nearly 100 feet per minute. (The largest modern machines, by contrast, stretch to 35 feet in width, operate at nearly a mile a minute, and cost as much as \$400 million.)

The Fourdrinier machine worked wonders, but the paper industry's progress was hampered by a critical shortage of raw materials. Cotton and linen rags, carefully fermented and then mashed beyond recognition, had long been the papermaker's starting point. As the demand for paper soared, there were simply not enough rags to go around. (Some of England's less scrupulous papermakers resorted to using shrouds stolen from fresh graves.) In the mid-1800s, finally, the industry developed machinery that could literally beat wood to a pulp. Chemical digestion, the familiar sulfite process, came later.) Wood was a superabundant resource in North America, and the conifer forests that sprawled from Maine to Minnesota became a new, and renewable, storehouse of raw materials for the paper industry.

As paper production climbed to new heights, not everyone celebrated. New materials, new machines, and dizzying new speeds were, in the eyes of some romantics, an inhuman development, a regrettable break from the old tradition of painstaking hand work. Dr. Dard Hunter, a legendary figure in the American paper industry, spoke for the aesthetic side:

*The improved paper machine is essential to cope with modern life as it has come to be, but I would be content never to see again one of those long, ponderous, steaming, dragon-like machines, emitting from its great jaws the streams of paper that are thought necessary to our very existence.*

If the machines were indeed dragons, someone had to clothe them, and that someone, above all others, has been Albany International and its corporate ancestors. The role of paper machine clothing is unsung but critical. Every Fourdrinier machine, from the primitive prototypes to the modern behemoths, produces paper in three steps: forming, pressing, and drying. Paper begins as a fiber-rich slurry deposited on a porous forming fabric that loops through the head of the machine like a conveyor belt. Originally made from brass, the forming fabric gives paper its substance and texture. The moist paper then moves onto the pressing stage, where it travels through rollers on a belt of soft press fabric. Originally wool felt, the press

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

fabric absorbs a major portion of the water remaining in the paper. In the final stage, a belt of dryer fabric carries the paper between huge heated cylinders. Originally canvas, the dryer fabric holds the sheet in precise contact with the rollers. Between the headbox at the front of the machine and the reel at the end of the line, the paper's moisture content drops from 99 percent to as little as 4 percent.

Albany International is the world's leading producer of these fabrics. For all three stages: forming, pressing, and drying, its products play an absolutely indispensable role in the global paper industry. Just as a camera would be useless without film and a printing press could do nothing without plates, Fourdrinier machines need fabrics. The dragon could not live without its clothing, and Albany International is the dominant clothier in the international marketplace.”<sup>i</sup>

Albany Felt began modestly in 1895, with an investment of forty thousand dollars made by its three founding partners: James W. Cox, son of physician who would serve as President and Manager; Vice-President Parker Corning, of the prominent local industrial and political family that provided most of the funding; and Selden E. Marvin, President of the Albany City Savings Institution who served as Secretary. The idea for the company came out of the misfortune of the successful Albany Huyck felt mill that burned the previous year, leaving its felt-making master, Duncan Fuller, in search of a new position.<sup>ii</sup> The shareholders leased a space at 19 Thacher Road in Albany; they hired Duncan Fuller, who held a patent for a new method of weaving felt, as their superintendent.

The success of the company was hardly a guarantee, given that there were at least a dozen felt makers in the American market at this time, and Albany Felt was a relative latecomer. However its advantages seem to have overcome any doubts for the company's future. Abundant funds, an ideal geographic location and the expertise of Duncan Fuller— along with the management skills of Corning, Cox and Selden—set the company on a path that would lead to abundant growth and the construction of its Menands mill.

**Local Industrial Significance**

Within a year of the establishment of its Thacher Street factory, Albany Felt had 36 employees, both men and women, making felts used to press excess water from raw paper stock and impart a finish to the sheet. Twelve looms were in operation under Fuller's supervision, making a quality product using the best grades of wool fit for production, some originating from the Corning family's heard of Southdown sheep. Their wet press felts were advertised in both the national Paper Trade Journal as well as the local Albany Times Union. In 1899 their first salesman was hired, who called on mills in New England and the mid-Atlantic.

The entire paper industry was growing in scale and sales volume at this time, and Albany Felt was hard pressed to keep up in its tiny Albany factory. Its sales growth was on the rise, from \$27,000 in 1896 to \$114,000 five years later. The Directors decided that they had to expand if they were, in Parker Corning's words “to gain any sort of foothold in the market.”<sup>iii</sup> Thus a plan was put into place to build a new mill. In 1901, Albany Felt purchased 5 acres on the Watervliet Turnpike, just north of the Albany City line, in the Township of Watervliet. The mill's building site was chosen because of its proximity to transportation routes, and prospects for physical growth. Designed by architectural firm Lockwood, Greene & Company, the mill was a spacious brick building, three stories high with a five-story stair tower, and was erected at a cost of \$75,000. Upon the opening of the new mill in July 1902, the company employed one hundred and fifty workers, a fivefold increase since its inception. An additional \$40,000 worth of equipment was installed.<sup>iv</sup> Designed to withstand the vibrations of the heavy machinery, the plant was constructed from 275,000 bricks and 700,000 feet of lumber.<sup>v</sup> Given the construction technology of the time, steam shovels and horse drawn wagons, this was no small feat. Construction materials were delivered via the Albany Northern train which ran directly behind the mill, the tracks of which were extended into the site for this purpose, adjacent to an original warehouse that still stands today.

The lack of a nearby fire department heavily influenced the site development. Before Menands was incorporated as a village, in 1924, the closest department was in the city of Albany. Should there have been a fire during the early years of

---

<sup>i</sup> Skaaren, 1-2.

<sup>ii</sup> McEneny, 192.

<sup>iii</sup> Skaaren, 6.

<sup>iv</sup> Ibid

<sup>v</sup> McEneny, 192.

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

the mill, men on horses would have been sent down to Albany to alert authorities while fire continued to destroy the mill. That was unacceptable to the directors of Albany Felt. Instead, the company formed their own volunteer fire brigade. Along with the mill property, a parcel of land across the street from the mill was purchased. A creek, referred to as Rendert's Stream, connected the two parcels (running underneath the Watervliet Turnpike) that fed into a 390,000 gallon reservoir in front of the building, where the current pond now sits. The reservoir was for firefighting purposes, to work in conjunction with the dry hydrants enclosed in pump houses, four which remain on site and are contributing structures. There were occasional dryer fires, but the pumps were active and there was no substantial damage to the building nor the equipment, which is a remarkable feat. The building was subsequently retrofitted with sprinklers throughout.<sup>vi</sup>

New York was leading the paper industry with a record 72 mills in the state in 1910. A wave of consolidations created giant companies such as International Paper and American Writing Paper, which acquired control of dozens of mills. Both companies were valued customers of Albany Felt. Under President Parker Corning, who replaced James Cox in 1918, Albany Felt began to market their products overseas. At the beginning of President Corning's tenure, the company employed 223 people, and a new two-story administrative wing was constructed at the southwest corner of the building.<sup>vii</sup> By 1920, Albany Felt was the second largest firm in the industry. The Roaring Twenties brought about a new interest in disposable paper products. Larger machines were purchased to keep up with demand, and the Fourdrinier machine size was increased for production. The mill was at full capacity. Sales rose from \$2 million in 1920 to \$2.5 million in 1925. This prosperity prompted the Directors to ask Lockwood, Greene & Company to double the size of the building.<sup>viii</sup> In 1920 it was extended to the north, maintaining the same window rhythm in its brick walls, and equal in width to the original 1902 factory. Thin strip timber floors were also maintained; it was easier to replace damaged pieces so that felt did not get damaged when dragged across the floor. Steel columns and concrete foundations were introduced as new building materials, replacing the brick and timber found in the earlier mill. At the same time, the reservoir was transformed into a picturesque manmade pond which served as home to ornamental swans in later decades. An original decorative wrought iron fence was installed at the west side of the property on Broadway. Both the pond and the fence are contributing objects.

Remarkably, Albany Felt not only survived the stock market crash of 1929, but actually never showed a loss. This is largely credited to President Parker Corning and his foresight of the failing market, as documented in a 1925 letter to his brother:

*....It seems to me that all energies should now be spent on plant perfection and lowering all costs as I believe that the next depression will see the survival of those plants as are highest in efficiency and not over expended in the way of capital charges and overheads.<sup>ix</sup>*

Albany Felt was able to regain its footing very quickly following the stock market crash, and sales returned to \$2 million in 1932 and reached \$3 million only five years later.<sup>x</sup> Again, prosperity prompted the directors to increase the size of the building by 50% in 1937. The 1920 mill was doubled in size to designs provided by J.E. Serrine & Company, towards the east side of the property, and it was open for business in 1938. A more modern window style was used but otherwise the interior structure was identical to its neighbor.

The World War II efforts created the need for more production at Albany Felt, as well as did the country's new dependence on disposable paper goods. Consumer spending was at an all-time high. At the height of President Corning's leadership the company was valued at \$5 million. Under his tenure a new 5-story warehouse behind the mill was built in 1941 for raw materials, as there was not enough space to house them in the manufacturing plant. He died in 1943, but the Presidency remained in the family. In 1945, under the new leadership of Corning's cousin Lewis Parker, the company value jumped to \$14 million by 1950. The final two substantial additions to the mill were additional office blocks at the south side of the building, one dated 1948, and the other 1954. Albany Felt became an international company in 1952 when it established the Albany Felt Company of Canada which led to growth in a worldwide market, new products, and marks the end of the period of significance for the Menands mill.

---

vi Smith Interview  
vii Skaaren,7.  
viii Ibid,13.  
ix Ibid.,14  
x Ibid.

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

**Post Period of Significance (1954-present)**

Albany Felt continued to flourish during the second half of the twentieth century. In the late 1950s, additional mills were acquired both in this country and overseas. In 1969 the company was renamed Albany International to better reflect the market it served, marking the joining of the complementary operations of the Albany Felt Company, Appleton Wire Works and Nordiska Maskinfilt. The 1970s and 80s were a period where the company alternated between public and private ownership while expanding its services and product development. The 1990s marked the beginning of the eventual decline of the papermaking industry, but Albany International remained successful by focusing on research and development, and

moving into the dryer clothing industry. Since the late 1990s, Albany International has played a key role in papermaking as the world's leading designer and producer of paper machine clothing – large continuous belts of custom designed and engineered fabrics that are installed on paper machines to carry paper stock through the 3 primary stages of paper production process. With facilities in 15 countries, the company controls 30% of the paper machine clothing market.<sup>xi</sup> One hundred and eleven years after they built the mill, despite exponential increases in sales, the company still operates out of its original building. During its entire history, and throughout the rise and fall of local manufacturing cycles, Albany Felt remained at the mill, though employees and manufacturing processes eventually dwindled as technology began to eliminate the traditional paper industry. The company's occupation of the building will end in September 2013. Albany International has relocated its United States headquarters to Rochester, New Hampshire to focus on its growing aerospace composites operation, though the company currently continues to rent office space on the east side of the mill building, which was sold to Harmony Group in 2012. As noted by former New York Assemblyman and noted Albany-area historian Jack McEneny, "Albany Felt exuded class and pride, the very best of a 19<sup>th</sup> century hometown industry."<sup>xii</sup>

**Criterion C - Architecture**

Following their initial success in Albany, the founders of Albany Felt sought to build a mill that would establish them as a serious competitor in the paper industry. A move two miles north, out of downtown Albany into Watervliet, not only allowed for increased manufacturing production, but also the opportunity for growth. They traded the congested city for a location in open farmland poised to become a new manufacturing center based on its proximity to the train, canal, toll road and river transportation, which would allow for ease of supply and delivery both in the Capital region and beyond. For over one hundred years after the opening of the mill the Broadway property remained their headquarters.

**Building Site**

Following the Revolutionary War, one of the first major developments to the north of Albany was the expansion of Watervliet Township, in what is now known as the Town of Colonie. The construction of the Erie Canal, completed in 1823, was the first of many transportation improvements which led to the area's growth. Soon after the canal opened the Watervliet Turnpike (later Broadway) was completed; this macadamized toll road replaced the original and frequently flooded coach road along the Hudson River which connected Albany with its northern farmlands. The next major project was the arrival of the Albany Northern railroad, in 1856, which connected Albany to the Rutland Railroad of Vermont. With these improvements in place, the Town of Colonie was founded in 1895, establishing itself as an entity independent of Watervliet, which at the time encompassed all towns that now exist in Albany County, with the exception of the city itself.

That same year, Albany Felt was founded, operating out of a building Albany for seven years until it outgrew the facilities and sought to build a new spacious mill on a larger parcel of land. A sketch map showing lands along Watervliet Turnpike sold by the Estate of William Van Rensselaer indicates that on May 13, 1901, 5.066 acres just north of the Albany City Line was purchased with the intent of constructing a new mill. The Town of Colonie was a logical choice. Many early industrialists shared this vision because of the town's location as a transportation hub. The Watervliet Turnpike ran right through the middle of town, connecting south to Albany and north to Troy. To the east of were the Erie Canal, Albany Northern Railroad and Hudson River, which would allow the company to expand its market beyond the immediate area. In 1924, the Village of Menands was incorporated, representing the 15<sup>th</sup> school district boundaries of the Town of Colonie, including the parcel of land on which the Albany Felt mill was located. Despite the subsequent closure of the Erie Canal, the removal of the trolley line on Broadway, and the cancellation of passenger trains on the Delaware & Hudson line, Menands flourished as an industrial center due to increased automobile traffic between Albany and Troy, serving as home

---

xi Gant, 14.

xii Grandahl.

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

to no less than 15 other factories within the boundaries of the Village. Of these manufacturing interests a small number, among them Albany Felt, itself now a division of Albany International, still survive.<sup>xiii</sup>

**Building History**

By 1901, only six years after the incorporation of Albany Felt, the rapidly expanding business was ready to build an enlarged mill to serve as company headquarters. The industrial complex at 1373 Broadway operated as the primary manufacturing site, warehouses, and offices for this major industry from 1902 until the 1950s, when the company became an international organization through the establishment of the Albany Felt Company of Canada in 1952. At roughly the same time, the final substantial improvement to the Menands Mill was made, an office block addition, in 1954. Though Albany Felt was absorbed by Albany International in 1969 the buildings continued to be associated with, and occupied by, Albany Felt until recently; the building was sold to a private developer in 2013.

Designed specifically for the fledgling Albany Felt Company at one quarter of its current size, and used for operations throughout most of its history, the original buildings, including historic alterations, retain their integrity. The design of the Albany Felt mill is typical of commercial and industrial buildings at the turn of the century which would have been seen all along Broadway in Menands in the first half of the twentieth century. The architectural firm of Lockwood Greene & Company followed a functional design philosophy, but also incorporated decorative details such as an ornamental stair tower and wrought iron fence. Its open interior plan, well lit by its many windows, accommodated the company's needs, and was so well received that subsequent additions were constructed to blend seamlessly with the original building in materials, design, and massing.

Albany Felt took pride in their mill building. This attention did not go unnoticed, and is often commented on, even today. Features as mundane as a fire suppression system were celebrated with thoughtful design. On the Broadway side, a water feature which originated as a functional reservoir later became a picturesque pond. Not only was the pond celebrated with a fountain and pet swans, but the hydrants themselves were enclosed in small brick structures with hipped slate roofs and scattered around the site.

A 1909 Sanborn Map provided the following information about the manufacturing activities that occurred in the mill. The first floor was primarily used for shipping, finishing and offices. The second floor was where joining and burling happened. And the third floor was assigned carding and spinning.

The building served the company well. The opportunity for growth and production potential that the building offered was an important part of the company's success. As technology changed in the first half of the twentieth century, so did the need to accommodate it physically. Rather than alter the open floor plan of the mill which worked so well, various appendages were constructed. Occasionally rooms were re-assigned purposes. For example the old Engine room, a relic since the mill's conversion to electricity, was converted to a state of the art chemical and textile laboratory in the late 1920s.<sup>xiv</sup> All this was done with due respect to the architectural style of the original building. In-kind materials and complementary stylistic details were the norm, even though a variety of architects were employed for any given expansion or alteration (see "Building Chronology" for a detailed account of alterations).

Though the company began to explore various material production beyond felt, this material nevertheless remained at the core of their work. The spatial operations and organization of the mill and its supporting buildings were critical in its success. In the mill, each piece of machinery had its own purpose and place, as well as structural requirements and siting in relation to other production lines. Relics of this era can still be seen at the building, including grooves in the floor where tracks and plates were located, floor hatches, a floor scale, notations on the floor for felt measurement, pulleys and oversized doors. While in use the mill was described as unusually clean and well ordered, with first rate safety. Employees had their own locker rooms, lounges, activity rooms and shared cafeteria.<sup>xv</sup>

Superintendent John Standish's daily routine reconstructs a very detailed physical history in terms of how the building was used in the 1940s:

---

xiii Village of Menands Diamond Jubilee  
xiv Skaaren, 20.  
xv Ibid, 24.

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

John Standish was an early riser. He was on the job by 7am every day, and his first stop was invariably the wool warehouse. The superintendent's first morning task was to inspect the newly arrived wool. If they passed muster, he moved onto the scouring room, where raw wool was cleaned and bleached in a 120-foot long machine. From the scouring room, Standish climbed the stairs to the third floor where as many as 30 wool sorters were on the job. His next stop was the second-floor blending room where the graded fibers were combined according to specific recipes.....<sup>xvi</sup>

A number of minor changes were made to the building following the period of significance, when felt was no longer the primary focus of the Albany Felt Company, as evidenced by their decision to merge with companies of different trades, prompting the renaming of the corporation and relocation of headquarters to the Sage Estates in Menands. Also the technology involved in any of Albany International's production lines had so vastly changed since the design of the original building that the mill itself was beginning to become obsolete. Most work in the 1960s and 70s related to the administrative wing such as lab, equipment, and office stair additions. Ultimately most mill processes were moved out of the building in the late 1980s to a new plant in East Greenbush, at which time the headquarters returned to the original mill which had plenty of space.

In 1988 the local architect firm, Einhorn Yaffee Prescott (EYP), completed a tasteful interior rehabilitation of the administrative wing; this occurred when Albany International re-established its headquarters at the building, following the relocation of manufacturing. The exterior of the historic mill and its tower remained largely unchanged. A new lobby entrance was designed and related to site work which included a gated guardhouse entry at Broadway with landscaped parking areas. On the interior, there was a reconfiguration and construction of office space. Subsequent alterations in the 1990s, such as a boiler room addition and office renovation were completed by EYP as well.

**Building Chronology**

The mill property was built in numerous phases over a 52 year period during the era of significance. Please see attached "aerial.jpg" which is labeled with the various building campaign dates.

- 1902 Original 3-story brick manufacturing plant with stair tower, constructed along with its storehouse to the southeast, dry hydrants, reservoir (later converted into the current manmade pond), and perimeter wrought iron fence. Architect: Lockwood, Greene & Co.
- 1910 The manufacturing plant was doubled in size, identical in materials, fenestration and extended to the north. Architect: Lockwood, Greene & Co.
- 1918 Two story brick administrative wing constructed at the southwest corner of the 1902 building, aligned east-west, using a neoclassical architectural vocabulary that differed from the industrial style of the manufacturing plant.
- 1920 The manufacturing plant was again doubled in size and extended to the north. Concrete foundations, piers, and steel columns introduced. Architect: Lockwood, Greene & Co.
- 1920- Brick enclosures constructed around dry hydrants, referred to as "Pump Houses". 4 remain on the west side 1928 of the building. Manmade pond constructed to the south of the building.
- 1927 Third story added to the administrative wing. Building lengthened from 6 bays wide to 8. Entrance portico added on south elevation.
- 1928 The reservoir was converted into a picturesque manmade pond.
- 1932 Interior remodel of the first floor of the administrative wing, including wood paneling and a bay window for the President's Room at a cost of \$30,000 by Albany Felt President C.P. Drumm.
- 1938 Mill expansion. The 1920 building was doubled in size, towards the east.

<sup>xvi</sup> Ibid, 21.



ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX

Name of Property

ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK

County and State

- 1941 Five-story brick warehouse constructed to the north of the original storehouse, east of the 1902/1910 mills.
- 1948 Fourth floor of the administrative wing constructed by F. D. Thomas per drawings.
- 1954 Office block was constructed adjacent to the east elevation of the 1902 mill, above the original Engine and Fan Rooms.

**Architects**

The architectural firm which designed the 1902, 1910 and 1920 buildings is Lockwood, Greene & Company, said to be the oldest industrial engineering, construction and professional services firm in the country. The architect was identified through the self-published book "Fourscore Years: A Record of Lockwood, Greene & Co.'s Contribution to Industrial Engineering." The National Museum of American History in Washington DC holds the archives for the firm, including drawings, photographs and files. The Museum characterized the company:

"Lockwood Greene, one of the nation's oldest engineering firms, traces its roots to 1832, when Rhode Island native David Whitman began a machinery repair service. Riding the wave of the early industrial revolution in textile manufacturing, Whitman added mill design services to his repertoire, which formed the backbone of a flourishing consulting business for the rest of the century. Whitman was one of the first itinerant mill engineers or "doctors" that traveled throughout New England advising various industrialists on the placement, design, and construction of their factories and the layout of the complicated system of machinery and shafting that they contained. His largest commission was the design of the Bates Manufacturing Company complex in Lewiston, Maine, which was incorporated in 1850 and soon became one of the largest textile producers in New England.

Upon Whitman's death in 1858, his unfinished work was assumed by Amos D. Lockwood, a prominent mill agent and astute businessman who had built a name for himself in Connecticut and Rhode Island. The successful completion of the projects at Lewiston brought enough additional demand for Lockwood's services to prompt him to relocate to Boston, where he formally opened an independent consulting office with partner John W. Danielson in 1871. For the next ten years, A.D. Lockwood & Company was involved in a least eight major mill design projects, half of which were for new construction. One of these projects, the design and construction of the Piedmont Manufacturing Company in Greenville (now Piedmont), South Carolina was especially significant and is considered to be a prototype for the Southern textile industry.

In 1882, Lockwood established a new business, Lockwood, Greene and Company, with Stephen Greene, a professionally-trained civil engineer who had joined the firm in 1879. As the firm grew, it expanded its scope as consultants supplying all of the necessary architectural and engineering services a prospective owner needed to initiate, equip, and run a complete plant. Acting as the owners' representative, the company supervised construction and installation but did not directly act as builders or contractors. Lockwood Greene's objective expertise was legendary and made it a leader in this emergent field.

As Samuel B. Lincoln explains in his history of the company: "The new firm's knowledge and experience in the textile industry enabled it to analyze samples of cloth and, from such samples, to provide everything necessary for a completed plant to make such goods in any desired quantity. It did not at any time act as selling agents for machinery or equipment, neither did it accept commissions or rebates from suppliers: by this policy it maintained a position as impartial and independent engineer."

Greene became president of the company upon Lockwood's death in 1884. Under his leadership, the company expanded into additional industries and designed an array of other industrial building types that would prefigure the diversity of later work. In 1893, the company revolutionized American industry by designing and constructing the first factory whose operating power was provided entirely over electric wires from a remote power plant, rather than relying upon a water source or a stockpiled fuel supply. The Columbia Mills project created a great deal of publicity for the firm and was a signal to other

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

manufacturers that there were viable alternatives to the use of steam power.

As changing economic conditions led Lockwood Greene to move away from its traditional reliance upon the textile manufacturing industry, it was very successful at soliciting projects for a wide variety of structures, from newspaper plants and automotive factories to convention halls and schools. After 1900, Lockwood Greene expanded its operations and opened branch offices in other cities, including Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Detroit, Atlanta, and Charlotte. In 1915, Edwin F. Greene, president and son of Stephen Greene, reorganized the firm as Lockwood, Greene & Company, Incorporated. This new entity served as the parent company and controlled three subsidiaries: one to own and operate cotton mills that Greene had acquired; one to manage other companies' textile mills; and one to provide engineering services.

Lockwood Greene expanded its operations tremendously as the textile industry boomed under wartime demand and in the years following. The severe textile depression from 1923 to 1928 caused the collapse of this structure, however, as Lockwood Greene continued to suffer deep losses in the textile mills that it owned. The parent company was dissolved in 1928 and the engineering subsidiary, which had remained profitable, was salvaged as Lockwood Greene Engineers, Incorporated.

After a rocky start with the onset of the Depression, the company began to prosper during the Second World War and its growth continued steadily throughout the next several decades. In the late 1960s, as a result of declining business, the company's headquarters was transferred from Boston to Spartanburg, South Carolina. In 1981, Phillip Holtzman USA, a subsidiary of Phillip Holtzman AG of Frankfurt, Germany, acquired a majority interest in Lockwood Greene. In 2003, CH2M Hill, a global provider of engineering, construction, and operations services based in Denver, Colorado, acquired the company.<sup>xvii</sup>

Original drawings were located for the 1938 section; J.E. Sirrinc and Company, an engineering firm out of Greenville, South Carolina, designed that portion of the factory. Sirrinc was an industrial architect and engineer who built a firm known for planning and building mills in the first half of the twentieth century. He was a leader in his field, making strong contributions to industrial architecture. Prior to establishing his own office, Sirrinc worked at Lockwood & Greene, presumably on the earlier Albany Felt mill projects. It is likely that the company was impressed by his earlier work and sought him out in particular for the later addition. Recognized as a leading Southern architect, his duties were described in the North Carolina Architects and Builder's Biographical Dictionary:

"When Lockwood, Greene was planning its first mill in Greenville in 1894, the firm employed the young civil engineer Joseph E. Sirrinc to do some of the local work, and subsequently hired him for additional jobs. In 1898 Sirrinc became a fulltime employee, and when the company established its first regional branch office, the southern office in Greenville, Sirrinc became head of the office and southern manager for the firm. According to a history of the company, Sirrinc "represented Greene on all work in this territory until the latter's death in 1901." Sirrinc is said to have supervised from six to eight mill jobs at the same time, a total of about twenty mills in the three-year period. His role appears to have been primarily supervisory, with much of the actual engineering and architectural work coming from the firm's office in Boston.

In 1902 Sirrinc resumed independent practice as an architect and engineer in Greenville, and he maintained his office until his death in 1947. A large number of the draftsmen and designers who worked with him later became prominent architects. In 1921, as business expanded, Sirrinc formed a partnership with eight of his associates, called J. E. Sirrinc and Company. The firm's practice spanned the eastern and southeastern United States, with projects as far away as Maine and Texas. During the 1920s, the company had an office in Dallas, Texas. The firm specialized in textile mill projects, pulp and paper mills, power plants, municipal facilities, tobacco factories, and aluminum plants, providing both architectural and engineering services. Sirrinc served on the boards of many major southeastern industrial companies, including nineteen textile companies in South Carolina and elsewhere.<sup>xviii</sup>

---

<sup>xvii</sup> Lockwood Greene Records, Overview of Collections.

<sup>xviii</sup> Joseph Emory Sirrinc, website.

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

**Builders**

For the most part, the builders of the Albany Felt Mill and its various building campaigns have not been identified. However, a 1920 historic construction photo provided a clue: a sign on-site reading "Turner for Concrete - Turner Construction Co." Since that time, Turner has become a global leader in construction services, working on over 1,200 projects yearly at a value of \$9 billion dollars in annual construction volume. Founded in 1902 by Henry Turner, the company was based on the core values of teamwork, integrity and commitment which continue to serve as part of the company's mission today.

**Conclusion**

The migration of manufacturers away from the city reflects a pattern common to most of industries. Today much of the physical evidence is quickly disappearing, and this is especially true in the Village of Menands. Though at one time a manufacturing center, many of the industries in this area closed during the Great Depression or in the decades following World War II. Alternately, the buildings may have fallen into disrepair and disuse which led to the demolition of many these turn of the century industrial complexes. The surviving Albany Felt Building serves as a reminder of the importance of these turn of the century industrial enterprises in Menands' history, as well as the role of making upstate NY the largest paper manufacturing center in the nation in the early twentieth century.

---

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

The entire building is located on a parcel of land in the Village of Menands, Town of Colonie. However, the adjacent property to the south of the plant, including the landscaped parking lot is located in the City of Albany.

---

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

Albany International Architectural Drawings.

Mill Main Addition, J.E Sirrinc & Co, 1937

Office Vertical Addition, F.D. Thomas, 1948.

Lab Addition, A.C. McDowell, 1966.

Office Stair Addition, Adman Droste & Thomas, 1976.

Mill Additions, Broadway Side. Newton Associates, 1982.

Office Renovations, Phases 1 & 2. Einhorn

Mill Main Addition, J.E Sirrinc & Co, 1937

Office Vertical Addition, F.D. Thomas, 1948.

Lab Addition, A.C. McDowell, 1966.

Office Stair Addition, Adman Droste & Thomas, 1976.

Mill Additions, Broadway Side. Newton Associates, 1982.

Electrical Drawings, 2<sup>nd</sup> FI Plant Remodel, HVAC Work, Site Work, Removal Drawings, Main Entry Addition, Office Renovation, Plumbing Work, 2<sup>n</sup> Floor Heating Work. Einhorn Yaffee Prescott, 1988.

Boiler Room Addition, T.L. Owens Engineering & Planners. 1990.

Office Renovations, Phases 1 & 2. Einhorn Yaffee Prescott, 1994-95.

Albany International. "History." <http://www.albint.com/en-us/company/Pages/history.aspx> (accessed July 6, 2013).

Albany International Photographs and Papers. The Archives at Albany International. Menands, New York.

Dembling + Dembling Architects. Existing Conditions Drawings -1373 Broadway, Menands NY. July 2013.

Franklin, Kevin, Town of Colonie Historian. Personal Interview and Email correspondence, July 2013. Gant, Tina. "Albany Felt Company." *International Directory of Company Histories, Vol. 51*. St. James Press, 2003.

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

Grondahl, Paul. "A Piece of Local Lore is Lost." *Times Union*. 17 Oct 2010.  
Insurance Maps of Albany County. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1908-09, 1934-35, 1951.  
Lockwood, Greene & Co. *Fourscore Years: A Record of Lockwood, Greene & Co.'s Contribution to Industrial Engineering*. Boston: Lockwood, Green & Co., 1912.  
New York State Historic Preservation Office. "Building-Structure Inventory Form - Albany Felt Company." March 12, 1982.  
Joseph Emory Serrine. <http://ncarchitects.lib.ncsu.edu/people/P000303> (accessed July 8, 2013)  
Lockwood Greene Records. "Overview of the Collection" <http://amhistory.si.edu/archives/AC1113.pdf> (accessed July 12, 2013)  
McEneny, John. *Albany: Capital City on the Hudson*. American Historical Press, 2006.  
Parsons, Henry C, C.E & Surveyor. *Map of the Lands of Van Rensselaer*. January, 1912  
Quinto, Ernie. Past Photographer/Historian of Albany International. Email correspondence. July 2013  
Rossier, Joseph. Architect for Proposed Renovation of Albany Felt. Personal Interview. July 2013  
Skaaren, Lorna. *Albany International: The First One Hundred Years*. Albany: Albany International Corporation, 1995.  
Smith, Grant. Retired Fire Chief, City of Menands. Personal Interview. July 2013.  
Turner Construction Company. <http://www.turnerconstruction.com/about-us/history> (accessed July 18, 2013)  
"Village of Menands Diamond Jubilee 1924-1999." Village of Menands, 1999.  
Village of Menands. [www.villageofmenands.com](http://www.villageofmenands.com) (accessed July 28, 2013)  
Waite, Diana, ed. *Albany Architecture: A Guide to the City*. Troy NY: Mt. Ida Press, 1993.

**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**

**Acreeage of Property** 14.45 acres

ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX  
Name of Property

ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK  
County and State

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>603878</u> Easting	<u>4725833</u> Northing	5	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>603635</u> Easting	<u>4725691</u> Northing
2	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>603809</u> Easting	<u>4725618</u> Northing	6	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>603732</u> Easting	<u>4725899</u> Northing
3	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>603776</u> Easting	<u>4725520</u> Northing		<u>        </u> Zone	<u>        </u> Easting	<u>        </u> Northing
4	<u>18</u> Zone	<u>603597</u> Easting	<u>4725600</u> Northing		<u>        </u> Zone	<u>        </u> Easting	<u>        </u> Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.) The boundary for this NRHP nomination is shown on the enclosed maps (2), which are drawn at a scale of 1:24,000 and 1:4,000.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) The boundary of the Albany Felt Company NRHP nomination corresponds with the cited period of significance and the development of the property by the company during the historic period.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title Elise Johnson-Schmidt, AIA  
organization Johnson-Schmidt & Associates, Architects date September 3, 2013  
street & number 15 E. Market St #202 telephone 607-325-1946  
city or town Corning state NY zip code 14830  
e-mail Elise@preservationarchitects.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**

**ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX**

Name of Property

**ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK**

County and State

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

Existing Conditions Floor Plans: FirstFloor.pdf, SecondFloor.pdf, ThirdFloor.pdf, FourthFloor.pdf

Sanborn Maps: 1909Sanborn.pdf, 1935Sanborn.pdf, 1951Sanborn.pdf

Historic Images: 1910ViewFromSoutheast.jpg, c1920EastElevationview.jpg, c1920MillInterior.jpg, c.1940HistoricBoardRoom.jpg

---

**Photographs:**

Photographer: Susan G. Lawson, Architect

Date Photographed: July 13, 2013

Location of Original Digital Files: Johnson-Schmidt & Associates, Architects. 15 East Market Street #202. Corning, NY 14830

Photograph #1: (NY\_Albany County\_Albany Felt Company\_0001)

South Elevation (entrance façade). From left to right: 1918 Administration Wing, 1988 Lobby, 1902 Original Stair Tower behind Lobby, 1954 Offices. 1920s pond in front of building. Camera facing north.

Photograph #2: (NY\_Albany County\_Albany Felt Company\_0002)

West Elevation. Original 1902 Mill (left/center), Stair Tower (right), north elevation of 1918 Administrative Wing (far right.) 1928 Pond in front of building. Camera facing south.

Photograph #3: (NY\_Albany County\_Albany Felt Company\_0003)

West Elevation. 1920 Mill addition at foreground (left), attached to 1910 and 1902 Original Mill (right). 1902 brick Pump House in front of the Mill. First floor bay projections added in 1982 for equipment. Camera facing southeast.

Photograph #4: (NY\_Albany County\_Albany Felt Company\_0004)

Northwest corner of building. 1920 Mill addition. Camera facing south.

Photograph #5: (NY\_Albany County\_Albany Felt Company\_0005)

Northeast corner of building. 1938 Mill addition. Camera facing southwest.

Photograph #6: (NY\_Albany County\_Albany Felt Company\_0006)

East Elevation. Northern portion. 1938 Mill addition in foreground connection to Original 1902 mill at left. Camera facing west.

Photograph #7: (NY\_Albany County\_Albany Felt Company\_0007)

South Elevation. 1954 Offices. Original 1902 mill at left. Camera facing north.

Photograph #8: (NY\_Albany County\_Albany Felt Company\_0008)

South Elevation. 1941 Warehouse. Original exterior doors on upper floor. Camera facing north.

Photograph #9: (NY\_Albany County\_Albany Felt Company\_0009)

North and West Elevations. 1902 Store House. Post-1951 addition at left. Camera facing south.

Photograph #10: (NY\_Albany County\_Albany Felt Company\_0010)

1902 Wrought Iron Fence Detail. Camera facing south.

Photograph #11: (NY\_Albany County\_Albany Felt Company\_0011)

Interior of 1902 Original Mill, First Floor, facing south. Timber columns at left. Office infill walls dated to 1980s. Floors 2 & 3 are similar.

Photograph #12: (NY\_Albany County\_Albany Felt Company\_0012)

ALBANY FELT COMPANY COMPLEX

Name of Property

ALBANY COUNTY, NEW YORK

County and State

Interior of 1920 Mill addition. First Floor, facing south. Steel columns at right. Original brick exterior wall of mill at left. Floors 2 & 3 are similar.

Photograph #13: (NY\_Albany County\_Albany Felt Company\_0013)

Interior of 1938 Mill addition. First Floor, facing north. Steel columns at right. Original brick exterior wall of 1920 addition at left. Floors 2 & 3 are similar.

Photograph #14: (NY\_Albany County\_Albany Felt Company\_0014)

Interior of first floor Board Room, with historic finishes. Camera facing north.

---

**Property Owner:**

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

name Harmony Prima Lofts, LLC

street & number 90 State Street, Suite 700

telephone 917-453-3384

city or town Albany

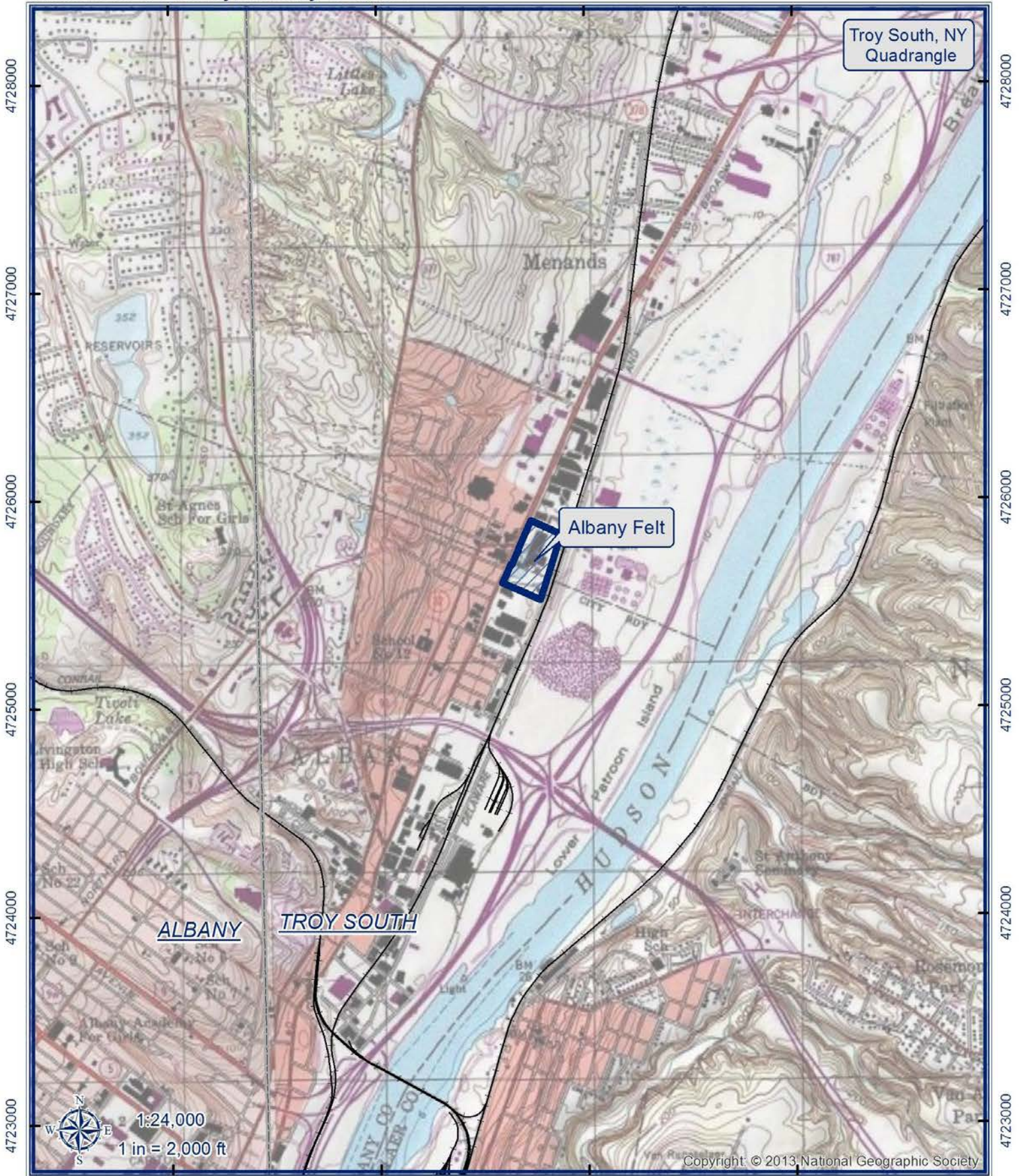
state NY

zip code 12207

**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.





Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter



- Albany Felt
- USGS quad index
- Railroad Line

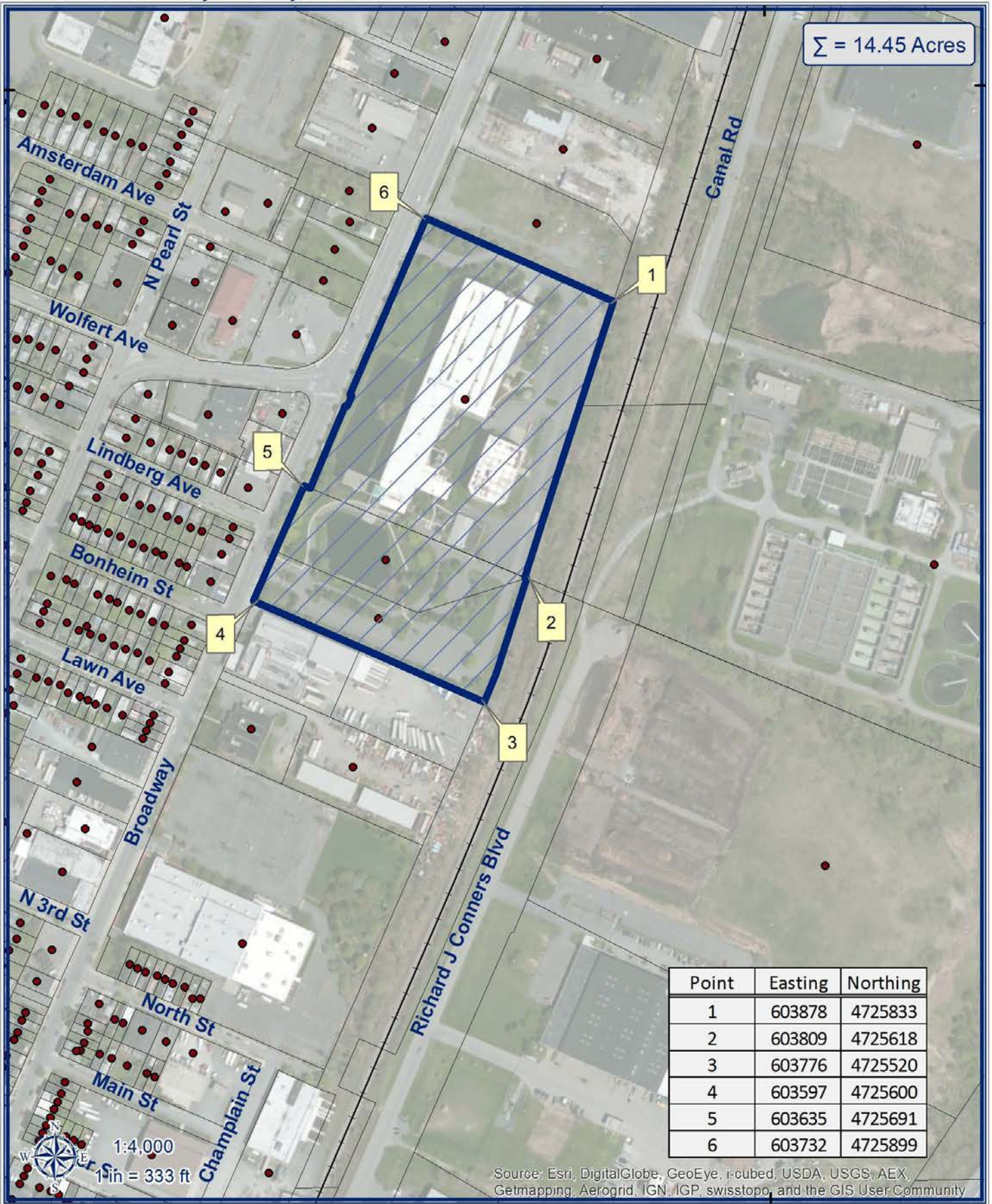
Tax Parcel Data:  
Albany Co. Assessor  
[albanyny.org/Government/Departments/AssessmentAndTaxation](http://albanyny.org/Government/Departments/AssessmentAndTaxation)



Copyright © 2013 National Geographic Society



$\Sigma = 14.45$  Acres



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N  
Projection: Transverse Mercator  
Datum: North American 1983  
Units: Meter



- Albany Felt
- USGS quad index
- Railroad Line

604000  
Tax Parcel Data:  
Albany Co. Assessor  
[albanyny.org/Government/Departments/AssessmentAndTaxation](http://albanyny.org/Government/Departments/AssessmentAndTaxation)



























NTY  
JULY

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

SPEED BUMP  
PLEASE SLOW DOWN  
15 MPH

































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Albany Felt Company Complex

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Albany

DATE RECEIVED: 12/30/13      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/21/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/05/14      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/15/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000001

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: Y    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    2/14/14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA ATC  
REVIEWER Alexis      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.





JOHN T. McDONALD III  
Assemblymember 108<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

COMMITTEES  
Aging  
Cities  
Mental Health and  
Developmental Disabilities  
Real Property Taxation  
Tourism, Parks, Arts &  
Sports Development

November 15, 2013

Ms. Ruth Pierpont  
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation  
Peebles Island  
PO Box 189  
Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Re: Albany Felt Company Complex  
1373 Broadway, Albany, NY 12206  
Albany County

Dear Ms. Pierpont,

I am writing in regard to the property known as Albany Felt Company Complex which is being considered by the State Review Board at its meeting on December 5, 2013, for nomination to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. I am writing to express my support of the aforementioned application and would request that this support be shared with those that will be considering the nomination.

As the former Mayor of Cohoes and now as a Member of the New York State Assembly, I can tell you first hand the importance of preserving our historic structures. The district which I represent includes many prime properties that are either located in historic districts or are eligible for historic nomination and it is just as important that the property owners of such buildings have access to the various incentive programs provided a nomination is secured. I have witnessed the hard work and success of a number of projects involving historic structures and each project needs full support from state and federal partnerships that now exist.

I strongly encourage the State Review Board to accept this nomination to the National and State Registers of Historic Places and I kindly ask that I be advised on how I can support these efforts further.

Sincerely,

John T. McDonald III  
Member of Assembly

cc: Mayor Gerald D. Jennings, Albany



# Village of Menands

## MAYOR

Megan Grenier

## VILLAGE CLERK

John Stangle



## TRUSTEES

Seth Harris  
Mark Lansing  
Mike Mackay  
Aileen L. Nicoll

Ms. Ruth L. Pierpoint  
Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation  
NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau  
Peebles Island  
P. O. Box 189  
Waterford, N. Y. 12188-0189

November 19, 2013

RE: Albany International Complex  
1373 Broadway  
Albany, N. Y. 12206



Dear Ms. Pierpoint:

I am writing to express the support of the Village of Menands for the nomination of the above referenced property to the National and State Registers of Historic Places. This property is located in both the City of Albany as well as the Village of Menands and has been a part of our heritage for over a century.

We are very pleased that the owners of the Harmony Group have chosen the site as their next development project which will include retail shops as well as a residential component. The recycling of this twelve acre property will considerably enhance the quality of life at the southern end of our Village.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to be a part of the nomination process. We look forward to the inclusion of the site on the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Grenier".

Megan Grenier  
Mayor



**New York State Office of Parks,  
Recreation and Historic Preservation**

Division for Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189  
518-237-8643

**Andrew M. Cuomo**  
Governor

**Rose Harvey**  
Commissioner

23 December 2013



Alexis Abernathy  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye St. NW, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to enclose nine National Register nominations, all on discs, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Troy Waste Manufacturing Company Building, Rensselaer County  
Van Zandt, Jacobs and Co. Collar and Cuff Factory, Rensselaer  
The Courier Building, Syracuse, Onondaga County  
Sohmer and Company Piano factory Company, Erie County  
Florendin Feasel House, Monroe County  
John Lesee House, Jefferson County  
Houk Manufacturing Company, Erie County  
Building at 44 Central Avenue, Albany County  
Albany Felt Company complex, Albany County

I am also enclosing a new disc of photos for the Kismet Temple, Kings County, as per your request. Please feel free to call me at 518.237.8643 x 3261 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank  
National Register Coordinator  
New York State Historic Preservation Office