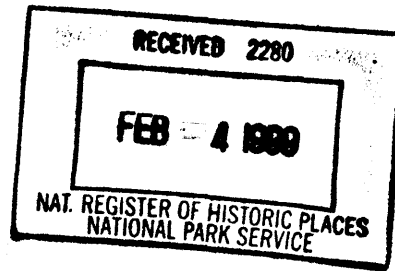


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



281

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Signal Knitting Mills
other names/site number Wayne Gossard Corporation; Signal Apparel Company

2. Location

street & number 205 Manufacturers Road NA not for publication
city or town Chattanooga NA vicinity
state Tennessee code TN county Hamilton code 065 zip code 37405

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 for 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Herbert L. Goye 1/15/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 See continuation sheet
 - determined not eligible for the National Register
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain:) _____

Edson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action
3/5/99

Signal Knitting Mills
Name of Property

Hamilton County, Tennessee
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 count)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal
- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	6	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3	6	Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)
INDUSTRY: manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)
NOT IN USE
INDUSTRY: storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)
OTHER: industrial

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation BRICK
walls BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other WOOD, CONCRETE, METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1916 - 1948

Significant Dates

1916

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Signal Knitting Mills
Name of Property

Hamilton County, Tennessee
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 6 acres Chattanooga 105 SE

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>16</u>	<u>653840</u>	<u>3881110</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cynthia Dolder, Associate
organization Ray and Associates, Historic Preservation Consultants date August 1998
street & number 328 7th Street NE telephone 404/607-7703
city or town Atlanta state GA zip code 30308

Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

Property Owner

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

name Knitting Mill Partners, c/o Lynn Short
street & number 5217 Sawyer Road telephone 423/886-7894
city or town Signal Mountain state TN zip code 37405

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Signal Knitting Mills complex is located at 205 Manufacturers Road in the city of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The complex consists of two principal buildings and several smaller resources. The buildings are currently vacant. Only the large non-historic metal warehouse is in use. It is leased by the Signal Apparel Company. Knitting Mill Partners, LLC, who is legal owner of the complex, plans to rehabilitate these buildings into loft apartments.

The complex consists of three contributing resources: 1) the two-story mill building with attached office wing; 2) the one-story old dye house with a new dye house addition (these two buildings are partially connected by a covered alley); and 3) the one-story boiler house. The non-historic bag house and metal or building block sheds are also located on the property. (Attachment #6)

Mill building (Building #1 – 1916, ca. 1927) - Contributing

The mill building, according to the Hamilton County Tax Assessors office, was built in 1916. By 1930, possibly as early as 1927, it was enlarged by four bays on the west end and by two bays (office suite) on the east end. The building style of the entire complex is industrial and is defined by the shape of the buildings, the multiple pane windows, parapet roofs and brick detailing at the corners. The Mill building #1 features heavy timber construction with load bearing brick pilasters and brick infill walls. The building has two stories and a basement. The footprint is rectangular, 22 bays long on the Manufacturer's Road façade and three bays wide. The bays are separated by brick pilasters. (Attachment #3, #4 and #22)

The main architectural feature on the south facade is the stair tower. The tower is attached to the main mill building at the east third of the building. The double wood doors with glass panels are centered on the south façade of the tower. Three double multi-light wood windows are located above the door, one on each landing. Window openings are arched with brick relieving arches. The east and west façade of the tower has six windows each, two windows per floor. The office suite is located to the east of the tower. This office wing was a later (possibly 1927) addition. This area has one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows on the first floor. The remaining fenestration on the Manufacturer's Road (south façade) is very regular. Each bay features two windows each on the first and second floor and one smaller window, centered on each bay, on the basement level. Window openings

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Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

have a brick relieving arch, windows are wood or metal sash multi-light. The building has a pitched roof with asphalt roofing tiles, a fire wall separates the office from the factory. A metal fire escape is also located on this façade.

The east façade provides the main entrance to the office area. Three stairs with a covered landing lead to the single entry door located slightly to the north of center. The first floor of this façade has a total of seven, one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash windows. Three are located north and four south of the entrance. The second floor has six windows. These windows, as are all upper floor windows, are wood sash, multi-light. The basement level has one window opening south of the entrance. The gable wall advertises the "SIGNAL KNITTING MILL" in painted letters.

On the east end of the north façade the first three bays differ from the rest. The second floor features one nine-over-nine window in each bay, the first floor has one, one-over-one, double-hung, wood sash window in the first bay, two of the same style windows in the second bay and a large warehouse door opening in the third. The remainder of the bays on the north facade are identical to the south façade, two windows each per bay on the first and second floor and a single window per bay on the basement level.

Each floor of the west façade has six fifteen-over-fifteen wood sash windows. A loading dock with a corrugated metal roof runs along the entire length of the mill building. The west wall is constructed from wood with asphalt roofing material covering the exterior. A double metal sliding fire door leading into the closed-in alley between the mill building and the old dye house, provides entry to the mill building on this side.

One set of U-shaped stairs with a landing, located in the tower, connects all three levels. These stairs are wood with a wooden railing. A small lunch room is located in the top floor of the stair tower. Two locker rooms are located on each floor of the tower, one on either side of the stairs. These locker rooms have tiled walls and wood partitions between the stalls. With the exception of the offices, the first and second floors are large open spaces. The floors are maple, ceilings are exposed beams with decking from the floors above. Remnant power shafts used to power machinery can be found on the ceiling of the first floor. Large fans are located on the ceiling of the first and second floor. The brick walls and the wood columns are painted.

The office space is partitioned into five individual offices, two restrooms, a safe and a small corridor. Most walls and floors are finished in non-historic wood paneling and linoleum

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Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

floors. The walls in the small corridor, that leads to the main manufacturing floor, are plastered. Bathrooms are tiled. From the main office entry door on the west façade a small staircase leads to the basement area of the office tract, which is finished for use as offices. The stairs are single run wood stairs. The ceiling on both floors of the office wing are anachronistic, suspended ceiling tile.

Dye House Complex (Buildings #2 and #3):

Old Dye House (Building #2 – 1916, ca. 1927) - Contributing

The old dye house is located behind the mill building (north) and attached to it by a covered alley. It was originally built in 1916 and enlarged by 4 bays between 1927 and 1930. It is one story high with a daylight basement and has a rectangular foot print. The main floor receives additional daylight from a monitor running east-west across the middle of this building. This monitor has six windows on each side, windows are wood with pivot style opening. These can be operated from a steel rod opening mechanism on the inside. The construction method, roof, windows, flooring and ceilings are identical to the mill building. The fenestration on the north and south façades features one window per bay. Only the east, parts of the north and south façades are visible from the exterior. The part of the south façade that is not covered by the enclosed alley has one window per bay on both the main floor and the basement level. The same fenestration applies to the north façade. The west façade has three window openings on the main floor and two windows and a door on the basement level. The windows on the main floor are boarded up at this time. Just as in the mill building this wall is constructed from wood with asphalt roofing tile covering the exterior. All windows in this building are wood sash, double-hung, multi-light.

On the interior the main floor is one large open space. Two large boilers are located on the east end of this room. A small set of U-shaped wood stairs, located on the center of the east end of the building connects to the basement level. The basement is subdivided into three separate spaces by brick partitions. A large opening connects this level to the new dye house on the north and a direct connection on the south leads to the basement of the mill building. In the southeast corner a small door provides a connection to the boiler house. All floors in the basement are concrete.

Entry to the main level occurs through two doors from the covered alley. The covered alley is entered through large wooden double doors on the west end. As seen in 1950

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Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

photocopies, the alley appears to have been connected by a smaller or entirely different structure. The date of the current connector is not certain, but it is presumed to be post-1950. (Attachments #5, 12).

First floor windows between the mill building, the old dye house and the alley were removed to allow light and air into the narrow space. One window is located on the east wall. A large industrial scale still remains in the east end of the alley. As in the mill building the west wall of this building is constructed from wood, possibly a further expansion was planned for this area. Entry to the alley is provided through double, metal sliding fire doors on the west side.

The New Dye House (Building #3 – 1959)

The one-story new dye house is actually an addition to the old dye house. It is included as with a separate number only for descriptive purposes. Constructed in 1959, the building shares the north wall with the old dye house. The interior of the building is two stories high, the concrete floor is the same level as the basement of the old dye house and connects to it at this level. The building was constructed with red brick load bearing walls and shed style roof. The north façade has four rectangular metal mill type windows with a pivot style opening mechanism. The west façade has one single door and a rectangular opening with a fan above it. The east façade has a double wood barn type door and a rectangular window north of the door.

On the inside this area is divided into two rooms, partitions are brick. In the larger of the two rooms four large sunken pools are located. These were apparently used for holding newly dyed cloth before it was transported to the drying process area. The smaller rooms holds one additional sunken pool.

The Boiler House (Building #4 – 1916, later addition)- Contributing

The boiler house is located on the east side of the old dye house and shares its east wall. The original 1916 boiler house has been doubled in size by 1935. The one room building has load bearing red brick walls. The roof is pitched and two large smokestacks rise above it. On the east façade double wood doors and two, double-hung, wood sash windows provide entry and day light to the interior. There are no windows or openings on the south façade. On the interior the building has concrete floors. The ceiling has the exposed roof structure with roof tiling above it. Two large boilers are located on the interior.

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Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

The Bag House (Building #5) – Noncontributing

The Bag house is a small non-historic rectangular building, located to the north of the old dye house along the railroad tracks. The building is constructed from concrete blocks. The only opening to this building is a single metal door located on the west façade.

A total of five modern metal or concrete block sheds are located on the premises. Described below, none of these are contributing:

Metal Storage Shed 1 (Building #6) – Noncontributing

This large metal warehouse shed shares the south wall with the mill building. Windows along this shared first floor wall are bricked in. A connection between the mill and the shed exists on the basement level. This is the only building of the complex currently in use. It is leased by the Signal Apparel Company, located across Manufacturer's Road, and used for their factory outlet store and as additional warehouse space.

Metal Storage Shed 2 (Building #7) – Noncontributing

This rectangular metal shed is located in the northwest corner of the complex and was used as a machine shed.

Metal Storage Shed 3 (Building #8) – Noncontributing

This circa 1950 rectangular metal shed is located north of the original mill building.

Metal Storage Shed 4 (Building #9) – Noncontributing

This post-1950 rectangular metal shed runs along the concrete slab dock on the north side of the original mill building.

Concrete Block Fuel Storage Shed (Building #10) – Noncontributing

This post-1950 rectangular fuel storage building is located on the north side of the complex. It shares the west wall with the old bleachery and part of the south wall with the boiler house.

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Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

The complex is bordered by Manufacturer's Road on the south and the Southern Railway on the north. The lot is landscaped with grass and large mature trees on the Manufacturer's Road side. The remaining lot is paved for parking or covered with brambles. A chain link fence surrounds the entire property. Remnants of a railroad spur can be found north of the mill building. A large loading dock runs perpendicular to the mill building, reaching the railroad spur on the north side. Another loading dock spans the entire west end of the mill building.

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Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Signal Mills consideration in the National Register of Historic Places should be noted under criterion A and C, as a component in the significant development and success of Chattanooga's textile industry. The complex is a good representation of an early 20th century railroad-related, industrial and manufacturing facility, which remained functioning in its original capacity for 70 years. Architecturally, the principal buildings retain a high degree of integrity, both inside and outside. They are good examples of utilitarian industrial design in Chattanooga. Intact architectural features include symmetrically placed multi-light windows, brick pilasters, the parapet roof, large open spaces supported by the heavy timber construction.

Signal Knitting Mills is located at the foot of Signal Mountain in Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee. The long brick buildings, the first of which were constructed in 1916, are south of the tracks of the Chattanooga Traction Rail Line. Historically, this electric railroad line and Manufacturers Road diagonally bracketed the site. By 1939 two buildings were built across Manufacturers Road to complete the complex for Signal Knitting Mills' underwear production. This area of Chattanooga was an important manufacturing center for the commercial and industrial development of the city. Rail lines provided transportation for supplies and product shipping. Indeed the complex site was surrounded by other manufacturing structures, i.e. the Carter Brothers, manufacturers of rugs and mattresses, were north of the tracks and a lumber yard was just west of the knitting mill.

The Signal Knitting Mills were an important employer of workers in the area for over seventy years, ending with four factories and over 1700 employees. In 1986 the knitting processes in the old buildings ceased, closing a chapter in the history of Signal Apparel, which continues in Chattanooga to this date.

Signal Knitting Mills

The first brick buildings of Signal Knitting Mills were sandwiched between the Chattanooga Traction Rail Line's railroad tracks and Manufacturers Road. These buildings contained the various operations needed to produce a finished product. The two-story mill building, and the one-story brick building behind it, were constructed in 1916. The basement of the mill building was used for storage; knitting, cutting and shipping occupied the first floor, and finishing of the product took place on the second floor. In the rear building, storage again occupied the basement, with napping, drying

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Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

and bleaching on the main floor. A huge boiler was housed on the east of the rear building, and a 25,000 gallon water tank perched on top of the mill building's stair tower to the south. (See historic photo Attachment #11). A rail spur from the Chattanooga Traction Rail Line serviced the north side or rear of the building. Throughout the early 20th century, the mill buildings were expanded and enlarged as the business grew.

Before 1927, the growth of the business determined the need for both the mill building and the bleachery to be enlarged. (See Sanborn Attachment #4). Offices were added to the east or front of the mill, and a two-story addition was constructed on the west end of the building. This addition was planned to be extended even further, or faced with brick, since it was temporarily surfaced with tarpaper. (See historic photo Attachment #22). However no enlargement occurred; this wall today is still covered with rolled asphalt roofing material.

By 1930, the napping room was expanded on the west end of the rear bleachery. A fire door was installed between the new office addition and the mill proper, as well as an elevator at this junction. This mill, as seen in other mills of the era, became the administrator of its employees lives, personally and professionally. Historic photos depict a lunchroom, which was most likely located under the offices in the basement, and also a medical clinic as part of the complex. (Photos Appendices #20, 21). The mill workers were protected by management, however, unions began to be actively organized by the late 1930's. A two month strike occurred in May and June of 1941, after the discharge of four union workers in two weeks. The management did not want to recognize the authority of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, a branch of the American Federation of Labor. (AFL), and mediation had to resolve the issues. At this time The Chattanooga Times of May 27, 1941 reported the mill employed 900 workers in three shifts. All three mills were closed for 14 weeks during the strike.

The updated to 1951 Sanborn Maps indicated expansion to the napping/bleachery building for cloth storage. The boiler room was also greatly expanded. The outbuildings increased in number, marking the success of the mill. Metal sheds on the far west side of the property were built to house supplies and parts for the maintenance of the many machines used in the main mill buildings. A parking shed, providing parking for over 13 cars driven by the foremen and office workers, also lined the western property line. The foundations for these sheds still exist, however, the sheds have been demolished. (See historic photo Attachment #13).

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Signal Knitting Mills
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Although not included in this nomination, two buildings housing the Kain-Murphey Corporation and Ilena Mills were built across Manufacturers Road in the late 1930's. The metal clad building, housing Ilena Mills, also functioned as a warehouse for Signal. Kain-Murphey Corporation, housed in the brick building, also had its own knitting and sewing machines. Since these companies were entwined with familial and corporate bindings, the buildings did not always operate separately. Indeed, by 1960, the maintenance shop for all three mills was built behind the metal building across Manufacturers Road. The brick building has numerous 1970's alterations and no longer retains its architectural integrity. The exact role the warehouse may have had in the operation of Signal Mills is uncertain.

Both externally and internally, the older mill buildings have remained very much as seen in the last Sanborn. In 1959, a rear addition to the bleachery building covered the old rail spur with a new dye house, and the water tower was removed, most likely when city water was installed. Land was paved to provide needed parking spaces as more employees owned automobiles. A large metal storage shed was erected in the south lot of the old factory in the last decade. Internally, some of the mill functions were performed in different locations. Sewing, at one point done in the basement, moved to the second floor, and storage space was found when and where necessary.

The mill's history is one of family - generations that worked there, and generations that managed it. Two strikes, one in 1941, another in 1969, however, showed that labor sometimes needed a voice. Later, Signal Knitting Mills was remembered fondly by former employees and managers in oral histories collected during this research.

William Murphey and John G. Kain

Born in Georgia, William Murphey was a textile engineer, who graduated from Georgia Tech in 1912. After completing his schooling, he first worked in a textile mill in Greenville, South Carolina, before bringing his expertise to Chattanooga in 1913. Sure of his expertise, and after working for three years at the Chicamauga Knitting Mills, William Murphey was instrumental in organizing the Signal Knitting Mills with a group of Chattanooga businessmen. These other businessmen included John G. Kain, H. M. Evans, Blair Finley, and W. A. Jones. Murphey became the secretary of the board and manager of the site. (See City Directory Attachment #8). The business was formed to manufacture children's knit underwear and sleepwear. Murphey was also active in the local civic and professional culture of the city, becoming a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Manufacturer's Association. He was director of the Hamilton

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Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

National Bank and the Mountain City Club. He also published articles in several professional textile publications. Murphey was active in the daily management of Signal Knitting Mills and after his tenure in the 1950's, his son, Reid S. Murphey, took the reins as manager.

As stated before, when organizing the Signal Knitting Mills, William Murphey also partnered for a long duration with prominent Chattanooga businessman, John G. Kain. Kain, a leading industrialist with an interest in many businesses, made his name with the Star Box and Printing Company. This concern was extremely successful and had a nationwide distribution.

Kain, interested in broadening his financial ventures, became president of Signal Knitting Mills and helped organize affiliate mills, Ilena Mills, Inc. and Kain-Murphey Corporation. The property for these sister mills was across Manufacturer's Road from the old buildings, and was bought by Kain and Murphey in 1939. (See Deed Attachment #7). Ilena's production was higher-priced knit outer wear, and was located in the lower level of a ca. 1939 metal-clad building. The Kain-Murphy Corp. occupied the brick building across Manufacturers Road. Interviews of long standing employees of Signal Mill indicate the operation of the mills appeared to remain separate financially, however, some storage and shipping for all concerns were shared. (Interview Davis) Historic photographs of the interiors depict similar sewing and knitting machine set-ups. Employees may have even worked in all three locations, some were certainly in the same union. The fact that the mills expanded during the Great Depression of the 1930's may indicate the management expertise of Kain and Murphey, the relative abundance of labor force, and the endurance of the Chattanooga railroads. Unfortunately, concrete evidence in the form of historic corporate records are believed lost or destroyed.

Starting in 1951, the Kain-Murphey Corporation was managed by the sons, Reid Murphey and John G. Kain, Jr., however, the senior Kain and Murphey remained active on the board of all mills throughout their business careers. By the time Signal Knitting Mills was bought by Fort Wayne, Indiana based Wayne-Gossard Corporation in 1976, all three corporations, including Ilena and Kain-Murphey, had been liquidated into one company for eight years. By 1987, Wayne-Gossard Corporation had changed its name to Signal Apparel Co., Inc., with its corporate headquarters still in Chattanooga today, occupying the brick building, original home of Kain-Murphey Corporation.

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Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

Industrial Development of Chattanooga

In the East at the turn of the century, the textile industry was expanding southward to provide increased local manufacturing opportunities for southern cotton. The old water-powered mills of New England were becoming obsolete, and rail provided a growing transportation possibility. As Chattanooga was experiencing a huge industrial boon after the period of reconstruction of the late 1800's, and rail was at the apex of Chattanooga's growth. The post-war need for iron and steel rails was being answered by the turn of the century, and the labor force became diversified by entering into other industries. As these manufacturers waned, textiles were one of the industries to fill the gap.

Indeed, in 1938 The Chattanooga Times wrote a review of the industries of the city and the growth exhibited since the turn of the century, stating:

The year 1873 was one of the most remarkable years in Chattanooga's history, for in it textile manufacturing, now the city's largest single field of industry, began and plants were established which were the forerunners of some of the most important manufactories of the future.

The diversification of resources in the valley of the Tennessee River assured Chattanooga of an abundance of coal, lumber, cotton, and the means to manufacture these resources into finished products and distribute them throughout the nation. Other industries active in Chattanooga at the beginning of the 20th century included iron, ore, and coal foundries, lumber and woodworking, mining, medicine, printing, tanneries and Coca-Cola Bottling. (Turnbull Cone Nomination, 1992).

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Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

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Hamer, _____. *Tennessee—A History*. Vol. III, NY: American Historical Society, Inc. 1933.

Property Deeds. On file at Hamilton County Tax Assessor's Office. Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1917, 1930, 1930 update 1951. On File at the Local History Desk, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Library. Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Signal Knitting Mills. Business File. On File at the Local History Desk, Chattanooga-Hamilton County Library. Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Signal Knitting Mill Survey. Surveyed by Factory Mutual Engineering Division. Factory Mutual System, Norwood, Mass. 1/13/1970.

Tunbull Cone and Machine Company, Chattanooga Tennessee. National Register Nomination. On File at Tennessee Historical Commission. 1992

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 13

Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property consists of lots 3, 4 and 6 on Hamilton County tax map 135-F.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated boundary is based on the historic boundary as outlined in Deed dated 26 June 1916 in Book A, Vol. 14, Page 285. The boundary includes all land associated with the buildings.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 14

Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

PHOTO LOG

Signal Knitting Mills
205 Manufacturers Road
Hamilton County, TN
Photos by: Ray and Associates
Date: August 1998
Neg: Ray and Associates

East facade of Signal Knitting Mill, facing west
#1 of 41

South and east facades, facing northwest
#2 of 41

South facade showing stair tower, facing northeast
#3 of 41

South facade showing metal shed addition, facing northwest
#4 of 41

Detail of south facade stair tower, facing north
#5 of 41

North and east facades, facing southwest
#6 of 41

North facade and loading dock, facing south
7 of 41

North facade of mill, east facade of boiler housing, and east facade of new dye house,
facing west
#8 of 41

East facade of boiler housing, facing west
#9 of 41

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 15

Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

East facade of new dye house, facing west
#10 of 41

Connecting alley between mill and dye house, facing west
#11 of 41

North facade of old dye house, facing southwest
#12 of 41

North facade of old dye house and west facade of new dye house, facing east
#13 of 41

West facades of mill and old dye house, facing northeast
#14 of 41

West facade of mill and metal shed addition, facing southeast
#15 of 41

Entry to offices, first floor of mill, facing west
#16 of 41

Offices in mill, facing south
#17 of 41

Tower stair, facing south
#18 of 41

Facing north from tower stair into second floor of mill
#19 of 41

Facing west on first floor of mill towards covered alley
#20 of 41

Facing northeast on first floor of mill towards covered alley
#21 of 41

Facing east on first floor of mill showing production area
#22 of 41

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 16

Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

Detail of fire door leading into offices, located on first floor east end of mill
#23 of 41

Second floor of mill, facing west
#24 of 41

Second floor of mill, facing northeast
#25 of 41

Second floor of mill, facing southwest
#26 of 41

Lunch room on third floor of tower of mill, facing northwest
#27 of 41

Basement of mill, facing south towards stair tower
#28 of 41

Basement of mill, facing west
#29 of 41

Basement of mill, facing southwest
#30 of 41

Old dye house, facing east
#31 of 41

Old dye house, facing east
#32 of 41

Old dye house, facing west
#33 of 41

West wall of old dye house, facing northwest
#34 of 41

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 17

Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton County, Tennessee

Main floor of old dye house across covered alley towards mill, facing south
#35 of 41

Detail of door in west end of covered alley
#36 of 41

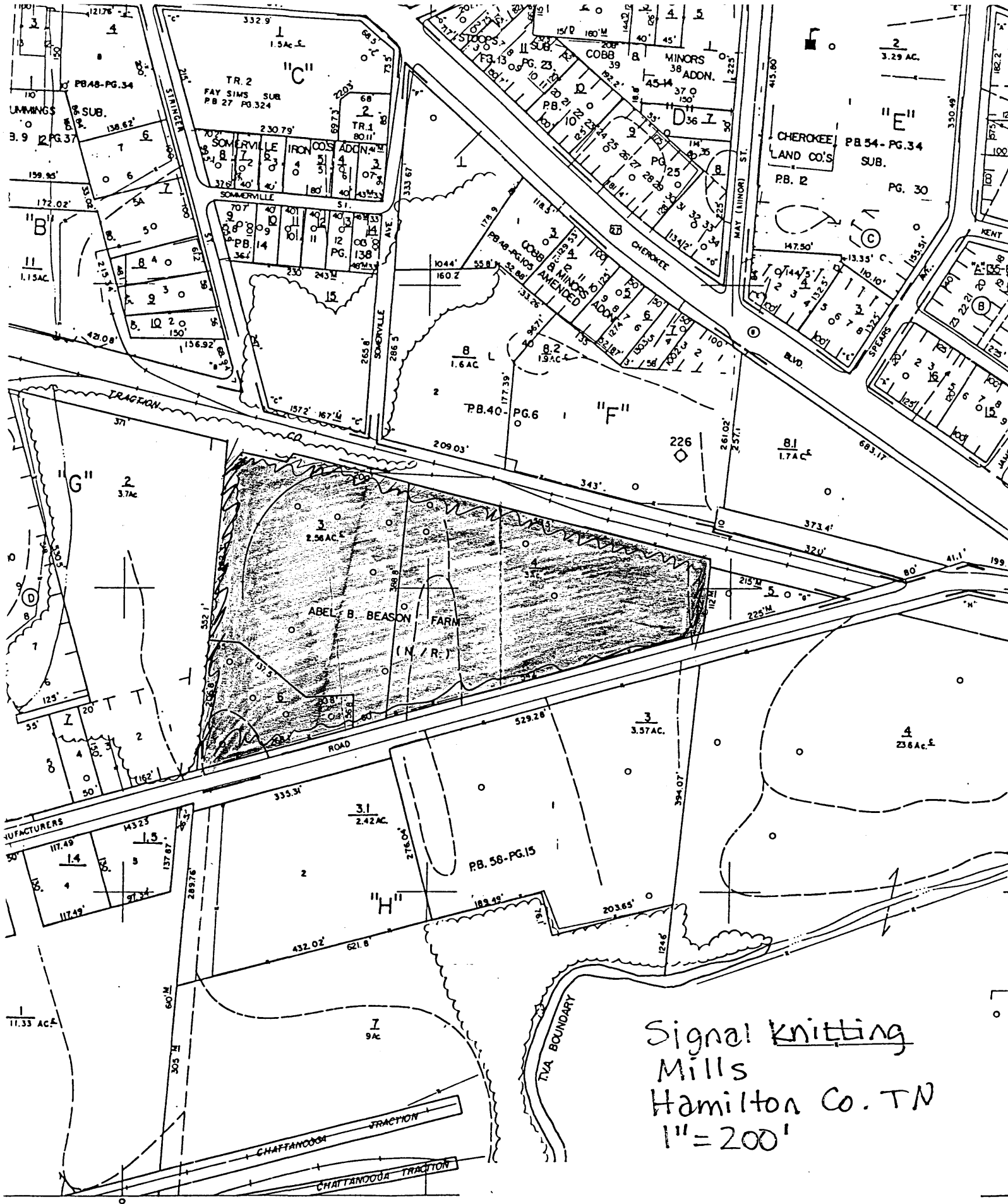
Covered alley, facing west
#37 of 41

Basement of old dye house, facing northwest
#38 of 41

New dye house, facing northwest
#39 of 41

New dye house, facing southeast
#40 of 41

Boiler housing, facing northwest
#41 of 41



ATTACHMENT #2: TAX MAP, Boundary Outlined

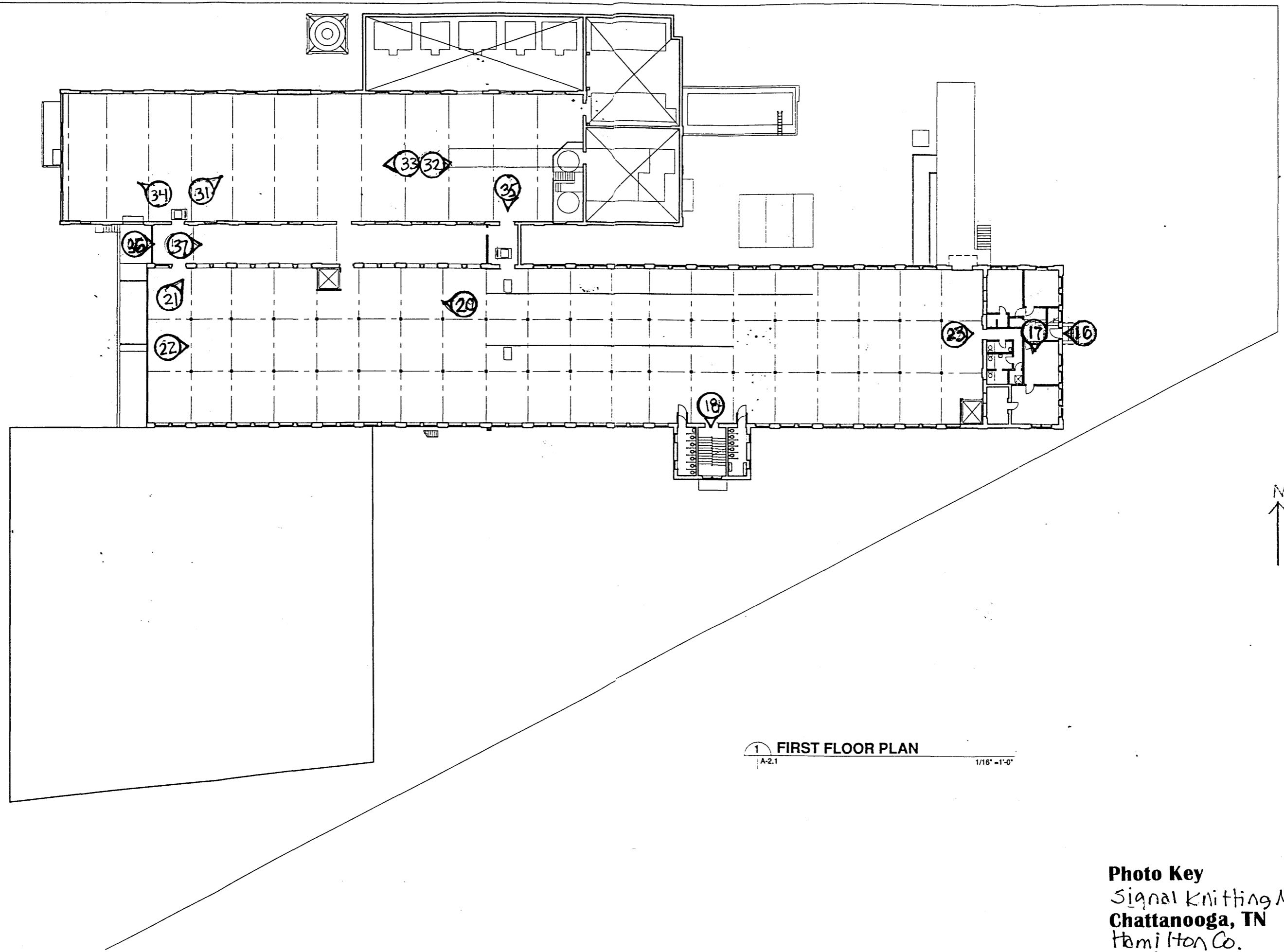
CREEK
STATE LINE
CO LINE
CORPS LIMITS
TRANSMISSION LINE
ROAD
RAILROAD
TODGE LINE

E. 2,205,000

135-B	135-C	135-D
135-G	135-F	135-E
135-J	135-K	135-L

- REVISIONS -		
1 1/10/73-4	6 5/82	11 1 SEPT./87
2 7-75	7 5 MAY 1983	12 8 FEB. 1988
3 7-76	8 17 JUNE 1988	13 11 JULY/88
4 5 8 77	9 16 MAY/85	14 14 DEC./88
5 7-80	10 5 SEPT. 1986	15

CHATTANOOGA HAMILTON COUNTY		MAP #
SCALE: 1"=200'	DISTRICT: 1	135-F
DATE OF FLYING: JAN., 1987		
DATE COMPILED: JULY, 1987		



1 FIRST FLOOR PLAN
A-2.1 1/16" = 1'-0"

BROCK

ARCHITECTS & PLANNER
434 MARICETTA STREET NW
SUITE 201
ATLANTA, GA 30321-3
VOICE 404-252-1000
FAX 404-252-1487

CONSULTANTS:

PROJECT NO.:
9839

PROJECT TITLE:

SIGNAL MILL
205 MANUFACTURERS ROAD
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37405

SHEET TITLE:
FIRST FLOOR
PLAN

DATE: ISSUE:

DRAWN BY: AR

CHECKED BY: EB

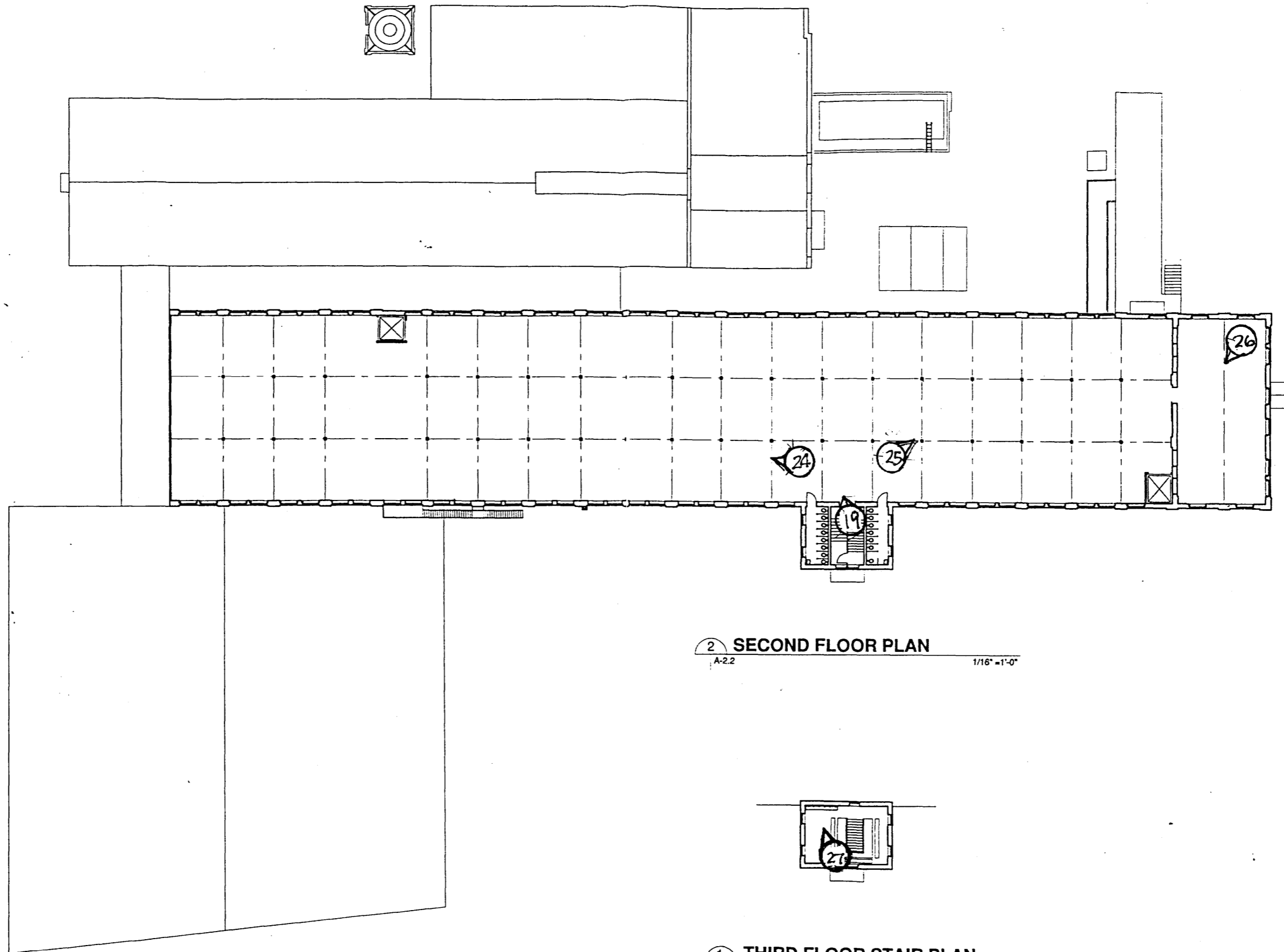
SEAL:

SHEET NO.:

A-2.1

OF

Photo Key
Signal Knitting Mills
Chattanooga, TN
Hamilton Co.
2 of 4



2 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
A-2.2 1/16" = 1'-0"

1 THIRD FLOOR STAIR PLAN
A-2.2 1/16" = 1'-0"

Photo Key
Signal Knitting Mills
Chattanooga, TN
Hamilton Co.
3 of 4

A-2.2
OF

BROCK ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS
456 MARIONETTA STREET NW
SUITE 201
ATLANTA, GA 30313
VOICE 404-273-8666
FAX 404-273-8662

CONSULTANTS:

PROJECT NO.: 9839

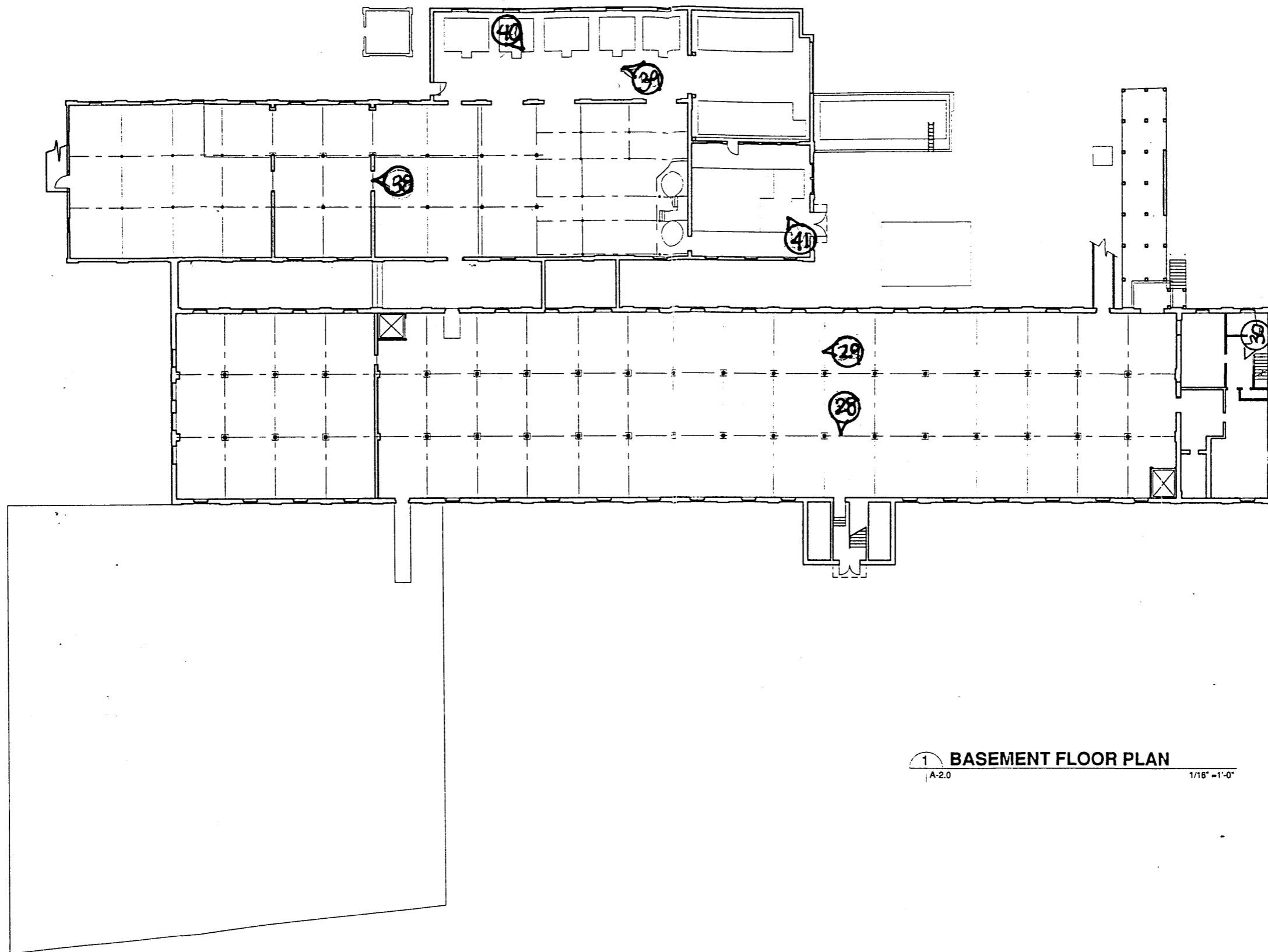
PROJECT TITLE: SIGNAL MILL
205 MANUFACTURERS ROAD
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37405

SHEET TITLE: SECOND FLOOR PLAN

DATE:	ISSUE:

DRAWN BY: AR
CHECKED BY: EB
SEAL:

SHEET NO.:



BROCK
ARCHITECTS & PLANNER
424 MARIETTA STREET NW
SUITE 201
ATLANTA, GA 30310
PHONE: 404-522-0404
FAX: 404-522-0408

CONSULTANTS:

PROJECT NO.:
9839

PROJECT TITLE:

SIGNAL MILL
205 MANUFACTURERS ROAD
CHATTANOOGA, TN 37405

SHEET TITLE:
BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN

DATE: ISSUE:

DRAWN BY: AR

CHECKED BY: EB

SEAL:

SHEET NO.:

1 BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN
A-2.0 1/16" = 1'-0"

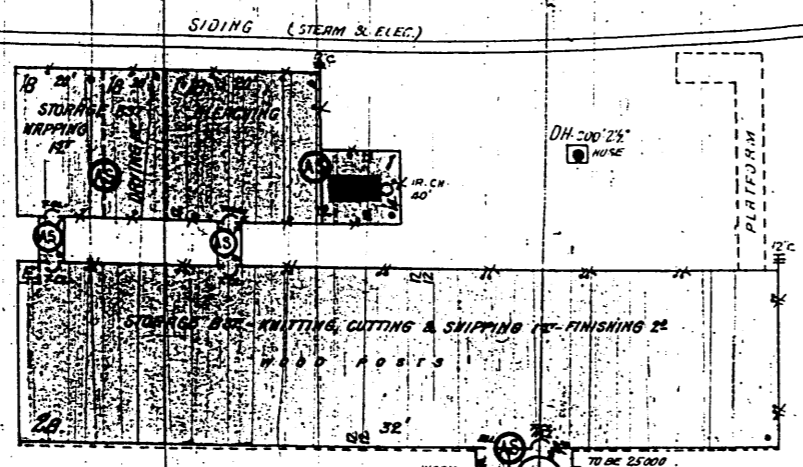
Photo Key
Signal Knitting Mills
Chattanooga, TN
Hamilton Co.
4 of 4

A-2.0
OF

CHATTANOOGA TRACTION CO. RIGHT OF WAY

BRICK OFF BEYOND

CHATTANOOGA TRACTION Co.



SIGNAL KNITTING MILL

-MFRS OF UNDERWEAR-

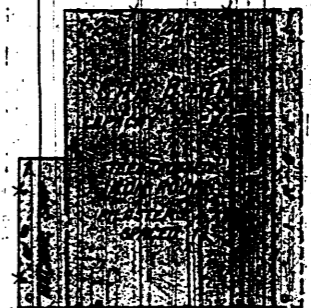
WATCHMAN - CHICAGO WATCHMANS CLOCK - 12 STATIONS HOURLY ROUNDS - HEAT STEAM FUEL COAL - POWER & LIGHTS ELEC. - BUILDINGS EQUIPPED WITH ESTY AUTO SPRINKLS AS SHOWN - WET SYSTEM 885 HEADS SPACED 8'x9' - PRIMARY SUPPLY CITY WATER 6" CONN. TO CITY MAINS - PRESSURE 80 LBS. - SECONDARY TO BE 25000 GALLON GRAVITY TANK ON STAIR TOWER ELEV 25 ABV. ROOF - THIRD STEAMER CONN. ACME & PYRENE CHEM. EXTGRS DISTRIBD. - DH. & 200'-2 1/2" HOSE AS SHOWN SUPPLIED BY CITY WATER -

- NO EXPOSURE ANY SIDE -

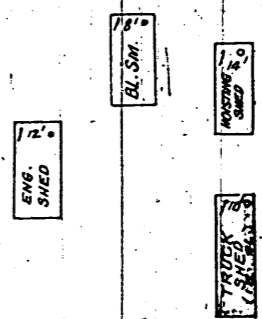
PRIVATE ROAD

NO EXPOSURE

NO EXPOSURE



WATCHMAN - NO CLOCK - HEAT - STEAM IN MACHINE SHOP - POWER & LIGHTS ELEC. CHILDS & ELECTRENE CHEM. EXTGRS DISTRIBD



CHATTANOOGA WAREHOUSE AND COMPRESS CO.

WATCHMAN - ECO MAGNETO CLOCK - 7 STATIONS HALF HOURLY ROUNDS - HEAT - STOVE IN OFF. POWER - STEAM - FUEL - COAL - NO LIGHTS - MAIN BUILDINGS EQUIPPED WITH GLOBE AUTO SPRINKLERS DRY SYSTEM 885 HEADS SPACED 8'x8' SUPPLIED BY CITY WATER 6" CONN. TO CITY MAINS - PRESSURE 78 LBS. AUTO. 60MG ALARMS WITH ANNUNCIATOR AT COMPRESS - NYDS. AS SHOWN SUPPLIED BY CITY WATER - WATER BARRELS & BUCKETS DISTRIBD. (Not Sprinkld.)

DH. 100 2 1/2 HOSE

DH. 100 2 1/2 HOSE

OFF. 12'

(Not Sprinkld.)

SAMPLE RM. 12'



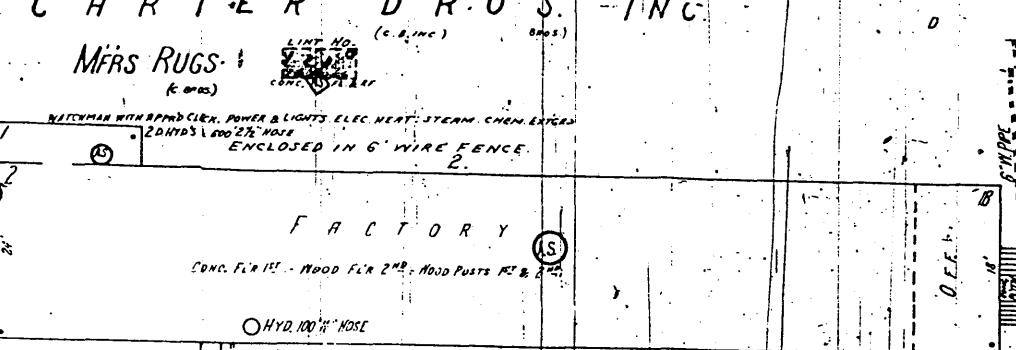
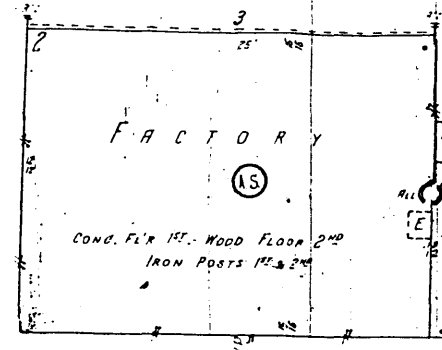


3

4

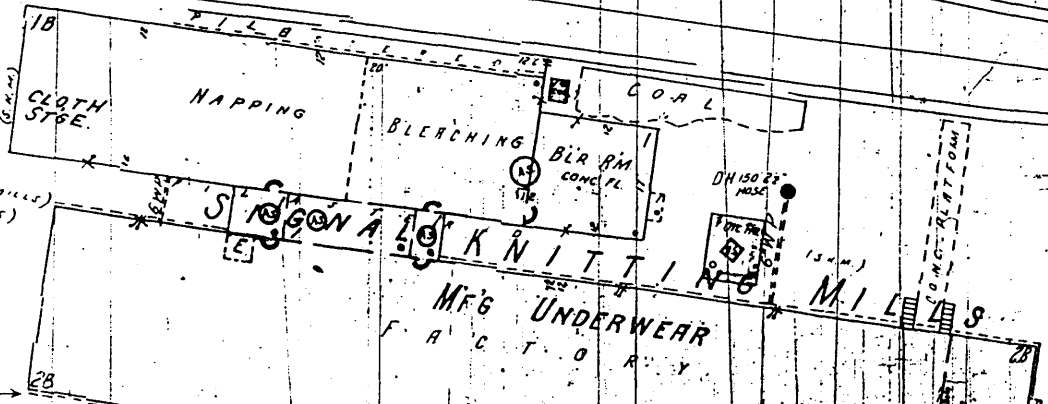
CARTER BROS. - INC

MRS RUGS



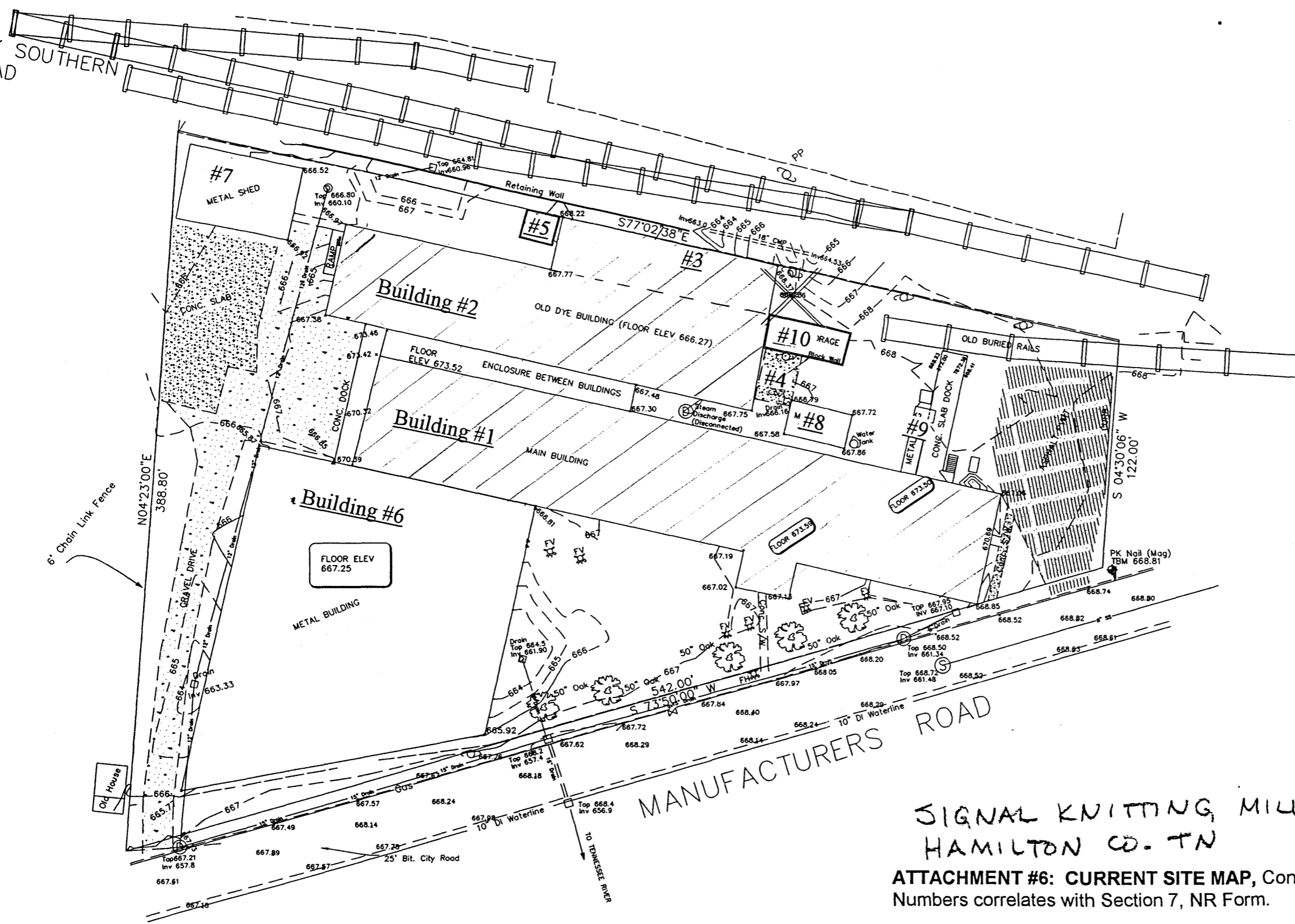
C. T. CO. (ELECTRIC LINES)

LAHIERE LUMBER & SUPPLY CO. INC.
for Office see Sheet No 621
(L. I. CO.)



621

NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD



LEGEND

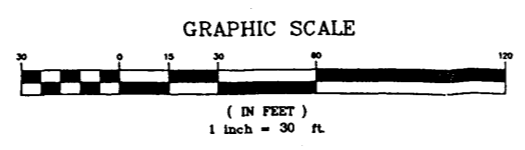
- Overhead Power Pole
- Gas Valve
- San. Sewer Manhole
- Sprinkler Connection
- Fire Hydrant
- Drain Manhole
- TBM

SITE DATA

- 1) WATER BY TENNESSEE AMERICAN WATER COMPANY
- 2) GAS BY CHATTANOOGA GAS CO.
- 3) SAN SEWERS BY CITY OF CHATTANOOGA
- 4) ELECTRICITY BY THE CHATTANOOGA

SIGNAL KNITTING MILLS
HAMILTON CO. TN

ATTACHMENT #6: CURRENT SITE MAP, Contributing and Non-Contributing Building Numbers correlates with Section 7, NR Form.



EXISTING SITE CONDITIONS

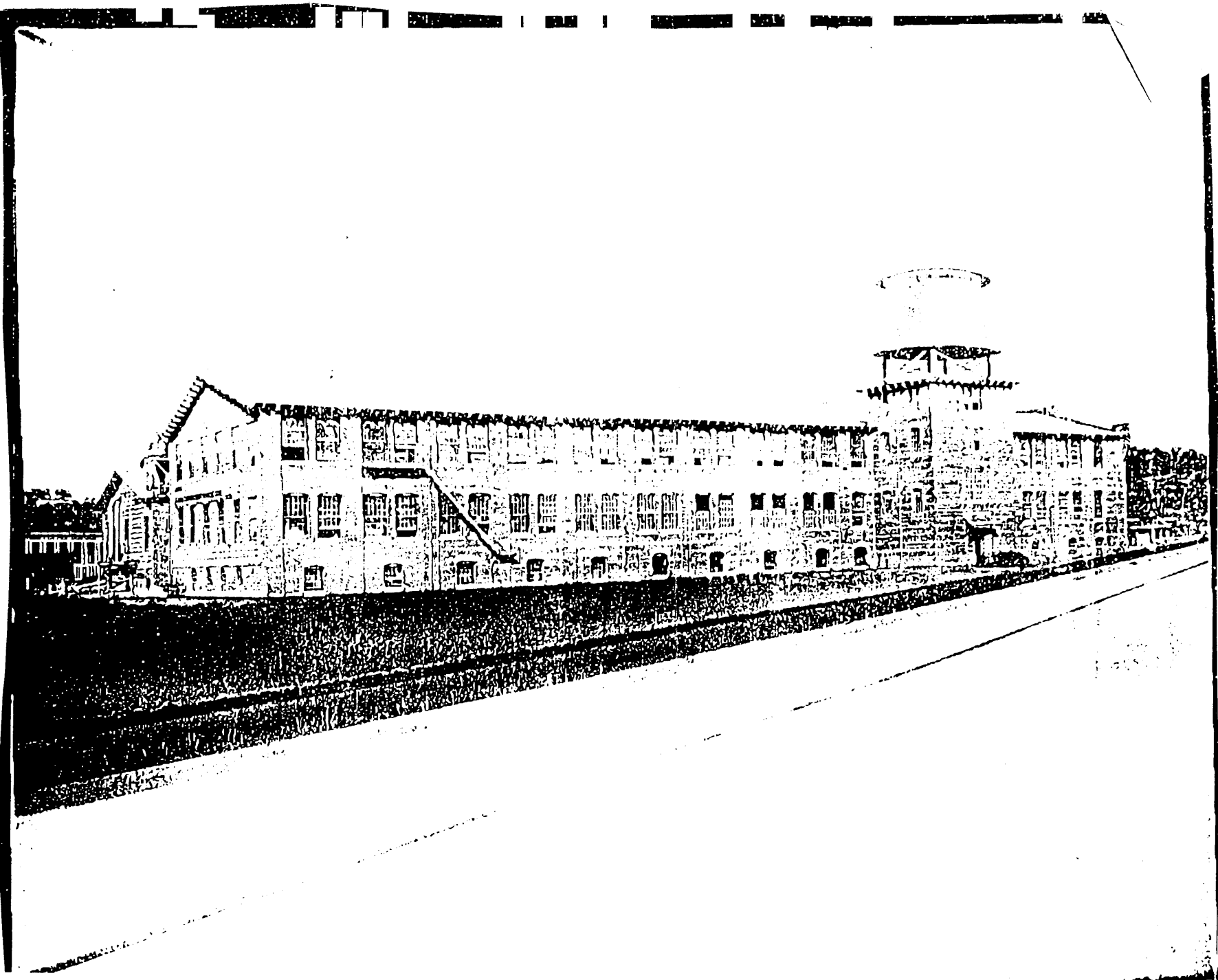
THE KNITTING MILL PARTNERS, LLC
PROPERTY -- ROHC 5088/687
CITY OF CHATTANOOGA

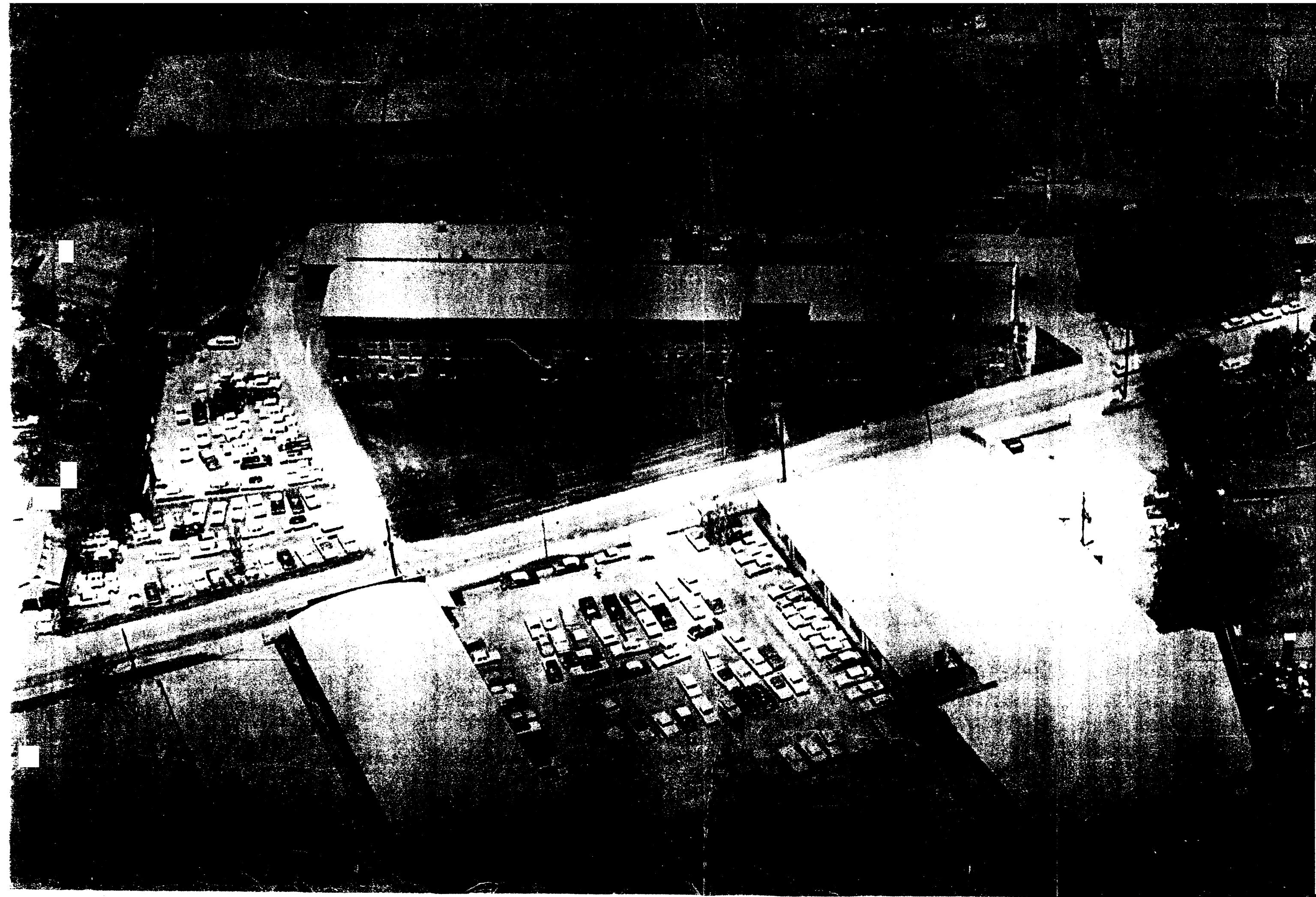
NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY
2	09/17/98	Added TBM & Flr El to Dye Bld.	JGC
1	09/11/98	Added Invert Elev. to Drains	JGC

DATE: 09/09/98	DRAWN BY: D. COPP
SCALE: 1"=30'	CHECKED BY: J.G. COPP
COPP ENGINEERING GROUP 6117 DAYTON BLVD. HIXSON, TN 37343 TEL 847-9100	

ATTACHMENT #11: PHOTOGRAPH, EXTERIOR SIGNAL KNITTING MILLS, ca. pre-1922

Hamilton Co. TN





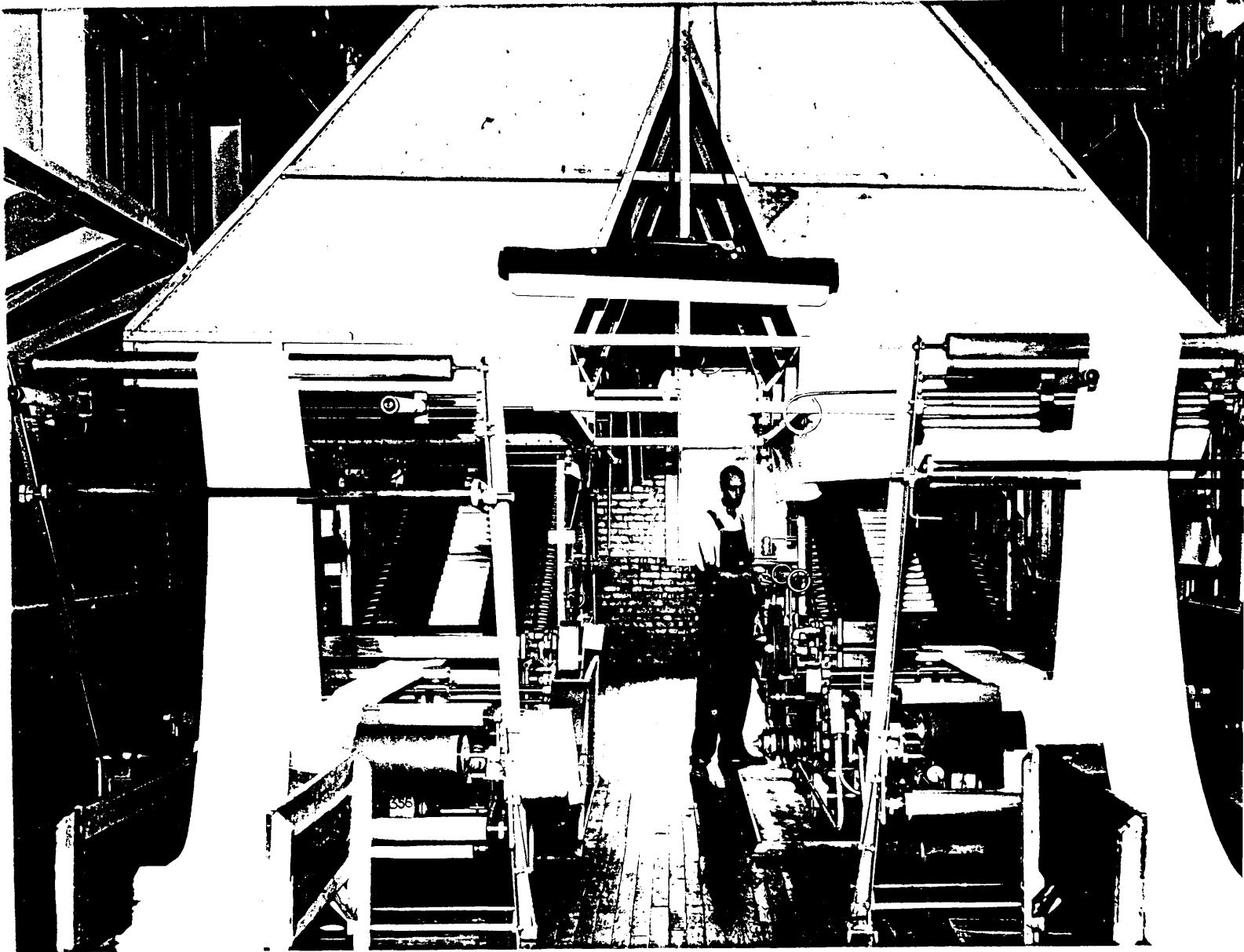
Hamilton Co. TN

ATTACHMENT #13: AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH, SIGNAL KNITTING MILLS, ca. 1960.

ATTACHMENT #14: PHOTOGRAPH, INTERIOR, Mill Building, 1st Floor, Knitting Operation, ca. 1950



Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton Co. TN

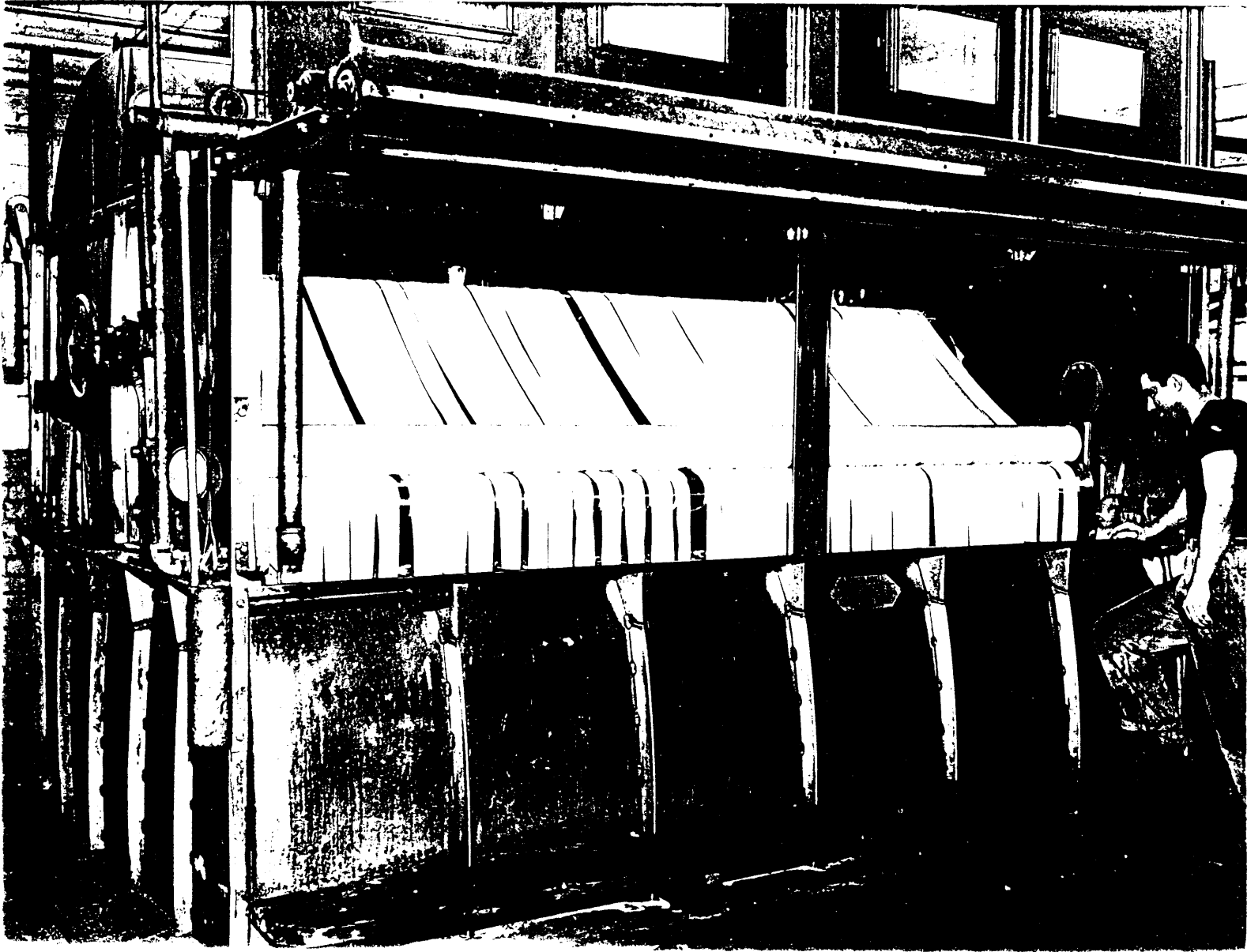


Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton Co. TN

ATTACHMENT #16: PHOTOGRAPH, INTERIOR, Mill Building, 1st Floor, Cutting Operation, ca. 1950



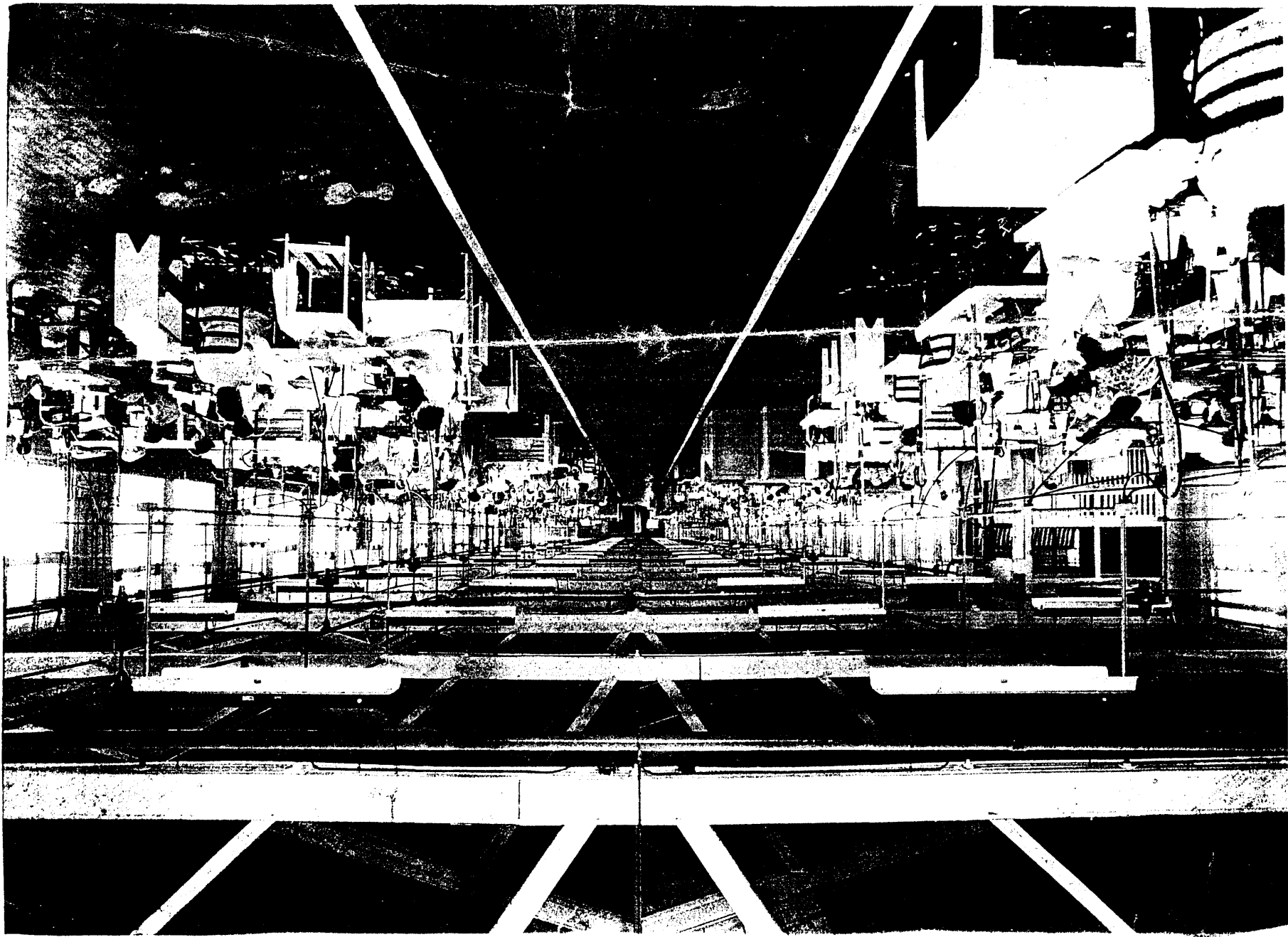
Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton Co. TN



Signal Knitting Mills
Hamilton Co. TN

Signal Knitting Mills, Tomlita Co.-TN

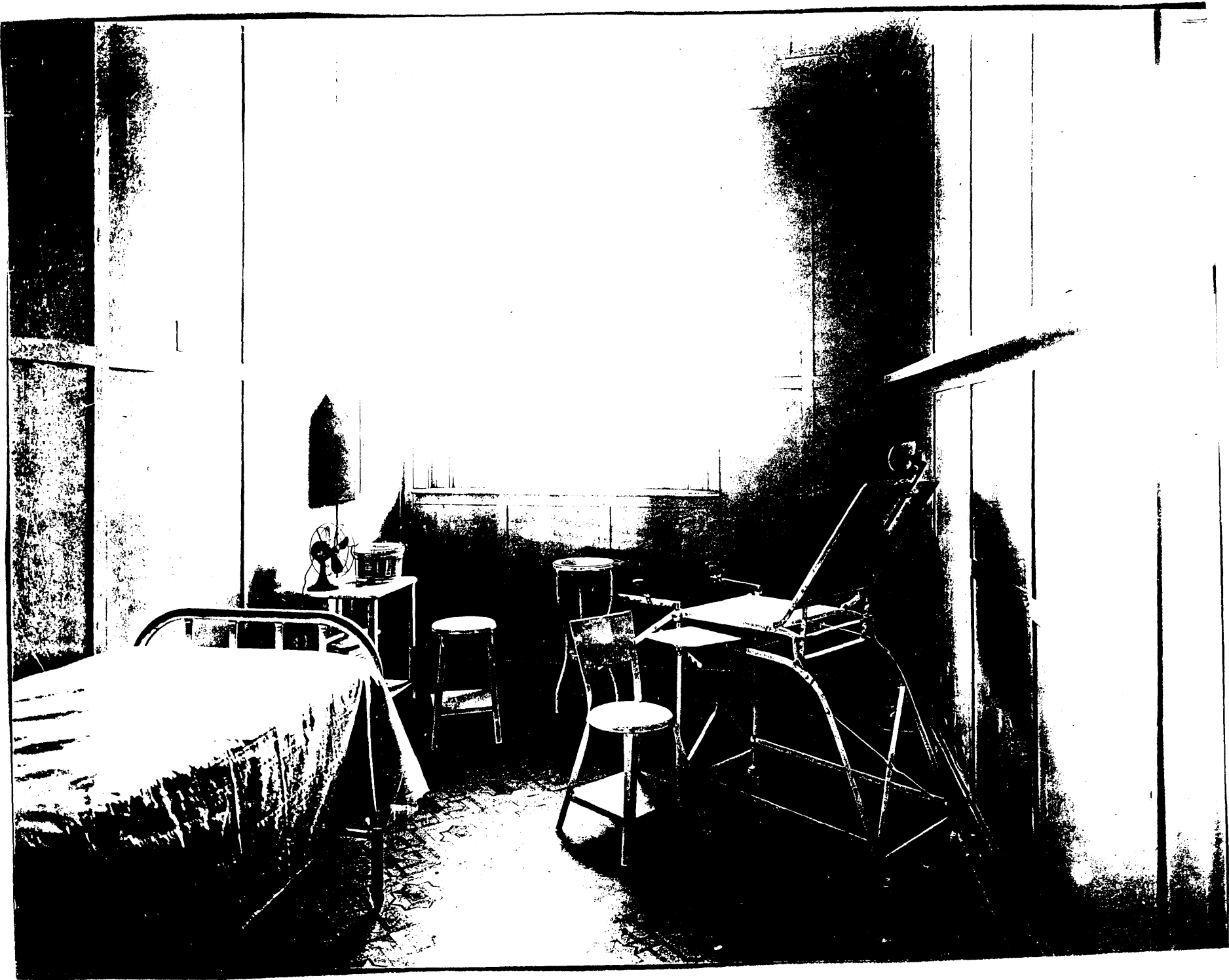
ATTACHMENT #19: PHOTOGRAPH, INTERIOR, Mill Building, 2nd Floor, Sewing Operation, ca. 1930.





ATTACHMENT #20: PHOTOGRAPH, LUNCHROOM, Basement, Mill Building, ca. 1930.

Signal & M. E. B. B. G. Mills, Hamilton Co. TN



ATTACHMENT #21: PHOTOGRAPH, CLINIC, Mill Building, ca. 1930.

SIGNER & SHAW (MILLS), THOMSON CO. 70



ATTACHMENT #22: PHOTOGRAPH, Employees of the Finishing Dept., 1927. Note: End wall of Mill Building addition with tarpaper covering.

Signal Knitting Co.
Hamilton Co. TN