United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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).

Name of Property			A Laurence of Schools		
historic name Spear & Com	pany Factory				
other names/site number					
name of related multiple proper	rty listing 13	A	- 10		
2. Location					
street & number 94-15 100th S	treet				not for publication
city or town Ozone Park					vicinity
	code NY county	Queens	code 081		11416-1707
3. State/Federal Agency Certi	ification				
As the designated authority ur	oder the National Histo	ric Preservation Act	as amended		
I hereby certify that this X for registering properties in the requirements set forth in 36 C. In my opinion, the property 2 property be considered signification and states and signification a	e National Register of In FR Part 60. X_meets does not cant at the following level wide X_local Show when the following level its lev	Historic Places and not meet the National vel(s) of significance	Register Criteri	dural and	professional
Signature of commenting official			Date		
Title		State or Federal agency/	bureau or Tribal Go	overnment	
4. National Park Service Cer	rtification				
I hereby certify that this property is:					
entered in the National Regis	ster	determine	ed eligible for the N	ational Regis	ter
determined not eligible for the	e National Register	removed	from the National F	Register	
other (explain:)					
alwisalrenall	M		119/17		
Signature of the Keeper	0		Date of Action		

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Spear & Company Factory Name of Property			Queens, No County and St	ew York tate
5. Classifi cation				
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)	Category of Property (Check only one box.)	Number of Resour (Do not include previous)	ces within Pr y listed resources	operty s in the count.)
X private public - Local public - State public - Federal	X building(s) district site structure object	Contributing N	oncontributir 0	buildings sites structures objects Total
Name of related multiple prop (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a r	perty listing multiple property listing)	Number of contribution listed in the Nation		es previously
N/A			0	
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) INDUSTRY/manufacturing facil	ity	Current Functions (Enter categories from in INDUSTRY/manufacture)	structions.)	
7. Description				
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.) MODERN MOVEMENT		Materials (Enter categories from in foundation: CONG) walls: BRICK; CO	CRETE	
		roof: ASPHALT other:		

NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018	(Expires 5/31/2012)

Spear & Company Factory	Queens, New York
lame of Property	County and State

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The former Spear & Company complex is located between 100th and 102nd Streets, and 94th and 95th Avenues, in Ozone Park, Queens (Figures 1-8, Photograph 1). It is surrounded by early- and mid-late-twentieth-century industrial buildings to the north; a combination of early-twentieth-century, one-story commercial buildings and two-story single-family dwellings to the east; early-twentieth-century, two-story single- and multi-family dwellings to the south; and a former elevated railway alignment to the west (Photographs 2-4). The earliest portions of the complex consist of an interconnected three-story factory in a T plan (1906), four-story elevator tower and one-story office wing (1906), one-story boiler house wing (1906), one- and three-story garage and factory wing (c.1919), and a three-story factory wing (1928) that are located within its western portion, while the later portions consist of a one-story office addition (1955) and a double-height warehouse addition (1964) that are located within its southern and northeastern portions, respectively (Photographs 5-12). A parking lot paved in asphalt and enclosed by a medium-high, chain-link fence is located within the eastern half of the property with entrances at 102nd Street and 95th Avenue. This lot contains a stand of mature deciduous trees along 102nd Street and a cluster of cedar trees and shrubs fronting the 1955 office addition façade.

Narrative Description

1906-1928 Core Complex

The 1906-1928 portion of the Spear & Company factory forms the core complex, consisting of a central T plan with multiple wings constructed of steel-reinforced concrete in the 1906 T plan and c.1919 sections, and steelreinforced brick covered in stucco in the 1928 addition (Photograph 13). It is designed in a restrained utilitarian style that incorporates large expanses of factory windows that were replaced c.1940 and are bracketed by quoined concrete pilasters crowned by concrete caps that project above the roofline; the roof is covered in a bituminous material; these replacement units are consistent throughout the 1906, c.1919 and 1928 portions of the building (Photographs 14, 34). The rhythm of bays defined by pilasters and windows/spandrels is uniform on most elevations, except for the 1928 three-story factory wing to the south of the T plan, which features irregularly-spaced bays containing a variety of window configurations that include both rectangular multi-light units and ribbon windows. A four-story elevator tower with a pyramidal roof connects the T-plan section of the complex with the one-story office wing that historically contained the entrance to the complex on 100th Street. Windows throughout are metal-sash, multi-light units, with the larger units containing multiple sets of multi-light tilt units. In addition, select window openings within the western, eastern, and southern elevations contain stucco-parged brick or concrete-block-unit (CBU) infill. Doors consist of metal replacement units and metal rollup replacement garage-door units. The boiler house wing holds the base of a former water tower that now holds a cluster of cell tower co-locators dating from the late 1990s to the late 2000s (Photograph 15).

Exterior

Original Building (1906)

The original building is a three-story factory building designed in a utilitarian style and configured in a T plan with a tower and wings projecting from the long end of the T. The entire building is constructed of steel-reinforced concrete. A four-story elevator tower connecting to a one-story office wing projects from the west side of the T's long end, and a narrow hyphen connecting to a one-story boiler house projects from the east

Visual evidence suggests that there was a comprehensive replacement of the building's original multi-light, metal-sash windows on all elevations c.1940. These replacement units diverged from the original configurations, which consisted of multi-light panels under ribbon windows, as indicated in both drawings and photographs documented in "An All Concrete Manufacturing Building," *Architects' and Builders' Magazine* 7:11 (August 1906): 478, 482, 487.

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side of the T's long end. The north elevation forms the short end of the T running east-west, with eight bays along 94th Avenue and three bays at its eastern and western ends; the long end of the T has approximately six bays on its eastern and western elevations. The southern end of the T is integrated into a c.1919 addition.

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The three-story elevations of the T incorporate large expanses of metal multi-light sash windows bracketed by quoined concrete pilasters crowned by concrete caps that project above the roofline; the roof is flat and covered in a bituminous material. The rhythm of bays is defined by pilasters and windows/spandrels that are for the most part uniform on all elevations of the T (except at the juncture of the wings).

The tower has a square plan and is characterized by small window openings in the third and fourth floors of its north elevation and concrete walls on its west and south elevations. Each tower floor is defined by quoined concrete pilasters at its corners that are crowned by concrete caps that project above the roofline. These quoins intersect with bandcourses that wrap around the tower's walls and visually connect to the T plan's window lintels. The tower has a pyramidal roof crowned by a metal-and-glass skylight. The one-story office wing is configured in a modified T plan that features 3 bays on its primary elevation facing 100th Street, which originally housed the factory's entrance in its center bay, and 4 bays on its secondary elevations facing north and south. The original entrance contains a replacement metal roll-up door, while the window openings contain CBU infill covered in stucco. Each bay of the office is bracketed by quoined concrete pilasters crowned by concrete caps that project above the roofline; the roof is flat and covered in a bituminous material.

The one-story boiler house is configured in a rectangular plan that features six bays on its exposed elevation facing east. A one-story infill addition of an undetermined date houses a utility room. This utility room, located between the boiler house and the c.1919 and 1928 additions, features CBU walls and a flat roof covered in bituminous material. The original boiler house entrance contains a replacement metal roll-up garage door in its first bay and multi-light, metal-sash windows in its second thru sixth bays. Each bay is bracketed by quoined concrete pilasters crowned by concrete caps that project above the roofline; the roof is flat and covered in a bituminous material and serves as the base for a former water tower base that now holds a cluster of cell tower co-locators dating from the late 1990s to the late 2000s.

Additions (c.1919)

The c.1919 additions consist of a one-story garage and a three-story factory wing that run perpendicular to the long end of the T at its south end along 95th Avenue. The additions are constructed of steel-reinforced concrete. The one-story garage is oriented toward 100th Street with its secondary elevation facing 95th Avenue. It consists of two bays on each of its exposed elevations, with CBU infill in the first bay and a metal roll-up garage door in the second bay of its primary façade and CBU infill in both bays of its secondary façades. Each bay is bracketed by quoined concrete pilasters crowned by concrete caps that project above the roofline with concrete panels located over the openings in the primary façade. The roof is flat and covered in a bituminous material. The three-story factory wing features five bays on its exposed elevation along 95th Avenue. The facade of the wing incorporates large expanses of metal-sash, multi-light factory windows bracketed by quoined concrete pilasters crowned by concrete caps that project above the roofline; the roof is flat and covered in a bituminous material. The rhythm of bays is defined by pilasters and windows/spandrels that are uniform.

Addition (1928)

The 1928 addition consists of a three-story factory wing that runs perpendicular to the long end of the T at its south end along 95th Avenue between the c.1919 factory wing and the 1955 office addition. This addition is constructed of steel-reinforced brick covered in stucco. It features five bays on its exposed elevation along 95th Avenue that include a single narrow bay followed by four identical wider bays to the east of it. A non-original entrance is located in the fourth bay, which consists of a plain wooden door flanked by CBU infill pierced by two narrow window openings under quartets of glass block. A blind transom is located over the door, which in turn is crowned by two sets of molded entablatures. The second and third floor of the narrow bay contains large expanses of metal-sash, multi-light factory windows bracketed by quoined concrete pilasters crowned by

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concrete caps that project above the roofline, while the first floor of the narrow bay and remaining four bays are characterized by large expanses of stucco-parged brick under glass-block ribbon windows on the first floor and factory ribbon windows on the second and third floors; all four bays are bracketed by quoined concrete pilasters crowned by concrete caps that project above the roofline. A stair bulkhead with a single quoined concrete pilaster and a metal-sash, multi-light window occupies half of the fourth bay. The roof is flat and covered in a bituminous material.

Interior

The plan of the former Spear & Company Factory is an amalgamation of the original building and c.1919 additions under the ownership and operation of Spear & Company and subsequent additions dating to 1928, 1955, and 1964 that were initiated by the Columbia Wax Products Company. Original plans were not uncovered for either company to ascribe uses to every room. The interior is divided into seven areas on the first floor and one largely open floor plan on the second and third floors. The first area is the core factory complex, which occupies all three floors and is accessed via the main entrance of the 1928 addition on 95th Avenue. This 1928 three-story addition features a stairway in its vestibule that leads to the second and third floors and roof. It is part of a three-story, open-floor plan linked to the c.1919 three-story addition to the west, which in turn connects to the 1906 three-story T plan to the north. The largely open floor plan of this core factory complex, formed by the 1906 original building and c.1919 and 1928 additions, is repeated on the second and third floors.

The second area is the original main entrance located in the 1906 one-story office wing connecting to the west elevation of the long end of the T. This former office is now used for storage and accessible via a replacement metal roll-up garage door on 100th Street or via a doorway that connects to the elevator tower, which in turn connects to the 1906 T plan. The third area is the c.1919 one-story garage wing connecting to the c.1919 three-story addition, which is now used for storage and accessible via a replacement metal roll-up garage door on 100th Street or via a doorway that connects to the three-story wing. The fourth area is the 1906 one-story boiler house connecting to the long end of the T on its east elevation and accessible via a replacement metal roll-up garage door on its east elevation or a doorway that connects to the 1906 T plan. The fifth area is a one-story utility room of an undetermined date with an entry on its east elevation that is located between the boiler house and the c.1919 and 1928 three-story additions. The sixth area is the 1955 one-story office addition that connects to the 1928 three-story addition at its east elevation, and is accessible via a main entrance on its east elevation or a doorway that connects to the 1928 addition. The seventh area is the 1964 one-story, double-height warehouse addition that connects to the 1906 T plan at its east elevation, and is accessible via a loading dock in the east end of its south elevation or via a large opening that connects to the 1906 T plan.

Core Complex (1906, c.1919, 1928)

The interiors of the first thru third floors of the 1906 and c.1919 core complex are characterized by largely open floor plans with concrete perimeter walls alternating with concrete pilasters bracketing large expanses of factory windows. The 1906 T plan contains slender square concrete columns that connect to a grid of concrete girders under a concrete slab; splayed capitals are present on the second and third floors. A CBU wall forms the partition between the first floor of the 1906 T plan and the 1964 warehouse addition. The c.1919 addition contains medium-sized square concrete columns that connect to a grid of concrete girders under a concrete slab. The interiors of the first thru third floors of the 1928 addition feature a brick perimeter wall alternating with concrete pilasters bracketing ribbons of factory windows. These interiors contain slender square concrete columns, similar to the 1906 T plan, that connect to a grid of concrete girders under a concrete slab; splayed capitals are present on the second and third floors. Two terra-cotta walls flanking a wide opening on its west side and a terra-cotta wall on its first floor and concrete walls on its second and third floors on its east side separate the c.1919 addition from the 1928 addition. Restrooms with replacement metal doors are also located in the 1928 addition (Photographs 16-25). A skeletal metal lighting grid is suspended from the concrete-slab ceilings throughout and the floors are concrete slabs.

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The core complex features three stairways: two along the east elevation of the 1906 T plan and one located within the entrance vestibule of the 1928 addition along 95th Avenue. These stairways feature concrete treads and risers with metal pipe railings, or metal treads and risers with metal handrails with slatted-metal balusters, and metal stairway doors (Photographs 26-27). There is an elevator in the 1906 elevator tower that opens into the 1906 T plan, and an elevator in the 1928 addition. Elevators contain replacement cabs most likely dating to the mid-late twentieth century with pairs of metal vertical sliding doors set within brick-clad elevator banks (Photographs 28-29).

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Office Wing (1906)

The office wing is now used for storage and consists of a single room with concrete walls with CBU infill alternating with concrete pilasters that connect to concrete girders under concrete-slab ceilings with concrete-slab floors.

Garage Addition (c.1919)

The garage addition is now used for storage and consists of a single room with concrete walls with CBU infill alternating with concrete pilasters that connect to concrete girders under concrete-slab ceilings with concrete-slab floors.

Boiler House (1906)

The boiler house is now used for storage and consists of three rooms divided by CBU walls, with concrete perimeter walls with occasional metal-sash, multi-light windows, alternating with concrete pilasters that connect to concrete girders under concrete-slab ceilings with concrete-slab floors.

Utility Room (not determined)

The utility room consists of a single room with CBU walls containing the building's mechanicals.

1955 Office and 1964 Warehouse Additions

Exterior

The <u>1955 office addition</u> is a one-story wing that connects to the three-story 1928 factory addition along 95th Avenue. It features five bays on its primary elevation facing east, and six bays on its secondary elevations facing north and south. It is clad in a combination of buff brick above and below a red-brick wall inset containing the fenestration which features flat cast-stone sill- and lintel-courses. The addition features a metal-and-glass replacement entry door and transom under a concrete canopy with metal-and-glass, double-hung windows throughout; visual evidence suggests that these windows were replaced c.1980 (Photograph 30). Cast-stone coping borders a flat roof covered in a bituminous material.

Interior

The interior of this addition features a vestibule that connects to large rectangular central room with square piers, linoleum-covered floors, and ceiling-mounted fluorescent strip lights that is flanked by offices on both sides (Photograph 31). Interiors throughout this addition have been renovated with drywall, single and fixed-pane windows, and metal doors.

Exterior

The <u>1964 warehouse addition</u> is a one-story, double-height wing clad in buff brick (Photograph 32). It features several randomly-placed small window openings on its north and east elevations containing infill, and large openings containing metal roll-up replacement garage doors in its south elevation. The roof is flat and enclosed by a thin metal parapet railing. The parapet is capped with cast-stone coping while the roof is covered in a bituminous material.

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The interior of this addition features a double-height space with a concrete-slab floor and concrete-block-unit walls under a metal-truss roof (Photograph 33). An interior loading dock is located within the southeastern portion of the warehouse, which in turn connects to a ramp flanked by metal pipe railings that connects to the original T plan of the complex.

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8. Stat	tement of Significance		
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)		Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)	
ioi ivalic	onal Negister listing.)	INDUSTRY	
ХА	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ARCHITECTURE	
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.		
X C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high	Period of Significance	
	artistic values, or represents a significant	_	
	and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1906-1964	
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates		
		1906, c.1919, 1928, 1955, 1964	
	ia Considerations " in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Person	
Proper	rty is:	(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)	
A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.		
В	removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation	
C	a birthplace or grave.		
D	a cemetery.		
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder John B. Snook & Sons	
F	a commemorative property.	SSIII D. GIIGON & GOIIG	
G	less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.		

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance dates from 1906, when the complex was originally designed and constructed for Spear & Company, and includes additions introduced by Spear & Company c.1919 and subsequent additions introduced in 1928, 1955 and 1964 by the Columbia Wax Products Company, which acquired the complex in 1922.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

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

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The Spear & Company factory is significant under Criterion A in the area of manufacturing for its association with two important manufacturing companies in Queens: the Regal Spear Company and the Columbia Wax Products Company. Spear & Company was established in 1890 and specialized in the manufacture and wholesale distribution of hats and caps for men and children. After merging with the Regal Hat Company of Chicago in 1919, which was owned by the brother of the man who founded Spear & Company, the newly minted Regal Spear Company was touted as the "the largest organization of its kind in the cloth hat and cap industry." Following its relocation and consolidation to Chicago, Spear & Company was replaced by the Columbia Wax Products Company, which adapted the factory for its own manufacturing purposes between 1922 and 1979 and, in doing so, contributed to the local economy as a national manufacturer of novelty candles during the Interwar years and the Post-World War II era.

The Spear & Company factory is also significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture for embodying the distinctive characteristics of early-twentieth-century, reinforced-concrete factory construction. By the early twentieth century, reinforced-concrete industrial architecture was not only being touted for its ease and speed of construction, low-cost construction and maintenance, fireproof qualities, and vibration resistance, but also for its design attributes that included the capacity for large window expanses, leading to a wholly new modern aesthetic informed by "an impression of simplicity and utility." The Spear & Company factory is not only significant for embodying the practical benefits of reinforced-concrete factory construction, but also for its simplicity and utility as exhibited by a restrained eclectic utilitarian design.

The complex is also significant as an example of the work of John B. Snook & Sons architecture firm, a prolific design firm founded in 1857 and, by 1915, both the oldest architecture firm still in practice and the oldest family-owned architecture firm still in practice in the United States. Beginning with its patriarch, John B. Snook, the firm worked on a range of commissions that included churches, hotels, residences, train depots, warehouses, tenements, and hospitals in New York City and its environs. The Spear & Company Factory appears to be one of the firm's only extant examples of early reinforced-concrete factory construction, making it a rarity among the firm's purpose-built factory commissions. The period of significance dates from 1906, when the complex was originally designed and constructed for Spear & Company, to 1964, when the last addition was introduced by the Columbia Wax Products Company, which acquired the complex in 1922.

Pre-Development

Prior to its development as the Spear & Company complex, the property bound by 100th and 102nd Streets (formerly Ocean Avenue and Union Place) and 94th and 95th Avenues (formerly University Place and South Street) in Ozone Park consisted of two unimproved tax lots divided by Lawn Avenue. In 1835, John R. Pitkin (1794-1874) acquired property extending from Brooklyn to the west to Van Wyck Avenue to the east, Forest Park to the north, and the Belt parkway to the south, and named it Woodville; this territory became known as Woodhaven in 1853.² Ozone Park, which grew out of Woodhaven, was originally characterized by "miles of rolling farm lands, dotted here and there with farmhouses" that cultivated apples, cherries, corn, potatoes, and tomatoes which the farmers then sold at Washington Market on the Lower West Side of Manhattan.³

Transportation improvements during the nineteenth century, led first by the introduction of the Woodville Station of the Long Island Railroad running east-west along Atlantic Avenue in 1836, and later by the introduction of the Ozone Park Station of the New York, Woodhaven, and Rockaway Railroad running north-south in 1882, stimulated parallel developments in the area that encompassed both industrial and residential

² Jeff Gottlieb, "History of Ozone Park," *The Leader* Observer, July 20, 1995.

³ The Queens Borough Public Library, "Ozone Park-Then and Now: 1900-1930," 1.

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uses. Most notably was the establishment of the Lalance-Grosjean factory in 1863 by two Frenchmen named Charles Lalance and Florian Grosjean, who produced sheet-metal utensils at their sprawling complex located at 91st Street and Atlantic Avenue in the neighborhood originally known as Woodhaven. In addition to building their factory on a portion of contiguous properties that they had acquired during this time, the partners also commissioned mansions for themselves and houses for their employees which numbered 2,100 by 1900.⁴ By the early 1890s, this area, which would become modern-day Ozone Park, was being touted as "one of the most enterprising Manufacturing Districts within ¾ of an hour's ride from the City of New York," owing to the success of companies such as Lalance-Grosjean and the F. Bredt & Company Chemical Works, which capitalized on their proximity to the railroads, and spurred the construction of working-class residences which could "scarcely be built fast enough to meet the demand."⁵

Simultaneously, two real estate developers named Benjamin W. Hitchcock and Charles C. Denton began acquiring large tracts of land in the southeastern section of Woodhaven in 1880, which they subdivided into a series of residential lots and promoted as "Ozone Park," alluding to the "invigorating breezes" emanating from Jamaica Bay and the Atlantic Ocean. As originally marketed and sold by the partners to prospective homebuyers, the boundaries of Ozone Park lay between 97th and 103rd Avenues, and Woodhaven Boulevard and 103rd Street, first encompassing 316 lots and later, 630 lots. By 1907, the parallel developments of industry and residences prompted the *Brooklyn Daily Times* to offer a comparison between the Woodhaven and Ozone Park neighborhoods, asserting:

Each has its important places of business, just as each has its fine residences. Foremost among the business enterprises of Woodhaven is the immense Lalance & Grosjean agateware factory, where cooking utensils and kitchen appurtenances are made; while Ozone Park, not to be outdone, has two smaller factories, one where hats and caps are made [Spear & Company], and the other where pocketbooks and leather goods are prepared for sale. While Ozone Park combines in Broadway both a business and a residence street, Woodhaven devotes University Place to its business, while Woodhaven Avenue is lined with handsome dwellings.⁸

During the early twentieth century Ozone Park eventually absorbed the southwestern part of Woodhaven as well; it continues to reflect these two organic yet disparate development trends.⁹

Spear & Company - Background and Relocation to Ozone Park

Spear & Company, a hat and cap manufacturer, was originally established by Harry C. Spear in 1890 and located in East Williamsburg. Harry C. Spear was born in Illinois c.1864 and had two younger brothers, one of whom was David B. Spear, president of The Regal Hat Company, based in Chicago, and the other of whom was Arthur L. Spear, who would later lead Harry's company. Prior to its relocation from Brooklyn to Queens, Spear & Company maintained a showroom at 596 Broadway in Manhattan for its wholesale operations. Although scant information was uncovered regarding the company during its early years, a report by the

⁵ "Map of No. 1 of Property Situated at Woodhaven, One Mile from East New York, Long Island," c.1890.

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⁴ Gottlieb, 1.

⁶ Gottlieb, 2.

⁷ Vincent Seyfried, "Ozone Park," in *Encyclopedia of New York City*, ed. Kenneth T. Jackson (New York: The New-York Historical Society, 1995), 8.

⁸ "How Ozone Park and Woodhaven Are Growing," *Brooklyn Daily Times*, October 19, 1907, 3.

⁹ The boundaries of Ozone Park have expanded beyond Hitchcock and Denton's original subdivision and are generally understood to be between Atlantic and South Conduit Avenues, and the Brooklyn County line and 108th Street, with the neighborhoods of Woodhaven to the north, Richmond Hill to the east, and Howard Beach to the south, as well as the Brooklyn County line to the west. Ibid.

¹⁰ "Spear & Co.," *1909 Year Book (Motor Cyclopaedia)* (New York: Automobile Topics, Inc., 1909), 325-326; *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, June 8, 1902.

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American Federation of Labor from 1902 indicated that Spear & Company had rejected any invitation by the United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers of North America, which had organized the previous year, to unionize. As a result, the federation placed Spear & Company on its "Unfair List" at its 22nd Annual Convention. 11

It is highly likely that Harry Spear's decision to relocate to Ozone Park was fueled by a combination of factors, including a sizeable parcel of land encompassing two city blocks in which he could commission his purposebuilt factory, as well as the property's immediate proximity to two rail lines which could potentially facilitate the transport of its raw and finished goods to and from his concern. At the time of its acquisition, the property that would become the Spear & Company factory was owned by J. McGuire, while a sliver of land in the southeastern portion was owned by J.G. Knapp. 12 The property, located between 100th and 102nd Streets and 94th and 95th Avenues, was originally composed of two unimproved blocks. However, by 1891 these blocks had been combined into a single parcel, making it an ideal candidate for commercial development. Moreover, its location directly across the street from the Woodhaven Station at the junction of the Long Island Railroad and the New York, Woodhaven, and Rockaway Railroad, though potentially unattractive to homebuyers, would have been prized by an industrialist such as Harry C. Spear intent on expanding his hat-making operations.

On September 16, 1905, in an article regarding record-breaking building activities in Queens, The Brooklyn Daily Eagle reported:

Spear & Co. are to build a hat and cap factory in Woodhaven at the northeast corner of South Street and Ocean Avenue. 150 feet by 50 feet with one side extension 50 feet by 102 feet and another 25 feet by 50 feet. The buildings will be three stories, reinforced concrete and forty feet from curb to roof. They will cost not far from \$50,000.13

This was followed by a notice in *The Long Island Farmer* less than a year later that Spear & Company was commissioning five, 21/2-story frame dwellings on McKormack Avenue (now 103rd Street) in Richmond Hill, a neighborhood further north of the property at a cost of \$22,500.14 Thus, it is highly likely that Spear, following in the tradition established by Lalance and Grosjean, was developing housing to accommodate some of the workers who would be employed at his company in Ozone Park.

John B. Snook & Sons

In commissioning his new factory in Ozone Park, Spear selected the firm of John B. Snook & Sons. 15 The architectural firm of John B. Snook was established in 1857 in New York City. The patriarch of the firm, John Butler Snook (1815-1901), was born in England and raised in New York. The son of a carpenter, he trained as an apprentice in his father's business and was self-taught as an architect. In 1842, he joined the firm of Joseph Trench, first as a draftsman (1842 and 1846), and then as a junior partner (1846-1857). Working in association with Trench, Snook designed the A.T. Stewart Department Store in Lower Manhattan, regarded as the first department store in the United States and an early example of Anglo-Italianate commercial architecture that

¹¹ The American Federation of Labor, *The Report of the Proceedings of the 22nd Annual Convention of the American* Federation of Labor, November 13-22, 1902 (Washington, D.C.: The Law Reporter Co., 1902), 168.

¹² E. Belcher Hyde, "Queens: Part of Jamaica, Ward 4," Atlas of the Borough of Queens, City of New York, V. 1 (Brooklyn, NY: E. Belcher Hyde, 1901), Plate 3.

¹³ "Building Record Broken in Queens," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, September 16, 1905.

¹⁴ The Long Island Farmer, August 31, 1906. Without exact addresses, it is difficult to know whether these houses remain extant. However, many houses dating to this period do remain in Richmond Hill and on 103rd Street; most are in an altered condition.

¹⁵ Unless otherwise noted, information on John B. Snook & Sons was obtained from New-York Historical Society, "Guide to John B. Snook Architectural Record Collection: 1843-1948, PR 64," www.dlib.nyu.edu/findingaids/html/nyhs/snook/bioghist.html, accessed 2/10/2017.

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helped popularize the style, and the Metropolitan and St. Nicholas Hotels. 16 After Trench moved to San Francisco, Snook established his own firm under the auspices of "John B. Snook" in 1857. He continued to practice over the next thirty years, receiving a range of commissions that included churches, hotels, residences, train depots, warehouses, tenements, and hospitals that were located in Manhattan, Brooklyn, the Bronx, Westchester County, and New Jersey. Between 1867 and 1869, he received two prestigious commissions from Cornelius Vanderbilt: one to design the Hudson River Railroad St. John's Depot on the Lower West Side and the other to design Grand Central Depot in Midtown East (both demolished). Over his forty-seven-year career, the majority of his projects consisted of warehouses, commercial buildings, and tenements. He died in Brooklyn in 1901.

Snook and his wife, Martha A. Weekes, had nine children, three of whom, James Henry (1847-1917), Samuel Booth (1857-1915), and Thomas Edward (1864?-1953), eventually joined his firm, rising from the ranks of draftsmen to partners. In 1887, he named the firm "John B. Snook & Sons," which also included his son-in-law, John W. Boyleston (1852-1932). Between 1900 and 1920 the firm designed over 72 projects in Manhattan alone; they included: factories, warehouses, tenements, flats, office buildings, department stores, store-and-loft buildings, and academic buildings. 17 John B. Snook & Sons operated between 1887 and 1901, before becoming "John B. Snook Sons," which operated between 1901 and 1969. It bears noting that in addition to his design work, Thomas E. Snook was also instrumental in revising New York City's Building Code, developing standard contract forms for architects under the auspices of the American Institute of Architects, and developing a national system of arbitration for architects and their clients.¹⁸

For many years the firm was headquartered at 21 Chambers Street, before relocating to 261 Broadway in 1897 and then to 52 Vesey Street in 1922. In 1915 it was considered the oldest architecture firm in the country, a distinction that was amplified by the year 1969, when it finally closed after 122 years in business. 19 Today, the work of John B. Snook and his descendants can be found in New York City landmarked and/or National Register listed historic districts that include: Carnegie Hill, Gansevoort Market, Greenwich Village, Ladies' Mile. NoHo, Soho-Cast Iron, Tribeca East, Tribeca West, Upper East Side, and Upper West Side-Central Park West.

Reinforced Concrete Construction²⁰

Although the earliest concrete structures have been attributable to the ancient Romans, it was not until the 1840s and 1850s that experiments with iron-bar reinforcement occurred in Europe. In 1860, American S.T. Fowler patented a reinforced concrete wall and in the early 1870s, American William E. Ward constructed a reinforced concrete dwelling in Rye Brook, New York. American engineer Thaddeus Hyatt wrote a revolutionary book on the subject entitled Some Experiments with Portland Cement Concrete, Combined with Iron, as a Building Material in 1877. Hyatt highlighted refinements of Fowler's original patent that included the reinforced beam technology and employing bent iron bars "to achieve more controlled and more complete interactions between reinforcement and concrete than had been possible before."21 By the 1880s, reinforced concrete was being primarily used for piers, walls, footings, and paving in the United States. Moreover, early reinforced concrete construction imitated post-and-beam frameworks until it was discovered that floor slabs could sit directly on columns without the need for joists, thereby allowing for a greater number of floors within a

¹⁶ Information on the A.T. Stewart Department Store was obtained from Olivia Klose, "Rogers, Peet & Company Building" Designation Report, Designation List 437, LP-2432 (New York: Landmarks Preservation Commission, 2010), 5.

¹⁷ "John B. Snook & Sons," Office for Metropolitan History, www.metrohistory.com, accessed 12/19/2016.

¹⁸ "Thomas E. Snook, Architect, Was 89," The New York Times, August 15, 1953, 15.

¹⁹ "Samuel Booth Snook," AIA Journal, 3 (1915): 203-204.

²⁰ Unless otherwise, information on the history of reinforced concrete was obtained from Gregory Dietrich, "Storehouse No.2 U.S. Navy Fleet Supply Base" National Register Nomination (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, 2012), 8:1-3.

²¹ Slaton et al., 94.

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building envelope and unobstructed ceilings. In 1892, French engineer François Hennebique created a method of pouring reinforced concrete beams, columns, and slabs, while also patenting a system in which bending reinforcing bars counteracted tension at load points.

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Advances in the technology during the early twentieth century were developed by Ernest L. Ransome, Albert and Julius Kahn, C.A.P. Turner, Robert Maillart, and Orlando W. Norcross. Between 1900 and 1902, Ernest L. Ransome developed a system to cast the floor slabs in place after the girders, beams, and columns were erected, and replacing load-bearing exterior walls with reinforced concrete skeletal grid systems that allowed for larger windows, thereby maximizing natural light into the workplace. Robert Maillart and C.A.P. Turner in particular were notable for eliminating the girders and beams altogether in favor of flared-top mushroom columns with substantial reinforcement, thereby augmenting the spatial volume within a building. By 1900, metal netting had been developed for slab reinforcement, and bars and cables had been refined for column and beam reinforcement, earning the various names of armored concrete, ferro-concrete, concrete steel, steel concrete, and reinforced concrete—the latter of which became the accepted term by 1910.²² Reinforced concrete technology not only informed industrial building technology, but also bridge and skyscraper technology as well. The first reinforced skyscraper was the Ingalls Building in Cincinnati, designed by Elzner and Anderson in 1903, which incorporated Ransome's flat-slab unit system.²³

As construction technologies evolved for reinforced concrete industrial buildings between the 1890s and early 1900s, so did their designs from simple and unadorned utilitarian structures to more elaborate and complex factory warehouses. Originally touted in the 1890s for a host of attributes that included ease and speed of construction, low-cost construction and maintenance, fireproof qualities, and vibration resistance, early reinforced concrete industrial buildings were typically the work of engineers and not architects. However, the material strengths of the technology, coupled with an economy of application, enabled a new type of design that offered opportunities for large windows facilitating natural light and ventilation. As recounted by Arthur J. McEntee in *Architecture*:

In order to emphasize the economy of this type of construction, the columns, beams, and other structural units were reduced to the minimum sizes required by the conditions. This resulted in the necessity of using large window areas, which condition eventually caused a decided change in the planning and designing of this type of building, for clients were quick to realize the value of the increased lighting...It was during this phase of the development that the architect received consideration, and the many fine examples of industrial buildings of to-day are the result of co-operation between the architect and engineer.²⁴

McEntee further noted that "The indiscriminate use of decoration and color should be avoided in the design of an industrial building, for if the treatment of such a building is kept along simple lines the result is always more satisfactory."²⁵ In promoting reinforced-concrete industrial architecture that conveyed an "impression of simplicity and utility," McEntee presaged the Modernist aesthetic that would come to dominate factory design by the mid twentieth century.²⁶

²² Ibid., 96.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Arthur J. McEntee, "Recent Development in the Architectural Treatment of Concrete Industrial Buildings" (January 1921): 18.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid., 21.

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Spear & Company – Construction

Construction on the Spear & Company factory lasted between the winter of 1905 and 1906 and culminated in a ten-page article entitled "An All Concrete Manufacturing Building" in *Architects' and Builders' Magazine* that was published in August 1906. Crediting John B. Snook & Sons for its design and the Standard Concrete-Steel Company for its construction, the article offered technical specifications regarding the building's reinforced-concrete construction, bolstered by plans, sections, details, and photographs showing the building in various stages of development.²⁷ Focusing its analysis on the T plan, the article described floor areas of 12,600 sf per floor, and a load-carrying capacity of 100 lbs. per square foot which it deemed appropriate for the company's light-industrial needs, which required accommodations for multiple sewing machines and goods that were "bulky but light in weight" (i.e., hats and caps).²⁸ Although not cited in the article—but certainly germane to the purpose-built nature of this building—was the fact that J.B. Snook & Sons' reinforced-concrete skeletal grid system allowed for larger window openings, thereby maximizing natural light into the workplace for the company's sewing machine operators and other factory workers. It also bears noting that this purpose-built reinforced-concrete factory building appears to have been a rarity among the firm's factory commissions (see Footnote 24).

Regarding its technical specifications, the article offered details on the the building's foundation piers, columns, pilasters, floor slabs, girders, and beams, along with information on specific cement mixes.²⁹ As detailed in the article (and as realized in the nominated building), piers, columns, and pilasters are gradually smaller in width between the first and third floors, and uniformly reinforced by round and/or square bars, which in turn are reinforced by "hooping" or mesh. As noted, "This hooping is wound around the vertical rods and fastened to them, with the purposed of resisting the bursting strain of the columns and pilasters."³⁰ By contrast, ceiling heights are higher on the first floor (11'-8" high) than on the second and third floors, which are identical in height (10'-8" high). Spacing between columns ranges from 16' to 18'-6" from center to center, with floor slabs measuring 4½" thick and ceiling slabs measuring 3½" thick. In addition, the roof over the third floor incorporates a very modest gable with a pitch of ½" to the foot.

Despite winter weather conditions, construction proceeded apace on the building, aided by tarps to shield the openings in the skeletal grid from the cold and salamanders (i.e., space heaters) to keep the temperature above freezing. In addition, the article highlighted the fact that interchangeable wooden forms were used for the concrete molds, enabling them to be adapted from floor to floor and in doing so, save time on carpentry and lumber. In its profile of the Spear & Company factory, *Architects' and Builders' Magazine* asserted that concrete construction was no longer considered an experimental construction technology, stressing that:

This age of development is rapidly passing. Concrete construction is better understood; the simplicity of its design being evident to the most technical mind. That its advantages are being fully realized the large manufacturing building described in this article bears full evidence.³¹

²⁷ "An All Concrete Manufacturing Building," *Architects' and Builders' Magazine* 7:11 (August 1906): 478-488. It bears noting that a review of the John B. Snook Architectural Record Collection, on file at the New-York Historical Society and spanning the years 1843-1948, offered no information about the subject property in its project files or in its daybooks, Author review, February 17, 2017. It is also interesting to note that a review of the firm's industrial projects between 1888 and 1917 indicated that the overwhelming majority of them were executed in brick and not reinforced concrete, while projects dating to the 1930s involved alterations to reinforced-concrete buildings.

²⁸ "An All Concrete...," 479.

²⁹ Cement mixes were comprised of Portland cement, sand, and screened gravel for the columns, and cement, sand, and gravel for the other concrete elements. Ibid.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid., 478.

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As evinced by its analysis, Spear & Company's reinforced-concrete construction presented a multiple advantages that encompassed ease and pace of construction, economy, and the ability for John B. Snook & Sons to produce a purpose-built facility to address the company's expanding industrial needs through an efficient and streamlined construction process.

Spear & Company – Operations

Spear & Company commenced operations in the latter half of 1906, boasting its new purpose-built, reinforced-concrete hat-making factory, along with a small wood-frame structure located in the northern part of the lot that served as a leather glazing plant.³² Perhaps in an effort to counter the negative publicity that had been generated by the American Federation of Labor in its 1902 report, the company's Benevolent Association sponsored a picnic for its employees in July 1907.³³ As reported in *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, the day's event, which was held at Lehner's Maple Grove Summer Garden at Jamaica and Metropolitan Avenues, included outdoor races, a tug-of-war, and "a baseball game between the married and single men" during the day, and dancing at night.³⁴ It was also noted that at least 500 people were in attendance (most of whom were employees), along with Arthur L. Spear, the head of the company and brother of Harry C. Spear, the company's founder.

A little over a week later, a follow-up item appeared in *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, which reported that the Long Island Railroad was no longer allowing local stations such as Woodhaven Junction to be used for freight operations and instead was confining these activities to a specific location south of Rockaway Road, which was considerably south of Spear & Company's factory.³⁵ This consolidation had a negative impact on the local industries, which would now be required to hire carting services to transport their goods and refuse to the Rockaway freight rail hub. As enumerated in the article, among those anticipated to be affected were Spear & Company's hat factory, A. Hubbs's ice plant, J.L. Routellap's concern, and many more.

Spear & Company's business was national in scope. Beyond its Ozone Park factory, it operated as a wholesaler, maintaining two sales offices: one in Manhattan at 810 Broadway and the other in Chicago at 210 Franklin Street. During the first few decades of the twentieth century the company placed numerous ads in a variety of trade magazines that offer a glimpse into its product line and its target customers. For example, the company took out a full-page ad in the May 5, 1909 edition of *Men's Wear: The Retailers' Newspaper* in which it encouraged buyers to come to New York's Madison Square Garden for the International Wearing Apparel Style and Fabric Show to see its "several dainty morsels of Parisian style—a number of dazzling show pieces—and many examples of that wholesome, salable popular-priced merchandise for which we are justly famous." In addition to featuring a photograph of Stanford White's signature exhibition and performance space, the ad also included photographs of its line of children's headwear that included boys' caps, beaver hats, patent leather hats, and felt hats.

By contrast, a directory listing posted in the 1909 Year Book (Motor Cyclopaedia) advertised its mens' "motor and outing hats and caps," while a subsequent article in *The Clothier and Furnisher* in 1917 described its merchandise as simply a "manufacturer of cloth hats and caps." Moreover, *The Clothier and Furnisher* article

³² E. Belcher Hyde, "Queens: Part of Jamaica, Ward 4," *Atlas of the Borough of Queens, City of New York*, V. 1 (Brooklyn, NY: E. Belcher Hyde, 1901; updated 1912), Plate 3; EDR, "94-15 100th Street," Certified Sanborn Map Report, 5. The wood-frame structure may have served as a specialized workshop or garage. Both of these ancillary buildings were demolished by 1928.

³³ "Factory Employes' [sic] Outing.," *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, July 14, 1907, 42.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ "Trucking Bills Will Grow," The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, July 23, 1907, 6.

³⁶ Men's Wear: The Retailers' Newspaper 27:1 (May 5, 1909): 111.

³⁷ The Clothier and Furnisher 90 (February 1917): 98.

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reported that Spear & Company had acquired the J.N. Suskind & Company based in Philadelphia, which was known for its "civilian hat and cap business." As part of this acquisition, it was reported that Suskind would be moving its blocks, patterns, and machinery to Spear & Company's factory in Ozone Park. The following year *The American Hatter* posted a notice that Spear Hat Manufacturing Company, "finishers of fur felt hats, formerly of 3 Great Jones Street, has moved to larger quarters at 237 Mercer Street." The United States' entry into World War I in 1917 prompted countless industries across the country to redirect their manufacturing activities to aid in the war effort. In this regard, Spear & Company was no exception, focusing its production on hats, caps, and middy blouses for the Navy. 40

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Spear & Company – Merger with the Regal Hat Company

In 1919 *The American Hatter* announced that Harry and Arthur Spear's company of New York was merging with David Spear's Regal Hat Company of Chicago, thereby consolidating two national hat-making manufacturers that were owned by the same family. In its article entitled "Cap Concerns Unite to Form Huge Organization," it was revealed that this consolidation, which was to go into effect the following April, would result in "the largest organization of its kind in the cloth hat and cap industry." Under the merger, the company would continue to maintain its Chicago and New York factories and salesrooms, while also selling the output of 26 other hat and cap-making factories that it owned through a sales force that numbered 30 men. Regarding its merchandise, the article concluded:

The line comprises hats and caps from the lowest price to the highest grades. It is planned to have the small factories specialize on a few styles, and manufacture them in large quantities. Spear & Co. in Woodhaven is to specialize on the finer grades of hats and caps manufacturing quantities of each style. 42

Spear & Company continued to promote its own brand in ads and directory listings even after the merger announcement, most notably in a trade magazine known as *The Boys' Outfitter* in which it prominently featured an illustration of its Queens factory in 1919, while also touting its children's line of hats and caps.⁴³ Although somewhat informed by artistic license in its depiction, this illustration shows the addition of the one- and three-story wing running perpendicular to the base of the T plan by this time along the southern edge of the property, and the introduction of a two-story wing attached to the east elevation of the T plan and two campanile-like structures (similar to the building's original elevator tower) which were never realized. A subsequent ad in the same trade featured two pages, one page with the heading "Spear & Company, Ozone Park, New York City," with an illustration of the New York Life Insurance Building and Madison Square Park and the other page with a similar layout to the 1919 ad.⁴⁴ In addition, as the Regal-Spear Company, the company regularly promoted itself as the "Largest Cloth Headwear House in the World." The company was employing between 200 and 300 people by this time, and "help wanted" ads during the early twentieth century list jobs for a shipping clerk, forelady, tip printer, janitor, and sewing machine operators. Headwear is a shipping clerk.

³⁹ *The American Hatter* 8 (August 1918): 106. No additional information was uncovered regarding these sales offices, whose addresses are located in the Noho and Soho neighborhoods of Manhattan.

⁴³ The Boys' Outfitter, 1:2 (October 1919): 65.

³⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁰ The Brooklyn Daily Eagle, November 17, 1918, 56.

⁴¹ The American Hatter, 49 (August 1919): 123.

⁴² Ihid

⁴⁴ The Boys' Outfitter, 1:1 (October 6, 1920): 28-29.

⁴⁵ Literary Digest, 138; The American Hatter 50 (October 1920): 16; Ladies Home Journal (February) 1921; The Saturday Evening Post 193:6 (May 28, 1921): 105.

⁴⁶ Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry, "News of Industrial Development Plans," *Chicago Commerce* 18:2 (November 25, 1922): 9. The majority of help wanted ads related to the Spear & Company factory in Ozone Park were found in *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* between 1902 and 1913.

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On July 9, 1922, *The Brooklyn Standard Union* reported that the Columbia Wax Products Company had purchased the Regal-Spear Company factory in Ozone Park, Queens, for its candle-making operations.⁴⁷ It is unclear as to what precipitated the sale of Harry C. Spear's purpose-built factory to the Columbia Wax Products Company, though an article in *Chicago Commerce*, dated November 25th of that same year, indicated that the company name was reverting back from the Regal-Spear Company to the Regal Hat Company and that it was confining its manufacturing and distribution operations to three plants in Illinois, including Chicago, where it had acquired a new eight-story building to house its factory and wholesale operations.⁴⁸

Columbia Wax Products Company – Background, Relocation and Expansion

The Columbia Wax Products Company was founded by Henry J. Grupe in the late 1890s and originally produced ironing wax before focusing its operations on candle-making, which encompassed votives, tapers, birthday candles, and other novelty candles associated with the holidays. Its subsidiary, Columbia Wax Works, was the wholesale division of its operations. ⁴⁹ A trade publication known as *The House Furnishing Review* noted that Columbia Wax Works had a store at 85 Crosby Street in Manhattan and had claimed to have booked 50,000 orders of its "Never-Drip wax tapers" at the House Furnishing Goods Exhibition, held at Madison Square Garden between August 6 and 11, 1906. ⁵⁰ On July 15, 1922, *The Long Island Daily Press* reported:

The Columbia Wax Products Co., of candles, tapers and other wax products, are arranging to move their business from Bronx to Ozone Park. They have purchased the plant of the Regal Spear Co., cap makers, near Woodhaven Junction, who have moved to Chicago.⁵¹

Following its acquisition of the Spear & Company factory in 1922, the Columbia Wax Products Company increased its capital holdings from \$100,000 to \$230,000 in 1924, signaling its intent to implement improvements to its facilities and equipment.⁵²

At some point during the early-mid twentieth century, the company created a vault in the c.1919 one- and three-story addition for candle-making purposes, which was most likely accompanied by other improvements, such as the demolition of the wood-frame leather-glazing plant and the introduction of a small storage building within the center of the property by 1923.⁵³ The most substantial improvements implemented by the company entailed the addition of a three-story factory wing in 1928 to the east of the one- and three-story wing that had been added c.1919; a one-story office addition in 1955 that connected to the 1928 three-story factory wing, and the addition of a double-height warehouse in 1964 that connected to the 1906 T plan along the northern edge of the property. Designed by a Long Island City architect named Herbert Heitman, the 1955 office addition was constructed of steel-reinforced brick at a cost of \$50,000 and included a centrally located general office area surrounded by partitioned rooms along the perimeter that included a reception room at the entrance and specialized offices and restrooms.⁵⁴

⁴⁷ The Brooklyn Standard Union, July 9, 1922. Notices of the sale were also published in *The Long Island Daily Press*, July 15, 1922, and *The Queens Borough Daily Star*, September 9, 1922.

⁴⁸ Chicago Association of Commerce and Industry, 9. It bears noting that one of the Regal Hat Company's directors was credited with the transaction, while none of the Spear brothers was mentioned.

⁴⁹ "Henry J. Grupe, 76, Maker of Candles," *The New York Times*, January 12, 1955.

⁵⁰ "Exhibits at the Big Show: Panorama of the Arena," *The House Furnishing Review* XXVI:9 (September 1906): 679.

⁵¹ The Long Island Daily Press, July 15, 1922.

⁵² "Capital Increases," *The New York Times*, May 1, 1924.

⁵³ EDR, "94-15 100th Street" Map, 1923, Certified Sanborn Map Report.

⁵⁴ "94-15 100th Street, Block 9377, Lot 1, Alteration Permit No. 1938-55," Queens Department of Buildings. The construction date of the warehouse addition was obtained from the 1966 Sanborn Map; the architect is unknown. Other building permits allegedly on file at the Queens Department of Buildings were either illegible or missing. Author research, Queens Department of Buildings, February 13, 2017.

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Although it is unclear how many factory workers were employed by the Columbia Wax Products Company in its early years in Ozone Park, "help wanted" ads that were placed during the early-mid twentieth century indicate that they included: young women between 16 and 20 years of age who hand-painted candles, office boys, and a steam boiler engineer, among other workers who would have been involved in all facets of candle-making, packaging, and distribution. Commenting on the industrial landscape of Ozone Park in 1930, a local historian stated that "More recently a group of factories has sprung up near the railroad, including the Button Factory, the Columbia Wax Works, the Merit Hosiery Company and the Quartin Paper Box Factory," adding that "The industrial development in the neighborhood has brought people from many nations to live in Ozone Park. Between the mid-late nineteenth and mid-twentieth century the neighborhood experienced successive waves of immigration that included: French during the mid-late nineteenth century (spurred by the establishment of the Lalance-Grosjean factory), German and Irish during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and Italians by the mid twentieth century.

Although the purchase of the Spear & Company factory in 1924 signified a relocation of the Columbia Wax Products Company from the Bronx to Queens, the company continued to maintain a discreet presence in the Bronx even after its move through the acquisition of a four-story loft building located at 747-751 East 137th Street.⁵⁸ By 1955, the Columbia Wax Products Company employed 187 workers.⁵⁹ Henry J. Grupe, who had founded the company in the late 1890s, continued to oversee it until his death in 1955.⁶⁰ Although it is unclear who his successor was, another relative named Henry W. Grupe was associated with the company during the mid-late twentieth century.⁶¹ During the Interwar years and the Post-World War II era, the company was a national manufacturer of novelty candles for birthdays and holidays, as evinced by the multiple listings in state and national trade publications spanning 1940 to 2000.⁶² In 1979 the company sold its Ozone Park property to Worksman Trade Corporation, a manufacturer of various types of bicycles, including delivery bikes. According to the Gale Trade Names Directory, Columbia Wax Products was still in business in 2000 and had its headquarters in Louisville, Kentucky.⁶³

⁵⁵ The majority of help wanted ads related to the Columbia Wax Products Company in Ozone Park were found in *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* and *The Daily Long Island Famer* between 1924 and 1943.

⁵⁶ The Queens Borough Public Library, "Ozone Park—Then and Now: 1900-1930."

⁵⁷ "Ozone Park," Wikipedia, www.wikipedia.com, accessed 12/12/2016.

⁵⁸ The New York Times reported on April 25, 1939 that the Columbia Wax Products Company had acquired a four-story loft at 749-751 East 137th Street in the Bronx from Majestic Coach Inc. for \$1,500 via auction. On May 10, 1939 the Times reported that this property had been formally transferred to the Columbia Wax Products Company, and on September 2, 1943 the Times reported that the company was leasing 10,000 square feet of the same property. Historic maps dating to 1942 and 1957 indicate the presence of a four-story loft on the property encompassing nos. 747-751 East 137th Street and measuring approximately 50'x100', which suggests that the company may have sold the building sometime before 1943 and then entered into a leaseback agreement for two of its four floors. "Auctions in the Bronx," The New York Times, April 25, 1939; The New York Times, May 10, 1939; "Columbia Wax Products Rents E. 137th St. Space," The New York Times, September 2, 1943.

⁵⁹ "94-15 100th Street, Block 9377, Lot 1, Alteration Permit No. 1938-55."

^{60 &}quot;Henry J. Grupe, 76, Maker of Candles," The New York Times, January 12, 1955.

^{61 &}quot;Henry Grupe to Wed Kevyn W. Jackson," *New York Herald Tribune*, December 10, 1961. Henry W. Grupe, son of William A. Grupe, was most likely a nephew of the company's founder, Henry J. Grupe.

⁶² Trade publications listing the company between 1940 and 2000 included: Industrial Directory of New York State (1940), Chain Store Age (1952), Super Market Merchandizing (1964), Hardware Age (1967), Marconi's International Register (1977), Thomas Grocery Register (1979), and Gale's Brands and Their Companies: Consumer Products and Their Manufacturers (2000).

⁶³ Donna Craft and Sheila M. Dow, *Brands and Their Companies: New Consumer Products and Their Manufacturers with Company Addresses and Phone Numbers*, V. 1 (Detroit, MI: Gale Research co., 2000), 585.

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The Worksman Trading Corporation

The Worksman Trading Corporation was founded by a bicycle shop owner named Morris Worksman in 1898 in Lower Manhattan after he had patented the design of a three-wheel delivery bike which would rival the horse-drawn cart in terms of speed, convenience, and economy. ⁶⁴ In 1937 Worksman moved his company to Brooklyn, where it occupied a variety of locations in the ensuing years until 1979, when it moved to the Ozone Park plant. Following Morris Worksman's death in 1967, his son, Irving, owned and ran the business until 1987, until he sold the business to Wayne Sosin, and Irving's son-in-law, Jeff Mishkin. The Worksman Trading Corporation continues to produce commercial and recreational bicycles after over one hundred years of operation.

Conclusion

Today, the former Spear & Company possesses sufficient integrity of location, design, setting, materials, feeling, workmanship, and association to convey its historic significance as a purpose-built hat factory commissioned for a leading cloth headwear manufacturer of its time that was later adapted by a national novelty candle manufacturer. It also possesses the requisite integrity to convey its architectural significance as purpose-built, early-twentieth-century, reinforced-concrete factory with a restrained utilitarian design that was conceived and executed by the oldest continually operating American architecture firm of its time.

Unless otherwise noted, information on Worksman Trading Corporation was obtained from "Bikes That Deliver," Newsday, July 23, 1990, City Business Section: 7.

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(Expires 5/31/2012)

Spear & Company Factory

Name of Property

Queens, New York County and State

Gottlieb, Jeff. "History of Ozone Park." The Leader Observer, July 20, 1995.

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Maps

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United States Department of the Interior NPS Form 10-900

lational Park Service /	National Register of Historic Places Registration Form	
PS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-0018	(Expires 5/31/2012)

Spear & Company Factory	Queens, New York
Name of Property	County and State

- Hyde, E. Belcher. "Queens: Part of Jamaica, Ward 4." Atlas of the Borough of Queens, City of New York, V. 1. Brooklyn, NY: E. Belcher Hyde, 1912.
- "Map of No. 1 of Property Situated at Woodhaven, One Mile from East New York, Long Island," c.1890.
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Other

- "94-15 100th Street, Block 9377, Lot 1." New York City Department of Buildings Alteration Permit No. 1938-55. On file at the Queens Department of Buildings, Jamaica, NY.
- Dietrich, Gregory (Gregory Dietrich Preservation Consulting). "Storehouse No. 2 U.S. Navy Fleet Supply Base" National Register Nomination. Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, 2012.
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Previous documentation on file (NPS): X preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has b 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 #	Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	No. 08101.011397

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Spear & Company Factory Name of Property					Queens, New York County and State	
10. Geogra	phical Data					
Acreage of (Do not include	Property _1.62 ac					
UTM Refere	ences al UTM references on a c	continuation sheet.)				
1 18	597760	4504843	3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	_	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			_ 4			
Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
Verbal Bou	ndary Description	Describe the boundaries of the	prope	∍rty.)		

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the attached map with scale.

The boundaries for the property encompass Block 9377, Lot 1, containing the original Spear & Company Factory complex and its subsequent additions, since its initial construction in 1906 until the time of its last addition in 1964.

Spear & Company Factory

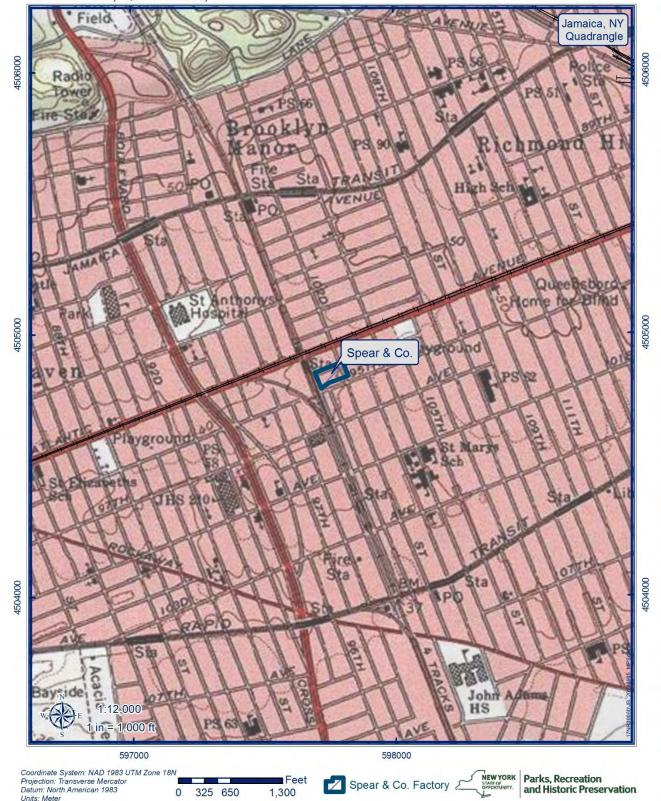
Name of Property

Queens, New York

County and State

Spear & Company Factory Ozone Park, Queens Co., NY

94-15 100th Street Ozone Park, NY 11416



Spear & Company Factory
Name of Property

Queens, New York County and State



(Expires 5/31/2012)

Spear & Company Factory Name of Property	Queens, New York County and State			
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title Gregory Dietrich, Principal				
organization Gregory Dietrich Preservation Consulting	date <u>May 16, 2</u>	017		
street & number 615 West 113 th Street, #3	telephone <u>917-828-7926</u>			
city or town New York	state NY	zip code 10025-7960		
e-mail <u>gregoryd@gdpreservationconsulting.com</u>				

Addition al Docum entatio n

Submit the following items with the completed form:

• Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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

Additional Documentation: Historic Images:

- 1. Spear & Company Factory under construction.
- 2. Spear & Company Factory under construction.
- 3. Spear & Company Factory under construction.
- 4. Spear & Company Factory upon completion.
- 5. Spear & Company Factory advertisement.

Figures:

- 1. Project Locator Map with photo angles showing subject property (bounded in orange) and its environs.
- 94-15 100th Street axonometric drawing.
- 3. 94-15 100th Street east and west elevations.
- 4. 94-15 100th Street south and north elevations.
- 5. 94-15 100th Street first-floor plan showing photo angles and construction dates.
- 6. 94-15 100th Street second-floor plan showing photo angles.
- 7. 94-15 100th Street third-floor plan showing photo angles.
- 8. 94-15 100th Street roof plan showing photo angles.

Photographs:

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

Name of Property: Spear & Company Factory

City or Vicinity: Ozone Park County: Queens State: NY

Photographer(s): Gregory Dietrich (GD) / Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center (GMDC)

Date(s) Photographed: GD: 12/09/17* / GMDC: 7/11/16** / GMDC: 3/3/16***

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Spear & Company Factory

Name of Property

Queens, New York
County and State

NY Queens Co Spear & Company Factory 0001

94-15 100th Street, birds-eye view north. Birds-Eye View, Pictometry International, 2017. (www.bing.com.maps)

NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0002

Spear & Company Factory, view north showing 1906 section (background) and c.1919 wing (foreground).

NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0003

Spear & Company Factory, view southeast showing 1906 section with campanile-like elevator tower.*

NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0004

Spear & Company Factory, view southeast showing 1906 T plan.*

NY Queens Co Spear & Company Factory 0005

Spear & Company Factory, view northeast showing 1906 office-entrance wing.*

NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0006

Spear & Company Factory, view west showing 1906 boiler house.*

NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0007

Spear & Company Factory, view northwest showing c.1919 one- and three-story addition.*

NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0008

Spear & Company Factory, view west showing 1955 Columbia Wax Products office addition.*

NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0009

Spear & Company Factory, view north showing 1964 Columbia Wax Products warehouse addition.*

NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0010

Spear & Company Factory, view southwest showing 1955 office addition (left) and Spear & Co. factory (background).*

NY Queens Co Spear & Company Factory 0011

Spear & Company Factory, replacement window detail showing pilasters and spandrels.*

NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0012

Circa 1919 wing, 2nd-floor brick wall and concrete pilaster detail.*

NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0013

Circa 1919 wing (left) and 1906 section (right), showing 1st-floor concrete slab floor, columns, and ceiling.*

NY Queens Co Spear & Company Factory 0014

1906 section, showing 1st-floor concrete slab floor, columns, and ceiling.*

NY Queens Co Spear & Company Factory 0015

1906 section, showing 2nd-floor concrete slab floor, columns, and ceiling.*

NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0016

1906 section, showing 3rd-floor concrete slab floor, columns, and ceiling.*

NY Queens Co Spear & Company Factory 0017

Circa 1919 wing section, showing stairway detail.**

NY Queens Co Spear & Company Factory 0018

1906 section, showing stairway detail.**

NY Queens Co Spear & Company Factory 0019

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Spear & Company Factory		Qu	eens, New Yor	·k
Name of Property		Cou	unty and State	
Circa 1919 wing, showing elevator detail.*				
NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0020 Circa 1919 wing, showing elevator cab detail.***				
NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0021 1955 office addition, view west showing entrance detail.*				
NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0022 1955 office addition, showing open office area with partitioned offices at	right.**			
NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0023 1964 warehouse addition, view southwest showing randomly-placed wir	ndow op	enings.*		
NY_Queens Co_Spear & Company Factory_0024 1964 warehouse addition, interior showing concrete slab floor, CBU wal	ls, and r	metal-truss	s roof.*	
Property Owner:				
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)				
name Greenpoint Manufacturing and Design Center LDC				
street & number 1155 Manhattan Avenue	telepho	one		
city or town Brooklyn	state	NY	zip code	11222

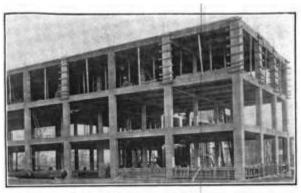
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this required to obtain a benefit 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.

Additional Documentation: Historic Images



Second Story Enclosed for Protection Against Cold.



The Reinfereed Concrete Skeleten.

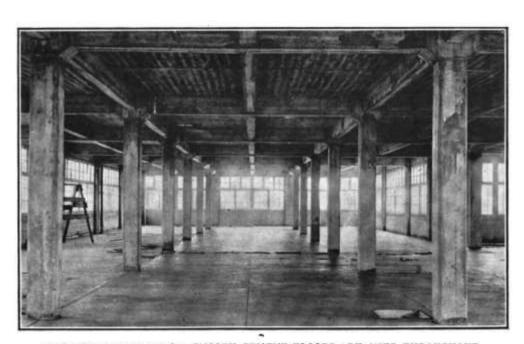


The Piers at Ground Level. The Forms for the Pooting Walls in



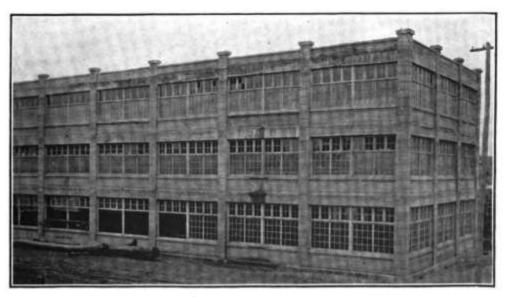
Fig. 3. The First Floor Level. Showing Reinforcing Bars for Columns Extending Above.

1. Spear & Company Factory under construction. Source: "An All Concrete Manufacturing Building." *Architects' and Builders' Magazine* 7:11 (August 1906): 478-488.



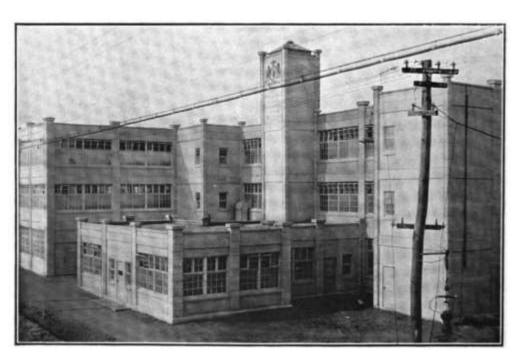
THE FINISHED INTERIOR—SMOOTH CEMENT FLOORS ARE USED THROUGHOUT.

2. Spear & Company Factory under construction. Source: "An All Concrete Manufacturing Building." *Architects' and Builders' Magazine* 7:11 (August 1906): 478-488.



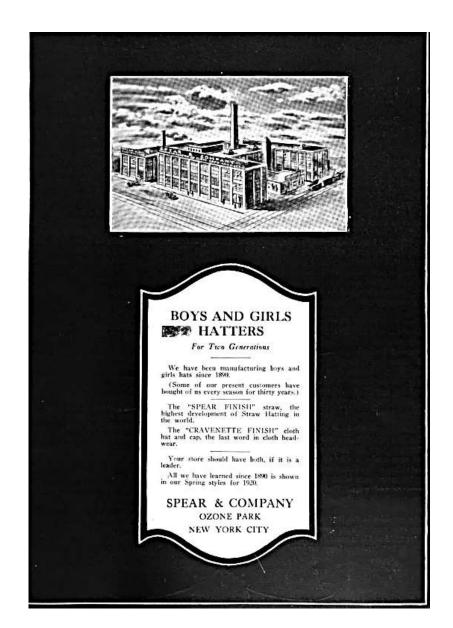
THE NORTH FACE BEFORE THE EXTERIOR WAS COATED WITH THE FINISHING CEMENT WASH.

3. Spear & Company Factory under construction. Source: "An All Concrete Manufacturing Building." *Architects' and Builders' Magazine* 7:11 (August 1906): 478-488.



THE WEST FRONT OF THE SPEAR & CO. FACTORY.
Woodhaven Junction, L. I., N. Y. Jno, B. Snook's Sons, Architects.

4. Spear & Company Factory upon completion. Source: "An All Concrete Manufacturing Building." *Architects' and Builders' Magazine* 7:11 (August 1906): 478-488.



5. Spear & Company Factory advertisement. Source: *The Boys' Outfitter* 1:2 (October 1919): 65.

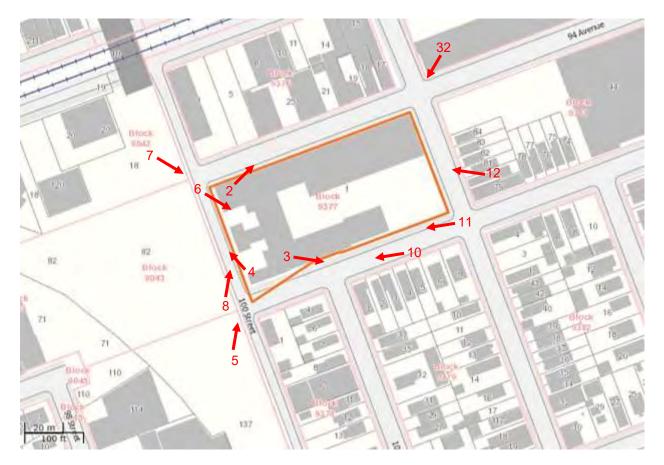
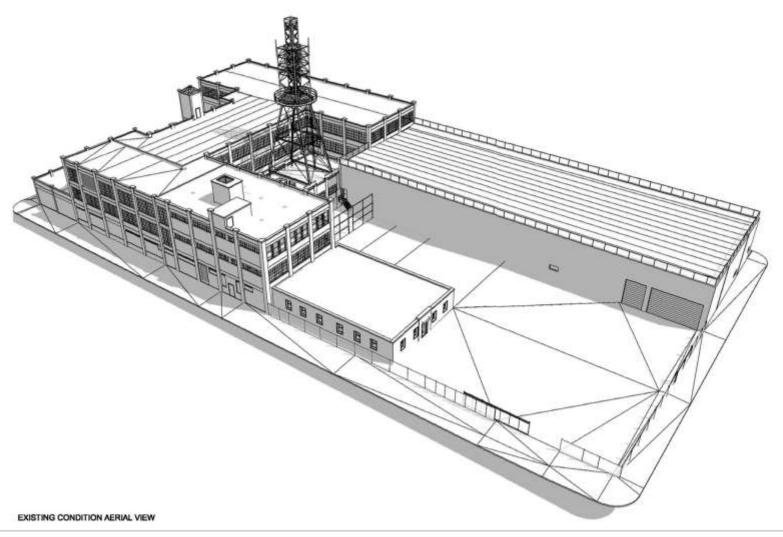


Figure 1. Project Locator Map with photo angles showing subject property (bounded in orange) and its environs.

Base map: NYC Oasis, 2017.



BEYER BLINDER BELLE 94 -15 100TH STREET, OZONE PARK, NY GREENPOINT MANUFACTURING AND DESIGN CENTER EXISTING CONDITIONS

DATE WOOD 22, 2017
PROJECT NO. 3994-20
PROMPTS NO. A4.4

Figure 2. 94-15 100th **Street axonometric drawing.** Base drawing: Beyer Blinder Belle, 3/22/2017

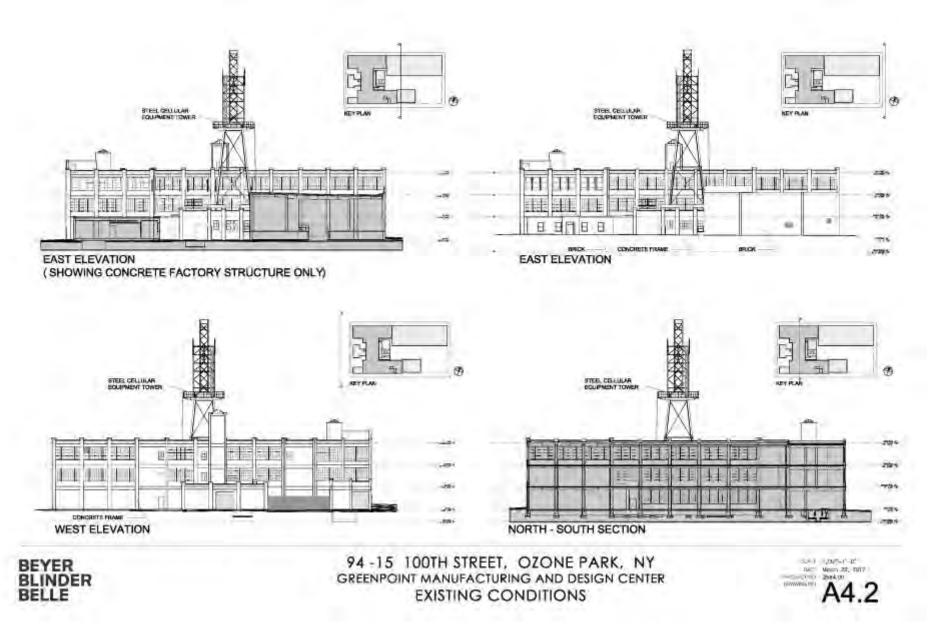
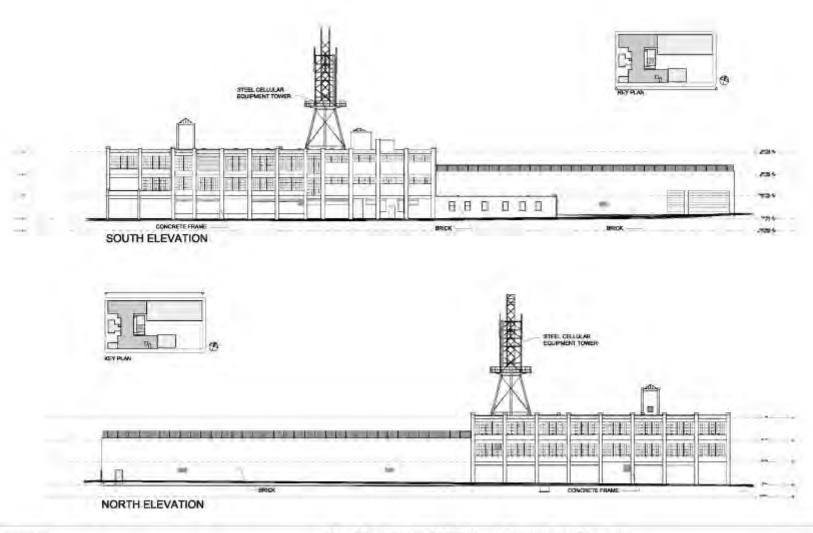


Figure 3. 94-15 100th **Street east and west elevations.** Base drawing: Beyer Blinder Belle, 3/22/2017

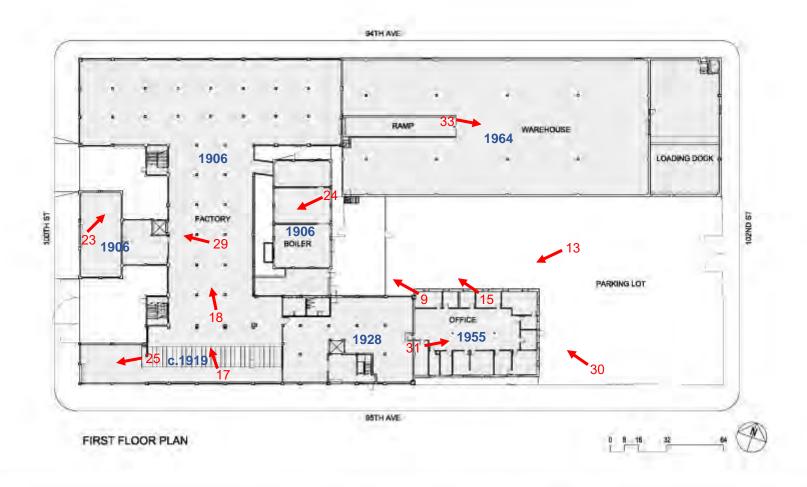


BEYER BLINDER BELLE 94 -15 100TH STREET, OZONE PARK, NY GREENPOINT MANUFACTURING AND DESIGN CENTER EXISTING CONDITIONS

14 Veren 39, 1917 14 Veren 39, 1917 2994.10

A4.1

Figure 4. 94-15 100th Street south and north elevations.
Base drawing: Beyer Blinder Belle, 3/22/2017

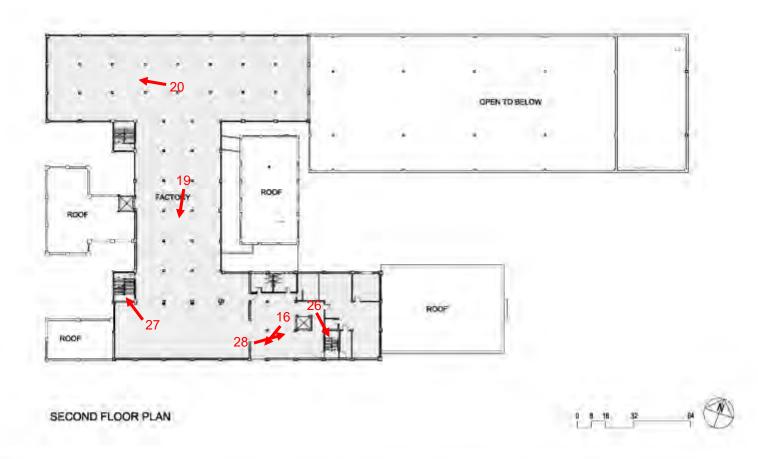




94-15 100TH STREET, OZONE PARK, NY GREENPOINT MANUFACTURING AND DESIGN CENTER EXISTING CONDITIONS



Figure 5. 94-15 100th Street first-floor plan showing photo angles and construction dates. Base drawing: Beyer Blinder Belle, 3/22/2017





94-15 100TH STREET, OZONE PARK, NY GREENPOINT MANUFACTURING AND DESIGN CENTER EXISTING CONDITIONS

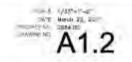
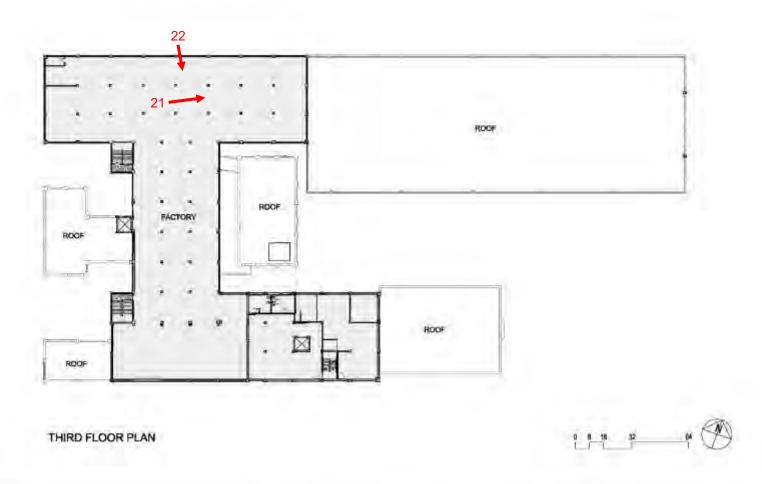


Figure 6. 94-15 100th **Street second-floor plan showing photo angles.** Base drawing: Beyer Blinder Belle, 3/22/2017

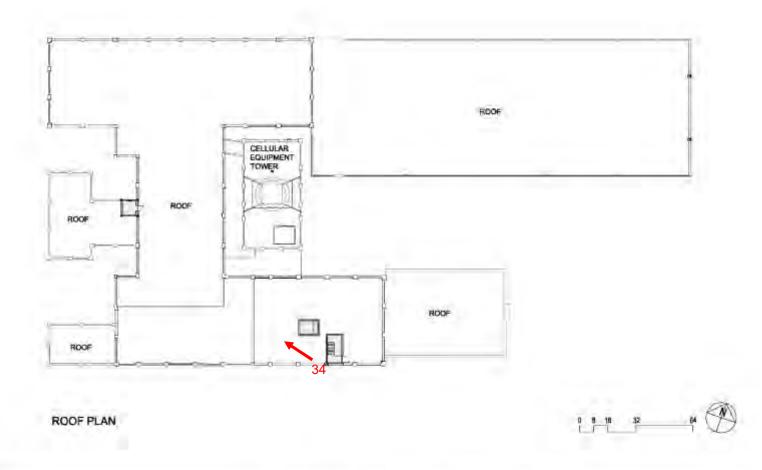




94-15 100TH STREET, OZONE PARK, NY GREENPOINT MANUFACTURING AND DESIGN CENTER EXISTING CONDITIONS



Figure 7. 94-15 100th Street third-floor plan showing photo angles. Base drawing: Beyer Blinder Belle, 3/22/2017





94-15 100TH STREET, OZONE PARK, NY GREENPOINT MANUFACTURING AND DESIGN CENTER EXISTING CONDITIONS



Figure 8. 94-15 100th Street roof plan showing photo angles. Base drawing: Beyer Blinder Belle, 3/22/2017

















































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Nomination					
Property Name:	Spear and Company Factory					
Multiple Name:						
State & County: NEW YORK, Queens						
Date Rece 9/25/20		Pending List: 26/2017	Date of 16th Day: 11/13/2017	Date of 45th Day: 11/9/2017	Date of Weekly List: 11/9/2017	
Reference number:	SG100001807					
Nominator:	State					
Reason For Review	:					
Appea	Appeal		DIL	Text/	Text/Data Issue	
SHPO Request		Landscape		Photo		
Waiver		Na	tional	Map/Boundary		
Resubmission		Mc	bile Resource	Period		
Other		TC	P	Less than 50 years		
		CL	G			
X Accept	Return	R	eject 11/	9/2017 Date		
Abstract/Summary Comments:						
Recommendation/ Criteria						
Reviewer Alexis Abernathy			Discipline	Historian		
Telephone (202)354-2236			Date			
DOCUMENTATION	: see attached	comments : No	see attached S	SLR : No		

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



DIVISION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Meenakshi Srinivasan

Chair

Sarah Carroll **Executive Director** SCarroll@lpc.nyc.gov

1 Centre Street 9th Floor North New York, NY 10007

212 669 7902 tel 212 669 7797 fax August 22, 2017

Mr. Michael F. Lynch, P.E., AIA Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Director, Division for Historic Preservation

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

P.O. Box 189 Peebles Island

Waterford, NY 12188-0189

Re: <u>Spear & Company Factory</u> 94-15 100th Street, Ozone Park, Queens

Dear Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Lynch:

I am writing on behalf of Chair Meenakshi Srinivasan in response to your request for comment on the eligibility of the Spear & Company Factory, located at 94-15 100th Street in Ozone Park, Queens, for the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

The New York Landmarks Preservation Commission's Director of Research Kate Lemos McHale has reviewed the materials you submitted and has determined that the Spear & Company Factory appears to meet the criteria for inclusion on the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sarah Carroll

Meenakshi Srinivasan, Chair CC:

= max audl_

Kate Lemos McHale, Director of Research



Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

ANDREW M. CUOMO Governor ROSE HARVEY Commissioner

22 September 2017

Alexis Abernathy National Park Service National Register of Historic Places

Mail Stop 7228

1849 C Street NW Washington DC 20240

Re: National Register Nominations

Dear Ms. Abernathy:

I am pleased to submit the following twelve nominations, all on disc, to be considered for listing by the Keeper of the National Register:

Holy Cross African Orthodox Pro-Cathedral, New York County
Bethel Christian Avenue Historic District, Suffolk County
Old Bethel Cemetery, Suffolk County
Spear and Company Factory, Queens County
Saugerties and New York Steamboat Company Warehouses, Ulster County
Lefferts Manor Historic District (Boundary Increase), Kings County
Ellis Squires Jr, House, Suffolk County
William A. Farnum Boathouse, Suffolk County
Warren-Benham House, Ontario County
Oswego & Syracuse Railroad Freight House, Oswego County
Forest Hill Cemetery, Oneida County
Caffe Cino, New York County

Please note that the last nomination, Caffe Cino, is the fourth of five nominations submitted under our Underrepresented Communities grant for LGBT sites in New York City. The fifth is scheduled for review at our next board meeting in December.

In addition, I am also enclosing a CD with better photos of the Charles and Anna Bates House, Suffolk County, as requested. Please feel free to call me at 518.268.2165 if you have any questions.

Sincerely:

Kathleen LaFrank

National Register Coordinator

New York State Historic Preservation Office