

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

1104

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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill
Other names/site number: Easton Silk Mill; Onondaga Silk Mill
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: 659 N. 13th Street
City or town: Easton State: Pennsylvania (PA) County: Northampton (095)
Not For Publication: NA Vicinity: NA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

<u>Andrea McDonald</u>	October 31, 2014
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title:	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Patrick Anderson Signature of the Keeper
12/30/2014 Date of Action

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5. Classification

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

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>8</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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.)

VACANT / Not in use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Constructed in 1883 and expanded in multiple construction campaigns in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the R. & H. Simon Silk Mill is a large factory complex situated at the northern edge of the city of Easton, in Northampton County, Pennsylvania. The complex includes three large groupings, each comprised of several inter-connected buildings, and five additional free-standing buildings. The complex is located in the northwestern section of the city, just north of busy State Highway 22, on the northern side of the Bushkill Creek and a former rail line that ran on the south bank of the creek. The brick walls of the majority of the multi-story buildings are dominated by regularly-spaced bays of large double-hung wood windows and exhibit decorative brick corbelling. The later, 20th century buildings are of concrete construction, one or two stories in height, and are characterized by their saw-tooth roofs with skylights. The interiors of the brick buildings exhibit typical heavy timber structural systems and large open manufacturing spaces. The approximately 300,000 square foot silk mill complex was the largest silk mill in the Lehigh Valley. The buildings are in fair condition but retain integrity. Some buildings formerly part of the complex have been demolished, and acreage formerly associated with the mill complex has been sold and developed for new uses. A substantial amount of the mill complex remains, however, so that the historic operation of the mill can still be understood, and the remaining buildings have been largely unaltered.

Narrative Description

At its largest, The R. & H. Simon Silk Mill complex was composed of over twenty buildings, primarily interconnected, and varying from one to four stories in height. Today, the majority of the buildings remain and are now clustered into groups based on their current connections, following the loss of a few buildings. The complex is a large and stately example of late 19th and early 20th century vernacular industrial architecture associated with textile production (see

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Photos 1 and 2). The buildings are typical bearing-wall mill construction of brick with timber posts, beams, and trusses. The later one and two-story buildings made use of steel columns and beams. Foundations are stone and are generally finished with parging and whitewash or smooth stucco.

The typical building wall material is a soft red brick, unpainted, set in a common bond with seventh course headers. Brick corbelling is a decorative treatment used at the top of the recessed bays between piers, at the eaves, and at the base above the foundation (see Photo 3). All windows are double-hung with multi-pane sashes. The window openings are generally characterized by segmental arched headers and either wood, stone, or cast stone sills. Wood sills are found in the oldest buildings, with stone sills next chronologically, and cast stone sills used in the latest construction period.

The slate covered gable roofs of the earlier buildings incorporated flat skylights, most now covered over. Other types of top lighting used were the monitor, as found in Buildings 12 and 13 (see Photos 4 and 5), and saw-tooth skylights on the flat roofs of Buildings 20 and 22 (Group II, see Photo 6).

The buildings generally exhibit a large perimeter to floor area, reflecting the need for maximizing light and ventilation in the work-intensive mills. External masonry walls have incorporated piers to carry the loads of the beams and to make wider window openings possible. Stair towers, as seen in Buildings 1, 5, and 7 (part of Group I), were designed to project from the main structure to avoid awkward corners and retain the open rectangular floor plan (see Photo 7). All top floors are clear span, and the floors below have single or double rows of columns down the center of the spaces. Interior spaces are simply finished. The floors are characterized by narrow tongue and groove finish flooring. Brick walls, board and batten ceilings, and wood posts are all painted (see Photo 8). The windows have simple wood trim. Exits and egress stairs have metal covered doors with solid wood cores. The interior stairs are solidly built with wood treads.

Most of the mill buildings' interiors were accessible from the interior of an adjoining building. Due to some losses, this is not always the case. For example, Building 21 historically was connected to much of the rest of the complex through connectors to Building 9 (lost to fire in the 1990s). Steam heat was supplied to all of the buildings by an oil fired steam boiler and was distributed throughout the complex by an underground tunnel system. Plumbing is primarily restricted to toilet facilities located in stair circulation areas (See Photo 9). All buildings were equipped with functioning sprinkler systems (first noted on the 1919 Sanborn map, see Figure 5) until at least the 1980s. The system still exists but is not functioning.

Description of individual buildings

The Simon Silk Mill Complex was built in many stages (see Figure 9). The initial building campaign occurred in 1883. The second burst of building activity was almost continuous from

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1893- c.1913, the year Herman Simon died. The final building campaign occurred c.1919-1920 when the mill was being run by Herman's estate and mill employees. Some of the building campaigns resulted in previously independent, detached buildings being joined with internal passageways. At full build-out, all of the buildings were attached either directly or by overhead enclosed bridges. In addition, many, if not all, of the buildings were connected through underground tunnels that distributed steam and power.

The numbering system is derived from the 1919 and 1958 Sanborn Maps which follows the chronological order of construction (see Figures 5 and 7). The latter of the two maps reflects the transition of ownership of the site, but nonetheless reiterates the building numbering system begun by the R. & H. Simon Silk Mill Company. This system was used until a recent master plan instituted a lettering identification system. For simplification purposes, now-joined clusters of buildings are "grouped" together with a single Roman numeral. The company numbering system is used to denote specific buildings within the group. The following system summarizes the Groups, with clusters of Buildings, and the remaining free-standing Buildings as they are today (see Figure 1). Please note the present-day master plan lettering system is included here for reference only and will not be used moving forward in this nomination:

- Group I = Buildings 1(D), 3(B2), 4, 5(B1), 7(C), 18(E), 23(A), 25
- Group II = Buildings 2(F), 6(G), 11(H)
- Group III = Buildings 20A(N), 20B(P), 22(N)
- Building 8(R)
- Building 12(J)
- Building 13(K)
- Building 17(Q)
- Building 21(L)

Group I:

Group I consists of the oldest building of the complex (1883, Building 1), and additional attached buildings from seven building campaigns; Buildings 3, 4, 5, 7, 18, 23, and 25.

Building 1 – Building 1 is the oldest structure in the complex, with additions from seven main building campaigns. Building 1 is four stories in height with a gable roof. It has a stair tower with a hip roof on the north elevation. The original building, built in 1883, was three stories high with a shallow gable roof. The window bays, seventeen in length and six in width, are framed by narrowly projecting brick piers from the stone foundation to the third floor where they terminate in three rows of brick corbelling across each bay. Sometime in the early 20th century, a fourth floor and attic were added. At the same time, a freight elevator was installed in the southwest corner of the building. The later fourth floor has wider windows, no expressed piers, and a continuous row of brick corbelling below the eaves (see Photo 10). The interior of the building is characterized by a row of 10" chamfered wood posts on the first through third floors (see Photo 8). Timber beams and attic trusses transfer structural loads to the 1'-9" thick brick walls.

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The 1919 Sanborn map indicates that the building was used at that time for spinning on the first floor, doubling, reeling, and packing on the second floor, and winding on the third floor (see Figure 5). The building dimensions are approximately 140' x 55' and there is a total of approximately 36,000 square feet on the four floors with basement and attic.

Building 7 – The first floor of Building 7, south of the drive-through from N. Thirteenth St., is the last of the structures built in 1883. This was the original office area of the silk mill and is only a portion of the structure known as Building 7. The exterior construction is typical of the complex; stone foundations, brick walls with articulated piers, and wood 12/12 double-hung windows with segmental arches and wood sills characterize the building. The original roof form was altered with the addition of the upper level floors. The interior of Building 7's first floor still retains some of the original finishes of the office spaces. The walls of the room are plastered above a paneled wainscot (see Photo 11). The windows have wide wood casings and the ceilings paneled with wood in a decorative pattern of diagonals and squares. Two arched doorways on the south wall lead into Building 1.

The second and third floors above the original office areas were added during 1893-1895. With the addition of the upper floors, Building 7 became a three-story, flat-roofed building. The flat roof is broken by five, evenly-spaced, triangular skylights. The east and west facades are articulated with brick piers that continue the rhythm and height of the piers on Building 1. As with Building 1, brick corbelling occurs between the piers on the third floor. The cornice is pressed metal and the windows 12/12 double-hung in segmental arched brick openings.

An additional three-story, fourteen-bay long block incorporates the drive-through from N. Thirteenth St. and a circulation tower on the east façade, overlapping the already established Building 7. This was built from 1895-1899. The exterior brick treatment follows the patterns established with the earlier buildings and has expressed brick piers, 12/12 windows and segmental arched openings (see Photo 12). The interiors are characterized by two rows of posts centered in the floor that create a defined passage, painted brick walls, narrow plank floors and wood and beam ceilings. The third floor is clear spanned with wood trusses and lit with skylights (see Photo 13). A tower attached to the east façade of this addition connects it with the rest of Building 7 and is capped with a hipped roof similar to the tower of Building 5 (see Photo 7).

Building 3 – Building 3, built between 1893 and 1895, is a thirteen-bay, three-story block with an east-west orientation. The gabled slate roof has five skylights and a small cupola with weather vane at the center. The exterior of the building is brick with regularly spaced 12/12 double-hung windows in segmental arched masonry openings (see Photo 14). The walls are unarticulated except for a triple row of corbelled bricks at the eave and star-ended tie rods located at the upper corners of all windows at the first and second floors on the north and south façades. The building is approximately 150' x 30'. The interior of the building has center wood posts on the first and second floors and a clear span on the third floor (see Photo 15). Access to the upper levels is now through interior fire doors from Building 5, and a sliding door in the

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south wall on the second floor leads to an angled enclosed connecting passageway over the courtyard to Building 2 (Group II; see Photo 16).

Building 5 – Like Building 3, Building 5 was constructed during the period from 1893-1895. The building is also three stories with a linear plan and has a circulation tower similar to Building 1. The tower roof is a high pitched hip roof covered with decoratively shaped and colored slate and topped with a metal cresting along the ridge. The exterior brick walls are articulated with expressed pilasters and segmental arched window openings with stone sills (see Photo 7). The windows are 12/12 double-hung. The building is approximately 150' x 52'. The interiors are similar to Building 3.

Building 9 – This building was lost in the late 20th century after a fire seriously damaged the structure. The building was constructed in 1897 and was four and a half stories. It was similar in construction and appearance to the other main buildings built to date. The brick walls were articulated with expressed brick piers, segmental arched window openings, and a continuous stone band at the line of the second floor window sills. The south façade was unarticulated brick with a round arched entrance door on the first floor. Double-hung windows were 12/12. The building was 176' x 55'.

Building 4 – Building 4, constructed during the period from 1899-1909, is a small, shed-roofed brick addition to the first floor of Building 7. The addition served as an extension of the office space on the first floor of Building 7 and continued the interior finishes of the office and introduced a pressed metal ceiling finish.

Building 18 – Building 18 was built as the separate offices for the still-growing complex. Herman Simon's private office was in this building. The two-story brick building, added during the period from 1899-1909, is distinguished from the rest of the complex by its decorative elements (see Photo 18). The windows are bordered with cast stone quoining, and the second floor round arched windows rest on a continuous cast stone string course. The brick is laid in a decorative Flemish bond with dark headers. The slate hipped roof is ornamented with a scroll-ended cresting, two corbelled chimneys, and two skylights. The stone foundation is stuccoed.

Building 23 – This one-story brick structure, added between 1904-1919, incorporates the north wall of Building 5 and has its main entrance on N. Thirteenth St. The west wall, the only exterior façade, is divided into three bays by brick piers and a raised center parapet (see Photo 19). The center bay has a wood-paneled double loading door with an arched window transom. The two side bays have double windows set in arched openings. Saw-tooth skylights with north facing glass punctuate the flat roof. The north interior wall incorporates large multi-pane metal sash windows (see Photo 20). These windows were blocked in with the construction of the Frances Building in 1965. A center row of steel columns support steel roof beams. The building is 90' x 41'.

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Building 25 – Building is a small, three-story brick addition to Building 3, constructed between 1904-1919. It has a shed roof with skylight and the windows are 9/9 on the second and third floors (see Photo 17). Access is only through Building 3. Steel beams provide structural support.

Group II:

Group II includes the cluster of buildings that fulfilled the mill's support functions; power production, carpentry shop, lunch room, etc... This Group includes Buildings 2, 6, and 11.

Building 2 – Building 2 is a two-story, gable-roofed brick building located to the north of Building 1 (Group I). It shares a wall with Building 6 to the east. The stone foundation, stuccoed smooth, is visible only on the north side. Changes in brick and window type indicate three periods of alteration. The original one-story block was probably constructed in 1883 as the engine or boiler house for Building 1, the first mill building. In 1919, the Sanborn map indicated that the first floor of the building was used for a machine shop and to house dynamos and engines. The second floor was added some time prior to 1919 and its brick work is very similar to the adjoining Building 6 indicating that they were built simultaneously. Windows on the first floor of Building 2 are 12/12 with wood sills and the windows on the second floor are 9/9 with smooth gray stone sills. The second floor is clear span with exposed timber trusses. Original skylight areas between trusses have been boarded over. The first floor has cast iron support columns. The second floor was used as a batting shop in 1919. The building's dimensions are approximately 82' x 50' with a total area on two floors of approximately 8,000 square feet.

Building 6 – The layout and shape of Building 6, and the adjacent current iteration of Building 11, evolved with the site's expansion and with the increase in heat demand for the site. The construction of Building 6 corresponded with the expansion of the silk operations and new buildings built by 1897. The building started as a two-story brick building with basement. It had a carpenter shop and a lunch room on the first floor and a large lunch room on the second floor. By 1919 an addition was built. The carpenter shop was extended to the entire first floor and the lunch room occupied the entire second floor. By 1919, Building 6 shared the south wall with Building 11 (a previous iteration of the building). In the 1920s, the building underwent a major reconstruction. The original two-story building was transformed into a two-story building with clerestory characterized by a raised center section with a shallow gable roof. The front facade has a round arch door and four round arch multi-pane steel windows on the first floor (see Photo 21). The second level windows are rectangular and also steel, with twenty-four lights with flat lintels of cast stone and stone sills. The clerestory is supported by eight steel columns on each side (see Photo 22). The building was used as the engine room.

Building 11 – This Building, like Building 6, evolved many times from its original layout and shape. The first iteration of this structure was built between 1897 and 1904. It shared the north wall with Building 6. It was a two-story building without a basement and used as the boiler house. It had four vertical brick blast furnaces. At the south of the blast furnaces was a three-

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story brick structure also connected to the east corner of Building 1. The building was used as the engine house (500 HP). At the west of the large engine house was another one-story engine room (75 HP). At the north-west corner of the small engine room was a 100' brick chimney and just outside of the boiler house, on the east side was a 125' brick chimney. At the west end of the large engine room was a small one story brick building housing the fire pump. By 1919, as the need in energy production increased, an additional engine room was added to the south of the large engine building. In the mean time, Building 11, like Building 6, was undergoing a substantial reorganization that ended with the creation of a multi-story concrete building. The four blast furnaces were moved to the center of the building from Building 6 and a new brick chimney was built (see Photo 23).

Group III:

This Group illustrates the change from multiple-story building designs of small foot prints to larger one-story buildings with saw-tooth roof monitors.

Buildings 20A, 20B, and 22 – These buildings form an interconnected one story block with many common walls. The irregular configuration suggests a number of additions, but three of the four sections are unified by common construction form and materials: brick with stuccoed stone foundations. Building 20B is the only building that varies. It shares similar construction materials as Building 21; steel posts and beams, saw-tooth roofs, and scored, stuccoed exteriors. All buildings are each one story. Building 22 has 12/12 double-hung windows in segmental arched openings (see Photo 30).

Free-Standing Buildings:

Building 8 – This small, detached, one-story brick building with hipped roof monitor is located along the Bushkill Creek. The building is first seen on the 1904 Sanborn Map and marked as W.C (see Figure 4). It was likely toilet facilities for workers. Three 4/4 double-hung windows and two doors are located in the north façade (see Photo 24). The interior is a clear span supported by timber beams and trusses.

Building 12 – Constructed during the period of 1893-1899, this one-story brick building features a roof monitor and 12/12 double-hung windows set in segmental arched openings with stone sills (see Photo 25). The building is 162' x 52'.

Building 13 – Built to the north of Building 12, there is a four and a half story brick building with a roof monitor known as Building 13. Like Building 12, this structure was also built between 1893-1899. This building is the longest in the complex and measures 205' x 54'. The long façades on the north and south are articulated with brick piers. The windows on the first floor have transoms above the typical 12/12 double-hung sashes making them 15' in height (see Photo 26). The south-west corner of the building was previously attached to the north-east corner of Building 9, which had been lost due to fire (see Photo 27). The interiors are characterized by rows of timber columns on all floors except the fourth floor which is clear

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spanned by timber trusses. Building 12 and 13 have been attached by later infill creating a loading dock.

Building 15 – Little is known about Building 15 other than that it first appears as part of the complex on the 1904 Sanborn map (see Figure 4.1). It is pictured in the Sanborn maps as a two-story concrete structure with basement, with wheel house for the use of doubling, winding, and spinning. The building remains on the 1919 and 1927 Sanborn maps (see Figures 5 and 6), but is gone by the 1958 Sanborn map (see Figure 7). The land it was located on was eventually parceled off and no longer remains part of the site today.

Building 17 – This small, detached, one-story stone building with a concrete slab gable roof is situated in a similar orientation along Bushkill Creek as Building 8. It is first seen on the 1919 Sanborn Map. The large rubble-stone walls show evidence of once being stuccoed. Small metal framed windows are deeply recessed in the north and west walls (see Photo 28). The use of the building was as an oil house and its angled west wall abutted the large greenhouse to the west (no longer existing; noted as Building 16 on the 1904, 1919, and 1927 Sanborn maps).

Building 21 – Building 21, built 1899-1920s, is two stories and has multi-pane, square-headed windows. The building is constructed of poured concrete, stuccoed and scored to look like large stone blocks (see Photo 29). Steel posts and beams support skylights running the length of the building and create a saw-tooth roof in form.

Integrity Assessment

The R. & H. Simon Silk Mill has been mostly unused for over 30 years. The buildings are of generally sound structural condition, but weathering and lack of use have caused deterioration to occur. Water infiltration resulting from roof and gutter deterioration has continued to cause brick deterioration, although the brick is still in mostly repairable condition. Wood sash windows, frames, and sills, likewise, are in great need of repair and restoration. Regarding integrity, the absence of the recently-demolished Buildings 9, 19, and the Frances Building do little to undermine the mill's value. The complex's organization is still quite discernible regardless of passing time and many of the existing building, considerable in number, reflect their original appearance and industrial purpose, albeit in disrepair.

In spite of neglect, deterioration, and the loss of Buildings 9 and 19, (the France Building dated to 1965, and didn't contribute much to the history of the mill within the period), the complex still retains most of its historic features and character and supports the site's significance under National Register Criteria A. The complex is historically significant as a model business establishment in the development of the American silk industry and its architecture remains a unified and noteworthy collection of late 19th and early 20th century industrial buildings.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1883-1948

Significant Dates

1883, 1893-1899

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1899-1909, 1909-1920

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The R. & H. Simon Silk Mill complex in Easton, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, is a textile production complex that, starting in 1883, evolved into one of the most advanced and largest such facilities of its time in the Lehigh Valley region. The mill property is individually significant under the National Register Criterion A for Industry in its association with the silk industry in Pennsylvania, where silk manufacturing was once the state's largest source of industrial employment. The R. & H. Simon Silk Mill was one of the earliest and largest, if not the largest, silk mill in the Lehigh Valley. The mill's architecture is an example of a vernacular late 19th and early 20th century industrial facility that evolved and adapted to ever-changing market demands and building technology. The later, 20th century buildings demonstrate the impact that structural steel had on building form and the transition from vertical to horizontal organization of space. The period of significance for the complex is 1883 to 1948, which captures the rapid growth and success of the Simon brothers' operations as well as the passing of the complex to the Onondaga Silk Company in 1933. The end of the Onondaga Silk Company's ownership not only marked the final days of the mill's use for silk production, but also reflected the concurrent decline of the silk industry as a whole in the United States.

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

INDUSTRY

The R. & H. Simon Silk Mill is one of the earliest and largest silk mills in the Lehigh Valley and the major silk mill located in Easton. By 1920, the Lehigh Valley, which includes the cities of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton, had for a time become the second most important silk producing region in the United States and the most important in Pennsylvania. The area was surpassed in silk production only by Paterson, New Jersey (known as "Silk City"). The silk industry had its beginning in the Lehigh Valley with the building of the Adelaide Silk Mill in Allentown in 1881. The mill was built by Phoenix Manufacturing Company from Paterson, New Jersey, after advertising in New York papers for a new site in the eastern states suitable for the location of a silk mill. The availability of labor, a good railroad

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system, and cheap living attracted Phoenix to Allentown. The opening of the Adelaide mill in 1881 was soon followed by similar major silk mills in Easton and Bethlehem¹.

The construction of silk mills in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and most specifically the Lehigh Valley stems from the industrial developments of the mid 1800s. In the aftermath of the Civil War (1861-1865) and Reconstruction, the American economy grew considerably as it entered "The Second Industrial Revolution," generally recognized as the period between 1870 and 1914. The United States had an abundance of natural resources from its newly acquired territories, a growing supply of foreign labor emigrating from Europe and emancipated African American labor migrating from the south, an expanding market for manufactured goods, and the availability of capital for investment. The Second Industrial Revolution accelerated the transition from an agricultural to a manufacturing economy in the United States. During the Second Industrial Revolution, innovations in transportation, such as roads, steamboats, the canals, and most notably railroads, linked distant, previously isolated communities together and facilitated the delivery of goods to and from remote areas of the country. By 1913, the United States produced one third of the world's industrial output—more than the total of Great Britain, France, and Germany combined. The living standards and the purchasing power of money increased rapidly, as new technologies played an ever-increasing role in the daily lives of working- and middle-class citizens. By 1920, for the first time in American history, the census revealed more people lived in cities than on farms². The demands for luxury goods and in particular for fine textiles including silk and silk velvet also skyrocketed during this era of unchecked growth.

The R. & H. Simon Silk Mill was the premier silk mill in Easton and when its remaining founder Herman Simon died, he was reputed to be the largest individual manufacturer in the world³. Herman Simon, along with his brother and business partner, Robert Simon, came from an enterprising family in Germany. Herman, the elder brother, was born April 29, 1850, in Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany. His father, Robert Simon was a tobacco expert, manufacturer, and merchant with establishments in Frankfort-on-the-Main and Antwerp, Belgium. Herman Simon's great uncles, Charles and Joseph Simon came to the United States many years before the two brothers and settled in Baltimore, where they established a flourishing dry goods business. Herman received his education at the Hassel's Institute in Frankfort and was a graduate of the Royal Weaving School at Mulheim-on-the-Rhine. He acquired his knowledge of silk manufacturing in Italy, France, Switzerland, and Germany and inherited his father's business abilities.

In 1868, at the age of eighteen, Herman Simon came to the United States, landing in Baltimore, Maryland, and then moving to New York City. There he entered the silk department of the wholesale store of A.T. Stewart & Company, the leading merchant of the metropolis, in order to familiarize himself with the wants of the public with reference to silken fabrics. He worked for a while at Paterson, New Jersey, and later became superintendent of Benkhardt & Hutton's mill at West Hoboken, New Jersey⁴. His brother Robert came two years later and the two rented a couple of rooms and began the manufacture of silk at small scale. The brothers labored constantly with their own hands, not only every day but nearly every night, and often until nearly daybreak. Their efforts found ultimate reward. Having learned the public taste, and turning goods of exceptional quality, their trade developed rapidly and they were able

¹ Christine Ussler, "Lipps and Sutton Mills", National Registration, 1992

² <http://www.ushistoryscene.com/uncategorized/secondindustrialrevolution/>

³ Silk, Vol. 16, October 1913, Number 10, Silk Publishing Co., New York, NY, pg 56

⁴ Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania Biography by John W. Jordan, L.L. D. Illustrated, Vol II New York Lewis Historical Publishing Company 1914

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expand their business. In 1874, with some financial help provided by their father, they established their first silk mill at Union Hill, New Jersey, under the name of R. & H. Simon. It was a three-story factory, with 70 power looms (see Figure 8). The looms were Robert Simon inventions and were the first in the world to produce a perfect piece of grosgrain silk. They also installed 3,000 spindles so they could do their own throwing. In later years the R. & H. Simon Union Hill Silk Mill employed more than one thousand workers⁵.

Silk throwing was the industrial process where raw silk that had been reeled into skeins, was cleaned, received a twist and was wound onto bobbins. Three sorts of yarn were commonly produced: *no-twist* which was suitable for weft, *tram* that had received a slight twist making it easier to handle, and *organizine* which had a greater twist and was suitable for use as warp. The process where filaments or threads from three or more bobbins were wound together was called doubling. The last two processes could occur more than once and in any order. *Tram* was wound, thrown and doubled, *organizine* was wound, doubled then thrown and doubled again. *Sewing silk* could receive further doubling and throwing. *No-twist* was often three single filaments doubled together. Many other combinations were possible. Many silk mills were self-sufficient mills that threw the silk in addition to weaving it into all types of cloth and ribbons. R. & H. Simon Union Hill Silk Mill did all aspects of the silk manufacturing process.

In 1883, the city of Easton formed its first "industrial association" to address a growing deficit of large scale business and opportunity for its unemployed youth. The association managed to convince the two industrialist brothers to expand their existing silk-making enterprise in Union Hill by building a manufacturing complex in Easton, adjacent to the Bushkill Creek⁶. The brothers established the R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, the second largest silk mill to be built in the Lehigh Valley, which grew to become the largest silk mill, by floor area, in the Valley. They built several initial mill buildings at the 13th Street location; the creek provided them easy access to the water needed for both production and sanitation. These initial throwing plant facilities consisted of a main mill building, boiler-engine house and office of brick design following the same late 19th century vernacular industrial style of their previous Union Hill, New Jersey facility (see Figure 8). Within ten years time the Easton plant expanded to include woven goods, ribbons & dress silks, pile fabrics and velvets. In 1893, as business grew, extra stories were added to these original buildings and two new three-story mill buildings were constructed. Employment began to increase from its initial workforce of 250; the addition of a large greenhouse provided the workers with "comfort and conveniences". The period of 1895-1899 saw further expansion of the complex with the addition of five multi-story buildings and additions to existing structures to house the high yield "Simon" type looms used for weaving. Loading dock facilities were also being added and expanded. Employment rocketed to 1,060 by 1899 and production increased accordingly. The years 1899-1909 again saw additional growth with the construction of six additional buildings and a finely appointed two-story office building. All of the new buildings and additions, up to and including this period, follow the late 19th century vernacular industrial style leading to significant stylistic unity within the complex. The power and engine facilities grew in size to become one of the most modern in the area rated at 2,000 horsepower. Employment grew to 1,200 workers⁷. The business developed into one of the most important manufacturing institutions of the city, and one of the largest of its class in the world. Every improvement in machinery and method was brought into use as soon as its utility was demonstrated. The mill produced finer grades of silk of "first quality", and was favorably known in every market reached by American

⁵ The Memorial Cyclopaedia of the Twentieth Century Comprising memoirs of men and women who have been instrumental in the progress of the industries, professions, arts, literature, legislation, society, and charities of the United States. The Publishing Society of New York, 1906

⁶ Easton Silk Mill Complex, Master's Thesis, Donna Carney, Columbia University, 1984

⁷ Easton Silk Mill Complex, Master's Thesis, Donna Carney, Columbia University, 1984

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commerce. A distributing office was maintained at 254 Fourth Avenue, New York City, and the goods marketed included all kinds of silks, velvets, ribbons and tile fabrics, plushes, etc.⁸ The elder brother, Herman, took up residence in Easton and became a prominent resident of the city. He was a member of various leading social organizations, including the Pomfret Club of Easton and also served for many years on the board of managers of the Silk Association of America.⁹

The introduction of the silk industry in Easton soon led to the establishment of other factories. In 1897, the Stewart Silk Company erected a plant on the south side of the City. The Haytock-Cronemeyer Company was incorporated in 1903. Broad silks were manufactured, and the annual production was \$2,500,000. The products were not only sold to the domestic trade but were exported to England, Cuba and Canada. Employment numbered 600 and the company was the largest silk mill after the R. & H. Simon Silk Mill. Another company was the Haytock Silk Throwing Company, which was engaged in preparing silk to be woven. It was incorporated September 12, 1906. In addition, the Northampton Silk Company was incorporated March 18, 1905. This enterprise started with fifty looms, and by 1920 operated two hundred and sixty looms and had a yearly production of \$700,000 in dress silks. Employment was noted to be about 150 people. By 1920, there were over 4,000 operators at work in the silk mills of Easton alone, making broad silks, velvets and ribbons. Besides those already mentioned engaged in the industry in Easton are the Crown Silk Manufacturing company, the Robins Silk Manufacturing Company, the Roehlin-Pittenger Silk Company, Alexander Smith & Son, Edirose Silk Company, the Gunning Silk Company, and Easton Silk Dyers Finishing Company.¹⁰

Robert Simon, who operated the Union Hill Silk Mill, died in July 1901. The brothers were associated in business for twenty-seven years, and the death of the younger partner was a severe loss to the older brother. After the passing of Robert Simon, Herman operated both of the silk mills in Union Hill and Easton, and continued industrial innovation and enlargement of the facilities. In 1913, after some additional enhancements and additions, the R. & H. Simon Easton plant, as well as the Union Hill, New Jersey plant, were heralded by "Commercial and Financial World" (New York, March 1, 1913) as ranking "among the model establishments of the world, whether as regards construction, equipment or administration." That same year, Herman Simon died on the 26th of September, leaving the mill complex to the Simon Estate, which administered the facility¹¹.

Herman Simon left, from his estimated fortune of \$10,000,000, \$3,000,000 to his head men and other employees at the Union Hill and Easton Silk Mills¹². The legacy was intended to help the mill transition through the time of his passing. The Simon estate administered the mill for twenty years until June, 1933, when it was sold to the Onondaga Silk Company for its own production of silk products. The Onondaga Silk Company was founded in 1918 in Syracuse, New York. By 1930 the company had merged with the Old Colony Silk Mills of New Bedford, Massachusetts. It ultimately had mills in Syracuse and Ogdensburg, New York, and Easton, Pennsylvania, as well as offices in New York, Chicago and Los

⁸ The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography: Being the History of the United States as Illustrated in the Lives of the Founders, Builders, and Defenders of the Republic, and of the Men and Women who are Doing the Work and Molding the Thought of the Present Time", J. T. White Company, January 1, 1910s

⁹ Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania Biography by John W. Jordan, L.L. D. Illustrated, Vol II New York Lewis Historical Publishing Company 1914

¹⁰ Heller, William J. *History of Northampton County and the Grand Valley of the Lehigh Under Supervision and Revision of William J. Heller, Assisted By an Advisory Board of Editors*. Vol. 1. 1921. Reprint. London: Forgotten Books, 2013. 302-3. Print.

¹¹ Easton Silk Mill Complex, Master's Thesis, Donna Carney, Columbia University, 1984

¹² Article, "Wills 3,000,000\$ to his employees" The New York Times, October 5, 1913

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Angeles. The company produced a wide range of fabrics including plain weaves, jacquards, velvets, and printed silks (and later rayons) for use in ties, linings, and fashionable apparel.

In July, 1941 Onondaga granted the silk mill complex to the Easton Industrial Corporation, which in turn leased space back to Onondaga to continue its work. Thus began an evolving chain of ownership of the large R. and H. Simon mill facility¹³. It was also a further indication of the declining silk and textile industry. In an attempt to bolster its business, Onondaga agreed to a unique collaboration with American artists. The idea for the "American Artist Print Series" was the inspiration of Mary Gruskin, the wife of Alan D. Gruskin, the director of the Midtown Galleries of New York City, who presented it to Onondaga. The group of six American artists eventually chosen by Onondaga, William Palmer, Waldo Peirce, Dong Kingman, Gladys Roskmore Davis, Doris Rosenthal, and Julien Binfold, regularly exhibited their work at the Midtown Galleries in New York City. Onondaga paid the artists \$150 in advance royalties for each design considered. Onondaga presented their printed designs as a complete package, paintings into garments, December 16, 1946 in the Ritz Carlton Ballroom in New York City. By 1948, the American Artists series had sold over 51,000 yards of textile. The Midtown Galleries collaborated with Onondaga on another series of this type titled "Contemporary American Silk Print Series" in 1948. Davis, Palmer, Rosenthal, Peirce, and Kingman contributed paintings to this series. Over the next few years the Midtown Galleries also sent paintings to Onondaga by other artists including Lenard Kester, William Thos, Henry Billings, Cecile Belle, and Fred Meyer (Midtown Galleries Records). Besides these interesting collaborations, little else is known about the Onondaga Silk Mill. These art series seem to have been the only major ventures by Onondaga. After these exhibitions, the Onondaga Silk Company drifted back into the relative obscurity from which it had arisen to capture the brief interest of the fashion world.¹⁴

In 1981 the Onondaga Silk Mill closed its doors. The complex continued to be run by the Easton Industrial Corporation until 1985 when it transferred by deed the facility to Pfizer Pigments, Inc. located across N. 13th St. from the silk mill. During these later years other transient tenants occupied space to provide revenue to the property holders to cover the operational and maintenance costs of the facility. However, these tenants subsequently began to abandon the property in favor of more modern industrial park type facilities. By 1985 the buildings were mostly vacant. In 1991 Pfizer Pigments, Inc. transferred the property to James & Helen Garofalo and Helen Beth Garofalo-Vilcek who held the property until 2005, when by eminent domain procedures it was assumed by the Redevelopment Authority of the city of Easton¹⁵.

To further understand the significance of the silk industry in America, one can look as far back as the earliest English settlers in Virginia. James I tried to compel Virginia tobacco planters to stop cultivating tobacco, plant mulberry trees and sustain silk worms to supply raw silk to English factories. As early as 1623, he decreed that a planter would be fined £10 if he did not cultivate at least ten mulberry trees for every 100 acres of his plantation. In 1657 he demanded £200 worth of silk or cocoons per 10,000 pounds of tobacco annually. The effort was unsuccessful and finally abandoned. No one wanted to "farm" silk when they could grow tobacco. Growing silk was too labor-intensive.

It wasn't until the early 1800s that the silk manufacturing had its tenuous beginnings in the United States. Rodney and Horatio Hanks began the first silk mill in the United States at Mansfield, Connecticut in 1810. The mill made sewing thread by adding twist on machines of their design run by water power. The

¹³ Easton Silk Mill Complex, Master's Thesis, Donna Carney, Columbia University, 1984

¹⁴ Twentieth-Century American Fashion, edited by Linda Welters, Patricia A. Cunningham pg 123-143 Editor Berg, New York, 2005

¹⁵ Easton, Pennsylvania. Northampton County Recorder of Deeds. Deed Books; multiple volumes

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mill and two others associated with this venture were abandoned in 1828 because the machinery was too crude to produce commercial sewing thread. In 1815, William H. Horstmann, built a mill in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for production of trimmings and ribbons. He imported a Jacquard loom in 1824.

The first truly successful silk manufacturers in the United States were the Cheney Brothers. The first mill (known as the Mt. Nebo Silk Mill) was established in 1838 and located in South Manchester, Connecticut. Around the same time silk manufacturing begins in Paterson, New Jersey. With a powerful source of water provided by the Passaic River and its great waterfall, many silk manufacturers were attracted to the city. Paterson was also close to New York City which provided a steady stream of immigrant labor as well as a demand for fine silk goods. Paterson grew to be the largest silk manufacturing area in the United States and was known as Silk City.

In Pennsylvania, Scranton hosted the first successful silk mill beginning in 1873, while cities such as Philadelphia, Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, and then smaller towns too, saw substantial growth soon afterwards. Areas such as the Lehigh Valley, and the northeast in general, offered large untapped sources of labor in the spouses and children of those who were employed in the mines as well as by the railroads and iron industry. Easy access to coal for fuel and transport by way of established canal and rail corridors made these locations particularly desirable. These areas could satisfy the rising demands for silk goods in New York City and allowed for the expansion of production facilities beyond New Jersey borders. In 1881, large mills such as the Phoenix Manufacturing Company's Adelaide Silk Mill in Allentown and the Weatherly (Carbon County) plant of the R. & L. Silk Manufacturing Company, were being constructed leading to a rapidly growing list of similar plants throughout eastern Pennsylvania. As needs for the retail and export garment trade of New York City grew, so did silk manufacturing in the Lehigh Valley and in other Pennsylvania cities and towns. As a result, silk manufacturing became the largest source of industrial employment in the state by the year 1920¹⁶.

But the growth of the silk industry would soon slip into decline throughout much of the northeast. A survey of companies in Davison's listed 28 pages of silk companies doing business in 1927. Silk production dwindled steadily in the 1930s and 40s as companies moved south and synthetics took over much of America's needs. The number of companies doing business in the northeast United States declined to 7 1/2 pages in Davison's listings in 1950. In 2012, American Silk Mills of Plains, Pennsylvania, near Wilkes-Barre, was one of the few survivors. The company merged with Cheney Bros. in the 1970s¹⁷.

Despite significant lapse in time since the silk industry's heyday in Pennsylvania, the R. & H. Simon Silk Mill still stands in its original location, reflecting much of its original character. The mill is important as a surviving, relatively example of a vernacular late 19th and early 20th century industrial facility that evolved and adapted to ever-changing market demands and architectural technology. The mill illustrates the evolution of the silk industry and building typology.

The earliest buildings of the silk mill are characterized by their narrow rectangular plans, multiple floor levels, and simple gable roofs. The exterior bearing walls are constructed of soft red brick with expressed pilasters, typical late 19th century corbelled details, and large double-hung wood windows with multi-pane sash and segmental arched brick headers (see Photo 3). The interior floors are supported by heavy timber posts and beams and the roofs by wood trusses resulting in top floors with clear spans (see Photos 8 and

¹⁶ Easton Silk Mill Complex, Master's Thesis, Donna Carney, Columbia University, 1984

¹⁷ Manchester, H. H., "The Story of Silk and Cheney Silk, Cheney Brothers, South Manchester", Connecticut, 1916

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15). The narrow proportions and multitude of windows provided generous natural light for the employees of the company. The gable roofs are shingled with slate. These buildings date from 1883.

The next building campaign from 1893-1899 illustrates the quick growth of the silk business and includes nearly 150,000 square feet of additional space. The buildings continue to be built in a stylistically similar fashion, but there is a clear evolution of roof forms over the period. The most notable additions to the first new buildings are roof skylights. The top lighting of the upper and attic levels transitions to roof monitors in the later buildings of the period. The roof monitors also provide superior opportunities for ventilation in the buildings. During this time period the exterior walls continue to be brick, the internal structure heavy timber, and multi-level floor plans narrow and long and illuminated by rows of double-hung windows (see Photo 26). By 1899, only fifteen years after the first buildings, the most stylistically unified buildings were constructed.

Between 1899 and 1909 a series of small buildings and additions are constructed including a new, well-appointed office building (see Photo 18), a large greenhouse and a separate restroom building along the Bushkill Creek north bank (see Photo 24), and several small additions to the existing buildings. The owner's interest and concern for his employees' well-being and safety are made clear with many of these improvements. An underground piping systems and fire hydrants are first seen on the 1904 Sanborn map (see Figure 4).

After 1904 there was a dramatic shift in building typology. The buildings were no longer tall with narrow proportions, but only one and two stories with large floor plates. In order to illuminate the interiors of these large buildings, saw-tooth roofs with long linear skylights were constructed. The development of steel as a structural material in the early 20th century allowed the construction of larger floor plans with top lighting. The first of the newer type buildings included Building 23 of Group I (see Photo 20), and the no longer existing Building 19 of Group III which were both only one story. These buildings and the large building to the north of Building 19, are constructed of the same soft red brick used in the earlier buildings and include multi-pane steel windows in segmental arched openings. The interior structural systems are steel. It is possible, but not certain, that these buildings were built by Herman Simon before his death in 1913. The final buildings constructed on the site around 1920 are large with only one or two stories, long saw-toothed roofs with skylights, and steel interior structures. These buildings are constructed of reinforced concrete exterior walls, stuccoed and scored to look like large stone blocks. The large, open, single-floor plans provided advantages to the manufacturing process not possible in the multi-level earlier buildings. The transition of building forms and materials seen at the R. & H. Simon Silk Mill is unique and not seen at a single silk mill facility elsewhere in the Lehigh Valley.

R. & H. Simon Silk Mill Summary of Significance

By 1920 the Lehigh Valley, which includes the three major cities of Allentown, Bethlehem, and Easton, had become the second most important silk production in the United States and the most important in the state. The area was surpassed only by Paterson, New Jersey. The silk industry had its beginning in the Lehigh Valley Area with the building of the Adelaide Silk Mill in Allentown in 1881. The mill was built by Phoenix Manufacturing Company from Paterson, New Jersey (known as "Silk City") after advertising in New York for a new site in the eastern states suitable for the location of a silk mill. The availability of labor, a good railroad system, and cheap living attracted Phoenix to Allentown.

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Robert and Herman Simon built their second silk mill in the Lehigh Valley in Easton and developed the business into the largest and most successful in the region. Herman Simon was known as the largest individual silk manufacturer in the world at his death in 1913. The facility that he established with his brother was a self-sufficient silk mill that processed the raw material from throwing to cloth. In addition the owners of the mill provided safe and comfortable working conditions for the 1,200 person workforce and built amenities such as greenhouses and detached restrooms facilities (Building 8, see Photo 24) for their comfort and convenience. Herman Simon was known throughout the mercantile world as the founder and proprietor of one of the largest silk manufacturers in existence, and one of the leading industries of the state.

Silk making at R. & H. Silk Mill continued beyond the mid 20th century and well past most of the other mills in the Lehigh Valley region. The mill was purchased by Onondaga Silk Mills in 1933 which continued manufacturing silk and other textiles until closing in 1981.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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Twentieth-Century American Fashion edited by Linda Welters, Patricia A. Cunningham pg 123-143 Editor Berg, New York, 2005

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Easton Silk Mill Complex, Master's Thesis, Donna Carney, Columbia University, 1984.
Christine Ussler, Lipps and Sutton Silk Mill, National Register Registration Form, 1992

Public Records

Sanborn maps
Easton, Pennsylvania. Northampton County Recorder of Deeds. Deed Books; multiple volumes.

Web sources:

<http://files.usgwarchives.net/pa/northampton/history/local/davis/davis18.txt>
<http://www.ushistoryscene.com/uncategorized/secondindustrialrevolution/>
<http://explorepahistory.com/story.php?storyId=1-9-1F>

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University

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___ Other Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 13.00

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 1. 40.6989 | -75.2289 |
| 2. 40.6991 | -75.2252 |
| 3. 40.6982 | -75.2250 |
| 4. 40.6963 | -75.2289 |

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

The National Register boundary for the R. & H. Simon Silk Mill follows the approximately 13 acre parcel of land defined by N. 13th Street to the west, the Bushkill Creek to the south and southeast, and Bushkill Drive and various private parcels to the north and northwest. The boundary for the R. & H. Silk Mill encompasses four tax parcels, all currently owned by the Redevelopment Authority of Easton. They are outlined on the accompanying map titled "Site Plan & Boundary" (see Figure 10), and are noted as parcels 2, 2B-1, 2C-1, and 5 on said map. Areas formerly associated with the historic mill property but lacking integrity have been excluded.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

All remaining buildings from the R. & H. Simon Silk Mill are within parcels 2 and 5, and parcels 2B-1 and 2C-1 capture critical circulation paths for the site. The four noted parcels, along with several neighboring parcels, were once part of a single property owned by Herman Simon. He acquired various plots of land between 1883 and 1904, consolidating them into a single tract, totaling just over 66 acres, and transferring ownership from his own name to that of his company, R. & H. Simon Silk Mill. The land was eventually sold to the Onondaga Silk Company, who in turn sold it to the Easton Industrial Corporation. The Easton Industrial Corporation then began selling the land off in parcels¹⁸, over many years, including the area of land on which Building 15 had once stood, now parcel 5A (see Figure 1). Despite associations with the original tract of land owned by Herman Simon and the mill complex, other parcels surrounding that of 2, 2B-1, 2C-1, and 5 were not included in the boundary as they no longer contain resources or features that were part of the Simon mill complex.

¹⁸ Easton, Pennsylvania, Northampton County Recorder of Deeds. Deed Books; multiple volumes

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Christine Ussler / Principal and Lucienne Di Biase Dooley / Principal

Organization: Artefact, Inc.

Street & number: 26-28 E Third Street

City or town: Bethlehem state: PA zip code: 18015

Email lucienne@artefactarchitecture.com

Telephone: (610) 861-0235 Date: August, 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items)

PHOTOGRAPHS

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log (Key and Photos Attached)

1. Name of Property: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill
2. County and State Location: Northampton County, Pennsylvania
3. Photographer: Artefact, Inc.
4. Date Photographed: April/May 2013
5. Location of Negatives: Digital
6. Description of View Indicating Camera Direction: See Log Below
7. Photo Number: See Log Below

Items 1-5 remain the same for all photographs unless otherwise noted

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- Photo # 1: SW corner of Group I, Building 18; camera facing NE
Photo # 2: SW corner of Group I, Building 3 with pedestrian walkway; camera facing NE
Photo # 3: W façade of Group I, Buildings 1 and 4; camera facing SE
Photo # 4: Interior view of monitor roof, Building 12; camera facing S
Photo # 5: Interior view of monitor roof, Building 13, camera facing W
Photo # 6: Interior view of saw-tooth skylights, Group III, Building 20A, camera facing E
Photo # 7: S façade of Group I, Building 5; example of typical exterior façade and stair tower; camera facing N
Photo # 8: Interior view of Group I, Building 1; example of typical interiors of multiple Buildings and Sections; camera facing SE
Photo # 9: Interior view of stair tower landing, Group I, Building 7; typical stair circulation with toilets at landing; camera facing S
Photo # 10: S facades of Group I, Buildings 18 (foreground) and 1 (background); camera facing N
Photo # 11: Interior view of office finishes, Group I, Building 7; camera facing SW
Photo # 12: W façade of Group I, Building 7; camera facing NE
Photo # 13: Interior view of skylights and trusses of Group I, Building 7; camera facing N
Photo # 14: N façade of Group I, Building 3; camera facing S
Photo # 15: Interior view of Group I, Building 3; typical third or fourth floor interiors of multiple Buildings, showing clear spans; camera facing NW
Photo # 16: S facades of Group I, Buildings 3 (right) and 5 (left) with connecting passageway over courtyard; camera facing NW
Photo # 17: N facades of Group I, Buildings 25 (foreground) and 3 (background); camera facing SW
Photo # 18: W façade of Group I, Building 18, Herman Simon's offices; camera facing NE
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Photo # 20: NW corner of Group I, Building 23, north façade previously blocked by Frances building; camera facing SE
Photo # 21: N façade of Group II, Buildings 6 (left with five bays) and 2 (right with passageway); camera facing SW
Photo # 22: Interior view of Group II, Building 6; camera facing S
Photo # 23: Interior view of chimney, Group II, Building 11; camera facing NE
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Photo # 25: S façade of Building 12 (S façade of Building 13 in background); camera facing NE
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Photo # 28: N façade of Building 17; camera facing SE
Photo # 29: W façade of Building 21; camera facing NE
Photo # 30: E façade of Group III, Building 22; camera facing W

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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- Figure 2: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; 1885 Sanborn Map, Sheet 10; Penn State University Digital Collection
- Figure 3: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; 1892 Sanborn Map; Penn State University Digital Collection
- Figure 4: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; 1904 Sanborn Map, Sheet 26; Penn State University Digital Collection
- Figure 4.1: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; 1904 Sanborn Map, Sheet 29; Penn State University Digital Collection
- Figure 5: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; 1919 Sanborn Map, Sheet 22; Penn State University Digital Collection
- Figure 6: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; 1927 Sanborn Map, Sheet 75; Easton Public Library Reference Collection
- Figure 7: Easton Industrial Corp. Owners, Loft Buildings, Northampton County, PA; 1958 Sanborn Map, Sheet 84; Easton Public Library Reference Collection
- Figure 8: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Union Hill (City), Hudson County, NJ; undated, uncaptioned image from Union City New Jersey History Blog Spot; www.unioncitynjhistory.blogspot.com; accessed 08.08.2014 and "R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Union Hill, N.J."; The Chase Catalog, The American Textile History Museum
- Figure 9: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; Site Timeline
- Figure 10: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; Site Boundaries
- Figure 11: "R. & H. Simon Manfg'r's of Silk Goods", Map detail; Library of Congress Digital Library
- Figure 12: "Simon Silk Mill, Easton, PA" Postcard; The Chase Catalog, The American Textile History Museum
- Figure 13: "R. and H. Simon Silk Mills, Easton, Pa" Postcard; The Chase Catalog, The American Textile History Museum
- Figure 14: "Simon's Silk Mill, Easton, Pa" Postcard; The Chase Catalog, The American Textile History Museum
- Figure 15: "R. & H. Simons' Silk Mill, Easton, PA" Postcard; The Chase Catalog, The American Textile History Museum
- Figure 16: "Simons Silk Mill, Easton, Pa" Postcard; The Chase Catalog, The American Textile History Museum
- Figure 17: "Residence of Herman Simon, Corner Thirteenth and Bushkill Streets"; *Forks of the Delaware Illustrated*; Lehigh University Digital Library
- Figure 18: "Residence of H. Simons, Easton, Pa." Postcard; The Chase Catalog, The American Textile History Museum
- Figure 19: "R. & H. Simon Silk Manufacturers" Advertisement; *The American Federationist*, January 1905, Vol. XII
- Figure 20: Portraits of Herman and Robert Simon; *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography: Being the History of the United States as Illustrated in the Lives of the Founders, Builders, and Defenders of the Republic, and of the Men and Women who are Doing the Work and Molding the Thought of the Present Time*; J. T. White Company; January 1, 1910.
- Figure 21: "Private Office of Herman Simon, Easton, Pa." Photo; Courtesy of Easton Partnership.
- Figure 22: USGS Map.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

R. & H. Simon Silk Mill
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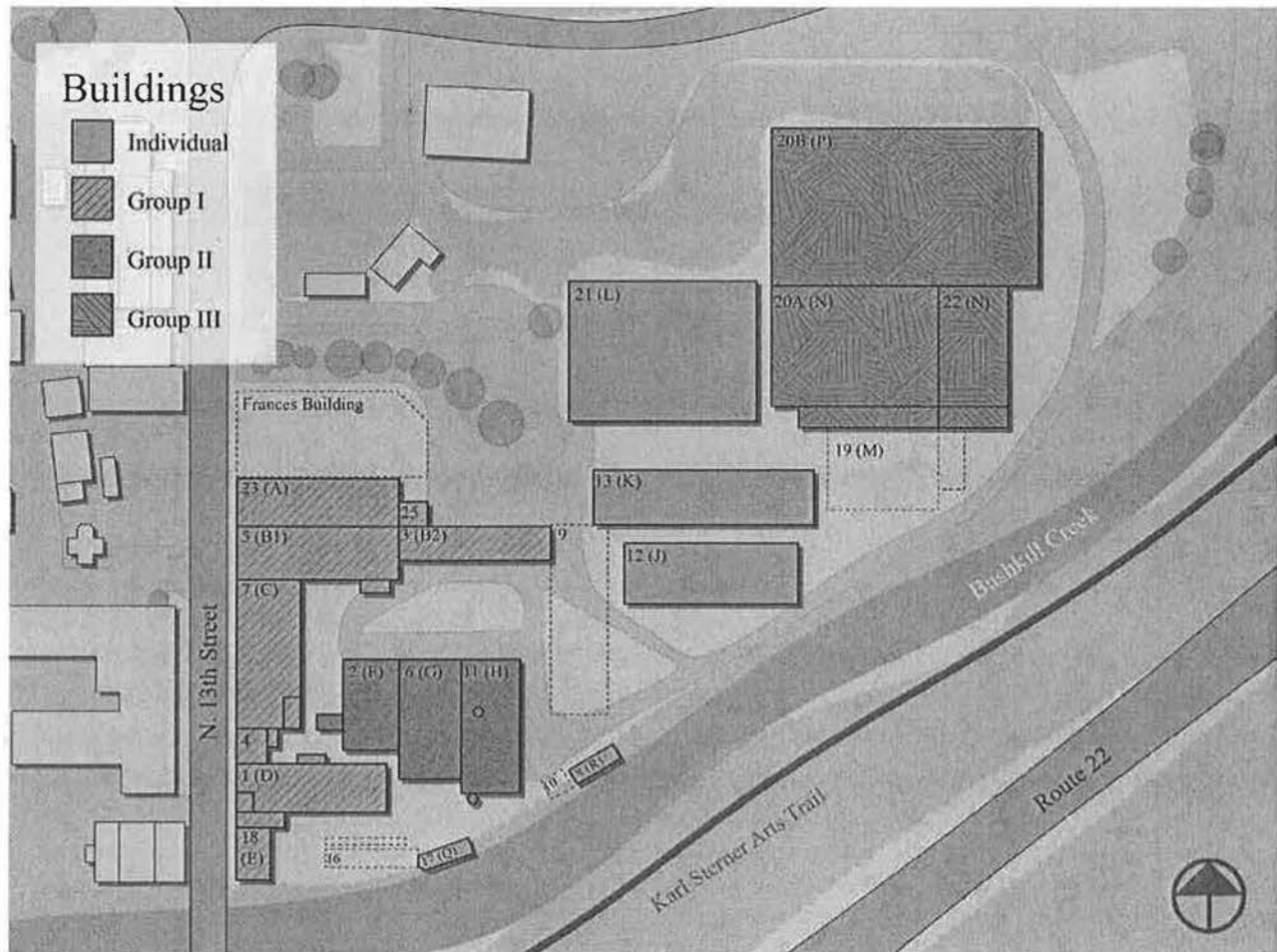


Figure 1: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; Site Plan. (See Figure 10 for boundary of nominated property.)

Depicts the current site plan with buildings numbered according to the original system established by the R. & H. Simon Silk Mill company. The buildings are grouped according to present-day connections. A lettering system in parentheses represents the current master plan identification system.

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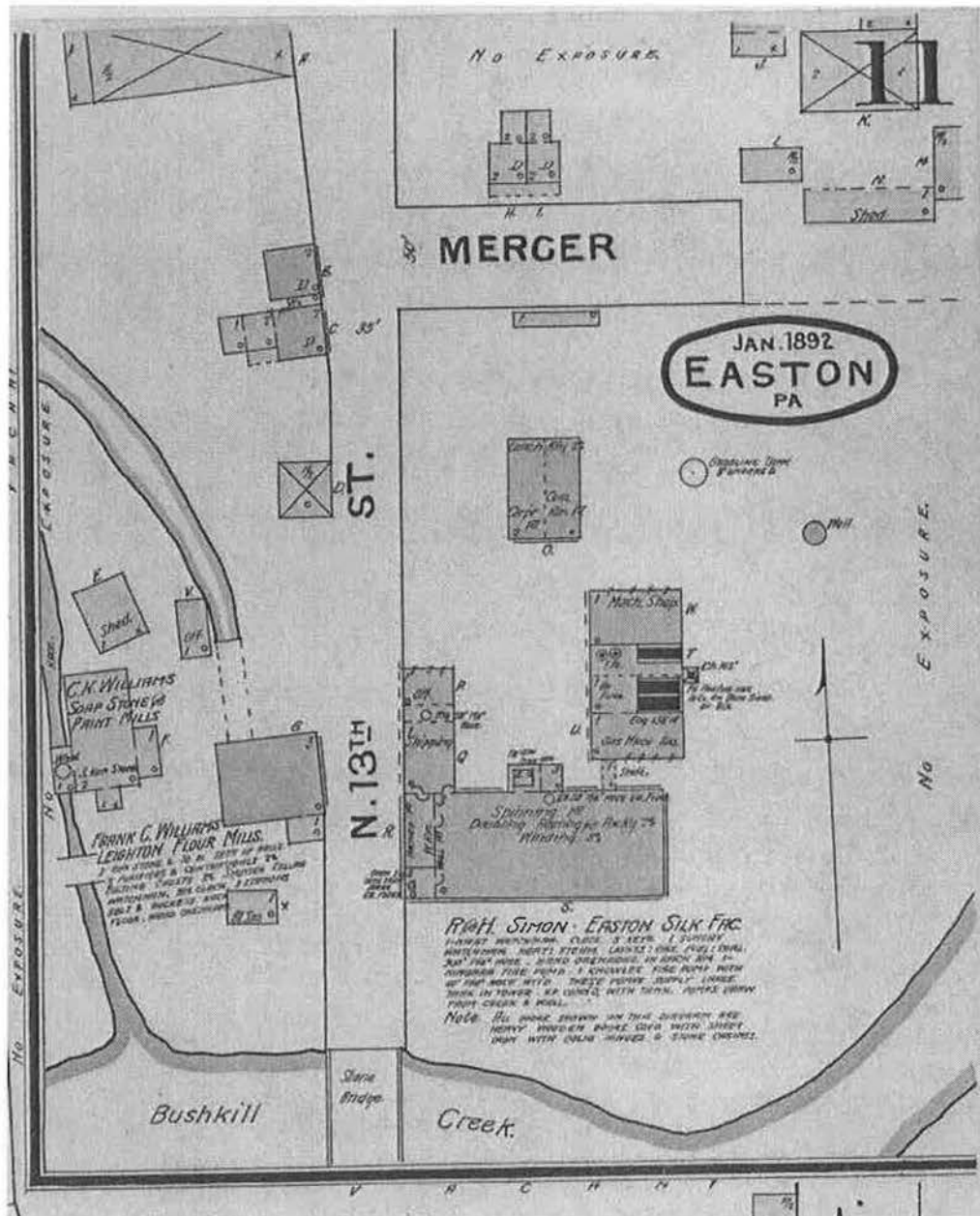


Figure 3: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; 1892 Sanborn Map; Penn State University Digital Collection. Depicts a small addition to Group II.

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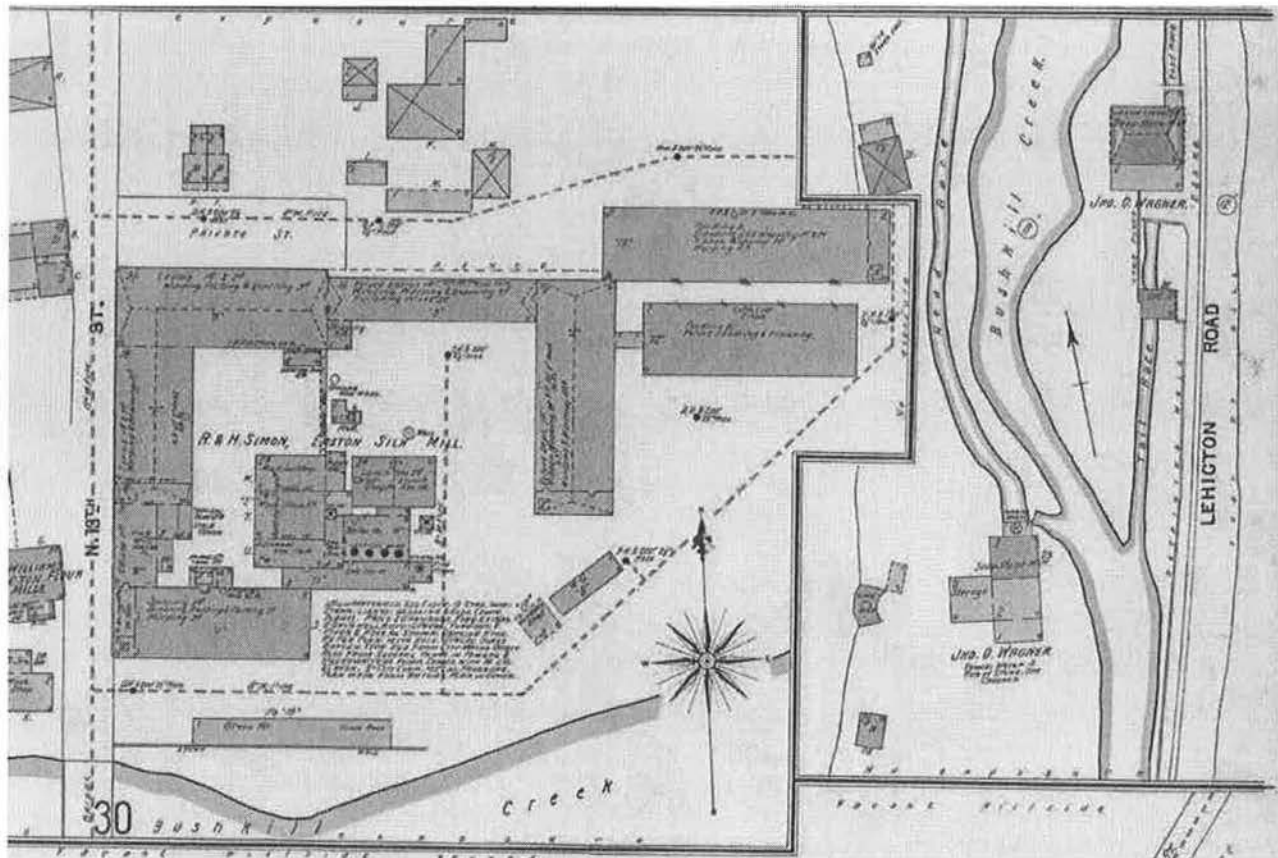


Figure 4: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; 1904 Sanborn Map, Sheet 26; Penn State University Digital Collection . Depicts the expansions of both Groups I and II, with Buildings 3-13 added.

United States Department of the Interior
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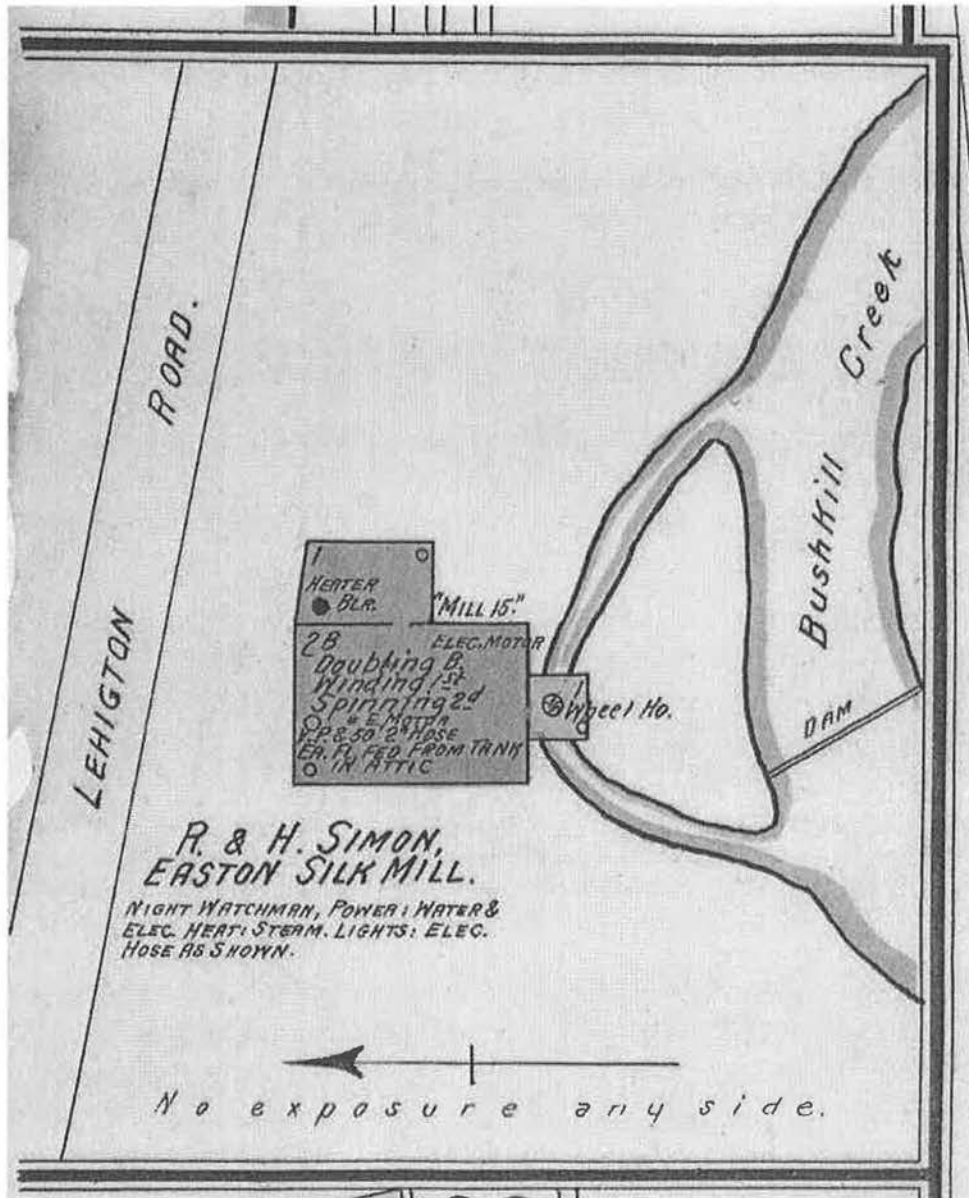


Figure 4.1: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; 1904 Sanborn Map, Sheet 29; Penn State University Digital Collection . Depicts Building 15, now demolished.

United States Department of the Interior
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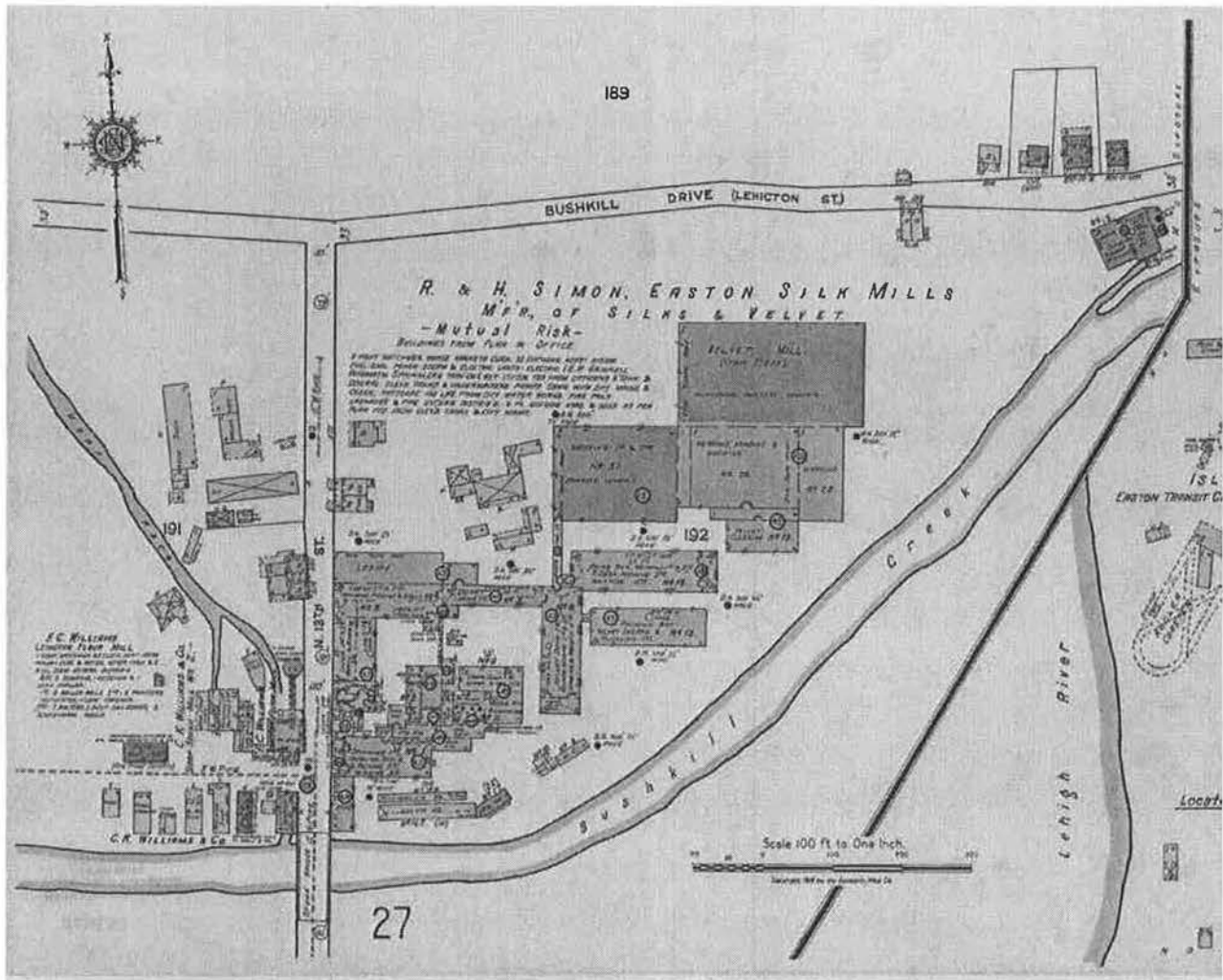


Figure 5: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; 1919 Sanborn Map, Sheet 22; Penn State University Digital Collection. Depicts the site at its most expansive under R. & H. Simon ownership. Building 21 and the buildings of Group III are all added as well as green houses (now demolished). Building 15 (demolished) is visible at the north east corner of the site.

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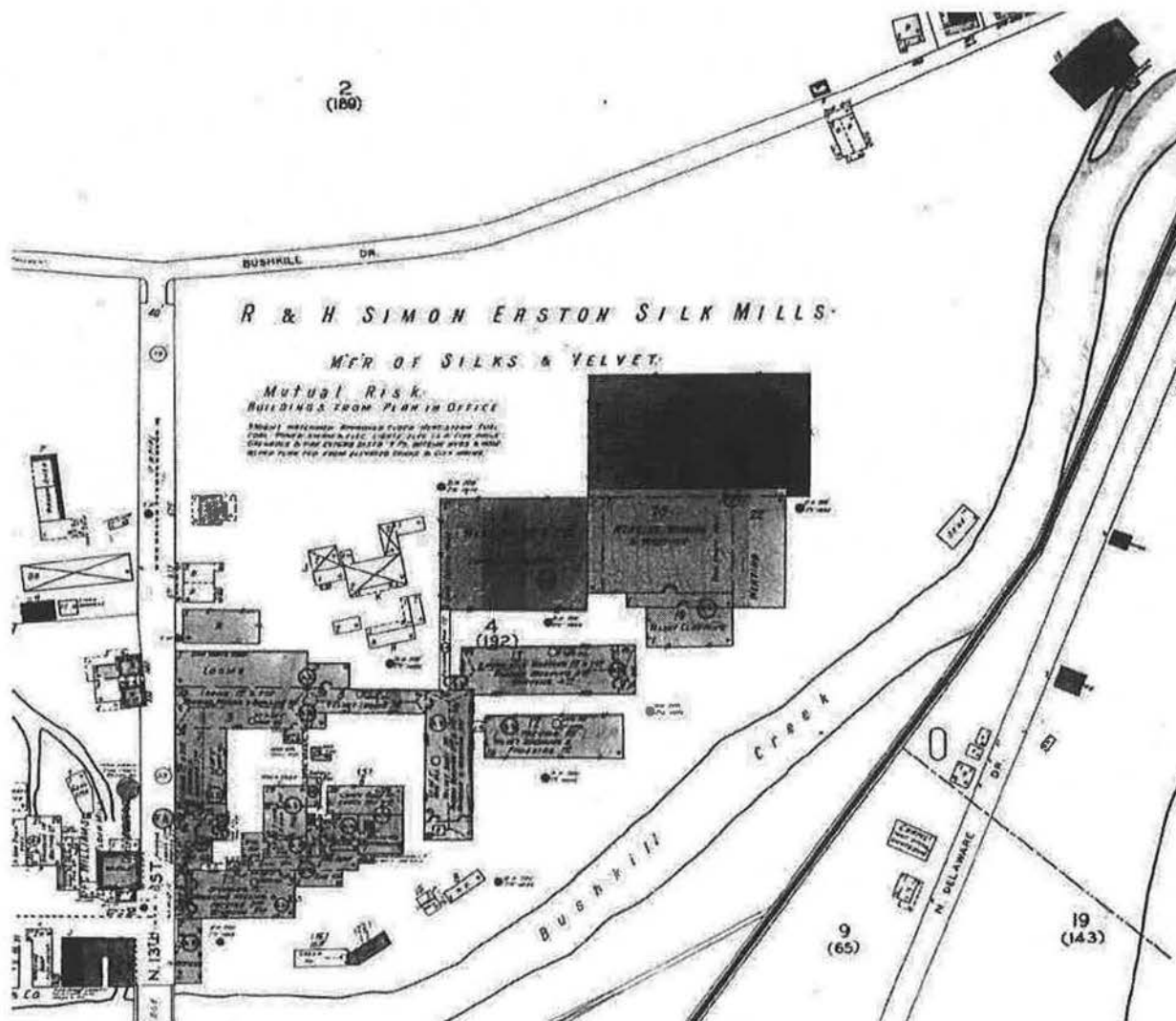


Figure 6: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; 1927 Sanborn Map, Sheet 75; Easton Public Library- Microfilm Reference Collection. Depicts the site almost exactly as the previous map of 1919, however one of two green houses has been demolished. Another building, (indicated as Building 24 on the following Sanborn map of 1958) has been added to the north of Building 23 (“Looms”). This building would later be replaced by the Francis Building.

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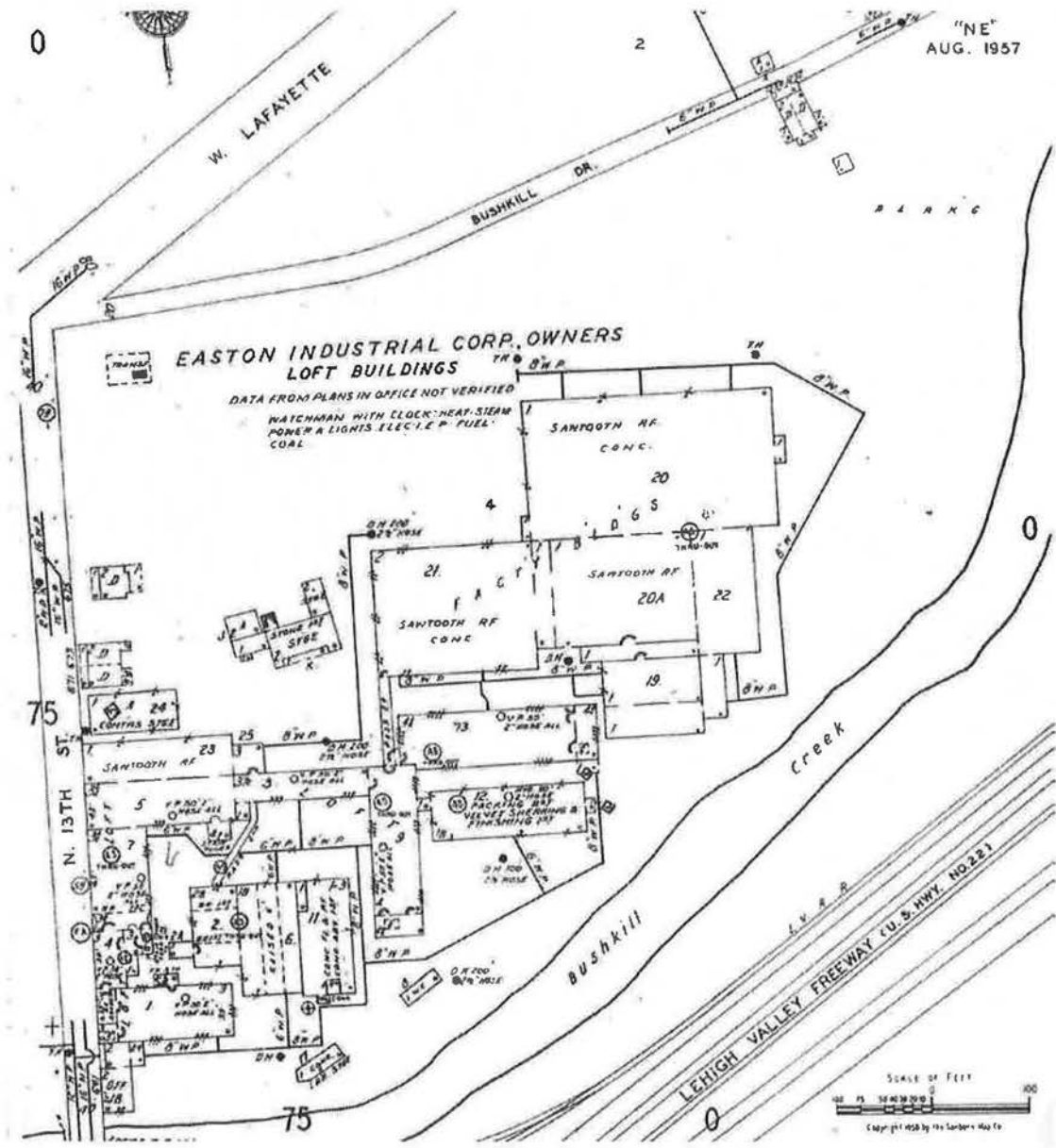


Figure 7: Easton Industrial Corp. Owners, Loft Buildings, Northampton County, PA; 1958 Sanborn Map, Sheet 84; Easton Public Library- Microfilm Reference Collection. Depicts the site formerly belonging to R. & H. Simon Silk Mill. Building 15 has been demolished and replaced with parking. The remaining green house and lumber shed have been demolished as well. Building 24 still remains.

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R. & H. Simon Silk Mill

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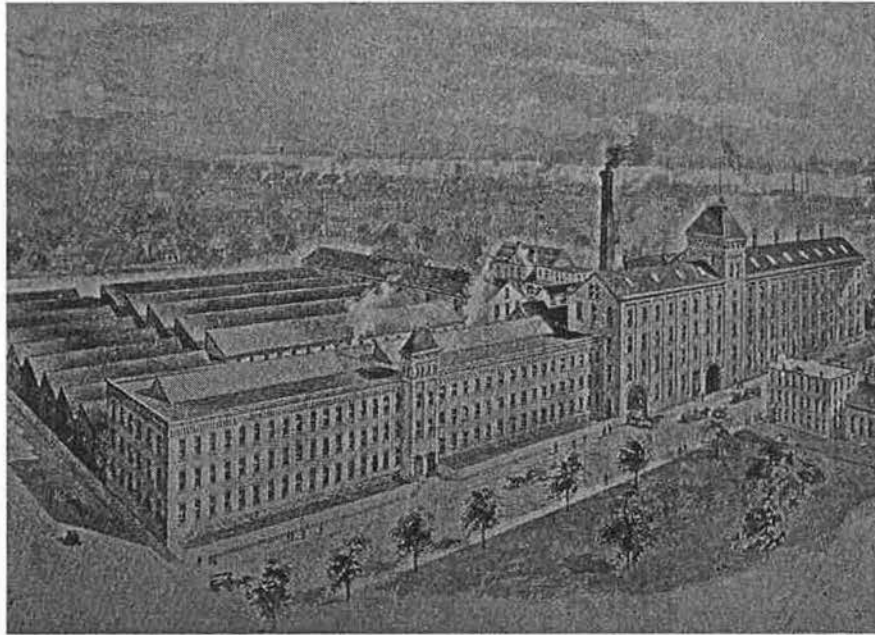
Northampton County, Pennsylvania

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R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Union Hill, N. J.



Figure 8: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Union Hill (City), Hudson County, NJ. Top Image Credit- undated, uncaptioned image from Union City New Jersey History Blog Spot; www.unioncitynjhistory.blogspot.com; accessed 08.08.2014. Bottom Image Credit: "R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Union Hill, N.J."; The Chase Catalog, The American Textile History Museum.

Top image depicts a factory thought to be the R. & H. Simon Silk Mill of Union Hill; the same structures are shown in the bottom image, labeled as the R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Union Hill, N.J.

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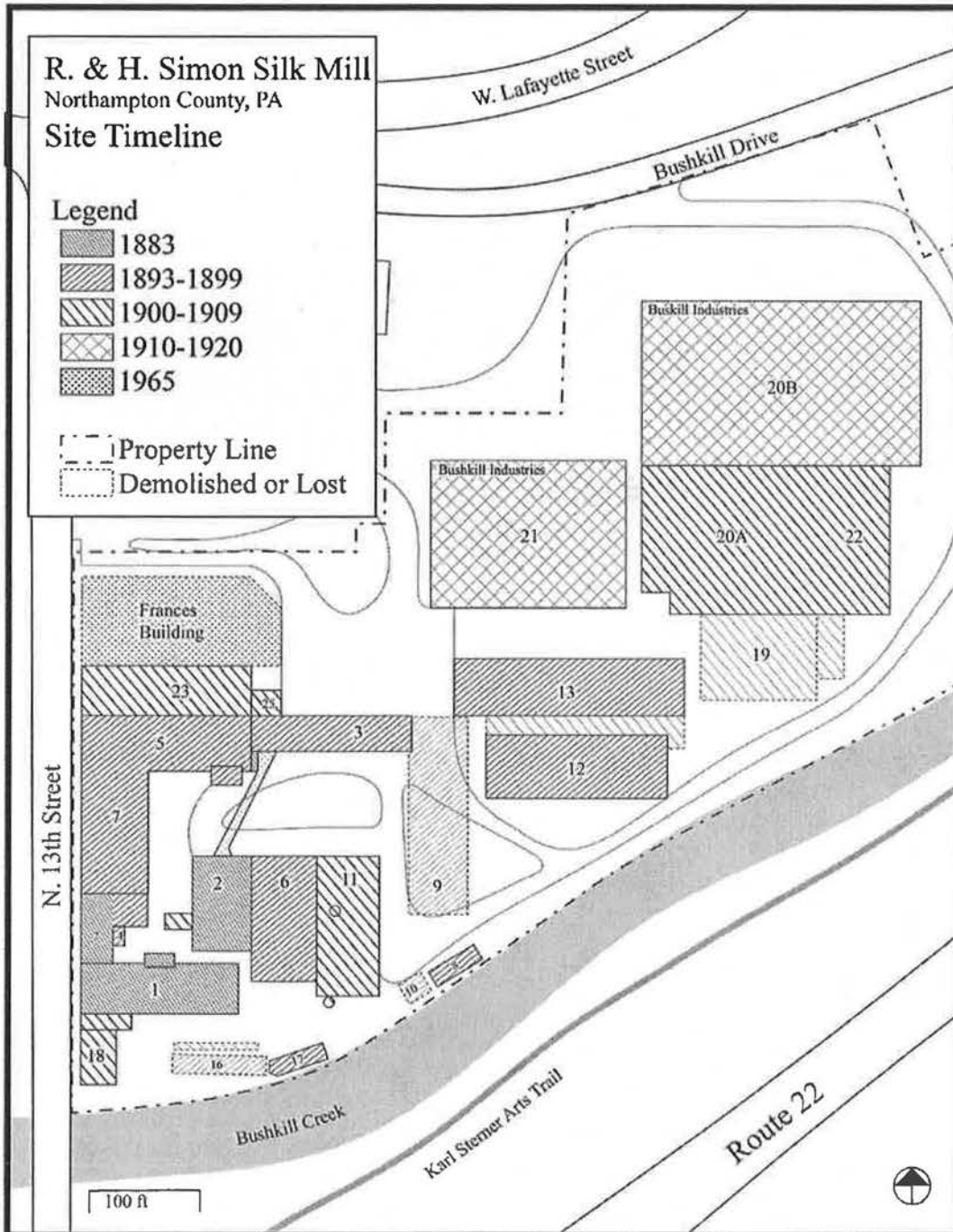


Figure 9: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; Site Timeline. Depicts the multiple buildings of the complex, including structures no longer present, and the phases in which they were constructed.

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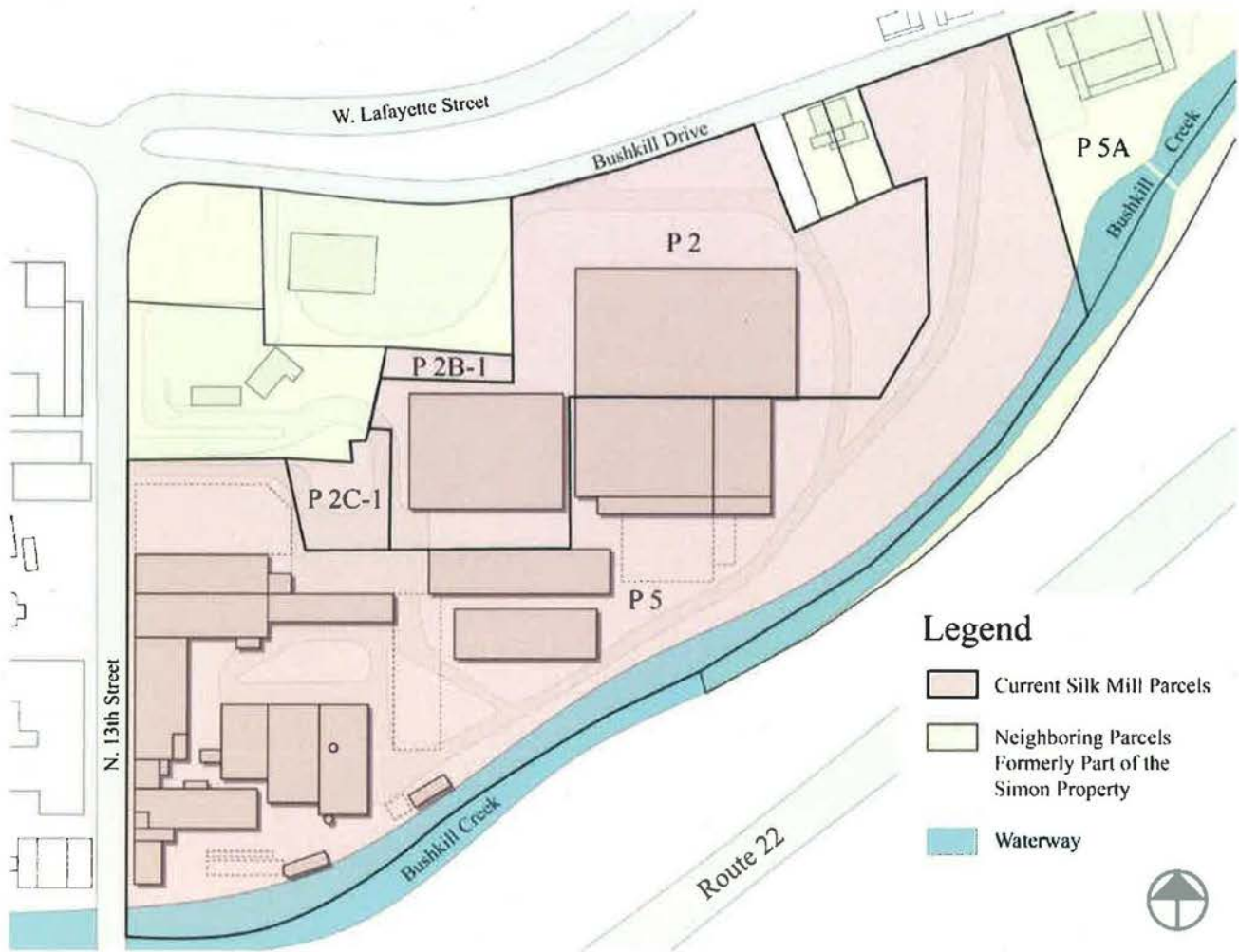


Figure 10: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; Site Boundaries. Depicts the selected boundaries of the site made up by the acquisitions of parcels 2, 2B-1, 2C-1, and 5 by the Redevelopment Authority of Easton, PA. Nominated boundary includes parcels shaded pink.

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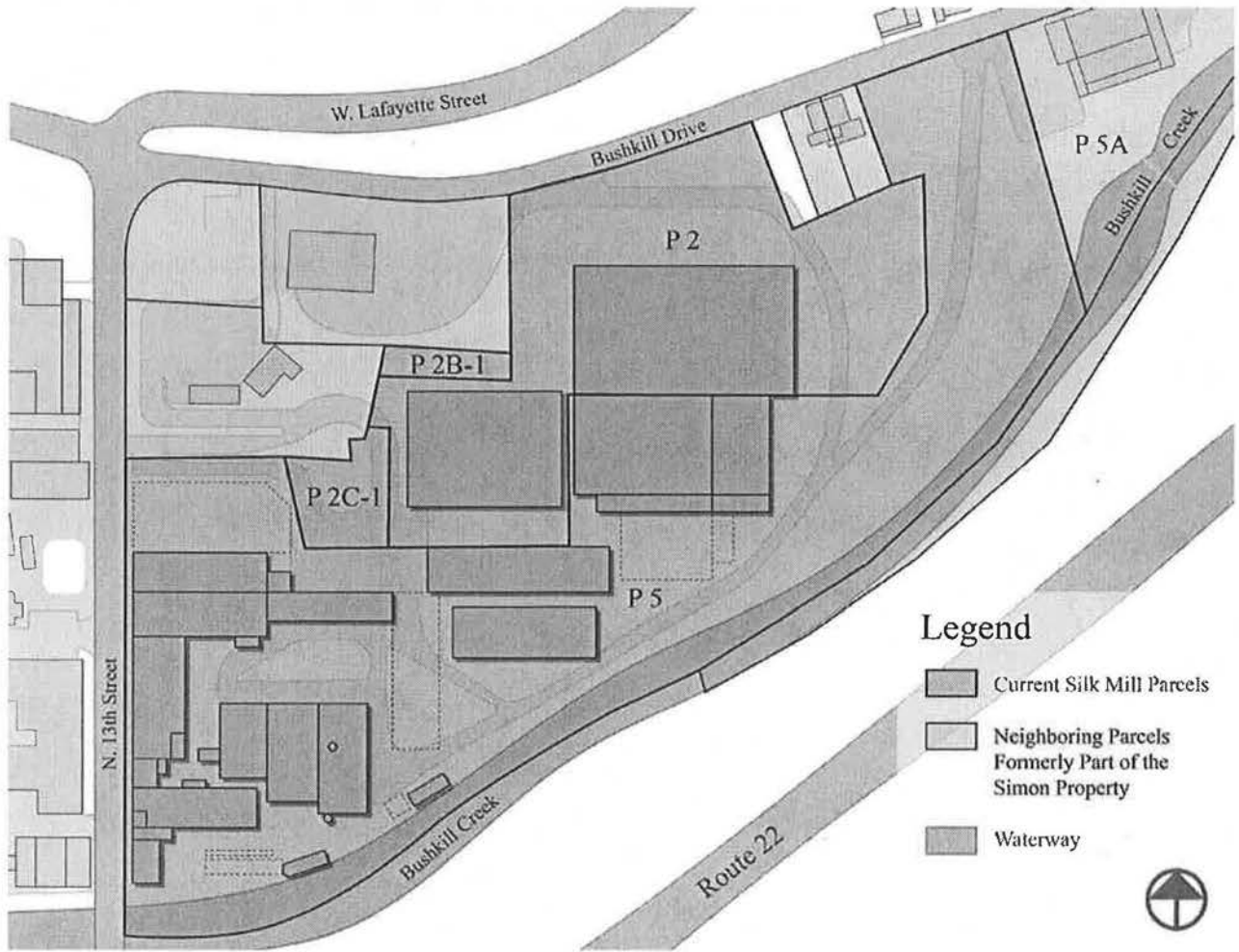


Figure 10: R. & H. Simon Silk Mill, Northampton County, PA; Site Boundaries. Depicts the selected boundaries of the site made up by the acquisitions of parcels 2, 2B-1, 2C-1, and 5 by the Redevelopment Authority of Easton, PA. Nominated boundary includes parcels shaded pink.

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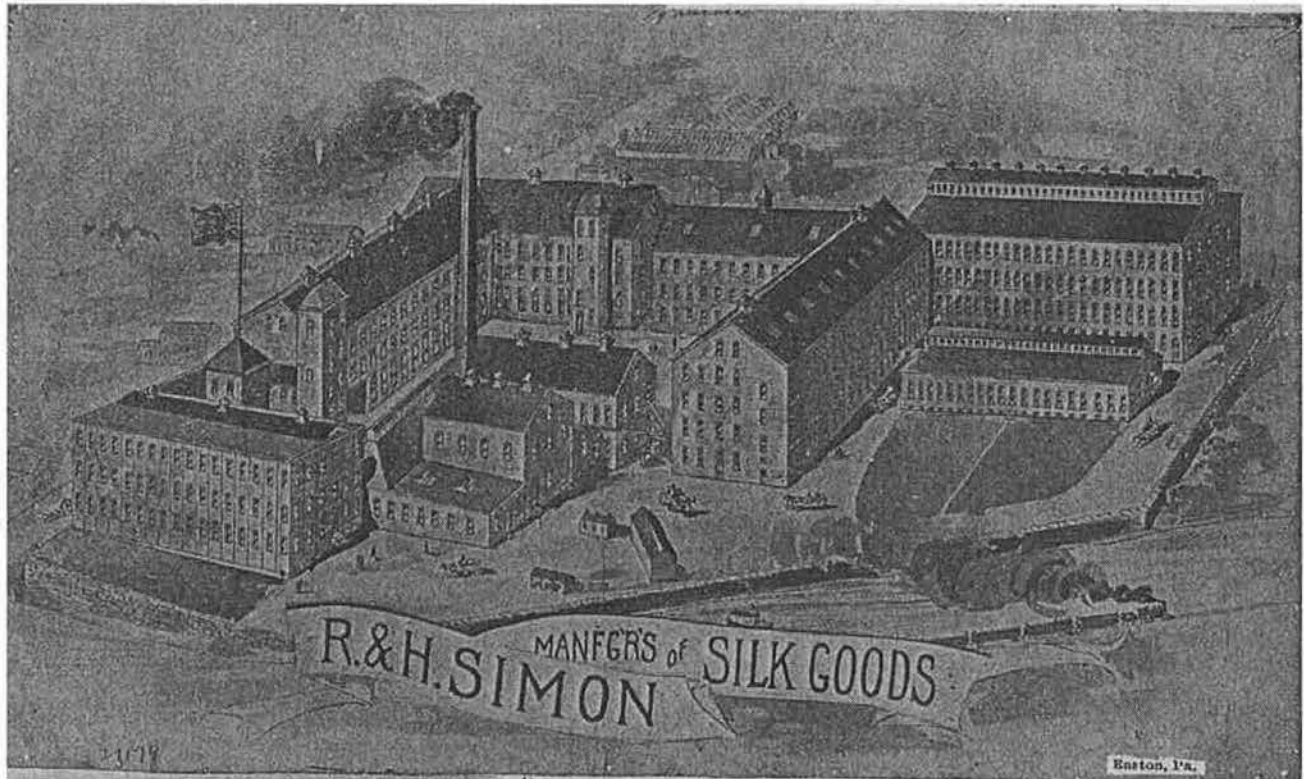


Figure 11: "R. & H. Simon Manfg'r's of Silk Goods", Map detail; Library of Congress Digital Library. Shows the mill complex, circa 1900, from the south of the site looking northwest. The green houses and Building 18 (Simon's office) have not been added nor have the buildings of Group III.

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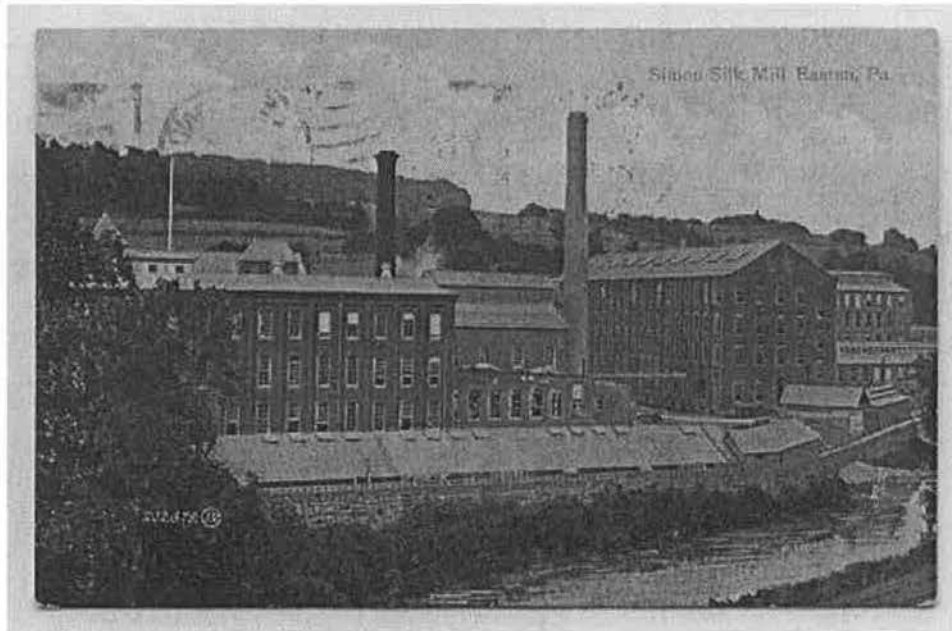


Figure 12: "Simon Silk Mill, Easton, PA" Postcard; The Chase Catalog, The American Textile History Museum. Shows the mill complex, circa 1910, from the south of the site looking northeast. The greenhouses and Building 17 have been added along the southern portion of the site at the Bushkill Creek.



Figure 13: "R. and H. Simon Silk Mills, Easton, Pa" Postcard; The Chase Catalog, The American Textile History Museum. - Shows the mill complex, circa 1907-15, from the west of the site looking northeast. Buildings of Group III are in the background.

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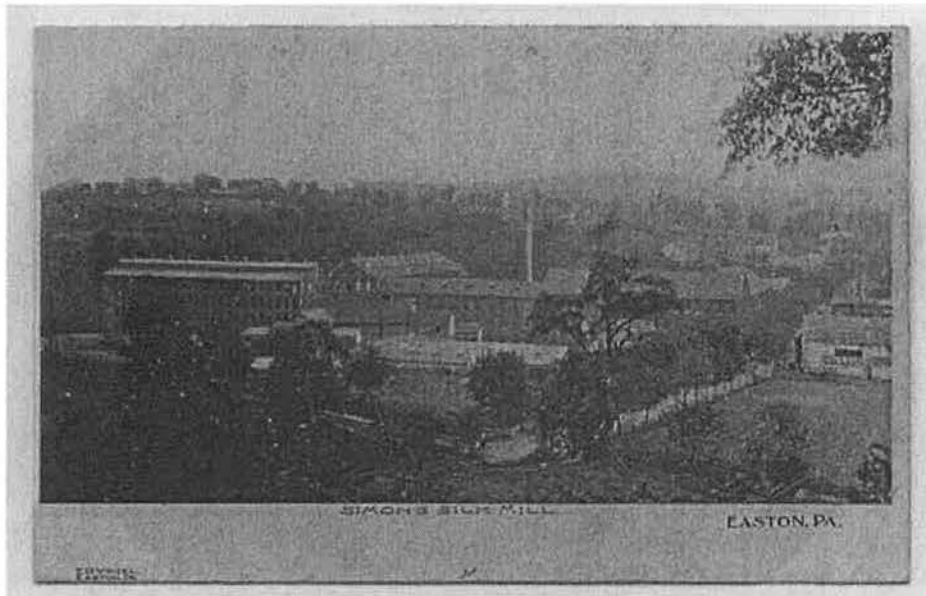


Figure 14: "Simon's Silk Mill, Easton, Pa" Postcard; The Chase Catalog, The American Textile History Museum. Shows the mill complex, circa 1901-07, from the northwest looking southeast.

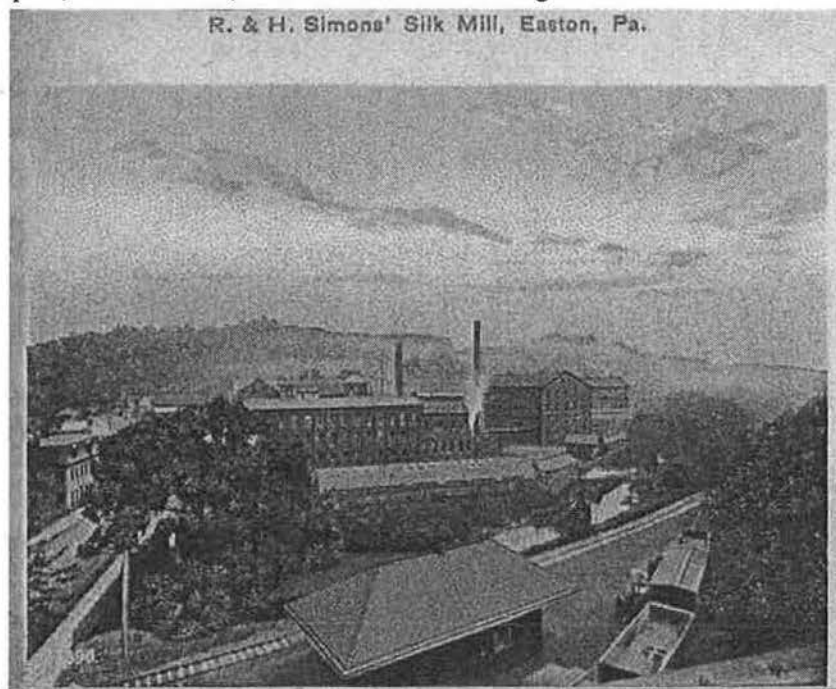


Figure 15: "R. & H. Simons' Silk Mill, Easton, PA" Postcard; The Chase Catalog, The American Textile History Museum. - Shows the mill complex, circa 1908, from the south of the site looking northeast. Railcars in the foreground solidify the mill's ideal location along transportation lines as well as the Bushkill creek for water power.

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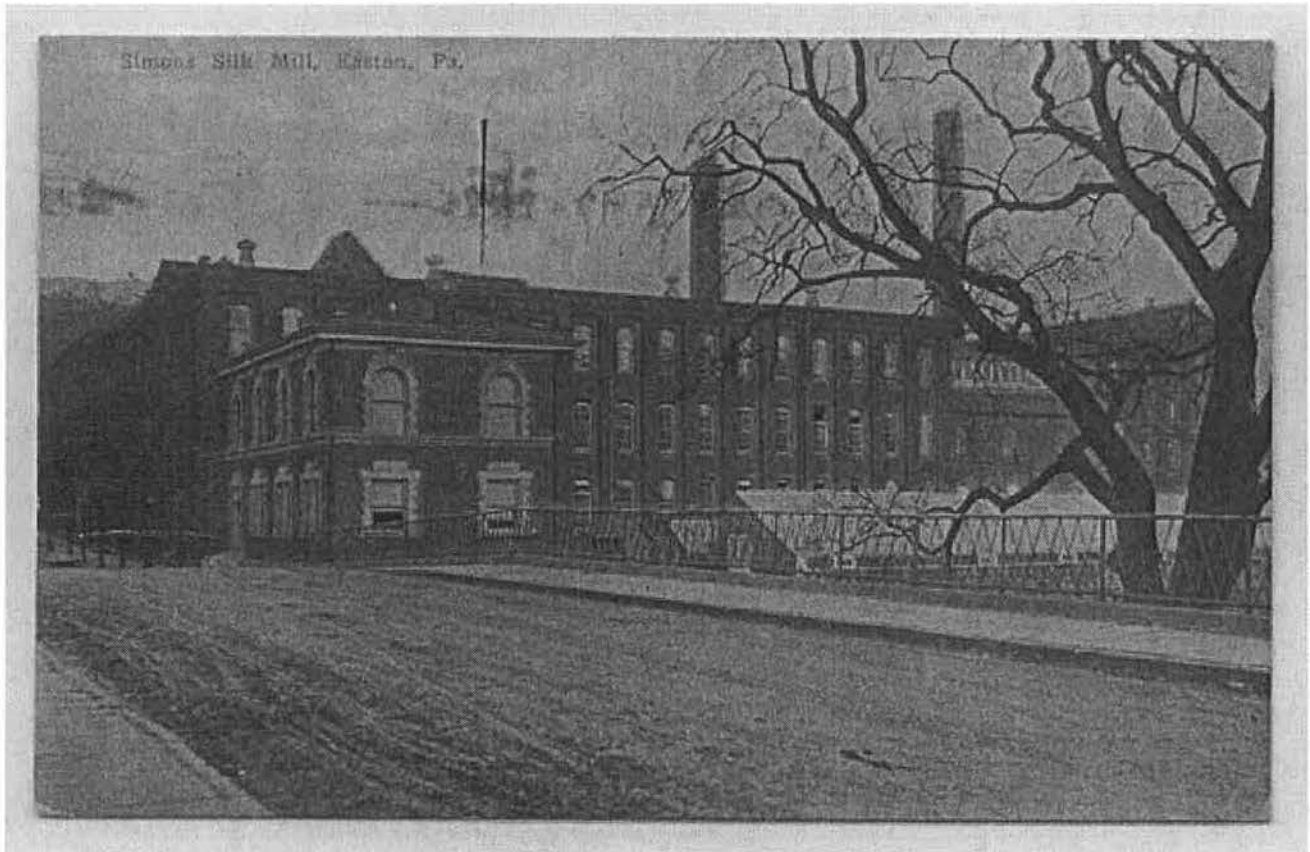


Figure 16: "Simons Silk Mill, Easton, Pa" Postcard; The Chase Catalog, The American Textile History Museum. Shows the mill complex, circa 1913, from the southwest, on the 13th street Bridge over the Bushkill Creek, looking northeast. Building 18, Simon's office, is in the foreground along with the saw tooth roofs of the greenhouses (no longer extant).

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Figure 17: "Residence of Herman Simon, Corner Thirteenth and Bushkill Streets"; *Forks of the Delaware Illustrated*; Lehigh University Digital Library. One of Herman Simon's two mansions, c.1900, located a few blocks south of the mill complex. The house, privately owned, still stands today.



Figure 18: "Residence of H. Simons, Easton, Pa." Postcard; The Chase Catalog, The American Textile History Museum. The second of two mansions owned by Herman Simon, c.1908. The residence is located in the present-day downtown historic district on N. 3rd Street, approximately one and a half miles southeast of the silk mill complex.

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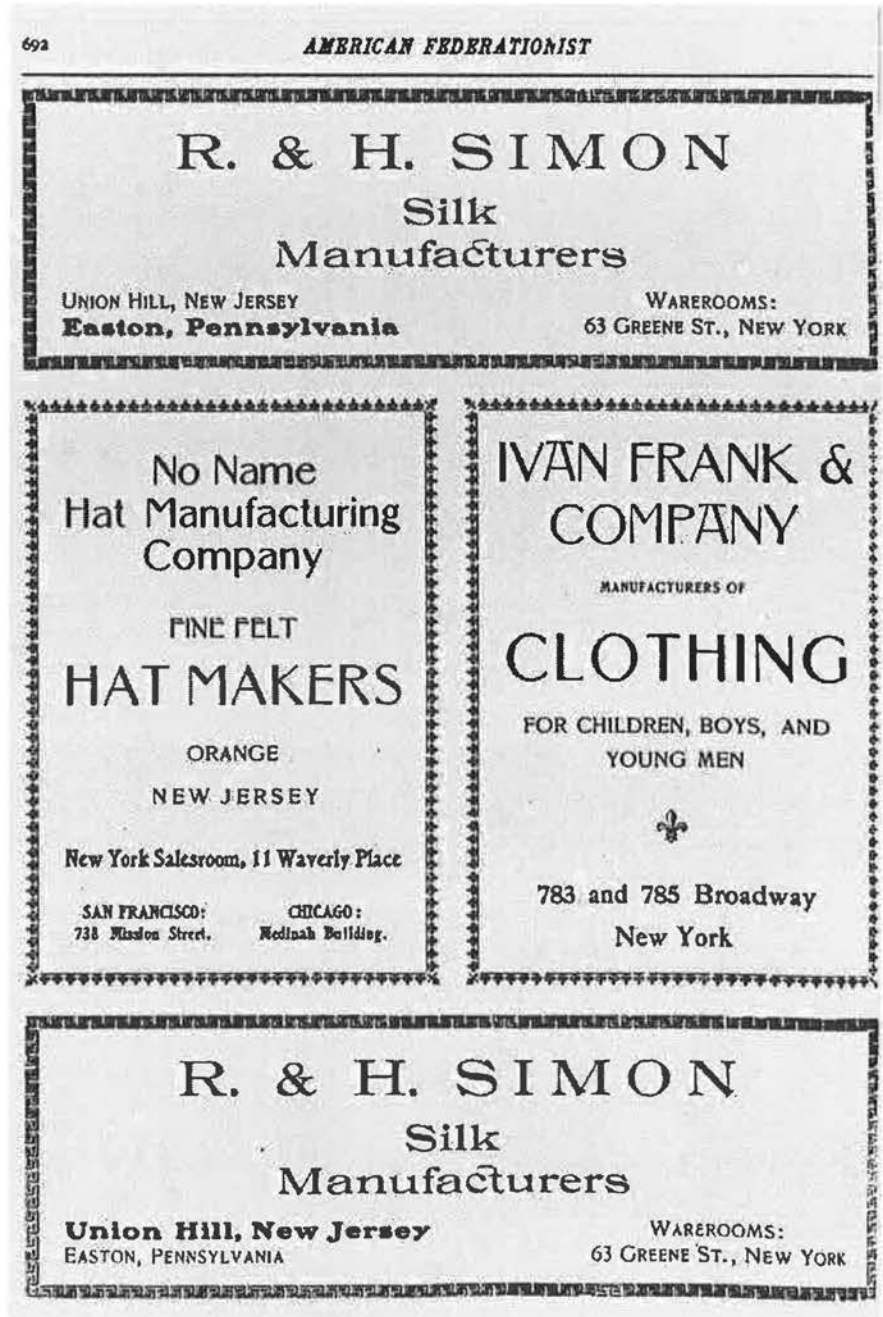


Figure 19: "R. & H. Simon Silk Manufacturers" Advertisement; *The American Federationist*, January 1905, Vol. XII. Advertisements for both the Union Hill, New Jersey and Easton, Pennsylvania mills.

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Figure 20: Portraits of Herman and Robert Simon; *The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography: Being the History of the United States as Illustrated in the Lives of the Founders, Builders, and Defenders of the Republic, and of the Men and Women who are Doing the Work and Molding the Thought of the Present Time*; J. T. White Company; January 1, 1910. Portrait of Herman Simon on the left, Robert Simon on the Right



Figure 21: "Private Office of Herman Simon, Easton, Pa." Photo; Courtesy of Easton Partnership Photo of the interior of Herman Simon's office in Building 18, c.1910

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LIST OF SIMON PATENTS

The machinery to process the raw material and to provide the final product evolved as the product demand and quality expectations evolved. It was very usual at the time for owners and operators of mills to create improvements to existing machines. The improvements and new machines were usually patented. The Simon brothers had their own idea of how to improve production machinery. Below is a list of some of the Simon Brothers patents found during the research for this project:

561.622, means of weaving, Robert Simon Union Hill, NJ filed August 21, 1894, serial no 520.899¹

LOOM Robert Simon Union Hill, NJ Filed June 25 1890, Serial NO. 356,673²

*Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office
By United States. Patent Office*

Woven fabric.

Publication number	US666253 A
Publication type	Grant
Publication date	22 Jan 1901
Filing date	8 Jun 1900
Priority date	8 Jun 1900
Inventors	William Aeberli
Original Assignee	Robert Simon, Hermann Simon, William Aeberli

POWER LOOM. No. 286.081. Patented Oct. 2, 1883.

Publication number	US286081 A
Publication type	Grant
Publication date	Oct 2, 1883
Inventors	Robert Simon

Knife-sharpener for double-pile-fabric looms

Publication number	US399293 A
Publication type	Grant
Publication date	Mar 12, 1889
Filing date	Jul 27, 1887

Woven silk fabric

Publication number	USRE10810 E
Publication type	Grant
Publication date	Feb 22, 1887

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LOOM

Publication number	US453280 A
Publication type	Grant
Publication date	Jun 2, 1891
Filing date	Jun 25, 1890
Inventors	Robert Simon ¹

¹ Fiber & Fabric: A Record of American Textile Industries in the United State, Boston, Mass., June 20, 1895, Volume 23, Page 839
² Official Gazette of the United States Patent Office, By United States. Patent Office, June 1891, Page 1277





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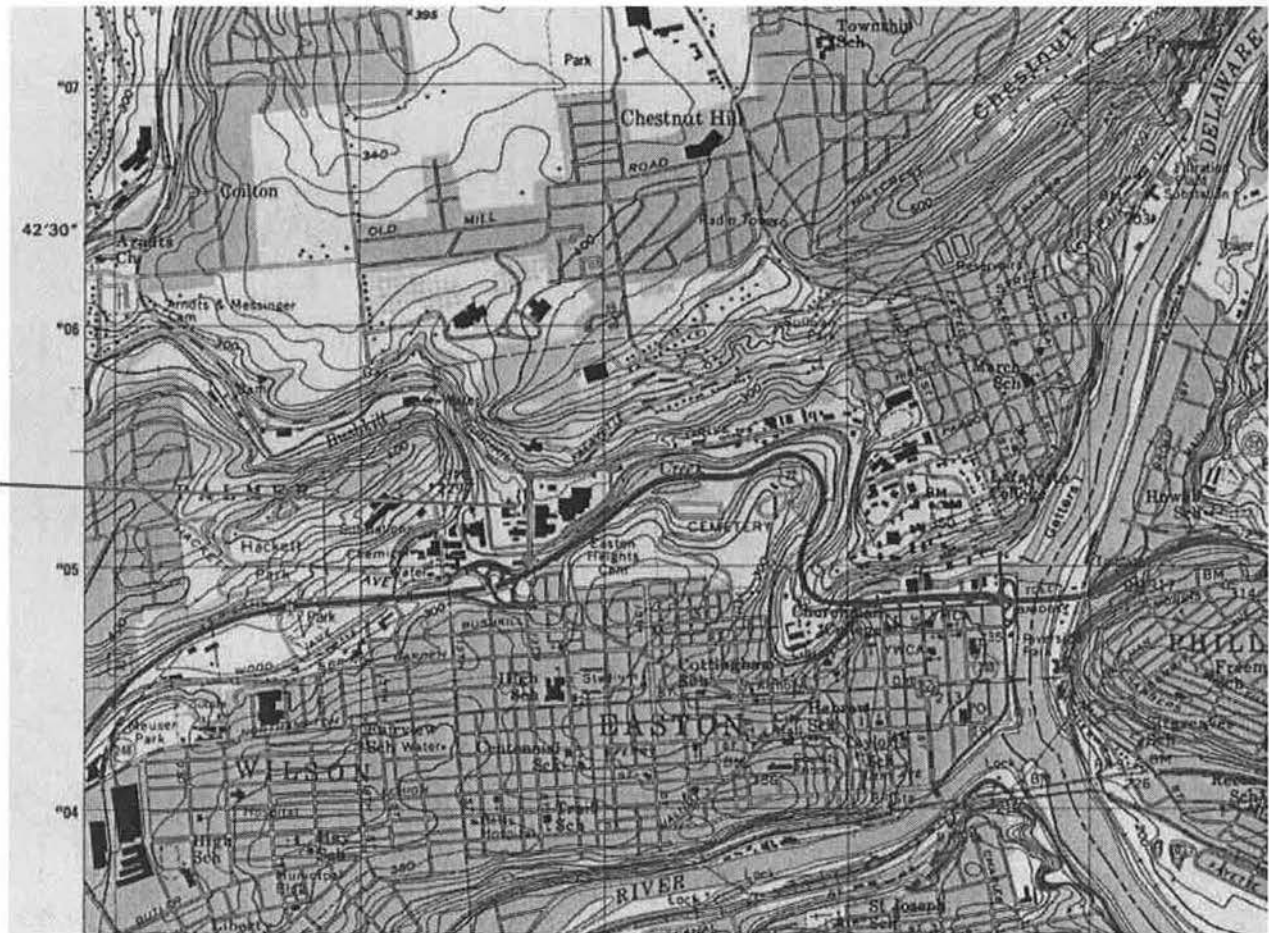
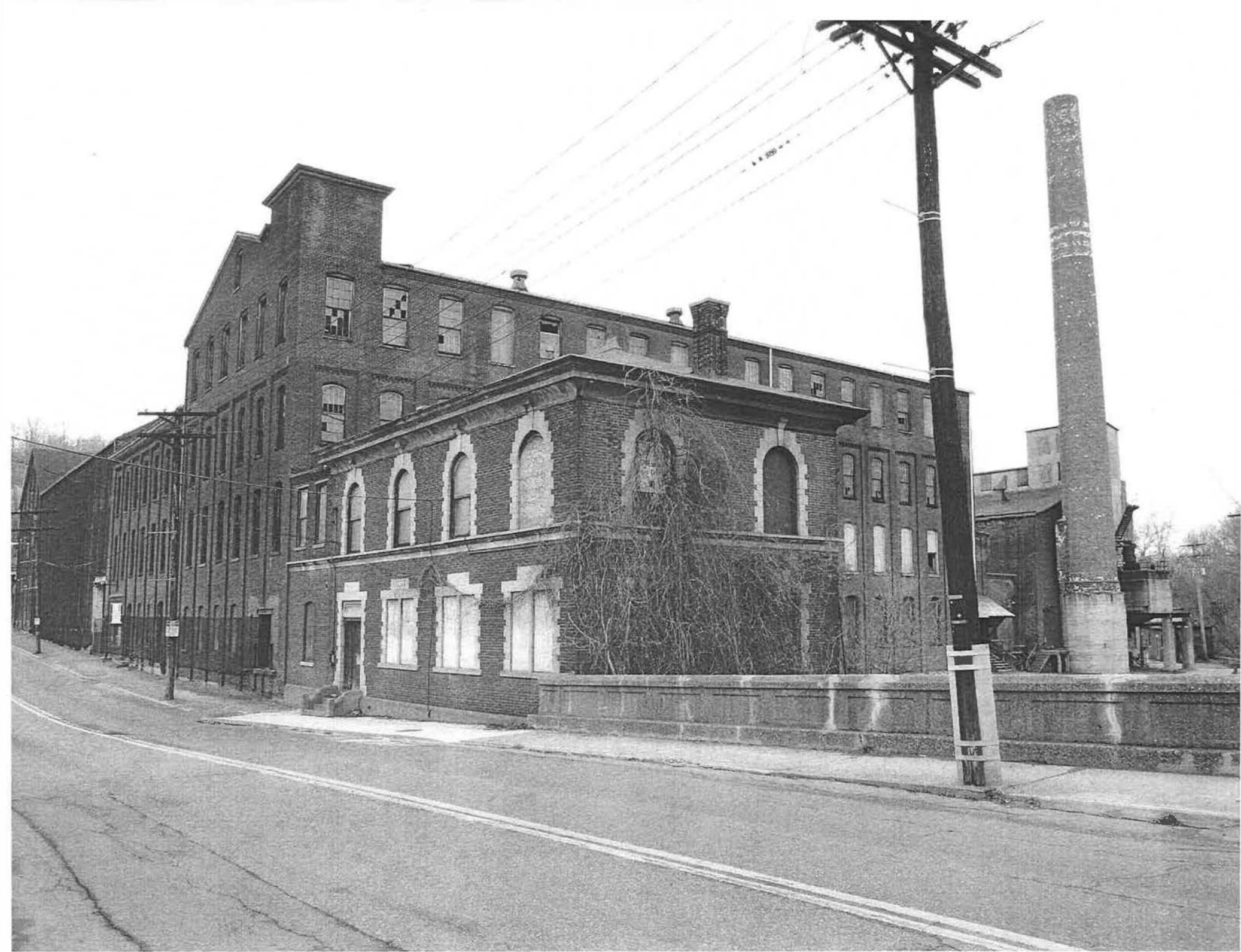


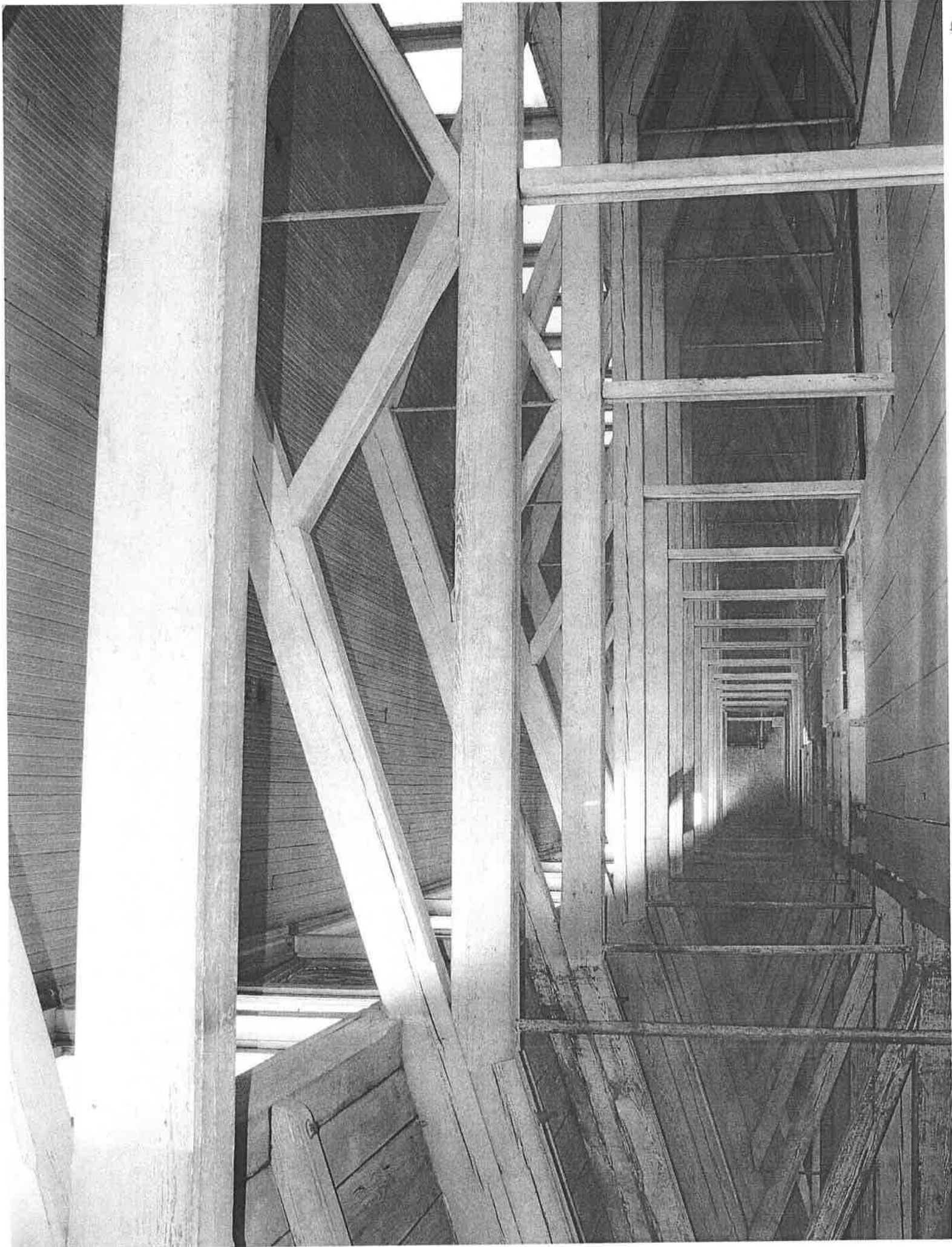
Figure 22: USGS Map, Easton PA-NJ.

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 1. 40.6989 | -75.2289 |
| 2. 40.6991 | -75.2252 |
| 3. 40.6982 | -75.2250 |
| 4. 40.6963 | -75.2289 |

(starting at top left corner of polygon and moving clockwise)











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Simon, R. and H., Silk Mill

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: PENNSYLVANIA, Northampton

DATE RECEIVED: 11/14/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/11/14
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/26/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/31/14
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14001104

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12/30/2014 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A
REVIEWER Patrick Andrews DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE _____ DATE 12/30/2014

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

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

18TH DISTRICT

LISA M. BOSCOLA

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FAX: 717-783-1257

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2123 NORTH FIRST AVENUE, SUITE A-4
WHITEHALL, PA 18052
610-266-2117
FAX: 610-266-2169

TWITTER: @senlisaboscola
WEBSITE: www.senatorboscola.com



Senate of Pennsylvania

September 24, 2014

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Andrea L. MacDonald, Chief
Division of Preservation Services
PA Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

RE: Simon Silk Mill-Easton, PA

Dear Ms. MacDonald:

I am writing to express my unequivocal support for the Simon Silk Mill National Register of Historic Places Nomination request being presented to the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board on October 7, 2014.

There is no doubt in my mind that the Simon Silk Mill complex deserves to be a listing on the National Register. Initially built in 1883, the Simon Silk Mill has been an integral part of the fabric of the Easton community. The Simon Silk Mill quickly became a manufacturing giant not only in Easton but its impact was felt nationally and internationally. At the height of its operations around the turn of the 20th Century, 2,000 citizens were employed at the mill and the R&H Simon Silk Company had become the largest producer of black silk ribbon in the world.

The redevelopment of the Silk Mill is critical to the economic plans of the City of Easton and will have a positive impact for the entire Lehigh Valley and the Commonwealth. Inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places will aid greatly in this redevelopment plan due to the plans to maintain the historic nature of the site and the positive economic incentives that inclusion will bring towards this site.

I hope you will look favorably upon the National Register Nomination for the Simon Silk Mill, as the designation is critical to the future reuse of the building, as well as to the preservation of this significant piece of the historic fabric of our community.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Boscola
State Senator – 18th District



Andrus, Patrick <patrick_andrus@nps.gov>

R. and H. Simon Silk Mill

1 message

Andrus, Patrick <patrick_andrus@nps.gov>
To: "Frantz, April" <afrantz@pa.gov>

Tue, Dec 30, 2014 at 7:42 AM

Hello April: Happy holidays to all. I am reviewing the R. and H. Simon Silk Mill nomination and have a question about the period of significance. The end-date is 1948 and I can't find in the nomination why that year was chosen. Can you, or the staffer who reviewed the nomination, look over the statement of significance and give me a call at 202-354-2218?

Thanks,

Patrick

—
Patrick Andrus, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
(202) 354-2218
patrick_andrus@nps.gov

12/30/14

April will revise sec. 8 to clarify 1948
as end of p.o.f.sig

