

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received FEB 4 1986

date entered MAR 6 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic The Petaluma Silk Mill  
Carlson-Currier Silk Mfg. Co., 1892-1917; Belding-Heminway-Corticelli  
and/or common 1917-1940; Sunset Line & Twine Co., 1940-present

**2. Location**

street & number 420 Jefferson Street N/A not for publication  
city, town Petaluma N/A vicinity of Congressional District #6  
state CA 94952 code 06 county Sonoma code 097

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Sunset Line & Twine Co.  
street & number P.O. Box 691  
city, town Petaluma N/A vicinity of state CA 94952

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sonoma County Administration Center  
Office of the Recorder  
street & number 585 Fiscal Drive  
city, town Santa Rosa state CA 95404

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Petaluma Historic Resource Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
date 1978  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Office of Historic Preservation, P.O. Box 2390  
city, town Sacramento state CA 95811

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>      N/A      </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Petaluma Silk Mill is an industrial complex adjacent to the old waterfront area of Petaluma. The two-story brick building is rectangular under a low hipped roof of sheet metal with standing seams. A pair of three-story square brick tower stand forth from the long many-windowed facade. Each tower has double doors at ground level and two windows above and each is topped by a pyramid roof, also sheet metal with standing seams. The original building, designed by pioneer San Francisco architect Charles I. Havens in 1892, had a central tower and was half the length of the present structure. A silk vault, boiler plant, dyerroom, and other outbuildings not visible from the front, were also designed by Havens in 1892. Dimensions of the main building were 160' x 45'. The early extension of one wing, and the 1922 construction of a second tower and wing, increased the dimensions to 310' x 45', while maintaining styling compatible with the 1892 building. Subsequent alterations are minimal.

The main building was built in two sections: the original 45' x 160' mill with its central tower is now the northwest section of the building. The southeast portion replicated the earlier tower in 1922, creating the present two-towered symmetrical appearance. Viewed from the front, the building's dominant towers are echoed by four square metal cupolas, with horizontal louvres in each face and pilasters at the corners, which line the roof ridge.\* The pyramid cupola roofs, of standing seam metal and metal shingle, repeat the slope of the adjacent towers. The cupolas are topped by knobbed finials, and the towers by 30' flagpoles. A horizontal beam projects from the original tower below the roofline and was for lifting materials to the second floor.

Two rows of windows surround the two-story building. They are double hung, wood framed, and 18-lighted, under arcs which fill the space between the rectangular windows and the low arc of brick coursing above them.

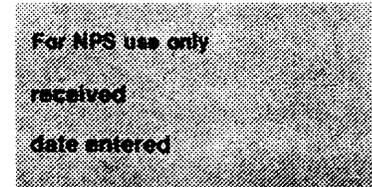
The brick is laid in a simple running pattern, broken by a series of brick courselines which encircle the entire building including the towers. Under the eaves, tiers of three bricks, spaced at brick length intervals, create a dentil effect. Broad courselines, three brick widths of running pattern projecting slightly from the surface, connect the windows of each row above their midlines and then rise to create, with a radiating pattern of three vertical brick ends, a flattened arch above each window. Narrow

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\*The original tower had a steeper pitch when built. It was damaged in the 1906 earthquake; when rebuilt, several additional courses of brick were added and the roof pitch was lowered. The 1922 tower repeats the post-1906 form of the earlier tower modified by earthquake repairs.

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courselines of extended vertical brick ends surround the building immediately under each row of windows. Another projecting narrow brick courseline separates the building from its low cement foundation.

Window openings in the original tower are double-shuttered, one with wood, the other with metal. Window openings in the new tower are 16-lighted with wood frames. Three windows on the outer side of each tower, and two windows on the inner side, indicate the rise of staircases within the towers. Tower doors, which open onto low cement platforms, are double with opaque glass above low metal panels. The entrance to the original 1892 building was through its central tower door; neither tower is used as a primary entrance today.

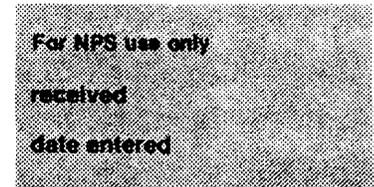
A slight difference in brick color identifies the stages of the building's construction: the central tower and two wings of the 1892 building, the addition to the north after 1906, and the tower and south wing added in 1922. Another slight color variation on either side of the original central tower, between the two rows of windows, marks the site of the painted "Carlson-Currier Co. Silk Manufacturers" sign visible in early pictures. Today, above and around the upper window in each tower a painted black square, with white lettering and border, reads:

SUNSET  
LINE & TWINE CO.  
MFRS FISH  
OF LINES

Two types of metal end-washers mark the end points of steel tie bars. Those on the main building are square with a raised 4-pointed star, those on the towers are round with a 5-pointed star. Their irregular placement, on both old and new wings, probably indicates that they were added after the last major addition to the building. Gutter tie-downs on the older portion of the building indicate that the roof of that section is original but that all gutters probably date from the 1922 addition. Visible from the front also are the tops of two rear structures: a round brick smokestack and the metal framework which once supported a 65' water tower.

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Proceeding counterclockwise around the building, the south elevation is the end of the 1922 addition. Four windows on each floor are paired and highlighted with metal end-washers, both 4- and 5-pointed, above and between the window pairs.

Also from the south may be seen a two-story square projecting tower added with the 1922 wing, and some of the original rear buildings. A two-story brick structure, the "old silk vault," is connected to the main building. Behind and along side of it, also connected to the main building and so arranged that they appear to be a "T," are two two-story corrugated metal buildings under low gable roofs -- the old engine, coal, and boiler rooms. Each has the cupola and 18-lighted windows like those of the main building, but some windows have been replaced and a wide door has been cut.

Extending to the east is the one-story dye house under a low gable roof. A courseline around a row of 18-lighted windows replicates the pattern of the main building, but the brick has been plastered and painted with aluminum paint. The dye house may be reached through the other outbuildings, and it also has a loading dock to the street. There are fans in the gable end along the ridge. A shed has been added to one side. Two low cement reservoirs with corrugated roofing on either side of the dye house provided storage for rainwater used for dyeing the silk.

The north end of the main building is the post-1906 "new silk vault" addition. The silk vault occupied the first floor and was windowless with 26" brick walls on all four sides. Four second story windows are evenly spaced, not paired as on the end of the south wing. In 1922 when the second tower and new wing were added, windows and an outside door were cut in the thick walls and the building's primary entrance moved to the north end. Two wide plate glass windows are lettered in gold, "Sunset Line & Twine Company." Between them, the entrance is deepset and is reached by cement steps which begin flush with the building; there is no exterior porch. The door itself is wood with full glass panel and small vertical panels on each side below a transom extending the width of the recessed entrance.

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From the office another door leads through the interior 26" brick wall to the original building. There, beyond some partitioned office space, the mill workspace extends the length of the building. Original construction details are visible. Two rows of slender turned oak bolsters reach 12' to the ceiling where floor joists of the second floor are visible. Banks of electrically powered machinery for braiding cord, and a few pieces of occasionally used older machinery, are set upon original 3 1/2" tongue and groove floors. The inner brick wall is visible and, reflecting the outside detail, wooden lentils are slightly arched above the flat tops of the windows.

Both second floor and attic run the length of the main building; the second floor is used for packing and storage of materials and the attic is used for miscellaneous storage. Air circulates through the cupola vents into the attic. A sprinkler fire extinguisher system is located in the attic and throughout the building.

Towers are open and provide vertical access. Construction details of the two towers vary. The older tower has a notable metal railed staircase, in contrast to the utilitarian cement staircase of the newer tower. Within the older tower may be seen evidence of the addition of nine rows of brick just under the eaves. Earliest pictures show a steeper pitch to the central tower pyramid roof; at the time the pitch was reduced, the tower itself may have been heightened.

The old silk vault, entered from the main building, is now primarily used for storage. Again the inner brick wall is visible, and the triple vaulted ceiling is also brick. Connecting engine, coal, and boiler rooms now provide additional work space. Floors here and in the dye house are cement. Original brick walls of the dye house have been cemented over. Some original fixtures remain and the building still houses some dye related activities, in addition to miscellaneous storage. The second stories of the outbuildings has been adapted to provide modern cafeteria and lounge facilities.

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Landscaping is minimal with grass and a few small trees in front. Ivy and Virginia creeper cover much of the older portion of the building. A simple low wire fence extends from the tower entrances across the width of the property. Cyclone fencing defines the border shared with commercial property to the south, and extends around the rear. There, space between the new wing and projecting outbuildings is unpaved and used for loading and parking and also contains an imposing Canary Island palm tree. Similar space behind the older wing is enclosed and used for miscellaneous storage.

The mill is located on a block bounded by Erwin Street in front, Wilson Street in the rear and Jefferson Street alongside the north wing entrance. Lakeville Highway curves widely in front of the building; Erwin Street terminates where it would intersect Lakeville, and so is without traffic. Across Erwin is Sunset Park with picnic tables, a drinking fountain, and paths bordered by old Petaluma cobblestones. Beyond the park and Lakeville Highway is the McNear Canal where, visible at low tide, is the historic relic of the steamer Petaluma (originally the Resolute) which, with its cargo including silk products valued at \$2000, was destroyed by fire in 1914.

Original plans and blueprints, listed in the appendix, are being preserved and will become available for study. Historic photographs, also in the appendix, show the architecture and the siting of the mill from its construction to the present time.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1892/1906/1922      **Builder/Architect** Charles I. Havens; alterations by Brainerd Jones

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Since 1892, the Petaluma Silk Mill, now Sunset Line & Twine Company, has been a prominent architectural landmark of the Petaluma industrial waterfront. Charles I. Havens (1849-1916), pioneer San Francisco architect, designed the industrial building, reminiscent of the Victorian New England mills. The enlargements, the first after the 1906 earthquake and the second in 1922, designed by noted Petaluma architect Brainerd Jones, were in compatible styling with the earlier portion of the mill. Sericulture, and more successfully, silk manufacturing were late 19th century manifestations of efforts in California to develop industry in the state. When San Francisco's Carlson-Currier Silk Manufacturing Company announced plans to relocate, in the early 1890s, enterprising Petaluma businessmen launched a successful community campaign to entice the mill to their growth-minded river town. Since then, the Old Silk Mill has symbolized industrial Petaluma, and its products have carried the town's name nationwide. First came silk thread and fine sewing products of Carlson-Currier and its successors; since 1940, the Sunset Line & Twine Company has produced silk and synthetic fishing lines and more recently specialized natural and synthetic cords and tapes for industry and government. Numerous periodical references attest to the mill's historic role in the community. The evolution of the building is amply documented by original drawings, blueprints, and a series of historic photographs.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.2 acres  
Quadrangle name Petaluma

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	0	5	3	2	4	2	0	4	2	3	1	9	1	1	0
Zone		Easting				Northing									

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing									

**Verbal boundary description and justification** a rectangular lot 157.5'x335' bound on the north by Jefferson; on the east and west by Wilson and Erwin, and on the South by a line from Wilson to the end of Erwin. AP#007-163-02. Recorder's Office Official Records #0500-196. Boundaries are drawn on lot lines which encompass the historic resource.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lucy Kortum

organization (Sonoma State University) date September 1984

street & number 180 Ely Road telephone (707) 762-6219

city or town Petaluma state CA 94952

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kathryn Guattieri

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 1/28/86

For NPS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register of Historic Places.  
James M. McPherson Keeper of the National Register  
Attest: James M. McPherson Chief of Registration  
date 3/6/86

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The red brick Carlson-Currier silk mill, its steeply roofed three-story tower visible throughout the young agricultural market town, became an immediate Petaluma landmark. The building is reminiscent of the Victorian textile mills of England and New England. Though two-storied in contrast to the mostly many-storied English and New England mills, the Petaluma Silk Mill is similar in its regular symmetry, the dominating external central tower of the original 1892 building, and its brick construction.

The external tower had been pioneered in such mills as Allendale, New Providence, RI in 1822. Its advantages were several. Moving the inside staircase to the outside tower provided more open floor space, especially valuable when power was delivered by overhead belt. Materials could be transported to upper floors by way of the more generous outside stairs or by pulley and line from a beam projecting from the tower. Fire danger was lessened with the removal of the inside vertical stair shaft. Vertical air circulation within the tower itself made it a logical site for toilet facilities.

Masonry, and brick when available, had become widely used in Eastern mill construction because they offered greater fire protection and also provided stability for the increasingly heavy machinery.

Carlson-Currier's hipped roof contrasts with the gable roof more typical of mill construction, yet provided ample height and length in the upper floor. The Petaluma mill's many windows provided sufficient light to the work area without a monitor row. (1)

These features were incorporated into the 1892 building and were maintained as additions were made after the 1906 earthquake and again in 1922. Changes are documented by historical photographs, blueprints, and

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... Queen Anne with various embellishments. Undated homes pictured in California Architect & Engineer include bungalow, "picturesque," and elaborate Italianate. Downtown buildings evaluated in Splendid Survivors include Gothic and Renaissance/Baroque ornamentation "verging on the Art Nouveau." The Flatiron Building is probably his most notable and is said to

*\*He would have been one of many who participated in the 25 year construction of San Francisco's ill-fated third city hall.*

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Hedges & Paff had offices at Hinshaw's New Block, Washington Street in 1891 (4) and in 1892 also built "a \$5000 residence on his ranch" for H. Mecham. (5)

Brainerd Jones, Petaluma architect of the period 1898-1930, designed later additions to the building. Jones designed many recognized heritage homes in Petaluma and Santa Rosa, often characterized as Transitional and incorporating Craftsman detailing and columns. His public buildings are more frequently Classical Revival and include several schools, a downtown business block, the Elks Hall, and Carnegie libraries in Petaluma and Healdsburg.

Construction of a silk mill in Petaluma represented the intersection of several historical developments including efforts to develop on the West Coast a new center for sericulture and silk manufacture; improvement of rail and water transportation, and energetic community entrepreneurship.

Efforts in California to develop sericulture, the cultivation of silk worms and of the requisite mulberries, had begun as early as 1854, but early success had proved temporary. Silk manufacture, using the raw product imported from the Orient, fared somewhat better. However Hittell reported that of the half dozen establishments begun during the 1870's, most had closed or redirected their efforts by the 1880's. One that thrived was the California Silk Manufacturing Company. First listed in the San Francisco Directory in 1871, they produced a variety of threads worth \$150,000 a decade later. (6) When their building was destroyed by fire in 1881, "the stock, trademarks, etc." were purchased by Edward Carlson and J.P. Currier who "enlarged the factory by adding the best machinery available." (7)

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Industries of San Francisco (1884) offers undocumented biographical information about the partners: Carlson, a native of Germany, held positions as Chief Clerk in the United States Quartermaster's Department and, for one term, as Deputy State Treasurer of California, before entering the silk business in 1875; Currier, a New Hampshire native, came to California as representative of Belding Brothers & Co. of Chicago. From the beginning, Carlson-Currier were agents for that firm, among others.

Meanwhile, 35 miles to the north, East Petaluma was the aspiring new industrial frontier of a rapidly growing Petaluma, from which it was separated by the navigable tidal estuary known as Petaluma Creek.\* The land east of the creek had been part of General Mariano Vallejo's Petaluma grant which by 1855 was being reduced by sale to enterprising American settlers, among whom was Thomas Hopper. Many in turn divided and resold; Hopper is represented in the Sonoma County Index to Deeds (Grantor) by over 35 transactions between 1855 and 1858. He and partners built a drawbridge to replace the older bridge across Petaluma Creek at the foot of Washington Street. The creek channel was narrowed at that point and the land east of the creek, subject to periodic flooding, was raised by "rich tribute from the hills" spread over the land. (8) East Petaluma was included in the city as incorporated in 1858.

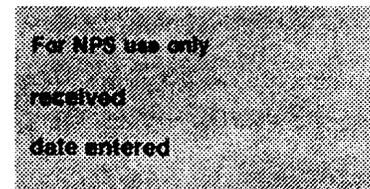
East Petaluma included small lots to accommodate housing, but industrial development was foremost. Petaluma Ice & Storage, built in 1880, became Petaluma's first provider of electricity. Entrepreneur John A. McNear's canal was planned to shorten the water route and avoid much of the upstream silting problem that plagued the winding estuary.(9) At the head of the canal turning basin the Steamer Gold Landing was sited. The Petaluma and Santa Rosa Railroad terminated at the Landing, and the San Francisco and North Pacific also served East Petaluma.

On August 19, 1891, the Petaluma Courier, under the heading "For a Silk Mill," reported that a meeting of citizens, including John A. McNear and H.T.

*\*Today, "East Petaluma" refers to the area east of the Freeway, and the Silk Mill is a feature of "Old East Petaluma."*

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Fairbanks, had met to "to discuss the advisability of having the Belding Silk Company locate its works here, as it was determined to move away from San Francisco." (Carlson-Currier was not named in the original article.) A committee was appointed "to call upon the people and secure the necessary inducements." Subsequent articles called attention to the benefits the factory would bring to the city: employment, especially for women and children; increased business for other merchants; the inducement for other factories to locate in Petaluma. At first it was also believed that sericulture would be developed to the benefit of local agriculture. Public functions were held to boost contributions, with prizes offered to larger subscribers. The amount sought was not stated in the press, but on December 18, with \$2000 to go, McNear admonished those capitalists who were "so very niggardly about putting up some coin." (10)

Sonoma County records show that across from the Steamer Gold Landing, "the northerly quarter" of East Petaluma Block 21 (lots 11, 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 24) were purchased from J.A. McNear by the Carlson-Currier Company of San Francisco on February 23, 1892, for \$1500 gold coin of the USA." (11) A contract was recorded in Sonoma County on March 11, 1892, between "certain citizens of Petaluma and vicinity . . . through their Trustee, H.T. Fairbanks" and the Carlson-Currier Company. The contract called for timely construction of the factory and average yearly employment of "one hundred white persons" for a period of five years which would be extended in case of interruption due to "fire, strikes, epidemics or other unavoidable causes." (12) On March 14, 1892 Havens, Currier, and Hedges signed the plans. The Petaluma Courier Special Edition of October 19, 1892, featured the "recently completed silk factory," which had been the scene of a dedication ball on October 11. (13, 14). By 1896, 88 tons of products related to the manufacture of silk represented the single most valuable article of commerce on the Petaluma Creek. (15)

*\*For failure to adhere to terms of the contract, the company was to reconvey to the trustees the unencumbered deed and building, or \$9000 (75% of its guaranteed insured value.)*

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Industries of San Francisco (1889), the Petaluma Courier in 1891 and 1892, and a 1910 article in The Monitor of San Francisco, provide considerable information about Carlson-Currier machinery, capacity, and products in both their San Francisco and Petaluma locations. The Courier Special Edition is especially detailed, but perhaps speculative because production had not yet begun in Petaluma. Costs were reported to be \$35,000 for the building and \$30,000 for the machinery.\* The San Francisco mill had been "operated by about 75 girls and boys who are thus enabled to obtain some means of support," and the 85 employees were said to share a \$2800 monthly payroll. The 1910 writer found in Petaluma "hundreds of men and women employed. . . under conditions that as far as we could see could not be improved upon. Reasonable hours, good pay, large well ventilated workshops prove that the material welfare of the employee is a matter of concern, as well as good business to this firm."\*\*

The dedication of the new Petaluma Silk Mill was described in the Special Edition of the Courier, October 19, 1892. J.P. Currier spoke as president of the firm. Edward Carlson is not thereafter mentioned, nor does he appear in subsequent San Francisco directories, though the firm continued as Carlson-Currier with its main salesroom in San Francisco. The 1915-6 directory lists Belding Bros. of California as successors to Carlson-Currier, and Belding purchased the Petaluma mill property in 1917. Later corporate mergers added Heminway and Corticelli to the firm name. Silk manufacture was discontinued at the site in 1929 but the plant continued in operation. In 1940 Sunset Line & Twine Co. of San Francisco purchased the building and has since manufactured there. From the beginning, local managers have been prominent in the area: Frank Brown, manager from 1892 til 1923; Jasper Woodson, a mayor of Petaluma, manager from 1923 until after the purchase by Sunset; the Agnew family since that time.

\* Among the blueprints listed in the appendix is the plan by Jos. Wagner Mfg. Co., San Francisco, for the overhead shaft and power delivery system.

\*\* In fact, labor problems had already developed (16), and were to occur again in the 40's.

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The building too underwent change. Petaluma experienced little damage in the April 18, 1906 earthquake,\* though subsequently parts of some buildings were condemned and others, including the new Carnegie Library, were temporarily closed. On April 23 it was announced that Architect Brainerd Jones and Contractors Rodd and Straddling had pronounced the silk mill ready to open; the tower, however, was not to be used. The mill resumed operations on April 24. On April 25 the newspaper headlined "A Big Addition to Silk Mill," reporting that a contract had been awarded to W.C. Straddling for construction of a fireproof brick wing and replacement of the damaged tower; the big brick chimney, apparently also damaged in the quake, was not to be replaced. Brainerd Jones designed this addition (the "new silk vault addition"). Tower repair included new brickwork at the top and substitution of a less steeply pitched roof. (17) No documentation has been to date the new construction, but existing sprinkler system blueprints indicate it had been completed by 1912.

Other blueprints indicate a modest addition was designed in 1921 by Brainerd Jones. But in 1922 business was thriving (18) and instead, the building was almost doubled in size and its original symmetry restored by the addition of a second tower and wing. This addition too was designed by Jones.\*\* These and other plans have been preserved by the present owners of the building and are listed in the appendix.

*\* The earthquake may have at seemed at first an anticlimax after the fire of April 17, which destroyed the "monster and splendid" Petaluma Tanning Company and threatened to engulf all of East Petaluma. At the adjacent silk mill, stored spools and boxes were on fire several times, and silk mill employees were among those who limited the spread of the fire.*

*\*\*His plans include the notation: "All new work must conform with that of present structure. In case of conflict between the Present Building and the Drawing, the Present Building to govern, excepting as to additional structural strength. Floor heights and similar points to correspond with those of present building."*

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Also in the appendix are miscellaneous unique documents related to the history of the mill. A year after the move to Petaluma, Carlson-Currier was among the many Sonoma County exhibitors at the California Midwinter International Exposition in Golden Gate Park, with displays of "silk cocoons, skeins, spools and cloth." (19) A "spool silk battleship was apparently also a part of that display, as depicted on a card in the collection of Ed Mannion, Petaluma historian.

Carlson-Currier figured in the 1912 "first commercial transcontinental truck delivery" sponsored by the American Locomotive Company, builders of the ALCO truck. After a 95-day, 4143-mile trip, Parrot Brand Olive Silk Soap from Philadelphia was delivered to Carlson-Currier in Petaluma. The trip is documented in the Commercial Car Journal, June 3, 1981; photographs from the Mannion collection also document the delivery.

Sunset Line and Twine has carried on the tradition of making news. Local and regional newspapers noted its commission to manufacture a special cording for use in the astronaut program. (20) More recently, the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum has asked them to produce a small amount of braided cord to be used in the restoration of the Fred Wiseman airplane. In 1911 on a flight from Petaluma to Santa Rosa, the Wiseman plane was the first to transport stamped mail. (21)

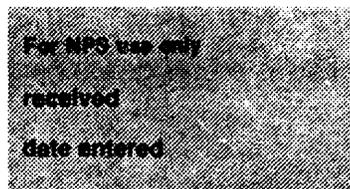
This latest recognition extends the long history of Petaluma's pride in its Silk Mill. It is featured whenever Petaluma architecture, industry, or enterprise is the subject. (22) The historic Petaluma Silk Mill, designed to accommodate the spinning and twisting of silk for fine stitchery, today fulfills specialized requirements of industry and government, continuing to justify the efforts of early entrepreneurs to locate the mill in Petaluma.

ENDNOTES

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Continuation sheet 14

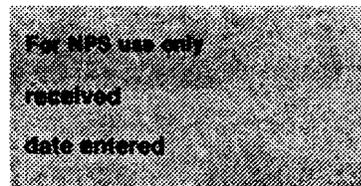
Item number 8

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4. Advertisement, Petaluma Argus, December 18, 1891.
5. California Architect & Building News, Vol. XIII, #7, 7/20/92, p. 84.
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16. Petaluma Argus, 8/22/01, 4/25/03.
17. Petaluma Argus, 4/17/06 - 5/8/06
18. Petaluma Argus, 1/4/22.
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21. Letter, Garry L. Cline, National Air & Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution, to John Agnew, Sunset Line & Twine Co., June 14, 1984;

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Continuation sheet 15

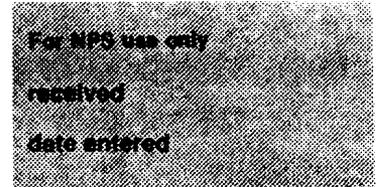
Item number 8

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(sic; actual date August 18, 1984), p.1.
22. "Sunset Line & Twine A Vital Part of City's Business History,"  
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Continuation sheet 16

Item number 9

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For NPS use only
received
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Continuation sheet 17

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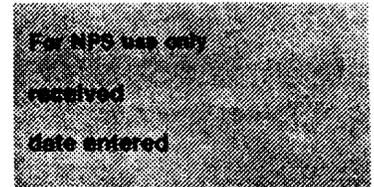
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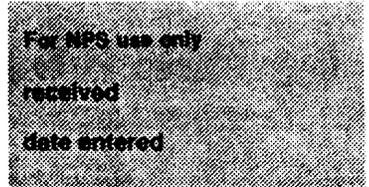
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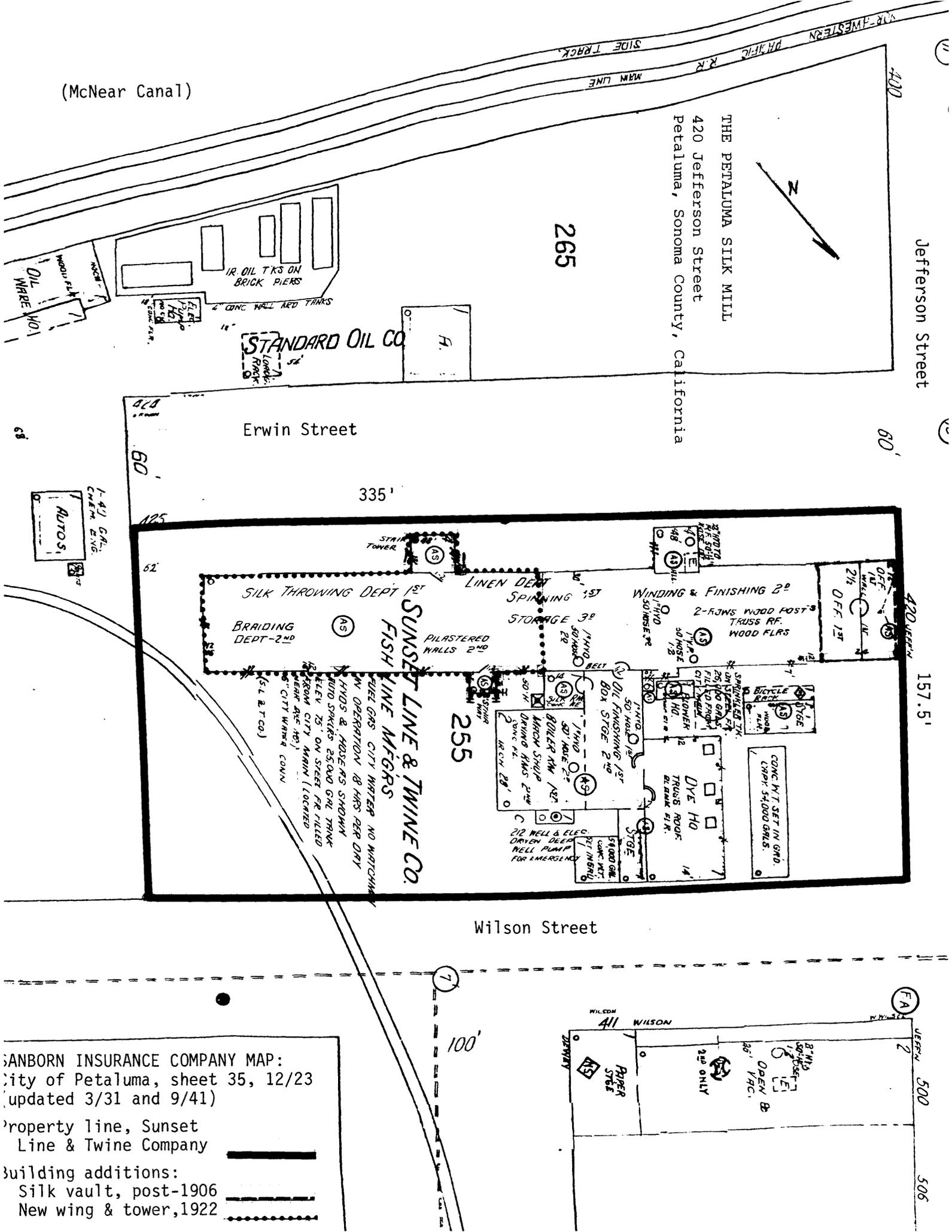
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(McNear Canal)



SANBORN INSURANCE COMPANY MAP:  
 City of Petaluma, sheet 35, 12/23  
 (updated 3/31 and 9/41)

Property line, Sunset  
 Line & Twine Company

Building additions:  
 Silk vault, post-1906  
 New wing & tower, 1922

Jefferson Street

Erwin Street

Wilson Street

157.5'

500  
505

THE PETALUMA SILK MILL.  
420 Jefferson Street  
Petaluma, Sonoma County, California

265

335'

255

100'

STANDARD OIL CO.

SUNSET LINE & TWINE CO.  
FISH LINE MFGRS.

SILK THROWING DEPT 1<sup>ST</sup>  
BRAIDING DEPT-2<sup>ND</sup>

LINEN DEPT  
SPINNING 1<sup>ST</sup>  
STORAGE 3<sup>RD</sup>

WINDING & FINISHING 2<sup>ND</sup>  
2-RJWS WOOD POST  
TRUSS RF.  
WOOD FLRS

DYE DEPT  
TRUSS ROOF  
BRASS 21 R.

OIL FINISHING 1<sup>ST</sup>  
BOX STAGE 2<sup>ND</sup>

BOILER RM  
MARCH SHED  
DRYING RM  
MACH 2<sup>ND</sup>

CONC. WT. SET IN GND.  
CAPAC. 54,000 GALS.

RAIL GNS CITY WATER NO WATCHMAN  
 IN OPERATION 18 HRS PER DAY  
 HYDS & HOSES AS SHOWN  
 AUTO SPRINGS 25,000 GAL TRANK  
 ELEV. 75' ON STEEL FR. FILLED  
 FROM CITY MAIN (LOCATED  
 NEAR 4<sup>TH</sup> ST.)  
 CITY WATER CONN.  
 (SIL & T CO.)

212 WELL & ELEC.  
DRYEN DEEP  
WELL PUMP  
FOR EMERGENCY

1-41/ GNL.  
CNEM. ENG.  
AUTOS.

OIL WARE  
WOOD FLK  
MACH.

19 OIL TKS ON  
BRICK PIERS  
4" CONC. WALL AND TANKS

1-41/ GNL.  
CNEM. ENG.  
AUTOS.

## APPENDICES

- A. Photographs of original plans for Carlson-Currler Silk Mill, C.I. Havens, architect, dated March 14, 1982
  - B. List of plans and blueprints
  - C. Historic photographs of the silk mill
  - D. Some notable buildings designed by C.I. Havens (with citations)
-

APPENDIX A  
PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE ORIGINAL PLANS

The plans for Carlson-Currier silk mill in Petaluma bear the notations "Plans referred to in a contract of this date, San Francisco, March 14, 1892," and "C.I. Havens. Archt. 55 Flood Bldg." Pages are signed variously by Havens, "J.P. Currier, Vice Pres. & Sec.," "Hedges," and "Hedges & Paff."

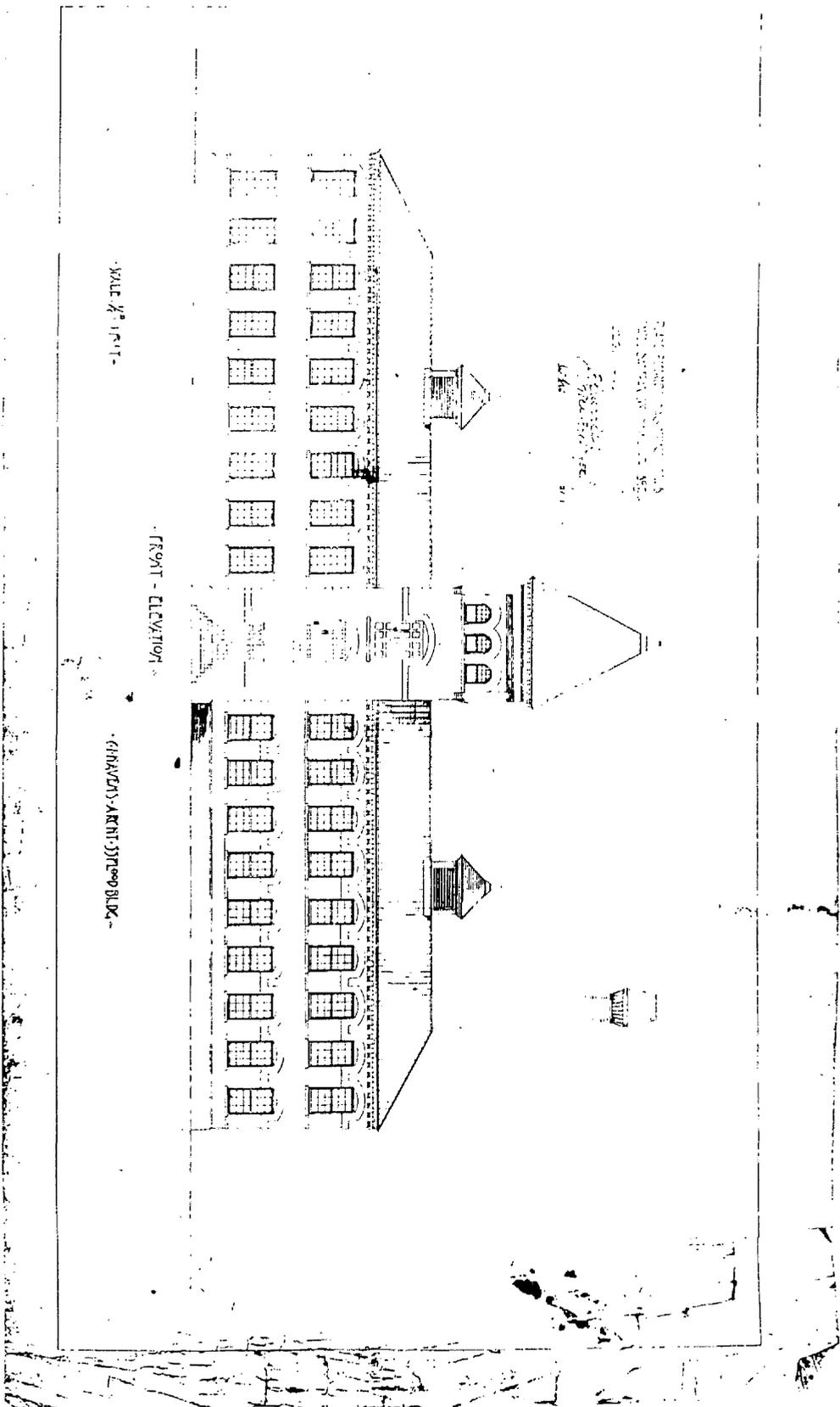
Pasted on linen and in two sizes (17" x 30" and 24" x 30"), the nine sheets are fastened together at the left edge with a brown paper cover. "Belding Bros & Co.," written in pencil on the left edge of the cover, may have been added later. Scale is generally 1/8" = 1'.

Details vary in some respects from the building as constructed, notably in the tower. Plans show a taller tower and on each face of the tower, just under the pyramid roof, a trio of small windows with rounded arches. Front tower windows and entrance appear more elaborate. A view from the southwest, not included in these plans but apparently drawn by Havens and incorporating the same details, is pictured in newspaper articles after the building was completed (Petaluma Courier Special issue, 10/19/91) and was used in the Petaluma City Directory as late as 1895.

The plans are the property of Sunset Line & Twine, who are taking steps to preserve them. Photographs and slides of the plans were made by the Department of History, Sonoma State University.

Plans, in the order bound, are:

- Front elevation
- Left end elevation
- Right end elevation
- Rear elevation
- Second floor plan
- Section through dye house etc. (scale 1/4"=1')
- Transversal section (scale 1/4"=1')
- First floor plan
- Plan of foundations

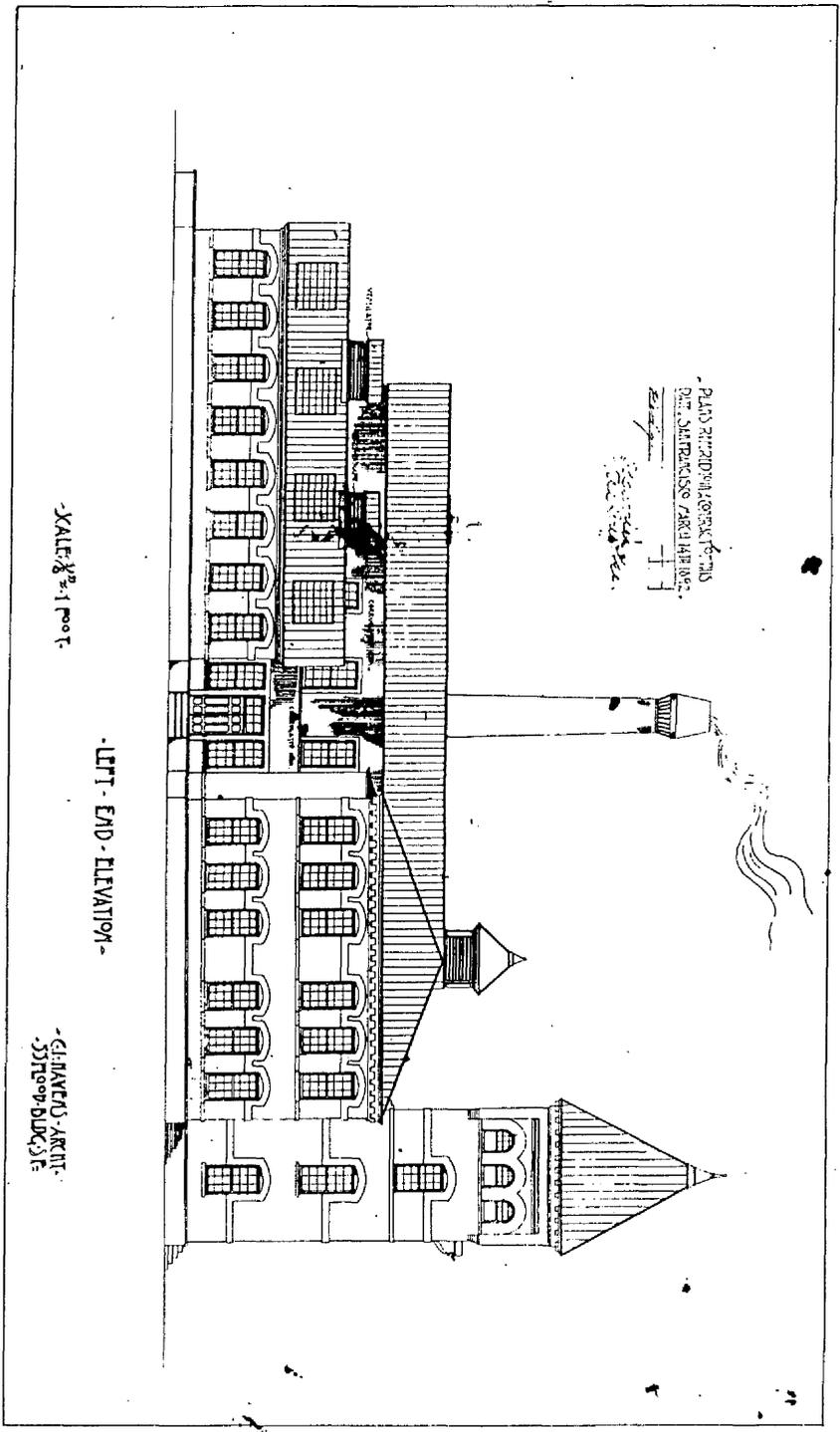


SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

FRONT - ELEVATION

GRANDS - ARCHITECTS BLDG.

Handwritten notes and a signature, possibly "L. H. H.", are present in the upper right quadrant of the drawing.

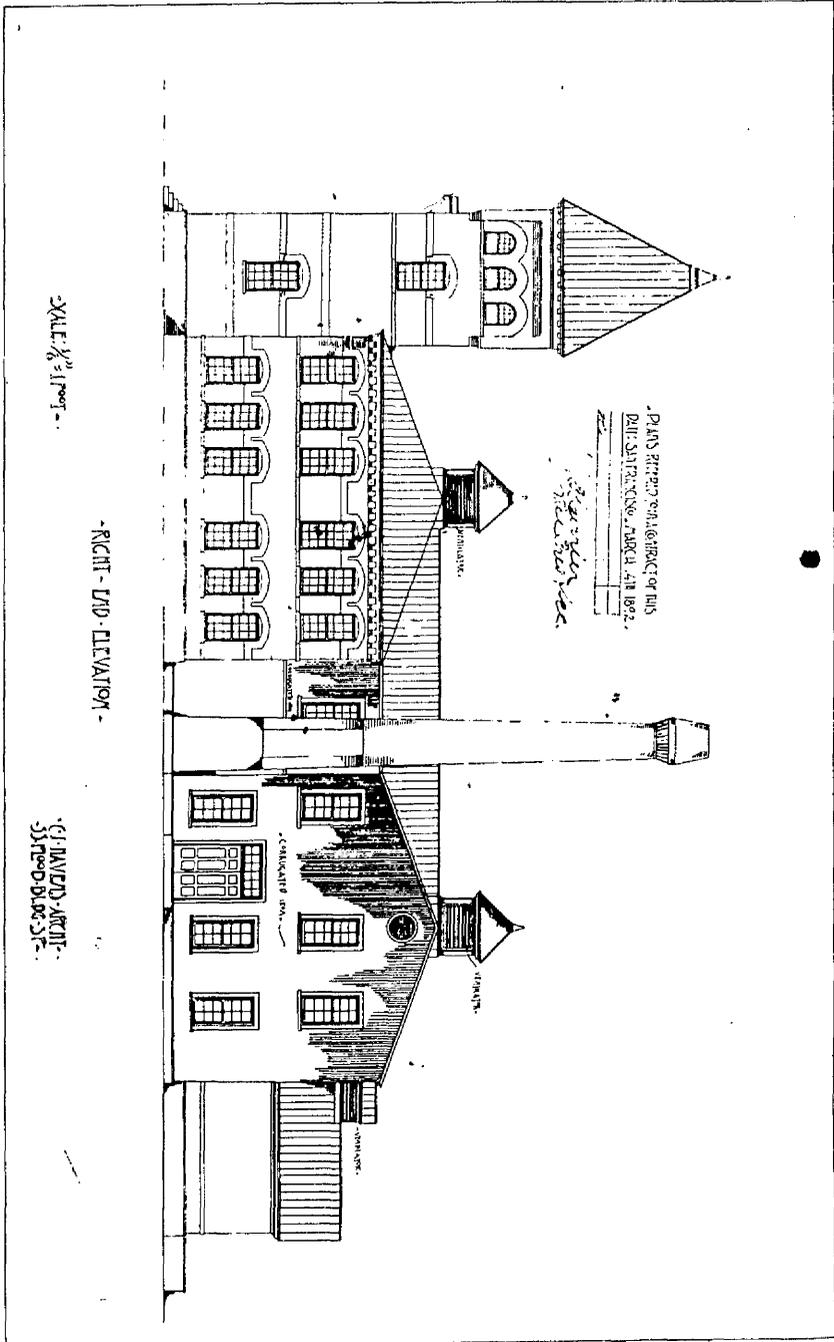


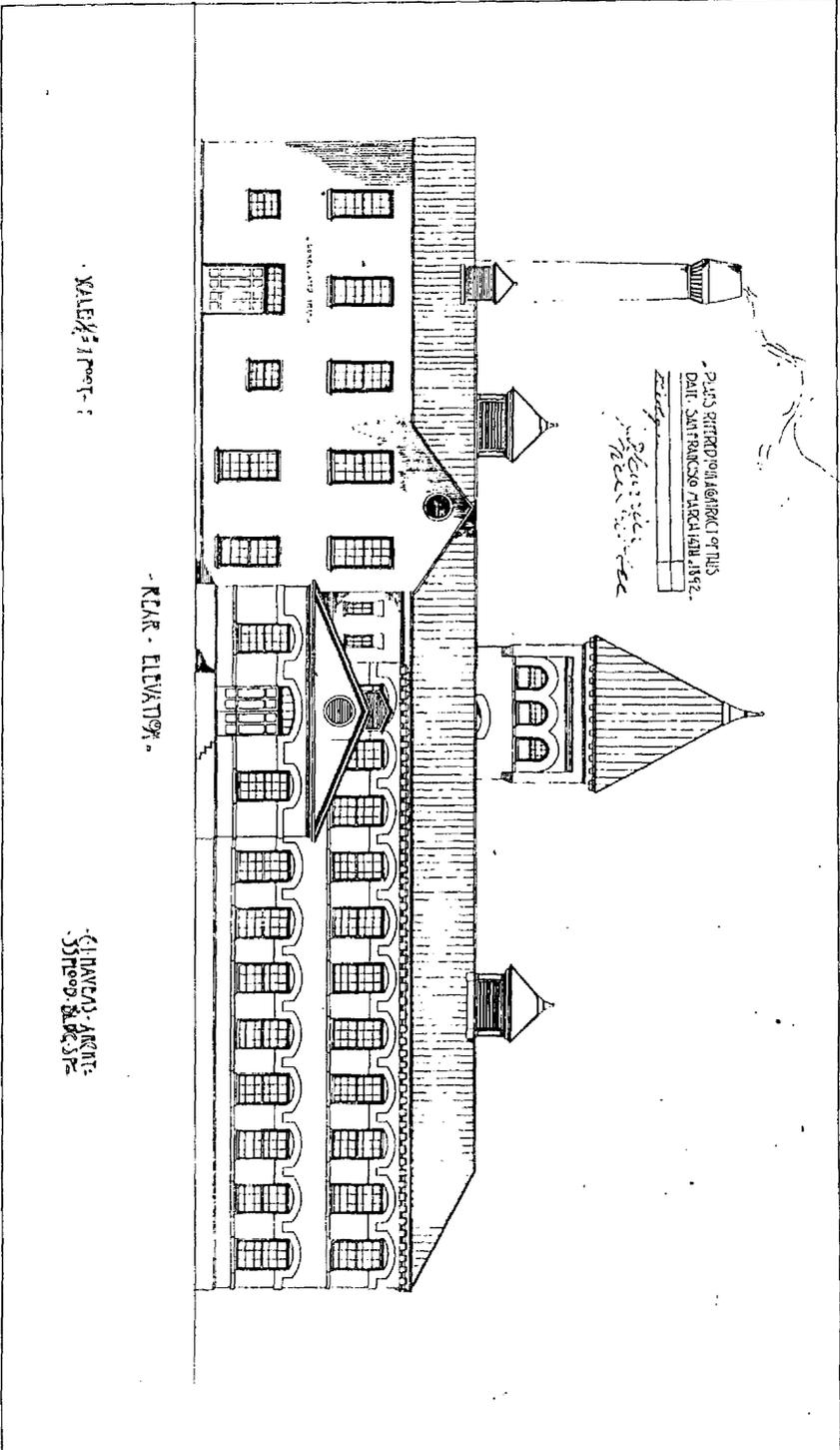
SCALE 3/8" = 1 FOOT

LEFT END ELEVATION

GLAVENS ARCHT  
551909 BLDG

PLANS BY J. D. W. L. & CO. ARCHT  
DET. SHREVE & PARKER ARCHT



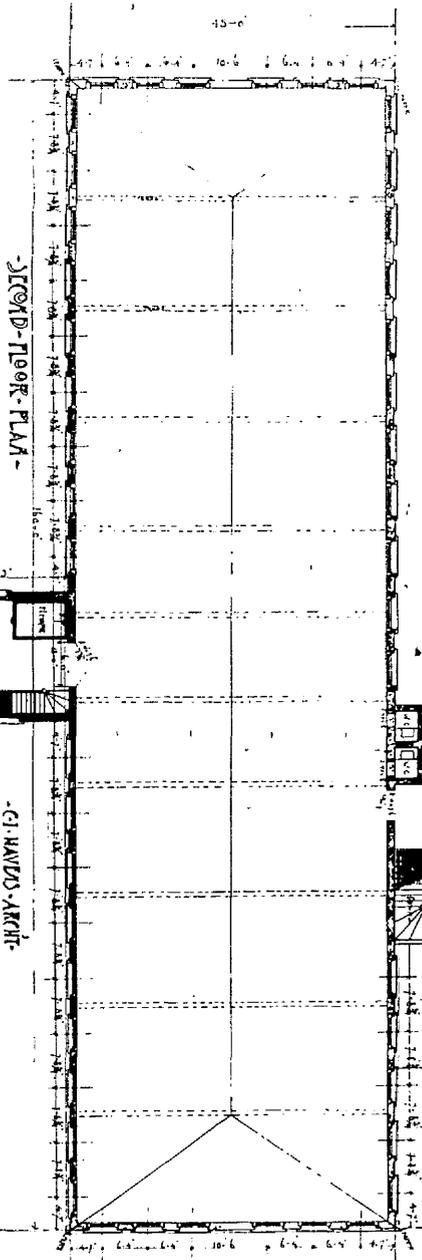


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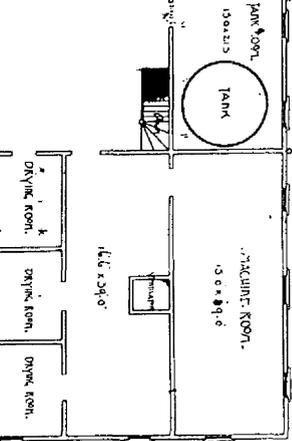
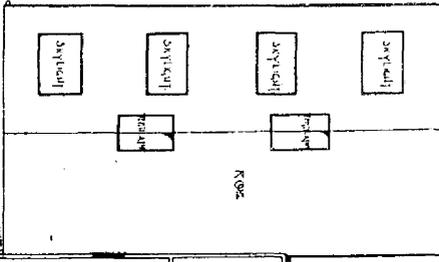
REAR ELEVATION

DESIGNED BY  
STEPHEN B. WOOD

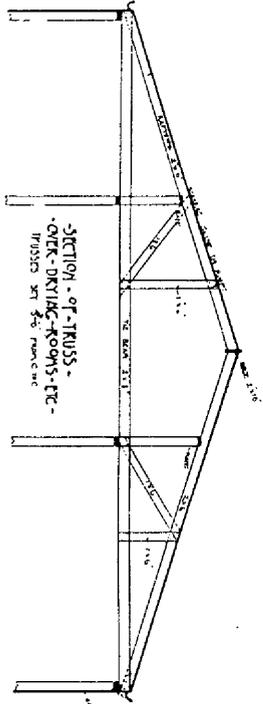
PLANS SUPERIOR INDUSTRIAL SYSTEMS  
 1200 SOUTH PARKWAY, SUITE 100  
 CHICAGO, ILL. 60606  
 312-467-1100  
 312-467-1101



1ST FLOOR PLAN -  
 1st Floor



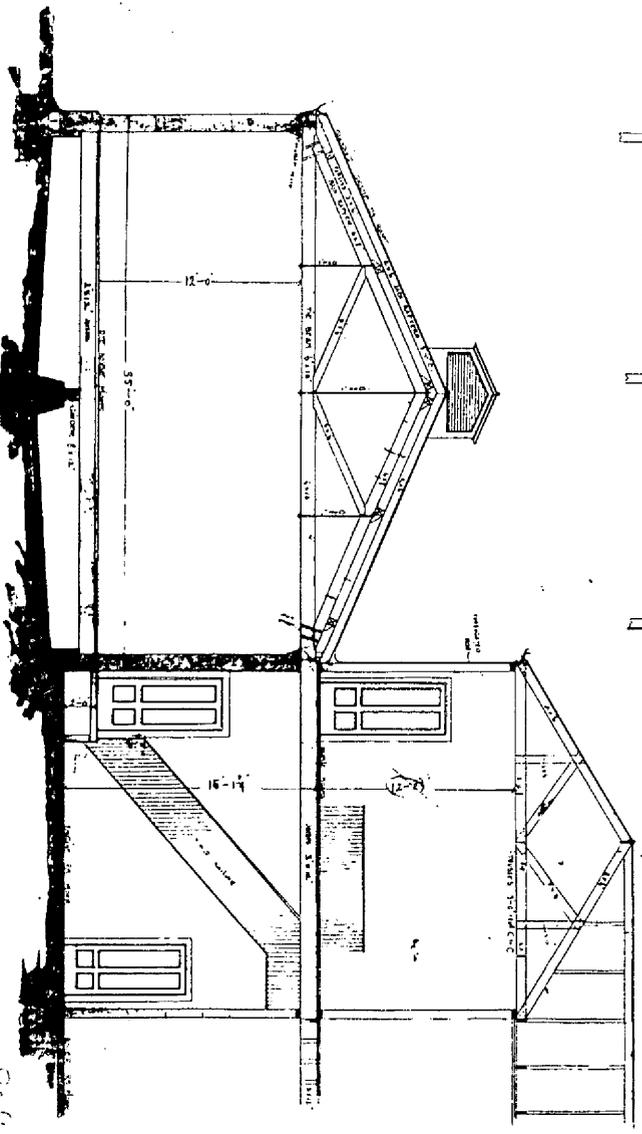
1ST FLOOR PLAN -  
 1st Floor



SECTION - OF - TRUSS -  
OVER - DRYING - ROOMS - ETC -  
PRESSED BY THE ARCHITECT

PLANS REPRODUCED BY THE ARCHITECT OF THIS  
DATE SAN FRANCISCO MARCH 14th 1892

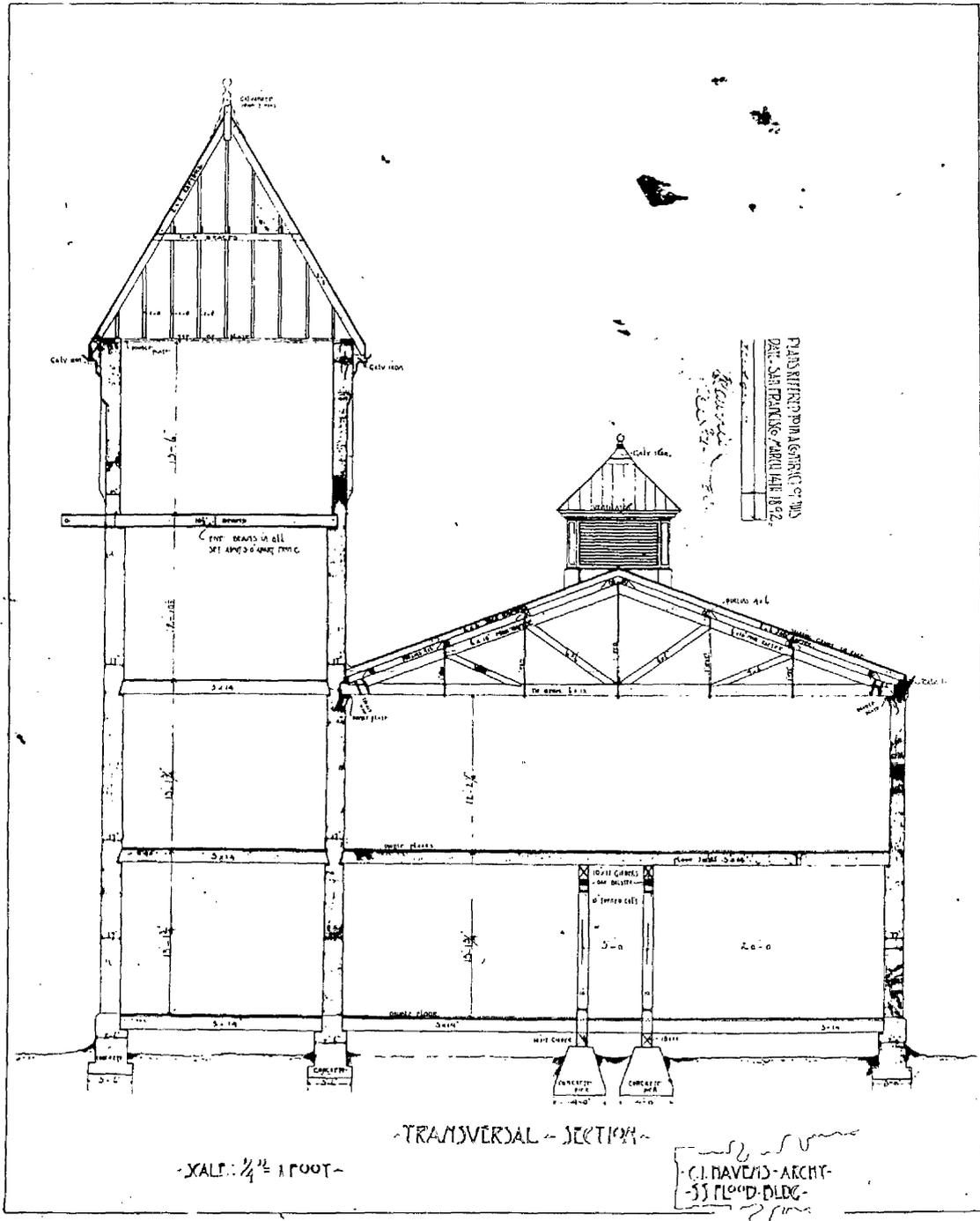
*Handwritten signature*



SCALE: 1/4" = 1 FOOT

SECTION - THROUGH - DYE - HOUSE - ETC -

CLARENCE ARCHITECT  
33 FIFTH BLDG ST  
SAN FRANCISCO

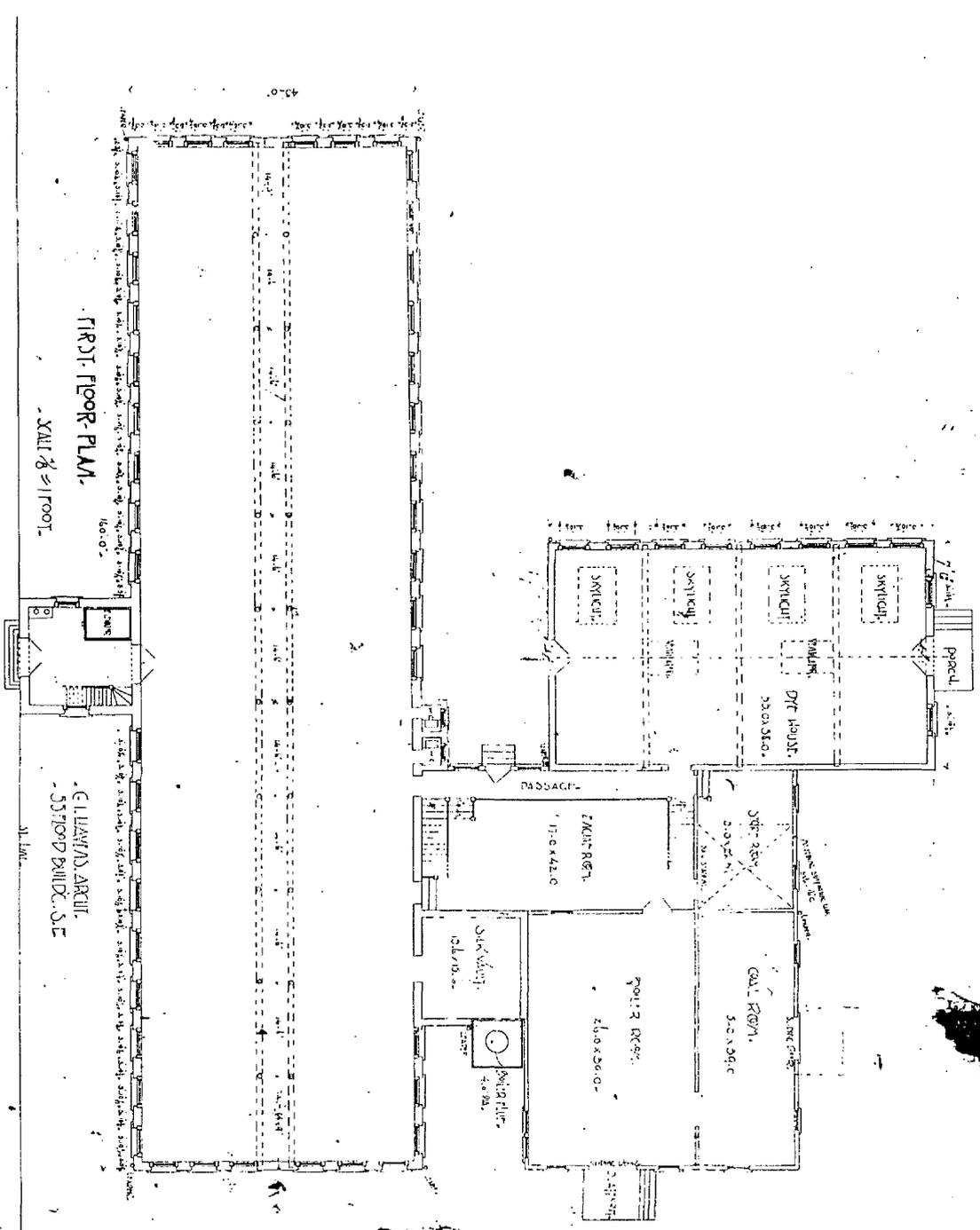


PLANS REFERRED TO IN A REPORT OF THE  
 DIST. SANITARY ENGINEER APRIL 14th 1922.

- TRANSVERSAL - SECTION -

- SCALE: 1/4" = 1 FOOT -

C. J. DAVIS - ARCHT -  
 55 FLOOD BLDG -

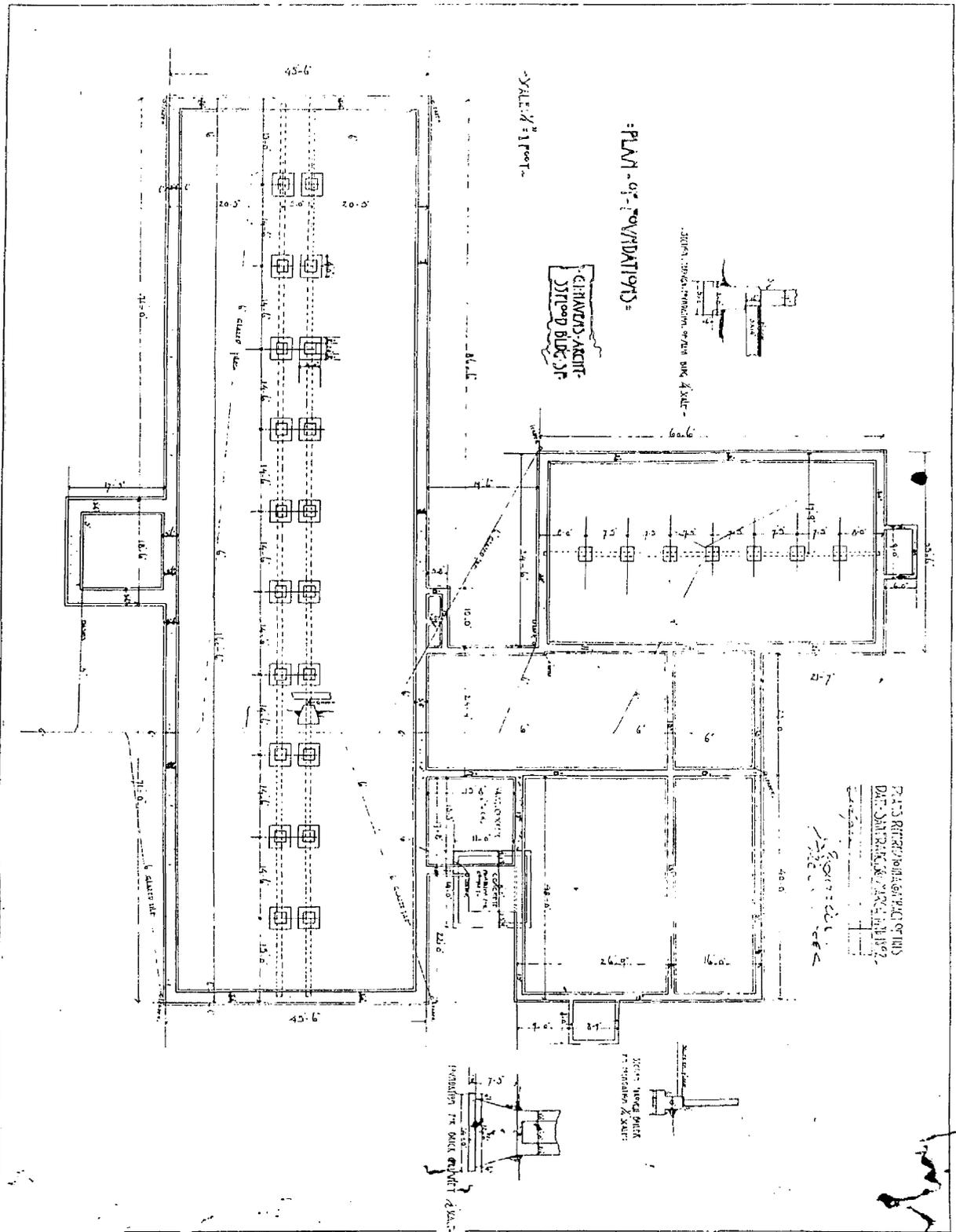


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE 1/8" = 1 FOOT

G. L. LAMOND, ARCHT.  
55 FIFTH AVENUE, N.Y.C.

11.11.11



PLAN OF FOUNDATIONS

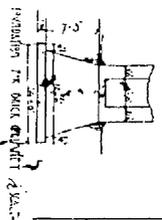
SCALE: 1/4" = 1 FOOT

CHANGING ARCHITECTURE  
STEEL BEAMS

NOTE: DIMENSIONS FROM SINK & STOVE

2133 RIVERVIEW DRIVE  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75229  
DATE: 11/15/72  
BY: [Signature]

NOTE: WOOD BEAM  
FOUNDATION & WALL



APPENDIX B  
BLUEPRINTS AND INSURANCE SITE PLANS

Blueprints, "Addition to Present Mill B'ld'g of Carlson-Currier Company, Petaluma, Cal." (The silk vault addition)

Plan No. 17-G, undated, of Brainerd Jones, Architect, 614 Washington Street, Petaluma, scale 1/1"=1'. Two sheets. Plans show that there were originally six windows, in pairs of three, at ends of the building, as shown in Havens' drawings. The windows were sealed off by this 19'4" extension of the north wing. The second floor of the new wing had just four windows, evenly spaced. The silk vault was on the first floor and was surrounded by 26' thick walls on all four sides with no outside door or windows.

Blueprint for Carlson-Currier by Jos. Wagner Mfg. Co., 134-6 Main St., San Francisco.

Undated plan on one sheet, for overhead shaft and power delivery system.

Blueprints, Sprinkler Plan for Silk Mill, Carlson Currier Co. Automatic Sprinkler Co. of America, 123-133 Williams St., New York City, 1/18/12.

#11518, first floor; #11519, second floor (two copies); #11520, attic (two copies). Plans show that the silk vault extension had been completed prior to this installation.

Blueprint, Watertower.

One page plan for 65' tower to hold water tank for Carlson-Currier Silk Co., Petaluma Calif., is undated and unsigned.

Blueprints with attached letter, "Estimate of Probable Cost of Addition to Silk Mill, Petaluma Calif." 11/16/21.

Plans bearing signature and seal of Brainerd Jones, are for a proposed 60' extension of the south wing for Belding & Co. The accompanying letter itemizes costs totaling \$13,995.85 plus 3% architect fee with no supervision, 3% more if supervision. Letterhead indicates that Jones' office, at 110 Washington Street, has a "phone connection." The plans were not used.

Blueprints for the addition of second tower and new wing.

This set of Brainerd Jones' Plan No. 2aW, which also bear his seal, is untitled and undated. There are nine sheets: first floor, second floor and tower, tower and stairs, roof, west elevation, east elevation, south elevation, foundation, and plan for rainwater disposal.

Blueprints, Sprinkler Plan: Belding Bros. & Co., Petaluma Calif. Automatic Sprinkler Co. of American, Engineering Department, Youngstown Ohio and New York NY. 8/29/22.

Plans show addition of new tower and south wing, indicate where walls were removed and where new sprinkler heads are to be installed and old ones reinstalled. Two sheets (first floor and towers; second floor and attic).

Site Plan, Belding Bros. & Co., Silk, Petaluma, Cal. Associated Mutual Insurance Co. 11/19/25.

Serial #17194, Index #76200, 1 sheet, shows plan of mill and adjacent land, and water supplies. Photograph taken from the northeast shows the rear of the building, water tower, dye house, and covered reservoir.

*Note: The above are the property of Sunset Line & Twine. They contain extensive architectural detail, but they are very fragile. Plans are being made to mount and photograph them, after which they should be subjected to extensive examination.*

## APPENDIX C HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs #1 and #2 show the 1892 mill with single tower topped by a steep pyramid roof. Two rows of nine windows each flank the central tower. The tall smokestack is visible beyond the roofline. Neither photograph is dated but both must pre-date the 1906 earthquake. #1 is from the collection of Ed Mannion, Petaluma historian. #2 is from James Milliken's 1901 Sonoma County Illustrated.

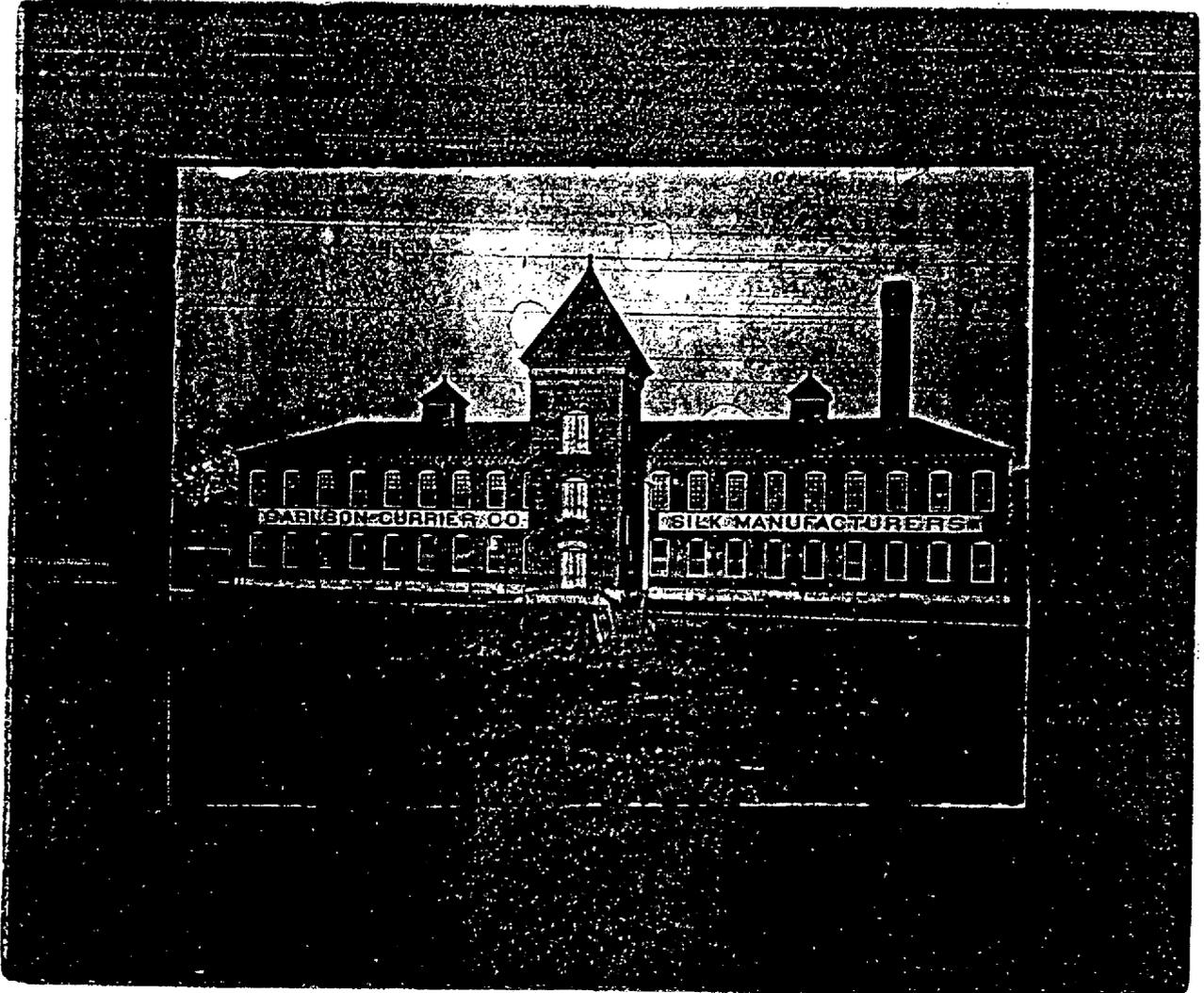
Photographs #3 and #4, also undated, show the silk vault extension, seen as two additional windows on the second floor of the left wing. The first floor silk vault was windowless. Plans for the silk vault were announced just after the 1906 earthquake which damaged the tower and smokestack; the smokestack was not to be replaced. Several rows of bricks were added to the top of the tower and a less steep roof substituted. A new sign was added in the blank space created by the taller tower. #3 is from Ed Mannion; #4 is from the Petaluma Museum Association.

Photograph #5 shows the water tower which was in place by early 1912 when the sprinkler system was added. The "Belding Bros. & Co." sign replacing "Carlson Carrier" dates Photograph #6 after the 1915-6 merger. In both, the growth of trees is noticeable.

Photograph #7 shows the 1922 addition of the second tower and new south wing; there are now eleven windows in each wing and twelve in the center section. The "Sunset Line & Twine" sign dates the photograph after 1940. In the foreground may be seen the wreck of the Steamer Petaluma (formerly the Resolute) which burned, with its valuable cargo, in McNear Canal March 22, 1914. The historic hulk is still visible at low tide.

The 1892 mill viewed from the Steamer Gold Landing, at the head of the turning basin of McNear Canal, is seen in photograph #8. The mill is visible today from the old landing site.

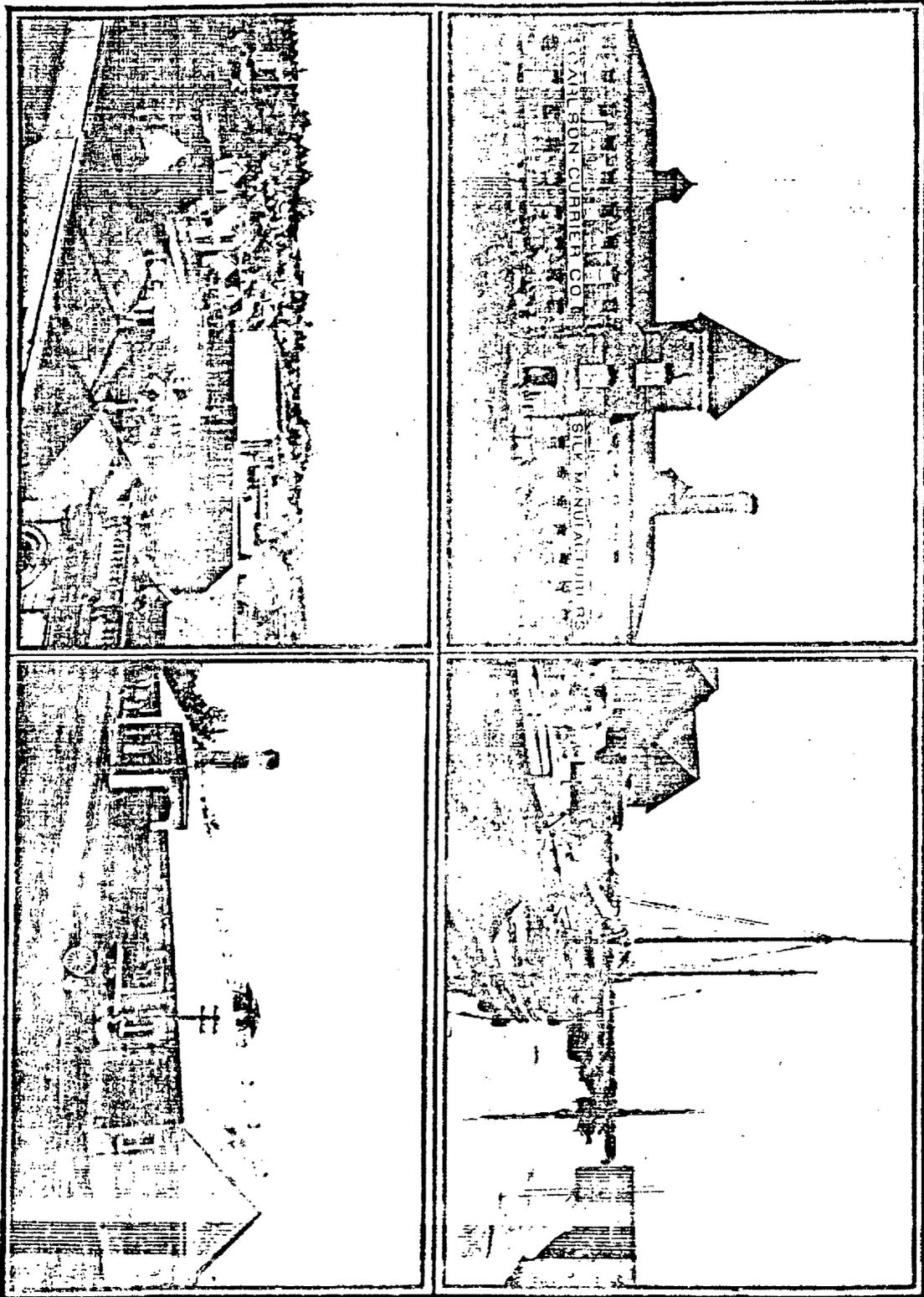
Photographs #5, #6, #7, and #8 are also from the Ed Mannion collection.



Carlson-Currier Co., Petaluma California

Silk Mill as constructed, in 1892

Undated photograph  
from the collection of Ed Mannion.

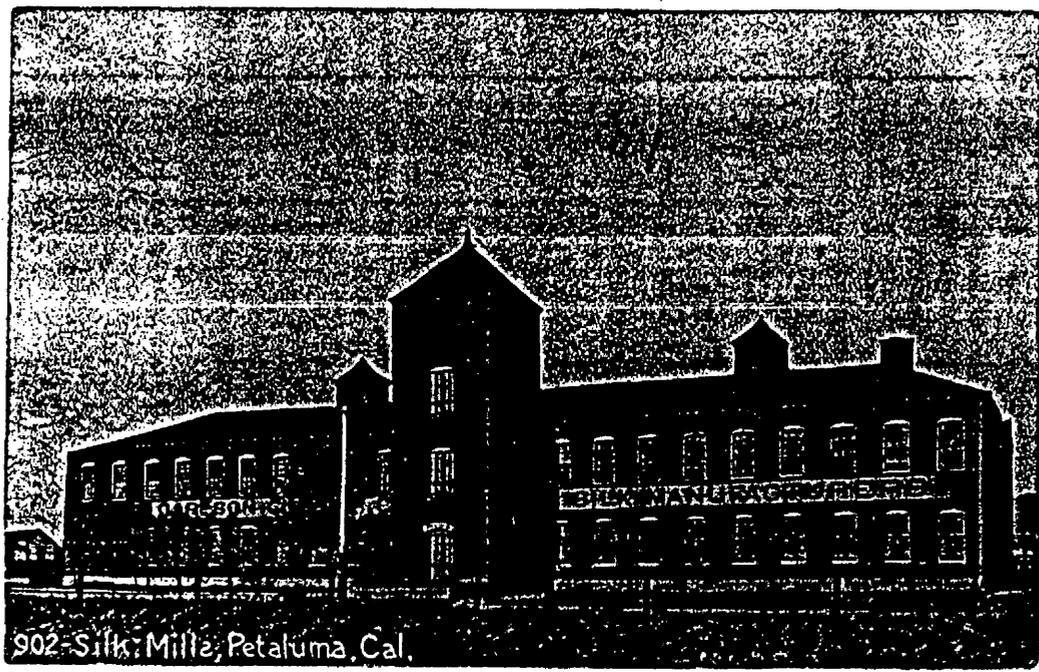


CARLSON-CURRIET SHIP CO.  
Bird's Eye View

PETALUMA

View of Creek  
Cold Storage Plant

#3



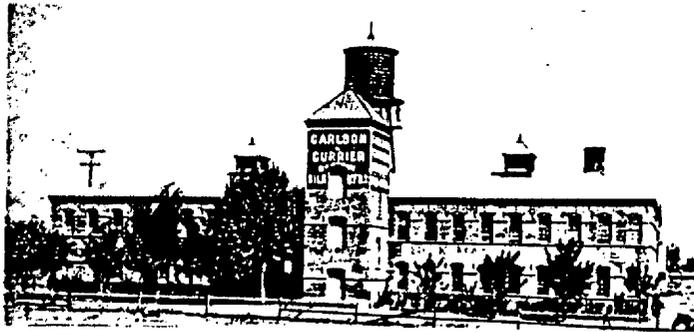
from the collection of Ed Mannion

#4



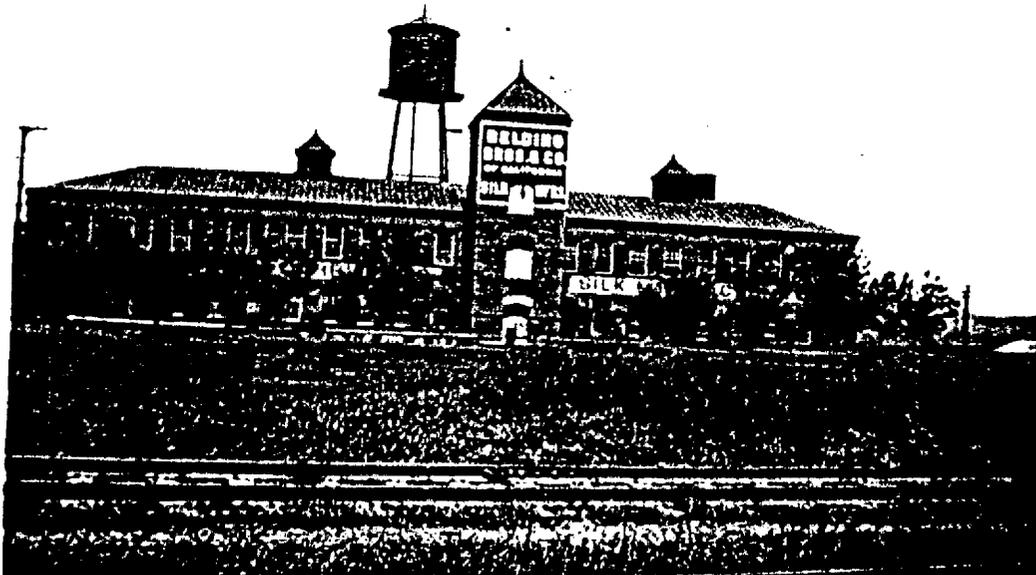
from the collection of the  
Petaluma Museum Association

#5

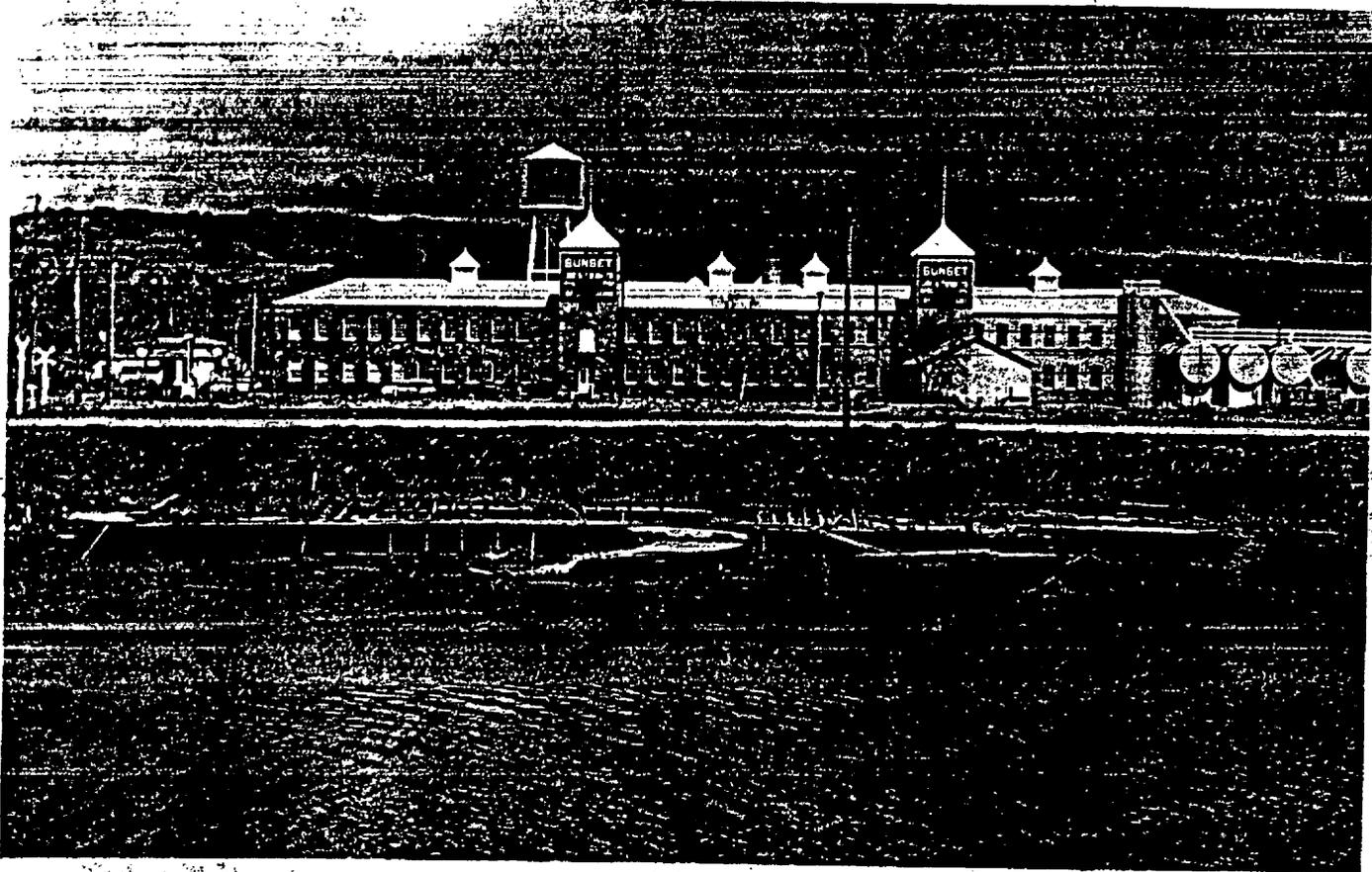


from the collection of Ed Mannion

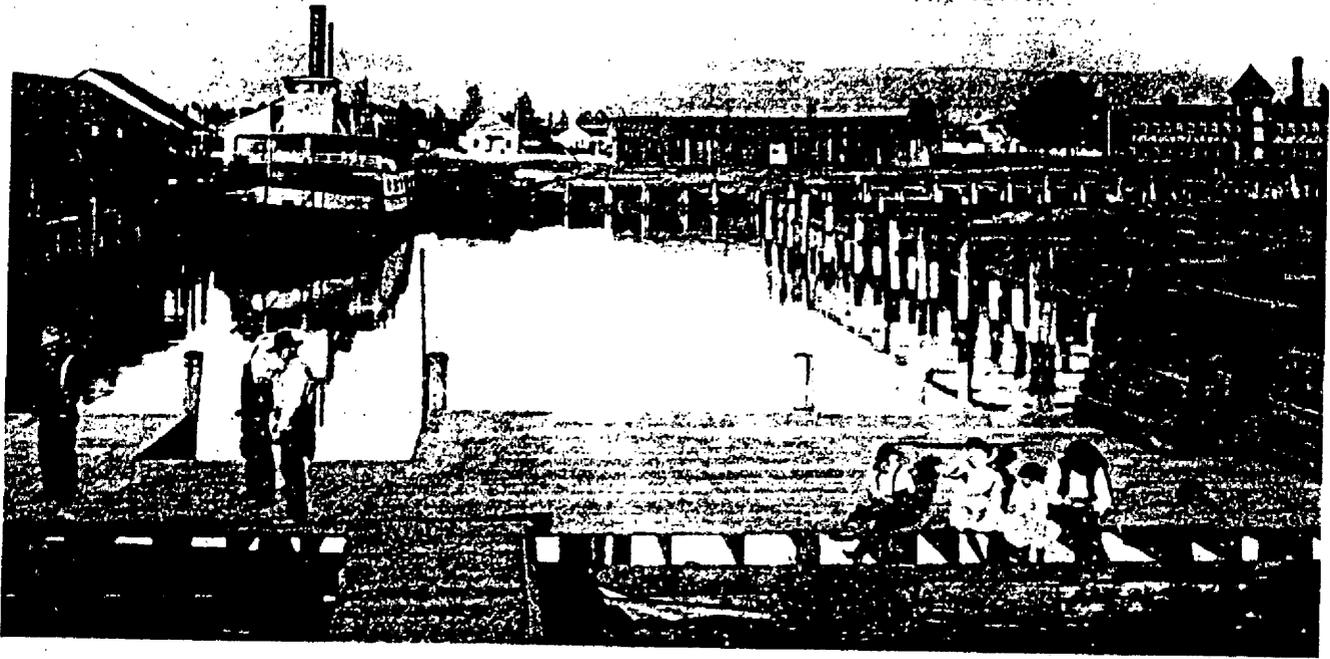
#6



from the collection of Ed Mannion



from the collection of Ed Mannion



The Petaluma Silk Mill  
as constructed in 1892  
viewed from Steamer Gold Landing  
From the collection of Ed Mannion

APPENDIX D  
NOTABLE BUILDINGS DESIGNED BY CHARLES I. HAVENS

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Building</u>	<u>Source of Information</u>
<u>1881-1896: with Peter R. Schmidt</u>			
1884	1381 S. Van Ness (was 3835 Howard)	Residence for Self	<u>Here Today</u> , p. 107 Victorian Alliance
1885	943 S. Van Ness (was 2417 Howard)	Residence for John F. English	Victorian Alliance
<u>1886-1896: sole practice</u>			
1889?	1463 McAllister	residence	Alamo Square Historic District
1891	Fell & Steiner (603 Steiner)	Scobie House (now Ohlandt House)	CABN v. XII, n.4, 4/20/91 Alamo Square Historic District
1892	Petaluma	Silk Mill	Petaluma <u>Courier</u> 10/19/92
1892	San Francisco	3rd City Hall (partial)	City Directory: Board Architect
<u>1896-1913: Havens &amp; Toepke</u>			
1897	San Francisco	Yacht Club of 1897	Victorian Alliance
1905? ?		bungalow	<u>A&amp;E</u> October 1905 drawing
1906? San Francisco		"picturesque"	<u>A&amp;E</u> November 1906 drawing
1906? Presidio Terrace		Merritt residence	<u>A&amp;E</u> November 1906 drawing (identified at 15 Presidio Ter.)
1908	San Mateo	Elks Lodge	Victorian Alliance
1908	48-52 Kearny	Maskey Bldg.	<u>Splendid Survivors</u> , p. 137 Obits <u>A&amp;E</u> , SR <u>Rep</u> , SF <u>Chron</u>
1909	153 Kearny	Bartlett Doe Bldg.	<u>Splendid Survivors</u> , p. 139
1909	San Francisco	Mission High School	Victorian Alliance Obits SR <u>Rep</u> , SF <u>Chron</u>
1913	540-548 Market	Flatiron Bldg.	<u>Splendid Survivors</u> , p.79 Obits, <u>A&amp;E</u> , SR <u>Rep</u>
<u>Questions</u>			
	Wiley B. Allen San Mateo	?	Obits <u>A&amp;E</u> , SF <u>Chron</u> , Withey Obits <u>A&amp;E</u> , SF <u>Chron</u> , SR <u>Rep</u> ,
		Old Tanforan Race Track Buildings	Petaluma <u>Argus</u>
	San Francisco	Old Liebes Bldg.	Obit SR <u>Rep</u> (listed "unknown" in <u>Splendid Survivors</u> )