

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

RECEIVED 2280

JUL 15 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co.

Other names/site number:

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 12 Porter Street

City or town: Taunton State: Massachusetts County: Bristol

Not For Publication: [] Vicinity: []

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [checked] 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 [checked] meets [] does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

[] national [] statewide [X] local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

[X] A [] B [X] C [] D

Signature of certifying official: Brona Simon, SHPO Date: July 13, 2016 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

M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co.

Bristol, Massachusetts

Name of Property

County and State

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 Andrus

8/29/2016

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing
7

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

structures

objects

7

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.)

INDUSTRY/ manufacturing facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

OTHER: Mid to Late 19th Century minimally Classical Revival Factory Buildings

OTHER: Mid 20th Century Factory Buildings

Materials:

Principal exterior materials of the property:

FOUNDATION: Stone; Brick; Concrete

WALLS: Brick; Weatherboard

ROOF: Asphalt; Rubber membrane

Summary Paragraph

M.M. Rhodes & Sons Co. is a small complex of seven manufacturing buildings constructed at various times from ca. 1865 to 1960, tightly grouped on a 1.9-acre polygonal lot fronting Porter Street in the city of Taunton, MA (Figures 1-4). The buildings range from one to three stories in height, and are of brick bearing wall, wood-frame, and metal-frame construction, with gable, flat, and clerestory roofs. All of the buildings are in essentially unaltered condition, and, with minor exceptions, retain their original exterior and interior designs and materials.

Narrative Description

The M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co. manufacturing complex consists of the following buildings (see Figure 3, Building Sketch & Key to Photos), most of which are minimally Classical revival in style. (Note that Porter Street runs about 30 degrees northeast, and for simplicity the front and back sides of each building parallel to the street are referred to as the west or east side, respectively, and the left and right sides [facing the buildings] are referred to as the north and south sides.) The buildings are described below in chronological order of construction, starting with the oldest.

A. PAINT SHOP (ca.1865)

Contributing Building

Exterior: This 1½-story, wood-frame structure (Photos 1-5) is the oldest of the Rhodes buildings. The main portion of the structure, which runs parallel to Porter Street, is 62 feet by 44 feet (Photos 1, 2; Figures 3, 5-9). Physical evidence indicates that the main building has been added to five times between 1865 and 1922.¹ The main building appears to have been built in two

¹ Marc N. Belanger, industrial historian and president of the Southern New England Chapter of the Society of Industrial Archeology, presents the probable construction history of the complex in *Shoe Buttons, Liberty Laces & Insulated Staples: 153 years of M.M. Rhodes & Sons Company, Taunton, Mass.*, published by author, 2015.

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sections, with the north half built between 1865 and 1875 and the south half built between 1881 and 1888. The roof of each section is gabled, with two rectangular cupolas on the ridge line. The two gable roofs are bridged by a flat-roofed section supporting a central cupola (Photos 1-5; Figures 5-8). Each gable roof has two rectangular cupolas with windows for light and ventilation (Photos 3, 4; Figures 5, 6). Each of the four gabled cupolas is nine feet, four inches by three feet, eight inches, running lengthwise along the ridge. The cupolas on one ridge are parallel to those on the other. Each cupola has three six-light sash along the eave sides. The sash are hinged and operated by a rope and pulley from below to allow ventilation in the summer months. The central cupola is six foot, eight inches square with two six-light sash on each side, also operable by a rope from below. There are two skylights, one on each roof slope (Photos 3, 4). A complex two-way system of trusses supports the roof, with two eight-inch-square posts in the middle (Photo 25; Figures 5-8).

The building retains most of the original clapboards and 6/6 windows. Wood-frame and brick additions dating to the late 19th and early 20th centuries extend off the north and south ends and the rear (further described below). There are four chimneys in the structure that vent four banks of steam-heated drying ovens (Photos 3-5). The location of the three interior chimneys is shown on Figure 7. The fourth is an exterior chimney on the back wall, serving the bank of ovens shown on Figure 7 as "Large Oven #2." The chimney is not shown on Figure 7, but is visible as the left-most chimney in Photo 3.

Interior: The interior of the Paint Shop is an open space, with the oven banks taking up much of the room (Photos 23, 24; Figures 7, 8). The large ovens were fitted with a specialized rail system for loading product (Photo 23; Figure 9). The floor is paved with brick.

Additions: Additions were made to the sides and rear of the Paint Shop during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, according to the owners. The sequence and dates of their construction is not known. The north addition (Photos 2, 3) is one story with a low-pitch gable roof and original clapboard siding, measuring 24 feet, eight inches by 27 feet. There are three original, 6/6 wood windows on each of the three exposed sides. A solid plank pedestrian door is located on the gable end. The interior walls and floor are brick, and there are two metal-clad wood fire doors inside separating the addition from the main Paint Shop (see Figure 7).

The rear addition is 48 feet by eight feet, visible on the left in Photo 3, from above in Photo 10, and shown on Figures 7 and 8 as "Part of Addition" and "Large Oven # 2." Its low-pitched gable roof is tied into the Engine/Blacksmith & Boiler House roof ("Engine House," Building C); the back wall is brick and serves as a party wall with the Engine House. A wide, wood service door with eight lights is set in an arched opening on the north wall (Photo 10). To the left is a narrower, metal-clad, wood door leading into the Engine House. Both doors are shown in Figures 7 and 8. The floor is brick.

The south addition (Photos 1, 4, 5) is brick and measures 18 feet by 38 feet, with a low-slope shed roof tied into the gabled roof of the main Paint Shop. Windows are all original, wood, 6/6

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sash in segmental-arched openings on the front and rear. The openings are headed with the same brick, double header-course arches used in the entire complex. The windows on the south side are flat-headed openings: the wood wall-plate beam that carries the rafters also serves as window headers. A single wood pedestrian door in an arched opening is located on the rear. The interior is divided into two rooms with sliding, metal-clad wood doors to separate them from the main Paint Shop (Figure 7). The front room (fronting Porter Street) is 15 feet by 18 feet; the back room is 23 feet by 18 feet. The floors are brick.

B. FACTORY (1880)

Contributing Building

The three-story brick Factory Building fronts Porter Street, and is of typical fireproof mill building construction (Photos 6-9). It measures 30 by 100 feet, three bays wide by thirteen bays deep, and rests on a stone foundation. The roof is slightly pitched from the longitudinal center line to the sides, with an overhang of about two feet. A simple brick cornice projects a few inches on all four sides. Projecting from the cornice midway along the south side is the original cantilevered, timber hoisting beam with integral chain-fall hoist. The hoist serves freight doors on all three floors (the doors are further described below). The original chain with forged lifting hook passes over sheaves in the beam to wind onto an overhead steel drum, originally turned by the factory line-shaft belt-drive system. The belt is now powered by electric motor, but the original reversing transmission remains in service.

Classical Revival-style window and door openings are segmentally arched, with a mix of soldier and rowlock (header) courses. Window sills are wood. The aforementioned freight doors on the south side of the building consist of solid, paneled-wood doors, centered under the hoist (Photo 8). The first-floor door is paired with small "peep" windows, apparently added later. The upper doors are single leaf, with wood safety gates placed on the outside.

The main entrance of this building is centered on the narrow end fronting Porter Street (Photo 7). It retains the original eight-foot-tall, raised-panel double doors with original hardware, granite steps, and arched transom light. Original paired, 1/1 windows flank the door; all other windows in the building are original wood, 6/6, double-hung sash, as are most other windows in the complex. All other entry doors are original; in fact, nearly every original feature of the building, inside and out, remains unaltered, and in some cases with original finish.

The interior of the Factory consists of an office area just inside the front entry, with the remainder of the first floor and the upper floors dedicated to manufacturing machinery and production-related uses. The office, a complex of four rooms, features a decorative tin ceiling, original wood panelling with original finish, interior wood window shutters, a wood-gated interior waiting area, and wood floors (Photo 17). The original, ca.1880 iron and steel safes remain in service. The office washroom retains its original fixtures, including a marble-topped lavatory.

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The machine areas retain all of their original fixtures, finishes, and appurtenances with very few exceptions (Photos 18-21). The original ceiling-mounted, line-shaft, leather belt-drive system extends through all three floors, and was used to power production machinery until the company closed in 2014 (Photo 21). The building was originally lit with gas, and some gas lamp fixtures remain in place. Knob-and-tube-style electrical wiring for lighting was installed in the early 20th century, and remains functioning in place, along with modern wiring added in some areas. Another original feature of the building is its fire suppression system, which includes at least one faucet and hose in each of the production areas as well as hanging fire buckets, some of which remain in place as they have for over 130 years (Photo 20). The exposed beams have beveled edges, a finishing technique used to reduce their susceptibility to catching fire.

C. ENGINE, BLACKSMITH & BOILER HOUSE (ca.1880)

Contributing Building

The Engine, Blacksmith & Boiler House (Engine House) is a single-story brick building measuring 38 feet by 50 feet, located directly behind the Paint Shop and attached to it with later additions (Photos 10, 11). The structure appears to have been built in three sections at various times, the dates of which are uncertain. The Engine House has a ridge line, and, before it was tied into adjoining buildings, had gables at its east and west ends. Two roof vents are located on the ridge, visible in Photo 10 behind the chimney in the foreground. Two large, square, brick chimneys, roughly 50 feet tall, flank each side of the boiler room (Photo 10). The building retains all of its original wood doors and windows in arched openings. Three doors and two windows are on the north side; a double, wood swing door with eight fixed lights is located on the south side, along with four 6/6 windows in arched openings. There are no openings to the exterior on the front (west) or back (east) sides, which are connected to the Paint Shop and Shipping/Receiving & Machine Shop (Building F), respectively.

The interior is divided into four rooms. The original Engine Room, located at the rear of the building, has been converted to a manufacturing space. The Blacksmith Shop (Photo 22) is a narrow room along the north side of the building that also serves as a passageway between the Shipping/Receiving & Machine Shop and the Paint Shop. There is a small, closet-sized storeroom located there. The present Boiler Room at the front of the building houses two oil-fired boilers that date from about the 1980s. There is a passageway containing two toilets on the south side. The passageway leads to an exterior door into a courtyard. The floors are brick and concrete.

D. NAIL CUTTING & TUMBLING SHOP (ca.1893)

Contributing Building

This two-story brick building measures 50 feet by 18 feet and is five bays deep by two bays wide. It is located in the southwestern corner of the property (Photos 12-13). The nearly flat shed roof slopes slightly from the back to the front. A hoist beam projects outward just below the front overhang of the roof. Two original freight loading doors remain centered one above the other, just below the hoist. This building retains most of its original wood doors and paired 4/4 windows in arched openings. A small brick shed with one door and no windows, known as the

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“Sawdust House,” ca.1895, is attached to the front building and measures nine feet by fifteen feet. It is visible in Photo 12. A metal duct to carry waste sawdust, vacuumed from tumblers in the main building, runs across and passes through a hole in the roof to discharge the sawdust.

E. STOREHOUSE (ca.1893)

Contributing Building

This small, one-story, five-sided brick building is located on the south edge of the property (Photos 13-14). The length of the walls are 16½ feet, 21½ feet, nine feet, twelve feet, and eleven feet. The flat roof has rotted and collapsed within the walls. There is one small window opening with a fixed, three-light casement sash on the northwest side, and one door opening on the north side, measuring four by 6½ feet. The wood-paneled door is detached and has fallen inside. A brick privacy wall, about twenty feet in length and eight feet high, runs between the Storehouse and the Sawdust House along the property line.

F. SHIPPING/RECEIVING & MACHINE SHOP (1957)

Contributing Building

This single-story, concrete-block building (Photo 15) was built at a cost of \$18,998 and has a low-pitched shed roof, measures 42 feet by 88 feet, and connects the rear of the Factory, the Engine/Blacksmith & Boiler House, and the Nail Cutting & Tumbling Shop (Photo 10). It measures three bays by nine bays and retains its original doors and windows. The windows are industrial metal-frame type with eight lights and an operable four-light pivoting sash in the center. The interior is divided into three rooms—two used for preparing and stockpiling products for shipment—and one that houses a variety of machinery. There is a concrete floor throughout.

G. WAREHOUSE (1960)

Contributing Building

This single-story, prefabricated metal building was built at a cost of \$3,844, measures 60 feet by 40 feet, and was constructed as a warehouse (Photo 16). It has a structural steel frame, corrugated galvanized steel sheet siding, and a gable roof. Commonly known as a Pruden Building and popular in the 1950s, it was manufactured by Pruden Products of WI, which is now part of the Varco-Pruden Co. It has two typical wood, roll-up, overhead garage-style doors, both measuring eight feet by eight feet. A solid door is on the long side facing Porter Street; one with windows is on the gable-end, facing the Shipping/Receiving & Machine Shop. There are two metal-frame, four-light windows on the opposite sidewall and endwall. The top two panes are an awning sash that opens for ventilation. The floor is concrete. There is electricity but no heat in this building.

Archaeological Description

While no ancient Native American sites have been identified on the M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co. property, sites may exist. Five ancient sites are known in the general area (within one mile). Environmental characteristics of the property represent locational criteria (slope, soil drainage,

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proximity to wetlands) that are favorable for the presence of ancient sites. The mill occupies level to moderately sloping topography. It is located approximately 1,500 feet from the Mill River, a major tributary stream of the Taunton River, and a documented regional locus for Native settlement. Soils in the area are classified as urban land, indicating their natural characteristics have been altered or obscured by urban development, making identification impossible. Given the above information, and the extent of industrial development on the 1.09-acre lot, a low to moderate potential exists for locating ancient Native American resources on the property. Undisturbed or truncated Native resources may survive in the buried areas under paved locations. The lack of fresh water within 1,000 feet of the nominated property is, however, a negative site locational characteristic. The Mill River drains the entire nominated locale. No tributary streams or brooks are located within several thousand feet of the mill complex.

A high potential exists for locating historic archaeological resources on the mill property. Structural evidence may survive from two factory buildings located on the nominated property when Marcus M. Rhodes started the mill in 1861. These two buildings, originally part of the Taunton Umbrella Company, were demolished, one in 1934 and the second in 1957. That same year, a small wooden building, part of the original cluster of buildings, was demolished and replaced by the Shipping, Receiving & Machine Shop building. Structural evidence may also survive from several renovations or additions to the factory from 1865 to 1922. Structural evidence and occupational-related features (trash areas, privies, wells) of barns, stables, and outbuildings related to the operation and maintenance of the factory complex may survive.

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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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry

Period of Significance

1865-1966

Significant Dates

1865—Paint Shop (Building A) Constructed

1880—Factory (Building B) Constructed

1893—Nail Cutting and Tumbling Shop (Building D) Constructed

1957—Shipping/Receiving and Machine Shop (Building F) Constructed

1960—Warehouse (Building G) Constructed

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Builders

William H. Hale, Brickwork for Factory (Building B)

Charles A. Eldridge, Shipping/Receiving & Machine Shop (Building F)

Charles A. Eldridge, Warehouse (Building G)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co. property is a small complex of industrial buildings that meets National Register Criterion A by being associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the industrial of Taunton, MA. The property also meets National Register Criterion C by embodying the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, and method of construction, as well as retaining integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Specifically it is a rare, intact surviving example of minimally Classical Revival industrial architecture, significant at the local level. All buildings in the complex were constructed between ca. 1865 and 1960, but the period of significance extends to the allowed 50-year cutoff date of 1966 for National Register purposes.

The M. M. Rhodes & Sons company produced specialized fastening products, including shoe buttons, tacks, nails, shoelaces, and wiring staples. The products were manufactured on machines and equipment, some of which were invented, patented, and built by Rhodes family members. The products made a significant impact in the shoe, furniture, electrical, and communication industries in Massachusetts and elsewhere. According to M. M. Rhodes' biography, published in the *Encyclopedia of Massachusetts*, it was the first successful shoe-button factory in the United States. Throughout continual operation by six generations of the Rhodes family from 1861 to 2014, the company employed hundreds of local families, and is one of the two oldest family-owned industries in Taunton, the other being Reed and Barton.

Set in a mixed-use but increasingly residential section west of downtown Taunton, it is the last intact industrial complex in that part of the city, which was a thriving manufacturing area from the mid 19th to the mid 20th centuries. Sanborn maps from 1888 and 1893 show an industrial area bounded by Oak Street, Olney Street, Wales Street, Mason Street, Cohannet Street, and High Street. Within this area at various times were located the Mason Machine Works, Taunton Locomotive Works, F. S. Babbit Machine Shop, W. R. Potter Yarn Mill, Old Colony Railroad Round House and Machine Shop and M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co., among others. A 19th-century warehouse for Cohannet Mills Cotton Co. survives on Cohannet Street, just to the east of the Rhodes complex. The Rhodes buildings were in continual manufacturing use until the business closed in 2014. The property is therefore associated with events important to local industrial history, and possesses the necessary historical significance for listing in the National Register under Criterion A.

This complex represents an exceedingly rare example of unaltered 19th-century industrial factory architecture, complete with all original exterior and interior building features and details, including original belt-driven machinery and other original equipment, fixtures, and appurtenances. The property is therefore an important example of historic building types that possess the necessary historical significance and integrity for listing in the National Register under Criterion C.

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The Factory (Building B), in particular, is an extraordinarily intact representative of the fireproof industrial building property type widely built in the United States during the mid and late 19th century. The structure, which is minimally Classical Revival in style, is long and narrow, with multiple windows to provide natural lighting prior to the advent of electric lighting. The floors are wide open, not only for the better transmission of light, but for the convenient arrangement of machinery and for the installation of a central driveshaft for belt-driven machinery.

The property retains integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meets criteria A and C for listing in the National Register with a local level of significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance

M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co. was established by Marcus Morton Rhodes in 1861 to manufacture hoopskirt trimmings, glazier points, coffin tacks, and upholstery nails made on an "old-style lining nail machine." Rhodes first set up shop in two leased buildings that were formerly part of the Taunton Umbrella Company, which was located on the Rhodes company's current Porter Street site. Those buildings have been razed, one in 1934 and the second in 1957. Rhodes bought the property in 1865 for \$3,350.² He apparently added the manufacture of shoe buttons to his product line at this time, and erected the Paint Shop (Building A) to house the equipment and drying ovens required for the process.

This business emerged from a city that generated a wide variety of industries, such as the Old Colony Iron Works in East Taunton; the Albert Field Tack Company near downtown Taunton; Cohannet Mills, which made fine cotton yarns; Reed and Barton, a world-famous manufacturer of silverware; and Mason Machine Works, which manufactured textile machinery and locomotives. According to family lore, M. M. Rhodes found a shoe button on the street and told his son, Charles M. Rhodes, that if he (Charles) could find the proper material to form the button, he (Marcus) would build a machine to make the button. M. M. Rhodes successfully designed and built a button-making machine, and, after a slow start, the button business became a mainstay of the company.

According to M. M. Rhodes's biography published in the *Encyclopedia of Massachusetts*, it was the first successful shoe-button factory in the United States. The business had a weak start because France was the preferred supplier of the nation's shoe buttons; however, when the supply was cut off during the Franco-Prussian War of 1870, Rhodes capitalized on the opportunity and became a leading supplier of shoe buttons. It was especially important in this part of Massachusetts, which had a flourishing shoe-shop industry at the time. Town reports found on the Massachusetts Historical Commission website recorded that Brockton, Plymouth,

² Taunton Umbrella Co. is referenced in an 1857 mortgage deed for the property. These buildings appear on 1858 and 1922 maps, but have since been demolished

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and Middleborough “also shared in the prosperity of the shoe industry,” which peaked around 1920.

The company’s success in the 1870s led to the construction of a new, three-story, brick manufacturing building (*Building B*) in 1880 to further expand production.

This building reflects the characteristics of 19th-century factory buildings described in a paper by Professor Ljijana Jevremovc, “Aesthetics of Industrial Architecture in the Context of Industrial Buildings Conversion” (2012). She wrote the following (transcribed verbatim from the source):

The germ of the industrial aesthetic is seen in the simple mill buildings from late 1700, precursors of the modern factory were straightforward wooden or masonry buildings with repetitive forms and rhythmic openings....These first mills reflected building technology of their time and responded to the realities of fire and workplace safety. In the day before electricity, flooding workspace with as much daylight as possible was the most important. Long and narrow, these buildings had open and unobstructive internal spaces to accommodate as many machines and workers as possible. Their narrowness not only allowed light into their centre, but also efficiently enabled machines on both sides of the building to be powered from a single central shaft down the floor. Early industrial buildings were simple because their utilitarian nature places them low in the social and therefore aesthetic hierarchy. From the earliest times, buildings generally reflected their social importance. While the buildings of higher reputation, such as churches, public buildings, and royal structures, the more ornament had used, the service buildings had been strictly no-frills. [sic]

To help protect the business, Marcus Morton Rhodes patented a shoe-button machine in 1881 (US Patent #244,310), based on the machine he invented several years earlier.

The shoe-button business flourished until about 1892, when expanding competition slowed sales growth. By 1892 there were “six or seven” other factories producing shoe buttons and “there was no money for anyone,” according to a history of the company written by Marcus A. Rhodes in 1928. Competition came from the Morley Button Manufacturing Co. of Portsmouth, NH, Hedge-Lewis Manufacturing Co. of New Bedford, MA, New Bedford Button Co. of New Bedford, MA, H. L. Cushman & Co. of Taunton, MA, and the Standard Manufacturing Co. of Providence, RI.

Rhodes company reports filed with the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics and Labor from 1889 to 1899 show that shoe-button production topped out in 1890, when 2.4 million buttons were produced daily and 738.9 million were produced over the year. No records on production prior to 1889 have been discovered; however, a history of Taunton written by Samuel Hopkins Emery put button production in the early years at as much as six million per day. By 1899, production had fallen to 144,000 buttons per day and 40.6 million for the year. Buttons produced in 1889 were sold for \$108,603, which equals \$2.8 million in today’s dollars. By 1899, sales had dropped to \$3,292, or \$92,000 in today’s dollars. During this 10-year period, the greatest number of employees during any given year ranged from 25 to 49. The lowest numbers ranged from 5 to

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18. The greatest number of employees that can be documented for the company at any time during its 153-year history occurred in 1962, when a quarterly report to the Internal Revenue Service recorded 62 employees.

In 1899, the M. M. Rhodes company, along with its competitors, went into business with Morley Button Manufacturing Co. of Portsmouth, NH. Rhodes supplied about 15 percent of Morley's button line. In 1907 Rhodes granted a "license and lease" to the Morley Button Manufacturing Co., allowing it to use its "machines and processes" in the manufacture of shoe buttons. The lease was good until Jan. 1, 1913; however, while the machines were leased to Morley, they never left the Rhodes plant in Taunton, according to company papers. The partnership was "very profitable," according to the company history written by Marcus Arnold Rhodes (1928), and lasted until 1913.

With the declining of the use of shoe buttons in the early 20th century, the company began to turn its attention to other kinds of fasteners, with limited success. In 1918 the company began manufacturing shoelaces, named "Liberty Laces," to meet the increased demand created by the military during World War I. By the time the venture got up and running, the war had ended, and the enterprise was abandoned after only a few years. A document filed with the US Department of Commerce, Census of Manufactures, in 1919 shows that the company made 4.5 million pairs of shoelaces in 1919, which it sold for \$7,933, or \$107,359 in today's dollars. That amount represented about seven percent of the company's sales that year.

The rapidly expanding use of telephones and electricity created another opportunity for Rhodes, and in 1922 the company entered the telephone-wire fastener business, designing and building its own machines. Around 1926, the company began making fasteners for the electrical wiring business. The manufacture of telephone and electrical wire fasteners sustained the business from that time until it closed in 2014. Customers have included AT&T, the Bell Companies, ITT, General Electric, and many others. The products have been shipped all over the nation and internationally, particularly to South and Central America, as well as Canada.

The manufacture of metal cable clamps started in the 1940s in the Engine, Blacksmith & Boiler House, with the main customer being Western Electric. The steam engines that were housed in this building were removed and replaced with clamp and clasp presses. The clamp and clasp presses were operated continuously until the business closed in 2014.

In the 1950s, the company began the production of tack strips for the furniture industry, packaged under the W. W. Cross Co. label. The Factory (Building B) was used in the production of all these products.

The second and third floors of the Factory have been out of use for at least 40 years. The first floor was in continual use until 2014. It was used as a machine shop and to cut cable clamps and form clasps, both of which were used to hold wires or conduit. The building features an overhead

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belt system that extends from the first floor to the third floor, which was used to power the clamp presses, tack strip presses, lathes, and other machines, until the business closed.

The Paint Shop was also in continuous use until the company closed in 2014. As its name implies, it was used to finish products with paint. Since 1973, insulated staples were copper-plated there as well. This building also utilized an overhead belt system to operate machines until it closed. The Paint Shop holds four banks of steam-heated drying ovens. The smaller ovens hold individually loaded trays of products; the large ovens accommodated racks of trays on trolleys that moved on steel rails and then rolled sideways into the ovens. At some point, small one-story wing additions of both brick and wood construction were added to the Paint Shop. The south addition was used to store the track carts and other materials; the north addition housed tumblers to smooth the rough edges of various fiber-headed nails and staples. In the early days, the company made its own paint.

In 1957, a two-story wood building dating from the mid 19th century, which was part of the original cluster of buildings, was torn down and replaced with the Shipping/Receiving & Machine Shop, a one-story, cement-block building. Built at a cost of \$18,998, it was attached to the Factory, Engine House and Nail Cutting & Polishing Shop, thereby interconnecting all the buildings in the complex. This structure was used until the business closed in 2014 for packing, shipping and the manufacture of insulated staples.

In 1960, the company built a freestanding Pruden Building to serve as a warehouse in the northeast corner of the property. The pre-fabricated, metal-frame structure was manufactured by Pruden Products of Wisconsin, and cost \$3,844.

The Rhodes Family

Marcus Morton Rhodes came to Taunton at the age of thirteen with his family. He was born in Foxboro, MA on January 22, 1832, and, along with his brothers Stephen and John, became the eighth generation of the Rhodes family in the country since Henry Rhodes of Lancashire, England, settled in Lynn around 1640 and became an "ironmonger" on the east side of the Saugus River, according to a biography published in the *Encyclopedia of Massachusetts*.

After M. M. Rhodes became a resident of Taunton in 1835, most of his descendants and all those who ran the company lived in that city. In addition to founding M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co., and inventing a shoe-button machine which allowed the company to become "the first successful shoe-button manufactory in this country" (*Encyclopedia of Massachusetts*), M. M. Rhodes was elected to the first city council after Taunton changed to a city form of government in 1864. He served on the city's first water commission, and was involved in planning its first public drinking-water system. In his younger days, he was a captain in a volunteer firefighting company. Rhodes was on the board of directors for the Taunton National Bank and for the Taunton-New Bedford Copper Company. His wife, Rowena A. Williams, was a Daughter of the American Revolution. Marcus Morton Rhodes died on March 23, 1916.

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His brother, Stephen H. Rhodes (1825-1909), was the second mayor of Taunton, serving from 1867 to 1869. Stephen went on to become a state senator in 1870. He later became a state insurance commissioner, a position from which he resigned in 1879 to become president of the John Hancock Insurance company until his death 30 years later. He moved to Brookline, MA, in 1873.

Marcus Morton Rhodes's other brother, John Corey Rhodes (1831-1916), was his partner until 1863, when he became partners with William H. Dunbar in the firm of Dunbar & Rhodes. The firm made shoe eyelets in East Bridgewater and South Abington until 1890, when the company became the J. C. Rhodes Co. upon Dunbar's death. The firm was moved to New Bedford in 1891. John Corey Rhodes lived in Mattapoisett, MA, from 1872 to 1882, and then relocated to New Bedford for the remainder of his life.

In the 1860s, M. M. Rhodes brought two of his sons, George Holbrook Rhodes (1848-1916) and Charles Marcus Rhodes (1846-1926), into the business. Another son, Albert Clinton Rhodes (1857-1926), joined the business later. George H. Rhodes eventually succeeded his father, and ran the business for many years. He was also active in community affairs, serving as a member of the city council from 1877 to 1882, and as its president from 1882 to 1886. He was a trustee of the public library, served on the school committee, and was treasurer of the YMCA when it was first established in Taunton. George H. Rhodes was also a Mason, and attained the highest rank in that organization. His brother, Charles M. Rhodes, was a company manager, and was awarded a patent in 1876 for improvements in the "Japanning" process, a process involving the application of a dark lacquer to pottery and metal products. Marcus Arnold Rhodes (1881-1957), George H. Rhodes's son, came into the business in 1907 after teaching for three years at Deerfield Academy in Deerfield, MA. He held a bachelor's degree from Amherst College, and a master's degree from Harvard University, and was the first Rhodes to go to college. He was also active in the Taunton community, serving a president of the Taunton Savings Bank from 1947 to 1954.

Marcus A. Rhodes took over the company upon the death of his father in 1916, and ran the company until his own death in 1957. His sons, Marcus A. Rhodes, Jr. (1917-2005), and Stephen H. Rhodes (1911-2007), took over upon their father's death. Stephen, a graduate of MIT, joined the company in 1933, and Marcus, a graduate of Worcester Polytechnic Institute, joined in 1946 after serving overseas in World War II. Both brothers were active in community affairs. After their deaths, Timothy L. Rhodes (b. 1955) became president and ran the company for the last nine years of its life. George W. Rhodes (b. 1954) became treasurer. They represent the fifth generation of the family to be directly involved in running the business, and the thirteenth generation of the Rhodes family in America.

Stephen R. Pettine (b. 1961), the grandson of Stephen H. Rhodes, is a member of the sixth generation involved in running the business. He worked at the factory full-time for two years in the 1980s.

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The closing of the company came largely as a result of the severe recession that began with the housing crisis and stock-market crash of 2007 and 2008. The company, dependent on the construction industry, which nearly came to a halt during that time, lost much of its business and never recovered. Company savings and family loans propped it up for a while, but continuing became untenable in 2014.

Now the Rhodes family is hoping to find a developer who will be able to remake part or all of the complex into housing for what is now substantially a residential neighborhood. It is the hope of the family to preserve the history of the site while adapting it to a useful purpose.

If M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co. is approved for listing on the National Register of Historic Places it will be the seventh industrial site to be listed in Taunton. Five sites were added to the list in 1984: Old Colony Works-Nemasket Mills Complex; Albert Field Tack Company; Old Weir Stove Building; Whittenton Mills Complex; and Reed and Barton Complex. Cohannet Mill No. 3 was added in 2006. Three of these industrial complexes, Old Colony Works-Nemasket Mills Complex, Albert Field Tack Company, and Cohannet Mill No. 3, have been converted into residential-use buildings.

Archaeological Significance

Any evidence of ancient Native American occupation in the M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co. locale may contribute important information that builds on known subsistence and settlement patterns of Native groups within the Taunton River drainage basin. Decades of research by avocational and professional archaeologists have identified a complex system of interrelated cultural and environmental variables, resulting in clustered site distributions that in some areas constitute core areas of intensive Native American landuse and settlement. Ancient sites in the M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co. locale may contribute information that documents the environmental and cultural variability in these clustered and core areas, providing further understanding of ancient Native American landuse and settlement patterns within the Mill River and Taunton River basins.

Historic archaeological resources described above may contribute information related to the construction, layout, and production of the M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co. mills; however, the research importance of that information remains to be documented. Identification, analysis, and mapping of structural evidence and features related to the original mill buildings and outbuildings described above can help document the overall layout of the M. M. Rhodes & Co. buildings and the industrial activities that occurred in them. Identification of outbuildings and detailed analysis of the contents of trash deposits may contribute important information related to the production of hoopskirt trimmings, glazier points, coffin tacks, upholstery nails, and shoe buttons. The manufacture of these items took place in the factory buildings and smaller outbuildings on the property. Archaeological information from some outbuildings may contribute evidence related to the role of the outbuilding and/or its activities in the system of slow-burning construction that characterized the M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co. mill and the threat of fire hazards posed by mechanized production. Detailed analysis of the contents of trash deposits

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at the mill complex may contribute important evidence related to research that was conducted on new machines to be used in the manufacturing process of buttons and other, presently unknown, items. Information may also be available that indicates the social, cultural, and economic characteristics of the workers at the mill and owner/worker relations. Important information may also be present that identifies the materials, production process, and products from the 19th-century technology used in the manufacture of umbrellas at the site prior to its purchase by Rhodes.

Important information may also be available that identifies patterns of reuse and the extent to which the factory buildings were renovated by Rhodes for his operations.

M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

- Bassett, Mary Cooley. *Lineage Book*. [National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution] vol. 34. Washington, DC: Harrisburg Pub. Co., 1900.
- Belanger, Marc. "Shoe Buttons, Liberty Laces & Insulated Staples: 153 years of M.M. Rhodes & Sons Company, Taunton, Mass." Self-published pamphlet, 2015.
- Brookline, MA. *A History of Brookline, Massachusetts: From the First Settlement of Muddy River Until the Present Time, 1630-1906*. Brookline, MA: The Brookline Press Company, 1906.
- Cutter, William R. *Encyclopedia of Massachusetts, Biographical-Genealogical*. New York: American Historical Society, 1916.
- Deed. Ansel Howard to William E. Camp and Elisha Jackson, August 24, 1853, Northern Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Taunton, Book 212, Page 227. Mentions "A lot of land with dwelling house, shop and other buildings... with steam engine and main shaft now in said shop."
- Deed. Horace Lewis to Marcus Morton Rhodes, July 3, 1865, Northern Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Taunton, Book 277, Page 33. Description of "a main shop" and "rear shop."
- Deed. Mary E. Cook to M.M. Rhodes & Sons, May 3, 1879, Book 377, Page 182, Northern Bristol County Registry of Deeds, Taunton, Book 377, Page 182. This is the parcel of land on which the southern part of the paint shop was built.
- Emery, Samuel Hopkins. *History of Taunton, Massachusetts: from its settlement to present time*. Syracuse, NY: D. Mason, 1893.
- Hanna, William F. *A History of Taunton, Massachusetts*. Taunton, MA: Old Colony Historical Society, 2007.
- Hub, The*. Hub Publishing Company, New York, Vol. 15, No. 5, August 1, 1873, advertisement on p. 197. [Google books]
- Jevremović, Ljiljana, Milanka Vasić, and Marina Jordanović. "Aesthetics of Industrial Architecture in the Context of Industrial Buildings Conversion." Phl DAC 2012. Symposium proceeding available at <http://www.academia.edu/1977965/>.
- M. M. Rhodes & Sons. *Sample of Goods Manufactured by MM Rhodes*; Framed board, 18" x 29" with samples of items manufactured (ca. 1865-1869).
- M. M. Rhodes & Sons. *Price List of M.M. Rhodes and Sons*. Ca. 1870-1872. [Company records].
- M. M. Rhodes & Sons. *Ledger book*. Entry for January 11, 1876; list of items sold to American Tack Company (Fairhaven).

M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co.

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M. M. Rhodes & Sons, Co., Board of Directors meeting minutes, January 8, 1935. "The old building known as #2 had been razed, machinery moved to building #1."

New England Business Directory. Boston: Adams, Sampson & Co. 1865. Directory listings on p. 333, p. 348, p. 396, p. 412. (Google books)

Oliver, J. J., editor. *The Indicator*, vol. 35, no. 12, June 19, 1909.

Pease, Zephaniah W. *History of New Bedford*. New York: The Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1918.

Rhodes, Marcus A. "Letter to Frederick B. Wills, Esq., Auburn, N.Y. Jan, 19, 1928." Typed manuscript, 6 pp., providing narrative history of the M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co.

Sanborn Map & Publishing Company. *Taunton, Massachusetts*. New York: Sanborn Map & Publishing Company, 1888, 1893, 1898, 1937, 1950.

The Shoe and Leather Reporter. Volume 27, 1879, advertisement on pp. 126, 397, and 932. (Google books).

Taunton Daily Gazette, February 12, 1880; article mentioning construction of three-story brick building.

Walker, George H. & Co. *Atlas of Taunton*. Boston, 1881.

Walling, H. F. *Map of the Village of Taunton, Bristol County, Massachusetts*. Philadelphia: PA, 1858.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co.

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): TAU.258

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approximately 1.92 acres

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983 (WGS84)

A. Zone: 19	Easting: 325926	Northing: 4640690
B. Zone: 19	Easting: 325950	Northing: 4640643
C. Zone: 19	Easting: 325901	Northing: 4640579
D. Zone: 19	Easting: 325878	Northing: 4640593
E. Zone: 19	Easting: 325870	Northing: 4640577
F. Zone: 19	Easting: 325847	Northing: 4640593

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary includes the entire area of the following Taunton property parcels: 65-208, 65-209, 65-219, 65-22, and 65-221. See Figure 2: Property Map with Tax Parcel Overlay for graphic depiction of district boundary.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the entire lots historically associated with the M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co. property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title:

Rhodes, George, subject property owner; Casella, Richard, Architectural Historian; Belanger, Marc, Industrial Historian, with Betsy Friedberg, National Register Director.

organization: Massachusetts Historical Commission

street & number: 220 Morrissey Boulevard

city or town: Boston state: MA zip code: 02125

e-mail: Betsy.Friedberg@sec.state.ma.us

telephone: 617-727-8470

date: July, 2016

M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co.

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FIGURE 1: Topographic Location Map (source: Taunton MA 7.5 X 15 min. quadrangle 1987).

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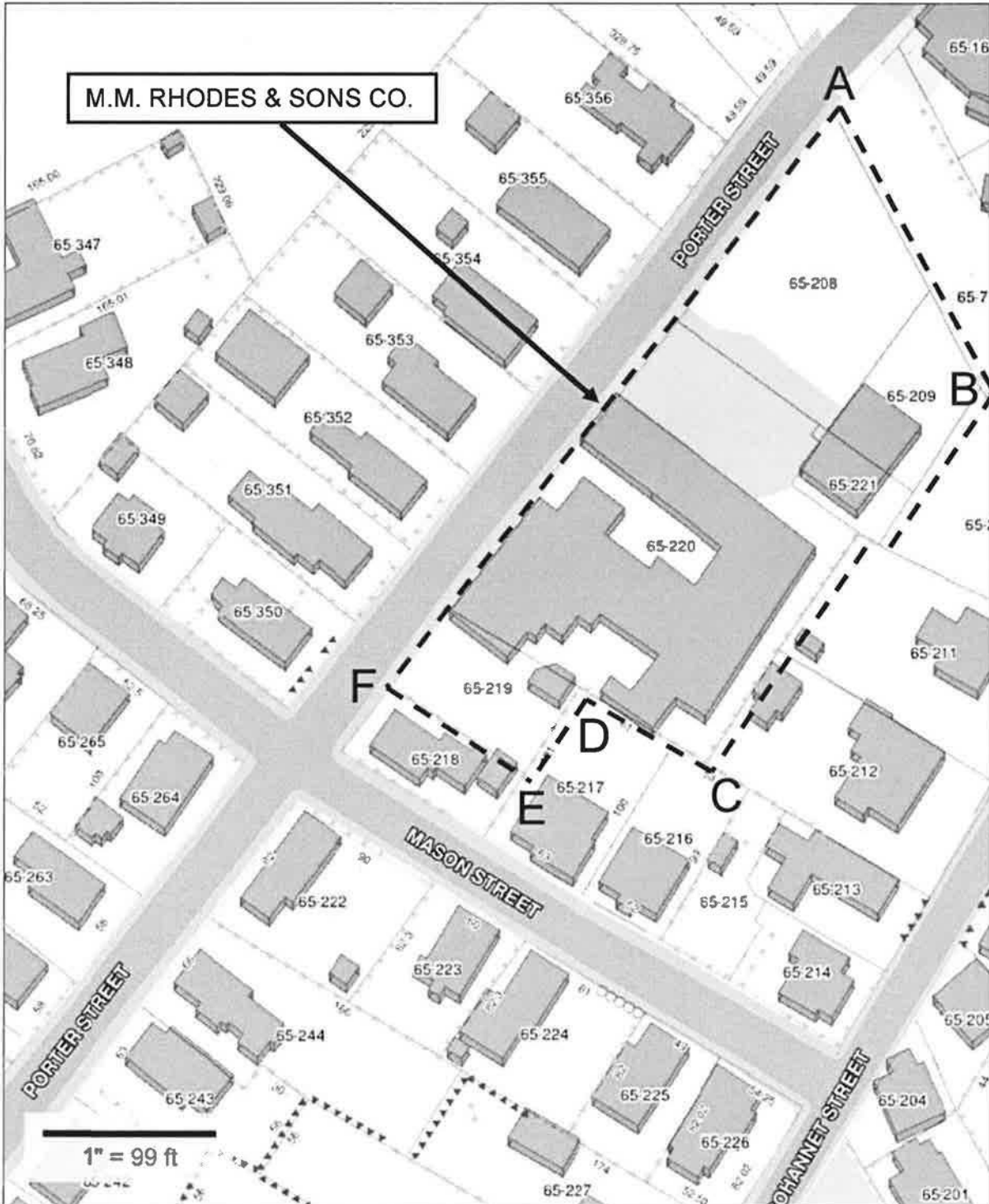


FIGURE 2: Property Map with Tax Parcel Overlay. Letters A-F refer to UTM boundary coordinates in Section 10 (source: OLIVER: MassGIS Online Mapping).

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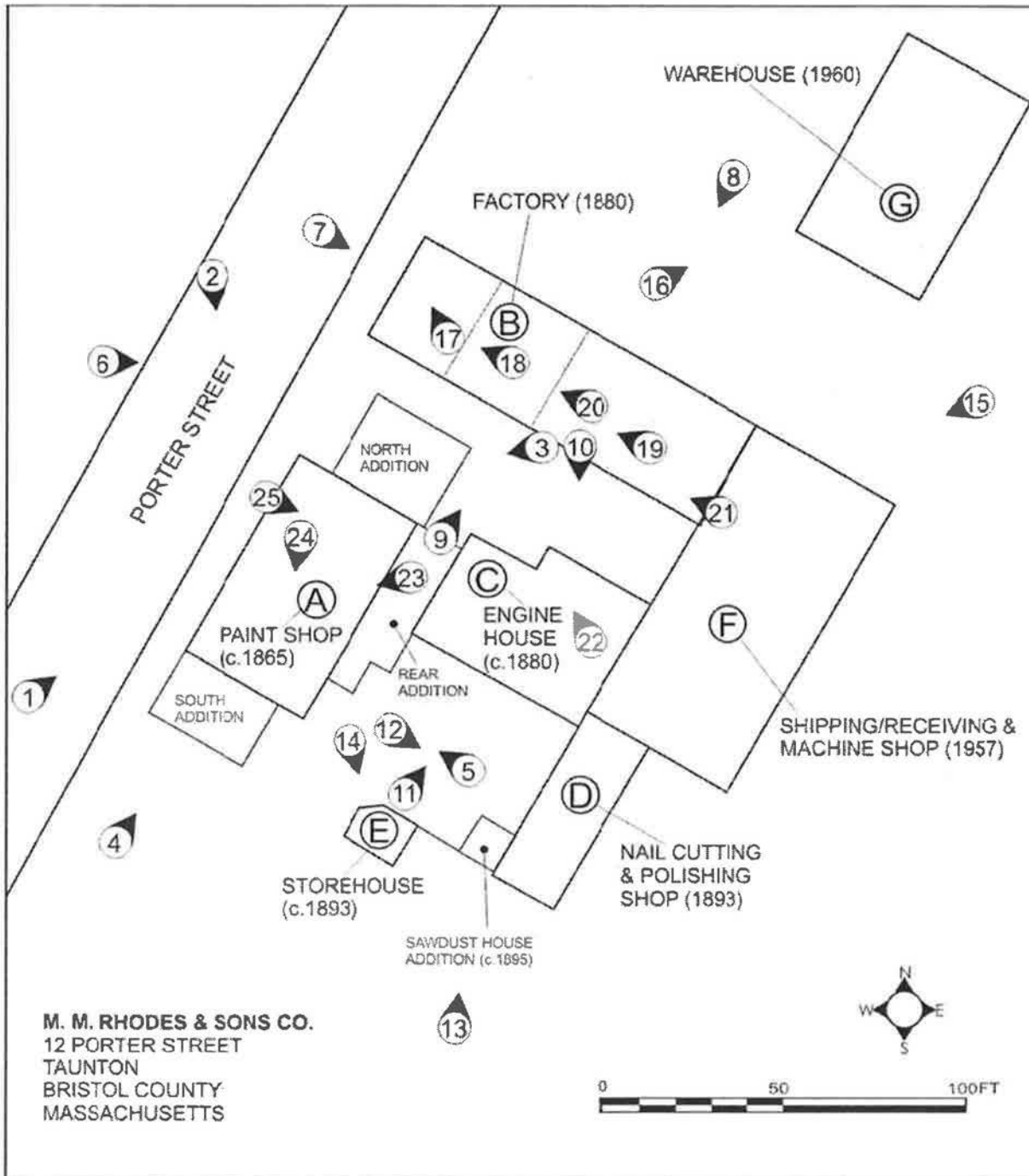


FIGURE 3: Building Sketch & Key to Photos. Letters refer to building descriptions in Section 7.

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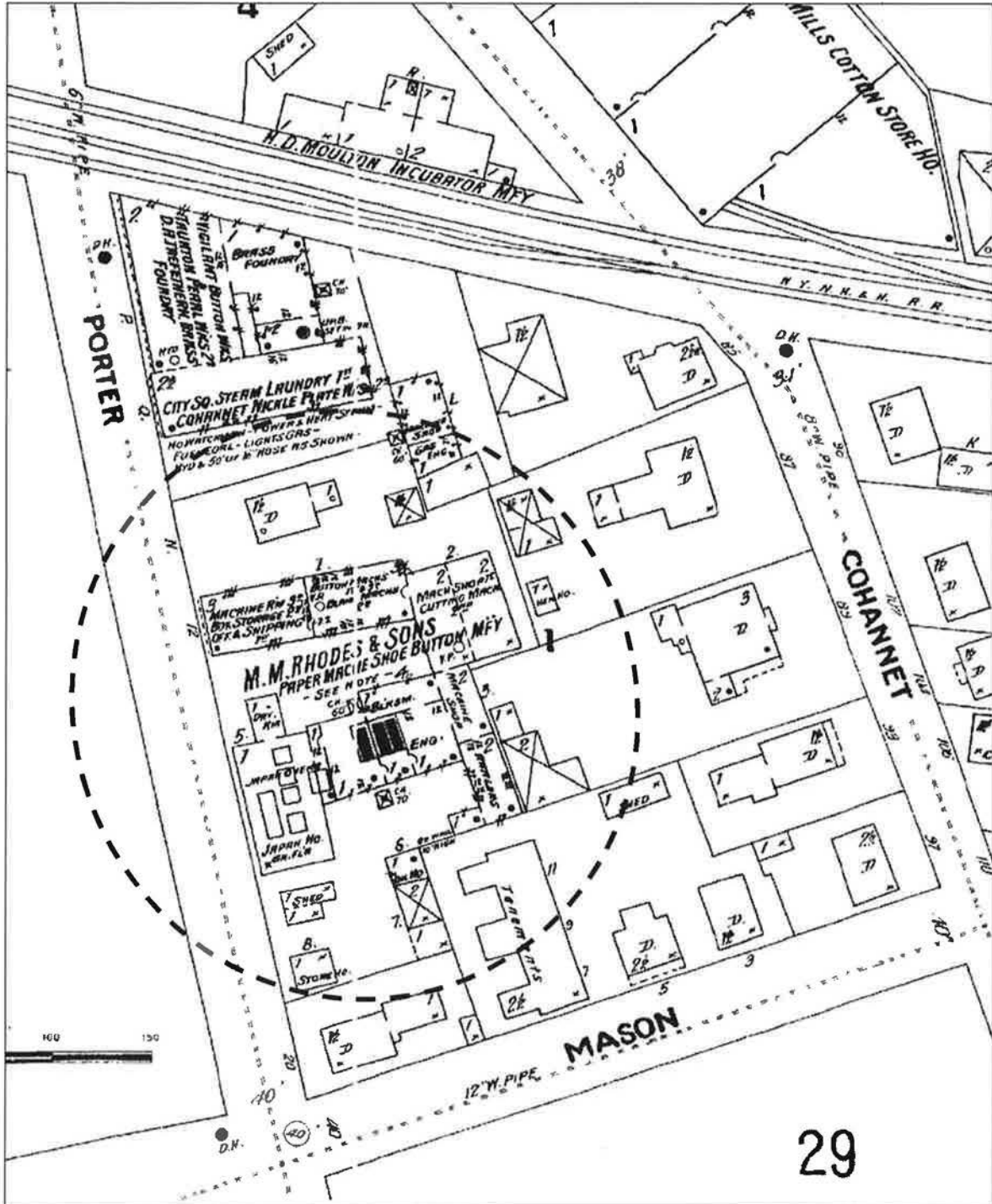


FIGURE 4: Sanborn Insurance Map, Taunton, MA, 1898.

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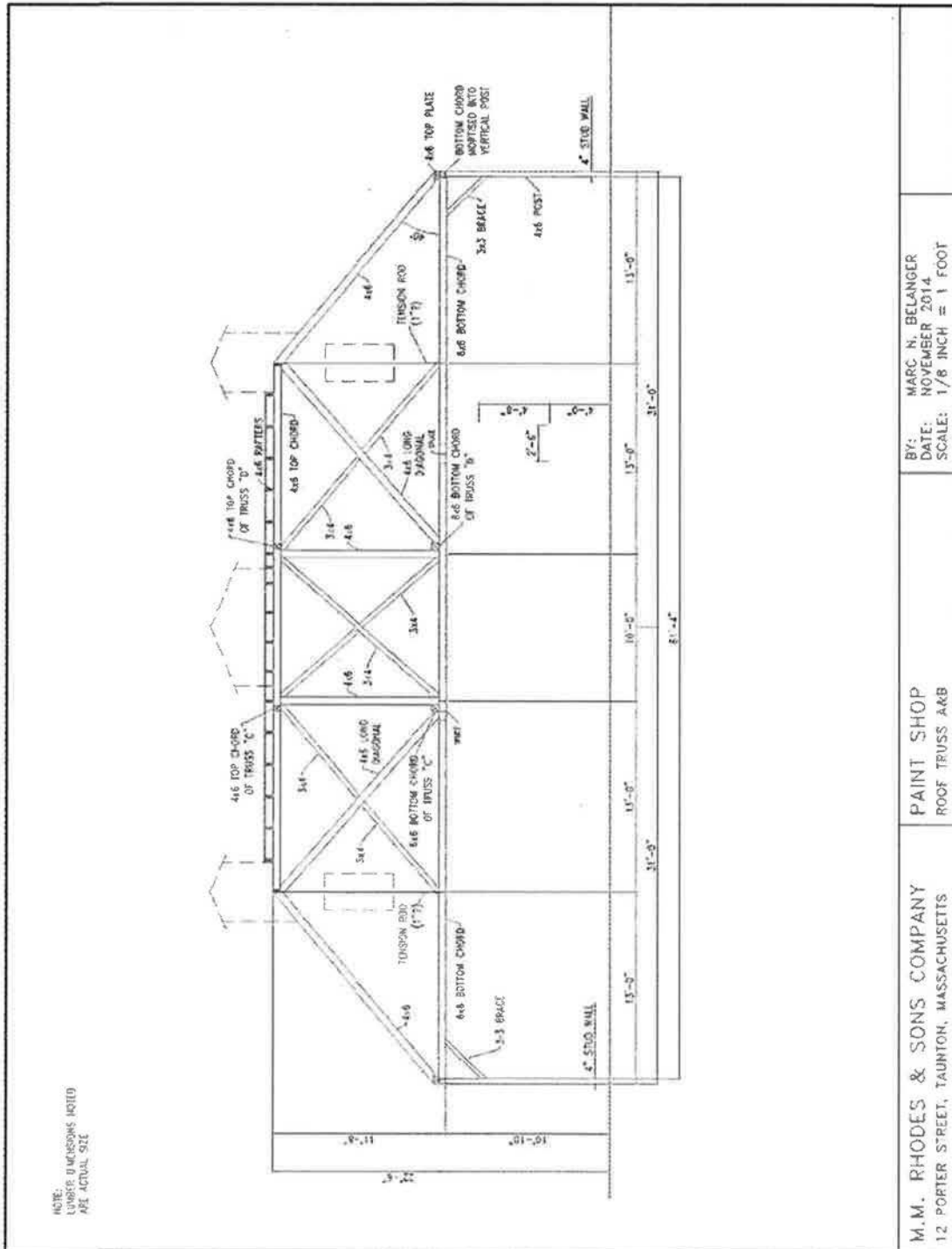


FIGURE 5: Measured Drawing, Paint Shop Roof Framing, Truss A & B.

M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co.

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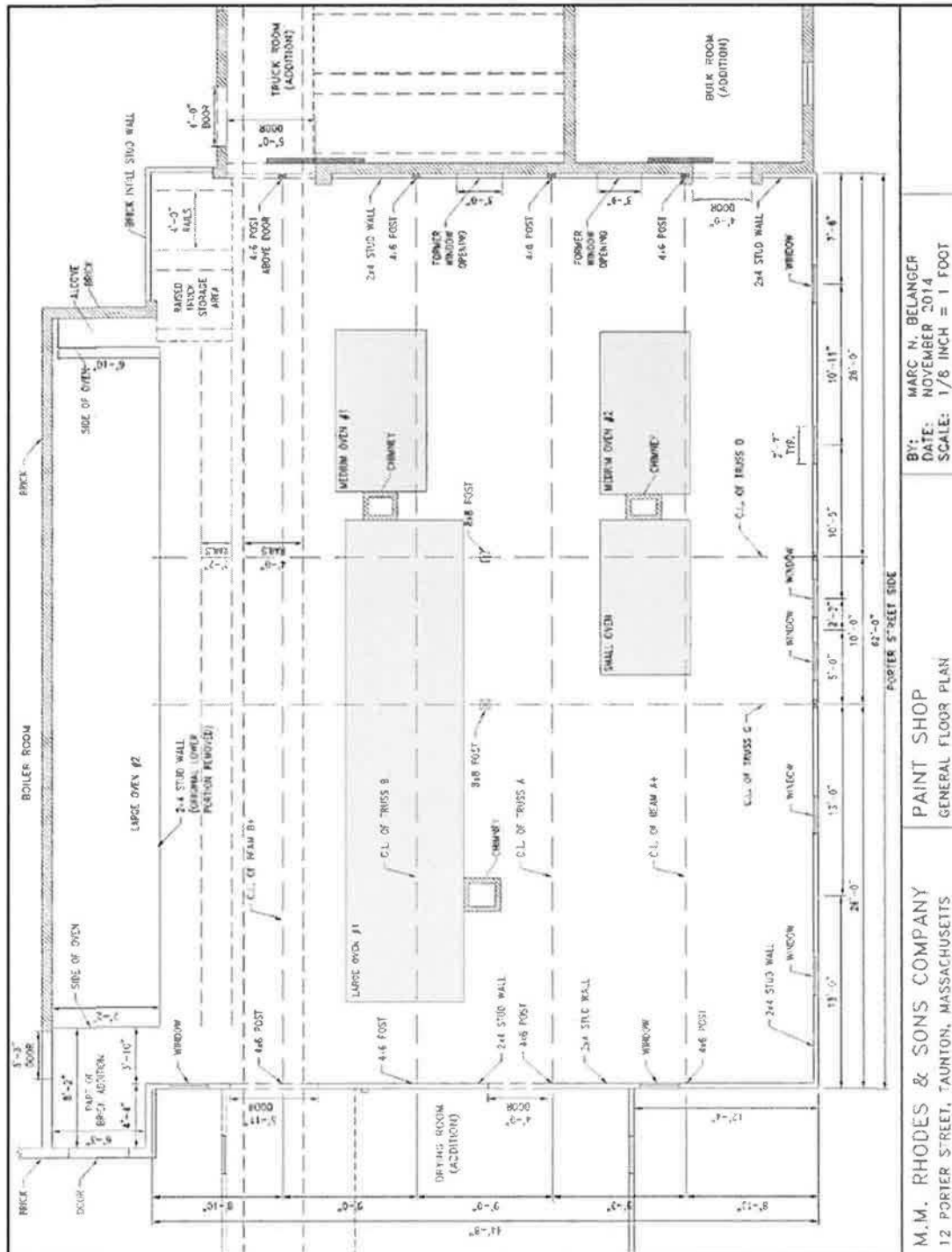


FIGURE 7: Measured Drawing, Paint Shop General Floor Plan.

M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co.

Bristol, Massachusetts

Name of Property

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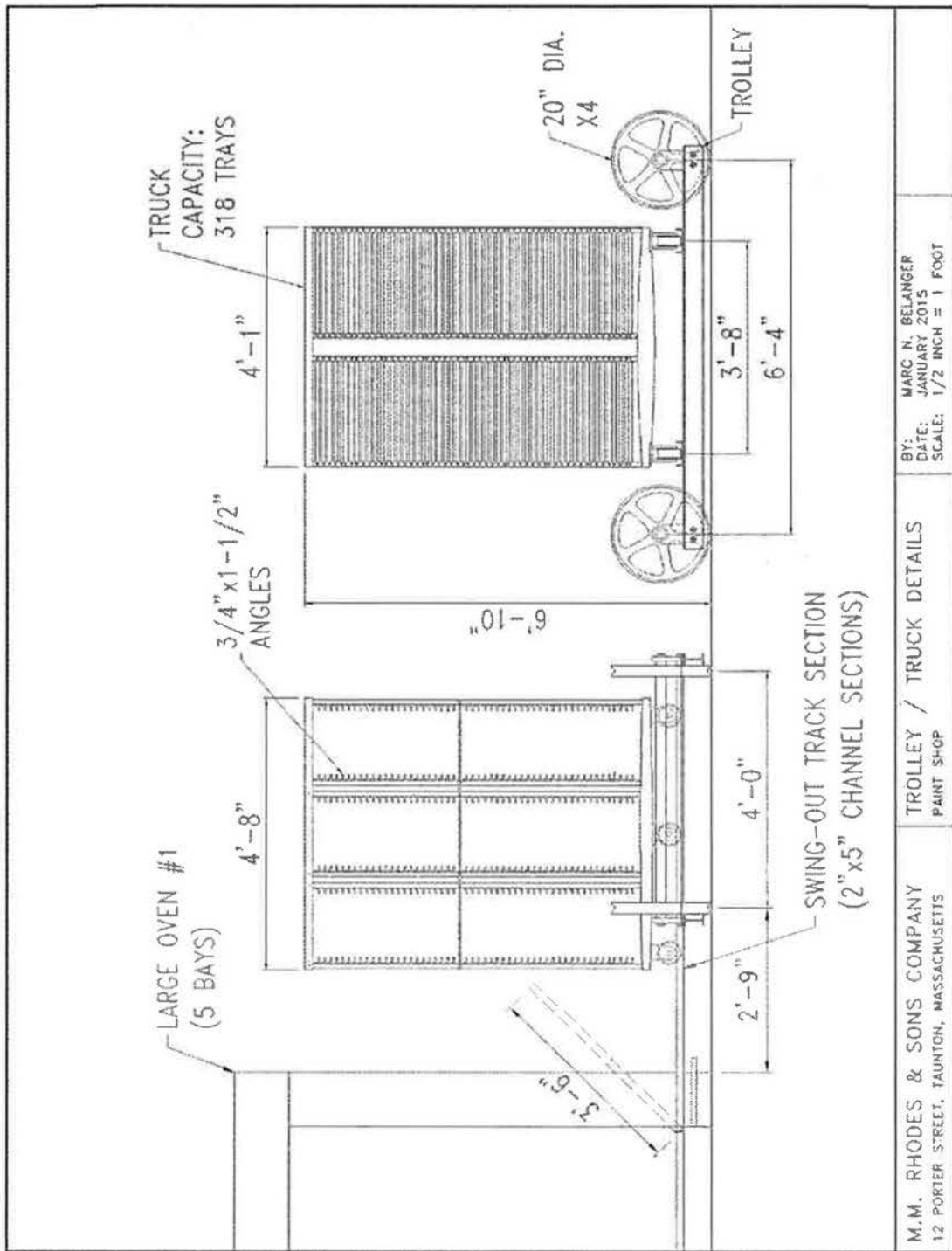


FIGURE 9: Measured Drawing. Paint Shop Equipment; Drying Oven Racks & track-mounted Trolley.

M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co.

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DATA TABLE

MACRIS #	BUILDING NAME	PHOTO #	YEAR	STYLE	TYPE	STATUS
TAU.625	Paint Shop	1-5, 23-25	ca.1865	Utilitarian	Building	C
TAU.258	Factory	6-9, 17-21	1880	Utilitarian	Building	C
TAU.745	Engine House	10-11, 22	ca.1880	Utilitarian	Building	C
TAU.746	Nail Cutting & Polishing Shop	12-13	ca.1893	Utilitarian	Building	C
TAU.747	Storehouse	13-14	ca.1893	Utilitarian	Building	C
TAU.748	Shipping/Receiving & Machine Shop	15	1957	Utilitarian	Building	C
TAU.749	Warehouse	16	1960	Utilitarian	Building	C

TOTAL: 7 contributing buildings

M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co.

Bristol, Massachusetts

Name of Property

County and State

PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

All Photographs:

Name of Property: **M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co.**
City or Vicinity: **Taunton,**
County: **Bristol County, MA**
Photographer: **Richard M. Casella**
Date Photographed: **April 19, May 10, June 21, 2014; January 26, 2016**

List of Photographs

<u>Digital File Prefix</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0001		Entire complex view fronting Porter Street (west elevations), showing Paint Shop (ca.1850), center, and Factory (1880) at left in distance. Looking NE.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0002		Paint Shop (ca.1850), west (Porter Street) and north elevations. Looking S.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0003		Paint Shop, north and east elevations showing north addition of wood-frame construction. Looking W.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0004		Paint Shop, south elevation, showing south addition of brick construction. Looking NE.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0005		Paint Shop, rear elevation. Looking W.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0006		Factory (1880), west (Porter St.) and south elevations. Looking E.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0007		Factory, showing detail of fully original front entry, windows, and brickwork. Looking SE.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0008		Factory, north elevation. Looking SW.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0009		Factory, south elevation. Looking NE.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0010		Engine House (ca.1880), center, north elevation, attached to Shipping/Receiving & Machine Shop, left, and Paint Shop, right, from 3 rd floor of Factory. Looking S.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0011		Engine House (ca.1880) south elevation, showing attachment to Nail Cutting and Polishing Shop at right. Looking NE.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0012		Nail Cutting and Polishing Shop (1893), west elevation. Sawdust House shown added to front, at right. Looking SE.

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PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION: List of Photographs continued

MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0013	Nail Cutting and Polishing Shop (1893) at right; Sawdust House, center, Storehouse, left. South elevations viewed from adjacent property. Looking N.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0014	Storehouse (ca.1893), west and north elevations. Looking SE.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0015	Shipping/Receiving & Machine Shop (1957), attached to rear of Factory, north and east elevations. Looking W.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0016	Warehouse (1960), west and south elevations. Looking NE.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0017	Factory, interior, office, showing fully original interior finish. Looking N.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0018	Factory, interior, shipping room, showing fully original finish, paint, clerk desk, and time clock. Looking W.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0019	Factory, interior, button machine shop, showing original finish, equipment, and appurtenances. Looking W.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0020	Factory, interior, button machine shop, close-up detail of Photo 14, showing original rules, notices, and water bucket fire extinguisher. Looking W.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0021	Factory, interior, button machine shop, showing original overhead line shafts and belt-driven machinery. Looking W.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0022	Engine House, interior, blacksmith shop, showing original forge, tools and workbenches. Extant and labeled "Blaksm." (Blacksmith) on 1898 Sanborn map. Looking NE.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0023	Paint Shop, interior, drying ovens, showing custom designed trolley and unitized drying racks. Extant and labeled "Japan Ovens" on 1898 Sanborn map. Looking E.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0024	Paint Shop, interior, showing another type of drying oven. Extant and labeled "Japan Ovens" on 1898 Sanborn map. Looking S.
MA_Taunton_BristolCo_MMRhodes&SonsCo_0025	Paint Shop, interior, showing roof trusses and overhead line-shaft belt-drive system, driving drum, painting tumblers, and other machines. Looking E.

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.













M. RHODES
& SONS
CO

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Rhodes, M.M. and Sons Co.

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MASSACHUSETTS, Bristol

DATE RECEIVED: 7/15/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/10/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/25/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/30/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000570

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8/29/2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept AIC

REVIEWER Patrick Andrus

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 8/29/2016

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.



RECEIVED 2280

JUL 15 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

July 13, 2016

Mr. J. Paul Loether, Chief
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW 8th floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed please find the following nomination form:

M. M. Rhodes & Sons Co., 12 Porter Street, Taunton (Bristol), MA

The nomination has been voted eligible by the State Review Board and has been signed by the State Historic Preservation Officer. The owners of the property were notified of pending State Review Board consideration 30 to 45 days before the meeting and were afforded the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Betsy Friedberg".

Betsy Friedberg
National Register Director
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Enclosure

cc: George Rhodes
Mayor Tom Hoye, City of Taunton
William Manganiello, Taunton Historical Commission
Richard Casella, Historic Documentation Company, Consultant
Robert Campbell, Taunton Planning Board

220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
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