

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking 'Y' in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc. Mill Building

other names/site number Brilliant Silk Hosiery Company; Silk Mill Lofts

2. Location

street & number 110 North Fulton St. (formerly 82-88 Llewellyn Avenue) not for publication

city or town Township of Bloomfield vicinity

state New Jersey code NJ county Essex code 013 Zip code 07003

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Amy Cradic
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/28/09
Date

Amy Cradic, Deputy SHPO
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

12-30-09

Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc. Mill Building
Name of Property

Essex County, New Jersey
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local (county)
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th/ EARLY 20th C. AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other CONCRETE: Interior structural system (5 story section); Lintels

WOOD: Interior structural system (2-story section)

Narrative Description

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

See attached Continuation Sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark 'x' in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

*Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

ETHNIC HERITAGE: European

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

Ca. 1921 - 1941

Significant Dates

1923; Ca. 1924; 1931, 1933

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Columbia University; Newark Public Library
Bloomfield Free Public Library; The Hosiery Association; The George

Meany Archives.

Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc. Mill Building
Name of Property

Essex County, New Jersey
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.44 acres (building only)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 566860 45115151410
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4
 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Delaney Krugman, J.D., M.S.H.P.

organization Mary Delaney Krugman Associates, Inc. date December 2008

street & number 36 Park Street telephone (973) 746-2810

city or town Montclair state NJ Zip code 07042

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name 88 Llewellyn Associates, LLC

street & number c/o Mosaic Realty Partners, 2413 Avenue U telephone 718-743-1173

city or town Brooklyn state NY Zip code 11229

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Continuation Sheet

Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc. Mill Building
Township of Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey

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SECTION 7 - DESCRIPTION

Location and Setting

The property is located at 110 North Fulton Street (formerly 82-88 Llewellyn Avenue), in the Township of Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey. It is listed on the Township Tax Map as Block 197, Lot 8, a parcel of 0.96 acres. The building under consideration here occupies .44 acres on the eastern half of the property. The neighborhood today remains largely unchanged from its appearance in 1924, when the mill was completed. Just a few years prior to that, it was an open meadow near a tributary of the Second River. Today it remains a mixed-use area of modest housing and multi-unit residential (Photos 21 and 22). For many years, the Township of Bloomfield's maintenance facility was located immediately west of the property, but was replaced in 1975 by the nine-story Felicity Tower Apartments, a senior housing facility (Photos 6 and 21 (in background)).

Exterior

The building occupies 0.44 acres of the total parcel and has a total square footage of 58,636 sf (Site Plan 2008; Photo 1). It was first constructed as a 2-story silk hosiery knitting mill in 1923, with a 4-story addition ca. 1924 (Photo H-1). It housed manufacturing uses from its beginnings until the late 1990s, when the current owner acquired the property (Photos H-2 through H-12). It had been vacant for some time prior to breaking ground for the building's rehabilitation in 2003. The rehabilitation continued from 2003– 2006, during which it was adapted for use as market-rate rental units under the guidance of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service as part of an application for certification for federal rehabilitation tax credits. It received final approval from the NJHPO and final certification of the project from the National Park Service (NPS) in December 2006. The property is now known as "Silk Mill Lofts."

The building consists of three sections, all with brick masonry perimeter walls: 1) a **2-story section** with wood structural and flooring systems (Photos 1, 6, and 7); 2) a **5-story section**, consisting of the historic 4-story building with concrete structural and flooring systems (Photos 1 and 2) and a NPS-approved frame addition at the fifth floor level (Photos 1, 2, 11, and 16); and 3) a **1-story section** that formerly housed the boiler plant along the western wall of the 2-story section (Photos 10 and 11). The walls of the remaining 1-story section on Llewellyn Avenue were retained, but the roof of the structure was removed and the height of the walls somewhat reduced during the rehabilitation when the structure became the enclosure for exterior space serving several of the first floor apartments (Photo 12). A 1951 non-contributing 1-story concrete block structure at the rear of the 4-story section (Photo H-8) was demolished as part of the rehabilitation.

The two main sections of the building (the 2- and 4-story sections) were constructed at different times. The documentary and physical evidence indicates that the 2-story portion was built first, on the parcel acquired by Brilliant Silk Hosiery Co., Inc. (Brilliant Silk) in December 1921. The 4-story section was constructed ca. 1924 on land the corporation had not acquired until August 1922.

On the west side of the parcel is a paved surface parking area, adjacent to the rear entrance of the building (Photos 11 and 13). Another surface parking lot is located on the north side of Llewellyn Avenue, directly across the street from the building.

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Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc. Mill Building
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The original window system in both the 2- and 4-story sections was made of steel and included windows with various configurations of horizontally pivoting sashes and several units with double-hung metal sash (Photos H-1 and H-2). Much of the glazing in the original sashes was "wire glass," a typical safety glass used in factories during the period. The original windows had deteriorated and, as part of the rehabilitation, they were replaced with new aluminum window units as approved by the NJHPO and the National Park Service. The replacement windows typically have awning, rather than pivoting, sashes (Photos 3, 4, and 6).

Many of the historic door openings were retained during the rehabilitation, although they are no longer functional. In particular, the historic door openings on Llewellyn Avenue – originally the main entrances to the building -- retain substantially the same appearance as when the building was acquired by the current owners (Photos H-2, H-4, and H-5; and 6 - 9).¹ The second floor emergency door, an important historic feature of the North Fulton Street façade, was also retained, although no longer functional (Photos H-1, H-2, and 4). Also retained and rehabilitated were the double metal doors on the second and third levels of the rear façade of the 4-story section (Photos H-7, 13, and 14). The former inset entry to the 1-story former boiler plant on Llewellyn Avenue is today marked by a shallow reveal in the brickwork (Photos H-6 and 10), as were other door openings that could not be retained, such as the emergency exit doors on the south façade of the 4-story section (Photos H-3 and 2). A new main entrance to the lobby was created on the North Fulton Street façade, inset from the building plane, at the site of a former loading platform and a modest metal canopy installed (Photos H-2, 3 - 5). The rear entrance from the parking area was relocated from the former loading dock area (Photo H-7; demolished) to the northernmost bay in the 4-story section, forming an interior axis with the front entry (Photos 13, 15, and 17).

Interior

When the current owners acquired the property, both the 2- and 4-story sections were open floors, except for several second floor offices arranged along the length of the Llewellyn Avenue side (Photos H-9 through H-12). After its rehabilitation and conversion to the new use, the building now includes 48 dwelling units, including four units in the NPS-approved fifth floor addition to the 4-story section, as well as common areas such as the main lobby, exercise room, and storage area, etc. (Photos 15 - 20). Circulation between the two sections after rehabilitation is via hallways at the first and second floor levels.

The structural systems of the two sections differ from one another, a fact that is consistent with research showing a dramatic increase in profitability of the hosiery industry during the 1920s (see Section 8 – History and Significance). In the 2-story building, the structural system consists of built-up wood posts that support a system of longitudinal and transverse wood beams (Photos H-9 and H-10). The ground floor was concrete; the second level flooring was wood planking. The wood structure system remains intact under drywall enclosures, although it is no longer visible. The structural system in the 4-story section consists of reinforced concrete posts that supported a flooring system of concrete beams and slabs (Photos 9 and 12). These posts and beams remain exposed as historic features in both the common areas and inside the apartments as well (Photos 15 – 20).

The brick masonry piers between the two sections provide additional evidence that the two buildings were constructed at different times (Photo H-9 and H-11). The piers appear to have been originally part of a masonry

¹ When first acquired by the current owner, only the westernmost door (Photo 11) was operating.

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Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc. Mill Building
Township of Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey

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wall that was cut through after original construction, rather than having been purposefully laid up as freestanding structures. The brick piers remain as historic features along the north wall of the lobby of the building after its conversion (Photos 15 and 17). Rolling fire doors formerly located at the interior openings to the boiler plant were salvaged, refinished, and reinstalled along the lobby wall near their original location (Photo 17).

The ceilings in the 2-story section are finished with fire-rated materials, although in the 4-story section concrete beams and posts remain exposed except where utilities and ductwork were needed (Photos 18 - 20).

As part of the rehabilitation, a 1942 elevator on the North Fulton Street side of the 2-story building (Photo H-2) was removed and a new elevator was installed in the 4-story section off the main lobby (Photo 16). The former elevator stack was retained (Photo 1) and converted to residential use through the insertion of new floors at each level.

During the adaptation of this mill building to residential uses, the owners have made great efforts to adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards and Guidelines for Treatment of Historic Properties* by preserving as much original fabric as possible, by retaining historic features, and by sensitive design and architectural treatments. In the process, an obsolete, vacant industrial building has been returned to service as housing, using strategies that incorporated energy efficiency and fully upgraded building systems. The owners worked closely with the NJHPO and the staff of the National Park Service throughout the construction activities to ensure that the project would result in a building that was historically intact, even though comprehensively rehabilitated and converted to a new use. Photos included as part of this nomination include pre-rehabilitation conditions to demonstrate how well the historic integrity of the building has been maintained.

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SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc. (Interstate) mill building is significant because of its associations with the American hosiery industry and the history of trade unionism in that industry. The hosiery industry's exponential growth during the 1920s is clearly expressed in this mill building's 2-part physical plant, constructed in 1923 and 1924. The workers here were members of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers (the Federation), which was well-recognized for its highly innovative approaches to collective bargaining. The Federation based its efforts on a thorough understanding of the market forces that governed the hosiery industry, especially during the period from 1926 to 1933. In 1931, when the Federation faced of a revolt by union workers' in the Northeast over an approved wage cut, the hosiery workers' Local at the Bloomfield mill adopted a unique strategy that allowed it to gain leverage at the bargaining table, while retaining full support of the Federation. This property is also significantly associated with the industrial history of the Township of Bloomfield. First as Brilliant Silk Hosiery Company, then as Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc., this enterprise was important to the economy and culture of the town of Bloomfield. Typically employing around 500 workers, it was one of Bloomfield's largest employers. After Interstate closed its doors in 1942, the building continued to house industrial operations until 1999. The building meets **Criterion A** for local significance in industrial history.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Industrial History of Bloomfield, New Jersey

The Township of Bloomfield, Essex County, New Jersey, was settled in the last half of the 18th Century. It was part of the City of Newark until 1812, when it incorporated as an independent township.¹ From its earliest days it was home to industry, spawned by several watercourses – the Second River, the Third River, and Toney's Brook -- that traversed the township. The copious water supply fed numerous millponds, which powered numerous sawmills, gristmills, and later paper mills and tanneries. In addition to these early industries, the town experienced a major expansion of the textile industry following its incorporation, no doubt assisted by the embargo imposed on British textiles during the War of 1812.²

In the first decade of the 19th Century, the opening of a toll road through Bloomfield proved a boon to local businesses and industries. Bloomfield Avenue, as it is now known, introduced twenty miles of straight road from Newark over the Watchung Mountain range to the Caldwells. From there, the road connected with major transportation routes into western New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York State's Southern Tier. By mid-19th Century, Bloomfield's situation was made even more advantageous by the opening of the Morris Canal and a new railroad line, which greatly increased the area's access to both suppliers and markets and enhanced its potential as an industrial center.³

¹ John P. Snyder, *The Story of New Jersey's Civil Boundaries 1606 – 1968* (Trenton NJ: Bureau of Geology and Topography, Department of Conservation and Economic Development, 1968): 126; and Rachel F. Diamond, *One Hundred Fifty Years Around the Green: A Brief History of Bloomfield, New Jersey 1812-1962* (Bloomfield, NJ: Bloomfield's 150th Anniversary, 1962).

² Maxine N. Lurie and Marc Mappen, Ed., "Bloomfield" *Encyclopedia of New Jersey* (New Brunswick NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2004), 81.

³ The Free Public Library of Bloomfield, Ed., *Bloomfield, New Jersey* (Bloomfield NJ: The Independent Press, 1932), 42.

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By 1918, Bloomfield enjoyed the reputation of being "most favorably suited for becoming an important industrial center" and was generally regarded as a pleasant, diverse community in which to live and work.⁴ The community's location close to urban centers enabled it to attract the labor force of skilled and unskilled workers necessary to support a healthy manufacturing economy.

Bloomfield worked hard to establish an environment friendly to manufacturing by offering new industries, among other things, financial incentives, financial assistance, and factory sites at very favorable prices.⁵ During the 1920's, *The Independent Press*, the local newspaper, added good public relations to the mix as it began to increase the amount of column-inches devoted to local industrial development. The opening of new companies, new plant construction, redevelopment of older plants, the development of new products from local industries, local business statistics and directories, etc. – all rated articles in the *Independent Press* during those years.⁶

Bloomfield's industry-friendly climate, its proximity to nearby markets and its easy access to a variety of transportation modes attracted a significant number of nationally- and internationally-known companies. Among these were the Clark Thread Co., The Walter Kidde Company, Delco-Remy, Westinghouse, Mennen Company, Eskimo Pie Corporation, Consolidated Safety Pin Company, American Book Company, Bakelite Corporation,⁷ Chams Company, General Motors, and the General Electric Company.⁸ According to current research, Brilliant Silk Hosiery Company, later Interstate, was the only hosiery mill ever established in Bloomfield.

Bloomfield's successful efforts to build local industry were reflected in its business statistics. Between 1914 and 1929, the town rose from 17th to 8th place in the state among New Jersey cities in the value of goods produced. In 1920, the population of Bloomfield was around 20,000; by 1930, it had increased to 38,000, with 68 industries employing some 6,000 workers.⁹

The Full-Fashioned Hosiery Industry

The hosiery industry in the United States relied on immigrant workers and their descendents since 1689, when German Mennonites founded the industry in the Philadelphia area. Hosiery remained a hand-knit item in the United States until 1822 – in the first years of the industrial revolution in America – when stocking and lace weavers from Nottinghamshire, England, set up the first knitting machines in Ipswich, Massachusetts.¹⁰

The industry remained, for the most part, a cottage industry until the second half of the 19th Century, when technological changes greatly increased production. In 1849, the invention of the latch needle allowed speedier operation of knitting machines. In 1864, Englishman William Cotton invented a vertical moveable needle bar, which later became the standard frame for use in the full-fashioned hosiery industry. ("Full-fashioned" hosiery is

⁴ Lewis T. Bryant, Com'r, Comp., *The Industrial Directory of New Jersey* (Trenton NJ: [NJ] Bureau of Industrial Statistics, Department of Labor, 1918): 61.

⁵ *Industrial Directory of New Jersey* (1918), *op cit.*, 61.

⁶ "Articles Appearing in the *Independent Press*," Index (n.d.), Bloomfield Public Library, Bloomfield, NJ, Local History Room Collections.

⁷ The Bakelite Corporation Factory Buildings, Bloomfield Township, NJ, have been found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by SHPO Opinion (1995); Lynn Drobbin & Associates, "Historic Architectural Resources Background Study for the Newark City Subway Extension and Vehicle Base Facility," Report (April 1995); and Dorothy Guzzo, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Letter to David Koenig, New Jersey Transit, dated December 4, 1995. Both documents found in the files of the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (File # HPO-L-95-8).

⁸ "Articles appearing in the *Independent Press* – Industries" Index, *op cit.*

⁹ "A Brief History of Bloomfield," *Bloomfield Township, NJ*, Official website, URL <http://www.bloomfieldtwpnj.com> accessed November 21, 2008.

¹⁰ Johannis Dirk DeHaan, *The Full-Fashioned Hosiery Industry in the U.S.A.* (The Hague: Mouton & Co., 1957): 16-17.

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made so that it conforms to the contours of the leg by dropping and adding stitches during the knitting process, in contrast to "seamless" hosiery, which is knitted in a cylindrical shape then pressed to form leg contours.¹¹⁾

The next two decades saw the invention of the seamless hosiery machine (1879) and the first semi-automatic knitter (1889). In spite of these technological advances, the industry remained largely decentralized through 1900.¹²

The British Hosiery Company, an English manufacturer, started the first full-fashioned hosiery mill in the United States in Rhode Island in 1884, using skilled knitters who had emigrated from Britain. The second mill was started several years later in Philadelphia, again using skilled knitters from England.¹³ At the time, full-fashioned hosiery had been considered a "foreign product" that appealed only to a limited market among upper class women.¹⁴ By 1907, seamless hosiery began to feel real competition, with the number of American mills producing full fashioned hosiery increasing steadily. In 1907, there were 33 full-fashioned mills; by 1917 that number had increased to 44 mills; and, by 1919 there were 92 mills reported.¹⁵

The knitting machines used to produce full-fashioned hosiery were more complex than those used for seamless hose. They worked finer threads at a much finer gauge than did the machines used for seamless hosiery, which was often made of thicker cotton threads. As a result, the full-fashioned industry required highly skilled workers with good eyesight, i.e., young workers intelligent and agile enough to operate the complex knitting machines. And, because machine maintenance and repair of the weaving machines were vital to production, it was important to locate hosiery mills relatively near machinery shops that could service them, such as those found in great numbers in the nearby cities of Newark and Paterson.¹⁶

These two requirements – skilled workers and accessible machine shops -- limited the spread of the industry across the United States to a few areas. This helped determine the nature of the industry's related trade union movement. By 1919, about 45% of the hosiery mills were located in Pennsylvania and 18% in the Southern states. The Midwest and New York had 8% each and New Jersey had 6.5% of the mills. The remaining 12% were found elsewhere in the U.S.A.¹⁷

1919 is generally regarded as the year during which full-fashioned hosiery began to dominate the industry. This new prominence was the result of a number of factors: 1) fancy and novelty yarns had been introduced and lightweight and sheer hose became popular; 2) Women's apparel shifted to comfortable work dresses from the bulky long skirts and tight bodices of the previous fashion era, as more women entered the workplace due to labor shortages during World War I; 3) the trend to shorter skirts was hastened by high fabric prices in the years following the war; and 4) young women, now with a disposable income of their own, were eager to exhibit their newly liberated status with a change in fashion.¹⁸ The passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

¹¹E.M. Schenke, "The Manufacture of Hosiery and Its Problems" (New York: National Association of Hosiery Manufacturers, 1935): 18-19; "American Federation of Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers," *Fortune*, Vol. 5 (January 1932): 49-53.

¹² DeHaan, *op cit.*, 17.

¹³ DeHaan, *op cit.*, 17.

¹⁴ DeHaan, *op cit.*, 18 (fn. 20). The author noted that men's hosiery production was negligible.

¹⁵ DeHaan, *op cit.*, 18.

¹⁶ Lewis T. Bryant, Com'r, Comp., *The Industrial Directory of New Jersey* (Trenton NJ: [NJ] Bureau of Industrial Statistics, Department of Labor, 1918): 780-781.

¹⁷ DeHaan, *op cit.*, 18.

¹⁸ DeHaan, *op cit.*, 20-21.

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in 1920, which granted women equal voting rights with men, gave additional impetus to women's spirit of independence and the loosening of past constraints on women's fashion. The result was a new focus on a fashionable leg.

Production of the new style silk hosiery increased by 500% during this period, while the production of seamless hosiery remained unchanged. *Fortune* magazine observed that in 1925, hosiery sales – one of the great post-War booms -- “suddenly roared up like a rocket into the industrial heavens.”¹⁹ “This whole boom, which determined the fortune of thousands of workers,” *Fortune* went on to say, “was based on the distinction between seamless (mainly cotton) and full-fashioned (mainly silk) hosiery.”²⁰

In 1925, full-fashioned hosiery accounted for approximately 75% of all stockings sold. Over 12 million dozen pairs were produced that year – a number that grew to almost 27 million dozen pairs by 1929.²¹ Shorter skirts and smart new shoe styles enticed young women to buy the best stockings they could afford – the Wharton School of Finance attributed short skirts alone with adding \$43 Million per year to hosiery production.²² Sales were also boosted by the rise in popularity of colored stockings; a color chart with 12 tempting shades was introduced in 1925.²³

Between the years 1919 and 1929, with the exception of a temporary slowdown during the recession of 1923-1924,²⁴ the number of full-fashioned hosiery mills in the United States increased from 92 to 263.²⁵ In the year between 1925 and 1926, the number of knitting machines in operation grew from 7,080 to 9,214; and in just two more years there were 12,565 machines in operation.²⁶

It is reported that production was increasing at such a dizzying rate that:

“... [A]nyone could make money in the industry, so far had demand outstripped supply. There are tales of the Chambers of Commerce in such Pennsylvania towns as Stroudsburg, Montgomery, Pottstown, or Lebanon, offering to build a mill free of charge for a budding full-fashioned manufacturer. New hosiery mills sprang up in the South and out in the Middle West. This ferment bred two insistent demands: for machines and for knitters to work them. So frenzied was the demand for machines that Reading Textile Machine Works ... then as now the only sizeable U.S. maker of full fashioned machines, had to allot its production as far as two years ahead. The full-fashioned machine ... is also so much more complex that skilled knitters are required to work it.... Wages soared to fabulous heights, until knitters were getting \$75 and more a week, were the highest paid skilled mill labor in the country ... [b]ut the manufacturers apparently cared little what wages they paid, providing they got production. In the last year of the boom (1929) the industry's productive capacity actually increased 25 per cent. Which, as we shall see, was 25 per cent too much.”²⁷

In 1929, 55.9% of the over 12,000 full-fashioned hosiery machines in operation were located in Pennsylvania; the South had 15.6%; New Jersey, New York, and New England, 12%; and the Midwest, 14%.²⁸

¹⁹ “American Federation of Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers,” *Fortune* Vol. 5 (January 1932): 49.

²⁰ *Fortune*, *op cit.*, 49.

²¹ *Fortune*, *op cit.*, 49 - 50.

²² “Short skirts added \$43 Million per year to hosiery output,” *New York Times* (4 November 1929): 16.

²³ DeHaan, *op cit.*, 21.

²⁴ DeHaan, *op cit.*, 21.

²⁵ DeHaan, *op cit.*, 22-23.

²⁶ George W. Taylor, *The Full-Fashioned Hosiery Worker: His Changing Economic Times* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1931), 84.

²⁷ *Fortune*, *op cit.*, 50.

²⁸ DeHaan, *op cit.*, 22.

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During those boom years of the 1920s, the hosiery industry became over-built. Production began to exceed demand by as much as 25-30% -- a trend exacerbated by a drop in women's hemlines.²⁹ This caused a dramatic drop in consumer prices for hosiery.³⁰ Factory owners launched a barrage of efforts to protect profits. They lowered wages; they maintained "open" (non-union) shops where union workers competed against cheaper non-union workers; they increased worker hours; and they began to require workers to "double-up" on machines, i.e., requiring one skilled worker to operate two machines instead of one.

Among the most worrisome trend for the Federation in the late 1920s was the increasing strength of open or non-union shops in such places as Reading, Pennsylvania, a center of anti-unionism, and mills in the southern United States, where wages typically ranged between 35 – 65% of the wages paid for the same work in the Northeast. Thus, union membership in the full-fashioned hosiery industry during the boom fell from over 75% to under 30%.³¹ In 1926, new union leadership made increasing union membership a priority, so that it would have greater leverage in its fight for a uniform wage scale and better working conditions.³²

The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 dealt the hosiery industry yet another blow. During the term of President Herbert Hoover, the national economy staggered under heretofore unseen poverty. Hosiery industry strikes raged across the Northeast during 1930 – 1931, as the union fought the increasing trend to open shops, and the corresponding loss of leverage in wage scale negotiations.

The inauguration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in March 1933 brought with it drastic recovery measures aimed at producing immediate results. Among the first pieces of legislation enacted was the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA), which brought with it both hope for better times and increased trade union activity.

Under the NIRA, trade associations and business groups were permitted to draw up "codes of fair competition," which would include sweeping price agreements, firm production quotas, and wage scales sufficient to improve significantly the condition of the most poorly paid workers. The National Recovery Administration (NRA) was formed to administer the codes, and cooperating businesses displayed a placard with a Blue Eagle in hopes of creating public pressure against non-compliance.³³ Corporations grew increasingly unhappy with the constraints that operated against their ability to adjust to market conditions. In 1935, the U. S. Supreme Court declared the first NRA to be unconstitutional.

The period from 1935-1941 saw a modest expansion in the silk hosiery industry – albeit at a much slower rate than in the 1920s – and a gradual reduction in labor costs.³⁴

With the onset of World War II, however, the industry faced new challenges. On July 26, 1941, all Japanese assets in the United States were frozen, and the full-fashioned hosiery industry was completely cut off from the major source of its raw material.³⁵

²⁹ "Hit Silk Hose Trade: Long Skirts Great Blow to the Industry, Says English Manufacturer," *New York Times* (22 August 1922).

³⁰ Lawrence Rogin, *Making History in Hosiery: The Story of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers* (Philadelphia: American Federation of Hosiery Workers, 1938): 18; *Fortune*, *op cit.*, 50; DeHaan, *op cit.*, 22.

³¹ *Fortune*, *op cit.*, 51.

³² Taylor, *op cit.*, 84-85.

³³ Richard Hofstadter, *The United States: A History of a Republic*, 2nd Ed. (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc., 1967): 717-718.

³⁴ DeHaan, *op cit.*, 24-25.

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On August 2, 1941, all processing of silk in the United States was prohibited. Nylon stockings, the synthetic alternative, were available from their first introduction in 1940 through 1942, but even they were barred from civilian use in February of that year. Only rayon and cotton were remained for use in hosiery manufacture during the war years. Factories unable to make the transition to alternative fibers were forced to shut down.³⁶ In the years following the war, nylon eventually replaced silk entirely in the fashion hosiery industry.

Trade Unionism in the Hosiery Industry (1800 – 1935)

The American hosiery industry has a long legacy of militant trade union activity. As early as the 18th Century, hosiery knitters had helped establish the Philadelphia Union of Framework Knitters. The first American union, composed exclusively of hosiery workers, was founded in 1844. The workers hired for the first full-fashioned hosiery mill in 1884 had emigrated from Nottinghamshire, England where, in the early 19th Century, the infamous "Luddite Riots" took place in which workers destroyed the technologically advanced knitting machines they saw as the cause of their low wages and wide-spread unemployment.³⁷

Although the early unions failed to survive the panics and recessions of 19th Century, unionization efforts continued throughout the 19th and into the 20th Century. Among hosiery workers' labor activities were the organization of the Knights of Labor and the wage strikes of 1899 and 1901. Hosiery workers became active members of the United Textile Workers (UTW) and formed Local 706, which later became the Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers' Union of Philadelphia and Vicinity – the area with the greatest concentration of hosiery mills in the United States. Under the UTW, hosiery Locals formed in large cities such as New York and Milwaukee, as well as in mid-sized industrial cities such as Paterson, Newark, and Boonton, New Jersey, among others. In 1913, delegates from hosiery Locals in the Philadelphia area formed the International Federation of Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers. The name was soon changed to the American Federation of Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers (Federation), which became the premier voice for workers in the American hosiery industry during the first half of the 20th Century.³⁸

Hosiery workers, particularly those in the northeast United States, faced very challenging working conditions during the mid-1920s. By then, the overbuilt industry struggled under excess production. Manufacturers tried to support profits by reducing wages and increasing hours (see above section, "The Full Fashioned Hosiery Industry"). The Federation stepped up its efforts to educate hosiery workers about the market conditions that affected their industry and the benefits of a strong union that would fight on their behalf.

In spite of the Federation's enormous organizational and educational efforts,³⁹ the mills around Reading, Pennsylvania, remained open shops, i.e., both union and non-union workers were hired, which put that region at

³⁵ DeHaan, *op cit.*, 26.

³⁶ DeHaan, *op cit.*, 28.

³⁷ Rogin, *op cit.*, 4-5. Although there has been some documentation of the history hosiery industry during the 20th Century, there appears little available in the way of secondary materials that would help elucidate and interpret the complex history of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers and its leaders during this period. Primary source material discovered to date appears to be limited to published news reports and material generated by the Federation itself.

³⁸ Rogin, *op cit.*, 6-7.

³⁹ The Federation reportedly spent more money per member for organizational purposes than any other union in the United States. Rogin, *op cit.*, 15.

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the epicenter of future labor unrest. Factory owners engaged in a number of union-breaking tactics, such as requiring workers to sign a "yellow dog" contract (the worker promises to not join a union under penalty of losing his/her job); obtaining sweeping court injunctions against job actions and union organizing;⁴⁰ attempting to bribe union officials; and hiring labor spies and professional strike breakers.⁴¹ Pressure mounted in favor of moving mills to the southern U.S., where non-union workers were willing to work longer hours for lower wages.

In 1926, the Federation's new leadership undertook both offensive and defensive steps that established the union as the "white hope of stabilization in a chaotic industry" and almost "unique in the annals of American labor."⁴² Federation leaders focused on understanding the economic conditions and market forces that shaped the hosiery industry. They presented papers at Federation conferences to educate the local unions in how these conditions could be altered for the better.⁴³ They emphasized that the key to survival was "stabilization through unionization," rather than the never-ending mill-by-mill battle for better wages and hours.⁴⁴ They worked for union-management cooperation for the sake of the industry:

"Recognizing the need of elimination of waste in industry and better efficiency all around, the union, under the leadership of Gustave Geiges, is engaged in a campaign of education to convince its entire membership that the worker is advantaged as much as the manufacturer in making the finest quality of work with the least possible waste."⁴⁵

In addition to raising workers' understanding of the industry, the Federation forged an alliance with manufacturers. In August 1929, the Federation negotiated an unprecedented contract with 52 hosiery manufacturers that, while it made certain concessions to management, also fostered the ultimate union goals of industry-wide unionization and the eradication of open shops. Under that agreement, the Federation accepted a 15% wage cut and limited doubling up on machines in recognition of the plight of owners that employed the more highly paid union workers so that they could maintain a competitive edge against open shops. In return, the owners agreed that all workers in certain classes would be union members.

To demonstrate the new spirit of cooperation with owners who signed the agreement, the Federation published and widely distributed its "White List" – pamphlets that promoted buying products from union employers who engaged in fair practices.⁴⁶ This is perhaps the first time in American labor history that a Federation launched an all-out public relations campaign that asked consumers to "look for the Union label" – a phrase later made famous in the song by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

October 1929 marked the onset of the Great Depression. The Federation strategy, at least in the early years of the Depression, was a combination of carrots and sticks. In January 1930, the Federation successfully negotiated a national agreement with the association of employers to conduct a "cooperative study" that would

⁴⁰ "Julius Kayser & Co. gets permanent injunction to restrain Local 30, American Federation of Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers, from interfering with employees in Brooklyn," *New York Times* (7 October 1925): 44.

⁴¹ Rogin, *op cit.*, 16.

⁴² *Fortune*, *op cit.*, 51.

⁴³ Gustave Geiges, "Over-Development in Textile Industries," Address delivered at the Textile Conference, Philadelphia PA: April 28, 1928. Microform Collections, Butler Library, Columbia University, New York.

⁴⁴ *Fortune*, *op cit.*, 51.

⁴⁵ J. C. Mitten, President, Mitten Management, Inc., Letter to Gustave Geiges President, American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers, dated 29 February 1928. In *American Federation of Hosiery Workers, Ephemera 1928-1929*. Microform Collections, Butler Library, Columbia University, New York.

⁴⁶ American Federation of Hosiery Workers Ephemera, *op cit.*; Rogin, *op cit.*, 20.

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provide a "scientific basis rule for the adjustment and standardization of wages."⁴⁷ In the face of continuing wage cuts, the Federation also called for immediate regulation of hours through trade union organization.⁴⁸

It also called for a series of strikes during 1930 and 1931 to force unionization of remaining open shops and the adoption of a national agreement on wage scales.⁴⁹ These strikes took place primarily in and around the cities of Philadelphia and Reading. In February 1930, union workers at the H. C. Aberle Company Hosiery Mill in Philadelphia began to demonstrate against non-union workers. Things escalated after mill owners rejected Philadelphia Mayor Mackey's offer of arbitration in the dispute.

On March 6, Carl Mackley, a union worker, was shot and killed during an afternoon of demonstrations against non-union workers. Three other union workers were wounded in the action. Four non-unionists were charged with the slaying.⁵⁰ Mackley's funeral was attended by some 25,000 people. Edward F. McGrady, legislative representative of the American Federation of Labor, fanning the flames of union fervor, asked the crowd to repeat the following pledge:

I hereby solemnly promise that I will continue the struggle against low wages, poverty and oppression, and that I will not falter not be intimidated by hired assassins, nor discouraged by a subservient and oft-times tyrannical judiciary. That if necessary, we too, will lay down our lives in order that all those who toil may be delivered from industrial enslavement by the un-American, avaricious industrial despots. To all of which I, at the grave of our martyred brother, Carl Mackley, do pledge my most sacred work of honor.⁵¹

Labor strikes, civil unrest, and violence persisted through the next two years. In November 1930, some 12,000 union workers walked off the job in Berks County; in February 1931, Philadelphia union hosiery workers in 30 open-shop mills along with some of their non-union colleagues called a strike resulting from repeated wage cuts and "other unsound attempts to meet the depressed conditions of the industry" in an area where approximately 80 hosiery mills produced 30% of the nation's stockings.⁵² In Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, two men guarding a house against strikers killed a young woman union worker picketing;⁵³ and in March 1931, job actions at the Strahn Hosiery Company in Philadelphia also resulted in civil disorder.⁵⁴

By September 1931, the Federation called for a retreat in the face of the deepening economic depression. The price of hosiery had plummeted since October 1929 -- a result of continued oversupply and reduced consumer income. One wage cut followed another in non-union shops, as mill operators desperately tried to maintain

⁴⁷ "Study Hosiery Industry," *New York Times* (26 January 1930): 10.

⁴⁸ "Attack Hosiery Wage Cuts," *New York Times* (15 September 1930): 49.

⁴⁹ "Hosiery Strike Voted," *New York Times* (17 November 1930): 32.

⁵⁰ "One Killed, 3 Shot in Strike Clash," *New York Times* (7 March 1930): 22.

⁵¹ "25,000 at Funeral of Hosiery Striker," *New York Times* (10 March 1930): 44. William Pfeiffer, Mackley's alleged killer and non-union worker, was acquitted of the killing on May 30, 1930. The first workers' housing project funded by Franklin D. Roosevelt's Public Works Administration (PWA) was built in Philadelphia primarily to meet the housing needs of hosiery workers, and was named for Carl Mackley. The "Carl Mackley Houses" were completed in 1935; the complex is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Patrick O'Bannon, *Carl Mackley Houses, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania*, National Register of Historic Places nomination form dated 8 September 1997; listed on the National Register (6 May 1998).

⁵² "Hosiery Union Strike Set in Philadelphia: More than 4000 Expected to Be Affected -- Aim is to Unionize All of City's Mills," *New York Times* (13 February 1931); "2000 in Hosiery Mills Quit at Philadelphia," *New York Times* (17 February 1931): 42.

⁵³ "Girl Striker Slain by Mill Men's Fire," *New York Times* (25 February 1931): 38; "Union Accuses County Officials," *New York Times* (25 February 1931): 38.

⁵⁴ "Disorders outside plant of Strahn Hosiery Co., Philadelphia, Pa.," *New York Times* (10 March 1931); "Strikers Fight Police." *New York Times* (10 March 1931): 4.

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profitability. Union mills, locked into the higher union wage, could not compete with non-union shops; some, particularly in the Northeast, were forced to close their doors.

Rather than lose union jobs and, not incidentally, its industry-wide influence, the Federation made an unprecedented move. When its annual agreement with the Hosiery Manufacture's Association (Association) expired on September 1, 1931, the Federation took what the *New York Times* described as "... one of the most drastic steps planned by a labor organization in recent years..."⁵⁵ by agreeing to drastic wage cuts that ranged from 30-50% of current union wages. In return, the manufacturer's Association agreed: 1) to complete unionization of their plants; 2) a check-off system for collecting union dues directly from wages; 3) to reinstate one worker per machine, which had been doubled up under the 1929 agreement; and 4) to revise wage rates upwards if profits averaged above 6%.⁵⁶

By proposing such drastic wage cuts, the Federation risked the support of some of its faithful rank-and-file members for a greater goal – increased union membership. The theory behind the move was that, if employers attempted to lower non-union wage scales even below the new low union levels, a widespread revolt among non-union workers would result in a call for a general strike in all sections of the country and a general upsurge in union membership.⁵⁷ Emil Rieve, international president of the union, noted that the purpose of the action was "... to bring about standardized costs throughout the industry, with regulation of hours in accordance with the needs of the market, as determined by a committee of experts appointed by manufacturers and employes [sic]."⁵⁸

At first, it appeared that the Federation had miscalculated. Just two days after the announcement of the wage cut agreement, union workers in Paterson and Dover lead the northern New Jersey hosiery Locals into a rebellion against it.⁵⁹ In the Philadelphia area, some 3,000 members of hosiery Locals representing some 29% of the workers affected by the agreement also revolted against it, although the Philadelphia Local, the largest in the union, approved it.⁶⁰ These were soon followed by Locals in Long Island and Massachusetts, where some 7,000 members of individual shops went out on strikes against the wishes of the national leaders; some threatened to secede from the Federation altogether.⁶¹

On September 25, 1931, 2,800 striking hosiery workers from the Northeast converged on the Berkshire Mills plant in Reading, Pennsylvania – a powerful non-union stronghold located very near Interstate's Lansdale plant – in an attempt to convince Berkshire's non-union workers to strike. In October, the rebellion spread to Lawrence, Massachusetts, where insurgents at two plants went on strike against the wage cuts.⁶² Management

⁵⁵ "Hosiery Wage Cut Voted in Union War: Federation of Workers Seeks to Bring Entire Industry to Union Basis," *New York Times* (7 September 1931): 26.

⁵⁶ Rogin, *op cit.*, 22.

⁵⁷ "Hosiery Wage Cut Voted in Union War," *New York Times* (7 September 1931): 26.

⁵⁸ "Hosiery Wage Cut Voted in Union War," *New York Times* (7 September 1931): 26.

⁵⁹ "Hosiery Workers to Fight Lower Wages," *Newark Evening News* (9 September 1931): 5.

⁶⁰ "3000 Hosiery Workers Quit on Hosiery Pay Cut," *New York Times* (22 September 1931): 46.

⁶¹ "Hosiery Workers Reject Wage Cut," *Newark Evening News* (21 September 1931): 5; "3,000 Workers Quit on Hosiery Pay Cut," *New York Times* (22 September 1931): 46; "Hosiery Strike Grows in State: Workers Out at Plants in Six Communities in Wage Cut Protest," *Newark Evening News* (22 September 1931): 42; "Hosiery Workers to Ratify Strike: 4,000 from New York, New Jersey and New England Draft Call in Paterson," *New York Times* (23 September 1931).

⁶² "Seek to Spread Hosiery Strike," *New York Times* (25 September 1931), 4; "Hosiery Pickets Rally," *New York Times* (25 September 1931), 30. "Reading is Invaded by Hosiery Strikers," *New York Times* (26 September 1931); "2,800 Invade Reading in Hosiery Union Plea," *New York Times* (29 September 1931); "Hosiery Union Orders Rebel Strike Halted," *New York Times* (3 October 1931).

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immediately closed the mills so as to prevent any damage to the intricate knitting machinery, thereby throwing 8,000 hosiery workers out of work.⁶³

The rank and file rebellion was ultimately unsuccessful. Little appears to have been reported about the labor unrest in the hosiery industry during 1932, however, given research to date. The insurgent Locals faded from the pages of the national press and trade press, the members perhaps having come to grips with the very real need to feed their families.⁶⁴ In the place of labor troubles, new articles began to tout a new boom in mesh (non-run) hosiery⁶⁵ and a growing popularity of rayon hosiery⁶⁶ -- both of which represented threats to the silk hosiery industry.

With the inauguration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Federation enjoyed new prominence. Under Roosevelt's NRA, the Federation took an active role in devising codes for the hosiery industry, thus making it reportedly one of only 23 code authorities among some 600 to represent unions.⁶⁷ By the end of July 1933, the NRA had temporary codes for the industry in place, pending agreement on a permanent code. These codes gave union and non-union workers alike certain protection under standardized minimum wages and hours provisions. The Federation reported that, as a result of its vigilance, it successfully prevented the insertion of a clause that would have given the manufacturers the right to bargain individually or collectively, which would have subverted the Federation goals for industry-wide unionization.⁶⁸

In spite of the approval of the temporary hosiery code, the Federation kept up the pressure on manufacturers. Even as the codes were working their way toward approval, labor unrest besieged mills in High Point, North Carolina, where 6000 workers went on strike. In Lansdale, Pennsylvania, tear gas was used to break up striking employees. In Reading, Pennsylvania, unrest closed the Berkshire Knitting Mills, resulting in the dismissal of some 3000 striking employees and the outbreak of a number of sympathy strikes among of other mills in Berks County.⁶⁹ And in Philadelphia, strikers stoned the NRA "Blue Eagle" placards and strikebreakers, and fought with riot police.⁷⁰

On August 28, 1933, Roosevelt signed the permanent hosiery industry code, anticipating an end to the labor unrest in the industry. Five days later, two strikers were killed in a riot in Cambria Mills, Philadelphia. By mid-September the Federation had brought the issue of collective bargaining to the National Labor Board⁷¹ -- reportedly the first matter considered by that body. The resulting decision concerning the election of shop representatives became known as the "Reading Plan," which served as an important precedent for the 1935 National Labor Relations Board, which succeeded the NLB.⁷²

⁶³ "Walkout Closes Lawrence Mills: Strike Against Wage Cuts Throws 8000 Out of Work in Two Plants," *New York Times* (6 October 1931).

⁶⁴ *The New York Times Index* (New York: The New York Times, 1932); Marion E. Potter, et. al., Ed., *Industrial Arts Index* (New York: H.W. Wilson Company, 1932).

⁶⁵ "Mesh Hosiery Vogue Assumes Boom Proportions," *Textile World*, Vol. 81 (27 February 1932): 805.

⁶⁶ F. E. Baker, "Rayon Hosiery Appears to Maintain Steady Progress," *Textile World*, Vol. 82 (September 1932): 526-7.

⁶⁷ Rogin, *op cit.*, 26.

⁶⁸ Rogin, *op cit.*, 26.

⁶⁹ Rogin, *op cit.*, 24; "70 Pickets Arrested outside Cambria Silk Hosiery Co, freed with warning," *New York Times* (25 July 1933).

⁷⁰ "Philadelphia strikers stone NRA eagle, stone strikebreakers, battle police; several hurt," *New York Times* (2 August 1933).

⁷¹ The National Labor Board was created under the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) of 1933, which was later declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court.

⁷² The National Labor Relations Board was created in 1935 under the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA), 29 U.S.C. §§ 151-169n (also known as the "Wagner Act") after the NIRA was found unconstitutional. Also see Rogin, *op cit.*, 24; "American Federation of Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers seeks NRA ruling on refusal of operators to enter contract with union following recent strike settlement," *New York Times* (15 September 1933): 3.

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Again and again during 1934, the Federation brought employer non-compliance complaints to the National Labor Board. Striking workers were killed in Philadelphia and Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania; strikers were bayoneted during labor actions in High Point, North Carolina. In Harriman, Tennessee, Federation Vice-President F. G. Held was kidnapped, after a mill's closing for failure to comply with NRA codes. The Federation helped coordinate strikes at hosiery mills in a number of locations, among them Georgia, Indiana, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania.⁷³

In spite of its ultimately being found unconstitutional in 1935, the NRA accomplished a number of goals advanced by the trade unions, especially those related to the hosiery and textile industries. Among the reforms were the establishment of the principle of maximum hours and minimum wages on a national basis and the support of collective bargaining as a national policy – both primary goals of the Federation and for which it had fought for so many years.⁷⁴

The American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers, particularly during the tumultuous period from 1915 to 1935, was recognized as a masterful and innovative leader in the American labor history during this period in terms of its efforts to understand the market forces that drove its industry, in the development of union organization and bargaining strategies, and its unflagging dedication to “stabilization through unionization.”⁷⁵

Brilliant Silk Hosiery Company, later Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc. (1921-1942)

Early History – Brilliant Silk Hosiery (Ca. 1921-1929)

The Brilliant Silk Hosiery Company (Brilliant Silk) purchased the site at the corner of North Fulton Street and Llewellyn Avenue for its Bloomfield plant in 1921, early in the boom years of the full-fashioned hosiery industry. Although a number of full-fashioned hosiery mills were later located in northern New Jersey -- Paterson, Clifton, Hackettstown, Dover, and Boonton, for example -- Brilliant Silk was the only such mill located in Bloomfield.⁷⁶ The site's purchase and the construction of the plant preceded the 1923 adoption of the first zoning map and ordinance by the township, which placed the site just outside the area defined as a manufacturing district. The mill thus became a pre-existing, non-conforming use under the new zoning.⁷⁷

Brilliant Silk apparently prospered during its early years. In August 1922, six months after purchasing its first parcel at the corner, the company purchased an additional five adjacent parcels along North Fulton Street. By

⁷³ “Harriman Hosiery Mills refuses to accept National Labor Board ruling,” *New York Times* (14 March 1934): 10; “Armed men kidnap F. Held, vice president of American Federation of Hosiery Workers,” *New York Times* (28 June 1933): 2; “American Federation of Hosiery Workers hold memorial services for 2 killed in strike disorders,” *New York Times* (4 September 1934): 3; “Strike called for all mills not under contract,” *New York Times* (9 September 1934): 1; “Strikers injured by bayonets,” *New York Times* (11 September 1934): 9; “Rome, Georgia, workers vote to stay on strike in support of UTWA,” *New York Times* (16 September 1934): 1.

⁷⁴ Hofstadter, *op cit.*, 719.

⁷⁵ *Fortune*, *op cit.*

⁷⁶ Baldwin's Directory of Montclair, Bloomfield, Verona, and the Caldwelles (1923).

⁷⁷ “Map of Bloomfield N.J., Building District Lines,” zoning map and ordinance adopted May 1923, *The Independent Press* (4 May 1923): 12.

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1923, it was operating at the modest two-story building at 82 Llewellyn Avenue.⁷⁸ A year or two later, it had constructed an impressive four-story masonry and concrete addition to the plant on North Fulton Street.⁷⁹

By 1928, Brilliant Silk and its employees were an integral part of the community of Bloomfield, which boasted some 45 industries at the time. *The Independent Press* reported on the activities of Brilliant Silk's employees in its column "Bloomfield Industries," which offers some insight into the composition of company's work force. One column reported that two employees were planning a visit to Germany – one to visit the "land of his ancestors," the other to bring his wife to the United States. That same column reported that the "girls of Brilliant Silk Hosiery were delighted" to learn of the wedding of a female co-worker Helen Goette to a Bloomfield resident.⁸⁰ And, as a sign of its willingness to be part of the community, Brilliant Silk was an advertiser in Bloomfield's Chamber of Commerce directory.⁸¹

Consolidation as Interstate Hosiery Mills (1928-1929)

In 1929, Brilliant Silk merged with two other companies – Lansdale Silk Hosiery Company (Lansdale Silk) of Lansdale, Pennsylvania, and Finery Silk Hosiery Company, Inc. (Finery), Clifton, New Jersey⁸² – to form Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc. (Interstate), a Delaware corporation.⁸³ A major mover in the merger was Ivan Selig, former director and sales manager of the Gotham Silk Hosiery Company – one of the largest silk hosiery mills in the United States. Mr. Selig became the first President of the new company; Harold and Lawrence Greenwald, who were former executives of Finery, became, respectively, Vice President and Secretary of Interstate. Herman Voss, former president of Lansdale Silk, became a director, along with representatives of the corporation's bankers Ernst & Co. and Strupp & Co., which together held over 70% of the outstanding shares. The news reports did not mention any role Brilliant Silk's executives might have assumed in the new company.⁸⁴

Interstate established its main corporate offices in Lansdale, which was located west of Philadelphia in the heart of the U.S. hosiery industry. Company earnings for the first quarter of 1929 were reported to be over \$1.27 million, as compared with \$908,278 for the first quarter of 1928 – a gain of approximately 40% in one year.⁸⁵ Only a few months later, however, saw the onset of the Great Depression.

⁷⁸ Baldwin's Directory (1923), *op cit.*

⁷⁹ Bloomfield, NJ, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map* (1977) shows what appears to be "1924" for the year of construction of the four-story addition. This is the only documentary evidence discovered to date that assigns construction of the addition to that year.

⁸⁰ "Bloomfield Industries," *The Independent Press* (4 May 1928): Section II, 4. Germans were reported to have constituted a large segment of the population in 1928 and that year, as a "graceful act of friendliness," the Bloomfield Board of Education restored German language course to the Bloomfield school curriculum. See Diamond, *op cit.*, 44.

⁸¹ Industrial Director and Buyers' Guide of Bloomfield, New Jersey 1925 (Bloomfield NJ: Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, 1925): 54.

⁸² The location of the Finery mill is unknown, given the research to date.

⁸³ "Hosiery Makers to Unite." *New York Times* (24 February 1929).

⁸⁴ One year later, Brilliant Silk filed a petition in New Jersey's Court of Chancery, asking to be released from the consolidation agreement, alleging that officials provided misleading financial information and deprived Brilliant Silk of any voice in the new corporation via asset structuring and executive compensation. "Asks Release in Merger," *New York Times* (20 February 1930). Research to date has not discovered the outcome of this litigation.

⁸⁵ "Interstate Hosiery Mills," *New York Times* (28 February 1929): 36; "Interstate Hosiery Mills," *New York Times* (19 April 1929): 39. Management reported to the stockholders that the centralization of the dyeing and finishing plants has been completed and that this would result in a material saving.

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Early Depression Years - Bold Union Steps and the Insurgent Movement (1931-1933)

Interstate's Bloomfield mill was not immune to the tumult in the hosiery industry during the period 1931-1933, since its workers were members of a local chapter (Local) of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers.

In the fall of 1931 – not long after the Federation and the Manufacturer's Association agreed on 30-50% wage cuts across the board -- Interstate's management proposed a new employee contract that included a 40% cut in wages, along with an additional 10% wage cut if profits did not improve within 90 days.

Although Interstate's cuts may have been in synch with the rate of wage reductions under the Federation-Association agreement, Interstate had never signed on to it – most importantly, it had not agreed to its unionization provisions. The joint agreement stipulated that, if one mill signed the agreement, all mills controlled by the same corporation were to be unionized as well. However, Interstate's Lansdale plant remained a non-union shop, like many in the Reading area. Interstate hoped to impose heavy wage cuts on its union workers without conceding any unionization benefits, i.e., it wanted the "quid" without the "quo."

The Bloomfield Local refused to accept the new wage scale. Management insisted that it was the appropriate local scale, since some mills in Paterson and Passaic were already working at the lower rates. In any event, management said, it couldn't afford a higher scale. When the talks failed to bring about an agreement, Interstate shut down the Llewellyn Avenue mill immediately and locked out the employees.⁸⁶

The troubles at Interstate garnered front-page headlines in the local press.⁸⁷ Clearly the fate of the Bloomfield mill, with its workforce of some 500 men and women, was important to the community. Interstate was recognized as one of Bloomfield's 52 principal industries, along with General Electric Company, Bakelite Corporation, Clark Thread Company, and the Peerless Tube Company.⁸⁸ Although other industries in the area had their share of strikes during the same period, none of those are known to date as having resulted in the involvement of the Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor of Bloomfield, and the U.S. Department of Labor – all of which tried, albeit unsuccessfully, to arbitrate the strike.⁸⁹

The intense local negotiations were perhaps spurred on by the desire to attract sympathy demonstrations by insurgent hosiery union Locals in nearby northern New Jersey cities, where thousands of union workers were rebelling against the new wage agreement and had walked off the job. Hosiery workers staging wildcat strikes in Paterson, Dover, Boonton, Hackettstown, Clifton, and Washington were later joined by workers in the mills of Hawthorne, Midland Park, Plainfield, and other cities in the northern part of the state. The number of insurgents reportedly grew to 11,000 workers nationwide as New York and New England – also union shops -- joined the New Jersey workers against the Philadelphia-based district leaders, where non-union shops predominated.⁹⁰ On

⁸⁶ "Hosiery Mill Appeals to the Chamber to Settle Strike," *The Independent Press* [Bloomfield NJ] (29 October 1931).

⁸⁷ "Articles Appearing in the Independent Press," Index (n.d.). Local History Room, Bloomfield Public Library, Bloomfield, NJ. Between the years 1931-1933, Interstate's labor unrest constituted 40% of all articles indexed under the heading "Bloomfield Industries - Industrial Relations."

⁸⁸ The Free Public Library of Bloomfield, *Bloomfield, New Jersey*, 47.

⁸⁹ "Hosiery Mill Appeals to the Chamber to Settle Strike," *The Independent Press* [Bloomfield NJ] (29 October 1931); "Mayor to Attempt Arbitration of Strike in Hosiery Mill Here," *The Independent Press* [Bloomfield NJ] (30 October 1931).

⁹⁰ "Hosiery Workers to Fight Lower Wages," *Newark Evening News* (9 September 1931): 5; "Hosiery Workers Reject Wage Cut.," *Newark Evening News* (21 September 1931): 5; "3,000 Workers Quit on Hosiery Pay Cut," *New York Times* (22 September 1931): 46; "Hosiery Strike Grows in State:

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September 25, a mile-long caravan of some 2,500 full-fashioned hosiery workers descended on Reading, Pennsylvania, to picket the mills there in protest of the wage cuts. It is interesting to note, however, that workers at the Llewellyn Avenue mill were never mentioned in news reports concerning the insurgents.

In fact, the union workers in Interstate's Bloomfield mill were in a rather unique position, since Interstate operated both union and non-union shops under its corporate umbrella. Fundamentally, the Bloomfield Local opposed the wage cuts – something that should have made them allies of the insurgent union members in the surrounding communities. However, rather than taking a stand in opposition to the Federation, the union Local determined that it could nonetheless oppose wage cuts for reasons consistent with the goals of Federation leaders, while gaining leverage at the bargaining table from the labor unrest fomented by the insurgents.

The Local finally agreed to accept the wage cuts, but only on the condition that Interstate's Lansdale plant was unionized. In using this "straddle position," the Local maintained strong links to the substantial resources of the national organization, while appearing to ally itself with the wildcat strikers in nearby cities.

It was a brilliant strategy, but, like wildcat strikes, it was ultimately unsuccessful. Neither was the proposed wage scale increased, nor was the Lansdale plant unionized. Interstate's management cited an agreement with the surrounding mills in Pennsylvania to maintain an open shop. Following the efforts of the Mayor and John A. Moffitt, a conciliator for the U. S. Department of Labor, Interstate promised it would "use its influence to remove obstacles [to unionizing the Lansdale plant] as soon as possible." This was not good enough for the Local, which held firm; the union unanimously rejected the report and voted to remain on strike.⁹¹

By December 1931, Interstate's management had reopened the Bloomfield plant using non-union help. Forty non-union workers crossed picket lines to operate the factory that once employed 500 workers. About 300 striking union workers set up picketing at the plant. Police patrolled the area to quell any violence that might break out. Members of the Local were incensed by the discovery that Interstate was attempting to break Local's hold by advertising work to non-union employees at a 10% increase over the union wage scale. Local reports noted that two days after the mill opened with non-union labor, an unknown assailant killed the daughter of John Moffitt, the Department of Labor negotiator in Interstate's Bloomfield troubles, in her home with a rifle bullet fired from an empty lot at the rear of her house. No connection with the labor unrest was firmly established, although such violence against the family of one of the major players in the bargaining process must have been unnerving, nonetheless.⁹²

An injunction against the Local eventually brought the 1931 strike to an end, although tensions continued to fester into 1932.⁹³ In July 1933, while the NRA hosiery industry codes were being hammered out, widespread strikes erupted again as open shops worked to unionize, including the Lansdale mill where police were called in

Workers Out at Plants in Six Communities in Wage Cut Protest," *Newark Evening News* (22 September 1931): 42; "Hosiery Workers to Ratify Strike: 4,000 from New York, New Jersey and New England Draft Call in Paterson." *New York Times* (23 September 1931); "Fight in Union Marks Strike: District Heads Disapprove Jersey Hosiery Walkout – 2,900 Are Affected," *Newark Evening News* (23 September 1931): 8; "Seek to Spread Hosiery Strike," *New York Times* (25 September 1931), 4.

⁹¹ "Workers Reject Compromise of Hosiery Strike: United States Labor Official Unable to Settle Dispute Over Unionizing of Lansdale Plant," *The Independent Press* [Bloomfield NJ] (13 November 1931).

⁹² "Hosiery Plant Re-opens with Non-Union Help," *The Independent Press* [Bloomfield NJ] (11 December 1931).

⁹³ "Hosiery Strike Here Averted by Injunction," *The Independent Press* [Bloomfield NJ] (14 July 1933).

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to break up picket lines.⁹⁴ The Bloomfield Local threatened a sympathy strike on behalf of the Lansdale workers, but the plant officials reminded the Local that it was restricted by the terms of the previous court order, which enjoined them from such an action. Pennsylvania workers then threatened to picket the Llewellyn Avenue plant in sympathy with the Local, but it was called off when owners agreed to meet in Reading.⁹⁵ That did not stop some Pennsylvania workers from parading in front of the Llewellyn Avenue plant. News reports once again noted that "in the interests of the workers, the mill was shut down."⁹⁶ At the end of July 1933, Lansdale workers were granted a 25% increase and returned to work, thus ending the unrest temporarily.⁹⁷

Manufacturers did not regard the NRA industry codes as particularly helpful to their economic vitality, given the set wage scale, the limitations on hours, and the increased status of unions. In Bloomfield, Interstate delivered a veiled threat to the Local by noting that if its weekly shifts of 49-1/2 hours were reduced to 40 hours, it would be required to increase the number of workers, install more machines, or divert work to its non-union Lansdale plant, even though that mill was "tied up with labor trouble."⁹⁸

The summer of 1933 continued to be punctuated by incidents of labor unrest. The new hosiery industry code failed to bring about the hoped-for peace after it was signed into effect in August. On September 1, Interstate's Llewellyn Avenue mill was once again embroiled in labor unrest when workers walked out after a call for a general strike by the Federation – this time for a 35-hour work-week and a 20% increase in pay – that resulted from the refusal by the manufacturer's Association to comply with the Federation's new demands.⁹⁹ The news article noted that the Llewellyn Avenue mill had been the scene of labor difficulties for the past two years "due to the efforts of the Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers to force the Pennsylvania mill of the same company to organize..."¹⁰⁰

As economic conditions gradually improved during the mid-1930s, labor troubles at the Bloomfield plant died down, as they did nationwide. The Interstate resumed its place as one of Bloomfield's most prominent businesses. By 1939, it was described as "one of the largest and busiest factories in Bloomfield." It employed over 500 men and women who worked in two shifts per day; the daily output was approximately 1,500 dozen pairs of hosiery.¹⁰¹

Interstate closed the doors of the Bloomfield mill in 1941, at the onset of World War II. Perhaps, like many other hosiery mills, the closure was caused by the lost access to supplies of silk and nylon thread, although the true reason has not yet been confirmed by research to date. In any event, after selling off most of its equipment,¹⁰² Interstate leased some or all of the Llewellyn Avenue premises to Johnson & Johnson, beginning in April 1942. In

⁹⁴ "Pinchot Condemns Gassing in Strike [Lansdale, PA]," *New York Times* (20 July 1933): 13.

⁹⁵ "Hosiery Strike Here Averted by Injunction," *The Independent Press* [Bloomfield NJ] (14 July 1933).

⁹⁶ "Workers Here Advised Not to Join Strike," *Independent Press* (21 July 1933): 4.

⁹⁷ "Strikers at Lansdale get 25% Increase in Wages; Return to Work," *New York Times* (31 July 1933): 18.

⁹⁸ "Increased Manufacturing Here Brings Confidence to Factory Managers and Plant Employees," *The Independent Press* (28 July 1933): 1.

⁹⁹ "Hosiery Workers' Strike On; Two Others Settled," *The Independent Press* (1 September 1933): 1.

¹⁰⁰ "Hosiery Workers' Strike On; Two Others Settled," *The Independent Press* (1 September 1933): 1.

¹⁰¹ "Unfinished Product in Brilliant Hues Shown in Hosiery Exhibit at Library," *The Independent Press* [Bloomfield NJ] (1 September 1939).

¹⁰² Sid Smith, National Association of Hosiery Manufacturers, Email correspondence with Mary Delaney Krugman, Preparer (27 June 2001). Smith also noted that Interstate closed its Lansdale, Pennsylvania mill in 1953, leaving only a New York office which acted as distributor for other mills. Finally in 1954, Burlington Industries acquired Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc.

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December of that year, the corporation sold the plant to a group of individual investors, subject to the Johnson & Johnson lease.¹⁰³

The Post-War Years

The next major tenant of 82-88 Llewellyn Avenue was the Champlain Co., Inc., a manufacturer of printing presses, which occupied all or part of the building from 1947 until 1961.¹⁰⁴ That year Danco Manufacturing Co., a division of Annin & Co. (Annin), the world's oldest and largest flag manufacturer, leased the first floor of the premises. Two other tenants occupied other floors, i.e., Ampex Audio Co., a California company (3rd floor) and United Stereo Tapes, a subsidiary of Ampex (2nd floor).¹⁰⁵ A year later, Annin expanded its operations to include the entire fourth floor, and in 1963, it purchased the entire plant.¹⁰⁶

Annin remained at the Llewellyn Avenue site for approximately 50 productive years, where it manufactured American flags and other smaller goods. Although it prospered during the upsurge of patriotism in the late 1980s, the fact that its flag machines had a repertoire limited to American flags was the eventual cause of its closure. After Annin acquired the Dettra Flag Company in Oaks, Pennsylvania – a company whose streamlined shop could produce a wide variety of flags – the Bloomfield plant became obsolete. It finally shut down operations in November 1998.¹⁰⁷

The nation's manufacturing sector, in decline since the 1970s,¹⁰⁸ reduced demand for factory space, especially in towns like Bloomfield, whose economies were heavily invested in the sector. When Annin sold the property in 1999, it sold it not to another manufacturing company, but to Llewellyn Avenue Associates, LLC – a company that planned to create market rate apartments in the building to meet the high demand for housing in the region.

In April 2001, that company sold the property to 88 Llewellyn Associates, LLC, the current owner, which executed the plan to convert the mill building to housing units. Beginning in 2003 and continuing through 2006, the owner worked with the NJHPO and the National Park Service to sensitively rehabilitate the property as it was converted to a new use.

CONCLUSIONS

The mill building at the corner of North Fulton Street and Llewellyn Avenue is significant for several reasons. First, the enterprise located there was an important part of Bloomfield's rich labor and manufacturing history that

¹⁰³ Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc. to Stella Hirsch, *et al.*, Deed dated 30 December 1942, Deed Book W100, Page 506, Essex County Register of Deeds, Newark, New Jersey.

¹⁰⁴ Little is known of this company to date.

¹⁰⁵ *Directory of Montclair, Bloomfield, Caldwell, Essex Fells, Glen Ridge and Verona* (Newark NJ: Price and Lee Co., 1947); "Danco, In Expansion Move, Takes Champlain Building Fl.," *The Independent Press* (17 March 1960): 1.

¹⁰⁶ Harriet Bonanno, *et al.* to Annin & Co., Deed dated 7 May 1963, Deed Book 3937, page 82-84; "Annin Flag Takes Over Entire 4th Floor of Champlain Building," *The Independent Press* (7 June 1962).

¹⁰⁷ "Annin factory to close doors after 42 years," *Independent Press* (25 November 1998).

¹⁰⁸ Josh Bivens, Robert Scott, and Christian Wheeler, "Mending Manufacturing: Reversing Poor Policy Decisions is the Only Way to End Current Crisis," *EPI Briefing Paper No. 144*, on Economic Policy Institute website, URL http://www.epi.org/content.cfm/briefingpapers_bp144 accessed November 21, 2008; and Robert Brenner, "The Economics of Global Turbulence: A Special Report on the World Economy 1950-98: The Onset of Crisis, 1965 – 1973." *New Left Review* 229 (May/June 1998), on website Questia, URL <http://www.questia.com> accessed November 21, 2008.

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has been little documented to date.¹⁰⁹ The vibrant industrial heritage of the area, including the story of its workers and their connections with the American labor movement, form an important part of the history of this long-time industry-friendly community.

The building is also significant because of its associations with the full-fashioned hosiery industry in the United States – the industry for which it was first constructed. The rapid expansion of the hosiery manufacturing operations, particularly during the early 1920s, is clearly reflected in its two-tiered building profile, when the operation more than doubled its size. The meteoric growth of the industry was ignited by a dramatic shift in the style of women's attire and a newfound spirit of women's independence during the 1920s, and was aided by significant technological and engineering innovations that helped to develop the highly complex knitting machines used in the production of fully contoured stockings.

The building is also significant because of the importance of American Federation of Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers, particularly during the years 1926 - 1933. Because of its astute understanding of the economics of its industry, its innovative unionization strategies, and its unprecedented cooperation with management for the preservation of the industry – especially during the Depression years – the Federation was recognized as a highly influential force in the hosiery industry and the American labor movement. The labor history of that period has been little recognized to date with regard to landmarks connected with those events.¹¹⁰

The Bloomfield hosiery union Local, particularly during the years 1931-1933, demonstrated ultimate loyalty to the Federation's goals. Nowhere in Bloomfield were the events swirling in the region played out more vividly than in and around the factory building of the Bloomfield plant of Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc. When other union Locals rebelled against the Federation, the Bloomfield Local devised a unique strategy that not only championed the Federation's national goal – stabilization through unionization – but also was intended to gain leverage at the bargaining table by appearing allied to the labor unrest elsewhere. Although ultimately unsuccessful, the Local's steadfast support of Federation goals in its fight against wage cuts and management's refusal to fully unionize its operations, demonstrated how important hosiery workers regarded those goals for their long-term benefit. Therefore, the building stands not only as a reminder of the importance of industry to Bloomfield, but also of the struggles of the men and women who worked there in the early years of the Depression.

Because of the above associations, the property at 110 North Fulton Street, formerly 82-88 Llewellyn Avenue, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** of the U. S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for evaluation of historic properties.

¹⁰⁹ To date, only two industrial buildings of some 68 industries formerly located in Bloomfield have been recognized by the National Register program: the Bakelite Corporation Factory Buildings (IC #2837) received a SHPO Opinion of National Register eligibility in 1995, and the General Electric Company Bloomfield Works (ID #4297) received a SHPO Opinion of eligibility in 2004. See NJ Historic Preservation Office's Essex County Index, New Jersey and National Register listings, URL <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/hpo/1identify/lists/essex.pdf> accessed December 11, 2008.

¹¹⁰ Pennsylvania has two National Register-listed landmarks relating to this period, but the documentation does not consider the labor history with which they were connected. The first is that of the Lansdale Silk Hosiery Company, the sister mill to the Interstate's Llewellyn Avenue mill in Bloomfield. This mill complex was found significant for its associations with the hosiery industry in Pennsylvania, but its connections with the tumultuous labor unrest of the early Depression years were not mentioned. See Cynthia Rose Hamilton, Preparer, *Lansdale Silk Hosiery Company – Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc.*, Nomination form, National Register of Historic Places (March 8, 2004; revised May 17, 2004); listed on the National Register October 12, 2004. The second example is the Carl Mackley Houses, Philadelphia, PA, which were named for the union worker killed during the 1930 unrest in that city. But again, this resource is not listed for any connection to labor history, but rather FDR's low-cost housing initiatives and its International Style architecture. See Patrick O'Bannon, *Carl Mackley Houses, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania*, Nomination form, National Register of Historic Places (8 September 1997); listed on the National Register (6 May 1998).

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property is the footprint of the former mill building now known as "Silk Mill Lofts," including the both the 2-, and 4-story sections of the building, but excluding the former 1-story structure that is now an open patio area serving several residential units. It is located on an irregular parcel of 0.96 Acres owned by 88 Llewellyn Associates, which is known on the Township of Bloomfield Tax Map as Block 197, Lot 8, with the street address of 110 North Fulton Street (formerly 882-88 Llewellyn Avenue). The building was formerly known by the historic names of Brilliant Silk Hosiery Company, then Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc. The building has a floor area of 58,636 sf (see the Tax Map and "Site Plan 2008" in Maps Section), which occupies approximately 0.44 acres.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The proposed boundary includes the footprint of the historic mill building on Lot 8 of Block 197. The 2- and 4-story sections of the building remain very much intact. The 1-story section, although it was a part of the historic mill building, has been reduced to its perimeter walls and no longer has its historic integrity. The boundary of the rear (western side) of the parcel on which the building sits has been altered by various title conveyances and no longer reflects the historic boundary of the property although the historic function that area, e.g., surface parking, remains approximately the same as its historic use. The other parcel across from the site on Llewellyn Avenue (Block 193, Lot 2) is also owned by 88 Llewellyn Associates, LLC, but it does not contribute to the significance of the mill building and is not included within the boundaries of the National Register property. The nominated property thus is the building that occupies the footprint of the 2- and 4-story sections of the original mills buildings.

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LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic Photographs

Subject: 110 North Fulton Street/88 Llewellyn Ave., Bloomfield, Essex County, NJ
Photo Sources: H-1: Courtesy of Newark Public Library, Newark, NJ.
H-2 – H-9: Taken June - July 2001 by Mary Delaney Krugman, J.D., M.S.H.P.

- Photo H-1 of 12 82-88 Llewellyn Ave. at corner of N. Fulton St. and Llewellyn Ave., ca. 1942, looking SW.
- Photo H-2 of 12 Vacant former mill building (2001), looking SW.
- Photo H-3 of 12 Vacant former mill building (2001), looking N.
- Photo H-4 of 12 East entrance door on Llewellyn Avenue (2001), looking S.
- Photo H-5 of 12 West entrance door on Llewellyn Avenue (2001), looking S.
- Photo H-6 of 12 Llewellyn Avenue façade and rear of building (2001), looking SE.
- Photo H-7 of 12 Rear loading dock (no longer extant) (2001), looking E.
- Photo H-8 of 12 Rear of building (2001) showing 1951 concrete block addition (no longer extant), looking NE.
- Photo H-9 of 12 Interior of 2nd floor (2001), looking N.
- Photo H-10 of 12 Detail of wood post in 2-story section (2001), looking N.
- Photo H-11 of 12 Typical brick pier on 1st floor between the 4-story and 2-story sections (2001), looking S.
- Photo H-12 of 12 Interior of 3rd floor in 4-story section (2001), looking NE.

Contemporary Photographs

Subject: 110 North Fulton Street/88 Llewellyn Ave., Bloomfield, Essex County, NJ
Date Taken: October 2006
Photographer: Mary Delaney Krugman, J.D., M.S.H.P.

- Photo 1 of 22 Building exterior at corner of N. Fulton St. and Llewellyn Ave. looking SW.
- Photo 2 of 22 Building exterior along North Fulton St., looking N.
- Photo 3 of 22 North Fulton St. entrance, looking SW.

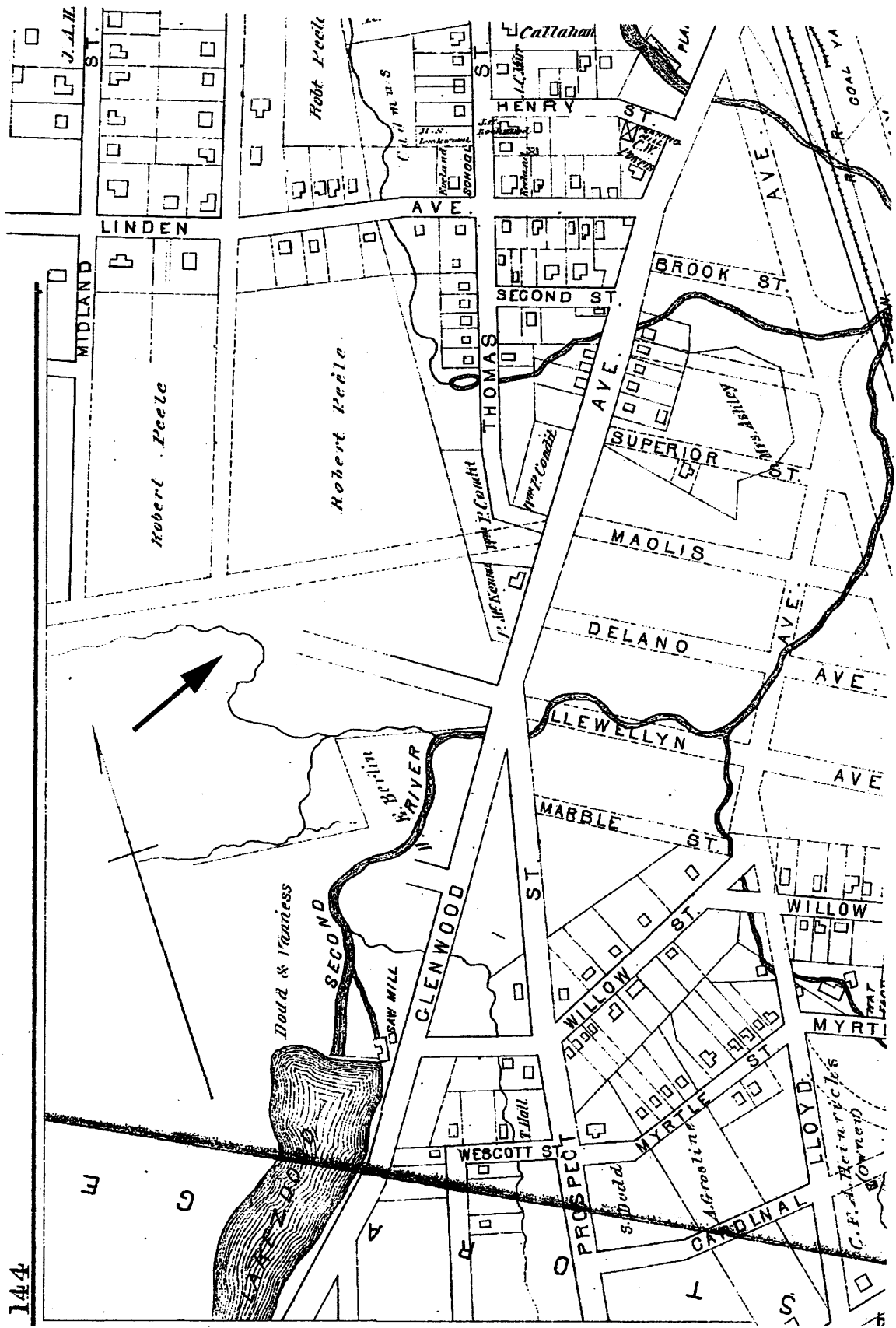
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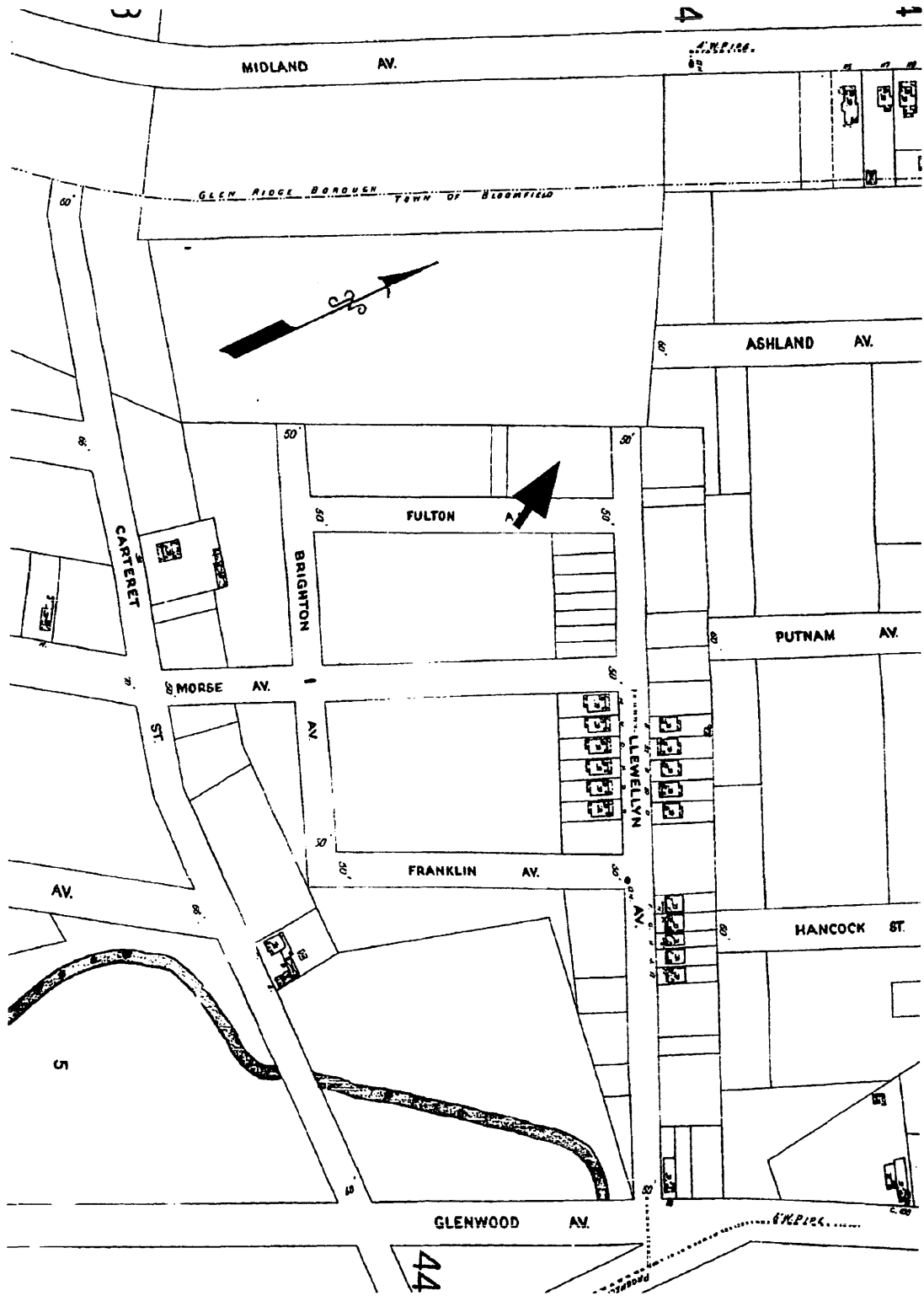
Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc. Mill Building
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- Photo 4 of 22 North Fulton St. entrance, showing preserved former emergency exit door at 2nd floor level, looking SW.
- Photo 5 of 22 Detail: Main entrance and canopy on North Fulton St., looking NW.
- Photo 6 of 22 Llewellyn Ave. façade, looking W.
- Photo 7 of 22 Llewellyn Ave. façade, looking SE.
- Photo 8 of 22 Detail of easternmost door on Llewellyn Ave., looking S.
- Photo 9 of 22 Detail of westernmost door on Llewellyn Ave., looking S.
- Photo 10 of 22 Llewellyn Ave. façade, looking E.
- Photo 11 of 22 Llewellyn Ave. façade and parking area, looking SE.
- Photo 12 of 22 Patio area created near former footprint of boiler plant, looking N.
- Photo 13 of 22 Rear façade and surface parking area, looking NE.
- Photo 14 of 22 Detail, upper level access doors at 3rd story of the rear facade, looking E.
- Photo 15 of 22 Interior view of new main lobby, looking E.
- Photo 16 of 22 Interior view of main lobby and elevator doors, looking SE.
- Photo 17 of 22 Interior view of main lobby with wall-mounted fire doors from historic building, looking NW.
- Photo 18 of 22 Interior view of typical residential unit, looking W.
- Photo 19 of 22 Interior view of typical residential unit showing exposed concrete structural column, looking NE.
- Photo 20 of 22 Common exercise room at 2nd floor of 4-story section, showing exposed concrete structure columns, looking NW.
- Photo 21 of 22 View of neighborhood along Llewellyn Ave., looking W.
- Photo 22 of 22 View of neighborhood along North Fulton St. from 4th floor, looking S.



Bloomfield, NJ. Robinson's Atlas of Essex County, NJ (1881) showing future location of 82-88 Llewellyn Avenue.

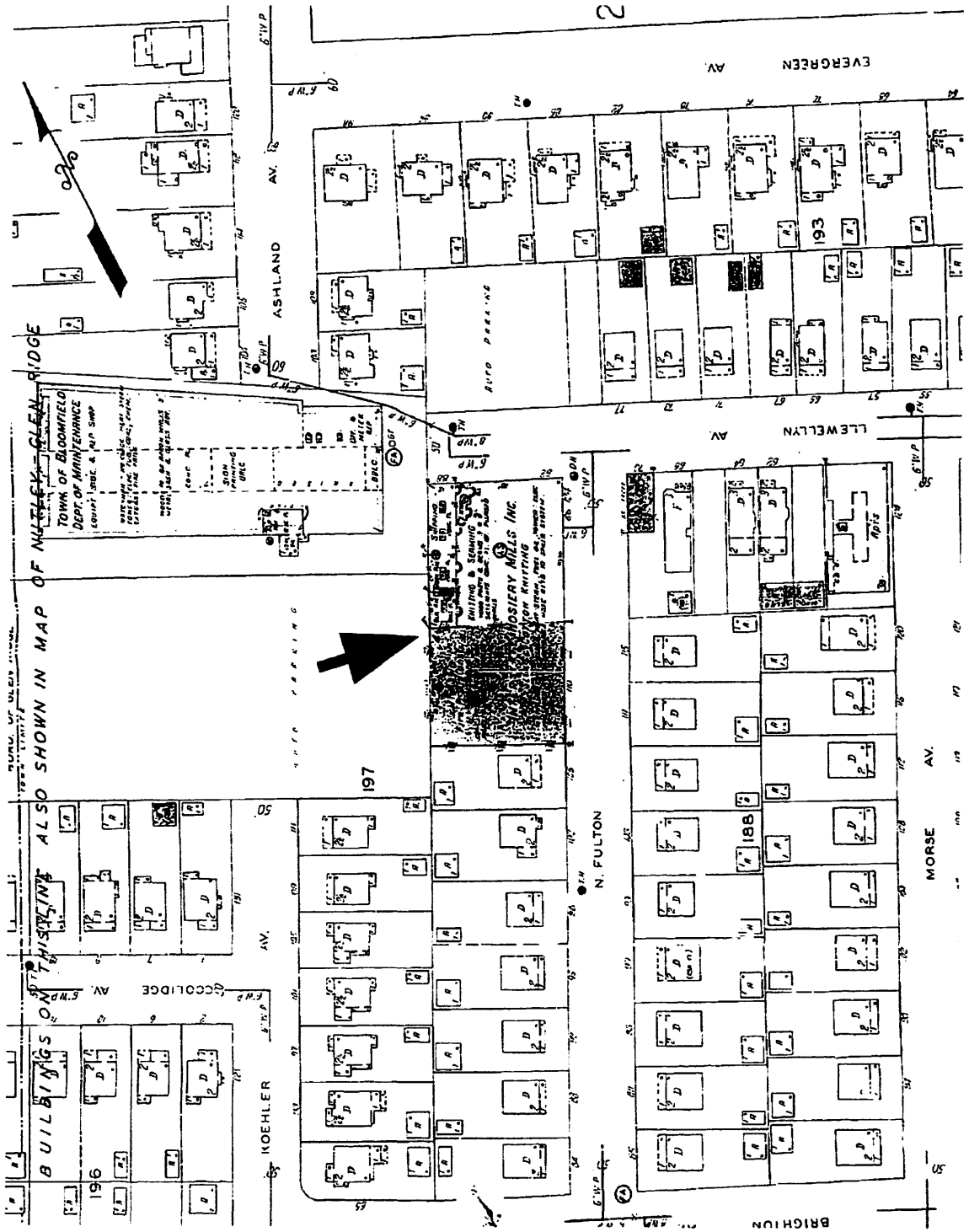


Future site of 82-88 Llewellyn St., Bloomfield, NJ. 1906 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.



Mill building, then Interstate Hosiery Mills Inc. , 1932.

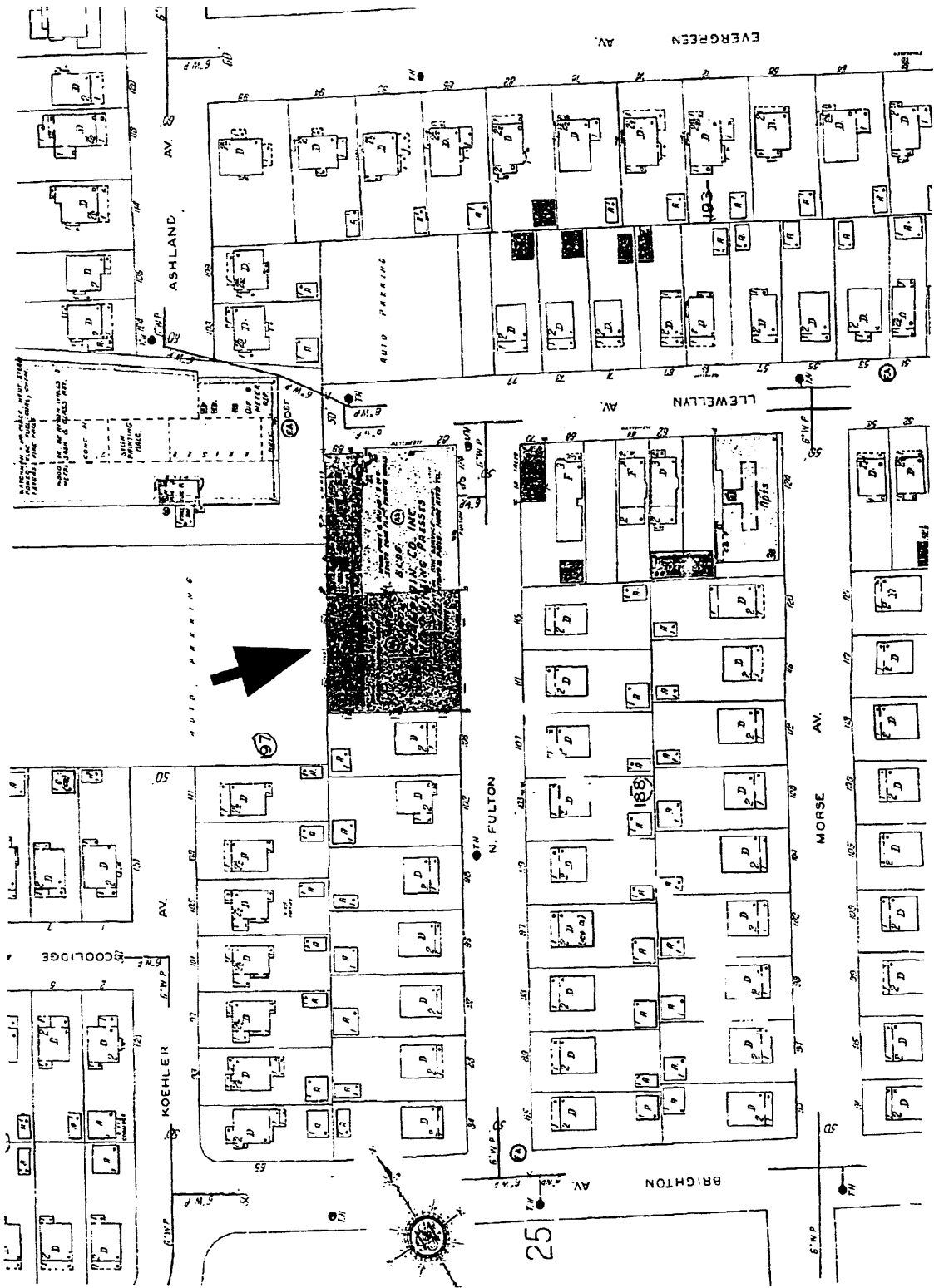
Source: State of New Jersey, Tidelands Aerial Survey, 1930-1932.



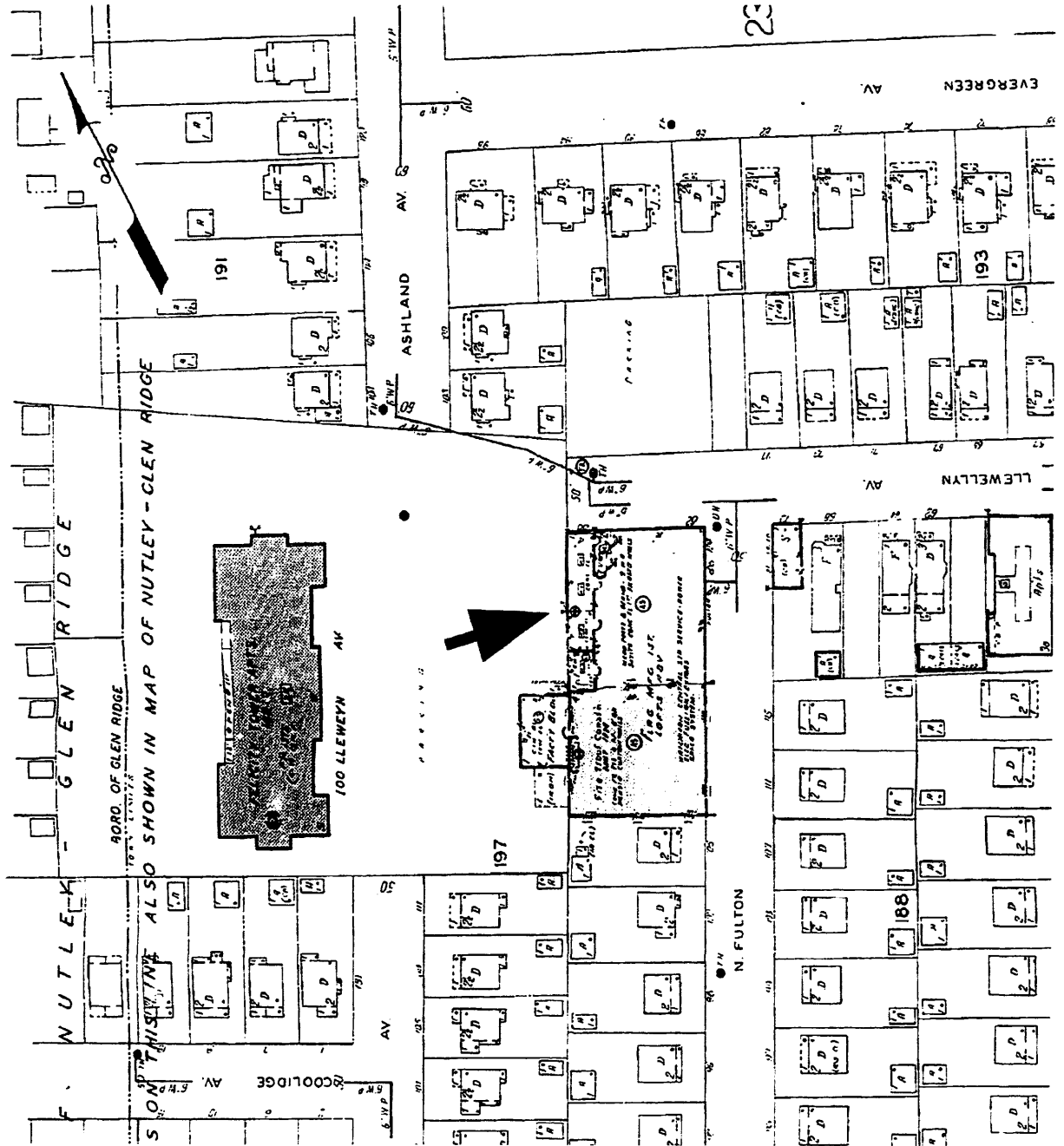
82-88 Llewellyn St., Bloomfield, NJ. 1938 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.



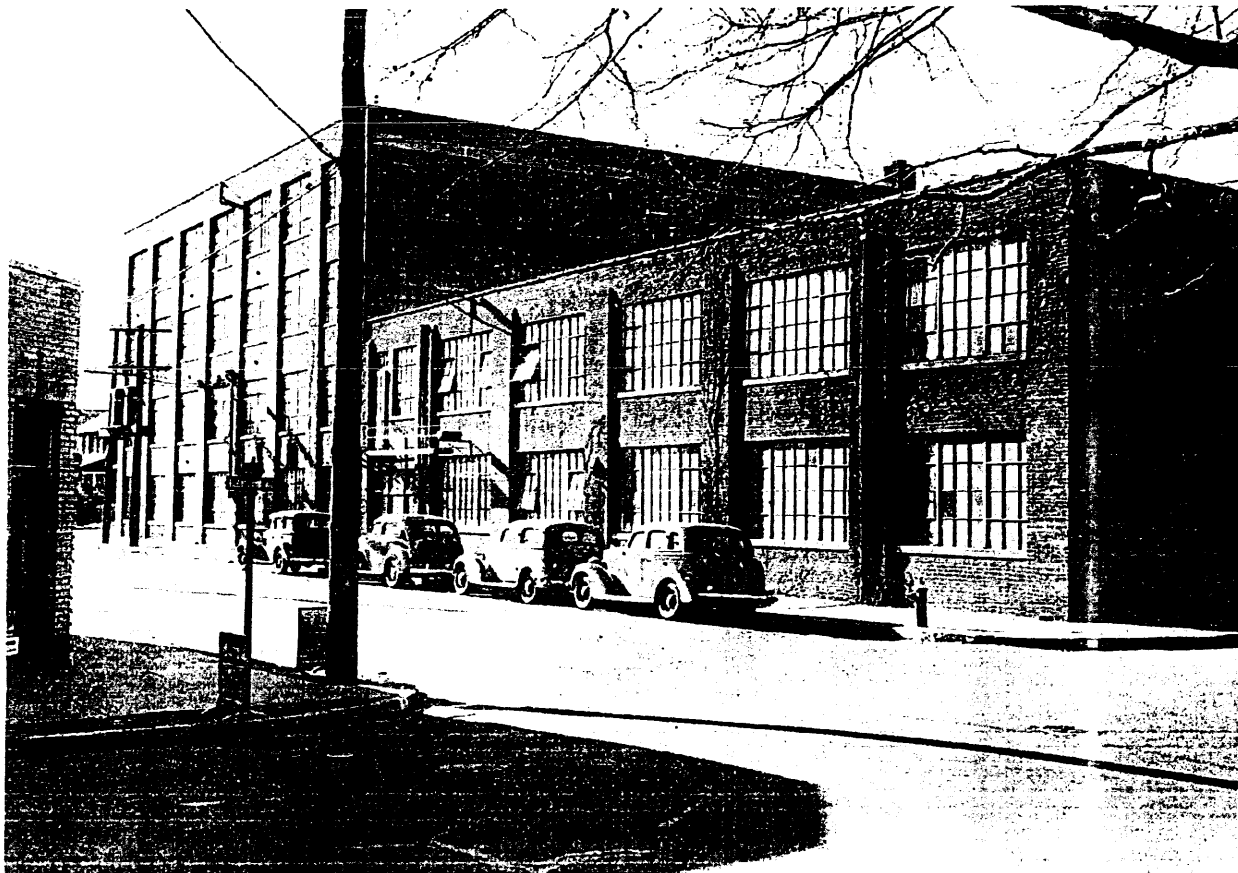
Aerial View of 82 Llewellyn St., Bloomfield, NJ. Source: State of New Jersey, Tidelands Aerial Survey, Dept. of Environmental Protection, Trenton, NJ (1940).



88 Llewellyn Ave./110 North Fulton St., Bloomfield, NJ. 1950 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.

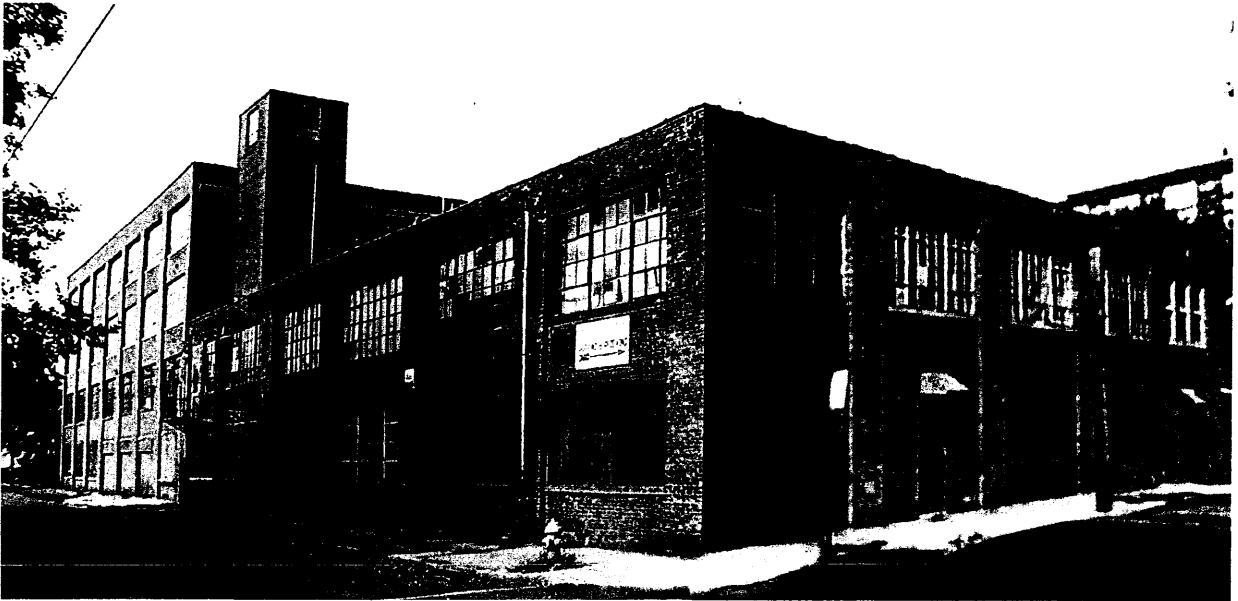


88 Llewellyn Ave./110 North Fulton St., Bloomfield, NJ. 1977 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map.



H-1

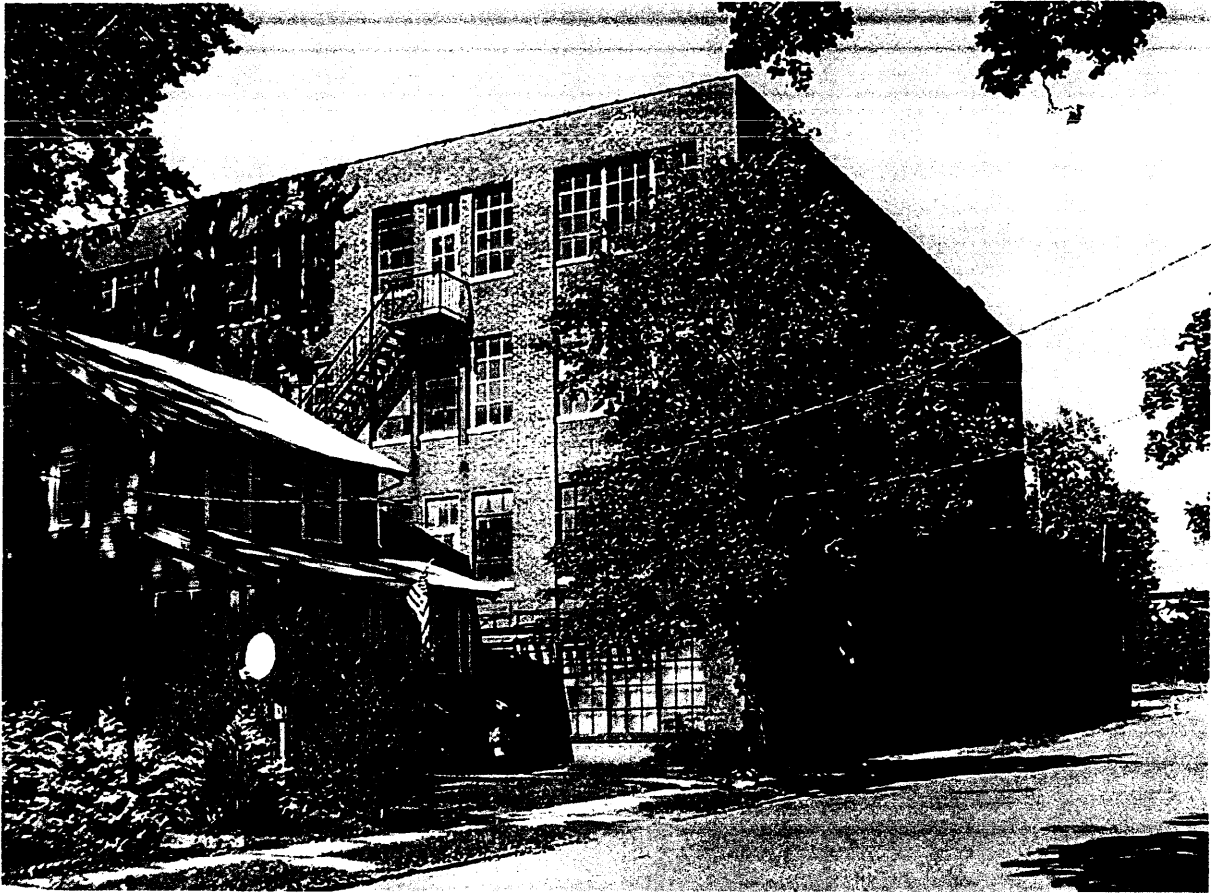
Interstate Hosiery Mills, Inc., Bloomfield NJ Mill building, ca. 1942.



H-2

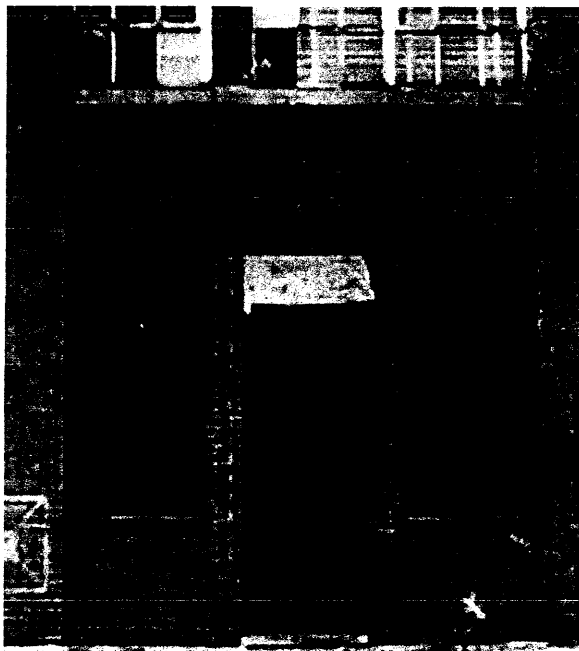
Vacant former mill building (2001), looking SW.

Photo H-1
Photo H-2



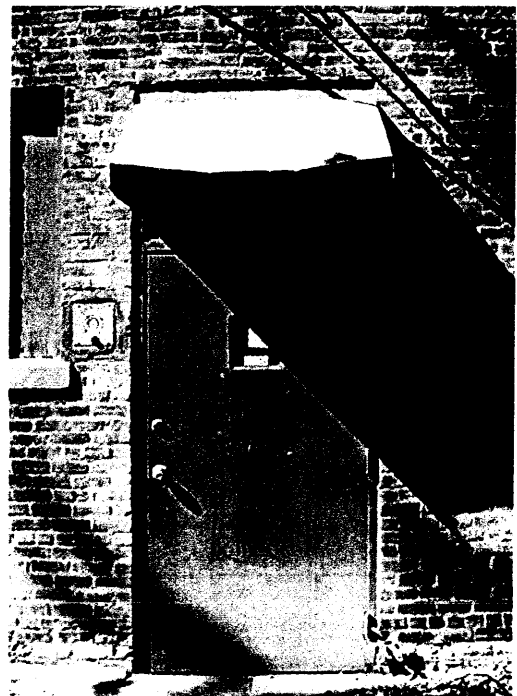
H-3

Vacant former mill building (2001), looking N.



H-4

East entrance on Llewellyn Avenue (2001),
looking S.



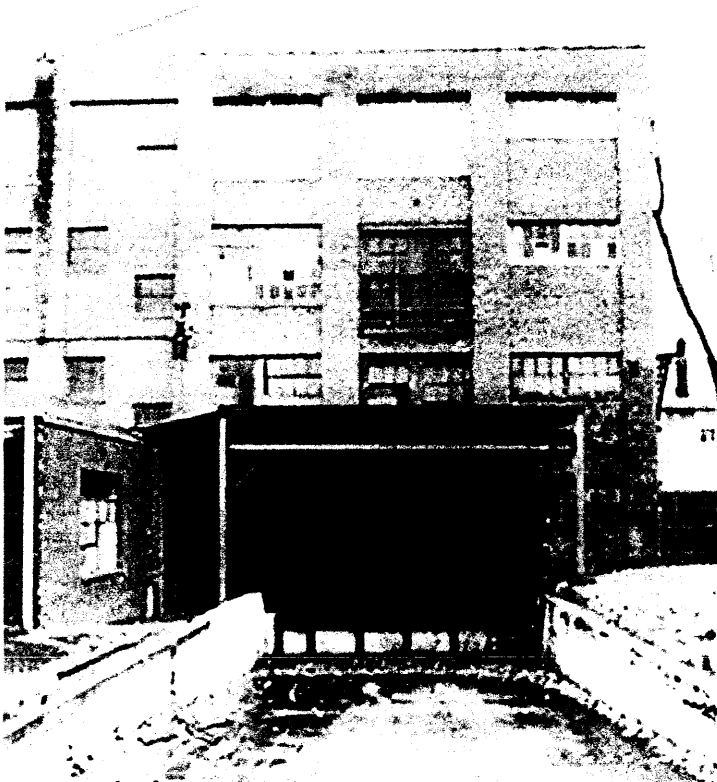
H-5

West entrance on Llewellyn Avenue
(2001), looking S.



H-6

Vacant former mill building (2001). looking SE.



Rear loading dock (2001),
looking E.

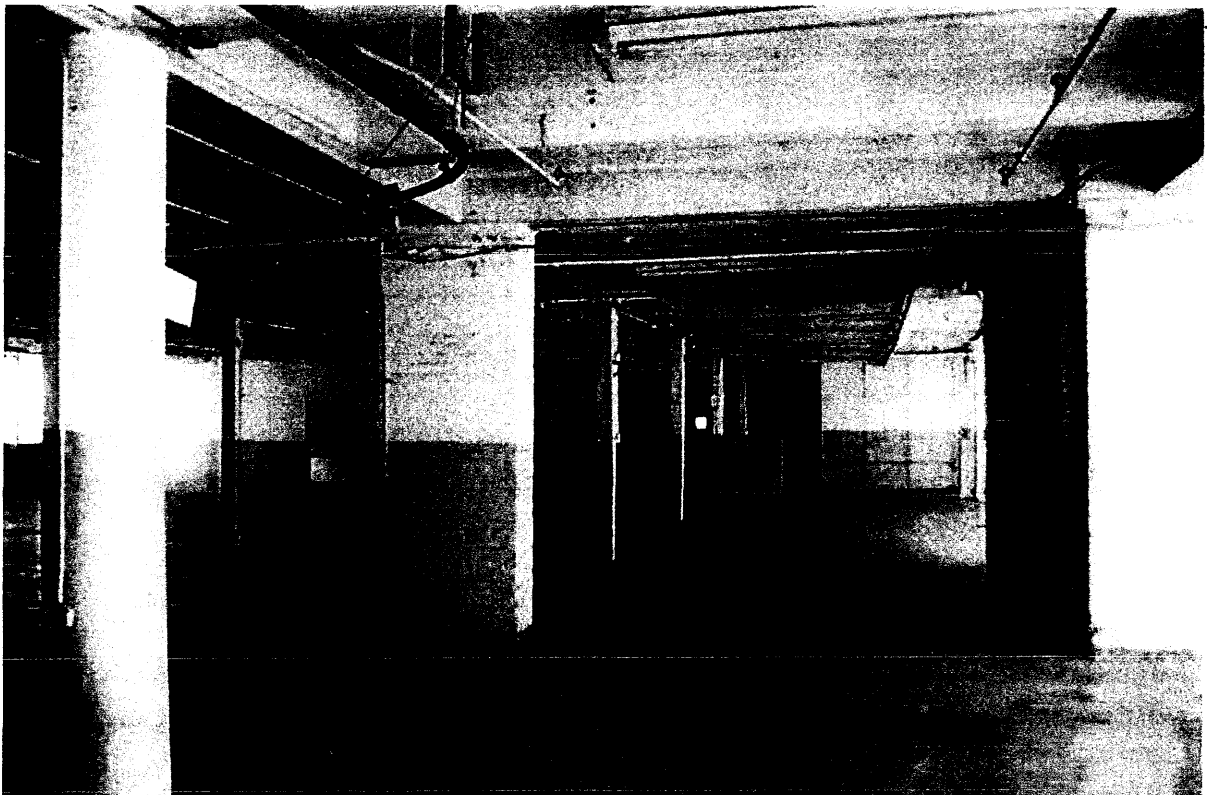
H-7

**Photo H-6
Photo H-7**



H-8

Rear of mill building (2001) showing 1951 concrete block addition (demolished), looking NE.



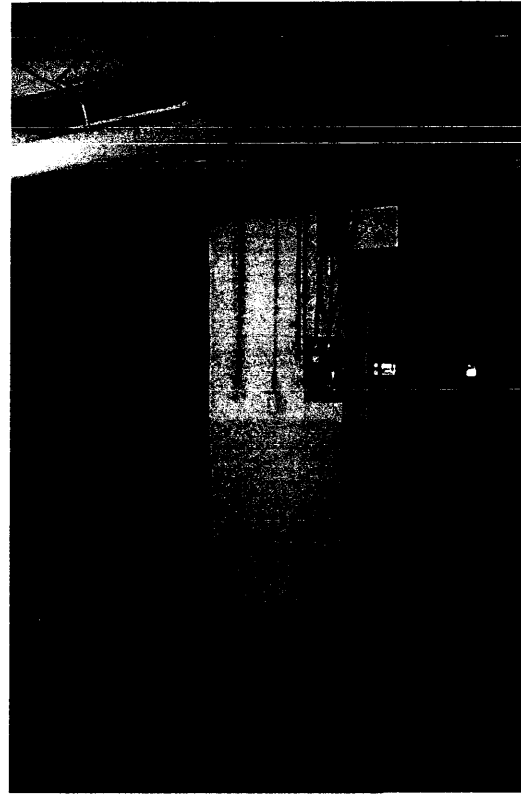
H-9

Interior of 2nd floor, (2001), looking N.



H-10

Detail of wood post in 2-story section (2001),
looking N.



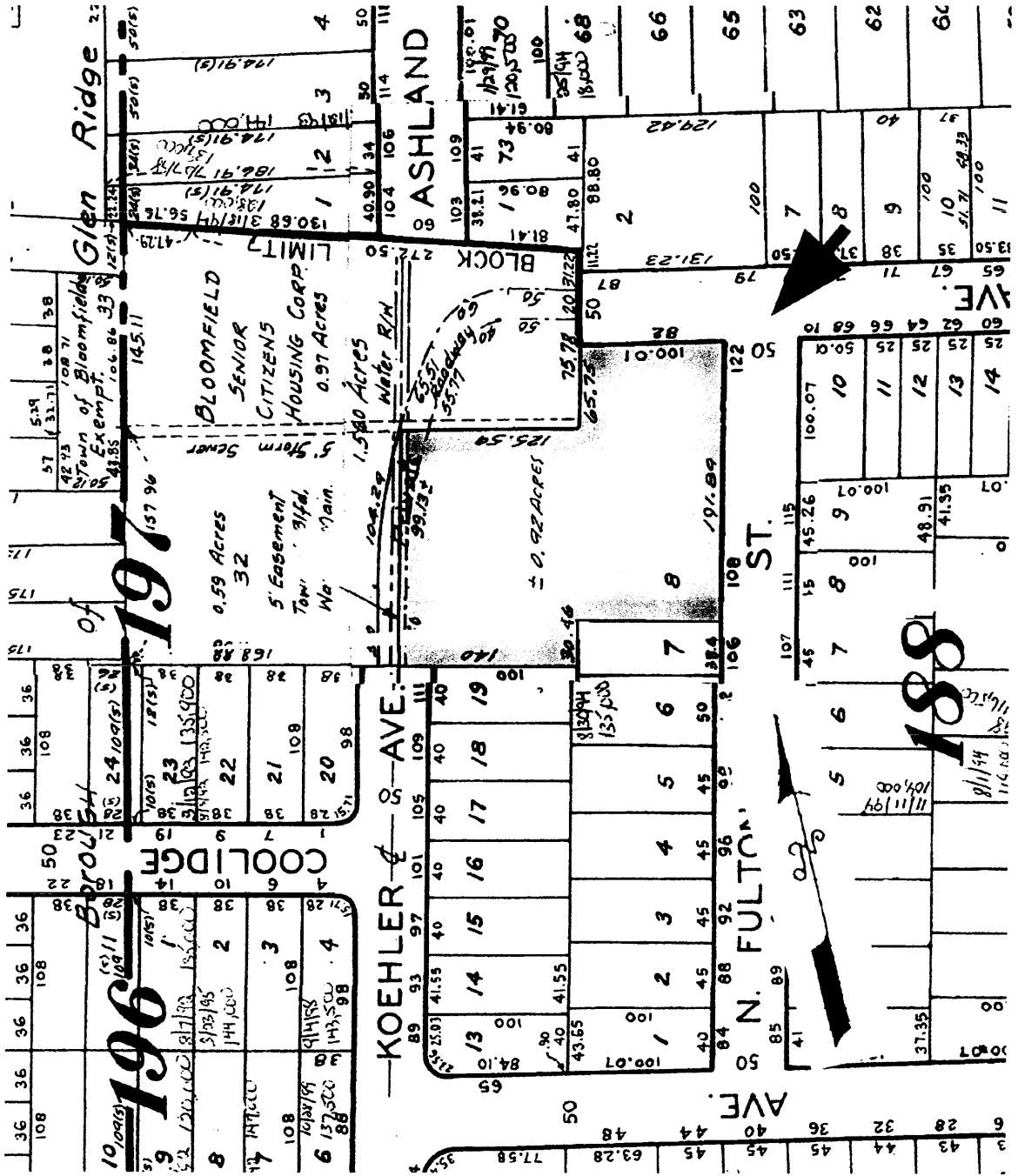
H-11

Typical brick pier on 1st floor between
4-story and 2-story sections (2001),
looking S.



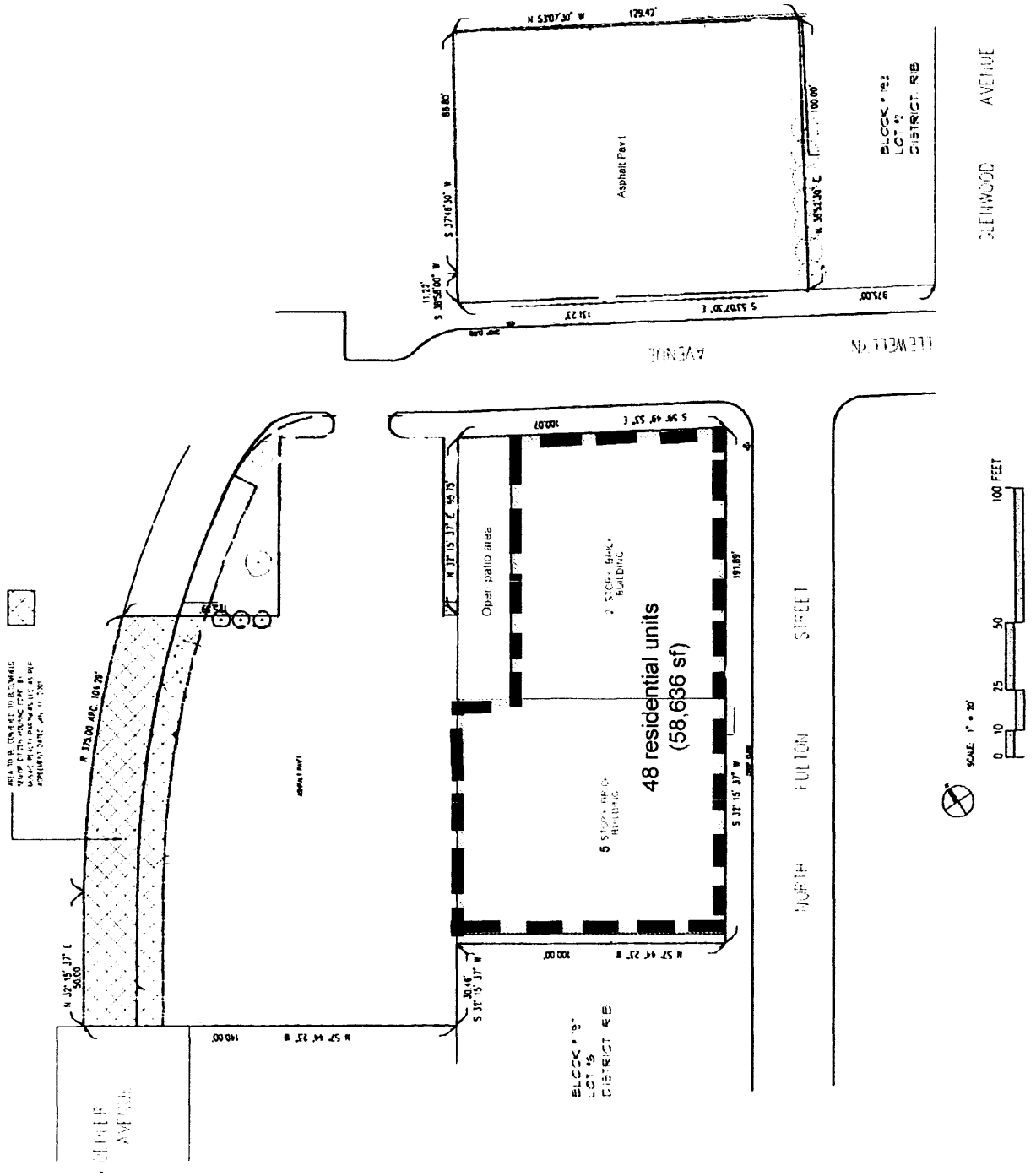
H-12

Interior of 3rd floor in 4-story section (2001), looking NE.



Site of Silk Mill Lofts, 88 Llewellyn Avenue/110 Fulton Street, Bloomfield, NJ (2008).

TAX MAP



National Register Boundary

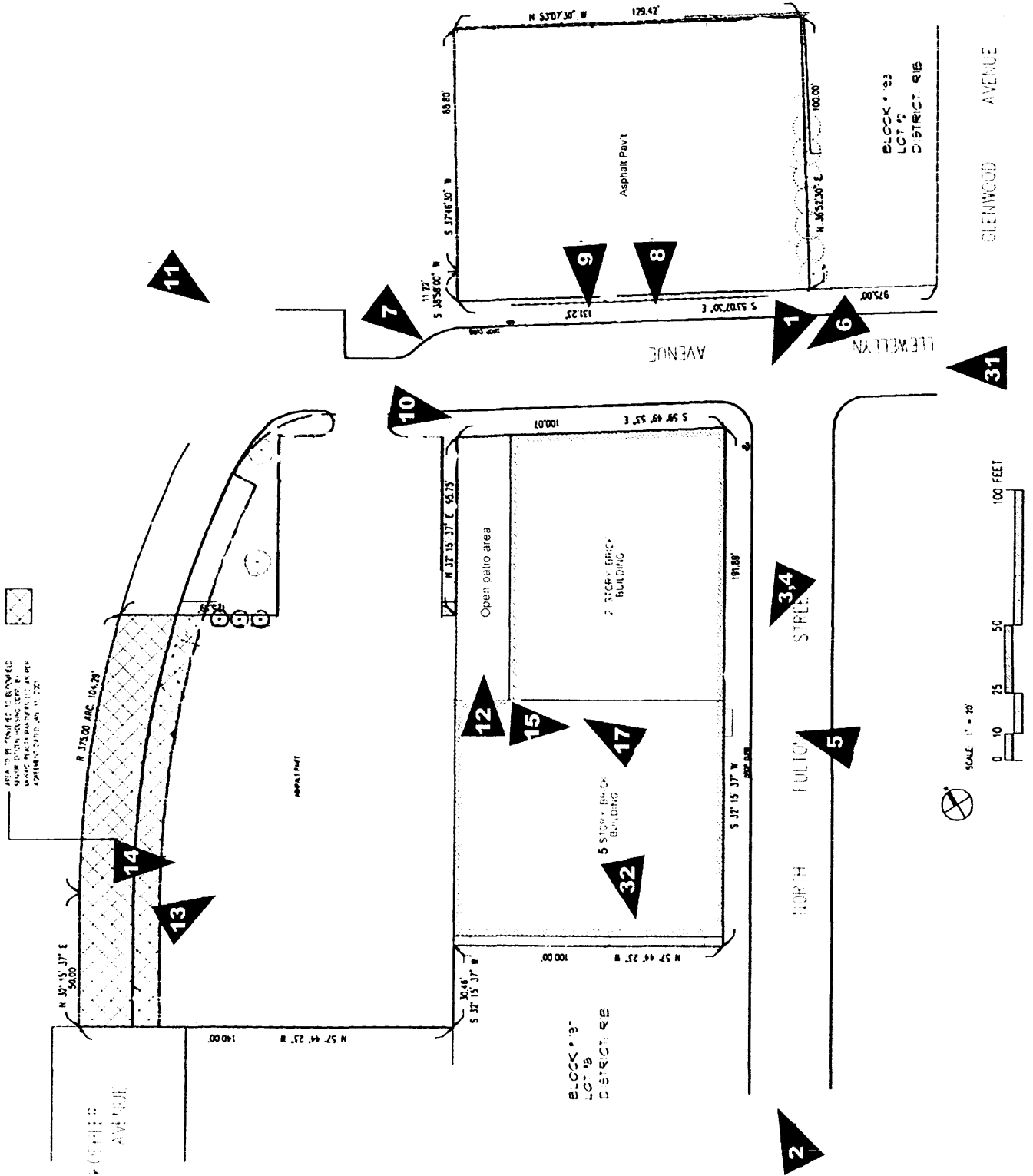


Photo Orientation Sheet