

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Roycroft Campus

and or common

2. Location

street & number Main and South Grove Street not for publication

city, town East Aurora vicinity of

state New York code county Erie code

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Erie County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Buffalo state New York

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

National Register of Historic Places
title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1974 federal state county local

depository for survey records National Park Service 1100 "L" Street NW

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Roycroft campus is situated on South Grove Street at the intersection of Main Street.

West Side of Grove Street

1. The "Chapel" was intended as a meeting hall for the Roycroft craftsmen. It also served as a gallery which created a setting for the display of materials that were for sale. Built in 1899, this pseudo-medieval structure is made of rusticated fieldstone. There are two stories with a one-story section on the south side. The tower has three stories. There are a number of gothic windows and a gothic door, a gabled roof covered with tile, and the inside ceiling is trussed with rough hand-hewn beams. Today this building is the Aurora Town Hall and the Historical Society maintains a museum and an office on the second floor.

2. The Print Shop. Built in 1900 as the enlarged shop, this structure housed typographers, illuminators and bookbinders. It also housed the shipping offices and general administrative offices. This structure is an L-shaped plan and resembles the "Chaple" in elevation with similar use of material--rough-cut stone with a gabled roof. On the second story exterior there is half-timbering with stucco in-fill. The tower contains the stair and the interior also has hand-hewn beams and large stone fireplaces. The walls carry mottoes that Elbert Hubbard thought appropriate. Today the offices of the Erie County Farm and Home Center occupy the structure.

3. Copper Shop. It was built as a one room blacksmith shop ca. 1900. One-and-one-half stories originally, there have been additions over the years. The roof is a gable with red tile. The interior has a vaulted ceiling with exposed beams. It is currently a gift shop. Originally it also served as the Roycrofters Bank, between ca. 1900 and ca. 1916

3A. Garages - partially attached to 4, Foundry.

4. Foundry. Free-standing 3-story rusticated cement block structure. Built before 1915. This foundry, storage and shipping building was attached with a in-the-air passway to the furniture shop building to facilitate moving of products. Foundry has a attached 1 1/2 story wood frame workshop and with attached 10 stall garage used to house the Roycroft vehicles. All these are presently being restored to house the Roycroft Museum (already there), architectural antique shop, antique auction house and craftman workshops.

5. Furniture Shop and Bindery. Built about 1905. The Mission style furniture made by Roycrofters to furnish the Inn was also for sale. It enjoyed great popularity and is being avidly collected again today. The Bindery boasted the finest leather-craft for the printed books produced at Roycroft. The building itself is frame, large in scale with gambrel roof opened up by four large dormers which was lost by fire in 1981. Today it houses an antiques shop and an art gallery, a pottery studio and a fine china restoration studio.

5A. Stock Building. One-and-one-half-story wood frame structure with a gambrel roof.

6. Power House. Built in 1910. One-and-one half stories, it is a small echo of the Print Shop, complete with gambrel roof covered in red tiles. This small structure at one time supplied steam heat and electrical power to the whole Roycroft Campus. In the 1940's it became an Assembly of God chapel and in 1971 it was restored as a professional office.

7. Small outbuilding. Originally Roycroft fire house, to the West and behind the furniture shop.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1895 - 1938 Builder Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

At the end of the 19th century, there was an artistic revolt against the mass production of applied arts. Quality of design and craftsmanship had deteriorated and the use of cheap inappropriate materials was wide-spread until a reform movement, the Art and Crafts Movement, started in England and America. The most famous of the American "guilds" was Elbert Hubbard's Roycroft community, founded in East Aurora, New York in 1895. Here, in a Medieval Guild setting, craftsmen could live and work, making beautiful objects by hand. They produced fine hand printed and bound books, paintings, carvings, metalwork, and ceramics. There were also some vague political overtones to these "art communes" both here and abroad. The English dictum that men have no business with art at all unless all share it, drew William Morris and his circle toward the socialist movement in England. One of the most successful American reformers was Gustav Stickley, a furniture maker who published the monthly magazine, The Craftsman, from 1905 to 1916. This publication was extremely influential in publicizing architecture and the decorative arts. Even more famous than Stickley, Elbert Hubbard's career is described as follows:

Born in Bloomington, Illinois, Hubbard visited William Morris' Kelmscott Press in 1894, four years after it was founded. He was greatly influenced by Morris' book designs and ideas and on returning to America, started a press. Before long his Roycrofters were also binding the books in leather, doing other handcrafted leatherwork, and making furniture. Roycroft was an artistic community, modeled somewhat after Morris' firm's workshop at Merton Abbey, Surrey. Like its British counterpart, it attempted to gather people from all ranks of society who were dedicated to craft techniques as well as to democratic ideals. Among the talented people who worked at East Aurora was Dard Hunter, whose designs were among Roycroft's best. Hunter was aware of current movements in Europe not only through international art periodicals such as The Studio, founded in England in 1893, but also through his visits to Vienna and other European capitals.¹

After a second visit to Europe in 1911, Hunter returned to East Aurora and did his finest work.

Between the Pan-American Exposition of 1901 and the outbreak of World War I American decorative arts design was characterized by a more severe, geometric style, perhaps appropriately referred to as the Craftsman style, after Stickley's trade name. It is not surprising that the conventionalized patterns of American Indian art should have appealed to the designers of this period.²

There was also a direct influence on the Prairie School architects, particularly Frank Lloyd Wright, both ideologically and stylistically with their respect for natural materials, their desire for simplicity, an interest in Japanese art, and a geometric, rectilinear style.

Hubbard was a poet and author as well as the "Sage of East Aurora." His early days as a junior partner at the Larkin Soap Company in Buffalo gave him the promotional experience to start his successful press which was responsible for the magazine Little Journeys, (1894),

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM 9, PAGE 1 and 2

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Approx. 10 acres

Quadrangle name East Aurora

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	1 7	6 94 9 30	4 73 7 59 10
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 7	6 94 6 90	4 7 3 7 3 7 0
E			
G			

B	1 7	6 94 9 30	4 7 3 7 3 7 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 7	6 94 6 9 0	4 7 3 7 5 9 0
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM 9 and 10, PAGE 2

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Pitts
organization History Division, National Park Service date July 1985
street & number 1100 "L" Street NW telephone (202) 343-8172
city or town Washington state DC

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

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4. List of Owners.

West Side of Grove Street

1. "Chapel" (Town Hall)

Henry Hager, Town Supervisor
5 South Grove Street, East Aurora, New York 14052

2. Print Shop

Kenneth P. Brown, Director
Cooperative Extension Association of Erie County
21 South Grove Street, East Aurora, New York 14052

3. Copper Shop

Ms. Edythe S. Turgeon
40 South Grove Street, East Aurora, New York 14052

3a. Two small out-buildings

Dr. George Janofsky
411 Main Street, East Aurora, New York 14052

4. Foundry

Boice Lydell
Goose Creek Station
Box 7
Ashville, New York 14710

343 East Fairmount Rd
Lakewood, New York 14750

3/8/87

5. Furniture Shop and Bindery;

5a. Stock Building

Mr. Chester Dylewski
37 Grove Street, East Aurora, New York 14052

6. Power House

Mr. Ronne Kobis
39 South Grove Street, East Aurora, New York 14052

7. Fire House

Ms. Edythe S. Turgeon
40 South Grove Street, East Aurora, New York 14052

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8. Bungle House

Ms. Edythe S. Turgeon
40 South Grove Street, East Aurora, New York 14052

9. Fournier House

Ms. Edythe S. Turgeon
40 South Grove Street, East Aurora, New York 14052

East Side of Grove Street

10. Laundry
and

11. Guest House

Mrs. Edith W. Smith
40 South Grove Street, East Aurora, New York 14052

12. Roycroft Inn

Ms. Edythe S. Turgeon
40 South Grove Street, East Aurora, New York 14052

13. Elbert Hubbard II's House

Mrs. Gerry Tomanson
62 South Grove Street, East Aurora, New York 14052

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8. "Bungle" House was originally a large chicken coop later converted into an artist's studio for Alex Fournier. ca. 1928.
9. Alex Fournier's House. Originally a barn, this Arts and Crafts Bungalow was converted in 1905 into a home and studio for Fournier and contains some of his murals, as does Roycroft Inn.

East Side of Grove Street

10. A one-and-one-half story laundry is to the east of the guesthouse and is similar to the power house. Built in 1909, it was an artist's studio at one time.
11. The Special Guest House. Built in the 1890's before the Roycroft Inn. Originally connected to the Inn by a "peristyle" or covered walkway, now reduced to a porch. The house once provided housing for the most distinguished guests. It is a knitting and weaving shop today.
12. Roycroft Inn. The Inn is actually a series of buildings that evolved into a full scale hotel. In 1895, when Elbert Hubbard began the Roycroft Printing Shop, he built a small one-room structure next to his home, based on Wordsworth's church in Grasmere, England. After several additions the building became the Roycroft Inn in 1903. This rambling structure is connected by a "peristyle" running along the Grove Street facades with angular posts reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright. Some interior details are notable: the leaded glass windows and lantern in the entrance are by Dard Hunter, a Roycroft craftsman. The south wing reception room is decorated with murals by Alex Fournier. Several second floor rooms have been restored with original furniture, notably the third floor Ruskin Room.
13. The Elbert Hubbard II House is next to the Inn on the south side. The frame house is two-and-one-half stories, and has a gable roof. The house currently contains apartments, where Elbert Hubbard II and his family lived during his early days running the Inn.

Originally there were spacious lawns giving Roycroft a sylvan quality. Some of these have given way to parking lots but the buildings still give the impression of a closely-knit community of craftsmen.

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the Philistine magazine (1895), Roycroft Quarterly and FRA magazine and the enormously successful essay, "A Message to Garcia." Hubbard became an extremely popular lecturer on the Orpheum Circuit with his flowing tie and broad-brimmed hat. At Roycroft Inn he entertained people like Henry Ford, Booker T. Washington, Carrie Jacobs Bond, Clarence Darrow, and Clara Barton, as well as the writers Stephen Crane and Carl Sandburg. This paternalistic campus where artists lived and worked together suffered a major shock when Hubbard and his wife, Alice, died in the sinking of the SS Lusitania by a German U-boat in May 1915. His son carried on, but the stock market crash of 1929 was an almost mortal blow and in 1938 creditors claimed what was left of Roycroft.

The Roycroft Campus today preserves some of the "craftsman" atmosphere and the products of the shops and press are much prized by collectors. The Craftsman Movement, which swept this country between 1900 and 1915 and whose principles were based on the theories of William Morris, was first promoted in America by Elbert Hubbard.

¹ Hanks, David A. "Arts and Crafts Movement in America, 1876-1916." Antiques. Vol. CIV, No. 2, August, 1973, p. 223.

² Ibid.

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The Roycroft Movement: A Spirit for Today? Buffalo: State University of New York
College at Buffalo, 1977.

Rust, Robert Charles with Eve Warner. "A Not So Little Journey to the Roycroft Press,"
The New York-Pennsylvania Collector, (September 1982), 8C-12.

10. Verbal Boundary

Sanborn Tax map, Village of East Aurora:

Block between Main Street, South Grove Street, Oakwood Avenue and Walnut Street: Starting from the southwest corner of Main Street and South Grove all those lots numbering 7 (Town Hall), 8 (Print Shop), 14 (power house), 11 (storage), 12 (storage), 13 (foundry), 9 (outbuilding), 10 (Copper Shop), 15 (book bindery), 17 (stock building), 29 (Bungle House), 30 (Fournier house).

Block between Main Street, Park Place (Peek Street), Oakwood Avenue, and South Grove Street: Starting on the northeast side, all those lots numbering 22 (Laundry and guest house), 21 (Roycroft Inn), 20 (Elbert Hubbard II's house). These lots represent the original Roycroft Campus.

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Roycroft Campus

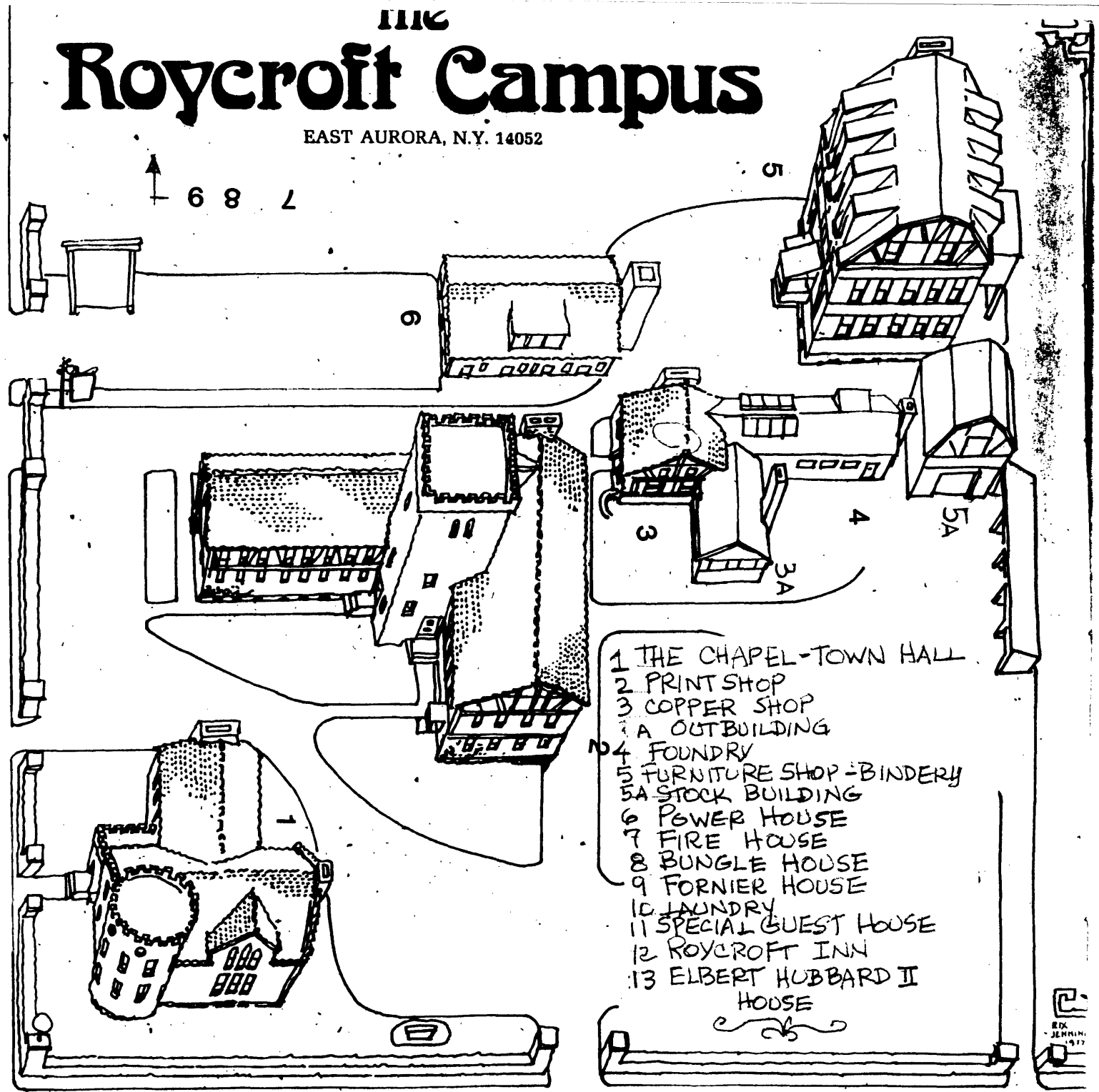
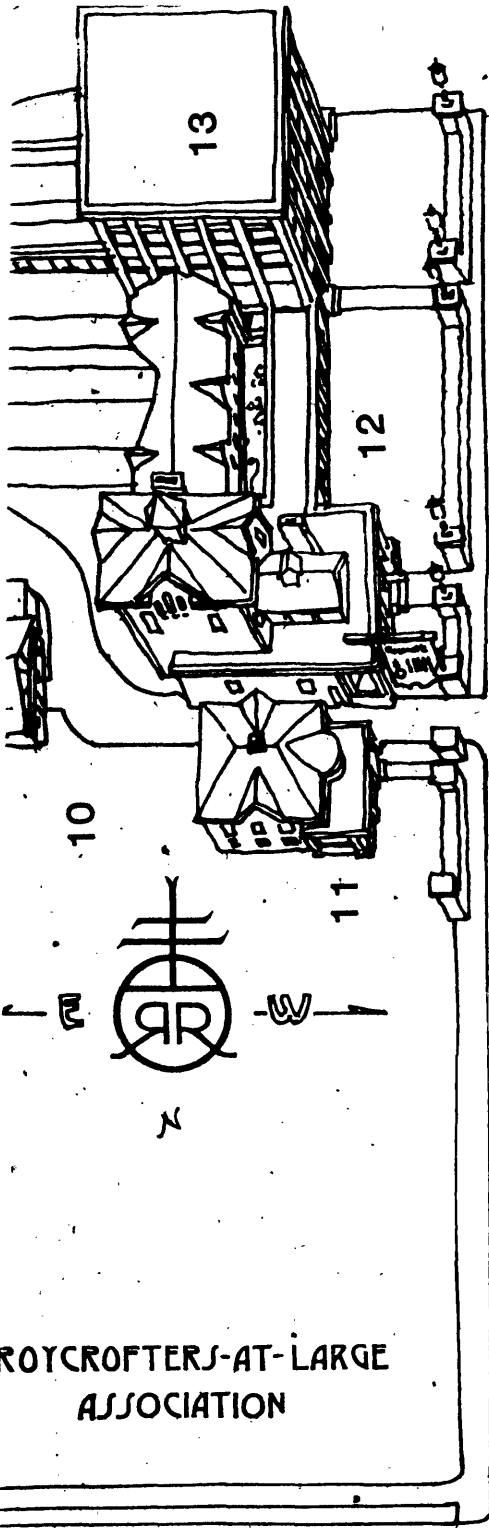
EAST AURORA, N.Y. 14052

SOUTH GROVE STREET

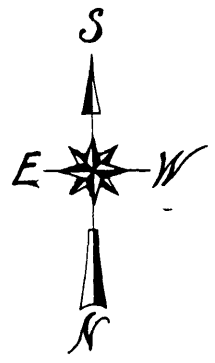
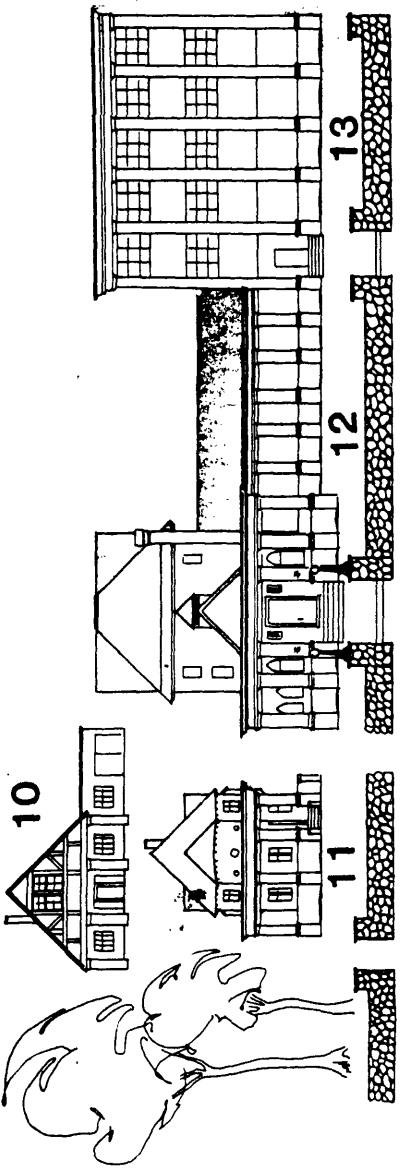
MAIN STREET

- 1 THE CHAPEL-TOWN HALL
- 2 PRINT SHOP
- 3 COPPER SHOP
- 3A OUTBUILDING
- 4 FOUNDRY
- 5 FURNITURE SHOP-BINDERY
- 5A STOCK BUILDING
- 6 POWER HOUSE
- 7 FIRE HOUSE
- 8 BUNGLE HOUSE
- 9 FURNIER HOUSE
- 10 LAUNDRY
- 11 SPECIAL GUEST HOUSE
- 12 ROYCROFT INN
- 13 ELBERT HUBBARD II HOUSE

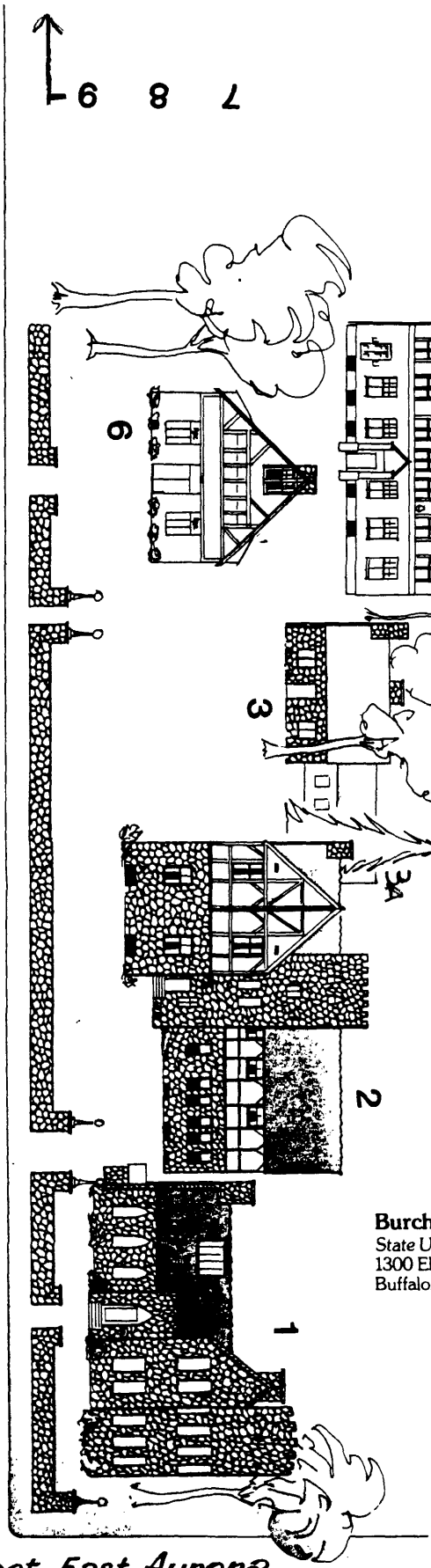
ROYCROFTERS-AT-LARGE ASSOCIATION



REX JENNIN 1917



South Grove Street



7
8
9

Main Street East Aurora

Burchfield Center
 State University College at Buffalo
 1300 Elmwood Avenue
 Buffalo, New York 14222



