

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 10 1978
DATE ENTERED	MAR 9 1979

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC  
Murphy Varnish Works  
AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
McWhorter, Vesey, Chestnut Streets \_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Newark \_ VICINITY OF 10th

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

New Jersey 034 Essex 013

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
See Attached

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE

\_ VICINITY OF

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Essex County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
High Street

CITY, TOWN STATE

Newark New Jersey

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE  
1968 \_ FEDERAL  STATE \_ COUNTY \_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS Office of Historic Preservation, 109 West State Street

CITY, TOWN STATE

Trenton New Jersey

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Of the six major buildings which comprised the Murphy Varnish Works during its peak period (1890-1920), only three are still standing.

The buildings were built during a thirty year period and embody the architectural styles of the times. It began in the 1870's with a two-story factory in the Italianate style, followed by three buildings in the 1880's inspired by Richardsonian Romanesque, then a Victorian firehouse in the 1890's, and lastly a contemporary warehouse of 1905.

#### Description of extant buildings

1. Chapman's warehouse  
The largest building in the complex covering nearly one half of a city block and being four stories in height. It is brick and sandstone with a variation of a mansard roof. It is 7 bays by 12 bays with a stone foundation.
2. Firehouse #14  
Built by Murphy for protection of his complex, it is a two-story brick structure with unusually fine details. Built in 1890's.
3. Smaller factory (Chestnut Street) 2 story, 15 bays, 2 bays across, brick, hip roof tower.
4. Smoke stack (McWhorter Street) brick, remaining from larger factory building.
5. Warehouse (Vesey Street) 2 stories, brick, 3 bays, arched windows on first floor, late 19th century.
6. Warehouse (Vesey Street) 2 1/2 stories brick, gable roof, 6 bays, Murphy and Company in terra cotta on front.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Murphy Varnish works is significant for several reasons. It was the largest varnish producing factory in the City of Newark. It was founded by Franklin Murphy, former governor and New Jersey Legislator, who was responsible for many important new aspects of employer/employee relations. Also the main buildings were designed by Howard Chapman, a known architect in Industrial Design theory.

### Industry

The Murphy Varnish Works was founded in 1865 by Franklin Murphy, Thompson Price and James Barnet. Originally they produced varnish alone, gradually adding other products until in 1912 they put forth a complete list of finishes; materials for everything; more than 200 kinds of varnishes in about 1200 shades of colors. The factory grew to about the size of three square city blocks. He also built several other factories in Chicago, Cleveland and Montreal.

Murphy Varnish Works' significance to the city and the world as an industrial concern with a product can be seen in an article by the Newark Board of Trade in 1912 which states:

"No other manufacturing industry in Newark has done more than Murphy's Varnish Company to make the city widely known. Its ads have appeared systematically in Journals of international prominence, circulating in every village in the U.S. Its staff visit at regular intervals, every town in the county of 1000 population or more and many towns numbering even less. The important cities of Europe are even cared for and several of its important brands can be found on the dealers and consumers' shelves abroad with the company's label printed in the language of the country, heralding the name of Newark."

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Attached

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

3 1/2 (part telephone 316179)  
 Name: [unclear] - [unclear]

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	569950	4508410	B	18	570150	4508320
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	18	570080	4508200	D	18	570030	4508220
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the intersection of McWhorter and Vesey Streets proceed 200 feet SW along McWhorter Street; thence proceed 200 feet SE; thence proceed 500 feet NE to Chestnut Street; proceed along Chestnut Street 800 feet NW; thence proceed 100 feet SW; thence proceed 200 feet SE; thence proceed 100 feet SW to Vesey Street; thence proceed 200 feet ESE along Vesey Street to the point of origin.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

(Nanci Kostrub Batchelor, OHP, Trenton, 609-292-2028)

NAME / TITLE

John Deluca, Joseph Flock and Thomas McDonald

ORGANIZATION

Newark Preservation and Landmark Committee

STREET & NUMBER

10 Bank Street

CITY OR TOWN

Newark

DATE

TELEPHONE

(201) 622-4910

STATE

New Jersey

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL XX

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.

Deputy

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Deputy Commissioner, Dept. Environmental Protection

DATE

4-15-78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

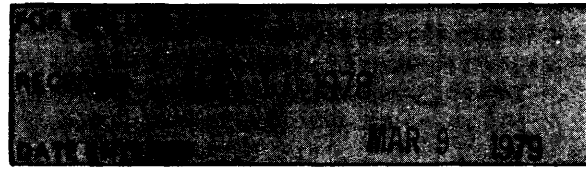
DATE 3.9.79  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *[Signature]*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE March 6, 1979

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



Murphy Varnish Works  
Newark  
Essex County  
New Jersey 034  
**CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Property Owners in the Murphy Varnish Works

Chemical Intermediates  
225 McWhorter St.  
Newark NJ

Vacuum Metallizing  
84 Johnson Street  
Newark NJ

Arrow Paper  
90-92 Johnson St.  
Newark NJ

Epoxy Electronics  
250 McWhorter St.  
Newark NJ

Engine Company No. 14  
City of Newark ✓  
920 Broad St.  
Newark NJ 07102

American Waste & Textile  
73 Vesey St. ✓  
Newark NJ

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Murphy Varnish Works  
Newark

Essex County New Jersey 034

CONTINUATION SHEET

SIGNIFICANCE

ITEM NUMBER

8

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Social/Humanitarian

Franklin Murphy was born and raised in New Jersey. He attended the Newark Academy until July 1862 when he left to join the Army. By the time the Civil War had ended he had been commissioned a First Lieutenant. In 1865 he, along with James Barnet and Thompson Price, formed the Murphy and Company Varnish Manufacturers. After a few months he bought out his partners and decided to go it alone, despite the fact that at the time he knew nothing about varnish.

It did not take Murphy very long to decide how he wanted to handle his business. He was first to introduce methods which assured uniformity to the varnish industry; he was one of the first industries in Newark to institute life insurance with Prudential Insurance Company and pension plans (also had employee profit sharing system initiated for his kindness of spirit and closeness with his employees - frequently extending loans and giving wedding presents and extending factors to his workers).

Murphy also found time to be active in the city of Newark, being the moving force behind the "City Beautiful" movement which revived the city from the post-Civil War doldrums. He also served as a member of the Newark Common Council from 1883-1886, serving as President in his last year. During his tenure he was responsible for programs to light streets, paving of roadways and sidewalks.

In 1885 he was elected to the New Jersey Legislature. While in office he became known as "the Father of the Park System" as he headed the nation's first public park system commission in 1895 of which he served as a member until 1920.

In 1892, Murphy's state-wide political experience reaped him the chairmanship of the Republican State Committee. His successful leadership of the State party helped them to become a member of the Republican National Committee in 1900. In the same year he was appointed by President McKinley as one of the Commissioners to the Paris Universal Exposition. In 1901 he

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Murphy Varnish Works  
Newark  
Essex County  
New Jersey 07102

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ran a successful campaign for Governor of New Jersey, becoming the first businessman to obtain the post. He was the first governor to rent a home in Trenton (the State Capital) and remain daily about the State House. He also suggested to the State that they buy a permanent residence for future governors. Among his accomplishments in office were the cleaning up of the Passaic River, increase in the working age from 12 to 14 and the institution of the Tenement Housing Commission (which required fire escapes, lit hallways, and up-to-date plumbing by landlords).

In 1908 Murphy was the favorite son candidate for U.S. Vice-President at the Chicago Republican Convention but lost with 77 votes.

In 1915 he retired as head of the Murphy Varnish Company and his son Franklin Jr. assumed the Presidency of the company.

Architecture

During its peak period (1890-1920) the Murphy Varnish Works in Newark grew to six major buildings. Three are still extant. Noted industrial architect Howard Chapman designed the largest and Newark architect James Lindsey designed the other five.

The buildings of the Murphy Varnish Company were built during a thirty year period and embody the architectural styles of the times. Beginning in the 1870's with a two-story factory in the Italianate style, followed by three buildings in the 1880's inspired by the Richardsonian Romanesque, then a Victorian firehouse in the 1890's and lastly Chapman's contemporary warehouse of 1905.

Chapman's structure is by far the largest in the Murphy Varnish group covering one half of a city block and being four stories in height. Chapman's use of steel reinforced concrete provided Murphy with a modern twentieth century building.

Lindsey's five buildings are all much more ornate than Chapman's; they are however also much smaller, none being over three stories in height and no more than one half the floor space of Chapman's. The first building had groupings of arched windows and a three story corner tower; the three romanesque buildings had

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Murphy Varnish Works  
Newark  
Essex County

~~NEW JERSEY~~ CONTINUATION SHEET      Significance      ITEM NUMBER      8      PAGE      4

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large arched windows and entrances, large dormer windows and heavy rustication; the firehouse of Victorian persuasion has rusticated contrasting color quoins, a flat roof, and bay and arched windows.

The Murphy Varnish Works complex did more than just house the varnish works. They provided the industrial sections with examples of current industrial designs and provided Newark with fine examples of period architecture adapted and simplified for industrial use.



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Murphy Varnish Works  
Newark  
Essex County  
New Jersey 07102

CONTINUATION SHEET

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MAR 8 1979

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-Newark - The City of Industry,  
Newark Board of Trade, 1912.  
Newark Directory 1901.  
Newark Directory 1926.

-A History of the City of Newark,  
Volume II, New York, Lewis Historical  
Publishing Company, 1913.

-"The Murphy Varnish Company"

-New Jersey Journal of Industry and Fame,  
1924.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Murphy Varnish Works  
Newark  
Essex County  
New Jersey 031

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER \ 0 PAGE \

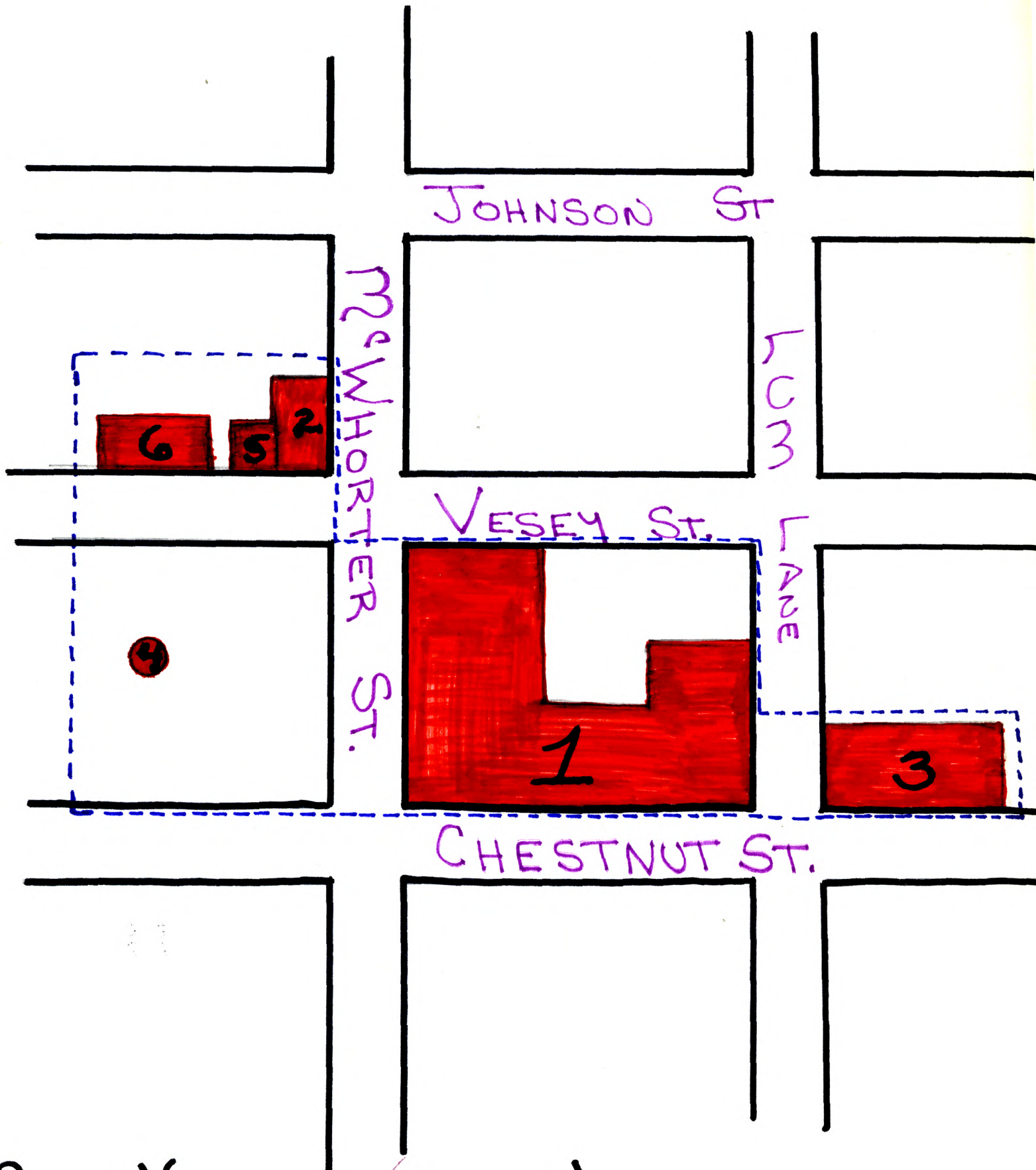


UTM's Continued

E 18 570050 4508270  
F 18 569960 4508320  
G 18 570000 4508350

The nomination for the Murphy Varnish Works includes only those properties that were part of the original complex. The only vacant land included contains a smoke stack originally part of another factory building, this building was demolished in 1976, so the land has historic archeological potential.

The photographs are keyed in to the sketch map.



MURPHY VARNISH WORKS  
 NEWARK  
 ESSEX COUNTY  
 NEW JERSEY 034  
 NOT TO SCALE



■ BUILDINGS  
 --- DISTRICT BOUNDARIES