

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name: American Supply Company Building

Other names/site number: Myron Fish and Company Building

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 1420 Broad Street

City or town: Central Falls State: RI County: Providence

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

<p>_____ Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>RI Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

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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	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/not in use

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

FOUNDATION: stone, brick, concrete

WALLS: WOOD/weatherboard, WOOD/plywood, SYNTHETICS

ROOF: asphalt

OTHER: _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The American Supply Company Building is a small, vernacular, industrial building sited on a roughly 1-acre lot on the south bank of the Blackstone River in Central Falls, Rhode Island. The surrounding area is a dense mix of industrial, residential and commercial uses. The 2½-story building is rectangular in plan, with a heavy timber wood frame and an end-gable, trapdoor monitor roof. It has been altered over the 140+ years of its existence, as additions have come and gone, and its original exterior materials are hidden behind vinyl siding, however, it retains original materials behind the vinyl, and its original form is largely intact. The interior retains its original materials and plan, with exposed timber framing, wood floors, and sided-over original sash, among other features, in place.

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Narrative Description

Setting: The American Supply Company Building was constructed in 1875 on the south bank of the Blackstone River in the village of Valley Falls, within the City of Central Falls, Rhode Island, at the border with the Town of Cumberland, Rhode Island. Nearby resources provide context for the area's industrial heritage. Across Broad Street and downstream are the surviving buildings of the associated, mid-19th century Valley Falls Company textile manufacturing complex (NR 1978) in Central Falls. Also downstream, on the north bank of the river in Cumberland, there are ruins of additional Valley Falls Company buildings that were razed in 1934 and now form part of the Valley Falls Heritage Park. To the immediate northeast of the American Supply Company Building is the Broad Street Bridge (Rhode Island Department of Transportation Bridge No. 305), a stone-faced, concrete arch bridge built in 1915 and dedicated to Aram Pothier, Rhode Island's first governor of French-Canadian descent, who served two terms—1909 to 1915 and 1925 until his death in 1928.¹ The area also includes worker housing from the nineteenth century and commercial buildings that date from the industrial era of the village.

Exterior: The American Supply Company Building was constructed in 1875 on the south bank of the Blackstone River in the village of Valley Falls, within the City of Central Falls, Rhode Island, at the border with the Town of Cumberland, Rhode Island. It is a 40' x 80', 2½-story (with basement),² wood frame building, with a 16' x 16' three-story stair- and elevator tower extending southerly from the west end of the building's south elevation. The building rests on a wetlaid fieldstone foundation with some repairs and adaptations carried out in concrete and brick. The gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles and features continuous shed dormers on its north and south slopes.

A perpendicular, 176' x 40', 3-story rear ell built in 1890 was demolished ca. 2000. Because this demolition left the west elevation of the original building open to the elements, 2 x 4 framing was inserted and the wall (along with the south wall of the staitower) was sheathed in plywood.

With the exception of the rebuilt west elevation, the building has been vinyl-sided; however, original clapboards are visible in a few locations, most notably on the west end of the north elevation, where the vinyl siding is missing. Between the clapboard and the late 20th-century vinyl siding is a covering of red, mock-brick, asphalt siding. It appears that most of the original clapboard, except for that lost when the rear ell was built (and subsequently removed), survives under these two layers.

¹ This bridge was determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on January 10, 1989 as part of the Rhode Island Historic Bridge Inventory Thematic Nomination, *Historic Highway Bridges of Rhode Island*.

² There is a full basement, but access to it is limited to only a small area accessed from the staitower. The remainder of the basement has been closed off since the demolition of the rear ell ca. 2000.

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The building's original main entrance opened onto Broad Street at the southeast corner of the façade. At some point in the 20th century, this opening was moved around the corner to the first window bay of the south elevation. The doorway has a hipped hood supported by carved Italianate consoles (these do not appear to be original). Because these consoles have weakened over time, or because the hood was not properly tied into the building when it was moved, extra support for the hood has been provided by the insertion of two modern metal posts at the front corners. A modern metal door and casing is flanked by fluted pilasters.

The exterior appearance of the building's fenestration has been significantly altered from the original configuration, with many openings infilled and covered by vinyl siding; however, the openings are visible from the interior, where most original first- and second-floor window casings and many original 12/12, double-hung, wood sash survive either exposed or hidden behind plywood sheathing.

The building's east-facing façade was constructed with five bays on each of the first and second floors, and three bays in the attic. It has original sash in the first floor's second and fifth (south to north) openings, and a band of four small, pedestrian-level service windows in place of openings three and four. The first bay (originally the entrance) is covered with vinyl siding. On the second floor, a steel door accessing a steel fire escape (installed post-1987) occupies the center window opening, openings one and five have been infilled with plywood panels, and openings two and four are covered with vinyl siding. On the attic level, opening one has a flat, steel door to the fire escape covering a portion of the opening, with a plywood panel in the remaining space, opening two is covered with vinyl siding, and opening three has a plywood infill panel. On the south elevation's first floor, the easternmost opening now contains the entrance, and the other eight openings are filled with plywood panels, while on the second floor, alternating openings, starting with that over the entrance, have been covered with vinyl siding or are infilled with plywood panels. On the north elevation's first floor, the easternmost three openings have original sash, the next three openings have plywood panels, and the last five alternate being covered with vinyl siding and plywood panels. On the second floor, alternating openings, starting with the easternmost, have been covered with vinyl siding or are infilled with plywood panels. The attic is lit by continuous bands of modern, wood sash 3/3 windows in the shed dormers of both the north and south roof slopes. 1881 and 1915 illustrations of the building (Figures 1 and 3) are ambiguous as to the configuration of the original window sash (i.e., sash and light configuration).

Interior: Slow-burning framing consists of original round-section timber columns supplemented by modern insertion of some square-section columns. These columns support timber floor beams and a heavy plank floor. On the first level, part of the timber planking has been covered with a 1½" thick layer of concrete. In the mid-to-late 20th century, the front, easternmost, roughly one-third of the first floor was partitioned off for use as a take-out ice cream shop, now closed. An exterior shelf/counter and a row of four window openings under a cantilevered hip roof on the front elevation are related to this use.

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The second floor was originally clear span, its ceiling suspended from iron tie rods dropped from the attic trusses. Likely due to stress on these trusses, six 8"-square-section timber columns were inserted on the second floor relatively recently to supplement the tie rods.³ The heavy timber framing in the attic that supports the second floor springs from the kneewall under the row of monitor windows and rises, at a diminishing gap from the roof, toward the ridge, before terminating at a horizontal beam connecting to the corresponding member on the other side of the attic. The tie rods hang from the junction of the angled and horizontal beams. A smaller timber continues from the joint to the roof ridge. This framing, however, does not support the roof; that is accomplished by approximately 2-by-4-inch rafters that run directly over each timber from above the monitor windows to the ridge. The attic is visually dominated by this sturdy trusswork and tie rods.

The wooden staircase of the stairtower retains its original beadboard railing wall and risers, though the handrail is missing and the stair treads have been replaced. A 5'-diameter, 7'-tall wooden barrel is mounted on a timber frame at the top of the stairtower. This may be the storage reservoir for an early hydraulic (water) freight elevator dating to the building's original construction. The 1881 illustration (Figure 1) shows three freight doors on the south elevation of the stairtower and a cantilevered timber used for a hoist. A Morse-Williams (Philadelphia, Penn.) mechanical hoist with the date 1896 on one of its attic-level castings is found at the top of the stairtower. The original drive for this hoist (perhaps steam) was adapted in the early-to-mid-20th century for operation by an electric motor. The current elevator shaft appears in the 1902 Sanborn Map.

Demolition: An etching in an 1881 advertisement for Myron Fish & Co. shows the building that exists today with a two-story, gable-roofed ell extending perpendicular from its rear (west) elevation to the south. The etching also shows the top of a chimney behind the main 1875 block, indicating that an engine house was located behind the building. This early ell and engine house appear to have been demolished in 1890, when a 176' x 40', 3-story rear ell was constructed. The power demands of the 1890 ell required a new, larger boiler and engine house. Apparently built simultaneously, this 25' x 60', 3-story brick building was located at the northwest corner of the ell. The later ell was demolished ca. 2000, and the brick engine house a few years later.

³ Five of these columns are plain, modern unfinished wood. The sixth, westernmost column is painted in three colors. Unique to the building, it is likely that this painted column was salvaged from another industrial building.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1875-1961

Significant Dates

1875
1883
1890
1961

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The American Supply Company Building is significant under National Register **Criterion A** on the local level as an example of factories and supply houses erected in the 19th century to provide auxiliary services to the expanding textile economy. In 1870, Myron Fish and a partner named Grey established a business under the name Myron Fish and Company, leasing space within the Valley Falls Company plant, a large cotton mill on the east side of Broad Street, to manufacture loom reeds, heddles and harness,⁴ devices attached mechanically to looms. In 1875, the thriving company erected its own building across the street and began the independent manufacture of these loom components. Within a few years, the company began the manufacture of leather machinery belting and, over time, provided a wide range of textile supplies. The corporate name American Supply Company is the result of a merger of two related companies in 1883.

The American Supply Company Building lies within and is an inventoried resource of the John H. Chafee Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The American Supply Company, a Rhode Island corporation created in 1883, was formed through the merger of two companies that manufactured loom components used in large-scale mechanized weaving. The early history of these companies and their eventual combination in 1883 to form the American Supply Company is treated below.

In early cotton mills, loom harness—wire structures mounted on wood frames for use in power looms—were manufactured in-house. By the 1830s, loom harness manufacturing emerged as a subsidiary industry.⁵ In 1846, John Kendrick established a loom harness business in Woonsocket, Rhode Island, employing three women; by 1851, he had relocated the operation to Exchange Place in Providence. The company continued to grow, using hand-manufacturing methods until Kendrick acquired patent rights ca. 1862 for the automatic manufacture of loom

⁴ A loom harness is “the frame containing the heddles through which the warp threads are drawn prior to weaving.” A heddle is a “long, slender part of a loom harness having an eye near its center through which one or more threads of warp pass.” A reed is a comb-like device attached to a loom to distribute and spread the warp yarns. Source: *Callaway’s Textile Dictionary*, La Grange, GA: Callaway Mills, 1947. Pps. 174, 177 and 276. “Harness” is commonly used in textile trade language as both the singular and plural form, and is used here similarly.

⁵ “The veteran house of J. A. Gowdey & Son, at No. 40 Clifford Street [Pawtucket], holds a representative position in the industrial world, as the oldest and largest in the manufacture of reeds and harnesses, for woolen, silk and cotton mills, in the United States. It was founded in 1834, by James Allen Gowdey, and in 1847 the son, Mr. David Gowdey, succeeded to the control.” Source: *Industries and Wealth of the Principal Points in Rhode Island*, p. 69. New York, NY: A. F. Parsons Publishing Co., 1892. Gowdey Reed is still in business in 2017 manufacturing loom reeds and heddles in Central Falls.

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harness using the “double-knot” method developed and patented by Joseph S. Winsor of Providence.⁶ By 1870, Kendrick’s company was producing 30,000 sets of loom harness per year.⁷

In the late 1860s, Myron Fish established a shop in Worcester, Massachusetts, making loom harness, heddles, and reeds. Around 1870, the owners of the Valley Falls Company encouraged him to relocate his operation to Rhode Island,⁸ where he could lease space within their substantial textile plant. The Valley Falls Company plant was located on the north bank of the Blackstone River in Cumberland, Rhode Island as well as on the south bank in what is now the City of Central Falls (a part of the Town of Lincoln until 1895). Fish had a partner (named Grey⁹) in this operation until the dissolution of this partnership in January 1873. For a short time around 1875 he was in business with his brother, Alexander Fish. This partnership appears to have lasted only a short time, as in March 1876 Myron Fish entered into a ten-year lease¹⁰ with the Valley Falls Company to occupy undeveloped land across Broad Street in order to erect a 2½-story, steam-powered, 40’ x 80’ factory building. The factory was dedicated at a celebration held on January 28, 1876. In the words of the *Providence Evening Press*, “A splendid collation was served up, and the company passed the evening in dancing.”¹¹

In late 1876 or early 1877 Fish formed a new partnership, Myron Fish and Company, with John A. Carter at the new location. Carter had been producing loom harness and reeds in Fall River since about 1871.

Myron Fish and Company expanded its services to include leather belting (for driving machinery) and a wide range of supplies for cotton, woolen, and silk mills (see advertisement in *Additional Information* section). Within a few years, the company employed twenty operatives, among them Edward Adamson, former manager of the Providence Reed & Harness Company, who came to work for Myron Fish in 1879 as manager of the loom reed department. During his years with the company, Adamson made a number of improvements in reed design and secured a patent for a new type of loom reed¹² that was manufactured at Valley Falls.

The 1880 Federal Census *Products of Industry* schedule noted three divisions of a thriving operation. The belting works, capitalized at \$7,000, employed four male operatives and produced

⁶ U.S. Patent 12,175. *Machine for Making Weavers Harness* (January 2, 1855).

⁷ Sources: “Loom Harnesses and Reeds.” *Fibre and Fabric* 28 (5 November 1898): 135 and Greene, *The Providence Plantations*, p. 287.

⁸ This inducement to relocate to Valley Falls was noted in Fish’s obituary. See *Evening Times* (6 February 1929): 1.

⁹ At the time of this writing, Grey’s first name is as yet undetermined. Research in directories of the period has yielded no one named Grey associated with related textile trades.

¹⁰ Lincoln Land Evidence Book 52:332 (March 10, 1876), Valley Falls Company to Myron Fish. The lease appears to have been the final step in the process, as sources indicate that the building was constructed in 1875, and the dedication took place before the lease was signed.

¹¹ *Providence Evening Press* (29 January 1876): 3.

¹² U.S. Patent 223,974. *Reed for Looms* (February 3, 1880).

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\$26,350 in finished goods. The reed works, capitalized at \$2,500, employed four male operatives and produced \$6,925 in finished goods. The harness works, capitalized at \$27,400, employed 11 male and 7 female operatives and produced \$20,330 in finished goods.

In 1883, the Fish-Carter partnership merged with the John Kendrick operation, of Providence, to form the American Supply Company, with a sales office in Providence.¹³ In 1890, this company purchased the land they had been leasing from the Valley Falls Company¹⁴ since 1876 and dramatically expanded the physical plant with the construction of a perpendicular, 176' x 40' wing and a 3-story brick power house off the rear of the original building, replacing an original, smaller ell (see Figures 3 and 4).¹⁵ By 1891, American Supply Company, capitalized at \$350,000, was producing annually \$400,000 worth of manufactured goods and employing 100 operatives.¹⁶ An article published in 1896 in the trade journal *Fibre and Fabric* described American Supply Company as an enterprise

...widely known as manufacturers of reeds, harness, belting and general supplies of every description, making a specialty of belting, their goods being noted for durability and substantial qualities. They carry a large stock of reeds, loom harness and like supplies...They have a large factory at Valley Falls, 176 x 40 feet, three stories in height. There is an ell that is also three stories, 80 x 40 feet.¹⁷

It is worth noting that the original (and surviving) building was described in this 1896 article as a subordinate ell off the larger, new wing. The 1902 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map described the industrial function of these two wings as follows: the original building housed the belt works, with storage and currying¹⁸ on the first floor, belt manufacture on the second, and a drying room on the third [attic] floor. The 1890 ell housed reed manufacture and storage of supplies on the first floor, loom harness knitting on the second, and harness finishing on the third. A 40 HP steam engine and a single boiler provided power from the engine/boiler house (See *Additional Information*, Figure 2). This arrangement of functions proved a durable one for American Supply Company, as the 1949 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map noted the same location for the company's industrial processes almost a half-century later.

Changing conditions in the New England textile economy, most notably southern competition and the devastation of the Great Depression, forced the closure of American Supply Company in

¹³ "An Act to Incorporate American Supply Company," *Rhode Island Acts and Resolves*, May Session, 1883. The corporation consisted of Amos D. Lockwood, Benjamin F. Thurston, George W. Holt, and George T. Paine. John A. Carter was Secretary and Myron Fish was Treasurer.

¹⁴ Lincoln Land Evidence Book 68:33 (August 5, 1890), Valley Falls Company to American Supply Company.

¹⁵ This wing and the power house were demolished ca. 2000.

¹⁶ Within a decade the company had increased its staffing to 125 operatives. Source: *Blue Book Textile Directory*.

¹⁷ *Fibre and Fabric* 23 (29 February 1896): 638.

¹⁸ Currying is a process in the treatment of leather for industrial use.

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1961.¹⁹ The building remained vacant until Central Braid and Rug Company relocated their manufacturing plant there in 1963 and remained until 1991. By the mid-1990s, the sole tenant of the building was a street-level ice cream shop, the *Scoop at the Falls*. The City of Central Falls acquired the property in December 1995, reselling it to a private party in 2008. The State of Rhode Island acquired it on November 26, 2012 and conveyed it back to the City on the same day. The building and site have been targeted for riverfront redevelopment since at least the late 1990s. Toward that goal, a boat launch and an extensive deck adjacent to the building have been constructed. However, the mission to create a waterfront destination remains as yet unrealized. The building is currently vacant and under consideration for adaptive reuse.

Myron Fish

Born in Brunswick, New York, on January 19, 1849, Myron Fish received his early schooling in Chicago before relocating to Nashua, New Hampshire, and, later, Worcester, Massachusetts, where he entered an apprenticeship in machining and toolmaking. Around 1867, Fish began manufacturing loom harness on his own in Worcester. Shortly thereafter, he removed his operation to Valley Falls, conducting business for a few years with a partner and opening a new factory on Broad Street in January 1876.

In 1883, Myron Fish and Co. merged with interests in Providence to form the American Supply Company. Fish became very active in local and state politics, particularly the movement to separate the industrial village of Central Falls from the Town of Lincoln (of which it had been a part since 1871) and incorporate it as a city in 1895. Fish served as the first President of the Common Council of Central Falls for three one-year terms. He also represented Central Falls in the Rhode Island General Assembly. He remained general manager and treasurer of American Supply Company from 1883 until his death on February 5, 1929.

¹⁹ Central Falls Land Evidence Book 179:125, Alfred B. Stapleton (trustee in bankruptcy of American Supply Company) to Frank Santos et ux, July 10, 1962. The property was acquired for \$34,500.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Published material:

Bayles, Richard M. *History of Providence County, Rhode Island*.
New York, NY: W.W. Preston, 1891.

Davis, William T., Ed. *The New England States*. Boston, MA: D.H. Hurd and Co., 1897.

Greene, Welcome Arnold. *The Providence Plantations for 250 Years*.
Providence, RI: J.A. and R.A. Reid, 1886.

Grieve, Robert. *An Illustrated History of Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Vicinity*.
Providence, RI: Henry R. Caufield, 1897.

Hall, Joseph D., Ed. *Biographical History of the Manufacturers and Business Men of Rhode Island*. Providence, RI: J.D. Hall and Co., 1901.

History of Rhode Island with Illustrations. Philadelphia, PA: Hoag, Wade & Co., 1878.

Industries and Wealth Industries and Wealth of the Principal Points in Rhode Island.
New York, NY: A. F. Parsons Publishing Co., 1892.

Munro, Wilfred H. *Picturesque Rhode Island*.
Providence, RI: J.A. and R.A. Reid, Publishers, 1881.

The Blue Book Textile Directory. New York, NY: Davison Publishing Co., 1895-1954.

Government Publications:

Acts and Resolves of the Rhode Island General Assembly, May Session, 1883.

Federal Census for Rhode Island: *Products of Industry* manuscript schedule (1880).

Kulik, Gary and Julia C. Bonham. *Rhode Island: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites*. Washington, DC: Historic American Engineering Record, 1978.

Preservation Report P-CF-1: Central Falls, Rhode Island.
Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission, 1978.

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Tax Books (1870-1900), Cumberland, Smithfield, Lincoln and Central Falls, Rhode Island.

U.S. Patent Office. *Reed for Looms*. Edward Adamson. Patent No. 223,974
Filed: April 4, 1879, issued February 3, 1880.

U.S. Patent Office. *Brushing Machine for Loom Harness*. Myron Fish. Patent No. 900,994.
Filed June 18, 1906, Issued October 13, 1908.

Articles:

“American Supply Company.” *Fibre and Fabric* 23 (29 February 1896): 638.

“Loom Harnesses and Reeds.” *Fibre and Fabric* 28 (5 November 1898): 135.

“Myron Fish Dead in Central Falls.” *Evening Times* (6 February 1929): 1.

“Myron Fish Dead in Central Falls.” *Providence Journal* (6 February 1929): 13.

Untitled. *Providence Evening Press* (29 January 1876): 3.

Unpublished Material:

Myron Fish to H. F. Searles (Draper Corporation). Draft of letter seeking employment, July 18, 1902. On file, American Textile History Museum, Lowell, MA.

Maps Consulted:

in chronological order

1880 Hopkins, G. M. *Atlas of the Town of Pawtucket, Rhode Island*.

1895 Everts and Richards. *New Topographical Atlas of Surveys, Providence County, Rhode Island*.

1902 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (also 1923, 1949, 1984).

1917 Richards Map Company. *Atlas of the Providence Metropolitan District*.

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 # _____

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___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

___ State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.94 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 19 | Easting: 301720 | Northing: 4641100 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the American Supply Company Building are contiguous with those of Central Falls Assessor's Plat Map 3, Lot 62.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

These boundaries represent the original land purchased by Myron Fish in 1875 and comprise the present parcel containing the American Supply Company Building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Edward Connors
organization: Edward Connors & Associates
street & number: 39 Dyer Street
city or town: Riverside state: RI zip code: 02915
e-mail: nconnors@cox.net
telephone: 401 595-0699
date: November 2016

Additional Documentation

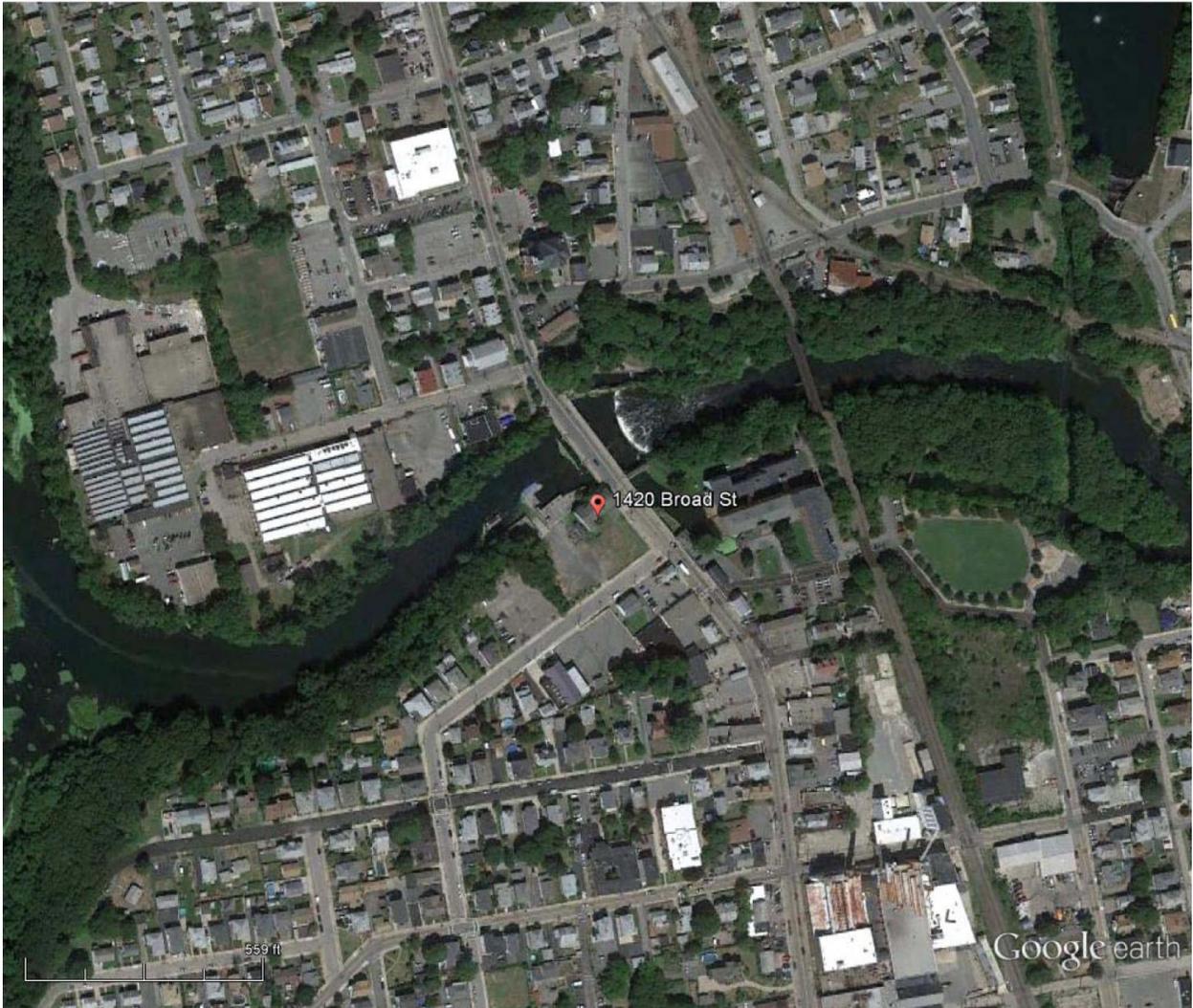
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

American Supply Company Building
Name of Property

Providence, R.I.
County and State

Location Map



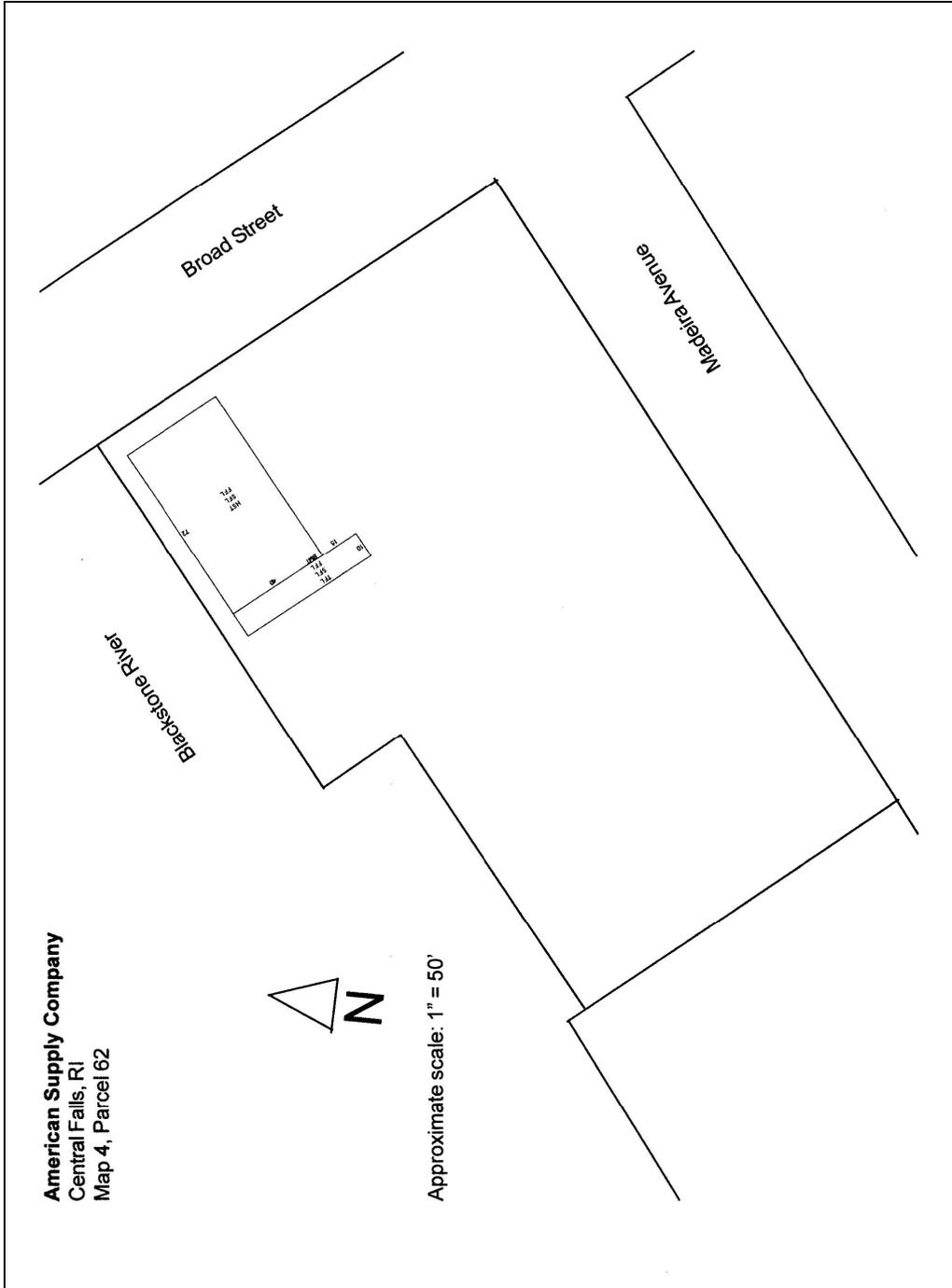
Google earth



American Supply Company Building
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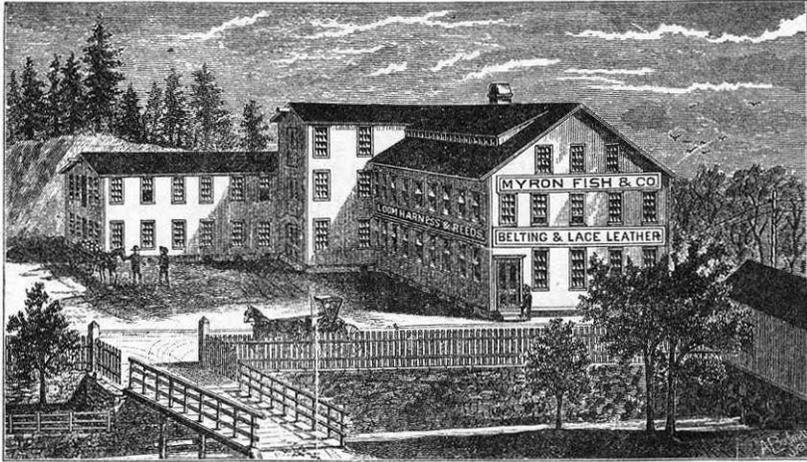
Providence, R.I.
County and State

Sketch Map



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MYRON FISH & CO.,
MANUFACTURERS OF
Oak Belting, Lace and Picker Leather.
ALSO,
LOOM HARNESS AND REEDS.
DEALERS IN SUPPLIES FOR COTTON, WOOLEN, AND SILK MILLS.
AGENTS FOR JOSEPH NOONE'S SONS' ROLLER, SLASHER AND CLEARER CLOTHS.
Agents for Roddick's Patent Improved Oil Cans. We have unequalled facilities for furnish-
ing Shuttles and Heddle Frames, Wire Heddles and Wire Goods
of all descriptions.
Special Notice to Worsted and Silk Mills.
We manufacture both worsted and cotton machine-knit Mail Harness for
weaving fine worsted and silk goods. Also a full line of
supplies for Jacquard Looms.
VALLEY FALLS, R. I.

Figure 1

Advertisement from Munro, *Picturesque Rhode Island* (1881)

*The two-story rear ell shown here was likely removed
or improved when the 176' x 40' ell was built in 1890.*

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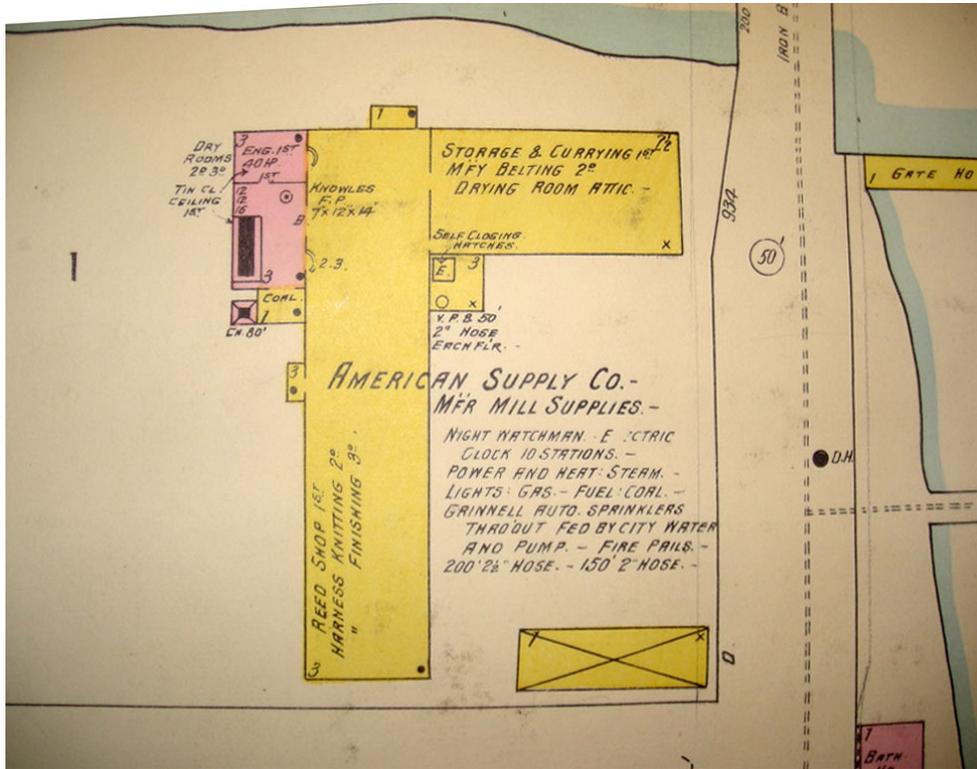


Figure 2
Detail from 1902 Sanborn Fire Insurance drawing showing original plant, 1890 rear ell, boiler/engine house, and shed.

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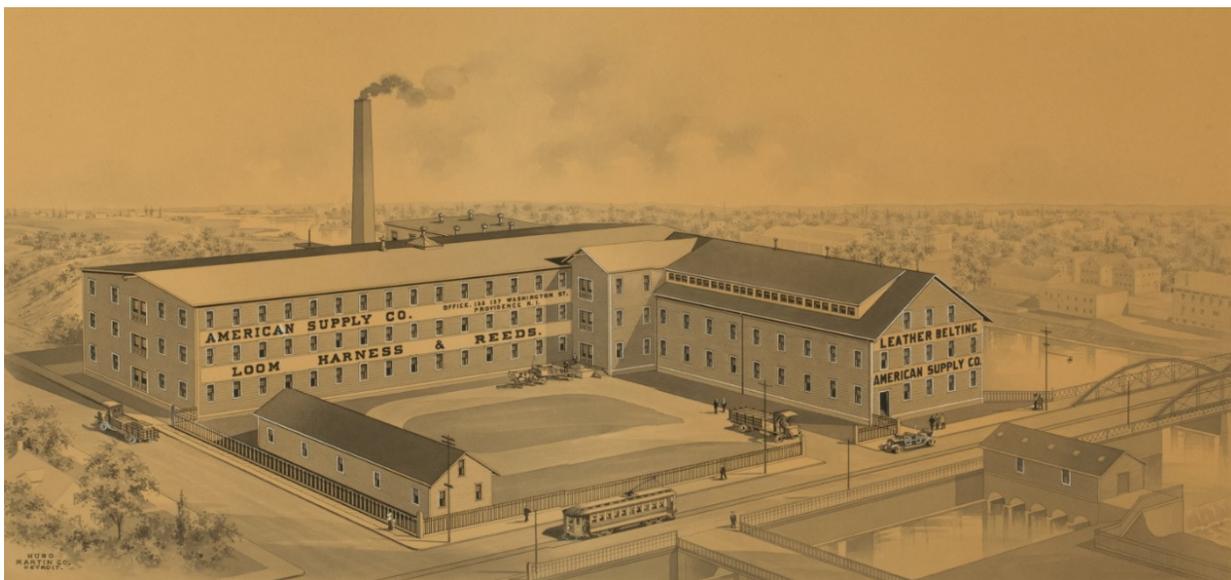


Figure 3

Pre-1915 Illustration of American Supply Company
Hurd Martin Co., Detroit, Michigan
showing fullest development of plant:
three-story rear ell, boiler/engine house (demolished ca. 2000),
shed at the southeast corner of the lot (demolished before 1923),
original fenestration pattern of the east and south elevations of the building.

Image courtesy of Providence Public Library Special Collections

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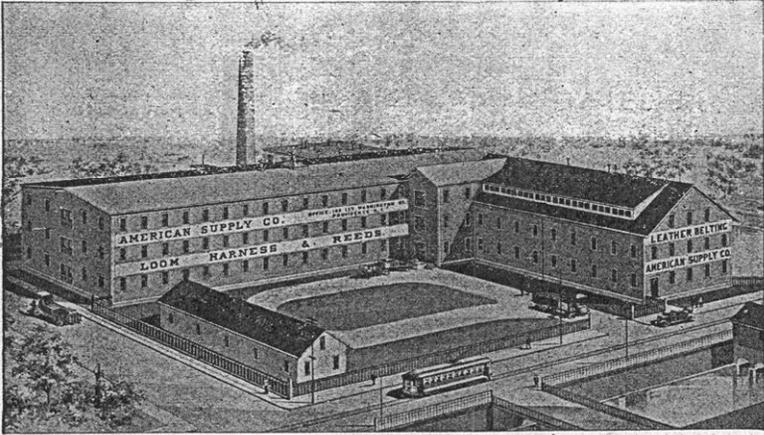
Providence, R.I.
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Established 1846 Incorporated 1883

AMERICAN SUPPLY CO.

COTTON MILL EQUIPMENT COTTON MILL

PROVIDENCE, R. I.



MANUFACTURERS OF
LOOM HARNESS, REEDS AND LEATHER BELTING
LOOM STRAPPING AND PICKERS

DEALERS IN
SUPPLIES FOR COTTON, WOOLEN AND SILK MILLS
FACTORIES

CENTRAL FALLS, R. I. FALL RIVER, MASS.

Figure 4

Advertisement from *The Textile Blue Book* (1921)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: American Supply Company Building

City or Vicinity: Central Falls

County: Providence

State: Rhode Island

Photographer: Edward Connors

Date Photographed: 16 November 2016

Location of Original Digital Files: RIHPHC, 150 Benefit Street, Providence, R.I.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 14

South elevation (left) and east-facing façade (right), camera facing west.

2 of 14

South elevation, camera facing northwest.

3 of 14

North (left) and west (right) elevations, camera facing east.

4 of 14

East-facing façade, camera facing southeast

5 of 14

Northwest foundation corner, camera facing southeast

6 of 14

Interior: first floor, camera facing southeast

7 of 14

Interior: detail of framing on first floor, camera facing northwest

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8 of 14

Interior: typical window, first floor, camera facing north

9 of 14

Interior: stairway looking up from first to second floor, camera facing north

10 of 14

Interior: second floor framing, showing inserted columns, camera facing east

11 of 14

Interior: detail of second floor framing showing nut on tie rod hanging floor from attic framing, camera facing northwest

12 of 14

Interior: attic trusses and tie rods, camera facing east

13 of 14

Interior: detail of attic truss and tie rod, camera facing east

14 of 14

Interior: water barrel in top of stair tower, camera facing southwest

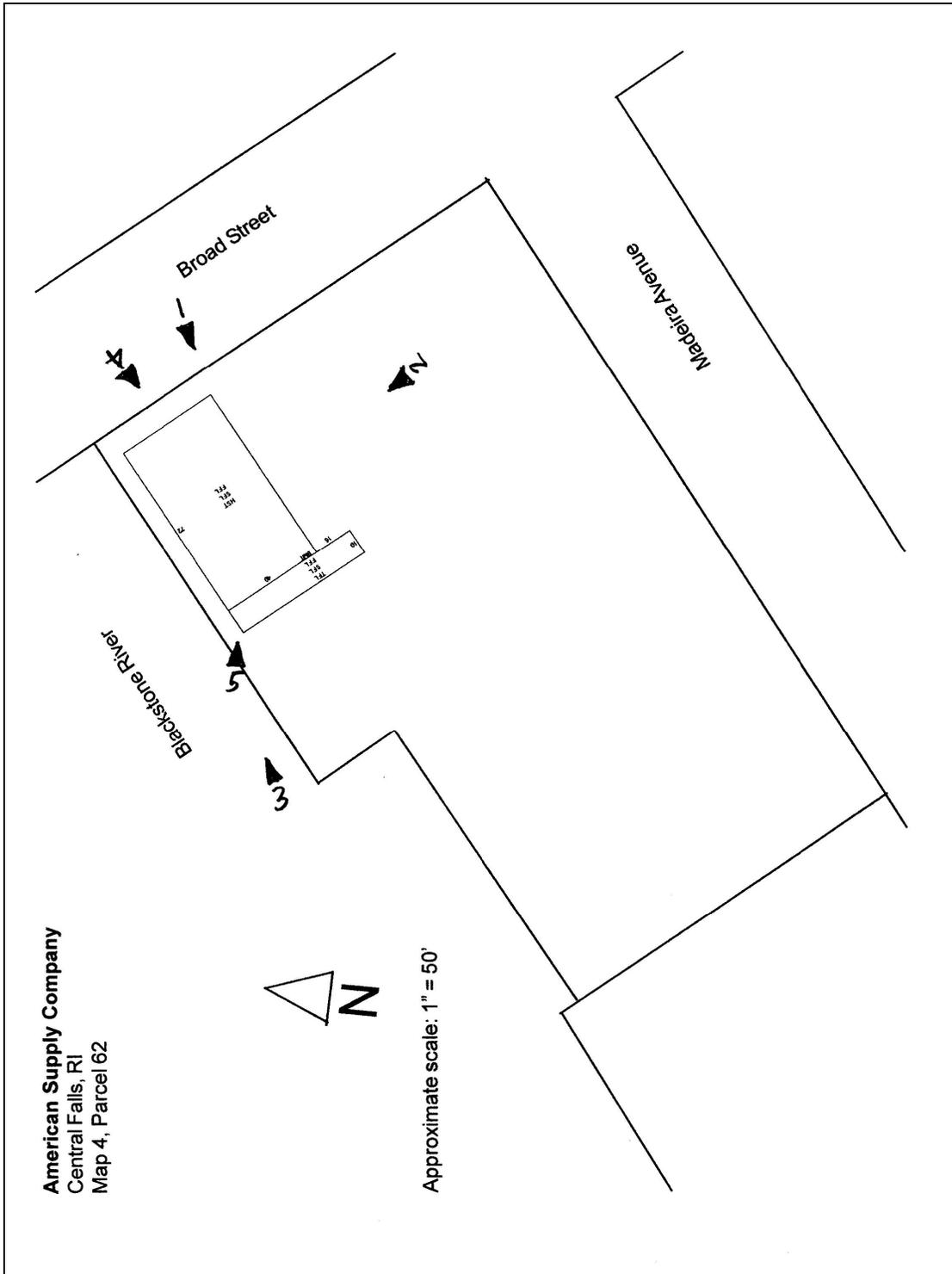
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Photograph Location Maps



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