



F.F. Payne, AL. 1889 Bldr's mfg. co., later W.B. Davis Hosiery Mill
1889 glass plate negative, copied 1989. Photo as just-completed stage.
Exempt in June 1989, except 2 north bldgs replaced c. 1927
(winter '89)
1 of 4



1989, W. D. Davis Hosiery Mill under construction. Summer.
Ft. Payne, AL. copy 1989 (glass p. contact print)



1889, later N.B. Davis Hosiery Mill under constn., summer
Ft. Payne, Ala. cogn 1929

1889, later W.B. Davis Hoisern Mill under constn, spring
(some vests & jackets)



N

45948

4044

1889 photo
during construction

+

Carroll Smith 1889

1087



1929 photo - west side of living quarters



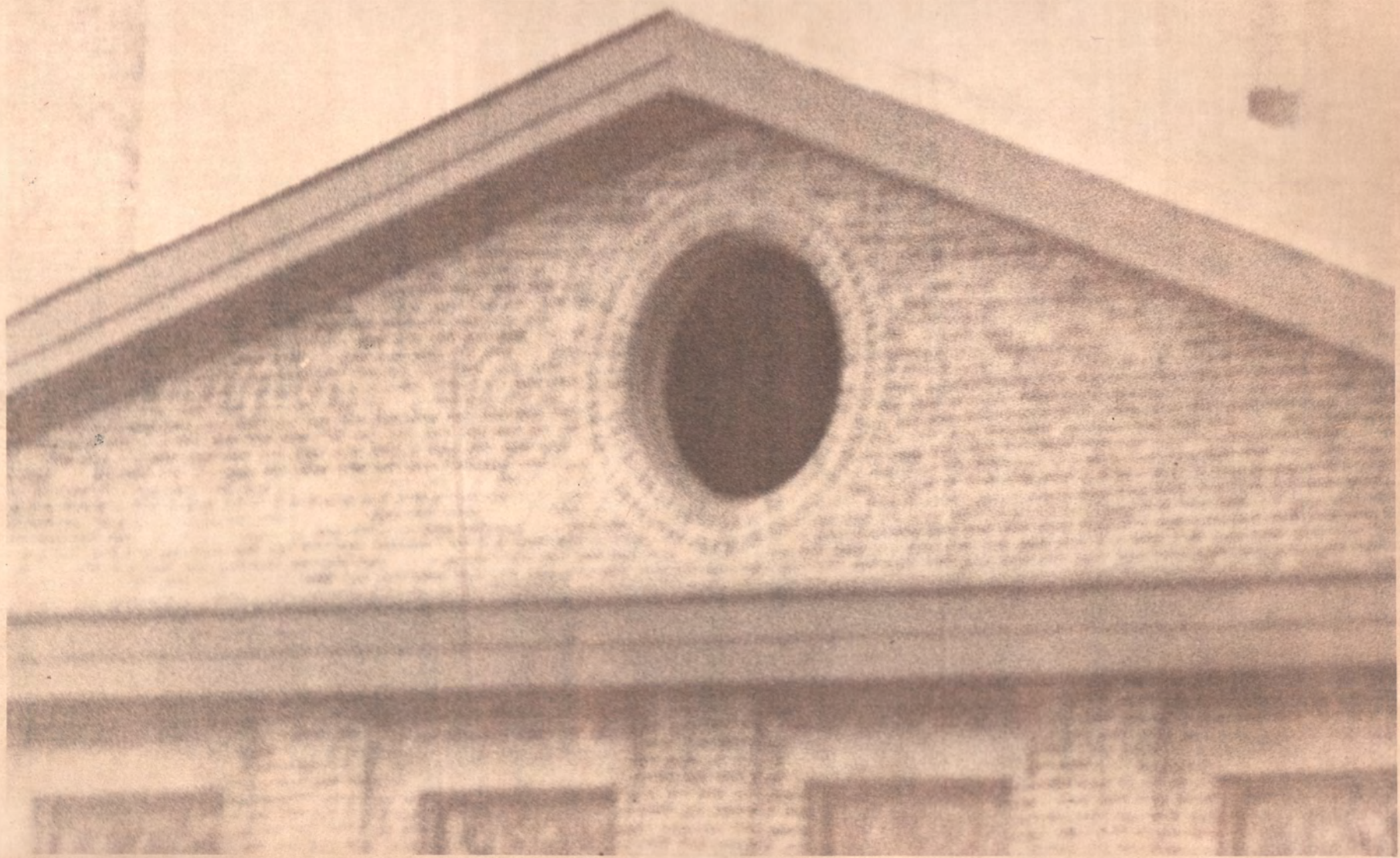
h
N



c. 1889-90 photo - west side

W

387



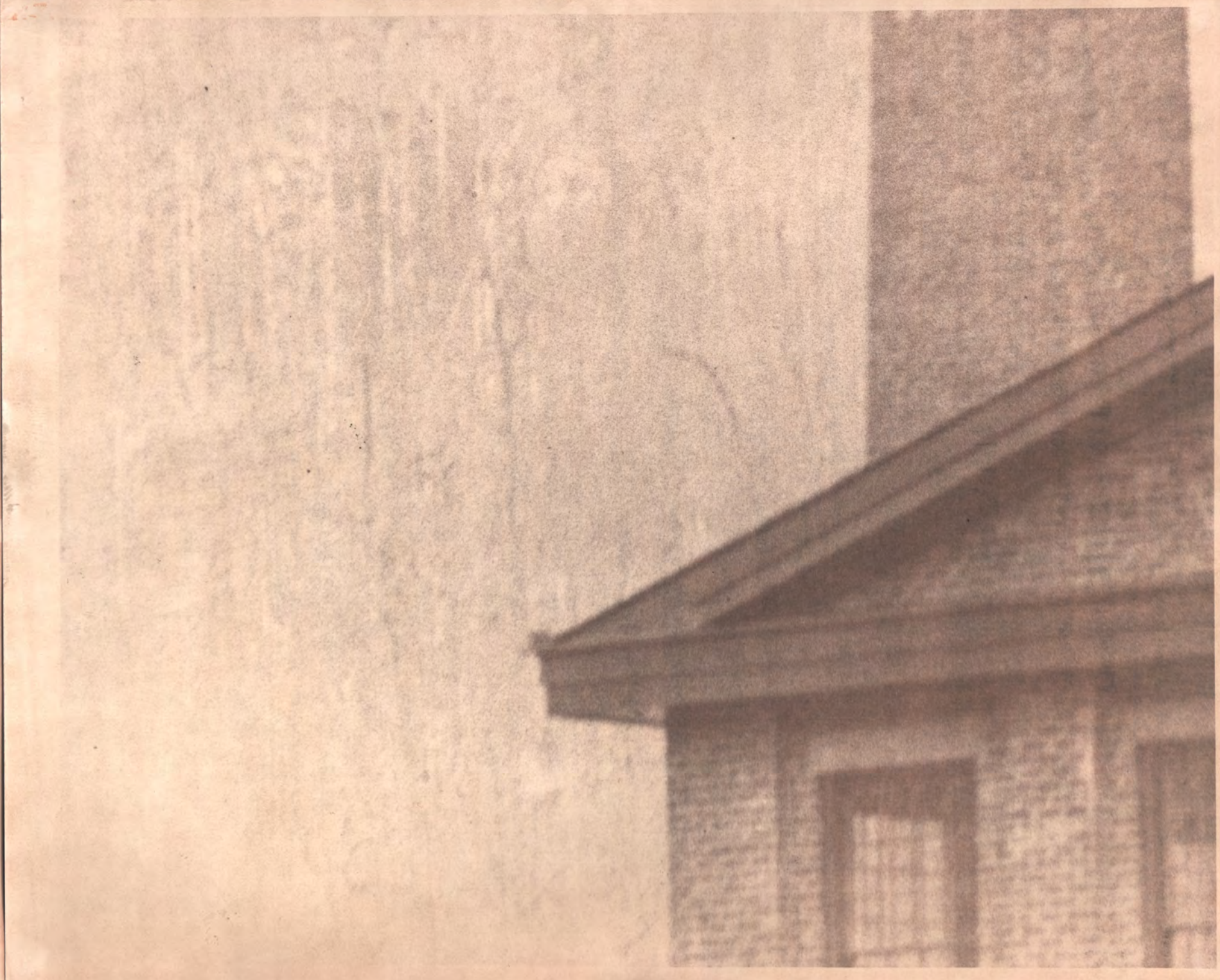
1889-90 photo - west side

h

4

1449 photo - west side
to N

5817



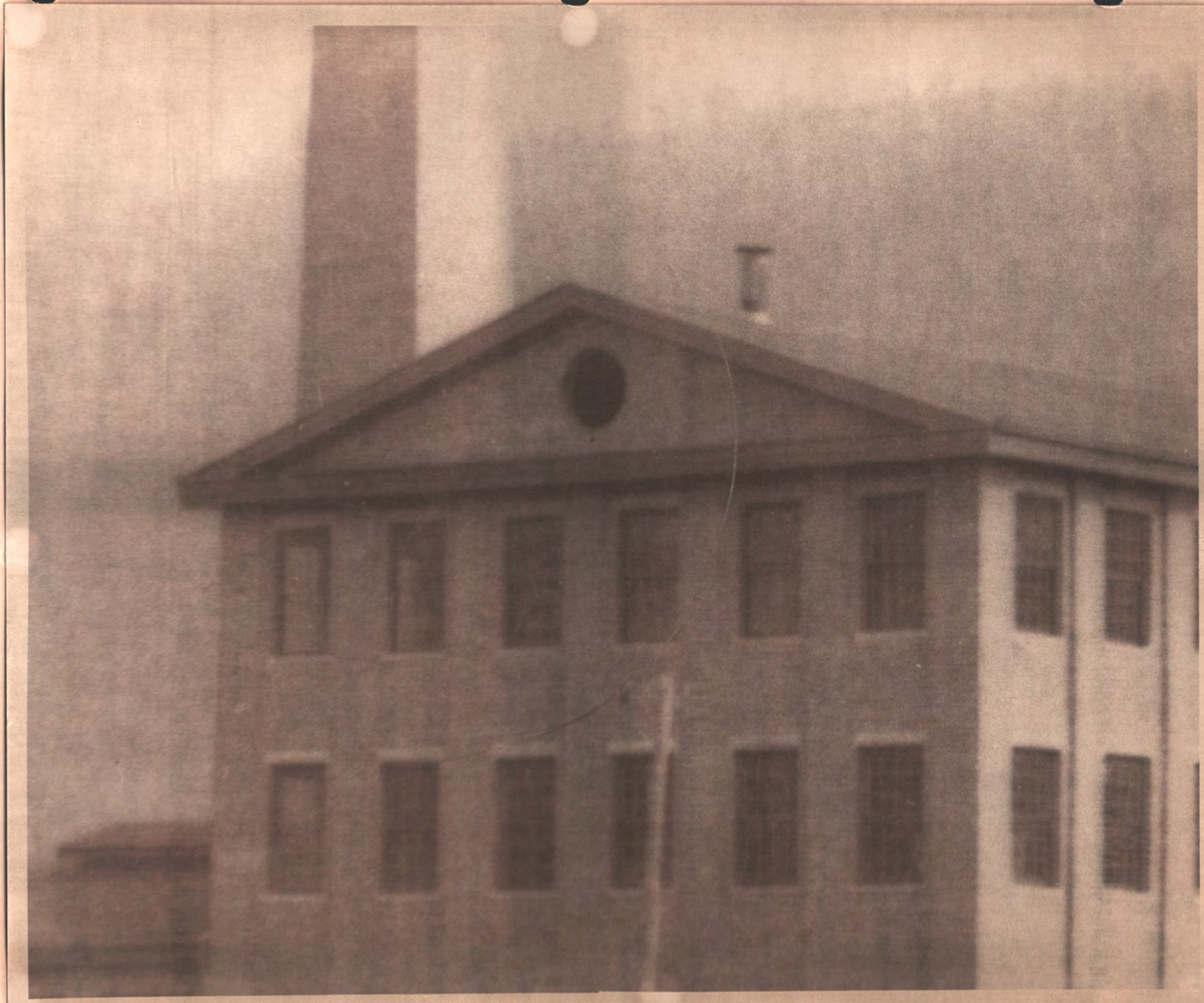


1889 photo - west side showing mortar

6

1889-90 photo - west side
4/4

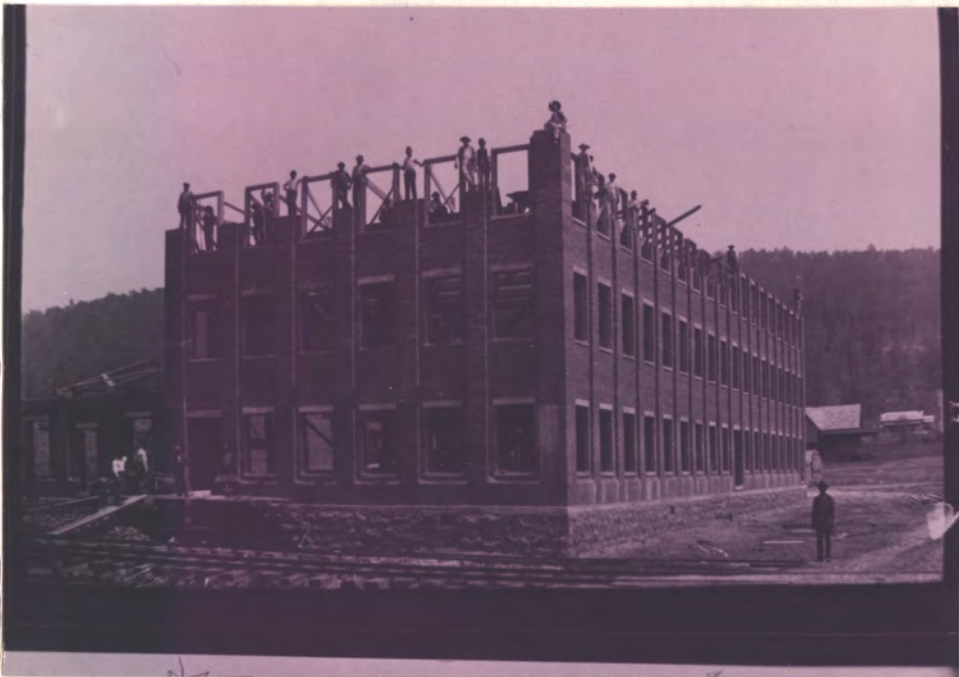
7057



1045

Bought by a dentist in c. 1990. Fate unknown.

Placed on Nat. Register of Hist. Places (at HJ suggestion) in mid 1980s.



RR →

2nd-generation copies from copies furnished by "Ft Payne Times-Journal" in c. 1989



N
↑
must be masons



1889 BLDG'S HOWRE MFG. CO. - FT. PAYNE, AL
(LATER DAVIS HOSEGRY MILL)

copies of constr. photos of 1888-89, Harvie P. Jones, FAIA, May 1996
Restor. studies by J & H Jones in c. 1989 for Ft. Payne Times-Journal, NOT executed



RR

Ns

See p. 1 (detail)

3095



→ RR



N →

RR →



← RR →





2 RR



2 RR



4



5045



W →



↳ NOT DATE of photo



← BOY STOP → PAILED + SAPP * → 1889 BLDG.

↓ SOUTH TANK

←

←

WHITE = CONC. BLK. MODERN LOADING DOCK



1889 + later Addis Bldgs. Mfg. Co.
 Later W.D. Davis Hosiery Mill
 Ft. Payne, AL. Photos June 1989

low area + lack of gutters =
 cause of basement water

→ N

Harvie P. Jones F.A.I.A.
 Jones & Herrin, Arch.
 Huntsville, AL.

①

mod.
load.
dock
↳



S.W. ENTRY - 1889 BLDG



1889 S. WALL



mod. loading dock ↘



E S.W. CORNER - 1889 BLDG

②



N ←
 Modern
 Loading
 Dock

← BOX STOR. BLDG → BOILER → SHOP → 1889 BLDG →



white = conc. block modern
 loading dock

N ←



← 1889
 BLDG.

N ←



N ←



Note trace of removed pediment bottom

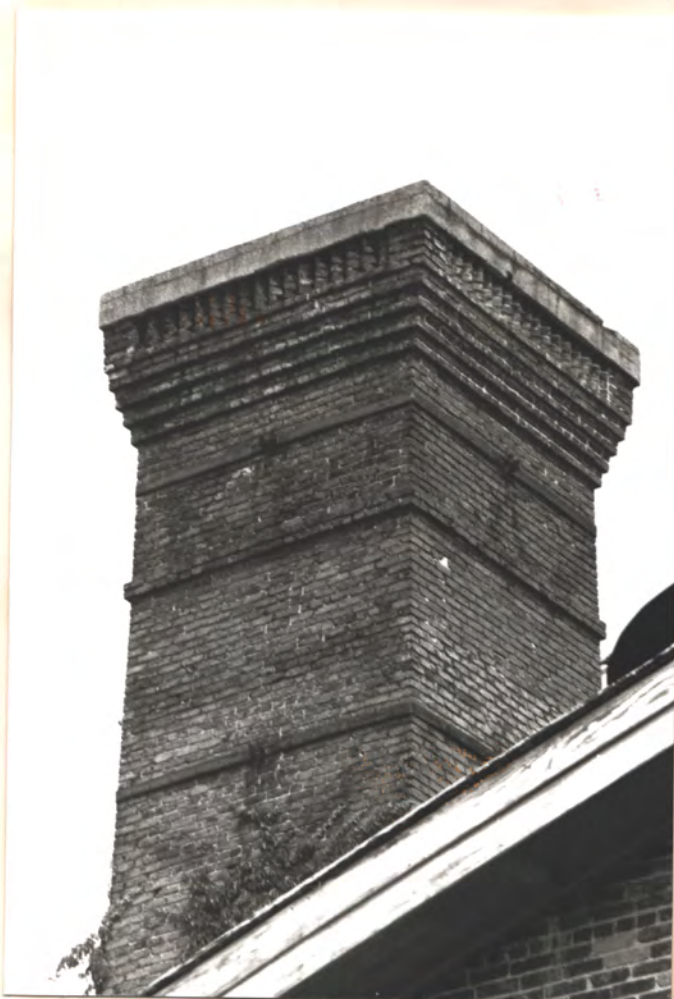
N ←

1889
BLDG.



North water tank

N ←



Chim.

N ←

(4)

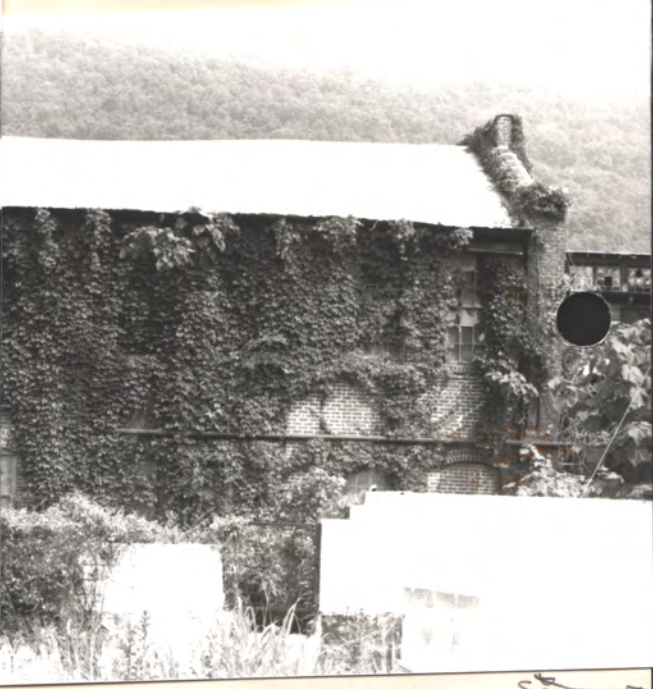


terra-cotta coping

N. Gable
N ←



N ← Box Stn. Bldg



CONNECT

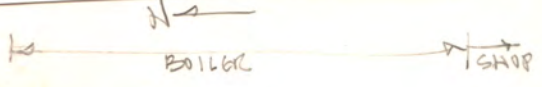
S. Gable
N ←



S. TANK



loading dock



Note trace of removed pediment bottom (see 1889 photo)



6

NS

← OFF. ADDN. + R.R.G. →

1889 BLDG 1



← OFF. ADDN. + R.R.G. →



BOARDING RM.

↗ N

↖ N

KNITTING BLDG.
NO. 2 ↓



↖ N
← OFF. ADDN. + R.R.G. →

BOARDING RM
①



→ N

BOARDING RM

← STOCK RM →



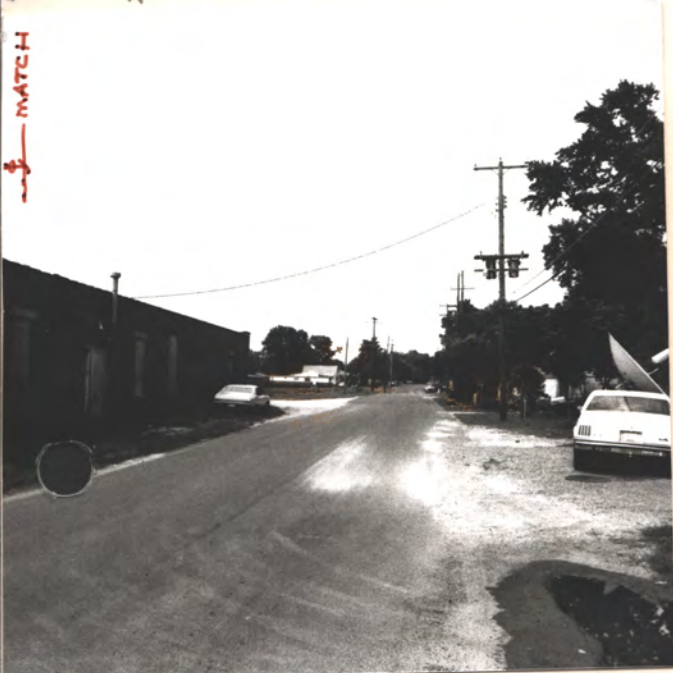
OFF. ADD.

← R.R. ADDN →

→ N

matches + photo opposite

MATCH



⑧

↑ N



← OFF. ADD.

← R.R. ADDN →

→ N



N. Parapet at Boarding Rm
 → N



Knitting Bldg. No. 2
 → N

Mod. Pre-Eng'd met. Bldg
 ↓

← KNITTING BLDG → | BOARDING RM DRYING + STOCK RM. → No. 1 Dye Hse (Roof collapsed) →



→ N (9)



Not DIE HSE
BOX FACTORY

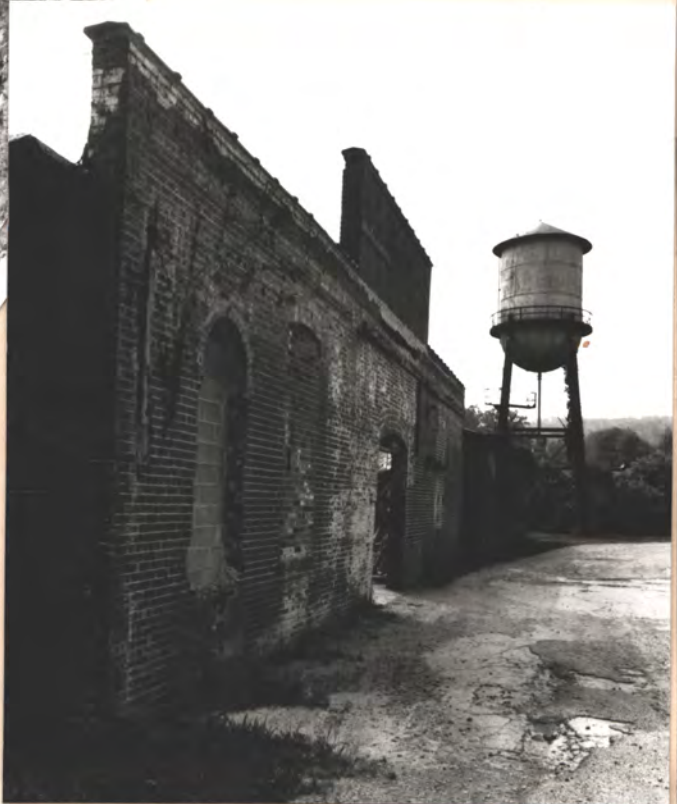
NORTH TANK



KNITTING BLDG

N. DIE HSE

NORTH TANK



DYE HSE. (ROOF COLLAPSED)



← N. TANK

← BOX FACTORY →



N ← BOX FACTORY

N ← BOX STR. BLDG., N. END



S. TANK



← 1869 BLDG.

BOX STOR. BLDG.

NA



NA

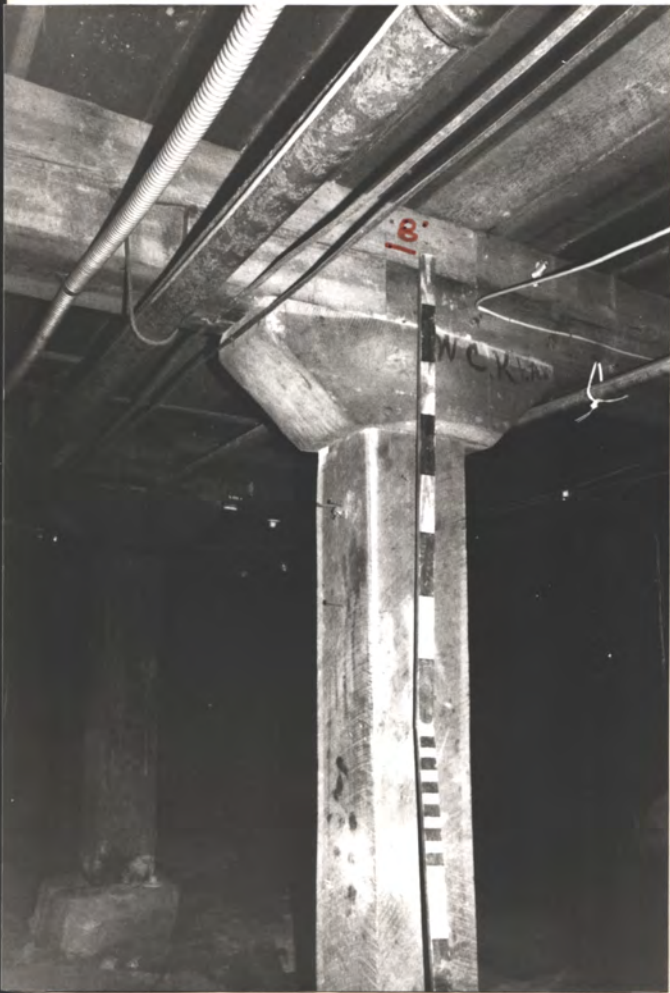
BOX FACTORY ← | → BOX STOR.

BOX STOR. S.W. CORNER

NA



Central col. line → N

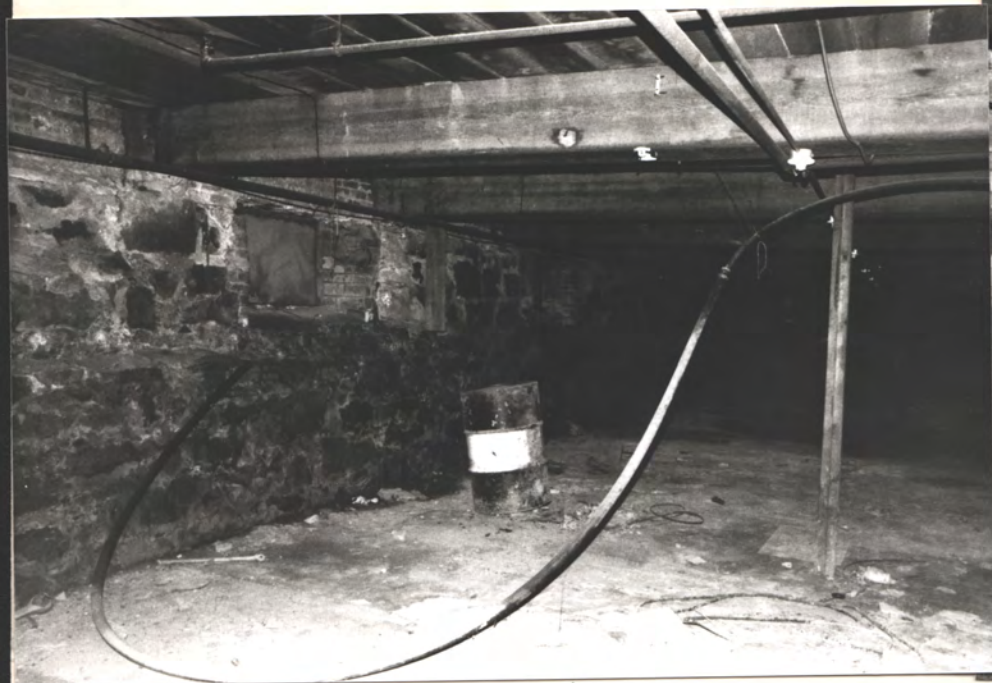


Col. base (stone footing) → N

1889 basement

→ N
Col. cap

match-line
Joins to photo
on opp. pg.



→ H

→ N

1889 Basement: Side wall



N

old habiery machines in stor-

← MATH-LINE TO ABOVE PHOTO

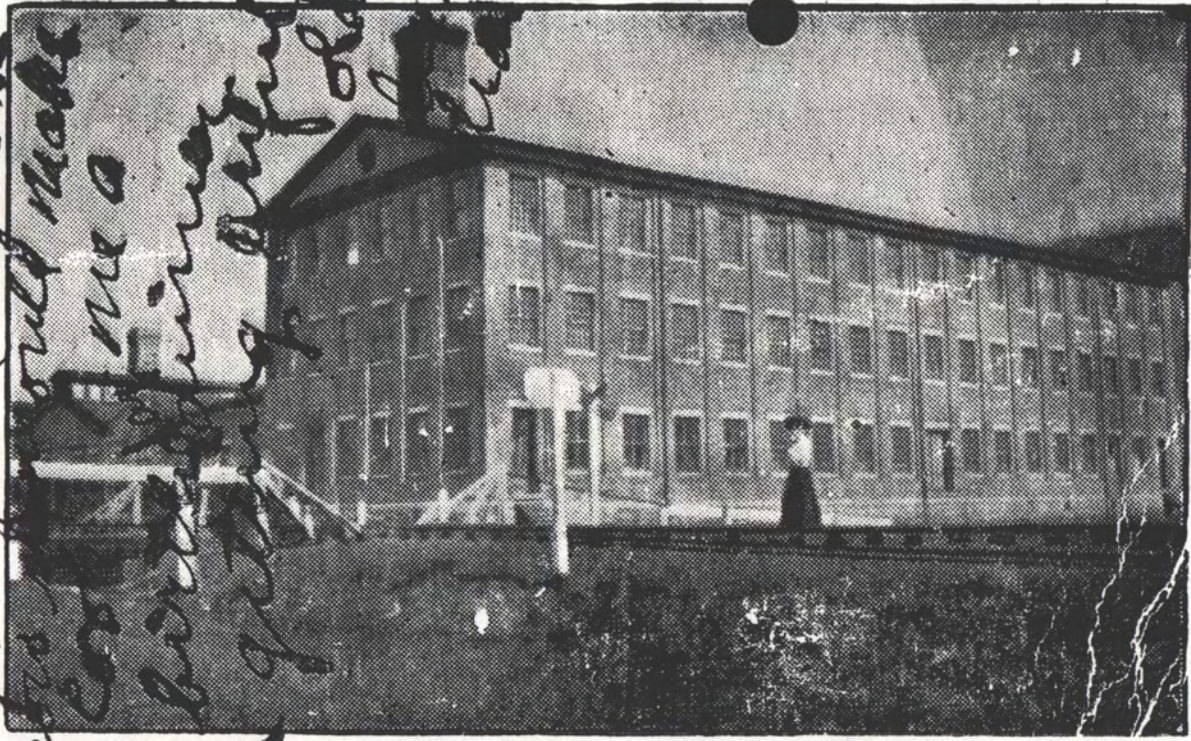


N



N

1889 First fl.



Davis Hosiery Mill, Ft. Payne, Ala.

write you was agree to
mean to old make
you cost me a
down time
I am going away
old

write
a long let
ter and tell
me about
sunday
and also
all you
ever I
know you
had a fine
time
I hope
see any
body else
looked good
since
G.W.

by by

1912 postcard. Note dark print trim at roof
RALPH & LINDA ALLEN COLLECTION

are you can find
I hope you the rain
I left the letter
that long
chain up
the window with
I care and it to
letter it is there
be much of his
I, yesterday he
washed up
with me for

This Space for Message

Order
address
P.O.

FORT PAY
NOV
11
7 PM
1912



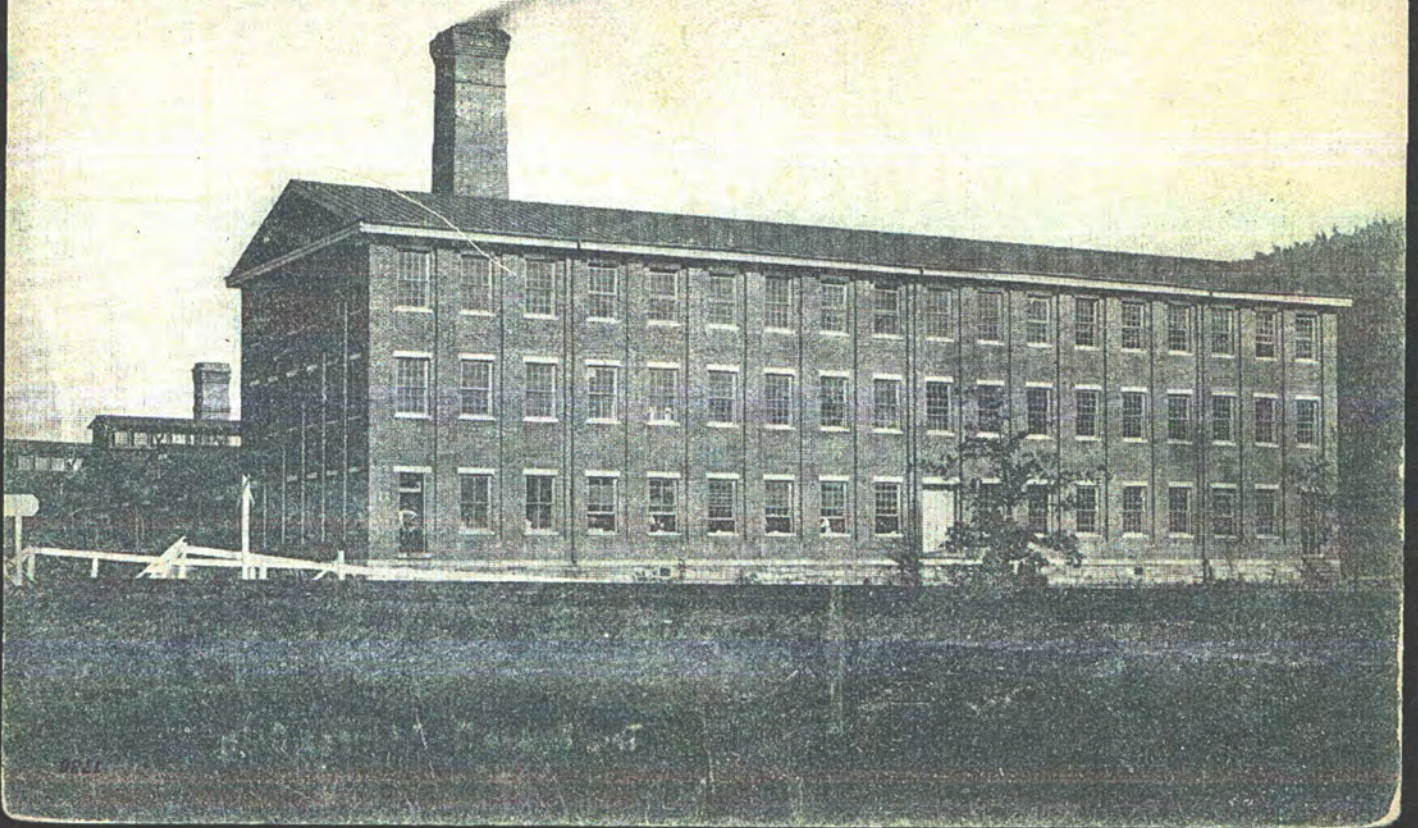
This Space for Address

Mrs Fannie Morrow

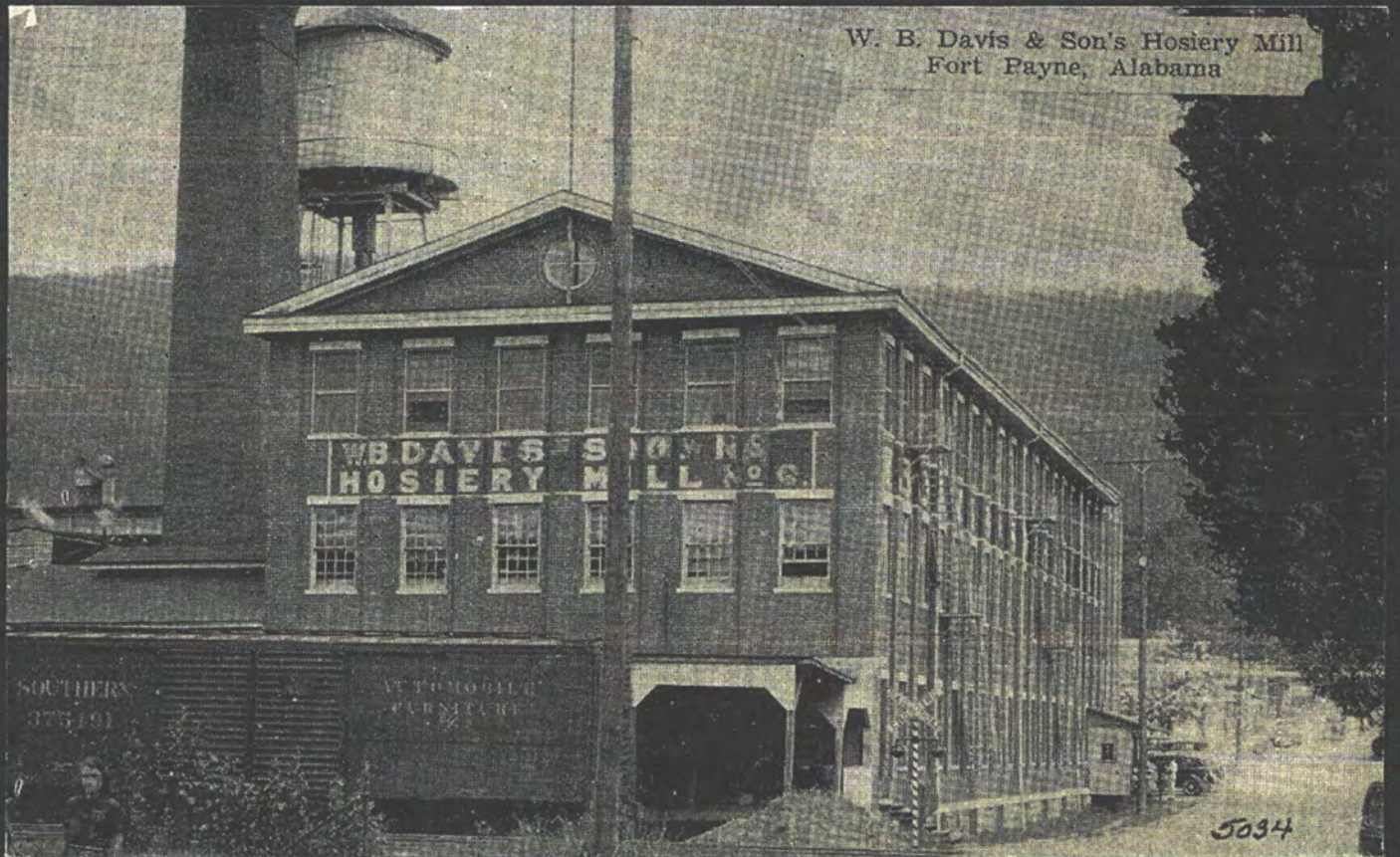
H Payne

Ala.

FLORENCE HOSIERY MILLS, FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA

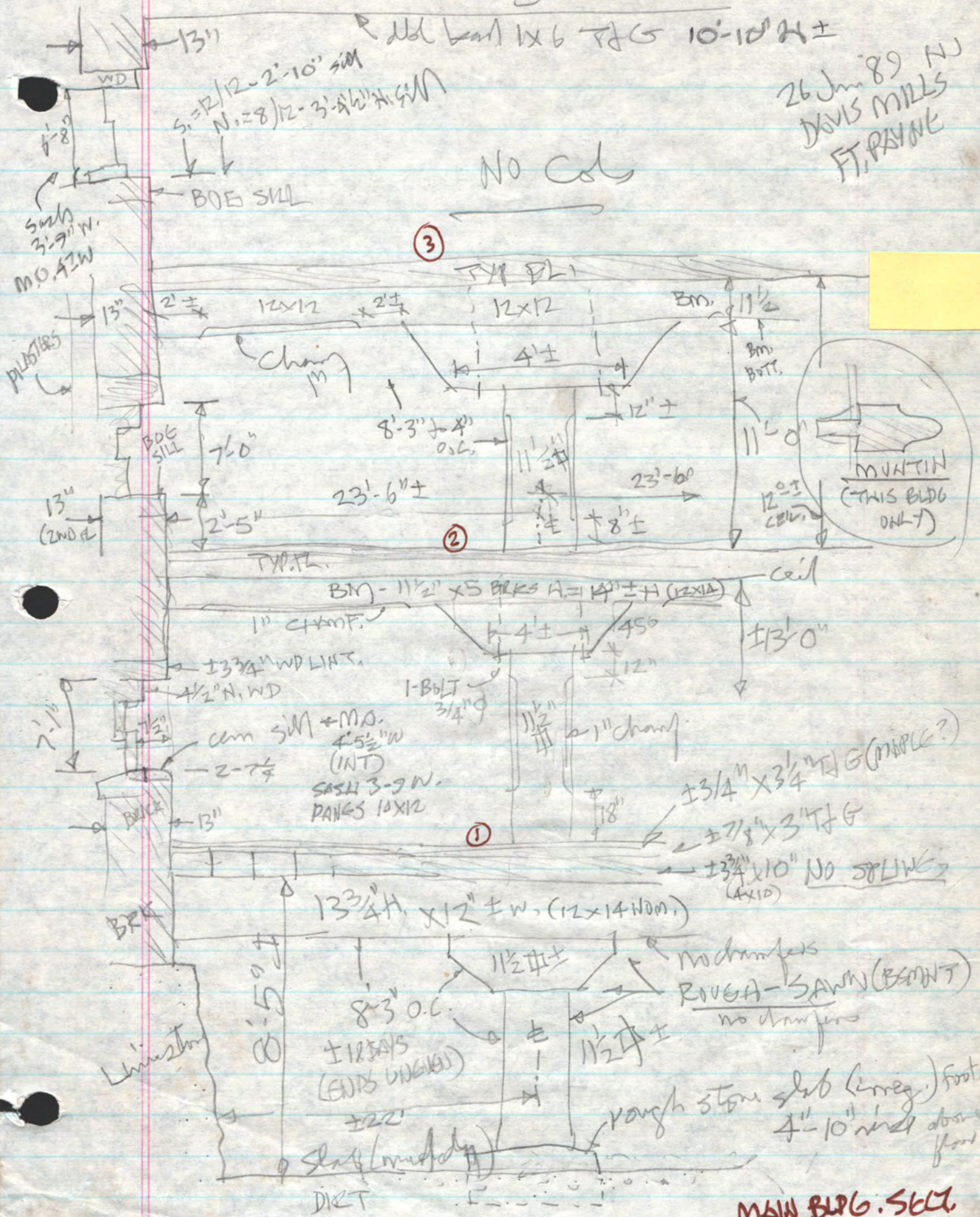


W. B. Davis & Son's Hosiery Mill
Fort Payne, Alabama

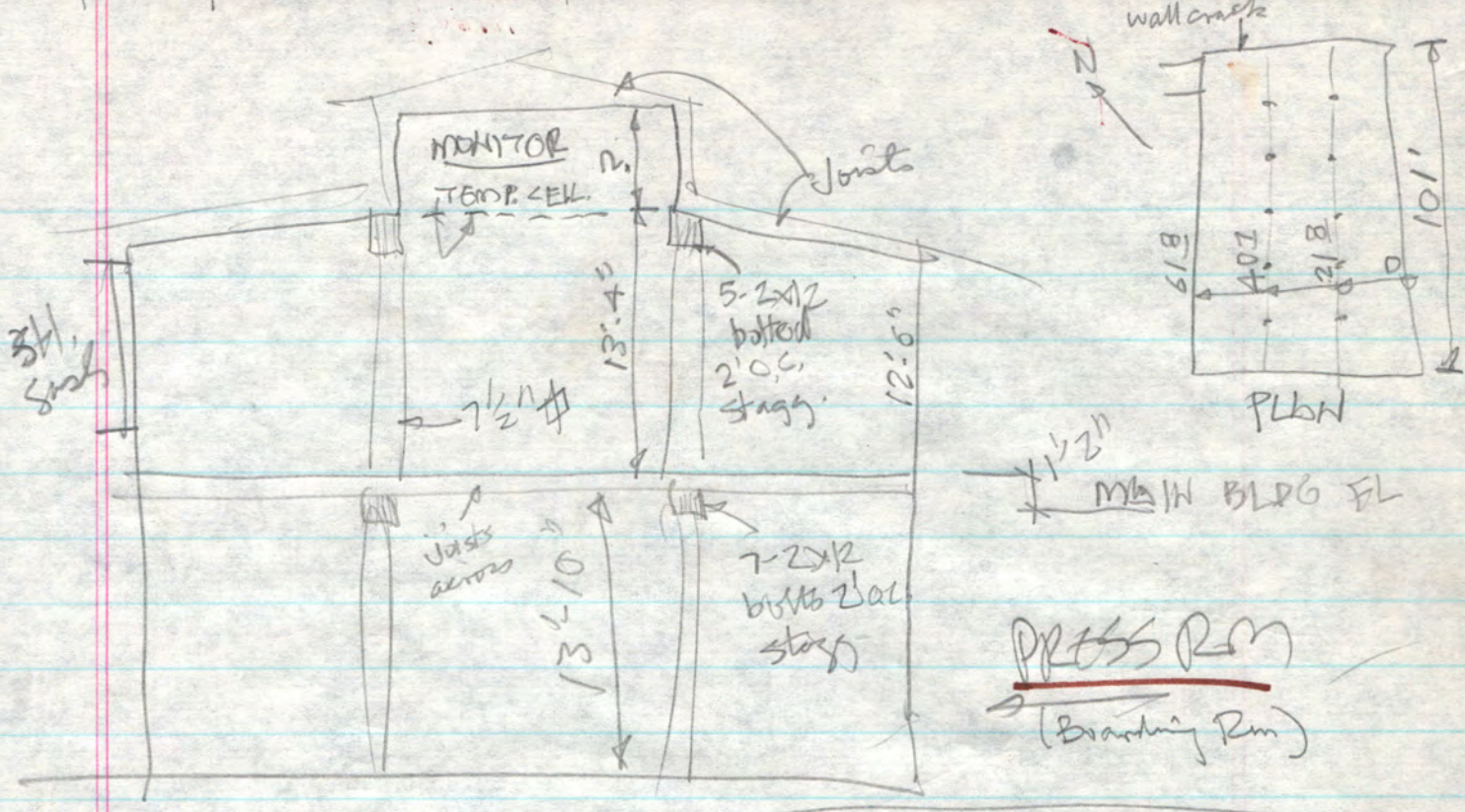


TRUSSES

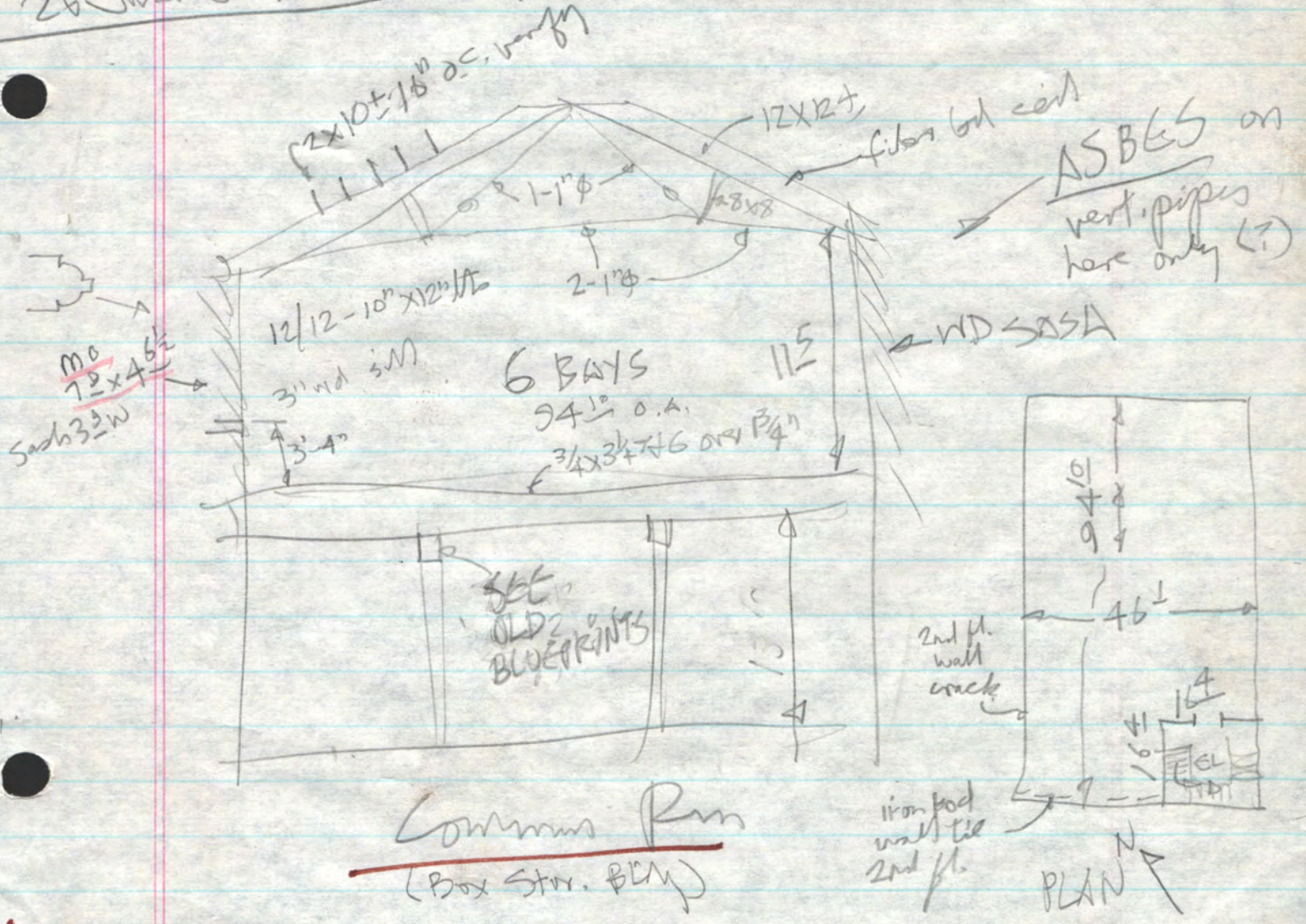
26 Jun 89 NJ
DAVIS MILLS
FT. PLYMOUTH



MAIN BLDG. SECT.
1989

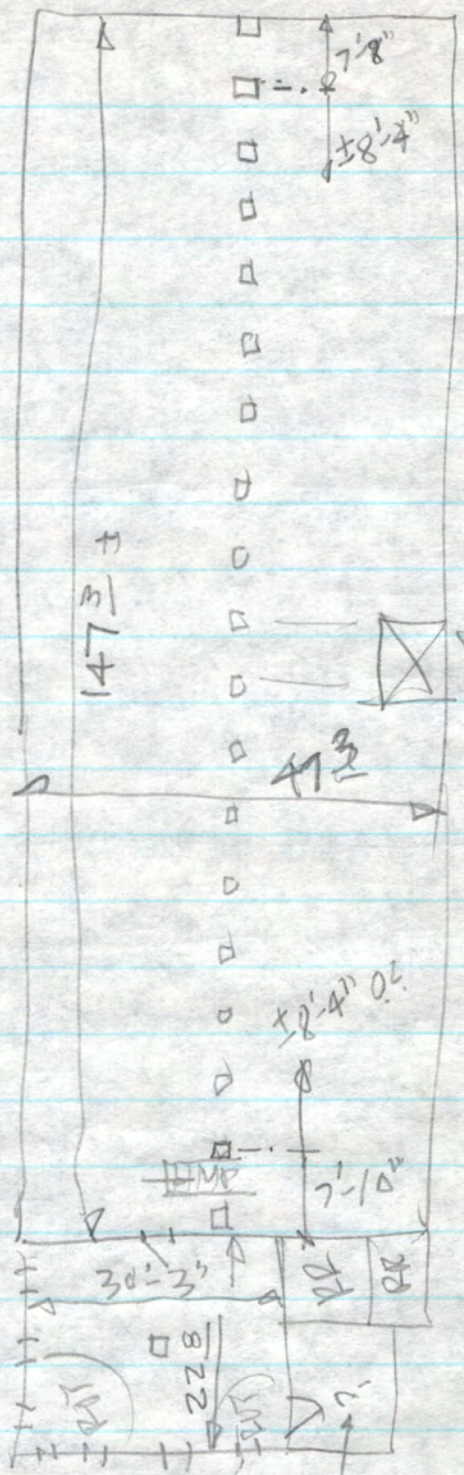


26 June 89 HQ Ft Payne Davis Mill



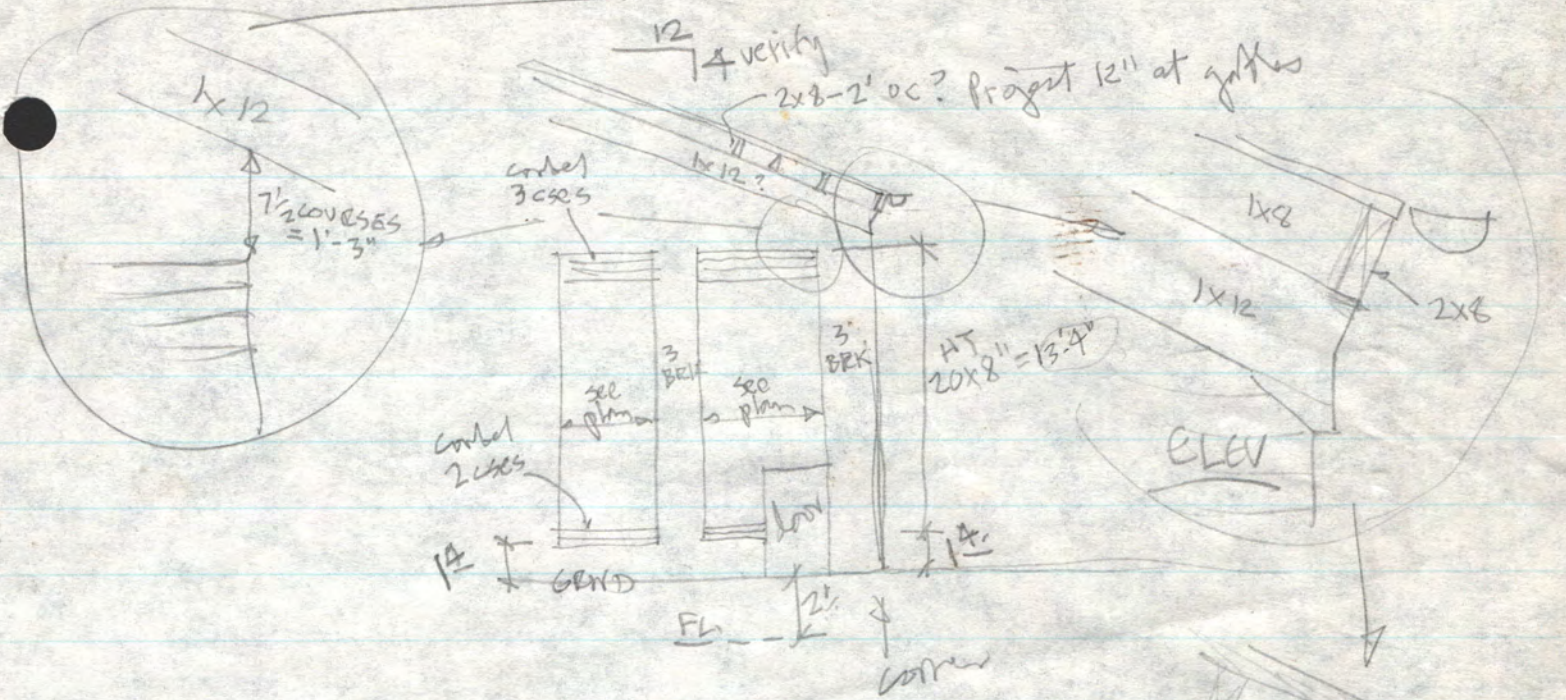
Common Rm
(Box Str. Bldg)

DAVIS HQS. MILL 26 June 89 HQ Davis



~~N~~
 DAVIS MILLS - FT PAVNE
 MAIN BLDG 1889
2ND FL
 26 Jun '89 AJ

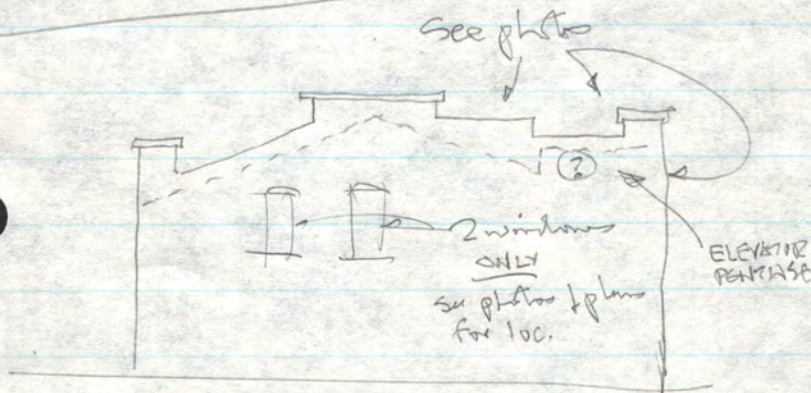
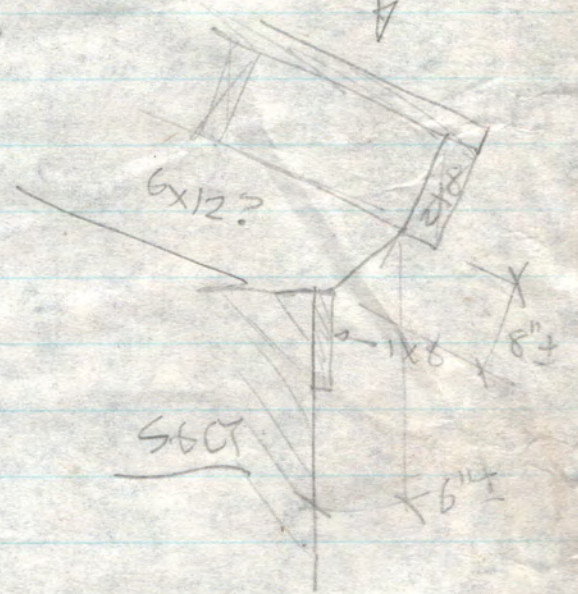
Boiler House - East Elevation



*4" ADDN FOR LATER BOILER

pnls unequal in width
see plans dim

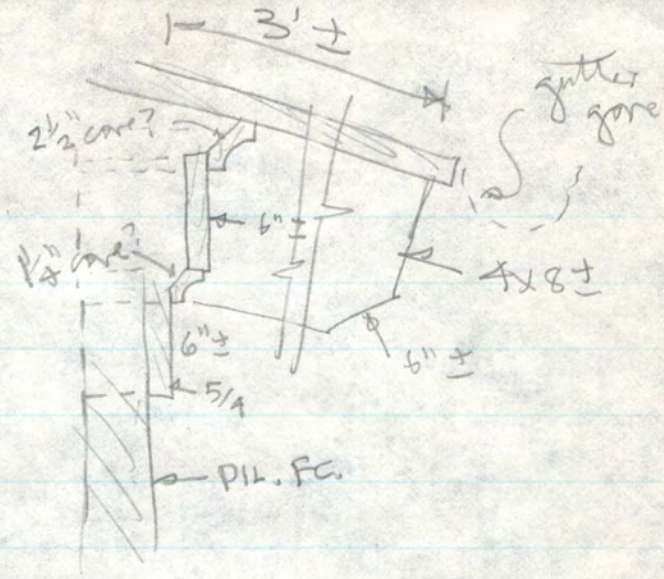
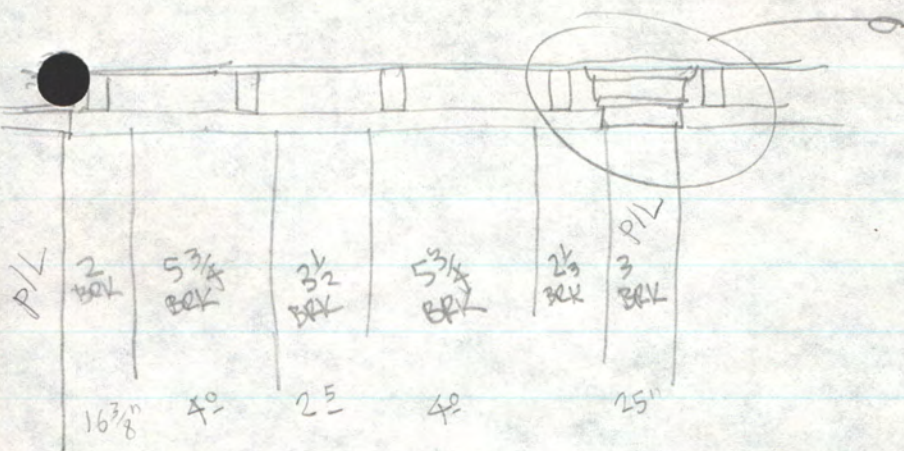
E. E. L



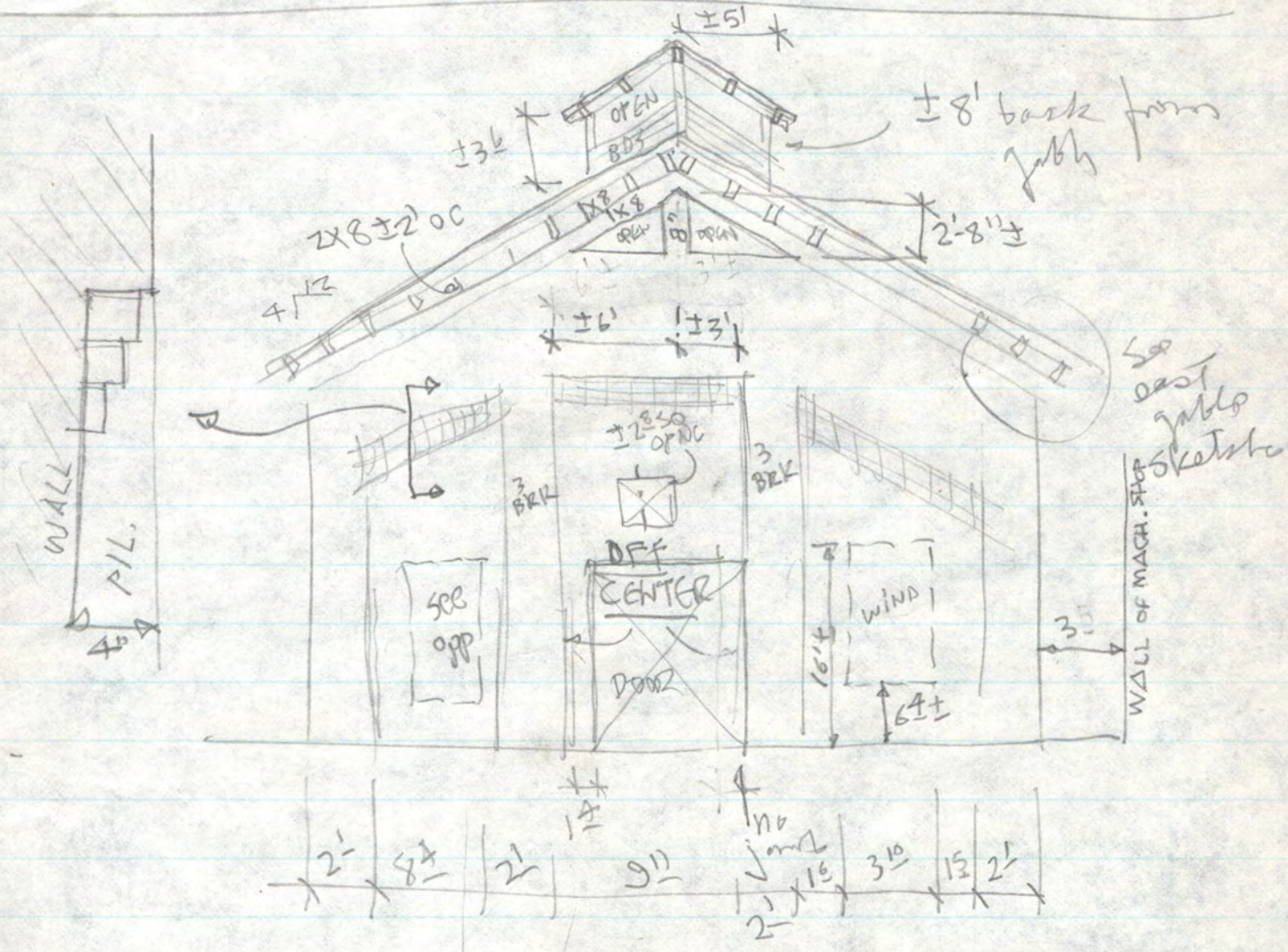
S. E.A.D. OF COMMON. BLDG

F.P.T.S. OCT 31 '89 H.J.

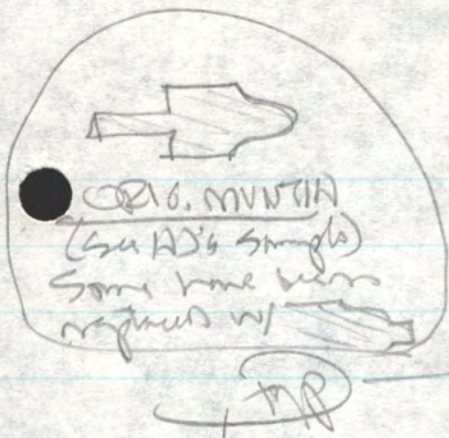
Common Body



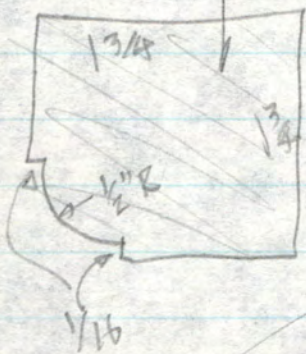
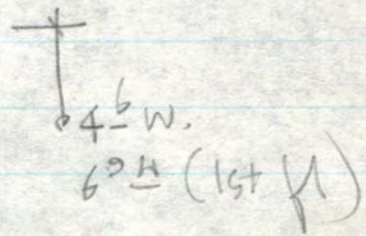
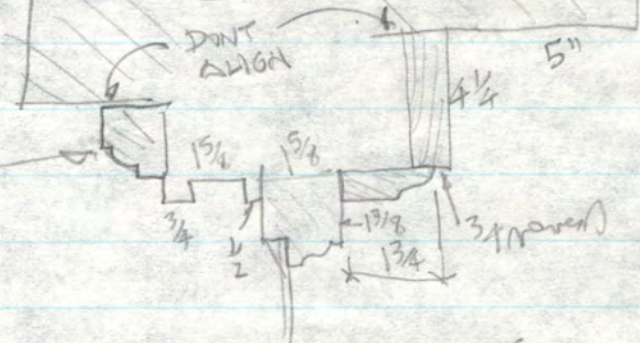
PILASTER LAP SECT



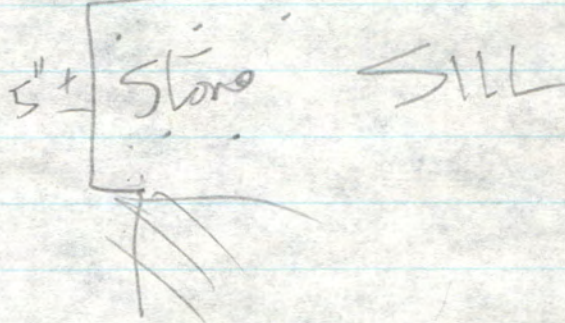
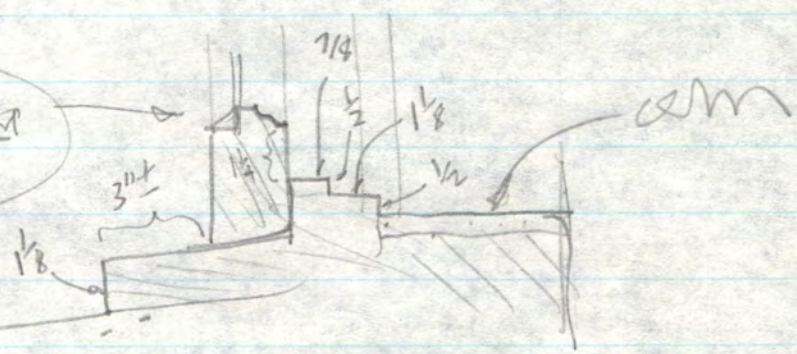
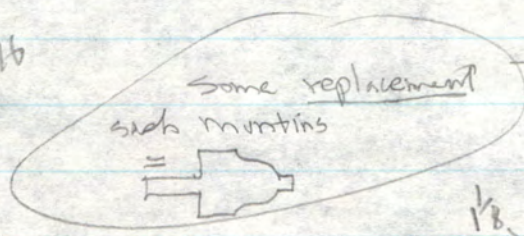
FPTJ ON 31' 80 WJ



HEAD + JAMB

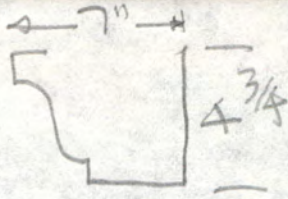


1889 - 1st fl S. (Sim. on fl. 2-3)



FPTJ Oct 31 89 AS

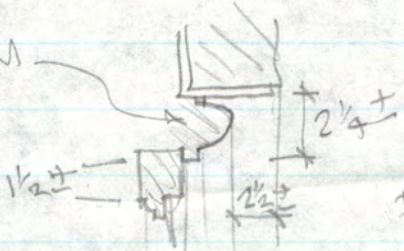
1. Gutter



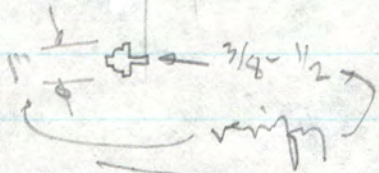
2. M.O. at Press Rm. (C.B'd) 4'-1 1/4" w x ±8'-5" H

3. Stor. Rm (by press) ← N. of Press Blde
 M.O. = 4'-1 1/4" x ±8'-11" verify

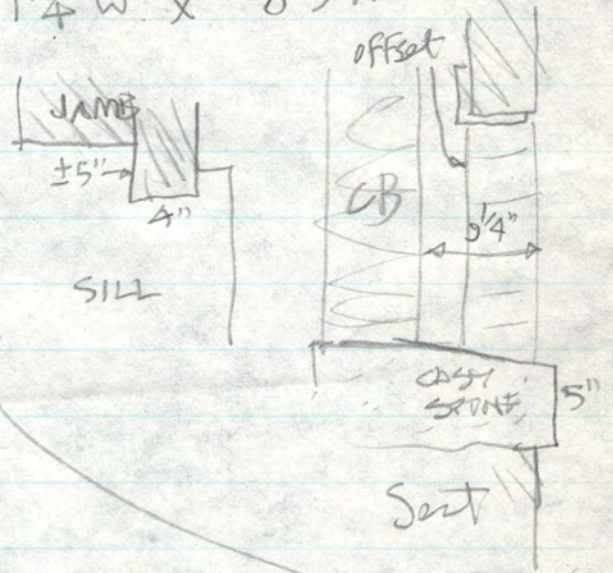
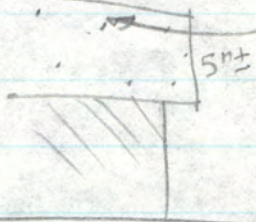
see detail below



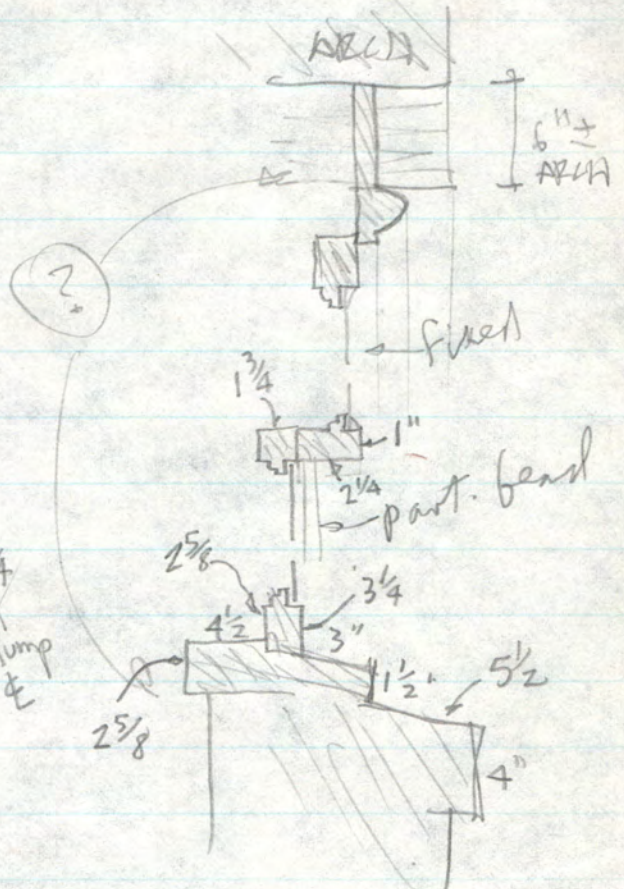
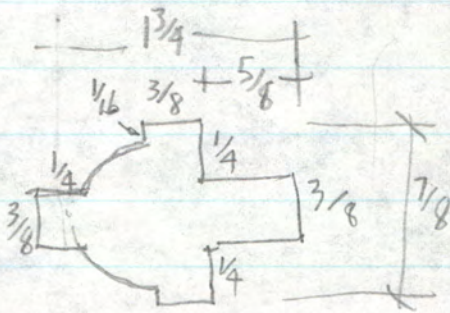
Press 10' x 12"
 16/16 BT



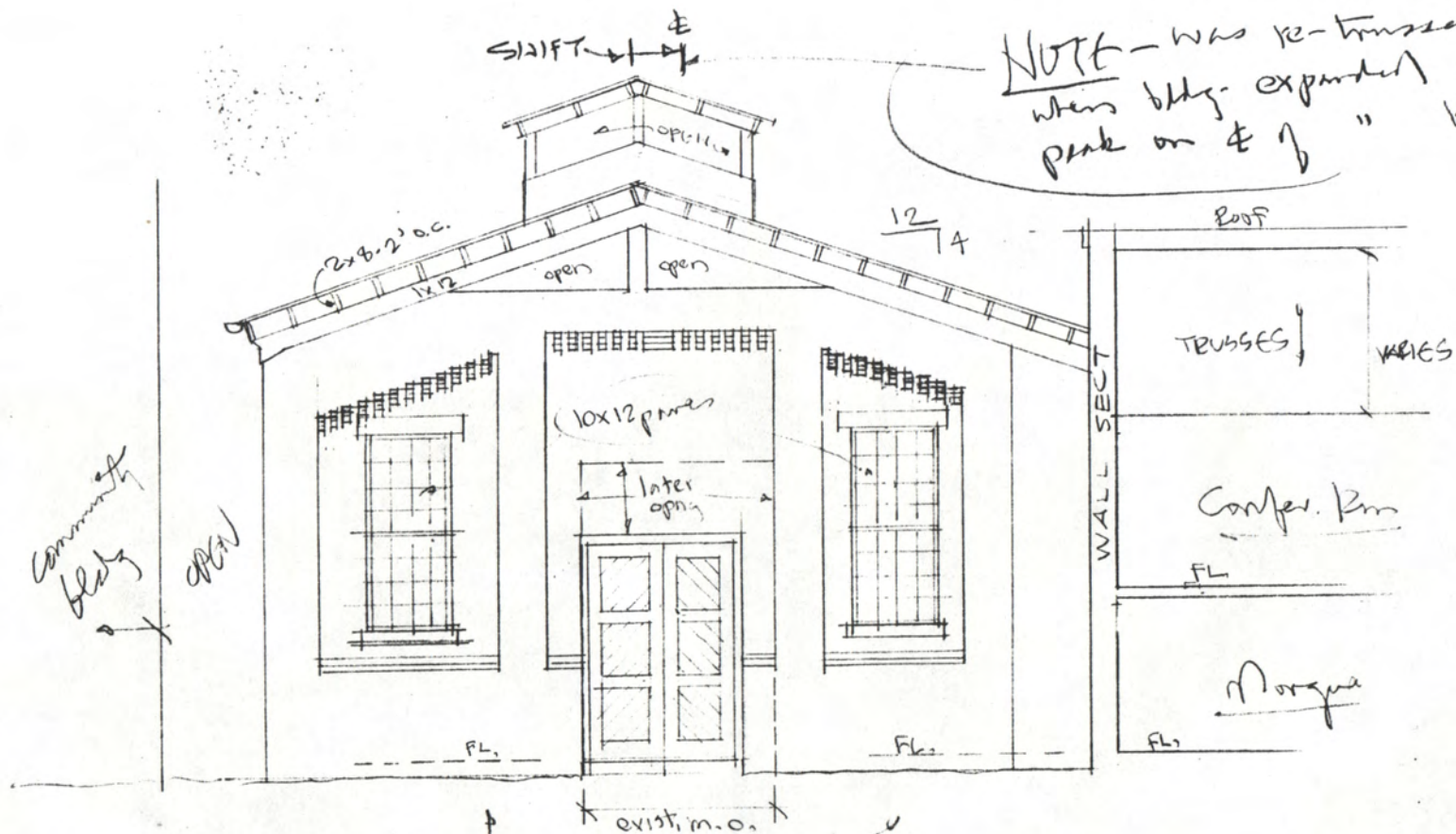
cast stone



Common. Rm (Stud) of west



FOT 00 3/8 125



NOTE - was re-trussed when bldg expanded with peak on \pm of " bldg

Community
bldg

OPEN

WALL SECT

TRUSSES

VARIES

Confer. Rm

FL

Mosque

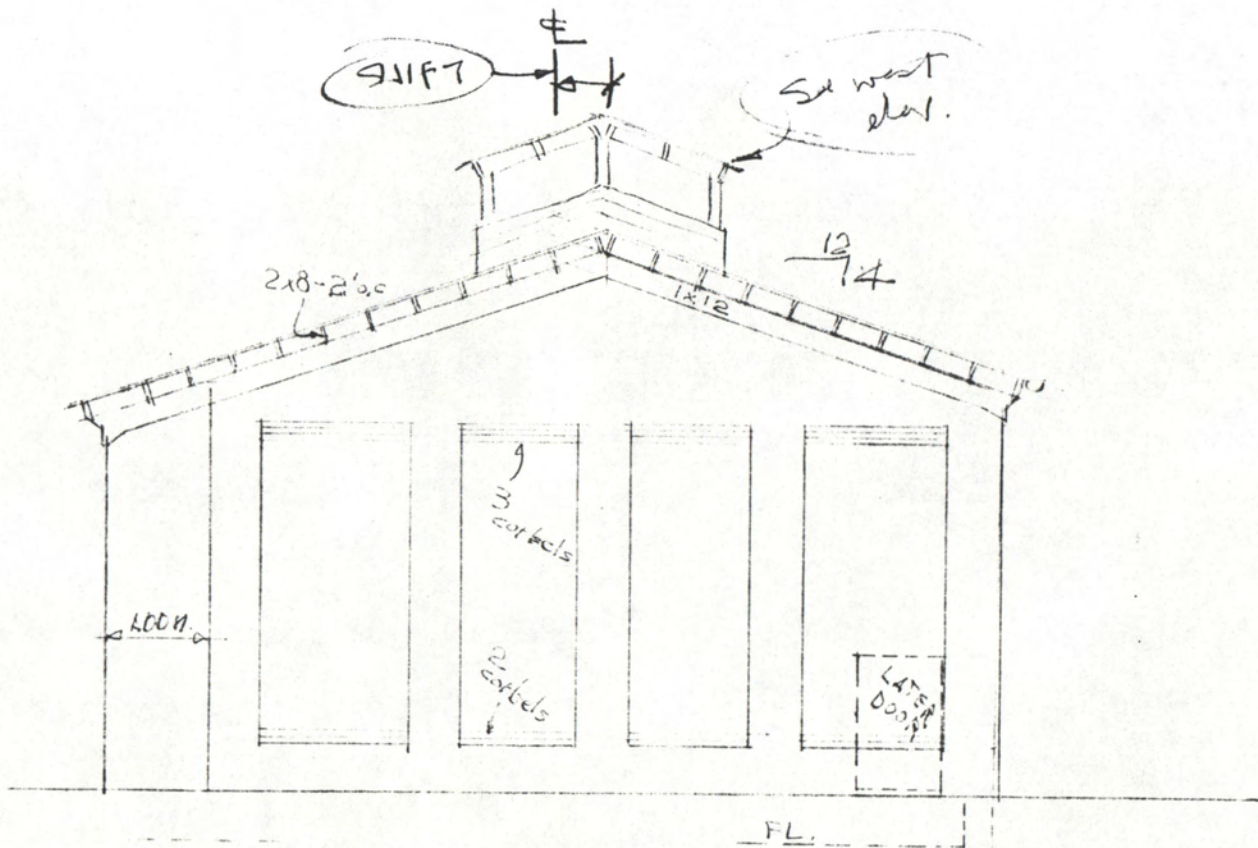
FL

exist. m.o.

NOT
SYMMETRICAL,
AS SHOWN

Bldg Was Restored West Elev. '89 HS
Nov 1 '89 HS

1/8" = 1' scale



1N.v.'39 HJ

1/8

EAST ELEV. Boiler Hse

NO PILLASTERS

2'-11"

(NO STEPS)

Square

Window?
de. Oct 31
photos

SHIFT

equal

not aligned

ALIBI

align

later door

later door

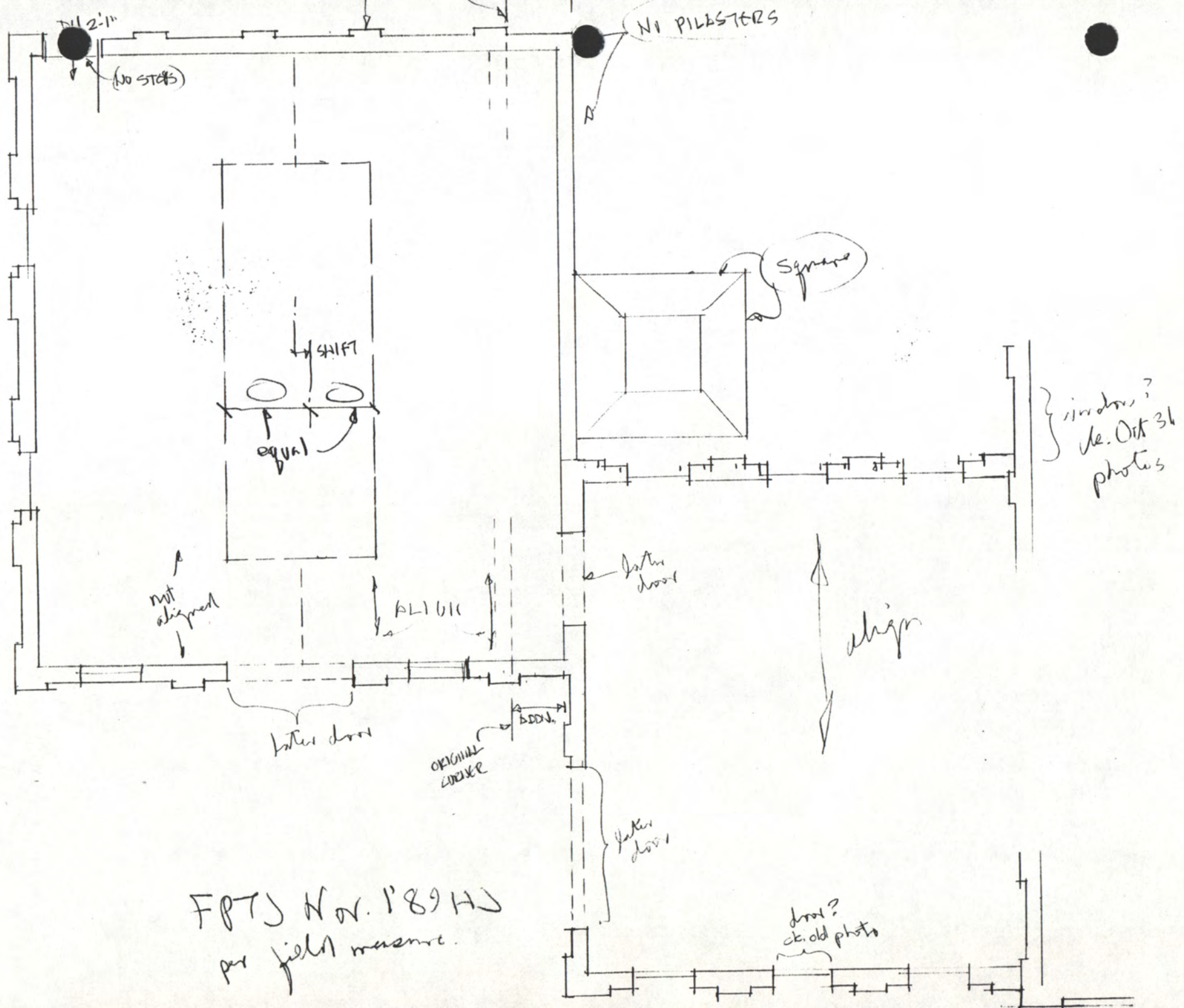
ORIGINAL
CORNER

5000"

later door

door?
ok. old photo

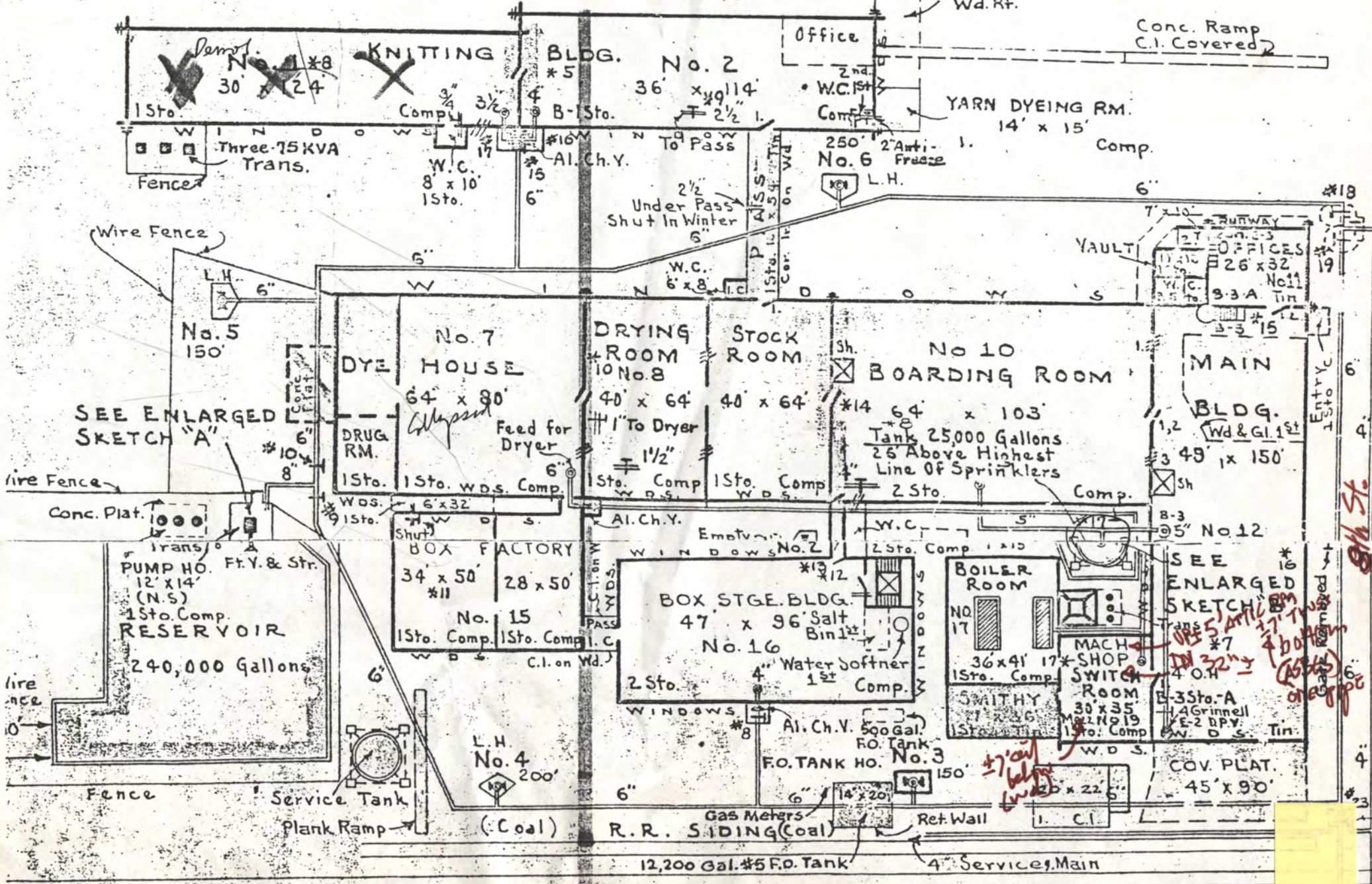
FPTS Nov. 1894
per field measure.



26 June 89 site photo (brown) 1" = 50'



WILLIAMS AVE



ALABAMA GREAT SOUTHERN R.R. (Main Line)

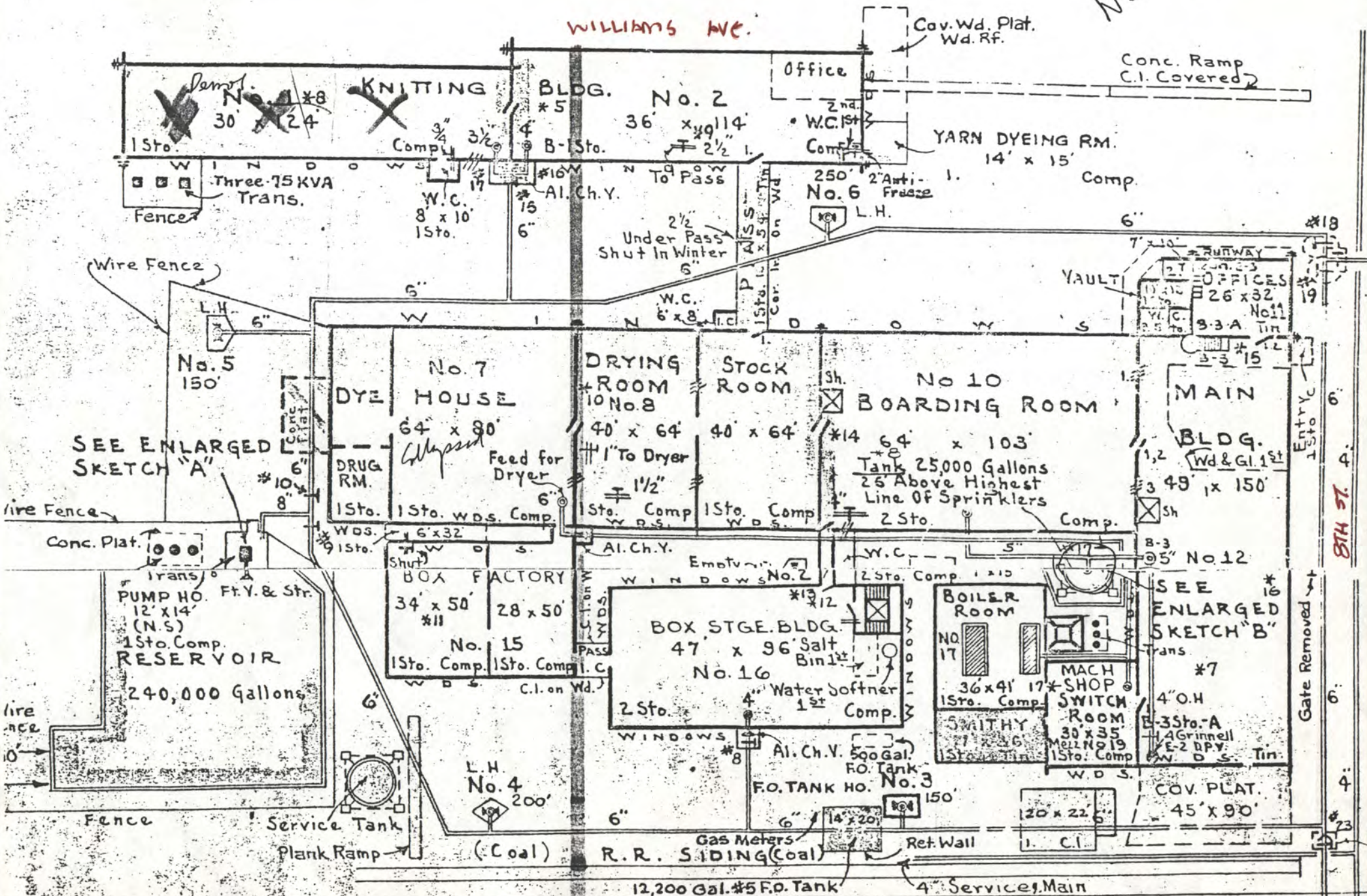
Harpole Sons

MAP

1" = 50' ±

N 45° E

WILLIAMS WC.



ALABAMA GREAT SOUTHERN R.R. (Main Line)

Harfolk Sons

8TH ST.

Gate Removed

23

P.S.: Nov. 1 '89 - old owners demands not reasonable to the FPC - project dropped. HJ

30 Aug '89 HJ

Ft Payne Times Journal - 89068

Ownership agent - Gary Gengezian, Editor & Publisher

Ft. Payne 1-845-2552 (office)

P.O. Box 349, Ft. P.

200 8th St. SE 35967

FAX = 1-845-7459

KIRSTEN

2. Owner

Lissa Walls, V.P. (originally from Guntersville)

Southern Newspapers Inc.

1050 Wilcrest Dr.

Houston, TX 77042

Off. - (713) 266-5481

FAX (ask Ann)

3. Conts. - J.T. Schimster

Randy, Donald Keller

Supt. = Milton Thomas (good at restor.)

Cost plus, bid any clear-cut subs

Budget - Prelim. est. \$900,000 ± based on 17 July prelims

4. Eng. - ENTEC - Humes = HVAC

Somers = Elect.

? = plumb. & sprinklers

Struct. - Hodnett

Storm Draining - GW Jones, Mark Yokley

5. Schedule - ± 6 mo. planning, from mid-Aug '89

± 6 mo. constr. Certain work can

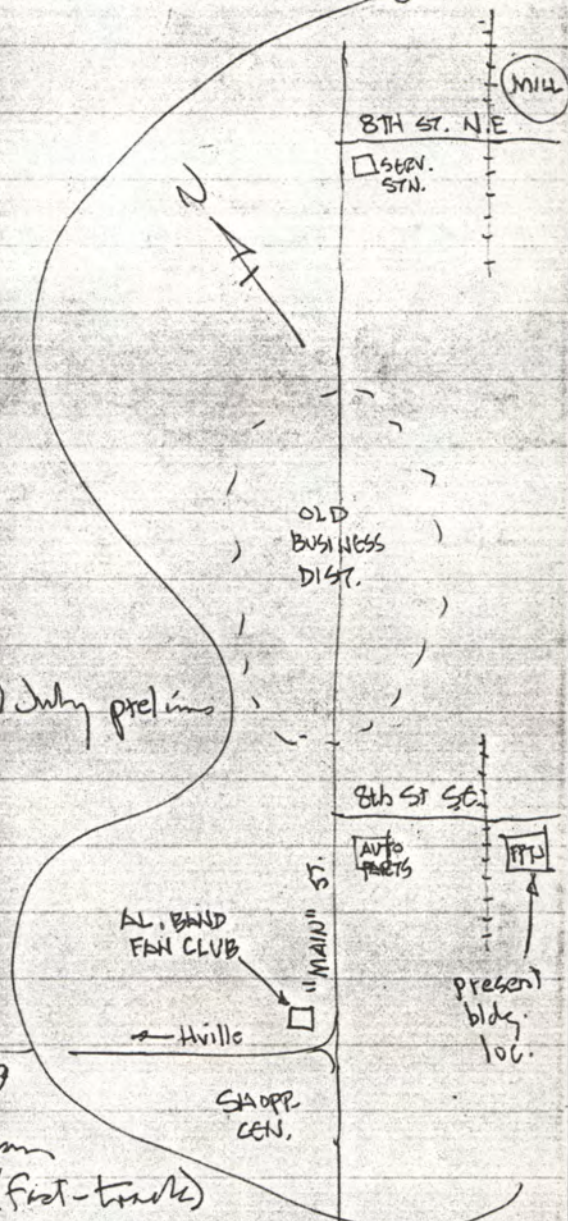
begin prior to plan completion (fast-track)

"TAX-ACT" project - Al. Hist. Comm. contact = Eliz. Brown, AIA

Must follow guidelines - HJ has copy

1-242-3184 Mont.

6. Arch. fee - 8.3% less args = about 6.9% net to work



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 Alabama Builders' Hardware Manufacturing Co. 1889 + 20th c.

and or common W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill

2. Location

street & number 204 8th Street N.E. NA not for publication

city, town Fort Payne NA vicinity of congressional district 4

state Alabama code 01 county DeKalb code 049

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

4. Owner of Property

name Ida Goza

street & number P. O. Box 173

city, town Fort Payne NA vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. DeKalb County Courthouse

street & number 300 Grand Avenue South

city, town Fort Payne state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970-present federal state county local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill building is a good representation of the local manifestation of Colonial Revival design in industrial building. The structure features classical elements characteristic of the late 19th century revival of Colonial period architecture.

Originally constructed as the main shop building of a builders' manufacturing company established in 1889, this three-story, rectangular-shaped brick building with its 85' smoke stack was one of the four original foundry buildings situated on this lot by 1897 (Photo #1; Illust. 1). The building features several Colonial Revival details including stone lintels surmounting 12/12 sash windows. Symmetrically grouped and separated by brick pilasters, there are six windows per floor across the front and 21 windows per floor along the sides. The brick gable end which contains a centered bull's eye window (now enclosed), shows evidence of the existence of a complete boxed pediment; however, only the brackets which supported the lower boxing of the pediment remain.

The 85' columnar smoke stack (Photo 7) with its flared top features corbeled brick belt coursing directly below the top of the stack which subdivides the shaft into an imitation entablature. Obviously inspired by the shape of Doric columns, the smoke stack is one of the structure's most interesting features.

The 1909 Sanborn of the property shows only the main shop building which had been converted to a hosiery mill and a pattern vault building originally attached to the iron foundry building (Illust. 2). There is no indication, however, of what this vault building was used for during this period. The map does show that two of the floors in the main shop building were utilized in 1909. The first floor was used as the knitting department and the second floor was used for storage. The third floor is listed as vacant. The map also notes that the steam boiler capacity had been reduced from 150 H.P. to 50 H.P. with only one boiler shown.

In 1927, several years after W. B. Davis took over the mill, substantial building appears (Illust. 3) providing evidence of the company's early 20th century expansion (1915-27). In the main building the boiler capacity was obviously increased as the engine room appears enlarged to contain two boilers, and a small flat top addition at the rear of the building appears with arched windows on the 1st and 2nd levels and stone lintel treatment at the 3rd level (Photo 3). The Sanborn references this area as the office.

During this period several additional wings and buildings, all with connecting, covered passageways were constructed. Abutting the rear northeast side of the original 1889 building is a two-story brick, rectangular-shaped wing with a series of evenly spaced "flip-out" windows at the second level (Photo 4). The first level windows are grouped in pairs, and even though they are presently boarded up, their proportions generally match those on the 2nd floor indicating that they may have had the same or similar multi-light treatment as those above. A one-story section completes this wing, but presently appears to have retained only a part of the original section (Photo 5). Additional buildings from this period include:

1. A set of stock rooms (Photo 8) running parallel to the rear section of the two-story wing connected by a tin roof passageway.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

2. A 1½ story brick storage building with a gable roof and gabled roof shed facing northwest (Photo 1) and occupying the area directly between the boiler room annex of the main factory building and the building labeled box factory in Illustration #3.
3. A two-story structure (Photo 6) with stepped parapet walls and brick pilasters separating the multi-light sash windows surmounted by brick arches and labeled the box factory in Illustration #3.
4. Two small brick storage buildings (Photo 6) apparently replacing the structure labeled bleach room (Illust. #3).
5. Two water towers (Photos 6 & 8): one which is approximately 85' high and situated directly behind the smoke stack; and another which is approximately 40' high and situated at the extreme north corner of the property.

Presently, the mill building layout remains primarily as is outlined in Illustration #3 (1927) excluding the dismantling of end sections of the original stock rooms shown in Photo 8 and the original one-story end section of the northeast rear wing shown in photo 5. Additionally, the twin brick storage buildings shown in photo 6 are speculated to be replacements for the bleach room building shown in Illustration #3. This mill is situated on a two-acre lot in downtown Fort Payne, and is presently Bonnie Mills, Inc. The original 1889 factory building is vacant.

Total Contributing Properties: 7

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1889 (1889-1893) Builder/Architect Unknown
 (e. 1915-1936)

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Criterion A - Industry

The W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill building is significant as the only remaining industrial building surviving Fort Payne's late 19th century boom period. Constructed in 1889 as the Alabama Builders' Hardware Manufacturing Company, it was one of over seven major foundries and factories associated with the three-year boom period spurred by the success of the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company (1888). After 1890 it became evident that the town's mineral claims had been greatly exaggerated and the boom turned bust in 1892 as a final merger project to revive several failing companies (including A.B.H.M.C.) went bankrupt.

The W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill building is also significant for its associations with the growth and revival of industrial development in Fort Payne during the early 20th century. Locally recognized as the primary training facility for many of the local hosiery and sock manufacturers, the W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill served as a major impetus for the local expansion of this industry which has earned Fort Payne the title of the "Sock Capitol of the World." Acquired by W. B. Davis, a successful hosiery manufacturer from Chattanooga in the early 1900s, the building served as a sock milling factory (1909-74), and between 1920 and 1940 a principal workplace of Fort Payne's population. Between 1915 and 1926 the mill corporation established a Mill Complex consisting of a large number of residences either relocated to or built in the complex, a swimming pool, clubhouse and an interdenominational church constituting much of the building activity in the town during the period.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Historical Summary

Built in 1884 as the Alabama Builders' Hardware Manufacturing Company, the W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill is the only industrial building surviving Fort Payne's three-year industrial boom. Inspired by the successful industrial growth of the Birmingham - Bessemer area, only 100 miles from Fort Payne, New England investors assumed that this small mountain village situated in the state's Mineral Belt was also surrounded by rich mineral deposits.

Fort Payne's short lived period of rapid expansion and development was spurred by the success of the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company (1888) and resulted in the establishment of over seven major foundries and factories in less than two years. Surveys speculated a high quality of iron ore contained on Iron Mountain, the western ridge closest to the center of Fort Payne. The capacity of the red ore mines here was given as 300 tons a day. The capacity of the mine located on the eastern slope was said to be 200 tons of good ore per day. The western side of Iron Mountain was thought to be rich in red hematite, and large fields of ore containing manganese had been supposedly located on Sand Mountain, along with smaller deposits of red and brown ore on Lookout Mountain. The coke used to convert the ores into pig iron was made from coal mined on Lookout Mountain.

By 1890 Fort Payne had amassed an impressive directory of businesses and factories, all appearing to be promising industries, including The Fort Payne and the Bay State Furnaces, The Fort Payne Rolling Mill and Steel Company, a stove foundry for The Fort Payne Stove Works, The Fort Payne Basket and Package Factory, The Fort Payne Fire Clay Works and the Alabama Builders' Hardware Manufacturing Company (A.B.H.M.C.). In addition, to facilitate the movement of ores and fuel the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Co. built and equipped a railroad. Completed January 1890, the Mineral Railroad ran from the Alabama Great Southern Railroad northeast in the valley to Beeson Gap and eastward to its terminal at the Lookout Mountain Coal Mine.

The A.B.H.M.C. was one of the most extensive hardware manufacturing companies in the south at the time of its inception. The company manufactured an extensive line of all grades of builders' hardware, ranging from the most elaborate designs in bronze metal to the cheaper grades of iron.

During the latter half of 1890 it became apparent that quality and quantity of Fort Payne's mineral resources had been greatly exaggerated. The Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company, the town's leading manufacturer, was operating at a loss. By December 1891 total collapse of the boom was eminent. In a final attempt to avoid financial ruin, the eight largest industries in town voted to merge into one giant company (The English Limited Liability Co.) in order to secure a loan from English investors. The merger project failed and went bankrupt. Property values plunged and the New Englanders who almost exclusively controlled and managed the boom began selling off and abandoning businesses and homes. Many of the large boom houses were sold for the lumber used to build them or scavenged for fuel. The 32,000 acres of land purchased by the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company was taken over by the city and sold for the city taxes as the local government was faced with indebtedness and warrants. As the panic of 1893 rocked the nation, its full force was not felt in Fort Payne where people had already suffered

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

the full effects of depression for over a year. The small village of about 1700 that a few years earlier was 3500 strong realized that it's future depended upon small industries and the surrounding agricultural area.

After the turn of the century the Alabama Builders' Hardware Manufacturing Company main building was purchased for the Florence Hosiery Mill (c. 1909). W. B. Davis, half owner of United Hosiery Mills in Chattanooga, bought the building to establish the second Buster Brown Mill. James H. Witherspoon, Davis' brother-in-law, began operation in 1913 of the Fort Payne mill, which provided ribbing, knitting and looping services. Shortly thereafter, Davis traded in his stock in Buster Brown Mills for complete ownership of the Fort Payne mill and moved to the town in 1915. He changed the name of the mill to W. B. Davis and Son Hosiery Mill and began operation of Fort Payne's largest industrial company during the early decades of the 20th century. Davis expanded the mill operation to include dyeing, shaping and finishing (labeling, pairing and boxing), and patented the Davis 4D sock which was the first elastic topsock for men and manufactured it in this building. The success of the Davis mill stimulated the economy of Fort Payne by serving as the town's primary employer.

The mill company acquired much of the town's central property and embarked on building a mill complex. Between 1915 and 1926 the company relocated and built a large number of residences, a clubhouse, swimming pool and interdenominational church for its employees. The building activity within the mill complex constituted the primary building in Fort Payne during the period. Twentieth century Fort Payne had found a new focus for its industrial climate in the hosiery industry.

After Davis' death in the late 1920's, his son Robert gained control of the business. Already the impact of the industry was apparent with many of the company's former superintendents establishing other hosiery mills and related businesses in the area. During World War II Robert Davis perfected the Cushion Sole Sox. The mill produced and delivered military issue Cushion Soxs and was in 1944 awarded the Army and Navy "E" (excellent) award for their efforts during the war. Davis was cited as providing the greatest contribution to the progress of the hosiery manufacturing business within 10 years than any other American, and the mill was commended for its high rate of efficiency in its operation.

In 1948, Davis sold the company to a holding company which in turn sold it to R. R. McLarty. In 1974, the milling works was moved to a new building constructed adjacent to the original mill building. Presently owned by Mrs. Ida Goza, the business still maintains local ownership and is now known as Bonnie Mills. The original building is presently unoccupied.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company. Fort Payne, Alabama Illustrated, Elizabeth, New Jersey: Journal Printing House 1890.

Young, Annie K. Early History of Fort Payne and DeKalb County, 1972.

Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc. Landmarks: A Pictorial History of DeKalb County, AL, Collegedale, Tenn.: The College Press, c. 1971.

Sanborn Insurance Maps: 1897, 1909, 1927

Factory Insurance Association Map: March, 1961.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

L. N. Christenson survey of Fort Payne, part of Block 90, beginning at the southeast corner of said block, then northwesterly, 240 feet, thence northeasterly 423.06 feet. Thence southeasterly 94.8 feet, thence south westerly 102 feet, thence southeasterly 145.3 feet, thence southwesterly 337 feet to point of beginning. Containing 2 acres. Fort Payne, Section 8, Township 7, Range 9. (See redline on attached sketch maps.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 acres approx.

Quadrangle name Fort Payne

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

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Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	6	6	1	8	1	0	0	3	8	1	2	2	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

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Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

1	6	6	1	7	6	9	0	3	8	1	2	2	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shirley Qualls, Cultural Resources Coordinator

organization Alabama Historical Commission date October 2, 1985

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205 261-3184

city or town Montgomery state Alabama

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 [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer date [Date]

For NPS use only

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

date

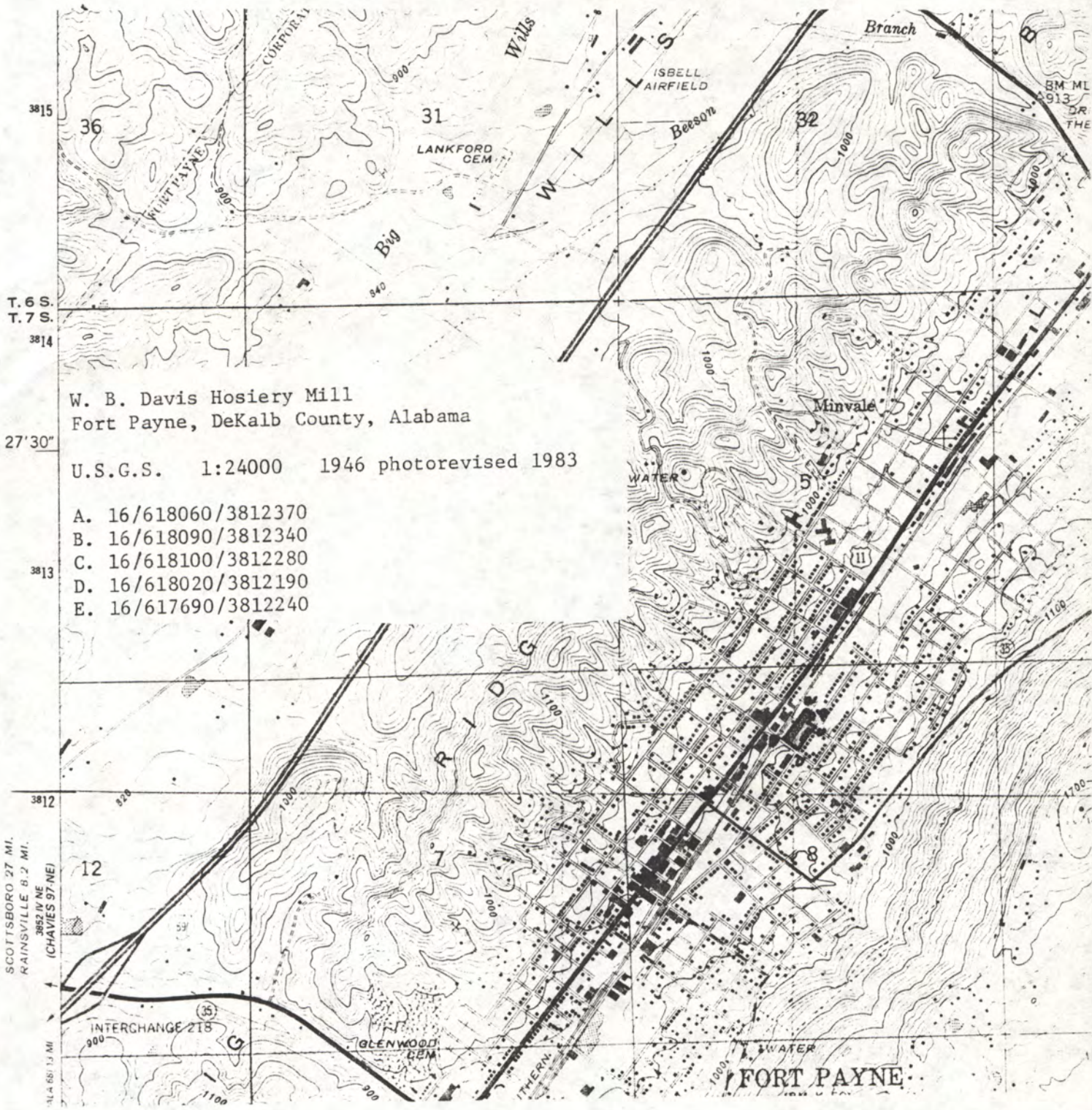
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date

Chief of Registration



Year 1969



W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill
 Fort Payne, DeKalb County, Alabama

U.S.G.S. 1:24000 1946 photorevised 1983

- A. 16/618060/3812370
- B. 16/618090/3812340
- C. 16/618100/3812280
- D. 16/618020/3812190
- E. 16/617690/3812240

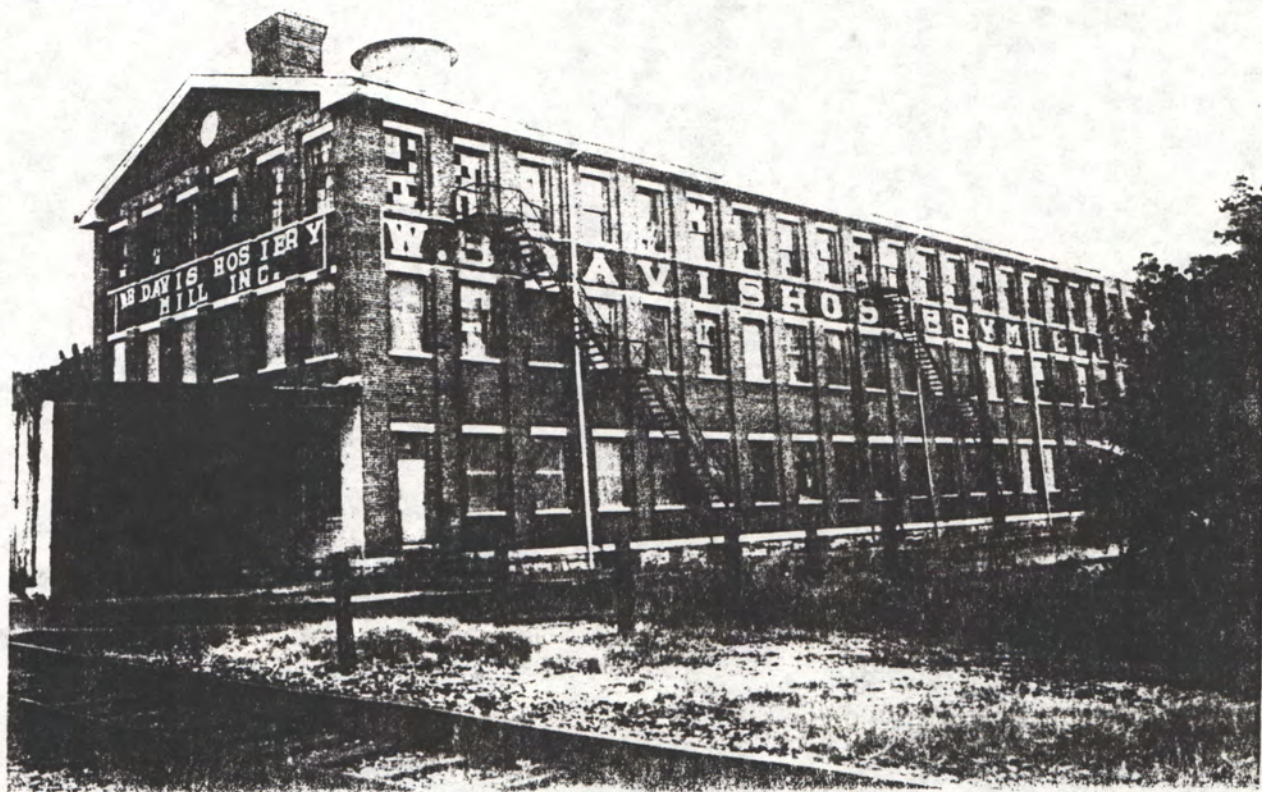
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 RAINSVILLE 8.2 MI.
 3852 W NE
 (CHAVES 97-NE)

INTERCHANGE 218

GLENWOOD CEM

FORT PAYNE

BM ML
 913
 DR
 THE



W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill
Fort Payne, Alabama, DeKalb County

Dennis Benefield, September 1985
Alabama Historical Commission

Facing east looking at front of the original
shop building

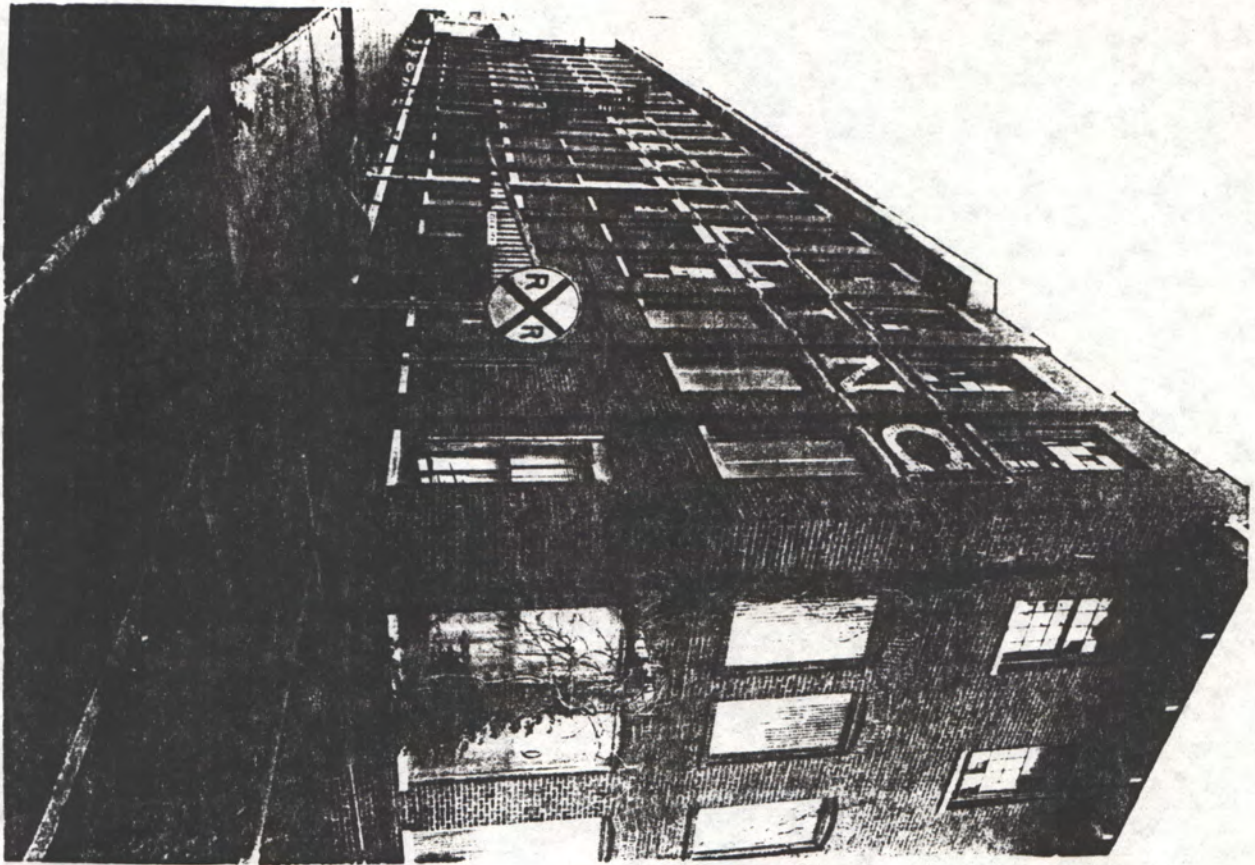
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W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill
Fort Payne, Alabama, DeKalb County

Dennis Benefield, September 1985
Alabama Historical Commission

Facing northeast looking at the southwest side
of the original factory building

Photo number: 2



W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill
Fort Payne, Alabama, DeKalb County

Dennis Benefield, September 1985
Alabama Historical Commission

Looking north at the early 20th century
addition to the original mill building

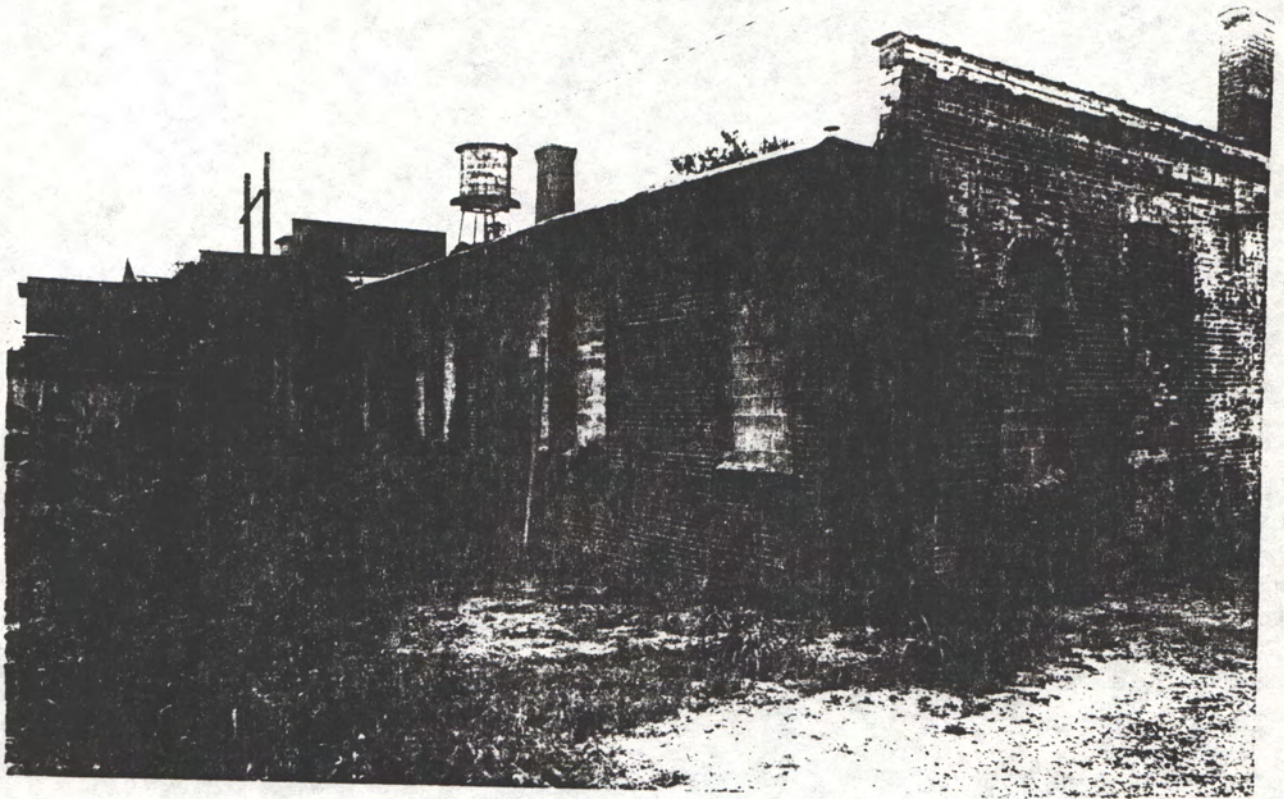
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W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill
Fort Payne, Alabama, DeKalb County

Dennis Benefield, September 1985
Alabama Historical Commission

Looking north at the rear of the original
building showing the early 20th c. northeast
wing

Photo number: 4



W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill
Fort Payne, Alabama, DeKalb County

Dennis Benefield, September 1985
Alabama Historical Commission

Looking west at early 20th century one-story
addition

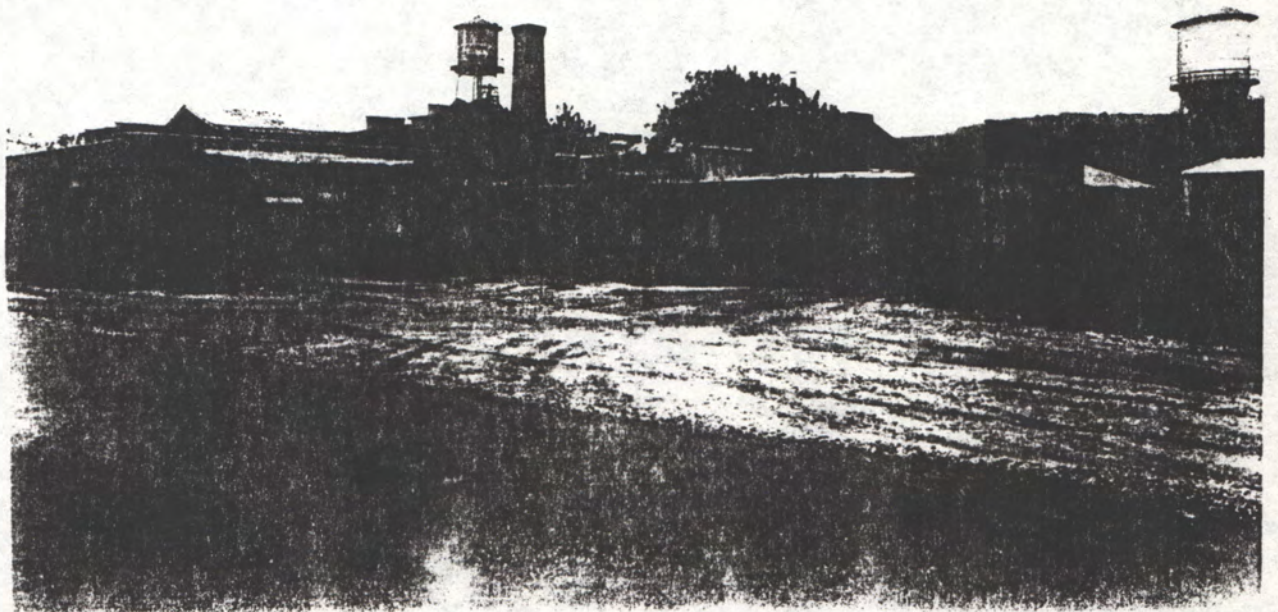
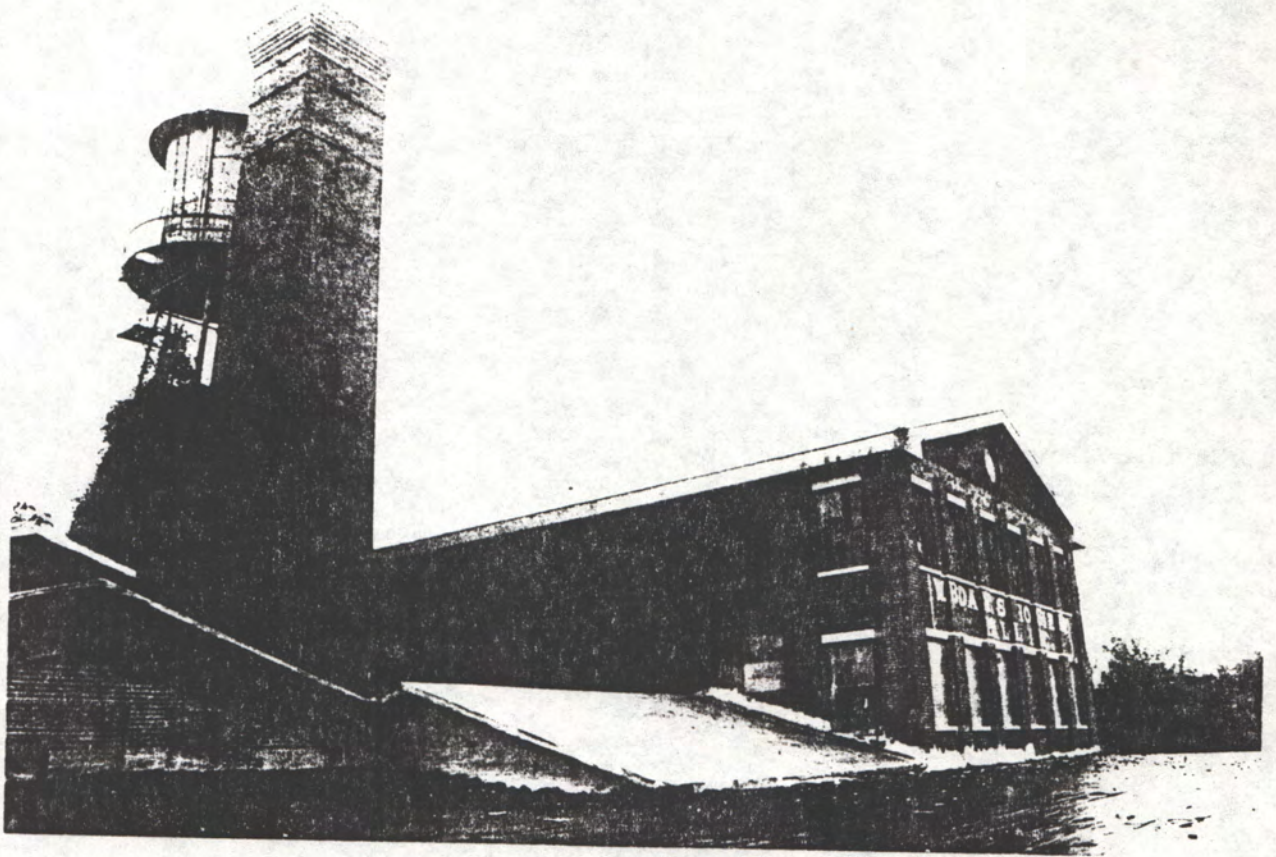
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W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill
Fort Payne, Alabama, DeKalb County

Dennis Benefield, September 1985
Alabama Historical Commission

Looking south at the north section of mill

Photo number: 6



W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill
Fort Payne, Alabama, DeKalb County

Dennis Benefield, September 1985
Alabama Historical Commission

Looking south at detail of the 85' columnar
smoke stack

Photo number: 7

W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill
Fort Payne, Alabama, DeKalb County

Dennis Benefield, September 1985
Alabama Historical Commission

Looking west at eastern rear section of mill

Photo number: 8

SEE PARCEL 49.01
BLOCK 003
28-23-03-08-1

W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill, Inc.
Fort Payne, Alabama
1" = 100'

AMMEND-
MENT

ADDITION

CITY 68

GAULT
AVE.

ALABAMA

RAILWAY

PG.33

59.01

1889+ LATER
W.B. DAVIS
MILL
SITE

SEE PARCEL 52
BLOCK 003
28-23-03-08-1

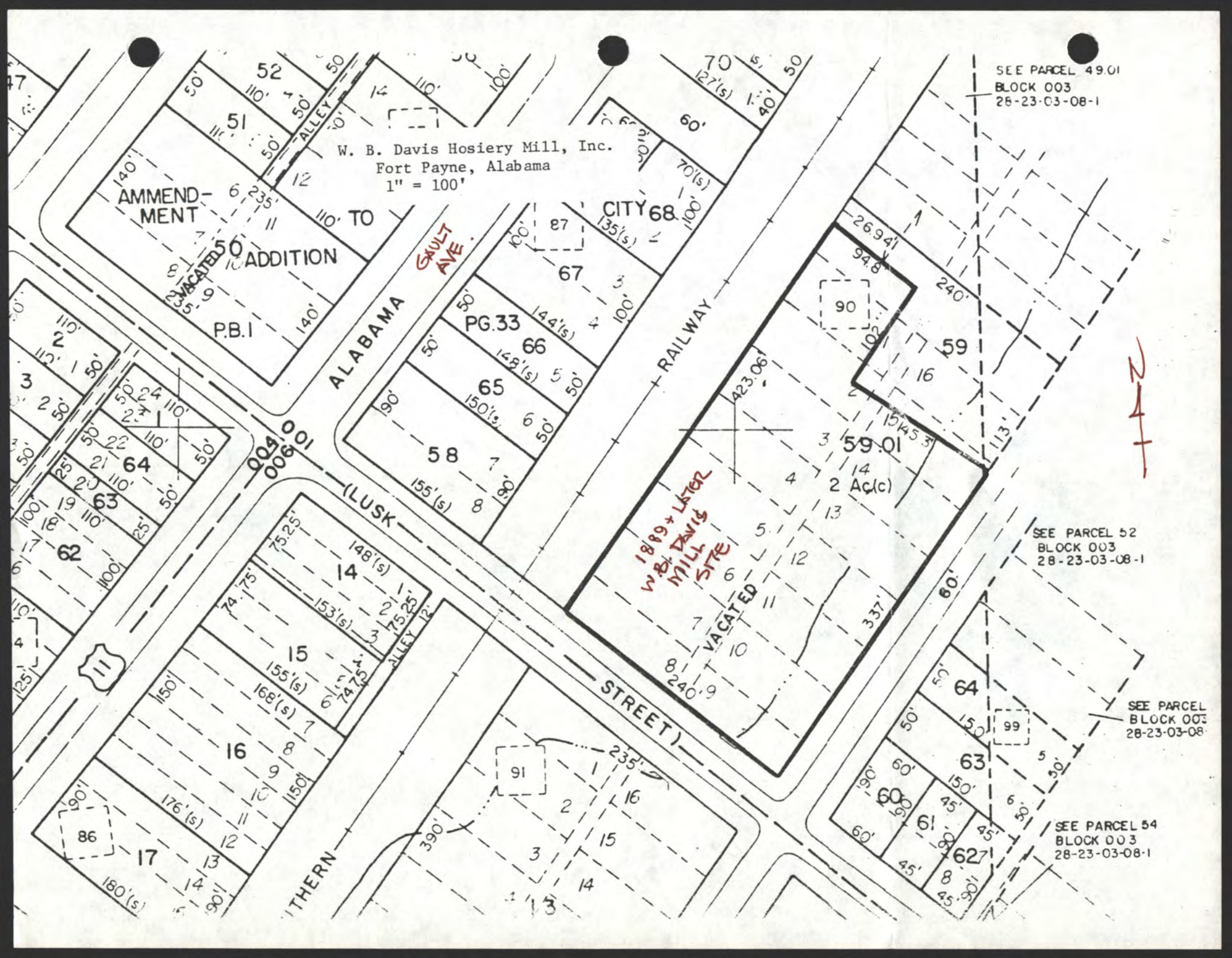
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STREET)

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BLOCK 003
28-23-03-08-1

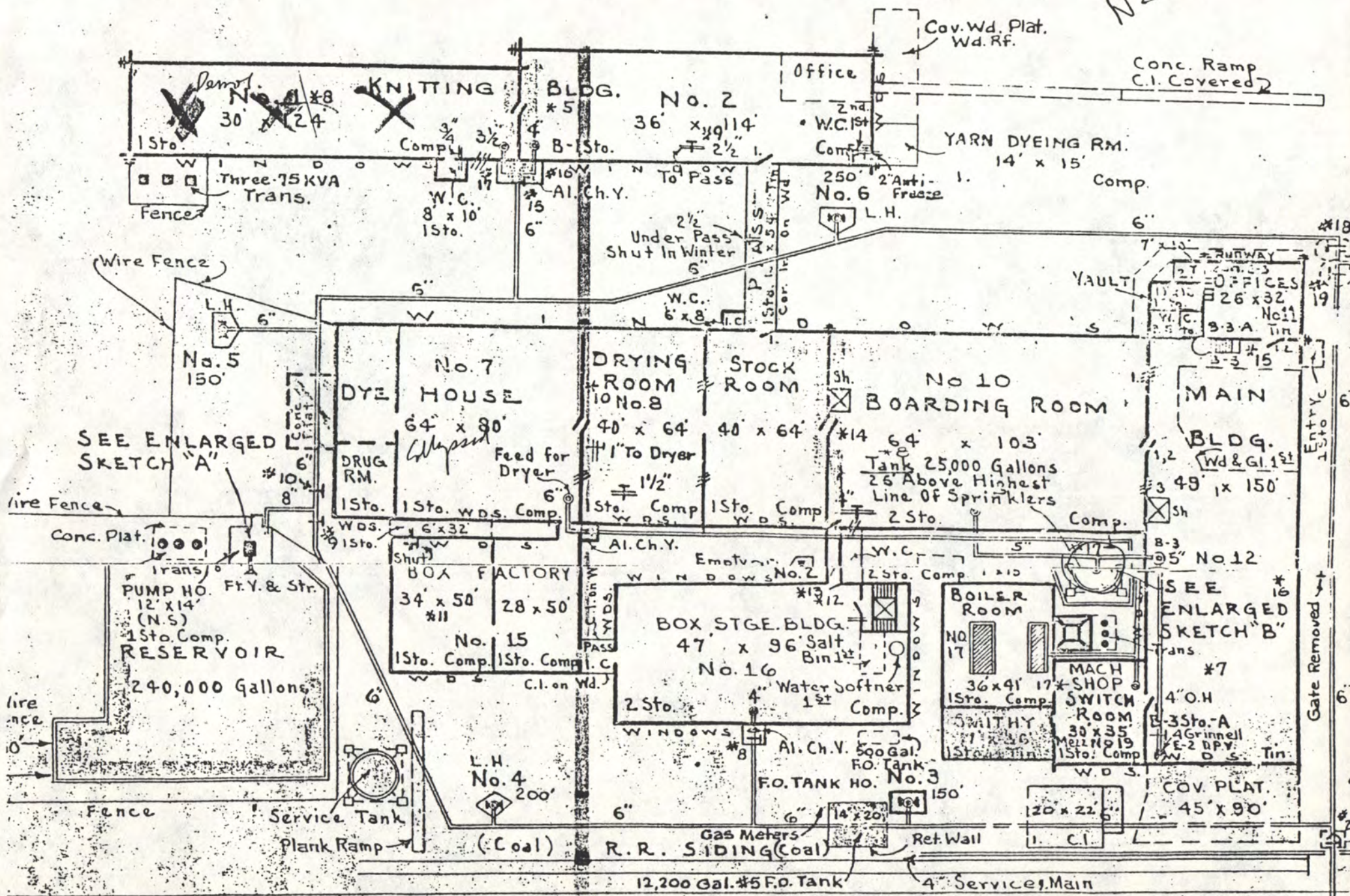
SEE PARCEL 54
BLOCK 003
28-23-03-08-1

N
A
T



1" 50'±

Nat



ALABAMA GREAT SOUTHERN R.R. (Main Line)

North Side

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Sections #1, #2, and #3

Alabama Builders' Hardware Manufacturing Co. Page #1

The following includes additional information or changes to specific sections in the original nomination:

1) Name of Property:

historic name: Alabama Builders' Hardware Manufacturing Co. Complex

other name: W.B. Davis Hosiery Mill and Annex

2) Location:

street name & number: 203-204 8th Street, N.E.

city, town: Fort Payne

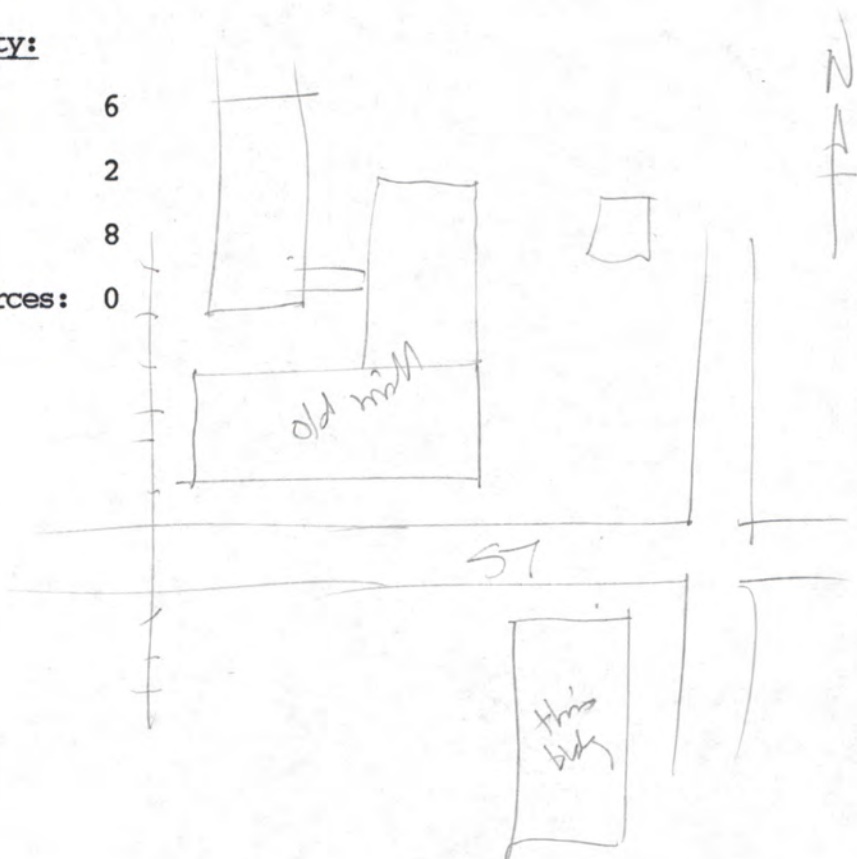
3) Number of Resources within Property:

Number of Contributing buildings: 6

Number of Contributing structures: 2

Total: 8

Total Number of Noncontributing Resources: 0



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section #7

Alabama Builders` Hardware Manufacturing Co. Page #1

Description of Mill Annex:

The Annex for the Alabama Builders` Hardware Manufacturing Company (more commonly known as the W.B. Davis Mill) is located southwest of the original mill complex (NRHP 5/8/86) across Franklin Street. Designed by J.E. Surrine and Company, Engineers, of Greenville, North Carolina, the Annex is a three-story building with a full basement measuring approximately 197` X 62` and containing over 3200 square feet. The building is of heavy timber construction with load-bearing brick masonry exterior walls. The east facade displays 13 bays; the south facade displays 3 bays. These bays are visually separated by brick pilasters. 8`6" multipane projected steel windows fill the bays between the masonry pilasters. End bays display three, 15-light windows mullied together. Many of the lower level windows have been enclosed. The north facade has an original concrete loading dock and 6` wide concrete ramps; the south facade has a loading dock that was added in 1975. A tower containing the elevator and stair shafts is located on the west facade.

The original drawings of Engineers J.E. Surrine and Company, Greenville, SC, dated April 4, 1900, indicate a flat roof supported by wood joists, beams and columns. This, however, was changed to the present lamella arch roof design at the time of construction. Prefabricated in Germany and assembled on the building under the supervision of W.Y. Shugart, Sr., the lamella roof is made up of relatively short timbers of uniform length called lamellas. Bevelled and bored at the ends and bolted together at an angle, the lamellas form a network of decorative structural timber. In making this change, the entire building was provided with an automatic sprinkler system and automatically closing fire door, so as to conform with the requirements of the National Board of Fire Underwriters.

The first and second floors are 3" thick (2" thick pine subfloor and 1" X 4" tongue-in-groove random length boards) on 4" X 14" maple wood joists spanning 15 feet. The wood joists span 15` and are placed onto 12" X 14" wood beams supported by 7" diameter cast-iron columns 20` on centers. The basement floor is 5" thick finished concrete. The floor to ceiling heights are: 9` basement; 14` first floor; and 18` second floor at the apex of the roof. Much of the interior space is open and now used for storage.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Alabama Builders` Hardware Manufacturing Co.

Page #1

Period of Significance: 1889 - c. 1940.

Criterion A (Industry):

The Alabama Builders` Hardware Manufacturing Company complex (W. B. Davis Hosiery Mill and Annex) are significant for their associations with the growth and revival of industrial development in Fort Payne during the early 20th century. Locally recognized as the primary training facility for many of the local hosiery and sock manufacturers, it also served as a major impetus for the local expansion of this industry which has earned Fort Payne the title of "Sock Capitol of the World." Originally known as the Alabama Builders` Hardware Manufacturing Company, the plant was acquired in the early 1900s by W.B. Davis, a successful hosiery manufacturer from Chattanooga. It became the principal workplace for many living in or around Fort Payne.

With the rapid expansion of the mill, the W.B. Davis company constructed another building in 1908. The "New Mill" or W.B. Davis Hosiery Mill Annex was used for manufacturing and housed the Banner Knitting machines. It was connected to the original building by underground walkways. In 1974, the mill annex was opened as a commercial cabinet shop. Current plans for the building include converting it into loft-style apartments.

Although the Annex is a contributing building to the mill complex, it was inadvertently not included in the Alabama Builders` Hardware Manufacturing Company (W.B. Davis Hosiery Mill) National Register nomination (listed 05/08/86).

Historical Summary: Please refer to the original Alabama Builders` Hardware Manufacturing Company (W.B. Davis Hosiery Mill) National Register nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 10

Alabama Builders` Hardware Manufacturing Co.

Page #1

Acreeage of property: Less than 3 Acres

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the entire Alabama Builders` Hardware Manufacturing Co. complex (W.B. Davis Mill and Annex) are contained within the legal description of the property as recorded in the DeKalb County Courthouse, Fort Payne, Alabama:

"Lots 1-8, and Lots 11-16, in City Addition, Block #91 in the City of Fort Payne, Alabama and all buildings located on said property.

ALSO: Commencing at the Northeast corner of Block 91, which is the intersection of the Westerly right of way line of Williams Avenue and the Southerly right of way line of 8th Street Northeast; run South 31 degrees 46` West with the Westerly right of way line of Williams Avenue 49.0 feet for a point of beginning: Thence continue South 31 degrees 46` West with the Westerly right of way line of Williams Avenue 197.9 feet; thence South 54 degrees 49` East 6.0 feet; thence North 31 degrees 46` East 197.9 feet; thence North 54 degrees 49` West 6.0 feet to the point of beginning. Said parcel being a portion of Williams Avenue 6.0 feet wide and 197.9 feet long and being parallel and adjacent to the Easterly line of Block No. 91 in the City of Fort Payne, DeKalb County, Alabama."

Boundary Justification: The above boundary description now includes all of the original buildings on the Alabama Builders` Hardware Manufacturing Co. (W.B. Hosiery Mill) complex.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Sections #9 and #11

Alabama Builders` Hardware Manufacturing Co.

Page #1

#9, Additional Bibliographical Resources:

---1927 Plat map.

---Architectural blueprints (five), dated April 1927, J. Sirrine and Company, Greenville, South Carolina.

---Sanborn Insurance Map, 1927.

#11, Amended nomination prepared by:

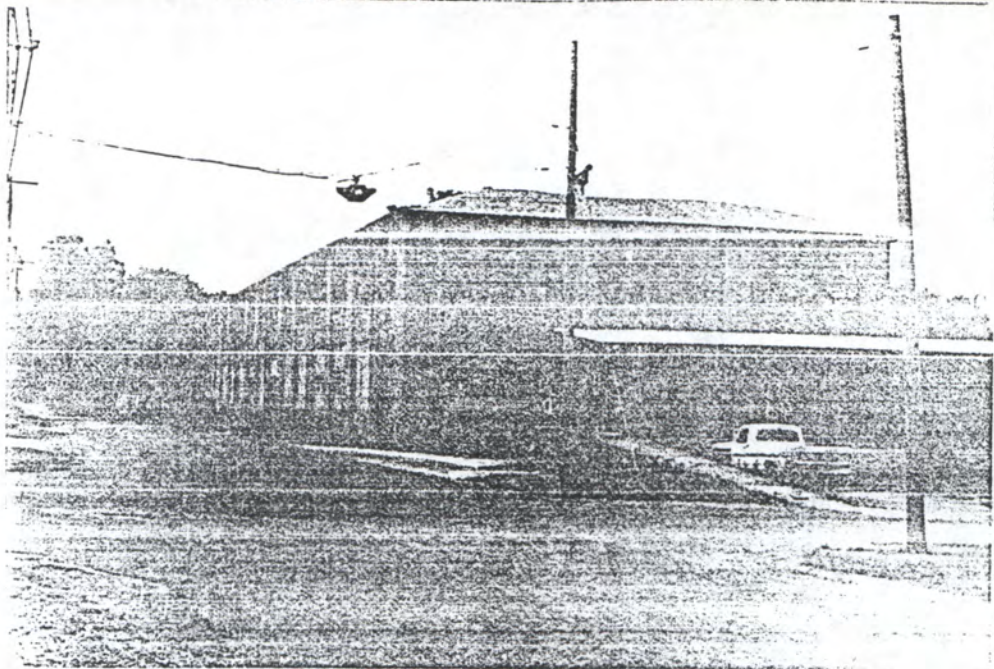
Melanie Betz, National Register Coordinator.

Alabama Historical Commission

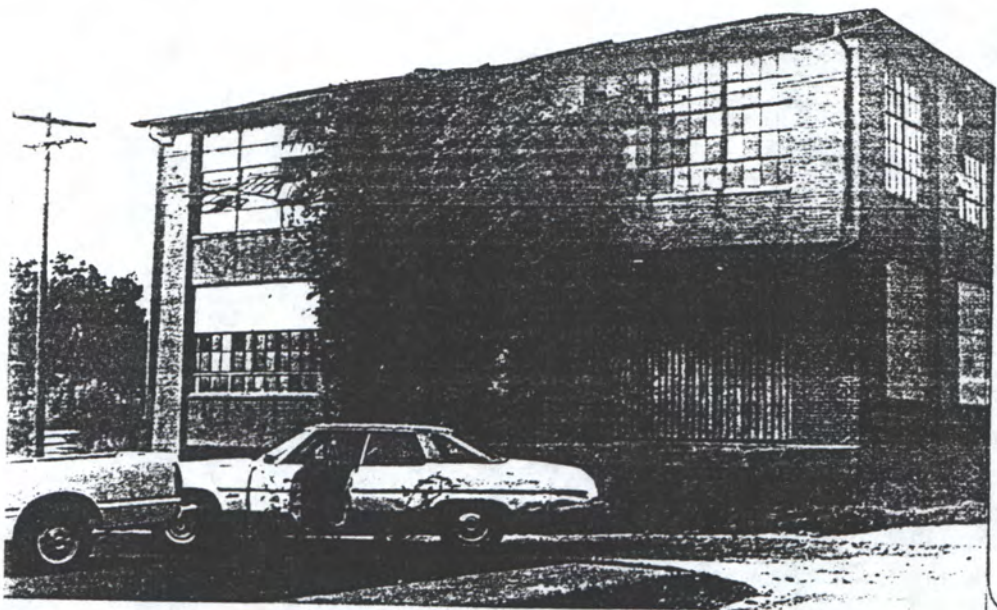
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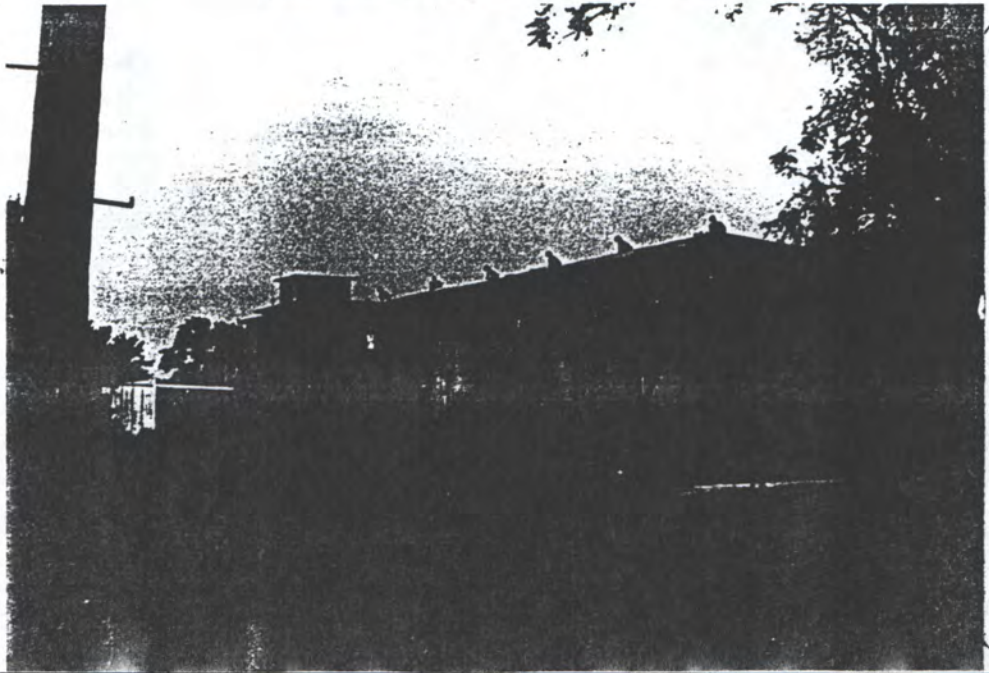
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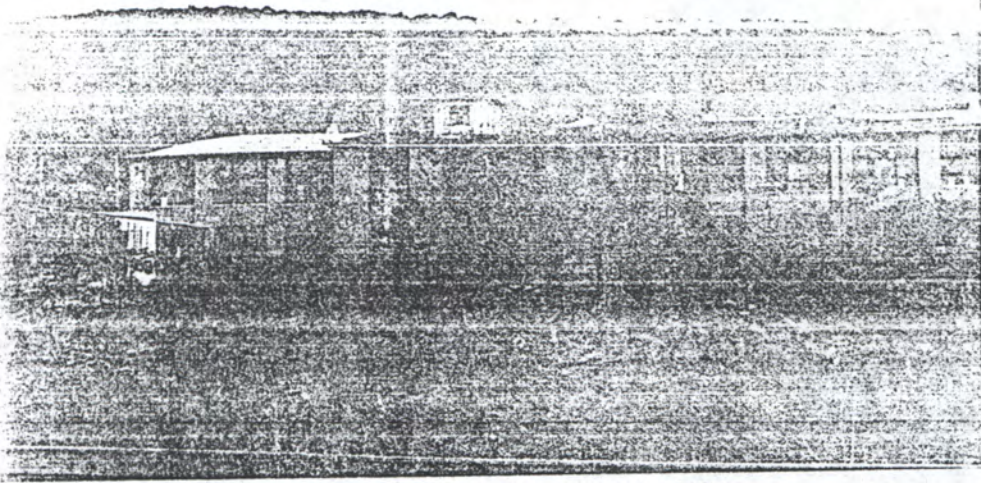


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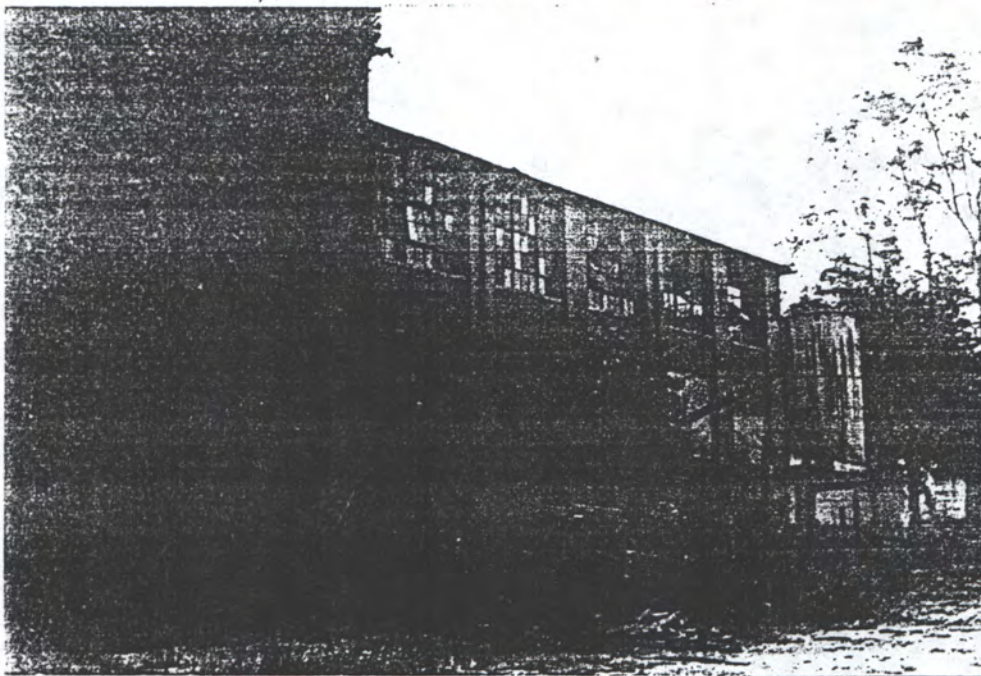


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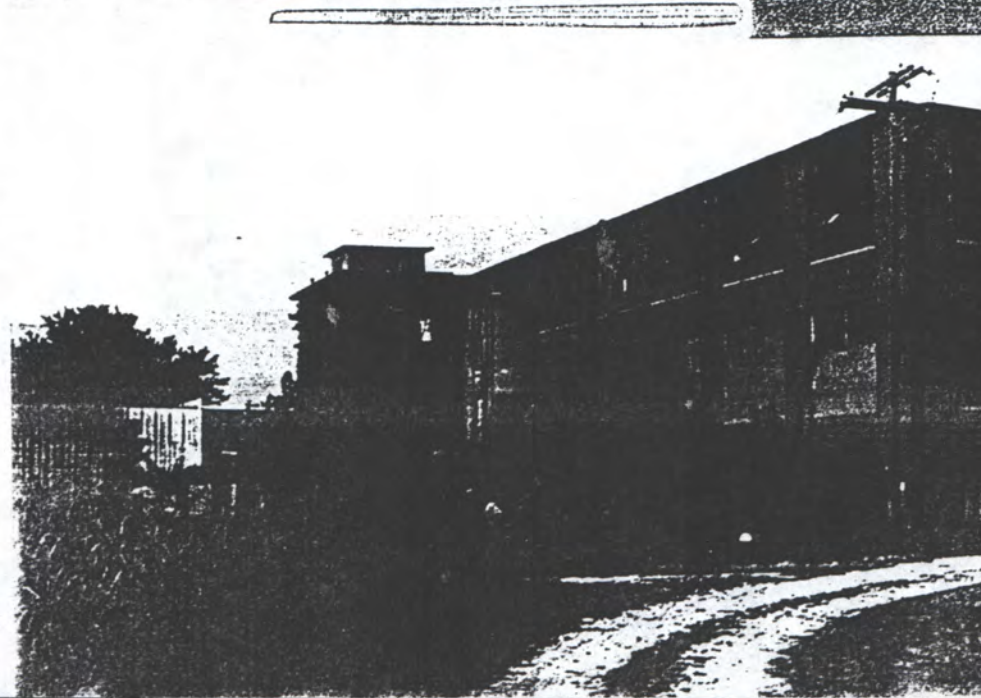
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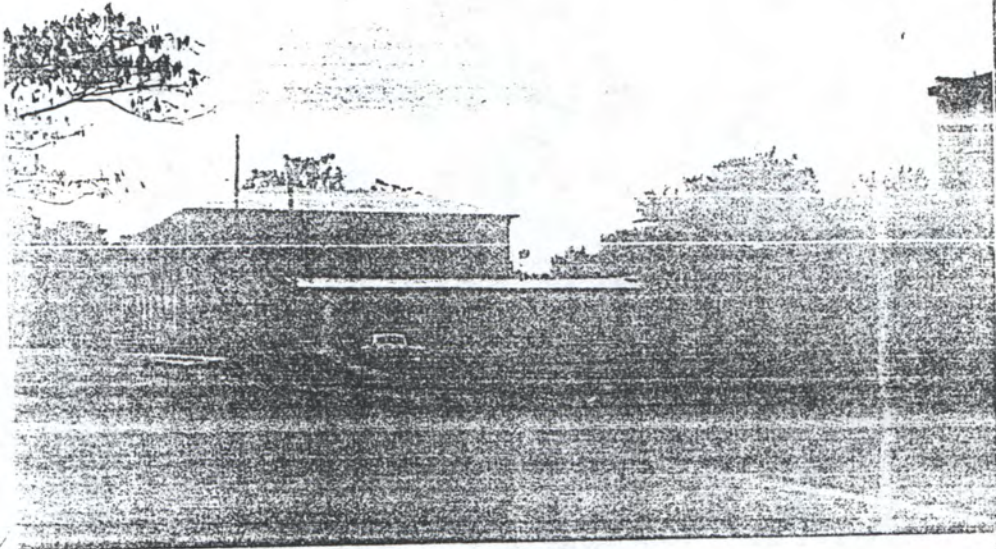
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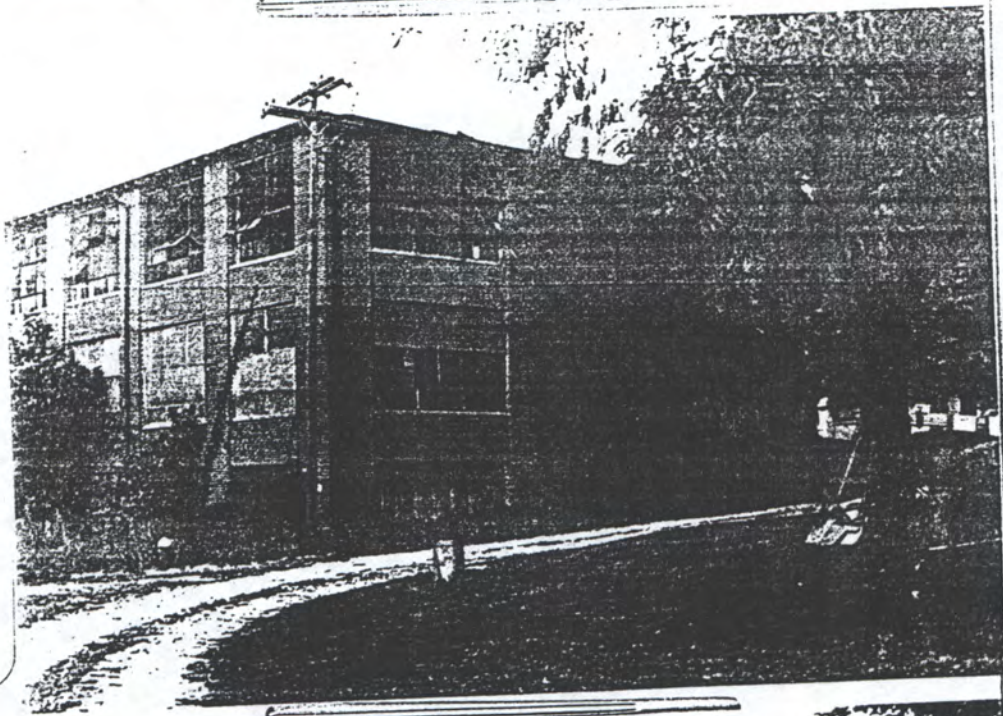
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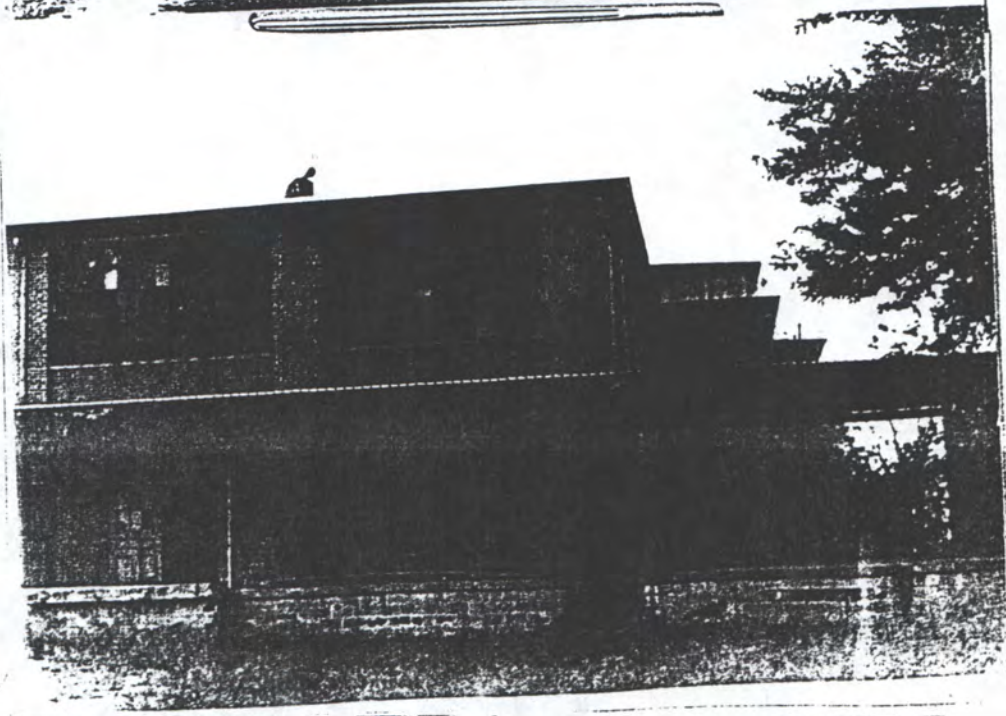
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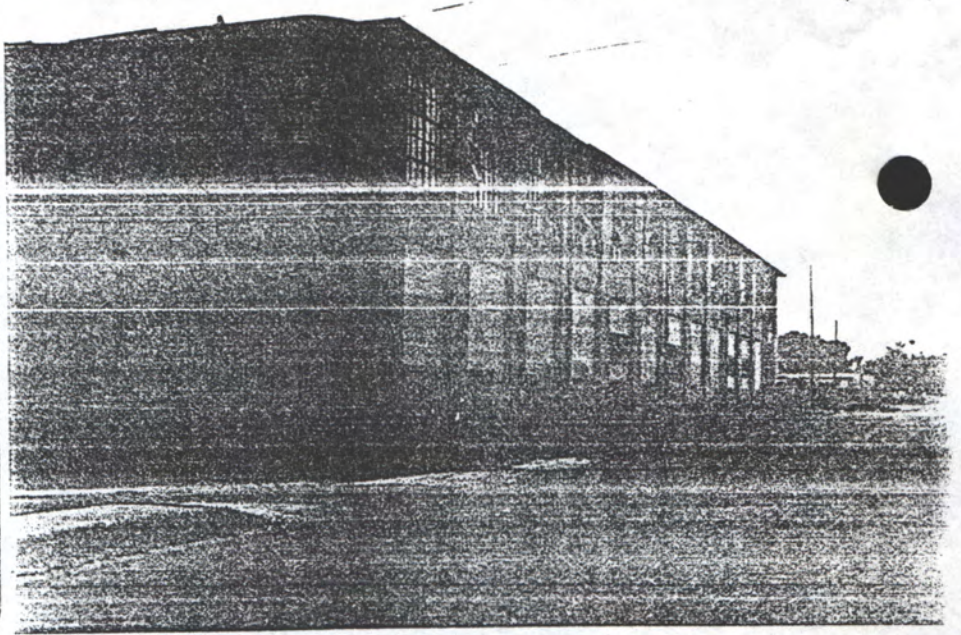
South Side
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COMMENTS



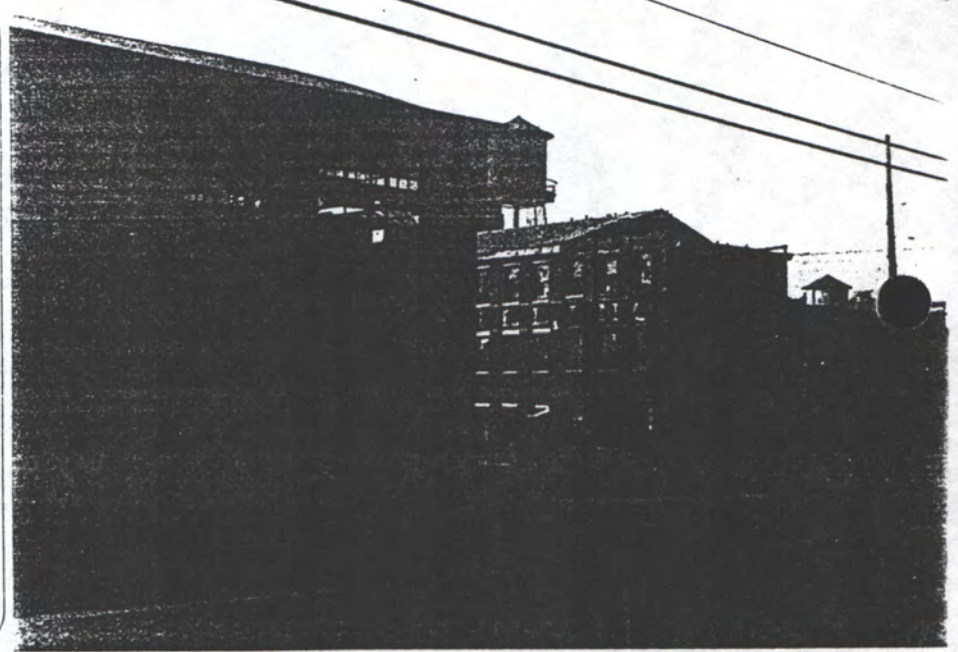
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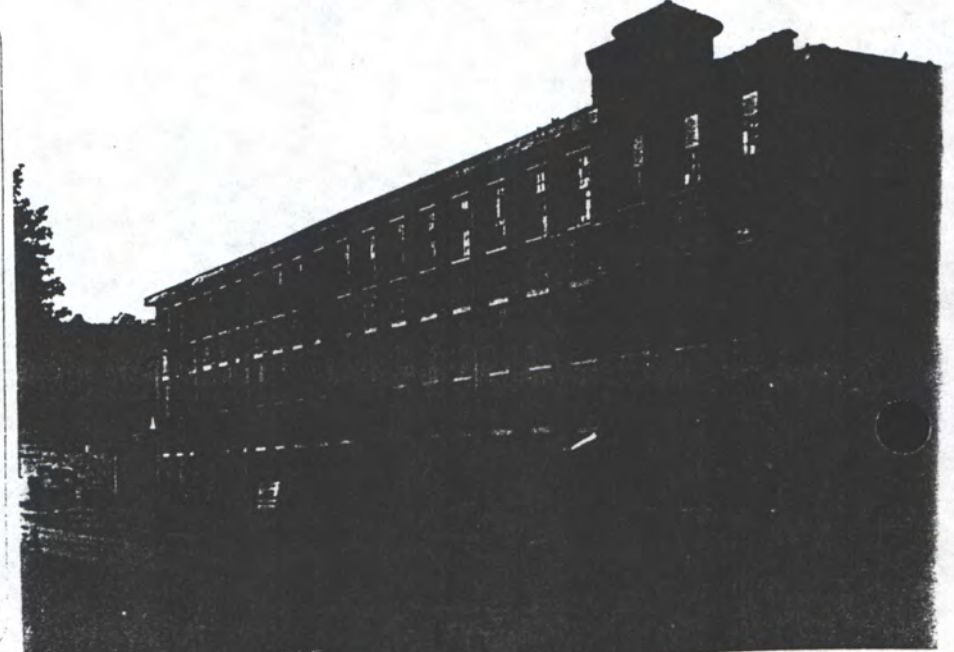
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 COMMENTS:



DATE: 11/15/50
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 COMMENTS:



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 COMMENTS:



CLUB HOUSE OF W. B. DAVIS HOSIERY MILLS, FORT PAYNE, ALA.

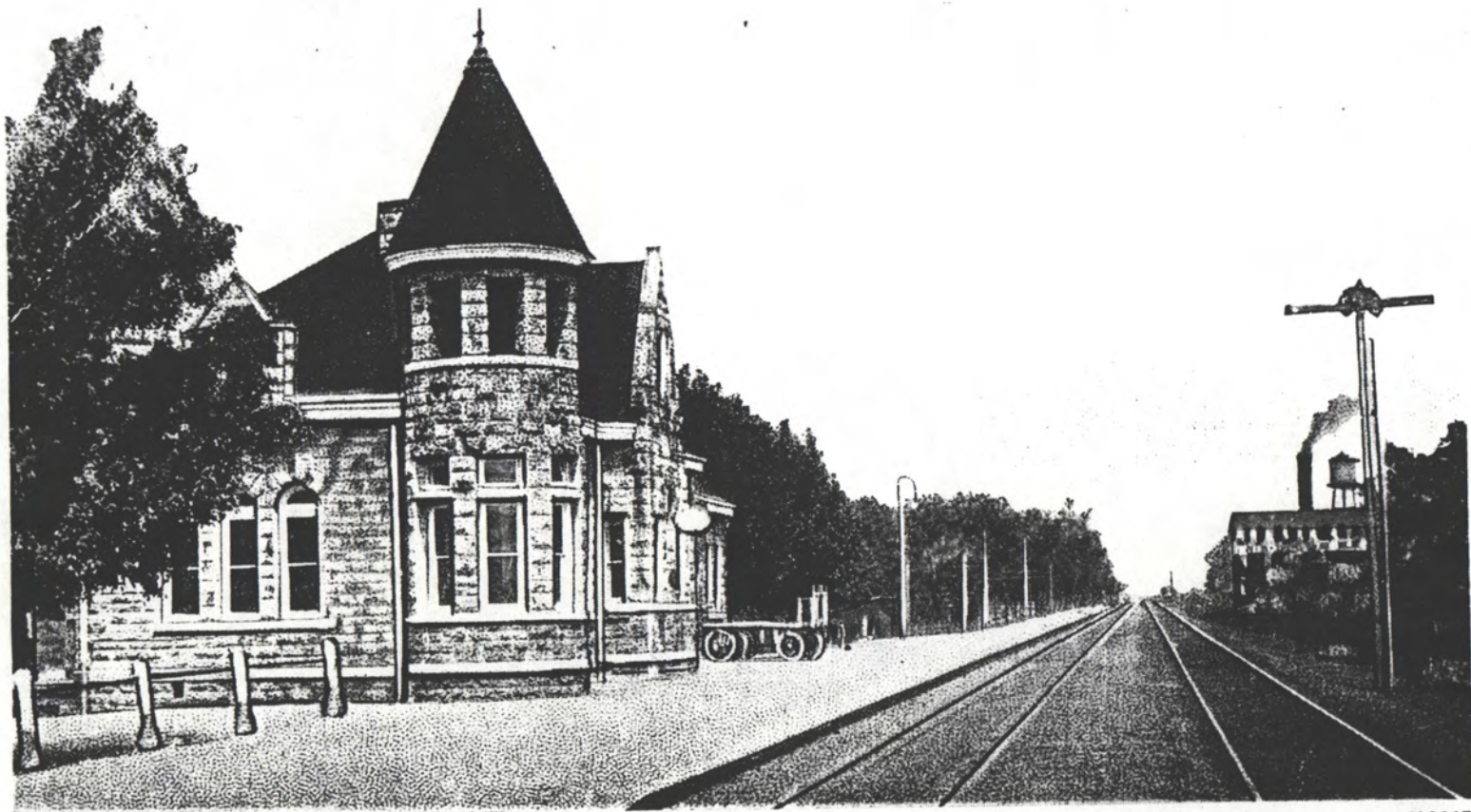


116442

W.H. Sears, Arch., 1919, Chattanooga
(from original blueprint of roof plan)

postcard (centered)
no date

A. G. S. STATION LOOKING NORTH, FORT PAYNE, ALA.



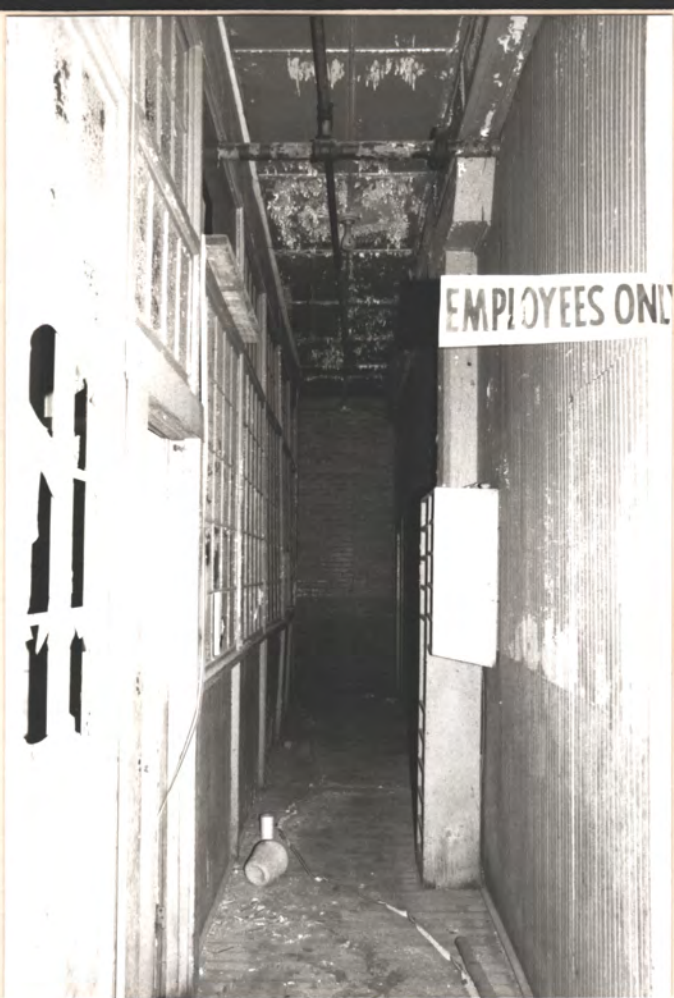
116447

↑
Davis Mill

Postcard (enlarged) no date

P.S. - Sept '94 - H.S.

Dr. Steve Brewer bought the remaining S. almost Wdy.
The H.W. body was buried by accident some time ago



Rest Rms
are down
this hall
on rt.



↖ N

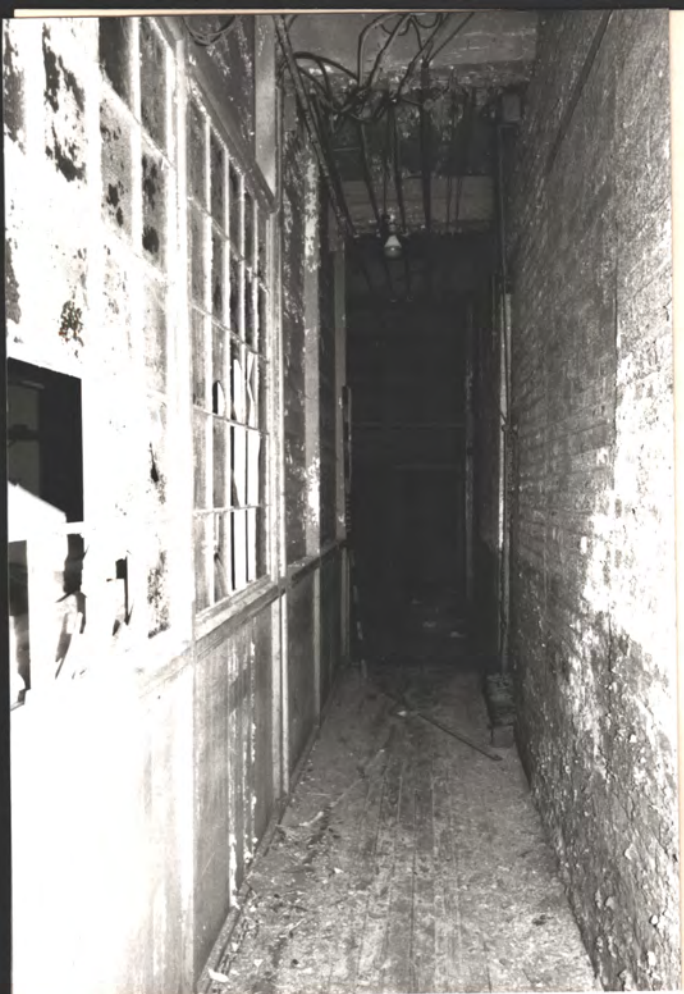
Office + stair, East end of 1889 1st fl.

stair }
↖ N

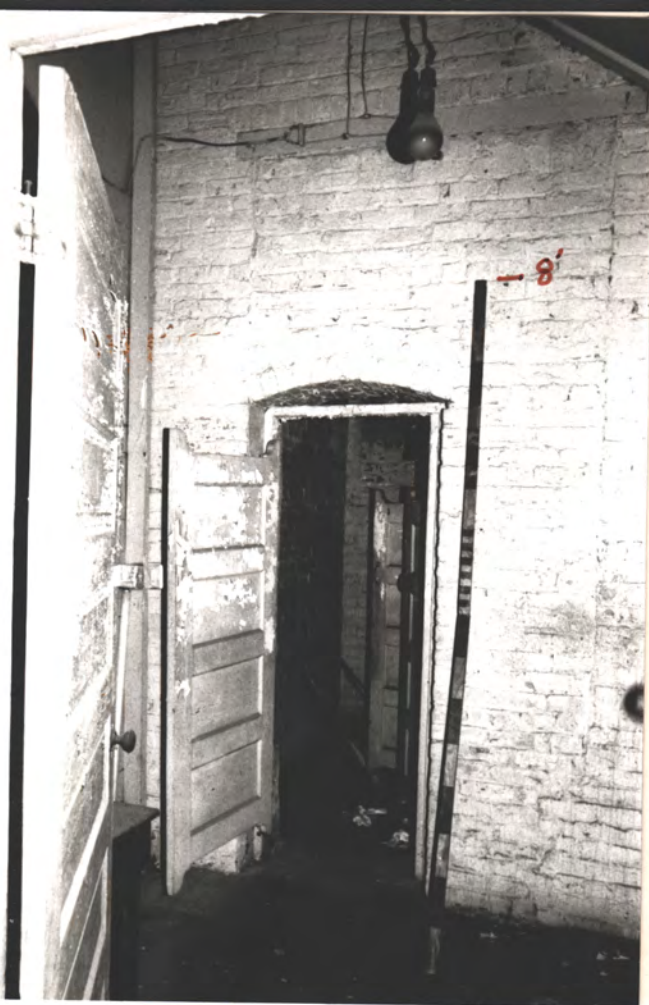


Off.
Addns.
to rt.

1889
FIRST FL.

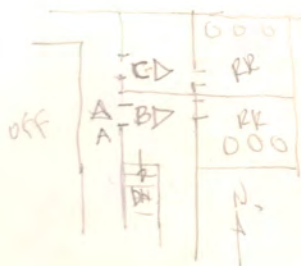


Hall by office rear
 (A) → N



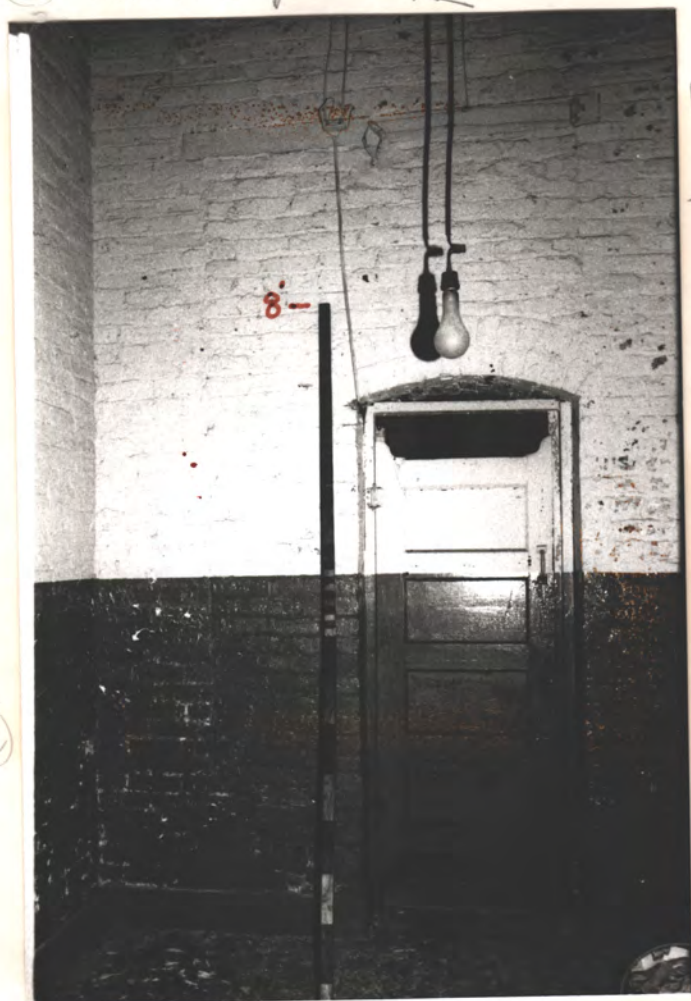
(B) Rest Rms ↑ N ←

First
 Fl,
 South
 RR.



(C)

1889 bldg., N. end of
 OFF., + RR admin doors



First
 Fl,
 North
 RR



PN Vault
(± 4 steps below
1st fl. level)



PN vault door



PN
door to 1889-1st fl.

Office admin., first fl.



Stair down

1
N



N



Freight elev.

N

1889 2nd fl.

1889 2nd Fl.



elevator

→ N



elevator



→ S



→ S



Star to
3rd fl. office add

Off. Admin. 2nd fl.

to 1889 2nd fl



door to 1989 2nd fl
→ N

stair to
3rd fl. office add

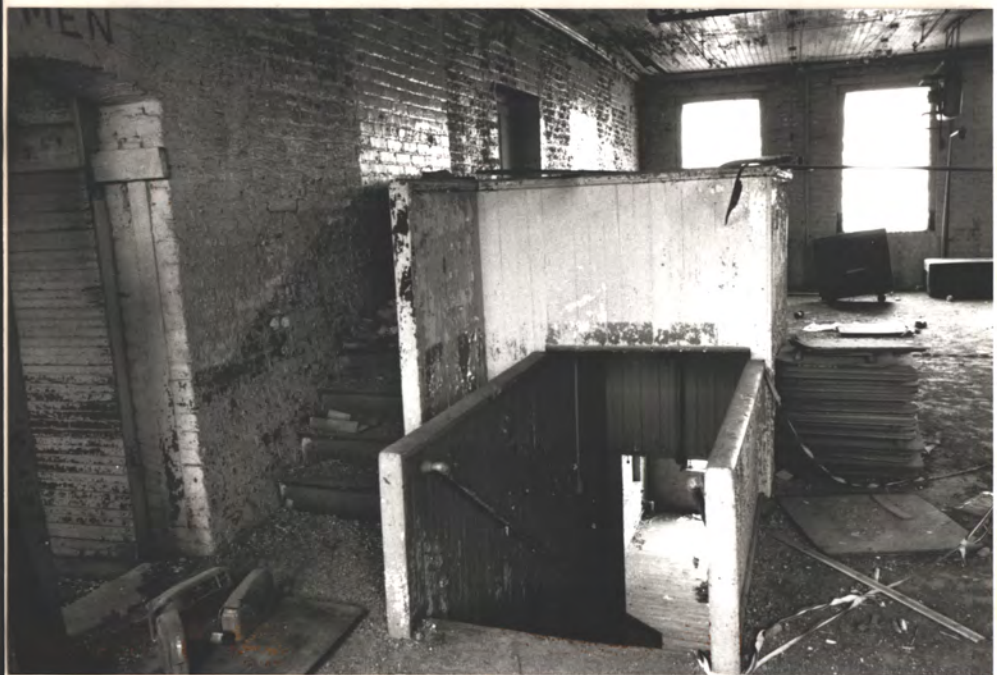
Off. Addition. 2nd fl.

1889 - 2nd Fl.



→ N

↑ freight elev.



12



freight elevator

↑ N

1869 - 3rd fl.



note window sills higher at N. wall (to clear roofs outside) E to off. addn



Note no cols.



PN

Looking north from
3rd fl. 1889 windows
over roofs of adjoining
bldgs

1889-3rd fl.

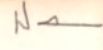
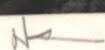
S. windows
at 3rd fl.

N
→

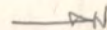


PN





Door to 1889-2nd fl.
↓



3rd Fl. Off. Appn.

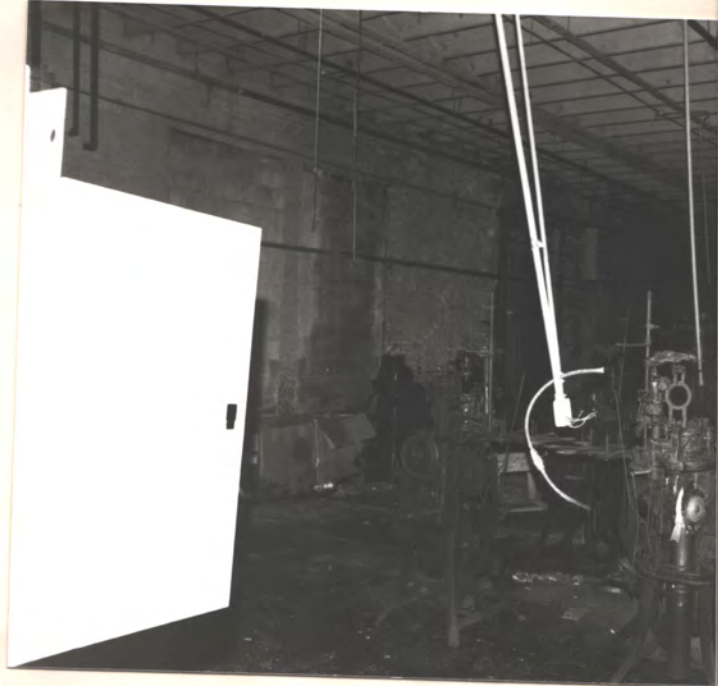


door to 1849 1st fl



N. door to Stools Km. PN

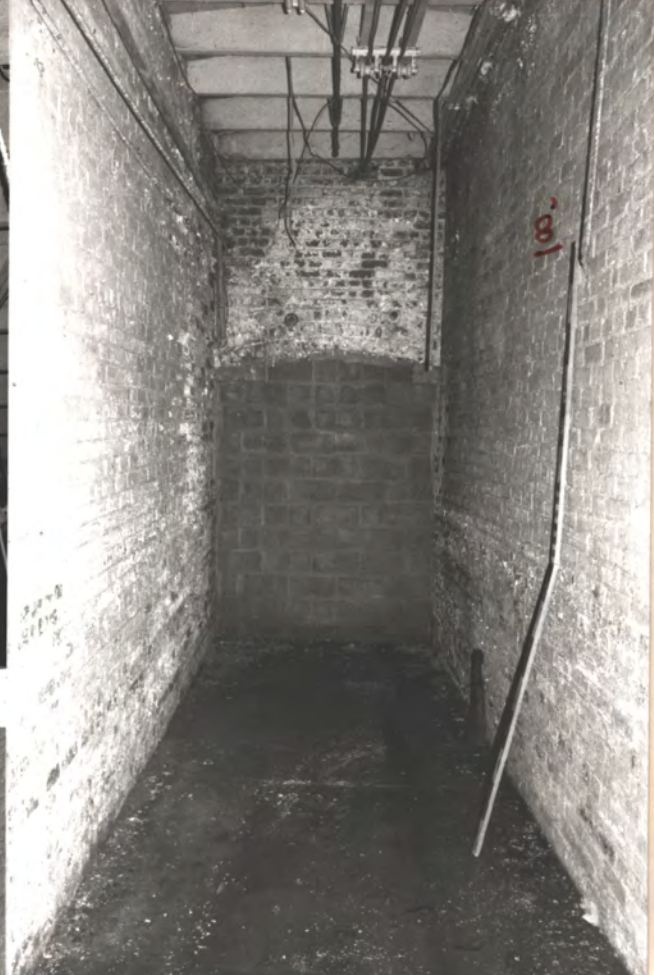
No. 10 BOARDING Km 1st. Fl.



PN



→ N
CORR. TO BOX STOR.
N.W. COR.

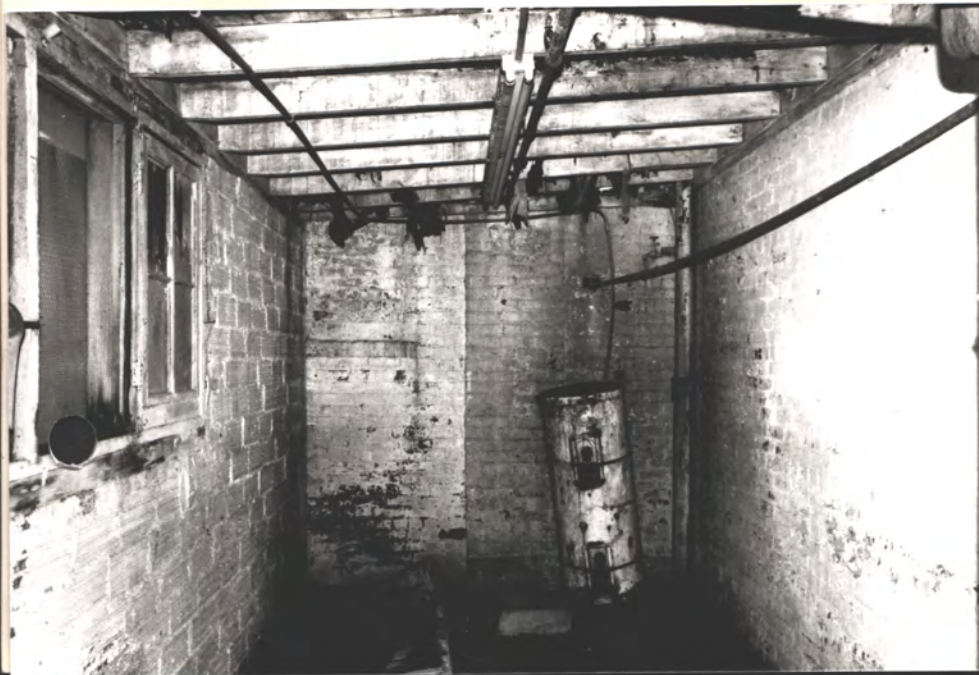


→ N CORR. TO BOX STOR.



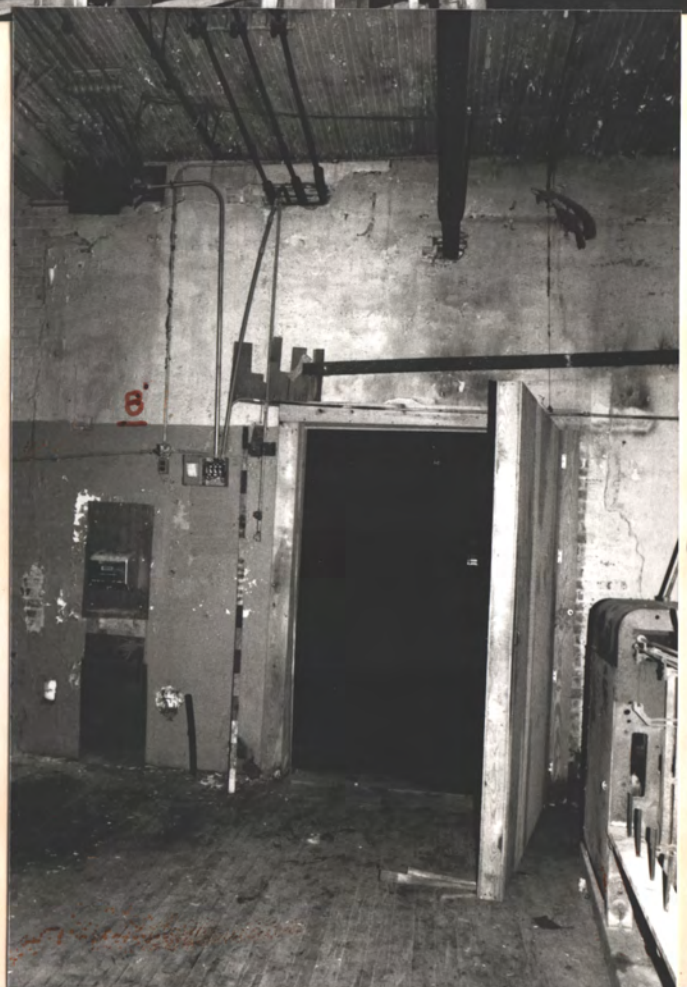
→ N

No. 10
BOARDING RM.
1ST FL.

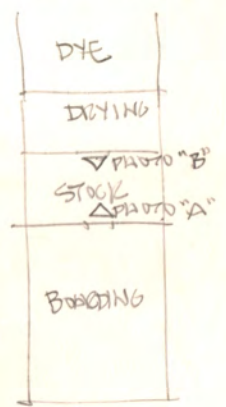


→ N
Stor. S. of corridor
to Box Stor.

PRESS
DN



N ↑ STOCK RM (A)
 (DYING RM W/ CLERKSTORY = BEYOND)
 DYE HSE = BRIGHT DOOR (NO ROOF)



(B)

N ↓

N ↓



↖ N

✂
ELEV. DT
N. WALL

BOARDING RM 2ND FL.

↳ CORR. TO 2ND FL. "BOX STOR." BLDG



↖ N.

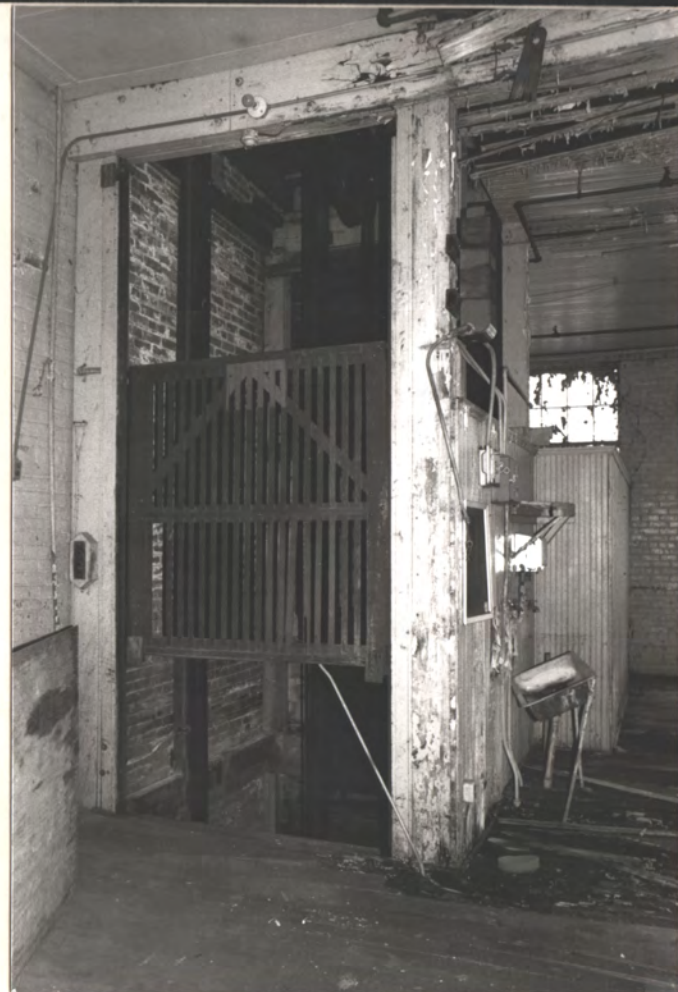


↖ N

ROTTED FL. - N.W. PART



NA



↑

2ND FL. BOARDING RM

ELEVATOR

↓
Rotted fl.



4N



4N

1ST FL. BOX STOR. BLDG



W4



AN



N4



Elevator + stair inside

AN



→

Enclosed 10'-8" ± w.
"Alley" between N. wall
of Box Str. Bldg. &
S. wall of Box Factory



W₂

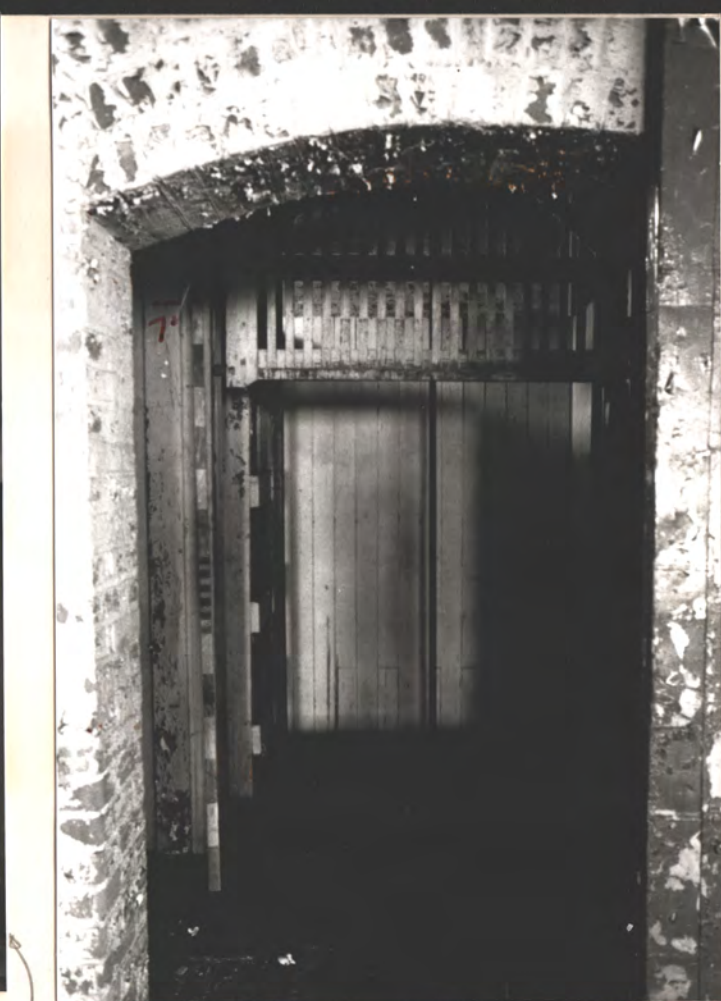
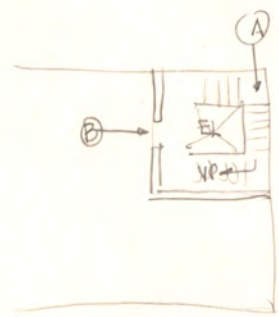


photo (A) → N

elevator ↗

photo (B)



↓ N

2nd fl.
(maple?)
over pine (?)



door
to
elev.
+
stair



N ←

P Corr. to
Boarding Rm 2nd fl.

2ND FL. BOX STORE BLDG.

Corr. to
Boarding
Rm

↑ elev. + stair inside



N ←



N ←

Boiler rm
(2 boilers)

← Boiler rm to left

Ceil. is later added intermediate f.l.



N ←

Shop (± 7' ceil. is
inserted in orig. tall space)

N.



DYEING RM
(STOCK RM. IS THRU DOOR)

WN



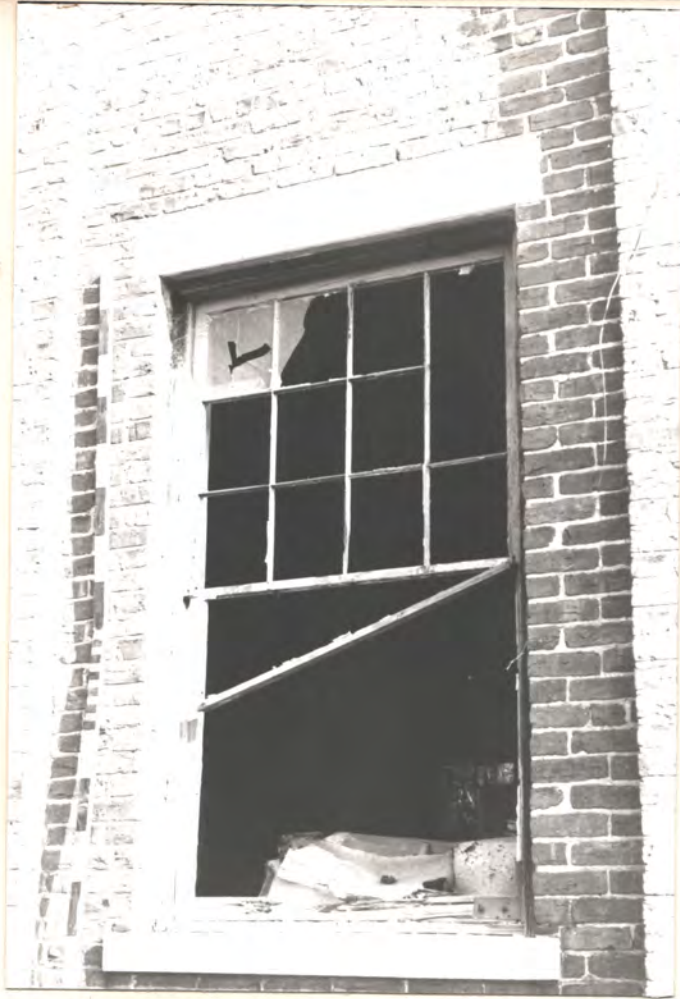
DYE HSE

WN



Upper part of shop
(Flt. is added, intermediate, w/
very low coil. below)

CONFER.
(OVER) ↘



AN

Sidwall, 1st fl., 1889 BLDG



Basement wind.
(not in 1889 photos, later bricked - mg)

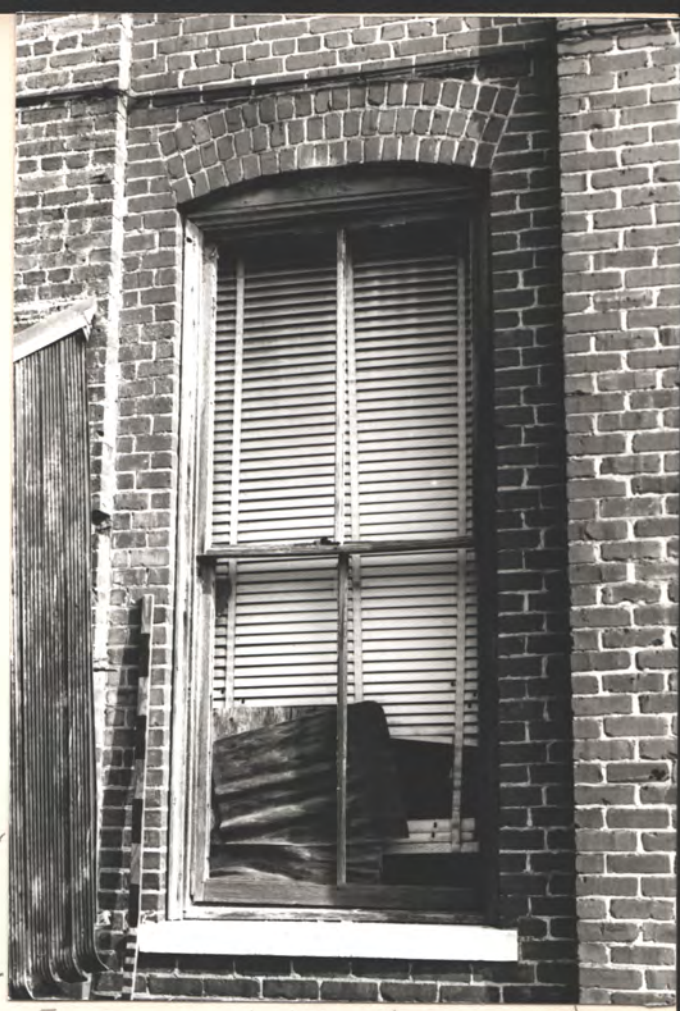


1889 + 20th c. W B Davis Hosiery Mill
Ft. Payne, Ala. photos Oct, '89 H. Jones, FAIA
31



→ N

S.E. entry to 1889 Bldg
(collapsed metal awning at front)

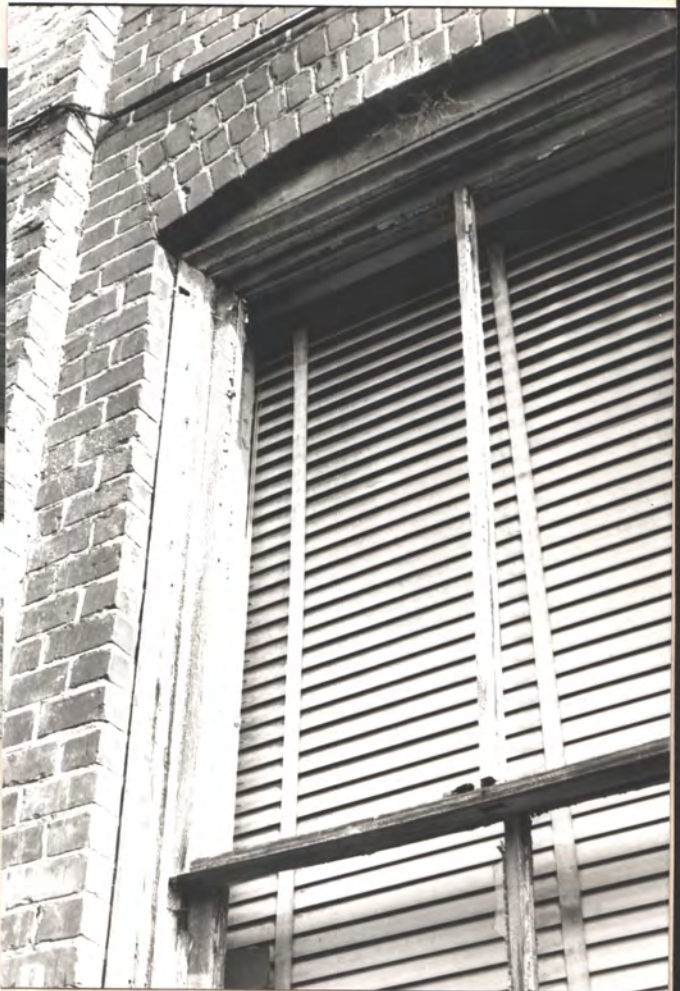


East entry to 1889 Bldg

φ N



→ N



→ N



2nd fl.
Steel
Windows
(orig.)

1st fl.
windows
= filled w/
conc. block

30116



DETAILS

originally 1 fl. + added 2nd fl. 1920's



NA

ditch



→ N

EAST WALL

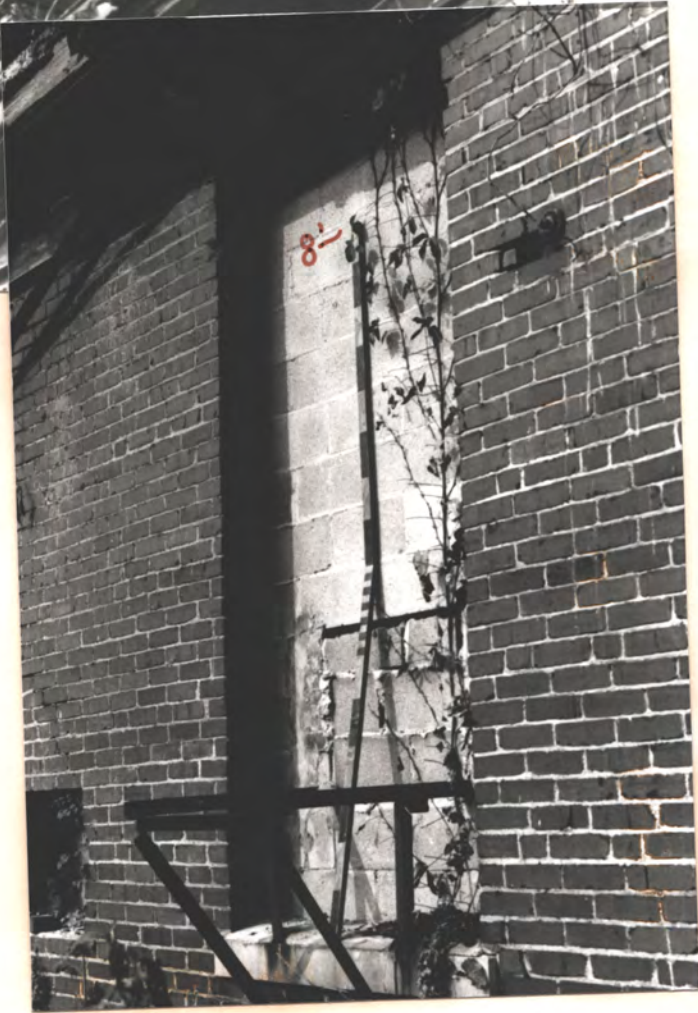
← N





top half of original Sash


mod. opening



8'

+

N.E. Bldg
(corr. block in window)

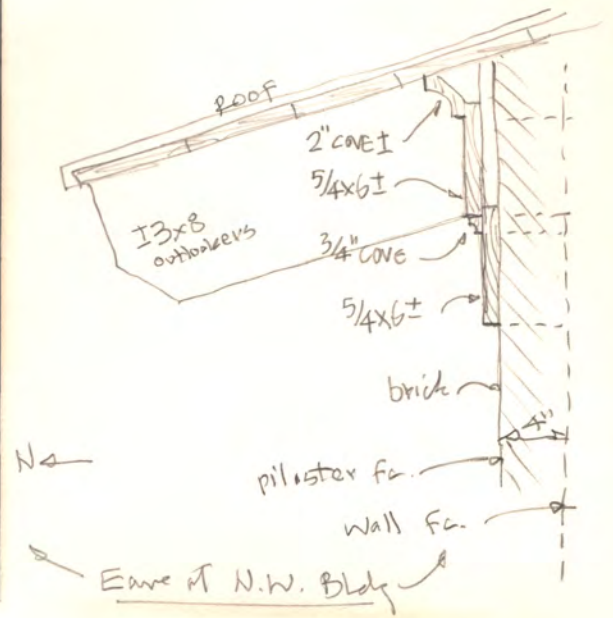
MUNTING 



Detail of photo above

5/16

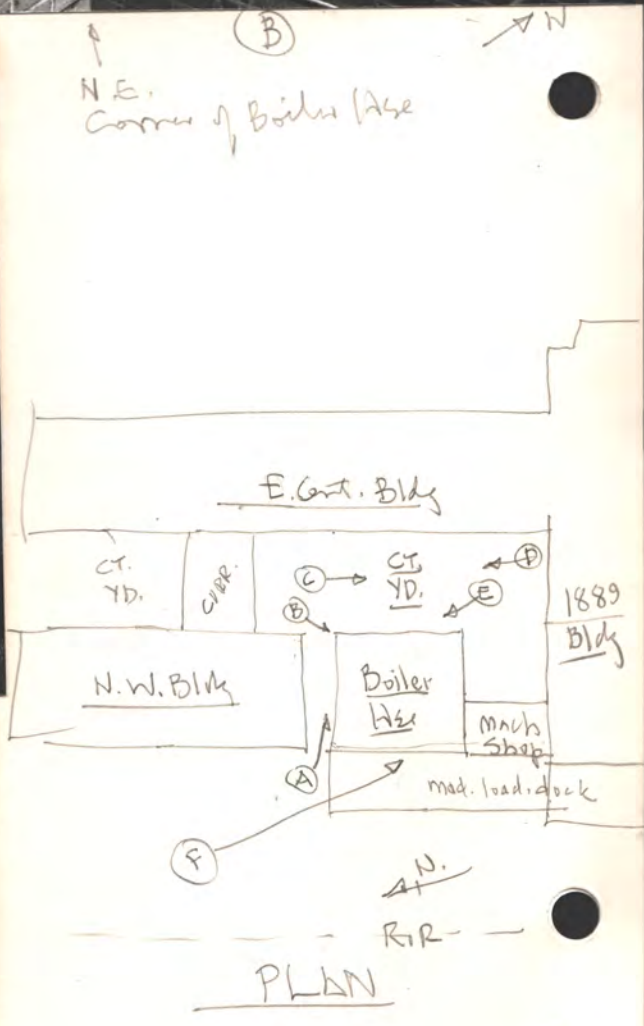
N.E. Corner of
2-Story
N. Cent. Bldg.



WINDOW 1ST N.W. BLDG. N ←



(A)
 N
 ← N.W. Wall of Boiler Hse



W. Wall of N. Cent. Bldg
 E. Wall of Boiler Hse (C)

stuck



(D)

east wall
of boiler hse

±4' ADDN to ORIG. BOILER HSE

±N

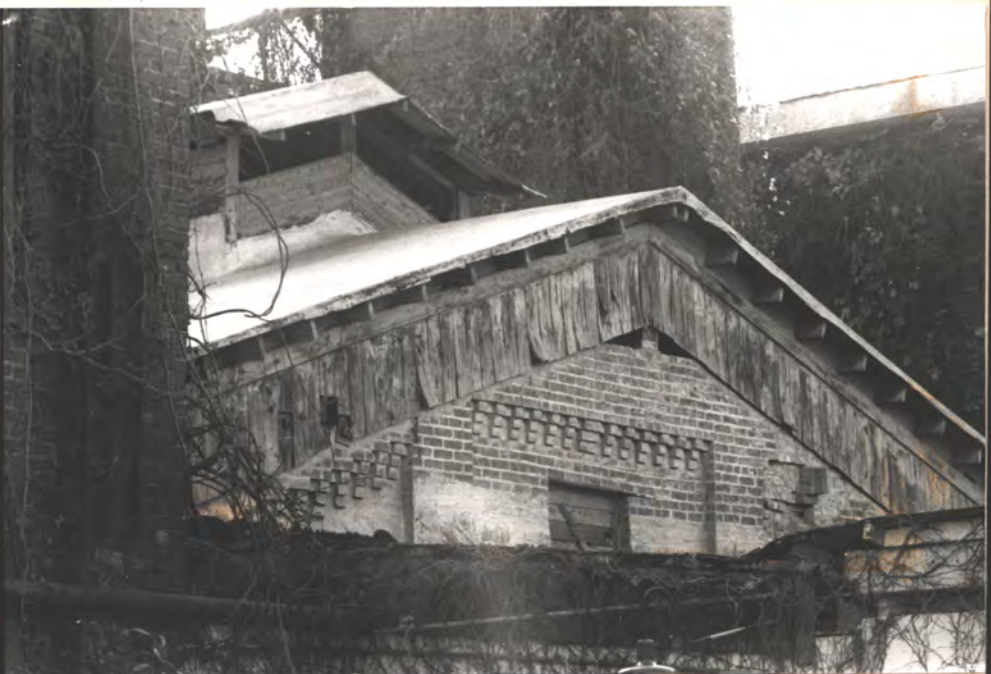


→ N

(E)

±4' ADDN to ORIG. BOILER HSE

West gable of
boiler hse
(roof raised &
off-centered when
boiler hse enlarged
±4' to south) N →



(F)



stark

boiler
hse
→

(G)

E. Wall of Mach. Shop

Water Tank
||



(H)

N+—

P.W. WALL OF
N. CENT. E. BLDG

E. N. WALL OF 1889 BLDG.



(I)

N+—

3 of 16



mid 20th c.
Load. dock mg

N
←
mid 20th c. load. dock fl.

Later doors at W. wall of 1889 Bldg. onto Mod. loading dock
This was a window in the 1889 photo. See front sect. of this book
Doors originally were at the N.W. corner. These may be originals, moved south 2 or 3 bays

mod. ply.
↓



West gable of boiler house
N.W. Corner of 1889 Bldg.
Roof of Mach. Shop
orig.
S. ADDN
10



1889 Bldg.
N. Wall

STOCK

TANK

N.W. Bldg. Roof beyond

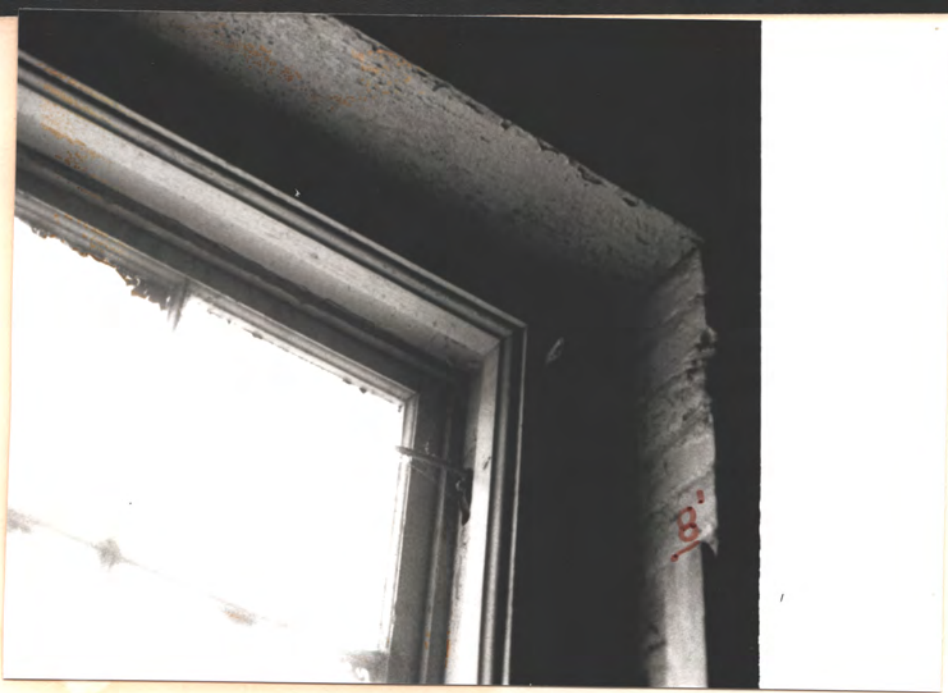
Boiler Hse
monitor roof



Mach. Shop Roof

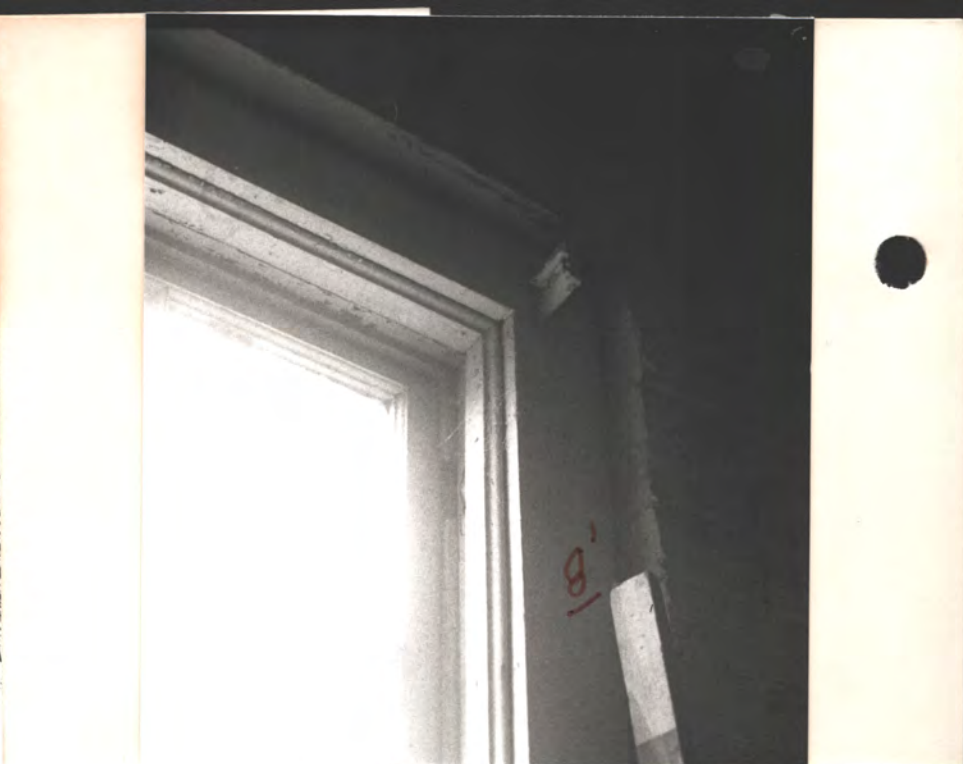
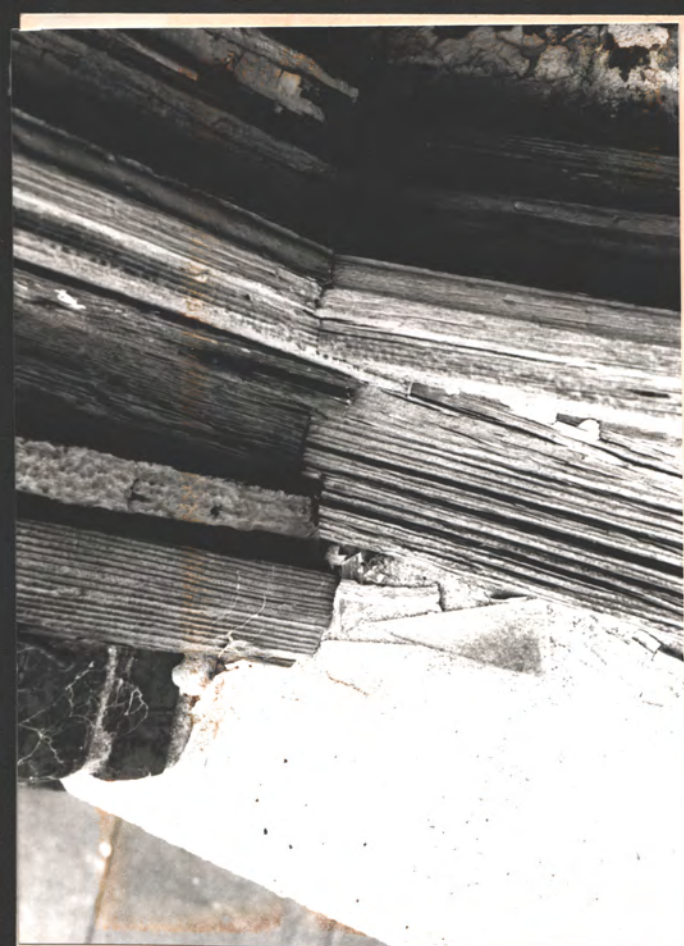
N

11/19/11



1889 Vldg.
1st fl. S. wind.





SIM of
1889 6th
windows
(top part)

Windows
SIM

1889 May
2nd fl. S. window

13 of 16





1889 bldg.
3rd. Fl. S. Wnd.



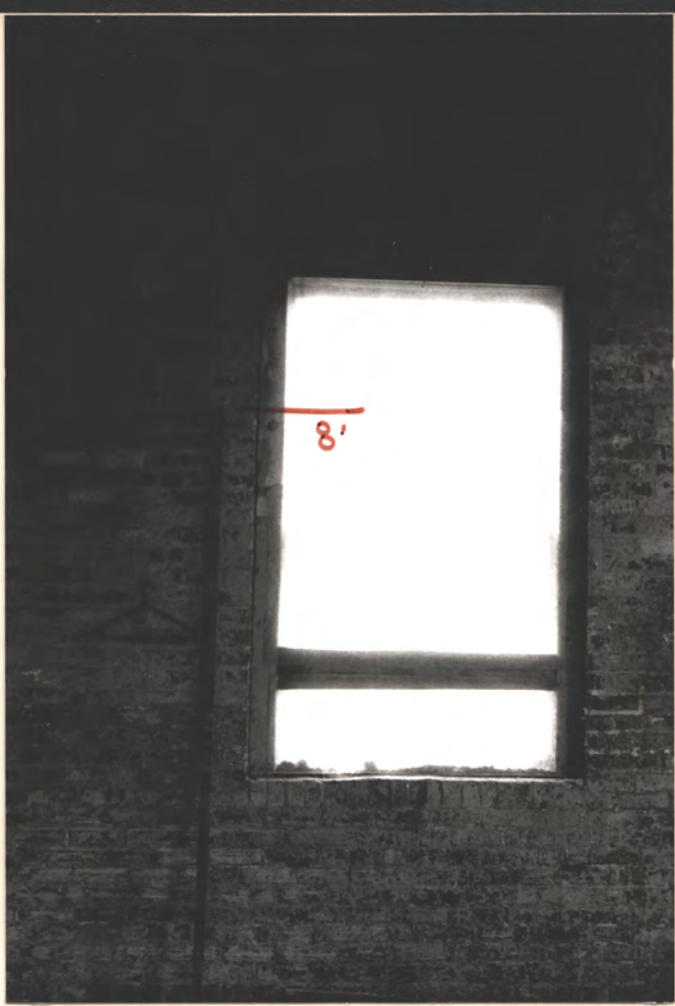
N ←



N ←

East Cent. Bldg. 2nd fl.
Orig. steel sash, at
2nd fl. only

15016



translucent plastic
panel obscures only
sash - see ext.
photos

N.W. Bldg
W. wind
2nd fl.



1889 + 20th c.
16 of 16 WB Davis Hos. Mill Ft Payne Al.

photos Oct 89' HJ

History of the Big Mill

•The building was built in 1889 as the Alabama Builders Hardware Company.

•It was one of seven major foundries and factories built during the three-year spurt by the success of the Fort Payne Coal and Iron Company.

•After 1890 when it became clear that the town's mineral deposits were greatly exaggerated the hardware company the other major enterprises associated with boom went out of business.

•In 1907 the building, already known as the Foster Building, was bought by a consortium, including W.B. Davis of Chattanooga, to be converted to a hosiery mill.

•On Oct. 16, 1907, the Florence Hosiery Company commenced business with 30 knitting machines on the first floor.

•In 1915 Davis bought full interest in the mill and changed its name to W.B. Davis and Son Hosiery Mill.

•By May 1915 the mill employed 300 producing 500 dozen socks per day. Employees worked 12 hours a day for an average of 14 cents an hour.

•Between 1915 and 1926 the Davis company established a mill complex that including several manufacturing and support buildings, employee housing, a swimming pool, a clubhouse and an interdenominational church.

•Between 1920 and the beginning of World War II the Big Mill was the principal workplace of Fort Payne's population.

•The building was used as a sock mill until 1974 and has been used sporadically since.

•The Davis Mill was added to the National Registry of Historic Places in 1986.

•The hosiery industry which began in the Davis Mill 1907 had grown to more than 100 mills by 1989.

to provide parking space

gozian said.

"We were in the process of planning a move to larger facilities, when we discovered the Davis Mill," Gengozian said.

"We knew that Mrs. Goza was interested in seeing the building saved, and the depot museum board was considering possibilities for the building, so we were able to offer a plan that filled all those requirements.

According to the plan Gengozian presented to the council, the newspaper offices will occupy the first floor of the main building; a wing with a concrete floor known as the "boarding room" when the mill was in operation will house the printing press; and the stock room will be renovated for use as a mail room.

The interiors of the second and third floor of the main building are to be "stabilized" but not occupied.

"That means we will clean and repair the upper stories

structurally, install a sprinkler system and nominal heating, and leave them for further use," Gengozian said.

As restoration architect Jones & Herrin first planned the project, the newspaper offices were also to occupy the second floor, but the cost estimate was \$1.5 million. "We had to make some adjustments and sacrifices to bring the cost in line with what we could justify for expansion," Gengozian said.

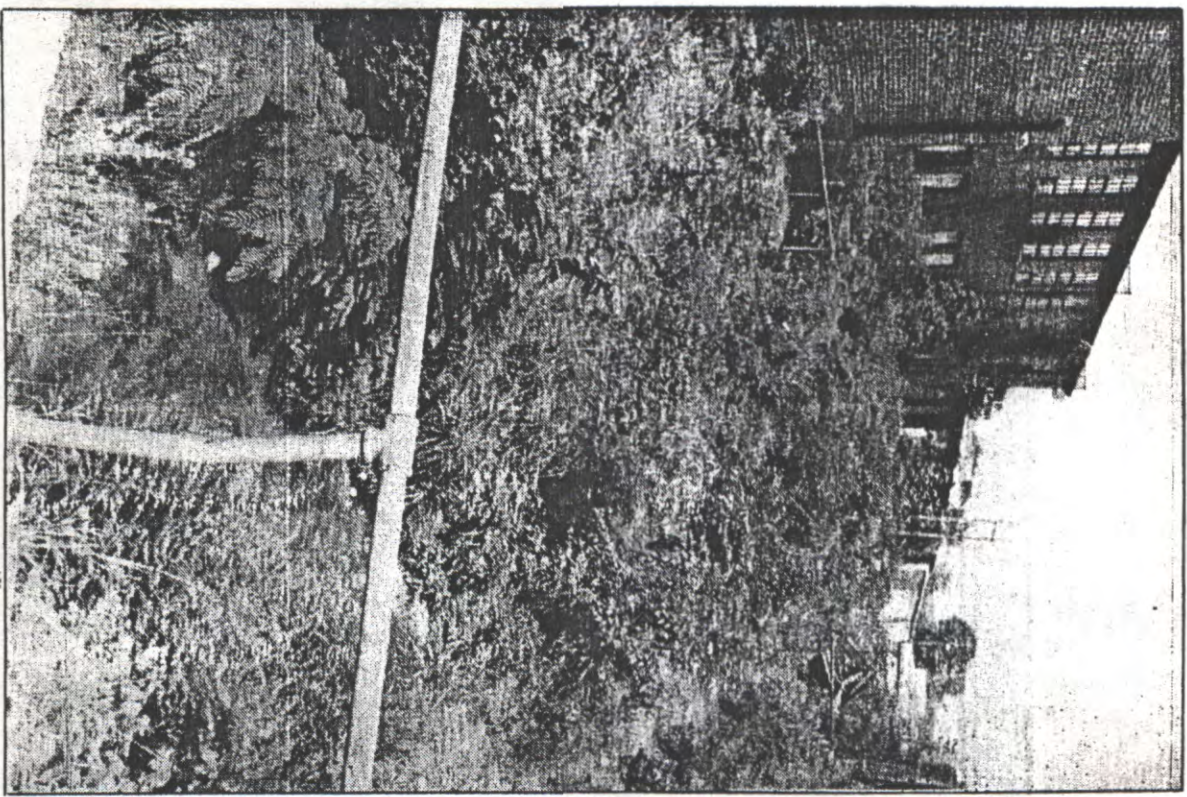
"We now have the cost closer to \$900,000, if we don't run into something unexpected."

In addition to renovating and stabilizing the interior of the buildings in the mill complex, the project calls for the complete restoration of the exterior - including the installation of windows and cornices of the

See Mill, page 2

2A-FORT PAYNE TIMES JOURNAL, WEDNESDAY, September 13, 1989

Mill



City asked to fill in this ditch

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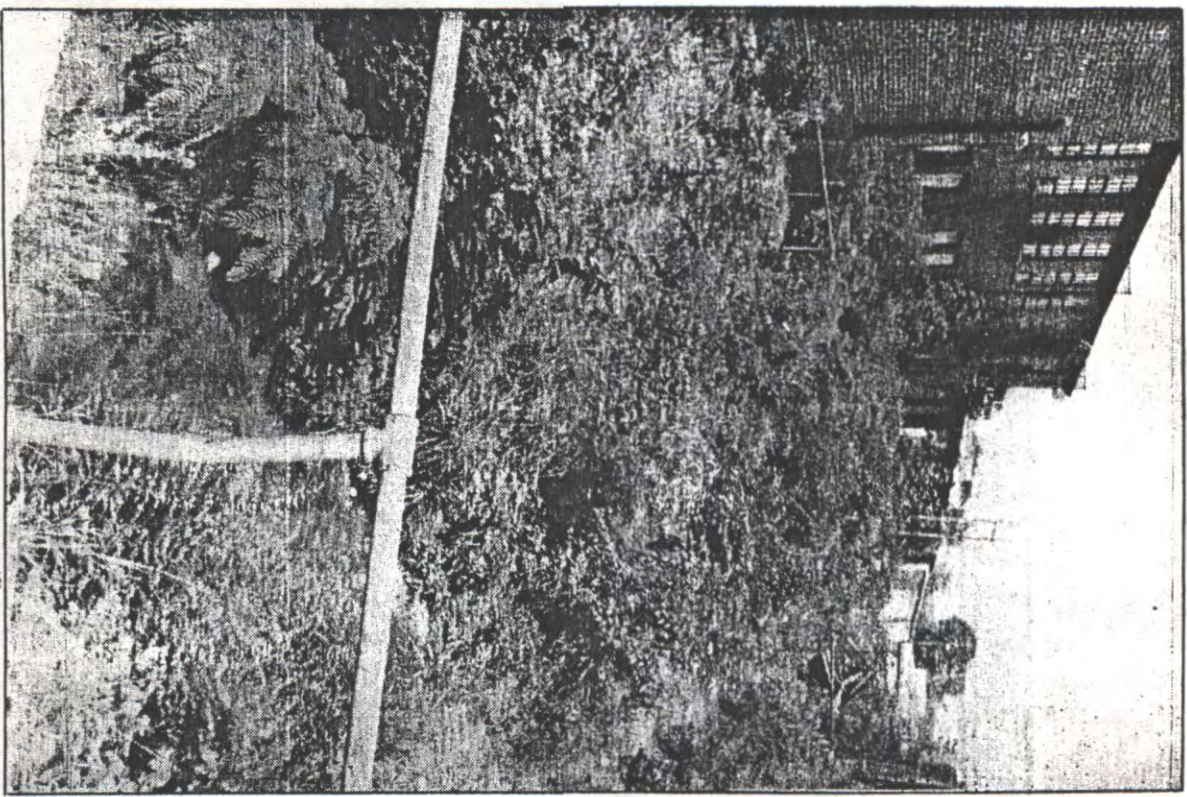
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turers, if they will complete the restoration," Gengozian said.

"They have expressed interest in creating a National Hosiery Museum befitting Fort Payne's role as the Sock Capital of the World."

If the building were to be restored and occupied as a museum governed by a suitable museum board within a set time (such as five years), the newspaper would be prepared to lease it to the board at no charge, he said.

Gengozian came before the council not only to announce his company's plans for the "Big Mill," but to ask the city's assistance in the restoration project.

Specifically, Gengozian asked that the city agree to place a drainage culvert in the open Dye Branch, which borders the complex on the east end, and cover it to sufficient compaction to permit the construction of a parking lot and driveways at street level.

Gengozian explained that the current \$900,000 cost estimate was the upper limit his company could justify for the restoration project. Therefore, he said, the city's decision on whether to participate by reclaiming Dye Branch would "have significant impact on our ability to proceed with the project."

If you will agree to accept an easement for Dye Branch, offer this small amount of public support to help save the mill, and encourage the creation of a national hosiery museum, we are ready to sign the contract and begin work," Gengozian said.

In support of his request for city assistance, Gengozian said the planned restoration of the Davis Mill "fits a myriad of needs:

- It fits the need of the newspaper for a centralized location with space for expansion.
- It fits the philosophy of the newspaper's owners and management that a community newspaper should give something back to the community.
- It fits the feeling of the community that the Davis Mill deserves to be saved, that the mill has touched too many lives over the last eight decades to be surrendered to a wrecking ball.
- It fits the need for a hosiery museum. As the oldest surviving industrial building in the city and the place where DeKalb County's hosiery industry began, the mill is a natural shrine to the history of that industry.
- It fits the concept of partnership between public government and private enterprise to attain worthwhile goals beyond the reach of one of the partners working alone.
- It fits the mood of the city council and the public regarding restoration and redevelopment of the downtown area. To begin restoring the Big Mill to its former glory in the year of the city's hundredth birthday would be a powerful symbol of Fort Payne's pride and its commitment to building its future on the strongest pillars of its past.

Gengozian's announcement of plans to restore the mill complex and his request drew expressions of support tempered

with reservation from members of the council.

Mayor David Stout called the restoration "an excellent idea. It could be the cornerstone of future redevelopment of downtown."

"It could be the cornerstone of future redevelopment of downtown"

Mayor David Stout

Stout's reservations centered on whether there would be assurances of a hosiery museum if the city agreed to provide the requested assistance.

"If we spent \$100,000 or so of public money to fill that ditch and then the museum did not come about, it would turn out to be the wrong thing to do.

"We just need some assurance from the local hosiery association or the national organization that they will follow through on this."

Henry Johnson, speaking as both a councilman and a hosiery executive, said he felt there would be "a great deal of interest in helping" on the part of the hosiery owners.

Public works director Hershel Lankford estimated that the Dye Branch project would cost \$58,000 if done with corrugated pipe with a bituminous covering or \$100,000 if done with pre-cast concrete culverts.

"The culverts are best, but the pipes are cheaper," he said. He said the corrugated pipe could be expected to last 50 years and that they were considered

strong enough to be used under interstate highways.

These estimates of far the city to do the work," he said. "You could expect the price to be a lot higher if you got a contractor bid."

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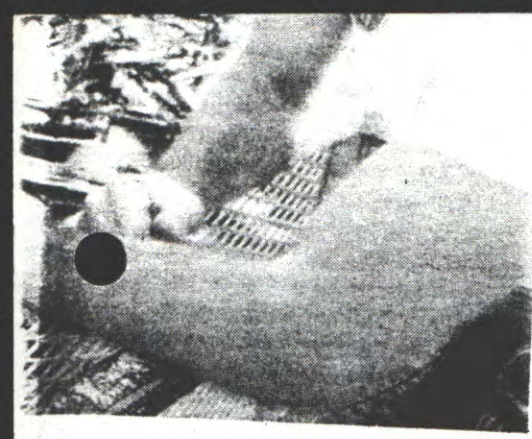
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HAMBURGER
FRENCH FRIES
COCA-COLA
\$1.39
SQUARE MEAL
SQUARE DEAL

89
P.S. - Nov. 3rd - mill owner & newspaper owner couldn't
agree on purchase/use terms. Project cancelled.

HT



can Institute of Architects. Initial damage estimates of at least \$1 million mounted to \$9 million by early September; as of that time the convent had not announced plans for the building. In the rebuilding of such structures, California's historic building code permits the reuse or retention of old materials that would not be permitted under current fire codes. This could amount to a "substantial" cost benefit to a rebuilding effort, says Peterson. The motherhouse served originally as an elementary and secondary school as well as living quarters for the nuns. At left, Mark Gotham, a supervisor for BVD Demolition Co., surveys the damage shortly after the fire.

The Paramount in Bristol, Tenn., a 1931 Art Deco movie palace, is undergoing a \$2-million rehabilitation that will turn its 1,200-seat auditorium into an 800-seat multipurpose theater. Because the theater lacked both a stage and backstage facilities and because expansion beyond the building footprint was not feasible, the proscenium arch is being moved forward into the auditorium. Behind the arch, a four-story addition will house a new stage, fly area, and rehearsal space. The character of the auditorium is being retained, says Peter Lawrence, the executive director of the Paramount Center Foundation, which undertook the project. Where formerly there were five decorative panels on each side of the auditorium, there are now three on each side, explains Lawrence. The original vertical sign is being restored, and the marquee is being replicated. The Paramount Center will be the home of Theatre Bristol and the Bristol Ballet Company and, says Lawrence, will be used for a variety of entertainment, including concerts by the Kingsport Symphony; country, rock, and gospel music; performances by small dance companies; films; and lectures. William Price of Bristol is the project architect, and Conrad Schmitt Studios of New Berlin, Wis., are the interior renovators. Rehabilitation funds came from a \$1-million special appropriation from the Tennessee legislature and \$1.4 million raised locally.

An agreement in principle has fallen through for the Fort Payne Times-Journal to acquire, renovate, and occupy the Davis Mill, a complex that includes DeKalb County, Alabama's first hosiery manufacturing building. Dennis Benefield, a spokesman for the newspaper, says the deal failed over the issue of responsibility for installing a hosiery mill museum in the complex. The sellers wanted the museum, says Benefield, the museum concept has widespread support in the northeast Alabama community (a hosiery manufacturing center), and the local hosiery manufacturers said they would sponsor the museum, but the newspaper could not agree to a clause stating that the

property would revert to the sellers if the museum was not established in five years. "It was sad for us and for the community, too, because the mill is a beautiful building, sadly deteriorated," Benefield adds. The *Times-Journal* had planned to stabilize or renovate the interiors and to restore the exteriors of the buildings, which are located within Fort Payne's downtown historic district. The newspaper company was prepared to spend \$900,000 on the building. Exterior work was to include installation of replacement windows in the style of the originals and restoration of the 85-foot-high smokestack and adjacent water tower. Instead, the publisher has purchased another parcel of land on which to build a new plant. Wayne Goza, one of the owners of the Davis Mill complex, declined to comment.

The Grand Opera House of Mississippi, Inc., has received a \$2,000 Preservation Services Fund grant from the National Trust to finance a historic structure report of its theater building in downtown Meridian. The Grand Opera House was built 100 years ago on the second story of a two-story building. Its original street facade, which combined elements of Romanesque and Second Empire styles, was modified extensively in 1902. The interior was designed by J.B. McElfactrick in a style described as Victorian Baroque. The auditorium is distinguished by a gently curved horseshoe balcony supported by interior columns. Traveling theater troupes—legitimate, vaudeville, and minstrel shows as well as opera—played there until its owners became involved in a lawsuit and the doors were closed in 1927. Subsequently stripped of its fixed seating and used as a warehouse for many years, the building was donated to the Historic Meridian Foundation in 1987, and restoration plans and fund-raising are now underway. The theater has yielded what Executive Director Elliott Street calls a "past cache" of 1,500 or more programs that slid between the cracks of the dress circle floorboards over the years, including a Sarah Bernhardt program dated 1892.

of the project will involve federal agencies, both the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the federal Advisory Council for Historic Preservation reviewed the project, and the Advisory Council drafted a memorandum that calls for the developer to provide an evergreen barrier of cypress trees and a boxwood hedge between the development's property and that of the church. All parties are expected to agree with this proposal.

The C & P Telephone Company has donated \$50,000 for the restoration of the Charles Carroll House at 109 Duke of Gloucester Street in Annapolis, Md. The early-18th-century house, the birthplace and home of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, is undergoing a \$2.9-million comprehensive restoration, as are its gardens. The C & P gift will be used to restore the main entrance hall and the stairway located in the north entrance of the house. Architectural studies and paint analyses are underway to determine the original appearance of the stairway, which is believed to be the oldest in Maryland. Dendrochronology, Inc., of Blacksburg, Va., conducted a study of 36 samples of wood from the first-floor joists, the supporting beams, and the sides of exposed beams to determine that the oldest portion of the house was probably built in 1722.

Historic Gordonsville, Inc., has donated the 65-acre site of Governor Alexander Spotswood's 1720s mansion to Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va. The site is referred to as the Enchanted Castle Archaeological Site at Germana or simply as Germana. Located on a bend in the Rapidan River in Orange County, west of Culpeper, Germana will be administered by the college's Center for Historic Preservation. Historic Gordonsville rescued the site from a planned development in 1985 with loans from the National Trust and with support from the Virginia General Assembly. Since 1985 a resident archaeologist has conducted research at the site, which has also served as a training laboratory in historical archaeology for Mary Washington students. In addition to the plantation, Germana contains several dozen archaeological sites, including camps of prehistoric Indians, the first Spotsylvania County courthouse, and Civil War earthworks. Excavations have already uncovered the extensive foundations, the colonnades, and the outbuildings of the mansion, which was called the Enchanted Castle, as well as the remnants of formal terraced gardens. Governor Spotswood was responsible for transforming the colonial capital of Williamsburg from a rural community into a formally planned town. Says Carter Hudgins, director of the Center for Historic Preservation, "The excavations will reveal how what was then 'the West' was settled and how Governor Spotswood and other planters tamed Virginia's frontier."