

BOTANY WORSTED MILLS, LOCOMOTIVE HOUSE
176 Parker Avenue
Passaic
Passaic County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-982-E

HABS
NJ,
16-PASA,
7-E

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

BOTANY WORSTED MILLS, LOCOMOTIVE HOUSE

HABS No. NJ-9B2-E

HABS
NJ,
16-PASA.
7-E-

Location: 30a Sherman Avenue, Passaic, Passaic County,
New Jersey

USGS Weehawken, New Jersey Quadrangle
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates:
18.574000.4524700

Significance: The locomotive house was originally part of the Botany Worsted Mills, founded in 1889 as the first integrated woolen processing plant in the United States. Its original function as a transport station indicates the comprehensive approach to manufacturing taken by Botany Mills: each step of wool processing, from washing and dyeing to weaving, packaging and shipping, was completed at a single plant site.

Description: Located parallel to Sherman Avenue at the edge of the plant site, the locomotive house is a long, narrow building two bays wide and five bays long with a flat roof. It is built of brick with a corbeled cornice and flat simplified pilasters defining each bay. Fixed metal-framed windows containing twenty divided lights are paired within each bay, with two large roll-up garage type doors located in the southwest end. Two parallel pairs of metal tracks run the length of the building interior, though the tracks outside linking the building to a rail line have been removed. Overall dimensions are 27.5' x 95'.

History: Built sometime between 1910 and 1918, the locomotive house was one of several on the site of Botany Mills, the first integrated woolen processing plant in the United States, founded in 1889. The existence of the various mill-owned rail sheds and tracks on the plant site demonstrates the comprehensive approach taken by Botany Mills in the production of worsted wool: the final step in the lengthy process was the loading of completely finished woolen fabric to be shipped to various urban markets.

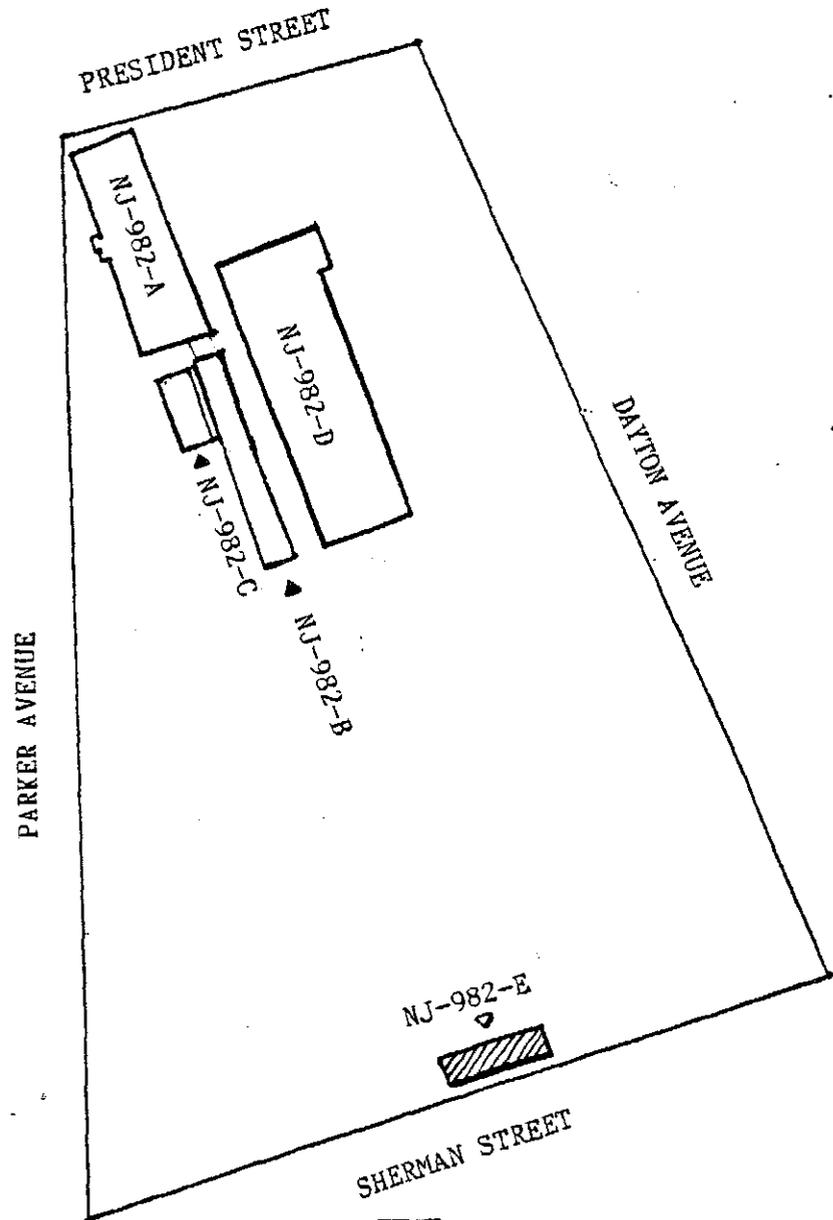
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After Botany Mills no longer used rail transport to ship its products, the building was converted to a truck garage. The conversion took place at an unknown date, possibly in the period 1950-55 when the drop in wool production due to the widespread demand for synthetics led to a general decline of the plant, necessitating cutbacks in all production areas, including shipping. The building's most recent function has been as an automobile repair garage.

Sources: Sanborn Insurance Maps, City of Passaic, 1910, 1918, 1935 (updated to 1951)

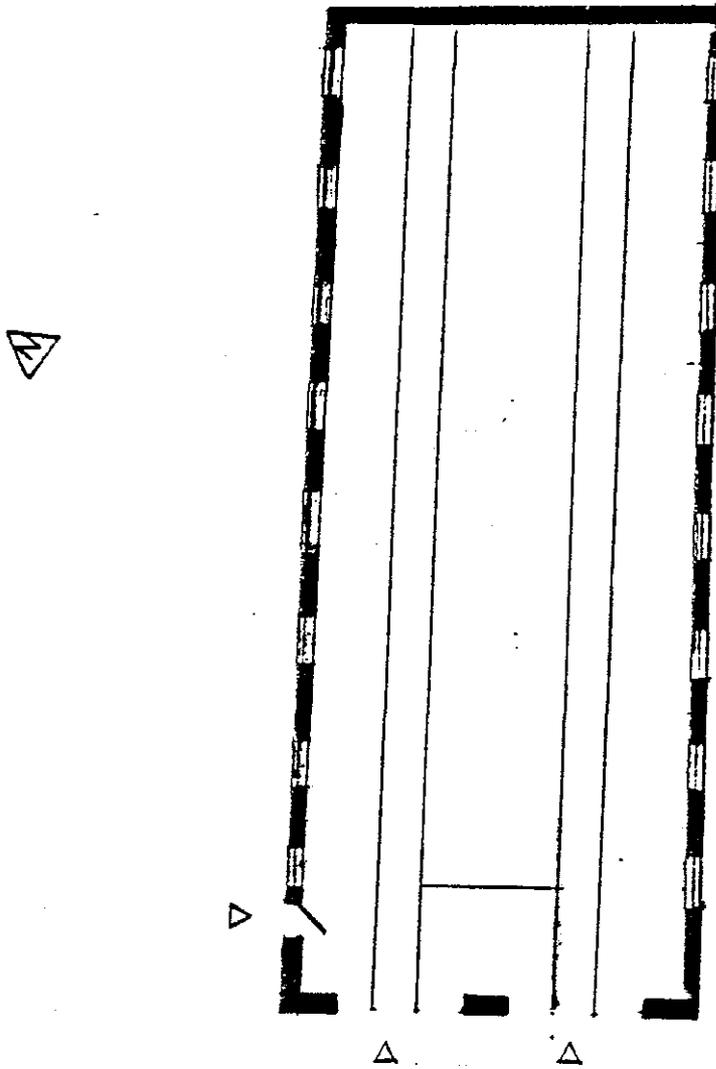
Historian: Sally Milner, ACROTERION, 71 Maple Avenue, Morristown, NJ, December 1989

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 = subject property
(not to scale)

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(not to scale)