Sanford Carpet Company, Building 50
(Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Company, Building 50)
South side of Prospect Street
West side of Church Street
Amsterdam
Montgomery County
New York

HABS No. NY-6299-E

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

HABS
NY
29-AMST,
6E-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SANFORD CARPET COMPANY, BUILDING 50
(Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Company, Building 50)

HABS No. NY-6299-E

Location: 20-28 Prospect Street
Amsterdam, Montgomery County, New York
Quad: Amsterdam, New York, 1:24,000
UTM: 18.566350.4754220

Present Owner: Industries For Amsterdam, Inc.
P.O. Box 823
Amsterdam, Montgomery County, New York 12010

Present Use: Vacant

Significance: The existing building was built as a part of Sanford Carpet Company in 1900 and was used to manufacture floor carpet. Sanford Carpet Company was one of the largest carpet plants in the United States at one time. This building was used for Axminster Carpet weaving and wool yarn storage. This building was sold in 1929 and became part of the Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Company. It was sold again in 1955 to the Grossman Company and leased to Fab Industries and Lamatronics who made knitted cloth and artificial leather from 1959 through 1979.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date(s) of erection: 1900

2. Architect: Unknown

3. Original and subsequent owners: Sanford Carpet Company, S. Sanford & Sons; Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Company, Grossman, Industries For Amsterdam.

4. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers: Unknown

5. Original plans and construction: Not available

6. Alterations and additions: None

B. Historical Context:

The major activities carried out in this building were axminster setting, blanket weaving, yarn and spool storage and the experimental department. From 1959 to 1979 the building was used partly for storage and partly by Lamatronics, a division of Fab Industries, for the production of artificial leather.

This building was erected in 1900 and was built of brick. It is 55' x 195' x 70' high.

Carpets produced in this building were used world wide to cover floors in private homes, hotels, theaters, trains, airplanes, cruise ships, and many other commercial installations. Blankets were produced here during World War II for the Army. Cloth produced here was used world wide for clothing.

When this building was built, it was one of the most modern buildings of its type and contained the latest equipment.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: Building #50 is a six story factory structure located in a cluster of mill buildings of the same style. The facades are Romanesque in character as evidenced by the rounded brick arches over the windows and door openings. Further setting of this style is in the corbeled brick cornice. The stair towers are in the same style. The interior is in the utilitarian style of wood columns, wood beams, and heavy wood plank floors and roof structure.

2. Condition of Fabric: The overall condition of the brick is good, with re-pointing needed in the stair tower. The biggest problem is in the deterioration of the brick cornices where joints have opened up and the brick has fallen away. The interior suffers badly from very heavy water damage from leaky roofs.

B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: The entire structure is 70' high x 195' long x 55' wide. Each story is 14' high.

2. Foundations: Foundation walls are rough cut limestone ashlar. Interior basement column foundations are also rough cut lime stone ashlar.

3. Walls: The walls are entirely common brick both interior and exterior. The walls are reinforced with brick pilasters. Pilasters project to the exterior and interior with rounded corners. The walls are unadorned except for corbeled series of triangular brick projections forming a frieze under the corbeled brick cornice.

4. Structural System Framing: The brick walls are load bearing on both interior and exterior, with wooden posts in the interior. The framing is of wood. Tie rods help support the wall sections. 3 1/2" fir tongue and groove sub-floor decking is supported by wood beams supported in the center by wood columns.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors:

1. Entry doors are pairs of panel type doors in arched brick openings.

b. Windows:

1. Windows are rounded top, double-hung inset in three brick-high rowlock coursed brick arches.

6. Roof:

a. Shape, Covering: The roofs are flat, sloping away from the facades and are built up coal tar felt covered with a coating of pitch. Roofs pitch down to drains located in the center of the building.

b. Cornice: The cornice is a continuous horizontal brick band made up of four courses of brick corbeled to set out from the top of the wall over the frieze.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plans:

a. First Floor: Divided into open bays by wood columns spaced approximately fifteen feet apart.

b. Second Floor through Fifth Floor: These floors are identical and like the first floor are divided into open bays by large wood columns.

2. Stairways: There is a stairway at each end of the building which extends to the roof. The stair towers echo the treatment of the windows, cornice and frieze of the building walls.

3. Flooring: Flooring is exposed wooden tongue-in-groove boards throughout - maple on all floors.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: The walls are exposed common painted brick surfaces. The wood columns, beams and ceiling boards have a painted finish.

5. Openings:

a. Doorways and Doors: These openings of double panel type doors have rounded brick corners and arched lintels and lead to the stairhalls mentioned.

6. Decorative Features and Trim: There are no decorative features of the building except the brick work as described.

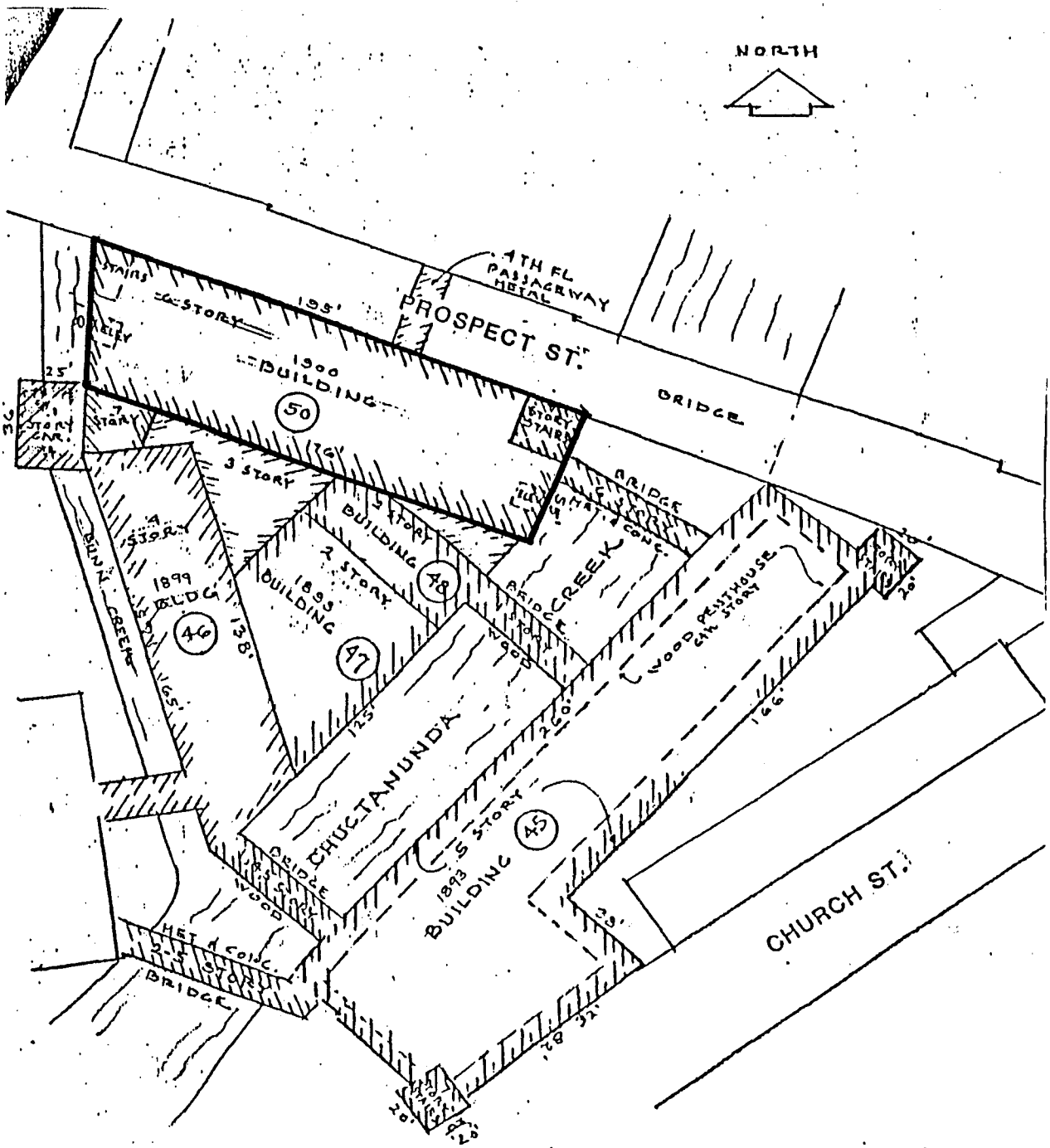
7. Hardware: Little hardware is evident. Operative hardware consists of heavy steel hinges, closers and push-pull device of utilitarian design.

8. Mechanical Equipment: Original heating was from parallel steam piping with steam supplied from a central boiler plant. Some of the old radiator piping is in evidence.

Project Information

This documentation was undertaken by the Amsterdam Urban Renewal Agency in accordance with a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Amsterdam and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and is assisted by Community Development Block Grant funds.

Prepared by:	E. Clark Devendorf
Title:	Consultant
Affiliation:	Amsterdam Urban Renewal Agency
Date:	August 22, 1988



SITE PLAN
SCALE: 1" = 50'

"GROSSMAN PORTION"
BROOKSIDE AREA
SMALL CITIES PROJECT
AMSTERDAM URBAN RENEWAL AGENCY
AMSTERDAM, N.Y.