

JOHN & JAMES DOBSON CARPET MILL (WEST PARCEL),
BUILDING NO. 22A
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5383-7

HABS
PA
51-PHILA,
695T-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

HABS
PA
51-PHILA,
695 T-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
JOHN AND JAMES DOBSON CARPET MILL (West Parcel), BUILDING 22A
HABS No. PA-5383-T

Location:

4041-4055 Ridge Avenue
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

Present Owner:

Rouse Urban Housing, Inc.
1500 Walnut Street, 19th Floor
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19102

Present Occupant:

Mixed commercial and industrial tenants.

Significance:

Building 22A survives as the rubblestone shell of a circa 1890 mill building constructed to house spinning looms. It is significant not only as an integral part of the mill architecture on the site but also as part of the continuous wall of buildings that encircled the mill on Ridge Avenue, Scott's Lane and Crawford Street.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

Date(s) of Erection:

Circa 1890, atlases, historical views and photographs.

Architect:

Unknown.

Original/Subsequent Owners:

See Chain of Title.

Builder, Contractor, Suppliers:

Unknown.

Original Plans/Construction:

Building 22A was constructed circa 1890 as a one-story, rubblestone weaving room with a sawtooth roof. It was part of Mill No. 1 devoted primarily to the manufacturing of blankets.

Alterations/Additions:

Building 22A was severely damaged by a fire which also destroyed the main mill building of Mill No. 1. The roof was completely removed leaving only the walls and grade level floor.

B. Historical Context

Building 22A was built circa 1890 to accommodate the need for a loom room for Building 22, used for blanket production. The continued expansion of Mill No. 1 into the 1890s is an indication of the overall success of the firm even as it diversified into other lines of materials. The building helped form the continuous wall of buildings on Scott's Lane, closing off the west parcel of the complex.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

Architectural Character:

Building 22A possesses the same architectural character as other buildings on the site with rubble construction and brick segmentally arched windows. More modern in construction, the building had industrial steel sash windows and a saw-tooth monitor roof unlike earlier structures on the site.

Condition of Fabric:

This building's masonry has been fire damaged but retains its stability.

B. Description of Exterior

Overall Dimensions:

N/A.

Foundations:

Rubblestone.

Walls:

Rubblestone terminated in the pattern of the sawtooth roof. The north elevation of the building shares a common wall with Building 22. The outline of Building 22A's sawtooth roof is visible on this wall.

Structural System/Framing:

Masonry construction, no remaining interior structural system.

Porches/Stoops/Balconies/Bulkheads:

None.

Chimneys:

None.

Openings:

Doorways/Doors:

An opening is cut into the wall at the juncture of the east and south walls.

Windows/Shutters:

The walls are regularly fenestrated with numerous bays of brick segmentally arched windows. Some of the non-original steel sash survive but have been severely damaged. Many of the openings have been infilled with cinder block.

Roof:

Nonexistent.

C. Description of Interior

The interior of Building 22A is no longer intact due to severe fire damage and exposure to the elements.

D. Site

General Setting/Orientation:

Building 22A sits on the eastern edge of the west parcel of the Dobson site with its primary elevation facing south. The eastern elevation of the building is an important edge defining feature to the west parcel. The building is on the low grade setting of Mill No. 1 and is not readily visible from the center of the complex.

Historic Landscape Design:

See Historic Context Section.

Outbuildings:

N/A.