

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: 1395062447

Property Name: Morrison Machine
Address: 200 Van Houten ST

Ownership: Private
Apartment #: ZIP: 07505

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
PASSAIC	Paterson		Paterson	4310	5

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number: PAS1608-440

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number:

Description:

The Morrison Machine Company mill is a 4-story, 3-bay, rectangular plan building with façade articulated by multi-pane windows of various shapes and sizes, accented with brownstone sills and lintels. It is located adjacent the Erie Railroad corridor in downtown Paterson.

Setting:

The Morrison Machine Company is located on Van Houten Street in downtown Paterson. It is adjacent on its east side to the elevated tracks of the Erie Railroad corridor. The building is surrounded on its other sides by surface parking lots. The setting is dominated by a mix of early 20th century to modern industrial, commercial and civic buildings including the modern Passaic County Community College complex one block to the west.

Registration and Status Dates:
National Historic Landmark?: ☐
National Register:
New Jersey Register:
Determination of Eligibility:
Certification of Eligibility:

SHPO Opinion:
Local Designation:
Other Designation:
Other Designation Date:

Survey Name: Intensive-Level Survey of Paterson Industrial Mills

Principal Investigator: Patrick Harshbarger

Organization: Hunter Research, Inc.

☒ (Primary Contact)

Property ID:

1395062447

Page 1

☒ Eligibility Worksheet included in present survey?

☐ Is this Property an identifiable farm or former farm?

Location Map:

Site Map:



BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Author:	Title:	Year:	HPO Accession #: (if applicable)
Shriner, Charles A	Paterson and Its Environs (Vol. II)	1920	
American Silk Journal	"Morrison Machine Co." (October)	1924	
Silk	"Morrison Machine Co." (March)	1927	
Department of Community Development	City of Paterson Survey	1987	
Hyde, E B	Atlas of Passaic County, New Jersey	1877	
Robinson, E	Atlas of the City of Paterson, New Jersey	1884	
Robinson, E	Atlas of the City of Paterson and Haledon, New Jersey	1899	
Mueller, A H	Atlas of the City of Paterson, New Jersey	1915	
Sanborn Map Company	Insurance Maps of Paterson, New Jersey	1915	
Sanborn Map Company	Insurance Maps of Paterson, New Jersey	1931	
Sanborn Map Company	Insurance Maps of Paterson, New Jersey	1950	

Additional Information:

Current B/L is 4310/5; Parcel Address is 204-206 Van Houten

More Research Needed? ☒ (checked=Yes)

INTENSIVE-LEVEL USE ONLY:

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Page 2

Attachments Included:

0	Building	0	Bridge
0	Structure	0	Landscape
0	Object	1	Industry

Historic District ? ☐

District Name: not applicable

Status:

Associated Archeological Site/Deposits? ☒

(known or potential sites. If Yes, please describe briefly)

Potential for industrial archaeology (interior)

Conversion Problem? ☐ ConversionNote: 30

Date form completed: 9/7/2012

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Page 3

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: 200 Van Houten Street

Historic Name: Morrison Machine Company Mill

Present Use: Industrial, light industrial

Historic Industry: Machine Manufacture (All types)

Construction Date: 1910 **Source:** Historic Maps

**Construction
Start Date:**

**Construction
End Date:**

Building ID:

Style: ☐ Vernacular?

Exterior Finish Materials: Brick, Common Bond

Physical Condition: Good

Foundation Materials:

Remaining Historic Fabric: Medium

Roof Finish Materials:

Length: 140 **Stories:** 4

Structural System:

Width: 40 **Bays:** 3

Roof System:

Equipment/Machinery:

Transportation Links: ☐ airstrip ☐ loading dock ☐ slip
(checked if applicable) ☐ dock ☐ rail siding ☐ other

Exterior Description:

The 4-story, 3-bay, shallow gable roofed mill, built ca. 1910, has a 40 x 140 ft. rectangular plan with its façade facing north on Van Houten Street. The brick façade has a stepped gabled parapet, gable apex oculus, and is articulated by multi-pane windows and accented with brownstone sills and lintels. The wide central bay is a dominant feature with arched windows at the 3rd story, double paired windows at the 2nd story, and a loading bay with rolling metal door at the 1st story. The outer bays are narrower in width and composed with paired 6/6 double hung sash at the 3rd story and single 6/6 double-hung sash at the 2nd story. There are five 6/12 double-hung sash windows on the 4th floor. The pattern of windows is used to good effect to create a handsome façade. The long side elevations are articulated by brick pilasters between segmentally arched windows with 12/12 double-hung sash and fixed transoms. The company name "Morrison Machine Co." is painted on the upper left corner of the west elevation.

Interior Description:

The interior was not available for inspection. According to 1915 Sanborn maps, a boiler and electric generating plant with two 25 h.p. engines was located on the first floor at the building's south (rear) end.

Alteration Dates:

Alteration(s):	Circa Date:	Date Range:	Source:
Physical alteration		to	Window materials

Architect/Designer:

Date form completed: 10/1/2012

Survey Name: Intensive-Level Survey of Paterson Industrial Mills

Property ID:

Page 4

**Principal
Investigator:** Patrick Harshbarger

☒ (Primary Contact)

1395062447

Organization: Hunter Research, Inc.

ELIGIBILITY WORKSHEET - Properties

Property ID **1395062447**

History:

The building now known as the Morrison Machine Company mill was originally built ca. 1910 as a tenant mill known as the Rodgers Mill. The 1915 Mueller map indicates that the building was owned by A.F. Holden and that it was built on a lot previously occupied by the frame house of John H. Zabriskie. The mill had an advantageous location adjacent to the Erie Railroad and was originally served by a spur that came in under an overhang along the east elevation of the first floor. According to the 1915 Sanborn map, Morrison Machine initially only occupied the first floor, probably taking advantage of the rail spur for the deliver and shipping of heavy machinery components. Occupants of the other floors in 1915 were the Guthrie Silk Company (2nd floor), the David D. Rodgers Co. Silk Mill Supplies (3rd floor), the Pioneer Overall Company (3rd floor), and the Irving Silk Co. (4th floor). Morrison appears to have gradually taken over the building; by 1931 Morrison occupied the 1st and 2nd floors, and broad silk weaving was taking place on the 3rd and 4th floors.

The Morrison Machine Company was incorporated by James L. Morrison and Joseph Radink in 1907, with the original works were located at 52 Fulton Street in the former Cooke Locomotive factory. In 1908, Radink left the partnership, and James L. Morrison took over. Morrison relocated to the Rodgers Mill in 1914. Morrison made a specialty of silk dyeing and finishing machinery and held or was assigned several patents from the mid-1910s to 1920s. Morrison machines were frequently advertised in silk trade journals. In 1916, Clifford H. Ramsey joined the company as president, taking over for Morrison. Ramsey was the son of Charles D. Ramsey, a Paterson banker, who died prematurely in 1902. Following the death of this father, Ramsey apprenticed as a machinist at John Royle & Sons, Paterson's pre-eminent textile machine maker, quickly rising through the ranks to become head draftsman. Showing a high degree of aptitude for management, Royle named Ramsey superintendent of the works in 1910 at the age of 29. After four years Ramsey left Royle to take a position at Morrison Machine becoming president two years later. Ramsey patented two machines, an oval reel dyeing machine and a hydro extractor that became standard issue in the piece dyeing shops of Paterson. In 1920, Morrison was employing 60 workers. An Internet search indicates Morrison Machine was in business as late as 1977.

Statement of Significance:

The Morrison Machine Company was a significant builder of textile dyeing machinery supporting the development of one of Paterson's most important industrial sectors in the early decades of the 20th century. Its history illustrates the significant pool of skill labor that existed in Paterson carrying on the tradition of specialty machine building that began in the first half of the 19th century with textile machines and locomotives. The mill is a significant example of early 20th century mill architecture with higher than average attention to architectural detail to create a handsome and unusual façade that relies on vertically asymmetrical window patterns for aesthetic effect.

Eligibility for New Jersey and National Registers: ☒ Yes ☐ No

National Register Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Level of Significance: ☒ Local ☐ State ☐ National

Justification of Eligibility/Ineligibility:

The Morrison Machine Company building is recommended eligible under Criterion C as one of Paterson's finer examples of early 20th century industrial architecture, achieving an unusual aesthetic of the basic mill form through patterns of narrow, semi-circular and rectangular windows. It is recommended eligible under Criterion A for its association with Paterson's significant machine works industry. Morrison was an important builder of silk and textile dyeing machines.

Total Number of Attachments: 1

List of Element Names: Morrison Machine Company Mill

Narrative Boundary Description:

The property boundary is tax block 4310, lot 5 as shown on the 2006 Paterson tax map accompanying this form.

Date Form Completed: 10/1/2012

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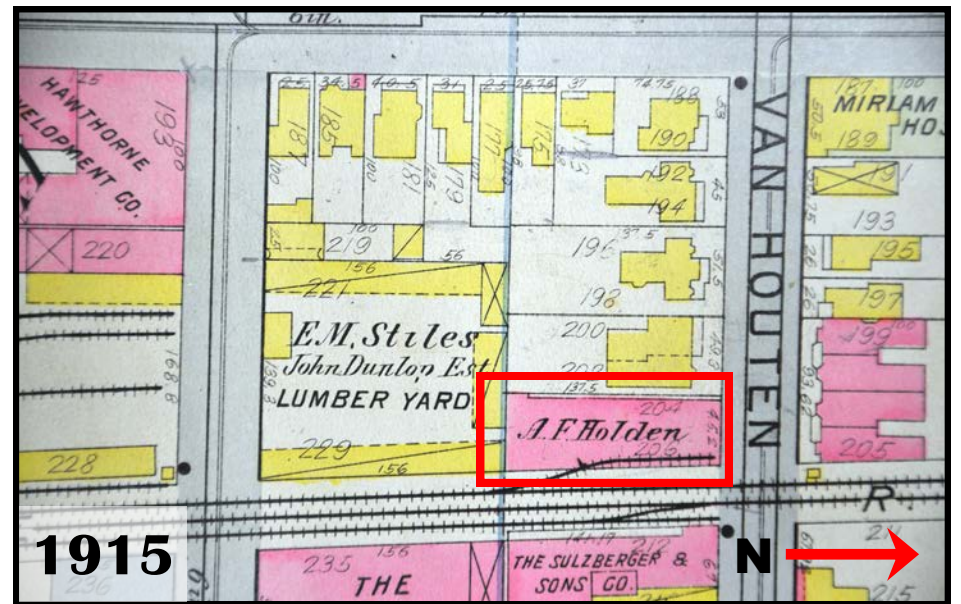
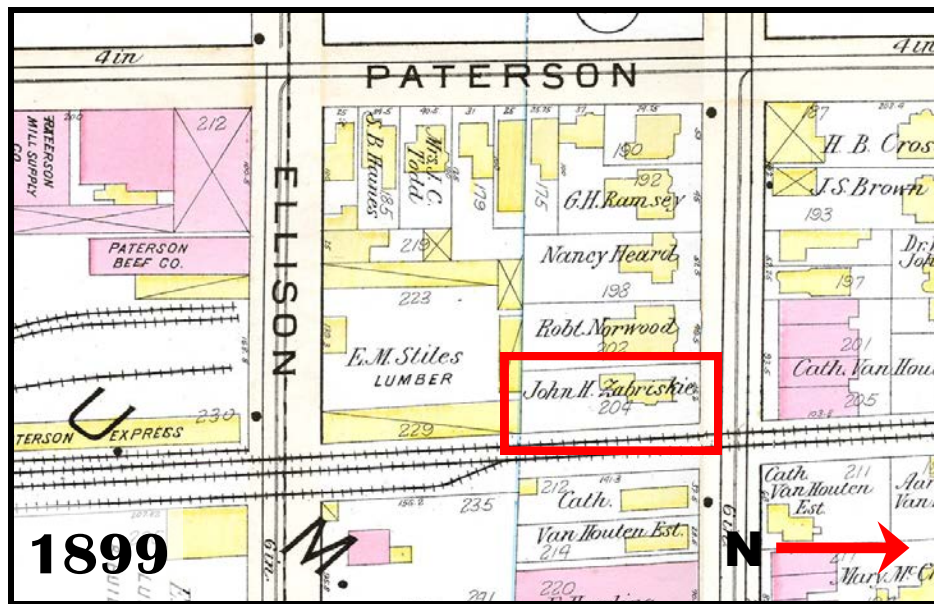
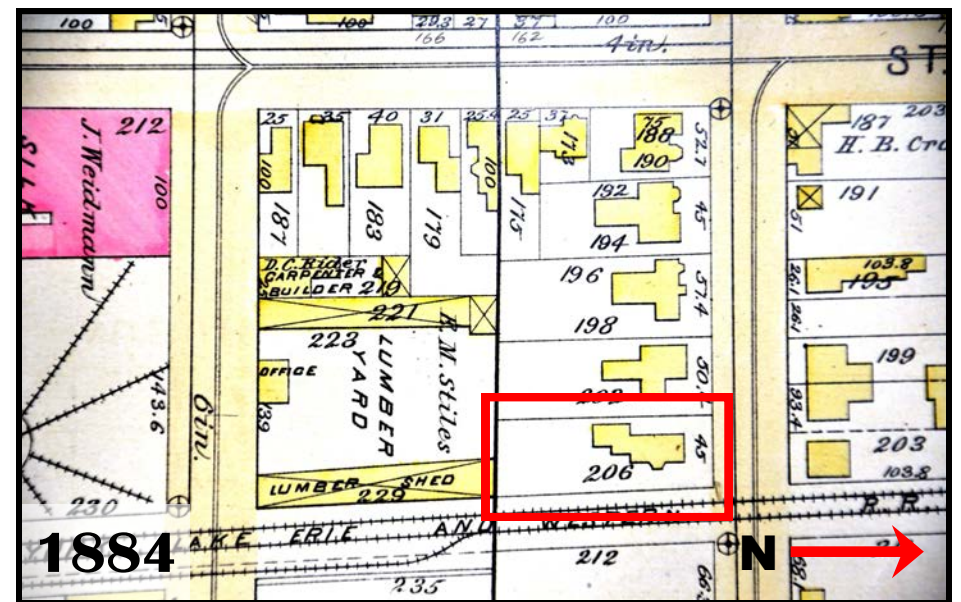
1395062447

Page 5

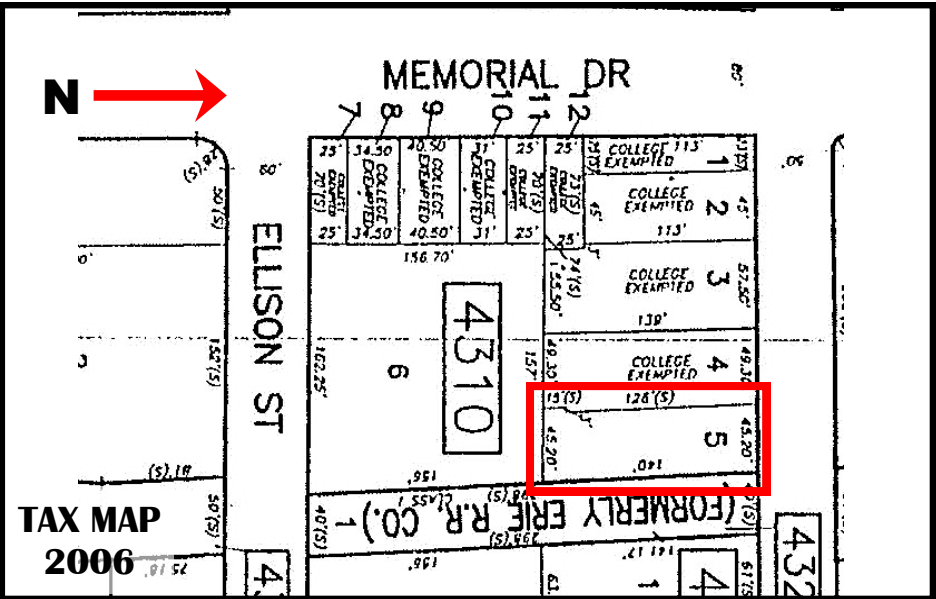
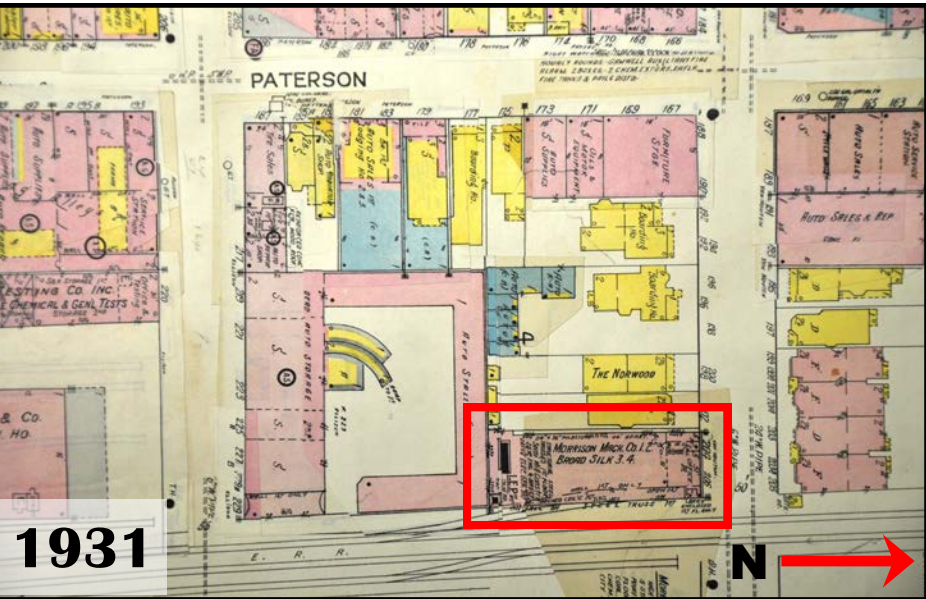
MORRISON MACHINE CO.

206 Van Houten St., Paterson, NJ B 4310 L 05

Site Development Maps 1877, 1884, 1899, 1915



MORRISON MACHINE CO.
206 Van Houten St., Paterson, NJ B 4310 L 05
Site Development Maps, 1931, 2006, 2010



MORRISON MACHINE CO.
206 Van Houten St., Paterson, NJ B 4310 L 05
Photographs, historic / contemporary



MORRISON 1: Overview of west elevation, looking east from adjacent parking lot.



MORRISON 2: oblique overview of west and south elevations, looking northeast from adjacent parking lot.



MORRISON 3: overview of the visible portion of the east elevation from the ground level, looking over the buildings and rail trestle from this point of view.



MORRISON 4: detail of east and north elevations, looking west from adjacent parking lot. Note the rail trestle in foreground.

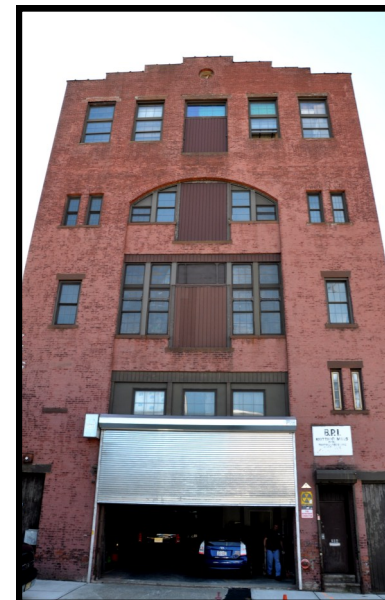
MORRISON MACHINE CO.

206 Van Houten St., Paterson, NJ B 4310 L 05

Photographs, historic / contemporary



MORRISON 5: detail view of north elevation, looking south from adjacent parking lot. The architectural design of this façade is unique in Paterson.



MORRISON 6: overview of north elevation, looking south from adjacent parking lot across Van Houten St.



MORRISON 7: detail view of south elevation, looking north from adjacent parking lot.



MORRISON 8: overview of south elevation, looking north from adjacent parking lot.