

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: 1717963010

Property Name: Susquehanna Silk Dyeing Company (De Gise Silk Dyeing)
Address: 196-202 E 16th ST

Ownership:
Apartment #: **ZIP:**

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
PASSAIC	Paterson		Paterson	2810	6

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number:

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number:

Description:

The Susquehanna Silk and Dyeing Company is a 1- and 2-story, stuccoed brick dye house that was established circa 1910 with one brick building and expanded into its current footprint and massing by the end of the 1920s. Perhaps the most interesting features of the works are its two brick smokestacks, one attached to a freestanding corrugated-metal steam plant, located on the north side of 7th Avenue.

Setting:

The dye works is located on an L-shaped lot occupying the northern half of the block bounded by East 16th Street on the east, 7th Avenue on the north, and East 15th Street on the west. An associated steam plant is located across the street at the northeast corner of 7th Avenue and East 15th Street. The former New Standard Aircraft Company factory, another surveyed property, occupies the southern half of the block. The urban setting is mixed-use with the adjacent blocks primarily early 20th century residential in character. The rail line of the New York, Susquehanna & Western RR is located two blocks to the west.

Survey Name: Intensive-Level Survey of Paterson Industrial Mills

Principal Investigator: Patrick Harshbarger

Organization: Hunter Research, Inc.

☐ (Primary Contact)

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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:

☒ 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)
Heusser, Albert H.	A History of the Silk Dyeing Industry in the United States	1927	
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	1931	
Sanborn Map Company	Insurance Maps of Paterson, New Jersey	1915	

Additional Information:

More Research Needed? ☒ (checked=Yes)

INTENSIVE-LEVEL USE ONLY:

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Attachments Included:

0	Building	0	Bridge
0	Structure	0	Landscape
0	Object	2	Industry

Historic District ? ☐

District Name: not applicable

Status:

Associated Archeological Site/Deposits? ☒

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

Potential industrial archaeology (interior and mill yard)

Conversion Problem? ☐ ConversionNote: Null

Date form completed: 9/26/2012

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INDUSTRIAL BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: 196-202 East 16th Street

Historic Name: Dye House - Susquehanna Silk and Dyeing Company

Present Use: Industrial, light industrial

Historic Industry: Textiles

ConstructionDate: 1910

Source:

**Construction
Start Date:** 1910

**Construction
End Date:** 1930

Building ID:

Style:

☐ Vernacular?

Exterior Finish Materials: Stucco

Physical Condition: Good

Foundation Materials:

Remaining Historic Fabric: Medium

Roof Finish Materials:

Length: 200

Stories: 2

Structural System:

Width: 225

Bays: 14

Roof System:

Equipment/Machinery:

Transportation Links: ☐ airstrip
(checked if applicable) ☐ dock

☐ loading dock
☐ rail siding

☐ slip
☐ other

Exterior Description:

The dye house is a 2-story, stuccoed brick complex with a 200 ft. x 225 ft. ell-shaped plan. The façade, which faces north on 7th Avenue, has four phases of construction; east to west these are 1). a 7-bay, 2-story, side-gabled section, built ca. 1920 with the bays articulated by pilasters. The façade has only one non-original metal door and two small single-pane windows at the second story, evidence of original fenestration being covered by stucco; 2). a 2-bay, 2-story section with stepped parapet, built ca. 1910 and the dye house's office, also with modern metal doors and small single-pane windows; 3). a 2-bay, 2-story, monitor-roofed section with a modern metal cornice with non-original roiling metal garage door and 4). a 3-bay, 2-story, monitor-roofed section, built ca. 1920 with the bays articulated by pilasters and 2 small non-original windows. The dye house's western elevation on East 15th Street is 2 stories with a large loading bay adjacent to a 1-story addition that was built as a warehouse in the 1920s. A 100-ft. tall, yellow-brick smokestack, historically associated with the dye house's steam plant, is located near the center of the dye house complex. The smoke stack has the name "BRYANT" painted on it but underneath the paint the name "DE GISE" is spelled out in a darker colored brick.

Interior Description:

The interior was not available for inspection. According to the 1931 Sanborn map, the building housed dyeing operations and a warehouse

Alteration Dates:

Alteration(s):	Circa Date:	Date Range:	Source:
Physical alteration		1950 to 2000	Stucco and window modifications

Architect/Designer:

Date form completed: 10/1/2012

Survey Name: Intensive-Level Survey of Paterson Industrial Mills

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**Principal
Investigator:** Patrick Harshbarger

☐ (Primary Contact)

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Organization: Hunter Research, Inc.

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: 196-202 East 16th Street

Historic Name: Steam Plant - Susquehanna Silk and Dyeing Company (De Gise Dyeing Co.)

Present Use: Industrial, light industrial

Historic Industry: Textiles

Construction Date: 1940

Source:

**Construction
Start Date:**

**Construction
End Date:**

Building ID:

Style:

☐ Vernacular?

Exterior Finish Materials: Metal, Steel--Corrugated

Physical Condition: Fair

Foundation Materials:

Remaining Historic Fabric: High

Roof Finish Materials:

Length: 60

Stories: 2

Structural System:

Width: 95

Bays: 4

Roof System:

Equipment/Machinery:

Transportation Links: ☐ airstrip
(checked if applicable) ☐ dock

☐ loading dock
☐ rail siding

☐ slip
☐ other

Exterior Description:

The steam plant, built ca. 1940, is a 2-story, 4-bay, corrugated-metal clad, monitor-roofed building with a 1-story shed roof addition of off its west gable end. Windows throughout are multi-light steel sash with horizontal pivot casements. The redbrick smoke stack, approximately 100 ft. tall, has the company name "BRYANT" painted on it.

Interior Description:

The interior was not available for inspection. It is currently being used as an automobile repair shop.

Alteration Dates:

Architect/Designer:

Date form completed: 10/1/2012

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ELIGIBILITY WORKSHEET - Properties

Property ID **1717963010**

History:

The silk dye works at East 16th Street and 7th Avenue was established ca. 1910 on a previously undeveloped tract by dyer Joseph De Gise. The works carried on a general business in dyeing skeins, piece goods and ribbons. Mueller's 1915 map of Paterson indicates that the original works was a brick building located just east of the 7th Avenue and East 15th Street intersection, and that this section of the dye house, which survives, is the oldest part of the works. Prior to 1927, the De Gise Dye Works was purchased by the Susquehanna Silk Mills of Sunbury, Pa., probably to dye the skeins produced at its throwing mills in Sunbury. Mr. De Gise was retained as the superintendent of the renamed Susquehanna Silk & Dyeing Company. During the 1920s, the works was greatly expanded with a 2-story dye house and steam plant added to the east of the original dye house. The original ca. 1910 dye house was also expanded to the west. By 1931, the works occupied the entire south side of 7th Avenue between East 15th and 16th Streets, but the Sanborn map published that year notes that the plant was not in operation, suggesting it had fallen on the hard economic times of the Great Depression. The plant, however, appears to have recovered, and may have been resurrected by Mr. De Gise since by 1950 it was operating as the De Gise Finishing Company and Susquehanna's involvement appears to have terminated. A second steam plant was added across 7th Avenue at the corner of East 15th Street, probably in the 1940s, but no later than 1953. Why the mid-sized dye house would have required a second steam plant is not exactly clear but it is a distinctive, character-defining feature of the works. It is presumed that a company with the name of Bryant took over the De Gise works after 1950 by evidence of the name painted on the smokestacks, but reference to a Bryant company was not found in the sources used for this study or through a general Internet search. The works are currently occupied by Pumping Solutions, a New York-area based company that services and installs pumps in commercial and industrial real estate. Pumping Solutions was established in 1996.

Statement of Significance:

The Susquehanna Silk and Dyeing Company works is a significant representative example of mid-sized dye house architecture and steam plant layout as it developed during the first third of the 20th century. Its location within a predominantly early 20th century residential setting and location away from the Passaic River corridor, the historic center of Paterson's silk dyeing industry, illustrates how the silk dyeing industry grew to become interwoven with the city's urban fabric. The improvement of municipal water and sewer systems allowed the dyers to occupy sites away from the river that in the prior century would not have been suitable due to the problems of acquiring water and disposing of dye waste. Silk dyeing historian Albert H. Heusser noted in 1927 that Paterson "being far in the lead of any competitive silk center, ... naturally witnesses from year to year new and transient comings and goings in the field of silk dyeing" (p. 357). Some individual dyers, such as Joseph De Gise, were, however, able to persist over relatively long periods of time in this economically competitive environment, even after many of the silk weaving mills had closed in the 1930s.

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 Susquehanna Silk Dyeing Company is recommended eligible under Criterion C as an important representative example of an early 20th century dye works complete with smokestacks and two steam plants.

Total Number of Attachments: 2

List of Element Names: Dye House
Steam Plant

Narrative Boundary Description:

The property boundary is block 2810, lot 6, as shown on the 2006 Paterson tax map accompanying this form.

Date Form Completed: 10/1/2012

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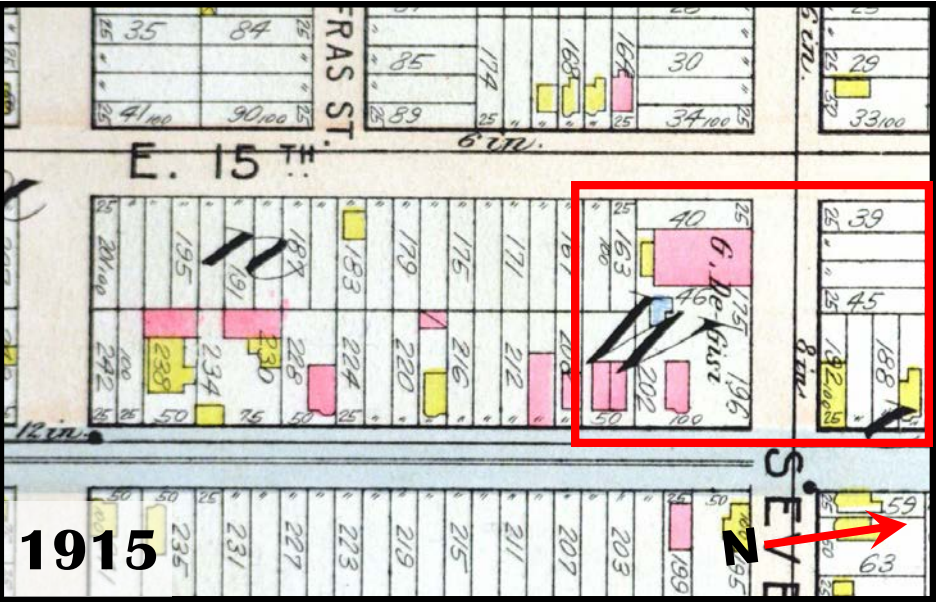
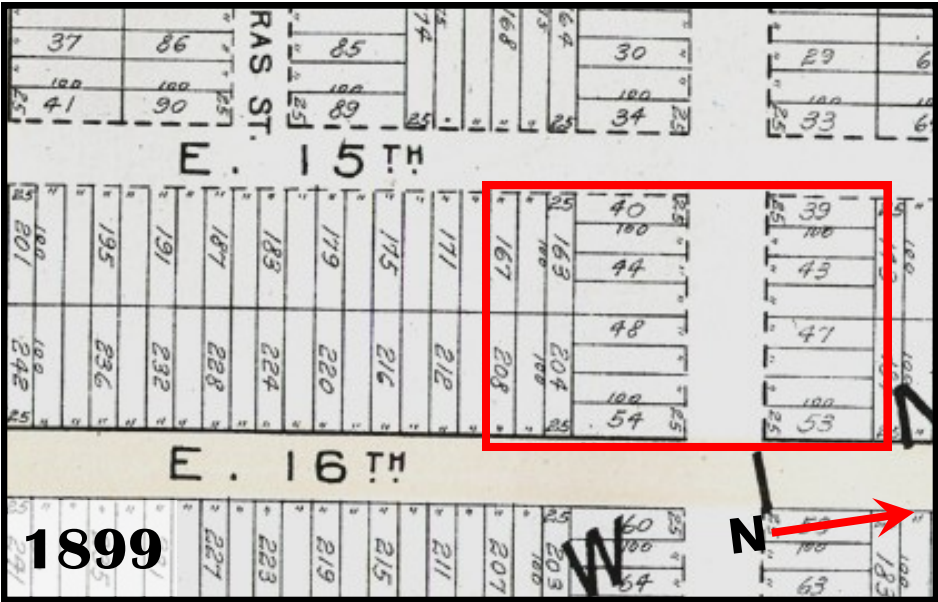
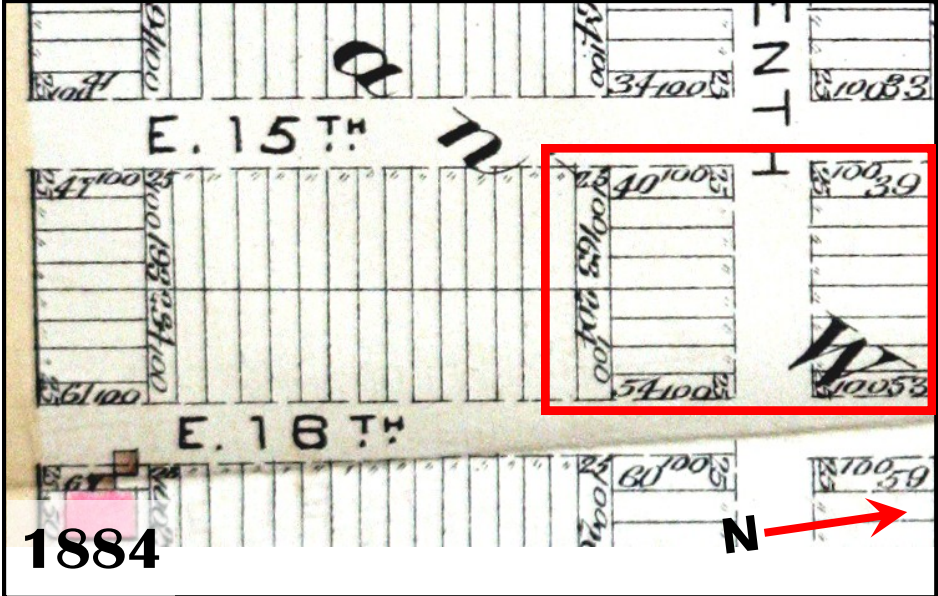
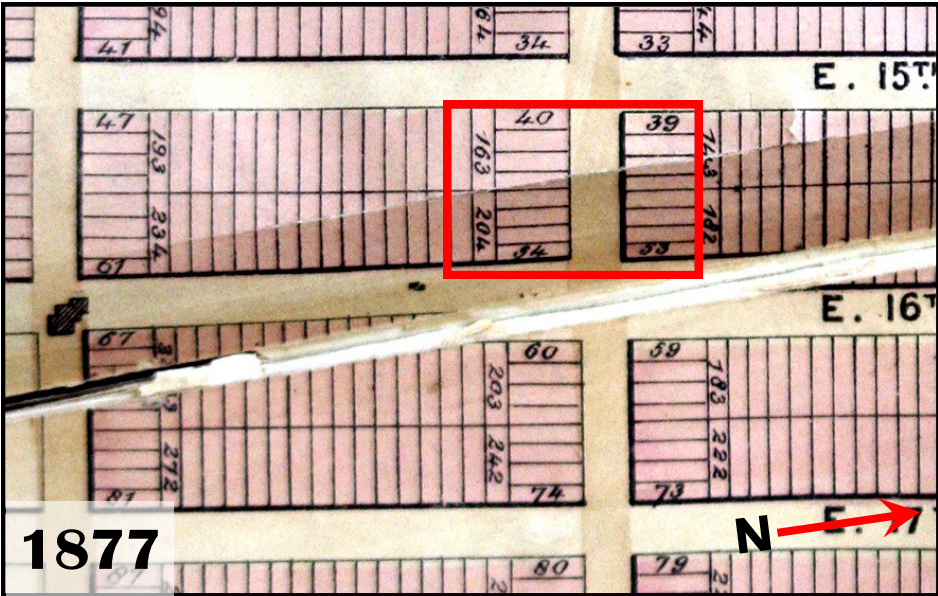
Property ID:

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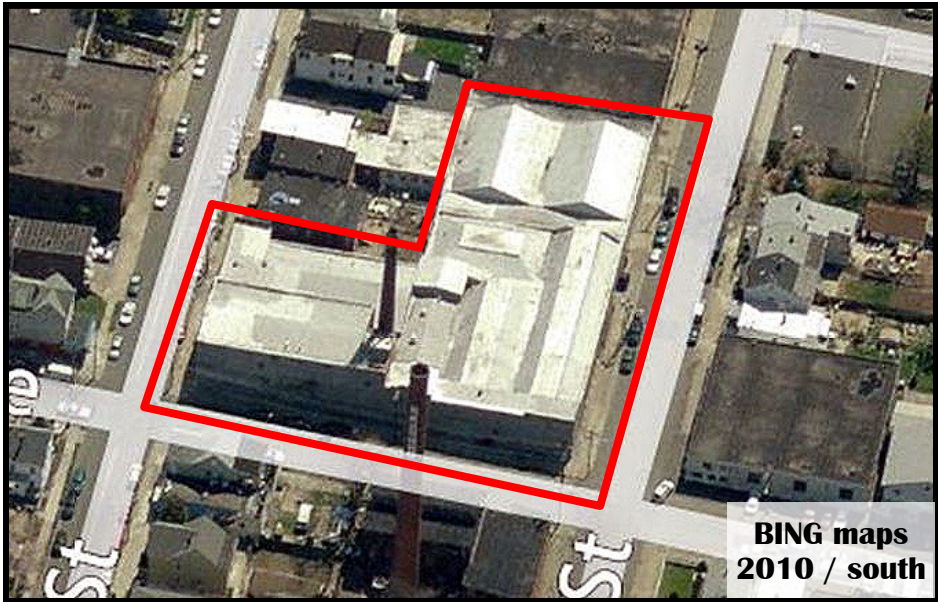
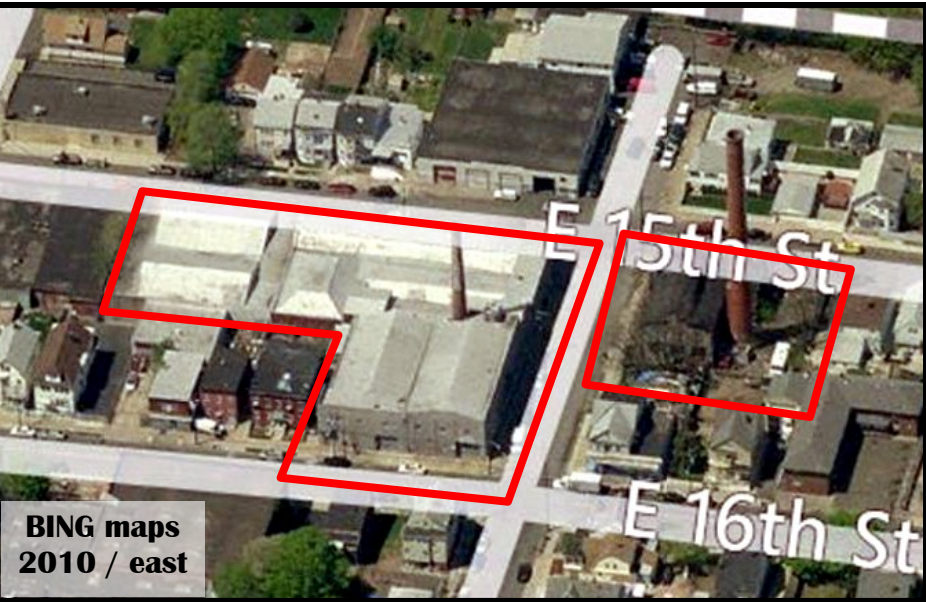
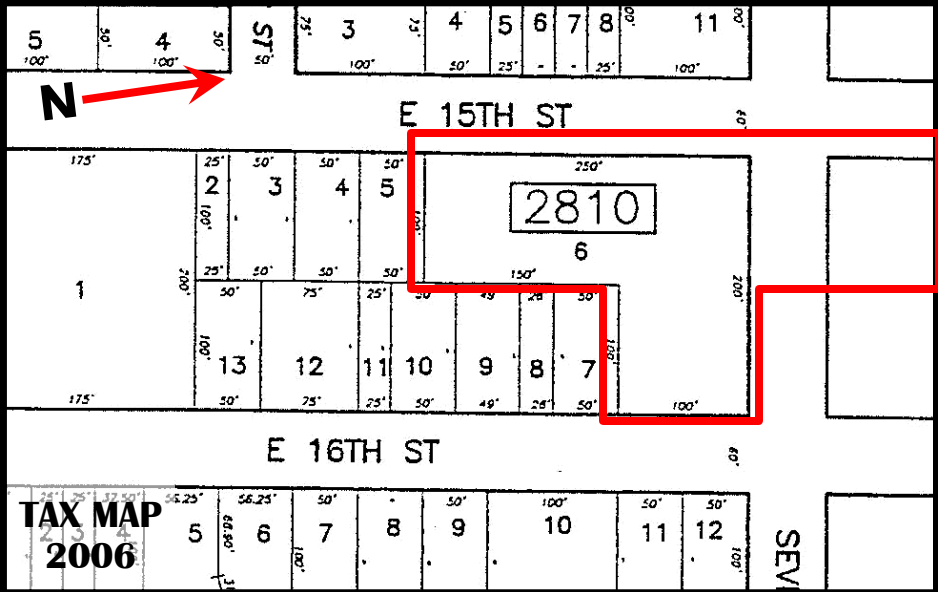
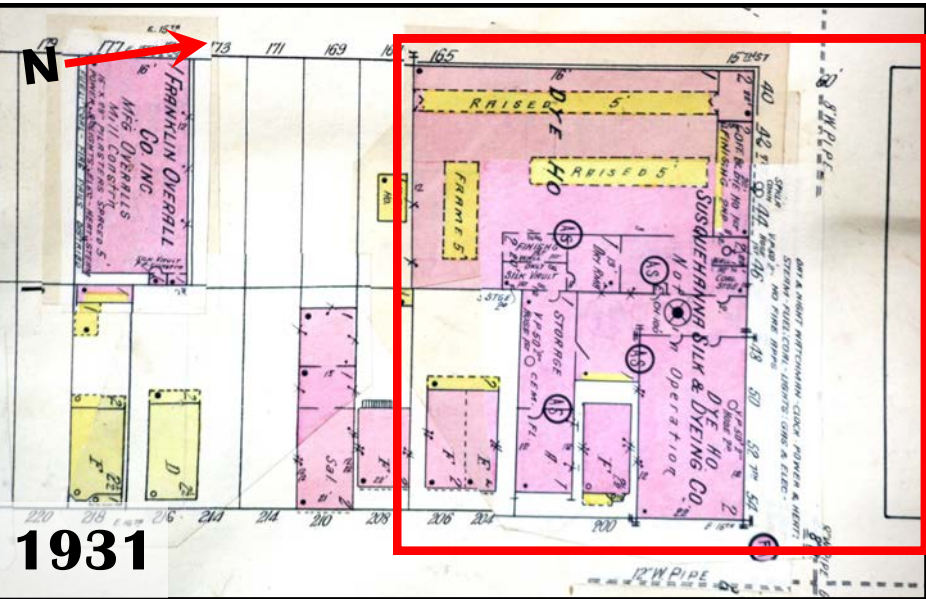
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SUSQUEHANNA SILK & DYEING CO.
196-202 East 16th St., Paterson, NJ B 2810 L 06
Site Development Maps 1877, 1884, 1899, 1915



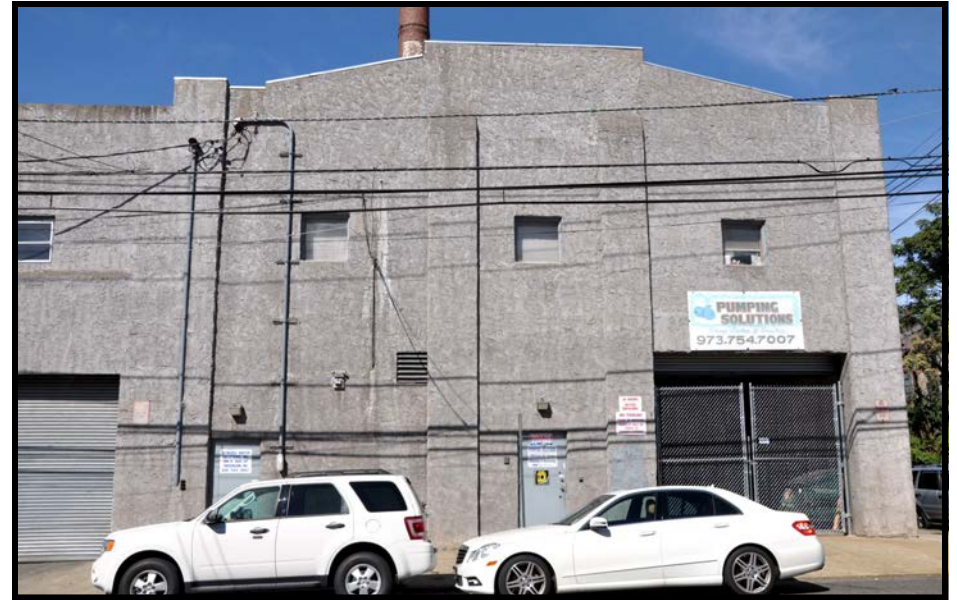
SUSQUEHANNA SILK & DYEING CO.
196-202 East 16th St., Paterson, NJ B 2810 L 06
Site Development Maps, 1931, 2006, 2010



SUSQUEHANNA SILK & DYEING CO.
196-202 East 16th St., Paterson, NJ B 2810 L 06
Photographs, historic / contemporary



SUSQUEHANNA 1: Oblique overview of complex looking southwest from corner of 16th St. and 7th Ave.



SUSQUEHANNA 2: View of east elevation of Dye House running the 7th Ave. block between 15-16th St., looking from across 16th St.



SUSQUEHANNA 3: View of east elevation of service building adjacent to Dye House, looking southwest from across 16th St..



SUSQUEHANNA 4: oblique overview of north elevation of Dye House running the 7th Ave. block between 15-16th St., looking from across corner of 16th St. and 7th Ave.

SUSQUEHANNA SILK & DYEING CO.
196-202 East 16th St., Paterson, NJ B 2810 L 06
Photographs, historic / contemporary



SUSQUEHANNA 5: oblique overview of north elevation of Dye Houses running the 7th Ave. block between 15-16th St., looking from across corner of 15th St. and 7th.



SUSQUEHANNA 6: oblique overview of west elevation of Dye House running the along 15th St., looking southeast from across corner of 15th St. and 7th.



SUSQUEHANNA 7: Oblique overview looking northeast showing the Boiler House / Steam Plant likely added to the Susquehanna operation during a plant expansion in the 1940s.



SUSQUEHANNA 8: Detail showing full height of the Susquehanna smokestack, looking southeast from 7th Ave.

SUSQUEHANNA SILK & DYEING CO.
196-202 East 16th St., Paterson, NJ B 2810 L 06
Photographs, historic / contemporary



SUSQUEHANNA 9: overview looking north from across 7th Ave. showing the Boiler House / Steam Plant's south side.



SUSQUEHANNA 10: overview looking east from across 15th St. showing the Boiler House / Steam Plant's west side.



SUSQUEHANNA 11: view looking northwest from across 7th Ave. showing the Boiler House / Steam Plant's south side.



SUSQUEHANNA 12: Detail showing full height of the Steam Plant smokestack, looking north from 7th Ave.