

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: 1543599841

Property Name: Pierre Thonnerieux Silk Dyeing
Address: 7-37 6th AVE

Ownership: Private
Apartment #: ZIP: 07524

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
PASSAIC	Paterson		Paterson	1902	7

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number:

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number:

Description:

The Pierre Thonnerieux Silk Dyeing works is a large complex of interconnected brick buildings, ranging in height from 1 to 4 stories, and built up over about 30 years, mostly after the works was taken over by the Royal Piece Dyeing Company in 1912-13. The principal street-facing façade is along the north side of 6th Avenue east of the bridge over the Passaic River. From west to east, this façade consists of (1) a ca. 1912 4-story, 8-bay, flat-roofed brick dye house; (2) a ca. 1920 1-story, 11-bay, brick dye house; (3) and a ca. 1912, 2-story, 17-bay shipping and packing building with a modern 3rd story addition.

Setting:

The dye works is located on a 2.22 acre lot bounded on the south by 6th Avenue, to the west by the Passaic river, to the north by an alleyway known as Branch Street. To the east is surface parking on the site of what was historically the Lamond & Robertson dye works. The setting in Paterson's Bunker Hill neighborhood is industrial with the former Auger & Simon dye works located in the lot immediately downstream of this one. The setting is a mix of industrial buildings and warehouses dating from the 1890s to the present.

Survey Name: Intensive-Level Survey of Paterson Industrial Mills

Principal Investigator: Patrick Harshbarger

Organization: Hunter Research, Inc.

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☐ (Primary Contact)

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)
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	1950	
Heusser, Albert H.	History of the Silk Dyeing Industry in the United States	1927	
Trumble, L. R.	A History of Industrial Paterson	1882	

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	3	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)

Conversion Problem? ☐ ConversionNote: 20

Date form completed: 9/7/2012

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INDUSTRIAL BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: 7-37 6th Avenue

Historic Name: Pierre Thonnerieux Dye Works - West Dye House

Present Use: Industrial, light industrial

Historic Industry: Textiles

Construction Date: 1912 **Source:** Heusser (1927)

**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: Built-up Tar

Length: 80 **Stories:** 4

Structural System:

Width: 100 **Bays:** 8

Roof System:

Equipment/Machinery:

Transportation Links: ☐ airstrip

☐ loading dock

☐ slip

(checked if applicable)

☐ dock

☐ rail siding

☐ other

Exterior Description:

The west dye house, built ca. 1912, is a 4-story, 8-bay, flat-roof industrial building with a polygonal shaped plan and a southern facing façade on 6th Avenue. Its flared western elevation conforms to the lot lines and is built against the Passaic River, an important consideration in dye house design since most dyers historically dumped their waste directly into the river. The building has a brick parapet with mass-produced curved tile coping. Windows have stone sills and segmentally arched lintels. All window frames are either modern 1/1 sash replacement or they have been infilled with brick, concrete block or glass block. Between 1915 and 1930, the 4-story dye house was extended to the north and east to form an ell-plan that wraps around the 1-story center dye house.

Interior Description:

The interior was not available for inspection. According to the 1931 Sanborn map, the building housed a dyeing on the first floor, preparing on the 2nd floor, and drying on the 3rd floor.

Alteration Dates:

Alteration(s):

Circa Date:

Date Range:

Source:

Physical alteration

1915 to 1950

Rear additions and window alterations

Architect/Designer:

Date form completed:

9/28/2012

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Investigator:** Patrick Harshbarger

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INDUSTRIAL BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: 7-37 6th Avenue

Historic Name: Pierre Thonnerieux Dye Works - Center Dye House

Present Use: Industrial, light industrial

Historic Industry: Textiles

Construction Date: 1920 **Source:** Heusser (1927)

**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: Built-up Tar

Length: 120 **Stories:** 1

Structural System:

Width: 100 **Bays:** 8

Roof System:

Equipment/Machinery:

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

☐ loading dock
☐ rail siding

☐ slip
☐ other

Exterior Description:

The center dye house, built ca. 1920, is a 1-story, 11-bay, flat roof industrial building with an approximately 100 ft. by 120 ft. plan. The dye house has a parapet with tile coping, corbelled brick cornice, and pilasters articulated by full-height segmental arch windows. The windows have been infilled with concrete block.

Interior Description:

The interior was not available for inspection.

Alteration Dates:

Alteration(s): Physical alteration **Circa Date:** 1970 **Date Range:** to **Source:** Window modification.

Architect/Designer:

Type: **Name:** **Person/Firm Description:**

Date form completed: 9/28/2012

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INDUSTRIAL BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: 7-37 6th Avenue

Historic Name: Pierre Thonnerieux Dye Works - Shipping and Packing Building

Present Use: Industrial, light industrial

Historic Industry: Textiles

ConstructionDate: 1912 **Source:** Heusser (1927)

**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: Built-up Tar

Length: 140

Stories: 3

Structural System:

Width: 90

Bays: 17

Roof System:

Equipment/Machinery:

Transportation Links: ☐ airstrip

☐ loading dock

☐ slip

(checked if applicable)

☐ dock

☐ rail siding

☐ other

Exterior Description:

The 3-story, 17-bay, 140-ft. long, brick building was built ca. 1912 as a 2-story building with stepped parapet. It was extended to the east in the 1920s, and a concrete-block 3rd story was added in the mid- to late 20th-century. The original bays had windows with segmental arch lintels and the addition had flat lintels, but all windows have now been infilled with brick or concrete block.

Interior Description:

The interior was not inspected. According to the 1931 Sanborn map, this building houses packing and shipping operations.

Alteration Dates:

Alteration(s):

Circa Date:

Date Range:

Source:

Physical alteration

1920 to 1970

Window modifications. Addition.

Architect/Designer:

Date form completed:

9/28/2012

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ELIGIBILITY WORKSHEET - Properties

Property ID **1543599841**

History:

A small wood-frame dye works was established on this site in 1890 by Pierre Thonnerieux, a notable Paterson dyer, but almost all of the architectural fabric visible today dates to after his works was taken over by the Royal Piece Dyeing Company in the early 1910s. The original works was subsumed in the expansion of the 1910s and 1920s.

Thonnerieux, a highly skilled dyer, emigrated from France in 1873 and worked for another of Paterson's early dyers, Claude Greppo. After leaving Paterson for several years to work in Connecticut and return to France, he returned to Paterson and leased space in the Colt Gun Mill for a short time. He was among the first dyers to move to the Riverside section of the city, largely undeveloped, setting up a small dye house on the banks of the Passaic near the Erie Railroad bridge, on a site that would later be occupied by Jacob Weidmann. About 1890, he moved upstream to the location of current interest on 6th Avenue, building a small wood-frame dyehouse, which by maps of the period was located 50 ft. or so north of the avenue. According to Heusser, "here he carried on a moderate but satisfying business until failing health impelled him to relinquish active endeavors" (p. 229).

About 1909, following the death of Pierre Thonnerieux, the dye works was briefly owned by Ernest Cadgene, a French dyer, who sold the works in 1912-13 to the Royal Piece Dyeing Company. Dr. William Wirbelauer, president of Royal, was a German-trained chemist who had immigrated about 1905 and gained experience working in one of the Paterson mills that was soon taken over by the National Dyeing Company conglomerate in 1909. Royal under Wirbelauer's leadership greatly improved the old Thonnerieux Works making a specialty of high quality silk goods. By 1927, the plant had a capacity of over 100,00 yards per day. During the late 1920s, Royal expanded its capacity and built a silk treatment plant and weighting department on the south side of 6th Avenue. The post-1930 history of Royal was not researched, but the plant remains active and is currently occupied by Daicolor-Pope, a firm specializing in the production of pigments and dyes.

Statement of Significance:

The history of the Pierre Thonnerieux Dye Works follows a pattern in Paterson's silk industry of small proprietorships pioneering the development of outer edges of the city. These small establishments often grew into large successful firms based on conditions such as proximity to a source of water suitable for dyeing as well as the talents of skilled immigrants attracted to Paterson because of economic opportunity and ethnic connections. This was particularly true of the silk dyeing industry that relied heavily in the training and skills of French and German dyers and chemists. A characteristic of this industry was that its leading technical specialists were able to control its finances and business structure well into the first quarter of the 20th century. The architecture of the works is utilitarian with no special distinguishing features but it retains the scale and massing that it achieved by the 1920s. Within the Paterson context, it is an example of dye house construction and design that grew in phases to accommodate new specialties and expanded production.

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 Pierre Thonnerieux Silk Dyeing works is recommended eligible under Criterion A for its association with the development of Paterson's silk dyeing industry, illustrating a pattern of how family dye works were drawn into larger national companies and international conglomerates and expanded. This was a prominent works from the 1900s to 1930s, located in the dyeing dominated Bunker Hill neighborhood.

Total Number of Attachments: 3

List of Element Names: West Dye House
Central Dye House
Shipping and Packing House

Narrative Boundary Description:

The property boundary is block 1902, lot 07 as shown on the 2006 Paterson tax map accompanying this report.

Date Form Completed: 9/28/2012

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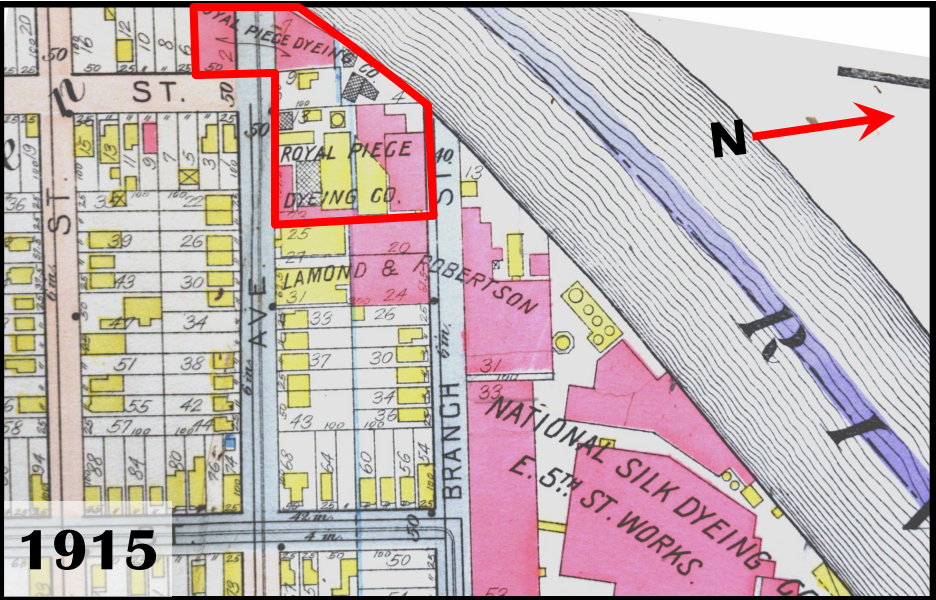
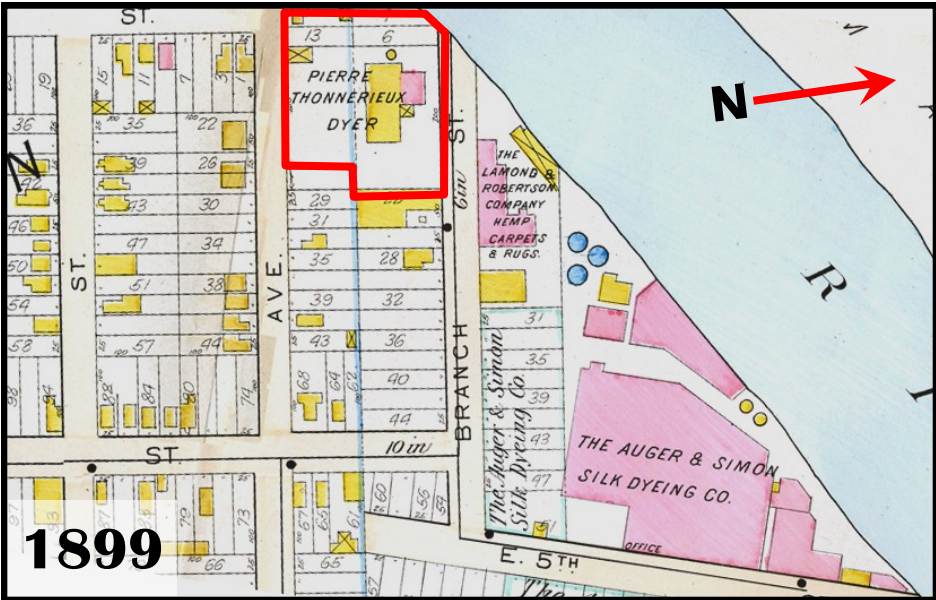
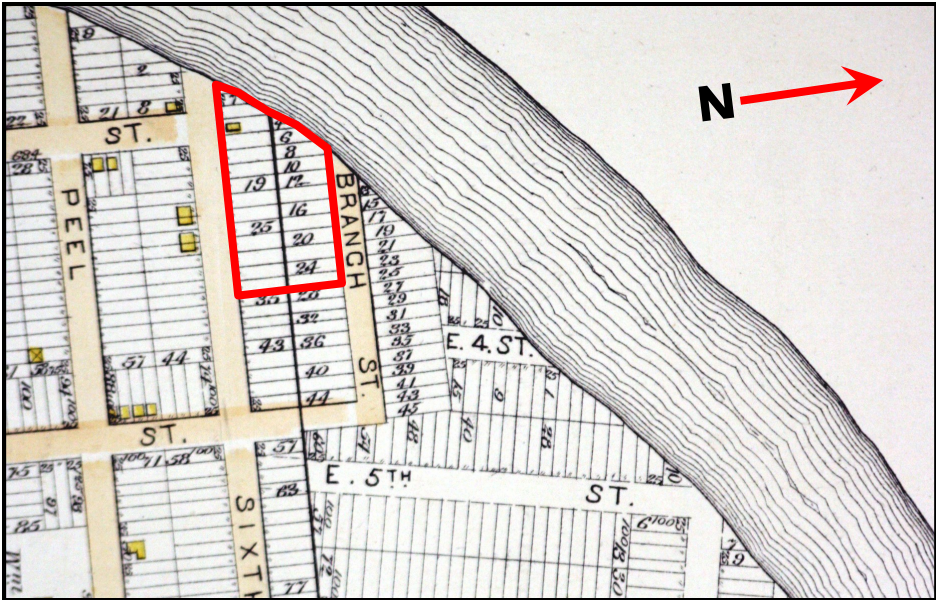
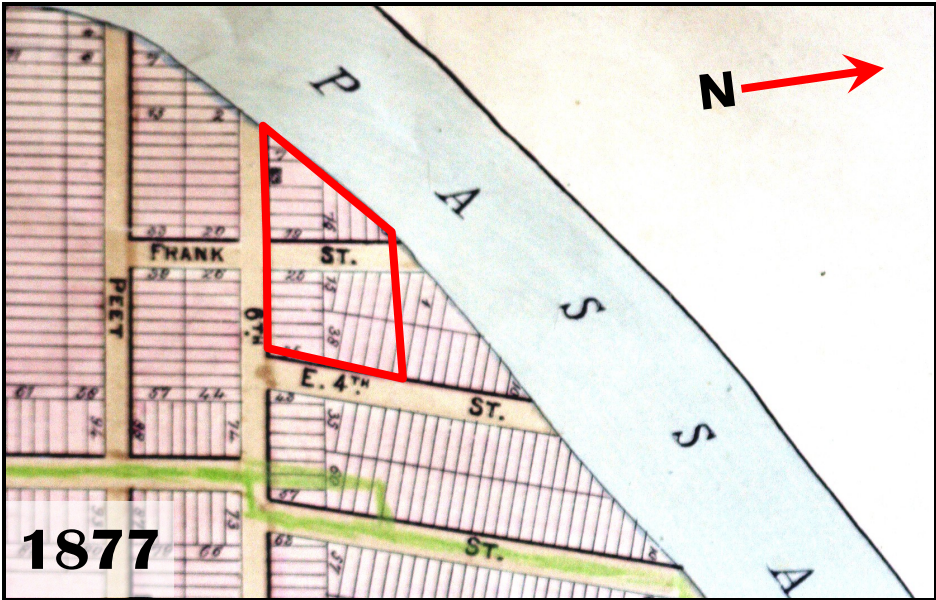
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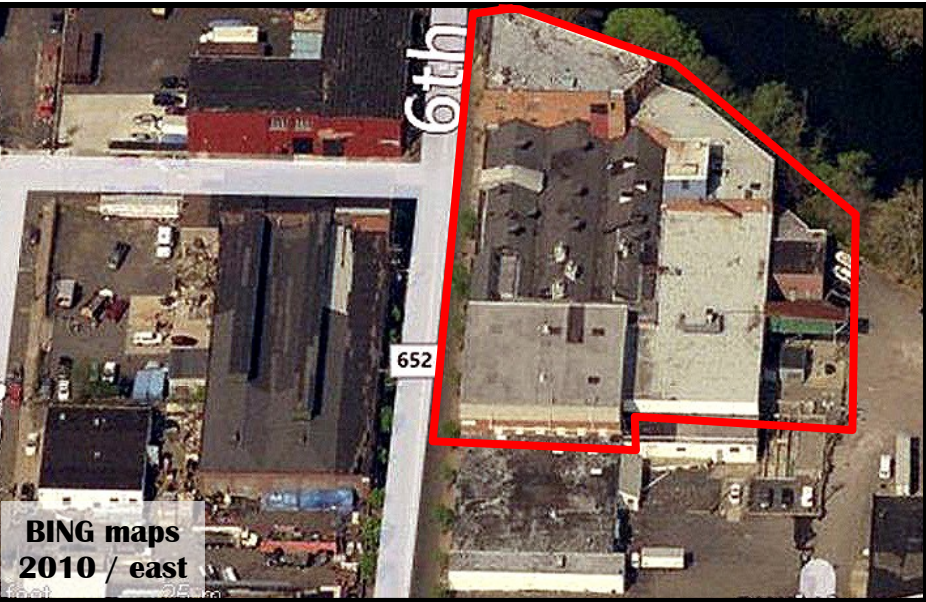
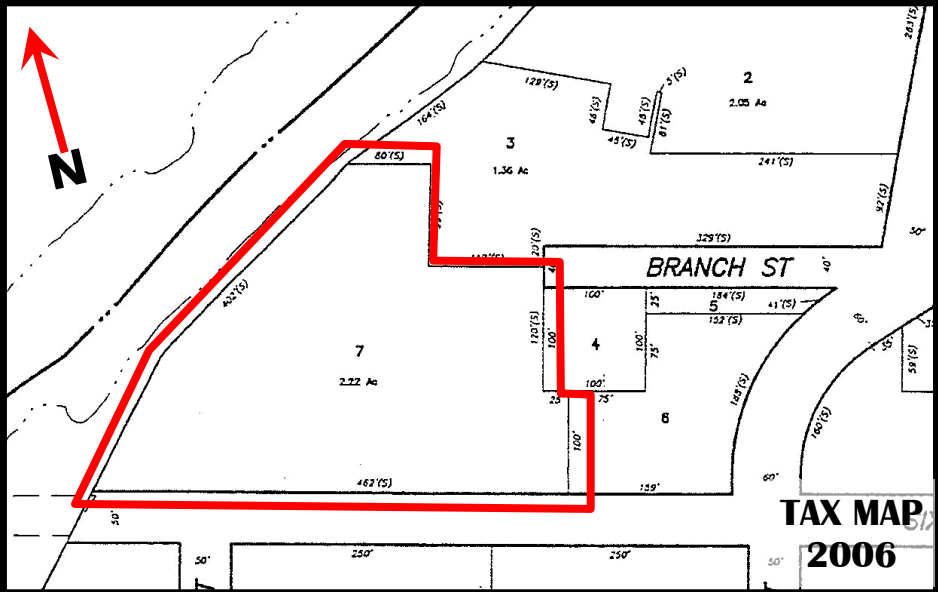
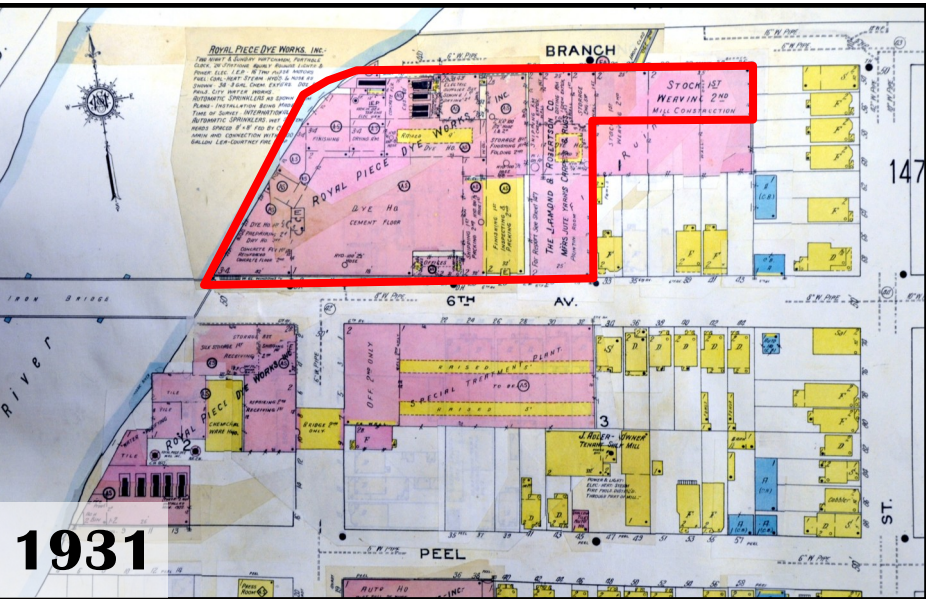
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PIERRE THONNERIEUX / ROYAL PIECE DYE WORKS
7-37 Sixth Ave., Paterson, NJ B 1902 L 07
Site Development Maps 1877, 1884, 1899, 1915



PIERRE THONNERIEUX / ROYAL PIECE DYE WORKS
7-37 Sixth Ave., Paterson, NJ B 1902 L 07
Site Development Maps, 1931, 2006, 2010



PIERRE THONNERIEUX / ROYAL PIECE DYE WORKS
7-37 Sixth Ave., Paterson, NJ B 1902 L 07
Photographs, historic / contemporary



THONNERIEUX 1: Oblique overview looking west along 6th Ave., showing Dye House at right and preparatory building at left.



THONNERIEUX 2: View from 6th Ave. looking north showing preparatory building adjacent to the Dye House, off frame right.



THONNERIEUX 3: oblique overview of Dye Houses, looking east along 6th Ave.



THONNERIEUX 4: oblique overview of Dye House, looking east along 6th Ave, from about mid point in the complex.

PIERRE THONNERIEUX / ROYAL PIECE DYE WORKS
7-37 Sixth Ave., Paterson, NJ B 1902 L 07
Photographs, historic / contemporary



THONNERIEUX 5: Oblique overview looking west along 6th Ave., showing Dye Houses from about the mid point of the complex.



THONNERIEUX 6: view of south side of the eastern-most Dye House, looking north from 6th Ave. Note recent concrete block addition to the roof line.



THORNEAUX 7: Oblique overview of rear of the complex, looking southwest from Branch St. Note heavy structural modifications to interior structures, and the additional concrete block to the Dye House at left frame .