

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: **-1873802354**

Property Name: Auger & Simon Silk Dyeing Works
Address: 20-40 E 5th ST

Ownership: Private
Apartment #:
ZIP: 07524

Nearest cross street:
Branch Street

Second cross street:
5th Avenue

Distance to property: 0 ft **Compass Direction:** 180 degrees

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
PASSAIC	Paterson	Bunker Hill	Paterson	1902	1
PASSAIC	Paterson	Bunker Hill	Paterson	1902	2
PASSAIC	Paterson	Bunker Hill	Paterson	1902	3

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number:

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number:

Description:

The Auger & Simon Silk Dyeing Works is a complex of vernacular industrial buildings that evolved from 1890 to 1915 to house one of Paterson's best known silk dyers and finishers. The works presents itself as having two historical massings: 1). an approximately 350-ft. long, 2-story, white-stuccoed brick dye house complex facing on 5th Street; 2). a 200-ft. long, 1-story brick dye house with clerestory roof at the corner of Branch and 5th Street. Although historically separated by an alleyway, the buildings are now connected by mid-20th-century in-fill and all have later additions and alterations. Historically, there was also a steam plant and a color room located to the rear of the complex adjacent to the Passaic River. These buildings have been razed and replaced by surface parking and an area for semi-trucks to access loading docks to the rear of the complex.

Survey Name: Intensive-Level Survey of Paterson Industrial Mills

Principal Investigator: Patrick Harshbarger

Organization: Hunter Research, Inc.

Property ID:

-1873802354

☐ (Primary Contact)

Setting:

The dye works is located in Paterson's Bunker Hill neighborhood on an approximately 4-acre, triangular shaped block bounded on the east by 5th Street, on the south by Branch Street, and on the north by the Passaic River. The setting is industrial; the Weidmann Dye Work is located immediately downstream (to the northeast) and the Pierre Thorneaux Dye Works is located upstream (to the southwest). There are a mix of warehouse and industrial buildings to the east, mostly dating to the mid- to late-20th-century.

**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	
Shriner, Charles A.	Paterson, New Jersey. Its Advantages for Manufacturing, etc.	1890	
The Paterson Daily and Weekly Guardian	City of Paterson, N.J., Illustrations and Sketches, etc.	1898	
Heusser, Albert H.	The History of the Silk Dyeing Industry in the United States	1927	
Sanborn Map Company	Insurance Maps of Paterson, New Jersey	1899	

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Additional Information:**More Research Needed?** ☒ (checked=Yes)

INTENSIVE-LEVEL USE ONLY:

Attachments Included:

0 Building	0 Bridge
0 Structure	0 Landscape
0 Object	0 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 and mill yard)

Conversion Problem? ☐ **ConversionNote:** 21*Date form completed:* 9/7/2012

Survey Name: Intensive-Level Survey of Paterson Industrial Mills**Principal Investigator:** Patrick Harshbarger**Organization:** Hunter Research, Inc.**Property ID:**☐ (Primary Contact)**-1873802354**

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INDUSTRIAL BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: 20-40 East 5th Street

Historic Name: Auger & Simon Dye House

Present Use: Industrial, light industrial

Historic Industry: Textiles

Construction Date: 1887 **Source:** Heusser (1927)

**Construction
Start Date:**

**Construction
End Date:**

Building ID:

Style:

☐ Vernacular?

Exterior Finish Materials: Stucco

Physical Condition: Fair

Foundation Materials: Modern Concrete

Remaining Historic Fabric: Low

Roof Finish Materials: Rolled Asphalt

Length: 350 **Stories:** 2

Structural System:

Width: 195 **Bays:** 29

Roof System: Wood Trusses

Equipment/Machinery:

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

Exterior Description:

This industrial complex was built circa 1887 and is the remnants of the original section of the Auger & Simon dye works. Historic photographs and drawings indicate that the original configuration was that of a series of three, attached, 2-story, hip-roofed buildings with segmental-arch windows facing on 5th Street. The southern end had a cupola and a rounded corner. These buildings housed an office and finishing operations. Today, this street front has been altered by flat roofs with parapets, in-fill of windows, stuccoed brick and conversion, or perhaps even removal, of the building with the rounded corner into below street grade loading dock. According to the 1950 Sanborn map, the northern end, which is now windowless, was damaged by fire, so it may be rebuilt using just a shell of the original building.

Behind this street front is a single-story brick dye house with a 10-bay sawtooth roof. Modern aerial photographs show that some portion of the sawtooth roof survives, although the footprint of the building has been greatly expanded by modern additions and there is no indication of it from any of the elevations due to the mid-20th-century additions and in-fill. The windows in the sawtooth roof have been removed or covered in tar paper.

Interior Description:

The interior was not available to inspection. According to the 1915 Sanborn map, the front 2-story section of the building on 5th Street contained finishing and drying operations, a pump house (at the northern end for drawing water from artesian wells) and an office. The rear of the building was the dye house.

Alteration Dates:

Alteration(s):	Circa Date:	Date Range:	Source:
Physical alteration	1950	to	In-fill of windows, repair of damage from fire

Architect/Designer:

Type:	Name:	Person/Firm Description:
Other	Charles L. Auger	Silk Dyer

Survey Name: Intensive-Level Survey of Paterson Industrial Mills

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Principal Investigator: Patrick Harshbarger

☐ (Primary Contact)

-1873802354

Organization: Hunter Research, Inc.

Other

Charles Simon

Silk Dyer

Date form completed:

9/26/2012

Survey Name: Intensive-Level Survey of Paterson Industrial Mills

Principal Investigator: Patrick Harshbarger

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INDUSTRIAL BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: 33 Branch Street

Historic Name: Auger & Simon Dye House

Present Use:

Historic Industry: Textiles

Construction Date: 1905

Source: Style/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: Asbestos Shingle

Length: 380

Stories: 1

Structural System:

Width: 80

Bays: 5

Roof System: Monitor

Equipment/Machinery:

Transportation Links: ☐ airstrip

☐ loading dock

☐ slip

(checked if applicable)

☐ dock

☐ rail siding

☐ other

Exterior Description:

This industrial building, dated circa 1900 by historic maps and located at the northwest corner of Branch and 5th Streets, is a 1-story, brick dye house with monitor roof. The front facing gable, oriented to 5th Street, has five bays with segmental arched window openings and center bay door that have been in-filled with stucco. Window and door openings on the side elevations have been similarly treated. The monitor windows have been covered over with paneling. Ornamentation is minimal save for the bracketed cornice. To the rear of the dye house are two one-story brick additions with shallow gable roofs that were built between 1915 and 1930 as storehouses.

Interior Description:

The interior was not available for inspection. The original eastern end of the building is currently vacant and advertised for lease.

Alteration Dates:

Alteration(s):	Circa Date:	Date Range:	Source:
Physical alteration	1975	to	Window in-fill.

Architect/Designer:

Type:	Name:	Person/Firm Description:
Other	Charles I. Auger	Dyer
Other	Charles Simon	Dyer

Date form completed: 9/26/2012

Survey Name: Intensive-Level Survey of Paterson Industrial Mills

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**Principal
Investigator:** Patrick Harshbarger

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-1873802354

Organization: Hunter Research, Inc.

ELIGIBILITY WORKSHEET - Properties

Property ID **-1873802354**

History:

Charles I. Auger and Charles Simon from 1887 to 1909 were among the most highly regarded and successful silk dyers in Paterson. Auger, the son of Philadelphia silk manufacturer, moved to Paterson in 1884 to open a silk dye works at Clay and Huron Street. In 1886, he was joined by Charles Simon, a French immigrant and son of a dyer, who had learned the highly skilled dyer's trade in the dye houses of France, Germany and Switzerland. Simon was also Auger's brother-in-law, having married Auger's sister Mary the same year that the two formed a partnership. In the fall of 1886, Auger & Simon purchased a lot at the northwest corner of 5th and Branch Streets in the Bunker Hill section of Paterson. This previously undeveloped lot was advantageous location for a dye works because of its proximity to the Passaic River, from which the works initially drew its water. Auger & Simon officially incorporated in 1890 with Auger as President and Simon as Secretary. By the late 1890s, the Auger & Simon plant was among the largest dye works in Paterson, and Auger and Simon were becoming more heavily involved in the social and political life of the city with membership in business associations including the Hamilton Club. Auger was considered a leader and spokesman for the city's dyeing industry and played a leading role in the formation of the Paterson Silk Dyer's Association and the Silk Dyers' Association of America. Auger was credited as resisting the attempts of financiers to take over his works and others in the city as part of a conglomeration in the early 1900s, but he himself soon led in the formation of the National Silk Dyeing Company in 1908, a conglomeration that merged the operations of five of Paterson's leading dye works. Thereafter, the former Auger & Simon works was known officially as the East Fifth Street Works of the National Silk Dyeing Company. The company entered bankruptcy in the 1930s, and the East Fifth Street Works was eventually acquired by the Gralch Realty Company, which subdivided and leased the property. In 1950, three textile finishing firms, specializing in rayon, occupied parts of the plant including Paterson Textile Printers, Inc., Grant Fabrics Finishing Co. Inc., and National Textile Printers, Inc.

Statement of Significance:

The Auger & Simon Dye Works is a representative example of the larger dye works that were located along the Passaic River in Paterson downstream of the Great Falls. Its location is an important part of its significance as is its typical sprawling layout. The works is also associated with two prominent Paterson dyers, who were leaders of the industry. They were associated with the establishment of trade associations and with the formation of the National Silk Dyeing Company, which was the dominant dyeing conglomerate in Paterson from the 1910s to 1920s. The works retains elements of its original layout and footprint but the buildings themselves have greatly diminished integrity of design and materials including changes to exterior finishes, significant modifications to the roofs of the larger of the two dye houses, demolition of the color houses and steam plant, and a moderate degree of modern infill. The footprint and general form/massing of the plant is, however, retained.

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 Auger & Simon Dye Works is recommended eligible under Criterion A as important of its association with the pattern of events that led to the development and growth of the silk dyeing industry in Paterson. It was considered one of the first large Passaic River-focused dye works built on previously undeveloped property in the Bunker Hill section of the city, which became known for its dye works. The dye works is recommended eligible under Criterion B for its association with Charles I. Auger and Charles Simon, brothers-in-law, who were leading figures in the organization of the silk dyeing industry, including the formation of the National Silk Dyeing Company.

Total Number of Attachments: 2

List of Element Names: Silk Dye House, 20-40 5th Street
Silk Dye House, 33 Branch Street

Narrative Boundary Description:

The property boundary is tax block 1902, lots 1, 2 and 3, as shown on the 2006 Paterson tax map, accompanying this form.

Date Form Completed: 9/26/2012

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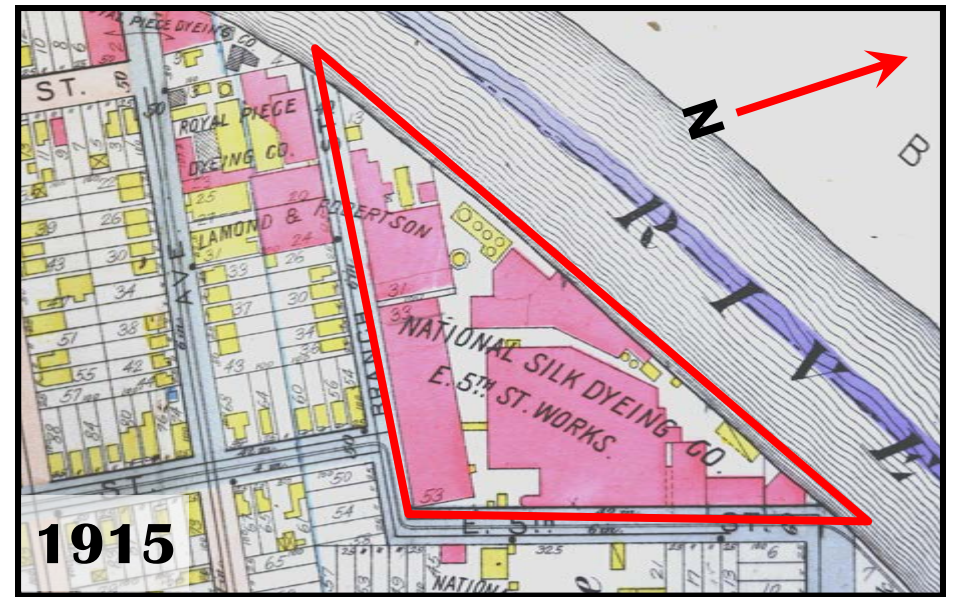
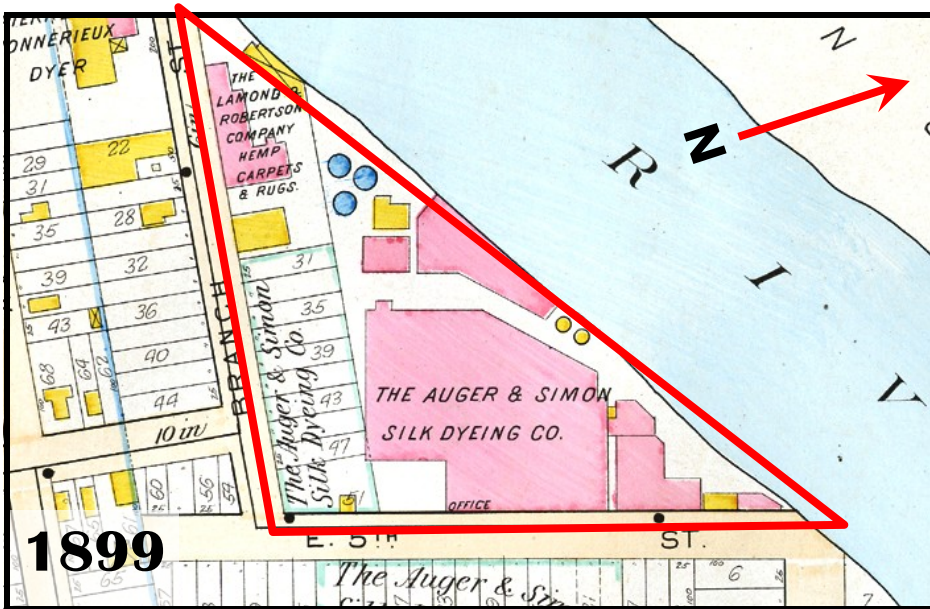
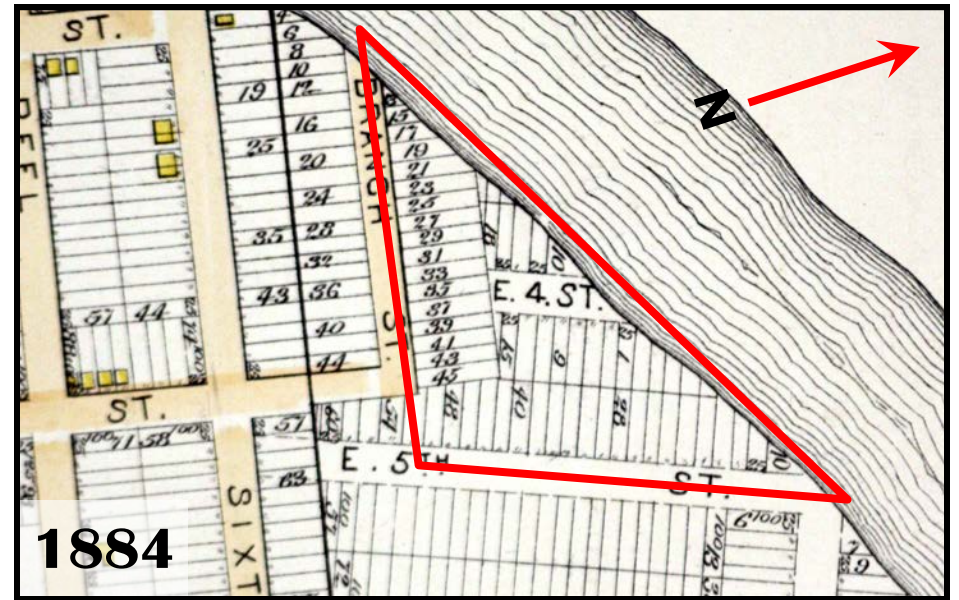
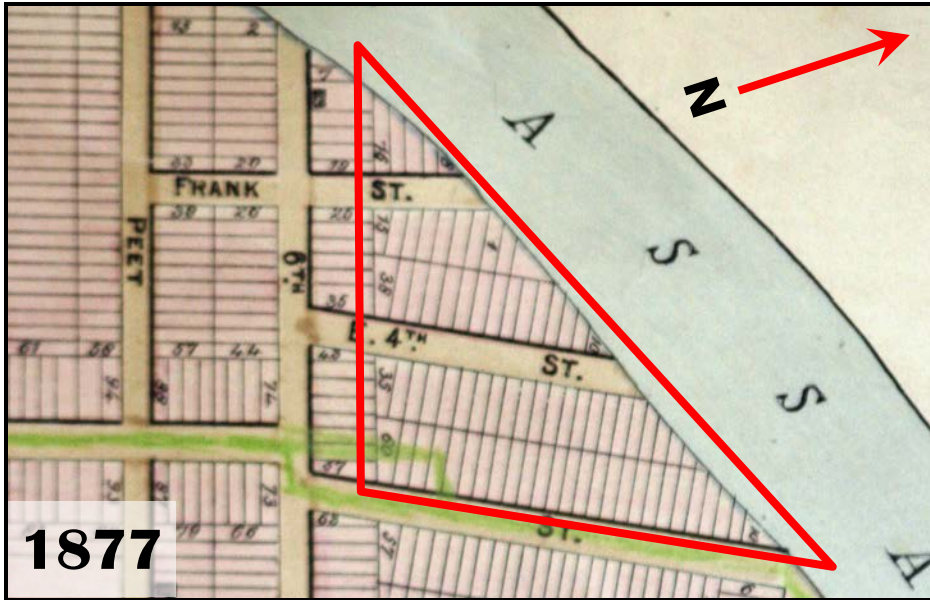
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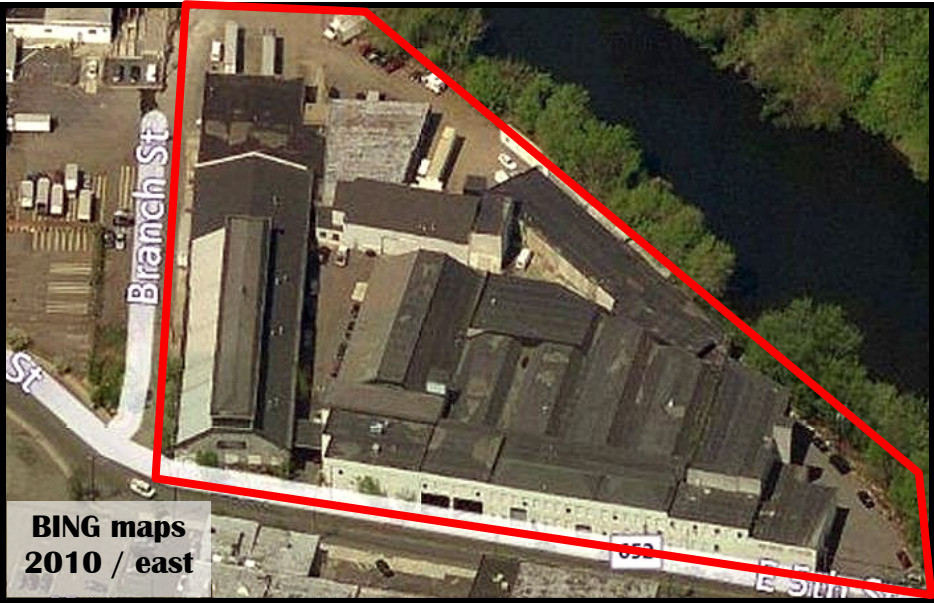
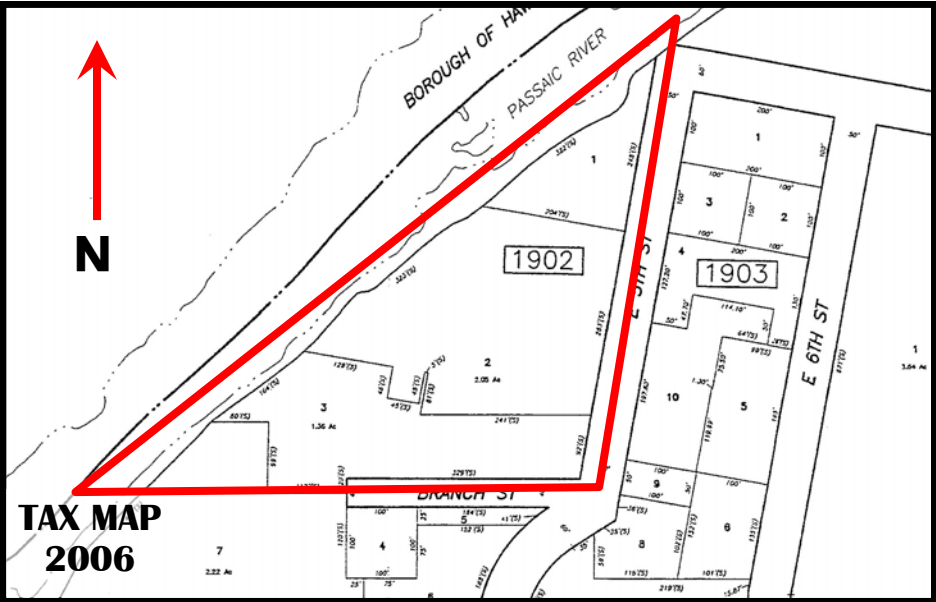
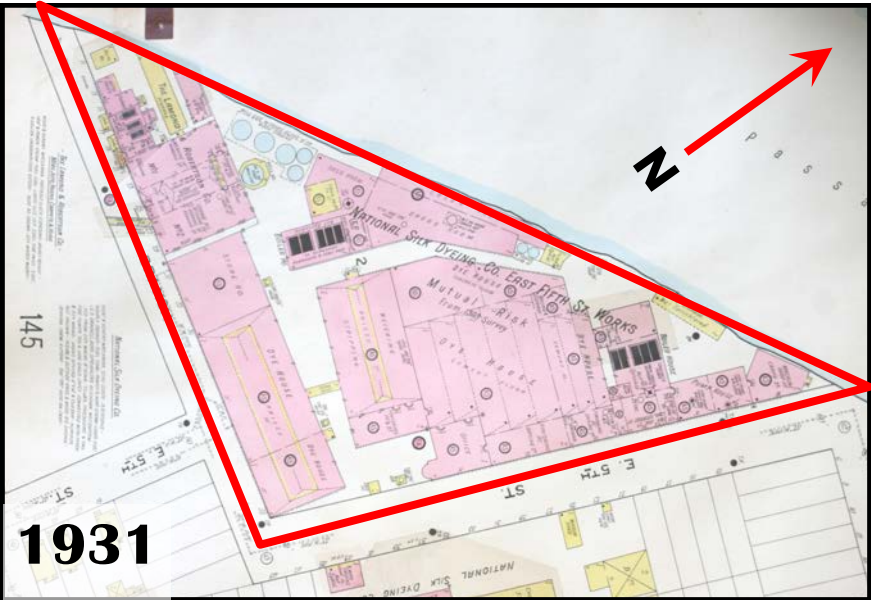
☐ (Primary Contact)

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AUGER & SIMON SILK DYEING CO.
 20-40 East 5th St., Paterson, NJ B 1902 L 01, 02, 03
 Site Development Maps 1877, 1884, 1899, 1915



AUGER & SIMON SILK DYEING CO.
20-40 East 5th St., Paterson, NJ B 1902 L 01, 02, 03
Site Development Maps, 1931, 2006, 2010



AUGER & SIMON SILK DYEING CO.
20-40 East 5th St., Paterson, NJ B 1902 L 01, 02, 03
Photographs, historic / contemporary



AUGER 1: Oblique overview of south façade of Finishing & Drying buildings looking north along East 5th St.



AUGER 2: Oblique overview of south façade of Finishing & Drying buildings from about mid point of the site, looking north along East 5th St..



AUGER 3: View of south façade, Finishing & Dyeing building, looking west from East 5th St.



AUGER 4: oblique overview south façade of Finishing & Drying buildings from north end of the site, looking south along East 5th St.

AUGER & SIMON SILK DYEING CO.
20-40 East 5th St., Paterson, NJ B 1902 L 01, 02, 03
Photographs, historic / contemporary



AUGER 5: oblique overview of Dye House at south end of site, looking north from corner of Branch St. (left) and east 5th St. (right).



AUGER 6: oblique view of Dye House façade looking south west from East 5th St.



AUGER 7: oblique overview of Dye House at south end of site, looking east along Branch St.



AUGER 8: oblique overview of Dye House and Store Houses at south end of site, looking north west from across Branch St.