

PROPERTY REPORT

Property ID: 421410068

Property Name: Aronsohn Mill
Address: 245 10th AVE
Apartment #:
Ownership: Private
ZIP: 07524
Nearest cross street: 16th Street
Second cross street: 18th Street
Distance to property: 0 ft
Compass Direction: 270 degrees

PROPERTY LOCATION(S):

County:	Municipality:	Local Place Name:	USGS Quad:	Block:	Lot:
PASSAIC	Paterson		Paterson	3204	2

Property Photo:



Old HSI Number: PAS1608-474

NRIS Number:

HABS/HAER Number:

Description:

The Aronsohn Mill is an industrial complex situated on 1.6 acres containing two ca. 1908 brick buildings formerly used for silk manufacturing and currently occupied by multiple commercial/industrial tenants. The main building is a four-story, brick and heavy-timber framed mill arranged east to west along 10th Avenue with a boiler house/power plant behind it.

Setting:

The Aronsohn Mill fronts 10th Avenue and consumes the entire length of the block from East 16th to East 18th Streets. The setting is a mixed-use urban neighborhood with the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad corridor located one block to the west of the mill. Most buildings within view of the mill date to the early 20th century.

Survey Name: Intensive-Level Survey of Paterson Industrial Mills

Surveyor: Gianfranco Archimede

Organization: City of Paterson Historic Preservation Commission

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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)
Department of Community Development	City of Paterson Survey	1987	
Archimede, Gianfranco	Paterson Historic Mills Group Municipal Historic Site Designations Staff Opinion of Eligibility	2012	
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	
Polton, Richard	fredwesleywentworth.com	2012	
Tripp, Anne H	The I.W.W. and the Paterson Silk Strike of 1913	1987	

Additional Information:

More Research Needed? ☒ (checked=Yes)

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INTENSIVE-LEVEL USE ONLY:

Attachments Included:

0 Building
0 Structure
0 Object

0 Bridge
0 Landscape
2 Industry

Historic District ? ☐

District Name: not applicable

Status:

Associated Archeological Site/Deposits? ☐

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

Conversion Problem? ☐

ConversionNote: 15

Date form completed: 9/7/2012

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INDUSTRIAL BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: 245 10th Avenue

Historic Name: Aronsohn Mill

Present Use: Industrial, light industrial

Historic Industry: Textiles

Construction Date: 1908 **Source:** Plaque

**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: Rolled Asphalt

Length: 400 **Stories:** 4

Structural System: Heavy Timber Framing

Width: 60 **Bays:** 50

Roof System:

Equipment/Machinery:

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

Exterior Description:

The ca. 1908 building is a 4-story, 50-bay brick and heavy-timber frame mill arranged east to west along 10th Avenue. It measures 400 ft. long and has a side-gabled roof. Projecting pilasters define each bay, including six bays at each gable end. The height of the building is accentuated by the divided bays, which are approximately 8 ft. in width. Each floor is approximately 14 ft. high to accommodate textile machinery and power transmission. The window openings have arched brick lintels and limestone sills. On the south façade, wooden window sashes are covered with fiberglass sheets. On the north façade, the lower windows are in-filled with concrete block and the upper windows are covered with fiberglass sheets. Two prominent entrances at the corners of the south façade are defined by an exaggerated keystone set into a segmental arched hooded pediment complemented by bold cast-stone quion detail on either side of the entrances. Other than the "Aronsohn Mill 1908" entablature set under the peak of the west gable end, the mill is typically unadorned except for corbelling at the gable ends and a bracketed cornice under the overhanging eaves on the south, north and west facades.

Interior Description:

Not accessible at time of survey. According to 1931 Sanborns there are stairwells located at the two corner entrances on the south facade. The Sanborn also indicates that all floors were used by the Aronsohn Silk Mill for warping, quilling, and weaving.

Alteration Dates:

Alteration(s):	Circa Date:	Date Range:	Source:
Physical alteration	1975	to	Materials (window covering and infill)

Architect/Designer:

Type:	Name:	Person/Firm Description:
Architect	Fred W Wentworth	

Date form completed: 9/13/2012

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Organization: City of Paterson Historic Preservation Commission

INDUSTRIAL BUILDING ATTACHMENT

Common Name: 245 10th Avenue

Historic Name: Aronsohn Mill Power House

Present Use: Industrial, light industrial

Historic Industry: Textiles

Construction Date: 1908

Source: Historic Maps

**Construction
Start Date:**

**Construction
End Date:**

Building ID:

Style:

☒ Vernacular?

Exterior Finish Materials:

Physical Condition: Fair

Foundation Materials: Modern Concrete

Remaining Historic Fabric: Low

Roof Finish Materials: Rolled Asphalt

Length: 80 **Stories:** 1

Structural System: Brick

Width: 50 **Bays:** 1

Roof System: Monitor

Equipment/Machinery:

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

Exterior Description:

The building is a 1-story, 1-bay, front-gabled, stuccoed brick, former power house located to the rear (north) of the main Aronsohn Mill on 10th Avenue. It has a monitor roof with a single-vented clerestory opening. There is a simple bracketed wooden cornice with shallow eaves at the gable ends. At the west gable end is a single garage bay with non-original rolling overhead door. No other openings are visible.

Interior Description:

The interior was not accessible at the time of the survey. According to 1931 Sanborn maps, the powerhouse had a cement floor in the boiler room at the west end of the building. There was a tile floor in the generator room at the east end of the building. A brick smokestack (non-extant) was located outside the southwest corner of the power house between the power house and the mill.

Alteration Dates:

Alteration(s):	Circa Date:	Date Range:	Source:
Physical alteration	1975	to	Stucco coating, replacement of overhead door, in-fill of windows

Architect/Designer:

Type:	Name:	Person/Firm Description:
Architect	Fred W. Wentworth	

Date form completed: 9/13/2012

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ELIGIBILITY WORKSHEET - Properties

Property ID **421410068**

History:

Samuel J. Aronsohn is first listed in the Paterson City Directory in 1894-95 as a partner in a silk manufacturer, the Murphy & Aronsohn Co. By 1902, S. J. Aronsohn struck out on his own as a silk manufacturer on Grand and Morris St. nearby the Barbour Flax Spinning works on Spruce St., with his brothers William and Bernard joining him by 1906 as partners and officers in the company. S. J. Aronsohn also took the presidency of another Paterson company, the Aronsohn-Bloom Silk Co., previously established by his brother, Harry Aronsohn in the 1890s. At that point Harry took on as Treasurer of that company presumably as Samuel stepped into leadership.

S. J. Aronsohn constructed the 10th Ave. mill in 1908, moving his company there, and soon afterward, by 1910, also established the Aronsohn Brothers Silk Co. located on Cliff St. next door to the Aronsohn-Bloom Silk Co. In the decades that followed between 1910 and 1930, the Aronsohn family in Paterson grew and prospered, establishing several more small-scale, partnership based silk trade businesses in Paterson and likewise New York City. Apparently, family members were also involved in several levels of the industry, not just as business developers and manufacturers, but also as tradesman in warping and throwing.

Aronsohn commissioned prominent Paterson architect Fred Wesley Wentworth to design the 10th Avenue mill. Wentworth was a New Hampshire native and a Dartmouth College graduate who came to Paterson in the 1880s to establish an architectural practice. Many of his early commissions in Paterson were for residential properties owned by the city's manufacturing elite. His practice soon, however, expanded to include civic, commercial and industrial architecture, an important example of the 1890s being the new federal Post Office and Court House. Following the Fire of 1902, Wentworth had a significant impact on the rebuilding of the downtown with some of the principal buildings being the Gerstley Building, the First National Bank Building, the Charles W. Elbow Building, the Kitay Building and the Masonic Temple. Wentworth worked within the architectural styles of the time, with many of his buildings incorporating Classical Revival elements. Recent scholarship on Wentworth's work suggests that the Aronsohn Mill was one of his more important industrial commissions and that the mill was noted as being electrified as early as 1908.

In 1931, the Sanborn Insurance Company noted on its map that the mill was used for silk warping, quilling and weaving on all of its floors with an office located on the first floor. The mill was supplying its own electric power with two boilers and electric dynamos in the powerhouse.

It is not clear if the Aronsohns constructed other tenant mills in Paterson, but it is clear that S.J. Aronsohn constructed and occupied the 10th Ave. mill to manufacture silk goods, while the Aronsohn's other businesses were likely as tenants in other mills throughout Paterson. In this way, the Aronsohns played a different, significant role in the Paterson silk industry than other contemporaries such as I. A. Hall.

As reported in Tripp (p. 65), the general labor discontent and willingness to take action that prefigured the silk strike of 1913 was evident in the Aronsohn Mill in January 1913 weeks before the general strike was called on February 24. Some 300 weavers at Aronsohn called a meeting and refused to comply with the multiple-loom system in operation there.

Statement of Significance:

The Aronsohn Mill is in form a classic textile mill with its heavy timber (slow burning) framing, brick curtain walls with articulated pilasters, long multi-bay street façade, overheight floors to accommodate machinery, and a separate power house. Its prominent entrances in classic revival taste are unique among the mills in this survey and identifiable to the designs of Fred W. Wentworth. The mill powerhouse is a significant component since it relates to the transition from steampower to electrification in Paterson's mills during the early 20th century. It is an early example of independently electrified mills in Paterson. The mill was also involved in the Strike of 1913 with its workers protesting the multiple-loom system that was a major grievance of the silk weavers.

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 Aronsohn Mill is recommended eligible under Criterion C as a good representative example of classic textile mill architecture with a focus on functionality, yet in proportion and detail it exhibits the mark of master architect Fred W. Wentworth. The Aronsohn Mill is also recommended eligible under Criterion A for its association with the Strike of 1913 and with working conditions in the silk industry.

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Total Number of Attachments: 2

List of Element Names: Industry - Aronsohn Mill and Power House

Narrative Boundary Description:

The property boundary is tax block 3204, lot 2 as shown on the 2006 Paterson tax map, accompanying this form.

Date Form Completed: 9/13/2012

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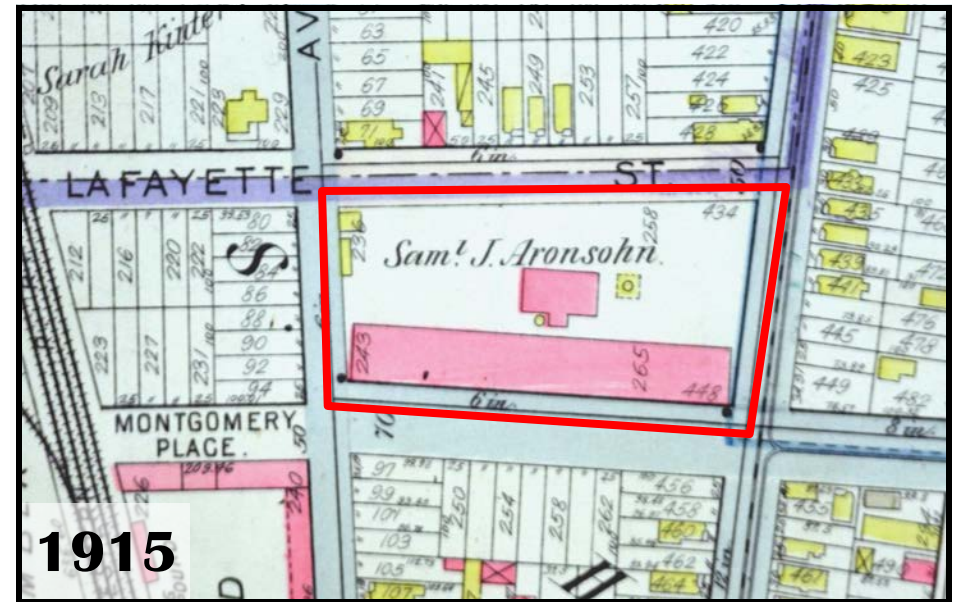
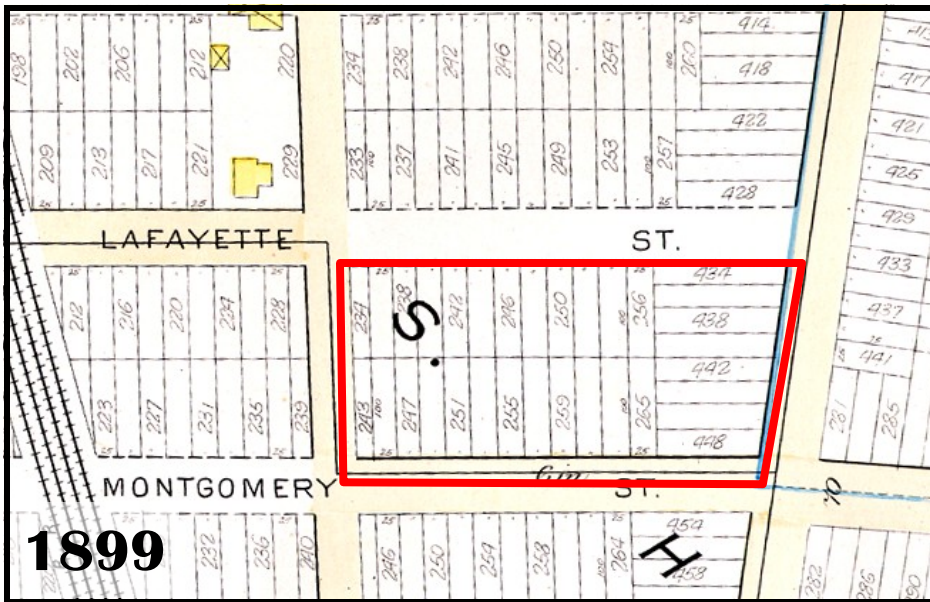
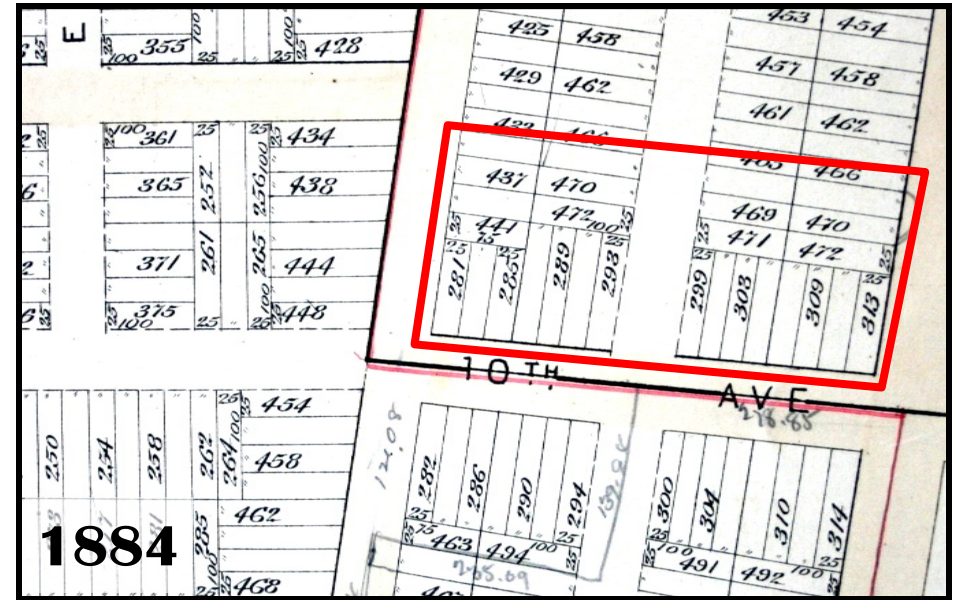
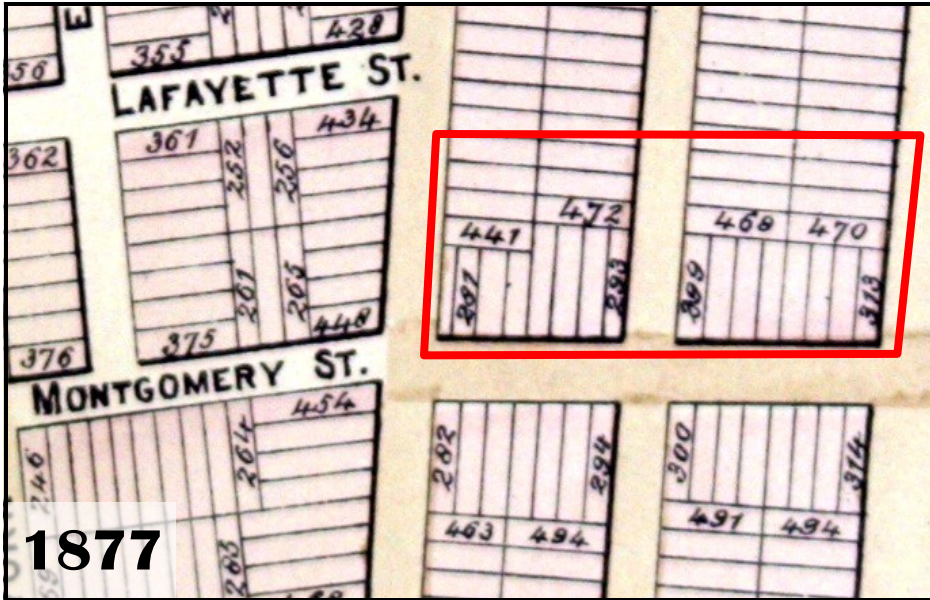
Organization: City of Paterson Historic Preservation Commission

Property ID:

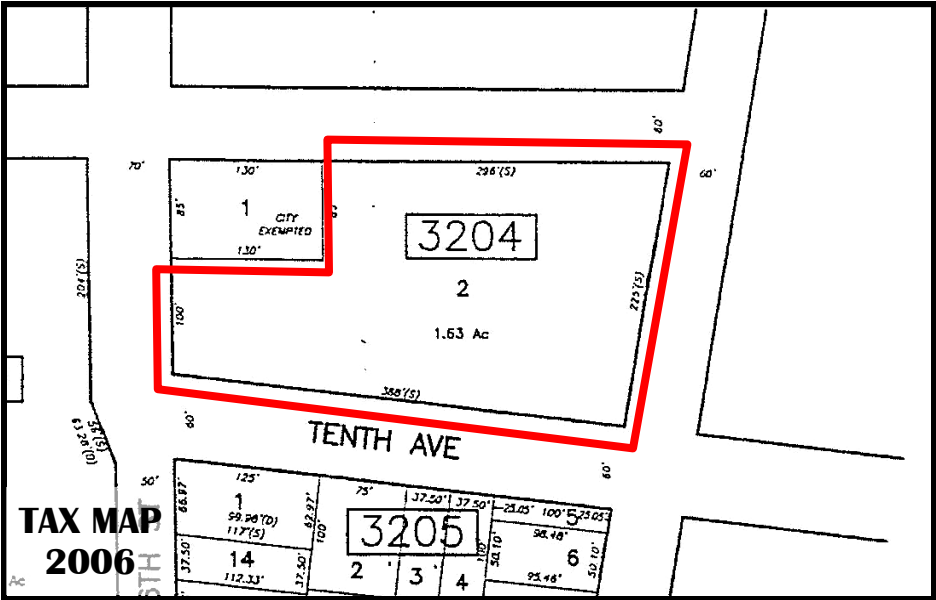
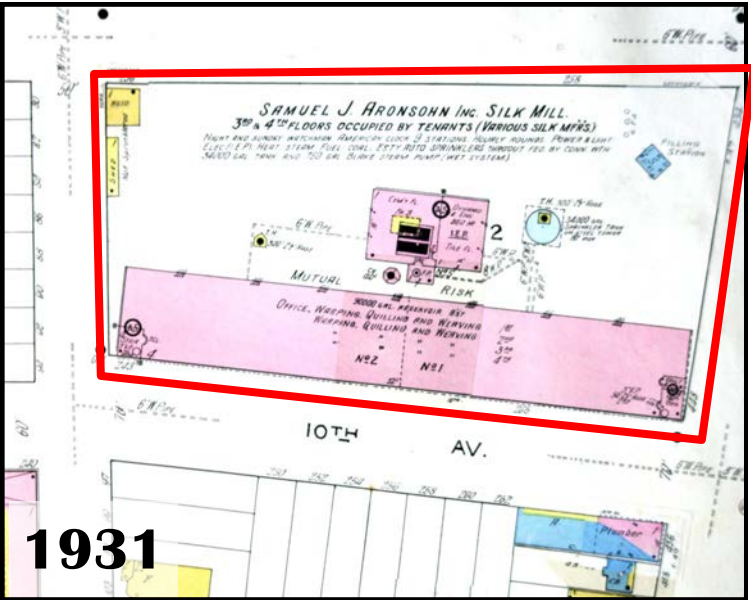
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ARONSOHN MILL
 245 Tenth Ave., Paterson, NJ B 3204 L 02
 Site Development Maps 1877, 1884, 1899, 1915



ARONSOHN MILL
245 Tenth Ave., Paterson, NJ B 3204 L 02
Site Development Maps, 1931, 2006, 2010



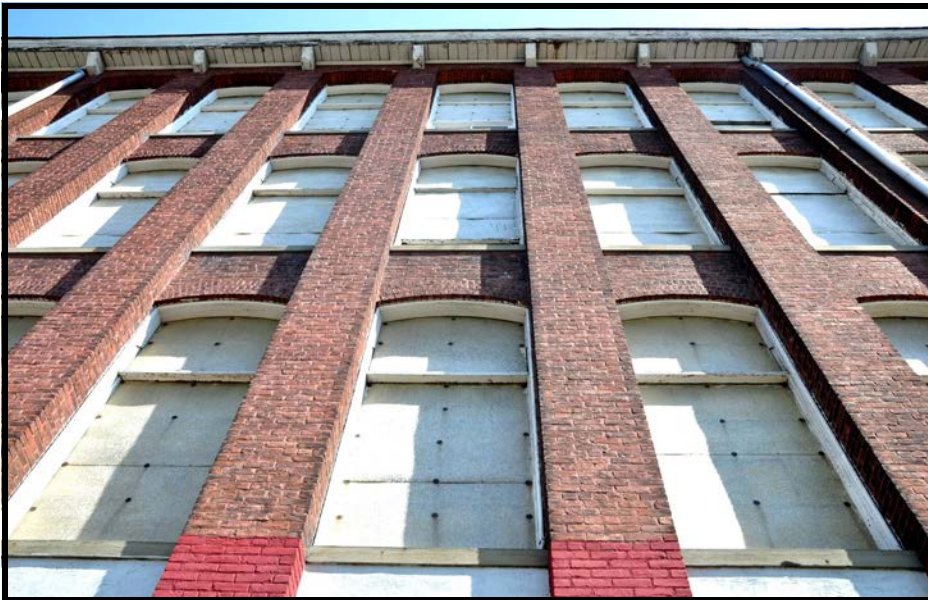
ARONSOHN MILL
245 Tenth Ave., Paterson, NJ B 3204 L 02
Photographs, contemporary



ARONSOHN 1: Oblique overview looking SW. The length of the mill is situated along Tenth Ave. and the East gable end faces 18th St.



ARONSOHN 2: Oblique overview looking NW from 18th St., showing the East gable end and the rear of the mill.



ARONSOHN 3: Detail view looking S from Tenth Ave. sidewalk. Note slight pilasters between each window, open eaves, segmental arched, double hung window frames are intact, but lights that have been replaced with an opaque infill material.



ARONSOHN 4: Detail view looking S from Tenth Ave. sidewalk. Note double hung window frames are intact, but lights have been replaced consistently with concrete block infill.

ARONSOHN MILL
245 Tenth Ave., Paterson, NJ B 3204 L 02
Photographs, contemporary



ARONSOHN 5: Oblique overview looking NW from 16th St., showing the West gable end and the rear of the mill.



ARONSOHN 6: Detail view of West gable end, looking east from 16th St. Note entablature name plate mounted just under the peak at center.



ARONSOHN 7: Close up view of cast stone entablature name plate mounted just under the roof peak of the West gable end of the mill.



ARONSOHN 8: Overview of East gable end, looking west from 18th St. Note the modifications to windows and roll up door entrance.

ARONSOHN MILL
245 Tenth Ave., Paterson, NJ B 3204 L 02
Photographs, contemporary



ARONSOHN 9: Detail view of east entrance on North side. Note the quioning and semi segmental hooded pediment with exaggerated keystone, which are classicizing elements that are indicative of F.W. Wentworth's design of the building.



ARONSOHN 10: Detail view of west entrance on North side. Note the semi segmental hooded pediment with exaggerated keystone, which are classicizing elements that are indicative of F.W. Wentworth's design of the building.



ARONSOHN 11: View of boiler house building behind the mill, looking west. The building is historically the only ancillary building on the complex, and remains extant today.