NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: John Wilde & Brother, Inc.
Other names/site number:
Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 3737 Main Street
City or town: Philadelphia State: PA County: Philadelphia
Not For Publication: NA Vicinity: NA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination __request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion the property X meets __ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level of significance:

_____National _____Statewide X_____Local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X____A _____B _____C _____D

Andrea MacDonald
Signature of Certifying Official

March 4, 2013
Date

Deputy SHPO/Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
Title/State or Federal Agency/Bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property _____meets _____does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official

Date

Title/State or Federal Agency/Bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register
_____determined eligible for the National Register
_____determined not eligible for the National Register
_____removed from the National Register
_____other (explain): _____

Patrick Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

4/30/2013
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property *(check as many boxes as apply)*

☑Private
□Public—Local
□Public—State
□Public—Federal

Category of Property *(check only one box)*

☑Building(s)
□District
□Site
□Structure
□Object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/ PROCESSING/ EXTRACTION – manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/ NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.) Other

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK / STONE / TERRA COTTA / CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The John Wilde & Brother, Inc. yarn mill is a complex of two buildings on a narrow, roughly triangular lot, bounded on the south by Main Street, and on the north by Cresson Street, just west of the intersection of Ridge Avenue and Main Street at the entrance to the Manayunk neighborhood of Philadelphia (Photo 1, Site Plan). Main Street parallels the Schuylkill River, and is the primary (east-west) thoroughfare through downtown Manayunk. Cresson Street, now more of a wide alley, is tight against Ridge Avenue and the Norristown Rail Road line to its north (Photo 2). The land on which the mill complex stands is a rocky slope, rising up from Main Street to Cresson. The first John Wilde & Brother yarn mill was constructed at the top of this slope, with its primary entrance on Cresson Street, in 1884. Built in the style of early mills, it is a rectangular stone building with a gable roof (the ridge of which parallels Cresson Street) and double hung wood sash windows (Photos 17 and 19). Expansion in 1932 was achieved with construction of a brick and concrete mill building on the south side of the original 1884 building, at the bottom of the slope, on Main Street (Photo 4). This building is also rectangular in plan, with a shallow vaulted roof and large, multi-light steel windows. A reinforced concrete structure with terra cotta tile sheathing was added on the east end of the original 1884 building in 1983 (Photos 3 and 33). This last addition to the mill complex was designed by Reshetar Architect, Inc.[1] The 1983 addition does not detract from the integrity of the remainder of the complex, which retains all seven National Register aspects of integrity.

Narrative Description

The 1932 Building (Building 1)

The 1932 building is an eight-bay by two-bay structure of reinforced concrete and brick on a rubble stone foundation; the bays are defined by the reinforced concrete building structure which establishes an overall grid on all elevations. A plain concrete parapet cap terminates the top of the building walls. The eight bay elevation is oriented along Main Street (Photos 4, 5 and 6). The main building entrance is located on the south façade, in the third bay from the east, at the top of a concrete stair. The door and iron railing at this entrance are replacements dating to the last quarter of the 20th century (based on their appearance). Another concrete stair with a metal pipe railing at the west end of the façade provides egress from a fire tower in the building at this southwest corner. Pairs of metal doors, six lights over a single panel, and small balconies with pipe railings mark the fire stair at each story (Photo 6). A large, aluminum, roll-up door opening in the fourth bay from the west on the south façade may have replaced a smaller vehicular doorway opening. A CMU loading

[1] The 1983 building was constructed on the stone foundation of the Wissahickon Plush Mill. Sara Jane Elk, "Wilde Yarn Mill, 1884" Workshop of the World—A Selective Guide to the Industrial Archeology of Philadelphia

dock platform at the south end of the west (side) elevation corresponds with another aluminum, vehicular, roll-up door opening at the north end of the south bay (Photo 6). On the east (side) elevation, the second and third stories overhang the first floor by approximately 5'-0". Visible on the east elevation, at the north end, is a one-bay by three-bay steel framed structure at the second story, sheathed in corrugated aluminum (Photo 7). This section of the building likely post-dates the original date of construction as original windows survive on the north building wall within it. The steel framed structure abuts a concrete stairway and metal-lined chute in the fourth bay from the east on the west (rear) elevation, built to provide an internal connection to the second floor of the original 1884 building (Photo 8).

Within the structural grid on each elevation are bands of three steel sash windows with plain concrete sills above a brick panel bordered on all four sides by soldier brick courses. Surviving original windows in two bays at the west end of the elevation at the first story, and across the second story, on the south façade, are twenty-light sash with six-light pivot sash at the center. First story windows in the eastern-most four bays have been removed and replaced with pairs of single-light aluminum awning sash with projecting brick header sills above brick infill. Windows at the third story are slightly larger: thirty-light sash with six-light pivot sash alternating at the top of the center windows and the bottom of the windows to each side.

The fenestration pattern established on the south façade is repeated on the north (rear) elevation. The exception is the first story, which is partially below grade on this elevation due to the rising topography. There is only one pair of 16-light steel windows in the east bay; the adjacent two bays, to the west, each contain a band of three 20- light steel windows. A single 20-light steel window, a steel door (four lights over a single panel) and a brick elevator shaft occupy the fourth bay, from the east. Another steel door is located on the west side of the elevator shaft. First floor window openings on the west side of the elevator shaft have been infilled with masonry.

On both the east and west (side) elevations, there is only one window at the second story of the south bay. On the west elevation, this window is a 20-light steel window with a six-light pivot sash at its center. On the east elevation are a pair of nine-light sash divided by a steel mullion and with a shared concrete sill. A "John Wilde & Brother, Inc." sign is painted on the brick masonry of the third story above this opening. On the west elevation the window was removed from the north bay at the third story and the opening filled with brick masonry.

The principal building entrance doorway opens to a small foyer with a suite of offices (drywall partitions) to the west (along the south façade wall) and a bathroom to the east (Photo 9). A doorway at the north end of the foyer opens to the mill floor, a large open space with a line of exposed concrete piers down the center, exposed concrete ceiling, brick masonry walls (painted) and wood floors (Photos 10 and 11). Two bathrooms enclosed with concrete masonry unit (CMU) partition walls (painted) are located at the northeast corner of the space. A room constructed of drywall partitions at the northwest corner of the first floor was last used as a shop and display area for scarves and other *boutique* items produced with Wilde yarns. A brick (painted) fire stair enclosure is located on the south wall, at the southwest corner. The mill floors above are accessed via concrete stairway with pipe railings in the southeast corner of the floor plan.

The second floor is a large open space much like the first, although here spinning machines and racks for holding wool spools occupy most of the floor area (Photos 12 and 13). A toilet room is located on the north side of the southeast stairway enclosure. Conveyor systems for moving wool spools between floors are located at approximately the center of the south wall, and at the northwest corner. These appear not to be original to the building as the concrete floor was cut away to create these narrow, rectangular openings. As on the first floor, walls are exposed concrete, walls are brick or terra cotta block (all painted) and floors are wood.

While the open floor plan of the first two floors is repeated again on the third floor, the exposed steel and wood roof structure give this level a more expansive feeling (Photos 14 and 15). Large carding machines in the eastern and western ends of the space were still operated via straps connected to gears and powered by a rotating crank shaft mounted to the roof rafters. The open structure of the south conveyor, constructed in front of the windows, is two brick piers with steel framing. The conveyor at the northwest corner is within a CMU enclosure. Walls are brick (painted); the floor is wood.

The first three window bays on the north wall, at the east end, are obscured by a bathroom in the northeast corner, and horizontal planks (painted) applied to the remaining wall area. The metal-lined chute and stairway between the 1932 building and the 1884 building is located in the fourth bay; the chute and stairway share the fourth bay with the elevator shaft, to the west (Photo 16).

The 1884 Building (Building 2)

The 1884 building is a three story building, rectangular in plan with a gable roof, the ridge of which is oriented east-west, constructed of rubble schist stone with a natural stucco finish. A narrow gable-roofed roof monitor, sheathed in wood clapboard, is off center to the west (Photo 17). A square chimney stack, with the date of the building, *1884*, in the brickwork, rises above the complex at the northeast corner of the building (Photo 21). Built into the hillside, only the second and third stories are above grade on the north elevation (Photos 19 and 20). The building is fifteen bays wide by three bays deep. A break in the roof suggests that the easternmost three-bay portion of the building may have been built separately. There is a corresponding stone partition wall on the interior at all floor levels (although no evidence of former window openings on what would have been the exterior east wall). If so, the roof monitor would have been centered on the roof of a twelve bay building, which seems likely. The building appears to be a full fifteen bays wide on the Bromley Atlas of 1895; any change, then, would have occurred soon after original construction.

A stone stair tower, built outside of the building footprint, is located at the west end of the south elevation (Photo 17).[2] Sixteen-over-sixteen wood windows, typical throughout the building, survive on the south elevation. Window openings at the second story (first story at grade) on the north elevation have been removed and the openings infilled with masonry and stuccoed; only the projecting brick lintels are still in evidence (Photo 20). Windows, and pairs of wood doors on the north elevation, are in wood frames set in shallow arched openings with projecting double header brick lintels (Photo 18). A pair of modern flush wood doors at the second story (first story at grade) on the north elevation, in the seventh bay from the west, provides access to the building from Cresson Street. A second pair of vertical wood plank doors directly above would have been used for the movement of materials and equipment (Photo 19). A two story brick addition with multi-light steel windows wraps the west end of the building. Based on its construction, it appears to date to circa 1932.

Like the 1932 building, the 1884 building interiors are largely open spaces accommodating machinery and storage. The first floor is two rooms divided by a stone wall with one doorway opening (Photos 22 and 23). The west room is 15 bays wide; the east room is three bays wide. Deep window openings have stone jambs and brick, round-arched heads, and wood sills. This arrangement is repeated on the second and third floors, with additional rooms in the circa 1932 addition, to the west, and the 1983 addition to the east on the third floor only. Floors in the original 1884 building are supported by two east-west lines of wood posts. The ceilings are the exposed joists of the floors above. Walls are stone masonry (painted). The first floor is poured concrete; second

[2] A two story brick addition with a corrugated metal shed roof (date unknown), located on the east side of the stair tower, collapsed in the summer of 2012.

and third floors are wood. Access between all floors is via a wood winder stair in the stair tower at the southwest corner, which occupies one window bay. Another interior wood stairway (straight run), added at the west end of the original north elevation when it was enclosed by the circa 1932 addition, provides access between the second and third stories (Photo 30). An open elevator is located at the northeast corner of the larger of the two rooms in the 1884 building, and provided a means for moving materials to all floors within the building (Photo 26).

The first floor appears to have last been used for storage. It's an open space with one baling machine at the east end. An over-size pedestrian door with a sliding wood fire door (sheathed in flat seam metal) opens to the east room which contains mechanical equipment (Photo 23). These fire doors are located on each level (Photo 26).

The second floor is one large (west), and one smaller (east) open space (Photo 24). Two baling machines survive at the east end of the larger room; scars in the wood flooring indicate the location of other machinery, now removed. On the east wall, an original central doorway and windows to either side are now within the 1932 addition. Pairs of early vertical plank wood doors (c.1932?) with a six-light transom are set within a round arch opening (Photo 25). The brick header at this opening indicates that it replaced an earlier, narrower, opening, likely an original window. An original twelve-over-twelve light wood window survives to the north. The opening from a companion window, to the south, has been infilled with plywood. A wood door, four lights over two horizontal panels with a tall, twelve-light transom set in a round-arch opening, is located in the second bay from the west on the north wall. This door, likely a window originally, opens into the c.1932 addition. An original exterior doorway opening is at the east end of the north wall (Photo 27). An over-size pedestrian fire door on the east wall opens to the east room which contains a blowing apparatus.

The west end's 1932 addition is an L-shaped space, wrapping the northwest corner of the building (Photo 39). The stone foundation wall (painted) is visible on the north wall, and a portion of the west; the remainder is exposed brick (painted). The floor is wood, except at the eastern portion of the L (along the north elevation), which is poured concrete (Photo 25). This area was used for vehicular access, via an aluminum roll-up door on the east elevation of the addition. A pedestrian doorway with a metal door is adjacent, to the north, on this east wall. Three of the original multi-light steel windows on the north wall have been removed and openings filled with CMU, as has one opening on the west wall. The ceiling is the floor joists of flooring of the floor above, painted.

The third floor plan is the same as the two below. The ceiling is partially finished with wood boards, but open to the roof rafters at each end (Photo 28). Floors are wood throughout. Walls are stone, painted. A row of six Lumming machines and a carding machine stand along the south wall at the east end of the space (Photo 31). On the east wall, a large central doorway and windows to either side are now within the 1932 addition. Pairs of early vertical plank wood doors (c.1932?) with a six-light transom are set within a round arch opening. A 24-light wood lunette window is in the gable above (Photo 29). Window openings to each side of the door have been infilled with plywood. A doorway with a 2-panel door on the north wall of the original building, at the west end, provided access to two small offices at the east end of the c.1932 addition. Another small room was partitioned at the south end of the addition (Photo 30).

The east room is an open space with the roof and rafters exposed. A large pair of flat metal doors was inserted at the center of the east wall of the 1884 building to provide access between this building and the 1983 warehouse (Photo 32).

1983 Addition (East end of Building 2)

The last period of expansion of the John Wilde & Brother yarn mill was in 1983 when a one story warehouse, designed by Reshetar Architect, Inc., was constructed on the east wall of the original 1884 building. The building is a steel and terra cotta masonry structure, six bays wide by one bay deep with a gable roof, the east-west ridge of which is parallel to Main and Cresson streets. A one story gable roofed monitor with louver panels is centered on the roof, at the ridge. Overhanging eaves are terminated with a plain wood fascia. The foundation, an arcade of six concrete arches, is visible on the south elevation. On this elevation, the fenestration is hexagonal single-light windows centered in each bay, below bands of three pairs of single-light slider sash aluminum framed windows fully across the top of each bay (Photo 33). On the north elevation, the fenestration is limited to four square glass blocks spaced equally across each bay. Entrance to the warehouse is from Cresson Street via large pairs of metal doors at the north end of the east elevation, and the west end of the north elevation (Photo 34). The east elevation entrance, slightly above grade, is accessed via a concrete stairway and landing with a metal handrail (Photo 2).

The warehouse interior is one large room with exposed CMU walls (painted white) and roof framing (Photos 35 and 36). Ghosting from a former shed roof structure is visible on the west interior wall (original east exterior wall of the 1884 building) (Photo 35). The floor is poured concrete.

Machinery and Equipment

Although currently not in service, this yarn mill retains a considerable amount of machinery and equipment, in place throughout the complex, that provides an understanding of how the spaces were used. The process of producing yarns began with the blending of wools in the 1884 mill building (Building 2) and ended with the carding, twisting, spinning, and winding machinery in the 1932 building (Building 1) on Main Street. The 1983 building (Building 3) provided additional warehouse space, and due to its large, vehicular doorway opening (north elevation) and open interior, would have eased the delivery of raw wool to the mill.

Producing carpet yarns essentially involves three processes: the blending of colors, carding to straighten and separate fibers, and then twisting the fibers into the final product. A description of the operation of the Wilde Yarn Mill is provided in the Workshop of the World website (www.workshopoftheworld.com/manayunk/wilde). At that site, website author Sarah Jane Elk explains the processes that took place within the Wilde yarn mill buildings based on interviews and articles by owner Russell Fawley Jr. in the 1980s. Bales of raw wool delivered to the 1983 building were moved on the interior by fork lift into the upper floor of the 1884 mill building for blending, a process by which various wools are blended together in large Lumming machines. Lumming machines combine, or blend, different types of wool to achieve the color and texture of wool desired. Blended wool was then delivered through large floor openings to bailing machines on the second floor. The transfer of the blended wool to bailing machines below was assisted by forced air. The baling machines compressed and strapped the wool in bales which were returned via elevator back to the third floor where the process was repeated three times to assure a good blend. On one of the passes, a lubricant is added to aid in the processing and a pre-carder opens the fibers in preparation for carding.

The 1932 building houses the carding, twisting, spinning, and winding machinery. Bales of blended wool were moved from the second floor of the 1884 building to the third floor of the 1932 building via a metal-lined incline, or open chute (Photo 16). Six large Davies and Ferber carding machines passed the wool through toothed rollers to comb and straighten the wool fibers. Measuring devices built into the carding machines weighed the raw wool prior to carding to establish the size and weight of the finished product (Photo 14). Yarn that has been carded (also called roving) looks like finished yarn, but has no twist or strength. Carded yarn, or roving, was wound on large spools and moved to the second floor for spinning and twisting.

Large twisting machines on the second floor twisted the carded fibers into yarns and wound them into large spools on wooden bobbins (Photos 12 and 13). (Yarn was transferred to paper cones or tubes for shipping on the first floor.) The last part of the yarn making process, winding, occurred on the first floor of the 1932 building; two large winding machines are located at the east end of this large open space (Photo 11). The spinning machines stretched and twisted the yarns, and also combined different yarns to achieve the desired ply. During this process the wool was transferred to the smaller cardboard bobbins that would be delivered to customers. The west end of the space was devoted to shipping via a ramp recessed in the floor at the large roll-up door on the south wall, or the loading dock on the west elevation (Photo 10).

Integrity

In appearance, materials, and form, the Wilde mill complex stands today much as it has over its long history and retains all aspects of integrity. The changes in form and materials, from the original 1884 stone mill, to the 1932 brick and structural concrete mill, help to tell the story of the evolution of the mill complex, and changes over time to the architectural character of mill buildings in general. Alterations on the exteriors of the 1884 and 1932 buildings have been limited to the replacement of a few doors, and the removal of some windows and infill with masonry. The location of removed windows is, however, evidenced by the surviving masonry surrounds; surviving original windows allow a full understanding of the original appearance of both buildings. The interiors, always large open spaces to accommodate machinery and the movement of wool in its various forms, also retain integrity. The 1983 warehouse addition, while representative of its time, lacks the industrial character of the two earlier buildings and post-dates the period of significance (1959). It does, however, retain integrity, both within and without.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [X] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [ ] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance: Industry

Period of Significance: 1884-1959

Significant Dates: 1884; 1932

Significant Person: NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: S.S. Keely; Reshatar Architect, Inc.

Statement of Significance (**Summary Paragraph** provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The John Wilde & Brother, Inc. mill was established by brothers John and Thomas Wilde in Manayunk in 1880 for the production of wool carpet yarns. The John Wilde & Brother yarn mill is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the textile industry in Philadelphia. Owned and operated by the Wilde family for its duration—1880 - 2012—and specializing in the production of wool carpet yarns, the mill stands as a testament to the history of the mills that sparked Philadelphia's industrial growth in the 19th and 20th centuries, and to the small-scale, family-owned business type that was the mainstay of Philadelphia's industrial economy. The period of significance begins with construction of the first mill building in 1884 and ends in 1959 with the death of Russell Fawley, John Wilde's nephew, and the decline of Philadelphia's importance in carpet manufacture. The 1884 and 1932 buildings of the John Wilde & Brother mill retain a strong association with the textile milling industry which once dominated Manayunk's industrial landscape.

Manayunk played a significant role in the development of Philadelphia as a major industrial and commercial center in the 19th century. The opening of the Flat Rock dam and canal through Manayunk in 1819 triggered the construction of water-powered mills for the manufacture of a variety of products. Captain John Towers purchased the first millseat along the canal and built a stone mill to manufacture cotton, which dominated Manayunk's textile industry until the Civil War, when production shifted to wool to supply the Union Army. Unlike in other major textile centers such as New England, manufacturers in Philadelphia tended to specialize in separate steps of the production process, rather than integrate all aspects under one roof. Thus in the production of carpets, one mill produced the yarn, dye houses provided the color, and weavers produced the final product on looms.

Weavers in the neighborhood of Kensington in northern Philadelphia had historically specialized in carpet production, both on handlooms and powerlooms by the mid 19th century. The mechanized mills of Manayunk adapted woolen yarn production for carpets to supply Kensington mills and established an interdependence between the two neighborhoods. By the late 19th century, carpet yarn firms, machine shops, dyehouses, builders, and various other industries clustered within the Manayunk community. John Wilde & Brother was formed in 1880 to produce wool carpet yarns, a niche which it maintained until the company closed in 2012 at which time it was the oldest American carpet yarn mill in existence. In 1884, the firm constructed a stone mill significant for its local architectural characteristics, and the operation was expanded with a second building in 1932. A third warehouse building was added in 1983 on the site of the former Wissahickon Plush Mills adjacent to the 1884 Building, completing the existing complex.

Carpet manufacture led Philadelphia's textile industry during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Manayunk contained over half of the city's carpet yarn mills which supplied the weaving industry; most of these companies were small, family-owned businesses like John Wilde. The competitive advantages of small-scale production, specialization, and flexibility sustained Wilde through challenging economic times. Wilde's contribution to Manayunk and its network of mills, rather than large corporations, played an important role in the carpet industry's dominance. By the 1950s, the closing or relocating of carpet mills to the South, competition from manufactured rug yarns, and imports led to its decline in Philadelphia. John Wilde and Brother continued in operation until 2012, adapting to changing market conditions, identifying niche markets, and serving the growing craft market.

Early history of textile mills in Manayunk and Philadelphia

The John Wilde & Brother, Inc. mill complex was once part of an industrial community that included the Perseverance Mill, Wissahickon Plush Mill, and Economy Mill among many others. Manayunk played a significant role in the development of Philadelphia as a major industrial and commercial center in the 19th

century. The seed of Manayunk's growth as a town of industry was its location on the Schuylkill River. The Schuylkill Navigation Company, chartered in 1815, finished construction of the Flat Rock Dam and the two mile-long Flat Rock canal through Manayunk by 1819 producing a fall of twenty-six feet from canal to river. This provided the power needed to turn waterwheels, and thus began the construction of mills for the manufacture of a variety of products. In addition to providing water power to run machinery, the Schuylkill Canal system, part of a larger canal network, provided access to transportation for the delivery of anthracite coal from Pennsylvania mines to the market in Philadelphia, and the movement of manufactured goods between Philadelphia and western parts of the state. (Mintz and Smith, p.8/2)

"Mill is huddled on mill", a correspondent to the *Democratic Press* wrote of Manayunk in March of 1823. (Shelton, p. 55) By 1828, ten mills stood along the canal, with the five largest cotton mills employing half of Manayunk's 875 residents. The installation of labor-saving machinery in the new mills contrasted the traditional outwork system of mule spinners and handloom weavers in Philadelphia's other centers of cloth and yarn production-Kensington, Moyamensing, and the Northern Liberties. Manayunk's early mechanized companies coexisted and complemented the cottage industry producers of Kensington, linking suppliers and customers for various products, which established a growing interdependence.

By 1850, Philadelphia's neighborhoods contained a total of 326 textile firms, employing 7,141 men and 5,228 women. The largest of these were carpet manufacturers, located primarily in Kensington, followed by cotton, cotton-wool, and hosiery. The top five industries in 1855 were textile production, valued at $23,561,568, iron and steel, valued at $14,775,213, clothing and apparel, valued at $21,415,701, wood, valued at $6,153,715, and publishing and bookbinding, valued at $6,441,403. By some accounts, Philadelphia was already considered to be "the center of a greater number of factories for textile fabrication than any other city in the world." (Ferguson, *Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia* MPDF, p.E/10)

This period also marked the transition from water to steam power, especially in Manayunk. With the opening of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad between Philadelphia and Pottsville in 1842, more coal was carried by rail than by the canal. Mill owners began to install steam engines to give themselves the security of continuous power in the dry periods when the river currents were unreliable. This opened up much available land for mill construction, as mills no longer had to be on the canal or the river. (Clendenin, p.7) Proximity to the rail and coal yards combined with cheaper prices for land pushed the mid and late 19th century mills up the hill on streets such as Shurs Lane and Leverington Avenue as well as beyond the eastern terminus of the canal (which is where John Wilde & Brother would develop). By the late 1890s electricity was also available to power the mills, replacing the bulky belt drives of the textile machines. (Licht and Scranton, p. 56)

The Civil War shifted production in Manayunk from cotton to wool and wool blends to supply blankets and other needs of the Union Army. Additionally, it strengthened Philadelphia's ability to stay competitive with other regions, namely New England, since the northeast was unable to get the same quantity and quality of raw materials as Philadelphia. With the chasm between southern suppliers of raw materials and northern manufacturers, a textile industry developed in the south which led to the permanent decline in the importance of cotton in Philadelphia after the war. (Mintz and Smith, p.8/4) However Philadelphia's mills had long been specializing in a particular step in the production process and creating a wide range of goods, such as lace, carpets, and upholsteries. This allowed them to offset any decline in workforce or productivity unlike New England's mills whose staple goods, such as cotton sheeting print and broad cloths and blankets, were hurt following the war. The end of the 19th century saw Manayunk mills and factories

"producing standard cotton and wool fabrics, as well as carpet yarns, silks, 'shoddy' blends, hosiery, dress goods cashmere, jeans and other articles." (Mintz and Smith, p.8/4)

Other competitive advantages of Philadelphia, including specialization, the local labor pool, and the creation of the Philadelphia Textile School (located one mile from Manayunk in East Falls) are discussed in *Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia* National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form. While Kensington is a separate neighborhood, it shares many similarities with the Manayunk neighborhood's textile industry.

The postbellum construction of mills boomed in the city. Philadelphia's textile industry supported 65,000 workers in 800 firms in 1880, which was the greatest single element in the regional economy. (Scranton, *Figured Tapestry*, p.17) Carpet production was the largest segment of textiles, employing 12,500 people in 337 establishments. (Blodget, *Philadelphia and Its Industries*, p.29) The Kensington neighborhood had 7,502 carpet weavers on 4,329 handlooms in addition to power looms, attesting to the continued presence of side-by-side mechanized and cottage industries. (Ferguson, *Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia* MPDF p.14) And the production of woolen yarns for the city of Philadelphia employed 2,086 people in 75 spinning mills; more than two-thirds of those woolen yarns were woven into carpets. (Blodget, *Philadelphia and its Industries*, p.67)

Manayunk's contributions to the carpet industry were significant since 60% of the carpet yarn was spun in Manayunk, then sent to Kensington to be woven (1,255 out of 2,086 spinners worked for the 48 woolen yarn companies in Manayunk.) (Blodget, *Census Manufactures*, p.75-96) Carpet yarns were always in demand to supply the burgeoning carpet trade, and Manayunk outpaced carpet yarn production in Kensington by more than two-fold. Woolen yarn laborers accounted for more than one quarter of all other textile (including the dye works') employees in Manayunk in 1882. Interestingly, the *Workshop of the World* survey notes from 1990 of the remaining mill buildings constructed during this period in Manayunk (with various contemporary uses), reported roughly nine out of twelve were woolen and/or carpet yarn mills. (Elk, *Workshop of the World* worksheets).

With shop/mill operators from textile regions of Europe immigrating to the area during the latter half of the 19th century, clustering of textile mills grew out of ethnic, familial, and experiential associations. In Manayunk, most immigrants were of English, Scottish, and Irish descent. As historian Philip Scranton argued, inter-firm networks increased the efficiency of industrial districts, whether by working together for labor problems, establishing quality standards, or collective marketing tactics: "Uncertainty of demand could at times yield layoffs, but companies located in industrial districts could expect that those displaced would "catch-on" at other shops, anticipating that later hiring needs could be met not only by returnees, but also by in-migrating workers who understood which cities were the best places to seek positions." (Scranton, *Diversity in Diversity*, p. 36, 44) The cluster of other specialty firms also helped to support the production of carpet yarn. Wool brokers, dye works, and machine shops were all located in Manayunk. William Schofield, once located on Krams Street, produced such textile equipment as willows, pickers, reels, dusters, and grinders.

Criterion A: Significance in the trends of industry

Into this industrial landscape the John Wilde & Brother mill was established—a proprietor-owned firm which was both manufacturing enterprise and family legacy for four generations. This model served as the mainstay for the Philadelphia textile industry, especially in Manayunk, for over a century. This may have originated from the fact that the Levering family, who owned much of the land along the Schuylkill River in the eighteenth century, was more interested in land development following the creation of the canal than

industry. Cities like Lowell, Massachusetts, established corporate ownerships early on, however Manayunk's industries evolved piecemeal. This provided the opportunities for immigrants with little capital to set up shops, often as tenants initially, and specialize in one part of production.

Like many participants in the growing textile industry in Philadelphia in the 19th century, the Wilde family hailed from England, arriving in Philadelphia circa 1860. John and Thomas' father James had worked in the textile mills of Manchester, England, and is believed to have pursued this occupation in Philadelphia. The trajectory of James' milling career is unclear, although it is known that his sons John and Thomas purchased a carding machine and spinning machine (or mule) and established a wool carpet yarn business in rented space in the Enterprise Mill in Manayunk in 1880.

John Wilde & Brother spun wool in the Enterprise Mill from 1880-1884, located a few hundred yards west on Main Street (Figure 3) owned by the Dobson family (of the much larger Dobson Mills in East Falls). In 1882, the brothers had begun construction of a mill on Cresson Street, on property bounded by Cresson and Main Streets, near the intersection of Ridge Avenue. The new mill is believed to have been constructed by S.S. Keely, owner of the Enterprise Mill and a developer of other industrial and residential properties in Manayunk. Construction was completed in 1884. (Photo 21).

Family accounts suggest the company's early success. By 1890 the brothers employed 22 people (five of them women) and were selling yarn for 20 cents per pound. Customers were primarily Kensington weavers and shopmen. (Scranton, *Proprietary Capitalism*, p.244) In the city directory of 1891, John's and Thomas' residences were just north of the railroad on Sumac Street, at 127 and 129 Sumac respectively. (Goshow, p.147) The close-knit community of owners and workers reflected their shared heritage, as employees were primarily of English and Irish stock, as seen in family names on payroll ledgers from 1897. The firm experienced relatively little turnover in its workforce, about 30% per year compared with 100% or more in big New England mills. (Scranton, *Philadelphia System*, p.42)

Wilde and Brother's mill prospered into the 20th century and continued to be owned and operated by family members. John Wilde's son-in-law, Clarence Keever, joined the business, in 1910. Full ownership of the mill went to Clarence upon the retirement of John Wilde in 1917. (Thomas Wilde had retired four years earlier, in 1913.) In 1915 John's nephew Russell Fawley joined the family milling operation, partnering with Clarence Keever in 1917 when he purchased a one-third ownership stake in the mill. Just one year later Clarence died suddenly of the flu, leaving Russell Fawley, then only 26 years old, as sole owner. In 1921, he partnered with his brother-in-law, David J. Matlack, who was the husband of Fawley's sister, Emily. Russell Fawley guided the company through tremendous fiscal highs and lows until his death in 1958. (Nancy Fawley interview) In addition to serving as President of the Board at Roxborough Memorial Hospital, located approximately one mile from the mill, a trust was set up in his name.

In MacFarlane's 1910directory of textile industries of Philadelphia, 16 out of 26 carpet yarn firms were in Manayunk (still 60% as in 1880). (MacFarlane, p. 19-44) The cluster of carpet yarn manufacturers continued to serve the regional carpet market, given the geographic proximity of Manayunk and Kensington, and Philadelphia's dominance in the industry was undisputed. (MacFarlane, p.7) Total production for Philadelphia for 1910 exceeded the combined values of Lawrence, Fall River, and Lowell, Massachusetts. The city employed 80,150 people in textiles, which was 35% of its workforce. (Ferguson, *Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia* p.16)

Most mills operated variable-output batch productions, only spinning wool upon orders. This method of operation, in contrast to mass-production, allowed firms to minimize fixed costs so they were in a better

position to curtail operation without imperiling the company's survival. (Scranton, *Diversity in Diversity*, p.59) It was common practice to hire and shed workers as needed.

The first few decades of the 20th century saw the ebb and flow of business due to war and depression. In addition to the national political and economic situations, the cost of doing business in the city was high due to increasing labor costs. Since there was far less unionization in the southern states, and the cost of living was generally lower there, companies that established factories in the Carolinas could significantly reduce labor costs. (Clendenin, p.4) This first impacted the few large-scale mills in Manayunk and nearby East Falls, due to the mills' inabilities to manage labor unrest. Collins & Aikman relocated to the Midwest in the 1930s; Imperial Woolens, a merger of the Schofield and Dobson mill dynasties closed in 1935; and Dobson Mills in East Falls, which at one time had 11,000 laborers shut its doors in 1927, also due to labor disputes and because James Dobson's son was not an adequate successor.

While some of the small firms folded as well, a number of carpet yarn producers were still viable through the Depression, in part because of the small-scale of the companies where workers tended not to organize. In 1935, Wilde employed 37 people. (8th Industrial Directory of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) Stable employment continued to be reflected in time books at John Wilde & Brother. Nancy Fawley, daughter of J. Russell Fawley, Jr., referred to past employees of the mill like family ("Farmer Joe" and "Johnny Walpole") and said some had worked at the mill for 60 years. She could not recall any stories of disgruntled workers and the mill was never unionized. The ethnic makeup of employees shifted to Eastern Europeans, especially Polish, by the 1920s and 1930s as immigrant trends changed. Manayunk's steel mill attracted immigrant workers, providing a steady workforce for the textile mills of the women of new arrivals. (Scranton, *Philadelphia System*, p.42).

The company thrived in the 1930s, as evidenced by the construction of the 1932 Building, and Wilde continued to do business within the Manayunk community. "Both the willow and the pickers were manufactured by Wm. Schofield of Manayunk and patented in 1929" (Photos 37 and 38) and remained in use until its closing. (Elk, *Workshop of the World* website) Wilde purchased dyed wool from G.J. Littlewood & Son, dyers located on Main Street in Manayunk, as well as Victor Dyeworks, also of Manayunk. (Scranton, *The Philadelphia System*, p.54) By 1940, John Wilde and Brother had almost 4,000 spindles and 112 workers in its two Main Street mills; the company was renting additional space elsewhere. (Scranton, *Philadelphia System*, p.42)

Regionally however, the number of employees in the textile industry had dropped by half between 1910 and 1941. (Ferguson, *Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia*, p.E/16) World War II sustained wool yarn production for the likes of blankets and sweaters, while John Wilde was producing socks in Manayunk and operated a second shift. (Nancy Fawley interview) The post-war period witnessed the sharp decline of the Philadelphia carpet industry. (See *The U.S. Carpet Industry in the 20th Century* for additional details.) In 1940, Kensington had only 265 remaining textile firms and by the end of the 1960s, only seventy- five. (Ferguson, *Industrial and Commercial Buildings Related to the Textile Industry in the Kensington Neighborhood of Philadelphia*, p.E/18) In the 1950s, petroleum refining took over third place from the textile cluster in the Philadelphia region, following electrical, and transportation equipment. (Scranton, *Large Firms and Industrial Restructuring*, p.448) Imports also entered into the competition.

The company was incorporated in 1959 under the family name, presumably for legal benefits, which signaled the business transition away from the local to the broader economy. John Wilde had to adapt in the second half of the 20th century to find niche markets, such as high-end carpeting. The role John Wilde

played in supporting the Manayunk industrial community and within the carpet manufacturing network of Philadelphia was significantly diminished after 1959.

Comparable companies

At Manayunk's industrial height, dozens of woolen yarn companies and scores of other textile firms coexisted, with most operating under the proprietor-owned, batch production model. As Scranton stated, "three-quarters of Philadelphia's industrial workers plied their crafts in small and midsize companies, ranging from a handful to six or seven hundred employees." (*An Immigrant Family*, p.391) The decentralized production of carpet manufacturing allowed such small companies to focus on one part of the production process and thrive without large inventories of stock or large overhead costs. Therefore the small businesses that kept their operations flexible to the changing market and staffed according to demand were better positioned to adapt in the early 20th century.

In the later 20th century, even having found specialty and national markets for wool yarn, manufacturers could not justify their location in the dense neighborhood of Manayunk. The economic and social benefits of clustered facilities no longer existed. Like Wilde, other family-owned businesses were forced to close.

Shurs Lane Mill was run by T. Kenworthy & Brother in two main buildings at Shurs Lane and Pechin Street of similar architecture to Wilde's 1884 building. In June of 1875, the Kenworthy brothers purchased the lot from the estate of Samuel Levering and ran a successful family-owned carpet yarn business for over fifty years. (Elk, *Workshop of the World* worksheets) Benjamin and Rubin Kenworthy and Theodore Culver continued the company until the 1930s, when the mill was sold outside the family. The successor company Roxborough Mills was in operation until 1985. Members of the Kenworthy family separated from the mill in 1919 to form T. Kenworthy's Sons, wool carpets importers.

Robert Krook, Inc. was a father-son operation and the next-to-last firm producing wool carpet yarn in Manayunk. Located at 4120 Main Street, Robert Krook was founded in 1912 in an older mill structure but made significant alterations and built a new factory adjacent in 1915. ("Contract Awarded", The American Contractor, p.52) Labor statistics show variable but strong employment throughout the century with 108 employees in 1953 (According to the 1953 *Industrial Directory of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* Wilde's workforce in the same year was 70 people). Russell Fawley, Jr. of Wilde's mill and Bob Krook (Jr.) were peers as well as friends, and visited similar craft trade shows, though Krook did not trade with the Navajo rug weavers as Fawley did in more recent years. (Nancy Fawley interview) Though comparable to Wilde in size of employees in 1985, Robert Krook, Inc. closed in the year 2000, several years before Wilde. Lack of a successor (Bob Krook did not have any children) prompted the closing.

An additional comparison can be made with the last remaining textile company still in operation in Manayunk: G.J Littlewood & Son, formerly Albion Dye Works. The company is a commission-dyeing house, run by the fourth and fifth generations of Littlewoods in the same location as it was founded in 1869 on Main Street, east of Shurs Lane. Today, the buildings have largely been rebuilt in concrete and brick. What was once an inn for canal boat crews currently houses the offices. In contrast with the old architecture, the interiors contain modern dyeing equipment; Littlewood & Son was one of the first dyers of raw stock to install high pressure and high temperature equipment. In 1976, they opened a second plant in Bloomsburg, PA. (McCurry p.20) Labor statistics show between twenty and forty workers consistently throughout the century. (*Industrial Directory of Pennsylvania,* 1922, 1935, 1953, 1985 and *Industrial Directory of Greater Philadelphia*, 1943)

Manayunk's late 19th century mill architecture

Manayunk's industrial architecture has several distinct characteristics, which are all seen in Wilde's 1884 building. The mills are heavy timber-framed structures clad in Wissahickon schist. They have low pitched gable roofs, are two-to-four stories in height so as not to require elevators, and are narrow enough to provide natural light for working. The defining element is the repetitive window, with double course brickwork heads above an arched opening. Often the same double row brickwork serves for door headers and cornice trim (Photos 19 and 21). At the gable ends are semicircular operable windows that allowed for ventilation in the dusty mills and could double as hoisting bays (Photo 29).

This common palette of elements and materials is seen in not less than 10 surviving or partially surviving buildings with the mill district of Manayunk and attributed to the land developer and planing mill owner S.S. Keely. (Myers, "Builder's mark still on old mills.") A prolific builder, whose own planing mill provided the doors and window frames, sash, blinds, and all kinds of wood work, Keely employed 100 workers at the height of construction. His real estate holdings were strewn all around Manayunk, as seen by his name on vacant lots in Bromley atlases, and he owned at least 150 dwellings. The S.S. Keely & Sons Planing Mill, at the intersection of Leverington, Washington, and Main Street, bears all the marks of his trademark style.

According to the internet version of *Workshop of the World*, Keely's mills include

> the remaining portion of Sevill Schofield's Economy Mills (Manayunk Canal at Lock Street), the David Wallace Lincoln Mills (4074 Main Street), the Rice and Bean Harmony Textile Mill (116 Shurs Lane), and the Robert Wilde and Son Yarn Mill (on Wilde Street at Leverington Avenue), Little Falls Mill (north side of Krams Street, south of Silverwood Street). Each of these mills contain brick arched lintels and decorative brick cornices. The roofs are shallowly pitched and in the gable ends, a semicircular operable window allowed for ventilation in the dusty mills and also served as a hoisting bay. All were constructed of Wissahickon schist in a rubble fashion, with large quoins fashioning the corners. Based on these similarities, a number of other mills may have been constructed by him as well. They include the T. Kenworthy and Brother Shurs Lane Mills (400-428 Shurs Lane), the Canton Mills (Leverington Avenue and Baker Street), Keystone Shoddy Mills (Leverington Avenue and Silverwood Street), the Roxborough Mills (Shurs Lane and Lauriston Street), the Freeland Mills (4105 Freeland Avenue), the first portion of John Wilde and Brother Carpet Yarn Mill (3737 Main Street), and perhaps the rebuilding of the Blantyre Mills (Cotton Street and Main Street).

These basic buildings stand in contrast with the more urban mills of the post-Civil War era, such as those in Kensington and elsewhere, constructed almost exclusively of red pressed brick. Quaker City Dye Works, recently listed in the National Register, whose primary buildings were constructed in 1873 and 1881, represent this type. Often these urban mills were characterized by more elaborate styling than the Manayunk counterparts. Bromley's lace factory, with its mansard roofs and pavilions, was easily the most architecturally impressive, designed by Walter Geissinger in 1892. The North American Lace Co, located at 8th and Allegheny and designed by the William Steele Co., was similarly grand. Both are now demolished.

The remaining S.S. Keely mills, a number of which are on the steep hills and back streets of Manayunk, with precarious exterior stone stairs, no interior plumbing, and high hoists, bespeak of the austere conditions which laborers endured.

The U.S. carpet industry in the 20th century

The U.S. carpet industry had its genesis in the mills of the northeast, including Philadelphia. In the 19th century Americans used carpet to cover poor quality, soft wood floors. Large rugs became a staple in upper-middle class American homes by the early 20th century. Sales ballooned to more than 83 million square yards by 1923, but declined by the end of the decade. (Patton, *A History of the U.S. Carpet Industry* web article) Industry production hovered in the 60 million square yard range throughout the 1930s. Following a decline in sales and production during the 1930s, the carpet industry received a boost by shifting to the production of goods to support the war effort during World War II, and then again in the years following the war, although wool carpet sales remained essentially flat through the early 1950s. Sales continued to decline as other price-competitive flooring materials became available (for example, linoleum and vinyl), and wool was overtaken by the introduction of tufting machines and nylons.

Whereas woven rugs are produced by knotting yarn onto a matrix of fibers, tufting is a process by which yarn is applied to a pre-woven backing material. Tufting was adapted to rug production by the tufted bedspread industry which developed in Georgia in the late 19th century. By the 1930s southern firms such as Cabin Crafts began to experiment with larger pieces of backing material, producing small rugs along with bedspreads. According to Randall Patton in his history of the US carpet industry, entrepreneurs soon began experimenting with larger and larger pieces of backing material, resulting in the production of larger rugs and wall-to-wall carpeting with the tufting process. With the new tufting process, and tufting machinery wide enough to produce carpeting in a single pass, carpet makers could purchase inexpensive pre- woven backing materials—first jute, and then synthetic substitutes—and produce carpets well below the cost of traditional woven rugs. (Patton, web article) 1960, most carpet in the United States was made on tufting machines from synthetic fibers such as nylon in factories located in the southeastern United States, with most new mills located in and around the Appalachian foothills town of Dalton, Georgia.

Cotton, rayon and spun nylon tufted carpets were produced but the real break-through in the tufted carpet industry came with the development of bulked continuous filament (BCF) nylon by the DuPont Corporation in the 1950s specifically for the carpet industry. "DuPont's initiative was clearly stimulated by the growth of carpet sales. In essence, tufted manufacturers created a market large enough to justify DuPont's research and development costs." (Patton, web article) Economical and sturdy, DuPont's BCF nylon produced an inexpensive, low pile carpet product that was affordable to a wide market, solidifying the South's dominance in the carpet manufacturing industry. While high quality woven wool carpet continued to be produced, in the latter decades of the 20th century it became a specialty product while tufted nylon carpets became a staple in American households. The U.S. carpet industry exemplifies the rise of the south as an industrial center during the 20th century. Today the U.S. carpet industry accounts for approximately 45% of the world's carpet production, with 85 percent of the carpet sold in the U.S. being produced in mills in the State of Georgia.

Conclusion

John Wilde & Brother survived these major shifts in the carpet industry and continued to produce wool carpet yarns up until 2012. Joseph Russell Fawley, Jr, son of Russell Fawley, carried on the family tradition through the second half of the 20th century and into the 21st, with his eldest daughter Nancy Fawley joining him for a short time and helping to oversee the closure in 2012. Although the mill expanded into wool yarns for the clothing and craft markets in the 20th century, as late as 1993 carpet wool still accounted for 70 percent of the company's business. Wilde's customers included such high-end and specialty carpet manufacturers as Langhorne Carpet Company (Penndel, PA), Down's Carpet Mills (Langhorne, PA), and Bloomsburg Carpet Industries (Bloomsburg, PA) as well as companies outside the northeast.

As a small operation, the Wilde mill was adept as customization and produced specialty wool products for craft cottage industries (hand-crafted dolls, hooked rugs, table runners); they were also used in wool costumes for historical re-enactments. (Nancy Fawley interview) In the late 1980s Wilde partnered with the R.B. Burnham & Co. Trading Post in Sanders, Arizona to produce yarns for re-sale under the trade name Wilde & Wooly. A specialty yarn in 15 custom colors was also produced for the Navajo rug weaver market. According to R.B. Burnam, Wilde was able to create a "wool that gives the appearance of being hand-carded in the finished piece. Hands down, the Wilde yarn makes a better rug." (Stranahan) The most recent contributions of Russell Fawley, Jr. included offering spinning and weaving courses to novices and selling loom accessories, following the trend back to traditional hand weaving. He also donated a mill building, located east of the current Wilde omplex, to the Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers in 1992.

Along Main Street, the Wilde mill buildings survive as a reminder of the industrial Wissahickon neighborhood in east Manayunk. The immediate neighbors on the south side of Main Street include a storage facility, movie theater and mall complex with parking lot and the c.2005 BridgeFive apartment building. John Wilde & Brother was a prominent player in the Philadelphia carpet industry and the company's legacy continues to shape Manayunk's mill community.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

_X_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
_____previously listed in the National Register
_____previously determined eligible by the National Register
_____designated a National Historic Landmark
_____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
_____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
_____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

_____State Historic Preservation Office
_____Other State agency
_____Federal agency
_____Local government
_____ University
_____ Other
Name of repository:_____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): NA

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.35 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: NAD83
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 40.016432 Longitude: -75.212170

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
BEGINNING at a point on the Northeasterly side of Main Street (60 feet wide) at the distance of 115.000' measured North 65 degrees 16 minutes 36 seconds West from the intersection of the said Northeasterly side of Main Street with the cut-off connecting the Westerly side of Ridge Avenue (60 feet wide) with the Northwesterly side of Main Street (now or formerly Old Sumac Street), and running, THENCE, along the Northeasterly side of Main Street, North 65 degrees 16 minutes 36 seconds West, a distance of 39.448 feet to a point; THENCE, extending along the same Northeasterly side of Main Street, North 76 degrees 19 minutes 45 seconds West, a distance of 197.296 feet to a point; THENCE, extending along the same Northeasterly side of Main Street, North 53 degrees 52 minutes 48 seconds West, a distance of 185.555 feet to a point; THENCE, extending along the same Northeasterly side of Main Street, North 41 degrees 09 minutes 10 seconds West, a distance of 123.949 feet to a point being a corner to lands of now or formerly 3759 Main Street; THENCE, extending along the lands of now or formerly 3759 Main Street, North 52 degrees 31 minutes 30 seconds East, a distance of 89.402 feet to a point being on line of lands of now or formerly 3620 Cresson Street; THENCE,

extending along the lands of 3620 Cresson Street, South 38 degrees 16 minutes 12 seconds East, a distance of 92.133 feet to a point; THENCE, extending along the same lands of 3620 Cresson Street, North 49 degrees 17 minutes 22 seconds East, a distance of 83.795 feet to a point on the Southwesterly side of a 14 foot wide Private Lane and widening to 18 feet wide running Southeasterly to Ridge Avenue; THENCE, extending along the same Southwesterly side of the said Private Lane, South 45 degrees 14 minutes 28 seconds East, a distance of 89.128 feet to a point; THENCE, extending along the same Southwesterly side of the said Private Lane, South 47 degrees 16 minutes 38 seconds East, a distance of 99.969 feet to a point; THENCE, extending along the same Southwesterly side of the said Private Lane, South 50 degrees 11 minutes 45 seconds East, a distance of 110.124 feet to a point; THENCE, extending along the same Southwesterly side of the said Private Lane, South 44 degrees 30 minutes 04 seconds East, a distance of 51.732 feet to a point; THENCE, extending along the same Southwesterly side of the said Private Lane, South 45 degrees 29 minutes 56 seconds West, a distance of 4.000 feet to a point on the Southwesterly side of the 18 foot wide Private Lane; THENCE, extending along the same Southwesterly side of the said 18 foot wide Private Lane, South 44 degrees 30 minutes 04 seconds East, a distance of 13.333 feet to a point; THENCE, extending along the same Southwesterly side of the said Private Lane, South 54 degrees 06 minutes 11 seconds East, a distance of 25.406 feet to a point being a corner to adjoining lands; THENCE, extending along the lands of the adjacent property, South 24 degrees 43 minutes 24 seconds West, a distance of 41.135 feet to the said Northeasterly side of Main Street, the first mentioned point and place of BEGINNING.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The Boundary identifies the site as historically and currently configured, encompassing the 1884, 1932 and 1983 Wilde mill buildings and landscape that contribute to the physical integrity and industrial significance of the resource.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Martin Jay Rosenblum, AIA
organization: Martin Jay Rosenblum, AIA & Associates
address: 346 South 15th Street
city or town: Philadelphia PA, 19102
email: mrosenblum@mjra-architects.com
telephone: 215-985-4285
date: 9 November 2012

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

John Wilde & Brother, Inc
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: John Wilde & Brother, Inc.
City or Vicinity: Philadelphia
County: Philadelphia State: PA
Photographer: Suzanna Barucco
Date Photographed: 6/4/2012, 7/31/2012

Photo #	Photo Subject/Description	Camera Facing
1	EXTERIOR. View of complex from across the Schuylkill River (south elevation)	N
2	EXTERIOR. Looking west on Cresson St, approaching 1984 Building (Ridge Ave on right)	W
3	EXTERIOR. View of complex from parking lot on south side of Main Street	N
4	EXTERIOR. 1932 Building. View of south elevation, looking up Main Street	NW
5	EXTERIOR. 1932 Building. View to north from south side of Main Street	N
6	EXTERIOR. 1932 Building. View to east (west elevation)	E
7	EXTERIOR. 1932 Building. East elevation	NW
8	EXTERIOR. 1932 Building. View to southwest from 1884 Building (north elevation)	SW
9	INTERIOR. 1932 Building. 1st floor. Looking back at entry door	SW
10	INTERIOR. 1932 Building. 1st floor. View to west from mid-building	W
11	INTERIOR. 1932 Building. 2nd floor. View to north from southeast side of building	NE
12	INTERIOR. 1932 Building. 2nd floor. View to west from mid-building on south side	NW
13	INTERIOR. 1932 Building. 2nd floor. View to east from northwest side of building	SE
14	INTERIOR. 1932 Building. 3rd floor. View to west from east side of building	NW
15	INTERIOR. 1932 Building. 3rd floor. Roof trusses	NW
16	INTERIOR. 1932 Building. 3rd floor. Enclosed stairway & chute leading to 1884 building	NE
17	EXTERIOR. 1884 Building. View from across the Schuylkill River (south elevation)	N
18	EXTERIOR. 1884 Building. Window on north elevation at 3rd floor	SW
19	EXTERIOR. 1884 Building. View to west from Cresson Street (north elevation)	W
20	EXTERIOR. 1884 Building with 1984 Building beyond. View to east from Cresson St.	SE
21	EXTERIOR. 1884 Building. View of smokestack from Ridge Avenue	W

John Wilde & Brother, Inc
Name of Property

Philadelphia, PA
County and State

Photo #	Photo Subject/Description	Camera Facing
22	INTERIOR. 1884 Building. 1st floor. View to west from mid building on south side	NW
23	INTERIOR. 1884 Building. 1st floor. View of a mechanical room	E
24	INTERIOR. 1884 Building. 2nd floor. View to east from mid-building	SE
25	INTERIOR. 1884 Building. 2nd floor. View to south from inside brick addition at west side	SW
26	INTERIOR. 1884 Building. 2nd floor. Looking through opg. to lift and beyond from east	NW
27	INTERIOR. 1884 Building. 2nd floor. Doors to Cresson Street at east side	NE
28	INTERIOR. 1884 Building. 3rd floor. Underside of roof and ceiling	NW
29	INTERIOR. 1884 Building, 3rd floor. Looking toward original end wall at west side, through to brick	NW
30	INTERIOR. 1884 Building. 3rd floor. View to south from inside brick addition at west side	SW
31	INTERIOR. 1884 Building. 3rd floor. View to east from west side of building	SE
32	INTERIOR. 1884 Building. 3rd floor. View of doors at east side leading to 1984 Building	SE
33	EXTERIOR. 1984 Building. View from across the Schuylkill River (south elevation)	N
34	EXTERIOR. 1984 Building. View to east from Cresson Street	SE
35	INTERIOR. 1984 Building. 1st floor. Looking toward doors to 1884 Building	NW
36	INTERIOR. 1984 Building. 1st floor. View to east from mid-building	SE
37	INTERIOR. 1884 Building. 2nd floor. Machinery by Wm Schofield of Manayunk	W
38	INTERIOR. 1884 Building. 2nd floor. Machinery by Wm Schofield of Manayunk	E
39	INTERIOR. 1884 Buidling. 2nd floor. Company sign.	S

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

John Wilde & Brother, Inc.
Name of Property
Philadelphia, PA
County and State
n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 1

Figure 1. Location map, 2012.

Figure 2. Historic rendering. Bird's eye view showing Wilde mill on Main Street and Pencoyd Iron Works (foreground), n.d. (circa 1900?). Source: Lower Merion Township Historical Society

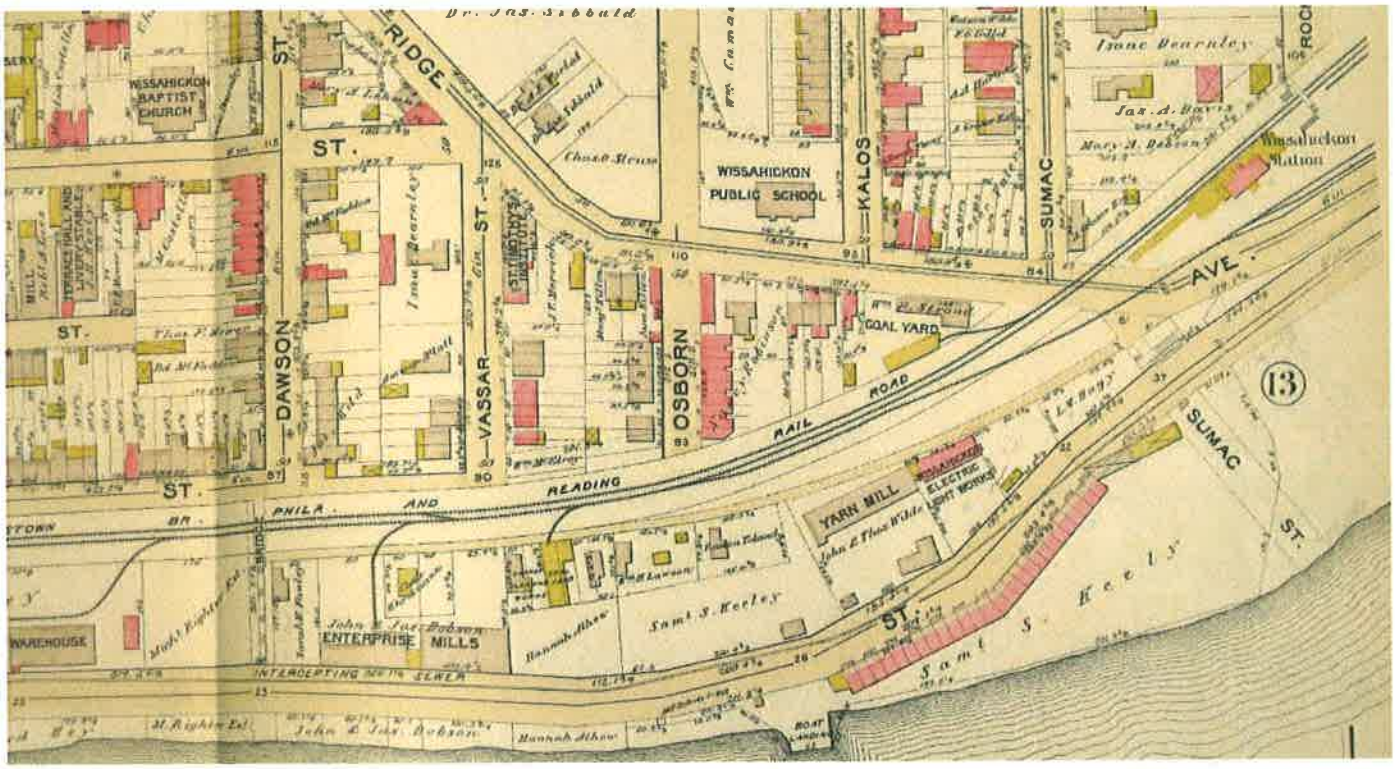


Figure 3. Bromley Atlas (detail), 1892.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

John Wilde & Brother, Inc.
Name of Property Philadelphia, PA
County and State n/a
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 4

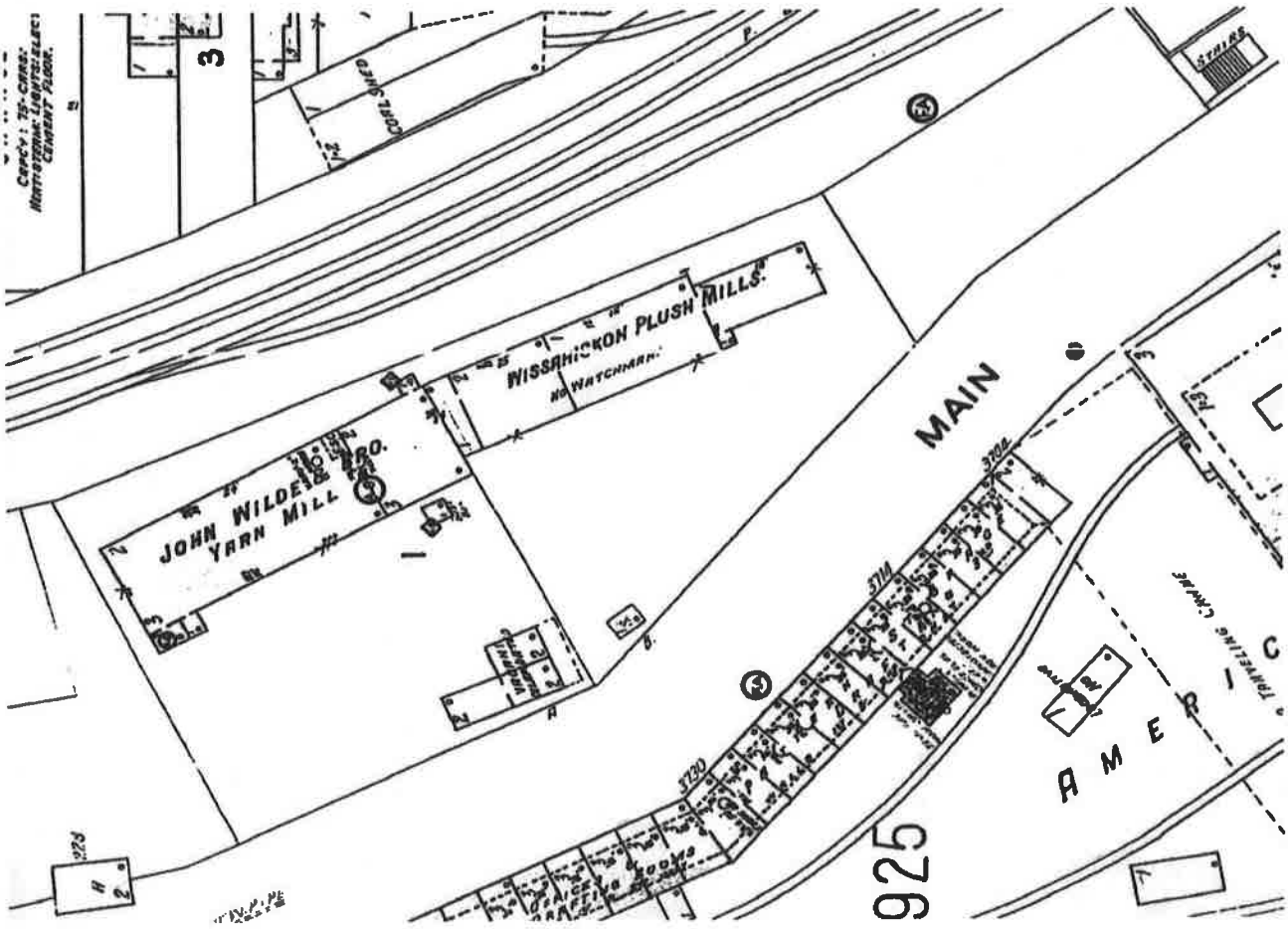


Figure 4. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1923. Adjacent Wissahickon Plush Mill is future site of 1983 Building.

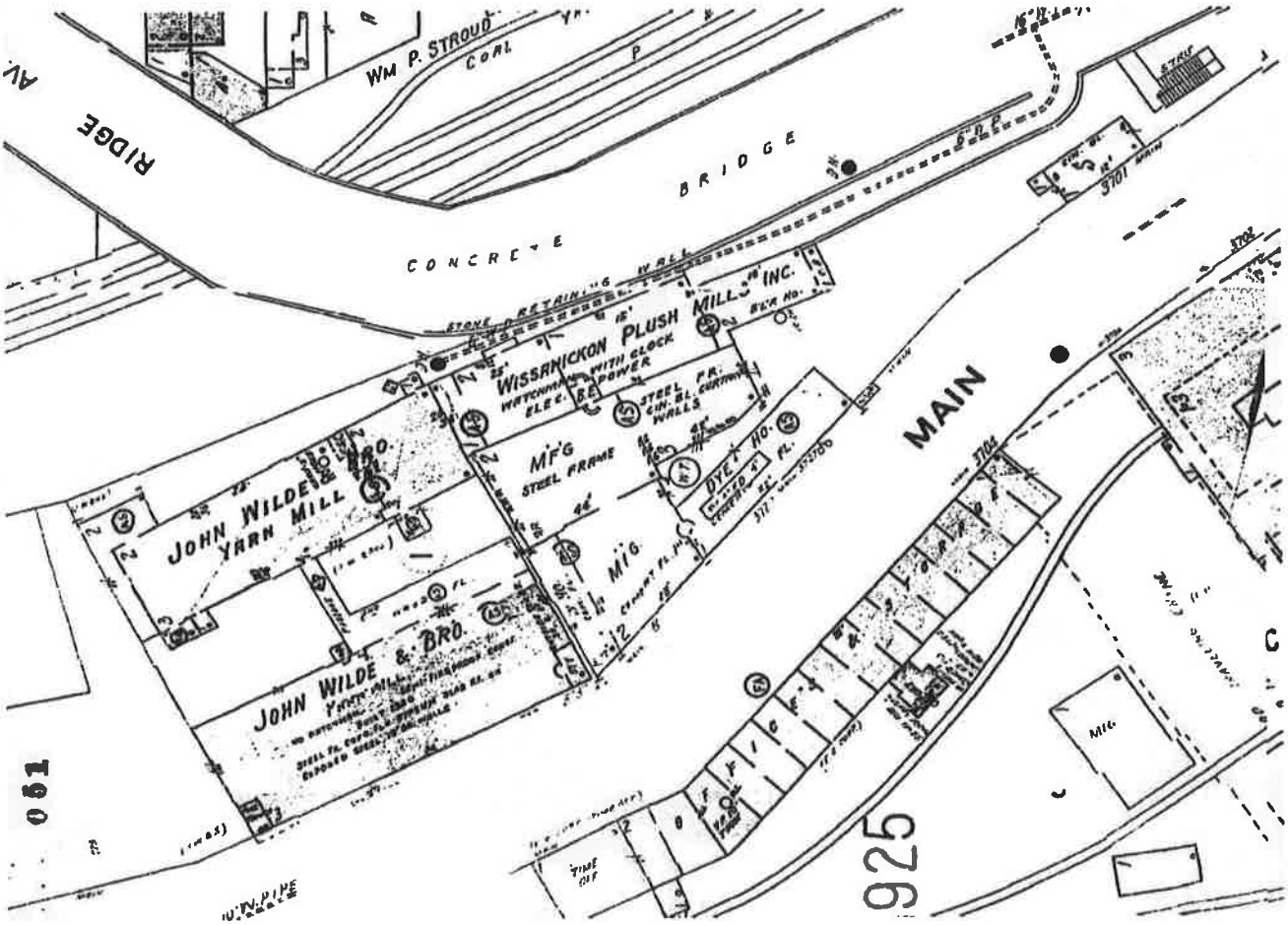
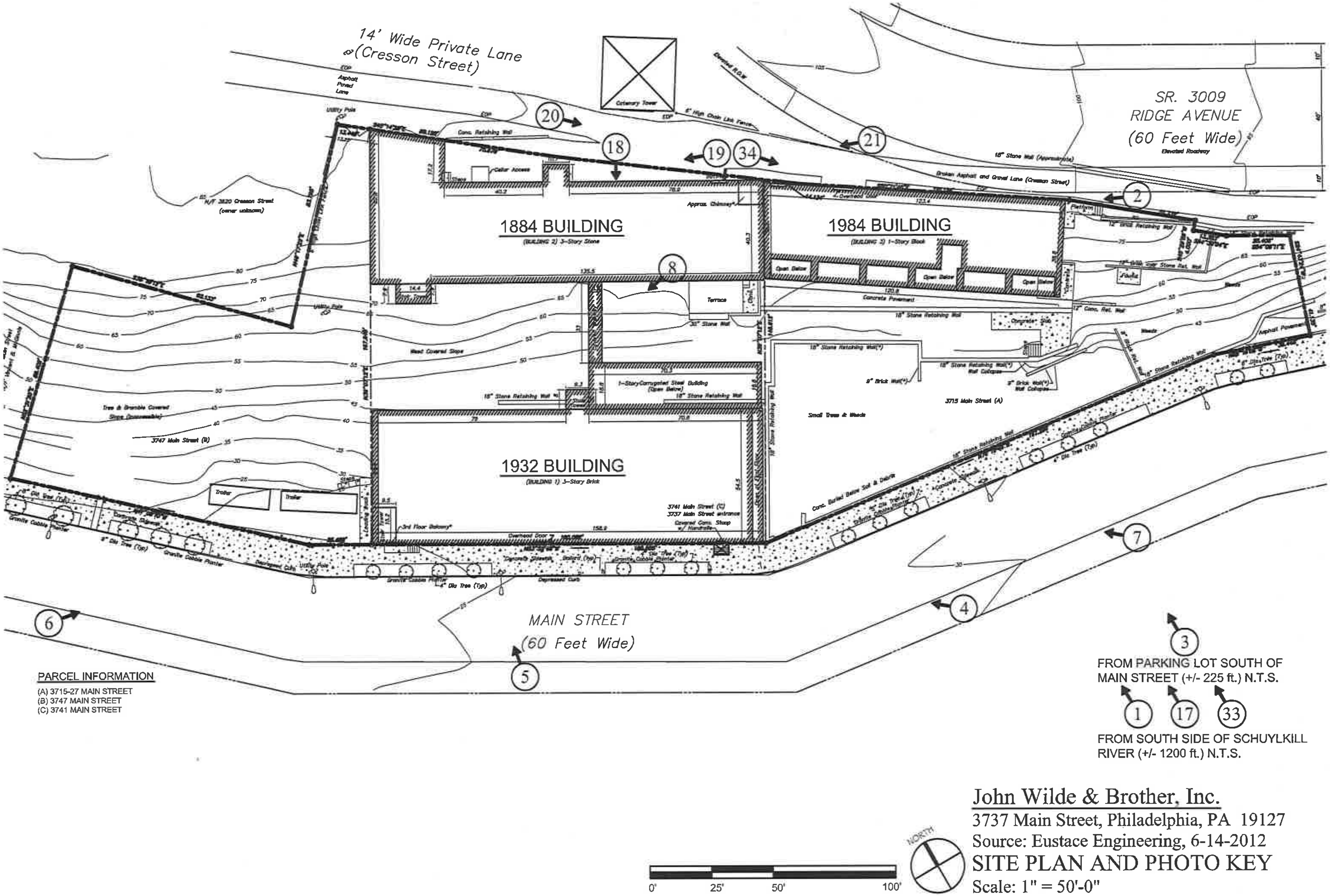


Figure 5. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1950. Adjacent Wissahickon Plush Mill is future site of 1983 Building.



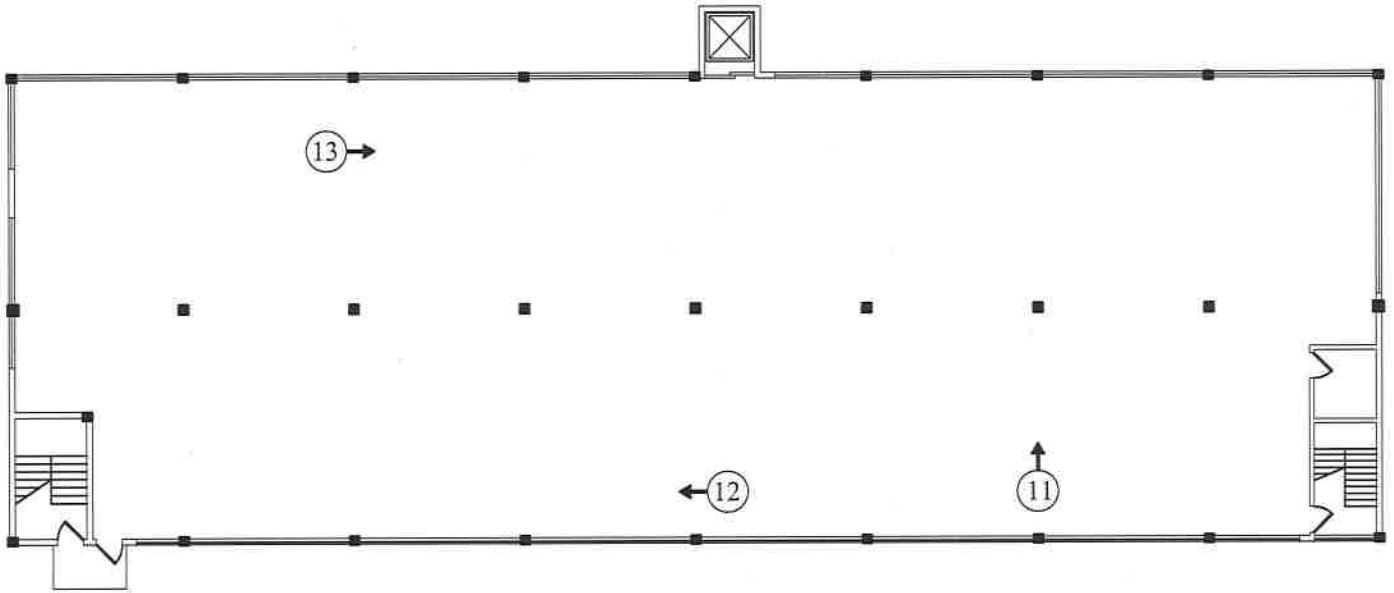
John Wilde & Brother, Inc.

3737 Main Street, Philadelphia, PA 19127

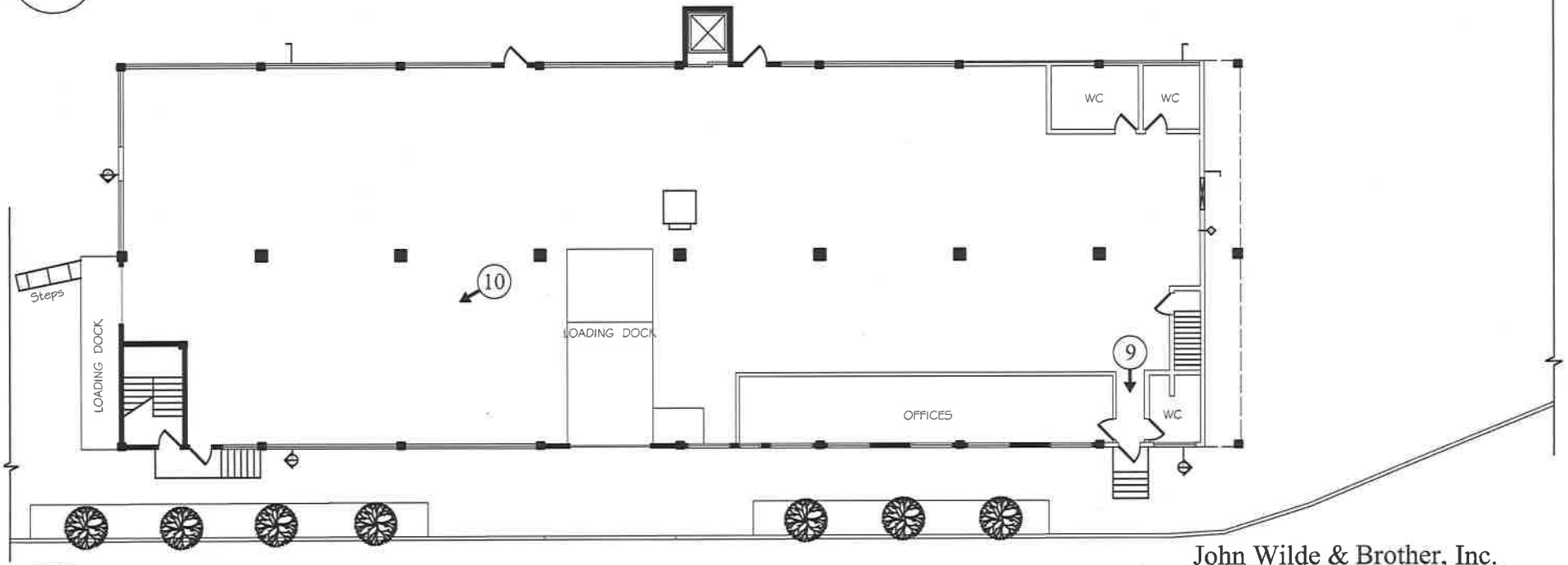
Source: Eustace Engineering, 6-14-2012

SITE PLAN AND PHOTO KEY

Scale: 1" = 50'-0"

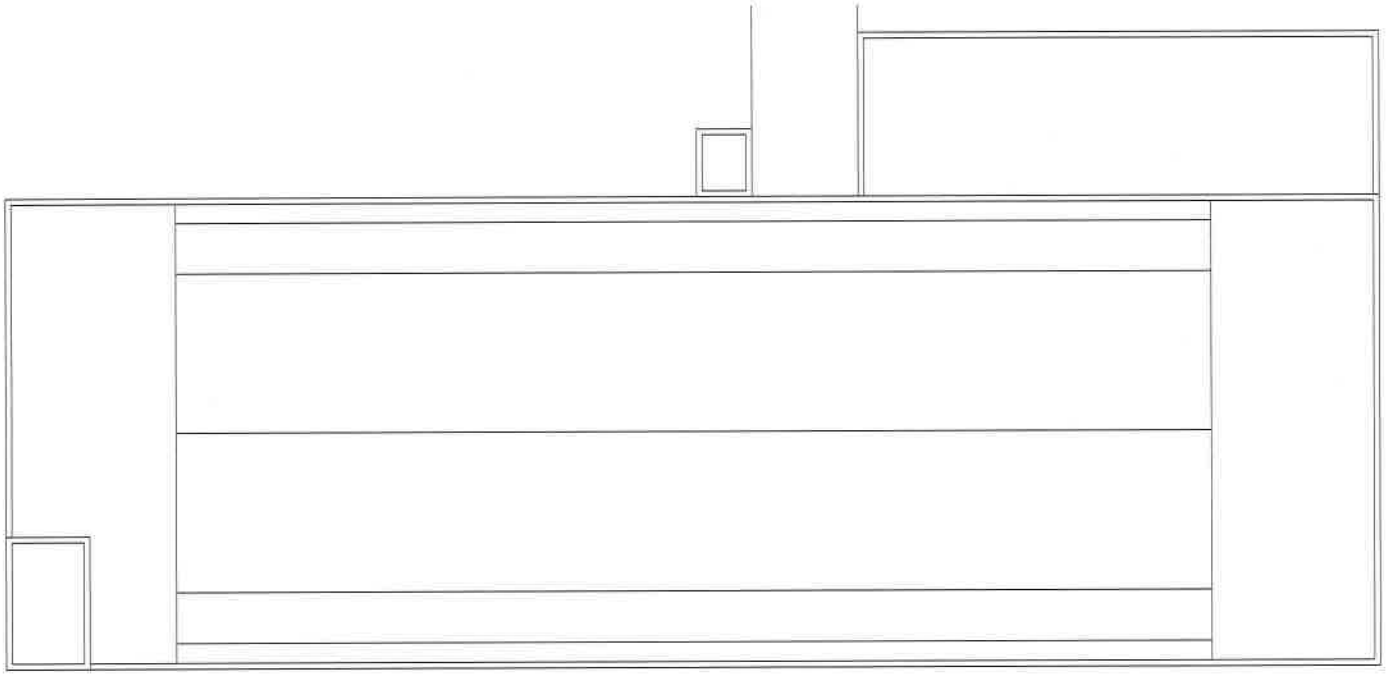


2nd FLOOR PLAN

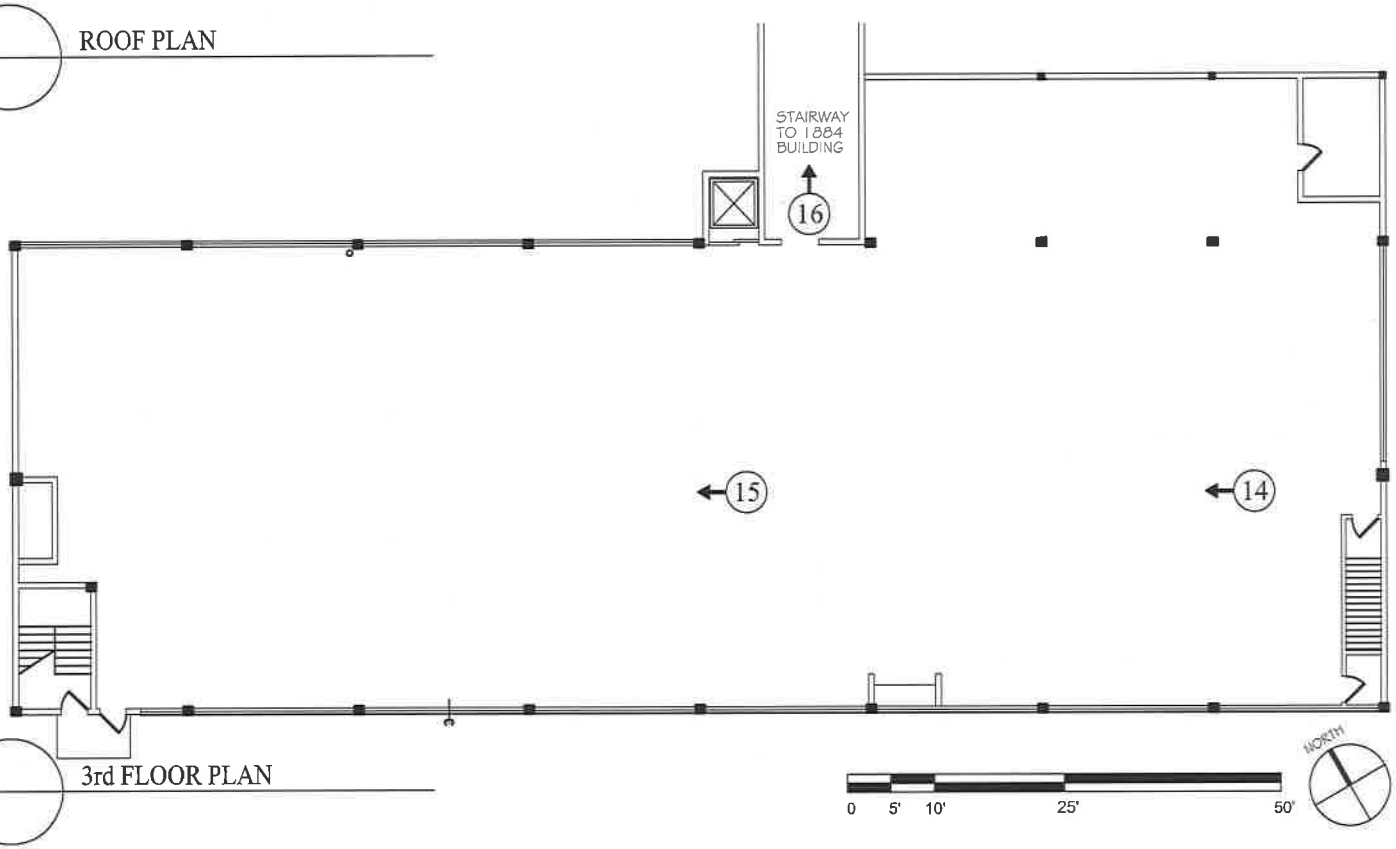


MAIN ST. GRADE / 1st FLOOR PLAN

John Wilde & Brother, Inc.
3737 Main Street, Philadelphia, PA 19127
Source: Bloomfield Architects, 7-30-2012
1932 (BUILDING 1) EXIST PLANS



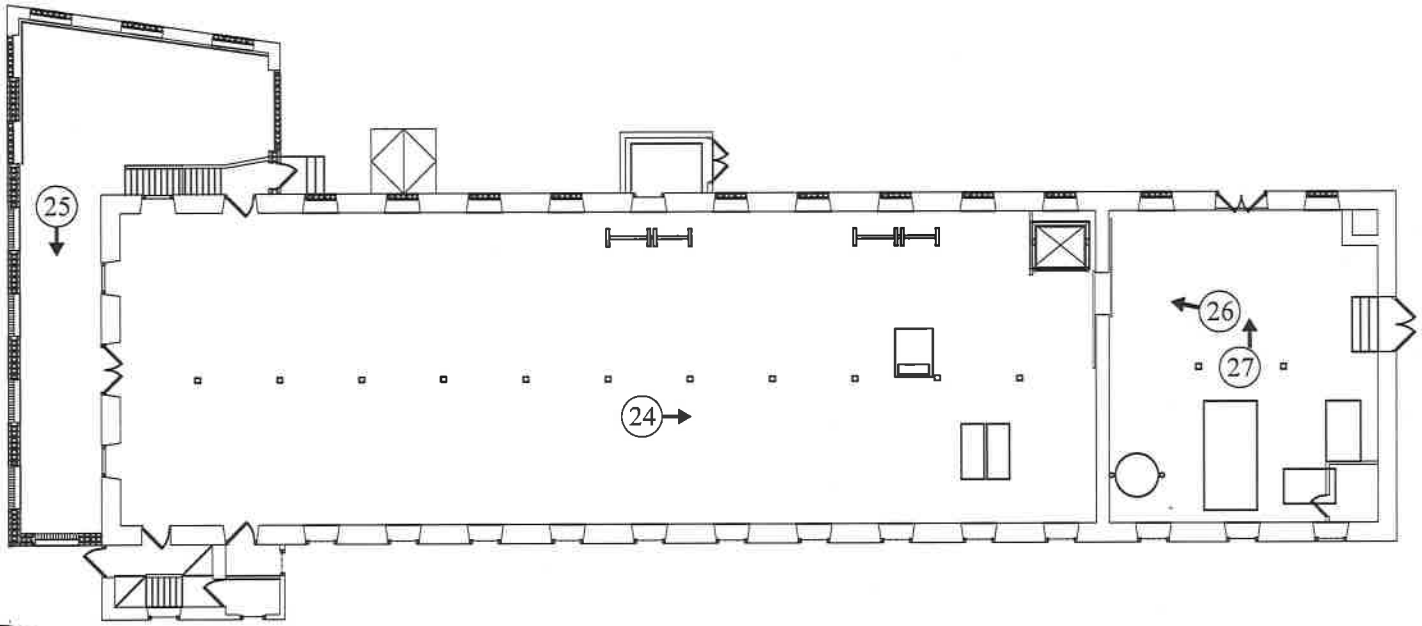
ROOF PLAN



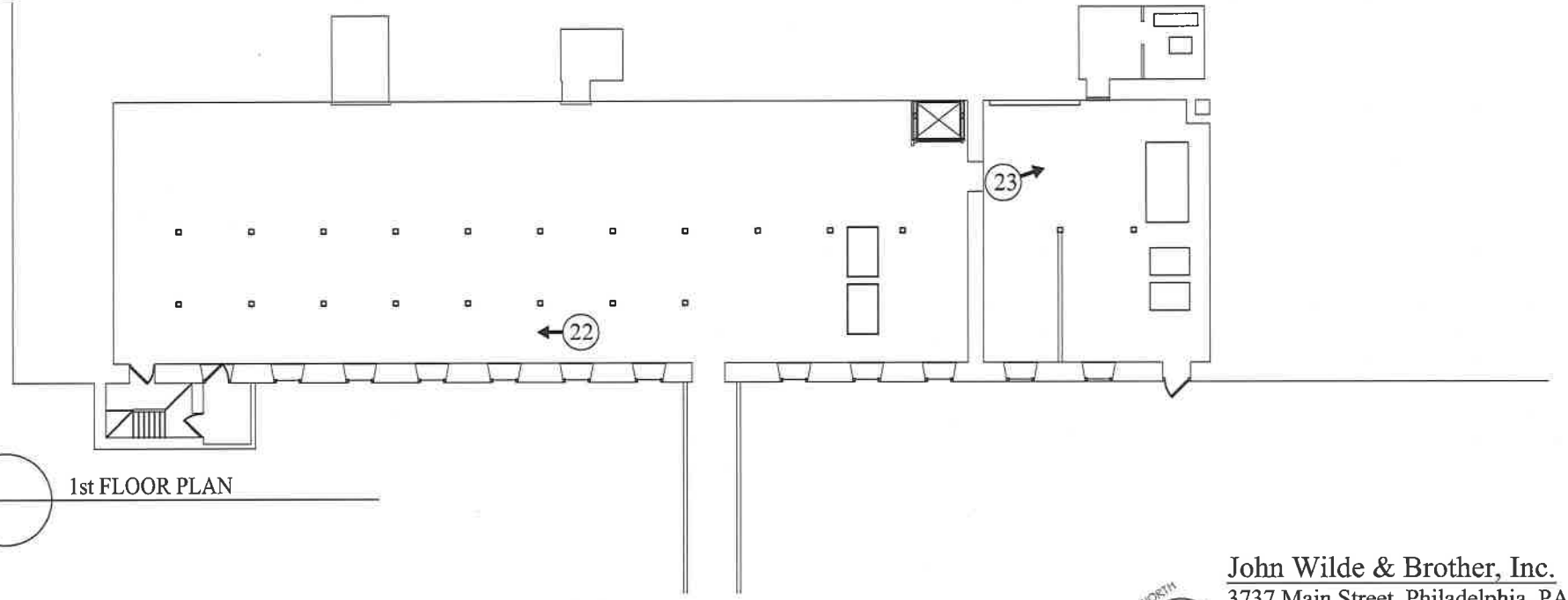
3rd FLOOR PLAN

John Wilde & Brother, Inc.
3737 Main Street, Philadelphia, PA 19127
Source: Bloomfield Architects, 7-30-2012

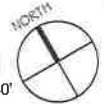
1932 (BUILDING 1) EXIST PLANS



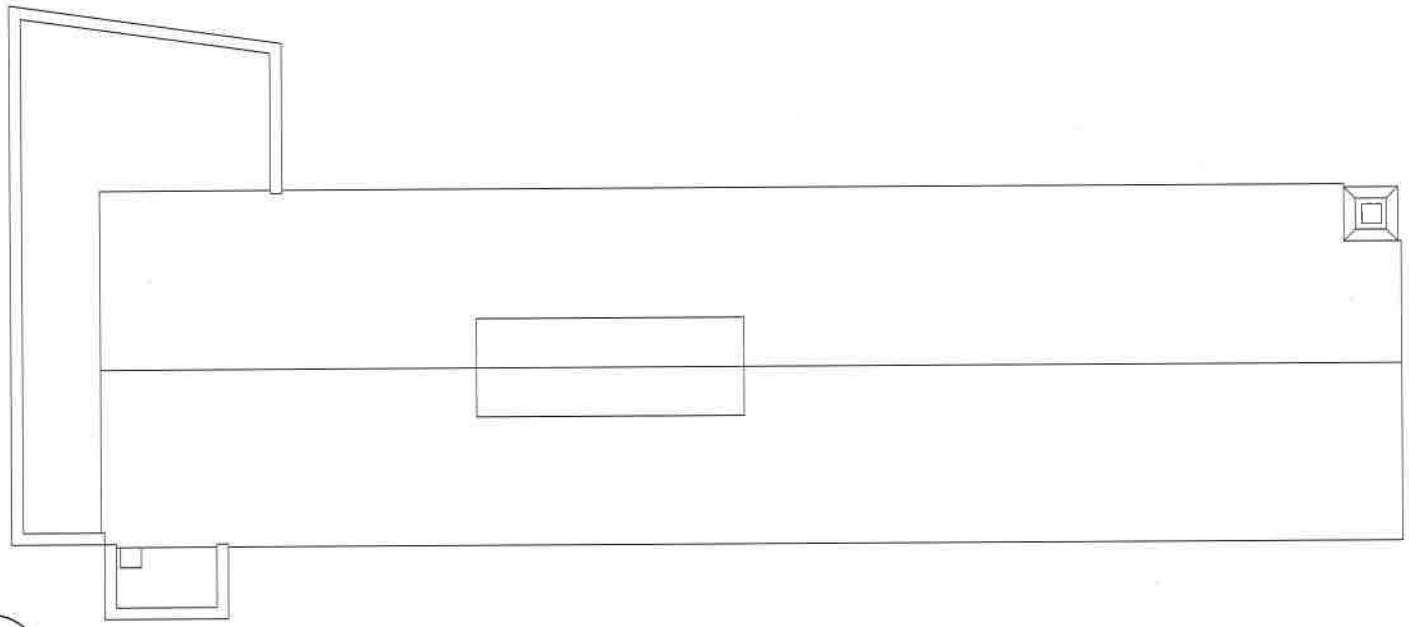
CRESSON ST. GRADE / 2nd FLOOR PLAN



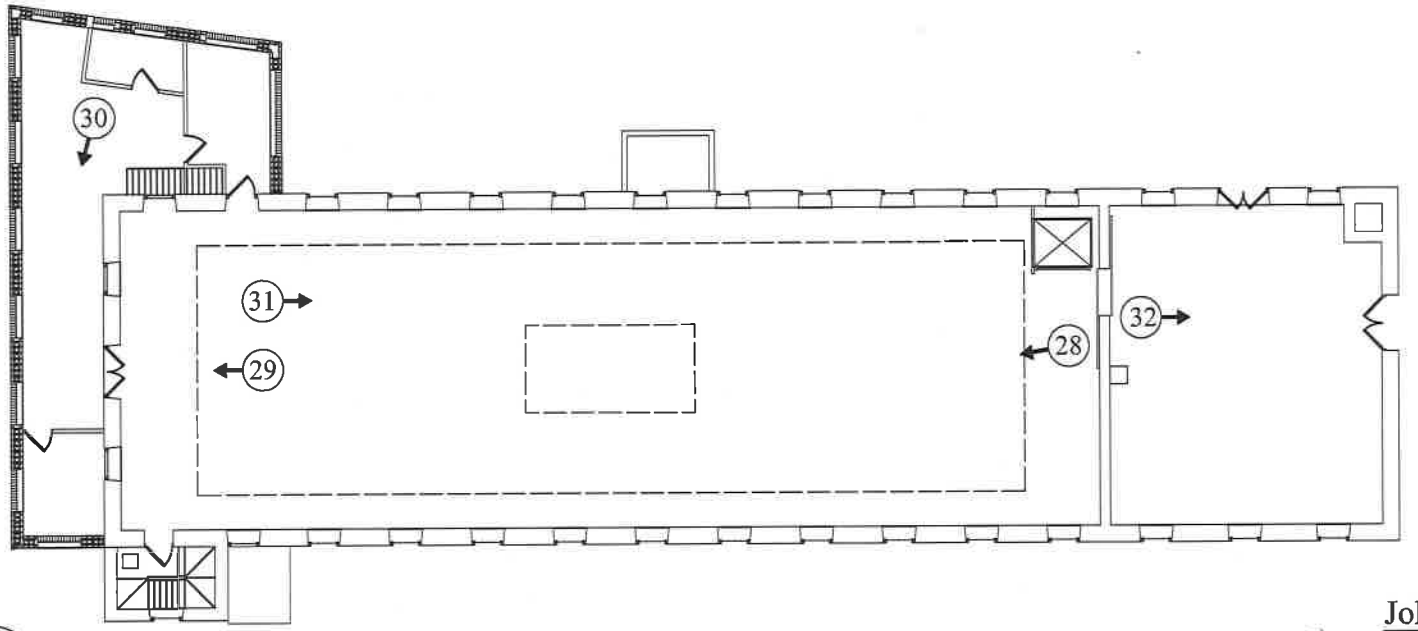
1st FLOOR PLAN



John Wilde & Brother, Inc.
3737 Main Street, Philadelphia, PA 19127
Source: Bloomfield Architects, 7-30-2012
1884 (BUILDING 2) EXIST PLANS

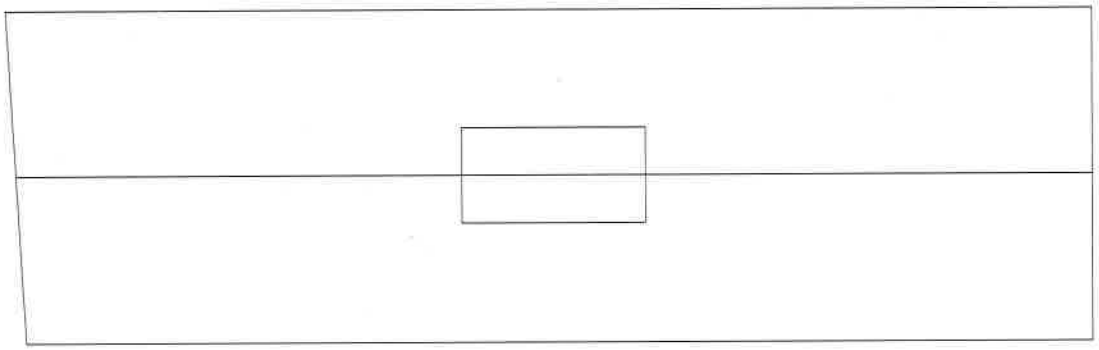


ROOF PLAN



3rd FLOOR PLAN

John Wilde & Brother, Inc.
3737 Main Street, Philadelphia, PA 19127
Source: Bloomfield Architects, 7-30-2012
1884 (BUILDING 2) EXIST PLANS



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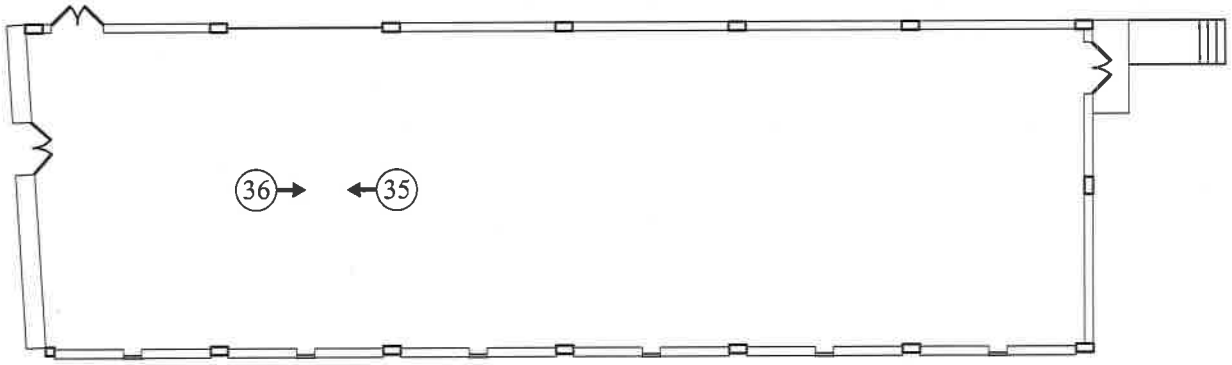
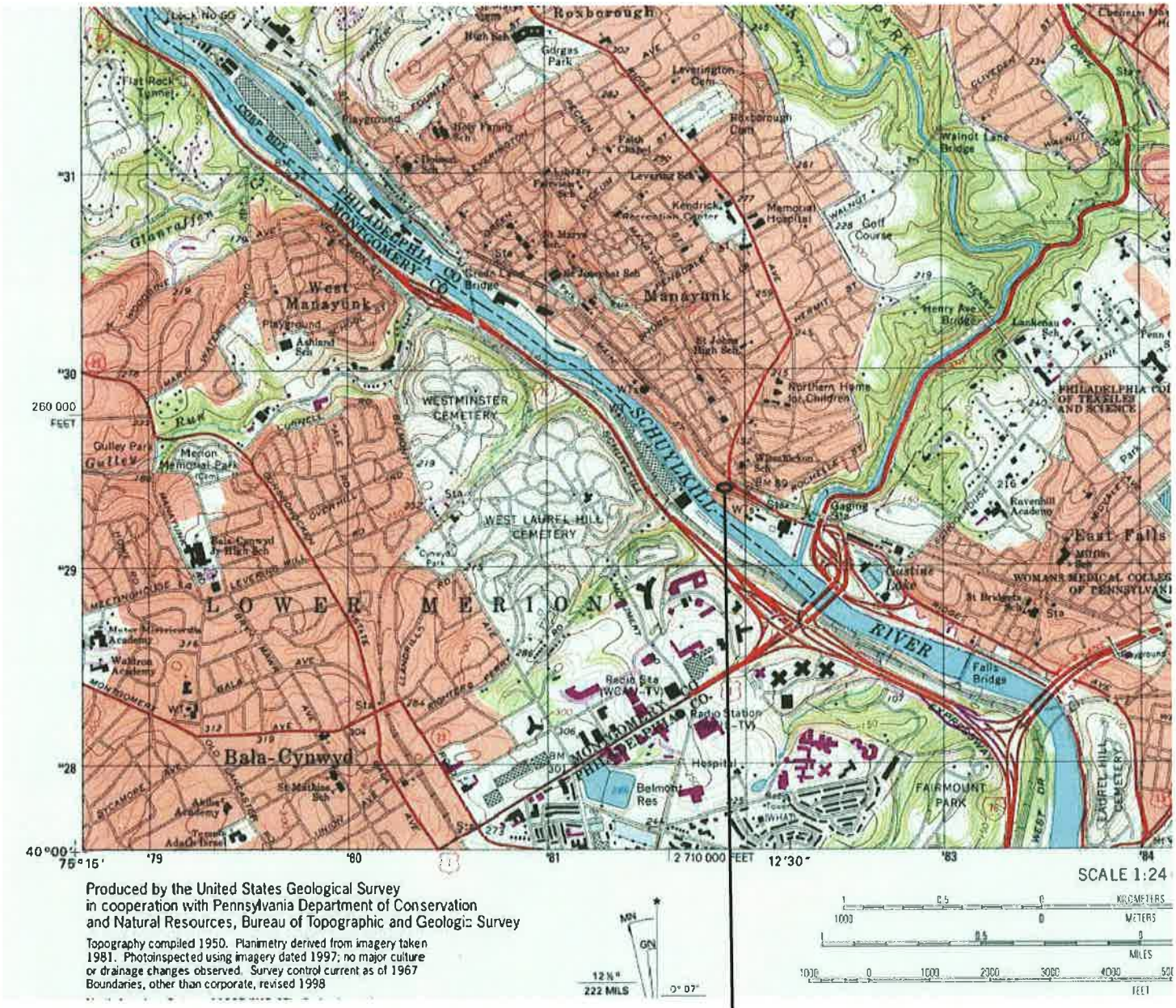


CRESSON ST. GRADE / 1st FLOOR PLAN

John Wilde & Brother, Inc.
3737 Main Street, Philadelphia, PA 19127
Source: Bloomfield Architects, 7-30-2012
1984 (BUILDING 3) EXIST PLANS



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
in cooperation with Pennsylvania Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources, Bureau of Topographic and Geologic Survey

Topography compiled 1950. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1981. Photoinspected using imagery dated 1997; no major culture or drainage changes observed. Survey control current as of 1967 Boundaries, other than corporate, revised 1998

Germantown PA Quadrangle

John Wilde & Brother, Inc
Philadelphia County, PA
Latitude: 40.01643236
Longitude: -75.2121700
Datum source: NAD83

WELCOME TO MANAYUNK
Home of
JOHN WILDE & BROTHE
Spinning Wool
Since 1836
WILDE YARNS
AVAILABLE
ASSEMBLAGE

COME BACK TO MANAYUNK
JLW
JOHN WILDE & BROTHER

WELCOME TO MANAYUNK
JW
Home of
JOHN WILDE & BROTHER, INC.
Spinning Wool
Since 1880
WILDE YARNS

EXIT

CAUTION
KEEP AISLES
— CLEAR —

#1
INSTANT CASH

RAGE

EXIT
EXIT

INSTANT CASH

NO
SMOKING
IN THIS AREA
FRAGILE

DODGE RAM
ZKH-345

SCHOFIELD CO.
MANAYUNK
PHILA.

WILDE YARNS II