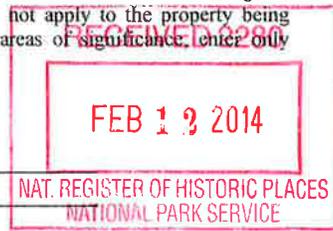


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

96

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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, check only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill

Other names/site number: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

2. Location

Street & number: 406-426 Memphis Street, 1421-1437 E. Columbia Avenue

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Not For Publication: NA Vicinity: NA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(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

	<u>2/6/2014</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission</u>	
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):

Signature of the Keeper

3-31-14

Date of Action

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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
1

1

Noncontributing
0

0

buildings
sites
structures
objects
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

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER – Industrial

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete, Brick

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 Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Company Mill is located in the Fishtown neighborhood of Philadelphia, principally on the block bounded by Memphis Street to the north, East Columbia Avenue to the west, Belgrade Street to the south and Emerick Street to the east. The complex consists of six interconnected sections, Sections 1 and 3-7. A seventh building, Section 2, was an ancillary storage space located across Memphis Street to the north, which was demolished in 2012. The sections were built in seven phases: in 1905, 1916, 1917, 1921, 1925, 1926, and 1964, all reflecting the typical industrial style of their respective periods. The 1905, 1916 and 1917 sections (Sections 1-3) were constructed of red brick and the architect is unknown. The largest sections, those built in 1921 and 1925 (Sections 4 and 5), were constructed of a reinforced concrete frame with red brick spandrel infill by prominent local architects William Steele & Sons. The later 1926 and 1964 sections (Sections 6 and 7) were constructed of red brick and concrete block, respectively, and the architect is unknown. Despite the phased construction, the consistency of building material and detailing give the appearance of a relatively unified industrial complex. The Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill retains integrity as both the overall form and defining industrial characteristics remain intact since the last significant addition in 1964.

The complex sits on a flat urban lot surrounded principally by small brick rowhouses and is devoid of any landscape features other than a concrete sidewalk. The surrounding neighborhood consists of a mix of late-19th to early-20th century 2- to 3-story brick rowhouses and scattered low- to mid-rise industrial buildings. The historic Palmer Burial Ground is located half a block to the east. The complex is also located approximately one mile west of Interstate 95 and the Delaware River.

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Narrative Description

Note: Building section numbers have been assigned chronologically.

Section 1

This 5-story, rectangular shaped building is constructed of heavy timber framing and clad in red brick. It is the oldest surviving section of the mill complex and was constructed in two phases – the 1st and 2nd floors were constructed in 1905 and the 3rd through 5th floors were added in 1916.

The west elevation consists of a gable end wall, is five bays wide, and abuts Section 7 on the 1st and 2nd floors (These two floors remain exposed and visible on the interior of Section 7). On the 3rd floor there are no window openings. On the 4th and 5th floors, all five bays contain a window opening covered by plywood with a slightly arching brick lintel. The northern end of the west elevation forms the exterior wall of an enclosed fire tower, which has no openings. The fire tower has a flat roof line, which projects slightly above the gable end wall of the west elevation.

The south elevation is eight bays wide (see Photos 5-7). On the 1st and 2nd floors, the first five bays are abutted by Section 6 (see Photo 6) and the sixth through eighth bays contain window openings with slightly arching brick lintels covered by plywood, although the historic wood window frames and sills remain visible. On both floors there are remnants of historic window sash indicating a 6/6 double-hung wood window configuration. On the 3rd floor, the first through seventh bays have been infilled with stucco with inset contemporary 1/1 aluminum windows. On the 4th and 5th floor the first through seventh bays contain window openings covered by plywood, although the slightly arching brick lintels and wood frames and sills remain visible. The eighth bay on all floors serves as an open fire tower, containing openings identical in size and shape to the other bays but without windows.

The interior of the building is largely open in plan with concrete floors on the 1st floor and wood floors on the upper stories. Section 1 communicates with Section 4 and Section 5 through two metal roll-down fire doors and with Section 6 through a wide, rectangular opening with no doors. The ceilings consist of exposed heavy timber framing and the perimeter walls are primarily of exposed brick. Any interior partitions are also of exposed brick. The building has a U-return stairway in the northwest corner, which provides access between the 1st floor and the roof. There is another U-return stairway in the southeast corner, which provides access between the 1st and 5th floors. Additionally, a freight elevator is located at the northeast corner, providing access between the 1st and 5th floors, opening on both sides (on the west to Section 1 and on the east to Section 5).

Section 2

This building was a 1-story structure, triangular in plan, which was constructed in two phases in 1915 and 1925. Clad in red brick and containing 6/6 wood windows, the building functioned as

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an ancillary storage space for textile materials. The building was demolished in 2012, prior to the current ownership.

Section 3

This 1-story building with a 5-story fire tower was constructed in 1917 and is built with a steel frame and clad in red brick (see Photo 2 at far left). The building has a pitched roof on the 1-story section and a flat roof on the 5-story fire tower section.

On the north (primary) elevation, the 1st floor is two bays wide, with each containing two large multi-light steel industrial windows with ventilator sash in the first bay from the east and a doorway with an iron gate and concrete lintel in the second bay. On the 2nd through fifth floors, the window openings with concrete sills and lintels remain open to the fire tower, but are covered by metal security grates.

On the east elevation, the 1st floor is four bays wide, with slightly projecting brick piers with concrete caps between each bay. The northern portion of the east elevation is abutted by an adjacent rowhouse (not part of the nominated property) while the remainder faces the rear yard of said rowhouse. The first three bays from the south each contain two large 54-light steel industrial windows with pivoting ventilator sash and the fourth bay is abutted by an adjacent rowhouse. The east side of the 5-story fire tower contains no openings.

On the south elevation, the 1st floor is two bays wide with each bay containing a large 54-light steel industrial window with pivoting ventilator sash.

Neither the south nor the east elevations are visible from a public right-of-way. On the west elevation, the building abuts Section 4

The interior of the building is open in plan with concrete floors and exposed heavy timber framing above. Section 3 communicates with Section 4 through a large rectangular opening located roughly in the southern portion of the party wall and a smaller opening in the northern portion of the party wall, both with metal fire doors. The perimeter walls are primarily of exposed and painted brick. All interior divisions are also of exposed brick.

Section 4 and Section 5

Although Section 4 and Section 5 were constructed in two phases, in 1921 and 1925, respectively, they present a continuous, unified façade on the north elevation facing Memphis Street (see Photos 1 and 2). They are both five stories in height, constructed of a reinforced concrete frame with red brick spandrels on each floor, and rectangular in shape. The two buildings form an L-shape around Section 1 (The east elevation of Section 1 abuts the southern half of the west elevation of Section 4 and the north elevation of Section 1 abuts the south elevation of Section 5. See Photos 5 and 7). The buildings have flat roofs containing a variety of industrial equipment and fixtures: Section 4 contains a large cylindrical water tank with conical roof atop a reinforced concrete tower with four legs and a smaller cylindrical water tank at roof

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level at the southwest corner; Section 5 contains a 1-story rectangular brick penthouse with flat roof in the center portion of the roof and a circular brick smokestack which stands slightly higher than the penthouse in the southeast corner. Both sections also contain scattered metal ductwork and other minor mechanical units.

On the north (primary) elevation, both buildings are five bays wide, forming a continuous ten bay wide façade characterized by its reinforced concrete frame infilled with red brick spandrels and steel windows with concrete sills and lintels on all floors. On the 1st floor, the window openings above the brick spandrels in the first, second, and fifth through ninth bays from the east have been infilled with stucco, with multiple bays containing small metal vents. The third bay contains a modern metal roll-up garage door, the fourth bay contains two doorways covered by iron gates with stucco infill above, and the tenth bay contains a terra cotta doorway with pediment and entablature, inscribed "BROWNHILL & KRAMER." The doorway has also been infilled with stucco. Nearly all surfaces on the 1st floor have been painted, except the iron gates in the fourth bay. On the 2nd floor, the original windows have been removed from all ten bays and replaced with modern concrete block, with some bays containing modern 1/1 aluminum windows set within the concrete block infill. On the 3rd through 5th floors, all ten bays contain their original windows except the sixth bay from the east on the 3rd floor, although the windows are in fair to poor condition with many broken or missing panes of glass. All of the existing windows are multi-light steel industrial windows with upper and lower ventilator sash. Projecting out directly above the fifth bay on the 5th floor is a steel I-beam with pulley system.

On the east elevation, Section 4 is four bays wide and is abutted by Section 3 on the 1st and 2nd floors, although the upper portion of the 2nd floor bays remains visible and are infilled with concrete block. The east elevation presents a continuation of the reinforced concrete frame and brick spandrel treatment on the north elevation. On the 3rd through 5th floors, the first three bays from the south contain a multi-light steel industrial window with upper and lower center pivoting ventilator sash on either side of a 30-light version. The fourth bay on all floors contains a multi-light steel industrial window with ventilators. The northernmost end of the east elevation is abutted on all floors by a fire tower that is part of Section 3 (see Photos 1 and 2). Additionally, because Section 5 was essentially an extension of Section 4, the east elevation of Section 5 abuts Section 4 on all floors.

On the south elevation, Section 4 is five bays wide and directly faces the rear facades of the rowhouses on adjacent Miller Street (not part of the nominated property), but does not touch them. This elevation presents a continuation of the reinforced concrete frame and brick spandrel treatment on the north and east elevations. On all floors, all five bays contain paired multi-light steel industrial windows with upper and lower ventilator sash. All of the windows have concrete sills. The south elevation of Section 5 is abutted by Section 3 on all floors except the 5th floor. The 5th floor contains multi-light steel industrial windows with ventilator sash in the first three bays from the east while the fourth bay is obscured largely by a slight extension of the wall to support a large water tank above.

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On the west elevation, Section 4 is abutted by Section 1 and Section 5 on all floors except in the southernmost bay on the 5th floor, which contains a multi-light steel industrial window with ventilator sash. The west elevation of Section 5 is two bays wide and is abutted by Section 7 on the 1st and 2nd floors. On the 3rd floor, both bays have been infilled with concrete block while the 4th and 5th floor bays both contain multi-light steel industrial windows with center pivoting ventilator sash.

The interior of the building is largely open in plan with concrete floors and painted concrete ceilings and beams. The two buildings function as a continuous space; no partitions exist between the two sections except on the 1st floor, which contains a concrete wall with large rectangular opening in the southernmost bay between the two sections. There are painted concrete columns set on a grid and the perimeter walls are primarily of exposed and painted brick. Any interior divisions are also of painted concrete. Section 5 shares the U-return stairway with wood treads and risers which comprises the fire tower of Section 1. It is located at the southwest corner of Section 5.

Section 6

This 1-story, rectangular shaped building is constructed of painted brick and contains a flat roof with scattered mechanical units and ducting. It was constructed in 1926. The west (primary) elevation is two bays wide and faces E. Columbia Avenue. The first bay from the north contains a door opening covered by painted plywood and a multi-light steel industrial window with ventilator sash and the second bay contains three multi-light steel industrial windows with ventilator sash. Both bays contain concrete sills and lintels. The south elevation is partially abutted by an adjacent rowhouse (not part of the nominated property) at the eastern end and the remainder is not visible (see Photo 4). The west elevation is two bays wide with both bays containing three multi-light steel industrial windows with ventilator sash with concrete sills and lintels. The north elevation abuts adjacent sections of the complex (Section 1 and Section 7) except for a small portion of wall at the eastern end, which contains sliding metal double doors (see Photo 4).

The interior of the building is open in plan with concrete floors with an exposed wood frame roof structure. The perimeter walls are primarily of exposed brick (the eastern section of the north wall consists of the first two floors of Section 1). Section 6 communicates with Section 1 through a large rectangular opening and is largely open to Section 7, with only a few square concrete piers separating the two spaces.

Section 7

This tall 1-story, rectangular shaped building is constructed of concrete block and is the most recent part of the complex, built in 1964. The roof is flat with some mechanical equipment located in the northeast corner. The north elevation is one bay wide and contains a strip of seven multi-light steel clerestory windows and a single-leaf metal door at the western end of the wall. The west elevation is three bays wide with each bay containing a row of four multi-light steel clerestory windows. The first bay from the north also contains a large metal roll-up garage door

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and the third bay contains a small door opening covered by a metal roll-up security grate. Projecting from the west elevation at the level of the clerestory windows are three equally spaced diagonal steel braces that support a long steel I-beam parallel to the west elevation, which extends into the sliding doors on the north elevation of Section 6, ostensibly a former loading or delivery system. The east elevation abuts Sections 1 and 5 (see Photo 3) and the south elevation abuts Section 6 (see Photo 4).

The interior of the building is open in plan with concrete floors with exposed steel trusses above. The perimeter walls are primarily of exposed concrete block with the eastern wall, which is the west elevation of Section 1, consisting of exposed red brick. The interior of Section 7 is largely open to Section 6 at its south end, and contains several small door openings to communicate with Section 1 and Section 5 on its east side (the historic 1st and 2nd floors of Section 1 form much of the eastern wall on the interior of Section 7, with many of the historic windows and/or openings remaining). Additionally, a concrete ramp extends down from the northernmost part of the east wall down to the 1st floor of Section 5.

Integrity

The Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill complex retains integrity. Although the equipment, furnishings and people have long since departed, the aspect of feeling is retained in the intact finishes, voluminous spaces, and the periodic building campaigns. These features and characteristics effectively relay the sense of place and the notable industrial history of the once prominent manufacturer who occupied this building.

Additionally, the aspect of design is retained in the distinct industrial form of the building. The reinforced concrete frame with brick infill, in addition to the prominent and consistent fenestration pattern, reinforce the complex's design quality. The building also present an interesting case study in the evolution of industrial architecture over a more than twenty-five year period. The earliest section displays traditional load-bearing brick construction with arched window openings characteristic of the late 19th and very early 20th century, while the later builds demonstrate an increasingly streamlined aesthetic with larger window openings, concrete or steel structure and more open floor plans. These innovations are consistent with the development of the reinforced concrete frame typical of many industrial buildings in the United States after c. 1910. While some of the windows have been removed or altered, the alterations to not detract from the overall appearance and the original window openings remain intact and visible.

Lastly, the aspect of setting is retained in the surrounding neighborhood's largely intact residential and industrial fabric. The Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill stands on its original site among a largely residential neighborhood that has changed very little over the last century. The complex remains surrounded by many of the same rowhouses that have stood since the late-19th century. Apart from the demolition of Section 2 in 2012, the location and setting of the complex remain intact since Section 7 was constructed in 1964.

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While it is unfortunate that Section 2 has been demolished, its absence does not negate the overall significance of the complex nor prevent it from effectively conveying the history of the complex. The 1-story triangular building was a minor, ancillary structure used only for storage of pre-production materials such as yarn and was never itself used for production. Furthermore, it was located across Memphis Street and was therefore not contiguous with the main production complex which consists of Sections 1 and 3 through 7. The extant buildings are stylistically and functionally fully representative of the Brownhill & Kramer Company at the peak of its success and provide a complete picture of the manufacturing operations undertaken at the complex.

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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.)

- 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 (Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1905-1938

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Significant Dates

1931
1937
1938

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

William Steele & Sons

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 Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill is significant under Criterion A, Social History, as the site of numerous and innovative labor strikes which had a significant impact on the development of unionization and bargaining power for hosiery workers in Philadelphia and nationally in the 1920s and 1930s. The building is also significant under Criterion A, Industry, as home to one of the largest manufacturers of full-fashioned hosiery in Philadelphia at the garment's peak of popularity.

The period of significance begins in 1905, when the Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill, rapidly expanding to become one of the largest full-fashioned hosiery mills in Philadelphia, moved into this location. The company became an early focus in an effort by workers to secure better working conditions and fairer contracts. The period of significance ends in 1938, when Brownhill & Kramer, lured outside of Philadelphia by the prospect of cheaper labor and open shops, closed the Memphis Street mill.

This nomination is intended to establish the significance of the Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill regarding the labor activities of employees and the importance of the company within the textile industry. Following 1938, the complex was used by the Chesterman-Leeland Company, manufacturers of prosthetic devices and surgical appliances. Their importance within that industry has not been fully established. Therefore, while it may be possible to extend the period of significance beyond 1938 in the future, for the purposes of this nomination the areas and period of significance are limited by association with Brownhill & Kramer.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

A Brief History of Brownhill & Kramer

Brownhill & Kramer was founded by partners Harry A. Brownhill and George Kramer in 1902. The company's predecessor, however, was first established in 1896 by Brownhill and a previous partner, James Shelmire. Known as Shelmire & Brownhill, the firm produced hosiery and was located only a few blocks south of 406 Memphis Street, at 1220 Crease Street, in a building that no longer stands. Shelmire sold his interest in the firm in 1902 and Brownhill was left to find another partner.¹

After Brownhill began a partnership with George Kramer, Brownhill & Kramer remained briefly at 1220 Crease Street as demonstrated in several industrial directories and trade publications.² By 1904, however, the firm had purchased the former Louis Weber & Company Hosiery Mill at 406-412 Memphis Street and the Charles W. Ervien & Brothers Machine Shop, manufacturers of steam engines, at 414-422 Memphis Street. The partners quickly began constructing new buildings on the site, the largest of which was a 2-story addition in 1905 to the rear of the former Weber mill, which remains today as the first two stories of Building 3. The new complex on Memphis Street provided much-needed additional space for the company as evidenced by employment figures and inventories of textile machinery at the respective locations.

Brownhill and Kramer continued to expand over the following decade and a half, frequently hiring new employees and adding machinery to the plant. And, despite its continued success in hosiery manufacturing through the 1920s, tension began to develop between Brownhill & Kramer workers and their employer as a result of perceived exploitative working conditions and highly restrictive contracts gradually instituted during the firm's expansion over the previous few years. A series of protests and strikes on both issues beginning in 1921, some organized and assisted by local hosiery unions and large national labor organizations, put Brownhill & Kramer in the spotlight as a nucleus of the struggle for workers' rights in Philadelphia.

By the early 1930s, however, when the fight for unionization was at its apex, the hosiery industry had yet again begun to shift, this time to other parts of Pennsylvania and southern states where labor was cheaper and union power was much weaker. In 1936, Brownhill & Kramer's proprietors, including Harry Brownhill, decided to move part of the firm's operation to Coudersport, a small town in Potter County, Pennsylvania. And, only two years later, Brownhill decided to leave the hosiery industry entirely, closing the firm's Memphis Street plant, which itself caused a violent riot during the company's attempted auction of their disused knitting machinery.

¹ Albert H. Heusser, *The History of the Silk Dyeing Industry in the United States* (Paterson, NJ: Silk Dyers' Association of America, 1927), 460.

² *Davison's Hosiery and Knit Goods Trade* (New York: Davison Publishing Co., 1903), 111, and *Fibre and Fabric* 40:1023 (October 1904), 214.

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Criterion A: Social History

The Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill has significance in social history as a focus in the fight for unionization and bargaining rights among hosiery workers in Philadelphia during the 1920s and 1930s. The firm manufactured men's and women's seamless hosiery and half hose in cotton, lisle and silk and later full-fashioned hosiery in silk.

Labor Strife in Philadelphia's Nascent Hosiery Industry

In its early years, in the late-19th century, hosiery in Philadelphia was still a relatively small sector of the overall textile trade, but as the garment gained in popularity through the early 1900s, the sector boomed. However, as more and more hosiery plants opened and workers encountered new production techniques and working conditions, dissatisfaction grew. In fact, beginning around 1910, hosiery mills in Philadelphia increasingly became the focus of protest by workers over what they viewed as exploitative labor practices and later, unfair, highly restrictive contracts. Both the "double-job" or "double-machine system," where a single employee was forced to operate two or more machines at a time, and the "yellow dog contract," an agreement between employer and employee that the employee would not join a labor union, became focused points of contention between labor organizers, textile workers and their employers throughout the city during the early 20th century. At Brownhill & Kramer, in particular, both issues resulted in strikes, successful and unsuccessful, which ultimately played a central role in the development of workers' rights and union power locally by the late 1930s.

During the first years of the 20th century, when textile machinery was available in abundance and there was a shortage of trained, skilled knitters, hosiery mill owners in Philadelphia discovered that they could significantly increase production and lower wage costs by having their workers operate two, three or even four knitting machines at a time, known as the "double-machine" or "double-job system." As the double-machine system became more common, Philadelphia hosiery workers organized in 1909 as the Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers Union of Philadelphia (also known as Local #706) and began a concerted effort to defeat the practice and return to the single-machine system.³ The first permanent dues-paying hosiery union in the country, the local Philadelphia Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers objected to the double-machine system because it restricted knitting work to trained knitters while a surplus of "helpers," essentially assistants to the knitters, languished without further training or apprenticeship and consequently without higher wages. The union hoped to divide the knitting work equally among all workers.⁴ Furthermore, knitters in the union claimed that the double-job system was not economical in some jobs, resulting in considerable waste, an argument that they believed would appeal to their profit-minded employers.⁵

In 1913, to consolidate their efforts to fight the double-machine system and unfair wages, Local #706 and four other Philadelphia hosiery unions combined to form a new, single union affiliated with the United Textile Workers of America (UTW), a much larger national organization formed

³ Palmer., 91-96.

⁴ Ibid., 92.

⁵ Ibid., 95.

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as an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor (AFL) in 1901. Although not officially incorporated as such, the new, consolidated group was known as the American Federation of Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers (AFFFHW), or Local #706, Branch #1. By 1915, however, the AFFFHW split on the issue of the double-machine system. While Local #706, Branch #1, sided with the majority in withdrawing from the UTW to continue fighting the double-machine system, a separate branch, Branch #14, sought to disassociate itself with the general labor movement. The new branch, which consisted of only three hosiery shops in Philadelphia, already operated on the single-machine system due to their focus on the production of ingrain silk hosiery, suggesting that their continued involvement in the fight for bargaining power would have been redundant.⁶

Labor Strife and Unionism at Brownhill & Kramer

Although no documentation has been uncovered linking Brownhill & Kramer workers to a specific local branch of the early hosiery unions, most primary and secondary sources show that they were affiliated with the AFFFHW by the time it split from the UTW in 1915. Even later, union membership figures by company, which would provide an idea of how large a role Brownhill & Kramer workers played in the AFFFHW, are unavailable (the union had a total membership of 1,150 by 1920).⁷ However, Brownhill & Kramer, as one of the largest full-fashioned hosiery companies in Philadelphia, would likely have commanded a central position in the AFFFHW's campaign over the 1920s and 30s to control the labor supply of hosiery knitters.

Because the hosiery industry was so highly concentrated in Philadelphia during the first two decades of the 20th century – historian John St. George Joyce wrote in 1919 that “This city is undoubtedly the great center of the hosiery-making industry in the United States,” producing “about 25 per cent of all the hosiery and knit goods made in this country” – the AFFFHW gained a strong foothold in the city and was ultimately able to make demands that other, less centralized sectors of the textile industry could make.⁸ (By 1920, the union had secured over 90% of the hosiery knitting departments in Philadelphia, including Brownhill & Kramer.)⁹ The Philadelphia hosiery workers passed rulings against the double-machine system as early as 1910, with further rulings in 1912 and 1913. Because the double-machine system was so broadly established in the hosiery industry by this time, however, the union decided that a policy of gradual change rather than head-on, full opposition to the practice would be a more successful approach in the long term. Therefore, instead of completely ruling out the double-machine system already in practice, they recommended that, in the future, “no single jobs be doubled and no new machines be started as double jobs.” As the industry expanded rapidly over the following decade, the number of “new,” single-job machines began to outnumber those used under the old, double-machine system.

⁶ United States Department of Labor, *Handbook of American Textile Unions, 1929 Edition*, Washington, D.C. Government Printing Office, 1929, and Palmer, 92-93.

⁷ Davison's *Hosiery and Knit Goods Trade*, 1920 and Palmer, 220.

⁸ John St. George Joyce, *The Story of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: Harry B. Joseph, 1919), 442; Palmer, 92-93.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 78-79.

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In addition to strength by concentration, hosiery workers like those at Brownhill & Kramer were an unusually high paid group of textile workers and therefore had better resources to fight the mill owners. In a study of the Philadelphia hosiery industry informed by responses from over 4,000 hosiery workers, labor scholar Dorothea de Schweinitz described the relative comfort and high status of full-fashioned hosiery workers prior to the industry's frenetic growth beginning in the early 1920s. "During the good years," she wrote, "full-fashioned hosiery workers in Philadelphia lived well and looked prosperous" and were known as "the aristocracy of the textile industry." Because of the high degree of skill required for full-fashioned hosiery work – at least one year of training was required for most positions while some required as many as five – full-fashioned hosiery workers were generally a prosperous group. De Schweinitz reported that about 75% of workers were considered skilled or semi-skilled, providing them with a wage high enough to pursue such recreational activities as bowling, baseball, dancing, fishing at "the shore" during the summer, and hunting in the fall. They usually also had the income to own their houses and fill them with the regular domestic trappings of the day, including "parlor suites, standing lamps, radios and electrical appliances."¹⁰

For Brownhill & Kramer workers, being prosperous was not a reason to be complacent in their work, but to fight for even better wages and working conditions. According to Gladys Palmer, "A combination of intelligent leadership, a full treasury, and a young, enthusiastic rank-and-file membership has resulted in considerable experimentation in trade union tactics in the face of an increasingly difficult economic situation." In other words, "they had a larger treasury to back their struggle." Hosiery workers struck because they could afford to do so when the onset of the Great Depression made the fight for workers' rights that much harder.¹¹

Hosiery workers' youth also was a factor in their struggle. Full-fashioned hosiery workers as a group were very young, with 40% of all workers under the age of 21 and only 20% over the age of 30. More than half of full-fashioned hosiery workers, 57%, were women and because of their youth only 36% of workers were married. While there was some representation by immigrants among full-fashioned hosiery workers during this period, a large majority, 82% of workers, reported in de Schweinitz's study that they were born in the United States. The largest group of immigrants in the sector came from Austria and Germany where the manufacture of hosiery and hosiery machinery was already well established.¹²

While hosiery workers as a group were unusually active through the 1920s and 30s in fighting for better wages and working conditions, their involvement in labor politics was limited. In concentrating on job and wage control, their immediate goal was "job security in the broadest meaning of that term," as Palmer describes. The "motivation of a Socialist philosophy" was there

¹⁰ Dorothy de Schweinitz, *How Workers Find Jobs: A Study of Four Thousand Hosiery Workers in Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1931), 12-13.

¹¹ Palmer, 78.

¹² de Schweinitz, 15, 21, 25.

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for some hosiery workers, but on the whole, “reconstruction of the economic or social system as a motivating concept influences only a minority group in the union.”¹³

While it would be difficult to determine how closely Brownhill & Kramer’s workforce in particular conformed to these trends overall, a snapshot of three of the company’s knitters provides us with a general idea of who would might have worked at the mill on a daily basis. Phillip Fanning, Miles Cunningham and George Hufnagel were knitters at Brownhill & Kramer during the 1930s. Their names were mentioned in the *Hosiery Worker*, the newspaper of the AFHW, as having been involved in organizing efforts at the company during that period. Information gleaned from the 1930 United States Census provides us with a fuller picture of their lives. Fanning, who was 23 years old in 1930, was the only worker of the three who lived less than a mile from the mill, at 2303 Emerald Street, which was located just a few blocks north of 406 Memphis Street in the Kensington neighborhood. Cunningham was 23 years old in 1930 and lived at 3437 N. Palethorpe Street, much farther away in North Philadelphia. And, at 32 years old in 1930, Hufnagel would likely have been considered a veteran knitter due to his age. Hufnagel lived about a mile northeast of the mill at 2340 E. Allegheny Avenue in the Port Richmond neighborhood. All three men were born in the United States.

Despite the early successes of the AFFFHW, later rapid expansion of the industry began to cut away at their gains in curbing the double-machine system. By the early 1920s, the hosiery industry had begun to expand outside of Philadelphia, where new firms operated open shops almost exclusively on the double-machine system. Unable to cope with the rapid expansion of the industry outside of the city, the AFFFHW gradually ceded much of its power to control the labor supply of knitters. A pivotal strike by 3000 workers at 25 Philadelphia hosiery mills in 1921 over a 15% wage cut, including at Brownhill & Kramer, resulted in the loss of several shops by the Local #706. Although the workers won the 1921 strike in the majority of shops, including at Brownhill & Kramer, the fight galvanized hosiery manufacturers against further unionization. At the shops lost during the strike, employers quickly and fully reinstated the double-machine system, undoing a more than decade-long effort by the union to control the practice’s spread.¹⁴

By 1926, the effort to strike down the double-machine system became a national issue. By this point the hosiery industry was becoming so decentralized, in fact, that the Philadelphia union by 1932 controlled only 22% of hosiery knitting shops in Philadelphia compared with 90% twelve years earlier.¹⁵ Although the AFFFHW was officially a national union, its concentration in Philadelphia prevented it from growing in geographic scope as hosiery firms began to open outside of Philadelphia and elsewhere around the country. The south became a particular focus of expansion in the hosiery industry during this period. Between the years 1929 and 1935,

¹³ Palmer, 119-120.

¹⁴ George W. Taylor, *The Full-Fashioned Hosiery Worker: His Changing Economic Times* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1931), 84 and Palmer, 95-97, 220.

¹⁵ Palmer 79.

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Philadelphia's share of the national productive capacity in hosiery decreased from 33% to 27% while in the south, capacity increased from 7% to 17% over the same period.¹⁶

Still, despite the declining power of the AFFFHW through the 1920s, relations between worker and employer at Brownhill & Kramer remained tense as they did at most other hosiery mills in Philadelphia. In November of 1926, Brownhill & Kramer workers organized a strike to protest both the lack of overtime pay and the double-machine system, which had returned to the mill over the previous few years. The incident began as a lockout of workers by Brownhill & Kramer's owners after the knitters and helpers began to dispute their wages and the double-machine system. Although the strike was initially successful – an injunction pleaded for by Brownhill & Kramer management was denied – the workers eventually lost the battle and the double-machine system remained in place.¹⁷

Brownhill & Kramer workers fought on, and many joined a national convention of hosiery workers and unions in 1929 to discuss the double-machine issue and other wage concerns. The discussions between the AFFFHW and the Full-Fashioned Hosiery Manufacturers of the United States that year resulted in the first industry-wide labor agreement for the hosiery sector. The agreement included a concession by the AFFFHW that hosiery knitters would take a reduction on "extras" or overtime and that the doubling of 25% of knitting machines would be permitted, however they also benefitted from new provisions that protected union members from being discharged under certain circumstances.¹⁸ Work hours and pay rates were also made uniform nationally, with a 48-hour work week becoming the standard along with a definite hourly rate along with a rate for all overtime, despite the overtime rate for "extras" being reduced from its previous level.¹⁹

The full-fashioned hosiery workers at Brownhill & Kramer and other plants in Philadelphia were not simply one among many sectors of industrial workers fighting for their right to organize as early as the 1920s. They are significant because they were one of the first groups to do so before reinforcement from national labor groups arrived in the city. Full-fashioned hosiery workers' used their relative prosperity and higher educational attainment – as compared to workers in other industries – to help pave the way for less prosperous workers from all industries to unionize in Philadelphia.

Yellow Dog Contracts

Despite the concession by the hosiery manufacturers association in 1929 that would provide union members protection against being discharged, hosiery firms continued to institute measures to do exactly the opposite. The "yellow dog" contract, in particular, became a method by which employers partially or fully restricted their employee's right to unionize, especially at

¹⁶ *Monthly Labor Review* 43 (1936), 558.

¹⁷ Palmer 96, 223.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 96-97.

¹⁹ *Monthly Labor Review* 30 (1930), 597.

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Brownhill & Kramer whose contract became one of the most notorious for its complete disallowance of any union activity or association.

Beginning most forcefully in the late-19th century, in an effort to protect their interests in an era of increasing labor organization, industrial employers in many areas of manufacturing and extraction – from glass to coal to metal products to textiles – began to enforce what were known as “yellow-dog” contracts. Although the yellow dog contract was in use nationally by the early 1900s, its implementation spread slowly at the local level from plant to plant and was principally used by small to medium sized companies. The contracts differed from company to company in the range of organizational activities that was prohibited. Some merely required that the employee not join a labor union while others were much more elaborate. In nearly all cases, however, employees saw the contract only once, never receiving their own copy. The contracts were typically also offered on an individual basis in an effort to establish control in a more discreet, less conspicuous manner. Additionally, even in cases where the yellow-dog contract was a document separate from the application for employment, the applicant’s agreement was always required before employment was offered.²⁰

It is difficult to determine when exactly the yellow dog contract was first implemented at Brownhill & Kramer, but other full-fashioned hosiery mills (including Apex Hosiery and the Cambria Silk Hosiery Company) had begun the practice by the late 1920s. In 1931, a bill of complaint between the AFFFHW and Brownhill & Kramer detailed the provisions of the firm’s yellow dog contract (previously described), suggesting that it had only recently been implemented. Additionally, as already detailed, Brownhill & Kramer workers struck in 1931 partially on the issue of the yellow dog contract.²¹

Brownhill & Kramer’s contract, in particular, was known as the most restrictive among hosiery companies, first requiring the employee to state that he or she was not a union member and then having him promise not to “secretly or otherwise” join a labor organization of any kind, apply for membership in or aid or assist any of them, and even to “interfere with or molest the employees of Brownhill & Kramer or to induce, persuade or encourage any of said employees to quit their employment...or to join or become a member of any trade-union associations, or in any other way to promote dissension or dissatisfaction amongst the employees of Brownhill & Kramer.”²²

Despite the fact that all Brownhill & Kramer employees had yellow dog contracts by the early 1930s, this did not prevent them from responding to a call for strike made by the AFFFHW over the issues of uniform hours, wages and working conditions on February 16, 1931. Regarding the strike, which was directed only at non-union plants in Philadelphia, Alexander McKeown, president of the AFFFHW, stated that “Full fashioned manufacturers have over-produced several million dozen pairs of hosiery in the face of what is practically a stable demand for silk

²⁰ Joel Seidman, “Sit Down,” (New York: League for Industrial Democracy, 1937), 64.

²¹ Seidman, *The Yellow Dog Contract*, 52, 64.

²² *Ibid.*, 64.

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stockings. We are already working on settlements in some of the forty non-union mills affected.”²³ At Brownhill & Kramer, 90% of the roughly 475 employees walked out in protest, worker Chester Frank recalled later that year, suggesting that the company’s yellow dog contract essentially had no effect on the employees’ capacity to organize, at least when backed officially by a major organization such as the AFFFHW.²⁴

Organizing Textile Labor in the 1930s: The National and Local Context

The late-1920s and early-1930s strikes at Brownhill & Kramer and other hosiery plants occurred in the context of a much larger garment industry-wide labor movement led by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America under the leadership of General President Sydney Hillman. Hillman, who succeeded in organizing drives for over 100,000 clothing industry workers in cities around the country – including New York, Chicago, Boston and Baltimore – only in 1929 turned his attention to Philadelphia.²⁵ The city, once dubbed the “Siberia of the clothing industry,” was in Hillman’s view “a piece of vital unfinished business.” The city was the last of the eight major clothing manufacturing centers in the United States (Philadelphia was second after New York) to remain “adamantly open shop.”²⁶ Over the next several years, Hillman organized strikes at several Philadelphia clothing manufacturers which resulted in both shorter work weeks and higher wages for workers. Although Brownhill & Kramer was not directly influenced by Hillman’s work – full-fashioned hosiery was considered a sector of textiles separate from clothing – Hillman helped to create a new political and social climate that favored workers’ rights and organized labor, undoubtedly benefitting Brownhill & Kramer and other full-fashioned hosiery workers in Philadelphia.

Influenced by this drive, the AFFFHW sought to increase its strength through consolidation with seamless hosiery workers in 1933, which had until then had been part of a separate union. At their annual convention that year, AFFFHW delegates voted to join with seamless workers to become the new American Federation of Hosiery workers (AFHW), adding 65,000 members to its ranks. The executive board of the United Textile Workers immediately approved the merger.²⁷

Labor strife in the Philadelphia textile industry was additionally exacerbated by the arrival of the Congress of Industrial Organizations in 1936. Founded in 1935 by labor leader John L. Lewis, the CIO “practiced an industrial unionism that accepted all workers in an industry regardless of their specific jobs,” rejecting “the [American Federation of Labor’s] craft unionism based on organizing members according to their trade.”²⁸ In Philadelphia in 1936, the CIO “brought waves of determined organizers who implemented a systematic campaign” to finally force

²³ *Philadelphia Inquirer*, February 18, 1931.

²⁴ Seidman, 78.

²⁵ Elden LaMar, *The Clothing Workers in Philadelphia: History of Their Struggles for Union an Security* (Philadelphia, 1940), 78-79.

²⁶ Steven Fraser, *Labor Will Rule* (New York: Free Press, 1991), 238-241.

²⁷ Rogin, 25.

²⁸ James Wolfinger, *Philadelphia Divided: Race and Politics in the City of Brotherly Love*, University of North Carolina Press, 2007, 36.

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employers to allow closed shops. The CIO acted with tacit federal support gained under the National Labor Relations Act of 1935, also known as the Wagner Act, which promised that workers had the right to organize unions of their own choosing and to use collective bargaining. The 1935 legislation also created the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB), meant to enforce the Act.²⁹

Beginning in 1936 the CIO began to sign up members at some of the largest Philadelphia plants including Baldwin Locomotive, Midvale Steel, and Electric Storage Battery, among others. Although the CIO's focus was not limited to the hosiery industry or even to the textile industry as a whole, the most consequential strikes would occur at several hosiery companies – particularly Apex Hosiery, the Artcraft Silk Hosiery Company, and Brownhill & Kramer – simply because hosiery represented one of the largest and best organized industries in the city.³⁰ The strikes at these three companies, although concentrated within a highly specialized sector of textiles, galvanized workers in all industries throughout Philadelphia.³¹ In fact, “union benefits were sought by workers in many additional trades, and by January 1937 union activity and worker unrest had reached such a peak that the *Inquirer* reported the current situation in a column headed ‘Along the City’s Strike Front Yesterday.’”³²

Although Brownhill & Kramer and other hosiery company strikes were significant as some of the earliest in Philadelphia, the workers did not become completely effective until they instituted the massively disruptive sit-down strike tactic and had the benefit of airing their grievances in a national political climate that was sympathetic to their plight due largely to the organizing work of Sidney Hillman, the ACWA, and the CIO.

Sit-Down at Brownhill & Kramer

The 1921 and 1926 strikes at Brownhill & Kramer, along with those at other full-fashioned hosiery plants, were more conventional in their tactics. Strikers would picket outside the plant and refuse to report to work, resulting in a disruption of manufacturing. Strike breakers were sometimes called in by the company's owners and these confrontations often turned violent – worker Carl Mackley was shot and killed by non-union strikebreakers during a strike at the H.C. Aberle Company, another Philadelphia full-fashioned hosiery firm, in 1930. Although the early strike tactics of Brownhill & Kramer workers were significant in bringing attention to the plight of full-fashioned hosiery workers, their success was limited in that they allowed an almost guaranteed path for their employers to regain control and bring manufacturing back up to speed without giving in completely to the workers' demands (as already described, the double-machine system and yellow dog contracts, remained in place through the mid-1930s, suggesting that the early strikes were sometimes ineffective).

²⁹ *Ibid.*, 37-38.

³⁰ Harry A. Millis, *How Collective Bargaining Works*, New York: Arno, 1971, 499.

³¹ Wolfinger, 37.

³² Margaret Tinkcom, “Depression and War, 1929-1946,” in Weigley, Russell F., ed. *Philadelphia: A 300-Year History* (New York: W.W. Norton, 1982), 618.

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The sit-down strike, however, which became popular only by the late 1930s, changed the game completely by forcing manufacturers to make concessions to their employees. “Workers who engaged in sit-down strikes,” historian James Wolfinger writes, “took over the plants, threw out management and their guards, barricaded themselves inside the building, and dared owners to remove them with force.”³³ This tactic was a significant development by full-fashioned hosiery workers because it essentially prevented an employer from bringing in strikebreakers. The extensive machinery inside the plants was far too expensive to risk losing in a violent takeover.

Much of the tension that existed between hosiery workers and employers during the early 1930s still resulted from questionable contracts and employers’ adamant opposition to organization. It was also the result of the removal of numerous textile companies to southern states and sometimes rural areas outside of Philadelphia. Many reasons contributed to this geographic shift. Perhaps most importantly, labor was cheaper in the South and further upstate and unions in both places had little power. Most plants were open shops. Additionally, power was cheaper, making the operation of machinery much more cost effective. Furthermore, southern communities made concerted efforts to attract northern companies, offering free plant sites and buildings and sometimes moratoriums on local taxes for considerable periods of time. Although it would be difficult to determine exactly how many full-fashioned plants moved south during the 1930s, the dramatic shift in geographic distribution is illustrated by the number of full-fashioned knitting machines recorded in Pennsylvania and other locations throughout the United States.³⁴

Overall production figures provide a sense of just how significantly the full-fashioned hosiery industry, in particular, was affected by this shift. In 1929, Pennsylvania (including Philadelphia) was home to 59.7% of the 14,310 full-fashioned machines in the United States, while southern states could claim only 6.3%. Five years later, in 1934, Pennsylvania remained relatively strong in full-fashioned hosiery with 58.5% of all machines, but the south had increased its share more than twofold to 15.7%. In 1939, Pennsylvania’s share of the full-fashioned industry for the first time was in a minority position with only 45% of all machines (southern states that year had reached 29%). This trend continued over the next decade; by 1949, long after Brownhill & Kramer and many other hosiery mills left Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the south were nearly equal in terms of their full-fashioned machinery. That year, Pennsylvania had dipped to 40% while the south had reached 39%.³⁵

Following the trend of industrial plants throughout the Northeast United States, Brownhill & Kramer’s first sit-down strike occurred shortly after the company’s leadership decided to remove part of their Philadelphia operation to a new hosiery plant in Coudersport in Potter County, Pennsylvania. Although Brownhill & Kramer was unusual in that it moved simply to location outside of Philadelphia and not to a southern state, the reasons were the same: cheaper labor and open shops.

³³ Wolfinger 37-38.

³⁴ The Full-Fashioned Hosiery Industry in Pennsylvania, 10-11

³⁵ The Full-Fashioned Hosiery Industry in Pennsylvania, 13-15

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To protest the move, on January 13, 1937, 475 Brownhill & Kramer workers inaugurated the first sit-down strike, also in protest of the double-machine system, which was still in place (fig. 7).³⁶ The sit-down strike at Brownhill & Kramer included both men and women. “The latter entered the factory each morning at 8 and stayed until 6 p.m.,” labor expert Joel Seidman wrote, “and only the men remained in the plant all night.”³⁷ Perhaps most important, however, was the fact that the sit-down, a physical occupation of the plant, prevented the proprietors from hiring non-union replacement workers, or “strikebreakers,” at least temporarily ensuring the safety of the strikers’ jobs.

Although the January 1937 sit-down strike was not the first at a hosiery mill in Philadelphia – that distinction belongs to the H.C. Aberle Hosiery Mill in Kensington, whose workers struck in 1930 – Brownhill & Kramer was the first to strike during the first critical months after the CIO began to organize Philadelphia workers. In fact, the Brownhill & Kramer strike led to a series of sit-down strikes and violent takeovers of other hosiery mills that would ultimately result in the acceptance of closed shops throughout Philadelphia.

One of the most consequential of the subsequent strikes occurred on May 6, 1937, when workers at the Apex Hosiery Company in North Philadelphia, assisted by CIO organizers and workers from other hosiery mills, including Brownhill & Kramer, essentially seized the Apex plant and shut down business entirely. Apex’s 2,500 employees occupied the plant for six weeks, destroying valuable machinery and preventing shipments of finished goods in the process. It was estimated that 130,000 dozen pairs of finished hosiery valued at \$800,000 sat in the plant during the strike. Because of the size and length of the strike, Apex’s business suffered tremendously, forcing the company to sue the American Federation of Hosiery workers, now an affiliate of the CIO, under the Sherman Act claiming that the strike constituted an illegal restraint of trade. Although a district court jury found that the AFHW’s sit-down did in fact constitute an illegal restraint of trade, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the jury’s verdict, a decision that was reaffirmed by the United States Supreme Court in 1940. The Supreme Court’s decision essentially allowed sit-down strikes, a major victory for the CIO and workers nationwide.³⁸

Because the Apex Case was not decided by the Supreme Court until 1940, antagonism among hosiery workers in Philadelphia lingered throughout the late 1930s, resulting in further sit-down strikes in hosiery mills and other plants throughout the city.

In fact, a second sit-down strike occurred at Brownhill & Kramer on August 25, 1937. As the *Philadelphia Inquirer* noted, “It was the first sit-down strike to occur in a hosiery mill in the city since a court order evicted the strikers occupying the Apex Hosiery Mills several months ago.” However, unlike the first sit-down strike in January, this one was organized directly by the CIO and centered more broadly on the right to organize rather than specific issues like the double-

³⁶ *Philadelphia Inquirer*, 1/13/1937.

³⁷ Seidman, 33.

³⁸ J.R. Peritz Rudolph, *Competition Policy in America: History, Rhetoric, Law* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996), 167.

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machine system, pay, or working hours. Although Stanley G. Kramer, the company's treasurer, "bitterly" asserted that Brownhill & Kramer had reached all of the demands of the union after the first strike earlier that year, claiming that "We were paying the highest union scale, working under regular union hours, and giving the union the check-off system," his workers were still not satisfied. Commenting on the Brownhill & Kramer strike, William M. Leader, president of Branch #1 of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, suggested that this sit-down was undertaken on principle as a show of force.³⁹ "We want to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by the government for legal arbitration," Leader declared, implying that he intended to seek a contract negotiated by the NLRB. In other words, if the workers had a right to a closed shop under any interpretation of the new national labor regulations, which they did, they were going to have it.⁴⁰

Over the next several weeks, Brownhill & Kramer workers continued to strike, making themselves at home inside the mill: "Cots and blankets have been moved into the mill, a commissary organized and entertainment arranged." They were "determined that production shall not be resumed until the management signs the national agreement," the *Hosiery Worker* reported, meaning a contract negotiated under the terms of the NLRB.⁴¹

Meanwhile, Leader and AFHW attorneys negotiated continuously with Brownhill & Kramer management who continued to refuse the terms of a NLRB approved contract. Although they came close to an agreement – at one point that September management was willing to allow a contract with a loophole preventing workers from striking again in the future – Leader was ultimately unable to broker a deal.⁴² Leader stood firm in his demand for a clean deal, one that would not compromise the workers' right to organize and strike again if such action was called for. Brownhill & Kramer management stubbornly refused to sign any other version of the deal, stating their preference to leave Philadelphia entirely rather than accede to the union's demands.

Later in 1937, as a result of their workers' tenacity and management's unwillingness to accept a closed shop, Brownhill & Kramer moved part of its operations to Coudersport in Potter County, PA and began a silk hosiery mill there. Although Brownhill & Kramer is unusual in that it simply moved outside of Philadelphia (to rural Pennsylvania) and not to the south, the reasons were ultimately the same. Because of Coudersport's remote location in north-central Pennsylvania, there was initially no AFHW union presence. Brownhill & Kramer would be able to operate there without fear of labor disruptions.

By March of 1938, Brownhill & Kramer management decided to close their Philadelphia mill completely, which at that point still employed around 300 workers. At the final closing of the building and the auctioning off of all of the equipment that March, the hosiery employees staged two sit-down strikes in protest and successfully delayed the auction twice. On March 3, a

³⁹ The AFHW by this time was an affiliate of the CIO.

⁴⁰ *Philadelphia Inquirer* (26 August 1937).

⁴¹ *Hosiery Worker* (27 August 1937).

⁴² *Hosiery Worker* (10 September 1937).

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hundred policemen on foot, motorcycle and horse, were called in to quiet down the angry crowd of 4,000 hosiery workers representing the American Federation of Hosiery Workers. Incited to violence, the crowd repeatedly threw a “window shattering storm of bricks” at the plant buildings, causing damage seen in several historic photographs (figs. 8, 9). At the last minute, state labor mediator Charles Kutz arrived in an attempt to reach an understanding with Brownhill & Kramer whereby the mill might continue operating to save jobs, but the discussions came to nothing. Despite the violence, which was quelled after an hour by the police, the sale proceeded inside the building, where \$500,000 dollars’ worth of machinery was sold for \$100,000. “I am out of the hosiery business for life,” Harry Brownhill told Kutz, “I’ll take ten cents on the dollar, if necessary, for the mill and property.”⁴³

Criterion A: Industry

The Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill also has significance in industry as one of the largest manufacturers of full-fashioned hosiery in Philadelphia in the 1920s and 1930s.

Before Brownhill & Kramer moved from Crease Street to Memphis Street, there were 95 employees making use of 80 knitting machines, 20 loopers, five sewing machines, and 30 ribbers. Just one year later, however, there were 150 employees at 406 Memphis Street manufacturing hosiery on 100 knitting machines, 25 loopers, five sewing machines, and 60 ribbers. By 1905, 200 employees were recorded, and in 1909 an additional 150 employees brought the total to 350. The same year, the mill produced hosiery on 225 knitting machines, 65 loopers, 10 sewing machines and 90 ribbers. And in 1913, a directory listed 400 employees with 400 knitting machines, 80 loopers, 20 sewing machines and 100 ribbers. In only ten years, the company had increased its productive capacity by roughly 400%. Even with such significant additions to the company’s textile machinery and an ever expanding roster of employees, by 1917, *The Textile American* noted that “Brownhill and Kramer, hosiery makers...are taxed in producing heavy orders for their reputable goods.”⁴⁴

This rapid increase in manufacturing equipment and output that occurred between 1906 and 1915 corresponds with Brownhill & Kramer’s first period of building expansion that occurred in 1916 and 1917, when the partners added an additional three stories to the recently constructed 2-story building (Section 1) at the rear of the original Weber mill building on the 406-412 Memphis Street section of the property and a 1-story “boarding room” (Section 3) at the eastern end of the property.

Over the following decade, Brownhill & Kramer became one of Fishtown’s prominent manufacturers, producing “full-fashioned” men’s and women’s fine silk hosiery. In April of 1919, Brownhill & Kramer, with capital of \$10,000, was finally incorporated. A list of charters and corporations for Pennsylvania that year noted that the firm was involved in the “manufacturing, producing, preparing, dyeing, finishing, buying, selling and otherwise dealing in cotton, woolen, silk and mixed yarns, and in all fabrics manufactured therefrom, and in all by-

⁴³ *New York Times* (4 March 1938) and *Philadelphia Inquirer* (4 March 1938).

⁴⁴ *The Textile American* 27:4, April 1917: 11.

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products from said cotton, woolen, silk and mixed yarns and all fabrics manufactured therefrom," a much fuller picture of the company's activities than had yet been offered by any publication.⁴⁵

Brownhill & Kramer's continued expansion in the 1920s occurred at a time when changing fashions, including a rise in the popularity of shorter skirts, accelerated production of full-fashioned rather than the seamless hosiery that the company had previously specialized in. Seamless hosiery was knitted in cotton on a rotary frame, which produced an "endless" length of hose with no vertical seams. As the seamless hose came off the frame, it was cut to length. Although equal in circumference from beginning to end, each piece of hose was typically dried on a leg form to better fit the shape of a real leg. After only a few washes however, the hose would revert to its true cylindrical form, resulting in a baggy or lumpy appearance thereafter. While this problem was not so apparent as long as skirts remained long, the trend toward shorter skirts beginning in the 1910s greatly increased the demand for better fitted, less opaque hosiery. The solution, full-fashioned hosiery in silk, was knitted on a flat frame, allowing the hose to be narrowed where necessary to create a permanently leg-shaped garment that would not lose its form over time. The material and form created an "illusion of transparency and sheerness."⁴⁶ Although full-fashioned hosiery had been produced since the mid-19th century, it was much more expensive than seamless hosiery because it required skilled finishing work after being removed from the frame. By the 1910s, however, mechanization processes made full-fashioned production more cost-effective and better able to keep up with changing fashions.⁴⁷

Around 1921, according to the *Official American Textile Directory*, Brownhill & Kramer made the transition to manufacturing full-fashioned hosiery exclusively. To keep up with the trend toward full-fashioned silk hosiery, Brownhill & Kramer needed new machines better able to produce the finer knits required. By the early 1920s, the company had 450 knitting machines, 75 loopers, 30 sewing machines, and 100 ribbers.⁴⁸

The number of knitting and sewing machines listed for Brownhill & Kramer in the *Official American Textile Directory* during these years is significant as most Philadelphia full-fashioned hosiery companies were small establishments. In her study *Union Tactics and Economic Change: A Case Study of Three Philadelphia Labor Unions*, Gladys Louise Palmer noted that "few have more than 100 machines; most plants have less than 50, while some operate with fewer than 25 machines."⁴⁹ Because the company had increased its inventory of machines to

⁴⁵ Pennsylvania, Secretary of the Commonwealth, *List of Charters of Corporations Enrolled in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, 1917-1919* (Harrisburg, PA, 1919), 26.

⁴⁶ Philip Scranton, *Figured Tapestry: Production, Markets, and Power in Philadelphia Textiles, 1885-1941* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989), 432-433.

⁴⁷ Philip Scranton, *Proprietary Capitalism: The Textile Manufacture at Philadelphia, 1800-1885* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1983), 169.

⁴⁸ *Official American Textile Directory* (Boston: Guild & Lord, 1920, 1921, 1925).

⁴⁹ Gladys Louise Palmer, *Union Tactics and Economic Change: A Case Study of Three Philadelphia Textile Unions* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1932), 197.

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

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over 400, it is clear that Brownhill & Kramer was one of Philadelphia's leaders in the full-fashioned hosiery sector of the textile industry.

The popularity of Brownhill & Kramer's products is made clear through full-page advertisements which appeared in the *Wanamaker Diary* between 1926 and 1933 (fig. 6). The diary was a daily planner of sorts provided to Wanamaker shoppers, containing dozens of advertisements for the store's products interspersed throughout the calendar portions. Although Brownhill & Kramer's ads do not feature specific products, their "Nifty" hosiery, a brand trademarked by the company in 1926, would likely have been one of the offerings available at Wanamaker's store in Philadelphia.⁵⁰

After Brownhill & Kramer ceased operations in 1938, the Memphis Street complex was purchased by the Chesterman-Leeland Company. Founded in 1917 through a merger of Chesterman & Streeter, Inc. and the Leeland Surgical Company, Chesterman-Leeland was a manufacturer of surgical appliances and prosthetic devices.⁵¹ Prior to their removal to Memphis Street, the company was located at 902 Montgomery Avenue in North Philadelphia. In 1941, the first year that the company was listed in the *Industrial Directory of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* at 406 Memphis Street, there were 200 employees, and this number grew slightly over the next few years to 220 in 1947.⁵² A number of patents filed by Chesterman-Leeland between 1924 and 1950 detail the variety of products that the company produced in Philadelphia. These included various types of truss pads for the treatment of abdominal hernias and elastic stockings for use in surgical applications. Perhaps the company's most well-known product, however was a prosthetic brassiere, known as "Chesties," intended for women who had undergone mastectomies.⁵³

Although Chesterman-Leeland had great success in marketing and selling "Chesties", they appear to have closed by 1962, when the Musal Corporation purchased the Memphis Street property and after which they no longer appear in industrial directories. Musal, a metal fabrication company, expanded the complex in 1964 with the construction of Building 7. Although the reason for their departure is unclear, Musal does not appear as the owner of the complex on zoning permit applications after 1983. Rois Manufacturing Company, also a metal fabrication company, was Musal's successor and occupied the building until sometime in the 1990s. The building has remained vacant since then.

Comparable Buildings

Numerous hosiery industry-related complexes survive largely intact throughout North Philadelphia. The Apex Hosiery Company mill, located at N. 5th and Luzerne Streets, roughly three miles north of Brownhill & Kramer, was home to about 2,500 employees during the 1930s.

⁵⁰ *Wanamaker Diary* (Philadelphia: John Wanamaker, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929, 1930, 1931, 1932, 1933) and U.S. Trademark 31,346 (1926).

⁵¹ Pennsylvania, Secretary of the Commonwealth, *Charters of Corporations*, 238.

⁵² *Industrial Directory of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*, 1941, 1947.

⁵³ United States Patents 1,584,510 (1926), 1,651,183 (1927), 2,102,064 (1937), 2,269,353 (1942).

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

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As described above, Apex workers faced many of the same challenges as those at Brownhill & Kramer, including yellow dog contracts and the double machine system, and carried out numerous strikes in an effort to institute a closed shop. The most consequential of these strikes, a sit-down strike beginning on May 6, 1937, lasted several weeks and resulted in a Supreme Court decision essentially affirming the workers' right to organize (see above). Much of the Apex complex – a series of interconnected 6-story buildings with reinforced concrete frames and red brick spandrels – remains today, although many of its window openings have been infilled with glass or concrete block. The building, which was converted into a school in the 1960s, has remained vacant for over a decade.

In addition to Apex, the Artcraft Silk Hosiery Mills - located on the west side of M Street just south of E. Erie Avenue, about 2.5 miles northeast of Brownhill & Kramer – remains largely intact. The long, two-story brick building has large window openings, although the majority of these have been infilled with painted stucco. A sit-down strike that occurred at the Artcraft complex in April of 1937 is said to be the inspiration for the Apex strike a month later.

Numerous textile-related industrial buildings from the late-19th and early-20th centuries exist throughout the Fishtown and adjacent Kensington neighborhoods of Philadelphia, in closer proximity to Brownhill & Kramer. Like the Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill, the Quaker City Dye Works (NR 2012), which stands at 100-118 W. Oxford Street, is composed of multiple buildings constructed between 1873 and 1913. Despite the phased construction, the consistency of building material and detailing give the complex a unified appearance much like Brownhill & Kramer. The Quaker City Dye Works was a prominent Kensington dye works and textile waste manufacturer.⁵⁴ While located at 100-118 W. Oxford Street, the Quaker City Dye Works specialized in the dyeing and finishing of cotton, wool and silk and was the largest dye works in the Kensington neighborhood of Philadelphia in the 19th century.

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
County and State

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Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property ~ 0.60 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Latitude: 39.974167 Longitude: -75.132222 (enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary of the Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill is shown as a dotted line on the accompanying map entitled “Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill: Site Plan with National Register Boundary.”

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property includes the entire parcel on which the building is situated and historically associated with the property. No extant historically associated resources have been excluded.

An associated building (Section 2) across Memphis Street from the nominated boundary was demolished in 2012, prior to the current ownership. As described above in Section 7, the now-vacant site does not contribute to the significance of the nominated property, so it is not included within the National Register boundary.

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
 Name of Property

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 County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kevin McMahon, Associate
 organization: Powers & Company, Inc.
 street & number: 1315 Walnut Street, Suite 1717
 city or town: Philadelphia state: PA zip code: 19107
 e-mail: kevin@powersco.net
 telephone: (215) 636-0192
 date: December 11, 2013

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.)

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: **Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill**
 City or Vicinity: **Philadelphia**
 County: **Philadelphia** State: **PA**
 Photographer: **Robert Powers**
 Date Photographed: **April 2013**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

<i>Photo #</i>	<i>Description of Photograph</i>
1.	North and east elevations of Sections 3, 4, and 5, view southwest. The buildings in the foreground and center of the image, including the rowhouses, are not associated with the hosiery mill.
2.	North elevation of Sections 3, 4, and 5, view southwest.
3.	North and west elevations of Section 7, view southeast.
4.	West elevations of Sections 6 and 7, view east.
5.	South elevations of Sections 1 and 4, view north. The rowhouses in the foreground are not associated with the hosiery mill.
6.	East elevation of Section 6, view northwest
7.	South elevations of Sections 1 and 4, view northeast
8.	East elevation of Section 4, view southeast. The buildings in the foreground and center of the image, including the rowhouses, are not associated with the mill.

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
Name of Property

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9.	1 st floor, Section 6, view west
10.	1 st floor, Section 6, view east
11.	1 st floor, Section 7, view north
12.	1 st floor, Section 7, view northeast. As shown in this image, the interior east wall of Section 7 is formed by the first two floors of the west elevation of Section 1.
13.	1 st floor, Section 7, view northwest
14.	1 st floor, Section 1, view east
15.	1 st floor, Section 4, view north
16.	1 st floor, Section 3, view north
17.	1 st floor, Section 4, view south
18.	1 st floor, Section 5, view west
19.	2 nd floor, Section 4, view south
20.	2 nd floor, Section 4, view west. Freight elevator, which connects Sections 1 and 4.
21.	2 nd floor, Section 4, view southeast
22.	2 nd floor, Section 5, view west
23.	2 nd floor, Section 1, view west
24.	2 nd floor, Section 1, view east
25.	2 nd floor, Section 1, stairway, view north
26.	3 rd floor, Section 1, view east
27.	3 rd floor, Section 5, view east
28.	3 rd floor, Section 4, view west
29.	3 rd floor, Section 4, view west
30.	4 th floor, Section 1, view southwest
31.	4 th floor, Section 1, stairway, view north
32.	4 th floor, Section 5, view east
33.	4 th floor, Section 4, view southeast
34.	4 th floor, Section 3, fire door, view west
35.	4 th floor, Section 3, fire stair, view south
36.	5 th floor, Section 4, view west
37.	5 th floor, Section 4, view south
38.	5 th floor, Section 1, view west
39.	5 th floor, Section 1, view east
40.	5 th floor, Section 5, view east
41.	5 th floor, Section 5, stairway, view south
42.	Roof, Section 1, view east
43.	Roof, Section 5, view east
44.	Roof, Section 5, view west

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

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historic Images Page 1**Index:**

<i>Figure #</i>	<i>Description of Figure</i>
1.	Ernest Hexamer, <i>Map of the City of Philadelphia</i> , 1906.
2.	Ernest Hexamer, <i>Map of the City of Philadelphia</i> , 1917.
3.	Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Philadelphia, 1938.
4.	Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Philadelphia, 2006.
5.	Chesterman-Leeland Company (formerly Brownhill & Kramer), looking east down Memphis Street from East Columbia Ave, 1951
6.	Brownhill & Kramer advertisement in the 1926 edition of <i>The Wanamaker Diary</i> .
7.	Brownhill & Kramer workers during the first sit-down strike in January 1937.
8.	Police attempt to control Brownhill & Kramer workers during the March 1938 protest and riot.
9.	Aftermath of the March 1938 riot after the closure of Brownhill & Kramer.

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Historic Images Page 2

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
Name of Property
Philadelphia County, PA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 1 – Ernest Hexamer, *Map of the City of Philadelphia*, 1906.
(future location of Brownhill & Kramer shown by dotted line)

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation Sheet

Historic Images Page 3

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
Name of Property
Philadelphia County, PA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

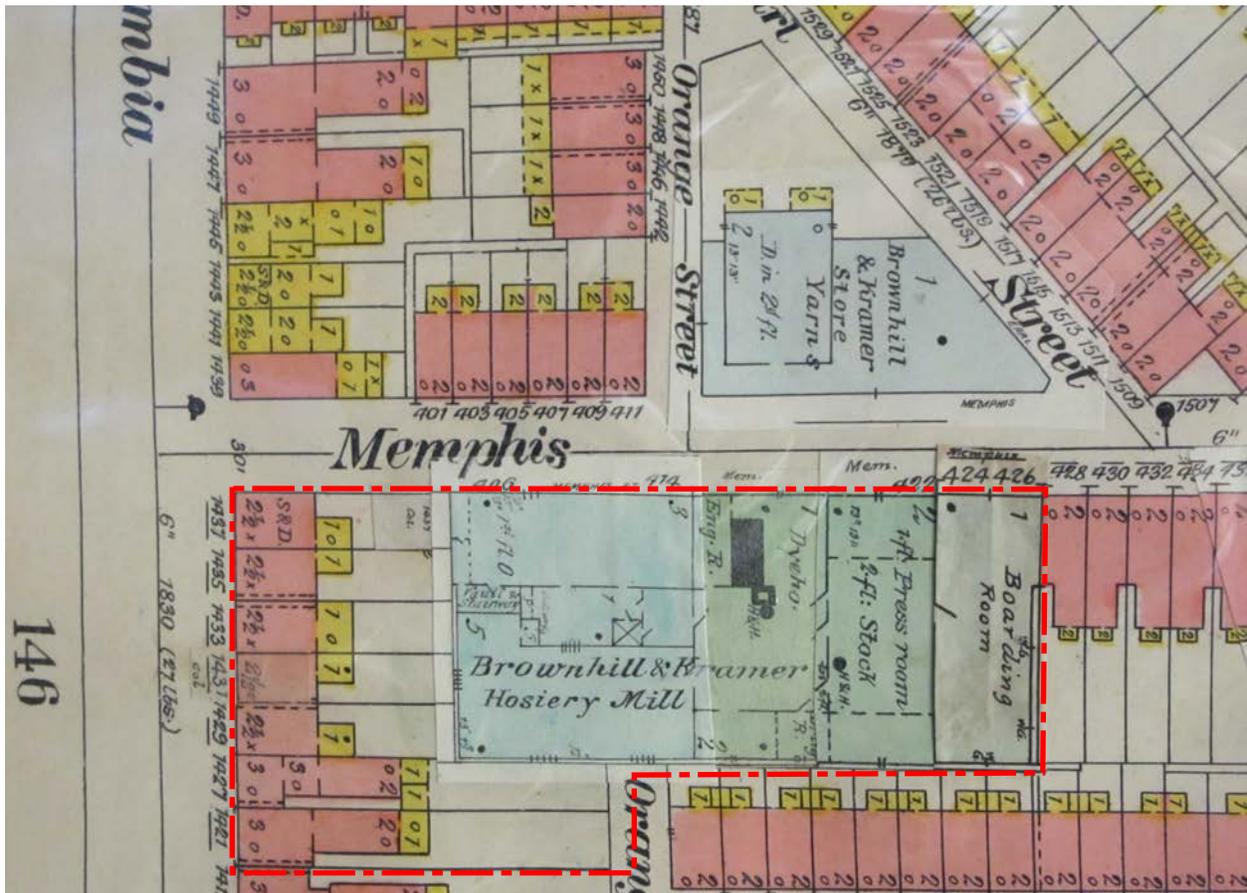


Figure 2 – Ernest Hexamer, *Map of the City of Philadelphia*, 1917.
(Current boundaries of nominated property shown by dotted line)

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Historic Images Page 4

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
Name of Property
Philadelphia County, PA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

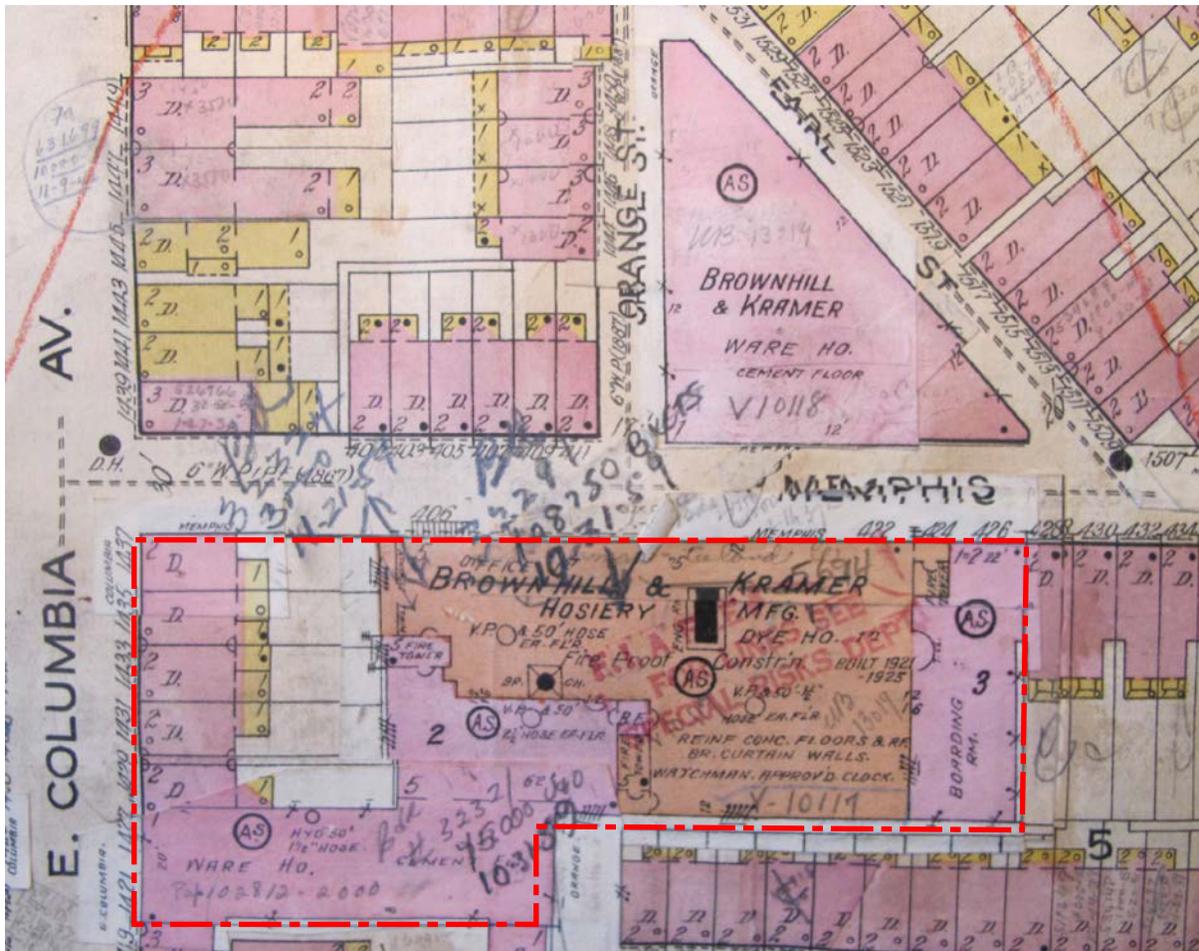


Figure 3 – Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Philadelphia, 1938.
(Current boundaries of nominated property shown by dotted line)

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Historic Images Page 5

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA

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N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

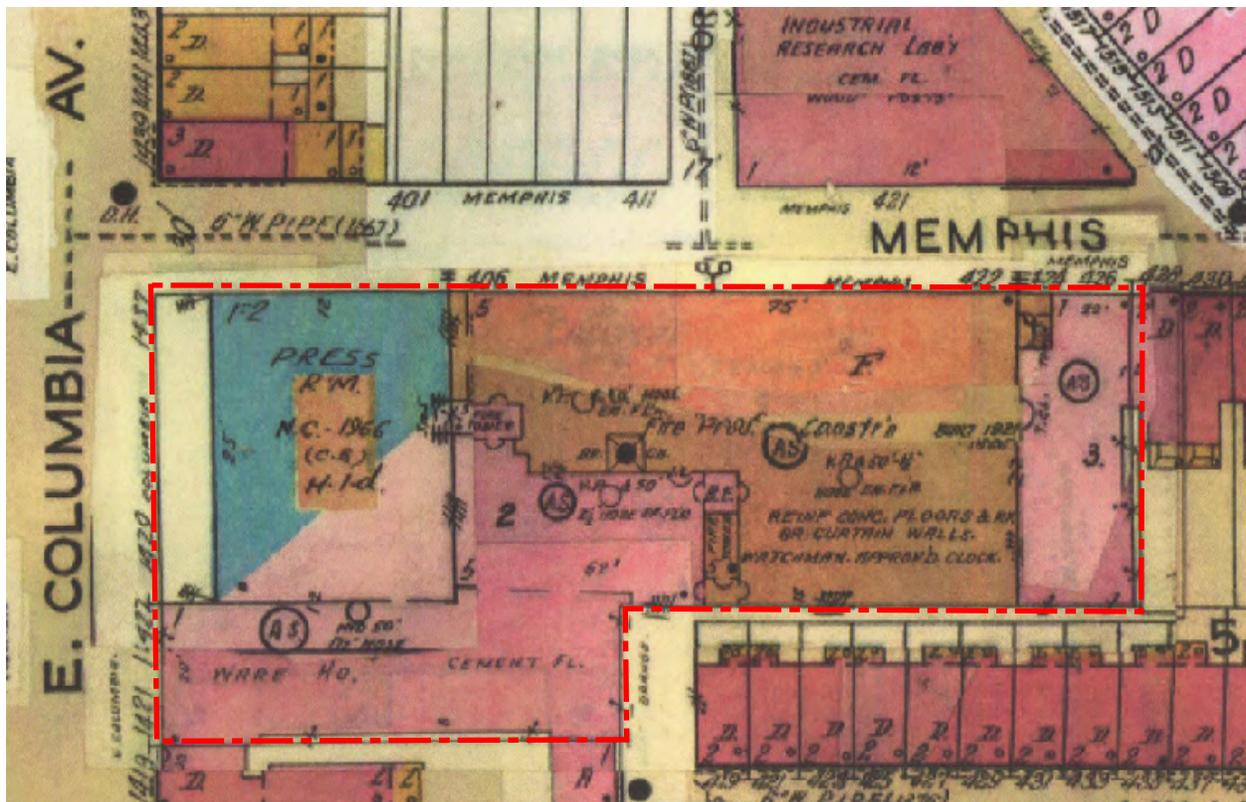


Figure 4 – Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Philadelphia, 2006.
(Current boundaries of nominated property shown by dotted line)

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Historic Images Page 6

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 5 – Chesterman-Leeland Company (formerly Brownhill & Kramer), looking east down Memphis Street from East Columbia Ave, 1951 Parker & Mullikin, Photographer (Free Library of Philadelphia).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Historic Images Page 7

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

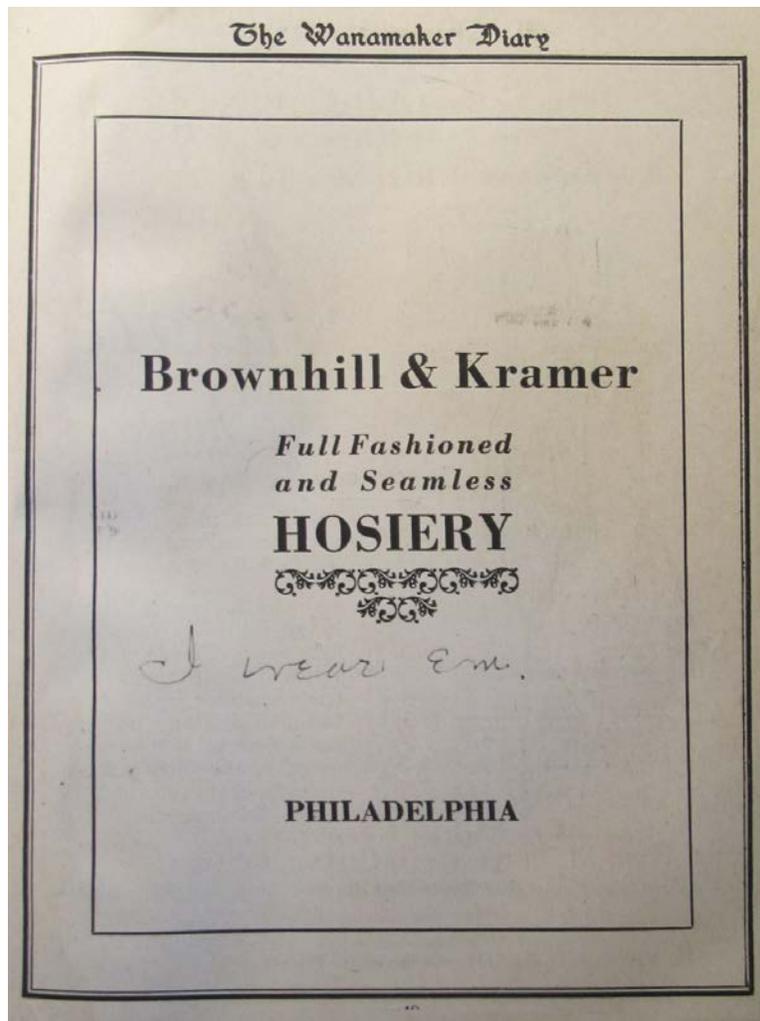


Figure 6 – Brownhill & Kramer advertisement in the 1926 edition of *The Wanamaker Diary*.

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Historic Images Page 8

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
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Figure 7 – Brownhill & Kramer workers during the first sit-down strike in January 1937.

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Continuation Sheet

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

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County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Historic Images Page 9



Figure 8 – Police attempt to control Brownhill & Kramer workers during the March 1938 protest and riot.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Historic Images Page 10

Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill

Name of Property

Philadelphia County, PA

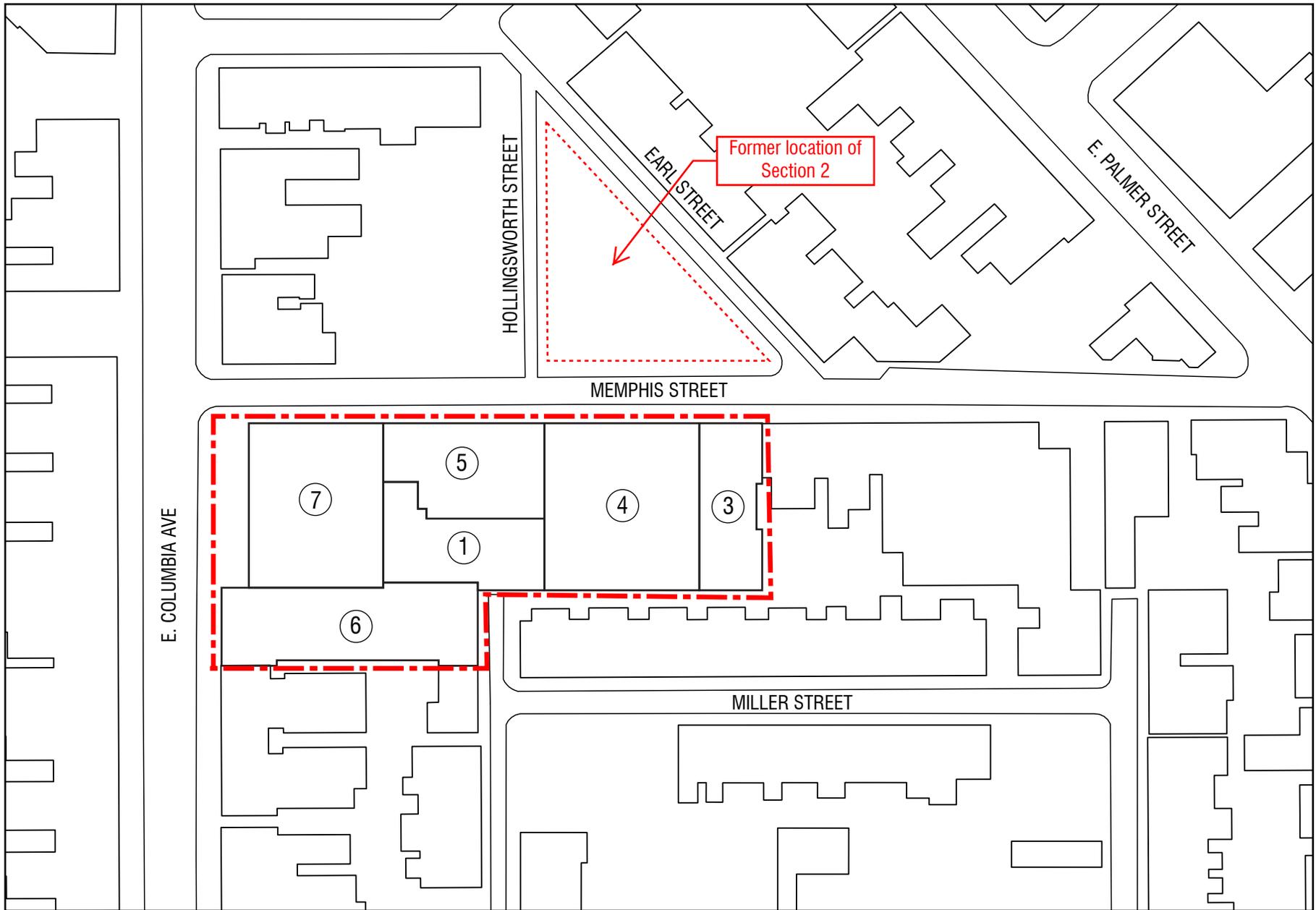
County and State

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

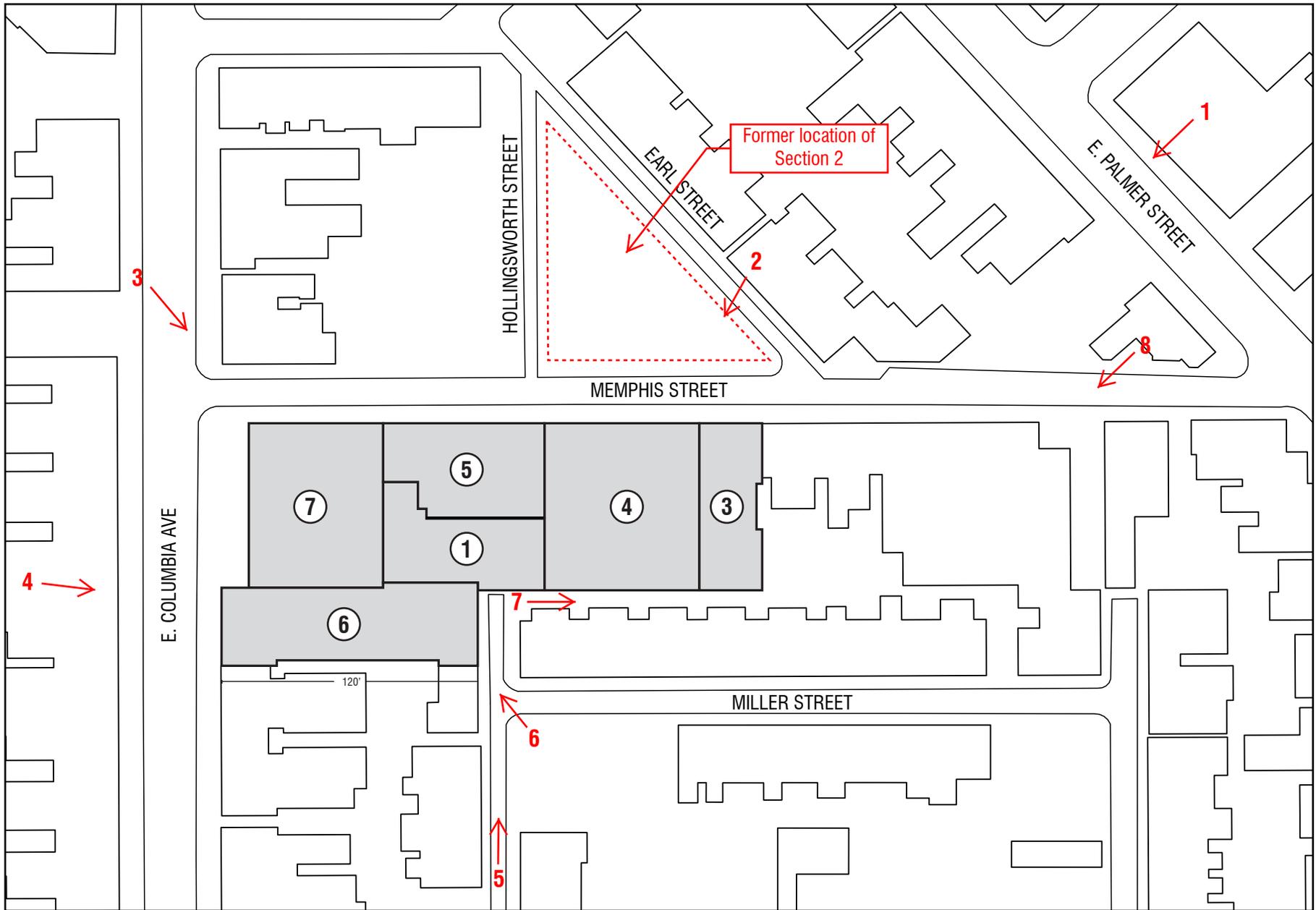


Figure 9 – Aftermath of the March 1938 riot after the closure of Brownhill & Kramer.

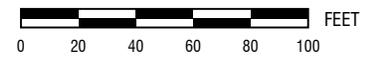


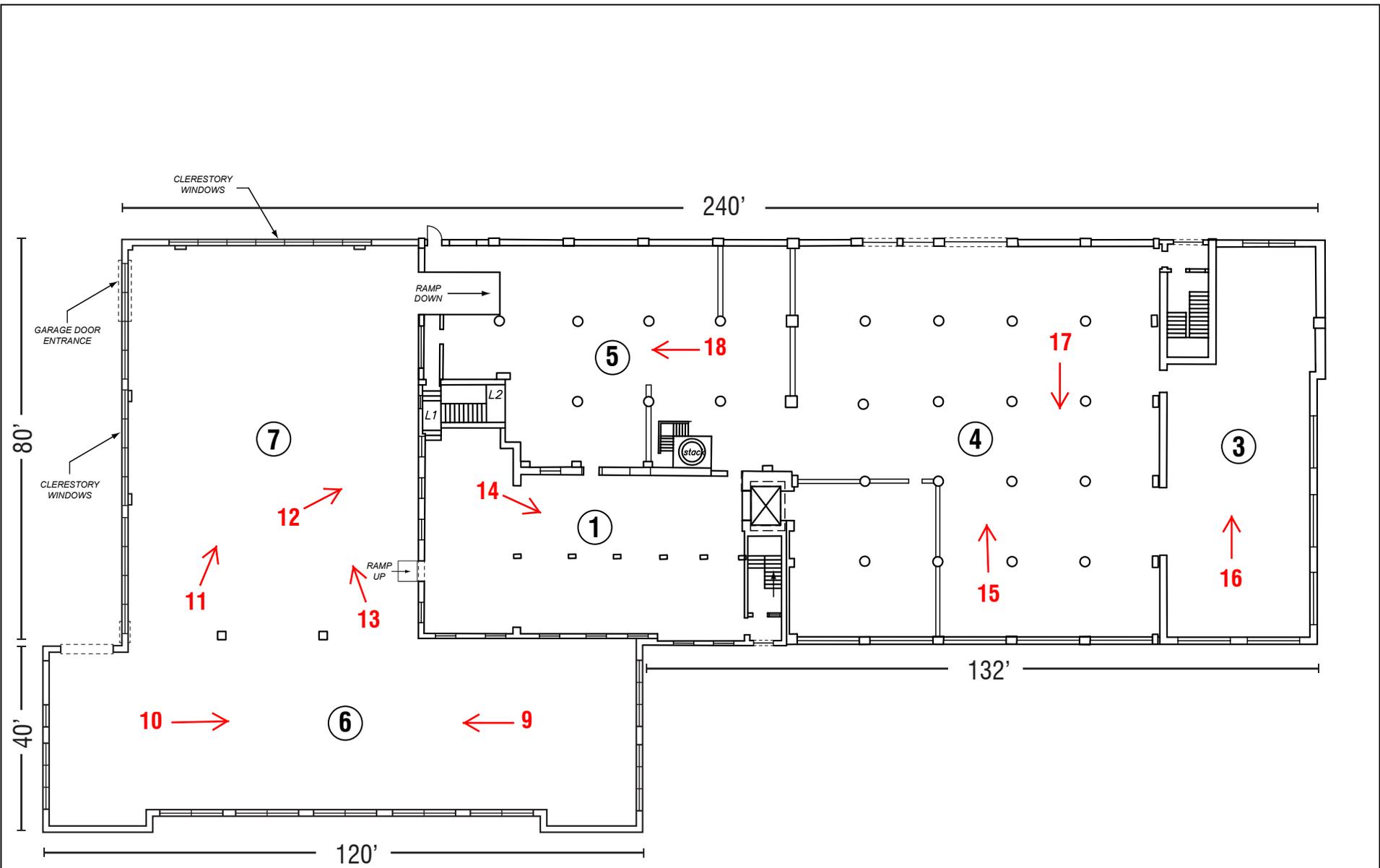
Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
 406-426 Memphis Street & 1421-37 E. Columbia Avenue
 Philadelphia County, PA
 Site Plan with National Register Boundary
 Not to Scale





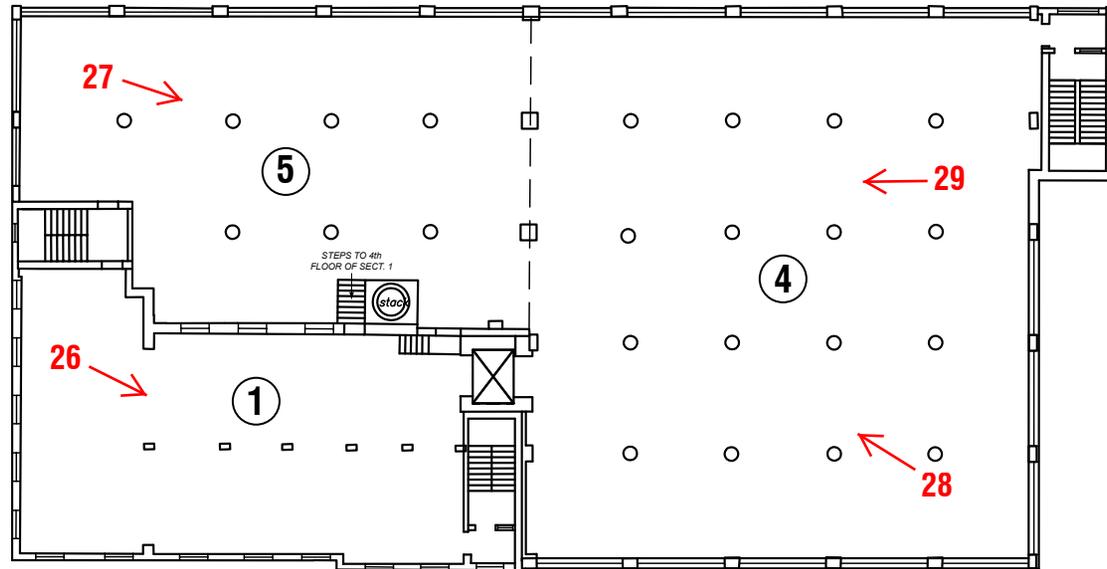
Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
 406-426 Memphis Street & 1421-37 E. Columbia Avenue
 Philadelphia County, PA
 Site Plan with Photograph Key
 Not to Scale





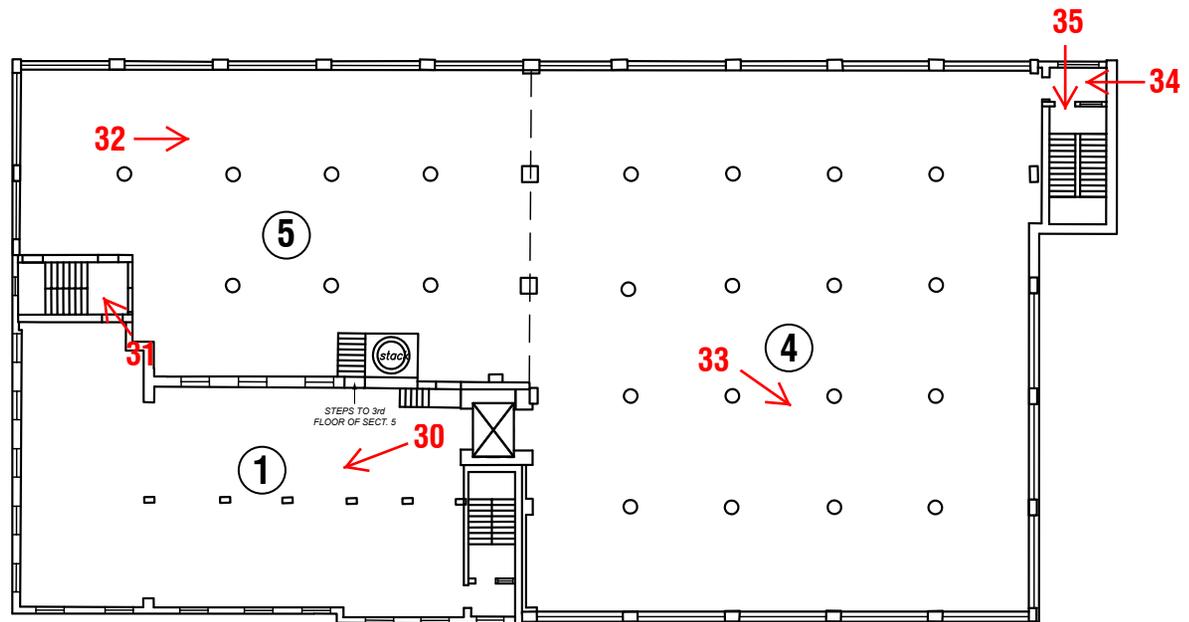
Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
 406-426, 421 and 1421-1437 E. Columbia Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA
 1st Floor Plan with Photograph Key
 Not to Scale





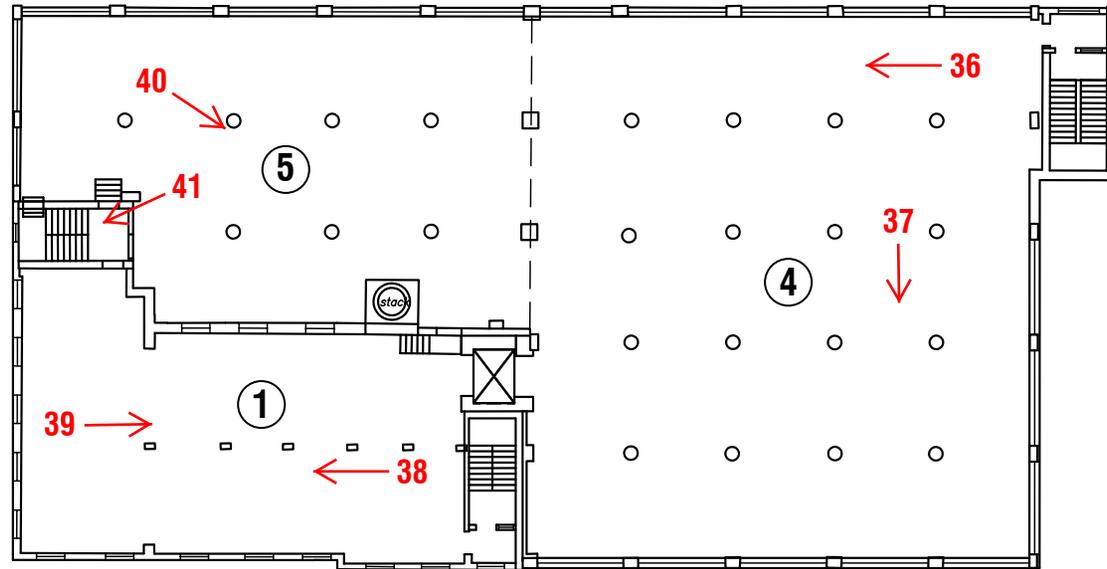
Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
406-426, 421 and 1421-1437 E. Columbia Avenue
Philadelphia, PA
3rd Floor Plan with Photograph Key
Not to Scale





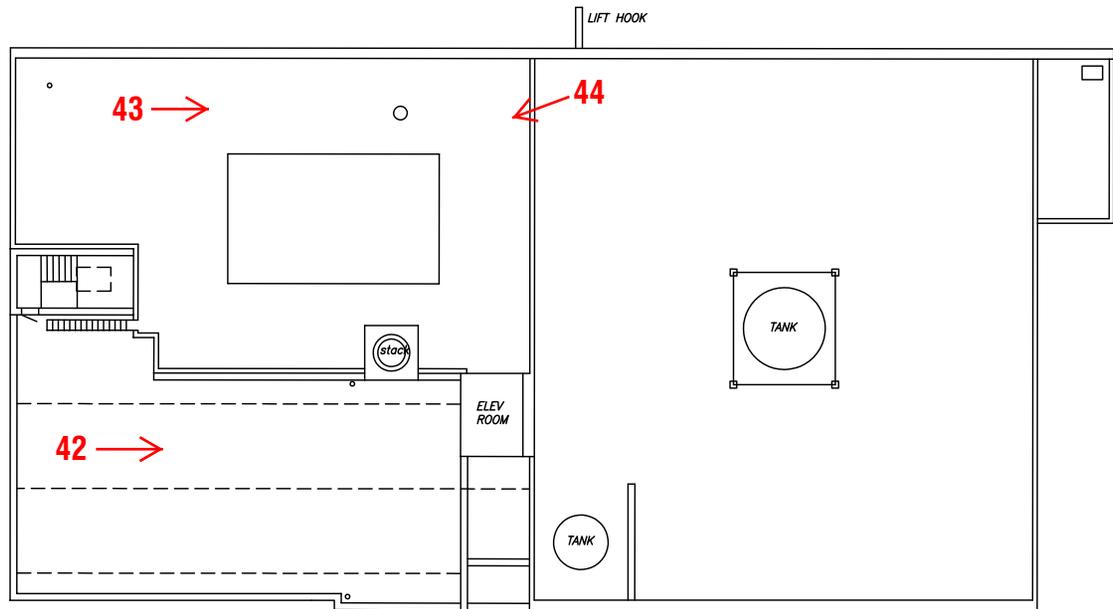
Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
 406-426, 421 and 1421-1437 E. Columbia Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA
 4th Floor Plan with Photograph Key
 Not to Scale





Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
406-426, 421 and 1421-1437 E. Columbia Avenue
Philadelphia, PA
5th Floor Plan with Photograph Key
Not to Scale



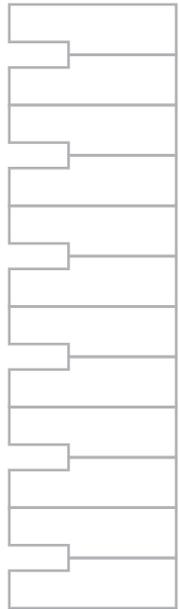
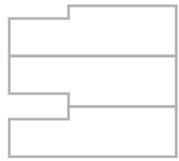


Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
406-426, 421 and 1421-1437 E. Columbia Avenue
Philadelphia, PA
Roof Plan with Photograph Key
Not to Scale

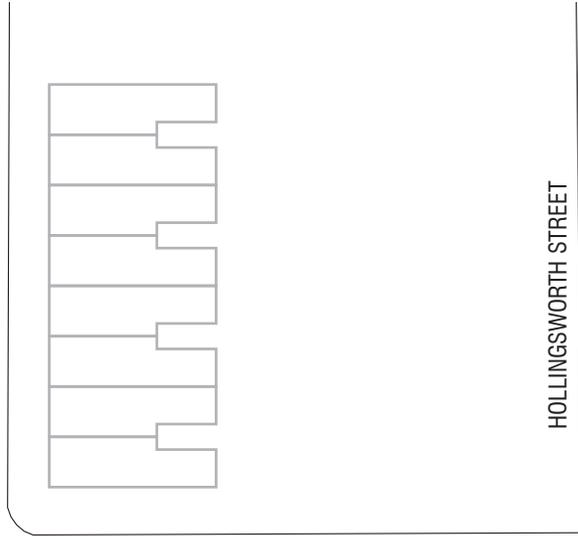


YEAR BUILT

- 1905
- 1915-1917
- 1921
- 1925-1926
- 1964

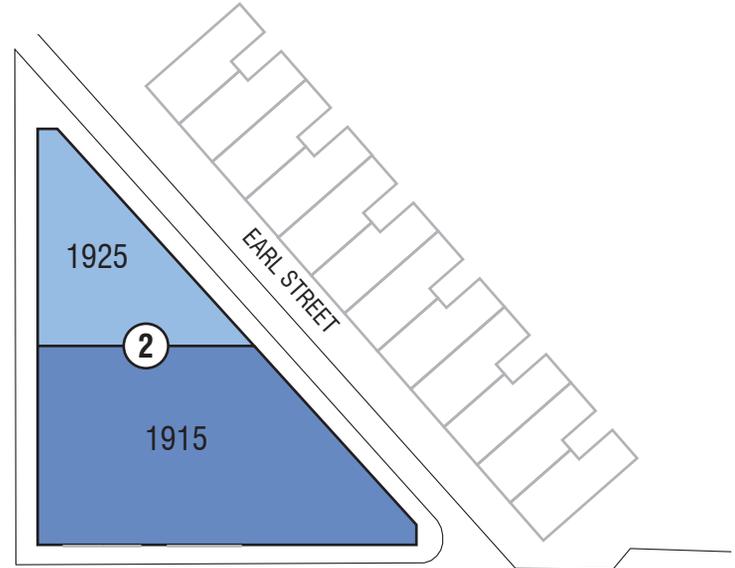


E. COLUMBIA AVE

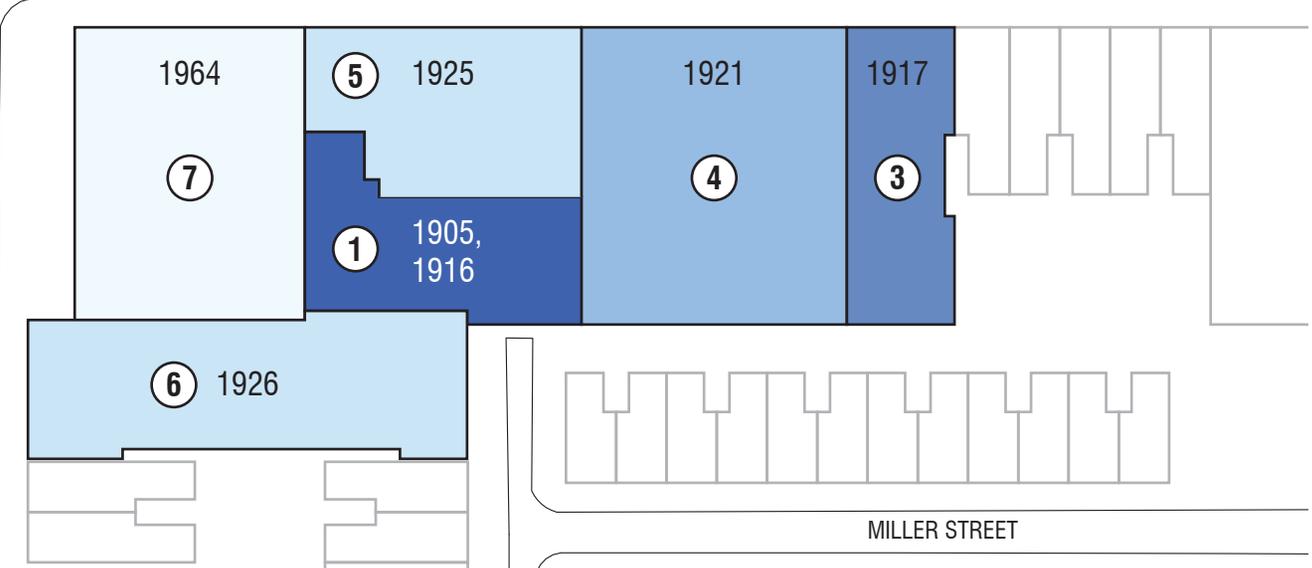


HOLLINGSWORTH STREET

MEMPHIS STREET



EARL STREET



MILLER STREET

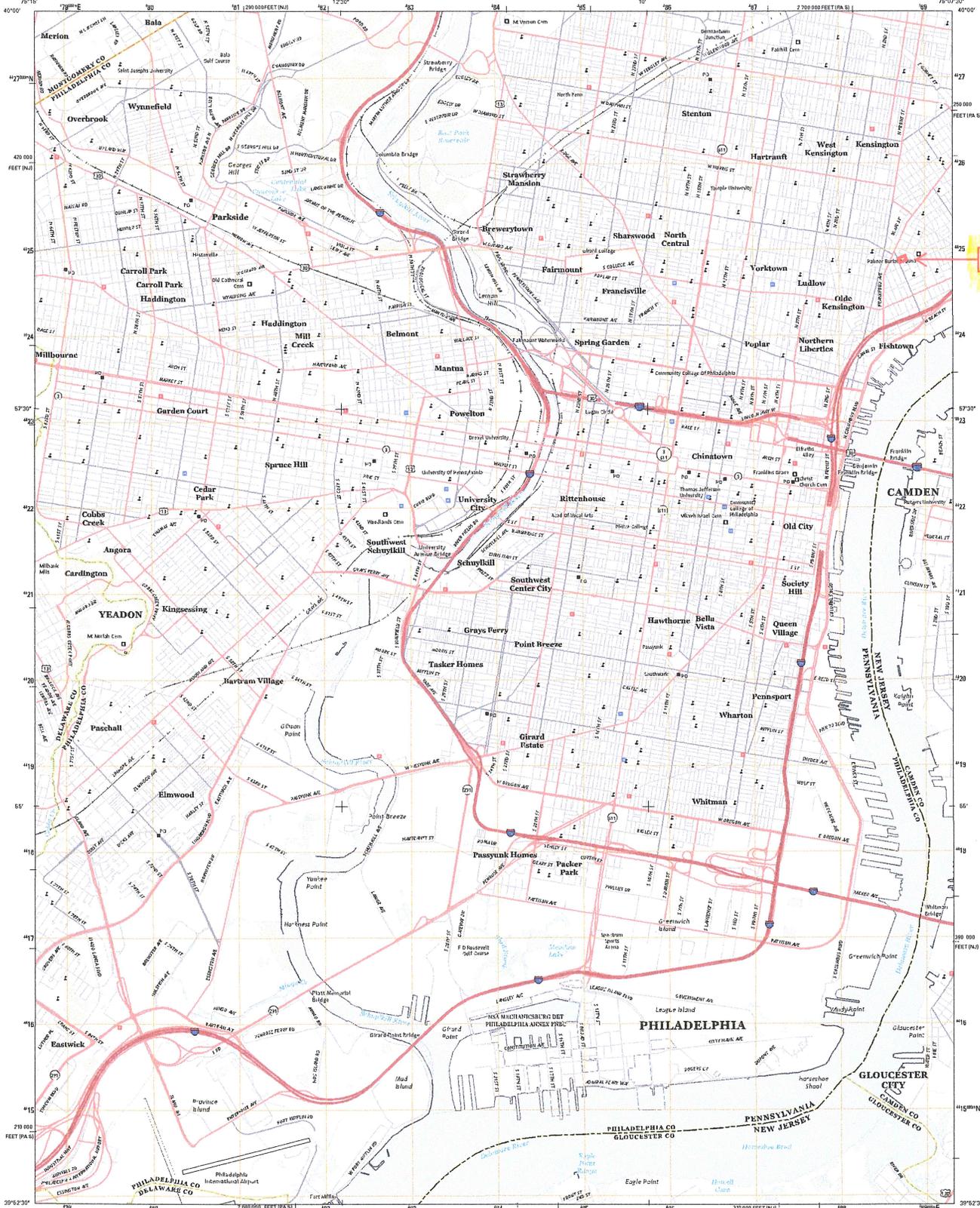
Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
 406-426, 421 and 1421-1437 E. Columbia Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA
 Building Chronology
 Not to Scale





**Brownhill & Kramer
Hosiery Mill**

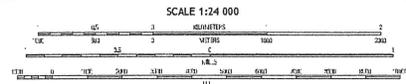
Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill
 Philadelphia County, PA
 USGS Quad: Philadelphia
 Lat: 39.974167
 Long: -75.13222



Brownhill & Kramer Hosiery Mill

Produced by the United States Geological Survey North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83) World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84) Projection and 1000-meter grid. Universal Transverse Mercator, Zone 18S 10,000-foot Grid. Pennsylvania Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone), New Jersey Coordinate System of 1983

Vertical datum: 2011 datum for the NORTH AMERICAN VERTICAL DATUM OF 1988



ROAD CLASSIFICATION Legend: Expressway, Secondary Hwy, Ramp, Interstate Route, US Route, State Road, Local Connector, Local Road, 400, 600

Quadrangle location table with columns for Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Camden, Gloucester City, Gloucester County, Delaware County, and New Jersey.

This map was produced to conform with the National Geospatial Framework US Topo Product Standard, 2011. A metadata file associated with this product is draft version 0.6.11





AP0104

WILLIAMSBURG ST

←

NO PARKING HERE
EXCEPT FOR
LOADING UNLOADING
AND DELIVERIES
NO PARKING
EXCEPT FOR
LOADING UNLOADING
AND DELIVERIES

NO PARKING
EXCEPT FOR
LOADING UNLOADING
AND DELIVERIES



DES JIMBO

EST

graffiti

graffiti



DES JIMBO

ARMY



DES - JIMBD









442-44

2817

ROMAN
ICE
MAY









KENINGTON







FIRE ESCAPE

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4

7

EXIT









HELL AS
LEE RS

190



NOTICE
DO NOT FEED
OR PROSECUTE

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873
245

EXIT





ASSEMBLY AREA





FIRE DOOR
EXIT

























