

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Foster Building  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: NEW YORK, Schenectady

DATE RECEIVED: 5/30/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/16/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91000664

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 7/14/14 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Additional documentation accepted per  
discussion w/ SHPO office*

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER *[Signature]* DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Foster Building  
Schenectady, Schenectady County, NY

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number    Add.    Page    1  
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This submission provides additional documentation for the Foster Building, listed on the National Register in 1991.

First, we are clarifying the number of contributing features within the boundary. The National Register nomination discussed only the five-story hotel building at 508 State Street, while the boundary, a single lot, also encompassed 510 and 512 State and 214 Lafayette. While it is not possible to know the intent of the SHPO in nominating the complex in 1991, new research supports the conclusion that all four buildings are appropriately included in National Register nomination.

-A 1914 Sanborn map (enclosed) reveals that 512 State and 214 Lafayette were apparently constructed at the same time and both were constructed for the use of the Schenectady Railway Company. Thus, they were connected historically.

-A comparison of historic and current photos suggests that all three attached components might be early twentieth century buildings. For 510 and 512, the facades are altered but recognizable in their form and in certain characteristics. The section attached to 512, known as 214 Lafayette, retains good exterior integrity.

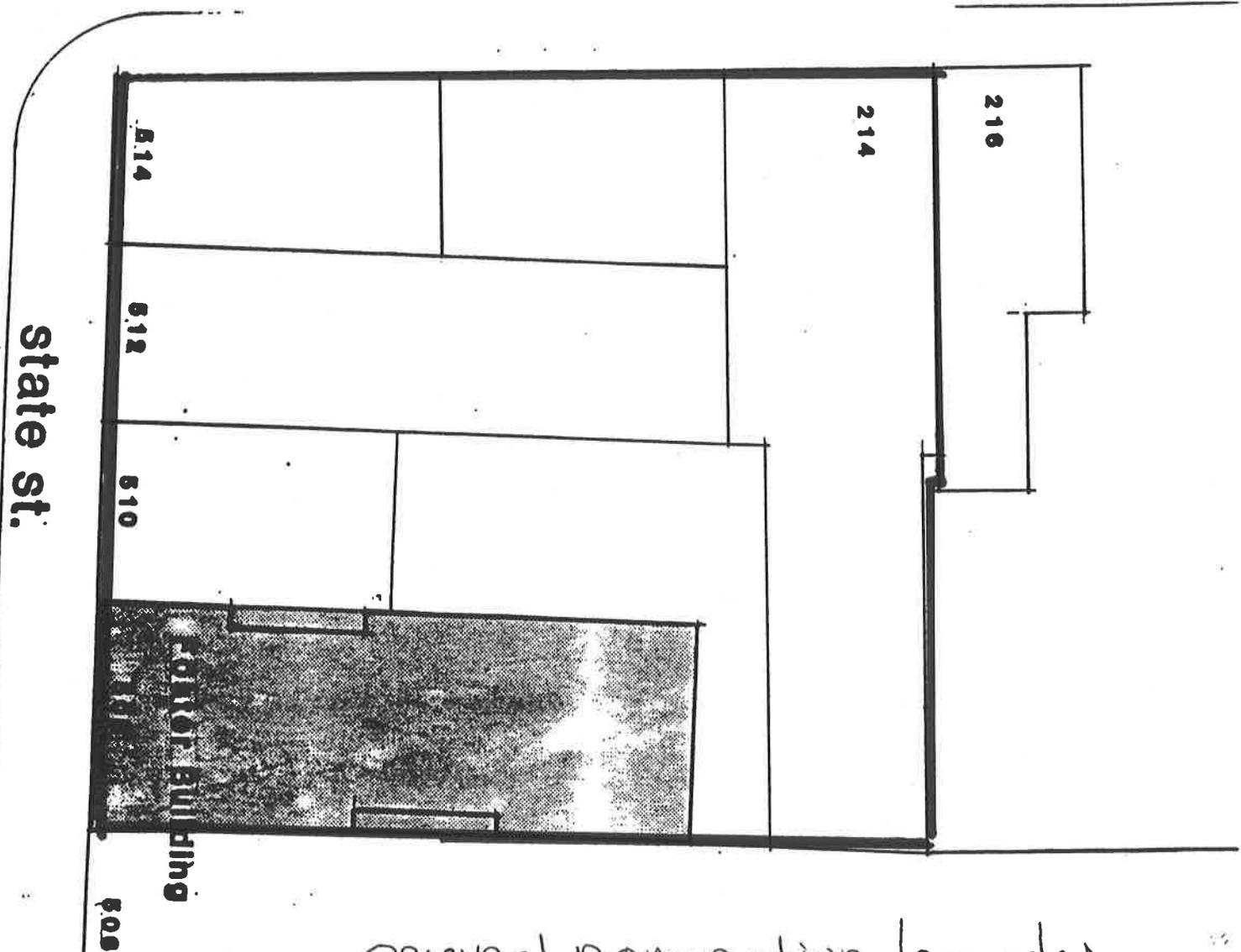
-A thorough report by consultant Patricia Altman has documented that all four buildings were internally connected before the nomination was submitted in 1991. Buildings at 512 State and 214 Lafayette were connected historically; buildings at 510 and 512 were connected since at least 1961, and buildings at 508 and 510 were connected in 1985 as part of the "Charles Court Renovations." This report is enclosed.

Second, we are adding industry and commerce as areas of significance. In the early twentieth century, Schenectady enjoyed a thriving economy as home to major advancements in engineering and technology. The city experienced a period of massive growth after the 1892 consolidation of the Edison Machine Works and several other companies to form the General Electric Company. In addition, the city's role as a transportation center, which had emerged after the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, only grew with the coming of the railroad, making Schenectady the center of a wide-ranging transportation network. Locomotive manufacturing became the city's second largest industry,

See continuation sheet



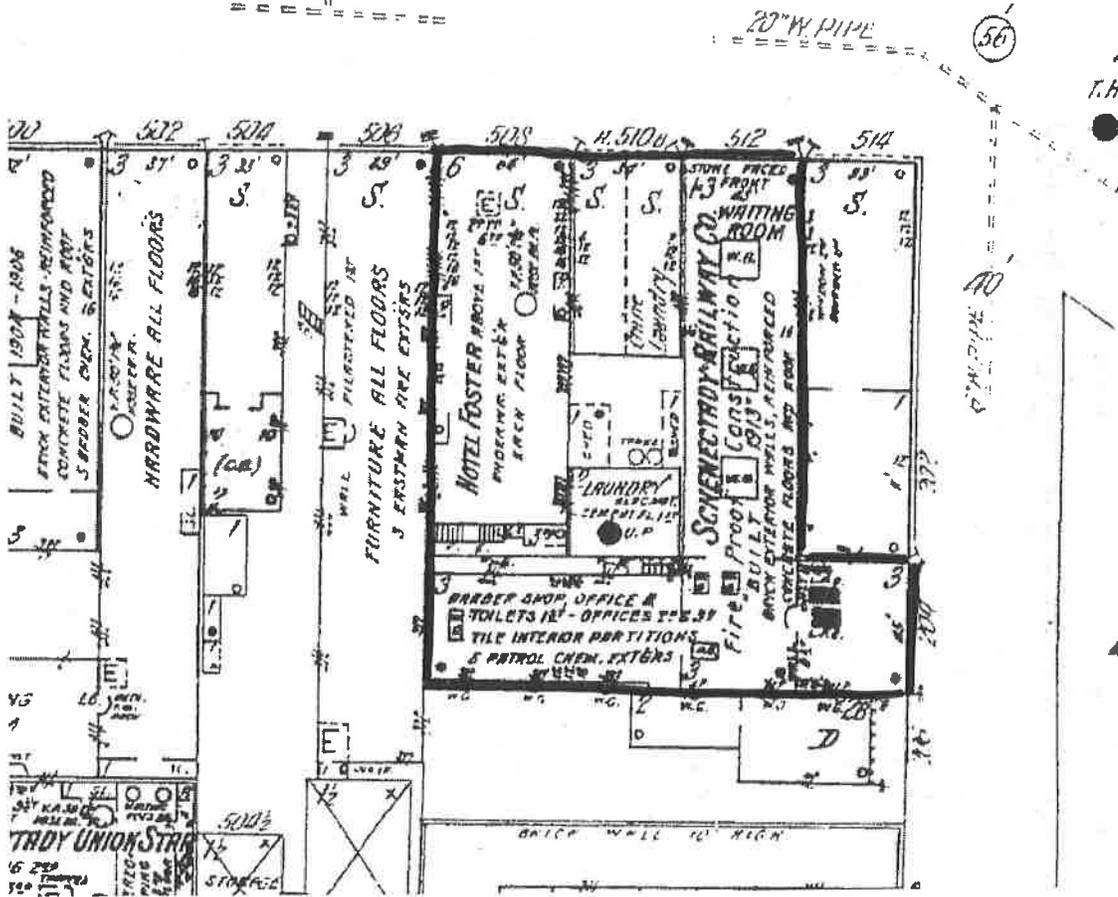
lafayette st.



original nomination boundary  
(not to scale)

Site Plan

FOSTER BUILDING



1914  
Sanborn