

KLOTS THROWING COMPANY

AL-VI-B-087  
East Railroad Street, Lonaconing  
1906

Klots Throwing Company is a massive three story, seventeen bay wide, brick factory building. It was one of two silk throwing mills in Allegany County that operated during the first quarter of the 20th century. The factory building was originally constructed in 1906 and was nine bays wide and was enlarged once in 1918 and again in 1946. The factory processed raw silk into the thread needed to produce fabric in a process that included washing, dying and "throwing" the silk onto bobbins in preparation for shipping.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**  
 HISTORIC Klots Throwing Company  
 AND/OR COMMON \_\_\_\_\_

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER East Railroad Street  
 CITY, TOWN Lonaconing VICINITY OF Sixth CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
 STATE Maryland COUNTY Allegany

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY  | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS  | PRESENT USE  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT               | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC             | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED                   | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED      | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE              | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS           | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC                |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                         | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER                       |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 NAME Gentex Corporation Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET & NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, TOWN Carbondale, VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code Pennsylvania 18407

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Allegany County Courthouse Liber #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET & NUMBER 30 Washington Street Folio #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, TOWN Cumberland, STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

SL-1-8-57

**7 DESCRIPTION**

|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <b>CONDITION</b>                         |                                       | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                              | <b>CHECK ONE</b>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD            | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED              | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   |   |

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

Klots Throwing Company is located on East Railroad Street, Lonaconing, Allegany County.

Klots Throwing Company is a massive three story, seventeen bay wide brick structure. A smaller two story cinder block addition abuts the main block on the western side. The entire structure rests on a high stone foundation. The roof of the building is flat and has stepped parapets on its southwest and northeast ends. Windows in the structure are double hung wooden sash frames with six over six lights. Each window is topped by a smaller six light window. On the main facade windows have cement lintels and are separated one from another by brick pilasters. The small block addition, in addition to having brick pilasters, also has brick quions. The main entrance is located in the block addition and features a vertically paneled door with a hood and brackets. A brick chimney and a smoke stack are located on the southwest side of the building.

The building is in fair condition; however, it is no longer in use and is therefore deteriorating rapidly.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

| PERIOD                                    | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC      | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC     | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION           | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS              | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION              | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING            | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY    | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |  |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |  |

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|                |      |                   |                        |
|----------------|------|-------------------|------------------------|
| SPECIFIC DATES | 1906 | BUILDER/ARCHITECT | Klots Throwing Company |
|----------------|------|-------------------|------------------------|

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Toward the end of the 19th century, the economic future of Allegheny County looked rather gloomy. The coal, on which the area's economy had depended for so long was fast being depleted. New industry was necessary to turn the county's economy around. The Klots Throwing Company helped to provide this much needed industrial diversification.

The company operated two silk throwing mills, one on Gay Street in Cumberland and one in Lonaconing.<sup>1</sup> The Lonaconing plant employed approximately 300 people (mostly women whose husbands worked in the mines) and processed raw silk into the thread needed to produce fabric. Work was carried on all three floors of the factory where the silk was washed, dyed and "thrown" onto bobbins in preparation for shipping.<sup>2</sup>

The factory building itself was originally constructed in 1906 and was nine bays wide. It was enlarged once in 1918 and again in 1946.<sup>3</sup> Unfortunately despite its expansion the company did not prosper and on June 25, 1935 Walter Henwood, the company trustee, filed for bankruptcy. The company and its factory were absorbed by a larger corporation, General Textile Mills, which is now known as the Gentex Corporation.<sup>4</sup>

General Textile Mills continued to process silk in the Lonaconing Mill until approximately 1946 when it closed its operation. However, the plant remains virtually untouched. The majority of machinery including bobbins, winders, clocks, elevators, etc. all remain looking much like they did when they were first installed in the early 19th century. Although the structure is still owned by Gentex Corporation, efforts are being made to "recycle" the building by attracting another company to the area in the hopes that they might be able to utilize it.

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1 Harry Stegmaier, Jr., Allegheny County-A History, (Parsons, West Va.: McClain Printing Company, 1976) p. 314

2 Interview with present caretaker, Mr. Harold Duckworth, February 9, 1977

3 Ibid

4 Allegheny County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

AL-VI-8-057

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Allegany County Land Records, Cumberland, Maryland

Harry Stegmaier, Jr., Allegany County - A History, (Parsons, West Va.: McClain Printing Company: 1976)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John Nelson & Joan Baldwin

ORGANIZATION

Allegany County Historic Sites Survey

DATE

2/24/77

STREET & NUMBER

507 National Highway

TELEPHONE

777-8991

CITY OR TOWN

LaVale,

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

TITLE SEARCH

Klots Throwing Company

Allegany County Deed; Liber 172, Folio 716

grantee: General Textile Mills

grantor: E. Gerlit Company

June 28, 1935

Consideration: \$30,000.00

General Textile Mills is now known as Gentex Corporation. Its corporate headquarters are located in Carbondale, Pa.

Allegany County Deed; Liber 172, Folio 710

grantee: E. Gerli & Company, Inc.

grantor: Walter Henwood, Trustee for Bankruptcy of Klots Throwing Company

June 25, 1935

Allegany County Deed; Liber 172, Folio 703

grantee: Walter Henwood, Trustee

grantor: Klots Throwing Company

September 24, 1934

Entire company declares bankruptcy

Allegany County Deed; Liber 99, Folio 622

grantee: Klots Throwing Company

grantor: George's Creek Coal & Iron Company

April 30, 1906

INVENTORY NO. AI-VI-B-087

DATE: February 9, 1977

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor

NAME OF PROPERTY: Klots Throwing Company

LOCATION OF PROPERTY: East Railroad Street, Lonaconing, Maryland 21539

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES: Northwest

NAME OF OWNER: Gentex Corporation

ADDRESS: Carbondale, Pennsylvania 18407

STORIES: 1( ) 2( ) 3(X) 4( ) 5(X) 6( ) BAYS: 1( ) 2( ) 3( ) 4( ) 5( ) 6( ) 7( ) 9(X)

WINGS, ADDITIONS: Cement block addition

Dwelling Shape: (square, cross, <sup>Irregular</sup> rectangular)

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

- ( ) FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten (type?)
- (X) BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants. 5/1
- ( ) STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
- ( ) LOG
- ( ) Other: Coverings

WALL FEATURES: BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS Brick quoins on smaller addition

FOUNDATIONS: HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE: NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS: 1/1(X) 2/2( ) 6/6(X) 9/6( ) 9/9( ) other( )  
pegged ( ) nailed( ) wide ( ) narrow ( ) mitred ( ) pediment ( )

ENTRANCE, DOORS: LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_  
HARDWARE: original( ) replaced( )  
FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN  
Paneled, Verticle, Horizontal Boards

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES: (crown, fascia, soffit, bed)  
original( ) replaced( ) Rafter Ends, Modillions, Dentils, Frieze,  
Stepped parapet Architrave

ROOF: GABLE FRONT, ~~GABLE~~ FLANK, HIP, SHED, MANSARD, GAMBREL, FLAT, FORMERS # \_\_\_\_\_  
MATERIAL: wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt original( ) replaced( )

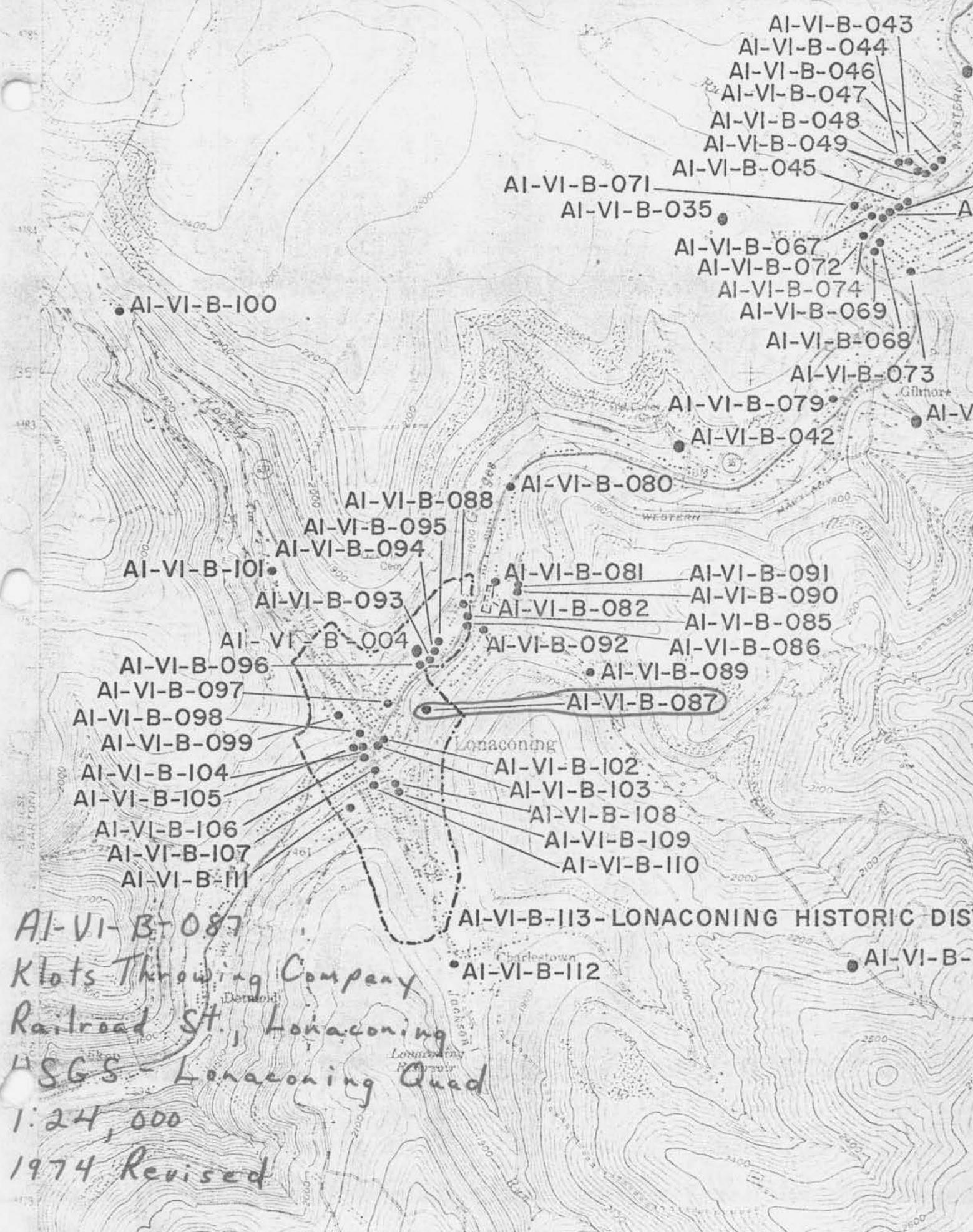
PORCHES: SHAPE OF ROOF - shed( ) hip( ) gable( )

CHIMNEYS: NUMBER 2 BRICK(✓) STONE( ) CORBELED( ) original(✓) replaced( )  
LOCATION: Flush end( ) Inside end(✓) Outside end( ) Central( ) Interior( )

ARCHES: Door and window: Keystone, Flat, Segmental, Semicircular

COMMENTS:

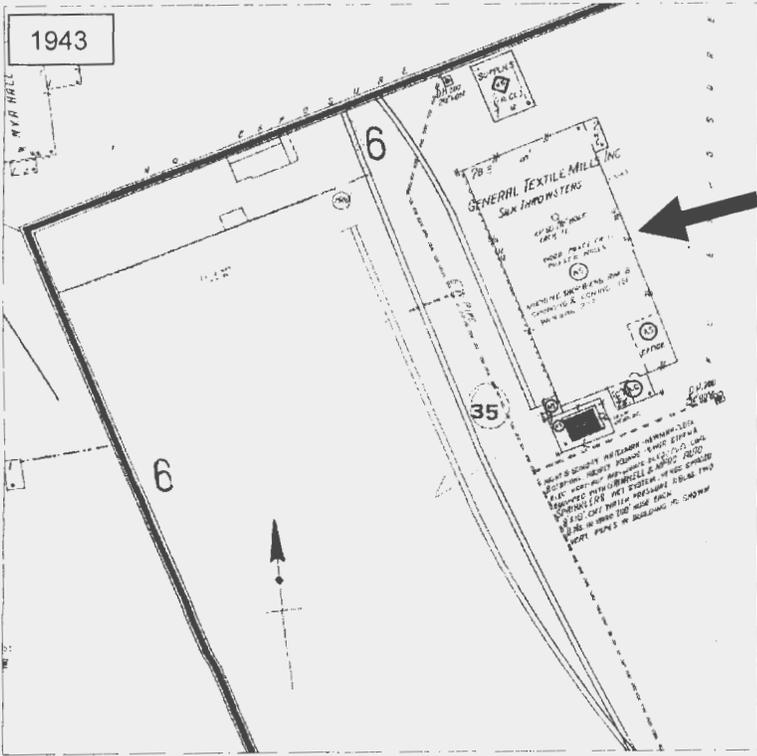
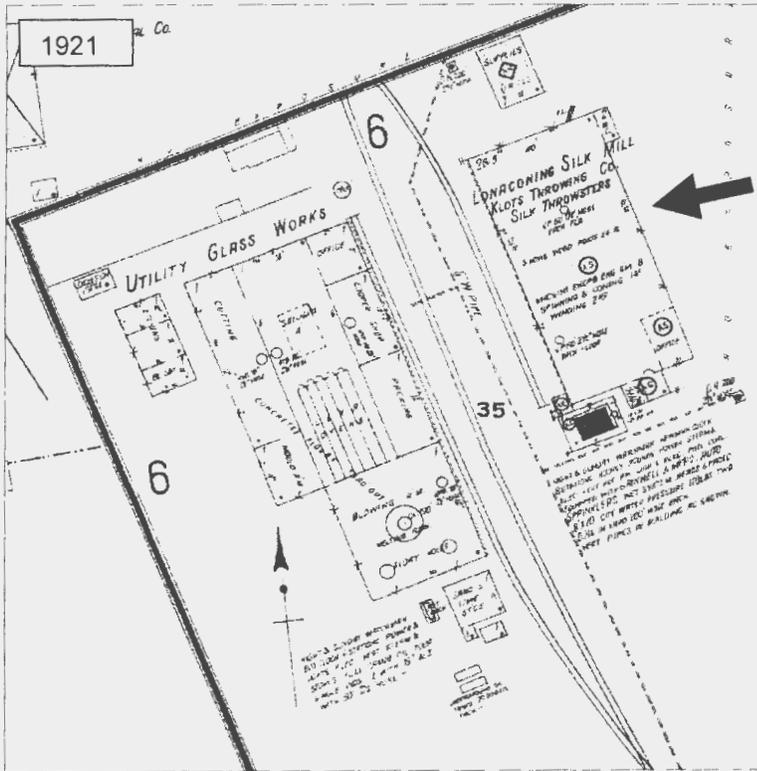
- Use - Vacant
- Significance - Architecture/Industry
- Date Constructed - 1906
- Condition - Poor



AI-VI-B-087  
 Klats Throwing Company  
 Railroad St., Lonaconing  
 HSGS - Lonaconing Quad  
 1:24,000  
 1974 Revised



AL-VI-B-087  
 Lonaconing Silk Mill (Klots Throwing Company, General Textile Mills, Gentex Corporation)  
 74 E. Railroad Street, Lonaconing  
 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps



JKC 06/30/2015





AI-VI-B-087

Klots Throwing Company

East Railroad St., Lonaconing

2/9/77

John E. Nelson

Southeast



AI-VI-B-087

Klots Throwing Company

East Railroad St., Lonaconing

2/9/77

John E. Nelson

Northeast



AI-VI-B-087

Klots Throwing Company

East Railroad St., Lonaconing

2/9/77

John E. Nelson

Northeast