

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

DRAFT

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Neemes Foundry
 other names/site number _____
 name of related multiple property listing _____

Location

street & number 206 First Street not for publication
 city or town Troy vicinity
 state NY code NY county Rensselaer code 083 zip code 12180

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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 Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY, Foundry

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

No Style

foundation: Brick
walls: Brick
roof: Asphalt Shingle
other: Wood Structure

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary

The Neemes Foundry is located at 210 First Street in the South Troy neighborhood of Troy, a long and narrow eastern New York State city that occupies nearly seven miles of Hudson River shoreline. South Troy, the southern third of the city, is located just south of the city's central business district. The neighborhood is characterized by a mixture of historic and contemporary industrial development and small-scale working-class residences, as well as churches, schools, and small commercial buildings. For much of the nineteenth century, South Troy was the location for the city's flourishing iron industry .

The Neemes Foundry, built in 1886 to the design of noted Troy architect Marcus Fayette Cummings, is a 9,023 square foot, one-story brick masonry and heavy timber frame building with a front gable roof located just one block east of the Hudson River on a street characterized by a mix of residential and industrial architecture. The foundry is rectangular, measuring 50'x130' at the street front. Its gables face the street to the west and a rear alley to the east. The building also has a 436 square foot, flat-roofed two-story brick masonry appendage at the southeast corner. The white-painted façade has an intact sweeping recessed arch adjacent to the central entrance on the south. The entrance was originally flanked by a matching arch; however, at least forty years ago, a substantial failure led to the partial collapse of the north arch, and this portion of the façade was infilled with concrete block. [The north arch is scheduled for restoration]

The south elevation faces a parking lot, once the site of a foundry machine shop and smelting room that were demolished at an unknown date. Later uses introduced new fenestration, such as small sliding windows and two overhead doors at the south elevation, marking its use as a car repair shop, with an upper floor apartment served by the residential windows. The north elevation features a series of four regularly spaced window openings, now filled with concrete block. The east (rear) elevation of the main building holds an oversized original loading door opening, visible but now filled with concrete block; the door is flanked on the upper story by two original rectangular openings, also visible but blocked. The windows of the southeast wing also are filled with concrete block or glass block.

The interior is divided into three square bays, with the first marking the main, west entrance and the last two, almost equal in size, occupied by the repair and body shop. The materials here are mainly non-historic wallboard and drop ceilings, each concealing the original brick masonry walls and pilasters that support the historic wood framing above. Missing recent wallboard shows the original, intact brick masonry walls and pilasters. Above the acoustical ceiling tiles are heavy timber trusses, bolstered by tie rods. These represent a key character-defining feature. With recent materials in the process of removal, the chief characteristics of a foundry – the vast production area and lofty timber framing – are readily apparent.

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Setting

The Neemes Foundry is situated between a three-story rowhouse to the north and its own south parking lot, paved in concrete and asphalt. Nearby are several historic resources. Occupying the southwest corner of First Street, diagonally across from the Neemes Foundry, is the Jones Bell Foundry, a one-story rectangular brick masonry building akin to the Neemes building in size and shape. South of it is a non-historic concrete block commercial building; a historic freight house once associated with the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad is visible from its parking lot. Across from it and south of the Neemes Foundry is a block of well-preserved two-story brick rowhouses that likely served as South Troy worker housing.

Exterior

The three-bay **façade (west)** is marked by one of two historic recessed arches in the outer bays. As previously mentioned, the north arch partially collapsed at an unknown date, though 1979 photographs show the same condition. The void was filled with concrete block. The central bay contains the recent glass and metal storefront entrance, and, surmounting it, a recent, ribbed metal panel. Above that infill is vertical brick corbelling. The arch in the third, south bay is filled with a recent lower fixed-sash window and non-historic side door leading to the apartment. The apartment also is served by a recent upper-level double-hung window.

The **south**, side elevation, facing the parking lot, has been altered over time to accommodate new uses, though these changes are reversible and mainly limited to the insertion of recent windows and overhead doors. The brick masonry is marked by three concrete patches rising from the parged foundation to below the roofline and are perhaps indicative of the past removal of the machine shop and foundry apparatus such as the smelting “cupola.” To the east, a square fixed-sash window marks the first bay, followed by two small sliding windows in the upper story, a single metal commercial door leading to the upper apartment, a glass block insert and, lastly, two overhead doors. Perpendicular to the last bay is the square two-story rear wing, which appears on the 1904 Sanborn insurance map.

The **north** (side) elevation is close to the adjacent building and largely obscured by vines, but four, evenly spaced rectangular original openings are visible, all filled with concrete block. Water infiltration here has caused the most serious damage to the building. In an alley toward the west front, a significant amount of failed paving is present, perhaps related to the collapsed arch of the façade.

The **east**, rear, elevation is divided between the main building and the two-story wing. The main building is three bays wide, with single original second-floor window openings flanking a central bay once occupied by an expansive loading door opening, now filled with concrete block. The window openings are filled with concrete and glass block. Given their segmental arches, as well as the original masonry immediately surrounding the loading bay, it appears these openings are original. The two-story southeast wing is divided into two bays. Three blocked openings occupy the first-story bay, adjacent to a loading door, also blocked. The upper story has two short windows in each bay, infilled with glass block.

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Interior

The interior is divided into three bays, the first holding the main west entrance, the second and the third, square in plan and roughly equal in size, devoted to body shop equipment and repair stations. Wallboard, pegboard and acoustical ceiling tile (in the process of being removed) in most areas cover the original brick masonry walls and the substantial wood framing above. The brick masonry and wood trusses are character-defining features temporarily covered by these makeshift materials. There are concrete floors and fluorescent lighting throughout.

In the first bay, the central vestibule is bookended by a series of offices and storage areas; the second bay contains a central painting booth with equipment and workstations on the north wall. A simple wood stair provides access to a makeshift platform that constitutes the main attic space. The last bay, similarly configured, provides a southeast wood stair to the two-story storage building. The storage building is supported by ceiling joists pocketed into brick masonry walls, of ordinary construction. The date of construction is unknown, but the storage building appears on 1904 Sanborn fire insurance maps.

In the main building, a 2,000 square foot front apartment occupies a recent partial upper floor and is built solely of non-historic materials. Above it is a 464 square foot loft. The adjacent platform affords a full view of the large trusses. These are modified Howe trusses, the most common system, where the diagonal members support compressive loads. A true Howe truss generally has more vertical members. Despite the need for repair, the brick masonry and framing are intact and once exposed will define the expansiveness of a foundry of this era.

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1886 - 1937

Significant Dates

1886

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Marcus F. Cummings

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the Neemes Foundry in 1886 and ends in 1937, the year of the company's dissolution.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

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Summary

(Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Neemes Foundry is significant under **Criterion A** in the area of **Industry** as a rare surviving example of a foundry building in the city of Troy, which was once known for its iron production. The building was constructed in 1886 for the Neemes Brothers company, which was established in Troy in 1873 and manufactured a wide variety of specialized iron products. These included the company's own design of automatic stoker, which mechanically fed coal into locomotive boilers, as well as iron stove grates used internationally in an array of industries, such as sugar mills, the rail industry, and bakeries. The firm also provided castings for area textile manufacturers and ironworks. Neemes was established in the later years of the city's vast iron industry, concentrated in the South Troy neighborhood, whose prolific output made Troy a top iron manufacturer in the United States. The Neemes Foundry building is especially unusual because it was designed by Marcus F. Cummings, a leading Troy architect with a mastery for designing grand institutional buildings. That the Neemes Foundry is so divergent from the rest of Cummings's body of work makes this workaday building unique among a dwindling number of South Troy industrial buildings. Once present in vast array, accelerated demolition has caused a near total loss of industrial buildings that produced iron or made products from it in South Troy. Despite alterations, the small foundry retains the character-defining features of its type, identified through a HABS/HAER survey. Like most foundries, this one is a simple brick rectangular building with an open interior underneath a massive wood truss system used to provide for a wide, open work space free of internal supports. The Neemes Factory bears a strong physical resemblance to these and other foundries and small industrial buildings of the period in its one-story, three-bay form with central entrance flanked by recessed blind arches. An ongoing rehabilitation project is uncovering and repairing concealed character-defining features. The Neemes Foundry is a rare artifact documenting Troy's prolific iron production operation in the nineteenth century. The period of significance begins in 1886, when the building was constructed, and ends in 1937, the date of the company's dissolution.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Early History of South Troy

The area surrounding the Wynantskill and Poestenkill creeks – where South Troy's iron mills would ultimately settle – was for centuries held by two Mohican tribes, the Skiwias and the Peyhanet, who sold land to the Dutch between 1630 and 1657. What is now Troy was part of a tract of land bought in 1652 by Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, who amassed a vast patroonship, twenty-four by forty-eight miles in size awarded by the Dutch West India Company to encourage colonial settlement.¹ Through a series of exchanges, the land that included the site of the future city was acquired in 1707 by Derick Van der Heyden, who in turn divided the land equally among three sons. One of them, Jacob D., became known as the patroon of Troy for his subsequent division of lots to plot the village. Named Troy in 1789, the village was incorporated as a city in 1816. Troy's primary natural resource, the Hudson River, provided deep-water navigation south to New York City. Its other water

¹ Duane T. Murphy, "Industrial Archaeology of South Troy," Survey, Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway Survey, 1979, 17, 18.

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sources, the Poestenskill and Wynantskill creeks, which ran east-west, emptying into the Hudson, powered the earliest mills dating to the late seventeenth century, as well as the juggernaut iron mills that would drive Troy's economy beginning in 1819.

That year, famed industrialist Henry Burden, who had emigrated from Scotland only three years before, became superintendent of the Troy Iron and Nail Factory, where his inventions sped up production of nails and rail spikes coinciding with the boom in railroad construction. By 1848, he owned the company that would go on to manufacture horseshoes at a rate of one per second because of his one-step process.² Burden was one of several titans of iron and steel production. Erastus Corning purchased a nail factory in 1826 that grew to become Albany Iron Works and a rolling mill that in 1865 became the first foundry in the country to use the Bessemer process, which blew oxygen into iron ore to make steel. John Griswold was the third major industrialist, whose mill, the Rensselaer Iron Works, could roll 1,120 rails in twenty-four hours.³

In the mid-nineteenth century, Troy had in place the resources to become a major industrial city. Rich deposits of iron ore were mined in the Lake Champlain region. The first wave of immigration – Irish driven to starvation by the potato famine of 1845-1852 – provided cheap labor.⁴ Beginning in 1825, the Erie Canal allowed for cheap shipment of goods. The canal stretched 363 miles to connect to Lake Erie, in the process enriching cities along the way, including Troy. Together, the iron conglomerates employed hundreds, but also spurred the growth of myriad ancillary industries. Among them were the giant Fuller Warren stove manufacturer, whose products were made at a six-acre site along the Hudson River; the Jones and Company Bell Foundry, established in 1862; and a number of smaller foundries, including Neemes. The smaller foundries also employed a sizable workforce.

The work was backbreaking, yet exacting. Generally, workers worked ten-hour days, six days a week, in stifling 100-degree heat. Pouring molds was immensely intricate. With no room for error, workers had to ensure the proper consistency of the sand to make the molds, packing it tightly within wood patterns to be filled carefully yet quickly with molten iron. Breaking the mold meant the loss of several days of labor.⁵ The workers were famously protected by the nation's largest iron workers' union, the Iron Moulders' International Union No. 2, or the Foundry Workers' Local No. 5. Neemes was not immune to the labor unrest that was frequent and often severe. In 1902, Neemes employees were among those of ten other foundries to ask for a raise in wages by twenty-five cents a day, a ten-hour workday and bonus pay for overtime, Sunday and weekend work. Workers at that time made \$1.75 a week.⁶ Neemes workers and those of several other area foundries staged a strike in 1922, protesting a reduction in hourly pay from fifty-five cents to forty-seven cents.⁷

² Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway, "Saving Our Future So That It Has A Past," <https://hudsonmohawkgateway.org/saving-our-history>, accessed November 3, 2023.

³ Murphy, "Industrial Archaeology of South Troy," 21.

⁴ Daniel J. Walkowitz, *Worker City, Company Town* (Urbana, Ill: University of Illinois Press, 1978), 6,8, 20.

⁵ Walkowitz, *Worker City, Company Town*, 34, 35.

⁶ "Foundry Laborers Ask for an Increase," *Troy Daily Times*, August 6, 1902.

⁷ "Strike of Foundry Workers," *The Troy Times*, May 11, 1922.

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The Neemes Brothers Company

The company that would become Neemes Brothers was founded by George C.S. Neemes, who in 1847 emigrated as a teenager from the English town of Whitehaven to Albany.⁸ His father, Joseph (d. 1887), was a foreman at the Nott stove works, a significant position that allowed him to assist Eliphalet Nott in his improvements to coal stoves.⁹ (Nott, president of Union College in Schenectady, NY from 1804 to 1866, was also an accomplished inventor who perfected the first anthracite coal burning stove in 1833.)¹⁰ Joseph Neemes worked in other local foundries, and, for a time, in Pittsburgh. In 1868 George became the superintendent of Capital Cooperative Foundry Co. in Albany, which advertised “all kinds of castings.” Upon relocating to Troy in 1873, he established his first foundry at Washington and River streets (now occupied by vacant rowhouses), known as the Troy Iron Foundry. According to an 1877 newspaper advertisement, he made castings for a wide variety of uses, from railroad equipment and building parts like columns, sills, and lintels, to pullies and balance wheels for clockworks. George died at age fifty-six in 1886, leaving the business to his sons, Joseph H. and Spencer, who renamed the company Neemes Brothers.¹¹ On the site of a burned sash factory that had been a hodgepodge of brick and frame buildings, the two brothers in the same year built the current brick factory, which was considerably larger than the first plant. For reasons as yet unknown, They made the unusual move of hiring Troy’s most distinguished architect, Marcus F. Cummings, to design the small building. Cummings was commissioned to design a structure of brick and bluestone, which would cost \$5,000.¹² The newspaper account of the commission pointed out that the façade would hold semi-circular arches.

Neemes Brothers sourced its iron ore from the Lake Superior region.¹³ The company made castings for Troy’s industrial giants, including Burden Iron Works; Cluett, Peabody & Co., the global collar and cuff factory; Meneely Bell Co., another global concern; as well as the Watervliet Arsenal, the nation’s oldest arms manufacturer, in what was West Troy (on the west bank of the Hudson River), now the City of Watervliet.¹⁴ The company flourished by manufacturing a line of products not wholly dependent on the fortunes of a few industries.¹⁵ Neemes developed its own line of stove grates, which had patented features that improved airflow, allowing boilers to more efficiently burn coal. A shaking grate, as the name implies, employs oscillating grate bars to clear the firebox of ash and byproducts that essentially can smother a fire. A dumping grate works similarly, with tilting bars to dump ash and clinkers, which are the residual clumps of unspent coal, to a bin below. In 1898, Spencer Neemes patented moving bars with teeth to more aggressively cut up and clear out clinkers and clumps.¹⁶ In 1906, he patented a combination shaking and dumping grate, in which toothed rocking bars removed ash from the front of the boiler, where unspent fuel was redistributed while the rear dumping grate released ash into the bin underneath. The apparatus was especially adaptable to locomotive steam boilers.¹⁷ In 1900, Neemes grates were installed in the furnaces of the Library of Congress.¹⁸ The same year, the

⁸ See obit, “Home Matters: Obituary,” *Troy Daily Times*, November 13, 1886.

⁹ See obit, “Death of Joseph Neemes,” *Troy Daily Times*, August 26, 1878.

¹⁰ Union College, “Eliphalet Nott: The 4th President of Union College,” <https://www.union.edu/about/history-and-traditions/presidents/eliphalet-nott>, accessed November 3, 2023.

¹¹ “Home Matters: Obituary,” *Troy Daily Times*, November 13, 1886.

¹² “Home Matters, Building Improvements,” *Troy Daily Times*, August 4, 1886.

¹³ “Neemes Foundry Noted for Quality of Grates ...,” *The Troy Times*, January 30, 1926.

¹⁴ “Troy Foundry Originates Own Fully Mechanized Boiler Stokers,” *Troy Record*, August 2, 1934.

¹⁵ “Troy Foundry Originates Own Fully Mechanized Boiler Stokers.”

¹⁶ S. Neemes, D. Horton, Grate, No. 608,215, filed June 19, 1897 and issued August 2, 1898.

¹⁷ S. Neemes, Grate, No. 822,296, filed August 19, 1903 and issued June 5, 1906.

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foundry produced a local mill's largest casting, a flywheel that measured fourteen feet in diameter and weighed fifteen tons.¹⁹

Neemes's grates were distributed domestically and internationally, reaching customers as far as India and South America. By 1926, the firm employed eighty men at the foundry, while fifteen salesmen operated in branches in the Northeast. Neemes by then had installed between 11,000 to 12,000 of its grates and in one instance fulfilled a single order of ninety-two sets.²⁰ Neemes added brass and aluminum foundries at about this time. By 1930, Neemes's output totaled 20,000 grates, supplied to dozens of industries. Among the more notable clients included Burden Iron Co.; Ludlow Valve, a leading fire hydrant manufacturer; General Electric in Schenectady, NY; and Harmony Mills, the nearby Cohoes factory that at one point was the largest cotton mill in world.²¹ This activity occurred after the deaths of the Neemes brothers. Spencer died in 1912 and Joseph in 1916; the latter left the business to Spencer's wife, Cornelia, and son, Oscar.²² Cornelia Neemes's ownership appears to have been nominal, while her son actually ran the company.

In 1926, the company also perfected its version of the automatic stoker, which, as the name implies, mechanically feeds coal into the boilers of steam engines, making the mechanism extremely useful in the rail industry. Grates and stokers made up the majority of the foundry's business, a 1934 *Troy Record* article reported, but their products remained diverse: "Oddly, what Trojans are most familiar with from the Neemes Foundry, Inc. forms one of the smallest parts of the concern's business. Every day, Trojans as they go about their affairs walk past hundreds of manhole covers, catch basins, water street valves and shutoff hoses made by the local foundry," the *Troy Record* reported in 1934.²³ In a 1930 company bulletin, Neemes touted its grates' longevity under harsh conditions and the versatility of its grates for any type and size of boilers and furnaces. Their automatic ash cleaning mechanisms cut fuel costs by 5 to 25 percent, Neemes reported.²⁴ In the end, the manufacture of manhole covers increased because of their use in sewer projects sponsored by the Civil Works Administration, the jobs program that was part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal series of measures to end the Great Depression.²⁵

During the Depression, however, the foundry began to falter. In 1932, Neemes reported a "capital stock reduction" to the New York Secretary of State; while the reasons are unclear, the move may have been meant to pay off creditors.²⁶ In 1935, the receivership for Neemes obtained a court order to do just that by selling 250 shares of its stock sold to pay creditors.²⁷ In 1937, Neemes president Richard R. Rees – Spencer Neemes's son-

¹⁸ "Troy Grates for A Great Library," *Troy Daily Times*, September 24, 1900.

¹⁹ "Round About Us," *Argus*, August 5, 1900.

²⁰ "Neemes Foundry Noted for Quality of Grates . . .," *Troy Times*, January 30, 1926.

²¹ Neemes Foundry, *Bulletin 109*, 1930.

²² "Neemes Foundry Noted for Quality of Grates . . ."

²³ "Troy Foundry Originates Own Fully Mechanized Boiler Stokers."

²⁴ Neemes Foundry, *Bulletin 109*, 1930.

²⁵ "Troy Foundry Originates Own Fully Mechanized Boiler Stokers."

²⁶ "Capital Stock of Troy Firm Reduced," *Troy Times*, August 2, 1932.

²⁷ "Receiver To Argue for Final Settlement," *Knickerbocker Press*, February 17, 1935.

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in-law – was charged with violating state labor law for neglecting to pay six employees.²⁸ The charge was eventually dropped, but the company was dissolved that year. The City of Troy foreclosed on the building in 1946.²⁹ Subsequent tenants are listed in city directories as junk dealers. A car repair shop and upholsterer most recently occupied the building, now vacant and proposed to become headquarters for a community arts organization.

The Neemes Family

The Neemes brothers' business success brought social prominence. Spencer and Cornelia Neemes in 1895 built a Queen Anne style home at 150 Pawling Avenue, in the developing wealthy enclave on the east side of Troy.³⁰ The east side neighborhood, largely developed with large Victorian-period residences on substantial lots, was also up a steep hill from the riverside areas, which featured the earlier homes of the elite, as well as the central business district, blocks and blocks of housing for factory workers, and the city's ethnic enclaves. As the city grew more prosperous, the newly wealthy began to move up the hill, away from nearby industry, into the developing east side neighborhood. In 1909, the couple bought a six-cylinder Pierce Arrow at a time when car ownership was a rarity even for the privileged.³¹ Their frequently noted automobile tours included a 4,000-mile chauffeur-driven tour of the American West.³² The Neemes's daughter, Grace, attended Miss Merrill's School, a boarding school in Mamaroneck on Long Island.³³ Cornelia Neemes led or hosted rounds of receptions, card parties and literary club meetings. Grace Neemes, whose husband, Richard R. Rees, later served as foundry president, also cultivated an active social life, but with a bent toward charities like the Troy Orphan Asylum and the Junior League.

Joseph and Anna Neemes led quieter lives. Anna Neemes embraced the San Souci literary club, and the couple's trips were noted. The couple lived in downtown Troy; however, in the summer they escaped the city by renting homes in the prominent East Side neighborhoods such as Pinewoods Avenue and Whitman Court, dotted with large Queen Anne, Shingle Style and Colonial Revival Homes.³⁴

Their elite lifestyles starkly contrasted with the lifestyles of the men who worked for them. By the time Neemes established his foundry in 1873, the economic and social structures of the industrialized city were in place. Troy's first immigrants, the Irish, easily found jobs in the iron works and their lives revolved around the difficult work. Many of them lived nearby in the South Troy, which features a great many nineteenth-century two-story, two-family brick row houses. While Erastus Corning's Albany Iron Works included a chapel and meeting room, the Burden Iron works especially tended toward company town practices. Religion – the dominant force in workers' lives – was provided for, first in one of the mill buildings, then at Woodside

²⁸ "Troy Man Held on Labor Charge," *Coho's American*, September 9, 1937.

²⁹ "Neemes Foundry, 14 Other Defendants Included in Foreclosure Action," *Times Record*, September 20, 1946.

³⁰ "Home Matters: East Side," *Troy Daily Times*, June 18, 1895.

³¹ "Automobile Gossip for Motorists," *Argus*, September 12, 1909.

³² "On 4,000 Mile Auto Ride," *Evening Journal*, July 7, 1911.

³³ "Personal," *Troy Times*, September 1, 1915.

³⁴ "Troy Personals," *Times Union*, June 18, 1915.

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Presbyterian Church (extant), which Burden built in 1861 to honor his wife's concern for the workers.³⁵ Irish immigrants in 1847 also built St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church in South Troy (extant), known as the Iron Workers' Church because of their dominating membership. The parish became the seat of their social, and, eventually, educational experiences.³⁶

Architect: M.F. Cummings

Marcus Fayette Cummings (1836-1905), a Utica, N.Y. native, worked for a time in architectural offices located in the cities of St. Louis, Baltimore, and Buffalo. After returning briefly to Utica, he relocated to Troy, advertising his services in the aftermath of the Great Fire of 1862, a conflagration that killed several people and burned most of downtown. His first commission was in 1864 with the design of the Second Presbyterian Church, a monumental Romanesque Revival edifice with some Gothic elements in downtown (extant). Once rebuilt after the fire, this neighborhood included both high-style and modest Italianate row houses of his design on Fifth Avenue and Grand streets.³⁷ Cummings specialized in institutional buildings, among them the 1868 Troy Hospital, the Second Empire edifice now known as West Hall on the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute campus; the ca. 1889 eclectic Clinton County Courthouse; the ca. 1868 Italianate Washington County Courthouse; and the ca. 1873 Romanesque Revival Stillwater United Church in Saratoga County, NY. The talented and prolific Cummings distinguished himself locally, and, to a degree nationally, leaving an architectural legacy of numerous buildings and three influential architectural sourcebooks, *Designs for Street Fronts, Suburban Houses and Cottages* (1865), *Modern American Architecture* (1872), and *Cummings' Architectural Details* (1873).³⁸ These books offered dozens of pages of plans and drawings of mainly high-style homes, but also included several drawings of commercial buildings where the arch predominated in the design. While his arch designs are not necessarily unique, they nonetheless indicate his interest in their potential for these buildings and offer an antecedent for the arched façade of Neemes Foundry.

Because Cummings answered the need to rebuild downtown Troy after the Great Fire, his commissions naturally gravitated toward churches, commercial storefront buildings and even row houses in entire neighborhoods. There is no evidence to suggest that he designed a factory in those years. The Neemes Foundry may have been his first commission for an industrial building. The grand arches of the façade foreshadowed the Romanesque stylistic cues he employed in his later designs of industrial buildings. A decade after designing the Neemes Foundry, Cummings in 1896 designed the Van Zandt and Jacobs Co. Collar Factory, also in Troy (extant). The building is one of several surviving mills, erected on a stretch of Hudson River shoreline in the late nineteenth century.. While Neemes Foundry is diminutive by comparison, the two buildings nonetheless share the arch, complete with a pressed brick or terra-cotta archivolt, or bands along the inner arch. The 1899 collar factory of Wilbur, Campbell Stephens is to the immediate south of the Van Zandt building. Though not attributed to Cummings, the similarities between the two buildings are so striking that the

³⁵ Troy Irish Genealogy Society, "Woodside Presbyterian Church," <https://troyirish.org/troy-area-history/woodside>, accessed November 3, 2023.

³⁶ Troy Irish Genealogy Society, "St. Joseph's Church," <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nytigs/StJosephsChurchHistory-J.Howe.htm>, accessed November 3, 2023.

³⁷ Michael Lopez, *Public School No. 1* National Register nomination, 2015, section 8.

³⁸ Lopez, *Public School No. 1*.

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comparison is warranted. The arches here are emphasized by a brick soldier course. They rise two stories in height with wide bays, delivering bright light to the factory floor. Interestingly, the arches at Neemes appear to have always been infilled, given that the work, unlike sewing, folding and ironing shirt collars, did not necessarily rely on high volumes of light. Both the Van Zant and Wibur, Campbell factories have been listed on the National Register.

Cummings retired in 1891, moving to his summer home in Vineyard Haven, a Massachusetts community on Martha's Vineyard. However, he remained active in the practice up until his death, when his son Frederick assumed ownership of M.F. Cummings & Son. It is therefore unknown how much the elder Cummings contributed toward the design of numerous buildings constructed between his retirement and his death. These would include significant extant Troy buildings, such as the 1891 Gurley Memorial Hall and the 1893 Plum Memorial Romanesque Revival buildings at what is now Russell Sage College in downtown Troy; the 1895 Romanesque Revival Van Zandt & Jacobs collar factory in Troy; the 1896 Rensselaer County Courthouse; and two 1904 Beaux Arts buildings, the National State Bank Building and the Ilium Building, downtown Troy landmarks (all NR listed). The firm under his son's leadership continued its energetic pace, designing, most notably, the 1909 Troy Waste Company building, a classically inspired but minimally adorned factory (NR listed); and the 1910 Jacobean Revival campus of the Emma Willard School on the East side of Troy.³⁹

The Foundry Typology⁴⁰

The Neemes Foundry is clearly a nineteenth-century industrial building, sharing its intact heavy timber and load bearing masonry construction with the vast majority of other such buildings in South Troy. But it also retains the specific characteristics of an iron foundry. While almost all of South Troy's ironworks have vanished, undocumented, a 1969 survey by the Historic American Engineering Record studied in detail the Rensselaer Iron Works rail mill. The Neemes building shares several features with this 1866 foundry, which burned in 1969, shortly after the HAER survey was completed.⁴¹ The HAER photographs and drawings of the rail mill may be the sole documentation of an early Troy ironworks and work to deepen the understanding of the Neemes Foundry. Neemes and the rail mill were in the same industrial sector bordered by Adams Street but were separated by the vast yards of the New York Central Railroad.

Both one-story rectangular buildings were similarly constructed of brick masonry, brick pilasters and heavy timber Howe trusses arranged to create the single most important characteristic: a single, vast production area. The buildings' interiors were characterized by painted brick masonry and concrete floors. The rail mill was considerably larger than the Neemes Foundry, with arched galleries and intersecting wings. Both the rail mill, depicted as the subsequent tenant, Ludlow Valve, on the 1904 Sanborn fire insurance map, and the Neemes

³⁹ Lopez, *Public School No. 1*.

⁴⁰ See appendix B for photos of some of the buildings mentioned in this section

⁴¹The Historic American Buildings Survey, begun in 1933, and the Historic American Engineering Record, started in 1969, have produced thousands of drawings and photographs of the nation's built environment. HAER is concerned with documenting vulnerable industrial resources, which are particularly threatened because their large size, poor condition or unfavorable location make reuse difficult. The Troy survey was a HAER pilot project.

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Foundry, rendered on the 1904 Sanborn map, were apparently built with mansard roofs that were subsequently heightened and had their monitors removed for unknown reasons. As a result, the Neemes Foundry has a broad sweeping gable roof, similar to the rail mill roof shown in the HAER report. Oversized loading door openings, now reduced by framing or filled with cinderblock at the front and rear of the Neemes building, likely also served to ventilate the buildings in warm weather. The rail mill and Neemes Foundry also had minimal but unexpected stone and brick ornamentation. Photographs show brick corbeling at the rail mill's roof and a pronounced band of corbeled brick at the north elevation.⁴² The Neemes façade also has corbelling above the main entrance, and, most notably, the twin, sweeping arches designed by Cummings.

Neemes shares these and other attributes with other small foundry buildings nationwide, both extant or documented before demolition. One foundry in particular stands out as the closest comparison: the ca. 1855 forge and foundry shops of Colt's Patented Firearms Manufacturing Company. (The Colt plant is currently being recast as a National Park Service historical park in Hartford, CT.) Given the rapid pace of production in the nation's nineteenth-century industrial heyday, Colt could easily divide or rearrange the open factory floor as it pivoted to manufacture popular firearms.⁴³ It is highly likely that the Neemes Foundry adjusted its space as necessary to quickly accommodate the manufacture of a wide array of grates, made for the dozens of different boiler rooms among its client roster.⁴⁴ Like a connecting passage that once existed at the Colt site, Neemes's extant rear storage building was closely connected to the cupola furnace and oven via a one-story wood-frame building. Thus situated, the passage made for easy movement of materials. Unfortunately, the furnaces and passageway are no longer extant.⁴⁵ Given that iron manufacturing in the United States dissipated decades ago, small foundries remain rare. But the few that are extant share remarkably close physical characteristics, including the Colt foundry, whose structure – modified Howe trusses pocketed above the pilasters – is identical to that of Neemes as shown in 2005 HAER documentation.⁴⁶

Other foundries built before the Neemes Foundry share the squat, gable roof massing, as well as the oversized doors and in some cases arched openings. These include the ca. 1856 Duvall Foundry in the Georgetown district of Washington, DC (extant).⁴⁷ Another example is the Joliet (Ill.) Iron and Steel blacksmith, built ca. 1869, but unfortunately no longer extant.⁴⁸

⁴² Historic American Engineering Record, Creator. *Rensselaer Iron Works, Rail Mill, Adams Street & Hudson River, Troy, Rensselaer County, NY*. Troy New York Rensselaer County, 1969 Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/ny0673/>.

⁴³ National Park Service. "The Forge and the Foundry," <https://www.nps.gov/colt/learn/historyculture/the-forge-and-foundry.htm>, accessed December 8, 2023.

⁴⁴ Neemes Foundry, *Bulletin 109*, 1930.

⁴⁵ National Park Service, "The Forge and the Foundry."

⁴⁶ Historic American Engineering Record, Creator. *Colt Fire Arms Company, Foundry Building, 36-150 Huyshope Avenue, 17-170 Van Dyke Avenue, 49 Vredendale Avenue, Hartford, Hartford County, CT*. Connecticut Hartford County, 2005 Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/ct0696/>, accessed December 13, 2023.

⁴⁷ Historic American Buildings Survey, Creator, William T Duvall, and John Marbury. *Duvall Foundry, Thirtieth Street Northwest, Washington, District of Columbia, DC*. Washington D.C. Washington, 1933. Documentation Compiled After. 1968. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/dc0093/>, accessed April 22, 2024.

⁴⁸ Historic American Engineering Record, Creator, and Iron & Transportation Union Coal. *Joliet Iron & Steel Company, Joliet Works, West of Collins Street, north of State Street, Joliet, Will County, IL*. Will County Illinois Joliet, 1968. Documentation Compiled After. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/il0622/>, accessed April 22, 2024.

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Another similar plant is the ca. 1882 Lutzenberger Foundry in New Iberia, LA, documented by HAER in 2007. Nominated in 1997 for listing in the National Register, the brick one-story foundry, the maker of piping tools, has the same massing as that of the size and shape of the Neemes Foundry.⁴⁹ The ca. 1887 Duluth and Iron Range Railroad Company Shop, no longer extant, is also similar.⁵⁰ Another lost example, the ca. 1890 Trinidad Foundry and Machine Co., also bears a strong resemblance.⁵¹ Lutzenberger's apparatus, intact at the time of listing, included the crane used for carrying within the production area the iron bucket that held molten iron. The nomination describes it as anchored by tie rods threaded through the beam and trusses. Within the attic of the Neemes structure is a central north-south beam, substantially supported by tie rods that also run through the trusses. Though the crane itself is no longer extant, it would have been impossible for a foundry to operate without one.

From comparing these far-flung buildings, a typology is clearly evident, as is the rarity of the resource type. Small foundries were rectangular, one-story, brick, gable-roof structures, with oversized entrances for loading and ventilation. Though workaday buildings, they typically carried simple ornamentation, such as brick corbeling. An open production area, which could quickly be arranged for different tasks, was a character-defining feature of these structures, as was a support structure for a gantry crane.

The Neemes Foundry is a rare artifact of Troy's prolific and important iron production in the nineteenth century. Once present in vast numbers, supporting the city's economy and providing jobs for thousands of working class Trojans, these industrial buildings have suffered from accelerated demolition that precipitated a near total loss of the industrial buildings that once produced iron or made products from it in South Troy. The Neemes Foundry at its peak sold its industrial grates throughout the world. Today, despite alterations to the building, the Neemes Foundry retains the key features of its type and is an important surviving resource documenting this period of Troy's history.

⁴⁹ Historic American Engineering Record, Creator. *Lutzenberger Foundry and Pattern Shop, 502 and 505 Jane Street, New Iberia, Iberia Parish, LA*. Iberia Parish New Iberia Louisiana, 2007 Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/la0516/>, accessed December 13, 2023.

⁵⁰ Historic American Engineering Record, Creator, Roise & Company Hess, Contractor Hemisphere Field Services, Kim Breakey, Ron Schirmer, Charlene Roise, and Denis Gardner, Mathiason, Jerry, photographer. *Duluth & Iron Range Rail Road Company Shops, Foundry, Southwest of downtown Two Harbors, northwest of Agate Bay, Two Harbors, Lake County, MN*. Two Harbors Lake County Minnesota, 1968. Translated by Kumar, Rebeccamitter Documentation Compiled After. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/mn0590/>, accessed April 22, 2024.

⁵¹ Historic American Engineering Record, Creator. *Trinidad Foundry & Machine Company, Foundry, Goddard Avenue, Trinidad, Las Animas County, CO*. Las Animas County Colorado Trinidad, 1968 Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/co0118/>, accessed December 14, 2023.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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<https://www.loc.gov/item/la0516/>, accessed December 13, 2023.

Historic American Engineering Record, Creator. Colt Fire Arms Company, Foundry Building, 36-150 Huyshope Avenue, 17-170 Van Dyke Avenue, 49 Vredendale Avenue, Hartford, Hartford County, CT. Connecticut Hartford Hartford County, 2005 Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/ct0696/>, accessed December 13, 2023.

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Historic American Engineering Record, Creator, and Iron & Transportation Union Coal. *Joliet Iron & Steel Company, Joliet Works, West of Collins Street, north of State Street, Joliet, Will County, IL.* Will County Illinois Joliet, 1968. Documentation Compiled After. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/il0622/>, accessed April 22, 2024.

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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 .45
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

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

The boundary is indicated by bright pink line on the enclosed aerial view.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property at 206 First Street is a single-story brick masonry building constructed in 1886 on a half-acre site in the dense neighborhood of South Troy, in Troy, NY. Its façade faces west, toward a large commercial building and parking lot, and beyond those, the CSX rail line and industrialized Hudson River shoreline. To its north is a three-story rowhouse and to its south is a concrete parking lot that is part of the property. Its east, rear elevation faces Second Street alley, which runs southward from Division Street to Ida Street.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Lopez
organization Redburn Development Partners date November 10, 2023
street & number 204 Lafayette Street telephone (518) 366-6558
city or town Schenectady state NY zip code 12305
e-mail mlopez@redburndev.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

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Historic Maps and Photographs



Neemes Foundry in 1886 constructed its building on the site of a sash factory that had recently burned. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1885 Vol. 1, Sheet 14.

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The Neemes Foundry, built in 1886. The machine shop and shed are no longer extant. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1904 Vol. 1, Sheet 14.

Neemes Foundry

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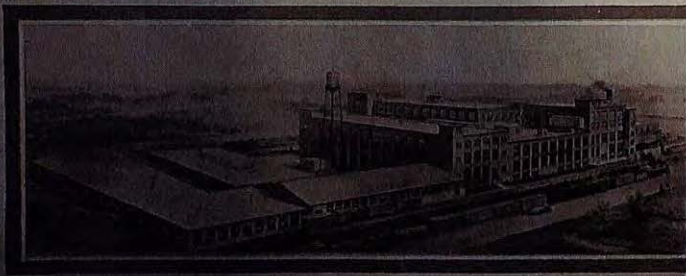
County and State

The Following Is a Partial List of Neemes Grate Users

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Albany Felt Co. | International Shoe Co. | North State Creosote Co. |
| ✓ American Tobacco Co. | Robert W. Irwin Co. | Northern N. Y. Utilities Co. |
| American Woolen Co. | Julius Kayser & Co. | Nucoa Butter Co. |
| Atlantic Coast Fisheries Corp. | Kentucky Public Service Co. | Otis Co. |
| Austin-Nichols Co. | Keystone Watch Case Co. | Packard Motor Car Co. |
| ✓ B. T. Babbitt | Kistler Leather Co. | Pennsylvania Railroad |
| ✓ Baltimore & Ohio Railroad | Lehigh Coal & Navigation Co. | Philadelphia Storage Battery Co. |
| Beacon Oil Co. | ✓ Lehigh Valley Railroad | Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. |
| Borden Co. | Lester Piano Co. | Pratt & Lambert |
| Borden Farm Products Co. | Henry Likly Co. | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute |
| Boston and Maine Railroad | Loft, Inc. | Saxony Spinning Co. |
| Browning, King & Co. | Long Island Railroad | Sears, Roebuck & Co. |
| Burden Iron Co. | Lord & Burnham Co. | Sinclair & Valentine Co. |
| Canadian Pacific Railway | ✓ P. Lorillard & Co. | South Porto-Rico Sugar Co. |
| Celluloid Co. | Ludlow Valve Co. | Standard Oil Co. |
| Central Leather Co. | Ludlum Steel Co. | Sweet-Orr Co. |
| ✓ Chesapeake & Ohio Railway | McLeod & Henry Co. | Swift & Co. |
| Cluett, Peabody & Co. | Mellins Food Co. | United States Leather Co. |
| Consolidated Gas Co. (Balto.) | National Conduit & Cable Co. | Union Pin Co. |
| Consolidated Gas Co. (N. J.) | National Folding Box & Paper Co. | United Drug Co. |
| Cranford Hosiery Mills | Nestle's Food Co. | University of Nebraska |
| Czarnikow Rionda Co. | N. J. Paint Works | Vacuum Oil Co. |
| Dairymen's League Coop. Assn. | N. Y. & Queens Light & Power Co. | Van Raalte Co. |
| Delaware Separator Co. | ✓ N. Y. Central Railroad | ✓ Vassar College |
| ✓ Delaware & Hudson Co. | N. Y. Conservation Commission | Viscose Co. |
| Durand Shoe Co. | ✓ N. Y. Power & Light Co. | Waltham Watch Co. |
| Eastern Malleable Iron Co. | N. Y. Service Co. | ✓ John Wanamaker |
| Fairbanks Co. | N. Y. State Gas & Electric Corp. | ✓ Westinghouse Lamp Co. |
| Foundation Co. | ✓ N. Y. Telephone Co. | ✓ West Point Academy |
| ✓ General Electric Co. | ✓ N. Y. Times | Wrights Underwear Co. |
| General Optical Co. | | |
| General Storage Battery Co. | | |
| ✓ B. F. Goodrich Rubber Co. | | |
| ✓ Great Bear Spring Co. | | |
| W. & L. E. Gurley | | |
| Harmony Mills | | |
| Geo. W. Helme Co. | | |
| Hitchings & Co. | | |
| Horton Ice Cream Co. | | |
| ✓ Geo. P. Ide & Co. | | |
| Ideal Chocolate & Cocoa Co. | | |
| International Harvester Co. | | |
| International Milk Products Co. | | |



These representative buildings of various types are equipped with Neemes Grates.



Printed in U.S.A.

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A Photo Spread in the Neemes Foundry Bulletin 109 of 1930.

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A FOUNDRY WITH A NATIONAL REPUTATION FOR QUALITY CHOOSES AUTOCAR

Neemes Foundry of Troy, N. Y. Casts Every Kind of Grate That Man Uses, and Handles Deliveries in Troy and Neighboring Cities By Autocar.



Neemes Foundry, Inc., specializes in grates. It makes castings of every description and of many metals. The majority of these are ordered by Troy industries on a delivered basis. Delivery of the Neemes product is the duty of this new 6-cylinder Autocar Dispatch.

How are you feelin' today?" asks Weber.

"Just like the bottom of a stove," replies Fields.

"How's that?" asks Joe.

"Grate," says Lew, as the audience rocks.

Business is "grate" at the Neemes Foundry in Troy, N. Y., and has been since 1874. Sugar mill grates and bakery grates; incinerator grates and locomotive grates; domestic boiler grates, pinhole grates; grates round or rectangular, shaking or stationary.

The guiding star of Neemes Foundry has been *quality* throughout its history. Competition on a price basis in the production of castings has always been made distinctly secondary to competition on a quality basis. On this policy the business has grown and prospered.

Neemes castings have been shipped all over the world. Special iron mixtures have been discovered by Neemes metallurgists in the development of grates superior to the effects of terrific temperatures. Within the past seven years Neemes Foundry has developed a Hand Stoker and an Automatic

Stoker, both of which have met Neemes quality standards and enjoyed wide sale. Only three years ago, customer demands resulted in the addition of a non-ferrous foundry to the Neemes plant. Bronze and aluminum castings are made from virgin metal or accurate alloys of metals, and particular attention is given to castings for which intricate specifications are provided.

The great majority of Neemes castings are consumed by industries in and near Troy. These are sold on a delivered basis, which makes it imperative for Neemes Foundry, Inc., to have motor truck equipment combining speed and stamina.

You've guessed the rest. After careful consideration of its own delivery requirements and of the various makes of trucks available to meet those requirements, Neemes Foundry, Inc., selected an Autocar Dispatch last April. And again, like the bottom of Weber and Fields' stove, the truck this company selected was "grate!"

Like Neemes castings, Autocar trucks are made to compete on a quality basis. Precisely built to the most exacting standards in the industry, Autocars stand the gaff of heavy haul-

ing with a proficiency little short of amazing, and with an economy of maintenance which annually brings to the files of The Autocar Company unsolicited letters of praise so superlative in context that we dare not publish them.

It is perfectly natural that a concern like Neemes Foundry, Inc., skilled in metallurgy and experienced in the manufacture of quality products, should have expertly recognized the inherent superiority of Autocars.

You will buy Autocars some day. You will find that the relation of your hauling costs to your net profits *demand*s your consideration of this sound, provedly successful motor truck. You will appreciate the network of service stations spread nationwide by Autocar to keep *your* Autocars forever on the road. You will appreciate, too, the spirit of those service stations. It is characterized by a deep respect for the fact that while a motor truck is in a service station or laid up on the road, it is earning no money for its owner. Prompt, efficient, economical service is available at all Autocar Branches for all Autocar trucks.

For Neemes Foundry, Inc., Autocars are, indeed, a "grate" motor truck!

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An undated advertisement by Autocar, a truck manufacturer that touted Neemes Foundry as one of their reputable clients.

Neemes Foundry

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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Neemes Foundry

City or Vicinity: Troy

County: Rensselaer

State: New York

Photographer: Michael Lopez, Rob O'Neil, Joe Perniciaro

Date Photographed: 8/10/2023; 8/28/2023; October 10/10/2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0001: West Façade, Looking East.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0002: West Façade, Looking Northeast.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0003: South Elevation, Looking Northeast.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0004: South Elevation, Looking Northwest.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0005: Southeast Corner Storage Building, Looking East.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0006: South Parking Lot, Looking Southeast.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0007: Northeast Corner, Rear Elevation, Looking Southwest.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0008: Former New York Central Railroad Warehouse.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0009: Rowhouses, South of Foundry.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0010: West Main Entrance, Looking East.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0011: West Main Entrance, Looking West.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0012: West Garage Bay, Looking Northeast.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0013: Center Garage Bay, Looking Southeast.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0014: Center Garage Bay, Looking North.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0015: East Garage Bay, Looking Northeast.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0016: Northeast Corner Brick and Wood Frame Construction, 1886.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0017: East Rear Wall, Brick and Wood Frame Construction, 1886.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0018: Ceiling Tiles Removed To Show Original Rear Wall, 1886.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0019: Southeast Corner Brick and Wood Frame Construction, 1886.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0020: Wood Truss and Brick Masonry, Above Ceiling, Looking South.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0022: Wood Trusses Pocketed into South Wall, 1886.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0023: Historic Wood Truss, Looking Northwest, 1886.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0024: Beam and Brick Masonry, Looking South Above Drop Ceiling.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0025: Howe Trusses, Looking West.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0026: Above Drop Ceiling, Looking South.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0027: Upper Apartment, Kitchen, Looking Southeast.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0028: Upper Apartment, Living Room, Looking North.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0029: Upper Apartment, Looking Southeast To Loft.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0030: Upper Apartment, Looking Northeast.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0031: Upper Apartment, Loft, Looking Northwest.
- NY_Rensselaer County_Neemes Foundry_0032: Southeast Storage Building, Second Floor, Looking Southeast.

Neemes Foundry

Name of Property

Rensselaer County, NY

County and State

Appendix A

Other South Troy Industrial Sites

While considered rich in industrial archaeology, South Troy in just the last two decades has lost a number of buildings associated with its iron industry. The Neemes Foundry is the most intact of two other similarly sized buildings. The **Jones Bell Foundry**, located across the street, is of similar size and massing but has been altered. A portion of the **Jonas Heartt train wheel foundry** is extant, but the larger section no longer exists. The **Empire Stove Works**, a short distance away, is much larger and does not resemble the small foundry typology described here. Empire Stove Works was recently nominated to the National Register. (Another large foundry, **Ross Valve**, located on Oakwood Avenue in the city's Hillside North neighborhood, is the last operating foundry in the city). In a 1979 survey intended to set the stage for listing South Troy as a district in the National Register of Historic Places, archaeological consultant Duane T. Murphy laid out in detail the resources associated with South Troy's industrial legacy. The accompanying list includes the ruins of the Burden Iron Works and the Albany Iron Works, two of the nation's earliest and largest iron manufacturers whose presence spawned dozens of ancillary industries, including Neemes. The status of properties near the Neemes Foundry today has been included below to shed light on surviving resources and provide additional context for this nomination.

Upper Burden Iron Works Archaeological Site: South bank of the Wynantskill Creek, flanked at the north and south by Mill and Morrison Streets, and bordered by the east and west by Vandenburg and Burden avenues. Once the site of the horseshoe factory that famously produced one horseshoe per second, as well as the world's largest waterwheel, the archaeological site contains vestiges of the factories, warehouses and other ancillary buildings, but not the famous waterwheel, which disintegrated in the early twentieth century. The site is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Lower Burden Iron Works Extant Office Building and Warehouse: Bordered by the Wynantskill and Monroe Street to the north and south, the Hudson River to the west and New York Central Railroad tracks to the east. The steam-powered Lower Burden Iron Works encompassed about forty-five acres along the Hudson River that included blast furnaces, a rolling mill and various machine shops. Extant is the highly ornate red brick and sandstone 1881 office building, once a near ruin rescued by the Hudson-Mohawk Gateway and used as the Burden Iron Works Museum at the foot of Polk Street. The office building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. The only remaining industrial building is believed to have been a horseshoe warehouse. The brick building at the foot of Main Street is threatened by extensive deterioration and plans for eventual demolition.

Upper Albany Iron Works Archaeological Site: North bank of the Wynantskill, east and west of Vandenburg and Burden avenues. Industrialist Erastus Corning and partners in 1826 established a nail, spike

Neemes Foundry

Name of Property

Rensselaer County, NY

County and State

and horseshoe factory here, which is a sensitive archaeological site of one of the nation's largest early iron manufacturers.

Lower Albany Iron Works: Northwest of Water Street. Famous for rolling the plates for the Union war ship the *U.S.S. Monitor* and, just south of it, the plant where engineer Alexander L. Holley converted iron to steel, using the Bessemer process, invented in England, for the first time in the nation. The plant burned in 2006; the Bessemer site, originally a series of blast furnaces, molding, and machine shops, was demolished in 2013.

Jonas S. Heartt and Company Foundry (Partially Extant): 274 Second Street, extending eastward to Franklin Street. Constructed in the early 1880s, the single-story brick building has a five-bay façade, with a recent central glass-and-metal entrance flanked by pairs of one-over-one windows. These are surmounted by four evenly spaced, small circular window openings. The roofline is accented by brick corbeling and an oversized parapet central to an otherwise gable roof. Sanborn maps show that this building had ceased being used as a foundry by 1904. The building is a surviving portion of a larger complex that once stood across the street.

Empire Stove Works (Extant): Facing Ida and Second streets and, southward, located directly on the north bank of the Poestenkill, which supplied waterpower. Once home to one of Troy's largest stove manufacturers, the ca. 1845 main four-story block is a large brick masonry and heavy timber frame building with several smaller sections of one and three stories. Its foundry, located directly across the street, has been demolished. Empire Stove Works has been nominated to the National Register.

Jones & Co. Bell Foundry (Extant): 31 Adams Street (southwest corner of Adams and First streets, diagonally across from the Neemes Foundry). The ca. 1854 Jones Foundry's one-story, elongated rectangular shape is like that of the Neemes Foundry. Jones bells were distributed across North America. The company folded in 1887 and the current building was subsequently used to store equipment for a nearby cold storage firm. It has been heavily altered and no longer retains integrity as a foundry.

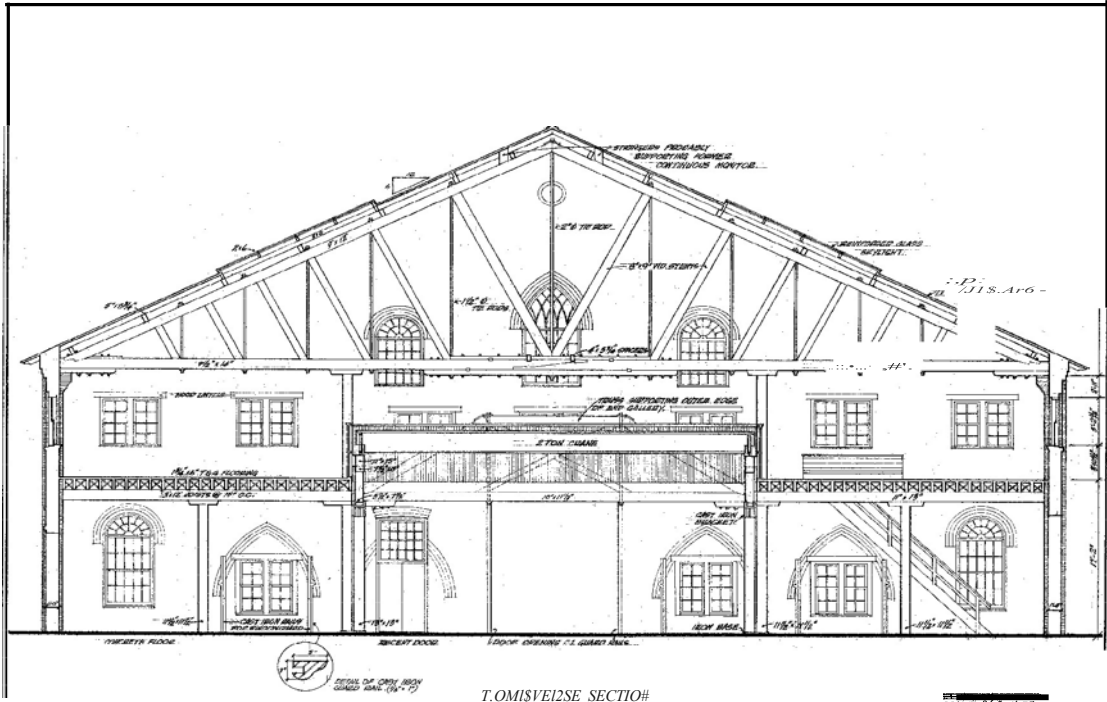
New York Central and Hudson River Railroad Warehouse (Extant): Separated from First Street by a parking lot, southwest from the Neemes Foundry. The ca. 1854 structure is a long, one-story, brick masonry warehouse with a gable roof. East and west side elevations are punctuated by loading doors, allowing simultaneous loading. It is situated parallel to the northern terminus of the CSX transit line. It is privately owned and used for storage.

International Shirt & Collar Co. (Extant): Located at the northwest corner of Adams and River streets. This large-scale brick masonry factory, a portion of which was once a malt-house, was built between 1876 and 1904. The building exemplifies late nineteenth century heavy timber mill construction. It has been reused to house apartments. The building in 2015 was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Neemes Foundry
Name of Property

Rensselaer County, NY
County and State

Appendix B – Foundry Building Type Examples



T.OMIS/VEI2SE SECTION#

SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"

MOHAWK-HUDSON AREA SURVEY
 FOOT OF ADAMS ST. AND HUDSON RIVER
 RENSSELAER IRON WORKS RAIL MILL
 TROY, RENSSELAER COUNTY, NEW YORK
 HAER NY-3
 HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
 MHR 4 of 4 SH...



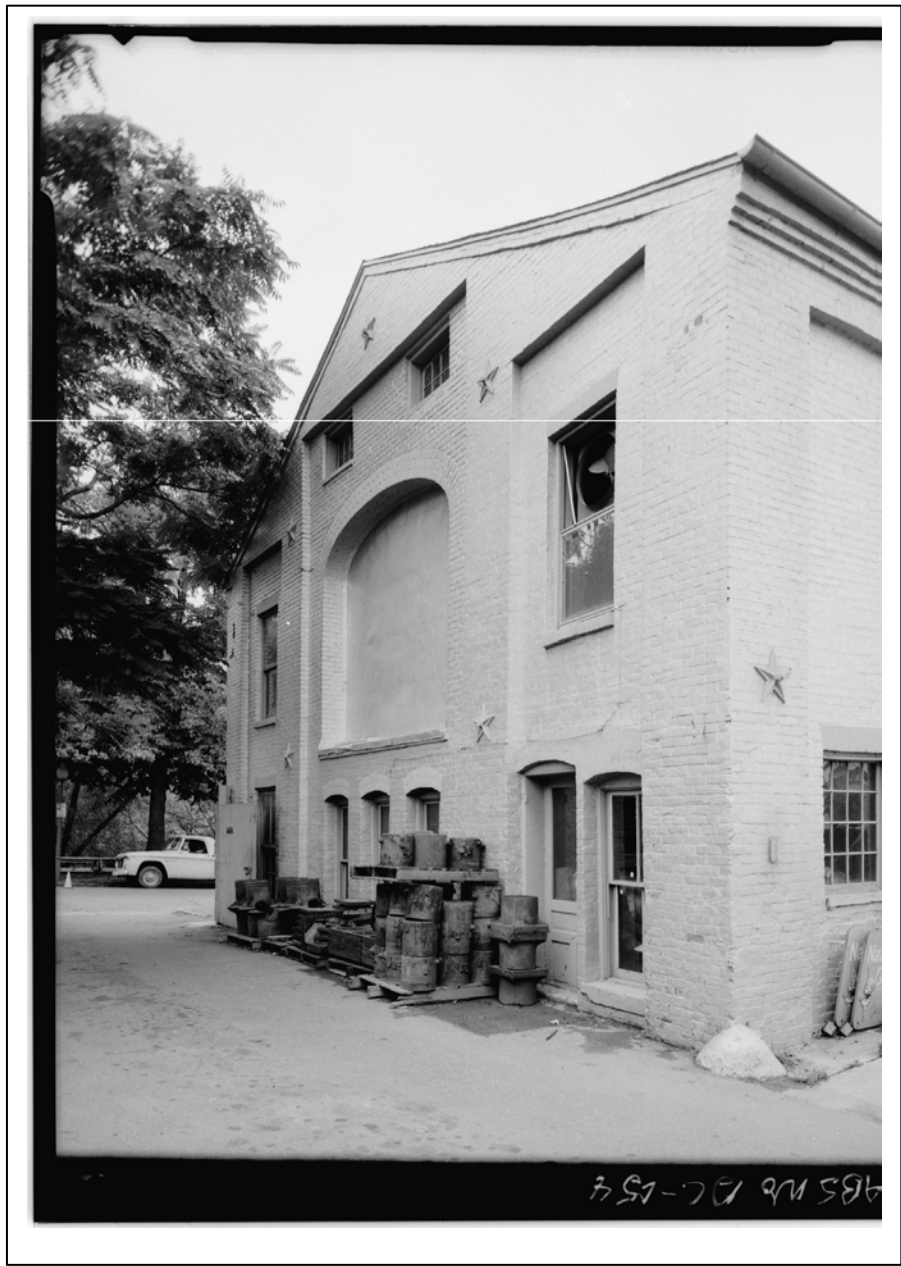
1866 Rail Mill, Rensselaer Iron Works, North Elevation. 1969 Photograph and drawing, Historic American Engineering Record.



1855 Colt Fire Arms Company Foundry, 2005 Photograph, Historic American Engineering Record.



1855 Colt Fire Arms Company Foundry, Undated Photograph, National Park Service.



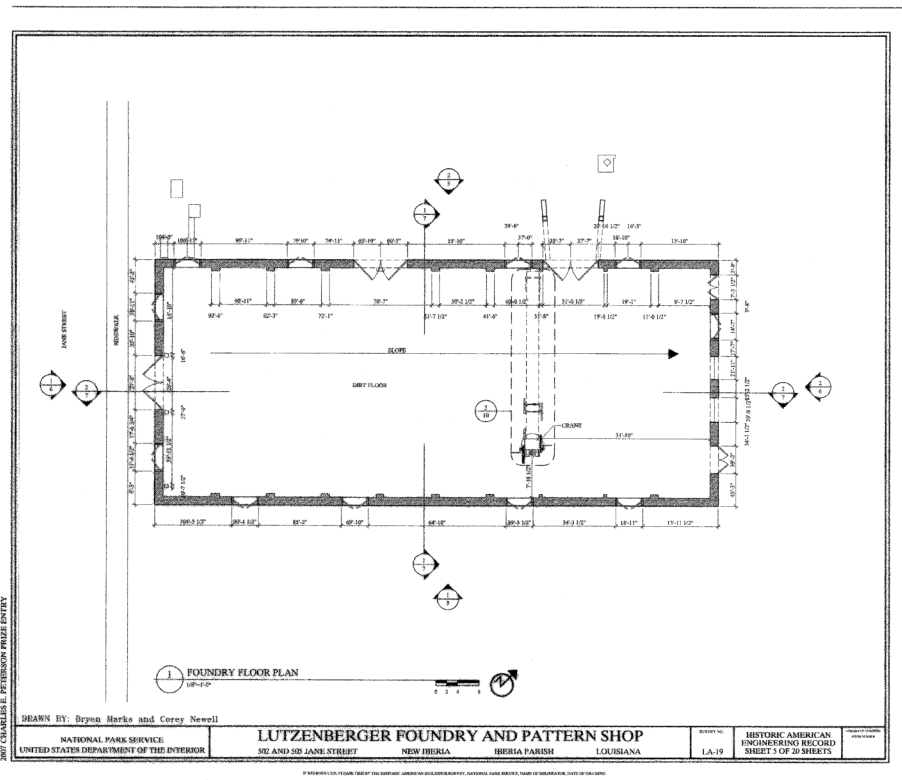
1856 Duvall Foundry, 1967 Photograph, Historic American Engineering Record.



1869 Joliet Iron and Steel Corp. Blacksmith Shop, Undated Photograph, Historic American Engineering Record.



1882 Lutzenberger Foundry and Pattern Shop, 2007 Photograph, Historic American Engineering Record.

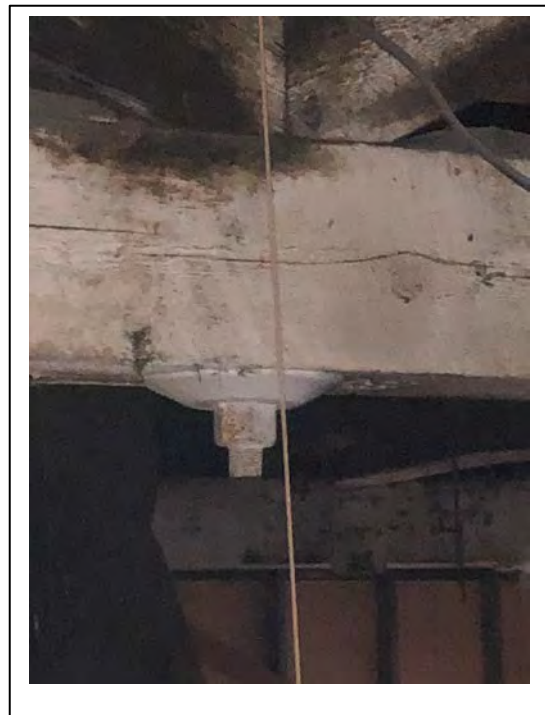




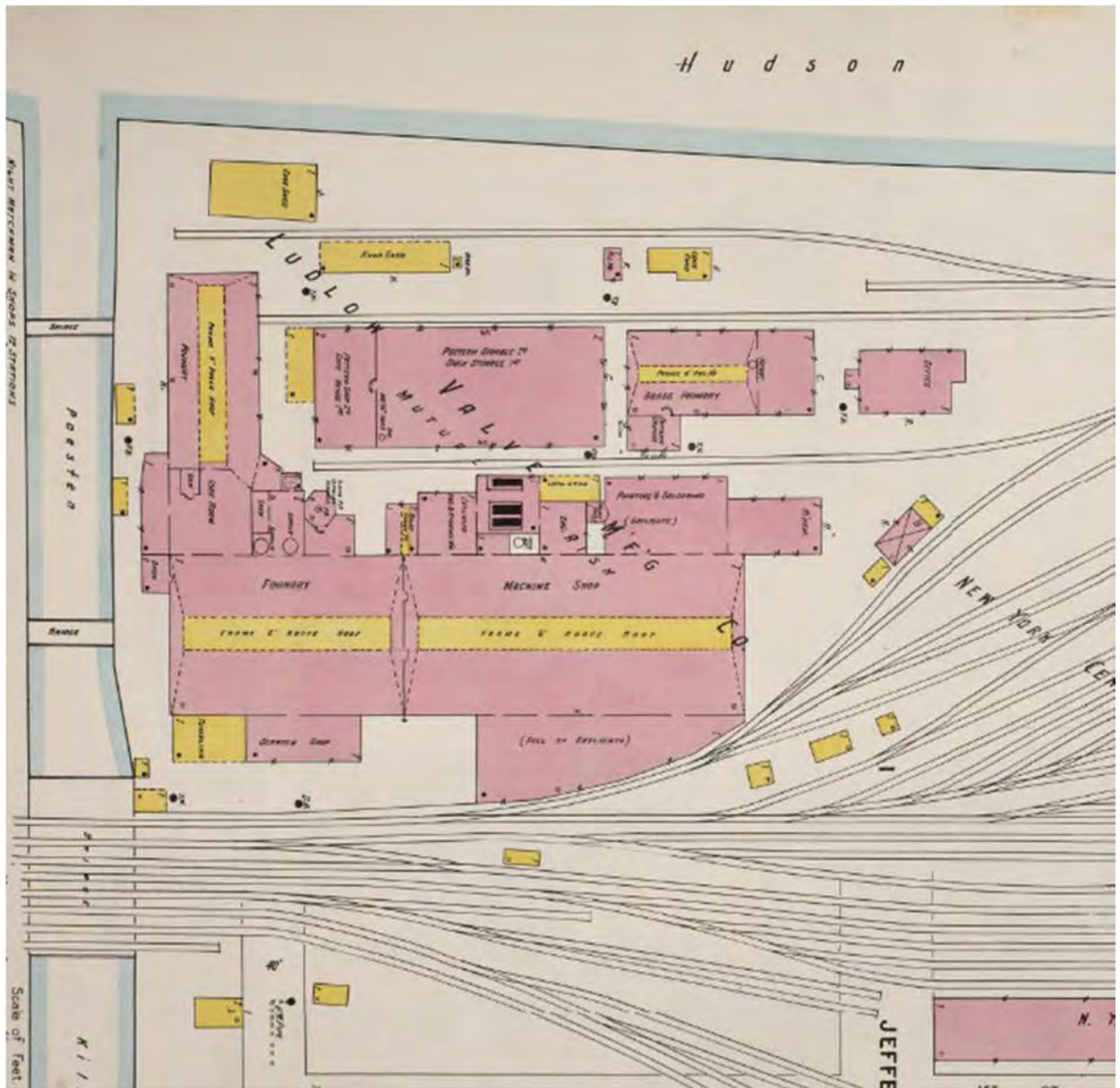
1887 Duluth and Iron Range Railroad Company Shops Foundry, Undated Photograph, Historic American Engineering Record.



1890 Trinidad Foundry & Machine Company, 1968 Photograph, Historic American Building Record.



Substantially bolted by tie rods, the beam and truss systems at Neemes Foundry likely supported gantry crane equipment, photographed August 18, 2023.



Rensselaer Iron Works was subsequently occupied by Ludlow Valve Manufacturing Co. from 1896 to 1968. The 1904 Sanborn fire insurance map shows the central main building. Neemes Foundry and the rail mill share several characteristics. The brass foundry, upper right, and hydrant shop, upper left, also share similarly sized and shaped footprints with Neemes Foundry.



206 First Street, Troy, NY

PREPARED FOR:

CLIENT
Collar works

621 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

PROJECT:

206 1st Street

206 1st Street,
Troy, NY 12180

REVISIONS:

No.	Date	Description

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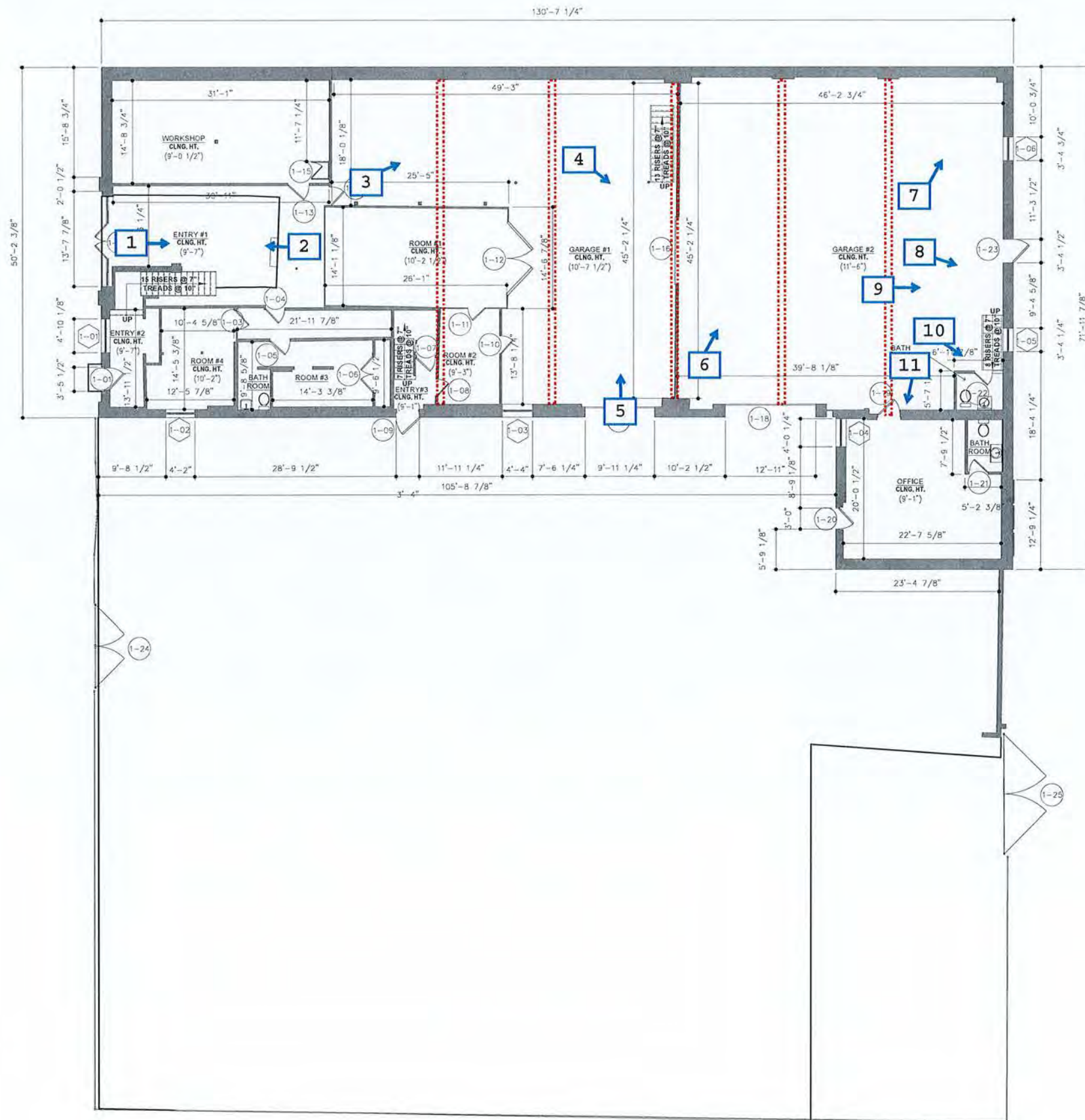
Date	Issued For:

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"
DATE ISSUED N/A
PROJECT NO N/A
DRAWN BY XXX
CHECKED BY Checker

SHEET TITLE:

**EXISTING
FLOOR PLAN
FIRST LEVEL**

EX 1.1



1 FLOOR PLAN - FIRST FLOOR
EX-1.1 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



PREPARED FOR :

CLIENT
Collar works

621 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

PROJECT:

206 1st Street

206 1st Street,
Troy, NY 12180

REVISIONS:

No.	Date	Description

DELIVERABLES:

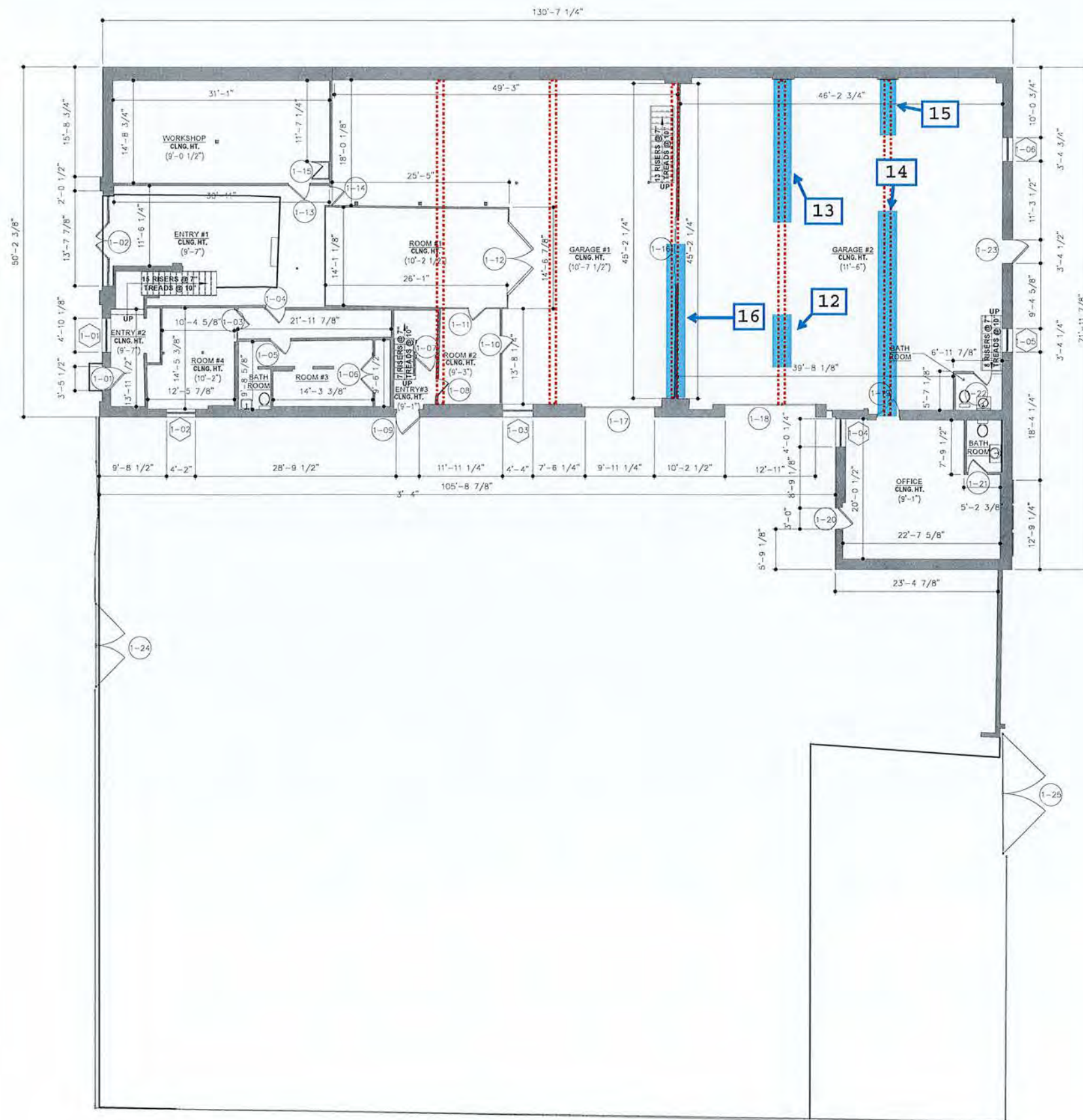
Date	Issued For:

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"
DATE ISSUED N/A
PROJECT NO N/A
DRAWN BY XXX
CHECKED BY Checker

SHEET TITLE:

**EXISTING
FLOOR PLAN
FIRST LEVEL**

EX 1.1



1 FLOOR PLAN - FIRST FLOOR
EX-1.1 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



PREPARED FOR :

CLIENT
Collar works
621 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

PROJECT:

206 1st Street
206 1st Street,
Troy, NY 12180

REVISIONS:

No.	Date	Description

DELIVERABLES:

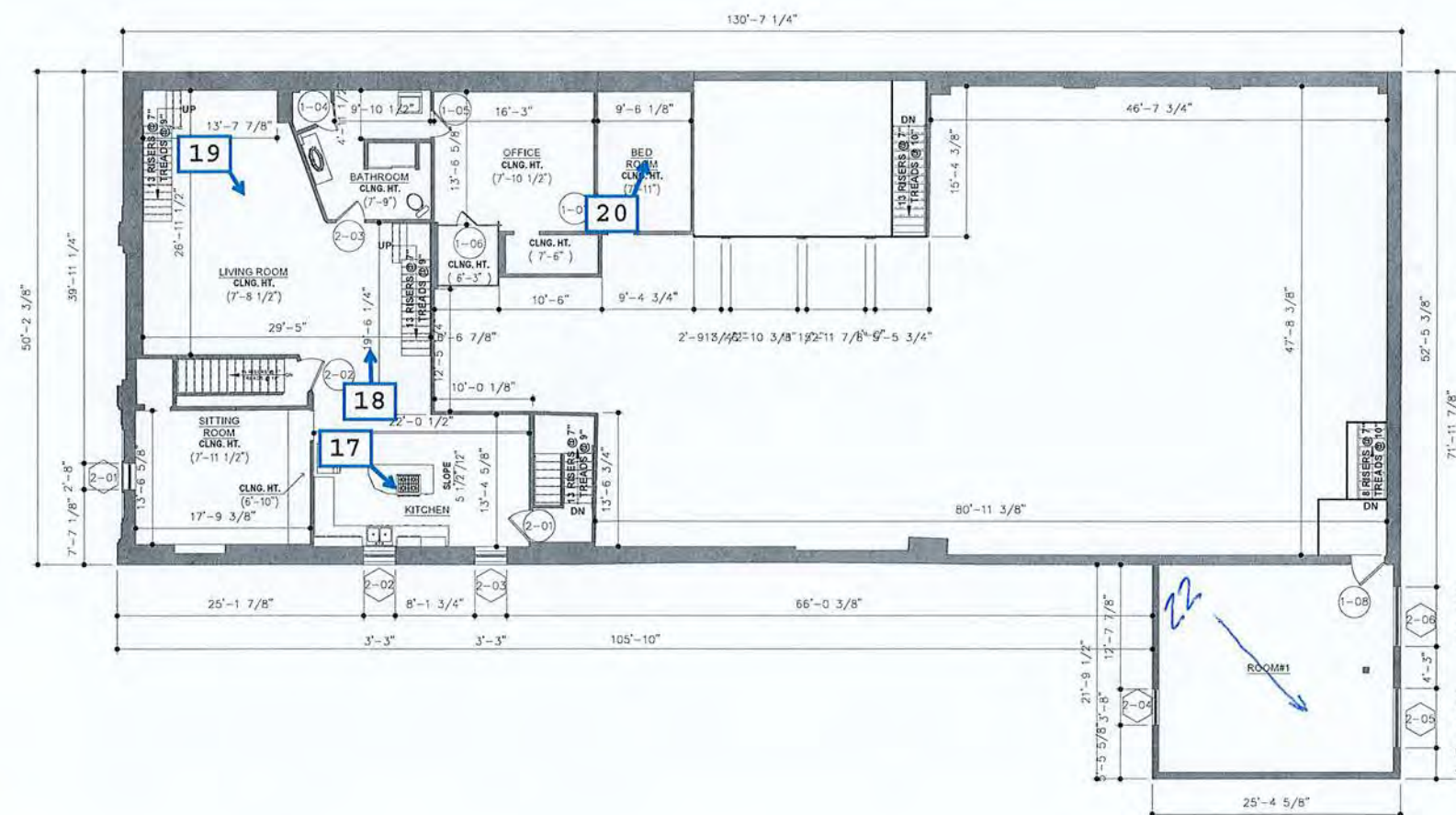
Date	Issued For:

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"
DATE ISSUED N/A
PROJECT NO N/A
DRAWN BY XXX
CHECKED BY Checker

SHEET TITLE:

EXISTING
FLOOR PLAN
SECOND LEVEL

EX 1.2



1 FLOOR PLAN - SECOND FLOOR
EX-1.2 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



PREPARED FOR :

CLIENT
Collar works

621 River Street
Troy, NY 12180

PROJECT:

206 1st Street

206 1st Street,
Troy, NY 12180

REVISIONS:

No.	Date	Description

DELIVERABLES:

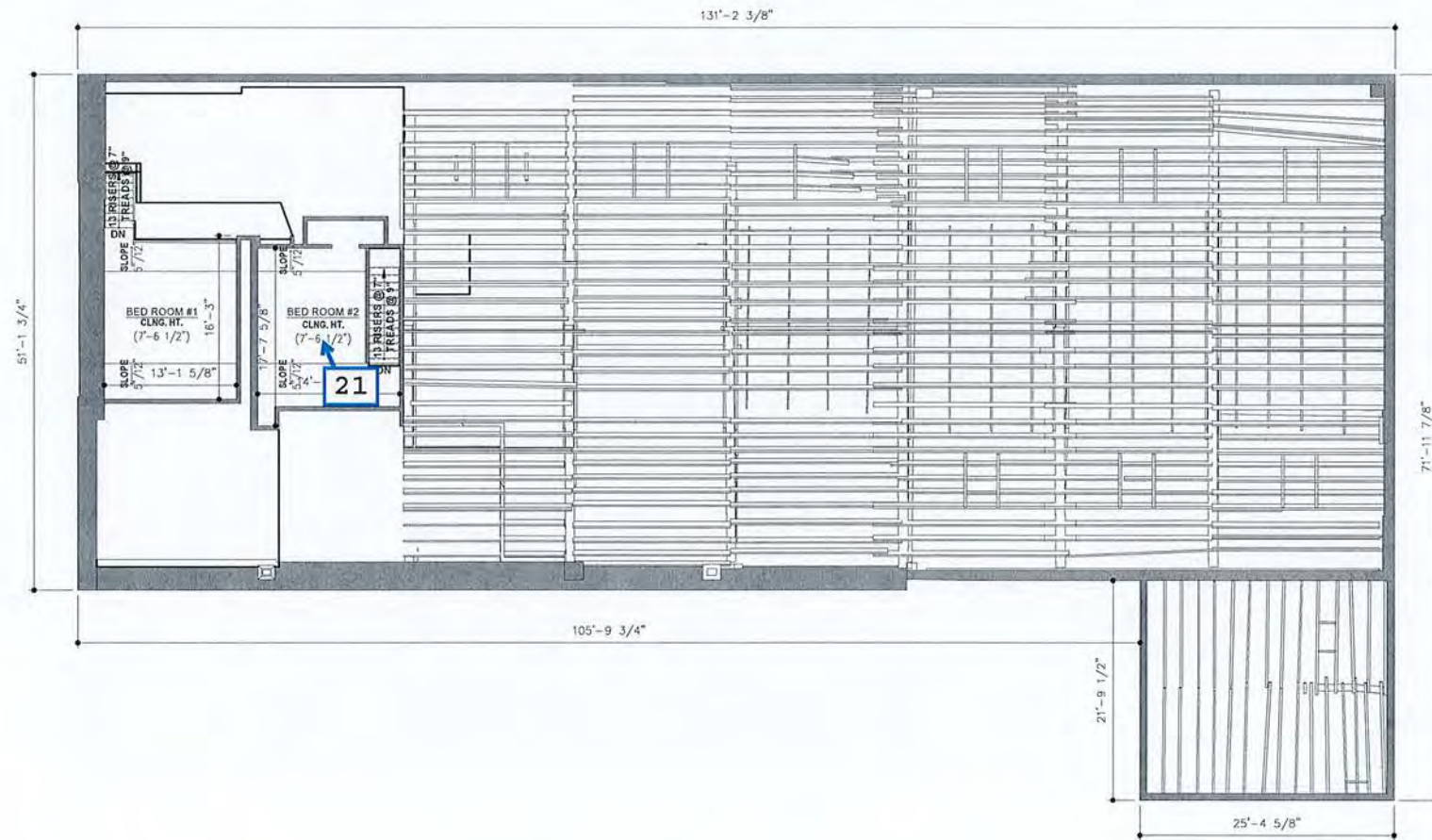
Date	Issued For:

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"
DATE ISSUED N/A
PROJECT NO N/A
DRAWN BY XXX
CHECKED BY Checker

SHEET TITLE:

**EXISTING
FLOOR PLAN
ATTIC LEVEL**

EX 1.3



1 FLOOR PLAN - ATTIC FLOOR
EX-1.3 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"





WHEEL STOCK

BODY SHOP

WHEEL STOCK

202





NO POST
NO SIGN
NO SIGN
NO SIGN



SUSSEX COUNTY
SUSSEX COUNTY
SUSSEX COUNTY

NO PARKING



NO PARKING













M&M
AUTO SERVICE
TUNE UP & REPAIRS

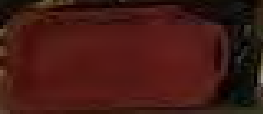
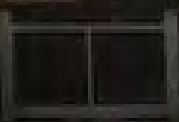
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EXIT







OFFICE



















