

November 30, 1995

Ms. Beth Boland
National Register Program
National Park Service
P. O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Beth:

The following properties have been **demolished** in Illinois and we would like to request their formal removal from the National Register of Historic Places. Enclosed are supporting items including photocopies of photographs, newspaper clippings, and letters documenting their demolition or destruction. The properties are:

- 86001009 **Aurora Watch Factory**, 603-621 LaSalle Street, Aurora, Kane County, Illinois. Destroyed by fire in 1989. A city park now occupies the site. See attached enclosures of newspaper articles about the fire.
- 83000300 Benjamin DeWitt House, Versailles vicinity, Brown County, Illinois. Abandoned and demolished over time. See attached photocopies of recent photos of the property.
- 80001362 Elrod Bridge, Smithfield vicinity, Twp 5N, Range 2E, Section 26. Fulton County, Illinois. Destroyed by a tornado on May 13, 1995. See attached letter from Illinois Department of Transportation and photocopies of photos of the destroyed structure.
Metal Hwy Bridges of Fulton Co TR
- 82000395 Clarence Forehand Round Barn, Vandalia vicinity, Fayette County, Illinois. Damaged by heavy winds on December 15, 1992 and demolished in early 1993. See attached letter from owners. *Round Barns of Illinois TR*
- 82002584 Friend Rutherford House, 1006 Pearl Street, Alton, Madison County, Illinois. Demolished by city of Alton in June 1995. See attached newspaper article from the "Alton Telegraph" June 27, 1995.
- 84001161 Clyde Leek Round Barn, Dakota, Stephenson County, Illinois. Demolished to make room for new house. See attached photocopies of site photos.
Round Barns in Illinois TR

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- 86001491 The Limestones, 118-120 South Main Street, Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois. Demolished in 1988. See attached letters about demolition and photocopies of demolished building.
- 87002035 Mahomet Graded School, Main Street, Mahomet, Champaign County, Illinois. Demolished for new school building in 1988. See attached newspaper article and photocopies of site photos.
- 76000698 McCarthy Building, Northeast corner of Washington & Dearborn Streets, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. Demolished in 1990 for new development of Block 37. See attached newspaper articles.
- 86001490 R. W. McCartney Music Hall, 116-120 East Fourth Street, Metropolis, Massac County, Illinois. Almost the entire building was demolished in 1988 due to its deteriorated condition. A small one story section of the building remains standing, but does not have sufficient integrity for listing in the National Register. See attached letters and photocopy of photograph with approximate scale of remaining building.
- 82000394 John McCarty Round Barn, Filson vicinity, Douglas County, Illinois. Damaged by high winds and demolished by owner in 1989. See attached memorandum.
Round Barns of Illinois TR
- 83000304 Park House, 200 West Second, Beardstown, Cass County, Illinois. Exterior wall collapsed on February 3, 1992 and was razed in Spring of 1992 by city. See attached newspaper article.
- 82002608 Svea Music Hall, 326 Seventh Street, Rockford, Winnebago County, Illinois. Damaged by fire and demolished in 1982. See attached letter, newspaper article, and photocopy of photo of building site.
- 94001596 United States Post Office, 100 West Lincoln Highway, DeKalb, DeKalb County, Illinois. Formally Determined Eligible due to owner objection. Demolished in Spring 1995. See attached newspaper article.
- 79000829 Unity Building, 127 North Dearborn, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. Demolished in 1990 for Block 37 development. See attached newspaper article showing cleared building site.

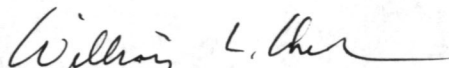
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75000654 Western Methodist Book Concern Building, 12 West Washington, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. Demolished in 1990 for Block 37 development. See attached newspaper article showing cleared building site.

74000763 Wolf Covered Bridge, spanning Spoon River on County Highway 17, Yates City vicinity, Knox County, Illinois. Destroyed by fire on August 1, 1994 and subsequently demolished. See attached letter and newspaper article.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,



William L. Wheeler
State Historic
Preservation Officer
217-785-9045

enclosures

ter sentencing," Thompson said at a news conference in the State

granting me my freedom that I prayed for for so many years not

See Wife, pg. 6

of my friends are friends. What am I supposed to do?"

FOR TED HILL DEC 8 1995

Chicago Tribune 12/20/89 Aurora Watch Company Aurora, IL

Architecture historians lament Aurora fire

By Mike Nichols

To passersby it seemed little more than a dilapidated warehouse sitting incongruously in a quiet residential neighborhood southeast of downtown Aurora.

But when the old Aurora Watch Co. burned to the ground last Sunday, much more was lost than just another out-moded factory that apparently had become even less useful than the 19th Century timepieces it once produced.

Only eight months after fire claimed an unusual example of turn-of-the-century architecture in the River North area of Chicago, local historians this week are lamenting the loss of what they say is the only other significant building of like structure designed by one of America's great architectural duos, Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan.

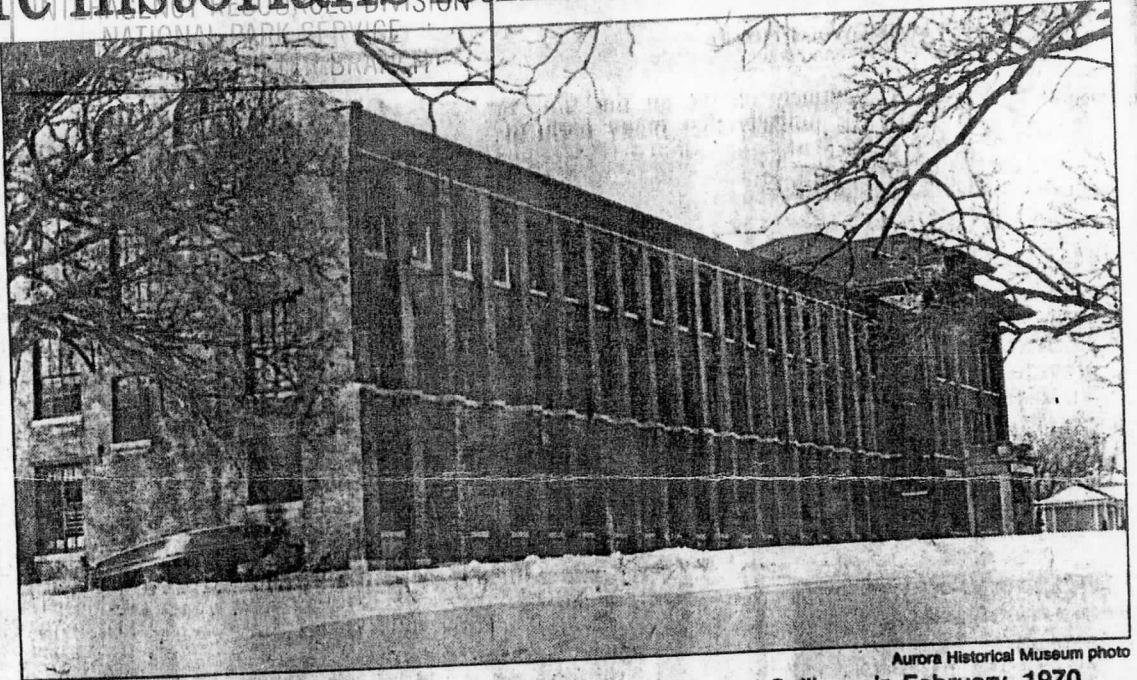
And they are mourning, they say, much more than simply a rare building.

"What has been lost is the ability to look at the whole range of Sullivan's career," said Joan Pomaranc, assistant to the director of the Commission on Chicago Landmarks. "Sullivan was one of the major architects in American history."

Along with Adler, he also designed the old Chicago Stock Exchange on North LaSalle Street, the old Garrick Theater on West Randolph Street and the Auditorium Building at Michigan Avenue and Congress Parkway, among others, according to Tim Samuelson, a researcher for the landmarks commission who is now studying at Harvard.

The River North building, known as the Brunswick-Balke-Collender factory, was one of the first Adler-Sullivan works from the early 1880s, Samuelson said, as was the Aurora Watch

See Building, pg. 6



Aurora Historical Museum photo

The historic Aurora Watch Co. building, designed by Adler and Sullivan, in February, 1970.



Photo by John P. Jaros

The building, considered an architectural landmark, was destroyed by fire Sunday.

Aurora Watch Company Factory Building, Aurora, Illinois absenteeism soars from flulike illnesses

aches and chills, said nurse Sweeney. Students with the should stay home at least 24 s after their fever subsides so won't suffer a relapse or pass illness on to others, she said.

of influenza about, March said, and one of the most powerful strains, A-Shanghai, has been detected in St. Louis. People under 25 usually get a less severe "B" variety, he said.

Evanston Township and Oak Park-River Forest High Schools were running about 200 absences a day recently because of the flu.

The school nurse at Lake Forest High School, Sue Beckley, said she had little time to talk because of the number of students in her office complaining about high fever and coughs. "Until today I

maybe any flu threat will fade away, said Pat Johnson, the school nurse at Palatine High School. Her school has been experiencing the "normal amount" flu cases for this time of year with about 12 students being sent home daily in the last few days she said.

Maine South High School



Dan K. Webb

...just Tuesday limited what prosecutors may ask him. U.S. District Judge Harold H. Greene also decided that Chicago lawyers Dan K. Webb and Howard M. Pearl may prosecute Poindexter. Poindexter's lawyers wanted the pair thrown off the team of special prosecutors on the ground they must have been

arm the Nicaraguan contra. Prosecutors may try to piece together a case with other evidence.

North, a former National Security Council aide convicted May 4 of Iran-contra cover-up charges, is "potentially the most important government witness" against his former boss, the judge in Poindexter's case has said.

But North made it clear at a pretrial hearing that he did not want to testify against Poindexter. He said the retired

pretrial hearing called and said in his order "skeptical."

North "has every in Poindexter from the done to him by the Greene said, adding the alleged inability to grain of salt."

To safeguard Poindexter right against self

Chicago Sun-Times Dec 20, 1989

Another Sullivan gem lost in flames

The flames licked through the windows of the old Aurora Watch Co. building, turning a Chicago area architectural gem into ashes.

Though it was a simple building, the factory at 603 S. La Salle in Aurora was listed in 1986 on the National Register of Historic Places. It was the handiwork of Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan, the Chicago architects who built Chicago's first skyscrapers.

Though the cause of the Sunday fire is unknown, John Angell, assistant Aurora fire chief, said it is believed to have started in the basement, where the building's owner and sole resident, Aldridge Mikulik, was trying to thaw water pipes.

The Mikulik Manufacturing Co. produced black velvet paintings of European street scenes.

Most people who lived nearby had no idea of the building's significance.

"This was a wonderful building and a loss," said Tim Samuelson, an architectural historian with the Commission on Chicago Landmarks.

"It was less an industrial building and more a neighborhood

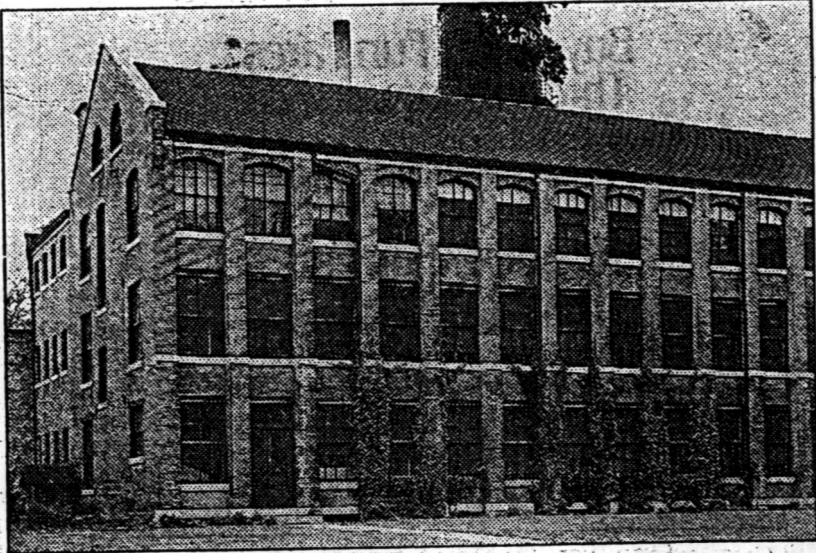


Photo by Richard Nickel

The Aurora Watch Co. is one of two Adler and Sullivan factories that burned to the ground this year.

structure that blended into the surroundings. The utilitarian elegance of the Aurora Watch Co. factory bore simple testament to the heartbeat of Adler and Sullivan's creative genius. So long.

The three-story brick structure, erected in 1883 for Chicago jeweler Maurice Wendell, was important because it was one of the few surviving factories that the architects designed before launching into their innovative metal-framed structures.

Another Adler and Sullivan work, the Brunswick-Balke-Coller, which housed several art galleries in Chicago's River North area, burned down in April.

Tim Samuelson, an architectural historian with the Commission

on Chicago Landmarks, said that with the loss of the Aurora and River North buildings "there is now a major gap in the chronology of Adler and Sullivan's role in the development of modern architecture."

The Aurora factory was built for the assembly of watches.

Hence, it was designed with a large glass facade that admitted as much natural light as possible. The building was never finished as Adler and Sullivan designed it, however. The architects quit the job due to lack of funds before completing a planned central clock tower.

In 1894, the building was taken over by the Aurora Corset Co. and its successor, Formfit Corp.

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ALLIANCE FUNDING COMPANY

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Aurora Watch Factory

86001009

Kane
~~Brown~~ County

ILLINOIS

Removal Approved

Edson A. Beall

12.8.95

Removed from the National Register

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: REMOVAL

PROPERTY NAME: Aurora Watch Factory

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ILLINOIS, Kane

DATE RECEIVED: 12/08/96 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/22/97
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 86001009

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 12/8/96 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Removed from the National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 4 1986

date entered MAY 8 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Aurora Watch Factory

and/or common Mikulik Building

2. Location

street & number 603-621 LaSalle Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Aurora

N/A vicinity of

state IL

code 012

county Kane

code 089

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Al Mikulik

street & number 603-621 LaSalle Street

city, town Aurora

vicinity of

state IL

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number 719 S. Batavia Ave./P.O. Box 71

city, town Geneva

state IL 60134

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ill. Historic Structures Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date October 1972

federal state county local

depository for survey records Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

city, town Springfield

state Illinois

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The buildings included in this nomination are the result of two building phases, each erected for different occupants of the property. The first phase consists of the buildings erected in 1883-84 as the plant of the Aurora Watch Company, and the second phase consists of the three connected additions erected near the turn of the century by the Aurora Corset Company*. Another change to the original factory complex is the demolition of two outbuildings. These outbuildings (a coal shed and another small storage facility) were probably constructed of wood. The later alterations were added to the north-northeast elevations of the 1883 watch factory buildings (Buildings #1 and #3B) and to the south elevation of Building #3B. They do not detract from the basic architectural and historic integrity of the original buildings. There was a fire that did not do any structural damage in the south of the main building (#1).

Windows in the rear of the complex have been bricked in: seven in Building #3D, six in Building #4, one at south end of #3D. Three windows have been bricked in on the south facade of Building #1, and two have been replaced with newer style windows. None of the windows on the LaSalle Street facade of Building #1, or any of the windows on the Bluff street facade of Building #2, have been replaced or bricked in.

The initial building program designed by the notable Chicago architectural firm of Adler & Sullivan consisted of a 50' by 89' central building with wings of 36' by 135', proposed to be part of a larger building complex with smaller structures to the rear (machine shop 35' by 95', boiler house 35' by 65', the dial house 32' by 89'). The north wing (Building #1) is parallel to LaSalle Street and is a wall-bearing masonry structure faced in common brick. It was originally intended to match a wing to the south of the central four-story office section. The office portion and south wing were to be erected after the watch firm became established, but these never were built. Intended for the manufacture of precision watches, the opening up of the facades for a maximum amount of light was a primary consideration in its design. To avoid the limitations of window opening size in standard bearing wall construction, the facade was developed into thickened bearing masonry piers, spanned by wrought-iron lintels to create generous window openings. These windows, combined with the narrow depth of the building, insured an abundance of light to the interior, critical for the assembly of watches.

*The first phase buildings are #1, #3B, and #4. The second phase buildings are #2, #3A, #3C, and #3D.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet Aurora Watch Factory

Item number 7

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Although intended to be inexpensive and utilitarian, an effort was made to develop the building as an aesthetically pleasing composition, as it also was intended as a visual representation of the company itself. Like many industries of the time, the building was prominently featured in advertisements and on watch certificates as a symbol of the solidity of the company. The rhythm of the vertical bearing piers, offset by the horizontal banding of the Joliet stone sills and string courses created a dignified composition at a moderate cost. Arches over the 3rd floor windows of Building #1 add to the feeling of a more cohesive building with the 20 bays, rather than 60 units with each window considered individually. The upper windows of the north and south facades of the original buildings are treated with brick arches. All the windows on the other original buildings (Building #3B and #4) are arched. A gabled slate roof is carried across the full length of Building #1.

The interiors of Buildings #1 and #2 are open, undivided space of semi-mill construction with a single line of cast iron columns as an intermediate support of the heavy timber floor structure. They are constructed in very similar manner even though these buildings represent two different eras of construction.

Attached to the rear of Building #1, at the southwest, is a three-story engine/boiler house. As light was not a primary concern in this wing and it was out of view from the street, the exterior walls are simple common brick with simple openings, typical of masonry factory construction.

Following the acquisition of the property by the Aurora Corset Company in 1894, the building remained largely unchanged until near the turn of the century when the major additions were added to the original buildings. The most visually prominent of these was a large addition (Building #2) added to the north of the original wing which was designed by the architectural firm of Worst & Shepardson. The architects respected and appreciated the original building design in lining up the brickwork and the stone courses. The roof style and treatment of the 3rd floor windows varies from the central entrance as originally planned by the watch company. This addition is of a dark brown-red brick. Although this addition obscures the once-exposed north elevation of the main wing, its design and siting is distinct from the original building and does not interfere with the integrity of the street front. This addition is three stories.

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Aurora Watch Factory

Item number 7

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Two semi-detached one-story wings are also at the rear, the largest being the machine shop (#3B) and the smaller one (#4) being for the manufacturing and firing of enamel watch dials. Contemporary reports indicate that these two buildings were the first to be constructed in late 1883. They are faced in red brick. By the time the first wing (Building #1) was constructed, common brick was used, possibly due to budget constraints. Most of the windows in Building #4 were bricked in during the 1970's.

Buildings #3A and #3B are one-story buildings; Buildings #3C and #3D are two stories. Building #3B was the original watch company machine shop and measures 35' by 95'. Each opening is arched; the building has 12 openings on the west facade. None of these windows is bricked in. The additions to Building #3B were erected in three phases by the Aurora Corset Company. The first phase is Building #3C and extends 25 feet south of Building #1. The windows on the first floor of this building reflect the arched window treatment in #3B. The windows on the second floor are large, with sixteen individual panes of glass. The next phase is Building #3D and continues the two stories for another 30 feet. The date of this addition is not yet known, but the construction style places it near the turn of the century or early 1900's. The windows on both floors of this addition are the larger windows of eight-over-eight panes, like those on the second floor of Building #3C. Building #3A is the small section added in 1909-10 to close off the interior open space for a courtyard. The architecture of Building #3B was respected and was matched by similar window treatments, roof line, and building style when Building #3A was erected. #3C is the two-story extension, built before the turn of the century. This addition is barely visible in an 1898 photograph of the Corset Company and its employees.

The property's future developers (Vector Development Company, 810 East Ogden Avenue, Naperville, IL 60540) plan to follow the Secretary of Interior's Rehabilitation Standards. They do not desire to detract from the building's integrity with out-of-character changes because they appreciate what is there, that the complex is solid, and that the original buildings have been standing for over 100 years. At this point, no formal plans have been drawn up; but they do intend to utilize the complex by turning it into apartments or condominiums.

The Aurora Watch Factory building is located in a residential neighborhood one block east of Broadway (Rte. 25), the major arterial servicing the neighborhood. The structures surrounding it are predominantly single family wood frame homes built between 1880-1920. The site itself slopes steeply downhill to the west and contains numerous mature trees along the LaSalle Street frontage.

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 checked="" 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		

Specific dates 1883-4/1898/1909-10 **Builder/Architect** Adler & Sullivan (1883)
 Period of Significance: 1883-1936 Worst & Shepardson (1909-10)
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) other additions unknown

The complex has three reasons for its nomination, which are expanded below. These include: 1) the architecture of the original factory (especially Building #1), completed by Adler & Sullivan in 1883; 2) the history of the Aurora Watch Factory; 3) the building and its growth through the years of the Aurora Corset Company.

- The Architecture of the Original Factory This factory represents a small commission for the firm of Adler & Sullivan. Louis Sullivan had been working with D. Adler & Co. for two years, before being made a partner in 1883. Prior to receiving the commission for the Auditorium in 1886, their commissions were limited to small commercial blocks and residences. The factory is one of their early efforts and shows its components treated in an artistic way. The treatment of the facades shows creativity. The verticality of the building is emphasized by the brick masonry bearing piers dividing the 20 bays and is balanced by the continuous horizontal sills of Joliet limestone. The structure displays repetition of a single element done in an eye-pleasing way. The masonry piers and iron lintels allow the large number of windows to admit maximum natural light required for the close detail work. According to Hugh Morrison in Louis Sullivan: Prophet of Modern Architecture: "In the use of a masonry-and-iron combination to admit the maximum amount of light to the interiors of office buildings he was not only recognizing the importance of function--putting first things first--but recognizing that his architectural expression must depend on and grow out of the structural form rather than deny it. This was a kind of hard realism, or architectural common-sense, that was rare indeed in the decade of the eighties."
- The Aurora Watch Company was one of a number of local watch companies in America--most have their hometowns' names (i.e., Elgin, Waltham, Rockford, Springfield...). Aurora won this factory through competition between towns as was recently done for a number of auto factories. The outcome was based on the allowances or inducements from an area. Aurora came up with a capital base of \$250,000, of which \$75,000 was from the citizenry, and land. The first directors were all jewelers: E.W. Trask, of Aurora; M. Wendell of Chicago, the originator of the move; M. Hoffman, of Quincy; A.H. Pike, of Kankakee; and George F. Johnson, who was the superintendent and worked closely with Adler & Sullivan on the watch factory's requirements. Mr. Johnson had the background in the size of machinery, the required space, and the order of assembly of such intricate goods as watches. In Watch Factories of America, Henry Abbott credited George Johnson with designing the machinery and the factory.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Battle, Charles S., Historical & Biographical Record of Aurora 1834-1937
Holland's Triennial City Directory of Aurora, 1890-1893
Abbott, Henry G., The Watch Factories of America, 1888
Louis Sullivan, Prophet of Modern Architecture, Hugh Morrison

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 1/2 acres

Quadrangle name Aurora South, IL

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UTM References

A

1	6	3	9	0	0	0	0	4	6	2	2	1	2	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

located at southwest corner of Bluff & LaSalle streets intersection; extends 280' on LaSalle, 360' on Bluff; occupies lots 1 to 14, Block 2, H.H. Evans Addition to Aurora

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Green Kircher/Director

organization Brookfield Historical Society date 11/4/85

410 N. Michigan Ave., 8th floor (wk) 312/337-7860 (work)

street & number P. O. Box 342 (BHS) telephone 312/485-9424 (home)

Chicago, IL 60611 (work)

city or town Brookfield state IL 60513

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Director, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

date 3/18/86

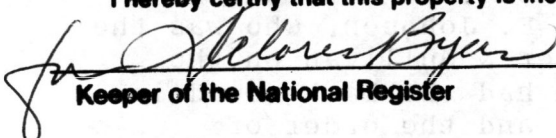
For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

5/8/86


Keeper of the National Register

Removed from the National Register

date

12/8/95

Attest:

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Aurora Watch Factory

Item number 8

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At the time of the Watch Company's incorporation, other factories in Aurora were an iron foundry, a well works (well-digging equipment), a creamery, a smelting and refining company, a road cart factory, cotton mills, and a corset company (the Chicago Corset Company, not related to the Aurora Corset Company). Also in early Aurora were a light and power company, three banks, the Chicago Telephone Company, and the Aurora Street Railway. In 1885 the Company decided to move its headquarters from Chicago to its Aurora factory, and new officers were elected. When the watch company's business was well established, the rest of its proposed factory would be erected, but it never was.

The first watch from its machines was purchased by E.W. Trask, who donated the watch to Aurora's Carnegie library building fund. The watch was then raffled off, and quite a sum was raised for the library.

Not all Aurora watches had the Aurora name on the face. It was the custom of the company to sell through only one jeweler in a town, so their names were among those that appeared on the face. Inside the watch was stamped Aurora. Because of this practice of selling through one jeweler in a town, they didn't do much advertising on their own. In town directories, there was usually only a picture of the factory to show the Company's solidity. Each jeweler did the advertising for the watches.

Unfortunately, the Aurora Watch Company did not fare too well. Business suffered a number of drawbacks, was reorganized, and a large amount of additional stock had been taken. Originally, it was indicated that the watchworks would stay in Aurora. Holland's Triennial Directory, published in 1894, had this to say about the Aurora Watch Company: "...has erected a factory and equipped it with a class of machinery that is acknowledged to be unexcelled for the purpose for which it was designed and constructed. It has...produced watches, which, for time-keeping qualities, are the peers of any in the world's market....Time and experience have proven that the company had insufficient capital with which to compete with older concerns...the managers...made an assignment and shortly thereafter Charles D. Rood, one of the most successful and wealthy watch factory owners and managers in the country, bought the installation, which is now running to its full capacity with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Aurora Watch Factory

Item number 8

Page 3

some 300 hands....This is one of the most valuable and beneficial manufactories in the city..." But the plant in Aurora was abandoned in 1894. The company was purchased by Rood, and the machinery was moved to Pennsylvania to the Hamilton Watch Company. According to the Centennial History of Aurora, the stockholders did quite well with this decision.

- 3) The Aurora Corset Company made its headquarters in the Aurora Watch Company's buildings from 1894 to 1943. They manufactured corsets under the names of Henderson and La Princess and related items. The Aurora Corset Company made the additions to the complex. The first of these was an extension of the factory (Building #3C) to the south of the complex. This addition is barely visible in an 1898 photo of the employees in front of the factory. The second addition was Building #2, the main entrance with the Company's name in stone over the front door, in 1909-10. The company became Formfit in 1943, and they were in existence until 1958. The building then was sold to the present occupant which continued its original use as a factory.

The Aurora Corset Company was quite proud of its headquarters and the conveniences for its employees. It included its employee dining room, reading room, and large park with swings and seats in its advertising and termed itself "The Factory Beautiful." A picture of the factory was included in many of their advertisements, partially to show that their product was manufactured in Aurora, and partially to show the size of the Company.

Summary

This property is significant because the original factory (Buildings #1, #3B, and #4) was designed by the Chicago firm of Adler & Sullivan. Most of their commissions were in Chicago, and the Aurora factory was one of the firm's early commissions (1883). It has remained substantially intact for over 100 years. The factory was erected for the Aurora Watch Company, one of America's early watch companies and an early industry in Aurora. The watch company was purchased by another company, and the industry was then moved to its new location in Pennsylvania (1894).

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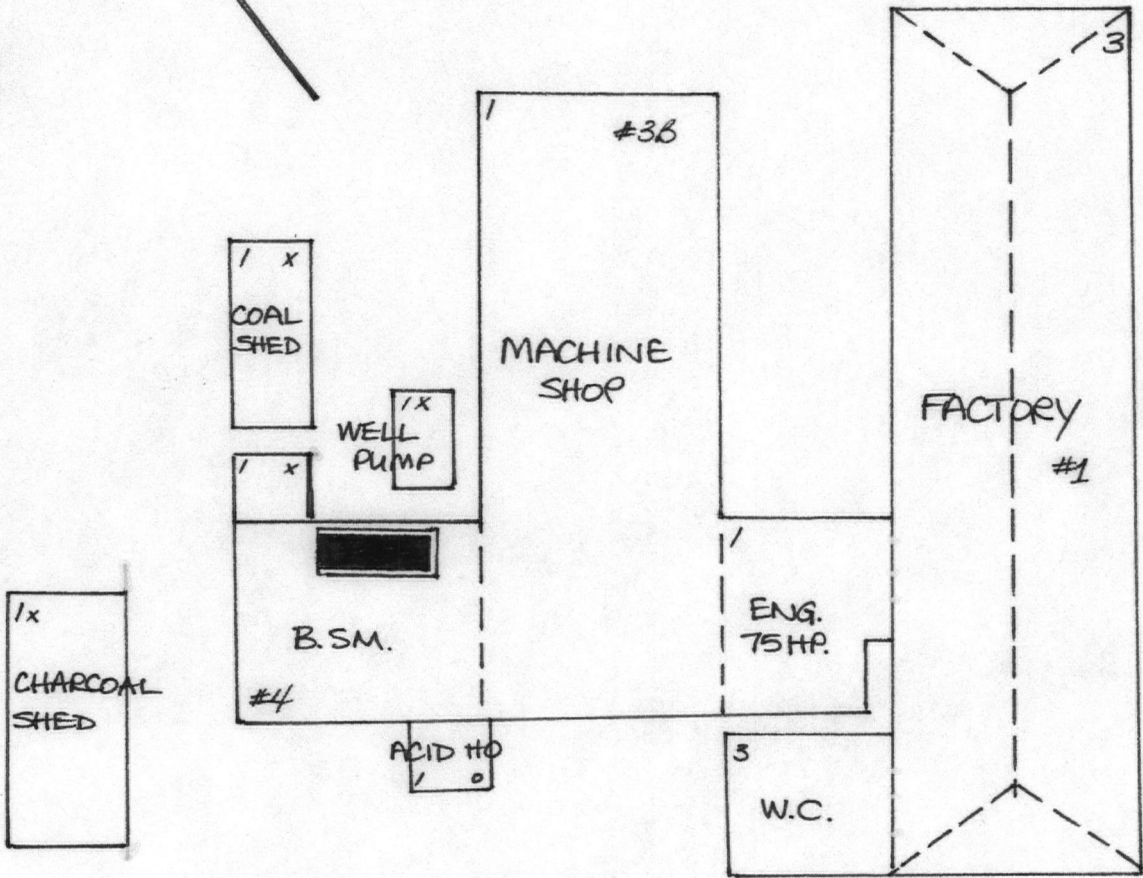
The Aurora Corset Company purchased the factory in 1894, and the complex remained unchanged for two-three years. The Company increased the complex by two additions to the original machine shop (Buildings #3C in 1898 and #3D, date unknown, onto #3B) and a new main entrance (Building #2) attached to the original factory (Building #1) in 1909-10. The present occupant has made no major changes to the complex. The minor changes include bricking up windows in Buildings #1 (south end, #3D west side, and #4 all sides). The party interested in purchasing the complex plans to develop it into residential space and will follow the Secretary of Interior's Rehabilitation Standards.

The Aurora Corset Company is perhaps most significant as the sole survivor of an industry that once was the largest employer of women in Aurora. Late nineteenth and early twentieth century Aurora City directories indicate that three firms were large employers of women: the Aurora Cotton Mills (all building have been demolished); the Aurora Corset Company; and the Chicago Corset Company (all buildings have been demolished). Families whose husbands worked at the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Machine Shops in Aurora frequently had wives or older daughters who worked for one of the three above textile concerns.

While the Chicago Corset Company's factory was also located in the midst of a residential neighborhood, the Aurora Corset Company's complex had landscaping and siting which made it blend in the best with its residential surroundings. In order to attract a cheap workforce of women, these corset companies had to project a safe, clean image. Thus the company promoted their complex as "The Factory Beautiful" just as "The City Beautiful" and "The House Beautiful" were gaining popularity during this period. Photographs show the women in starched white dresses posing outside the complex, again, projecting a clean, wholesome environment that families could feel comfortable sending their daughters to work in. This strategy is highly reminiscent of early textile milling in New England where communities such as Lowell strove to maintain a safe, wholesome environment for its young female workforce. Aside from domestic employment, no other late nineteenth or early twentieth century industry was such a large employer of Aurora women. The complex's addition by Worst and Shepardson is the only extant commercial work of this firm. F.E. Worst had been associated with early Aurora architect J.E. Minott in the late nineteenth century, but broke off to form his own firm in the early twentieth century.

MAP#1
603 S. LA SALLE ST.

BLUFF STREET



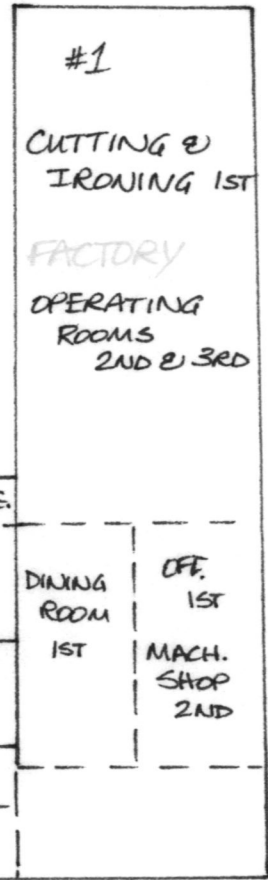
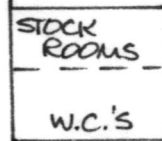
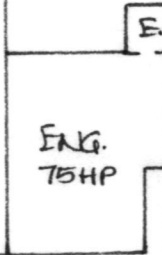
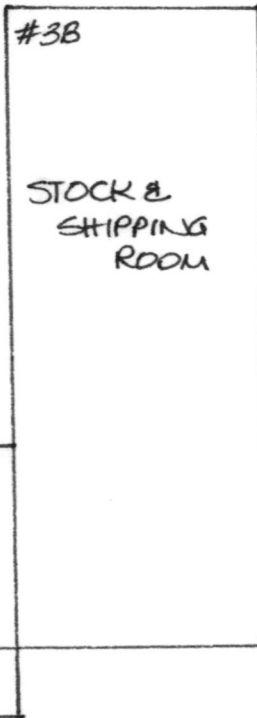
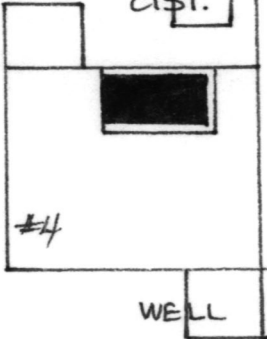
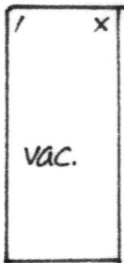
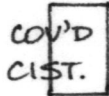
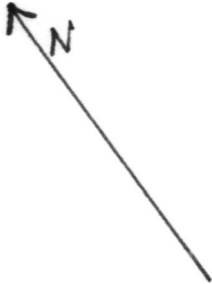
FROM JANUARY 1888
SURVEY

AURORA WATCH
FACTORY

S. LA SALLE STREET

BLUFF STREET

MAP #2
603 S. LA SALLE



SOUTH LA SALLE STREET

FROM 1897
SURVEY

AURORA
CORSET
COMPANY

BLUFF STREET

MAP #3

603.5. LA SALLE

N

#2

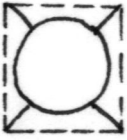
OFF.
1ST

FINISH

#3A

#3B

45,000
GAL
GRVTY
TANK



STOCK
ROOM

FACTORY

#1

#4

#3C

#3D

FACTORY

MIKULIK MFG. CO.
FURNITURE FACTORY

FROM 1958
SURVEY

SOUTH LA SALLE STREET

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Aurora Watch Factory
Kane County
ILLINOIS

Working No. APR 4 1986
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87
Date Due: 5/1/86 — 5/19/86
Action: ACCEPT 5-8-86
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in this
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Removed from the National Register

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____
Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

Yvonne Watson
Treasurer
Linn County
IOWA

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____
Quadrangle name _____
UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

















**WASTE IS
WICKED**







Mikule Mfg Co







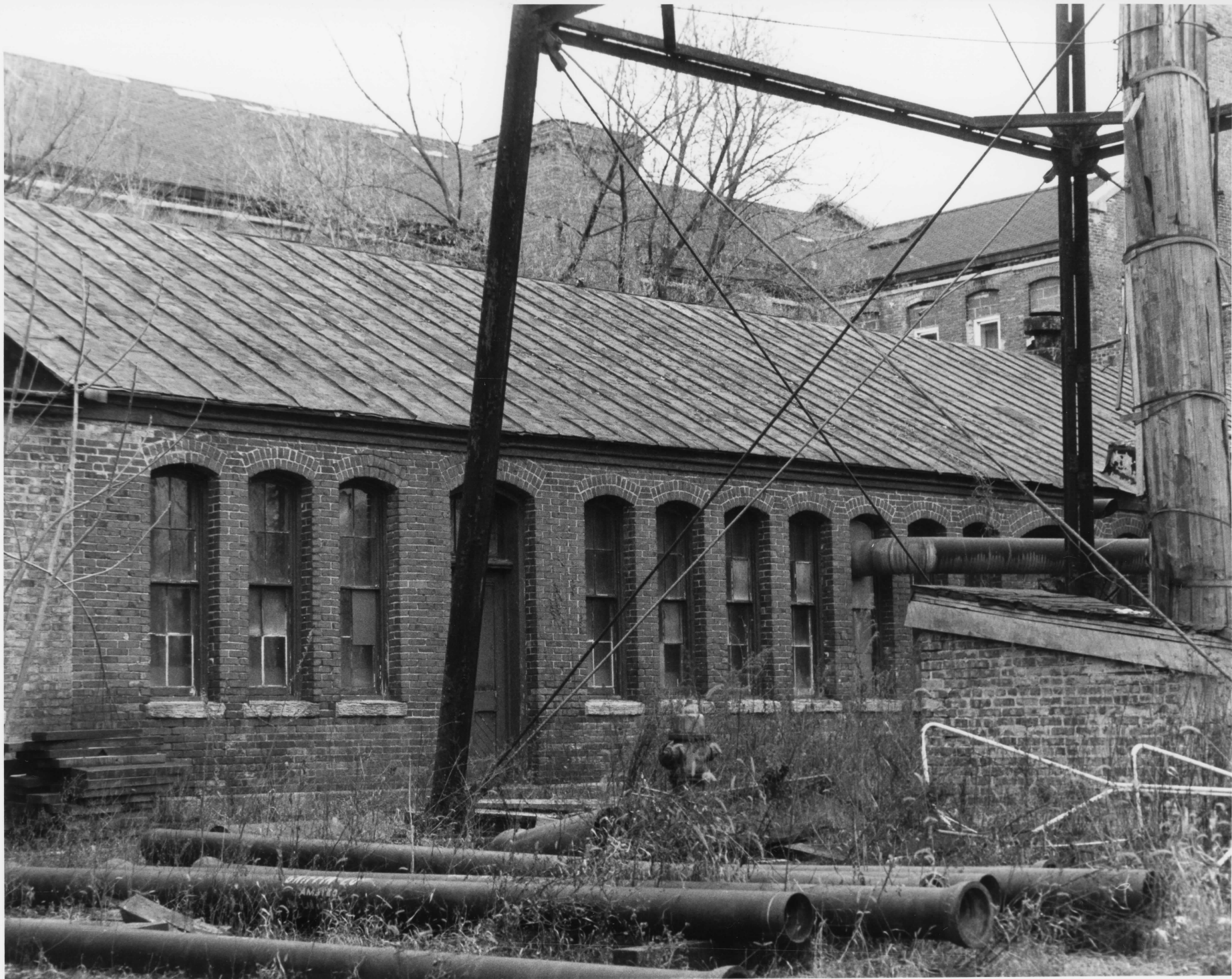












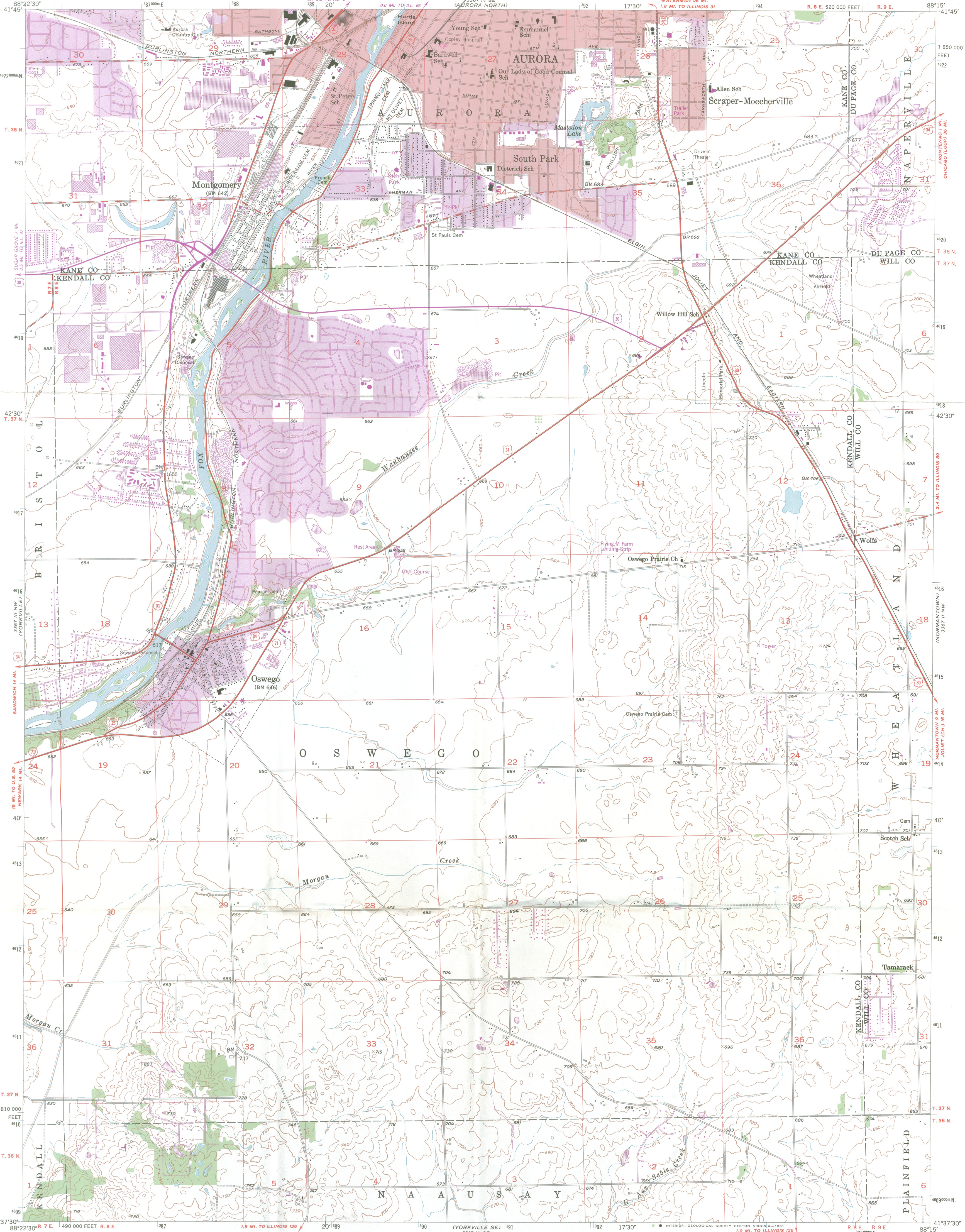








Aurora Watch E390000
Factory N 4022120



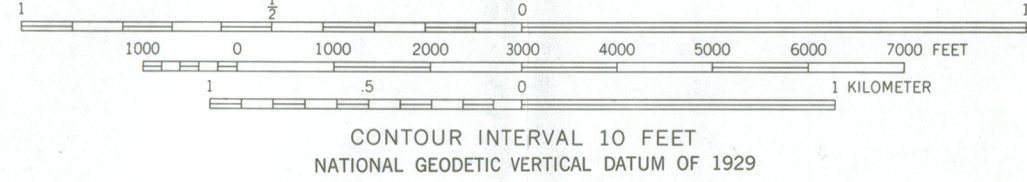
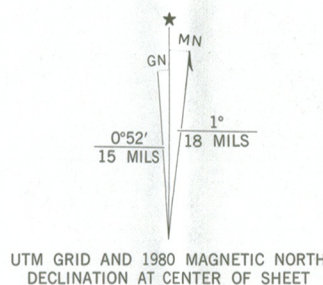
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by Keish plotter from aerial photographs
taken 1952 and by planetable surveys 1954

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Illinois coordinate system, east zone
1,000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 16, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 2 meters north and
6 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE STATE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA, ILLINOIS 61801
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1973 and 1978. Map edited 1980
This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

AURORA SOUTH, ILL.
NE/4 YORKVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N4137.5-W8815.7/5

1954
PHOTOREVISED 1973 AND 1980
DMA 3367 III NE-SERIES V863



Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

Old State Capitol • Springfield • 62701

March 31, 1986

APR 4 1986

Beth Grosvenor
National Register Program
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
1100 L. Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Beth:

Enclosed please find the nomination form, photographs, and USGS maps for the following properties considered at the March 14, 1986 Illinois Historic Sites Advisory Council meeting and signed by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer:

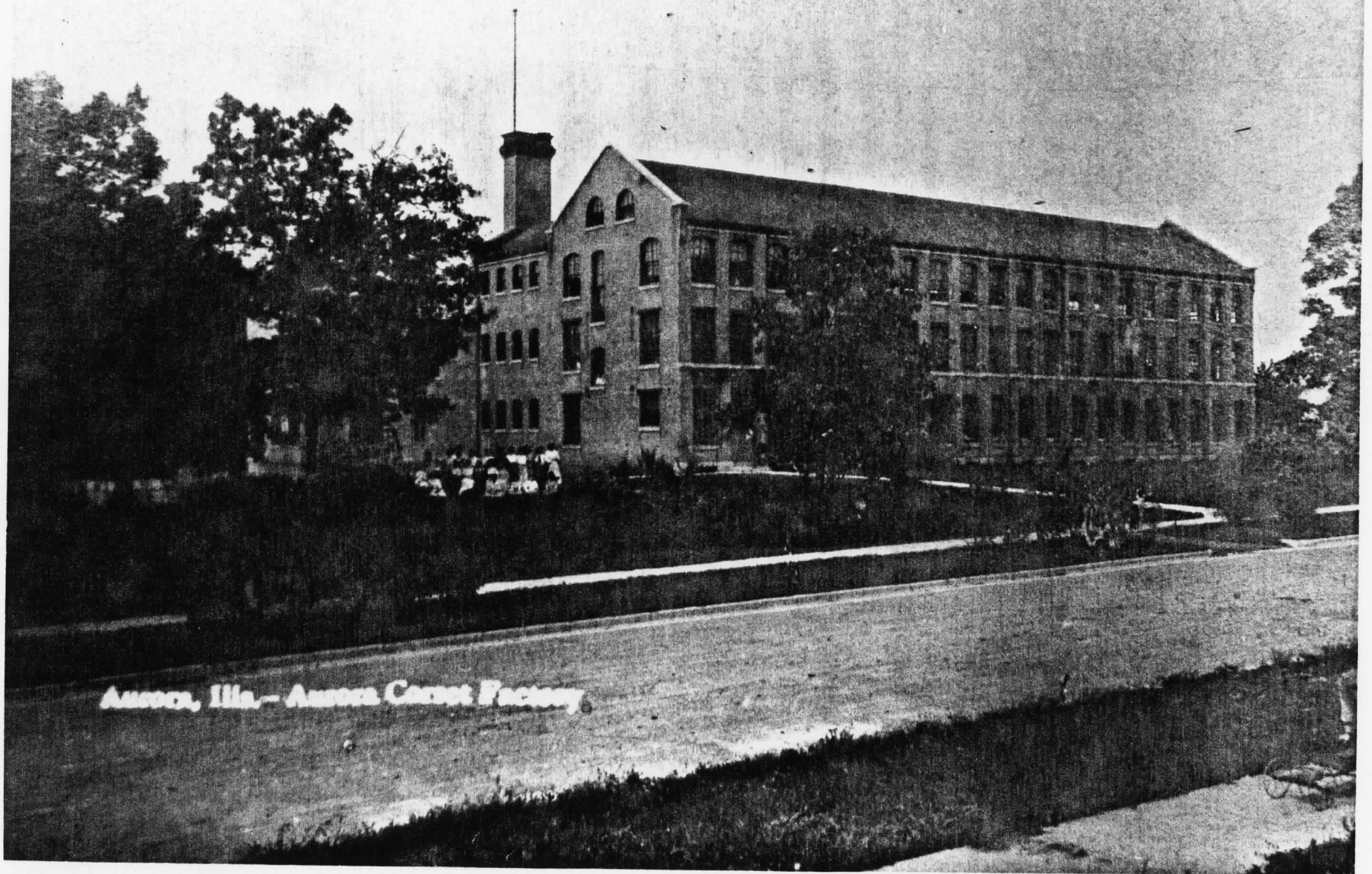
Aurora Watch Factory
Barrington Historic District
The Blackstone Hotel
Conrad, John, House
Hyde Park Apartment Hotels
Hyde Park-Kenwood Boundary Extension
Jeffery-Cyril Historic District
Jersey County Courthouse
Keithsburg Historic District
Lakeview Historic District Boundary Extension
Lemont Methodist Episcopal Church
Stone Arch Bridge
Tiger-Anderson House
Wright, Dr. Charles M., House

Sincerely yours,

Ann V. Swallow
Assistant National Register
Coordinator

AVS;tb
Enclosures

P.S. Due to the weight of the nomination forms I have sent these in two packages.



AURORA WATCH FACTORY -- PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN 1898

Aurosa Watch Factory

(Resource Name)

86001009

(Reference Number[s])

2/26/90

(Date form completed)

Kane

(County)

IL

(State)

E. Ball

(Completed by)

STATUS:

- 1. MISSING _____
- 2. REMOVED/DEMOLISHED
- 3. NHL _____
- 4. TR _____
- 5. MRA _____
- 6. OVER-SIZED _____
- 7. NPS - UNDOCUMENTED _____
- 8. DOE - OWNER OBJECTION _____
- 9. RESTRICTED _____

EXPLANATION:

- 1. Missing Status: Entire Folder () ; Nomination () ; Map(s) () ; Photos ()
Available on: Microfiche () ; Optical Disk ()

2. Destroyed by Fire

(Cause for removal)

12/8/95

(Date Removed)

3. _____
(NHL Name, if different than NRHP Name)

1/1

(Date Designated)

4. _____
(If multi-state/county TR, state/county where filed and location)

(TR or MRA Name)

5. _____
(If multi-state/county MRA, state/county where filed and location)

6. _____
(Location of oversize file)

7. _____
(Current source of partial documentation)

1/1

(Target Date)

COMMENTS:

(Where found, or source of replacement)

1/1

(Date Found/Replaced)

