

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic RICH-McCORMICK WOOLEN FACTORY

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Intersection of LR 18033 and LR 18021,
Little Plum Run Road N/A not for publication

city, town Dunnstable Township X vicinity of Woolrich (23rd Congressional District)

state Pennsylvania code 042 county Clinton code 035

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Scott, Donald L. and Mary Kay

street & number Route 150, P.O. Box D

city, town Avis 17721 N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clinton County Courthouse, Office of Register and Recorder

street & number Water and Jay Streets

city, town Lock Haven 17745 state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Clinton County Historic Site Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date November 15, 1984 Survey Code #035-DS-011 federal state county local

depository for survey records Clinton County Planning Department

151 Susquehanna Avenue Lock Haven 17745 Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Rich-McCormick Woolen Factory is a rectangular three-story common coursed, brick structure set on a foundation of rough-cut stone and covered with an asphalt shingle gable roof. Its dimensions, 32 X 50½ feet, incorporate seven bays along its length and four bays across its width. Exterior architectural features of importance include: 31 six-over-nine windows, three six-over-six windows, seven exterior doors -- two of which are solid and panelled, chamfered porch posts, and a two- and three-story wood wrap-around porch -- the upper floor of which sharply slopes away from the structure. The slope of this porch was constructed to permit the quick runoff of water as it drained from wet wool hung on the porch to dry. Wool fleece was washed at the mill after it was sorted and before being carded and spun.

The interior is dominated by a wide central hall with bracketed stairs and a very plain banister and square balusters. Flanking the central hall on the first floor are three rooms, each more than adequately lit by the large six-over-nine windows which are set within openings surrounded by a panelled recess. At the base of all windows is a chair rail which follows as a continuation of the window sills. On the second floor, there are seven rooms, three of which retain their original proportions. The other four rooms have been partitioned within what originally was one, possibly two larger rooms. The doors opening from the hall on the second floor are original in design and placement. This is also true for three of the original four first floor interior doors.

The basement level is one large room with a dirt floor. Centered in this area is a large 13½-inch square chamfered column which supports the 13½-inch central support beam that runs lengthwise through the building. Also in the basement is a large stone fireplace which has been closed and altered to support ductwork for the central heating system. At this level, two six-over-nine windows were replaced and a central door added in place of a window.

The exterior facade which has shown the greatest stress is the rear or west wall. Originally, it appears as though there was an addition along this wall which extended across the full width and whose roof projected from near the sill level of the upper story windows. It is believed that this addition may have extended over the water-wheel which supplied power to turn the early machinery. Some evidence exists to indicate that a large doorway connected the main brick structure with this addition. This opening had been bricked in and two unattractive windows have been incorporated into this wall. Three other window openings at upper levels have also been filled with brick.

This structure was used as an industrial site for approximately 15 years, until 1845. Based upon oral accounts, the building was then used for storage until approximately 1930. At that time it was renovated and used for residential purposes. Renovations done to the building, circa 1930, included the addition of a kitchen, bathroom, room partitions, the application of interior plywood panelling, the exterior concrete block construction of a one-story room, and the plywood enclosure of the rear bay on the first floor of the large porch. The new owners have removed the exterior additions, the kitchen, and the panelling, uncovering the interior woodwork. The structure, as it appears today, is basically intact. The 1930 alterations covered original features but did not destroy them.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	architecture	education	military	social
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
X 1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater
1900-	communications	X industry	politics government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates Circa 1830 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rich-McCormick Woolen Factory, located in Dunnstable Township, Clinton County is the oldest known factory building associated with the textile industry in Clinton County. During the 1800's wool production and weaving in Clinton County primarily centered around two geographical areas -- the Mill Hall/Salona area and the Dunnstable Township/Pine Creek Township area. In these two areas there were four woolen factories powered by water, an important ingredient in early manufacturing. John Rich II who came to the United States in 1811 and Clinton County in 1820 was associated with all four of these factories. He was a woolcarder by trade having learned that skill in his native England.

The Mill Hall Woolen Factory, which was operated by John Rich II from circa 1820-1827, continued to produce blankets and flannel until at least 1882 under various partnerships including John Henry March, Adam Grape, and George Flanigan, and then the proprietorship of Hudson R. Williams until 1860. This woolen factory was originally owned by Nathan Harvey, the founder of Mill Hall and was later damaged several times by fire. It is identified on an 1862 Map of Clinton County and obtained water power from Fishing Creek. The above mentioned operators of this mill after John Rich II's association were known for their woven Jacquard coverlets. Several other gentlemen rebuilt and leased this structure; however, none are listed as Central Pennsylvania Weavers from 1774-1888 (Walker:44) which would indicate that weaving and textile production were not their primary occupation. This mill no longer exists.

A second woolen factory located on Chatham's Run, Dunnstable Township, was owned by Andrew Ferguson and rented by John Rich II circa 1825-1827. Information about this mill is limited and no references exist to substantiate its existence after John Rich II's involvement. This mill no longer exists.

The third woolen factory, the Rich-McCormick Woolen Factory, was built circa 1830 along Little Plum Run and was then publicized as a new brick factory building. This factory operated for 15 years during which time John Rich II became successful enough to operate the business on his own. Newspaper advertisements indicate that the Rich-McCormick partnership lasted until 1839; however, John Rich II's personal correspondence refers to the partnership as late as 1845.

Production at this factory can be documented by newspaper accounts and includes the carding, spinning and manufacture from fleece into flannel, blankets, sattinets, and wool. Colored fabrics ranged from uncolored (or natural), white, black, brown (all shades), bottle green and all fancy colors, except indigo blue. Orders for finished fabrics, from wool supplied by the patron, were taken from a large geographical area encompassing the Larry's Creek, Newberry, Muncy Town, Lycoming Creek and Jersey Shore areas of Lycoming County as well as Clinton County's Nittany Valley, Sugar Valley, and Nippenose Valley.

(Continued)

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Wool production at the Rich-McCormick Woolen Factory was discontinued in 1843/1845 due to an insufficient water supply from Little Plum Run. Before considering a new site, efforts were made by John Rich II to negotiate with neighboring land owners for the diversion of nearby water courses to this site. Those negotiations failed; whereupon, John Rich II purchased another tract of land north along Chatham's Run, erected a new mill, and moved his operation in 1845. The Little Plum Run structure remained under his ownership until 1872; and related family ownership until 1979. It was subsequently used for a number of years as a storage facility.

The fourth woolen factory, which was just previously mentioned, was constructed circa 1845 for John Rich II on Chatham's Run, Pine Creek Township, approximately two miles north of the Rich-McCormick Woolen Factory. This building has since been incorporated into a large industrial complex by the addition of several structures built to accommodate expansion. Its original configuration and appearance are no longer visible since it has been encompassed by other buildings. Early photos and records of this factory substantiate that it was nearly identical in construction and size to the Rich-McCormick Factory. It was a three-story brick, eight by five bay structure with gable roof and six-over-six windows. Its dimensions were 35 X 55 feet. This site is the present day location of Woolrich, Inc.

Throughout Clinton County's textile history, the Rich family has played a prominent role. Their involvement "is unparalleled in the eight county area (of Central Pennsylvania) and ... has provided a heritage in woolen manufacturing of national and international renown". (Walker:44) John Rich II who organized a partnership for the purpose of carrying on a woolen factory, provided the impetus for its growth. By 1881 the partnership, then conducted by his heirs, expanded their purpose to include a general wholesale and retail trading business in addition to the manufacture of woolens. In 1920 the first garment-making plant was added. At the dissolution of the Rich-McCormick partnership, circa 1845, John Rich II stated the factory's assets at \$5,700. In 1930, 100 years after the opening of the Rich-McCormick Woolen Factory, the partnership became incorporated with declared assets of approximately \$2.3 million.

The company has continued to grow and in 1981 billed itself as the oldest family-owned woolen business in Pennsylvania. It is now known as Woolrich, Inc. Industrial publications note this company as an internationally recognized designer and manufacturer of durable, functional clothing for the outdoor enthusiast. A total of nine plants now comprise the corporation and are located in Pennsylvania, Colorado, Washington, and Nebraska. Corporate headquarters are located in Woolrich, Clinton County just two miles from the oldest woolen factory associated with the corporation.

Founded at a time when weavers and textile producers in Clinton County had an average career length of 4.87 years (based upon tax and census records, Walker:34), John Rich II succeeded in forming a company which has been in existence for more than 150 years. The Rich-McCormick Woolen Factory is significant in the evolution of Woolrich, Inc. since this is the only visible and architecturally intact building associated with John Rich II and the early beginnings of Woolrich, Inc. This building provided the foundation from which successive generations of John Rich II would labor to carry on the family's heritage.

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PUBLISHED SOURCES:

- _____. Commemorative Biographical Record of Central Pennsylvania.
Chicago: J.H. Beers and Co., 1898, 625.
- Linn, John Blair. History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Pennsylvania. Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania: J. B. Lippincott and Co., 1883, 656, 574.
- Rich, M. B. History of the First 100 Years in Woolrich. Woolrich, Pennsylvania,
1930, 16, 22, 25, 75, 76, 130, 133.
- Walker, Sandra Rambo. Country Cloth to Coverlets: Textile Traditions in 19th
Century Central Pennsylvania. Lewisburg, Pennsylvania: Oral Traditions
Project of the Union County Historical Society, 1981, 12, 32-33, 44-47.

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS:

- Clinton County (PA) Office of Register and Recorder, Deed Book 289/610, 290/677,
273/258, 129/102, 113/128, 98/149, 85/33, 85/32, 88/4, 58/170, Y/303.
- Clinton County (PA) Register of Wills, Will Book 0/404.
- Lycoming County (PA) Office of Register and Recorder, Deed Book 19/25.

UNPUBLISHED SOURCES:

- _____. "Woolrich: 150th Anniversary Outdoor Hall of Fame" Woolrich,
PA, 1980, Brochure located in files of "Historic Directions" P. O. Box 222,
Lock Haven, PA.

NEWSPAPER REFERENCES:

- "The Lycoming Chronicle", Williamsport, PA: Alexander Cummings, Jr., Vol.11,
No. 16, Wednesday, May 14, 1834. (Located on microfilm at James V. Brown
Library, Williamsport, PA).
- "The Lycoming Chronicle and West Branch Courier", Williamsport, PA: A. B.
Cummings, October 20, 1830 (This reference in possession of Geneva
Rich Bickel, Woolrich and copy held by "Historic Directions", P. O. Box
222, Lock Haven, PA).

ORAL INTERVIEWS:

- Interview with Geneva Rich Bickel, Descendent of John Rich, Woolrich, PA,
February 18, 1985.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at an iron pin situate at the intersection of Pennsylvania Highway Route No. 18021 and Pennsylvania Highway Route No. 18033, said iron pin being situate along the Northwestern line of Pennsylvania Highway Route No. 18033 and being the Southeast corner of the parcel herein described; thence along the Northern line of Pennsylvania Highway Route No. 18033, the following three (3) courses and distances: (1) South 33 degrees 35 minutes West, a distance of one hundred fifty-eight and 4/10 (158.4) feet to an iron pin; (2) South 31 degrees 19 minutes West, a distance of one hundred forty-eight (148) feet to an iron pin; and (3) South 24 degrees 01 minutes West, a distance of one hundred twenty-nine and 1/10 (129.1) feet to an iron pin situate at the intersection of Pennsylvania Highway No. 18033 and Pennsylvania Highway Route No. 18014; thence along the Northern line of Pennsylvania Highway Route No. 18014, South 41 degrees 01 minute West, a distance of thirty-eight and 7/10 (38.7) feet to a point situate in Plum Run at the bridge; thence through and along the said Plum Run the following four (4) courses and distances: (1) North 5 degrees 55 minutes West, a distance of sixty-six (66) feet to an iron pin; (2) North 10 degrees 8 minutes East, a distance of two hundred forty-three and 4/10 (243.4) feet to an iron pin; (3) North 23 degrees 51 minutes West, a distance of forty and 2/10 (40.2) feet to an iron pin; and (4) North 11 degrees 54 minutes West, a distance of two hundred eighty-four and 2/10 (284.2) feet to an iron pin, said iron pin being the Northwest corner of the parcel herein described; thence North 74 degrees 44 minutes East, a distance of ninety-one and 4/10 (91.4) feet to an iron pin situate on the Southern line of Pennsylvania Highway Route No. 18021; thence along the southern line of Pennsylvania Highway Route No. 18021 the following four (4) courses and distances: (1) South 15 degrees 51 minutes East, a distance of one hundred (100) feet to a point; (2) South 25 degrees 26 minutes East, a distance of one hundred and twelve (112) feet to an iron pin; (3) South 75 degrees 40 minutes East, a distance of one hundred eleven and 9/10 (111.9) feet to an iron pin; and, (4) South 33 degrees 43 minutes East, a distance of sixteen and 6/10 (16.6) feet to an iron pin, the place of beginning.

Containing an area of 1.49 acres.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.49 acres

Quadrangle name Jersey Shore

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UTM References

A 18 | 30101810 | 4561021810
Zone Easting Northing

B | |
Zone Easting Northing

C | |

D | |

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan B. Hannegan and G. Jean May, Partners

organization Historic Directions

date May 13, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 222

telephone 717-726-6653 or 748-8424

city or town Lock Haven 17745

state Pennsylvania

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 Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/11/85

For NPS use only

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

date

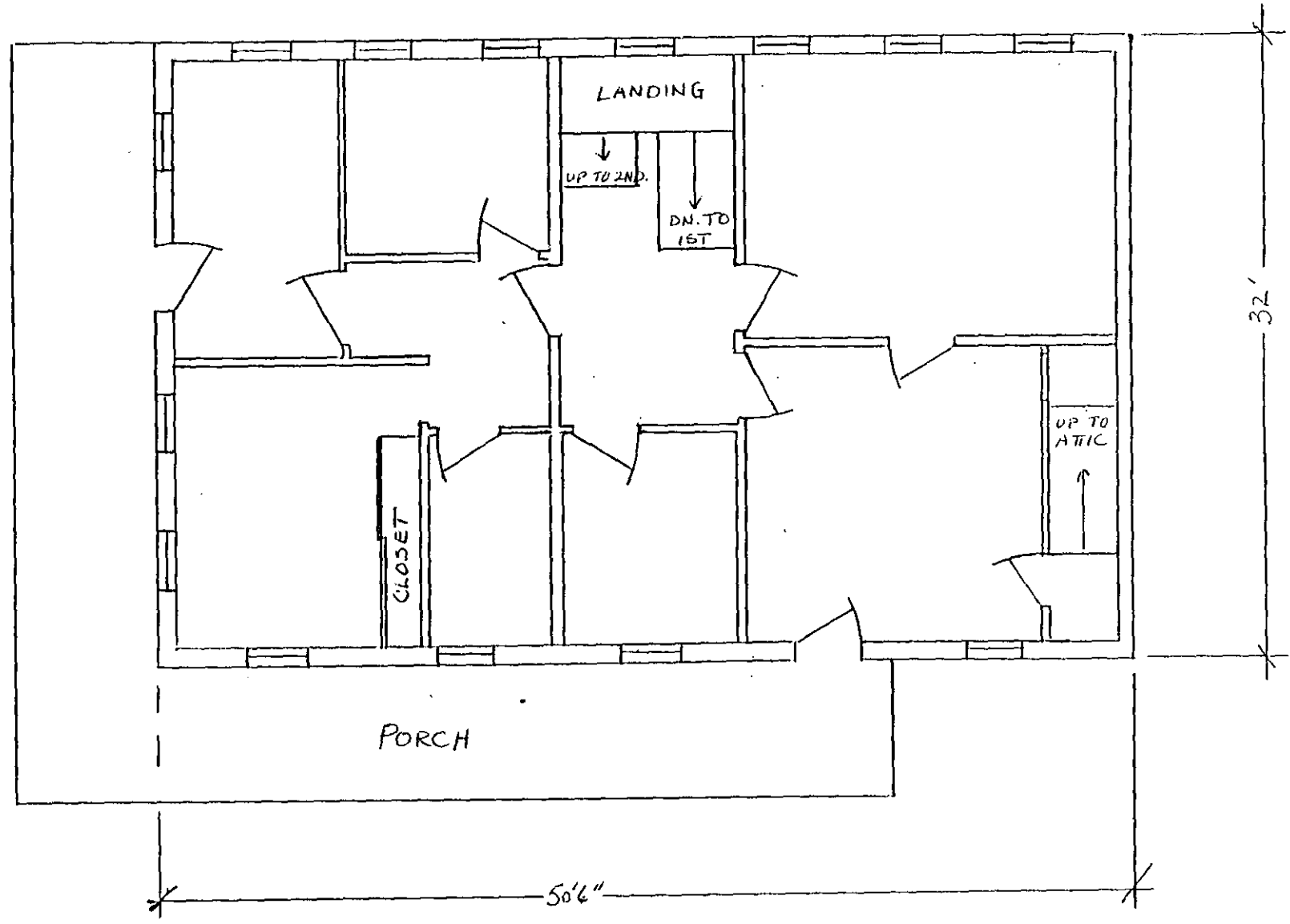
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

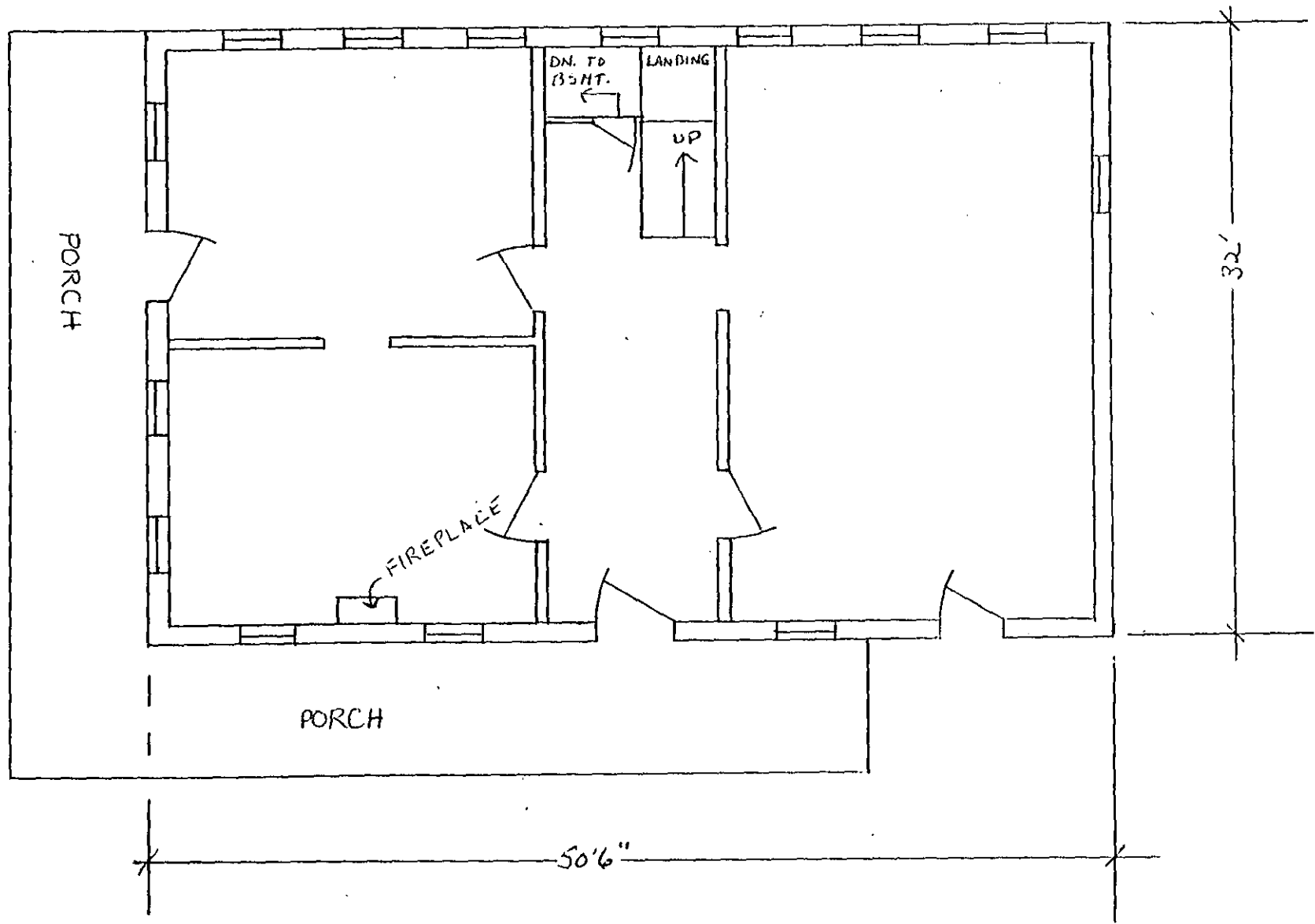
Chief of Registration

Second Floor
Scale 1/8 inch = 1 foot



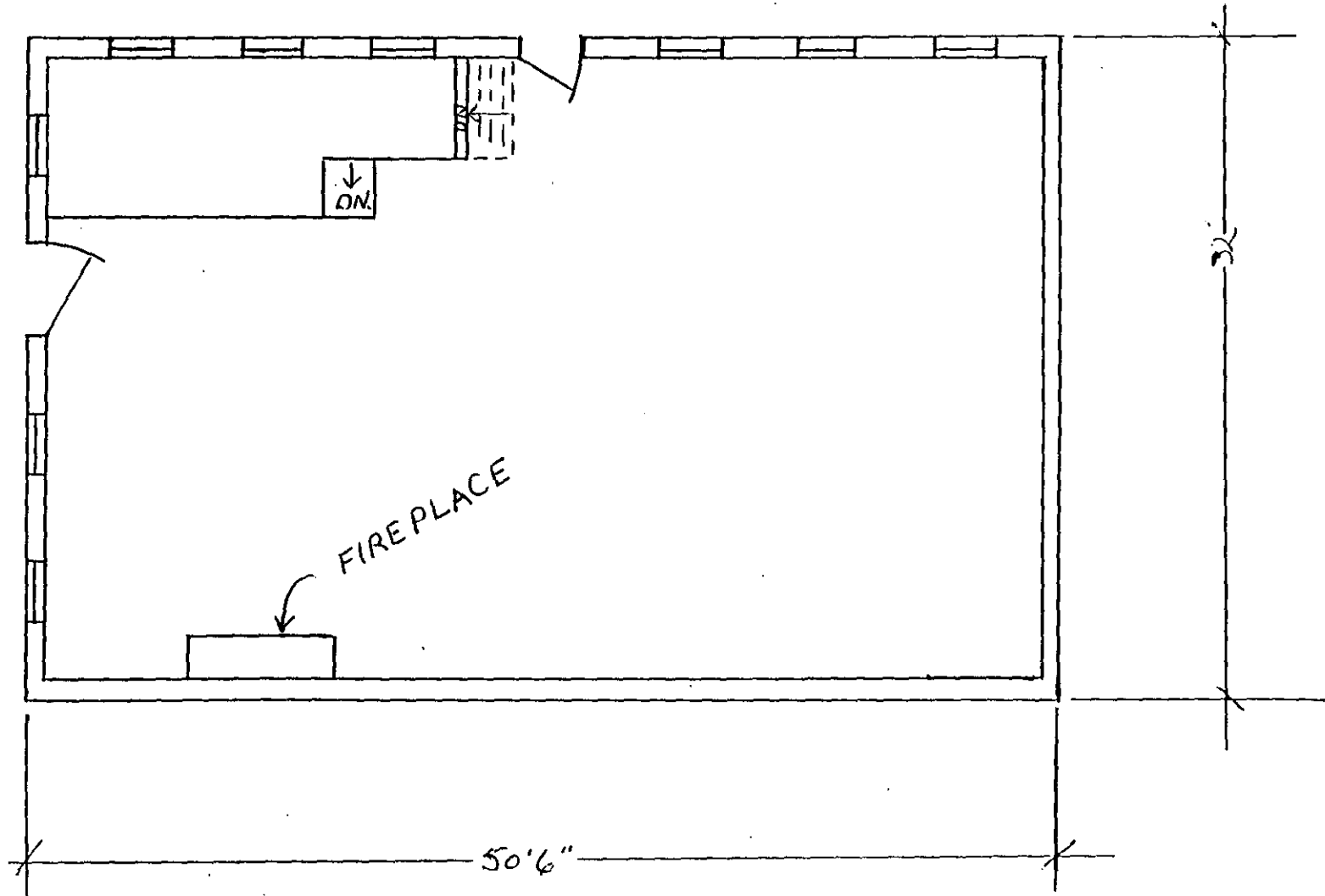
RICH-McCORMICK WOOLEN FACTORY
Clinton County, PA

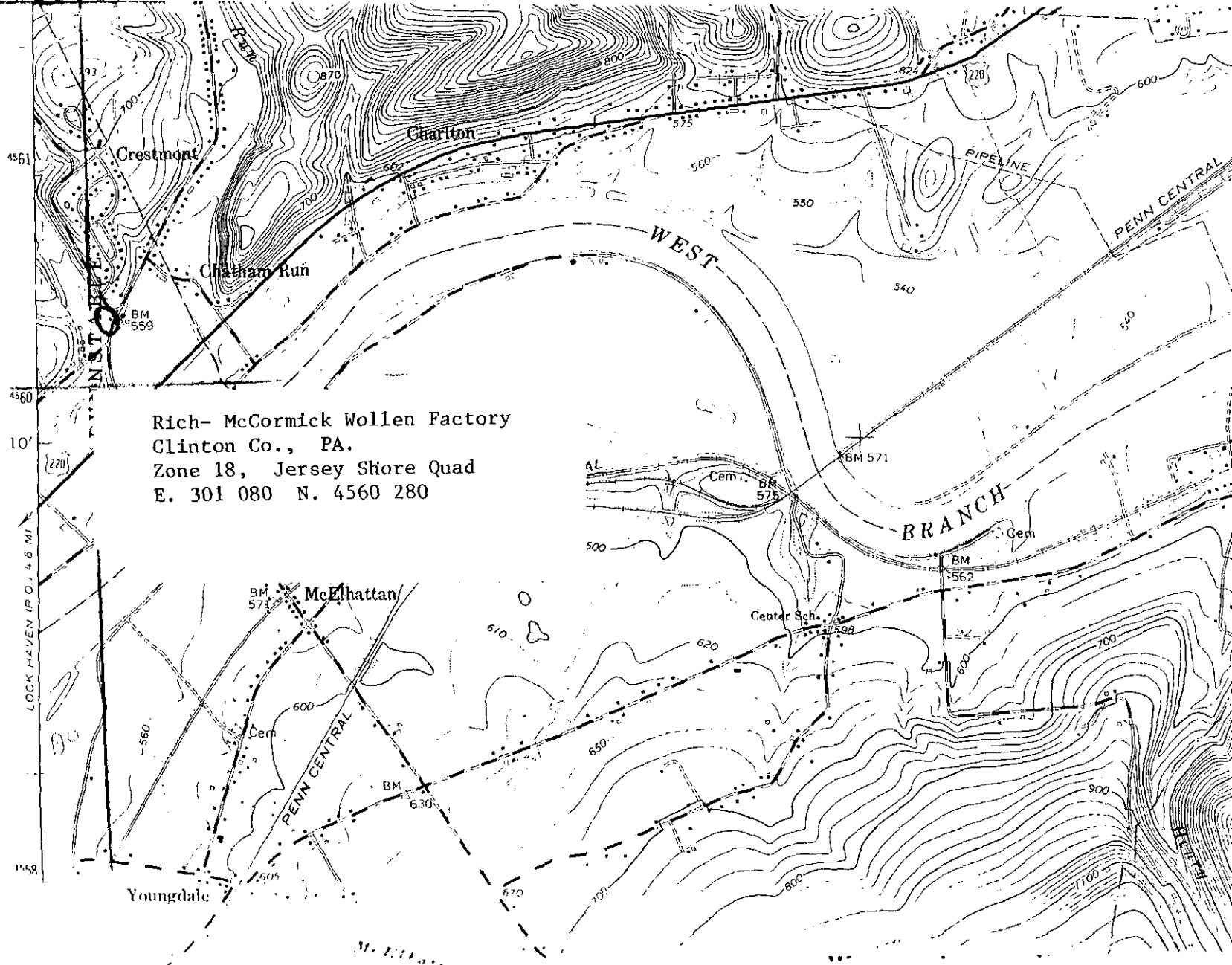
First Floor
Scale 1/8 inch = 1 foot



RICH-McCORMICK WOOLEN FACTORY
Clinton County, PA

Basement Level
Scale 1/8 inch = 1 foot





Rich- McCormick Wollen Factory
Clinton Co., PA.
Zone 18, Jersey Shore Quad
E. 301 080 N. 4560 280

301-017
4560-240

LOCK HAVEN PROJ 4.6 MI