

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 Follmer, Clogg and Company Umbrella Factory

and or common Van Sciver Building

2. Location

street & number 254-260 West King Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Lancaster N/A vicinity of

state PA code 042 county Lancaster code 071

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name H & H Enterprises

street & number 3 Lark Lane

city, town Lancaster N/A vicinity of state PA 17603

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lancaster County Courthouse

street & number 50 North Duke Street

city, town Lancaster state PA 17602

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Architectural Survey of Lancaster County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1978-1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County

city, town 123 North Prince Street, Lancaster state PA 17603

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
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The former Follmer, Clogg and Company umbrella factory is a massive building, built in several stages between the years c. 1880 and c. 1905. The factory is situated on a sloping hill in the midst of a residential neighborhood in Lancaster City. Constructed of brick, the factory building measures approximately 144 feet by 250 feet and is U-shaped in plan. The building possesses a large part of its original architectural integrity. Presently the structure is in good condition though it has been vacant since 1982.

The Follmer, Clogg and Company umbrella factory is located at the southeast corner of West King Street and South Mulberry Street. The original building on the site was built c. 1880 by Peter Otto, a manufacturer of coverlets. In c. 1892 a five story addition facing West King Street was constructed by The Umbrella Company, a partnership including Follmer, Clogg and Company. Additions were made to the rear of the factory in c. 1900 and c. 1903 by Follmer, Clogg and Company. In c. 1905, Follmer, Clogg and Company made one final addition to the structure. Duplicating the facade of the c. 1892 structure, this addition was added to the front along West King Street. Alterations to the factory took place in 1944 when the structure was purchased by the Van Sciver Furniture Company. In 1977, the building was again altered by the Van Sciver Furniture Company.

The original building on the site of the Follmer, Clogg and Company factory was used for the manufacture of coverlets and counterpanes. Constructed c. 1880, the building faces along South Mulberry Street. The building is five stories in height near the corner of West King Street and tapers to three stories at Mifflin Street. This long narrow structure is sixteen bays by four bays and has a gable roof. The Mulberry Street elevation has one segmental arched double door entry. Paired and single segmental arch windows with decorative window hoods are found above the second story. Below the second story, the facade is very plain. Most of the windows are nine over nine sash. The Mifflin Street elevation has segmental arched windows with decorative window hoods and nine over nine sash. One of the four bays on this elevation has large round arch door openings with decorative hoods. One original round arch wood paneled double door remains. Brick corbelling at the roofline, brick beltcourses between the stories and raised brick piers also decorate this structure.

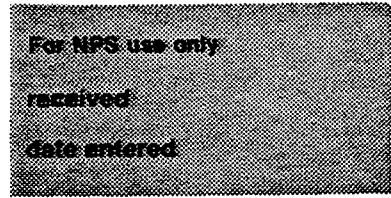
The first addition to the factory was completed c. 1892 when The Umbrella Company began to use the building for the manufacture of silk umbrellas. This addition is situated at the corner of West King Street and South Mulberry Street. The facade, which faces on West King Street, is six bays wide and five stories high. A corbelled brick cornice and corbelled brick end piers decorate this elevation. Decorative brick spandrels divide the second and third, and third and fourth stories. The original one over one and two over two rectangular sash and round arch sash remain in good condition. Originally the first story windows were also round arch sash, though they are presently rectangular storefront windows. Paired narrow segmental arch sash windows are found on the fifth story. Five tall, thin rectangular openings, now bricked-in, are found on the fifth story near the corner of West King and South Mulberry Streets. All the windows have rough stone sills. The two bay South Mulberry Street elevation is identical to the West King Street elevation and includes the five tall, thin bricked-in rectangular openings on the fifth story. The second story windows are presently bricked-in on this elevation. Originally the c. 1892 addition had a two bay, six and one-half story corner tower with hipped roof, corbelled brick chimneys and round pinnacle.

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Because of the need for additional work space, the factory was added to three more times. A four story, three bay brick structure was added to the rear along Mifflin Street c. 1900. This very simple, flat roof factory building had segmental arch windows with twelve over twelve sash. This addition was used for the expansion of the shipping, cutting and tipping departments. In c. 1903 a five story, four bay by sixteen bay structure was added to the rear along Mifflin Street. It is of mill construction. This simple rectangular shaped building, originally used as a silk mill, has six over six segmental arch windows. The first story along the east elevation once had segmental arched window openings that are presently bricked-in. The Mifflin Street elevation has a rectangular double door entry and a segmental arched doorway with transom on the first story. Tall segmental arched doorways are found on the second, third and fourth stories. One of the original double doors with transom can be seen on the fourth story. The fifth story doorway is rectangular in shape and has a glass and wood paneled double door. Between 1904 and 1909, a four story, five bay brick structure was added to the east of the c. 1892 building along West King Street. This addition was identical in design and detail to the facade of the c. 1892 section.

The Follmer, Clogg and Company factory has gone through two periods of alterations over the years. In 1944 the Van Sciver Furniture Company of New Jersey purchased the factory. The new owners converted the umbrella factory into furniture showrooms, warehouse, repair shops and administrative offices. To modernize the exterior of the structure, the top story and one-half of the corner tower was removed. Very little was altered on the interior except for the converting of the large open spaces in the c. 1892 building into small temporary furniture display rooms. In 1977, the Van Sciver Company again altered the structure. Approximately \$500,000 was spent to renovate the building and grounds. Work included the removal of the front portion of the c. 1905 addition to the east along West King Street to allow additional parking, the alteration of the first story along West King Street and South Mulberry Street to increase showroom visibility, and the bricking-up of many of the warehouse windows. The first story of the West King Street elevation was altered by enlarging the original round arch sash into rectangular storefront windows, masking the original brick with a stucco covered styrofoam material and placing a large aluminum sign board above the storefront. The sign board presently continues along the east side of the c. 1892 section and the remaining rear portion of the c. 1905 section. Fortunately, most of the original brick remains under the first story alterations, and most of the original window sash remain on the inside of the bricked window openings.

Presently, the interior of the factory consists of many large areas of open space, detailed only by the hard wood floors, multipaned double-hung sash and round or rectangular columns that support the structural weight of the building. Many of these large spaces have been converted into small furniture showrooms without harm to the structure.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1880, 1892, 1900, 1903 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Follmer, Clogg and Company umbrella factory is significant for its relationship to the manufacture of umbrellas, Lancaster's most important turn-of-the-century industry. It is also significant as the largest manufacturer of umbrellas in Lancaster City in the early 20th century and as an innovative producer of parachutes.

According to the United States Bureau of Census, Pennsylvania led the nation in the manufacture of umbrellas in 1900. \$5.9 million dollars worth of goods were produced in Pennsylvania that year. Lancaster City operations boasted \$2.7 million dollars worth of the goods. Six factories were located in Lancaster, several of which were cottage industries. Silk mills and umbrella handle factories were located in Columbia, Marietta and Lancaster City to supply raw materials for the production of umbrellas. Umbrella manufacturing became Lancaster's most important industry, employing 15% of the City's industrial workforce (1,300 workers) and producing a greater dollar amount worth of goods than Lancaster's second leading industry, tobacco. By the 1920's, Lancaster was boasting the production of more umbrellas each year than any other city in America.

The Follmer, Clogg and Company started business in Philadelphia in 1884. In 1892, Follmer, Clogg and Company joined with Rose Brothers and Hartman Company and several other producers of umbrellas and parasols in Lancaster to form the Lancaster based The Umbrella Company. At that time, Rose Brothers and Hartman occupied the former coverlet factory of Peter Otto on South Mulberry Street near the corner of West King Street. This building constructed c. 1880 forms the oldest portion of the Follmer, Clogg and Company Umbrella Company. Shortly after the formation of the Umbrella Company, the company took over this building and added a large five story plant at the corner of West King and South Mulberry Streets in the same year. Two years later, in 1894, The Umbrella Company went into bankruptcy and a receiver was appointed.

In the Fall of 1894, the principle members of the firms Rose Brothers and Hartman; Follmer, Clogg and Company; and Alvah Hall and Company purchased the assets of The Umbrella Company and incorporated under the name Follmer, Clogg and Company. The Follmer, Clogg and Company umbrella operations prospered at the corner of West King and South Mulberry Streets producing large black silk family sized "bumbershoots". In c. 1900, the company erected an addition to the rear to expand the snipping, cutting and tipping departments. In c. 1903 a five story building, used solely for silk weaving and warping, was also added to the rear. Again, in c. 1905 an addition was constructed to the front along West King Street. Mills were also established in Columbia and Lancaster City for weaving of silk. By 1924, the company had a working capital of \$2 million dollars, the largest working capital of any umbrella manufacturer in Lancaster. According to the 1924 publication, LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA: A HISTORY, Follmer, Clogg and Company was known throughout Lancaster as the largest manufacturer of umbrellas in the City and the largest umbrella factory in the United States.

During World War I, Follmer, Clogg and Company, in addition to its regular business, produced large numbers of life-saving parachutes for the United States Navy and the United States Army. In addition to personnel parachutes, the company made handkerchief

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chutes and flare chutes. Follmer, Clogg and Company also invented, patented and manufactured a civilian parachute called the "Follmer, Clogg and Company Positive Opening Parachute". This parachute featured a large canopy whose gores were shaped with a "V" cut configuration at its base and a new type of pilot parachute. After the war, the umbrella factory reverted generally to making its original product until its close in 1939. Parachutes continued to be produced in the silk mill at the rear of West King and South Mulberry Streets into the mid 1940's by the Eagle Parachute Company, a subsidiary of Follmer, Clogg and Company. The Eagle Parachute Company was important for producing the "Eagle" Personnel Parachute, one of the first successful steerable parachutes, patented in May 1938 by Richard H. Hart. The initial acceptance and wide use of this parachute was seen when, in 1939, it was the first parachute employed for fire control by the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Smokejumpers.

In 1939, after 47 years of operations at the same site, the Follmer, Clogg and Company sold its assets, closed its books and divided the remains among the stockholders. The silk umbrella business had decreased rapidly due to the popularity of rainwear and to the introduction of synthetic fabrics, which Follmer, Clogg and Company did not have the equipment to produce. In 1944, the building was acquired by the Van Sciver Furniture Company of Camden, New Jersey. The building served as a furniture store, warehouse and repair shop until its closing in 1982. Presently, the buildings stand vacant.

Like the Rose Brothers and Company Umbrella Factory, already listed on the National Register, the historical significance of the Follmer, Clogg and Company umbrella factory lies in its connection to the manufacturing of umbrellas, Lancaster's most important turn-of-the-century industry. Though Rose Brothers and Company was the pioneer umbrella manufacturer in Lancaster, Follmer, Clogg and Company was the largest producer of umbrellas in Lancaster, owning and operating not only the umbrella factory, but also the silk mills that supplied the fabrics for umbrellas. The Follmer, Clogg and Company is also an innovative manufacturer of parachutes.

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

See attached.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property one acre

Quadrangle name Lancaster

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	8	3	88	18	0	4	4	3	3	5	0	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

See attached.

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 Mary T. Wiley, Director of Preservation Services

organization Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County date February 1986

street & number 123 North Prince Street telephone (717) 291-5861

city or town Lancaster state PA 17603

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 Dr. Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 2/20/86

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Atlas of Lancaster County, 1899.

Gold, David. "The 'Eagle' Parachute - An Interesting Unique Personnel Parachute of the 1940's", Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society. Vol. 88, No. 3, 1984, pp. 86-107.

Klein, H. M. M., Editor. Lancaster County, PA: A History. 4 Vols. (NY: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., 1924) Vol. 2, pp. 694-95; Vol. 3, pp. 53-4.

Lancaster City Directories, 1880 - 1930.

Loose, John W. W. The Heritage of Lancaster (CA: Windsor Publications, 1978) pp. 90; 131-32.

Reilly, Richard M. Resources and Industries of the City of Lancaster (Lancaster Board of Trade, c. 1909) pp. 8; 84.

Sanborn Insurance Map, City of Lancaster, 1886; 1897; updated 1901; 1904.

Twelfth Census of the U.S. - 1900 Census of Manufacturers (Washington: United States Census Office, 1902) Vol. IX, Part III, pp. 224-25.

. . . Vol. VIII, Part II, pp. 757, 768-69; 780-81.

. . . Vol. VII, Part I, pp. 435-41; 576.

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Commencing at the property line at the southeast corner of West King Street and South Mulberry Street in Lancaster City, the property extends 180.6 feet to the east along the West King Street property line; 151.1 feet to the south on the east property line; 184.4 feet to the west along the Mifflin Street property line; and 151.4 feet to the north along the South Mulberry Street property line.

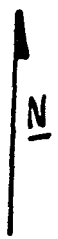
The boundaries of the Follmer, Clogg and Company Umbrella Factory have been determined to include the complex of buildings associated with the original company. The boundaries drawn are the historical and the present extent of the property.

● LLMER, GOSG & CO UMBRELLA

FACTORY

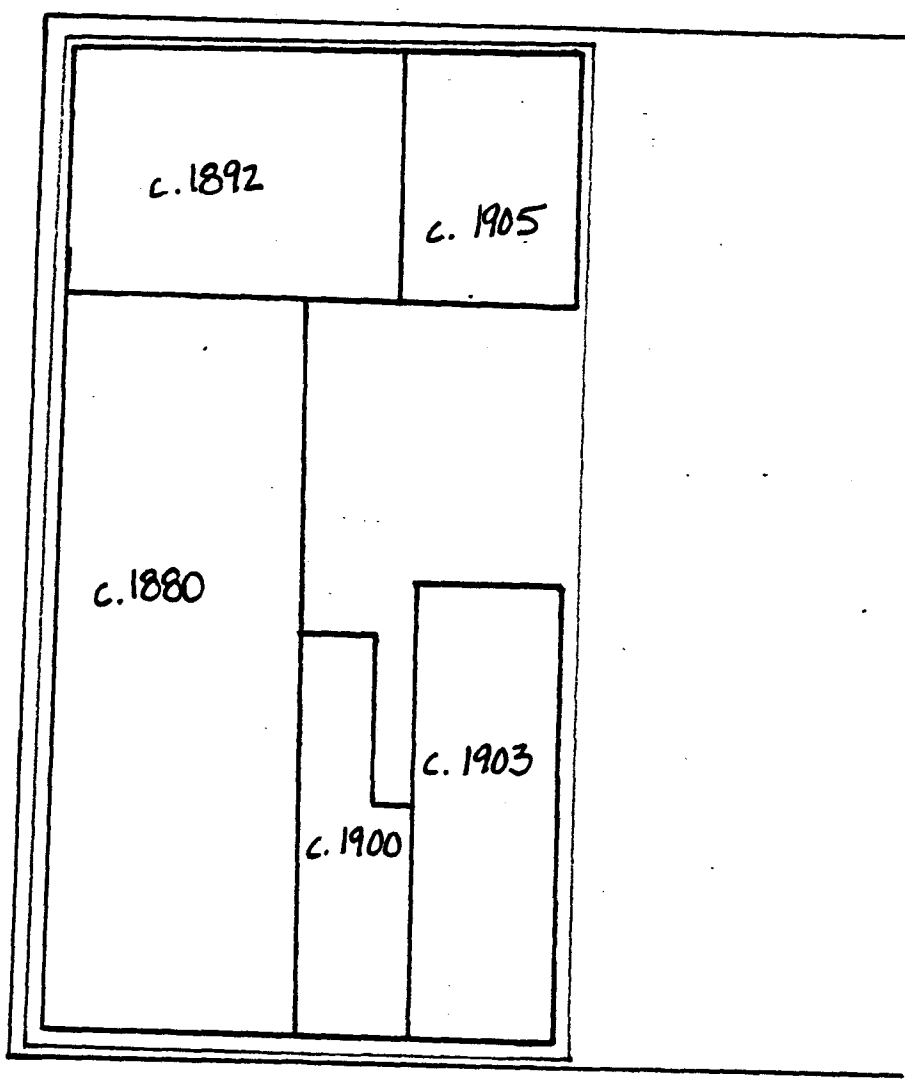
LANCASTER CITY PA
LANCASTER COUNTY
SITE MAP

— BOUNDARIES



WEST KING STREET

SOUTH MULBERRY STREET



MIFFLIN STREET



FOLLMER, CLOGG AND COMPANY
UMBRELLA FACTORY
Lancaster County
Lancaster Quadrangle
Zone 18
E388180 N4432500

COA
CODE

431

430

442900m N