(2) Dining Hall / Administration Building

Constructed in 1913-1914, the Dining Hall / Administration Building was built as a two story brick structure of fireproof concrete construction, 7 bays wide and 5 bays deep, and embellished with stone and terra cotta ornamentation. According to the architect Perrot, “The building has a frontage on the main road of one hundred and four feet and a depth of eighty-five feet, and is two stories in height. It is constructed of red brick with stone and terra cotta trimmings, and is of fireproof construction. Special attention has been given to the architecture to make it attractive.” Much like its residential counterparts across Tenth Street, the structure sits on a raised English basement. A central, brick-faced projecting wall capped with decorative wrought iron fencing is flanked on either side by curved exterior staircases that lead to a curved landing preceding the entry hall.

The central five bays are slightly recessed behind the flanking end stair towers. Each of these five bays features an arched window opening, separated from one another by a brick pilaster with terra cotta coping. The large, segmentally arched window openings on the first floor originally featured fifty light windows, but have since been replaced by three part bronzed aluminum window systems. The brick keystones are still evident in the arches. Originally, a projecting semi-octagonal pavilion entry extended from the central bay, but in the mid-1980s, this entry was demolished. The original paired door opening is still present but is now boarded over. Entry to the building is through the 1920 entrances flanking the central bay. The western entrance still retains its paneled wood and glass door, projecting molded cornice, and decorative scrolled consoles.

The end stair towers are simple in nature and feature a short, rectangular window opening in the raised basement. A single window opening, accentuated by a double course segmental brick arch, is set in a blind arch at the landing between the first and second stories.

Originally functioning solely as a dining hall, the structure was extensively remodeled in 1920 to also accommodate administrative functions. As part of this remodeling, Flemish gables set on each elevation of the corner stair pavilions and Craftsman-style hoods located between those gables were removed. An original roof garden was also removed at this time. In its place, a third story with a bowling alley was added to the central mass and a three story, three bay wing was added to either side elevation, essentially doubling the building’s frontage. The original roofline is now demarcated by a slightly projecting brick soldier-laid belt course that spans the entire structure.

The three story, three bay wings are similar in character to the original structure. A raised English basement, distinguish by a brick corbel table, features a pair of rectangular window openings flanking a pair of entry doors with transom above. A full-height brick pilaster accentuated by terra cotta coping separates each of the bays. The first and second story windows are identical to those of the main mass: three part bronzed aluminum systems. The spandrels below these windows are accentuated by decorative
brickwork tables inset with geometric Mercer tile. The third floor is identical to the third story added to the original structure. Paired replacement aluminum windows systems fill each bay with herringbone patterned brick tables and Mercer tile at the spandrels.

The two stair towers were also altered during the 1920 remodeling. Each was extended with a third floor and a stepped parapet that peaks above the roofline. The stair towers’ third stories feature a single bronzed aluminum replacement window, originally emphasized with a wrought iron balconet, and trimmed in glazed terra cotta tile; the balconets have since been removed. Three large square geometric, polychromatic Mercer tiles embellish the stair towers’ stepped parapets.

An ornate, heavy terra cotta cornice with elaborate sculpted frieze and decorative consoles, which supports the hipped roof’s wide, overhanging eaves, traverses the entire structure and aesthetically ties the original structure and additions together. Below the cornice, a wide frieze panel of glazed terra cotta tile ornamentation runs the length of the building. Three hipped roof skylights (now boarded over) accentuate the roof; the central skylight is set parallel to Tenth Street and the skylight on either side is set perpendicular.

In the early-twentieth century, an additional stair tower was constructed on the west elevation, recessed one bay from the main mass. The stair tower features a projecting entrance pavilion capped with a stepped, triangular parapet trimmed in terra cotta coping. A heavily sculpted, rectangular terra cotta plaque embellished with ribbon motif swag and floral medallions at either end accentuates the aluminum and glass entrance, now boarded over. A three-step brick corbel table continued from the main mass extends to ¾ door height. The stair tower windows are set between thick brick pilasters trimmed with terra cotta coping at each floor. The first floor window, set in a blind arch, features a stained glass fanlight, accentuated by a course of soldier-laid brick that extends across the tower’s façade. The second and third story windows are replacement bronzed aluminum one-over-one sashes. A decorative table of diagonally laid brick and polychromatic, geometric Mercer tile highlight the wall between the openings. The three-part window system at the apex of the stair tower was enclosed with brick at an unknown date.
DINING HALL AND RECREATION BUILDING

INDUSTRIAL VILLAGE OF THE VISCOSI COMPANY

MARCUS HOOK, PA.
1920 Dining Hall, with side additions and third floor replacing roof garden/dance floor
1992 view of Dining Hall/Administration Building, American Viscose Company
The accompanying site plan was drawn at the peak of production. It shows a site packed with facilities. The larger number have been pulled down, and those saved are the most re-usable under current market planning. The site as-built represents flow-type response to industrial problem solving, and adaptibility to an expanding market.

The structures for submission are:

1. The research and Development building #1 - Brick 7 concrete.
2. The Office building #2 - Brick .C 1916

The Viscose factory was the first producer of rayon in the country. Between 1909 and 1911, Samuel A. Salvage arranged with the British manufacturer of "artificial silk" to produce it in the United States. The plant in Marcus Hook was built in 1909, and by 1911, had turned out 362,000 pounds of yarn. Its slipperyness was a major obstacle to both use and production, and the invention of the "box" quadrupled production and established the company's lead over its competitors. Thereafter research, development and applications testing became a major part of the company's profile. Facilities duplicating those of secondary manufacture were designed at the plant, hence the large structure housing test areas for weaving.
Computer Coding (BHP Survey Grantees Must Complete)

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49. Facade Width

50. Construction Feature

51. Ext. Design Feature

52. Int. Design Feature

53. Comment

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EVALUATOR(S)

SEPTEMBER 1986
26. Description (Continued)

3. The Packaging and Shipping Building #6 - Brick.

4. The five story Warehouse #7 - Brick and Concrete.

5. Administration (attached to Office Building) #3 - Brick (referred to as the Dining/Recreation Hall) c. 1913, expanded 1916.

Building #1 is 1930's "modern" and functional. Sited on the corner of the property, it is hugely imposing.

Building #2 and #3 are joined by an enclosed stair, and link the brick styles of original factory construction. Decorative features predominate on the Dining Hall, consisting of terra cotta tiles in geometric order, and an imposing overhanging eave and cornices.

Building #6 is a ranging one story long, assembly type structure with angled skylights called "sawtooth".

Building #7 of concrete and brick is typical of warehouse construction in the 1930's, and repeated in several structures in industrial Philadelphia. It was highly adaptable to storage or assembly.

Surviving artifacts of manufacture include hundreds of spinning spindles.

27. Statement of Significance (Continued)

cutting, sewing, dyeing, worsting, finishing, etc. added to the plant infrastructure. The plant provided rayon for bomb parachutes used in the Allied Campaign in North Africa in 1943, and low-level attacks on Japanese air bases in the Pacific Islands. Production was considered secret, and was "not to be released" outside the company. (War Dept. telegram, Feb 12, 1943.)

The tall brick chimney stack represents a sophisticated and advanced ventilation system intended to protect workers at ground level from fumes. Lastly, evidence of advanced and innovative industrial was the construction of buildings for the employees community: dining and recreation hall, dispensary, town hall and fire house. The Dining Hall (said to have served 10,000 meals a day) and fire house remain on the property described here. (The village is to be considered separately, as ownership is individual and private.)

As yet unsubstantiated, the plant is said to have produced the first cellophane for food packaging for direct sale to humans. However, the technical problems were solved by a variety of competing companies, and "first" may possibly be hard to prove.

The drawings archive is exceptional. The architectural and engineering drawings inventory is virtually complete, from founding to recent sale. They were done by Ballinger and Perrot, founded 1878, among the oldest American engineering firms continuously in business.
7. Local Survey Organization

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23. Date

24. Prepared By:

25. Revision(s) (continue on back if necessary)

26. Sources of Information (continue on back if necessary)

27. Local Survey Organization

BUREAU FOR HISTORICAL PRESERVATION
PA HISTORICAL & MUSEUM COMMISSION
Box 1026
Harrisburg, PA 17120
The Administration Building was constructed in two sections. The west section (constructed 1909) stylistically is more ornate and detailed than the east section which was built later (c. 1930?). The west section is a four story brick Italianate structure with a projecting octagonal bay multiple entrance. Windows are double-hung. Exterior decoration includes patterned brickwork, cornice brackets, enamel paint designs, terra cotta foliage and stained glass in several windows. The flat roof has extended eaves. The east section is a three story brick Italianate structure with a projecting entrance (double doors). Windows are double hung. Exterior decoration is minimal; restricted to an area over the entrance. The two sections are connected by a five (continue on back if necessary)

The Viscose Factory is reputedly the first manufacturer of synthetic Rayon Fiber in the United States. The factory was built by Samuel Agar Salvage who was born in London in 1876, who emigrated to the U.S. in 1893. In 1897, he started the business as an importer and a salesman of cotton yarn. He began to import so called "Artificial" (continue on back if necessary)


(continue on back if necessary)
26. Continued

/four story brick structure. There are several brick chimneys. Both sections face northwest. The structure is surrounded by a fieldstone fence and wrought iron gate.

27. Continued

Silk" from Germany and found that there was a market for it in the braid and trimming trade. In 1909, he contacted a British manufacturer of the thread, Samuel Courtland & Co. (Coventry, England), and suggested that they build a plant in Marcus Hook. The factory which was built that same year did experience some initial problems as the workers did not know how to handle the sticky thread (first spinning of "Artificial Silk" began on Sunday night, December 18, 1910). By 1911, the factory was producing 362,000 pounds of the yarn per year. By 1917, a second factory was needed and one was built in Roanoke, Virginia. The name "Rayon" was adopted by Kenneth Lord in 1924. Lord was elected President of the company in 1925. In 1937, he became chairman of the Board and remained so until his death in 1946. By 1936, Viscoze had the largest Rayon Mills in the world and employed 5,000 workers. A research department including sections for spinning, worsting, warping, weaving, knitting, dyeing, and finishing the Rayon was established at the factory in 1939.

Photos continued on next card
PENNSYLVANIA HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY FORM

7. Local survey organization

8. County

9. Municipality

10. U.T.M. zone

11. Northing

12. U.S.G.S. sheet

13. Type

14. Original use

15. Present use

16. Condition

17. Integrity

(continue on back if necessary)

29. Prepared by:

30. Date

31. Revision(s)
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Viscose Historic District
Spring, 1981

1. Looking N, Spruce St at the Plaza

2. Looking SW, Yates Ave at the Plaza
Viscose Historic District
Spring, 1981

3. Viscose Mill, looking SE

4. Entrance
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Historic Resource Nomination

OFFICIAL USE ONLY
PI — —
PR — —
NR — —

SEE INFORMATION SHEET BEFORE FILLING OUT FORM
PLEASE TYPE

1. HISTORICAL NAME OF PROPERTY:
Viscose Historic District

2. LOCATION:
   STREET Pennsylvania Coastal Zone
   CITY Marcus Hook
   Bounded by Post Road, Yales Avenue, Chestnut Street, and Walnut Street
   TOWNSHIP —
   COUNTY Congressional District

3. CLASSIFICATION:
   CATEGORY
   X district
   — building(s)
   — structure
   — site
   — object

   OWNERSHIP
   X private
   — public
   — both

   STATUS
   X occupied
   — unoccupied
   — work in progress

   PUBLIC ACQUISITION
   — in process
   — being considered

   ACCESSIBLE
   X Yes: restricted
   — Yes: unrestricted
   — No

   PRESENT USE
   — Agriculture
   — Museum
   — Commercial
   — Park
   — Educational
   — Private Residence
   — Entertainment
   — Religious
   — Government
   — Scientific
   X Industrial
   — Transportation
   — Other

4. OWNERSHIP:
   NAME ____________________________
   STREET ____________________________
   CITY, TOWN ________________________
   STATE ____________________________
   ZIP ______________________________

5. LOCATION of LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Delaware County Court House
   STREET ____________________________
   CITY, TOWN Media
   COUNTY Delaware

6. REPRESENTATION in EXISTING SURVEYS:
   TITLE OF SURVEY: ____________________________
   DATE OF SURVEY: ____________________________
   FEDERAL □ STATE □ LOCAL □
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: ____________________________
   CITY ____________________________
   STATE ____________________________
The proposed Viscose District consists of the Viscose Mill and the adjacent complex of houses initially built for Viscose employees. The mill is a large three-story brick mill with architectural pretensions. Its thirteen-bay front is divided into five sections; short tile-decorated towers interrupt the bracketed cornice on each side of the center section. The entrance is marked by a stone alab inscribed with the company's name and a cartouche decorated with a swag and C-scrolls.

The two-story brick houses were designed in the Elizabethan Revival style with Elizabethan gables and cross-gables and gambrel roofs with shed dormers. They are surrounded by modest lawns.
Viscose Company was one of the country's largest and earliest manufacturers of rayon yarns before World War II. Its plant is a good example of early-20th-century industrial architecture and the complex is a fine example of small-scale but well designed residential architecture by a company for its employees. Interest in factory towns waned rapidly after the violence in Pullman, Illinois, in 1894, but Viscose Village indicates that where the residential developments were small, and perhaps the companies were also small and technologically innovative, efforts were made to project a positive corporate image.
## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Acreage of NOMINATED PROPERTY

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Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY:

NAME: Richard J. Webster

ORGANIZATION: John Milner Associates

TELEPHONE: 215-436-9000

STREET: 309 N. Matlack St.

CITY: West Chester

STATE: Pennsylvania

ZIP: 19380

DATE: 23 November 1981

## 12 SEND COMPLETED FORM TO:

Office of Historic Preservation
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
P. O. Box 1026 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120
Hi Alan -
Ok...this afternoon I meet with the NR staff, and here are our comments:
We discussed integrity issues and the NPS’ findings on other buildings that have been submitted and then denied. Due to the change in the windows, it is our unofficial opinion that the Administration Building would not be eligible for Criterion C. We also discussed Criterion A, and due to the extensive demolitions on the site, what remains is merely a remanent and does not reflect any significance, therefore it also would be not eligible.

Cheryl

-----Original Message-----
From: Higgins, Alan [mailto:HigginsA@co.delaware.pa.us]
Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2009 9:50 AM
To: Nagle, Cheryl
Subject: RE: Viscose DOE and other thoughts

Good morning Cheryl,

Thanks for your reply. I wasn't so much surprised on a personal level (I’ve done enough NR nominations in other states to know the routine), but more in a general sense that despite modern intrusion, it doesn’t have enough integrity as a planning model. In any regard, I will work with Marcus Hook on the idea of local level designation.

In regard to the Administration Building, I’ve attached three photos and a brief architectural description that I already had written up for our purposes. The first photo (vv1) is the original design of the building c. 1913. The second photo (vv2) is c. 1920 - definitely before 1925 because the neighboring Viscose building has not been constructed yet - and shows the third story and wing additions. The last photo (vv3) is from 1992 and is basically how the building now stands.

There have been some alterations (as detailed in the description), which is why my original inclination would have been to include it as part of the presumed district, rather than an individual resource. Still, any comments would be appreciated.

Also, I'd be glad to give a quick explanation of what we are doing here at the meeting. And, if you want, I can forward along our draft of the Residential Development narrative (about 50 pages) next week after footnoting is completed.

Thanks!

Alan

Alan Higgins, Preservation Planner
Delaware County Planning Department
201 W. Front Street, Media, PA 19063
E-mail: higginsa@co.delaware.pa.us
Phone: 610-891-5212
To: 'Higgins, Alan'
Cc: Lee, Carol
Subject: RE: Viscose DOE and other thoughts

Hi Alan -
Thank you for your patience in the matter of the historic district DOE. I know it was a surprising decision to you, but I want you to know that it had nothing to do with the HRSF, we thought you did a very thorough job - the resource unfortunately could not overcome its integrity issues. I just met with Carol Lee about the Administration Building. On our field view we did think that the building was architecturally interesting and could be looked at as an individual resource (adding it to the Viscose Village Historic District would not be advisable as it really would not change our opinion about the integrity of the district), but had concerns about the windows. Before you do any work on a HRSF, could you please find a historic photograph of the building and submit to me? I can then meet with the entire National Register staff for an informal opinion of how we think you may want to proceed.

About the post-WWII subdivisions...any chance at the summit meeting we are having on April 22nd...that you would be interested in speaking for maybe 5 minutes about what you are going through putting the comprehensive context together? Something extremely informal, just highlighting your approach to this type of resource and what resources you have been finding that are helpful? And definitely a big yes to your offer of information!!
Thanks again -
Cheryl

-----Original Message-----
From: Higgins, Alan [mailto:HigginsA@co.delaware.pa.us]
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2009 9:16 AM
To: Nagle, Cheryl
Subject: Viscose DOE and other thoughts

Hi Cheryl,

Hope all is well in Harrisburg.

I just wanted to email you quickly in regard to the Viscose Village Historic District DOE. Thank you for the time you took in reviewing the HSRF; we received the comments yesterday. My question is not directly related to the determination made, but rather is about the remaining primary (dining hall/admin) industrial buildings facing the district on E. Tenth Street.

Recently, a new group of consultants have put together a plan for work in the general area of Marcus Hook and are talking with developers about various options. One site of interest has been the former industrial site associated with Viscose. In the latest talks, the topic of tax credits and the buildings' eligibility to be listed on the NR for consideration for tax credits arose. Originally, I would have assumed that the primary industrial buildings would have been eligible for the NR if they were to be included as part of the Village Historic District (or possibly on their own), however, given the recent and somewhat surprising determination of the Village Historic District, I am now questioning my assumption.

So, I was just wondering if during the course of your field visit to the Village any thoughts were made as to the status of the industrial buildings. Obviously, an official determination cannot be made without a completed HSRF for those structures, but I did not know if it came up during any conversations as to whether or not staff thought those resources would either strengthen the District's eligibility or if they would be eligible in their own right. I just wanted to see if PHMC had any thoughts before I went back to the developers. Any insight and comments you can provide would be greatly appreciated.

On a side note, during the conference call related to the post-WWII subdivisions I believe you had mentioned that Lawrence Park was going to be used as an example subdivision for documentation purposes. I just wanted to let you know that if you have any gaps in your information related specifically to the development or gaps in context for Delaware County's residential development during the period, just let me know and I would be happy to supply the information I have uncovered and written for the 20th Century Residential Development Context that I put together as part of the comprehensive context I am working on.

Best,
February 23, 2009

Bruce A. Dorbian, Borough Manager
Borough of Marcus Hook
10th & Green Streets
Marcus Hook, PA 19061

RE: Viscose Village Historic District, Key # 155388
Marcus Hook, Delaware County

Dear Mr. Dorbian:

Your completed Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form has been reviewed by the Bureau for Historic Preservation. It is our opinion that the Viscose Village Historic District, roughly bounded by Chestnut, Penn, Walnut and E. Tenth Streets, is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A or C. We will add the information to the Bureau's Historic Resource Inventory for permanent record. If additional information, which could change your property's eligibility, becomes available, please contact our office for re-evaluation.

National Park Service regulations permit property owners to appeal State Historic Preservation Office opinions to the Keeper of the National Register. If you disagree with this evaluation and wish to appeal, you will need to prepare a full National Register nomination and submit it to our office. We will provide one further review and if our decision remains unchanged, we will return the nomination to you and you may then submit it directly to the Keeper of the National Register.

On March 30, 1989, the Bureau for Historic Preservation (BHP) concluded that the American Viscose Company industrial complex (due to extensive demolition) lacked sufficient integrity required for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. However, it was staff's opinion that the remaining industrial buildings, in association with the adjacent planned/designed company housing, would be eligible for listing in the Register, based upon a few photographs taken in 1981. The letter went on to state that a site visit would be required to determine and confirm boundaries. While a November 1999 letter from our office in response to a CDBG demolition stated that the "Viscose Village Historic District" was eligible for the National Register, our office had never received a Historic Resource Survey Form (HRSF) that detailed the history and significance of the residential section. Staff from the Delaware County Planning Department contacted our office in regards to the eligibility of the resource, and our staff informed them that it is our general policy to re-evaluate all resources after five years have passed following a determination. On December 23, 2008, BHP received the HRSF completed by the Delaware County Planning Department on the Borough of Marcus Hook's behalf.

BHP staff was impressed with the level of detail included in the HRSF, and appreciated the time and effort spent by the Delaware County Planning Department to provide a record of this
resource. BHP staff struggled with the decision of ineligibility for the resource. After many discussions and a field view, the staff considered that the district has significance for its association with the American Viscose Company and its innovative industrial community planning, but that the Viscose Village Historic District no longer conveys its historical appearance or intent. Its integrity is severely compromised, thus it is unable to convey an ability to impart its historical significance, and it does not retain sufficient integrity to be architecturally significant.

According to the National Register of Historic Places criteria, a large majority of the properties within a district should have integrity to be considered eligible as a historic district. This criterion reflects that an eligible historic district will retain its integrity as a whole, and that the majority of its components will be substantially unchanged since the period of significance. In the case of the Viscose Village Historic District, it was the architect’s intent to create “An Industrial Village on Garden City Lines.” The original setbacks and varied rooflines remain, but the majority of character-defining features, including red brick, slate roofs, broad open porches, decorative half-timbering, and open eaves, have been covered, removed or replaced on a large majority of the resources. In addition, the modern addition of chain link fencing in the front lawns obscures the planned open green space aspect and intent of the original plan. Due to the integrity issues, the number of non-contributing resources to the historic district would outweigh the number of contributing resources.

It appears that it is your main objective to preserve and protect your historic resources. While the National Register of Historic Places is often seen as such the vehicle for achieving these goals, in all reality, preservation is most effective in communities that have historic preservation programs managed at the local government level. Options available to municipalities in Pennsylvania for protection of historic resources include designating historic districts under local ordinance as authorized by the 1961 Historic District Act (Act 167) as well as using provisions of the Municipal Planning Code (Act 67 & 68, Article 6, Section 603-8-7-G-2 and Section 604) that authorizes municipalities to use zoning for protection and preservation purposes. We suggest that you contact BHP staff member, Michel R. Lefèvre, who is the Community Preservation Coordinator for your area, he can be reached at 717-787-0771 or mlefevre@state.pa.us to further discuss the options available to your borough.

If you have any questions in regards to this matter, please contact Cheryl L. Nagle at 717-772-4519 or chnagle@state.pa.us.

Sincerely,

Andrea L. MacDonald
Chief, Division of Preservation Services

ALM/cln

cc: Alan Higgins
Dr. Barbara Liggett  
River Road  
P.O. Box 164  
Erwinna, Pennsylvania 18920  

Re: American Viscose Company  
Historic District, Marcus Hook,  
Delaware County  

Dear Dr. Liggett:

Enclosed is a copy of this Bureau's evaluation of the proposed listing of American Viscose Company buildings in the National Register of Historic Places. As I explained on the phone, our staff committee concluded that the industrial complex itself, due to extensive demolition, lacked sufficient integrity required for listing in the National Register. It was the committee's opinion however, that the remaining industrial complex in association with the adjacent planned/designated company housing would be eligible for listing in the Register. A site visit involving Bureau for Historic Preservation Board would be needed to determine and confirm boundaries for the district.

As you suggested, I called Mr. Dennis Marchuk to explain our evaluation and what would be required to enable our office and the National Park Service to commence review of his Tax Credit applications. (A complete Bureau for Historic Preservation survey form for the district is needed). I also explained that the Bureau has an appeals procedure under which staff committee decisions may be appealed to our Bureau Director. Mr. Marchuk however indicated that he does not wish to pursue National Register nomination of the district recommended by the Bureau for Historic Preservation and will not seek the historic preservation tax credits. Accordingly our office will take no further action on your application unless requested by you, Mr. Marchuk or others interested in the district nomination.

Sincerely,

Greg Ramsey, Chief  
National Register & Survey Program  

cc: Mr. Dennis Marchuk  
GR/dc
Specific Evaluation

Name: American Viscose Company

Location: Marcus Hook, Delaware Co.

National Register Criteria

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

X A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

X C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Area(s) of Significance: Events and Architecture

Period of Significance: 1909-1939

Comments: In the opinion of the Bureau for Historic Preservation, there appears to be a National Register Historic District related to the American Viscose Company. However, since the integrity of the industrial site has been compromised, and there appears to be high integrity of the associated housing, the boundaries need to be reconsidered to include the surviving housing and to exclude the areas where demolition has been the greatest. A site visit is needed to determine exactly what should be included in this district.
March 15, 1989

Mr. James Caufield  
Bureau of Historical Preservation  
Box 1026  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17108-1026  

Re: Viscose/FMC Site

Dear Jim:

Enclosed please find Part I Evaluation of Significance for various buildings at the old Viscose site in Marcus Hook, subject of the Survey Form application filed by Barbara Liggett, PHD, in December of 1988 for your review.

The site and buildings have been the object of a great deal of review by your office and the Delaware County Planning Dept. and has had a determination of historical significance as reported to me by Dr. Liggett. We would appreciate your approval and return to our office so we may proceed with our application to the Dept of the Interior.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

DHM/re encl
Instructions: Read the instructions carefully before completing application. No certification will be made unless a completed application for it has been received. Type or print clearly in black ink. If additional space is needed, use continuation sheets or attach blank sheets.

1. Name of property: Building #7, (Storage Facility)
   Address of property: 201 E. 10th Street
   City Marcus Hook County Delaware State Pa Zip 19061
   Name of historic district: FMC/Viscose Plant
   ☐ National Register district ☐ certified state or local district ☑ potential historic district

2. Check nature of request:
   ☑ certification that the building contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for the purpose of rehabilitation.
   ☑ certification that the structure or building and, where appropriate, the land area on which such a structure or building is located contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes.
   ☐ certification that the building does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.
   ☐ preliminary determination for individual listing in the National Register.
   ☐ preliminary determination that a building located within a potential historic district contributes to the significance of the district.
   ☐ preliminary determination that a building outside the period or area of significance contributes to the significance of the district.

3. Project contact:
   Name Dennis H. Marchuk, attorney at law
   Street 301 E. 10th Street
   City Marcus Hook
   State Pa Zip 19061 Daytime Telephone Number (215) 494-2154

4. Owner:
   I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I own the property described above. I understand that falsification of factual representations in this application is subject to criminal sanctions of up to $10,000 in fines or imprisonment for up to five years pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1001.
   Name Marcus Hook Business & Commerce Center, Ltd. Signature Date 3/15/89
   Organization a Pa Limited Partnership
   Social Security or Taxpayer Identification Number 23-2423476
   Street 301 E. 10th Street
   City Marcus Hook
   State Pa Zip 19061 Daytime Telephone Number (215) 494-2154

The National Park Service has reviewed the "Historic Preservation Certification Application — Part 1" for the above-named property and hereby determines that the property:

☐ contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for the purpose of rehabilitation.

☐ contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes in accordance with the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980.

☐ does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.

Preliminary Determinations:

☐ appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer according to the procedures set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

☐ does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely not be listed in the National Register.

☐ appears to contribute to the significance of a potential historic district, which will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer.

☐ appears to contribute to the significance of a registered historic district but is outside the period or area of significance as documented in the National Register nomination or district documentation on file with the NPS.

☐ does not appear to qualify as a certified historic structure.

Date National Park Service Authorized Signature National Park Service Office/Telephone No:
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
CERTIFICATION APPLICATION— PART 1

Property Name: Bldg #1, Research & Development Bldg

Project Number: 

Property Address: Bldg #2, Office Bldg, Bldg #3, Administration Bldg & Bldg #6

Packaging and Shipping Bldg, 201 E. 10th Street, Marcus Hook, Pa. 19061

5. Description of physical appearance:

Bldg #1, 5 story Research & Development Bldg, concrete & Steel 250,000 sf.
Bldg #2, 3 story, red brick Office Bldg, 28,000 sf
Bldg #3, 4 story, red brick, Administration Bldg.
Bldg #6, 1 story, saw tooth roof, brick bldg.

See Pennsylvania Historical Resource Survey Form submitted 12/88 by Barbara Liggett, PHD.

6. Statement of significance:

Viscose Site was first producer of rayon in the country. Between 1909 and 1911, Samuel A. Salvage arranged with the British manufacturer of "artificial silk" to produce it in the U.S. The Plant in Marcus Hook was built in 1909 and by 1911, had turned out 362,000 pounds of yarn. Its slipperyness was a major obstacle to both use and production, and the invention of "the box" quadrupled production and established the company's lead over its competitors. The plant provided for bomb parachutes in World War II. (see prior filings by Delaware County Planning Department, 1981)

7. Photographs and maps. Submitted in 12/88 survey form

Attach photographs and maps to application.

Continuation sheets attached: ☐ yes ☒ no
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION
PART 1 — EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

Instructions: Read the instructions carefully before completing application. No certification will be made unless a completed application form has been received. Type or print clearly in black ink. If additional space is needed, use continuation sheets or attach blank sheets.

1. Name of property: Buildings 2, (Office), 1 (Research & Development), 6 (Shipping) & Building 23 (Administration)
   Address of property: 201 E. 10th Street
   City Marcus Hook, County Delaware, State Pa, Zip 19061
   Name of historic district: FMC Viscose Plant Site 35 acre+
   □ National Register district  □ certified state or local district  □ potential historic district

2. Check nature of request:
   □ certification that the building contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for the purpose of rehabilitation.
   □ certification that the structure or building and, where appropriate, the land area on which such a structure or building is located contributes to the significance of the above-named historic district for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes.
   □ certification that the building does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.
   □ preliminary determination for individual listing in the National Register.
   □ preliminary determination that a building located within a potential historic district contributes to the significance of the district.
   □ preliminary determination that a building outside the period or area of significance contributes to the significance of the district.

3. Project contact:
   Name Dennis H. Marchuk, attorney at law
   Street 301 E. 10th Street
   City Marcus Hook, State Pa., Zip 19061
   Daytime Telephone Number (215) 494-2154

4. Owner:
   I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I own the property described above. I understand that falsification of factual representations in this application is subject to criminal sanctions of up to $10,000 in fines or imprisonment for up to five years pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 1001.
   Name Marcus Hook Business & Commerce Center, Ltd., a Pa Ltd Partnership
   Social Security or Taxpayer Identification Number 23-2423476
   Street 301 E. 10th Street
   City Marcus Hook, State Pa., Zip 19061
   Daytime Telephone Number (215) 494-2154

NPS Office Use Only
The National Park Service has reviewed the "Historic Preservation Certification Application — Part 1" for the above-named property and hereby determines that the property:
   □ contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for the purpose of rehabilitation.
   □ contributes to the significance of the above-named district and is a "certified historic structure" for a charitable contribution for conservation purposes in accordance with the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980.
   □ does not contribute to the significance of the above-named district.

PreliminaryDeterminations:
   □ appears to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer according to the procedures set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   □ does not appear to meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation and will likely not be listed in the National Register.
   □ appears to contribute to the significance of a potential historic district, which will likely be listed in the National Register of Historic Places if nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer.
   □ appears to contribute to the significance of a registered historic district but is outside the period or area of significance as documented in the National Register nomination or district documentation on file with the NPS.
   □ does not appear to qualify as a certified historic structure.

Date  National Park Service Authorized Signature
See Attachments National Park Service Office/Telephone No:
5. Description of physical appearance:

Five Story brick & steel storage building with 2 freight elevators, loading dock.

Date of Construction: 1909

Source of Date: Ballinger & Perrot engineering plans

Date(s) of Alteration(s): 1950 (enclosed windows)

Has building been moved? □ yes ☒ no. If so, when? 

6. Statement of significance:

Viscose site was first producer of rayon in the country. Significant breakthrough in technology for rayon production. Use of facility for storage of product, parachutes in WWII production. (See prior filings by Delaware County Planning Department, 1981 and Dr. Barbara Liggett, PHD, 12/88)

7. Photographs and maps. Submitted in 12/88 survey forms

Attach photographs and maps to application.

Continuation sheets attached: □ yes ☒ no
February 2, 1989

Mr. William Sisson  
National Register Coordinator  
PHMC Bureau for Historic Preservation  
Box 1026  
Harrisburg, Pa. 17108

Re: Marcus Hook FMC Site

Dear Bill:

Our consultant, Barbara Liggett, has advised us that you are unwilling to accept the buildings we have identified for historical certification notwithstanding your agreement that they are of historical significance for reason that you want the entire site and adjoining village certified as a package.

We would be happy to comply with your request except that we have demolished over 600,000 sf of buildings and improvements on our site so certification would not be possible. Also, since the homes in the adjoining village are owned by some 50 different homeowners, we would be unable and unwilling to be the agent to bring them all in to agree to the application. We would appreciate your acceptance of our application as filed with the assurance that we will assist and cooperate with you in whatever you want to get done but we do not want to spend the next five years trying to get home owners to sign application forms, nor should our property be subject to other parcels qualifying or being unable to qualify.

We all know the buildings we submitted comply with the requirements for historical certification, we simply want your official acknowledgement of that fact at which time we will be happy to submit an application for the village adjoining in cooperation with the Borough of Marcus Hook.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

Dennis H. Marchuk

DHM/re
Mr. William Sisson  
National Register Coordinator  
PHMC Bureau for Historic Preservation  
Box 1026  
Harrisburg, PA 17108  

Dear Bill,  

Enclosed is the new survey of the American Viscose Company buildings we agree are probably eligible for nomination to the Register.  

Significance rests both on importance of product - rayon and cellophane - and innovations related to it, and in the planning of the plant and ancillary structures related to planning for employee welfare. Whereas some attention was paid by the designer to decoration and style, the intent was almost overwhelmingly functional.  

Only the structures being developed by the Business Center are included; the village is separated from it for community reasons for subsequent nomination via Marcus Hook Township.  

I would appreciate hearing from you with any questions. We anticipate at least one re-write prior to review, but would like to have your staff reaction as quickly as possible. Thanks very much.  

Sincerely yours,  

Barbara Liggett, PH.D.  
Consultant