United States Department of the	Interio	r
National Park Service		

## National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

DRAFT

1. Name of Property							
		we Worke					
historic name <u>Empire Stove Works</u> other names/site number N/A							
		<u>N/A</u>	( )				
	ited multiple pro	perty listing <u>N/</u>	Ϋ́Α				
Location							
street & num	ber 285 Secon	d Street					not for publication
city or town	Troy						vicinity
state <u>New</u>	York	code <u>NY</u>	county	Rensselaer	code	083	zip code <u>12180</u>
3. State/Fed	leral Agency C	ertification					
As the desi	anated authority	under the Nat	ional Histor	ic Preservation A	ct. as am	ended.	
I hereby ce registering	rtify that this X	nomination	request for	determination of	eligibility	meets th	ne documentation standards for al and professional requirements
	on, the property significant at th				Register C	riteria. I	recommend that this property be
_ national	-	-	., -				
Signature of c	ertifying official/Title		Date				_
Ū	, ,						
State or Feder	ral agency/bureau o	r Tribal Governme	nt				
In my opinion,	the propertymee	ts _does not meet	the National I	Register criteria.			
Signature of c	ommenting official			Date			_
Title		State or Federal	agency/burea	u or Tribal Governme	nt		_
4. National	Park Service (	Certification					
	/ that this property is						
_entered	I in the National Reg	jister	_ determ	nined eligible for the N	lational Regi	ster	
_determi	ined not eligible for	the National Regist	ter _	_removed from the N	ational Regis	ster	
_other (e	explain:)			_			
Signature of t	he Keeper		Date of <i>i</i>	Action			

# Empire Stove Works Name of Property

(Expires 5/31/2012)

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Category of Property (Check only one box.)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)		
	Contributing	Noncontributin	g
X building(s)	1	1	buildings
district			sites
site			structure
structure			objects
object	1	1	Total
perty listing multiple property listing)			es previously
		N/A	
	Current Functions		
	(Enter categories from instructions.)		
facility	Vacant		
		instructions.)	
LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate (1856 addition)		ONE	
	walls: BRICK		
	roof: SYNTH	ETICS/rubber	
	other:		
	- (h		
	X       building(s)         district       site         structure       object	X       building(s)       1         district       site         structure       1         object       1         perty listing       Number of contrilisted in the Nation         facility       Vacant	X       building(s)       1       1         district       site       1       1         site       structure       1       1         object       1       1       1         perty listing       Number of contributing resource listed in the National Register       N/A         facility       Vacant       N/A         facility       Vacant       Vacant         multiple property listing)       Materials       (Enter categories from instructions.)         facility       Vacant       Structure         multiple       Structure       Structure         facility       Vacant       Structure         multiple       Structure       Structure         multiple       Structure       Structure         facility       Vacant       Structure         structure       Structure       Structure

Name of Property

#### **Narrative Description**

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

## **Summary Paragraph**

The Empire Stove Works, located at 285 Second Street in Troy, New York, is a four-story brick industrial building constructed in several phases between 1845 and the early 1880s. The primary elevations are the east, facing Second Street, and the north, facing Ida Street. The 1856 addition serves as the front of the building and faces Second Street. The east elevation is nine bays wide and features fully arched window and door openings embellished with keystone ornaments. The arched windows and corbelled cornice wrap around to the north elevation of this section of the building. The remaining elevations are more utilitarian in character with segmentally arched windows and corbelling only on the north elevation of the ca. 1883 section. The rear (south) elevation of the building is positioned on the bank of the Poestenkill, a tributary of the Hudson River.

## **Narrative Description**

## Site

The Empire Stove Works at 285 Second Street in Troy, NY is a four-story former industrial building sited on an approximately 0.44-acre corner lot southwest of the intersection of Second and Ida Streets south of the city's downtown. The building's lot is adjacent to the Poestenkill creek, which flows into the Hudson River two blocks to the west.

The Empire Stove Works aligns with Troy's street grid, which in turn roughly aligns with the Hudson River. Therefore, the building's street-facing elevations face north-northeast to Ida Street and east-southeast to Second Street. For the purposes of this document, the building's exterior elevations will be referred to as north, south, east, and west.

To the east, the building is set back from the street with a concrete sidewalk which terminates just west of the building's northeast corner. Asphalt paving continues up to the building's exterior at the remainder of the north elevation. Abutting the west elevation is a single-story garage. To the south, the building overlooks the Poestenkill, a channelized creek with banks defined by stone and concrete retaining walls. The remnants of a historic dam are located near the southwest corner of the building.

## **Empire Stove Works (one contributing building)**

## Exterior

The Empire Stove Works building was constructed in four phases over nearly forty years. The building today has a rectangular footprint comprised of the three-story 1845 machine shop at the southwest, built directly along the Poestenkill; the four-story 1856 addition to the east at the corner of Second and Ida Streets; the three-story 1865 addition at the northwest; and the four-story ca. 1883 addition, which filled in the "U" created by the three earlier building campaigns. The building volumes are built of brick with flat or low-slope shed roofs, and the street elevations of the 1856 and ca. 1883 additions have ornamented, Italianate parapets. The 1845 machine

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shop has an unfinished, dirt-floor basement, and there is a similar basement under the north end of the 1856 addition.

The four volumes comprising the Empire Stove Works building each have shed roofs of low to moderate pitch with a variety of membrane roofing materials. The low-pitched roof of the 1845 machine shop slopes to the south, the low-pitched roof of the 1856 addition slopes to the west, the moderate-pitched roof of the 1865 addition slopes to the north, and the low-pitched roof of the ca. 1883 addition slopes to the south. Roof access is provided via stairs leading to a small bulkhead near the center of the roof of the ca. 1883 addition. A truncated, square brick chimney is present at the intersection of the 1845 machine shop and 1856 addition.

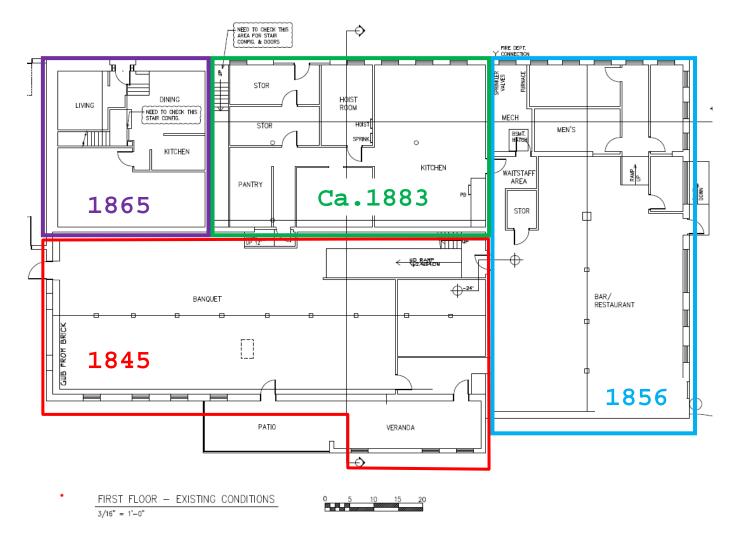


Figure 1. Dates of construction and existing conditions of building as of 2019. Some non-historic partitions have been removed from the first floor. The non-contributing garage that abuts the outer wall of the 1865 addition is not shown.

## 1856 Addition

The 1856 addition forms the primary (east) elevation of the building, fronting Second Street. This volume is four stories tall and nine bays wide by six bays deep. The exterior is of brick in common bond, with cast-iron

## **Empire Stove Works**

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star anchors at each floor level. At each floor of the east elevation, groups of three windows to the north and south are closely spaced, flanking a center section of more widely spaced windows and doors. A stone foundation is only partially visible near the northeast corner. At the first floor, the building's primary entrance consists of a non-historic door within a round-arched opening at the center of the façade and flanked by a pair of wide window openings with segmental arched cast-stone headers and narrow concrete sills. The remaining six first-floor window openings have round-arched stone headers with keystones and stone sills (on the north side of the façade) or wide replacement concrete sills (on the south side of the façade).

At the second through fourth floors, the fourth bay from the south is occupied by a door opening. The second-floor door opening is rectangular with a flat lintel. The third- and fourth-floor door openings have round brick arches with stone keystones and stone sills. The second-floor door is a wood sliding door which does not appear to be historic. The third- and fourth-floor doors are arched double-leaf wood plank doors which appear to be historic. One leaf of the third-floor door is missing. The windows at the second through fourth floors each have round brick arches with stone keystones and stone sills. The first-floor windows are boarded up, but the upper floor windows generally retain their historic six-over-six wood sash with arched upper sash, although glazing, muntins, and entire sash are missing in several locations. The wall terminates in a cornice of corbeled brick, which forms a low parapet. A painted sign between the second and third floors is visible but not legible.

The north elevation, along Ida Street, consists of six equal bays, each containing a single round-arched window opening with a stone sill. Windows at the first floor are boarded up and have arched brick headers with keystones. Upper-floor windows have six-over-six wood sash with arched upper sash in variable condition. As on the east elevation, the upper-floor windows have brick arched headers with keystones. Star anchors are located at the floor levels. The corbeled cornice of the east elevation continues on the north elevation, but the parapet steps down slightly between the second and third bays, where it intercepts a short, square brick chimney.

The south elevation of the 1856 addition extends past the plane of the 1845 machine shop wall. The stone foundation is clearly visible on this elevation. At the first floor, a door opening in the second bay from the east is infilled with brick. In the remaining first-floor bays, segmental-arched window openings are also infilled with brick. Several iron brackets below the first floor suggest there was once a balcony at this location. The second through fourth floors of this elevation have one segmental-arched window opening in each bay, with stone sills and six-over-six wood sash in variable condition. A painted sheet metal sign covering the two easternmost second-floor windows reads, "LINDY'S HARDWARE INC. BUILDING MATERIALS – ROPE – ROOFING – STEEL FENCING – PLUMBING – CANVAS – PAINT – WHOLESALE … RETAIL." The brick wall terminates in an unadorned parapet at roof level.

## Circa 1883 Addition

The exterior of the three-story, six-bay-wide ca. 1883 addition, visible only on the north elevation along Ida Street, is brick in common bond with cast-iron star anchors at each floor level. The stone foundation is partially visible towards the west. This addition is a few feet shorter than the adjoining 1856 addition and the floor levels do not align above the first floor. As a result, the windowsills and headers do not align across the elevation. The elevation is arranged with four equal bays to the east and one bay to the west flanking a wider bay containing a

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door opening at each floor level. Windows throughout have brick segmental-arched openings, stone sills, and six-over-six wood sash. The first-floor windows are proportionally taller and are boarded up. At the west end of the façade, beside the westernmost first floor window, a former door opening with a rectangular stone lintel has been infilled with brick. In the second bay from the west, the door opening is very wide with a segmental brick arch. The opening is infilled with plywood and the door is non-historic. The door openings at the second and third floors are rectangular, with stone sills and wood lintels. Their sliding wood doors do not appear to be historic. The door at the fourth floor has a round-arched opening and a wood sill. The door is a double-leaf wood plank door and appears to be historic. A corbeled brick cornice echoes the design of the 1856 addition's cornice but is simpler. A fourth-floor window at the west-facing return is infilled with brick.

## 1865 Addition

The three-story-tall 1865 addition, forming the building's northwest corner, is three bays wide by four bays deep. The three-bay-wide north elevation is of brick in common bond that has been recently repaired. The fenestration has been partially reconstructed as part of the brick maintenance, with steel lintels creating rectangular window openings. Those at the upper floors do not align with the openings of the adjoining ca. 1883 addition. The first floor has a single very tall door opening with a stone sill. The opening is infilled with plywood and a non-historic door and sidelights. The second floor has a single window opening in each of the outer bays. A non-historic vinyl window is located in one of the openings but the other is open to the elements. Each bay at the third floor contains a single window opening, which is open to the elements.

The west elevation of the 1865 addition is partially obscured by the adjoining non-historic concrete masonry unit (CMU) garage to the west. The second and third floors have one segmental-arched window opening in each bay, containing non-historic vinyl sash. The brick exterior wall terminates in an unadorned stepped parapet.

## 1845 Machine Shop

The three-story 1845 machine shop forms the southwest corner of the building. It has a stone and brick foundation forming part of the retaining wall of the Poestenkill, and the brick exterior above is in common bond. The south elevation is eight bays wide. Three basement window openings are located to the west; two have open brickwork and the third is open to the elements. At roughly the midpoint of the elevation, the stone foundation wall projects outward to form the foundation of an open-air patio with wrought-iron fencing, which adjoins a single-story shed-roofed projection. West of the patio, the first floor has four unequally spaced window openings with non-historic sash. A large opening near the center of the elevation has been partially infilled with CMU. East of this opening a window opening has been infilled with CMU. Further east, the single-story projection has three segmental-arched window openings containing non-historic wrought-iron grilles. The extension is open on its west end. The second and third floors each have eight segmental-arched window openings with stone sills. The window sash are missing at these locations.

The two-bay-deep west elevation has two brick-infilled window openings and a non-historic door at the first floor and one segmental-arched window in each bay at the second and third floors. The windows contain six-over-six sash in variable condition. The machine shop's stone foundation is visible at the building's southwest corner and includes a stone relieving arch. The brick exterior wall terminates in an unadorned stepped parapet.

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A large painted sign, mostly on the 1845 machine shop but extending partially to the west elevation of the 1865 addition, reads, "LINDY'S HARDWARE INC, PAINTS CANVAS BUILDING SUPPLIES WHOLESALE & RETAIL."

## Interior

## Machine Shop, 1856 Addition, and Circa 1883 Addition

The machine shop, 1856 addition, and ca. 1883 addition are interconnected and retain the open character and utilitarian finishes characteristic of a nineteenth-century manufacturing complex. Heavy timber structural elements, plank floors, and brick walls are generally exposed throughout. Although it was built as an addition to the original 1845 machine shop, the floor levels of the 1856 addition do not align with those of the machine shop and the ca. 1883 addition. The floors of the machine shop and the ca. 1883 addition align at the second and third floors only. Partitions and finishes added in the late twentieth century when the first floor was used as a restaurant have almost all been removed. Millwork details throughout are minimal, primarily consisting of simple wood window frames, but without casings or sills. Light fixtures, sprinklers, and other utilities are generally exposed and suspended from the ceilings.

The first-floor interior spaces of the machine shop, 1856 addition, and ca. 1883 addition are interconnected. The machine shop contains a single open space with one row of heavy timber columns running east to west down the center. Historic wide plank flooring is visible in limited locations but is mostly covered with plywood. Brick walls divide the space from the 1856 addition and the ca. 1883 addition; window openings in these walls are generally infilled with brick. Non-historic wall finishes have been removed, leaving the interior and exterior brick exposed. Part of the stone foundation wall is visible at the west end of the space. Square timber columns support a longitudinal beam, which in turn supports the exposed wood floor joists and plank floor above. At the northeast corner of this space, a wood ramp leads to a wood stair to the second floor. Two doorways on the east wall lead into the 1856 addition. Sliding metal-clad doors are located on the east side of this wall. The southern of the two doorways is partially infilled with CMU and has a non-historic door in addition to the sliding door. The change in floor height from the machine shop to the 1856 addition is accommodated by the ramp at the northeast corner of the machine shop and a wood stair to the south. The single-story, shed-roofed projection to the south of the machine shop (which originally housed a boiler) has a concrete floor and a painted sheet-metal ceiling.

The first floor of the 1856 addition consists of a single open space interrupted by a brick partition wall at the northwest. The floor is tongue-and-groove wood. A small ramp accommodates a slight change in floor height to the north of the partition wall. A row of round wood columns with simple carved capitals supports a longitudinal beam, which in turn supports the wood joists and floor above. All of the columns are exposed except for one which is enclosed in gypsum board. Plaster wall finishes are present or partially present at the exterior walls as well as on the south side of the partition wall. The partition wall has a doorway to the west and a non-historic window opening near its center. A wood wainscot and chair rail are present on the west wall of the partitioned space, along with more substantial window casing than is found in the remainder of the complex. Just south of the partition wall, a doorway leads west into the ca. 1883 addition.

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A ramp and a large doorway near the center of the north wall of the machine shop also lead into the ca. 1883 addition. The first floor of the ca. 1883 addition consists of a single open space with a row of round cast-iron columns and wood bolsters supporting a longitudinal heavy timber beam which in turn supports the wood joists and floor above. The brick walls of this space are exposed except where a limited amount of gypsum wall board is present to the north and west. The floor is finished with a non-historic vinyl tile. A metal-clad sliding door is located on the east wall. Historic machinery consisting of paired fly wheels with leather strapping is suspended from the ceiling in this space. A non-historic partition wall of steel studs and gypsum board at the northwest encloses a wood stair to the second floor.

The interconnected upper floors of the machine shop, 1856 addition, and ca. 1883 addition are substantially alike, consisting of a single, L-shaped open space spanning the machine shop and ca. 1883 addition, separated from a single, open space at the 1856 addition by a brick wall. The exception is the fourth floor, which consists of a lofted mezzanine at the ca. 1883 addition which connects to the fourth floor of the 1856 addition. At all three upper floors, a single opening on the east wall of the ca. 1883 addition connects it to the 1856 addition, with a ramp to accommodate the change in floor level and a metal-clad sliding door. Three sets of stairs are present, including a stair just south of the row of wood columns between the machine shop and ca. 1883 addition which provides access to the second, third, and fourth floors; and a stair at the northwest corner of the ca. 1883 addition which provides access to the first through fourth floors. The latter two sets of stairs are enclosed in wood plank partitions.

Throughout the upper floors, the brick walls are generally either painted or unpainted but not plastered. Flooring consists of wood plank laid in various configurations and with many instances of patching. In the machine shop and ca. 1883 addition, three rows of square wood columns support longitudinal wood beams which support the wood joists and subfloor (or roof decking) above. In the 1856 addition, support is provided by a single row of round wood columns with simple carved capitals at the second floor, and by square wood columns with chamfered corners at the third and fourth floors. Throughout the machine shop, 1856 addition, and ca. 1883 addition, with few exceptions, window lintels at the interior wythe of brick are wood, in contrast to the brick round arches or segmental arches of the exterior wythe.

At the fourth-floor mezzanine of the ca. 1883 addition, roof access is provided via a ladder to a rooftop bulkhead. At the third floor of the machine shop, the underside of the shed roof is exposed, consisting of oriented strand board joists and decking.

## 1865 Addition

The 1865 addition was converted to residential use in the late twentieth century, with almost no historic interior finishes remaining. Doorways into this addition from the machine shop and ca. 1883 addition are sealed with brick, except in one location at the third floor, where a metal-clad fire door remains. The spaces within the 1865 addition have carpet, non-historic doors, gypsum board interior partitions, gypsum board and dropped ceilings, and gypsum board finishes over steel studs at the exterior walls. Painted brick walls are exposed in limited locations. The first floor consists of a living room and double-height kitchen and dining rooms with a non-historic stair at the west. The second floor is mostly open to the first floor below, with a bedroom and bathroom.

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The historic wood joists and subfloor are partially exposed at the underside of the third floor. The third floor is mostly open, with a bedroom and bathroom to the south. Modern electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems are generally concealed within the partitions or above gypsum board ceilings.

## Garage (one non-contributing building)

A mid-twentieth century, one-story, concrete block garage abuts the west elevation of the 1865 addition and faces Ida Street. The garage, which is a flat-roofed, two-car structure, has a load-bearing east wall and is not internally connected to the main building. It was constructed after the period of significance and is a non-contributing element.

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#### 8. Statement of Significance

## **Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)



Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.



Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.



Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D

Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

## **Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

 A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
 В	removed from its original location.
 с	a birthplace or grave.
 D	a cemetery.
 Е	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
 F	a commemorative property.
G	less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

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## Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance** 

1845-1914

## **Significant Dates**

1845 (machine shop erected); 1856 (east addition); 1865 (northwest addition); ca. 1883 (north-central addition); 1914 (manufacturing discontinued, building abandoned)

Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

## **Cultural Affiliation**

Architect/Builder

Builders (1856 addition): G. W. Oliver and O.

G. Clark

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## Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Empire Stove Works begins with the construction of the machine shop building in 1845 and ends in 1914, when the building ceased being used for iron and steel manufacturing.

#### Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

#### Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

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

The Empire Stove Works, located at 285 Second Street in Troy, NY, is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Industry and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The original building is a machine shop that was built in 1845 along with an associated foundry (no longer extant) across the street for the Empire Stove Works company. These buildings were erected to produce cast-iron products with a focus on stoves, which were one of the signature products of Troy's iron and steel industry, one of the city's most important economic anchors. This industry was centered in South Troy, where waterpower from the lower Poestenkill and Wynantskill creeks could be easily harnessed. The machine shop building was partially powered by a dam in the adjacent Poestenkill, and it is one of few intact industrial buildings left on the creek's banks.

The Empire Stove Works is commonly recognized as the second largest stove works in Troy, and, with metalworking conducted at the facility between 1845 and 1914, it is one of the oldest and most enduring examples of Troy's substantial iron and steel industry. Though the works was owned and operated by a variety of manufacturers over the years, the continuing success of the Empire Stove line of products led to several expansions of the building at 285 Second Street. These consisted of a four-story, street-facing addition with Italianate features to house the company office and additional working space (1856), a three-story pattern storehouse (1865), and a three-story warehouse (ca. 1883) that also had Italianate characteristics.

While the foundry portion of the complex was demolished in the early 1980s, the portion that remains retains its historic integrity as an original building of the works that housed multiple functions for the greater factory. Its location, with its foundation forming part of the Poestenkill's retaining wall, enhances the integrity of this important remnant of Troy's industrial history. The building is a relatively rare survivor of the once flourishing iron and steel industry in the South Troy area. It is also architecturally significant as an intact example of common mill construction, characterized by brick walls, heavy timber framing and wood floors, and rows of arched windows. It typifies the materials and methods of mid- to late-nineteenth-century factory construction, and its construction history visually conveys the evolving needs of the iron works business.

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## The City of Troy and its Iron Industry

Prior to the arrival of European settlers, the area that is now known as Troy, New York, was occupied by the Mohican Nation, which named the area Paanpapaack, or "the field of standing corn."<sup>1</sup> There were reportedly two Mohican village sites in the vicinity of modern-day Troy; one site was located north of the mouth of the Poesten Kill Creek while the second site was located in the southern limits of modern-day Lansingburgh, now Troy's northernmost neighborhood. French fur traders were the first Europeans to visit this area of the Hudson Valley and likely traded with the Mohican people during their exploration. The Dutch East India Company was established in 1602 for the purpose of surveying and colonizing the Hudson River Valley, among other areas in New York and New Jersey. In 1630, a pearl merchant from Amsterdam named Kiliaen Van Rensselaer sent a contingent of Dutch colonists to Paanpapaack. Van Rensselaer purchased a tract of land on the east and west sides of the Hudson River from the Mohicans in 1652, establishing himself as the Patroon of Rensselaerwyck. In the following decades, Van Rensselaer subdivided his estate into numerous small tenant farms, and a small, rural farming community grew.<sup>2</sup>

By the late eighteenth century, the land was owned by the Lansingh and Vanderheyden families. Situated at the head of the tidewater of the Hudson River just south of the confluence with the Mohawk River, the region was ideally situated to be a bustling hub of industry and commercial activity. In the years after the American Revolution, New England settlers arrived looking for new homes in and around the upper Hudson Valley.<sup>3</sup> The community of Lansingburgh, at the north end of the current City of Troy, was the first area to be developed during this period. Vanderheyden, located to the south, was the second village to be established in the area, and it eventually proved to be the more significant community. Its name was changed to Troy in 1789; it became the county seat in 1791 and was incorporated as a village in 1798.<sup>4</sup> Troy's population eventually grew to city proportions, and it was incorporated as such on April 12, 1816.

Troy is known for its educational institutions, as the home of the historical figure behind the patriotic icon "Uncle Sam," and as the "Collar City" due to its role as a manufacturing center for the detachable collar, a housewife's ingenious laundry-saving and money-making invention. Nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Troy was also home to heavy industry, notably manufacturing at iron and steel foundries. The discovery of iron ore in the Adirondack region around the turn of the nineteenth century was significant to the development of the industry in New York State, though markets for northern iron products were limited until the construction of the Erie and Champlain Canals in the 1820s brought ore and trade to the Hudson Valley.<sup>5</sup> The iron industry was centered in South Troy, where metal shops could harness the waterpower of the Wynantskill and Poestenkill Creeks as they flowed westward into the Hudson River. These streams had provided waterpower to Troy's industrial holdings since 1667, when the first saw mill was erected on the edge of the Poestenkill gorge.<sup>6</sup> The earliest of the city's metalworks were the Albany Rolling and Slitting Mill (1807) and the Troy Iron and Nail

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Nathaniel Bartlett Sylvester, *History of Rensselaer Co., New York,* 1880, 176.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Duane T. Murphy, *Industrial Archaeology of South Troy*, Prepared for Hudson Mohawk Industrial Gateway, 1979, 16-18.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Sylvester, *History of Rensselaer Co. New York*, 178.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Don Rittner, *Troy: A Collar City History*, NY, Making of America Series, (Mount Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2002), 43-47.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Rittner, *Troy: A Collar City History*, 86-87.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Rittner, Troy: A Collar City History, 31

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Company (1809), the products of which included horseshoes, nails, barrel hoops, bar iron, sheet copper, and similar products.<sup>7</sup> The companies were equipped to work with both metal sheets and wrought iron. The former involved the compression of metal sheets between rollers followed by slicing the sheets into nails and other "cut" products.

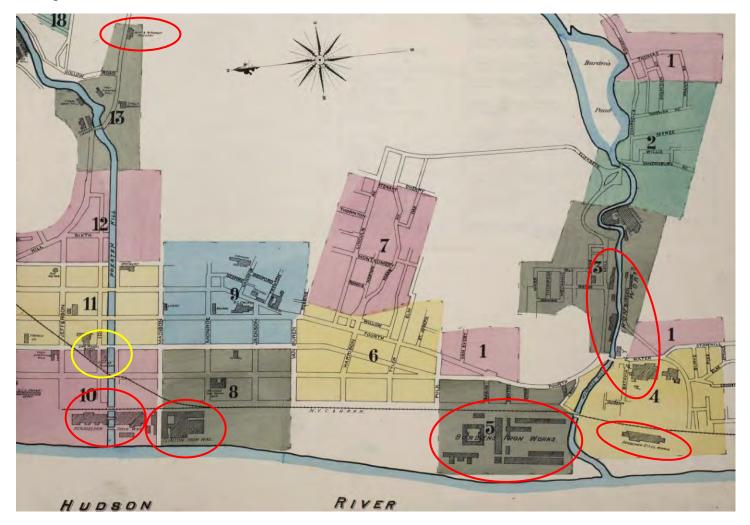


Figure 2. 1885 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map showing the locations of iron and steel works in the vicinity of South Troy. Empire Stove Works is circled in yellow.

The alternative was wrought iron, which was heated and manipulated into a desired shape. The production of wrought-iron objects was essentially blacksmithing on a factory-scale using machinery and personnel to produce a large quantity of products. As an example, Henry Burden, the long-time superintendent of the Troy Iron and Nail Company, oversaw the mass production of nails and is noted for streamlining the production of horseshoes, which were traditionally hand-wrought, to a single, mechanized movement.<sup>8</sup> The Troy Iron and Nail Company became the Burden Iron Works in 1848, when Burden became the majority shareholder. Burden was

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Judy Coyne Becker, "Troy Multiple Resource Area," 1989, manuscript on file at the New York State Historic Preservation Office. <sup>8</sup> Martha Truax, *National Register Nomination Form for Burden Iron Works, Office Building*, July 1971.

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arguably the most well-known of Troy's iron magnates, and his South Troy office building and manufactory ruins were listed on the National Register in 1972 (90NR00980) and 1977 (90NR00998), respectively.

The process of casting iron by pouring molten metal into molds was another technique of Troy's iron industry. This work occurred at foundries that were accompanied by machine shops and other related buildings. Though cast iron is brittle and lacks the tensile strength of wrought iron, casting produces elaborate shapes with a regularity and precision that would be difficult or impossible to achieve with wrought iron. Casting is a technique that also enables the production of large-scale objects. Sand is one of the necessary components for casting iron, and the region's fine, slightly clayey sand was considered particularly well suited for molding sand.<sup>9</sup> The oldest foundry in the city was the Troy Air Furnace, founded in 1818 by Alpheus and Truman Hanks and Ephraim Gurney.<sup>10</sup>

The Civil War provided an economic boon to Troy's iron industry. In what is arguably the city's most wellknown contribution to the war effort, the Albany Iron Works in Troy was one of several New York foundries to produce hull plating for the *Monitor*. Other products produced for the Union Army included horseshoes from the Burden Iron Works and cannon barrels.<sup>11</sup> Though Troy produced many other types of cast metal products, including bells and manhole covers, it was cast-iron stoves that became the signature product of the city's metal industry.

## The Hudson Valley Stove Industry

The extensive stove research of Tammis K. Groft includes detailed descriptions of common stove types in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century America. The earliest, of German design, were called five-plate or jamb stoves. Five distinct plates formed an open box which would be placed against an opening in the wall. The opening in the wall would open on the other side to the back of the fireplace in the kitchen. The user would then take hot coals and insert them into the stove through the opening. This was a brilliant way to heat the adjacent room while avoiding the smoke of the fireplace. Six-plate stoves were being manufactured by the 1740s; these were freestanding boxes, closed on all sides with the addition of a smoke pipe which could be connected to a chimney, though some could be directed out of a window. Ten-plate stoves were larger, with four additional cast-iron plates that formed an oven on the stove. These were popular after the 1760s and generated more heat because of the increased surface area; thus, the ten-plate stoves were ideal for heating homes and public spaces. In 1740, Benjamin Franklin invented his "Pennsylvania Fireplace," seeking to improve upon methods of heating that he had observed in his travels abroad. The Pennsylvania fireplace diverted the heat to an airbox from which it passed out of a flue at the bottom. The stove ran on burning wood, which gave it a huge advantage as it used

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> David Levine, "Uncovering Albany's Heated-Stove Making History," *Hudson Valley Magazine*, February 13, 2019, <u>https://hvmag.com/life-style/albany-stove-making-history/</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Rittner, *Troy: A Collar City History*, 91.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Becker, "Troy Multiple Resource Area," 1989; Murphy, Industrial Archaeology of South Troy, 23.

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less fuel and radiated more heat than a brick fireplace.<sup>12</sup> A Lansingburgh resident, William T. James, invented the first cookstove in 1815, broadening the utility and appeal of stoves.<sup>13</sup>

In 1821, Ephraim Gurney partnered with brothers Charles and Nathanial Starbuck to cast the first stove plates in the city of Troy.<sup>14</sup> However, in the early nineteenth century the regional cast-iron stove market was dominated by foundries in Vermont, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. The Vermont foundries utilized the Champlain Canal to bring their products to southern and western markets via the Hudson River and the Erie Canal.<sup>15</sup> Many other stoves were partially cast in one location and assembled elsewhere. Such was the case with stove plates that were manufactured in Pennsylvania and New Jersey and then shipped to Albany and Troy, where they were assembled and then distributed locally by merchants. For example, Groft's history of the Hudson Valley stove industry recounts two Albany companies, Heermance & Rathbone and Gill & Cooper, buying and selling 750 and 300 tons of stove plates, respectively, from Philadelphia. Often, the name of the company that assembled the stove would be cast in the stove plates, even if they had been shipped from elsewhere, which makes it difficult to determine where exactly the stove was originally cast.

In this way, Troy foundries offered smaller scale stove production in the 1820s and early 1830s, but by the mid-1830s, there were likely more stoves being cast in Albany and Troy than there were stove parts ordered from the foundries in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.<sup>16</sup> The Troy industry grew despite the competition with out-of-state foundries and was characterized by small companies centered on foundries operated by a shifting series of owners. The Clinton Stove Works, owned by the Fuller & Warren Company, was reportedly the largest producer of cast-iron stoves in nineteenth-century Troy. At one point, the company employed over 1,000 people and had sales offices in cities across the country.<sup>17</sup>

## The Empire Stove Works

The Empire Stove Works has been described as both Troy's second-largest manufacturer of cast-iron stoves<sup>18</sup> and as its second-oldest.<sup>19</sup> The company was founded in 1841 by Anson Atwood (1810-1885), originally of Salem, New York, who moved to Troy around 1833 or 1834. He began inventing as early as 1830, when he patented a fulling machine for the textile industry.<sup>20</sup> His move to Troy may have prompted an interest in the stove industry, as he began designing and manufacturing stoves and founded the Empire Stove Works in 1841.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Tammis K. Groft, *Cast with Style: Nineteenth Century Cast-Iron Stoves from the Albany Area* (Albany, NY: Albany Institute of History and Art, 1981), 13.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Rittner, *Troy: A Collar City History*, 90.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Joseph A. Parker, "Stove Making Once a Big Troy Industry," *Record Newspapers*, January 31, 1970, B-3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> "The Troy Stove Foundries," *Troy Daily Times*, February 13, 1872.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Groft, Cast with Style: Nineteenth Century Cast-Iron Stoves from the Albany Area, 14.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Parker, "Stove Making Once a Big Troy Industry."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Parker, "Stove Making Once a Big Troy Industry"; Rittner, Troy: A Collar City History, 92.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> George Baker Anderson, *Landmarks of Rensselaer County, New York* (Syracuse, NY: D. Mason & Company, 1897), 312; Murphy, *Industrial Archaeology of South Troy*, 1979; Arthur James Weise, *Troy's One Hundred Years, 1789-1889* (Troy, NY: W. H. Young, 1891), 270.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Anson Atwood, Fulling mill and power loom, US Patent 6094X, granted October 1, 1830, https://www.datamp.org/patents/advance.php?id=33936&set=1.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Weise, Troy's One Hundred Years, 270.

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His stove patents included a summer cooking stove (1838), a railway cooking stove (1839), a kitchen stove (1842), and an airtight parlor stove (1845).<sup>22</sup> Though stoves were primarily produced and marketed as useful and efficient appliances, manufacturers like Atwood also marketed their beauty. Anson's 1845 airtight parlor stove (Figure 3, left) was a corrugated iron box concealed within side plates cast in Gothic patterns. Its highly decorated exterior was marketed as "beautiful in the extreme."<sup>23</sup>



Figure 3. 1846 advertisements for Anson Atwood's patented stoves (<u>https://stovehistory.blogspot.com/2021/02/the-new-york-capital-district-part-3.html</u>).

The company's signature Empire Stove (Figure 3, right) and other models were sold through Atwood's store at 247 River Street and were probably manufactured from pieces cast at nearby foundries. The shop (no longer extant) was one of several on the street (now Troy's central business district), which became Troy's commercial center for the stove trade.<sup>24</sup> In 1844 Atwood partnered with Spencer Cole, and the business began to expand, as advertisements from early 1845 promoted not only the Empire Stove but also cooking tools and utensils fabricated from sheet copper, tin, and iron.<sup>25</sup> In June 1845, Isaac Crane joined the company, and notice of the new partnership indicated that Atwood Cole & Crane would continue to operate from "the old stand" at 247

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Rittner, *Troy: A Collar City History*, 92

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Howell Harris, "The New York Capital District, Part 3: Stove Patents 1843-1847," *A Stove Less Ordinary*, February 25, 2021, <u>https://stovehistory.blogspot.com/2021/02/the-new-york-capital-district-part-3.html</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Levine, "Uncovering Albany's Heated-Stove Making History."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> "Empire Stove – The Proprietors," *Troy Daily Whig*, February 1845.

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River Street but were planning on erecting a foundry.<sup>26</sup> They began this project within a month, and, by November, had built a machine shop and foundry on an undeveloped piece of land by the Greenbush Railroad and the Poestenkill. The foundry was located inside the curve of the railbed on the northwest corner of Second and Ida Streets, while the creek-side machine shop was set back from both streets (see Figure 4). The project cost Atwood, Cole & Crane about \$20,000.

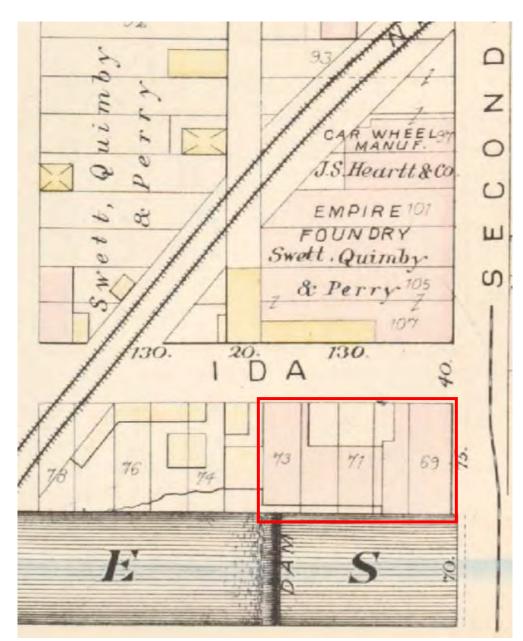


Figure 4. 1881 map from *City Atlas of Troy, New York by* G.M. Hopkins showing location of Empire Stove Works, including foundry north of Ida Street and machine shop with additions south of Ida Street (outlined in red).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> "Partnership Notice," *Troy Daily Whig*, June 12, 1845.

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At its opening, the foundry of the new Empire Stove Works factory could produce hundreds of castings. In addition to the Empire stove, the foundry produced a variety of cast-iron objects ranging from curry combs to statuary.<sup>27</sup> The machine shop, which is the rear portion of the existing building at 285 Second Street, was the primary location for finishing work, such as assembling and polishing. The second floor was tenanted by Mile & Gilbert, makers of rail cars, who planned to build a shop nearby, while the third floor was used for storage. An article in the *Troy Daily Whig* that described the new facility noted the importance of waterpower for the machine shop, which was strategically positioned at the Poestenkill dam, as well as the market benefit of having the railroad, canal, and Hudson River so close at hand.<sup>28</sup> For several years after the foundry complex on Second Street was completed, Atwood Cole & Crane continued to use the River Street location as a store.<sup>29</sup>

Anson Atwood and his partners sold the business in 1848 to Pease, Keeney, & Co., though Atwood retained ownership of the factory until 1865.<sup>30</sup> The company continued to change hands and partnerships for several years, with Clark, Keeney & Co. taking the helm in 1850, followed by Felton, Keeney & Co. in 1851.<sup>31</sup> In 1852, George W. Swett and his partner, Julius F. Quimby, purchased the Empire Stove business.

Swett, Quimby & Co. initiated a significant addition to the stove works facility in 1856 with the erection of a four-story brick building fronting Second Street. This structure, which forms the east end of the building at 285 Second Street, was described in the newspaper as handsome and imposing, and included the company's new office in its northeast corner. Other improvements were apparently included in the 1856 construction project, as the four-story building was described as the "principal new building."<sup>32</sup> The earliest Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map for the city of Troy, from 1885 (Figure 5), shows that the complex included several free-standing, single-story structures used for patterns, molding, and a sand house, so it is possible that one or more of these smaller structures was also added to the complex in 1856.

The foundry side of the Empire Stove Works complex was enlarged in 1863 by the addition of a facility to be leased to H. Stanley & Co., fabricators of railroad car wheels.<sup>33</sup> Soon after, George Swett and Jonas Heartt formed J. S. Heartt & Co. and purchased the car wheel business (see Figure 5).<sup>34</sup> In the early 1880s, a second car wheel foundry was erected on the east side of Second Street. The car wheel casters and the stove manufacturers, both owned in part by George Swett, later shared office space at 285 Second Street.<sup>35</sup>

By this time, the Empire Stove Works was a flourishing ironworks with the capacity to produce very large and heavy objects. On June 26, 1864, the foundry (now operated by Swett, Quimby, and Harlow Bennett) cast a twenty-eight-ton anvil for a new Burden mill, a feat considered to be the heaviest casting achieved in the greater

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> "The Empire Foundry," Troy Daily Whig, November 20, 1845.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> "The Empire Foundry," Troy Daily Whig, November 20, 1845.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Groft, Cast with Style, 115.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> "Large Sale of Real Estate," *Troy Daily Whig*, September 21, 1865.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Weise, Troy's One Hundred Years, 1789-1889, 283.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> "Foundry Improvements," Troy Daily Times, April 16, 1856.

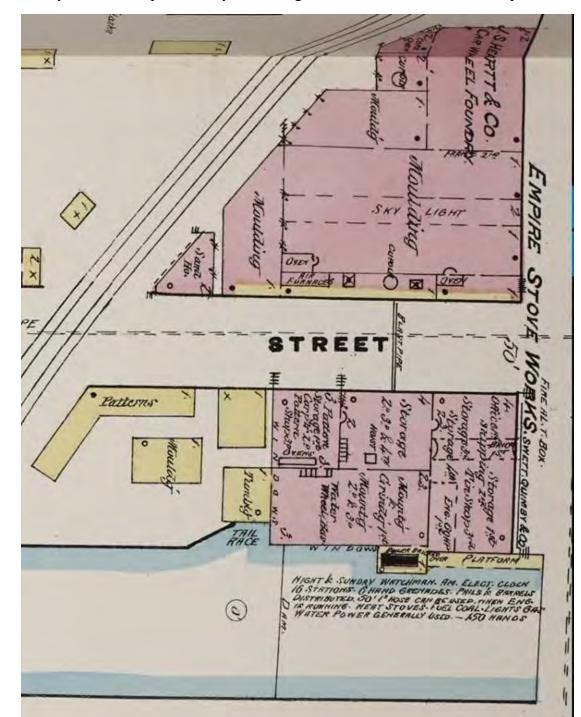
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> "Foundry Enlargement," Troy Daily Times, August 8, 1863.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> "Home Matters," *Troy Daily Times*, May 28, 1867.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> "A Large Industry," Troy Daily Times, January 13, 1890.

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Albany-Troy region. The event drew reporters and other observers and remained a milestone in the history of Troy's iron industry, with the Empire foundry continuing to hold the record for "heaviest pour" for decades.<sup>36</sup>

Figure 5. 1885 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map showing the Empire Stove Works complex.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> "Home Matters," *Troy Daily Times*, June 27, 1864; Anderson, *Landmarks of Rensselaer County*, 312.

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Another addition to 285 Second Street was completed in 1865, which was three stories and was added to the northwest corner of the existing building.<sup>37</sup> This new wing was used as a pattern house, where the valuable molding patterns could be stored. The resultant footprint of the building as a whole was U-shaped, as depicted in an illustration drawn between 1867 and 1885 (Figure 6). This image also shows the machine shop boiler room that jutted over the Poestenkill. By 1885, when the first Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map was drafted for Troy, the boiler was no longer in use.

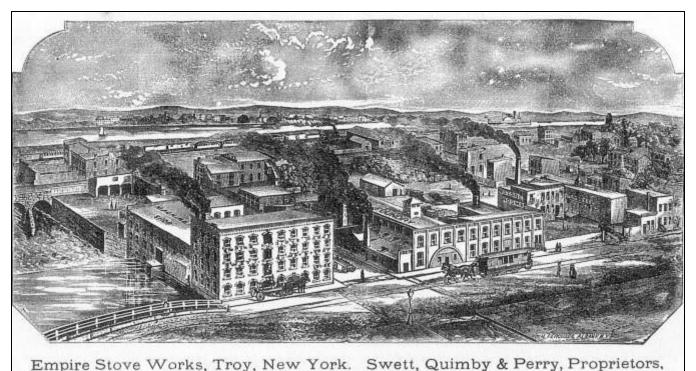


Figure 6. Illustration of the Empire Stove Works (foreground, left) ca. 1870s (<u>https://hudsonmohawkgateway.org/troys-foundry-</u>

industry-manholes).

Following Bennett's retirement, Swett and Quimby were joined in partnership by Samuel W. Perry in 1867, and this group stayed in control of the business for fifteen years.<sup>38</sup> By the early 1870s, Troy's iron industry was in full flourish with fifteen foundries employing an estimated 1,750 people. In 1872, the *Troy Daily Times* reported that the city's foundries annually used 20,000 tons of iron and 10,000 tons of coal and produced (among other items) 150,000 cast-iron stoves. The 200 employees at the Empire Stove Works made about 10,000 of these stoves, which were valued at \$500,000.<sup>39</sup> In October 1871, many of these employees were heralded in the *Troy Daily Whig* for donating a day's salary to the "sufferers" of the Chicago fire.<sup>40</sup>

The company continued to innovate over the decades, producing award-winning stoves into the 1870s:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> "A Pleasant Affair," *Troy Daily Times*, December 30, 1865.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> "Death of a Prominent Stove Manufacturer," *Troy Daily Times*, April 22, 1895.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> "The Troy Stove Foundries," *Troy Daily Times*, February 13, 1872.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> "The Response," *Troy Daily Whig*, October 19, 1871.

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At the recent State Fair, in competition with all the leading stoves in the market, the First Premium was awarded to the "New Empire" Cook Stove for burning coal, as being the best. At no fair in this State for years has there been as great competition. The superior qualities of this stove made it the center of attraction on the grounds, and obtained for it the unanimous award of the committee. This stove has been exhibited at about one hundred State and County fairs during the last year, and in every instance it has taken the first premium, when any premiums were awarded to cooking stoves.<sup>41</sup>

Empire became widely known for their production of coal-burning cookstoves. Another popular model was their Empire Heating Range, which was promoted as an improvement upon the Empire Cook Stove, as well as the Graphic Parlor Stove. The Empire Heating Range exhibit amassed such crowds at the Great Central New York Exhibition of 1875 that there was reportedly little breathing room in the space. This heating range was larger than the other models and was designed to be both a cook stove and a heater for upper levels of a building. The *Utica Daily Observer* reported that it "still holds, as it has in years past, the first place as a cook stove" and also noted the "absolute perfection" of Empire's Graphic Portable Range, describing it as "complete, compact and scientifically-constructed."<sup>42</sup>

The company's business model consistently used public accolades as a primary form of advertisement, especially for their flagship model, the New Empire Cooking Stove. One such "news item" from 1874 celebrated the efficiency of the stoves even when no fire has been lit, sharing an anecdote where a woman used the stove's residual heat from the previous night to bake an early morning loaf of bread, surprising her husband who was still chopping kindling for the first fire of the day.<sup>43</sup> At its peak, the works employed upwards of 300 workers, producing 15,000 stoves annually.<sup>44</sup>

The company faced some struggles as the 1870s went on, including an ongoing dispute with the City of Troy over the company's dam on the Poestenkill just upstream from the Empire Stove Works, which created a pond that effectively blocked Third Street. The common council wanted to drain the pond to extend the street, but the stove makers insisted that they had legal rights to the land and a pond.<sup>45</sup> The impounded water created extra force at the dam, and thus more power for their machine shop. The dispute was lengthy and ultimately favored the city. An 1881 "bird's eye view" map of Troy (Figure 7) shows the apparent location of the former pond in an undeveloped block of Third Street near the Empire Stove Works.<sup>46</sup>

Many industries suffered during the long depression brought on by the Panic 1873, including Troy's stove industry. In 1876, Swett, Quimby & Perry reported that their sales had dropped by \$35,000 from 1875, and the company's credit was suspended. In the days leading up to the suspension, however, the *Troy Daily Times* reported that the company's assets were larger than its liabilities and noted that the firm had been "an important

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> "To the New Empire Cooking Stove," Utica Morning Herald, January 26, 1871.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> "Notes of the Fair," *Daily Observer Utica*, September 30, 1875.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> "Home Briefs," Rensselaer County Standard, January 17, 1874.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Anderson, Landmarks of Rensselaer County, 312.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> "Important Decision," *Troy Daily Times*, January 15, 1875.

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factor in the progress and prosperity of our city."<sup>47</sup> By the early 1880s they had found their footing again and were prosperous enough to expand their building at 285 Second Street for a third time. While the details of this event have not been discovered, a review of historic maps show that this addition was constructed between 1881 and 1885.<sup>48</sup> This addition is a four-story brick building that filled in the open space in the "U" formed by the previous additions. The 1885 Sanborn map (Figure 5) labels it as storage space.

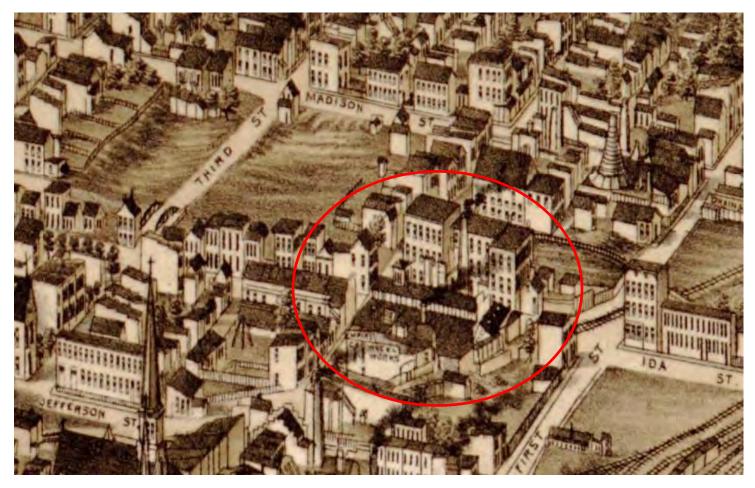


Figure 7. Detail of *Bird's Eye View of Troy, N.Y.* (1881) showing Empire Stove Works, circled. Extant building is at top of circled area and foundry building at bottom. In the upper left of the image is the area adjacent to Third Street that had been a pond.

Perry died in 1883 and Quimby in 1886, after which Swett took on his son, Fred, as a junior partner, running the business as George W. Swett & Co. until his passing in 1895.<sup>49</sup> The longevity of Swett's tenure at the Empire Stove Works was later described as among the longest proprietorships in the Troy business community.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> Beck & Pauli. *Troy, N.Y. 1881*, 1881. Col. Map, 66x92 cm. Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., accessed May 16, 2023, <u>https://www.loc.gov/item/75694855</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> "The Rumored Suspension of Swett, Quimby & Perry," *Troy Daily Times*, December 13, 1876.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Beck & Pauli, 1881; Sanborn Map Company, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Troy, Rensselaer County, New York*, 1885, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. <u>https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn06307\_001</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> "Death of a Prominent Stove Manufacturer." Troy Daily Times, April 22, 1895.

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Following Swett's death, William Felton, who had been manager of the stove works, assumed control of the business on behalf of the Swett estate.<sup>50</sup> In May of 1898, the *Evening Standard* reported that foundry had shut down and was going to be sold at public auction. In November of that year Felton purchased the business from the Swett estate with his new partner, Bernard Hughes, another longtime company employee.<sup>51</sup> They did not resume stove manufacturing at the factory; instead, 285 Second Street became home to the Empire Stove Repair

Works, operated by Hughes, as well as several tenant businesses: the James Hislop Scale Company, the Ida Hill Nickel Works, and Frank Henderson's tin shop and sheet iron heater business.<sup>52</sup> The largest of these appears to have been the nickel works, which had approximately 100 employees and occupied the front (1856) portion of the building.<sup>53</sup>

In January 1902, a fire started by machinery sparks igniting gasoline reportedly "destroyed" a portion of the building, affecting all of the companies then occupying it. The local newspaper reported: "Before the fire was under control it had eaten its way entirely through the building, the rear part being burned to the ground. The west wall fell and left the other frames of brick liable to go down at any moment."<sup>54</sup> Despite the severity of the damage, repairs were commenced later that year after Hislop, operator of the scale company, purchased the property (by then owned by heirs of Jonas S. Heartt) at auction and leased it to the Reynolds-Chalou Foundry Company.<sup>55</sup> The repairs, which included roof replacement and reconfiguration of the building to accommodate larger castings, were completed by January 1903.<sup>56</sup>

Reynolds-Chalou, founded about 1897, made stove plates and other iron products and had been operating out of a smaller works elsewhere in Troy.<sup>57</sup> The 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map (Figure 8) shows that they concentrated their production activities at 285 Second Street in the 1856 volume of the building. The rear portions were used in a more limited capacity, with the second and third floors generally vacant. The company's needs must have expanded during the following decade, as they left the Empire Stove Works for a larger facility in 1914.58 The departure of Reynolds-Chalou effectively ended foundry work at the Empire Stove Works, thus closing the period of significance.

In the following years, 285 Second Street does not appear to have been occupied by a steady business or manufacturing concern. The 1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company map indicates that the building was entirely vacant. By 1955, however, the building was used as a warehouse for hardware and paints for Lindy Hardware, who owned it through 1998. It was later renovated for use as a restaurant, Irish Mist, which occupied the building between 2001 and 2013. The foundry portion of the complex was also destined for other uses in the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Anderson, Landmarks of Rensselaer County, 312.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> "Down Town Gossip," Evening Standard, May 20, 1898; "Stove Trade Notes: Sale of Empire Stove Works," The Metal Worker, November 5, 1898, 54.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> "Odd Plates," *The Metal Worker*, February 1, 1902.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> "Troy Fire Causes Heavy Loss," *Troy Argus*, January 29, 1902.
<sup>54</sup> "Troy Fire Causes Heavy Loss."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> "Home Matters," *Troy Daily Times*, June 19, 1902; "Home Matters," *Troy Daily Times*, September 4, 1902.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> "Odd Plates," The Metal Worker, January 24, 1903; "Home Matters," Troy Daily Times, September 4, 1902.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> "Home Matters," *Troy Daily Times*, September 4, 1902.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> "Remodelling Old Factory," The Troy Times, March 11, 1914.

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twentieth century; the Sanborn map of 1955 shows it being occupied by a feed and fertilizer business. Aerial photography demonstrates that it was razed in the early 1980s.

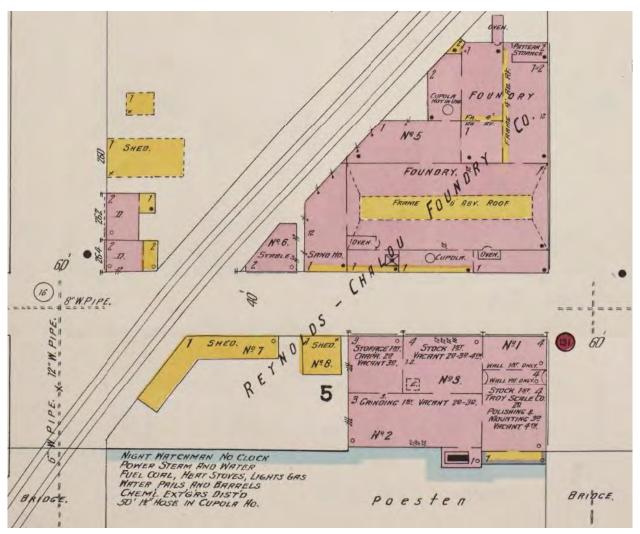


Figure 8. 1904 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Troy.

## **Comparative Analysis**

The Empire Stove Works at 285 Second Street is one of the few intact buildings that remain from South Troy's nineteenth-century iron-working industry and the only such structure known to be left on the Poestenkill. The 1885 Sanborn map (Figure 2) illustrates the locations of the largest or most significant ironworks in the area at that time, each of which included several buildings. The loss of the area's ironworking architecture was gradual, with complexes like the Hoyt & Wynkoop Stove & Nickel Plating factory (Figure 2, upper left) removed in the early twentieth century prior to the drafting of the 1955 Sanborn map. The other works depicted in Figure 2 were included in *Industrial Archaeology of South Troy*, a study prepared for the Hudson Mohawk Industrial

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Gateway in 1979.<sup>59</sup> Since that study was completed, much of the architecture described therein has been removed or has suffered a loss of integrity due to modification and/or deterioration.

Table 1 presents a list of the ironworking plants included in the 1979 report and provides a brief desktop assessment of each property's current status. This research incorporated evaluations of mapping and aerial and street-level photography to identify extant industrial architecture. As shown, most of the complexes have been completely or largely demolished. Though the Empire Stove Works lost its foundry in the early 1980s, the remaining building from the complex retains its historic integrity as an original building of the works that housed multiple functions for the greater factory. Its integrity of location, with its foundation forming part of the Poestenkill retaining wall, enhances the significance of this important remnant of Troy's industrial history.

Table 1. Desktop Integrity Analysis of Ironworks Listed in Industrial Archaeology of South Troy (1979)

Name	Date of Construction	Principle Buildings	Extant Buildings	Associated Waterway	Present Status
Upper Burden Iron Works	Ca. 1813- 1848	<ul> <li>Rolling mill with water wheel</li> <li>Punching shop</li> <li>Horseshoe storehouse</li> <li>Spike factory</li> <li>Forge</li> <li>Office</li> </ul>	None (ruins)	Wynantskill	Ruins. Site listed on National Register of Historic Places (90NR00980).
Upper Albany Iron Works	Ca. 1840	<ul> <li>Storage house</li> <li>Two connected storage sheds</li> <li>Punching building</li> <li>Horseshoe factory with waterwheel</li> <li>Mechanics hall</li> <li>Brick sluice gatehouse and dam</li> </ul>	Brick sluice gatehouse and dam	Wynantskill	All structures besides gatehouse and dam demolished by 1979.
Empire Stove Works	1845-ca. 1883	<ul> <li>Machine shop with office, pattern house, and warehouse</li> <li>Foundry</li> </ul>	Machine shop with office, pattern house, and warehouse	Poestenkill	Foundry removed in the early 1980s. Extant building is situated at the Poestenkill dam.
Rensselaer Iron Works	Ca. 1846	<ul> <li>Rolling mill</li> <li>Rail mill</li> <li>Pump house</li> <li>Machine shop</li> <li>Forge shed</li> <li>Sand house</li> </ul>	None	Hudson River/Poestenkill	Buildings removed 1979, 2008, and 2016.
Clinton Stove Works/Fuller Warren Company	Ca. 1846	• Four/five-story masonry industrial building	None	Hudson River	All historic-era buildings demolished by 2011; site now has only modern industrial buildings.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Murphy, Industrial Archaeology of South Troy, 1979.

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Lower Albany Iron Works	Ca. 1849	<ul> <li>Merchant iron rolling mill</li> <li>Star forge and puddling operation</li> <li>Machine shop</li> </ul>	None	Wynantskill	Complex demolished ca. 2005. Site is now the County Waste and Recycling.
Jones & Co. Bell Foundry	Ca. 1854	Brick foundry	Brick foundry	N/A	Jones & Co. closed in 1887 and the foundry building was altered to house a cold storage company by 1904, with a large addition constructed (since demolished). Building has poor integrity, with nearly all windows bricked in.
Lower Burden Iron Works	Ca. 1862	<ul> <li>Four furnaces</li> <li>Horseshoe warehouse</li> <li>Iron and steel warehouse</li> <li>Blacksmith shop</li> <li>Swaging house</li> </ul>	Swaging house Warehouse	Wynantskill	Most buildings removed by 1979. Current aerial photos indicate that extant buildings are vacant and in poor condition.
Bessemer Steel Plant	Ca. 1864	<ul> <li>Masonry and frame mill with limestone mill, molding room</li> <li>Blacksmith shop</li> <li>Storage house/partial barn</li> <li>Coal bins</li> </ul>	None	Wynantskill/ Hudson River	Demolition of complex began between 1952 and 1986. Remaining historic buildings demolished by 2019.
Burden Iron Works Office Building	1881	Richardsonian Romanesque office building	Richardsonian Romanesque office building	N/A	Listed on National Register of Historic Places (90NR00980). Currently functions as a museum.
Jonas S. Heartt & Company	Ca. 1883	<ul> <li>Foundry, east side of Second Street</li> <li>Foundry, west side of Second Street (adjacent to Empire Stove Works foundry)</li> </ul>	One-story brick foundry (east side of Second Street)	N/A	Extant building ceased operating as a foundry by 1904. Level of interior integrity unknown.
Neemes Brothers Foundry	1886	<ul> <li>One-story brick foundry</li> <li>Three-story brick machine shop</li> </ul>	One-story brick foundry	N/A	Machine shop building removed pre-1979. (Has approved PDIL.)

## **Criterion C – The Architectural Significance of the Empire Stove Works Building**

The Empire Stove Works building is an intact example of a mid- to late-nineteenth-century, multi-story, industrial loft building. Its original section was built as a machine shop in 1845 to accompany a foundry that was erected on the adjacent street corner. These two structures were the central buildings of the stove works, which later included several auxiliary, single-story structures. The machine shop, with its subsequent additions, is the only structure left of the original complex.

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Site selection was critical to the development of the Empire Stove Works complex. The paired lots straddling Ida Street had access to road, rail, and water transportation. Most importantly, the Poestenkill provided waterpower to the machine shop building. Figure 2 illustrates the locations of prominent ironworks in the city ca. 1885. Nearly all are adjacent to a waterway, with several positioned on the banks of the fast-flowing kills (creeks) flowing out of the hills above South Troy. While the Empire Stove Works foundry abutted both Second and Ida Streets, the machine shop was set back from both streets and hugged the stream bank. The machine shop's foundation forms part of the creek's retaining wall, which enabled the installation of a water wheel in the basement to harness hydropower where the adjacent dam formed a waterfall. This dam could not be directly utilized by any other building, as Canal Street ran along the south bank of the creek. This location gave Empire Stove Works a distinct power advantage, one which it later enhanced by developing a small reservoir in the vicinity of Third Street.

The machine shop was built as an industrial loft with a narrow rectilinear footprint measuring 36 feet by 90 feet. These dimensions were typical of a brick loft building, a typology that was constructed with regular fenestration to light the manufacturing spaces within.<sup>60</sup> The additions of 1865 and ca. 1883 resulted in the removal of the north wall on the second and third floors, but the first-floor wall remained largely intact, and its segmentally arched windows are still evident, though infilled with brick. This fenestration is similar to that on the rear (south) elevation facing the creek, suggesting that the street-facing façade was relatively utilitarian in appearance. The 1881 "bird's eye view" drawing (Figure 7) shows a typical loft arrangement of windows for the portion of the machine shop not obscured by the 1865 addition.

When it opened in 1845, the first floor of the machine shop was dedicated to finishing the products of the foundry and the third floor was used for storage. The second floor was tenanted, indicating that the building had, at that time, more space than the Empire Stove Works needed. This may be read as a sign of optimism about the prospects of the foundry, which were realized when the building was expanded in 1856.

This first addition to the machine shop building was significant in that it literally and figuratively raised the profile of the Empire Stove Works. The addition was a full story taller than the machine shop, and its greater height was visually balanced by greater width. The imposing addition measured 75 feet by 40 feet and covered the full width of the lot between Ida Street and the creek. By turning the façade of the building to face Second Street, a principal thoroughfare leading north towards downtown Troy, the company was proclaiming its importance. Both street-facing elevations were attractively ornamented with Italianate details, including fully arched windows embellished with keystones and lintels and a corbelled cornice. The new addition housed a well-appointed office for the company's executives that was tucked into the north end of the first floor. The location of this "handsome" new addition, overlooking the corner of Ida and Second Streets, helped to convey a sense of the company's prosperity and importance.<sup>61</sup> The addition was built by the team of G. W. Oliver and O. G. Clark; it is not known if they also designed the original building. As an industrial loft, the addition was not merely the administrative center of the works but also represented a considerable expansion of the company's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>60</sup> Betsey Hunter Bradley, *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States* (New York City, NY: Oxford University Press, 1999), 32.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>61</sup> "Foundry Improvements," Troy Daily Times, April 16, 1856.

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manufacturing capacity. While the initial use of the new industrial space in the addition is unknown, it is documented that in later years an engine room was located in the southwest corner near an external boiler room that projected into the Poestenkill channel, while the upper floors were used for storage and a tin shop.<sup>62</sup>

A more modest addition to the building with an important function was constructed in 1865. This three-story addition was added to the front (north) elevation of the machine shop at the opposite end of the building from the 1856 addition, creating a U-shaped footprint for the full building. The 1885 Sanborn Fire Insurance map (Figure 5) shows that this building was, at that time, used to fabricate and store molding patterns as well as being used for general carpentry. Pattern storehouses were akin to industrial banks, in that they were locations where some of the most valuable elements of the works were stored. Patterns included models and master templates for casting and were a physical record of the products produced by the foundry. Typical pattern houses offered security by having heavy doors and few, if any, windows.<sup>63</sup> This addition has been heavily altered on the interior, so little remains to illustrate its industrial function. However, the fenestration may be considered characteristic, in that there are few windows, none of which are on the first floor, and the doorway was tall and wide to accommodate the passage of larger patterns to and from the foundry. The 1885 Sanborn map shows that this building contained industrial ovens on the third floor that were used to fabricate patterns.

The date of the final addition, a four-story warehouse, is given as ca. 1883 because it is known to have been constructed between 1881 and 1885 (based on map analysis). This addition filled in the space between the 1856 and 1865 sections, resulting in a rectilinear footprint. Its function as a warehouse is reflected in the stacked loading bay door. The 1885 Sanborn map labels it as "storage," and the construction of a wide, arched entry on the ground level indicates the potential size of some of the foundry products that were kept within. A similar door is seen on the foundry itself in Figure 6. This new addition was internally leveled with the original machine shop, so that when the north wall of the latter was removed there would be large rooms spanning the 1845 and ca. 1883 sections. The walls of the pattern warehouse (i.e., the 1865 addition) were kept intact, though fire doors were added on each floor. The internal spaces were discontinuous with those of the 1856 addition, however, and steps or ramps are currently used to facilitate passage between this section and the remainder of the building. These offset floors are apparent in the north elevation of the building, as the windows do not align and the roofline steps down at the junction of the 1856 and ca. 1883 sections. The willy arched and embellished openings of the office wing but were segmentally arched, as was more typical of a warehouse or other utilitarian wing. Corbelling identical to that of the 1856 addition was used to minimize the visual discontinuity of the north elevation.

The building as a whole is an excellent example of common mill construction, characterized by timber framing with heavy member posts and beams, thick plank floors resting directly on the beams, structural brick walls with pilasters, segmentally arched windows, metal-clad sliding fire doors, and a stone foundation. These elements are intact in all parts of the building except the interior of the 1865 addition, which was heavily renovated after the period of significance. What remains of the wood framing in this area is hidden beneath non-historic finishes. First-floor renovations in the rest of the building were superficial and have been largely

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>62</sup> Sanborn Map Company, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Troy, 1885.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>63</sup> Bradley, *The Works*, 38.

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reversed by the removal of finishes and partitions associated with its use as a restaurant in the early twenty-first century. Despite this reuse, two ceiling-mounted flywheel systems remain in place on the first and fourth floors, recalling the industrial history of the building.

Common mill construction was prevalent in the mid- and late nineteenth century, due in part to the slowburning properties of heavy timber framing and the thick plank floors resting directly on the beams. Timber framed brick lofts were numerous in upstate New York cities, including in Troy, where two of the most important industries, textiles and iron works, presented special fire hazards. Slow-burning construction was a boon for this building, which caught fire in 1902. Though news accounts stated that the building was "destroyed," the damage was apparently not irreparable, and the building was back in service within the year.<sup>64</sup> The documented repairs included a roof replacement, and it is likely that the column irregularity in several locations originated in the 1902 rehabilitation. Not all burned elements were replaced, and charred window lintels and scorched ceiling beams are visible in several locations.

The Empire Stove Works building is a significant reminder of Troy's industrial revolution, a nearly centurylong manufacturing effort in the iron and steel industry that enriched the city and enjoyed a national market. The building's architecture epitomizes the materials and methods of mid-nineteenth-century factory construction while also conveying the development of the business over time.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>64</sup> "Troy Fire Causes Heavy Loss," Troy Argus, January 29, 1902; "Odd Plates," The Metal Worker, January 24, 1903.

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#### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- X preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

#### Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- \_\_\_\_Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository:

Empire Stove Works

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(Expires 5/31/2012)

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#### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.44 acre (Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

## Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:\_\_\_\_\_(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 42.720437

Longitude: -73.694277

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

The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the attached map with scale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the tax parcel at 285 Second Street (111.28-2-2), which was historically owned by the Empire Stove Works. While the lot across Ida Street to the north was also historically associated with the company, it has been excluded from the boundary because none of the company's buildings that once stood on that site are extant.

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Andrea Zlotucha Kozub, Kristen Olson, Cheyenne Stokes, and Elizabeth Williams (edited by				
	Tabitha O'Connell, NYSHPO)				
organizatio	Environmental Design & Research	date February 2024			
street & nur	mber 217 Montgomery Street	telephone (315) 471-0688			
city or town	Syracuse	state NY zip code 13202			
e-mail	azlotuchakozub@edrdpc.com				

#### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

• Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- Continuation Sheets
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Name of Property

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Rensselaer County, NY County and State

## Photographs:

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

Name of Property: Empire Stove Works

City or Vicinity: Troy

County: Rensselaer

State: NY

Photographer: Kristen Olson

Date Photographed: January 31, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

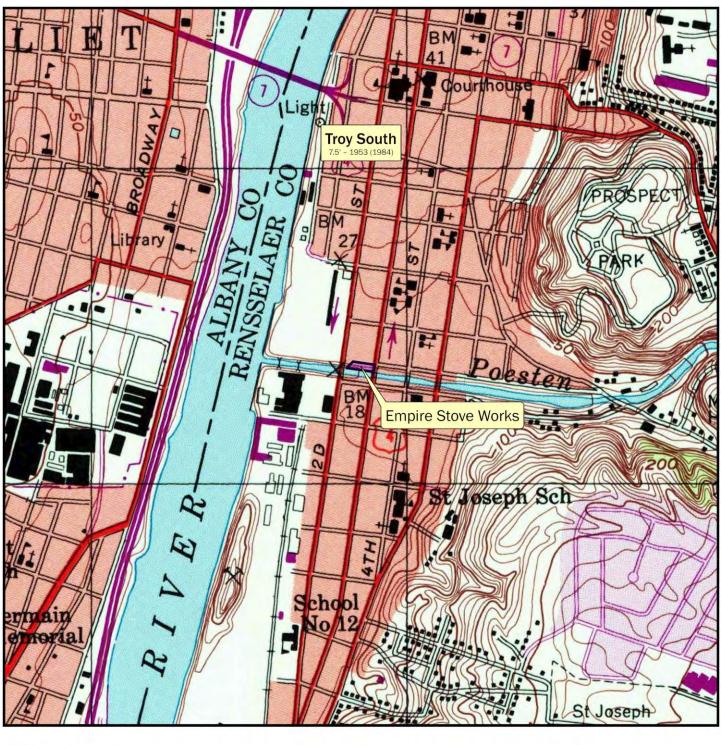
1 of 12. Front (east) elevation
2 of 12. North elevation
3 of 12. North elevation, facing southeast
4 of 12. South elevation
5 of 12. First floor interior
6 of 12. First floor interior
7 of 12. Second floor interior
8 of 12. Third floor interior
9 of 12. Third floor interior
10 of 12. Third floor interior
11 of 12. Fourth floor interior
12 of 12. Fourth floor interior

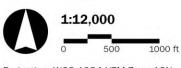
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

# Empire Stove Works Name of Property

Rensselaer County, NY County and State





Empire Stove Works



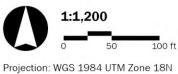
Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 18N

Mapped 02/02/2024 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

Rensselaer County, NY County and State

# Empire Stove Works Name of Property





Nomination Boundary (0.44 ac)



New York State Orthoimagery Year: 2021

Mapped 02/02/2024 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

#### Rensselaer County, NY County and State

Empire Stove Works Name of Property



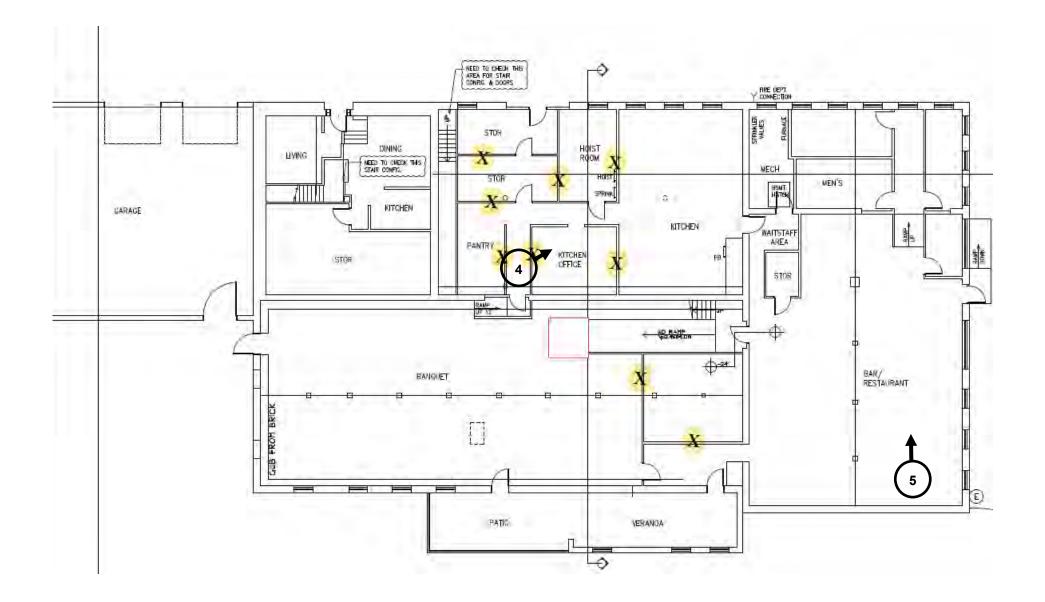
Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 18N Rensselaer County Parcel Year: 2021

Mapped 02/02/2024 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO



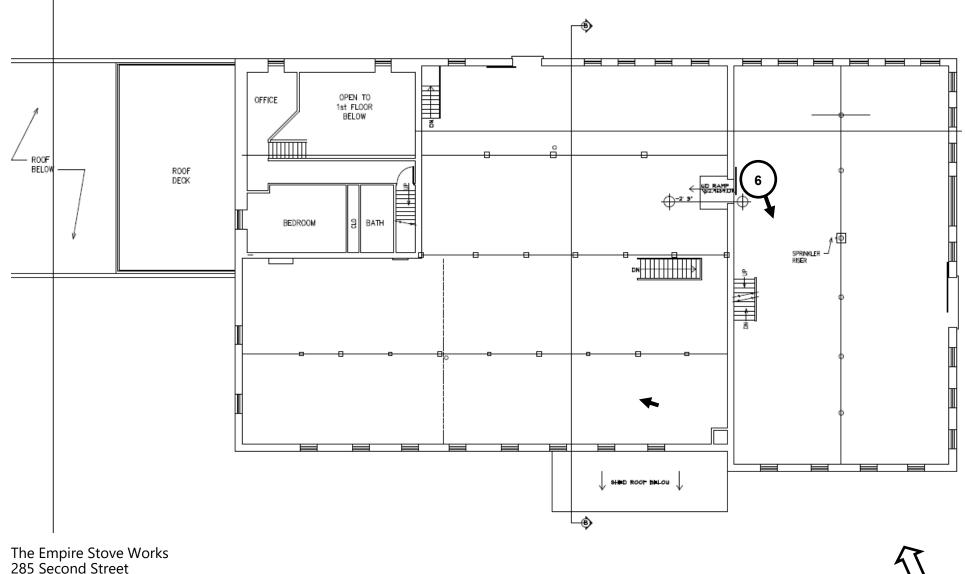
The Empire Stove Works 285 Second Street City of Troy, Rensselaer County, NY PDIL Photo Key - Exterior

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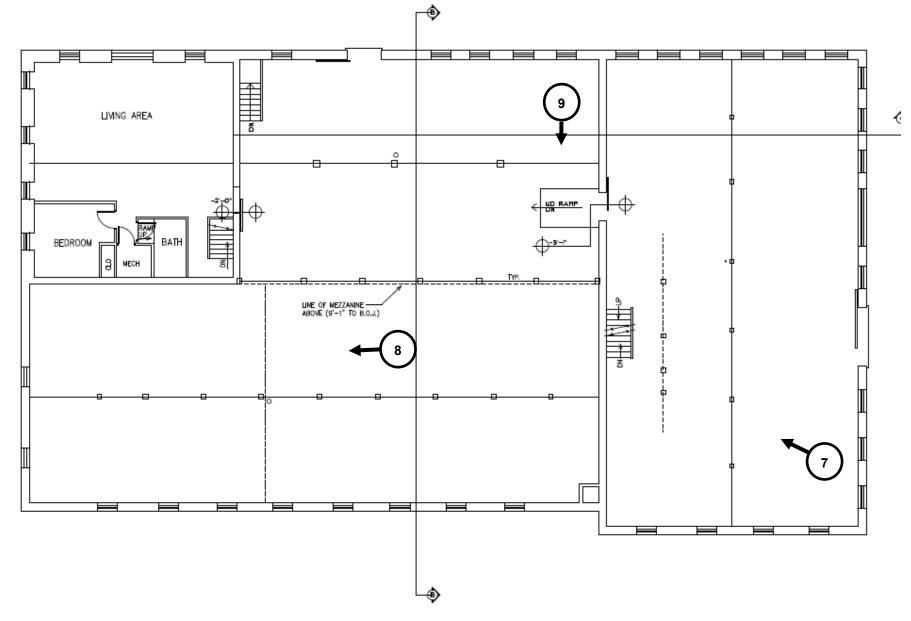


The Empire Stove Works 285 Second Street City of Troy, Rensselaer County, NY PDIL Photo Key - First Floor

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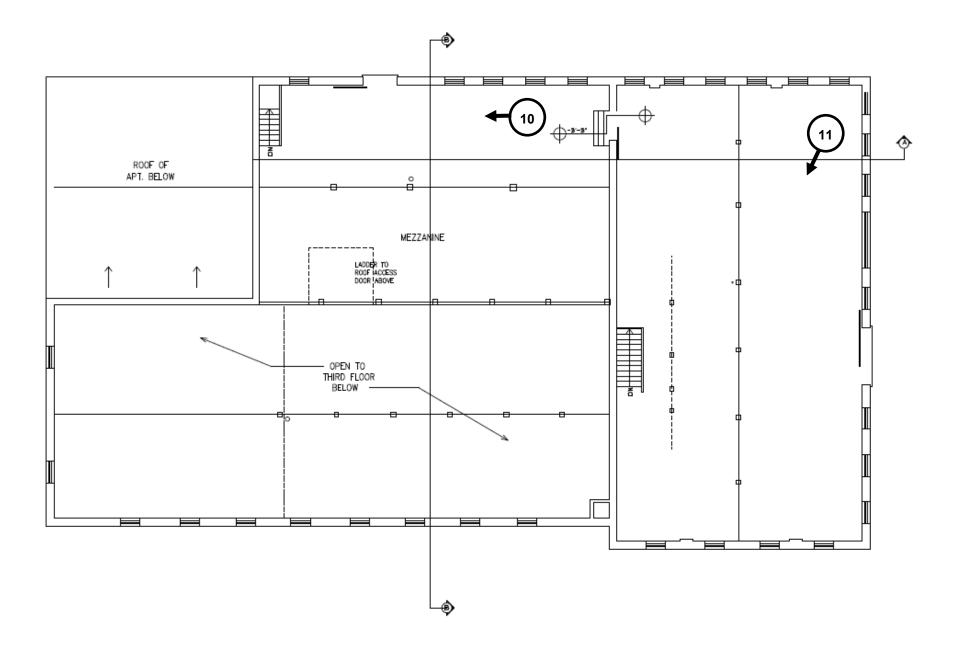


The Empire Stove Works 285 Second Street City of Troy, Rensselaer County, NY PDIL Photo Key - Second Floor



The Empire Stove Works 285 Second Street City of Troy, Rensselaer County, NY PDIL Photo Key - Third Floor

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The Empire Stove Works 285 Second Street City of Troy, Rensselaer County, NY PDIL Photo Key - Fourth Floor

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