NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior 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).**

1. Name of Property						
historic name IROQUOIS DOOR COMPANY BUILDING						
other names/site number						
name of related multiple property listing Historic Resources of the Hydraulics/Larkin Neighborhood, Buffalo, Erie Co., NY						
2. Location						
street & number 619-659 Exchange Street not for publication						
city or town Buffalo vicinity						
state New York code NY county Erie code 029 zip code 14210						
3. State/Federal Agency Certification						
As the designated authority under the National Historic Processation Act, as amended						
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,						
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.						
In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:						
national statewidex_local						
Signature of certifying official/Title Date						
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government						
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.						
Signature of commenting official Date						
Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government						
4. National Park Service Certification						
I hereby certify that this property is:						
entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register						
determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register						
other (explain:)						
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action						

Iroquois Door Company Building Erie County, New York Name of Property County and State 5. Classification **Ownership of Property Category of Property Number of Resources within Property** (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.) (Check as many boxes as apply.) (Check only one box.) Contributing Noncontributing 1 private building(s) buildings public - Local district sites public - State site structures public - Federal structure objects 1 0 object **Total** Name of related multiple property listing Number of contributing resources previously (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing) listed in the National Register Historic Resources of the Hydraulics/Larkin Neighborhood, Buffalo, Erie Co., NY 0 6. Function or Use **Historic Functions Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.) (Enter categories from instructions.) INDUSTRY/ manufacturing facility COMMERCE/ warehouse

7. Description	
Architectural Classification	Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)	(Enter categories from instructions.)
NO STYLE	foundation: STONE
	walls: BRICK, CERAMIC TILE
	roof:
	other:

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Iroquois Door Company Building Name of Property

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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 Iroquois Door Company building is in the City of Buffalo in Erie County, New York. Consisting of an elongated rectilinear building with several additions, it sits on a 0.7-acre parcel one mile to the southeast of downtown and a quarter of a mile north of Interstate 190. The building resides at the intersection of Exchange Street and Larkin Street in the southwest corner of the Hydraulics/Larkin Neighborhood, one of Buffalo's earliest neighborhoods and the first manufacturing district in the city. Exchange Street is an east-west traffic corridor containing a mix of parking lots and former industrial buildings. Larkin Street is a short north-south traffic corridor that crosses Exchange Street at a perpendicular angle and contains a sporadic mix of industrial properties with some residential properties at the southern terminus where it abruptly ends at the boundary of Interstate 190. The surrounding area to the north and east is the Hydraulics/Larkin Neighborhood, consisting of a mix of residential, commercial, and historic industrial and manufacturing properties. The area to the west and south is a combination of empty lots, industrial, and residential properties beyond that. Properties surrounding the Iroquois Door Company range in date of construction from the mid nineteenth to the early twentieth century with a handful of later additions reflecting revitalization efforts over the past decade. The Iroquois Door Company building is bordered to the north by Exchange Street, to the east by Larkin Street, to the south by a parking lot and industrial storage yard, and to the west by a rail line running perpendicular to Exchange Street. The building takes up nearly the entire property.

In 1904 the Iroquois Door Company erected the first mill construction portion of the building on the eastern end of the property facing north onto Exchange Street. It is a rectangular, three-story, load-bearing common bond masonry building on a stacked stone foundation stretching twelve bays along Exchange Street and four bays along Larkin Street.² Between 1904 and 1910, seven additional bays in the same design were added to the west of the building along Exchange Street. Between 1910 and 1924 a fourth floor in the same design was added above the original 1904 building and the 1904-1910 addition.³ Between 1924 and 1925 a two-story, utilitarian, rectangular clay tile addition as well a two-story wood and metal sided storehouse with central monitor were added one after the other on the western end. The latter two-story wood and metal section has recently been demolished. The existing building is roughly 99,600 sq ft.⁴ The principal north and south elevations illustrate the chronology of building expansion from east to west and consist of three visually distinct sections.

¹ Jennifer Walkowski, Hydraulic Larkin MPDF National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form, Accessed July 3, 2019. https://buffaloah.com/surveys/hydr/CBCA%20Hydraulics%20MPDF.pdf

^{2 &}quot;Iroquois Door Company 1904 – 1989," Western New York Heritage, Accessed May 13, 2019. https://www.wnyheritage.org/content/iroquois door company 1904 - 1989/index.html

³ Kelly Hayes McAlonie, "Notes on Industrial Design: Jacob Dold Warehouse: 1902 and Iroquois Door Company: 1904" (2019), 29; "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1925," Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Buffalo NY

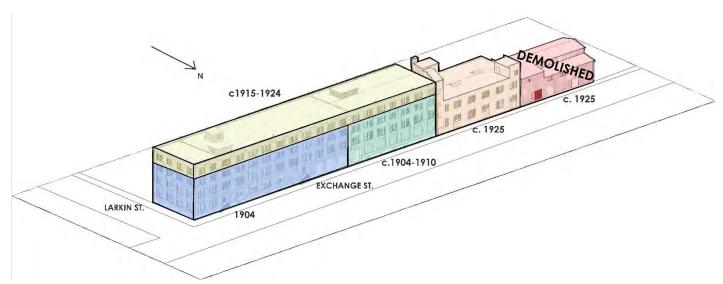
⁴ "Looking Backward: Iroquois Door Company," *Public* (April 11, 2018), Accessed May 16, 2019. http://www.dailypublic.com/articles/04102018/looking-backward-iroquois-door-company

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Narrative Description



Building Phases – 3D Map of the Iroquois Door Factory at 619 Exchange Street, Buffalo prepared by Passero Associates.

The Mill Construction Portions – 1904, 1910-1914, and 1914-1924

Exterior

The foundation of the mill construction portion is stacked stone rising approximately four feet above grade, where it terminates at the first-floor level. Rectangular basement window openings in the stacked stone foundation are evenly spaced and align with the windows above. The window openings are infilled with concrete block on the south and east elevations and brick along the north elevation (Historical Photo 1). The first through fourth floors are built of common bond red brick with a pilaster between each bay. Windows are regularly spaced between the pilasters on each floor and are a combination of wood hung and metal industrial sash windows. Plain cast-stone sills sit under the window openings. Walls are capped with terra-cotta coping, and two brick stair towers provide access to the flat roof.

There are two entrances to the building on the first story (Floor Plan 1). The original historic entrance is on the north elevation of the first story located at the ninth bay counting from the corner of Exchange Street and Larkin Street along Exchange Street.⁵ An exterior metal railing and brick staircase consisting of five steps with cast in place concrete treads and landing leads to the first-floor entrance. The entrance is a wood, one-panel, half-glass door with six lights and a square transom. The door is painted green with vertical metal bars covering the light and panel. Near the top of the door light in neat black lettering is the word "Iroquois" in capital letters. Below that are the words "wholesale to dealers only hours 8:00-12:00 12:30-4:30" in capital letters. The transom is frosted glass, which is cracked. Green metal vertical bars cover the transom on the exterior side. The second

⁵ Kelly Hayes McAlonie, "Notes on Industrial Design" (2019), 28.

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entrance is outside the third bay along Exchange Street. A metal railing and cast in place concrete staircase consisting of five steps and a landing are in front of the third bay Exchange Street entrance. The entrance is a wood, one-panel, half-glass door with a square transom. The door is painted green with vertical metal bars covering the light and panel. The numbers "659" are painted in white over the third-bay entrance along Exchange Street below the second-floor window. The transom contains a louver and no glass.

Original pairs of hung wood-frame windows in a nine-over-nine configuration are in the first-floor window openings along bays one and two on the north elevation (Exchange Street). The stone sills have been removed and openings extended in line with the first-floor level in bays four and seven. Green vertical weatherboard siding with four centrally placed vinyl single pane windows fill the openings in bays four through seven. Overhead doors at grade level span between pilasters in bays ten, eleven, twelve, and thirteen. Window openings for bays eight and fourteen through nineteen have been bricked in. On the east elevation (Larkin Street) pairs of hung wood-frame windows with a one-over-one configuration are in the first-floor window openings. The windows have nine-over-nine storm windows on the exterior.

A black arrow with the words "K. W. Textile" is painted on the brick below the first-floor window in the first bay along Exchange Street. A black arrow is angled towards the third bay stairs and the words "Office Showroom" are painted to the right side of the first-floor window on the second bay along Exchange Street. A band of bricks just above the stacked stone foundation and below the first-floor windows along both Exchange Street and Larkin Street has been painted red and their mortar white. The paint has largely faded in most parts though a clear band can be seen along bays one and two along Exchange Street.

On the second-floor pairs of hung wood-frame windows in a one-over-one configuration are in bays one and two along Exchange Street. Pairs of industrial style steel windows, four lights wide by five lights high, some with operable horizontally pivoting steel sash, are in the third through the twelfth bays along Exchange Street. Original pairs of hung wood-frame windows in a twelve-over-twelve configuration are in bays thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, seventeen, and eighteen, and windows with a nine-over-nine pattern are in bays sixteen and nineteen on the north and south elevations. On the east elevation pairs of hung wood-frame windows with a one-over-one configuration are in second floor window openings. Along bays thirteen through nineteen facing Exchange Street between the top of the second-floor windows and the bottom of the third-floor windows are written the words "GLAZED WOOD DOORS SCREEN DOOR SASH"; however, many letters are faded and nearly missing at some points. A painted band of bricks extends from bays one to twelve along Exchange Street from the top of the second-floor windows to the bottom of the third-floor windows. An identical band is painted between the top of the third-floor windows and the bottom of the fourth-floor windows and contains a letter per pilaster forming the words "KW TEXTILE" in white paint.

On the third and fourth floors, pairs of industrial style steel windows, four lights wide by four lights high, some with operable horizontally pivoting steel sash, are in bays one through twelve. Original pairs of hung woodframe windows are in bays thirteen to nineteen on the third and fourth floors of the north elevation. On the south elevation there are pairs of hung wood-frame windows in bays thirteen through nineteen of the third floor. On both the north and south elevations windows have eight-over-eight configurations in bays thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, seventeen, and eighteen and a six-over-six configuration in bays sixteen and nineteen. On the east

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elevation the third and fourth floor windows are pairs of industrial style steel windows, four lights wide by four lights high, some with horizontally pivoting steel sashes.

Pilasters end in plain rectangular cast stone caps several feet below the roof line between the first twelve bays along the north and south elevations. Brick pilasters are capped below the fourth floor for the thirteenth through nineteenth bays along the north and south elevations as well as those on the east elevation. Roof drains run from the roof along the brick pilasters between the fourteenth and fifteenth bays as well as between the seventeenth and eighteenth bays facing Exchange Street. A metal framework is attached above the fourth-floor windows on the south elevation between bays five through thirteen (Historical Photo 1). The entirety of the masonry on the south elevation has been painted red. In addition, roof drains run along red metal panels that cover alternating pilasters on the south elevation. Based on observations of water damage adjacent to the covered pilasters, it is possible the metal paneling is covering further deterioration.

Interior

With a single owner and function for most of its history, the interior layout of the building remains largely intact. Currently, it is being used as a warehouse and only few new partitions have been added, leaving most open spaces as they would have been originally.

Most of this portion is open manufacturing space with offices added over time on the first floor along Exchange Street. Offices also occupy the full width of the first and second bays along Exchange Street on the first and second floors. Vertical circulation is achieved through two sets of stair towers and freight elevators located on the eastern side between bays three and four and centrally at bay fourteen. The interior is split by a vertical brick firewall that runs north/south through all floors between the second and third bays along Exchange Street. An additional brick firewall that runs north/south through all floors between bays twelve and thirteen forms the divide between the original 1904 portion and the 1904-1910 addition. Timber columns provide load bearing support on the interior of the building ranging in size from sixteen-by-sixteen inches in the basement to seven by seven inches on the fourth floor. On each floor three courses of brick are corbelled at the top of the wall to support the floor above. Wood flooring is functional but worn down with use.

A basement runs under the entire 1904 portion as well as the 1904-1910 addition. Load bearing stone walls measure roughly twenty-two inches in thickness. There is no basement connection between the first and second bays and the rest of the basement. The basement is open and used primarily for storage. A mechanical room is located below the ninth bay Exchange Street entrance. A single large opening with fire door provides access between the 1904 portion and the 1904-1910 addition through the firewall. A few original wood windows remain in the south face of the stone foundation behind the concrete block infill.

On the first floor, the first and second bays along Exchange Street are used for offices and have poured concrete floors and plastered walls. The wood window stools, aprons, and casing appear to be intact (Historical Photo 7). A back office contains wood panel walls with borrowed lights that are historic, if not original. The firewall between the second and third bays forms the eastern wall of a one-bay wide vault whose south elevation wall is the south façade of the building. The original vault and day doors are intact. Offices occupy the front half between the third and ninth bays with the rear remaining open space. The historic entrance at bay nine along

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Exchange Street opens into a corridor with an office to the right. The wood panel wall with borrowed lights provides visibility into the corridor from the office and is historic, if not original. The front half of the tenth through twelfth bay are loading docks. Interconnected rooms are used for storage. Bays three through twelve have exposed brick on the interior face of the exterior walls. An opening in the firewall between the twelfth and thirteenth bay provides circulation and is secured closed by large sliding fire doors. There is no first floor for the majority of the 1904-1910 addition allowing the basement to extend unhindered to the bottom of the second floor.

On the second floor, offices occupy the first and second bays, while the rest of the bays mark open storage space. Circulation between sections divided by firewalls is provided by single openings with sliding fire doors. Office walls are plastered. The historic wood window stools, aprons, and casing appear to be intact (Historical Photo 2). Sections of floor trim remain intact although in some areas additional modern molding has been added over the historic. Walls behind the third through nineteenth bays are left exposed and are painted white. Both industrial and wood windows are deteriorated, showing areas of rust and rot. Broken or replaced lights are common. As on the first floor, most of the structural support on the second floor is wood except for the steel beams and columns used above the loading dock.

The third and fourth floors are also open storage space. Circulation between sections divided by firewalls is provided by single openings with sliding fire doors. The interior face of exterior walls is exposed brick painted white. Between the first and second bays along Exchange Street on the south wall of the third floor are signs of structural damage in the brickwork. Several cracks in the masonry run from the above floor assembly down nearly the entire length of the wall. There are additional signs of strain on the south exterior wall on the fourth floor. At some point, additional wood bracing was added for wood beams intersecting the masonry wall between bays twelve and thirteen along Exchange Street.

Clay Tile Addition – 1925

Exterior

Two additions that diverge from the Mill Construction building were added one after the other in 1925, extending the original Iroquois Door Company further west along the full length of the property (Floor Plan 2). The first addition is a two-story, clay tile, rectangular building, seven bays long, with a flat roof, that spans nearly the same depth as the original 1904-1910 section. Industrial sash windows are in both floors and are adorned with cast stone sills below the windows in a style that matches the industrial windows seen in the earlier building section. Cast-stone sills are in various states of disrepair.

Counting west along Exchange Street from the end of the 1904-1910 building, the first bay of the 1925 building is a four-story staircase with square window openings on the stair landings filled with glass block and a door opening at grade. There are overhead door openings at grade level in bays three, five, and seven along Exchange Street. Pairs of four-light-wide by five-light-high industrial windows fill in bays not occupied by overhead doors on the north side and brick lintels are composed of shiner and header courses. Identical windows are in the second and third bay on the south side. Window openings in the first, fourth, and fifth bays

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have been bricked it on the south facing side. A small section of clay tile on the south facade has been damaged and patched with concrete.

On the second floor north and south elevations pairs of four-light-wide by four-light-high industrial style windows include a course of stretchers above the windows. A painted band four bricks high below the second-floor windows along Exchange Street has nearly faded white lettering where the words "MANTEL CABINETS FRAMES SPECIAL MILLWORK" are painted. Clay tiles along both the north and south facade show wear. Several clay tiles on both facades are damaged or missing. Several vertical lines of clay tile running between bays along Exchange Street are bulging out towards the street. The entire south facade has been covered with a tar material similar in consistency to roofing that is peeling severely.

Interior

Both floors are open and currently unused. The interior of the 1925 clay tile addition connects to the 1904-1910 addition in the basement, first and second floor. A staircase connects the first and second floors and hugs the southwest corner of the addition. Columns and north-south girders are steel while supports running east-west are wood. The first floor is slab on grade concrete. Masonry around window openings shows cracking and deterioration. Window assemblies are rusty, and some lights are broken. There are noticeable cracks in the clay tile along the southern wall extending down the length of the wall. The second floor is wood. Two rectangular skylights protrude out from the second-floor ceiling in a low slope gable design and have been boarded up (Historical Photo 5). On the west side of the second floor are four worn wooden steps leading up to a two-leaf fire door that connects to the attic space of the 1925 wood and metal sided addition. To the left of that fire door is a small, square, wood paneled office with walls extending to the roof assembly above. There are borrowed lights on the three sides facing the open floor plan.

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8. Stat	ement of Significance		
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)		Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)	
	3, 3, 3, 3,	INDUSTRY	
X A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ARCHITECTURE	
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.		
ХС	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	Period of Significance	
	and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	1904-1975	
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates	
		1904, 1910, 1924, 1925, 1935, 1941	
		1004, 1010, 1024, 1020, 1000, 1041	
	a Considerations " in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Person	
Proper	tv is:	Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)	
•	•	((
A	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.		
В	removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation	
c	a birthplace or grave.		
D	a cemetery.		
E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder	
F	a commemorative property.	Bethune, Bethune, & Fuchs (Louise Blanchard Bethune)	
G	less than 50 years old or achieving significance		

Period of Significance (justification)

within the past 50 years.

As Iroquois Door was active as an independent company in the building from 1904 through 1982, its period of significance was identified as beginning with the construction of the building in 1904 and extending to the fifty-year mark (currently 1975). It may be expanded to 1982 at a later date.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

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

The Iroquois Door Company Building, located in the Hydraulics Neighborhood of the city of Buffalo, Erie County, New York, is significant under Criterion C for Architecture as a representative example of an early twentieth-century factory building, designed by the notable firm of Bethune, Bethune, and Fuchs – the firm of Louise Blanchard Bethune, the nation's first professional woman architect. Designed by Louise Blanchard Bethune, the building is significant as a good example of heavy timber-framed fireproof mill construction. Archetypal elements of the building include a disciplined rectilinear design defined by heavy solid masses and interior framing of heavy timber.

The building is also significant under Criterion A in Industry for its long association with the Iroquois Door Company. The Iroquois Door Company began as an eastern distribution branch of the Cream City Sash & Door Company of Milwaukee and continued in operation from 1904 to 1989. Walter S. Paddock owned both companies until his passing in 1915; the relationship between the two companies after that point is unclear.⁶ A manufacturer and wholesaler of residential millwork, the Iroquois Door Company was well known for producing a diverse array of windows, doors, glazed sash, moldings, frames, stairs, millwork, and cabinetry. The company defined interior aesthetics of homes throughout the Northeast and Midwest for nearly a century.

In 2009 an extensive survey of the Hydraulics Neighborhood was completed by the firm Clinton Brown Company Architecture, PC. This survey resulted in the National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Document Form (MPDF) titled Historic Resources of the Hydraulics/Larkin Neighborhood, Buffalo, Erie County, NY. The MPDF discusses the role of the Hydraulics Neighborhood as an independent community within the City of Buffalo and its contribution to the historical development of the city. As an industrial building located within the boundaries of the Hydraulics Neighborhood, the Iroquois Door Company building meets the registration requirements for industrial architecture specified in section F pages 3-4. The requirements state the following:

- 1. The building must be within the defined boundaries of the Hydraulics Neighborhood
- 2. Industrial buildings must be directly associated with a significant historical context
- 3. Must have been constructed during the period of significance
- 4. Must display the distinctive features characteristic to the period of construction.

In accordance with what is stated, the Iroquois Door Company building meets the requirements for National Register nomination. The building is located within the defined boundaries of the Hydraulics Neighborhood. It

⁶ Hardwood Record Vol. 40 (1915): 38, Accessed Online May 14, 2019.

https://books.google.com/books?id=3009AQAAMAAJ&pg=RA7-PA38&lpg=RA7-

PA38&dq=cream+city+sash+and+door+company+Iroquois+Door+Company&source=bl&ots=h5DrVWDkUZ&sig=ACfU3U2Cia Rfe2k2YT12oZiCeC TbJzgaw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi-34uLz6ziAhXQJt8KHf-

ZDtkQ6AEwDHoECAgQAQ#v=onepage&q=cream%20city%20sash%20and%20door%20company%20Iroquois%20Door%20Co mpany&f=false

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is directly associated with the theme of industrial development. It was constructed during the period of significance (1860-1950)., and the building retains the distinctive features characteristic of the mill construction type and a high degree of integrity.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Overview/History of Hydraulics Neighborhood

The Hydraulics Neighborhood was Buffalo's first manufacturing district dating back to the 1820s. Between 1826 and 1828, the Buffalo Hydraulic Association excavated the Hydraulic Canal and dammed a pond further upstream powering machinery and milling operations. Industries began congregating around the canal prompting an influx of businesses that would help the Hydraulics Neighborhood develop into Buffalo's first self-contained community. Although the canal would begin diminishing in use only a decade after its construction, the manufacturing boom was enough to cement the neighborhood as a strong industrial center.⁷

During the mid-nineteenth century Buffalo continued to grow as the primary conduit between the East and the Midwest. With the canal fading in importance and popularity and the Hydraulics Neighborhood located in a prime position to the east of the city, the neighborhood became a logical place for the city's new rail lines. Beginning in the 1840s much of the right of way previously used by the canal system was given over to rail lines. The ability to more easily import raw materials and export finished goods drew additional industry to the Hydraulics Neighborhood. A series of consolidations among smaller railroad lines led to the creation of the 1853 New York Central Railroad, which had a significant presence in the neighborhood.⁸

By the end of the nineteenth century Buffalo cemented its legacy as one of the largest shipping hubs in the United States. Continuing to grow, the Hydraulics Neighborhood was an epicenter of industry and commerce developing a unique culture and identity of its own. The influx of raw materials as well as labor made the neighborhood an attractive location to set up shop for manufacturing and secondary businesses focusing on the production of finished goods. In particular, the Hydraulics Neighborhood was an advantageous location for companies which could successfully utilize the east-west rail lines to bring in raw goods from the West and ship out finished goods to the East where demand was continuing to grow.⁹

The golden age of the Hydraulics Neighborhood continued until the 1940s when a series of changes plunged the community into a prolonged state of decline. The Great Depression was but the first of a series of economic depressions in the Buffalo area that would lead to job loss and a declining population. Aging transportation infrastructure also reduced industry in the Hydraulics Neighborhood. The construction of Interstate 190 bisected the Hydraulics Neighborhood, creating a physical and psychological barrier in the heart of the

⁷. Walkowski, "Hydraulic Larkin MPDF," E1, E3-E5.

^{8.} Walkowski, "Hydraulic Larkin MPDF," E6-E9.

⁹. Walkowski, "Hydraulic Larkin MPDF," E10-E12.

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community. The loss of continuity in the neighborhood saw many historic local businesses relocate to the suburbs. With much of what was constructed in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries gone, the few remaining buildings stand as a testament to what was once a center of industry, commerce, and prosperity.¹⁰

History of the Iroquois Door Company

The faithfully correct home is always in good taste. It will never go out of date and never require costly remodeling after a few years. The entrances, doors, shutters, stairways, trim, mantels, and other woodwork must be in perfect harmony—true to type.¹¹

The Iroquois Door Company began in the Hydraulics Neighborhood of Buffalo as an eastern distribution branch of the Cream City Sash & Door Company. With headquarters located at the corner of Park Street and Seventh Avenue in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the Cream City Sash & Door Company was incorporated in 1889 and focused its business around the creation of finished woodwork. Bemploying between two hundred sixty and three hundred people, the company took up a city block and included a two story brick manufacturing building and showroom with yard and extensive warehouses. The company specialized in fine interior woodworking and manufactured sash, doors, blinds, frames, stair work, moldings, and fancy scroll work.

The company motto "Always on Time" emphasized how promptness was a cornerstone of the Cream City Sash & Door Company. At the turn of the century, the company president, J. W. Cameron, considered fast delivery to be of the highest concern to the consumer. The company prided itself on guaranteeing shipments in ten days or less, a timeline several weeks faster than its competitors. The turn of the century saw growing demand across the United States and particularly the Northeast. Pushed to remain competitive, the Cream City Sash & Door Company began scouting locations for a new plant. Being an epicenter of trade, the Hydraulics Neighborhood in the City of Buffalo represented an ideal location, both closer to expanding markets in the East as well as the main railroad lines bringing in wood from the West, beating out Cleveland as a potential location. In

¹⁰. Walkowski, "Hydraulic Larkin MPDF," E10-E12

^{11. &}quot;Looking Backward: Iroquois Door Company."

¹². "Milwaukee, A Half Century's Progress, 1846-1896," *Consolidated Illustrating Co.* (Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Nov. 30, 1897), Accessed Online May 22, 2019,

 $[\]frac{https://books.google.com/books?id=hJQUAAAAYAAJ\&pg=PA106\&lpg=PA106\&dq=cream+city+sash+and+door+company+history\&source=bl&ots=npp_qLxorf&sig=ACfU3U1zX9pPl1VekEnDG3SxTZgdFvAvzg&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj83qiHzKziAhVumeAKHaaZD_wQ6AEwBnoECAkQAQ#v=onepage&q=cream%20city%20sash%20and%20door%20company%20history&f=false$

¹³. "Cream City Sash & Door Company Collection," *Milwaukee History* (Mss-1927 RC21B, Sh. 001), Accessed July 3, 2019.https://milwaukeehistory.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/1927.Cream-City-Sash.pdf

¹⁴. "Milwaukee, A Half Century's Progress, 1846-1896."

^{15. &}quot;Invoice No. 10323 Cream City Sash & Door Company," *Picclick, Accessed May 16, 2019.* https://picclick.com/Cream-City-Sash-Door-Co-1907-Color-253146515383.html#&gid=1&pid=1

¹⁶. "Milwaukee, A Half Century's Progress, 1846-1896."

¹⁷ "A New Industry For Buffalo, Iroquois Door Company Attracted by Superior Shipping Facilities," *Buffalo Commercial*, Mar. 10, 1904, 12, https://www.newspapers.com/clip/19384393/iroquois door company/

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Around 1903, the Cream City Sash & Door Company hired the architectural firm of Bethune, Bethune, and Fuchs, based in Buffalo, to design a new manufacturing plant just to the south of the center of the Hydraulics Neighborhood on an elongated rectangular piece of land bordered to the north by the bustling Exchange Street and to the south by the Erie Railroad. ¹⁸ Given the name Iroquois Door Company, the company began as the eastern distribution center for the Cream City Sash & Door Company. However, the Buffalo location quickly became the primary manufacturing center with the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, location becoming entirely warehouse storage. In 1915 the then president of both companies, W.S. Paddock, passed away. ¹⁹ It is unclear how long the two companies are connected after his passing as this is the last source to list both names in conjunction.

The Iroquois Door Company opened in 1904 as a wholesale distributor of interior woodworking for residential buildings. Their production and sales included balusters, brackets, columns, cupboards, doors, frames, glass, jambs, molding, newels, rail, sash, stair material, and windows. In particular, the company offered a wide range of door, sash, and window options. By this time, requisitions for stock goods would generally be shipped within twenty-four hours of being received, decreasing the time to delivery even further and staying in line with the company's core philosophy of promptness. In the years immediately after construction of the Iroquois Door Company building demand for housing goods surged in the Northeast.

Prior to any building additions, the primary office for the Iroquois Door Company was the front of bays eight and nine along Exchange Street. The front half of bays ten through twelve were loading bays for incoming materials and outgoing finished goods. Historical records and illustrations do not mention a separate storage addition suggesting that some part of the first floor may have been used for storage of unprocessed wood. The remaining available open space on floors one through three would have been given over to various stages of the manufacturing process.

In 1910 the Buffalo building became the headquarters of the company, and it opened an expanded showroom in the Bronx. The Iroquois Door Company also began having an influence on the industry locally and nationally as it petitioned for the rights of lumber, door, and millwork industries.²² Articles in various trade journals referenced the company expanding its network of wood suppliers, as well as its presence in various trade shows

¹⁸. Joanna Hays, *Louise Blanchard Bethune: America's First Female Professional Architect* (North Carolina: McFarland & Company Inc Publishers, 2014), 169-170.

¹⁹. Hardwood Record Vol. 40, 38.

²⁰ "A New Industry For Buffalo, Iroquois Door Company Attracted by Superior Shipping Facilities."

^{21. &}quot;Iroquois Door Co. Buffalo #415," *Iroquois Door Company*, No 415, Accessed May 16, 2019, https://picclick.com/Rare-Antique-vintage-Iroquois-Door-Co-Hardcover-book-372640863379.html

²² "Lumber World: Devoted to the Lumber, Door and Millwork Interests," *Lumber World* Vol. XI, No 1 (July 1, 1910): 29, 30, https://books.google.com/books?id=dfUwAQAAMAAJ&pg=PA30&lpg=PA30&dq=Iroquois+Millwork+Corporation+Buffalo&source=bl&ots=CsLO3SzLWI&sig=ACfU3U1p0Yxx65Z0jNjqWKWXv1weFzXvIQ&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj-

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on both coasts of the US.²³ Catalogs released by the company over the decade gradually grew in pages, reflecting an increasingly diverse array of interior aesthetics in homes across the Northeast and Midwest.

Additions to the original 1904 mill construction building allowed the Iroquois Door Company the room to produce new products lines including garage doors, screen doors, and front entrance assemblies.²⁴ The 1904-1914 seven-bay mill construction addition provided an additional loading bay as well as a two-story (basement to second floor) warehouse for finished products. In addition, a separate no longer extant ironclad addition attached to the west side of the building was used for wood storage, freeing up space in the mill construction building.

Little hard data is available about Iroquois Door Company's workforce. Throughout the early twentieth century, Buffalo papers are filled with Iroquois Door's help-wanted advertisements for both skilled and unskilled labor. The muscle power of the company's warehousemen was displayed in a full-page photo in the *Buffalo Illustrated Times* in 1907 (ill. 3). The workforce was not completely masculine, however. Granted, it was under the labor pressures of the First World War, but a 1918 advertisement read, "WANTED WOMEN for Light Factory Work. Also a Few Strong Women for Heavy Work. Steady Work; Good Wages; Saturday Half Holiday, Iroquois Door Company, Exchange and Larkin Streets."²⁵

Catalogs released by the Iroquois Door Company during the 1910s, 20s, and 30s highlight an expanding line of competitively priced household products that allowed an increasing number of Americans to enjoy the newest styles in interior design. For the first time consumers could choose one option from a wide selection, providing customization and choice in a way new to interior domestic woodworking. The Iroquois Door Company promoted the notion of choice not just to consumers, but to retailers who bought wholesale. In its attempts to stay competitive, the Iroquois Door Company gradually shifted its product lines to reflect what managers believed would appeal to the tastes of consumers and as such, company catalogs reflect the interior aesthetics that defined homes throughout the Northeast and Midwest. An image from the 1915 Iroquois Door catalogue shows a "suggested interior" (ill. 4) with planar surfaces and built-in storage imbued with an Arts and Crafts aesthetic found in many houses of the period. The catalogue also features everything from exterior window frames to Neoclassical columns, somewhat *retardataire* Queen Anne spindle work, and elaborate stained-glass windows (ill. 5).

https://books.google.com/books?id=WSkyAQAAMAAJ&pg=RA1-PA112&lpg=RA1-

^{23.} National Lumberman Vol. 49 (1912): 112, Accessed Online, May 23, 2019,

PA112&dq=cream+city+sash+and+door+company+Iroquois+Door+Company&source=bl&ots=Y0Vic1L6Ox&sig=ACfU3U3LGsnh9 VSKVK BMgNFER6bVkeTw&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwi-34uLz6ziAhXOJt8KHf-

ZDtkQ6AEwA3oECAcQAQ#v=onepage&q=cream%20city%20sash%20and%20door%20company%20Iroquois%20Door%20Company&f=false; "Lumber: With Which is Included The National Lumber Merchant," *Lumber* Vol. LXXI, no. 968 (Jan 5, 1923): 51, Accessed Online May 20, 2019.; "The Lumber World: Devoted to the Lumber, Door and Millwork Interests."

^{24 &}quot;Iroquois Millwork Corporation, Dealers Price Book Number 95," *Iroquois Door Company* No. 95 (June 1, 1932), Accessed July 3, 2019, https://www.urbanremainschicago.com/rare-early-1930s-iroquois-millwork-corporation-dealers-price-book-no-95-published-in-albany-new-york.html

²⁵ Buffalo News, October 26, 1918, 18.

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By the late 1910s, Iroquois door was heavily marketing storm windows and doors in local papers for their energy saving qualities. In papers of wide circulation, this usually took the form of large advertisements featuring cozy images of domestic bliss (ill. 6). The company also routinely advertised in publications of more limited circulation, including German and Polish language newspapers (ill. 7), with rather direct if less elaborate imagery. This emphasis on the efficiency of good fenestration would continue through the life of the company from this point.

The 1920s was a defining period for the Iroquois Door Company, both for the dramatic changes that occurred to the building as well as how the company reacted to an increasingly challenging marketplace. The early 1920s saw a continuation of the company's economic fortune as the Iroquois Door Company continued to expand its manufacturing line to meet the requirements of residential homeowners. In addition to selling wholesale, the company opened several retail operations to sell directly to the consumer. A 1920 article in the *New York Lumber Trade Journal* references the Iroquois Door Company building its own Albany distribution warehouse to better access growing markets.²⁶ Meeting minutes reference back to this being a profitable period for the company.

Sometime between January 19th and 31st of 1924, a fire broke out and consumed the third and fourth floors of the Iroquois Door Company building.²⁷ Operations out of the building had to be temporarily postponed, resulting in an estimated loss of profit of \$4,840 in the 1924 financial year.²⁸ Despite a considerable financial setback because of the fire, 1924 was still an above average year in sales for the company.²⁹

After the fire, repair work and new additions shifted some of the operations in the Iroquois Door Company building. On the first and second floors additional offices were added in the full width of bays 1 and 2 along Exchange Street, making it the center of human capital for the Iroquois Door Company. No mention is made to the dipping and glazing operations that were previously housed in these bays. The fourth floor was used for storage. The 1925 clay tile addition provided three additional overhead door openings to Exchange Street, allowing for additional loading and offloading space. The second floor as well as some of the first floor was used for planning and woodworking. The small 1925 wood and metal clad addition became the new space for lumber storage. Whereas the 1925 additions provided much needed ancillary support, the four-story original mill construction type building remained the center of operations and activity.

New York Lumber Trade Journal Vol. 68 (Feb. 1, 1920): 41, Accessed Online, May 15, 2019, https://books.google.com/books?id=3jZPAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA109&lpg=PA109&dq=Iroquois+Millwork+Corporation+Buffalo&source=bl&ots=G0bldH7gv3&sig=ACfU3U1WlisAaD7aqGAUO2Ku1gmEqMCHDA&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwj-ssLIwJviAhWpTN8KHR4qBSk4ChDoATAIegQICBAB#v=onepage&q=Iroquois%20Millwork%20Corporation%20Buffalo&f=faloged

²⁷ "Detail Minutes Iroquois Door Co., Iroquois Millwork Corp 1924-1941." Company Documentation. Research Library. Mss. C95-1, 925386706, Buffalo History Museum, 32,33.

²⁸ "Detail Minutes Iroquois Door Co.," 32.

²⁹. "Detail Minutes Iroquois Door Co.," 32.

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The economic prosperity that marked the first half of the 1920s for the Iroquois Door Company saw a reversal as the decade came to an end. Preempting the economic downturn of the Great Depression (1929-39), the company began facing economic hardship as early as 1927.³⁰ Additional competition as well as a shrinking market led to reduced hours (ten hours to eight hours a day) as well as a diversified variation of existing products the company hoped would draw more income in.³¹ Inspired by necessity, innovations in creating variations of design among a more limited product inventory developed in the early 1920s allowed the company to nimbly move through changing markets and weather through several economic downturns that shuttered its competitors.

The year 1935 was particularly difficult for the Iroquois Door Company. Facing significant financial hardship, the company went back to strictly selling wholesale. This resulted in the closing of its Buffalo city retail business, disconnecting the company from the direct connection it had briefly shared with the consumer. The variety of goods offered continued to shrink as the company focused on those product lines still earning a profit. Seeing a need to change in a struggling economy, the company voted to toss out its 1904 by-laws and rewrite how the company could regulate itself.³² Economic hardship continued through 1938 and 1939 as meeting minutes noted the company operating at a loss in part because of increased taxes and increasing expenses.

The year 1935 also saw a dramatic change in leadership. Early in the year the long-time president L.M. Alexander (pre-1924 to 1935) died. Having seen the company through its growth and economic golden age, his death was seen as a loss of leadership.³³ In 1941 two additional long-time leaders in the company (the president, treasurer, and general manager, A.J. Phinney, and the director, J.K. Biggers) resigned.³⁴ In 1945, Iroquois Door Company, which up until this point had leased the premises from Guilford Wilson and then his descendants, bought the property outright, under the successor to Phinney as company president, W. E. Kuhn.³⁵ William E. Kuhn's accession as president marked the shift of the company administration eastwards, as Kuhn (and later his son, Robert S. Kuhn, who would also serve as company president) chose to live in Albany, near the Iroquois Millwork Corporation branch of the company on Mill Street.

When business began to thrive again in the post-war period, catalogs were titled *Iroquois Woodwork* and indicated publication by Iroquois Door Company (Buffalo and Syracuse) and Iroquois Millwork Corporation. They also featured lines like Morgan Woodwork and Andersen Window Units that were produced elsewhere but for which the company acted as regional agent. The cover art of the 1951 catalog included a watercolor of a

³⁰. "Detail Minutes Iroquois Door Co.," 54

³¹. "Detail Minutes Iroquois Door Co.," 54

³². Frank Blake, "As Silence Reigns in Old Exchange Street,"n.p., n.d., 101-109.

^{33 &}quot;Detail Minutes Iroquois Door Co.," 109

^{34 &}quot;Detail Minutes Iroquois Door Co.," loose pages, end of packet

^{35 &}quot;Property Occupied for 42 Years Bought by Iroquois Door," Buffalo News, July 23, 1945, 17.

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streetscape apparently inspired by Colonial Williamsburg, which set the tone for its contents.³⁶ At this juncture, the company for the most part marketed Colonial Revival trim (ill. 8). The Andersen window section, however, promoted an aesthetic conjuring West Coast Modernism (ill. 9). If advertisements are an indicator, the company's partnership with Andersen Windows would remain one of its most important through the third quarter of the twentieth century and was in accord with its traditional emphasis on energy efficiency, most likely inspired by Buffalo winters (ill. 10).

Architectural History of the Factory

Several of Buffalo's most enterprising citizens consented to erect a warehouse for the company...the building will be of brick, mill construction, three stories and a basement, and will have walls of sufficient strength to carry two additional stories if at any future time they should be required.³⁷

Construction of the Iroquois Door Company building began in 1903 and necessitated the removal of three wood-frame houses and a garage.³⁸ Louise Blanchard Bethune (born July 21, 1856) designed a three-story industrial building of the regular mill construction type.³⁹ The design allowed for the building to extend an additional two floors up in the future. 40 Bethune's approach was greatly informed by fireproofing as well as straightforward solid craftmanship.⁴¹

Finished in 1904, the three-story Iroquois Door Company building consisted of four bays along Larkin Street, and twelve bays along Exchange Street. Between 1904 and 1914, an additional seven bays were added along Exchange Street. 42 Between 1914 and 1924, an additional floor was added to the building to provide even more room for production and storage. 43 Both early additions to the original building were constructed using typical mill construction. While these modifications occurred during Bethune's lifetime, there is no evidence that she was involved. Nevertheless, the result is what appears to be a seamless four-story, nineteen bay by four bay building. A single-story iron-clad wood building was constructed on the west side of the Iroquois Door Company building to house additional lumber in c1914 (no longer extant). By 1922, plans were already in the works to add entire new additions to the Buffalo warehouse both to provide more space for millwork as well as lumber storage.44

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³⁶ Iroquois Woodwork Catalogue No. 104 (Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse: Iroquois Millwork Corporation and Iroquois Door Company,

³⁷. "A New Industry For Buffalo, Iroquois Door Company Attracted by Superior Shipping Facilities," unsourced clipping.

^{38. &}quot;Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1899-1900," Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Buffalo NY.

³⁹. Hays, "Louise Blanchard Bethune, 169-170.

⁴⁰. McAlonie, "Notes on Industrial Design."

⁴¹. Hays. "Louise Blanchard Bethune, 169-170.

⁴². "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1914," Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Buffalo NY.

⁴³. "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1925, corrected to 1961," Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Buffalo NY.

^{44. &}quot;Detail Minutes Iroquois Door Co.," 31.

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Though outlooks were good, a single event would herald a change in the company's fortune. The 1924 fire consumed the third and fourth floors of the Iroquois Door Company building. ⁴⁵ The entire fourth floor of the building was destroyed and a large part of the original 1904 third floor was also gutted. ⁴⁶ The Iroquois Door Company started repairs to the original building as well as expanding the workable area of the factory through two additions. Begun in 1924, a new two-story clay tile addition finished construction and began operational use for planing and wood working in 1925. It incorporated state of the art fireproof elevator equipment as well as fireproof stairs. ⁴⁷ A second two-story wood and metal clad lumber storage building adjoining the 1925 clay tile building on the west side was also completed in 1925. The 1925 wood and metal clad building increased the storage capacity 40 percent and was the only building at the time that did not include a sprinkler system. ⁴⁸ The utilitarian 1925 clay tile addition along with the 1925 wood and metal sided addition were not designed by Bethune. Both additions differ dramatically from the regular mill construction type. The 1925 clay tile addition obscures the first two floors of the western exterior façade of the Regular Mill Construction type building.

The year 1925 also saw completion of restoration work pertaining to damages done during the 1924 fire. Historical evidence suggests that at this time damaged pairs of wood hung windows were replaced with metal industrial sash windows. Comparisons between earlier illustrations and the current building suggest that the restoration work was done to match the mill construction type. By the end of 1925 all major changes to the form of the original 1904 portion as well as subsequent additions have been completed and the building has reached its final form.⁴⁹

It should be noted that between 1904-1940, inaccuracies appear in the illustrations of the Iroquois Door Company building published in customer catalogs. Illustrations from c1915, c1920, and c1933 show the building with five bays along Larkin Street (one more than actual), as well as a varying number of additional bays along Exchange Street and, in two instances, an additional fifth floor. These illustrations are contradicted by what architectural features remain on the existing building as well as by Sanborn/Century Atlas maps dated around the same time of the illustrations. It can be speculated that illustrations of the Iroquois Door Company published in customer catalogs attempted to portray the factory as larger and more industrious than it was, while Sanborn mapmakers strove for accuracy.

After 1941 additional minor changes influenced both the interior and exterior of the building. The mill construction portion of the building saw changes along the first floor in bays four through seven along Exchange Street as the windows and sills were removed and openings extended down in line with the first-floor level. The openings were later filled in with green vertical weatherboard siding. Four centrally placed vinyl single-pane windows infill these openings. The entire south elevation of the Regular Mill Construction type portion was painted red. Red metal panels and roof drains were placed over alternating pilasters on the south

⁴⁵. "Detail Minutes Iroquois Door Co.," 32,33.

⁴⁶ Peter Reyner Banham, A Concrete Atlantis: U.S. Industrial Buildings and European Modern Architecture. (MIT Press, 1986), 44.

⁴⁷ "Detail Minutes Iroquois Door Co.," 32.

^{48 &}quot;Detail Minutes Iroquois Door Co.," 32,33.

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elevation as well. Inside the regular mill construction portion offices infilled the area between bays three and nine in the front of the building. At some point the south façade of the 1925 clay tile addition has been covered with a tar material similar in consistency to roofing. At some point before 1987, a metal framework was constructed above the fourth-floor windows on the south side of the mill construction building between bays six through fourteen. Signs were attached to the framework and lit by twenty-four overhang lamps attached to the metal framework.

Construction Method

The Iroquois Door Company is a good example of Regular Mill Construction. Also known as Late Mill Construction or Mill Construction, the building perfectly reflects the needs and aesthetics of industrial use. Devoid of decoration, the design was described by architectural historian Peter Reyner Banham a "puritanically stern, rectangular discipline." The type represents the peak of material and methods mastered in the 1820s and perfected over the century. Though limiting in some respects, the fundamental adaptability of the Regular Mill Construction allowed it to become a type in industrial design long enough to become widespread in use. A marriage of economy and practicality, details on the building were kept simple. Industrial sash windows extending between pilasters allow for as much natural light as possible while reducing the overall weight of the building and thickness of exterior structural masonry walls. With the exception of the first-floor offices, loading bays, dipping, and glazing rooms, the majority of the building was kept open to meet the needs of the significant amount of large machinery required to produce the housing goods sold by the company. The Iroquois Door Company building exemplifies a transition seen in the first decade of the twentieth century from monolithic structure to open light filled factory spaces. ⁵²

Advancements in materials would see an end to the Industrial Mill Construction type in the years after Bethune designed the Iroquois Door Company building. Improvements in interior lighting as well as widespread use and decreasing costs of steel and concrete drove newer forms of construction like the daylight factory.⁵³ Still, the Iroquois Door Company building stands as an important link in the gradual evolution of functional design. How appropriate then that the headquarters of a company whose motto was "Build Your Home Architecturally Correct" would be in a building that exemplified that notion through its own practical form.⁵⁴

In addition to being a prime example of Regular Mill Construction type, the Iroquois Door Company exemplifies regional variations in design. Nearly all brick factories built in Buffalo and Western New York during the time when the Iroquois Door Company was constructed included stone foundation walls. Foundation laid in regular courses typically raised the internal first floor up about four feet. Creating a stark contrast of materials on the exterior of the building, the purpose was less aesthetic than utilitarian in how it protected the

⁴⁹ "Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1925, corrected to 1961."

⁵⁰ Banham, A Concrete Atlantis, 43-45, 49, 51.

⁵¹ Banham, A Concrete Atlantis, 49, 51.

⁵² McAlonie, "Notes on Industrial Design," 27, 28,

⁵³ Banham, A Concrete Atlantis, 43-45.

^{54 &}quot;Looking Backward: Iroquois Door Company."

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building from carriage wheels and iron tires of carts and trucks. The tougher and more resistant material helped to preserve the brick above it. The added benefit was an exterior aesthetic that clearly delineated a first floor from the basement below while also allowing for street level windows to open into the basement. While concrete framing would replace stone foundation walls beginning in the 1910s, aprons of stonework would continue to be added as a stylistic inclusion in buildings and can still be seen in contemporary practice.⁵⁵

Bethune, Bethune, and Fuchs

Born July 21, 1856 in Waterloo, New York, Louise Blanchard Bethune began her career at the age of twenty through an apprenticeship as a drafter for Buffalo based architects Richard A. Waite and F.W. Caulkins. Over five years she mastered techniques of architectural design before beginning her own architectural firm in 1881 and becoming the first practicing female architect in the United States. It was during this time she met a fellow student, Canadian draftsman Robert Armour Bethune, who she married, and with whom she formed the architectural firm Bethune & Bethune. The historical records emphasize Louise Bethune's leading role in the firm as principal and strong partner. Understanding her role as a pioneer in a male dominated field, Louise Bethune wrote:

That women who are pioneers in any profession should be proficient in every department, and that, now at least, women architects must be practical superintendents as well as designers and scientific constructors.⁶⁰

True to form, her sentiment was mirrored in the design work done by her architectural firm through mastery of a diverse range of architectural styles and uses. While the 174th Regiment Armory building she designed early on made use of the Romanesque style she mastered while apprenticing, the later Lafayette Hotel was done in the French Renaissance style. Her industrial buildings, such as the Iroquois Door Company building, were examples of the Regular Mill Construction type. Additional notable designs during her twenty-seven year career (1881-1908) included eighteen school buildings, multiple commercial buildings and residences, the Offerman Baseball Stadium, and the first transformer building that brought electricity from Niagara Falls to Buffalo. Regardless of the style, Bethune demonstrated a mastery of form through design.

⁵⁵ Banham, A Concrete Atlantis, 43-45, 49, 51.

⁵⁶ Adriana Barbasch. "The AIA Accepts its First Woman Member"; *Buffalo as an Architectural Museum*. Reprinted from *Architecture: A Place for Women*, 1989.

⁵⁷ Austin M. Fox. "Louise Blanchard Bethune: Buffalo Feminist and America's First Woman Architect"; *Buffalo as an Architectural Museum*, Reprinted with Permission from *Buffalo Spree*, Summer 1986, Accessed Online June 17, 2019. https://buffaloah.com/a/archs/beth/bethfox.html

⁵⁸ Fox, "Louise Blanchard Bethune."

⁵⁹ Fox, "Louise Blanchard Bethune."

⁶⁰ Fox, "Louise Blanchard Bethune."

⁶¹ Fox, "Louise Blanchard Bethune."

^{62 &}quot;Memorial plaque in Forest Lawn Cemetery," *Buffalo as an Architectural* Museum, Date of photo unknown, Online June 17, 2019. https://buffaloah.com/a/archs/beth/fl.jpg; "Louise Blanchard Bethune," *Pioneering Women of American Architecture*, Sponsored by Kelly Hayes McAlonie, FAIA., https://pioneeringwomen.bwaf.org/louise-blanchard-bethune"; Fox, "Louise Blanchard Bethune."

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Louise Bethune believed in taking an active role in her professional community. In 1885 her notoriety earned her the honor of being the first woman admitted to the Western Association of Architects. Later, she would be the first woman admitted to AIA in 1888 and the first female AIA fellow (FAIA) after the Western Association of Architects merged with AIA in 1889.⁶³ Louise Bethune was an active AIA member throughout her career and held the role of vice president and treasurer.⁶⁴ She used her position to further the interests of women in her profession; "the future of woman in the architectural profession is what she herself sees fit to make it."⁶⁵ Though Bethune's legacy as a trailblazer for women architects is well known, few of her works remain today.⁶⁶ The Iroquois Door Company building is a fine example mill construction building designed by Louise Bethune.

After the Period of Significance

In 1982, the company was bought by Iroquois Industries, headed by Thomas E. Thayer and Alan E. Boyce. The Iroquois Door Company was renamed Iroquois Industries. Production continued in the building for several more years after the acquisition. In 1987 the building was put up for sale. There are no records indicating if production continued after this point at another location. In 1989 Iroquois Industries went out of business and any remaining operations ceased. Since being sold, the Iroquois Door Company building has been used primarily for storage. The most recent tenant was KW Textile, a sporting goods store which used the building for offices and product storage.

Several minor alterations were made to the first and second floor of the north elevation of the building after K.W. Textile moved in. A black arrow with the words "K. W. Textile" was painted on the brick below the first-floor window in the first bay along Exchange Street. A painted band of bricks extend from bays one to twelve along Exchange Street between the top of the third-floor windows and the bottom of the fourth-floor windows and contains a letter per pilaster forming the words "_KW_TEXTILE" in white paint.

Summary

The Iroquois Door Company building remains and the impact of the company and significance of the building can still be measured today. The company defined interior aesthetics of homes throughout the Northeast and Midwest for nearly a century. Designed by Louise Blanchard Bethune, the nation's first professional woman architect, the building is significant as a good example of a factory building using mill construction in the Hydraulics Neighborhood.

^{63 &}quot;Louise Blanchard Bethune." Pioneering Women of American Architecture.

⁶⁴ Fox, "Louise Blanchard Bethune."

⁶⁵ Fox, "Louise Blanchard Bethune."

⁶⁶ Hays, "Louise Blanchard Bethune, 209-212.

⁶⁷ "Iroquois Door Co., Buffalo, N.Y," *Social Networks and Archival Context*, (Description of Records, Buffalo History Museum, WorldCat record id: 33113640.

^{68 &}quot;Looking Backward: Iroquois Door Company."

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Iroquois Door Company Building
Name of Property

Erie County, New York

County and State

(Expires 5/31/2012)

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Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

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(Expires 5/31/2012)

Iroquois Door Company Building	Erie County, New York
Name of Property	County and State

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:					
 x preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR requested) 	67 has beenx State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency					
previously listed in the National Register	Federal agency					
previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark	rLocal government University					
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	Other					
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _	Name of repository:					
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #						
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):						
10. Geographical Data						
Acreage of Property 0.72						
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)						
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates						
Datum if other than WGS84:(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)						
1. Latitude: 42.875128	Longitude: -78.854060					
2. Latitude:	Longitude:					
3. Latitude:	Longitude:					
4. Latitude:	Longitude:					
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)						
Total Doutlanty Dosotiphon (Describe the boundaries of the property.)						
The boundary is indicated by a heavy line on the enclosed map with scale.						
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)						
The boundary of the nomination encompasses the historic lot associated with the Iroquois Door Company Building.						
11. Form Prepared By						

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Iroquois Door Company Building Name of Property	Erie County, New York County and State
name/title Emily Connors, AIA, CSI-CDT [Edited by Jennifer Walkow	vski and Johnathan Farris, Ph.D., NYSHPO]
organization Passero Associates	date 6/21/2019 (Rev. 5/20/2025)
street & number 242 West Main St Suite 100	telephone <u>585-760-8582</u>
city or town Rochester	state NY zip code 14614
e-mail econnors@passero.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.)

Maps

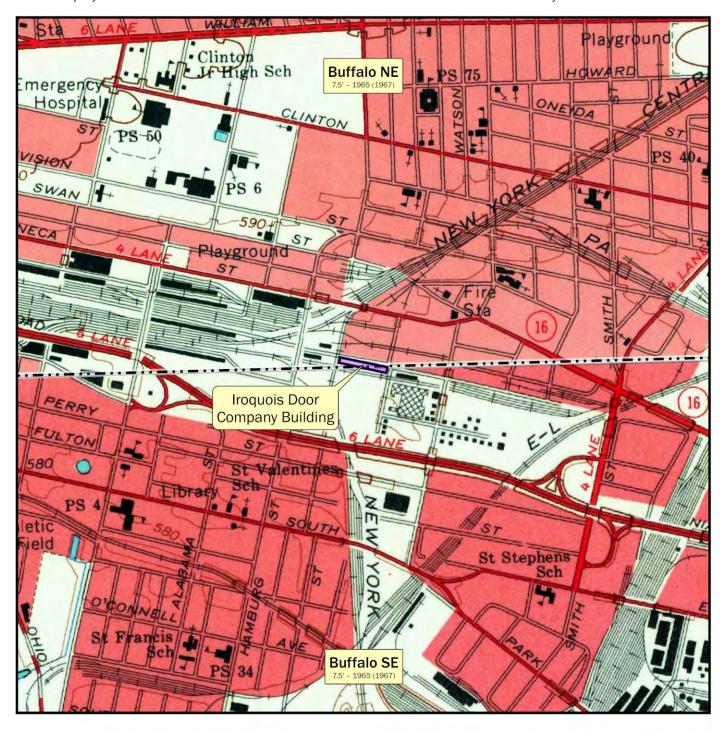
USGS Map (7.5 Minute Series)

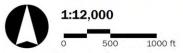
The property is on the border of two maps and both have been included with the located labeled. The building location is at the bottom of the first map and top of the second map.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State





Iroquois Door Company Building



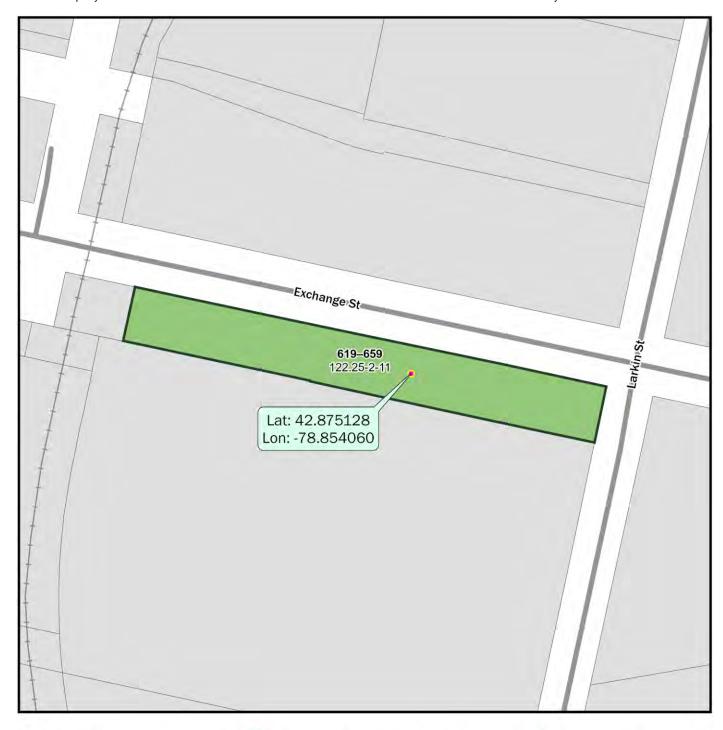
Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 17N

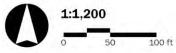
Mapped 07/01/2025 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State





Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 17N

Nomination Boundary (0.72 ac)

Tax Parcels

Erie County Parcel Year: 2024

New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

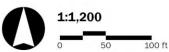
Mapped 07/01/2025 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State





Nomination Boundary (0.72 ac)



Projection: WGS 1984 UTM Zone 17N

New York State Orthoimagery Year: 2023

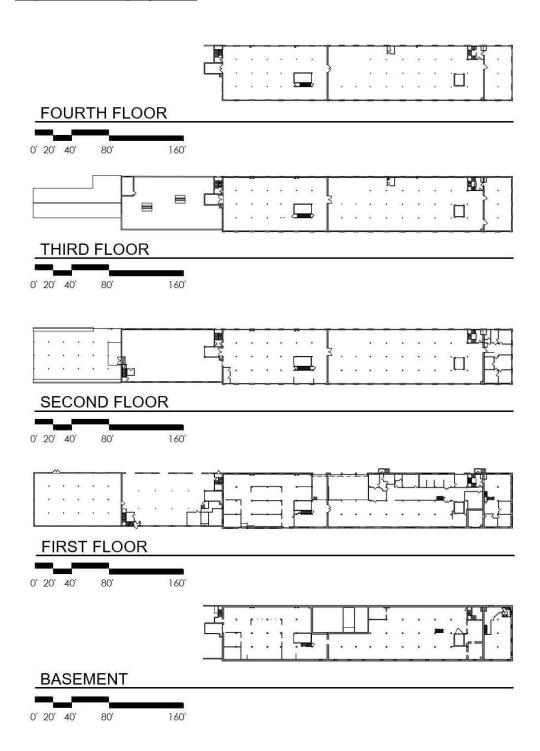
Mapped 07/01/2025 by Matthew W. Shepherd, NYSHPO

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Iroquois Door Company Plans:

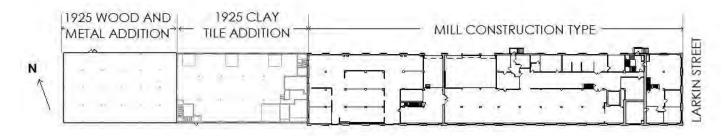
Erie County, New York
County and State



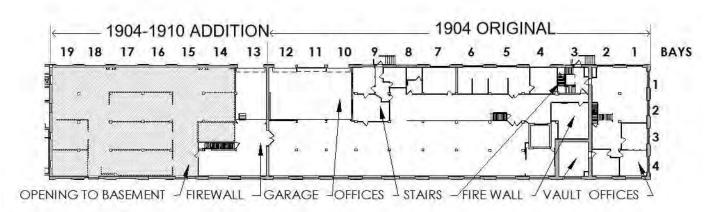
Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

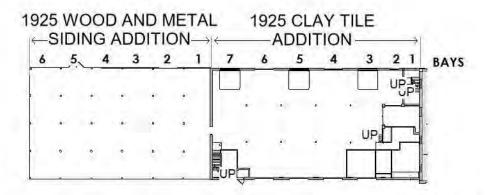
Erie County, New York
County and State



KEY PLAN IROQUOIS DOOR COMPANY BUILDING FIRST FLOOR



MILL CONSTRUCTION TYPE



1925 CLAY TILE & WOOD AND METAL SIDING ADDITION

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

Historic Photos of the Iroquois Door Company at 619-Exchange Street, Buffalo

All historic photos are presented with permission from the George Hare, "Buildings – Factories – Building Supplies Iroquois Door 639 Exchange St." Photography Collection from the Buffalo History Museum Research Library. (Hare 79-1. 925384033.) (1956 & 1987). Note, historic photo 9 was taken from Peter Reyner Banham, A Concrete Atlantis: U.S. Industrial Buildings and European Modern Architecture.

Historic Photo 1: South Elevation of Iroquois Door Company Building



Taken in 1956, the photograph shows the 1925 wood and iron clad addition to the left [no longer extant], the 1925 clay tile addition in the middle, and the original 1904, 1904-1910, and 1914-1924 portions to the right. Note the operable industrial sash windows in the 1925 clay tile addition as well as the three distinct brick color differences that mark out the original building, the 1904-1910 addition, and the 4th floor 1914-1924 addition. The railroad tracks as well as what appears to be a bridge to the right in the distance have both been removed.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Historic Photo 2: Office in the Iroquois Door Company Building

Erie County, New York
County and State



Taken in 1956, the photograph shows two individuals in the second floor office in the northeast corner of the building. Though the paint has changed from a dark color to white, it appears that the same window details shown in the picture exist today.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

Historic Photo 3: Manufacturing Space in the Iroquois Door Company Building



Taken in 1956, the photograph shows a technician working on a new piece of milling equipment. The pattern of lights in the industrial windows in the background shows that this is the second floor. Orientation of photo and a comparison of historical to present day features suggests the photo was taken in bay 3 along Exchange Street facing west towards bays 4-12 in the original building.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Historic Photo 4: Manufacturing Space Iroquois Door Company

Erie County, New York
County and State



Taken in 1956 a couple of feet further north and facing in the same direction as Photo 3, the photograph shows manufacturing workers constructing door frames and using equipment.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Historic Photo 5: Manufacturing Space Iroquois Door Company

Erie County, New York
County and State



Taken in 1956, the photo shows the second floor of the clay tile building facing west. The photo suggests the area was used for glazing. Note the operable steel sash windows along the south side of the building to the left, as well as the open skylights above.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Historic Photo 6: Exterior Iroquois Door Company Building

Erie County, New York
County and State



Taken in 1987, the photo shows the Iroquois Door Factory building from the corner of Larkin and Exchange Streets. Note the cars on the leftmost side of the picture suggesting that the railroad tracks seen in Photo 1 had already been removed. The industrial sash steel windows on the 2-4th floors. The stairs leading up to the bay 3 entrance along Exchange Street is metal. The faint "Iroquois" text that can be seen above the 4th floor along Exchange Street and matching earlier historic illustrations. The photo shows the third section of the building, later demolished, at the far end.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Historic Photo 7: Interior Iroquois Door Company Building Showroom

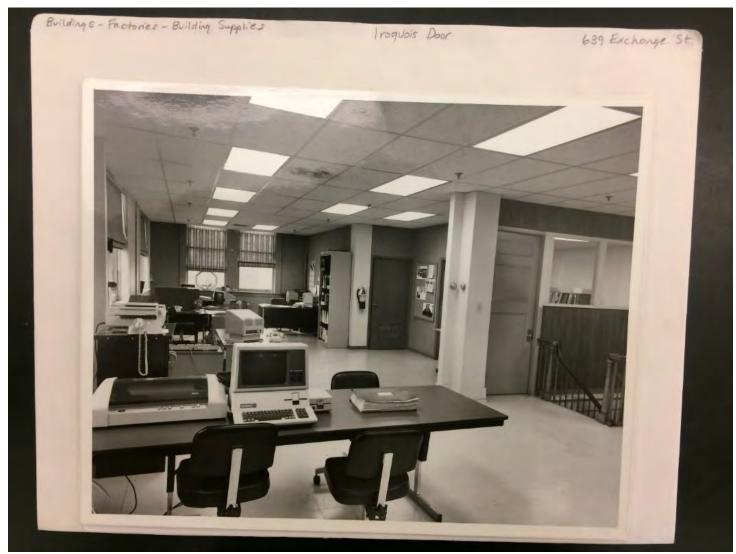


Taken in 1987, the photo shows the showroom of the Iroquois Door Factory building. The photo is taken in the southwest corner facing north east towards bay 1 and 2 as measured along Exchange Street. Window molding can be seen in the background matching the 1956 photo and what is currently there.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Historic Photo 8: Interior Iroquois Door Company Building Offices



Taken in 1987, the photo shows the second floor offices in bays 1 and 2 along Exchange Street immediately above the showroom. The photographer is in the northeast corner of the building facing south.

Iroquois Door Company Building Name of Property

Historic Photo 9: 1924 Aerial Image of Larkin District



Taken in 1924, the aerial photo of the Larkin District shows the Iroquois Door Company building in the lower left side. Based on historical sources, the photo was taken some time after the 1924 Iroquois Door Company fire and before repair work began.

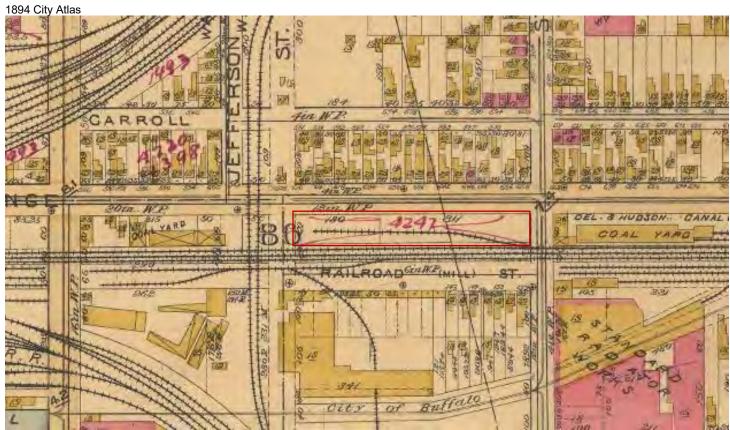
Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

Sanborn And Century Atlas Maps

All Sanborn and Century Atlas maps are accessed through public online databases or are taken with permission from the Buffalo Public Library and the Research Library in the Buffalo History Museum.

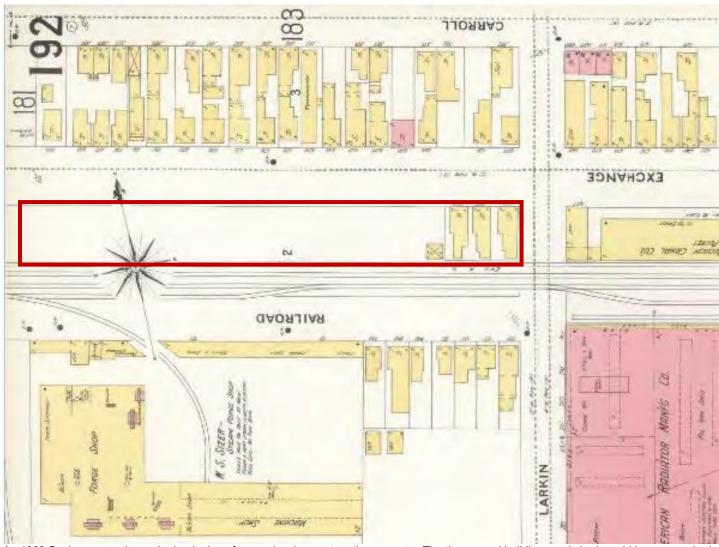


As of 1894 there is no documented building on the plot that would eventually become the Iroquois Door Company.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

1899 Sanborn Map

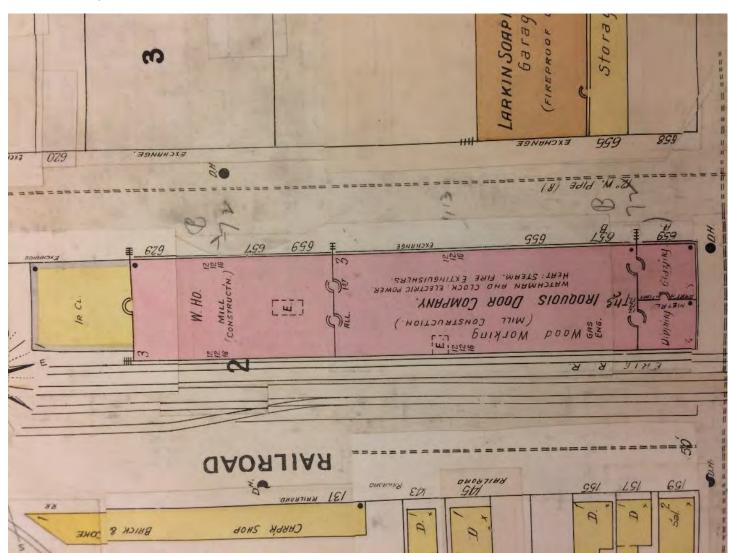


An 1899 Sanborn map shows the beginning of some development on the property. The three wood buildings and shed would be removed prior to construction of the Iroquois Door Company.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

1914 Sanborn Map

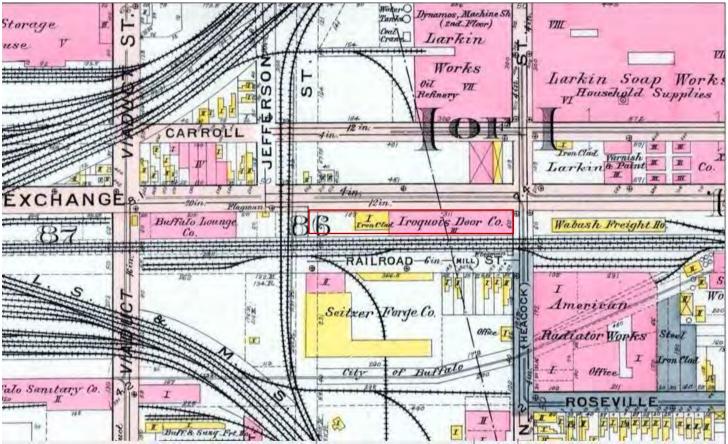


A 1914 Sanborn map is the first to show the Iroquois Door Company building. The map references a three story high masonry building and shows the 1904-1914 7-bay addition extending to the left. In addition, the map shows an iron clad one story building on the western most end. Note the eastern end of the building is split into rooms for dipping and glazing.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

1915 Century Atlas



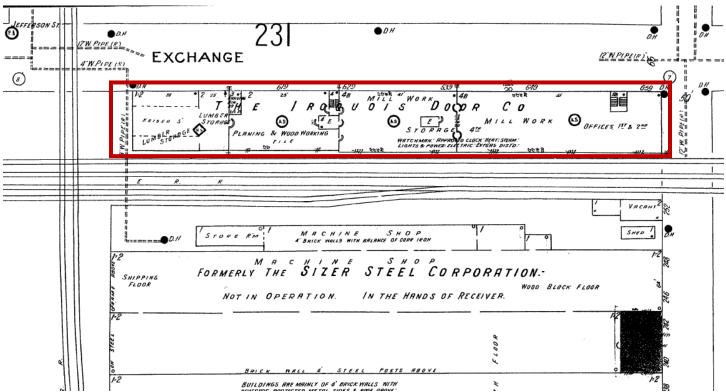
A 1915 Century Atlas confirming what the 1914 Sanborn map showed.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

1925 Sanborn Map

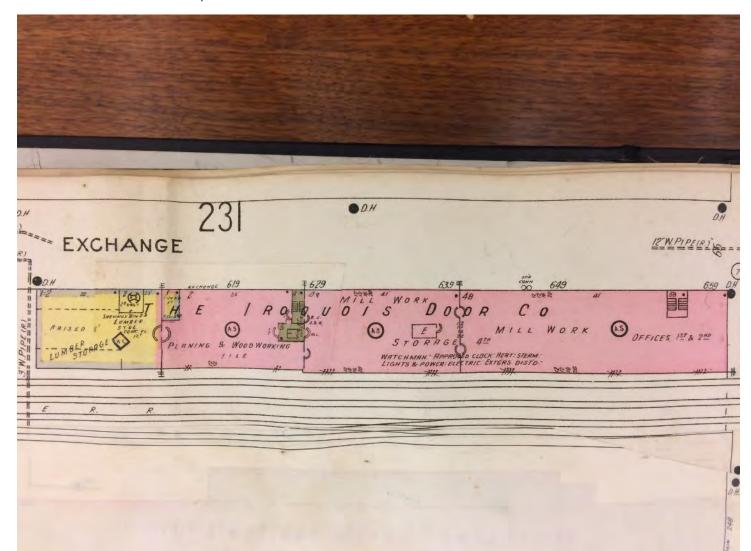


A 1925 Sanborn map showing the Iroquois Door Company after the 1924 fire. Note the two additions added to the west of the original 1904 building and the 1904-1914 addition. The map is accurate to the current configuration.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

1926 Corrected to 1950 Sanborn Map



The 1950 Sanborn map is very similar to the 1925 map. The area of correction is to the 1925 Clay Tile addition and the western end of the 1925 Wood and Metal Clad addition.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

Illustration of the Iroquois Door Company at 619-Exchange Street, Buffalo

Illustration 1: The Iroquois Door Company Building, c1904.



The illustration rendered shortly after the completion of the Iroquois Door Company building shows Louise Blanchard Bethune's original work. The image was provided by Kelly Hayes MacAlonie FAIA LEED AP, Director of Campus Planning at the University of Buffalo as a part of the notes shared from a portion of a chapter she is writing on the architect Louise Blanchard Bethune.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Illustration 2: The Iroquois Door Company ca. 1933.

Erie County, New York
County and State



The illustration shows the Iroquois Door Company's Buffalo location. Of particular interest are the inconsistencies between this illustration and competing historical documentation. In particular, the 5th bay along Larkin Street (Far left of image), the inclusion of a fifth floor, the addition of 4 bays along Exchange Street before the 1925 Clay Tile addition, and the third floor of the clay tile addition are contradicted by supporting historical sources.

From Western NY Heritage

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

Illustration 3: "The Brawn and Sinew of the City's Industry," Employes of the Iroquois Door Company Warehouse," *Buffalo Illustrated Times*, January 13, 1907, 3.



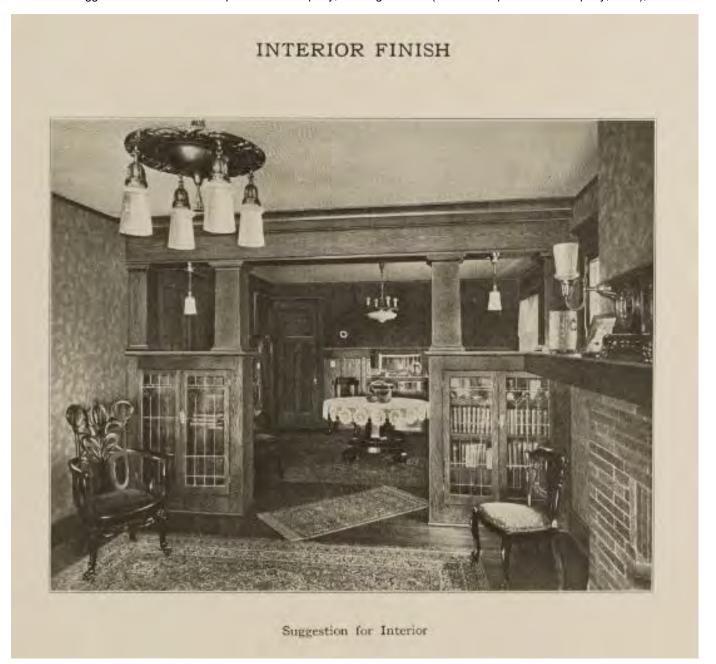
THE BRAWN AND SINEW OF THE CITY'S INDUSTRY—EMPLOYES OF THE IROQUOIS DOOR COMPANY WAREHOUSE.

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

Illustration 4: "Suggestion for interior" in Iroquois Door Company, Catalog No. 415 (Buffalo: Iroquois Door Company, 1915), 167.



Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

Illustration 5: "Leaded Art" stock as illustrated in Iroquois Door Company, Catalog No. 415 (Buffalo: Iroquois Door Company, 1915), 204.



Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

Illustration 6: "Be Comfortable All Winter—and Save Coal!" The Buffalo News, November 6, 1919, 2.



Be Comfortable All Winter—and

Save Coal!

I N these days of coal shortage and high prices everyone wants to do something toward reducing the high cost of living. This is a problem which each man or woman must work out in his owner own way.

A timely suggestion for saving coal as well as making a permanent paying investment is equipping the home with

Storm Windows and Doors

And the saving of coal would mean a substantial "profit" to every householder. Houses protected by storm windows and storm doors require from onethird to one-half less coal. You can easily figure what that means to you in dollars and cents. The saving in coal in a few seasons will pay for the cost of the storm windows and doors.

Furthermore they increase the comfort and healthfulness of your house by eliminating cold floor drafts, by making it possible to keep the house warm in the severest winter weather, and by permitting perfect ventilation.

Our warehouse now contains thousands of storm sash and doors in standard stock sizes. Measure your window and door openings and equip at least a part of your house this season. Phone or write us now. Don't delay—winter will soon be here.

IROQUOIS DOOR COMPANY

EXCHANGE AND LARKIN STREETS.

TELEPHONE HOWARD 432

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

Illustration 7: Advertisement from Dziennik Dla Wszystkich (Buffalo, New York), May 19, 1924, 2.

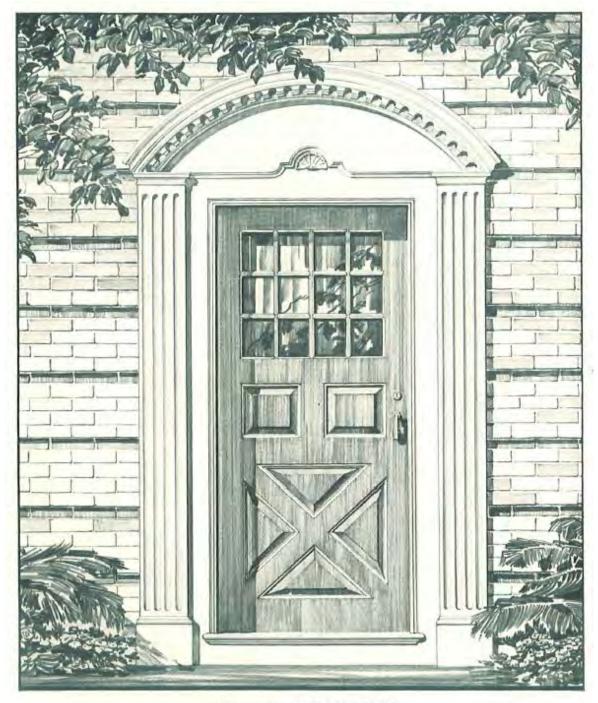


Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

Illustration 8: "The Litchfield Entrance," *Iroquois Woodwork Catalogue No. 104* (Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse: Iroquois Millwork Corporation and Iroquois Door Company, 1951),6.



Entrance Frame M-7-Door M-104

The LITCHFIELD ENTRANCE

An Authentic Reproduction

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

Illustration 9: "Iroquois Single 'Clear-View' Picture Unit Set-Up" *Iroquois Woodwork Catalogue No. 104* (Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse: Iroquois Millwork Corporation and Iroquois Door Company, 1951),60.

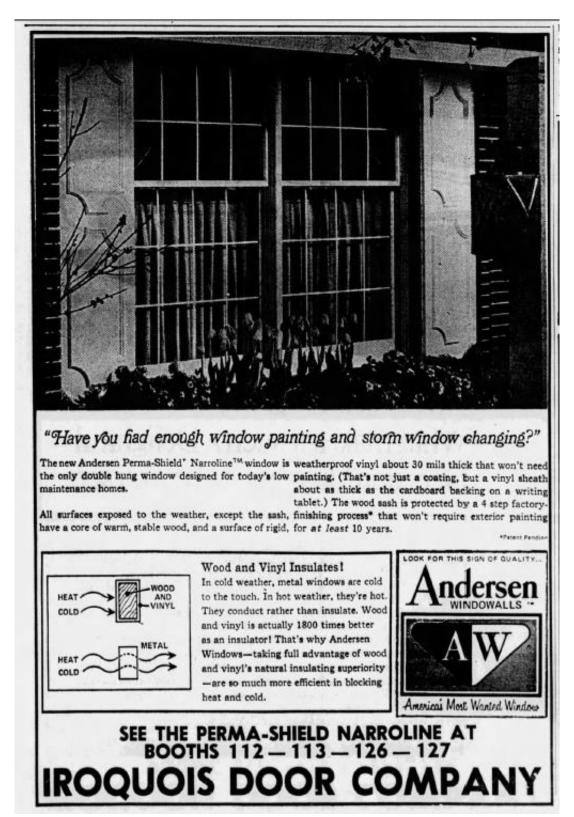


Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

Illustration 10: "Have you had enough window painting and storm window changing?" *The Post-Standard* (Syracuse, NY), March 26, 1969.



Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York 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.

Photo Log:

Name of Property: Iroquois Door Company Building, 619 Exchange Street

City or Vicinity: Buffalo Erie **County:**

State: New York

Photographer: Leah Przybylski

Date Photographed: 5/28/2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

z coeription of r note	/8- "P-(s) **** *******************************
0001 of 0030:	Exterior North and East Facade
0002 of 0030:	Exterior North Façade 1925 Clay Tile Addition
0003 of 0030:	Exterior North Façade 1925 Clay Tile addition Warped Clay Tiles
0004 of 0030:	Exterior North Façade 1925 Wood Addition
0005 of 0030:	Exterior West Facade
0006 of 0030:	Exterior South Facade
0007 of 0030:	Exterior South Façade 1925 Clay Tile Addition
0008 of 0030:	Exterior South and East Facade
0009 of 0030:	Interior Basement Original Bay 2 Window Facing South
0010 of 0030:	Interior Basement Original Bays 6-10 Facing West
0011 of 0030:	Interior Basement 1904-1910 Addition Bay 16-19 Facing West
0012 of 0030:	Interior 1st Floor Original Bay 2 Vault Doors Open Facing Northwest
0013 of 0030:	Interior 1st Floor Original Bay 1 Hung Windows Facing East
0014 of 0030:	Interior 1st Floor Original 5-12 Space Behind Offices Facing East
0015 of 0030:	Interior 1st Floor Bays 8-9 Front Office Facing Northwest
0016 of 0030:	Interior 1st Floor Original Bay 1-2 Facing Northeast
0017 of 0030:	Interior 2 nd Floor Original Bay 9-12 Facing West
0018 of 0030:	Interior 2 nd Floor Original Bay 1 Facing Northeast
0019 of 0030:	Interior 2 nd Floor 1904-1910 Addition Facing West
0020 of 0030:	Interior 2 nd Floor 1904-1910 Addition Window and Bay Northwest Facing
0021 of 0030:	Interior 3 rd Floor Original Bay 1-2 Facing North
0022 of 0030:	Interior 3 rd Floor 1904-1910 Addition Facing Southwest
0023 of 0030:	Interior 3 rd Floor Sliding Metal Doors Facing East
0024 of 0030:	Interior 4 th Floor 1914-1924 Addition Bays 4-12 Facing West
0025 of 0030:	Interior 4 th Floor 1914-1924 Addition 14-19 Facing West
0026 of 0030:	Interior 4 th Floor 1914-1924 Addition Cracks in Brick Bays 1-2 Facing South
0027 of 0030:	Interior 4 th Floor 1914-1924 Addition Industrial Windows Facing North
0028 of 0030:	Interior 1st Floor Clay Tile Addition South Damage on Wall Facing South

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Iroquois Door Company Building

Name of Property

Erie County, New York
County and State

0029 of 0030: Interior 2nd Floor Clay Tile Addition Facing West

0030 of 0030: Interior 2nd Floor Clay Tile Addition windows Facing Northwest

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.













