

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 Oval Wood Dish Factory

other names/site number _____

name of related multiple property listing n/a

Location

street & number 100-120 Demars Boulevard and 13 Dish Avenue

N/A

not for publication

city or town Tupper Lake

N/A

vicinity

state New York code NY county Franklin code 033 zip code 12996

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ 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 ___ statewide **x** 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 _____

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 4 | 1 | buildings |
| 1 | 0 | sites |
| 3 | 0 | structures |
| 0 | 0 | objects |
| 8 | 1 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/ manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT
 COMMERCE/TRADE/ warehouse
 GOVERNMENT/city hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/daylight factory

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
 walls: Reinforced concrete
 Vinyl siding
 roof: Wood, Rubber Membrane
 other:

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 early 20th century Oval Wood Dish Factory Historic District is situated in the Village of Tupper Lake, Franklin County, New York. It is located on the east side of Demars Boulevard (also NY 3, formerly Junction Road) and west of an abandoned railroad line on a stretch of commercial and undeveloped land facing Raquette Pond. The district includes five buildings,

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory _____

Franklin County, NY _____

three structures, most of which were built between 1916-1918, and the foundation of the former warehouse. All of the resources contribute to the significance of the historic district with the exception of a post-1979 building (Building 2) which is partially collapsed. The eight contributing resources include the main factory (Building 1); the sawmill (Building 3); the powerhouse with attached smokestack (Building 4); the free-standing water tower; the former factory office building (Building 5; now Town of Tupper Lake offices); and the concrete foundation of the former warehouse. The primary materials used in construction of the buildings are poured-in-place reinforced concrete, steel, and wood. The Oval Wood Dish Factory Historic District is a representative example of an early 20th century industrial complex in New York's Adirondack region that documents the full history of an important local and regional woodworking industry. While the complex has lost its original warehouse and the tramways that once connected the warehouse to the rest of the buildings, overall the historic district retains integrity of location, setting, materials, design, feeling, and association.

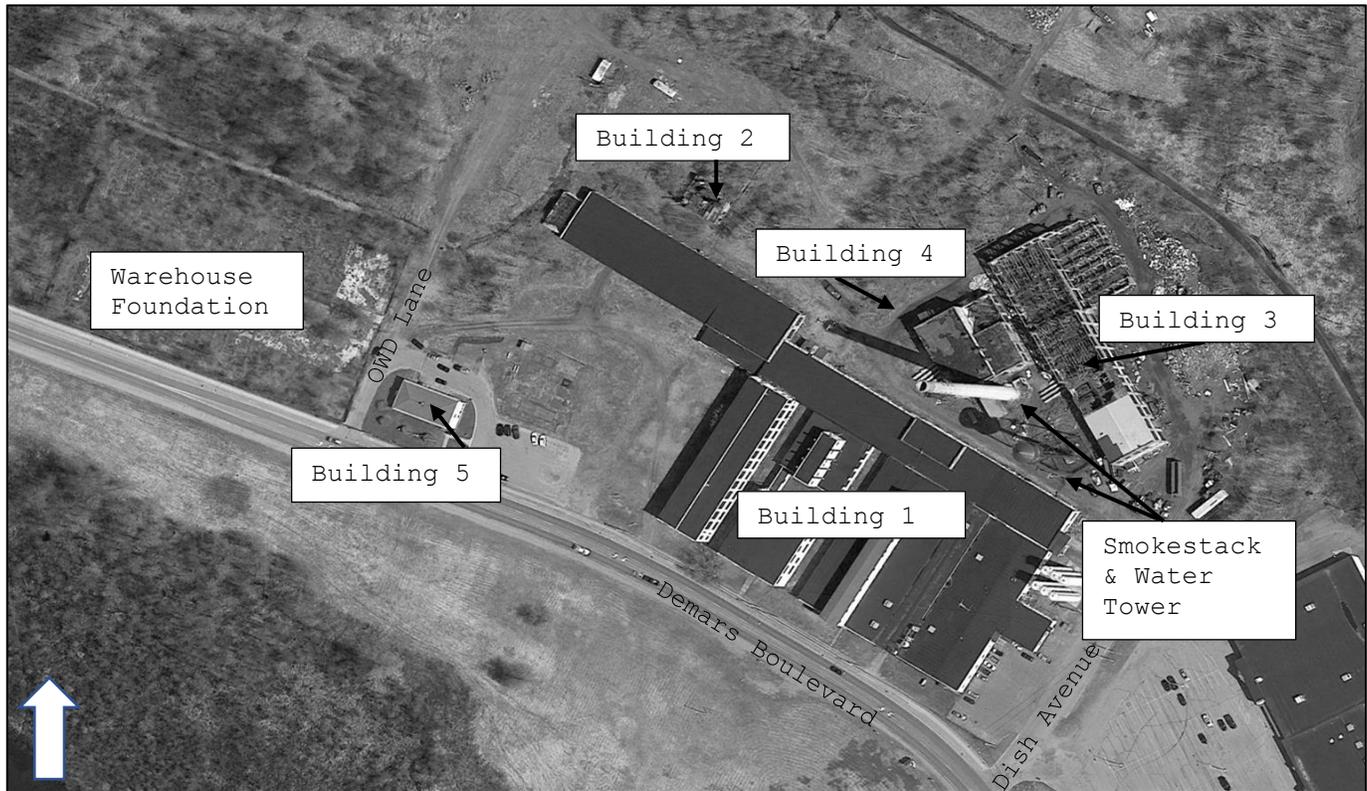


Figure 1 – Aerial key. Note: OWD Lane is also known as Bradley Street.

Narrative Description

The Oval Wood Dish Factory Historic District complex includes five buildings, three structures, and the site of a large warehouse foundation. Building 1 (100 Demars Boulevard) is a 102,000 sq. ft. factory with an “F” shaped footprint. This building is the prominent center of the complex and fronts Demars Boulevard. At its rear (northwest) is a non-contributing, post-1979 building in ruins (Building 2). Dish Avenue runs along the east side of Building 1 leading to the sawmill (Building 3), the powerhouse/smokestack (Building 4), and a water tower. The address of Buildings 3 and 4 is 13 Dish Avenue; Dish Avenue was originally constructed as a driveway for the factory complex. To the west of Building 1 is the factory office building (Building 5, 120 Demars Boulevard). The foundation of the factory’s large warehouse lies on the western perimeter of the complex, on the far side of Bradley Street.

Building 1 - Main Factory (one contributing building, 1916-1918)

The primary building within the district is the main factory built between 1916 and 1918 and comprised of 17 distinct rooms or wings arranged in an “F” shaped footprint. It retains a high degree of integrity and the plan has had minimal alteration. It is built of reinforced concrete with steel framing, concrete floors, and a wooden roof, though the latter has been replaced in a few areas. The main factory shares similarities with the Allis-Chalmers factory type, which is characterized by a series of shops arranged parallel to one another and connected at one end by a raw materials storage building and foundry and at the other end by an erecting shop and is so named for the Allis-Chalmers Co.’s 1902 factory in West Allis, Wisconsin

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

(designed by engineer Edwin Reynolds). This is demonstrated at Oval Wood Dish by the sprawling series of parallel production sheds and workshops anchored to a central transportation corridor.

The original windows are large, multi-paned factory windows with pivoting panels. Many of the interior doors were sliding, metal-clad fire doors, several of which are still in place. Some of the windows have been infilled with concrete block or have been replaced with vinyl units. The exterior doors are all replacements. Though the heights of each section facing Demars Boulevard vary from one to three stories, the façade of the building is unified by stepped parapets capped by metal coping, large window openings with narrow concrete sills separated by pilasters with pitched tops, and decorative concrete doorframes. The tops of the pilasters end below the roofline and do not cross the parapet.

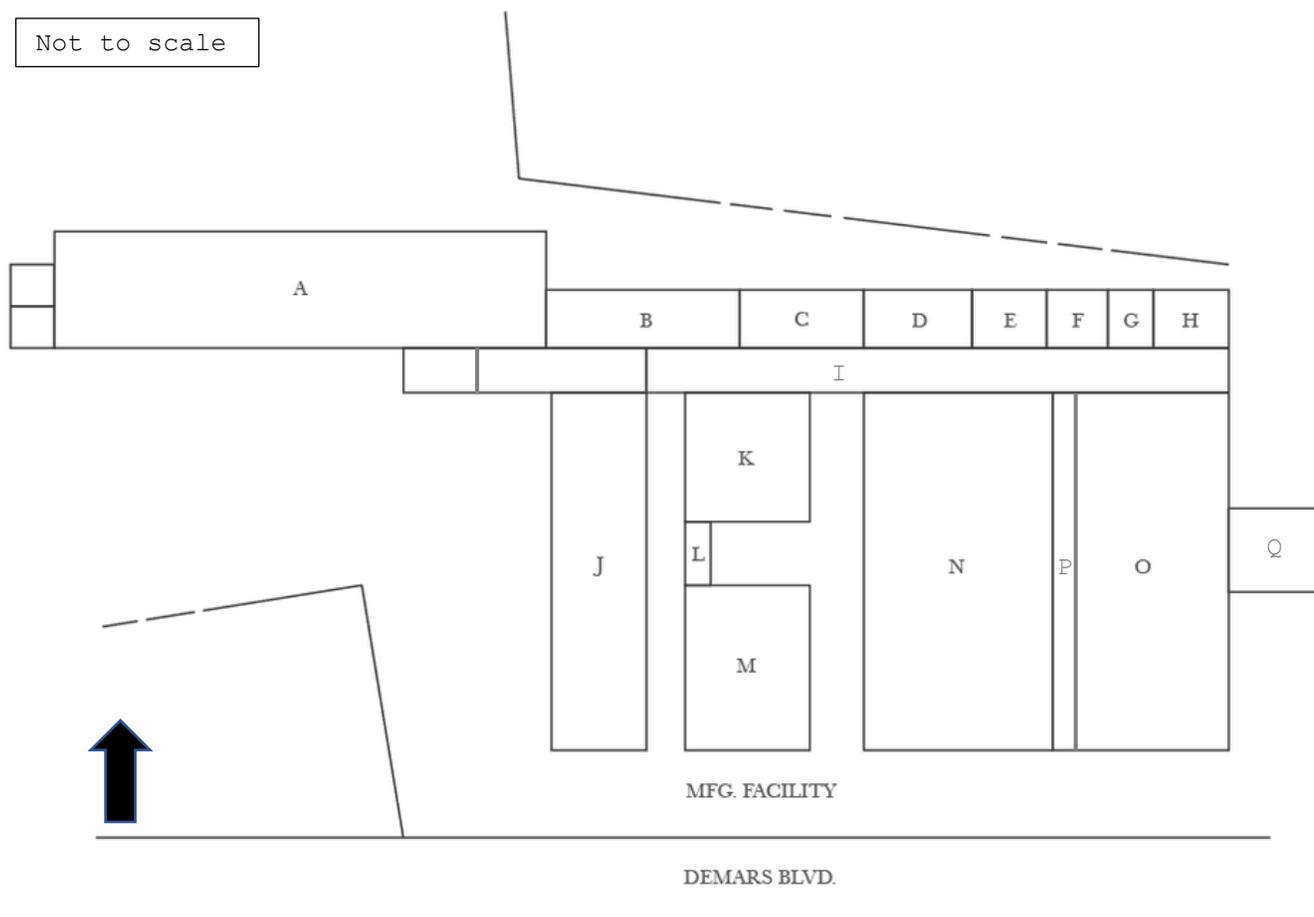


Figure 2 - Building 1, Main Factory

The interior spaces of the main factory largely feature walls and floors of exposed concrete and ceilings showing exposed steel roof trusses, large expanses of industrial multi-light steel windows, and sliding steel fire doors. A long corridor

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

(Section I) provides access to the various factory rooms and is labeled as the “trucking alley” on historic Sanborn maps. These maps also give information on many of the historic functions of the other spaces including a box shop (Section A); carpenter shop (Section B); blacksmith shop (Section C); clothespin building (Section J); oval dish building, packing house, and machine room (all in Section K); recreation building (Section M); wire end building (Section N); and pie plate and veneer building (Section O). A space of special note is the dramatic kiln room in Section K with its vertical shafts soaring up to a three-story high clerestory and wood ceiling. The shafts begin approximately 10 ft. from the floor allowing one to walk the length of the room and look up each shaft. The clerestory is lit with original multi-light windows and the walls of each shaft feature remnants of mounted machinery and/or ladders.

Building 2 – Kiln Building (one non-contributing building, post-1979)

Building 2 is located north of Building 1-Section A, and west of Buildings 3 and 4. This building stands on the site of a large kiln facility that was torn down prior to 1979. Building 2 is a small, brick building with a concrete roof and a concrete block west wall. The current building manager referred to this as a former boiler house.

Building 3 – Sawmill (one contributing building, 1916-1918)

Building 3 is the historic sawmill similar in design and materials to Building 1 featuring concrete construction, multi-light steel-sash factory windows, stepped parapets, and pilasters. It is oriented at an acute angle to the spine of Building 1. The L-shaped building consists of three sections varying between two and three stories. Some of the multi-light, steel-sash factory windows are extant (some with broken glass) while some have been infilled with block. A stepped parapet conceals the slightly gabled roof. A new roof has been installed on the southern half of the front wing of the building, while the remainder of the roof is partially to entirely collapsed. Some upper floors are gone or collapsed, and portions of the building have been reduced to a steel and concrete skeletal structure.

Building 4 – Power Plant (one contributing building, 1916-1918)

The power plant lies between Buildings 1 and 3 and is parallel to the latter. Constructed as part of the original factory complex between 1916 and 1918, the powerhouse is built of reinforced concrete and features stepped parapets with pitched pilasters on its north and south ends. The parapets are capped with coping. Building 4 is seven bays long with multi-light, steel-sash windows on the upper portions of the two-story walls. The pilasters pierce the eaves and project above the roofline to create a quasi-castellation.

A small brick section is attached to the front of Building 4 and connects to the smokestack. The 225-ft tall smokestack is locally iconic and can be seen from at least a quarter mile away along Demars Boulevard. It is tiled with yellow radial brick with corbelling around the flaring mouth. Bands of decoration and the vertical letters “O W D” are picked out with dark bricks. The lettering is repeated four times around the stack so the brand may be recognized from every angle.

Building 5 – Factory Office (one contributing building, 1916-1918; ca. 2018 addition)

Building 5 served as the Oval Wood Dish Factory office until 1970 when it was purchased by the Town of Altamont (now Town of Tupper Lake). The original portion is a small, two-story, rectangular, concrete building with a hipped roof and

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory _____

Franklin County, NY _____

wide eaves crowned with an original ventilation unit. Recently, a two-story addition was added to the east side of the building. The building is now sided with vinyl shingles but was originally un-sided concrete. The siding extends down to grade. The windows are all replacements mounted within the original window openings. The original main entry from Demars Boulevard has been lost to the new addition. The Factory Office was a vital component of the factory operation and retains sufficient integrity to aid in understanding the factory complex.

Watertower (one contributing structure, ca. 1927-34) A free-standing 100,000-gallon, steel, multi-column, elevated water tower was installed south of the smokestack between 1927 and 1934.

Warehouse Foundation (one contributing site, ca. 1916-1918)

The factory's warehouse burned in 1967 leaving only the concrete foundation. The loss of the warehouse signaled the end of most wood products manufacturing at this factory; shortly thereafter, the factory was parceled out to different business and municipal concerns.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

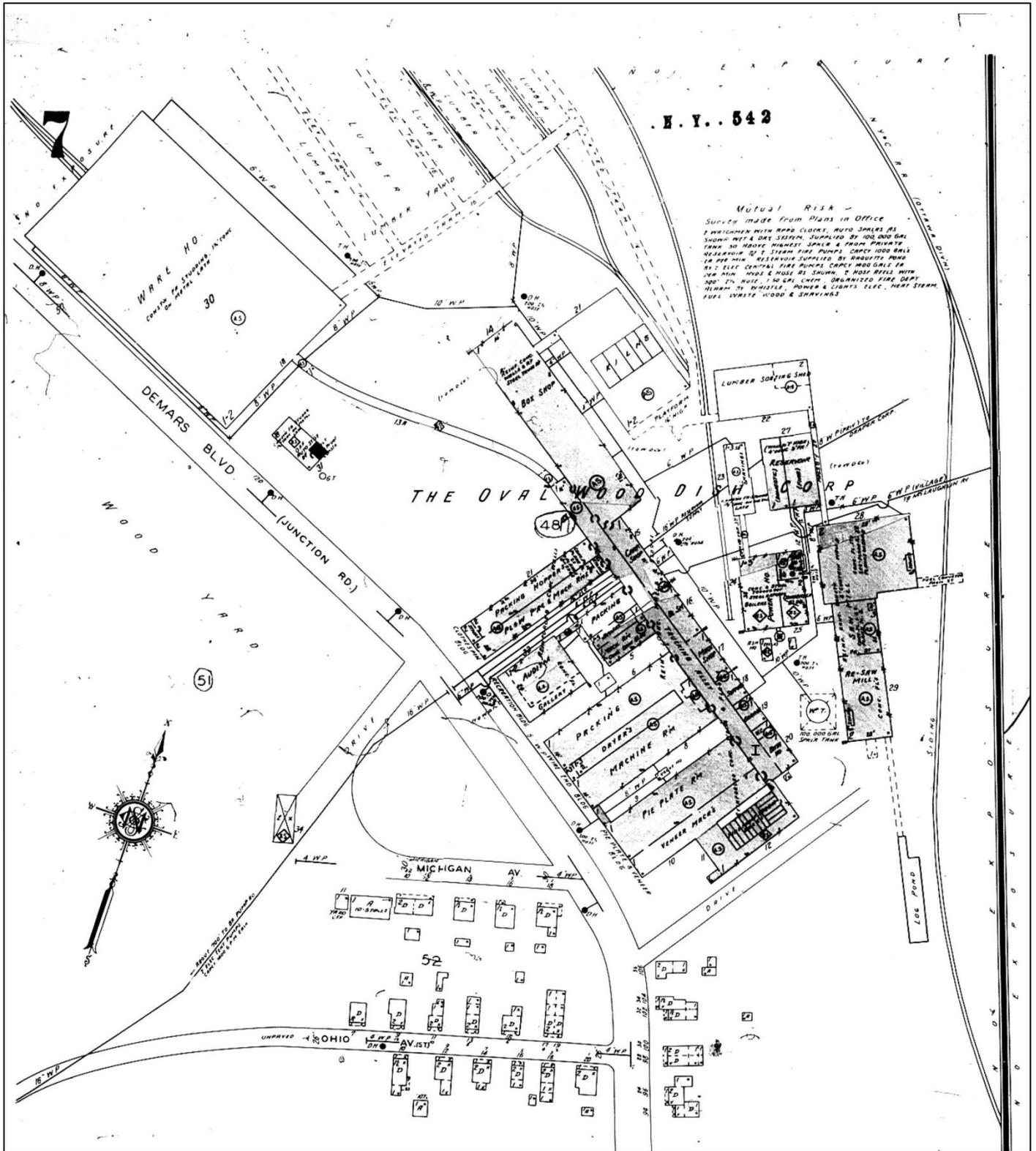


Figure 3 - The Oval Wood Dish Factory on the 1934 Sanborn Map. The 1927 map shows a similar layout minus the 100,000 gallon water tower added to the property between 1927 and 1934. The structures on Ohio and Michigan Avenues are company housing that were removed ca. 1964.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory _____

Franklin County, NY _____

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.) | | |
| X | A | Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. |
| | B | Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. |
| X | C | 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.) | | |
| | A | Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes. |
| | B | Removed from its original location. |
| | C | A birthplace or grave |
| | D | A cemetery |
| | E | A reconstructed building, object, or structure |
| | F | A commemorative property |
| | G | Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the last 50 years. |
| Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.) | | |
| INDUSTRY | | |
| ARCHITECTURE | | |
| Period of Significance | | |
| 1916-1967 | | |
| Significant Dates | | |
| 1916 (construction begun – completed 1918); 1967 (warehouse burns leading to end of wood products manufacturing) | | |
| Significant Person | | |
| n/a | | |
| Cultural Affiliation | | |
| n/a | | |
| Architect/Builder | | |
| John L. Graham | | |

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1916 when construction began and ends in 1967 when a disastrous fire destroyed the warehouse and its contents. Shortly thereafter the business closed, and the factory complex was sold in sections.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) N/A

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Oval Wood Dish Factory is significant under criterion A in the area of Industry, for the property's association with the single-use hardwood bowl and cutlery industry, a vital 20th century manufacturer in the village of Tupper Lake and New York's Adirondack region. By the time the Tupper Lake factory was opened the manufacture of bowls had evolved into thin pieces of hardwood veneer stapled at the ends into an oval dish shape. The factory would expand their offerings to also include clothespins and bowling pins. The decision of the Oval Wood Dish Company to move to Tupper Lake from Michigan changed the village's expected trajectory from lumber boom and bust to one of economic stability. The property is also significant under criterion C as a representative example of a largely intact reinforced concrete industrial complex built in the early 20th century. Building 1, in particular, is an excellent example of a poured-in-place, reinforced concrete daylight factory. The period of significance for the historic district begins with the construction of the factory complex in 1916 and ends with the burning of the warehouse in 1967, which was the catalyst for the decline of the factory complex's economic significance.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A

The Oval Wood Dish company was founded in Delta, OH in 1884 by Henry S. Hull, though most of the company's early years were spent in Michigan. The company's original product was one of the earliest forms of mass-produced disposable dishware – a shallow wooden dish carved from a single piece of wood and designed for single-use by butchers and grocers selling ground meat, butter, lard, and other messy goods. It was while the company was operating in Mancelona, Michigan that Hull christened it the Oval Wood Dish factory. In 1892, the company relocated to Traverse City, where lumber supplies were plentiful. By this time, the eponymous dishes were no longer carved bowls but were thin pieces of hardwood veneer stapled at the ends into an oval dish shape. The national market for their disposable dishes ensured success for Oval Wood Dish who soon branched out into other wooden products, including lumber (cut from the best hardwood), pie plates (which, along with oval dishes, were made from the poorer-quality hardwood logs) and clothespins (made from sawmill waste).¹ Traverse City's wood supply was finite, and in the 1910s, the company began to plan for a new factory in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

In 1913, two Oval Wood Dish executives vacationed in the Adirondacks of northern New York. The region's economy depended in large part on softwood logging. Pine, hemlock, and other coniferous woods were valuable for construction lumber and paper production and could be floated out of the mountains on rivers and lakes. Hardwood was less valuable and largely ignored by the local lumberjacks because the logs couldn't float and the wood could not be used for pulp.² The vast stands of hardwood, especially birch, beech, and maple, were just what the Oval Wood Dish company

¹ Robert E. Wilson, *Grand Traverse Legends, Vol. III: The Transition Years 1880-1900* (Traverse City, MI: Grand Traverse Pioneer and Historical Society, 2006), 58.

² William C. Frenette, *Transitions: Notes on a Proud Past with Attention to Future Annals* (Tupper Lake, NY: Published by the Frenette Family 2014) .530.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

needed for their veneer-based products, and given the market preference for softwoods, the price was right for the company to buy several tracts of hardwood from lumbering companies in decline. By 1915, Oval Wood Dish owned 75,000 acres of Adirondack land and had shifted their factory plans from the Upper Peninsula to upstate New York. The company initially planned to build their factory in Utica where transportation options included both rail and canal. However, the New York and Ottawa Railroad, which would have brought the logs out of the mountains, negotiated favorable transportation rates with the company in order to have the factory built in the heart of the Adirondacks at Tupper Lake. The railroad benefited from reduced rail competition for the finished wood products while the company found that onsite manufacturing was logistically and economically preferable.³

Tupper Lake was, like many Adirondack villages, founded as a pioneer lumber town. Softwood lumber was first harvested there around 1850 and the village of Tupper Lake later developed in a clearing left by the lumber company. In 1890, the area gained its first sawmill and rail line, the Northern Adirondack Railroad. These events sparked a building boom in the newly surveyed village by Raquette Pond. In 1892, a second railroad crossed the first just north of the original village, prompting development around "Tupper Lake Junction" (also known as "Faust"). During this building boom, these villages were situated within the Town of Altamont, which was organized in 1890. (The Town's name was changed to Tupper Lake in 2004.) Louis Simmons described the fast-growing community as having had a Wild West-type of reputation during its first decade, but after a fire destroyed most of the village in 1899, the community re-built in a reportedly more orderly manner.⁴

Regardless of the town's architectural or social development, historians recognize that Tupper Lake was a lumber town first and foremost and therefore was destined to be abandoned when the woods were depleted. "The history of lumber towns was one of get in, cut off and get out, for the most part. They were expected to be short-lived...."⁵ Other lumber villages in Altamont and the surrounding towns were indeed short-lived; in an extreme example, the earliest resident of nearby Brandon was also the last resident when he died in 1941.⁶ The decision of the Oval Wood Dish Company to move to Tupper Lake brought economic stability to this village that had been suffering from a downturn in the lumber industry. Town Historian Jon Kopp describes the factory as having prevented the abandonment of Tupper Lake, a sentiment shared by other historians and town residents.⁷ For example, William Frenette described Oval Wood Dish as having saved Tupper Lake from becoming a "sawdust town," a euphemism that refers literally to the ubiquitous refuse of a lumber town and figuratively to the fate of such towns when the lumber is gone.⁸

Henry Hull did not oversee the new factory's construction or operations, but rather appointed his son, William Cary ("W.C.") Hull to run the business in New York. W.C. brought with him the engineer who had designed the planned Upper Peninsula factory, John L. Graham. Adapting these plans to the building site, which had formerly held the A. Sherman Lumber Co. sawmill, Graham started construction in early 1916. Skilled contract labor was in short supply due to World War

³ Louis J. Simmons, Louis, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock* (Saranac Lake, New York: Hungry Bear Publishing, 1976), 151.

⁴ Simmons, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock*, 66.

⁵ Simmons, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock*, 66.

⁶ Simmons, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock*, 113.

⁷ Floy Hyde, *Adirondack Forests, Fields and Mines* (Utica, New York: North Country Books, 1974); William C. Frenette, *Transitions: Notes on a Proud Past with Attention to Future Annals*, 104.

⁸ William C. Frenette, *Transitions: Notes on a Proud Past with Attention to Future Annals*, 115.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

I, so Oval Wood Dish elected to build the factory with local labor and Graham as supervisor. Between 500 and 600 men worked on the factory during the first year of construction earning salaries higher than those offered by the other lumber companies. Local workers were not only happy with the steady employment and good wages, but the delighted officials of the Town of Altamont provided the construction project with free gravel and rock from a town-owned gravel mine.⁹ The factory, commonly believed to be the largest ever built in Franklin County, was operational in early 1918.

The factory, with its sawmill, powerhouse, kilns, warehouse, office building, and covered tramways, was not the only construction project triggered by the Oval Wood Dish company. It was initially estimated that 500-600 employees would be needed to run the factory and many of these would come from outside the small Tupper Lake community. Employees from the Traverse City plant relocated to Tupper Lake and want ads in regional papers sought to bring hundreds of men and women to the town to work at the factory. For example, an ad in *The Sun* of Ft. Covington (located on the northern border of New York), stated, “[Oval Wood Dish] wants young men and women, 16 years and older, for clean, pleasant work in its fine, modern plant. The company operates its own cafeteria restaurant and has built and furnished comfortable, modern homes for employees coming from homes elsewhere.”¹⁰ When the company announced its plans to move to Tupper Lake, W. C. Hull requested that the town build housing for the coming influx of workers. Houses were accordingly built on Sears Hill, located on the other side of the village.¹¹ Soon, however, Oval Wood Dish laid out two residential streets directly across Demars Boulevard from the factory. The streets were sentimentally named Ohio Avenue and Michigan Avenue after the company’s former home states. These streets and their houses were removed after the company sold the factory in 1964. In addition to housing, the isolated community already needed a hospital and the influx of Oval Wood Dish workers exacerbated the issue. Though many other factors contributed to the eventual construction of the hospital, historian William Frenette credits W. C. Hull and Oval Wood Dish as significant influences in its inception.¹²

Jon Kopp and other local historians note that Oval Wood Dish advertised for and hired a large number of female workers, which was unusual for the early 20th century.¹³ A “swell” company-owned dormitory was furnished to appeal to young women: “Nice pretty rooms, looking out over lake and mountain. Comfortably and daintily furnished, the kind of room a girl likes. Bath rooms, hot and cold water, every modern convenience. Laundry in the cellar where a girl can do her washing. Girls room there for a dollar a week.”¹⁴ The Oval Wood Dish rate for common laborers in 1917 was \$2.00/day, though it is likely that women earned somewhat less. In comparison, Gerald Hull (W.C.’s son and future president of the company) earned \$25/week and paid \$14/week in room and board to a local hotel.¹⁵

Employee satisfaction was practically guaranteed in these early want ads, and Oval Wood Dish had strategies beyond a steady paycheck and housing opportunities of keeping its workers happy. The company also shut down production every year in order to host “O.W.D. Day”, a full-day picnic held off-site with food, music, dancing, competitions, and games for employees and their families. A program from the 1923 picnic shows that the winners of the men’s tug-of-war received

⁹ Louis J. Simmons, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock*, 154.

¹⁰ “A Way to Earn More Than A Living,” *The Sun*, May 30, 1918.

¹¹ Louis J. Simmons, 152-153.

¹² William C. Frenette, *Transitions: Notes on a Proud Past with Attention to Future Annals*, 619-620.

¹³ Ned Rauch, “A Fork in the Road,” *Adirondack Life*, 2003.

¹⁴ “Our Girls’ Dormitory is Some Swell Place,” *The Adirondack News*, June 15, 1918.

¹⁵ Louis J. Simmons, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock*, 155.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

a box of “good cigars” while the victors of the women’s tug-of-war each won a pair of “good silk hose”. Families could win food prizes for having the most boys (barrel of flour) or girls (Armour Star ham), while the kids could win up to \$3 (approximately \$45 today) for first prize in the children’s competitions. The rest of the year, employees could enjoy various entertainments and sports in the “Recreation Building” that faced Demars Boulevard. This wing of the factory building (Section M) had a gallery overlooking a large, multi-purpose space that was used as an auditorium and as a playing field. Basketball and baseball leagues held regular games here during the 1920s and 1930s, with opponents hailing from around the region.¹⁶

The remainder of Building 1 was dedicated to wood products manufacturing. The wings of the factory were labeled on the 1927 and 1934 Sanborn maps by function and/or product, with sections of the building dedicated to the production of oval wood dishes, clothes pins, wire end dishes, pie plates, flooring, and other veneer products. These were core products of the business, but Oval Wood Dish continued to innovate and develop new products. Disposable wooden utensils were a natural counterpoint to disposable wooden dishes and the factory produced flat wooden spoons (as well as popsicle sticks and tongue depressors) for years. The effects of the Great Depression were felt by the Oval Wood Dish Company during the 1930s, particularly as it coincided with the development by others of disposable paper plates and a realization that the hardwood stands of the Adirondacks were susceptible to disease.¹⁷ The company faced bankruptcy and was forced to reorganize in 1937, but its prospects improved dramatically shortly thereafter.¹⁸ 1939 proved to be an important year in the financial outlook of the company as the outbreak of World War II prompted a resurgence in the demand for wood products and Oval Wood Dish unveiled its best-selling and most enduring product – the “Ritespoon.” The company had been producing flat wooden “spoons” for years, including the flat paddles sold with ice cream cup novelties and spoons with shallow concavities that were poor substitutes for metal utensils.¹⁹ The development of a mass-produced wooden spoon with a “deep, graceful bowl” made of veneer and not treated with chemicals so that it retained the “natural sanitary and wholesome character of the wood” was revolutionary and provided a resurgence to the business. The Ritespoon and Ritefork (a “spork”) were mainstays of production and sales through the remainder of the company’s occupation of the factory. The production of wooden utensils prompted a surge in employment, and the factory reached an all-time employment high in 1940 with 539 workers. About 8% of the residents of Tupper Lake had jobs at the factory and the community benefited from almost \$10,000 in taxes generated by the factory.²⁰

The success of the war years and the wooden utensil market prompted Oval Wood Dish to expand production and open factories in Potsdam, NY and Quebec City. In a nod to modern transportation, Oval Wood Dish also constructed an airstrip approximately 1000 ft east of the factory (on the east side of McLaughlin Avenue) for its company plane. Their production output was also expanded to include bowling pins, which were built in Tupper Lake and then finished at a partner company in Lowville, NY.

¹⁶ “Indoor Baseball,” *Malone Evening Telegram*, December 13, 1926.

¹⁷ William Frenette, *Transitions: Notes on a Proud Past with Attention to Future Annals*, 308.

¹⁸ “Reorganization Plan for Oval Wood Dish Company Approved,” *Malone Evening Telegram*, May 27, 1937.

¹⁹ Louis J. Simmons, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock*, 158.

²⁰ Louis J. Simmons, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock*, 158.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

During the 1950s, the company modernized its sawmill's machinery (Building 3), a move which freed up nearly two-thirds of the building's capacity for other purposes.²¹ It is not clear whether this space was ever fully repurposed, as the business began to decline by the end of the 1950s. The supply of lumber had dwindled to a point where production could not continue at all of the factories. In 1961, the satellite factories in Potsdam and Quebec were closed. Three years later, the Tupper Lake factory was sold to the Adirondack Plywood Corporation.

Potential sales of the factory had been quietly negotiated by Gerald Hull for more than five years. Hull had apparently rejected several offers out of concern for the community should the buyer intend to close the factory. Adirondack Plywood was favored because their product was suited to the factory and they planned to not only start production there but to invest in upgrades. Plywood production began the following year and by August 1965 the company was bought out by U.S. Plywood Corporation. The larger company announced plans for greater production, infrastructure investment, and the expansion into a branded particle board called "Novaply".²² These plans collapsed in 1967 when the huge warehouse located on the east side of the complex burned to the ground. In addition to the loss of the building and its stored product, the company lost boxcars and machinery. This catastrophe crippled the plywood business which closed shortly thereafter. Approximately 150 people lost their jobs at the closure, a disastrous event for a community of this size (population 6,546 in 1960²³) and one relatively isolated by its Adirondack location.

Afterwards, the factory complex was parceled out to several concerns. In 1970, Tupper Lake Veneer Co. purchased the west portion of Building 1 while Major Rod Ltd., a fishing rod manufacturer, purchased the east portion. Major Rod "modernized the entrance [and] installed an attractive office" at this time.²⁴ The modernization likely includes the window alterations in Sections N and O and the office space in Section O. It was also in 1970 that Building 5, the office building of the Oval Wood Dish Factory, was sold to the Town of Altamont (now Town of Tupper Lake). In later years, the northern portion of the complex encompassing the sawmill (Building 3), powerhouse (Building 4), smokestack, and water tower, was purchased by the Fletcher family, dealers in scrap metal.

Tupper Lake Veneer and Major Rod were not long occupants of Building 1. In 1964, a former Oval Wood Dish executive named Roger Sullivan had purchased the wooden utensil portion of the Oval Wood Dish company and moved production offsite. His new company, called OWD, soon switched to plastic utensils under the brand name, "Lady Dianne". In 1978, OWD purchased the east end of Building 1 for production. Several changes to the factory were necessitated by the shift from wood to plastic production, including the erection of the silos situated east of Section O.²⁵ Picking up where Oval Wood Dish left off, OWD was a steady employer for decades. The plastics company was purchased by Jarden Plastics Solutions in 2003. They continued to produce plastic products for several years but closed in 2008, thus ending 90 years of nearly continuous manufacturing in the facility.

²¹ Louis J. Simmons, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock*, 159.

²² Louis J. Simmons, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock*, 161.

²³ Census information from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tupper_Lake_\(village\),_New_York](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tupper_Lake_(village),_New_York)

²⁴ Louis J. Simmons, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock*, 162.

²⁵ Jon Kopp, Town Historian, November 21, 2019.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

The Oval Wood Dish company believed that they had purchased enough timberlands in the Adirondacks to last 50 years, and their estimate proved to be almost exact.²⁶ Despite the projected longevity, or perhaps because they knew from experience that their factory would one day close, the Hull family promoted other social and economic endeavors within Tupper Lake. In 1932, W. C. Hull began to encourage the promotion of recreation and tourism to Tupper Lake business leaders in light of the fact that lumber, and consequently wood manufacturing, would eventually decline. With this in mind, Oval Wood Dish and other landowners donated 50 acres towards the construction of the town's first golf course. Oval Wood Dish also supplied horses used for logging to clear the course land of trees and rocks.²⁷ In 1940, Oval Wood Dish showed "public-spirited generosity" when it leased land on Sugar Loaf Mountain to the Tupper Lake Ski Club, enabling the community to "take its rightful place this winter with other North Country resorts as a real Adirondack ski center."²⁸ Oval Wood Dish's efforts to push Tupper Lake towards a potentially more sustainable industry than lumbering helped the community survive the loss of the factory, and now recreation on the mountains, lakes, and The Wild Center (a 115 acre natural history center) form a significant economic base to the community.

²⁶ "Oval Wood Dish and Santa Clara Lumber Largest in the North, Vast Quantities of Rough Timber being Consumed Each Year," *Utica Observer-Dispatch*, August 13, 1922.

²⁷ Louis J. Simmons, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock*, 301.

²⁸ "Ideal Ski Slope is Made Available to Tupper Lake," *Malone Evening Telegram*, October 19, 1940.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

Criterion C

The Oval Wood Dish Factory Historic District comprises the surviving industrial works built almost entirely during one construction episode (1916-1918) and used for a single type of production (wood manufacturing) for 50 years. Upon completion, the works included a one-story factory dedicated to production (Building 1), a kiln building, a sawmill (Building 3), an administrative building (Building 5), a large warehouse, railroad tracks and covered tramways, company housing, and a powerhouse (Building 4) complex that included structures to house fuel and water, as well as a towering smokestack proudly bearing the company's initials. The most significant addition to the factory complex was a water tower erected between 1927 and 1934. The complex is reputed to be the largest industrial plant ever built in Franklin County.²⁹ The warehouse's destruction in a 1967 fire triggered the rapid decline of the complex's occupant, U.S. Plywood, though the warehouse foundation is still visible as a contributing site on the margin of the district grounds. Beginning in 1964 and continuing after the 1967 fire, several of the auxiliary buildings (such as fuel house, tramways, and off-site housing) were removed or replaced (such as with Building 2). Production continued off and on in Building 1 for decades and the structure

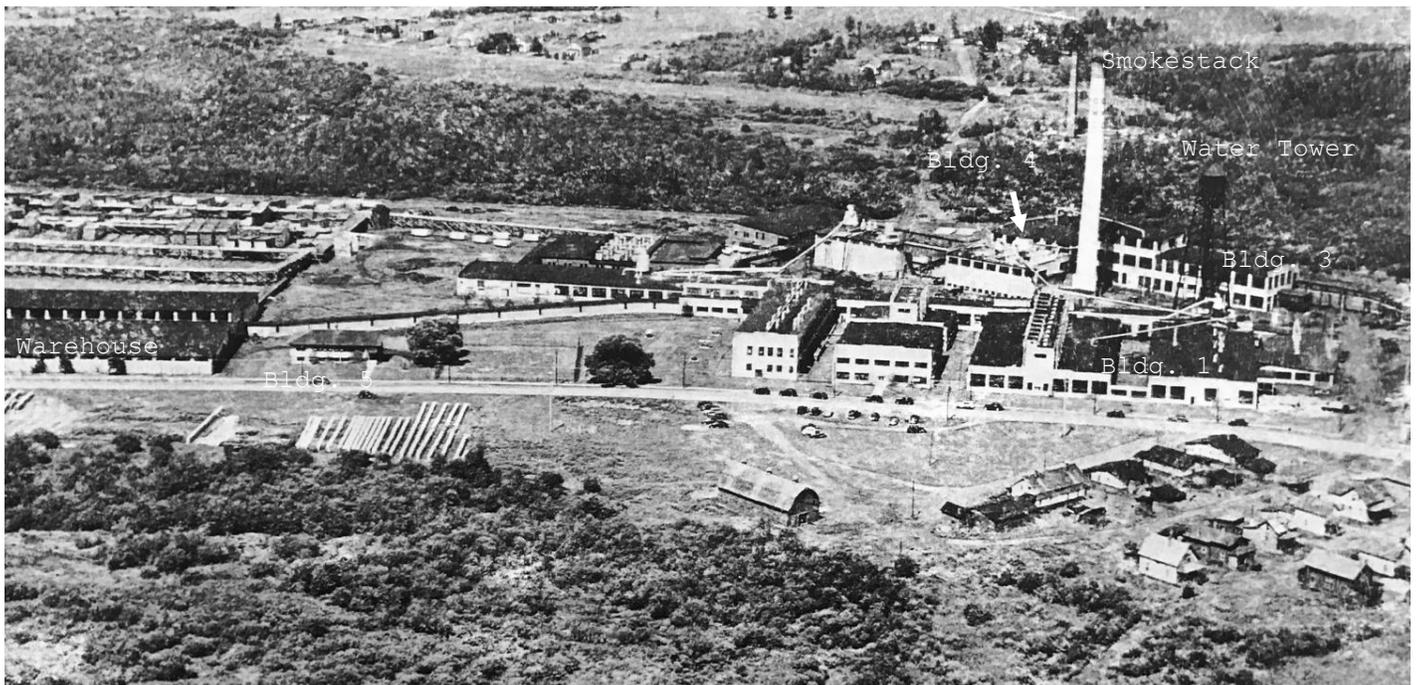


Figure 4 - Ca. 1930s photo of Oval Wood Dish plant. (Photo courtesy of the Tupper Lake Heritage Museum)

was thus preserved with relatively minor (and largely reversible) alterations to some windows and doors. Buildings 3 and 4 were purchased and thus maintained by separate owners than Building 1 and are in disrepair. Building 5 was also legally separated from the complex when it became the Town offices. Despite the changes which occurred to the plant after 1967, Buildings 1, 3, and 4 remain excellent examples of early 20th century, poured-in-place, reinforced concrete industrial buildings.

²⁹ William C. Frenette, *Transitions: Notes on a Proud Past with Attention to Future Annals*, 511.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



Figure 5 - Undated view showing Building 5 (foreground) and Building 1-Section J (background). Building 5 has been altered with new side entry addition. (Photo from Images of America: Tupper Lake, p. 69.)

The Oval Wood Dish complex was described in 1916 as being of “Allis-Chalmers construction.”³⁰ The term “Allis-Chalmers” was used to describe a series of one-story shops arranged parallel to each other and connected at one end by common wing and was first implemented at the Allis-Chalmers Co. factory in West Allis, Wisconsin (1902).³¹ The layout was innovative because it exemplified the concepts of progressive production and rational growth.³² The model of standardized buildings combined with function-specific shops comprising manufacturing units was admired by engineers of the time as was the notion of planned development over earlier models of *ad hoc* factory growth.³³ Industrial historian Betsey Bradley notes that the Allis-Chalmers model was easily adapted to later forms of production centered on assembly lines and continuous process operations.³⁴ The term illustrates the massing of Building 1, which is a series of parallel production sheds and workshops anchored to a central transportation corridor. Each shed and shop (lettered A through Q) had a unique function and differed from its neighbors in terms of size, pattern of fenestration, roof height and design, but all were unified by their common construction materials (reinforced concrete walls and floors, Fenestra steel sash windows, wood ceilings), their access to the transportation corridor (Section I), and their shared exterior details (pilasters, parapets, quoin door frames). However, the overall complex does not seem to be a true Allis-Chalmers plan despite its contemporary description as such. The parallel shops of Building 1 were not necessarily dependent on each other in a progression of production and

³⁰ “A Michigan-New York Enterprise,” *Lumber World Review*, Vol. 31, 1916, p. 35.

³¹ Betsey Hunter Bradley, *The Works: Industrial Architecture of the United States*. (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1999) 77.

³² <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI9203>

³³ W. P. Sargent, “Design and Construction of Metal Working Shops – 1,” *Machinery*, September 1908.

³⁴ Betsey Hunter Bradley, *The Works: Industrial Architecture of the United States*, 78.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

the angled orientation of the northern buildings relative to Building 1 does not fit with the compact efficiency typified by an Allis-Chalmers plant.

The Oval Wood Dish complex was designed by engineer John Graham of Reynoldsville, PA. Graham was a design-build industrial engineer with a specialty in sawmill design,³⁵ who led the project by adapting plans he had created for the proposed Michigan factory and supervising through every phase of construction. Graham's experience in single-purpose mill construction may have led him to modify the standard Allis-Chalmers plan for progressive shop design. Coincidentally, Graham had recently worked on updating the sawmill of the Santa Clara Lumber Company in Tupper Lake and was therefore very familiar with the community.³⁶

The use of reinforced concrete allowed the building to be long, tall, and filled with daylight from the steel sash windows used along its walls. Riveted steel Warren trusses were used for the portions of the building with the broadest spans, Sections A and M, to provide open space without the need for columns. The open space was undoubtedly useful to production in the Box Shop (Section A) and was also a benefit to the functioning of Section M, the recreation building, in which were held parties, concerts, and games of indoor baseball. The other main production sections (Sections J, K, N, O) had longitudinal concrete walls and steel girders to support their roofs while dividing the sections in large chunks of space.

Reinforced concrete and the steel sash windows also provided critical fire protection to a building dedicated to the production of wood products. Reinforced concrete production sheds were falling out of favor during the 1910s as steel-framed sheds were more flexible and quicker to build.³⁷ The 1916 decision to build this factory in laborious reinforced concrete, despite the difficulty in getting skilled contractors during wartime,³⁸ suggests that the company required a fireproof building material. The company's first factory in Traverse City burned in 1896,³⁹ so fire-prevention would have been of particular concern in the design of the new Oval Wood Dish factory. Though Section I linked the sections of the building and facilitated transport, the free-standing production shed-style wings were isolated from each other and thus would inhibit the spread of fire. Isolation was more pronounced with separate kiln and fuel buildings. The wood dryers within Building 1 (in Sections K and N) were elevated inside ventilated towers. Tin-clad, sliding fire doors installed between each section and the Section I corridor provided additional isolation measures to prevent fire from spreading through the building. Several of these doors are still in place, though most have been removed. The roof and its purlins, however, were made of wood. In addition to being combustible, wood was falling out of favor as a building material during the 1910s due to lumber depletion.⁴⁰ The decision to build a wood roof may have been purely economic, since Oval Wood Dish owned vast timber stands located nearby. Several years after the factory was completed, the company installed a 100,000-gallon water tower to provide additional protection from fire.⁴¹

³⁵ "A Michigan-New York Enterprise," *Lumber World Review*, Vol. 31, 1916, 35.

³⁶ Louis J. Simmons, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock*, 152.

³⁷ Betsey Hunter Bradley, *The Works: Industrial Architecture of the United States*, 159-160.

³⁸ Louis J. Simmons, *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock*, 153.

³⁹ Robert E. Wilson, *Grand Traverse Legends, Vol. III: The Transition Years 1880-1900* (Traverse City, MI: Grand Traverse Pioneer and Historical Society, 2006), 60.

⁴⁰ Betsey Hunter Bradley, *The Works: Industrial Architecture of the United States*, 134.

⁴¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1927 and 1934.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

Building 3 is a 2-3 story sawmill with timber-framed columns supporting its wooden floors. As with the wood roof of Building 1, the company probably decided to use wood columns because it would be more cost-effective than steel. Wood floors were probably also favored to absorb vibrations from the milling machinery.⁴² Though deteriorated Building 3 retains the reinforced concrete design and industrial steel sash.

Building 4 is the powerhouse that supplied electric power and steam heat to the other buildings. The powerhouse also supplied electricity to the Village of Tupper Lake until 1924.⁴³ This building was characteristic of industrial powerhouses⁴⁴ in that the three-story boiler house was taller than the compressor room, which was a one-story wing on the north side of the building. Unlike many contemporary powerhouses fueled by coal, this one was woodfired using waste wood and shavings brought by conveyer belt from a separate fuel building. The powerhouse complex also included a reservoir building with separate tanks for domestic water and for fire suppression. The water was pumped from Raquette Pond.⁴⁵ Attached at the east end of the powerhouse is a 225-ft tall radial brick smokestack that not only advertised the initials the company but was embellished with bands of decorative brickwork surrounding a corbelled, flaring mouth. Though a segment of the mouth is broken, the smokestack is considered a local icon and is symbolic of the town's industrial heritage.⁴⁶

Conclusion

The Oval Wood Dish Factory Historic District is not only an excellent example of early 20th century industrial design but is also a significant reminder of the industrial concern that saved Tupper Lake from being a "sawdust town." By bringing industry to the wood, rather than the wood to the industry, the Oval Wood Dish company offered economic security to a rural community that was facing eventual abandonment like many of its regional neighbors. The company's social contributions to Tupper Lake ranged from providing workers with good wages, housing, and recreation, to promoting the development of healthcare and tourism in a region where the jobs from lumber would one day end. This reinforced concrete industrial complex documents the full history of an important local and regional woodworking industry.

⁴² Betsey Hunter Bradley, *The Works: Industrial Architecture of the United States*, 109-110.

⁴³ Louis J. Simmons, "Tupper Lake Then and Now," *Franklin County Historical Review Collection, No. 3, Vols. 11-15* (Brushton, NY: TEACH Services, Inc.).

⁴⁴ Betsey Hunter Bradley, *The Works: Industrial Architecture of the United States*, 50-51.

⁴⁵ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1927 and 1934.

⁴⁶ Ned Rauch, "A Fork in the Road," *Adirondack Life*, 2003.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

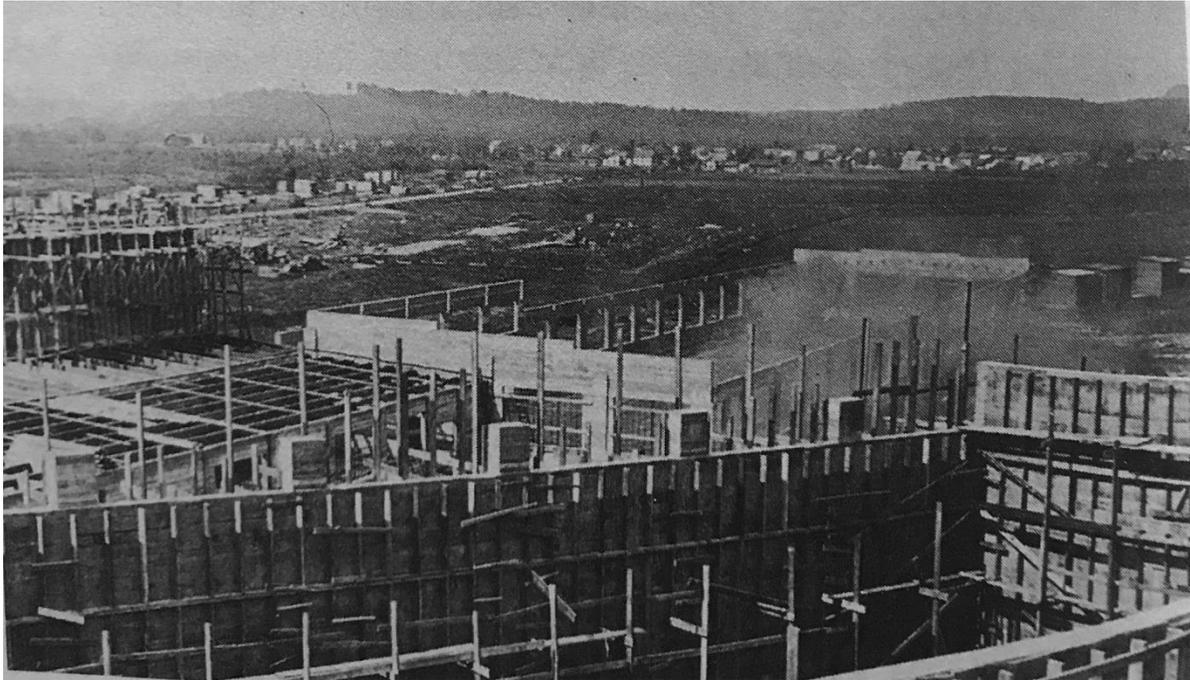


Figure 6 - 1917 construction photo showing Building 4 (foreground) and Building 1-Section A (background). (Photo from Mostly Spruce and Hemlock, p. 164.)

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

9. Major Bibliographical References

Books and Publications:

- Bradley, Betsey Hunter. *The Works: Industrial Architecture of the United States*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Frenette, William C., *Transitions: Notes on a Proud Past with Attention to Future Annals*. Tupper Lake, NY: Published by the Frenette Family, 2014.
- Hyde, Floy. *Adirondack Forests, Fields and Mines*. Utica, New York: North Country Books, 1974.
- Kopp, Jon. *Images of America: Tupper Lake*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2012.
- Simmons, Louis J. *Mostly Spruce and Hemlock*. Saranac Lake. New York: Hungry Bear Publishing, 1976.
- Wilson, Robert E. *Grand Traverse Legends, Vol. III: The Transition Years 1880-1900*. Traverse City, MI: Grand Traverse Pioneer and Historical Society, 2006.

Newspapers, Journals, and Internet Media:

- Rauch, Ned, "A Fork in the Road." *Adirondack Life*, 2003.
- "A Michigan-New York Enterprise." *Lumber World Review*, Vol. 31, 1916, p. 35.
- "Ideal Ski Slope is Made Available to Tupper Lake.," *Malone Evening Telegram*, October 19, 1940.
- "Oval Wood Dish and Santa Clara Lumber Largest in the North, Vast Quantities of Rough Timber being Consumed Each Year." *Utica Observer-Dispatch*, August 13, 1922.
- "Indoor Baseball." *Malone Evening Telegram*, December 13, 1926.
- "Reorganization Plan for Oval Wood Dish Company Approved." *Malone Evening Telegram*, May 27, 1937.
- "A Way to Earn More Than A Living." *The Sun*, May 30, 1918.
- "Our Girls' Dormitory is Some Swell Place." *The Adirondack News*, June 15, 1918.
- Sargent, W. P., "Design and Construction of Metal Working Shops – 1." *Machinery*, September 1908
- Simmons, Louis J. "Tupper Lake Then and Now." In *Franklin County Historical Review Collection, No. 3, Vols. 11-15*. Brushton, NY: TEACH Services, Inc.
- Syracuse University, "Tupper Lake Team Bear", <https://tupperlakebear.tumblr.com/post/36987296757/monday-november-5th-we-created-a-floor-plan>. Accessed November 2019.
- <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI9203>

Historic Maps:

- Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Tupper Lake, NY (1927, 1934)*

Interviews:

- Interview with Jon Kopp, Town Historian, on November 21, 2019 in Tupper Lake, NY.
- Interview with Kathleen Lefebvre, Tupper Lake Heritage Museum, on November 21, 2019 in Tupper Lake, NY.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested) NPS Project Number 41890, approved 4/30/2020.
- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 33 Acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | <u>18N</u> Zone | <u>542175</u> Easting | <u>4898481</u> Northing | 3 | <u>18N</u> Zone | <u>542796</u> Easting | <u>4898176</u> Northing |
| 2 | <u>18N</u> Zone | <u>542250</u> Easting | <u>4898491</u> Northing | 4 | <u>18N</u> Zone | <u>542691</u> Easting | <u>4898001</u> Northing |
| 5 | <u>18N</u> Zone | <u>542214</u> Easting | <u>4898221</u> Northing | | | | |

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary is indicated by a black line on the tax map below.

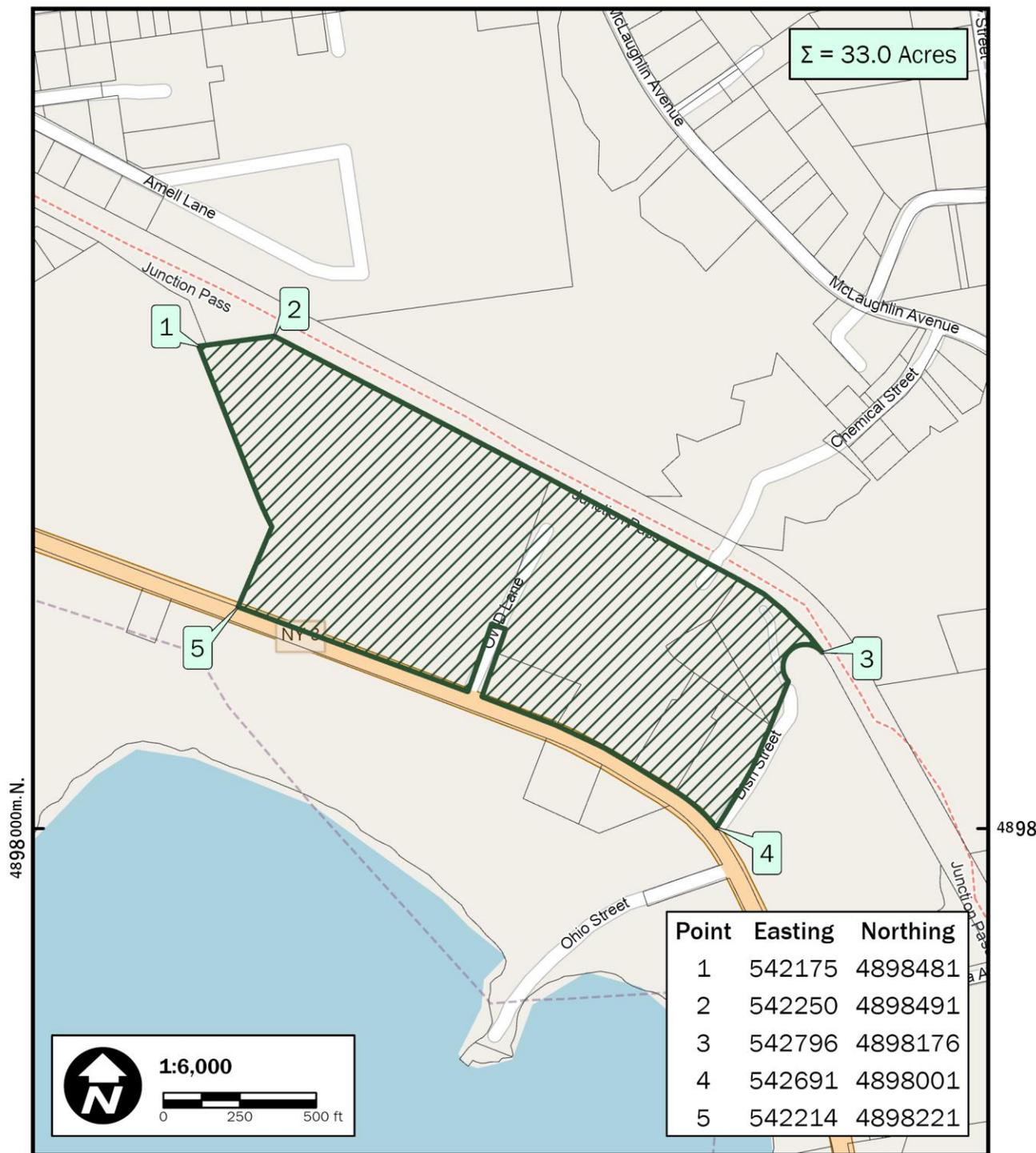
Boundary Justification: The boundary includes existing factory structures and their parcels that were owned and operated by Oval Wood Dish company and its wood-products successor, Adirondack Plywood Corporation/U.S. Plywood, during the period of significance. The boundary includes the site of the warehouse foundation and the former lumber storage yards.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

Oval Wood Dish Factory
Village of Tupper Lake,
Franklin County, New York

100-124 Demars Boulevard
 & 13 Dish Avenue
 Tupper Lake, NY 12996



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: North American 1983
 Units: Meter

Nomination Boundary



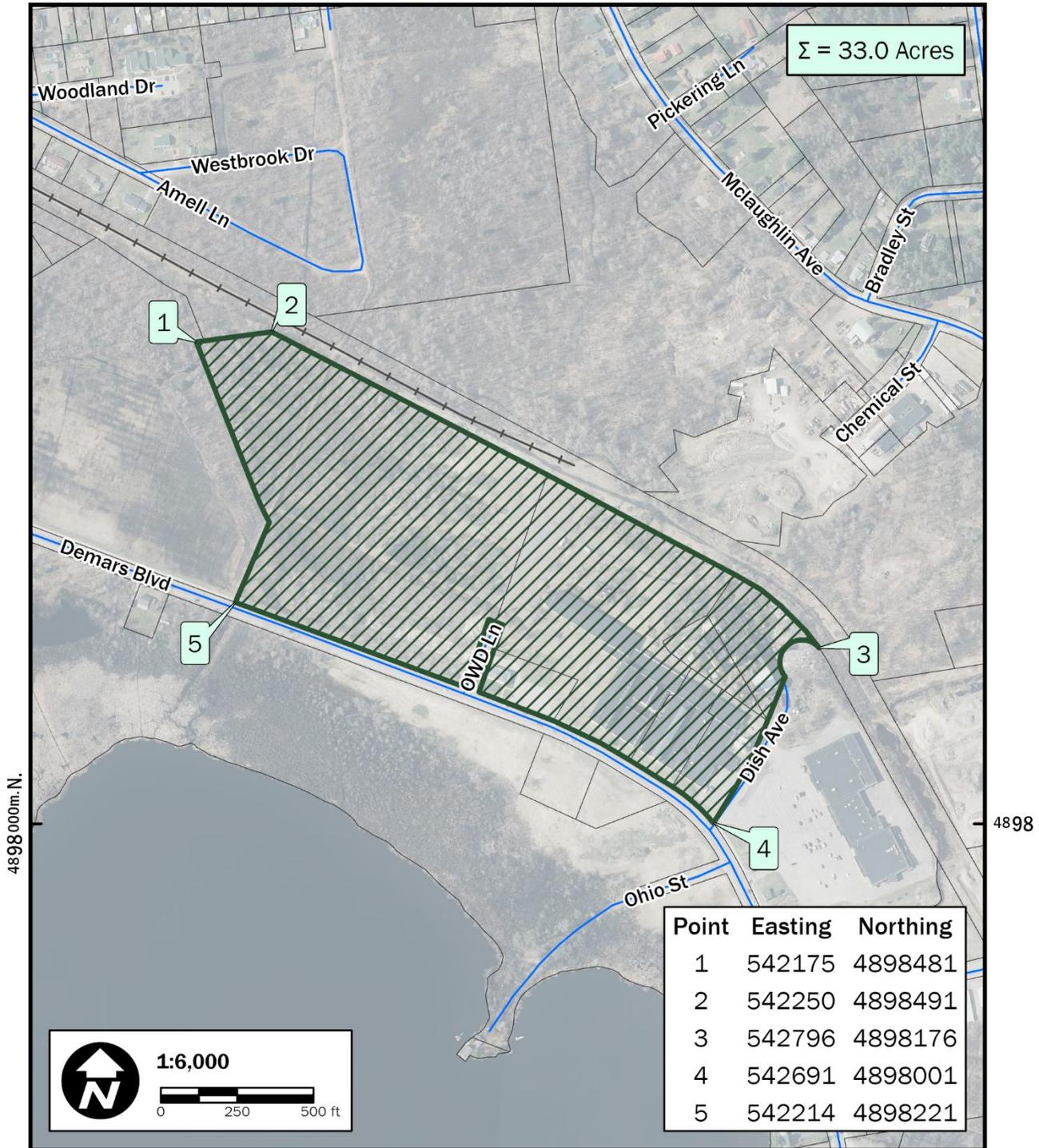
**Parks, Recreation
 and Historic Preservation**

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

Oval Wood Dish Factory
 Village of Tupper Lake,
 Franklin County, New York

100-124 Demars Boulevard
 & 13 Dish Avenue
 Tupper Lake, NY 12996



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
 Projection: Transverse Mercator
 Datum: North American 1983
 Units: Meter

 Nomination Boundary



DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

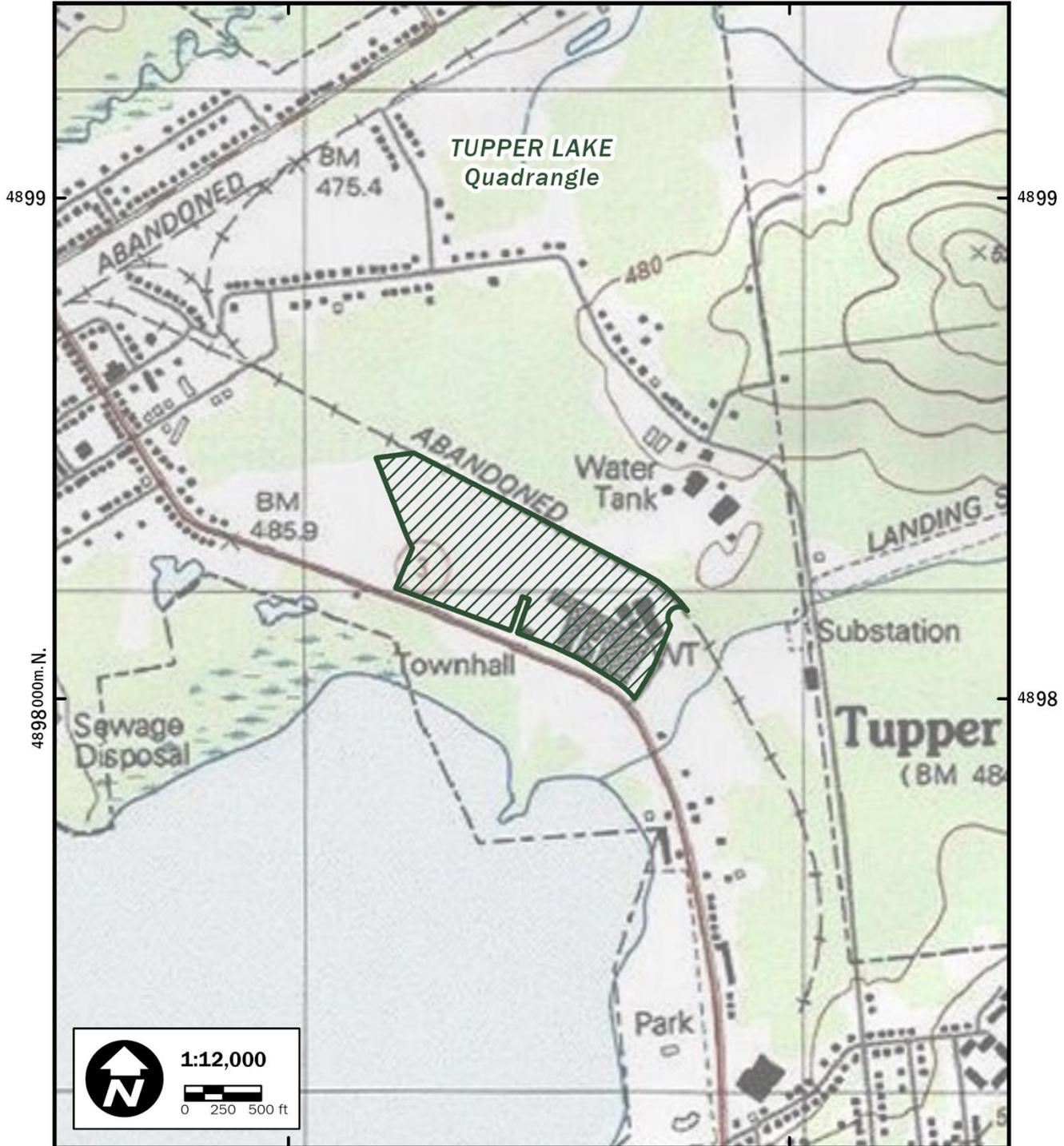
Franklin County, NY

Oval Wood Dish Factory
Village of Tupper Lake,
Franklin County, New York

100-124 Demars Boulevard
& 13 Dish Avenue
Tupper Lake, NY 12996

542

543



Coordinate System: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 18N
Projection: Transverse Mercator
Datum: North American 1983
Units: Meter

 Nomination Boundary



**Parks, Recreation
and Historic Preservation**

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Zlotucha Kozub
organization Streetscape Preservation date August 22, 2020
street & number 1335 Woodworth Road telephone 315-246-5384
city or town Skaneateles state NY zip code 13152
e-mail andrea@streetscapepres.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.)

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

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: Oval Wood Dish Factory

City or Vicinity: 100-120 Demars Boulevard, Tupper Lake

County: Franklin

State: NY

Photographer: Andrea Zlotucha Kozub

Date Photographed: November 21, 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

| Photo Key # | Description |
|--|---|
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0001 | View of Building 1 from Demars Blvd., facing northwest. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0002 | View of Building 1 from Demars Blvd., facing north. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0003 | Façades of Sections J, M, N, and P facing northwest. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0004 | Façade of Section M, facing northwest. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0005 | Façade of Building 5, facing northeast. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0006 | Building 3, facing west. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0007 | North side of Building 3, facing south. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0008 | Building 3, facing southeast. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0009 | Building 4, facing northeast. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0010 | Smokestack and water tower, facing northwest. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0011 | Interior of Section A, facing west. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0012 | Section I hallway, facing east with Section J fire door on right. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0013 | East half of Section J, facing south. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0014 | Sliding fire door leading from Section I hallway into Section K. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0015 | Looking up in a Section K drying tower. |

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory _____

Franklin County, NY _____

| Photo Key # | Description |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0016 | Small room at south end of Section K. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0017 | East side of Section K, facing south. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0018 | Section L, facing north. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0019 | Section M, facing southeast. |
| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0020 | Section H, facing northeast. |

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

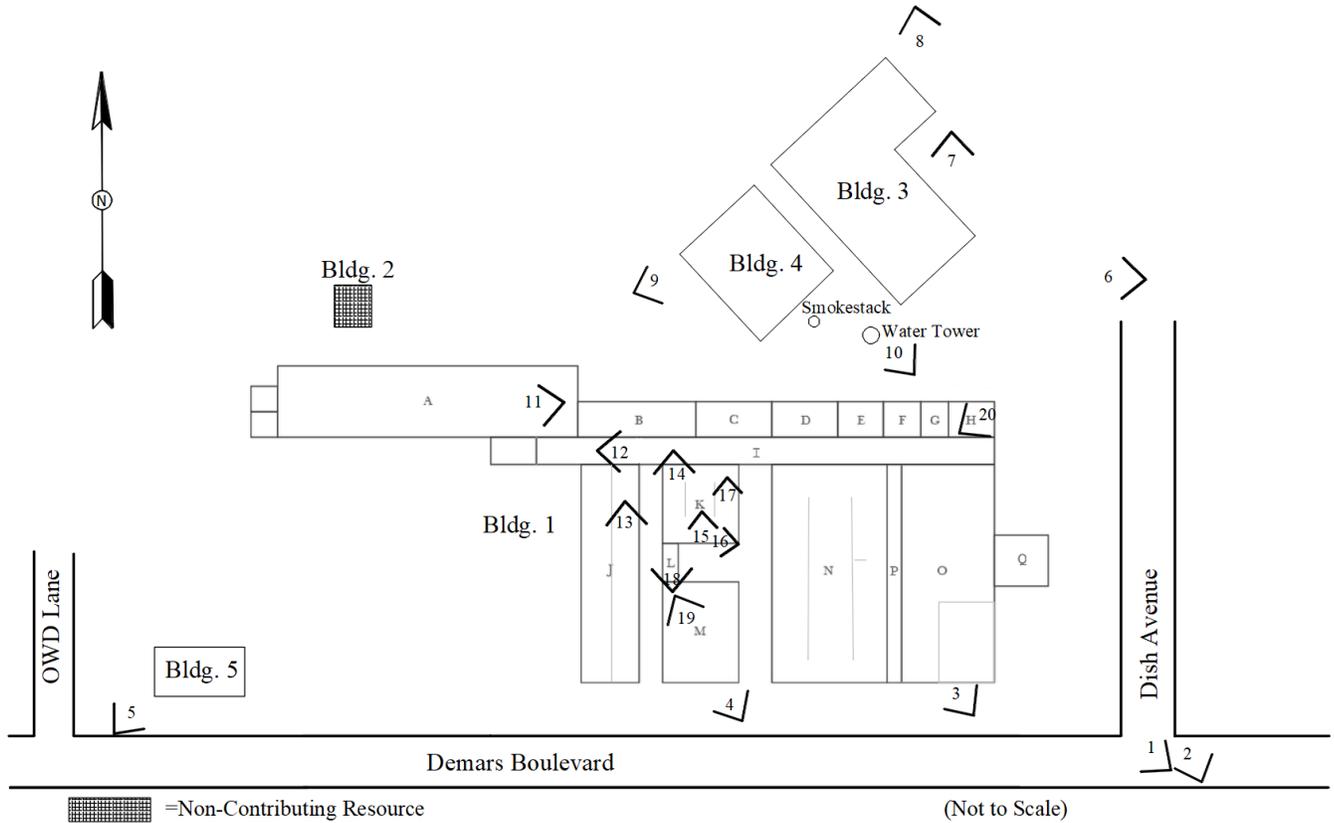


Figure 7 - photo locations

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



Figure 8 - Postcard image of Oval Wood Dish drawn shortly after factory completion. (Courtesy of the Tupper Lake Heritage Museum)



Figure 9 - Aerial view of factory complex facing southeast with warehouse in foreground. Photo taken after installation of water tower.

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



Figure 10 - Winter view of factory complex facing north. Photo taken after installation of water tower. (Photo from Mostly Spruce and Hemlock, p. 165)

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

ADVERTISEMENT

Riteshape for SERVICE.



Ask your grocer and butcher to use
Riteshape Wooden Dishes
for packaging your bulk foods

The Riteshape does not waste or soak up the food it carries.
The Riteshape serves you in the home after it gets there
with the food.

The Oval Wood Dish Company

FACTORY AT TUPPER LAKE, N. Y.

| | |
|---|---|
| EASTERN OFFICE 110 W. 40th St. New York City | WESTERN OFFICE 37 S. Wabash Ave. Chicago, Ill. |
|---|---|

Figure 11 - Advertisement in American Cookery, Vol. 24(1):715 (1919).

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY

THE SATURDAY EVENING
POST

The Picnic Spoon

with the true shape and utility of metal ware

Get more pleasure from picnics and outdoor meals this summer with the 1-use spoon that fully meets all eating requirements. Buy OWD Ritespoons at practically all stores in cellophane sealed 10-cent packages. Ask to have them served with refreshments at soda fountain, lunch counter and in carry-outs to assure positive sanitation, quicker service, pleasing convenience.

4 Sizes meeting every need. OWD Rite-spoon and Fork in one. Made of naturally pure hard wood. Retain shape, full bowl capacity and rigidity in all foods hot and cold.

Ritespoons
O.W.D.

Oval Wood Dish Corporation
New York City • TUPPER LAKE, N. Y. • CHICAGO, ILL.

In the Post of June 28

Millions of people who will read this OWD Ritespoon advertisement in The Saturday Evening Post of June 28 will seek OWD Ritespoons in your stores for the big week-end of "the 4th." Consult your listing. Post readers will be seeing OWD Ritespoon advertisements all summer.

Oval Wood Dish Corporation - Tupper Lake, N.Y. - New York City - Chicago, Ill.

Figure 12 - 1950s ad in the Saturday Evening Post for Oval Wood Dish's bestselling Ritespoons. (Image courtesy of Tupper Lake Heritage Museum)

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



Figure 13 - Undated photo of an Oval Wood Dish softball team. Ball games were regularly played inside the Recreation Building (Section M). (Photo courtesy of Tupper Lake Heritage Museum).

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0001

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0002

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0003

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0004

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0005

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0006

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0007

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0008

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0009

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0010

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0011

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

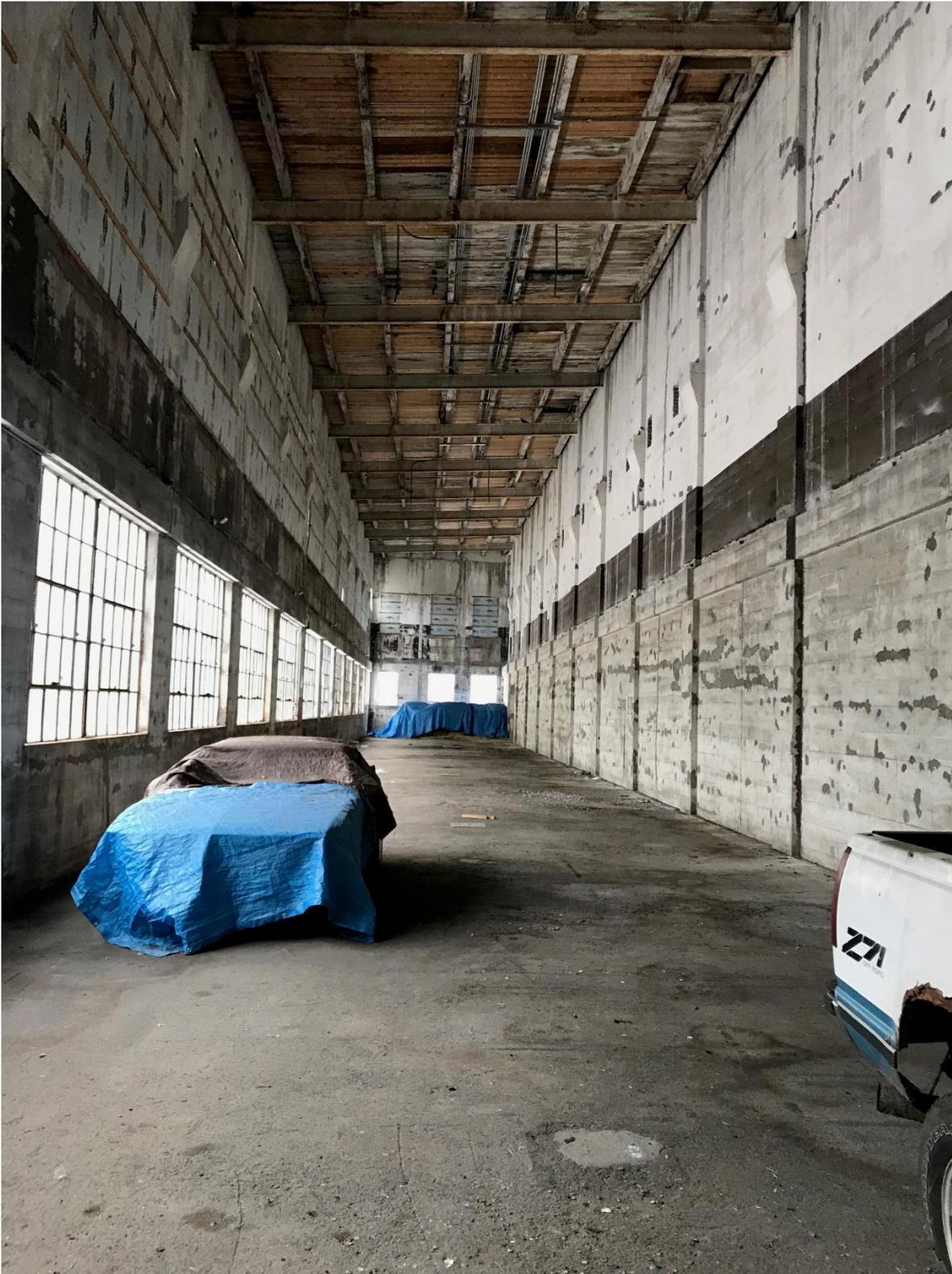
Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0012

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0013

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0014

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



| NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0015

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0016

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0017

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0018

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0019

DRAFT Oval Wood Dish Factory

Franklin County, NY



NY_Franklin County_Oval Wood Dish Factory_0020