

and

JOHN A. ROEBLING'S SONS COMPANY • 1848 - 1974 and AMERICAN STEEL & WIRE COMPANY • 1850 - 1986



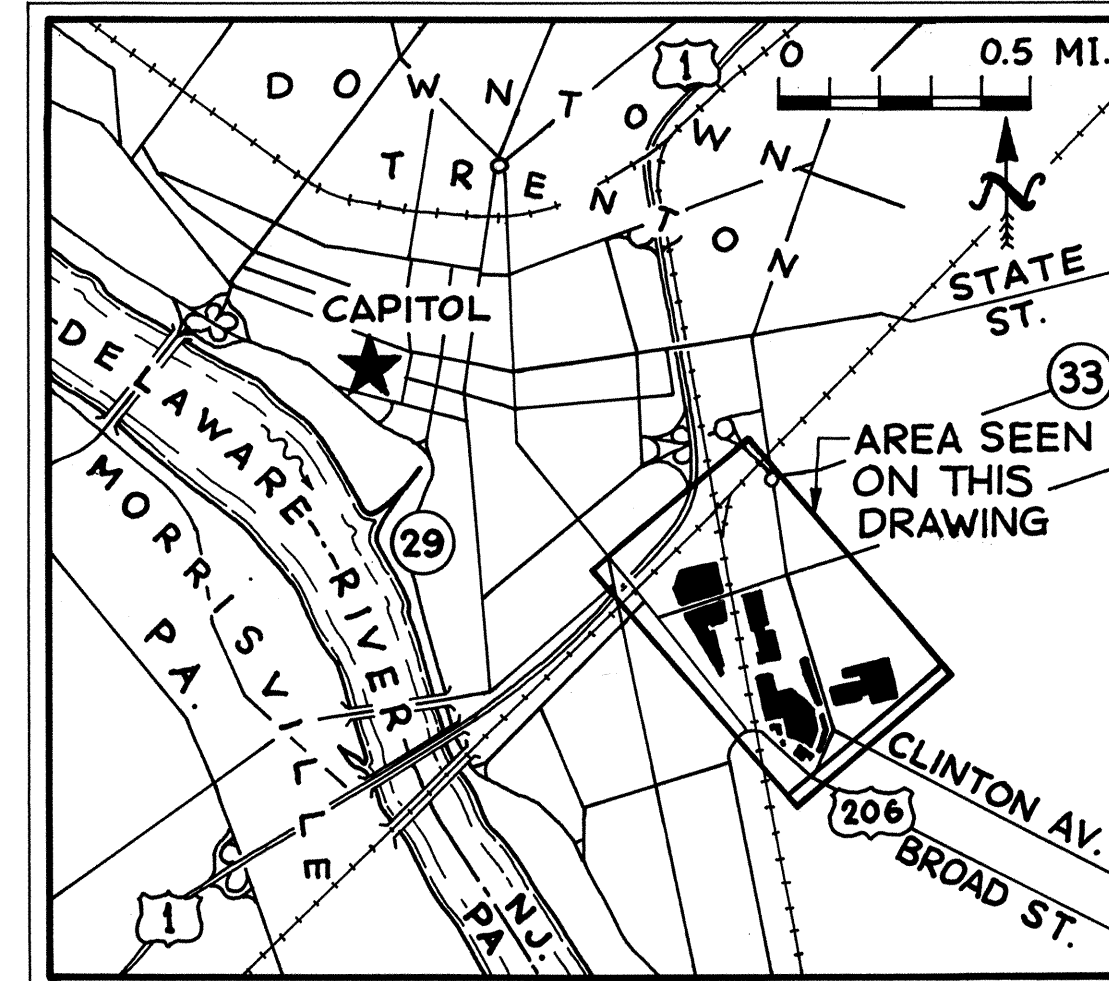
TRENTON • NEW JERSEY

IN 1848 JOHN A. ROEBLING PURCHASED A 25 ACRE SITE ALONG THE DELAWARE & RARITAN CANAL IN CHAMBERSBURG (NOW A PART OF TRENTON) FOR HIS WIRE ROPE BUSINESS. ROEBLING DESIGNED THE BUILDINGS AND MACHINERY AND DIRECTED THE COMPANY UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1869, WHEN HIS THREE SONS WASHINGTON, FERDINAND, AND CHARLES TOOK OVER. BESIDES DESIGNING, BUILDING, AND SUPPLYING CABLE AND WIRE ROPE FOR IMPORTANT SUSPENSION BRIDGES FROM THE 1860s TO THE 1930s, THE COMPANY MANUFACTURED WIRE ROPE AND RELATED PRODUCTS FOR SHIPPING, MINING, CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDING THE PANAMA CANAL), ELECTRICAL POWER TRANSMISSION, CABLE CARS, TRAMWAYS, AIRCRAFT, SUBMARINE NETTING, MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, ELEVATORS, LOGGING AND OIL DRILLING. BY WORLD WAR I, THE FACTORY WAS THE LARGEST WIRE ROPE PLANT IN THE WORLD AND THE COMPANY GREW CONSIDERABLY IN RESPONSE TO STEADILY INCREASING DEMANDS FOR ITS PRODUCTS.

CHARLES ROEBLING DESIGNED THE PLANTS, BUILDINGS, AND MACHINERY UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1918, INCLUDING THE 80 TON VERTICAL ROPE CLOSING MACHINE (1893) WHICH SURVIVES AS PROBABLY THE LARGEST EVER CONSTRUCTED. THE PLANT SHOWS THE EFFECT OF RE-BUILDING CAMPAIGNS LINKED TO MAJOR BRIDGE PROJECTS AND WAR PRODUCTION, WITH BUILDINGS RANGING IN DATE FROM 1885 TO 1957. UNTIL 1915, THEY WERE BUILT WITH MASONRY LOAD BEARING WALLS AND GABLE ROOFS WITH MONITOR CLERESTORIES. AFTER 1915, THEY WERE BUILT WITH STEEL FRAME AND CONCRETE WALLS AND FLAT ROOFS WITH SAW-TOOTH AND MONITOR SKYLIGHTS.

THE AMERICAN STEEL & WIRE COMPANY SITE BEGAN AS THE DELAWARE MANUFACTURING COMPANY IN 1847 ON THE NORTH SIDE OF HAMILTON AVENUE. PETER COOPER ESTABLISHED THE TRENTON IRON COMPANY (T.I.C.) WITH A ROLLING MILL FOR WIRE ON THIS SITE IN 1850, AND BOUGHT THE SOUTHERN PORTION IN 1852 FOR A MACHINE SHOP AND FOUNDRY. T.I.C. SOLD IT IN 1852 TO THE TRENTON LOCOMOTIVE & MACHINE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, BUT REPURCHASED IT IN 1877 TO DEVELOP THE ENTIRE 20 ACRE PARCEL FOR WIRE AND ROPE PRODUCTION. AMERICAN STEEL & WIRE CO., A SUBSIDIARY OF U.S. STEEL, PURCHASED THE SITE IN 1912 AND OPERATED IT UNTIL 1984, WHEN IT WAS PURCHASED BY BRIDON AMERICAN CORPORATION, WHICH CLOSED THE PLANT IN 1986.

A.S.&W. COMPETED WITH ROEBLING IN THE PRODUCTION OF WIRE AND ROPE, BUT ITS PLANT HAS HAD LESS REBUILDING AND HENCE MANY EARLIER AND SMALLER BUILDINGS. DATES RANGE FROM THE EARLY 1850s TO THE 1950s. THE MILLS ALONG HAMILTON AVENUE HAVE MASONRY LOAD BEARING WALLS AND TIMBER FRAMES, WHILE THOSE BUILT FROM WORLD WAR I ONWARD HAVE CONCRETE AND STEEL FRAMES. PATTERNS, WIRE DRAWING, STRANDING, SPINNING AND TESTING MACHINES, SOME DATING TO THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, ARE EXTANT.

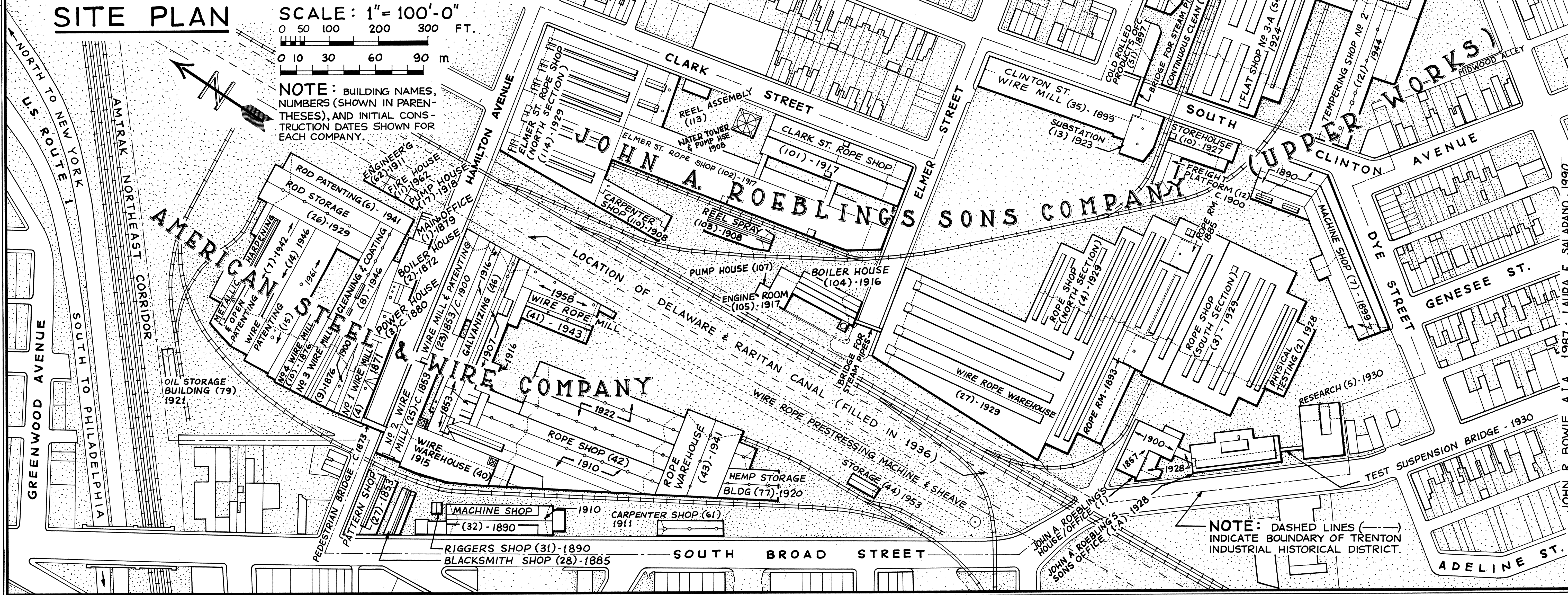


SITE PLAN FROM "REDEVELOPMENT PLAN" BY TRENTON ROEBLING COMMUNITY DEVEL. CORP.; FEB. 1986
AREA MAP (ABOVE) FROM U.S.G.S. 7.5' "TRENTON WEST" U.T.M.-N.W. COR., A.S.&W. BLDG 25°18.520570.4451190

SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1" = 100'-0"
0 50 100 200 300 FT.
0 10 30 60 90 m

NOTE: BUILDING NAMES, NUMBERS (SHOWN IN PARENTHESES), AND INITIAL CONSTRUCTION DATES SHOWN FOR EACH COMPANY.



NOTE: DASHED LINES (---) INDICATE BOUNDARY OF TRENTON INDUSTRIAL HISTORICAL DISTRICT.

DELIMITED BY: JOHN R. BOWIE, A.I.A., 1987; LAURA E. SALARANO, 1990
JOHN A. ROEBLING'S SONS COMPANY AND AMERICAN STEEL & WIRE COMPANY RECORDING PROJECT
HISTORIC & AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
UNIFIED STATEWIDE HISTORICAL GIS USE INTERIOR
IF REPRODUCED, PLEASE CREDIT: HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, NAME OF DELINEATOR, DATE OF THE DRAWING
SHEET 1 of 1
NEW JERSEY
JOHN A. ROEBLING'S SONS CO. (1848-1974) AND AMERICAN STEEL & WIRE CO. (1850-1986)
SOUTH BROAD, CLARK, ELMER, MOTT AND HUDSON STREETS, AND HAMILTON AND SOUTH CLINTON AVENUES
MERCER COUNTY
TRENTON