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 Ziock Building

other names/site number Tower Building, Amerock Building

2. Location

street & number 416 South Main Street [ ] not for publication [N/A]

city or town Rockford vicinity

state Illinois code IL county Winnebago code 201 zip code 61101-1311

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

I hereby certify that this ___ 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 ___ 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 __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

Ziock Building
Name of Property

Winnebago County, IL
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

	private
x	public - Local
	public - State
	public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

x	building(s)
	district
	site
	structure
	object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
	0	sites
	0	structures
	0	objects
1	0	**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.)

Industrial: Manufacturing facility/ warehouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Industrial Loft/Daylight Factory

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
walls: Concrete and brick
roof: Concrete construction with tar and gravel and rolled roofing over concrete
other: Concrete columns

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Ziock Building is located at 416 South Main Street, just south of the central business district of Rockford, IL, on the west side of the Rock River. The factory is the product of three construction phases. William Ziock Jr., a key player in the Rockford knitting industry, commissioned the knitting mill. The original factory was 11-stories tall and constructed of reinforced concrete. It was the tallest building in Rockford when it was finished in 1913. The original factory was considered state-of-the-art incorporating improved lighting, ventilation and open-floor space. It was enlarged with an addition in 1919 to meet the growing space requirements of Ziock's many enterprises. The addition utilized similar construction methods and surpassed the original building in height; the 13-story addition qualified the factory for the continued title of Rockford's tallest building. The American Cabinet Hardware Company built the final six-story addition in 1950. Once again the demand for the company's product warranted increased manufacturing space.

Today the building stands vacant, but still retains integrity. The original method of construction, workmanship, and materials are evident. Equally important, the property still conveys it historical significance in its feeling and setting. The building is a product of time. The massing of the various additions help tell the story of the companies who called this facility home. The sheer strength of the concrete construction and the soaring height of the building represent the city's industrial might during the time it was occupied. Throughout the years, the Ziock Building has been an icon of Rockford industry and continues to be an important part of the Rockford skyline.

Narrative Description

Setting

The area surrounding the Ziock Building is urban. The building sits on a .78-acre lot with virtually no setback from the street. The topography of the larger vicinity is relatively flat, but the building's lot slopes markedly east, towards the river. Historically this section was considered Rockford's Central Industrial Area. The Central Industrial Area was originally defined in *The Rockford City Plan* of 1918, and later mentioned in the *Geography of Manufacturing in the Rock River Valley* by John Alexander. Initially, the industrial area developed south of the Ziock property near the Rockford dam. The dam was constructed in 1853 and was located on a rocky ford in an area where Kent Creek meets the Rock River. Factories located near the dam and the surrounding area soon became known as the Water Power District. Historically, the Water Power District was sited between the Rock River and Main Street and south of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. As the Central Industrial Area grew, industry crossed Main Street and expanded north to almost the heart of the business district (City of Rockford 75).

Today there are scattered remains of Rockford's Central Industrial Area, but most of the remaining industrial buildings lie to the south of the Ziock Building. Across Cedar Street, to the immediate south of the Ziock, is the Burson Knitting building. This is another reinforced concrete industrial loft built in 1907. Further to the south are the tracks of the Union Pacific, formerly the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. Continuing in that direction are several multi-story industrial buildings and about a mile to the south is the Barber Colman factory complex, a National Register historic district.

Across Main Street, to the west, are a number of low-rise brick industrial buildings that line Cedar Street. Many of these are located along the railroad tracks. A large neo-classical building lies to the northwest. This was the Rockford Post Office, constructed in 1932 as a WPA project. William Ziock, Jr. sold the Hoover Administration the land for the building (Turpoff 31). Today it houses the Rockford Park District's offices.

The area to the east of the Ziock Building, across Wyman Street, is now a grassy festival park on the banks of the Rock River. The area is known as Davis Park and contains the Lorden Warehouse; this is an early reinforced concrete building that has been modified to serve as public restroom facilities, a viewing deck, and a stage divider for large musical events.

An off-branch of Main Street, known as the Wyman Crossover, meets with historic Wyman Street and forms a triangular shape of land on the building's northern side. This area is paved and serves as a parking lot. The Chestnut Street Bridge, built in 1916, is a northern divider and separates the industrial area from Rockford's central business district.

The Ziock Building, as it stands today, is the result of three distinct building phases occurring over a forty-year period. Similar materials and construction methods were used for each addition; however, there are enough differences to distinguish each phase including varying building heights and window patterning. The Ziock Building is constructed of reinforced concrete using flat slab construction. This type of construction is defined by the use of substantial concrete

columns with flared tops to support a reinforced concrete floor slab. The concrete columns, floors and ceilings serve as the skeletal support system for the building, allowing the exterior wall space to be filled with materials that are not part of the support system. The filler is known as a curtain wall. In the case of the Ziock Building, the curtain wall rests on an upturned concrete beam that is an extension of the floor. Expansive windows span the space between the floor and ceiling. In general, the windows are multi-pane rolled steel. The reinforced concrete construction system made it possible to add new sections to the existing structure, remove the exterior curtain wall of glass and brick, and create a new, larger, uninterrupted interior space.

Phase I: 1912-1913

The first construction phase, started in 1912 and completed in 1913, resulted in an eleven-story building with a rectangular loft plan. A loft is defined as a multi-level, rectangular-shaped building with an unfinished or semi-finished flexible floor plan. Research indicates the building was designed by an unknown Chicago architect, but executed by the Majestic Construction Company. This section of the building measures 80' x 90'. Each elevation of the original building consists of four bays. Due to the sloping lot, the first level has partial exposure on the north and south sides and full exposure on the east side. When the factory was built, the eastern elevation was considered the front façade and the original building had a Wyman Street address.

The first floor windows on the eastern side have been filled in with concrete block with the exception of the second bay that is currently boarded. The third bay on the first floor has been divided into three sections by concrete supports, yet all of the sections have been filled with block. This elevation contains fifty percent of its historic windows. The second bay has a door located on floors two through five, indicating a fire escape was located here at one time. A decorative band tops the vertical piers between the first and second floors, giving the appearance of a capital column. This is only found on this elevation, presumably a decorative touch on the original façade. Window fenestration on the upper floor of the building is handled differently than the other floors. A ribbon of multi-paned original windows overlooks the river on this eastern elevation. One early postcard image depicts the eleventh floor stepped back from the rest of the building. It is possible that the floor was added shortly after the building was constructed, as cornice detail appears below this floor. It is also likely that the top floor was altered at some point so that the eleventh floor exterior wall was built-out to be flush with the rest of the building. The roofline on the eastern elevation rises to a low-pitched peak in the center with no parapet.

There appears to be a door on the ground floor of the northern elevation in bay three. This has been boarded-up and it is difficult to ascertain if it is four doors wide, or a double door with sidelights. The last bay on the northern elevation houses the stair and elevator. This bay extends above the roofline. The space between the concrete-framing members is filled with brick, and a set of smaller windows punctuates each floor. The elevator tower appears to have original windows on the east side, but the windows are bricked-in on the west side. The original building had large windows that spanned the space between the floor and ceiling in each of bays. Over the years, the northern elevation had these multi-pane rolled steel windows replaced with smaller pivotal windows and the openings were reduced using red brick fill. The top floor on this elevation is a brick wall with the name Amerock painted on the surface.

The building can be classified as a Daylight Factory; a term used to describe industrial buildings with expansive glazing. The Daylight Factory is generally simple and uniform in style. The Ziock Building follows this form, but is not completely void of ornamental detail. Art Deco-influenced geometric designs are impressed in the concrete form. There are two circular reliefs on the elevator tower near the top floor. Above the tenth floor, there is a horizontal band with a medallion design at the intersection of each vertical support column separating the bays.

Phase II: 1919 -1920

The 1919 addition is an L-shaped plan added to the western side of the original building. The Holm-Page Company is the builder of record. The construction material and style of the 1919 addition are similar to those used in 1912. This addition was oriented towards South Main Street and when the addition was finished, the building took a South Main Street address. The addition is five bays wide, three bays deep on the north side, and 4 bays deep on the south side. It measures 104' 7.5" wide. The north elevation of the addition measures 70' 6" and the south elevation measures 93' 9". Similar to the original building, multi-paned steel sash windows are found, but in the 1919 addition the windows are grouped by fours in each bay. Exterior ornamentation on this addition matches that of the original building with the same band and medallions found near the cornice.

Looking at the ground level on the west side of this addition, the first bay is an entrance. The second bay is filled with glass block. The third bay is filled with concrete block and the fourth and fifth bays are filled with glass block. Nearly 90% of the historic windows are still found on this elevation, and that same percentage can be found on the north side.

A freight elevator and stairwell are located in the northeast corner of the addition, and there is a recessed area with exterior access to the elevator in the first bay of the north side of the addition. There is access to the roof of the building from the elevator/stair tower. Like the original structure, the first addition once had a large water tower installed upon its roof, but this no longer exists. The north side also has a single door in the second bay.

Phase III: 1950

The American Cabinet Hardware Company built the last addition in 1950. Sjostrom and Sons were the contractors of the final addition. Once again, the construction method is flat slab reinforced concrete. The 1950s section is seven bays wide and three bays deep. It measures 160' wide and 52' deep. The addition is oriented to the south with an entrance located in the center bay. The boarded-up, doublewide doorway is recessed and is flanked on either side by tall glass block windows. There is a loading dock located in the first bay of the southern elevation with a clearance of 13'. The windows in this section are steel sash and multi-paned, but not as tall as those of the original and first addition. A brick spandrel panel fills the remaining space. The brick is red but has been painted a cream color. Windows are arranged in sets of three within each bay. On this south side, the ground level windows in bays three, five, six, and seven are glass block. Glass block also makes up the windows in the second and fifth floor of this side, but these are outfitted with a small pivotal window. There is a parapet on this addition, stepped slightly on both the east and west end of the south side.

On the ground floor of the east elevation, the bays have been filled in with concrete block with vent openings. There is what appears to have been a loading dock in the third bay, but this has been filled with concrete block. The rest of this elevation retains the historic multi-paned steel sash windows with the exception of the top floor where once again glass block is found. There are two additional penthouse structures on the roof of this section. It is assumed they house mechanicals.

Interior Features

In general, the interior of the building is open factory floor space, interrupted only by support columns. Interior photos reveal there were some areas between the additions where the brick spandrel was not totally removed. The reason is not known. In the original section of the building the columns are octagon in shape with a splayed column capital that supports the drop panel and floor slab. The columns in the 1919 and 1950 section are circular with flared tops. A square concrete panel sits on top of the capital to help transfer load to the column. Column placement in the interior space ranges from nineteen to twenty-one feet on center. The construction techniques used translate to surfaces of great strength. The floor load capacity is over 300 pounds per square foot (Anderson).

Flooring throughout the building is concrete; however in many sections that once held machinery, the floors are covered with creosote-soaked end cut wood blocks placed in a running bond pattern. These floors had several advantages. They helped to reduce noise levels and provided a comfortable work surface for employees. They also withstood the wear and tear of heavy machinery and were easy to maintain and replace.

Employee restrooms are located in various parts of the building. The restrooms are utilitarian in nature with tiled walls and floors, typical bathroom stalls, and large circular hand washing stations. Utilities are suspended from the ceiling by steel rods. There are both ceiling-mounted and wall-mounted heating units. Throughout the factory, large fluorescent light fixtures are also mounted to the ceiling. Inside brick walls and spandrels are painted, as are the columns, supports, and ceilings.

One of the more decorative interior features is an art deco-inspired stairway located in the northwest corner of the building. The base of the stairs gently curves. The staircase has a painted metal handrail and balusters. The railing has been embellished with the Amerock logo forged in silver metal and prominently displayed as the curving stair rail straightens after reaching the landing. Another unusual interior space is within the small penthouse located in the center of the roof of the original portion of the building. This room measures 23'3" x 21'. An interview with a former employee revealed that this room was build by the Aldeen family, the American Cabinet Hardware owners, to be used as a clubhouse by company employees (Crowder). The small room is carpeted and has oak bead board paneling. The ceiling is wood paneled and has wooden beams running its width. The room has a small bar area and windows overlooking the river.

Changes/Integrity

In order to stay viable, factories need to change to support the processes occurring inside; in that way they are a true example of form following function. The Ziock Building underwent many alterations over the forty years it was occupied. Besides the obvious expansions, there were improvements made to the basic mechanical systems and power sources. The 1928 Sanborn map indicates that the building utilized steam power generated from the Rockford Mitten and Hosiery factory, another of Mr. Ziock's companies, located at that time to the east of the Ziock Building across South Wyman. It is not known if this was the case prior to 1928. At some point a large open metal frame power sub-station was erected on the east side of the northern elevation. The structure is extraneous to the building. The building is without electrical service today, so this structure could be removed when electrical service is returned and updated.

Most of the building's indentifying and significant exterior features remain. One of the most striking features is the building's multi-paned rolled steel windows. These are still present in sections of the building. The 1919 addition has retained close to 90% of the original windows. The condition of the windows has not been assessed, but a preliminary visual inspection reveals most of these have missing and broken panes and are in need of repair. In cases of modification, openings have been filled in with concrete block and smaller pivotal windows installed. This is a common fate in many older industrial buildings as later owners struggled to efficiently heat the large spaces or economically replace damaged windows. The original structure, and the 1919 addition, once had sprinkler systems supplied with water stored in large gravity water tanks mounted atop the roofs. Upgrades in the water supply system rendered these tanks obsolete and they have been dismantled and removed. The location and number of entries and loading docks have changed over the years. It is assumed that changes were made to better accommodate employees and improve product delivery and export, as trucks slowly replaced train cars for the transport of goods. Currently, the entries are boarded to protect against trespassers and vandals. Their condition and historic integrity cannot be ascertained.

Newspaper accounts and Sanborn maps indicate that the original Ziock Building served a myriad of industrial and administrative functions dictating the organization of the interior space. The building's lower level was used as a storeroom and offices. Activities for the paper box factory could be found on the second through tenth floors. Production for the knitting factory took place on the upper floors of the building. There was also a print shop on the top floor. A full kitchen, dining room, and recreation area for employees' use were also located on the upper floor. There are very few artifacts remaining that point to these original uses. Machinery from the knitting mill, and other related Ziock industries, was removed from the building over the 1940s. A grandson of William Ziock Jr. recalls the woolen milling machines being loaded into three railroad cars in 1949 and shipped to Brownwood, TX after the knitting plant closed (Carroll *Ziock*). By that time, American Cabinet Hardware was occupying 100% of the building and the manufacturing machinery had been reconfigured for hardware production. The American Cabinet Hardware Company had a machine shop that made the equipment necessary to form the hardware. They also did their own plating. In 1941, a number of Rockford factories were certified for defense contract services and a partial listing of their equipment appeared in *Facilities of the Rock River Industrial Group*. In the report, Amerock (American Cabinet Hardware) was described as having "complete facilities for fabrication of miscellaneous stamped metal products including finishing." Individual classified equipment included among other things: burnishing equipment, degreasing and cleaning equipment, and baking equipment. The factory was also equipped with an overhead conveyor system. When the American Cabinet Hardware Company moved their operations to a new Auburn Street location in 1956, they moved their equipment. Again, very little machinery remains in the building to indicate the hardware giant's presence. An exception is the overhead conveyor used to hang hardware to dry after the plating process. This remains in the building.

Until the mid 1950s, the primary use of the Ziock Building had been that of a manufacturing facility. After that time it became used primarily for storage and, as a result, drastic interior changes were not made. There is no arguing that time has taken its toll on the building; however, the original open factory floor plan with exposed columns, expansive spaces and soaring ceilings remain. The original wood block flooring can still be found in the building and original sliding fire doors remain. The striking staircase found in the 1919 addition is still intact. Throughout all the sections, the significant structural system is clearly visible and historic materials are evident. Since the building was designed for the exterior walls to be curtain walls, inappropriate windows and concrete block fill are reversible changes.

The area surrounding the Ziock Building has changed. When the building was constructed, this area was densely populated with other manufacturing facilities. Some of the early factories were built to take advantage of Rockford's Water Power District. Now, excluding the Burson Knitting Building (Tapco) directly to the south and the modified Lorden Building to the north, the remaining industrial buildings in the immediate area have all been razed. In 1987, G.C. Electronics donated its riverfront factory to the City. In 1989, the City demolished the facility and later turned the four and a half acre property into a festival area known as Davis Park.

Despite the fact that the area has changed so dramatically, the outline of the Ziock Building as part of Rockford's skyline is similar to postcard and photograph images from the first quarter of the twentieth century. Standing on Cedar Street between the Ziock and Burson building is like going back in time. The two concrete buildings sit close to the street and soar upward; the old railroad bridges can be seen in the distance. From this vantage, the setting still evokes a sense of history and provides a connection with Rockford's great industrial past.

Ziock Building
Name of Property

Winnebago County, IL
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- [ ] 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 past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry

Architecture

Period of Significance

1912 – 1956

Significant Dates

1912 – original construction

1919 – first addition

1950 – second addition

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

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

1912: Architect-unidentified Chicago architect
Builder- Majestic Construction Company

1919: Builder-Holm-Page

1950: Builder-Sjostrom & Sons

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is 1912 – 1956 and represents the original date of construction as well as the construction dates for the two additions. The period also represents the years that Ziock Industries, and later American Cabinet Hardware, used the building for manufacturing purposes. Both manufacturers were leading companies in two of Rockford's nationally recognized industries.

Criteria Considerations: N/A

Statement of Significance Summary

The Ziock Building qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is locally significant for both its association with Rockford industry and for the unique construction techniques employed at the time it was built. Over the years the Ziock Building housed a number of Rockford enterprises; of particular importance is its connection to the local knitting and hardware industries, two manufacturing areas in which Rockford was once considered a national leader. The period of significance is 1912 to 1956, chosen because it represents the years that Ziock Industries, a major knitting concern, and the American Cabinet Hardware Company, an international hardware manufacturer, occupied the building. During these years, the building rose as the centerpiece of Rockford's Central Industrial Area, symbolizing the city's industrial might. The local and national success of Ziock Industries and the American Cabinet Hardware Company during the time they called the Ziock Building home mirrored that of Rockford industry in general. These companies demonstrated the ingenuity, inventiveness, and entrepreneurial spirit that defined Rockford as a national industrial leader. When it was built, the Ziock Building was the tallest building in the city and a source of civic pride. It remains an excellent example of reinforced concrete industrial construction, and as such exemplifies innovations in structural engineering and factory design during the first part of the twentieth century. These advances helped make factories and warehouses largely fireproof, and improved the physical working conditions for employees.

Criterion A: Industry

Community History and Industrial Beginnings

From its very beginning, Rockford was built on industry. Rockford's credited founders, Germanicus Kent, Lewis Lemon and Thatcher Blake were said to be land speculators searching for a place to locate a sawmill. In 1834 they chose to settle in the area, recognizing the economic potential in the abundance of rivers, creeks, and mature trees. Kent constructed a small dam on a creek that would later bear his name and although the settlement grew, it did not immediately transform into the booming mill town he had envisioned. Kent left the area a number of years later due to financial problems. Lemon, Kent's servant, bought his freedom in 1839 and, aside from a few short years away from the area, lived the duration of his natural life in Rockford. Kent's partner, Blake, began farming and stayed in the area until 1851 (Rowe 5).

Early development took place on either side of the Rock River. Kent, Lemon and Blake's settlement was on the west side, but in the spring of 1835 Daniel Haight led another party of settlers and claimed stake on the river's east side. The two small communities consolidated and in the fall of 1837, the founders agreed on the name "Rockford."

By 1838, the new village was well established. Rockford was named the Winnebago County seat. The village instituted elections and created ferry transport for moving people and materials across the river. Transportation modes and the community's location would play an important role in the city's industrial development. Rockford was at a geographical advantage as the midpoint between Chicago and Galena. In 1838, the first stagecoach from Chicago arrived in Rockford. By 1850, the first formal census put the population of Rockford at 2,563; shortly thereafter, Rockford graduated to the status of city (Lundin 28-29).

In 1844, Rockford citizens first attempted to use the Rock River as a power source. In that year, the Rockford Hydraulic Company was formed and they had a dam constructed. A handful of early manufacturing facilities located along the chases including two sawmills, a gristmill, a woolen factory, and a foundry. From the beginning, the dam was a maintenance nightmare. In the book, *The History of Winnebago County: its past and present* written in 1877, the authors describe how the city was almost entirely cleared of trees and brush in an attempt to maintain the dam; each year after the spring floods, the owners could scarcely keep up with the lumber needed to reinforce and rebuild the structure (Kett 401). In 1850 the dam was destroyed beyond repair. The following year, Rockford business leaders created the Water Power Company. The location of their newly planned dam was downriver, on a rocky ford. The 750-foot dam was constructed of stone and wood and bolted into the rock. The structure was completed in the spring of 1853. The Water Power Company harnessed the power of the Rock River and encouraged businesses to move into the newly formed Water Power District. By 1877, there were over 41 water wheels providing power to the many factories located in the area (Kett 406).

In 1852 the railroad arrived in Rockford. The Galena and Chicago Union Railroad, established that year, brought people and prosperity to the area. A large number of Swedish immigrants arrived in Rockford by train, many interested in entering the mill trade. By 1854, it was estimated that there were about 1000 citizens of Swedish descent and the

numbers grew each year. The train also allowed farmers to transport their products to the larger Chicago markets. These two major events, the railroad and waterpower, primed the community for growth and development.

Some of the earliest industry in Rockford revolved around the production of agricultural implements and products. From the beginning, Rockford boasted creative innovators as well as industrial prowess. One of the first companies to locate in Rockford's newly formed Water Power District was J.H. Manny and Company. Manny, a local farmer is credited for making substantial design improvements to the reaper. So successful was his improved design that Manny moved to Rockford to begin manufacturing the implements. His invention received praise and even awards. Manny successfully defended a patent infringement lawsuit by Cyrus McCormick and his company became a national leader in the industry. There were several other companies in Rockford nationally known for producing farm equipment and supplies including Bertrand & Sames (1860); the William A. Knowlton Company (1872); and eventually J.H. Manny's successor, the Emerson Manufacturing Company.

In the 1870s, a new industry emerged that was primarily fueled by the large Swedish population who had decided to make Rockford their home. Rockford became nationally acclaimed as a furniture manufacturer; at one point the city was considered one of the top two furniture producers in the U.S., second only to Grand Rapids, MI. In 1874, Andrew C. Johnson and Jonas Peters founded Rockford's first furniture factory, Forest City Furniture. Rockford Union Furniture Company (1876) and other furniture manufacturing facilities soon followed. By the end of the decade, Rockford had more than 25 furniture factories, with nearly 3,000 people employed by the industry (Novak 36). It was during this same time period that Rockford's textile and knitting industry was born.

Rockford Knitting Industry

Knitting, the act of creating a fabric or garment by interlocking loops of yarn is an ancient craft. Artifacts held in London's Victoria and Albert Museum date back as far as the 3rd to 5th century. Most experts agree that the craft probably originated somewhere in the Middle East. Originally a cottage-trade, knitting became an organized occupation during the 1400s. The first knitting trade guild was formed in Paris in 1527. The guild was exclusively male and had apprenticeship programs. Later, knitting was taught at schools. Fashion trends dictated demand. Europe became a major producer of knit goods and their products became a widely traded commodity. Industrialization of the industry began in the late 1500s. Reverend William Lee was credited with inventing a flat loom and moving the craft to a factory setting. Over the next 200 years, adjustments were made to knitting machinery that helped improve the diversity of the product. In 1798, Jeredia Strutt of England invented a frame that allowed for a ribbed knit. England and the Scottish Isles were important producers of the world's knit goods, but by the mid 1800s the knitting/textile industry was beginning to take hold in the United States. Most of the larger knitting mills were located in the New England states, but there were a few industrial centers further west, in cities like Milwaukee, and eventually Rockford.

As the Industrial Revolution took hold, knitting machines replaced hand knitting, and greatly improved the consistency of the product and the production capabilities. Knitting mills began to replace the cottage knitting industry. With this change came a shift in the work force. Many of those employed in the knitting factories were women and children. Early factories offered very poor work conditions. Often the buildings were dimly lit. Air quality was poor, as lint and dust covered the floors and circulated in the air. Children were frequently used to change bobbins and parts on machines and industrial accidents were commonplace. Workers were required to work long hours for little pay. Some companies required workers to pay a portion of their wages for water to drink during work breaks. A fairly common practice was to provide workers with company-owned housing, but most of these boarding houses were overcrowded tenements at best. Workers returned most of their wages to company owners in exchange for the subpar housing (Kornbluh). Eventually labor disputes and the resulting legislation, along with better factory building practices, helped improve working conditions in the industry.

Rockford citizens played an important role in the industrialization of the knitting industry. In the late 1860's, John Nelson and William Burson collaborated and received patents for machinery capable of producing seamless socks and stockings. The earliest machine produced socks that had to be separated and the toe closed by hand. The men continued to perfect the invention, and in 1872-73 they devised a parallel row-knitting machine that produced a seamless sock that required no handwork (Church 166-67). The two later founded the Burson & Nelson textile mill, but the partnership was short-lived. After the partnership dissolved, Burson went on to start Burson Knitting. The company was formed in 1892 and specialized in sock production. Another venture, the Burson Manufacturing Company, specialized in the production of knitting machines. Meanwhile, Nelson re-named the original mill the Frank R. Brown Company, and later renamed it the

Nelson Knitting Company. Nelson's high-volume plant began producing high quality cotton socks. In 1881, Nelson went on to found Rockford Mitten Company, specializing in wool products and leather gloves. The St. Charles Woolen Mills in Missouri supplied most of the yarn used in the Rockford factory. William Ziock was president of that company. Because of his long and successful career in the knitting business, Rockford investors invited Mr. Ziock to bring the St. Charles Woolen Mills to Rockford and take over the Rockford Mitten Company. Mr. Ziock agreed to the proposed merger, and in 1885 consolidation took place. The new company became known as the Rockford Mitten and Hosiery Company. Almost immediately, leather glove manufacturing ceased and the company began concentrating on hosiery as its primary product. As the company expanded, they added yarn, stockings, blankets, and woolen piece goods to their inventory. The mill was located at the corner of Wyman and Cedar Street on the northern edge of the burgeoning Waterpower District. Other textile manufacturers also located near the power source and the area was soon known as the "Knitting District."

Ziock Industries

William H. Ziock, Sr. (1830–1905) was born to Heinrich Wilhelm Ziock (1801-1883) and Sophie Elizabeth Schaeffer (1806-1870) in Hattingen, Westfalen, Germany. Heinrich was a woolen maker in Germany. William preceded the rest of the family in coming to the US. He arrived in 1847 and settled in the St. Louis area. On his journey west, he stopped in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Rockford, IL. William was sworn in as an American citizen in 1855, the same year he married Elizabeth Bollinger (Carroll, Ziock).

William Ziock, Sr. became an important player in the textile industry while in the St. Louis area. He operated the St. Charles Textile Mill and had interests in the A.P. Oldendam and Company Mill in Manchester, New Hampshire. In the early 1880's, his company was contracted to supply the new Rockford Mitten Company with yarn. After his eventual merger with the company and subsequent move to Rockford, Ziock's son, William Ziock Jr. became active in the family business and worked along side his father. Both William Ziock Sr. and Jr. were awarded a number of patents for inventions used in the knitting industry. Another son of Ziock Sr., Edward, worked at a Burson firm throughout his career.

Ziock Sr. proved to be a benevolent employer. When Ziock relocated to Rockford, he brought employees from the St. Charles Textile Mill with him. In 1903, he embarked on a housing project called Ziock Flats. The development included the construction of 14 new duplexes and a 4-family apartment building. The intent was to provide quality housing for the company employees. When he died in 1905, businessman Ralph Emerson gave a eulogy at the funeral. He spoke of Ziock's interest in the welfare of his workers. Emerson stated that Ziock had gone to great lengths to provide optimal working conditions such as good lighting and heat. Emerson, a seasoned traveler, commented he had never seen provisions in the US or abroad that matched those of the Rockford factories. Furthermore, he was quoted as saying, "He (Ziock) abhorred the systems of Lowell, Lawrence, and Manchester where girls are boarded in large boarding houses, and after many years of study was carrying out his ideas when he died" (Wm. Ziock Died 1). When William Ziock, Sr. passed away he left an estate valued at over half a million dollars. His son, William Ziock Jr. succeeded him as president of Ziock Industries.

William Ziock, Jr. was born in 1863 in St. Louis to Elizabeth & William Ziock. He married Lulu Mackwitz in St. Louis, and relocated with his father and their business. He and Elizabeth prospered in Rockford, raising four children and expanding the family business network to include a number of additional firms including B-Z-B (Brown, Ziock, and Burson) Knitting, Ziock Paper Box Company, and the King Company. He also served as Vice President of Burson Knitting. Like his father, William Ziock Jr. was a philanthropic man. Newspaper accounts document his work with the boy scouts and numerous school organizations.

As the nineteenth century closed, the knitting industry and its influence on Rockford's industrial development did not go unnoticed. Several newspaper articles recounted the start of the industry and its development throughout the years. One such article in the January 23, 1897 *Rockford Register Gazette* summed it up. They reported that many people in Rockford were unaware of the knitting industry's importance to the welfare of the city. The article stated that the industry employed over 1000 people. Ancillary products added to the Rockford economy. The newspaper stated that the yarn used by the knitting industry constituted the entire product of several yarn mills. The article stated that in 1897, the combined Rockford knitting industry had over one million dollars in capital. It further suggested that the core group of businessmen, who owned, managed and invested in the four major knitting companies, were possibly one of the strongest core industrial groups in the U.S. (Hosiery Industry). The comments regarding the core group of businessmen involved in Rockford's knitting industry is significant. The men were notable as inventors, as well as industry leaders. Although there were a number of different knitting enterprises, records show that these owners played substantial roles in each other's

businesses, sometimes joining forces as was the case with the B-Z-B (Brown, Ziock and Burson) Knitting Company, or serving on the Board of Directors of another's company.

1912 was a stellar year for Rockford industry. The newspaper reported Ingersoll Mill and Rockford Machine Tool were running overtime, as were many of the woodworking and furniture factories. Business leaders who were interviewed by the newspaper were upbeat about sales and predicted long-term growth. In response, many companies decided to add to their physical facilities to meet demand. During 1912, a number of industrial building projects were in the works. Burson Knitting added to their factory that year, as did Emerson-Brantingham, a large agricultural implement facility. Ziock Industries' newest knitting concern, B-Z-B Knitting was also doing very well. The newspaper reported the company was running two shifts and looking to expand.

In the spring of 1912, it was reported that Ziock planned to build a ten-story concrete building to house B-Z-B Knitting. The article mentioned a Chicago architectural firm designing the building, but never named the firm. In the process of researching the building, a number of historic blueprints were discovered, but some were not signed or dated. If the undated plans were for the original Ziock Building, it was not built as drawn. The blueprints specify a larger building that is slightly more ornate. Bids went out for the project in May of 1912, and in August it was announced that Majestic Construction Company from Milwaukee had been given the contract. More than likely the construction company modified the original architect-designed plans to fit Ziock's budget. It is important to note that it was becoming increasingly common for industrial buildings to be built, designed and engineered by contractors as opposed to architects. This was due, in part, to new construction methods and materials like reinforced concrete that made it possible to construct uniform, standardized, unadorned, and economical buildings.

Ziock Industries also planned to build a dye house that would be part of their Rockford Mitten and Hosiery factory. Building construction was in full swing by the new year. A February 14th, 1913 article in *The Register Gazette* proclaimed, "The City Setting Example in Construction of Modern, Well-lighted Concrete Factory Construction." The Ziock Building project became one representative of not only Rockford's continued industrial growth, but also the community's leadership in modern factory construction. In March of 1913, the newspaper reported the company was gearing up to move some of their operations into the building that was still under construction. The unique aspect of the concrete slab construction was that once the floor was poured and set for one story, it essentially formed a roof over what had already been constructed.

Continued progress on the new industrial high-rise was reported in the *Register Gazette* on May 10th, 1913. The completed building would stand 185 feet high. Ziock Industries began installing machinery on the sixth floor, and in May the building was lit up for the first time. Plans for the upper floor of the building included a modern kitchen, dining room and recreation hall complete with billiard tables and a library. These areas were presumably for the employees' use. The newspaper article praised William Ziock Jr. and stated that the building would serve as a model for other companies and their treatment of employees. The Ziock Building tenants were being lined up at this time and the newspaper also extolled the virtues of a building that would house various industries. Ziock planned to locate Ziock Machine Company, manufacturers of knitting machines; B-Z-B Knitting, manufacturers of knit goods; and Ziock Box Company, producers of boxes for the knit goods. The article stated: "The grouping of all the separate companies into one building will add to the assembling of the products and will add to the efficiency of them all." The large building would also have enough space so that other manufacturing ventures could share the facility. At this time, one of Ziock's other large investments, the King Company, planned to occupy several floors. The King Company had originated in Topeka, Ks and moved to Rockford when a number of local businessmen agreed to invest in its future. William Ziock was one of the principles. King Company manufactured medical remedies and marketed primarily to farmers. Early reports stated that a motorcycle manufacturer also planned to rent space in the building.

By the end of 1913, the building was nearly complete. In total, the construction costs were nearly $125,000. One of the christening events for the building was a large gathering of Rockford businessmen in September of 1913. The group of approximately one hundred gathered several times a year, but the September meeting must have been one of the more unique dinners. The group held their dinner meeting in the newly constructed Ziock Building on the 9th floor. Accounts of the soirée state that the lobster and clam chowder were actually cooked over fires built right on the floor, presumably demonstrating the fireproof qualities of the new building. For most of the businessmen this was the first time they had experienced such a bird's-eye view of their city. The event would be the first of many civic gatherings that took advantage of the new skyscraper and its unique perspective. A final article, on December 31, 1913 outlines the banner year

Rockford had just experienced. The Ziock project was one of the top three monetary investments in the community in 1913 and arguably the most visible and impressive. The economic impact of industrial projects such as the Ziock Building was evident. The city spent quite a bit of money on infrastructure investments that year, and the housing market was booming. In fact, the article reported that at the end of 1913, there were very few residential vacancies in the city.

Rockford had developed a good transportation network that supported its growing industries. During the first part of the twentieth century, train cars were the primary mode of transportation for manufactured goods. In 1918, there were five steam railways that serviced the area. These included the Illinois Central, Chicago & Northwestern, Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, and the Northwestern line. Rockford trains serviced an average of 1800 passengers a day. They were also responsible for carrying over two million tons of freight in and out of the city on a yearly basis (City of Rockford 25, 57).

Ziock Industries' continued growth spurred a building expansion in 1919. On August 2nd of that year, the press reported that Ziock was seeking bids for a new addition to the Ziock Building. In less than two weeks, it was announced that the addition was indeed a reality and that the Holm-Page Company had been given the construction contract. Gust Holm, a Swedish immigrant who came to Rockford in 1880, was president of the company. Holm started his career working in the Swedish neighborhood where he lived. Over the years he perfected his English and eventually expanded his business to the entire Rockford community. Within twenty years he owned the largest construction company in Rockford. By the end of the 1800s, Holm had supervised over two-dozen projects in the Swedish neighborhood near 7th Street, as well as large commissions such as the Haddorff Piano Plant and the W.F. Barnes factory. In 1917, Holm joined forces with Verner Page to become the Holm-Page Company. Verner Page had previously served as president of the Trussed Concrete and Steel Company's Chicago branch and was a licensed structural engineer. The Trussed Company was well known for its reinforced concrete building systems, and many of the concrete construction projects in Rockford had utilized their product. Holm-Page eventually became the largest Rockford area commercial contractor by volume (Turpoff 6).

In October of that year, permits were issued and the building started. In the end, a thirteen-story building was erected; its completion year was 1920 and the cost was $150,000. Like the original building, the addition became Rockford's tallest building and was lauded by the local press as a major contributor to the City's banner year of industrial growth and expansion. The building served the community in a number of ways. Because of its statuesque presence in the center of the city, as well as its well-lit and large open-space interior, the building made a perfect location for hosting large events. One such event occurred in February of 1921. Local automobile dealers organized a car show. At the time, the event was considered one of the largest and best in the Midwest, outside of Chicago. The show drew attendees from Rockford and the surrounding area; crowds over the four-day period were estimated to be close to 9,000. Accounts state that the huge elevator in the Ziock Building was filled to capacity and running every fifteen minutes. The event took place on floors one, twelve, and thirteen of the new addition. The local newspaper reported there were over sixty-five makes of automobiles on display with deluxe models and auto accessories on the upper floors. The car show was a success, as were the panoramic views from the 13th floor.

In 1928, a newly formed Aldeen Company rented space in the Ziock Building. Although a variety of different manufacturing companies had located in the high-rise since the time it was built, the Aldeen Company connection would ultimately tie this monumental building to yet another one of Rockford's important manufacturing industries - hardware.

For over 50 years, Rockford textile mills reigned supreme employing 2,500 – 3,500 workers as late as 1940. At that time it was common for one operator to manage over 25 machines. Production numbers varied, but by the end of the 1940s, one factory alone could produce nearly 1 million dozen pairs of hosiery product per year. After the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941, production of silk stockings became more difficult. Japan had served as the primary source of silk. Fortunately for the local textile industry, all manufacturers converted to wartime production of socks and woolen goods to replace any loss of revenue resulting from the shortage. A new synthetic product, nylon, eventually replaced silk.

After the war, labor shortages caused new problems. Rockford's knitting industry continued to supply the country with socks. During the 1940s, Rockford manufacturers were producing well over half of the heavy cotton work socks made in the U.S. Rockford was also producing more sport socks than all the knitting companies in the rest of the country combined. The labor shortage made it hard to keep up with demand, and the local companies struggled to find production solutions. Eventually the cumulative toll of local labor shortages, foreign competition, and labor/management discord brought an end to the Rockford knitting industry. By 1960, only Nelson Knitting remained.

William Ziock Jr. was still active with the company, serving as Chairman of the Board up to the time of his death in February 1957. He lived long enough to see American Cabinet Hardware move their manufacturing operations from the William Ziock Building in late 1956. Following his death, Rockford Textile Mills was dissolved and its equipment moved to a related family business located down south. At the time of dissolution, there were three subsidiaries -- Beloit Hosiery in Seneca Falls, NY; Tenn-Rock Hosiery in McMinnville, TN; and Manchester Mills, Inc., in Manchester, TN.

Hardware Industry in Rockford

As previously discussed, Rockford's early industrial power was defined by a number of developing industries such as the farm implement, furniture and textile businesses. Most of these industries continued into the 1900s, but the 20th century generation of Rockford manufacturing peaked with metal fabrication, including production machinery and, later, fasteners and high-tech products used in a wide variety of industries ranging from aerospace to nuclear power. One niche of the metal manufacturing explosion was born in the early 1900s: hardware. A Rockford company, National Lock, was an early manufacturer of mortise locks and ancillary hardware. National Lock was founded in 1903 by leading industrialists and entrepreneurs P. A. Peterson, Levi Faust, and Frank G. Hoglund.

Like the textile mills in the late 1800s, the hardware industry produced spin-offs, often founded by men already working in successful local plants. Such was the case with Reuben Aldeen, a National Lock Superintendent, and his brother Gedor Aldeen, National Lock's Vice President of Engineering.

Gedor Aldeen was born in 1886 and Reuben was born in 1896. The brothers came from Katrineholm, Sweden and arrived in the U.S. in 1907, when they settled in Rockford. Gedor and Reuben joined forces in 1928 to form the Aldeen Manufacturing Company. Aldeen Manufacturing located their new enterprise on the 12th floor of the riverfront industrial high-rise, the Ziock Building. The Aldeen brothers brought a group of National Lock workers to set up the new company. They began with crude equipment but realized a profit the first year of operation.

In the 1930s, Aldeen changed the company name to American Cabinet Hardware Corporation and found success despite tough economic times by concentrating on a single item, cabinet hardware. American Cabinet Hardware Corporation started its business at a point in history when American families were beginning to modernize their kitchens. Up to that point, kitchen hardware had been strictly functional. Most cabinets had a knob, made of glass or metal, a butterfly hinge and a simple catch. The company decided early in its history to specialize in cabinet hardware and then changed the nature of the industry by making products that were not only functional but also decorative. The company began designing matching sets for kitchens, as well as perfecting the hardware's mechanism for better fit and ease of use. They sold their products directly to cabinet manufacturers as well as hardware retailers. They also forged an alliance with Anderson Windows, a savvy move that gave the company $3 million in sales by the end of the decade. The company always looked ahead for expansion, and although they were still renting space in the Ziock Building, the corporation purchased acreage on Rockford's southeast side. As was the case with Ziock Industries and the knitting industry as a whole, American Cabinet Hardware Corporation made many of their own machines. Their machine shop built the dies and jigs needed for the hardware manufacturing. The hardware was also triple-plated at the factory. The company was rich with inventiveness and often patented procedures and tools that helped in the manufacturing process.

In 1940, the company created a new brand name. Combining the words American and Rockford, the name Amerock was born. The 1940s were a time of growth and expansion for the company. They soon occupied all 13 floors of the Ziock Building and were also operating out of a small manufacturing plant on Seminary St. In 1946, America Cabinet Hardware purchased the Ziock Building. The company's sales grew to nearly $7 million by the end of the 1940s. During this time, American Cabinet Hardware was committed to providing work to America's veterans. The American Legion selected the company as the nation's outstanding employer of physically handicapped veterans and workers. The Oct. 7, 1948 *Rockford Morning Star* reported that 22 percent of the company's employees were veterans and approximately 5 percent were handicapped.

In 1950, American Cabinet Hardware built the third and final addition to the Ziock Building. The company purchased land from Burson Knitting located directly southeast of its building. Burson used the land for parking. The 6-story reinforced concrete addition cost nearly $400,000 and a local company, Sjostrom and Sons, was given the contract. Although it was more common in the 1950s to build factories that were single story and more horizontally oriented, the new addition was once again built upward. This was probably due to the company's limited amount of land on which to build. The firm was quoted as saying that the concrete construction was necessary, as heavy equipment would be housed in the addition.

The new addition also included a modern loading facility on the Cedar Street side of the building. By this time, the company was engaged in producing hardware for appliances, cabinets and windows.

The addition to the Ziock Building gave American Cabinet Hardware more production and office space, but lack of parking for employees was becoming a real problem. As the company continued to dominate in the national marketplace, administrators began to think about a new building on the northwest side of town. In 1953, three years after the addition was built, American Cabinet Hardware sold the Ziock Building to L.C. Miller and Associates, but the company continued to lease space from the new owners until 1956. In 1956, American Cabinet moved their operations to a new facility at 4000 Auburn Street and officially changed the name of the company to Amerock. Several years later, they once again purchased the Ziock Building for storage use. Amerock thrived during the 1950s. During this time, Norris Aldeen, another brother, became more prominent in the business and eventually took over as president in 1965.

Amerock stayed a major contender in the marketplace during the 1960s and 70s. During this time they expanded to the Canadian market and even introduced a novel mobile merchandizing van. They also added bathroom hardware to their collections. In 1977, Amerock earned the distinction of having 70% of the U.S. market for retail kitchen product lines (Amerock Decorative Cabinet).

The 1980s proved to be a difficult time for Amerock. By the mid-1980s foreign competition and cheaper labor elsewhere in the U.S. reduced the size of the hardware footprint in Rockford. National Lock, bought in 1939 by Keystone Steel & Wire (Peoria), relocated to South Carolina and shuttered its Rockford production. The firm founded by the Aldeen brothers, now called Amerock, was eventually acquired by Newell-Rubbermaid in 1987. Local plants were shuttered in the early 2000s following relocation to Columbia MD, and then Huntersville NC. Today, much of the hardware and the related hand-tools are manufactured overseas; imports comprise most of Amerock's current catalogue offerings.

Like United States as a whole, Rockford has had to change and adapt to a new global economy. Rockford is still competitive in the manufacturing world, but the industries have changed. Today Rockford is known for producing machine tools, auto parts and even aerospace components. There has also been a shift towards more service-oriented businesses such as healthcare, distribution centers, and air transport.

Newer manufacturing facilities can be found in the expanded industrial areas and on the periphery of the city; however, the historic factories of the Central Industrial Area and the Water Power District are slowly disappearing. The Illinois Historic Structures Survey, completed in 1976, identified 34 historically significant manufacturing facilities in the City of Rockford; nine of those buildings have since been razed. The survey listed 16 significant buildings in the Central Industrial Area; only 12 remain. The Barber Colman Historic District contains five of those remaining buildings (Granacki 60-61).

At one time, most of the Rockford textile mills were located in a single location on the west side of the river, on the north end of the Water Power District. The area came to be known as the "Knitting District" with the eastern part of Cedar Street often referred to as "Textile Court." The area has changed dramatically and most of the buildings associated with the industry are gone. Two remaining in the area include the Nelson Knitting factory built in the 1920s and the 1907 Burson Knitting building. The Nelson factory is located at 909 South Main Street, southwest of the old Knitting District. The land was purchased from Robert Tinker, a one-time Rockford mayor and noted businessman. Tinker built a unique Swiss-style cottage on a high bluff overlooking Kent Creek. The unusual cottage became a tourist attraction as soon as it was constructed. Mr. Tinker sold the eastern portion of his estate to the knitting company, who in turn built a two-story red brick factory with a saw-toothed roof. The factory has been vacant since the late 1990s. Today, the Swiss-style cottage and its remaining property is owned by the Rockford Park District and operated as a house museum. The museum has an interpretive period of the late 1800s, a time that predates the Nelson factory. The administrators have considered purchase and demolition of part of the factory to recreate Tinker's gardens that occupied the land before it was sold for development. The building's fate has yet to be determined. The Burson Knitting factory is located at 222 W. Cedar, across from the Ziock Building. The reinforced concrete factory was recently purchased by the city of Rockford who plans to raze it.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Use of Concrete in Early Twentieth Century Industrial Buildings:

The development of the factory as a building type is directly related to the history of industry and manufacturing. There are a few isolated examples of manufactories existing prior to the 18th century, but until that time most goods were handcrafted and produced in personal homes or small workshops. The invention of a number of textile machines, the steam engine, and basic iron founding techniques brought about manufacturing's evolution from cottage industry to factory production, a time period that has become known as the Industrial Revolution. Great Britain was at the forefront of the movement, but mechanization and mass production soon spread to other countries around the globe. As new machinery and extended transport systems made it possible to mass-produce goods, specialized buildings became necessary for the production work. Factories began to spring up, and industrial cities grew.

In the United States, many of the early and mid-nineteenth century industrial buildings were mills. Construction techniques, brought over from Great Britain, utilized hand-sawn timbers for the frame, floors and roof. Factories were often sited along waterways that provided a power source, and in some cases transportation. In the early twentieth century, the limited supply of waterfront property escalated land prices and multi-story buildings became an economically prudent choice. Before the advent of the conveyor belt, it was also easier to move raw materials and products vertically with a crane or gravity, rather than horizontally. Wooden mill construction had its drawbacks for industrial uses, the biggest being the building's susceptibility to devastating fire. Early adaptations to mill construction included building with masonry walls and large heavy timbers. This gave the building some fire-resistance and these buildings were termed "slow burning" (Bradley 127).

By the end of the 1800s, many cities began to enact laws requiring fireproof construction in response to disastrous fires that had caused monumental loses in property and life. As a result, new materials found their way into the industrial building trade. These products included among other things steel, hollow-tile, wire windows, and concrete. Concrete proved to be not only an effective fireproof building material, but also an excellent choice for improving the quality and flexibility of interior workspaces (Wermiel 7).

Concrete has a long history in the building world. The Romans used a type of concrete known as lime-pozzolan in their buildings centuries ago. A spectacular example of Roman concrete construction is the coffered dome of the Pantheon. The structure is nearly 1800 years old and remains the world's largest unreinforced concrete dome (Moore).

A pivotal event in the history of modern concrete was the invention of Portland cement by English mason, Joseph Aspin, in 1824. In the mid 1800s, Joseph Monier patented a design for reinforcing concrete and in 1884, Earnest Ransom improved on the design by patenting a system that used twisted rods. Ransom's system enabled the first high-rise construction project using reinforced concrete. That project was The Ingalls Building, erected in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1903. The architectural firm of Elzner & Anderson designed the 16-story building and Ferro-Concrete Construction Company supplied the concrete for the project. The concept was so novel that the builder faced numerous hurdles to obtaining permits for the construction project. For a number of years the Ingalls building held the record for the tallest reinforced concrete building, but it lost the honor in 1922 when the Dallas Medical Arts Building was erected. These early examples of reinforced concrete high-rises were retail/office buildings.

As a building material, concrete was economical and strong and industry leaders soon saw it as the material of choice for their factory buildings. In 1897, Ernest Ransom designed and built the Pacific Coast Borax Refinery in Bayonne, New Jersey; it is considered one of the first concrete factory buildings. Other early examples of reinforced-concrete factories are the Ketterlinus Lithographic manufacturing building (1906) located in Philadelphia and the Packard Motor Car Factory (1906) in Detroit MI, designed by famed architect Albert Khan. Most of the early reinforced concrete factory buildings were one to six story structures, but increased land prices and improved designs in building methods soon led to taller buildings.

There were two types of concrete construction at the turn of the century, beam and girder and flat slab. The beam and girder used concrete columns and crossbeams. Engineer, C.A.P. Turner, is credited with first using flat-slab construction for his Johnson-Bovey Building. The building was constructed in Minneapolis in 1905. Turner used columns that flared out in a mushroom-shape to encase reinforcement that tied the columns and the floor together.

The Ziock Building utilized flat-slab construction. Because the concrete floors and columns used in slab construction provided a skeleton for the structure, the outside walls became curtains and were not necessary for structural support. With the proliferation of rolled steel windows at the turn of the century, builders could use multi-light windows to fill the space where supporting walls once were. Now natural light, always considered a desirable commodity in a factory setting, could flood the interior spaces. It was not unusual for the exterior walls of a slab-type reinforced construction factory building to be comprised of 75-90 percent window area as opposed to 20-30 percent window make-up on building constructed with traditional materials like brick. Because of their excellent natural light, these buildings were known as Daylight Factories. The great strength of the concrete reduced the number of vertical members needed for support and opened up valuable floor space. Concrete was also advantageous for factories because it reduced noise levels by absorbing vibration from machines. The environment added to the worker's comfort and productivity. The industrialists favored concrete buildings because they were economical to build. Materials were relatively inexpensive and their standardized form minimized design costs. It became increasingly more common for concrete factories to be designed by engineers and not architects.

Locally, there were a number of reinforced concrete buildings erected after the turn of the century. The Emerson-Brantingham Company commissioned one of Rockford's first reinforced concrete building in 1906. The erecting shop of Ingersoll Milling Company was also built in 1906. The Ingersoll building utilized reinforced concrete structural members with more traditional masonry exterior supporting walls (Bradley 160). In 1907, Burson Knitting built a 5-story reinforced concrete loft. Barber-Colman and Hess-Hopkins Leather Company both built reinforced concrete buildings for manufacturing. Although a number of Rockford manufacturing companies used concrete for factory construction before or around the time the Ziock Building was constructed, Ziock was the tallest industrial building using reinforced concrete and the tallest building in Rockford at the time.

In the first quarter of the twentieth century changes began to occur in management philosophy and the production process. Most notable was work-force specialization and the horizontal assembly-line approach. This resulted in factories with fewer floors and a more rectilinear form. Steel was considered an ideal building material for this form. It provided great strength and flexibility to span large floor spaces. In addition, construction time was relatively short.

Concrete never lost favor as an industrial building material and continued to be used for the construction of factories throughout most of the twentieth century. There was a resurgence of its use in the 1930s with the advent of wide-span forms such as rigid frames and butterfly and barrel shells (Bradley 160). Another peak occurred in the 1950s, as post World War II steel prices made concrete a more feasible option for new construction. It has been suggested that the uniform and unadorned early twentieth century factory buildings served as an inspiration for the Modern movement.

Conclusion:

The Ziock Building is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C, locally significant for its association with Rockford industry and for its architecture. The period of significance is 1912 – 1956, years that represent a time that began with the building's construction and lasted until it ceased to be used for production. During these years, the building was the home of two nationally recognized companies. The Ziock Building originally housed the myriad of industrial enterprises owned by Ziock Industries. The Ziock family was part of a close-knit group of Rockford entrepreneurs who put the city on the map with inventions that revolutionized the knitting industry. The building's second important occupant was the American Cabinet Hardware Corporation. The international company redefined the hardware industry. Both companies were major local employers and greatly contributed to Rockford's physical and economic growth.

When the Ziock Building was constructed, it was a source of great pride for the community. The state-of-the-art factory provided above-average working conditions and exemplified a new level of reinforced concrete industrial construction. Rockford's tallest building quickly became a favorite location for special events due to its spectacular views of downtown and the Rock River.

Today, the Ziock Building remains a very prominent vestige to Rockford's industrial heritage. The Ziock Building is worthy of acknowledgement for the important historic resource that it is. It is also worthy of preservation and redevelopment, so as to be included in Rockford's future economic development.

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Ziock Building
Name of Property

Winnebago County, IL
County and State

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
____previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

__x__State Historic Preservation Office
____Other State agency
____Federal agency
__x__Local government
____University
____Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx. 0.78 acre
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	327074E	4681631N	3			
2				4			

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The Ziock Building property is irregular in shape and bounded to the west by the east side of South Main Street; to the south by the north side of Cedar Street; to the east by the west side of Wyman Street; and to the north by the south side of the Wyman Street Cross-over, a diagonal road that connects Wyman to South Main Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundary represents the current tax parcel occupied by the Ziock Building. At one time, Ziock Industries owned several acres of land in the immediate vicinity with property as far north as Green Street. Some of the buildings were torn down for construction of the multi-phase Ziock Building. Streets in this area have been reconfigured over the years. The defined boundary represents the final configuration of the Ziock Building lot when American Cabinet Hardware ceased production at this location.

Ziock Building
Name of Property

Winnebago County, IL
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Friends of the Ziock Building: Contact person-Pam Hein

organization Friends of the Ziock Building date 7-19-2010

street & number 1722 Harlem Blvd. telephone 815-979-3241

city or town Rockford state IL zip code 61101-1145

e-mail pamhein@sbcglobal.net

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.)

Photographs:

Name of Property: Ziock Building
City or Vicinity: Rockford
County: Winnebago
State: IL
Name of Photographer: Don Bissell
Date of Photographs: August, 2010
Location of Original Files: 112 N Wyman St, Rockford, IL 61101-1145

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0001	North Elevation, Looking South
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0002	East Elevation, Looking West
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0003	West and South Elevations, Looking Northeast
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0004	Detail of Circles, Looking South
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0005	Typical Interior

Name of Property: [same as above]
City or Vicinity: [same as above]
County: [same as above]
State: [same as above]
Name of Photographer: Gary W Anderson
Date of Photographs: January, 2007
Location of Original Files: 333 E State St, Rockford, IL 61104-1013

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0006	Columns In Original Building
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0007	Columns in 1919 Building Addition

Ziock Building
Name of Property

Winnebago County, IL
County and State

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0008 Conveyor System, 6th Floor
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0009 Fire Door, Typical
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0010 Staircase, Art Deco, Including Amerock Logo, Northwest Corner of the Building
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0011 Clubhouse Located On Top of the Original Building

Property Owner:

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

name City of Rockford

street & number 425 E. State telephone 815-987-5590

city or town Rockford state IL zip code 61104-1014

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0001
North Elevation, Looking South

Mar 08/2011

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0002
East Elevation, Looking West

Mar 08/2011

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0003
West and South Elevations, Looking Northeast

Mar 08/2011

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0004
Detail of Circles, Looking South

Mar 08/2011

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0005
Typical Interior

Mar 08/2011

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0006
Columns In Original Building

Mar 08/2011

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0007
Columns in 1919 Building Addition

Mar 08/2011

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0008
Conveyor System, 6th Floor

Mar 08/2011

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0009
Fire Door, Typical

Mar 08/2011

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0010
Staircase, Art Deco, Including Amerock Logo, Northwest Corner of the Building

Mar 08/2011

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_0011
Clubhouse Located On Top Floor of the Original Building

Mar 08/2011

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Ziock Building
Winnebago County, IL

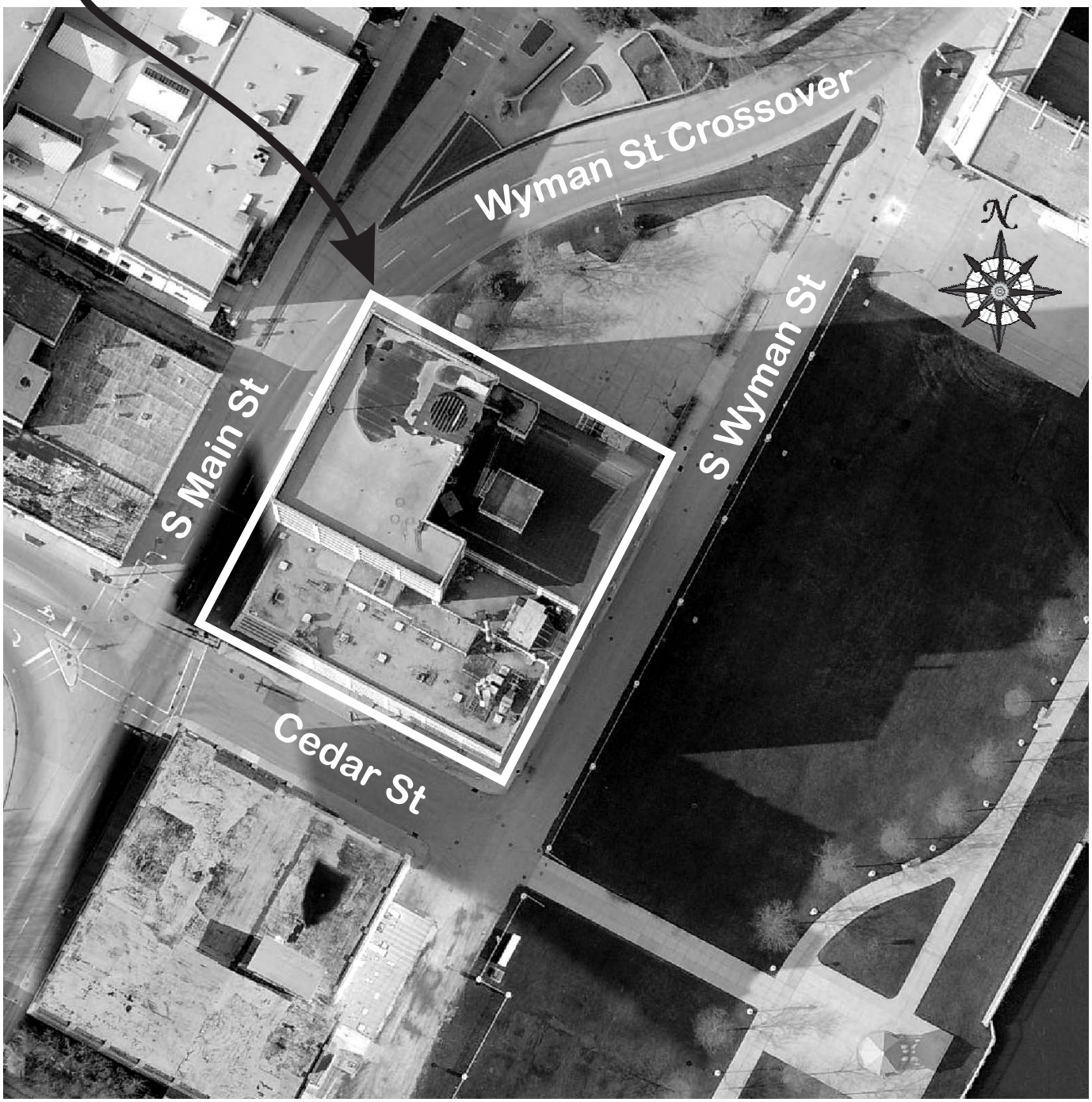
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet
Appendix

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0001	Site Sketch
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0002	Oblique Aerial Photo Looking North
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0003	Identification of Original Construction and Subsequent Additions
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0004	Aerial Photo, 1927
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0005	American Cabinet Hardware, Interior Parts Conveyor
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0006	American Cabinet Hardware, Interior Office Space, c 1950
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0007	Ziock Building Exterior, Night, Looking Southwest, During American Cabinet Hardware Era, date unknown
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0008	Floor Plan, 1st Floor
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0009	Floor Plan, 2nd Floor
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0010	Floor Plan, 3rd and 4th Floor
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0011	Floor Plan, 5th and 6th Floor
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0012	Floor Plan, 7th Floor
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0013	Floor Plan, 8th Floor
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0014	Floor Plan, 9th, 10th, and 11th Floor
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0015	Floor Plan, 12th and 13th Floor

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Ziock Building
Winnebago County, IL

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet
Appendix



IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0001
Site Sketch

Mar 08/2011

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National Park Service

Ziock Building
Winnebago County, IL

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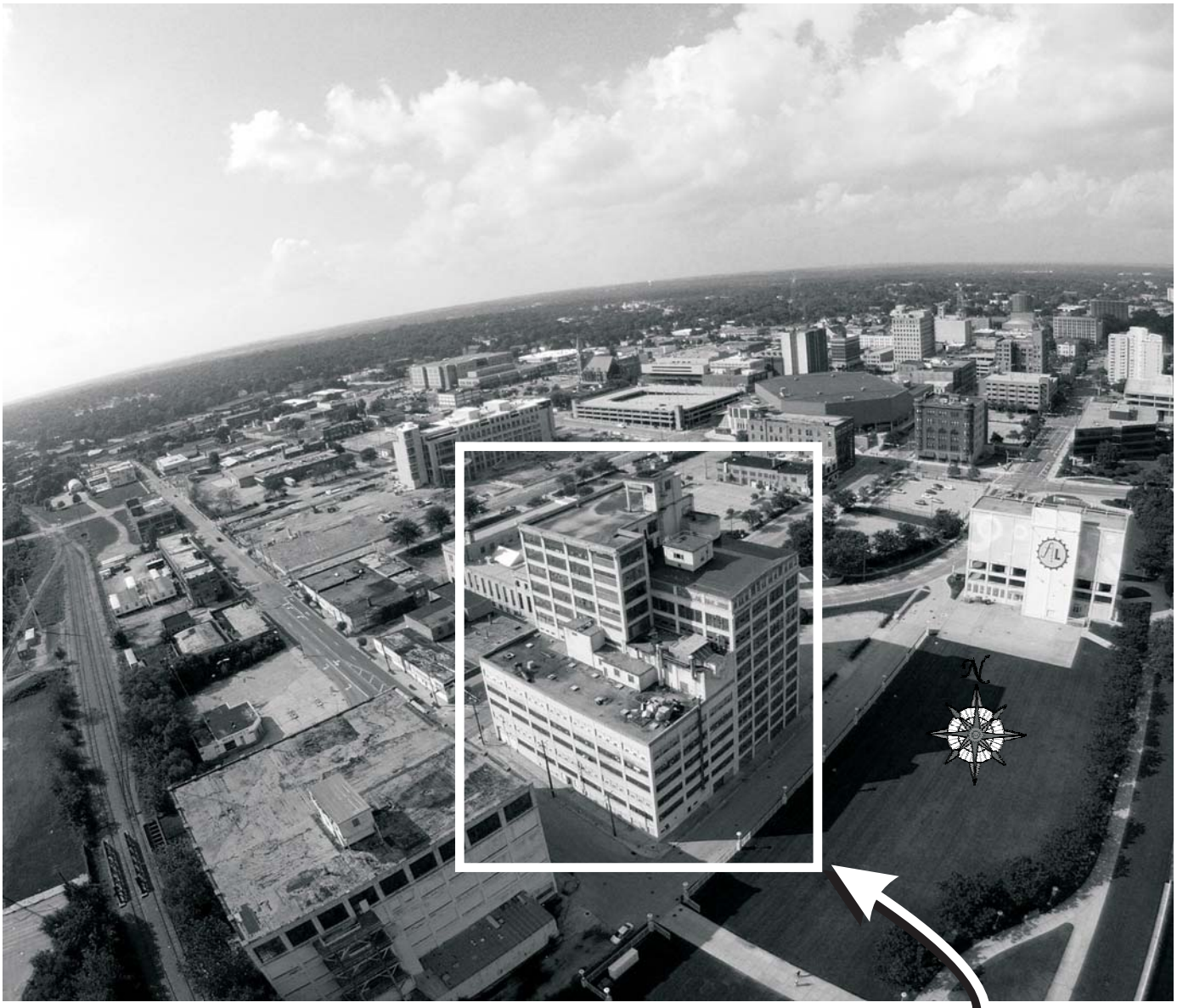

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0002
Oblique Aerial Photo Looking North

Mar 08/2011

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Ziock Building
Winnebago County, IL

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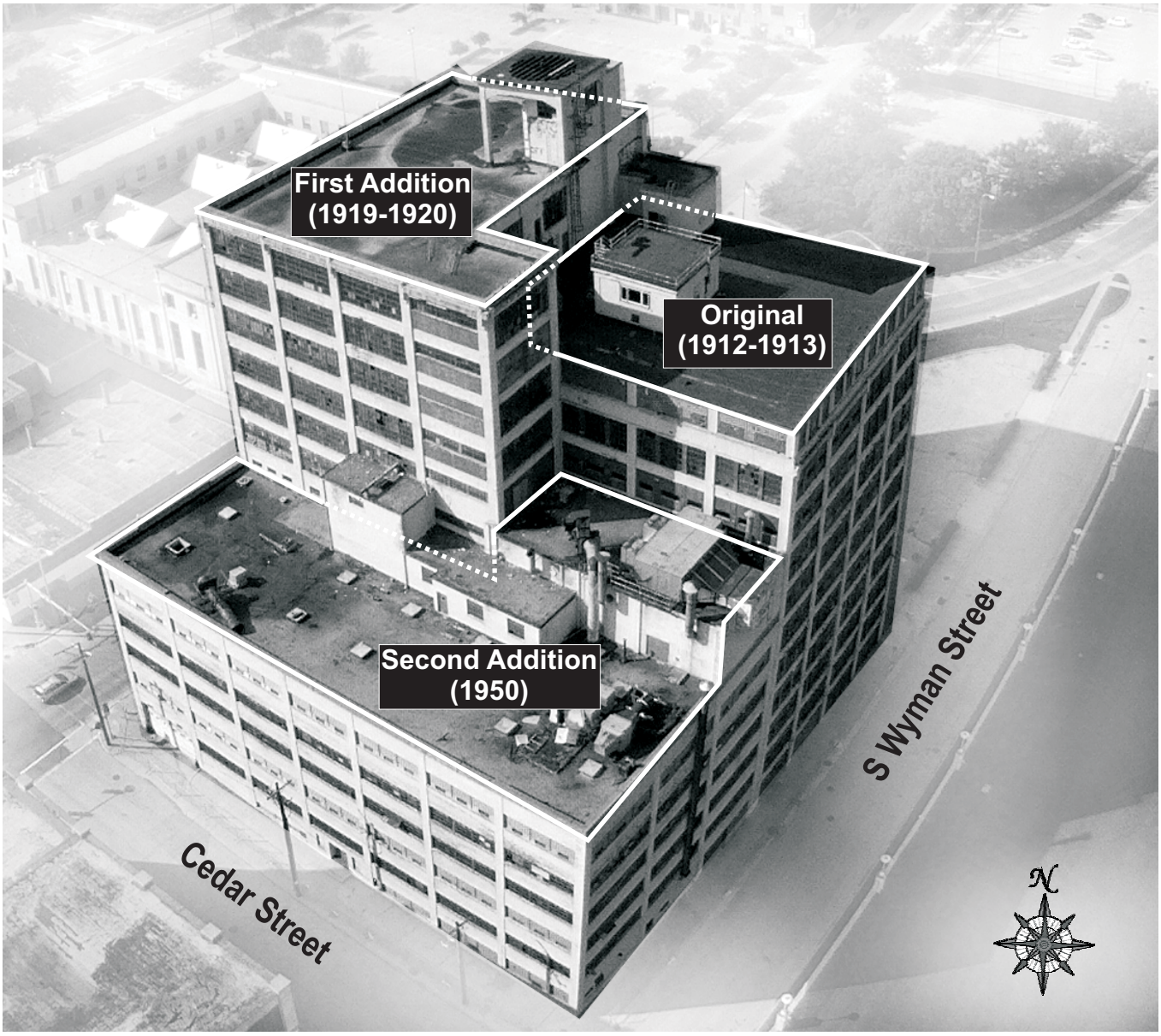
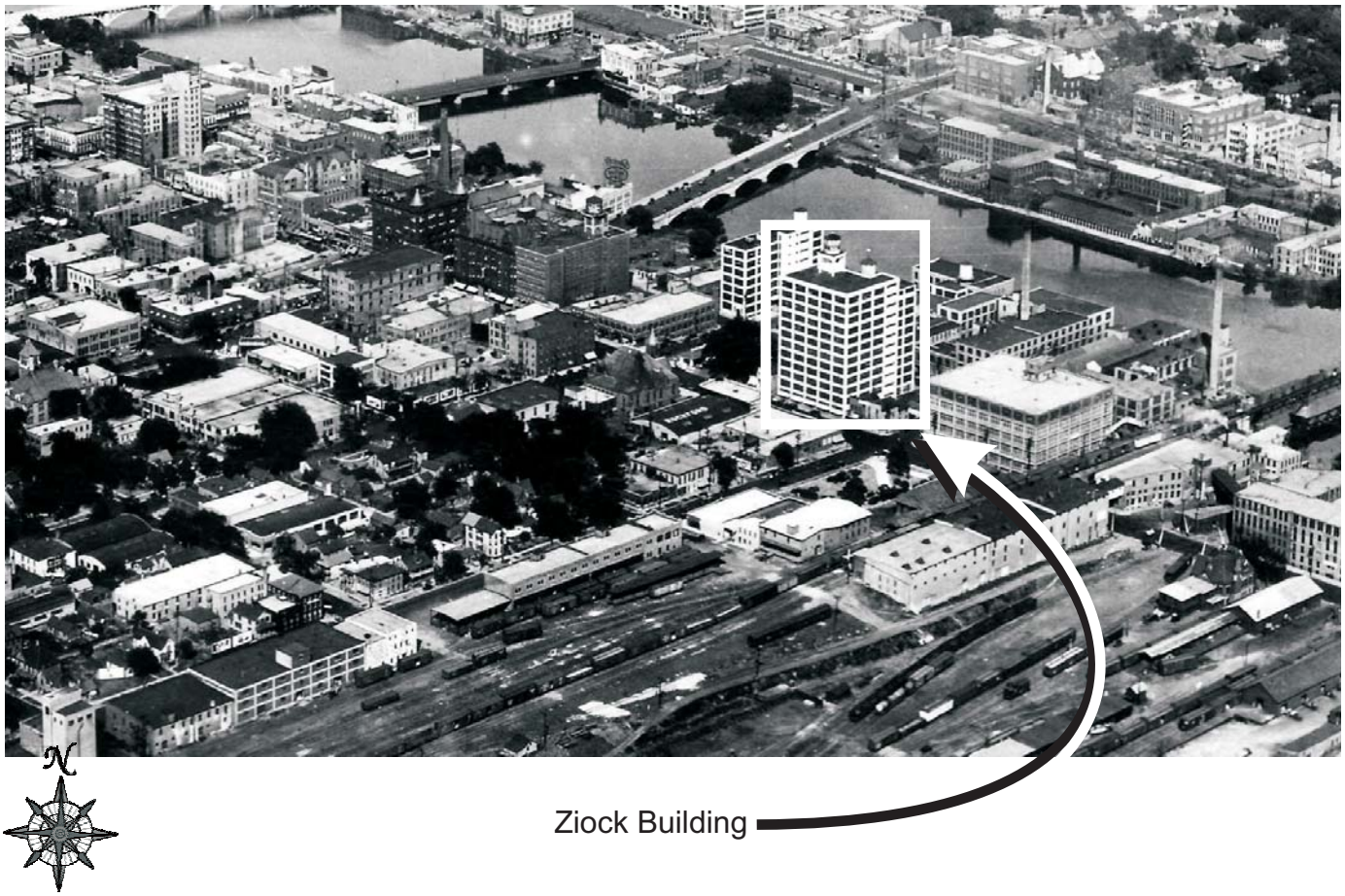


IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0003
Identification of Original Construction and Subsequent Additions



IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0004
Aerial Photo, 1927

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Ziock Building
Winnebago County, IL

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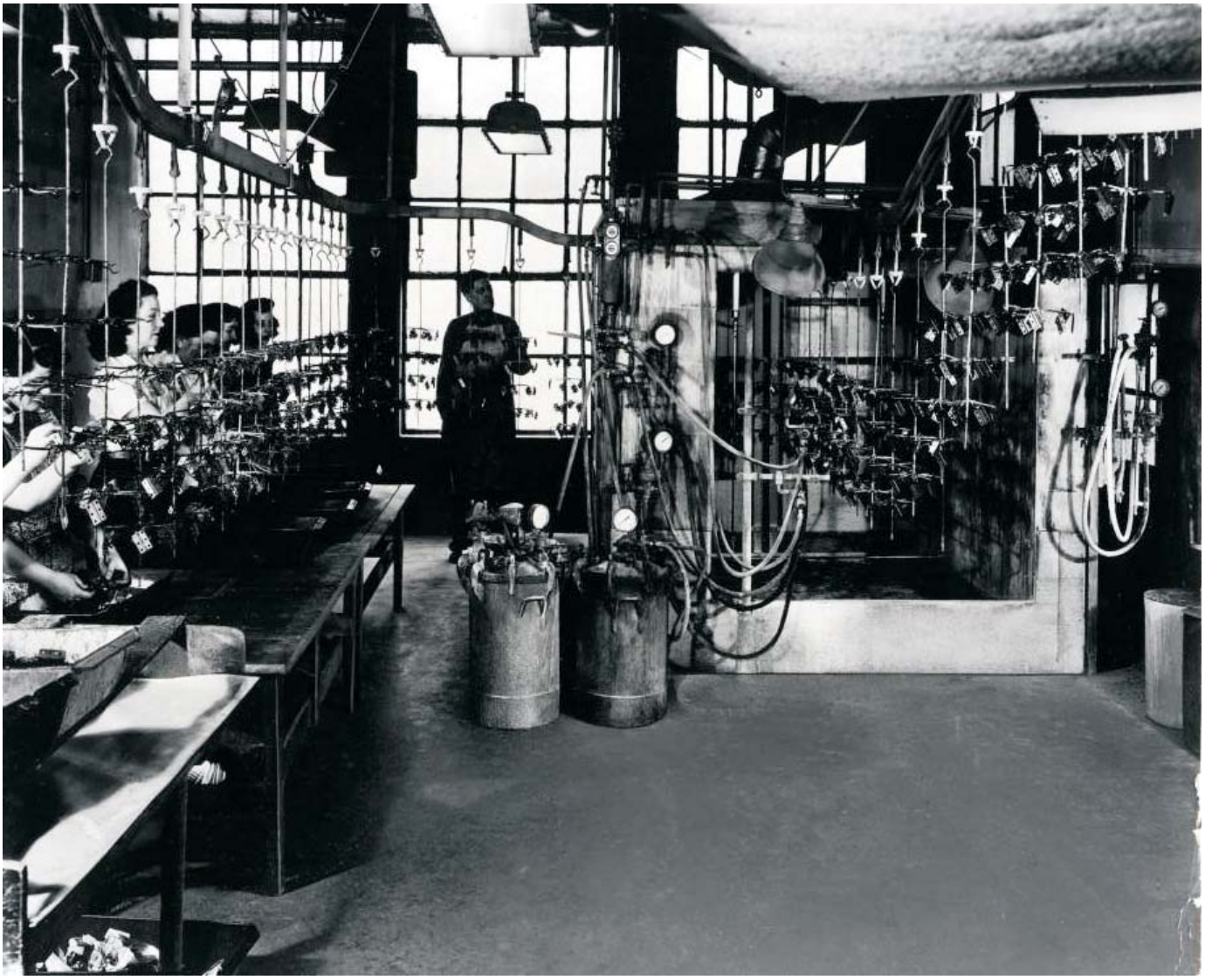

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0005
American Cabinet Hardware, Interior, Parts Conveyor

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0006
American Cabinet Hardware Interior Office Space, c. 1950

United States Department of the Interior
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Ziock Building
Winnebago County, IL

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet
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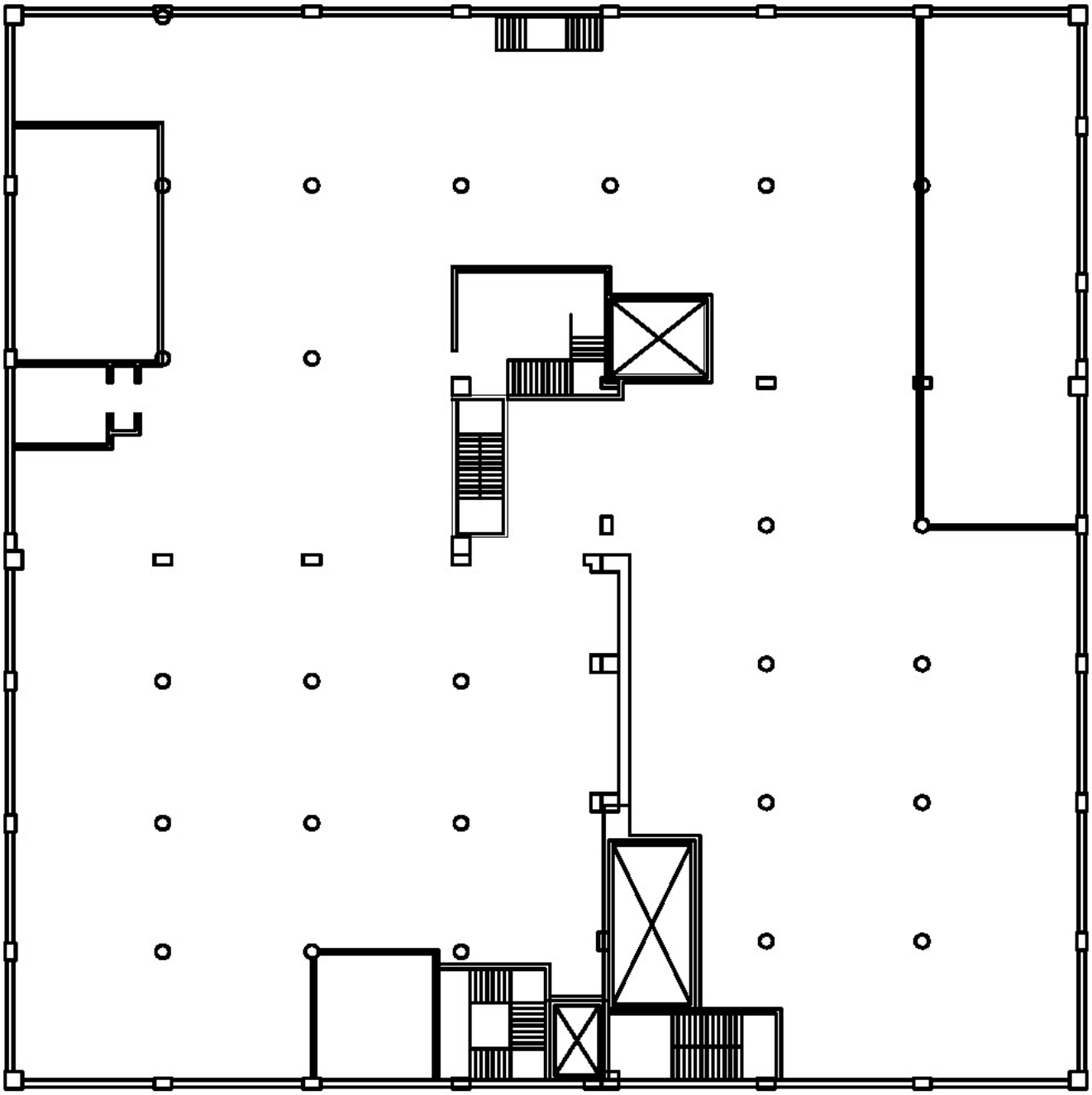
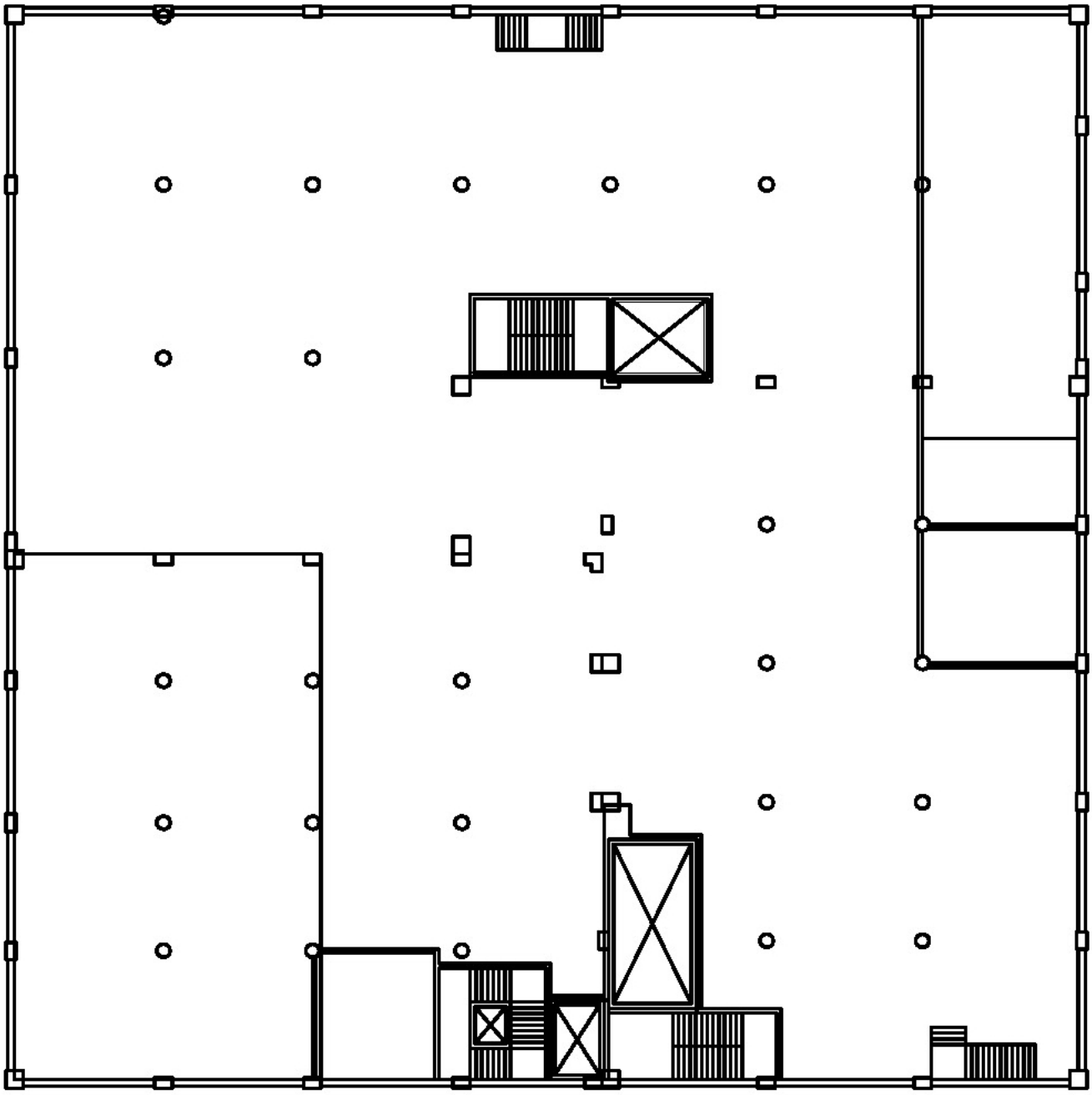
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0007
Ziock Building Exterior, Night, Looking Southwest,
During American Cabinet Hardware Era, date unknown

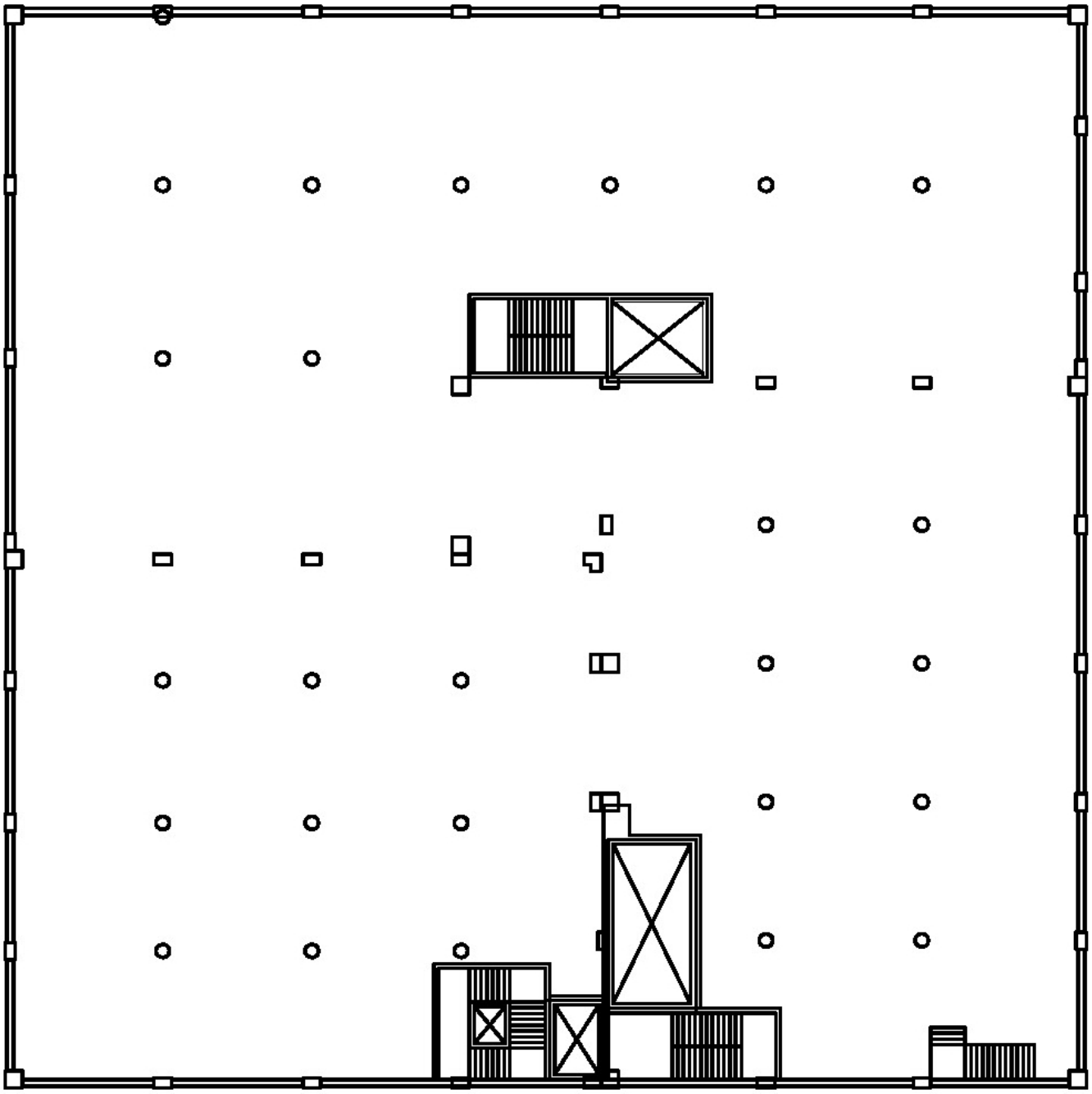


1st Floor

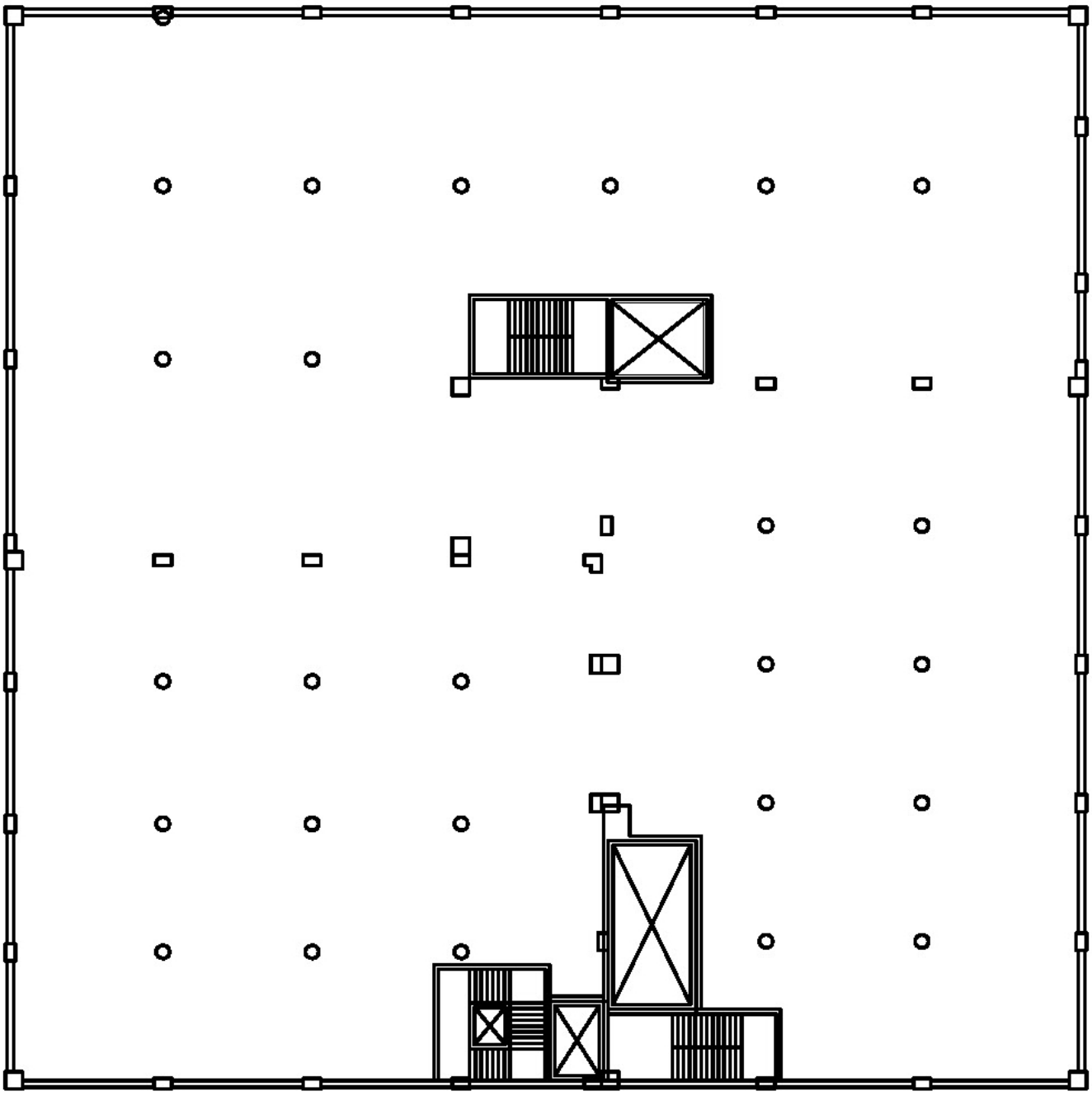
IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0008
Floor Plan, 1st Floor



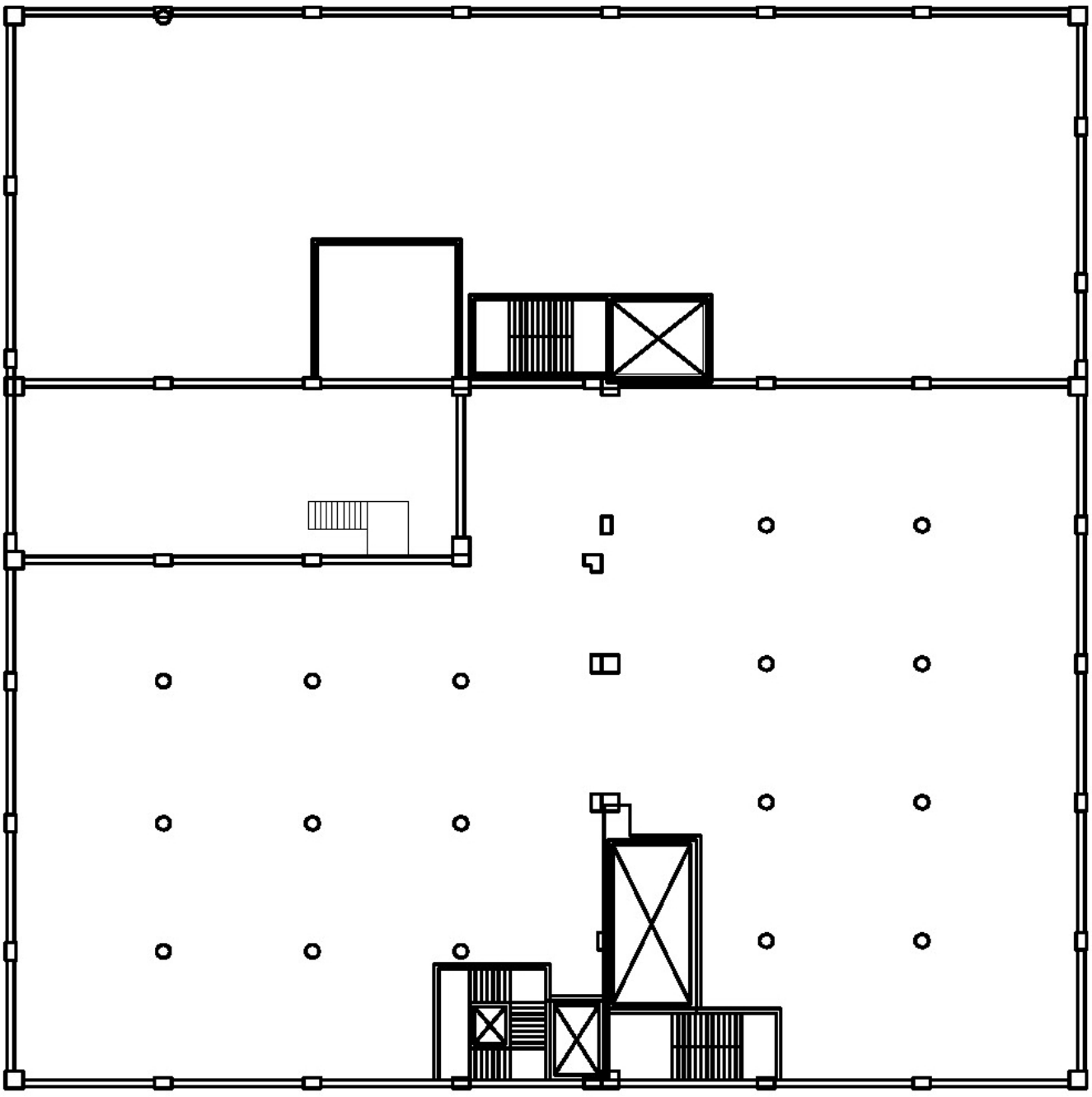
2nd Floor



3rd and 4th Floor



5th and 6th Floor



7th Floor

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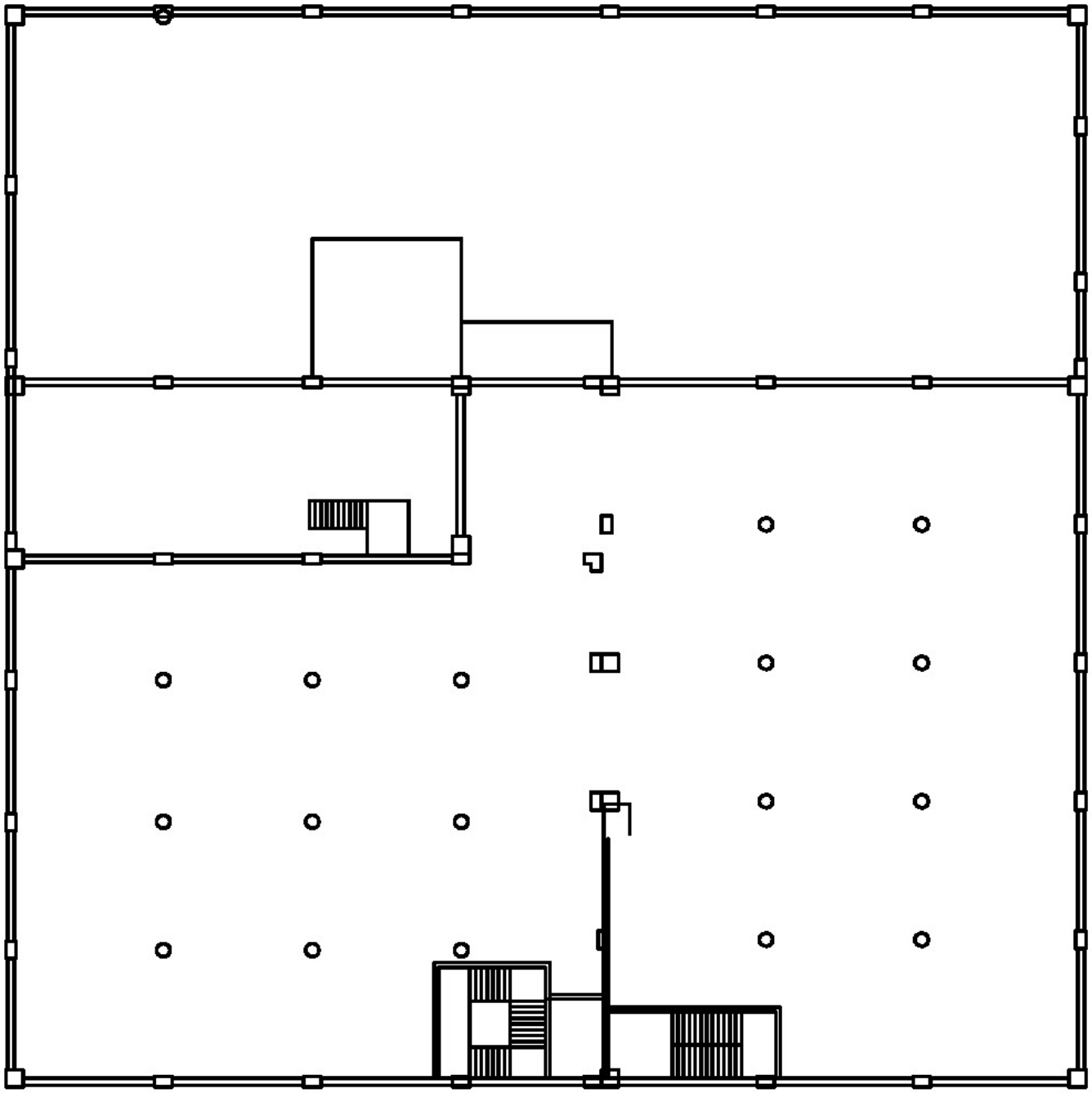
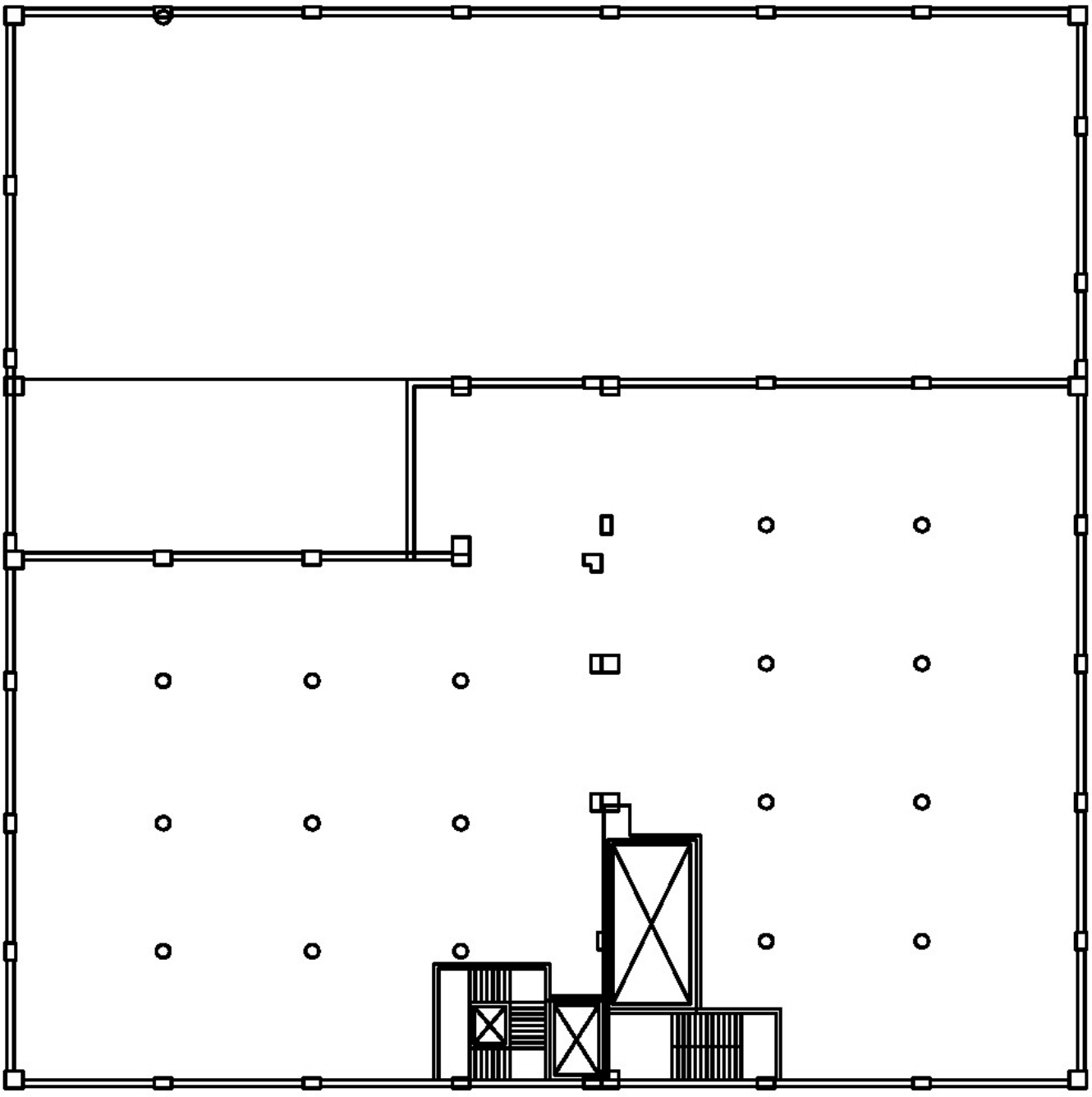
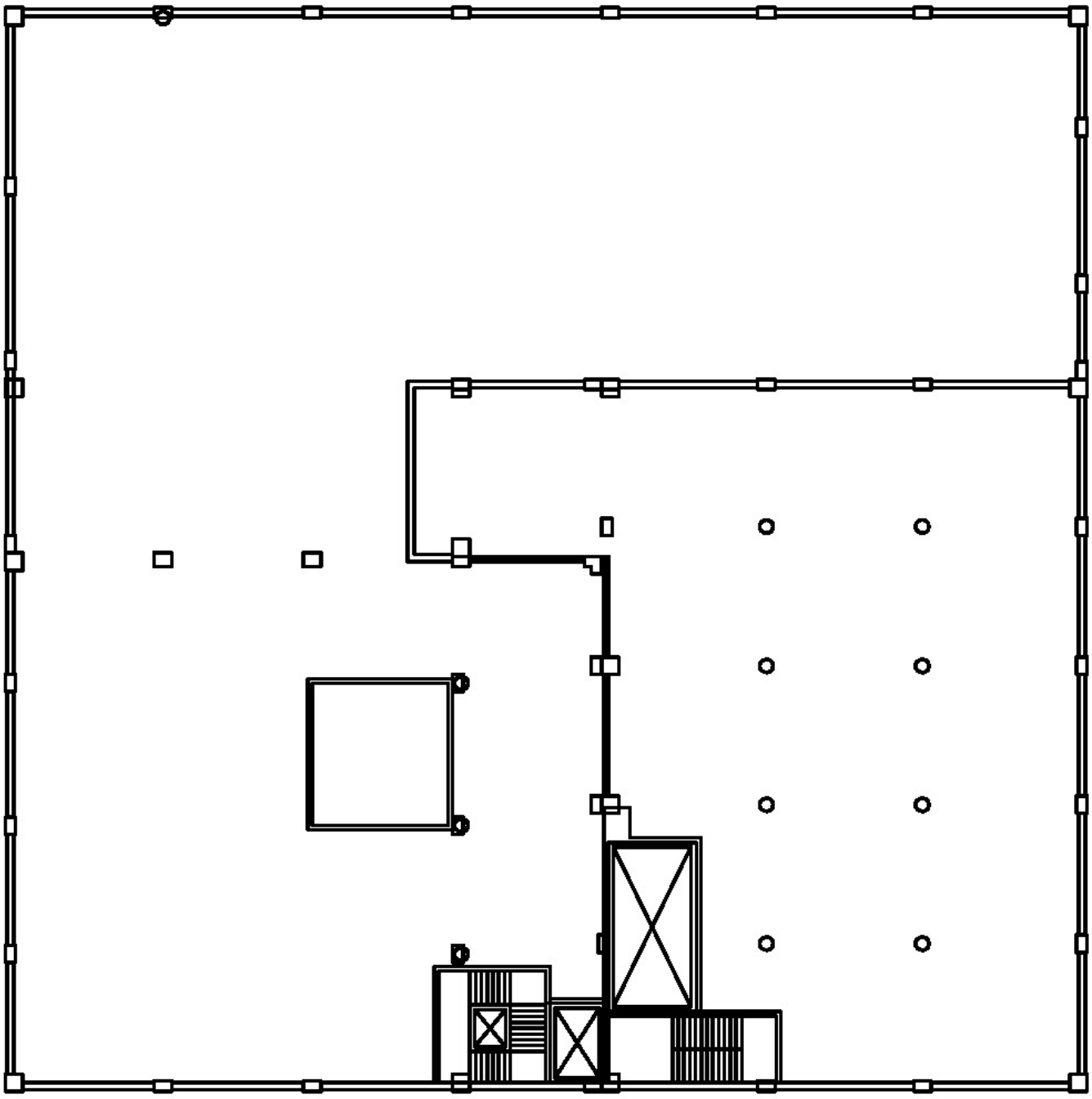


8th Floor

IL_WinnebagoCounty_ZiockBld_Appendix_0013
Floor Plan, 8th Floor



9th, 10th and 11th Floor



12th and 13th Floor