



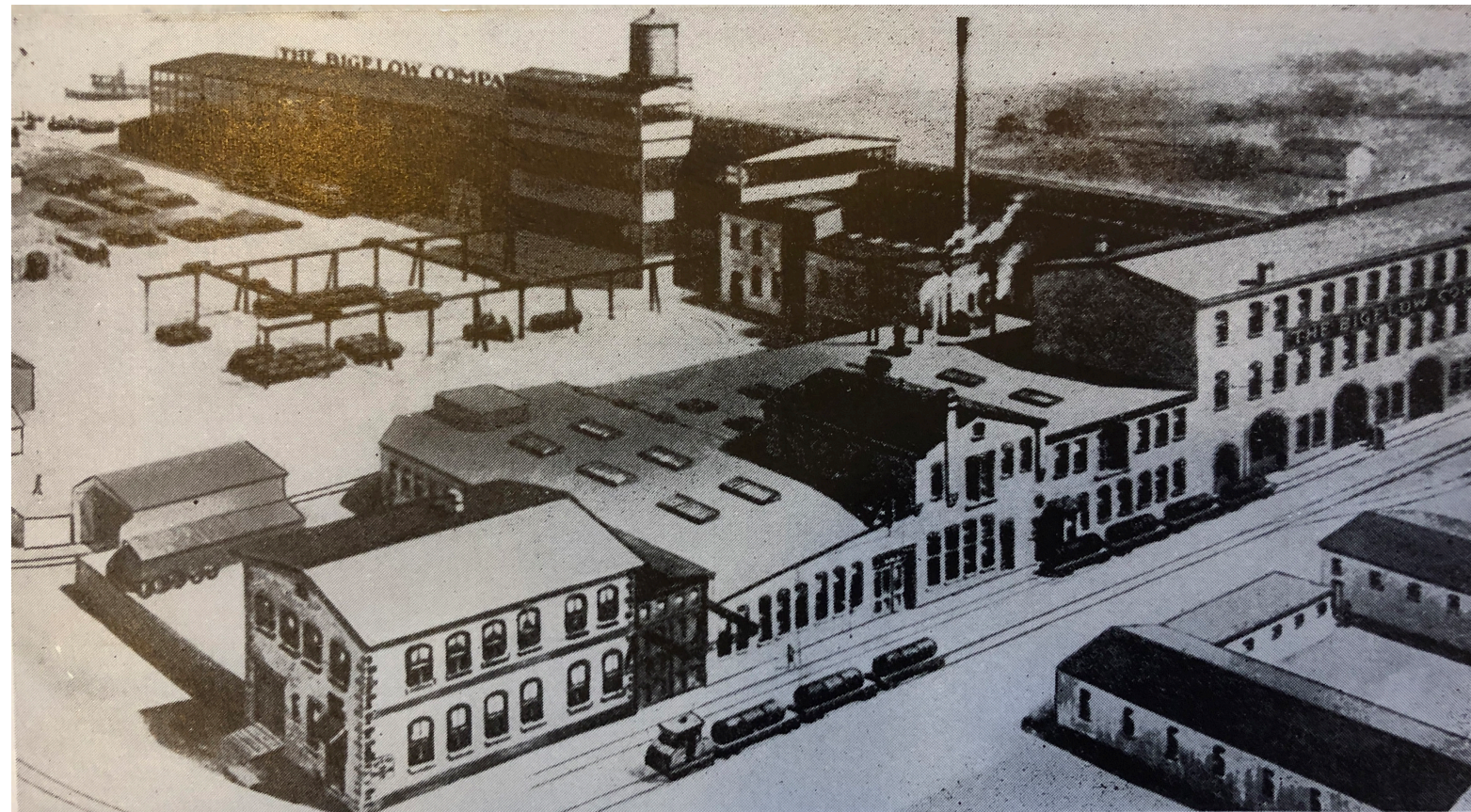
THE BIGELOW CO.

150 YEARS
1869 - 2019

“It is no exaggeration to say that since Colonial days Connecticut, third smallest of all the states, has been the fulcrum on which much of this nation’s productive power has been raised above all the rest of the world.

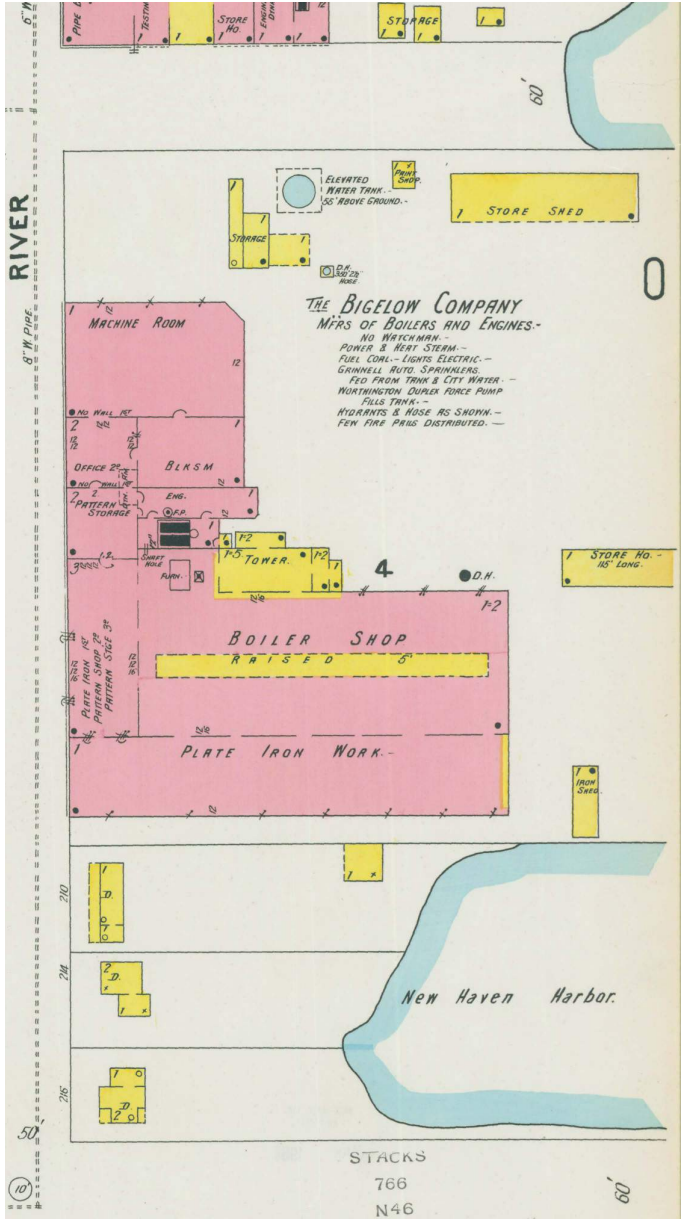
There is scarcely an American industry that has not been shaped by the marvelous machines and methods devised by skillful, imaginative, determined and resourceful Connecticut men.”

- “Connecticut Industry; October 1958”

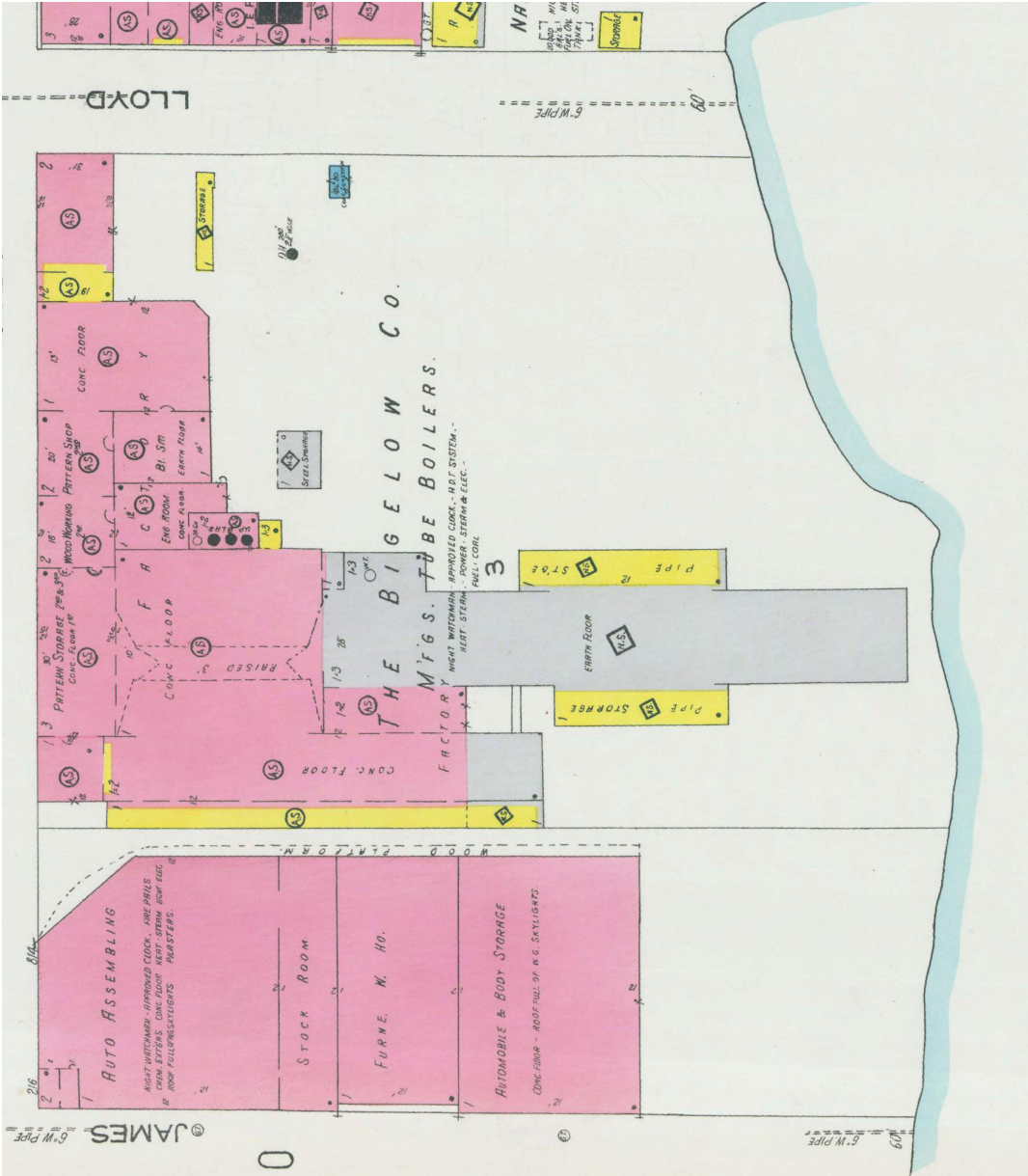


192 River St. Aerial Image

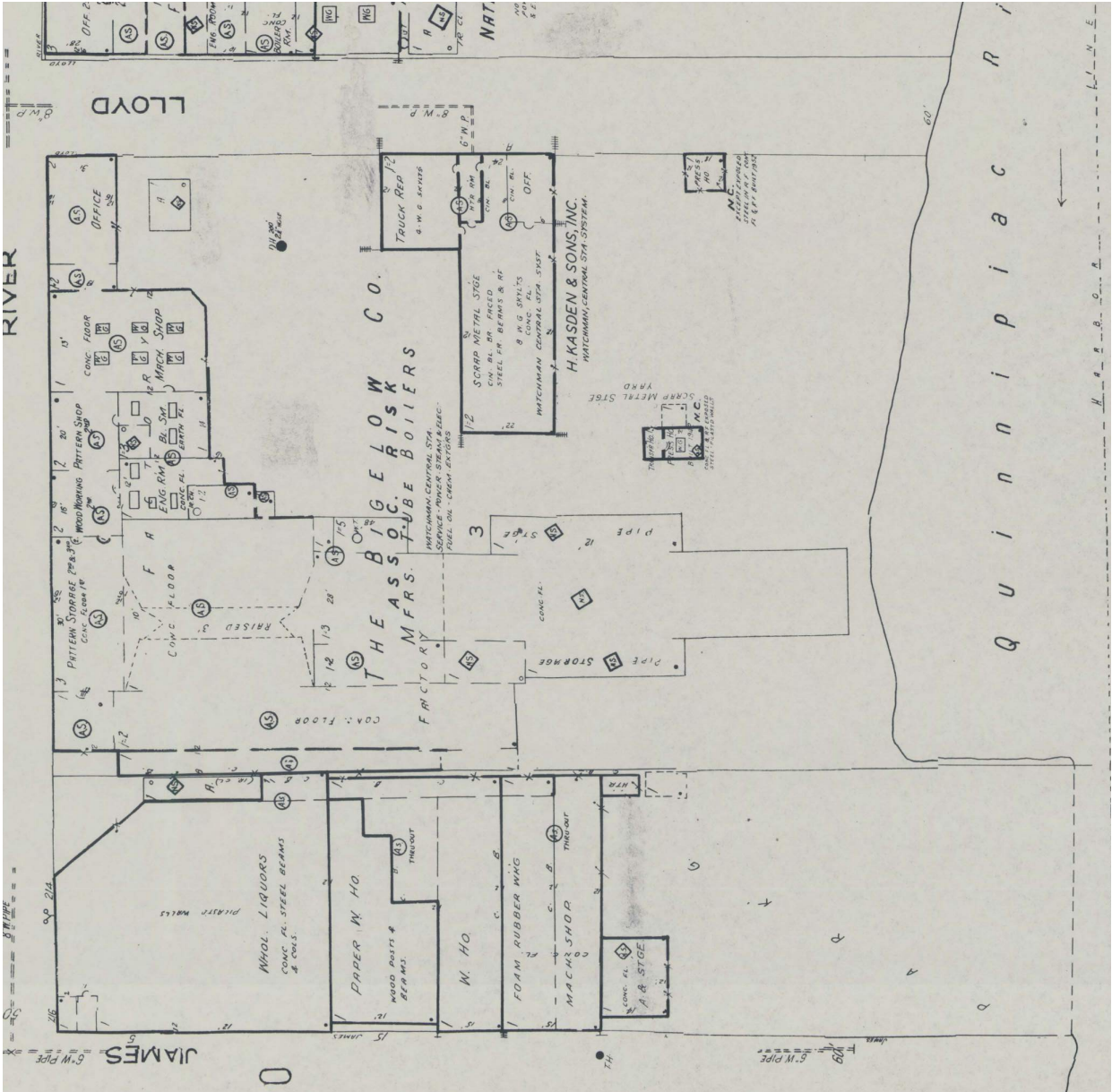
The Bigelow Company



1901 Sanborn



1924 Sanborn



1973 Sanborn

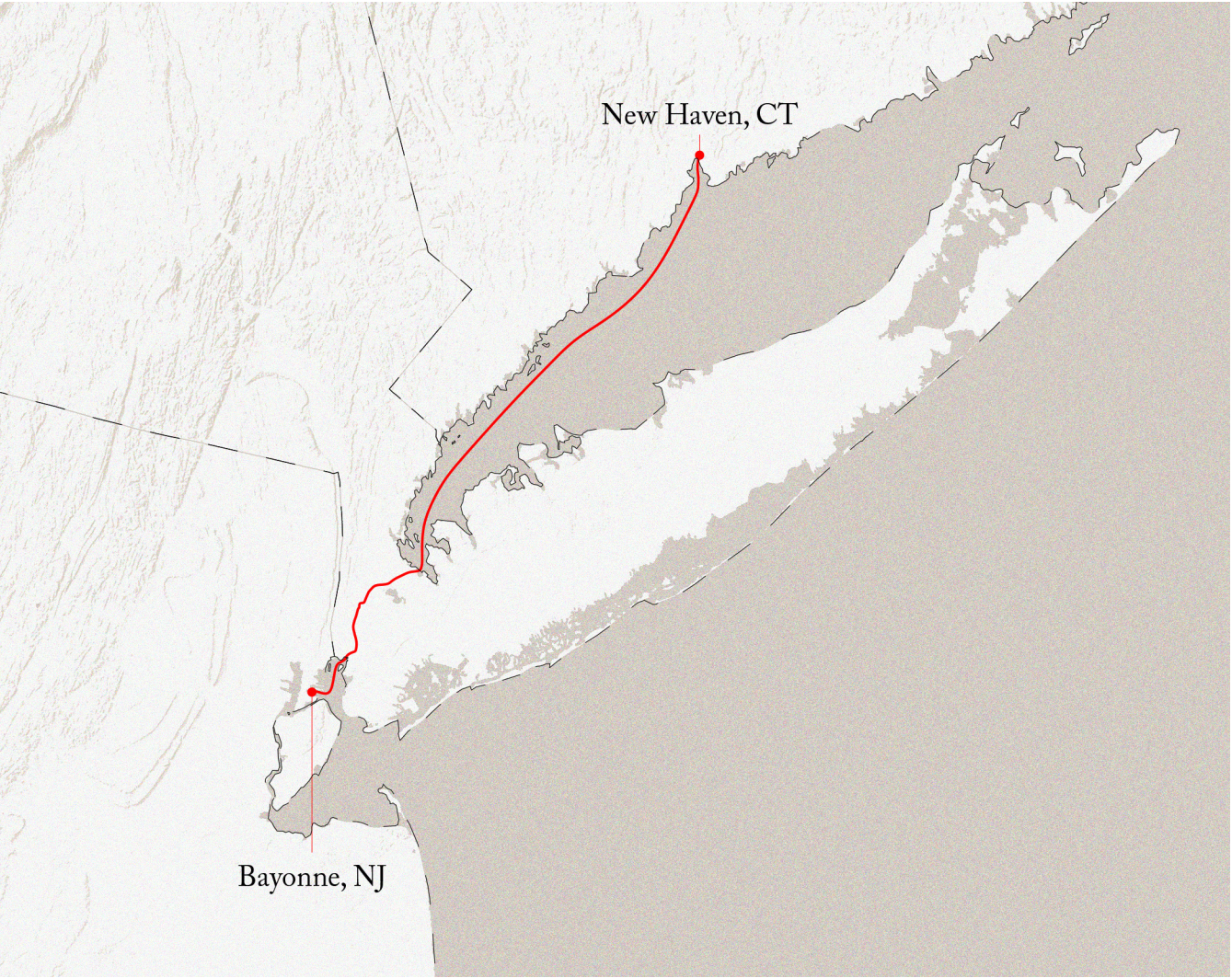
“The largest packaged boiler ever manufactured at The Bigelow Co. was shipped out of the River and Lloyd Streets plant last week.

The self-contained water tube boiler weighs 70 tons and is 35 feet long, 20 feet high and 12 feet wide. It is designed to produce over 100,000 pounds of steam per hour.

The boiler, which cost \$150,000, is to be installed at the Bayonne Military Terminal at Bayonne, N.J., an armed forces complex which has replaced the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

The Smedly Co. used two 90-foot cranes to load the boiler onto a barge in the Quinnipiac River, a half block from the Bigelow plant.

The boiler had to be moved to New Jersey by barge because it was too big to ship by rail or highway. Bigelow has made bigger boilers of other types, such as those used in sugar mills, but they were shipped out in sections, whereas the packaged boiler had to go out as a single unit.”



“Largest packaged boiler” shipping path

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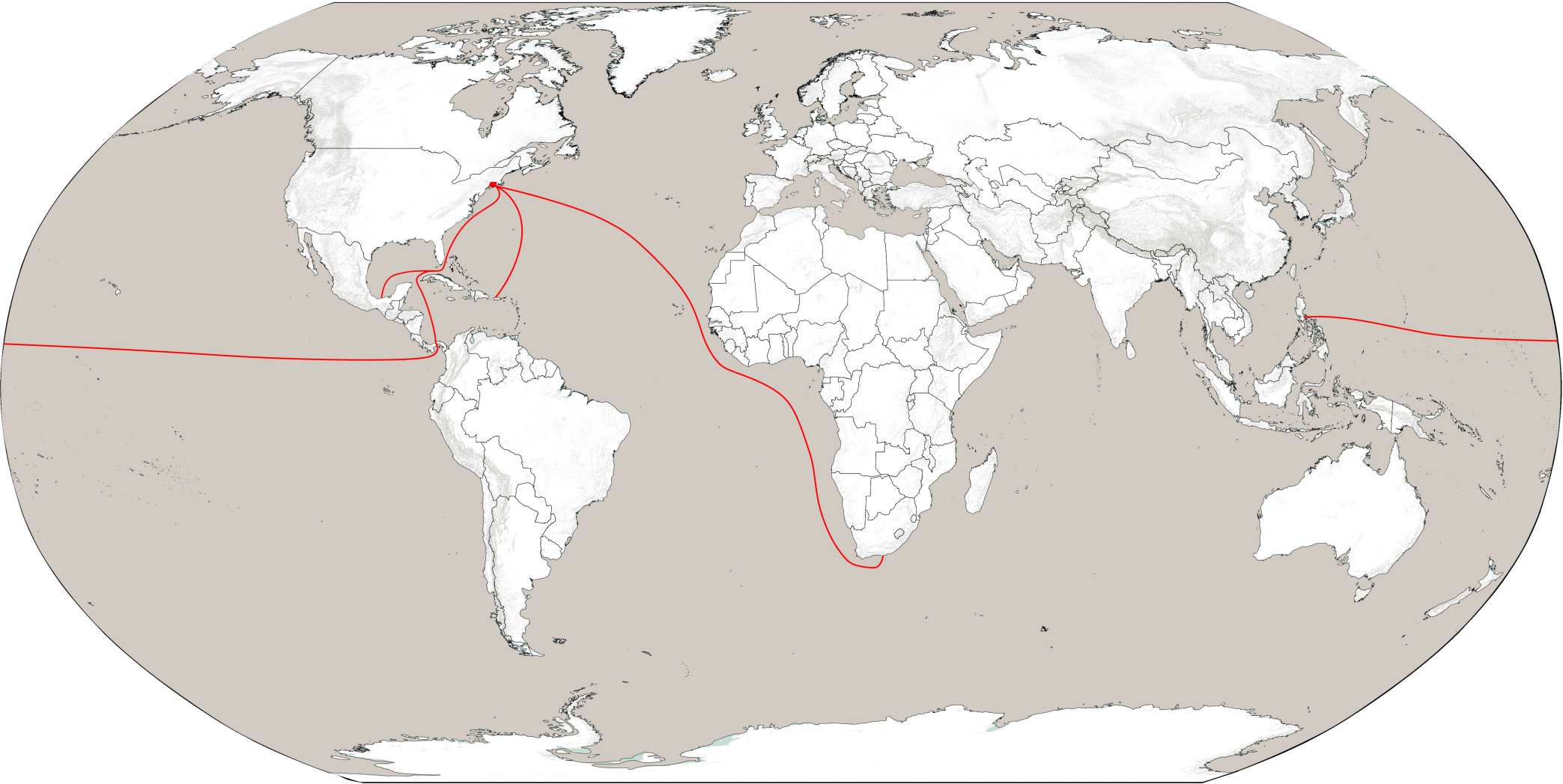
“Largest packaged boiler” shipping path

“Bigelow witnessed and was part of America’s industrial renaissance. It was among the original 47 subscribers to telephone service. It is New Haven’s oldest manufacturing Company in point of continuous solvency. And after a century and a quarter it continues to be a vigorous, forward-looking component of the American industrial picture.

In reality, Bigelow, which of course does not mass-produce its famous industrial and institutional boilers, is an integral part of the Free World’s economy. Its boilers power mines in South Africa, oil wells and pipelines in Mexico, sugar mills in the West Indies and the coconut shredding plant of Peter Paul, Inc. in the faraway Philippines.

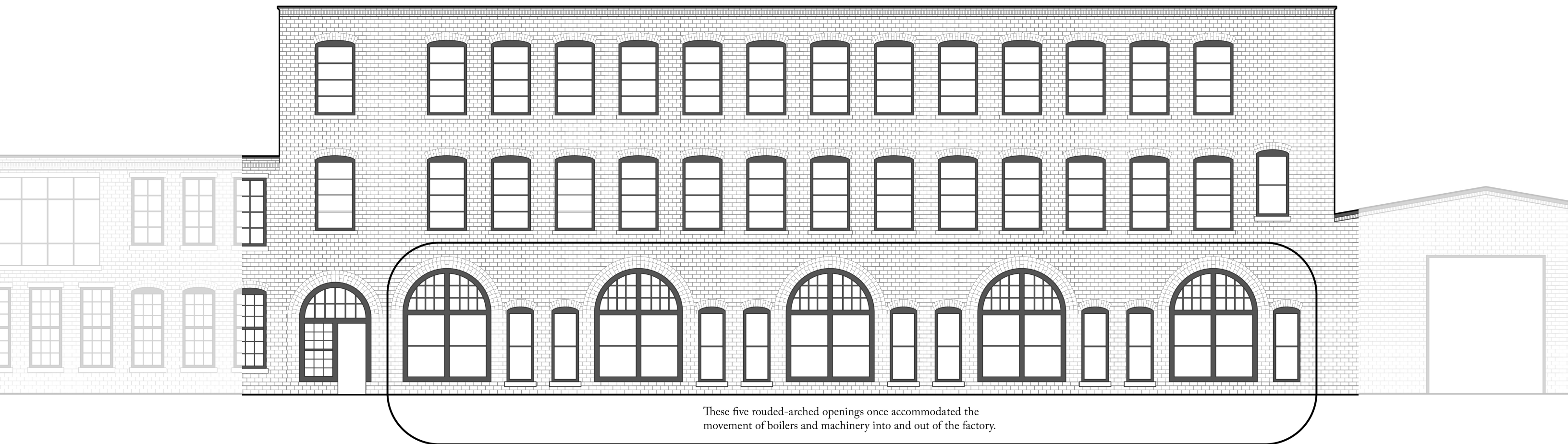
Their boilers are also to be found in California wineries and distilleries, in such widely separated Universities as Yale and Leland Stanford, in factories, foundries and electric power plants and in Madison Square Garden.”

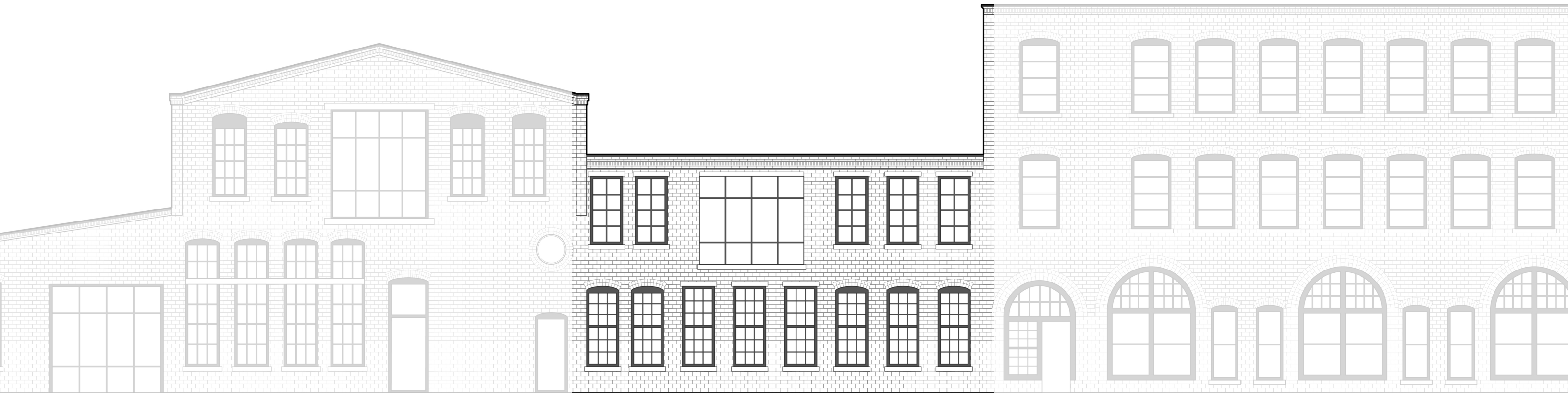
- “Connecticut Industry; October 1958”

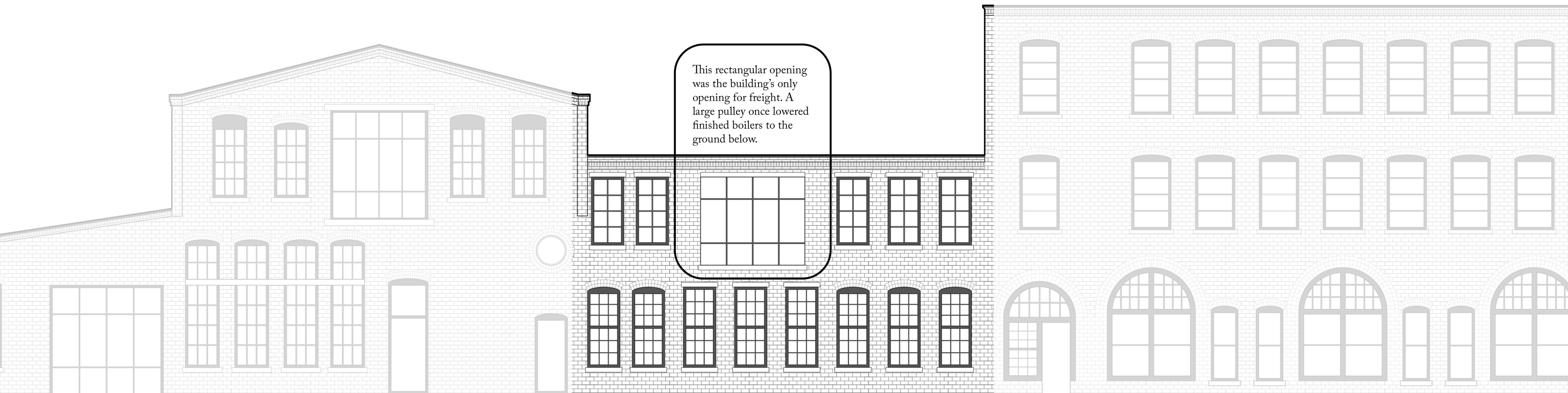


Global Reach

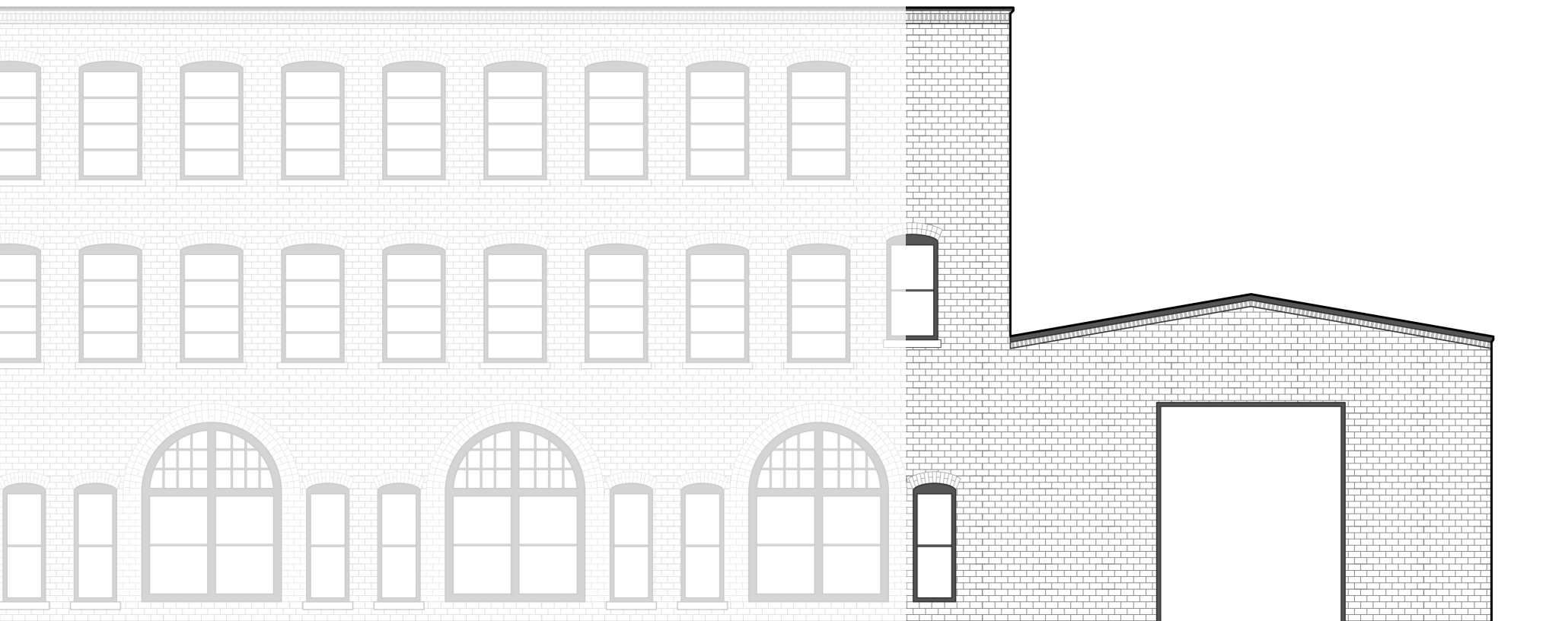


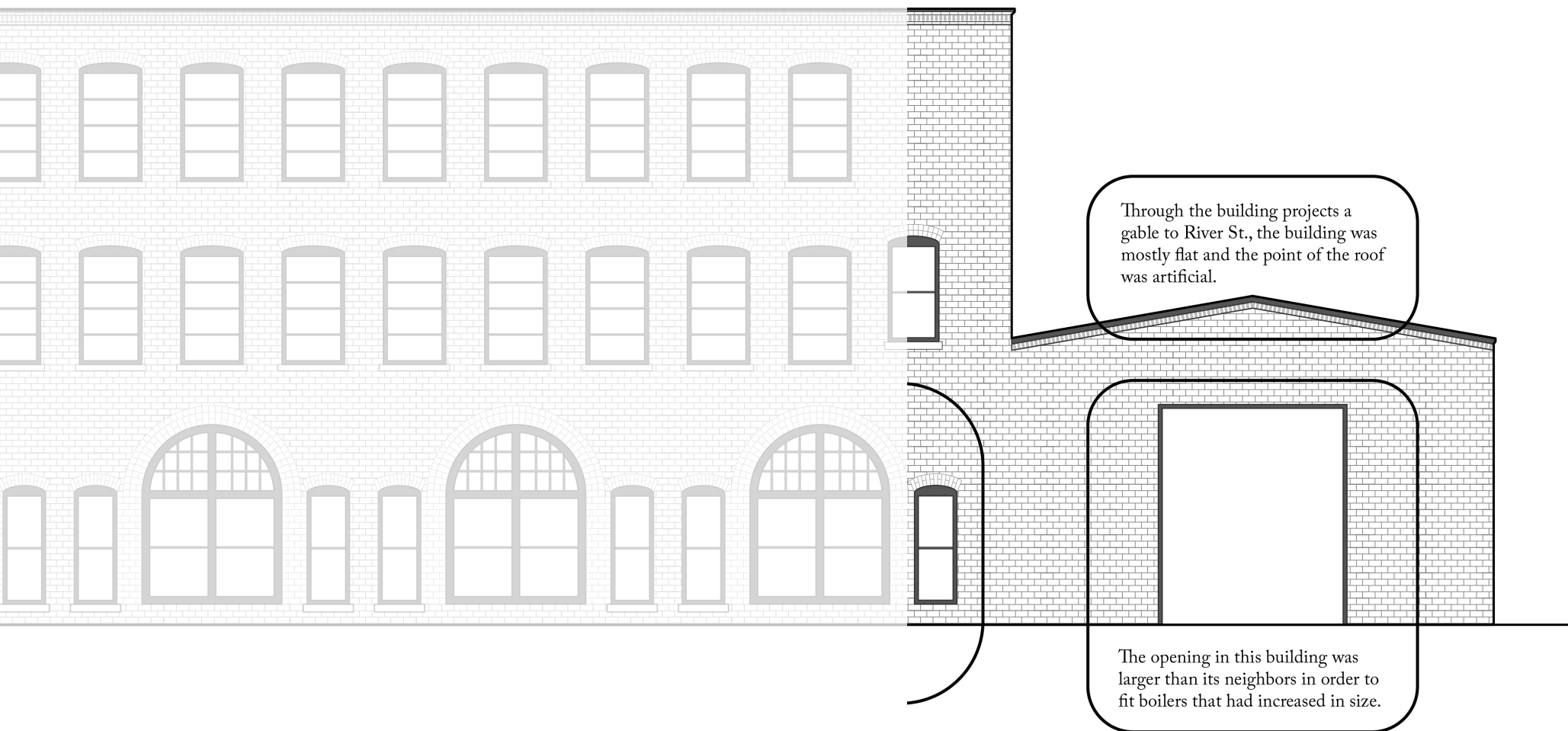






This rectangular opening was the building's only opening for freight. A large pulley once lowered finished boilers to the ground below.

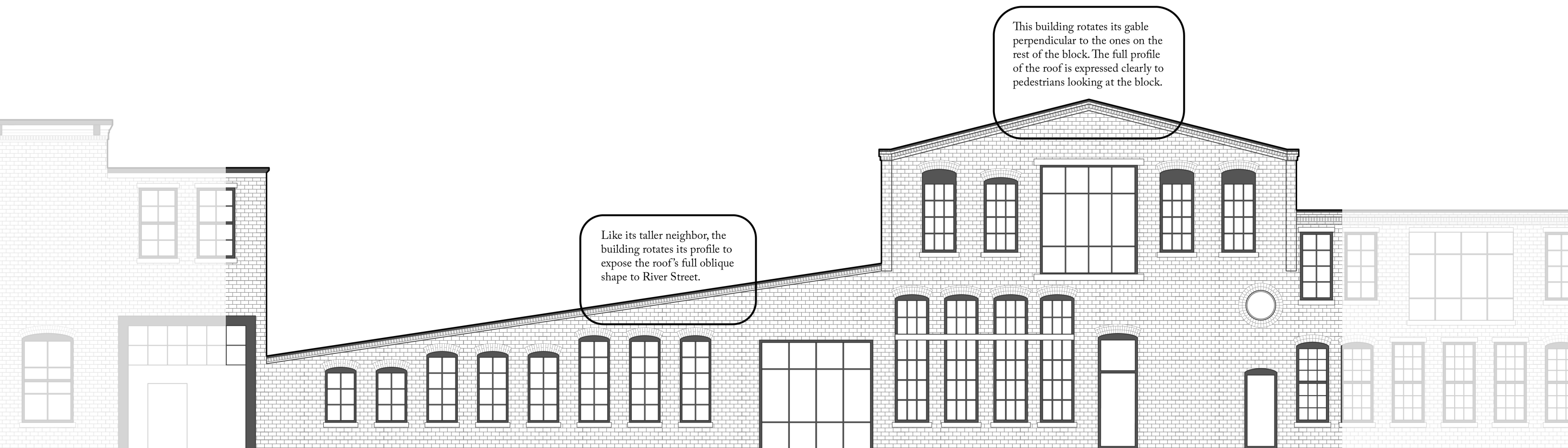




Through the building projects a gable to River St., the building was mostly flat and the point of the roof was artificial.

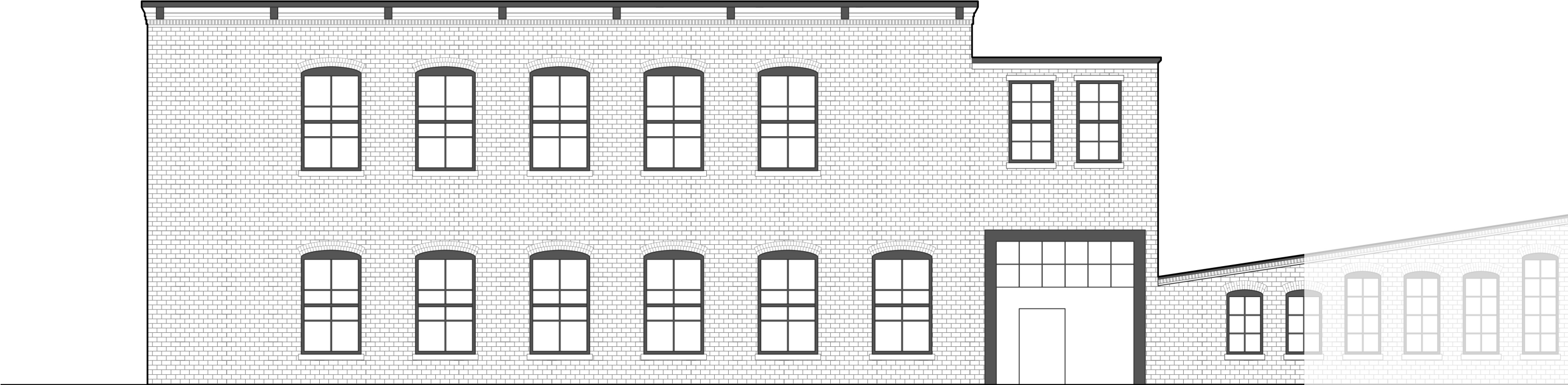
The opening in this building was larger than its neighbors in order to fit boilers that had increased in size.

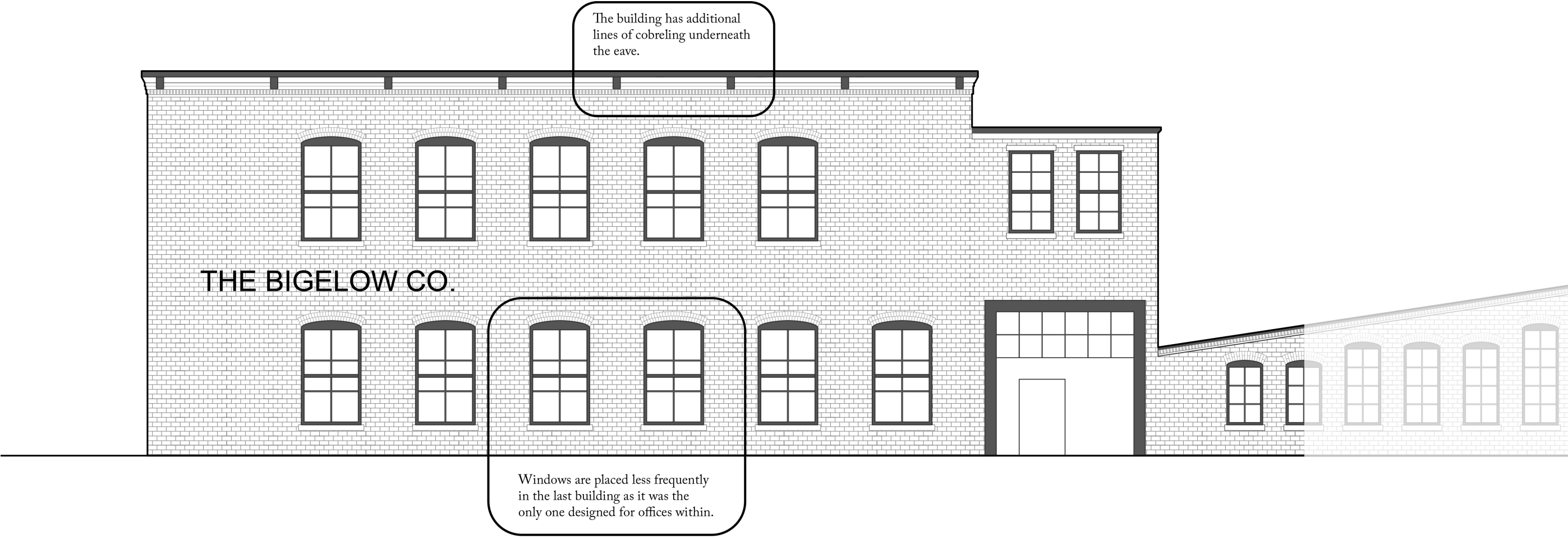


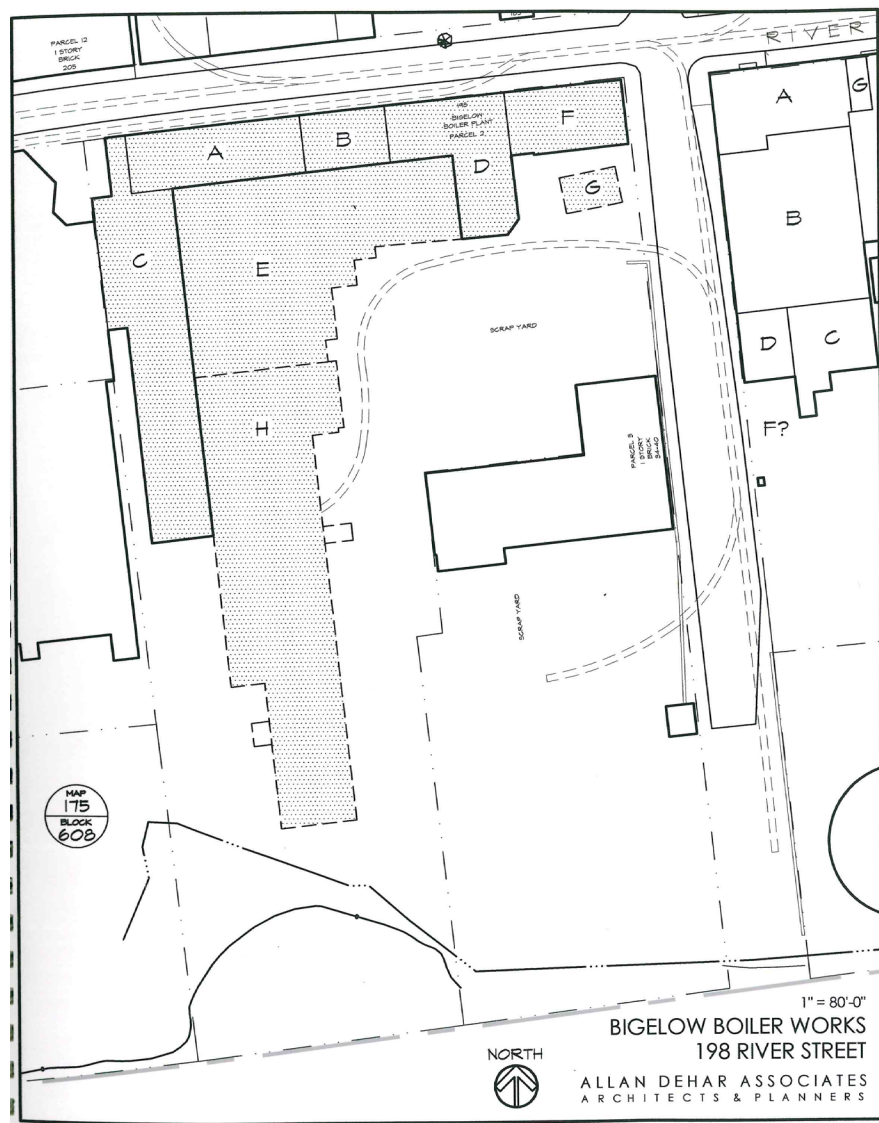


Like its taller neighbor, the building rotates its profile to expose the roof's full oblique shape to River Street.

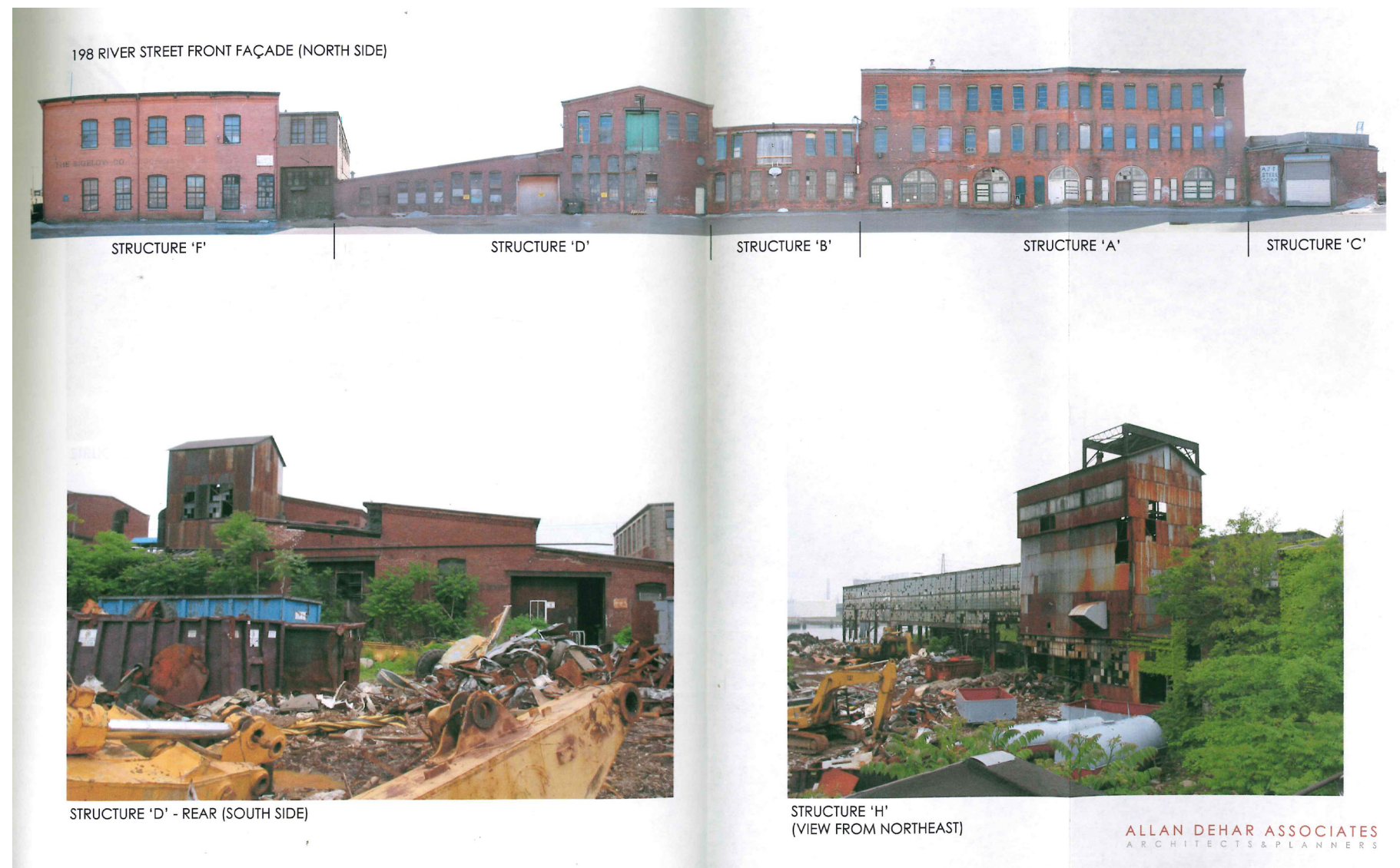
This building rotates its gable perpendicular to the ones on the rest of the block. The full profile of the roof is expressed clearly to pedestrians looking at the block.







Site Plan



Current Conditions



Current State as of 2019



Current State as of 2019

i. Precedent

Max Family Garden in Brooklyn near DUMBO



ii. Current State

Highlighted is being restored, solid line means intact, dashed means intact but critically unsound, and dotted lines no longer exist.



1. Brownfield Assessment

As the site of heavy industry, the lot is unfortunately faced with metal contamination. An EPA grant can fund the initial assessment.



2. Facade Preservation

The deteriorating structures are carefully dismantled in order to preserve the facades. The exterior walls should be structurally sound on their own, but additional bracing may be necessary. As a work of historic preservation, the facade is eligible for federal facade restoration grants.



3. Brownfield Remediation

Concurrent with the facade preservation is the brownfield remediation, which is potentially funded by the EPA. The old footprints of the buildings are cleaned and covered. A layer of boardwalks line the perimeter.



5. Development

The remaining buildings are restored and additional construction takes place within the lot in order to preserve public access through the facades.

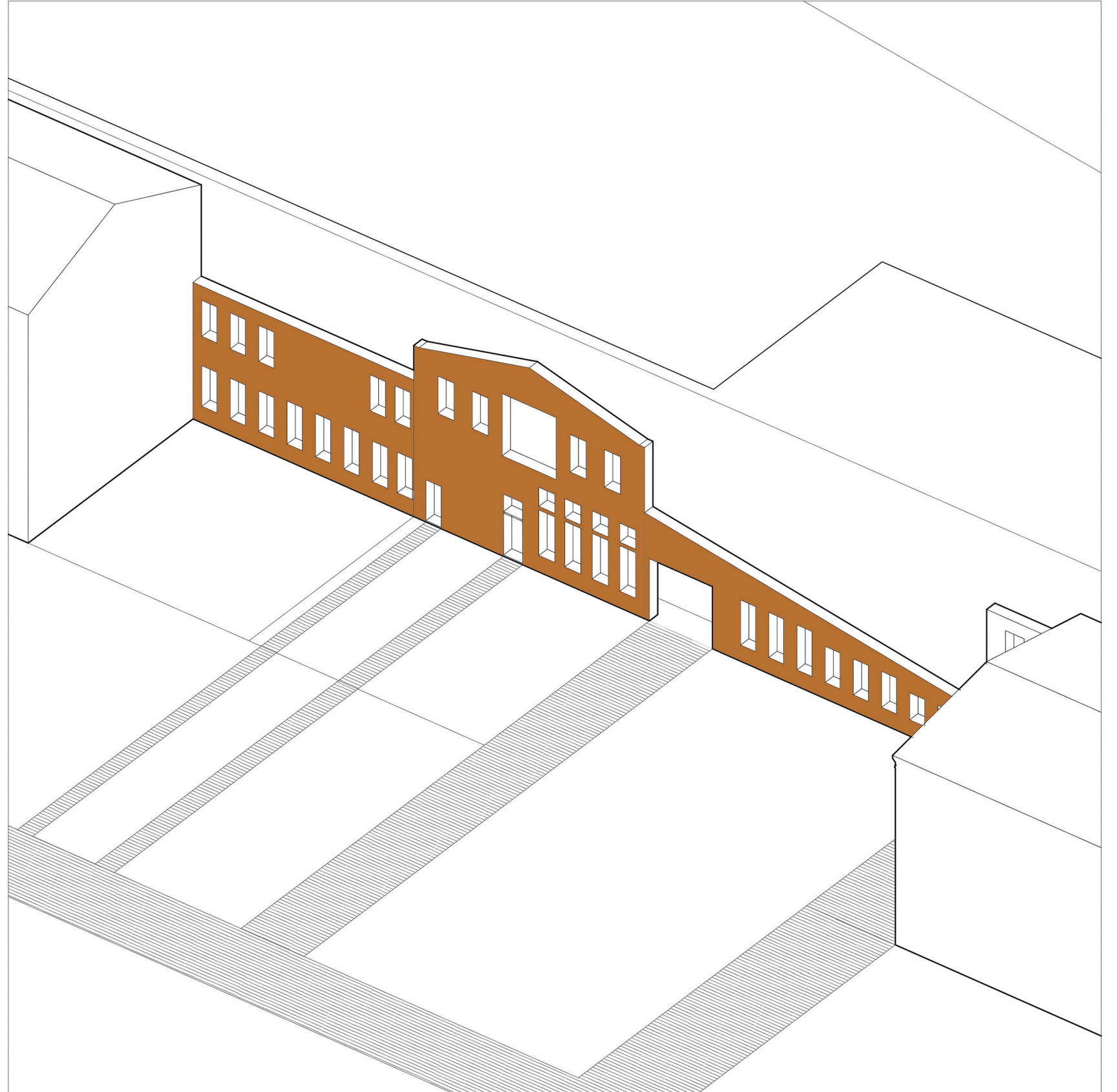


6. Inhabitation

198 River St. has the potential to become a public commons. With public access from the streets, views towards the Long Island Sound, and potential collaborations with community organizations within the area, the Bigelow Company's legacy will remain intact for future generations to appreciate.



7. Facade



8. Conclusion





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