

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**  
Office of Archives and History  
Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District**

Asheville, Buncombe County, BN0414, Listed 12/29/2025

Nomination by Caitlin Hernstadt and Cindy Hamilton, Heritage Consulting Group

Photographs by Caitlin Hernstadt, April 2025



Exterior, Scouring and Rolling House and Curry Shop, view looking northeast.



Exterior, Office and Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard, view looking northeast.

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.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District

Other names/site number: Asheville Tannery, Riverview Station

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 191 Lyman Street; 4, 5, 11, 26 Foundy Street

City or town: Asheville State: NC County: Buncombe

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  N/A

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

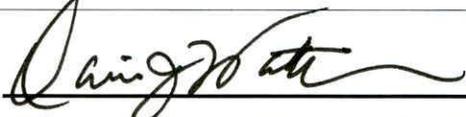
I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   X   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  X   A     B     C     D

 <span style="float: right; margin-right: 50px;"><u>10/31/25</u></span>	
Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u> Date	
<u>North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	
In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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#### 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/warehouse

INDUSTRY /manufacturing facility

INDUSTRY /industrial storage

INDUSTRY /processing site

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/Not in use

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: load-bearing-brick-wall

mill construction

Other: Utilitarian Warehouse

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: concrete

brick

Walls: brick

concrete block

wood

Roof: metal

asphalt shingles

membrane

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District is a former tannery complex located in the River Arts District of Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina. The Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District occupies an approximately 8.01-acre site between the French Broad River and Lyman Street to the west and the Southern Railroad to the east. The district is spread over three separate parcels (Buncombe County Tax Parcel ID # 963893987400000, 963893497500000, 963894628200000) and contains seven individual resources (six contributing buildings and one non-contributing building). The buildings vary in size and footprint, but many are brick and feature gable roofs with stepped parapets located at the tops of end walls and internal firewalls. These stepped brick end walls and firewalls serve as a characteristic feature

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seen throughout the historic district. The buildings were constructed between 1907 and 1965 to house a variety of operations associated with the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery. The district suffered damage due to flooding as a result of Hurricane Helene, which hit Western North Carolina in September 2024. However, none of the buildings within the district were damaged beyond repair and the district retains good overall integrity. The extant resources still clearly convey the complex's significance as a tannery in Western North Carolina and an industrial complex in Asheville's industrial neighborhood.

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## Narrative Description

### SITE AND SETTING

The Hans Rees Tannery Historic District occupies an approximately 8.01-acre site in southwest Asheville, North Carolina (**Figures 1 and 2**). The district is spread over three separate parcels (Buncombe County Tax Parcel ID # 963893987400000, 963893497500000, 963894628200000) and contains seven individual resources (six contributing buildings and one non-contributing building). The former tannery complex is located on a flat stretch of land between the French Broad River and Lyman Street to the west and the Southern Railroad to the east. Additional industrial buildings border the district to the north and south although several buildings to the north were lost in 2024 during Hurricane Helene. The surrounding area is largely industrial in nature and is comprised of other industrial buildings ranging in size and age from the early twentieth century to the early twenty-first century. This includes the area directly north of the Hans Rees Tannery, along the French Broad Riverfront, which is now known as the River Arts District.<sup>1</sup> The district is accessible via Lyman Street to the west, Old Lyman Street to the north. Foundy Street runs north to south through the district connecting the complex that features small, paved parking areas located throughout.

Six of the seven buildings within the district are considered contributing because they were built within the period of significance and retain integrity to communicate their historic industrial functions and association with the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery. The district boundary comprises the entirety of Parcels #963893497500000 and 963894628200000 and a portion of

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<sup>1</sup> The mile-long section along the French Broad Riverfront has been officially known as the River Arts District (RAD) since 2005 due to advocacy from artists and building owners in the area.

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Parcel # 963893987400000. The historic Hans Rees Tannery included a number of buildings that are no longer extant or were constructed outside of the period of significance. For this reason, they are not included within the district boundaries. Short descriptions of these buildings follow. According to Sanborn maps, the hide house which was once located on the north side of the property was demolished between 1954 and 1957. According to aerial imagery, the large Tan Yard and Beam House building once located at the center of the complex was demolished between 1998 and 2002. The building once featured the tannery vats where the hides were soaked. No evidence of the former Tan Yard and Beam House or their associated vats remain. A large building labeled as the "Learch House" was once located to the east of the Tan Yard and Beam House. According to Sanborn maps, it was demolished between 1954 and 1957. The tannery once featured bark sheds along the railroad and railroad spurs at the east side of the property. The bark sheds were built to meet the demands of the operation and consisted of simple wood pole sheds with open sides.<sup>2</sup> According to historic Sanborn maps, the bark sheds were altered and changed throughout the tannery's tenure. After the tannery closed and the property was subdivided, the bark sheds were replaced with more permanent warehouse structures (ca. 1960 and 1972). These structures were associated with a later tobacco, paper, charcoal, and beer outfits. A large ca. 1957 warehouse building was constructed northeast of the Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard addition after the tannery's closure. According to historic aerials it was demolished ca. 2010 and only portions of the concrete slab foundation remain. Other miscellaneous small buildings that were historically scattered among the complex that have since been demolished including buildings referred to on Sanborn Maps as the Tallow Warehouse and the Hair House.

#### **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION METHODOLOGY**

The following descriptions begin at the western side of the complex and move east and then south. Descriptions are grouped by parcel and address, which are listed below. Architect and contractor are not known for most of the buildings located within the district. Alternative names are listed where applicable. Construction dates are based on Sanborn maps, historic aerial

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<sup>2</sup> "Asheville's Big Tannery: Work on the Industry to Begin at Once," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 21, 1898. (North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville NC).

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imagery, permit records, and historic newspaper articles. Some buildings and additions were not present on the 1925 Sanborn Map but are depicted on the 1950 map. Due to the decline of the tanning industry by the 1950s and the closure of Hans Rees' Sons Tannery in 1955, these buildings and additions were likely constructed sometime ca. 1926 when the company was still growing. Some of these additions (including those to the Sourcing/Rolling House/Currying Shop, Leather Warehouse, and Brick Warehouse/Experimental Tan Yard) are visible in a historic photograph from 1929, further supporting a ca. 1926 construction date.

In 1990 the buildings at 191 Lyman Street were converted first into a candle manufacturing business known as Candle Station. In 2004, Candle Station closed and the buildings were renamed Riverview Station and converted into over 100 artist studios. In 2016, the remainder of the historic Hans Rees Tannery (located between Riverview Station and the railroad tracks) was renamed Foundy Street. This portion of the property was converted into artist workspaces and studios, restaurants, a brewery, a movie theater, and a skate park. The following inventory of resources uses the term "replacement" when describing certain aspects of the building. In this context, the term "replacement" refers to changes made outside of the period of significance, after the closure of the Hans Rees Tannery and the site's conversion into Riverview Station (ca. 2004) and Foundy Street (ca. 2016).

In September 2024 the district and surrounding area suffered widespread flooding associated with Hurricane Helene. All buildings within the district are currently vacant due to flood damage sustained during Hurricane Helene in 2024.

## **INVENTORY OF RESOURCES**

PARCEL #: 963893497500000 – 191 LYMAN STREET – 3 BUILDINGS

### **1. Leather Warehouse, ca. 1913 (additions ca. 1917 and ca. 1926)    Contributing Building**

The two-story, American bond brick building, also known as Riverview Station 1, is a contributing resource to the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District. The building is located at 191 Lyman Street at the northwest corner of the district at the intersection of Lyman Street and Old Lyman Street. The warehouse has a stepped gable roof with small vents near the top of the gable ends. The roof is clad in a combination of standing seam metal and asbestos/asphalt shingles. Original window openings with steel beam lintels and cast stone sills remain largely

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intact and feature recent replacement vinyl sliding sash windows. Original door openings feature metal, recently replaced, doors. Replacement doors are located on the first story of the north elevation of the northernmost building, on the first story of the east elevation, the first story of the south elevation, and the second story where the two building junctions (east and north elevations) meet. The leather warehouse served as the leather (finished goods) warehouse for the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery. According to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, the building was constructed between 1907 and 1913 and dates to the tannery's earliest years. Two gable additions were added onto the north and west sides of the building ca. 1917 and ca. 1926. The north addition appears on the 1917 Sanborn map. The west addition is not present on the 1925 Sanborn map but is depicted on the 1950 map. Due to the decline of the tannery in the 1950s, the addition was likely constructed sometime ca. 1926 when the company was still in a period of growth.

The Leather Warehouse is connected to the Scouring and Rolling House at the second floor via an enclosed walkway. Today, the walkway is clad in standing seam metal at the second story and multicolored masonry block units at the first story. The walkway's west elevation features two entrances: a pair of metal pedestrian doors accessed via a set of three steps and a loading dock garage opening with a rolling metal door sheltered by a shed roof covered in standing seam metal. The walkway's second story features a single six-light fixed window. Some version of the walkway is noted on the 1913 Sanborn map connecting the Leather Warehouse to the original Scouring and Rolling House that was destroyed in a 1916 fire. Newspaper articles dating to 1916 mention that firefighters were able to stop the fire at this walkway and save the Leather Warehouse. Beams in the walkway still bear scars from the 1916 fire. The 1917 Sanborn map then depicts the walkway as an open passage connecting the two buildings. The walkway remained open through the 1950 Sanborn and was likely enclosed sometime after the period of significance. As the walkway remained open throughout the period of significance, the Leather Warehouse and Scouring and Rolling House are considered two separate buildings for the purpose of this inventory.

The interior of the Leather Warehouse is largely unfinished as a result of damage sustained by Hurricane Helene. However, there are remnants of former subdivisions that were added to provide artist space and studios sometime after the period of significance ca. 2004.

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Each floor is divided into three main spaces which now feature non-historic demising walls of gypsum board subdividing the spaces for artist studios. The building manages to convey its former use as industrial space by remaining otherwise largely unfinished with concrete floors, exposed wood beams at the ceiling, and exposed brick walls.

### **2a-b. Scouring and Rolling House and Currying Shop, 1917                      Contributing Building**

The former Scouring and Rolling House and Currying Shop, also known as Riverview Stations 2 and 3, consist of two interconnected warehouse buildings, which together comprise one contributing building. The American bond brick buildings were constructed in 1917 after the original Dry House and Currying Shop was destroyed in a 1916 fire. Located south of the Leather Warehouse and west of Lyman Street, these buildings were used for drying and finishing the hides into leather goods. The westernmost building (the former Scouring and Rolling House is connected to the Leather Warehouse by an enclosed walkway at the second floor (mentioned above).

The buildings feature the district's characteristic gable roofs with stepped parapets located at the tops of end walls and internal firewalls. The buildings feature rows of rectangular six-over-six replacement windows set within original brick openings with segmental arches formed by three rows of header bricks and projecting header brick sills. Original door openings feature metal replacement doors. The roof structure of each warehouse is supported by a wood beam truss system. Ventilators and ridge-line vents are visible along the buildings' roofs which are a combination of standing seam metal and asphalt shingles.

The long, narrow two-story brick warehouses are connected via a small two-story hyphen. The hyphen appears on the 1917 Sanborn map, however, between the 1925 and 1950 Sanborn maps, the hyphen appears to double in width. A twenty-five-foot-tall steel water tower holding 25,000 gallons of water once stood directly south of the hyphen. The water tower was removed sometime between 1972 and 1984 according to Sanborn maps and historic aerial photographs. Today the south wall of the hyphen has been extended further south and is nearly flush with the south wall of the Scouring and Rolling House.

A two-story gabled addition extends perpendicularly from the north end of the Currying Shop's east elevation. This addition is not present on the 1925 Sanborn map but is depicted on

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the 1950 map. However, as with the additions to the Leather Warehouse it was likely constructed sometime ca. 1926 when the company was still in a period of growth.

A two-story flat-roof addition is located at the south end of the Currying Shop. The addition first appeared between 1917 and 1925 as a one-story addition on Sanborn maps. Documentary photographs, including from a 1950s real estate listing of the tannery produced by Coleman and Adams, show the addition had the characteristic gable roof with stepped parapet. Sometime between 1972 and 1991, another story was added, and the roofline was altered to be flat. The 1972 Sanborn map still depicts a one-story addition. However, a 1991 aerial photograph taken during a historic resources survey shows a two-story flat-roof addition.

The interior of the Scouring and Rolling House and Currying Shop is largely unfinished as a result of damage sustained by Hurricane Helene. However, there are remnants of former subdivisions that were added to provide artist space and studios. Each floor features a central double-loaded corridor with non-historic demising walls of gypsum board. The building manages to convey its former use as industrial space by remaining otherwise largely unfinished with concrete floors, exposed wood beams at the ceiling and exposed brick walls. The first floor of each building features concrete floors whereas the second floor is concrete over steel beams, supported by cast iron posts. Although the warehouses were impacted by the 2024 flooding, the structure of the building remains intact, and issues are largely limited to water damage, especially of non-historic demising walls.

### **3. Modern Warehouse, ca. 1965**

### **Non-contributing Building**

This modern concrete block warehouse with a flat roof is located east of the Leather Warehouse. According to Buncombe County tax records and historic aerial imagery, the building was constructed ca. 1965-66, after the Hans Rees' Sons occupation. The warehouse formerly housed a manufacturing firm that specialized in fans, blowers, and other ventilation products. The building features garage door openings and small metal square industrial windows. The north wall of the modern warehouse appears to be connected to the Leather Warehouse by a concrete block walkway which serves to provide partially sheltered access from the rear of the Leather Warehouse to the south elevation of the modern warehouse. As such, the buildings are

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not fully interconnected and still read as separate buildings. Hurricane Helene damaged the building causing a partial collapse of the north wall and roof.

The interior of the modern warehouse is largely open and unfinished with exposed metal roofing beams and concrete block walls.

PARCEL #: 963894628200000 – 4 FOUNDY STREET –1 BUILDING

#### **4. Tannery Washroom/Locker Room, ca. 1926**

#### **Contributing Building**

This one-and-one-half-story brick building is located east of the Modern Warehouse and has an asphalt shingled gable roof with broadly overhanging eaves and concrete floor. The building features the district's characteristic stepped parapet end walls and stepped internal firewall. The building is not present on the 1925 Sanborn map but is depicted in a photograph of the 1928 flood. The building was originally divided into facilities for "white" and "colored" employees. In the early twenty-first century, the building was renovated to be used as a coffee shop but is currently vacant as the area recovers from Hurricane Helene. As a result of the hurricane, the north and west elevations sustained major damage. Windows and doors are no longer present in their former locations on the building. Modern fixed metal replacement windows were present along the north, east, and west elevations. One entrance was located on the north elevation. Two entrances were located on the south elevation. All three entrances were modern metal and glass replacements that dated to after the period of significance.

The interior of the Tannery Washroom is currently largely unfinished due to damage sustained by Hurricane Helene. The building is two floors with a staircase located on the east side.

PARCEL #: 963893987400000 – 5, 11, AND 26 FOUNDY STREET –3 BUILDINGS

#### **5a-b. Tannery Office, ca. 1907 (5 Foundy St)**

#### **Contributing Building**

#### **(Addition ca. 1913, Brick Warehouse/Experimental Tan Yard ca. 1929, 1953)**

The Tannery Office is located in the northeastern portion of the district just east of the washroom and features multiple additions including the large ca.1929 Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard. The Tannery Office is a one-and a-half-story brick building that once housed office space for the tannery. It first appeared on the 1907 Sanborn map. The office building is topped by a gable on hip roof covered in asphalt shingles, with areas of the gabled

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“dormers” clad in wood shingle siding. The building’s façade is seven bays long and features an entryway porch topped by a single bay shed roof. A small ca. 1913 addition is located off the southwestern corner of the building and was likely used as a weigh station during property’s tenure as a tannery. The ca. 1913 addition is one story, topped by a pyramidal roof covered in asphalt shingles.

The large Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard is a large, multi-part addition located east and south of the original office building. The addition consists of a pair of one-and-one-half-story interconnected brick warehouses, forming an “L” shape, that formerly served as the Experimental and Chrome process buildings according to Sanborn maps and a 1929 blueprint from local Asheville architect Anthony Lord. Both buildings have long rectangular footprints supported by brick buttresses. The buildings have gable roofs covered with metal and feature the characteristic stepped parapet end walls seen on other buildings within the tannery complex. The fenestration pattern appears largely unaltered, and some multi-lite steel sash windows, which appear to be original windows, are intact on the west elevation. The typical windows appear to be painted wood one-over-one sash windows. The Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard is connected to the northeast corner of the Tannery Office via a one-and-one-half-story gable roof addition. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles, and the north-facing façade is covered in a combination of brick and wood shingle siding. According to Sanborn maps, this addition began as a small L-shaped addition constructed ca. 1929 and was later enlarged to the north with a concrete block addition ca. 1953.<sup>3</sup> After the property was converted into Foundy Street, the office, one-story pyramidal addition, and one-and-one-half-story gable roof addition, were used as a restaurant. The Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard were used as a brewery.

The interior of the Tannery Office and Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard are currently largely unfinished due to damage sustained by Hurricane Helene. The office building is one-and-one-half floors with a staircase located at the center. The Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard is one story with lofted areas that are accessed via wood staircases. The building once featured tanning vats sunk into the floor. The outlines of the vats remain visible

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<sup>3</sup> The addition is not present on the 1950 Sanborn map but appears on the 1957 Sanborn. Therefore, the constructed date is estimated at ca. 1953.

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today. Recent, non-historic replacement doors are located at the first stories of the north, west, and south elevations. These doors consist of recent replacement single-leaf metal doors with glazed panels. Window openings are present at all elevations and consist of one-over-one wood sash at the office and weigh station, and metal casement windows at the Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard.

#### **6. Blacksmith Shop, ca. 1917 (11 Foundy St)**

#### **Contributing Building**

The former blacksmith shop is located just south of the brick warehouse and office buildings and first appeared on Sanborn maps in 1917. This small, one-story, rectangular wood frame building features a gable roof covered in metal, with exposed rafter tails. The exterior of the building is covered in non-historic T1-11 vertical wood board siding and has six-over-six double-hung wood windows, some of which are replacements. Fenestration appears to exist in its original locations. Entrances are located on the northernmost bay of the east elevation and on the south elevation. Entrances consist of non-historic replacement wood doors. The building is elevated on a combination of concrete and wood piers and can be reached via a small set of stairs or a wood ramp. Prior to Hurricane Helene, the former blacksmith shop served as restrooms for the property. The building sustained some damage to the roof as a result of the hurricane.

The interior of the Blacksmith Shop is currently largely unfinished due to damage sustained by Hurricane Helene.

#### **7. Engine Room/Power House, ca. 1907 (26 Foundy St)**

#### **Contributing Building**

South of the Blacksmith Shop, near the center of the property, is a large, one-and-one-half-story brick building with a gable roof covered in metal. The building once served as an engine room/powerhouse and appears on Sanborn maps as early as 1907. The former engine room has two lower shed roof extensions at north and east sides of the building. Damage from the 2024 flooding was largely isolated to the east shed roof extension. Entrance bays are located on the north and south elevations. All entrance bays are void of doors except in one location along the south, rear, elevation, which includes a modern single-leaf paneled door. Windows are located on the north and south elevations and consist of recent vinyl one-over-one windows. Non-historic hopper windows are located on the east elevation shed-roof extension.

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The interior of the Engine Room/Power House is currently largely unfinished due to damage sustained by Hurricane Helene. The building is one-story with a lofted area that is accessed via wood staircases.

All buildings within the district are currently vacant due to flood damage sustained during Hurricane Helene in September 2024.

### **INTEGRITY ASSESSMENT**

The Hans Rees' Sons Historic District retains integrity to convey its significance as an intact industrial district that reflects the patterns of industrial development in Asheville and as a representative example of a tannery in Western North Carolina.

### LOCATION AND SETTING:

The district remains in its original location with its historic setting in proximity to rail lines and the French Broad River. Although the rail lines no longer serve buildings in the district and some spurs have been removed or covered, the tracks located at the eastern side of the complex remain intact and unchanged from the period of significance. The riverfront remains an active and large presence at the west side of the district. The area surrounding the district remains industrial as it was during the period of significance, 1907–1955.

The historic Hans Rees Tannery included a number of buildings that are no longer extant. Specifically, buildings in the southeast portion of the tannery including the Tan Yard and Beam House and former bark sheds are no longer extant. Today, this area features buildings that were constructed outside of the period of significance after the tannery had closed. As such, the southeast portion of the tannery are not included within the district boundaries as this area no longer conveys the historic character of the district as a tannery.

### DESIGN, MATERIALS, AND WORKMANSHIP:

The buildings in the district retain integrity of design, materials, and workmanship. These buildings were intentionally built as industrial buildings to be part of the Hans Rees' Sons tannery. They were constructed with sturdy, relatively fireproof materials (brick), and with minimal ornamentation outside of the characteristic stepped parapet end and fire walls seen on many of the buildings. These utilitarian buildings were designed to serve the three-part process

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of extracting tannin, tanning, and finishing hides into leather products. As a result of the hurricane, the north and west elevations of the Tannery Washroom/ Locker Room sustained major damage and must be partially rebuilt. Despite this damage, the building still maintains the characteristic stepped fire wall and east parapet wall. Some buildings dating to the tannery period have since been demolished. However, those that remain retain the tannery's characteristic architecture allowing them to convey the district's original design intent and showcase original materials and workmanship.

The most apparent alteration to the buildings within the district is the murals and graffiti-style artwork that have been added to all of the buildings within the district with the exception of the Leather Warehouse and Scouring and Rolling House and Currying Shop (Riverview Station buildings). These murals were commissioned and painted by local artists. Buildings in the district remain otherwise largely unaltered with the exception of the infill of a small number of historic masonry openings and the replacement of windows and doors on most buildings. It is also important to note that the buildings in the district retain their characteristic stepped parapet end walls and fire walls. The tannery's most public-facing buildings along Lyman Street, the leather warehouse, scouring and rolling house, and currying shop all remain intact and retain high degree of integrity devoid of murals. Otherwise, changes are largely limited to the infill or replacement of window and door openings. Extant buildings retain their historic footprints and massing as well as their characteristic minimally ornamented brick construction with stepped parapet end and fire walls. Therefore, despite the widespread presence of the non-historic artwork on some of the buildings, these alterations do not detract from the district's ability to convey its historic design intent and use as an industrial tannery.

FEELING AND ASSOCIATION:

The Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District's retention of design, materials, and workmanship combined with its intact location and setting in the industrial River Arts District of Asheville between the French Broad River and Southern Railroad result in the retention of the district's feeling and association as an industrial complex associated with the tanning industry. The Hans Rees' Sons Tannery was constructed as an industrial complex for the purpose of extracting tannin, tanning hides, and finishing leather goods. Although there are a number of

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buildings dating to the tannery period that have since been demolished including the large Tan Yard and Beam House, the Leather Warehouse and Scouring and Rolling House and Currying Shop and the Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard remain extant and retain their original massing, shape, and design including the characteristic stepped parapet walls. The Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard represents the extraction and tanning process as a smaller version of the once extant Tan Yard and Beam House. The Leather Warehouse and Scouring and Rolling House and Currying Shop showcase the finishing process, and the office shows the administrative side of the complex. Taken together, these extant buildings retain the ability to convey the tanning process that occurred at the historic Hans Rees' Sons Tannery. As such, the Hans Rees' Sons Historic District retains integrity of feeling and association as a former tannery in an industrial neighborhood.

Overall, the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District retains integrity and remains an important physical representation of the tanning industry which played a vital role in the history and development of industry in Asheville and Western North Carolina.

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## 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.)

- 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.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1907-1955  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1907  
1916  
1955

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Lord, Anthony, Architect for the ca. 1929 Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, significantly and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of INDUSTRY. The Hans Rees' Sons Tannery, one of the earliest and largest industrial scale tanneries in Western North Carolina, contributed to the growth of the tanning industry in Western North Carolina, a once vital industry in the region. The company employed many in the Asheville area and was one of the largest producers of leather transmission belting in the country. When the company opened its Asheville plant in 1898, it was the first tannery in Asheville. The company was one of few if not the only tannery in the country that completed the tanning process from start to finish, first extracting tannins from locally sourced bark, second processing and tanning the hides shipped in on the adjacent railroad, and third finishing the tanned hides into leather products that could be shipped to consumers.<sup>4</sup> In 1926, the tannery featured thirty buildings on twenty-two acres, employed over 300 people, and processed 30,000 pounds of cattle hide each day in the complex's 300 tanning vats. Their yearly output totaled over 5.5 million pounds of finished leather material.<sup>5</sup> The tannery suffered a devastating flood and fire in 1916, destroying some of the complex's earliest buildings, but rebuilt and continued to expand until the company was sold in 1955 with the decline of the tanning industry. Of the eight known tanneries constructed in Western North Carolina at the turn of the twentieth century, the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery remains the most intact and unaltered. The tannery reflects the patterns of industrial development in Asheville and survives as a rare example of an intact tannery complex from an industry that was once so important to the economy and development of Western North Carolina. The period of significance begins in 1907, the year the oldest surviving buildings on the property were constructed, extends through 1916 when the flood and fire altered the property, and ends in 1955, the year the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery was subdivided and sold.

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<sup>4</sup> Hans Rees' Sons, Inc. "A Serial Story of Hans Rees' Sons, Inc. and Their Leathers," 2. (According to the Hans Rees' Sons pamphlet, it was the only company in the country that completed the tanning process from start to finish, however, this claim has not been confirmed.)

<sup>5</sup> "Hans Rees Tanning Plant Here One of World's Largest," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, August 8, 1926.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND INDUSTRIAL CONTEXT**

In October 1880 when the first train bound for Asheville crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains the area was irrevocably changed. The arrival of the railroad to the mountains of Western North Carolina opened a period of capitalist expansion and industrial growth by connecting the western mountain region with the industrial east.<sup>6</sup> Prior to this time, Western North Carolina had been rural, agricultural, and largely cut off from the rest of the region. The railroad drew industrialists who were more than ready to take advantage of the area's rich natural resources. By the 1880s Buncombe County was one of the top three producers of tobacco in the state with four different tobacco warehouses. Thanks to the area's forests, the timber industry, along with furniture production, became the largest economic drivers.<sup>7</sup>

By utilizing by-products of Western North Carolina's large lumber, the tanning industry transformed from small, family-owned operations to large-scale industrial outfits. By 1914 there were roughly seventeen tanneries in the state of North Carolina producing over \$9 million worth of leather goods per year. Approximately seven of these tanneries operated in Western North Carolina during this early twentieth century period. Hans Rees' Sons Tannery in Asheville, was one of the largest tannery operations in the country, tanning hides shipped from the stockyards of Chicago. Due in part to founder Hans Rees' innovative ideas, Hans Rees' Sons Tannery was one of the world's largest producer of transmission belts and tanned leather goods.<sup>8</sup>

In Asheville, the railroad paralleled the route of the French Broad River, creating an enticing location for industrial outfits that needed access to transportation as well as fresh water. By the late 1880s, Asheville was a regional hub for the Southern Railway featuring large passenger and freight depots as well as large rail yards.<sup>9</sup> During the early twentieth century the southwest Asheville, (now known as the River Arts District) became the city's primary

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<sup>6</sup> Wilbur Smith Associates, "Historic Architectural Resources Report for U-5019: River Arts District Transportation Project in Asheville, Buncombe County NC" prepared for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2012, 10.

<sup>7</sup> Wilbur Smith Associates, "Historic Architectural Resources Report," 10.

<sup>8</sup> Carolyn A. Humphries, "Preliminary Information Request: Study List Application for the Hans-Rees Tannery," Prepared for the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, 1991.

<sup>9</sup> Wilbur Smith Associates, "Historic Architectural Resources Report," 10.

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industrial and commercial area due to its reliable rail service, plethora of level building sites, and proximity to the French Broad River. Situated in the French Broad River floodplain between the French Broad River and the Southern Railway tracks, this area of the city was largely associated with industry and featured a number of manufacturing plants, textile mills, coal yards, lumber yards, wholesale businesses, and warehouses. Some commercial retail and residential dwellings dotted the area.<sup>10</sup>

According to historic Sanborn maps, much of today's River Arts District remained undeveloped as of 1886. Lyman Street, along which Hans Rees' Sons would eventually be developed, was not even on the map. However, the 1888 Sanborn map shows an increased amount of development along the river. This specifically included industrial developments like Asheville Lumber and Manufacturing Company, the Asheville Milling Company, the C.E. Graham Cotton Mill complex, the H.T. Collins and Company Ice Factory, and the Asheville Furniture Factory of Avery and Erwin.<sup>11</sup> By 1891, industrial outfits along with additional roadways appear on Sanborn maps indicating continued development in the area. Although the remainder of the decade was marked by an economic downturn, the river district continued to see development including expansion of existing industrial complexes and associated housing created for factory workers. The Hans Rees' Sons Tannery first appears on a 1907 Sanborn map and a 1912 birds-eye map.<sup>12</sup>

In July 1916, Asheville experienced a devastating flood that destroyed many businesses and buildings, especially those in the river district. This resulted in a period of rebuilding and a new wave of development that stretched into the 1930s. In the 1920s, Asheville experienced an economic boom when rebuilding after the 1916 flood, industry, real estate, and tourism converged, resulted in a period of growth. Industrial development in the area included major industries like cotton milling, tanning, and tobacco, as well as industries vital to the operation of a rapidly growing city including sawmills, lumber yards, coal yards, ice factories, machine shops, and bottling plants.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Wilbur Smith Associates, "Historic Architectural Resources Report," 10-11.

<sup>11</sup> Wilbur Smith Associates, "Historic Architectural Resources Report," 11.

<sup>12</sup> Wilbur Smith Associates, "Historic Architectural Resources Report," 11.

<sup>13</sup> Wilbur Smith Associates, "Historic Architectural Resources Report," 11.

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During the Great Depression, Asheville's industrial sector remained largely unscathed. Some additional construction occurred in the river district during the 1930s and 1940s. However, in the post-World War II era, many of the area's large manufacturers, including Asheville Cotton Mill and Hans Rees's Sons Tannery, closed. This, combined with a decrease in railroad traffic and the rise of the automobile, marked the beginning of a period of decline for the river district.<sup>14</sup> In the 1960s, the French Broad River was so polluted that it was considered largely dead. Revitalization efforts began in the 1970s and 1980s. The Asheville 2010 City Plan, which was adopted in 1987, prioritized the revitalization of the river and riverfront.<sup>15</sup> The area saw a resurgence in the early twenty-first century with the establishment of the River Arts District.<sup>16</sup> Buildings were rehabilitated, transforming the former tannery and surrounding neighborhood into artists' studios, cafes, restaurants, breweries, and more.

#### FLOODING AND THE FRENCH BROAD RIVER

The area along the French Broad River has a long history of flooding. Due to its many tributaries and the absence of flood control structures, the river is prone to flooding during periods of heavy rain and when runoff from the mountains is high. According to flood analyses by the Tennessee Valley Authority, between 1791 and 1960 there were thirty-seven known floods in which the water rose above banks of the river.<sup>17</sup> Until 2024, the most serious documented flooding occurred in July 1916 when the water level rose approximately 20 feet and created millions of dollars of damage in the thriving commercial and industrial areas of Asheville. This flood destroyed homes, businesses and bridges.<sup>18</sup> In some respects, this 1916 flood marked the end of Asheville's riverfront development. Prior to the flood, new development had already begun moving away from the river and the flooding only cemented this trend.<sup>19</sup> More flooding in 1928, once again inundated Asheville's industrial area including the area surrounding the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery (**Figure 3**). In 2024, Hurricane Helene made landfall

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<sup>14</sup> Wilbur Smith Associates, "Historic Architectural Resources Report," 11.

<sup>15</sup> N.C. Chapter, The American Institute of Architects and N.C. Chapter, the American Society of Landscape Architects, "The Riverfront Plan, Asheville, North Carolina," Sponsored by the French Broad Riverfront Planning Committee Inc., 1989, 11.

<sup>16</sup> Wilbur Smith Associates, "Historic Architectural Resources Report," 11.

<sup>17</sup> N.C. Chapter, The American Institute of Architects, "The Riverfront Plan," 9.

<sup>18</sup> N.C. Chapter, The American Institute of Architects, "The Riverfront Plan," 9.

<sup>19</sup> N.C. Chapter, The American Institute of Architects, "The Riverfront Plan," 10.

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and stalled over Asheville dumping almost 14 inches of rain and causing the French Broad River to flood. The flooding caused devastating damage to the River Arts District, which had reinvented itself as a successful arts and culture hub. More than six months later, much of the area still remains in a state of recovery and rebuilding.

### DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY OF THE HANS REES' SONS TANNERY

In 1846, Hans Rees, who had emigrated from Norway in 1835, formed a partnership with Joseph B. Hoyt to establish a tanning and leather belting business. Their company was headquartered in New York, which served as the center of America's tanning industry during the mid-to-late nineteenth century. Rees was best known for producing strong leather belts to be used in the transmissions of heavy machinery. This leather touted by the company to "meet the most grueling tests of modern machinery."<sup>20</sup> In 1854, the original firm was dissolved when Hans Rees moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to convalesce from an illness. In 1861, Rees returned to New York and partnered with Joseph Hoyt's brother, Harvey. They again named the company Rees & Hoyt. In 1863, that company was dissolved and Rees continued alone until bringing on his son, Norman, in 1865 and changing the name to Hans Rees & Son. In 1868, another son, Arthur, joined the company, and the name changed yet again, this time to Hans Rees & Sons.<sup>21</sup>

By the mid-to-late nineteenth century, the number and types of machinery had grown tenfold. None of these new machines could be built nor could they function without the use of leather belting, many of which were produced by Hans Rees & Sons. The company had gained the reputation for producing excellent leather, so much so that they were asked to produce leather for purposes other than belting including by the American military who used the leather for everything from gun-slings to rigging covering.<sup>22</sup>

Prior to 1884, leather belting manufacturers had to purchase leather in the rough form, making it necessary to curry and stretch the leather themselves. Norman Rees had the innovative

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<sup>20</sup> Wilbur Smith Associates, "Historic Architectural Resources Report," 27; *Leadership for A Century: The Story of Hans Rees' Sons 1846-1946*, New York: 1946, 22. North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville NC.

<sup>21</sup> Hans Rees' Sons, Inc., "A Serial Story of Hans Rees' Sons, Inc. and Their Leathers," 1939, 1. North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville NC.

<sup>22</sup> *Leadership for A Century: The Story of Hans Rees' Sons 1846-1946*, 16.

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idea to offer leather belting manufacturers “ready-made” belting leather that was finished (curried and stretched) by Rees & Sons. This innovation directly led to the eventual opening of the Asheville plant, where all steps in the leather belting process from tanning to finishing were completed in one large plant.<sup>23</sup>

Prior to the opening of the Asheville plant, the company established plants in the Allegheny Mountains of Pennsylvania in 1868 and Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley in 1881, while keeping the headquarters in New York,<sup>24</sup> Hans retired in 1874, at which time he turned his business fully over to his sons. While Hans’ son, Norman, remained in New York, his two other sons, Arthur and Harold, relocated to Asheville to open a new tannery after the other locations were unable to keep up with demand and the company’s growth. In addition to the available labor force, Arthur and Harold chose Asheville for its proximity to the main tanning agent (the chestnut oak), clean water supply (the French Broad River), and the railroad for receiving the “raw” material (hides) and shipping the finished product (transmission belts and other leather goods).<sup>25</sup> The Asheville plant was much larger and differed from the company’s previous tanneries by featuring a leach house, an experimental tan yard and laboratory, and a complete leather finishing department.<sup>26</sup> According to a pamphlet published by the company in 1939, their Asheville plant was the only place in the country where the tanning process was completed from start to finish, including making its own tanning liquors, tanning the raw hides, and finishing the leather.<sup>27</sup> Throughout its operation, the Asheville plant was constantly modernized, expanded, and altered to meet the needs of leather manufacturers as the industry changed.<sup>28</sup>

The Asheville plant began operations in 1898 under the name Hans Rees and Sons. The company re-incorporated under the name Hans Rees’ Sons in October 1901, but did not start conducting business under that name until almost eight months later in June 1902. Construction

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<sup>23</sup> *Leadership for A Century: The Story of Hans Rees’ Sons 1846-1946*, 16.

<sup>24</sup> Rob Neufeld, “Hans Rees, 1<sup>st</sup> Factory in Asheville,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, November 7, 2016.

<sup>25</sup> Wilbur Smith Associates, “Historic Architectural Resources Report,” 27; William H. Plemmons, “The City of Asheville, Historical and Institutional,” Master’s Thesis, 1935, North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville NC; “Hans Rees’ Sons Firm Founded 100 Years Ago,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, May 5, 1946.

<sup>26</sup> *Leadership for A Century: The Story of Hans Rees’ Sons 1846-1946*. New York: 1946, 18-19; Hans Rees’ Sons, Inc., “A Serial Story of Hans Rees’ Sons, Inc. and Their Leathers,” 1939, 1. North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville NC.

<sup>27</sup> Hans Rees’ Sons, Inc. “A Serial Story of Hans Rees’ Sons, Inc. and Their Leathers,” 2. (This claim has not been substantiated by sources other than the company’s pamphlet).

<sup>28</sup> *Leadership for A Century: The Story of Hans Rees’ Sons 1846-1946*. 19.

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on the property began in 1898 with the Tan Yard and Beam House (not extant) located at the center of the site and the bark sheds located near the railroad. The Tan Yard and Beam House was a 60-foot by 700-foot wood frame building that featured 300 tanning vats each measuring 7 feet by 9 feet and 6 feet deep. The bark sheds were built to meet the demands of the operation and consisted of simple wood pole sheds with open sides.<sup>29</sup> According to historic Sanborn maps, the bark sheds were altered and changed throughout the tannery's tenure. After the tannery closed and the property was subdivided, the bark sheds were replaced with more permanent warehouse structures between 1960 and 1972. The tannery complex originally included cottages for employees, but these were destroyed in the 1916 flood. The tannery continued to grow and change over time, adding buildings and facilities to meet increased capacity and changing technologies. According to a 1903 advertisement in the *Asheville Citizen-Times* (**Figure 4**):

“As one enters Asheville, on the Southern Railroad, there can be seen, just a little south of the station and lying between the railroad and the French Broad River, the extensive plant of Hans Rees' Sons. This occupies some twenty-two acres of land, and since its establishment, some five years ago, extensive improvements and additions have been made, and an embankment wall erected along the river front and sides. Its yard 642 feet in length, has been increased in vat capacity; its leach house enlarged and additional boilers and furnaces erected. The dry house is 430 feet in length and two stories height, besides hide house, hair house, and other buildings, and expensive bark sheds; the entire plant fitted with the latest improved appliances for making leather. It is considered one of the best located, designed, equipped, and up-to-date of the Oak Leather Tanneries.”<sup>30</sup>

The year 1916 proved incredibly challenging for Hans Rees' Sons. First, the tannery was greatly impacted when the French Broad River flooded. Then in October of 1916, the company took a second hit when a fire broke out at the complex. Together these two events destroyed several of the tannery's early buildings. The floods destroyed employee cottages, while the

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<sup>29</sup> “Asheville's Big Tannery: Work on the Industry to Begin at Once,” *Asheville Citizen-Times*, June 21, 1898. North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville NC.

<sup>30</sup> “The Enlarged Tannery Plant of Hans Rees Sons Incorporated,” Advertisement in the *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 20, 1903.

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October 1916 fire destroyed the finishing houses and associated machinery at the tannery.

Damage from the fire was estimated at between \$200,000 and \$500,000.<sup>31</sup> Luckily the fire department acted quickly and was able to save the plant's other buildings.<sup>32</sup> The tannery had good insurance which helped them to begin rebuilding as soon as debris was cleared.<sup>33</sup> The Scouring and Rolling House and Currying Shop buildings (today known as Riverview Stations 2 and 3) were rebuilt on this location and remain extant today (**Figures 5, 6, and 7**).

By 1926, the company featured thirty buildings on twenty-two acres and processed 30,000 pounds of cattle hide each day in the complex's 300 tanning vats. Their yearly output reached over 5.5 million pounds of finished leather material.<sup>34</sup> Hans Rees' Sons was deeply invested and involved in the local community. The company not only became a major employer, employing over 300 people in the Asheville area, but they also supported the region's lumber industry by purchasing local chestnut oak bark and chestnut wood. They purchased from small and large producers alike, including the Biltmore Estate, whose owner, George Vanderbilt, was a friend of Arthur Rees. The company even reached out to small providers via advertisement in the local newspapers. Although hides mostly came from Chicago, the company used at least one local supplier, Sigfried Sternberg, who owned Consolidated Hide and Metal Company. In addition to purchasing products from locals, they also sold leftover materials and by-products to locals including lime and ashes leftover from the tanning process, used bark for fuel and flooring, carcass hair for upholstery, and fatty flesh for grease in soap and cosmetics.<sup>35</sup>

In 1939, plastic or composition belting was invented. Synthetic belting was both easier and less expensive to manufacture, which meant that leather belting created at tanneries like Hans Rees' Sons was no longer in high demand. This technological advancement marked the decline of the tanning industry. Hoping to avoid these impacts, Hans Rees's Sons began to diversify even prior to the widespread introduction of composition belting. In 1932, the company began to increase focus on producing sole leather, harnesses, and saddles as well as jewelers'

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<sup>31</sup> "Hans Rees Sons' Tannery Badly Damaged by Fire."

<sup>32</sup> "Hans Rees Sons' Tannery Badly Damaged by Fire."

<sup>33</sup> "Hans Rees Sons' Tannery Badly Damaged by Fire."

<sup>34</sup> "Hans Rees Tanning Plant Here One of World's Largest," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, August 8, 1926.

<sup>35</sup> Neufeld, "Hans Rees, 1<sup>st</sup> Factory in Asheville."

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buffers made from walrus hides. The company also began increasing marketing efforts to the local western North Carolina market.<sup>36</sup>

Despite these efforts, by the 1940s, the company's number of employees had declined, and World War II marked the company's last years of success.<sup>37</sup> During the war, the Hans Rees Tannery converted its operations almost entirely to the production of leather goods for the war effort. They had also made similar changes during the 1898 Spanish-American War and World War I. The company's first plant in New York also produced goods for the Civil War.<sup>38</sup> Between 1942 and 1943, wartime production increased the number of employees by approximately 20 percent and additions were also made to the production units already in operation. Military mechanization increased the demand for leather, and during World War II over 500 items used by the armed forces featured leather as their main component. Hans Rees produced leather for almost every type of military good.<sup>39</sup>

The tannery remained in operation until 1955 when Hans Rees' Sons was purchased by L.H. Shingle Leathery Company of Camden, New Jersey. The Asheville plant was put up for sale and the property was subdivided and sold.<sup>40</sup> According to deed records, the western portion of the tannery was sold to Ness Brothers in September 1955. In December 1955, the Tan Yard and Beam House at the center of the property was sold to C.T. Day and A.S. Dixon.<sup>41</sup> The Tan Yard and Beam House building was then used for tobacco storage and auctions. According to Mr. Day, the vats were backfilled around 1959. At some point Charles D. Owen Manufacturing (also known as Burlington Industries) began leasing the building for storage of raw fiber and blankets manufactured at their Swannanoa plant, eventually purchasing the property in 1989. According to aerial imagery, the Tan Yard and Beam House building was demolished between 1998 and 2002. In 2005, the property was sold to Dape Properties. The portion of the complex that originally featured the Tan Yard and Beam House building was then used for metal

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<sup>36</sup> Neufeld, "Hans Rees, 1<sup>st</sup> Factory in Asheville."

<sup>37</sup> Neufeld, "Hans Rees, 1<sup>st</sup> Factory in Asheville."

<sup>38</sup> "Hans Rees' Sons Firm Founded 100 Years Ago."

<sup>39</sup> "Hans Rees Tannery Here Converted to War Production," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 6, 1943; Hans Rees' Sons Firm Founded 100 Years Ago."

<sup>40</sup> Coleman and Adams Realtors and R.P. Booth & Co, Realtors, "Available for Immediate Occupancy, The Real Property of The Hans Rees Sons Tannery, Asheville, North Carolina," Real Estate Advertisement, (North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, File BN0414); Neufeld, "Hans Rees, 1<sup>st</sup> Factory in Asheville."

<sup>41</sup> Buncombe County, North Carolina Online Property Records, <https://gis.buncombecounty.org/buncomap/>.

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recycling and now stands empty. The ca. 1907 hide house located along the west side of the property was demolished between 1954 and 1957.<sup>42</sup> According to historic Sanborn maps, the bark sheds were altered and changed throughout the tannery's tenure. After the tannery closed, and the property was subdivided, the bark sheds were replaced with more permanent warehouse structures constructed between 1960 and 1972. According to the maps, these buildings had a variety of uses including Days Tobacco Prizery, a paper warehouse, a charcoal warehouse, and a beer warehouse.

### TANNING PROCESS AT HANS REES' SONS

The Hans Rees' Sons tannery was separated into three main areas. The first area was dedicated to the production of the tanning liquor by extracting tannin from the chestnut oak bark. The second area focused on preparing and tanning the hides. The third area was the finishing plant where the tanned hides were made into finished leather. These activities took place throughout the complex's thirty buildings (**Figure 7**). At the height of the company's production, an average of 30,000 pounds of hides were shipped to the tannery each day. Most of the hides came from Chicago, which had some of the country's largest stockyards. Early on the Hans Rees' Sons tannery in Asheville focused on producing the same leather transmission belts their father had made his fortune innovating. The company later diversified, transitioning to production of leather for shoes, saddles and other leather items once composition belting was invented and leather machine belts became obsolete.<sup>43</sup>

Hans Rees's Sons purchased bark and wood from nearby farmers who visited the plant to sell at market rate. The bark and wood were kept on site in the large open air bark sheds once located along the railroad. The company also sourced bark extract from a nearby paper mill, since it was a by-product of the paper manufacturing process.<sup>44</sup> Upon arrival at the tannery, raw hides were soaked in water and then placed in vats of lime water to help with the dehairing. Hides were then bleached in tanning liquor, consisting of tannin from wood, bark, and the seeds/nuts of specific trees (largely the chestnut oak). This process largely occurred in the Tan

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<sup>42</sup> MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, "Report of Phase I Environmental Site Assessment: Former Asheville Tannery – 2.98-Acre Property 339 Old Lyman Street, Asheville, North Carolina 28801," Prepared for Land-of-Sky Regional Council, 2010, 12, 17.

<sup>43</sup> Wilbur Smith Associates, "Historic Architectural Resources Report," 27.

<sup>44</sup> J.S. Coleman, Jr. "Provides Work for Thousands in the Region," *Asheville Citizen-Times*, July 9, 1939.

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Yard and Beam House, which is no longer extant. However, small, experimental versions of this process took place in the Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard addition that remains extant. Outlines of the former tanning vats even remain visible in the floor of these buildings. After bleaching, the hides were finished by “stuffing,” or “greasing,” the leather. They were then stretched and weighed for resale.<sup>45</sup> These finishing tasks occurred in the Leather Warehouse, Scouring and Rolling House and Currying Shop all of which remain extant.

### COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: THE TANNING INDUSTRY IN WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

In the first half of the twentieth century, the tanning industry joined lumber and paper as Western North Carolina’s key economic drivers. The tanning process has a long history in North Carolina reaching back to the Moravians at Salem who were the first to engage in tanning on a large scale. In the nineteenth century, tanning was largely completed at home and was considered part of everyday life in rural areas.<sup>46</sup> Around 1900 commercial tanneries began popping up throughout Western North Carolina drawing on the region’s large supply of chestnut oak.<sup>47</sup> There are eight known tanneries that operated in Western North Carolina at some point during the early twentieth century including the Toxaway Tanning Company located in Rosman and the Transylvania Tanning Company located in Brevard (TV0218), both run by Joseph Silversteen; the C.J. Harris Tannery in Sylva, the A.C. Lawrence Leather Company (HW0424) in Hazelwood, Cover & Sons Tanner in Andrews, and two tanneries operated by the St. Louis-based International Shoe Company, consisting of the Burke Tannery in Morganton, and the Wilkes Tannery in North Wilkesboro. By 1939 many of the tanneries that had once operated in the western part of the state had closed as a result of the Depression, the introduction of leather substitutes such as composition belting, and the blight and death of the chestnut trees.<sup>48</sup>

At this time, there are no other tanneries listed or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places located in Western North Carolina. The only remaining tannery besides Hans Rees’ Sons tannery is the C.J. Harris Tannery, which was previously determined

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<sup>45</sup> Coleman, Jr. “Provides Work for Thousands in the Region”; *Leadership for A Century: The Story of Hans Rees’ Sons 1846-1946*, 18-19.

<sup>46</sup> “Tanneries (P-91),” [Online resource], <https://www.dncr.nc.gov/blog/2024/01/23/tanneries-p-91>, Accessed May 2025.

<sup>47</sup> “Tanneries (P-91),” Accessed May 2025.

<sup>48</sup> Coleman, Jr. “Provides Work for Thousands in the Region”; “Tanneries (P-91),” Accessed May 2025.

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not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 2018 as the historic integrity of the property has been compromised. The Toxaway, Burke, and Wilkes tanneries are no longer extant, and the location of the Cover & Sons Tannery is unclear. Only brick smokestacks for the Transylvania Tanning Company and the A.C. Lawrence Leather Company remain extant and the remainder of the A.C. Lawrence site is now occupied by a large warehouse for Giles Chemical.

Although relatively short-lived as a large-scale industry, tanning played an integral role in the industrial and overall development of Asheville and Western North Carolina. Hans Rees' Sons Tannery is one of the last remaining examples of an important and now rare resource type. Of those remaining examples, Hans Rees' Sons Tannery is the most intact tannery located in Western North Carolina.

#### TOXAWAY TANNING COMPANY AND TRANSYLVANIA TANNING COMPANY (TV0218)

The Toxaway Tanning Company was located in Rosman, North Carolina, approximately forty miles southwest of the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery. The Transylvania Tanning Company was located in Brevard, North Carolina, approximately thirty-three miles southwest of the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery. Both the Toxaway and Transylvania Tanning Companies were founded by Joseph Silversteen. The Toxaway Tanning Company was founded first in 1901 when Silversteen relocated from Pennsylvania. Purchasing 20,000 acres of forest from George Vanderbilt, Silversteen established the community of Rosman along with the tanning company. In 1916 he opened a second, identical operation in Brevard under the name Transylvania Tanning Company. He also founded the Rosman Tanning Extract Company and the Gloucester Lumber Company. All of his operations closed in 1958. Today none of Silversteen's plants remain except the ca. 1916, 180-foot-tall brick boiler room smokestack from the Transylvania Tanning Company in Brevard. All of the tannery's other structures were demolished in the 1970s. The original site of the Rosman plant has been redeveloped and now features the Rosman city hall and a municipal park.<sup>49</sup> Due to this lack of intactness, neither the Toxaway Tanning Company nor Transylvania Tanning Company are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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<sup>49</sup> "Tanneries (P-91)," Accessed May 2025; "TV0218", SHPO Historic Resource File, North Carolina SHPO, Accessed May 2025.

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In comparison, the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery remains more intact with six buildings dating to the company's period of operation still extant. Both operations were important to Western North Carolina's tanning industry. However, Hans Rees' Sons Tannery remains a more intact example of a tannery which allows it to continue to illustrate and convey its important role in the industrial history of Western North Carolina as well as to serve as an example of an important but now rare resource type.

A.C. LAWRENCE LEATHER CO. (HW0424)

The A.C. Lawrence Leather Company was located in Hazelwood, approximately thirty miles west-southwest of the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery. Established in 1896, the tannery was originally known as the Junaluska Tannery and primarily produced sole leather for shoes. When the complex was surveyed in 1983, multiple ca. 1910 buildings remained extant. According to aerial imagery, these buildings were demolished between 1989 and 1995. Today the only portion of the tannery still extant is the brick smokestack. The remainder of the site is now occupied by a large warehouse for Giles Chemical. Due to its lack of extant buildings, the A.C. Lawrence Leather Company is not considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places according to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office.

In comparison, six buildings dating to Hans Rees' Sons Tannery's period of operation remain extant. Both A.C. Lawrence and Hans Rees' Sons were important to Western North Carolina's tanning industry. However, today, Hans Rees' Sons Tannery remains a more intact example of a tannery which allows it to continue to illustrate and convey its important role in the industrial history of Western North Carolina as well as to serve as an example of an important, but now rare resource type.

C.J. HARRIS TANNERY (JACKSON PAPER MANUFACTURING PLANT) (JK0723)

The C.J. Harris Tannery was established in Sylva approximately forty-five miles west-southwest of the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery. Like the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery, it was also sited between a railroad spur and a water source (Scott's Creek). The C.J. Harris Tannery opened in Sylva in 1901. In 1915, Harris sold an interest in the company to the Armour Leather Company. The company continued operation under the name the Harris Tanning Company until 1928 at which time it began making cardboard and tannin extract, ceasing operations as a traditional

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tannery.<sup>50</sup> The new operation was known as the Sylva Paperboard Company (later Mead Paper Company) and was in business until 1974. As of 2018, the property still featured twelve primary buildings ranging in construction dates from ca.1910 to the 1960s. While several of the buildings date to the C.J. Harris Tannery, the majority date to the Sylva Paperboard company or have been highly modified and are remnants of their original scale and design.<sup>51</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Industry. When Hans Rees' Sons Tannery opened its Asheville plant in 1898, it was the first tannery in Asheville. The company was one of few tanneries that completed the tanning process from start to finish in one location and was deeply involved in local economy, employing residents, and both sourcing and selling by-products from the surrounding community. Despite suffering a devastating flood and fire in 1916, which destroyed some of the complex's earliest buildings, the company rebuilt the complex and continued to expand until the business was sold in 1955 in line with the decline of the tanning industry. In the first half of the twentieth century, the tanning industry joined lumber and paper as Western North Carolina's key economic drivers. At the height of the industry, there were at least six other tanneries located in Western North Carolina. Although relatively short-lived as a large-scale industry, tanning played an integral role in the development of Asheville and Western North Carolina. Of the eight known tanneries constructed in Western North Carolina at the turn of the twentieth century, the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery remains the most intact and unaltered. Six of the seven buildings located within the Hans Rees' Sons Historic District were constructed during the period of operation including the Tannery Office which served the administrative center of the operation; the Brick Warehouse/Experimental Tan Yard addition which was used to experiment with tannin extraction and the tanning process; the Leather Warehouse, Scouring and Rolling House and Currying Shop, which were used for the finishing process; and the Blacksmith Shop, Engine

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<sup>50</sup> "Armour Leather Co. Buys Interest In Tannery," *Jackson County Journal*, Sylva, NC, December 24, 1915. Southern Appalachian Digital Collections, Western Carolina University and University of North Carolina Asheville, <https://southernappalachiandigitalcollections.org/browse/search/armour-leather-co-buys-interest-in-tannery> (Accessed July 2025).

<sup>51</sup> Environmental Corporation of America, "Historic Structures Report for the Upgrade of NC 107 to a Four-Lane, Median-Divided Facility, TIP No. R-5600, Jackson County," Prepared for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2018, 87.

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Room/Power House which were used to support tanning and finishing processes; and the Tannery Washroom/Locker Room and which was used to support the employees. Together, the Hans Rees' Sons Historic District retains integrity to convey its significance as an intact industrial district. The tannery reflects the patterns of industrial development in Asheville and survives as a now rare example of an intact tannery complex, a resource type that was vital to the industrial and economic development of Western North Carolina.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Newspapers:

*The Asheville Citizen-Times*, Asheville, NC. Newspapers.com

Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District  
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**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:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: Buncombe County Special Collections Library, Pack Memorial Library

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** BN0414

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acree of Property** approx. 8.01 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 35.577549 Longitude: -82.567372
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

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**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is composed of roughly 8.01 acres spread over three separate parcels (Buncombe County Tax Parcel ID # 963893497500000, 963894628200000, and 963893987400000) per the Buncombe County GIS. The boundary encompasses the entirety of Parcels # 963893497500000 and 963894628200000 as well as the northwestern portion of Parcel #963893987400000. The portion of Parcel #963893987400000 included in the boundary is described as follows: from the northwest corner of Parcel #963893987400000 the boundary extends east for approximately 155 feet along the north parcel line before turning south-southeast and running along the east side of the Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tanyard addition for approximately 286 feet until it meets the north side of Foundy Street where the street curves southward at which point the boundary follows the west side of Foundy Street south for approximately 260 feet until it rejoins the south parcel line of Parcel #963893987400000 at which point it follows the parcel line of Parcel #963893987400000 west and north until it intersects with the southeast corner of Parcel #963894628200000. The district includes seven individual buildings, six of which were constructed during the period of significance. The district is bounded by Lyman Street to the west, Old Lyman Street to the north, Foundy Street to the East, and unrelated industrial buildings to the south and southeast (See **Figure 2**).<sup>52</sup>

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District focuses on the remaining buildings that date to the district's period of significance (1907–1955) that aligns with years the tannery was in operation. Six of the seven buildings within the boundary date to this period and are therefore contributing resources. One building, constructed between 1965 and 1966, is considered non-contributing as it was not built while the tannery was in operation (within the period of significance). The southeast portions of what was historically part of the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery are now vacant or parking lots or have been redeveloped with

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<sup>52</sup> The verbal boundary description including the measurements were determined via Buncombe County GIS (<https://gis.buncombecounty.org/buncomap/>).

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buildings constructed after the period of significance when the tannery was no longer in operation. As such, the southeast portion of the tannery was excluded from boundary as it no longer conveys the historic character of the district as a tannery.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Caitlin Herrstadt/Project Manager, with Cindy Hamilton/President

organization: Heritage Consulting Group

street & number: 15 W Highland Ave

city or town: Philadelphia state: PA zip code: 19118

e-mail cherrnstadt@heritage-consulting.com; projects@heritage-consulting.com

telephone: 215-248-1260

date: May 30, 2025

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## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District

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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District

City or Vicinity: Asheville

County: Buncombe

State: NC

Photographer: Caitlin Herrstadt

Date Photographed: April 2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 14. NC\_BuncombeCounty\_HansReesSonsTanneryHD\_001 Exterior, Leather Warehouse, view looking southeast.

2 of 14. NC\_BuncombeCounty\_HansReesSonsTanneryHD\_002 Exterior, Leather Warehouse, view looking east.

3 of 14. NC\_BuncombeCounty\_HansReesSonsTanneryHD\_003 Exterior, Scouring and Rolling House, view looking east.

4 of 14. NC\_BuncombeCounty\_HansReesSonsTanneryHD\_004 Exterior, Scouring and Rolling House and Curry Shop, view looking northeast.

5 of 14. NC\_BuncombeCounty\_HansReesSonsTanneryHD\_005 Exterior, Curry Shop, view looking northwest.

6 of 14. NC\_BuncombeCounty\_HansReesSonsTanneryHD\_006 Exterior, Scouring and Rolling House, Curry Shop, and Modern Warehouse, view looking west.

7 of 14. NC\_BuncombeCounty\_HansReesSonsTanneryHD\_007 Exterior, Modern Warehouse, view looking southwest.

8 of 14. NC\_BuncombeCounty\_HansReesSonsTanneryHD\_017 Exterior, Washroom and Modern Warehouse, view looking southwest.

9 of 14. NC\_BuncombeCounty\_HansReesSonsTanneryHD\_018 Exterior, Washroom, view looking north.

10 of 14. NC\_BuncombeCounty\_HansReesSonsTanneryHD\_019 Exterior, Office and Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard, view looking south.

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11 of 14. NC\_BuncombeCounty\_HansReesSonsTanneryHD\_020 Exterior, Office and Brick Warehouse and Experimental Tan Yard, view looking northeast.

12 of 14. NC\_BuncombeCounty\_HansReesSonsTanneryHD\_021 General view, Historic District, view looking northeast.

13 of 14. NC\_BuncombeCounty\_HansReesSonsTanneryHD\_022 Exterior, Blacksmith Shop, view looking north.

14 of 14. NC\_BuncombeCounty\_HansReesSonsTanneryHD\_023 Exterior, Engine Room/Power House, view looking southwest.

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Figure 2: Boundary Map (see attached)

Figure 3: Hans Rees' Sons Tannery during a flood in 1928. Lumber shed and leach house in view. (Source: Source: Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Public Library, Asheville, North Carolina.)

Figure 4: Advertisement in the *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 20, 1903.

Figure 5: Rebuilding of Hans Rees' Sons Tannery after October 5, 1916, fire. Construction of the "new finishing building" (Scouring and Rolling House and Currying Shop). Dated on front 1917 (Source: Source: Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Public Library, Asheville, North Carolina.)

Figure 6: Rebuilding of Hans Rees' Sons Tannery after October 5, 1916, fire. Construction of new Scouring and Rolling House and Currying Shop. Dated on front 1917 (Source: Source: Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Public Library, Asheville, North Carolina.)

Figure 7: View of Hans Rees' Sons Tannery, 1929. (Source: Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Public Library, Asheville, North Carolina.)

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**Figure 3:** Hans Rees' Sons Tannery during a flood in 1928. Lumber shed and leach house in view. (Source: Source: Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Public Library, Asheville, North Carolina.)



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**Figure 4:** Advertisement in the *Asheville Citizen-Times*, September 20, 1903  
(<https://www.newspapers.com/image/197778229/>).

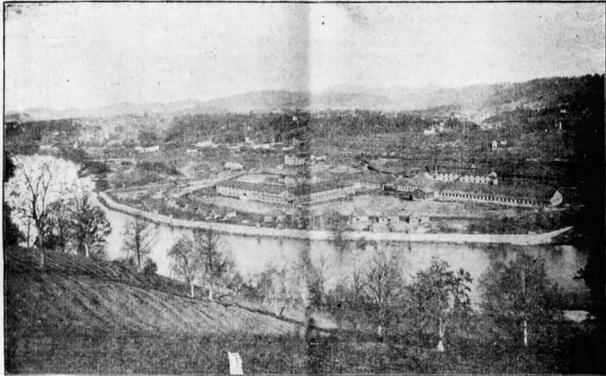
THE ASHEVILLE DAILY CITIZEN

SEPTEMBER 20, 1903

## The Enlarged Tannery Plant ..OF.. HANS REES SONS INCORPORATED

### TANNERS OF OAK LEATHER

**Belting Butts, Sole and Rough Leather. Scoured Oak Backs and Bends, Bellies and Shoulders. Walrus and Polishing Leather. Finishers of Harness Leather.**



**THE ASHEVILLE TANNERY, ASHEVILLE, N. C.**  
ARTHUR F. REES, *Manager.*      NORMAN I. REES, *President.*      GEO. H. RAYMOND, *Sec. and Treas.*  
**Office and Factory: 39 Frankfort St., New York City.**

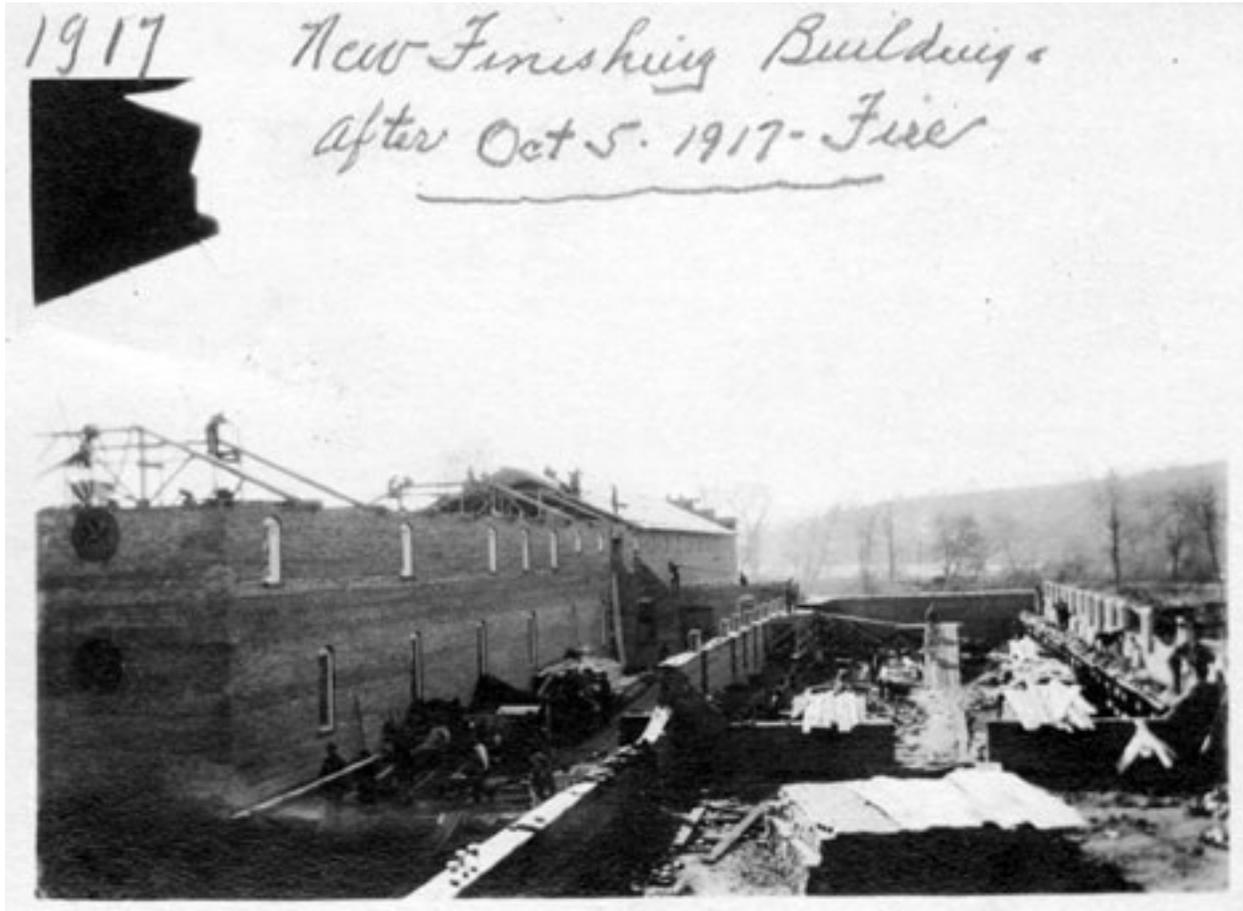
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As one enters Asheville, on the Southern Railroad, there can be seen, just a little south of the station and lying between the railroad and the French Broad River, the extensive plant of Hans Rees' Sons. This occupies some twenty-two acres of land, and since its establishment, some five years ago, extensive improvements and additions have been made, and an embankment wall erected along the river front and sides. Its yard, 642 feet in length, has been increased in vat capacity; its leach house enlarged and additional boilers and furnaces erected. The dry house is 430 feet in length and two stories high, besides hide house, hair house and other buildings, and expensive bark sheds; the entire plant fitted with the latest improved appliances for making leather. It is considered one of the best located, designed, equipped, and up-to-date of the Oak Leather Tanneries. Mr. Arthur P. Rees, the Manager of the Asheville Tannery, resides in Asheville. The headquarters of this Corporation are in New York City, its office, store and factory at 39 Frankfort Street, New York. President, Mr. Norman I. Rees. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. George H. Raymond. The founder of the business was Mr. Hans Rees, who in 1846 became a partner of Mr. Joseph B. Hoyt, in the leather belting business, and later established the firm of Hans Rees & Sons. The old sign of Rees & Hoyt, the oldest sign in the New York leather trade, is in possession of the Company. Hans Rees' Sons have made and sustained an excellent reputation for their Oak Tanned Leather; they are also tanners of Walrus and Elephant Hides, suitable for polishing leather. Their speciality is belting butts and high grade sole leather for fine shoes.

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**Figure 5:** Rebuilding of Hans Rees' Sons Tannery after October 5, 1916, fire. Construction of the "new finishing building" (Scouring and Rolling House and Currying Shop). Dated on front 1917 (Source: Source: Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Public Library, Asheville, North Carolina.)



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**Figure 6:** Rebuilding of Hans Rees' Sons Tannery after October 5, 1916, fire. Construction of new Scouring and Rolling House and Currying Shop. Dated on front 1917 (Source: Source: Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Public Library, Asheville, North Carolina.)



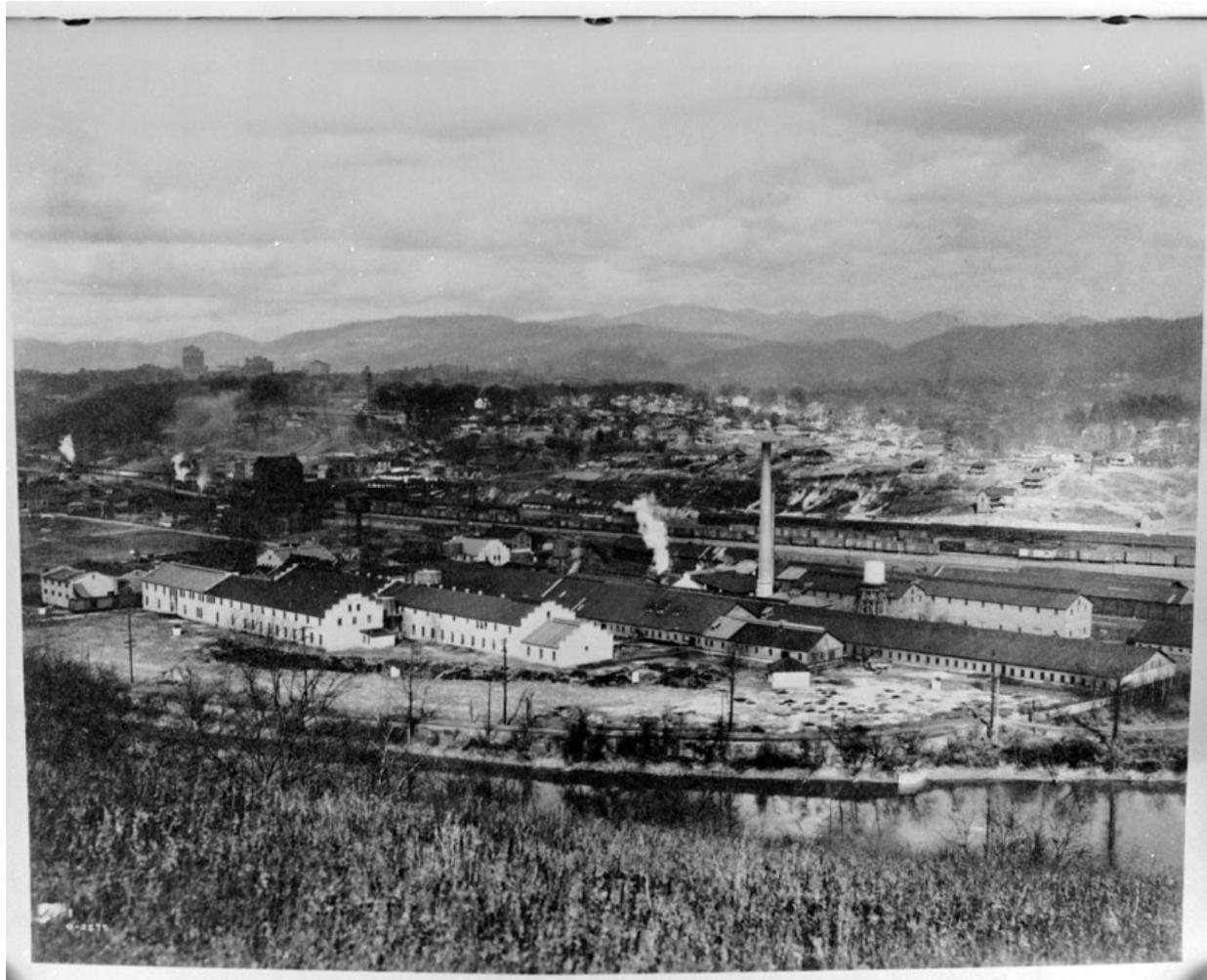
Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District

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**Figure 7:** View of Hans Rees' Sons Tannery, 1929. (Source: Buncombe County Special Collections, Pack Memorial Public Library, Asheville, North Carolina.)



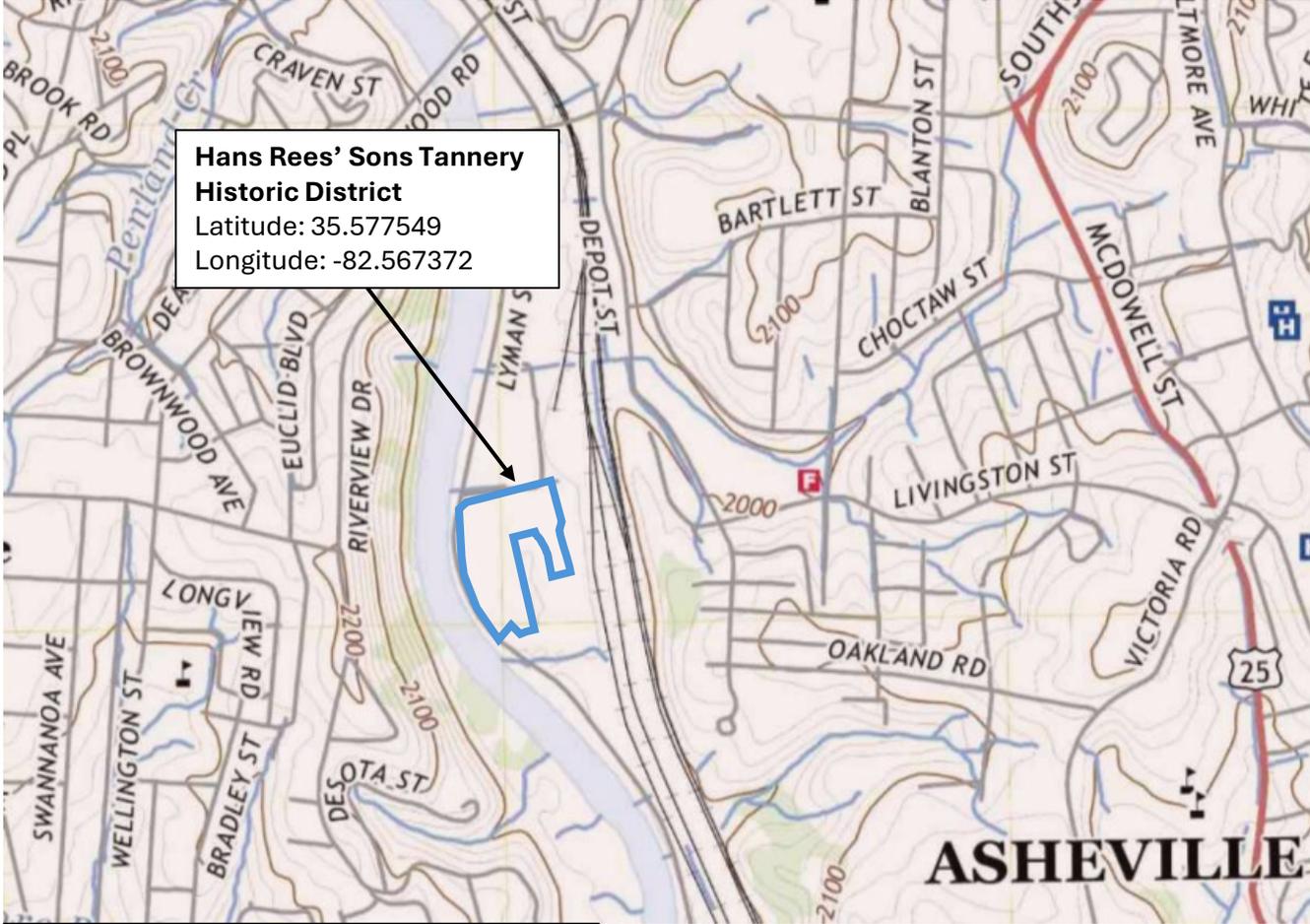
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

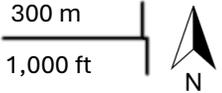
- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

Figure 1: Contextual Map, showing the Hans Rees' Sons Tannery HD with GPS point



National Register Location Map  
Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District  
191 Lyman Street, 4, 5, 11, 26 Foundy Street,  
Asheville, Buncombe County, NC  
Base Map: USGS Asheville Quad (2022)  
Created by Caitlin Herrnstadt  
May 2025



## National Register Boundary



Hans Rees' Sons Tannery Historic District  
191 Lyman Street, 4, 5, 11, 26 Foundy Street,  
Asheville, Buncombe County, NC  
Base map: Buncombe County GIS, Post Helene  
2024 Imagery  
Created by Caitlin Herrstadt  
May 2025



### Resource Key\*

**Parcel #96389349750000:** 191 Lyman Street

- 1. Leather Warehouse (C)
- 2a. Scouring & Rolling House / 2b. Currying Shop (C)
- 3. Modern Warehouse (NC)

**Parcel #963894628200000:** 4 Foundy Street

- 4. Tannery Washroom/Locker Room (C)

**Parcel #963893987400000:**

5 Foundy Street

- 5a. Tannery Office/ 5b. Brick Warehouse and  
Experimental Tan Yard (C)

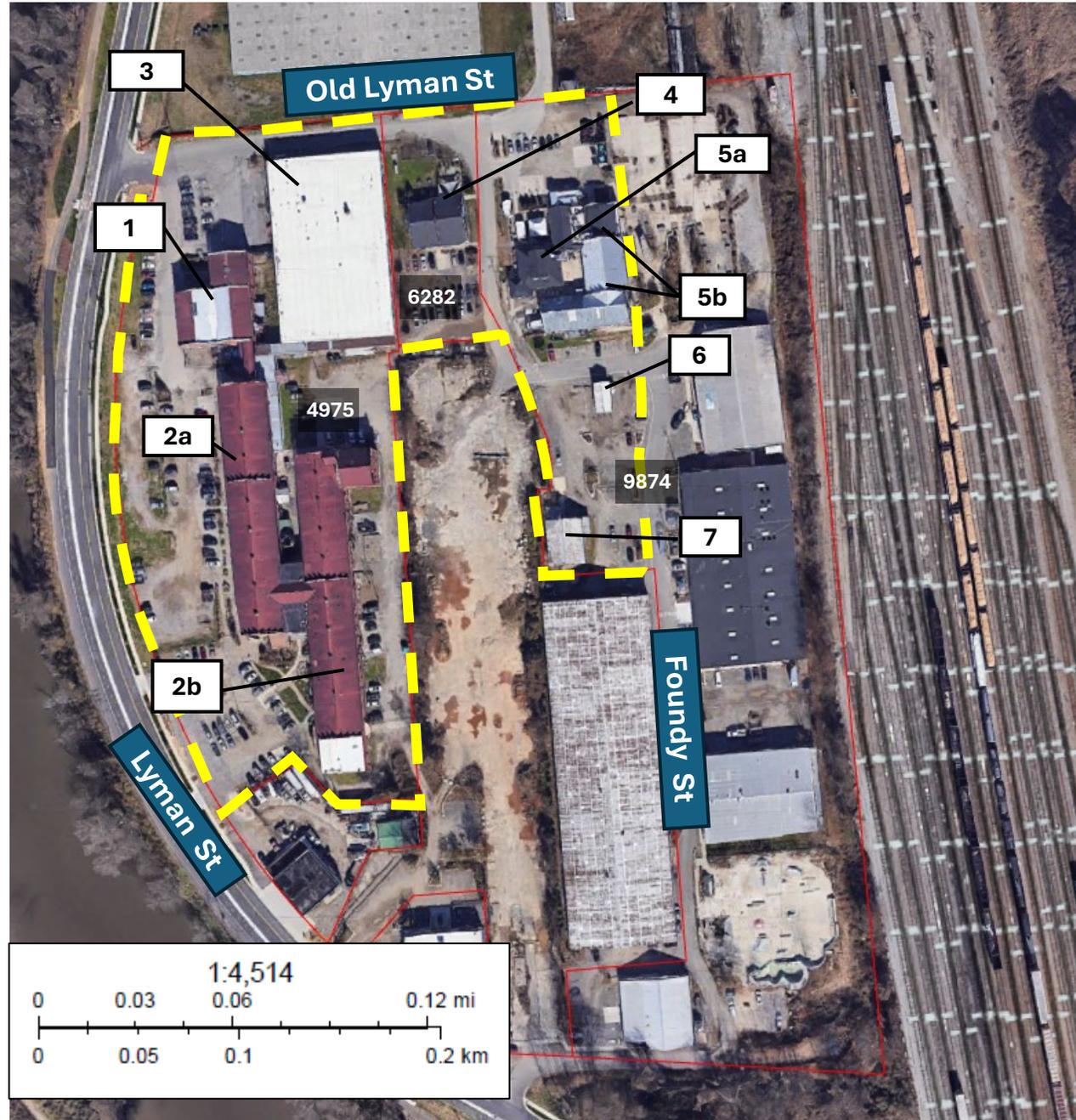
11 Foundy Street

- 6. Blacksmith Shop (C)

26 Foundy Street

- 7. Engine Room/Power House (C)

\*C = contributing building/NC = noncontributing building  
(6 Contributing and 1 Noncontributing = 7 Total Buildings)



**Photo Key 1: Exterior, 191 Lyman Street**

Hans Rees' Sons Historic District

Leather Warehouse, Scouring and Rolling House and Currying House, and Modern Warehouse

Photos 1-7



**Photo Key 2: Exterior, 4, 5, 11, 26 Foundy Street**  
Hans Rees' Sons Historic District  
Washroom, Office, Brick Warehouse, Blacksmith Shop, Engine Room  
Photos 8-14

