



Weaving the history of São Paulo: textile factories as cultural heritage

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Abstract

This article presents a research on six textile factories located in three different administrative regions of the state of São Paulo between the late 19th century and the 1920's. These buildings, devoid of their original function since the 1980's, were recognized as cultural heritage by CONDEPHAAT (Council for the Protection of Historical, Artistic, Archaeological and Tourist Heritage) after citizens who compromised in keeping alive multiples memories requested their landmarking. Based on criteria developed by the technical staff of the Cultural Heritage Department, four plants were declared State's Cultural Heritage. These are relevant samples to understand working relations, industrial architecture, and urban, economic and technological development of the textile sector – the most powerful in the country at that time. Currently, these buildings are used with other functions, giving a new meaning to their presence in landscape and in the collective imagination, sparking a debate on how to integrate old structures into the new needs of contemporary cities.

Keywords: Industrial Heritage. Textile Factory. Recognition of Cultural Heritage.

1. A Guerra de Secessão foi desencadeada nos Estados Unidos da América em decorrência de uma tentativa separatista dos estados do Alabama, Carolina do Sul, Flórida, Geórgia, Louisiana, Mississippi e Texas, seguidos por Virgínia, Arkansas, Carolina do Norte e Tennessee para formar os Estados Confederados da América. A região, de característica predominantemente agrária, em especial o plantio do

algodão, tabaco e cana-de-açúcar, se opunha à abolição da escravidão de pessoas negras, mão de obra nas fazendas. A tentativa de criar um novo país levou a uma guerra civil que durou cinco anos, com a derrota dos confederados e a morte e desaparecimento mais de 620 mil pessoas. O plantio de algodão ficou bastante prejudicado durante o conflito, favorecendo o plantio e o comércio em outros países, como o Brasil.

The industrial activity in Brazil is late when compared to European or even American countries – specially because of the Methuen Treaty among other legal devices of the Crown. It was only by the end of the 19th century that the first industrial developments started in the country, mainly after the Proclamation of the Republic (1889). Until then, there were only very precarious and isolated activities, local and with no economic efficiency.

The industrial activity was mostly boosted by the coffee trade, many times associated to foreign capital, through direct investment or bank loans. Textile factories prevailed in the Brazilian industrial landscape, favored by the rail network implemented in the late 19th century and the American Civil War (1861-1865)¹. São Paulo was one the main locations where this industry developed (PRADO JUNIOR, 2012; DEAN, 1971).

The importers had an essential role in the development of a national industry since factories depended on imported items (equipment, metal structures, mechanisms, etc.) Knowledge of the market and the access to credit and production flow channels enabled many importers to convert their agencies into industrial companies. That happened in face of the growth of domestic manufacturing and the new possibilities in the field, which was inexistent until then.

In São Paulo, the profit from the planting and the coffee trade was chiefly responsible for the resources needed to the implementation of the first industries (to meet the needs of coffee production, such as jute bag factories). That is the reason why incorporated companies (S.A.'s) became a more frequent way of establishing a company. In 1907, it was responsible for 58% of the capital from the industries. It favored the centralization of big industries' capital in this state (DE DECCA, 2004, p.146).

Historiography demonstrates cotton was one of the main circuits of coffee's productive chain. It was a traditional agricultural activity in São Paulo and in other regions, specially the North and the Northeast. However, it was of small scale and manufactured in simple fabric (cotton, linen and jute) used to make rustic clothes, lace, nets, ropes, and sacks. These were made in spindles, spinning machines and manual looms, which were operated by artisans or weavers at small workshops in the cities. It had been, until then, an activity mainly related to subsistence economy rather than the main stream Brazilian economy (TEIXEIRA, 2007).

The propitious and available natural resources were added to the state's economic conditions, what made possible the hydraulic and electric generation of energy. Thus, when it comes to industrial geography, two crucial elements can be highlighted to understand the factory locations: railroads (transport of raw-material, finished goods, machinery, and immigrant workers) and rivers, used as transportation, energy sources and industrial debris ' deposits, specially from tanneries, paper-mills, and textile factories.

The state of São Paulo's market consumed both luxury and popular goods and helped the development of small and big factories, the latter ones numerous in the countryside. The rating criteria of the size of analyzed companies was

given by Belanga (2006, p.51) and associated with PEARSE's (1921, p.210) study. These were incorporated in the study at UPPH (Brazilian's Historic Heritage Preservation Unit):

The size of the companies was defined by the following denominations: **small sized**, companies whose capital was smaller or equal to 30 *contos de réis*, with 1 to 10 employees and driving force until 25 horsepower; **mid-market**, companies with capital between 30 and 200 *contos de réis*, 11 to 100 employees and driving force of 26 to 100 horsepower; **big-sized**, companies whose capital was bigger than 200 *contos de réis*, with over 100 employees and driving force above 100 horsepower.

It was identified big-sized companies were predominant, as well as the complete separation between capital and work. In this sector, workers were submitted to the dynamic of the factory machinery. That was the reason why the relations between employers and employees, and capital and worker, were also analyzed. Ribeiro emphasizes textile companies installed in the last three decades of the 19th century used weaving machines, whose structure provided uniformity to the productive system. Workers secured a secondary position, acting only as an operator and no longer as a productive agent (RIBEIRO, 1988, p.32). This is what Marx named as "alienation of labor". It occurs when men lose their tool and productive power, becoming just another gear of a whole ample and mechanized system. To

address production needs, workplaces changed from small workshops or improvised rooms to big spaces suited to the accommodation of both machinery and workers, along with energy, mechanical and hydro electrical sources.

The large textile industry represented the most advanced side of the capitalist relations of production in Brazil. It was highest indexes of capital concentration sector, work force, and driving force by production unit, besides reaching the highest rates of production value. In 1928, São Paulo concentrated 64% of the invested capital and 60% of the workforce; the countryside held 40% of these, mostly working in cotton industries (LOUREIRO, 2006, p.39).

The study of textile factories also showed the labor movement initiated in these places is significantly important for the recognition of labor rights that still endure. As the greatest part of the manpower in the industries was in the textile sector, worker's unions and associations in this sector demanded and advanced labor relations. On the opposite of what is usually imagined, "(...) far from a State's gift, labor rights had to be 'weaved' in the everyday reality by workers themselves" (LOUREIRO, 2011, p.281).

The shaping of São Paulo's working class specially happened because of the Land Law (1850) that made it easier for foreigners to purchase lands

in the country. That way, those who had financial condition to obtain lands formed colonies, where other foreigners – specially Italians – and Brazilians were settled. With the downfall of crop production, the essentially rural manpower starts to migrate to the city in search of work in the factories joining the immigrants from Europe to the urban area. According to Hardman and Leonardi (1991, p.141),

In 1912, according to the State Labor Bulletin, 6,044 out of the 10,184 textile workers of the State's capital were Italian, 824 Portuguese, 338 Spanish, 210 Syrian, 50 German and 13 Japanese. There were other 862 foreigners, what made the immigrants represent 82% of the textile workers. As for native Brazilians, they were a minority with 1,843 workers (18%).

Part of these foreigners had come from factories, and along with Brazilian workers, developed free ideas with mostly socialist, communist and anarchist inspirations. So, in the early 20th century, the first workers' unions and associations were created to claim rights. That happened because of the conflicted relationship between workers and employers, which was specially motivated by three reasons: the long working hours – on average of 12 to 16 hours –, the predominantly woman and child labor – whose payment was lower –, and unhealthy and hazardous installations. The inappropriate conditions led workers to organize themselves more and more every time until 1907,

when a new law guaranteed the right to freedom of association, assuring unions would not be controlled by the State.

Due to this organization, the great strikes of factory workers of the 20th century had mostly textile workers as leading characters. The 1907 and 1910 strikes and the 1917's Great Strike, which started in the streets of Brás district (in the city of São Paulo) and intensified after the death of José Martinez, anarchist worker born in Spain. Around 400 workers of the textile factory *Cotonifício Crespi* decided to go on strike after the board of directors rejected their request of a salary raise of 15 to 20% and the extension of night work (BIONDI, 2009). This strike reached unimagined proportions, mobilizing at least 50,000 workers – or 12.5% of São Paulo's population at the time. Literature sees it as a paradigm in the history of workers' organization. If there was little organization before, from then on workers and unions developed a consistent structure, a solid mobilization network between different factories and of different categories, managing to apply pressure on the business groups.

After the 1917 Strike, workers organized the Proletarian Defense Committee – led by anarcho-syndicalists –, the specialized worker press (HARDMAN; LEONARDI, 1991), the Popular Committee Against the Exploitation of Under Aged Workers – to combat child maltreatment

–, and the Workers on Textile Factories Union (UOFT). The latter was the main responsible for claims like better wages and working conditions and woman and child labor regulation, besides the official recognition of the workers' associations right to represent workers through the Collective Labor Agreement.

The industrialists' reaction to the workers' organization was the creation of the São Paulo Industrialists Spinning and Weaving Center, supported by the press and the Government, mainly through repression forces. This combination of the industrialists' and State's interests resulted in a tough and organized repression of the workers' movements – specially with the establishment of DOPS (Department of Public and Social Order) in 1924 – until they had been “disciplined” at the New State. However, the strength of unions resisted and were relevant until the 1990's, when work relations were significantly changed.

A major difficulty to build the history of the workers' movement in each factory is in the available sources to design the technical reports which justify the opinions sent to the Council. There are some collections of workers' newspapers and other documents available digitally in São Paulo State's archives, the Edgard Leuenroth Archive (AEL-UNICAMP), the CEDEM-UNESP, the CEDEC-PUC and the CECULT-UNICAMP.

Through these collections directly related to the labor movement, it is possible to have an idea of the claims and working conditions. Literature is vast and relied on reports from the Ministry of Labor and employers' documents that report on the businessmen's view of claims and actions to curb strikes. But the analysis of labor mobilization at each of the factories under study at the UPPH has been severely hampered, either by the time available to present conclusive report, the resources – material, human and financial - available for research, or even the availability of sources. Thus, the study was based on broad analysis of the most striking mobilizations of the São Paulo's textile workers and each individual report presented specific references of each industry as they were found, considering the information on this industry is not homogeneous.

Given the importance of the textile industry in the constitution of São Paulo's society, it is possible to understand the population's commotion to the closures of major factories in the 1970s and 1980s. The closure of these large industrial complexes, increased layoffs, bankruptcies and losses to creditors and workers bequeathed to the cities large properties that were not part of the daily life anymore. These properties were abandoned and became an urban problem. These places remained for decades in the landscape and in the collective imagination, raising great affective value in the inhabitants of neighborhoods or cities where they are installed.

In order to prevent the erasure of the memory – as the industrial complexes were threatened with demolition to make way for avenues or commercial and /or residential developments that would not make use of the current construction –, civil movements, even of former employees of these factories, demanded the preservation of these buildings from the CONDEPHAAT. These building, in most cases, had been the only working places of their lives and families. Motivated by the absence of heritage preservation practices in their cities due to the absolute lack of political strength or legitimacy of city's landmarking agencies, the last alternative was concentrated in the state agency, which had some prestige and certain independence from local political and economic dynamics.

The congruence between period of activity, location, importance in the economic development of the state and significant number of requests to landmark textile factories, made the UPPH Inventory Study Group consider these industries as a group to be analyzed under the same parameters to identify the relevance of preservation at state level. Thus, the study as a thematic set also served as an inventory of the textile past of the state of São Paulo, expanding the knowledge of this sector widely approached by academic studies, landmarking, but so far unrecognized as cultural heritage in some key industrial cities, such as São Paulo and Sorocaba, for example.

2. In RJ (Rio de Janeiro): Cometa Factory and worker's village, Petropolitana Company Factory and São Pedro de Alcântara Factory (Petrópolis) and Gunpowder Factory and its old gate (Rio de Janeiro); in BA (Bahia): Matoim Mill and Freguesia Mill (Candeias); in MG (Minas Gerais): Patriótica Iron Factory (Ouro Preto); PB (Paraíba): Tito Silva Wine Factory (João Pessoa); in MA (Maranhão): Santa Amélia Factory (São Luís); em SP (São Paulo): Sesc Pompeia (São Paulo), Amaya Tea Factory, Kawagiri Tea Factory and Shimizu Tea Factory (Registro); in PI (Piauí): Butter and Cheese Factory (Campinas do Piauí).

3. Ruins of Rio Quilombo's Mill and Ruins of Erasmos' Mill (Santos); São João de Ipanema Real Iron Factory (Iperó); Ruins of Lagoinha's Mill (Ubatuba); Casarão Do Chá (Mogi das Cruzes); Corumbataí Hydroelectric Usin (Rio Claro); São Luís Textile Factory (Itu); Vila Mariana's Slaughterhouse,

Vila Maria Zélia, Gasômetro's Complex, Francisco Matarazzo United Industries, Minetti and Gamba Mill, Labor Textile Factory, Italian-Brazilian Silk Textile Factory, Matarazzo Mill (São Paulo); Kaigai Kogyo Kabushiki Kaisha (Registro); Destilaria Central (Lençóis Paulista); Santa Helena Carpet Manufacturer (Jacarei); Francisco Matarazzo United Industries (Marília); Santa Adélia Factory and São Martinho Textile Industries (Tatuí); Cervejaria (Brewing) Paulista (Ribeirão Preto); Swift Armour Factory (São José do Rio Preto); Vila Carioba Factory, Vila Operária and Energy Usin (Americana); Brasital Textile Factory (Salto); Piracicaba's Central Mill (Piracicaba); Farming Exhibition Venue (Barretos); Gessy Lever Factory (Valinhos), Lidgerwood Factory (Campinas) and Old Salt Factory - Molino di Semoli Fratelli Maciotta (Ribeirão Pires) besides the four textile factories addressed by this article.

Despite the general importance of industry, especially textile for the Brazilian economy, industrial heritage has been object of recent and modest preservation, started at federal level with the landmarking of the Ipanema Royal Iron Factory by the IPHAN (National Historic and Artistic Heritage Institute) in 1964, nearly thirty years after the service was established. Preservation of these industrial equipment is still in its early phases: IPHAN recognizes only 14² properties of this nature as cultural heritage and, except for the Sesc Pompeia (a cultural and leisure center located in the district Vila Pompeia, São Paulo) – recognized more for the intervention of the architect Lina Bo Bardi than for the industrial activity –, most of them had its activities shut down already in the 19th century, linked to the imperial period.

On the other hand, the state of São Paulo, Brazil's largest industrial exponent in the 20th century, has a wide and diversified range of preserved industrial buildings other than those discussed here. Excluding railroad-related properties (stations, courtyards and workshops), CONDEPHAAT listed 34 industrial-related properties by 2018³, of which 12 are directly related to the textile activity – or 35% of the listed buildings. Of all industrial properties analyzed by CONDEPHAAT (currently 77 processes, including ruins), 20 are related to the textile industry, accounting for 26% of the total.

The textile factories studied from 2010 to 2014 at UPPH are from the late 19th century and the 1920's, considered by Stein (1979) as the “golden age” of the textile industry. From this study, it was possible to classify this period in two phases: the first between the end of the 19th century and 1910; the second, from 1910 to 1925, is the consolidation period, when the textile production experienced an economic downturn. Among the common points there is the factories' plant size, which occupy large lands in towns. The production process, divided into several stages, demanded large spaces – for air circulation, lighting and accommodation of machinery and workers. A great part of São Paulo's factories was composed by spinning and weaving cotton making it into yarns, from which the fabric was made. Others, in a smaller scale, were only weaving factories, so they bought the yarn – domestic or imported – to produce fabrics.

The architectural solution to comply with the 1894's Sanitary Code (SÃO PAULO Decree n° 233 of 03/02/1894) was supposed to supply the lighting and ventilation problems, which were solved with the construction of ridge vents, sheds with movable windowpanes at the shadow side and, in some cases, artificial ventilation. Historiography tends to divide the physical form of the factories into two styles: “Brazilian colonial” and “British Manchester style” (HARDMAN; LEONARDI, 1991, 133-134). The authors explain these styles in the following way:

- a) *Colonial Brazilian style*: factories built during the Empire, similar typology to the big houses on farms, with cotton production in their own land, the rural and industrial capital in the same activity. For instance, the factories São Luís (Itu, 1869), São Bento (Jundiaí, 1874), and São Martinho (Tatuí, 1881);
- b) *British Manchester style*: factories in late 19th century to the 20th century with brick façade, plane symmetry and sober structure. It is also featured by different buildings, some of them with two or three floors. As examples, the factories Brasital (Salto) and Labor (São Paulo);
- b 1) German style: exposed bricks, high and compact buildings with two or more floors and small windows. As an example: Carioba Textile Factory (Americana).

Another definition was added regarding the construction of factories after the 1920s, in which the standardization of elements and the use of concrete and prefabricated materials allowed the rapid modification of the use of buildings. They have few lateral vents and natural ventilation, an attempt to decrease the lighting incidence on the cotton fiber, what would harm the product. This is a characteristic of Argos Industrial S.A., in Jundiaí, that had early 20th century's Manchester style buildings combined with others from the 1940's. Its oldest part was demolished for the duplication of an avenue.

The number of processes under study at GEI reveals the predominance of "Manchester" characteristics, for two possible reasons: great

part of the factories was built already in the Republic and after the 1894's Sanitary Code, which demanded a minimum space of 8m³ to each employee, electric illumination, annual painting, water supply, sewage and bathrooms (one to 20 employees). After 1925, the studied buildings were part of an enlargement of the preexistent installations.

The assessment of each request was based on criteria broad enough to cover the diversity of the state and of the industrial activity itself. This assessment limited recognition as a heritage to some industries by electing representatives metonymically. The criteria were always from the state perspective and in line with the guidelines recommended by The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH), especially the ones in the Nizhny Tagil Charter:

- Technical/technological pioneering: the textile industry was spread over the country and concentrated in São Paulo. Therefore, the adopted criterion to define importance is the pioneering technique used either in equipment (technological) or in the work of man (technical) that triggered changes in the textile industry. In a nutshell, one that has added to the method used.
- Insertion in the economic scenario: identify the relevance to the development of the sector. The number of spindles and looms, the use of electrical or steam equipment, productive ca-

capacity, horsepower (HP), and its importance to the economy (number of employees, volume of capital invested, performance in other activities – such as oil production, for example –, well-established presence through the territory, exclusive production of a product).

- Labor mobilization: strikes, movements, labor rights, unions, changes in the relations between employee and employer (or capital), that represented milestones and changes in the history of labor.
- Technological or products innovation within its context, the use of different techniques or equipment, or even products' innovation, what gives the company a spotlight in the state's context.
- State Policy Representative: state capital investment in industry; connection with industrial incentive policies, settlement, schools/vocational training courses, state investment in the primary sector for the promotion of the industrial sector, etc.
- Promoting changes in the habit/culture/daily life of the workers and the geographical context. When the industry uses new equipment in previously underserved locations, labor migration from other locations that changes the cultural identity of the place, with cultural changes such as theaters, forms of social organization, etc.;
- Urban architectural criteria considered for the choice of goods: importance in the urban configuration, prominence in the landscape, and differentiated building systems.

The sources used to research about each one of these factories were: newspapers' publications, minutes of meetings, Official Gazette of State and Union, pictures from historical collections, documents filed in the São Paulo State Board of Trade, workers' documents and specialized literature. After analyzing the sources, it was observed that there was a common movement in most studied industries: the transformation of an initially privately held industry to an incorporated company (S.A.). This constitution enabled the increase of capital through shares and loans at low-rate in banking institutions. This is because the S.A.'s are required by law to annually publish annual reports carried out after rigorous audits, providing greater security and transparency about the company's financial situation. This way, the banking institution can offer credit at a rate according to its results and payment capacity. The companies' constitution was determinant for its continuity through the decades, due to the increase in production capacity, modernization of installations and technology, making the state of São Paulo the largest industrial power of the country.

A summary of the research from the study made by GEI between 2010 and 2014, resulting in the landmarking of four out of the six analyzed textile factories is presented. It is important to point out all the processes are in the UPPH headquarters and can be accessed by appointment.



Figure 1. Nossa Senhora da Ponte, 1924. Source: Pedro Neves dos Santos, Sorocaba Historical Museum's collection.



Figure 2. Closed factory. Source: Deborah Neves, 2010.

Process 58349/08 - Nossa Senhora da Ponte Textile Factory – Sorocaba (1881).

The oldest factory among the studied units, founded by Manuel José da Fonseca, represents an important change in the textile technology as it pioneered the use of herbaceous cotton for spinning fabric, during the height of American Civil War. It was strategically installed on the margins of the Sorocaba Railroad and the Supiriri stream, ensuring production and water runoff for boilers and hydraulic pumps – machines were imported from Curtis Sons & Co., of Manchester.

The workforce was mainly of women and children – because they were less expensive –, who made rustic fabrics like long cloth and denim with a great number of striped and checkered because printed were non-existent.

The analysis of the textiles pointed out that the Nossa Senhora da Ponte may not have been one of the most important factories in the state and not even in the city of Sorocaba, as it was overshadowed by the magnificent economic performance of the S.A. Votorantim or even of the Santa Rosália Textile Factory. Yet, the Nossa Senhora da Ponte is the most preserved factory that maintains an unrivaled relationship with Sorocaba's landscape – neighboring the railroad, whose complex was listed in 2018. The factory is currently occupied by Shopping Pátio Cianê



Figure 3. Aerial view Source: IGC (Instituto Geográfico e Cartográfico), 1939/1940.



Figure 4. Two Vila's houses. Source: Deborah Neves, 2014.

(a shopping mall), in reference to the business group that purchased the Nossa Senhora da Ponte Factory in the 1940s. The landmarking was passed in 2017 by Resolution SC-63 of 12/19/2017, published in the Official Gazette of 12/23/2017, pp.56-57.

Process 59254/09 – Brasital Factory and Vila de Operários - *Società per l'Esportazione e per l'Industria Italo Americana* – São Roque (1890).

Founded by the Enrico Dell'Acqua, the company was pioneer in the city of São Roque, in the cotton producer Manuel Lopes Oliveira's land, the same cotton supplier of the Sorocaba's *Nossa Senhora da Ponte* Factory. Located in the foot of a hill, the factory was served by the channelized *Aracaí* stream's water, which flows through the interior of the factory plant, feeding a turbine and a steam engine– imported from Milan and still present in the building– that generated driving force for all looms. The hydraulic system also feeds a sophisticated program of firefighting built with English equipment from the company Mather & Platt Co., of Manchester, England.

The architectural and engineering solution are the major highlights. It also had mainly Italian workforce and weaving, with no spinning sector. This water turbine movement system is similar to the one at New Lanark Mill and Cotton Factory, in



Figure 5. The company's view, 1960's. Available at: <http://www.almanaqueurupes.com.br/portal/textos/colonistas/o-pu-e-o-puxao-de-orelhas/>

Scotland, which dates back to the 18th century and is now considered a World Heritage Site. This is what makes São Roque's factory unique in the state of São Paulo, and possibly in Brazil. Recently, the factory had its wood floor. Another highlight of São Roque's Brasital is the full presence of its working-class village, built between the 1940's and 1950's, currently inhabited by descendants of the factory workers and in excellent condition.

The landmarking was decided by the CONDEPHAAT in 2014 and still awaits the approval of the Secretary of Culture.

Process 30006/92 – Industrial Taubaté Company – Taubaté (1891)

Founded as a Joint Company in 1891, the company is classified as big-sized, with capital originated from many sectors and specially for its location in an essentially rural town, which has a strategic position between the North coast, the cities of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, and the *Central do Brasil* Railroad.

The company's head was Félix Guisard, a man of entrepreneurial vision who searched for technological innovation. He constructed the factory's plant radially to optimize the process, its own hydroelectric plant for energy self-sufficiency, and the importation of German machinery for power generation. Business

management techniques were based on a vision of the workers' welfare. Because of the factory, social facilities were built, such as school, health center, football stadium, residences for part of its employees, and a holiday camp in the coastal city of Ubatuba.

The layout of its buildings followed a logic of rational development, following the precepts of urbanism. The plant was set up in a suburban area, but close to the city -next to the *Central do Brasil* Railroad line and not far from the city station. Even so, this region reversed the logic of central importance.

Currently, the art deco office building, built in the 1940s, is the headquarters of the Taubaté City Hall. This language was reflected in the façade of three other older buildings, which were added with vertical friezes, with visual unity in the circular square that bears the name of director Félix Guisard. Older buildings have Manchesterian and brick-like features. Two blocks were demolished in the 1970s. In addition to the City Hall equipment, two buildings belong to the University of Taubaté (Unitau), which hosted the second edition of Docomomo, held in 2000.

The landmarking was approved in 2017, by Resolution SC-69 of 12/19/2017, published in the Official Gazette of 12/23/2017, pp.54-55.



Figure 6. Offices' building. Source: Deborah Neves, 2012

Process 31605/94 - Argos Industrial – Jundiaí (1913)

Inaugurated in 1904 thanks to the capital of Italian (Aleardo Borin and Luiz Trevisoli) and German (Ernest Diederichsen) businessmen, Argos was settled in an area served by the São Paulo Railway, Ituana Company, Paulista Company and a stream, and was supplied with electricity. The city was already an important textile industry hub in the state of São Paulo.

The construction of the factory took place continuously, especially in the 1910s and with

further expansion in the 1940s, which shows two well-marked physical aspects. The most primitive buildings are erected with self-supporting bricks and feature shed at a steady pace. The most recent and most preserved buildings are made of concrete with art deco elements. Importantly, a significant part of the oldest building was demolished by the City Hall in the mid-1990s, for road expansion and urbanization of the area, which would be converted into a square. However, the duplication of the avenue did not advance over the land area and the square was never built. It resulted in a large parking area decorated by the fabric dyeing boiler chimney.



Figure 7. Aerial image of the Argos factory. Source: Mingo Gasparai, published in Manchete Magazine, n.802, September 2th. 1967

Argos stands out in the landscape for its large size and large occupation and is responsible for much of the urban layout of Vila Arens neighborhood. Its three working villages extend over six blocks and have features of a set of houses. Also noteworthy is the presence of the buildings that housed the day care center and the school for the employees' children, who today belong to the City Hall and for educational purposes.

Although the reason for the landmarking is the building, the day care center and part of the houses

that make up the working village, the Council considered that the request should be filed, since part of the factory had been demolished. A citizen filed an appeal that resulted in the reversal of the previous decision. Note that this is the last textile factory in the city of Jundiaí, extremely important in the state.

The landmarking was approved in 2017, by Resolution SC-65 of 12/19/2017, published in the Official Gazette of 12/23/2017, pp.57-58.



Figure 8. Argos' remaining's perspective. Source: Deborah Neves, 2012.

Process 65641/11 - Japy Factory, Jundiaí (1913).

The Japy S.A. Factory was inaugurated in the 1910s, when the textile factories were consolidated as profitable industries due to import substitution, aggravated by the First World War. One of its founders is businessman and Senator Antonio Lacerda Franco. The Japy S.A. Factory was a corporation and was linked to a group that controlled other service and industry companies, forming a conglomerate.

The building was built prior to the establishment of the company. It was not possible to precise – probably in 1913 since there is a record of a water supply contract between the factory and the Jundiaí City Council dated from 07/22/1913. The building was characterized by the extension on a large land near the railroad and by the single pavement in self-supporting bricks marked by the rhythm of the sheds. Its simplicity is justified by the fact that it is just a textile factory, without spinning sector, unusual for a company of the size of Japy.

The factory was especially marked by the management of José João Abdalla from the 1940s, commonly known as “the bad boss”. This was a result of non-payment of labor rights and non-fulfillment of its financial obligations, and the use of government for private benefit. The factory closed down due to its mismanagement in the 1970s, when the building was occupied



Figure 9. Frontal and lateral façade views. Source: José A.C.Zagato, 2011.



Figure 10. Lateral view of the textile factory. Source: Deborah Neves, 2013.

by supermarkets. In 2011, a residential building contractor bought the land and demolished a significant part of the factory— prior to the GEI’s request for landmarking— one of the reasons why the landmarking request was not filed.

Process 47329/03 - Nossa Senhora Mãe dos Homens Textile Factory, Porto Feliz, (1924).

The *Nossa Senhora Mãe dos Homens* Textile Factory was founded in 1924 as an incorporated company and had small shareholders and two main ones: Antônio Emygdio de Barros and José Emygdio de Barros, two well-known politicians in São Paulo.

It was not one of the state’s largest factories, even though it was the only textile factory in the city of Porto Feliz, but is considered a big-sized company thanks to its capital and production force. Not surprisingly, the main shareholders were Emygdio de Barros’s family: Antonio and his father, Jose, as well as big industrialists like Sylvio Brand Correa (one of the founders of Construtora Camargo Correa), and even companies (like Kortenhaus Stummel & Comp. –machines for the textile industry, and Elias João Habice & Filhos - merchant, representative of Westinghouse in Brazil, partners of the Crédito Cooperativo). Other individual shareholders, such as Antonio Martins de Sampaio, Francisco Souza Moraes, Antônio Eulálio de Camargo, and the Pires de Almeida and Almeida Portella families, were involved with cotton farming. A number of shareholders were

members of the São Paulo Republican Party – including José Augusto Pereira de Rezende, Antonio Emygdio de Barros’ brother-in-law, and the party’s president in the city of Botucatu. The São Paulo Republican Party was responsible for the presidential election of Brazilian former presidents: Prudente de Moraes, Campos Salles, Rodrigues Alves, and Washington Luís.

It is a company born with the capital of the political and financial elite of the countryside of São Paulo, which is not dependent on the textile factory for its subsistence. It was a commercially profitable activity in the early decades of the twentieth century and so it attracted their investment. The factory had the interest of the shareholders: the city’s cotton growers, machine importers, bankers, capitalists, and politicians. The textile factory had several aids from the Porto Feliz City Council for the purchase of machines and even for tax exemption.

What is truly interesting is the fact of a textile factory was founded by large owners of capital, in a city with no factory tradition and little expression in cotton culture at a time when the textile industry as a whole was experiencing an economic downturn. It is also worth researching the motivation of the group of capitalists so important in this endeavor and the power relations they had with public and private entities, as well as the important political connections. Besides having important names of the São Paulo Republican Party, the *Nossa Senhora Mãe*

dos Homens Textile Factory brought together one future Governor – Adhemar de Barros – and the family of another one – Luiz Antônio Fleury Filho. The business connections of the main partners are also an important and should be analyzed more deeply.

The factory's plant is simple and divided into three blocks with inner streets, today forming the streets of *Porto Feliz*. In this aspect, it strongly resembles the Italian-Brazilian Silk Textile Factory, located in Brás district, in the city of São Paulo, in a smaller scale. There is now a shopping mall in the building where once was the weaving, a market in the one where was the spinning, and the City Hall in the building of the Employee Cooperative building.

Due to the non-compliance with the evaluation criteria, the owner of the shopping mall had to pay a fine because of the damage to the factory and to the city's landscape and cultural heritage.

Conclusion

We consider the preservation of four of the six factories studied makes an important contribution to the history of São Paulo, with examples of extreme relevance to architecture and especially to the history of the state, without impeding its use by new activities.

After the landmarking, the commitment of the parties – state and owners – must be the guarantee of maintaining these buildings not only as individual and isolated examples, but their understanding as part of a complex system that has decisively structured the country's economy and only make sense as a set. Each one has its own peculiarities and distinct aspects of the textile enterprise in the state. They are important documents for the understanding of the history, economy, architecture and urbanism of the cities and the state of São Paulo.

The consolidation of a policy of valorization of heritage is a greater challenge than the act of landmarking itself, insufficient to guarantee its integrity and importance to society. The establishment of public and private recognition and valorization policies, such as the establishment of cultural routes, as well as a commitment to include such places in city planning. Landmarking should be seen as a tool inspiring respect for the building and its capacity for multiple evocations. This may overcome the mistaken idea of a “freezing” built by unfamiliarity with the legislation and even by a lack of city preservation agencies, which have been corrected over the years through workshops and technical assistance.

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