

Mayor Joshua Garcia

Office of Planning and Economic Development

City of Holyoke

Historical Commission

September 25, 2023

Holyoke City Council
City of Holyoke
Holyoke, MA 01040

RECEIVED

SEP 26 2023


Holyoke City Clerk's
Holyoke, MA

Dear Councilors:

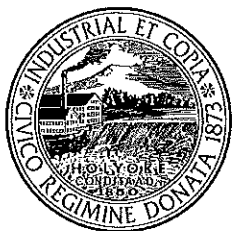
Attached please find copies of Meeting Minutes for the Holyoke Historical Commission (HHC) for August 21st, for your review.

As always, please contact me if there are any questions.

Sincerely,



Aaron M. Vega



August 21, 2023. Historical Commission Minutes

Commissioners present: Chris Gauthier, Joseph Mazzola, Jean Jonker, Olivia Mausel, Elizabeth Rodriquez, Lauren Niles (LHD)

Absent: Luis Salazar

Others: Peter Palombella, Jay Brienes, Tyler Caine, Zaisha Robert, Tom Douglas, Jennifer Keitt (OPED)

1. Chris opened the meeting at 5:31

2. No public comment

Agenda order suspended to allow item 17 -motion approved.

17. Lauren Niles, chair of LHD asked for a letter of support regarding 435 Maple St- the Sacred Heart/OL Guadalupe. The single block LHD proposal consists of the Church, rectory, and recreation hall. A public hearing was held on Aug. 3 via Zoom. The LHD commission is moving forward with the process.

Motion to approve the letter of support Joseph M/ Jean J. -unanimous approval.

9. Lauren was asked by the chair to consider a quarterly meeting with the Historical Commission to improved communication with other boards, commissions, departments in the city. Lauren will bring the request to the LHD and Planning Board (she is an alternate). The quarterly meeting would consist of 2 members (appointed by the Chair) to meet and discuss pertinent issues, goals, procedures, paperwork for better mutual understanding and better communication between departments.

3. Presentations:

a. 276 High St., Prew building- J.R. Smith, HLY.195. Harrison Bonner representing the owner, Eric XXX. Requesting a letter of support for historic tax credits. No new changes.

Motion: Jean J. /Joseph M. – unanimous approval



b. 245 High St.



HLY.93 Russell-Osborne Building/Edward Moriarty Shoe Store

Tom Douglas architect and Jay Brienes requesting a letter of support and discussed some changes in the restoration process. New roof, abatement completed, elevator and penthouse to accommodate the elevator, recreate the arched front windows to represent the original windows, replace blocked back windows, match the grade in the rear of the building upgrade electrical wattage to the building and work with the city to bring in services from the street, retaining the light well with glass partitions to meet the fire code on floors 3,4 and 5. A very through presentation with architectural drawings. The original metal elevator cage is still in the attic.

Motion to approve the letter of support Olivia M. /Joseph M. unanimous approval.

4. July Minutes approved.

5. Historic Plaques

- a. City Hall dedication plaque will be discussed with Sean Sheedy at DPW. Its placement will be updated at the next meeting.
- b. Historic House plaques project has been presented to the Carpentry shop at Dean. Waiting to hear back....this is the first week of school so will speak to them again before the next meeting.

6. Bridge project H-21-020 and H-21-014 Letter requesting Historical Commission review. Two bridges are involved in the project which involves replacing both bridges with new two-span

bridges supported by abutments that will be constructed behind the existing canal walls, removing/replacing the pier at each bridge. The decorative bridge rail may in installed that is compatible with the proposed Holyoke Canal walk and the historic character of the area. This may require a roadway curb rail to separate the roadway from the sidewalk and pedestrian rails. We need to walk both bridges and take some photos of existing conditions and replay to the letter:

Patricia Leavenworth, P.E. Chief Engineer,
Mass DOT- Highway Division
10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116
Attn: Jeffrey Shrimpton, Project Manager

Photos of bridge 020



Photos of Bridge 014 (attached)

7. Pioneer Valley Planning: grant for the Pioneer Valley Planning project is available until 2024. Jennifer Keitt will draft a contract and check into the proper procedure to move forward legally on this project.

8. Interviewed Zaisha Roberts and Tyler Caine for prospective commissioners. Chris will introduce their resumes to the Mayor Garcia and continue the process.

Motion to approve a letter of introduction Olivia M. / Jean J. unanimous approval

10. CPA (Community Preservation Act) discussion to update the application and streamline the Historical Commissions information about each project. Applicants need technical assistance and support.

11. Trinity Kendrick previous intern from Brown University. Trinity could not be on site for the internship so a letter will be sent to the University to thank her for her efforts and interest in Holyoke's preservation. However, in the future, the commission should be looking for interns who can be on site and personally interact with the commission and take on specific projects to be determined. UMass has provided 3 interns in the past years, and they were very successful. The Chair has contacted a professor at UMass and will hope to continue this program soon.

12. By-laws review: Jennifer K. (staff) will resent the most recent bylaws to the commissioners for their review, discussed and amended as necessary for the next meeting.

13. Peter Palombella's question: 'What qualifies as an archaeological site?'

Answer: anyplace over 150 years old or older with research and documentation.

14. Deerfield's Archaeological Accountability Policy is introduced to the Commission (Olivia M.)

Holyoke does not have this kind of policy and historical artifacts have slipped away for our city. Please read, review and comment of this for our next meeting. Is that something the Commission wants to pursue and bring to the City Council? A Holyoke draft will be discussed for all to review.

15. No announcements

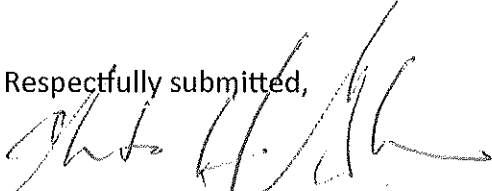
Chair: There has been no movement on 144 High- no update from the Building Dept. We need to see their 'project notification form' from MHC and better documentation from the building dept.—actual signatures and not anonymous 'n/a'.

16. Other reports: 150th events, Gala, silent auction, time capsule and Trust art contests at Heritage Park, 'Open Door Holyoke.'

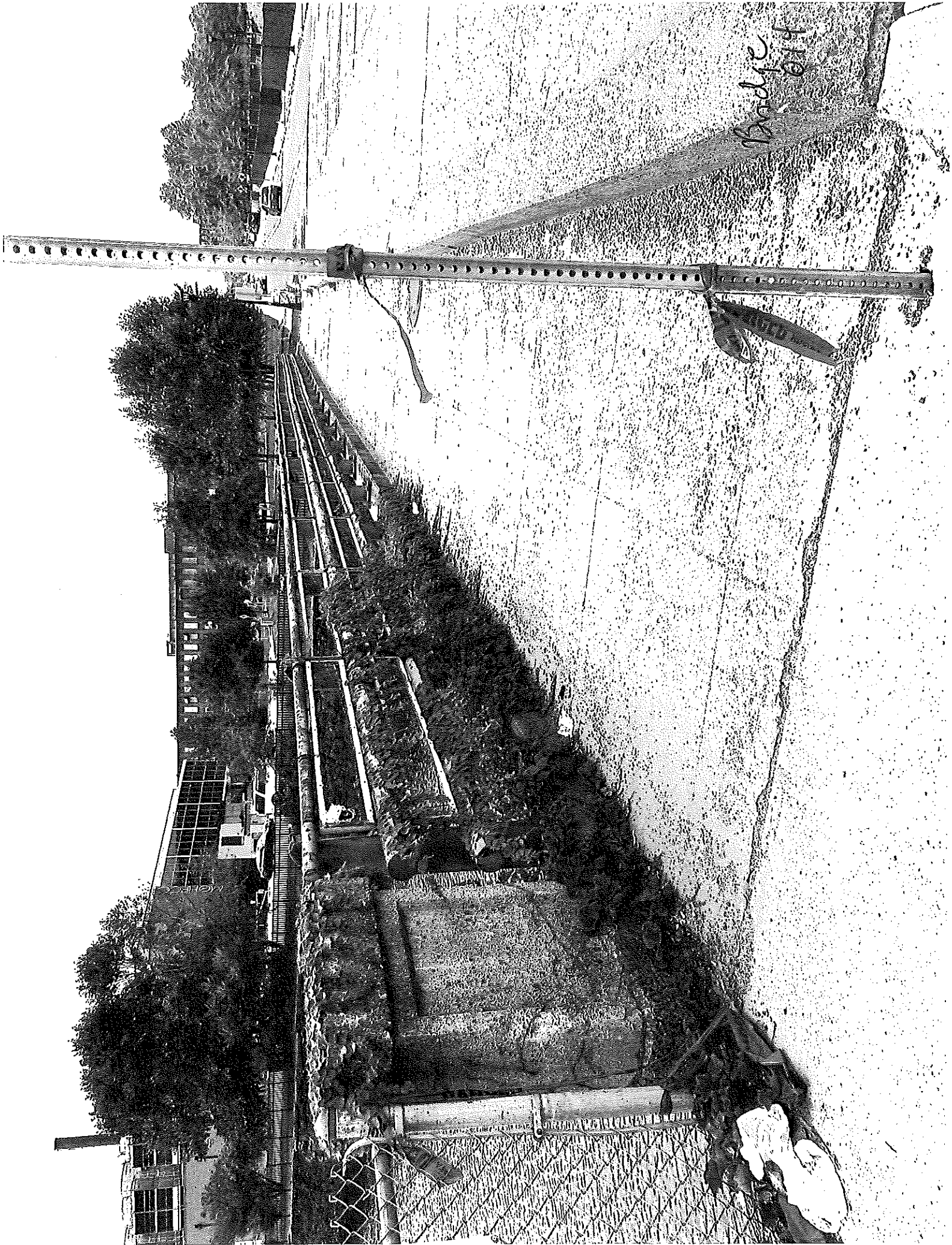
17. Certified Local Gov. report due soon – Jennifer K. will draft a report and bring to the next meeting for review.

No further business-- meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher H. Gauthier

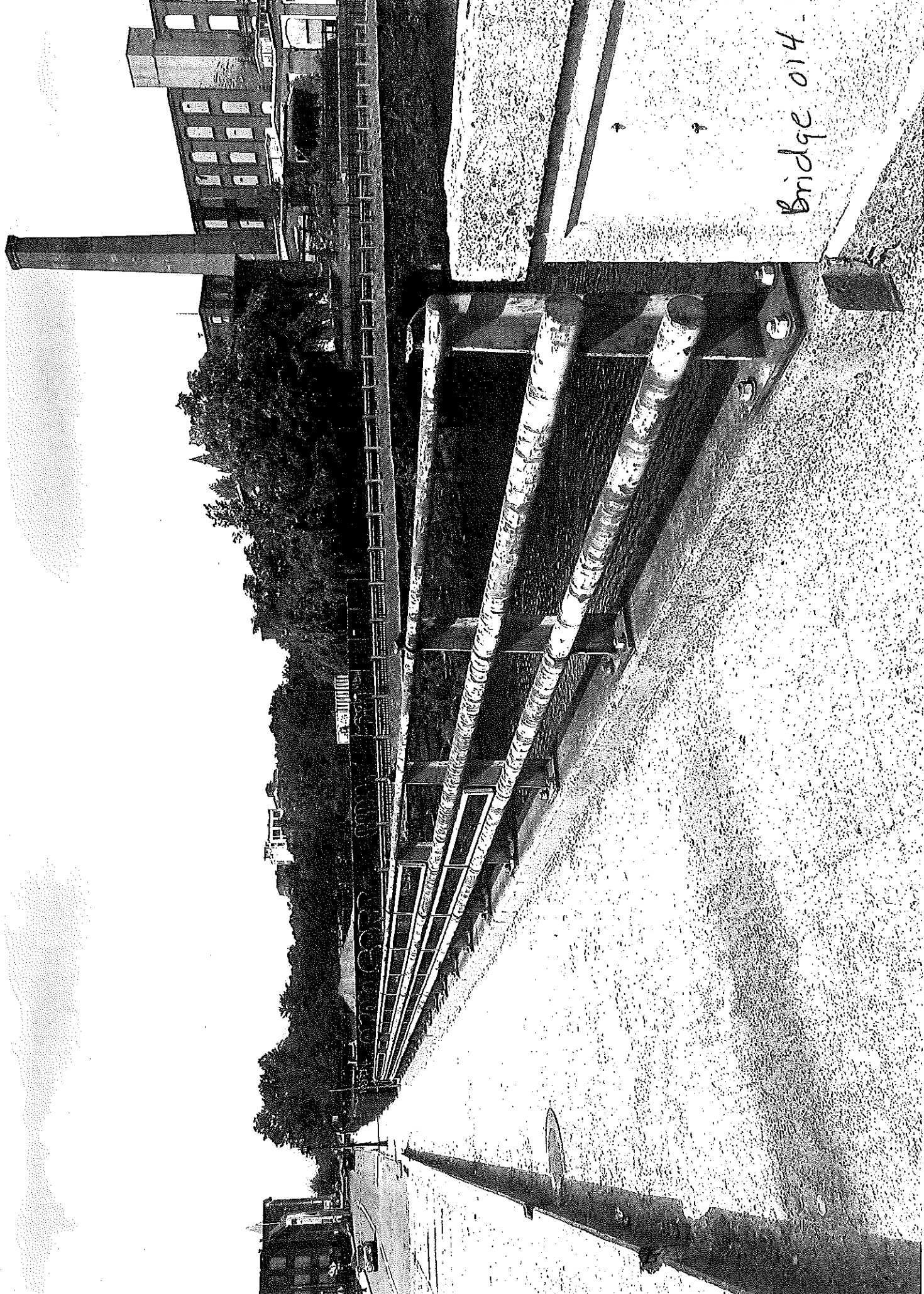


Bridge

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Bridge 014 -



Bridge 014



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