

LOCAL

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Temple-Stuart Building set to be demolished

By DOUGLAS A. MOSER
NEWS STAFF WRITER

TEMPLETON — The dilapidated warehouse adjacent to the factory known by the name of its long-time owner Temple-Stuart will be demolished all next week beginning Monday.

Town Health Agent Richard Stevens said the insurance company of American Tissue, the company which is the current property owner, is paying for the razing because it wants to secure some equipment and paper inside the building. American Tissue received Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

"There are over several million dollars worth of paper and equipment to be salvaged," said Stevens.

The Environmental Protection Agency will not be involved, Stevens said, but the state Department of Environmental Protection will oversee some aspects of the demolition. Some of the mastic, which is an adhesive used to bind the beams in the roof, contains asbestos.

"This type is non-friable, like what you have in some floor tiles," said Stevens. Because of the nature of this asbestos, there is no danger of it becoming airborne.

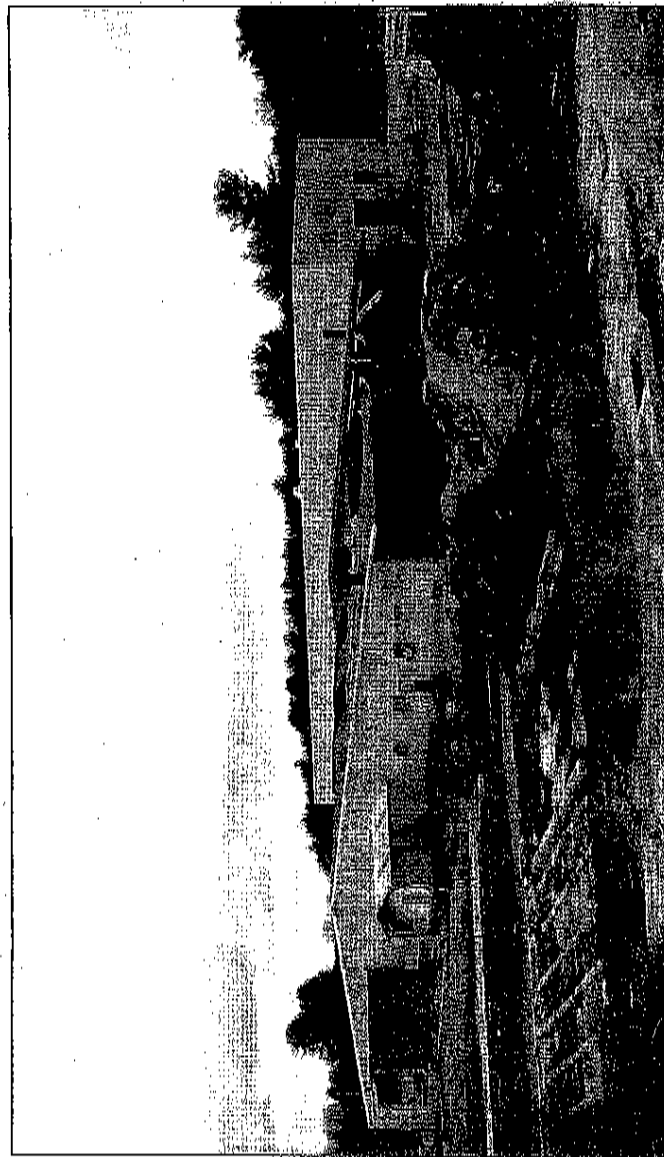
According to a policy statement from the Bureau of Waste Removal, non-friable asbestos found in certain vinyl tiles and asphalt-based roofing products "do not pose a significant public health threat because asbestos fibers are not released to the ambient air if these products are handled properly during removal, repair or disposal."

The EPA declared that many of the buildings on the 23-acre lot are "in an advanced stage of disrepair." That assessment is obvious to residents as portions of the warehouse facility have already begun to collapse. The warehouse, as seen from Route 202, appears to lean uneasily against the factory building next to it. A sagging roof and crumbling walls can be seen looking from the end of Holman Street northeast of the property.

Stevens said that excavators and other equipment would be used to destroy the building. No explosive charges or wrecking balls will be used.

The lot has been designated a Superfund site by the EPA and accorded to a description and evaluation posted on the EPA's Web site. EPA officials met with a representative of Templeton's Board of Health and with the Building Commissioner in November 2001 to discuss the project. It is unclear what steps the EPA has taken in the Superfund cleanup process.

Temple-Stuart, the furniture manufacturer that owned the site from 1910 to 1993, is blamed for spreading polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, into the soil of neighboring houses by burning varnishes and other substances that contained the compound. PCBs can cause chronic skin irritation after long-term exposure and is also a suspected carcinogen, though no clear link to cancer has been proven. The EPA is conducting a cleanup of yards on Winchester Street and on Route 202. All money for that cleanup flows from the federal govern-



News staff photo by DOUGLAS A. MOSER

The Temple-Stuart factory on Route 202, long unsafe for use, will be torn down over the course of a week or so starting Monday.

ment.

In 1993, American Tissue acquired the property and used it as a paper mill. Several of the company's executives were recently charged with falsifying financial statements and defrauding banks and investors. The total reported by reached \$300 million. Edward Stein, a former CEO, and John Lorenz, a former vice president of finance, pleaded guilty to fraud and conspiracy charges in March 2003. Former CEO Mehdi Gabayzadeh and former purchasing manager Ali Amzad pled not guilty. American Tissue remains in bankruptcy and owes Templeton several thousand dollars in back taxes. dmoser@thegardnernews.com

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By DAVID COLBERT
NEWS STAFF WRITER

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By LIVIA GERSHON

allow teachers to write information for the above article.