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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 American Snuff Company Historic District
Other names/site number Conwood Sales Company LLC
Name of related multiple property listing N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & Number: 46 Keel Avenue, 700 N. Front Street, 701 N. Main Street
City or town: Memphis State: TN County: Shelby
Not For Publication: Vicinity: Zip: 38107-2311

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this 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 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 local

Applicable National Register Criteria: A B C D

Claude Starn 6/14/18

Signature of certifying official/Title: _____ Date _____
State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting Official: _____ Date _____
Title: _____ State of Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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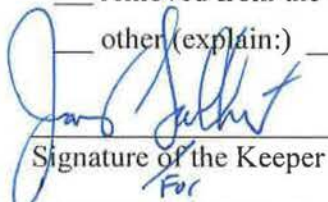
Shelby, TN
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4. National Park Service Certification

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): _____


 Signature of the Keeper
 For

7.25.2018
 Date of Action

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

9

buildings

sites

structures

objects

9

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: office building

COMMERCE/TRADE: warehouse

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION:
manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

MODERN MOVEMENT

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE/GLASS/BRICK

Narrative Description

The American Snuff Company Historic District is a nine building factory complex bounded by the north/south tracks of the Illinois Central railroad tracks on the west, Keel Avenue on the south, North Main Street on the east and the parcel boundaries on the north. Situated in an industrial area of North Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee, the structures in the district date from 1912 to 1957. The district is composed of seven factory buildings; a warehouse; and an executive office building. While its immediate neighborhood is industrial in character, this area was the first subdivision in Memphis and developed before the Civil War. This provided worker housing for the industries that sprang up adjacent to the Mississippi River which lies immediately to the west. To the immediate southeast is the Tri-State Iron Works at (NR 3/1/97) and to the east is the Greenlaw Historic District (NR 8/16/1984). As a complex, it retains its integrity including much of the interior and exterior historic features and character of the Early Twentieth Century industrial design, including all major buildings involved in the production of snuff.

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The architecture styles of this factory district includes Late 19th & early 20th Century American Movements Commercial Style and Modernist. The factory stretches from Keel Avenue north along North Front Street to the property line. The warehouse across the street stretches north from Keel as well on the east side of Front Street. The Corporate Office Building extends from Keel Street north along the west side of North Main Street. It retains much of the interior and exterior historic features and character of the Early Twentieth Century industrial design. Even though the architect is unknown, it bears a strong resemblance to the American Can Company Apartments at 3700 Orleans Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The factory buildings are located east of the Canadian National Railway (Illinois-Central) railroad track constructed c. 1890. In addition, abandoned spur tracks located on Front Street once served both the factory and the warehouse. The facility was intentionally located area near the railroad and adjacent to a historic working class residential neighborhood.

The factory building interior has never been altered significantly, retaining its distinctive factory appearance with large expanses of open factory concrete or wood floors, the exposed structural members, freight elevator, wooden and steel stairways. The building maintains much of its original association with its turn-of-the-twentieth century factory design and the interior continues to provide direct association, feeling, and even smell of an early snuff factory. In addition, the interior features provide significant insight into the workmanship, materials, and early twentieth century factory design or concrete floors, poured concrete columns and are connected by metal enclosed walkways suspended between buildings. All accessible interior stairs are concrete and connecting walkways are metal. The cafeterias and bathrooms have metal stalls and hexagonal tiles on floors. The other buildings in the district retain good integrity. The American Snuff Factory District today, despite the minor exterior modifications, retains its historic integrity and is a very significant and prominent reminder of the early industrial development in the north Memphis area. All photos are of top floors except Boiler Room #6 which was accessible from ground entry.

The factory building is constructed solely to accommodate the snuff making process. Snuff was made predominantly from dark, air-and fire-cured tobacco leaves shipped from the warehouses near where they were grown. There the stems and leaves were aged in hogsheads and conditioned before being cut into strips of one to two inches in width. The chopped leaves underwent further fermentation for about two months, during which time the tobacco lost its creosote-like odor and became more aromatic. It was then shipped to Memphis to be dried by passing it through steam-heated containers and then ground to a fine powder in a revolving steel drum. The powder was passed over silk cloth that contained as many as 96 threads per inch. The coarse residue was additionally ground before being packed into 100-lb bags for storage prior to repacking in smaller containers for retail sale. These small containers and the labels were made here in Memphis.¹

The building descriptions below are based on historic drawings, a 1950 Sanborn Fire Map and a current survey by a registered architect.

Inventory

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1. Tin Can Factory-Located on the southwest corner of North Front and Keel Avenue, the southernmost building is rectangular, precast concrete frame with masonry load bearing walls, concrete belt courses between floors, corbeled concrete cornice. Four-stories tall with a flat, built-up roof, replacement frosted glass windows on the ground floor and banks of four, 1/1 double hung replacement metal windows on upper floors. Some original multi-light metal hopper windows remain. Centered incised entrance on the east elevation and a ghosted entrance on the south elevation. The first floor had employee lounge, the second floor was used for packing the snuff cans, third floor was storage, and fourth floor was used for can manufacturing. An elevator shaft is located in the north east corner and a metal fire escape in on the north side elevation.

A four-story ell extends north off of the rear elevation. It is identical to main building in architectural detail. The first two floors were used for packing and storage, the third and fourth floors have segregated, duplicate male and female bathrooms and cafeterias and kitchen accessed by a double loaded hall. A concrete loading dock extends from the corner of Building #1 to the end of Building #3 (Photos 11, 13, 18. Interior photos 27, 28, 29, 20). (d. 1912) C

2. Warehouse/Packing/Storage Building-Rectangular shape, precast concrete frame with masonry load bearing walls, concrete belt courses between floors, three stories with a flat, built-up roof, corbeled concrete cornice and banks of 1/1 replacement windows. Four evenly spaced overhead metal doors with tin shed roofs located on façade. The first floor was a warehouse, the second floor was packing, and third floor was storage. Buildings #1 and #2 are connected by metal cover walkways) (Photos 11, 12, interior photo 26). (d. 1912) C
3. Curing Building-Five stories, rectangular, precast concrete frame with masonry load bearing walls, concrete belt courses between floors, corbeled concrete cornice and flat, built-up roof. Masonry housing supports an exterior concrete stairwell with metal railing on the east façade and west rear. Two pedestrian entrances and two overhead metal doors. Bays on north end are bricked. Glass brick windows on south end of ground floor. Second and third stories have replacement, 1/1 metal frame double hung windows and fourth and fifth floors have original, 3/3 double hung wood windows. This building is where the tobacco was cured and management offices on ground floor (Photos 12, 13, 16, 17, interior photos 23, 24). (d. 1912) C
4. Grinding Building-Rectangular, three stories, precast concrete frame with masonry load bearing walls, concrete belt courses between floors, flat, built-up roof, corbeled concrete cornice and one-story clearstory structure on roof. Bottom floor has boarded windows and replacement 1/1 metal double hung windows on upper stories. A metal overhead door is located on all stories. Metal venting ducting on the roof. It was where the cured tobacco was ground to a powder. Connected to #3 by metal covered walkways). (Photo 14, 16, interior photo 25). (d. 1912) C
5. Engineering Building-Square, two story, and precast concrete frame with inset masonry load bearing walls, flat, built-up roof, with corbeled concrete cornice that extends out beyond façade of adjoining building #4. It shares a common wall with Building #4. Metal single entry door on far north corner, pair of boarded windows on ground floor. Two sets of double hung, replacement, 1/1 windows on north corner as well. Side fenestration mimics façade except for paired door entry on north center (Photos 10, 11. No interior access). (d. 1912) C

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6. Boiler Room-one story, precast concrete frame with masonry load bearing walls, flat roof flat, built-up roof, corbeled concrete cornice, located in rear of Engineering Building, has carport type, open masonry structure on west elevation. Originally coal powered but switched to natural gas at unknown time, masonry chimney is no longer extant (Photos 15, 16, interior photos 21, 22)). (d. 1912) C
7. Building #7-two stories, precast concrete frame with masonry load bearing walls, no belt course, second story entrance is accessed by metal stairwell located on west elevation, gable asphalt shingle roof with clearstory. Single, double hung windows. Appears to be later construction as it completely obscures view from windows in Building 4. Unknown purpose, unknown construction date but appears on 1949 Sanborn Fire Maps. (Photos 16, 17, no interior access) (C)
8. Snuff Warehouse Building-One story, masonry and concrete warehouse on the east side of North Front has a two northern additions identical to the original building. The fenestration consists of an incised truck bay on the south end, and a concrete dock extends north to almost the end of the building. There are two, metal, overhead doors and two pedestrian doors on the west elevation as well. The roof is flat with built-up roofing and has several rectangular skylights. Three date stones are embedded in parapet wall (191, 1924 and 1949). (Photos 4-10, interior photo 20). (d. 1919, 1924, 1949) C.
9. Corporate Office Building-One-story, irregular shape, frame with Roman brick veneer, flat, built-up roof, concrete coping and poured concrete foundation. Original metal, triple eight light hopper windows have cast concrete lintels and sills which extend between window groupings. Main entrance is paired, single light metal doors. Masonry pylon to left of center entrance. Additional metal and single light pedestrian entrance near south end of façade (Photos 1-4, interior photo 19). (d. 1952) C.

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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.)

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1912 - 1960

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

- 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 N/A

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

Property is:

- 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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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The American Snuff Company is significant under Criterion A under Industry for its role in the smokeless tobacco industry from 1912 until 1957. Martin J. Condon Sr. started producing snuff as the American Snuff Company in 1912, citing the excellent location for manufacturing and distribution of the product. After exclusively producing snuff in this facility from 1912 thru 1952, Condon diversified by purchasing Taylor Brothers Tobacco Company of North Carolina who manufactured twist, plug, and loose leaf chewing tobacco, gaining wider distribution and increasing sales. By 1955, the American Snuff Company was the second largest snuff manufacturer in the US employing 500 at the Memphis plant. However, by the mid-1950s, their core users began to dwindle due to demographic changes and social mores and they began to diversify with non-tobacco products. In 1966, the company changed their name to Conwood Company, LLC, producing tobacco at the factory until 2012. The factory complex remains intact and reflects the history of snuff manufacturing in Memphis from the early to mid-twentieth century.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Tobacco is an indigenous American crop. Ground tobacco, (snuff) was used by pre-Columbian aboriginals in the Caribbean and was brought back to Europe by early explorers by 1500. Immensely popular, tobacco served as the colonies' first principal export, paved the way for the utilization of slave labor, stood second only to cotton among American exports as late as 1860, and accounted for almost \$24 million annually in U.S. foreign trade in the mid-1890's.

Commercially manufactured snuff made its way to North America in 1611 by way of John Rolfe, husband of Pocahontas. Rolfe introduced a better Spanish variety of tobacco to ensure the survival of the Jamestown Colony in Virginia. Although most of the colonists in America never fully accepted the English style of snuff use, American aristocrats used snuff, and Dolly Madison was known to distribute samples of snuff to White House guests. During the 1800s until the mid-1930s, a communal snuff box was installed for members of the US Congress. The colonists also found it more to their taste to place snuff in their mouths rather than to sniff it.²

The first snuff mills in America were constructed in Virginia in about 1730.³ The snuff was made from New England tobacco and its quality was said to equal that of the European Scottish varieties.⁴⁵

² Christen A.G., Swanson B.Z., Glover E.D., Henderson A.H. *Smokeless tobacco: The folklore and social history of snuffing, sneezing, dipping, and chewing*. J. American Dental Association, 1982;105: 821–829.

³ Heimann, R.K. (1960) *Tobacco and Americans*, New York, McGraw-Hill, pp. 8, 65, 118–119, 236.

⁴ Robert, J.C., *The Story of Tobacco in America*, New York, Knopf, A.A, 304. Robert, J.C. (1949) Retrieved February 12, 2018 .

⁵ Christen A.G., et. al. *Smokeless tobacco: The folklore and social history of snuffing, sneezing, dipping, and chewing*, 821-829.

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The use of smokeless tobacco products in the USA was widespread throughout the nineteenth century. The dry or dental snuffs were used for dipping and placing in the mouth. Dental snuff was advertised to relieve toothache; to cure neuralgia, bleeding gums and scurvy; and to preserve and whiten teeth and prevent decay.⁶

Dark fired tobacco is used for snuff. When harvested, it must be cured with heat inside a building. The tobacco is hung, a heat source warms floor and the tobacco is "fired." This is a tedious process since too much heat can destroy the barn, and too little heat will cause the tobacco to mold. The bulk of the dark fired leaf production in the U.S. is in Middle and Northwest Tennessee and south central Kentucky. In Tennessee, Robertson and Montgomery Counties are top producers and the distinctive tobacco barns can be found throughout the rural landscape.

The origin of the American Snuff Company begins in 1782 when John Garrett II established the first Garrett snuff mill in Delaware. In 1824, sons George and Levi entered the family business and changed the firm's name to Levi Garrett and Sons. Levi Garrett died in 1833 and George Garrett sold his shares to William Garrett. By 1857, William Garrett brought his sons, Walter and William Jr., into the business and changed the name to W. E. Garrett and Sons. In 1895, Walter and William Garrett sold W.E. Garrett & Sons to three employees, for one dollar. Within three years, this company became the cornerstone of the Atlantic Snuff Company.⁷

By 1890, Buck Duke was a rising player in the tobacco industry. He entered the snuff business with reckless abandon, selling products at a loss to drive other companies out of business. Eight years after he entered the cigarette industry, Buck Duke merged with four other manufacturers to form the American Tobacco Company. In 1900, Mr. Duke formed the original American Snuff Company that included the George W. Helme Company, the Atlantic Snuff Company, Stewart Ralph & Company, Bruton & Condon and Ivy Owen and Company.⁸

By 1907, Teddy Roosevelt, the "Trust Buster," and the United States Government filed suit against the American Tobacco Company for violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act. Four years later in 1911, the Supreme Court ordered the dissolution of Buck Duke's tobacco empire. The American Snuff Company was divided into three smaller companies: a smaller new American Snuff Company, Weyman and Burton (now U.S. Tobacco) and George W. Helm. The divisions were based on specific brands.

⁶ Christen, et al, *Smokeless tobacco*, 821–829.

⁷ Sanders, Bryce S., Jr. *History of Tobacco in Montgomery County, TN*.
<http://www.mchsociety.org/History.html>, 2014. Accessed November 15, 2017.

⁸Ibid.

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American Snuff Company president Martin J. Condon, Sr. had first choice and chose Garrett Snuff. Garrett Snuff is the oldest continuous trade-mark in the United States, one of ten trade-marks recorded on October 25, 1870, the first day the US Patent Office began granting trademarks.⁹ Martin J. Condon, Sr. (1858-1940) was president of the American Snuff Company for 38 years and remained actively engaged in its management until two weeks before his death. Condon attended city schools in Knoxville, the University of Tennessee, and Georgetown University, before entering the wholesale grocery business.

After serving as mayor of Knoxville from 1888-1889, Mr. Condon then purchased the snuff manufacturing business of the Bruton Brothers of Nashville in 1890. He moved to Nashville and successfully managed Bruton & Condon. When the firm was sold to the Atlantic Snuff Company, Condon remained in Nashville as district manager. When Atlantic was sold to the original American Snuff Company, he was retained as a manager. Condon was made president in 1902, and moved from Nashville to New York City.¹⁰ There Mr. Condon became an intimate with the group of financiers credited with developing or laying the groundwork for the present-day large tobacco companies. Mr. Condon's residence in New York ended in 1912 when the Government ordered a reorganization of the large tobacco monopoly such as American.

Condon remained head of the reorganized American Snuff Company that constructed their new production and warehousing facility in Memphis. They chose to build in Memphis for its proximity to the so-called "Black Patch," consisting of about 30 counties in southwestern Kentucky and northwestern Tennessee. The area was the leading worldwide supplier of dark fired tobacco, that has a wood smoke and fire-curing process after harvest. This type of tobacco is used primarily in snuff, chewing and pipe tobacco.¹¹ He also chose Memphis, because of its central location and its large rail hub for distribution of their product to their Southern and Midwest customer base. Memphis also had a ready population of cheap labor and seasonal due to the influx of agricultural workers from the surrounding rural areas.

WEDNESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 12

HEADQUARTERS FROM NEW YORK TO THE CITY OF MEMPHIS

Those of American Snuff Company Will Be Moved.

FIFTEEN MILLION

Its Capital Stock Amounts to That Much—Two Factories at the Bluff City.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., Dec. 11.—(Special).—Memphis will soon be headquarters for the world's largest snuff company. Already operating two factories in this city and deciding that this was the logical location for their home office, the American Snuff Company, a fifteen million dollar corporation, announced today that they had decided to move their headquarters now located in New York to Memphis.

The move is the direct result of the dissolution of the alleged snuff trust operating as the American Snuff Company, Inc. This divorce of the companies combined in the "trust" has proven an unexpected stroke of good luck for Memphis.

The new American Snuff Company of Memphis is incorporated under the laws of New Jersey. Originally it was capitalized at \$25,000,000, but when the federal court decided that the company should be divided up piece meal, the stock was reduced to \$15,000,000 and new officers elected.

FATAL DOSE OF ACID

**Nashville Tennessean
Article December 12, 1911**

⁹Sanders, Bryce S., Jr

¹⁰The Nashville plant was purchased by the United States Tobacco Company in 1922. Situated south of the Tennessee state capitol and known by its prominent neon "Bruton Stuff" sign, the Skoal and Copenhagen brands are still produced at the plant today by the company known since 2001 as U.S. Smokeless Tobacco.

¹¹ Murray Miles, "Tobacco" from Tennessee Encyclopedia of History and Culture, accessed 20 April 2018, <https://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/tobacco/>

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Although snuff use fell out of fashion in the 1950s, today other smokeless tobacco products are very popular citing the excellent location for manufacturing and distribution of their product. While in Memphis, Mr. Condon contributed to public and "private charities." The socially prominent Condon belonged to the Tennessee Club, the Wykagil Golf Club at Rye, N.Y, and the Havana (Cuba) Country Club. Mrs. Condon died in 1933, a few years after she and Mr. Condon had celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Mr. Condon left a son, a daughter, two grandsons, and four great-granddaughters, all of Memphis.¹²

Females and snuff

The Garrett Snuff that American Snuff produced was a Scotch style snuff, unflavored, and with most of the nicotine removed in the curing process. This made sense from a distribution standpoint, as the largest users of snuff were Southern women who favored it. Pipe smoking was ubiquitous during Colonial times. Archeologists use the characteristic clean round hole that ceramic pipe stems wore in the teeth of people of that era as a way to date remains. Even very young children's teeth look like somebody used a drill to make a handy hole for a pipe stem. As cigar smoking supplanted pipes among men, women continued to use pipes. First lady Rachel Jackson enjoyed her pipe and tobacco was grown for personal use in kitchen gardens.

Daniel Hundley described snuff chewing in 1860:

The usual mode is to procure a straight wooden toothbrush-one made of the bark of the hickory-nut tree preferred- chew one end of the brush until it becomes soft & pliant, then dab back into the mouth again with the fine particles of snuff adhering; then proceed to mop the gums & teeth adroitly, to suck, & chew, & spit to your heart's content. Ah! it is almost as decent as smoking cigars, & it is fully as distingue' as chewing tobacco.¹³

Although snuff-taking was popular with men throughout the world, it eventually became a habit that was also identified with women, particularly in the rural South. According to Betts all types of Southern woman dipped snuff, smoked a pipe, or even, chewed tobacco through nineteenth century into the first decades of the twentieth century.

She could be either black or white. She also tended to be rural rather than urban, although that eliminated relatively few in this overwhelmingly agricultural region. Accounts appear in Texas and Arkansas, all across the South to Georgia and the Old Dominion. It seems to be a nearly universal habit in northern Mississippi & Alabama. A Federal refugee aid worker in Nashville declared that she could not recall a single instance of women or good-sized girls who did not use tobacco in some form.¹⁴

¹²“Martin J. Condon, Sr.” *The Commercial Appeal*, February 25, 1940.

¹³Daniel Hundley, *Social Relations in Our Southern States, 1860*, p. 264. Accessed December 28, 2017, <http://docsouth.unc.edu/southlit/hundley/hundley.html>.

¹⁴Betts, V, *The “Social Dip”: Tobacco Use by Mid-19th Century Southern Women*, (n.d.). Retrieved January 3, 2018.

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In addition to major consumers, females were employed in the tobacco industry. An 1878 New York Annual Report on Factory Inspection reports that approximately 40% of the factory workers were female. An ca.1930 report on the American Snuff factory here states that 135 women and girls over sixteen or 44% of total workforce employed there; percentage is very close to the New York statistics of 19th century.¹⁵ The report states no child labor, above average wages and the workers lived close by in attractive homes. Report does not give the race of the workers.¹⁶

American Snuff in Memphis

Between 1880 and 1930, the production of snuff in the USA increased from 4 million pounds to more than 40 million pounds per year.¹⁷ The American Snuff Company prospered under the direction of Martin J. Condon, Sr. and James Harwood thru the 1930s. The Wall Street Journal called the American Snuff Company “depression proof” but the business could not totally escape the hard-times of the depression. Snuff manufacturing was almost 41,000,000 pounds in 1930 but in 1932 had dropped to 36,000,000 pounds. Martin Condon decided to broaden the product lines to include sweet flavored snuff, a decision that resulted in sales surpassing the pre-depression times.¹⁸

During this period the Memphis plant was featured heavily in the company’s advertising campaigns. A 1938 advertising notebook, shows the plant on the back cover with the heading “Where Garrett’s Snuff is Made” and “Largest Scotch Snuff Factory in the World” (Figure 2). This advertng notebook was used until the 1950s¹⁹ The 1939 *Joys of Snuff* Almanac “compliments of American Snuff Company Memphis, Tenn. Manufacturers of Honest-Garrett’s-Dental” features a bucolic color print of the plant on the back cover with the Mississippi River flowing in the background (Figure 3).²⁰ The company’s repeated use of their plant in their advertising shows that their plant and Memphis location was an important part of the company’s identity. Illustrating what the plant represented to the city, the American Snuff Company is featured with a full page photo of the plant in *Memphis in Pictures*, a 1940 publication that featured civic life, business, and

¹⁵ American Snuff Factory Report, available at Memphis Room, Memphis Public Library.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Garner. *The Production of Tobacco*.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹

²⁰ *1939 Joys of Snuff* Almanac, (American Snuff Company: Memphis, Tennessee, 1939) Accessed 04 April 2018. Available from: https://www.ebay.com/itm/AMERICAN-SNUFF-COMPANY-JOYS-OF-SNUFF-1939-ALMANAC-/182966692536?nma=true&si=3TTxs4NwLN2zP7A7Qcm8ob6H74A%253D&orig_cvip=true&rt=nc&_trksid=p2047675.12557

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factories designed to document all aspects of life in the city.²¹ These examples show that the American Snuff's location in Memphis was mutually beneficial to the both the City of Memphis and American Snuff leadership.

After Condon's death, he was succeeded as president by Morton E. Finch (1877-1949). Finch had previously served as vice-president and secretary-treasurer of the firm. A native of Boynton, Va., he was educated in Virginia public schools, New York preparatory school, and New York law school. He was a secretary and law clerk in the law department of the American Tobacco Company in New York from 1899 to 1912 when he moved to Memphis.²²

World War II boosted its sales as "smokeless tobacco" was the only tobacco products allowed in defense plants and the Britons used it during the blackouts. After World War II, snuff sales again declined and the American Snuff Company was determined to adapt and grow, this time by diversifying their tobacco product offerings. During and after World War II, more women began smoking cigarettes and but snuff remained popular with many older users. The Gallup Poll reported that 36 percent of women smoked in 1944 and 33 percent in 1949.²³

According to a Milwaukee survey, the prevalence of current smoking among women was 38 percent in 1948. Similarly, in a 1948 Framingham study, 40 percent of women were smokers. Trade journal surveys in the late 1940s also estimated smoking prevalence among women to be 40 to 45 percent. Early data are scarce for racial and ethnic groups, but data from the Mills and Porter 1947 household survey in Columbus, Ohio, indicated that 28 percent of white women and 36 percent of black women aged 20 years or older smoked cigarettes. A survey of 1,783 non-hospitalized persons in Texas in the early 1950s reported that 31 percent of both white women and black women smoked cigarettes.²⁴

Females comprised the majority of the employees at American Snuff in the 1940s and 50s. The CIO made significant strides at The American Snuff Company when 324 mainly female union workers walked out on January 13, 1950. The long ordeal lasted 185 days, finally ending on July 16, 1950. During the walk-out there was much violence including bombings. The workers got a 5 cents an hour raise, dues check offs from their paychecks and new recreation room on the ground floor of Building #1.²⁵

Diversification

²¹ *Memphis in Pictures: Welcoming You to Memphis and the New South*, (Memphis: Don Lancaster Company, 1940, reprint 1985), 90.

²² "Martin J. Condon Jr." *Kentucky New Era*. October 19, 1949.

²³ Gallup Poll, 1972.

²⁴ Betts.

²⁵ Sigafos, Robert, *Cotton Row to Beale Street*, Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 319-20.

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After Morton Finch retired, Martin J. Condon III (1908-1977) became president and Board chairman of Conwood Corp. The grandson of Condon, Sr., he began at American Snuff in 1933 in the sales department and rose to the presidency in 1949. Mr. Condon had served on the Union Planters Bank board of directors and on the board of Plough, Inc., later Schering-Plough. He was a member and past president of the Memphis Country Club and the Tennessee Manufacturers' Association. He also was a member of the Memphis Hunt & Polo Club, the Tennessee Club, Summit Club, and the Mud Lake Duck Club in DeWitt, Ark. He was graduate of Princeton University and the Pennsylvania Graduate School of Business Administration.²⁶

In 1952, American Snuff Company purchased Taylor Brothers Tobacco Company in Winston-Salem, NC. Taylor Brothers manufactured twist, plug, and loose leaf chewing tobacco allowing the American Snuff Company to gain wider distribution and increased sales. The executive offices in Memphis relocated from the Exchange Building to a new building at 701 North Main Street, immediately east of the warehouse on North Front Street. The warehouse at 700 North Front Street was expanded to its present size, giving the Memphis operation some 350,000 square feet of floor space for its operations. By 1955, the American Snuff Company was the second largest snuff manufacturer in the US with a workforce of 800 employees including 500 at the Memphis plant.²⁷ In 1956, Americans used 40 million pounds of snuff.²⁸

However, snuff users began to dwindle due to demographic changes. With the advent of anti-spitting laws, loss of social acceptability and increased popularity of cigarette smoking, its use began to decline rapidly in the late 1950s. Beginning in 1957, they began to diversify with the purchase of Hot Shot insect repellent in 1957 and Blevins Popcorn Company in 1961. They also acquired companies that manufactured shoe polish, theater supplies, and yogurt.

The American Snuff Company became an agribusiness under the direction of James E. Harwood Jr. Harwood went to work in the production part of the business in 1924 and worked his way up to executive vice president. In 1965 the firm's name was changed to Conwood Corp., a combination of his last name and that of President Martin Condon.²⁹ Harwood retired in 1972 but continued to operate a personal investment company from his Memphis home. Like Condon, Harwood played an active role in Memphis civic life. He was past treasurer and vice president of the Tennessee Manufacturers Association and a former member of its Board of Governors. During his career, Mr. Harwood, a 1927 graduate of the University of Memphis Law School, was active in civic and social affairs. He was former director and vice president of the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce and a director of the Memphis Community Chest, now United Way. He was chairman of the 1973 Republican Governor's Conference held in Memphis. Harwood was a former member

²⁶ "Martin J. Condon, III," *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*, December 29, 1977.

²⁷ "Memphis Snuff Company" *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, June 15, 1958.

²⁸ Kristen, 829.

²⁹ Sigafos, 297.

American Snuff Company Historic District
Name of Property

Shelby, TN
County and State

of Memphis Rotary Club and past vice president and director of Memphis Cotton Carnival Association, now Carnival Memphis.³⁰

In 1967 Conwood purchased the Scott Tobacco Company of Bowling Green, KY, a maker of hand-rolled twist tobacco. Since the 1980s, Conwood has divested all its non-tobacco lines of business and focused solely on smokeless tobacco products. Its Grizzly brand is the best-selling brand of moist snuff in the U.S. today

In 2018, the American Snuff Company is a division of Reynolds American, a major tobacco company. Reynolds American acquired the American Snuff Company in mid-2006 for \$3.5 billion in cash. It now generates nearly 7% of Reynolds American's annual revenue. The name American Snuff Company was assumed in 2010. They used the Keel Avenue facility until 2012 when they sold the property. The new owner plans to rehabilitate the building into a mixed use residential and retail complex.

Tobacco in Tennessee and the National Register

In Tennessee, there are no other snuff factories or tobacco production facilities listed in the National Register. In Memphis, the American Snuff Factory reflects the industrial history of snuff production from the early to mid-twentieth century. The complex is locally significant under Criterion A for industry.

³⁰ "James E. Harwood, Jr." *The Commercial Appeal*, April 14, 1993.

American Snuff Company Historic District
Name of Property

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9. Major Bibliographic References

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<https://www.americancivilwarforum.com/southern-855/>. Retrieved January 3, 2018.¹

Christen A.G., Swanson B.Z., Glover E.D., Henderson A.H. *Smokeless tobacco: The folklore and social history of snuffing, sneezing, dipping, and chewing*. *Journal of American Dental Association*, 1982

Garner, Wrightman W. *The Production of Tobacco*. New York, The Blakiston Company, 1951.

Gately, Iain. *Tobacco: A Cultural History of How an Exotic Plant Seduced Civilization*. Reprint. New York: Grove Press, 2003.

Goodman, Jordan. *Tobacco in History: The Cultures of Dependence*. London, England: Routledge, 1994.

Heimann, R.K. *Tobacco and Americans*, New York, McGraw-Hill, 1960.

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<http://docsouth.unc.edu/southlit/hundley/hundley.html>, 1999.

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Jenkins, John Wilbur. *James B. Duke: Master Builder*. New York: George H. Doran Company, 1927.

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"Martin J. Condon, Sr." *The Commercial Appeal*, February 25, 1940.

"Martin J. Condon, III", *The Memphis Commercial Appeal*, December 29, 1977.

Memphis in Pictures: Welcoming You to Memphis and the New South. Memphis: Don Lancaster Company, 1940, reprint 1985.

Porter, Patrick G. *Origins of the American Tobacco Company*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: President and Fellows of Harvard College, 1969.

Robert, J.C. *The Story of Tobacco in America*. New York : Knopf, A.A., 1949.

Rogozinski, Jan. *Smokeless Tobacco in the Western World, 1550-1950*. New York: Praeger, 1990.

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<http://www.mchsociety.org/History.html>, 2014. Accessed November 15, 2017.

American Snuff Company Historic District
 Name of Property

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Sigafoos, Robert, *Cotton Row to Beale Street*, Memphis: Memphis State University Press, 1979.
 Youngman, Anna. "The Tobacco Pools of Kentucky and Tennessee." *Journal of Political Economy* 18: 1
 (January 1910), 34-49

Previous documentation on file (NPS):		Primary location of additional data:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)	<input type="checkbox"/>	State Historic Preservation Office
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously listed in the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other State agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	previously determined eligible by the National Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Federal agency
<input type="checkbox"/>	designated a National Historic Landmark	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local government
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	<input type="checkbox"/>	University
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<input type="checkbox"/>	recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	Name of repository:	
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): SY-35062			

American Snuff Company Historic District
Name of Property

Shelby, TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6.03 **USGS Quadrangle** TN Northwest Memphis

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude:35.164461 | Longitude: -90.046867 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of the original factory, warehouse and corporate offices bounded by Keel Avenue on the south, the north property lines of the buildings on the north, North Main Street on the east and the property line of the factory buildings on the west. The boundary includes the entirety five parcels identified by the Shelby County Tax Assessor as:

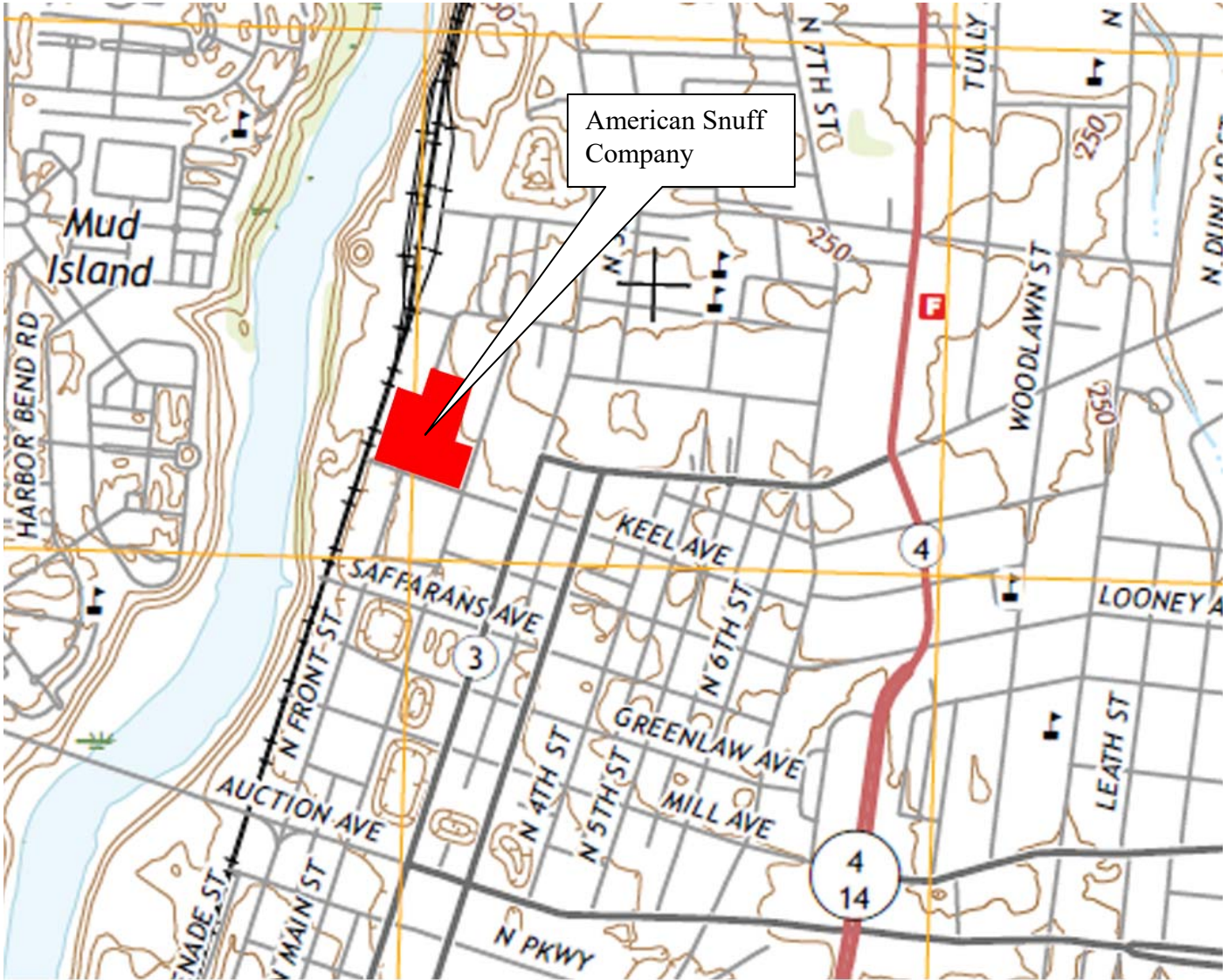
001046 00001
022005 00009
022005 00015
001053 00003
001053 00002

Boundary Justification

Boundaries represent the 1954 boundaries of the property and encompasses the entirety of the historic factory complex.

American Snuff Company Historic District
Name of Property

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USGS TN Northwest Memphis

National Register Location Map, Scale 1:24000



American Snuff Company Historic District
Name of Property

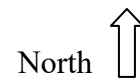
Shelby, TN
County and State



National Register Boundary Map

The boundary is indicated in blue on the Shelby County Tax Assessor Map and includes all of Shelby County Tax Assessor Parcels:

- 001046 00001
- 022005 00009
- 022005 00015
- 001053 00003
- 001053 00002



American Snuff Company Historic District
Name of Property

Shelby, TN
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11. Form Prepared By

Name Judith A. Johnson

Organization J. Johnson & Associates

Street & Number 158 Windover Road #6 Date December 29, 2017

City or Town Memphis Telephone 901-603-0054

E-mail judithjohnson73@gmail.com State TN Zip Code 38111

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 map.
- **Photographs** (refer to Tennessee Historical Commission National Register *Photo Policy* for submittal of digital images and prints)
- **Additional items:** (additional supporting documentation including historic photographs, historic maps, etc. should be included on a Continuation Sheet following the photographic log and sketch maps)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

American Snuff Company Historic District
Name of Property

Shelby, TN
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Photo Log

Name of Property: American Snuff Company Historic District
City or Vicinity: Memphis
County: Shelby State: Tennessee
Photographer: Judith Johnson, Judith Johnson & Associates
Date Photographed: October, 2017 and January, 2018

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

- 1 of 30. Oblique view of 701 N. Main Street. Photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 30. Detail of façade entrance. Photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 30. Façade and north elevation of 701 N. Main Street. Photographer facing southwest.
- 4 of 30. South elevation of 701 N. Main and 700 N. Front Street. Photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 30. South elevation of 700 N. Front Street Photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 30. South end of west façade of 700 N. Front Street. Photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 30. Detail of west façade of 700 N. Front Street. Photographer facing east.
- 8 of 30. Portion of west façade pf 700 N. Front Street. Photographer facing northeast.
- 9 of 30. North end of west façade of 700 N. Main Street. Photographer facing southeast.
- 10 of 30. Streetscape of N. Front Street. Photographer facing south.
- 11 of 30. South elevation and east facades of Buildings 1 & 2, 46 Keel Avenue. Photographer facing northwest.
- 12 of 30. Connector between Buildings 2 & 3. . Photographer facing west
- 13 of 30. East façade of building #3, 46 Keel Avenue. Photographer facing west
- 14 of 30. East façades of Buildings 4 & 5, 46 Keel Avenue. Photographer facing northwest.
- 15 of 30. West elevation and south façade, Building #6. Photographer facing northeast.
- 16 of 30. West façade of Building #7, rear of Building #4. Photographer facing southeast.
- 17 of 30. Rear of Building #3. Photographer facing southeast.
- 18 of 30. West rear and south elevation of Building #1. Photographer facing northeast.

American Snuff Company Historic District
Name of Property

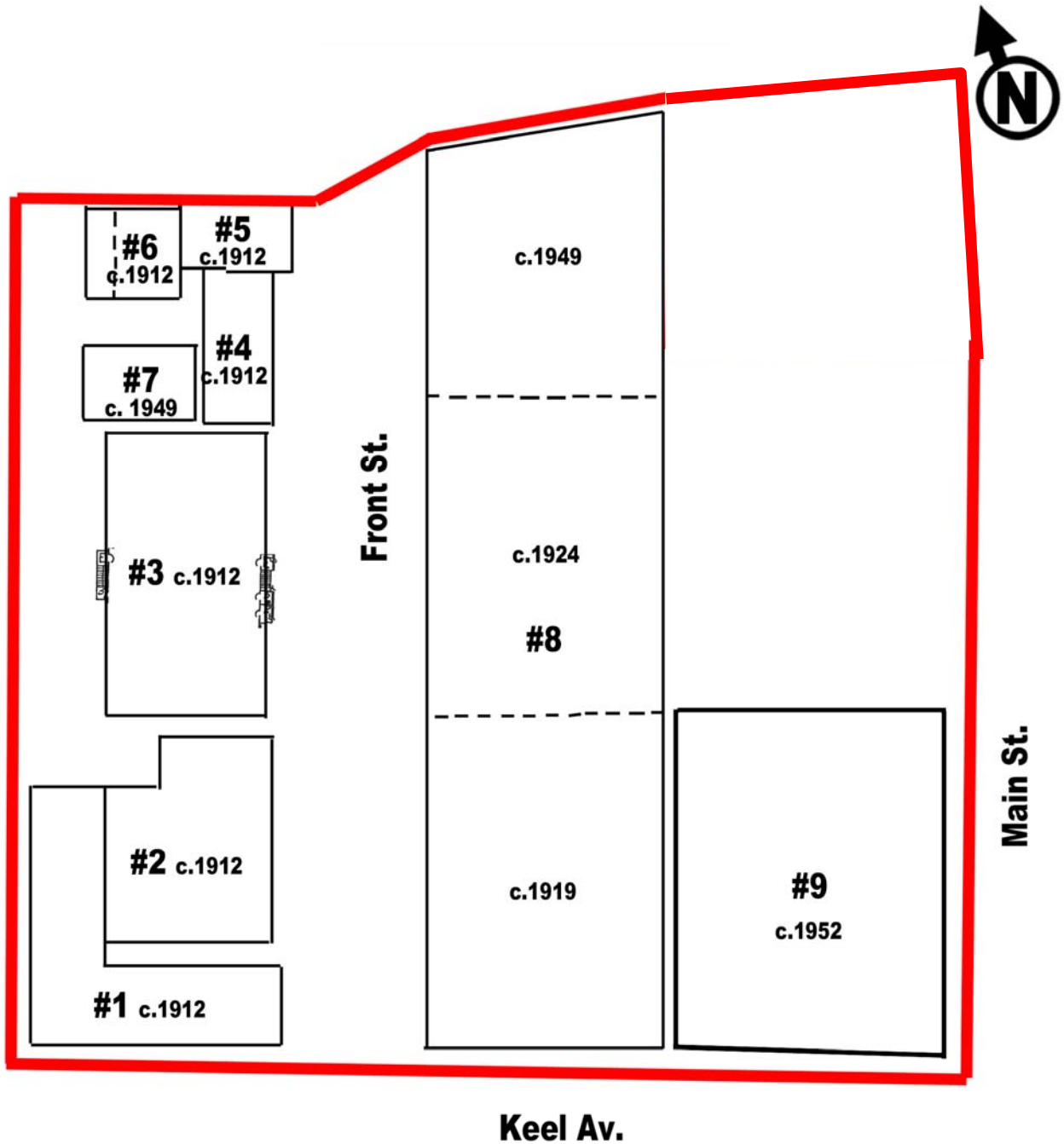
Shelby, TN
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- 19 of 30. Interior of 701 N. Main Street. Lobby and reception area.
- 20 of 30. Interior of 700 N. Front Street. Typical warehouse area.
- 21 of 30. Interior of Building #6, 46 Keel Avenue. Boiler room machinery.
- 22 of 30. Interior of Building #6, 46 Keel Avenue. Boiler room machinery.
- 23 of 30. Interior of Building #3, 46 Keel Avenue. Typical interior space.
- 24 of 30. Interior of Building #3, 46 Keel Avenue. Typical interior space. .
- 25 of 30. Interior of Building #4, 46 Keel Avenue. Typical interior space.
- 26 of 30. Interior of Building #2, 46 Keel Avenue. Typical interior space.
- 27 of 30. Interior of Building #1, 46 Keel Avenue. Typical interior space.
- 28 of 30. Interior of Building #1, 46 Keel Avenue. Employee bathroom.
- 29 of 30. Interior of Building #1, 46 Keel Avenue. Employee cafeteria.
- 30 of 30. Interior of Building #1, 46 Keel Avenue. Cafeteria kitchen .

American Snuff Company Historic District
Name of Property

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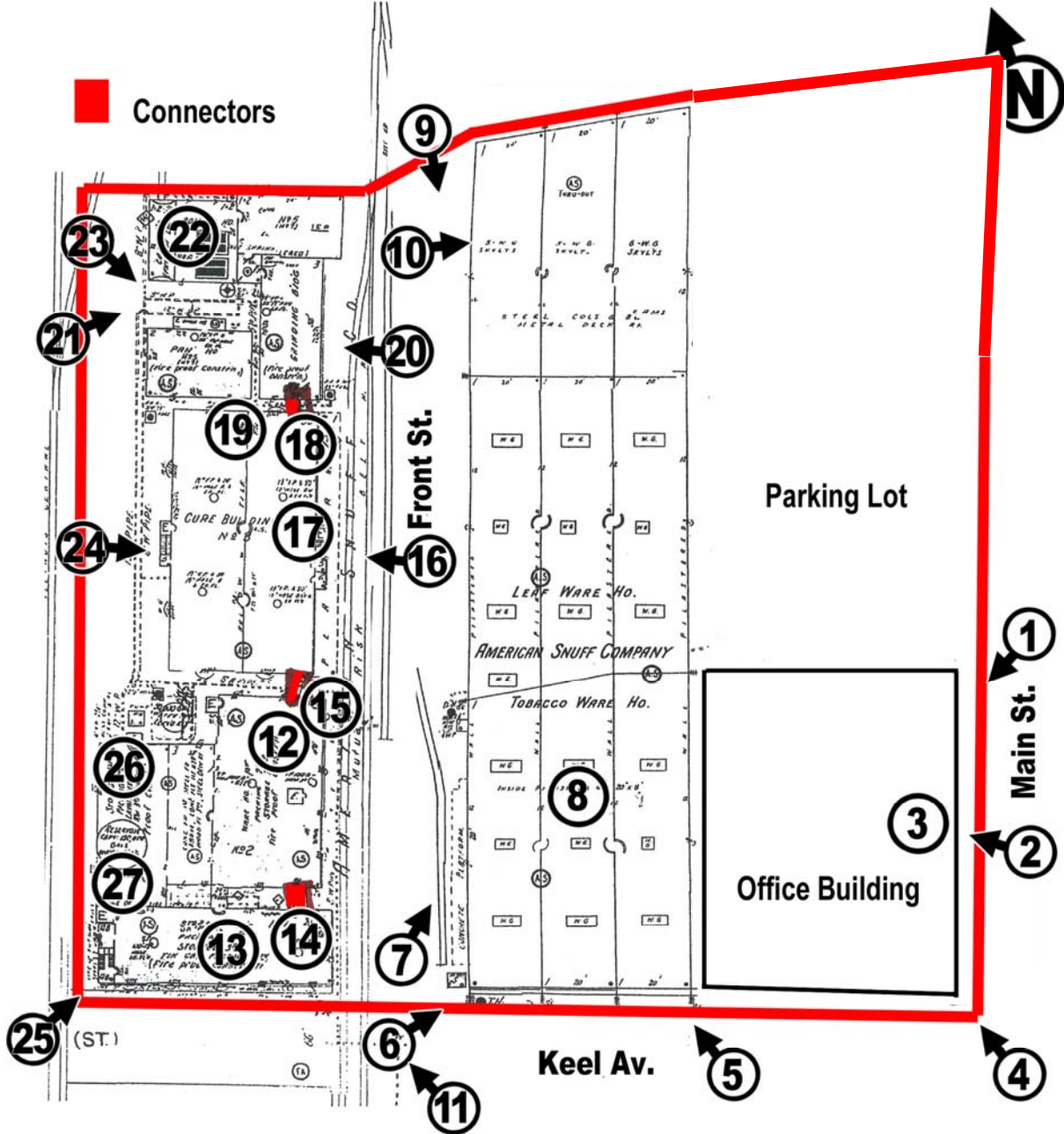
Site Plan with approximate boundaries



American Snuff Company Historic District
Name of Property

Shelby, TN
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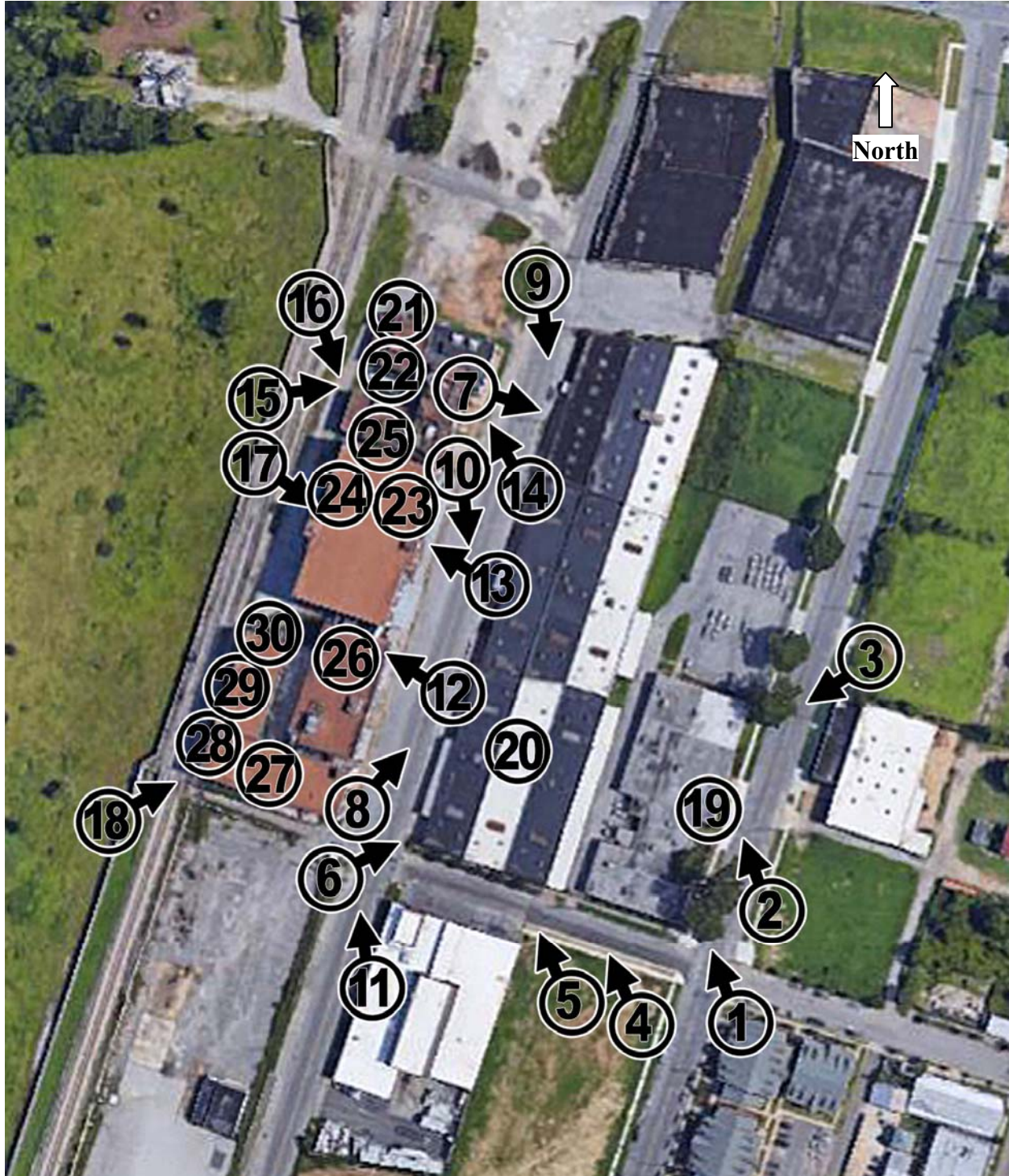
1951 Sanborn Map with Photo Key and approximate boundaries
American Snuff Company Historic District



American Snuff Company Historic District
Name of Property

Shelby, TN
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Aerial view with photo key



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

American Snuff Company

Name of Property

Shelby, TN

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

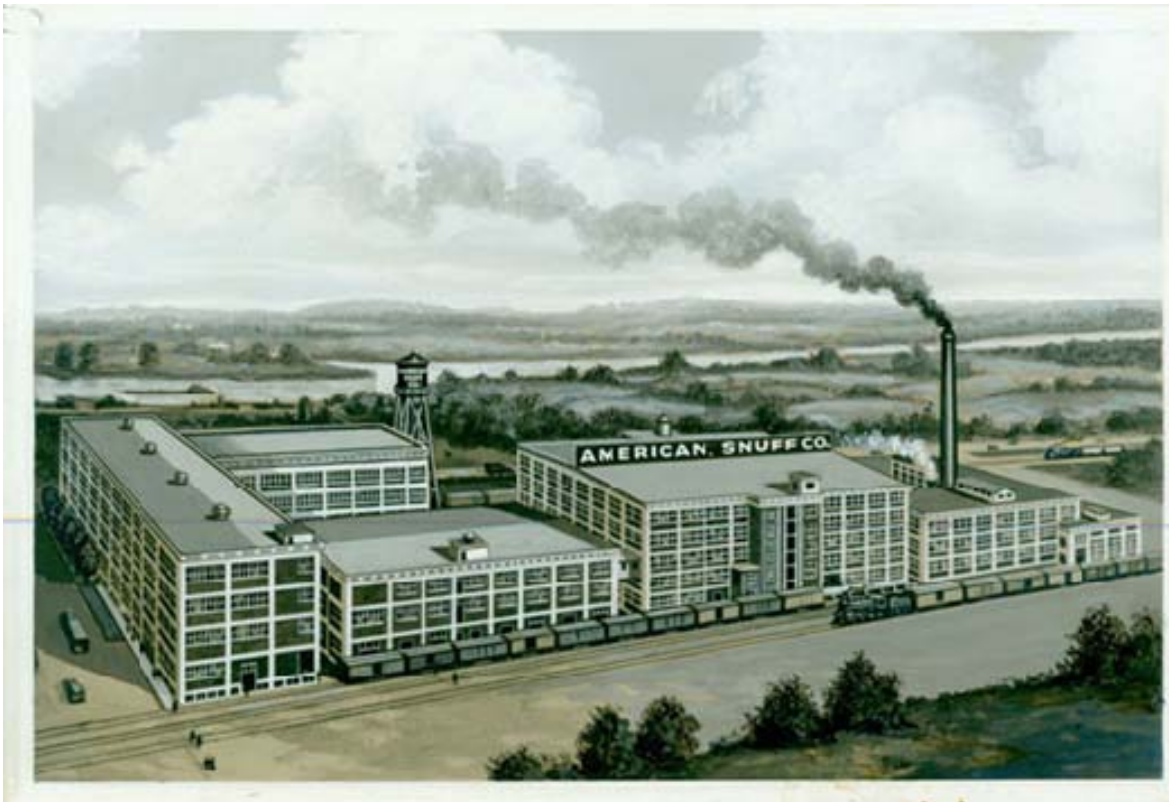


Figure 1-Lithograph of Factory Building with smokestack, water tower and trunk line track. Unknown date.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

American Snuff Company

Name of Property

Shelby, TN

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

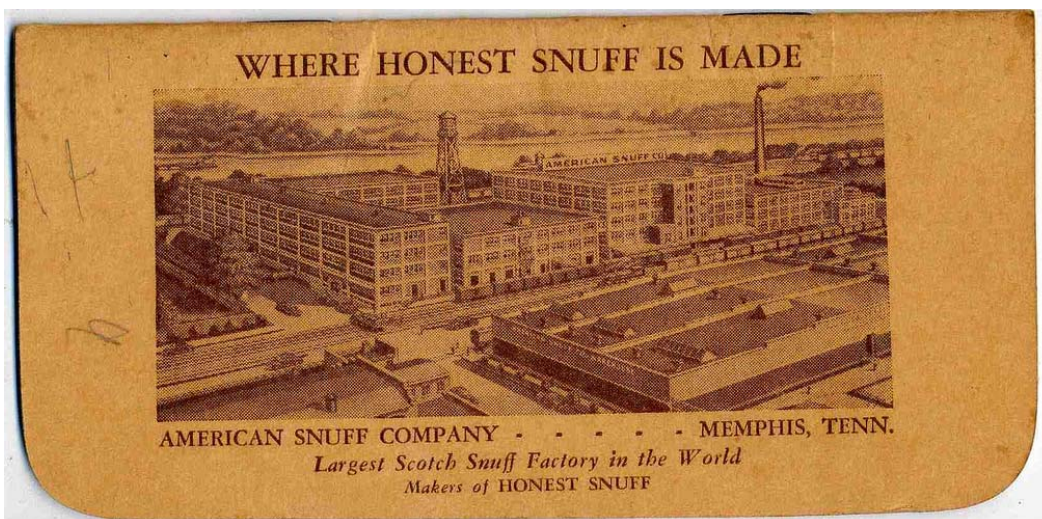
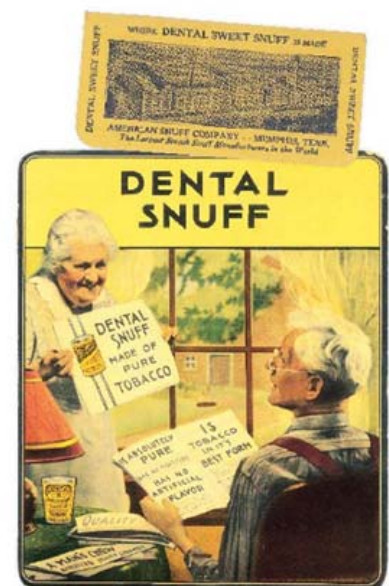


Figure 2-Advertising for American Snuff Company Dental Snuff featuring the Memphis Plant.

Above, 1938 Garrett's Snuff Pocket Notebook Cover, American Snuff Company, Memphis Source: Accessed 04 April 2018, <https://www.ebay.com/itm/1938-GARRETT-SNUFF-AMERICAN-SNUFF-COMPANY-MEMPHIS-TENNESSEE-POCKET-NOTEBOOK/301434463935?hash=item462ee4e6bf:g:y0cAAOxy9LxSEP6O>

Middle, c. 1955 Honest Snuff Picket Notebook Cover, Source: Accessed 04 April 2018, <http://picsr.com/photos/popkrazy/interesting/page3?nsid=38471701@N05>

Right, Undated early twentieth century American Snuff Company Dental Snuff advertisement from Vance Lauderdale, "Up to Snuff" *Memphis Magazine* accessed 04 April 2018, <http://memphismagazine.com/ask-vance/up-to-snuff/>



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

American Snuff Company

Name of Property

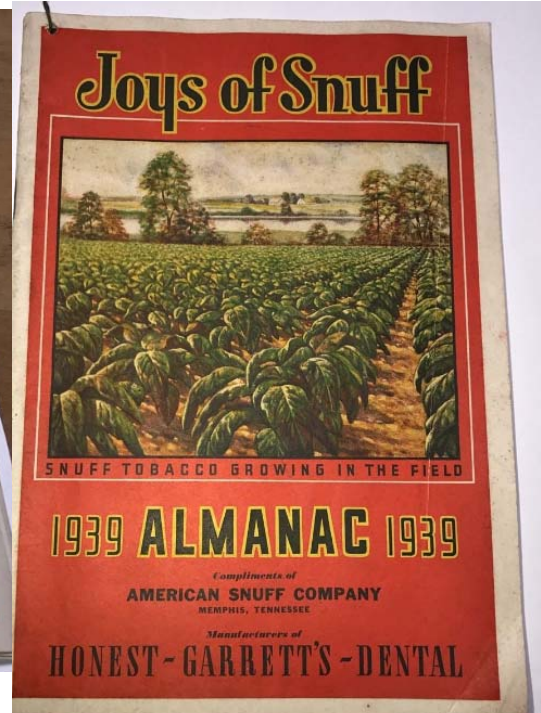
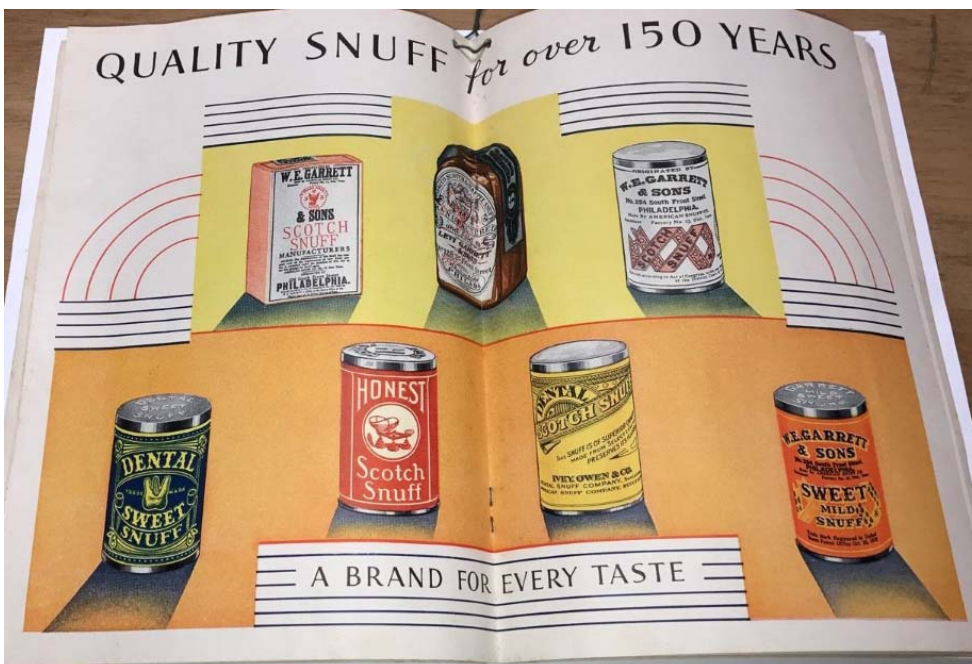
Shelby, TN

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Figure 3-Images from the 1939 Joys of Snuff Almanac produced by the American Snuff Company. The back cover (above) featured the Memphis plant and other images included the types of snuff produced by the plant (below left).

Source: American Snuff Company Joys of Snuff Almanac, Accessed 4 April 2018, https://www.ebay.com/itm/AMERICAN-SNUFF-COMPANY-JOYS-OF-SNUFF-1939-ALMANAC-/182966692536?nma=true&si=3TTxs4NwLN2zP7A7Qcm8ob6H74A%253D&orig_cvip=true&rt=nc&_trksid=p2047675.12557



National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

American Snuff Company

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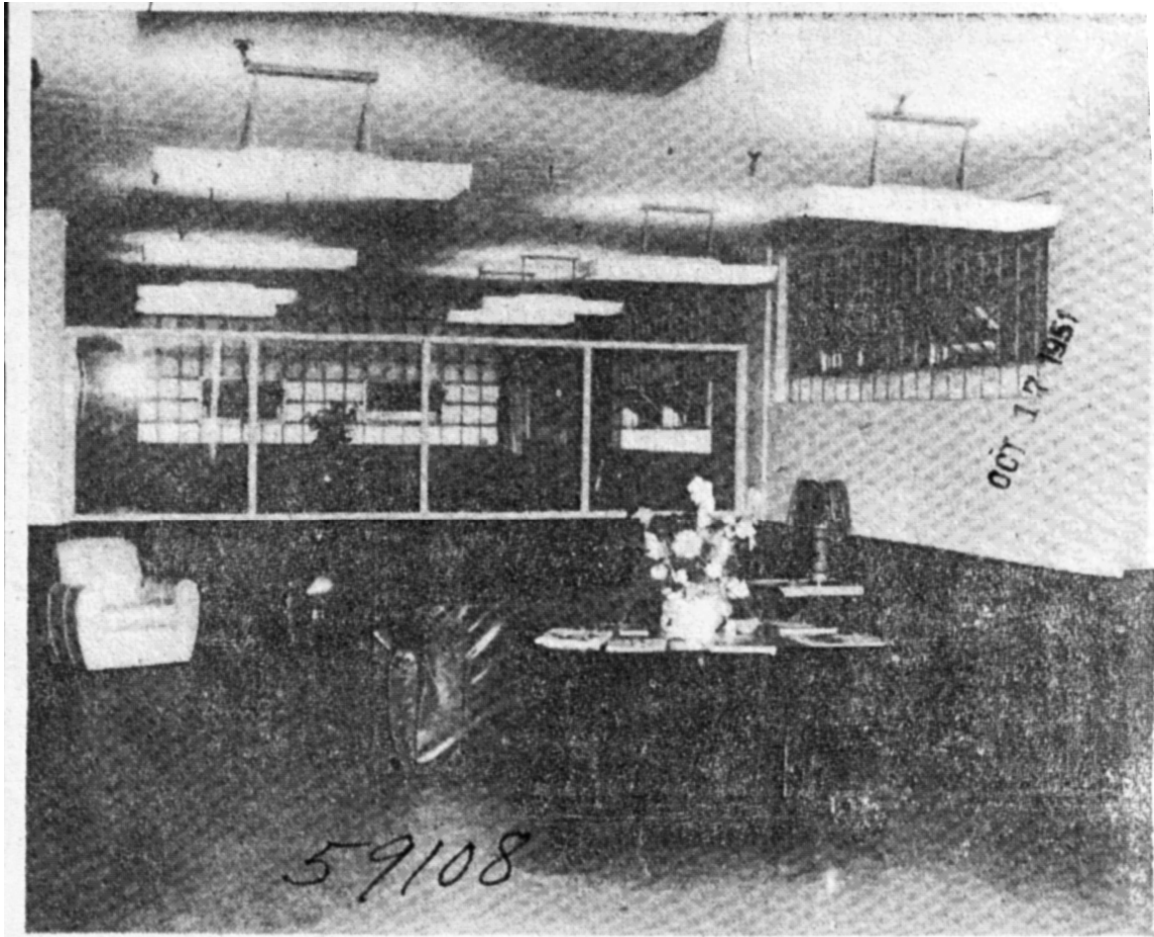
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 4- Female employees picketing during 1950 CIO strike. *Memphis Press Scimitar*, March 4, 1950

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

American Snuff Company
Name of Property
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



—Press-Scimitar Staff Photo
NEW RECREATION LOUNGE for employes of American Snuff Co., Front at Keel, is open before work, after hours until 10 p.m. Facilities include: Television, phonograph, dance floor, magazines, card

Figure 5-Recreation Lounge for Employees- *Memphis Press Scimitar* on October 17, 1951.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

American Snuff Company
Name of Property
Shelby, TN
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

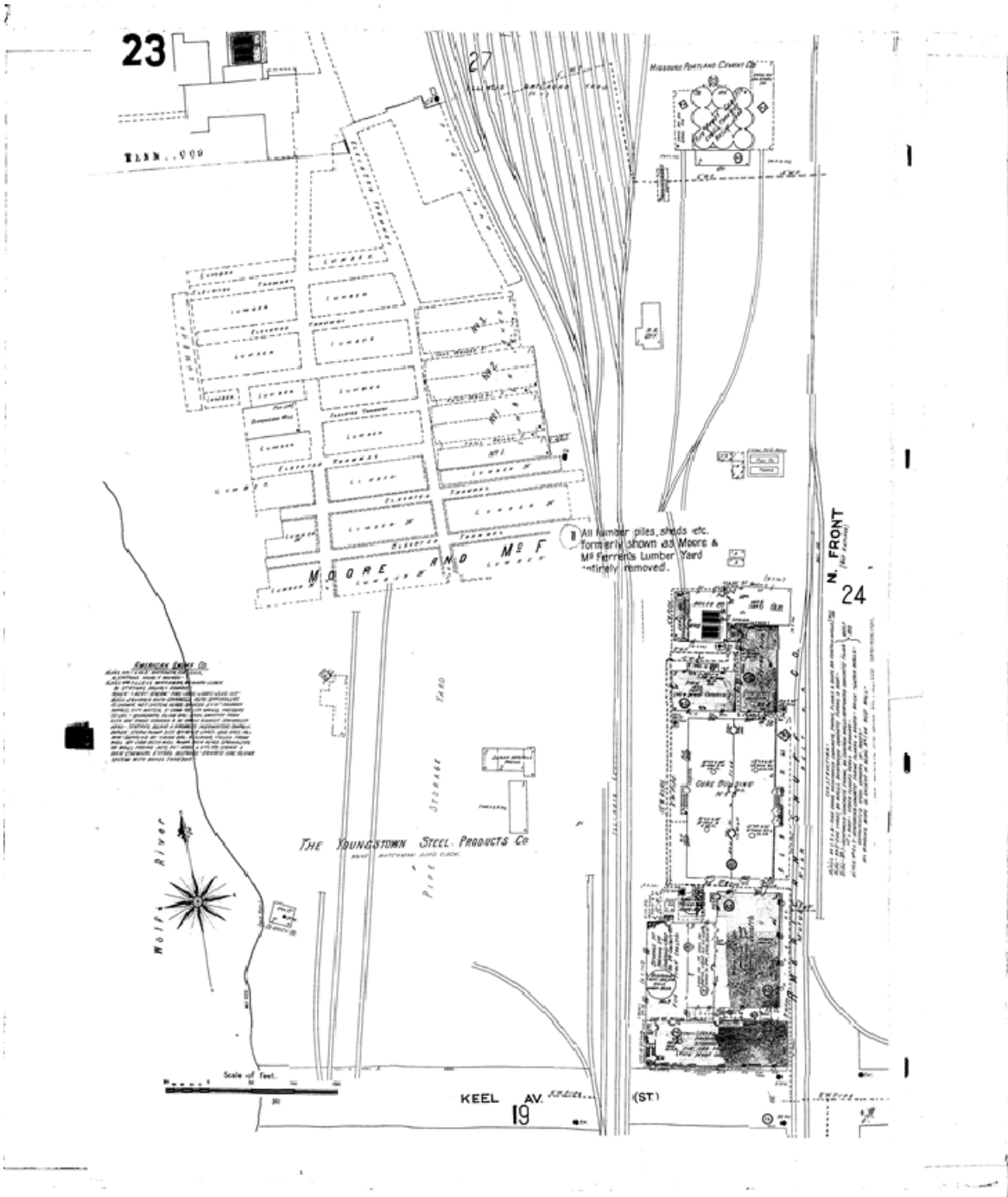


Figure 6-1951 Sanborn Fire Map, Volume 1, 1907, Revised October, 1950.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

American Snuff Company
Name of Property
Shelby, TN
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

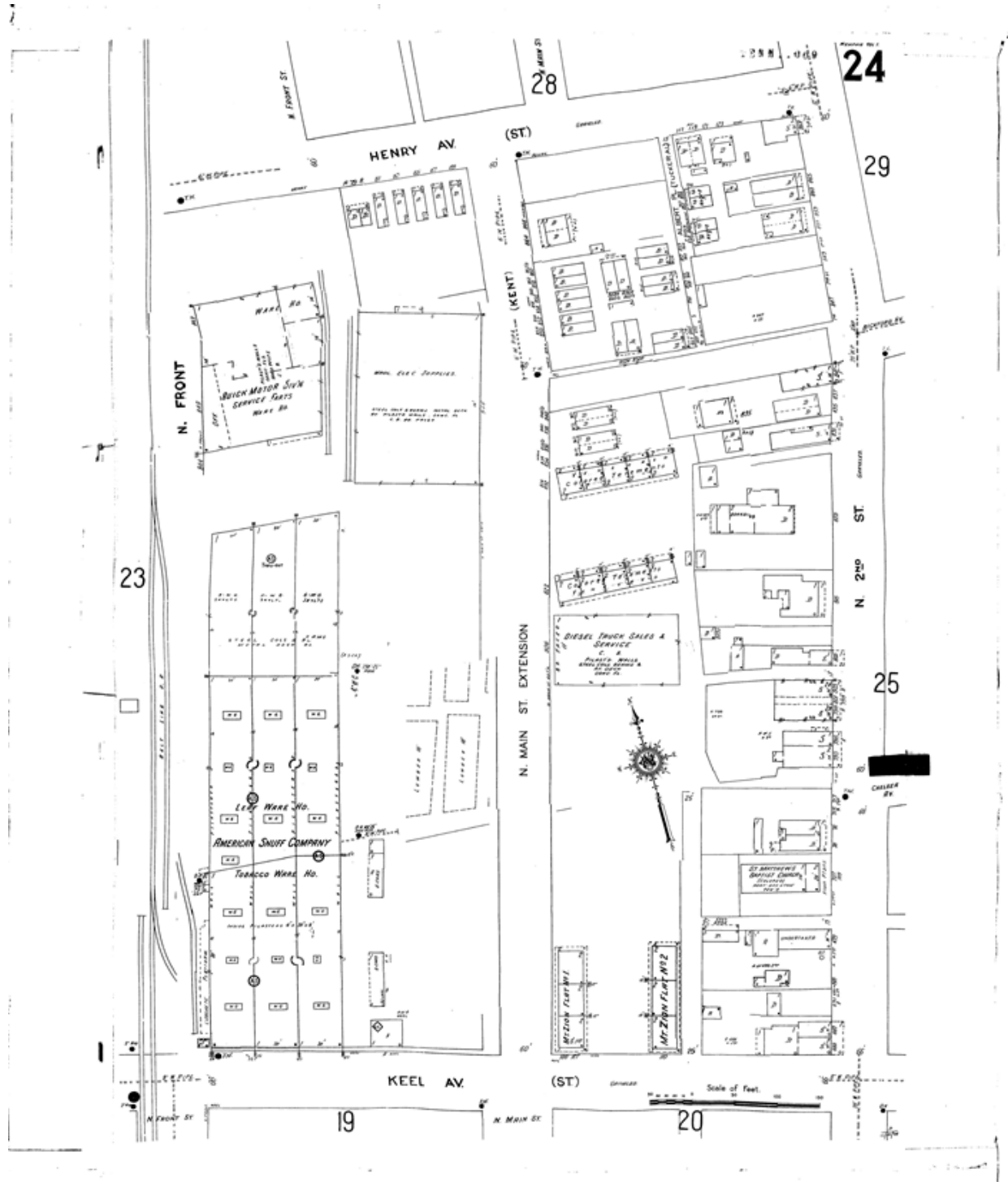


Figure 7-1951 Sanborn Fire Map, Volume 1, 1907, Revised October, 1950.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

American Snuff Company
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

American Snuff Company
Name of Property
Shelby, TN
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Property Owner:

(This information will not be submitted to the National Park Service, but will remain on file at the Tennessee Historical Commission)

Name Keel Street LLC

Street &
Number 4091 Viscount Avenue Telephone 901-870-7555

City or Town Memphis State/Zip TN, 38107

701 N. Main Street is owned by the City of Memphis.





Division of Housing
and Community
Development
City of Memphis

701









1949

DO NOT ENTER
EMPLOYEES
ONLY



Receiving Department





























DANGER
LOCK OUT TAG OUT
REQUIRED
BEFORE ENTRY

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 6/18/2018 Date of Pending List: 7/9/2018 Date of 16th Day: 7/24/2018 Date of 45th Day: 8/2/2018 Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PDIL | <input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Photo |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Waiver | <input type="checkbox"/> National | <input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource | <input type="checkbox"/> Period |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> TCP | <input type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CLG | |

Accept Return Reject 7/25/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

Lee Harris
Senator

29th Senatorial District
Shelby County

Committees
Energy, Agriculture, and Natural Resources
Judiciary



Senate Minority Leader
State of Tennessee

Lauren Agee
Senior Policy Advisor

David Aguilera
Research and Policy Analyst

Shirley A. Frierson
Executive Assistant

March 11, 2018

RECEIVED
APR 18 2018
TN. HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Tennessee Historical Commission
State Historic Preservation Office
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 3721

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

Thank you for informing me that National Trust Life Insurance Company and American Snuff Company Historic District will be considered for the National and Tennessee Registers of Historic Places. While I am unable to attend the board meeting on May 16, please let this letter serve as support for the properties placement on the Register. These properties are both well deserving of this status.

All the best,

Lee Harris

CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL REGISTER

CLG: Memphis, TN
PROPERTY: American Snuff Factory District
ADDRESS: 46 Keel Avenue, 700 N. Front Street, 701 N. Main Street

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION EVALUATION

NAME OF COMMISSION: Memphis Landmarks Commission
DATE OF MEETING: Thursday, April 26, 2018
HOW WAS THE PUBLIC NOTIFIED OF THE MEETING? Memphis Daily News Publication and USPS Mailed Public Notices

- ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 NOT ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:

The Memphis Landmarks Commission held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, April 26, 2018 and reviewed the notification of multiple listings for properties located at 46 Keel Avenue, 700 N. Front Street & 701 N. Main Street for nomination to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The vote was unanimous for recommending the multiple properties listing on the National Register due to the architectural styles of late 19th and early 20th Century American Movements Commercial Style and Modernist Architecture, including its role in the United States smokeless tobacco industry from 1912 until 1957. By 1955, the American Snuff Company was the second largest snuff manufacturer in the United States with a workforce of 800 employees. The factory buildings are located east of the Canadian National Railroad (formerly Illinois-Central) railroad track constructed circa. 1890 with abandoned spur tracks located on Front Street which once served both the factory and warehouse buildings. The facility was intentionally located in an area near the railroad and adjacent to the historic working class residential neighborhoods of Greenlaw Historic District (NR 8-16-84) and Tri-State Iron Works (NR 4-17-97).

SIGNATURE: 
TITLE: Brian S. Bacchus, Memphis CLG Coordinator

DATE: May 15, 2018

THC STAFF EVALUATION

- ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER NOT
 ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER

REASONS FOR ELIGIBILITY OR NON-ELIGIBILITY:

The American Snuff Company Historic District is significant under Criterion A under Commerce for its role in the United States smokeless tobacco industry from 1912 until 1957. By 1955, the American Snuff Company was the second largest snuff manufacturer in the US with a workforce of 800 employees including 500 at the Memphis plant. Vacated in 2012, the factory complex remains intact and reflects the history of snuff manufacturing in Memphis from the early to mid-twentieth century.

SIGNATURE: 
TITLE: Historic Preservation Supervisor

DATE: March 28, 2018

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN BEFORE: January 8,

RETURN FORM

HOLLY BARNETT
TENNESSEE HISTORICAL
COMMISSION 2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-
0442 HOLLY.M.BARNETT@TN.GOV



TENNESSEE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
2941 LEBANON PIKE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37214
OFFICE: (615) 532-1550
E-mail: Claudette.Stager@tn.gov
(615) 770-1089



June 7, 2018

J. Paul Loether
Deputy Keeper and Chief,
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW, Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

National Register Nomination

- *American Snuff Company Historic District, Shelby County, Tennessee*

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct nomination for listing of the *American Snuff Company Historic District* to the National Register of Historic Places. We received CLG comments and one comment in support of the nomination.

If you have any questions or if more information is needed, please contact Holly Barnett at (615) 770-1098 or Holly.M.Barnett@tn.gov.

Sincerely,

Claudette Stager
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

CS:hb

Enclosures(2)