

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received OCT 14 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Cahill Iron Works
and/or common Crane Building (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 1317 Chestnut Street N/A not for publication
city, town Chattanooga N/A vicinity of
state Tennessee code 047 county Hamilton code 065

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Harold Coker
street & number Post Office Box 8056
city, town Chattanooga N/A vicinity of state TN 37411

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hamilton County Courthouse
street & number Georgia Avenue
city, town Chattanooga state TN 37402

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Chattanooga Hamilton County
title Landmarks Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1976-77 federal state county local
depository for survey records Chattanooga-Hamilton County
Regional Planning Commission
city, town Chattanooga state Tennessee 37402

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located at 1317 Chestnut Street immediately south of downtown Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Crane Building is a four-story utilitarian brick structure with a limestone foundation. Until the 1950's the area surrounding the building was a major warehouse and factory district, but almost all of the structures in this turn-of-the-century area have been demolished for urban renewal. The east, south, and west facades of the Crane Building have elliptical arched windows with nine-over-nine, double-hung sash windows. The north facade has no fenestration. The interior spaces are unpartitioned and are supported by exposed wooden posts and beams. The building retains a high level of architectural and historical integrity.

The front facade (Chestnut Street) is the most formal, with the windows on each floor grouped in three pairs. On this side, short ground level windows let light into the basement. All the windows have elliptical brick arches and limestone sills. The windows on the first floor are slightly taller than those on the second through fourth floors and are double-hung, nine-over-nine; only the windows on the first floor and basement levels appear to be original. (There are no windows extant on the second through fourth floors.) The windows on the first floor have been restored. The others have now been replaced with single panes with a moulding strip across the center to gesture to the double hung windows on the first floor. The front facade is topped by a simple brick cornice.

The north side of the building is a solid wall of plain brick, and has no openings. The roof slopes to the rear, and the building walls step down accordingly. The rear facade is similar to the front in that the windows are grouped slightly into 3 pairs of windows on floors 2-4. The first level has a large central doorway (for loading) flanked by two windows on the left, and by a door and window on the right. The original structure was probably symmetrical, as the top of the original window opening (where the small door is now) has clearly been filled in at a much later date. This door is probably contemporary with the concrete loading dock.

The south side has eight regularly spaced windows on the second through fourth floors. The first floor has a door near the front, a centrally placed large doorway, and an extra window near the rear (one more than the other floors) forming a grouping of three, probably the original location of an office. Most of the interior partitions on the first floor were of recent vintage, and were removed in the current renovation.

The walls are of solid brick approximately 12" thick at the base. With the exception of the few recent partitions on the first floor (noted above), all floors are open, and have a central beam 12" x 18" running down the center of the building from front to rear supported by 12" x 12" wooden posts. The beam supports 3" x 12" joists on 12" centers. A concrete floor has been poured in the basement. There is no evidence of undue settling and the building appears to be structurally sound.

The building covers almost all of the nominated property. There are no outbuildings.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1912 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Crane Building is being nominated under National Register criteria A and C as one of the last remaining buildings of a large industrial complex which grew along the east side of the railroad tracks just south of downtown from the 1880s to the 1920s. This particular building was part of a complex owned by the Cahill Iron Works. The iron industry, together with the railroads, was a major factor in Chattanooga's growth as an industrial center. The building is a good local example of an early twentieth-century industrial structure.

Drs. Livingood and Govan, in their book, The Chattanooga Country 1540-1976, felt "it was the iron industry which . . . built the foundations for the future industrial activity of Chattanooga." The Cahill Iron Works were started in 1875; in 1879 they expanded with John Cahill's purchase of a lot at the corner of Boyce and Hooke (now Chestnut and 13th St.) from Colonel A.M. Johnson. They started out making store and house fronts (The "Glass Building," formerly at 8th and Broad, one of Chattanooga's first cast iron buildings, was produced at the Cahill Works), then moved into marbelized mantles. Shortly before his death in 1889, Cahill had sold an interest to Frank H. Caldwell. The Chattanooga Evening News boasted in 1889, that "the sun never sets on Cahill Mantles. They are sold in every state and country almost on the globe." Caldwell ran the company until his retirement in 1922, when he sold it to the Crane Company of Chicago.

The Cahill Iron Works was combined with the Mutual Enameling Company of Chattanooga (which was purchased at the same time) to form the Crane Enamelware Company. This new company used the 1317 Chestnut Street property as a warehouse and plumbing supply company. (It appears in the City Directories as the Crane Company wholesale plumbing supplies.) In the 1920's, the Crane subsidiary in Chattanooga produced all the company's bathtubs. The local plants have been expanded many times since then, and the Crane Company is still a major local industry. As the company grew, however, they moved out of the Chestnut Street area and expanded instead in Alton Park, tearing down most of the Cahill Iron Works properties on the east side of Chestnut, and apparently using 1317 for storage.

The building was vacant when purchased recently by Harold Coker of the Coker Tire Company. The Coker Company is renovating the building for use as the main headquarters of their antique tire division (which supplies new tires for antique cars.) They are also considering using the first floor to display a number of their antique cars.

An idea of the size of the original iron works and warehouse district can be gotten from the 1928 Sanborn Insurance map (attachment #2). Most of these buildings have now been torn down. The current construction of the TVA Office Complex to the north is increasing land values in the area from 11th to 14th. The structure at 1317 Chestnut is representative of the solid utilitarian warehouse and factory buildings that once predominated in the area just south of downtown Chattanooga. A good 90% of these structures no longer stand, and of those that remain, even fewer are in good shape structurally, as this building is. It is also closely associated with the iron industry in Chattanooga and with several noted local industrialists.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chattanooga City Directories; Chattanooga Plat and Insurance Maps
Govan, Gilbert E., and Livingood, James W. The Chattanooga Country 1540-1976
Wilson, John, Chattanooga's Story
Chattanooga Times 4-29-1933, 3-28-43, 1-24-22; Chattanooga Evening News 5-23, 1889

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .58 acres

Quadrangle name Chattanooga, TN

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	6	5	3	9	2	0	3	8	7	8	5	8	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D

Zone		Easting						Northing						

E

Zone		Easting						Northing						

F

Zone		Easting						Northing						

G

Zone		Easting						Northing						

H

Zone		Easting						Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is bounded on the east by Chestnut Street and on the south, west, and north by adjoining property lines. Only the approximately half acre historically associated with the building is included in the nomination.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ned Pratt, Executive Director

organization Landmarks Chattanooga, Inc.

date August 1983

street & number Post Office Box 614

telephone 266-5009

city or town Chattanooga

state Tennessee 37401

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

Deputy

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Herbert L. Stagn

title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

date 10/6/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

11/10/83

J. Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date *

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet

Crane Building

Item number 8

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The Crane Building was built in 1912, although it is not listed separately in the city directories until 1922, when the properties were transferred to the Crane Company. Tax data show it was constructed in 1912, and a Sanborn Insurance map (1901, updated 1908-14) confirms the date. A utilitarian brick warehouse, with arched windows and a decorative brickwork cornice, the building is very similar architecturally to much of the rest of the iron works complex, which is no longer extant. The main plant at 13th and Chestnut (across the street from 1317) was torn down in 1933.

The Crane Building is representative of the industrial structures which were once numerous in Chattanooga at the turn of the century and which are now very scarce. The building has a definite aesthetic value in its simple proportions and clear expression of materials and function.



Crane Building
 1317 Chestnut Street
 Chattanooga, Hamilton County, Tennessee

TAX MAP Scale 1" = 100' N

45-K