

MAY 29 2015

United States Department of Interior
National Park Service

Nat. Register of Historic Places
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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900A). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property


historic name Spellman Granite Works
other names/site number Spellman Monument Company

2. Location

street & number 615 Phillips Boulevard N/A not for publication
city or town Sauk City N/A vicinity
state Wisconsin code WI county Sauk County code 111 zip code 53583

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of certifying official/Title Date 5/21/15
State Historic Preservation Officer - Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Name of Property

County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the

National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the

National Register.

See continuation sheet.

removed from the National

Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(check as many boxes as
as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- structure
- Site
- Object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources
in the count)

contributing	noncontributing
1	0 buildings
0	0 sites
0	0 structures
0	0 objects
1	0 total

Name of related multiple property listing:
(Enter "N/A" if property not part of a multiple property
listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources
previously listed in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/Manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/Business

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Other: Front Gabled

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: concrete

Walls: other

Roof: asphalt shingle

Other: N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for the National Register listing.)

- 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
(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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Period of Significance

1917-1965

Significant Dates

1917, 1921

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Spellman Granite Works
Name of Property

Sauk County
County and State

Wisconsin

9. Major Bibliographic References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous Documentation on File (National Park Service):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State Agency
 - Federal Agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Spellman Monument Co.
Sauk City Public Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _____ .86 acres _____

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16T 278860 4793996
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

See Continuation Sheet

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Gail R. Klein, Historic Preservation Consultant	date	August 5, 2014
organization		telephone	(541) 285-0352
street & number	607 East Street	zip code	53589
city or town	Stoughton	state	WI

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name/title	Rod Schwegel and Lori Recker	date	August 5, 2014
organization	FOLR	telephone	608-643-2363
street & number	615 Phillips Boulevard	zip code	53583-1380
city or town	Sauk City	state	WI

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. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects, (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 1

Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Introduction

The Spellman Granite Works was established in this building, which was moved to the site in 1917 and expanded in 1921. It is a utilitarian, front-gabled, vernacular form industrial building in the Village of Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin. The property consists of the building and the associated lawn and parking lot north and south of the building.

Site

Located within the northwestern half of the block bounded by Phillips Boulevard, Dallas Street, Jackson Street, and Franklin Street, Spellman Granite Works is located at the western edge of the original town plat of the Village of Sauk City. Newer commercial buildings are located along this section of Phillips Boulevard, while the areas immediately north, east, and west of the property contain older single-family houses. Public sidewalks with grass terraces are located along Phillips Boulevard and Jackson Street; a concrete walk provides access from Dallas Street to the entry stoop on the building's west side. A mown grass lawn is located south and east of the building; this lawn is bounded on the east side by an approximately 400 foot-long section of abandoned railroad tracks. This track, owned by others and not part of the nominated property, is a disused section of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad. It extends from the northeast corner of Franklin and Jackson streets to a point about 10 feet north of the Phillips Boulevard sidewalk (the railroad tracks have been removed from the Phillips Boulevard crossing). The spur line that led from this section of track to the interior of the workshop is no longer extant. A gravel yard, historically used for raw stone storage, and a number of mature trees are located north of the building (see Figure 1).

This 9,800 square-foot, front-gabled vernacular building consists of two distinct building masses arranged in an irregular plan with the front of the building facing west toward Dallas Street. The building is made up of the original one-story, rectangular, showroom moved to the site in 1917 and a large, two-story, workshop constructed in 1921 at the rear (north) of the earlier building. Smaller, one-story bays project from the north wall of the workshop. Each of the primary building masses has a concrete foundation and an asphalt-shingled gable roof (shingles are diamond-patterned on the roof of the showroom and on the northern roof slope of the workshop). As a utilitarian building, the Spellman Granite Work's primary character-defining features include its simple fenestration (consisting primarily of 8-over-1 double-hung windows), overhanging eaves along the roof of the workshop mass, heavy concrete braces along the east wall of the showroom, and metal-clad timber braces along the north and south walls of the workshop. The exterior has EIFS (Exterior Insulation and Finish System) and fiber cement board siding applied over the original concrete and clapboard wall material, installed c2005.

West Facade

The west facade contains the building's primary entrance and is asymmetrical, consisting of a central two-story, front-gabled workshop flanked by one-story showroom and office wings on each side.

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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

From left to right, the west facade of the north wing contains two 8-over-1 double-hung windows, a glass door, and another 8-over-1 double-hung window. From left to right, the west facade of the central workshop contains a bank of six single-pane windows with a built-in planter below and a glass door flanked by small, single-pane windows at the first story; the door is accessed via a low concrete stoop with metal pipe railings on each side. An asymmetrically-pitched awning roof with simple wood brackets and exposed rafter ends is located above the first story of the workshop mass; the wall below this is clad in EIFS in keeping with the aesthetic of the adjacent north and south wings. The second story of the workshop mass contains three evenly-spaced 8-over-1 double-hung windows. From left to right, the west facade of the south wing contains two single-pane casement windows, five 8-over-1 double-hung windows, and a glass door accessed by a small concrete stoop with metal pipe railings.

Since the building's construction between 1917 and 1921, alterations to the west facade have included the c.1963 addition of the asymmetrically-pitched awning roof, built-in planter, large window bank, and small single-pane windows to the workshop mass; the c.2005 addition of the three glass entry doors; the c.2005 removal of four windows from the showroom wing and the replacement of two 8-over-1 windows with single-pane casements; and the 2010 replacement of original wood 8-over-1 windows with vinyl 8-over-1 windows of the same size and style.

South Facade

The south facade is asymmetrical and consists of the southern walls of the south (showroom) wing and workshop. The southern facade of the south wing contains a ribbon of five single-pane windows sheltered by a low-pitched awning roof with simple wood brackets. The gable wall above this is clad in clapboard siding. At its western end, the southern facade of the workshop contains a slightly-recessed, two-story garage bay that has been clad in fiber-cement board siding. East of this, from left to right, the first story contains three 8-over-1 double-hung windows, a modern overhead garage door (in a faux carriage door style), and two more 8-over-1 double-hung windows. Seven metal-clad timber braces reach halfway up the height of the wall at regular intervals; each of these has an individual concrete footing. The second story of the workshop mass contains five smaller 8-over-1 double-hung windows.

Since 1921, alterations to the building's south facade have included the c.1963 removal of the original stepped parapet wall on the south wall of the showroom which was replaced by angled clapboards below the gable, a gabled awning, and a five-pane ribbon window. In addition, the original railroad bay entrance, visible as a framed recess in the south wall of the workshop mass, was enclosed c.2005 and a small garage door was added east of this at about the same time. In 2010, original wood 8-over-1 windows were replaced with vinyl 8-over-1 windows of the same size and style.

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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

East Facade

The east facade is asymmetrical and consists of the eastern walls of the south (showroom) wing and workshop. From left to right, the east facade of the south wing contains two 8-over-1 double-hung windows, a single multi-pane pedestrian doorway, three 8-over-1 double-hung windows, and two single-pane casement windows. Three large, concrete braces reach about halfway up the height of the wall at regular intervals along the northern half of the wall. The east facade of the workshop mass contains four regularly-spaced 8-over-1 double-hung windows at the first story and four smaller 8-over-1 double-hung windows at the second story.

Alterations to the east facade include the c.2005 removal of four window openings and the addition of two casement windows to the east side of the showroom wing. In 2010, original wood 8-over-1 windows were replaced with vinyl 8-over-1 windows of the same size and style.

North Facade

The north facade is asymmetrical and consists of the northern walls of the workshop, projecting garage bay, and north wing. From left to right, the first story contains one 8-over-1 double-hung window; a metal pedestrian door; two 8-over-1 double-hung windows; a projecting 2-story garage bay with a metal overhead garage door and a single pedestrian door; a second metal overhead garage door; and two 8-over-1 double-hung windows in the northern wall of the north wing. Five metal-clad timber braces are located at intervals along the northern wall of the workshop; each of these has an individual concrete footing. The second story of the workshop mass contains four smaller 8-over-1 double-hung windows. The eastern wall of the north wing contains a recessed entry porch with a single pedestrian door with glazing in its upper half.

Alterations to the north facade include the c.2005 construction of a metal-clad garage bay and the contemporaneous addition of the overhead garage door in the workshop's northern wall. In 2010, original wood 8-over-1 windows were replaced with vinyl 8-over-1 windows of the same size and style.

Interior

The interior of the building is divided into three distinct spaces: the public showroom space housed within the south wing, intermediate office space in the northeast quarter of the building, and the open workshop space comprising the remainder of the building. Growth and expansion necessitated a series of alterations, made during the period of significance. These changes, completed in 1963, included: the replacement of the showroom's board floor with concrete, the addition of drywall to the showroom walls and ceilings (in place of earlier wallboard paneling), the addition of a separate design room to

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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

the southern end of the workshop, and the relocation of the two main offices from the southern to the northern end of the showroom.¹

Showroom

The showroom is accessed from the outside via a single glass door at the far southern end of its western wall. At the interior, it is accessed from the office space via a short hallway. The showroom is a large, open space with painted concrete floors and drywall on the walls and ceiling. An original arched wooden truss spans the room at its northern end; the truss is comprised of a gridwork of wooden slats. Metal tie rods are located overhead along the length of the showroom. Two rows of original glass pendant lights hang from the ceiling at regular intervals.

Offices

North of the showroom are a series of seven small offices and two restrooms. Two of the offices are located within the south wing, on either side of a short hallway. Both of these have carpeted floors with recently-added wooden baseboards, doors, and window surrounds. The western office contains a pair of pass-through windows with a sliding glass sash. The remaining five offices are located within the workshop mass and north wing. Some of the offices within the workshop space are framed out separately while others are of concrete block construction. Each of these offices has a carpeted floor with recently-added wooden baseboards, window surrounds, and doors. One has a drop ceiling with one concrete block wall. Each of the small bathrooms shares a concrete block wall and contains modern bathroom fixtures. These offices were built into the north end of the showroom wing and west end of the workshop in about 2000.

Workshop

The majority of the two-story building mass is open space that originally served as a workshop for stone cutting, carving, polishing, and etching. This space has a dirt floor, board walls, and an open beam ceiling. Metal, factory-style lights hang from the ceiling. An original metal flywheel is mounted to a steel I-beam above the main workshop space. The frame of the original railway door is located in the workshop's northern wall. The offices, restrooms, and garage bay that are located in the workshop mass have been framed out at a height of one story within the two-story mass so that the original workshop walls and ceilings are visible above these spaces.

Integrity

The Spellman Granite Works is in good condition and retains a moderate degree of overall integrity. Changes made by the company during the property's period of significance (1917-1965) include the mid-century "modernization" of the building's south and west facades; these updates consisted of the

¹ *Sauk City 125th Jubilee Historical Album* (Sauk City, WI: Sauk City Library, 1979), 93-94.
Jeanne Miller (owner, Spellman Monument Company, Inc.), telephone interview, August 1, 2014.

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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

addition of the gabled awnings above the primary south and west entrances, the addition of the built-in planter to the western façade of the workshop, and the addition of fixed-sash window banks to both the south and west elevations. At the same time, the company updated the showroom space with the addition of a concrete floor and drywalled walls and ceilings. Because these changes were made by the Spellman Company during the property's period of significance, they do not diminish the building's overall integrity.

Since 1965, the renamed Spellman Monument Company removed the rooftop signboard that ran the length of the showroom wing and added additional interior office space, and in the early 1970s the stepped parapet on the south wall of the showroom was removed. Otherwise, few changes were made until c2005 when the property was sold to a new owner who added the existing fiber cement board over the original clapboards of the workshop mass and EIFS wall material over the original concrete walls of the showroom and north wing. The most recent alteration occurred in 2010 when the building's original wood 8-over-1 windows were replaced with customized 8-over-1 vinyl windows in keeping with the size, scale, and appearance of the originals. Although these changes were made outside of the property's period of significance, they do not heavily detract from the building's original industrial function or from the historic industrial association for which it is eligible for National Register listing. In addition, the building's interior spaces and remaining original fixtures continue to reflect their original functions.

Summary

Constructed in 1917 and 1921, the Spellman Granite Works employs a utilitarian, front-gabled, vernacular style and retains a moderate degree of overall integrity with no major changes to its location or setting, only minor changes to its general plan and design, and some alterations to its original exterior building materials. As a whole, this utilitarian building is clearly recognizable as an early-twentieth-century industrial facility.

Rehabilitation 2015

In 2015, the current owners rehabilitated the building for reuse as office space. Generally, exterior work included roof replacement, exterior painting, and window replacement of non-original windows. On the showroom wing, non-original mid-century gabled awnings were removed; recent windows were removed and replaced with windows to match the original configuration; and the south façade parapet wall was reconstructed based on historic documentation of the original appearance. On the workshop wing, missing 8-over-1 windows were replaced with new to match the historic configuration; recently installed overhead garage doors were removed and; the historic railcar bay was reopened at the south end and the large expanse was filled with glass windows and a glass door. At the interior, finishes such as carpet and drywall were installed to accommodate the new use as office space but the volumes of spaces were retained as were the extant machinery remnants.

End Section

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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Introduction

Established in 1915 by brothers Bill, Harry and John Spellman, Spellman Granite Works was the leading industry of its kind in the Village of Sauk City and was well-known within the industry with a customer base throughout the Midwest. When the company formed in 1915 it was located on Water Street in the existing Kahn Foundry and Wagon building. In 1917, the Spellman brothers moved this building to its current location, where the business continued operation. With a showroom, workshop, and offices contained in its 615 Phillips Boulevard location, the company manufactured and installed cemetery monuments, markers, urns, and statuary out of this location between 1917 and 2005. In 2005 the company moved to an industrial park approximately a half-mile away and remains an active company in Sauk City. From its outset, the company supported the local community through its donations of cornerstones and monuments for a variety of public projects throughout the Sauk Prairie area.² Because Spellman Granite Works was a mainstay of Sauk City's industrial landscape throughout the early- to mid- twentieth century and is the most visible and best-preserved representative of the village's industrial heritage, the property is locally significant and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion A: in the area of Industry*.

Period of Significance

The property's period of significance is 1917 (the year the earliest section of the building was brought to the current site) to 1965 (the fifty year cut-off). The company remained in continuous operation here through multiple phases of growth and expansion.

Granite Monument Production in Wisconsin

Various forms of granite were quarried in Wisconsin in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; much of this ranged in color from red to gray, and in texture from fine to crystalline. The high quality of Wisconsin granite is reflected in its selection as the building material for Ulysses S. Grant's Tomb in New York City. The earliest granite quarries in the state were established in 1880 in Montello and Wausau; within the next eighteen years, seventeen new quarries opened across Wisconsin, primarily in the north-central part of the state. Of the large amount of granite quarried in the state in the industry's early years, only a relatively small amount was reserved for use in buildings or monuments as the bulk went to street construction projects. However, as the industry developed in the early twentieth century and granite curbs and macadamized roadways were replaced by concrete, the manufacture of monuments and tombstones was elevated to a far more important position in the industry. Although some quarries were fully equipped with their own polishers and pneumatic tools to finish the stone, few employed trained artists and craftsmen to create made-to-order monuments.³

² "Granite for Monuments Comes From Many Parts of the World, Spellman Firm Famous for Quality of Products," *The Pioneer Press*, July 21, 1932.

³ Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), 2-3.

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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

During the 1920s and 1930s, Wisconsin maintained an average of 20 quarries in production, but by the late 1940s and 1950s, the industry had begun to experience a steady decline in the number of quarries operating in the state.⁴

The Spellman Granite Company was an industry leader in Sauk City eventually growing from regional to statewide prominence in the manufacture of stone monuments. By 1945, the company was the state's second leading producer of granite memorials; by 1983 the Spellman Granite Company was one of three firms actively manufacturing granite monuments and memorials in Wisconsin.⁵ The other of Wisconsin's twentieth-century leaders in the manufacture of memorials was the Stotzer Granite and Marble Works in Portage and the Anderson Brothers and Johnson firm of Wausau. Established in the late 1890s, the Stotzer firm (later known as Stotzer Granite Company) became a major producer of Wisconsin granite memorials. Its Portage facility had manufacturing shops, offices, and salesrooms and was one of the state's largest plants by 1915. The Anderson Brothers and Johnson firm of Wausau also began in the 1890s and slowly eclipsed Stotzer to become the state's leading producer of granite memorials by 1945, with Spellman Granite Works a close second.⁶

Spellman Granite Works

William Mack Spellman was born on September 30, 1891 in Portage, Wisconsin. After attending school through the eighth grade, Spellman began an apprenticeship as a stone cutter at the Stotzer Granite Company which was quickly becoming one of Wisconsin's largest granite monument manufacturers.⁷ Spellman continued working at Stotzer for over ten years until he felt that he had sufficiently mastered the trade. In the spring of 1915, Spellman moved to Sauk City to begin his own monument firm with the help of his brother, John. To this end, the brothers purchased land at the western edge of the village at the corner of Dallas Street and Phillips Boulevard.⁸ By this time, the Kahn Foundry and Wagon Shop had ceased its operations so that its wagon shop was standing empty south of the corner of Tamarack (now Bates) and Water Streets.⁹ Finding that this building would

⁴ Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), 2-4.

⁵ Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), 2-4.

⁶ Barbara Wyatt, ed., *Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin* (Madison, WI: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986), 2-4.

"Spellmans Expand Business," *Sauk City Pionier Presse*, March 22, 1923.

⁷ "Ex-Owner of Monument Co., William Spellman, Sauk City, Dies at 69; Rites Tuesday," *Madison Capital Times*, December 5, 1960.

Joyce McKay, *An Intensive Historical Architectural and Historical Survey of the City of Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin* (Portage, WI: Portage Public Library, 1993), 141-142.

⁸ *Sauk City 125th Jubilee Historical Album* (Sauk City, WI: Sauk City Library, 1979), 93.

⁹ "Twenty Years Ago," *Sauk County News*, June 3, 1937.

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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

meet the needs of their fledgling business, the Spellmans purchased the wagon shop and used rollers and a team of horses to move it down Water Street to their new property. Advertised as the Spellman Granite Works, the business quickly found its niche in the community producing “all kinds of cemetery work [and] artistic monuments.”¹⁰ Aside from the time that both William and John served in the Army during World War I, the company expanded steadily from year to year.¹¹

By 1920, younger brother Harry had joined as a partner in the firm, and the National Retail Monument Dealers’ Association was organized into districts with Spellman Granite Works being among the charter members of the southwestern district.¹² That year, finding that the old wagon shop could no longer contain their growing business, the Spellmans constructed a large workshop addition to the rear of the building, doubling the property’s floor space. This new construction also included running a side track of the adjacent Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad through the new workshop to increase the efficiency of granite deliveries. The workshop was constructed at a height that would allow an electric hoist inside the building to lift loads of granite on to and off of flat-bed railroad cars. In this way, two men could do in four hours what had previously taken two men and a truck three days to do when loads had to be trucked to and from the Sauk City railroad depot and transferred to and from railroad cars by hand.¹³ As part of this expansion, the company hired a professional sculptor, Philipp (Filippo) Balistreri, to design and create some of its more elaborate pieces.

In February of 1923, the Spellman brothers bought out the Inter City Granite and Marble Works which had been established in the village by former Spellman employee Louis Voss three years earlier.¹⁴ With this purchase, Spellman Granite Works had become equal in its material holdings to the largest monument production plant in the state, and the second largest in volume of business.¹⁵ At the time, the local newspaper speculated that had two of the Spellman brothers not been called away to serve in the Army for over a year during World War I, the business might have been larger still.¹⁶ In 1925, the company added surface cutting and sand blast equipment and, in 1929, a mechanized stone polisher. With the full mechanization of the production process, the crew of stonecutters who formerly did this work by hand was no longer needed. In 1932, Spellman Granite Works employed between 10 and 13 men as well as a female secretary/bookkeeper.¹⁷ By this time, Spellman Granite Works was one of the

¹⁰ “We have opened up a Granite Works...,” *Sauk City Pionier Presse*, June 7, 1917.

¹¹ “Spellmans Expand Business,” *Sauk City Pionier Presse*, March 22, 1923.

¹² “District Organizations in Wisconsin,” *Granite, Marble & Bronze* 30, no.1 (1920): 41.

¹³ “Granite for Monuments Comes From Many Parts of the World, Spellman Firm Famous for Quality of Products,” *The Pioneer Press*, July 21, 1932.

¹⁴ “Spellmans Buy Inter City Granite Works,” *Sauk City Pionier Presse*, February 22, 1923.

¹⁵ “Spellmans Expand Business,” *Sauk City Pionier Presse*, March 22, 1923.

¹⁶ “Spellmans Expand Business,” *Sauk City Pionier Presse*, March 22, 1923.

¹⁷ “Granite for Monuments Comes From Many Parts of the World, Spellman Firm Famous for Quality of Products,” *The Pioneer Press*, July 21, 1932.

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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

chief industries of the village, said to contain one of the largest and most beautiful showrooms in the state, with an average stock of over one hundred finished monuments and markers, a large collection of rough material, and a workshop filled with modern electric machinery, the operation of which the brothers were happy to demonstrate for any interested visitors.¹⁸

In addition to cemetery monuments and markers, Spellman Granite Works also produced made-to-order statues, vases, bird baths, bronze work, and marble pieces. By the early 1930s, the company had also become locally known for its creation of area veterans' and other memorials and for its donation of cemetery entry pillars and cornerstones for the construction of new schools, churches, and other area buildings.¹⁹ During this time, William Spellman was elected president of the Wisconsin Monument Dealers' Association.²⁰

With the exception of a 1937 break-in that resulted in the loss of over \$3,600 in valuables, Spellman Granite Works continued to operate successfully through the Great Depression years, so much so that in 1938, the company opened a branch showroom in Madison which was entirely stocked with materials produced in its Sauk City plant.²¹ By this time, Spellman Granite Works had customers not only in Wisconsin, but in South Dakota, Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, and Pennsylvania as well.²² The continued success of the firm was also reflected in William Spellman's construction of a row of apartments along Sauk City's Water Street in 1940. That year, Harry Spellman left the company to work with a rival monument dealer in Madison. In 1941, the partnership of the remaining brothers was dissolved and William Spellman became the firm's sole owner.²³ In 1943, the Spellman Company purchased a small monument company in Richland Center which was opened as another branch office. Shortly after World War II, granite deliveries ceased to be made by train and the railroad side track was removed from the property.²⁴

¹⁸ "Spellmans Expand Business," *Sauk City Pionier Presse*, March 22, 1923.

"Spellmans To Open Show Room In Madison," *Sauk County News*, February 10, 1938.

¹⁹ "Granite for Monuments Comes From Many Parts of the World, Spellman Firm Famous for Quality of Products," *The Pioneer Press*, July 21, 1932.

²⁰ "Ex-Owner of Monument Co., William Spellman, Sauk City, Dies at 69; Rites Tuesday," *Madison Capital Times*, December 5, 1960.

²¹ "\$3,600 In Bonds Is Stolen At Sauk City," *La Crosse Tribune and Leader Press*, March 5, 1937.

"Spellmans To Open Show Room In Madison," *Sauk County News*, February 10, 1938.

"Ex-Owner of Monument Co., William Spellman, Sauk City, Dies at 69; Rites Tuesday," *Madison Capital Times*, December 5, 1960.

²² "Spellmans To Open Show Room In Madison," *Sauk County News*, February 10, 1938.

²³ "Spellman Granite Works Dissolves Partnership," *Sauk County News*, April 3, 1941 and April 10, 1941.

²⁴ W.J. Coenen commentary. Sauk City, Prairie du Sac 1938, DVD, Produced by Jim Kirchstein (Mt. Horeb, WI: Saxon Technology, 2002).

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Spellman Granite Works
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William Spellman retired from the business in 1954 and sold the company to W.J. “Shimmel” Coenen. The following year, the company’s name was changed to Spellman Monument Company. Under Coenen’s ownership, the company continued to expand as reflected in a series of alterations completed in 1963; these included the replacement of the showroom’s board floor with concrete, the addition of drywall to the showroom walls and ceilings (in place of earlier wallboard paneling), the addition of a separate design room to the western end of the workshop, and the relocation of the two main offices from the southern to the northern end of the showroom.²⁵

From that time through the present, the Spellman Monument Company continued to expand its operations. In the early 1970s, the parapet was removed from the south elevation and the existing gabled awning roofs were added to the west and south elevations. In 1975, a third branch office was opened in Reedsburg, and the company was incorporated in 1978. By 1980, the firm had become the largest of its kind in southern Wisconsin.²⁶ In 2005, the company relocated from Phillips Boulevard to the industrial park on Community Drive. The property was sold to Ruth Schreiner who opened a flower shop in the showroom space and rented the workshop area to an automotive detailer and landscaping business. At about this time, the fiber-cement board siding was added over the workshop’s original clapboards and EIFS siding was added over the original concrete-clad walls of the showroom. In addition, the two northernmost windows on the east and west sides of the showroom were replaced with single-pane casements and four of the double-hung windows were removed from both side elevations. A metal-clad garage bay was constructed off of the rear elevation (a smaller bay stood in this location since at least 1930, but this appears to have been demolished sometime previously). In 2010, damaged wood windows were replaced with vinyl windows that match the originals in size and appearance (8-over-1), though not in material. In 2014, the property was sold to current owners, Rod Schwegel and Lori Recker, who plan to restore the building to its c.1921 appearance.

Comparative Analysis

Since its establishment as Wisconsin’s first incorporated village in 1854, Sauk City has been home to a number of successful industrial enterprises. Prior to 1890, nearly all of these were small-scale family shops located along Water Street (the village’s main business district), and included a blacksmith shop/foundry, harness shop, wagon shop, and a small brewery. A notable exception was the Dresen Brothers Lumber Company which was established in 1864 and handled nearly all major building projects in the village from that time through the early twentieth century.²⁷ With this exception, the

²⁵ *Sauk City 125th Jubilee Historical Album* (Sauk City, WI: Sauk City Library, 1979), 93-94.

Jeanne Miller (owner, Spellman Monument Company, Inc.), telephone interview, August 1, 2014.

²⁶ *Sauk City 125th Jubilee Historical Album* (Sauk City, WI: Sauk City Library, 1979), 94.

²⁷ Myrtle Wilhelm Cushing and Michael J. Goc, *Lives Lived Here: A Walk Through the History of Sauk City* (Friendship, WI: New Past Press, Inc., 1992), 227.

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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

majority of industrial operations in Sauk City were established in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Between 1887 and 1925, seven industrial operations were founded in Sauk City. In addition to the Spellman Granite Company, these included the Sauk City Canning Company, Wisconsin Creamery Company, McFarlane Tractor Company, Riverside (later, Celo) Bottling Works, Grass-Premier Truck Company, and Sauk City Brewery. Together, these businesses offered industrial jobs to area residents in what had previously been a purely agricultural community.²⁸

Of the industries referenced above, the most notable in terms of scale of operations and longevity included the Spellman Granite Company, joined by the Sauk City Canning Company, the Wisconsin Creamery Company, the McFarlane Tractor Company, and the Dresen Brothers Lumber Company. Notable smaller and/or shorter-lived industries included Lachmund Lumber Company, Riverside/Celo Bottling Works, Grass-Premier Truck Company, and Sauk City Brewery. Of these companies, only the McFarlane Tractor Company and Spellman Granite Works remain active in Sauk City today, though neither industry is located in its original facility. Each of Sauk City's historic industries occupied one or more buildings within the village of Sauk City.

Of these historic industrial buildings, only the Riverside/Celo Bottling Works, part of the Sauk City Canning Company, and the Spellman Granite Works are extant today. The location, historic period of operation, and current conditions of each building are as follows:

Company	Address	Years in historic building(s)	Style/material	Condition/integrity
Spellman Granite Works	615 Phillips Blvd.	1915-2005	Front Gabled/ EIFS, fiber-cement board	Good/moderate
Sauk City Canning Co.	401 John Q. Adams St.	1921-1979	Front Gabled/ vinyl	Good/low
Riverside/Celo Bottling Works	708 Water St.	1924-2007	Commercial Vernacular/ concrete	Fair/moderate

Within this architectural context, the Spellman Granite Works stands out as being the best-preserved historic industrial building in the village today.

²⁸ Myrtle Wilhelm Cushing and Michael J. Goc, *Lives Lived Here: A Walk Through the History of Sauk City* (Friendship, WI: New Past Press, Inc., 1992), 241.

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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Integrity

While changes to the west and south facades are outside of the period of significance, they were made by the Spellman Granite Company during its tenure in this building. Despite alterations to the building's exterior materials, the building is identifiable as the historic home of Spellman Granite Works and its original industrial nature remains clear (the workshop retains its original open space, dirt floor, board walls, exposed rafters and support beams, and flywheel hardware, while the showroom retains its open space, decorative wood arch, tie-rods, and pendant lights).

Conclusion

Beginning in 1915, and at the subject site from 1917, Spellman Granite Works was historically one of Sauk City's leading industries and went on to be its longest-lived. During the first half of the twentieth century, the company's headquarters on Phillips Boulevard marked the entrance to the village from the west and, as such, became a source of pride to the community with what locals described as its "lovely lawn with flowers and shrubs and a vine covered building set back from the highway."²⁹ Because Spellman Granite Works was one of the foundations of Sauk City's industrial landscape and is today the most visible and most intact remnant of this industrial heritage, the property is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion A: in the area of Industry*.

²⁹ "Granite for Monuments Comes From Many Parts of the World, Spellman Firm Famous for Quality of Products," *The Pioneer Press*, July 21, 1932.

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Spellman Granit Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

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Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

“Spellmans Expand Business.” *Sauk City Pionier Presse*. March 22, 1923.

“Spellmans To Open Show Room In Madison.” *Sauk County News*. February 10, 1938.

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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description

The historic boundary of the Spellman Granite Works is a four-sided polygon encompassing the property's only contributing resource. Beginning at the point where the Phillips Boulevard sidewalk meets the Dallas Street curb, the boundary runs north along the edge of the curb for 353 feet. From there, the boundary turns east to run for 133 feet along the southern edge of the Jackson Street sidewalk. At that point, the boundary continues south for 173 feet along the property's eastern property line. From there, the boundary follows the property line as it continues southwest for 217 feet to the point of beginning. The historic boundary coincides with the property's existing tax parcel.

Boundary Justification

The historic boundary of the nominated area is visually defined by the edge of the curb along Dallas Street and by the southern (inside) edge of the sidewalk along Jackson Street. The eastern and southern boundary lines are not visually defined by any existing physical features, but by the existing property tax parcel lines. As a whole, the historic boundary coincides with the property's existing tax parcel.

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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Name of Property: Spellman Granite Works
City or Vicinity: Village of Sauk City
County: Sauk County
State: WI
Name of Photographer: Gail R. Klein
Date of Photographs: July 26, 2014 and August 5, 2014
Location of Original Digital Files: Wisconsin Historical Society

Photo 1 of 12
West and north facades, camera facing southeast

Photo 2 of 12
North facade, camera facing south

Photo 3 of 12
East and north facades, camera facing southwest

Photo 4 of 12
East facade, camera facing west

Photo 5 of 12
South and east facade, camera facing northwest

Photo 6 of 12
South and west facade, camera facing northeast

Photo 7 of 12
Showroom, camera facing north

Photo 8 of 12
Showroom, camera facing south

Photo 9 of 12
Workshop, camera facing northeast

Photo 10 of 12
Workshop, flywheel detail

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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, Wisconsin

Photo 11 of 12
Office A, camera facing southeast

Photo 12 of 12
Office E, camera facing northwest

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Sauk City, Sauk County, WI

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Figure 2: Spellman Granite Works as shown on Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, January 1930.
Figure 3: Spellman Granite Works, postcard, c.1940.
Figure 4: Spellman Granite Works, c.1926. Photographer unknown.
Figure 5: Spellman Granite Works showroom, c.1932. Photographer unknown.
Figure 6: Floor plan, July 2014.
Figure 7: Rehabilitated south and west facades, 2015.
Figure 8: Rehabilitated south facades of showroom and workshop, 2015.
Figure 9: Detail of reopened historic railcar bay, 2015.
Figure 10: Rehabilitated showroom, 2015.
Figure 11: Extant granite works equipment, 2015.
Figure 12: Rehabilitated workshop, 2015.

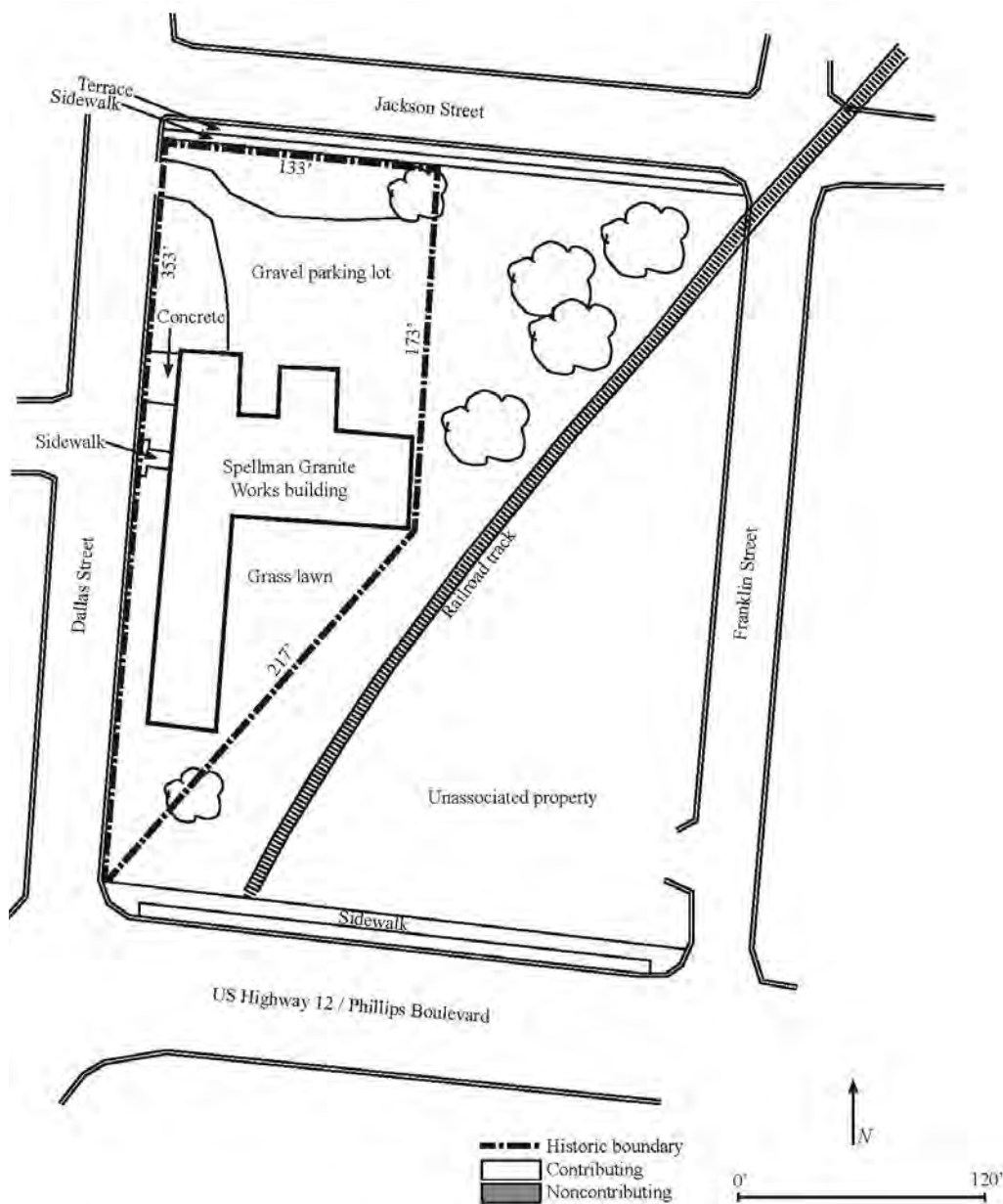
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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI

Figure 1
Sketch map of Spellman Granite Works nominated area, July 2014.



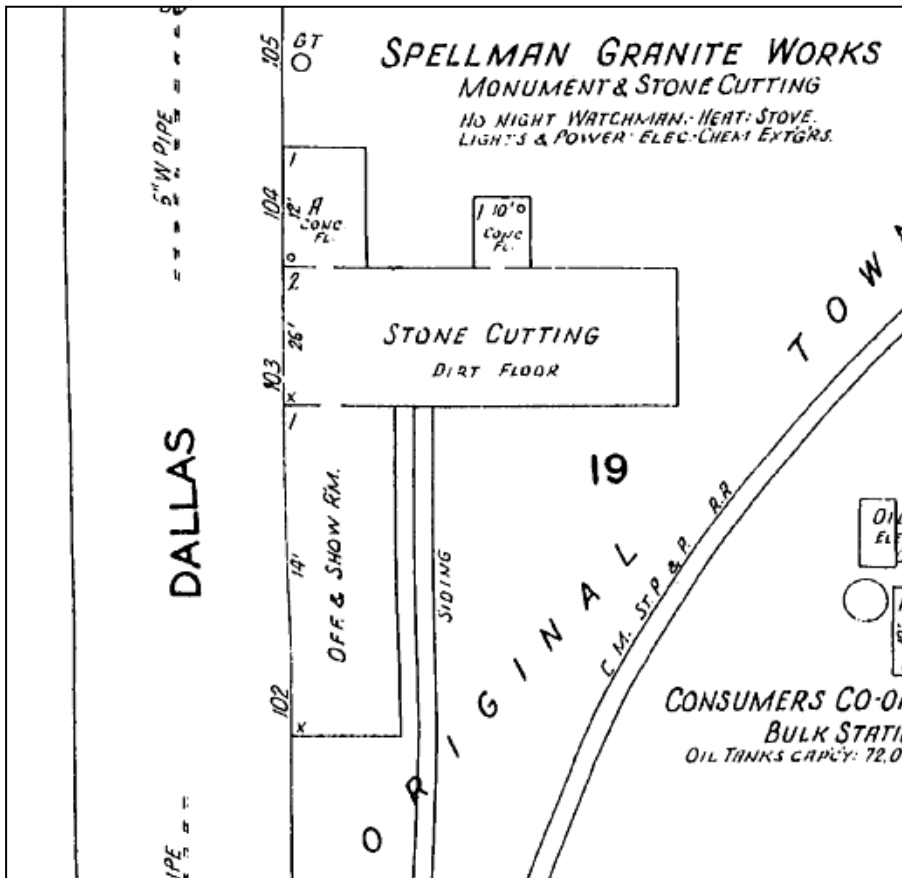
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Spellman Granite Works
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Figure 2
Spellman Granite Works as shown on Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, January 1930.



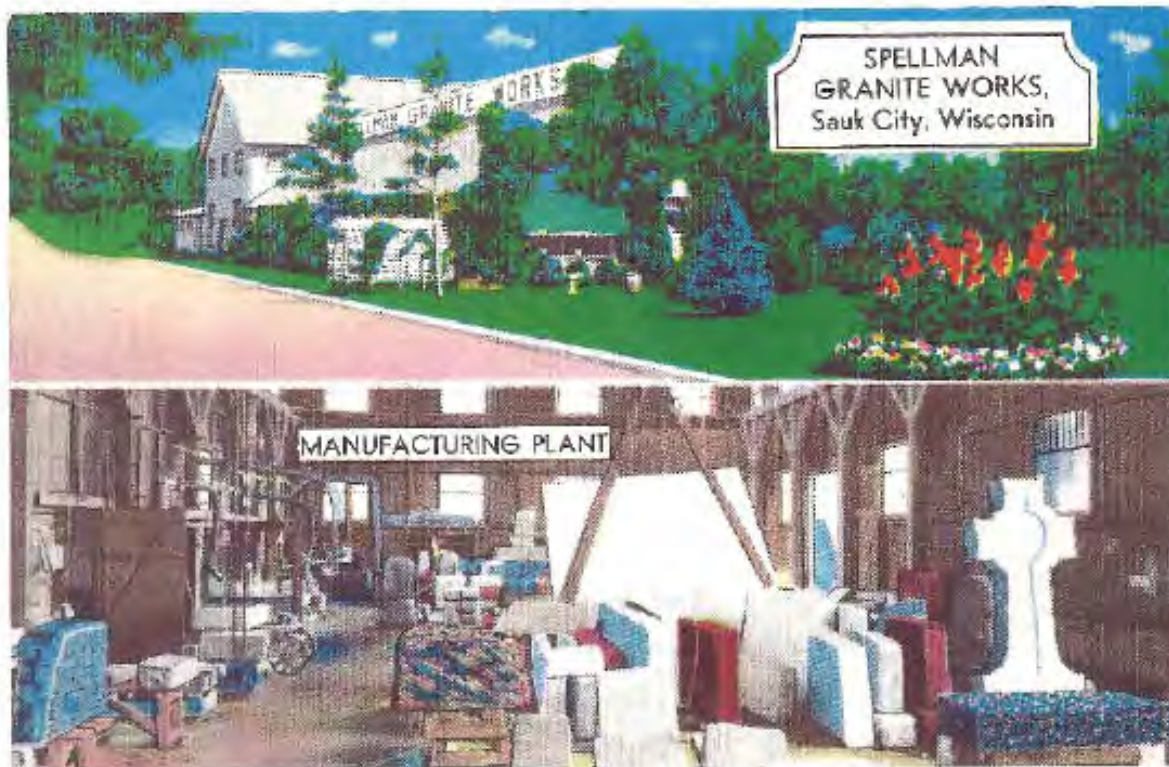
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Spellman Granite Works
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Figure 3
Spellman Granite Works postcard, c.1940.



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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI

Figure 4
Spellman Granite Works, c.1926. Photographer unknown.



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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI

Figure 5
Spellman Granite Works, showroom, c.1932. Photographer unknown.



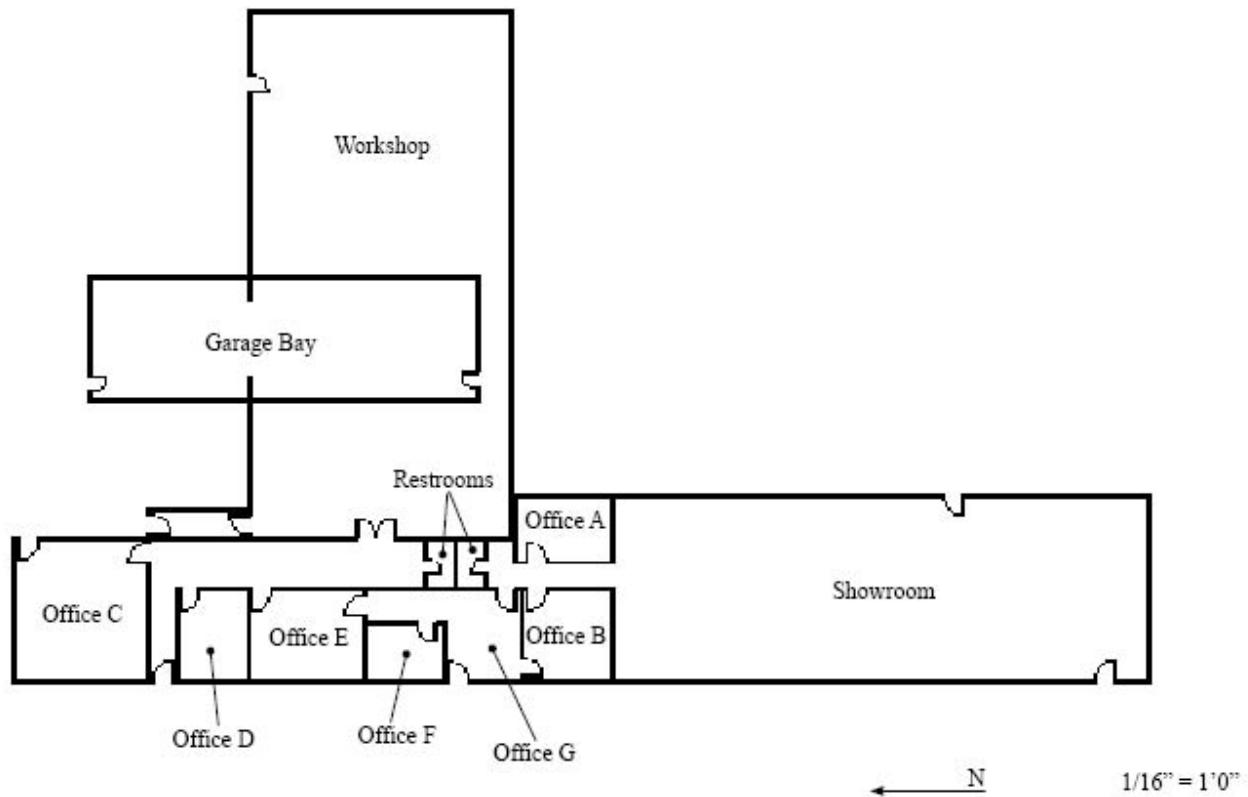
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Spellman Granite Works
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Figure 6
Floor plan, July 2014.



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Spellman Granite Works
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Figure 7
Rehabilitated south and west facades, 2015.



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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI

Figure 8
Rehabilitated south facades of showroom and workshop, 2015.



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Spellman Granite Works
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Figure 9
Detail of reopened historic railcar bay, 2015.



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Spellman Granite Works
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Figure 10
Rehabilitated showroom, 2015.



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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI

Figure 11
Extant granite works equipment, 2015.



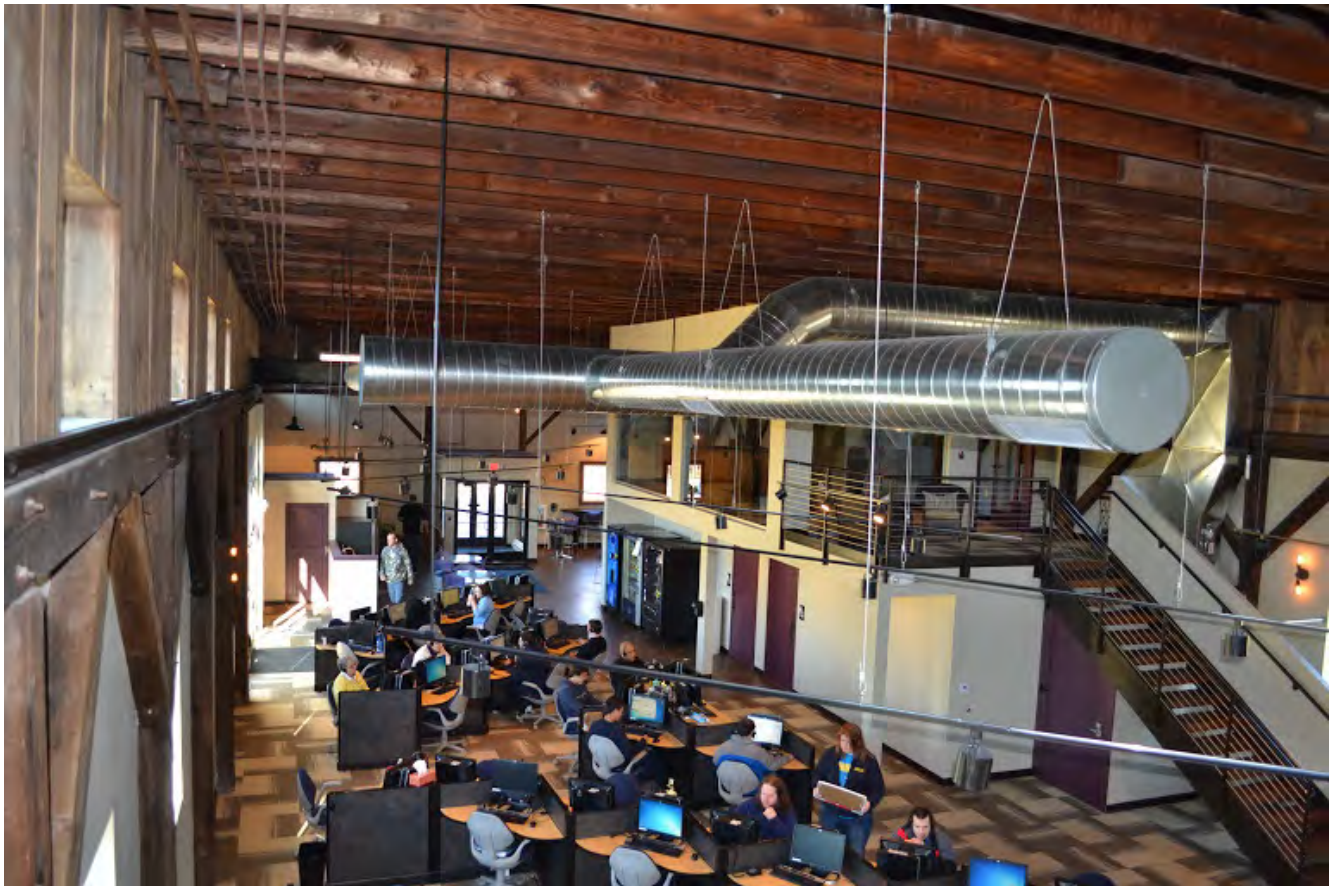
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Spellman Granite Works
Sauk City, Sauk County, WI

Figure 12
Rehabilitated workshop, 2015.





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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Spellman Granite Works
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WISCONSIN, Sauk

DATE RECEIVED: 5/29/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/01/15
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/16/15 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/14/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000426

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: Y PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Spellman Granite Works is listed in the National Register under Criterion A for its significance industry at the local level. Its period of significance is 1917 to 1965, reflecting the beginning of the industry and its on-going significance. In 2005 it relocated to another site in Sauk City. The granite works was a mainstay of Sauk City's industrial landscape throughout the early- to mid-twentieth century and is an excellent representation of the city's industrial heritage.

RECOM./CRITERIA A

REVIEWER Barbara A. [Signature]

DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE 202-354-2252

DATE 7-14-15

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

RECEIVED 2280

MAY 29 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

TO: Keeper
National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Peggy Veregin

SUBJECT: National Register Nomination

The following materials are submitted on this 26th day of May 2015,
for the nomination of the Spellman Granite Works to the National Register of Historic
Places:

- 1 Original National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form
- 1 CD with NRHP Nomination Form Word Document
- Multiple Property Nomination form
- 12 Photograph(s)
- 1 CD with electronic images
- 1 USGS map(s)
- 12 Sketch map(s)/figure(s)/exhibit(s)
- Piece(s) of correspondence
- Other _____

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do _____ do not _____
constitute a majority of property owners.
- Other: _____