

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY  
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

OCT 24 1988

HST-6 REV. 6/83

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106  
(203) 566-3005

321

| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY                                    |  |
|--|--|
| Town No.:  | Site No.:  |
| UTM 1: 8 6 7 5 6 2 0 4 6 0 4 7 6 0                     |  |
| QUAD:  | Southington  |
| DISTRICT   | IF NR. SPECIFY   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR | <input type="checkbox"/> Actual <input type="checkbox"/> Potential |

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic)  
Blakeslee Forging Company

2. TOWN/CITY: Southington VILLAGE: Plantsville 06479 COUNTY: Hartford

3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location): 100 West Main Street (map 70, parcel 78) 3.5 acres

4. OWNER(S): Mongillo, David II and Carol S. P.O. Box 354 Plantsville, CT 06479  Public  Private

5. USE (Present) (Historic)  
Manufacturing/warehouse/office Manufacturing facilities

6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD  Yes  No INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE  Yes  No IF YES, EXPLAIN: for manufacturing purposes

7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Colonial Revival vernacular DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1912-14

8. MATERIAL(S) (Indicate use or location when appropriate):  
 Clapboard  Asbestos Siding  Brick  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wood Shingle  Asphalt Siding  Fieldstone  
 Board & Batten  Stucco  Cobblestone  
 Aluminum Siding  Concrete Type: poured  Cut stone Type: \_\_\_\_\_

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:  
 Wood frame  Post and beam  balloon  
 Load bearing masonry  Structural iron or steel  
 Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

10. ROOF (Type):  
 Gable  Flat  Mansard  Monitor  sawtooth  
 Gambrel  Shed  Hip  Round  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Material)  
 Wood Shingle  Roll Asphalt  Tin  Slate  
 Asphalt shingle  Built up  Tile  Other (Specify) \_\_\_\_\_

11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 1-2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: see sketch on continuation sheet

12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)  
 Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated

13. INTEGRITY (Location) WHEN? (Alterations) IF YES, EXPLAIN: later, 20th-century additions on side elevations  
 On original site  Moved  Yes  No

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:  
 Barn  Shed  Garage  Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) factory complex at #120 West Main Street is adjacent  
 Carriage house  Shop  Garden

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:  
 Open land  Wood-land  Residential  Scattered buildings visible from site  
 Commercial  Industrial  Rural  High building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS:  
 100 West Main St. on the east side of the railroad tracks. The Quinnipiac River is to the east, and other industrial buildings are to

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

A complex of several, originally separate buildings, most of which are now connected. The complex retains most of its original features. The structures are as follows (their numbers below are keyed to those in the sketch on the attached continuation sheet, which also shows dimensions):

1. low, 1-story, 6-bay (on the west elevation, facing the railroad tracks) brick building with a broad gable roof, wood double-hung sash, timber frame roof and wood support columns. Brick exterior piers and corbeled cornice (warehouse/ machine shop).
2. low, 1-story, 8-bay (west elevation) brick building with a broad gable and monitor roof. Steel truss and concrete roof structure (warehouse).

(go to continuation sheet)

18. ARCHITECT

BUILDER

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

This set of buildings is historically significant because it was built originally for the Blakeslee Forging Company, which specialized in carriage hardware and drop forgings and was an important industrial concern during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The company was organized in 1877 and began operating on this site in the buildings formerly occupied by the Plant Manufacturing Co. The company was incorporated in 1896, with Sherman Blakeslee as its president. The present structures date from 1912-1914, when the older wooden buildings were torn down.

The complex is architecturally significant because the buildings are fine examples of industrial architecture and typify the manufacturing complexes that have played a key role in Southington history. Despite alterations, the complex retains many original features and illustrates the structural requirements of the drop forging industry.

SOURCES

Town of Southington assessor's office  
 Atwater. History of Southington, Connecticut (1924), pp.233-236  
 Ellen Westerberg Photographic Collection in the Southington Public Library.

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER

Gregory E. Andrews 2/86

VIEW

looking south

NEGATIVE ON FILE

K-10

COMPILED BY

NAME

Gregory E. Andrews 4/86

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

1643 Boulevard, West Hartford, CT 06107



20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

Research in insurance sources (Sanborn, Factory Mutual) yields dates for buildings and uses somewhat different from those given. See continuation sheet.

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- |                                     |                                   |   |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None known | <input type="checkbox"/> Highways | <input type="checkbox"/> Vandalism                | <input type="checkbox"/> Developers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal    | <input type="checkbox"/> Private  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deterioration | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning     | <input type="checkbox"/> Explanaton _____ |

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|                     |           |     |                     |
|---------------------|-----------|-----|---------------------|
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| TOWN NO.:           | SITE NO.: |     |                     |
| UTM: 18/            | /         | /   | /                   |
| QUAD:               |           |     |                     |
| DISTRICT:           | S         | NR: | ACTUAL<br>POTENTIAL |

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
 CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
 51 North Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106  
 HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM  
 For Buildings and Structures

100 West Main Street  
 Southington (Plantsville), CT 06479

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number 17 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3. 1½-story, 3-bay wood-framed building, with a pitched gable roof.
4. large T-shaped brick building, extensively altered. One pavilion (warehouse), 20 bays long, is 2 stories and has a flat roof and parapet. Perpendicular to this pavilion, and extending eastward from it, is a larger, 1-story pavilion (heavy forging and machine shop) with a steep, pitched gable and monitor roof. Both pavilions have steel truss roofs and steel concrete superstructures, corbeled cornices and brick piers along each elevation. Most original 12/12 wood sash windows have been covered up with cinder blocks. Smaller brick and cinder block pavilions project from the main pavilions.

The total complex has 49,602 square feet of space (source: assessor).

Dates and early uses of buildings:

1. Office, shipping and storage, 1898, enlarged 1910. (contributing)
2. Hardening and annealing, 1913. (contributing)
3. Storehouse, 1914. (contributing)
4. Forge, 1912, enlarged by 80' in 1916. (contributing)
- 4a. Machine shop, 1912. (contributing)
- 4b. Cinderblock addition, c.1950 (noncontributing)
- 4c. Boiler and engine house, later locker building, 1907. (contributing)

Boundary: The nominated property includes the land immediately around the complex as defined by parcel 78, map 70.

Building count:

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Contributing:    | 6 |
| Noncontributing: | 1 |
| Total            | 7 |

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CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

100th Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

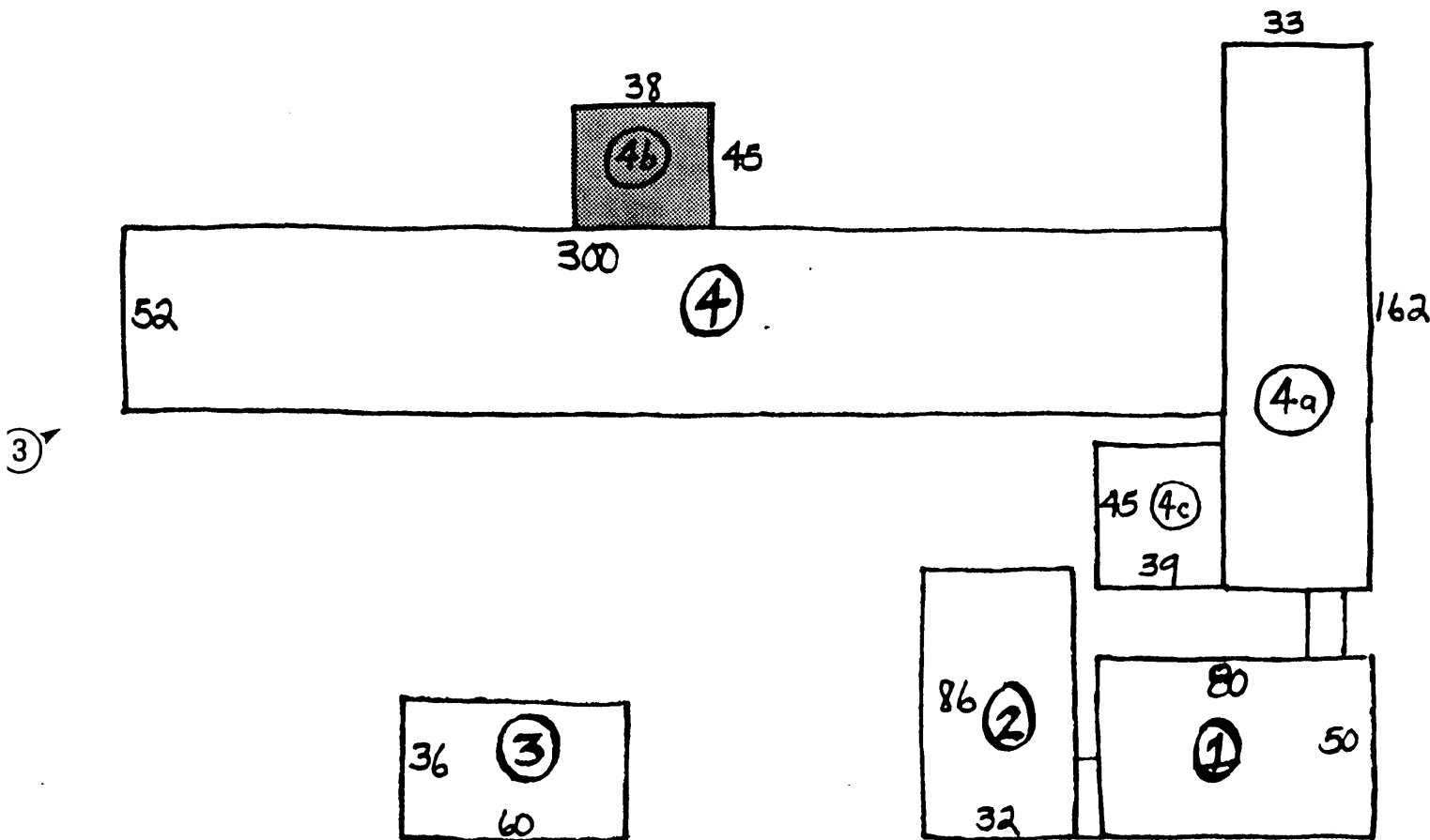
for Buildings and Structures

100 West Main St.,  
Southington(Plantsville), CT 06479

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number 17 Date April, 1986

Layout and Dimensions of Buildings on this Property:



- contributing
- non-contributing

