



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, the Smith, H.D., Company Building, in Hartford County, Connecticut, reference number 77001420, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 09/09/1977, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 6, 1979, Part II, Vol. 44, No. 26, page 7441. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

2/12/2009
Date

FILE COPY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC H. D. Smith Company Office and Factory Building
 AND/OR COMMON American Standard Company Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 24 West Street
 CITY, TOWN Plantsville, Southington VICINITY OF 6th (Anthony J. Moffett) CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 STATE Connecticut CODE 09 COUNTY Hartford CODE 003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME R. Steuart Florian
 STREET & NUMBER 24 West Street
 CITY, TOWN Plantsville, Southington VICINITY OF Connecticut STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Southington Town Office Building
 STREET & NUMBER 75 Main Street
 CITY, TOWN Southington STATE Connecticut

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Connecticut State Survey
 DATE 1966 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Connecticut Historical Commission
 CITY, TOWN Hartford STATE Connecticut

77 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The H. D. Smith Company building is located on the west side of West Street near the intersection of West Street and West Main Street in the Plantsville section of the town of Southington. Just west of the rear of the building are the Eightmile River and Interstate Highway 84. South of the late nineteenth century factory are twentieth century factory buildings of low-cost, utilitarian design. These structures are located on the site of part of the original H. D. Smith Company factory complex. Across West Street to the southeast is a parking lot and just north of it is a house. Other free-standing houses are to the north. While the building has lost its original elaborate landscaping, it retains a small front yard with grass, several shrubs, and a small tree.

The building has three parts: 1) a red brick, two-story office block; 2) a one-story, red brick factory wing with a two-story side tower; and 3) a one-story, concrete block addition attached to the rear of the factory wing. Parts one and two were erected about 1882. Part three, which is not visible from the street, was built in 1960.

The little altered office block and factory wing are a picturesquely massed grouping with pleasing details. The almost cubic office block has a low hipped roof surmounted by a cupola supporting a flagpole. The roof of the finely proportioned, one-story piazza which extends the width of the east facade, is also hipped. The factory wing which is attached to the rear (west side) of the office block has a rectangular plan. It is covered by a gable roof except for the picturesque tower at the southwest which has a pyramidal roof. Brick pilasters divide the exteriors of the main block and of the original factory wing into panels with corbel cornices. All walls are laid in common bond. Windows have segmental arch heads which are emphasized by alternating red and black bricks. Windows retain their original metal shutters.

Late nineteenth century prints reveal that the office block had four inside chimneys. It currently has one. Originally a metal bridge, or catwalk, linked the southwest tower with factory buildings at the south.

The office block has significant interior features. Windows and doors on the first floor have handsome wood architrave moldings with leaves in the upper corners. The two offices at the north side have rich trim consisting of panelling of vari-colored woods set in large diamond shaped designs. This panelling is found on both walls and ceilings. Fireplaces have colorful tile surrounds and hearths and tiles are set into their mantels.

The large office room which occupies most of the first floor of the office block has lost some of its original features due to a fire about 1945. It retains its original single flight stair with railing with floral cutouts and massive newels. An elaborate paneled railing surrounds the entrance area.

The second floor of the office block consists of a large open space. This area is currently used for storage and it is doubtful that it ever had another function. It has several striking features such as the enclosed stairs to the cupola and the exposed framing of the roof.

The factory wing has two functional rooms. Very little early equipment remains except for a few belts and an early Simplex Time Clock, which is still in use.

1 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE
___1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER
X 1800-1899	___COMMERCE	___EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	X INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)
		___INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1882

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Since the town of Southington has been a manufacturing center since the late eighteenth century, it is particularly fitting that one of its architecturally significant sites is an industrial building. The H. D. Smith Company Office and Factory building, a small industrial building erected about 1882, has a very appealing exterior. Its eclectic design combines typical features of functional nineteenth century buildings such as projecting piers which mark bays and brick corbel cornices with picturesque enrichments such as a cupola, a piazza, and a side tower. This well-proportioned exterior is enhanced by the building's interior which contains striking original features including two richly appointed offices. Originally the office and part of the shop of a carriage forging manufacturing concern, the building continues in a similar function as the office and factory of a garden tool manufacturer.

The H. D. Smith Company was organized in 1850 by Henry D. Smith, the inventor of machinery for making irons used on carriages. Before his inventions these irons were made by hand. Although Smith's first factory was located in Meriden, Connecticut, he soon moved his enterprise to Plantsville, a village in the town of Southington.

About 1882 the existing building was erected as part of a large factory complex. The entire complex in the late nineteenth century was a local show place with beautifully landscaped grounds. The existing building was the north side of the U-shaped complex and since it contained the offices of the company had the most elaborate design. The other buildings of the complex have been demolished or altered beyond recognition. The open space in the center of the U-shaped plan no longer exists since buildings have been erected in the twentieth century just south of the existing H. D. Smith Company building.

The H.D. Smith Company prospered in the late nineteenth century. In 1899 it employed 125 men. At this time its original main product, carriage hardware, had been superseded by bicycle parts. However about 1904 the company had financial problems and its management was taken over by L.V. Walkley, a prominent Southington businessman. Within ten years the company's solvency had been restored and it prospered into the 1920's. Tool kits for automobiles had become its main product.

The building was vacant in 1938 when it was purchased by R. Stuart Florian, its current owner. Prior to the Florian purchase the original H. D. Smith Company property was subdivided. Mr. Florian's company, American Standard Company, manufacturers garden tools.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Francis Atwater, History of Southington, Ct. New Haven: Journal Press, 1924, pp. 186-188.
 Interview with Don Florian, April 23, 1976. Notes in files of T.R. Brown.
Souvenir History of the Town of Southington, Ct. Meriden, Ct.: Journal Pub. Co., 1899, pp. 16-17.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.9 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 67.5130 46106100.0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

T. Robins Brown, Consultant in Architectural History

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

DATE

May 1976

STREET & NUMBER

59 South Prospect St.

TELEPHONE

203-566-3005

CITY OR TOWN

Hartford

STATE

Connecticut

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



TITLE

SHPO

DATE

12/16/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

H. D. Smith Company
Office and Factory Building

6. Representation in Existing Surveys p.1.

Title: Historic American Engineering Record
Date: 1972- 73 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

SOUTHINGTON QUADRANGLE
CONNECTICUT
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

6467 III NE
(NEW BRITAIN)

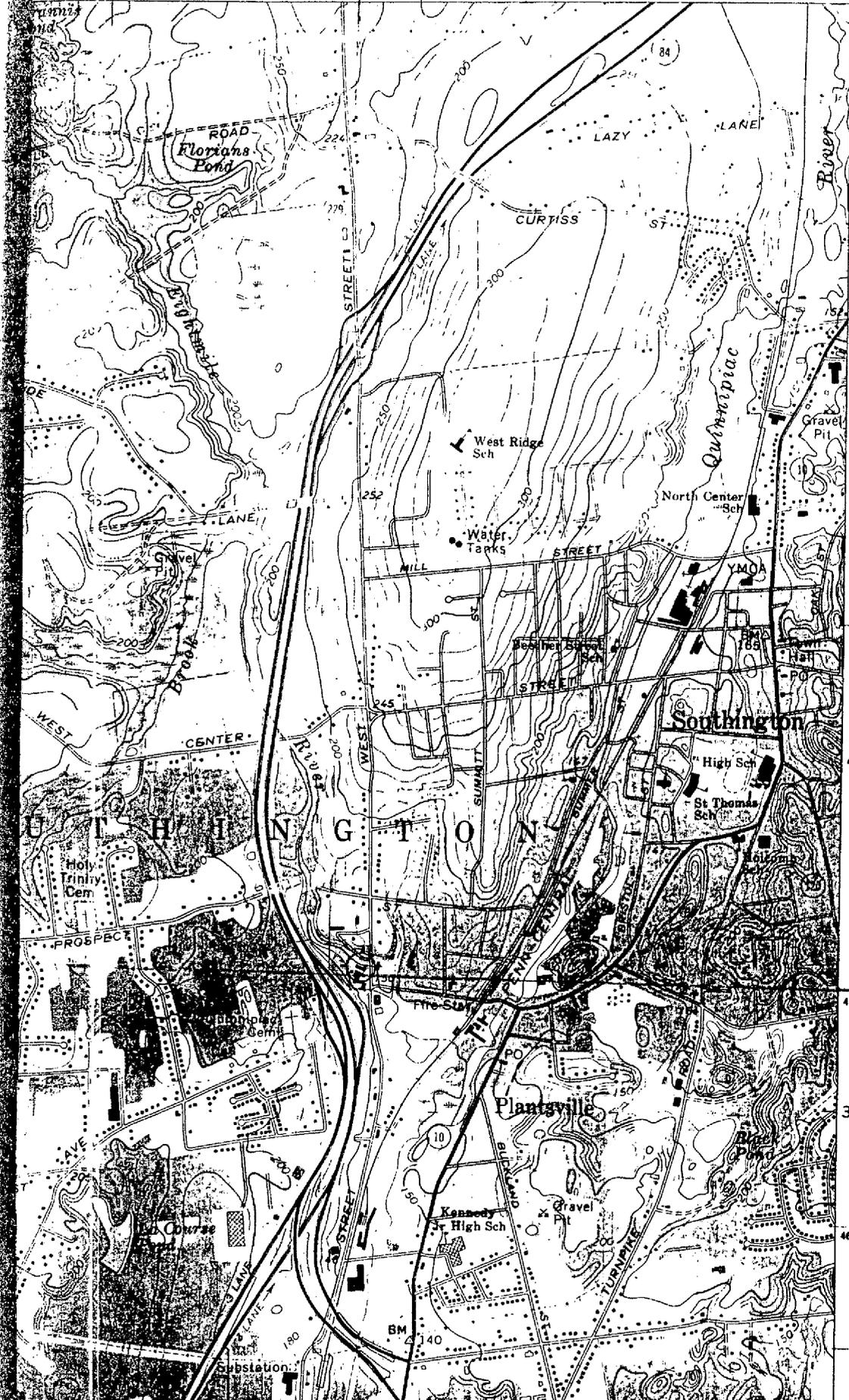
674

560 000 FEET

NEW BRITAIN CORN

72° 52' 30"

41° 37' 30"



4610

4608

280 000

FEET

4607

4606

35'

4605

H. D. Smith Company
Office and
Factory Building
Plantsville
Southington
Connecticut
18/675130/
4606080