

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Knoxville Iron Foundry Complex-Nail Factory and Warehouse

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 715 Western Avenue, N.W. N/A not for publication

city, town Knoxville N/A vicinity of congressional district Second

state Tennessee code 047 county Knox code 093

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<u>N/A</u> <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Station Eighty-Two, Ltd. (Mr. Alex J. Harkness, Gen. Pt.)

street & number 401 Henley Street

city, town Knoxville N/A vicinity of state Tennessee 37919

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Knox County Courthouse

street & number City and County Building, 300 Main Avenue, S.W.

city, town Knoxville state Tennessee 37902

6. Representation in Existing Surveys PDIL Tax Act

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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 date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Nail Factory and Warehouse was one of several buildings in an Iron Foundry Complex at the north end of the lower Second Creek Valley in and adjacent to downtown Knoxville, Tennessee. It is the only remaining building of the complex and was constructed in 1875 as a nail factory and warehouse.

The building is an excellent example of a Victorian Period manufacturing structure. It is eclectic in detail and functional in plan and massing. The building is placed on the side of a hill, such that it is one-story when viewed from the east and south sides, and two-story when viewed from the west and north sides. The walls are load bearing masonry, three wythes thick. The roof of the office area is trussed with wood compression members and iron tension members. The manufacturing area is much more sturdily built. It has heavy timber columns and beams framing the structural support for the wood floor at second level.

The T-shaped brick building has a rectangular (60'x39') front section, which faces south, and a rear wing (80'x38') which forms the stem of the "T." The intersection of the two sections is twelve feet off center. The low pitch (6 in 12) hipped roof of the front section is clad in metal and decorated with a square cupola with pyramidal roof. A fire in the spring of 1979 did extensive damage to this cupola and destroyed a square-nail weather vane long associated with the manufacturing plant. Four cupola like vents with hipped roofs are located along the roof ridge of the rear wing. This roof is also covered with metal and has a stepped parapet gable along the north end. The trusses in this building are unique in type and style. The main wing has wood modified Pratt trusses transverse to the ridge. The trusses along the long rear wing are unique bow trusses with large wood compression members forming a 'gambrel shape' and steel rods for tension members.

The brick walls are articulated with recessed panels which form the impression of pilaster and lintel and divide the walls into bays. The four corners of each of the panels are emphasized by a square protruding corner within a corner, which gives the image of a capital at the top of the pilaster and a base at the bottom. Within the panels of the front section is either a window or door. The front or south facade has a semi-circular arch over a double door with transom in the center bay. The window openings in this front section are rectangular and have stone sills. The windows and other openings in the rear wing are segmentally arched and are symmetrically placed within the recessed panels. Contained within most of these segmentally arched openings are rectangular windows with wood tympanums. Many of the openings on the west facade were obviously utilized for process requirements and have been closed over the years.

The brick walls along the rear wing, which forms the stem of the "T" are terminated 7 feet below the roof cornice; the space between the top of the brick wall and the roof is enclosed with board and batten panels on heavy timber frame. It is probable that the board and batten had removable or operable panels to provide needed ventilation for the heat generated by the Iron Foundry in the summer months.

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The building is eclectic in detail, and is best described as a Victorian Period manufacturing building. The vernacular interpretation is evidenced by the modest attention to detail and the simple proportions of the structure. The detail is not heavy as in the commercial structures of the time, but the subtle hints of architectural forms to enliven the surface of the walls provide the building with a very interesting facade.

The Nail Factory and Warehouse is being adaptively restored for use as an exhibition center and entertainment facility during Knoxville's 1982 World's Fair.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input 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 1875 **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Criteria A

The Nail Factory and Warehouse was constructed in 1875 as a portion of the Knoxville Iron Foundry complex. By 1890 the Foundry occupied two acres and contained eight major buildings. The Nail Factory and Warehouse is the only extant building associated with the original Knoxville Iron Foundry and is thus significant as a reminder of one of the city's leading industries from reconstruction until the depression.

The Knoxville Iron Foundry had its beginnings during the Civil War. Confederate troops confiscated some iron and rolling mill machinery at Loudon, Tennessee and moved it 30 miles east to Knoxville. The Confederate troops knew nothing about iron works and were generally unsuccessful in their attempt to make wagon wheels, horseshoes and cannonballs.

Federal troops occupied Knoxville from 1863 until the close of the war. The Federals also utilized the equipment to manufacture supplies for the war. Their attempt was successful, mainly due to the efforts of Captain H. S. Chamberlain of the Union Army, and S. T. Atkins who is listed as a "Knoxville business man."

At the end of the Civil War, a partnership composed of H. S. Chamberlain, S. T. Atkins, John M. Jones, and L. C. Shephard was formed to operate the foundry as a private business. Business was probably very good as this area and the entire southern region were involved in the reconstruction and revitalization of their economic base after the losses of the war.

On February 1, 1868, the Knoxville Iron Company was incorporated with the following Board of Directors and Officers:

H. S. Chamberlain, President and Treasurer
 W. R. Tuttle, Secretary
 Joseph Richards, General Manager
 Daniel Thomas, Director
 Thomas Lewis, Director
 William Richards, Director

AUTHORIZED CAPITAL - \$150,000

Thomas, Lewis and the Richards brothers were all heavily experienced in iron production and had purchased the interest of Atkins and Shepherd in 1866. The Richards brothers came to Knoxville from Wales as did many of the employees of the Iron Foundry.

The Nail Factory and Warehouse contained various related functions. Nail packing occurred on the north section of the second floor and nail cutting on the north portion of the first floor. The south portion of the building was used for nail warehousing and offices. The factory contained forty-two nail machines and had an output of 75,000 kegs of nails and 600 tons of railroad spikes per year. Nail production ceased in 1890 when steel wire nails replaced iron cut nails. The building was utilized as warehouse space after this time.

9. Major Bibliographical References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

American Journal of Commerce (New York: 1903), page 40.
 Knoxville Iron Foundry Advertisement, 1896.
 Knoxville Sentinel, April 15, 1979.
 Knoxville Sunday Journal, April 26, 1936.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.48 acres
 Quadrangle name Knoxville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

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

C

Zone		Easting				Northing					

E

Zone		Easting				Northing					

G

Zone		Easting				Northing					

B

Zone		Easting				Northing					

D

Zone		Easting				Northing					

F

Zone		Easting				Northing					

H

Zone		Easting				Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification See area outlined in red on attached tax map. 100' North of Western Ave. Viaduct, 500' West of Intersection of Western Ave.,-Summitt Hill Dr. and South Broadway-Henley Street, Knoxville, Tennessee. Boundaries are drawn to include the lot and Knoxville Iron Foundry Complex-Nail Factory and Warehouse owned by the Station

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries Eighty-Two, Ltd.

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. S. Rabun, Preservation Consultant
 organization J. S. Rabun & Associates date October 6, 1980
 street & number 416 Kingston Park Drive telephone 615-523-7064
 city or town Knoxville state Tennessee 37919

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer signature Herbert L. Hoyer date 2/5/82
 title Executive Director, Tennessee Historical Commission

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>William H. Braubach</u>	date <u>3.25.82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Ann Dubre</u>	date <u>3/25/82</u>
Chief of Registration	

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The Iron Foundry prospered, manufacturing a full line of ornamental iron, "T" and "street rail," channel iron, angles and other shapes. The company operated its own coal mines and marketed coal as well. In 1901, the Knoxville Iron Company began construction of a new mill in the Lonsdale area of West Knoxville and moved their entire operation by March, 1903. Sanborn Insurance Maps of 1903 indicate the move in progress and that the nail factory building was then being used as a machine shop. The 1917 Sanborn Insurance Map shows the nail factory building being utilized as a warehouse.

The building remained vacant from 1903 to 1915 when House-Hasson Hardware Company occupied the building as warehouse space. House-Hasson occupied the building continuously until 1979, when fire heavily damaged the structure. The Knoxville 1982 World's Fair will restore and adapt the interior for use as exhibition space and entertainment.

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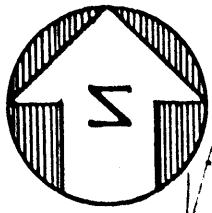
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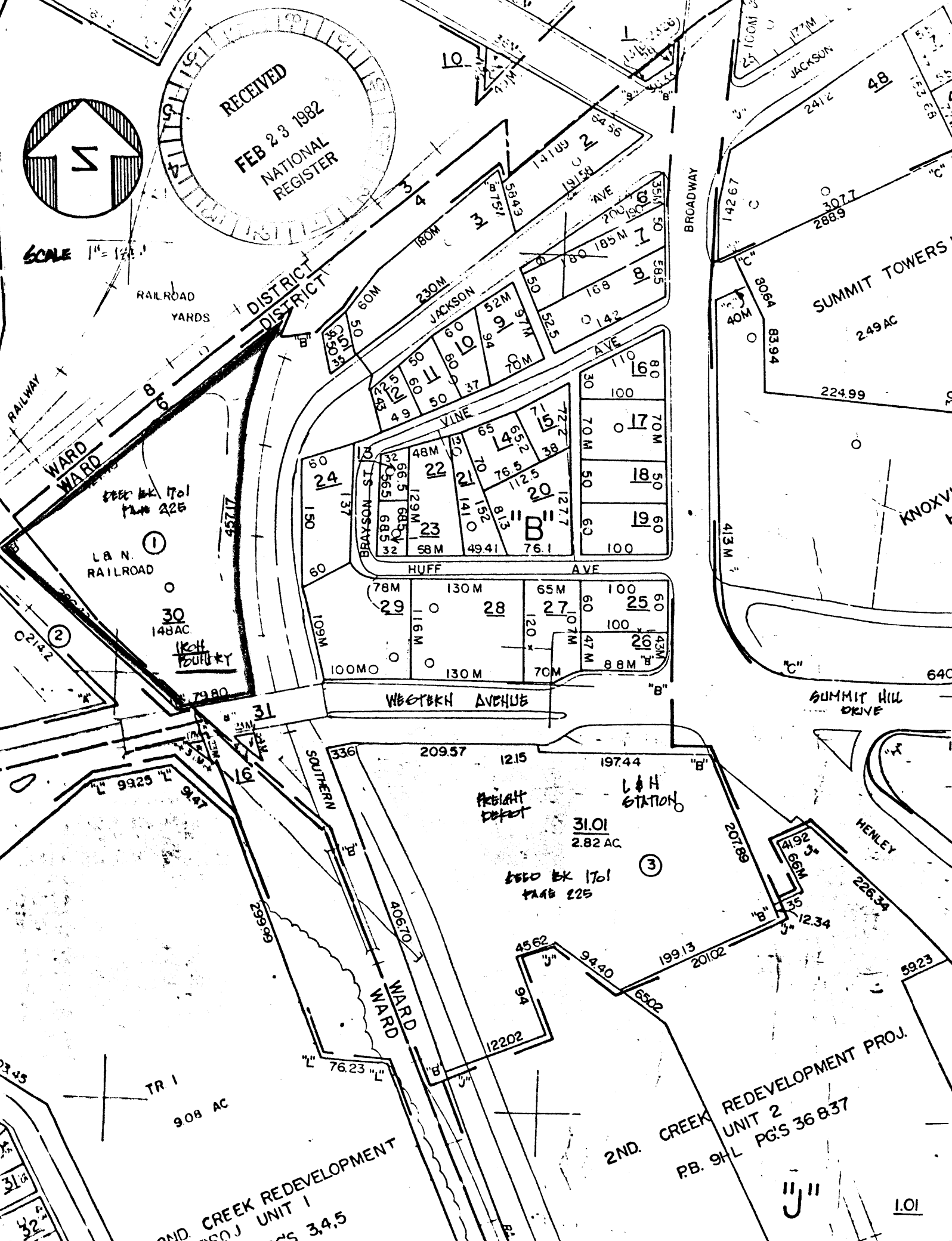
Reilly, J. S. Knoxville, Past, Present and Future. n.p. The Author, 1884.

Rule, William, George F. Mellon, and J. Wooldridge, eds.
Standard History of Knoxville, Tennessee, with Full Outline of the Natural Advantages,
Early Settlement, Territorial Government, Indian Troubles and General and Particular
History of the City Down to the Present Time. Chicago: Lewis, 1900.



SCALE 1" = 125'

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2ND. CREEK REDEVELOPMENT
UNIT 1
PG'S 34,5

2ND. CREEK REDEVELOPMENT PROJ.
UNIT 2
PB. 9HL PG'S 36 837