

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

12/21/83

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Pan Motor Company Office and Sheet Metal Works

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 435-437 33rd Avenue North

N/A not for publication

city, town St. Cloud

N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota

code 22

county Stearns

code 145

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Metal Works: Kenneth M. & Max Kusserow Office: Dennis Woggon

street & number Box 1164 / 437 33rd Avenue North

city, town St. Cloud / St. Cloud

N/A vicinity of

state Minnesota

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Stearns County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town St. Cloud

state Minnesota

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Resources

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Minnesota Historical Society  
Fort Snelling History Center

city, town St. Paul

state Minnesota

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Pandolfo Manufacturing Company Office and Sheet Metal Works building is located on the south side of the Great Northern Railroad tracks, just across from the main plant of the former car manufacturer. The office building faces 33rd Avenue and the Sheet Metal Works is directly behind the office. Built in 1919, they were the last completed structures associated with the Pan Motor Company. Begun in 1917, this ambitious development included a 47 acre industrial site, with 15 buildings containing over 210,000 square feet, as well as a 58 house residential development for company employees and a Motor Hotel.

The office building is a single story, flat-roofed structure on a raised basement. It is of brick construction, recently painted red with white trim. The office measures 40' by 80' with an 11' by 15' enclosed stairway extending off the north side. Front central stairs lead to a single entrance door which is flanked by fluted pilasters. A number of the front facade windows have been filled with brick or glass block and the south wing windows were enlarged by removing brick dividers. The building is now occupied by several businesses.

The Sheet Metal Works, of identical design to many structures of the main complex, towers above the office building. It is a manufacturing building typical of the era. Concrete end walls support steel and glass side walls. The end walls also have numerous windows. The building is well lit naturally by the double-monitor roof which rises in two steps from the ground level. Erected initially to produce the compartment tanks used on the Pan car, it later manufactured the Simmons patented steel auto wheel, metal folding chairs, gas tanks and luggage racks. The building has not experienced any significant alteration and now houses an appliance business.

The main plant was substantially altered to accommodate subsequent manufacturing industries and only vestiges of the concrete Power Plan remain. The Head Treating Plan, although altered and in deteriorated condition, also remains extant.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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		

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Specific dates	Builder/Architect
1919-1920	Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Pan Town Motor Company Office and Sheet Metal Works are significant as an early 20th century industrial development in St. Cloud and represent the company's efforts to sell locally designed and manufactured cars on the national market.

When the popularity of the automobile brought Samuel C. Pandolfo to St. Cloud in 1917 with intentions to rival Detroit, he envisioned an extensive industrial and residential complex for the manufacture of the automobile and in just two years his plans reached substantial completion. He was greeted with great enthusiasm for the unity and sense of purpose which he brought to the community and several local leaders became directors in the company. Although only approximately 750 Pan cars were produced between 1917 and 1922, they were considered the best and most popular of Minnesota's 16 automobile manufacturers. Automobile periodicals of the time found the car innovative, particularly for its small motor, and the Pan Model 250 was one of the most popular of the Chicago National Automobile Show of 1918. Unfortunately, Pandolfo's abilities to sell stock exceeded his skill at turning a profit. His overly extravagant claims led to mail-fraud charges and in 1919 he was found guilty in a dramatic and highly publicized Chicago trial. By the time the case was settled in 1923, the company had failed.

In spite of its short lived existence, the Pan Motor Company was of considerable historical impact. Not only did the Pan automobile achieve superiority with the state, it also attracted national attention through its inventive design. Yet, moreover, Samuel C. Pandolfo's ambitious plans brought the concept of large scale industrial and residential development to St. Cloud and provided considerable community focus during the colorful years of his venture.

Even the demise of the Pan Motor Company was typical of the fate suffered by the small auto manufacture throughout the United States. Post World War I inflation and the subsequent depression resulted in a sharp decline in the demand for cars and the small local company was unable to compete with the mass production and unlimited finances of the large automobile corporations. Of the 225 auto companies organized from 1903 to 1925, only 44 were in existence in 1916. Of these, only 11 had survived the entire period.

This, other than the residential district, which will be discussed under separate nomination, the Pandolfo Manufacturing Company Office and Sheet Metal Works Building retain the most integrity of the buildings once associated with the Pan Motor Company and provide the best reminder of the once extensive complex.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name St. Cloud, MN

Quadrangle scale 7.5

### UTM References

A 

1	5
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 Zone 

4	0	6	4	6	0
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 Easting 

5	0	4	5	8	5	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Northing

B 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

--	--	--	--	--	--

 Northing

C 

--	--

 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

D 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

E 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

F 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

G 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

H 

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 Zone 

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 Easting 

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 Northing

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 1, Lot 1, Schroeder Acre Lots  
Addition to St. Cloud, Stearns County.

### 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 Rolf T. Anderson (volunteer)

organization Minnesota Historical Society

date October 21, 1983

street & number Fort Snelling History Center

telephone 612-726-1171

city or town St. Paul

state Minnesota

# 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

*Russell W. Fridley*

title Russell W. Fridley  
State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/15/83

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

*Beth Grooena*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 1/31/84

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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Pan Motor Company Office & Sheet Metal Works, St. Cloud, MN

Continuation sheet

Stearns County

Item number 9

Page 1

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Bibliography:

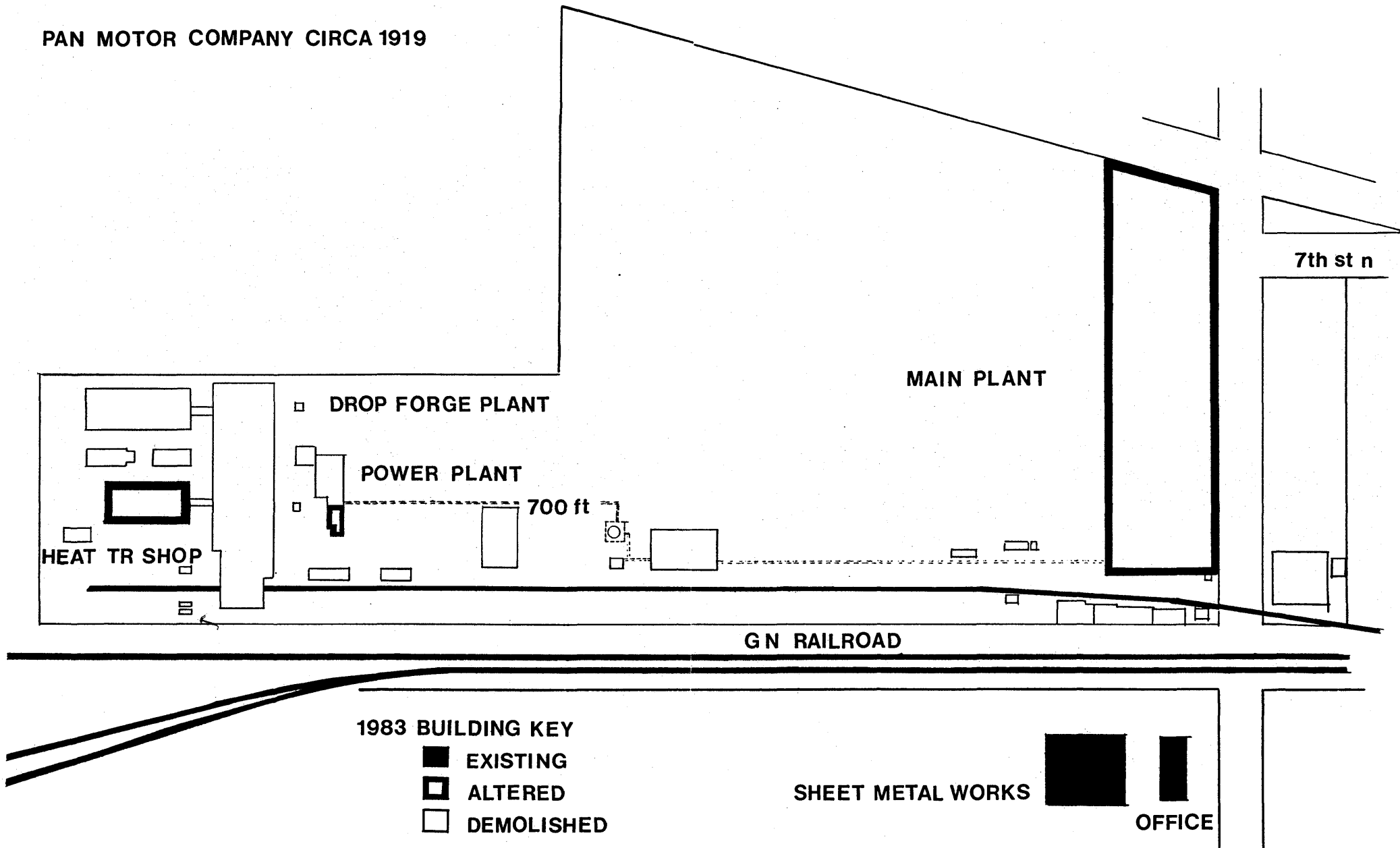
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"Pan Town on the Mississippi," Western Magazine, Vol. 11, No. 4 (1918). St. Paul. Pictorial Proof of Progress, Pan Motor Company, St. Cloud, Minnesota. 1918.

Borak, Arthur. The Financial History of the Pan Motor Company. (Master's Thesis) University of Minnesota: Minneapolis, 1925.

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PAN MOTOR COMPANY CIRCA 1919



MAIN PLANT

DROP FORGE PLANT

POWER PLANT

700 ft

HEAT TR SHOP

GN RAILROAD

7th st n

1983 BUILDING KEY

- EXISTING
- ◻ ALTERED
- DEMOLISHED

SHEET METAL WORKS



OFFICE