

**I. IDENTIFICATION**  
 PROPERTY NAME: Golden's Foundry and Machine Company  
 HISTORIC NAME: "Golden Brothers, Founders and Machinists"  
 STREET ADDRESS: 600 12th Street CITY: Columbus COUNTY: Muscogee  
 PRESENT OWNER: Goldens' Foundry and Machine Company MAILING ADDRESS: 600 12th Street  
 CITY: Columbus STATE: Georgia ZIP CODE: 31902  
 CURRENT USE: Foundry and machine Company ACREAGE: 4 acres  
 U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Columbus, GA-AL U.T.M. REFERENCE: 16-689410-3593875  
 V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: 18/9/6

**II. DESCRIPTION**  
 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION: Golden's original office building had projecting arched brick drip molding over the window. Brick pilasters on most of the buildings added a little additional decoration. Perhaps, the most distinctive feature of this and other foundries was the roof monitors used to provide light inside such wide spaces. Five buildings including the old foundry have such monitors. The second foundry and the addition to the machine shop (building no. 10) have raised gabled roofs with monitor-type windows over the central bay and shed roofs (with sky-lights in the foundry) over the outer bays. Every raised roof within the plant is supported by a simple wooden truss reinforced with truss rods. Both the second (OVER)

**III. HISTORY**  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Theodore Ernest Golden and John Poitevent Golden (CONT'D) ORIGINAL USE: Foundry and machine shop  
 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: HISTORIC ACREAGE:  
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: (OVER) DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: (See "Historical Narrative" and attached map.)  
 HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT): "Goldens' Foundry and Machine Company is the oldest operating iron fabricating plant in Columbus, Georgia. In 1882, two brothers, Theodore E. Golden and J. Poitevent Golden who learned their skills at the Columbus Iron Works, opened a small foundry and machine shop at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Thirteenth Street. Initially, this firm typified the dozen or so small iron-working operations which began within the city in the two decades after the Civil War. While most of these floundered and eventually failed, Goldens' expanded until it almost rivaled its antecedent, the Columbus Iron Works. In 1889, the Golden brothers, joining with A. Illges, a local businessman, incorporated the company and moved to a larger site one block to the south (on Sixth Avenue between (Attachment)

**IV. SIGNIFICANCE**  
 N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local History, Architecture, Industry LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local  
 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL): Industry: This complex is significant as it has functioned as a major Columbus industry for nearly 100 years. Also, it represents the oldest operating iron fabricating plant in the city. Architecture: The original architectural fabric of Goldens' has survived and it represents an excellent example of a late 19th century brick and wooden truss constructed iron foundry. (See map no. 2 & photograph) Its long facades lack the exuberant brick detailing found on some of the much narrower fronts of local textile mills built in the period (such as Swift and Muscogee No. 2). Local History: (See Attached Sheet)

**V. SOURCES**  
 FORM PREPARED BY: a) Nancy Alexander ORGANIZATION: a) Lower Chattahoochee APDC  
 Roger Harris b) Historic Columbus Foundation  
 b) Janice P. Biggers  
 ADDRESS: a) P. O. Box 1908, Cols, GA 31994 TELEPHONE NUMBER: a) (404)324-4221  
 b) 700 Broadway, Cols, GA 31901 b) (404)322-0756  
 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Columbus-Muscogee County, Georgia. 1976 state survey, Historic Preservation Section, DNR, Atlanta, Georgia.  
 SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Worsley, Etta Blanchard. Columbus on the Chattahoochee. Columbus, Georgia: Columbus Office Supply Company, 1951, page 379.  
 Lupold, John S. "Industrial Archeology of Columbus, Georgia: A Tour Guide for the 8th Annual (CONT'D)



PHOTOGRAPHER: F. Clason Kyle

DATE: 11 July 1978

ROLL NO. 9 FRAME NO. 1 NEGATIVES FILED: Historic Columbus Foundation  
700 Broadway

DIRECTION PHOTOGRAPHER FACING: South Columbus, Georgia 31901

USE SPACE BELOW FOR CONTINUATION FROM FRONT, SKETCH PLANS OR MAPS, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, ETC.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: foundry and the addition to the machine shop (building no. 10) have distinctive longitudinal, lattice truss work separating the central from the side bays. This bracing supports the rails for overhead cranes. In the original foundry, iron columns, circa 1900, are still used to support a monorail system which has been modified several times since its inception. The entire continuous grouping of buildings from the office (building no. 14) through the second foundry (building no. 3) should be included on the National Register. Only the attached 1960's foundry, the various non-brick attached sheds, and the miscellaneous out-buildings should not be included. Also the original power house (the extreme left-hand edge of map no. 2) should be included, but it is no longer owned by Golden's Foundry. This small structure originally contained a steam driven D. C. electric generator which powered the motors turning the line shafting in the various portions of the foundry and machine shops.

ORIGINAL OWNER: (A. Illges joined the Golden's when the business relocated at the present site around 1890).

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: first buildings of present complex were constructed in 1890 (these buildings include the original machine shop -- building no. 11 on Map #1 --; a multi-purpose building used for shipping, offices, and storage -- building no. 14 on Map #1 --; and a large foundry -- building no. 2 on Map #1)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Conference of the Society for Industrial Archeology, April, 1979," (entry #22).

Barbara Bogart and Margaret Laney Whitehead. City of Progress: A History of Columbus, Georgia. Columbus, Georgia: Columbus Office Supply Company, 1979, pp. 627 and 629.

Interview with George Golden Boyd, 1st vice-president and secretary of Golden's Foundry and Machine Co., March 31, 1980.

JUL 9 1980

29 000

## GOLDEN'S FOUNDRY AND MACHINE COMPANY

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (CONT'D): Eleventh and Twelfth Streets). There by 1890, they erected a multi-purpose building (offices, shipping, and storage) connected to a machine shop (buildings no. 11 & 14 on map 1) on the northern end of the lot and a large foundry (building no. 2) at the southern end. Following a master plan, by 1905, they filled the intervening space with eight substantial buildings and other smaller structures and attached a larger foundry (building no. 3) to the existing one. The physical plant basically remains the same today, except for the addition of the (pattern storage house in 1927 (building no. 6), some shed type structures (east of building no. 11), and a 1960's metal-sided foundry (not shown, but connected to the west side of building no. 3).

Similar continuities mark the company's ownership (the present managers are descendents of the original incorporations) and its product line. In the late 19th century it manufactured cane mills, cotton screws, gin gear, pulleys, hangers, shaftings, and couplings. The company played a crucial role in the industrial expansion of the city: providing power transmission equipment for textile and grist mills and essential castings for manufacturing cotton gins and other items. Goldens' now produces a wide range of castings in gray, ductile, and alloy irons similar to some of the original products and still specialized in custom-made pulleys and sheaves used for power transmission. While the company has modernized its equipment (with electric furnaces, automatic moulding machines, and sophisticated turret lathes and milling equipment) many of the operations are accomplished in the same buildings as they were at the turn of the century. As at that time, Goldens' continues to be an important part of the city's economy.

LOCAL HISTORY: Golden's Foundry & Machine Company is the oldest operating iron fabricating plant in Columbus, Georgia. In 1882, two brothers, Theodore E. Golden and J. Poitevent Golden who learned their skills at the Columbus Iron Works, opened a small foundry and machine shop at the corner of Sixth Avenue and Thirteenth Street. Initially, this firm typified the dozen or so small iron-working operations which began within the city in the two decades after the Civil War. While most of these floundered and eventually failed, Goldens' expanded until it almost rivaled its antecedent, the Columbus Iron Works.

In 1889, the Golden brothers, joining with A. Illges, a local businessman, incorporated the company and moved to a larger site one block to the south (on Sixth Avenue between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets). There by 1890, they erected a multi-purpose building (offices, shipping, and storage) connected to a machine shop (buildings no. 11 & 14 on map 1) on the northern end of the lot and a large foundry (building no. 2) at the southern end. Following a master plan, by 1905, they filled the intervening space with eight substantial buildings and other smaller structures and attached a larger foundry (building no. 3) to the existing one. The physical plant basically remains the same today, except for the addition of the pattern storage house in 1927 (building no. 6), some shed type structures (east of building no. 11), and a 1960's metal-sided foundry (not shown, but connected to the west side of building no. 3).

Similar continuities mark the company's ownership (the present managers are descendants of the original incorporations) and its product line. In the late 19th century it manufactured cane mills, cotton screws, gin gear, pulleys, hangers, shaftings, and couplings. The company played a crucial role in the industrial expansion of the city: providing power transmission equipment for textile and grist mills and essential castings for manufacturing cotton gins and other items. Goldens' now produces a wide range of castings in gray, ductile, and alloy irons similar to some of the original products and still specializes in custom-made pulleys and sheaves used for power transmission. While the company has modernized its equipment (with electric furnaces, automatic moulding machines, and sophisticated turret lathes and milling equipment) many of the operations are accomplished in the same buildings as they were at the turn-of-the-century. As at that time, Goldens' continues to be an important part of the city's economy.