OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received **QGT 24** 1988 date entered

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

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<u> 1. Nam</u>	<u>e</u>					
historic	N/A				-	
and or common	HISTORIC :	INDUSTR	IAL CO	MPLEXES C	F SOUTHINGTON	THEMATIC RESOURCE
2. Loca	tion					
street & number	See ind	ividual	forms	•		N/A not for publication
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3. Class	sificatio	on				
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6. Repr	esenta	tion i	n Ex	isting	Surveys	
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depository for su	rvey records	Connec	ticut	Historica	al Commission	
city, town		59 Sou	th Pro	opect Stre	eet, Hartford sta	te CT

7. Description

	Check one _X_ original site moved date
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Summary

The Historic Industrial Complexes of Southington thematic resource is composed of nine factory complexes dating from c.1875 to the period of the First World War. There are three major types of structures represented in these resources: massive monitor-roofed forging buildings, a single high story tall, with steel-framed skeletons enclosed by corrugated metal or brick curtain walls (Photographs 2, 3, 6, 10); large 1-story, sawtooth-roofed buildings (Photographs 6, 12); and generalpurpose brick manufacturing buildings, one to three stories high, most with piers dividing the walls into repetitive bays of segmental-arched window openings (Photographs 4, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19). Because the forged hardware which was the basis of Southington's economy in the period used processes associated with each of these distinctive types, most of the complexes include more than one type of building. Most complexes have a mixture of late 19th-century and early 20th-century buildings. The buildings are mostly joined together, so that each complex presents a cluttered array of buildings with different sizes, periods, roof profiles, and types of construction. Because all are still in industrial use or have recently ceased operation, the complexes' surroundings are typical of working factory properties, with scattered parking, piles of scrap, drums, and pallets of raw materials. In addition to the major structures, there are small shops, boilerhouses (Photograph 13), and other ancillary buildings included in the nominated properties. The sketch maps distinguish the contributing and noncontributing portions of each complex and offer a building count; in the case of connected buildings, substantial portions are counted as separate buildings while small parts such as loading platforms are regarded as additions to pre-existing structures. The 8 complexes in the Thematic Resource not previously listed include a total of 74 buildings, 53 contributing and 21 non-contributing; there is one contributing structure.

The complexes are located in three principal parts of Southington: Southington center, Plantsville, and Milldale. With one exception, all are located along the Quinnipiac River or the Northampton Division railroad line, which follows the river's north-south course. In Plantsville and Southington, nominated properties are located adjacent to each other, and were it not for the demolition of other historic manufacturing sites, the industrial concentration at these points would be even more pronounced.

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		Historic	Industrial	Complexes	of
Section number _6	Page _1	_Southingt	on, CT		

Representation in Existing Surveys (continued):

State Register of Historic Places 1988 - State

Records deposited with: Connecticut Historical Commission

59 South Prospect Street Hartford, CT 06106

The following property included in the thematic group is listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

H.D. Smith Company Office and Factory Building, 24 West Street, Plantsville, listed 9/19/77

<u>Connecticut: A Statewide Inventory of Historic Engineering and</u> Industrial Sites

1981 - Federal/state

Records deposited with Historic American Engieering Record Washington, D.C.

and Connecticut Historical Commission 59 South Prospect Street Hartford, CT 06106

The following were inventoried:

Clark Brothers Early Factory, 1331 South Main Street, Milldale Clark Brothers New Factory, 409 Canal Street, Milldale Peck, Stow and Wilcox, 217 Center Street, Southington Smith Hardware Factory, 24 West Street, Plantsville

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Description (continued):

The nominated properties retain substantial integrity. Nearly all have some modern components among the earlier buildings. In each case, however, historic structures are the dominant features. Alterations to historic buildings are primarily limited to filling-in of window openings, window replacement, or new siding on steel-framed structures. No inventory of machinery was undertaken for any of the complexes; however, several had early 20th-century drop forges or machine tools outside.

Information on the Survey

The nominated properties were identified in a townwide survey of historic and architectural resources undertaken by architectural historians Gregory Andrews and David Ransomin 1986. Several industrial sites identified in the reconnaissance phase of that survey were not included among the nominated properties because of substantial alterations which obscured their historic appearance. The survey produced inventory forms for several of the complexes, and these are the basis for the nomination. Resources previously identified in an Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) survey (Roth, Connecticut: A Statewide Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites, 1981) were not re-inventoried in the town-wide survey. For these, information from the HAER survey, updated with additional fieldwork and research , was put onto standard Connecticut Historic Resources Inventory Form. Similarly, complexes identified by the reconnaissance phase but not surveyed in depth were evaluated in the field, researched, and written up on Inventory Forms by the preparers of the nomination.

Format of the Nomination

The nomination form follows the format in "How to Complete National Register Thematic Group Nomination Forms - Interim Guidelines." Individual inventory forms from the survey are included for eight complexes; the H.D. Smith Company, already listed on the National Register, is the exception. Property owner information was corrected from the Southington Assessor records. Acreage and UTM coordinates were added to the forms, and the sketch maps were updated as needed. Additional information and analysis, where relevant, was added to the Subsequent Field Evaluations section or placed on continuation

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

			Historic	Industrial	Complexes	of
Section number 7F	Page 2	2	Southingt	on, CT		

Description (continued):

sheets. All sites are pictured in 8×10 " photographs, and all are plotted on the U.S.G.S. map, Southington quadrangle.

With three exceptions, the boundaries of the nominated properties follow the lot lines of their respective parcels; parcel numbers appear on the Owner line of each form, along with acreage, as recorded in the Southington Assessor records. Since the factories are generally built close to the street and their lot lines, these boundaries include little superfluous land. Where there is extensive open land on the factory parcel, a boundary ashort distance away from the nearest structure has been chosen to demarcate the nominated portion. Boundary statements, building counts, and updated sketch maps have been added to the forms as continuation sheets.

The following are the members of the Historic Industrial Complexes of Southington thematic resource:

Atwater Manufacturing Company, 335 Atwater Street, Plantsville (Photographs 1, 2). Major buildings include c.1912 steel-framed forge building, 60 x 170', with monitor roof; 2-story brick-pier manufacturing building, c.1920; 1-story brick-pier, monitor-roofed heat-treatment building, c.1912.

Blakeslee Forging Company, 100 West Main Street, Plantsville (Photographs 3, 4). Buildings include a 52 x 300' steel-framed, monitor-roofed forge; a 2-story brick manufacturing building; 2 small 1-story brick buildings; and a small frame storage building; almost all the plant dates from 1912-1916.

Clark Brothers Factory #1, 1331 South Main Street, Milldale (Photograph 5). Historic components include 1893 1 1/2-story gable-roofed machine shop and factory; similar c.1900 nut and washer building; and c.1905 tower. Stuccoed frame infill, 2-story shop and concrete block additions, c.1940. Stone dam and headrace across street.

Clark Brothers Factory #2, 409 Canal Street and 178 Clark Street, Milldale (Photographs 6, 7, 8). Major components include 2 1/2-story gable-roofed building, c.1900; 2 large sawtooth-roof manufacturing buildings, 1911-1916; monitor-roofed forge and heat-treating, 1916; boilerhouse, 1918; and 1-story office, c.1930.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

			Historic	Industrial	Complexes	ot	
Section number	⁷ Page	- 3	Southingt	on, CT			
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Description (continued):

Hurwood Company/Stanley Tool, 379 Summer Street, Plantsville (Photographs 9, 10). Major buildings include 2 c.1880 gable-roofed factories with corbelled cornices; monitor-roofed forge, c.1915.

Peck, Stow & Wilcox Factory, 217 Center Street, Southington (Photographs 11, 12, 13, 14). Complex includes massive 1912 67 x 392' sawtooth-roofed forge, steel-framed with modern metalsiding; monitor-roofed 1923 hardening building; 2-story machine shops, 1912 and 1925; monitor-roofed pickling building, 1924; remnant of 1912 boilerhouse. The 2-story building on the corner of Center and Factory streets has been cut down from 5 stories, and about 40% of the complex as it stood in the 1940s has been demolished.

Pultz & Walkley Company, 120 West Main Street, Plantsville (Photograph 15). Plant includes a c.1875 3 1/2-story factory with corbelled cornice and exterior beam anchors, extended 1898; 2 1/2-story ell, 1898; and boilerhouse, 1898.

Southington Cutlery Factory, 107-143 Center Street and 95-125 South Center Street, Southington (Photographs 16, 17, 18). Complex includes a 2 1/2-story c.1875 gable-roofed building with cast-iron beam anchors visible on the brick walls; a c.1880 gable-roofed 2 1/2-story factory with a corbelled brick cornice; a c.1920 3-story flat-roofed factory with an attached tower; 2 sawtooth-roofed c.1920 buildings; and a 3-story c.1930 factory.

H.D. Smith Company, 8 West Main Street (address also given as 24 West Main Street; Photograph 19). Complex includes hip-roof office with cupola, 1882 1-story brick-pier mill; and two 1910 1-story brick-pier buildings. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, 9/19/77.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

	Historic Industrial Complexes of
Section number8 Page1	Southington, CT

Significance (continued):

In the early 19th century, Southington's rural character remained unchanged. Nevertheless, its location adjacent to the neighboring communities of Berlin, New Britain, and Bristol placed it in the center of Connecticut's early industrial heartland, and after 1800 numerous makers of buttons, clocks, curry combs, and tinware were numbered among the town's residents. While none of these products ever became important for Southington, they represented the beginnings of mechanized, high-volume production for nonlocal markets, the key feature of central Connecticut's high rate of economic growth in the 19th century. In this period, turnpikes connected Southington to centers of industrial innovation such as Hartford, Waterbury, and New Haven, and the Farmington Canal in 1827 established a further link to New Haven, then a center of carriage-building. The canal was soon replaced by a rail line, known as the Canal Line or Northampton Division.

New Haven carriage-building was a major source of Southington's industrial development. Carriagebuilders needed forged axles, many kinds of bolts, and other wrought-iron fittings, and these were supplied by small waterpowered shops along the Quinnipiac. The H.D. Smith carriage-hardware works and Clark Brothers Bolt Company both started in the 1850s to supply New Haven carriagemakers and eventually became major Southington employers.

Another source of industrial expertise came from the tinware industry. Faced by an expanding market, Connecticut tinmakers turned to machines to speed up the many cutting and forming processes which went into tinware manufacture, and local tinshops created numerous innovations. Several men, notably clockmaker Solomon Stow and tinsmiths Samuel Wilcox and Seth Peck, specialized not in tinware itself but in the manufacture of tools for other tinsmiths. In the 1850s several dozen enterprises in Berlin and Southington turned out tinners' tools. The resulting competition drove down prices, and in response the larger firms joined together to control production and stabilize prices. The 1870 merger which created Peck, Stow & Wilcox was an early example of a monopoly created through corporate combination. Peck, Stow & WIlcox became the dominant force in the industry and the largest employer in Southington.

To Southington's locational advantages near the centers of carriagebuilding and tinware production was added a tremendous amount of local creativity in building and adapting machinery to mechanize production. From 1810 to 1870, Southington mechanics

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		Historic Industrial	Complexes of
Section number 8Page	2	Southington, CT	

Significance (continued):

recorded 160 patents and probably declined to record (for reasons of proprietary secrecy) many more important innovations; most local patents were for carriage parts, tinners' tools, or more importantly, for specialized machines and forming techniques to create such products.

In the years following the Civil War, Southington's nascent industries entered a period of growth, and the earliest factories in the thematic group date from this period. Steam replaced water as the principal source of power (since the town's only rail line followed the Quinnipiac, the shift had little effect on the location of factories), and large brick factories replaced the small wooden structures which characterized the earlier shops. The physical growth of Southington's factories in these years followed not only a continually expanding national market but also the organizational changes in industry which resulted in the consolidation of small firms into larger entities.

In the last quarter of the 19th century, Southington's manufacturers diversified their product lines. In addition to sheet-metal tools, Peck, Stow & Wilcox produced hardware such as hinges, pulleys, rivets, and candlesticks. H.D. Smith added bicycle parts to their carriage-hardware line in the 1890s, and Clark Brothers made nuts, bolts, washers, and other fasteners for a wide variety of applications. The Atwater and Blakeslee forges made ox shoes as well as carriage hardware. New enterprises appeared: the principals in Peck, Stow & Wilcox started both a paper-bag factory (perhaps because they used them to package their product) and a pocket-knife enterprise, the latter of which later diversified into steel carpenters squares, bolts, and builders hardware.

By the 1890s, most Southington people worked in factories, and the town could claim a significant place in several specialized fields of industrial production. In 1890 the Southington Board of Trade claimed, perhaps with some localistic hyperbole, that the town's factories accounted for one-half of the U.S. production of steel squares, one-third of the carriage hardware, and one-eighth of the carriage bolts. The cutlery factory was among the largest in the country, and Peck, Stow & Wilcox's 600-page catalog described 2,000 different items.1 The town's population had more than doubled, from 2,135 in 1850 to 5,550 in 1890.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number8 Page	Southington, CT	Complexes	of

Significance (continued):

Despite the diversity of products, Southington's industrial prosperity rested on two basic factors: except for the bag factory (which was eventually converted to a forge), the town's factories all used forging as one of the basic methods of manufacture. Thus, Southington had an unusual pool of expertise with forging and related processes such as plating and machining, not only among the entrepreneurs but in the work force as well.2 The second factor was the ability of Southington manufacturers to acquire their production machinery nearby, if not locally. The specialized bolt-forming machinery used at Clark Brothers was, at different periods, both acquired from other Southington producers and manufactured in-house. Hurwood Manufacturing owed its success (and its eventual takeover by Stanley Tool from nearby New Britain) to the special machines that produced their screwdrivers. Located within a compact rectangle formed by Hartford, New Haven, Waterbury, and Bridgeport, Southington manufacturers had access to the world's foremost metal-forming and metal-cutting machinery, such as Billings and Spencer drop forges and Pratt and Whitney milling machines.

World War One created another burst of growth for Southington industry, as the devastation of Europe and the demand for war materiel created a two-fold economic opportunity. All of the factories in the thematic group were enlarged at this time, and the population of Southington, by then completely tied to manufacturing, went from 6,516 in 1910 to 8,440 a decade later. Prosperity continued after the War, as Southington companies became major suppliers to the automobile industry.

Although many of Southington's historic factory complexes are still in industrial use, others have been demolished or totally altered, and the town itself is becoming part of the generalized suburbia of central Connecticut. The nominated properties not only represent a link with the most important development in Southington's history, but also stand as reminders of a way of life which is rapidly disappearing from Connecticut.

Industrial Architecture

The evolution of industrial building technology in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was related to fire-safety concerns, improvements in building materials, the need to provide for light, ventilation, and power transmission, and the demands of

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

		Historic Industrial	Complexes	οf
Section number8	Page4	Southington, CT		

Significance (continued):

specialized heavy manufacturing processes. All of these trends are evident in the complexes which make up the thematic resource; indeed, in a very limited geographic area, one can see multiple well-preserved examples of all the major building types associated with metal-working industries of the period.

The earliest buildings in the group embody the distinctive characteristics of factory architecture first developed in New England textile mills: long and narrow proportions, multi-story height, gable roofs, "slow-burn" plank floors, and wooden postand-beam floor support systems. Those from the 1870s exhibit exterior beam anchors, a technique which later fell into disfavor because floors collapsing in a fire would also pull down the exterior walls. Such multi-story factories were well-suited to any sort of manufacture using medium-sized or small machines powered by overhead shafting. The basic form was further developed with less combustible materials, such as metal columns and concrete roof slabs; shallow-pitched or flat roofs, made possible by steel trusses and more water-resistant roofing materials; and the use of piers or pilasters to firm the walls, allowing wider window openings in the non-bearing portion between the piers. Almost every complex in the thematic group has typical examples of later, flat-roofed, brick-pier multi-story manufacturing buildings. These buildings accommodated the other functions, such as machining, assembly, packing, and storage, which were essential to turn forgings into finished products.

The large forge buildings in the complexes of the thematic group represent a specialized early 20th-century industrial building form made possible by steel-frame construction. The forges are characterized by their height, necessary to accommodate the drop forges; their open interiors, allowing heavy materials to be freely moved about, usually by overhead bridge cranes; and their monitor roofs, which not only allowed light to penetrate the interior but also provided ventilation for the hot-metal processes. Similar buildings accommodated the large foundries, rolling mills, and fabricating shops of the period, and smaller versions were used for heat-treatment, plating, and other finishing operations, with several good examples among the complexes of Southington.

The final type of building exemplified by the industrial architecture of Southington is the one-story, wide, sawtooth-roofed manufacturing plant. Steel-framed monitors allowed light

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	Historic Industrial Complexes of
Section number 8Page 5	Southington, CT

Significance (continued):

to penetrate the interiors, so they could be wider than the earlier general-purpose factory. By the 1920s, many plants, such as Peck, Stow & Wilcox, Southington Hardware, and Blakeslee Forge, were powered by electricity, so that power transmission had less of an impact on mill proportions. These buildings were the direct progenitors of the modern single-story, electrically powered, industrial-park factory.

In sum, the buildings in the Historic Industrial Complexes of Southington thematic resource are significant examples of distinctive types of industrial architecture. The historical development of factory construction is clearly portrayed by these resources as a group, and often within single complexes as well. Without buildings like these, the importance of industry in the historical development of Southington and central Connecticut will be preserved in books alone.

NOTES

- 1. <u>Southington</u>, <u>Connecticut</u>. <u>Its Claims as a Manufacturing Center and a Delightful Place of Residence</u>. Southington: Southington Board of Trade, 1890.
- 2. In forging, wrought-iron or steel was shaped by striking, rather than by cutting away unwanted material. It was usually performed on rolled bar stock while the material was hot. During Southington's prominence, the typical forging process involved a drop hammer, often the variation known as the board-drop press, which was patented by Billings & Spencer of Hartford. On this machine the ram, or shaping device, fell by its own weight from a height of 10 to 20', then was raised by a powered mechanism. Hardened steel dies attached to the ram and to the bed of the machines squeezed the workpiece between them, imparting the desired shape. In order to become finished products, forgings usually required additional work, such as drilling, grinding, or other machining; annealing, tempering, or other thermal processes to alter the characteristics of the metal; and plating, polishing, or other surface finishing. Forged products are characterized by high tensile strength.

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			Historic Industrial Complexes of	
Section number _	⁹ Page	_1	Southington, CT	
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8. Significance

prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 X 1800–1899	X architecture	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	music	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
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specific dates see inventory form guilder Architect see inventory forms

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Summary

The nine factories which make up the Historic Industrial Complexes of Southington thematic resource are all significant because they are the town's link to its industrial past, when manufacturing, especially forged metal products, was the basis of Southington's economic development (Criterion A). After the Civil War, Southington became a major producer of carriage fittings, hardware, nuts and bolts, pocket knives, and tools, especially tinners' tools; as a consequence the town was transformed from a rural, agricultural community to a small industrial city.

The complexes also have significance for their architectural qualities: they embody the distinctive characteristics of both general and specialized factory construction over the period from about 1875 to the time of World War One (Criterion C). Two trends are especially evident: the evolution of the flat-roofed, brick-pier, multi-story general-purpose factory building, and the development of steel-framed structures, such as sawtooth roofs and large forge buildings, to accommodate specialized manufacturing needs.

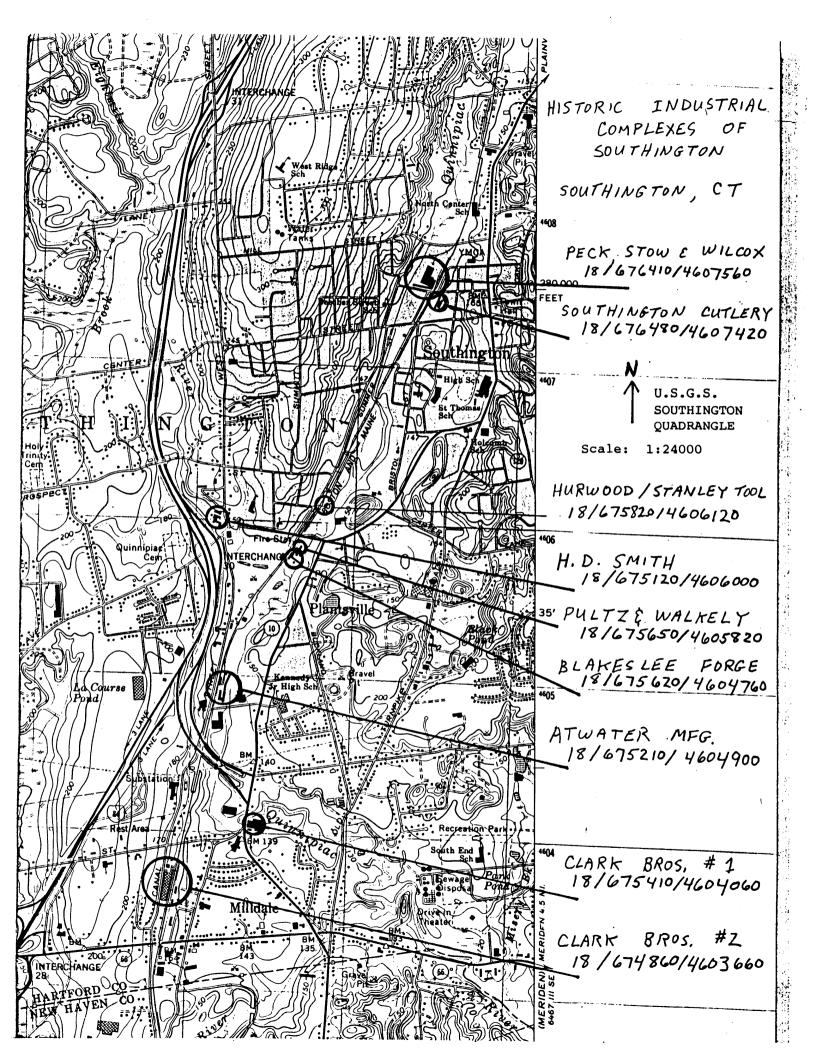
<u>Historical Development of Southington</u>

In 1779, when it was set off as an independent town from Farmington, Southington was a typical central Connecticut farming community with its only industry blacksmith shops and the small, water-powered enterprises vital to the agricultural economy: sawmills, gristmills, and fulling works. The Quinnipiac River, a relatively small and slow-moving stream, provided the power for some of these, among the earliest of which were the grist and fulling mills which once stood on the site of the present Atwater Manufacturing Company (Rex Forge) complex at 339 Atwater Road.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

	Photographs	Historic	Industrial	1 Complexes o	οf
Section number .	Photographs Page _1	Southingt	ton, CT		

All photographs:

- 1. Historic Industrial Complexes of Southington
- 2. Southington, CT
- 3. Photo Credit: HRC, Hartford, CT
- 4. Date of Photograph: March, 1988
- 5. Negatives filed with the Connecticut Historical Commission, Hartford, CT

Atwater Mfg. Co. (Rex Forge), 335 Atwater Street, west side of complex, camera facing northeast Photograph 1 of 19

Atwater Mfg. Co. (Rex Forge), $_{335}$ Atwater Street, east side of complex, camera facing northwest Photograph 2 of 19

Blakeslee Forging Company, 100 West Main Street, east elevation of forging building, camera facing west Photograph 3 of 19

Blakeslee Forging Company, 100 West Main Street, west elevation, storage and manufacturing buildings, camera facing south Photograph 4 of 19

Clark Brothers Factory #1, 1331 South Main Street, west elevation, camera facing northeast Photograph 5 of 19

Clark Brothers Factory #2, 409 Canal Street, north end, camera facing southeast Photograph 6 of 19

Clark Brothers Factory #2, 409 Canal Street, south end, camera facing northeast Photograph 7 of 19

Clark Brothers Factory #2, 409 Canal Street, side of complex adjacent to railroad track, camera facing northwest Photograph 8 of 19

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	Photographs	Historic Industrial	Complexes of	:
Section number	Page _2	_Southington, CT		

Hurwood Company/Stanley Tool, 379 Summer Street, west elevation, camera facing northeast Photograph 9 of 19

Hurwood Company/Stanley Tool, 379 Summer Street, buildings at rear of complex, camera facing southwest Photograph 10 of 19

Peck, Stow & Wilcox Factory (Ideal Forging), 217 Center Street, buildings along Center Street, camera facing west Photograph 11 of 19

Peck, Stow & Wilcox Factory (Ideal Forging), 217 Center Street, north side of complex, camera facing south Photograph 12 of 19

Peck, Stow & Wilcox Factory (Ideal Forging), 217 Center Street, boilerhouse, camera facing east Photograph 13 of 19

Peck, Stow & Wilcox Factory (Ideal Forging), 217 Center Street, view along Quinnipiac River through complex, camera facing north Photograph 14 of 19

Pultz & Walkley Company, 120 West Main Street, camera facing south Photograph 15 of 19

Southington Cutlery Factory, 107-143 Center Street, north side of complex, camera facing southwest Photograph 16 of 19

Southington Cutlery Factory, 107-143 Center Street, north and west sides of complex, camera facing southeast Photograph 17 of 19

Southington Cutlery Factory, 107-143 Center Street, south side of complex, camera facing northwest Photograph 18 of 19

H.D. Smith Company Office and Factory (National Register-listed), 8 West Main Street, camera facing northwest Photograph 19 of 19

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

	Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group
Name Historic Industrial Complexes of Sou	uthington TR
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Nomination/Type of Review	Date/Signature
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