

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Hartford Special Machinery Company Complex

Other names/site number: Smith Worthington Saddlery Co., Stanley P. Rockwell Co. Factory

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 287 and 296 Homestead Avenue

City or town: Hartford State: CT County: Hartford

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide ___ local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___A ___B ___C ___D

_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:	_____ Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title :	
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival
20TH CENTURY INDUSTRIAL/Production Shed

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation Concrete

Walls: Brick; concrete block and wood (plywood) with concrete and stone trim

Roof: Rubber Membrane; tar and gravel; asphalt

Other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Hartford Special Machinery Company Complex is an industrial facility in the City of Hartford, Connecticut developed from 1915 through 1960 by local entrepreneurs for the customized production of machinery and machine components that served as part of a critical supply chain for other industries. The complex consists of the Hartford Special Machinery Factory located at 287 Homestead Avenue and the Stanley P. Rockwell Company Factory Building located across the street at 296 Homestead Avenue. Both factories were initially constructed by the Hartford Special Machinery Company in 1915 and 1929, respectively and expanded multiple times in the following decades. Each factory is counted as one contributing building because of the integrated and layered nature of the historic additions. The third contributing building is a brick guard house on parcel at 287 Homestead Avenue. The buildings are of constructed of red brick with concrete trim and a portion of the original steel sash intact. The main portion of the complex has a narrow, linear form,

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which fills most of the lot between Homestead Avenue to the north and the extant railroad line to the south. The current appearance of the Hartford Special Machinery building is consistent with its 1940s aesthetic, after the construction of several additions and installation of some small-scale Colonial Revival-style features. The Stanley P. Rockwell Factory maintains its character-defining industrial shop form with monitor roofs and the majority of its historic materials.

Narrative Description

Setting

The Hartford Special Machinery Company Complex is located at the west edge of downtown Hartford within a narrow formerly industrial corridor that is flanked by the former New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad line (**Figure 1**). The City of Hartford is located in Hartford County in central Connecticut, within the Connecticut River Valley. The complex occupies two parcels. The main portion is located on a roughly 2.58-acre parcel at the southwest corner of Homestead Avenue's intersection with Woodland Street. It is bounded by Homestead Avenue on the north, Woodland Street on the east, the railroad right of way on the south, and a large, former factory building at 333 Homestead Avenue on the west. The Stanley P. Rockwell Company Factory stands on a roughly 0.866-acre parcel bounded by Harrison Place and the rear lot lines of residential buildings on the north, a commercial building on the east, Homestead Avenue on the south, and a large, paved parking lot on the west (**Figure 2**). Concrete sidewalks set within a narrow strip of grass are located on both sides of Homestead Avenue, which is a four-lane road. Trees are located within the railroad right-of-way and on the rear side of the residences north of the Rockwell building. The surrounding neighborhood is a mix of industrial, residential, and commercial development. Large industrial buildings line Homestead Avenue; several have been vacated or repurposed and vacant lots stand where others have been demolished in recent years. Residential development is concentrated to the north between Homestead Avenue and Albany Avenue, the neighborhood's primary commercial corridor.

Complex

The Hartford Special Machinery Company Factory is comprised of three primary adjoining blocks constructed between 1915 and 1942 (**Figure 3**) and an adjacent small guard house constructed ca. 1942. Stylistically, the factory building is simple in expression with limited embellishment primarily focused on main entrances. Where present, these details reflect the Colonial Revival aesthetic. The factory is one and two-stories tall, has red brick walls, large rectangular window openings with concrete sills, multi-pane steel windows with hopper-style openings, a simple cornice, and a flat roof with sawtooth monitors in various locations. The oldest portion of the factory was built in 1915; it was designed by the engineering firm Ford Buck & Sheldon and constructed by the J.H. Grozier Company. This portion of the factory is currently located at the core of the plant. The original building measured roughly 325 x 55 feet. The 1915 building stood

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one-story tall and was of brick pier construction. Its façade faced east to Woodland Street. A one-story addition to the original factory building was constructed by the Bent-Bartlett Company at the western end of the building in 1920; it initially stood separate from the 1915 building, but the two buildings were linked by the 1930s. The 1920 addition was roughly 200 x 60 feet and mimicked the original factory in materials, form, and details. Several areas of the 1915 building were raised to two stories in 1938. These additions were designed by the engineering firm of Greenwood & Noerr and constructed by the R.G. Bent Company (successor to the Bent-Bartlett Company). There were also additions to the south of the 1915 and 1920 buildings at this time. The final major addition to the Hartford Special Machinery Company Factory was erected in 1942. This portion of the factory was constructed by the R.G. Bent Company. The addition extended from the eastern end (the original façade) of the 1915 building, reorienting the entrance to the 1915 building to Homestead Avenue. It measured 200 x 80 feet and stood one and two stories tall. Like the earlier blocks, it was of brick pier construction with red brick walls, large rectangular window openings with concrete sills and multi-pane steel windows with hopper-style openings, a simple cornice, and a flat roof with two large sawtooth monitors. Minor additions to the rear elevations of the 1915 and 1920 blocks were constructed in 1943, ca. 1945, and 2009.

A separate building associated with the complex is a one-story, 16 x 12-foot red brick guard house with a hipped roof. This stands roughly ten feet east of the 1942 addition, alongside a driveway leading to the rear of the complex. This building was constructed by 1944, most likely during the construction of the 1942 addition.

The Stanley P. Rockwell Company Factory located across the street from the Hartford Special Machinery Company was also designed by the engineering firm Ford Buck & Sheldon (known as Buck and Sheldon, Inc. after 1920). The factory is comprised of six adjoining blocks constructed between 1929 and 1970 (**Figure 4**). The building is one and two-stories tall with red brick, concrete block, and wood frame blocks. The original building consisted of a red brick, six-bay production shed with a monitor roof and a three-bay office and laboratory block located west of the production shed. These are of brick pier construction, have concrete foundations and red brick walls. The production shed is one-and-a-half stories, has large, rectangular corbeled window bays with stone sills and multi-pane metal windows, a stepped brick parapet and a front-facing pitched roof with a full-length clerestory monitor. The office and laboratory is two-stories with a mix of round-arched and rectangular window openings with brick surrounds, stone sills, and six-over-six double-hung wood windows. It rises to a gabled brick parapet with a flat roof. In 1943, the original building was expanded with a three-bay addition at the building's eastern end; the addition mimicked the original building in materials, form, and details. A covered shipping area with a shed roof supported by square, wood supports was added to the building's northern end at this time; this component was enclosed and enlarged ca. 1970. A one-story red brick shipping and storage addition was added to the west and north ends of the building ca. 1944 and 1946; a concrete block loading dock added in 1962 accesses the 1944 and 1946 addition on the north and west sides. In 1966, a one-and-a-half story concrete block manufacturing building with a front-facing gable roof and full clerestory monitor was added to the northeast corner of the 1943 addition. The final addition ca. 1970 was a one-story concrete block and wood frame addition with a shed roof that adjoins the eastern end of the 1943 addition.

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Hartford Special Machinery Company 1915 Block

Exterior (Photos 1-3, 10-13)

The current appearance of the 1915 block reflects the final significant alterations to the factory in the 1930s and 1940s. The one and two-story red brick building extends forty-one bays along Homestead Avenue. A full second story extends across the first fourteen bays of the building; a partial second story extends twenty-one bays west of this block along the southern side of the building. These are joined by an exterior corridor. The primary entrance to the 1915 block is located in its eastern-most bay. The entrance is framed within an ornate, wood Colonial Revival-style door surround that is comprised of fluted pilasters supporting an open bed pediment adorned with block modillions. Paneled wood double-doors set within the surround are surmounted by a spider web fanlight. A decorative copper compass set in the sidewalk is centered on the entry. Five secondary entrances are located across the elevation; these are unadorned with simple metal doors. The original appearance of these entrances is evident in the eighteenth and twenty-third bays (moving from east to west) where the door is surmounted by a large rectangular, multi-pane steel transom with a hopper opening and concrete sill; the transoms have been bricked in on other secondary entrances. The remainder of the elevation is characterized by large rectangular window openings regularly arranged between brick piers. Window openings typically have concrete sills and hold multi-pane steel windows with hopper-style openings. Second-floor windows feature corbeled brick lintels. Most of the windows on the ground floor west of the two-story block have been bricked in with glass block transom lights and large metal vents inserted. A simple cornice crowns the elevation. A fenestrated 1-bay penthouse pierces the roofline in the second bay from the eastern end of this block. A five-bay roof egress passage extends west of the full second story on the northern side of the building; it is clad in synthetic siding, has a flat roof, and holds six-pane awning windows. Two sawtooth monitors are centered on the roof, extending west from the full second-story addition; these were added in 1937.

A portion of the east elevation of the 1915 block (its 1938 façade) is visible above the roofline of the 1942 addition. Three, large rectangular window openings and a single wood door to the roof punctuate the second story of the eastern wall with a projecting bay at the southern end that also holds a large window opening. Three of these openings are infilled with wood; the northern-most opening retains its multi-light steel window. The elevation is finished with a stepped parapet.

The south (rear) elevation of the 1915 block is utilitarian in appearance. It is primarily two-stories with several one and two-story blocks projecting from the main wall across the elevation. The ground floor level is a combination of windows and pedestrian entrances and incorporates a loading dock area and freight elevator. The second floor is a combination of windows and doors. A metal exterior catwalk and metal fire escape stair are affixed to the elevation. Fenestration is generally regularly arranged with large, rectangular window openings with concrete sills and multi-pane steel windows with hopper-style openings. Lintels are a combination of concrete and corbeled brick. Some window and door openings have been infilled with brick, wood, and concrete block, with a few replacement windows and metal vents inserted. A two-story stair tower addition

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clad in vertical metal siding was constructed in 2009 and is located at the eastern end of the block. The original west elevation of the 1915 building is obscured by the 1920 addition.

Interior (Photos 16-20)

The first floor of the 1915 block is primarily open in plan with partitioned rooms off of the southern wall. Non-historic masonry walls divide a portion of the space at the eastern end of the block. The open spaces are punctuated by square, steel columns down the center of the original building and where a portion of the southern wall was removed for an addition at the southwestern end of the building in 1937. The floors are concrete and exposed perimeter walls are of painted brick. The ceiling is comprised of exposed wood framing, some exposed mechanicals, and monitor skylights.

The second floor of the 1915 block is irregular in plan with an eastern block (full second story) and a western block (partial second story) joined by a series of narrow corridors that also lead to an enclosed roof egress passage. The eastern block is largely open in plan with a row of steel columns through the center of the space. The floors are wood, walls are plastered, and ceilings are finished with some exposed mechanicals. A small office is located near the northeastern corner of the floor; it features large, rectangular clerestory windows with two-over-two divided lights. The corridor leading to the roof egress passage and the western block of the second-floor features wood floors and ceilings and plastered walls. The western block is largely open in plan with a few small rooms partitioned off the corridor and at the eastern end. Floors appear to be wood covered in vinyl flooring; walls are plastered and painted; ceilings are finished with some exposed mechanicals; historic light fixtures are regularly arranged across the ceiling.

Hartford Special Machinery Company 1920 Block

Exterior (Photos 4, 14-15)

The 1920 addition is essentially a continuation of the 1915 block in appearance; it is rectangular in plan, constructed of red brick, and is one-story with a flat roof that incorporates sawtooth monitor skylights. The north elevation extends twenty-four bays west of the 1915 section along Homestead Avenue. Fenestration is regularly arranged between brick piers. The division between buildings is marked by a garage door opening surmounted by a concrete lintel. Unadorned pedestrian entrances are located adjacent to the garage door opening and in the seventeenth bay (moving from east to west). Window openings are primarily large and rectangular with concrete sills and hold multi-pane steel sash with hopper-style openings. Windows in the first four bays west of the garage entrance are smaller in size with one replacement window and the others holding steel multi-pane sash.

The south elevation of the 1920 Block was altered by an addition in 1937 which expanded the building to the south. This addition is largely obscured by a ca. 1945 addition that encompasses all but the western-most five bays of the elevation and extends four bays onto the 1915 block. The ca. 1945 addition is one-story with a flat roof and is constructed of buff brick; the west end of the

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addition is clad in vertical metal siding. The west end of the addition has ten bays of multi-pane steel windows, the lower portions of which are covered by the metal siding but can be seen on the interior. The east end of the addition has three, large rectangular window openings with multi-pane steel sash overlaid with metal grates, as well as a pedestrian entrance. The east end of the 1920 block abuts the 1915 block. The west elevation of the 1920 block is obscured by the neighboring building.

Interior (Photos 21-24)

The interior of the original 1920 block is divided by a non-historic masonry wall running north-south through the center of the building. The two areas to the east and west of the wall feature large, open floor plates supported by rows of steel columns. The floors are concrete, exterior perimeter walls are painted brick, and the ceilings are a combination of exposed wood framing and monitor skylights. The 1937 and ca. 1945 additions also feature open floor plans, concrete floors, a combination of plaster and masonry walls, and ceilings with exposed wood framing.

Hartford Special Machinery Company 1942 Block

Exterior (Photos 1, 5-9)

Like the 1920 addition, the 1942 block echoes the style and materials of the original building. It is rectangular in plan, constructed of red brick and is primarily one-story with a flat roof that incorporates monitor skylights. A partial second story is located on the south side of the building. The north elevation extends twenty-four bays east of the 1915 Block along Homestead Avenue and is defined by regularly arranged fenestration between brick piers. The elevation accommodates the slight slope of the site as the grade increases towards Woodland Street: the western-most eleven bays hold full-height window openings while the other bays feature smaller rectangular openings. All have multi-pane steel windows with hopper-style openings, concrete sills, and corbeled brick lintels.

The east elevation of the 1942 block is reminiscent of the original 1915 façade; it extends three bays with horizontal bands of multi-pane steel windows and a stepped parapet. The main entrance is located in the chamfered southeast corner of the building. Paneled double wood doors are set within a Colonial Revival surround that incorporates fluted pilasters, a simple entablature and a broken pediment.

The south elevation of the 1942 block is one and two stories. The ground floor is a combination of pedestrian entrances, windows, and garage openings. The second floor is a combination of windows and doors. A metal catwalk is affixed to the elevation. Most windows hold multi-pane metal sash, some of which has been obscured. Two pedestrian entrances on this elevation are set within simple Colonial Revival wood surrounds with pediments.

The western elevation abuts the 1915 block.

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Interior (Photos 25-26)

The interior of the first floor of the 1942 block is divided by a non-historic masonry wall running north-south that separates the western third of the floor space from the rest of the building. The plan is otherwise open with columns regularly arranged across the floor. Floors are concrete, walls are a combination of exposed masonry painted in places and wood paneling, ceilings are exposed wood framing with exposed mechanicals.

The interior of the partial second floor located at the southern end of the building is largely open in plan with wood flooring that appears to be covered in vinyl, painted brick exterior perimeter walls, and exposed wood ceiling framing with exposed mechanicals.

Hartford Special Machinery Company ca. 1942 Guard House (Photos 5-6)

The Guard House is a contributing building located at the northeast corner of the site about ten feet from the 1942 Block where the driveway access to the site begins. It was constructed by 1944, according to historic aerial views, and was likely built at the same time as the 1942 Block. The red brick building has a compact rectangular footprint and measures one-bay by two-bays. It has a concrete foundation and a hipped roof. The east elevation holds an entry door with an adjacent window opening that mirrors the factory windows in style: it has a concrete sill and multi-pane steel sash. Signage for the Smith Worthington Saddlery Company is located on the north and east elevations. The south elevation has a single door.

Stanley P. Rockwell Company Main Manufacturing Block, 1929, 1943

This description was paraphrased and adapted from the Connecticut State Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Stanley P. Rockwell Company Factory (Karmazinas, 2016).

Exterior (Photo 27)

The main manufacturing block consists of the original 1929 block and the 1943 eastern addition. It measures approximately 75 x 70 feet and rises one-and-a-half stories over a concrete foundation to a gable roof. The façade faces south onto Homestead Avenue and extends nine bays that consist of eight large window openings and one loading bay on the ground floor; the openings have stone sills and corbelled brick lintels. The loading bay is located in the western-most bay and holds a pair of paneled wood doors with large rectangular lights in their upper sections topped by a 20-light transom. The fenestration consists of multi-light metal sash with six-light pivot openings located in the lower half of the window. Plastic lettering indicating its original occupant is located above the four western bays and reads, "TANLEY P ROCKWEL CO," the "S" has been lost. The upper section of the façade is defined by large tripartite windows with stone sills and brick trim forming a round arch above the center window centered in the front-facing gables. A stepped brick parapet with soldier-coursed brick cornices and tile coping crowns the façade. Two six-foot tall,

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full-length monitors run the depth of the original block behind the gables. Fenestration in the manufacturing block's western gable end consists of multi-pane metal sash with pivot-style openings while that in the eastern end consists of fixed multi-pane metal sash.

Interior (Photos 37-38)

The main manufacturing block has an open floor plan that allowed for flexible use of the space. The floors are concrete with various pits and footings for equipment, walls are exposed brick and the roof has wood decking with exposed iron trusswork supports. The clerestory monitors have wire-glass fenestration with chain-operated openings. Exposed piping crisscrosses the ceiling.

Stanley P. Rockwell Company Office and Laboratory Block, 1929

Exterior (Photo 27)

The office and laboratory block adjoins the west elevation of the main manufacturing building. It measures 33 x 61 feet and rises two stories above a concrete foundation with red brick walls and a gabled brick parapet with a soldier-coursed brick cornice, tile coping, and a flat roof. The façade faces south onto Homestead avenue and is divided into three bays; the primary entrance is located in the eastern-most bay. The rectangular entry holds a six-light transom and is framed by round-arched brick trim that mimics that in the gable ends of the manufacturing building; the entry is currently boarded up. The central bay holds three rectangular window openings with a continuous stone sill on each floor; the first-floor openings are framed with rectangular brick trim and the second floor windows are framed by round-arched brick trim. A single window on the first floor is the only opening in the eastern-most bay; this opening is framed by round arched brick trim and a grid of bricks below its sill that extends to the building foundation. All windows hold six-over-six double-hung wood sash.

The west elevation of the office and laboratory block is utilitarian in appearance. Window openings are located on both floors in single and paired arrangements. Windows are framed in plain rectangular brick openings with concrete sills and primarily hold six-over-six double-hung wood sash. A door is located in the second floor with a metal fire escape providing exterior egress. The door is paneled metal with a large rectangular light in its upper half. A tall, narrow window with a concrete sill and four vertically oriented fixed lights on the north side of the entry.

Interior (Photos 33-36)

The office and laboratory block contains offices and a stairwell on the first floor and offices and lavatories on the second floor. The primary entrance leads to a small vestibule with a concrete floor, plain wood baseboards and door trim, and plaster walls and ceiling. A single-run iron stair with square iron newel post and wall-mounted round wood rails leads to the second floor. The first floor is primarily open space with an asbestos tile floor, exposed brick and plaster walls and a fiberboard ceiling. Two small offices with plaster walls, paneled wood doors with large lights

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in their upper halves, and a storage closet are located on this floor. The office at the southwest corner also has molded window trim, crown molding and an acoustic tile ceiling. The second floor of the office and laboratory block is reached by the stair in the entry vestibule. This leads to a narrow corridor with asbestos tile flooring, molded baseboards, plaster walls and ceiling and paneled wood doors that runs along the building's east elevation. The corridor leads to two lavatories at the northern end of the corridor and several small offices on the west side of the corridor. Offices have carpeted floors, wood paneled or sheetrock walls, and acoustic tile ceilings.

Stanley P. Rockwell Company Shipping and Storage Block, ca. 1944-1946

Exterior (Photos 30-32)

A one-story shipping and storage addition to the building's west and north elevations was erected between ca. 1944 and 1946. This addition wraps the northeast corner of the building extending the full length of the north (rear) of the elevation of the factory. It is constructed of red brick walls above a tall concrete foundation and has a flat roof with concrete coping. Large rectangular window openings with concrete sills hold multi-pane metal sash with central pivot openings. The concrete foundation was extended beyond the exterior walls in 1962 to form a loading dock on the west and north sides of the block. The loading dock is sheltered by a flat roof supported by narrow steel columns and is accessed by a concrete stair at its southern end. A metal door with a large rectangular light accesses the southern end of the block's west elevation. North of this entry is a loading bay with a roll-up metal door.

Interior (Photos 40)

The shipping and storage block adjoins the west and north elevations of the office and laboratory block with primary access through a large doorless opening on the west side of the office and laboratory. The shipping and storage block has a concrete floor, exposed painted brick walls and plastered and unfinished ceilings. A clerestory monitor with wire-glass fenestration is located above the western portion of the block.

Stanley P. Rockwell Company Manufacturing addition, 1966

Exterior (Photos 29)

A one-and-a-half story 64 x 40-foot concrete block addition adjoins the northeast corner of the 1944/1946 Shipping and Storage Block. The addition has a concrete foundation and front (west) facing gable roof with a gabled clerestory monitor. The only openings in the exterior walls are located in the west elevation which holds a large central loading bay, a smaller loading bay to the south, and a single window opening to the north. The loading bays hold roll-up metal doors and the window holds multi-pane metal sash with a pivot opening.

Interior

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The manufacturing addition is accessed from the eastern end of the shipping and storage block and from the exterior garage doors on its western elevation. The interior space is open in plan with concrete floors, concrete block walls, and an unfinished ceiling with exposed iron trusses. The roof has corrugated metal decking and a gabled clerestory monitor with chain operated, pivot-type wire-glass fenestration.

Stanley P. Rockwell Company 1970 addition

Exterior (Photo 28)

The east elevation of the main manufacturing block is spanned by a 13 x 85-foot wood-frame and concrete block addition with a shed roof. The northern half of the addition was a wood-frame porch erected in 1943 which was enclosed with plywood sheathing and enlarged with the concrete block expansion ca. 1970. A garage door opening that holds a roll-up wood door is centered on the south elevation and three small rectangular window openings are located at the northern end of the east elevation.

Interior (Photo 39)

Access to the 1970 addition is through an opening in the eastern wall of the main manufacturing block. The addition has a concrete floor, concrete block and wood-frame exterior walls and an unfinished ceiling and consists of a single open space.

Integrity

Though a series of tenants has occupied the Hartford Special Machinery Company Factory in the decades since its departure from its long-time headquarters in 1960, there has been minimal alteration to the building outside of the period of significance. The site retains its integrity of location and setting with its relationship to the railroad tracks, Homestead Avenue, and neighboring factories—including the Stanley P. Rockwell Company Factory—unchanged. In addition, the character defining materials and workmanship dating to the late 1930s and early 1940s are mainly intact: on the exterior, some windows and door openings have been infilled or obscured but the overall appearance is reflective of the last period of construction. Interior arrangements have been altered in places, but these spaces also bear a strong resemblance to their historic configurations in materials and general layout. The building also retains a substantial number of intact historic windows and doors (exterior and interior), light fixtures, plaster walls in the 1938 second story addition, and roof monitors. The existing factory fully retains its feeling and association as an early-twentieth century industrial facility that operated into the middle of the twentieth century.

The same holds true for the Stanley P. Rockwell Company Factory, despite its more substantial state of deterioration since the company ceased operations and vacated the plant in 2010. Deterioration due to a lack of occupants has impacted the interior finishes such as the tile floors, painted walls and ceilings, and any wood paneling or acoustic tiles, however, overall, the facility's

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integrity as an industrial plant has been thoroughly preserved. Its relationship to its site and surroundings, especially the Hartford Special Machinery Company Factory across the street, remain unchanged. Apart from the second-floor offices which appear to have undergone superficial changes during the mid-to-late twentieth century, the various blocks retain a vast majority of original materials, contributing to the workmanship, feeling and association this facility conveys.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1915-1960

Significant Dates

1915, 1920, 1937, 1942 (construction/major additions, main complex)
1929, 1943, 1944/46 (construction/major additions to Stanley P. Rockwell Co. Factory)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Ford, Buck and Sheldon (engineers)
J.H. Grozier Company (contractors)
Greenwood & Noerr (engineers)
Bent Bartlett Co/R.G. Bent Co. (contractors)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Hartford Special Machinery Company Complex meets Criterion A for listing on the National Register with significance at the local level in the area of Industry. The complex includes the Hartford Special Machinery Company and the associated Stanley P. Rockwell Company, contract machine builders and heat-treating specialists, respectively, that provided important support services for Hartford's local industries and war-time production efforts during the first and second World Wars. Mechanical engineer and inventor, Joseph Merritt, and two prominent Hartford attorneys, Ernest Walker Smith and Herbert Knox Smith organized the Hartford Special Machinery Company in 1912. The company produced specialty machines, machine components, and tools for manufacturers. "You name it, we'll make it," and "You can't stump us," were early company watchwords. The company quickly expanded from leased manufacturing space to its own purpose-built 18,000 square-foot plant on Homestead Avenue in 1915. Increased production of proprietary products necessitated multiple additions to the Homestead Avenue complex and the construction of a separate factory across the street at 296 Homestead Avenue in 1929 for heat treating, which was managed by the Stanley P. Rockwell Company, through an agreement with the Hartford Special Machinery Company. The latter company, organized by Stanley P. Rockwell, an engineer and metallurgist, in 1923, provided contract heat-treating, metallurgical analysis, and consulting services to local businesses. Joseph Merritt served as president of both companies from 1933 until his death in 1950. The combination of Merritt's death and the Hartford Special Machinery Company's gradual move to Simsbury effectively ended the long-time relationship between the companies. The period of significance extends from 1915 when the first building was constructed, to 1960 when the Hartford Special Machinery Company vacated its plant.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: Industry

The Hartford Special Machinery Company Complex meets Criterion A in the area of Industry for the contributions the company made to Hartford's industrial landscape through the supply of specialized manufacturing services that contributed to Hartford's ongoing status as an industrial center into the twentieth century. The company's role as contract machine builders [at the main complex] and heat-treating specialists [in the Stanley Rockwell building], were important support services that served Hartford's local industries in peace time and during both World Wars.

The Hartford Special Machinery Company Complex 1912-1930

Founding partners Joseph Merritt (1868-1950), Ernest Walker Smith (1878-1926), and Herbert Knox Smith (1869-1931) established the Hartford Special Machinery Company in Hartford,

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Connecticut in 1912 with capital of \$15,000 (**Figures 5-7**). Merritt, an independent mechanical engineer and inventor born in Greenwich, Connecticut initiated the business, with the financial backing of the Smith brothers. He gained experience in tool and automatic machinery design and manufacture over a period of about twenty years before opening his own mechanical and consulting engineering business under his name in Hartford in 1907. He previously apprenticed as a machinist at the Port Chester Bolt & Nut Company in Port Chester, New York, from 1886-1889, producing machinery for making bolts and nuts. He then worked as a tool maker, draftsman and designer for a number of companies, including Pratt & Whitney in Hartford. During this period, Merritt gained experience in a variety of machinery, including type setting and justifying machines, cash registers, and machine guns. From 1899-1907 he served as the chief draftsman and designer for William A. Lorenz, a mechanical engineer and inventor in Hartford, where he produced original designs for automatic paper bag, food preparing, and rubber working machinery. He also invented new devices and processes with the goal of reducing manufacturing costs.¹

After 1907, Merritt opened his own business as a mechanical and consulting engineer at 60 Prospect Street in Hartford, in the old Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company Building (not extant). His services ranged from designing and inventing new machinery to supervising its construction and producing blueprints (**Figure 8**). Many of his machines, which were patented, were made for the Beech Nut Packing Company of Canajoharie, New York, and focused on processing and packaging food.² By 1912, Merritt saw an opportunity to expand his production and collaborated with business partners Ernest Walker Smith and Herbert Knox Smith, to found the Hartford Special Machinery Company. The business originated as a special machinery shop where large and small manufacturers could come for machinery design development or for production of machinery of their own design. The new company was located in rented space at the rear of what was known as the Woods Building, formerly located at 784 Main Street in downtown Hartford. Merritt continued to operate a business under his name on the side, shifting its focus to printing, especially the production of blueprints. This business, which became known as Joseph Merritt & Co. with the addition of a partner in the 1920s, is still operating in 2021 with locations in Hartford, Danbury and New Haven, Connecticut, and Providence, Rhode Island.

Merritt's business partners, Ernest Walker Smith and Herbert Knox Smith, were brothers and prominent Hartford attorneys, politicians, and businessmen. While Joseph Merritt himself does not appear to have been politically connected, his wife, Alice Pattison Merritt, whom he wed in 1903, was the sister of Connecticut state senator Alexander T. Pattison, and later served as Connecticut's first female state senator herself. The Pattison family may have connected Merritt to the Smith brothers as he sought business investors. The younger of the two brothers, Ernest

¹ "Joseph Merritt," *Proceedings of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers*. (Baltimore, MD: The American Society of Mechanical Engineers) September 1907, 339.

² Merritt, Joseph. "Apparatus for Mounting and Dismounting Tubes and Gaskets." US894221A, United States Patent Office, July 28, 1908; Merritt, Joseph. "Grinding Mill." US1141898A, United States Patent Office, June 1, 1915; Merritt, Joseph. "Hermetic-Sealing Apparatus." US1026404A, United States Patent Office, May 14, 1912; Merritt, Joseph. "Process of Making Gasket." US1049255A, United States Patent Office, December 31, 1912; Merritt, Joseph and W.H. Honiss. "Machine for Cutting Rings." US1086606A, United States Patent Office, February 10, 1914.

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Walker Smith, partnered with Joseph Merritt on the invention of a machine for cleaning the exteriors of receptacles and invented one of his own for making wire link mesh, both of which received patents.³ He served as the Hartford Special Machinery Company's president from its founding in 1912 until his early death in 1926. He graduated from Yale in 1901 and Harvard Law School in 1904 and practiced law with a number of partners, including his brother in the firm Smith, Smith & Canfield. He represented Hartford in the lower house of the General Assembly in 1907 and served as chairman of the Republican town committee for several years. His business interests outside of the Hartford Special Machinery Company included serving as a director of the Hartford Empire Company, a leading manufacturer of glass containers that relied heavily on the services of the Hartford Special Machinery Company and the Stanley P. Rockwell Company, and the Guernsey-Westbrook Lumber Company.⁴ Herbert Knox Smith served as vice president and director of the Hartford Special Machinery Company until his death in 1931. His education and business interests mirrored those of his brother. He graduated from Yale in 1891 and Yale Law School in 1895, practiced law, with a specialty in corporation law, served as a Hartford city councilor, and was a close associate of President Theodore Roosevelt, serving as Deputy Commissioner of Corporations and later Commissioner of Corporations during Roosevelt's administration. He was general counsel for the Hartford Empire Company, and a director of the Guernsey-Westbrook Lumber Company and Smith Pearsall Companies, among others.⁵

Within a year of organizing the Hartford Special Machinery Company, the business needed more space than could be provided on the single floor of the Woods building it originally occupied. The company took over a second floor of that building, but the expansion was insufficient.⁶ In 1915, the Hartford Special Machinery Company constructed an approximately 18,000 square foot factory of its own at the southwest corner of Homestead Avenue and Woodland Street in the Upper Albany neighborhood of Hartford. This part of Hartford was a newly developing neighborhood at the time. At the end of the nineteenth century, the area was characterized by large estates and recreational grounds. The arrival of the streetcar along Albany Avenue in 1895 brought rapid residential development north of Homestead Avenue and east of Woodland Street. However, the area between Homestead and Albany avenues west of Woodland Street was sparsely developed as late as 1909, with development generally concentrated along Woodland Street (**Figure 9**). The site of the Hartford Special Machinery Company's new plant was located along the northern edge of a vast estate owned by Rev. Francis Goodwin (1839-1923), one of Hartford's wealthiest citizens, an architect and botanist who is considered the father of the Hartford park system. A rail line ran along the southern border of the site, making it an attractive location for industry. The line originated as the Connecticut Western Railroad, laid in 1868, and was part of Central New England Railroad from 1899-1927, and the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad until 1969. It

³ Merritt, Joseph and E.W. Smith. "Machine for cleaning the exteriors of receptacles," US1134213A, United States Patent Office, April 6, 1915; Smith, E.W. "Process of Manufacturing Wire Link Mesh." US1186854A, United States Patent Office, June 13, 1916.

⁴ "Ernest W. Smith," *Legislative History and Souvenir of Connecticut*, (Putnam, CT: William Harrison Taylor) 1908, 63.

⁵ "Ernest W. Smith," *Legislative History and Souvenir of Connecticut*, (Putnam, CT: William Harrison Taylor) 1908, 51; "H.K. Smith, Farmington, Dies at 62," *The Hartford Courant*, December 18, 1931.

⁶ "Interesting Connecticut Industry: The Hartford Special Machinery Company," *The Hartford Courant*. June 14, 1930.

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played an important role in transporting freight for local industries; when the city considered relocating the tracks in 1917, manufacturers, including the Hartford Special Machinery Company, strongly objected on the grounds that they relied heavily on the tracks for freight transport.⁷ The construction of the Hartford Special Machinery Company Factory in 1915 introduced industry to the neighborhood. At the behest of the company, Homestead Avenue was paved with sidewalks added using city funds, and several manufacturing companies were subsequently attracted to the neighborhood constructing plants along Homestead Avenue between 1915 and 1918.⁸ The Philbrick-Booth and Spencer Company plant was constructed in 1916 (demolished), and the Hartford Empire Company factory was built in 1918. Both were located to the west of the Hartford Special Machinery Company property. Industrial development along Homestead Avenue continued into the mid-1940s.

The Hartford Special Machinery Company Factory was designed by the engineering firm of Ford, Buck & Sheldon and constructed by the J.H. Grozier Company for a cost of approximately \$35,000.⁹ The new factory was situated in the center of its lot. The one-story brick building extended 325 feet down Homestead Avenue with its façade, 55 feet in length, facing east to Woodland Street, though significantly set back from that thoroughfare. Plenty of room for expansion remained to the east and west of the building, and shortly after the building's completion, the company purchased land across Homestead Avenue ensuring even more space for enlargement.¹⁰ Like many industrial buildings of this period, the factory was of slow-burning mill construction with a flat roof, large, multi-pane steel windows, and an open interior plan. The offices and drafting room were located at the eastern end of the building and the bathrooms, boiler room and tool rooms extended from the southern wall, leaving a virtually uninterrupted machine room comprising the length of the building. The only interruption to the floor plan was the superintendent's office which projected slightly into the floorspace about half-way down the northern wall. This was an elevated room that allowed the superintendent a clear view of the entire factory from his desk.

The new factory attracted the attention of the trade journal, *The Iron Age*, and the plant was featured in its June 1916 issue. The qualities of the new building, described in detail with accompanying photographs, reflect a thoughtful design, well regarded in the industry (**Figures 10-16**). Many of the noteworthy elements called out in the article highlighted the intention of the design to promote a pleasant and well-functioning working environment. The windows, for example, were filled with hammered glass to provide a diffused light, except for a row of panes at eye level. The advantages of this arrangement were two-fold: it removed what was considered a "prison atmosphere," and allowed for workmen to rest their eyes by periodically focusing on distant objects. This was a relatively new idea that the author of the article noted was becoming

⁷ Relocating C.N.E. Tracks Discussed," *The Hartford Daily Courant*, January 31, 1917.

⁸ As reported in the *Hartford Daily Courant*, the city street board petitioned for an appropriation of \$2,000 to lay a "narrow strip of macadam in the center of Homestead Avenue for the convenience of those using the street for hauling material to the new factory which is being erected there by the Hartford Special Machinery Company."

"Aldermen to pass on More Salaries," *The Hartford Daily Courant* August 15, 1915.

⁹ Permits Issued for Two Shop Buildings," *Hartford Courant*. July 20, 1915, 8.

¹⁰ "Land Acquired for Possible Addition," *The Hartford Courant*, November 18, 1915.

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increasingly common in new factories. Electric lights placed at regular intervals of about sixteen feet supplemented natural light with dropped lights wherever concentrated light was desirable, such as over work benches and machines. Small worker conveniences included drinking fountains throughout the work room, individual steel-framed stools for each worker, and for designers: a drafting room with a unique drawing board for making full-size drawings and fire-proof vaults to safeguard important drawings and models. The shop itself was organized with an eye towards flexibility of machinery that could be produced and efficiency in its manufacture. It had a wide variety of tools, machines, motors, and raw materials and careful systems for keeping track of inventory, prioritizing, distributing and inspecting work. Summarizing his observations of the factory in use, the author declared the Hartford Special Machinery Company to be something of an outlier in its field, both in the design of its building as well as in its operation and its products:

In reality, this plant is something different from the typical machine shops found in most New England cities. It is in truth one large tool room. Even the most casual and untrained observer will note the intelligent appearance and unusual maturity of the workmen, and can hardly fail to observe both the fine appearance of the machinery and its diversity...its principal product is special machinery, but during these rush days, when manufacturers everywhere are wondering where they can get good toolmakers, this plant is extremely busy with tool work of the highest grade. As the concern is not engaged to mass production, but is engaged in making the highest grade of special machinery and tools, one finds a high type of machinery throughout the plant...One of its regular products, which will give a good idea of the character of the tools and machinery built in this plant, is...a United States Bureau of Standards rubber-testing machine. It is upon special products of this class that the emphasis of the production of this plant is placed.”¹¹

The flexibility of the Hartford Special Machinery Company’s tool-making machinery and highly skilled machinists was also highlighted in a 1916 article in *The American Machinist*. The author of this article further illuminates the type of work undertaken by the company in its early years, namely the production of very expensive experimental machines that were built to combine several operations. These machines were highly lucrative because they typically fell outside of the realm of standardized machines for which there were competitive manufacturers.¹² As the article further notes, the wide variety of work required all-around skilled machinists, in contrast to a manufacturing plant in which one particular machine was produced and employees were trained specialists. Accompanying photographs and plans illustrate the diversity of machines and tools available to the machinists (**Figures 17-20**). Company advertising emphasized their suitability for producing machines and tools of myriad designs. A 1918 advertisement placed in the *American Machinist* marketed the company as “The Shop of a Hundred Experts”:

Every shop manager recognizes having equipment that is flexible...how much more necessary in a shop handling special work. Flexible equipment aptly describes the

¹¹ W.E. Freeland. “A Notable Machine Shop of Moderate Size,” *The Iron Age*, June 22, 1916, 1483-1486.

¹² John H. VanDeventer, “Enlarging the Small Shop through Special Policies,” *The American Machinist*, July 20, 1916, 93-94.

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machines and general layout of our shop. These machines have been chosen and arranged so as to give the biggest range on the widest variety of work...you can't 'stump' us. Try it and see."¹³

Company Records have not been located in public archives, making it difficult to pinpoint specific clients and products other than as noted generally in newspaper and trade journal accounts.¹⁴ From these it can be gleaned that the company's early machines did indeed vary widely. According to a retrospective report on the company in the *Hartford Courant* in 1954, which is confirmed by patent documentation, some of these products included machines that ground peanut butter, diced vegetables, stamped gold leaf designs onto shoe leather, made chain mesh for a short-lived fad in women's handbags, and that polished talcum powder cans.¹⁵ The 1916 article in the *American Machinist* mentioned above includes a photograph of automatic rifle parts manufactured in the shop, likely for the Colt Patent Firearms Company (**Figure 20**). In addition to building specific machines, the company also designed improved machine tools and manufacturing machinery that demonstrated a versatility of manufacturing potential; these were patented by Joseph Merritt and others (with the Hartford Special Machinery Company assignor) in the 1910s and 1920s and continued through the 1970s. Some of these patents included designs for improved drill chucks, metal links, variable speed transmissions, glass working apparatus, and ring forming tools and gages, among others.¹⁶

The medley of tools and materials available allowed the company to easily shift production to meet war-time demand. Hartford played a significant role in war production during the first World War, producing fifty-four percent of the nation's arms and munitions.¹⁷ Colt Patent Firearms produced standard issue pistols and machine guns; Pratt & Whitney manufactured gauges and tools needed for the manufacture of weapons and shells; Hartford Machine Screw made brass and bronze components assembled into fuses for allied artillery. War production also included turbines for navy torpedo boat destroyers and submarine chasers, valves for gas masks, parts for shells, hardware for machine gun casing, even typewriters for Allied governments.¹⁸ The Hartford Special Machinery Company announced in the *American Machinist* in 1918 that they sought "100 really good men," declaring, "All our work is WAR WORK. If you are not in this class of work, you should be. The country needs you."¹⁹ Given its manufacture of automatic rifle parts in 1916,

¹³ "Contract Work," *American Machinist*, February 21, 1918.

¹⁴ Archives that have been consulted for business records include the Connecticut State Library, Connecticut Historical Society, and the University of Connecticut's Business and Industry Collection.

¹⁵ John G. Fitzgerald, "Hartford Special Has Modern Assembly Plant," *The Hartford Courant*, Sunday May 2, 1954, 3; "Automation Not New to Local Firm," *The Hartford Courant*, May 1, 1955, 27.

¹⁶ David Weir. "Chuck." US1288324A, United States Patent Office, December 17, 1918; Edward K. Standish. "Variable Speed transmission." US1762199A, United States Patent Office, June 10, 1930; Theodore C. Steimer. "Glass Feeding Mechanism," US1596124, United States Patent Office, August 17, 1926; Joseph Merritt. "Connecting Link and Process for Making Same," US956394A, United States Patent Office, April 26, 1910; Joseph Merritt. "Ring Forming Tool." US1067876, United States Patent Office, July 22, 1913.

¹⁷ David Drury. *Hartford in World War I*, (Charleston, SC: The History Press), 2015, 39.

¹⁸ David Drury. *Hartford in World War I*, (Charleston, SC: The History Press), 2015, PAGES

¹⁹ "Toolmakers Machinists," *American Machinist*, June 27, 1918.

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it is likely that the Hartford Special Machinery company contributed to the arms and munitions production in Hartford during the first World War.

In 1920, the original plant was significantly expanded with a one-story addition to the western end of the original building. The addition, also of brick mill construction was 60 feet by 200 feet and was built by the Bent Bartlett Company, contractors (**Figures 21-24**). By this time, the company employed about 150 men and was occasionally running day and night shifts to accommodate demand, which was reportedly not for any one particular product, but in service to many customers.²⁰

With the death of Ernest Walker Smith in 1926, Joseph Merritt assumed the role of president of the Hartford Special Machinery Company. With a continual eye towards expanding the possibilities of machinery the company could produce, Merritt incorporated the manufacture of gears and cams to the company's portfolio in the late 1920s. These machine components were previously purchased from outside vendors; producing them in-house allowed for complete assembly and quality control of all components of the machinery produced by the company. \$75,000 of special gear cutting machinery was installed in the 1920 addition.²¹

In an additional move to localize its processes at the end of the 1920s, Merritt partnered with the Stanley P. Rockwell Company, a heat-treating company, to provide all of the company's heat-treating needs. Like the Hartford Special Machinery Company, the Stanley P. Rockwell Company offered contract services. Their business was in heat-treating and metallurgical analysis and consulting. The company was organized in 1923 by Stanley P. Rockwell (1886-1940), an engineer and metallurgist who had developed a machine for testing the hardness of metals—the Rockwell Harness Tester, and associated Rockwell Scale—that became the industry standard still used today.²² The Hartford Special Machinery Company erected a factory for the Stanley P. Rockwell Company directly across Homestead Avenue from the Hartford Special Machinery Company Factory on land they had secured for potential expansion shortly after their plant was built in 1915. The Stanley P. Rockwell plant, which opened in 1929, was designed by Buck & Sheldon, the same firm that designed the Hartford Special Machinery Company plant (Listed on the State Register of Historic Places in 2016). Prior to partnering with the Stanley P. Rockwell Company, the Hartford Special Machinery Company had been sending its heat-treating work to the Pratt & Whitney Company in downtown Hartford, which required time and expense for transportation for this service.²³ The new association was a close one. Joseph Merritt became president of the Stanley P. Rockwell Company in 1933, a role which he held until his death in 1950 (**Figures 25-29**).

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²⁰ "Co. Runs Both Day and Night Shifts," *The Hartford Courant*, July 13, 1921.

²¹ "Hartford Special Machinery Manufacturing Gears and Cams In House," *Hartford Courant*, October 28, 1927, 27.

²² Lucas Karmazinas, consultant, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut State Register Nomination for the "Stanley P. Rockwell Company, Hartford, CT," May 6, 2016, 13.

²³ Lucas Karmazinas, consultant, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut State Register Nomination for the "Stanley P. Rockwell Company, Hartford, CT," May 6, 2016, 14.

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From 1930 to 1960, the Hartford Special Machinery Company diversified the machinery produced and expanded the size of the plant. While World War II played a role in this expansion, the company was thriving both before and after the war-time demand for special machinery. By 1930, the Hartford Special Machinery company's work was divided into three distinct classes: the design and production of special single purpose automatic machinery for which there was no existing standard machinery, general contract machine work, which involved reproducing machinery on a large scale that had been developed by a particular concern, and the production of gears, worms and cams.²⁴ The Great Depression did slow business but the flexibility of the business model allowed the company to weather the downturn and even expand. Several alterations to the plant were completed in the mid-1930s, including a 34-foot by 160-foot addition to the south elevation of the 1920 addition, a fireproof boiler room on the south elevation of the original 1915 building in 1937, and a second story addition in 1938. These alterations were designed by the engineering firm Greenwood & Noerr and were constructed by the R.G. Bent Company, contractors, for a combined cost of approximately \$55,500, no small sum in the middle of an economic depression (**Figures 30-31**).²⁵ In 1939, the company was employing approximately 250 people, a notable expansion from its workforce in 1920 given the economic climate.²⁶ World War II draft cards of Hartford Special Machinery employees during this period indicate that the workforce consisted primarily of New England-born workers, though there were also immigrants from Canada, the British Isles, Greece, Sweden, and Germany.²⁷ Like many factories during the second World War, the Hartford Special Machinery Company employed women as increasing numbers of male employees were drafted. Katherine E. Locke worked as a supervisor and certified war production trainer at the plant. According to her obituary, she was one of 200 women who worked at the Hartford Special Machinery Company during the war, comprising the vast majority of the workforce.²⁸

As with the first World War, Connecticut played an important role in the U.S. wartime manufacturing effort during World War II. By 1945, Connecticut manufacturers had secured more than \$8 billion in war contracts; the state was ninth in the nation in its production of military armaments. Some of the major producers were the Hamilton Standard Propeller Corporation—manufacturers of airplane propellers; General Dynamics Electric Boat—producers of U.S. naval submarines; Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Corporation, producers of airplane engines; and Colt Manufacturing Company, manufacturers of pistols and machine guns.²⁹ These and other companies relied on subcontractors for machine tools and parts, and the Hartford Special Machinery Company was well-positioned to contribute. The company manufactured a variety of machinery and parts. These included elevating and training control mechanisms for naval guns,

²⁴ "The Hartford Special Machinery Co. Company Organization and Description of Product." *The Hartford Courant* June 14, 1930.

²⁵ "Permit Sought for Addition to Machine Plant," *Hartford Courant*, July 3, 1937; "Building Permits," *Hartford Courant*, July 22, 1938.

²⁶ "Glass Maker Keeps Firm's Payroll Large," *Hartford Courant*, March 17, 1946, 14.

²⁷ Ancestry.com. *U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947* [database on-line]. Lehi, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2011.

²⁸ "Katherine E. Locke, 101 Girl Scout Council Founder," *The Hartford Courant* February 4, 1995.

²⁹ Mark Allen Baker, *Connecticut in World War II*. (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing) 2017.

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intricate airplane parts for Pratt and Whitney and the Vought-Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, as well as sub-assembly parts on army aircraft guns, and radar control units for submarines.³⁰

Outside of war contracts during World War II, the majority of the work of the Hartford Special Machinery Company during this period fell into the category of general machine contract work, or the production of machines that had been designed by outside business concerns seeking manufacturers of the machine. Among the contracts that were especially consuming was an agreement to produce glass bottle-making machinery for the neighboring Hartford Empire Company, the largest manufacturer of glass making machinery in the country in the 1930s. Even after restructuring in the 1940s following an anti-trust investigation by the Federal Government, the Hartford Empire Company remained the producer of 70 percent of glass containers in the United States in 1946.³¹ Contract work for the Hartford Empire Company began in the late 1920s and continued for several decades. The work generated by the contract attracted the attention of the *Hartford Courant* in 1946 which reported it provided a year's worth of work for the Hartford Special Machinery Company just in that line alone, boosting employment to 430 people.³² The relationship between the neighboring companies was a natural one. Hartford Special Machinery Company founding partners, Ernest Walker Smith and Herbert Knox Smith, served as director and general counsel, treasurer and secretary for the Hartford Empire Company in the 1920s, and Joseph Merritt's former employer, William Lorenz, was one of the Hartford Empire Company's founding engineers and directors. The Stanley P. Rockwell Company also supported the Hartford Empire Company, supplying its heat-treating services. According to the *Hartford Courant*, other contract work for the Hartford Special Machinery Company in the 1930s included precision machine work for producers of aircraft and aircraft engines.³³ This may have been for Pratt and Whitney and the Vought-Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, given their association during the second World War.

An important expansion of the Hartford Special Machinery Company's reach occurred in the 1930s and 1940s with the introduction of its own proprietary machinery. The first of these was the Hartford Super-Spacer, introduced in 1935 (**Figure 32**). This was a device that precisely positioned machine components during the manufacturing process. It was a highly versatile tool and could be used in milling, drilling, boring, planning and grinding work. Its reliability for accuracy allowed less-skilled machine operators to increase their productivity by working at faster speeds while relying on the spacer for precision. The company expanded its line of proprietary products in the late 1940s when it purchased the patents and manufacturing rights for the production of three types of machines from the Langelier Manufacturing Company of Cranston, Rhode Island. These rights were for drilling, automatic thread rolling, and die polishing machines, all of which were in demand by manufacturers seeking fast and economical production of machine parts, such as the General Motors Corporation. The Hartford Special Machinery Company

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Lucas A. Karmanzinas. "Hartford Empire Company," *Making Places: Historic Mills of Connecticut*. August 2015. <https://connecticutmills.org/find/details/hartford-empire-co1>

³² Glass Maker Keeps Firm's Payroll Large," *Hartford Courant*, March 17, 1946, 14.

³³ "Automation Not New to Local Firm," *The Hartford Courant* Sunday May 1, 1955, 27.

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produced several automatic tapping and drilling machines at a cost of about \$20,000 each (just over \$196,500 today) for the General Motors hydramatic transmission plant in Michigan.³⁴

The continued growth of the capabilities of what the Hartford Special Machinery Company could and did manufacture during this period required even further expansion of its plant. In 1941 the company was leasing space in the Schorer Building at 123 Spruce Street for additional capacity. In 1942 the last major addition to the factory was constructed. This was a one-story, 80-foot by 200-foot brick block that extended from the original façade of the 1915 building. It was constructed by the R.G. Bent Company at a cost of approximately \$59,000 (**Figures 33-35**).³⁵ Minor adjustments to the factory continued through 1945 and included construction of a storage shed for steel chips (1943), locker and bathroom additions to the 1915 building (1943), and the addition of a first aid office and rear addition to the 1915 building (1945).

After Joseph Merritt died in 1950, the Hartford Special Machinery Company continued its forward motion under the sons of two of the original founders, Robert P. Merritt (1911-2002), as president and Ernest W. Smith, Jr. (1915-2009) as executive vice-president. Robert Merritt, who began working as a machinist for the company in the early 1930s, spearheaded the development of the Hartford Super Spacer.³⁶ During the 1950s, Robert Merritt and Ernest W. Smith, Jr. expanded business to the point where the Homestead Avenue plant could no longer fully contain the company's 475 employees and its operations. A branch plant was operating on Brook Street in the Elmwood neighborhood of Hartford by 1953. In 1954 with a \$5 million-a-year business, the company constructed a 44,000 square-foot assembly plant in Simsbury, Connecticut. Machine parts continued to be manufactured in the Homestead Avenue plant with assembly moving to Simsbury, but the intention was to eventually move all operations to the new plant.³⁷ The relocation was consistent with the common post-war trend of decentralization and movement of both housing and businesses into the suburbs.

Joseph Merritt's death and the intention to move out of Hartford impacted the long relationship between the Hartford Special Machinery and Stanley P. Rockwell companies. Anticipating the Hartford Special Machinery Company's move, the Stanley P. Rockwell Company purchased the building they had been leasing from the Hartford Special Machinery Company since 1929. The company continued to provide the heat-treating services for the Hartford Special Machinery Company while the latter company remained in Hartford, but the demand for heat-treating work diminished as the Hartford Special Machinery Company prepared to move to the suburbs. At this time, contract work for the Hartford Empire Company became increasingly important for the Stanley P. Rockwell Company.³⁸

³⁴ "G.M. Hails Machine Firm for Job Speed After Fire," *The Hartford Courant*, September 5, 1953, 1.

³⁵ "Permits for New Building," *The Hartford Courant*, March 25, 1942, 12.

³⁶ "Robert P. Merritt," *Hartford Courant*, September 16, 2002.

³⁷ "Hartford Special Machinery has Modern Assembly Plant," *Hartford Courant*, May 2, 1954, 3.

³⁸ Lucas Karmazinas, consultant, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut State Register Nomination for the "Stanley P. Rockwell Company, Hartford, CT," May 6, 2016, 15-16.

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In 1955 the Hartford Special Machinery Company further expanded its line of proprietary products by purchasing a complete line of air hydraulic drilling units from the Rockwell Manufacturing Company in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. As touted in an advertisement celebrating the new acquisition, the addition of the new machinery allowed the company to “offer a complete line of machine components which can be assembled by the purchaser into an automatic machine to fit his specific requirements.”³⁹ In other words, it expanded the pool of possible clients by allowing the company to offer smaller businesses the ability to build their own automatic machinery by providing all of the parts without incurring the large cost of fully built automatic machinery.

With the continued expansion of the business through the 1950s, the Hartford Special Machinery Company vacated its Homestead Avenue plant in 1960, moving all operations to its Simsbury location. The company continued to thrive into the 1970s. In 1980, the Hartford Special Machinery Company merged with the New England Machine & Tool Company and Page Co., two smaller companies based in Berlin, Connecticut, and became Hartford Special Inc. Despite the hopeful projections of the merger, recession and foreign competition ultimately forced liquidation of the company in 1983.⁴⁰

Following the company’s move to Simsbury in 1960, the Homestead Avenue plant became home to the Smith-Worthington Company, reportedly the oldest surviving saddle manufacturer in the United States, as well as to a number of smaller tenants.⁴¹ The company lost its manufacturing building on Sigourney Street, which it had occupied since 1882, in 1961 due to the construction of Interstate 84. This prompted the move to the Hartford Special Machinery Company Factory, where the company continued its manufacture of custom saddles. The Smith Worthington Company still occupies a portion of the building making custom saddles today.

Special Machinery Industry in Hartford

In 1947, the Connecticut Department of Labor published an industrial directory that included an overview of the state’s industries. The introduction to the publication highlighted the state’s long history with the machine industry, noting: “Historically, Connecticut manufacturing has been centered in the machining and fabrication of metal products, and the skills and experience represented in the shops of the state are so many and varied that it has been said that any product produced from metal either has been made or can be made in Connecticut.”⁴² At the time of the publication, the machine industry was the largest employer in the state, with more than 79,500 workers, accounting for eighteen percent of manufacturing employment in Connecticut.⁴³

³⁹ “Hartford Special Pioneers Practical, Low-Cost Automation,” *Hartford Courant*, March 24, 1955.

⁴⁰ “Hartford Special Inc. Is Created by Merger,” *Hartford Courant*, January 1, 1980, 35; Charles C. Robb, “Hartford Special to Liquidate,” *Hartford Courant*, December 16, 1982, 71.

⁴¹ “Hartford Company has made saddles for 199 Years,” *Hartford Courant*, June 28, 1993.

⁴² State of Connecticut Department of Labor. *Industrial Directory of Connecticut*. (Norwalk: O’Brien Suburban Press) 1947, ix.

⁴³ State of Connecticut Department of Labor. *Industrial Directory of Connecticut*. (Norwalk: O’Brien Suburban Press) 1947, x.

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The special machinery industry in Connecticut supported manufacturers of all stripes. During both world wars, manufacturers of munitions and aircraft were especially reliant on machine tool subcontractors like the Hartford Special Machinery Company. At other times, the machines and tools produced in special machinery shops in Connecticut were used by the automobile industry, the nuclear submarine industry, other machine tool companies, and a wide range of other local industries. The Hartford Special Machinery Company, for example, produced automatic drilling and tapping machines used by General Motors for building automatic transmissions, radar control units for naval submarines, manufacturing tools like the Super-Spacer used by other machine shops, and glass making machinery for the Hartford Empire Company and others.

Hartford, in particular, is well-known for its long history of special machinery and tool production. The Colt Armory, internationally known for its firearms production, played an important role in promoting the machine-building industry in Hartford, beginning in the mid-nineteenth century. The company not only made its own contributions to machine building technology, but it served as the training ground for many machine designers who went on to start their own businesses. Francis Pratt and Amos Whitney, whose business (Pratt & Whitney) produced industrial machines and gauges, and later aircraft were a notable example, as was Christopher Spencer, founder of Hartford Machine and Screw, producer of automatic screw machines and co-founder of Billings and Spencer, manufacturer of sewing machine shuttles, pistol frames and hand tools.⁴⁴ Joseph Merritt, co-founder of the Hartford Special Machinery Company, followed a similar trajectory as these entrepreneurs; his time at Pratt and Whitney in the late-nineteenth century set the stage for his own inventions and profitable business, which in turn became a major subcontractor for Pratt & Whitney during World War II. By the 1920s, the special machinery tool business was an important part of Hartford's manufacturing trade. A feature on Hartford manufacturing that appeared in the *Hartford Courant* in 1920 asserted, "Though our manufactures cover all fields, it is in the line of special machinery and tools that Hartford is particularly preeminent." The article continued by naming the well-known producers mentioned above and continued with a partial list of several others which included the Hartford Special Machinery Company, Taylor and Fenn, M.S. Little Manufacturing Company, Asa S. Cook, Henry & Wright, and the Merrow Machine Company.⁴⁵

The category of "special machinery," is a broad one and leaves open to interpretation which businesses were included in this category. In city directories and lists of Connecticut manufacturers published by the state, some extremely large businesses, like Pratt & Whitney, for example, are included in the group, and other times not. This can make it difficult to quantify the manufacturing businesses with this specialty during a given period of time. However, lists of Connecticut manufacturers published in the 1920s and 1930s typically included eight to sixteen "machinery shops," in the city of Hartford with Hartford Special Machinery Company consistently listed as one of the larger employers in the group. Several of the special machinery shops mentioned in the *Hartford Courant* 1920 article appear in the 1922 Report of the Connecticut

⁴⁴ Janice P. Cunningham, *Historic Preservation In Connecticut Volume III: Central Valley Historical and Architectural Overview and Management Guide* (Hartford, Connecticut Historical Commission State Historic Preservation Office) 1995, 101-103.

⁴⁵ "Hartford Manufacturers Belt Whole Wide World in Expanse of Market," *Hartford Courant*, May 10, 1920.

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Factory Inspection Department. Others not mentioned in the article included the Acme Special Machine Co, Carling Tool and Machine Co, Hanson-Whitney Machine Co., Hartford Engineering Tool & Manufacturing Co., Hartford Tool Works, O.B. Herith, and Rhodes Manufacturing Co.⁴⁶ A little over a decade later the list of “machine shops, machine building, machine products, and machine work” in Hartford County published by the state in 1936, includes just eight shops in the city of Hartford and the Hartford Special Machinery Company is one of two that employed more than 100 people, the other being the Sigourney Tool Company. The other shops listed were C.O. Anderson (machine jobbing), Capitol City Machine Co. (machines and tools), Otto Ludwig Printers Supply (machine jobbing), McIntyer Machine Co. (machines and steel balls), and W.H. Pickering & Co (machinery repairs).⁴⁷ Even in 1939, when Pratt and Whitney (which employed more than 1,000 people) is included in the group of ten machine shops in the city of Hartford, the Hartford Special Machinery Company is among the top tier of employers in the group.⁴⁸ In the category of “machinery,” city directories in the 1950s include the Hartford Special Machinery Company as one of a small number of advertisers in this group (typically two or three). The directories from this period tend to separate general machinery producers from manufacturers of specific types of tools and machines, again making it difficult to quantify the actual number of businesses. What does seem clear is that the Hartford Special Machinery Company was a mid-size firm with a strong presence in the field that expanded its influence over the course of its nearly seventy-year history.

Engineers and Builders of the Hartford Special Machinery Company Homestead Avenue Plant

The original building constructed in 1915 for the Hartford Special Machinery Company was designed by the prolific Hartford-based architectural and engineering firm of Ford, Buck & Sheldon. The firm was established in 1909 as Buck & Sheldon. Partners Henry Robinson Buck (1876-1934) and Paul Sheldon (1881-1931) were two of Hartford’s most prominent civil engineers who worked in the Hartford City Engineer’s office under Frederick L. Ford (1871-1940) between 1902 and 1909. Buck was the Assistant City Engineer in charge of all sewer work and Sheldon held the same position with responsibility for all bridge, masonry, heavy foundation, and structural steel construction. Buck and Sheldon left city service to go into private practice as Buck & Sheldon, Inc. in 1909, and Ford joined them to assume the role as the company’s president in April 1911. Their offices were located at 60 Prospect Street in Hartford. (Joseph Merritt’s consulting engineering and later his printing office was also located in this building). The trio continued in partnership as the firm of Ford, Buck & Sheldon until 1920, despite Ford’s relocation to New Haven to work as its City Engineer in March 1912. After Ford’s departure the firm reverted to Buck & Sheldon, Inc. and carried on under that name until the men parted ways in 1928. Buck continued practicing as a civil engineer and land surveyor, and Sheldon as a mechanical engineer. Both of the partners in Buck & Sheldon, Inc. were nationally recognized as talented professionals in their field. The various forms of their partnership were responsible for a variety of significant

⁴⁶ State of Connecticut. *Report of the Factory Inspection Department*, (Hartford: the Pyne Printery) 1922, 68-77.

⁴⁷ State of Connecticut. *Directory of Connecticut State Manufacturers 1936*. (New Haven: John Corbett Press), 1936, 166.

⁴⁸ State of Connecticut. *Directory of Connecticut State Manufacturers 1939*. (New Haven: The Van Duck Printing Co.), 146.

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engineering and design work throughout Hartford and beyond. Among their building projects were a substantial expansion to Trinity Church on Sigourney Street in Hartford in 1911; various additions to Pope Manufacturing Company-held factories throughout Hartford in 1912; a new office and warehouse for the Capitol City Lumber Company on Park Street in Hartford in 1914; a wholesale drug plant – allegedly one of the largest in the country at the time of its construction – for the Walker and Gibson Company of Albany, New York in 1915; a factory for the Arrow-Hart and Hegeman Electric Company on Hawthorne Street in Hartford in 1918; and an office and factory for the M.S. Little Manufacturing Company on New Park Avenue in Hartford in 1917 and 1922. The firm’s engineering projects were similarly notable and included the design and construction oversight of numerous sewer systems, among them being examples in the Connecticut towns of West Hartford, Windsor, Wethersfield, and Newington.⁴⁹

The builders of the original 1915 building were J. H. Grozier Company, a building contracting firm established by James H. Grozier (1865-1923). Grozier was a Scotland native who learned the building trade from his father and continued its practice in the United States when he immigrated in 1888. First working in Holyoke, Massachusetts, he relocated after a year to New Britain, Connecticut, where he began to expand his business. He moved to Hartford in 1892. His business grew to include a large workforce and his services were highly sought in the Hartford area. In 1910 he incorporated his business as the J.H. Grozier Company, general builders and contractors, and served as its president and treasurer. Among the company’s many commissions were multiple school buildings in Hartford, Bloomfield Town Hall, the Institute for the Blind for the State of Connecticut, and numerous industrial buildings. In addition to the Hartford Special Machinery Company Factory, the J. H. Grozier Company constructed the Underwood Typewriter Company plant, the Whitney Manufacturing Company, additions to the Colt Manufacturing Company, and the Hartford Rubber Works, among others.⁵⁰

The 1920 addition to the original building was constructed by the Bent-Bartlett Company, a general contracting firm incorporated in Hartford in 1919 by Burton W. Bartlett and Rupert G. Bent. The company built several factories in the late 1910s and early 1920s, including the Hartford Empire Company (then known as the Hartford Fairmount Company) building, adjacent to the Hartford Special Machinery Company building on Homestead Avenue in 1919. Other large projects included the J.R. Montgomery Company plant and the Hartford Mill Supply Company building. The partnership was short-lived, and Bartlett and Bent parted ways in 1921 forming separate firms of Bartlett-Brainard Company and the R.G. Bent Company, both of which continued as successful contracting firms. The 1937, 1938, and 1942 additions to the Hartford Special Machinery Company building were built by the R.G. Bent Company.

The engineering firm of Greenwood & Noerr designed the 1937 and 1938 additions to the Hartford Special Machinery Company Building. The firm was organized in 1910 by Albert Henry Greenwood (1878-1942) and Robert Collyer Noerr (1874-1953). Greenwood earned a civil

⁴⁹ Lucas Karmazinas, consultant, Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, Connecticut State Register Nomination for the “Stanley P. Rockwell Company, Hartford, CT,” May 6, 2016.

⁵⁰ The American Historical Society. *Encyclopedia of Connecticut Biography* (Boston, New York, Chicago: American Historical Society, Inc) 1917, 121-122.

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engineering degree from the Thayer School of Civil Engineering in 1900 and first worked for the Metropolitan Water Board in Boston, Massachusetts. He was also a bridge inspector for the Boston & Maine Railroad before joining the Berlin Construction Company as a construction engineer. Here he overlapped with Robert Noerr, also working for the Berlin Construction Company. Noerr earned a Civil Engineering degree from Lehigh University in 1897. He was primarily a designer of bridges in his early career, associated with the Berlin Iron Bridge Company as a draughtsman and checker and later as a designing engineer for the American Bridge Company in Pennsylvania.⁵¹ The firm designed many factory buildings including the Gray Pay Telephone Factory, the Royal Typewriter Company Buildings (demolished), alterations to the Hart & Hegeman Factory, additions to the CH Dexter & Sons factory in Windsor Locks, CT, which they completed with the R.G. Bent Company, and an addition to the Tuska Electric Company.⁵² The firm was taken over by firm of Buck & Buck, sanitary engineers and industrial architects, in 1940 with the retirement of Greenwood and Noerr.

⁵¹ "Albert Henry Greenwood," and "Robert Collier Noerr," *Hartford in 1912* (Hartford: The Hartford Post, R.S. Peck and Co.) 1912.

⁵² *Iron Age*, March 15, 1923; *Iron Age* April 26, 1923; *Iron Age* June 14, 1923; "Buck and Buck Take Over Old Business," *Hartford Courant*, July 21, 1940.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approximately 2.58 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 41.77929 | Longitude: -72.69954 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Hartford Special Machinery Company Complex comprises two buildings located at 287 and 296 Homestead Avenue. The boundaries of the complex include parcel 176-181-001 and 176-195-002 as illustrated on the attached assessor's map (Figure 2).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the Hartford Special Machinery Company Complex conforms to the boundaries of the original city lots on which the Hartford Special Machinery Company and Stanley P. Rockwell Company were constructed.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Roysin Younkin with Nina Caruso
Edits/additions by Jenny F. Scofield, CT SHPO
organization: MacRostie Historic Advisors & Crosskey Architects
street & number: 313 Washington Street Suite 308
city or town: Newton state: MA zip code: 02461
e-mail ryounkin@mac-ha.com
telephone: 617-892-7518
date: 6/4/2021

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Hartford Special Machinery Company Factory

City or Vicinity: Hartford

County: Hartford

State: Connecticut

Photographer: Crosskey Architects

Date Photographed: 9/10/2020, 1/15/2021, and 6/2/21

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 40: HSM Factory, North elevation of 1942 Block (left) and 1915 Block (right), camera facing southeast.
- 2 of 40: HSM Factory, Entry detail, 1915 Block, camera facing south.
- 3 of 40: HSM Factory, Sidewalk compass detail at entry, 1915 Block.
- 4 of 40: HSM Factory, North elevation of 1920 Block, camera facing southwest.
- 5 of 40: HSM Factory, Guard House, camera facing east.
- 6 of 40: HSM Factory, East elevation 1942 Block and south elevation Guard House (right), camera facing northwest.
- 7 of 40: HSM Factory, East and south elevations, 1942 Block, camera facing northwest.
- 8 of 40: HSM Factory, South elevation, 1942 Block, camera facing northeast.
- 9 of 40: HSM Factory, South elevation, 1942 Block and 1915 Block, camera facing northwest.
- 10 of 40: HSM Factory, South elevation, 1915 Block and 1942 Block, camera facing northeast.
- 11 of 40: HSM Factory, South elevation, 1915 Block, camera facing north.
- 12 of 40: HSM Factory, South elevation, 1915 Block, camera facing northeast.
- 13 of 40: HSM Factory, South elevation, 1915 Block, camera facing northwest.
- 14 of 40: HSM Factory, South elevation, 1920 Block (ca. 1945 addition), camera facing northeast.

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- 15 of 40: HSM Factory, South elevation, 1920 Block (ca. 1945 addition), camera facing northeast.
- 16 of 40: HSM Factory, 1915 Block, first floor, camera facing south.
- 17 of 40: HSM Factory, 1915 Block, first floor, camera facing northwest.
- 18 of 40: HSM Factory, 1915 Block (1938 second floor addition), camera facing northwest.
- 19 of 40: HSM Factory, 1915 Block (1938 second floor addition), camera facing northwest.
- 20 of 40: HSM Factory, 1915 Block, roof egress corridor, camera facing northwest.
- 21 of 40: HSM Factory, 1920 Block, camera facing northwest.
- 22 of 40: HSM Factory, 1920 Block (1937 addition), camera facing north.
- 23 of 40: HSM Factory, 1920 Block (1937 addition), camera facing southwest.
- 24 of 40: HSM Factory, 1920 Block (ca. 1945 addition), camera facing southwest.
- 25 of 40: HSM Factory, 1942 Block, first floor, camera facing northeast.
- 26 of 40: HSM Factory, 1942 Block, first floor, camera facing southeast.
- 27 of 40: Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, south elevation, 1929 office and manufacturing blocks (left and center), and 1943 addition (right), camera facing northeast.
- 28 of 40: Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, south and east elevations, 1929, 1943, and ca.1970 additions
- 29 of 40: Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, north and west elevations, 1966 addition and 1962 loading dock, camera facing east.
- 30 of 40: Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, north elevation, 1944/46 shipping and storage block, camera facing south.
- 31 of 40: Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, east elevation, 1962 loading dock and 1944/46 shipping and storage block, camera facing west.
- 32 of 40: Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, west and south elevations, 1962 loading dock and 1944/46 shipping and storage block, camera facing northwest.
- 33 of 40: Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1929 first floor office, camera facing south.
- 34 of 40: Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1929 second floor office, camera facing south.
- 35 of 40: Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1929 second floor office, camera facing southwest.
- 36 of 40: Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1929 second floor office, camera facing southeast.
- 37 of 40: Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1929 and 1943 manufacturing blocks, camera facing southeast.
- 38 of 40: Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1929 and 1943 manufacturing blocks, camera facing northwest.
- 39 of 40: Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1929/1970 addition, camera facing south.
- 40 of 40: Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1944/46 shipping and storage block, camera facing north.

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Figures:

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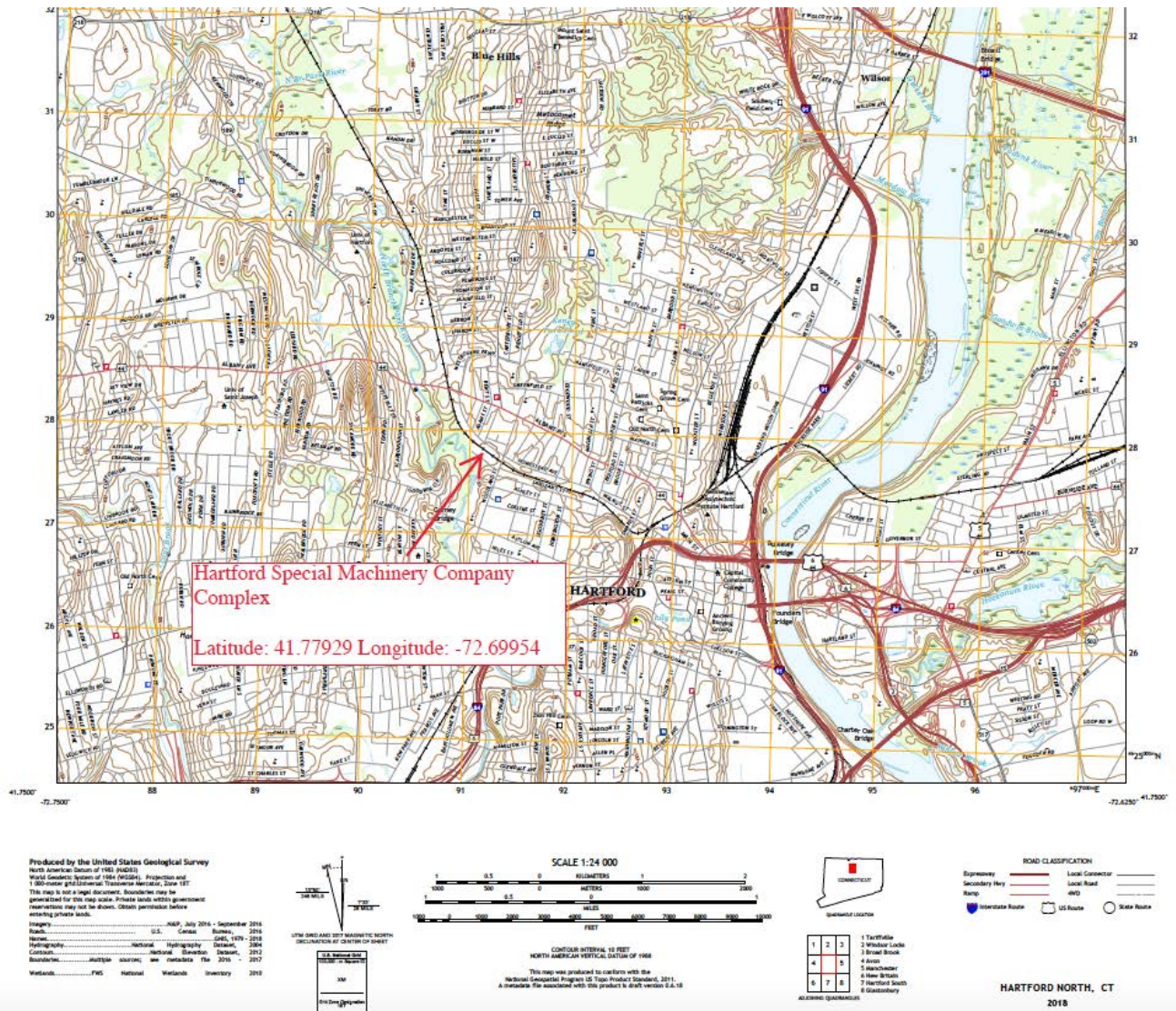


Figure 1: USGS map, 2018. Latitude: 41.77929, Longitude: -72.69954.

Hartford Special Machinery Company Complex
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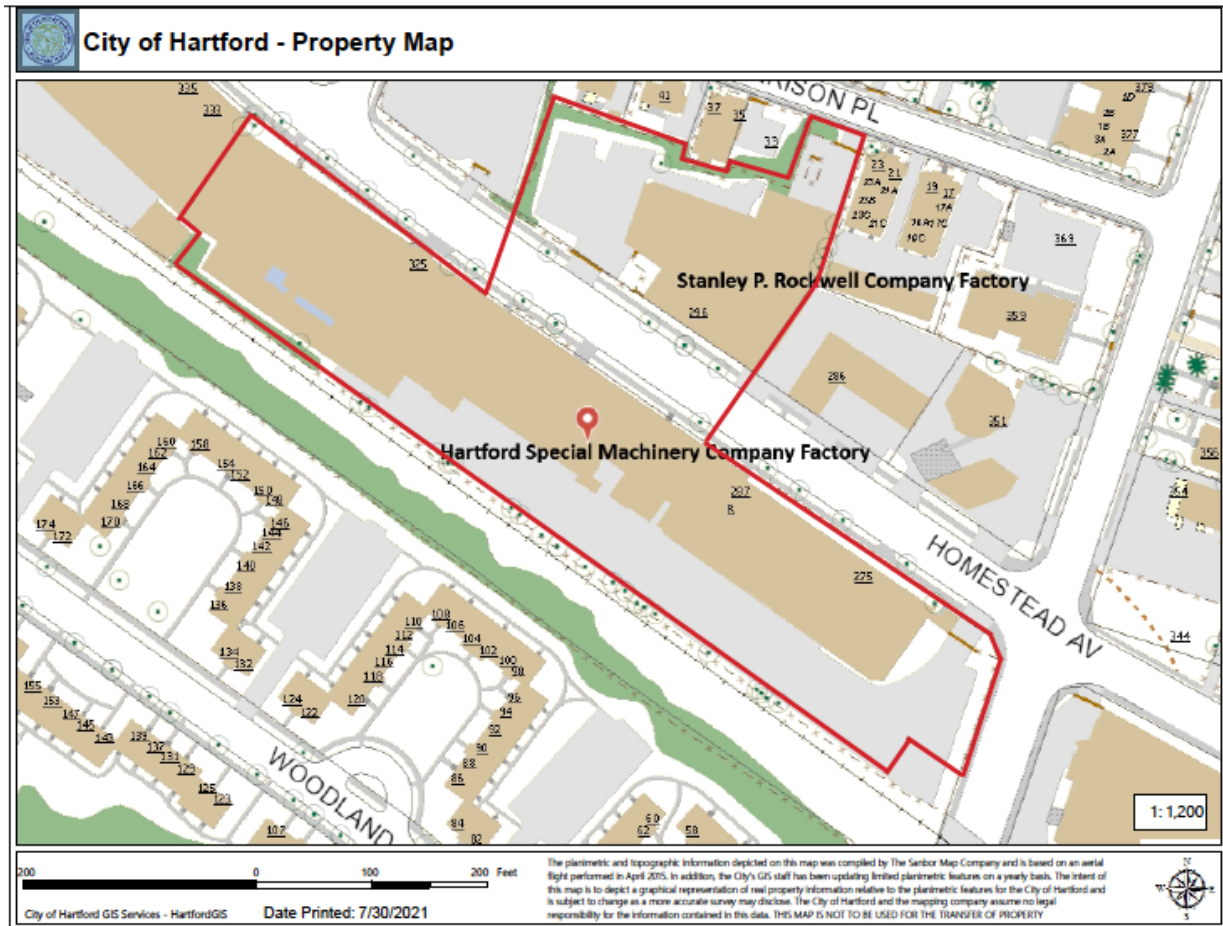


Figure 2: Boundary Map, Hartford Special Machinery Company Complex, Parcels 176-181-001 (Hartford Special Machinery Company) and 176-195-002 (Stanley P. Rockwell Company).

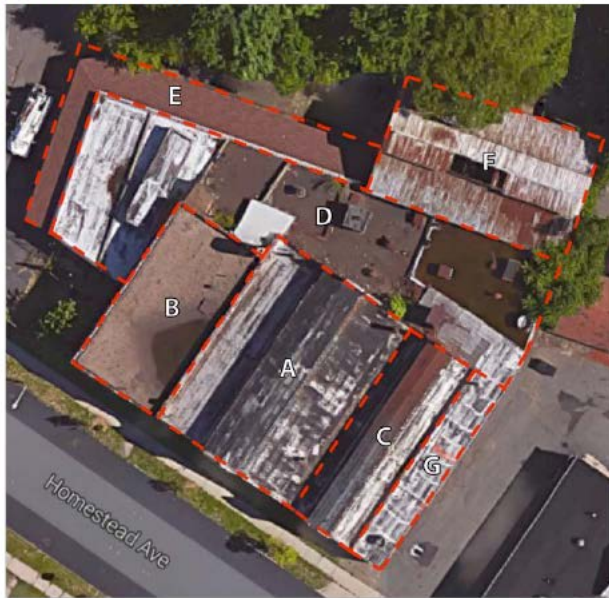


Figure 3: Phases of construction of the Hartford Special Machinery Company.

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Phases of Construction:



- A. Original Manufacturing Block, 1929.
- B. Original office/laboratory block, 1929.
- C. Manufacturing addition, 1943.
- D. Shipping and storage block, ca. 1944/1946.
- E. Loading dock, 1962.
- F. Northeast addition, 1966.
- G. East addition, 1929/ca. 1970.

Figure 4: Phases of construction of the Stanley P. Rockwell Company.



Figure 5: Joseph Merritt, co-founder of the Hartford Special Machinery Company, ca. 1910.

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Figure 6: Ernest Walker Smith, co-founder of the Hartford Special Machinery Company, ca. 1908.



Figure 7: Herbert Knox Smith, co-founder of the Hartford Special Machinery Company, ca. 1903.

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JOSEPH MERRITT,



**MECHANICAL AND CONSULTING ENGINEER,
60 PROSPECT ST., Hartford, Conn.**

Office Tel. (private wire) Charter 3815-12. House Tel. Charter 2654-4.

Expert Opinions.

Machinery Designed and Complete Drawings made.

Inventions Developed.

Machine Construction supervised.

BLUE PRINTS made on Electric Machines.

**Agent for Standard, High Grade Electric Motors, Gen-
erators and Electrical Apparatus.**

Figure 8: Advertisement for Joseph Merritt's first independent business that appeared in the 1910 Hartford City Directory.

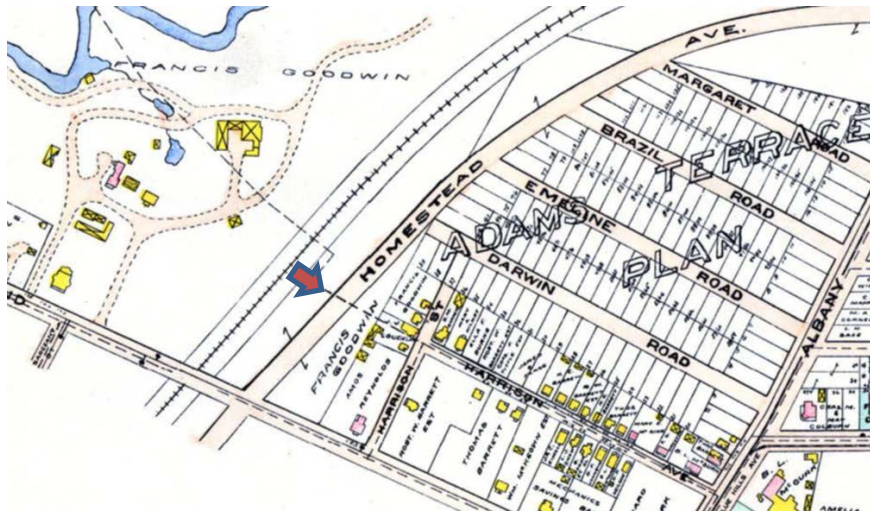


Figure 9: 1909 *Atlas of Hartford and West Hartford* illustrating the future site of the Hartford Special Machinery Company (marked) and its surroundings just prior to its construction.

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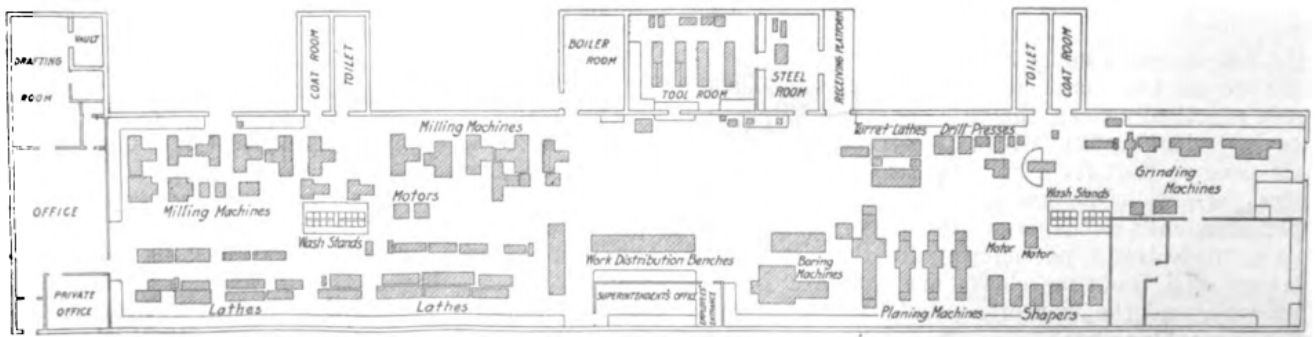


Figure 10: Plan of the original 1915 building as it appeared in the *Iron Age* feature article in 1916.



Figure 11: Superintendent's office as pictured in the *Iron Age* feature article in 1916.

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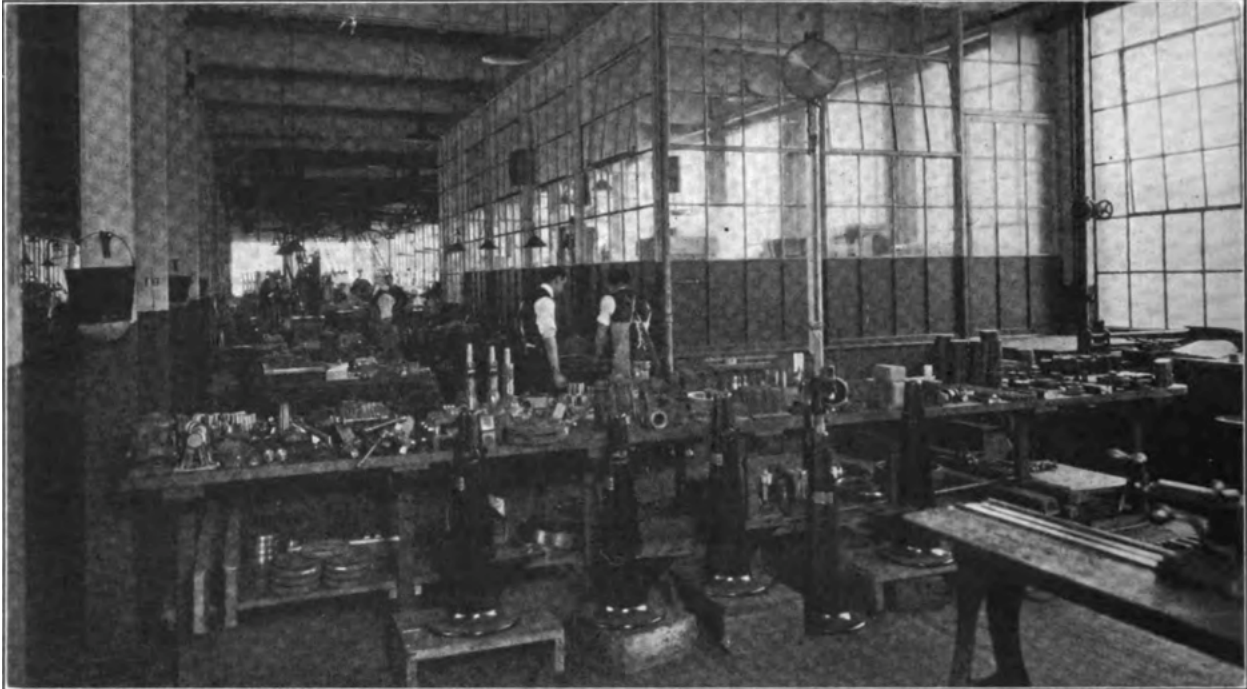


Figure 12: Distribution work benches in front of the Superintendent's office as pictured in the *Iron Age* feature article in 1916.

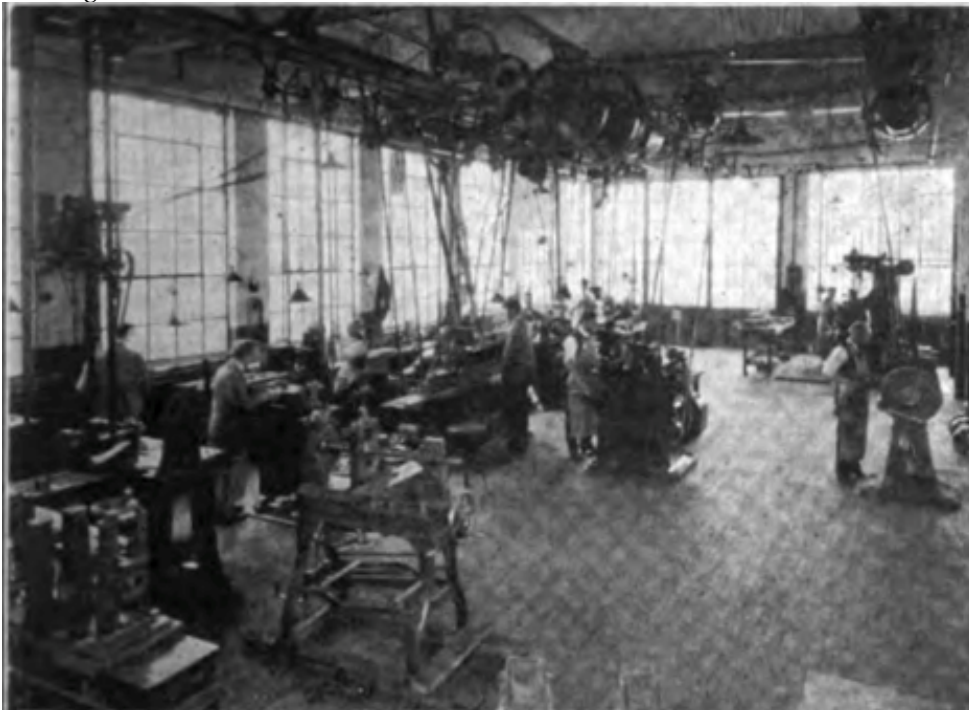


Figure 13: Interior view of the factory as pictured in the *Iron Age* feature article in 1916.

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Figure 14: Interior view of the factory as pictured in the *Iron Age* feature article in 1916

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Figure 15: Views of the interior of the factory as pictured in the *Iron Age* feature article in 1916.

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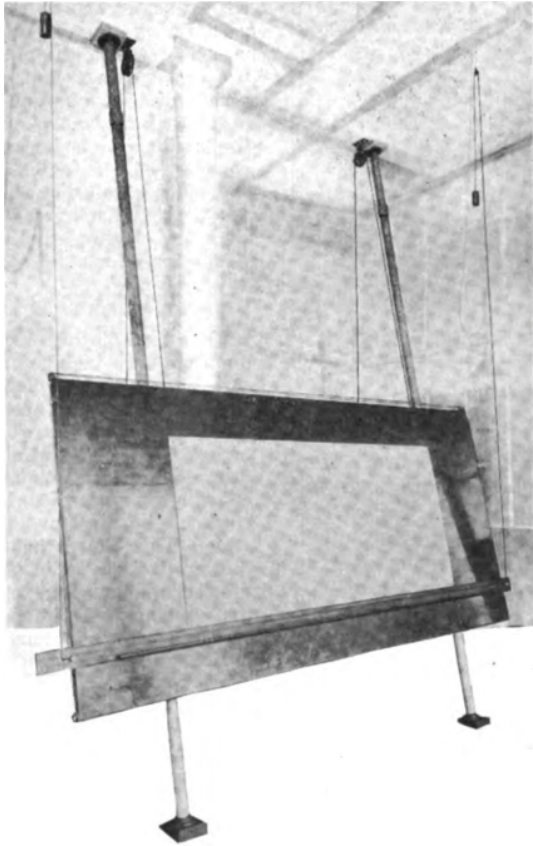


Figure 16: Drafting board for full-size drawings, as pictured in the *Iron Age* feature article in 1916.

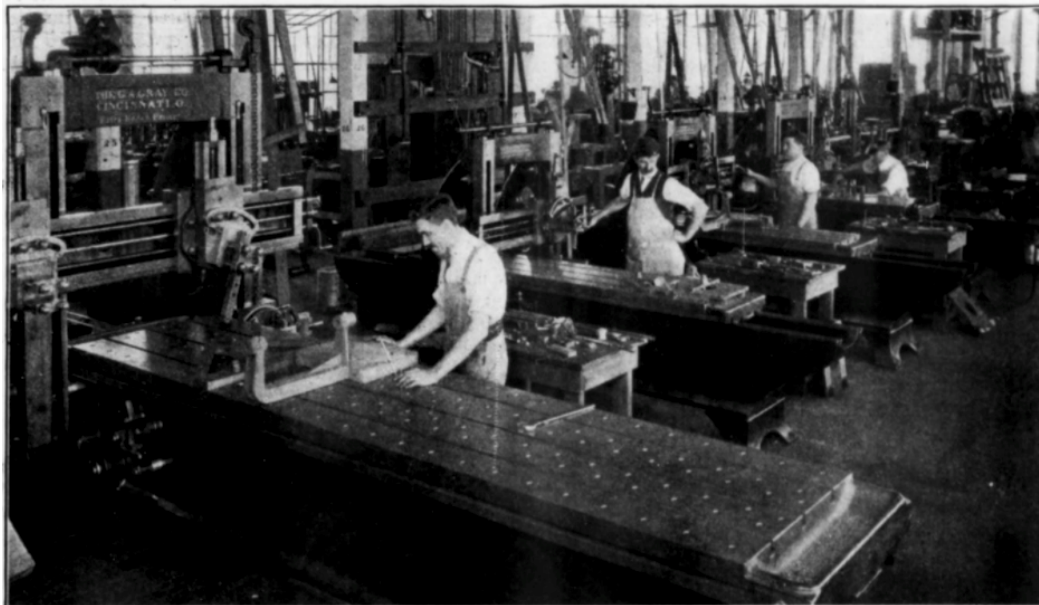


Figure 17: Tool Tables as pictured in the *American Machinist* feature article in 1916.

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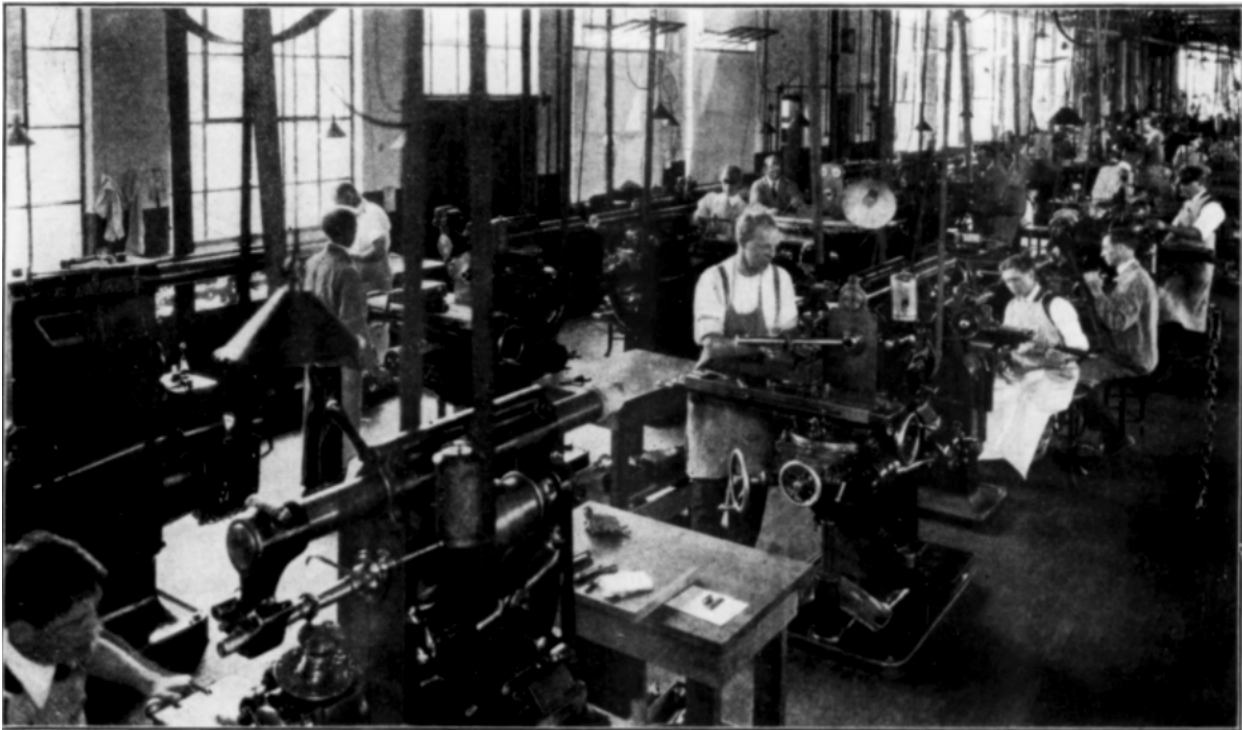


Figure 18: Machine operators at work, as pictured in the *American Machinist* feature article in 1916.

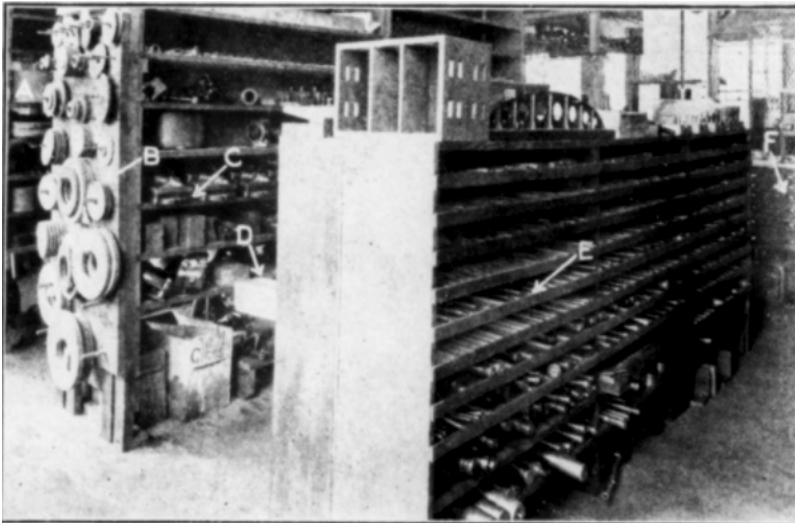


Figure 19: Tool Room, as pictured in the *American Machinist* feature article in 1916.

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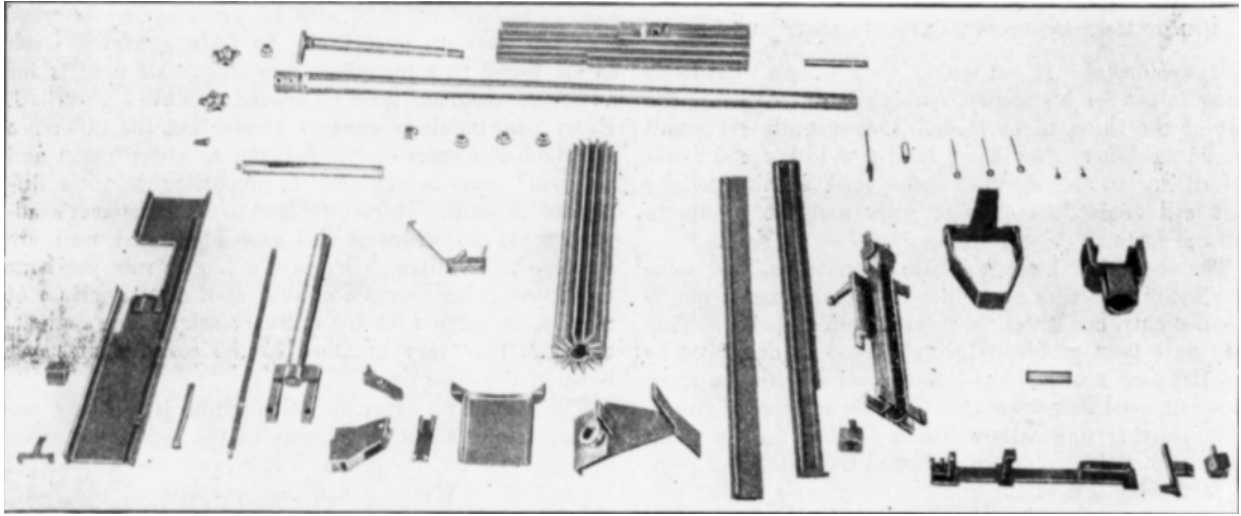


Figure 20: Rifle parts manufactured at the Hartford Special Machinery Company, as pictured in the *American Machinist* feature article in 1916.

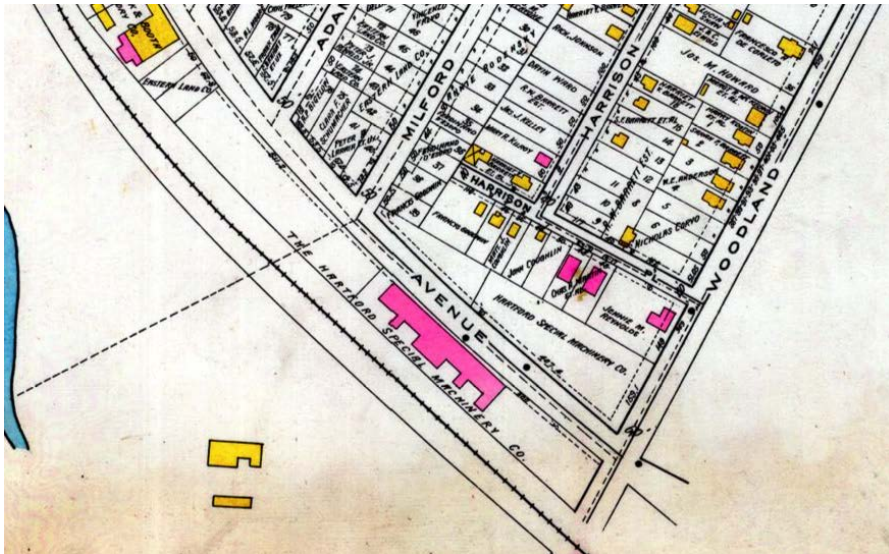


Figure 21: 1917 Sanborn illustration of the original block of the Hartford Special Machinery Company Building.

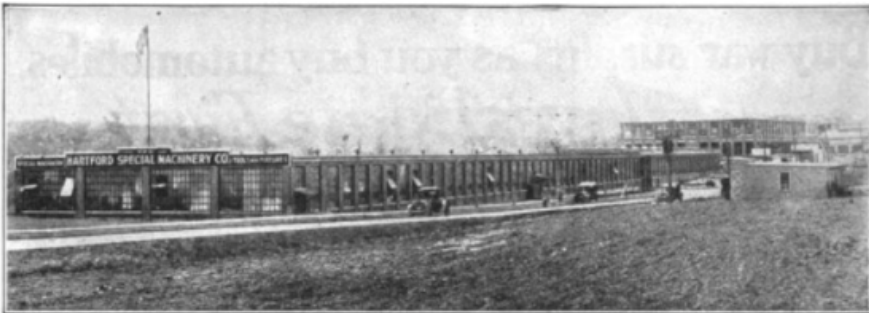
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Figure 22: The northern elevation of the Hartford Special Machinery Company building taken on Armistice Day, November 1918, showing the western end of the building prior to its 1920 addition.

The Plant Behind Our Product



Modern Construction Excellent Equipment Skilled Mechanics

Special Machinery and Parts in Quantity Our Specialty
ESTIMATES PROMPTLY FURNISHED

THE HARTFORD SPECIAL MACHINERY CO.
HARTFORD, CONN.

Figure 23: The Hartford Special Machinery Company building after the 1920 addition as it appeared in *The American Machinist* in 1923.

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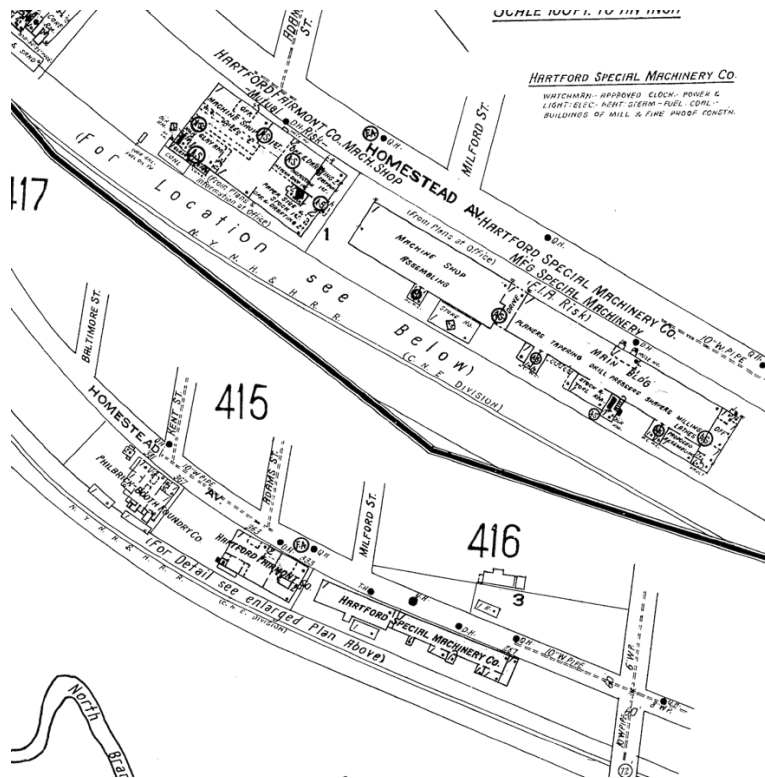


Figure 24: 1923 Sanborn illustration of the Hartford Special Machinery Company Building after the 1920 addition.



Figure 25: Stanley P. Rockwell, ca. 1938.

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Figure 26: Stanley P. Rockwell Company Factory, 1929.



Figure 27: Stanley P. Rockwell Company Factory, 1943.

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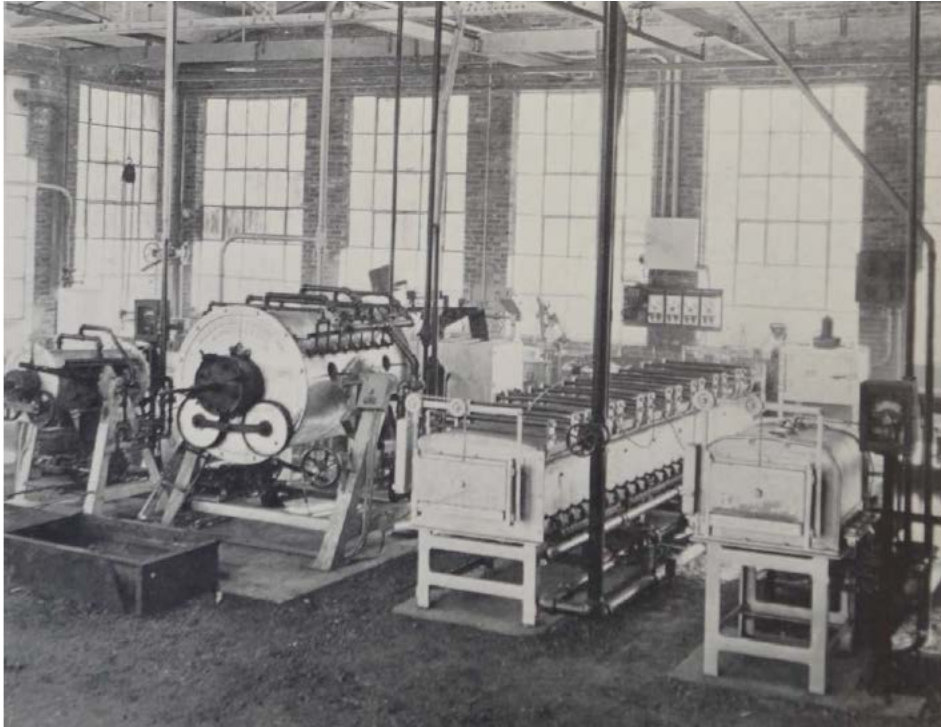


Figure 28: Interior Stanley P. Rockwell Company, 1929.

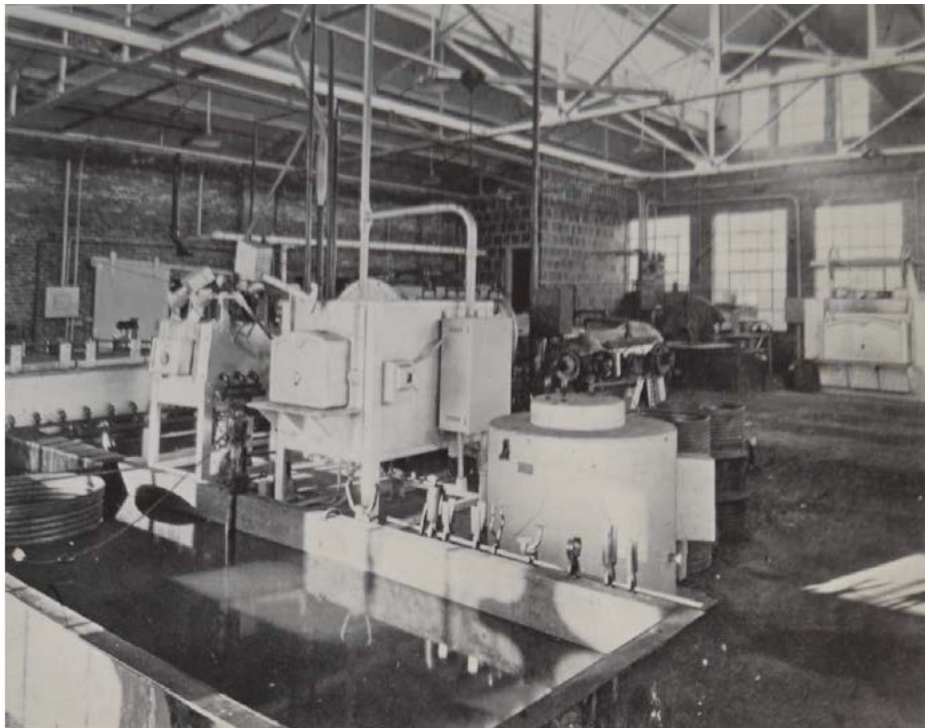


Figure 29: Interior Stanley P. Rockwell Company, 1929.

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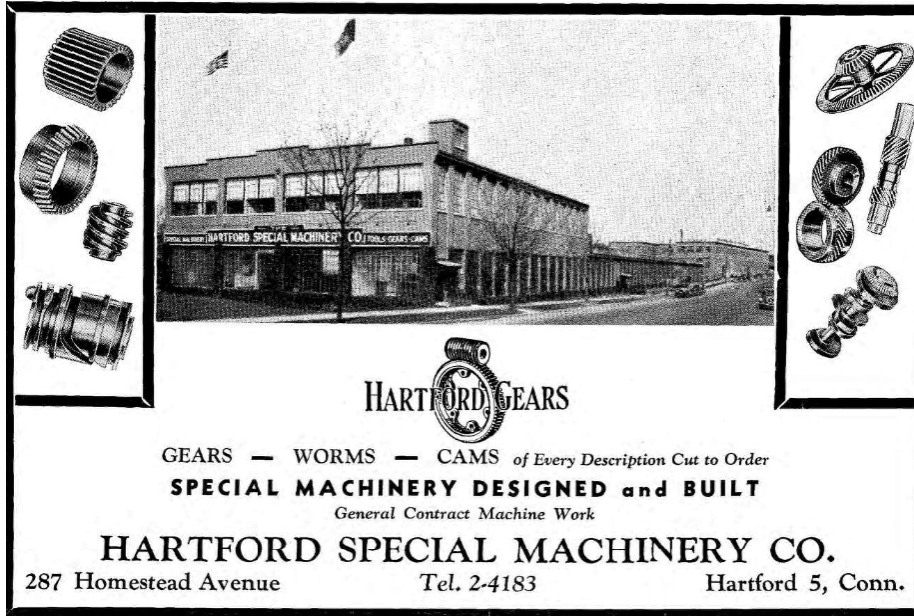


Figure 30: The Hartford Special Machinery Company building after the 1937-38 second-story addition as it appeared in the 1942 Hartford City Directory.

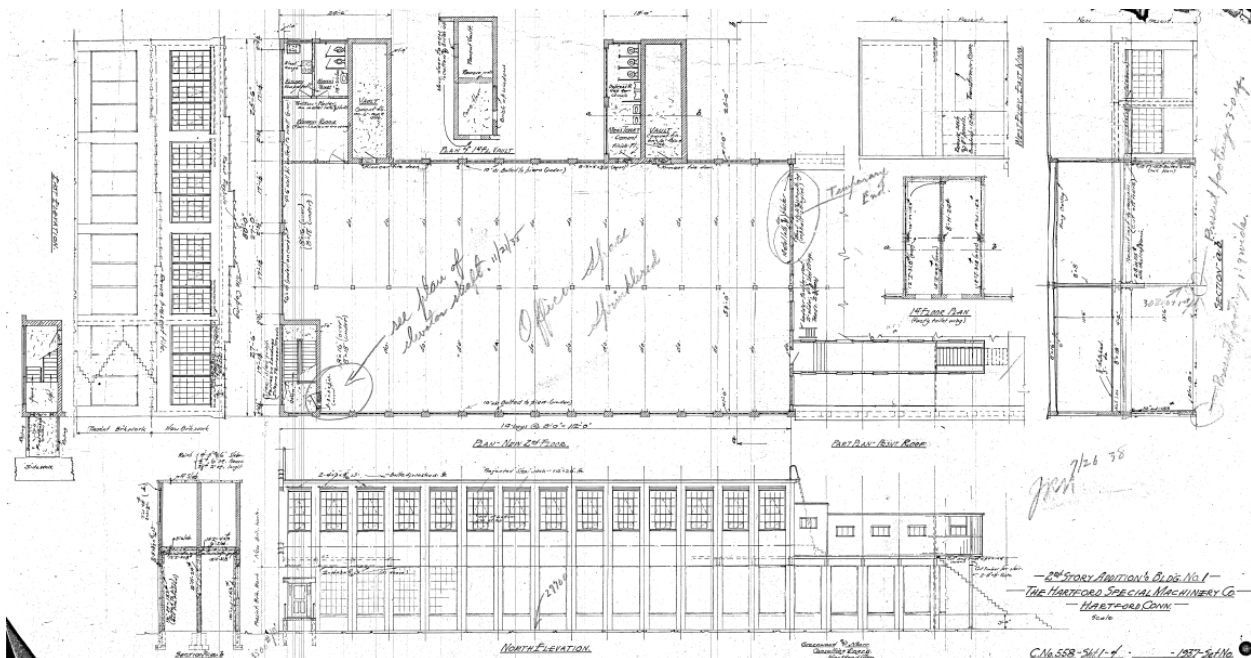


Figure 31: Original drawings of second floor addition designed by Greenwood & Noerr engineers in 1938.

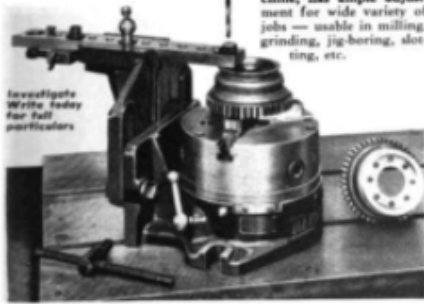
Hartford Special Machinery Company Complex
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NEW—a spacing device for Drilling

Eliminate errors, speed production, lower costs with the Hartford SUPER-SPACER — a superior spacing device for the rigid control of accurate machining operations.

The illustration here shows the Hartford SUPER-SPACER used for drilling. It will swing work up to 11" in dia.—holes up to 1/2" can be drilled. Can be quickly secured to base of machine, has ample adjustment for wide variety of jobs — usable in milling, grinding, jig-boring, slotting, etc.



Investigate
Write today
For full
particulars

THE HARTFORD SPECIAL MACHINERY CO.
HARTFORD, CONN.

JANUARY, 1941

Figure 32: The Hartford Super Spacer as pictured in the January 1941 edition of *The Tool Engineer*.

GENERAL CONTRACT MACHINE WORK

Complete Machines or Parts Built to Your Blueprints. Modern Machine Tool Equipment. Excellent Assembly Facilities.

Gears — Worms — Cams of Every Description Cut to Order

Send Blueprints For Estimates

HARTFORD SPECIAL MACHINERY CO.
287 HOMESTEAD AVENUE Telephone 2-4183 HARTFORD 5, CONN.

The advertisement features a central aerial photograph of a large industrial complex with multiple buildings and a parking lot. On either side of the photograph are illustrations of various mechanical parts, including gears, worms, and shafts.

Figure 33: The Hartford Special Machinery Company building after 1942 addition as it appeared in the 1949 Hartford City Directory.

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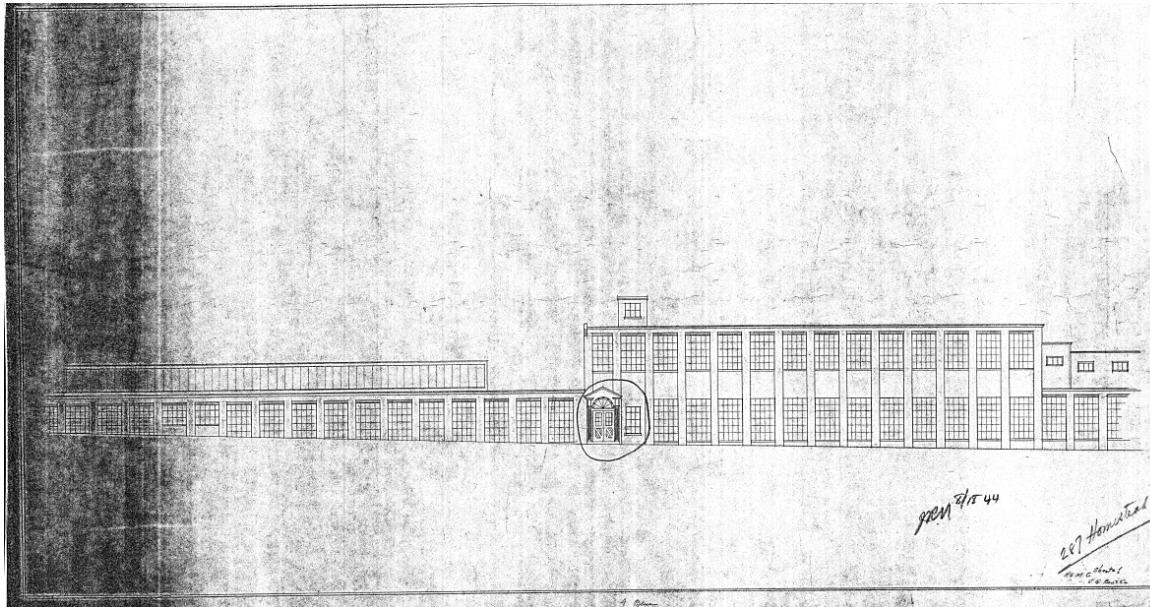


Figure 34: Elevation drawing of the Hartford Special Machinery Company plant after the 1942 addition.

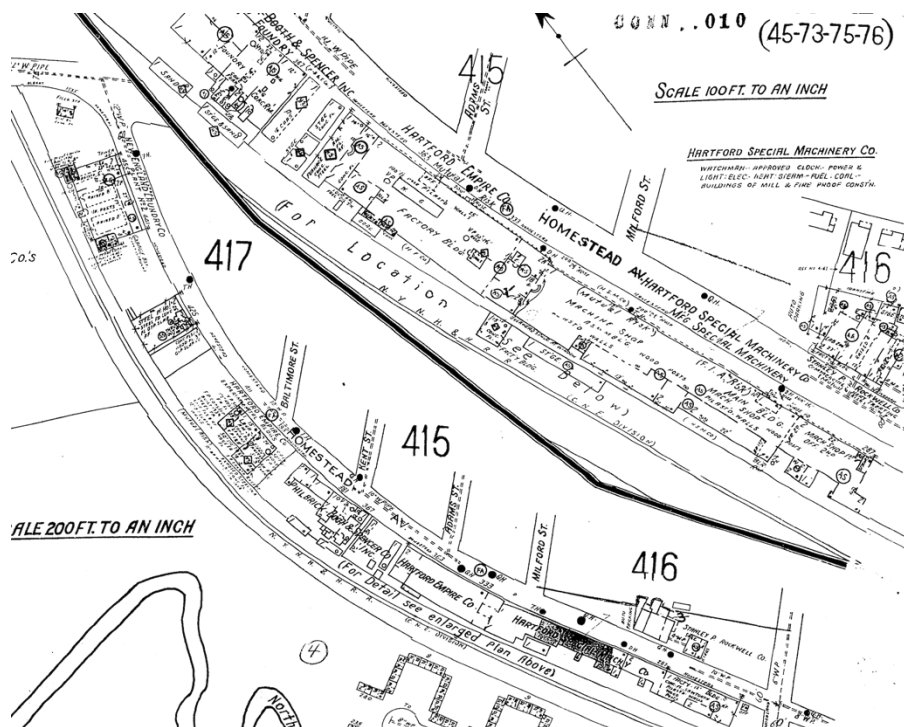


Figure 35: 1950 Sanborn illustration of the Hartford Special Machinery Company plant after the 1942 addition.

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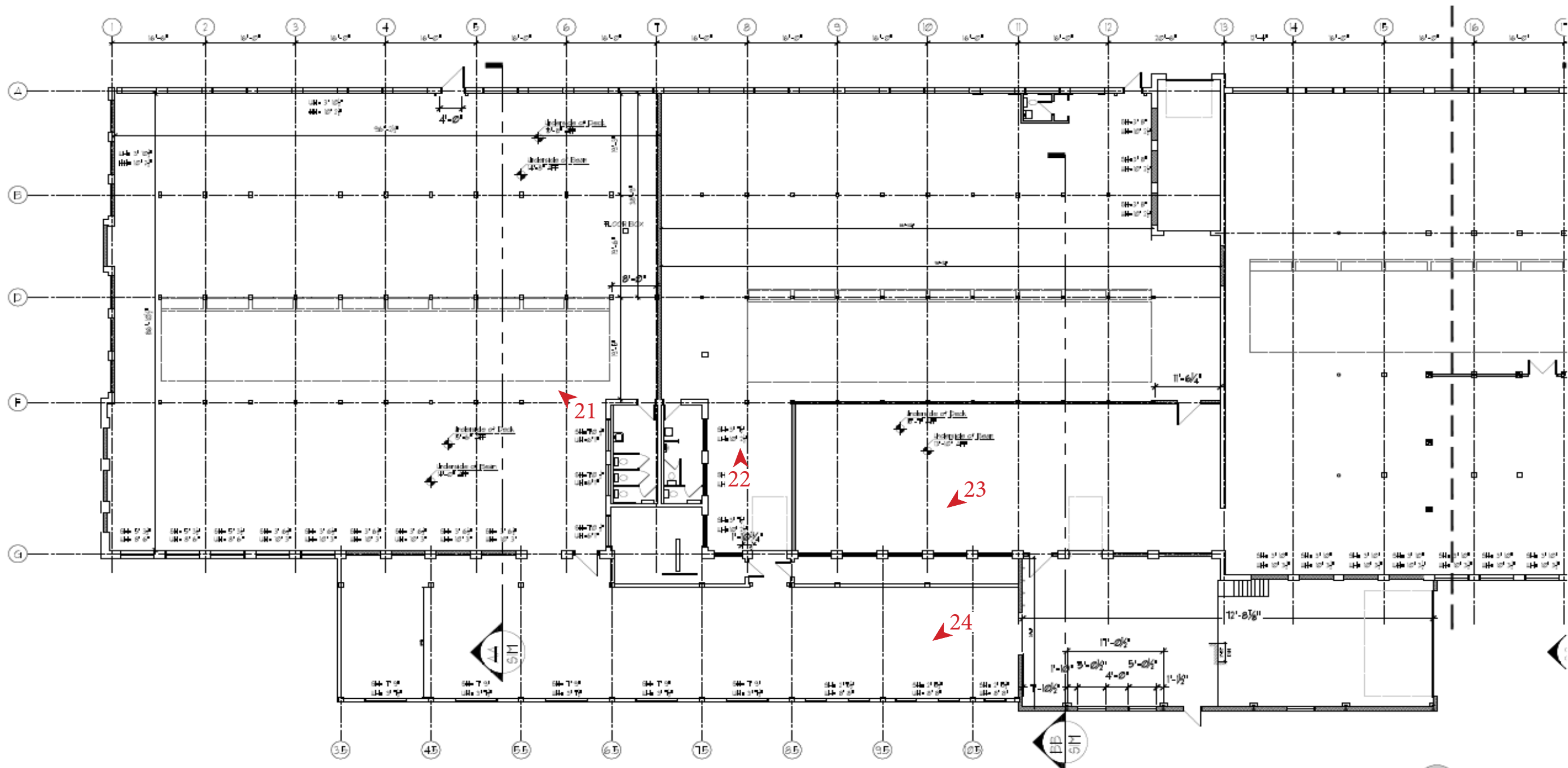
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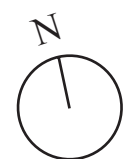


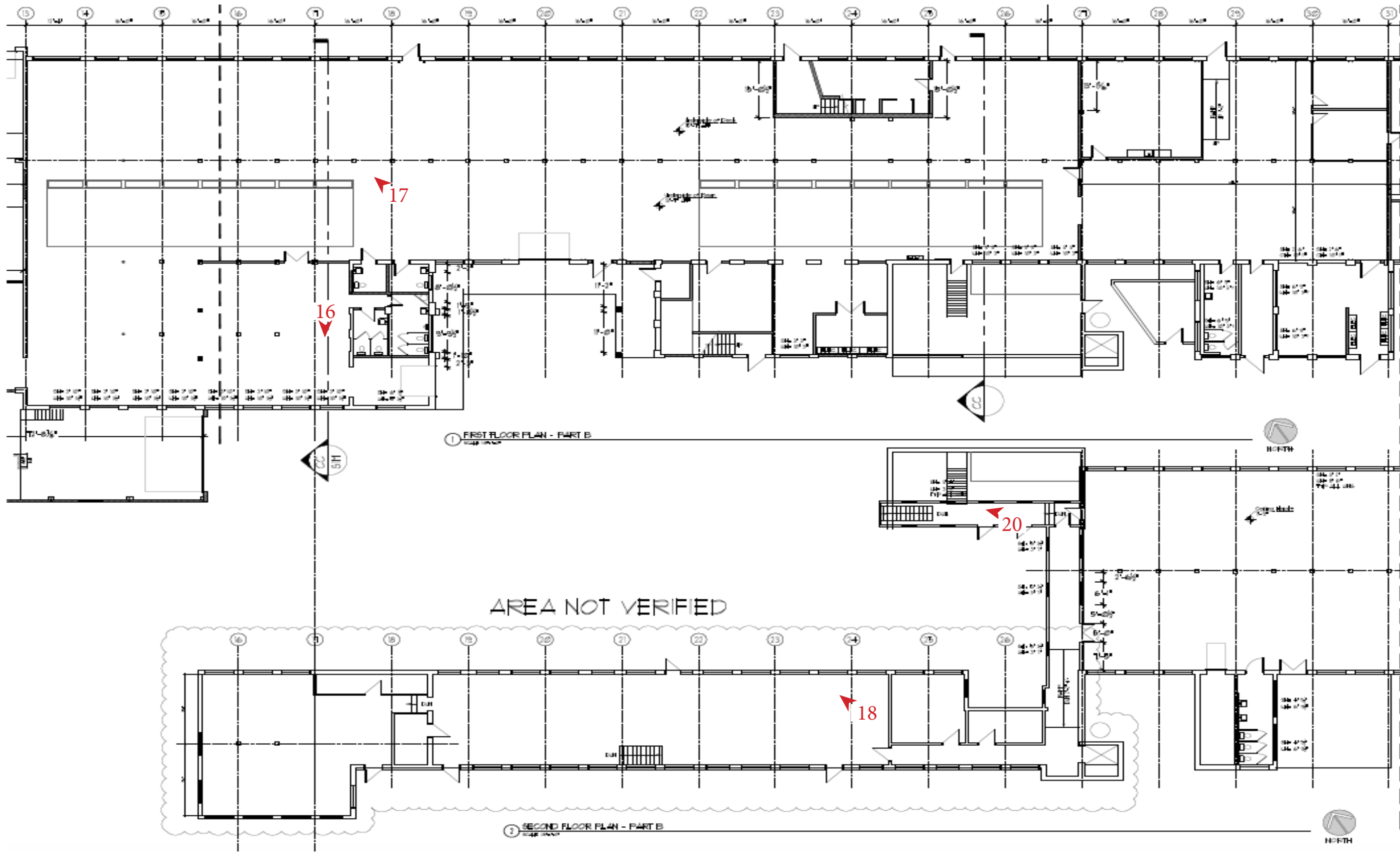
Hartford Special Machinery Company Complex

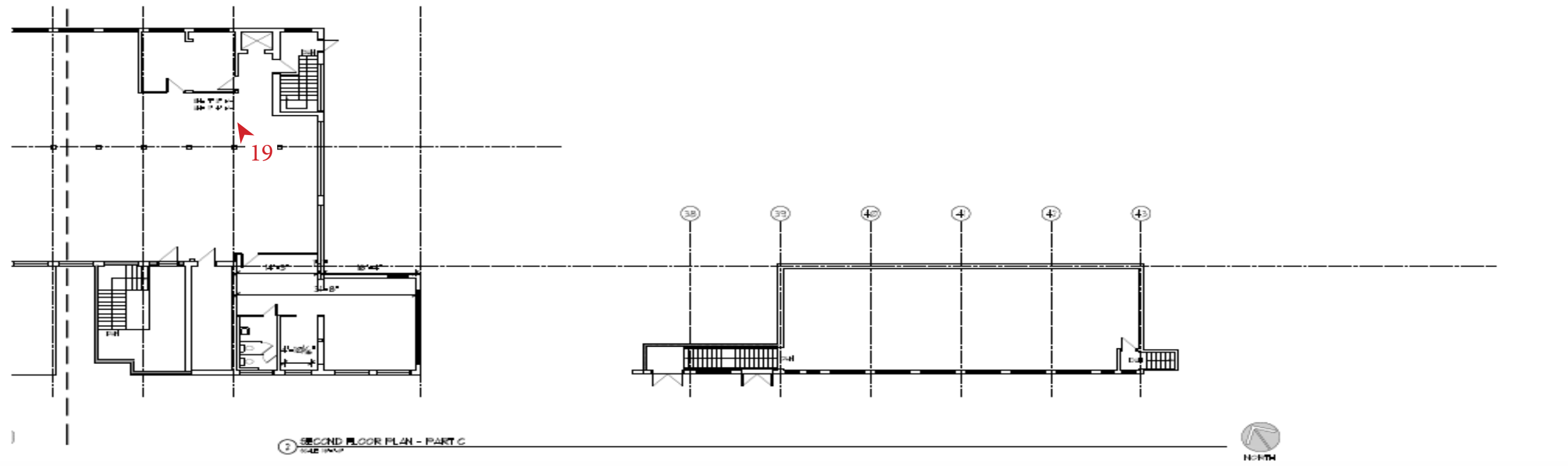
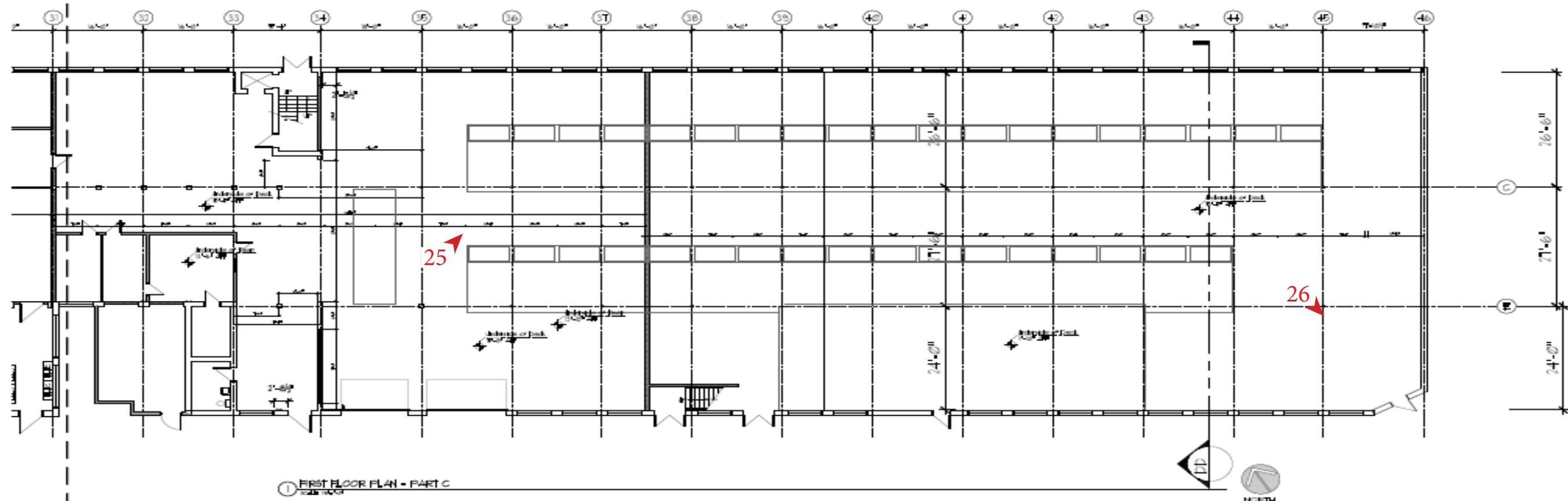
287 & 296 Homestead Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut 06112



1 FIRST FLOOR PLAN - PART A









1. HSM Factory, north elevation, 1942 Block (left), and 1915 Block (right), camera facing southeast.



2. HSM Factory, entry detail, 1915 Block, camera facing south.



3. HSM Factory, sidewalk compass detail at entry, 1915 Block.



4. HSM Factory, north elevation, 1920 Block, camera facing southwest.



5. HSM Factory, Guard House, camera facing east.



6. HSM Factory, east Elevation 1942 Block (left) and south elevation Guard House (right), camera facing northwest.



7. HSM Factory, east and south elevations, 1942 Block, camera facing northwest.



8. HSM Factory, south elevation, 1942 Block, camera facing northeast.



9. HSM Factory, south elevation, 1942 Block, camera facing northwest.



10. HSM Factory, south elevation, 1915 Block and 1942 Block, camera facing northeast.



11. HSM Factory, south elevation, 1915 Block, camera facing north.



12. HSM Factory, south elevation, 1915 Block, camera facing northeast.



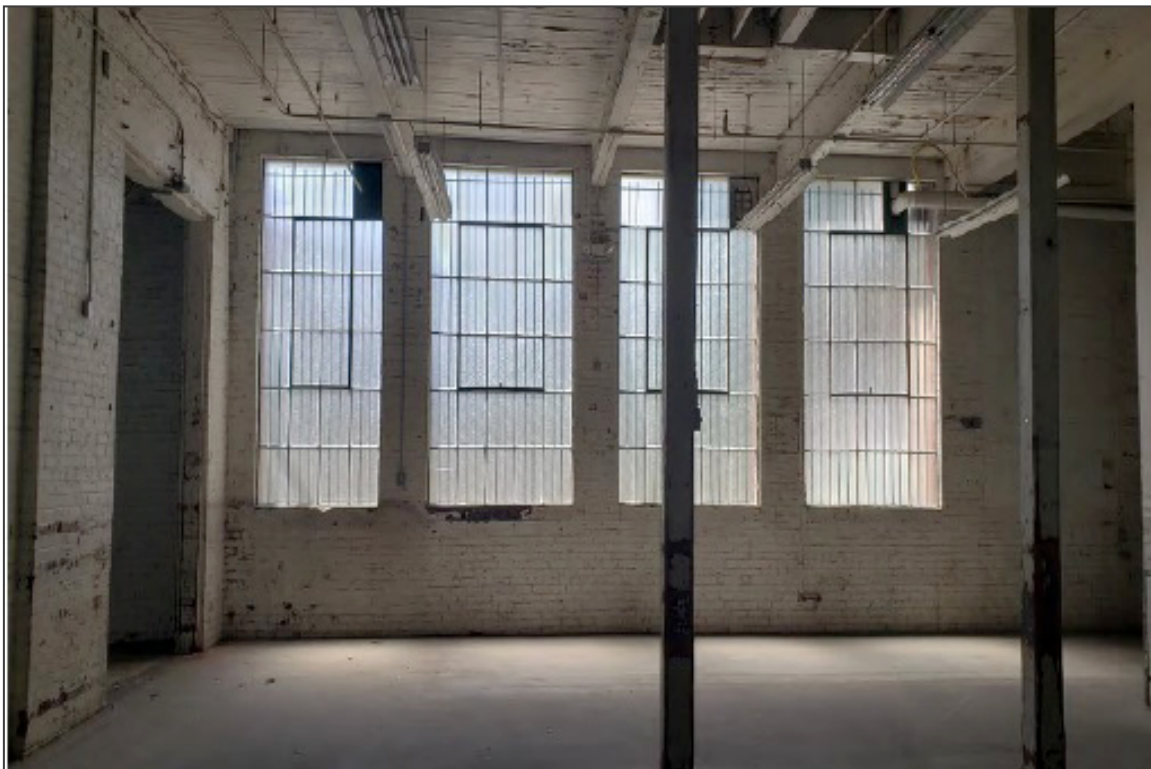
13. HSM Factory, south elevation, 1915 Block, camera facing northwest.



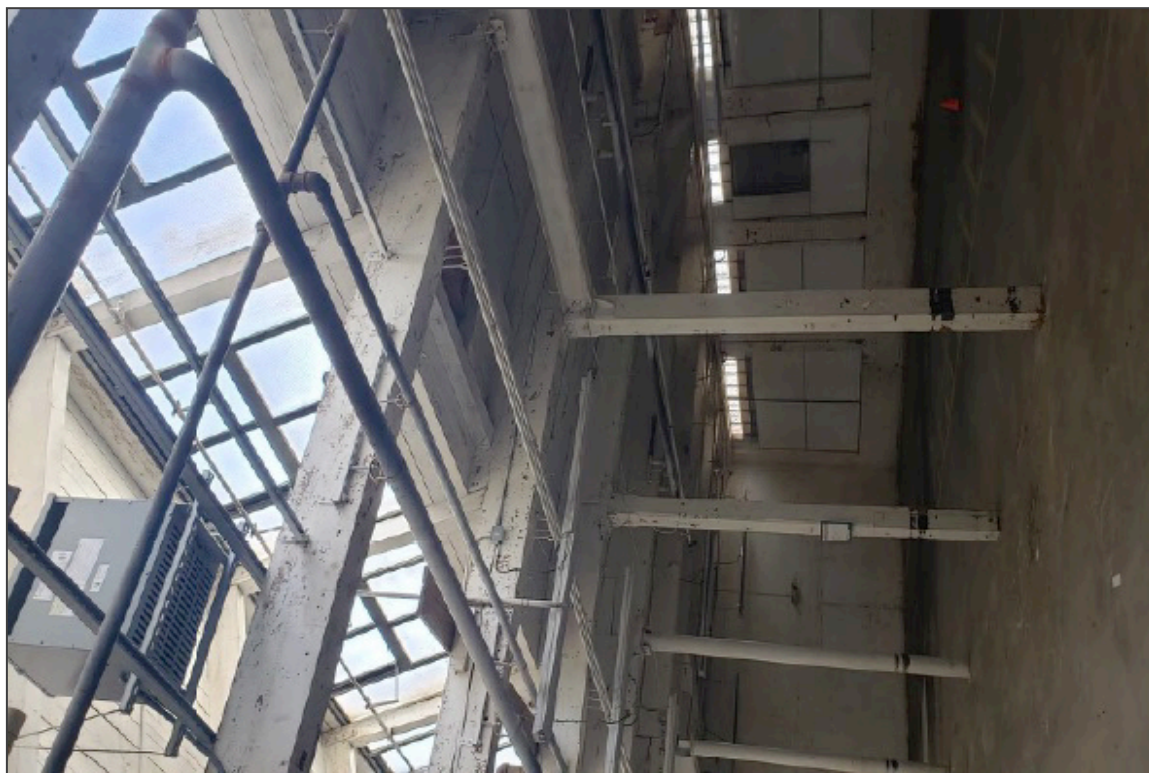
14. HSM Factory, south elevation, 1920 Block (ca.1945 addition), camera facing northeast.



15. HSM Factory, south elevation, 1920 Block (ca. 1945 addition), camera facing northeast.



16. HSM Factory, 1915 Block, first floor, camera facing south.



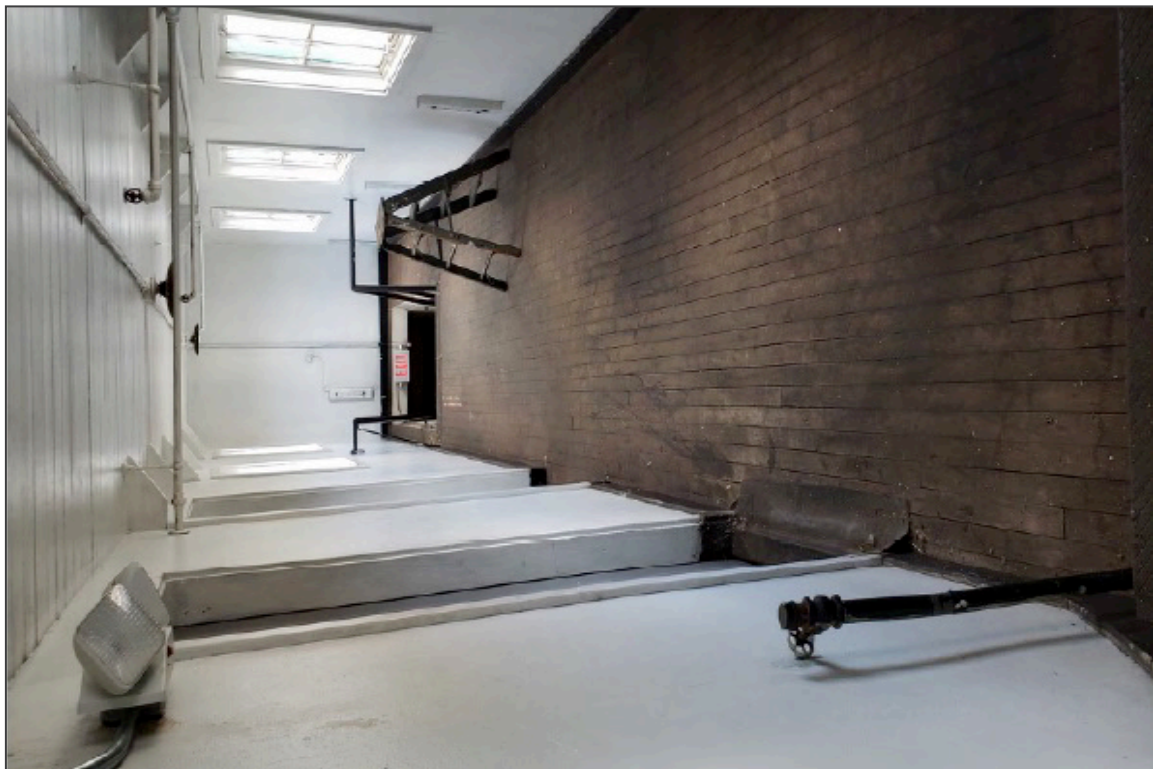
17. HSM Factory, 1915 Block, first floor, camera facing northwest.



18. HSM Factory, 1915 Block, (1938 second floor addition), camera facing northwest.



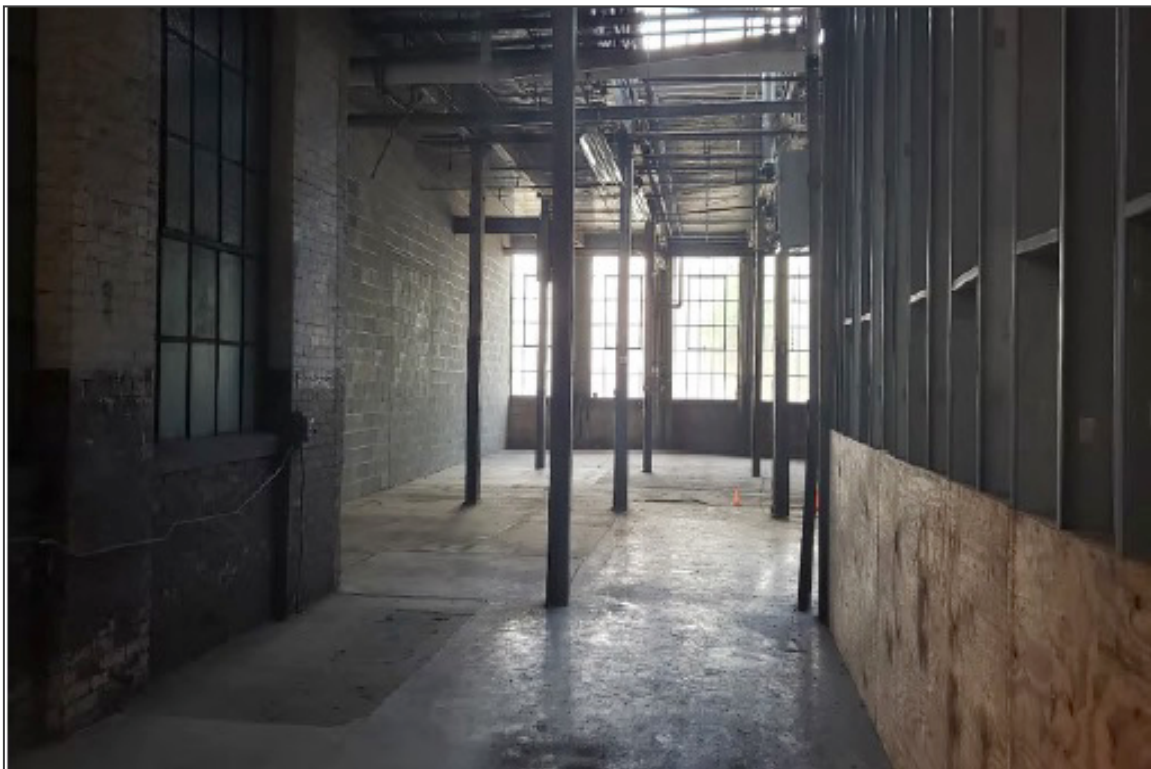
19. HSM Factory, 1915 Block, (1938 second floor addition), camera facing northwest.



20. HSM Factory, 1915 Block, roof egress corridor, camera facing northwest.



21. HSM Factory, 1920 Block, camera facing northwest.



22. HSM Factory, 1920 Block, (1937 addition), camera facing north.



23. HSM Factory, 1920 Block, (1937 addition), camera facing southwest.



24. HSM Factory, 1920 Block (ca.1945 addition),
camera facing southwest.



25. HSM Factory, 1942 Block, first floor, camera facing northeast.



26. HSM Factory, 1942 Block, first floor, camera facing southeast.



27. Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, South elevation, 1929 office and manufacturing blocks (left and center) and 1943 addition (right), camera facing northeast.



28. Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, south and east elevations, 1929, 1943, and ca. 1970 additions (left), camera facing northwest.



29. Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, west and north elevations 1966 and 1962 loading dock, camera facing east.



30. Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, north elevation, 1944/46 shipping and storage block, camera facing south.



31. Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, east elevation, 1962 loading dock and 1944/46 shipping and storage block, camera facing west.



32. Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, west and south elevations 1962 loading dock and 1944/46 shipping and storage block, camera facing northeast.



33. Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1929 first floor office, camera facing south.



34. Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1929 second floor office, camera facing south.



35. Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1929 second floor office, camera facing southwest.



36. Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1929 second floor office, camera facing southeast.



37. Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1929 and 1943 manufacturing blocks, camera facing southeast.



38. Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1929 and 1943 manufacturing blocks, camera facing northwest.



39. Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1929/1970 addition, camera facing south.



40. Stanley Rockwell Company Factory, 1944/46 Shipping and Storage Block, camera facing north.