

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
(203) 566-3005

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM

For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

IDENTIFICATION Industrial Site and Factory Buildings

- 1. BUILDING NAME: Common: Raymond Engineering Historic: J.O. Smith Manufacturing Co.
- 2. TOWN/CITY: Middletown VILLAGE: Westfield COUNTY: Middlesex
- 3. STREET & NUMBER (and/or location): 217 Smith Street
- 4. OWNER(S): Raymond Engineering, Inc. PUBLIC PRIVATE
- 5. USE: Present: Industrial Historic: same
- 6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Exterior visible from public road: yes no
Interior accessible: yes, explain _____ no

DESCRIPTION

Plain 19th Century

- 7. STYLE OF BUILDING: Industrial DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: c. 1875

8. MATERIAL(S) (indicate use or location when appropriate):

- clapboard asbestos siding brick
- wood shingle asphalt siding fieldstone
- board & batten stucco cobblestone
- aluminum siding concrete: type: _____ cut stone: type: probably brown-
- other: _____ stone sills and lintels

9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM:

- wood frame: post and beam balloon
- load bearing masonry structural iron or steel
- other: _____

10. ROOF: type:

- gable flat mansard monitor sawtooth
- gambrel shed hip round other _____

material:

- wood shingle roll asphalt tin slate
- asphalt shingle built up tile other: East building 58'x52' (north section, 22'x56'); West

- 11. NUMBER OF STORIES: 2 APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS: building 27'x110'

- 12. CONDITION: Structural: excellent good fair deteriorated
- Exterior: excellent good fair deteriorated

- 13. INTEGRITY: Location: on original site moved, when: _____
- Alterations: no yes, explain: Interior modernized; minor additions

14. RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

- barn shed garage other landscape features or buildings: wire link
- carriage house shop garden fence topped with barbed wire surrounds
- complex; modern industrial buildings

15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

- open land woodland residential scattered buildings visible from site
- commercial industrial rural high building density

16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS: This industrial complex is situated close to the south side of Smith Street slightly east of Interstate 91. The two former J.O. Smith Manufacturing Company buildings are located near each other close by the Smith Street gate. The traditional rural character of this section of Westfield has been altered as the result of industrial zoning.

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior):

Denticulated brickwork main cornice and cornice returns
Stone window lintels with carved moldings
Some arched brick window lintels

SIGNIFICANCE

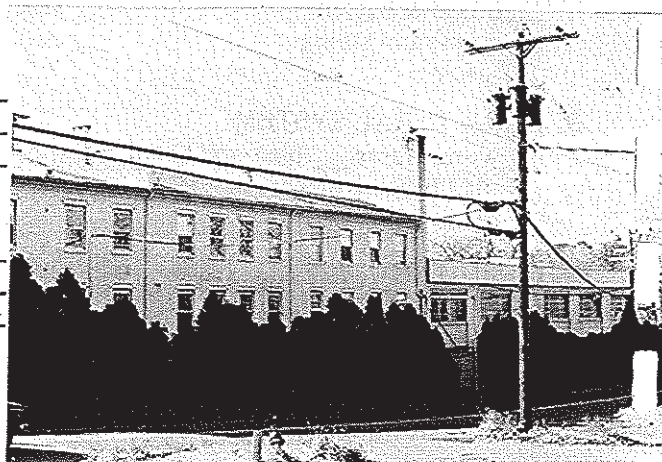
Architect: _____ Builder: _____

18. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE: In 1826 a newly arrived English immigrant named John Smith purchased Nathaniel Bacon's distillery for the purpose of commencing the manufacture of "Japan" finishes. The business prospered, and it was subsequently re-organized into a joint-stock company by John Smith's son, James Owen Smith. The product line was enlarged to include varnishes, enamels, and "stationers' tinware". In 1874 a fire razed the factory buildings, which were at once rebuilt of brick masonry construction. Two of these buildings remain in the present industrial complex. After World War II Raymond Engineering Laboratories, Inc. purchased the site and have expanded its size up to the present day. This may be one of the oldest industrial sites in Middletown in continuous use.

The two brick buildings which date from the J.O. Smith Manufacturing Company's reconstruction of ca. 1875 are functional in appearance: two stories high with long facades and low gable roofs. Denticulated cornices and carved stone window caps are the only decoration.

PHOTOGRAPH

photographer: Barbara Ann Messina
date: 11/78 view: northeast
negative on file: Roll 49, #24



COMPILED BY:

name: John E. Reynolds date: 9/78
organization: Greater Middletown Preservation Trust
address: 27 Washington St., Middletown, Ct. 06457

19. SOURCES: History of Middlesex County (Chicago: H.F. Beers, 1884); Commemorative Biography of Middlesex County (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1903); Middletown City Directories; 1859 Walling Map; 1874 Beers Atlas

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS:

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE:

none known highways vandalism developers other: _____
 renewal private deterioration zoning explanation: Raymond Engineering's current plans to expand the plant call for the demolition of the former J.O. Smith, Company manufacturing buildings.