NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. Aug. 2002)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

VLR 12/5/7
NRHP 2/21/8

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Southern Stove Works, Manchester
other names/site number VDHR No. 127-6193

2. Location

street & number 516-520 Dinwiddie Avenue not for publication ___
city or town Richmond vicinity ___
state Virginia code VA county Independent City code 760 zip code 23224

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official — Date 1/7/08

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date

Date of Action _____

==========

5. Classification

==========

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

_X_ private
___ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

_X_ building(s)
___ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

==========

6. Function or Use

==========

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Industry Sub: Manufacturing Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Industry Sub: Manufacturing Facility

==========

7. Description

==========

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
roof Other
walls Brick
other Steel

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

==========

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)

_X__ 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.

_X__ 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 a grave.
____ D a cemetery.
____ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
____ F a commemorative property.
____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture, Industry

Period of Significance 1920-1950

Significant Dates 1920

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder The Austin Company

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

==========

9. Major Bibliographical References

==========

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

==========

10. Geographical Data

==========

Acreage of Property 9.7185 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1 18	285016E	4154881N	2		

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

==========

11. Form Prepared By

==========

name/title Ashley Neville & John Salmon
organization Ashley Neville LLC date 8/1/07
street & number 112 Thompson Street, Suite B-1 telephone 804-798-2124
city or town Ashland state VA zip code 23005

==========

Additional Documentation

==========

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

==========

Property Owner

==========

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Tom Papa, Gordon Avenue Investments, LLC
street & number 13 South 15th Street telephone 804-344-8100
city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23219

==========

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

Southern Stove Works, located on Dinwiddie Avenue between 4th and 6th Streets in the Manchester area of south Richmond, is a planned industrial complex built in 1920 as a modern manufacturing facility for the production of stoves and heaters. The Southern Stove Works Company commissioned the Austin Company, of Cleveland, Ohio, to design and build a complete manufacturing plant using their Austin Method of prefabricated steel frame buildings. The original plans called for an office, foundry, foundry washrooms and office, milling room, warehouse building, which contained the pressing and mounting department and a three-part warehouse, pattern storage building, carpenter shop, and cupola building. Of those, the cupola building was never constructed, the carpenter shop is no longer extant, and the milling room has been significantly altered. All but one of these buildings is of steel frame construction with concrete and brick curtain walls and large multiple-light steel windows. The pattern storage building was constructed of reinforced concrete and brick. The large windows on most buildings were and continue to be a significant feature of these buildings so much so that a Southern Stove Works catalog issued after 1920 describes the complex as "the modern daylight plant." Currently painted white, it is not known if the buildings were originally painted that color, although the drawing in the catalog indicates light-colored buildings. The white or light color suggests a clean "sanitary" appearance. Today, these buildings have been combined by the use of hyphens into two major buildings. Both buildings are contributing resources.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The last Southern Stove Works factory is located in the Manchester area of Richmond south of the James River. This area still retains its industrial character with a variety of manufacturing and transportation businesses located nearby. The buildings in this area are not as densely built as in the Manchester Historic District immediately south of the river or on the north side of the river in the Shockoe Slip and Shockoe Valley Historic Districts. Open land or surface parking lots between buildings create the impression of openness around the Southern Stove Works plant. The complex occupies three-fourths of two blocks between 4th and 6th streets and Dinwiddie and Gordon streets. Railroad spurs initially served the plant and railroad spurs ran through the middle of the complex and between the manufacturing plant and the projected 6th Street that was never opened. Little remains of the rail spurs today. The complex is sited almost immediately on Dinwiddie Avenue with gravel driveways and parking between the two major buildings where a railroad spur was formerly located. The entire complex is enclosed by a tall chain-link fence.

The complex today consists of two long buildings. The west building contains the original two-story office building that has been connected by one-story infill to the long one-story warehouse building that contained the pressing and mounting departments and a three-part warehouse. The east building today consists of the foundry with attached original washrooms and office, charging room, and an expanded mill room. It has been connected to the original pattern storage building, garage, and machine shop with later infill. The pattern storage building, garage, and machine shop are aligned along Dinwiddie Avenue immediately adjacent to the sidewalk. Both the infill construction and the alterations to the milling room appear to have occurred after 1970.[1]

BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

West Building

The west building now consists of the office, connected to the warehouse building by a brick hyphen of unknown date.

Office

This is a five-by-three-bay, two-story building measuring 40 by 80 feet. Noted on the original plans as mill type construction, this steel frame building has six-course American-bond brick curtain walls. Each bay is defined by two-story pilasters with paired multiple-light steel windows. Each window section has sixteen lights with eight-light pivot center sections. The roof is flat with a low stepped parapet. The interior has been divided into offices with a conference room on the first floor and a large undivided room on the southwest end of the second floor. The office is now connected to the manufacturing building by a one-story brick hyphen.

Warehouse Building

Identified on the plans as the Austin Standard #1 Modified, this is the largest building in the complex and included both the three-part warehouse and pressing and mounting department. It is a long (120 feet by 600 feet), low, one-story, steel-frame building with poured concrete foundation and brick curtain walls. The flat roof has overhanging eaves and parapet at the front and rear and between each warehouse section that rises two feet above the roof. Pilasters separate each window bay of the northern end of the building, which housed the pressing and mounting departments, with large multiple-light steel windows with concrete sills. The windows are paired on the façade and triple on each side with twenty-four lights in each section with six-light center sections that pivot open. The three-part warehouse section also has each window bay divided by pilasters with two windows per bay. These windows are shorter multiple-light steel windows located at the top of the wall. Several loading-door openings pierce the east wall. There are two concrete-block additions along the west side and another addition with a loading dock on the south end of the building.

The northern or front half of this building housed the pressing and mounting department while the southern half was a warehouse divided into three sections. The interior of the entire building features three rows of steel posts supporting steel beams that span the width of the building. These in turn support steel ceiling joists that run the length of the building with the wood roof planking exposed on the interior. The floors are concrete although the 1920 Sanborn map shows them as wood. Two small washrooms are located at the north end of the building and two additional small rooms, shown on the original plans as the plating and polishing rooms, are located on the east wall at the south end of the northern half. Steel windows are located on the interior brick partition walls of the latter two rooms. A brick firewall with parapet that extends two feet above the roof separates this section from the warehouse and each section of the warehouse. The warehouse is divided into three rooms of equal size. Windows in the warehouse are smaller but the warehouse has skylights. Two 8-foot by 8-foot openings with sliding metal fire doors are located on each wall between each section to provide access at floor level. Triple-header segmental arches top each of the original loading

door openings. Two smaller openings, both with double-leaf steel doors, are located near the ceiling level and provided access between each section of the building. This may indicate that the building had some type of overhead conveyor system to move goods from the manufacturing area into the warehouse. These doors are not indicated on the original plans and may be a later change to the building.

East Building

The east building contains the foundry, foundry washrooms and office, pattern storage building, garage, machine shop, and milling room connected with brick infill.

Foundry

This is a long, 90-foot by 300-foot, one-story steel-frame building on a poured-concrete foundation with brick curtain walls laid in six-course American bond. It is identified in the plans as Austin Standard #2. The southeast end is sheathed with corrugated metal. The foundry has a flat roof with clerestory that runs the length of the building. The building originally had large multiple-light steel windows like the pressing and mounting building but most window bays have been infilled with concrete block with only the center section of the window visible. Other windows survive but are covered with corrugated metal or green plastic as are the clerestory windows. The building has the same interior roof structure as the warehouse building. The reinforced concrete floor is original. An industrial crane runs the length of the building.

The foundry had several appendages. On its west elevation about mid-section was a two-story building with two smokestacks shown on the plans and Sanborn map as the charging room. It survives as a one-story appendage sheathed with corrugated metal. The location of the smokestacks in the charging room is still visible on the interior.

Milling Room

The milling room originally was a 30-foot by 100-foot building identified in the plans as Austin Type #1, modified. The narrow building extended from the west side of the foundry at its front or north end toward the warehouse building, leaving room only for the railroad spur between the two buildings. There was a door on the west end and it had the same paired and triple steel windows as the warehouse building. The former milling room is the most altered building today. The west end has been truncated to provide more space between it and the warehouse building. It appears that the south wall has been removed and the building expanded to the south with a modern concrete-block addition. The original façade, sans windows, survives inside the infill structure that connects the foundry and milling room with the pattern storage building and machine shop.

Foundry Washroom and Office

This 34-foot by 100-foot concrete and brick building is located on the east side of the foundry and parallel to it. It originally was to have been 130 feet in length but the last 30-foot bay apparently was not built. It has the same steel

windows as used throughout the complex with single windows of either twelve or sixteen lights with sections that pivot open. Beginning at the north end, it housed the "colored" washroom, a separate white washroom, a drying room, and the foundry office. Each washroom is connected to the foundry by its own corridor and the office has the only exterior door. The interior of the building is utilitarian in nature with brick walls and concrete floor. Modern infill has been built between the two hyphens.

Pattern Storage Building

The 1920 Sanborn map shows (from east to west) the pattern storage building and machine shop with a garage between the two, presenting a solid façade along Dinwiddie Street. Only the pattern storage building is shown on the Austin Company plans. The pattern storage building measures a sub-rectangular 80 feet by 100 feet and unlike all the other buildings is primarily constructed of reinforced concrete with brick curtain walls. On the exterior, the brick is laid in six-course American bond like all the other buildings and is divided into bays with steel windows in the three central bays. There is a modern loading dock on the east end. The interior features concrete pillars that terminate in an inverted triangle, which supports the concrete beams and ceiling. The building retains its original skylights.

Machine Shop

The machine shop is not shown on the Austin Company plans filed with the building permit. It is shown on the 1919 Sanborn Map, and appears from its construction methods and materials to be contemporary with the other buildings in the complex. The building is constructed of brick laid in six-course American bond with a flat roof with parapet ends. Each end also has a chimney flue. The single steel windows are located on the Dinwiddie Avenue (north) façade. Window and door openings on the east and west sides have been infilled with concrete block. Like the other buildings, it has a steel-frame roof system.

Garage

The garage is also not shown on the Austin Company plans and may be infill between the pattern storage building and the machine shop, as its end walls are the walls of the pattern storage building and the machine shop. However, the façade is laid in the same brick bond and is complementary with its flanking buildings. Today, a single steel window pierces the Dinwiddie Avenue façade but a row of three small windows on that façade has been infilled with brick. The formerly exterior south wall of the garage has been removed but its ghost is visible on the floor. It has the same steel-beam construction as the majority of other buildings in the complex.

The Austin Company Building Plans

Southern Stove Works hired the Austin Company to construct its new plant in Manchester. At that time, Austin had ten standard plans for buildings that could accommodate almost any type of industry. This standardization allowed the Austin Company to quickly assemble materials and construct buildings and entire plants. Southern Stove Works

chose two Austin plans for the major buildings at their new manufacturing facility: Austin No. 1 and No. 2. According to the Austin Company, both buildings could be constructed in thirty days.

The warehouse building, carpenter shop (no longer standing) and the milling room (altered) were built as a modified Austin No. 1 type while the foundry was a modified Austin No. 2 type building. Austin Company literature describes the Austin No. 1 type as 60 feet wide (or multiples of 60) with a length of any size in multiples of 20 feet. Sixty feet was considered by Austin as the maximum that could be well day-lighted without a monitor or saw-tooth roof. This width dimension created a building with two thirty-foot aisles with twenty-foot bays. The columns were structural steel. The roof for the No. 1 was supported by 30-foot long I-beams with 6" x 12" yellow pine or fir purlins carrying 2" x 6" dressed and matched yellow pine or fir roof sheathing. No. 1 type building had continuous steel sash with concrete sills and hand-operated ventilating panels. The buildings had monolithic concrete floors and brick exterior walls.[2] The warehouse building is 120 feet by 600 feet while the milling room was 30 feet by 100 feet or half the standard 60-foot width. The carpenter shop, while called a No 1 modified, measured 40 by 80 feet, which does not match the width parameters of the standard plan.

The Austin No. 2 type, chosen for the foundry, was used extensively for machine shops, sheet metal shops, foundries, ceramic manufacturing, laundries, and textile manufacturing, according to the Austin literature. These buildings were 90-feet wide with three aisles each approximately 30 feet wide. The width could be increased by multiples of 30 feet and the length could be any multiple of 20 feet.[3] The foundry at Southern Stove Works is 90 by 300 feet. Austin No. 2 is described as a "No. 1 type building split through the middle with a high center aisle interposed." The center aisle could be fitted for an overhead traveling crane, which is still intact at Southern Stove Works.[4]

Alterations to the Complex

The buildings are remarkably intact and little changed from their original 1919 drawings. Only the carpenter shop that is shown in the Austin Company drawings no longer stands, although its foundation is visible in the ground. The carpenter shop appeared on the 1952 Sanborn map and was demolished some time after that date. It was a 40-foot by 80-foot, one-story, Austin Standard #1, modified building. It stood on the west side of the south end of the foundry and was attached at its south end to a warehouse that appears on the 1919 Sanborn map but not on the Austin Company plans and is no longer extant. That warehouse appears to have had the same steel frame construction as the other buildings. It does not appear on the 1952 Sanborn map, indicating that it had been demolished by then.

Later changes to the complex include two brick hyphens or infill that connects the office with the warehouse building and the foundry to the buildings to its north (pattern storage building, garage, and machine shop). Both infill sections appear to have reused some of the original windows that were removed from the facades of these two buildings when the north end windows were enclosed with concrete block and brick. There are also two separate concrete block additions to the west elevation of the warehouse sections. It is not known when these additions occurred; however, no city building permits could be found between 1952 and 1970 and it is assumed they were constructed after 1970.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Southern Stove Works factory complex at 516-520 Dinwiddie Avenue was constructed in 1920. The Austin Company, of Cleveland, Ohio, designed and built the facility using its Austin Standard plans and prefabricated steel frames for several of the buildings—a design-build process called The Austin Method that it had innovated earlier in the century. Southern Stove Works, founded in 1880, was one of the two largest stove manufacturers in Richmond, the other being Richmond Stove Works. After Southern Stove Works acquired Richmond Stove Works later in the 1920s, Southern Stove Works dominated stove production in the city of Richmond, long a center of iron manufacturing in Virginia and the South.

JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

The Southern Stove Works facility is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. It is eligible under Criterion A because of the company's leading role in Richmond in the manufacture of stoves and other heating appliances between its founding in 1880 and its demise within the last fifty years. It is eligible under Criterion C as an early example of industrial steel-frame design in Richmond and for its association with the Austin Company, which innovated technological advances in the design and construction of industrial buildings. It is the only documented example in Richmond of an Austin Company–designed structure. The period of significance for this property begins in 1920, the date that the Dinwiddie Avenue complex was constructed for Southern Stove Works. It ends in 1950, when Southern Steel and Stove Company bought Southern Stove Works, and Southern Stove Works began liquidating its assets.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

William J. Loth established the Southern Stove Works Company in Richmond in 1880 at 1422–1424 East Cary Street. The company, according to its promotional literature, manufactured "Stoves, Fronts, Grates, Fenders and Fine Castings Generally." In 1898, the company moved to new quarters at 815–827 North 17th Street. Four years later, in 1902, it moved again, to a purpose-built factory at Leigh Street and Hermitage Road. This facility was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 26, 2005.[5]

Early in the twentieth century, the products of the Southern Stove Works found a growing market in the northern United States, due in part to the perceived superiority of its products to those of its northern competitors. In contrast to the northern manufacturers, which made primarily oil-burning stoves, Southern Stove Works concentrated on coal- and wood-burning cooking and heating stoves. Also, the location of the new factory adjacent to the Richmond, Fredericksburg, and Potomac Railroad line afforded the company the advantage of lower freight rates. By late in the 1910s, the company had become successful enough to outgrow the Hermitage Road factory. In 1920, it opened a new facility at 6th and Morgan Streets (present-day Dinwiddie Avenue) in South Richmond. The J. P. Taylor Leaf Tobacco Company took over the old factory and used it until 1994.[6]

The Austin Company, an architectural and engineering firm based in Cleveland, Ohio, designed the new factory complex. Samuel Austin (1850–1936), an English carpenter, immigrated to the United States in 1872. He intended to settle in Chicago but stopped in Cleveland, worked for a builder who was constructing houses, and never left. Austin established his own business in 1878, and soon added commercial construction to his residential repertoire. Industrial executives noted the high quality of his commercial work. In 1895, the Western Mineral Wool Company asked him to construct a new factory in Chicago—Austin's first job outside Cleveland. Austin's son Wilbert J. Austin, an engineering graduate of Case School of Applied Sciences (now part of Case Western Reserve University), in 1904 innovated the "then heretical" concept of combining architectural design, engineering, and construction

> …in one firm to offer a complete facility service. This concept, which later became known as The Austin Method, broadened the traditional approach to construction by offering contracts that started with architecture and engineering, and ended with the finished building. Before the end of that year, The Samuel Austin & Son Company was incorporated. The Austin Method would soon carry the Company's name throughout the United States and eventually throughout the world.[7]

In 1910, the Austin Company undertook a large number of construction projects for the National Electric Lamp Association (predecessor of General Electric), completing fifty-three buildings in two years. To produce so many buildings in such a short time, William J. Austin

> …had initiated the use of standard steel framing members and systems, and used them in all of the buildings. He is credited with having originated the standard steel-frame factory building—the forerunner of the prefabricated steel building, and an ideal that literally revolutionized industrial construction.
>
> W. J. Austin reasoned that a large portion of the country's factory building needs could be met with a comparatively few standard building units. Standardization could lower costs, advance return on capital, conserve labor, and increase construction productivity. Like the Model T Ford, . . . the Austin standard industrial building made economic sense. It was inexpensive, could be built in record time, and was exceptionally long-lived.
>
> But, while there was only one Model T—and that came only in black—there were ten Austin standard buildings, and these could be custom-made. It was an idea whose time had come.[8]

The company promoted its offerings in an illustrated catalog titled *The Austin Book of Buildings*, which by 1925 was in its eighth edition. It explained The Austin Method in detail, assuring potential customers that "the Austin Organization fully appreciates the importance of accepted, standard engineering practice. No distorted or 'freakish' elements are ever tolerated in Austin Design." The ten Austin Standard plans were laid out in drawings as well as in photographs of actual buildings. While many of the examples were utilitarian in design, the catalog's illustrations offer evidence that the company could execute a variety of architectural styles reflecting regional idioms. Examples

ranged from a Spanish Colonial Revival office building in Los Angeles to a Federal Revival–style knitting mill in Philadelphia, featuring an entrance reminiscent of a Society Hill town house.[9]

Although the Austin Company at first contracted out the manufacture of the steel framing elements, the demand became so strong that the company soon opened its own fabrication shop in Euclid, Ohio. The increasing popularity of aviation, and the advent of World War I, brought the company a large amount of business in the form of contracts for hangars, transportation repair shops, and similar facilities. In 1917, Austin shipped thirteen of its No. 3 Standard buildings to France for use as army motor-transport repair shops. The next year, the company designed and constructed the Curtiss Aeroplane and Motor Corporation aircraft assembly plant in Buffalo, New York. The plant—twenty-eight acres under one roof and the largest factory building in the world then and for many years thereafter—was completed in ninety working days (thirty days ahead of schedule). The plant continued in operation through World War II.[10]

With such projects, the Austin Company made its reputation and established branch offices in major cities: Birmingham, Chicago, Dallas, Detroit, Kansas City, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, and St. Louis. In 1919, Southern Stove Works engaged the company's Philadelphia office to design and build its new factory complex in South Richmond. The design was completed on August 20, 1919, and the city of Richmond issued the construction permit on October 29. The motivation behind the selection of the Austin Company to design and build the new factory is not known. Perhaps lower costs, quicker construction, and the modernity of the design were factors. It seems appropriate, however, for a stove works to be housed in steel-frame buildings. Southern Stove Works selected the Austin Standard No. 1 (modified) for the warehouse, milling room, and carpenter shop, and the Austin Standard No. 2 for the foundry. The drawings filed with the construction permit are virtually identical to the plans and elevations in the company's catalog. The Austin Company also provided designs for the pattern storage building, the foundry washroom and office, and the main office building, as well as a "cupola building" (not constructed). The project was completed in 1920, and is the only identified Austin Company–designed complex in Richmond.[11]

Soon after Southern Stove Works moved to the new factory, it issued *Catalogue No. 26*, which listed "a Full Line of Steel Ranges, Cast Ranges, Cook Stoves, Coal and Wood Heaters and Tip Top Hot-Blast Heaters." The several varieties of heaters were for space heating as well as for heating water for laundry. The cover bears an illustration of the new factory as "The Modern Daylight Plant Where Tip Top Stoves and Ranges Are Made." The illustration shows several buildings that are labeled (Office, Pattern Storage, Manufacturing Department–Warehouse, Milling Room, and Foundry), as well as a few unlabeled smaller structures. Today, the Office is connected by a later hyphen to the Manufacturing Department–Warehouse and a hyphen connects the Foundry to the Pattern Storage building. The other, smaller buildings no longer stand. In the illustration, rail lines run along 5th Street and through the company complex between the Manufacturing Department–Warehouse and Foundry buildings. Another line south and east of the complex extends into Richmond, the skyline of which is visible in the distance.[12]

A promotional booklet about the commercial advantages of Richmond, published by the Richmond Chamber of Commerce in the 1920s, featured a photograph of the new Southern Stove Works complex. The company was among

those "Large and Diversified Enterprises [that] assure Permanent Industrial Stability," according to the booklet. In 1921, the Richmond Chamber sponsored a "Made-in-Richmond Exposition" and published a "classified list of products" manufactured in the city. Among the manufacturers of "Stoves, Ranges and Heaters" were listed the Cameron Stove Company, Charles H. Cosby and Company, Richmond Stove Company, and Southern Stove Works. The Cosby company manufactured "Cosby's Air Tight Heater and Baker," while Cameron Stove Company listed six products ranging from "Cameron Maid Steel Ranges" to "Cameron Maid Sheet Iron Heaters." The Richmond Stove Company made nineteen varieties of stoves, ranges, heaters, and furnaces, including "heating stoves, all kinds," caboose stoves, and "Regal Open Franklin Heaters." Southern Stove Works dominated the list of manufacturers with thirty-six brands of stoves, heaters, ranges, and similar products. Among its various lines were Tip Top, Fitz Lee, and Farmer Favorite. The company's dominant role grew even stronger after it acquired the Richmond Stove Company, its principal competitor, later in the decade.[13]

The Richmond Chamber of Commerce published a statistical study of Richmond's commercial life in 1929. It included a table of "Data Relative to Industries Located in the City of Richmond, Virginia, as Reported to the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry for the year 1927." The financial data included information from two stove companies (not named) that had capital amounting to $789,687 and an output valued at $686,941. The companies paid $223,566 in wages and $48,132 in salaries to "office help." They employed 202 workers: 137 white males, 6 white females, and 59 African American males. Although the study did not name the two companies, one likely was Southern Stove Works, which by then had absorbed the Richmond Stove Company, and the other was a smaller entity, probably the Cameron Stove Company.[14]

After Southern Stove Works acquired Richmond Stove Company, it continued in business as Southern Stove Works. During the first half of the century, it faced technological challenges as central heating systems became more common and as gas and electricity replaced wood and coal as the principal heating and cooking fuels. In the midst of World War II, the company ran afoul of War Production Board regulations, manufacturing portable iron fireplace grates between September 1 and October 8, 1942, in violation of "general conservation order M-126" issued on September 3, 1942. "These acts of the company," the board found, "constituted wilful violations of general conservation order M-126 . . . and have hampered and impeded the war effort of the United States by diverting iron to uses unauthorized by the War Production Board." As a penalty, Southern Stove Works was denied "preference ratings or allocation of iron, steel or other scarce materials for a period of three months beginning March 1, 1943." The prohibition lasted until May 31, 1943.[15]

Although the company survived the war, by 1950 it was for sale. The board of directors turned down at least one offer before accepting another, from a group led by A. B. Bower, on October 27, 1950. Bower and his colleagues, who soon reorganized the company and incorporated it as Southern Steel and Stove Company, purchased the Southern Stove Works for $170,000. Karl A. Dietrick was company president and W. Gibson Harris was secretary. The acquisition included "real estate, plant and equipment now occupied by the company as its factory, as well as the good will of the company." During the next half-dozen years, the old company liquidated its stock and remaining assets, although in 1959 it received a $635,000 contract to furnish all of the ship's furniture for USS *Long Beach*, the U.S. Navy's first nuclear-powered guided-missile cruiser. In 1962, the Southern Steel and Stove Company, which had

diversified its product line, became Southern Industries, Inc. It is no longer in business. Other small manufacturing companies have continued to use parts of the facility to the present day.[16]

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

The Southern Stove Works plant, located in Richmond's Manchester area, continues a story that began in 1880 in the Shockoe Valley area of the city. It also witnessed the end of that story. Southern Stove Works manufactured stoves at three different locations in Richmond before moving to its new quarters in the Manchester area in 1920. The company's first two facilities were located in Shockoe Valley and neither of these buildings survives. In 1902, the company moved to its new factory at Leigh Street and Hermitage Road that stands today in sharp contrast to the "modern daylight plant" that Southern Stove Works built eighteen years later. The former facilities featured compact one-, two-, and three-story red-brick buildings and were of a warehouse type that differed little from pre Civil War warehouses in form and detail.

The buildings constructed by Southern Stove Works at its new Manchester location are a significant departure from the earlier complex, which was confined to a corner lot that in comparison to the Dinwiddie Street property, was relatively small. The company clearly took advantage of the availability of open land in Manchester to spread out when it planned its new plant. The new manufacturing plant featured long, low, flat-roofed buildings of steel and/or concrete construction and brick curtain walls that allowed large multiple-light steel windows to be used. The walls are smooth with no use of decorative ornamentation. These buildings created a sleek, modern, up-to-date look as opposed to the earlier plant.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Branch and Company (Richmond, Va.) Records. Mss3 B7327a FA1. Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va.

Austin Company Web site. www.theaustin.com. Accessed July 17, 2007.

National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Southern Stove Works, 1215 Hermitage Road, Richmond, Va. DHR File 127-6145. Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va.

Richmond Chamber of Commerce. *Industrial, Commercial, and Financial Advantages of Richmond, Virginia.* Richmond, Va.: The Chamber of Commerce, n.d.

———. *Made in Richmond.* Richmond, Va.: Richmond Chamber of Commerce, 1921.

———. *Some Facts About Richmond, Virginia* (Richmond, Va.: Richmond Chamber of Commerce, 1929), table.

Richmond City. Office of Building Inspection. Building Inspection Plans. Reel 217. Permits 7018 and 7196. Richmond, Va. Library of Virginia (LVA).

Richmond Times-Dispatch. January 6, 1943; December 30, 1950; July 21, 2007. LVA.

Shirk, Charles A. *The Austin Company: A Century of Results.* New York: The Newcomen Society, 1978.

Southern Stove Works, Incorporated, Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A. . . . Catalogue No. 26. N.p.: N.p., n.d. Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va.

Wells, John E., and Robert E. Dalton. *The Virginia Architects, 1835–1955: A Biographical Dictionary.* Richmond, Va.: New South Architectural Press, 1997.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property consists of tax parcel reference number S0000385001 as noted on the City of Richmond GIS mapping system and reflects the parcel as referenced in Deed Book 9800, Page 31287.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This parcel is all the land that historically has been associated with the Southern Stove Works, Manchester factory.

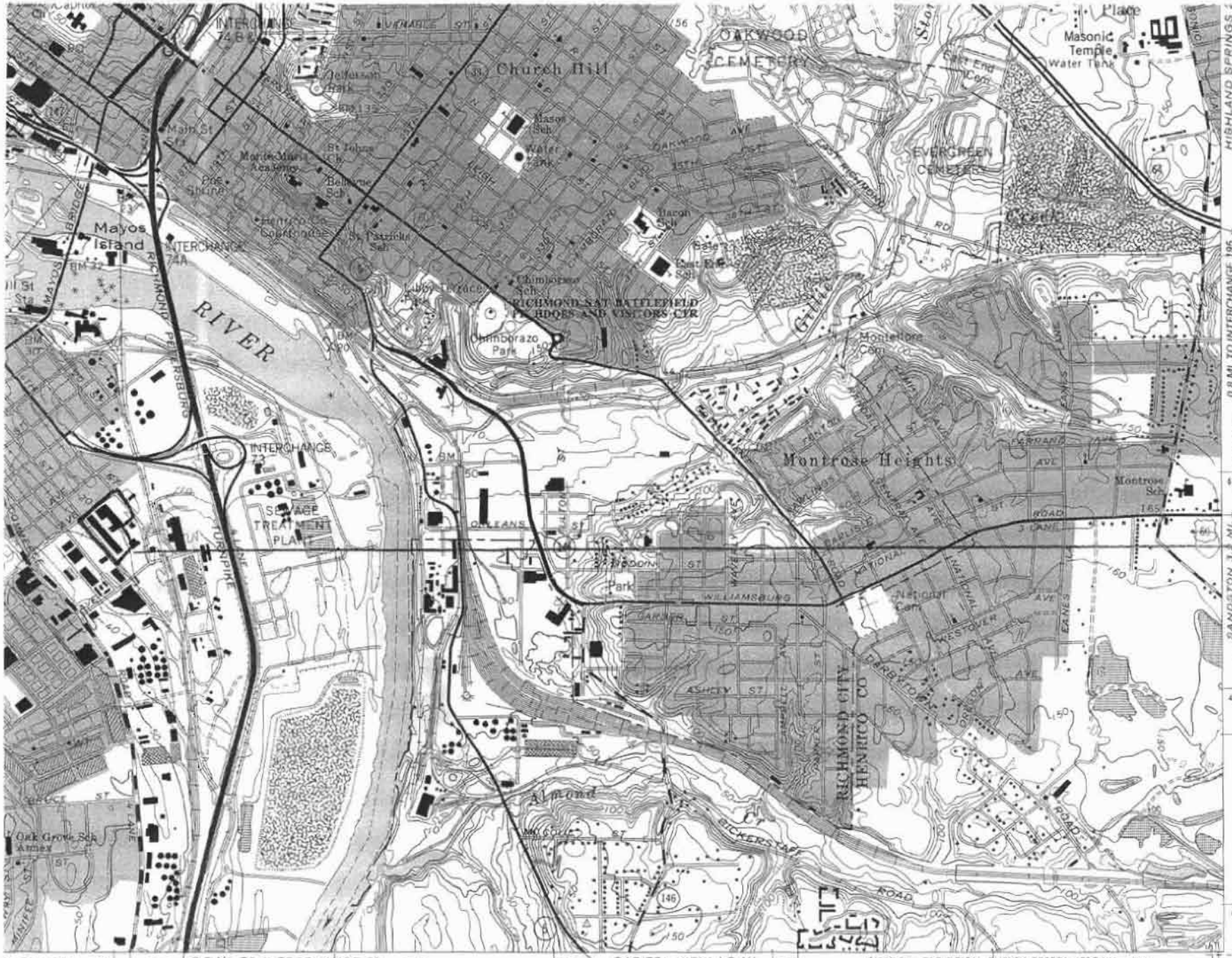
PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA

The photographs for Southern Stove Works, Richmond, Virginia (VDHR file #127-6193) were taken by Ashley Neville on July 3, 2007. The negatives are on file in the Archives of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia.

1. Southern Stove Works factory complex with foundry on right and warehouse on left, view to the northwest (Negative No. 23579)
2. Office, view to the southeast (Negative No. 23579)
3. Pressing & Mounting Department Building with Office at the end, view to the north (Negative No.
4. Warehouse, view to the west (Negative No. 23578)
5. Pressing & Mounting Department interior, view to the front (northwest) (Negative No. 23578)
6. Warehouse, view to the northwest (Negative No. 23578)
7. Loading doors between warehouse walls, view to the southeast (Negative No. 23578)
8. Foundry, view to the north, (Negative No. 23579)
9. Foundry interior, view to the northwest (Negative No. 23578)
10. Pattern Storage Building, Garage, and Machine Shop (left to right), view to the east (Negative No. 23578)
11. Pattern Storage Building interior, view to the east (Negative No. 23579)

ENDNOTES FOR SECTION 8

[1] Building permits for Richmond on file at the Library of Virginia end at 1970. No building permit could be located for either the infill structures or the significant alterations to the milling room. Based on the architecture of these features and the research on the building permits, these additions are believed to have been made after 1970.
[2] *The Austin Company Book of Buildings*, 8th ed. (Cleveland, Oh.: The Austin Company, 1925), 46-49.
[3] Ibid, 50-53.
[4] Ibid, 52.
[5] National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Southern Stove Works, 1215 Hermitage Road, Richmond, Va., DHR File 127-6145, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va.
[6] Ibid.
[7] "Historical Perspective," on the Austin Company Web site, www.theaustin.com, accessed July 17, 2007; see also Charles A. Shirk, *The Austin Company: A Century of Results* (New York: The Newcomen Society, 1978), 7–8.
[8] Shirk, *Austin Company*, 9–10.
[9] *The Austin Company Book of Buildings*, 8th ed. (Cleveland, Oh.: The Austin Company, 1925), 4, 7, 21.
[10] Shirk, *Austin Company*, 10–11.
[11] Richmond City, Office of Building Inspection, Building Inspection Plans, Reel 217, Permit 7018, Richmond, Va., Library of Virginia (LVA); *The Austin Company Book of Buildings*, plans and elevations of Austin Standard Nos. 1 and 2, pp. 46–54, 80; John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The Virginia Architects, 1835–1955: A Biographical Dictionary* (Richmond, Va.: New South Architectural Press, 1997), 13, reference the *Manufacturer's Record*, February 19, 1920, as stating that the Austin Company had designed the Cheek-Neal Coffee Company building (201 Hull Street). However, the Richmond City Building Inspection Plans, Reel 217, Permit 7196, issued February 4, 1920, show the firm of Carneal and Johnston as the architects. The building, a five-story, brick-and-glass storage facility, is in the Commercial style and does not resemble the Southern Stove Works buildings. It still stands and is a contributing resource in the Manchester Industrial Historic District.
[12] *Southern Stove Works, Incorporated, Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A. . . . Catalogue No. 26* (N.p.: N.p., n.d.), cover, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va.
[13] Richmond Chamber of Commerce, *Industrial, Commercial, and Financial Advantages of Richmond, Virginia* (Richmond, Va.: The Chamber of Commerce, n.d.), 3; Richmond Chamber of Commerce, *Made in Richmond* (Richmond, Va.: Richmond Chamber of Commerce, 1921), 21–22.
[14] Richmond Chamber of Commerce, *Some Facts About Richmond, Virginia* (Richmond, Va.: Richmond Chamber of Commerce, 1929), table. The other stove manufacturer at the time, Charles H. Cosby and Company, may have been so small that it was not included in the report, or it may even have been out of business. Cameron Stove Company continued to operate for many years thereafter. Because Southern Stove Works was a private company whose stock was not publicly traded, no information about it was found in the usual sources such as *Moody's Industrials*. Despite diligent searching of the records of the U.S. Census, Virginia Department of Labor and Industry, State Corporation Commission, and a number of other sources, no data were found to enable the authors to compare Southern Stove Works with other companies of its type.
[15] *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, January 6, 1943.
[16] National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Southern Stove Works, DHR File 127-6145, DHR; Branch and Company (Richmond, Va.) Records, Mss3 B7327a FA1, Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va.; *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, December 30, 1950; ibid., July 21, 2007, "Today in History."



Southern Store Works
Richmond, Va
KTM
18 285016E
4154881N
#127-6193

1:24000

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty — Light-duty

Medium-duty — Unimproved dirt