NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NRHP

JAN 27 2021

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

LISTED

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. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name AMPCO Manufacturing Plant

other names/site number

Name of Multiple Property Listing NA

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

2. Location

street & number 101 AMPCO Road ☐ not for publication

city or town Rosedale ☐ Vicinity

State Mississippi county Bolivar zip code 38769

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 at the following level(s) of significance: ___ **national** ___ **statewide** X **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria: X **A** ___ **B** X **C** ___ **D**

Katie Blount 12-17-20

Signature of certifying official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

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

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

AMPCO Manufacturing Plant — Name of Property

Bolivar County, Mississippi — County and State

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
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
7	0	Buildings
0	0	Site
1	0	Structure
0	0	Object
8	0	**Total**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry/Processing/Extraction

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Concrete
Metal: Steel
walls: Synthetic: Translucent Plastic
Metal: Steel
roof: Synthetic: Translucent Plastic
other:

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph (Briefly describe the current, 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.)

The AMPCO Manufacturing Plant is located on a 14-acre site north of the Rosedale National Register District on Highway 1 in Rosedale, Mississippi approximately 2 miles east of the Mississippi River in the Mississippi Delta. The town of Rosedale has a population of approximately 1,663. The nearest cities are Cleveland (20 miles, population 11,729) and Greenville (35 miles, population 30,686). The AMPCO Manufacturing Plant is bordered on the east and west by woods, south by Goff's Bayou and north by agricultural fields. The 166,880 square-foot plant, which specialized in constructing metal cabinetry, was constructed in 1954 and was expanded to the current 175,800 square feet by 1967. The **main factory building** consists of 5, 60-foot wide bays, with 15-foot high arched metal roofs. One bay is 750 feet long, three bays are 560 feet long and the fifth bay has one 200-foot section and one 80-foot section that serves as the **office**. In addition to the main factory building and office, there is a **well house and water tower**, 3 **garages**, and a **guardhouse**. Immediately east of the main factory building is a now-abandoned rail spur. The plant building and ancillary structures retain a high degree of historical integrity, with minor changes taking place over time to accommodate shifts in manufacturing technology and increased demand for AMPCO products.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

Site (Photos 49, 50, Figure 5,10)

The **main factory building** is a 175,800 square-foot metal building with 5 arched bays that sits on the southeast corner of the site. **Garage 1** is located on in the far southwest corner, **garage 2** is located on the same axis as garage 1, but slightly more to the north of the site. **Garage 3** is located on the northeast corner of the site, along with the **guardhouse**. The **water tower and well house** are located along the same axis as garages 1 and 2, but closer to the entrance of the site, to the north. The site is accessed from AMPCO road, approximately .2 miles off of Highway 1.

1. C Main Factory Building (Photos 5-7,10-23,25,26,28,30-37,43, 45-46, Figure 9)

The main factory building is composed of 4 interconnected 60-foot-wide bays with the southern ends placed along approximately the same plane. The two eastern bays are the same length at 560 feet, the third bay from the east is longer on the north end of the site at 750 feet, and the fifth bay consists of a 200 foot section at the rear of the main factory building and an 80 foot section with a small addition that will be referred to separately as the office building. A shipping and receiving dock extends perpendicular out from the fourth bay just to the north of the shorter bay five. It is of the same construction as the main factory building but features a simple metal gable roof. An L-shaped addition to the rear of the fifth bay extends perpendicular approximately 100 feet off the main bay and is of the same construction as the main factory building but with a gable metal roof similar to the shipping and receiving dock. The main factory building bays are constructed of a rigid frame of "I" shaped columns and "Z" shaped purlins spanning horizontally between the columns. The roof frames are an arched truss and the building frames are formed of cold rolled steel. All bays are clad in a metal skin which is attached to the roof and walls with screw and nut fasteners. The finish is galvanized, which is typical. For rigidity, the thin metal skin is shaped into major and minor corrugations. The sheets are extruded from a 43 1/2" wide roll of 28 gage sheet metal. They vary in length according to the wall or roof length being covered. The ceiling panels have 2 translucent "lights" per bay. A BMC (Butler Manufacturing Company) gutter is installed between buildings where the

bowstring roof shapes meet to form a valley. The factory floor is raw concrete throughout, and windows are typically placed high on the walls and are 9-light single pane metal frames with tinted glass.

While the interior of the factory is mostly open, there are some areas separated from the main factory space by metal frame walls. Some walls extend all the way to the ceiling, such as the partition wall for the die shop and maintenance department, which is located centrally in the eastern most bay, near the office building. Some smaller rooms have been created with metal walls and flat roofs which do not extend to the bowstring roof structure. Typical doors are half glass metal. Some original signage remains in the building along with some original factory machinery which would have been used for baking of the painted metal cabinets.

2. C Office Building (Photos 1-4,39)

The office building is a one-bay wide, four bay long 60’ x 80’ building that is 10’ tall at its apex. While it is shorter than the main bays of the factory building, it is of the same construction including the bowstring roof. It is located approximately 100’ back from the north end of the fourth bay of the main factory building. An addition extends from the south end of the office and is approximately 30’ x 40’ and of metal construction with a similar bowstring roof, although it is shorter than the main office building. The entrance to the building is located on the western façade towards the north end of the building. It consists of a single metal door with a metal awning supported by metal scrollwork columns. This façade also has two small 2-light windows. The addition has a single metal door on the western façade. The northern façade has a large central 9-light metal widow with a smaller 2-light window set towards the entrance.

3a and b. C Water Tower and Well Building (Photo 48)

The water tower and adjacent well building are located towards the northwest corner of the site off the entrance road. The water tower is metal and approximately 35’ in diameter. It is approximately 15’ tall. It is clad in solid metal panels with a rounded metal roof. The well building is a small metal building approximately 8’ wide and 12’ deep. It has a metal gable roof and is approximately 12’ tall at the apex. It has a central metal access door on the western façade.

4. C Garage 1 (Photo 8)

Garage 1 is an approximately 40’ x 45’ metal building with a metal gable roof located in the southwest corner of the site. It has two large truck bays flanking a center metal door on the north elevation.

5. C Garage 2 (Photo 9)

Garage 2 is of similar construction as garage 1, but slightly larger at approximately 50’ x 60’. There are two large truck bay openings with double metal sliding doors on the southern façade.

6. C Garage 3 (Photos 24,29,42)

Garage 3 is located in the northeast corner of the site, beyond the ends of the eastern-most bays of the main factory building. It is an approximately 20’ x 20’ metal building with a metal gable roof set on an approximately 3’ concrete foundation wall on three sides. It has a large truck opening on the southern façade.

7. C Guardhouse (Photos 40,41,47)

The guardhouse is a wood frame metal building located towards the north end of the site, just to the east of the termination of the longest and third bay of the main factory building. It is approximately 22’ x 40’ with a small projection off of the front of the eastern façade. While the building is industrial in style, it differs from the other typical metal buildings on the site. The northern façade of the building features a single wooden half-glass door towards the west, and a line of ten single light windows trimmed in wood running down the rest of the façade. The eastern façade features a slight narrow projection from the main body of the building with a metal gable roof, a single wooden half glass door and a small single lite window. There are two larger metal storage doors on the main body to the rear of the eastern façade. The roof is a metal high pitched east-west gable with exposed wooden rafter ends.

Mitigations and Overall Integrity

While alterations have been made to the factory and site, most were made between the time of construction in 1954 and 1967 (Figures 4 and 5). The AMPCO factory retains a mostly original layout from the beginning of its operation, and although some buildings are deteriorated, the simple construction methods and materials could be easily repaired or restored.

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.)

Property is:

- [ ] 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.
- [X] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry
Architecture

Period of Significance

Industry:1954-1974
Architecture: 1954-1955

Significant Dates

1954-Date of construction
1974-Date of height of operations

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Butler Manufacturing Company

Statement of Significance

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 AMPCO Manufacturing Plant in Rosedale, Mississippi is an intact example of industrial construction dating from the mid-twentieth century that represents areas of local significance in industry and architecture. The property typifies changes taking place in the Mississippi Delta and farming communities throughout Mississippi, as towns took advantage of incentives offered through the state's Balance Industry with Agriculture program (BAWI). The BAWI began in 1936 under Governor Hugh White as a way to bring industrialization to Mississippi. Almost 350 manufacturing facilities were established in Mississippi under this program by 1960. The period of significance for the AMPCO Manufacturing Plant is from 1954, the date of construction, until 1974, which is when the plan reached its peak of operations and one year before owner Joe Morris died and the plant changed ownership. While the period of significance extends past the fifty-year threshold generally used to assess eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places, the AMPCO Manufacturing Plant meets Criteria Consideration G as a property that has continued to achieve significance within the last fifty years due to the fact that the plant is of exceptional importance on a local level as an economic driver into the 1970s in a largely rural, agricultural region.

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

Criterion A: History: Industry

The AMPCO Manufacturing Plant is locally significant in Rosedale and the Mississippi Delta in the area of industry as an intact example of a factory building constructed in the 1950s as a part of the Balance Agriculture with Industry (BAWI) Initiative. The BAWI created incentives to bring factories to Mississippi to provide employment for farm workers displaced by the mechanization of agricultural labor.

The Mississippi Delta's economy has historically been based on agriculture. This region is described by Delta native and local historian Ned Mitchell with the Bolivar County Historical Society as follows:

> The Mississippi Delta is a wide alluvial floodplain of the Mississippi River, also known as the Yazoo Basin. The Delta starts just south of Memphis, Tennessee, and ends 200 miles later at Vicksburg, Mississippi. The floodplain stretches around 90 miles at its widest point and is shaped in a crescent, which ends as steep hills take over the landscape. Settlement in the Delta began along the Mississippi River by speculators from the Carolinas and Louisiana in the late 18th century. These adventurers had slaves, who primarily did the work to clear the land. Soon, large cotton plantations spread along the river from north to south. Until after the Civil War, much of the interior of the plain was still covered by dense forests, swamps, sloughs and bayous.
>
> After the Choctaw Cession in 1830, Bolivar County was formed in 1836 and named for Simon Bolivar, the liberator of several South American colonies from Spain in the early 19th century. After the Civil War, many whites and newly freed African Americans came to the Delta and Bolivar County in search of land to clear to grow cotton. Logging was a big business during this time. By the early 1880s, the county was essentially cleared for row crops. [1]

Mr. Mitchell remembers Rosedale, which is situated very near the Mississippi River Levee, as a small but prosperous Delta town. Developed by rich planters and state politicians, Rosedale was known for its grand c. 1923 courthouse, which was recently restored. Other prominent Rosedale buildings include Grace Episcopal

[1] Mitchell, Ned, Interview by Lolly Rash, Personal Interview, Jackson, Mississippi, May 27, 2019.

Church, and the old Rosedale High School, constructed in the 1920s in the Spanish Colonial Revival style. It was in the 1920s that Rosedale became a haven for the famous (or infamous) moonshine whiskey maker and bootlegger, Perry Martin. Mitchell remembers Rosedale as famous for its parties and dances, attracting young people from all over the Delta. Rosedale was also the site of the annual 4th of July Mule Races, another highlight of the Delta social calendar.[2]

Rosedale was once a prosperous river community, serving as the eastern county seat of Bolivar County with Cleveland as the western seat. Thanks to 1889 railroad lines built by the Louisville, New Orleans and Texas, Rosedale was home to several prosperous cotton-based industries including gins, the Refuge Cotton Seed Oil Company, and the Rosedale Compress. King cotton provided jobs for many lower income African Americans and whites during this time. The railroad and the proximity of Rosedale to the Mississippi River also attracted lumber companies and sawmills and also allowed for the city to become a well-renowned fish market which not only served the Delta but also cities along the East Coast. By the 1940s, the decline of cotton prices combined with the overharvesting of fish and lumber saw the folding of most major industries in Rosedale.[3] By this time, mechanization had also begun to replace not only agricultural but also domestic work traditionally done by African Americans, further feeding the Great Migration, as tens of thousands of African Americans and poor whites left the rural south starting in the 1930s for opportunities in northern cities like Chicago and Saint Louis.[4] In the 10-year period from 1950 to 1960, mechanization reduced the number of Mississippi farm workers by more than half.[5]

Industrialization in Mississippi had always been viewed with skepticism, especially by white elite landowners and their political allies who were intent on keeping the racial social structure in place. Walter Sillers, Jr., a prominent politician from Rosedale who served as Mississippi's Speaker of the House from 1944 to 1966, asserted, "There is no need to demand for changes in our (state) constitution to meet racial issues, or to induce industry to locate within our borders."[6] But by the early 1950s, it was apparent a system to provide working wages for poor African Americans and whites displaced by mechanization was needed. White landowners were troubled by the increasing number of African Americans left unemployed by mechanization and viewed them as a potentially disruptive force if they remained in the state without jobs. They saw industrial development as a way to provide those jobs while maintaining the current class structure through control of the industry. Dorothy Lee Black, an official at the Delta Council, said in 1947:

> "If all or many of the Negroes remain in the Delta and cannot work they will be a burden on the public Relief appropriations. The big Delta people are eyeing that tax problem since they would bear most of the burden and for the first time the active prejudice against industrialization is being broken down and the Delta planters are beginning to think that if they are going to have the feed the Negroes anyway they might as well work for it. The interest in the Balance Agriculture with Industry program is therefore increasing enormously among Delta folk."[7]

The original BAWI was established under Governor Hugh White upon his election in 1936 as the Industrial Act. White had successfully employed this business model in his hometown of Columbia by obtaining public pledges to obtain a loan to provide $85,000 for the construction of a building to house the Reliance Manufacturing Company in Columbia. The factory would provide employment and monetary returns to the

[2] Ibid.
[3] National Register of Historic Places. Rosedale Historic District, Rosedale, Bolivar County, Mississippi. National Register #00000331
[4] As cited in *The Most Southern Place on Earth,* white out-migration between 1955 and 1960 (27,441) almost equaled the estimated total for African Americans (27,939), pages 206-207.
[5] Sperry, B.O., (2010) *Caught "Between our Moral and Material Selves": Mississippi's Elite White "Moderates" and their Role in Changing Race Relations, 1945-1956* [Published Doctorate Dissertation] Case Western Reserve University. P.419
[6] Ibid. p. 412
[7] Ibid. p. 420

city, and it far exceeded expectations in only a few short years.[8] The actual slogan "Balancing Agriculture with Industry" was coined by Governor Thomas Bailey upon his election in 1944. The program had been successful under White from 1936-1940 but was allowed to lapse under political opponent Paul B. Johnson upon his election in 1940. The BAWI offered a direct public subsidy in the form of facilities constructed with public funds, to individuals and/or corporations who would locate industrial plants within the state. The financial subsidy was granted by local governments under the supervision of the Agricultural and Industrial Board. Any political entity in Mississippi could take a vote to issue and credit bonds to provide for financing of the construction of industrial facilities. The program also provided for a five-year exemption from all local property taxes. The company occupying the BAWI facility would pay rent and the interest of the bonds issued for the construction. Any additional needs as far as infrastructure would fall upon the community to finance. The benefits to the community were many, mostly the employment of its citizens. Aside from the reduced costs of construction, benefits to the company specific to Mississippi included lower labor costs, anti-unionization sentiments, water transportation, and a favorable attitude with respect to taxation and factory regulations. Jack Prince stated in his 1961 dissertation about the BAWI, "One of the most important environmental factors is the attitude of the people and the attitude of the government towards industrial development."[9] Florence Sillers Ogden wrote for her article Dis and Dat in the *Clarion Ledger* in 1955 that Rosedale was chosen for AMPCO's location because of the attitude of its citizens. She quoted president Joe Morris as saying "the people seemed to want the company as much as we wanted them to come. I knew we would find co-operation."[10]

The 1936 Industrial Act was overwhelmingly supported geographically by the Delta and the coastal counties, while the opponents were distributed mainly in the hill counties of northeast Mississippi and the piney woods areas.[11] The 1944 version of the act also easily passed through the state legislature's House and Senate by large majorities. The overall structure of the 1944 program was very similar to the 1936 act, with a few important changes. The governing entity of the program was the still the Agriculture and Industry Board, but their duties and functions were expanded to include conducting their own extensive marketing campaigns and more aggressively seeking out industries. The previous law required an "economic emergency" to be declared before a bond issue could be voted on, but that requirement was removed in 1944. The Agriculture and Industry Board included the governor as chairman, with 17 official and 3 ex-offico members. Seven were specified by law including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House and two members from the House of Representatives and the Senate.[12] Walter Sillers, Jr. would have served on this board for his entire tenure, and no doubt participated in the development of AMCPO and other facilities in Bolivar county.

As of September 1959, total employment in BAWI plants in Mississippi was approximately 36,000 workers. Total industrial bonds issued by municipalities and other political subdivisions as of September 30,1959 was $52,316,000 of which $39,645,750 was outstanding.[13] The first facility in Bolivar county was the Baxter Laboratories factory in Cleveland in 1950.

The notice of a bond election related to AMPCO first appeared in the Bolivar County *Democrat* on December 24, 1953. It was proposed that bonds be issued "in the maximum amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ($300,000) to provide funds for the purpose of acquiring land and constructing, purchasing or otherwise

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[8] Lester, Connie. "Economic Development in the 1930s: Balance Agriculture with Industry." *Economic Development in the 1930s: Balance Agriculture with Industry | Mississippi History Now*, Mississippi Historical Society, May 2004, www.mshistorynow.mdah.ms.gov/articles/224/economic-development-in-the-.

[9] Prince, J.E., (1961) *History and Development of the Mississippi Balance Agriculture with Industry Program, 1936-1958* [Published Doctorate Dissertation] The Ohio State University. P.30

[10] Ogden, F.S. (1955, June 5) "Delta Produces More than Cotton Since 'Bama Boys, Without Banjos, Open a Cabinet Plant," *Clarion Ledger,* pg. 42.

[11] Prince, J.E. p.75

[12] Ibid.

[13] Ibid. p.133

acquiring a metal products type of industry."[14] The vote took place on January 19, 1954 and was approved in a vote of 234 for and 2 against from a total of 247 eligible voters.[15]

The Alabama Metal Products Company (AMPCO) had its beginnings in 1946 when businessman Joe Morris acquired Dixie Metal Products from Bessemer Coal, Iron and Land Company to begin the manufacture of metal kitchen cabinets. A 67,100 square foot plant was constructed in Bessemer, Alabama and employed between 50 and 125 people. The business thrived, and in 1954 the company purchased land in Rosedale to build an expanded facility. Original plans for the factory, which are in the collection of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, document that the building was constructed by Butler Manufacturing Company.[16] In addition to the Bessemer and Rosedale locations, a third facility to manufacture countertops for kitchen cabinets was established in Gretna, Louisiana.

In 1974, sales for the company peaked at $13 million, with a total employment of 325 people in the Rosedale facility. Following the death of Joe Morris in 1975, AMPCO was sold to Chromalloy American Division in 1977. The Rosedale plant continued to produce metal kitchen cabinets, along with other metal items such as copy machine stands, until it ceased operations around 2000.[17] Ownership of the AMPCO site was transferred to the City of Rosedale.[18] Since that time, the site has been largely vacant. The property was recently purchased by the Rosedale QALICB Manager, LLC.

The importance of the AMPCO Manufacturing Plant to the economy of Rosedale cannot be overstated as it remained the main industry of the town from the 1950s through the 1970s. Clometa Register, who worked at the AMPCO Manufacturing Plant for 42 years, remembers that the plant was the center of life for the small town of Rosedale. When she started at the plant in 1959, her salary was $160 a month. Ms. Register worked in every office except accounting during her time at AMPCO. She recalls that the starting hourly rate for plant workers was around 75 cents an hour and that around 70% of the workers were African American. At peak production, there were as many as three shifts working around the clock with 150 to 200 workers in each shift. In addition to having 12 to 15 boxcars shipping kitchen cabinets to send to Sears and Roebuck warehouses in Chicago, Los Angeles, Dallas, Philadelphia and Memphis at any one time, Ms. Register states that AMPCO also had a fleet of trucks and drivers that covered much of the country. Ms. Register cites the desire to keep the plant from being unionized as one of the reasons the company expanded to Mississippi from Alabama, though she states that the Mississippi plant was unionized "in later years as was expected."[19]

In her *Dis an* Dat article from 1955, Florence Sillers states that two thirds of the AMPCO workers were white, and one third were negro.[20] It is not inconceivable that such a large demographic shift would be possible in a few short years. Many of the BAWI factories in Mississippi actively sought white men for employment upon startup and reserved non-supervisory positions for blacks.[21] But by the 1950s, increased white flight from small Delta towns and the large population percentage of non-whites (68.5% in Bolivar county) contributed to a larger number of black workers in industrial operations.[22] In an environment of active suppression of the Civil Rights of African Americans and the lack of opportunities for both African Americans and whites outside of the system of sharecropping and agricultural day labor, the AMPCO Manufacturing Plant played a very important role in Rosedale's history of industry and as an example of a successful BAWI plant in Mississippi.

[14] Chaney, M.B. (1953, December 24) "Notice of Bond Election City of Rosedale, Mississippi." *Bolivar County Democrat*, vol. 64
[15] (1954, January 21). "$300,000 Bond Issue Approved by Voters." *Bolivar County Democrat,* vol. 68
[16] Original Blueprints, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Series 1736/Box 4773, Folder 16, Rosedale, MS.
[17] The AMPCO Division," typewritten history of Alabama Metal Products Company, Undated. Owner's Collection. Rosedale, MS.
[18] Warranty Deed, State of Mississippi, Bolivar County, September 1, 2000. Book H160, p.520.
[19] Register, Clometa. Interview by Lolly Rash, Personal Interview. Jackson, Mississippi, May 27,2019.
[20] Sillers, F. O.
[21] Sperry, B.0. p. 436
[22] "Population Composition by Race and Per Cent: By County For Mississippi: 1950, 1960, and 1970." In *Mississippi Statistical Abstract 1970.* Division of Research, College of Business and Industry, Mississippi State University. January, 1970.

Criterion C: Architecture

The AMPCO Manufacturing plant is locally significant under Criterion C: Architecture as an example of an early pre-engineered? large metal industrial factory building.

The AMPCO building is from Generation 1 of Butler Manufacturing Company, which was manufactured from 1948 to 1959.[23] The bowstring roof shape and BRI metal panels used to skin the building characterize the buildings of this period. There are 6 separate buildings shown on the preliminary AMPCO plan. Four of the buildings are attached to create the main factory building. There is a separate paint mixing building and a pump house.

The original preliminary drawings produced by the manufacturer (Figures 1-3), Butler Manufacturing Company, included a plan sheet, a sheet of elevations and a sheet with a perspective drawing. All were drawn by J. Pilkinton in December 1953. The preliminary plan sheet is dated December 8, 1953, the elevation sheet is dated December 9, 1953 and a perspective drawing is dated December 10, 1953. The original plans call for four equal bays for the main factory building with a smaller fifth bay centered on the far end of the building to be used as an office. A small passageway connects the third bay to another similar sized building to the north.

The buildings are noted in the title block on the original plan sheet (Figure 3) as follows:

1. **Building A** – noted as “multi 60’ bowstring”, 240’ x 280’ x 14’
2. **Building B** – noted as “bowstring office building”, 60’ x 80’ x 10’
3. **Building C** – noted as “bowstring paint & drying building”, 60’ x 160’ x 14’
4. **Building D** – noted as “RFGEA passageway”, 20’ x 40’ x 10’
5. **Building E** – noted as “RFGE paint mix building”, 20’ x 20’ x 10’
6. **Building F** – noted as “pump house”, 8’ x 12’ x 8’

[23] Hudson, Kate. “Butler Metal Buildings.” https://masdillah.com/ . Accessed on August 27, 2020.

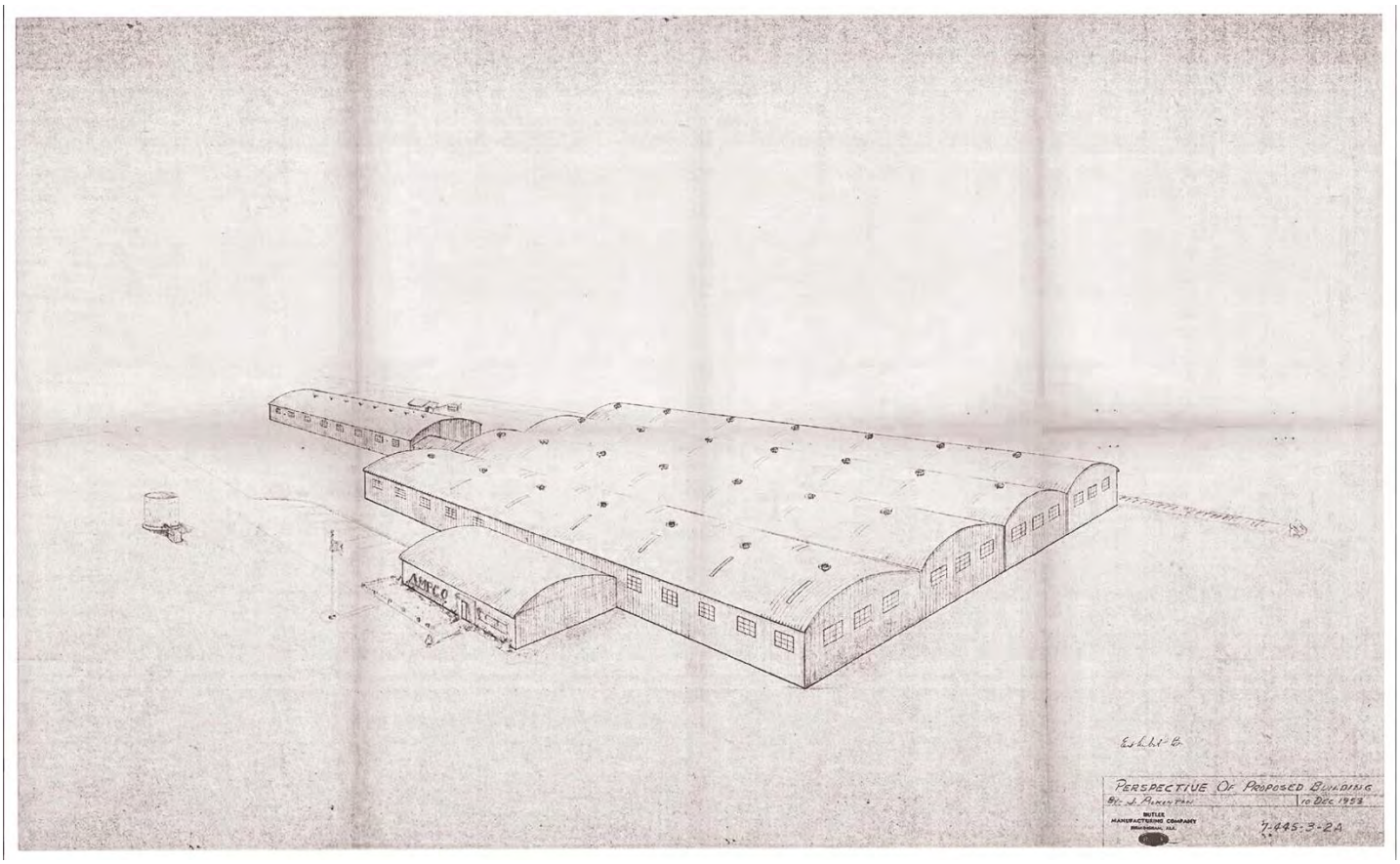

Figure 1: Perspective of Proposed Building by J. Pilkinton. Butler Manufacturing Company Birmingham, Ala. 10 Dec 1953. (Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Series 1736/Box 4773, Folder 16, Rosedale, MS)

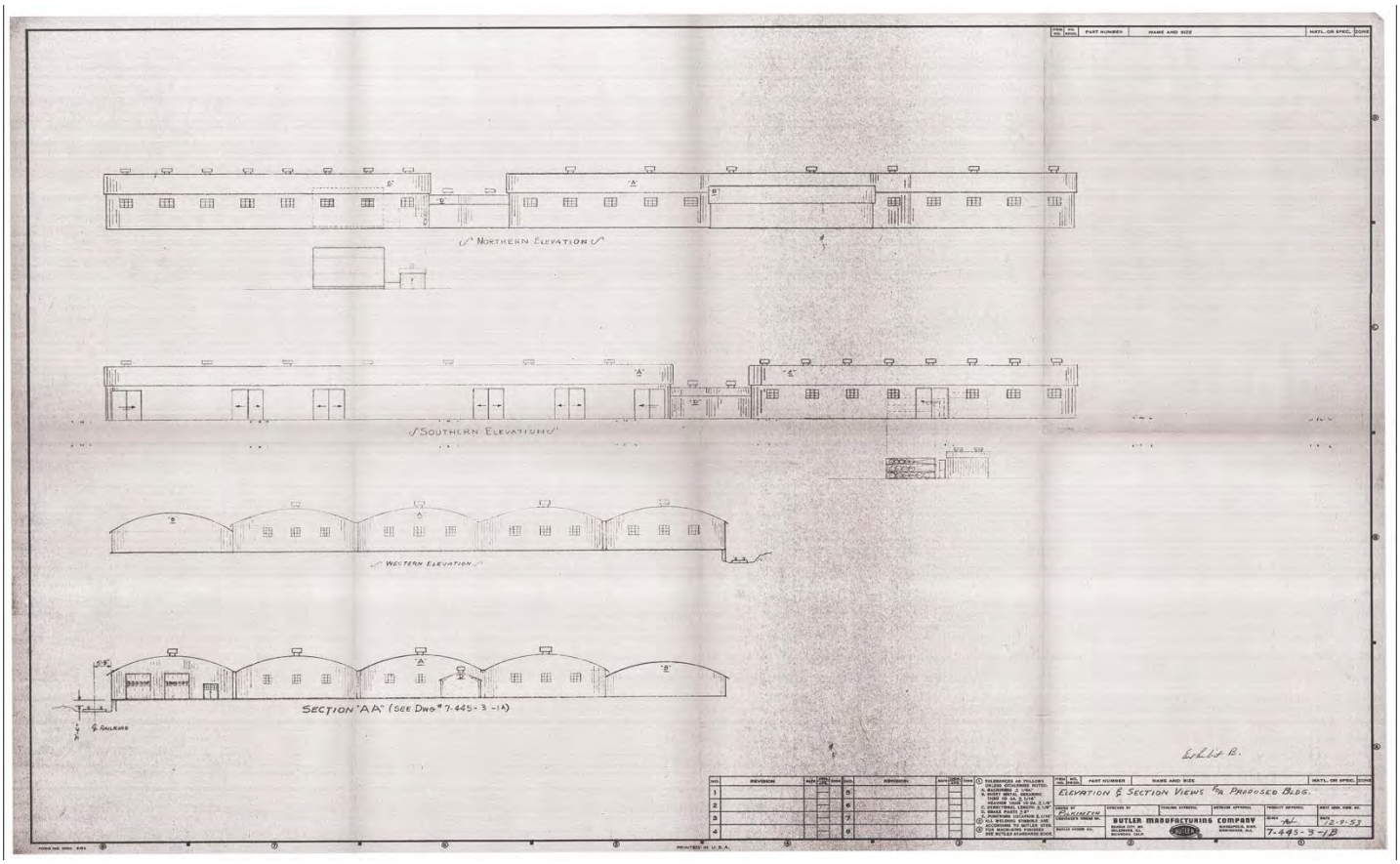

Figure 2: Elevation and Section Views for Proposed Bldg. Drawn by Pilkinton 12-9-53 (Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Series 1736/Box 4773, Folder 16, Rosedale, MS)

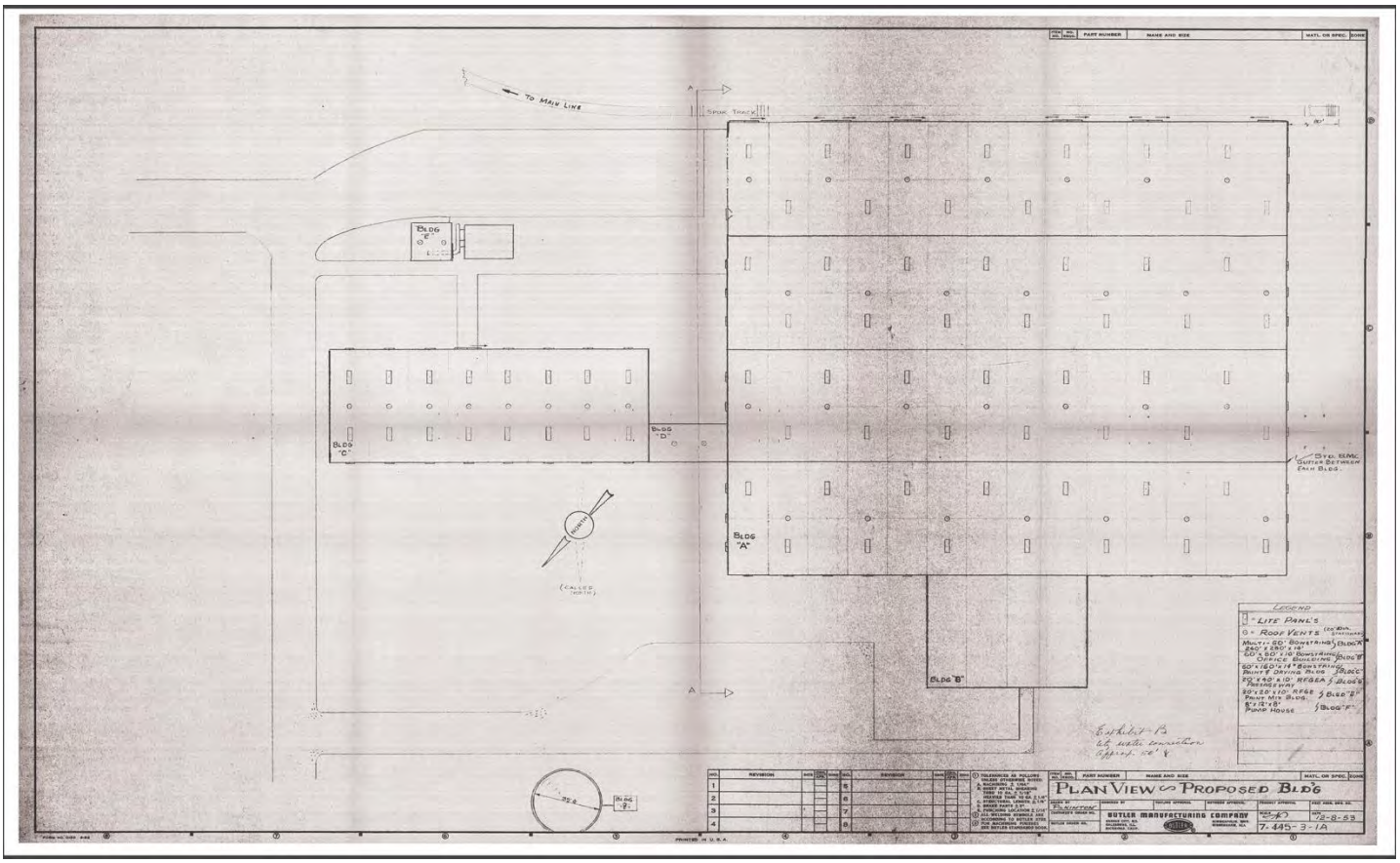

Figure 3: Plan View-Proposed Bldg. Drawn by Pilkinton 12-8-53 (Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Series 1736/Box 4773, Folder 16, Rosedale, MS)

According to a 1955 photograph taken shortly after construction, the building was likely modified as-built by removing the passageway on the third bay and creating one longer bay. All bays except the bay adjacent to the office building were enlarged from the original plans. It was built in a telescoping configuration, most likely to accommodate the flow of the metal cabinet assembly line. The buildings are comprised of a series of 20' x 60' pre-engineered rigid frame structures with a rounded roof shape known as a "bowstring" roof. This shape evolved from the arched Quonset configuration which was popular during World War II. The Quonset is characterized by one continuous arc of wall and roof. The shape is an efficient use of materials, but the "walls" curve inward and the floor space adjacent to the walls is not full height. This efficient but limiting shape was being phased out by the late 1940's. Pre-engineered construction evolved, but the economy of the arched shape remained. Arched roof structures offer a longer span than the same amount of steel configured in a flat roof shape, thus the bowstring roof shape atop a rectilinear rigid steel frame was born.

Figure 4: 1955 Aerial photo – www.historicalaerials.com

The guardhouse, garage 3, water tower and well house are all visible in the 1955 photo. By 1967, the bay adjacent to the office building was enlarged to the size of the easternmost bays, the 200-foot section of the fifth bay was added along with the perpendicular addition to the rear and the shipping and receiving dock, and garages 1 and 2 were constructed. The only visible changes between the 1967 photo and the current state are the addition to the rear of the office building and the addition on the north end of the longest bay of the main factory building. Some smaller ancillary buildings on the northeast corner of the site appear to have been demolished between 1967 and current day.

Figure 5: 1967 Aerial Photos – www.historicalaerials.com

A workflow graphic and a site plan illustrating use of the buildings (Figures 6 and 7) shows that raw steel was received at the loading dock on the west side of the building. An area for raw steel storage was located to the south of the loading dock. After being inspected, the steel was sent to the fabricating department. Following the stamping inspection, the cabinet forms were sent to the welding department. Following inspection of the welding, the cabinets were sent to the finishing department, where they were painted. The cabinets then proceeded to paint inspection and the packing department. After being packed, the cabinets either were sent to storage or shipped via a rail line on the west side of the plant.

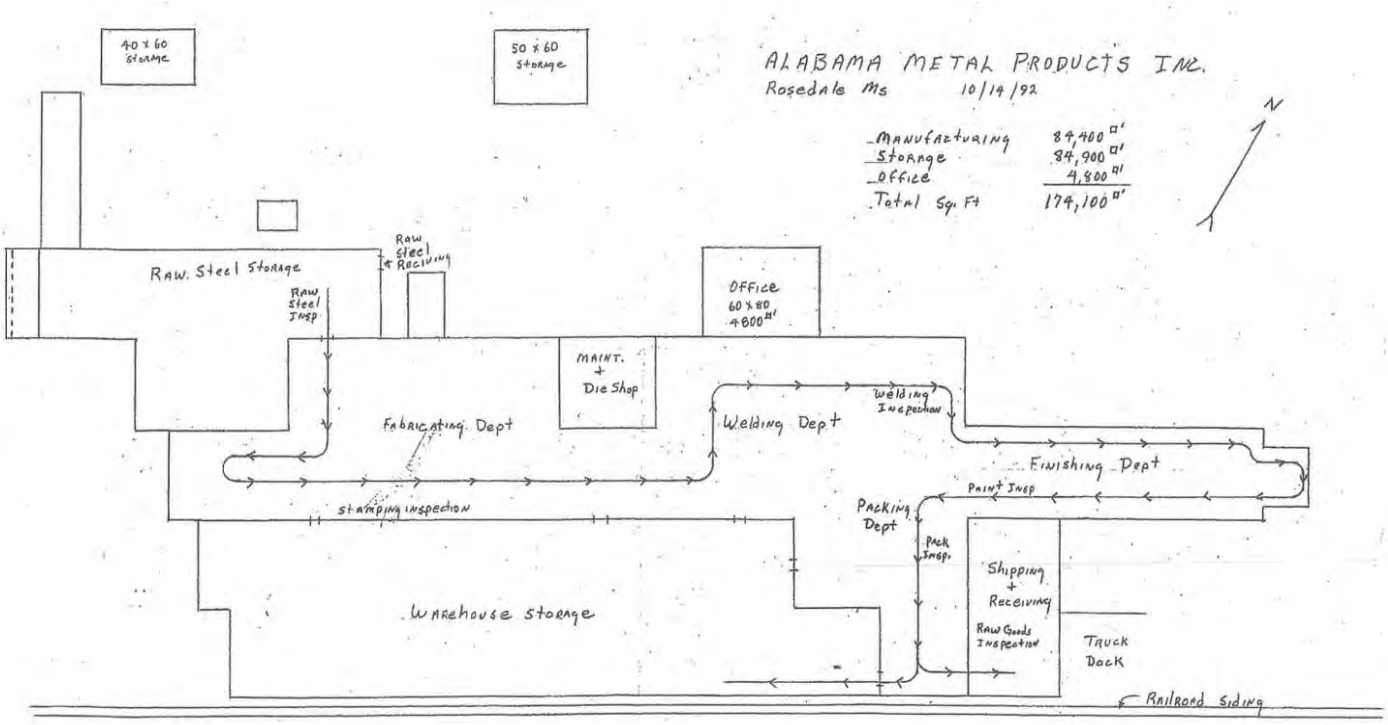

Figure 6: Site Plan Showing Work Flow, dated 10/14/92 (Owner's Collection) Rosedale, MS

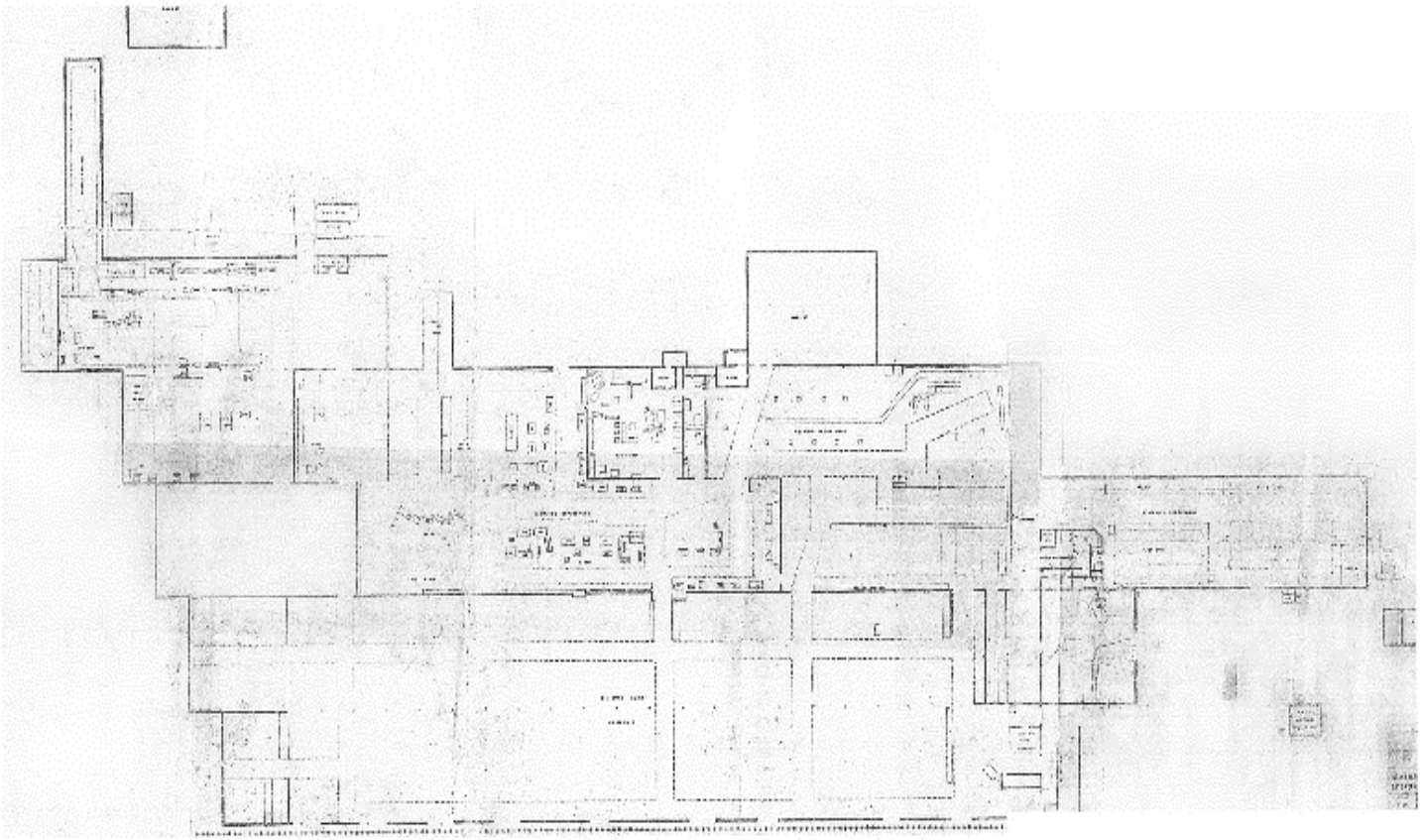

Figure 7: Site Plan Showing Use (Owner's Collection) Rosedale, MS

The arrival of steel for the plant made local news, as the *Delta Democrat Times* reported on October 10, 1963 that "workmen today were unloading a barge load of steel at Greenville Port Terminal." The steel was shipped to the Delta from Granite City, Illinois.[24] In addition to cabinetry, the plant produced items such as a "lock-up cabinet," designed to secure dangerous household and garden chemical products.[25] Later in the plant's history, efforts to diversify the product line included the manufacture of metal copy machine stands.[26]

Typewritten histories of the AMPCO Manufacturing Plant convey the pride and ownership that employees at the plant felt for the company. One record, dated July 12, 1988, states that:

> "AMPCO operates its own Tool & Die Shop for the repair and manufacture of new tooling. All metal painting is done in-house. Almost every fabricated item used in the production of AMPCO products, including drawer slides and hinges, is manufactured in-house. These in-house capabilities have the tremendous advantage of providing AMPCO with the opportunity to control quality and cost. Just as AMPCO has developed its independent manufacturing capabilities, it has developed an internal staff consisting of trained specialists in design engineering, material control, industrial engineers, tool and die, moldmaking, coating technicians, sanitation engineers, traffic managers and EDP specialists."[27]

Figure 8: Showroom of AMPCO Kitchen Cabinets (Owner's Collection)

[24] (1963, 10 October) "Load of Steel Arrives Here." *Delta Democrat Times,* p.2
[25] (1981, 20 October) "Rosedale Firm Offers Lock-up Cabinet." *Clarksdale Press Register*. p. 2B
[26] "A History of Alabama Metal Products, Inc." July 12,1988. Owner's Collection, Rosedale, MS.
[27] Ibid.

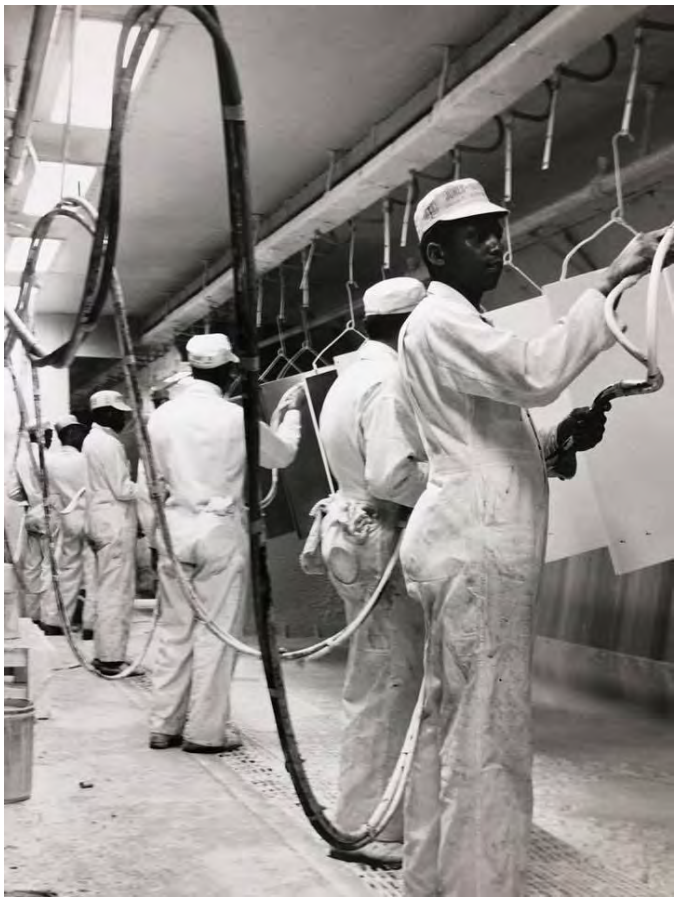

Figure 9: Workers Painting Cabinets (Owner's Collection)

Promotional materials for the company touted its versatility:

> "If your needs are "concept to finish" product capability or our special expertise in sheet metal forming, resistance to M.I.G. welding, high pressure laminating, painting, assembly and packaging, then AMPCO is your organization. We are a qualified supplier to the Federal Government, manufacturing a host of products to Military and GSA specifications and we are fully bondable. Our experience, location, equipment and dedicated work force will guarantee consistent delivery of high-quality products of very competitive prices."[28]

[28] Advertisement for AMPCO Manufacturing Plant, Undated.

Figure 10: Worker Assembling Cabinet (Owner's Collection)

The AMPCO building is locally architecturally significant as an intact example of an early assembly line manufacturing building in the Mississippi Delta that operated successfully for almost 50 years.

Figure 9: Aerial View of AMPCO Manufacturing Plant Approximately 1955, looking West (Owner's Collection)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Chaney, M.B. (1953, December 24) "Notice of Bond Election City of Rosedale, Mississippi." *Bolivar County Democrat*, vol. 64

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"Load of Steel Arrives Here," *Delta Democrat Times* (Greenville, Mississippi), 10 October 1963, pg. 2.

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Register, Clometa, Interview by Lolly Rash, Personal Interview, Jackson, Mississippi, May 27, 2019.

"Rosedale firm offers lock-up cabinet," (advertisement), *Clarksdale Press Register* (Clarksdale, Mississippi), 20 October 1981, pg. 2B.

Sperry, B.O., (2010) *Caught "Between our Moral and Material Selves": Mississippi's Elite White "Moderates" and their Role in Changing Race Relations, 1945-1956* [Published Doctorate Dissertation] Case Western Reserve University.

"The AMPCO Division," typewritten history of company, Undated. Owner's Collection, Rosedale, MS

Warranty Deed, State of Mississippi, Bolivar County, dated September 1, 2000, Book H160, Page 520.

(1954, January 21). "$300,000 Bond Issue Approved by Voters." *Bolivar County Democrat,* vol. 68

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
X 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:

X State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State Agency
____ Federal Agency
____ Local Government
____ University
X Other
Name of repository: Owner's Collection

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 011-ROS-0287

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 14 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	33.868237	-91.020422	3	33.864050	-91.018424
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude
2	33.866417	-91.022203	4	33.865919	-91.016927
	Latitude	Longitude		Latitude	Longitude

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

Beginning where the center line of Goff's Bayou intersects the West boundary of the right of way of the Illinois Central Railroad Company in the Southwest Quarter of Section 3, Township 23 North, Range 8 West, which point of beginning is 101 feet North of and 672 feet West of the Southeast Corner of the said Southwest Quarter and run thence North 38 degrees 51 minutes East along the said West boundary of the said right of way of said railroad company a distance of 882 feet, thence North 49 degrees 47 minutes West a distance of 1083 feet to the center of Goff's Bayou, thence in a general Easterly direction along the center of Goff's Bayou a distance of approximately 643 feet to the point of beginning and containing 14.00 acres of land, more or less and being the same property conveyed by deed to Alabama Metal Products Company, Inc., dated March 6, 1954, and recorded in Book H-10 at page 637 of the records on file in the Office of the Chancery Clerk of Bolivar County, Mississippi at Rosedale.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries follow the property lines of the parcel of land upon which the nominated resource is located.

11. Form Prepared By

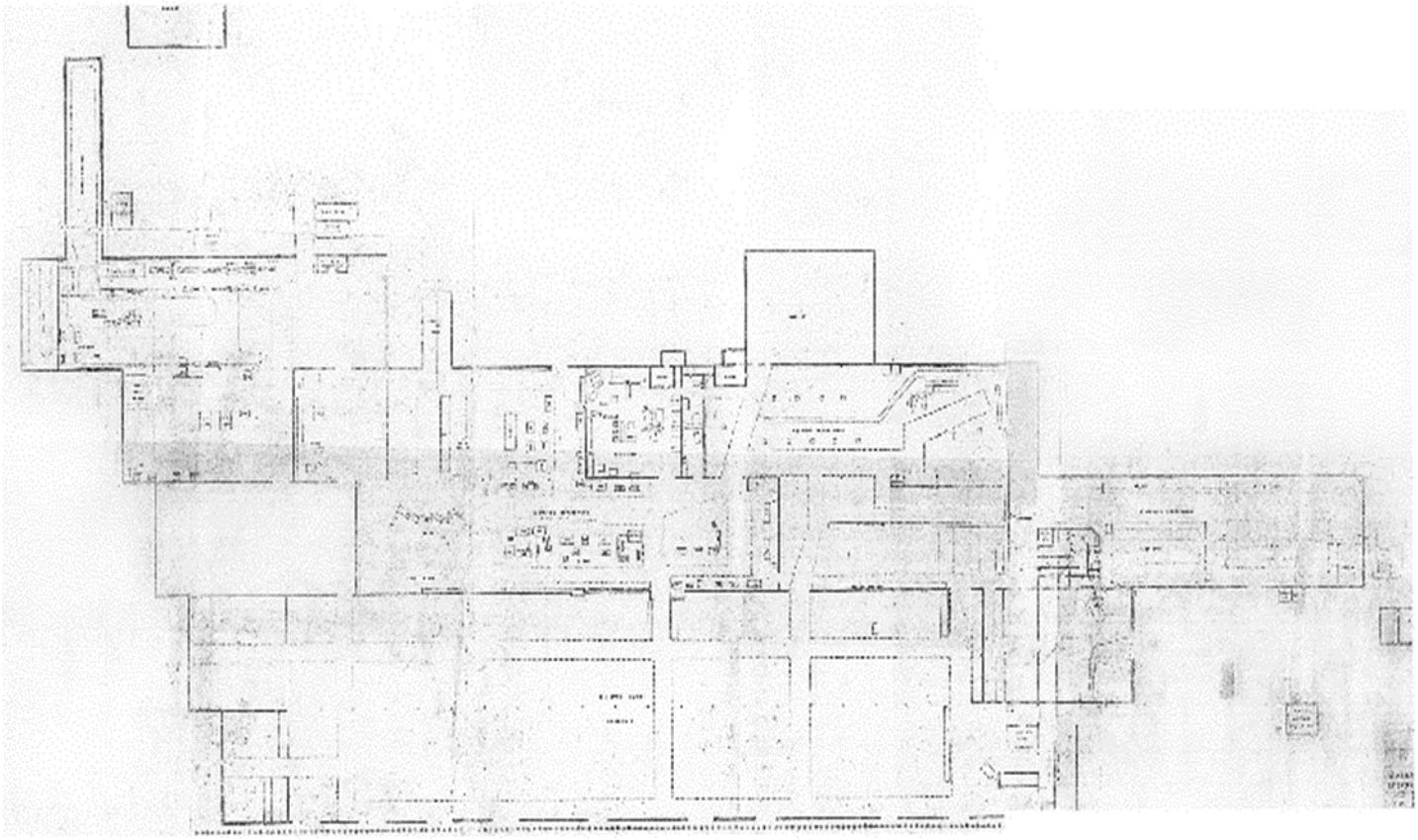
name/title Claire Winn, Director of Programs date September 1, 2020
organization Mississippi Heritage Trust telephone 601.807.1856
street & number P.O. Box 577 email claire@mississippiheritage.com
city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39205

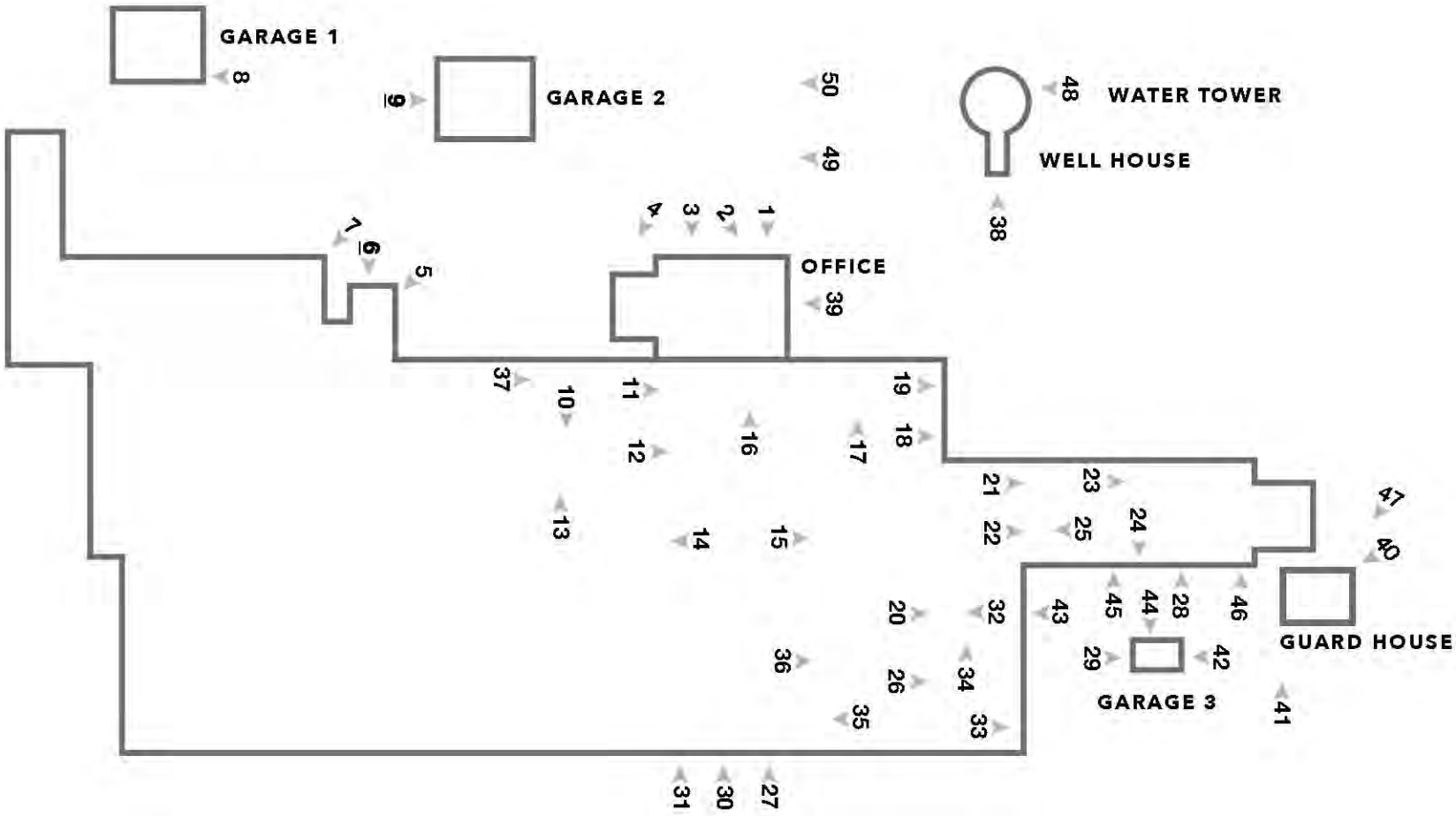
Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map-Google Earth**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**

AMPCO Manufacturing

Lat: 33.515267 N
Long: -91.1642 W





AMPCO MANUFACTURING PLANT
ROSEDALE, MS PHOTO KEY

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs under separate cover. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, 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 does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: **AMPCO Manufacturing Plant**

City or Vicinity: **Rosedale**

County: **Bolivar** **State:** **Mississippi**

Photographer: **Lolly Rash**

Date Photographed: **April 22, 2019**

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

Photo 1 of 50	West Elevation View to East
Photo 2 of 50	West Elevation View to East
Photo 3 of 50	West Elevation View to East
Photo 4 of 50	West Elevation View to East
Photo 5 of 50	West Elevation View to East Loading Dock
Photo 6 of 50	West Elevation View to East Loading Dock
Photo 7 of 50	West Elevation View to East
Photo 8 of 50	Garage 1 View to South
Photo 9 of 50	Garage 2 View to North West
Photo 10 of 50	Interior View to West
Photo 11 of 50	Interior View to South West
Photo 12 of 50	Interior View to North
Photo 13 of 50	Interior View to West
Photo 14 of 50	Interior View to North
Photo 15 of 50	Interior View to West
Photo 16 of 50	Interior View to West
Photo 17 of 50	Interior View to West
Photo 18 of 50	Interior View to North
Photo 19 of 50	Interior Detail Ceiling Girders
Photo 20 of 50	Interior View to West
Photo 21 of 50	Interior Detail Machinery
Photo 22 of 50	Interior Detail Machinery
Photo 23 of 50	Interior View to North
Photo 24 of 50	Garage 3 View to East
Photo 25 of 50	Interior View to North
Photo 26 of 50	Interior Detail Stock Room
Photo 27 of 50	Exterior Detail Rail Line View to North West
Photo 28 of 50	East Elevation View to North West
Photo 29 of 50	Garage 3 View to North
Photo 30 of 50	East Elevation View to South West
Photo 31 of 50	East Elevation View to North West
Photo 32 of 50	Interior Detail Garage Doors
Photo 33 of 50	Interior Detail Ceiling Girders

Photo 34 of 50	Interior Detail Stock Room
Photo 35 of 50	Interior View to South
Photo 36 of 50	Interior View to North
Photo 37 of 50	Interior Detail Door
Photo 38 of 50	Well Building and Water Tower View to West
Photo 39 of 50	North Elevation View to South of Office Building
Photo 40 of 50	Guard House View to South East
Photo 41 of 50	Guard House View to South West
Photo 42 of 50	Garage 3 and North Elevation View to South
Photo 43 of 50	North Elevation View to South
Photo 44 of 50	Garage 3 View to North East
Photo 45 of 50	East Elevation View to North West
Photo 46 of 50	East Elevation View to North
Photo 47 of 50	North Elevation of Guard House View to South
Photo 48 of 50	Well House and Water Tower View to South West
Photo 49 of 50	Exterior Detail Sign
Photo 50 of 50	West Elevation View to South

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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