

PRATT & WHITNEY PLANT
Forge & Casting
(Pratt & Whitney Plant, Building No. 88)
1500-2000 East Bannister Road
Kansas City
Jackson County
Missouri

HAER No. MO-118-AG

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Midwest Regional Office
National Park Service
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, Nebraska 68102

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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- Location: 1500–2000 East Bannister Road, Kansas City, Jackson County, Missouri
- Present Owner: U. S. Department of Energy, National Nuclear Security Administration
- Present Use: This building serves as an area for sheet metal fabrication and miscellaneous storage.
- Significance: From the initial years of Pratt & Whitney with its Double Wasp engines, through the years of Westinghouse, responsible for manufacturing the J34 Gas Turbine engine, to the development of thermonuclear weapon components during the Cold War, the Kansas City Plant housed a multi-disciplinary engineering and manufacturing facility tied to the nation's homeland security. Due to the diversified requirements of subsequent corporations, the original Pratt & Whitney Plant was modified and added to, meeting the needs of ongoing technological advances while retaining the structural elements that made this complex a landmark of American industrial design. The Forge and Casting building housed the processing of forming metal parts for Pratt & Whitney.
- Report prepared by: Cydney Millstein, principal, architectural historian
Architectural & Historical Research, L.L.C., Kansas City, Missouri
- Mary Ann Warfield, cultural historian, Kansas City, Missouri
- Date: April 9, 2012

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Date of Construction: 1943
2. Architect/Engineer: Albert Kahn Associated Architects and Engineers, Detroit, Michigan
3. Builder/Contractor/Supplier: Long-Turner Construction Company, Kansas City
4. Original Plans: Yes
5. Alterations and Additions: Yes

B. Historical Context

The Forge and Casting Building housed the manufacturing process of forming metal parts (involving temperature and shaping) for airplanes and machinery.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

The building brick building features three floors in some sections, occupies 35,960 gross square feet and has a dimension of approximately 120' x 240'.

1. Architectural Character: Warspeed Construction
2. Condition of Fabric: Excellent

B. Description of Exterior

1. Foundation: Concrete
2. Walls: Brick
3. Structural System: Concrete Moment Frame
4. Roof: Flat

C. Description of Interior

Due to restricted access, the interior could not be examined.

D. Site

This building is located toward the north end of the test cell section of the Main Manufacturing Plant, between Buildings No. 41 and 87.

PART III. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Primary Sources

Kahn, Albert. Archives, Albert Kahn and Associates, Detroit, Michigan.

Kahn, Albert and Associates. "Factory Construction." *Architectural Forum* October 1942.

Kahn, Albert Associated Architects & Engineers, Inc. Aircraft Engine Plant for United Air Corporation of Missouri. Various dates. Job No. 1927. Archives at Albert Kahn Associates, Detroit, Michigan.

NNSA Archives. Bannister Federal Complex, 1500-2000 East Bannister Road, Kansas City, Missouri.