**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY**
**BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT**
**CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION**
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

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1. **BUILDING NAME (Common)**
   Sanford and Hawley Company

2. **TOWN CITY**
   Farmington

3. **STREET AND NUMBER (and location)**
   1790 Farmington Avenue

4. **OWNER(S)**
   Sanford and Hawley Company

5. **USE (Present)**
   Construction materials business

6. **ACCESSIBILITY**
   Exterior visible from public road: Yes
   Interior accessible: Yes
   If yes explain: during business hours

7. **STYLE OF BUILDING**
   Nineteenth-century commercial

8. **MATERIALS** (indicate use or location when appropriate)
   - Clapboard
   - Wood Shingle
   - Board & Batten
   - Aluminum Siding

9. **STRUCTURAL SYSTEM**
   - Load bearing masonry
   - Post and beam
   - Structural iron or steel

10. **ROOF**
    - Gable
    - Gambrel
    - Hip
    - Roll
    - Built up

11. **NUMBER OF STORIES**
    - 2½

12. **CONDITION**
    - Excellent
    - Fair
    - Deteriorated

13. **INTEGRITY**
    - On original site
    - Moved

14. **RELATED OUTBUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES**
    - Barn
    - Carriage house
    - Other landscape features or buildings: numerous outbuildings relating to lumber business

15. **SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT**
    - Open land
    - Woodland
    - Residential
    - Commercial

16. **INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS**
    - This building is located directly on the east bank of Roaring Brook at the intersection of West Avon Road and Farmington Avenue in Unionville. A lumber yard with numerous outbuildings on the west completes this commercial complex.
Although an 1885 photograph reveals that this commercial building originally consisted of one gable-roofed section, the present building has three additions, one on either end of the original central main block. Together they make an extended wood-framed building with its gable end facing south onto Farmington Avenue. Both the original roof and its slightly lower southern addition display raking cornices and slight cornice returns. The fenestration of the building is a combination of original and modern windows with the retention of original sash generally at the second story. An unusual feature is the sliding wooden door at the second level of the south section on the east elevation.

The site of Sanford and Hawley's headquarters in Unionville can be traced from the 1830s as one of the two clock factories operated by the firm of Seymour, Williams, and Porter. The site is most clearly depicted in an 1832 quit-claim deed from Solomon Langdon to Seymour, Williams, and Porter for a section of land "beginning at the line of the highway" (Farmington Avenue) and having a "brook running through the same" (FLR 45:81). Seymour, Williams, and Porter definitely had a building on the site by the late 1830s when they lost the property to Timothy Cowles for $16,903.30 in damages (FLR 47:250-255). The factory was damaged by fire in 1837, though most of it survived. In 1850 Cowles deeded a six-acre tract to Edward K. Hamilton at the same location with buildings and water privileges (FLR 51:254). Hamilton established a button factory which by 1869 had changed to a hook & eye factory. His son James E., a Civil War veteran, ran the business until 1884 when the property with buildings was sold to Frank and Sherman Sanford (FLR 68:86). The Sanford and Hawley association developed out of Sherman's (b. 1835, Avon) successful logging and lumber business founded at about the time of his relocation to Unionville in 1861. He was eventually joined by his nephew Frank (b. 1853) in a partnership with Frank acting as a dealer in lumber, hardware building materials. They established their headquarters at the former factory site purchased from James E. Hamilton. That same year Sherman retired and Frank was joined by his brother-in-law C.R. Hawley, thus the business became known as Sanford and Hawley. C.R. Hawley died in 1920, having been the firm's bookkeeper since their union formed.

SOURCES

PHOTOGRAPHER
Alex Pareades

DATE
5/85

VIEW
NW

NEGATIVE ON FILE
4:20A

NAME
Gilbert Ramos

DATE
8/85

ORGANIZATION
Greater Middletown Preservation Trust

ADDRESS
27 Washington St., Middletown, CT

SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE
None known.
Highways
Vandalism
Developers
Other

Renewal
Private
Deterioration
Zoning
Explanation
In 1922 when Frank's son Truman F. joined the company, Sherman quit-claimed his rights to the company to Frank (FLR 82:102) and it was inherited by his widow Marion Sanford (1851-1934) in 1923. Truman F., sole proprietor of Sanford and Hawley, received title to the company's headquarters upon his mother's death (FLR 74:677). The company, incorporated in 1950, has had a major role in Unionville's development and remains the longest continually operated business in the area. The site is historically significant for its long industrial/commercial history.