

SIMONDS MANUFACTURING COMPANY, BUILDING No. 14
(Simonds Saw and Steel Company)
23-55 North Street
Fitchburg
Worcester County
Massachusetts

HABS No. MA-1265-D

HABS
MASS
14-FIT,
4D-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
National Park Service
Northeast Region
U.S. Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HABS
MASS
14-FIT,
4D-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SIMONDS MANUFACTURING COMPANY, Building No. 14
(Simonds Saw and Steel Company)

HABS No. MA-1265-D

Location: 23-55 North Street
Fitchburg
Worcester County, Massachusetts

USGS Fitchburg Quadrangle
UTM Coordinates: 19.270760.4717800

Significance: The building is significant as part of the plant of Simonds Manufacturing Company, a maker of saws and machine knives. From the late 19th century to the present, the company has been one of Fitchburg's major manufacturers. This building was used for hardening processes, in which the saw blades were treated with heat and chemicals, and also for blacksmithing, in which the saws were tempered by repeated hammering. Its single-story height, monitors, and steel internal framing are characteristic of early 20th-century mill design for heat-process buildings.

Description: The single-story building measures 112' x 83' in plan, with two unequal gabled-roofed bays, each with a large ridge monitor. All but the steel-framed east wall are brick, with segmental-arched, stone-silled openings now boarded up. On the south elevation, each portion has a central loading door, with additional garage-door openings on the east side. The interior is unpartitioned and features a concrete floor, plate-girder posts, and angle-iron trusses supporting the roof and monitors.

History: This building was built around 1916 as part of World War I-period expansion of the plant.

Sources: Sanborn Map and Publishing Co. Insurance Maps of Fitchburg. New York, 1902; updated to 1921. Fitchburg Historical Society.
Simonds Manufacturing Co. Seventy-Five Years of Business Progress and Industrial Advance, 1832-1907. Cambridge, Mass.: University Press, [1907].

Historian: Bruce Clouette
Historic Resource Consultants, Inc.
July 23, 1992