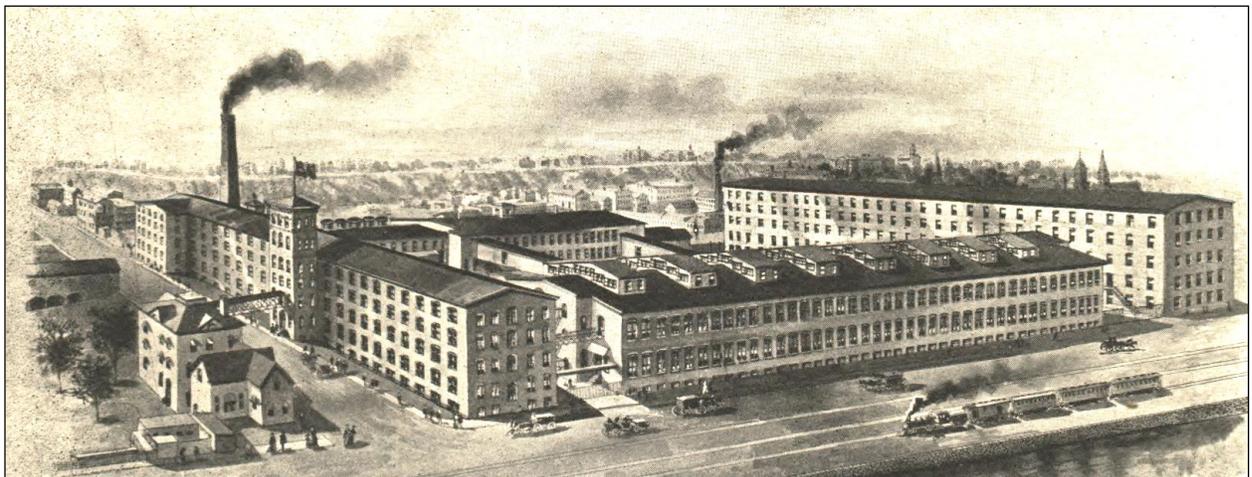


# Historic American Engineering Record Documentation Naugatuck Rubber Factories Complex (U.S. Rubber) Naugatuck, Connecticut

HAER No. CT-21

Prior to redevelopment in the 1980s, the area between Church Street and Water Street in downtown Naugatuck was the site of one of the oldest and largest rubber factories in the world. Senior Historian Bruce Clouette, Ph.D. recorded the dozens of buildings in this complex for the Historic American Engineering Record, a national repository of documentations of engineering and industrial sites maintained by the National Park Service. The documentation included 77 pages of text, 30 high-quality 4" by 5" photographs taken by Wayne Fleming Photography under Clouette's direction, 107 color slides, and site plans. The original documentation package was archived at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., with a second copy in the Connecticut Historic Preservation Collection at the Dodd Research Center, University of Connecticut, in Storrs.

*The Naugatuck Footwear Plant was the largest employer and most important economic institution in Naugatuck for one hundred years, beginning in 1880. The plant was also important in the development of the nation's rubber industry: its original owners were the first license-holders to Charles Goodyear's vulcanizing patent; the plant was an original part of United States Rubber Company; and in the first three decades of the 20th century the plant saw the introduction of new manufacturing and management techniques for the rubber industry. In recent years the plant has continued to symbolize the industrial history of the area, an unfortunate episode of plant closings and employment losses. The buildings also represent typical practice in factory construction for the period from the mid-19th century to World War I (from the Summary Statement of Significance).*



*Artist's view of the Goodyear Metallic Rubber Shoe Company's Factory No. 2, 1906.*