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HISTORIC		<u>~</u>		
AND/OR COMMO	Smith Warehouse N			.1
2 LOCATIO	ON			
STREET & NUMBE		_		
CITY, TOWN	100 N. Buchanan B	oulevard	NOT FOR PUBLICATION CONGRESSIONAL DIS	
	Durham	. VICINITY OF	2nd	
STATE	North Carolina	CODE 037	county Durham	063
3 CLASSIF	ICATION			
CATEGOR	Y OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRE	SENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
_XBUILDING(S)STRUCTURE	XPRIVATE BOTH	_UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUIS	WORKIN PRO SITION ACCESSIB		PRIVATE RESIDENCE T RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS	X_YES RESTRIC	TEDGOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
	N/A _BEING CONSIDERED	YES UNRESTE	RICTED X_INDUSTRIALMILITARY	TRANSPORTATIONOTHER
MOWNER (	OF PROPERTY			
NAME				
	Liggett and Myers	Tobacco Company		
STREET & NUMBE	700 W. Main St.,	P. O. Box 1572		
CITY, TOWN			STATE	
Contraction of the Contraction o	Durham ON OF LEGAL D	VICINITY OF	North Caroli	nd .
COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEE	Register of Durham Cou	r beeds nty Judicial Buil	ding	
STREET & NUMBER	٩			
CITY. TOWN	201 E. Mai	n St.	STATE	
	Durham		North Car	colina
8 FORM PR	EPARED BY			
NAME / TITLE	Claudia Roberts			
ORGANIZATION	Consultant to the	e City of Durham	DATE	
J. J. S.			June 1984	
STREET & NUMBER			TELEPHONE	
CITY OR TOWN	301 E. Poplar Ave	2.	919/968-118 STATE	
	Carrboro		North Carolin	na



#### CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

\_\_EXCELLENT

\_\_DETERIORATED

X\_UNALTERED
\_\_ALTERED

XORIGINAL SITE

≚GOOD \_FAIR

\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_RUINS

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Due to its monumental form and detailed decorative program, Smith Warehouse is among Durham's foremost architectural landmarks. Of the twelve tobacco warehouses and processing buildings erected by The American Tobacco Company trust beginning in 1897, Smith Warehouse is the largest and newest, constructed in 1906. Of all of these robust brick buildings so important in determining the character of their area, Smith Warehouse is the only one set apart, located at the extreme west end of the irregularly shaped mixed industrial and commercial district that rings Durham's Central Business District. Surrounded by narrow, gravel-covered loading areas, the extremely long building is perpendicular to S. Buchanan Blvd. and sandwiched between the main line of the Southern Railway on the north and Maxwell St. to the south. blocks of modest turn-of-the-century houses on the south side of Maxwell St. facing Smith are a remnant of the West End neighborhood that developed to the south and west in response to the construction in the industrial area. These blocks have been isolated from the rest of the neighborhood by the East-West Expressway which affords a good view of the south side of the warehouse from its embankment above the houses. On the north side of Smith Warehouse, a line of mature cypress trees screens the building from W. Main St. and the East Campus of Duke University directly oppostite.

The exuberant design of Smith Warehouse recalls medieval architecture and has been variously termed Romanesque Revival or Norman Revival in style. Although the building is elaborate, especially for industrial use, its rich decorative program is strictly controlled so that it very precisely articulates the subdivision of the building by projecting fire walls and the grid of pilasters, string courses and cornices that covers each facade. This ornamentation of actual structural elements or of features that directly correspond to structural elements (such as string courses in line with floors) reflects the collaboration of the engineers and talented but now anonymous brick masons that created the building. The ornamented grids, the careful positioning of decorative chimneys on the parapet steps of the fire walls and end walls, and the repetition of scores of regularly placed windows and doors render Smith Warehouse a rhythmical and unified composition.

The two-story Smith Warehouse is 850 feet long and 100 feet wide, composed of twelve approximately 70-foot-wide units placed side by side. Each unit is rectangular except for the one at the east end which is polygonal so that the east elevation of the warehouse is parallel to S. Buchanan Blvd. The exterior walls are of locally fired variegated light red-orange brick laid in four-to-one common bond. Along the entire north side there is a four-foot-high brick and concrete platform; on the south side there is a small loading dock for each unit. Like the earlier warehouses and processing buildings, each unit, built to hold 3,000 hogsheads, is divided into five bays by pilasters. The very shallow gable roof is concealed by the parapets of the seven-bay end walls and 18-inch-thick fire walls between each unit. The units step down where necessary due to the grade of the site. The projecting corbelled ends of the fire wall parapets disguise the break and make the transition between units fairly subtle.

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Continuation sheet Smith Warehouse-

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In each five-bay unit the pilasters rise unbroken to the cornice except for a narrow rectangular recessed panel fourteen courses tall in each story. Each bay is slightly recessed from the pilasters, base, string course and cornice, which are all in a single plane. Every bay contains a narrow segmental arched opening in each story, except for the middle bay of each unit; here there is a pair of narrow segmental arched openings in the second story and in the first a single segmental arched doorway the width of the pair above. All openings have sills and lintels of two courses of headers; in addition, there are two courses of corbelled bricks above the lintels of the doors. A single tin-clad shutter hinged at one side remains attached to most of the narrow openings; all are filled with metal louvered vents. The wider openings contain pairs of solid tin-clad doors. On the south elevation, projecting downward from one of the vents above each door, there is a metal shoot through which insecticide is sprayed into the second story. There are no openings in the end walls.

The ornamental brickwork of Smith Warehouse's elevations is identical to that of Watts and Yuille Warehouses (NR) built two years earlier. The confinement of most of the decoration to each bay between the pilasters rather than running across them as in some of the earliest American Tobacco Company warehouses also helps render the stepdowns between units inconspicuous by diverting attention from the periodic breaks in the facade. Beneath the pilasters on all sides of the warehouse, a single row of mousetoothing runs beneath the string courses. On the long facades, there are corbelled dentils at the bottom of the cornice between the pilasers; only a single course of mousetoothing above runs unbroken within each unit across the pilasters. Short corbelled chimneys with a course of mousetoothing at the top and two very narrow recessed pointed arched panels on their outer faces mark the tops of the ventilator shafts behind the pilasters between the fire and end walls of the long elevations. Marking the top of the second story on the end walls, there is a decorative band identical to the cornices except that it includes corbelling at the pilasters to resemble capitals. Above this decorative band on the end walls, the pilasters continue their rise into the parapets. Unlike earlier warehouses which have decorative stepped parapets, most of the Smith parapets are low-pitched brick gables without chimney pots; courses of mousetoothing interspersed with simple corbelling appear at the top. Two of the fire wall parapets which are stepped and without any decoration appear to have been rebuilt. Near the bottom north corner of the east facade there is a plaque bearing the words "Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co.," the name of the building, and its year of construction. The cornerstone was altered to carry the Liggett & Myers name after 1911.

On the interior, the structural system of brick walls and heavy timbers is completely exposed. Each unit is a single open space on each floor, broken only by rows of wooden columns and an open freight elevator in the middle. The size and spacing of the columns and the thickness of the floors were determined by the dimensions and weight of the hogsheads. Slightly tapered loblolly pine columns

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support 16-1/2-foot on center, 15-inch by 11-inch heart pine beams. A metal plate screwed to the ends of the beams is sandwiched between the beams and each column. The first floor is cement; the second floor is heart pine, with 3-1/2 inches of decking and 3/4-inch of finished flooring. A single wide opening in the 18-inch-thick fire walls provides interior access from one unit to the next.

#### NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Elizabeth Lloyd Meihack Mansell, "The American Tobacco Company Brick Storage Warehouses in Durham, North Carolina 1897-1906" (M.A. Thesis, University of North Carolina, 1980), p.33.

<sup>2</sup><u>Ibid.</u>, p.43.

<sup>3</sup><u>Ibid.</u>, p.37.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing, and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probably that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

		***			
PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	
1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE	
1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
_1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
X1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	<b>X</b> INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		INVENTION		* 1	

SIGNIFICANCE X NATIONAL STATE

SPECIFIC DATES 1906

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_LOCAL

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Noteworthy from a purely architectural viewpoint, Smith Warehouse built in 1906 also is of great interest as a reflection of cultural and economic developments on local, state and national levels. It stands as a visually exciting symbol of the rapidly growing acceptance of cigarette smoking at the turn of the century and of the tremendous impact of the industrial revolution. Under the drection of industrialist and financier James B. Duke, The American Tobacco Company constructed Smith and other very similar warehouses and processing buildings in Durham for the aging of all of its tobacco, a process feasible for the manufacturer now that all of the major tobacco manufacturing companies were consolidated. The overall size, proportions and interior design of these enormous brick buildings reflect the functional requirements of storing tobacco hogsheads of standardized size and weight. The most striking feature is the use of brick—to create a style evocative of medieval architecture that presents a bold corporate image and, in combination with heavy timber—framed "slow burn construction," to render the warehouse fireproof.

#### CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Smith Warehouse is a dramatic symbol of The American Tobacco Company trust, an industrial empire which controlled approximately 95% of the cigarette trade in the United States before it was dissolved in 1911 because of monopolistic practices.
- B. Smith Warehouse reflects the accomplishments of James B. Duke and the other executives of The American Tobacco Company.
- C. Smith Warehouse is an outstanding example of the turn-of-the-century development of industrial architecture in the "slow burn" masonry and timber-framed construction and in its elaborate decorative program.

The architectural and historical significances of Smith Warehouse are intertwined. Although the structure and style of the building are noteworthy from a purely architectural viewpoint, it is perhaps of greater interest as a reflection of cultural and economic developments on local, state and national levels. Its structural system was engineered to meet the needs of the rapidly growing tobacco industry, while its decorative program of elaborate brickwork was designed in part to present a strong positive image for tobacco in general and The American Tobacco Company, in particular. Their warehouses are visually exciting symbols of The American Tobacco Company, and as such represent the industrial revolution in America during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries when self-made men used their entrepreneurial skills to create financial empires rooted in manufacturing. Founded in 1890 under the direction of James B. Duke, The American Tobacco Company was a trust that controlled ninety-five percent of America's cigarette business before it was dissolved because of monopolistic practices. As an emblem of The American Tobacco Company, Smith Warehouse recalls the fame and influence of the Dukes and their associates whose personal and professional accomplishments directed both the growth and development of the tobacco industry and the city of Durham.

Until the formation of The American Tobacco Comapny trust, tobacco manufacturers had purchased most of their aged tobacco from independent storage warehouses, the majority of them in Danville, Virginia. Although they aged some of the tobacco themselves in their own storage warehouses, it had not been cost effective for the individual manufacturers to build and manage the warehouses for the aging of all of the tobacco they needed. Now, with the concentration of the great majority of the nation's cigarette business (and eventually the entire tobacco industry) in one company,

. . . it was no longer profitable to buy aged tobacco from a middleman. It was more efficient and cheaper to buy the loose leaf off the auction floor, dry and process the leaf, pack it in hogsheads [a large cylindrical wooden barrel] and store it for aging in their own warehouses. The storage warehouses built in Durham between the years 1897 and 1906 helped to guarantee the quality and continuous supply of aged tobacco for manufacturing by the American Tobacco Company.

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Durden, Robert F. The Dukes of Durham, 1865-1929. (Durham: Duke University Press, 1975).

Haas, Frederick, Untitled manuscript on the history of Liggett and Myers Tobacco Co., 1978. In the possession of Carol Jova, Liggett and Myers, 700 W. Main, Durham.

Tilley, Nannie May. The Bright Tobacco Industry: 1860-1948. (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1948).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA	
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.1  UTM REFERENCES	
A 1,7 6 8,7 8,5 0 3,9 8,5 9,0,0 ZONE EASTING NORTHING	B 1,7 6 8,8 0,3,0 B 9 B 5 7,5,0 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION	

Durham County Tax Map 37, Block 1, Lot 1

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The American Tobacco Company erected twelve enormous brick warehouses and processing buildings in Durham--four at the W.T. Blackwell and Co. plant and eight near the W. Duke, Sons and Company Cigarette Factory. Of these, Smith Warehouse was the last to be built in 1906. The most comprehensive account of this building campaign is the master's thesis written by Elizabeth Mansell in 1980. She explains that in every aspect of their design the warehouses were very similar except for variations in height and number of units. Most of their characteristic features reflect functional requirements. Their overall size, proportions and interior designfloor space, ceiling height, and placement and strength of beams, supports and floors-were determined by the size and storage arrangements of the hogsheads. The system of vents, flues, chimneys and louvered windows reflects the need for the buildings to be cool, dry, well-ventiliated and insect-free. Another design requirement was that the storage warehouses be fireproof. In addition, clever advertiser James B. Duke wanted his buildings to project a postive image. All of these requirements were satisifed by the use of heavy timber framing and brick. Together, they reduced the severity of damage while a fire was brought under control. Also, brick was available locally, was prestigious, and was suitable for the ornamental articulation of structure and the creation of a bold style that would enhance the corporate image.

The storage warehouses were meant to provide space for the hogsheads during the three to five years it took the tobacco to age. After redrying, the leaf is prized (pressed into a smaller size) by a hydraulic press into the hogsheads, which are then stacked in three levels in the warehouses. Before the forklift was invented, the hogsheads were placed using a freight elevator and a "low john" and a "high john," a "john" being a platform on wheels used to roll the hogsheads into place. The elevator lifted the hogsheads to the level of the second and third levels of each stack as well as to the upper floor(s) of the warehouse. After the first level was in place, the elevator would raise the next hogshead to the level of the second row where it would be rolled off the elevator onto a low john the height of the second level; then the low john would be pushed to the proper bay where the hogshead would be rolled off and into place. For the third level, the high john was used in the same procedure. The dimensions of the hogsheads determined the placement of the warehouses' supporting posts and ceiling heights. It was essential that the warehouses have both large open spaces and floors strong enough to support the immense weight of the hogsheads. unit of the warehouses could hold 3,000 hogsheads, each of which contained about 1,000 pounds of tobacco.

The enormous timbers and very thick floors that support the weight of the hogsheads also meet the requirement that fire retardent materials be used in the construction of warehouses, which frequently were the target of arsonists. This consideration also encouraged the use of brick for all walls. Insurance laws required brick walls, tin-clad shutters, and firewalls. Instead of the standard iron frames,

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the heavy-timbered "slow burn construction" frames using very long support beams, thick wooden posts, and approximately four inches of flooring were incorporated in the Durham warehouses. This method of construction developed in Rhode Island by Zachariah Allen in 1822 burned slowly and allowed time for water to be brought to the scene of a fire before it caused serious damage. After Allen's insurance company denied him lower rates for this construction, in 1835 he formed the Manufacturer's Mutual Fire Insurance Co., which later was the original insurer of The American Tobacco Company warehouses.

Brick was not only the building material of Smith and the other American Tobacco Company warehouses, but also the decorative material used to articulate the structural members. With the company's first tobacco storage warehouse, the one-story Walker Warehouse built in 1897, the architectural style characterized by bands of chevrons, prisms, mousetoothing and corbelled pendants at stringcourses, cornices, and chimneys was firmly established. Although all but one of the subsequent warehouses built by the trust were two stories, they all exhibit the same basic decorative pattern. Subtle differences may be seen in the ornament, including a slight overall simplification in the decoration of the later warehouses, as exemplified by Smith.

It is not possible to assign the design of the warehouses to a single architect. Mansell explains in her thesis that evidence points to the involvement of at least three individuals in various aspects of the design process. Samuel Linton Leary, who was brought from Philadelphia in 1890 by Washington Duke to design the Main Building of Trinity College, was active in Durham throughout the 1890s. The designs of both the Main Building and St. Joseph's A.M.E. Church, another Leary commission of 1891, are characterized by decorative brickwork, and local tradition supports Leary as the architect of the warehouses. Another contender is Col. William Jackson Hicks, warden of the North Carolina Penitentiary in Raleigh who designed that prison, again featuring elaborate brickwork as its sole decorative motif, and was involved in the construction of the ornate Governor's Mansion in Raleigh. In an 1897 letter to Benjamin N. Duke, he discussed in minute detail the practical requirements of Walker Warehouse, which was about to be built, but made no mention of its appearance or style. Finally, the October, 1900, edition of The Southern Tobacconist and Manufacturer's Record cites Albert F. Hunt of Richmond, Virginia, as the perfector of all American Tobacco Company plans. Mansell concludes that Hicks was responible for the initial planning of the warehouses and Hunt for their refinement in later years. Thus, Hunt may have participated directly in the construction of Smith Warehouse. matter of exterior appearance, specifically the ornamented brickwork, is less certain. It could be attributed to Leary or even to the talented local brickmasons familiar with popular motifs of the period. The masons are more likely candidates due to the lack of any documentation concerning appearance. Furthermore, the Globe Warehouse, built in Durham prior to 1895 with decorative brickwork across its main facade, already set a precedent for fashionably styled tobacco warehouses.

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Emphasis on the importance of industrial appearance was a fairly new idea in North Carolina when The American Tobacco Company began its building campaign. Prior to the 1890s, tobacco buildings usually were strictly functional and utilitarian. Elizabeth Mansell contends that the trust's investment in the design and construction of attractive industrial buildings was a form of advertising meant to enhance its corporate image. Brick was a "prestigious building material that added substance to the company's image, and the bold, visually exciting design attracted attention to the company." James B. Duke and his associates took great interest in their city, as indicated by the generous support of local institutions, and were proud of Durham's reputation as the foremost city of the "New South." It is likely that the trust executives wanted to enhance the streetscapes of Durham, which already was known for its architecture.

The names of the warehouses and processing buildings also reflect the pride The American Tobacco Company took in its physical plant. The people for whom all of the other buildings constructed by the trust in Durham were named have been positively identified, all of them executives or directors of the conglomerate. In the case of Smith Warehouse, no records identifying the source of its name have been discovered. It may be surmised with a good deal of certainty, however, that it was named for Robert A. C. Smith (1857-1933), a member of The American Tobacco Company's Board of Directors early in this century and one of the major stockholders of Consolidated Tobacco Co., the holding company established in 1901 of which American Tobacco was a subsidiary. 13 Smith was a director of more than fifteen companies, among them the International Banking Co., the North American Mail Steamship Line (of which he was president, manager and director), and the Albany and Hudson Railroad Co. Almost all of his known business interests were local transportation systems, steamship lines, railroads, and electrical power companies. 14 All of these areas would have been of great interest to J. B. Duke, who needed transportation for his tobacco products and was becoming increasingly involved in hydroelectric power ventures, which eventually would occupy most of his attention. Naming the trust's largest tobacco warehouse for Smith may be viewed as a gesture meant to strengthen Duke's relationship with Smith.

In 1911, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that The American Tobacco Company must be dissolved upon finding it is violation of the Sherman Anti-Trust Act. James B. Duke's plan for dissolution, approved by the U.S. Attorney General, provided that the closely allied subsidiaries be divided into four major companies. One of the four companies was the reorganized Liggett and Myers Tobacco Company, which occupied the former W. Duke Sons and Company buildings and adjacent American Tobacco Company warehouses, including Smith, and continued to expand its facilities at this western edge of downtown Durham. Today, Liggett and Myers continues to use Smith Warehouse for tobacco storage.

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- NOTES

  1 Elizabeth Lloyd Meihack Mansell, "The American Tobacco Company Brick Storage Warehouses in Durham, North Carolina 1897-1906" (M.A. Thesis, University of North Carolina, 1980), p.16.
  - 2 Ibid.
  - <sup>3</sup> Ibid., p.25.
  - <sup>4</sup> Ibid., pp.62-63.
  - <sup>5</sup> Ibid., pp.19-21.
  - 6 Ibid., p.22.
  - 7 Ibid., pp.28-29.
  - 8 <u>Ibid.</u>, pp.39 and 43.
  - 9 <u>Ibid.</u>, pp.30-33.
  - 10 <u>Ibid.</u>, p.49.
- 11 Elizabeth M. Mansell, "Bullington Warehouse," National Register Nomination prepared for the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, May 1982, item 8, page 2.
  - 12 Mansell, thesis, pp.58-59.
- 13In 1902, Robert A. C. Smith held 1,000 shares of Consolidated Tobacco stock, or .3% of all shares. Nine other stockholder held 3.3% to 8.3% each of the company's total issue. A list of the major stockholders is in John K. Winkler, Tobacco Tycoon. The Story of James Buchanan Duke (New York: Random House, 1942), p. 123. American Tobacco had no high-ranking executives named Smith during the 1900s.
- 14 Directory of Directors in the City of New York (New York: Audit Co. of New York, 1905).
- 15Claudia P. Roberts, Diane E. Lea and Robert M. Leary, The Durham Architectural and Historic Inventory (Durham: The City of Durham and The Historic Preservation Society of Durham, 1972), pp. 332-33.

