

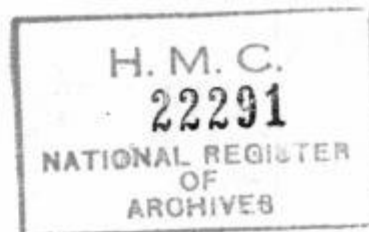
Northamptonshire Record Office

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Records of Mixconcrete Timber Ltd.,
formerly Smith's Timber Co. Ltd.,
Timber Merchants, of
South Bridge Road, Northampton.

Accession 1978/176

A Northamptonshire directory of 1823 records Thomas Smith, a painter, glazier and plumber, working from premises in Bridge Street, Northampton. In 1830, his shop was in Augustine Street and by 1841, it was in Marefair. In 1847, it is recorded that Thomas Smith and his son were working together as painters, glaziers and plumbers in Gold Street and St. Peter's Street.

By the late 1850's, Thomas Smith's sons, Henry and William, had become partners in the business now known as Smith Brothers, at 28, Gold Street. Between them they had many talents, for they are recorded as upholsterers, cabinet makers, paper hangers, house decorators, builders and contractors, carvers, gilders, plumbers, glaziers, timber, lead and glass, oil and colour merchants. Henry Smith, now an alderman of the town, lived with his wife and four children at the business in Gold Street, whilst his brother, William, lived with his wife, two sons and two daughters at 49, College Street.

In the 1860's, the brothers acquired additional premises at South Bridge Wharf, where they established a timber business and from this period both divisions of Smith Brothers expanded rapidly. A directory of 1885 records Smith Brothers as:-

"Importers of foreign timber, pitch pine, deals, battens, flooring and poles, etc.; merchants in mahogany, oak and walnut, roofing slates and tiles, copings, drain pipes, chimney tops, firebricks and lumps, stone, cements, plaster, lias lime; builder's ironmongery and other materials, lead, glass, oil, turps, colors, varinishes, brushes, plumbers, gasfitters and bellhangers brassgoods. Offices Gold Street.

Steam sawing, planing and moulding mills, joinery and cabinet works, South Bridge Wharf and the Dock, Sutton Bridge."

Whilst at 28, Gold Street, Smith Brothers were also dealers in carpets and complete furnishings, warehouse upholstery, cabinet manufacturing, carving and gilding, house and estate agency and were the proprietors of furniture and removal vans.

About 1891, the timber side of the business became a Limited Company, Smith's Timber Co. Ltd., with the head office at 10, Guildhall Road and Mr. Moses Philip Manfield, the shoe manufacturer

Records of Mixconcrete Timber Ltd.

(cont.)

as one of its directors. The Company added the manufacture of packing cases and dealt in felt for the boot and shoe industry from this time. Branches of the Company were now at Sutton Bridge, near Wisbech, Bedford and Leicester and, by 1898, also at Cambridge.

The furnishing side of the business continued under the name of Smith Brothers at 28, Gold Street, completely separate from the Timber Company. At the end of the century, the firm of Smith Brothers began a new, but short lived venture into the electrical fittings business, forming a business - Smith H. Whitmy and Co., from the same premises, with branches in London and Peterborough. However, this had disappeared from the town by 1903. About 1920, Smith Brothers (Northampton) Ltd. was formed, with a change of name about 1936 to Smith Brothers (Furnishers and Decorators) Ltd. and new premises at 94, Abington Street and factory workshops in Bull Head Lane. By 1940, their premises were at 44, Sheep Street, where they remained until the 1960's.

Smith's Timber Company Ltd. continued to prosper into the early 20th. century, until suffering a disastrous fire in 1916, after which it was purchased by a Major Hughes who rebuilt and re-equipped the business under the name of Smith's Timber Company. It was made a Limited Company once again in 1947. Major Hughes died in 1958 and in 1959, the Company was sold to Greenoughs, builders merchants. The Company became part of the Mixconcrete Group of Companies in 1976 and was renamed Mixconcrete Timber Ltd. Mr. C.D.H. Roberts has been Managing Director of the Company since c1968, which today specialises in the sale of timber and boards of all types, wood mouldings, sections and manufactured components. Its joinery works has undertaken many kinds of woodwork; examples of some of the Company's work can be seen in the County's Council Chambers and police courtrooms, in the construction of chemical vats, church pews and even oak organ cases exported to Africa.

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NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

Records of Mixconcrete Timber Ltd. (before 1976
Smith's Timber Co. Ltd.) of South Bridge Road,
Northampton

Accession 1978/176 and
1984/234

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|---|--|----------------|
| 1 | Account Book | 1916-1938 |
| | Records the outpayments of the Company paid at the end of each month, giving name of payee and the amount. Profit and Loss summaries are calculated for each year end | |
| 2 | Illustrated Catalogue | c.1900 |
| | Of mouldings, skirtings, etc. manufactured by Smith's Timber Co. Ltd. | |
| 3 | Xerox Copy of extract from Private Sidings Agreements | 1869 & 1889 |
| | Between Midland Railway Company and their agent, John Sterland Gratton and Henry Smith and William Henry Smith. Smith Brothers, Timber Merchants of Northampton, concerning the removal of railway crossings and sidings | |
| 4 | Chronicle and Echo | Nov. 24th 1975 |
| | Containing Trade Feature on Smith's Timber Co. Ltd. | |
| 5 | Private Ledger 2 | 1942-1947 |
| | (pages 1-21 missing; possibly the second volume of two as there are no pages for balance sheets, profit and loss &c., unless these were on the pages missing) | |
| 6 | Purchases journal of accounts no. 5 | 1951-1958 |
| | (at the end are credit items transferred to the grand totals at the end of each year) | |

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7	Purchases journal of accounts no. 6 (at the end are credit items transferred to the grand totals at the end of each year)	1958-1962
8	Purchases journal of accounts no. 7 (includes loose note about how to enter these accounts)	1962-1966
9	Purchases ledger	1947-1957
10	Sales ledger (perhaps for made up items only)	1956-1961
11	Sales ledger 'Country'	1947-1960
12	Sales ledger 'Town'	1947-1960
13	Cash Book	1957-1958
14	Cash Book	1958-1960
15	Cash Book	1961-1963
16	Petty Cash Book '6'	1953-1959
17	Petty Cash Book '7'	1959-1970
18	Bank Account	1954-1962
19	Bank Account 'Bought ledger only'	1960-1964

Nos. 1-4, Accession 1978/176; nos. 5-19, Accession 1984/234

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