

SOUTHERN WELDING MACHINE CO., INC.

Company started in 1929 by Robert Rogers Harmon & James Tevis Michie (partners).

Location 11th and Lee Street.

During World War II they employed up to 800 employees.

The company held hundreds of patents for the designs of equipment for war and commercial use, including the design and building of aircraft carriers arresting gear for all of the navy's carriers.

Southern Welding Machine Company was considered a high priority target by the Germans during war time. This was due to the plant location next to the railroad running north and south and the manufacturing of equipment and machines for the military. The Charlottesville area was listed as a top secret and heavy security area by the military, but a unknown fact to the city residents.

They were awarded the Army/Navy "E" Award Feb. 1944. The highest award bestowed to a company for excellent service to the military and the country.

After war ended, designed the first Bulldozer and Tractor hydraulic blades for tractors along with the first Speed Scoop (Today in construction referred to as a Scraper)

Sold and manufactured equipment internationally for Italy, France, and England as well as in the US from west coast to east coast, and most of the northern and southern states.

Plant Closed in 1971. Property sold to UVA . Present location of University Hospital, and Parking Garages on both sides of railroad tracks.