



Casting in the 1940's

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Information  
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No 21

## FOUNDRY WALK / SMITH & GRACE

Engineers and Iron Founders  
Midland Road



The Works in 1976

Foundry Walk was, for over 100 years, the site of the **Smith & Grace Screw Boss Pulley Company Ltd.** It was founded in 1816 and established in Thrapston in 1857. The founders were Nathaniel and Robert Smith, the latter retiring in 1866 and being replaced by Mr Grace from Bristol, about whom very little is known. The current site of Foundry Walk was occupied by the Company in 1899.

They specialised in the manufacture of mechanical power transmission equipment, such as pulleys and blocks. They registered “Thrapston” as their Trade Mark and the town became well known throughout the industrial world. Views of the works in operation during the 1940’s are shown.

The final casting took place in the 1980’s, followed by closure. The premises were gutted by fire on 14<sup>th</sup> February 1994. Final demolition took place in 2000 and house building started soon after. Today, apart from the name Foundry Walk and a stone inset on one wall, there is no evidence of a company whose skills with cast iron were second to none.

In their 1951 brochure, there is a testimonial to the longevity of their products – two “self-oiling Plummer Blocks” which had been installed in 1908 and 1927 at a printing works in Tottenham, London, and run continuously since installation, were still in perfect working order.

