

PRESS RELEASE

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Stafford Springs Plumbing Installer's Cutting-Edge Design Keys Restoration of 19th Century Remington Rand Building

Al Warren of Warren Brothers Mechanical Contractors overcame the lack of drainage and long sewer line in the historic Middletown facility by using an innovative system to pump and process waste without digging.

BY JULIE REYNOLDS

MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT — From bicycle wheels to automobiles to typewriters and electronics, the sprawling Remington Rand complex in Middletown has held an important place in the state's economic history since 1897. But over the decades, the hub for heavy industry took a toll on the environment, contaminating the surrounding soil and groundwater and polluting the Mattabessett River.

Although the Remington Rand division closed the factory in the early 1970s, the facility still carries the familiar name. The property was foreclosed in 1999 and taken over by the City of Middletown. Today, it's undergoing a substantial, city-led cleanup and renovation effort, designed to help attract emerging businesses and create jobs.

Bringing the facility's outdated plumbing into the 21st century is the effort's centerpiece. "The building was a disaster when the city took it over," says William Warner, Director of Planning, Conservation and Development for the City of Middletown. The area, all but abandoned, had become a host for illegal activity, and was filled with junked cars and other debris.



Plumber Al Warren with one of the five Saniflo Classic units he installed at the Remington Rand Building in Middletown.

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There was also a serious pollution problem. “The property was never tied into the Middletown sanitary sewer system,” Warner explains. “When it was built in 1890, the plumbing was designed to flow into the nearby river. So we took it over and began the cleanup.”

To solve the building’s plumbing problem a septic system seemed the way to go initially, says Warner. But sewer lines 15 to 20 feet in the ground and groundwater in the old clay pipes eliminated that option.

Making matters worse, contamination was found nearly everywhere, so digging to install new sewer lines and plumbing wasn’t possible either. At that point, the city turned to local plumbers to help solve the dilemma. “We didn’t have a lot of money to spend,” Warner says. “We wanted a design-build alternative for the interior sewer main, so we let the bid out to licensed plumbers.”

It was a challenge. Plumbers couldn’t dig in the ground, and they would have to bring the sewer main to the end of the building where the manhole and tie-in are. Plus, the Remington Rand building is 950 feet long – more than three football fields – so bidders had to present a solution for moving plumbing waste across this expanse plus another 100 feet or so beyond its walls to the sewer main.



The Remington Rand building is nearly 1,000 feet long.

That made the problem tougher.

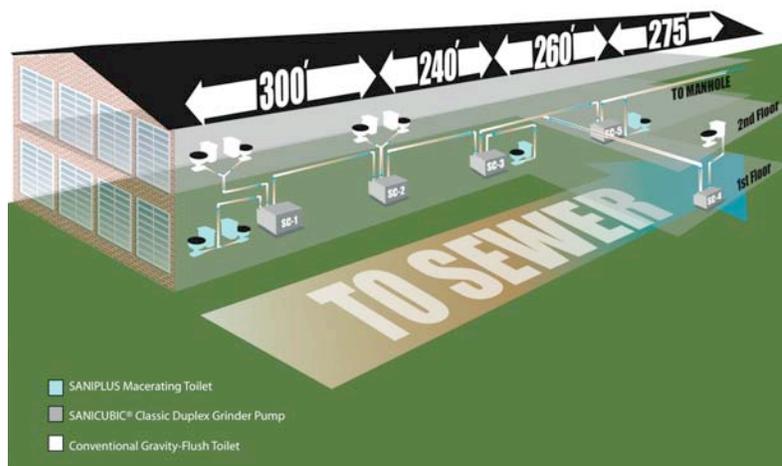
“If you applied the normal plumbing pitch that has to go in pipes,” Warner explains, “you would have more than 20 feet of drop” across the building. But the first floor is only 12 feet high.

Enter Al Warren, a licensed plumbing contractor for more than 30 years and owner of Warren Brothers Mechanical Contractors in Stafford Springs. He won the contract based on a design that uses a series of Sanicubic duplex grinder pumps, made by SFA Saniflo Inc.

“The concept took a little thought, but really nothing is complicated about it,” Warren says. He worked with Rob Pellegrini, branch manager at The Granite Group in Colchester. “We batted it back and forth and came up with a plan.”

The result was the installation of five duplex grinders, positioned at intervals on the ground floor, along the length of the building. This created a “stair effect” that achieved the right pitch in the pipe to accommodate the extreme length of the sewer line.

The duplex grinders are installed right on the floor – there is no need to dig. They can handle waste matter from multiple plumbing fixtures, without storing sewage, as sewage ejectors do. Each one pumps effluent up through small diameter pipe into the main and out to the sewer. They work in concert, handling cumulative waste for the entire two-story building.



Al Warren had not used Saniflo products prior to this job, but the installation was straightforward. “I was pleasantly surprised,” he notes. “Sanicubic is very versatile, and once I got into it, I could see how easily adaptable to a situation it can be. I’d definitely use it again.”

While the Remington Rand building may be unique, Warren says duplex grinders are a good option for any application and a great alternative to septic systems and sewage ejectors. The Sanicubic can handle waste from toilets, tubs and showers, sinks, washing machines and dishwashers.

The renovated Remington Rand facility will provide an additional revenue stream for the City of Middletown. “We’re embracing a very creative solution, using Saniflo to send all of the sanitary waste into a city sewer instead of our river,” William Warner concludes. “It has huge environmental benefits.”

And, he says, expanding use of the facility can help to create jobs – something that is welcome in Middletown and in any community today.

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SFA SANIFLO INC. is the only manufacturer of its kind in North America, offering a complete line of macerating toilet systems and gray water pumping systems for residential and commercial applications. Saniflo markets through independent sales agents throughout North America, and the product line is currently available at distributor and dealer locations throughout the United States and Canada.

For more information, contact Saniflo at 1-800-571-8191. Or visit the Saniflo website at www.saniflo.com.

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Footnotes

City of Middletown
Remington Rand Online Information Archive:
<http://www.middletownplanning.com/Specialprojects/RemRand/RemRand.html>

1. "Documentation: Remington Rand Facility" prepared by:
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