

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CHI.A
Historic Name:	Ames Manufacturing Company
Common Name:	Ames Mills - Spalding, A. G. and Brothers
Address:	
City/Town:	Chicopee
Village/Neighborhood:	Chicopee Center
Local No:	
Year Constructed:	
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	
Use(s):	Industrial Complex or District; Military Other; Textile Mill
Significance:	Architecture; Commerce; Industry; Transportation
Area(s):	
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register DOE (12/21/1981); Nat'l Register Individual Property (06/23/1983)
Building Materials(s):	



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

This file was accessed on: Friday, September 1, 2017 at 2:02: PM

FORM A - AREA SURVEY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

Form numbers in this area

212, 120, 217-18
224-229

Area no.

A

Town Chicopee

Name of area (if any) Ames Manufacturing

Company

#218

General date or period 1850-1900

Is area uniform (explain):

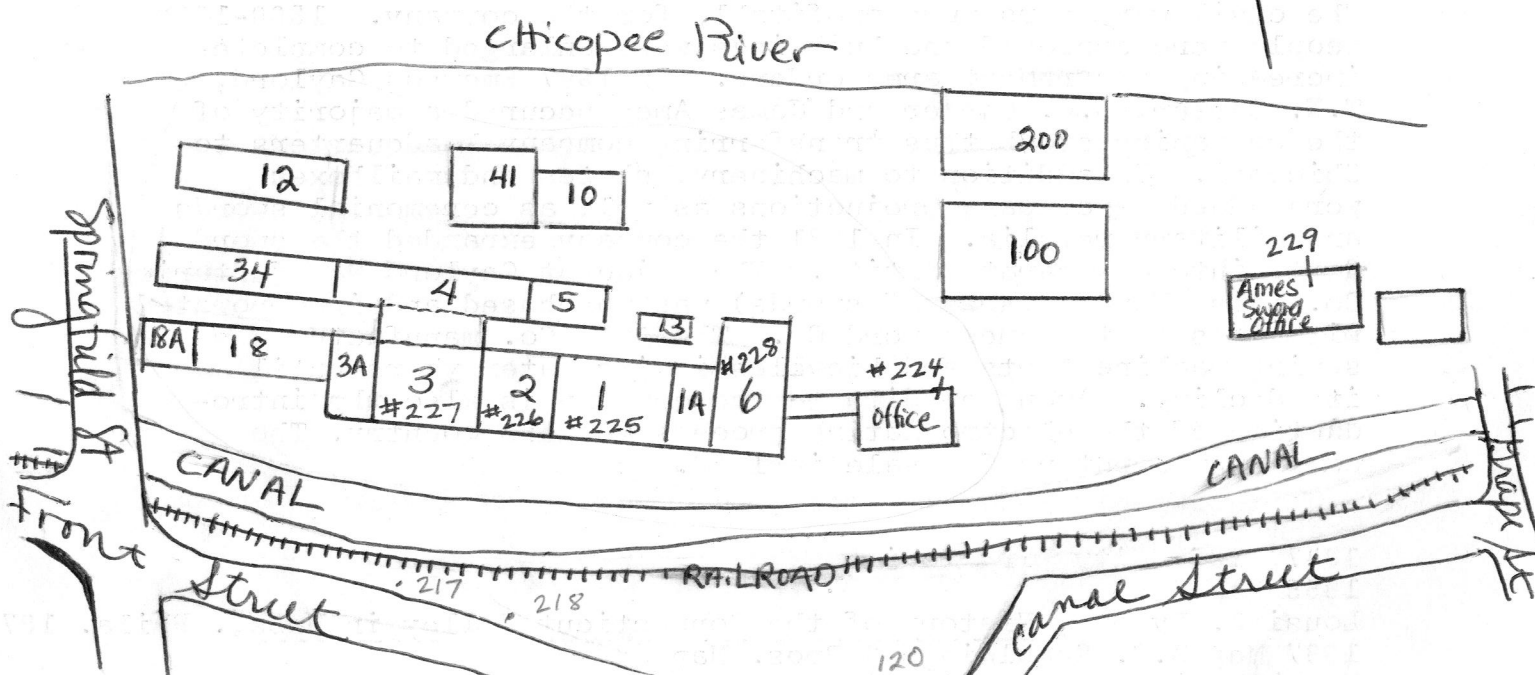
in style? yes brick construction

in condition? yes good, much alteration

in type of ownership? yes industrial

in use? yes industrial

5. Map. Use space below to draw a general map of the area involved. Indicate any historic properties for which individual reports are completed on Forms B thru F, using corresponding numbers. Show street names (including route numbers, if any) and indicate north. Indicate with an "x" existing houses not inventoried on Form B.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant

MHC Photo no.

RECEIVED

6. Recorded by Deborah Shea

DEC 12 1978

Organization Planning and Development

Date November 30, 1978

MASS. HIST. COMM.
(over)

7. Historical data. Explain the historical/architectural importance of this area.

The Ames Brothers, Nathan and James, established a tool and cutlery business in Chicopee Falls in 1829. A shop complete with machinery and water power was furnished for them by Edmund Dwight, later to found the Dwight Manufacturing Co. When Chicopee Center was improved with dams and canals, the firm relocated. The Ames Manufacturing Co. was incorporated that year, 1834 with a capital of \$30,000.00 drawn from outside sources. James and N.P. Ames, Edmund Dwight (the company's first president). J.K. Mills and Ignatius Sargent of Boston were the principal stockholders. The company products included small swords, daggers, bayonets, small tools and machinery.

In 1836 the company began to manufacture cannons and cannon balls for which it received many orders from this government as well as foreign governments. The railroad was built to Chicopee in 1845, thus resolving transportation problems. The company's capital reached \$250,000.00 in 1849 signifying an early, steady growth. In 1853 the company began casting statuary and other bronze art works for which it received a world wide reputation. Statuary cast by the company may be seen in parks throughout the states. Among prominent company works are the equestrian statue of Washington in Union Square, NY and Boston, the Franklin Statue also in Boston and the Bronze doors of the Capital in Washington.

The civil war years were profitable for the company. 1500-1600 people were employed and buildings were enlarged to complete increasing government arms orders. In 1867 Emerson Gaylord, T.W. Carter, E.O. Carter and James Ames secured a majority of the companies stock thus transferring company headquarters to Chicopee. In addition to machinery, skates and mailboxes were added to company productions as well as ceremonial swords and military regalia. In 1881 the company expanded the sword dept. into a separate entity. The adjacent Gaylord Manufacturing Co. (also Manufactures of swords) was purchased and incorporated with Ames as the Ames Sword Co. The Ames Co. manufactured sewing machine parts and bicycles in its later years until its decline. Among credits to the company is also the introduction of the electroplating process to this country. The company was put up for sale in 1898.

8. Bibliography and/or references such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.

1847, 1853 City Directories

1855 Map

Lousi H. Everts, History of the Connecticut Valley in Mass., Phila. 1879

1937 Map A.G. Spauldings & Bros. Map

Vera Shlakman, Economic History of a Factory Town, Norhtampton 1915

Ames file at Chicopee Library

The site has undergone much change with expansion and demolition. Charles McClallan was the mason of the earlier 19th century constructions. While the older buildings are brick, newer construction has been aluminum buildings. The cobblestone streets have been tarred. The earliest buildings - the machine shop consisting of Building #1 (1847-1850), Building 2 (after 1859), Building #3 (1859-1865), Building 6 (1860), and the Ames Office (1847-1850) line the canal. Building 18 (1850 - 2 storys, trabeated lintels and sills, gable roof raised 1865-1870) is attached to Building #3 by Building 3A (1860's upper stories 1908). Building 18A was constructed 1865-1870. Entrances have been altered to accomodate new use and windows have been bricked as is common to industrial sites.

Building 4 (built 1865, 4th story 1913, 5th story 1929) and Building 5 (1865-1870) are attached by an elevated walk to the rear of Building #3. Building #34 attached to the west of Building #4 was constructed in 1915 (5th story 1929) when Spauldings owned the company. Building #13 was constructed 1855-1859. Building 10, a portion of the Ames founday was erected 1855-1860. It contained the brass casting and pickle rooms. The Boiler House was attached to the west in 1922 (Bldg 41). Building 12 (1878) was the forge shop and curing room. Charles Basin, owner of these buildings, leases the buildings as an industrial park.

Building 100 (1908), Building 200 (1911), the Ames Sword Co. office (1863-1870) and metal buildings are owned by Eastern Etching, manufactures of name plates. These buildings are separated fomr Mr. Basin's by a wire fence. The original Ames Sword buildings were razed in 1935.

(Attach photo here)

FORM B - BUILDING SURVEY

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

1. Is this building historically significant to:

Town & Commonwealth & Nation

Building has historical connection with the following themes: (see also reverse side)

Scholar	Commerce/ <u>industry</u>
Agriculture	Science/ <u>invention</u>
<u>Art/Sculpture</u>	Travel/communication
Education	Military Affairs
Government	Religion/philosophy
Literature	Indians
Music	Other <u>Technology</u>

Development of town/city

Architectural reason for inventorying:

Style interest relative to function OR part of Area #

3. CONDITION Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

(Ref = E. 1880)

4. DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material (Block stone cut and coursed)

WALL COVER: Wood Brick Stone Other

ROOF: (Flat) (Former pitched roof replaced)
Ridge Gambrel Flat Hip Mansard (Tar and crushed stone covering)
Tower Cupola Dormer windows Balustrade Grillwork
(Front central stair tower - open arches - corbel tables)

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End Interior Irregular Cluster Elaborate

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 None PORTICO None Balcony

FACADE: Gable end: Front/side Ornament (Dentil molding under eaves)

Entrance: Side Front: Center/Side Details: None

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied (Double sash)

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards

5. Indicate location of building in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings

6. Footage of structure from street 25±
Property has 100± feet frontage on street

Recorder Bryant F. Tallon, Jr. - Special Consultant

For M.H.C.

Photo # 70-2916 Date 8/16/70

SEE REVERSE SIDE

CH. A

NRMS-2123183

NRMS-1212181

①	545	A 2
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2. Town Chicopee (Hampden County)

(Cabotville; Chicopee Center)

Street address Chicopee Street at Chicopee River

Name Ames Manufacturing Company
(Ames Sword Company)

Use: original & present Firearms; machinery;
statuary; tools; bronze castings.

Present owner PP. CITY CENT

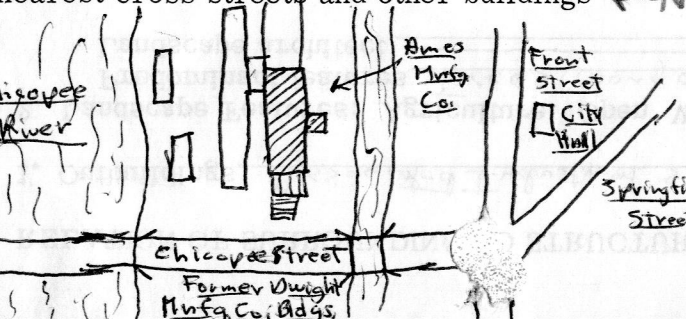
Open to public No. USGS - SPRING N

Ref # 45

Date 1880 Style Industrial (Italianate)
Tower

Source of date Observation SET B

Architect Unknown.



RELATION OF SURROUNDING STRUCTURE

CH. A

1. Outbuildings Associated Industrial structures.

2. Landscape Features: Agriculture Open Wooded Garden: Formal/Informal

Predominant features Trees Along canal and river course.

Landscape architect _____

3. Neighboring Structures

Style: Colonial Federal Greek Revival Gothic Revival Italian Villa Lombard Rom.

Venetian Gothic Mansard Richardsonian Modern

Use: Residential Commercial Religious

Conditions: Excellent Good & Fair Deteriorated

Industrial

GIVE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF HISTORIC IMPORTANCE OF SITE (Refer and elaborate on theme circled on front of form)

Historic Significance:

1. In 1828, Nathaniel P. Ames moved business from Chelmsford to Chicopee and commenced production of swords for U.S. Govt. - present location occupied in 1834 - brass foundry (1836) and iron foundry ⁽¹⁸⁴⁵⁾ added ~~the~~ - history of company another illustration of regional ingenuity (has adjusted products to market demands) - company has always specialized in domestic and military bayonets, sabres, swords and also cutlery, fine edge tools, cotton machinery, bronze doors and statuary, guns and cannon, projectiles, plated ware, water turbine wheels - has held government contracts for arms - made famed Boyden turbine - has produced large statues - in 1929, employed 150 operatives to make society and military goods (one

Architectural Importance: of oldest and most highly regarded companies in its field

1. Though it performed a greatly different function, the structure takes on an appearance similar to that of Connecticut River textile factories of the same time (rectangular floorplans, front central stair tower, etc.)
2. Most striking feature in front central stair tower with its fine open arches, dentil molding, and corbel tables - of Italianate inspiration
3. Site between the Chicopee River and power canal of interest for scenic and engineering reasons.

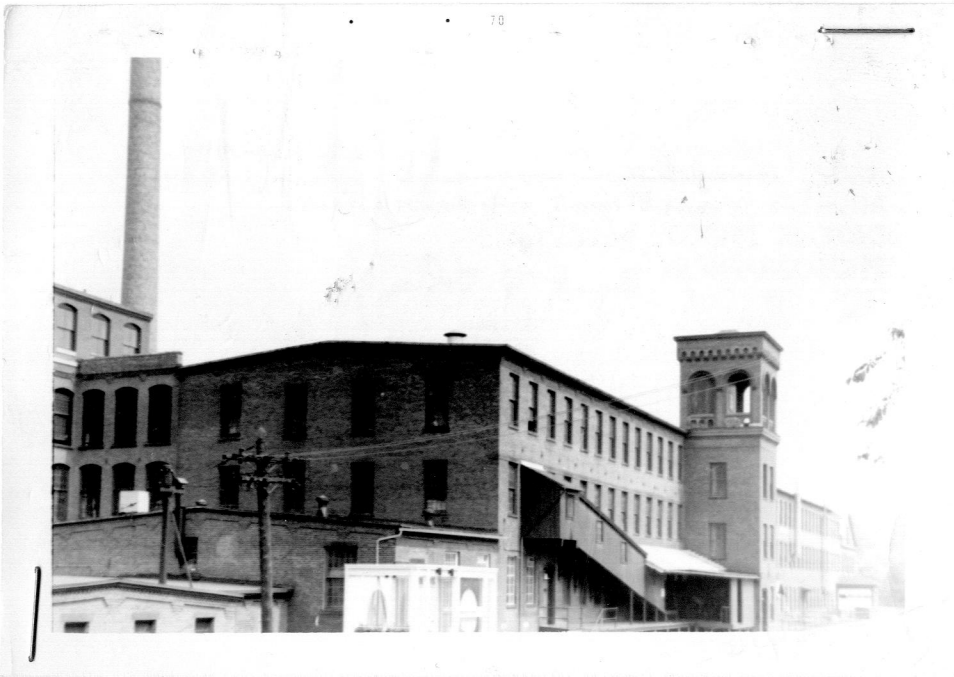
BIBLIOGRAPHY AND/OR REFERENCE

1. History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, 2 vols. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1879. (II, p. 974)
2. Szetela, Thaddeus M. History of Chicopee. Chicopee, Massachusetts: Szetela and Rice Publishing Company, 1948. (pp. 72-80, 86, 88-92)
3. Holland, Josiah G. History of Western Massachusetts, 2 vols. Springfield, Massachusetts: Samuel Bowles and Company, 1855. (II, pp. 48-49)
4. Stone, Orval L. History of Massachusetts Industries, 9 vols. Boston and Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1930. (I, pp. 631-32)
5. Spence, V. "Industrial History of Chicopee." M.A. Thesis, Clark University, Worcester, Massachusetts, 1930.
6. Shla Kman, Vera. Economic History of a Factory Town: A Study of Chicopee, Massachusetts. Smith College Studies in History #26 Northampton, Massachusetts: Smith College, 1936.
7. History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, 2 vols. Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1879. (II, p. 974)

RESTRICTIONS

Original Owner: _____

Deed Information: Book Number _____ Page _____, _____ Registry of Deeds



The Ames Manufacturing Company - Chicopee (Cobaltville)

- ① History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts, 2 vols. Philadelphia: Lewis H. Everett, 1874. (II, p. 97)
- origin date to 1879 (Chicopee, Mass.) — works moved to Chicopee in 1879 by N.P. Ames, Jr. and James T. Ames — (manufactured) — in 1834 works built at Cobaltville and Ames incorporated with James K. Hill and Edmund Dwight as the "Ames Manufacturing Company" (capital of \$70,000)

"Ames Manufacturing Company" - Springfield

Charters - 1834, Ch. 31

(Revised by Chap. 290, Acts 1907)

1887, Ch. 100

Massachusetts Special Laws 7 (1830-31) - 1834 (Chap. 31)

Chap. 31.

An Act to incorporate the Ames Manufacturing Company.

Persons incorporated.

SECT. 1. *BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That Nathan P. Ames, James T. Ames, Edmund Dwight and James K. Mills, their associates, successors and assigns, are hereby made a corporation, by the name of the Ames Manufacturing Company, for the purpose of manufacturing hardware, cutlery, and other articles in that line, in the town of Springfield, in the county of Hampden, and for those purposes shall have all the powers and privileges, and be subject to all the duties and requirements, contained in an act entitled "an act defining the general powers and duties of manufacturing corporations," passed the twenty-third day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty.*

Powers and duties.

1829 ch. 53.

Real and personal estate.

SECT. 2. *Be it further enacted, That said corporation may be seized and possessed of such real estate, not exceeding the value of forty thousand dollars, and such personal estate, not exceeding the value of sixty thousand dollars, as may be necessary and convenient for the purposes aforesaid. [Feb. 24, 1834.]*

Community: *Chicopee*MHC OPINION: ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL REGISTER

Date Received:

Date Due:

Date Reviewed: *January, 1990*Type: *Individual* District (Attach map indicating boundaries)Name: *Dwight Generating Station*Inventory Form: *120, 217-218,*Address: *Powerhouse, Dam & Canal*
*(AKA Ames Manufacturing Co.)**224-229*Requested by: *Northeast Utilities**Area A and*
*attached*Action: *Honor* *ITC* *Grant* *R & C* Other:Agency: *FERC*

Staff in charge of Review:

M. Cavanaugh

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

- ☐ Eligible
☐ Eligible, also in district
☐ Eligible only in district
☐ Ineligible
☐ More information needed

Consensus DOE

DISTRICTS

- ☐ Eligible
☐ Ineligible
☐ More information needed

CRITERIA:

A

B

C

D

LEVEL:

Local

State

National

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE by _____

See R&C file (Chicopee) for additional information