

# Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

## Scanned Record Cover Page

<b>Inventory No:</b>	NWB.2955
<b>Historic Name:</b>	Towle Silver Manufacturing Company
<b>Common Name:</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	174 Merrimac St
<b>City/Town:</b>	Newburyport
<b>Village/Neighborhood:</b>	
<b>Local No:</b>	
<b>Year Constructed:</b>	R 1866
<b>Architect(s):</b>	
<b>Architectural Style(s):</b>	Not researched
<b>Use(s):</b>	Other Manufacturing; Smith Other
<b>Significance:</b>	Industry
<b>Area(s):</b>	
<b>Designation(s):</b>	



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Massachusetts Historical Commission  
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125  
[www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc)

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Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at 11:53 AM

# HAER INVENTORY

1. NAME OF STRUCTURE <b>Towle Silver Manufacturing Co.</b>	2. DATE <b>1866-1926</b>	3. NATURE OF STRUCTURE <b>Silverware manufacturing</b>	4. INDUSTRIAL CLASSIFICATION <b>220</b>
5. LOCATION: STREET & NUMBER <b>174 Merrimac Street</b>	CITY OR TOWN <b>Newburyport</b>	COUNTY <b>Essex</b>	STATE <b>MA</b>
7. OWNER OF PROPERTY <b>Towle Silver Manufacturing Co., 174 Merrimac Street, Newburyport, MA</b>			6. USGS QUAD MAP & UTM GRID REF. <b>Newburyport West 19. 346180. 474208</b>
8. CONDITION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE TO PUBLIC			

9. DESCRIPTION & BACKGROUND HISTORY: NUMBER OF STRUCTURES; DIMENSIONS; FABRIC; STRUCTURE & FORM; SURVIVING MACHINERY, FITTINGS AND EQUIPMENT; APPROX. AREA OF SITE; ALTERATIONS; PRESENT USE; ENGINEER/ ARCHITECT/DESIGNER; IMPORTANT EVENTS & INDIVIDUALS.

In 1857 A. F. Towle and W. P. Jones began silversmithing in Newburyport. In 1870 E. P. Towle was admitted to the firm. In 1873 Jones dropped out and the Towles took over sole control, manufacturing silverware and cutlery in two small wooden buildings, now destroyed, near the present plant. The business prospered, and in 1880 the firm moved into the buildings of the defunct Merrimack Arms and Manufacturing Company, which had been erected in 1866. The Towle Company has continued operations in this and additional buildings to the present day. The 1866 mill is four stories, with a shallow pitch roof, constructed of brick, with a stair tower which is covered with a very handsome mansard roof. It is 150' x 45'. Two 20th century additions have been made to this mill, with the walls of which are similar in style to the 1866 building. An ell on the river side of the main mill, 100' x 100' x 50', dates from about 1870. Two large water towers, each with cisterns of capacities of 30,000 gallons of water, were added around 1910. A wooden store house and machine shop, on the river side of the main mill, dates from about 1880. It was covered with a layer of cement on lath around 1900. It is 3 stories, with a shallow pitch roof, 100' x 35'. A concrete water vat on the bank of the river dates from after 1920.

10. PHOTOGRAPHS & SKETCH MAP ON REVERSE SIDE.

11. RELATED SOURCES OF INFORMATION: HISTORICAL REFERENCES (PUBLISHED ARTICLES, MANUSCRIPTS, REPORTS, DRAWINGS, PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS) CONTACTS: (NAMES & ADDRESSES OF ANYONE WITH EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNTS OR RELEVANT INFORMATION); TAPE RECORDINGS.

**Orra Stone, Mass. Industries, vol. I**

12. DANGER OF DEMOLITION OR DAMAGE  YES  NO  
NATURE OF THREAT:

13. PRIORITY **3**

14. EXISTING SURVEYS AND DATES:  NHL     NR     HAER     HABS     STATE     COUNTY     LOCAL     OTHER

15. INVENTORIED BY: YOUR NAME **Peter M. Molloy** ADDRESS **800 Mass. Ave., N. Andover, MA 01845** AFFILIATION **Merrimack Valley Textile Museum** DATE **2/4/76**

PLEASE RETURN TO THE HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, WASHINGTON, DC 20240

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES (MFG)	UTILITIES (UTIL)	POWER SOURCES & PRIME MOVERS (PS & PM)	TRANSPORTATION (TRANS)	COMM	BRIDGES
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NON-FERROUS

AGRI  
BPGC  
CHEM  
FOOD  
METAL  
TEXT  
WOOD

DATES OF CONSTRUCTION

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES (EXTRACT)

BULK PRODUCT INDUSTRIES (BULK)

SUB-CLASSIFICATION

SPECIALIZED STRUCTURES (SPEC STRUC)

BUILDING TECHNOLOGY (BLD TECH)

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