

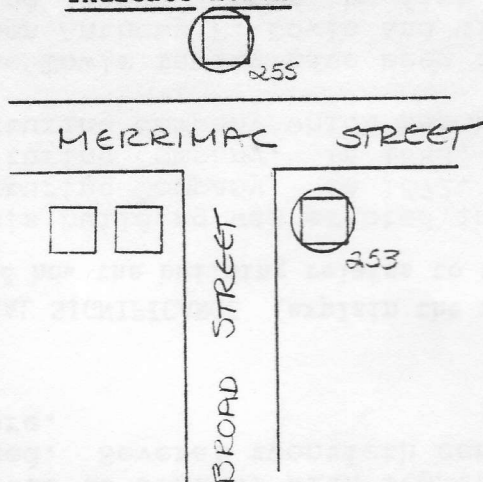
FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
294 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108

Area	Form no.
I	255



cross streets and other buildings
or geographical features.
Indicate north.



Recorded by Mary Jane Stirgwolt
Organization Office of Community Development
Date 12-12-80

City Newburyport
Address 260 Merrimac Street
Historic Name Towle Manufacturing Co.
Original Factory
Present Factory
Ownership: ☐ Private individual
☐ Private organization Towle Manufacturing Company
☐ Public
Original owner Merrimack Arms Manufacturing Co.

DESCRIPTION:

Date 1866
Source Malloy "The Lower Merrimack"
Style Italianate
Architect Unknown
Exterior wall fabric Brick
Outbuildings Water Towers, Store House
Major alterations (with dates) additions to structure (1870, 1940)
Moved _____ Date _____
Approx. acreage 3.70 acres
Setting in area of mixed use along the banks of the Merrimack River.

(Staple additional sheets here)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within community)

This building was built in 1866, an excellent example of a mid-nineteenth century factory. The original factory had a mansard roof. The building is four stories in height with elegant stairtower. Several additions have been made to this structure and the mansard roof has been replaced with the fourth story. The architectural detail of the building is limited to windows with segmental arches and the stairtower which remains unchanged. Several twentieth century additions have been made to this structure.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE (explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community)

This building was erected in 1866 by the Merrimack Arms Manufacturing Company. In 1872, the property is noted as the Brown Manufacturing Company. In 1883, the property was acquired by the Towle Manufacturing Company which has been its occupant since that time.

The Towle family have been involved in the making of silverware since 1857 when Anthony F. Fowle and William P. Jones formed the partnership of Towle and Jones. Later the firm became Towle, Jones and Company.

In 1880 these men organized the Towle Manufacturing Company. This company has been a vital portion of Newburyport's economy since its incorporation. It continues in that role today.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

- J. J. Currier, History of Newburyport 1764-1905, vols. I and II., reprint, Newburyport 1977.
- P. Molloy, editor, The Lower Merrimack River Valley: An Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites (Washington, 1976)
- Assessor's Records 1890-1980