

#1694

MANUFACTURERS MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY RECORDS
1835-1948
(PREDOMINATELY 1900-1930)

20 LINEAR FT.

The Manufacturers Mutual Fire Insurance Company was founded in 1835 by Rhode Island textile manufacturer, Zachariah Allen. Allen organized a group of textile manufacturers to insure themselves against fire and to share the losses, a principle known as mutual insurance.

The maps in the collection depict individual factories in thirty-five states and Canada and are strongest for the states of Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. They date from 1894 to 1954. Originally created to provide insurance underwriters with a detailed description of an industrial plant, its operations, and attendant fire risks, these maps provide a wealth of information for historians. For each plant, three sets of drawings were produced - a building layout, a cross-section showing the operations on each floor, and a birds-eye view of the plant. Colors were used to show construction materials--red for brick, yellow for wood frame, blue gray for iron, and so forth. Activities and operations in each area of the plant, the number of workers, and the type of machinery in use were all indicated on the maps.

SERIES 1

(Approximately 20 linear ft.)

Contains maps arranged alphabetically by state, then by city and then by company name.

SERIES 11

1 Document Box

This series contains supporting material such as articles, books and some copies of maps typically made by the inspectors before the full drawings were made.

- 1-1 Abbot, N.G., THE FACTORY MATERIALS, 1835-1935, Livermore & Knight, Providence, 1935.
- 1-2 "Factory Mutual Systems, 150 Years of Innovation."
- 1-3 French, E.V., ARKWRIGHT MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO., 1860-1910, Southgate Press, Boston, 1912.

- 1-4 "The Influence of the New England Mutuals in the Development of Industrial Construction between 1850-1900," J.J. Crnkovich.
- 1-5 "Insurance Mapping and Industrial Archeology," the Journal of the Society for Industrial Archeology, 1 Nov. 1983.
- 1-6 "Rules for Installing Electric Light and Power Apparatus.
- 1-7 Maps, Connecticut
- 1-8 Maps, Maine
- 1-9 Maps, Massachusetts
- 1-10 Maps, New Hampshire
- 1-11 Maps, New York
- 1-12 Maps, Rhode Island
- 1-13 Maps, Misc.