

**RESTORATION INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
FORMERLY USED DEFENSE SITES (FUDS)
PROJECT FACT SHEET
SEPTEMBER 1995
TAG REVIEW DATE: 5 FEBRUARY 1997**

1. **SITE NAME:** Springfield Armory Water Shops Area

SITE NUMBER: D01MA004100

LOCATION:

City: Springfield
County: Hampden
State: Massachusetts

PROJECT NUMBER: D01MA004101

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 5

TAG RAC: 5

2. **POC's:**

TECHNICAL MANAGER:

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GEO DISTRICT POC:

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SUPPORT DISTRICT (ASR) POC:

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ASR TAG REVIEW POC:

Name: Thomas M. Meekma
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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Springfield Armory Water Shops Area occupies 238.033 acres in an urbanized area within the city

limits of Springfield, Massachusetts, in Hampden County. The site armory facility developed around Watershops Pond, created by a dam on the Mill River near Walnut Street. Many of the armory buildings, constructed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, are still present. These buildings are occupied by offices, and small industrial and retail operations. The City of Springfield is the owner of 222.63 acres fee. This land includes the dam and lake which the City uses for public park and recreation purposes.

Drainage is north of the study area towards the Chicopee River which flows west into the Connecticut River one mile west of the site. Correspondingly, the terrain slopes north with an elevation of 200 feet NGVD along the southern side to 100 feet NGVD at the Chicopee River.

4. SITE HISTORY: The Water Shops Manufacturing Area was used for manufacturing metal parts, storage, and small arms proof and test firing. In addition to manufacturing rifles and conducting research and development, the Springfield Armory repaired and reconditioned virtually every type of small arms weapon. Most of the Watershops Manufacturing Area was reported as excess to the General Services Administration(GSA) in December 1966.

The site consisted of 237.083 acres fee and 0.95 acre leased land. The fee land was acquired by the United States between 1795 and 1966 by purchase. Acquisition of the lease land is unknown. The leased land was used as a railroad siding. Each of the approximately thirteen buildings constructed by the Army on site in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries served different purposes over the years. Three buildings, identified as numbers 203, 204 and 207, housed indoor firing ranges. Building 203 has been removed except for a concrete pad. Building 204 shows no evidence of a firing range. Building 207 firing bunkers with sand bullet stops have been closed off by the present owner. Two buildings, 209 and 210, formerly used for storage of ordnance, are renovated and used for offices or storage of construction materials.

The lease for 0.95 acre was canceled by the Government on 1 July 1946. Most of the Watershops Manufacturing Area (236.973 acres fee) was reported as excess to the GSA on 8 December 1966. The remaining 0.11 acre fee not reported to GSA was sold by the Army to Maria A. Aubrey by quitclaim deed dated 28 February 1967. A 3.712 acre parcel was sold to the City of Springfield by quitclaim deed, dated 23 May 1968. A 0.231 acre parcel was sold to Mario Marinetto by quitclaim deed dated 16 December 1968. A 10.4 acre parcel, containing the main manufacturing buildings, was sold to Earle W. Kazis and Aaron O. Cohen by quitclaim deed

dated 29 April 1969. The remaining 222.63 acres, containing the Watershops Pond and dam control house, were conveyed to the City of Springfield by deed dated 1 August 1969.

The City of Springfield retains control of the 222.63 acres. Other current owners and acreages are: Mr. and Mrs. L. Gagnon (0.11 acres), Joseph Kakely (3.712 acres), D & R Realty Company (4.881 acres), Poly-Metals, Inc. (1.94 acres), International Valve and Equipment Company (0.31 acre), and Valentine Realty (3.5 acres). All of these last acreages are used for business purposes, except for the 0.11 acre tract, which is part of a residence.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA

Size, Acres:	238.033
Former Use:	Manufacture, reconditioning and repair of small arms weapons; storage of small arms ammunition; and small arms proof and test firing.
Present Use:	City park, manufacturing, storage, small businesses and one residence.
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	N/A

6. CURRENT STATUS: The Archives Search Report for Springfield Armory Water Shops Area was completed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Louis District, in September 1995.

7. STRATEGY: NOFA; (RAC 5)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The site is RAC 5 with a strategy of NOFA. Based on historical research, interviews and on site observations, only small arms ammunition was used or stored at the site. The only concern of the Site Survey Team was possible presence of expended small arms ammunition. No Ordnance and Explosives(OE) was found during the site visit. Persons interviewed did not report any such finds. Aerial photo interpretation, the site inspection, and interviews did not reveal any disposal areas.

SITE INVESTIGATION OF AREAS WHERE AMMUNITION WAS PRESENT OR USED: Of three buildings previously housing indoor ranges, it was determined that one building no longer exists, one has been renovated, and one shows evidence of original use. Two buildings which were used for storage of ammunition were found to be

renovated and used for storage or offices. All renovated buildings showed no signs of former use.

HTRW: The ASR indicates two areas of concern which are not OE projects: (1) "Building 207 (proof firing range sand bunker area) should be investigated for possible ordnance or explosives hazards. Only small arms ammunition is known to have been fired at this range, but due to the bunker area being boarded up and not accessible, the possibility remains that a hazard exists (the sand used to stop the ammunition is still in place)." (2) "The site is located on both sides of a water way that runs through the Water Shops Area, and there is a possibility that small arms ammunition may have been thrown into the water. There is no documented reports of this occurring; if the water is lowered in the future, ammunition may be exposed."

Natural Resources: There are known Federally- and State-listed species occurring in the site area. Listings are provided in the ASR Findings, page 3-4, paragraph 3.5. An on-site inspection by appropriate State and Federal personnel may be necessary to verify the presence, absence or location of listed species, or natural communities.

Historical Resources: No cultural or historical sites associated with this site are reported in the ASR. However, any intrusive measures taken within the area will require oversight by the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) and/or other like organizations.

9. **SCHEDULE SUMMARY:** NOFA

10. **FUNDING/BUDGET SUMMARY:** N/A NOFA