

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

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

SITE NUMBER: D01MA004000

LOCATION:

City: Springfield
County: Hampden
State: Massachusetts

PROJECT NUMBER: D01MA004001

CATEGORY: OE

INPR RAC: 4

ASR RAC: 5

TAG RAC: 5

2. **POC's:**

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3. **SITE DESCRIPTION:** The former Springfield Armory Hill Shops Area occupies 72.331 acres in an urbanized area within the city limits of Springfield, Massachusetts, in Hampden County. The

site is divided into two adjacent parts, Armory Square and Federal Square. Armory Square is bordered on the north, south and west by Pearl, State and Byers Streets, respectively. Federal Street divides the two sections with Armory Square to the west and Federal Square to the east. State, Lincoln and Magazine Streets are the boundaries to the south, north and east of Federal Square. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts operates the Springfield Technical Community College on the majority of Armory Square. The National Park Service uses the western portion of the Hill Shops as a National Historic Site. Federal Square is owned by Digital Corporation, which has not used the site since 1993. Most of the buildings on the Digital Corporation property are either empty or leased.

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 220 feet NGVD along the southern side to 100 feet NGVD at the Chicopee River.

4. SITE HISTORY: The former Springfield Armory Hill Shops Area contained facilities for administration and housing of military personnel as well as facilities for research, testing and storage of military arms. Proof firing of small arms weapons was accomplished at three indoor ranges. The area was first used by the Army as an arsenal for the storage of weapons and ammunition. It was later developed as an armory for the manufacturing, development and testing of small arms and machine guns.

The site opened in 1794 and operated continuously into the 1960's. The land was acquired through a series of purchases between 1801 and 1856 consisting of 47 parcels totaling 72.331 acres fee.

The 72.331 acres of the Hill Shops Area were reported as excess to the General Services Administration(GSA) in December 1966. GSA disposed of a 5.262 acre portion to the City of Springfield in March 1968. The current owner of this parcel is the National Park Service, Department of the Interior which uses the site as part of the Springfield Armory Museum grounds. A 36.576 acre portion was conveyed to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in April 1968. The current owner of this parcel is the Commonwealth of Massachusetts which established and operates the Springfield Technical Community College at this location. A 13.085 acre portion was conveyed to the City of Springfield in April 1968. The entire 13.085 acre fee was deeded back to the Government by the City of Springfield in 1978. The current owner of this parcel is the National Park Service, Department of the Interior which operates the Springfield Armory Museum at the site. Two parcels totaling 15.25 acres were conveyed to the City

of Springfield in September 1968. The current owner of this portion is the Digital Equipment Corporation which has shut down except for a few offices. Six parcels containing portions of streets, totaling approximately 2 acres, were conveyed to the City of Springfield in September 1968. The current owner of the parcels is the City of Springfield which maintains the streets as public ways. The minor discrepancy of 0.158 acre difference in acreage 72.331 acres acquired and the 72.173 acres disposed is due to small variances in the legal descriptions, particularly in the deed to the City for the portions of six streets.

5. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

AREA

Size, Acres:	72.331
Former Use:	Arsenal for storage of weapons and ammunition; armory for manufacturing, development and testing of small arms and machine guns
Present Use:	State College, National Historic Site, vacant commercial property
Probable End Use:	Same as present
Ordnance Presence:	None
Type:	N/A

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

7. STRATEGY: NOFA; (RAC 5)

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS: The site is RAC 5 with a strategy of NOFA. The Site Survey Team visited all known ranges and suspected storage areas. No Ordnance and Explosives (OE) was found during the site visit. The ranges were located in buildings and used for small arms. The Site Survey Team saw .22 caliber cartridge cases in building 28A (also called building 28). Two inert 20mm rounds were found in building 28A in 1995. Otherwise, there were no further OE related finds or historical reports regarding buried OE.

OE: A magazine on Federal Square, built in 1782 to store powder, was used for 60 years, but is no longer present. More recently, ammunition from calibers .22 through .50 was used for proof firing, research and testing. Other small arms ammunition such as calibers .276, .357, and .40 were also used. Larger weapon systems such as the M61 (Vulcan) 20mm, M39 Gun 20mm, and M79 grenade launcher were designed at the site but tested elsewhere.

Several buildings previously used for ranges and storage have been totally renovated for other uses or been removed.

CWM: Research did not disclose storage areas or training locations for Chemical Warfare Material (CWM). No OE hazards were found in the area during the site visit. Aerial photo interpretation, the site inspection, and interviews did not reveal any disposal areas.

HTRW: The Draft ASR recommends "that the ranges in Buildings 25 and 28 be investigated for OE hazards. Only small arms ammunition is known to have been used on these ranges." The more likely hazard is spent bullets. Half of the target sand bunkers in Building 25 have contaminated sand. The range tunnels of Building 28 were not viewed as they are contaminated with asbestos. Contaminated sand could also be present in the target bunkers of this range. Building 28 was used as a shooting range by the College until 1975 or 1978.

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