

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

Inventory No:	CHI.201
Historic Name:	Springfield Canal Company Boarding House
Common Name:	Dwight Mill Boarding House
Address:	129-131 Exchange St
City/Town:	Chicopee
Village/Neighborhood:	Chicopee Center
Local No:	49
Year Constructed:	r 1835
Architect(s):	
Architectural Style(s):	Greek Revival
Use(s):	Boarding House; Multiple Family Dwelling House; Workers Housing
Significance:	Architecture; Industry
Area(s):	CHI.Z: Dwight Manufacturing Company Housing District
Designation(s):	Nat'l Register District (06/03/1977)
Building Materials(s):	Roof: Slate Wall: Brick; Stone, Cut



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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Boulevard, Boston, Massachusetts 02125
www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc

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FORM B - BUILDING

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

NRD S. 6/3/77
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USLS - SPRING N
SEPT 3

In Area no. <u>231</u>	Form no. <u>49 201</u>
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201 NR

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CH 1.201



Town Chicopee

Address 129-131 Exchange Street-#49

Name Old Dwight Mill House

Present use residential-apartments

Present owner Maria Tavares

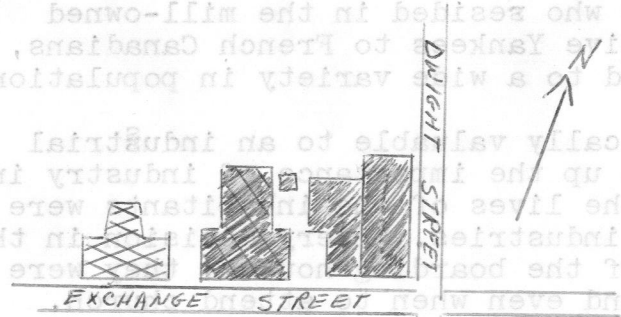
Description:

Date between 1832-1841

Source Economic History of a Factory Town by Schlakman

Style brick colonial

4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



Architect _____

Exterior wall fabric brick

Outbuildings (describe) 1 car garage

Other features 2 chimneys, brick detailing along edge of roof peak, simple stone lintel over the doorways

Altered _____ Date _____

Moved _____ Date _____

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FEB 2 1976

MASS. HIST. COMM.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

USGS Quadrant _____

MHC Photo no. _____

5. Lot size:

One acre or less Over one acre _____

Approximate frontage 60 feet

Approximate distance of building from street 15 feet

6. Recorded by Susan L. Bousquet

Organization Chicopee Historical Commission

Date December 29, 1975

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) Springfield Canal Company

Original use boarding house for the employees of the cotton factories

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates apartments after 1927

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	<u>X</u>	Exploration/ settlement	_____	Science/ invention	_____
The Arts	_____	Industry	<u>X</u>	Social/ humanitarian	<u>X</u>
Commerce	<u>X</u>	Military	_____	Transportation	_____
Communication	_____	Political	_____		
Community development	<u>X</u>				

9. Historical significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

There are several historical themes which can be related to this mill house. The first is its role in the development of the town. Chicopee sprang up around the mills and from its earliest beginnings was an industrial town. This one was built for the cotton companies by the Springfield Canal Company between the years 1832 and 1841. Chicopee Center or "Cabotville" supported three cotton companies: Cabot Manufacturing Company (1832), Perkins Manufacturing Company (1836), and Dwight Manufacturing Company (1841).

Through the years, the workers who resided in the mill-owned boarding houses ran the gamut from native Yankees to French Canadians, Poles, and the Irish. This contributed to a wide variety in population and lifestyle.

This boarding house is historically valuable to an industrial city such as Chicopee, since it points up the importance of industry in the settlement of this city, and how the lives of the inhabitants were controlled by the owners of the major industries. Every decision in the workers' lives was made by the heads of the boarding houses; they were told when to eat, when to go to bed, and even when to attend church. Through the establishment of the lifestyle, all the employees' lives were strictly regulated.

The buildings in this district remain relatively the same as when they were being used as residences for the factory labor. They enable us to envision more clearly the type of environment Chicopee's first inhabitants lived in, and because of this, they should be considered an asset to the community and a source of pride for its citizens.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

- Economic History of a Factory Town-Vera Schlakman
- Numerous deeds at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds
- Book 1605 page 146 Hampden County Registry of Deeds
- Springfield Republican--July 23, 1933
- "History of Chicopee" Bessie Warner Kerr
- Plans Book 5 Hampden County Registry of Deeds