

**Parks & Woolson Machine Co.,
Photographs and Ledgers, circa 1950-1958
MSA 809**

Introduction

This collection contains photographs of cloth finishing machines from the 1950s, ledgers, and instructions for installation and use (in Spanish) of a decating machine produced by the Parks & Woolson Machine Company of Springfield, Vermont. They are stored in one archival flip top box and consume .25 linear feet of shelf space. The collection was donated to the Vermont Historical Society by the American Textile History Museum of Lowell, Massachusetts, as part of that institution's dissolution in May 2017.

Historical Note

The Parks & Woolson Machine Co., a manufacturer of woolen cloth finishing machinery, was established in 1826 and closed in 2003. It was the oldest machine shop in Springfield, Vermont. The factory was strategically located along the Black River for its water power and attracted highly skilled machinists in its heyday.

According to a December 2002 issue of *Textile World*, in the 2000s Parks & Woolson concentrated "on the manufacture of custom-designed face finishing systems, such as shears, tigers, nappers, sanders/sueders and quality systems."

Parks & Woolson was the last major mill to operate in Springfield, Vermont. The mill complex, located at 33 Park St., is the oldest existing mill building complex in Springfield. The complex includes the original 3½ story brick, gable-roofed mill built in 1829 and remodeled in 1859. The mill was expanded and remodeled again in 1877, 1910, and 1914.

(<http://www.hudsonvalleyruins.org/yasinsac/VT/springfield2.html>).

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains mostly photographs of machines built and sold by the Parks & Woolson Machine Co. of Springfield, Vermont, in the 1950s. All of the photos are identified with model numbers of the machines in the photographs; some of the photographs include text about the operation of the machinery. There are two photographs of each machine. The collection also includes are also two ledgers from the period 1955-58 and Spanish language instructions for the installation and use of a decating machine.

Related Collections

National Museum of American History holds a collection of Parks & Woolson Machine Co. trade catalogs. According to their cataloging record, their collection includes contains groups of undated brochures about the company's fabric finishing machines such as: semi-decater; seamlethru; examiner/inspector; calender roller; stretch roller; raiser, napper; and winder.

Inventory

MSA 809:01 General ledger, 1955-1958
02 Ledger, 1958
03 Stock castings, 1957
04 Instructions for semi-decating machine, Spanish, n.d.
05 Photographs, 6021W, 6308X, 6711Y
06 _____, 6899Y, 6400X, 7807W
07 _____, 7833V, 7875W, 7875Z
08 _____, 7903T, 7903U, 7903V
09 _____, 7903X, 7903Y, 7940V

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ParksWoolsonMachineCo