

Massachusetts Cultural Resource Information System

Scanned Record Cover Page

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| Inventory No: | ASL.D |
| Historic Name: | Dwight Printing - Lombard Governor Plant |
| Common Name: | |
| City/Town: | Ashland |
| Village/Neighborhood: | |
| Local No: | 0140-0128; |
| Year Constructed: | |
| Use(s): | Business Office; Industrial Complex or District; |
| Significance: | Architecture; Commerce; Industry; Military; |
| Designation(s): | |
| Building Materials: | |
| Demolished | No |



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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 A - AREA

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|-----------|-------------------|
| 0140-0128 | F'ham | ASL. D | see data sheet |
|-----------|-------|-----------|-------------------|

Photograph



View SE: 10 Main (left, ASL.200) and 30 Main (right, ASL.201)

Town/City: Ashland

Place (*neighborhood or village*):

Name of Area: Dwigth Printing-Lombard Governor Plant

Present Use: office

Construction Dates or Period: 1868-1942

Overall Condition: good

Major Intrusions and Alterations:
see architectural description

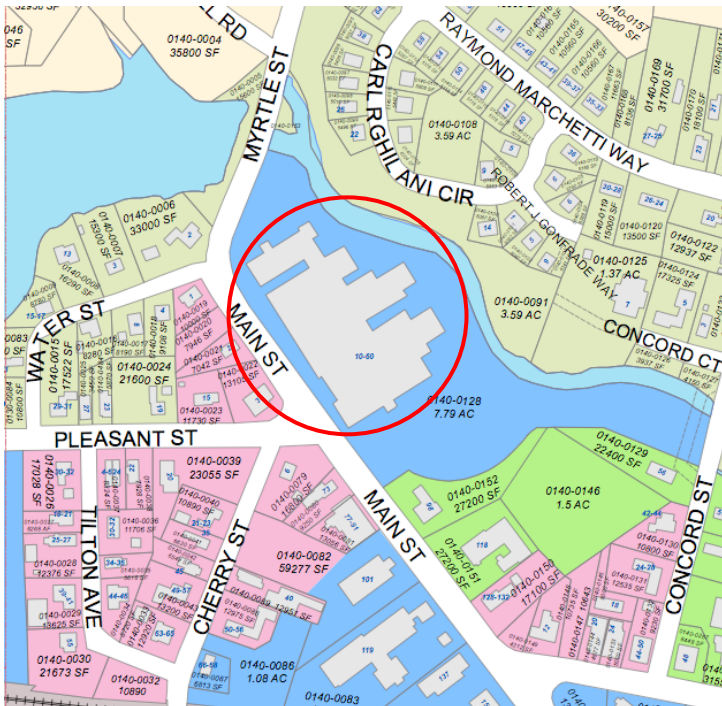
Acreage: 7.79 acres

Recorded by: Kathleen Kelly Broomer

Organization: for Ashland Historical Commission

Date (*month/year*): April 2010; edited June 2010

Locus Map



RECEIVED
JULY 01 2010
MASS. HIST. COMM.

see continuation sheet

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

ASHLAND

Dwight Print-Lombard

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

ASL.D see data sheet

- Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Describe architectural, structural and landscape features and evaluate in terms of other areas within the community.

This former industrial complex consists of four principal and connected buildings between Main Street and the Sudbury River, below the dam off Myrtle Street. A covered tailrace ran through the mill complex, parallel to Main Street, as late as the mid-20th century, according to Sanborn fire insurance maps. All buildings are built into the grade, which is highest at street level and descends to the northeast. The historic name numbers assigned to the various buildings correspond to numbers on the Sanborn maps.

The Dwight Printing-Lombard Governor Building Nos. 2/3, 10 Main Street (1869-1870, ASL.200) is a 1½-story granite block building on a raised basement with a mansard roof clad in asphalt shingles. The roof has always displayed a mansard profile with recessed windows, but the current windows are replacements. The main block (Building No. 2) currently is two bays across and twelve bays deep. A brick smokestack survives at the rear of the building, at the juncture of the main block and a lateral extension at the rear (Building No. 3), which connects to 30 Main Street. The façade does not display as many openings as existed in the mid-20th century, when there were five. Today, two entries (with replacement door systems) flank a blind granite arch that appeared to contain a window until the mid-20th century. Other window openings on the façade have been infilled. The 1948 Sanborn map describes Building No. 2 as a machine and pattern shop and Building No. 3 as assembling and testing.

The largest and least altered of the buildings in the complex is the Dwight Printing-Lombard Governor Building No. 1, 30 Main Street (1869-1870, ASL.201), described on the 1948 Sanborn map as a machine shop. Similar to the building above in its granite construction and mansard roof, this 1½-story building is five bays across and approximately twenty bays deep. There is a ca. 1970s porch spanning the center entry and two flanking bays, with a short mansard roof clad in copper. Window sash has been replaced.

At 40 Main Street (ASL.202) are the Lombard Governor Building No. 5 (ca. 1922) at the street, with the Dwight Printing Building No. 4 (ca. 1869-1870) at the rear, and a connecting addition (ca. 1940). The oldest section is at the rear, approximately five bays across and six bays deep with a low-pitched gable roof; this section survives from an earlier granite building on the site, demolished by 1912. The rear section housed a blacksmith shop and pattern shop in 1948. The 1½-story front section at the street, now one bay across the façade and five bays deep, has been substantially altered with the removal of two façade bays and the dormer windows. The front section, known as an assembling building in 1948, has granite walls and a mansard roof like the buildings above, but a steel frame, according to Sanborn maps. A machine shop, about eleven bays deep, was added in between the front and rear sections by ca. 1940. This shop has a flat roof.

The only brick-clad building in the complex is the steel-frame, flat-roofed Lombard Governor Building No. 6, 50 Main Street (1941-1942, ASL.203). Most original Moderne detailing, in the form of a substantial glass block surround at the entry, framed by curved brick-clad walls and a cantilevered entry canopy, has been removed. Windows contain replacement sash. In 1948, this one-story building housed a drafting room and offices at the front, and a machine shop at the rear. The building has been extended on both sides of the original five-bay, center-entry façade, obscuring the original oversized multi-pane industrial windows on the side elevations.

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

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Dwight Print-Lombard

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

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Buildings in this area would likely be included in a potential National Register district at the town center; further survey at the town center is needed to support a district recommendation.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Explain historical development of the area. Discuss how this relates to the historical development of the community.

While the Dwight Printing Company constructed the oldest buildings on this site in 1869-1870, the site has supported industrial activity since the early 19th century, after the Middlesex Manufacturing Company purchased the property in 1811 for the production of cotton cloth. A four-story mill was built ca. 1816, later acquired by Boston parties and incorporated in 1828 as the Middlesex Union Factory Company. The presence of industry on this Sudbury River site contributed to the growth of the village of Unionville, as this section of Hopkinton was known prior to its incorporation in 1846 as part of the new town of Ashland.

Dwight Printing Company was organized in 1868 for the bleaching, dyeing, and printing of cotton cloth. Jordan, Marsh & Co., the Boston department store concern established in 1851 by Eben Dyer Jordan, was one of the original three-stockholders; the Dwight company would be processing cloth for the department store. Dwight Printing acquired several parcels in Ashland between 1868 and 1871 and began construction of a substantial complex of granite mills. The complex was not completed and the business never opened. There is disagreement in period sources as to whether the 1872 land takings in Ashland to create the metropolitan Boston water supply system precipitated or followed the company's decision to suspend construction. The Metropolitan Water Commission maintained that Dwight Printing had depleted its financial resources before the land takings occurred. Failure of the business to open brought a sudden halt to a building boom in Ashland and depressed the local economy.

Higley notes that Dwight Printing began construction on seven granite buildings, only four of which were completed before the company's building campaign was discontinued; the surviving buildings are now known as 10 Main Street and 30 Main Street, plus the rear section of 40 Main Street. The company spent \$500,000 in land and building construction, and a spur track from the Boston & Albany Railroad was built to bring freight and coal to the site. Though Dwight Printing never opened, Warren Thread Company did occupy some buildings, leasing them for the manufacture of spool cotton. In 1876, Alfred D. Warren, a thread manufacturer in Worcester, came to Ashland and established his thread mill. The business was incorporated in January 1880 as the Warren Thread Company, with a capital of \$25,000. The Jordan family and Adrian Foote purchased all the stock in the company. Warren Thread took cotton yard shipped from various factories in New England and twisted it into thread of many sizes and colors. The mill was open year-round and employed seventy-five hands, producing a product valued at about \$300,000 annually.

Most of the property of the Dwight Printing Company remained in hands of the Jordan family until 1902, when it was auctioned. After some changes in ownership of the Ashland property, the Lombard Governor Company moved in 1904 from Roxbury Crossing in Boston to the vacant granite mill buildings in Ashland. Organized in 1894 by Nathaniel Lombard to manufacture hydraulic speed governors for waterwheels, Lombard Governor moved to Ashland upon the recommendation of Henry Ellis Warren, who had been superintendent and an engineer with the company since 1902. Warren (1872-1957) emerged as one of Ashland's most prominent businessmen and civic leaders in the first half of the 20th century, inventing the electric clock and establishing Warren Telechron Company, 150-200 Homer Avenue (see form); acquiring and preserving many acres of agricultural property surrounding his residence on Chestnut Street (see forms for 529-531 Chestnut Street and 433 Chestnut Street); and playing an instrumental role in bringing to Ashland not only Lombard Governor but also Fenwal, Inc., 400 Main Street (see form). The president of Lombard Governor at the time, Homer Loring (1875-1939), also moved to Ashland and resided seasonally at his estate, 579 Chestnut Street (see form), south of Warren's.

Lombard Governor initially occupied the granite mill buildings at 10 Main Street and 30 Main Street and the rear section of 40 Main Street. In 1916, Henry Ellis Warren moved his clock business, then known as Warren Clock Company, into space he leased from Lombard at 10 Main Street, occupying the second floor while Lombard's foundry occupied the lower

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

ASHLAND

Dwight Print-Lombard

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levels. In the early 1910s, the Angier Corporation, manufacturer of waterproof paper products, occupied other buildings immediately to the south of Lombard's. A fire at Angier mills destroyed their complex in 1922, and the company subsequently moved to Framingham. Lombard Governor subsequently expanded southward, completing the front section of the building at 40 Main Street in the 1920s. In 1922, Lombard Governor expanded its business to construct marine and stationary, diesel oil-burning engines. The company in 1930 had a capital of \$450,000 and employed 200 operatives, most of whom were skilled mechanics. Its principal stockholder at that time, C. Sidney Shepard, died in 1934, leaving the plant and a large estate to the national organization of the Presbyterian church. Henry Ellis Warren purchased the company's common stock in 1937, changed the name to the Lombard Governor Corporation, and rapidly increased the number of operatives from 300 in the late 1930s to about 750 by the early 1940s during a period of retooling the company for national defense. The building at 50 Main Street (1941-1942) was built and equipped by the U. S. Navy Department and later purchased by Lombard. Warren managed the company and served as president until his death in 1957.

As noted in Warren's biography, prepared after his death:

The Lombard Governor organization had produced the first efficient hydraulic speed governor, the first hydraulically operated relief valve, and various special devices to facilitate power plant operation. The company did make very precise surface and angle plates, parts of small steam turbines, [and] universal milling machines. . . [I]t is doing very precise sub-contract machine work, together with chain saws and large plastic molding machines. The chain saws have been shipped all over the world.

Lombard Governor still operated on the site in 1960, the end of the survey period. In 1962, the company name was changed to Lombard Industries to reflect the shift in the manufacturing emphasis from governors to chain saws, plastic molding machines and contract machine services. American Lincoln Corporation acquired Lombard in 1964 and moved the operations to Toledo, Ohio. The buildings currently house offices and other small businesses.

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***Dwight Printing Company-Lombard Governor Company Plant (MHC Area D)
Ashland, Massachusetts***

| <i>MHC #</i> | <i>Historic Name</i> | <i>Street #</i> | <i>Street Name</i> | <i>Date</i> | <i>Style</i> |
|---------------------|---|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 200 | Dwight Printing - Lombard Governor Nos. 2/3 | 10 | Main Street | 1869-1870 | No style |
| 201 | Dwight Printing - Lombard Governor No. 1 | 30 | Main Street | 1869-1870 | No style |
| 202 | Dwight Printing - Lombard Governor Nos. 4/5 | 40 | Main Street | ca. 1869/1922/ca. 1940 | No style |
| 203 | Lombard Governor No. 6 | 50 | Main Street | 1941-1942 | altered Moderne |

Note: Building numbers in historic name correspond to building numbers on Sanborn fire insurance maps

INVENTORY FORM A CONTINUATION SHEET

ASHLAND

Dwight Print-Lombard

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area Letter Form Nos.

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View NE, 30 Main [ASL.201]



View NE, 40 Main [ASL.202]

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View S, 50 Main [ASL.203]



View S, showing 10, 30, 40, and 50 Main Street. Federated Church steeple in distance.