



Glasstown, U.S.A., A Brief History of Glassmaking at Crystal City, Missouri, Manuscript

Collection Number: S0080

Collection Title: Glasstown, U.S.A., A Brief History of Glassmaking at Crystal City, Missouri, Manuscript

Dates: 1981

Creator: Hall, James

Abstract: This collection consists of *Glass Town USA, A Brief History of Glass Making At Crystal City, Missouri, 1868-1981*, a 64-page manuscript chronicling the history of Crystal City, Missouri, and the Crystal Plate Glass Company.

Collection Size: 0.01 cubic foot
(1 folder)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at stlouis@shsmo.org.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Glasstown, U.S.A., A Brief History of Glassmaking at Crystal City, Missouri, Manuscript (S0080)*; The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-St. Louis [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-St. Louis].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by James Hall on December 15, 1981 (Accession No. SA2440).

Processed by: Processed by Pat Adams, December 1981; Revised by AJ Medlock and Caroline Smith, March 2023.

Historical Note:

The foundation for modern-day Crystal City, Missouri, began in 1868, when mineralogist Forrest Sheppards discovered silica, one of the primary glass-making ingredients. The American Plate Glass Company subsequently established operations in 1871. Initially, residents referred to Crystal City as “New Detroit” since most of the company’s employees migrated from Detroit. After the Crystal Plate Glass Company purchased the American Plate Glass Company in 1877, the town renamed itself Crystal City. The Pittsburg Plate Glass Company (PPG) absorbed the Crystal Plate Glass Company in 1895 as the competition among glass-making companies continued to grow and increase prices on glass plates.

Beginning in 1906, the Pittsburg Plate Glass Company began selling private lots to residents, starting the community’s transition from a company town to an independent community. Two years later, in 1908, the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company constructed the Crystal City Works Nine, which was one of the largest plate glass plant works in the world at that time. Crystal City remained at the forefront of glass plate production until the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company ceased operations in the area in 1972; the Crystal City Works Nine ceased production in 1991.

Arrangement:

The collection has been maintained in its original order in one folder.

Scope and Content Note:

Glass Town U.S.A., A Brief History of Glass Making At Crystal City, Missouri, 1868-1981 is a manuscript written by James N. Hall in 1981, which covers the history of Crystal City, Missouri, and the Crystal Plate Glass Company. Hall’s manuscript utilizes several historical artifacts, such as plate scans of notes, letters, photos, news clippings, geographical maps, factory floor plans, census records, and journal articles. Hall also incorporates the work “A History of Franklin, Jefferson, Washington, Crawford, and Gasconade Counties, Illustrated,” written by Goodspeed Publishing, which Hall used to establish the town and company’s timeline and demonstrate the scale of the company over time. The materials in this collection are arranged in their original order in one folder.

Container List:

f. 1	Glasstown, U.S.A., A Brief History of Glassmaking at Crystal City, Missouri, Manuscript, 1981
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Index Terms	Folders
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