



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

American Furniture Industries Survey Collection

NMAH.AC.0286

Grace M. Angle

1988

Archives Center, National Museum of American History

P.O. Box 37012

Suite 1100, MRC 601

Washington, D.C. 20013-7012

archivescenter@si.edu

<https://americanhistory.si.edu/archives>

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	American Furniture Industries Survey Collection
Date:	1977-1980
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0286
Creator:	Woodward, Inc. Vaughan Furniture Co., The. Steelcase, Inc. Lane Company, The. Kessler Industries, Inc. Jasper Cabinet Co. Howland, Richard H., Dr. (special assistant to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution (1978-1979)) Hooker Furniture Corp. Furniture World. American Heirloom Galleries. Drexel Heritage Furnishings Broyhill Industries. Century Furniture Co., Inc. Bass Brothers Furniture Co.
Source:	National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Domestic Life
Extent:	4 Cubic feet (10 boxes)
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Immediate source of acquisition unknown.

Provenance

Collection transferred by the Office of the Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution to the Division of Domestic Life (now Division of Cultural and Community Life), 1983; transferred to the Archives Center, January 19, 1988.

Processing Information

Processed by Grace M. Angle, volunteer, 1988.

Preferred Citation

American Furniture Industries Survey Collection, 1978-1980, Archives Center, National Museum of American History

Restrictions

The collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use

Collection items available for reproduction, but the Archives Center makes no guarantees concerning copyright restrictions. Other intellectual property rights may apply. Reproduction permission from Archives Center: fees for commercial use.

Biographical Note

This collection constitutes the raw materials from an attempt to survey the archival holdings of American furniture manufacturers which was undertaken by the office of Dr. Richard H. Howland, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution in 1978-1979. The survey was intended as a preliminary study of industry owned collections and the possibility of a repository for such material. A letter and schedule were sent to approximately 210 furniture companies in the summer of 1979. In some instances follow up letters were sent in the fall. Each company was asked to complete a single page schedule and to send a catalogue if available.

Of the approximately 210 companies which received schedules, over 100 companies failed to respond. Forty five schedules were returned and more than 60 companies provided catalogues. Several companies sent brochures, pamphlets or annual reports in addition to or in lieu of catalogues. A few folders contain correspondence relating to prospective visits by the project director, or to preliminary plans for the survey.

The material received was not analyzed and no formal report was written. Funding did not materialize and the project was discontinued.

David A. Hanks, who worked on various projects under Dr. Howland's sponsorship before moving to New York in 1979 and Mrs. Johanna Rieg, a volunteer, worked on the project.

Page 5 of David Hanks paper before the Decorative Arts Archives Conference held at the Metropolitan Museum of Art on October 21, 1979 refers to a report by Mrs. Rieg on the initial findings of the survey. A telephone conversation with Mrs. Rieg March 2, 1988 indicated that her statement was an informal one not a written paper. At that time the project was not far enough along for any significant data to be available.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of the raw materials (completed schedules and catalogues) for a survey of material of historical interest and importance associated with American furniture manufacturers. There is a folder for each of the approximately 210 furniture manufacturing companies asked to participate in the survey, filed alphabetically by company.

Nearly all of the material has been kept in the original folders (not acid free) which are filed alphabetically by company. It is in excellent condition (1988) but should be transferred to acid free folders if a decision to keep it indefinitely is made).

Arrangement

This collection is arranged alphabetically by company name.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Business -- History
Furniture industry and trade
advertising

Types of Materials:

Sales catalogs
Schedules

Names:

National Museum of American History (U.S.). Division of Domestic Life

Container Listing

Box 1, Folder 1	Aireloom Bedding Company, undated
Box 1, Folder 2	Alba Industries, undated
Box 1, Folder 3	Albright and Zimmerman, undated
Box 1, Folder 4	Wesley Allen Incorporated and Wesley Allen Brass Beds, undated
Box 1, Folder 5	Alexis Manufacturing Company, undated
Box 1, Folder 6	Allied Upholstery Manufacturing, Incorporated, undated
Box 1, Folder 7	American Charms, Incorporated, undated
Box 1, Folder 8	American Drew, Incorporated, undated
Box 10, Folder 1	American Drew Incorporated, undated
Box 1, Folder 9	American Furniture Company, undated
Box 1, Folder 10	American of Martinsville, undated
Box 1, Folder 11	American Wicker Furniture Manufacturing, undated
Box 1, Folder 12	Angel Incorporated Furniture Manufacturing, undated
Box 1, Folder 13	Authentic Furniture Products, undated
Box 1, Folder 14	Ayers Furniture Industries, undated
Box 1, Folder 15	Baby Line, undated
Box 1, Folder 16	Baker Furniture Company, undated
Box 1, Folder 17	Barkel, Incorporated, undated
Box 1, Folder 18	Barzilay Company, undated
Box 1, Folder 19	Basic Furniture Styles, Incorporated, undated
Box 1, Folder 20	Bassett Furniture Industries, undated
Box 1, Folder 21	Bassett Furniture Industries II, undated
Box 1, Folder 22	Bassett Furniture Industries III, undated

Box 1, Folder 23	Norman Bates Incorporated, , undated
Box 1, Folder 24	Bauman Manor of California, undated
Box 1, Folder 25	Beachley Furniture Company, Incorporated, undated
Box 1, Folder 26	Thomas P. Beals Furniture Company, undated
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Box 1, Folder 29	Belmar Furniture Manufacturing Company, undated
Box 1, Folder 30	Benchcraft, undated
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Box 1, Folder 32	George B. Bent Company, Incorporated, undated
Box 1, Folder 33	Bergsma Brothers, , undated
Box 1, Folder 34	Berkline Corporation, undated
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Box 1, Folder 36	Bernhardt Furniture Company, undated
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Box 2, Folder 38	Biggs Manufacturing, undated
Box 2, Folder 39	Bolhuis Lumber and Manufacturing Company, undated
Box 2, Folder 40	Boling Chair Company, undated
Box 2, Folder 41	Bouldin's Incorporated, undated
Box 2, Folder 42	Boyd Furniture Manufacturing, undated
Box 2, Folder 43	Bracewell Furniture Company, Incorporated, undated
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Box 2, Folder 45	Brandrud Manufacturing Company, undated
Box 2, Folder 46	A. Brandt Company, Incorporated, undated

Box 2, Folder 47	Brandt of Grand Rapid, Incorporated, undated
Box 2, Folder 48	Brent Wood Products, Incorporated, undated
Box 2, Folder 49	Brookwood Furniture, undated
Box 2, Folder 50	Brower Furniture Company, undated
Box 2, Folder 51	Brown Jordan Company, undated
Box 2, Folder 52	Broyhill Furniture Industries, undated
Box 2, Folder 53	Burlington House Furniture, , undated
Box 8, Folder 1-2	Burlington House Furniture , 1979
Box 2, Folder 54	Burriss Industries Incorporated, undated
Box 2, Folder 55	Cal Custom Furniture Manufacturing Company, Incorporated, undated
Box 2, Folder 56	Cal Mode Furniture Manufacturing Company, undated
Box 2, Folder 57	Cal Sofas, Incorporated, undated
Box 2, Folder 58	California Furniture Shops, LTD., undated
Box 2, Folder 59	California Styles, undated
Box 2, Folder 60	Carlson Furniture Industries Incorporated, undated
Box 2, Folder 61	Carlton Manufacturing Company, undated
Box 2, Folder 62	Carolina Seating Company, undated
Box 2, Folder 63	Marge Carson, Incorporated, undated
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Box 2, Folder 65	Casual Living, undated
Box 2, Folder 66	Century Furniture Company, undated
Box 8, Folder 3-4	Century Furniture Company, 1977-1978
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Box 2, Folder 68	Charles Manufacturing Company, undated

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Box 2, Folder 74	Colonial Manufacturing Company, undated
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Box 2, Folder 77	Craftique, undated
Box 2, Folder 78	Davis Cabinet Company, undated
Box 2, Folder 79	Daystrom (Sperry and Hutchison), undated
Box 2, Folder 80	Desoto, Incorporated, Furniture Group Offices, undated
Box 2, Folder 81	Dillingham Manufacturing Company, undated
Box 2, Folder 82	Dixie, undated
Box 2, Folder 83	DMI Furniture, Incorporated, undated
Box 2, Folder 84	Directional of North Carolina, Incorporated, undated
Box 2, Folder 85	Drake Smith and Company, Incorporated, undated
Box 2, Folder 86	Drexel Furniture Company, undated
Box 2, Folder 87	William F. Drueke and Sons, undated
Box 2, Folder 88	Economy Furniture Industries, undated
Box 2, Folder 89	Endicott Industries, Incorporated, undated
Box 3, Folder 90	Ethan Allen, Incorporated, undated
Box 3, Folder 91	Everett Piano Company, undated
Box 3, Folder 92	Fine Arts Furniture Company, undated

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Box 3, Folder 94	Fox Manufacturing Company, undated
Box 3, Folder 95	Furniture City Upholstery, undated
Box 3, Folder 96	Garrison Furniture Company, undated
Box 3, Folder 97	General Housewares Corporation, undated
Box 3, Folder 98	Gem Industries, Incorporated, undated
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Box 4, Folder 116	Hoke Furniture Company, Incorporated, undated

Box 4, Folder 117	H.L. Hubbell, Incorporated, undated
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Box 4, Folder 119	Jamestown Lounge Company, undated
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Box 4, Folder 122	Kay Chair Company, undated
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Box 5, Folder 141	Lyon-Shaw Incorporated, undated
Box 5, Folder 142	Carlton McLendon Furniture Company, Incorporated, undated
Box 5, Folder 143	Macon Umbrella Corporation, undated
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