

## Collection Summary

**ID Number:** MSS 111

**Title:** Evansville Wartime Museum Collection

**Extent:** Map Case

**Span Dates:** 1940s – 1990s

**Language:** English

**Geographic Location:** Indiana

**Abstract:** The Evansville Wartime Museum Collection consists of original blueprints of Republic Aviation Factory and Whirlpool Corporation manufacturing from 1942 to 1997.

**Historical Notes:** Republic Aviation built a plant in Evansville in 1942, for a safer, inland location to handle WWII defense contracts, specifically the construction of P-47 Thunderbolts. Construction of the planes began in 1942, before the plant itself was completed. Production ceased in mid-August 1945. By that time, some 5,000 employees (about half women) had contributed 6,242 P-47 Thunderbolts to the war effort. Combat pilots loved the P-47. It did the job, and it brought them home safely. Whirlpool Corporation later moved into this facility. When Whirlpool came to Evansville in 1956, the city was known as the Refrigerator Capital of the World, Ed Klingler, a longtime Evansville Press business reporter, wrote in his book "How a City Founded to Make Money Made It." Servel made gas-fueled refrigerators at a facility in the 800 block of East Franklin Street. Seeger-Sunbeam made refrigerators at its facility in the 200 block of West Morgan Avenue. International Harvester made refrigerators at its plant in the 5400 block of U.S. 41 North, where Whirlpool ha[d] its plant. Whirlpool acquired all three plants and began Evansville production in 1956. It gradually expanded its presence over the years so that by 1969, it employed about 6,500 hourly workers. Labor disputes and other issues finally closed the Whirlpool plant in 2014. The Evansville Wartime Museum donated the items listed below.

## Selected Search Terms

**Keywords:** Military History, Local History, World War II

## Administrative Information

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Whirlpool Drawings	1987-1997	Drawer 1	Flat File 1
Architectural Drawings A002 – A342	1942-1946	Drawer 2	Flat File 1
Architectural Drawings A403 – A638	1942-1946	Drawer 3	Flat File 1
Mechanical Drawings M001 – M621	1942-1946	Drawer 4	Flat File 1

Contents	Date	Container	Location
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Supplemental Appendix Drawings and Revision Drawings R16 – R67	1942-1946	Drawer 7	Flat File 1