

Spittoon



In 1987, this spittoon was dug up by a contractor working near the Kingsbury Manufacturing Center at Rock Island Arsenal. Once research was conducted, it was learned that the spittoon was one of many cast at and used on Arsenal.

F. A. Stanley wrote a series of articles about Rock Island Arsenal that appeared in *American Machinist* in February and March of 1905. In "United States Arsenal at Rock Island - VI," March 9, 1905, p. 311, a description of Shop D (Building 62 today) includes:

The floors are swept and scrubbed at frequent intervals; oily waste and rubbish are taken care of by numerous receptacles provided for the purpose; and, last but not least in this provision for cleanliness, practically every employee has a cuspidor which is cast in the Arsenal foundry.



A spittoon can be seen in Otto Gronen's office in Building 380. This image appears in B.F. Tillinghast's *Rock Island Arsenal, In Peace and In War*, published in 1898.