



The former Tarr & Wonson Paint Factory is a complex of brick and frame structures built between 1884 and 1892 on Rocky Neck, the gateway to Gloucester’s Inner Harbor. This historic “manufactory” that produced copper-based paint for boat bottoms has been vacant since the 1980s, and now is to be converted into a private residence.

Due to the prominent, waterfront location, this conversion requires Chapter 90 review by the Army Corps of Engineers, and subsequent permitting approval from both the Massachusetts and Gloucester Historical Commissions. When initial designs met with opposition from these preservation organizations, the owner engaged HMFH to redesign the project to address these objections and satisfy permitting requirements.

The Paint Factory is a well known fixture along the shores of Gloucester Harbor, and the redesign retains the property’s historic authenticity while accommodating its new residential use. Exterior alterations have been kept to a minimum, utilizing existing openings and restoring the facade, including the highly visible signage declaring the building’s industrial heritage.