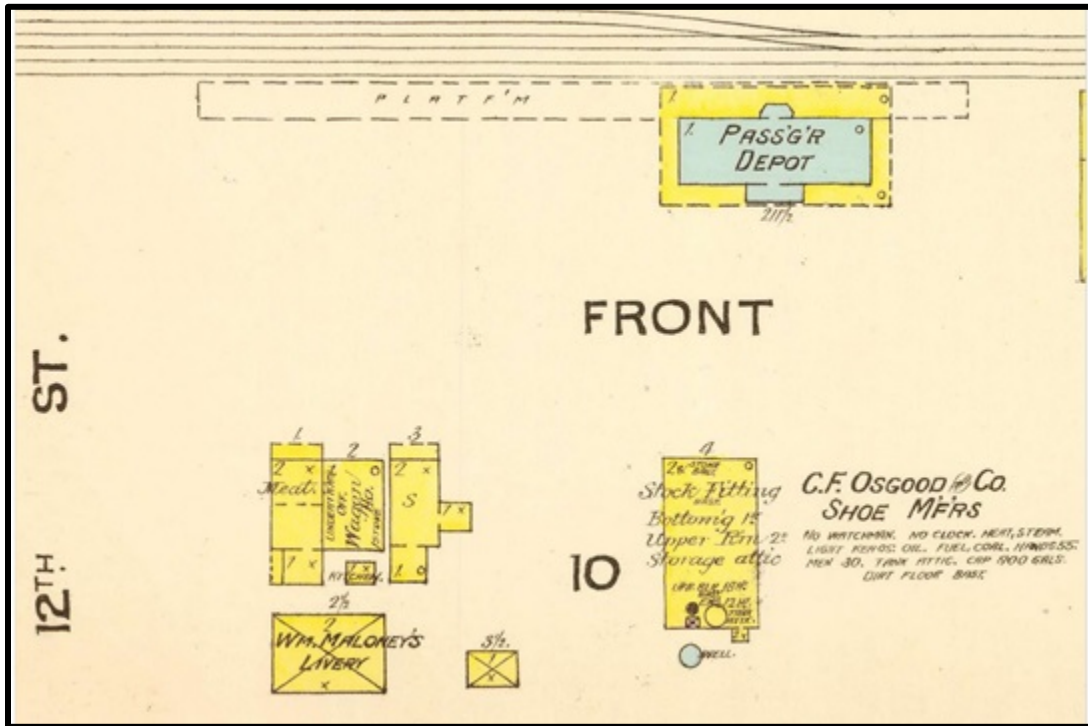
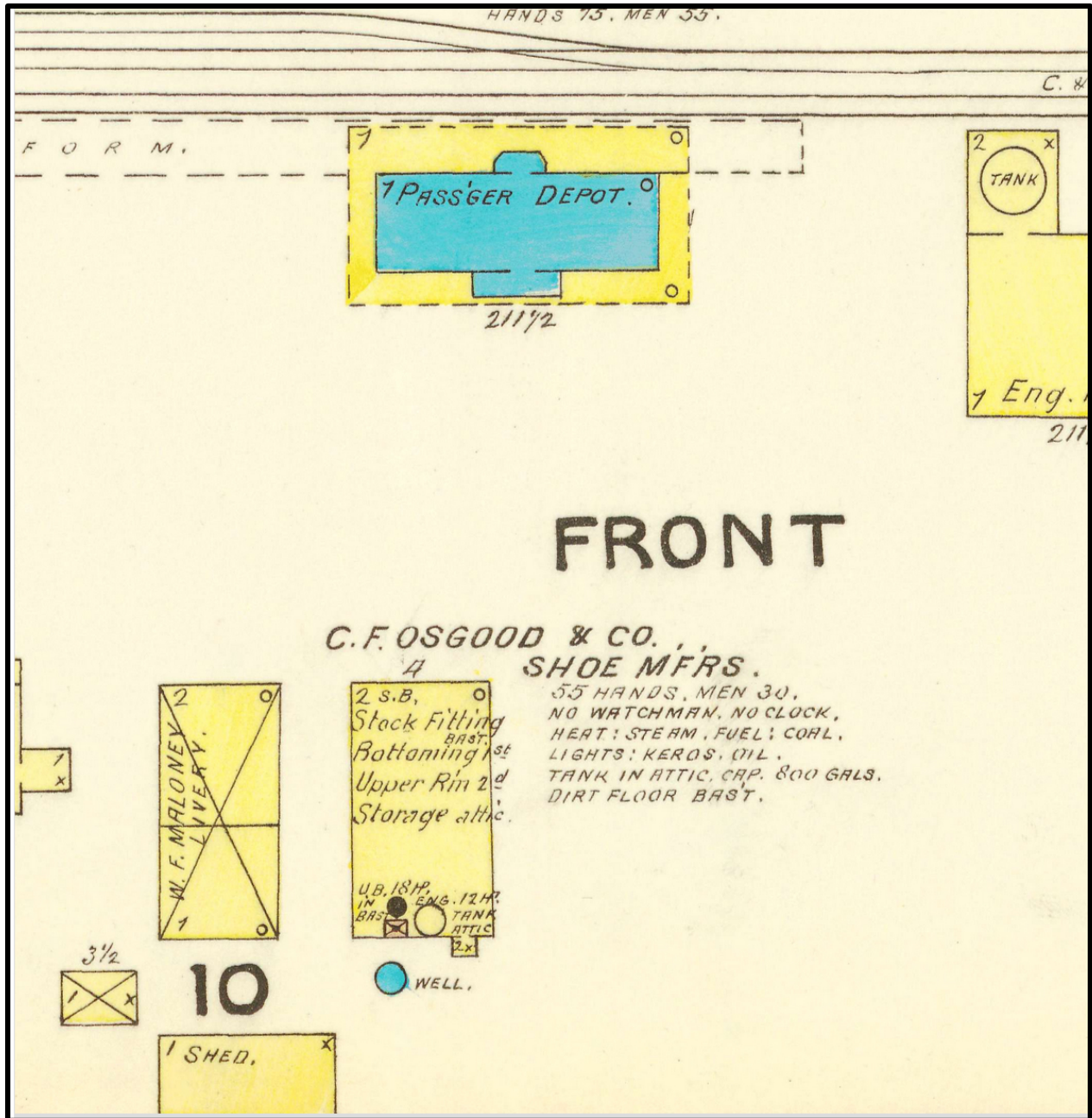


A History of Stockton University's Kramer Hall in Hammonton

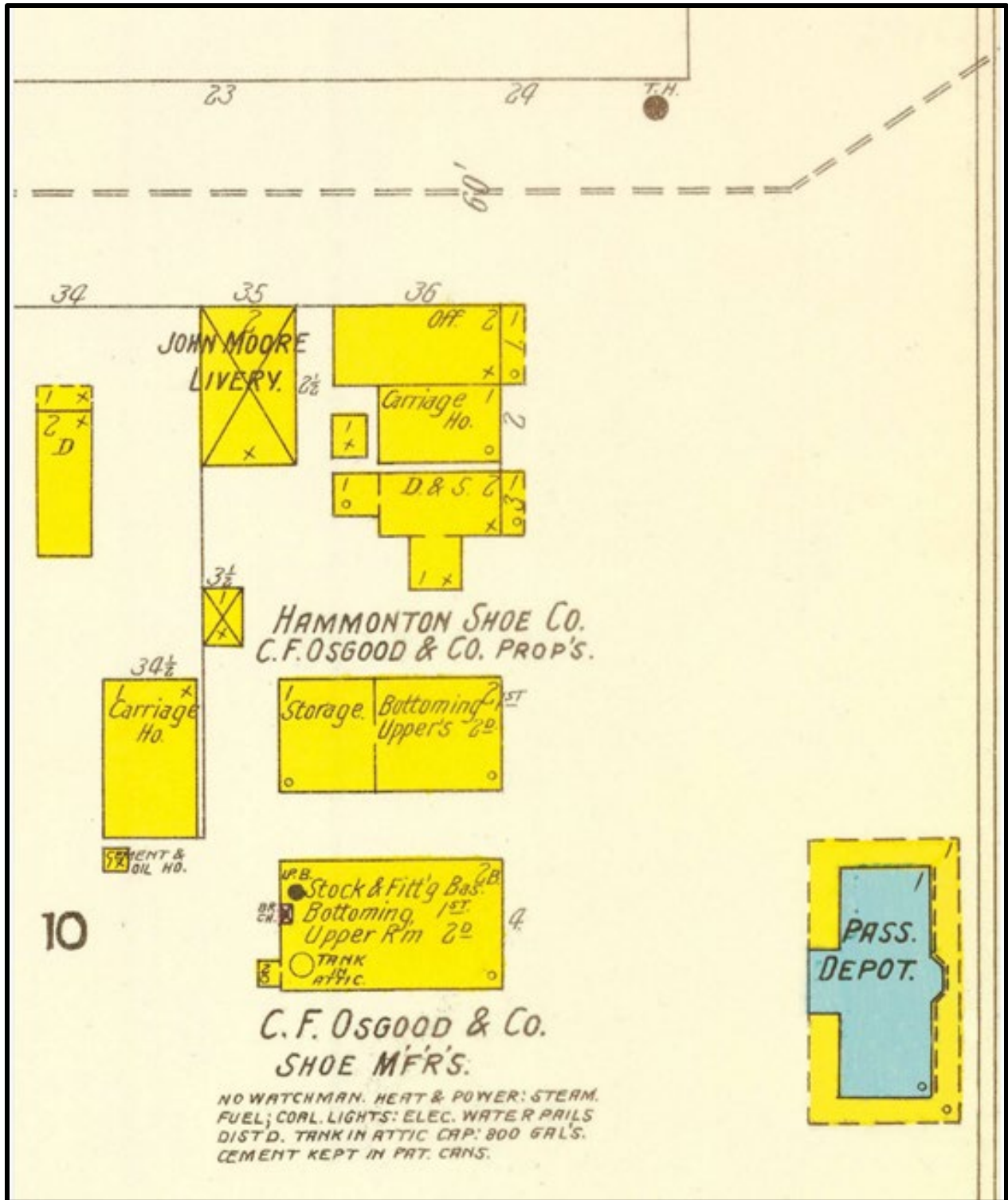
When Cyrus F. Osgood arrived in Hammonton during 1872, he found a developing town along the Camden & Atlantic Railroad with room for growth. Born in Auburn, Main in 1841, Osgood was well versed in all phases of shoemaking. During the remaining years of the nineteenth century, Osgood had a number of different business partners and used various buildings in town as shoe manufactories. In 1885, Osgood & Company contracted to have its own two-story frame shoe factory erected along Front Street east of 12th Street and across from the Camden & Atlantic railroad station. A Sanborn Map Company plate from December 1886 shows the location of the company:



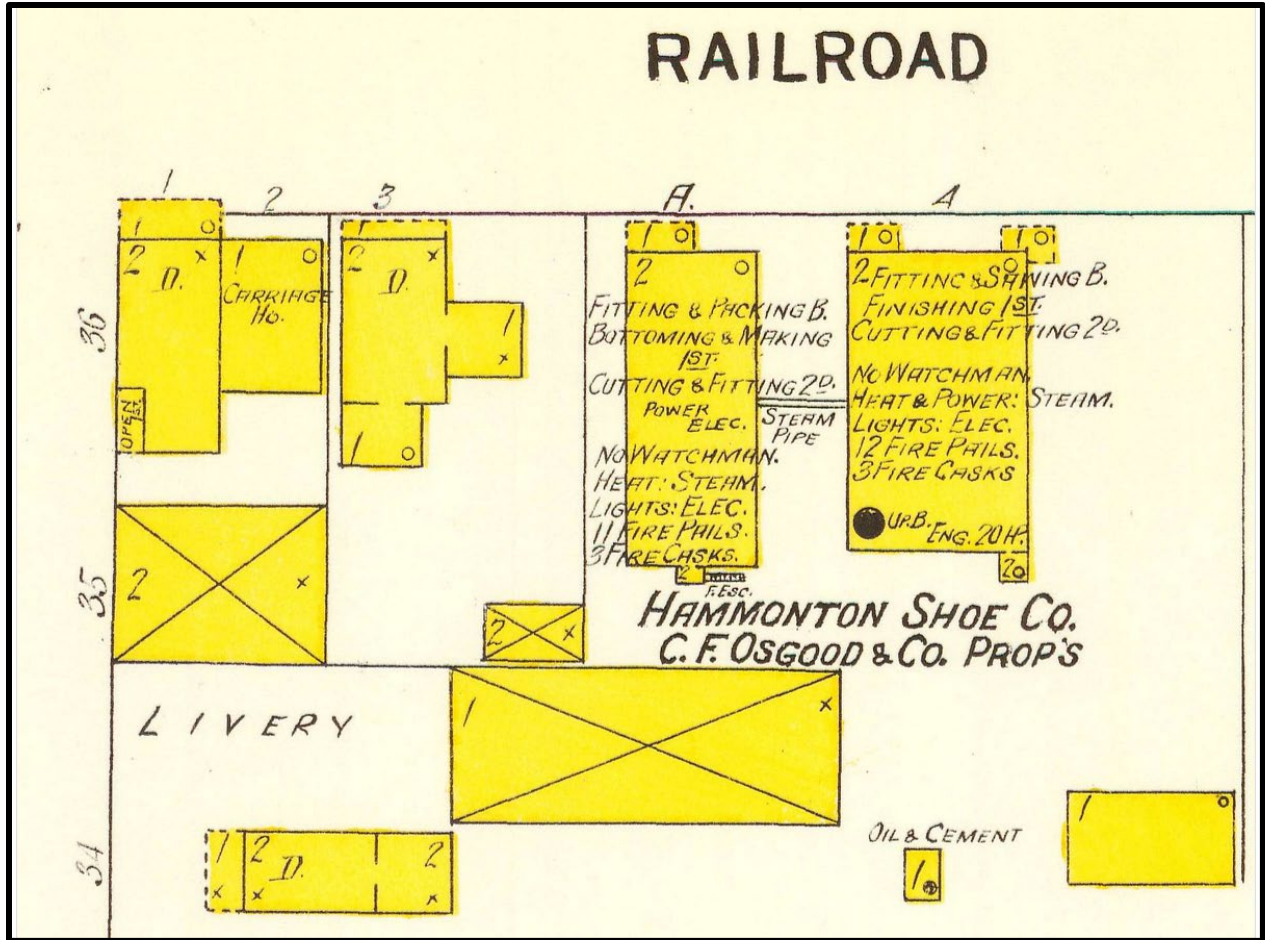
By September 1891, W.F. Maloney had erected a two-story frame livery stable immediately west of the Osgood factory along Front Street, as depicted on this Sanborn fire insurance map of that month and year:



In November 1899, C.F. Osgood & Company purchased Maloney's livery stable building and remodeled it into another shoe manufactory, the Hammonton Shoe Company, for producing children's shoes. The factory became operational during the final week of 1899. By 1901, the Osgood operations employed 75 people. The April 1903 Sanborn map provides information on the two shoe factories side by side:



In July 1907, Cyrus F. Osgood, in conjunction with William F. Smith, Walter F. Scott, and John G. Galigne, more formally incorporated the Hammonton Shoe Company with a total capitalization of \$125,000. Osgood and company apparently received a great response to its Hammonton Shoe Company line of footwear because by August 1908, the Hammonton firm had subsumed the entire Osgood manufactory, as shown on a Sanborn map:



With the rapid rise in business, however, the two frame buildings proved inadequate for full production. In the fall of 1908, the Hammonton Shoe Company management decided to construct a new building on a parcel of land on the east side of the frame factory. The company contracted with local builder William Bernshouse, who also operated a nearby lumber and shingle yard:

WILLIAM BERNSHOUSE.

HAMMONTON, N. J.,

Contractor and Builder,

MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN
DOORS, SASH, BLINDS, SHUTTERS & MOULDINGS,
WINDOW FRAMES, BRACKETS, LATTICE,
STAIR RAILING, BALUSTERS and NEWEL POSTS.
Lime, Colored Plaster, Land Plaster, Plastering Hair, Cement, Bricks,
Building Stone, &c., &c.

Building Lumber of all kinds Constantly on hand.
Cedar Shingles at Lowest Market Prices.
STANDARD CRANBERRY CRATES, \$12 PER 100.

All Orders by Mail will receive prompt attention.

Bernshouse prepared drawings for a new three-story brick building, completing the drafting work during January 1909. As drawn, the plans detailed a building measuring 43 feet by 100 feet and an adjoining boiler room measuring 18 feet square. Excavation work began in February and by the 20th of that month, 200 2-horse wagon loads had been removed from the ground for the basement and foundation.

The contractor and subcontractors completed all the work on the building before the end of June 1909. The *South Jersey Republican*, a Hammonton weekly newspaper, published the following article on Saturday, 26 June 1909, providing a glowing review of the newest building in the town:

| | |
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| <p style="text-align: center;">New Factory Building.</p> <p>Doubtless all have looked with admiration upon the new building erected for the Hammonton Shoe Company; and we believe few know the size and fine equipment of this handsome plant, put up with the company's own money. Their old building had long been inadequate, and to keep up with orders they had to make the change.</p> <p>The firm consists of C. F. Osgood, Wm. J. Smith, Walter F. Scott, and John G. Galigue. They manufacture misses' and children's shoes, turning out 600 pairs per day, and employ 80 hands. When well started in the new building, their force will be 175, with a daily output of twelve hundred to fifteen hundred pair.</p> <p>The new structure is of brick, 43x100 feet, three stories high, a kind of slag roof (rain and fire proof), with concrete door and window sills and caps. The floors are double, covering 12000 square feet of working space. Walls of first story are 17 inches thick, and 13 inches above. 128 windows light the building by day, and electric lights at night.</p> <p>The latest sanitary closets are installed on each floor, also wash basins. Steam heat will be sent throughout the building, from a low pressure boiler. Ten electric motors will operate all the machinery, including elevator. A huge</p> | <p>fan will force all scraps, sandpaper dust, etc., to an assembler on the roof, whence it will be dropped through a chute into a bag on first floor.</p> <p>Mr. Galigue, the manager, has grown up with the business, and the business with him, and has long made this improvement a study. The most up-to-date machinery and conveniences will be installed.</p> <p>A splendid fire protection consists of the following, which we believe will never be needed: Regulation plug at corner of building; double door exits and stairways in front, at each floor; steel escape on rear; large water mains from basement to roof, connected with two inch hose on each story, to reach any point in the building. Exit doors open outward, and interior doors are metal covered. Oils and other combustibles are kept in a damp-air-and-fire-proof brick and cement structure, two rods away.</p> <p>Mr. Wm. Bernshouse was architect and superintendent of construction.</p> <p>The new building will be occupied July 12th, the moving to be begun on the 6th.</p> <p>We congratulate the gentlemen on this improvement, which is also a good advertisement for the town. We venture the prediction, and sincerely hope, that another similar building will be needed within the next few years.</p> |
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The finished Hammonton Shoe Company factory featured large signage as advertising for the passengers in the trains stopping at or passing by the Hammonton railroad station:



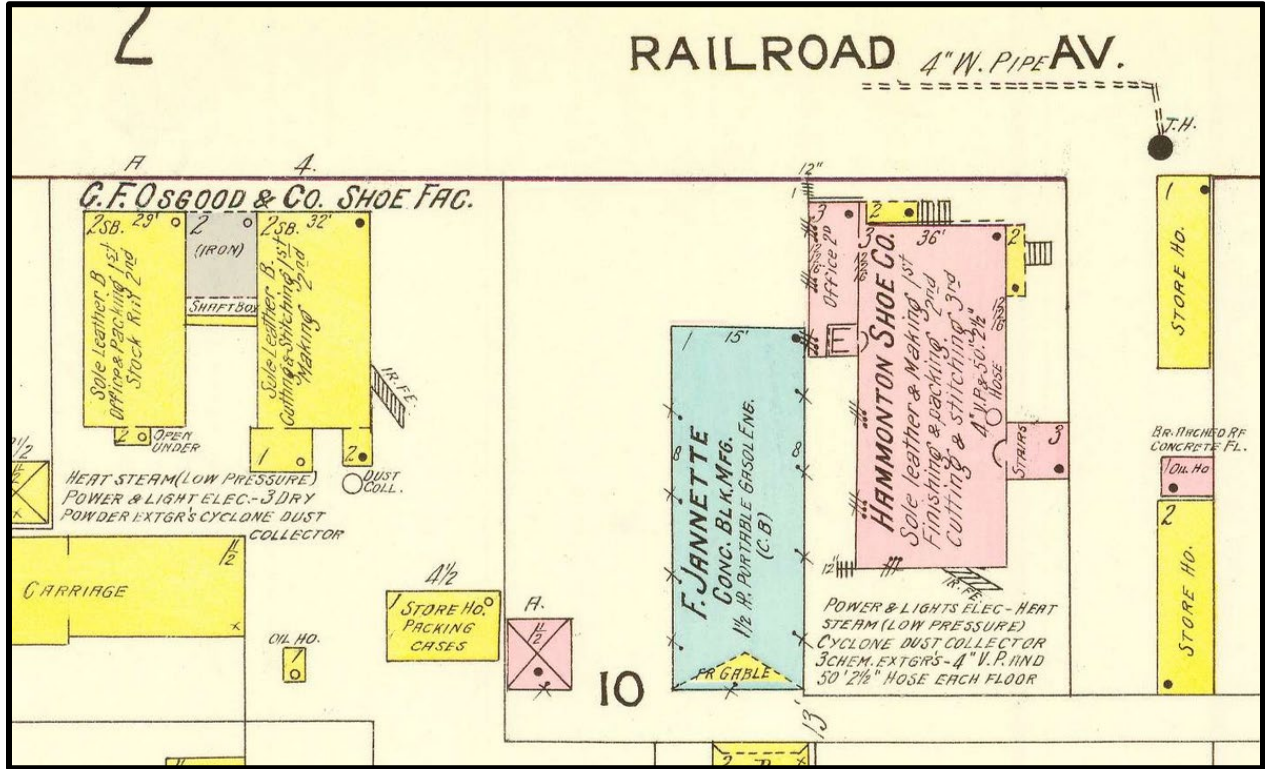
Paul W. Schopp collection

During the same year the factory was constructed, the federal Immigration Commission arrived in southern New Jersey to survey the status of immigrants. The 1911 published report of this commission included an extensive investigative study of Italians in Hammonton and Vineland. This report notes the first émigrés from Italy arrived in Hammonton circa 1870. They came initially from Sicily, but, soon thereafter, people emigrated from other southern locations like Naples and the Calabria region. While the Italians in the Hammonton area initially obtained work as agricultural and railroad laborers, some soon moved into industrial work as positions opened up for them. The Immigration Commission report contains a table stating that 22 males and 8 females Italians worked at the Hammonton Shoe Company factory in 1909, which represents nearly 40 percent of the total workforce of 61 males and 19 females. The Osgood Shoe Company payroll featured similar results, with 17 male and 4 female Italians working in the plant, an aggregated 42 percent out of the total of 38 males and 12 females. The Immigration Commission report provides an in-depth study of Italians in southern New Jersey and this document has barely scratched the surface of the information available within the 130 pages of the report's southern New Jersey section.

Just three years after the Immigration Commission visited southern New Jersey, the 1912 *Industrial Directory of New Jersey* reports employment at the Hammonton Shoe Company had increased to 145 people, while the Osgood Shoe Company had added another 20 workers to their payroll. Likewise in 1915, Hammonton Shoe continued to experience business growth and added 30 more workers while Osgood increased their payroll by another 15 people. Other factories in Hammonton offered employment opportunities to both new arrivals in town as well as those seeking to leave agricultural

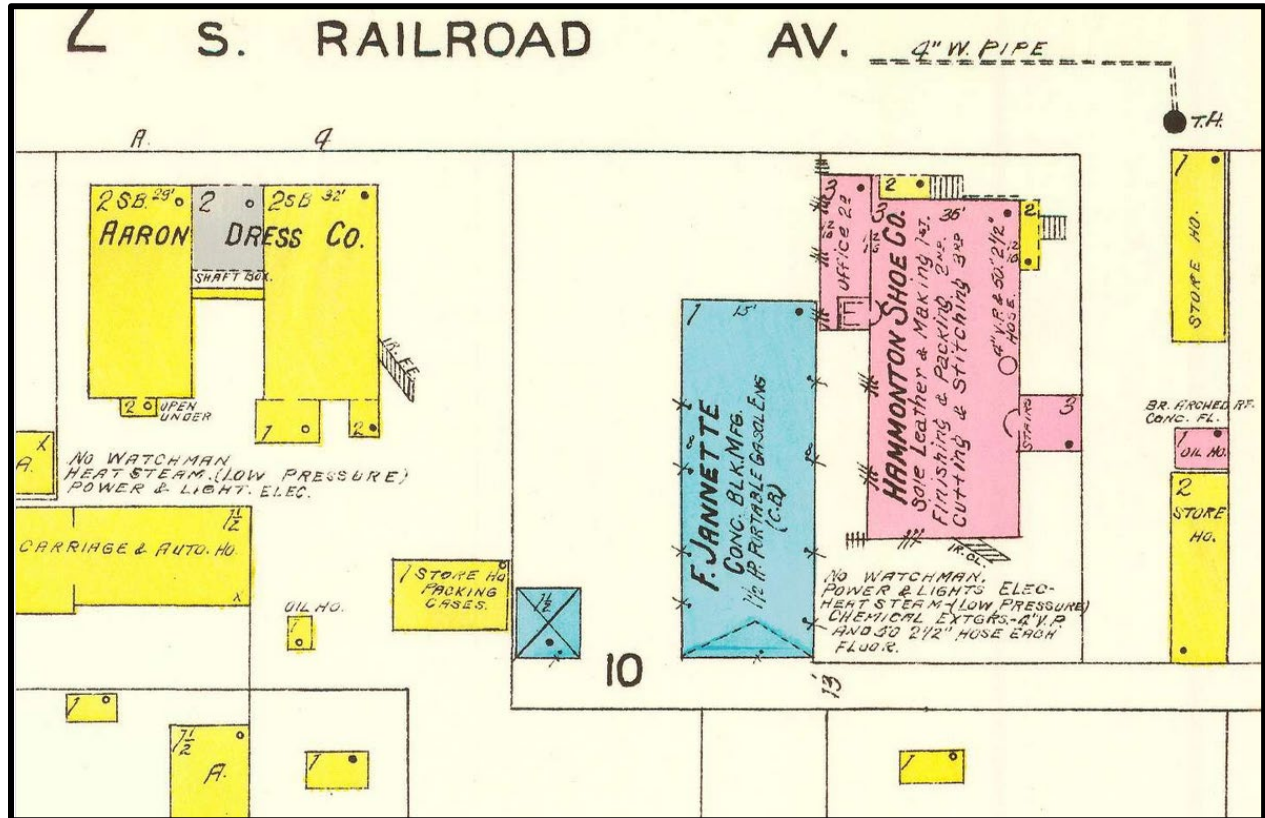
fieldwork for a regular position in a factory, where weather would not affect their working conditions and regular pay could be received.

The December 1914 Sanborn map provides a good plan view of the Hammonton Shoe Company factory and its locational relationship to the C.F. Osgood factory next door:

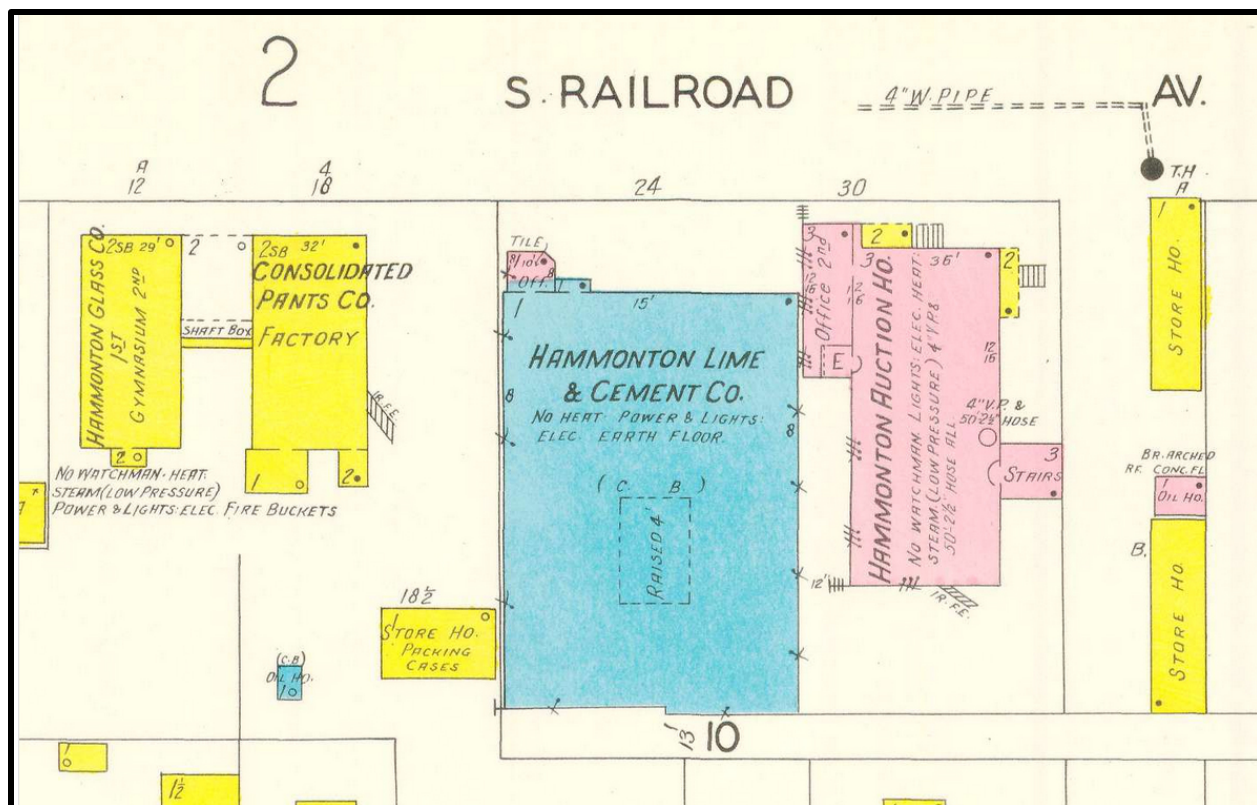


The 1918 *Industrial Directory of New Jersey* reports the first decrease in employment at the Hammonton Shoe Company, with only 156 workers, perhaps due to the effects of the First World War on manpower across the nation, as workers left their position to go to war. The Osgood Shoe Company had increased their payroll by 5 to 90 people in 1918.

The August 1923 Sanborn Map Company atlas of fire insurance maps for Hammonton indicates that the Osgood Shoe Company had discontinued operations and the Arons Dress Company had moved into their building complex.



The 1927 *Industrial Directory of New Jersey* reports that Adolph Arons & Sons employed 10 males and 3 females to manufacture men's and young men's clothing. At this time, the Hammonton Shoe Company had been reduced to manufacturing shoe uppers and now employed just 31 male and 26 female workers. Despite a rather robust past in its business history, it appears the stock market crash of October 1929 caused the Hammonton Shoe Company to dissolve its corporation and go out of business. The January 1930 Sanborn map tells the tale:

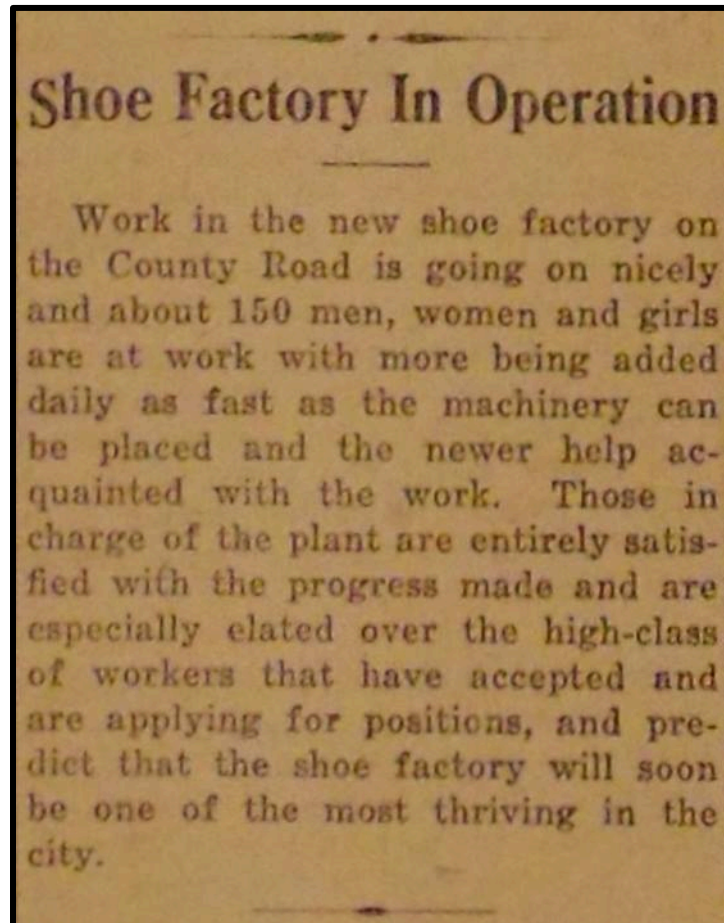


The shoe factory had become the Hammonton Auction House. It is unclear how long the auction house occupied the building during the 1930s, but, during the mid-1930s, the Interstate Coat Company was producing clothing at the former shoe factory. By 1943, the South Jersey Manufacturing Company had moved into the factory. South Jersey Manufacturing employed 6 males and 18 females fabricating rainwear and sportswear. South Jersey Manufacturing continued to occupy the building through at least 1950. In 1959, however, another clothing manufacturer had relocated to the former 15,000 square-foot shoe factory at 30 Front Street. The National Garment Company employed 18 males and 90 females to fabricate misses sportswear. The corporation's officers represented Hammonton's Italian heritage, with Anna C. Bertino serving as president; Joseph Bertino as vice-president; and Jean R. Liberto (Anna's daughter) as corporate secretary and treasurer. National Garment occupied the building through 1990. A year later, the Kim Michaels, Incorporated, occupied the old shoe factory for fabricating women's skirts. Owned by Michael Maculaso, the company employed 50 people in its manufacturing processes. This company remained at 30 Front Street through the 1990s, but by 2002, the firm had relocated elsewhere in South Jersey, leaving the former Hammonton Shoe Company empty.

Troubled by the closed and empty factory building, Hammonton town officials began making plans to turn the place into a regional arts center late in 2001. An announcement of the plan appeared in the 2 February 2002 edition of the *Press of Atlantic City*. This plan eventually led to the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey acquiring the building and naming it Kramer Hall for Charles and Lynn Kramer, who have given many years of service to the college.

Addendum: Hammonton Shoe Company in Egg Harbor City

Sometime during 1919, the press of business apparently forced the Hammonton Shoe Company management to expand its production capacity. In that year, the firm either contracted to have a new factory built in Egg Harbor City or agreed to lease a building if someone named McKay would have it constructed. Whatever the circumstances, a contractor completed construction of the building late in 1919. The 20 January 1920 issue of the Egg Harbor City Pilot Tribune carried the following article:



The March 1920 edition of *The Leather Manufacturer* Journal even reported that Hammonton Shoe Company had completely relocated to Egg Harbor City, but documentary evidence indicates the firm operated both factories in its production of woman's and children's footwear.

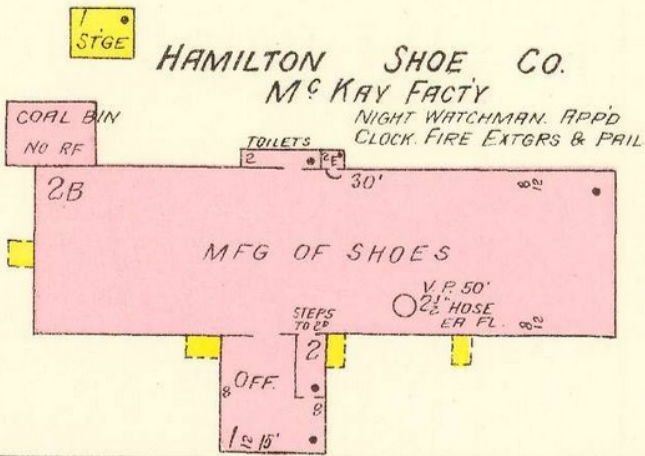
The July 1924 Sanborn Map Company atlas of Egg Harbor City provides the first plan of the new factory (note the typo mislabeling the factory as Hamilton Shoe Company instead of Hammonton):

39

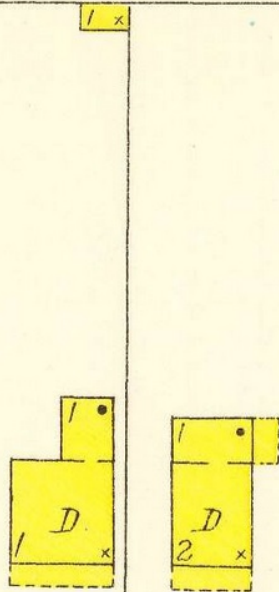
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57

NORFOLK AV.



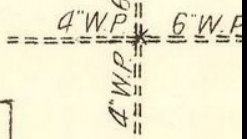
2ND TER.



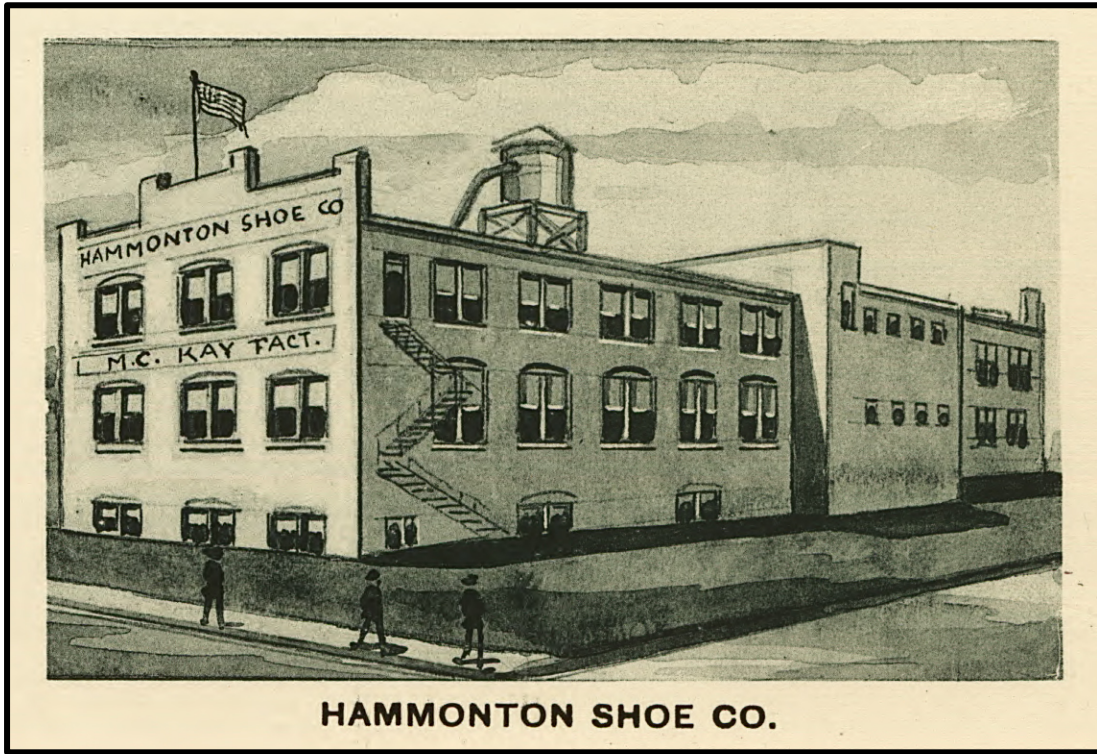
PIKE (AGASSIZ AV.)

WHITE HORSE

D.H.

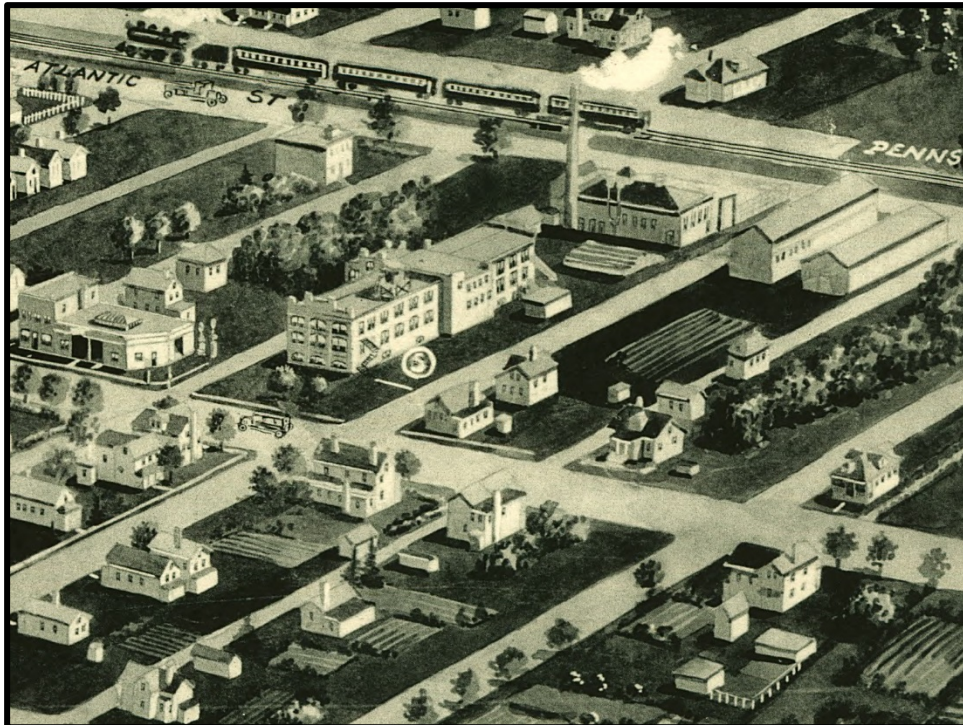


During the same year, the Brooklyn, New York, publishing firm of Hughes & Cinquin produced a rotogravure birds-eye view of Egg Harbor City, which included vignettes of various buildings in the city.



Here is the Hammonton Shoe Company factory in town from those vignettes:

Here is a contextual view of the factory from the birds-eye view:



The building located at the rear of the factory lot along the railroad in the above birds-eye view detail is an early Atlantic County Electric Company generating station.

The Hammonton Shoe Company continued to use this building until the firm went under due to the October 1929 stock market crash and resultant economic depression. The Renault Winery acquired the building and used it as their bottling plant:



Egg Harbor City Historical Society collection

A fire destroyed the Renault bottling plant in 1973.