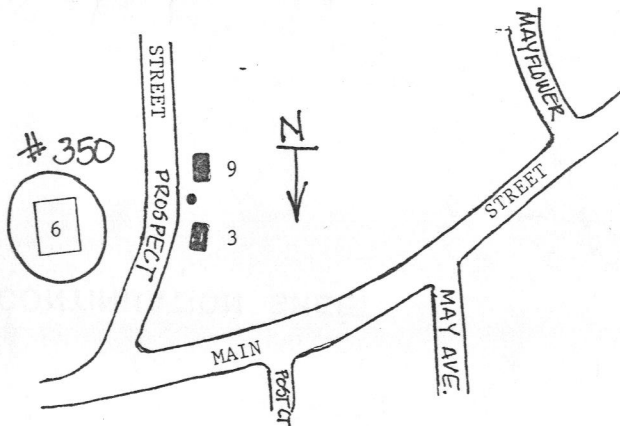




Draw a map showing the building's location in relation to the nearest cross streets and/or major natural features. Show all buildings between inventoried building and nearest intersection or natural feature. Label streets including route numbers, if any. Circle and number the inventoried building. Indicate north.



Recorded by Deirdre Brotherson
 Organization Kingston Historical Commission
 Date (month/year) May 1998

or's number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number
P. 7H 350

KIN.350

Town Kingston

Place (neighborhood or village) _____

Address 6 Prospect Street

Historic Name Cobb & Drew Factory

Uses: Present factory

Original factory

Date of Construction c.1848

Source maps & Emily Drew

Style/Form industrial

Architect/Builder _____

Exterior Material:

Foundation granite

Wall/Trim wood

Roof asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures _____

Major Alterations (with dates) _____

Condition good

Moved ☒ no ☐ yes Date _____

Acreage 8 acres

Setting _____

on Smelt Brook just off of Main Street near

Plymouth town line

RECEIVED

AUG 25 1998

MASS. HIST. COMM

KIN.350

BUILDING FORM

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION ☒ see continuation sheet

Describe architectural features Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE ☒ see continuation sheet

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET



☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

If checked, you must attach

Massachusetts Historical Commission
220 Morrissey Blvd.
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

Area(s) FormNo.

	350
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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Cobb & Drew mill is a combination of buildings built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The majority of the buildings are wood frame, 2 story, shallow gable roof buildings. Almost all of the buildings are clad with wood shingles or clapboards. The complex is vacant and access was not available. Based on a comparison of the 1896 Bird's Eye View and the 1896-1954 Sanborn maps, most of the buildings are extant and retain architectural integrity.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

In 1815, when Thomas Cushman built a dam across the stream where now the works of Cobb & Drew are situated, Smelt Brook ran its natural course from Smelt Pond to the Jones River. There had been a little smith's shop owned by John Cooper seventy-five years earlier, which had stood about where the Boston Road crosses the brook, on the north side of the stream, but no evidence has been found that it was a water-shop or that a dam was ever erected there. Thomas Cushman built a dam and a mill and for thirty-one years he made augers and did other iron work at this privilege. His son Asa was associated with him in the business. In 1846 they sold out to the Old Colony Foundry Company who made stoves and hollow-ware for a few years, but with apparently no great success.

In 1855, the foundry passed into the possession of Benjamin Cobb and William R. Drew of Plymouth, who had formed a partnership in 1848 and who had probably been doing business at the privilege under a lease. The new owners conducted the foundry for a short time, but soon became interested in the manufacture of rivets and tacks. In 1926, over one hundred and twenty items of regular stock are listed by the firm, while they carry more than 3,000 samples of special merchandise made to customers' order. Their regular line covers not only rivets and burrs, but spring cotters and staples, linoleum brads, nails and tacks for carpets, trunks and baskets, and for bill posters and upholsters use. The business was incorporated in 1907 (Drew 1926, p.50). Cobb & Drew Inc. continued in business through the mid-20th century until it closed in 1975. Based on a visual examination and comparison with 1896-1954 Sanborn maps a significant portion of the mill appears to continue to stand. The complex is now vacant and appears to be used for storage by several businesses. A more in depth study of the mill buildings and the part Cobb & Drew Inc. played in the manufacturing of tacks, etc. would be necessary in order to evaluate this complex for National Register eligibility. However, it is the most intact 19th century mill complex in Kingston and, based on a cursory review, retains much of its architectural integrity.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Drew, Emily F. A History of Her Industries. Kingston: 200th Anniversary of the Town of Kingston Committee, 1926. [MSL]
Drew, Emily F. Kingston: The Jones River Village, 1944. Edited and annotated by Doris M. Johnson, 1995. [MSL]
Melville, Doris Johnson. Major Bradford's Town: A History of Kingston: 1726-1976. Kingston, MA., 1976. [KPL]

MAPS:

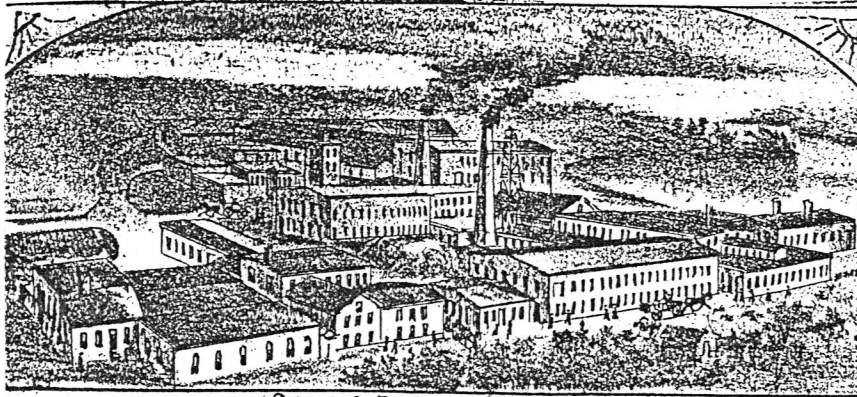
1726 Kingston. John Gray [MHC]
1795 A Plan of the Town of Kingston. John Gray. [MHC]
1820-30 Five School Districts [KPL]
1876 Town of Kingston. Boyden (w/directory). [KPL]
1876 Town of Kingston, Enlargement of Village. Boyden. [KPL]
1879 Atlas of Plymouth County. George E. Walker. [MHC]
1896 Bird's Eye View of Kingston [KPL & MSL]
1903 Atlas of Plymouth County. George E. Walker. [KPL]
Sanborn Insurance Company Maps:
Plymouth: 1896 June
1901 April (1896, 1901, 1906 include Kingston Village
1906 Feb. and Factories in Kingston)
Kingston: 1912 (6 sheets)
1925 (7 sheets)
1943 (7 sheets)
1954 (8 sheets)

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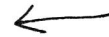
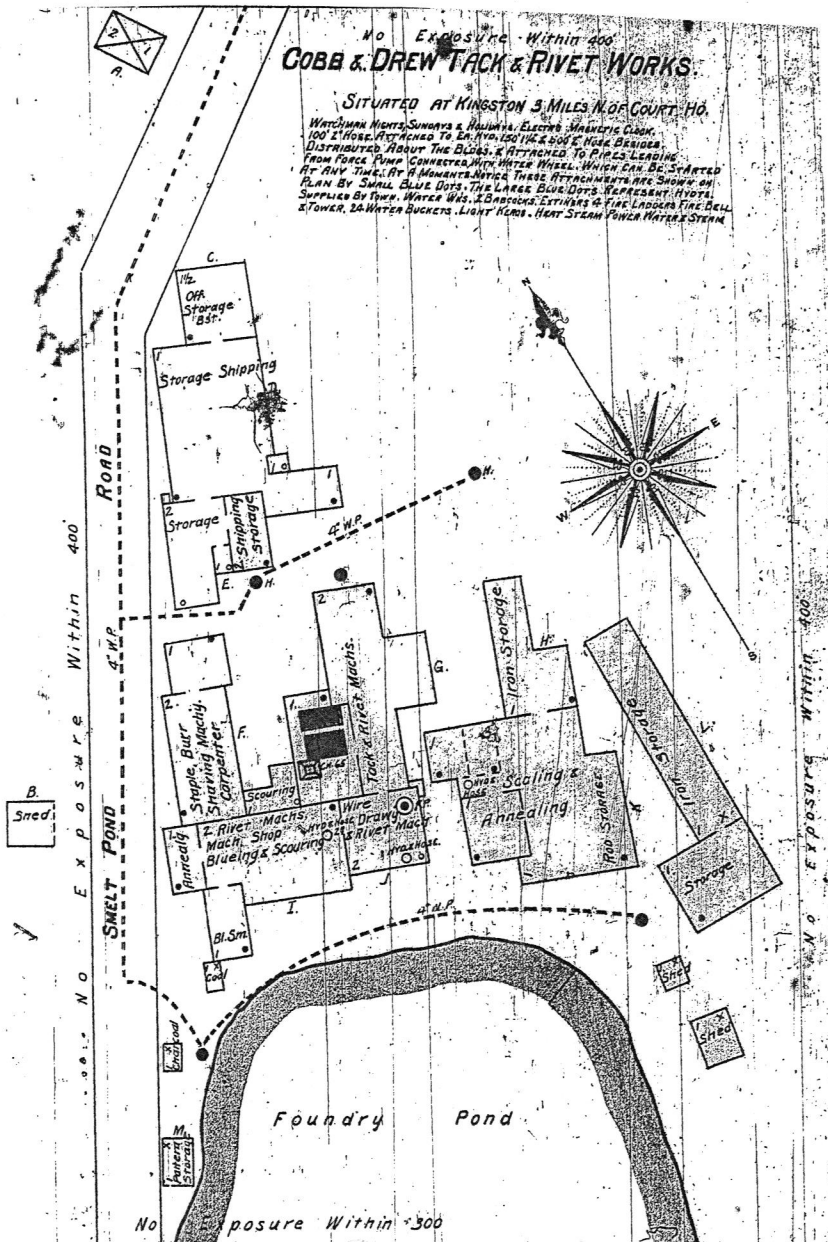
P.1



COBB & DREW TACK & RIVET WORKS.

← from:

1896 Bird's
Eye View
of Kingston, MA



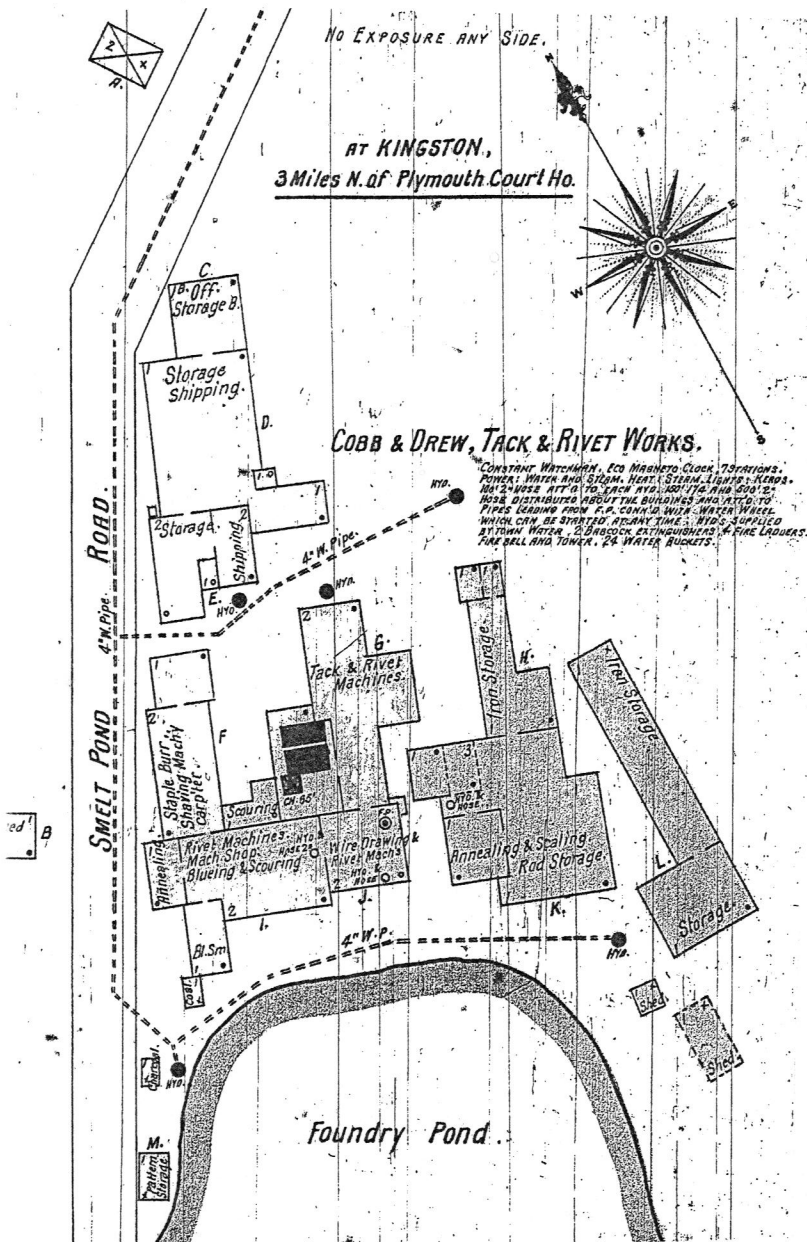
1896
Sanborn Map

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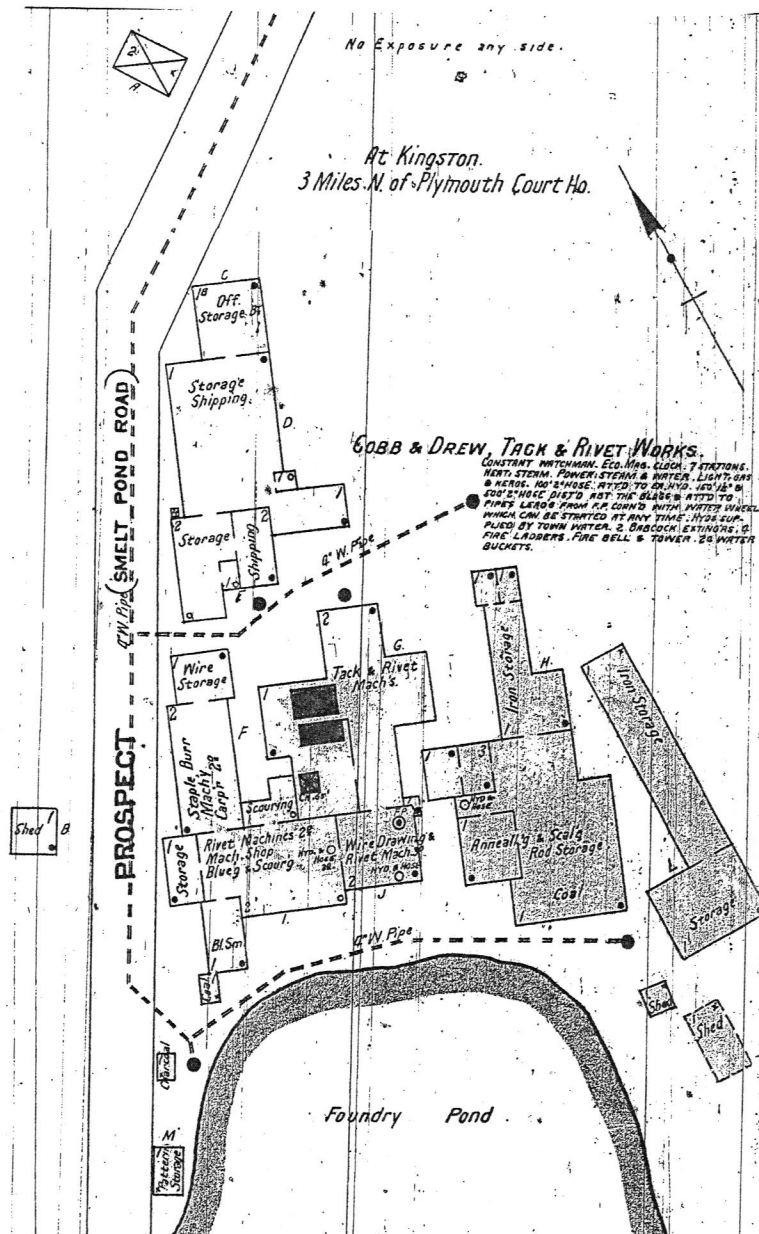
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1901 Sanborn Map

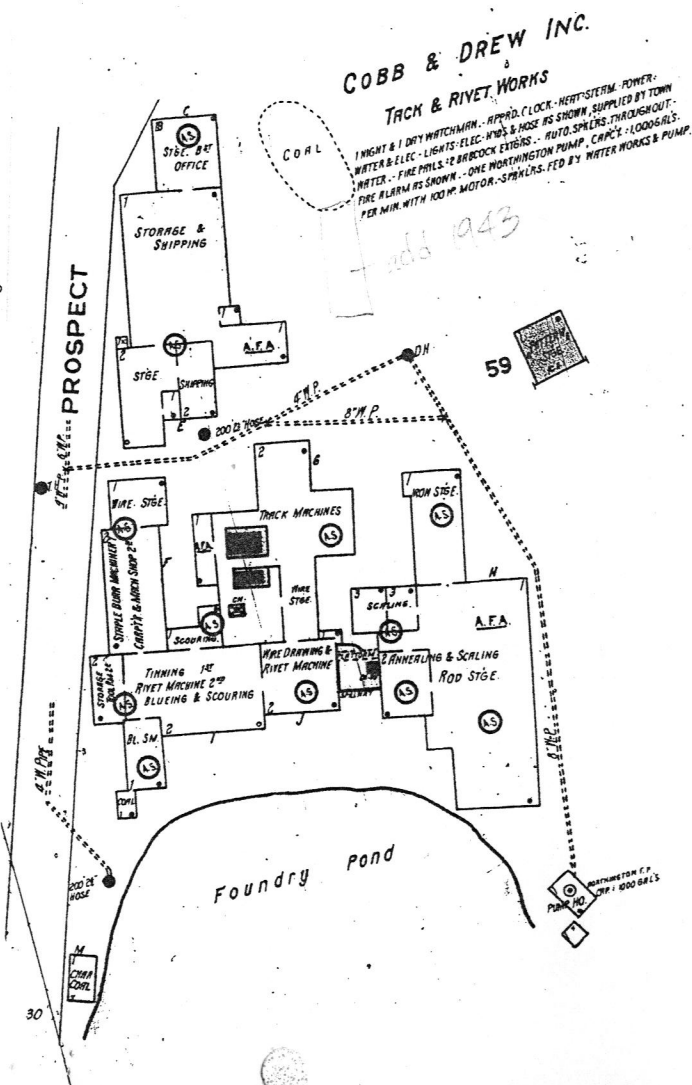
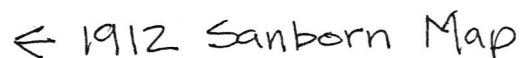


1906 Sanborn Map

KIN. 350

	350
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p. 3



INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Community
KingstonProperty Address
6 Prospect St.

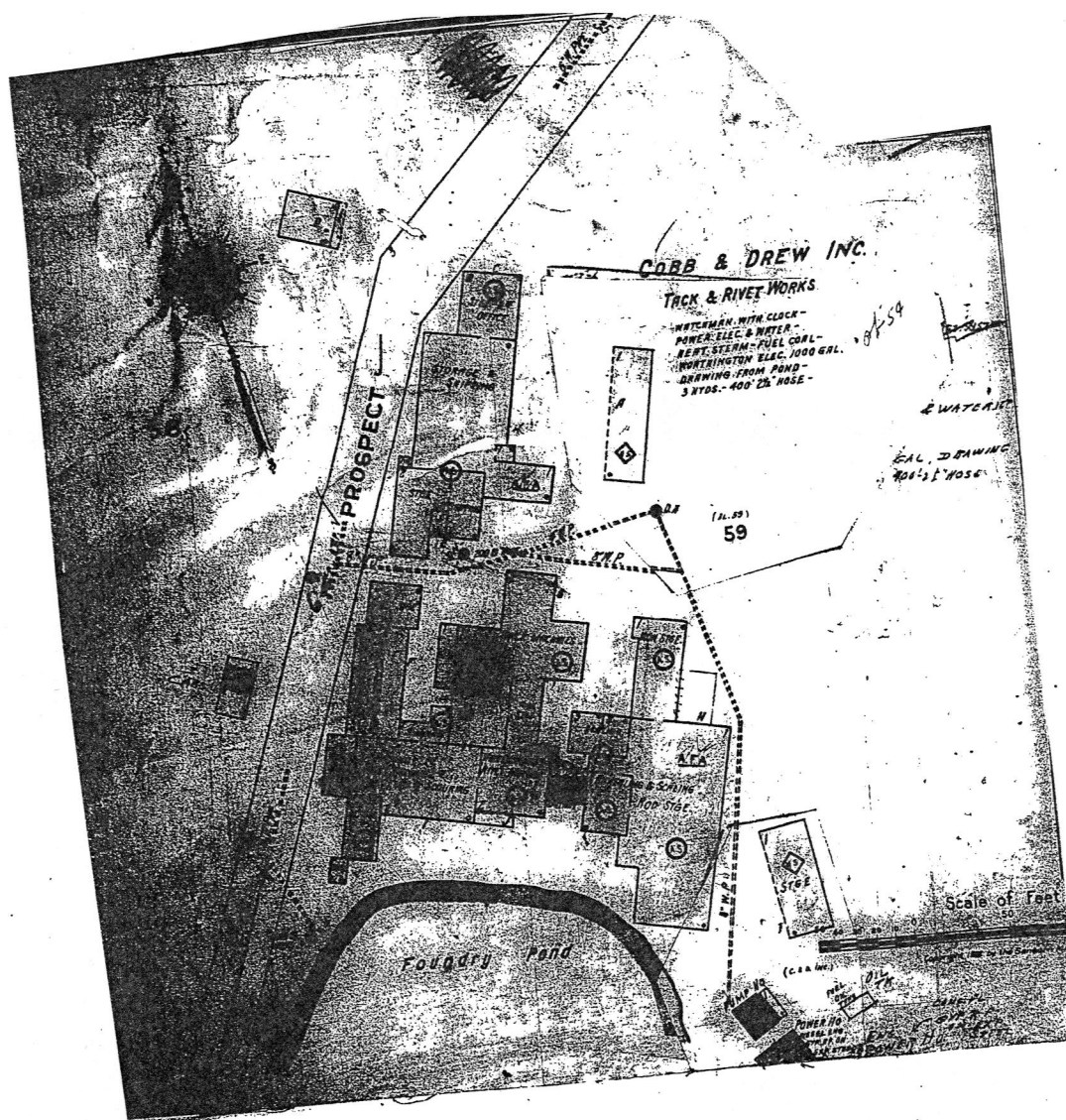
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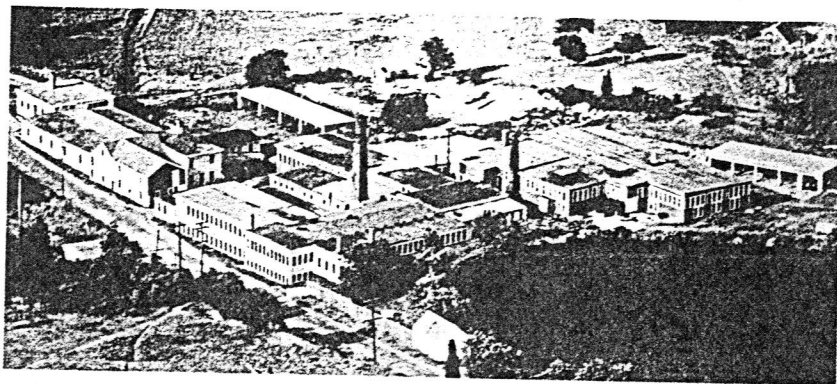


1954 Sanborn Map

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Aerial view of the Cobb and Drew Co. complex, which had its beginnings in 1848 here on Main Street at Prospect Street. Customers can still order rivets similar to those pictured in this century-old advertisement.

Melville 1976
p. 304

