

June 20, 2010

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
1 Old State Capitol Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701-1512

Attention: Mr. Andrew Heckenkamp

Subject: William Ziock Building, 416 S. Main St., Rockford, IL

Dear Mr Heckenkamp:

We solicit your opinion regarding a National Register nomination for a building at 416 S. Main St, Rockford, Illinois. Bases for such a nomination are Criterion B, property associated with lives of persons significant in our past, and Criterion A, property associated with formative events as the fledgling city was born.

"Named for the late company president, William H. Ziock, the \$150,000 (c. 1912) Ziock Building was a towering brick and mortar testament to the might of Rockford's pre-depression textile industry as the world's largest hosiery producer." (Eric A Johnson, "Rockford, 1920 And Beyond", p 61)

Only two buildings remain in the original "knitting district". The former Burson Knitting Company Building (aka Tapco Building) has been substantially modified and thus is not recommended for historic status. The William Ziock Building, certainly the most significant, may eventually be the sole survivor. Thus, we present for your consideration a 13-story building, the sole example of its kind in Northern Illinois, outside of Chicago.

Today, an increasingly ominous drumbeat of rhetoric demonstrates that some local leaders have given up hope of ever recycling the now empty William Ziock building and have changed course from passive neglect to an active campaign leading to demolition. In light of this political environment, your consideration is urgently requested.

Sincerely,

Don E Bissell

CC: Anne Haaker, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Mike Jackson, Chief Architect
Lisa DiChiera, Landmarks Illinois

Attachments

William Ziock Building

Statement of Integrity

Address

416 S Main St, Rockford, IL 61101-1311 Winnebago County

Legal Description

WEST ROCKFORD EXC WLY PT S 1/2 LOT 2 & PT LOT 3 TO STATE 74-17-1624 ALL S 1/2 LOT 2 & ALL LOTS 3-4-5 & 6 & VAC ALLEY BETWN LOTS 3 & 004 BLOCK 004

Classification

The Ziock building is a 13-story industrial manufacturing facility. The property contains one building and no other resources.

Date Built

Circa 1916

Original Use

William H Ziock Jr., [pronounced: zee-ock] was president of Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Company at age 49 when the initial construction phase of the 13-story facility began. The building housed production of knit goods until 1942.

The building could be classified as a Daylight Factory style, a commercial architectural style that emerged in the early twentieth century. During the late 1800s, Earnest Ransom patented a concrete reinforcing system using twisted rods. In 1903, Ransom's system was put to the test. Architectural firm Elzner & Anderson designed the Ingalls Building in Cincinnati, Ohio. The 15-story building became the first high-rise constructed of reinforced concrete. This type of construction was ideal for creating spacious, well-lit interior workspaces that were also considered fireproof. The Ziock building was constructed using reinforced concrete for the floors, columns, and roof. A 1928 Sanborn map indicates that the two sections of the building standing at that time, the western and northern facing sides, had electric lights. Steam was generated by the Rockford Mitten and Hosiery Building which was located on the east side of South Wyman, along the banks of the Rock River. The original Ziock building had a 300,000-gallon gravity water tank located on the roof.

A photo found in a Chamber of Commerce publication (c. 1917; exact date to be determined) shows what appears to be the original structure known as the Ziock Building and describes its location as Wyman and Textile Court. The article refers to a twelve-story building; however, the accompanying photo appears to show the majority of the building is eleven stories, with only the west side of the building rising to a twelfth floor. The Sanborn map showed this section to be where the elevator and stairwell were located. Each elevation appears to consist of four bays. There is at least one loading dock located on the east side. The original building had expansive windows that spanned the space between floor and ceiling in each of bays. With the exception of the first floor, the windows are multi-pane rolled steel with an inserted awning-style window in the center that opened outward. These were arranged in sets of three in each bay.

A simple cornice with deco-inspired medallions at each of the bay divisions can be found between the tenth and eleventh floors. The stairwell bay terminates with two circular designs in the concrete topped by two small windows.

Siding

The property has not been sheathed in vinyl or aluminum siding.

Alterations/Additions

Research has provided conflicting information on not only the date of construction for the original building, but also the dates of construction of the additions. Attempts will be made to resolve these inconsistencies and narrow down construction dates and building phases of the Ziock building for the National Register of Historic Places nomination. What is known is that the building, as it stands today, is the result of a number of additions and expansions by Ziock Industries, its first occupant, and The American Cabinet Hardware Corporation (Amerock).

Most of the building's identifying features still remain. On the exterior, one of the most striking features is the building's multi-paned rolled steel window. These still remain in sections of the building. The condition of the remaining original windows has not been ascertained, but a preliminary visual inspection reveals many have missing and broken panes and are in need of repair. Some of the building's windows have been modified. In cases of modification, openings have been filled with concrete block and smaller awning windows installed. This is a common fate of many industrial buildings as later owners struggled to efficiently heat large buildings or replace damaged windows.

The brick used on the building is currently painted and it is hard to tell if this was the case originally. In historic photos, the brick sections are light, but it could have been a cream colored brick. The building has a number of service entries/loading docks with overhead doors. Several of these garage doors have been modified and replaced over the years. The employee entries have been boarded up to protect against trespassers and vandals, so it has not been determined if the original entry doors are still in place.

Until the mid 1950s, the primary use of the Ziock building had been that of a manufacturing facility. After that time it essentially became used as a storage facility and as a result, drastic interior changes were not made. The photo of the building's current interior still shows the open floor plan typical of a manufacturing facility. (Figure 8) It is doubtful any machinery from either the knitting or hardware industries remains. In fact, Richard Ziock, the grandson of William Ziock Jr., recalls the woolen milling machines being loaded into three railroad cars in 1949 and shipped to Brownwood, TX.

The building has been vacant for a number of years and time has taken its toll. However, the original open factory floor plan with expansive spaces and soaring ceilings remain. The exterior of the building looks very much today as it did when it was first built. The fact that the building was gently used as a storage facility for many years and then stood vacant may have actually helped preserve some of its original features. The strength of its construction has also helped in its preservation.

The area surrounding the Ziock building has changed. When the building was constructed, this area was densely populated with other manufacturing facilities. Some of the early factories were built to take advantage of Rockford's Water Power District. Now, excluding the Burson Knitting building (Tapco) directly to the south and the modified Lorden Building to the north, the remaining industrial buildings have all been razed. In 1987, G.C. Electronics donated its riverfront factory to the City. In 1989, the City demolished the facility and later turned the four and a half acre property into a grassy festival area known as Davis Park.

Despite the fact that the area has changed so dramatically, the outline of the Ziock building as part of Rockford's skyline is similar to postcard and photograph images from the first quarter of the twentieth century. Standing on Cedar Street, between the Ziock and Burson buildings is like going back in time. The two concrete buildings sit close to the street and soar upward; the old railroad bridges can be seen in the distance. The Ziock building is an important visible reminder of Rockford's great industrial past.

William Ziock Building

Statement of Significance

Enter William Henry Ziock, Sr., (1830-1905), [pronounced: zee-ock], a St. Louis wool supplier who moved his business including all employees to Rockford and purchased the Rockford Mitten Company to found Rockford Mitten and Hosiery Company in 1885. This business in Rockford consisted of purchasing raw materials from all over the world, dyeing, drying, picking, carding, spinning, inspecting, conditioning and processing yarn, then knitting it into finished products. Prior to his death in 1905, evidence shows that William Sr., was involved in acquisition of land for what later became the building bearing his name. Uniquely, in 1903, Ziock also erected an entire block of upscale living facilities designed to attract and house his valued workers. The Ziock block had 14 two-family homes and one four-family unit. This block was razed in 1958.

His son, William Ziock, Jr., (1863-1957), took over the business when the founder passed away. William Jr., was already active in the growing family of Ziock enterprises including B-Z-B (standing for Brown, Ziock and Burson) Knitting, Ziock Paper Box Company, and King Company.

Circa 1912, William Jr., commissioned The William Ziock Building, named in honor of his father. It is the first and most visible Rockford high-rise industrial manufacturing facility. It was completed in at least two phases by between 1919 and 1924. The southern addition to the building was added c. 1950 by the American Hardware Cabinet Corporation.

The William Ziock Building is tied to a host of clever Rockford inventors who changed the nature and improved the efficiency of the way socks, hosiery, and other knit goods were manufactured. Just prior to 1870 the first seamless sock was produced by an automatic, parallel-row, powered knitting machine that changed yarn between production of the different parts such as the heel and toe. At one point in the early 1900's, the Rockford hosiery industry employed 3,000 people in at least five factories, producing nearly \$8 million worth of goods each year.

Production figures specifically for the Rockford Mitten and Hosiery Company (later Rockford Textile Mill) are not known. However, in 1933 William Ziock while juggling his own business responsibilities became vice-president of a friendly competitor, Nelson Knitting Company. Nelson Knitting was among the best known of Rockford's many knitting firms and home of John Nelson, one of the inventors who fueled the textile history in Rockford. In 1928 that company alone had a normal daily production of 4,000 dozen pairs and a peak capacity 50% more.

By 1946 the overall knitting industry in Rockford began to fade, a victim of local labor shortages due to higher wages in the metal fabricating and other high-technology industries, labor/management discord, and lower labor costs in the south. A 1928 start-up hardware manufacturing tenant in The Ziock Building gradually rented the 12th floor, then in July 1929 the entire 6th floor and half of the 7th floor, then eventually more and more space until finally, in 1942, they occupied the entire

building. In 1946 the William Ziock building was sold to American Cabinet Hardware Corporation (later renamed Amerock) to begin the next chapter of its history. The sale was reported by the Rockford Register Star, August 6, 1946 to be in the neighborhood of \$300,000. This tenant soon grew into the largest retail hardware manufacturer in America and occupied the building for over 60 years. As a result, today the facility is commonly known in Rockford, as the “Amerock Building”.

By 1960 only Nelson Knitting Company was still operating. Sometime in the 1980’s these operations ceased; in 1992 the company was dissolved. Rockford’s knitting industry was gone.

Association With Events, Activities or Patterns

1900 to 1935 represents the heyday for the knitting industry in Rockford. It can be characterized by such milestones and accomplishments as:

- With six factories in 1934, Rockford was already one of the nation’s knitting centers, selling products all over United States and in foreign countries. (Rockford Morning Star, May 20, 1934).
- Rockford mills had a total of 1,500 to 2,000 knitting machines for women’s hosiery alone, turning out 1 million pairs of hosiery product each year. (Rockford Register Star, June 30, 1940).
- Forest City Knitting and Nelson Knitting produced well over half of the heavy cotton work socks manufactured in the U.S. (Rockford Register Star, October 13, 1946).

Association With Important Persons

William Ziock was a contemporary, at times a business partner and at times a competitor to John Nelson and William W Burson, inventors of automatic knitting machines and holders of numerous related patents. The parallel row machine enabled the seamless sock which was the first such ever manufactured and which drove older products off the market. The industry that Nelson launched, “contributed greatly to advertising of Rockford throughout the entire country and in foreign lands”. (Rockford Morning Star, Undated)

A locally published article that has not been dated claims the daily product capacity of the Nelson Knitting Company was 10,000 pairs. A specialty of the Burson Knitting Company was Burson Fashioned Hose; the Burson plant was the largest plant of its kind in the city. As an added factor it was important to Burson to build well-suited, state-of-the-art fireproof concrete buildings. William Ziock knitting and textile companies and Rockford’s knitting and textile industry, products of the industrial revolution both benefited from developments in reinforced concrete technology and contributed to knitting technology.

Frank R. Brown (F. R. Brown Knitting), was an officer of William Ziock’s BZB Knitting company. Fritz. F. Nelson (Forest City Knitting Works) and son of John Nelson, was another compatriot of

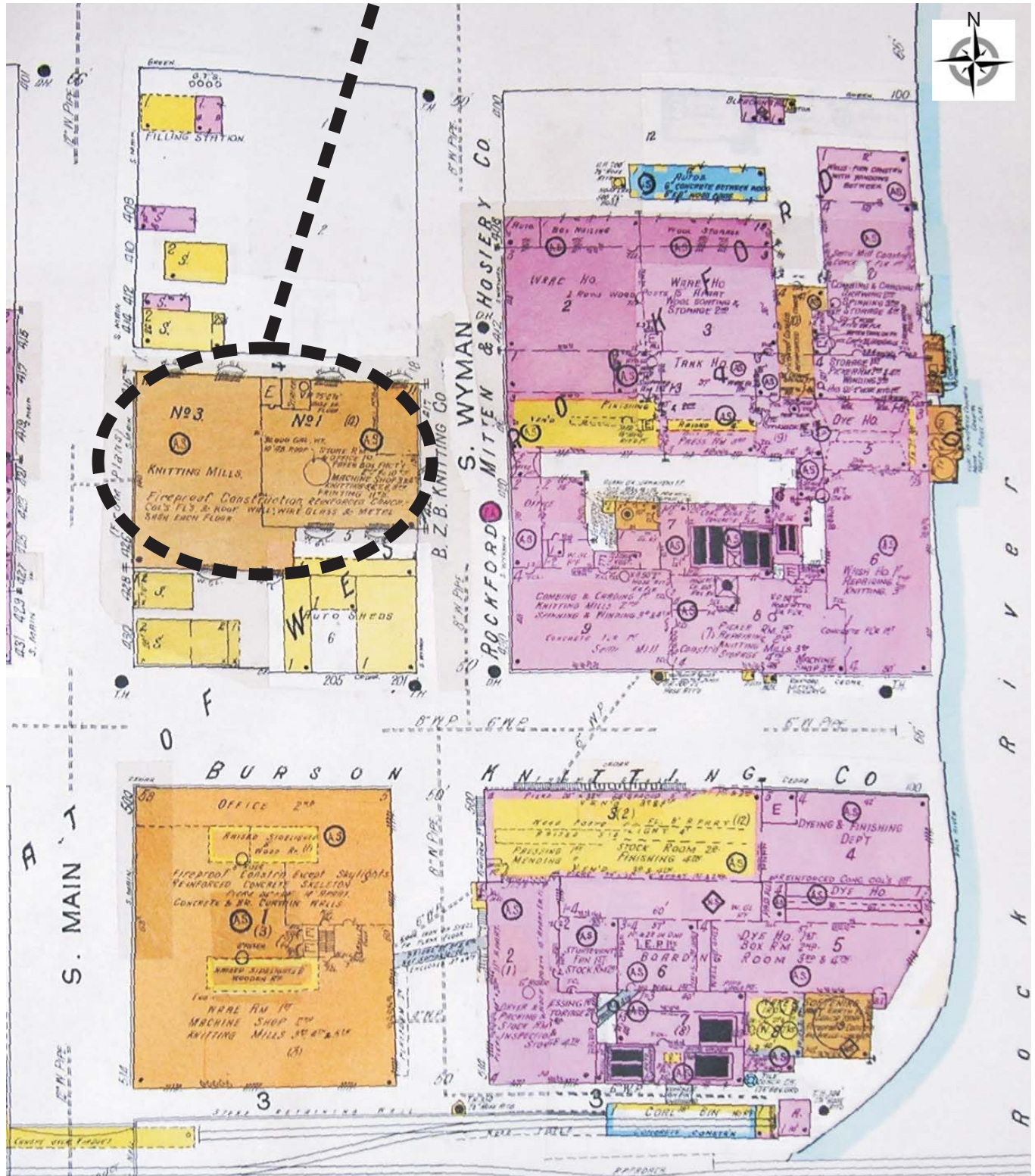
Ziock. Ziock was a much sought-after business leader, having served on numerous corporate boards of Rockford companies.

With the Burson Building (Tapco) beginning to show deteriorating signs of its approaching 100 year anniversary, the Ziock Building is the single remaining example of its kind in the city, a legacy of the industrialization era in Rockford.

List of Figures

- Figure 1. 1929 Map, Ziock Building and Rockford's Knitting District
- Figure 2. William Ziock Building During Construction
- Figure 3. William Ziock Building, 1920's
- Figure 4. Floor Plans – 1st Floor, Typical Floor, and Roof
- Figure 5. Beam Schedule, Typical Floor 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 11th, & Roof
- Figure 6. 1927 Aerial Photo
- Figure 7. Interior Detail – Photos Taken When Amerock (Hardware) Company Occupied the Building After Knitting Industry Wound Down
- Figure 8. Interior (Current)
- Figure 9. Exterior (Current)

William Ziock Building



6/9/2010

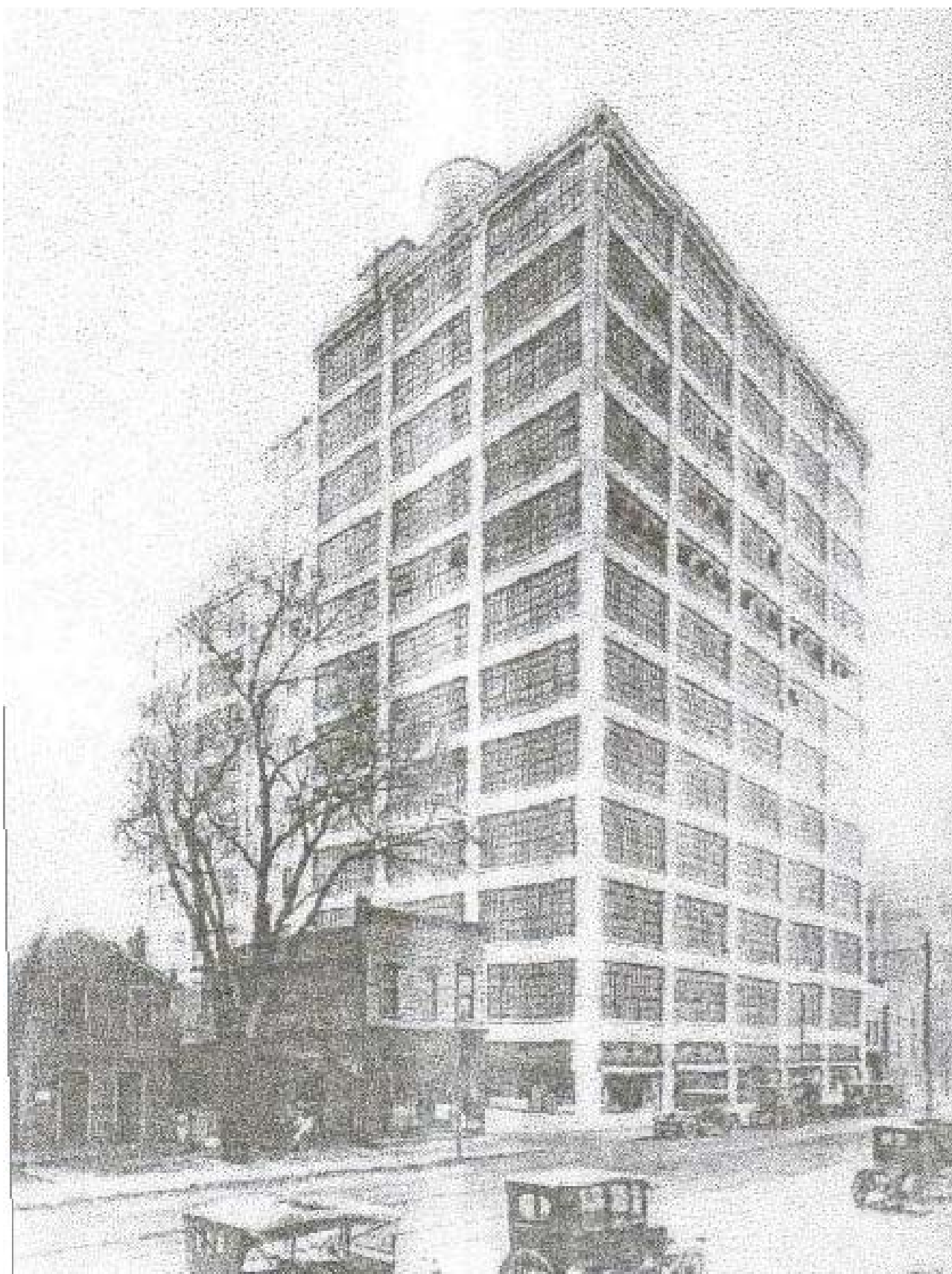
Figure 1. Map, 1929, Indicating Area of Rockford's Original "Knitting District"



Photo courtesy of Midway Village & Museum Center, Rockford, Illinois

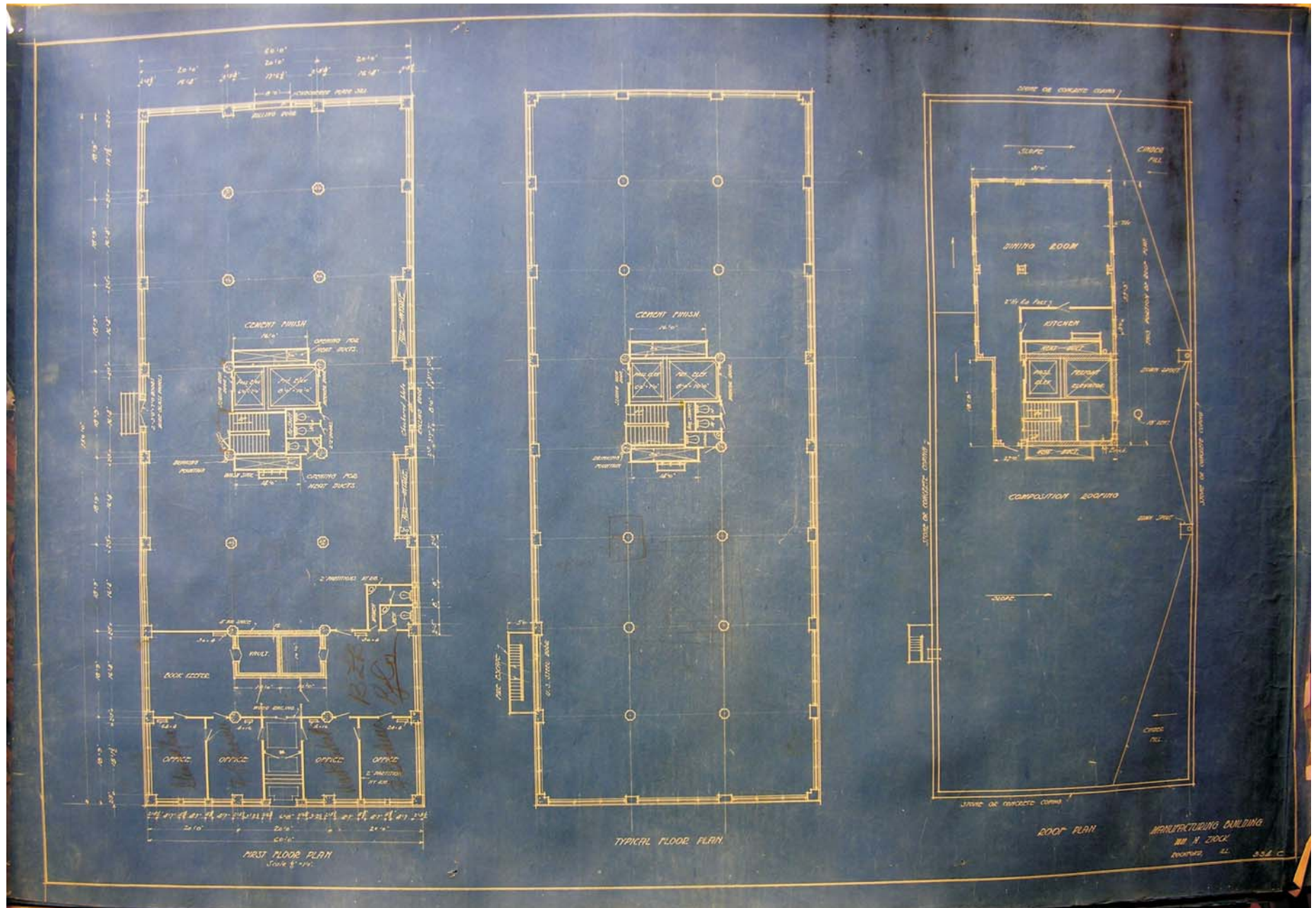
6/9/2010

Figure 2. William Ziock Building During Construction. Photo estimated 1917 to 1920. (On S. Wyman St, looking North.)



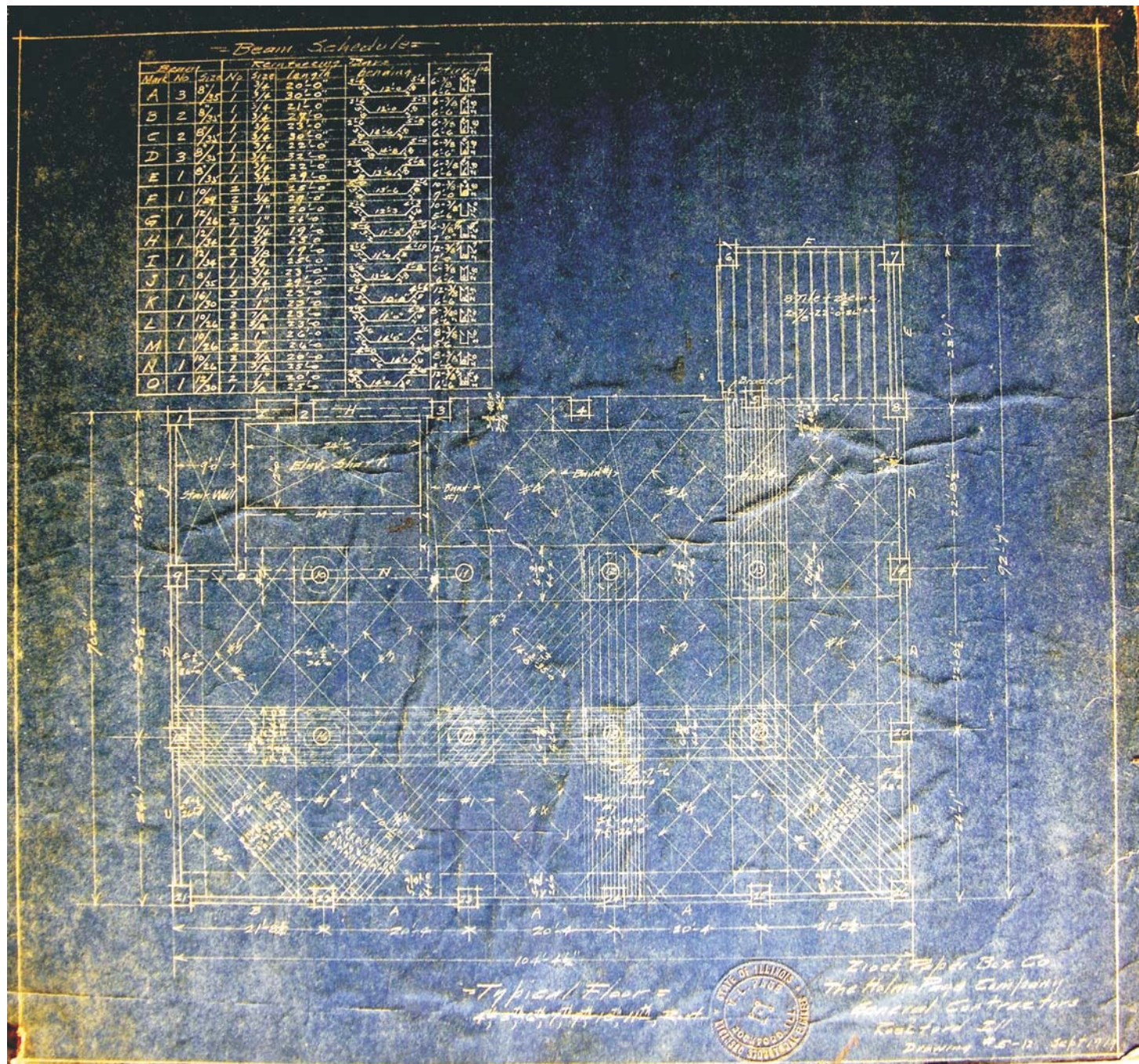
6/9/2010

Figure 3. 1920's, William Ziock Building (looking southeast). From S. Wyman St looking southeast.) Note that building additions appear on the eastern side.



Document courtesy of Midway Village & Museum Center, Rockford, Illinois

Figure 4. Floorplans



Document courtesy of Midway Village & Museum Center, Rockford, Illinois

Figure 5. Floorplan – Beam Schedule

William Ziock Building

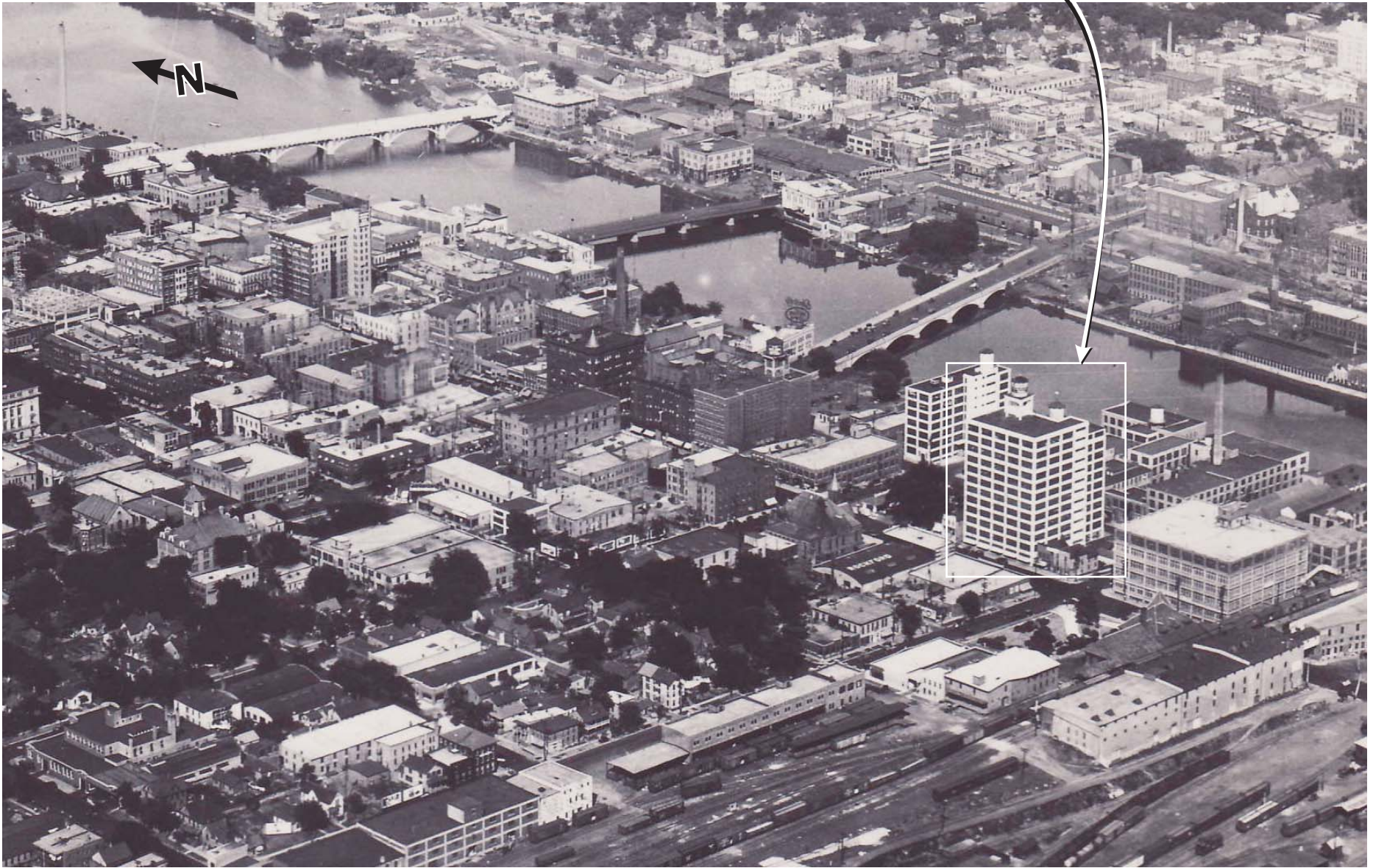
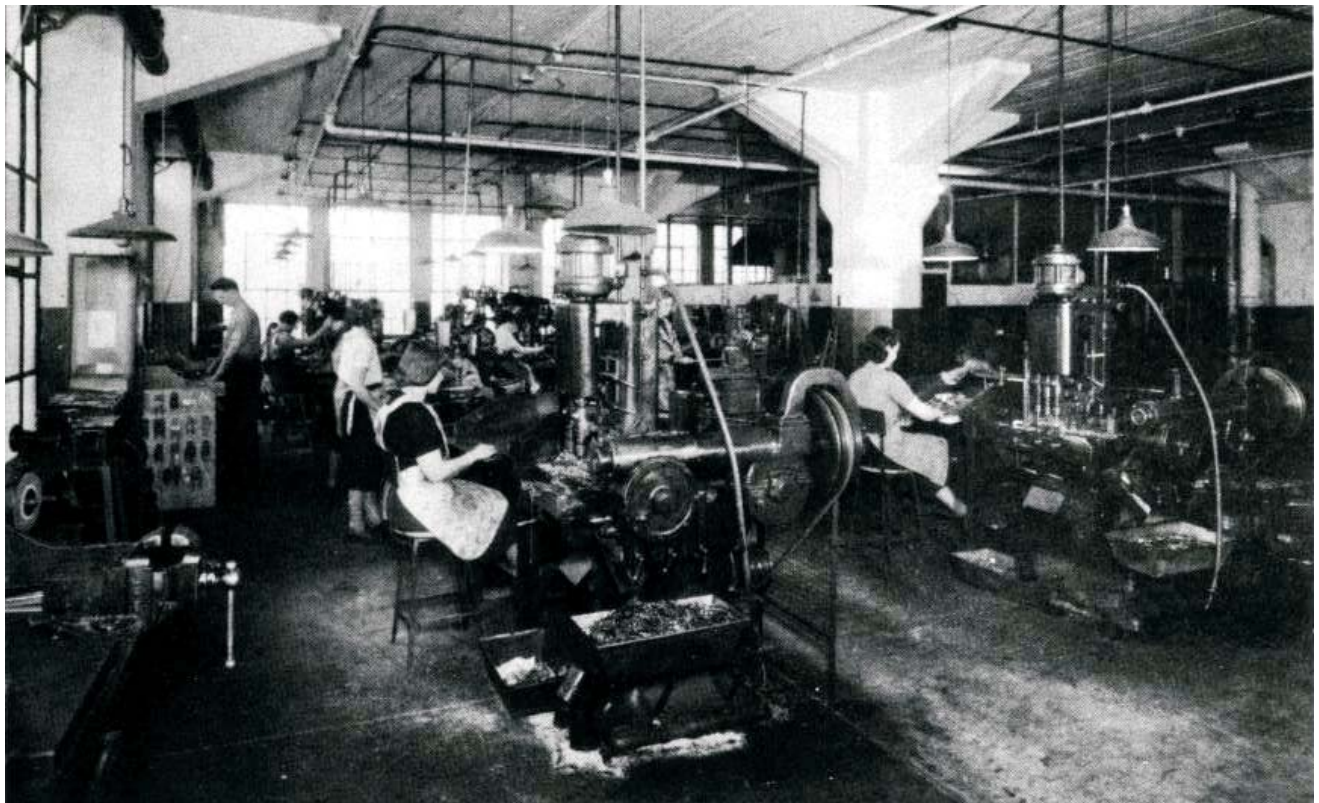


Figure 6. Aerial Photo looking northeast over downtown Rockford, 1927. The William Ziock Building is always the most prominent feature in any such photo; then and now.



Note: Photos taken after the knitting era, during the time Amerock Corporation owned the building and operated it as its main hardware producing plant.



Photos courtesy of Midway Village & Museum Center, Rockford, Illinois

6/9/2010

Figure 7. Interior Detail.



6/9/2010

Figure 8. Interior (Current)



Above: Looking northwest.

Below: Looking southwest.



Figure 9. Exterior (Current)

6/9/2010

Appendices

- Appendix A. Opinion letter, Gary Carlson to Rockford Register Star, April 3, 2010.
- Appendix B. Historical narrative – The William Henry Ziock family.
- Appendix C. Historical narrative – The Textile Industry in Rockford, 1870 to 1960.
- Appendix D. Historical narrative – The Hardware Industry and key businessmen in Rockford, 1903 to present.
- Appendix E. Chronology of people, places and significant events related to the William Ziock Building.
- Appendix F. Building Permits
- Appendix G. Newspaper account of the sale of William Ziock Building to American Cabinet Hardware Company in 1946.

Appendix A



Rockford Register Star | The Rock River Valley's Leading Information Source

By Gary Carlson

SPECIAL TO RRSTAR.COM

Posted Apr 03, 2010 @ 10:16 PM

Upon arriving in any city, what has been the leading barometer judging the vitality of that city? How many tall buildings in its downtown.

The Amerock is one of our tallest and largest buildings. It is one of only four downtown skyscrapers and makes up 25 percent of our downtown riverfront skyline. While touring the Amerock four years ago, my friend Doc Slafkosky described this significant structure best as “a monolithic emblem of the industrial might of this city. That was such a powerhouse we built a factory in our downtown 14 stories tall!”

What is the common thread linking the many success stories during our 35-year quest to revitalize downtown? Every single one of them occurred in an old building that at one point had become neglected just like the Amerock.

Not one of them would have occurred if their owners demolished them because they had become shabby.

And hasn't every downtown infrastructure enhancement (roads, river and rail) that our City Council has approved or considered been done to make the buildings more attractive to future developers?

The Amerock and Tapco buildings, in the short time they have been available, have already sparked more attention by local and national private developers than have any other downtown property for decades.

So why on earth would our City Council even consider a plan that would spend \$3 million and probably more to demolish these buildings and replace them with an open grassy field?

It is no consolation whatsoever that the field would be a small addition to Davis Park. Each building's footprint is only 150 feet by 150 feet. The intent of this plan — to prevent the city from being held hostage by future incompetent developers — would be accomplished merely by the city purchasing the buildings.

It is a waste of money to demolish the buildings to achieve this goal. Don't judge the viability of the buildings by the competence or, in this case, incompetence of past developers.

Maybe the best thing for Rockford would be if the city just does not buy these buildings.

The last five years have left me feeling proud that at last my city leaders had left behind the demolition-happy “urban renewal” days of the 1960s. But this wasteful, destructive proposal is a return to that failed mentality and, sadly, demonstrates that our leaders are losing confidence in Rockford’s future.

Copyright 2010 Rockford Register Star. Some rights reserved

Photos



The Tapco building (above) with the Amerock building behind it, across from Davis Park in downtown Rockford, have been vacant for years. The city is considering spending \$409,000 to acquire the buildings and about \$3 million to demolish them.



EDDY MONTVILLE | BUSINESSROCKFORD.COM

Appendix B

William Henry Ziock Family

WILLIAM HENRY ZIOCK, SR. (1830 Germany – 1905 St. Louis, MO)

William H. Ziock, Sr. (1830–1905) was born to Heinrich Wilhelm Ziock (1801-1883) and Sophie Elizabeth Schaeffer (1806-1870) in Hattingen, Westfalen, Germany. Heinrich was a woolen maker in Germany. The large Catholic family that included 11 children left Germany, migrating to the U.S. in groups in the 1850's. William preceded the rest of the family (arriving about 1847); he settled in the St. Louis area to prepare for the arrival of his parents and siblings. On his journey west he stopped in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Rockford, IL. William was sworn in as an American citizen in 1855. That same year, he married Elizabeth Bollinger. His parents, Elizabeth and Henry, both died by 1883 in St. Louis. Many of the surviving children remained in Missouri.

William Ziock, Sr. was comfortably engaged in the textile industry in the St. Louis area where he operated the St. Charles Textile Mill. In the early 1880's, he contracted to supply the new Rockford Mitten Co. After making several visits to northern Illinois, he was soon inspired to move his entire plant – relocating all his employees to Rockford -- in 1885. He bought the fledgling company, renaming it Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co. The same year, production was converted to hosiery and yarn socks and blanket goods.

While he was granted two patents (one for a yard trademark (1867) and a second (1893) for a textile process), Ziock also depended on the inventiveness and creativity of his Rockford peers (John Nelson and William Burson). It was the quality of ideas and men who first attracted him to Rockford. His son, William H. Ziock, Jr. worked at his side from the onset. When the Company president died in 1905 in St. Louis, his son replaced him. Sr. is buried in Rockford, IL

WILLIAM HENRY ZIOCK, JR. (1863 St. Louis – 1957 Rockford, IL)

The Ziocks were never spectators: William, Jr. founded B-Z-B Knitting in 1910. Ziock Paper Box Co and King Co., part of the growing family of Ziock enterprises, were both located at 417 S. Wyman by 1915. B-Z-B – manufacturer of women's silk hose – shared this facility. Junior was also responsible for the construction of William Ziock Building (named in honor of his father) in two phases (1912 and 1919).

William, Jr. was born in Nov 1863 in St. Louis to Elizabeth & William Ziock. He married Lulu Mackwitz in St. Louis, and relocated with his father and their business, the former St. Charles Knitting Mill, to Rockford, IL in 1885. He and Elizabeth prospered in Rockford, raising four children and expanding the family business network to include three firms and serving as Vice President of a friendly competitor's mill. His father was not alone in receiving a patent: Junior's was granted in Canada (#287326).

He was still active with the company, serving as Chairman of the Board at the time of his death in February, 1957. He lived long enough to see American Cabinet Hardware vacate the William Ziock Building in late 1956. Following his death, Rockford Textile Mills was dissolved with equipment moved to a related family business (Ziock Industries) located down south. At the time of dissolution, there were three subsidiaries: Beloit Hosiery (Seneca Falls, NY), Tenn-Rock Hosiery (McMinnville, TN) and Manchester Mills, Inc. (Manchester, TN).

Genealogical sources: 1) Ziock Family History, www.carrollscorner.com; 2) Rockford Public Library: Rockfordiana files (obituaries, business articles), Sandborn maps, City Directories; Winnebago County Vital Records; 3) Ancestry.com: U.S. censuses, WWI & II draft registration cards; Ziock-Carroll Family Tree; SSDI; MO Death Records (1834-1910); U.S. Federal Census Mortality Schedules (1850-1885); Passenger & Immigration Lists; Philadelphia 1789-1880 Naturalization Records. Also "Rockford, An Illustrated History", Jon Lundin, 1996 and "Sinnissippi Saga", Editor C. Hal Nelson, 1968.

Appendix C

Textile Industry in Rockford: 1870–1960

Rockford was founded in 1832. By mid-century, the best of the American pioneer spirit and the Industrial Revolution had reached the city. Inventors and entrepreneurs arrived; then helped carve a community from wilderness while at the same time working to solve the manufacturing and distribution problems of the day.

As early community leaders wisely harnessed the energy of the Rock River to power diverse and growing industry, creative and courageous newcomers emerged to attract even more acclaim to a city already famous as the seed capital and a center for the production of farm machinery.

Other early bragging rights were afforded in the textile industry. Swedish immigrants with skills as mechanics and inventive energy sufficient to create a breakthrough invention: a parallel-row power knitting machine to connect the foot and heel of socks and stockings.

In the late 1860's, John Nelson and William Burson collaborated (funded in large part by Ralph Emerson & William Talcott), receiving patents for the machinery that produced seamless sock and stockings, and founded the Burson & Nelson textile mill. The partnership was short-lived; Burson founded Burson Knitting (socks) in 1892 and later Burson Manufacturing Co (knitting machine production). Meanwhile, Nelson re-named the original mill first Frank R. Brown Co., and then Nelson Knitting Co. This plant began producing high quality, high-volume cotton socks. Full of confidence and energy, in 1881 he founded Rockford Mitten Co., to manufacture wool products and leather gloves.

Many of the later textile mills were spin-offs of Nelson Knitting or the Burson firms – or founded by ingenious former employees. This connection was in large part a result of the new Nelson/Burson knitting machine that was transforming and revitalizing an industry in need of a machine that would knit the heel to the foot without hand work. Above all, the Rockford textile industry shared leadership: one respected name, W. H. Ziock, Jr., served as V.P. of Nelson Knitting while managing two family firms.

Other textile manufacturers soon gathered around the energy emanating from the “Knitting District” (north end of the Water Power [District] and two blocks north to Green Street). In 1881, Burson & Nelson and F.R. Brown were located in the rapidly growing Knitting District joined by Graham's Mill. By 1885 S.B. Wilkins Co. was located nearby at the south end of Wyman. In 1890, sons of John Nelson formed Forest City Knitting, producing cotton ribbed socks (another important technical advance). After buying Rockford Mitten in 1885, Ziock founded B-Z-B Knitting (standing for Brown, Ziock, Burson) in 1910 (women's silk hose) and located in the former S.B. Wilkins Co. The final entry was Contour Hosiery Mills in 1928 on South Main.

For 50 years (1890-1940), Rockford textile mills reigned supreme, employing 2,500 – 3,500 workers as late as 1940. In 1938, one operator at Nelson managed 27 machines with one “Rockford” sock produced every 4.5 minutes; that translated to 4,000 dozen pairs a day. With 280 employees, Nelson was not the largest knitting manufacturer. Burson boasted 500 employees. Rockford mills had a total of 1,500–2,000 machines for women's hose alone (1938 local article featuring interview with Frank Shelain of Nelson Knitting). In 1940, Nelson Knitting production reached 1 million dozen hosiery products each year.

After Pearl Harbor in 1941, production of silk stockings suffered from political effects as Japan had been the primary source for silk. U.S. hosiers began experimenting with nylon, described as “a type of yarn manufactured from coal and lime derivatives”. The increase in the price of silk made the new synthetic yarn justifiable. Fortunately for the local textile industry, all manufacturers converted to wartime production of socks and woolen goods to replace any loss of women's stockings resulting from the shortage.

After the war, a new problem emerged: a shortage of labor. During the 1940's, Forest City Knitting and Nelson Knitting produced well over half of the heavy cotton work socks manufactured in the U.S. In 1946, the two manufacturers were producing only 55 to 60% of capacity, "while demand doubled."

Burson, producer of pure spun nylon socks, was "producing more sport socks than all knitting companies in the country combined". Because of an insufficient number of employees, [Burson] is sending some of its work out of town." (*Rockford Star*, 13 Oct 1946 "Lack of Sufficient Help is Major Problem of Knitting Mills") Another "local firm, Rockford Mitten & Hosiery, has leased an abandoned school building at Harvard" and considered building there. (*Register Republic*, 16 May 1946 "Open Branch Harvard Plant")

On a happier note, in 1947 a British textile engineer came to Rockford to master the latest Burson technology, returning to England with 30 state-of-the art machines. (*Rockford Republic*, 5 Aug 1947, "Rockford Knitting Machines to Help Britain Speed Production")

But there was cumulative toll from local labor shortages, higher wages at metal fabricating and other high-technology firms, and labor/management discord. The magnificent industry that began in Rockford in 1870 was fading. Add in foreign competition, lower labor costs in the southern United States and challenging tariff policy -- by 1960 the mills were silent except for the very first knitting company founded in Rockford: Nelson Knitting. Operations continued there until sometime in the 1980's; in 1992, the pioneering firm was dissolved.

Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co. / Rockford Textile Mills (1881–1957)

Founded in 1879 and incorporated in 1881 as Rockford Mitten Co., by John Nelson (investors: William Talcott and Ralph Emerson). Using the Nelson/Burson improved textile production machine, the firm was established to produce woolen products and leather mittens.

The wool supplier was William H. Ziock, Sr., of St. Louis, MO. In 1885, Rockford Mitten Company was purchased by Ziock who then relocated his existing mill and all employees to Rockford. At the corner of Wyman and Cedar Street, the new firm – now renamed Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co – is literally and figuratively at the epicenter of the burgeoning Rockford textile industry. While both William Ziock Junior and Senior work together at the family firm, son Edward worked at a Burson firm throughout his career.

In 1903, the company built high-quality housing (14 duplexes and a 4-family building) for their employees.

Upon the death in 1905 of the founding President, his son William, Jr. succeeded him. Junior was growing the family business empire and addressing the demand for their textiles. In two phases, he built a 13-story high-rise fireproof factory beginning with the 9-story western portion c. 1920, completing additional stories by 1924 and the eastern portion by 1929. The William Ziock Building was the first skyscraper in the city and remains the only industrial "high-rise."

In 1918 the name of the firm was changed to Rockford Textile Mill. As with other Rockford knitting firms, Rockford Textile Mill experienced a sharp downturn after World War II. Labor/management problems finally forced the company to liquidate operations in 1954. On 4 Mar 1957 – after more than 75 years in business – the company voluntarily decided to dissolve the corporation and distribute its assets.

Appendix D

Hardware Industry in Rockford (1903-present)

Rockford's industrial power was fueled initially by farm implement, seed and textile businesses all developing between 1850 and 1880. The 20th Century generation of Rockford manufacturing might began with metal fabrication, including production machinery and, later, fasteners and high-tech products used in industries ranging from aerospace to construction to nuclear power. One niche of this manufacturing explosion was born in the early 1900's: hardware. A large early manufacturer of mortise locks and ancillary hardware was National Lock, founded in 1903 by leading industrialists and entrepreneurs, P. A. Peterson, Levi Faust and Frank G. Høglund.

Like textile mills in the late 1800's, the hardware industry produced spin-offs, often founded by men already at work in successful local plants. In 1928, Reuben Aldeen (then a Lock Superintendent) and his brother, Gedor Aldeen (Lock VP of Engineering), founded Aldeen Manufacturing Co which leased the half of the 12th floor of the riverfront industrial skyscraper, the William Ziock Building.

By the mid-1980s foreign competition and cheaper labor elsewhere in the U.S. reduced the size of the hardware footprint in Rockford. National Lock, bought in 1939 by Keystone Steel & Wire (Peoria), relocated to South Carolina shuttering all Rockford area production. The firm founded by the Aldeen brothers -- now called Amerock -- was eventually acquired by Newell-Rubbermaid in 1987. Local plants were shuttered in the early 2000's following relocation to Columbia MD and then Huntersville NC. Like the related fastener and hand tool industries, some smaller manufacture remains in the Rockford area. However, much of the hardware and the related hand-tools manufacture occurs overseas or down south with imports comprising much of the catalogue offerings of today's Amerock.

Aldeen Manufacturing Co / American Cabinet Hardware / Amerock

Founders and brothers, Reuben and Gedor Aldeen, were skilled machinist/engineers then employed at National Lock. In 1928 they convinced eight co-workers to leave the Lock to form Aldeen Manufacturing Co., a new hardware manufacturing company that would produce hardware (drawer slides, brass items and hinges) with an exclusive focus on production for cabinets. Eventually, the firm produced products for kitchens and eventually windows. Sales were wholesale (to contractors) and retail to the public. By 1977 the company had reached a 70% market penetration with their retail kitchen product line.

The original name of the firm was replaced in 1930's by American Cabinet Hardware/ACH. About that same time, the company also bought 15 acre to support future expansion. In 1940, the brand name Amerock (America and Rockford) was created as sales reached \$3 million. In 1956, President Norris Aldeen (son of founder, Gedor Aldeen) oversaw the final name change, assuming the brand name for the firm -- Amerock.

Initially, Aldeen Mfg leased half of the twelfth floor of the William Ziock Building, which was built between 1919 and 1929 to accommodate the growth in the textile giant, Rockford Textile Mills. Over the next 13 years, the presence of Amerock in the Ziock Bldg. increased until in 1942, the hardware company occupied the entire building. During WW II, the company converted to wartime production of micro switch parts for planes, tanks, subs, ships and bombs. In 1946, American Cabinet Hardware Company bought the Ziock building for \$300,000 from Rockford Textile Mills. In 1950, Amerock built a 6-story addition (\$400,000) on the south side of the campus, bringing the total square footage to 230,000. In 1953, the building was sold to L.C. Miller and Associates; Amerock continued to lease the facilities until 1956 when they vacated, just prior to the death of W. H. Ziock, Jr. (Rockford Textile Mills) who had built the original facilities. The departure was short-lived: Amerock bought the building back in 1959 and utilized for storage and some light manufacturing until the 1980's when manufacturing was moved to South Carolina. In 1965, "sales had grown to \$32,879,000 while employment climbed from the original work force of 20 to 2,600." ("Sinnissippi Saga", pg 153)

Over twenty years (1966-1987), Amerock was acquired by Stanley Works, Anchor Hocking and finally in 1987 as part of the Anchor Hocking family by Newell-Rubbermaid. The company retains a regional presence with a distribution facility in Freeport, IL in a former Newell Corporation site.

Reuben Axel Aldeen & Wilhelm Gedor Aldeen Families

Immigrant brothers Wilhelm Gedor and Reuben were trained mechanics who arrived in the U.S. in 1907 settling in Rockford. Gedor was naturalized in 1911. Gedor (born 1886 in Katrineholm, Sweden) lived on London Ave with his wife Elna and son Norris. By 1920, he was a “master mechanic” at National Lock. He was a founder in 1953 of the Rockford Community Trust. He also served on the national Board of Big Brothers. When he died in 1962, he was serving as Chairman of the Board of Amerock.

Reuben (born 1896 in Katrineholm, Sweden) lived on Lundvall Ave with his wife, Elsie. They were childless. He was a founding member of First Evangelical Free Church in Rockford and a long-time member of the Rockford Park District Board (1955-71), donating land for the Aldeen Golf Course. He died in 1991.

Appendix E

(See attached).

ZIOCK BUILDING (also referred to as Tower Bldg.)

Rockford: Textile Capital of North America (c. 1900 to 1930)

Includes: [history of textile industry & select metal fabricating/hardware](#); [Ziock & Aldeen families](#); [Rockford Textile Co. & Amerock](#)

"Knitting District": northern end of Water Power (District) just south of railroad tracks between S. Main & the Rock River
and first 2 blocks north of railroad track between S. Main & the River (including S. Wyman)

Textile supremacy: 1900-1935

Date	Event	Business	Individual	Source
26 Sept 1866	Partnership (inception of knitting industry in Rockford)	Burson & Nelson - cotton socks	John Nelson & W. W. Burson (investors: Ralph Emerson, Wm. A. Talcott)	<i>Morning Star</i> , 10 Nov 1892; "Hosiery Industry & How it Began", letter - W.W. Burson
27 Aug 1867	Patent #28950: knitting yarn trademark design featuring words "Manchester Knitting Yarn"	St. Charles Woolen Mills	William Ziock, St. Louis, MO	www.vintage-reprints.com/catalog/1867
1868, 1870, 1875	Patents issued: parallel-row power knitting machine to connect foot & heel of socks/stocking	Burson & Nelson	John Nelson, William Worth Burson	"Nuggets of History" Rkfd Historical Society
8 Oct 1870	BIRTH OF ROCKFORD TEXTILE INDUSTRY: First seamless sock produced (using "presser hook" automatic machine)	Burson & Nelson	John Nelson, William Worth Burson	<i>Morning Star</i> , 10 Nov 1892; "Hosiery Industry & How it Began", letter - W.W. Burson
Nov 1877	Dissolution	Burson & Nelson	John Nelson, William Worth Burson	<i>Morning Star</i> , 10 Nov 1892; "Hosiery Industry & How it Began", letter - W.W. Burson
1880	Name Change from Nelson-Burson Co & Incorporation	Frank R. Brown Co./Nelson Knitting Co.	John Nelson, Frank R. Brown	1) 1938 local article: "Famed Nelson Machine Made over Industry"
1879-1881	Founding, 1879; Incorporation, 29 Nov 1881	Rockford Mitten Co. - woolen goods & leather mittens (supplier - St. Charles Woolen Mills)	Founders/John Nelson & William Talcott; investor/Ralph Emerson; supplier/W.H. Ziock, Sr.	1) 1946 interview, W.H. Ziock, Jr./1881; 2) 1938 local article/1881; 3) www.carrollscorner.net/ZiockBuilding.htm -1881; 4) RM&H Co records @ No. IL Regional. History Center/1879
1880-1881	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	F.R. Brown & Co (Water Power); Burson & Nelson (N end of Water Power); Graham's Mill (702 S. Main)	<i>Burson & Nelson est. 8 years ago: produce seamless hosiery</i>	1880-81 Rockford City Directory
1885-1886	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	Nelson Knitting (Water Power); S.B. Wilkins Co. South End Wyman)	<i>No listing for Ziock</i>	1885-86 Rockford City Directory
1885	Rockford Mitten Co. purchased by W. H. Ziock & merged with St. Charles (MO) Woolen Mills	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co. - hosiery replaced leather gloves + yarn, stockings, blanket goods	William H. Ziock, Sr.	1) 1946 interview, W.H. Ziock, Jr./1881; 2) 1938 local article/1881; 3) www.carrollscorner.net/ZiockBuilding.htm -1881; 4) RM&H Co records @ No. IL Regional. History Center/1879
1887-88	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	Nelson Knitting (S. Wyman on Water Power); RM&H Co (corner Wyman & Cedar); S.B.Wilkins (corner Wyman & Cedar)	initial listings for Ziock: William, Pres & Treas, RM&H (res. 1217 E. State); Edward J. (Rundquist & Ziock (res 645 S. Main)	1887-88 Rockford City Directory
1888	First carload of cotton yarn to Rkfd via IL Central from Bibb Mfg. (Macon, GA)	Nelson Knitting Co.	John Nelson	<i>Register Star</i> 30 Jun 1940 "Spotlight on 60-yr Record of Nelson Knitting Co."
1889-1890	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	Nelson Knitting (S. Main on Water Power); RM&H (corner Wyman & Cedar); S. B. Wilkins (corner Cedar & Wyman)		1889-1890 Rockford City Directory
1890	Founding	Forest City Knitting (Catherine Street) - cotton ribbed socks & later athletic socks	sons of John Nelson: Fritz, William & Oscar	1938 article
1892	Founding	Burson Knitting (socks); Burson Mfg. Co. (knitting machine mfg.) - site of S.B. Wilkins Co at foot of Cedar St.	W. W. Burson	1938 local article: "Famed Nelson Machine Made over Industry"
7 Feb 1893	Patent issued: #491460 - _____	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co.	William H. Ziock, Sr.	Google patents: #491460 (filed 19 Sept 1892)
19 Jun 1900	Purchase of E-half of Lot #4, Block #4 (transaction begun 13 Jun 1895 when back taxes purchased by Ziock)	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co.	William H. Ziock, Sr.	Book 171, pg 499
1903	Construction completed: Rockford's first "skyscraper"	Rockford Dry Goods Store (State & Main) - Wallach Block	Andrew Ashton	<i>Rockford Star</i> : 17 Jan 1984, "First 'skyscraper' hasn't long to live"
1903	Construction of Ziock Block residences: for RM&H workers ((Winnebago/Court/ Jefferson/Mulberry) - 14 duplexes & 4-family	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co.	William H. Ziock, Sr.	"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1903	Founding	National Lock Co. - mfg. mortise locks & ancillary hardware	P.A. Peterson, Levi Faust & Frank G. Hoglund (latter remained in leadership role)	"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson

Date	Event	Business	Individual	Source
22 Dec 1904	Purchase of W-half of Lot #4 and N-half of Lot #5, Block #4		William H. Ziock, Sr. from Elisha Woodruff & George McGuire	Book 193, Pg 200 (Recorder's Office)
31 Dec 1904	Grant of Ziock Block housing (Court, Mulberry, Winnebago, Peach/Jefferson)		William H. Ziock, Sr. to Mathilde Ziock, daughter	Book 194, pg 172
21 Mar 1905	Death of W.H. Ziock, Sr. (1830-1905); Presidency to son, W.H. Ziock, Jr.	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co., founder	William H. Ziock, Jr. (1863-1957)	1) 1837 article; 2) 1946 interview w. W.H. Ziock, Jr.; 3) Winn. County Vitals-Death
30 Dec 1905	Quit Claim Deed of property on S. Main, Block #4 (Lots #4 & #5)	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co.	Matilda Ziock (sister) to sons Wm. H. & Edward & Marie Boehman (widow), Edward & Nellie E. Voight	Quit Claim Deed Book 197, Page 260
1907	Construction of 130,000 SF multi-floor textile factory at 222 S. Main - now called Tapco Building	Burson Knitting Co.		Rockford Register Star, 6 Mar 2010 "Rkfd could be Next Owner"
1910	Incorporation	B-Z-B Knitting Co. - women's silk hose	W. H. Ziock, Jr, Frank Brown	1938 article
1912	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	RM&H (418 S. Wyman); Nelson Knitting (600 W. Wyman); B-Z-B (418-20 S. Main); Burson (506 S. Main)	Ziock Paper Box listed at 420 S. Main	1912 Rockford City Directory
1915	Business affiliations & residence (850 Haskell)	Pres - RM&H Co, Ziock Paper Box Co, King Co; VP - Nelson Knitting	William H. Ziock, Jr. + wife, Lulu	1915 Rockford City Directory
1915	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	B-Z-B Knitting (417 S. Wyman); Burson Knitting (506 S. Main St.); Forest City Knitting (Catherine & Magnolia); Nelson Knitting (600 S. Wyman); RM&H (418 S. Wyman)	Ziock Paper Box and King Co. also listed at 417 S. Wyman	1915 Rockford City Directory
28 Oct 1918	Name Change from Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co to Rockford Textile Mills	Rockford Textile Mills	William H. Ziock, Jr.	1) www.carrollscorner.net/ZiockBuilding.htm; 2) RM&H Co records @ No. IL Regional History Center
1919	Construction, 1902 - 7th St: "1 million SF Peterson & Johnson designed factory as Rockford's largest single industrial plant" ("Rockford 1920 & Beyond")	National Lock Co.		"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson;
17 Sept 1919	Permit for demolition of building at 416 S. Main	Ziock Paper Box Co.	William H. Ziock, Jr.	Contractor: The Holm Page Co. Permit #137
18 Oct 1919	Permit for construction of 13-story fireproof factory	Ziock Paper Box Co.	William H. Ziock, Jr.	Contractor: The Holm Page Co. Permit #292
1919	Initial Phase Construction: Ziock Bldg beginning with 9-story portion - "13-story reinforced concrete textile factory on 2-acre, 5-building downtown campus... built by world's largest hosiery producer" ("Rkfd 1920 & Beyond")	RM&H Co. "to meet the growing demand for its woolen hosiery and socks" ("Rkfd 1920 & Beyond")	William H. Ziock, Jr.	1) www.carrollscorner.net/ZiockBuilding.htm; 2) www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-Corp (constr 1918)
1920	New tenant at 416 South Main St.	Ziock (later Rockford) Paper Box Co.	William H. Ziock, Jr.	1920 Rockford City Directory
1920	TEXTILE INDUSTRY	B-Z-B (326-30 S. Wyman); Burson (210 S. Cedar); Forest City (212 Catherine); Nelson Knitting (600 S. Wyman); RM&H (418 S. Wyman)	Ziock Paper Box listed at 416 S. Main St.	1920 Rockford City Directory
1924	Second Phase Construction: Ziock Bldg.: 14-story wing to west side of complex; Rockford's FIRST SKYSCRAPER	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co. - socks & silk hose		1) www.emporis.com; 2) Register Star, 29 Aug 2007 "Deal Set on Tapco, Amerock"; 3) www.carrollscorner.net/Ziock states 1924
1926	Relocation: from Water Power to Kent Street plant	Nelson Knitting Co. (Kent St.)	Antes S. Ruhl, Pres; W.H. Ziock, Jr. VP	"Hosiery Industry Carries Fame of Rockford Abroad" (local paper, 1927 or later)
1924-1926	Additions, 1902 - 7th St.	National Lock Co.		"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1928	Founding	Aldeen Manufacturing Co. - cabinet, kitchen & window hardware to finish mfg. and retail	Principals - brothers, Reuben Aldeen (Supt of Ops) & Wilhelm Gedor Aldeen (VP Engineering @ NL) + 10 others from National Lock	1) "Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson; 2) www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-Corp
1928	Lease half of 12th floor of Ziock Building (with only access to the roof!)	Aldeen Manufacturing Co.	Reuben & Gedor Aldeen	1) "Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson; 2) www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-Corp; 3) www.rusticahardware.com
1928	Founding	Contour Hosiery Mills (1616 S. Main St.)		1938 article
1930's	Name change from Aldeen Mfg. Co. & purchase of 15-acres for future expansion	American Cabinet Hardware		www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-corp
1938	Textile Employment: 2,500-3000	INDUSTRY WIDE		1938 article
1939	Acquisition by Keystone Steel & Wire (Peoria, IL)	National Lock Co.		"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1940	Brand name created: Amerock (combines America & Rockford) -sales reach \$3 million	American Cabinet Hardware	Reuben & Gedor Aldeen	www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-corp
1940	Hosiery production hits 1 million dozen	Nelson Knitting Co	Tuve J. Floden, Pres & Treas; Waite Talcott, VP	Register Star 30 Jun 1940 "Spotlight on 60-yr Record of Nelson Knitting Co."

Date	Event	Business	Individual	Source
1941	WWII causes shortage of silk (Japan primary supplier)	Rockford Textile Mills/Mitten & Hosiery Co., B-Z-B Knitting Co, Contour Hosiery Mills		Register Star 2 Aug 1941 "Processing of Silk Halted"
1942	Ziock Bldg. no longer part of textile industry as fully-leased by owner, Rockford Textile Mills	American Cabinet Hardware - support war effort, shifting production to micro-switch parts for planes, subs, tanks, ships and bombs		"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1945	Service Awards to 199 employees	Rockford Mitten & Hosiery Co./Rockford Textile Mills	Pres, J. B. Glasner; Wm H. Ziock, Chairman of the Bd. of Dir.	21 Jan 1945, Register Republic, "Honor Old Employees"
23 July 1946	Sale of William Ziock Building & Lots #4 and #5 of Block 4	Ziock Industries to American Cabinet Hdwe.	Roy Ziock	Book 677, pg 493-494
1946	Labor Shortage in Rockford textile mills - driving business from Rockford (Forest City & Nelson mfg. 1/2 heavy work socks in US)	Forest City (work socks), Nelson (socks), B-Z-B (nylons); Burson (spun nylon socks); Rkfd Mitten & Hosiery Co./Rkfd Textile Mills		Register Star, 12 Oct 1946 "Lack of Sufficient Help Still Major Problem of Knitting Mills"
5 Aug 1947	British textile engineer, Cyril H. Slack of Derby, England takes 30 new machines back to UK	Burson Knitting Co.	Cyril H. Slack, F. Longdon & Co. Ltd - mfg. surgical stockings	Register Republic, 5 8 1947, "Rkfd Knitting Machines to help Britain speed production"
1948	Acquisition by Kendall Co. (Boston)	Burson Knitting Co. - women's cotton stockings (1,500 tons of product/yr, largest textile operation w. 500 employees & 2000 machines)		"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1949	Relocation of mfg. to South Carolina	Burson Knitting Co.		"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1946-1949	Purchase of Ziock Bldg. from Rockford Textile Mills (\$300,000)	American Cabinet Hardware	Reuben & Gedor Aldeen	1) "Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson; 2) www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-Corp
1950-1951	Major addition to Ziock Bldg.: 6-story, \$400,000 addition on south side. TOTAL CAMPUS SF: 230,000	American Cabinet Hardware	Reuben & Gedor Aldeen	"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1953	Purchase of Ziock Bldg. from American Cabinet Hdwe (\$500,000)- lease continues through 1956 (Lots #2-6, Block #4)	L.C. Miller & Associates		www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-corp
1952-1957	Liquidate operations "due to labor/mgt. problems"	Rockford Textile Mills		"RM&H Co. Records", Northern IL Regional History Center
1954	Consolidation	Forest City Knitting into Nelson Knitting at 909 S. Main St.		"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1955	Relocation if mfg. operations to Tennessee (due to labor problems)	Rockford Textile Mills		"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond"
By 1955	Name Change & relocation	B-Z-B to Manikin Hosiery Co.		Star, Feb 1957 obit. Of W. H. Ziock, Jr.
By 1955	Name Change & location	Rockford Paper Box Co to Ziock Industries, move to Brownwood TX		Star, Feb 1957 obit. Of W. H. Ziock, Jr.
1956	New campus: 15-acre fastener plant near airport	National Lock Co.		"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1956	Relocation to 4000 Auburn St.: "North America's leading cabinet hdwe mfg outgrowing 13-store factory in the Ziock Bldg"	American Cabinet Hardware Corp.	Norris Aldeen, President (named in 1954)	"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1956-1957	Ziock Bldg. vacated following re-location	Amerock	Norris Aldeen, President	Star, Feb 1957 obit. Of W. H. Ziock, Jr.
1956-1957	Name Change from American Cabinet Hardware	Amerock	Norris Aldeen, President	1) "Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson; 2) www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-Corp
10 Feb 1957	Death: William H. Ziock, Jr.	Rockford Textile Mills, co-founder	William H. Ziock, Chairman of the Board (26 Nov 1863 - Feb 1957)	1) Register Republic & Star 12 Feb 1957 obituaries; 2) Winn County Vitals-Death
1957	Dissolution	RM&H Co./Rkfd Textile Mills 100%-owned subsidiaries: Beloit Hosiery (Seneca Falls, NY); Tenn-Rock Hosiery (McMinnville TN); Manchester Mills, Inc. (Manchester TN)	Records presented by J. H. Ederstrom on 16 Oct 1978	"RM&H Co. Records", Northern IL Regional History Center
1959	Repurchase of Ziock Bldg. for storage	Amerock	Gedor Aldeen, Chairman; Reuben Aldeen, President; Norris Aldeen Admin. VP (1961)	www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-corp
1960	TEXTILE INDUSTRY - shuttered			"Rockford 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1966	Acquisition by Stanley Works (\$32 million)	Amerock	Norris Aldeen, President	"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
early 1970's	Employees: 3,000	National Lock Co.		"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
1971	FTC requires Stanley Works to sell Amerock (merger illegal)	Amerock		www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-corp
1975	Acquisition by Anchor Hocking Corp.	Amerock		"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson

Date	Event	Business	Individual	Source
1977	70% market penetration for retail kitchen product line	Amerock		www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock-corp
1980's	National Lock facilities in Rockford closed as mfg. moves to the Carolinas	National Lock Co.		"Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson
July 1987	Acquisition by Newell-Rubbermaid of parent company, Anchor Hocking Corp. (\$340 million)	Amerock		1) "Rockford: 1920 & Beyond", Eric A. Johnson; 2) www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/Amerock.Corp
21 Aug 1991	Death: Reuben Axel Aldeen	Amerock, co-founder	Reuben A. Aldeen (1896-1991)	Social Security Death Index, Ancestry.com
1992	Dissolution	Nelson Knitting Co.		"RM&H Co. Records", Northern IL Regional History Center
1995-2009	Numerous efforts to renovate Amerock Bldg. fall short...	Prospects include: Tim Dixon-Cornerstone Dev. (2001-2003); Liberty Real Estate Group/TAPCO (2001); Mathis (2005); Chad Encheff (2007); Crystal Dev/Vegas (2009); Ricky Trinidad-Rock River Live/Chicago (2010)	River District Framework Plan (Jan 2003) calls for "Adaptive Reuse" for Amerock	www.emporis.com
July 1998	Purchase of Ziock/Amerock Bldg.	Newell Corp. to Prudential Constr. & Dev. Corp (Bellwood, IL)	Tom Wold, President of Prudential	Register Star, 24 Jul 1998
2005	Purchase of Ziock/Amerock Bldg. (\$700,000)	Mathis Properties	Bill Mathis, developer/owner of Crankshaft Bldg at Market & Madison	Rockford Register Star, 6 Mar 2010 "Rkfd could be Next Owner"
2008	Foreclosure against Mathis Properties - real estate (Crankshaft Bldg & Amerock Bldg) & other acquired by primary	Associated Bank		Rockford Register Star, 6 Mar 2010 "Rkfd could be Next Owner"
Mar-Apr 2010	Acquisition by City of Rockford (\$240,000) from Associated Bank	Ziock/Amerock Building		Rockford Register Star, 6 Mar 2010 "Rkfd could be Next Owner"

Appendix F

Street & No.	416 So. Main St.	Per No.	137
Owner	Ziock Paper Box Co.		
Contractor	The Holm Page Co.		
Architect			
Class of Work	working bldg.		
Remarks			
Date issued	September 17 1919		

Above: City of Rockford building permit No. 137, September 17, 1919 appears to show demolition of a building on the site where the William Ziock Building is presently located.

Below: Building permit 292 issued October 18, 1919 (one month following the demolition permit above) seems to be permitting construction of a fireproof building on the site where the William Ziock Building is presently located.

Street & No.	416-22 So. Main	Per No.	292
Owner	Ziock Paper Box Co.		
Contractor	The Holm Page Co.		
Architect			
Class of Work	13 fireproof factory		
Remarks			
Date issued	October 18th 1919		

Appendix G

ROCKFORD REGISTER-REPUBLIC, TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 1946

'City's First Skyscraper' Sold for \$300,000



In one of the largest real estate deals in many years, the Ziock building, 416-420 South Main street, known as the city's first skyscraper, was sold to the American Cabinet Hardware company. The consideration was reported to be in the neighborhood of \$300,000. (Register-Republic photo.)

Newspaper account of the sale of the William Ziock Building to American Cabinet Hardware Company.