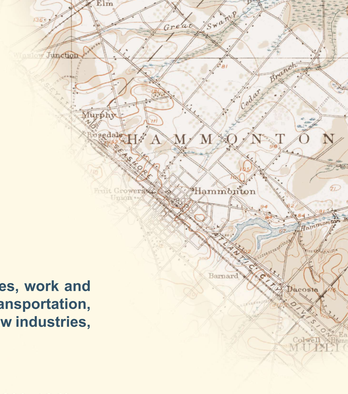


Business and Industry

From early mills and factories to family businesses and modern enterprises, work and commerce have shaped Hammonton for more than two centuries. As transportation, technology, and markets changed, the town repeatedly adapted, creating new industries, businesses, and opportunities for generations of residents.



Bernshouse's Lumber Office, 1909.

Early Enterprise | 1800–1860

Hammonton's earliest industries developed near present-day Hammonton Lake, where forests and waterways supported sawmilling and glassmaking. The arrival of the railroad in the 1850s dramatically expanded economic opportunity, connecting local farmers, merchants, and producers with larger regional markets.

Early 1800s - Sawmilling

1817 - Glassmaking begins

1850s - Railroad expands commercial access

1858 - Elvins store opens and Cyrus Fay establishes an early diversified business

Early Enterprise at Hammonton Lake

Hammonton's earliest business activity centered near the lake, where William Coffin operated a sawmill beginning during the War of 1812. A glassworks, gristmill, workers' homes, and other activity followed, creating a small settlement around the lake decades before the development of today's downtown.



Factories and railroad, 1920.

Commerce & Manufacturing | 1860–1920

As Hammonton grew, Bellevue Avenue became its commercial center and stores, trades, banks, and other businesses served the expanding community. Manufacturing also became an important employer, led by shoe companies such as C.F. Osgood & Company and the Hammonton Shoe Company. Cut glass was also an important industry.

1872 - C.F. Osgood & Company establish shoe factory

1899 - William Skinner establishes cut glass factory/Hammonton Shoe Company opens

1918 - Atlantic Loading Co. (Amatol) Munitions Facility established

1919 – Shoe workers strike

Factories and Railroad, 1920

Factories developed alongside Hammonton's railroad, providing convenient access for receiving materials and shipping finished goods to larger markets. The Hammonton Shoe Company, visible along the tracks, was among the manufacturing businesses that provided jobs and helped diversify the local economy.



Downtown Hammonton, 1950s.

The Factory Era | 1920–1960

As shoe manufacturing declined, clothing production became an increasingly important part of Hammonton's economy. Garment factories provided jobs for hundreds of local residents, particularly women and members of immigrant families. Numerous family-owned stores, markets, bakeries, restaurants, and service businesses supported everyday community life.

1920s–30s - Garment manufacturing expands

1922 - William B. Kessler, Inc. opens

1927 - Four cut glass factories operating

1950's - Economic development efforts spur major industrial growth in southern NJ

"All Roads Lead to Hammonton"

A tractor-trailer in downtown Hammonton promotes the town as "A Good Place to…Live, Work & Play." The slogan "All Roads Lead to Hammonton" reflected Hammonton's location along major transportation routes and its efforts to promote the community as a place for business, industry, and growth.

1955 - Deer Park Baking opens

1959 - Whitehall Laboratories becomes a major local employer



Whitehall Labs Building.

Industry & Opportunity | 1960–1990

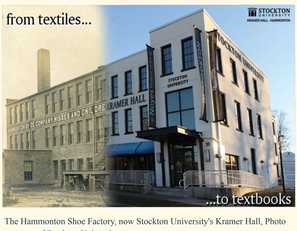
Manufacturing remained an important part of Hammonton's economy during the mid-twentieth century. National Garment and numerous other clothing factories employed local workers, while companies such as Whitehall Laboratories brought new forms of manufacturing and large-scale employment to the community.

Garment manufacturing remains an important source of employment

Other industries continue to grow

Whitehall Labs

By the 1960s, Hammonton's economy included larger manufacturing and industrial employers alongside its traditional agricultural businesses. Whitehall Laboratories opened its Hammonton facility on South Grand Street in 1959, manufacturing pharmaceutical and consumer health products and providing local employment for decades. Its presence continued to grow, including the addition of a major research and development facility in the 1980s, reflecting Hammonton's expanding role as a center for industry and opportunity.



The Hammonton Shoe Factory, now Stockton University's Kramer Hall, Photo courtesy of Stockton University.

Reinvention and a Changing Economy | 1990–Today

As garment manufacturing and other traditional industries declined, Hammonton's economy continued to evolve. Retail, construction, health care, education, food and hospitality, professional services, arts, tourism, and specialty businesses joined longstanding family enterprises, while downtown revitalization brought new activity to historic commercial and industrial spaces.

Late 20th century - Garment industry largely disappears

Kramer Hall: From Factory to Campus

Built in 1909 for the Hammonton Shoe Company, this Front Street building later housed the National Garment Company and other manufacturers, continuing its industrial use into the early 2000s. Renovated by Stockton University and reopened as Kramer Hall in 2013, the building illustrates how Hammonton's historic industrial spaces can be preserved and adapted for new uses.

2013 - Stockton University opens Kramer Hall

2000s–present - New businesses and industries continue Hammonton's tradition of adaptation

Made in Hammonton

Ideas took root. Businesses opened.

People went to work. Hammonton grows.

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