HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

TACONY
DISSTON PRECISION, INCORPORATED HABS No. PA–6692–L
(Henry Disston & Sons, Incorporated, Keystone Saw Works)
On a site within the block bounded by New State Road,
Unruh Avenue, and Milnor and (Knorr) streets
Tacony neighborhood
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania

INDEX TO BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS

Joseph Elliott, Photographer, Summer 2001

NOTE: Tacony's street grid does not lie true to the compass. For the purpose of locating buildings and photographic views in this report, the roads running NE to SW (ex. Keystone Street and Torresdale Avenue) will be the N-S axes and those running SE to NW (ex. Longshore Avenue and Disston Street) will be E-W axes.

PA-6692-L-1	GENERAL VIEW FROM THE NORTHEAST.
PA-6692-L-2	CLOSER GENERAL VIEW FROM THE NORTHEAST.
PA-6692-L-3	MACHINE SHOP, NORTH ELEVATION.
PA-6692-L-4	DETAIL VIEW, UPPER STORIES OF THE MACHINE SHOP'S NORTH EXTERIOR WALL, FROM THE NORTHEAST.
PA-6692-L-5	GENERAL VIEW, MACHINE SHOP, FROM THE SOUTHWEST.
PA-6692-L-6	GENERAL VIEW, MACHINE SHOP, FROM THE SOUTHEAST.
PA-6692-L-7	PERSPECTIVE VIEW, MACHINE SHOP, FROM THE SOUTHEAST.
PA-6692-L-8	DETAIL VIEW, SOUTH WALL AND EXTERIOR DRIVE, FROM THE SOUTHWEST (NOTE THE UNFINISHED SAW BLADES TO THE PHOTOGRAPH'S RIGHT).
PA-6692-L-9	PERSPECTIVE VIEW, TREATMENT SHOP, FROM THE SOUTHEAST (NOTE THIS BUILDING IS LOCATED WEST OF THE MACHINE SHOP).

PA-6692-L-10 INTERIOR VIEW, MACHINE SHOP, FROM THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE GALLERY.

PA-6692-L-11 INTERIOR VIEW, MACHINE SHOP, FROM THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE GALLERY (NOTE THE EXPOSED STEEL CONSTRUCTION AND THE CLERESTORY WINDOWS).

PA-6692-L-12 INTERIOR VIEW, MACHINE SHOP, SOUTH WALL.

PA-6692-L-13 INTERIOR VIEW, MACHINE SHOP, TYPICAL LATERAL BAY SHOWING THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVELS AND THE CLERESTORY (NOTE THE CHAIN AND PULLEY SYSTEM FOR OPENING THE WINDOWS).

PA-6692-L-14 INTERIOR VIEW, EAST GALLERY FROM THE SOUTH

PA-6692-L-15 INTERIOR DETAIL, DRILL PRESS, MACHINE SHOP. IN THE PRODUCTION OF CIRCULAR SAW BLADES, AFTER THE A CIRCULAR PIECE OF STEEL IS SHAPED, A HOLE IS PRECISELY CUT THROUGH THE CENTER USING A DRILL PRESS.

PA-6692-L-16 INTERIOR DETAIL, TOOTHING MACHINE, MACHINE SHOP. THE TOOTH-CUTTING STAGE IN THE CREATION OF LARGE CIRCULAR SAW BLADES OCCURS EARLY IN THE PROCESS, AFTER THE STEEL IS CUT INTO A CIRCLE. THE TOOTHING MACHINE CHOPS OUT V-SHAPED WEDGES TO FORM THE BLADE.[1]

PA-6692-L-17 CLOSER DETAIL OF THE TOOTHING MACHINE.

PA-6692-L-18 INTERIOR DETAIL, ANNEALING FURNACES, TREATMENT SHOP. THE TEETH ARE CUT INTO STEEL WHICH IS UNTREATED AND "IN THE SOFT." AFTER CUTTING, THE BLADES ARE ANNEALED OR TEMPERED IN ORDER TO GIVE THE BLADES "ELASTICITY," "DURABILITY," AND STRENGTH.

---

[1]All information about industrial process is drawn from the photographer's notes and Philip Scranton and Walter Licht, *Work Sights: Industrial Philadelphia, 1890–1950* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1986), 172–174.

PA-6692-L-19	INTERIOR DETAIL, ANNEALING PROCESS, TREATMENT SHOP. IN THIS VIEW, A WORKER IS MOVING A HOT BLADE FROM THE FURNACE TO THE "QUENCH TANK," IN WHICH THE BLADE WILL BE RAPIDLY COOLED. THE ANNEALING PROCESS CONCLUDES WITH REHEATING THE BLADE, AND ALLOWING IT—THIS TIME—TO MORE SLOWLY AIR COOL.
PA-6692-L-20	MARK WARD, A SKILLED METAL SMITH, AND HIS ASSISTANT, ED ANICK, STAND IN THE SMITHING SHOP.
PA-6692-L-21	INTERIOR DETAIL, SMITHING SHOP, WARD AND ANICK TENSION A DIE CUTTING PLATE. DIE CUTTING OR BLANKING IS THE "CUTTING OF PLASTIC OR METAL SHEETS INTO SHAPES BY STRIKING WITH A PUNCH."[2]
PA-6692-L-22	INTERIOR DETAIL, SMITHING SHOP, MARK WARD AND ED ANICK CHECK THE DIE CUTTING PLATE FOR FLATNESS.
PA-6692-L-23	DETAIL, THE TOOLS OF A SKILLED METAL SMITH.

[2]"Blanking," *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Engineering* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1997), 61.