Introduction

The Allegheny Plate Glass Company was incorporated on July 23, 1900 in Glassmere, Pennsylvania, in Allegheny County, for the purpose of manufacturing and selling glass. The company appears to have run into financial problems in the mid teens because the company was purchased and reorganized in May, 1916. At a meeting in June 1916, the new board of directors decided to retain the name “Allegheny Plate Glass Company” and promptly secured a first mortgage of $250,000 to carry on and enlarge its business. The principle stockholders of the newly reorganized company were George H. Clapp, O.C, Camp, William C. King, Malcolm McGiffin, T.H. Given and Charles F. Patterson. The stockholders elected Given president, Clapp as vice president and McGiffin as secretary/Treasurer.

By July of 1917, plant manager Daniel Albright reported additions and upgrades were progressing well but labor was a problem since the local steel works were paying twice as much for unskilled labor than Allegheny could afford. In November, 1917, the board borrowed an additional $150,000.00 for improvements. In late December 1917, the company purchased one-half interest in the New Kensington Stone Company of Cabot Pennsylvania for $17,500 cash and $10,000 secured by a mortgage. The purchase was made to insure Allegheny a continuing source of the high quality sand necessary to produce glass.

In April, 1918, the board again offered another $500,000 stock offering for additional improvements but by December, 1920, with current bills already at $500,000 and outstanding debt nearing that figure, the company was forced to mortgage their property for a loan of $1,500,000. Additional equipment was purchased and the buildings upgraded and in August, 1921 the board again authorized another loan for an additional $100,000.00. In December 1921, the president of the board reported that the company had been forced to cut the price of their plate glass by 27% in order to meet the competition from Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company. The resulting loss of earnings had required a wage cut of 20% and a reduction in the purchase of raw materials.

The effect of this downturn is reflected in Mr. Albright’s bonus for 1922. In January, 1920 Albright agreed to remain as manager for two years for the sum of $15,000 a year. The company also agreed to give him a share of the net profits for each year with the percentage to be paid escalating as profits rose. That bonus for 1920 was $14,294 but the amount for 1921 was only $5,000.

At the board meeting held on September 20, 1922, the board president reported that the demand for plate glass was greater than the supply, that prices were going up and there was a particularly heavy demand for automobile windshields. As a result, an additional pot room was constructed and additional upgrades begun throughout the plant in order to increase the volume of output.

With the acquisition of the Lincoln Motor Company in 1922 and the increased demand for the Model T, Ford Motor Company was seeking an additional facility to supply their needs for glass. The May 1, 1923 issue of The Ford Times reported that of the 76,000,000square feet of glass produced in the United States for all purposes, 20,500,000 was used by Ford. In the February 13, 1923 board of director’s minutes, S.S.Liggett, a director, reported that he had been in negotiations with Ford to purchase the Allegheny company. On May 3, 1923 the board of directors submitted their resignations and Edsel Ford
became president and Henry Ford vice president of the Allegheny Plate Glass Company. On December 24, 1923 the sale was finalized. The Allegheny Plate Glass company was officially dissolved in July, 1925 and thereafter, the plant was referred to as the Glassmere Plant. At the time of purchase, the property covered 60 acres with approximately 300,000 square feet under cover. Total property for the Cabot sand plant was 171 acres of which 90 were plant and quarry, 21 were sand rock, 20 had sand under tillable soil and 40 were unsuitable for quarrying or agriculture.

Ford continued to operate the glass plant facility until September, 1931 when production stopped. However, even before production ended, they had begun to move some of the machinery to other plant locations, primarily the Rouge glass plant.

**Scope and Content Note**

The collection contains cash summaries and supporting journal vouchers for purchases made after Ford Motor Company acquired the company. Of primary interest are the boxes of plant engineering contracts. These document a large body of the upgrades and improvements the Allegheny Glass Company undertook after their reorganization in 1916. Some of the contracts have product literature attached and some (like the Brown Hoisting Co.) have blueprints attached. Most of these contracts can be cross-referenced in the minute books found in Accession 299.

Additional accessions relating to the Allegheny Glass Company and the Glassmere Plant include: Acc. #106, Box 6; Acc. 403; Acc. 390, Box 7; Acc. 603; Acc. 33, Box 5; Acc 299; Acc 628.

**Box 1** Imprest Cash Summaries, 1926-1931  
company Inventory, 1925

**Box 2** Journal Vouchers, 1923-1926

**Box 3** Journal Vouchers, 1927-1930

**Box 4** Supporting Papers

**Box 5** Plant Engineering Contracts and Invoices, 1908 - 1927  
Andrews Brothers, 1908  
Wire Rope and Painting  
Andrews Construction Co., 1916-1917 (see also Bollinger-Andrews)  
Construction Material  
Andrews Engineering, 1919  
Shipping Room  
Middle Yard Building  
Batch House  
Motor Sheds  
Baker-Smith Co., 1920-1924 (Includes accident suit filed by William McGoldrick)  
Steam Heating Plant
### Box 5

**Plant Engineering Contracts and Invoices, 1908 – 1927 (cont)**

- **Blake Pump & Condenser Co., ca. 1920**  
  Plunger Pump Instillation
- **Bollinger-Andrews Construction Co., 1924** (see also Andrews Construction Co.)  
  Warehouse Extension
- **Brown Hoisting Machinery Co., 1921**  
  Electronically Operated Gantry Crane (includes blueprint for crane)
- **Brown & Zortman Machinery Co., 1922**  
  Receipt for a floor grinder
- **Burket Brothers, 1918 – 1920**  
  Brickwork for various building including grinder and polisher departments
- **Cranford Construction Co., 1917**  
  Concrete piling
- **Cruikshank Engineering Co. (General Contractor), 1917 - 1923** (2 folders)  
  Concrete foundation, overhead traveling crane, a pot filling machine, glass transfer rack, and other general construction projects.
- **Cuthbert Brothers Co., 1917 & 1923**  
  Construction of a pot house building
- **Dempcy-Degener Co., 1919**  
  Elevator and conveyer to facilitate the movement of plaster bags
- **Dravo-Doyle Company, 1921**  
  Receipts for fire pump and mine pump
- **John Eichleay, Jr., 1917 & 1922 – 1923**  
  Steel framing for Leer and Casting hall and construction of pot house
- **G.F. Higgins Company, 1924**  
  Steam heating for pot house. Contract with Ford Motor Co.
- **Ingersoll-Rand Company, 1921**  
  Compressor (includes product literature)
- **Irving & Witherow, 1912**  
  Specifications for alterations to grinding room

### Box 6

- **Jeffrey Manufacturing Co., 1922**  
  Belt elevator
- **W.J. Laughlin, 1920**  
  Erection of a two story office building
- **David Lupton’s Sons Co., 1917**  
  Steel sash for storage building
- **McGuiness Smith Company, 1920 - 1921**  
  Instillation of vapor steam heating system in main office building
- **Marshall Brothers Co., 1922 – 1923**  
  Freight elevator and fire doors
- **William Miller & Sons Co., 1912**  
  Alterations and additions to grinding room
- **George Peabody Jr., 1923**  
  Asphalt mastic flooring
Plant Engineering Contracts and Invoices, 1908 – 1927 (cont)

H.H. Robertson Co., 1920, 1922
Siding and flashing

Russell Machine Company, 1920
Mueller quick change gear engine lathe

Simplex Pile Foundation Co., 1923
Piles to support pot house

State Construction Co., 1923
Erection of walls and grading around the pot house

Stephens-Adamson Manufacturing Co., 1919
Belt conveyor

Stevenson Company. 1920, 1922
Sand reduction and washing mills

Structural Gypsum Corporation, 1923
Pre-cast roof for pot house

Traylor Engineering & Mfg. Co., 1919 – 1922
Purchase and instillation of a Traylor Sand Plant and problems involved

W.S. Tyler Company, 1926 – 1927
Hummer Electric Screens (contract includes product literature)

Warren-Ehret Company, 1920
Instillation of slag roof

Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co., 1916 - 1923
DC motors, transformers and converters for grinder and polishing equipment, 1916 – 1919

Invoices for reversing controllers, cable, 1920

Switchboards, conduit, converters, hoisting machinery, Jan. – June, 1921
Switch panel, motors, transformers, electrical parts, July – December, 1921
Brush holders, breakers, fuses, drums, electrical parts, January – June, 1922
Gears, automatic coils, controllers, other electrical parts, July – Dec., 1922
Electric hoist, brushes, motors, other electrical parts, 1923