

## INTRODUCTION

# THE INGALLS STONE COMPANY

## A BRIEF HISTORY

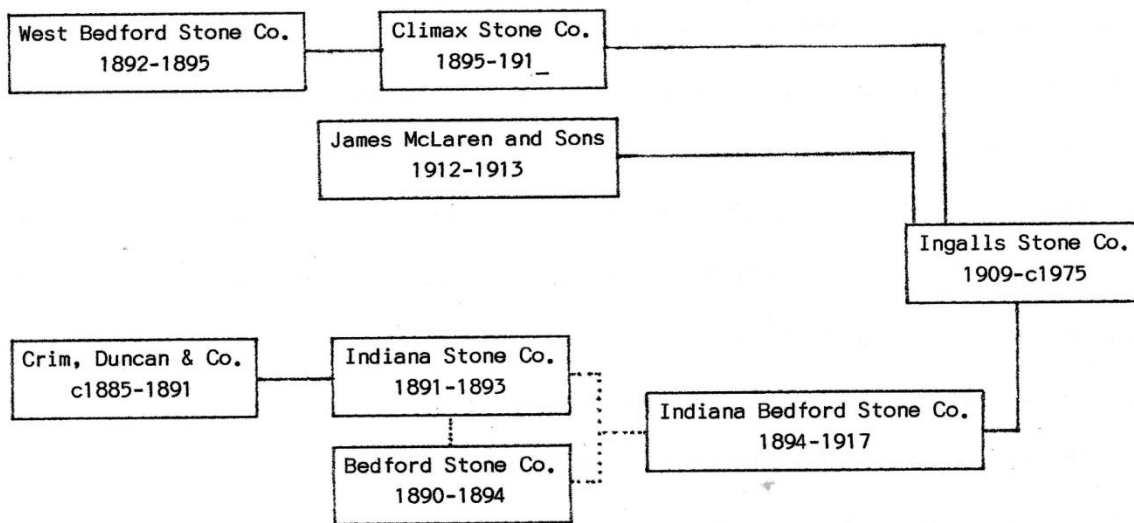
By

Clay W. Stuckey

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Pictures Revised 2015

# INGALLS STONE COMPANY



After the merger in 1926 that resulted in the formation of the Indiana Limestone Company the Ingalls Stone Company became the largest independent in the district. Prior to that it had not been one of the largest but it would not have missed it by much.<sup>1</sup> The company was typical of the Lawrence County stone industry in that it was formed by financial interests from outside of the county.

Charles Cleveland Ingalls was born in Oneonta, New York, on April 11, 1866.<sup>2</sup> He was the founder and, until his death on October 24, 1928,

<sup>1</sup>Batchelor, p 263, gives a table for the "Proportion of Total Output Sold by Leading Producers, 1922-1925." It is broken down into both rough and sawed stone and planed and cut stone. The Ingalls firm is not listed in any of these years in either category. From this table and the companies listed we know that Ingalls was not in the top five companies for rough and sawed stone production and it would have accounted for less than 5 per cent of the total. For planed and cut stone it was not in the top six companies and could have accounted for less than 7 per cent of the total. From the tremendous success of the company in the 1920's we can assume, however, that it was one of the larger firms.

<sup>2</sup>At the time of the dedication of the new office building at 8th and X Streets in 1953 the Ingalls company produced an undated, twenty-six

the guiding force behind the Ingalls Stone Company. After learning the stone business as an apprentice stonecutter under his father, Lewis Ingalls, in 1887 he opened his own cut stone yard in Oneonta and in 1897 he took a partner and moved to Binghamton, New York. This new firm, the Ingalls-McLintock Stone Company, bought its first mill in 1899 and the name was changed to the Ingalls Steam Stone Works.

In 1909 the partnership was dissolved and the Ingalls Stone Company began its long-lived activity in the Indiana limestone district.<sup>3</sup> The land for the Ingalls Mill was purchased in March, 1909, and Arthur Michie came to Bedford to supervise its construction. It was completed in 1910 and Ingalls moved his family to Bedford.<sup>4</sup> In addition to the new mill and some quarry land, the Ingalls firm made a major acquisition in taking

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page booklet giving a brief history of the company and a description of its present work force. The pages are not numbered. It is hereafter cited as Ingalls Booklet. Unless otherwise noted, information about the early years of Ingalls in New York are from this source. The booklet gives his birth date as 1864 but his obituary in the Daily Mail, Oct. 24, 1928, and his tombstone both agree on 1866.

<sup>3</sup>According to the Ingalls Booklet the Ingalls Stone Company was incorporated in Delaware in 1909. In the Lawrence County Misc. Record 11, p 1, Charles C. Ingalls, Arthur Schwarzenbach of New Jersey, and Alva Seybolt of New York organized the Indiana Limestone Company in September, 1911. In September, 1916, the name of the company was officially changed to Ingalls Stone Company (Civil Order Box 236, File 5). During the early years the deed records indicate the company bought property using both names. The Daily Mail of Oct. 22, 1909, describes the purchase of quarry land near Needmore.

<sup>4</sup>Lawrence County Deed Record 56, p 396, gives the purchase of the mill land; Ingalls Booklet; The newspaper was to be curiously silent about the construction of the new mill. Batchelor, p 149, n238, places the opening of the cut stone plant in 1911.

over the James McLaren and Sons stone company in July, 1913.<sup>5</sup> That company had been organized in August, 1912, by James R. McLaren, Archibald McLaren, and George K. Beddoe, all of New York.<sup>6</sup> The James McLaren and Sons company had just built a large mill southwest of the intersection of U Street and Garvey Lane. This was quite convenient to the new Ingalls mill which was northwest of the intersection of T Street and Garvey Lane. At some time prior to 1918 Ingalls obtained an interest in the Climax Stone Company which had a mill across Garvey Lane and slightly southeast of the Ingalls Mill.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>5</sup>Lawrence County Misc. Record 11, p 343, indicates that Ingalls bought James McLaren and Sons for \$1.00 and other consideration. The Daily Mail of August 8, 1913, gives a news account of the matter and quotes the announcement of the Ingalls Stone Company: "This is to inform you that Ingalls Stone Company will operate the 'McLaren Cut Stone Plant' located in Bedford, Indiana, beginning Monday August Fourth 1913 [sic]." This is followed by a roster of officials of the Ingalls Stone Company that included James R. McLaren, Vice-President, and Archibald McLaren, Director. The Deed Record 80, p 417, indicates that the Ingalls Stone Company bought James McLaren and Sons in August, 1922, for \$78,000. Whatever the arrangement in 1913, it appears that the McLaren's participated in Ingalls management until 1922 when for whatever reason they were completely bought out.

<sup>6</sup>Lawrence County Misc. Record 11, p 153.

<sup>7</sup>At the time the Climax Mill burned in 1918 the newspaper (Daily Mail, Feb. 1, 1918) stated that "The mill had been idle for about a year and had recently been overhauled by the Ingalls stone company [sic], who purchased the plant some time ago." (The italics are mine.) Lawrence County Deed Record 75, p 348 shows that Ingalls bought the Climax Stone Company for \$1.00 and other consideration in November, 1920. This deed was executed in pursuant to a resolution of the board of directors of the Climax Stone Company on November 15, 1920, and C. C. Ingalls was listed as president of the Climax firm. This indicates that at some prior time Ingalls had gained a measure of control over the Climax company and only in 1920 did he chose to transfer the deed for the Climax holdings to the Ingalls Company.



In order to follow the history of the Climax Stone Company we must go back to February, 1892, when the West Bedford Stone Company was organized by Frank Knoble, Peter Fillion, Peter Burke, and Albert Luedtke.<sup>8</sup> None of these men were involved with the organization of any other stone companies. A mill was built in that year on the east side of Spider Creek in a little valley that is about 1,350 feet south of 16th Street. The site can easily be reached by walking due west from the south side of the Bedford Armory along the path that follows the small stream down the valley. There are several parts of foundation structures that remain from the mill. The company ceased operations in 1893 and in 1895 the mill was bought by the Climax Stone Company.<sup>9</sup> The latter firm had been organized in May, 1895, by Robert F. McKinley, William N. Matthews, and Hiram P. Radley.<sup>10</sup> McKinley (1852-1932) was involved in organizing the Hinsdale Doyle Stone Company in 1881 and the Bedford Cut Stone Company in 1906.<sup>11</sup> He later was involved in the Indiana Limestone Company and was the first instructor in the Stone Department of Bedford High School.<sup>12</sup> Radley was involved in organizing no other companies. William N. Matthews (1844-1907) was involved in organizing the Brooks-Curtis Stone Company in March, 1902, the Standard Stone Company in December, 1892, and the Crescent Stone Company in May, 1900. Although he was not listed as an organizer he was on the first board of directors of

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<sup>8</sup>Lawrence County Misc. Record 5, p 185.

<sup>9</sup>Hopkins and Siebenthal, p 385.

<sup>10</sup>Lawrence County Misc. Record 6, p 272.

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., 3, p 201; 9, p 193.

<sup>12</sup>Guthrie, Quarter Century, p 136.

the Imperial Stone Company in 1905. He was one of the Matthews family of Ellettsville that figured so prominently in the history of the stone business in the district.<sup>13</sup>

The Climax company moved the mill of the West Bedford Stone Company north to a location that was alongside Garvey Lane and the Bloomfield Branch of the Monon Railroad.<sup>14</sup> If T Street went straight across Garvey Lane it would run directly through the site of the Climax Mill. The John A. Rowe Mill was built directly to the west of the Climax Mill and is still there. The Climax Mill is not.

On April 11, 1901, the Climax Mill burned to the ground.<sup>15</sup> The mill was soon rebuilt on the same location and it was this facility that the Ingalls company obtained as described earlier. On January 31, 1918, the mill again burned to the ground but the Ingalls company did not rebuild.<sup>16</sup>

In 1913 Ingalls bought the quarry of the Bedford Steam Stone Works at Peerless.<sup>17</sup> In June, 1917, Ingalls bought the Indiana Bedford Stone Company "Robin Roost" quarries and mill at Oolitic which were in the hands of a receiver.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>Stuckey, Origins, p 56.

<sup>14</sup>Hopkins and Siebenthal, p 385.

<sup>15</sup>Weekly Mail, April 19, 1901, p 1. The article lists the owners of the mill and adds C. S. Norton to the three mentioned earlier.

<sup>16</sup>Daily Mail, Feb. 1, 1918, p 1. "Only the mill proper was destroyed, the tramway, cutter shed, office and diamond saw shed were saved."

<sup>17</sup>Lawrence County Deed Record 66, p 78.

<sup>18</sup>Batchelor, pp 238, 155.

The history of the Indiana Bedford Stone Company is difficult to trace with confidence. The dotted lines on the flow chart for the Ingalls company are indicative of the relationships that are not entirely clear. The Robin Roost Quarry at Oolitic was opened in 1885 by the Crim, Duncan and Company and it built a mill soon after.<sup>19</sup> In 1891 the Indiana Stone Company obtained the property and later leased it to the Bedford Stone Company with an option to buy. In March, 1893, the Bedford Stone Company bought the property. It is not clear when or by whom the latter firm was organized.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>19</sup>Blatchley, p 425; Daily Mail, Nov. 20, 1933. The newspaper account at the time the Robin Roost Mill burned in 1933 stated that the mill was built "about 40 years ago by the Crim-Duncan Stone Co." "Later his company sold the small mill to a group composed of Hayden Walls, S. T. Reynolds, Dr. O. S. Reynolds, Harry G. Coughlen, J. W. Fesler and J. B. Elam. They operated the mill plant until 1904 when they sold both quarry and mill to the Ingalls concern. It went under the name of the Indiana-Bedford Quarry Company." The 1904 date for the sale to Ingalls is in error and the name Indiana-Bedford Quarry Company is not to be found anywhere else. For a discussion of these names see below.

<sup>20</sup>Lawrence County Misc. Record 5, p 102. "Indiana Stone Company a co-partnership composed of John W. Newland, Michael M. Messick, Michael J. Edgworth, Gus C. Davis, and Henry C. Duncan which co-partnership was formerly known and did business under the name and style of 'Crim, Duncan & Co.' leased to Bedford Stone Company the quarries..." The Lawrence County Misc. Record 4, p 332 lists an Indiana Lime Stone [sic] Company organized in December, 1890, by John W. Chipman, Harry E. Drew, and Albert G. Cox. Presumably this is not the Indiana Stone Company discussed above. The Misc. Record 3, p 325 lists a Bedford Stone Company organized in April, 1886, by Edgar N. Lessey, George Kathe, Hayden H. Walls, and James H. Willard. Misc. Record 4, p 214 gives a Bedford Limestone Company organized in March, 1890, by Kate N. Willard, Helen N. Lewis, and Robert C. Newland. Misc. Record 4, p 334 gives a Bedford Stone Company being organized in December, 1890, by James H. Willard, Kate N. Willard, and Robert C. Newland. The similarity of the names of the organizers would indicate these latter two companies are probably the same company. As if this weren't confusing enough, Misc. Record 4, p 392 gives the Bedford Stone Mill Company being organized in Feb., 1891, by H. E. Drew, H. H. Walls, George Kathe, O. S. Runnels (Reynolds?), and J. W. Chipman and the Misc. Record 6, p 294 gives another Bedford Stone Mill Company being organized in Aug., 1895, by Myer M. Kann, Joseph E. Evans,

There seems no doubt that the Robin Roost property originally owned by the Crim, Duncan & Company became that of the Bedford Stone Company. In 1894 the latter firm sold it to the Indiana Bedford Stone Company.<sup>21</sup> There is no record of a company with that name being organized, but the record is quite clear that such a company did exist. It is tempting to conclude from the company name that it arose from the declining fortunes of the two previous companies who had owned the property and that many of the same people were involved. There is no evidence to support this, however. The Indiana Bedford Stone Company fell into the hands of a receiver and was purchased in June, 1917, by the Ingalls company.<sup>22</sup>

By the beginning of 1918 the Ingalls company was prospering and had four mills and good quarry land. In addition to the original mill that Ingalls built was the Robin Roost Mill in Oolitic and the McLaren and Climax Mills in Bedford. As described earlier, the Climax Mill burned on January 31, 1918, but the worst was yet to come.

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William C. Winstandley, William N. Urmey, William L. Kann, John B. Winstandley, and Jesse M. Winstandley. The organizers of the Indiana Stone Company and Bedford Stone Company in question is anybody's guess.

<sup>21</sup>Blatchley, p 425; Lawrence County Deed Record 39, pp 386-9. Here is a good example of the confusion. In March, 1900, it is stated that Alexander M. McCleary of Indianapolis is appointed receiver for the case of Charles E. Test et al against the Bedford Indiana Stone Company et al. The property was sold to John B. Eelam of Indianapolis who assigned the property to Indiana Bedford Stone Company of Bedford. This is the Robin Roost property but where did the Bedford Indiana Stone Company come from? Is this an erroneous rendition of the Bedford Stone Company? Why the 1900 date?

<sup>22</sup>Batchelor, pp 155, 238.

At 2 o'clock in the morning on September 10, 1918, the original Ingalls Mill burned. The newspaper description of the loss gives an indication of the size of the Ingalls operation in that mill: there were five travelers that "fell during the course of the fire," and in addition to much other equipment there were twenty-two planers, seven gang saws, and six diamond saws.<sup>23</sup> The cause of the fire was not known. To keep up production Ingalls rented the John Hoadley Mill in Bloomington. The cornerstone of a new mill was laid on September 10, 1920. In that cornerstone Ingalls placed a history of the company which stated that it employed 356 people. On September 20, 1921, the new mill was dedicated. It was claimed to be 600 feet long and the largest stone mill in the world.<sup>24</sup> The Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for 1922 clearly shows that the building measured 450 by 180 feet. It was the largest mill in the district but was soon matched in size by the McMillan Mill of the Indiana Limestone Company.

The Ingalls firm prospered during the 1920's but so did most stone companies. Although C. C. Ingalls had been receptive to the idea of a merger his company remained independent when the Indiana Limestone Company was formed in 1926 by the merger of twenty-four stone companies. In 1928 another merger was discussed and options were taken on several companies including Ingalls. After C. C. Ingalls died on September 24, 1928, his son Lewis assumed control and withdrew the company from any merger possibilities.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>23</sup>Daily Mail, Sept. 10, 1918, p 1.

<sup>24</sup>Guthrie, Quarter Century, p 125.

<sup>25</sup>Ibid., pp 131, 134.

By the late 1920's the firm employed about 500 men and in 1930 the McLaren Mill was enlarged. The company was the largest independent stone company in the district and operated five quarries and three mills. The quarries were at Romona in Owen County, Stinesville in Monroe County, and the Royal Blue, Peerless, and Robin Roost Quarries in Lawrence County. The Royal Blue Quarry was at the west end of Norton Lane. The three mills were the Robin Roost Mill at Ooltic and the original Ingalls Mill and McLaren Mill in Bedford. The Robin Roost Mill was located just south of the North Road leading west up Patton Hill. It would have been just a few hundred yards west of the new Highway 37. The Climax Mill had not been replaced after it burned in 1918. At some time prior to 1929 the Ingalls company bought or leased, probably the latter, the Thompson and Sandy Stone Company Mill in Ellettsville. This may have been done after the loss of the large Ingalls Mill in the 1918 fire. By 1929 the Ellettsville mill was not in operation.<sup>26</sup>

Fire again (for the third time) struck the Ingalls company on November 18, 1933, when the Robin Roost Mill burned. It was idle at the time and was not replaced. A brush fire apparently got out of control and reached the mill.<sup>27</sup> At least the company would have no more fires.

After the prosperous decade of the 1920's the depression of the 1930's hit the stone industry hard. The blow was delayed for those companies that had large contracts that were already underway and would not run out for a few years. The Ingalls company was more fortunate than

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<sup>26</sup>Ingalls Booklet; Sanborn 1920 Map No. 4.

<sup>27</sup>Daily Mail, Sept. 20, 1933, p 1.

most and its mills ran fairly continuously through the depression.<sup>28</sup>

World War II further diminished the demand for stone but some companies were able to convert their plants to war work and Ingalls was successful in doing this. Among other things it produced overhead steel cranes for shipyards and parts for LST ships. The company presumably came out of the war in good shape and was optimistic enough to build in 1952 an overly large office building to the southeast of the intersection of 8th and X Streets in Bedford.<sup>29</sup> The company at that time operated three quarries: Dunn Quarry at Dark Hollow southwest of Oolitic, Shawness Quarry at Victor in Monroe County, and the Romona Quarry in Owen County. The two mills at the time were the original Ingalls Mill and the McLaren Mill. There were around 370 people employed in the early 1950's.<sup>30</sup>

By the middle 1960's the company had begun its decline and by about 1974 it had ceased producing stone. Shortly after that there was no longer an Ingalls Stone Company.

It is always sad to see a mighty company succumb after suffering through years of embarrassing decline and it is often difficult to make a diagnosis as to what caused its demise. Ingalls had always been a family

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<sup>28</sup>Batchelor, p 347.

<sup>29</sup>Ingalls Booklet; Interview with Francis Weir on January 30, 1991. Mr. Weir worked for the Ingalls company from 1927 until 1974 and was on the board of directors for many of the later years. The locals always felt that the Ingalls office building was unrealistically large and Mr. Weir confirms that many employees felt that way at the time. C. C. Ingalls' daughter Marion Ingalls Lamey eventually became the owner of the building as her share in the company. The company offices originally were in the old Norton Building from 1909 to 1923. From 1923 until February, 1952, they occupied the entire top floor of the Stone City Bank Building. After that they were in the new office building but after Marion owned it the company offices were elsewhere and the old office remained empty for a time.

<sup>30</sup>Ingalls Booklet.

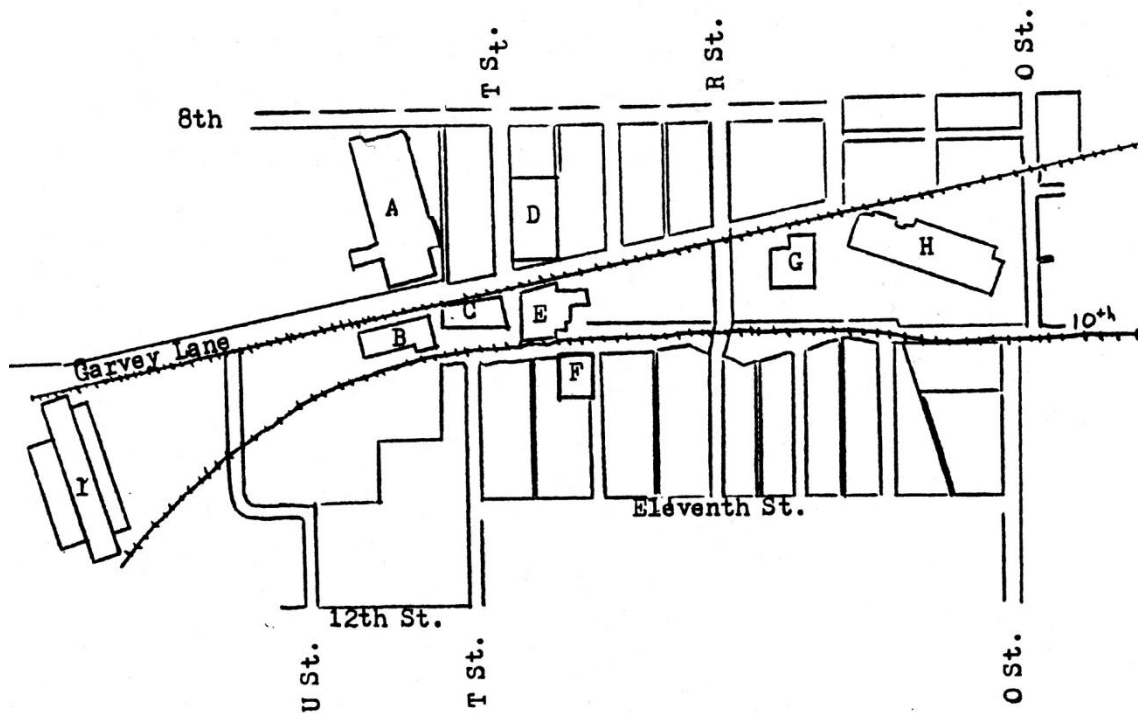


owned and operated company. C. C. Ingalls had four sons and one daughter. Frank died at the age of six. William was president of the Indiana Sandstone Company at Huron and never was involved in the management of Ingalls. After C. C. Ingalls died in 1928 Lewis became the president and managed the company until his death in 1944 when Robert became president. Prior to his death in 1978 he had become chairman of the board and his son, Robert, Jr., had taken over. It was left to Robert, Jr., to be in charge at the very end but the decline started while his father was in command. It would seem that Lewis had done well during the trying times of the depression and world war but it is safe in assuming that none of the Ingalls had the managerial ability of the founder, Charles Cleveland Ingalls.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>31</sup>Interview with Ruel Steele on February 11, 1991. Mr. Steele was corporate attorney for Ingalls from 1953 until the early 1970's. He described unstable cutthroat bidding that made it difficult to make money during the post war period. Because of its size the Ingalls company had a large overhead and a paternalistic attitude toward its employees that made it reluctant to cut back when it should have. Loyalty to your help is commendable but it may have been done to the detriment of the company. Smaller and less responsible firms were able to survive in that business climate. Francis Weir confirms that several poor management decisions were made while Robert, Sr., was in charge that made it very difficult if not impossible for his son to have turned the company around.





MAP NO. 11  
EAST GARVEY LANE

- A Ingalls Mill No. 3
- B John A. Rowe Mill
- C Climax Stone Mill
- D Black Diamond Mill
- E Bedford Cut Stone Mill A
- F Bedford Cut Stone Mill B
- G J. P. Falt Mill
- H Furst-Kerber Mill No. 1
- I Ingalls McClaren Mill

This map by the author shows the area northwest of Bedford. Garvey Lane is now John Williams Boulevard.

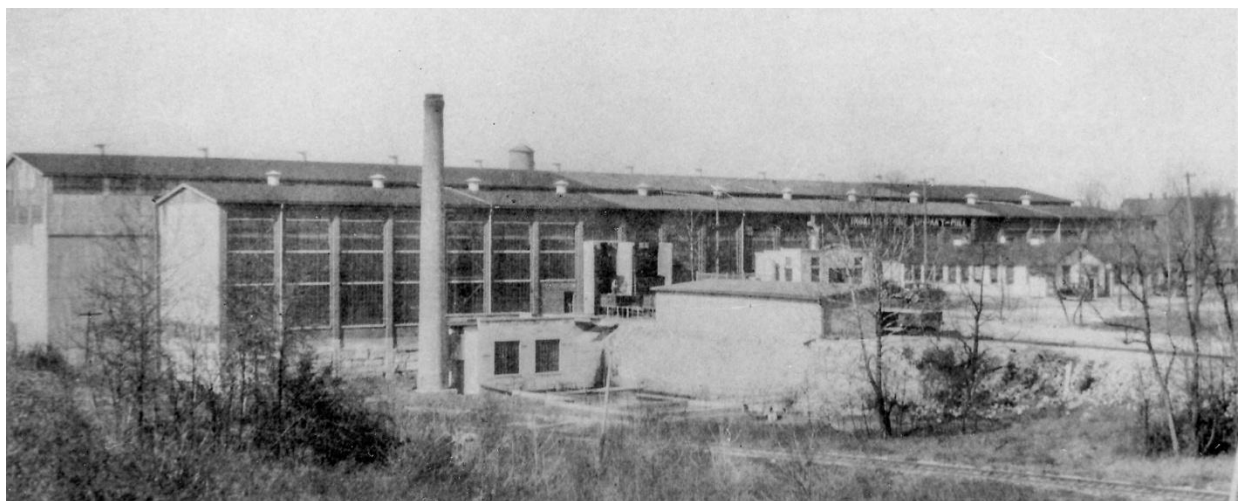
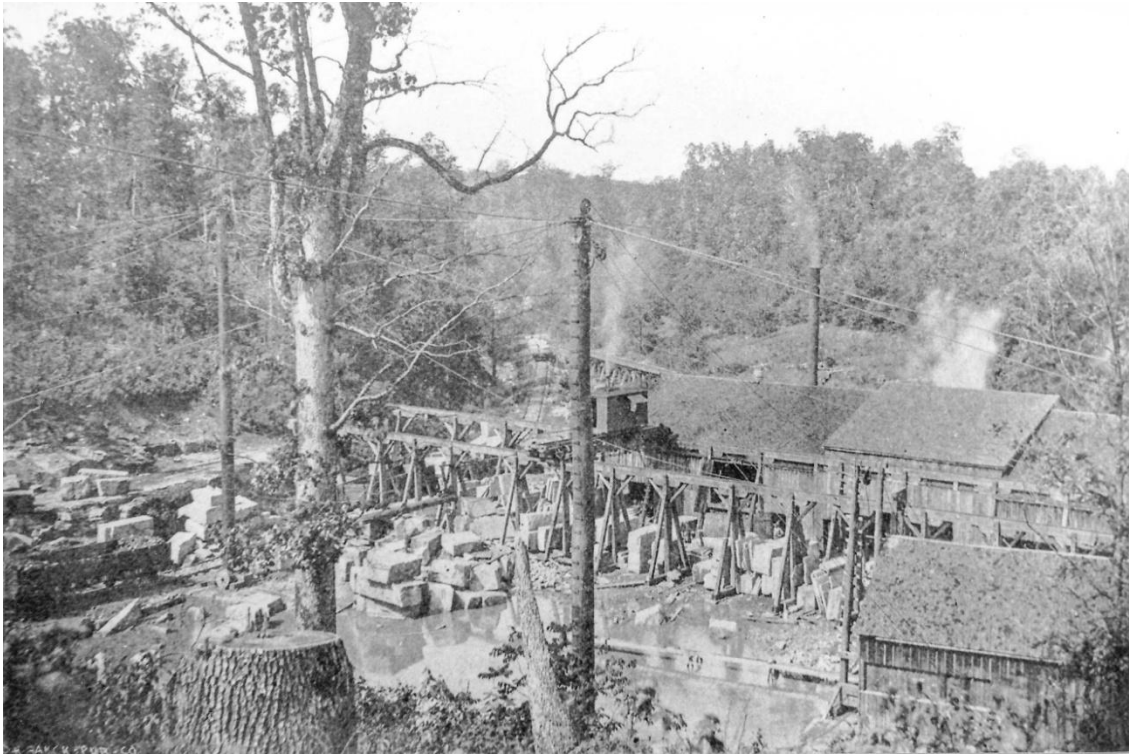


Fig. 1 This is looking northwest at the east side of Ingalls Mill No. 3.



**Fig. 2** This is the mill of the West Bedford Stone Company that later became the Climax Stone Co. The view is looking northwest and Spider Creek and the new Hiking Trail along the old Milwaukee Railroad is to the left.



**Fig. 3** This view is looking northwest at the Ingalls Mill No. 3.

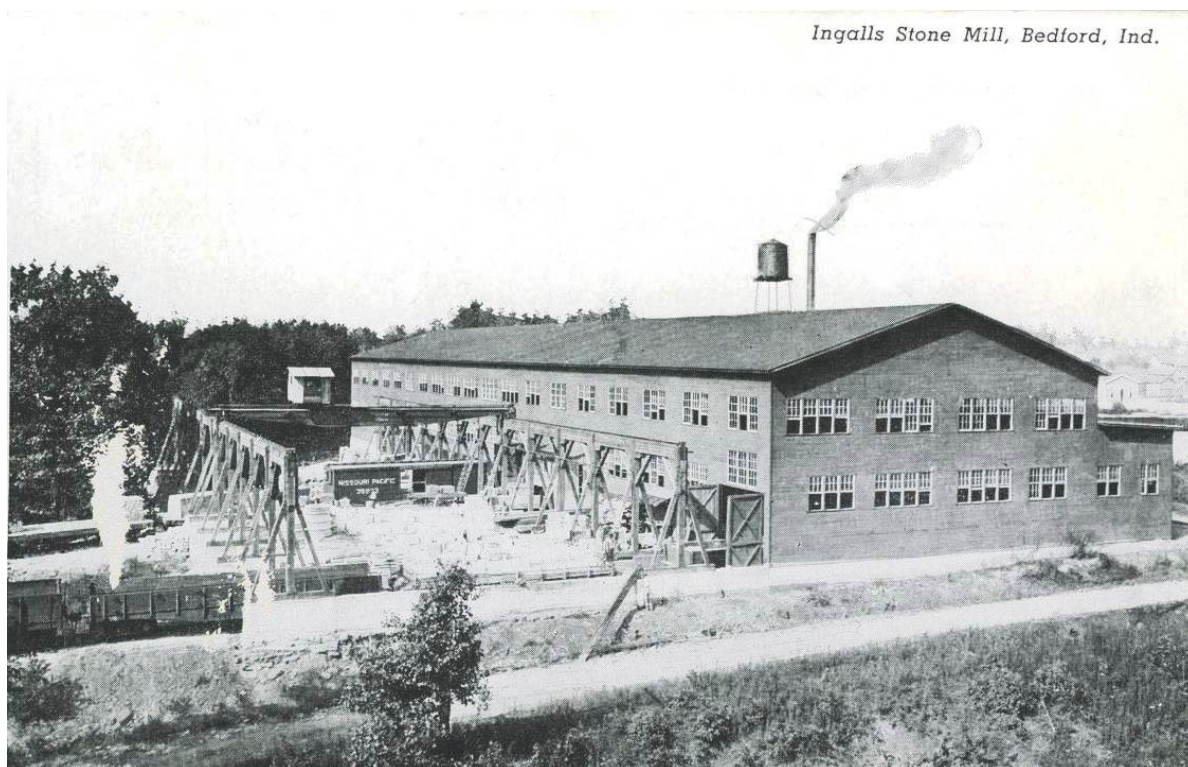
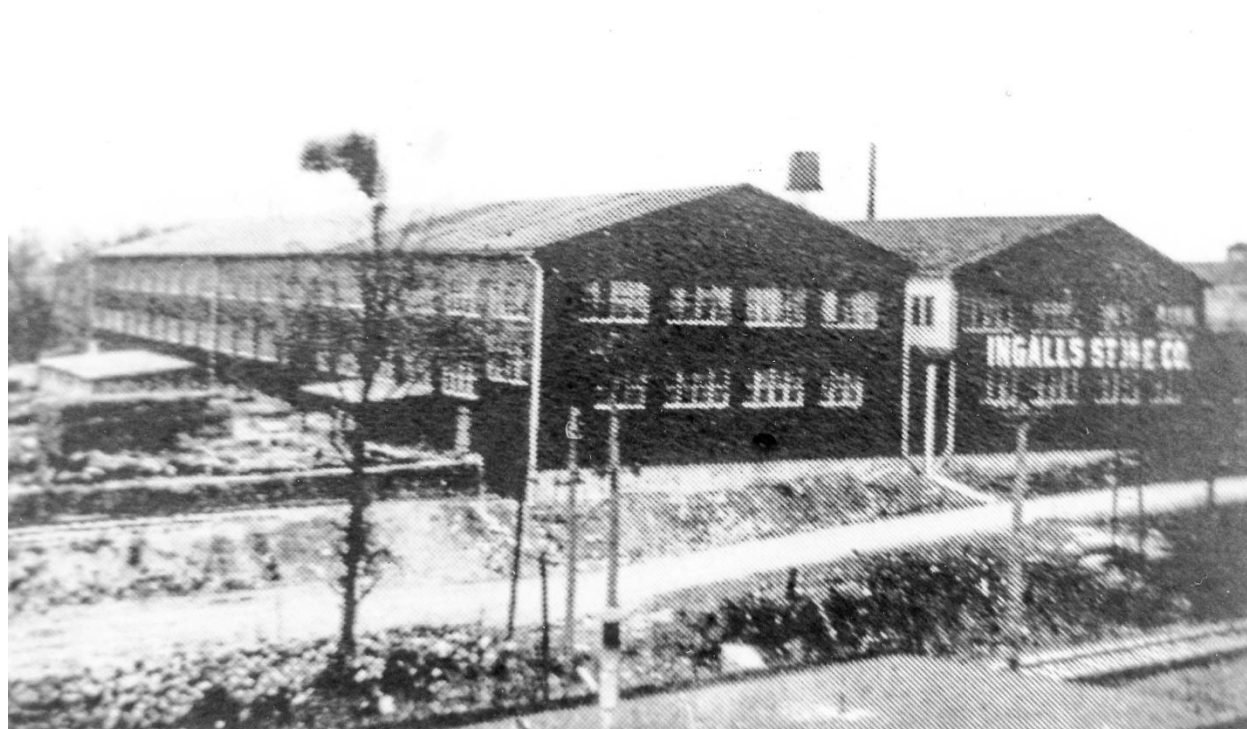


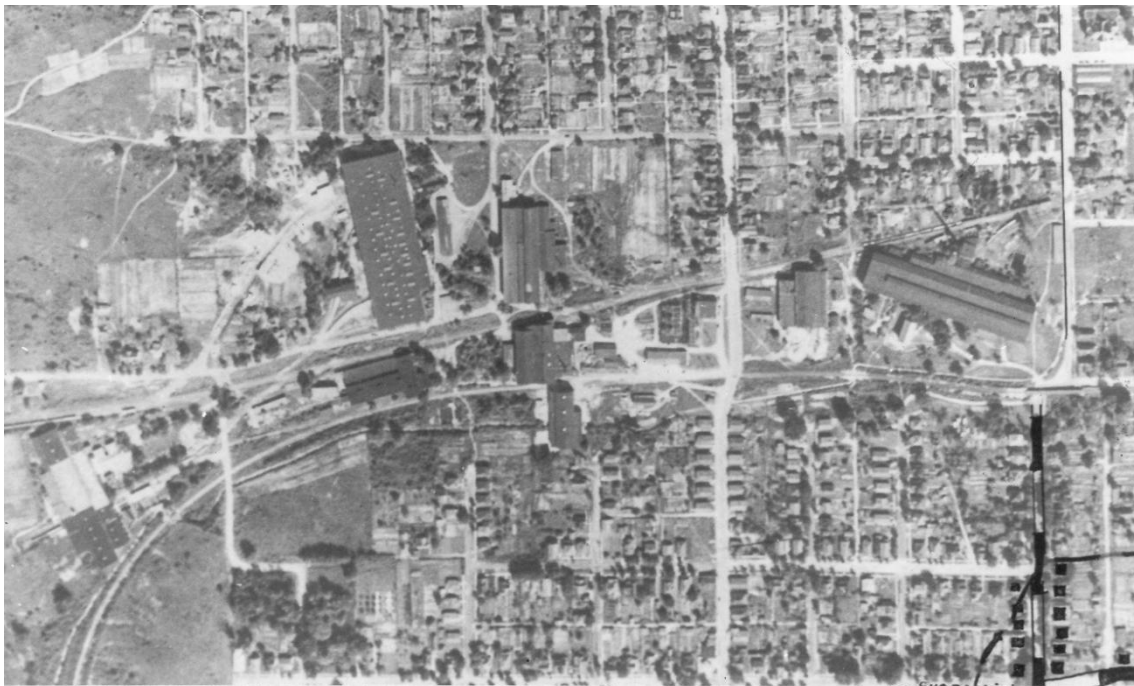
Fig. 4 above & Fig. 5 below. These two pictures are looking northeast at the Ingalls mill that burned in 1918. The bottom picture shows the mill after the stacking yard and tramway on the west were enclosed.







**Fig. 6** This view is looking southwest and shows the Ingalls Mill No. 3 in the lower left, the John A. Rowe Stone Co. Mill in the upper left, the Ingalls McClaren Mill in the upper right, and the office building for the Ingalls Stone Co. in the middle right.



**Fig. 7** This 1935 aerial view shows the Garvey Lane area which is now John Williams Boulevard. The Ingalls McClaren Mill is on the far left and the Ingalls Mill No. 3 is largest building left of center. In the far right is the Furst-Kerber Mill No. 1. Compare this picture with the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps and other maps included herein.



**Fig. 8** This picture is a late 1980s view looking northwest at the Ingalls Mill No. 3. At that time it was no longer a stone mill.



**Fig. 9** This picture by the author in 2015 shows the building that had been the Ingalls Mill No. 3 in a new role as something besides a stone mill.





**Fig. 10 top & Fig. 11 below. These two pictures by the author in are looking west at the old Ingalls McClaren Mill building. It is now something other than a stone mill. The far left end of the building shown on top was razed within a couple of weeks of my taking the picture.**



**Fig. 12** This picture by Tom Rankin is from the Bygone Monon Website. The view is looking west along the Bedford & Bloomfield Railroad section of the Monon Railroad. It shows the Rowe Mill of the Indiana Limestone Co. on the left and the Ingalls Mill No. 3 on the right. The bottom view is a 2015 picture by the author that shows the same view. The railroad has become John Williams Boulevard.



**Fig. 13.**





**Fig. 14** Small children who stumble upon this 2015 picture by the author need have no fear. It is an entirely different kind of switch.



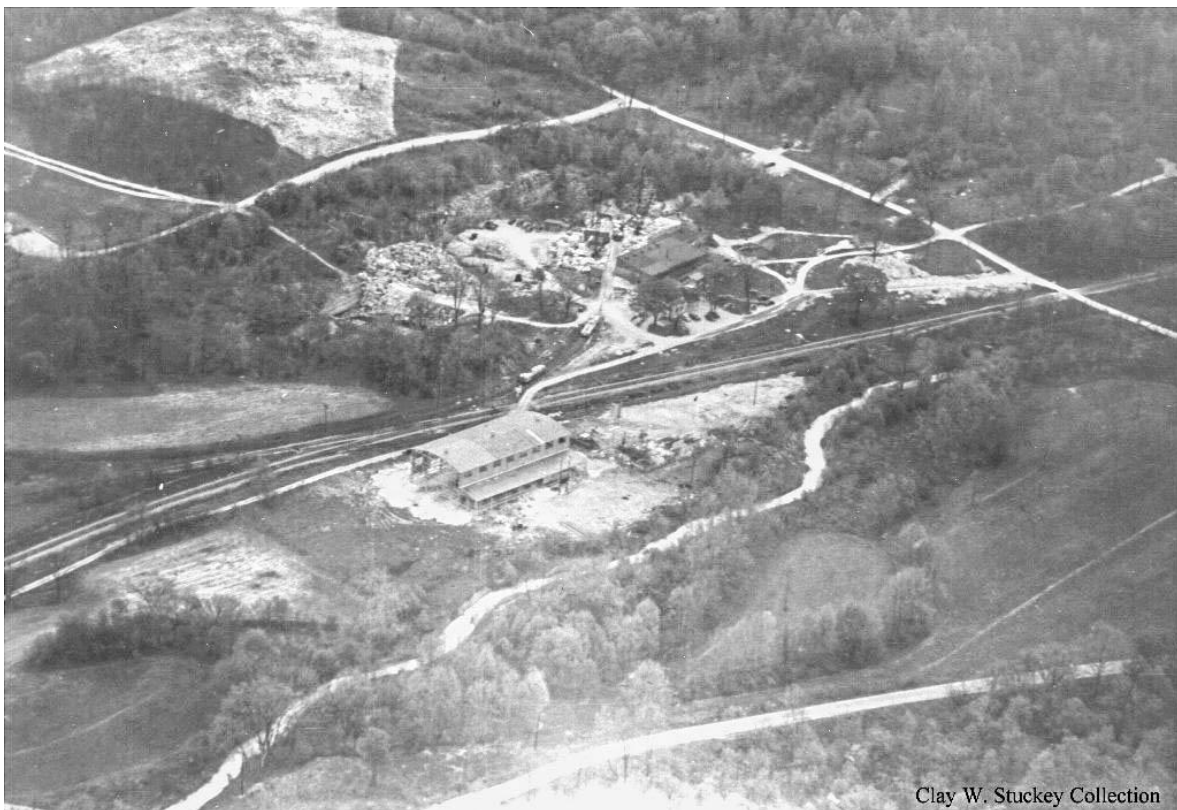
**Fig. 15** This is the corner stone of the switch house as seen by the author in this 2015 picture.





Clay W. Stuckey Collection

**Fig. 16** This picture is from the book *The Ellettsville Story* and shows the McNeely Stone Co. The caption reads that this building was built in 1952 but it must mean that the old mill was reconfigured or remodeled at that time. Formerly this was the Ingalls Stone Co. Mill No. 4.

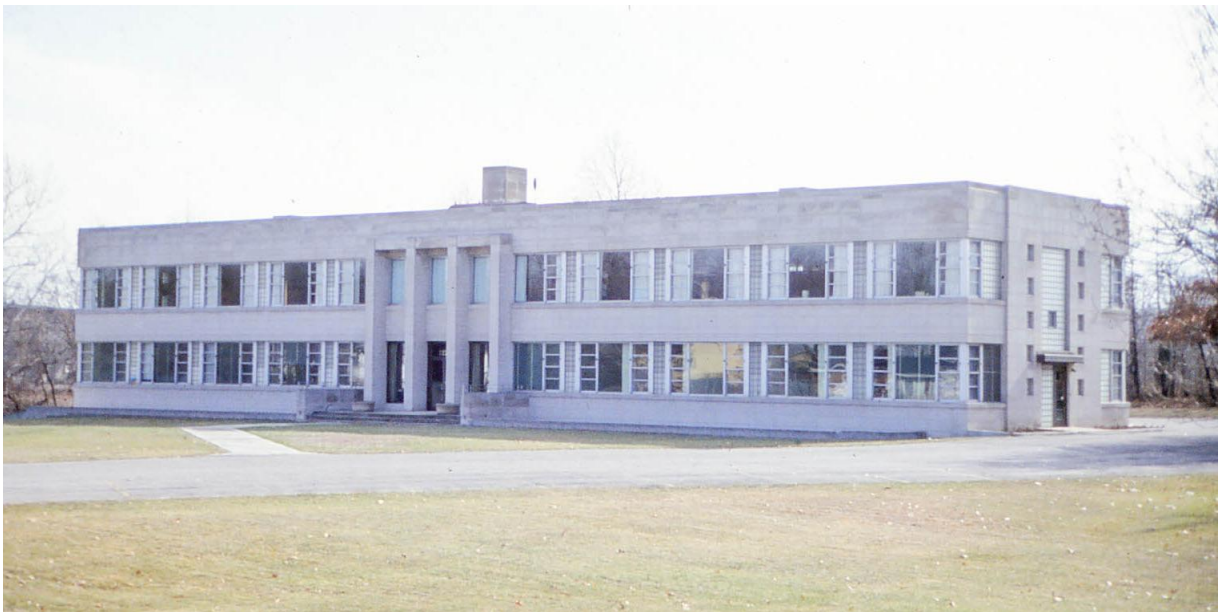


Clay W. Stuckey Collection

**Fig. 17** This aerial view of about 1940 is looking roughly southwest and show the Ingalls Stone Co. Mill No. 4 in the lower middle. The Perry Stone Co. Mill is above and slightly right of the Ingalls Mill. McNeely Street runs diagonally across the upper right. It is not known just when the Ingalls Mill became the McNeely Mill but by 1970 when Cook acquired it, it was no longer a stone mill. This picture was provided by Albert T. Hoadley.



**Fig. 18** This was the appearance of the Ingalls Mill No. 4 at Ellettsville in the late 1980s. The picture is by the author.

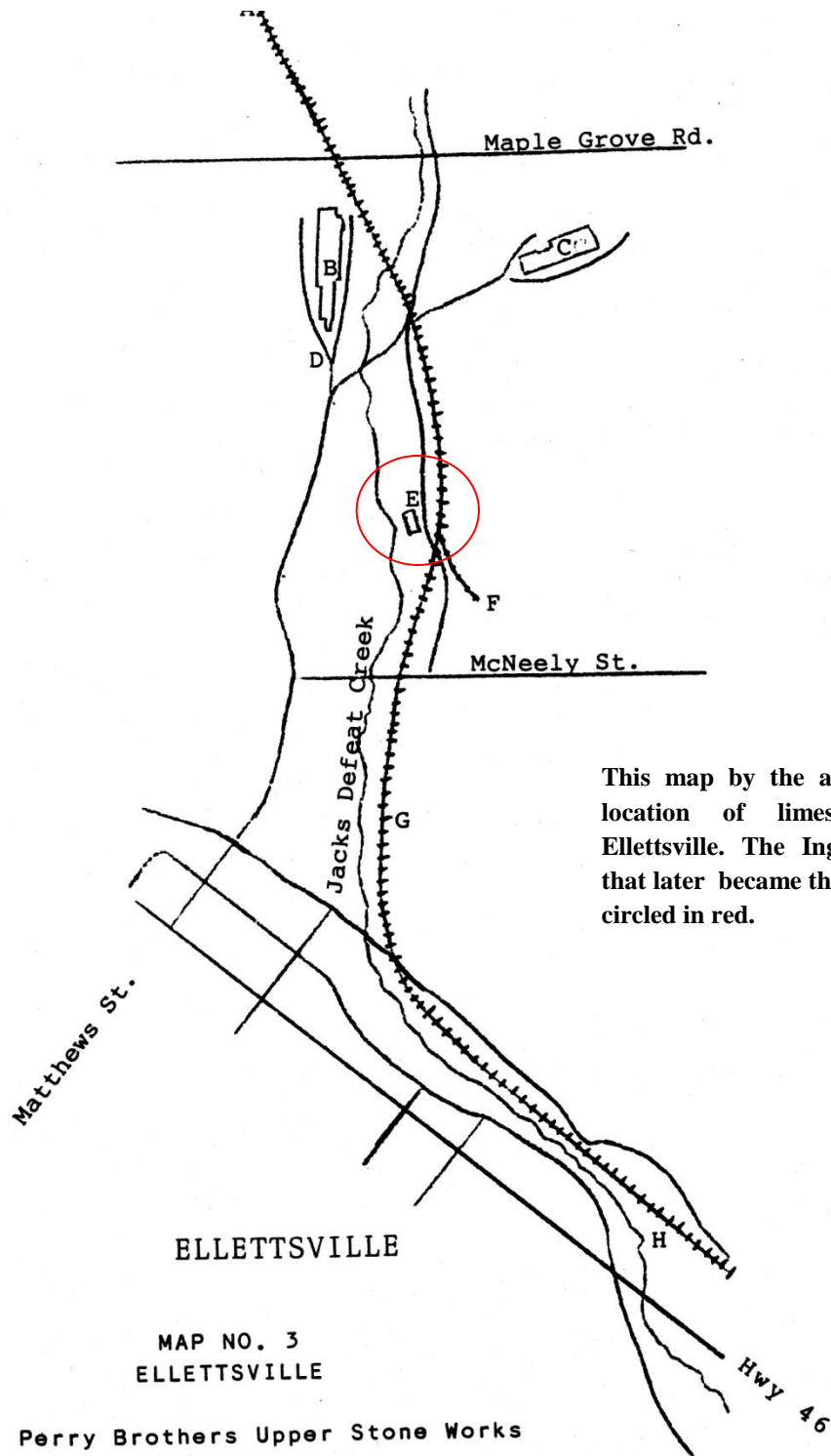


**Fig. 19** This picture by the author is looking southeast at the office building for the Ingalls Stone Co. in the later 1980s. The Ingalls company was no longer in business at that time.



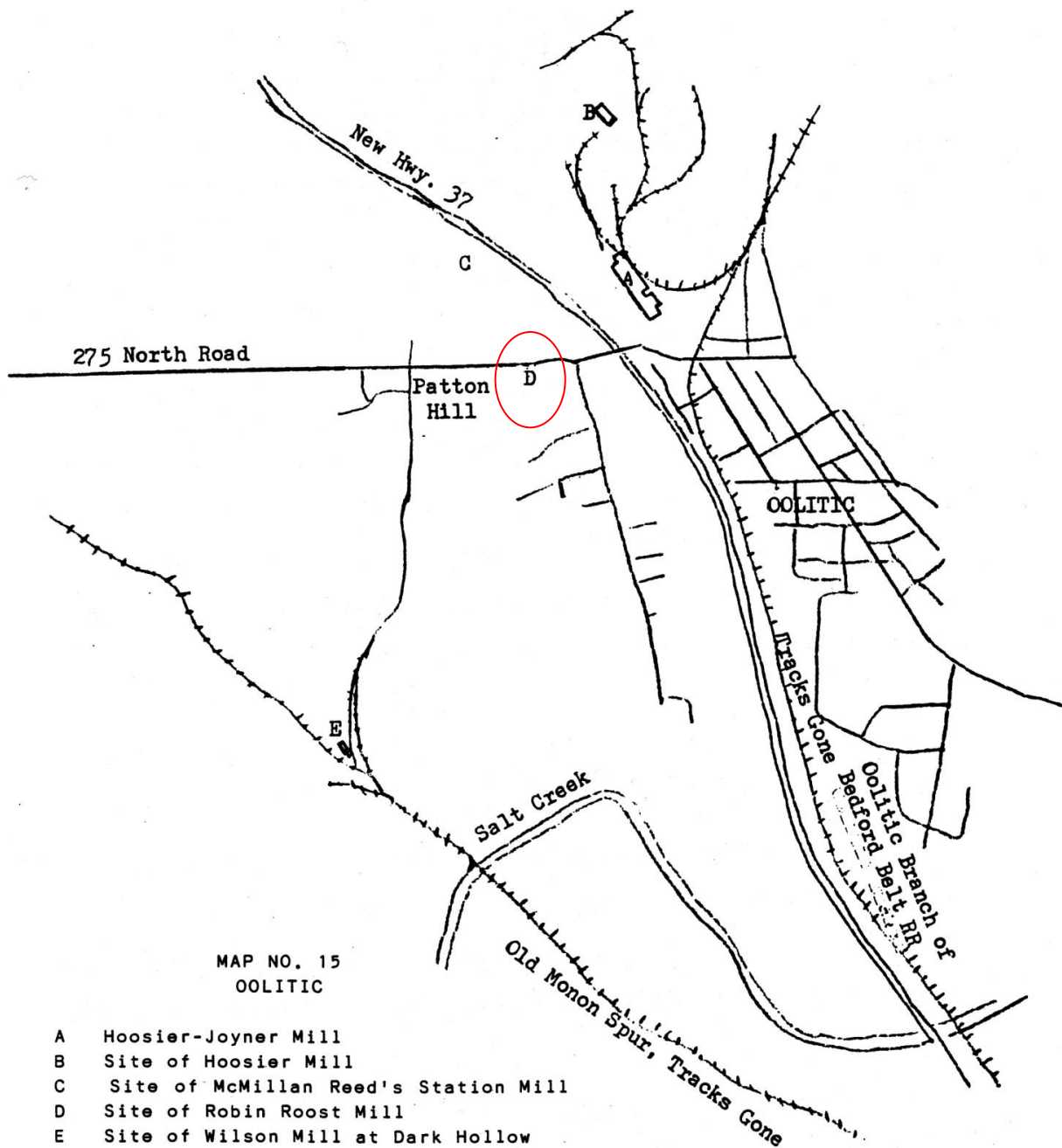


**Fig. 20** This 2015 Google Earth Image shows the neighborhood in Ellettsville where the Old Ingalls Mill No. 4 that later became the McNeely Stone Co. was located. The building now belongs to Cook, Inc.



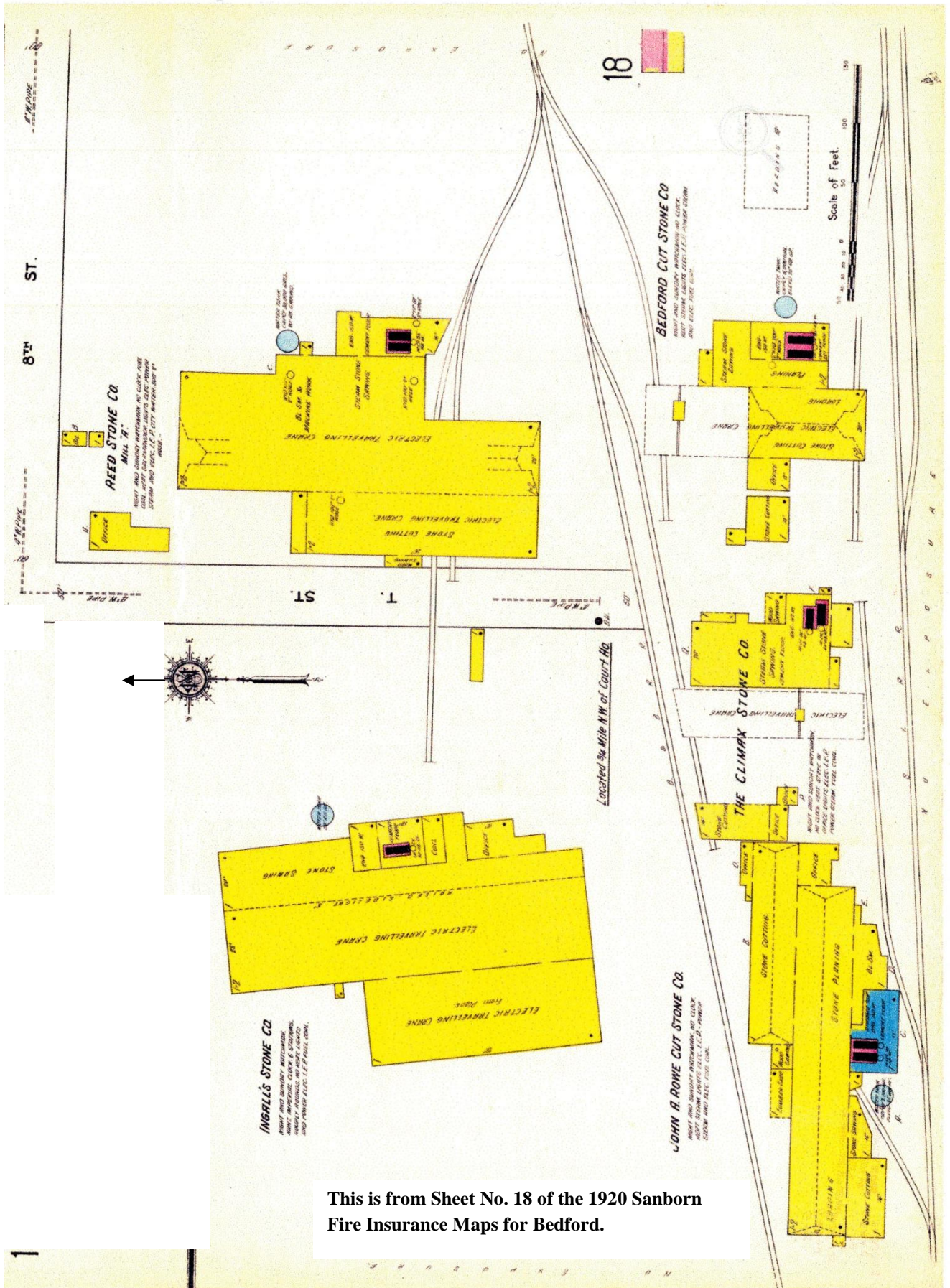
This map by the author shows the location of limestone mills at Ellettsville. The Ingalls Mill No. 4 that later became the McNeely Mill is circled in red.

- MAP NO. 3  
ELLETTSVILLE
- A Perry Brothers Upper Stone Works
  - B Matthews Brothers
  - C Indiana Oolitic Limestone Co.
  - D Harding & Cogswell, Inc.
  - E McNeely Stone Co.
  - F Perry Stone Co.
  - G A. J. Thompson Stone Co.
  - H Ellettsville Stone Co.



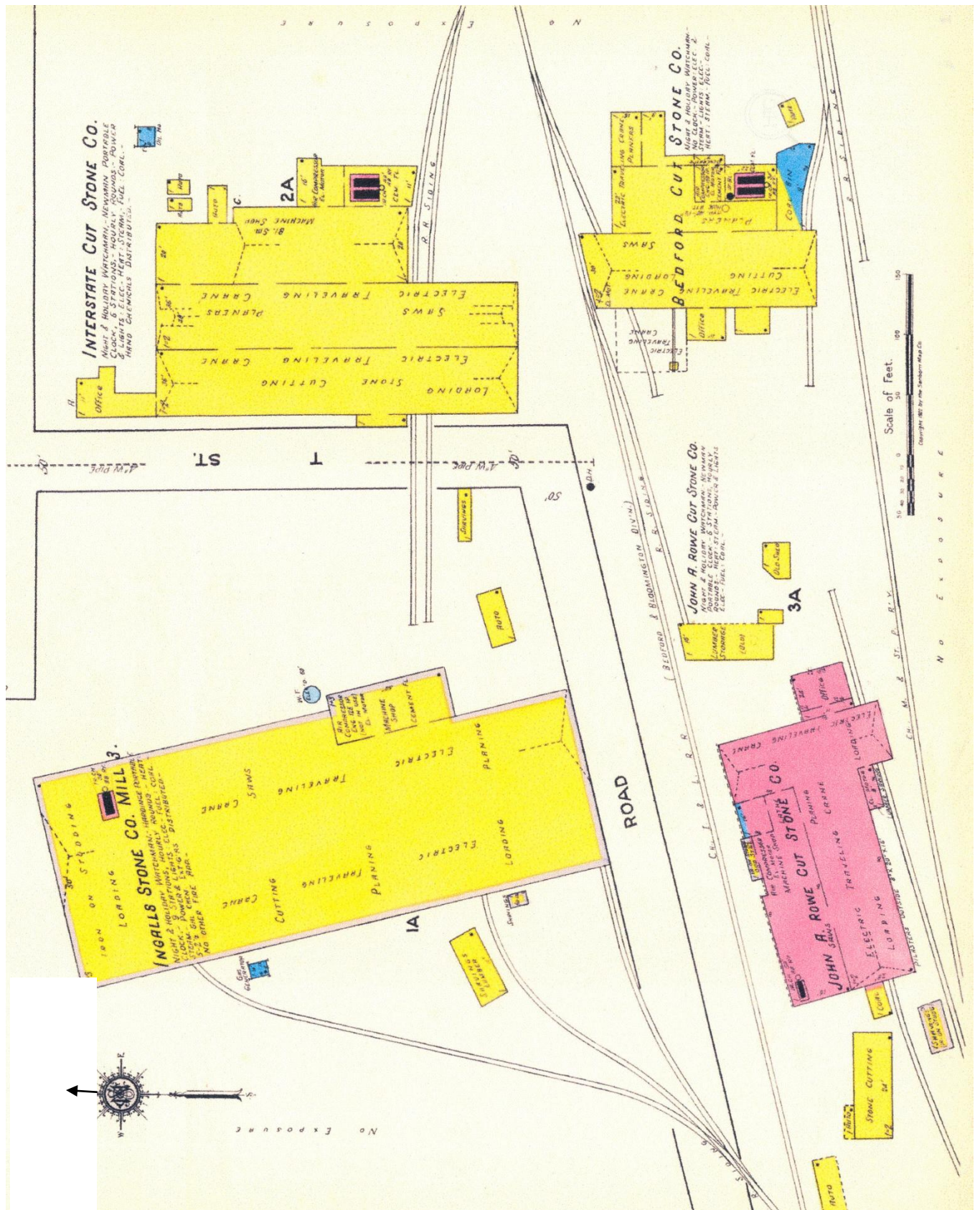
This map by the author shows the location of limestone mills in the Oolitic area. The Ingalls Mill No. 1 or Robin Roost Mill is circled in red. There are no pictures of it. In 1933 it was destroyed by fire.



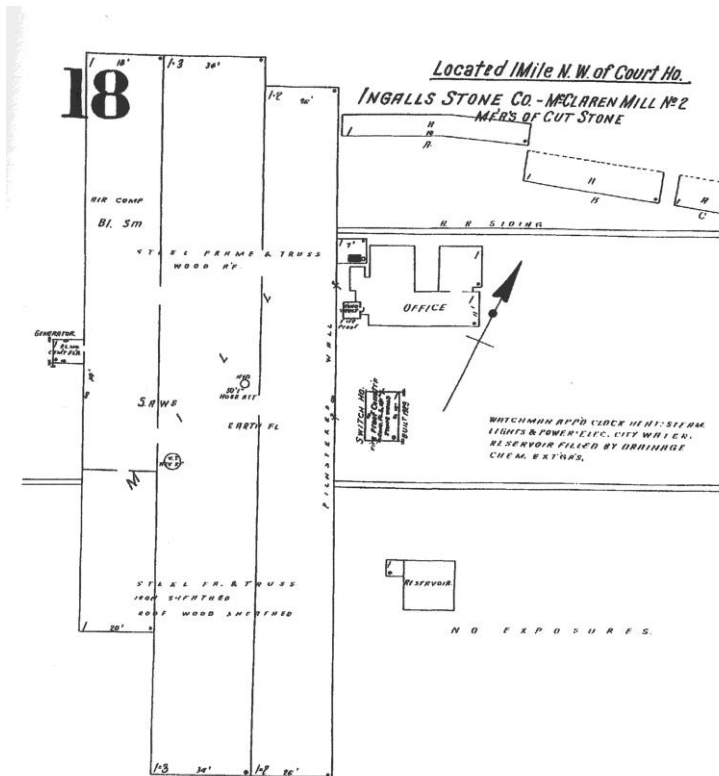


This is from Sheet No. 18 of the 1920 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Bedford.





This is from Sheet No. 12 of the 1922 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Bedford.



This is from Sheet No. 18 of the 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Bedford.



Fig. 21 This is Charles Cleveland Ingalls. The picture is from James Guthrie's *A Quarter Century in Lawrence County, Indiana*.



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