APPENDIX

1. Letter from Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society

2. Industrial Buildings of Historic and Architectural Interest in Old Ford and Part of Hackney Wick – (Author – Tom Ridge)

GLIAS
Reg. Charity No.296874

President: John H. Boyes FSA
Vice-President: Dr. Denis Smith

Greater London Industrial Archæology Society

21 July 2004

Richard Humphries, Esq.,
Planning Department,
London Borough of Tower Hamlets,
41-47 Bow Road,
London, E3 2BS

Your ref: PA/03/1617

Dear Mr Humphries,

Re: 419 Wick Lane, E3

We wrote to you on 3 March 2004, drawing your attention to the historical/archaeological importance of Riverside Works as one of the last surviving examples of the many factories that characterised the Lower Lea Valley in the heyday of London's industrial prosperity; and also the building's visual importance, particularly as part of the waterside landscape of the Lee Navigation.

Since then our member, Mr Tom Ridge, has produced a report[1] relating the manufacturing processes within this former printing-ink factory to the buildings that remain there. From that, one can see that much of the setting in which these activities took place is able to be visualised and understood within the building's remaining fabric. One can also see how this site fits into a wider pattern of "port-related" industry, that was central to the growth and progress of East London and particularly the Lower Lea Valley during the period when John Kidd & Co Ltd were flourishing. These reinforce the case for encouraging adaptive reuse of the buildings rather than their demolition; for adding them to the list of historic buildings, and for including them within an Old Ford conservation area.

Mr Ridge's report is necessarily brief, and it prompts many questions of a more detailed nature, which further study of the building fabric and the documentary record could answer, to the benefit of our understanding of the printing inks industry and also of the progress of developments in industrial building construction. This was an important transitional period in the use of iron and steel and fire-resistant construction (from the 1880s to the 1920s). If it is decided, in spite of the buildings' special merits, to approve their redevelopment, we ask that there be a condition based on PPG 16 that the buildings be investigated and recorded to a competent standard, so as to elucidate especially their features of commercial and technological interest.

Yours sincerely,

Brian Strong
Secretary

Cc Mark Hutton, LBTH Conservation Officer
Susie Barson, English Heritage
Nick Collins, English Heritage

[1] Ridge, Tom (June 2004); *Industrial Buildings of Historic and Architectural Interest in Old Ford and a part of Hackney Wick; Supplementary Report No. 1, Riverside Works, 419 Wick Lane, London, E3. Former Steam Printing-Ink and Varnish Works of John Kidd & Co Ltd 1862-c1951*

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INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS OF HISTORIC & ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST IN OLD FORD AND PART OF HACKNEY WICK

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT NO. 1

THE SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC INTEREST OF RIVERSIDE WORKS, 419 WICK LANE LONDON, E3 L.B. TOWER HAMLETS

FORMER STEAM PRINTING-INK AND VARNISH WORKS (JOHN KIDD & CO LTD 1862-c.1951).

TOM RIDGE JUNE 2004

CONTENTS

ARCHITECTURAL INTEREST

1. Chimney shaft and two-storey boiler house (with cast-iron roof-top water tank) constitute an exceptionally rare and important survival in London and indicate that Riverside Works was a steam-powered factory.

2. Documentary evidence indicates that it was a steam-powered printing-ink and varnish works with a significant plan form comprising a northern two-storey range, an adjoining southern (mostly) single-storey range and four separate buildings, detached from the main factory for safety:

   - northern range alongside private roadway for dry storage of colours (22) (note ground-floor and first-floor loading doorways); the storage of printing inks (25); packing of printing inks; despatch of printing inks (26 and 27); and roller making (24)
   - southern range for dry storage of different types of black in dry black store on first floor of two-storey black house (first floor and east-side wall removed); black mixing and grinding of newspaper printing-ink in black newspaper-ink grinding mill on ground floor of two-storey black house (served by 'shoots' from dry black store) (16 &17); black mixing and grinding of good quality newspaper printing-ink (30) in western part of black-ink grinding mill (served by 'shoots' from dry black store) (21); black mixing and grinding of lithographic and letterpress inks in eastern part of black-ink grinding mill (18-20); colour mixing and grinding in *c.*1890 coloured-ink grinding mill (23) and 1914 coloured-ink grinding mill
   - single-storey fine varnish house (10-13) where linseed oil, delivered by barge (10) was boiled to make fine varnish for lithographic and letterpress inks, pumped to ink grinding mills; a dangerous and noxious process, the fumes being collected, passed through tanks and carried off via chimney shaft (demolished)
   - open-sided building for 'news' varnish distillery (14 and 15) where rosin, delivered by barge (10) was distilled to make varnish for newspaper printing- ink (site shown on sketch plan 2), pumped to black newspaper-ink grinding mill; a dangerous but less noxious process than linseed oil boiling; the chimney shaft to the right of the distillery (15) drew smoke from the furnaces under the stills
   - two-storey boiler house located near the *c.*1890 detached chimney shaft, which is centrally located in relation to the two *c.*1890 ink grinding mills (the eastern of which contained the engine room; seen on the right in (18) and in the centre right in (19))
   - two-storey building with ground-floor ink drum washing room (for re-use) and first-floor laboratory and office (28) for testing samples of raw materials and inks; taking ink orders from head office and issuing formulae for ordered inks, mostly from a log book containing about 500 formulae

3. Well-designed simple industrial buildings without stylish facades*, mainly because the company had its head office and showrooms near Fleet Street, rebuilt 1899 (29) (demolished). Nevertheless, as befitting a world leader in its specialised field, most if not all of the buildings were designed by architects and erected by the same reputable local builder. Although erected in stages over a fifty year period (replacing an irregular group of timber sheds, most of which had been previously occupied by printing-ink manufacturers, Benjamin Smith & Son), most of the stock brick buildings are visually unified by matching blue-brick and other late-C19 features, such as rounded or splayed corners. (See November 2003 report p.3 and first three photographs and descriptions).

4. Holman and Goodrham, designers of the grade II- listed 1909-11 former Bryant & May match factory in Bow, designed the 1935-36 block on Wick Lane.

5. Both this two-storey block and the 1914 two-storey block have single-storey internal steel frames, making them key members of the group of five technologically innovative* buildings with internal steel frames in the southern of two proposed conservation areas, with three more such buildings in the northern of the two proposed conservation areas.

6. The 1897 two-storey block has two single-storey internal cast-iron and steel frames (22, 26 and 27), making it a key member of a group of four technologically innovative* buildings with internal cast-iron and steel frames in the southern of the two proposed conservation areas, with four more such buildings in the northern of the two proposed conservation areas. The four cast-iron columns in the 1897 two-storey block were probably designed to carry timber rather than steel beams and are similar to the cast-iron columns in the 1899 building at 1 Crown Close.

7. The structural diversity of Riverside Works also includes several types of metal roof truss, the most interesting being the two sets of steel tee bar and wrought-iron rod trusses in the 1897 two-storey block (25).

   * '…the special interest of a building will not always be reflected in obvious visual quality. Buildings which are important for reasons of **technological innovation**, or as illustrating particular aspects of **social or economic history**, may well have little external visual quality.' (PPG 15 6.14 1994).

HISTORIC INTEREST

1. Documentary and built evidence indicates that Riverside Works was a steam-powered printing-ink works (described as 'up-to-date' in 1910) making its own varnishes from traditional materials (linseed oil and/or rosin) and purchasing several types of black and about 300 different shades of colour to produce all types of printing ink for the national and world markets. Like most listed industrial buildings, the works has lost its original plant and machinery; but, unlike some listed industrial buildings, each stage (except rosin

distillation) in the production of traditional printing inks is represented by a particular building (as indicated on sketch plans and production flow chart). All the buildings probably constitute one of the very few fully-surviving works of this type in London, and possibly elsewhere in England. As London was England's main centre of printing and associated trades (such as the manufacture of printing ink), the buildings at Riverside Works are nationally important representatives of a traditional process which has been largely superseded by modern materials and methods of printing-ink production.*

2. The national importance of Riverside Works is enhanced by the proximity of three purpose-built printing works: two in the southern and one in the northern of the two proposed conservation areas; and the site of the Caslon Letter Foundry and Factory in Rothbury Road.*

3. Port industries, so called because they process bulky imported raw materials, were mainly located in London on the Thames below Limehouse and along tributaries and canals, especially in what is now Tower Hamlets and in the lower Lea valley. A few of the port-related works on Thames-side are still in production but most have disappeared. Most of the port-related works on the associated waterways have also disappeared and the few surviving representatives are either being used by other industries or for other purposes. As London was the 'First Port of Empire' and had the greatest concentration of port industries in England, the buildings at Riverside Works are nationally important representatives of London's port industries. The main imported raw materials processed at Riverside Works were linseed and rosin. The linseed was imported from Calcutta and possibly crushed in an oil mill on the Limehouse Cut and the barrels of oil barged along the Cut and up the River Lea; barrels of imported rosin were probably transhipped in the docks and barged up the Lea. Riverside Works is a key member of three surviving port-related works in the southern of the two proposed conservation areas, with three more such works in the northern of the two proposed conservation areas.*

4. In addition to the historic industrial buildings on the Orchard peninsula and at Three Mills, Riverside Works is the only other surviving group of historic industrial buildings on the main channel of the River Lea, below Old Ford Locks.

5. Riverside Works occupies an historic industrial riverside site in continuous occupation since the latter part of the 17th century (and probably earlier), when it was occupied by a scarlet dye works producing 'Bow dye'. In 1765, the former dye works was converted to a printing-ink works by Benjamin Smith, and acquired by John Kidd in 1862. The traditional production of printing ink (from natural varnish, black or colour) and its subsequent application to paper and other materials is not unlike the crafts of dye making, dyeing and calico printing; in this sense, Riverside Works is the sole surviving representative of three long-established local industries of national importance (see November 2003 Report, pp. 3 and 4).

6. *Chemistry Theoretical, Practical & Analytical as applied to the Arts & Manufactures* by Sheridan Muspratt (two volumes 1853-61), includes a section on printing inks, based on information provided by Benjamin Smith & Son, of Old Ford. They also produced the printing ink with which the books were printed and, according to Muspratt, 'have a world-wide fame for the excellence of their productions'.

7. The lower Lea valley was notorious as a haven for noxious and dangerous industries, especially in the 19th and 20th centuries; Riverside Works is one of the few surviving representatives of such industries.

   * '…the special interest of a building will not always be reflected in obvious visual quality. Buildings which are important for reasons of **technological innovation**, or as illustrating particular aspects of **social or economic history**, may well have little external visual quality.' (PPG 15 6.14 1994).

GROUP VALUE

1. Riverside works, with its two internal cast-iron and steel frames and two internal steel frames is the only works in Old Ford with both types of transitional structure. Although all four are single-storey frames they make Riverside Works one of the key members of a large industrial group of surviving transitional structures. The transition from iron-framed to steel-framed buildings took place at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Buildings with transitional structures are becoming increasingly scarce and progressively more important as surviving examples from an important period of technological innovation.* Most of the surviving industrial buildings of historic and architectural interest in Old Ford and Hackney Wick were built during this period of technological innovation and many of them have transitional structures. As the area was probably London's largest late-C19/early-C20 industrial area, all its industrial buildings with transitional structures probably constitute the only large industrial group of surviving transitional structures in London. All the members of this group are of considerable architectural interest* and, individually and collectively, merit statutory protection:

Table 1 Transitional Structures
Numbers in brackets are building or works numbers in November 2003 Report.

Southern Conservation Area	INTERNAL CAST-IRON AND STEEL FRAME	INTERNAL STEEL FRAME
Riverside Works (1)	single-storey x2	single-storey x2
Swan Wharf (9)	two-storey	
Britannia Works (10)		two-storey x2
Blutex & Offmech (12)	three-storey	
Space Place (13)	three-storey	
Algha Works (14)		five-storey
Northern Conservation Area		
King's Yard (22)	single-storey x2	three-storey
Queen's Yard (23)		five-storey
92 White Post Lane (25)	four-storey x2	
Central Books (32) (Hackney)		three-storey

2. As a nationally important representative of London's port industries, Riverside Works is a key member of what is probably the only large group of surviving port-related works in London. All the members of this group are of considerable (economic) historic interest* and, individually and collectively, merit statutory protection:

Table 2 Port-related Works
Numbers in brackets are building, works or structures numbers in November 2003 Report.

Southern Conservation Area	IMPORTED RAW MATERIAL OR PARTLY PROCESSED RAW MATERIAL
Riverside Works (1)	linseed (oil) rosin
Blutex & Offmech (12) Space Place etc. (13) (Wick Lane Rubber Works)	rubber
Broadwood Piano Factory (15)	timber
Northern Conservation Area	
King's Yard (22), Queen's Yard (23), Main Yard and Central Books (32) (Hackney) (Clarnico Confectionery & Preserving Works)	fruit, sugar, cocoa etc
Carless, Capel & Leonard (29) (walls only)	crude petroleum
Spill's Vulcanised India Rubber Cloth Works (33) (Hackney)	rubber
Parkesine Works (34) (Hackney)	cotton castor oil

3. As a former printing-ink works, Riverside Works is an important member of a group of surviving representatives of the nationally important late-C19/early-C20 printing industry in London. All the members of this group are of considerable (economic) historic interest* and, individually and collectively merit statutory protection:

Table 3 Printing and Associated Trades
Numbers in brackets are building or works numbers in November 2003 Report.

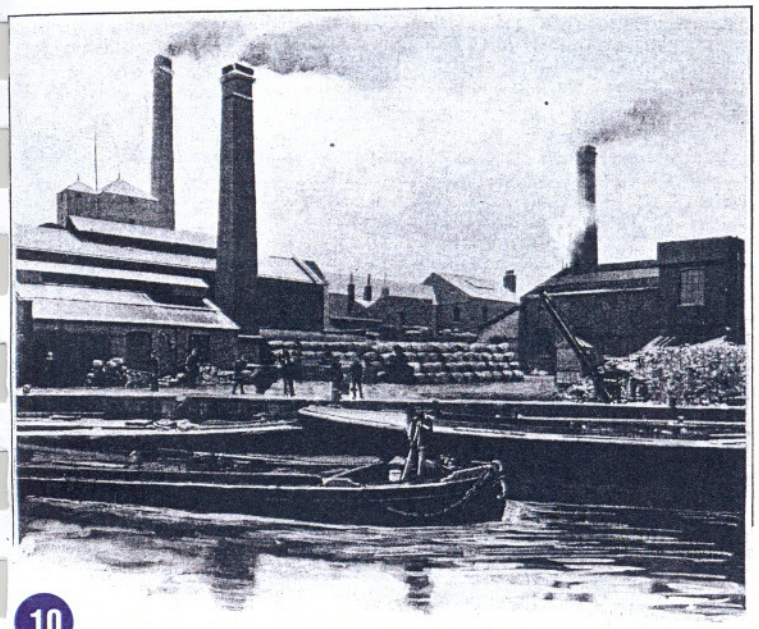
Southern Conservation Area	ORIGINAL FUNCTION
Riverside Works (1)	printing-ink works
Britannia Works (10)	folding box and printing works
Algha Works (14)	printing works
Northern Conservation Area	
Central Books (32) (Hackney)	cardboard box and printing works

*'…the special interest of a building will not always be reflected in obvious visual quality. Buildings which are important for reasons of ***technological innovation*** or as illustrating particular aspects of ***social or economic history***, may well have little external visual quality.' (PPG15 6.14, 1994).

See also 'Industrial Buildings of Historic & Architectural Interest in Old Ford and Part of Hackney Wick' (November 2003) perambulation p.3; first three photographs and descriptions; and primary sources.

Printed with Kidd's Inks.

BLUE BLACK No. 1112 - - - Letterpress 1/6; Litho 2/- } Nett
SCARLET MADDER (Permanent) No. 237 ,, 2/6; ,, 3/- }



10

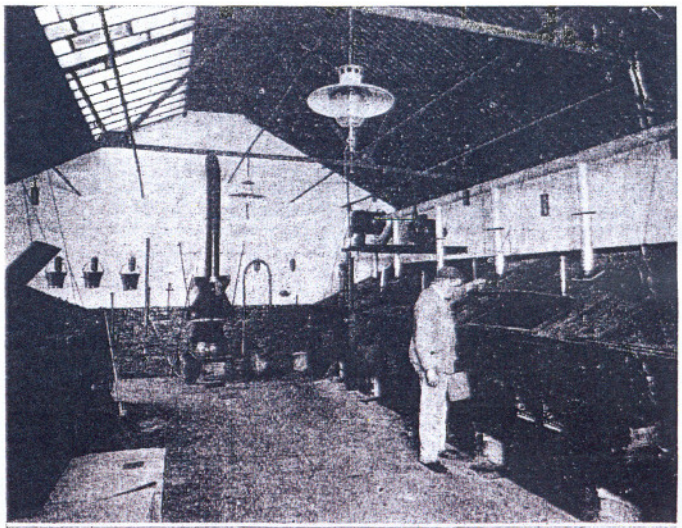
VIEW OVER THE LEA.

11

OUTSIDE FINE VARNISH DEPT.

12

FINE VARNISH HOUSE.



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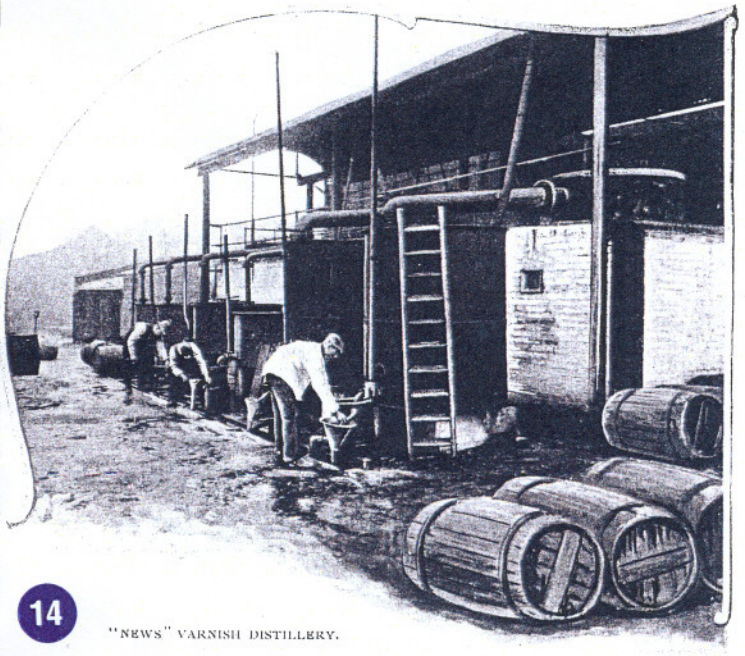
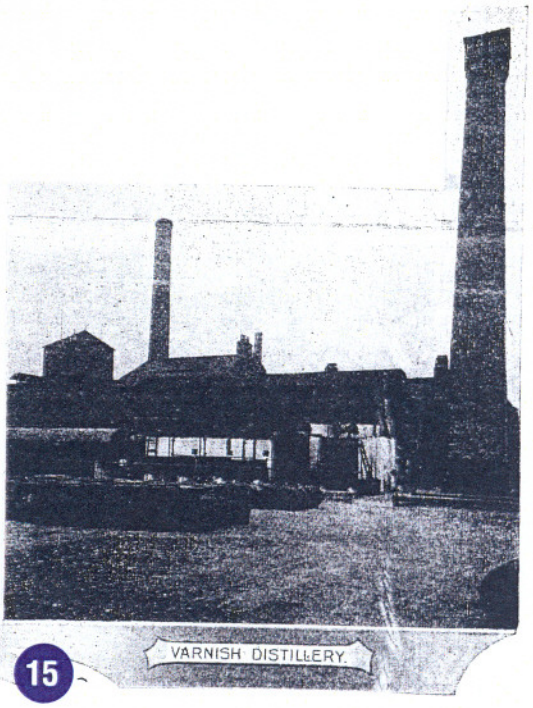
FINE VARNISH HOUSE.



14 "NEWS" VARNISH DISTILLERY.



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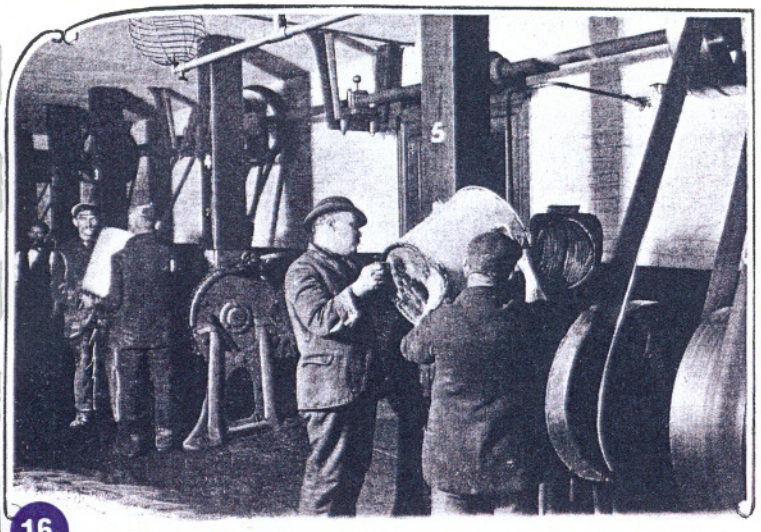
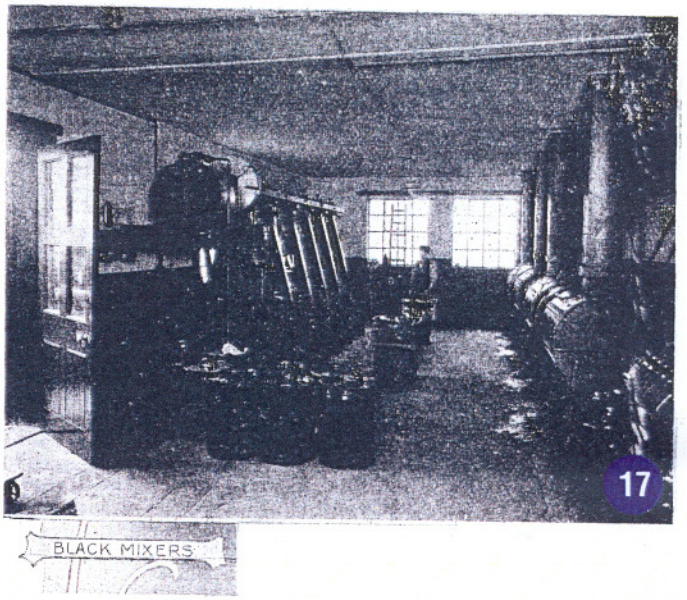
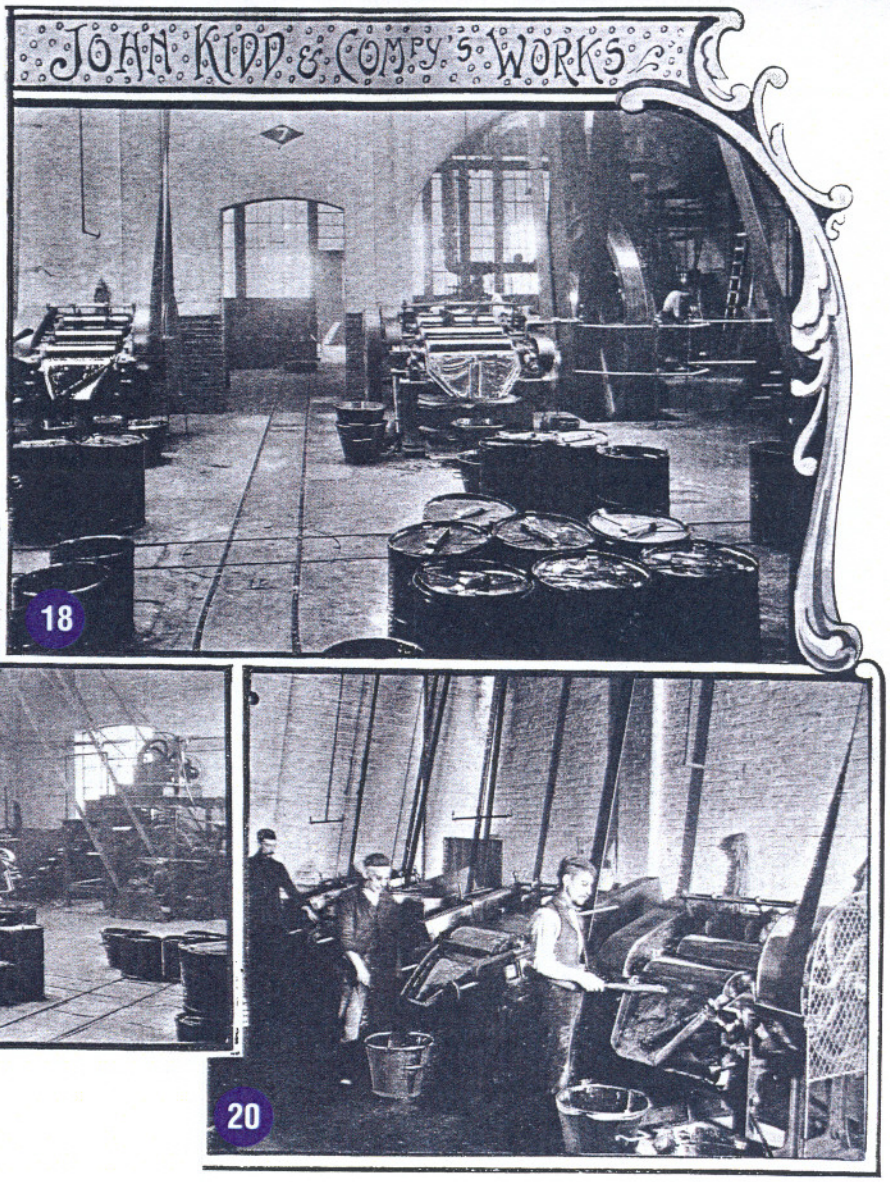


16 BLACK MIXERS.



17

JOHN KIDD & COMP'S WORKS



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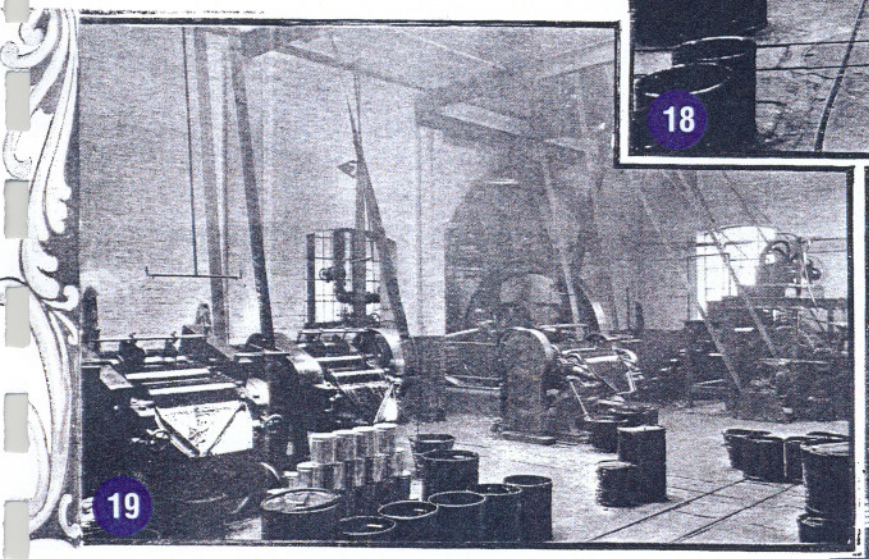

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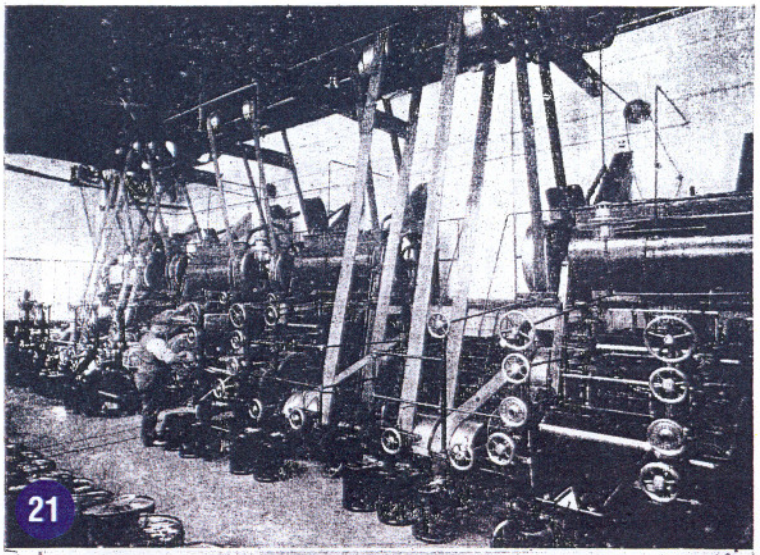


21

BATTERY OF INK GRINDERS

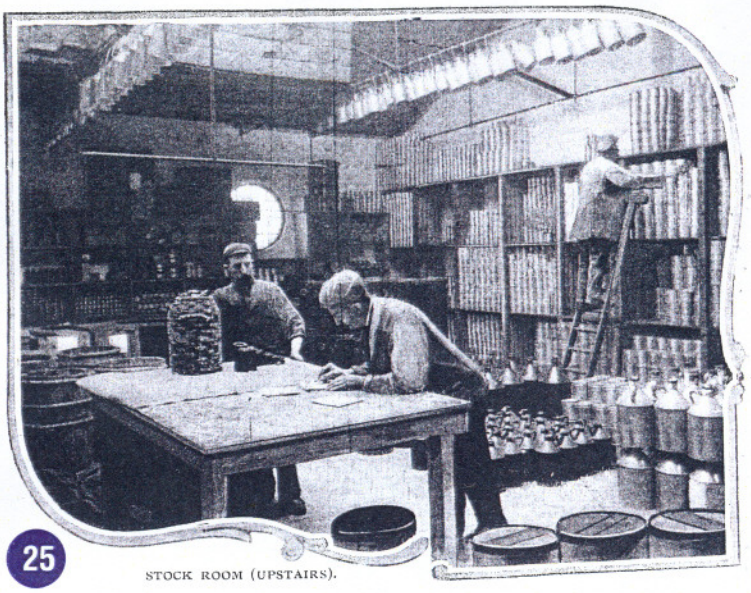
22

COLOUR STORE.

23

24

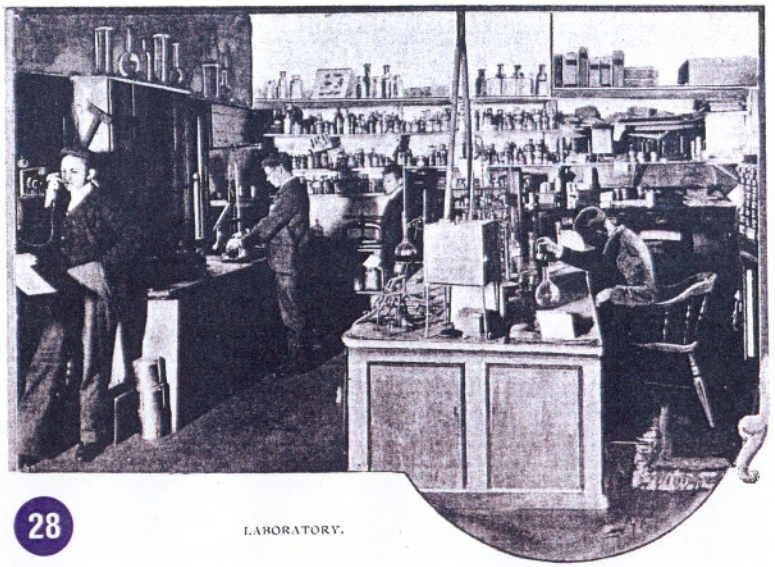
ROLLER CASTING DEPT.



25 STOCK ROOM (UPSTAIRS).

26 FORWARDING DEPARTMENT.

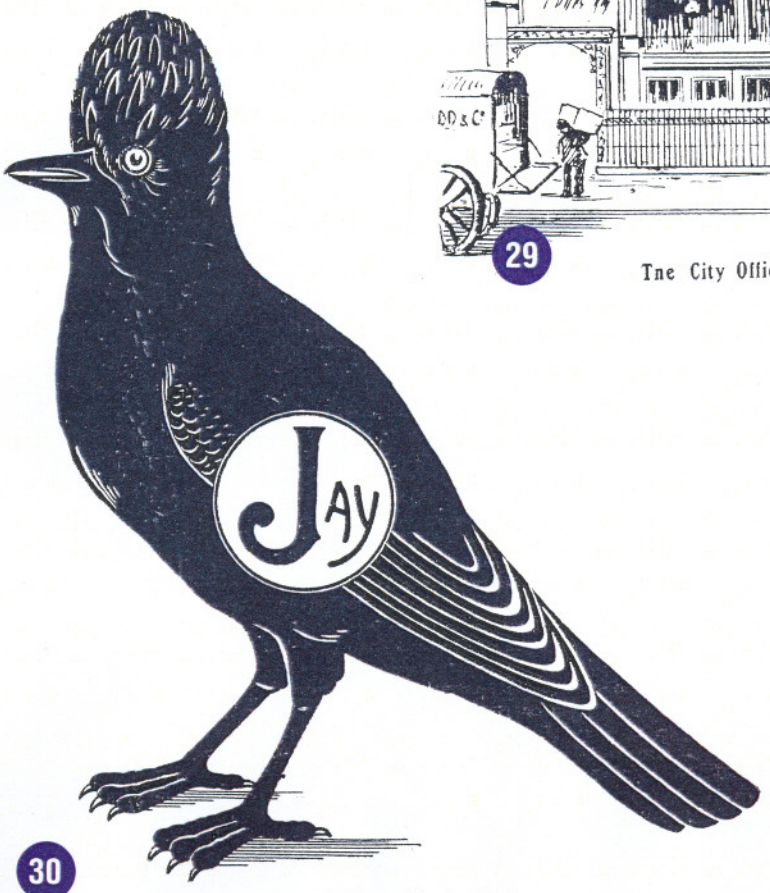
27



28 LABORATORY.

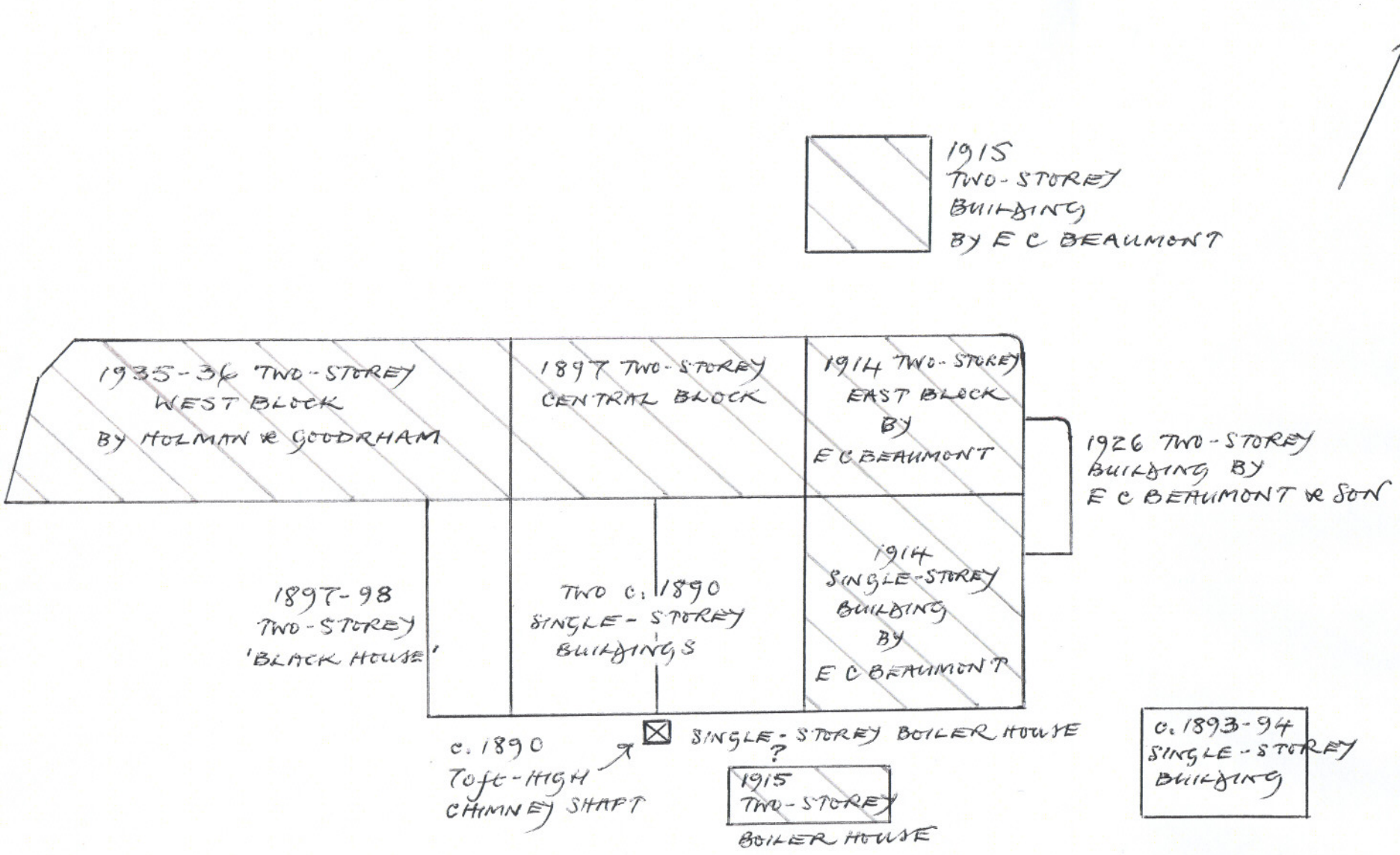
29

Tne City Offices.



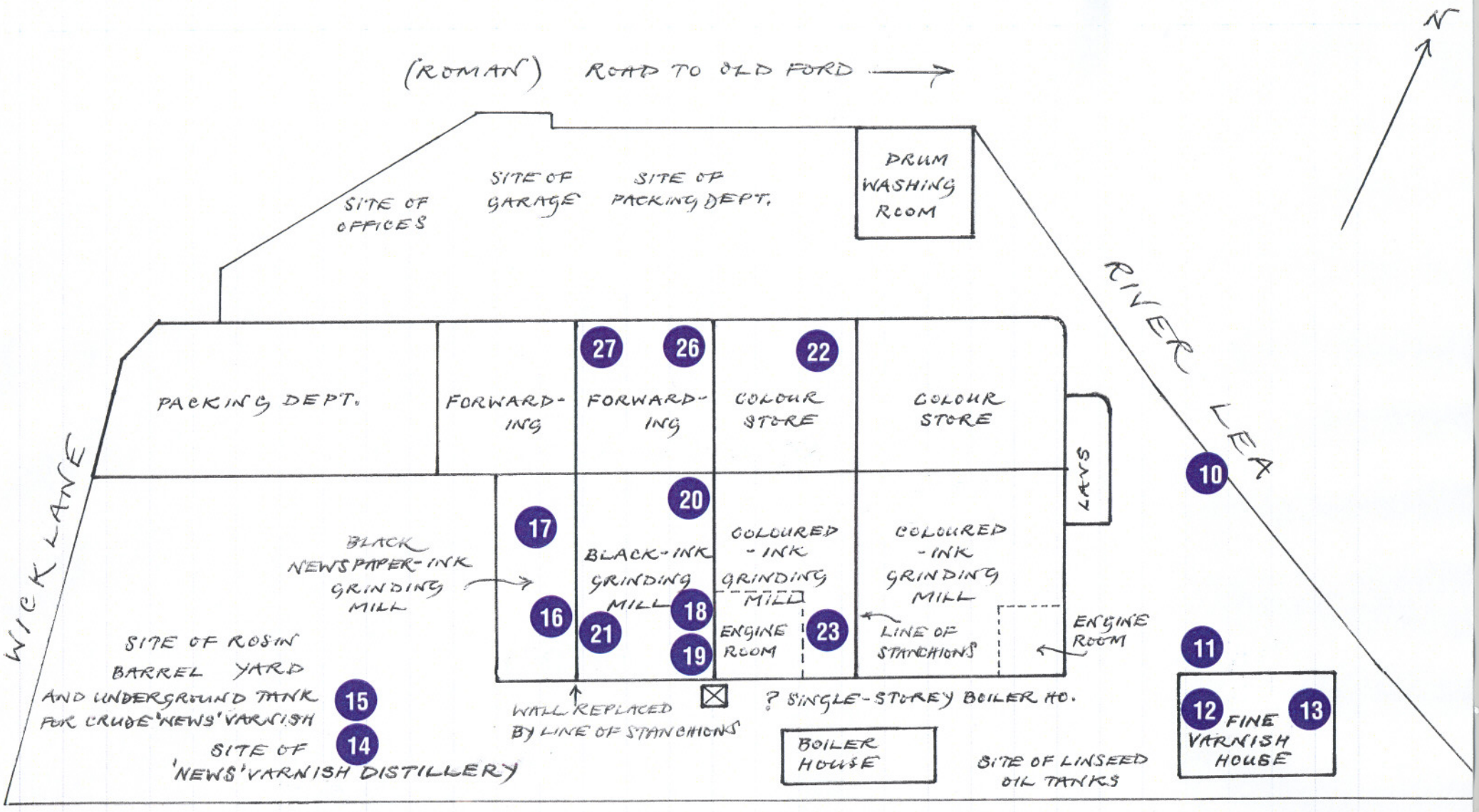
30

A well-known Trade Mark.



(1) RIVERSIDE WORKS: DATES, DESIGNERS & BUILDER

TSR 8 FEB 04
15 MAR 04



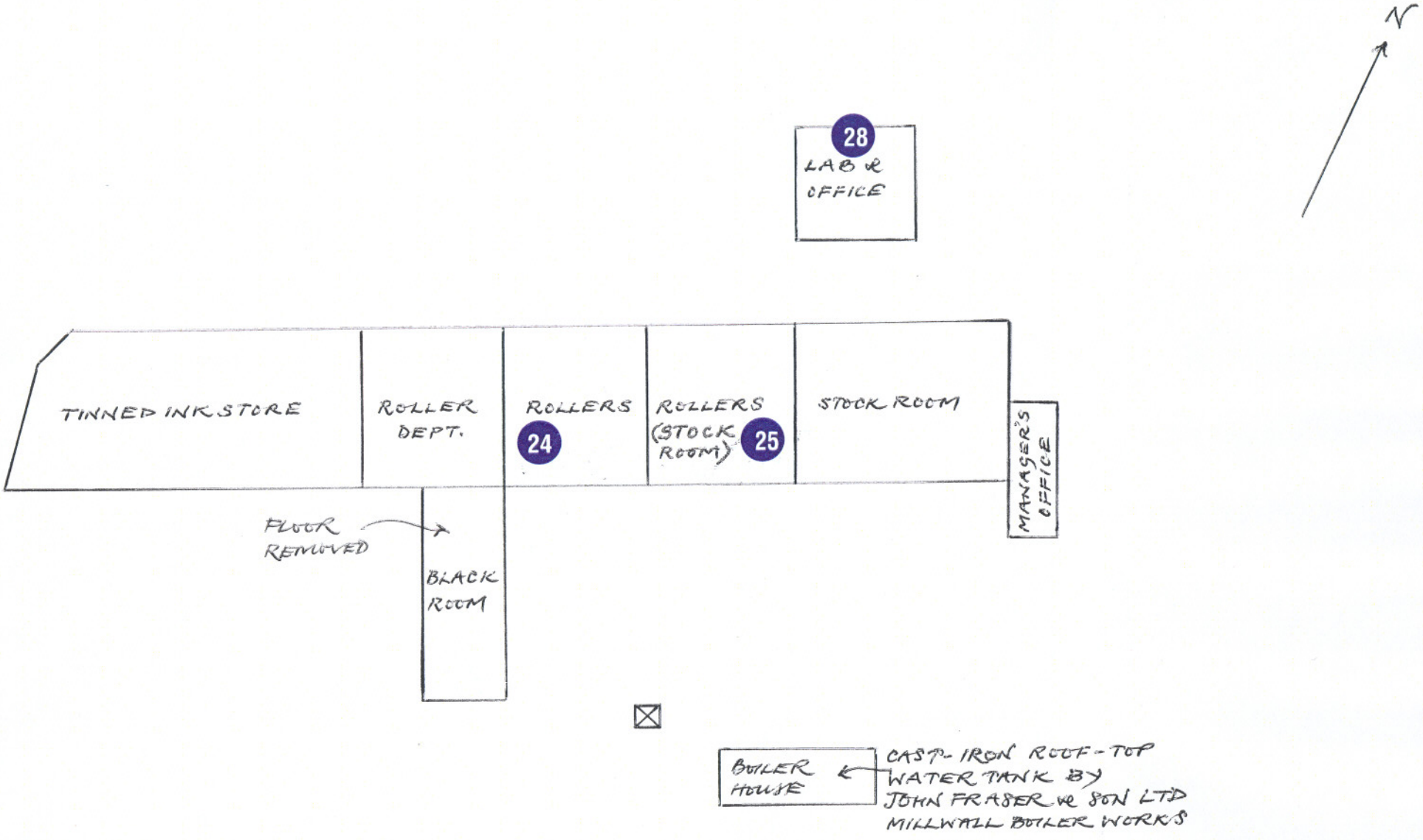
30 INDICATES LOCATION OF 1899 AND 1910 PHOTOGRAPHS

(2) RIVERSIDE WORKS: JOHN KIDD & CO LTD GROUND-FLOOR USES & SITES

10 FEET

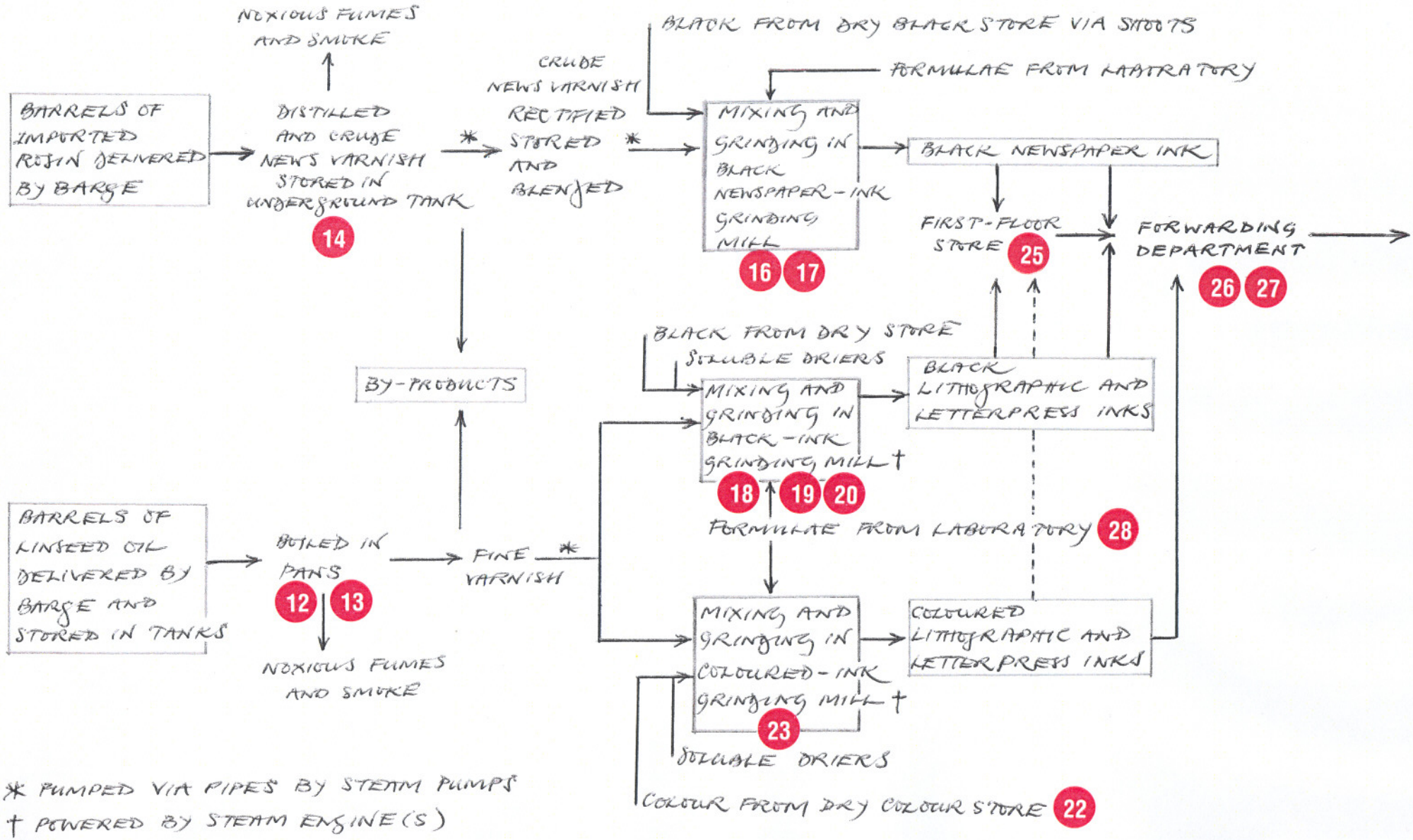
TSR 8 FEB 04
15 MAR 04

15


N
28
LAB & OFFICE
TINNED INK STORE
ROLLER DEPT.
ROLLERS
24
ROLLERS (STOCK ROOM)
25
STOCK ROOM
MANAGER'S OFFICE
FLOOR REMOVED
BLACK ROOM
BOILER HOUSE
CAST-IRON ROOF-TOP WATER TANK BY JOHN FRASER & SON LTD MILLWALL BOILER WORKS
29 INDICATES LOCATION OF 1899 AND 1910 PHOTOGRAPHS
(3) RIVERSIDE WORKS: JOHN KIDD & CO LTD FIRST-FLOOR USES
10 FEET
TSR 8 FEB 04
15 MAR 04

FORMER STEAM PRINTING-INK & VARNISH WORKS 419 WICK LANE LONDON E3

PRODUCTION FLOW CHART (c. 1910 JAY NEWSPAPER INK NOT INCLUDED)



* PUMPED VIA PIPES BY STEAM PUMPS

† POWERED BY STEAM ENGINE(S)

30 1899 OR 1910 PHOTOGRAPH

TSR 18 MAR 2004