

Wm B. Burford Printing Co. Inc.

Formerly: Sheets and Braden, Braden and Burford, Wm B. Burford

Founded: 1838

Location: Paper mill on White River, Indianapolis (1838-), factory and warehouse at 17-24 W. Pearl St., company moved to 38 S. Meridian St. (ca. 1900-)

The paper mill was founded in 1838 by William Sheets. It was located on White River. Within a few years William Braden joined Sheets and added printing.

William B. Burford was a manufacturer of stationary products. William Braden founded the business in 1860 with Burford as a silent partner. Burford became sole owner in 1875. He carried a full line of blank books and stationery. He also carried a line of specialty items, such as sets of books and supplies for banks, insurance companies, and other commercial corporations to “whom permanency and durability are of such vital importance.”

Burford owned a six-story factory and warehouse at 17-24 W. Pearl St. He took orders for typographical work, copper plate printing, lithographing, engraving, photogravure work and more. He had the sole license for manufacturing Miller-Mege Patent Flat-opening Blank Book for the State of Indiana. It had the “official endorsement from the U.S. Government as being the strongest and best blank book ever placed on the market.” He also had a contract with the state of Indiana to furnish all lithographing, blank books, stationary, printing and binding for the state. Sometime around the turn of the century the company moved to 38 S. Meridian St. M.R. Hayman, author of Hayman’s Handbook, declared it to be one of the oldest and largest printing establishments in the

city. In 1907, Burford had approximately 250 employees working in various departments.

The business extended throughout the Midwest.