

THE MACHINE SHOP OF THE WORLD

In the early 1900s, Milwaukee was the "Machine Shop of the World" and the Menomonee Valley was its engine. Farm machinery, rail cars, electric motors and cranes were all made in the Valley. Clay became cream city bricks. Wheat was turned into flour, hogs became ham and barley became beer. Cattle were made into meat, leather and tallow (soap and candles) with no parts wasted.

In the early 1900s, six companies hired nearly 75% of all African-American workers in Milwaukee: Plankinton Packing, Albert Trostel Leather, Pfister-Vogel Tannery, Allis Chalmers, Falk Corporation and Milwaukee Solvay Coke and Gas Co. Half of these were located in the Menomonee Valley but only one remains today.

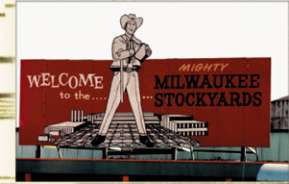
1903



1855



1852 ST. PAUL (building 1902)



1921



1847



1892



Plankinton Packing

1931

1896 (now We Energies)



1844



1848-1892



1906



1887



1903

HANK AARON STATE TRAIL

Hank Aaron State Trail sign panels supported by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Menomonee Valley Partners, Inc., the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management under the Coastal Zone Management Act, Grant #NA03NOS4190106

Background map: 1904, Milwaukee County Historical Society
International Harvester: Wisconsin State Historical Society
Milwaukee Stockyards billboard: Ellen Pizer-Kupersmith
Pfister & Vogel: Wisconsin State Historical Society
The Milwaukee Road: Milwaukee Public Library