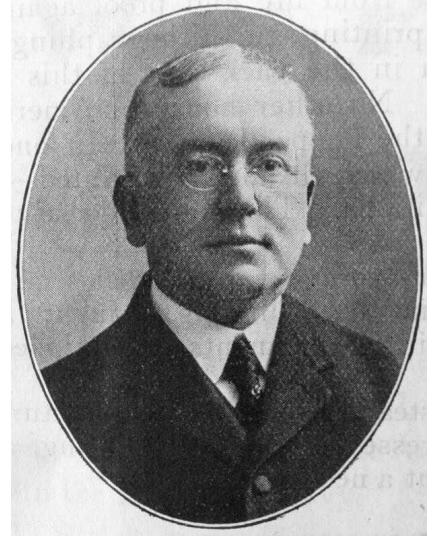


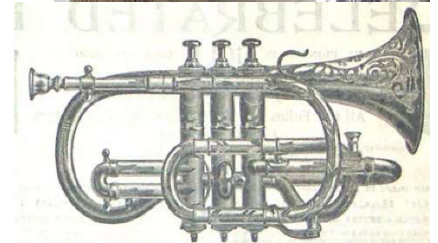
J. W. Pepper & Son

Philadelphia – New York - Chicago

- 1853 James Welsh Pepper born March 8th in Phila. (photo 1).
- 1876 Pepper starts music publishing in his father William's printing shop at 5th & Chestnut St, Philadelphia (Pepper).
- 1877 Pepper opens his own business at #832 Filbert (Pepper).
- 1881 Moves to #234 South 8th St. on Sept 15. Opens NY outlet at #294 Bowery at Henry Moennig's location (earliest *NY Clipper* ad found is in August).
- 1882 Henry Distin moves to Philadelphia after March (patents) to supervise a new factory to be built next to the store. Son Howard E. Pepper is born Sept 11.
- 1883 Instrument factory opens on June 1st, 8th & Locust St. Jules Levy has a lawsuit against Distin & Pepper over using his letters of praise in their advertising (*NY Clipper*).
- 1884 William Barnes, an English instrument maker, is first listed in the Phila. directory. He was a Pepper factory superintendent (Farrar).
- 1886 Chicago store opens at #149 Wabash Ave (Pepper). The NY directory from May is the last listing for his store at #294 Bowery with Moennig. Ferdinand Coeuille joins Pepper as an instrument maker (dir). Distin leaves to start his own factory in Cressona (Farrar).
- 1888-1895 Alexandre LeForestier is plant foreman (*NLI*).
- 1894-1896 William Hillyard is a plant foreman (*NLI*).
- 1890 A new 7 story store is built at 8th & Locust site (Pepper).
- 1891 The "Premier" name was Trademarked in November.
- 1892 J. W. Pepper, W. J. Elwell, manager, #149 Wabash Ave, Chicago (directory).
- 1893 Wins award for band instruments at Chicago Expo. Produces first "Sousaphone" tuba at this time.
- 1894 Leasing rooms at #1004 Chestnut St for a retail store.
- 1895 Small fire at Chicago store; #147-151 Wabash Ave.
- 1897 Chicago store closes May 1 (*MTR*).
- 1910 Name changes to JW Pepper & Son. Instruments after this time are only imported. They move to new quarters at 33rd and Walnut St at the Howard Pepper Bldg. (Pepper).



J. W. PEPPER



- 1914 Pepper orders a large number of instruments from Austria, in advance of the war, from B&F (Pepper).
- 1915 Pepper applies for incorporation in January (*MTR*).
- 1918 8-story brick factory at NW corner of 13th & Spring Streets was transferred from James to Howard on July 22. They ended all band instrument sales at about this time.
- 1919 James dies on July 29th, age 66 & Howard becomes pres.
- 1926 Pepper moves to #5014 Sansom St (*MTR*).
- 1930 Howard dies leaving widow Emma as owner (Pepper).
- 1940 Pepper moves to #210 N. Broad St (Pepper).
- 1941 Pepper declares bankruptcy and is sold to a group headed by Harold W. Burtch in 1942 (Pepper). The store is later moved to 1423-25 Vine St (Farrar).
- 1963 Now at #231 N. 3rd St (Farrar).
- 1973 Now located in Valley Forge, PA (Farrar).

Pepper Model Names & known Serial #s: There seems to be two sets of serial numbers; one for domestic (Premier & Maker models) and another for imports (all other models).

Superior made by Henry Distin / c.1882-85 / #1071-3329

Distin Importer for Pepper / c.1883-84 / #1129-2288

Distin maker for Pepper Pat. Appl. For / c.1885 / #3329

Pepper Maker Phil. & NY / c.1883-89 / #2218-5145

Pepper Importer Phil. & NY / c.1883-86 / #5193-7789

Superior 1st Class P. Maker P & NY / c.1885-89 / #2997-5256

Pepper Maker P & Chicago / c.1886-95 / #3805-8476

Superior 1st Class P. Maker P & C / c.1887-1895 / #4985-8388

Premier Pepper Maker P & C / c.1894-97 / #7810-9199

Pepper Importer P & C / c.1886-1897 / #8235-25623

Premier Pepper Maker Phil. / c.1897-1910 / #9266-11497
(Premier Own Make Artist's Solo model shown as new in 1904 catalog)

Specialty Pepper Maker P / 1904-10 / #9980-17088 (listed in 1904 catalog as a new model made by Pepper)

Imperial Pepper P / c.1900 / #31009 & 31370 Mellophones

Surprise Pepper P / c.1898-1910 / #27673-52105 / import

Surprise Pepper & Son / 1910-18 / #52306-70645 / import

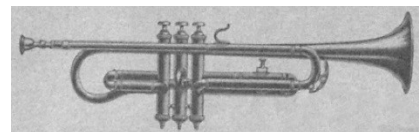
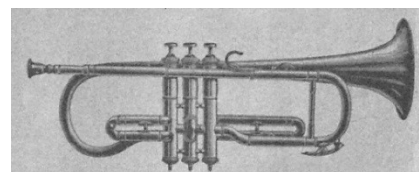


Standard Pepper / c.1898-1910 / #28391-51974 / import
 Standard P & Son / 1910-1917 / #52182-69090 / import
 20th Century Pepper / c.1900-10 / #29803-52200 / French
 20th Century P & Son / 1910-1913 / #52300 & up / import
 American Favorite Pepper / c.1898-1910 / #27535-51344 / imp.
 American Favorite P & Son / 1910-1918 / #57399-89850 / imp.
 Perfected Pepper / c.1898-1910 / #28817-51850 / French import
 made by Brisson or C. A. Mouchel (Farrar)
 Perfected P & Son / 1910-1917 / #52588-69366 / imported
 F. Courtiere Paris / c.1887-1913 / #8831-61615
 W. Hillyard London / c.1891-1912 / #15608-55295
 Brisson & Cie. Paris / c.1896 / #23309 only one found
 Trade names "Climax" and "Challenge" were also used on
 instruments without a Pepper identification and may have been
 of French manufacture. (Farrar)



Serial numbers probably start with factory opening in June, 1883.
 New York store in operation 1881-1886
 Chicago store in operation 1886-1897
 Horns with Chicago Exposition Medal made after 1893
 Pepper & Son starts in 1910; all brass sales end c.1918
 Many later imported brass are made in Austria by Bohland & Fuchs.

1904 catalog page below



The J. W. P. Premier--Own Make--Band Instruments

Magnificent Model - Short, light and free action. Easy blowing. Full, clear tone. German Silver Finish. Facilities in Every Detail.

Used by the U. S. Army and Navy.

MADE IN JERSEY OR LOW PITCH.

OUR NEW ARTIST'S SOLO--Bb CORNET--DOUBLE WATER KEY

ARTIST'S SOLO--Bb CORNET

PREMIER CORNET CASES

FREE OUTLET

OUR OWN MAKE.

THE WAUKENPHAST COMMON SENSE MOUTHPIECE

Thousands Sold. Seem to Suit Everybody. BROAD RIM.

Saves and Strengthens the Embouchure. Very Desirable for Band Wagon or Street Use.

A thoroughly practical mouthpiece, which will enable any player to play longer, without tiring the lips than with any other make of mouthpiece in the market. The broad surface of the rim as shown in the cut, allows the full use of all the muscles of the lips, giving an equal resistance, which prevents the relaxation of the muscles, and aids the player in preserving his embouchure. It is especially adapted to amateurs whose embouchure is not strong. To players whose lips have become "soft" through want of practice it is invaluable. An excellent mouthpiece for use in street or wagon playing; it has been tested and approved by all the leading cornet players.

These mouthpieces are made in two styles, for both Bb cornets and Bb cornets, and are offered at the following prices:

Bronze metal, (A) Each \$1 00
Bronze metal, silver plated (A) Each \$1 25

Photos from Horn-u-copia.net and author's collection.

1909 Catalog Images and Examples:

1 & 2 at right are American Favorite models.

American Favorite #40141 below c.1904 (auction photo)



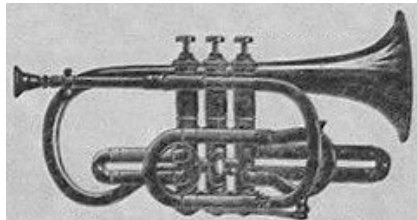
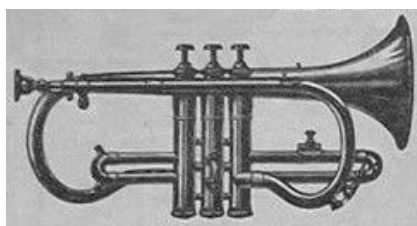
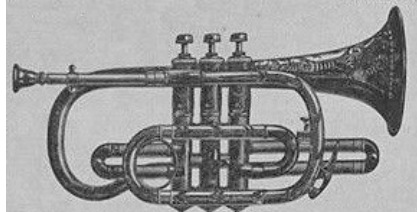
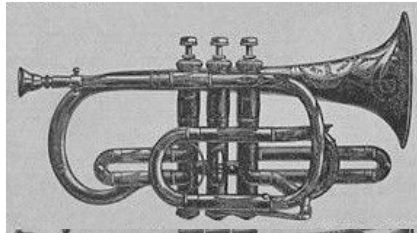
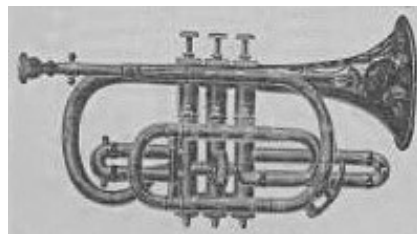
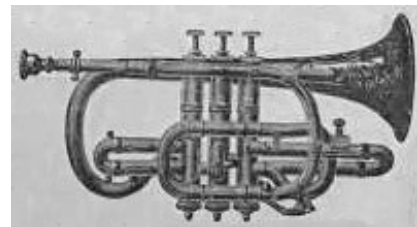
3 & 4 at right are Surprise models

Surprise #43666 below c.1905 (auction photo)



5 - 7 at right are Standard models Eb, dual waterkey & single wk

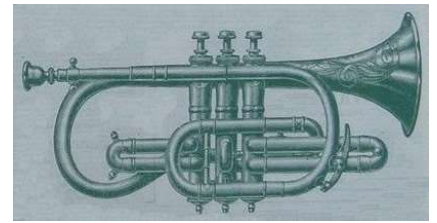
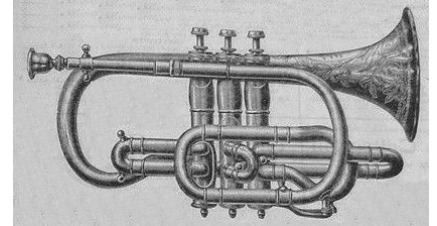
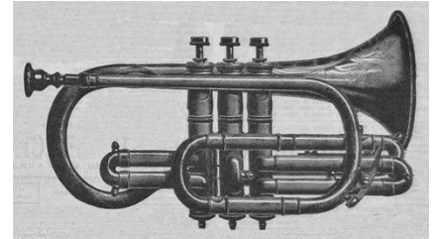
Standard #64424 below c.1914 (Horn-u-copia.net)



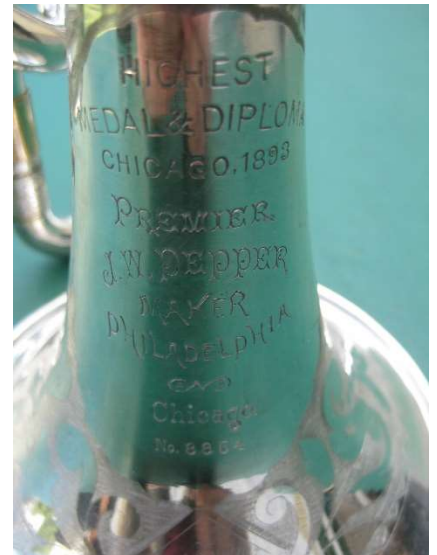
More 1909 Catalog images at right:

1 – 3 are Premier, Artists Solo, & Special models

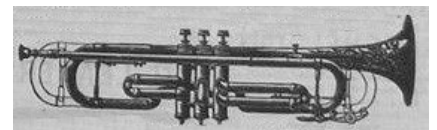
Premier model below & #4, #8854 c.1896 (author's collection)



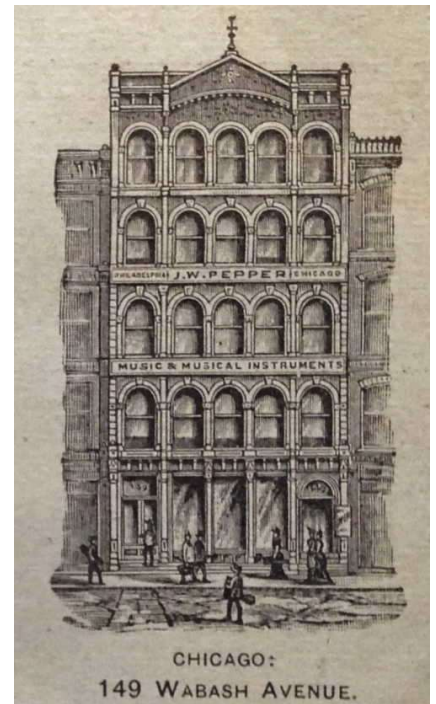
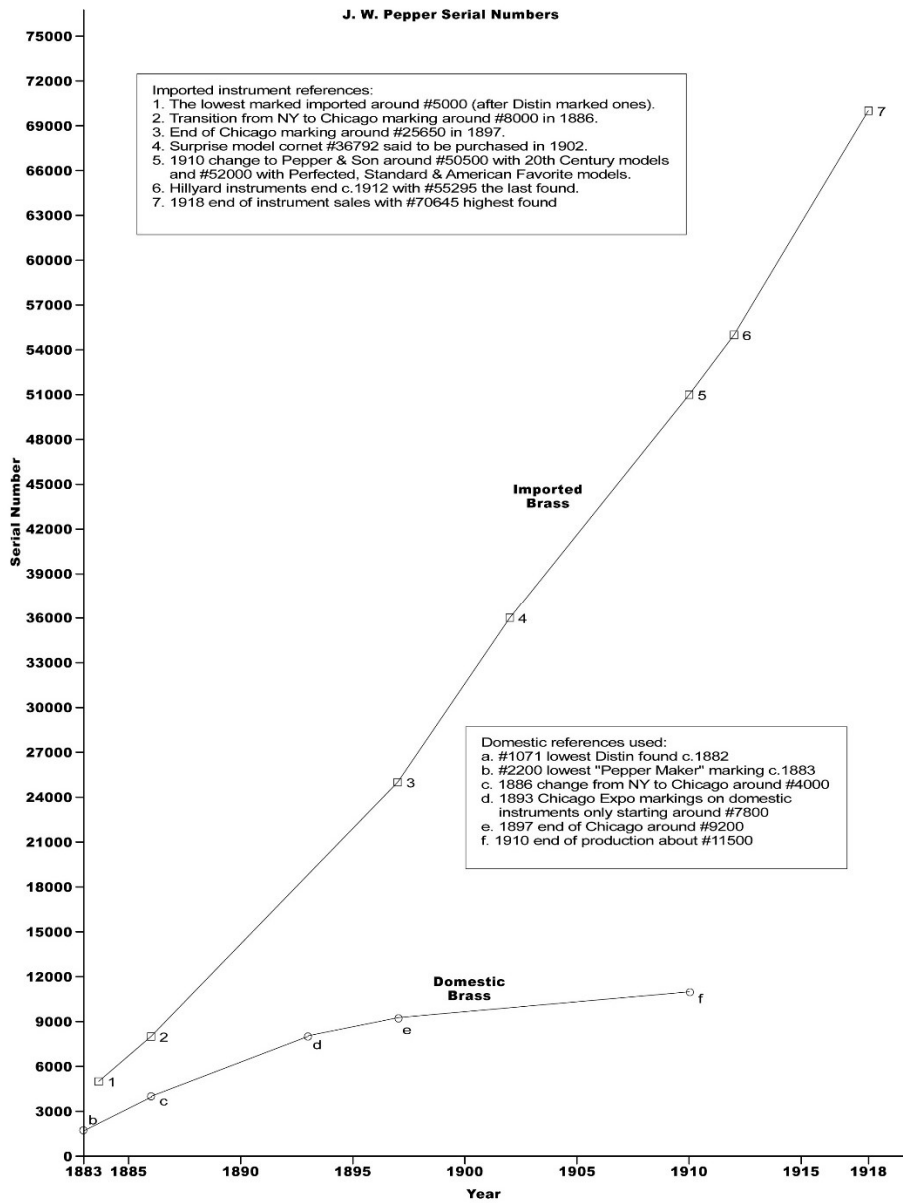
Pepper Maker Eb Cornet #6219 c.1891 (auction photo)



#5 at right & below, Premier model trumpet, #50835 c.1910



J. W. Pepper Serial Number Chart



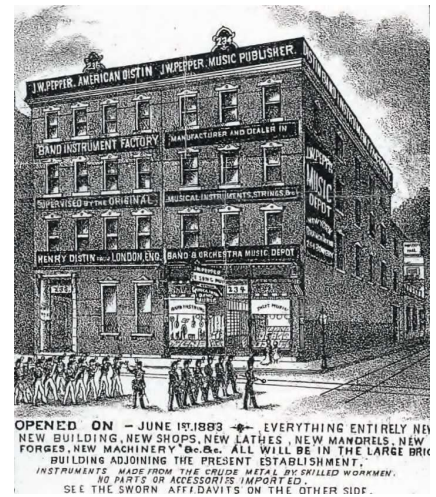
Howard E. Pepper, photo 1

Chicago store photo 2, 1886-1895

Factory opening, June 1st, 1883 (photo 3). This was attached to the store opened on September 15, 1881 at 8th & Locust Sts.

Howard E. Pepper building below.

Photos this page courtesy of the Pepper family.

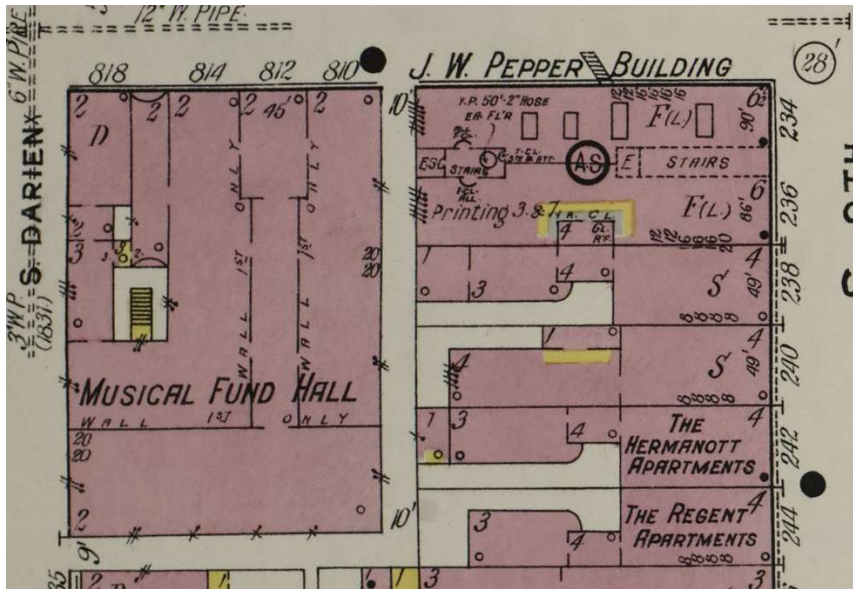
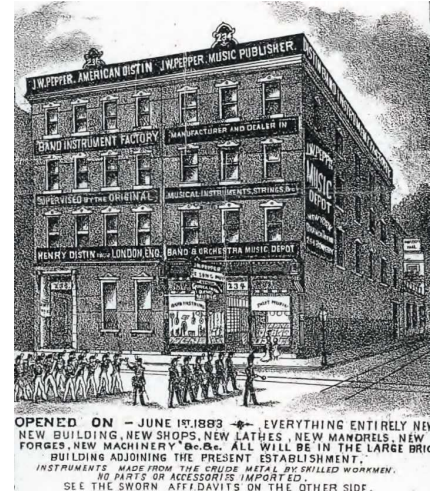


JW Pepper Locations:

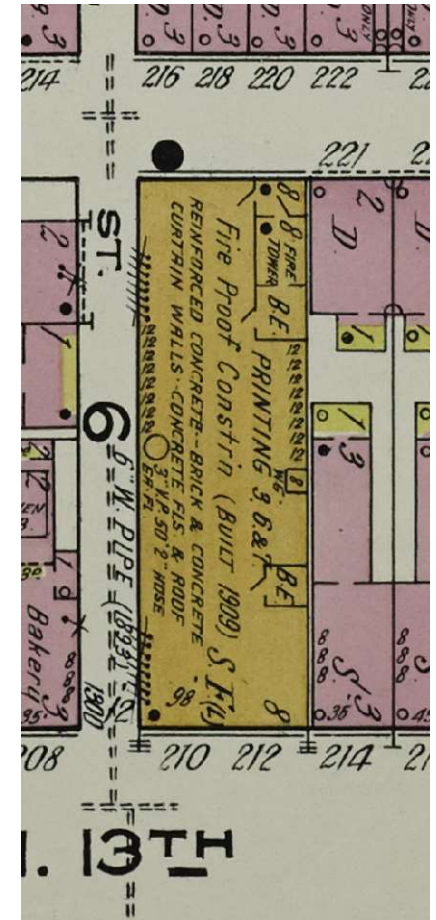
South 5th & Chestnut: 1876; In father's print shop near Independence Hall; no known image

#832 Filbert St: 1877-1881; no known image

#234 South 8th St: 1881-?; still listed as JW Pepper Building in 1927 Sanborn map below. The 1883 image at top right shows the original 4-story store which became 7-stories in 1890. The new factory in 1883 may have been the rear portion shown as "Musical Fund Hall" in 1927.



#200 South 33rd Ave: 1910-1926; This is now the Moore Building as part of Penn. Univ. (below & #2 at right).



#210-212 North 13th St: 1918-?; This was a concrete building built in 1909 and now gone. The Sanborn map at right is from 1927.

#5014 Sansome St: They moved here in 1926 and it's possibly this building shown as #5012 in 2023 renovated into apartments.



#210 North Broad St: They moved here in 1940. The 1950 Sanborn map is below and shows printing on the second floor. In 2023 it was a parking lot.

