

A BRIEF HISTORY:

Former Hagerstown Pangborn Corp. Global Headquarters Site

580 Pangborn Blvd. Hagerstown MD



- “Pangborn has been a leading global manufacturer of complete surface preparation systems, equipment, and services since 1904. Originally founded in Hagerstown, MD Pangborn moved its headquarters to the metro Atlanta, Georgia, area in 2008.”
- Thomas W. Pangborn founded the Pangborn Corp., which moved to Hagerstown in 1912. The firm broke ground at the current Hagerstown site location in 1915. Pangborn Corp.’s employment peaked during his reign at more than 1,000 people in the 1960’s.
- Thomas Pangborn chose Hagerstown as the best place for his company to grow because of its location and the quality of its local workforce. Before making his final decision Pangborn visited some local manufacturers, such as Moler Organs, and was impressed with the craftsmanship and work ethic.
- Product demand grew along with the U.S. industrial-based economy, with machinery needed to clean iron and steel used, for example, to build cars and trucks. The company would boast it had the world’s largest plant devoted to making equipment to clean metals with abrasives.

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- During World Wars I and II, Pangborn Corp. equipment helped overcome foundry bottlenecks that slowed the production of bombs, shells, tanks, and ships, according to published accounts.
- The firm was recognized publicly for its wartime production, including receipt of the of Army-Navy Award for Excellence in War Production and National Security Award from the U.S. Office of Civil Defense.
- Thomas Pangborn retired in 1963, the same year the company was bought by the Carborundum Co.
- The company closed its Hagerstown plant in 2000. During its later years the company specialized in technical engineering, research & development, and product services. In 2007 Pangborn announced it would locate its corporate headquarters to Fairburn, GA.
- The former 13+ acre Pangborn Corp parcel is located across the street from Pangborn Park & Lake Metzner, one of the finest public park recreational trail facilities of its kind in Washington County.
- “Fast forwarding” to the present, subject property currently is owned by local businessman Jeffrey Crampton. Mr. Crampton had a vision to develop self-storage units on the former Pangborn Corp. complex.
- The successful result is Pope Self Storage. 570 Pangborn Blvd. Distinctive, self-storage units. The latter serves nearby apartment unit dwellers and single-family homeowners in the neighborhood.

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