

Oak Industrial Drive, N.E.

Originally named "Michigan Oak Industrial Park Drive," the name was subsequently shortened for obvious reasons.

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2700 Oak Industrial N.E. Knap & Vogt Manufacturing Co. Founded in 1898 by John Knap, an inventor from Germany, and his brother-in-law, Engelbert Vogt. They established the shelving and store fixture firm after someone beat them to a patent on a new bicycle brake at the turn of the century. Raymond E. Knap, grandson of the founder, began working for the company in 1963 and served as its president from 1985 to 1993. He remained as chairman and CEO after being succeeded as president on January 1, 1993, by Allen E. Perry. In 1993, the company manufactures wall-attached and freestanding shelving and a wide variety of home furnishing items. It derives about 1/3 of its sales from drawer slides for office furniture, kitchen and utility cabinet manufacturers, with \$123 million in total sales for fiscal 1993. In addition to 700 employees at its Grand Rapids facility, another 700 workers are located at five plants throughout North America.