

FROM THE PAGES OF
HISTORY

C.H.I.
Overhead Doors



Photos

1. C.H.I. literature, 1994.
2. Front elevation, 2000.
3. A C.H.I. display in 1992.
4. C.H.I. in 2002.
5. Production line in Arthur, 2003.

6. C.H.I. has been locally manufacturing its own window frames, inserts, and astragal since 1997.
7. The C.H.I. fleet began in 1991.
8. The C.H.I. fleet today.

Sources
C.H.I. Marketing

Editor's Note: In 2003, C.H.I. Overhead Doors marked its 20th year. In this issue, we provide a sketch of the history of this young but growing manufacturer.

Milestones

- 1981 ▶ Willis Miller starts Coach House Garages in his garage in rural Arthur, Ill., producing steel garage doors by combining purchased steel pans and components.
- 1983 ▶ Ervin Yoder purchases Coach House Garages and forms Coach House, Inc., maker of C.H.I. Overhead Doors.
- 1985 ▶ Door operations move into a new plant next to the original garage location in rural Arthur, Ill.
- 1986 ▶ A small roll former is purchased to produce the new recessed panel 2290 Series door.
- 1987 ▶ C.H.I. displays its new recessed panel door at the DODA convention in Nashville, Tenn.
- 1989 ▶ The door operations are moved to a larger facility in Arthur.
- 1991 ▶ Company trucks begin deliveries to a growing distributor base in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Wisconsin, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, New Jersey, and New York.
- 1993 ▶ C.H.I. Overhead Doors is purchased by the Helmuth family of Chesterville, Ill.
- 1993 ▶ C.H.I. produces its first commercial steel door.
- 1995 ▶ C.H.I. moves into a new 54,000-sq.-ft. production facility adjacent to the previous plant and introduces its "Lifetime Warranty."
- 1996 ▶ A 36,000-sq.-ft. expansion is completed.
- 1997 ▶ Kevmar Manufacturing, owned by Willis Miller and family, starts production of stamped metal door parts for C.H.I. Overhead Doors.
- 1997 ▶ Another 9,000 sq. ft. are added, and a 10-year warranty is introduced to the commercial line of doors.
- 1997 ▶ C.B.M. Plastics, owned by the Helmuth family, begins manufacturing C.H.I.'s vinyl bottom astragal and window frames and inserts.
- 1998 ▶ The company builds a new 75,000-sq.-ft. plant for sections-only production and introduces Golden Oak residential door. A Ryder service facility is built on-site for the C.H.I. fleet.
- 2000 ▶ A new 108,000-sq.-ft. addition is completed, new sandwich doors are introduced, and C.H.I. production facilities are annexed to the city of Arthur.
- 2001 ▶ C.H.I. acquires the Trac-Rite rolling steel division of Sun Prairie, Wis., and adds 43,000 sq. ft. for rolling steel door production in Arthur.
- 2001 ▶ Torque-Loc Ratchet Spring System starts production. To meet increased orders, 158,000 sq. ft. are added, bringing total area to 483,000 sq. ft.
- 2002 ▶ C.H.I. acquires stamping operations of Kevmar Manufacturing, relocating the business to the C.H.I. facility in Arthur. The Carriage House Collection of urethane sandwich doors is introduced.