

FROM THE PAGES OF HISTORY

Windsor Door



▲ Paul Cardone and his wife, Mildred, display the Won-Dor, ca. 1947-1948. Morrison-Merrill was a well-known lumber company.



▲ C.E. Webb Sr.



▲ Howard Burns, Windsor president 1985-2000.



▲ C.E. Webb Jr.



▲ Windsor logo, ca. 1975.

Sources:

James Webb, Michael Cardone, Larry Pahlow, Windsor files, D&S historical files.

Milestones

- 1947 Cleitus Edmond Webb Sr. and his sister-in-law Josephine Hambrooke found Wel-Bilt Products, a maker of folding attic stairways. Cleitus' sons, C.E. Webb Jr. and Robert J. Webb, soon join the company. Offices are in Memphis, Tenn., and manufacturing is in North Little Rock, Ark.
- Late 1940s Paul Cardone invents the Won-Dor, a 7-section residential steel garage door. Vic Clapsaddle, a family friend, helps with engineering and setting up a manufacturing facility in Detroit, Mich. Cardone's company soon moves to Long Island, N.Y.
- 1954 The Webbs form the Wel-Bilt Vulcan Company in Little Rock, making one-piece steel garage doors, bi-fold doors, and pocket door frames. Sears, Roebuck & Company is a key customer.
- 1958 Cardone sells to Sears the patents and rights to manufacture the Won-Dor.
- 1961 Wel-Bilt Vulcan acquires from Sears the tooling for the 7-section door. The "Won-Dor" name is changed to Windsor to represent a higher quality: "Windsor Door, Your Key to Quality."
- 1963 The company builds a new 200,000-sq.-ft. manufacturing plant at 5800 Scott Hamilton Drive in Little Rock.
- 1964 The company introduces a new line of commercial steel doors based on a new tongue and groove design, a departure from the industry standard. With the new line and the new plant, the company begins using the name "Windsor Door Co." as the name of the garage door company.
- 1969 Ceco Corporation, aka Concrete Engineering Corporation of Oakbrook, Ill., purchases Windsor Door and Wel-Bilt Vulcan from the Webb family. C.E. Webb Sr. stays on as president.
- 1970 Windsor starts assembling residential and commercial wood doors at a small plant in North Little Rock.
- 1971 C.E. Webb Sr. dies, and C.E. Webb Jr. becomes president.
- 1972 Windsor starts manufacturing rolling steel doors.
- 1973 Windsor starts manufacturing wood doors in a 60,000-sq.-ft. facility in Knoxville, Ark.
- 1974 Windsor adds key people to grow the business, including Earl P. "Buster" Howard, Larry Pahlow, and others who help Windsor grow into one of the largest door companies in the industry.
- Buster Howard, general sales manager, becomes president of the National Association of Garage Door Manufacturers (NAGDM).
- 1978 Windsor builds new 100,000-sq.-ft. manufacturing plant in Marysville, Calif., to service West Coast markets. Windsor starts manufacturing commercial garage door openers.
- 1984 C.E. Webb Jr. retires, and Roger Plauche becomes president of the newly named Ceco/Windsor Door.
- 1985 Howard Burns takes the helm at Windsor as Roger Plauche moves to a position with the corporate office of Ceco. Burns had previously been president of Ceco's hollow metal door division.
- Chamberlain purchases Windsor's commercial operator line.
- 1990 Ceco Industries merges with H.H. Robertson of Pittsburgh to form the Robertson-Ceco Corporation. Ceco/Windsor Door becomes a subsidiary of Robertson-Ceco.
- 1992 United Dominion Industries, a Canadian conglomerate with more than 10,000 employees and \$1 billion in annual sales, buys the Windsor door operations from Robertson-Ceco. United Dominion changes the name back to Windsor Door.
- 1993 Windsor has three manufacturing sites, 16 distribution centers, and about 500 employees. The company has nationwide distribution, but is less known in the North and Midwest.
- 1994 Howard Burns, Windsor president, becomes the last president of the National Association of Garage Door Manufacturers (NAGDM).



1992 logo



Windsor's factory on Scott Hamilton Road in Little Rock, ca. 1964.



Milestones

- 1995 United Dominion also purchases McKee Door of Aurora, Ill., merging some McKee assets into Windsor Door.
- 1997 American Buildings Company (ABC) of Eufaula, Ala., buys Windsor Door from United Dominion.
- 1999 Onex Corporation acquires ABC. Onex soon forms Magnatrx Corporation, a holding company, and Windsor becomes part of the Entry Systems Group, a division of Magnatrx.
- 2000 Phil Sawyer becomes Windsor president when Howard Burns is promoted to president of Entry Systems. Windsor Door has manufacturing facilities in Little Rock and Maumelle, Ark., and Marysville, Calif., with 34 distribution centers throughout the United States. The company has 620 employees and is considered one of the top four garage door manufacturers in the U.S.
- 2003 Magnatrx files for Chap. 11 bankruptcy protection. Windsor continues production.
- 2004 Desco Capital Partners, owners of the Republic Steel door and frame division, acquire Windsor Door. Republic and Windsor are merged to form Windsor Republic Doors. Al Siemer becomes Windsor's president.
- 2011 A private investment group of individuals from Garage Door Services of Houston and Windsor Door acquires the assets of Windsor Republic Doors' garage door division. The purchase includes the property, plant, and equipment in Little Rock, Ark., its three remaining distribution centers in El Paso, Texas, Mira Loma, Calif., and Nashville, Tenn., and Smith Door Distributing in Little Rock. The company name returns to Windsor Door.

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