

Chris-Kratt Instrument Co Inc

Union, NJ

- 1877 Huttli is founded by Anton K. Huttli (1826-1901), son A.K. Jr (1852-1920), and later grandson A.R. Huttli (1889-1971) in Graslitz, Austria (now Kraslice, Czech Republic) (*The New Langwill Index*).
- 1899 Christian Kratt is born in Trossingen, Germany (immigration record).
- 1926 Kratt emigrates to New York and works as a clerk (census).
- 1934 Kratt is in Brooklyn working as a musical instrument importer (immigration).
- 1939 Kratt is living in NYC as a musical importer (immigration).
- 1940 Kratt moves to Roselle, NJ and works as a musical instrument importer (census & immigration).
- 1942 The Chris-Kratt logo is first used (trademark appl.).
- 1945 Huttli is nationalized under Amati after WWII then relocated to Williamstown, South Wales (*NLI*).
- 1950 Chris Kratt is the owner of a musical toy company, and his wife Winnie (1910-1996) is the secretary (census). Chris is naturalized on August 22. This is also the earliest year found that mentions his company name as Chris-Kratt Instrument Co Inc.
- 1951 Chris Kratt is living at 10E Garden Dr in Roselle, NJ (immigration).
- 1954 Huttli moves to Baiersdorf, West Germany (*NLI*).
- 1956 Chris Kratt is president of C. Meisel Music Co of Union, NJ (*Musical Merchandise Review*).
- 1959 The Chris-Kratt logo is a registered trademark. The factory is at 2332 Morris Ave, Union, NJ. [An empty corner lot in 2023.]
- 1975 The Canadian Huttli factory at Fredericton, NB closes. About this time the company is purchased by Chris Kratt Instrument Co; an import business (*NLI*).
- 1979 All business ends (*NLI*).
- 1982 Chris Kratt dies in Union, NJ (US Social Sec.).

Brass instruments found are marked with Kratt in NJ and Huttli in Baiersdorf so would date to 1954 and later.

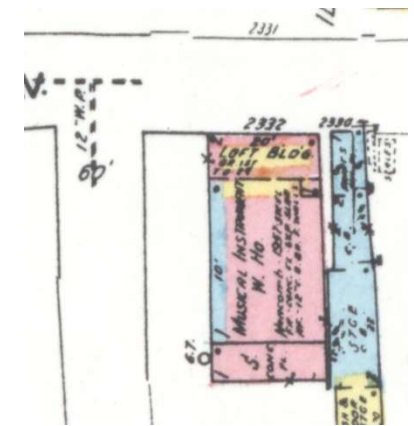
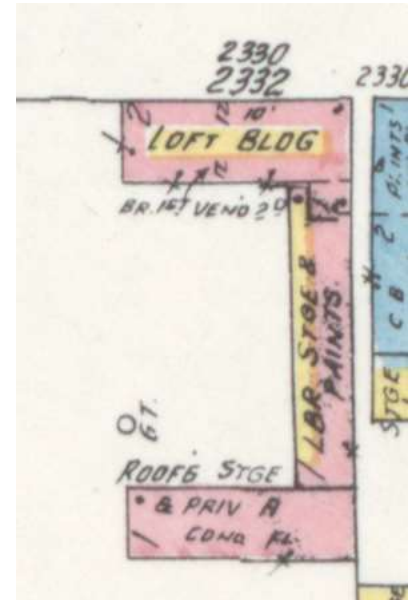


#2332 Morris Rd, Union, NJ:

Chris-Kratt Instrument Co moved to #2332 Morris Rd sometime in the mid to late 1950s. This probably corresponds to importing Huttli brass instruments. The 1951 Sanborn map at top right shows a C-shaped building.

By 1958, the center had been filled in and it's now labeled "Musical Instruments" (2nd at right).

The front in 2023.



The Rahway Rd side in 2023.

