

Back in the early to mid 20th century, the town of Summit had quite a few silk mills and was second only to Paterson in silk production in New Jersey. One prevalent mill in Summit was located at 430 Morris Avenue, and was established in the late 1870s by a John Creed originally for shoe manufacturing. In 1892, however, the mill transitioned to silk production.

Employing about 400 workers, the mill was extremely profitable and the workers were best paid in the state, but there were still annual strikes that rejected the pay reduction of 3 cents per yard in slower seasons. In terms of the worker demographic, they were mainly Syrian and Armenian Christians originating from Aleppo and Damascus, many of whom were silk weavers back in their home countries. At a time where prejudice against new

immigrants was prevalent, the foreigners were forced to live in Summit's company constructed tenements because no one else would agree to sell them a home. Although the factory was razed for Douglas Motors, it remains a significant part of Summit's history, as does Summit's second mill, which operated at 514 Morris Avenue for a century until 1925.