

Place name Daylesford Centenary Woollen Mills (former)

Survey Date: 4/07/2004

Other name JJ Davies & Sons, Nylex Plastics

Id: 1177

Street 35 to 47 McGhee Street

Last Update 4/10/2004

Locality Sale

Postcode

Official Locality

Property No

Local Government Area Wellington Shire

Precinct: Not in precinct

Easting

Northing

Map

Workshop number

Workshop votes

Field survey number

Community priority

Designer

Builder

Ownership Private

Built Date 1937

Change Date c.1955

Description The factory complex now owned by Nylex, contains the original Daylesford Centenary Woollen Mills building of 1937, positioned centrally with a number of later buildings surrounding it. Poplar plantings line one side of the return driveway, (originally it was an avenue) and Red Gums remain in the central area between the drives. This area also contains a swimming pool. The original factory building is the foremost building with saw tooth roof, covered at the front by a metal hoarding. The entrance to the building, obscured by stock piles, is a Deco style projecting doorway of curved plan and painted render finish. This entrance is aligned with the axis of the return drive. Matching the doorway, a concrete cantilevered trim runs as a course around the front of the building. The office building on one side of the former mill building, is a cream brick flat roof structure with large timber framed windows, typical of economical and functional 1960s design. At the rear of the factory site, a row of cypresses still marks part of the border of a former vegetable garden.

The oldest building on the site, relating to the Daylesford Mills of the 1930s, has been altered over the years, most significantly in the 1950s when a 'face-lift' created a modern Deco entrance and extensive landscaping occurred. The poplar avenue along the drive is only partially intact. The important Red Gums remain as do a large proportion of the cypress border plantings. Pin oaks are also a key planting on the site.

Feature	Style	Wall Materials	Roof Materials
Complex	Art Deco	Other	Other

Condition Good

Integrity Evidence of stages

None apparent
Industrial

Buildings
Tree(s)

National Themes	Local Themes
	7. BUILDING SETTLEMENTS & TOW
	7.1 Ports

History The Woollen Mills were built between 1922 and 1924. The first manager was A. Colenso who supervised a staff of 20 women weavers. Travel rugs, blankets and flannels were manufactured there. After a fire destroyed much of the factory in 1926, it was substantially rebuilt. In 1937 the Mill's owners went into voluntary liquidation.(1)

The factory building accommodating the Daylesford Centenary Woollen Mills was built on this site in 1937 and remains the main building on the site today, housing the embossing, pigment preparation, laboratory and printing functions. It has been described by its recent occupants as "a handsome sturdy red brick building - a reflection of the faith its builders, a group of wool growers, had in their industry earlier this century."(2) At its peak of production, the woollen mills was a major industry in the town, employing over 300 workers.(3)

After a fire at the woollen mill, a swimming pool was built in front of the building for the dual purpose of fire fighting and recreation. During the Second World War, the manager of the factory allotted an area, now bordered by established cypresses, to the planting of vegetables for employees.(2)

The building was disused in 1954 when J. J. Davies and Sons (a division of Felt and Textiles), selected the site to set up a plastics factory. The general manager J. E. Davies had visited the United States and Britain the previous year, researching the project. (2) The new firm, converted the woollen mill factory to the production of a new

product, vinyl. "In 1955 plastic raincoats were all the vogue, although they were still sewn in a lot of cases because we hadn't yet discovered the secrets of welding vinyl...We were the first company in Australia to make 54-inch wide film so raincoats could be cut in one piece". Working closely with B.F.Goodrich in Melbourne, the two companies prospered with the Sale plant producing fifteen tons of finished product per day, ranging from film to sheeting to flooring. It was at this time that the site was landscaped and the old mill building modified externally.

In a 1967 restructure of the company, the title was transferred to F&T Plastics and was later taken over by Acmil and ACI-Nylex. Changes in production from film to piping as major products has altered the relationships between customer companies and partners over the past twenty five years..."but quality was the main thing in both cases. They were both very competitive industries and the output was equal to anything in the world."(2); Associations: Gippsland Woollen Mills; J.J.Davies and Sons (Felt and Textiles)

REFERENCES

- (1) Information from Peter Synan.
- (2) Notes supplied by Lloyd Perryman, manager of the Nylex Gippsland plant.
- (3) Personal comment Bill McGra, long term employee at this site, (1993).

Period	Associations
	Nylex

Heritage Protections Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Planning Scheme	x		Recommended

National Estate

Research Required

Recommendations

Fieldwork priority?

Stage 1 Ranking Assessed: Sale Heritage Stu **Stage 2 priority** Planning Scheme: Individua

Final Ranking Local significance **Final Recommendation**

Statement of significance The former Daylesford Centenary Woollen Mills complex (later Nylex factory), constructed between 1937-60 at 35 to 47 McGhee Street, Sale is of local historic significance to Wellington Shire. The original factory complex including including the 1937 factory building, swimming pool and garden remnants is significant as evidence of an important early industry. The original building has been converted to other uses, demonstrating the changing focus of local industry and the site contains features such as plantings and a pool which demonstrate changes in land use and company philosophy over time. The factory site forms a key landmark for the Sale community as a focus of industrial activity over many years, continuing into the present as an important local employer. (RNE criteria A.4, B.2 & D.2)

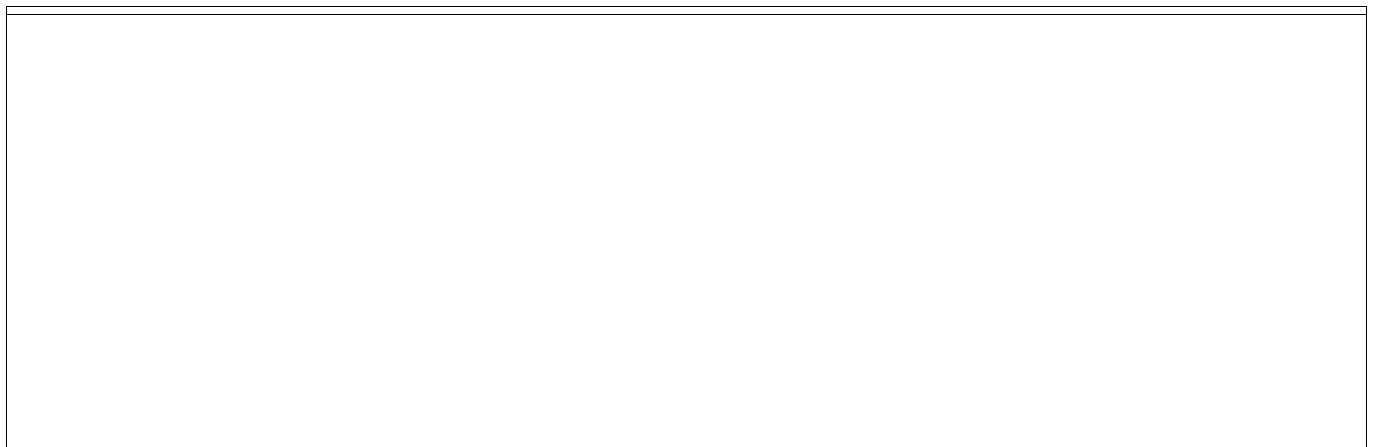
Extent of designation

Informant

Notes

Follow up

Bibliography Context Pty Ltd, (1994), City of Sale Heritage Study
Context Pty Ltd, (2004), Wellington Heritage Study: Sale Review



McGhee Street 0035, ID 1177.jpg

Context

1/01/1994



UpdateMcGhee St 0035-37, ID 1177(i).jpg

Judy Powell

22/09/2006



UpdateMcGhee Street 0035-0037, ID 1177(iv).jpg

Kristy Crawford

24/01/2007



UpdateMcGhee Street 0035-0037, ID 1177(ii).jpg

Kristy Crawford

24/01/2007



UpdateMcGhee Street 0035-0037, ID 1177(iii).jpg

Kristy Crawford

24/01/2007



UpdateMcGhee Street 0035-0037, ID 1177(v).jpg.jpg

Peter Synan

1/01/1994

