

**Factory: West Kearney Woolen Mill Company**

Location: West of paper mill, near cotton mill; According to 1889 map it's on 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave where railroad goes through the West Kearney section, west of the paper mill

Years of operation:

July 10, 1889 – Poles for electricity were being installed

July 18, 1889 – Expect to begin operations in two weeks

Sept 7, 1889 – Expect to start manufacturing next week

Sept 25, 1889 – First machine started, all should be running by Oct. 1

Oct. 19, 1889 - Interview on how the mill works – Fleece purchased from Buffalo County farmers comes to mill, washed, cleaned & dried. Taken to upper floor where a machine pulls apart knots and showers wool on floor; down a chute to carding room; run through a carding machine and twisted into a rope, through two more carders, each making a finer rope placed on reels. From reel to spindle creating thread. Some is woven into cloth, cleaned, pressed, folded into bundles for sale. Cloth one color dyed after weaving, striped cloth thread is dyed before weaving. Some thread is wound in skeins for sale. Some machinery running that day, all will be next week. Plan to build cottages nearby for workers.

Nov. 11, 1889 – Expect to opened a flannel shirt factory in 10 days. Will employ one man to cut out shirts and 11 women to sew them. Will probably be in the old Diamond laundry on 19<sup>th</sup> St. near Central.

Nov. 13, 1889 – Will hire about 24 workers, mostly women

Nov. 30, 1889 – C. Hume – superintendent

Dec. 7, 1889 – Rumored that H D Watson would be president of the company

July 8, 1890 – Mill has been ready for almost a year, Hub wants to know why it is not Running

Oct. 1890 – using a 30 hp electric motor

Dec. 2, 1890 – will be running in the spring

Oct. 2, 1891 – Rumors that paper mill and woolen mill managers will form a partnership. Woolen mill needs \$5,000 capital to get it running

Oct. 3, 1892 – Some men from the east were in town to look over the woolen mill with possibility of operating it.

1893, early in year - Proposal to make it a mattress factory

Oct. 10, 1900 – Said by an Omaha reporter to have operated ½ day and then closed by wool trust. Hub says not true, it never opened. Building erected by subsidy, proprietor owned only the machinery and could not get enough capital to begin operations.

Side track from UP runs on north side of paper mill and on to woolen mill.

Comments: Large frame two-story building. Three-story building, 4 weaving looms  
Planned to make plain and stripped flannel for shirts. Wool was to come from area farmers.

Never opened