

S. J. McKee Archives



Wm Gray & Sons Co. Ltd.

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions6450>

Part Of: Alf Fowler collection

Creator: Davidson & Gowen

Description Level: Item

Item Number: 6-1999.25

Accession Number: 6-1999

GMD: graphic

Date Range: 1912

Physical Description: 9.5" x 7.5" (b/w)

History /

Biographical:

In the period leading up to World War I, Brandon, due to its excellent railway connections, was also home to branch offices of a number of large manufacturing companies during this period. Among those manufacturing outfits were William Gray & Sons Co. Ltd., and Mason Campbell Company. Based in Chatham, ON, these companies were leading manufacturers of carriages, sleighs and light wagons and fanning mills respectively. Constructed in 1907, by Giddings and Wyman for approximately \$15,000, the four-storey structure was located at 801 Pacific Avenue and was shared by the two companies.

In response to the new technology of the gasoline engine, Wm. Gray & Sons entered into a partnership with the Dort Motor Company, of Flint, MI in 1915, and began designing and producing the Gray-Dort automobile; Mason Campbell's Chatham plant became the assembly plant for the Gray-Dort. Production of the car spanned nearly ten years with over 20,000 Gray Dorts made. The company had over 300 dealers across the country, including one in Brandon.

In 1924, the Dort Motor Company decided to cease production, sending the Gray Company into significant debt. They were forced to close their doors in 1925, when Gray was unable to find a suitable partner to manufacture the car.

Following the closure of Gray-Campbell Ltd., portions of the warehouse were used by a number of businesses between 1925 - 1948, including farm and agricultural implement concerns Canadian Stover Co., Cameron & Rathwell, and Case (J.I.) Co. Ltd., the McKay Fruit Co. Ltd., Brazzell Motors, AC Bateman (electrician), Samuel Coxe (veterinarian) and Burns & Co. Ltd (packing house and egg grading station).

In 1949, the warehouse was taken over by Canada Grocers Ltd., who remained until 1973, when the building became Kullberg's Big Warehouse. When Kullberg's moved their warehouse to the old International Harvester building in 2004, the Wm. Gray & Sons Co. Ltd. building was torn down.

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of the Alf Fowler collection for custodial history.

Scope and Content:

Photo shows the front of William Gray & Sons Co. Ltd. Wording and signs on the bulding include: "High Grade Carriages, Chatham, Ont."; "Scales"; "Incubators"; "The Manson Campbell Co. Ltd."; "Kitchen Cabinets"; "Chatham Fanning Mills"; "Emerson (New Standard) Mowers"; "Tudhope Carriages"; "Agency for Sylvester Drills"; "Stover Coy Gasoline Engines"; "Gray-Campbell, High Grade Carriages"; and "Phone 771."

Storage Range: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript collection - photograph storage drawer

Images





The George White & Sons Co., Ltd

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions6465>

Part Of: Alf Fowler collection

Creator: Davidson & Gowen

Description Level: Item

Item Number: 6-1999.40

Accession Number: 6-1999

GMD: graphic

Date Range: ca. 1911

Physical Description: 9.5" x 7" (b/w)

Custodial History:

See fonds level description of the Alf Fowler collection for custodial history.

Scope and Content:

Photo shows the premises of The George White & Sons Co., Ltd. Additional wording on the building reads: "The first quality line threshing-machinery."

Storage Range: RG 5 Western Manitoba Manuscript collection - photograph storage drawer

Images

