


North Star Woolen Mill 1864, 1871, 1925, 1998

Originally constructed in 1864 by W.W. Eastman and Paris Gibson, the North Star Woolen Mill manufactured wool blankets, scarves, flannels, and yarns. After it was deeded waterpower and the right to construct a raceway, the limestone-constructed North Star became the first mill to use waterpower.



Sleep Under the North Star
NORTH STAR BLANKETS
for
CHRISTMAS GIFTS

All the Glorious Colors of Summer's Flowers
Are Now Reproduced in North Star Blankets

Many a Housewife Would Appreciate a Pair for Christmas.

You Will Find Many *Bargain Lots* of Lovely Woolen
Blankets at the

NORTH STAR WOOLEN MILL CO'S.
Retail Store

Mill seconds, and odd lots of perfect blankets from wholesale stock—at a considerable saving in price.

\$3.95
66x80 single all wool North Star plaid blankets, in blue and white, rose and white, and gold and white.

\$7.50
66x80 single fancy all wool North Star blankets, in three-color novelty plaid effect—predominating colors are blue, rose, gold, orchid, and brown.

A \$10.00 Value at \$7.50 Each

\$9.50 (For Boy Scouts)
64x82 single West Point cadet blankets, made of very fine wool, extra heavy, color grey with fancy borders. Good for 25 years' of service.

Special at \$9.50 Each

Blanket Remnants
Large remnants, and sample ends of high grade North Star woolen blankets in white and plaids. Make lovely covering for children's beds, at moderate cost. Pieces from about 36x40 to 45x26 inches.

At \$1.00 to \$3.50 Each

We Also Offer Good Values in
AUTO ROBES
WOOLEN UNDERWEAR
WOOLEN SWEATERS
For Men, Women and Children.
All wool knit bottom blazers—Plaid all wool stag shirts—All wool mackinaw coats, for men and boys.
Men's flannel overshirts.

Mail Orders
Mail orders filled in a restricted territory adjoining Minneapolis. Price list mailed on request.

Store hours:
8:30 to 5:30

We deliver

North Star Woolen Mill Co.
Manufacturers of fine woolen blankets since 1864.
3rd Ave. S. & 2nd St. Minneapolis, Minn.
Minneapolis Tribune, November 18, 1914

One of its customers was Marshall Field, which subsequently owned one-fourth interest in North Star Mill.

By 1870, North Star employed 66 workers including four children. In 1871, the Mill expanded. By 1874, there were 130 employees, most of whom were women.



Minneapolis manufacturers had planned to develop a textile industry near St. Anthony Falls, and other textile companies were established in the area, but the plan became unsuccessful because of Minneapolis' distance from eastern markets.

The combined mills did meet local needs until the 1870s when railroads began transporting quality



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textiles from Eastern Mills. As the Eastern imports continued, the Minneapolis textile mills dwindled. North Star Woolen Mills, however, continued to operate.

Although the Company won first place for its blankets at the Philadelphia Exposition in 1876, that same year, North Star declared bankruptcy. Minneapolis Mill Company purchased the Mill and

hired William G. Northrop as its manager. Northrop was with the company for 50 years. Under Northrop's leadership, North Star prospered and expanded by adding two buildings.



Minneapolis Tribune, January 1, 1925

By 1885, North Star Woolen Mill was the only textile mill remaining in Minneapolis.

Northrop's son, William G. Northrop, Jr., joined the company in 1905, and the Mill continued to prosper. (Years later, he oversaw the Mill's expanded production during World War II.)

By 1925, North Star Woolen Mills was the nation's largest manufacturer of wool blankets. Its business continued to focus on hotels, transportation lines, department stores, and the U.S. government. Locally it was a significant part of Minneapolis' industry and retail.

In 1925, because of its ongoing business expansion, the Company decided to construct a new Mill.



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The original 1864 factory was replaced with the current steel framed building with reinforced floors and brick walls. The new building was built around the existing limestone factory with the building dismantled from the top as each new floor was constructed. As the floors

were completed, the machinery was moved up to the newly created floor, thus, allowing manufacturing to continue.



By 1929, North Star Woolen Mill had 270 employees.

In 1930, its large roof top sign was built, mounted on a metal frame reading "North Star Blankets" with a large star in the sign's center.

The Minneapolis Mill's business declined during the Depression and into the 1940s; and in 1949, the Company moved its operations to Lima, Ohio.

On December 11, 1949, The Minneapolis Star announced the mill's closure after 85 years in business with the headline, "North Star to Close Plant This Week."

In the 1950s, the building operated as a public warehouse under the name North Star Warehouse. Subsequently the building ceased operation as a warehouse and remained empty. The Mill's offices and warehouse were demolished in 1963.

In 1971, the St Anthony Falls District, which includes the North Star building, was listed in the National Register of Historic Place.



From approximately 1980 until 1998, the building was vacant. In 1998, the building was sold to Brighton Development Corporation and redeveloped into The North Star Lofts.

The Loft Association, concerned about the deteriorating North Star sign atop its building, applied for a grant through the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural

Heritage Fund. The initial application was denied, but a second grant submitted in 2013 was approved for \$240,000. Restoration began in 2014. The building's restored sign is atop the building.

North Star Woolen Mill Co., which is moving its corporate and manufacturing headquarters to Lima, Ohio, will close down the last of its manufacturing operations here this week after making blankets in Minneapolis for 85 years.

The decision to move, first announced last April, takes from Minnesota to Ohio one of the nation's best-known blanket firms.

It is difficult to travel without running into North Star "Jacquard" blankets. These blankets, with designs woven into the material, are supplied by North Star to railroads, airlines and steamship lines operating throughout the world.

SUPPLIES PRESIDENT

The Great Northern's Empire Builder was completely equipped with North Star blankets when it went into service. The Milwaukee, the Burlington and Santa Fe lines use North Star blankets.

The new Northwest Airlines Stratocruisers have special North Star blankets, as do planes of Air India, Air China, and other lines. On an ocean voyage you may well sleep under a North Star product.

But North Star is proudest of the work it has done for the United States government.

Minneapolis Star, December 11, 1949