



**Alger Press Building
61 Charles Street**

City of Oshawa

Prepared For: Heritage Oshawa
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ALGER PRESS BUILDING
61 CHARLES STREET, OSHAWA, ONTARIO

I. LOCATION

This building is located on the Southeast corner of Athol and Charles Street at 61 Charles Street.

II. EARLY LOT HISTORY

According to the County of Ontario Atlas, Dr. William McGill owned the property in 1877.

In 1903, the T. Eaton Company of Toronto received a bonus from the Town of Oshawa to establish a White's Good Factory. They established this company on the southeast corner of Athol and Charles Street. The T. Eaton Company manufactured textiles, such as underclothes, corsets, and petticoats. These items were sold at Eaton's stores in Toronto and Winnipeg. The company employed 150 workers, most of whom were women. Mr. W.F. Eaton, brother of Sir John Eaton, took over the management of the business at its inception and remained manager until 1916, when he moved to Hamilton along with the business. Sir John Eaton decided to move the business from Oshawa to Hamilton due to the difficulty of securing sufficient female help.

The factory building was purchased by Mr. Chas Robson, from the T. Eaton Co., and was sold by him in 1918 to Mr. William Millichamp. Mr. Millichamp was granted a bonus of \$10 000, by the Town of Oshawa to establish the Oriental Textile Company on the Eaton site.

The Oriental Textile Company, operated by a Mr. Millichamp, carried out their business out of this building for approximately 18 years. The Oriental Textile Company produced fabrics for General Motors prior to the depression years in the 1930's. They closed their doors in 1934.

In 1937 the Canadian Electric Lamp Co. Ltd operated out of the building.

In 1940 the Canadian Knox Glass Co. operated out of the building.

In 1945 General Motors used this building for a short time during World War II.

Alger Press purchased the building in 1946; the company was previously located on Albert St. north of Athol. They operated out of the building on Charles St. until 1993 when the business closed due to bankruptcy. The building is currently owned by Durham Storage Inc.

III. INDIVIDUALS/OWNERS/COMPANY SIGNIFICANCE

T. Eaton Company – William F. Eaton, Manager of the Plant

William was the brother of Eaton's President Sir John Eaton. William was an active member of Oshawa's YMCA and organized the first Boy Scout Troop in Oshawa.

Alger Press Ltd. – Stewart E. Alger, President of Alger Press Ltd.

Stewart Alger was said to be one of Oshawa's most popular businessmen. He took an active role in the community affairs as a Rotarian, Vice-president of the Oshawa Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of the Greater Oshawa Community Chest. Mr. Alger served on Oshawa's City Council (his father O.M. Alger also served on Oshawa's Council) and was awarded a Honourary Diploma from Durham College because he was the founding Chairman of the Board of Governors. He sat on various boards of trustees such as Simcoe St. United Church, McLaughlin Public Library, Oshawa Civic Centre and Olympic Pool, Simcoe Hall Boys Club and Mr. Alger was awarded the Centennial Medal by the City of Oshawa in 1967.

Alger Press Ltd. – The Company

Alger Press Ltd. produced the Oshawa Telegram, which became Oshawa's first daily newspaper. They also printed various well-known publications such as Thomas Bouckley's Pictorial Oshawa Vol. 1, 2 & 3.

IV. ARCHITECTURE

Style and Construction Date

Three-storey modern red brick factory building, with a steel frame construction and a stone/cement foundation. The original foundation was stone and the cement foundation was added when expansion took place. The building has approximately 80, 000 square feet of floor space and at one time had a private railway siding. The design is an industrial/functional building with classical style features. The design of this building was probably based on function for the original purpose of the building, a whitewear factory. One chimneystack is likely in an original location; when the building was erected in 1903.

Architect/Contractor

The builder was John Stacey, who was a well-known contractor during his time. Mr. Stacey contributed much to Oshawa in a professional capacity as a stonemason and builder. He built over 700 homes and manufacturing facilities such as the McLaughlin Carriage Company, Fittings Ltd. and the T. Eaton Company (later Alger Press).

Windows

A brick pilaster divides each column of windows. Dentil detailing is found around the top of the building between each brick pilaster. This architectural feature reflects the classical style. The building consists mainly of flat windows that consist of 6x10 & 6x8 panes.

South & West Façade:

The windows located on the west façade of the building that are 4x2 panes with wood frames and brick sills are possibly the original windows from when the T. Eaton Company erected the building. The south and west façade mainly feature windows that are 6x10 panes. The section of the building that contains the 4x2 pane windows is most likely an original section from 1903.

North & East Façade:

The windows are 6x8, 4x6, and 4x4 panes and have arched brick headers and brick sills. The windows have been replaced on the main floor of the building and reflect the original style.

Additions

In 1927, the Oriental Textile Company added on an 80 by 50 foot section that was three stories high. This section was added to the main factory along the Charles Street frontage (west side of the building). A further addition was added to the east side of the building 78 feet by 61 feet in breadth and three stories high. In addition a new boiler house, 19 by 30 feet was added.

V. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Alger Press Building is a testament to the industrial growth and development of Oshawa in the 19th and 20th century. The rise of the automotive industry in Oshawa proved a boom for companies such as the Oriental Textile Company. It provided a ready market for the factory product for use in covered auto cushions and interiors. The building continued to be used by General Motors during World War II.

Oshawa has also been noted as one of the chief centers of the printing industry in Ontario and Alger Press was one of the three major printing companies in Oshawa. O.M. Alger and his two sons Stewart and Ewart established Alger Press Limited. They published Oshawa's first daily newspaper the *Oshawa Telegram*. Alger Press grew in the field of lithography and had one of the most modern and best-equipped plants in the industry. It was in operation, in Oshawa, for 71 years before it closed its doors in 1993 due to bankruptcy.



7. Alger Press, South façade of building, May 2006



8. Possibly an original style window, from 1903.

SOURCES

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Eaton Textile Company Subject File. Oshawa Community Archives

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Oshawa Illustrated. Oshawa: The Reformer Printing and Publishing Company, Ltd., 1911.

The Oshawa Daily Reformer, Thursday June 30, 1927. Oshawa Community Archives Microfilm.

Oriental Textile Subject File. Oshawa Community Archives



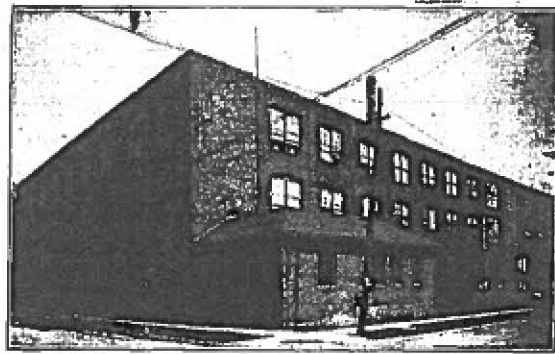
Mr. T. D. DARBY
Director



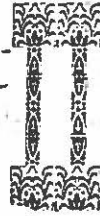
Mr. R. W. MILLICAN
Pres. and Managing Director



LYLE R. SELIGMAN
Director



MODERN PLANT OF ORIENTAL TEXTILES CO. SHOWING RECENT ADDITION



The
ORIENTAL TEXTILES
COMPANY, LIMITED
Oshawa — Ontario

—We—

WEAVE, DYE AND FINISH

PLUSHES AND VELOURS

—In—

WOOL, MOHAIR, COTTON AND SILK

—For—

The Automotive, Upholstery and Drapery Trade

19 Years In Operation



Mr. G. E. GOODERMAN
Vice Pres. and Treas.

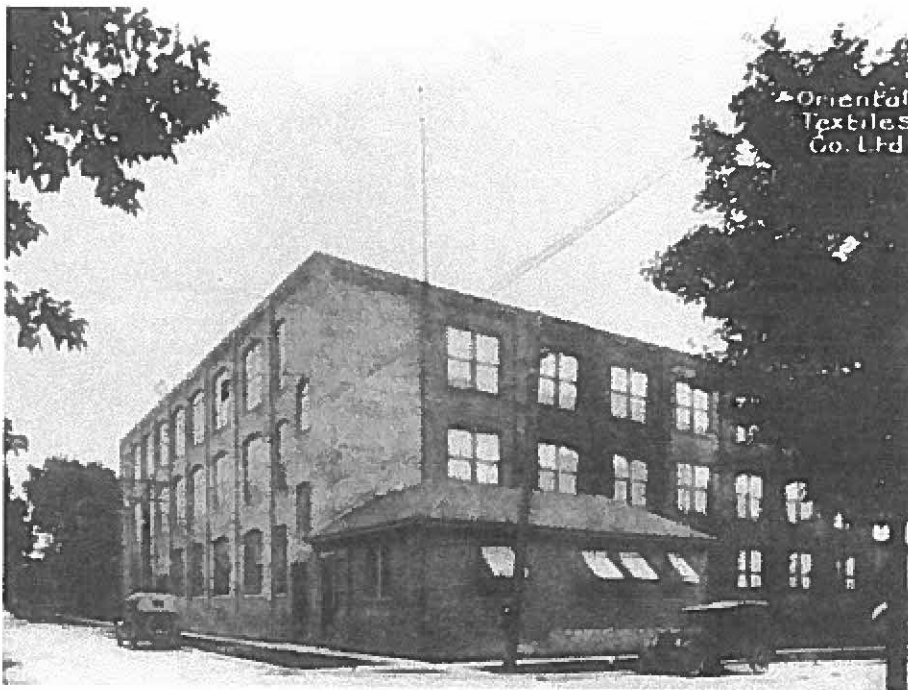


Mr. E. D. GOODERMAN
Director

APPENDICES



1. T. Eaton Company, Oshawa Community Archives Postcard, circa 1910



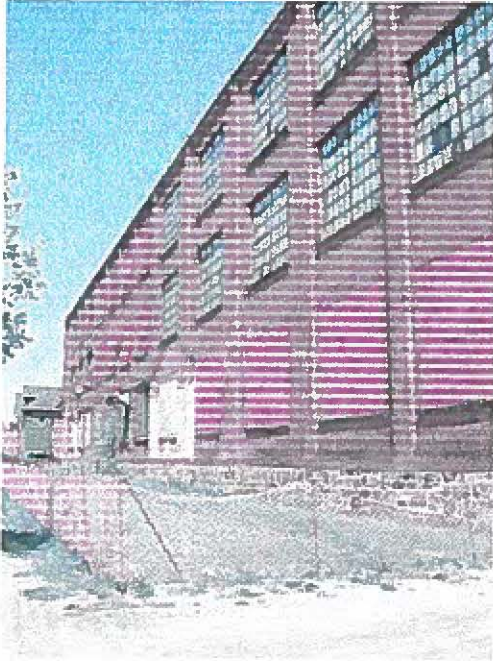
2. Oriental Textiles Co. Ltd., Thomas Bouckley Collection, Robert McLaughlin Gallery, circa 1927



3. Alger Press Limited, Oshawa Community Archives, circa 1960



4. Alger Press Limited, Photo taken circa 1994



5. Alger Press, West façade of Building, May 2006



6. Alger Press, East façade of Building, May 2006

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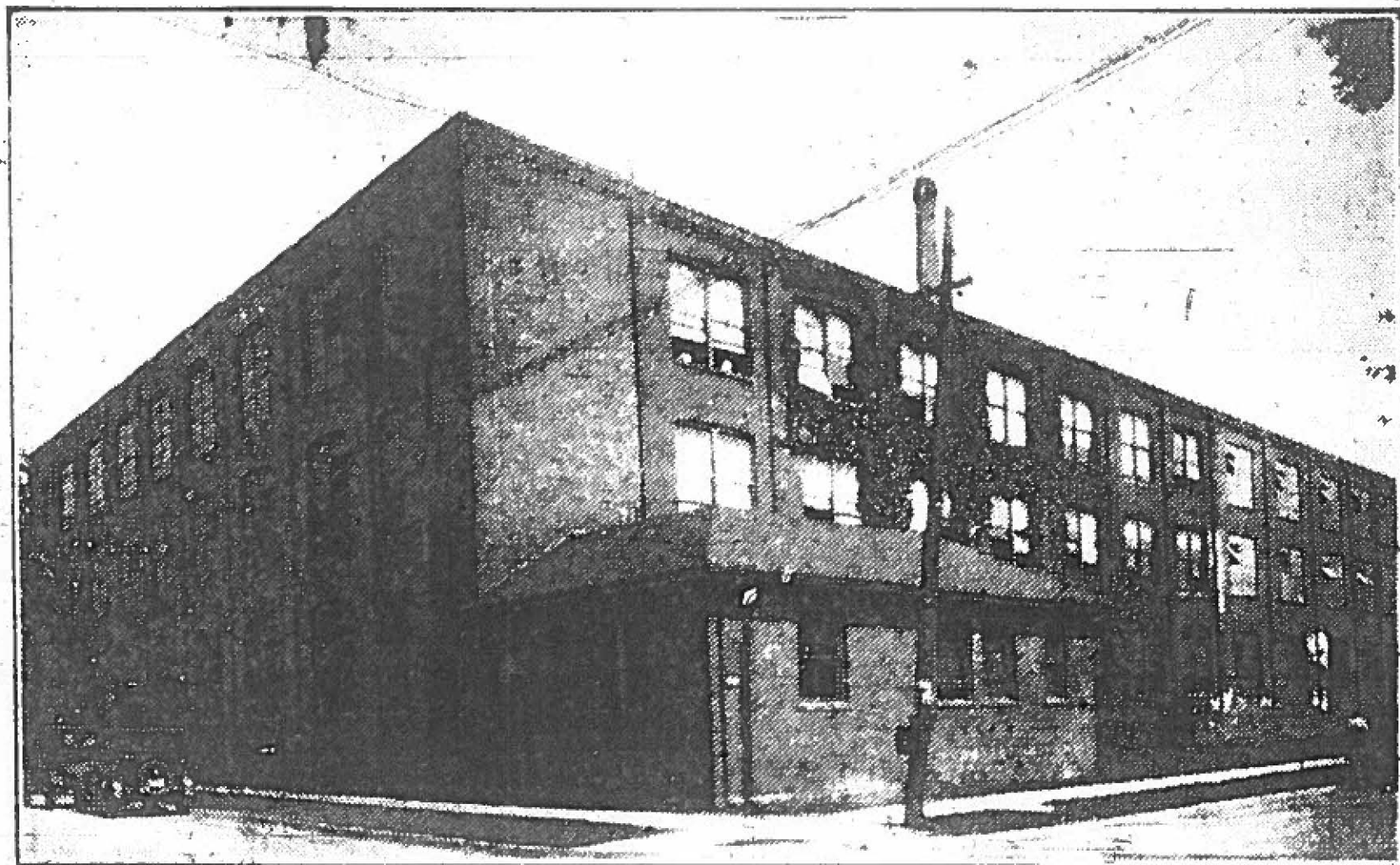
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per cent. with an increase of over
twenty per cent in the case of British
Columbia and smaller increases or de-
creases in the eastern provinces. In
1908 British Columbia contributed
less than one million of the Dominion
total, but this year it is now well
over fifty per cent.

When the First National found it
had outgrown its present home it
bought the Fort Dearborn site and
considered wrecking both buildings
to erect a new plant on the con-
tained site. Engineers, however, fig-
ured that this would not be neces-

enthusiasm and gladness. It is
spring to meet the day with a thrill
at being alive. It is to go forth to
meet the morning in an ecstasy of
joy. It is to realize the oneness of
humanity in true spiritual sympathy.
—Lillian Whiting.



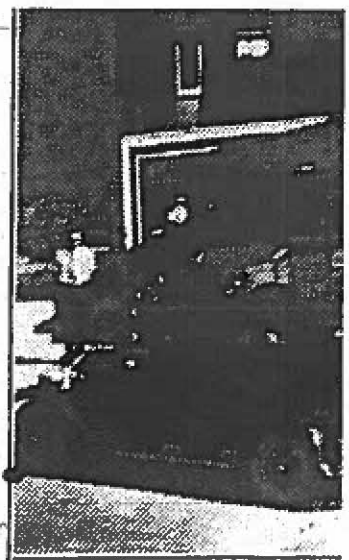
ONE OF THE MOST UP-TO-DATE PLANTS OF ITS KIND IN THE WORLD — THE ORIENTAL
TEXTILES FACTORY



ASS COMPANY



ANNEALING OVEN, FELDSPAR GLASS COMPANY



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clarity.

Quality of Timber
Regional differences in
types of trees, wood will
be of the most generally
raw materials used
supply is rapidly di-
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regions, but it is
valuable in this enlight-
enment it will ever be com-
ed. Doubtless we
will begin a period of lean
and begin to reap the
fruit and future appli-

Progress the Watchword of Oriental Textiles

History of this Firm an Outstanding Illustration of the
Successful Application of Faith and Enterprise—Oper-
ations Enlarged by Important Extensions
of Buildings and Equipment.

THE history of Oriental
Textiles Company, Ltd.
dates back to 1909 when
it was founded in Streetsville,
Ontario. In 1911 when the mill
dam was destroyed by floods
the company removed to Osh-

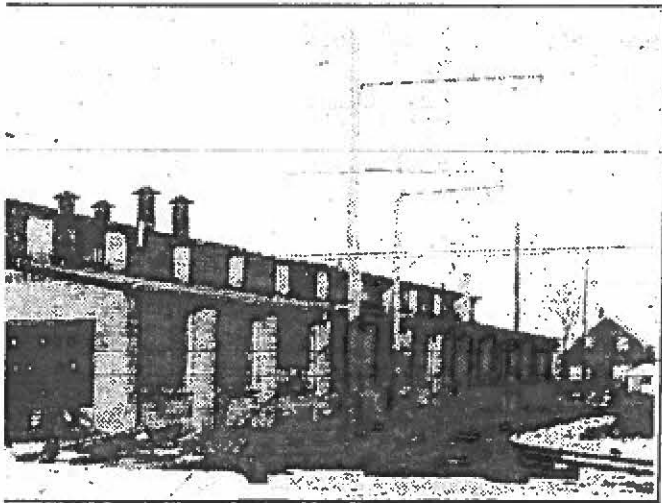
The products of the Company, in
competition with importations from
Great Britain, France, Belgium and
Germany, are able to hold their own
in quality with any of the imported
goods.

Located in a factory building, three
storeys high with 70,000 square feet
of floor space, it is equipped with
the most modern machinery.

"Our principal competition comes
from the British Isles, France, Bel-
gium and Germany but our product
is able to hold its own in quality
with any imported goods and our fac-
tory is one of the most up-to-date
in the world," states R. W. Milli-
champ, who directs and manages the
works. The rise of the automotive
industry in Canada has proved a boon
to Oriental Textiles for it has pro-
vided a ready market for the factory
product for use in covered auto cush-
ions and interiors.

Oriental Textiles are large users of
Hydro power. Every loom in the
factory is operated by its own motor
and the machinery throughout is elec-
tric driven. Steam, however, must
also be maintained for use in the dye-
ing room. The company introduced
a novelty by building an underground
storage for coal and will shortly have
two boiler houses. The dyeing room,
sloping down towards the waste pipe
to the city sewers is the last word in
equipment on the continent. Over
the waste pipe is placed special metal
screening which prevents any of the
loose yarn and threads from entering
the city sewer system.

The future of the company appears
very bright, in view of the fact that
the automotive industry generally is
booming with prospects of a steady
increase of auto purchasing by the
public. The Canadian product has
been found quite equal to the import-
ed in quality, wear, resistance
and price, and Oshawa workmen have
proved the equal of any in operation
of the machines.



PANY'S FACTORY

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awa and in 1917 the Company's
plant was destroyed by fire.

The present company was founded
and operated for some years, by A.
T. Baker, of Philadelphia, and passed
into the hands of the present direc-
torate consisting of R. W. Milli-
champ, President and General Man-
ager; George E. Goederham, Vice-
President and Treasurer; T. D. Bail-
ley, E. D. Goederham, R. Milli-
champ.

Manufacturers of glue and vel-
ours, the Company's development
has been extremely rapid, largely due
to the requirements of the automo-
bile industry.

Two Skyscrapers Welded Together

sary and instead laid out the remodel-
ing job.

Another adjoining site was bought
and an eighteen-floor elevator shaft
to serve both buildings was erected

1911
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