

COURTNEY WOOLEN MILL

Wisconsin has long been home to sheep farms. Since 1880 the Courtney Woolen Mill has called Appleton home.



In 1880, William and Louisa Kelley, and Nathan and Cora Kelley purchased a water power lot at the foot of the Durkee Street hill from Appleton founders Reeder and Eliza Kimball Smith. The mill was originally referred to as the Kelley Woolen Mill.

The mill passed from Giles Courtney to his sons James and Kenneth in 1942. In 1973 Kenneth Courtney became the sole owner of the mill. Kenneth's son Tom Courtney now owns the Woolen Mill and continues its operation.

THE MILL TODAY



1880

Kelley Woolen
Mill opens in
Appleton

1904

John Courtney
buys the mill

1917

Water turbine
installed

1972

Tom Courtney
starts at the mill.
First paycheck:
\$6.25

1986

Tom Courtney
purchases the
Courtney
Woolen Mill.

1993

Mill added to
National
Register of
Historic Places

