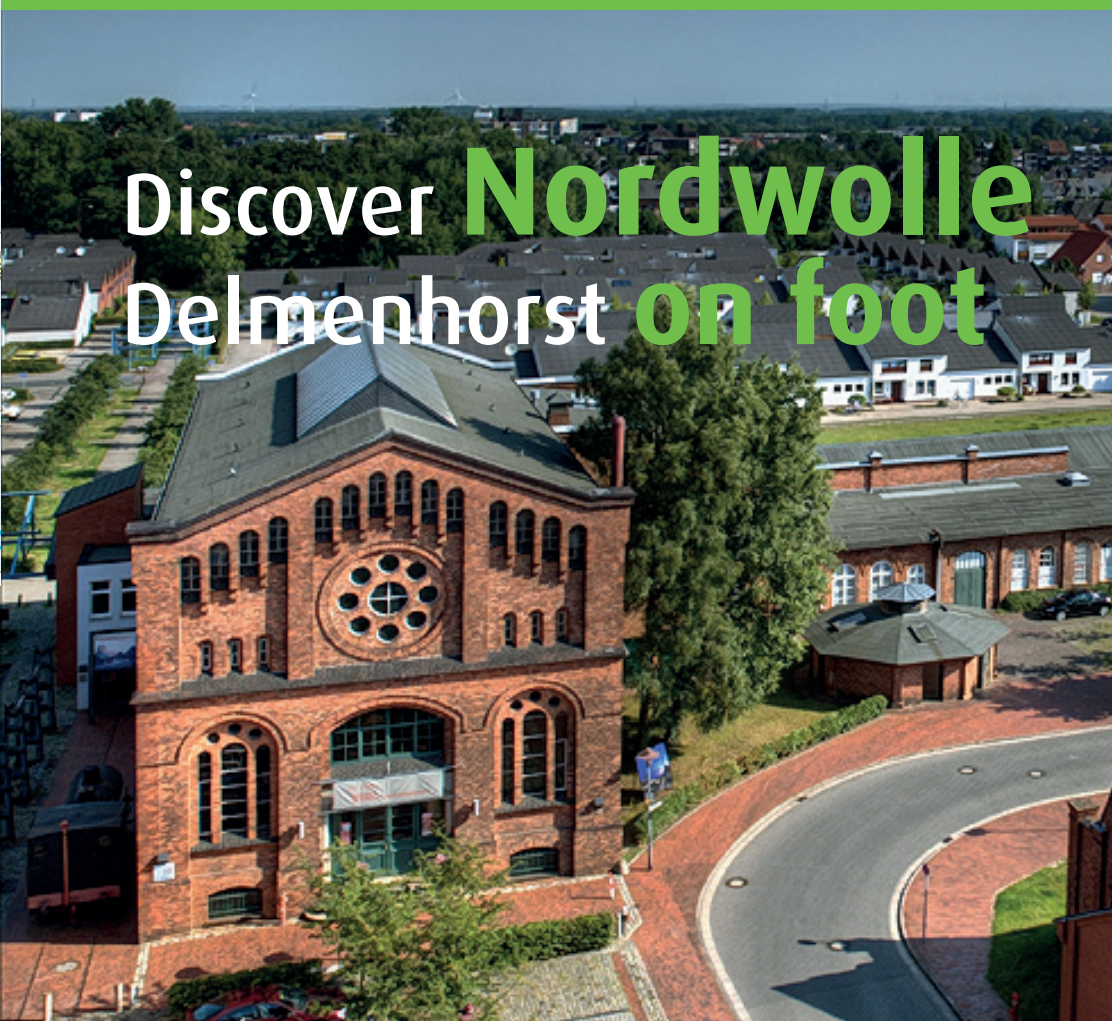




Visit one of Europe's biggest industrial heritage sites

Discover Nordwolle Delmenhorst on foot



The “Norddeutsche Wollkämmerei und Kammgarnspinnerei” (North German Wool Combing and Worsted Spinning Mill or NW&K), which was founded in 1884 by Martin Leberecht Lahusen and remained in operation until 1981, is today one of the biggest industrial heritage sites in Europe and a notable testimony of historic factory architecture. We would like to introduce this historic site to you on a short tour across the Nordwolle grounds. Immerse yourself in the history of the Nordwolle and find out what work and life on this historic site was like.



The site of the “Norddeutsche Wollkämmerei und Kammgarnspinnerei” (North German Wool Combing and Worsted Spinning Mill) did not occur by chance. The town of Delmenhorst was particularly suitable as it was conveniently situated by the railway line, constructed in 1867, which connected the towns of Bremen and Oldenburg and led right up to the North Sea coast to Wilhelmshaven. This also enabled, for example, the direct transport of the raw wool which had been delivered to Bremen's port from overseas, to the factory.



Tourist information



Tourist-Information
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Wednesday & Friday: 9 am - 12 noon

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Opening times: Tuesday to Friday & Sunday: 10 am - 5 pm
Monday & Saturday: closed



NORDWOLLE DELMENHORST
Nordwestdeutsches Museum für IndustrieKultur

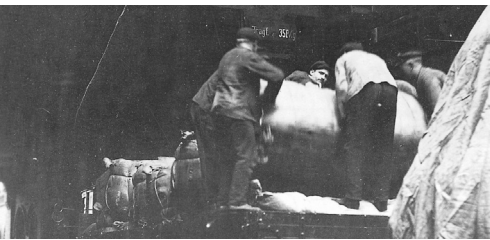
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1 Transport and rail connections:
The company had its own rail connection whereby the train carriages could travel straight onto the factory site. The company's own fireless steam locomotive, called "Bello", transported the raw wool on the factory grounds.



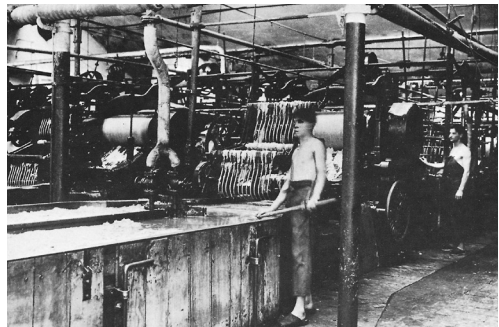
2 The warehouses:
The NW&K had two large warehouses directly by the Bremen-Oldenburg railway line, their structure was predominantly orientated to functionality and convenience. "Warehouse A", the first of the two, reached its capacity limit after only five years which resulted in the building of "Warehouse B". The wool processing company stored wool to enable long term and continuous production.



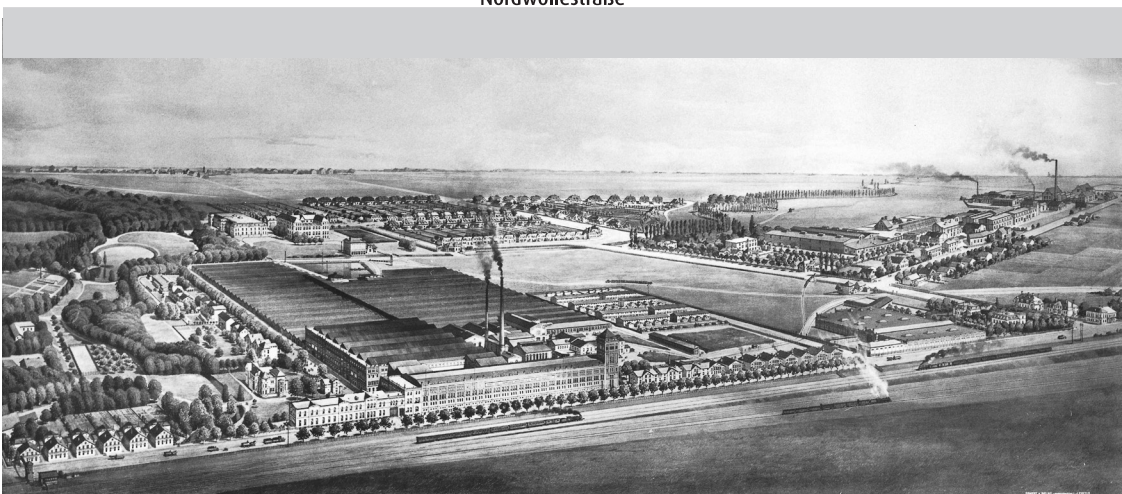
3 Wool sorting:
Once the raw wool had been delivered to the factory, the first step was to check the quality of the fleece and fleece sections in the wool sorting. This process occurred on the top floor of the warehouses to avoid detours. As sorting was only carried out by hand, it was the only area where there wasn't any noise from machines.



4 The wool washer:
The wool washing facility was directly next to the raw wool Warehouse A. Washing formed the start of the production process. Around 50-70% of the total weight of the raw wool balls comprised of grease/natural oil, sweat, dirt and plant material. The soluble elements were removed during washing in the approx. 50 metre long wash batteries. NW&K initially had three wash batteries although in the year of its bankruptcy (1931) it had eleven.



5 Main gate with porter's lodge, office and head office:
The main gate was part of the big representative façade on the Nordwollestraße road. As the representative area, it was situated directly below the connecting area between the administration point and the office. Besides the gate, the big clock on the road side which led to the so-called "area of authority", was also visible from afar. The scattered buildings here, which made the area less built up, and the many green areas, formed a contrast to the nearby production area. Visitors could also be received in the office without having to see the factory grounds.



6 The factory owner's villa:
Living on the factory grounds corresponded to the lifestyle of many entrepreneurs of the Gründerzeit (founders' period). The close proximity to the production grounds enabled the factory bosses to personally intervene in operations as well as the ongoing control of production processes and employees. And, with the location of the villa on the western outskirts of the grounds, the owner's family was largely protected from the emissions and noise pollution of the factory.



7 The Wollepark:
In 1894 Carl and Armine Lahusen commissioned the design of a villa park based on an English country garden. This park was bordered by the Stedinger Straße in the west and the Thüringer Straße in the north. Here a lake complete with a small island as well as a border of trees along the outside created the illusion of unspoilt nature far removed from the smoke-belching chimneys of the nearby factory. A tall white, iron-tipped wooden fence sectioned off part of the park to which only the factory owner's family had access.



8 The officials' houses:
The factory boss provided his managing employees with so-called "officials' houses" which reflected the status of the factory officials. In comparison to the workers' houses, they were significantly bigger, taller and more comfortable.



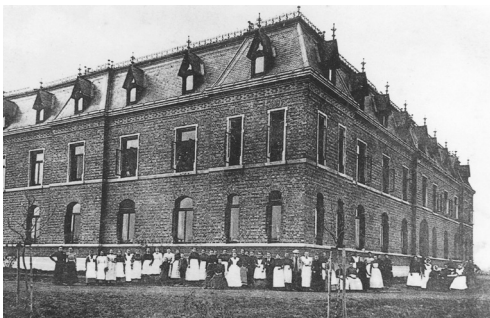
9 The dining house:
When the dining house was constructed in 1905, there were already 2,500 employees at the factory. Besides a large dining hall which offered space for approx. 200 employees, the dining house also had a kitchen with a large food serving room as well as a garden.



10 The bath house:
In 1886, two years after the founding of NW&K, a bath house was built on the grounds. This was an unusual social service for the time – a personal hygiene facility which men and women could use with separate areas for both. However, due to the considerable costs involved, it wasn't used very much. In 1942 it was destroyed by an air attack and was not rebuilt.



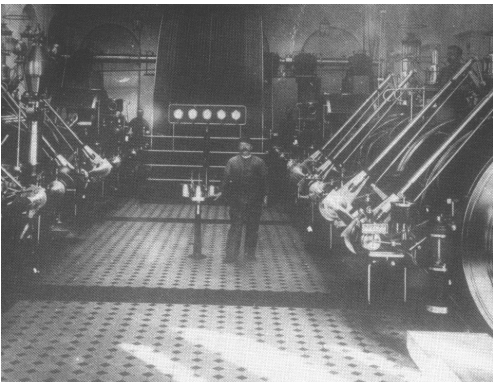
11 The girls' boarding house:
As the rapidly expanding factory required workforce, NW&K built a large boarding house for girls in 1898 which offered living space for 150 young, unmarried female employees. The boarding house had double and triple bedrooms which was not common at that time. The attic was used to prepare the women, in practice rooms, for their work at the machines. The weekly wage was approx. 15 Marks of which 5 Marks were deducted for board and lodging, service, heating and laundry.



12 The production hall:
The production hall with wool processing, combing and spinning and a total area of almost 50,000 m² and more than 500 metre circumferential façade, accounted for the largest part of the factory. The saw-tooth roof construction method used here which originated from England incorporated mainly one-storey halls which were orientated to the production process and growth. Only one section of a saw-tooth hall has been preserved – today this is used as an exhibition room to present the production process in the factory museum.



13 The turbine hall:
In the early days of factory production, a steam engine powered all the machines in production. Therefore, in 1902, the turbine hall was built. The building's architecture with its round, arched windows on the entrance façade as well as the religious looking rosette in the centre gave it the nickname "Cathedral of Work" amongst the workers.



14 The Factory Museum and City Museum:
The Factory Museum built in 1996 offers, on an area of 2,300 m², a fascinating insight into the development of the NW&K and, with this, the social economic history of the 19th and 20th centuries. With the historic machines, visitors can see how yarn is made out of raw wool. The City Museum, which opened in 1997, presents the history of the town of Delmenhorst from the castle founding in the Middle Ages to the present day.

