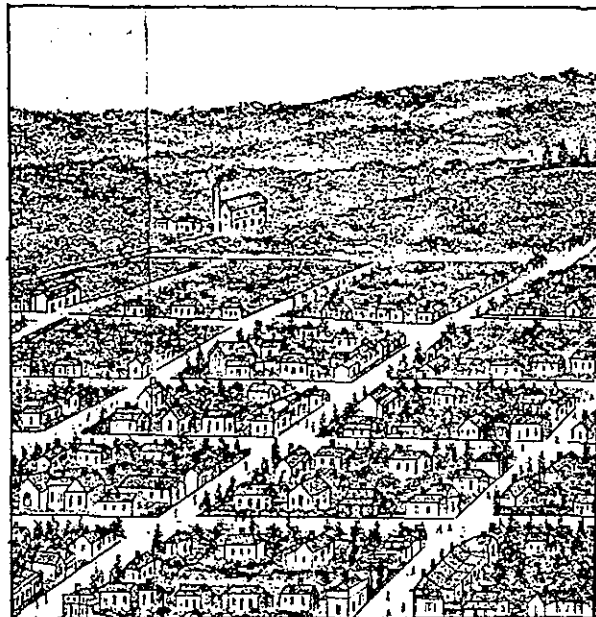
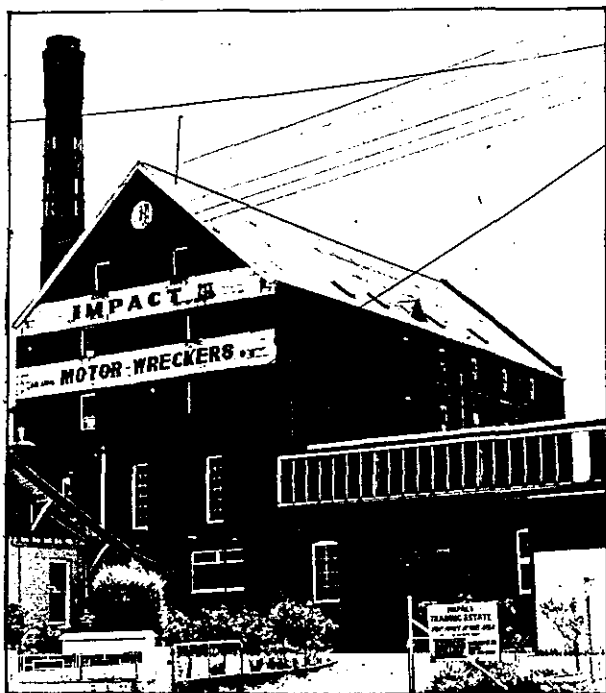


FORMER MYER WOOLLEN MILL, NOW IMPACT MOTOR WRECKERS

502 Howitt Street



Aerial view of Ballarat showing mill, 1887. (Withers, *History of Ballarat*)

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that this bluestone building be added to the Register of the National Estate and be specified under the provisions of Clause 8 of the *Town and Country Planning Act* (Third Schedule). Further research into woollen mills throughout Victoria is necessary to establish its importance on a state wide basis.

#### BUILDING HISTORY AND ANALYSIS

Little is known of the history of this building.

Withers discusses it in 1887<sup>1</sup> as one of two woollen factories in Ballarat and at that date it was run by Messrs. Dennisson, Wynne and Hepburn. According to Withers, it was previously held by Wilson and Co. and was originally a flour mill owned by Mr. Hayes. The factory was mainly employed in the manufacture of coarse tweeds.

The bluestone building appears to be of an early date but according to Bate the mill was established by one of the Ballarat Woollen Company managers as the Doveton Woollen Company which became incorporated in 1877.<sup>2</sup> Thus the building was erected after 1872.

Comparisons with other bluestone grain mills in Victoria at Portarlington (of 1856 - 57), Smeaton (1861), and Malmsbury (1856 -57) indicate that the simple design solution and detailing of this building is common to 1850's and 1860's bluestone industrial buildings. The brick additions to this building and the painting of signs to the front facade are unfortunate. However the building is substantially intact and an important early industrial bluestone building which is unique to Ballarat. Compared with other grain mills, this building is not the best example in the State; however as a woollen mill its importance is enhanced due to its fine bluestone detailing and sturdy construction.