McCorquodale Printing Company

Wolverton
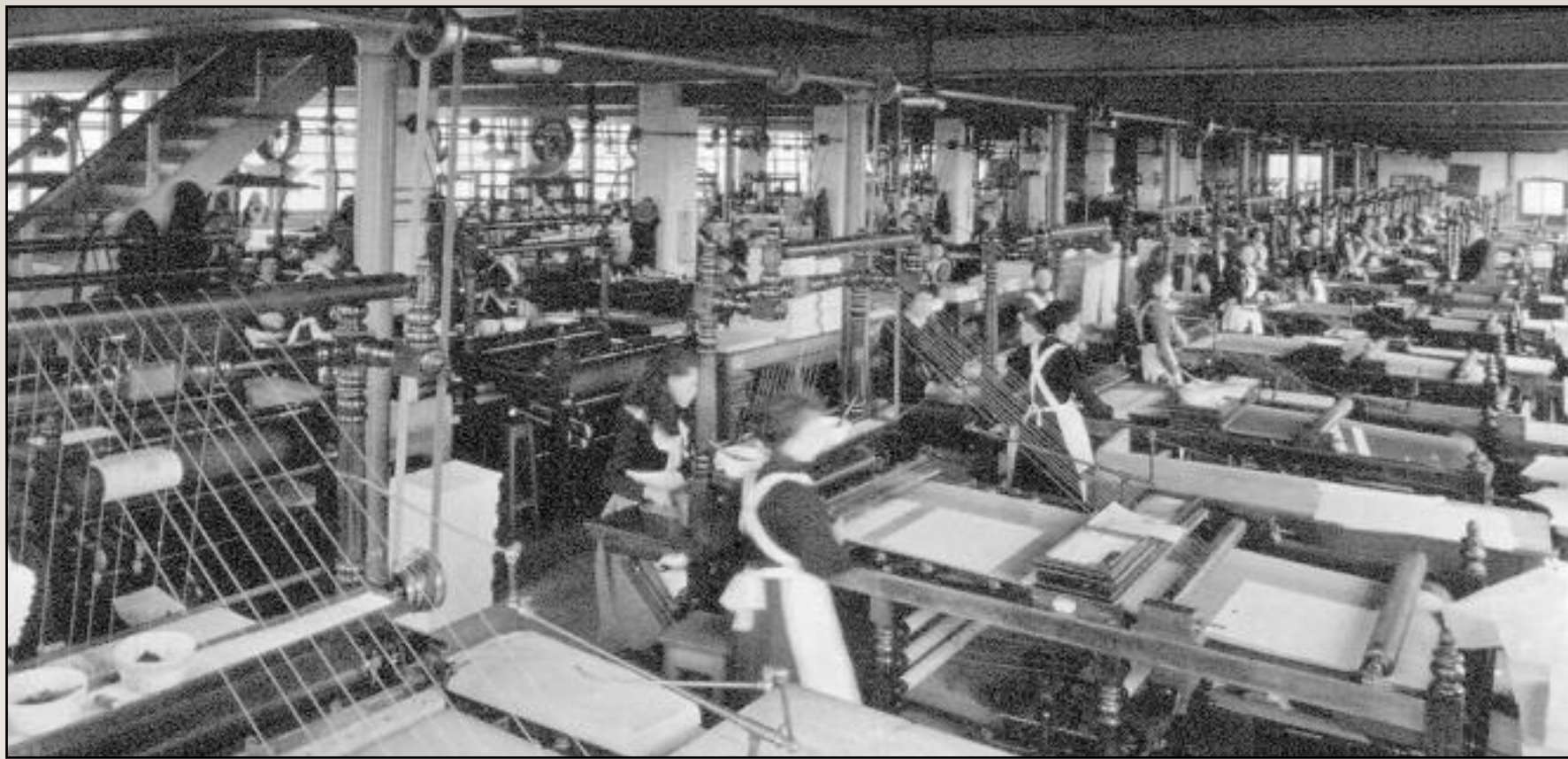
McCorquodales Printing Works interior, c1905

Photo: Living Archive

McCorquodale Road in Wolverton

Photo: D. Humphreys

George McCorquodale, who had been printing for the railway company since the 1840s, was approached with a view to establishing a stationery factory at Wolverton where the unmarried daughters of railway workers could be employed in a socially acceptable environment.

McCorquodale's registered envelope factory opened in Stratford Road in 1878 and, over time, became the biggest employer of females in the area. Girls typically started work at the age 13 or 14 and were normally employed until they married, although a few men were also employed.

As the company expanded and diversified into printing books, forms and commercial stationery, many new buildings were erected on both sides of the road. Many government and security printing contracts, including postal orders, all ensured that the firm remained profitable.

The buildings on the north side of the Stratford Road were demolished in 1988 and later replaced with car showrooms. The buildings on the south side of the Stratford Road are now the site of a new residential area, completed in 2010. It centered on the new McCorquodale Road but retained the front wall of the McCorquodale building, facing the Stratford Road.

The McCorquodale printing company is now based in Derby.

McCorquodales Printing Works interior

Photo: Living Archive

Staff in Composing Room at McCorquodales Printing Works, c1905

Photo: Living Archive