

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Bellemont Mill Village Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

East and West sides of N.C. 49, between .05 and 1.5 miles  
street & number south of jct. with Great Alamance Creek not for publication

city, town Bellemont vicinity of

state North Carolina code 037 county Alamance code 001

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant mill blc

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Alamance County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Graham state North Carolina 27253

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Carl Lounsbury Alamance County Architectural / Heritage has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Survey and Planning Branch, Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina 27611

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Bellemont Mill Village Historic District encompasses the three-story brick Bellemont Cotton Mill and twenty-three associated one and two-story frame mill houses, constructed between 1879 and 1880 by brothers L. Banks Holt and Lawrence S. Holt. The district, located on approximately twenty acres and roughly rectangular in shape, is anchored at the north by the former mill (currently vacant) which is located on a four-acre tract which borders the south shore of Great Alamance Creek and the east side of N.C. Highway 49 (also known as Maple Avenue). Most of the mill houses are visible from the mill; they are located along both the east and west sides of hilly Highway 49 and continue along the west side of SR 1137 (also known as Markwood Drive) which acts as an extension of Highway 49. Highway 49 is a paved road; SR 1137 is unpaved. All of the mill houses are positioned at the front of fairly narrow, but deep lots and have uniform shallow set backs from the road. Like most North Carolina mill villages, the houses were set close to the street so that the large back yards could be planted with vegetable gardens. Few of the houses have ornamental foundation plantings or large trees in the yards. The vista of the evenly spaced, nearly identical rectangular frame houses lining both sides of the road beyond the mill is unmistakably that of a small late-nineteenth century North Carolina mill village.

Bellemont is a small, unincorporated village located in a rural area approximately three-and-one half miles southwest of Graham, the Alamance County seat. The mill houses form the core of the village and the district boundaries have been drawn to focus on the textile mill and the surviving associated mill houses, and to exclude later private residential construction to the south, west and east, and vacant lots bordering Great Alamance Creek at the north.

The architectural focus of the district is the three-story rectangular white painted brick Bellemont Cotton Mill (1879); the main block of the mill is three stories, with smaller one and two-story blocks. The mill's long side is close to and parallel with the creek. The mill is typical of late nineteenth and early twentieth century North Carolina textile mills in its slow-burn construction method, with thick exterior brick walls (laid in 1:5 bond) and interior supports of heavy timbers. It is characterized by large twelve-over-twelve sash windows set in segmental arches occupying most of the elevations; a low-pitched gable roof ornamented by a decorative corbelled pendant cornice, and a short, stepped parapet on the west (main or roadside) elevation. The mill building consists of three major sections. Arranged from west to east they are: a one-story block, originally containing the picking rooms, which lies close to the road; the middle two-story section housed the carding and spinning rooms; and the rear three-story section of the mill which contained the weaving, spinning and beaming operations. A rectangular one-story engine room (machinery removed) is set perpendicular to the building about midway on the south (right) elevation. A small, detached dye house (destroyed) was located near the left rear corner of the building. According to the Sanborn Maps, sometime between 1904 and 1908 a narrow one-story wing, housing a carding room, was appended to the north (river side) elevation; it extends the full length of the one and two story blocks. Another small addition to the mill

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was made by 1913; a narrow "rope way" and a small wheel house (both destroyed) were added at the rear of the carding room on the north. At an undetermined date a small one-story cinder block addition (purpose unknown) was constructed along the rear elevation. The three major original sections of the mill and the early carding room addition survive largely intact. The mill ceased operation in 1981 and has been vacant since then. It is in a deteriorated, but not derelict, condition. The building retains its architectural integrity.

The twenty-three associated mill houses represent two basic types. All were constructed c. 1880 in the same building campaign which produced the mill. Eighteen of the houses (#s 2-9, 11-20) are I-houses (two-story, one-room deep three-bay wide dwellings) of frame construction with weatherboarded exteriors, metal-clad gable roofs with exposed rafter ends, a rear one-story ell, nearly full-facade hip-roof porches supported by simple slightly chamfered posts connected by a plain handrail and slat balusters, exterior end brick chimneys with a simple stepped shoulder, and six-over-six sash windows. The other five houses (#s 10, 21-24) are one-story, three-bay wide, one-bay deep frame weatherboard sheathed buildings with gable roof, exposed rafter ends, one-story rear ell, less than full facade shed-roof porch, and an interior brick chimney. Both types of houses are set on brick piers. With few exceptions, the houses have been altered since the late 1930s and early 1940s when they became privately owned. Most of the alterations are of the "home improvement" type intended to weatherize and reduce maintenance. The most common alterations include the application of replacement aluminum or vinyl siding and, in one case, rough sawn pine board-and-batten siding; the extension of the rear ell; the installation of porch supports usually of metal, to replace deteriorated original elements; the infill of the brick piers; and replacement asphalt shingle roofs. On some of the houses the original porch has been removed and replaced by a small gabled entrance porch. Most of the remodelling is reversible and has left the basic character of the houses intact.

Inventory List

All of the buildings in the Bellemont Mill Village Historic District were constructed in 1879-1880 by contractor Berry Davidson for mill owners L. Banks Holt and Lawrence S. Holt. All of the twenty-four buildings contribute to the architectural and historical character of the district and retain their spatial and physical relationships. There are no non-contributing buildings within the district boundaries. The 1929 Sanborn Maps indicates that small automobile garages were located in a few of the rear yards. None of these original outbuildings survive, or have been so altered as to be unrecognizable. There are no significant or substantial outbuildings in the district, and the occasional auxiliary backyard shed was not counted as a resource for this nomination.

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The Bellemont Mill building appears on the Burlington, North Carolina Sanborn Maps for 1904, 1908, 1913, 1918, 1924, and 1929. A very small portion of the mill village appears on the 1913 and 1918 maps; a larger portion of the village is included on the 1924 and 1929 maps. In order to avoid excessive repetition, the two house types found in the district are designated Type A and Type B and their descriptions are as follows:

- Type A: Two-story, one-room deep, gable-roofed mill house of frame construction with weatherboarded exterior, three-bay main elevation, gable-roof rear one-story ell, less than full facade hip-roofed front porch, exposed rafter ends and plain covering board, exterior end chimney with simple stepped shoulder, six-over-six sash windows, and hall-and parlor interior plan.
- Type B: One-story, one-room deep, mill house of frame construction with weatherboarded exterior, three-bay main elevation, gable-roof rear one-story ell, less than full-facade shed-roofed front porch, exposed rafter ends, with plain covering board, brick interior chimney, and six-over-six sash windows.

The resources in the district are keyed by number to the inventory map. Major exterior alterations to the houses are noted below.

- C 1. Bellemont Cotton Mill  
Three-story textile mill of standard mill construction with thick exterior brick walls and interior supports of heavy timbers. Typical of late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century textile mills and characterized by large segmental arched twelve-over-twelve sash windows occupying most of the elevations, low-pitched gable roof with a short, stepped parapet on the main (west) elevation and a decorative corbelled pendant cornice.
- C 2. 4620 Maple Ave. Type A mill house; aluminum siding.
- C 3. 4624 Maple Ave. Type A mill house; aluminum siding, metal replacement porch posts.
- C 4. 4626 Maple Ave. Type A mill house; porch removed, "brick" asphalt shingle siding on first story, aluminum siding on second story.
- C 5. 4630 Maple Ave. Type A mill house; original porch replaced with pedimented entry porch carried by iron posts.
- C 6. 4634 Maple Ave. Type A mill house; unaltered.

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- C 7. 4638 Maple Ave. Type A mill house; replacement board-and batten pine sheathing, gabled entry porch.
- C 8. 4640 Maple Ave. Type A mill house; aluminum siding.
- C 9. 4623 Maple Ave. Type A mill house; asbestos shingle siding.
- C 10. 4627 Maple Ave. Type B mill house; asphalt shingle siding.
- C 11. 4631 Maple Ave. Type A mill house; unaltered.
- C 12. 4635 Maple Ave. Type A mill house; asbestos shingle siding.
- C 13. 4639 Maple Ave. Type A mill house; unaltered.
- C 14. 4641 Maple Ave. Type A mill house; replacement iron porch posts.
- C 15. 4645 Maple Ave. Type A mill house; aluminum siding.
- C 16. 4647 Maple Ave. Type A mill house; replacement sash windows.
- C 17. 4703 Markwood Dr. Type A mill house; aluminum siding.
- C 18. 4705 Markwood Dr. Type A mill house; two-tier replacement porch.
- C 19. 4711 Markwood Dr. Type A mill house; aluminum siding.
- C 20. 4715 Markwood Dr. Type A mill house; asbestos shingle siding.
- C 21. 4719 Markwood Dr. Type B mill house; asbestos shingle siding.
- C 22. 4723 Markwood Dr. Type B mill house; aluminum siding.
- C 23. 4727 Markwood Dr. Type B mill house; aluminum siding, porch screened in.
- C 24. 4731 Markwood Dr. Type B mill house; asphalt shingle siding.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1937	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1879-1937 **Builder/Architect** Berry Davidson, contractor

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Bellemont Mill Village Historic District is eligible for National Register listing under criteria A and C. The three-story brick mill building and the twenty-three associated one and two-story frame mill houses comprise one of the most intact examples of a late nineteenth century textile mill village in Alamance County. With its textile-manufacturing industrial base, Alamance County was in the forefront of industrialization of the North Carolina piedmont in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Bellemont Mill Village was built in 1879-1880 by brothers L. Banks Holt and Lawrence S. Holt, major figures in North Carolina's post-Reconstruction textile-based industrial revolution. Bellemont is believed to be the earliest extant mill village in Alamance County from this post-Civil War period. The brothers were members of the Holt family which pioneered and dominated the Alamance County textile industry from 1837 into the early 1930s. By 1919, twenty-three of Alamance County's twenty-seven textile mills were controlled by various Holt family members. Bellemont Mill Village is architecturally significant because of the early modern construction techniques, including the use of circular sawn framing timbers, utilized in the mill and in the distinctive I-house dwellings built for the mill operatives. The mill is architecturally significant because of its "slow-burn" construction method, decorative corbelled pendant cornice and segmental arched windows. Both the mill and the houses retain their architectural integrity, and the village retains its rural setting. The period of significance for the Bellemont Mill Village extends from its construction date, 1879-1880, until 1937 when the village was first subdivided and some of the houses were sold to private individuals.

### Historical Background

When brothers L. Banks Holt and Lawrence S. Holt built the Bellemont Cotton Mill in 1879, they drew on forty years of successful family experience in the Alamance County textile manufacturing industry. The Holt family had lived near Great Alamance Creek since c. 1750 and had grown wealthy and powerful by dominating the county's primary industry, textile manufacturing.

Banks and Lawrence Holt's father, Edwin Michael Holt (1807-1884), recognized the untapped potential of Great Alamance Creek and in 1837 established the Alamance Factory which produced bundles of cotton yarn.<sup>1</sup> This successful factory was pivotal

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in the establishment and growth of Alamance County's cotton textile manufacturing industry and was the "mother" mill of the some two dozen Holt family-operated mills constructed between 1837 and 1919. Measured by its impact on the county's subsequent industrial development, the Alamance Factory was by far the most important of Alamance County's antebellum mills. About 1845 Edwin Holt expanded his mill, enlarged the dam and mill races and installed a large water wheel. He installed 528 spindles, and the first power looms were in place by 1849. Edwin Holt drew his mill's workers from surrounding farms and provided dwellings for them near the mill. In 1849 antiquarian Benson Lossing visited the mill and recorded that it had 1,350 spindles, 12 looms and that "around this mill was quite a village of neat log houses occupied by the operatives. . . and everything had the appearance of thrift."<sup>2</sup> (Neither the Alamance Factory nor the log mill houses survive.)

Edwin Holt's Alamance Factory prospered and in 1853 he and his son Thomas learned the dyeing process and introduced "one of the South's first brand name fabrics," Alamance Plaids, the first colored cotton cloth woven on power looms in the South.<sup>3</sup> The mill's success was assured and by 1850 Holt was the richest man in Alamance County. The mill, which employed 53 women and 8 men, ran throughout the Civil War producing substantial amounts of yarn and cloth for the Confederate troops.<sup>4</sup>

In 1866 Edwin Holt retired and turned over the management of the mill to four of his older sons: Thomas Michael, James Henry, William E. and L. Banks Holt. The name of the Alamance Factory was changed to E. M. Holt's Sons, Inc. They soon expanded the family's textile operations by building a new mill, the Carolina Mill, in 1869.<sup>5</sup> The Holt brothers, including L. Banks and his younger brother Lawrence S., were in the forefront of piedmont North Carolina's and the South's post-Reconstruction textile-based industrial revolution. The Holts rapidly expanded the family textile manufacturing enterprises beginning in the late 1870s. Rather than enlarging their existing mills, the Holts established a pattern of constructing additional small textile mills in several different Alamance County locations. Both individually and in various family partnership combinations, the Holt brothers constructed or assumed control of a series of textile mills during the decade of the 1880s. These mills included Bellemont (1879), Altamahaw (1880), Glencoe (1882), Aurora (1882, 1885), Ossipee (1882) E. M. Holt Plaid Co. (1884), Elmira (1886), and the Granite Mill (1844, enlarged by Thomas M. Holt c. 1880).<sup>6</sup>

Construction of the Bellemont Mill and village was a joint venture of L. Banks Holt (1842-1920) and Lawrence S. Holt (1851-1937). They located the new mill on the Great Alamance Creek about three miles east of their father Edwin's Alamance Factory. Both Banks and Lawrence Holt received their early education at home and then at nearby schools (Banks at Dr. Wilson's School, and Lawrence at Melville Academy) before entering military schools (Banks attended Hillsborough Military Academy and Lawrence attended the Horner Military Academy in Oxford, N.C.). Banks served with distinction

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during the Civil War and after the war returned to Alamance County to farm and work in his father's Alamance Factory. He also held a large interest in the Holt-owned Carolina Mill. In addition to the Bellemont Mill, Banks was a partner in the E. M. Holt Plaid Mills, sole proprietor of the Oneida Mill, and a partner in the Altamahaw Mill. With his father and brothers (in particular, Lawrence, who proposed the idea) he founded the Commercial National Bank (now North Carolina National Bank) in Charlotte in 1874. In addition to his manufacturing and banking ventures, Banks operated the 1,400-acre Oak Grove Stock Farm where he raised prize-winning cattle, sheep and pigs.<sup>7</sup>

Lawrence Holt attended Davidson College for a short time after graduating from military school, but withdrew to work in his father's Charlotte wholesale grocery store. Lawrence returned to Alamance County about 1875 to clerk in his father's textile mill. In the late 1870s he established a tanyard in Company Shops (now Burlington) which produced leather belting for driving pulleys in cotton mills.<sup>8</sup> In 1879 Lawrence assumed management of E. M. Holt's Sons Mill and Carolina Cotton Mill. In 1883 Lawrence invested his profits from Bellemont Mill in the creation of another factory, the E. M. Holt Plaid Mill. The next year he and Banks bought the Altamahaw Cotton Mills on Haw River near Elon College. In 1885 Lawrence purchased Lafayette Mills in East Company Shops and changed the name to Aurora Mills.<sup>9</sup> (Lawrence Holt's sons Erwin and Eugene continued the operation of Aurora Mills until the early 1930s). Lawrence's principal philanthropy was the Episcopal Church and he is largely responsible for construction of St. Athanasius Church in 1879 (NR) and the Church of the Holy Comforter in 1909, both in Burlington.<sup>10</sup>

L. Banks and Lawrence Holt hired contractor and mechanic Berry Davidson to construct their Bellemont Mill.<sup>11</sup> The April 8, 1879 edition of the local newspaper, The Alamance Gleaner reported on the construction of the mill and village:

Messrs. Lawrence and Banks Holt, of the firm of E. M. Holt's Sons, some weeks ago bought the property and water power at Eflins' bridge, on Big Alamance, from P. F. Holt, and they have gone to work to build a new factory at that point. We notice wagons loaded with lumber for operatives' houses passing through the village and very soon we shall have another cotton factory in full operation in the county. The factory building itself is to be of brick and a comidious (sic) proportions.<sup>12</sup>

The massive sills and floor joists of the mill were cut on a circular saw, a relatively new and superior type of saw. "Ten years earlier, these framing members would have been hand hewn. By 1880 there were five saw mills in the county each operating with one or two circular saws."<sup>13</sup> The large oak sills of the mill houses were also cut with a circular saw.



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By mid-January 1880, Bellemont Mill was completed and ready for the installation of equipment. The Gleaner for January 14, 1880 reported "the machinery for the new factory of L. B. and L. S. Holt at Bellemont, four miles from the village have been put down at the building and very soon will be put in place and the factory started." On March 17, 1880 the same source reported that 2,000 spindles were in place. The newspaper went on to report that

. . .only part of the machinery is in place, the balance not being obtainable before next fall. This is the neatest, prettiest factory in the country, and is intended for spinning alone. The building itself, the store, the tenant houses, and all the surroundings are neat as a pin and are pleasing to look upon.<sup>14</sup>

Over the next two years additional equipment was installed at Bellemont Mill as evidenced by these items from the Gleaner: August 8, 1881, "Messrs. L. B. and L. S. Holt had four or five wagons hauling new machinery for their factory last Saturday, and have not got it all in yet."; September 5, 1881, "More cotton machinery went to Bellemont Mill last week."; April 17, 1882, "Messrs. L. B. and L. S. Holt, proprietors of Bellemont Cotton Mills, hauled more than 20 new looms to their factory last week."<sup>15</sup> (The Holts apparently had changed their intentions in regard to "spinning alone" since the new looms produced plaid cloth.)

Bellemont Mill was one of the last water-powered textile mills built in Alamance County.<sup>16</sup> Prior to the development of steam-powered mills in the early 1880s, a cotton mill's site was largely determined by the availability and location of water power. Water-powered mills were often located in rather isolated rural areas. There the mills were built first, and villages grew up around them. Mill workers drawn from surrounding farms to these rural mills had to be housed; mill owners constructed dwellings for them, as well as schools, churches and stores. "They created small communities around themnselves, almost feudal in character."<sup>17</sup>

Generally speaking, mill owners in the northern states built dormitories to house workers, while the southern mill owners constructed individual houses. Most of the Bellemont mill houses are two stories with a hall-and-parlor plan, a plan which was already antiquated when it was incorporated into the layout. "Although the plan was traditional, the method of construction was modern. . .the frame throughout was constructed with circular sawn lumber. Mantels, window sash, doors and interior sheathing were all products of the saw mill."<sup>18</sup> (The Bellemont company store, originally located across the street from the mill, does not survive, nor does the house which formerly served as the village school.)<sup>19</sup>

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Many of Bellemont's residents and the mill's workers were women. Sometimes three or four sisters or cousins lived together under the supervision of a housekeeper, often an older, widowed female relative. For instance, the 1880 Alamance Census Population Schedule records that in the Bellemont, Saxapahaw and Carolina Mill villages, the majority of heads of households were women. The 1880 Census recorded that Bellemont mill village was home to fourteen households. Typical occupations listed included "spinners", "spoolers" and those listed as "keeping house." Other occupations listed included "painter," "brick maker," and "farm worker."<sup>20</sup>

A forty year long period of steady textile manufacturing industry growth in Alamance County followed construction of the Bellemont Mill. Between 1879 and 1883 eight new mills joined the seven Holt family mills already in operation; between 1886 and 1894 nine new mills were constructed, and between 1901 and 1904 four others were built.<sup>21</sup> The last Holt family cotton weaving mill was built in 1919 by Edwin C. Holt and Paul Stevens and incorporated as Stevens Manufacturing Company.<sup>22</sup> Until the late 1890s Alamance County ranked either first or second among North Carolina counties in number of spindles; in total number of looms, it held first place until 1916; and it was first in the ratio of looms to spindles until the late 1920s.<sup>23</sup>

After Banks Holt purchased his brother Lawrence's partnership share of the Bellemont Mill in 1897, he operated all his mills as proprietorships until 1909 when he established the "L. Banks Holt Manufacturing Co." and transferred ownership of the properties to the Holt family-run corporation. With five mills under its ownership and control, the L. Banks Holt Manufacturing Company was the largest producer of cotton fabrics in Alamance County.<sup>24</sup>

L. Banks Holt died in 1920 and the corporation was operated for several years by his heirs. L. Banks Holt Manufacturing Company began to dispose of its mills during the mid-1920s when the production of cotton goods became less profitable and cotton was replaced by rayon and other synthetic fabrics. In 1927 the entire village of Alamance, including the Alamance Factory, was sold to Standard Hosiery Mills.<sup>25</sup> Bellemont Mill remained a part of the L. Banks Holt Manufacturing Company until 1933 when E. M. Holt Plaid Mill, Inc. purchased the mill and village and converted the mill to rayon manufacture.<sup>26</sup> During the 1930s many textile mill owners, faced with the high cost of maintaining a mill village, sold the houses to their former tenants.<sup>27</sup> E. M. Holt Plaid Mill, Inc. subdivided Bellemont village in 1937 and sold sixteen of the houses to five individuals.<sup>28</sup> Burlington Milling Company, now Burlington Industries, purchased the Bellemont Mill and the remaining houses in 1939.<sup>29</sup> As part of Burlington Industries' operations, the mill was renamed Bellemont Weaving.<sup>30</sup> Burlington Industries operated the mill until the late 1950s, but sold all of the remaining mill houses between 1942 and 1944.<sup>31</sup> In 1958 Hazel Knitting Mill, Inc., owned by Charles Foster and William S. Foster purchased Bellemont Mill.<sup>32</sup> After William Foster's death in 1973, the mill was leased to his son, William S. Foster, Jr., owner of Flexon Fabric Inc. Flexon produced polyester double-knit fabric, and

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employed approximately fifty workers at the former Bellemont mill.<sup>33</sup> Foster purchased the mill in 1977 from First Union National Bank of North Carolina, the executors of his father's estate.<sup>34</sup> Foster opened Flexon Fabrics there until 1981 when he moved the business to his Haw River plant.<sup>35</sup> Tasker Industries of Greensboro purchased the Bellemont mill in 1981 and are the current owners of the mill; the mill building has remained vacant since that time.<sup>36</sup> Currently several of the mill houses are owned by retired mill employees; other are owned by employees of other Burlington area industries or by real estate investors.

A complete inventory of Alamance County's textile mills has not been compiled to date. When architectural historian Dr. Carl Lounsbury surveyed the county's historic architecture in 1979-1980, eight former Holt family controlled mills survived in various states of intactness. These mills included Altamahaw (mill office listed in National Register, 1984), Ossipee, Plaid, Glen Raven, Glencoe Mill and mill village (listed National Register, 1979), Oneida, T. M. Holt Manufacturing Company and Granite Mill. (Other Alamance County textile mills presently listed on the National Register include the former Lakeside Cotton Mill Village and the former Windsor Cotton Mill.) Dr. Brent Glass, former North Carolina Assistant State Historic Preservation Officer, is currently writing a book about the origins and development of the North Carolina textile industry. In 1978 he authored an article entitled "Southern Mill Hills: Design in a Public Place," included a collection of essays on North Carolina's vernacular architecture, Carolina Dwelling, published by North Carolina State University. In this article Glass focused on the mill village designs of Glencoe and Bynum. Glass' current work will be a great contribution toward developing a scholarly historical and architectural context for a continuing study of the pivotal role of textile manufacture in the state's economy. Since Lounsbury's survey was completed, the Bellemont Mill has ceased operation. The mill village continues to be a viable community. A North Carolina developer has expressed a strong interest in adaptively reusing the Bellemont mill building for residential development. The Alamance County government is supportive of this type of project for the mill building. Other local real estate developers have renovated some of the mill houses, as have various Bellemont home owners. To date no archaeological investigations have been conducted within the Bellemont Mill Village Historic District, but given the undisturbed condition of the land and the number of relatively intact structures present, it is likely that significant archaeological remains may be present. Alamance County has an active Historic Properties Commission and in 1985 this group was accorded certified local government status. As part of its preservation planning efforts, Alamance County requested the nomination of the Bellemont Mill Village Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.

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FOOTNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Andrew Warren Pierpont, "Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County, North Carolina," Diss. University of North Carolina 1953, p. 11; also see Hugh Talmage Lefler and Albert Ray Newsome The History of a Southern State: North Carolina (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1963 edition) pp. 302, 376.

<sup>2</sup>Benson J. Lossing, Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution (New York: Harper & Bros., 1852), Vol. II, p. 594; Pierpont, pp. 36-38.

<sup>3</sup>Brent Glass, "Southern Mill Hills: Design in a Public Place," in Carolina Dwelling, ed. Doug Swaim (Raleigh: North Carolina State University, 1978), p. 139; also see Julian Hughes, Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County, "Evolution of Warp and Weft in Alamance": Exploits of Edwin M. Holt and His Sons and Associates in Cotton Mills and Villages (Burlington, N.C.: Burlington Letter Shop, 1965) pp. 4-5.

<sup>4</sup>Carl Lounsbury, Alamance County Architectural Heritage (Alamance County Printing Department: Alamance County Historic Properties Commission, 1980) pp. 34, 38.

<sup>5</sup>Pierpont, p.44; Hughes, p. 6.

<sup>6</sup>Pierpont, pp. 276-279; Lounsbury, p. 47.

<sup>7</sup>A. Davis Smith, Western North Carolina (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1890) pp. 291-292.

<sup>8</sup>Hughes, p. 128.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., p. 129.

<sup>10</sup>Durward T. Stokes, Company Shop, The Town Built by a Railroad (Winston-Salem: John F. Blair, Publisher, 1981), pp.102-105; Elizabeth Gant, The Episcopal Church in Burlington; 1879-1979 (Privately Printed, n.d.), pp. 10-11.

<sup>11</sup>Lounsbury, p. 49.

<sup>12</sup>The Alamance Gleaner, April 8, 1879.

<sup>13</sup>Lounsbury, p. 46.

<sup>14</sup>The Alamance Gleaner, January 14 and March 17, 1880.

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<sup>15</sup>The Alamance Gleaner, August 8, 1881; September 5, 1881; April 17, 1882.

<sup>16</sup>Pierpont, pp. 59, 83; Pierpont notes that Dockham's 1884 Textile Directory indicates that Bellemont employed both steam and water. The steam generators were probably part of the original equipment. Altamahaw and Ossipee, both constructed in 1882, were the last water-powered mills in the county. Thereafter, textile mills were powered by steam and located in towns.

<sup>17</sup>Pierpont, p. 59.

<sup>18</sup>Lounsbury, p. 51.

<sup>19</sup>Don Bolden, "Burning of Bellemont House Removes School," Burlington Times-News, April 19, 1981.

<sup>20</sup>Alamance County Census Schedule, 1880, on microfilm at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Wilson Library.

<sup>21</sup>Pierpont, pp. 66-67 citing Annual Reports of the North Carolina Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1887-1926.

<sup>22</sup>Pierpont, p. 190.

<sup>23</sup>Ibid., p. 67.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid., p. 79.

<sup>25</sup>Ibid., p. 195.

<sup>26</sup>Alamance County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 5, pp. 384-385; Pierpont, pp. 101, 195.

<sup>27</sup>James Andrew Hodges, "The New Deal: Labor and the Southern Cotton Textile Industry 1933-1941," Diss. Vanderbilt University, 1963, p. 111.

<sup>28</sup>Alamance County Register of Deeds, Plat Book 1, p. 109; and Alamance County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 118, pp. 359, 361, 294, 124; and Deed Book 123, p.33.

<sup>29</sup>Alamance County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 126, pp. 513-519.

<sup>30</sup>Industrial Directory for Burlington and Alamance County, (Burlington: A.D. Pate and Company Printers, 1947), p. 16.

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<sup>31</sup>Grantor Index to Real Estate Conveyances, Alamance County

<sup>32</sup>Alamance County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 262, p. 485.

<sup>33</sup>Alamance County Register of Deeds, Deed of Trust, Book 424, p. 867; and Burlington-Alamance County Industry Directory, 1976 (Burlington: Burlington and Alamance County Chamber of Commerce, 1976), p. 7.

<sup>34</sup>Alamance County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 413, p. 358; Deed Book 429, p. 800; and Deed Book 457, p. 913.

<sup>35</sup>Burlington-Alamance County Industry Directory, 1983 (Burlington and Alamance County Chamber of Commerce, 1983), p.8.

<sup>36</sup>Alamance County Register of Deeds, Deed Book 467, p. 483.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 9.75 acres

Quadrangle name Burlington, NC

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>
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D	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patricia S. Dickinson, consultant

organization

date March 15, 1987

street & number Rt 2, Box 1034

telephone 919/732-5439

city or town Hillsborough

state North Carolina 27278

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national     state     local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature William S. Fain, Jr.

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date April 9, 1987

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service

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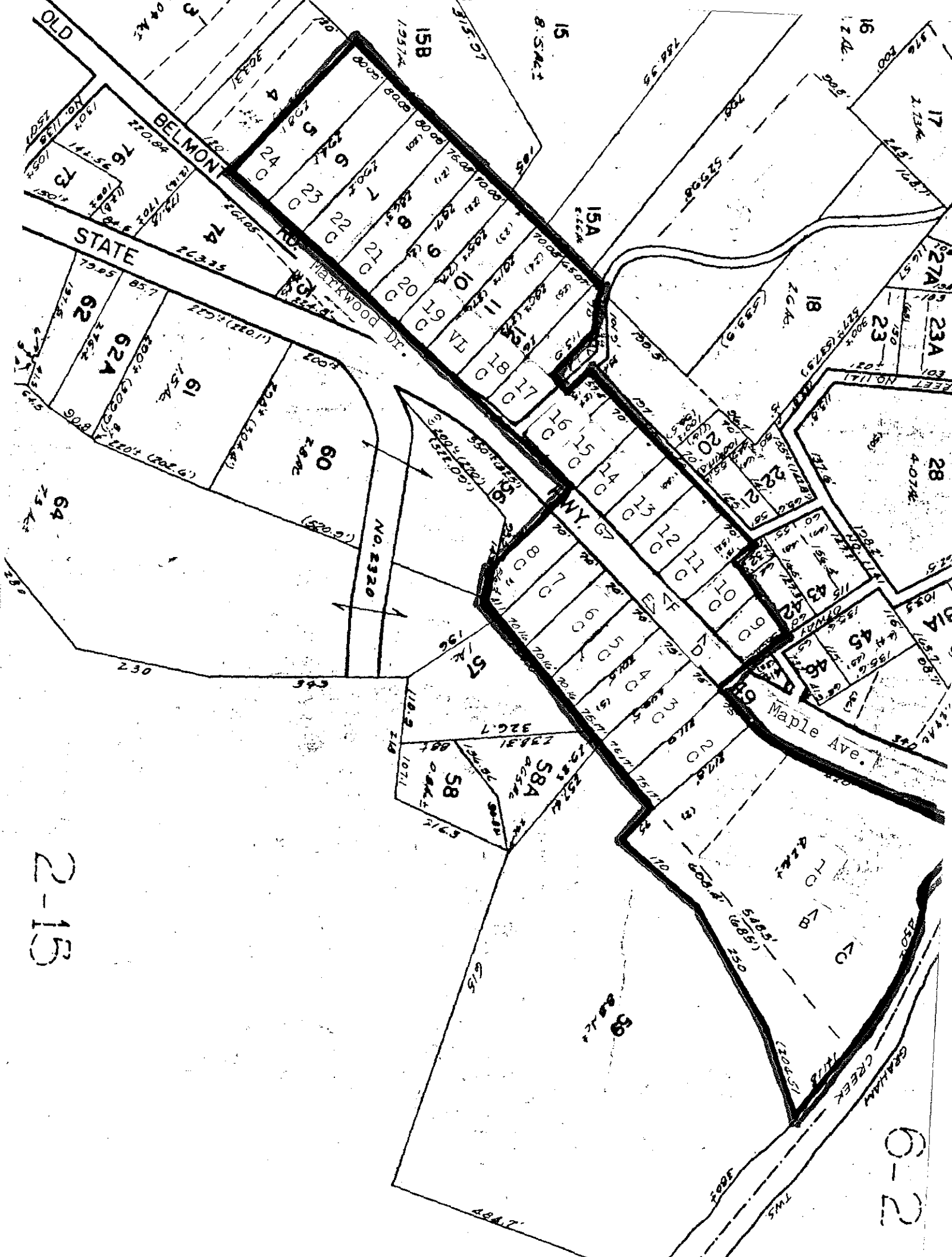
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The nominated area comprises Lot numbers 5-13, 33-40, and 48-55 on Sheet 2-14, Alamance County tax maps. The district includes the Bellemont Mill building and twenty-three associated mill houses, all constructed between 1879 and 1880. The mill is located on the east side of N.C. 49 at the junction with Great Alamance Creek. The mill houses, arranged along both the east and west sides of N.C. 49, extend approximately 1,300 feet south of the mill (see attached district map). The boundary line was drawn to include the Bellemont Mill and the surviving historically associated mill houses, and to exclude later residential construction to the south, west and east, and vacant lots bordering Great Alamance Creek at the north.





2-15

6-2