

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Granite Mill**

Haw River, Alamance County, AM0867, Listed 09/18/2017

Nomination by Heather Fearnbach

Photographs by Heather Fearnbach, May and June 2016



Building 15, west elevation, looking southeast



Building 16, Level 4, looking southwest

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Granite Mill

other names/site number Holt-Granite-Puritan Mills Company; Proximity Manufacturing Company, Granite Finishing Works; Cone Mills Corporation, Granite Plant

**2. Location**

street & number 114, 116, 122, 180, 218, 222, 224, and 226 East Main Street **N/A** not for publication

city or town Haw River **N/A** vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Alamance code 001 zip code 27258

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register.
  - See continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Granite Mill  
Name of Property

Alamance County, NC  
County and State

### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 10           | 5               | buildings  |
| 0            | 0               | sites      |
| 4            | 0               | structures |
| 0            | 0               | objects    |
| 14           | 5               | Total      |

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
N/A

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing Facility  
INDUSTRY: Industrial Storage

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT: Not in use  
INDUSTRY: Industrial Storage

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Heavy-timber mill construction  
Other: Steel-framed, load-bearing-brick-wall mill construction  
Other: Reinforced-concrete construction

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
walls BRICK  
CONCRETE  
METAL  
roof METAL  
RUBBER  
other

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Industry

**Period of Significance**

1881-1967

**Significant Dates**

1881, 1886, 1937, 1947, 1948, 1949, 1952, 1957, 1964, 1966, 1967

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Cone Mills Corporation Engineering Division

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill

Haw River Historical Association Museum

Granite Mill  
Name of Property

Alamance County, NC  
County and State

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** 31 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

See Latitude/Longitude coordinates continuation sheet.

|   |                   |                   |                   |   |                   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | 3 | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting           | Northing          |   | Zone              | Easting           | Northing          |
| 2 | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | 4 | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Heather Fearnbach  
organization Fearnbach History Services, Inc. date 1/10/2017  
street & number 3334 Nottingham Road telephone 336-765-2661  
city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27104

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## Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

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## Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Haw River Business Center, LLC (contact James Peeples)  
street & number 218 East Main Street telephone 336-317-1865  
city or town Haw River state NC zip code 27258-9648

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Alamance County, NC

## Section 7. Description

### Setting

Granite Mill is situated on approximately thirty-one acres north of East Main Street on the Haw River's east side in the small Alamance County community of Haw River. The industrial tract has been recently divided into six tax parcels containing twenty-three interconnected and freestanding buildings arranged in a U-shape around a central parking lot. The complex's proximity to the river was imperative, as water wheels initially powered the mill's equipment. The late-nineteenth-century stone dam, floodgates, and wheel pit that remain from this system are at the tract's west edge.

A tall chain-link fence bounds much of the site. In the property's southwest section, sliding chain-link gates provide access to the asphalt-paved drive leading from East Main Street to central and perimeter parking lots. Chain-link fences also enclose an area adjacent to Building 1's southeast corner and the electrical substation located north of Building 9 at the complex's northwest quadrant.

The site's rolling topography results in steep embankments that slope down to the north and west. Most structures are thus at either lower or higher elevations than the principal drive and parking lots, necessitating concrete retaining walls and stairs in some areas. A U-shaped asphalt-paved drive winds through the tract's northeast quadrant, which also contains asphalt-paved parking lots, grass lawns, a concrete water tank, and a concrete settling basin. Wooded areas border the tract's north and east edges.

East Main Street, which runs east-west on the complex's south edge, is flanked by commercial and residential development. To the east and north, modest dwellings, most erected in the early twentieth century to provide housing for mill employees, front Gravel, Pelham, and Boundary streets.

### Complex Overview

Granite Mill gradually increased in size during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries as buildings were constructed to facilitate the plant's operation. The complex encompasses a series of interconnected and freestanding one- to five-story brick, concrete, and steel manufacturing and storage buildings erected between 1844 and 1990. The earliest edifice, Building 9, an L-shaped, four-story, heavy-timber-frame and load-bearing-brick structure at the complex's northwest corner, is the site's original mill constructed in 1844 and enlarged in 1881. Building 9 adjoins Building 10, a four-story, heavy-timber-frame and load-bearing-brick structure to its south that was completed in 1881 and expanded in 1949. Creation of the stone dam, floodgates, and wheel pit west of Buildings 9 and 10 also commenced in 1881 and was finished in 1892. A late 1950s-early 1960s electrical substation is north of Building 9.

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The complex grew with the 1886 construction of a two-story, heavy-timber-frame and load-bearing brick freestanding mill (Building 15) south of Building 10. The 1937, 1948, and 1957 additions that extend from Building 15's east and south elevations feature steel framing with brick curtain walls. The elevated one-story 1937 and 1957 additions connect Building 15 to Building 16, a four-story-on-basement steel-frame and brick warehouse constructed to the south in 1937. In 1952, Cone Mills erected the one-story-on-basement, flat-roofed, brick, steel, and concrete warehouse (Building 17) fronting East Main Street east of Building 16. Four metal-sheathed passages link Building 16 and 17.

An expansive, steel-frame, metal-clad, tall one-story warehouse (Building 13) erected in 1980 spans the distance between the 1948 addition on Building 15's east elevation and the 1949 addition on Building 10's east elevation. West of Building 13, a two-level brick boiler house (Building 19), stands between Buildings 10 and 15. Constructed in the early 1920s, the structure was enlarged with a one-story addition in the late 1950s-early 1960s. A tall, round, late 1940s smokestack executed in yellow brick laid in header bond rises east of the boiler house.

Building 13's northeast corner abuts Building 11, a steel-and-brick edifice erected in 1949 to serve as a dye house and later utilized as a warehouse. Like Building 13, although Building 11 has only one level, it rises to two-story height. Building 11, the addition on Building 10's east elevation, and Building 12 (on Building 11's east side), are interconnected. The tall one-story steel-and-brick Building 12 encompasses a 1947 dye house, a 1949 addition at its south end, a 1964 addition at its southeast corner, and a 1966 addition that extends from the east elevation north of the 1964 addition.

The tall one-story, flat-roofed, brick-and-steel warehouse (Building 8) northwest of Building 11 was also erected in 1964. Building 8 adjoins additions to Building 10's east elevation on the south, additions to Building 9's east elevation on the west, and Building 7 to the east.

Cone Mills constructed three tall one-story, interconnected, brick, concrete, and steel edifices (Buildings 5, 6, and 7) north of Buildings 11 and 12 in 1967. A one-story, steel-frame, metal-sided, late 1950s-early 1960s welding shed (Building 22) stands north of Building 5. To the east, three tall one-story, flat-roofed, brick, concrete, and steel edifices—Building 4 (1967), Building 3 (1975), and Building 2 (1985)—also retain interior connectivity. A one-story, front-gable-roofed, steel-frame, metal-sheathed, late 1960s-early 1970s equipment shed (Building 23) is southeast of Building 2.

Building 18, located north of Building 17 and east of Building 15, comprises a two-story 1961 south warehouse with an east loading dock and a one-story office wing at its north end. A 1963 addition extends from the office's north elevation. Approximately two-thirds of the warehouse (the west section) has been removed with the exception of its poured-concrete foundation.

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Two small one-story guard houses stand outside of the south entrance gate and in the parking lot northeast of the office. A large steel-frame, corrugated-metal-sided warehouse (Building 1) was erected in 1975 on the main entrance drive's east side.

## Site Evolution

Historic photographs, Sanborn maps, and site plans illustrate Granite Mill's growth. These sources and company records provide valuable information regarding building construction and demolition.

In addition to Buildings 9, 10 (1844, 1881) and 15 (1886), several no-longer-extant structures are visible in 1891 and 1899 photographs (Figures 1 and 2). A one-story brick hyphen connected a one-story-on-basement, seven-bay-long brick power house to Building 10's south elevation. A one-story, three-bay-long, shed-roofed wing projected from the power house's south elevation. A tall, square, tapered, brick smokestack stood near the wing's southeast corner. West of Building 10, a one-story frame wheel house rose above the tall granite walls of the flood gate and wheel pit enclosure on the dam's east side. West of the 1886 mill, a two-story, six-bay-long, brick power house with a tall, square, tapered, brick smokestack adjacent to its south elevation was linked via a short brick hyphen to a one-story, twelve-bay-long, brick dye house that paralleled the Haw River. A rectangular, one-story, brick building that housed weaving and carding operations was east of Building 10. Many mill employees lived in small, one-story, weatherboarded, company-built houses north and east of the industrial complex. A three-story brick building, likely a company store, stood on the mill village's west side. A four-story brick roller mill was south of Granite Mill between East Main Street and the railroad.<sup>1</sup>

The two-story, brick, six-bay-wide, circa 1881 structure that remains at Building 10's northeast corner housed weaving operations. By 1915, a 300-foot-long, one-bay-wide, elevated "tramway" facilitated movement from that structure to Building 15. The flat-roofed, open-sided passage ran north-south between the weave room and Building 10 to Building 15's northwest corner.<sup>2</sup>

The January 1924 Sanborn map illustrates that a one-story brick picker room extended east from the weaving/carding building's south section to a one-story, brick, two-room, twelve-bay-long building with a north-south axis that was then used for cotton sorting and staging. A square 10,000-gallon

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<sup>1</sup> Granite Mill, circa 1891, photograph from the Haw River Historical Association Museum's collection; Granite Mill, circa 1899 photograph in George Fillmore Swain, Joseph Austin Holmes, and Edward W. Myers, *North Carolina Geological Survey Bulletin No. 8, Papers on the Waterpower in North Carolina: A Preliminary Report* (Raleigh: Guy V. Barnes, 1899), 153.

<sup>2</sup> "Holt-Granite, Haw River," circa 1915 sketch site plans in notebook, "Holt-Granite Manufacturing Company," Folder 9, Box 29, Biberstein, Bowles, Meacham, and Reed Records, MS0148, J. Murrey Atkins Library, Special Collections, UNC-Charlotte; "Graham, N.C.," Sanborn Map Sheet 8, January 1924.



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reservoir south of the weaving/carding building supplied the mill's fire suppression system. The two-story-on-basement brick office on the reservoir's south side had an almost-flat roof and projecting entrance and stair tower on its south elevation. The dye house west of Building 15 had been demolished and a one-story-on-basement machine shop erected near Building 15's southwest corner. A short platform extended from the north end of the cotton sorting/staging building to 150-foot-long east-west loading platform that terminated at the one-story weave room at the weaving/carding building's west end. A one-story cotton warehouse and a shed stood on the platform's north side.<sup>3</sup>

Although little construction transpired during the Great Depression, Proximity Manufacturing Company erected a six-room brick house and a garage in the mill village in 1930 for a plant supervisor. The machine shop that had been constructed sometime between 1915 and 1924 was enlarged in 1935, creating a two-part structure. The original south section was four bays wide and six bays long. The additions comprised a two-bay-wide and four-bay-long wing on its east side and a four-bay-wide and seven-bay-long north structure. As the economy recovered, Proximity Manufacturing Company completed in 1937 the sizable warehouse (Building 16) and the elevated passage that connects it to Building 15's south end. A covered platform linked the loading dock beneath the elevated passage to the machine shop's east elevation (Figures 3 and 4).<sup>4</sup>

A series of additions that allowed for increased production capacity following World War II necessitated the demolition of late-nineteenth-century structures east of Building 10 including the picker room, the carding/weaving building, and the dye house. Building 12 (the 1947 dye house) and its 1949-1966 additions; the 1949 additions on Building 9 and 10's east side, Building 8 (1964) and Building 7 (1967) occupy this area. Other significant improvements during this period included the two-story 1948 addition on Building 15's east side that almost doubled its square footage. In the property's southwest quadrant, east of Building 16, Cone Mills erected a sizable one-story-on-basement warehouse (Building 17) in 1952 (Figures 3 and 4).

The acreage north and east of Building 12 contained a few mill houses, but was predominantly open until Cone Mills constructed Buildings 4, 5, 6, and 7 in 1967, Building 3 in 1975, and Building 2 in 1985. The early-twentieth-century office south of Building 12 was used as such until its 1961 replacement with Building 18's office wing. Cone Mills removed the elevated passage between Buildings 10 and 15 to construct the 1980 warehouse (Building 13) that now links the structures. The 1935 machine shop west of Building 15 was demolished after 1993.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> "History of Cone Mills, 1912-1937," Series 5.1, Cone Mills Corporation Records, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill (hereafter abbreviated UNC-CH); Granite Finishing Plant, 1937, 1951, and 1956 photographs from the Haw River Historical Association Museum's collection.

<sup>5</sup> Cone Mills Corporation, "Granite Finishing Works: Haw River, NC," site plan, June 15, 1993.

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A one-story, flat-roofed, corrugated-metal-sided, elevated passage supported by steel posts and beams extended west above the entrance drive from the south section of the 1975 Building 1's west elevation to the upper level of Building 18's south elevation. The passage between the two warehouses was removed after 1993.<sup>6</sup>

## Inventory

In order to facilitate the property's management, Cone Mills assigned numbers to some buildings. However, as every historic edifice did not have a number, new building numbers have been assigned for the purposes of this document. The following inventory list, which begins at the complex's northeast corner and moves clockwise around the property, delineates each building by the newly assigned numbering system. Principal resource headings are in bold and underlined. Subheadings for interconnected buildings are in bold. Building dates reflect the year of construction completion. Freestanding buildings erected after 1967, which is the end of the period of significance, are noncontributing.

Buildings 2, 3, and 13 post-date 1967, but are deemed contributing as they are part of the interconnected mill and warehouse complex. However, they do not individually possess significance for their association with the historic mill.

Much of the site has a 122 East Main Street address. The remaining address range is 114, 116, 180, 218, 222, 224, and 226 East Main Street.

### **Finished Goods Warehouse (Building 1), 1975, Noncontributing Building, 218 East Main Street**

A large, steel-frame, corrugated-metal-sided, flat-roofed, T-shaped warehouse (Building 1) erected in 1975 is located on the main entrance drive's east side. The one-level structure rises to a two-story height above a formed-concrete foundation. The warehouse is at a higher grade than the road bed, necessitating a grass embankment and a concrete retaining wall. On the south elevation (fronting Main Street), a projecting sign encompasses large letters spelling "Cone" and the company's pine cone logo. Apart from doors, the south, east, and west walls are blind.

The primary access to the building is from the north. A one-story, two-bay, shed-roofed, enclosed loading dock projects from the north elevation near its west end. Steel steps with metal-pipe railings lead to the single-leaf steel door in the loading dock's east wall. East of the loading dock, on the warehouse's north elevation, four small sliding windows illuminate the offices that line the wall. A

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

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single-leaf steel door at the corridor's east end provides interior access. Further east, a small, square, flat-roofed, concrete-block structure stands next to the warehouse's north elevation.

Two tall, wide, corrugated-metal roll-up doors pierce the north elevation near its east end. At the building's northeast corner, a concrete drive leads to a smaller corrugated-metal roll-up door and single-leaf steel door on the east elevation. A steel cage secures the upper run of the straight steel ladder that rises to the roof near the east elevation's center.

Formed-concrete steps with a metal-pipe railing lead to the single-leaf steel door on the west block's east wall. A small, corrugated-metal-sided, shed-roofed room with a concrete-block foundation projects from the east elevation south of the stairs.

The structural-steel frame allows for an open floor plan. Square steel posts and I-beams support flat trusses and the corrugated metal roof. The unfinished poured-concrete floor provides a durable work surface. One-story frame walls enclose the offices in the building's northwest section. Single-leaf wood doors with glazed upper sections open into each office. Linear fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from steel ceiling beams. Surface-mounted metal conduit houses electrical wiring.

## **Guard House 1, late 1950s-early 1960s, Contributing Building, 122 East Main Street**

The small, one-story, rectangular guard house outside of the south entrance gate has a corrugated-metal flat roof with deep eaves. Three formed-concrete steps with a metal-pipe railing provide access to the entrance on the west elevation. The building rests on a tall painted-concrete-block foundation. Aluminum-frame windows fill each wall's upper half above painted plywood panels. The east window assembly includes a short sliding sash.

## **Guard House 2, late 1950s-early 1960s, Contributing Building, 122 East Main Street**

A small, one-story, square guard house stands in the parking lot northeast of the 1961 office (Building 18). Four formed-concrete steps with a square-bar metal railing lead to the entrance on the south elevation. A tall painted-concrete-block foundation elevates the building above parking lot grade. The corrugated-metal flat roof's deep eaves shelter paired aluminum-frame windows that fill the upper half of each wall above painted plywood panels.

## **Offices and Finished Goods Warehouse (Building 18), 1961, 1963, Noncontributing Building, 122 East Main Street**

Building 18, located on the entrance drive's west side northeast of Building 17, comprises the remaining east section of the two-story, flat-roofed, steel-frame, 1961 warehouse. A ten-bay loading

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dock spans its east side. A one-story, flat-roofed, concrete-block, 1961 office wing extends from the warehouse's north end. The one-story, flat-roofed, corrugated-metal-sided, 1963 addition on the office's north elevation doubled the administrative space.

Corrugated-metal panels sheathe the warehouse's north, south, and east elevations. Approximately two-thirds of the warehouse (the west section) has been removed with the exception of its poured-concrete foundation, leaving the building without a west wall. On the remaining portion of the south elevation, a single-leaf steel door provides access to the warehouse's lower level. Two openings have been cut into the wall near the second story's east and west ends. Above the openings, an almost-full-width band of multipane steel-frame windows illuminates the interior. Metal panels cover the north elevation's identical window band.

Due to the site's sloping grade, the ten-bay loading dock on the warehouse's east elevation is at second-story level. Corrugated-metal panels clad the walls above a concrete-block and formed-concrete foundation. A straight run of steel stairs with a metal-pipe railing leads to the single-leaf entrance near the loading dock's south end. The change in elevation allows for a tall, wide service door in the south foundation wall.

Structural-steel posts and beams support the warehouse, while flat trusses carry the loading dock roof system. The poured-concrete first floor and concrete-slab second floor are unfinished. Linear fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from steel ceiling beams. Surface-mounted metal conduit houses electrical wiring.

Single-leaf doors in the warehouse and loading dock's north elevations lead into the 1961 office, which has white-painted concrete-block exterior walls. The north, south, and west elevations are standard block, but masons executed the blind east elevation with alternating groups of four decorative blocks cast with a triangular motif and smooth-face blocks. The south wall is also windowless. The 1963 office wing covers most of the 1961 building's north elevation, but one tall, narrow window remains on the addition's east side. West of the addition, a three-horizontal-pane metal sash fills a square window opening. A straight steel ladder with a steel-cage-secured upper run rises to the roof. Narrow formed-concrete steps lead down to a single-leaf steel door in the warehouse's north elevation. Above the stairwell, a full-height aluminum-frame curtain wall encloses the hyphen between the 1961 and 1963 office sections.

Corrugated-metal panels cover the 1963 office's concrete-block walls. The east and west elevations are blind. Two tall, tinted-glass, metal-frame windows fill the north elevation's east and west bays. At the wall's center, a straight concrete ramp with a metal railing leads to a concrete landing adjacent to the recessed central entrance. The corrugated metal roof shelters two single-leaf wood doors. Long,

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thin, taupe, rough-face concrete masonry units create low planting beds that extend across the north elevation and the east elevation's north section. Evergreen shrubs fill the planters.

Open concrete steps with square metal railings lead to the concrete landing adjacent to the entrance in the hyphen's east curtain wall. Slender square posts support the flat-roofed metal canopy above the entrance. A narrow elevated planter matching those to the north spans the landing's east foundation wall.

On the interior, gypsum-board-sheathed frame partition walls to create offices, laboratories, conference, and storage rooms of various sizes, as well as a canteen and restrooms. The 1963 addition's central north-south corridor features wood-paneled walls. Simple wood baseboards, chair rails, and crown molding embellish the offices. Light-wood-veneered doors secure most rooms. Dropped aluminum-frame ceilings comprise acoustical tiles and fluorescent lighting panels. Vinyl-composition tile and commercial-grade carpeting cover the floors. In the 1961 office, almost-full-height fabric-covered cubicle walls subdivide some areas.

## **Lint House, circa 1952, Contributing Building**

The small, one-story, rectangular lint house that stands between Buildings 17 and 16 has a north-south orientation. A low-front-gable concrete roof tops variegated-brick nine-to-one-common bond walls. A large flat-roofed vent pierces the roof. A short wood-plank ramp leads to the single-leaf steel door on the north elevation.

## **Buildings 15-17 and Additions, 1886, 1937, 1948, 1952, 1957, Contributing Building**

### **Mill and Additions (Building 15), 1886, 1937, 1948, 1957, 122 East Main Street**

Building 15, located in the complex's southwest quadrant, has a north-south orientation paralleling the Haw River. The mill and its additions manifest the evolution from heavy-timber-frame and load-bearing brick construction to steel framing with brick curtain walls. The two-story 1886 structure is twenty bays long and four bays wide. The brick walls are executed in five-to-one common bond with corbelled cornices at the top of each slightly recessed bay. Alternating stretcher- and double-header-coursed lintels span the segmental-arched window openings. The original multipane wood sash were removed in the twentieth century and twenty-four-pane steel sash with six-pane upper and lower hoppers installed above cast-stone sills. A few window openings have been enclosed with running-bond red brick that is flush with the adjacent wall plane. Brick buttresses with slanted concrete caps were added at regular intervals to insure the west wall's stability. Stepped wooden rafter ends support deep eaves.

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A two-bay-wide and one-bay-deep brick restroom tower extends from the west elevation's center. Tall, narrow, sixteen-pane steel sash with four-pane upper and lower hoppers illuminate the restrooms. Three of the four window openings on the west elevation and are infilled with slightly recessed common-bond brick. A one-story, concrete-shed-roofed room on the tower's south side houses a pump. The elevated, one-story, four-bay-long and two-bay-deep, brick-and-steel 1937 addition that connects Building 15's southwest corner to Building 16's northwest corner was erected in conjunction with Building 16.

The 1937 addition wraps around the three-stage 1886 entrance and stair tower located at the center of the mill's south elevation. The tower was originally topped with a tall pyramidal hip roof with flared eaves, but is now capped by a flat metal roof. Each elevation of the third stage, which projects above the addition roof, comprises a slightly recessed window panel with a corbelled cornice above three corbelled round-arched lintels. Two tall, narrow, sixteen-pane steel sash flank the central bay, which features decorative brick lattice in its upper section.

Enormous multipane steel sash with concrete sills and lintels span each bay of the 1937 addition. Six-pane hoppers provide ventilation. The very-low-pitched gable roof system includes projecting rafter ends and deep eaves on the east and west elevations. Steel posts and beams support the addition, allowing ample room for loading docks underneath. A concrete platform and ramp with metal-pipe railings span the west three bays of the 1886 mill's south elevation, terminating at the 1886 entrance and stair tower's west elevation. The service door that was added at the top of the ramp has been infilled with a single-leaf steel door and brick. A small, square, flat-roofed, concrete-block addition projects from the tower's south elevation. The adjacent window openings have been enclosed with brick. A concrete loading dock with metal-pipe railings projects from the corrugated-steel roll-up service door in the east bay of the 1886 mill's south elevation. Two formed concrete steps lead to the single-leaf steel door on the service door's west side.

Above the east loading dock, an elevated, one-story, one-bay-deep, brick, 1957 hyphen links Buildings 15 and 16. The hyphen abuts the 1937's addition's east wall. A continuous band of alternating sixteen-pane steel sash with four-pane upper and lower hoppers and twenty-four-pane steel sash with six-pane upper and lower hoppers pierce the hyphen's east elevation.

Northeast of the hyphen, a sizable, two-story, brick-and-steel 1948 addition spans most of the 1886 mill's length. The addition's east elevation is six bays long. A three-stage, three-bay-wide and one-bay-deep stair tower projects from the second bay from the north end. A round cast-stone medallion ornaments the pointed parapet at the tower's center. Concrete coping and window lintels contrast with red brick walls laid in seven-to-one common bond. Six-pane steel sash with four-pane upper hoppers illuminate the tower's top stage, while sixteen-pane steel sash with four-pane upper and lower hoppers

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light the lower levels. Concrete steps with a metal-pipe railing lead to the single-leaf steel door that provides access to the main level.

South of the stair tower, the east elevation's four wide bays contain alternating sixteen-pane steel sash with four-pane upper and lower hoppers and twenty-four-pane steel sash with six-pane upper and lower hoppers. The windows in the bay north of the tower have been infilled with brick. The addition's north elevation is not visible from the exterior due to the construction of the adjacent 1980 warehouse (Building 13).

A large one-story, flat-roofed monitor clad with corrugated metal panels rises above the south section of the 1948 addition's roof. Three-horizontal-pane jalousie windows and louvered metal vents fill small openings on each elevation. A single-leaf steel door in the north wall allows roof access.

A large, two-story, square, flat-roofed, windowless addition sheathed in corrugated-metal panels extends from the 1948 addition's south elevation. A wide double-leaf steel door pierces its south wall.

## *Interior*

The mill's open plan accommodated sizable looms and fabric finishing equipment. The 1886 mill's east wall and the south wall's upper story were removed to allow unimpeded access to the 1937, 1948, and 1957 additions. The demolition also facilitated the installation of enormous equipment at the building's center. Cone Mills utilized the lower level for fabric finishing and storage. The upper floor housed fabric drying, curing, tenting, and finishing equipment as well as an inspections department. The steel mezzanine elevated curing ovens beneath the roof monitor.

The walls have been painted throughout the building. Single-leaf steel doors hang in some interior doorways, but between most areas kalamein doors slide on steel tracks and are held open by weighted pulleys. A few corrugated-metal roll-up fire doors are mounted above door lintels. Fluorescent lights, sprinkler system pipes, equipment pipes, and rigid metal ventilation system ductwork hang from the ceilings. Surface-mounted metal conduit houses electrical wiring.

In the 1886 mill, chamfered heavy-timber posts originally rose to wood beams beneath wide flush-board roof decking. However, a few feet at the top of each post were removed and supplementary steel I-beams inserted, likely in conjunction with the 1948 addition, to carry the structural load. Steel collars and plates connect the posts and beams. The 1886 mill had a wood floor system comprised of plank decking topped with hardwood boards. The upper-level floor has been covered with plywood panels and a more durable poured-concrete floor installed in the basement. The restrooms in the west tower are simply finished with white porcelain toilets and wall-mounted sinks and painted-wood stall

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dividers and doors. Partial-height plywood partition walls create a large room near the upper level's northwest corner.

Steel I-beams and posts support the 1937 addition, which has a steel-panel floor. In the addition's southeast section, full-height plywood partition walls enclose a room illuminated by band of fixed, tinted-glass, single-pane, rectangular windows on its west elevation. Single-leaf doors on the room's north and south elevations provide interior access.

The 1948 addition has a steel I-beam and post structural system and concrete floors. The large roof monitor that rises above the addition's south section allows light to permeate the interior. Steel I-beams and posts and a steel-grate floor carry the equipment mezzanine's load. Steel steps with metal-pipe railings facilitate access to the mezzanine. The stair tower in the 1948 addition's northeast section links all floors. The steel-and-concrete staircase has concrete landing and metal-pipe railings. A plywood railing with a flat cap secures the top landing. The freight elevator located near the center of the 1948 addition's north elevation is accessible from Buildings 15 and 13.

The 1957 hyphen is characterized by a steel I-beam and post structure, concrete floors, and an open plan.

## **Warehouse (Building 16), 1937, 114 East Main Street**

This four-story-on-basement building's red brick walls are laid in running bond punctuated by random courses comprising alternating stretchers and headers. The eight-bay-long and four-bay-wide warehouse has a very low-pitched-gable roof system with projecting wood rafter ends that support deep eaves on the north and south walls. Terra-cotta coping caps flat parapets on the east and west elevations. Corbelled cornices ornament the slightly recessed bays. Bands of steel sash with concrete sills and lintels span the third- and fourth-story bays on all elevations. Every five-section window unit comprises a central twenty-pane sash with an eight-pane hopper and four flanking fifteen-pane sash with six-pane hoppers. The first- and second-story window openings have been enclosed with running-bond brick and the concrete sills and lintels removed. On the west elevation, the sloping grade allows for full-height basement windows that match those remaining in the upper levels. A single-leaf steel door fills a portion of the west elevation's south basement bay.

A square, flat-roofed, brick restroom tower projects from the north elevation's northwest corner. Six-pane steel sash on the tower's south elevation illuminate the restrooms. A one-story, flat-concrete-roofed room on the tower's east elevation houses a pump. A corrugated-steel roll-up door serves the loading dock between the restroom tower and the rectangular, flat-roofed, brick stair and elevator tower that rises to the east on the north elevation. High three-pane steel sash pierce the stair tower's north wall. A concrete loading dock extends east from the tower. The third bay from the north



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elevation's east end contains a single-leaf steel door and a corrugated-steel roll-up service door fills the fourth bay. A formed-concrete-lined light well on the east elevation allows for full-height basement windows that match the upper-level sash. A small, one-story, shed-roofed, corrugated-metal-sided office projects from the east elevation near the first floor's center.

## *Interior*

Building 16 displays a high level of integrity. The steel I-beam and post structure is exposed on each level. The original floor system, a thick, wide-plank decking topped with hardwood floors, is substantially intact. The undersides of the floor and roof decking are visible in the spaces below. In a few locations, roof leaks have resulted in floor warping, buckling, and deterioration. The brick walls have been painted.

Cone Mills employees inspected and packed fabric on the on the first level, processed and inspected cloth on the second floor, and stored fabric bolts on the upper two levels. All four floors retain open plans with the exception of a few frame partition walls on the first and second levels that create offices and storage rooms lining the east elevation. On the same floors, the elevated walkways between Buildings 16 and 17 terminate at wide door openings between most sections metal fire doors slide on steel tracks and are held open by weighted pulleys. Metal roll-up fire doors are mounted above the elevator and stair tower doors on the north elevation, as well as some of the wide door openings between buildings. Slender, flat, steel railings secure each narrow, open run of steel steps that turn at small landings in the stair tower. Near the building's northeast corner, an interior stair with wide steel steps and metal-pipe railings provides additional basement access.

Linear fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from the ceilings. Rigid metal ductwork and sizable air handling units remain from the air conditioning systems configured for the basement and first and second floors in the late 1960s. Surface-mounted metal conduit houses electrical wiring.

The basement initially served as a fabric boarding area. Cone Mills later added gypsum-board-sheathed partition walls, dropped acoustical-tile ceilings, and vinyl-composition-tile floors to create offices, laboratories, and a mechanical equipment room. The basement's west section remains open and retains wood floors.

## **Warehouse (Building 17), 1952, 116 East Main Street**

This one-story-on-basement, flat-roofed, six-bay-long and three-bay-wide warehouse stands east of Building 16 on the west side of the complex's primary entrance drive. The brick, steel, and concrete building encompasses approximately 12,500 square feet. Running-bond red-brick-veneer walls rise above a formed-concrete foundation. Terra-cotta coping caps flat parapets on the east and west

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elevations. Six large window openings on each of the north and south elevations have been filled with brick. Two small square louvered vents pierce the south wall. One matching vent is located at the north elevation's center. A single-leaf steel door with a glazed upper section is located near the north wall's east end. Near the west wall's south end, two tall sixteen-pane steel-sash windows illuminated the basement cafeteria. The glass has been painted white. An enclosed flight of steel stairs rises on the west wall from grade to Building 17's main level.

The lint house is located west of the stairs, beneath two one-story, corrugated-metal-sided, gable-roofed, elevated passages supported by steel posts and beams that span the distance between Buildings 17 and 16. The walkways have narrow-board floors and corrugated-metal roofs. A matching passage connects the buildings' lower levels. The fourth and southernmost walkway comprises a straight section that extends east from Building 16's lower level up a ramp to Building 17's main level.

The loading dock door opening near the south end of Building 17's east elevation has been enclosed with plywood. A one-story, flat-roofed, three-bay loading dock erected in conjunction with the warehouse projects from the east wall's north end. Three corrugated-metal roll-up doors pierce the addition's south elevation, which is sheathed with corrugated metal panels. Steel steps with a steel railing lead to the single-leaf steel door at the wall's southeast corner. A wide sliding steel door at the north elevation's west end provides additional access. On the north and east elevations, translucent corrugated-resin panels enclose the walls above the formed-concrete foundation. Metal coping caps the roof edges.

## *Interior*

Building 17's main level, which served as a fabric staging and storage area, has an open plan punctuated by three rows of steel I-beams and posts. This structural system supports flat steel roof trusses and wood decking boards. The concrete-block exterior walls have been painted, but the poured-concrete floor remains unfinished. Linear fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from the roof trusses. Surface-mounted metal conduit houses electrical wiring. A roll-up corrugated metal door at the building's northeast corner provides access to the loading dock addition, which has an open interior, a poured-concrete floor, and flat steel trusses spanning steel beams beneath wood roof decking. The sliding kalamein door at the warehouse's northwest corner secures the entrance to the elevated passage leading to Building 16. A small restroom with a white porcelain toilet and wall-mounted sink is north of the door.

In the lower level, the tall steel-reinforced concrete columns with mushroom capitals that buttress the main level are fully exposed. The basement has an unfinished poured-concrete floor. The large, open area served as an employee dining room. Linear fluorescent lights, fans, and sprinkler system pipes hang from the ceiling. Metal electrical conduit is mounted to the walls.

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Concrete-block partition walls enclose the storage rooms, office, kitchen/cafeteria, and canteen that line the east elevation and restrooms at the dining room's northwest corner. The southernmost room, the kitchen/cafeteria, has a dropped acoustical-tile ceiling, a faux-cobblestone sheet-vinyl floor, and wallpapered and painted walls. The interconnected canteen to the north has a dropped acoustical-tile ceiling and an unfinished poured-concrete floor.

## **Building 9 (1844), Building 10 (1881, 1949), Building 8 (1964), Buildings 2-7 (1967, 1975, 1985), and Building 13 (1980), Contributing Building**

### **Mill and Additions (Building 9), 1844, 1881, 1949, 122 East Main Street**

This L-shaped building at the complex's northwest corner is the site's original mill erected in 1844 and enlarged in 1881. The north-south alignment parallels the nearby Haw River, which initially powered the mill. The edifice comprises a seven-bay-long and three-bay-wide main block and a three-bay-wide east wing that includes a stair tower at its east end. The building was originally three stories tall, but the fourth level was added in conjunction with the 1881 construction of Building 10 to the south. The heavy-timber-frame structure's load-bearing brick walls are laid in in five-to-one common bond with corbelled cornices and a stepped parapet on the north elevation. Aluminum coping caps the east and west parapets.

Alternating stretcher- and double-header lintels span the segmental-arched window openings on each elevation. The remaining late-nineteenth-century twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, wood sash are in deteriorated condition, as are the wood sills, lintels, and frames. Some windows were removed in the mid-twentieth century and smaller metal sash and brick infill installed. In other instances, window openings have been completely enclosed with red brick that is flush with the adjacent wall plane. Building 10 encapsulates all but the two west bays of Building 9's south elevation.

A straight run of steel steps with metal-pipe railings rises from ground level at the building's southwest corner to the steel landing adjacent to the single-leaf steel door with a glazed upper section in the west elevation's south bay. The stair also provides access to the fire pump control house erected west of Building 9 in the late 1950s or early 1960s.

The tall pyramidal hip roof that originally topped the four-stage stair tower at the east wing's east end was replaced with a flat roof by 1937. Each wall of the tower's upper stage, which projects above the roofs of the surrounding 1881 and 1949 additions, features a slightly recessed panel with a corbelled cornice. A wide segmental-arched door opening pierces the north elevation. The opening has been infilled with brick around a single-leaf steel door with a glazed upper section that allows rooftop access

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to the 1949 addition north of the tower. The three window openings to the west have also been partially enclosed with brick around short metal sash.

A two-story-on-basement, brick, flat-roofed 1949 addition extends from the main block's east elevation, filling the space between Building 9 and Building 8, the 1964 warehouse to the east. The 1949 addition covers all but the upper story of the main block's east wall and the east wing's north elevation. Metal sash with three horizontal panes pierce the addition's north wall.

## *Interior*

The mill retains a predominately open plan. Although each level has been modified to some degree, the building maintains good integrity. The exterior brick walls have been painted throughout. Between rooms and at corridor entrances, kalamein doors slide on steel tracks and are held open by weighted pulleys. In a few areas, corrugated-metal roll-up fire doors are mounted above door lintels. Fluorescent lights, sprinkler system pipes, and ventilation equipment and ductwork hang from the ceilings. Surface-mounted metal conduit houses electrical wiring.

The main block's ground level comprises an east-west corridor at the building's south end and a one six-bay-long and two-bay-wide storage room adjacent to the west elevation. The crawl space under the main block's east half is accessible from this room. Ten-pane steel sash with four-pane hoppers have been installed in the deep window openings on the west elevation, while two high, four-pane, steel sash fill the north elevation. Heavy-timber beams span the room. The walls have been parged and painted and an unfinished concrete floor poured. On the south corridor's west wall, a single-leaf steel door allows exterior egress. Twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, wood sash remain on the south elevation. A straight run of wood steps with square wood newels and a flat board handrail rises to the second level.

The narrow second-level corridor provides access to a low-ceilinged open room where Cone Mills stored machine parts. The original wood floor system, comprised of plank decking topped with hardwood boards, is substantially intact. Chamfered heavy-timber posts support wood beams. However, supplementary steel beams and posts, likely added in 1949, carry the structural load. Steel collars and plates attach the posts and beams. Twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, wood sash remain on this level. A door at the room's southeast corner leads to Building 10.

An equipment shop with an open plan, high ceiling, chamfered heavy-timber posts, and wood beams occupies the third level. Cone Mills added supplementary steel beams and the frame partition walls that enclose the offices adjacent to the west wall. The offices have faux-wood-paneled walls and dropped acoustical-tile ceilings. Two door openings in the east wall facilitate access to the six-bay-wide, two-story-on-basement, 1949 addition that served as a carpentry shop. The addition has a steel

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I-beam and post structural system and an unfinished poured-concrete floor. The wide door opening in the addition's east wall leads to Building 8, while a single-leaf steel door in the north elevation's east bay allows exterior access.

South of the carpentry shop, a wide corridor in Building 9's projecting east section extends to the stair tower. Original wood steps with square wood newel posts and a solid vertical-board railing rise to landings between each floor.

Cone Mills updated level four in the mid-twentieth-century to serve as a laboratory and offices. The laboratory is open with the exception of gypsum-board partition walls that enclose the offices in the northwest corner. An acoustical-tile ceiling was installed several feet below the wood rafters and roof decking boards, which appear to be intact, as are the chamfered heavy-timber posts that support them. The vinyl-composition-tile floor is in poor condition. A narrow corridor leads to three small offices in the east wing, which were modified in the same manner as the laboratory. In the stair tower east of the offices, the upper run of steps leads to a raised-four-panel door that provides access to the top of the tower.

The stair's lowest run terminates in the basement, which comprises two small rooms under Building 9's east section and a large open room under the 1949 carpentry shop addition. Near the south end of the addition's east wall, a single-leaf steel door with a glazed upper section secures a small room. Inside, the concrete-lined channel that diverts water run-off from the basement empties into a culvert that continues under the basement's poured-concrete floor to the river.

## **Mill and Additions (Building 10), 1881, 1949, 122 East Main Street**

The four-story, eleven-bay-long and four-bay wide, 1881 edifice that extends south from Building 9's south elevation more than doubled the plant's square footage. The variegated brick walls are executed in five-to-one common bond with corbelled cornices and stepped parapets on the north and south elevations. Aluminum coping caps the east and west parapets.

Alternating stretcher- and double-header lintels span the segmental-arched window openings on the 1881 building's west and south elevations. The extant twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, wood sash are in poor condition, as are the wood sills, lintels, and frames. Cone Mills removed some windows in the mid-twentieth century and installed shorter steel sash with three horizontal panes and red brick infill. In other instances, entire window openings have been enclosed with red brick that is flush with the adjacent wall plane. The window enclosure in the south elevation's east bay facilitated the 1949 installation of an elevator at that location. Round metal ventilation ducts and fire suppression system pipes project from the west elevation.

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A single-leaf door in the west elevation's south bay allows basement egress. Formed concrete steps with metal-pipe railings rise from ground level at the building's southwest corner to a single-leaf steel door with a glazed upper section in the second bay from the south elevation's west end. The stair also provides access to the north entrance of the boiler house (Building 19) and a door at Building 13's northwest corner.

Between 1951 and 1956, Cone Mills painted two long sign bands with white fields and black capital block letters on the west elevation. The sign between the first and second stories reads "[illegible] Haw River." The sign between the second and third stories states the plant name: "Granite Finishing Works."

The two-story, brick, six-bay-wide, circa 1881 structure at Building 10's northeast corner originally housed weaving operations. The north elevation's upper story is intact, including six second-story twelve-over-twelve, double-hung, wood sash with wood sills, lintels, and frames. However, the lower half of the north wall was removed along with the entire south wall to allow unimpeded access to the first floor of the 1949 addition on Building 10's east side, which is south of the 1881 weaving room. This alteration also improved connectivity between Buildings 8, 11, and the 1949 carpentry shop addition that extends from Building 9's east elevation.

The two-story-on-basement, flat-roofed, brick-and-steel 1949 addition that projects from the 1881 mill's east elevation fills the space between Buildings 10 and 11. The addition's north end is open to Building 8, while the 1980 warehouse (Building 13) spans its south elevation. Three corrugated-metal roll-up service doors pierce the south wall.

## *Interior*

The 1881 mill initially had an open plan to accommodate weaving, spooling, and spinning operations. During the mid-twentieth century, Cone Mills installed frame partition walls, most comprising plywood or horizontal-board-sheathed lower sections and metal screen upper sections, on the lower two levels. This facilitated the ground floor's use as a carpentry shop and pipe fitting storage and boiler supply rooms. Level two housed paint and equipment (belt, sewing machine, and electric motor) shops. Cloth rolling machines and supply storage occupied the third floor. Partition walls were erected in the open room's east section to create a canteen accessible from the 1949 addition on Building 10's east side. The open upper level served as a supply warehouse.

Brick walls have been painted throughout the interior. The original wood floor system, comprised of plank decking topped with hardwood boards, is substantially intact. Chamfered heavy-timber posts originally rose to wood beams beneath wide flush-board roof decking. However, supplementary steel I-beams and posts, likely added in conjunction with the 1949 addition, now carry the structural load.

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Steel collars and plates attach to the steel posts to original tapered wood cushions below wood beams. Steel doors hang in some interior doorways, but between most mill and addition sections kalamein doors slide on steel tracks and are held open by weighted pulleys. In a few areas, corrugated-metal roll-up fire doors are mounted above door lintels. The 1949 modifications included the installation of a freight elevator at Building 10's southeast corner. Fluorescent lights, sprinkler system pipes, and rigid metal ventilation system ductwork hang from the ceilings. Surface-mounted metal conduit houses electrical wiring.

The 1949 addition on Building 10's east side has a steel post-and-beam structural system and a brick south wall. In the upper level, gypsum-board partition walls create offices and laboratories with hardwood floors, faux-wood-paneled walls, and dropped acoustical-tile ceilings. The ceilings are several feet lower than the steel beams that support the wood board roof decking. The main level and basement have painted brick walls and unfinished poured-concrete floors. A concrete ramp with metal-pipe railings slopes down to the basement from Building 10's lowest level. The basement accommodates mechanical equipment and tall metal storage tanks.

## **Warehouse (Building 8), 1964, 122 East Main Street**

The 5,800-square-foot, flat-roofed, 1964 warehouse abuts the two-story 1949 addition to Building 10's east elevation on the south, the two-story 1949 addition to Building 9's east elevation on the west, and the tall one-story 1967 Building 7 to the east. The 1964 warehouse and Building 7 have only one level, but both rise to two-story height. Red-brick running-bond veneer capped with aluminum coping sheathes concrete-block walls. Aluminum downspouts drain aluminum gutters at regular intervals.

A tall one-story, shed-roofed, concrete-block, late 1960s or early 1970s addition extends from the warehouse's north elevation, spanning the wall's lower section. Several square metal louvered vents pierce the addition's walls. A single-leaf steel door near the north elevation's west end provides interior access.

The elevated, one-story, flat-roofed, brick loading dock addition near the west elevation's north end has a roll-up corrugated service door on its north elevation. Site plans indicate that Cone Mills constructed this addition sometime between 1982 and 1993.

## ***Interior***

The structural system—comprised of perimeter steel I-beams, posts, and concrete-block walls—is completely exposed on the interior. Flat steel roof trusses support wide-board roof decking. Three-horizontal-pane jalousie windows illuminate the warehouse. At the building's northwest corner, steel steps rise in a straight run to a steel equipment mezzanine with metal-pipe railings. On the north

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elevation, a wide central service door and a single-leaf door in the wall's east section lead to the two-room north addition, which served as a fork-lift repair shop. On the east elevation, a sliding kalamein door and a roll-up corrugated-metal door allow egress into Building 7. Building 8's south end is open. The lower portion of the 1881 weaving room's north wall was removed to facilitate unimpeded access between Building 8 and the 1949 addition on Building 10's east elevation. Pendant fluorescent lights, sprinkler system pipes, and rigid metal ventilation system ductwork hang from the ceilings. Surface-mounted metal conduit houses electrical wiring.

## **Building 7, 1967, 180 East Main Street**

This 33,925-square-foot, flat-roofed structure abuts Building 8 (1964) to the south, Buildings 5 and 6 (1967) to the west, Building 4 (1967) to the north, and Buildings 12 and 11 (1947, 1949) to the east. All elevations are blind. Red-brick running-bond walls and pre-cast concrete roof panels enclose the three-bay-wide steel I-beam and post structure. Only the south wall is visible from the exterior. Although Building 7 has just one level, it rises to a two-story height. Aluminum coping caps the walls and aluminum downspouts drain aluminum gutters at regular intervals.

Buildings 4-7 are at a lower grade than the parking lots to the east and south, resulting in steep embankments. A long straight run of concrete steps with metal-pipe railings extends from the south parking lot to the concrete sidewalk at Building 4's south entrance. A double-leaf door is recessed in the entrance near the center of Building 7's east elevation. West of the entrance, four small square louvered vents pierce the south wall.

Building 7 has an open plan and a poured-concrete floor. The high ceilings accommodated rows of bleaching and sizing equipment as well as can dryers. Concrete-block walls and single-leaf steel doors enclose the one-story, one-bay-deep, steel-frame canteen at the building's southeast corner as well as the narrow one-story office, men's restroom, and men's locker room that extend west of the canteen on the south elevation. The equipment mezzanine above these rooms has a metal-pipe railing. Steel stairs with steel railings at the canteen's northwest corner provide access to the mezzanine. Frame walls and sliding doors enclose the narrow, one-story, two-bay wide room on the west elevation. Sliding and roll-up metal doors secure the tall wide service bay openings between buildings. Round fluorescent lights, sprinkler system pipes, ductwork, and equipment pipes hang from the ceiling. Square roof ventilators were installed at regular intervals.

## **Building 6, 1967, 180 East Main Street**

This 11,600-square-foot, flat-roofed structure, designed to house wet fabric processing, abuts Building 7 to the east and Building 5 to the north, west, and south. Although Building 6 has only one level, it rises to two-story height. Steel posts and beams support concrete-block walls and pre-cast concrete



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roof panels. The structural system is exposed on the interior, which has an open plan and a poured-concrete floor. Three tall wide service bay openings—one on the east wall and two on the north wall—facilitate access between Buildings 5 and 6. Sliding metal doors secure the northwest and east entrances. Linear fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from the beams.

## **Warehouse (Building 5), 1967, 180 East Main Street**

Cone Mills stored bolts of bleached cloth in this 15,885-square-foot, flat-roofed warehouse located north of Buildings 6 and 7 and south of Building 4. The north wall's east section abuts Building 3. Although the structure has only one level, it rises to two-story height. Steel posts and beams support red-brick running-bond exterior walls capped with aluminum coping and pre-cast concrete roof panels. The north elevation is blind. High square windows in the west elevation illuminate the interior. Aluminum downspouts drain aluminum gutters at regular intervals.

A corrugated-metal shed-roofed loading dock extends across much of Building 5's north elevation. The west wall and the north wall's west three bays are brick, while corrugated-metal panels enclose the north wall's remaining section. Two corrugated-metal roll-up service doors in the north wall's east and west sections and a single-leaf steel door near the loading dock's west end provide interior access. At the loading dock's east end, a corrugated-metal roll-up service doors and a single-leaf steel door with a glazed upper section allow egress into Building 3's southwest corner.

The structural system is exposed on the interior, which has an open plan and a poured-concrete floor. Building 6's concrete-block north elevation and two flanking narrow sections of Building 7's north wall serve as Building 5's south wall. Tall wide service bay openings facilitate access between the warehouses. Full-height brick walls create a room at Building 5's southeast corner that is accessible through Building 6. Within that room, a large service door opening on the south wall allows egress into Building 7. Linear fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from the ceiling beams.

## **Warehouse (Building 4), 1967, 224 East Main Street**

This 33,920-square-foot, flat-roofed warehouse abuts Building 3 on the west and Buildings 5, 6, and 7 on the south. Although the warehouse has only one level, it rises to a two-story height. Aluminum-coping-capped red-brick running-bond walls and pre-cast concrete roof panels enclose the steel I-beam and post structure, which is exposed on the interior. Aluminum downspouts drain aluminum gutters at regular intervals.

Buildings 4-7 are at a lower grade than the parking lots to the east and south, resulting in steep embankments. A long straight run of concrete steps with metal-pipe railings extends from the south parking lot to the concrete sidewalk at Building 4's south entrance. A plate-glass transom and

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sidelights surround the recessed double-leaf door. Above the entrance in second bay from the east end, large square louvered vents pierce the wall. In the easternmost bay, a metal ladder leads to a steel landing adjacent to a single-leaf steel door. The south elevation is blind.

The sidewalk continues east and then turns north at Building 4's southeast corner. A linear area on the buildings' south side contains a grass lawn and some deciduous and evergreen trees. A small brick hose house stands near the lawn's east end.

The east elevation fronts an open space between Building 4 and Building 2. Two full-height, one-bay-wide and deep additions built by 1976 extend from Building 4's southeast corner. The south addition, which was a lint house, has a single-leaf steel door on its east wall. The north addition, a refrigeration room, has a double-leaf steel door on its north elevation and an air conditioning water tower on its roof. The one-story, flat-concrete-roofed entrance vestibule to the north has single-leaf steel interior and exterior doors. On either side of the vestibule, regularly-spaced small square windows with concrete lintels span Building 4's east wall. A tall metal ladder rises to the roof.

The warehouse has an open plan and a poured-concrete floor. Concrete-block walls and single-leaf steel doors enclose the narrow, one-story offices, women's restroom, and women's locker room that line the south elevation. A metal-pipe railing safeguards the equipment mezzanine above the enclosure. Steel stairs with steel railings at the room's southeast and southwest corners provide access to the mezzanine. Five tall, wide service bay openings and two shorter service bay openings facilitate egress between Buildings 3 and 4. Sliding metal doors secure the two tall wide service bay openings between Buildings 4, 5, and 7. Linear fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from the ceiling.

## **Greige Goods Warehouse (Building 3), 1975, 224 East Main Street**

This 30,000-square-foot, flat-roofed warehouse is north of Buildings 4 and 5. Although the warehouse has only one level, it rises to two-story height. The structural system manifests the transition in industrial construction from brick to concrete. Pre-cast-concrete exterior wall panels rise above a formed-concrete foundation. The narrow, full-height wall panels are scored with rough-edged vertical grooves. All elevations are blind and capped with aluminum coping. Three tall louvered-metal vents pierce the west elevation. South of the vents, a corrugated-metal roll-up service doors and a single-leaf steel door with a glazed upper section lead to the loading dock that extends across much of Building 5's north elevation. Aluminum downspouts drain aluminum gutters at regular intervals.

The structural system is exposed on the interior, which has an open plan and a poured-concrete floor. Steel posts and beams support pre-cast concrete roof panels. The wall and roof panels have a smooth finish. Building 4's north elevation and the east section of Building 5's north elevation, both of which

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were originally exterior walls, serve as Building 3's south wall. Five tall, wide service bay openings and two shorter service bay openings facilitate access between Buildings 3 and 4. This was important as unprocessed fabric (greige goods) that had been cut on the machines housed in Building 4 was stored in Building 3 prior to finishing. One corrugated-metal roll-up service door in Building 5's north wall provides interior connectivity with Building 3. Linear fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from the beams.

## **Warehouse (Building 2), 1985, 224 East Main Street**

The northwest section of this 39,730-square-foot, flat-roofed warehouse abuts Building 3's east elevation. Although the warehouse has only one level, it rises to two-story height. However, most of the building's east and south walls are below the grade of the asphalt-paved parking lot that surrounds them. Unlike the other additions, the structural system is entirely concrete: reinforced-concrete posts and beams, pre-cast-concrete wall and roof panels, a formed-concrete foundation, and a poured-concrete floor. The narrow, full-height wall panels are scored with rough-edged vertical grooves. All elevations are blind and capped with aluminum coping. Aluminum downspouts drain aluminum gutters.

The building's northwest corner is inset to accommodate a one-story loading dock with three corrugated-metal roll-up service doors and a single-leaf steel door. To the west, an L-shaped passage and loading dock spans the distance between Buildings 2 and 3. Concrete steps with a metal-pipe railing lead to the single-leaf steel door with a glazed upper section at the passage's northwest corner. A corrugated-metal-roofed shed canopy shelters the corrugated-metal roll-up service door on the loading dock's north elevation. The corrugated-metal roll-up service door and single-leaf steel door on the loading dock's south wall open into the open area between Buildings 2 and 4. To the south, a single-leaf steel door provides egress at Building 2's southwest corner.

Inside, the structural system is exposed. Concrete posts and beams and wall and roof panels have a smooth finish. Linear fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from the beams.

## **Warehouse (Building 13), 1980, 122 East Main Street**

This 13,160-square-foot, flat-roofed, 1980 warehouse connects what were historically two separate mill and warehouse complexes. Building 13, designed to accommodate cloth staging, extends south from the south wall of the 1949 addition on Building 10's east side. Although the warehouse has only one level, the structure rises to a two-story height. Corrugated-metal wall and roof panels sheathe the steel I-beam and post structural system. The east and west walls, situated on a raised formed-concrete foundation, are blind. On the east elevation, a large, corrugated-metal, roll-up service door and a

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single-leaf steel door with a glazed upper section pierce the running-bond red brick wall. Building 13 terminates at the north wall of the 1948 addition on Building 15's east side.

## *Interior*

The open interior has an unfinished poured-concrete floor. The room's northwest corner is at a lower level in order to accommodate sizable equipment. In the northeast section, a concrete ramp with metal-pipe railings ameliorates the difference in grade. Three corrugated-metal roll-up service doors pierce the south wall of the 1949 addition that extends from Building 10's east elevation. Likewise, three corrugated-metal roll-up service doors in the north wall of the 1948 addition on Building 15's east elevation allow egress between the warehouses. West of those doors, the freight elevator in Building 15's northeast section is accessible from all sides of the shaft. A wide door opening in Building 15's north elevation is west of the elevator. Linear fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from steel beams.

## **Dye Storage House and Addition (Building 14), 1973, 1990, Noncontributing Building – 122 East Main Street**

This one-story low-front-gable-roofed warehouse, which was originally freestanding, has an east-west orientation. Corrugated-metal wall and roof panels sheathe the tapered steel post-and-beam structural system. Two sliding aluminum-frame windows pierce the east elevation. A large corrugated-metal roll-up service door in the east elevation's north section and a smaller similar door at the north elevation's center provide interior access. The west wall is concrete block.

A shed-roofed, corrugated-metal-sheathed, steel-frame, two-bay wide and one-bay-deep loading dock extends north from the warehouse's northwest corner. Wood steps and a wood railing lead to the single-leaf steel door on the dock's east elevation. A corrugated-metal roll-up service door is north of the entrance. The loading dock was erected at the same time as the warehouse.

In 1990, a 2,000-square-foot area between the warehouse and loading dock's west walls and Building 13's east elevation was enclosed to create a sizing room with blind corrugated-metal-panel north and south elevations. Square steel posts and I-beams elevate the addition above grade.

The one-story, flat-roofed, metal-panel-sided chiller house at the loading dock's northeast corner contains HVAC equipment. The building, erected between 1982 and 1993, has a poured-concrete foundation and a double-leaf steel door on its east elevation.

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## *Interior*

Cone Mills utilized the warehouse for dye storage. Wide door openings allow egress between the warehouse, loading dock, and sizing room, all of which have unfinished poured-concrete floors. The loading dock's west wall was removed in conjunction with the sizing room's construction, creating an open L-shaped space. In the warehouse and loading dock, insulation batts have been installed between steel framing members. Linear fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes hang from steel beams.

### **Dye House (Building 12), 1947, 1949, 1964, 1966, and Warehouse (Building 11), 1949, Contributing Building – 122 East Main Street**

#### **Dye House (Building 12), 1947, 1949, 1964, 1966,**

This 18,460-square-foot brick edifice encompasses a 1947 dye house that was originally freestanding, a 1949 addition at its south end, a 1964 addition at its southeast corner, and a 1966 addition that extends from the east elevation north of the 1964 addition. The 1964 and 1966 additions provided chemical storage. Although the dye house has only one level, it rises to two-story height. The 1949 addition's south elevation, executed in five-to-one common bond with a terra-cotta-coping-capped flat parapet, includes a three-bay-wide and one-bay-deep projection at its west end. In the west bay, a single-leaf steel door with a glazed upper section is elevated above grade. Two low, short, horizontal, two-pane steel sash and a six pane steel sash pierce the wall to the east. A narrow concrete loading dock spans the 1964 addition's south elevation. A metal shed canopy shelters two service bays. The east bay retains a sliding metal door. The west bay has been enclosed with plywood. Vines cover the east elevation. Near the 1964 building's southeast corner, a straight run of steel steps with metal-pipe railings leads to the roof. Two concrete fuel tank platforms with low formed-concrete walls are located southeast of the building.

The dye house has an open plan and a poured-concrete floor. Steel I-beams and posts support pre-cast concrete roof panels as well as a mezzanine and catwalks that facilitated equipment access. The mezzanine, catwalks, and the steel steps that rise to the mezzanine from the building's southeast and northeast corners all have metal-pipe railings. Machinery and dye vats filled three wide bays. Vertical board-sheathed walls enclose the one-story, flat-roofed office located near the north elevation's center as well as the entrance to the offices in the additions that line the east elevation.

A roof monitor with a north-south orientation spans the building's center, originally allowing light and air to permeate the interior. The monitor windows have been removed and the steel frame partially covered with corrugated-metal panels. In the west elevation's central section, four high, horizontal, rectangular window openings and four single-leaf door openings connect Buildings 11 and 12. Sliding and roll-up metal doors secure the tall wide service bay openings between the buildings near the west

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wall's north and south ends. Round fluorescent lights, sprinkler system pipes, ductwork, and equipment pipes hang from the ceiling. Square vents pierce the roof.

## **Warehouse (Building 11), 1949, 122 East Main Street**

This 8,505-square-foot brick building occupies the space between the 1947 dye house (Building 12) to the east and the 1949 addition on Building 10's east elevation. Although Building 11 has only one level, it rises to two-story height. The three-bay-wide south elevation, executed in five-to-one common bond, is the only wall visible from the exterior. Six large twelve-pane steel sash with six-pane central hoppers pierce the wall. Terra-cotta coping caps the flat parapet.

Building 11, like the adjacent Building 12, initially house dyeing operations, but Cone Mills later used it as a warehouse. Steel trusses support pre-cast concrete roof panels. The structure has an open plan and a poured-concrete floor. Rows of full-height steel shelves for bolt fabric storage run north-south. Restrooms, a locker room, and a storage room line the north elevation. Square beige-glazed ceramic tiles sheathe the lower two-thirds of the restroom walls and the locker room's outer walls. The restrooms retain white porcelain toilets and wall-mounted sinks and metal partition walls and stall doors. The locker room contains metal lockers and a wood bench. Sliding and roll-up metal doors secure the tall wide service bay openings between buildings. Round fluorescent lights, sprinkler system pipes, ductwork, and equipment pipes hang from the ceiling.

## **Boiler House (Building 19), early 1920s, late 1950s-early 1960s, and Smokestack, late 1940s, Contributing Building, 122 East Main Street**

The boiler house, located west of Building 13 and south of Building 10, has a north-south orientation paralleling the Haw River. The original flat-roofed, six-bay-wide, brick north section, erected in the early 1920s, is only partially visible due to the late 1950s-early 1960s additions that surround it. The 1920s building features a central roof monitor that spans stepped parapets on its north and south walls. The one-story, flat-roofed, late 1950s-early 1960s wing projecting from the north elevation contains a central entrance vestibule and two restrooms. The bay west of the wing encompasses a double-leaf steel door with a multipane upper section and a six-pane steel-frame transom. There are no stairs leading to this entrance. Formed concrete steps with metal-pipe railings rise from ground level near the north elevation's west end to the boiler house's central entrance and doors on Building 10's south elevation and Building 13's west elevation.

The narrow, full-height, corrugated-metal-sided addition on the 1920s building's west elevation covers all but the northernmost of six three-pane-wide and twelve-pane-tall steel-frame sash. A corrugated-metal-sided and roofed shed addition projects from the east elevation south of the smokestack. Long, rectangular, six-pane steel sash pierce the east elevation above the first-story level. On the south

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elevation, clerestory windows and two stories of sixteen-pane steel-frame sash with operable four-pane central sections provide ample light.

In the late 1950s or early 1960s, Cone Mills erected the tall one-story, flat-roofed, five-bay-wide, brick south addition in five-to-one common bond capped with metal coping. Four six-pane steel-frame sash with operable four-pane upper sections pierce the top of the west elevation wall. A steel louvered vent fills the central opening. Near the west elevation's north end, a one-story corrugated-metal-sided addition encloses a narrow corridor that leads to the interior. This addition abuts the metal-sided addition on the 1920s building's west elevation.

The south boiler room's south elevation is blind. A double-leaf steel door at its southeast corner provides access to a concrete ramp in the boiler room. Corrugated-metal siding sheathes its east elevation. Two tall round steel flues rise above the roof's north section.

East of the south boiler room, a one-story, flat-roofed, metal-sided, windowless addition erected after 1993 extends from the original building's south elevation, covering some of the multipane steel-frame windows. Two pairs of louvered metal vents pierce the west elevation's south section. On the south elevation, a corrugated-metal roll-up service door and a single-leaf steel door provide interior access.

The boiler house interior is open to two-story ceiling height in both the 1920s north section and the late 1950s-early 1960s south addition. Steel posts and beams support the metal roof. Enormous boilers rest on the concrete floor. The original section's brick walls have been painted, while the addition's walls have not. Steel steps and railings lead to steel-framed catwalks and platforms that facilitate equipment access and maintenance. East of the boilers in the south addition, a concrete ramp with a metal-pipe railing extends up to the south entrance. East of the ramp, two tiers of formed-concrete steps secured by metal-pipe railings rise to the mezzanine. A small office is located north of the stairs.

A metal flue connects the tall, round, late 1940s smokestack executed in yellow brick laid header bond to the boiler house's east elevation. Two corbelled courses wrap around the smokestack above the "C" in "Cone Fabrics," which is spelled out vertically in red brick. The smokestack diameter tapers as it rises. Above the formed-concrete base, seven projecting brick courses are capped with angled concrete coping. Sanborn maps and historic images indicate that between 1943 and 1951 this smokestack replaced the tapered square smokestack that stood east of the boiler house. Coal fueled the complex's steam heating system.

## **Dam, Floodgate, and Wheel Pit, 1881-1892, Contributing Structure**

The stone dam spanning the Haw River and the stone-walled floodgate and wheel pit on its east side are important elements of the system that initially powered the mill's equipment. Contractors Long

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and Anderson commenced constructing the 640-foot-wide and 12-foot-tall dam in 1881 and finished the project in 1892 at an approximate cost of \$25,000.<sup>7</sup> The dam, floodgate, and wheel pit are executed in random-course granite. The floodgate and wheel pit walls are intact other than minimal repointing with concrete mortar. The floodgate, which has three segmental-arched openings, is at the north end of a six-sided, thick-walled enclosure with a south section designed to contain steel water wheels. Arched openings at the enclosure's south end emptied water into the tail race to move it downstream. Given the mill's proximity to the dam, only a short head race was excavated to increase the water flow's force. The canal channeled water to the floodgate.

A rectangular one-story wheel house with a low hip roof originally rose above the wheel pit. An 1891 image does not have adequate resolution to definitely identify siding and roof materials, but the wheel house appears to have been frame. In comparable situations, such as the 1898 Idol's Hydroelectric Generating Station on the Yadkin River's north bank near Clemmons in Forsyth County, a generator drive system, which supplied motive power to the generator, connected turbines to a horizontal drive shaft mounted on bearings supported by the wheel pit division walls. Hydraulic governors controlled the turbines by activating the gears that opened and closed the floodgates.<sup>8</sup>

Sanborn maps indicate that Granite Mill's wheel house was demolished between 1924 and 1931. Following the mill's complete shift to electric power, the dam, floodgate, and wheel pit supplied water for the complex's fire suppression system.

## **Fire Pump Control House (Building 20), late 1950s-early 1960s, Contributing Building, 122 East Main Street**

Historic photographs indicate that Cone Mills erected this one-story fire pump control house sometime between 1956 and 1967. Steel I-beams and posts elevate the two-bay-long and one-bay-wide flat-roofed building above the floodgate's east section. Corrugated-metal siding sheathes the walls. Two high aluminum-frame jalousie windows with three horizontal panes on the west elevation illuminate the interior. Two metal louvered vents pierce the south wall's lower section. A single-leaf steel door with a glazed upper section is centered on the east elevation. A straight run of steel steps with metal-pipe railings rises from ground level at the building's southeast corner to the steel landing adjacent to the door. The stair also provides access to the entrance at Building 9's southwest corner.

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<sup>7</sup> Julian Hughes, *Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County* (Burlington: Burlington Letter Shop, 1965), 18; Swain, et. al., *North Carolina Geological Survey Bulletin No. 8*, 153.

<sup>8</sup> The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Carolina Section, "Idol's Hydroelectric Generating Station, Forsyth County, N.C.: A Regional Historic Engineering Landmark" (np: The American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Carolina Section, 1984), 2-5.



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The open interior has an unfinished poured-concrete floor. Insulation batts have been installed between the steel I-beams and posts. The pump and control equipment are intact.

## **Pump House (Building 21), late 1970s-early 1980s, Noncontributing Building, 122 East Main Street**

Historic photographs and plans indicate that Cone Mills erected this pump house south of the fire pump control house and west of Building 10 sometime between 1972 and 1982. Steel posts and beams elevate the pump house above the wheel pit. The one-story rectangular building has a north-south orientation. Aluminum coping caps its running-bond red-brick-veneered concrete-block walls spanned by a flat concrete roof. Two steel steps lead to the double-leaf steel door on the south elevation. The tall, narrow windows that flanked the door have been removed and the openings covered with sheet metal. The east, north, and west elevations are blind. A single-leaf steel door pierces the east wall near its north end. The open interior has an unfinished poured-concrete floor. Pump control equipment remains on the elevated concrete pad near the building's center.

The area around the pump house is paved with concrete. Two fuel pumps are located south of the building. Three water pressure gauges are to the east.

## **Electrical Substation, late 1950s-early 1960s, Contributing Structure, 122 East Main Street**

A chain-link fence surrounds the electrical substation located north of Building 9 at the complex's northwest corner. Gravel covers the ground. The substation comprises automated voltage regulators and transformers mounted on slender steel beams that span steel posts and creosote-treated wood poles. Electric lines extend to the buildings south and east of the substation. A double-leaf chain-link gate at the east end of the fence's north section provides access.

## **Welding Shed (Building 22), late 1950s-early 1960s, Contributing Building, 122 East Main Street**

The one-story, low-front-gable-roofed, square welding shed north of Building 5 has an east-west orientation. Corrugated-metal wall and roof panels sheathe the steel I-beam and post structural system, which is exposed on the interior. Two large metal sliding doors on the east and south elevations provide interior access. The shed is situated on a raised poured-concrete foundation and has an unfinished concrete floor. The addition on the north elevation, which almost doubles the structure's size, has full-width metal sliding doors on its east and west walls. Linear fluorescent lights and sprinkler system pipes have been dropped from steel beams. Concrete ramps adjacent to the east elevation facilitate equipment movement. A formed-concrete retaining wall ameliorates the change in grade between the building and the parking lot to the north and west, which is at a lower elevation.

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## **Hose House, 1967, Contributing Building, 224 East Main Street**

A small rectangular hose house stands south of Building 4 near the lawn's east end. A flat concrete roof tops running bond brick walls. A single-leaf steel door pierces the north elevation.

## **Equipment Shed (Building 23), late 1960s-early 1970s, Noncontributing Building, 226 East Main Street**

The large, rectangular, one-story equipment shed located east of the industrial complex, parking lots, water tank, and settling basin has a north-south orientation. Corrugated metal panels sheathe the three-bay-wide and five-bay-long building's steel I-beam and post frame and low-front-gable roof. The shed rests on a concrete foundation. An asphalt-paved drive leads to the entrance at the north elevation's center, which contains a tall, double-leaf, sliding steel door. Nine-pane steel-frame sash flank the door. A wide single-leaf steel door pierces the north wall west of the central entrance. Five nine-pane steel-frame windows on the west elevation and four matching sash on the east elevation illuminate the interior. The glazed upper sections of the single-leaf steel door in the east elevation's north bay and the double-leaf steel door in the third bay from the north end provide additional light.

The structural-steel frame allows for an open floor plan without interior posts. The unfinished poured-concrete floor provides a durable work surface. A small concrete-block-walled storage room projects from the west elevation near the building's northwest corner. A single-leaf steel door is centered on the storage room's east wall. Linear fluorescent lights have been dropped from steel ceiling beams.

## **Water Tank, late 1950s-early 1960s, Contributing Structure, 222 East Main Street**

A round, dome-roofed, formed-concrete water tank stands northeast of Building 1 at the east edge of the central parking lot. The 1,000,000-gallon reservoir, approximately 20 feet tall with a 100-foot diameter, functioned as part of the property's fire suppression system. A tall, shed-roofed, corrugated-metal-sheathed equipment room with a poured-concrete foundation projects from the tank's northwest edge. A single-leaf steel door at the structure's northeast corner provides interior access. Pumps, pipes, and other equipment are west of the equipment room.

## **Settling Basin, late 1950s-early 1960s, Contributing Structure, 222 East Main Street**

A 250,000-gallon settling basin is south of the water tank. The two-part structure encompasses a round reservoir with formed-concrete walls and a rectangular open-topped holding tank to the north. A two-flight steel staircase with metal-pipe railings rises on the reservoir's south side. A rotating steel walkway with metal-pipe railings spans the reservoir and holding tank.

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## Integrity Statement

Granite Mill's brick, steel, and concrete buildings erected between 1881 and 1990 maintain good integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship from their period of construction. The industrial complex comprises two primary clusters of interconnected resources. The north group encompasses the four-story L-shaped Building 9, which is the site's original mill erected in 1844 and expanded in 1881, the adjacent four-story Building 10, also constructed in 1881, and a series of tall one-and two-story additions and warehouses from 1949 until 1985. A tall one-story 1980 warehouse (Building 13) spans the distance between the north group and the south cluster: the two-story 1886 Building 15 and its additions erected between 1932 and 1952. A third group, northeast of Building 10 and south of Building 7, centers around Building 12, a 1947 dye house that was originally freestanding, and its 1949-1966 additions.

The ongoing plant modification and expansion necessary to meet manufacturing and storage needs does not significantly diminish Granite Mill's integrity, as the buildings retain character-defining elements of industrial architecture. The nineteenth-century heavy-timber-frame structures feature load-bearing brick walls are laid in in five-to-one common bond with corbelled cornices and segmental-arched window and door openings. Updates such as window replacement and interior partition wall construction or removal are minimal in scope. The brick, concrete, and steel buildings erected at the Granite plant between 1937 and 1967 maintain original structural components as well as many large multipane steel windows.

Building 18 (1961, 1963), where approximately two-thirds of the warehouse (the west section) has been removed, leaving the structure without a west wall, is the only edifice that has been substantially altered. Buildings 2, 3, and 13 post-date 1967, but are deemed contributing as they are part of the interconnected mill and warehouse complex. However, they do not individually possess significance for their association with the historic mill. Building 3 (1975) and Building 2 (1985), both tall one-story, sizable, flat-roofed, concrete structures, are situated at a lower grade north of the central parking lot, thus minimizing their presence on the site. Building 13 (1980) and Building 1 (1975) are large, corrugated-metal-sheathed, steel-frame warehouses. Building 1 is physically separated from the rest of the complex by the main entrance drive.

## Archeological Potential Statement

Granite Mill is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash deposits, privies, and structural remains may be present, and could provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning environmental transformation, work culture and worker health, as well as structural details, is often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of

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the mill's significance. No investigation has been undertaken to discover these remains, but it is likely that they exist, and this should be considered in the property's development.

## Resource Summary (in inventory list order)

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| -Finished Goods Warehouse (Building 1), 1975   | NC          |
| -Guard House 1, late 1950s–early 1960s   | C           |
| -Guard House 2, late 1950s–early 1960s   | C           |
| -Offices and Finished Goods Warehouse (Building 18), 1961, 1963  | NC          |
| -Lint House, circa 1952  | C           |
| -Buildings 15-17 and Additions, 1886, 1937, 1948, 1952, 1957   | C           |
| -Building 9 (1844), Building 10 (1881, 1949), Building 8 (1964),<br>Buildings 2-7 (1967, 1975, 1985), and Building 13 (1980) | C           |
| -Dye Storage House and Addition (Building 14), 1973, 1990  | NC          |
| -Dye House (Building 12), 1947, 1949, 1964, 1966 and<br>Warehouse (Building 11), 1949  | C           |
| -Boiler House (Building 19), early 1920s, late 1950s–early 1960s, and<br>Smokestack, late 1940s                              | C           |
| -Dam, Floodgate, and Wheel Pit, 1881-1892  | C Structure |
| -Fire Pump Control House (Building 20) late 1950s–early 1960s  | C           |
| -Pump House (Building 21), late 1970s–early 1980s  | NC          |
| -Electrical Substation, late 1950s–early 1960s   | C Structure |
| -Welding Shed (Building 22), late 1950s–early 1960s  | C           |
| -Hose House, 1967  | C           |
| -Equipment Shed (Building 23), late 1960s–early 1970s  | NC          |
| -Water Tank, late 1950s–early 1960s  | C Structure |
| -Settling Basin, late 1950s–early 1960s  | C Structure |

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## Section 8.

### Statement of Significance

Granite Mill in Haw River, North Carolina, meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion A for industry and Criterion C for architecture. The cotton spinning and weaving operation commenced in the mid-nineteenth century and continued until 1997. The Holt family's involvement began in 1858 when Edwin Michael Holt and his son Thomas M. Holt purchased the Trollinger family's Haw River mill, Granite Cotton Factory. Thomas Holt organized the textile concern that bore his name in 1876 and headed what grew to be a complex of three mills in Haw River: Granite, Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Company, and Cora Manufacturing Company.<sup>9</sup>

The endeavors grew expeditiously. In 1881, Granite Mill employees operated 8,424 spindles and 220 looms, generating North Carolina's second-largest quantities of cotton yarn. By 1893, members of the extended Holt family owned ten of the nineteen Alamance County cotton mills, including Granite Mill, which was the largest in size and production. Five hundred Granite employees ran approximately 9,000 spindles and 450 looms.<sup>10</sup>

Thomas M. Holt Sr.'s nephew Finley L. Williamson led the 1917 reorganization of the three mills as Holt-Granite-Puritan Mills Company, a cotton dress goods producer. Proximity Manufacturing Company, a conglomerate of textile-producing concerns overseen by Greensboro industrialists Sidney S. Paine and Herman Cone acquired the property in 1927 and utilized Granite Mill to prepare corduroy for shipping, thus calling it Granite Finishing Works. The transaction also resulted in the creation of Tabardrey Manufacturing Company to oversee spinning and weaving operations at what had been Cora and Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Companies. In 1936, the Tabardrey and Granite plants generated approximately 3.5 million yards of corduroy, which was reported to be ten percent of the United States's total textile production that year.<sup>11</sup>

After Proximity Manufacturing Company became Cone Mills Corporation in 1948, Granite Mill continued to finish corduroy woven at the Tabardrey plant. Following Tabardrey's 1983 closure, Granite employees dyed and finished chamois and flat cloth through 1997. The concern's contribution

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<sup>9</sup> Brent D. Glass, *The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History* (Raleigh: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1992), 15-16, 22; Carole Watterson Troxler and William Murray Vincent, *Shuttle & Plow: A History of Alamance County, North Carolina* (Burlington: Alamance County Historical Association, 1999), 344-350, 355; Hughes, *Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County*, 5.

<sup>10</sup> Bess Beatty, *Alamance: The Holt Family and Industrialization in a North Carolina County, 1837-1900* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1999), 126; State Board of Agriculture. *Hand-Book of North Carolina* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1893), 269.

<sup>11</sup> Troxler and Vincent, *Shuttle & Plow*, 356.

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to the local economy as a manufacturer, employer, consumer of local goods and services, and taxpayer over the course of its 153-year-long operation was enormous.

Granite Mill is architecturally significant due to its collection of intact resources that display distinctive elements of late-nineteenth to mid-twentieth-century industrial design. The complex encompasses a series of interconnected and freestanding one- to five-story brick, concrete, and steel manufacturing and storage buildings. The four-story L-shaped structure (Building 9) at Granite's northwest corner is the site's original mill erected in 1844 and enlarged in 1881. Like the adjoining four-story Building 10, also constructed in 1881, and the two-story 1886 Building 15 that stands to the east, the heavy-timber-frame structure's load-bearing brick walls are laid in five-to-one common bond with corbelled cornices and segmental-arched window and door openings. The stone dam spanning the Haw River and the stone-walled floodgate and wheel pit on its east side built between 1881 and 1892 are important elements of the system that initially powered the mill's equipment. The 1920s boiler house (Building 19) features a central roof monitor that spans stepped parapets on its north and south walls. A tall, round, late 1940s smokestack executed in yellow brick laid header bond is connected to the boiler house's east elevation.

The buildings and additions erected at the Granite plant between 1937 and 1967 exhibit a functional aesthetic in their form, massing, expressed structures, and open plans with fenestration dictated by interior use. Structural systems uniformly comprise steel I-beams and posts, brick walls, and poured-concrete foundations. However, some elements differ. The 1937 warehouse (Building 16) and the elevated passage that connects it to Building 15's south end have wood roof decking and exposed rafter ends like the plant's earlier buildings. The upper-level warehouse floors are hardwood and the basement poured concrete, while the elevated passage has a steel-panel floor. The 1947 dye house (Building 12) expanded in 1949 (Building 11), the 1948 addition on Building 15's east side, and the 1949 additions east of Buildings 9 and 10 retain wood roof decking and poured-concrete floors. Flat steel trusses support Building 11's roof. Large, multipane, steel sash illuminate the 1937 warehouse and elevated passage as well as the 1947 and 1949 dye houses and the basement dining room of the 1952 warehouse (Building 17), which contains the complex's sole example of tall steel-reinforced concrete columns with mushroom capitals. In the brick-veneered concrete-block 1964 warehouse (Building 8), flat steel roof trusses support wide-board roof decking. Square metal-frame windows light the interior. The four expansive brick and concrete-block edifices (Buildings 4-7) erected in 1967 have precast-concrete roof panels and poured-concrete floors. The walls are blind with the exception of a series of square windows on Building 4's east elevation.

The period of significance begins in 1881, when the 1844 Granite Mill was enlarged and attained its current exterior appearance and the adjacent building was constructed, and continues to 1967. Although the plant's industrial function and physical expansion continued after 1967, that period is not of exceptional significance.

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## Historical Background and Alamance County Textile Industry Context

North Carolina's early textile operations depended on waterpower, making locations along the Haw, Deep, and Catawba Rivers, where slate formations create falls and rapids, ideal for manufacturing. German merchant Michael Schenck erected a sawmill, gristmill, and several ironworks in Lincoln County before hiring ironworkers Absolom Warwick and Michael Beam to construct North Carolina's first cotton mill in 1813. Only a few other entrepreneurs attempted textile manufacturing before the late 1820s, when the North Carolina legislature approved the incorporations of approximately fifteen new companies. It was not until the late 1830s that industrialists such as Charles Mallet, Francis Fries, John Motley Morehead, John Trollinger, Henry Humphreys, Benjamin Elliot, and Edwin Michael Holt capitalized on the piedmont's available sites, transportation, and labor force to establish spinning mills. Henry Humphreys was the first North Carolina manufacturer to experiment with steam power, installing a system in 1828 at his Mt. Hecla Cotton Factory near Greensboro that inspired entrepreneurs including Edwin Michael Holt to invest in textile production.<sup>12</sup>

However, Holt and most other factory owners relied upon water as their primary power source through the late nineteenth century. In 1832, John Trollinger built Alamance County's first cotton spinning plant on the Haw River near the farm where the Trollinger family had resided since 1745 and the gristmill established by his grandfather in 1747. Called High Falls Mill, the operation grew to encompass one thousand spindles by 1837. That year, Edwin Michael Holt (1807-1884) and his brother-in-law William A. Carrigan established Holt and Carrigan Cotton Factory on Alamance Creek, purchasing their equipment from northern machine shops and retrofitting an existing building to accommodate 528 spindles. Holt became the mill's sole owner in 1851, and two years later, with the help of an itinerant French dyer, learned how to "color" cotton yarn in myriad shades. He employed a Philadelphia expert to instruct him and two slaves, Sam and Caswell, how to mix indigo dyes.<sup>13</sup>

Holt attained national recognition as one of the first southern cotton manufacturers to produce colored cloth on a power loom. The fabrics soon became known as "Alamance Plaids." Holt incorporated the business as Alamance Factory in 1853. Four years later, he acquired a second cotton mill, Cane Creek Manufacturing Company. That concern had initiated operations in 1830 as a woolen mill, and, following a fire that destroyed its complex, built another factory and began producing cotton fabric in 1836. After reorganizing the bankrupt Cane Creek mill, Holt conveyed it to his oldest son Thomas

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<sup>12</sup> Glass, *Textile Industry*, 4-10, 14; Troxler and Vincent, *Shuttle & Plow*, 345. "Humphreys" is also spelled "Humphries" in various sources, but as period documents use "Humphreys," that spelling is repeated here.

<sup>13</sup> Troxler and Vincent, *Shuttle & Plow*, 344-350; Hughes, *Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County*, 4.

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(1831-1896). With the intention of further expanding their textile business, Edwin and Thomas Holt purchased the Trollinger's second Haw River factory, called Granite Mill, at an 1858 auction.<sup>14</sup>

Benjamin Trollinger, in partnership with his brother John and his nephew William, had erected Granite Mill in 1844 at Trollinger's Ford. Realizing the importance of railroad access to the endeavor's success, the Trollingers subsidized the construction of bridges to carry the North Carolina Railroad over the Haw and Eno Rivers and Back Creek. Contractors finished the 260-foot-long, heavy timber Haw River railroad bridge on September 12, 1855, and the Trollingers soon built a ten-room hotel nearby. When train service commenced, the adjacent depot and mill village were called Haw River Station, a name later shortened to Haw River. Although the community initially prospered, the larger selection of businesses at Company Shops, a railroad town six miles west that grew to become Burlington, drew more vendors and consumers. The lack of commerce in Haw River was a significant factor in the Trollingers' loss of their property to foreclosure.<sup>15</sup>

The Holt family's decision to acquire Granite Mill facilitated their dominance of the region's textile industry for most of the nineteenth and the early twentieth centuries. Thomas Michael Holt purchased his father's interest in Granite Manufacturing Company in 1861 and moved to Haw River with his wife Louisa and their children: Charles Thomas, Cora May, Louisa Moore, Ella Moore, and Thomas Michael Jr. He partnered in 1868 with Louisa's brother, Adolphus Moore, operating as Holt and Moore until 1876, when Moore was murdered. Holt subsequently incorporated Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Company. He pursued his business interests while engaged in an active political career, serving as a magistrate, county commissioner, North Carolina state senator (1876), member of the North Carolina state house of representatives (1883-1887), speaker of the house by 1885, North Carolina's lieutenant governor (1889-1891) and governor (1891-1893). Holt was also president of the North Carolina Railroad for sixteen years and the North Carolina State Grange, an agricultural advocacy organization, for thirteen years.<sup>16</sup>

The Holt mills suffered economic challenges including a sharp rise in the cost of cotton and substantial losses of the male labor force during the Civil War years, but remained in operation and supplied the Confederate military with uniform cloth. At the war's end in April 1865 the plants were poised to increase production. That month, Thomas Holt initiated brick-making in order to expand the Granite Manufacturing Company complex. He is said to have been the first southern textile manufacturer to

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<sup>14</sup> Troxler and Vincent, *Shuttle & Plow*, 350-351, 355; Hughes, *Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County*, 5; Thomas M. Holt, "Early Plaid Making," [Raleigh] *News and Observer Cotton Mill Edition*, November 28, 1895; Glass, *Textile Industry*, 22.

<sup>15</sup> John Trollinger founded High Falls Manufacturing Company with Jesse Gant in 1840. High Falls Manufacturing Company was reorganized as Hopedale Mill around 1904. Hughes, *Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County*, 5.

<sup>16</sup> Troxler and Vincent, *Shuttle & Plow*, 356; Hughes, *Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County*, 17-18.



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reestablish ties with northern commission houses and machine companies, which he accomplished during a November 1865 visit. The following spring, Granite Mill employees operated 1,152 spindles. Also in 1866, Edwin Holt relinquished active control of Alamance Factory to a partnership—E. M. Holt and Sons—that he created with his sons James Henry Holt (1833-1897), William Edwin Holt (1839-1917), Lynn Banks Holt (1842-1920), and son-in-law James Nathaniel Williamson. His youngest son Lawrence Shackelford Holt (1851-1937) was to become a partner when he came of age in 1872.<sup>17</sup>

E. M. Holt and Sons acquired additional land on the Haw River north of High Falls Mill from John Trollinger's estate in 1867 and constructed Carolina Mill in 1869, initially weaving blue denim, called "overall goods," and eventually also producing striped denim. Carolina Mill contained three thousand spindles and sixty looms, more than doubling the Holts' manufacturing capability. In 1878, Edwin assisted James and William with the purchase of Joseph and Levi Vincent's 38.9-acre property, which encompassed a sawmill, a gristmill, and a tobacco processing factory, just north of Carolina Mill. By 1879, 594 Alamance County textile workers operated 31,236 spindles and 1,238 looms at six cotton spinning and weaving plants including Granite Mill. In 1880, the Holt brothers obtained an additional 148.2 acres and began constructing Glencoe Cotton Mill, the last water-powered plant the Holts built on the Haw River. Lynn Banks Holt acquired a 1000-spindle cotton mill in Graham from Calvin Donnell and James Sidney Scott in 1886 and renamed it Oneida, after the New York town where he bought much of the equipment.<sup>18</sup>

As the Holts' myriad enterprises prospered, they invested in plant improvements. In 1871, Thomas Holt and Adolphus Moore purchased additional looms for Granite Mill, where workers wove cotton sheeting and plaids marketed primarily to local vendors. The following year, the concern expanded the complex. An 1874 insurance assessment indicates that a "new building" contained waterwheel-powered machinery including 2,376 spindles, 54 looms, 10 cards, and 4 warp mills. The structure and equipment's estimated worth was \$70,246, much greater than the "old building," which housed 1,104 spindles, 12 looms, 10 cards, and other machinery valued at \$29,924. The mill had been illuminated

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<sup>17</sup> "Mills at Haw River," [Raleigh] *News and Observer Cotton Mill Edition*, November 28, 1895, p. 28; Whitaker, *Centennial History of Alamance County*, 119; Beatty, *Alamance*, 124-125.

<sup>18</sup> James Henry Holt and his wife Laura Cameron Moore had seven sons and one daughter, all of whom were involved in the textile industry. By the late 1880s, James Henry Holt and his sons were Carolina Mill's sole owners. *Ibid.*; Mable S. Lassiter, "Carolina Mill was part of Holt textile dynasty," *Burlington Times-News*, September 1, 1990, D4; Don Bolden, "Holt's 19<sup>th</sup>-century textile empire included Carolina Mill," *Burlington Times-News*, September 21, 1986, 2D; Don Bolden, "Community's life centered around Carolina Cotton Mill," *Burlington Times-News*, February 12, 1984; Don Bolden, *Alamance in the Past* (Burlington: P. N. Thompson Printing Co., Inc., 1979), 11-12, 88-89; Troxler and Vincent, *Shuttle & Plow*, 351; Whitaker, *Centennial History of Alamance County*, 140, 164.

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with lard oil lamps, but Holt and Moore decided in May 1874 to purchase a Springfield Gas Machine and install gas lighting.<sup>19</sup>

In 1881, the company doubled Granite Mill's square footage and increased capacity by adding looms, constructing another dye house and weave room, installing a Corliss steam engine, and erecting a stone dam. That year, the plant's employees operated 8,424 spindles and 220 looms, generating North Carolina's second-largest quantities of cotton yarn. Between 1883 and 1886, the concern received eleven train car loads of machinery, which approximately 450 employees used to generate \$300,000-worth of fabric each year. By this time, the company's reputation for quality woven goods garnered high national and international demand. Agents including George Brandt sold the concern's yarns and cloth. The Holts also owned the four-story brick roller mill erected south of Granite Mill in 1881 and powered by a hydraulic turbine. The building replaced the Trollingers' earlier grist mill and overshot waterwheel, which Thomas Holt had acquired in 1871.<sup>20</sup>

Thomas Holt, his son Charles Thomas Holt (1858-1900), and his daughters Cora, Louisa, and Ella's husbands—physician Edwin Chambers Laird, attorney Alfred William Haywood, and Charles Bruce Wright—incorporated Granite Cotton Mills in 1889. The siblings and their spouses remained the Haw River operation's officers and principal stockholders for many years.<sup>21</sup> Although Thomas Holt retired from public service due to declining health in 1893, at the conclusion of his term as governor, he continued to expand his business interests. Members of the extended Holt family then owned ten of the nineteen Alamance County cotton mills, including Granite Mill, which was the largest in size and production. Five hundred Granite employees ran approximately 9,000 spindles and 450 looms in 1893.<sup>22</sup>

That year, North Carolina's total operating cotton mill count of 140 did not encompass six mills under construction throughout the state, one of which was another Holt endeavor in Haw River: Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Company. The concern, named in honor of its proprietor, reused the name of the

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<sup>19</sup> "Property upon which insurance is wanted," Granite Cotton Factory and Haw River Flouring Mills, Bound Letter Book, May 1874-1875, pp. 6-7, 15, in the collection of the Haw River Historical Association Museum; "Granite Mills," *North Carolina Gazette*, November 27, 1879, p. 4.

<sup>20</sup> "Mills at Haw River," [Raleigh] *News and Observer Cotton Mill Edition*, November 28, 1895, p. 28; Hughes, *Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County*, 18; Beatty, *Alamance*, 126; Troxler and Vincent, *Shuttle & Plow*, 356.

<sup>21</sup> Cora May Holt married Edwin C. Laird in 1880. Louisa Moore Holt married Raleigh attorney Alfred W. Haywood in May 1883. Ella Moore Holt married Charles Bruce Wright. North Carolina General Assembly, "An act to incorporate Granite Cotton Mills," *Laws and Resolutions of the State of North Carolina passed by the General Assembly at its session of 1889* (Raleigh: Josephus Daniels, 1889), 304-310; "Mr. Alfred W. Haywood Dies at Haw River," [Alamance] *Gleaner*, December 7, 1916.

<sup>22</sup> "A Great Industry," *Scottish Chief* (Maxton), June 27, 1893, p. 1; State Board of Agriculture. *Hand-Book of North Carolina* (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1893), 269.

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earlier company that he operated from the Granite Mill complex. Thomas Holt had in 1892 solicited a twenty-five-thousand-dollar loan from Durham tobacco magnate Benjamin Duke in order to build a new cotton mill. The *Manufacturers' Record* announced on April 8, 1892, that construction would begin that spring and included the plant in its June 24<sup>th</sup> list of recently completed industrial buildings.<sup>23</sup>

In November 1895, the *Raleigh News and Observer* reported that North Carolina encompassed more cotton mills than any other Southern state, with an overall count of 184 including 18 Alamance County concerns, 13 of which the Holt family owned. Charles Holt then served as Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Company's president and B. S. Robertson was its treasurer. The company's 360 employees operated 7,168 spindles, 252 looms, and 28 cards to create cotton gingham (check-patterned) and cheviot (twill) fabric. Thomas Holt headed Granite Manufacturing Company, for which B. S. Robertson also functioned as treasurer. Superintendent J. Thompson oversaw that plant's 8,500 spindles, 434 looms, and 58 cards. Thomas Holt stated in November 1895 that a third factory under construction at the time to house Cora Manufacturing Company would bring the concern's total Haw River capacity to 22,834 spindles and 940 looms.<sup>24</sup> According to George C. Mabry, then principal of Graham's African American school, skilled black brick mason and plaster contractor William Alexander Rogers of Graham and his nine-man crew erected Cora Mill's walls. African American brick masons and plasterers Franklin Pears Chavis and David Wiley Mayo also labored on the project.<sup>25</sup>

Although the financial panic of 1896 likely slightly diminished the Haw River mills' output, the *Manufacturers' Record* reported in October 1896 that Cora Manufacturing Company was planning to install additional equipment. In 1897, the Cora plant utilized 7,000 spindles and 250 looms to produce cotton goods. Granite Mills and Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Company maintained approximately the same amount of equipment as each entity had operated in 1895.<sup>26</sup> The completion of a new building to house Cora Manufacturing Company and the circa 1897 expansion of Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Company demonstrated the concern's late-nineteenth-century growth and prosperity, as did the selection of the prolific Providence, Rhode Island, firm Charles R. Makepeace and Company to design the innovative structures. Employees enjoyed the ample light and ventilation provided by zig-zag-shaped curtain walls filled with enormous windows.

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<sup>23</sup> Ibid.; *Manufacturers' Record*, April 8, 1892, p. 44, and June 24, 1892, p. 35; Beatty, *Alamance*, 127.

<sup>24</sup> Cora Manufacturing Company announced its intention to build a cotton mill in the August 9, 1895, issue of the *Manufacturers' Record*, p. 31. "Summary of the 184 Cotton Mills in Operation in North Carolina," and Thomas M. Holt, "Early Plaid Making," [Raleigh] *News and Observer Cotton Mill Edition*, November 28, 1895.

<sup>25</sup> George C. Mabry, *Sketch of Alamance County* (1895) in the Stephen Beaugard Weeks Papers, Collection #762, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; U. S. Census, Population Schedules, 1900-1920; death certificates.

<sup>26</sup> *Manufacturers' Record*, October 23, 1896, p. 212; Bureau of Labor Statistics of North Carolina, *Eleventh Annual Report* (Raleigh: Guy V. Barnes, 1897), 30.

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In 1898, D. A. Hopkins Company of Charlotte supplied Granite Mill with equipment including an electrical switchboard, six-hundred-light dynamo, and supplies sufficient to rewire much of the plant.<sup>27</sup> Increased production capacity enabled the Holts to better serve their broad national vendor and client network. A ledger book documents that from 1897 through 1899 the company's business associates were based in thirty-three American states as well as Canada.<sup>28</sup>

Haw River became a sizable community within only a few years of its founding. The Holts constructed dwellings and boarding houses to accommodate their employees. Modest one-story frame dwellings occupied the low-lying area south east of Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Company, which was known as Sugar Hill, as well as the area northeast of Stone Street and the railroad, which residents called Pine Knot. The earliest houses stood east of Granite Mill. Additional residences, mostly one-story frame but some two-story brick, lined winding streets on the Haw River's west side. Mill workers rented dwellings for one dollar per room a month in 1904, a rate that remained constant through the 1930s.<sup>29</sup>

The Holt siblings, along with their spouses, oversaw the Haw River mills' operation for several decades. After Thomas Holt's April 11, 1896, death, Charles T. Holt, Edwin C. Laird, and Alfred W. Haywood continued to serve as the company's executives. Thomas M. Holt Jr.'s involvement in the family business began auspiciously, but he died on January 6, 1897, at the age of twenty-five. Forty-four-year-old Charles Holt died on December 13, 1900. Alfred W. Haywood led the mill's management team from 1900 until his death on December 3, 1916. Dr. Laird remained involved with the company's board and served as the Haw River mill village's physician for a short time, but never held an active role in the company's administration.<sup>30</sup>

Employee, equipment, and production quantities remained relatively stable through the early 1910s. In 1900, approximately 475 Granite Manufacturing Company workers produced plaids, cheviots, lining, and dress goods on 8,500 ring spindles, 436 looms, and 44 cards. Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Company employed 200 men, women, and children to generate plaids and cheviots with 7,168 ring spindles, 252 looms, and 12 cards. Cora Manufacturing Company's 80 employees wove plaid and

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<sup>27</sup> *Manufacturers' Record*, April 29, 1898; "Granite Mill," *Warren Record*, October 28, 1898, p. 2.

<sup>28</sup> "Cloth Purchase Record and Shipment of Goods, 1897-1899," Series 1.3, Cone Mills Corporation Records, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill. The Cone Mill Corporation papers housed at UNC-Chapel Hill's Wilson Library and the Haw River Historical Association's collection include some materials related to the Holt family's operation of Granite Mill, Cora Manufacturing Company, and Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Company. However, very few documents related to the nineteenth and early-twentieth century construction and daily operation of the mills in Haw River survive.

<sup>29</sup> "History of Cone Mills, 1912-1937," Series 5.1, Cone Mills Corporation Records, UNC-CH.

<sup>30</sup> Hughes, *Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County*, 17-24; Beatty, *Alamance*, 126; Troxler and Vincent, *Shuttle & Plow*, 356.

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cheviot fabric. Holt-Granite Manufacturing Company incorporated in 1901, consolidating the three plants administration. In 1905, when Haw River's population numbered 319 people, Holt-Granite Manufacturing Company's 650 employees utilized 18,656 ring spindles, 863 narrow looms, and 63 cards to produce plaids, cheviots, and chambrays. In 1910, the concern's 600 workers operated 20,928 ring spindles, 688 narrow looms, and 71 cards.<sup>31</sup>

Holt-Granite Manufacturing Company secretary and treasurer Cicero Pilades Albright, known as "C. P.," engaged Charlotte architect Richard C. Biberstein to assess the Haw River plants' condition in January 1915. Upon Biberstein's request, the concern enumerated machinery purchases totaling \$82,471 since 1901 and \$25,395-worth of equipment repair and industrial building and mill village improvement expenditures from 1910 through 1914. Biberstein inventoried each mill's contents and sketched rough site plans in a notebook. It is unclear what else his scope of work may have entailed, but it does not appear that any significant construction ensued following his consultation.<sup>32</sup>

In 1915, Holt-Granite Manufacturing Company owned 130 acres in Haw River, upon which four sizable textile mills housed approximately 21,000 ring spindles, 684 narrow looms, and all other equipment needed to manufacture colored cotton fabrics. The complex valued at \$605,600 also included two dye houses, a finishing plant, mill worker houses, a community building operated by the Y. M. C. A, and a stable. The four-story brick roller mill south of the Granite Mill between East Main Street and the railroad produced flour. Ample railroad access and water, steam, and electric power was available. Company promotional materials asserted that the Haw River was not only an abundant natural power source but a "magnificent open sewer" that transported dye waste and other refuse away from the village.<sup>33</sup>

The Holts' significant contributions to Alamance County's economy continued through the twentieth century's first decades, as the family owned 23 of the county's 27 textile mills and operated 78 percent of the county's spindles and 83 percent of its looms by 1919. Edwin Holt's son Lynn Banks Holt's textile enterprise grew to be one of Alamance County's largest. L. Banks Holt Manufacturing Company, established in 1909, consolidated his interests in Oneida, Alamance, Bellemont, and

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<sup>31</sup> Davison Publishing Company, *The Blue Book: Textile Directory: United States and Canada, 1900-1901* (Davison Publishing Company, 1900), 122; *The Blue Book: Textile Directory, 1904-1905*, 134; *The Blue Book: Textile Directory, 1910-1911*, 143.

<sup>32</sup> "Holt-Granite, Haw River," notebook, "Holt-Granite Manufacturing Company," Folder 9, Box 29, Biberstein, Bowles, Meacham, and Reed Records, MS0148, J. Murrey Atkins Library, Special Collections, UNC-Charlotte.

<sup>33</sup> "Holt-Granite Manufacturing Company," Series 3.4.1, Cone Mills Corporation Records, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill.

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Carolina mills. In 1928, the company employed two thousand people and the mills collectively encompassed 28,256 spindles with an output valued at \$1,500,000.<sup>34</sup>

Thomas M. Holt Sr.'s nephew Finley L. Williamson led the 1916 reorganization of the three mills in Haw River—Granite Mills and Cora and Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Companies—as Holt-Granite-Puritan Mills, a cotton dress goods producer. The company then employed 120 men, 51 women, and 60 children who ran approximately 23,000 spindles and 1,100 looms. Men earned between \$1.00 and \$3.50 per 60-hour work week, while women's wages ranged from \$1.00 to \$2.50. A graded school completed in 1904 and five churches—Baptist, Christian, Holiness, Methodist, and Methodist Episcopal—served the community. A 1919 *Charlotte Observer* article estimated that the mill village included 130 houses of two to eight rooms.<sup>35</sup>

In 1925, Holt-Granite-Puritan Mills employees operated 22,304 ring spindles, 800 looms, and 67 cards. Williamson retained his position as president until economic challenges in the 1920s proved to be insurmountable, forcing the company to sell the property. Proximity Manufacturing Company of Greensboro partnered with the Textile Development Company of Boston, Massachusetts, to acquire the Haw River complex for \$295,100 on April 14, 1927. In conjunction with the ownership transfer, village residents were given the opportunity to purchase houses.<sup>36</sup>

The following year, Textile Development Company president Sidney S. Paine, who then resided in Greensboro, and other investors established Tabardrey Manufacturing Company with Paine as its president, Thomas A. Hagan vice-president, W. T. Brooks secretary, and Herman Cone treasurer. The company name is an amalgamation of those of Sidney Paine's son Tad and twin daughters Barbara and Audrey. The mill north of what is now Main Street subsequently functioned as Granite Finishing Works, while the plants south of the road, formerly Cora and Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Companies, operated under the auspices of Tabardrey Manufacturing Company.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> Troxler and Vincent, *Shuttle & Plow*, 351; McBride Holt, "Interesting Observations are made by McBride Holt in Letter to Lifelong Friend," letter to Thomas P. Moore published in *Daily Times-News*, April 21, 1936, p. 9; John W. Harden, *Alamance County: Economic and Social* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1928), 41, 44.

<sup>35</sup> M. L. Shipman, commissioner, *Thirtieth Annual Report of the Department of Labor and Printing of the State of North Carolina* (Raleigh: Edwards & Broughton Printing Company, 1916), 64-65; Ernest H. Miller, *Directory of Burlington, Graham, and Haw River, NC, 1909-1910* (Asheville, NC: Piedmont Directory Company, 1909), 12; "Many Employees of Holt-Granite Mills Have Been Steadily With Company for Forty Years Past—Fine Co-operation," *Charlotte Observer, Textile Progress Edition*, January 3, 1919.

<sup>36</sup> Davison Publishing Company, *Davison's Textile Blue Book: United States and Canada* (New York: Davison Publishing Company, 1925), 314; "Tabardrey Manufacturing Company," Series 3.6.1; "Granite," Series 4.4.1, Cone Mills Corporation Records, UNC-CH; "Tabardrey and Granite: 50 years of corduroy," *The Textorian*, December 4, 1980, p. 1; Troxler and Vincent, *Shuttle & Plow*, 356.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*

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The Granite and Tabardrey plants reported in 1928 that its 1,700 workers operated 22,304 spindles that generated \$1,700,000-worth of product. The following year, 340 employees bleached, dyed, and finished corduroy fabrics at Granite Mill, while the other two mills housed spinning and weaving operations. During the reorganization period, Greenville, S. C.-based architects and engineers J. E. Sitrine and Company planned plant updates and expansions. In December 1928, Burns-Hammonds Construction of Burlington began renovating Cora Manufacturing Company's three-story mill and erected a three-story addition. Greensboro contractor J. R. Russell also worked on the project. Other improvements included new equipment installation at Granite Mill.<sup>38</sup>

Tabardrey Manufacturing Company initially wove heavy-duty cotton moleskin intended for men's pants and jackets. Proximity Print Works in Greensboro finished the "gray" moleskin. However, given the demand for corduroy, Tarbardrey's 140 workers began weaving corduroy on the plant's 320 looms on May 1, 1930. The 50-employee Granite Finishing Works prepared the resulting corduroy yardage for shipping, which commenced in June. In the early 1930s, Cone Export and Commission Company promoted myriad colors and weights of 36-inch-wide corduroy at wholesale costs ranging from 32 to 72 cents per yard.<sup>39</sup>

Proximity Manufacturing Company's acquisition of the Haw River mills was part of its consolidation of enterprises across the state that began in the late 1920s and continued through the 1940s. The Cones had conducted business with the state's leading industrialists for almost forty years under the auspices of Cone Export and Commission Company, established in 1891 to market fabric for southern textile companies. The concern was a selling agent for many North Carolina businesses including those owned by the Holts. Brothers Moses H. Cone and Ceasar Cone of Baltimore were the family's first textile manufacturers, beginning with their 1887 investment in what became Asheville Cotton Mill in 1892. The following year, the Cones sought to streamline the textile production process by creating Southern Finishing and Warehouse Company, which bleached, packed, and shipped fabric to vendors nationwide, thus filling a niche market previously dominated by Northern manufacturers. In 1895, the Cone family took advantage of the cotton fields, gins, warehouses, and railroad lines available in Greensboro at minimal cost to establish Proximity Manufacturing Company, which wove denim. In 1899, the concern introduced a very finely woven flannel, produced by its Revolution Cotton Mills in

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<sup>38</sup> "Haw River Mills Will Be Started Up Soon," *Burlington Daily Times*, November 30, 1928, p. 1; "Work of Remodeling Cotton Mill Started," *Burlington Daily Times*, December 12, 1928, p. 1; "New Mills at Haw River Be Ready Soon," *Burlington Daily Times*, October 3, 1929, p. 1; "Holt-Granite Manufacturing Company," Series 3.4.1, "Early Views of Tabardrey," Series 4.4.1; "Tabardrey," January 9, 1929, correspondence, Cone Mills Corporation Records, UNC-CH; Hughes, *Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County*, 24-25.

<sup>39</sup> *Davison's Textile Blue Book, 1930-1931*, 308; Herman Cone, "This Great Textile Industry Has Been Developed During a Rapidly Changing Period in Nation's History," *Daily News*, February 21, 1937, p. 10B; "Corduroy Records, 1930-1936," Series 1.2; "Tabardrey," Series 4.4.1; "Cone Mills Units at Haw River," April 28, 1949; "Tabardrey," Series 4.4.1; Herman Cone, "Tarbardrey-Granite 25-year Report," address given at anniversary celebration in Haw River on December 11, 1954, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill.

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Greensboro. Also in that city, the company's 270-loom White Oak denim plant opened in 1905, its Revolution Cotton Mills bleachery commenced operating in 1909, and its Proximity Print Works began manufacturing multicolored printed fabrics in 1912.<sup>40</sup>

Cone Export and Commission Company garnered a contract to supply Levi Strauss and Company with denim in 1915 and, two years later, became the first manufacturer to utilize dyes other than indigo to create denim in colors other than blue. During the 1920s, the company responded to changes in the textile industry by absorbing smaller operations. North Carolina acquisitions included Salisbury Cotton Mill in 1920, Eno Cotton Mill in Hillsborough in 1926, and, in 1927, two Rutherford County concerns: Cliffside Mills in Avondale and Haynes Mills in Cliffside.<sup>41</sup>

The company offered a wide range of amenities to its workforce, selling items such as coal and wood at less than wholesale cost. Proximity Manufacturing Company owned Textile Dairy near White Oak Mills in Greensboro and a stock farm north of that city that supplied beef and pork to the company stores that served its workers. The concern encouraged its employees to beautify their surroundings by providing free seeds, plants, bulbs, and garden tilling; offering horticultural classes and consultation with the company's landscape architect; and sponsoring competitions for the most productive gardens and attractive yards. Home economics classes covered topics such as basic nutrition, menu planning, meal preparation, fruit and vegetable preservation, sewing, and house furnishing.<sup>42</sup>

In 1931, Proximity Manufacturing Company's Haw River holdings included two stores and forty-eight dwellings, one of which was a six-room, brick, 1930 supervisor's house and garage erected by Greensboro contractors Harwell and Stutts. The remaining mill village homes were owner-occupied. The welfare department provided health care and community recreational and educational opportunities. The company employed nurses to supply preventative care instruction and home visits.

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<sup>40</sup> "The Proximity Mill at Greensboro, N. C.," *Manufacturers' Record*, February 7, 1896, pp. 25, 32-33; "Trailing Yard of Denim Through World's Largest Denim Mill," *Charlotte Observer*, March 2, 1928, pp. 10, 12; "Tabardrey," Herman Cone, "Tarbardrey-Granite 25-year Report;" "The Cone Mills in North Carolina, "Forty Years of Textile Progress," *Cotton*, October 1938, Series 4.4.1, Cone Mills Corporation Records, UNC-CH; Cone Export and Commission Company, *Half Century Book, 1891-1941* (Greensboro: Cone Export and Commission Company, 1941), unpaginated; Julien Elfenbein, "The Cone Story: Part One," *Linens and Domestics*, May 1953; Alex Coffin, "The Cone Family," *The North Carolina Century: Tar Heels Who Made a Difference, 1900-2000* (Charlotte: Levine Museum of the New South, 2002), 133; Beatty, *Alamance*, 147.

<sup>41</sup> Cone Mills Corporation remains the exclusive supplier for denim used in Levi's 501 jeans worldwide. Cone Mills Corporation, *A Century of Excellence: The History of Cone Mills, 1891 to 1991* (Greensboro: Cone Mills Corporation, 1991), 25-26; Elfenbein, "The Cone Story: Part One;" Julien Elfenbein, "The Cone Story: Part Two," *Linens and Domestics*, June 1953.

<sup>42</sup> Pearl Wyche, "Welfare Work in Cone Mill Villages," *Daily News*, June 15, 1930; Ethel Thomas Dabbs, ed., "Visiting the Mills," *Textile Bulletin*, April 27, 1933, pp. 24, 26-27; "History of Cone Mills, 1912-1937," Series 5.1, Cone Mills Corporation Records, UNC-CH; Lassiter, "Carolina Mill was part of Holt textile dynasty."



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Company-funded schools provided day and evening classes for children and adults. The Young Men's Christian Association oversaw the Haw River community center. Mill workers formed baseball, softball, and basketball teams that provided a social outlet. During the summer months, employees and their families could avail themselves of a company-built lake and at Camp Herman north of Greensboro for up to ten days.<sup>43</sup>

The textile industry faced challenges nationwide during the early 1930s. More efficient equipment and mechanization that transformed manufacturing operations resulted in mill employee layoffs. Job loss, decreased pay, and poor working conditions made unions more appealing. These factors set the stage for mill workers across the South to participate in the General Textile Strike of 1934, which closed down plants throughout the region. On Labor Day, September 3 of that year, 65,000 North Carolina mill employees organized in support of union causes and refused to work. The specific nature of Haw River mill workers' response is unknown. However, the strike and its aftermath dramatically impacted workers throughout North Carolina. Many mill owners fired known union members and sympathizers. Union efforts were not in vain, as the Roosevelt administration's social and economic reform programs eventually resulted in the institution of a forty-hour work week and increased worker pay.<sup>44</sup>

Cone Export and Commission Company successfully marketed a wide range of corduroy colors, widths, grades, and finishes produced in Proximity Manufacturing Company's Haw River plants during the 1930s. Facility updates were nominal until 1934, at which time a slashing and weaving room designed to accommodate model P looms was erected at the northeast corner of Tabardrey's south mill. In 1935, 320 employees utilized 17,080 ring spindles, 416 twisting spindles, 662 narrow looms, and 100 cards to produce grey moleskin, corduroy, and suede. Granite Mill's machine shop was enlarged that year. In 1936, the Tabardrey and Granite plants generated approximately 3.5 million yards of corduroy, which was reported to be ten percent of the United States's total textile production that year.<sup>45</sup> Proximity Manufacturing Company expanded the Granite plant in 1937 with a four-story-on-basement warehouse (Building 16) and the elevated passage that connects it to Building 15's south end.

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<sup>43</sup> "Cone Mills Were Pioneers in Community Welfare Work," *Charlotte Observer*, March 2, 1928, pp. 3, 14, 16; Pearl Wyche, "Welfare Work in Cone Mill Villages," *Daily News*, June 15, 1930; "History of Cone Mills, 1912-1937," Series 5.1; "The Cone Mills in North Carolina," Series 5.1; "Forty Years of Textile Progress," *Cotton*, October 1938, Wilson Library, UNC-Chapel Hill; Haw River Historical Association, "Change at Tabardrey," *The Shuttle*, September 2002

<sup>44</sup> *New York Times*, September 4, 1934; Jacquelyn Dowd Hall, James Leloudis, Robert Korstad, Mary Murphy, Lu Ann Jones and Christopher B. Daly, *Like a Family: The Making of the Southern Cotton Mill World* (New York: W.W. Norton and Company, 1987), 202-208, 295-298, 350-354; Margaret Crawford, *Building the Workingman's Paradise: The Design of American Company Towns* (London and New York: Verso, 1995), 194-195.

<sup>45</sup> *Davison's Textile Blue Book, 1935-1936*, 246; "Corduroy Records, 1930-1936," Folder 1 of 2, Series 1.2; "Early Views of Tabardrey," and "Tabardrey," Series 4.4.1, Cone Mills Corporation Records, UNC-CH; Troxler and Vincent, *Shuttle & Plow*, 356.

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Military contracts to support the United States' participation in World War II soon spurred burgeoning industrial production. America's goal to become "the arsenal of democracy" benefited large corporations—more than half of the \$175 billion-worth of government contracts awarded between 1940 and 1944 went to thirty-three nationally-known firms who had demonstrated their capacity to produce large quantities of quality goods—as well as small businesses, finally remedying the high unemployment rates that lingered after the recession. Approximately 7,176 Alamance County residents served in the military during the war, and those left behind were occupied with the war effort in a variety of ways, from participating in bond drives to filling vacant positions at mills and factories that accelerated their production to meet the needs of servicemen and women. Industrial jobs rose by seventy-five percent in the South over the course of World War II, with traditionally underemployed groups such as women, African Americans, and the elderly receiving invaluable education, training, and experience. Output soared after May 1943, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Office of War Mobilization to coordinate a diverse array of support endeavors including manufacturing, scientific research, and agricultural production. Proximity Manufacturing Company increased production and employee compensation during this period, raising hourly rates approximately 124 percent between 1939 and 1947.<sup>46</sup>

President Sidney S. Paine, treasurer Herman Cone, and secretary W. T. Brooks continued to head Tabardrey Manufacturing Company in 1941. The concern was among those supplying the United States military with fabric. Superintendent A. Holmes managed 325 employees who produced grey moleskins, corduroys, and suedes utilizing 17,584 ring spindles, 416 twisting spindles, 662 narrow looms, and 100 cards. Greensboro buyer S. Bluhm procured the company's cotton. A. C. Goodwin of Greensboro was the purchasing agent and Cone Export and Commission Company the selling agent. In 1944, the plant's 390 workers operated the same amount of equipment with the exception of ring spindles, which increased in quantity to 18,904.<sup>47</sup>

In 1945, Proximity Manufacturing Company undertook a restructuring that resulted in a corporation of that name with five plants—Proximity and White Oak in Greensboro, Tabardrey in Haw River, Edna in Reidsville, and Pineville in its namesake town (south of Charlotte)—as well as eight subsidiary manufacturing companies—Asheville Cotton Mills, Cliffside Mills (Cliffside and Haynes plants, Rutherford County), Eno Cotton Mills (Hillsboro), The Florence Mills (Florence Mill, Forest City, N. C., and American Spinning Division, Greenville, S. C.), Minneola Manufacturing Company (Gibsonville), Revolution Cotton Mills (Greensboro), Salisbury Cotton Mills, and Cone Finishing Company (Print Works plant, Greensboro, and Granite plant, Haw River). The conglomerate also

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<sup>46</sup> Spencer B. King, Jr., *Selective Service in North Carolina in World War II* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1949), 321; "Annual Reports, 1946-1947," Series 2.1, Cone Mills Corporation Records, UNC-CH; Marilyn M. Harper, et. al. *World War II and the American Home Front* (Washington, D. C.: The National Historic Landmarks Program, October 2007), 3, 13-16.

<sup>47</sup> *Davison's Textile Blue Book, 1941*, 240; *Davison's Textile Blue Book, 1944*, 252.

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included Cone Export and Commission Company of New Jersey, which marketed products ranging from denim to corduroy, jeans, drills, twills, fancy flannels, cotton flannels, print cloths, combed yard fabrics, coverts, suitings, towels, and washcloths from offices in New York City, Greensboro, Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Dallas, Nashville, and St. Louis. Proximity Manufacturing executives such as board chairman Bernard M. Cone; president Herman Cone; vice-presidents Saul F. Dribben, Clarence N. Cone, Sydney M. Cone Jr., and Sidney S. Paine; treasurer Caesar Cone; and comptroller and secretary Harold W. Smith had been involved with company endeavors for many years. The concern operated as Proximity Manufacturing Company for only a few years, however, before becoming Cone Mills Corporation in 1948.<sup>48</sup>

A series of additions that allowed Granite Finishing Works' to increase production capacity following World War II necessitated the demolition of late-nineteenth-century structures east of Building 10 including the picker room, the carding/weaving building, and the dye house. In their place, Cone Mills erected a dye house (Building 12) in 1947 and expanded it in 1949 (Building 11). The 1948 addition on Building 15's east side almost doubled the structure's square footage. Additions east of Buildings 9 and 10 were completed in 1949. In April of that year, Granite Finishing Works employed 190 workers and Tabardrey's 520-person workforce operated eight hundred looms. Arthur Makin superintended the Tabardrey plant, while Percy C. Beatty oversaw the Granite plant's operation with the assistance of manager F. A. Whitney.<sup>49</sup>

In 1950, Granite Finishing Works' net sales totaled \$3,341, 275 with \$120,555 in profit. In order to meet increased storage needs, Cone Mills erected a one-story-on-basement warehouse (Building 17) in 1952. Tabardrey's loom count was unchanged in 1950, although when administrators calculated projected budget expenditures based upon task, they allowed for only 233 employees: 110 carders, 75 spinners, 24 drawers, 14 rovers, 4 pickers, 2 spoolers, 2 twisters, 1 warper, and 1 slasher. Tabardrey's net sales amounted to \$5,721,959 in 1954, but the plant's operating profit was only \$111,921.<sup>50</sup>

In 1955, Granite employees bleached, dyed, and finished the corduroy produced at the Tabardrey plant, which housed 18,928 spindles, 800 looms, and 100 cards. Tabardrey workers generated eight million yards of corduroy in 1956, when the Cone Mills Corporation installed a cloth cutting table, spinning equipment, and looms to weave wide corduroy fabric. The company also stabilized the elevated

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<sup>48</sup> "Fourteen Carolinas Textile Plants Planning to Merge," *Daily Times-News*, October 11, 1945; "Annual Reports, 1946-1947," Series 2.1; "Minute Book, Tabardrey Manufacturing Company, Haw River, N. C.," Series 3.6.2, "Minute Book, Tabardrey Manufacturing Company, Haw River," Series 3.6.2; "Tabardrey," Series 4.4.1, Cone Mills Corporation Records, UNC-CH.

<sup>49</sup> "Cone Mills Units at Haw River," April 28, 1949, Series 4.4.1, Cone Mills Corporation Records, UNC-CH.

<sup>50</sup> "All Plants Data," Series 2.1, and A. M. Pullen and Company, "Cone Mills Corporation, Greensboro, North Carolina, Report on Audit, year ended December 31, 1954," Series 5.3.2, Cone Mills Corporation Records, UNC-CH; "Financial Data on 18 Leading Textile Companies – for Fiscal Year 1953," *America's Textile Reporter*, May 27, 1954.

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walkway spanning the railroad and updated the Haw River community house that year. At the Granite plant, Cone Mills replaced the finishing range and bleaching and cutting machines and added restrooms, showers, and locker rooms. Equipment modernization projects during the next few years continued to improve efficiency. In 1959, Tabardrey's 417 employees operated 18,296 spindles, 778 looms, and 100 cards. The Granite plant employed 385 men and women.<sup>51</sup>

As production escalated, Granite Finishing Works completed in 1961 a one-story office building and a finished goods storage warehouse with a multi-bay loading dock close to the highway. Cone Mills Corporation remained a pioneer in the American textile industry, becoming the first company to manufacture and market stretch denim in 1962, develop permanent press fabrics in 1964, and introduce bleached denim in 1969. In 1965, Tabardrey's 377-person workforce included fifty-nine employees with twenty-five or more years of service. Granite Finishing Works' 431 employees dyed corduroy and velveteen and prepared it to be shipped to vendors. When technological advances allowed these fabrics, traditionally made of cotton, to incorporate synthetic fibers, the requisite dyeing and finishing processes required additional space. Cone Mills Corporation therefore continuously updated buildings and equipment at the Granite and Tabardrey plants, which received steam heating systems, refurbished floors, fresh paint, and more effective lighting and machinery, as well as extensive landscaping and parking lot paving, throughout the 1960s.<sup>52</sup>

Daniel Construction Company erected four expansive edifices (Buildings 4-7) at the Granite plant in 1967. The project required approximately 469 tons of structural steel supplied by Trojan Steel Company. Building 4 (33,920 square feet) and Building 7 (33,925 square feet) were general-purpose warehouses. Cone Mills stored bolts of bleached cloth in the 15,885-square-foot Building 5. Building 6 (11,600 square feet) housed wet fabric processing. In 1970, Granite employed 500 workers.<sup>53</sup>

On August 20, 1970, Cone Mills Corporation vice-president Earle Stall Jr. announced plans to lay off 140 Tabardrey workers, about 36 percent of its 384 employees, due to economic challenges. At that time the company's twenty-four plants in four states—North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas, and New Jersey—comprised a combined workforce numbering around 14,000 people.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Davison's *Textile Blue Book*, 1955, 257, 632; Davison's *Textile Blue Book*, 1959, 203, 540; "Cone Mills Completes Several Advances," *Daily Times-News*, January 28, 1957, p. 8; "Cone Mills Continues Program of Modernization, Improvement," *Daily Times-News*, February 2, 1959, p. D2.

<sup>52</sup> "Cone Mills Reports High Mark of Volume, Quality for 1961," *Daily Times-News*, February 5, 1961, p. D4; "Cone Mills Reports Good Year," *Daily Times-News*, February 4, 1963; Davison's *Textile Blue Book*, 1965, 3-76, 16-57; "Cone Mills' Plants Have Notable Year," *Daily Times-News*, February 7, 1966, E4; *A Century of Excellence: The History of Cone Mills*, 27, 37.

<sup>53</sup> Cone Mills Corporation inter-company correspondence, November 25, 1966, "Granite Finishing Company," Series 5.4.4, Cone Mills Corporation Records, UNC-CH; Davison's *Textile Blue Book*, 1970, 548.

<sup>54</sup> "Tabardrey Plant Has Fire Damage," *Daily Times-News*, March 5, 1970, p. B1; Kathy Stark, "Tabardrey Plant's Operations Cut," *Daily Times-News*, August 20, 1970, p. B1.

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In October 1974, Granite Finishing Works general manager William H. Ritter promoted Gene Whitener to the position of assistant general manager, Sam Clary to plant superintendent, and Marshall Boyce to technical superintendent. The following year, the company commissioned the construction of a 30,000-square-foot, greige goods warehouse (Building 3). Hildebrand Crane Service of Greensboro erected the building's steel frame. Granite Mills finished 3.5 million yards of corduroy annually in the late 1970s, generating the world's largest output of the fabric.<sup>55</sup>

Corduroy's subsequent precipitous decline in popularity resulted in Cone Mills' 1983 decision to cease production at the Tabardrey plant. The mill complex was idle for several years. On May 1, 1987, Cone Mills Corporation conveyed the former Cora and Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Company mills to Alamance Properties, Ltd. Subsequent owners were Vertex Industries, Inc., Vertex Sportswear, Inc., D. H. Griffin Container Service, Durham-based investment company MERD, Inc., and Haw River HDC II, LLC.<sup>56</sup>

The Granite plant maintained chamois and flat cloth dying and finishing operations through 1997, with employee numbers rapidly decreasing from approximately 530 workers in 1991 to a 102-person workforce in 1994. Financier Wilbur Ross acquired Burlington Industries in November 2003 and Cone Mills Corporation in February 2004 and combined them to create International Textile Group in March 2004.<sup>57</sup>

In November 2004, Cone Mills Corporation sold the Granite plant to Haw River Business Center, LLC. The approximately thirty-one-acre tract has since been divided into six tax parcels. Haw River Business Center, LLC, retains ownership of all but the 3.37-acre lot containing three warehouses (Buildings 2-4) as well as the parking lot east of Building 2. Confluence, LLC, purchased that tract in October 2012. The warehouses built from 1967 through 1985 are leased to tenants for industrial storage.<sup>58</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> W. O. Leonard, Cone Mills Corporation inter-company correspondence, October 28, 1974, "Granite Finishing Company," Series 5.4.4, Cone Mills Corporation Records, UNC-CH; Richard Bierck, "'Walking the Plank' Takes Nerve," *Daily Times-News*, September 11, 1975, p. B1; Troxler and Vincent, *Shuttle & Plow*, 356.

<sup>56</sup> Alamance County Deed Book 550, p. 49; Deed Book 677, p. 883; Deed Book 726, p. 741; Deed Book 787, p. 885; Plat Book 34, p. 93; Plat Book 37, p. 3; Plat Book 43, p. 20; Deed Book 1696, p. 614; Deed Book 1903, p. 584; Deed Book 2407, p. 407; Deed Book 2475, p. 118; Deed Book 3085, p. 274; Plat Book 67, p. 479.

<sup>57</sup> Troxler and Vincent, *Shuttle & Plow*, 357; Ross to merge Burlington and Cone Mills," *Charlotte Business Journal*, March 17, 2004.

<sup>58</sup> Alamance County Deed Book 2160, p. 881; Deed Book 3157, p. 626;

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## Industrial Architecture Context

Many of North Carolina's nineteenth-century textile producers adapted existing frame buildings to serve as their first mills. Such structures, which usually had rough-sawn wood floors and wood-shingle roofs, often resembled large residential or agricultural buildings as they were typically located in rural settings along the rivers and streams that generated their power. Edwin Michael Holt and William A. Carrigan's frame 1837 mill on Alamance Creek, one of the piedmont's earliest and largest textile mills, burned in April 1872.<sup>59</sup>

In the first purpose-built industrial buildings erected in the United States, engineers and architects strove to accommodate machinery in a manner that allowed for efficient access to power sources as well as maximum utilization of natural light and ventilation. By the mid-nineteenth century, "slow-burn" masonry construction, with load-bearing brick walls, exposed heavy-timber framing, thick plank floors, gabled roofs, large operable windows and transoms, and metal fire doors predominated.<sup>60</sup> During the late nineteenth century, steam and electric power availability encouraged factory movement to urban areas in close proximity to railroad lines and sizable potential employee pools. Mill and factory design evolved from a process whereby owners worked with builders who erected edifices based on mutually understood norms to a field dominated by professionally-trained engineers who rendered plans for industrial buildings and supervised their execution.<sup>61</sup>

Standards imposed by machinery manufacturers and insurance companies also guided industrial architecture's evolution. In order to minimize fire risk, stairwells, which could serve as conduits for fire movement between floors, were located in projecting stair towers. Brick interior walls and galvanized-sheet-metal-clad, solid-core-wood doors, known as kalamein doors, separated the mill sections where fires might start or spread rapidly. These heavy doors would automatically close in the case of a fire, as the heat would melt a soft metal link in the door's counterweight assembly and the door would slide shut on the sloped metal track. As an additional precaution, water reservoirs and elevated water tanks supplied automatic sprinkler systems in many industrial complexes.<sup>62</sup>

During the twentieth century's first decades, architects and engineers continued to plan manufacturing complexes that were similar in appearance to earlier industrial buildings. However, new materials, technology, and forms manifested efficiency, modernity, and economic progress. Mill and factory

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<sup>59</sup> Betsy Hunter Bradley, *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999), 16-17; Glass, *Textile Industry*, 16-17; Laura A. W. Phillips, "Alamance Mill Village Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2007.

<sup>60</sup> Sara E. Wermiel, "Heavy Timber Framing in Late-Nineteenth-Century Commercial and Industrial Buildings," *APT Bulletin: Journal of Preservation Technology*, Volume 35, No. 1, 2004, 56.

<sup>61</sup> Bradley, *The Works*, 15-21.

<sup>62</sup> Glass, *Textile Industry*, 38.

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designers specified steel and reinforced-concrete columns, posts, and beams in conjunction with brick, concrete, terra cotta block, or tile curtain walls that provided structural bracing but did not carry any weight. Bands of steel-frame multipane windows and roof monitors provided workers with abundant light and ventilation. Steel truss roof systems spanned open interiors that accommodated sizable equipment and allowed for flexibility as manufacturing needs changed.<sup>63</sup>

Although structural systems for some late-nineteenth-century industrial buildings included cast-iron or wrought-iron columns or steel posts and beams, high cost greatly limited the materials' use until the early twentieth century. The ability to withstand the weight and vibrations of heavy machinery without failing contributed to the widespread use of structural-steel construction by the 1910s, as did the ease of fabricating framing systems from standard factory-generated parts. Typical elements include I-, T-, H-, and box-shaped beams and posts; round columns; reinforcing plates; and angles, which serve as braces, tension members, struts, or lintels. Steel components could be riveted together, creating strong connections, and tended to be smaller and lighter than heavy-timber or iron framing members. This allowed for wider and taller buildings with more square footage for equipment. The popularity of flat roofs and sizable roof monitors also resulted in structural-steel framing prevalence. In order to reduce oxidation and achieve fire resistance, steel members were coated with intumescent paint; sprayed with a thin mixture of cement, sand, and water called gunite; or encased in concrete.<sup>64</sup>

Concrete construction technology also improved during the early twentieth century. Engineer Claude A. P. Turner patented a structural system comprised of concrete mushroom columns and formed-concrete floors in 1908 after utilizing it in his plans for Minneapolis's 1906 Johnson-Bovey Building. He then designed the first American bridge supported by the columns, which carried Lafayette Avenue over the Soo Line in St. Paul, Minnesota. The Cameron Avenue Bridge over Falling Branch Creek in Winston-Salem, completed in 1920, possesses statewide engineering significance as North Carolina's only such structure employing reinforced-concrete mushroom columns to carry a concrete slab span. The technology was often used in mill construction, appearing in North Carolina factories such as those erected in Winston-Salem by R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company beginning in 1915 and the six-story knitting mill that P. H. Hanes Knitting Company built in 1921.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> Bradley, *The Works*, 144-147.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> As construction drawings for the Cameron Avenue Bridge have not been located, the engineer is unknown. However, R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company commissioned the bridge's construction as part of its development of the surrounding neighborhood for its employees. J. E. Serrine and Company, architects and engineers of many of the company's structures, specified mushroom columns for buildings erected during that period. A. S. Macolmson, "The Mushroom System of Reinforced Concrete Building Construction," *Engineering-Contracting*, September 4, 1907, p. 137; Lichtenstein Consulting Engineers, Inc., "Bridge ID No. 330373," North Carolina Department of Transportation Historic Bridge Inventory Report, 2003; Nannie M. Tilley, *The R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985), 307; *Manufacturers' Record*, August 26, 1915 and October 14, 1915; Anita Scism and Spencer Gung, "R. J. R. Downtown

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Albert Kahn was one of only a few American architects who specialized in industrial building design during the early twentieth century. In many of his commissions, traditional load-bearing walls were replaced with curtain walls containing large steel-frame windows and monitor roofs provided illumination and ventilation. His office supplied factory plans to hundreds of American industrialists including automobile manufacturers Packard, Chrysler, Ford, and General Motors, as well as for international clients. At the Packard Motor Car Company Forge Shop (1910) in Detroit, Kahn used a steel structural frame to support a traveling crane mounted to the roof trusses and glass curtain walls to allow for maximum light and air circulation. He minimized the exterior walls' bay articulation by specifying narrow steel columns of about the same size as steel window sashes. Kahn's firm continued to employ bands of steel windows in conjunction with masonry or concrete screens to conceal steel structural framing in edifices such as the Industrial Works (ca. 1915) in Bay City, Michigan. The firm's design for the Dodge Half-Ton Truck Plant in Detroit, completed in 1937, was a much more sophisticated building with tall glazed curtain walls reminiscent of Walter Gropius's Bauhaus School (1926) in Dessau, Germany.<sup>66</sup> Gropius's streamlined design for the 1911 Fagus Factory in Germany, which features steel-frame multipane curtain walls, was also internationally influential.<sup>67</sup>

Modernist architectural principles such as simplicity, efficiency, affordability, and intrinsic material expression were inherently applicable to industrial buildings. Industrial architecture continued to reflect these tenets as the twentieth century progressed. Building materials and labor were in short supply during World War II, but when construction resumed after the war's end, steel and reinforced-concrete industrial edifices with masonry (brick, tile, or concrete) curtain walls predominated. Windows decreased in size and number in the 1960s as central air conditioning became prevalent.

## Industrial Architecture in Haw River

The Granite Mill complex manifests the evolution of industrial building technology from the mid-nineteenth through the mid-twentieth century. The people or firms responsible for designing the nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century edifices have not been identified. Proximity Manufacturing

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Buildings, 1875-1950: A Historical Perspective," unpublished report prepared for R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, March 12, 2002.

<sup>66</sup> "Art: Industrial Architect," *Time*, August 8, 1938; Bradley, *The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States*, 248, 248-258.

<sup>67</sup> Gropius, the highly influential founder of the German design school known as the Bauhaus, which operated from 1919 until 1933, taught at Harvard's Graduate School of Design beginning in 1937. Bradley, *The Works*, 250; Henry-Russell Hitchcock Jr. and Philip Johnson, *The International Style: Architecture since 1922* (New York, W. W. Norton & Company, 1932, 20; Henry-Russell Hitchcock Jr., *In the Nature of Materials: The Buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright, 1887-1941* (New York: Da Capo Press, Inc., 1942), 52, 92-93, Figures 99 and 328-338; "Gropius House," <http://www.historicnewengland.org/visit/homes/gropius.htm> (accessed August 2015).



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Company and Cone Mills Corporation engineers and architects rendered plans for the plant's mid-twentieth-century additions and improvements.

Granite Mill's earliest buildings retain character-defining features of nineteenth-century industrial architecture. The original mill erected in 1844 and expanded in 1881 is a four-story L-shaped structure (Building 9) adjacent to the Haw River in the site's northwest quadrant. Like the adjoining four-story Building 10, also constructed in 1881, and the two-story, 1886 Building 15 which stands to the east, the heavy-timber-frame structure's load-bearing brick walls are laid in five-to-one common bond with corbelled cornices and segmental-arched window and door openings. Buildings 9 and Building 10 feature stepped parapets that rise above almost-flat roofs. Stepped rafter ends support Building 15's deep eaves. Brick buttresses with concrete caps were added at regular intervals to insure the west wall's stability. The Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Company mill and boiler house erected south of East Main Street in 1892 are comparable, as they employ heavy-timber framing in conjunction with load-bearing brick exterior walls executed in five-to-one common bond with penciled mortar joints. The segmental-arched window openings and door transoms are typical for the period. In all four buildings, large, double-hung, wood-sash windows originally illuminated the interiors, where double-thickness floors, chamfered square wood posts, and substantial wood beams prevailed.

The Holts consulted mill engineer Charles A. M. Praray as they expanded the Haw River complex. Praray, who was employed by the prolific Providence, Rhode Island, firm Charles R. Makepeace and Company, had in April 1894 patented an industrial building design that comprised an innovative post-and-beam structural system and zig-zag-shaped curtain walls with triangular bays filled with enormous windows. The exterior walls, which had separate foundations, provided horizontal bracing rather than carrying the building's load. His plans for the 1895 Cora Mill and Thomas M. Holt Manufacturing Company's circa 1897 expansion manifested this concept.<sup>68</sup>

Granite Mill's random-course granite dam spanning the Haw River and the granite-walled floodgate and wheel pit on the dam's east side are also important survivals. Contractors Long and Anderson commenced constructing the 640-foot-wide and 12-foot-tall dam in 1881 and finished the project in 1892 at an approximate cost of \$25,000.<sup>69</sup> The floodgate, which has three segmental-arched openings,

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<sup>68</sup> Charles A. Praray, born in 1848, began his career as a carpenter and gained experience with mill construction before working for Makepeace. In early 1898, Praray established his own Providence, Rhode Island, firm: Charles A. M. Praray and Company. After his death in Connecticut in 1910, his son Charles W. Praray, who had designed and superintended mills, assumed management of the Providence office. Charles A. Praray, "Improvement in Buildings," Patent No. 518,274, April 17, 1894, United States Patent Office; New England Cotton Manufacturers' Association, *Transactions of the New England Cotton Manufacturers' Association*, No. 64 (Waltham, Massachusetts: E. L. Barry, 1898), 27, 37; "A New Firm of Mill Architects and Engineers," *Providence Journal of Commerce*, Vol. 6, No. 3 (March 1898), p. 61; Lisa Pfueller Davidson, "Through the Mill: Documenting the Southern Textile Industry," *CRM*, No. 4, 2000, pp. 16-17.

<sup>69</sup> Hughes, *Development of the Textile Industry in Alamance County*, 18; Swain, et. al., *North Carolina Geological Survey Bulletin No. 8*, 153.

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is at the north end of a six-sided, thick-walled enclosure with a south section designed to contain steel water wheels. Arched openings at the enclosure's south end emptied water into the tail race to move it downstream. Following the mill's complete shift to electric power, the dam, floodgate, and wheel pit supplied water for the complex's fire suppression system.

Other fire safety features, such as the kalamein doors between manufacturing areas, stair and elevator towers, workshops, and engine, boiler, and equipment rooms, were standard components of industrial architecture. By 1924, Granite Mill had installed a sprinkler system in manufacturing areas. A 105,000-gallon reservoir and numerous hose houses, none of which remain, stored and conveyed water.<sup>70</sup> The early 1920s brick boiler house (Building 19) and late 1940s smokestack are freestanding in order to reduce the potential for fire to spread through the complex. The boiler house's open interior, high ceiling, and concrete floor facilitated equipment installation, service, and replacement. The central roof monitor, which spans stepped parapets on the north and south walls, and large multipane steel sash furnish ample light. A tall round smokestack executed in yellow brick laid header bond is connected to the boiler house's east elevation. Two corbelled courses wrap around the smokestack above the "C" in "Cone Fabrics," which is spelled out vertically in red brick.

The buildings and additions erected at the Granite plant between 1937 and 1967 exhibit a functional aesthetic in their form, massing, expressed structural systems, and open plans with fenestration dictated by interior use. Brick and concrete-block walls are cost-effective, durable, fire-resistant, and require little maintenance. Structural systems comprise reinforced-concrete and steel columns, posts, and beams and poured-concrete foundations. These elements supported heavy equipment and minimized vibration. High ceilings and open floor plans accommodated sizable equipment. As the 1937-1952 buildings and additions were not originally air-conditioned, large multipane steel windows provided light and ventilation. Some windows were enclosed with brick in conjunction with air conditioning installation. The warehouses erected in 1964 and 1967 have only a few windows.

Building 16, a four-story-on-basement, red brick, 1937 warehouse, and the elevated passage that connects it to Building 15's south end, have wood roof decking and exposed rafter ends like the plant's earlier buildings. The warehouse walls are executed in running bond punctuated by random courses comprising alternating stretchers and headers. The eight-bay-long and four-bay-wide building has a very low-pitched-gable roof system with projecting rafter ends that create deep eaves. Terra-cotta coping caps flat parapets on the east and west elevations. Corbelled cornices ornament the slightly recessed bays. Bands of multipane steel sash with concrete sills and lintels remain in each third- and fourth-story bay and the elevated passage. The upper-level warehouse floors are hardwood and the basement poured concrete, while the elevated passage has a steel-panel floor.

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<sup>70</sup> "Graham, N.C.," Sanborn Map Sheet 8, January 1924, and Sheet 8, June 1931.

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The 1947 dye house (Building 12) expanded in 1949 (Building 11), the 1948 addition on Building 15's east side, and the 1949 additions east of Buildings 9 and 10 retain wood roof decking and poured-concrete floors. Flat steel trusses support Building 11's roof. Large, multipane, steel sash illuminate the 1947 and 1949 dye houses and the basement dining room of the 1952 warehouse (Building 17), which contains the complex's sole example of tall steel-reinforced concrete columns with mushroom capitals. In the brick-veneered concrete-block 1964 warehouse (Building 8), flat steel roof trusses support wide-board roof decking. Square metal-frame windows light the interior. The four expansive brick and concrete-block edifices (Buildings 4-7) erected in 1967 have precast-concrete roof panels and poured-concrete floors. The walls are blind with the exception of a series of square windows on Building 4's east elevation.

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## Section 10. Geographical Data

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 36.092889 Longitude: -79.368893
2. Latitude: 36.093743 Longitude: -79.365825
3. Latitude: 36.092866 Longitude: -79.365079
4. Latitude: 36.091883 Longitude: -79.364878
5. Latitude: 36.090842 Longitude: -79.365616
6. Latitude: 36.090023 Longitude: -79.366261
7. Latitude: 36.088868 Longitude: -79.368064
8. Latitude: 36.089344 Longitude: -79.368536
9. Latitude: 36.090298 Longitude: -79.369137
10. Latitude: 36.091122 Longitude: -79.369354

### Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary is indicated by a bold line on the enclosed map; the boundary corresponds with tax parcel 122342. Scale: one inch equals approximately two hundred-twenty feet.

### Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary encompasses all of the historic industrial resources associated with Granite Mill. The thirty-one-acre tract provides an appropriate setting for the complex.



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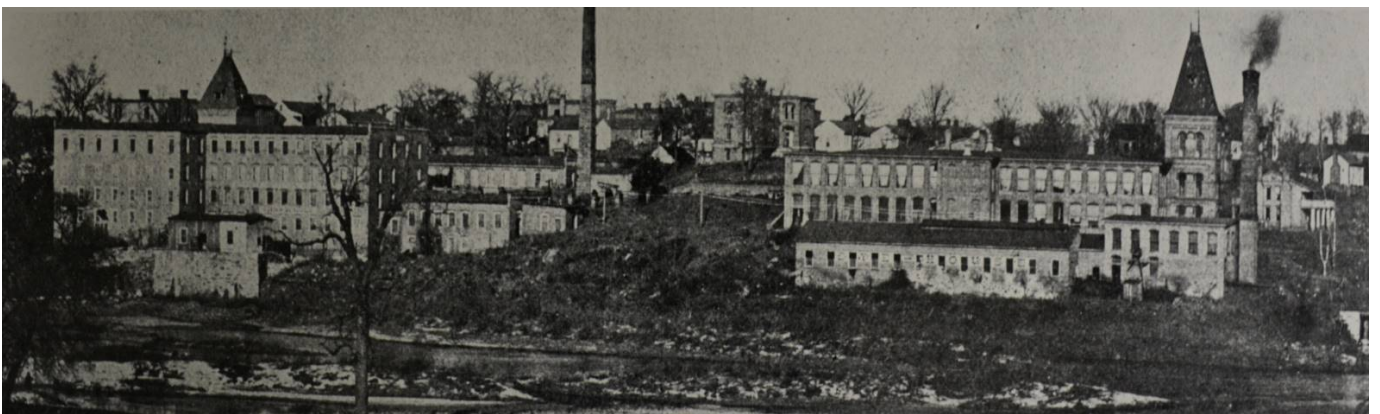
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## Additional Documentation: Current Photographs

Photographs by Heather Fearnbach, 3334 Nottingham Road, Winston-Salem, NC, in May and June 2016. Digital images located at the North Carolina SHPO.

1. Looking northwest from East Main Street entrance
2. Building 10, west elevation, looking northeast
3. Building 15, west elevation, looking southeast
4. Building 15, east elevation, looking northwest
5. Building 16, southwest oblique
6. Building 5, west elevation
7. Buildings 4 and 7, south elevation, looking northwest
8. Building 18, southwest oblique
9. Equipment Shed, northwest oblique
10. Building 3, north elevation, looking southwest
11. Building 10, Level 4, looking south
12. Building 16, Level 4, looking southwest
13. Building 12, looking south
14. Building 17, basement, looking northeast
15. Building 7, looking west
16. Floodgate, looking north

## Additional Documentation: Historic Images



**Figure 1. Granite Mill, circa 1891**

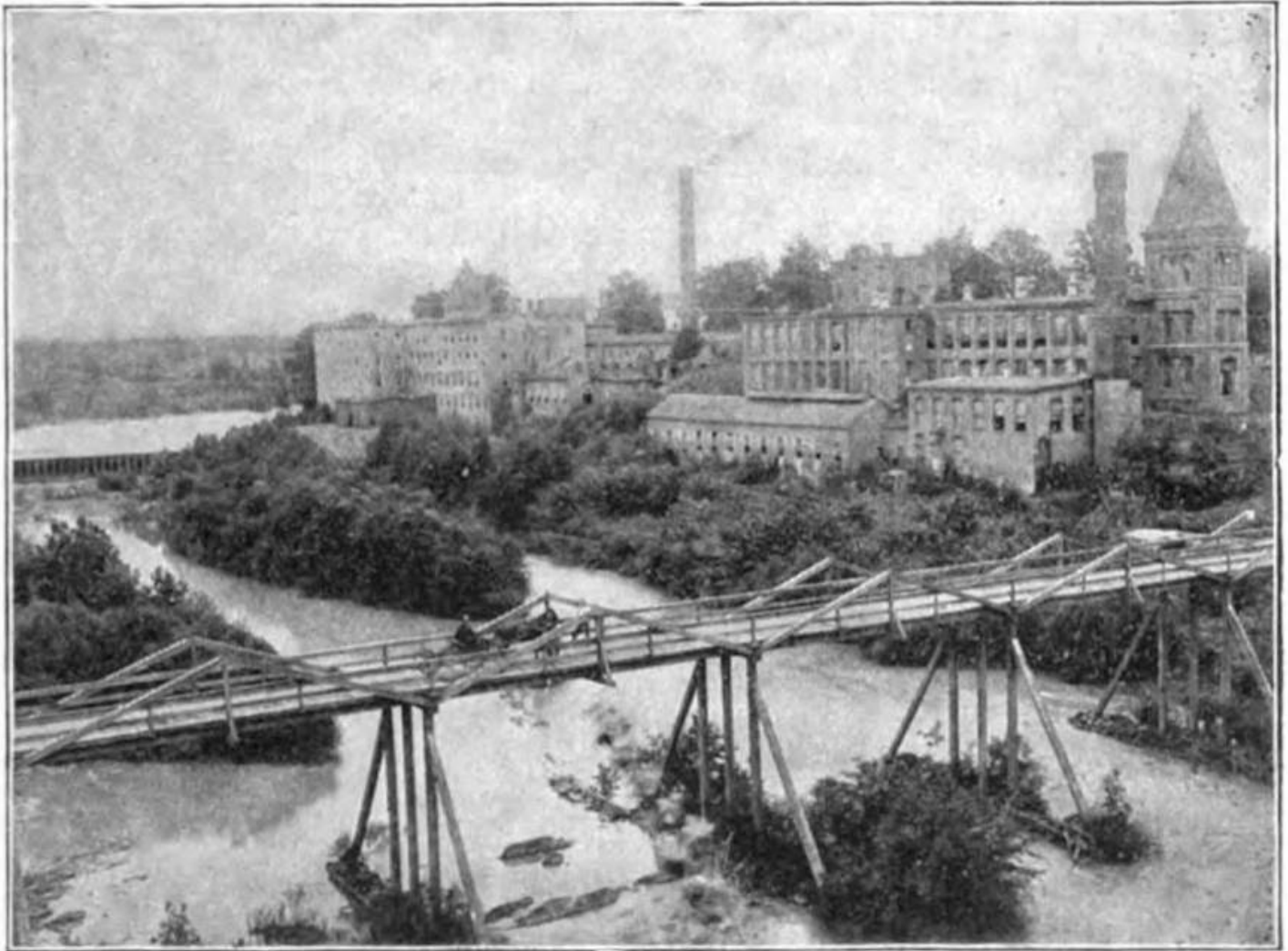
Photograph from the Haw River Historical Association Museum's collection

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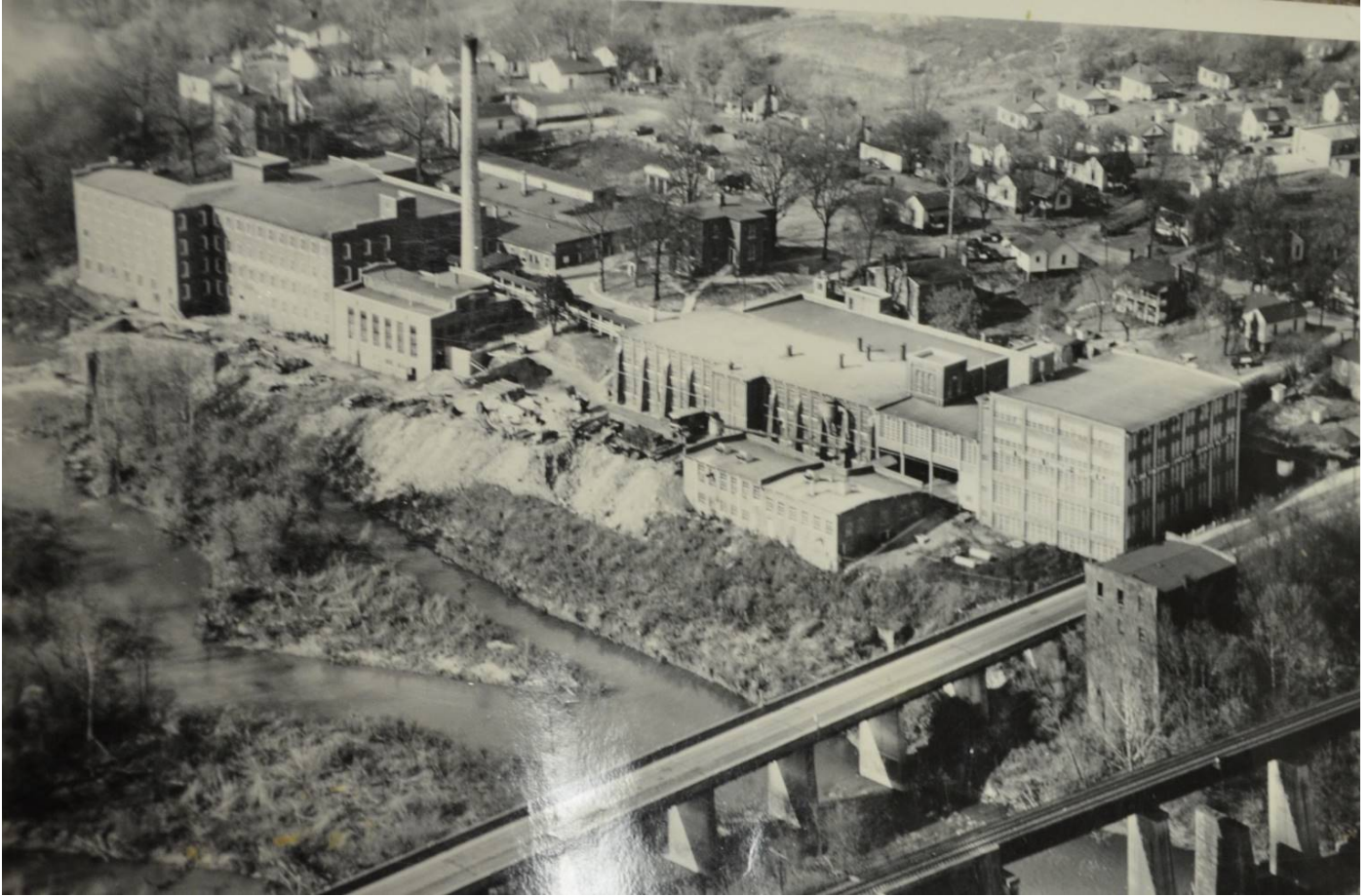
**Figure 2. Granite Mill, circa 1899**  
from *Papers on the Waterpower in North Carolina: A Preliminary Report*, 1899, p. 153

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**Figure 3. Granite Finishing Works, 1951**

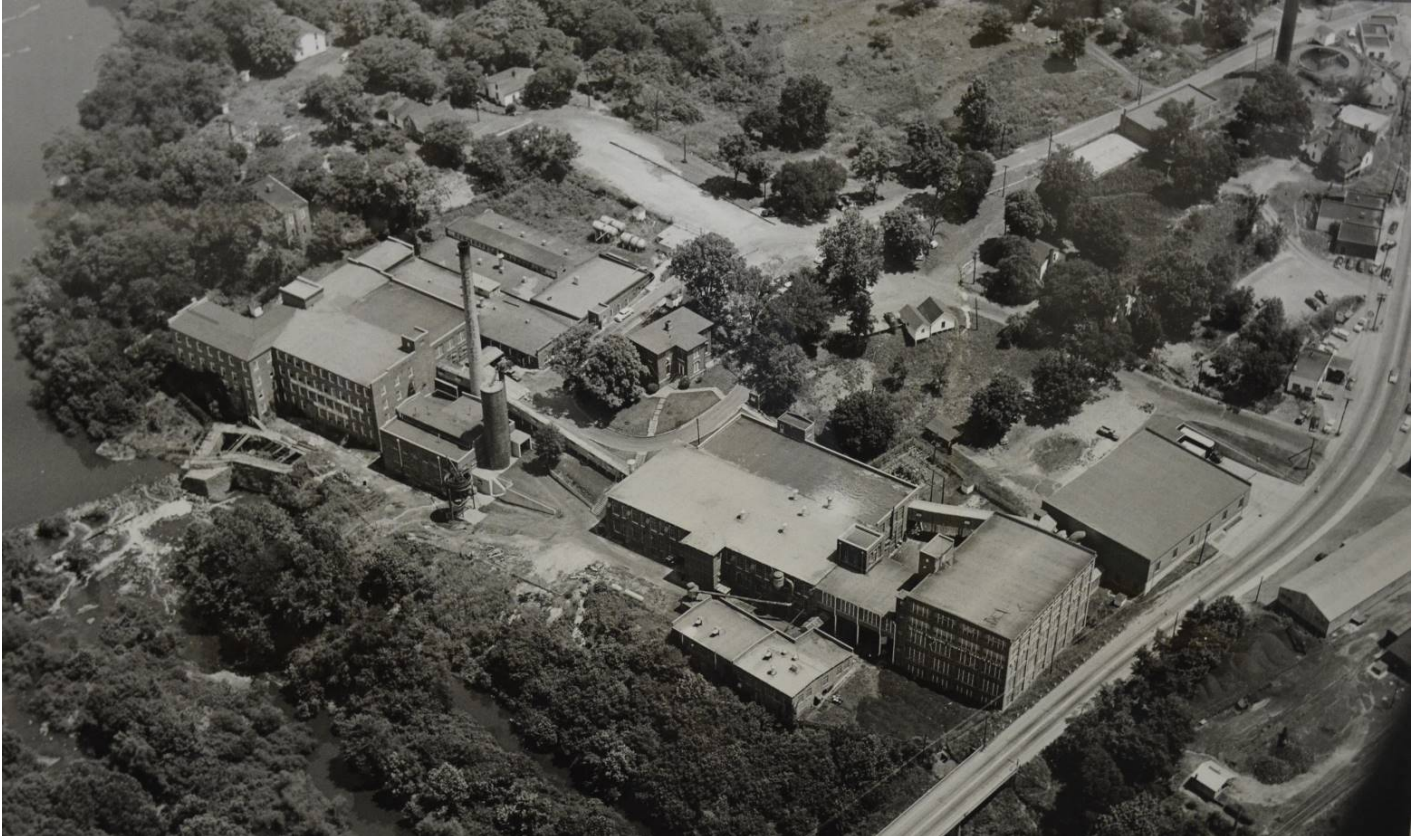
Photograph from the Haw River Historical Association Museum's collection

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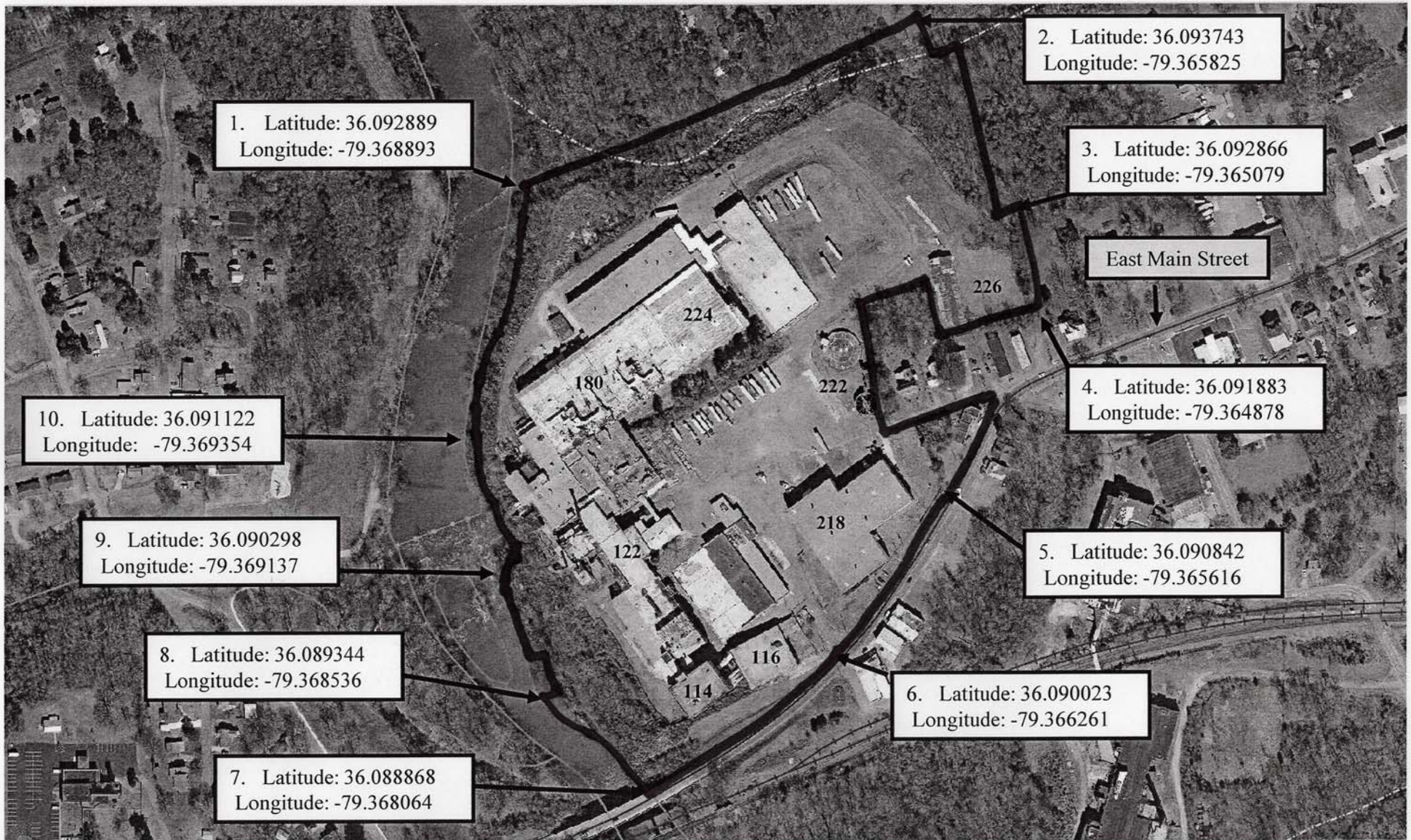
Section number          Photos          Page     63    

Granite Mill  
Alamance County, NC



**Figure 4. Granite Finishing Works, 1956**  
Photograph from the Haw River Historical Association Museum's collection

**Granite Mill, 114, 116, 122, 180, 218, 222, 224, and 226 East Main Street (31 acres)  
Haw River, Alamance County, North Carolina  
National Register Boundary**

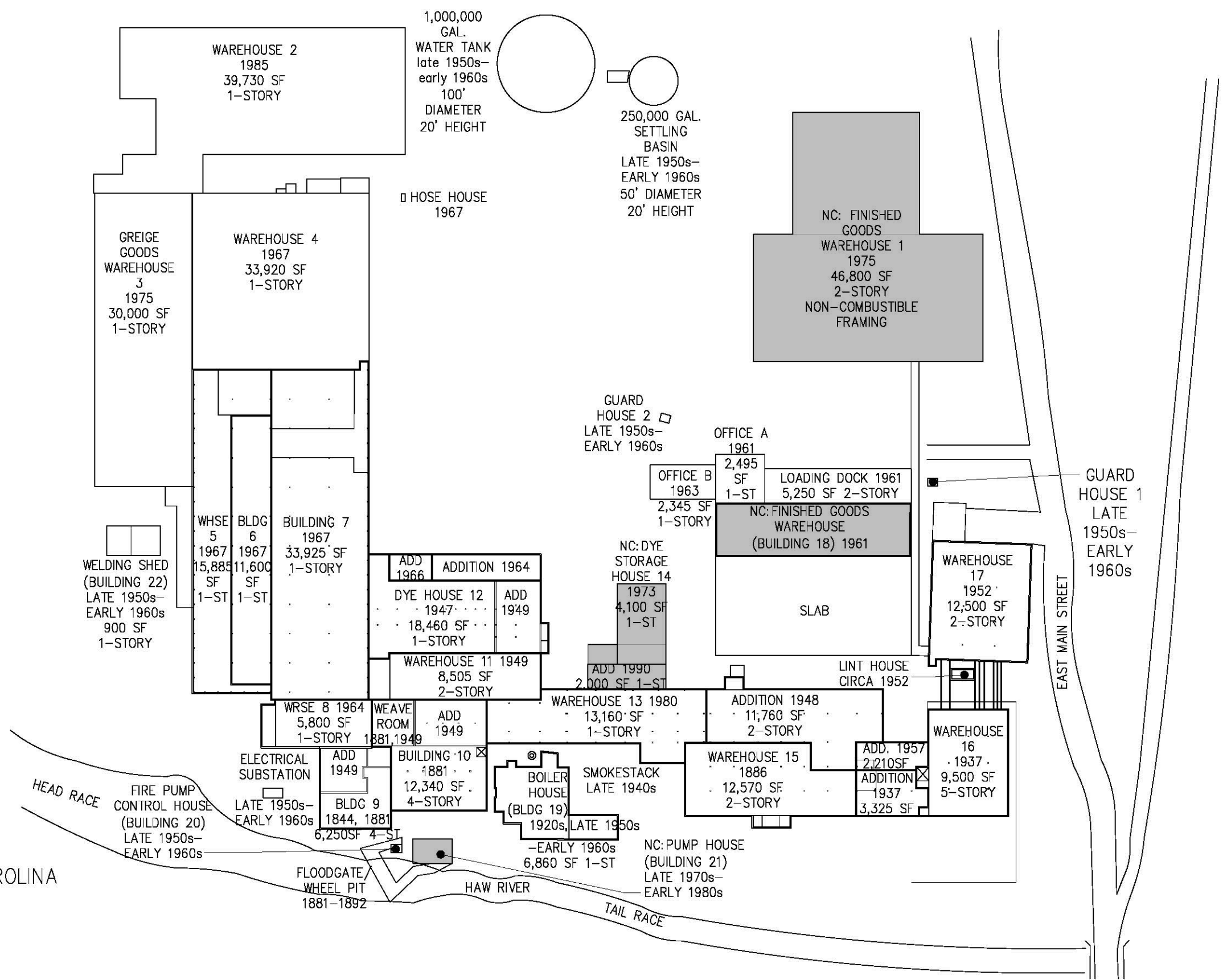


Heather Fearnbach, Fearnbach History Services, Inc. / January 2017  
Base 2014 aerial courtesy of <http://alamancecounty.connectgis.com/Map.aspx>

**National Register Boundary = heavy dark line**  
**Scale 1" = approximately 220'**



NC: EQUIPMENT SHED (BLDG 23)  
 LATE 1960s-EARLY 1970s  
 8,000 SF  
 1-STORY



KEY:  
 NC = Non Contributing Building

GRANITE MILL, EAST MAIN STREET,  
 HAW RIVER, ALAMANCE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA  
 RATIO ARCHITECTS, INC.  
 JANUARY 24, 2017

