

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

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 1, 3 Page 1

**Dunavant Cotton Manufacturing Company**

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Name of Property  
Burke County, North Carolina  
-----  
County and State  
N/A  
-----  
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**1. Name of Property**

Dunavant Cotton Manufacturing Company—Additional Documentation

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant locally.

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**Signature of certifying official/Title:** **Date**  
North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources  
**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

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**Signature of commenting official:** **Date**  
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**Title :** **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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

<b>Dunavant Cotton Manufacturing Company</b>
----- Name of Property
Burke County, North Carolina
----- County and State
N/A
----- Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 4, 8 Page 2

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Action

**Section 8—Additional Documentation**

This additional documentation provides corrected information concerning the National Register nomination, Section 8, pages 10 and 11, for the Dunavant Cotton Manufacturing Company in Morganton, Burke County, North Carolina.

The nomination incorrectly named the mill founder as Samuel DeWitt Dunavant. His correct full name is Samuel David Dunavant (1839-1906). That the nomination provides an inaccurate middle name is due to the combined facts that historical records often refer to him simply as S.D. Dunavant and one of his sons was named Samuel DeWitt Dunavant (1880-1941).

The nomination also states in a footnote “Little is known about Samuel DeWitt [*sic*] Dunavant, other than his brief ownership of a brickyard, but deed records in Burke County note that he was living in the county by 1875 and was buying and selling property in addition to the mill operations through 1918.” New information, provided after the property was entered into the National Register of Historic Places, indicates that this statement is in error. Samuel David Dunavant died in 1906 after suffering from kidney disease.<sup>1</sup> The confusion resulting from the two related S.D. Dunavants is most likely what led to the statement that Samuel (David) Dunavant continued dealing in real estate until 1918.

Born in 1839 in Farmville, Virginia, Samuel David Dunavant moved to North Carolina in 1860 to work in the railroad industry. Nine years later, he married Burke County native Virginia Corpening. The couple eventually had six children, four of whom reached maturity. Although a railroad contractor, Samuel David Dunavant engaged in other commercial activity in and around Morganton, North Carolina. His other interests included ownership of a brickyard and a livery stable and, in the late 1880s, the organization of the Dunavant Cotton Manufacturing Company.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Robertson, Christopher Hunt, comp. *Railroad Builders: The Dunavant Family of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee* (Raleigh, NC: the compiler, 2014), np.

<sup>2</sup> It has also been suggested that, in 1885, Samuel David Dunavant built the Eagle Hotel, which was located between the railroad and downtown Morganton, but no clear primary source documentation from the mid-1880s confirms this.

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**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8, 9, 11 Page 3

**Dunavant Cotton Manufacturing  
Company**

Name of Property

Burke County, North Carolina

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Although he organized the Dunavant Cotton Manufacturing Company, Samuel David Dunavant's primary business concern was railroad contracting. He was involved in the organization and/or construction of several railroads, including the Western North Carolina Railroad, the South and Western Railroad (predecessor to the Clinchfield Railroad), the Lenoir and Wilson's Creek Railroad, and the Caldwell and Northern Railroad.<sup>3</sup> Dunavant continued to be active in the railroad industry even after the cotton mill was in receivership and eventually sold to the Erwin family.

In addition to railroad contracting, Samuel David Dunavant was active in the local community. Although all of his elected and appointed service is not known at this time, newspaper documentation indicates that he was elected to the Town Commission of Morganton for a three-year term in 1891. Also, in 1894, he served on the five-member Burke County Pension Board.

This new information was submitted by Christopher Robertson of Raleigh, North Carolina, a descendant of Samuel David Dunavant. The additional documentation was compiled primarily from newspaper articles from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

**Section 9 - Bibliography**

Robertson, Christopher Hunt, comp. *Railroad Builders: The Dunavant Family of Virginia, North Carolina and Tennessee* (Raleigh, NC: the compiler, 2014).

**Section 11**

Form prepared by:  
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<sup>3</sup> Robertson, op. cit.