

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 North Carolina Electrical Power Company Electric Generating Plant

other names/site number Elk Mountain Steam Generating Plant

2. Location

street & number 2024 Riverside Drive N/A not for publication

city or town Woodfin N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Buncombe code 021 zip code 28804

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 forth 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.)

Jeffrey G. Crow SHPO 5/10/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of 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 commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	Signature of the Keeper _____ _____ _____	Date of Action _____ _____ _____
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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 the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		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

-0-

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY: energy facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: offices

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: industrial

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls brick

roof ceramic tile

other asphalt

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

1916 - 1948

Significant Dates

1916

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Waddell, Charles E.

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:

Western Office, Archives & History

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	355320	3945020
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

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.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sybil Argintar Bowers, Preservation Planning Consultant

organization Bowers Southeastern Preservation date February 1, 1999

street & number 166 Pearson Drive telephone (828) 253-1392

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28801

Additional Documentation

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)

Property Owner

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

name Metropolitan Sewerage District

P.O. Box 8969 (828) 254-9646
street & number telephone

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28814

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 listings. 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 20503.

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North Carolina Electrical Power Company
Electric Generating Plant
Buncombe County, North Carolina

Summary

The North Carolina Electrical Power Company Electric Generating Plant is located approximately five miles northwest of the city of Asheville, within the town limits of Woodfin, North Carolina. The building faces south, and sits to the west of North Carolina Highway 251 (Riverside Drive). The nominated property is bordered by Beaverdam Creek on the north, North Carolina Highway 251 (Riverside Drive) on the east, a business/industrial park to the south, and the French Broad River on the west. The nominated tract is approximately two acres (1.833 acres) and comprises a portion of a larger parcel of land owned by the Metropolitan Sewerage District. The portion included in this nomination, forming the northernmost section of the parcel, and extending west to the river, was all part of the lands along the French Broad River originally bought by W. T. Weaver for development into power plants. Beaverdam Creek and the section of the river adjacent to the property have remained relatively intact with wooded areas located along both waterways. As Highway 251 has expanded in a northwestern direction through the years, additional industrial facilities and related office complexes have developed both to the north and south of the nominated property. Remnants of the original Southern Railway tracks remain on the property, located to the south of the plant, and east across Highway 251.

1. North Carolina Electrical Power Company Electric Generating Plant Contributing. 1916.

Tall, one-story plus a basement in height, this brick and concrete, early twentieth century industrial-style electric power house was completed July 1, 1916.¹ It is basically rectangular in shape, with a width of seventy-eight feet, and a length of 165 feet. A small, one-story portion extends to the north of the building, with dimensions of twenty-nine by thirty-four feet. The original brick smokestack, extending 250 feet in height, which was located near the northwest corner of the building has been removed. Bands of brick corbeling decorate the cornice of the building. The main elevation of the building, seven bays in width, faces south towards the current industrial park. Two of these bays are large entrances, currently accessed from a covered concrete loading deck which was added in the 1960s along the lower portion of this facade. The westernmost portion of the main elevation is a taller one-story section which extends above the one-story portion to the east. At the center of the main facade is a raised atrium space with a slightly pitched side gable roof covered by asphalt shingles. The remainder of the roof on the western portion of the building is flat. Some

¹"Time and Technology Catch Up with Elk Mountain Steam Plant," Asheville Times, 16 December 1964.

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original, multi-light, steel frame, industrial-style windows are visible at the southeast portion of the building. The east facade, which faces Highway 251, is five bays wide, and hides the original five-bay facade which is still visible inside the building. According to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, the current east facade was added to the building ca. 1925, adding approximately twenty-five feet onto the building for a new switch room.² The five bays are divided by brick pilasters, with concrete squares with circular caps above each bay. Based on documentary photographs, these concrete squares were the points where transmission lines left the building.³ A front gable, ceramic-tile roof covers the easternmost portion of the building. Most original windows are either boarded up or infilled with either concrete block or brick. Original concrete sills and lintels are still visible. The west facade is also five bays wide, and the north facade is seven bays wide.

The building retains its original interior configuration from its use as an electric power plant. There are basically three levels to the building with the addition to the east (the "switch" room) being approximately six feet higher than the original eastern section of the building. According to a drawing completed in 1924, the lowest level (basement) was the "conditioning" room, where water from the river was filtered before being sent through the power plant. The eastern section of the plant was the "ash room", and the western section was the "turbine room".⁴ The foundation is poured concrete footings, with brick pillars within the basement area. Floors on all levels are poured concrete slabs, with brick walls divided by brick pilasters. Beginning at the front of the building, the addition on the east houses the switching room. What appears to be a variety of filtering systems, including brick "scrubbers" (small brick cubicles), are located here. A pneumatic filter room was added in the 1940s to 1950s at the southern end of the room. The ridge line of the original gable roof extends across this area, and it is not possible from the exterior of the building to ascertain that there is an addition here. There is a narrow, enclosed hallway with multi-light windows on either end separating the addition from the original portion of the building, and the original facade is visible along the west wall of this hallway. The original eastern portion of the building consists of one large open room, with windows on two sides and a doorway

²Sanborn map, 1925-1943.

³See ca. 1925 photo in working file for the property, courtesy Pack Memorial Library, NC Collection.

⁴The drawing entitled "Property of the North Carolina Electrical Power Co. Steam Plant and Vicinity", drawn in 1924 from a tracing of a drawing of Charles Waddell, lists the names of the three levels of the building. A copy of this drawing is in the working file for the nomination, and is also on file at the Metropolitan Sewerage District offices.

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leading to the concrete loading deck on the south wall. Exposed steel roof trusses are visible, with concrete roof decking panels supporting the tile roof.⁵ In the western section of the original building, the room is also one large open space with the original steel framing system visible in the main room and in the atrium space. Wooden roof decking is visible at the atrium level.

⁵A photo taken before 1925 in Charles Waddell's book, Twenty-five Years of Engineering in Western North Carolina, shows the water pipes extending up from the basement area into the ash room. The cut-out area of the floor which still remains in the ash room was originally surrounded by pipe railing, with stairs to the basement or "conditioning" room. There is still water in the basement room which enters the building from Beaverdam Creek.

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Summary

The North Carolina Electrical Power Company Electric Generating Plant was completed on July 1, 1916. W. T. Weaver, a prominent Asheville developer and entrepreneur, built this plant as well as several others in the Asheville area to meet the growing demands for electrical power in the booming mountain community. When the great French Broad River flood of July 16, 1916 hit Asheville, the North Carolina Electrical Power Company Plant was the only generating plant which remained in service, providing much needed power to the city while clean-up efforts were underway. The North Carolina Electrical Power Company Plant is significant under Criterion C, in the area of architecture as a rare, highly intact example of an early twentieth-century industrial-style building along the river, and is significant under Criterion A for its contributions to the industrial development of Asheville. This power plant, the only one of the three generating plants developed by W. T. Weaver which is still in existence, serves as a significant example of early twentieth century industrial facilities along the riverfront surviving modern development pressures.

Historic Background and Industry Context

Until the railroad arrived in 1880, Asheville was primarily a drover's stop along the Buncombe Turnpike and the center of government operations for Buncombe County. However, once the railroad made it over the mountain, the growth in population happened quickly and building and industry were needed to keep up with this growth. As industry expanded in the Asheville and Buncombe County area, the need for power to serve personal and business needs also grew. The North Carolina General Assembly chartered street rail companies for Asheville in 1881.⁶ That same year, the Asheville Street Railway Company was founded with many prominent Asheville residents serving as incorporating members.⁷ In 1886, Asheville Gas & Light Company was founded, with a steam plant located downtown on Eagle Street.⁸ In 1888, Asheville had its first beginnings of electrical service, supplied by the Asheville Street Railway Company, with some electric street lights installed that year.⁹ Electrical service was available to the

⁶Riley, Jack. Carolina Power & Light Company 1908 - 1958, Raleigh, North Carolina: Edwards & Broughton Company, 1958, p. 10.

⁷Waddell, Charles E., Fifty Years of Electrical Development in North Carolina, "Development at Asheville", p. 1. These early incorporation members included E. J. Aston, Richmond Pearson, Captain Thomas W. Patton, A. T. Davidson, John Cheesborough, Joseph Reid, W. W. Roselle, James P. Sawyer, J. E. Rankin, James W. Wilson, G. M. Roberts, Thomas S. Clayton, D. C. Waddell, M. E. Carter, and C. M. McLoud.

⁸*Ibid.*

⁹Carolina Power and Light Company, p. 311.

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public by February 1889, and street cars also began running that same year.¹⁰ Independently owned lines were built to Montford, Sunset Mountain, and Sulphur Springs. These included the Asheville & Craggy Mountain Railroad (1889, Overlook Park and Sunset Mountain; later part of the Asheville Street Railway Company); Inter-Montane Railroad Company (Patton Avenue to Pearson's Bridge; later part of the Asheville Electric Company); and the Asheville & Biltmore Street Railway and Transportation (line to Biltmore).¹¹ By 1893, there were ten different power companies, including Peoples Light Heat & Power Company and West Asheville Improvement Company.¹² Asheville Electric Company was founded by James H. Cutler in 1893 to consolidate these smaller entities into one company.¹³ The only exception to this consolidation was the Biltmore line, which was owned by W. T. Weaver.

William Trotter (W. T.) Weaver, the son of Colonel James Thomas Weaver and Hester Trotter Weaver, was born in Weaverville, in Buncombe County, in 1858. He graduated from Weaver College at the age of eighteen, and soon thereafter went to Columbia, South Carolina to work as a sales manager for the Saluda Cotton Mills. He then came back to Asheville and set up a shoe business in downtown Asheville, "Herring and Weaver".¹⁴ He was a captain in the Asheville Light Infantry. He married Annie Laurie Johnston and had one daughter, Dorothea. At the age of twenty-seven, he became Asheville's youngest postmaster, serving in this capacity from 1885 - 1889. In 1892, he became President of the National Bank of Asheville. Soon after this, Weaver became the first president of the street railway company that ran the first electric street car system in Asheville, including lines which extended to Biltmore.¹⁵

In 1898, George E. Claflin came to Asheville, founded the North Carolina Electrical Power Company, and built a plant on the Ivy River seventeen miles northwest of Asheville. This plant was owned by some residents of Winston-Salem who were affiliated with the Asheville Electric Company, which continued to try to buy out the interests of W. T. Weaver. A three-way battle ensued between Asheville Electric,

¹⁰"Asheville Got Its First Electric Street Lights in 1886", Asheville Citizen-Times, 3 May 1976.

¹¹Ibid, p. 100.

¹²Fifty Years of Electrical Development in North Carolina, p. 4.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴"Captain Weaver Dies After Long Illness," Asheville Citizen, 7 November 1916.

¹⁵"Captain W. T. Weaver Played Major Role in Electric Power Development," Asheville Citizen, undated. Located in bibliographical files, Pack Memorial Library, NC Collection.

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Weaver, and the city's Board of Aldermen. Weaver finally sold some of his land holdings for four times the worth of the land, and, for a short time, Asheville Electric once again became the primary electric company serving Asheville.¹⁶ By 1900, once the Ivy Power Plant was fully in service, Asheville at last had twenty-four hour electric service rather than just evening lighting.¹⁷

Not wanting to be "upstaged", however, Weaver then organized the W. T. Weaver Power Company. Founded in 1901, the company assets consisted of approximately 210 acres of land and three miles of riparian water rights bordering the French Broad River approximately five miles northwest of Asheville.¹⁸ The land was also located on the western North Carolina division of Southern Railway. Incorporating officers included W. T. Weaver, President; Thomas W. Raoul, Vice-President; and George S. Powell, Secretary-Treasurer. The Board of Directors included the three officers plus T. F. Davidson, J. H. Lang, W. B. Williamson, James L. Wagner, and Y. S. Lusk.¹⁹ In 1903, the Asheville Electric Company was formed from four separate street railway companies. Noting that the waters of the mighty French Broad River had been relatively untapped until this time, W. T. Weaver then began construction of power plants along the French Broad River. The Craggy or Weaver Plant, located six miles from Asheville at Candler Shoals was completed in May, 1904 with a capacity of 3000 horsepower (hp).²⁰ Asheville Electric Company then had the option of competing with Weaver's new company, or buying all their power from him. Asheville Electric chose not to compete with Weaver, and the W. T. Weaver Power Company became the predominant company.

By 1908, with the Weaver and Ivy plants at capacity, Weaver decided to build another plant, the Marshall plant, which prominent engineer Charles E. Waddell designed.²¹ Charles E. Waddell was born May 1, 1877 at Moorefield's Plantation, in Orange County, North Carolina. He was educated in Asheville city schools, at the Bingham Military School and completed the Technical Course of the General Electric Company. At the

¹⁶Ibid.

¹⁷"Powerhouse in West Asheville Built in 1899," Asheville Times, 28 January 1939.

¹⁸Company declaration of assets papers, "W. T. Weaver Power Company". Part of the "Utilities" file, NC Collection, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville, North Carolina.

¹⁹Ibid.

²⁰"Development at Asheville," by Charles E. Waddell, p. 5.

²¹Ibid.

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age of fourteen, he was appointed to the post of superintendent of the Asheville fire alarm.²²

Charles E. Waddell & Company, with offices in the Jackson Building and later in the Grove Arcade in downtown Asheville, completed numerous engineering projects throughout North Carolina from 1902 - 1927. Some of these industrial facilities, including many steam and hydroelectric plants all along the east coast, included Asheville Cotton Mills, Beacon Manufacturing, Carolina Creamery, Carolina Wood Products, Champion Fibre, Cullowhee Milling, Erwin Cotton Mills, Hans Rees' Sons, Junaluska Leather, Morganton Furniture, North State Cotton Mills, and Union-Buffalo Mills. Government projects included work for the cities of Asheville, Andrews, Biltmore, Black Mountain, Bryson City, Durham, Robbinsville, Rick Hill, Statesville, Waynesville, West Asheville, and for the U.S. Forestry Department, the U.S. Fuel Administration, and the U.S. War Department. The company also completed projects for Albemarle Park Company, Asheville Normal School, Asheville School, Battery Park Hotel, Farm School, Grove Park Inn, Kenilworth Development Company, and Toxaway Company. Public utilities work included Asheville Power & Light Company, Asheville & East Tennessee Railroad Company, Brevard Light & Power, Burnsville Electric, Florida Power, North Carolina Electrical Power, Southern Railway, United Electrical Securities Corporation, Weaver Power Company, and Yadkin River Power Company. Various other projects included work for the Asheville Country Club, a swimming pool for the Biltmore Forest Country Club, electrical systems for the Biltmore Estate, street lighting for Biltmore Village and Biltmore Forest, work for the Coxe Estate, E. W. Grove Investments, the Norton Estate in Hendersonville, and the dam at Beaver Lake in Lake View Park.²³ On June 9, 1925 he was awarded a doctor of science degree for "Pioneer hydro-electrical development in the South" by the North Carolina College of Engineering and Agriculture. He was a fellow in the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and the Biltmore Forest Country Club. Waddell lived at Pinecliff Cottage at Biltmore.²⁴ Stricken with a brain tumor in 1935, Waddell underwent surgery

²²"Waddell Rounds Out 50 Years of Engineering", Asheville Times, 30 October 1941.

²³Waddell, Charles E., Twenty-five years of Engineering in Western North Carolina: Being a Record of the Works of Charles E. Waddell & Company 1902 - 1927, Asheville, North Carolina: Advocate Printing Company, 1927, introduction.

²⁴"Biographical" files, North Carolina Collection, Pack Memorial Library, Asheville, North Carolina.

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which left his legs paralyzed.²⁵ Charles Waddell died April 20, 1945 in an automobile accident.²⁶

While the Marshall plant was under construction, many additional Buncombe County communities began receiving electrical services. Weaverville had electrical service by 1909.²⁷ Black Mountain received its first electrical service in 1912, supplied by Black Mountain Telephone Corporation.²⁸ In 1912, Asheville Power & Light was formed (renamed from Asheville Electric), and the Marshall Plant, developed by W. T. Weaver, opened the same year. At the time the Marshall Plant was built it was the largest hydroelectric plant in the Blue Ridge region.²⁹ The W. T. Weaver Company continued to operate under a franchise from the city and the county to build lines, and then sell power to customers in the city and county. Other contracts of the company included George Vanderbilt, for ten years, for light and power; the Asheville Milling Company for five years; and the Elk Mountain Cotton Mill for ten years.³⁰ After meeting these contracted needs, the company still had 2300 horsepower in reserve.

Industry and power needs continued to grow in the Asheville area, and the need for an additional plant soon became evident. The North Carolina Electrical Power Company Electrical Generating Plant on the French Broad River, also developed by W. T. Weaver and designed by engineer Charles E. Waddell, opened on July 1, 1916. Unlike Weaver's two earlier hydroelectric plants, the North Carolina Electrical Company plant was steam-powered electric with coal brought in and stored on site. The land for the 1916 power plant was originally part of the property owned by the North Carolina Electrical Power Company which Weaver had become president of by 1909.³¹ This was surveyed in 1913.³² This plant, the first to utilize steam generation from coal, immediately began supplying power to Weaverville. The section of land used for the 1916 plant was located on the south side of Beaverdam Creek and extended west to the French Broad River.³³ Southern Railway lines were located on the property, with a spur

²⁵"Auto Accident Injuries Fatal to Dr. Waddell", Asheville Times, 20 April 1945.

²⁶Ibid.

²⁷Ibid, p. 318.

²⁸Ibid, p. 311.

²⁹"Powerhouse in West Asheville Built in 1899," Asheville Times.

³⁰Company asset papers.

³¹Asheville City Directories 1904-05 and 1909. Weaver Power Company and North Carolina Electrical Power Company are listed as two separate entities in 1909, with Weaver as president of both.

³²Buncombe County Plat Book 198, pp. 30 31.

³³"Property of the NC Electrical Power Co Steam Plant and Vicinity" drawing.

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line ending right at the powerhouse facility.³⁴ Originally, a large chimney was located to the rear of the building, extending 250 feet into the air.³⁵

When the great flood hit Asheville on July 16, 1916, the North Carolina Electrical Plant was the only plant to remain in service, providing electricity through November when the dam at the Weaver Plant downstream was repaired. During the 1916 flood W. T. Weaver himself stood in the waters of the French Broad, working long hours to keep the plant going. This heroic endeavor was probably a major factor in his illness and subsequent death on November 6, 1916, at the age of fifty-eight. In 1917, after Weaver's death, Weaver Power Company became part of North Carolina Electrical Power Company.

With the addition of the 1916 plant, Biltmore Forest and Swannanoa Valley received electrical service in 1921. Biltmore Forest service was supplied by the North Carolina Electrical Power Company.³⁶ Swannanoa's service was supplied by Swannanoa Valley Electric Company.³⁷ In 1923, the Electric Bond & Share Company stepped in and purchased Haywood Power, Canton Electric Company, Black Mountain Electric Company, and a portion of Carolina Power & Light, consolidating them all into the already existing Asheville Power & Light Company.³⁸ In 1923, power was then supplied to Candler and Skyland by Asheville Power & Light Company.³⁹ North Carolina Electrical Power Company continued in existence until March 31, 1926, when it sold all properties to the Pigeon River Power Company.⁴⁰ Asheville Power & Light, along with the Yadkin River Power Company, the Pigeon River Power Company, and Carolina Power Company were consolidated into Carolina Power & Light Company in 1926 (Carolina Power & Light formed in 1908 from many smaller companies across the state, and in its early years served primarily Melburnie, Raleigh, Buckhorn Falls, Sanford, Jonesboro, and Fayetteville).⁴¹ From the turn of the century until 1927, the electrical power supplied in Asheville and its immediate surroundings increased from 450 kW to

³⁴Ibid.

³⁵Ibid.

³⁶Ibid, p. 311.

³⁷Ibid, p. 317.

³⁸"Development at Asheville," by Charles E. Waddell, p. 7.

³⁹Carolina Power and Light, p. 312 and 317.

⁴⁰Buncombe County Deed book 343, p. 105.

⁴¹Ibid, p. 58.

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26,000 kW, reflecting the rapid growth in the area.⁴² In 1929, Enka first received service, and in 1930, the Fairview community had electricity available.⁴³

While residential development increased rapidly in Asheville between 1880 and 1930, the industrial development which took place along the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers to support this rapid growth was equally impressive. The power plants developed to serve the personal power needs of the city and county were a critical support system which also supplied electricity to these industries. As early as 1888, two major industries along the French Broad River were Asheville Milling Company and C. E. Graham Manufacturing Company.⁴⁴ By 1891, additional industries located along the French Broad or Swannanoa Rivers included French Broad Lumber Company, Asheville Lumber and Manufacturing Company, Asheville Ice & Coal Company, Biltmore Ice Factory, and Biltmore Brick Works.⁴⁵ Asheville Cotton Mills; William M. Jones Door and Blind Factory; C.E. Moody Kindling Wood, Lime and Cement; and Skyland Furniture Company opened in the late 1890s.⁴⁶ From 1901 to 1907, these same industries continued to expand, and new industries such as Hans Rees and Sons Tannery, M. B. Wilkinson Lumber Company, the Elk Mountain Cotton Mill Company (located further north on the French Broad River), the M. T. Mitchell Distilling Company, Asheville Veneer Company, Swannanoa Ice and Coal Company, Biltmore Roller Mills, Storage Supply Company, English Lumber Company, and W. H. Westall & Company Lumber grew up around the rivers.⁴⁷ From 1913 to 1925, additional industries included American Furniture Manufacturing Company; French Broad Manufacturing Company Cotton Mill; Williams-Brownell Planing Mill; Biltmore Estate Industries Fancy Cabinet Work; Asheville Dray, Fuel, and Coal Company; Carolina Machinery Company; Asheville Mica Company; National Casket Company; Carolina Wood Products Company; Azalea Woodworking; and Champion Chemical Company.⁴⁸ From 1925 to 1943, new and expanding industries along the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers included the Southern Railway Asheville Roundhouse, Dayton Rubber Company, R & E Gordon Furniture Company, Mills Manufacturing Corporation, Beacon Manufacturing

⁴²"Development at Asheville," p. 7.

⁴³Carolina Power and Light, p. 313.

⁴⁴Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1888.

⁴⁵Ibid, 1891.

⁴⁶Ibid, 1896.

⁴⁷Ibid, 1901 and 1907.

⁴⁸Ibid, 1917 and 1925.

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Company, and Sayles Biltmore Bleacheries.⁴⁹ By 1929, Asheville was considered to be a prime location for industry, being ". . . interconnected with the entire southern power transmission system and power. . . available in unlimited amount and at rates slightly less than eastern sections of the United States. . ."⁵⁰ Electrical power was provided by high tension transmission lines and steam or hydroelectric power plants.⁵¹ By 1948, a total of one hundred and twenty five manufacturing plants were located in and around the Asheville area, with ". . . electric power available throughout the area in quantities sufficient to meet all demands. . ."⁵² Major industries manufactured and processed textiles, dairy products, leather, wood furniture, mica, steel, and machinery.⁵³

When running at full capacity, the North Carolina Electrical Power Company Electric Generating Plant generated 17,500 horsepower, and was expanded in 1925. It served Asheville from 1916 through the early 1940s. In 1921, there were approximately sixty men employed at both the Weaver and North Carolina Electrical Plants.⁵⁴ By the late 1940s, as other plants were built around the area, it became a "standby" facility for emergency use only.⁵⁵ The plant ceased operations completely in 1964 when a new plant was completed by CP&L in Skyland, in the southern part of Buncombe County.⁵⁶

On May 6, 1965, Burlington Industries, Inc. purchased the 1916 power plant property formerly owned by CP&L.⁵⁷ It remained as part of Burlington until March 31, 1995, when Riverside Business Park purchased the property.⁵⁸ William L. Goacher purchased the power plant property from Riverside Business Park on August 30, 1996, and granted it to the current owner, the Metropolitan Sewerage District, the same day.⁵⁹

⁴⁹Ibid, 1925-1943.

⁵⁰Asheville Industrial Data 1929, vol. 146, p. 3.

⁵¹Ibid.

⁵²"Facts for Industry", Asheville, North Carolina: Asheville Industrial Promotion Council, Inc., 1948, p. 3.

⁵³Ibid.

⁵⁴"Time and Technology Catch Up with Elk Mountain Steam Plant," Asheville Times, 16 December 1964.

⁵⁵"Electrification Is Proceeding at Rapid Rate in Western North Carolina Region," Asheville Citizen-Times, 23 October 1949. The only time the North Carolina Electrical Power Company Plant was shut down was in 1942 following a boiler explosion. It was closed for repairs for one week.

⁵⁶"Time and Technology Catch Up with Elk Mountain Steam Plant".

⁵⁷Buncombe County Deed book 932, p. 5.

⁵⁸Buncombe County Deed book 1843, p. 21.

⁵⁹Buncombe County Deed book 1923, p. 210 and 216.

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Architecture Context

The North Carolina Electrical Power Company Plant, built in 1916, is a rare, intact representative of the style of industrial architecture built along the French Broad and Swannanoa Rivers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Asheville and Buncombe County. Many early industrial buildings have been either destroyed by fire or torn down to make way for more modern industrial facilities. Brick structures of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were generally from one to three stories in height such as the Asheville Cotton Mill (1893), Elk Mountain Cotton Mills (1902, later Burlington Mills), and Hans Rees Sons Tannery (1895). Asheville Cotton Mills, a large two-story rectangular brick building, was the most prominent industrial building on the industrial riverfront in Asheville until it burned in April 1995. Still in operation, Elk Mountain Cotton Mills consisted of four large buildings in 1910. Since Burlington Industries takeover of the facility in 1957, the mill has undergone extensive alteration and numerous additions have been made. The Hans Rees Tannery is one of the few industrial buildings to survive intact along the riverfront. This long, two-story brick structure operated as one of the country's largest tanneries until it closed in the 1940s. The North Carolina Electrical Power Company Plant is the only remaining brick industrial building of its form and original function to remain along Asheville's historic industrial river corridor.

Floor plans of industrial buildings along Asheville's riverfronts were typically long and linear, with large open rooms inside to hold manufacturing equipment, and decorative details were minimal. Windows were often segmentally arched and served to light the buildings. Additions were tacked onto the main building in most cases, with some smaller frame-construction additions sometimes built elsewhere on the site.⁶⁰ Brick was also a common building material for support buildings such as warehouses and was used in the construction of the Southern Railway roundhouse, as well as most of the other commercial and industrial structures along the waterfront.⁶¹ The Weaver Power Plant, a brick structure with a stone foundation, was completed in 1904. It was retired from use in 1963, and, like many of the other early plants developed by Weaver and others, was allowed to deteriorate until it was later demolished.⁶²

⁶⁰"Building Inventory of the French Broad River", Asheville, North Carolina, April, 1989, prepared by the Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County.

⁶¹Ibid.

⁶²"Retirement of Weaver Power Plant to Mark End of Era", Asheville Citizen, 19 May 1963.

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Major Bibliographical References

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Boundary Description

The boundaries of this nomination are indicated on the accompanying county tax map.
(Portion of Pin Number 9730.09.04)

Boundary Justification

All of the property currently associated with the former North Carolina Electrical Company Electric Generating Plant facility was historically part of the original tract of land along the river that was purchased by W. T. Weaver for development of the plant (Plat Book 298, pp. 30 - 31, and survey map 1924). Additional land also owned by the Metropolitan Sewerage District, to the south of the plant, is not part of this nomination.

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North Carolina Electrical Power Company Electric Generating Plant Photographs

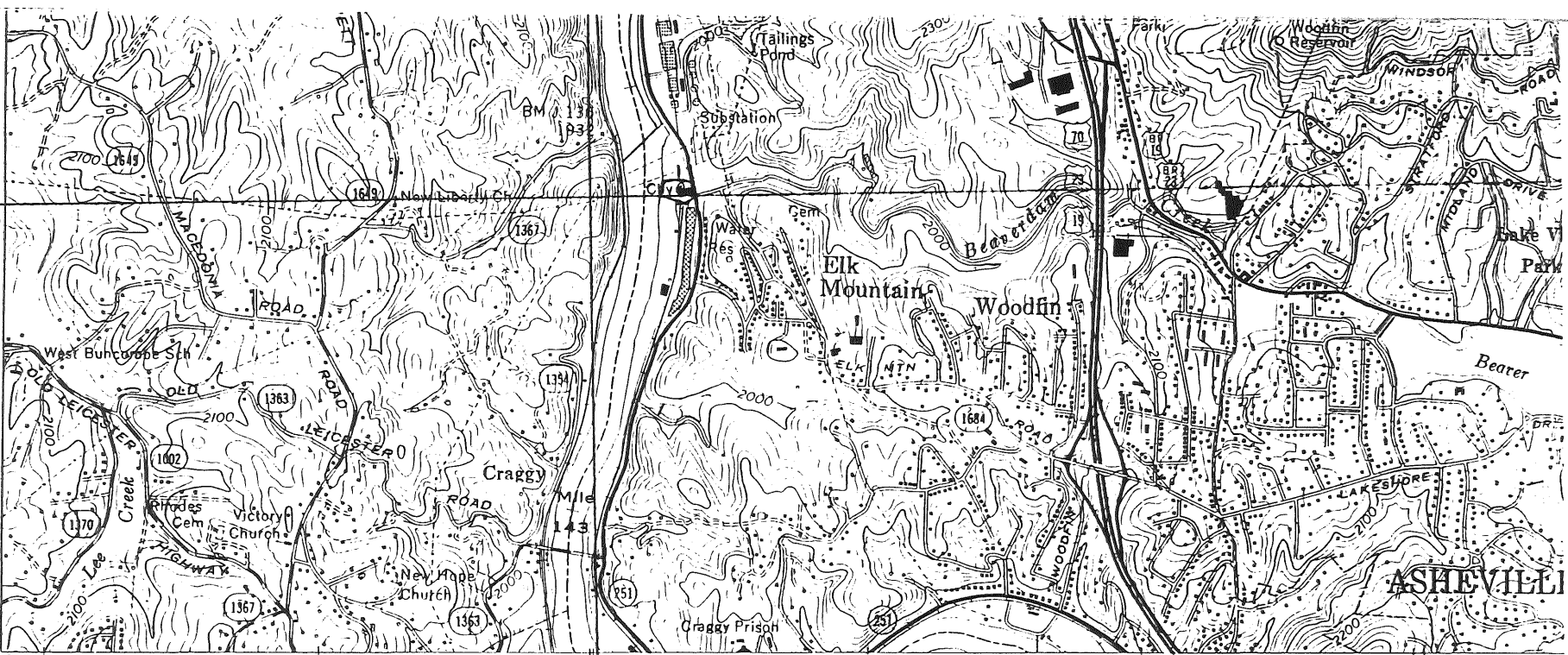
The following information applies to all of the photographs, except where noted.

Name of Property: North Carolina Electrical Power Company
Electric Generating Plant
2024 Riverside Drive
Woodfin
Buncombe County
North Carolina

Photographer: Sybil Argintar Bowers
Date of photos: May 1998
Location of original negatives: Division of Archives and History
One Village Lane
Asheville, North Carolina 28803

1. Main facade, south elevation, view north
Date of photo: January 1999
2. East elevation, view west
3. South and west elevations, view northeast
4. Detail of brick corbeling and tile roof
5. Interior, western portion of building, view southwest
6. Interior, eastern portion of building, view northeast
7. Interior, hallway between original building and addition to east. Original east facade is visible on right. View south.
8. Interior, inside the ca. 1925 addition, view north.

North Carolina
 Electric Power
 Authority
 17 355320
 17 3945020
 (center point
 of property,
 less than
 10 acres)



35°37'30" 82°37'30" 353 354 930 000 FEET 355 356 357 INTERCHANGE 46 (INT. 26 & 401) 7 MI. (ASHEVILLE 4455 II)

Mapped and edited by Tennessee Valley Authority
 Published by the Geological Survey

Control by NOS/NOAA, USGS and TVA

Revised by TVA in 1962 by photogrammetric methods using aerial photographs taken 1961 and by reference to TVA-USGS quadrangle dated 1942. Map field checked by TVA, 1962

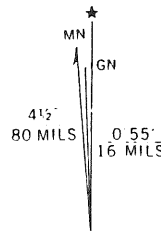
Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on North Carolina coordinate system

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue

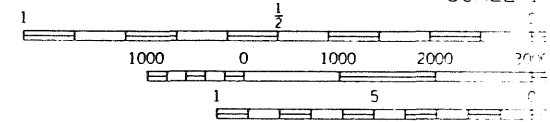
1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)

North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The value of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875

(ENKA 192-SW)
 4455 II SW



UTM GRID AND 1993 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERT

No. National Board of Geographical
 THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER
 TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, D
 AND U.S. TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTH
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

King, in location of...

Patricia...

