

NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
Office of Archives and History
Department of Cultural Resources

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Double Shoals Cotton Mill

Shelby vicinity (Double Shoals community), Cleveland County, CL0784, Listed 3/24/2009
Nomination by Sybil Argintar
Photographs by Sybil Argintar, March 2007



North elevation, facing the river



Overall view from the west

**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 any 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 Double Shoals Cotton Mill

other names/site number Double Shoals Manufacturing Company; Lucky Strike Yarn Mill

2. Location

street & number 199 Old Mill Road/SR 1856 not for publication N/A

city or town Shelby vicinity X

state North Carolina code NC county Cleveland code 045 zip code 28151

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets
 ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

 Signature of certifying official Date

North Carolina Department of 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 commenting or other official Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
___ 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): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Double Shoals Cotton Mill
Name of Property

Cleveland, North Carolina
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 the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	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)

Cat: Industry Sub: Manufacturing Facility
Industry Energy Facility
Industry Waterworks

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Vacant Sub: _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)
Italianate
Other: slow burning mill construction

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
roof asphalt
walls brick
stone
other metal
wood

Narrative Description

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

Double Shoals Cotton Mill
Name of Property

Cleveland, North Carolina
County and State

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.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a 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

Period of Significance

ca. 1880

Significant Dates

ca. 1880

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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: _____

Double Shoals Cotton Mill
Name of Property

Cleveland, North Carolina
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 7.0 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing
1 17S 450390 3915290
2 _____

Zone Easting Northing
3 _____
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 H. Argintar

organization Southeastern Preservation Services date February, 2009

street & number 166 Pearson Drive telephone (828) 230-3773

city or town Asheville state NC zip code 28801

12. 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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Masterson LLC c/o Beeney

street & number 3623 Latrobe Drive, Suite 214 telephone (704) 365-2152

city or town Charlotte state NC zip code 28211

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

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Double Shoals Cotton Mill
Cleveland County, North Carolina

Double Shoals Cotton Mill is located in the small unincorporated mill town of Double Shoals, North Carolina, approximately eight miles north of Shelby in Cleveland County, on the west bank of the First Broad River. Its mailing address is 199 Old Mill Road, Shelby, NC 28150. Four miles to the north is the mill town of Lawndale, also on the First Broad River. The Double Shoals Cotton Mill as it exists today consists of the original main mill building, two separate buildings (opening room and warehouse) now connected to the mill building, and several additions dating to ca. 1965 through the 1970s. The entire mill building sits at the top of a hill which drops sharply away to the north, down to the river. To the north of the mill are the remnants of a concrete wheel house, mill race with a substantial stone wall and waterway, and a wooden dam. A paved parking lot is located to the south and southwest of the building, with a paved road extending around to the east side of the building.

The small mill village of Double Shoals, established by the textile mill company, extends to the south and west and comprises several streets with houses, two churches, a cemetery, a water tower, and company store all located off of SR1809. Seven acres are proposed for National Register listing, and these comprise the area immediately around the mill building, extending north to the river to encompass the wooden dam and the mill race with its stone wall. An open area to the east and south once contained mill houses, a waste house, cotton warehouses, and other buildings associated with the mill. None of these resources is extant, and therefore this area is excluded from the nominated property due to the loss of historic integrity. The water tower and company store are not part of the current tax parcel, and they are not included in the nominated property.

1. Double Shoals Cotton Mill. Contributing building. ca. 1880; additions 1965 and 1970s.

Exterior

The two-and-a-half-story brick ca. 1880 Italianate-influenced, shallow-pitched, side-gable-roof mill building displays a five-to-one American brick bond pattern. The masonry building sits on a random coursed granite foundation, approximately four feet in height above ground at the highest points. The north elevation, facing the First Broad River, is two and-one-half-stories tall, with a rhythmic band of segmentally arched window openings with hood moldings extending from east to west on the upper floors. Smaller arched windows are spaced at further intervals at the above-ground basement level. The two upper floor window openings on this elevation are all bricked in, with the new brick slightly recessed back from the wall surface. Those on the basement level have been retrofitted with one-over-one sash. There is a gable-roof "water closet" tower approximately in the center of this elevation with an arched window opening at the top and a bricked-in arched doorway with a shed roof awning below. A small, rectangular modern concrete-block structure is attached to the north wall at the west end. The west elevation, which

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Double Shoals Cotton Mill
Cleveland County, North Carolina

drops significantly in elevation from south to north, has one original window on the lower level with a triple sash of three lights at the top, six lights in the center, and missing sash on the bottom. On the upper level, there are four arched window openings, all of which have been bricked in. The east elevation has four in-filled arched window bays on the second floor and a loading dock on the first floor. The loading dock is located where an earlier (ca. 1908) engine and boiler room addition once stood. It was demolished sometime after 1947. The south elevation of the building, except for a portion of the original stair tower, is covered by the 1965 warehouse and shed-roofed 1970s delivery/offices additions (see Exhibit A). Along this wall the original triple-hung frame windows are intact inside. The gable-roof square stair tower projects from the south wall and extends above the roofline several feet. It has segmental arched window openings and retrofitted multi-light sash on three sides. The entry door at the first floor contains a single lancet-arch opening with a projecting brick hood, surrounding double leaf paneled doors. To its east is a small, square modern brick addition that fills in the space between the tower and the 1965 warehouse addition. It has an entrance at the ground level and a side-sloping shed roof.

The 1970s one-story shed-roof frame additions, which include a delivery room and offices, located to the south side of the ca. 1880 building, are covered with T-111 plywood siding. There are two window openings at the eastern end of the building, and a large garage door opening at the west end.

Two separate buildings, now physically attached to the original mill building were built in the mid-twentieth century. The first was a one-story, frame, metal-sided "opening (or opener) room" located immediately to the west of the mill building (see separate entry below.) It appears on the 1947 Sanborn map and is of modern construction. It was joined to the mill building by a small connection that is now integral with the 1970s frame additions on the south elevation of the mill. The second building was a one-story, rectangular frame, metal sided cotton warehouse (see separate entry below) constructed southeast of the main mill building in 1950. It is oriented in a north, northwesterly direction. It was joined to the mill building in 1965 by a large addition on the south wall of the mill building and encased in brick.

The connecting two-story, brick, shallow side-gable 1965 addition is similar in massing and height to the original building, and it covers several of the easternmost bays of the ca. 1880 mill building. It extends fifteen bays to the east, connecting to the 1950 warehouse along the east end of its southern wall. The north elevation of the 1965 addition has a band of small, square, fixed-pane window openings near the cornice of the building, with a loading dock at the northwest corner of the first floor. The east elevation has a garage opening and a projecting two-story brick bay. The south elevation also has a series of small, fixed pane window openings near the roofline. The west elevation is covered with German siding.

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Double Shoals Cotton Mill
Cleveland County, North Carolina

Interior

The open floor interior of the ca. 1880 building features original heavy timber columns, high ceilings with exposed heavy timber beams and flush board ceiling, original hardwood flooring, and plastered walls on both levels. The basement is partially finished and features original metal gears and belt drive system that operated the machinery. The stair tower, located on the south wall, is brick with concrete stairs. Floors on the upper level are wood, and concrete in the basement. There is a new framed opening cut into the south wall of the main mill building which leads into its upper level from the 1965 addition. The interior of the 1965 addition is almost identical to the ca. 1880 portion of the building except steel was used for all structural members. Some wooden partition walls have been added in this addition for offices and storage. The interior of the 1970s additions have concrete floors, with several of the original windows of the ca. 1880 mill building visible on the north wall of this space.

The mill appears for the first time on the 1900 Sanborn map for Shelby, North Carolina. The “picker room” was located on the first floor at the west end, and was separated from the rest of the building by an interior wall. Carding, spinning, spooling, and warping operations were located in the remainder of the building.

2. Warehouse. Non-contributing building. 1950, 1965

In 1950 a separate tall one-story, gable-roof corrugated metal-sided and framed cotton warehouse was built southeast of the main building (see Exhibit A, floor plan). Metal framing and bands of multi-light steel frame windows are visible on the interior on the east and west elevations. In 1965 the entire building was covered in brick veneer with no window openings, and connected to the 1965 brick addition along its north wall. Currently, a portion of the brick veneer has fallen away from the building’s west wall at the north end, revealing the original metal sheathed building beneath. The south elevation of the building has no fenestration. On the east elevation there is a loading area in the approximate center of the wall. The open doorway reveals how the veneer brick encases the original metal building. The interior is visible through the opening, showing a brick pier foundation in-filled with more modern brick, wooden sills, vertical framing posts resting on concrete bases, and metal walls above. The floor is concrete.

3. Opening Room. Non-contributing building. ca. 1947.

The ca. 1947 opening room west of the main mill building replaced a smaller separate building built between 1905 and 1909 according to Sanborn maps. The ca. 1947 opening room is a square, one-story frame building that was covered with corrugated metal siding at a later date. It has exposed rafter tails under a side-gable metal roof and stands on concrete block piers. It is likely that it was connected to the main mill building in the 1970s when the frame additions were added to the south elevation of the main building. Along its south wall is a small square tower

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with a shallow front-gable roof, also covered with T-111 plywood siding (see Exhibit A). It functions as a loading dock area for the building.

4. Wheel House. Non-contributing structure. First quarter of the twentieth century.

North of the mill, on the slope down to the river, are the substantial remains of the poured concrete wheel house. Every Sanborn map for the mill property, dating from 1900 to 1947, shows a wheel house connected to a dam to the north, and a “beltway” leading south into the mill building. However, the existing concrete structure is not physically connected to the dam – it is approximately twenty feet downriver. It appears to date to the first quarter of the twentieth century based on the appearance of the poured concrete and the sophistication of the design. Further research may reveal an exact date for the structure, and locating the original of a murky photocopied 1940 photograph of the river, showing the dam, mill race stone wall, and the wheelhouse will assist with this investigation.

The wheel house structure is comprised of three rectangular-shaped sections, the lower two of which appear to have been the base for other (possibly frame) structures that would have sat atop them. The section closest to the river is composed of poured concrete walls only and is roofless. The walls range in height from thirteen feet at the river’s edge to eight feet farther uphill. It is roughly a rectangular shape, with the west end of the north wall projecting six feet farther north. The walls are flat on top, except for the east wall where it terminates in a sloped parapet. Within the space created by these walls, extending around its perimeter, is a broad flat ledge with concrete bracing. To the south of this section, and up hill, is an enclosed section with a flat roof. It measures twenty-six feet long and fifteen feet wide. Four, regularly spaced segmental arched openings are in the south and north walls, and there is a broad, round arched opening in both the west and east walls. Metal bolts protruding from the flat roof suggest that another structure stood on top of this section. A small concrete slab connects the flat roof to the uphill slope, bridging an open space below.

The Sanborn maps reveal information about the historic wheel house. Even though the mill was not mapped on Sanborn maps until 1900, it is likely that a wheel house was built concurrently with the original mill ca. 1880. The wheel house, with a water wheel of 240 horsepower, was connected to a dam and mill race to supply the power for the mill. The Sanborn maps also show that between 1916 and 1921, an oil powered engine was installed in the wheel house, most likely to supplement water power when the river was too low or too high to safely turn the water wheel.

5. Water System Structure. Non-contributing structure. First half of the twentieth century.

A small, one-story, flat roof, poured concrete structure stands adjacent to the north wall of the mill building, just west of the tower. A small door at the east end of the north elevation provides

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access to the interior, and the other elevations are blind. A short length of metal water pipe extends west from the structure supported on concrete posts, and then runs vertically up the exterior of the north wall of the main building. The building appears to be contemporary with the wheel house.

6. Mill Race. Contributing structure. ca. 1880.

Running roughly parallel with the river bank, east of the dam, are the laid-up rubble stone wall and waterway which formed the original mill race. The approximately six-foot wide, three-foot tall (above the race water) stone wall is constructed at a slight angle, leading away from the shoreline. It is approximately one hundred feet in length, and it ends at a sandbar. South of the wall and the sandbar is the man-made water course (see Exhibits B and C), and it extends approximately 300 feet. Based on a 1940 photograph the mill race began at the dam, however, today it stands approximately twenty feet east of the dam. Therefore, there has been some loss of stone fabric (above water) between the dam and west end of the existing wall.

7. Dam. Contributing site. ca. 1880.

Located to the north of the mill, and approximately twenty feet west of the wheel house structure and mill race stone wall are the remains of a timber dam. The dam is classified as a site because it is a ruin. As early as 1900 the dam appears on the Sanborn maps. A photo dated January 1940 shows a dam constructed of stacked timbers about ten feet high. (see Exhibits B and C). Today, the river flows over a wooden dam which stands approximately one foot above the waterline. The top surface of the wooden dam is a single squared-off timber that measures approximately sixteen inches wide. The dam, with its small waterfall, is visible for nearly the entire width of the river however, at its northern end there is no waterfall. It is not known if the dam has been completely destroyed at the northern end, or just silted over. Although only the very base of the dam still stands, it is the physical remnant of the power source for the mill. It has retained some of the dam's historic materials, and to a certain extent it illustrates the dam's design.

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SUMMARY

Double Shoals Cotton Mill, located in central Cleveland County, meets Criterion C for its local architectural significance as a representative example of late nineteenth-century heavy timber textile mill construction. The period of significance is ca. 1880, the construction date of the original textile mill. The two-and-a-half-story brick building is the oldest of the remaining textile mills in the county, and its riverside siting and construction design reflect the building practices of the textile industry at that time. Loadbearing masonry walls, heavy timber post and beam interior structural system, shallow gable roof, large window openings, and separate stair towers are the defining features of “slow burning” mill construction. While the original mill building has had several modern additions attached to its south wall, the Italianate features of the building remain highly intact on the other elevations. Also, many original triple-hung wooden windows and nearly all of the interior, including machinery in the basement level, are completely intact. Built resources associated with the mill’s original water power system stand north of the mill at or in the First Broad River, and they are key functional components of a nineteenth century textile mill. The original mill race with its substantial stone wall is intact, and the remains of the nineteenth-century timber dam are still evident.

COTTON INDUSTRY IN CLEVELAND COUNTY

Cotton was the predominant agricultural product in Cleveland County from the late nineteenth through the first decades of the twentieth century until the boll weevil devastation of the 1940s. In 1870, the county produced 520 bales of cotton, mostly on small subsistence farms. After the railroad arrived in Shelby, the county seat, in 1872, agriculture as an economic mainstay for the county began to change from these small subsistence farms to larger scale production. By 1909, 38,786 acres in Cleveland County were planted in cotton, producing 15,568 bales. Cleveland County was one of fourteen North Carolina counties listed as top in production of cotton for 1909.¹ Cotton production continued to grow into the 1910s and 1920s, with North Carolina being rated as seventh in the nation for cotton by 1925.²

Mills were often located near rivers so as to harness the readily available water power for operating the mill. The first southern mill operated by waterpower was built by Michael Schenck

¹Eades, Brian. “Historic and Architectural Resources of Cleveland County, North Carolina”, unpublished, September 1998, p. 103. Located in survey files, Archives and History, Asheville, North Carolina.

² Ibid, p. 102.

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near Lincolnton, North Carolina in 1813, with machinery built in Rhode Island.³ This mill, along with another one built in Rocky Mount in 1817, burned in the Civil War and was never rebuilt.⁴ The Civil War temporarily ended the development of additional mills in the south, but production rapidly took hold in the Reconstruction Era of the 1870s, with the late nineteenth to early twentieth centuries being the primary growth period of the cotton textile industry in North Carolina and Cleveland County.

In the late nineteenth century, at the same time growth was occurring in raw cotton production in Cleveland County, numerous mills were being constructed in the county to turn the raw cotton fiber into yarn and finished cloth textiles. H. F. Schenck was one of the first in Cleveland County to tap into this growing industry. Schenck opened a small water-powered cotton mill in 1873 on Knob Creek, relocating in the late 1880s to the First Broad River in what would later become the town of Lawndale.⁵ The arrival of the railroad in Shelby in 1872, expanding rapidly in the decade that followed into communities throughout the county, also greatly assisted in the expansion of the cotton textile industry, with both raw materials and finished products being easily transportable. With the economy up until this point having been primarily agrarian, there was a readily available work force for the new mills, with workers lured by the owners to work in the mills for better pay, housing, and community amenities.

By 1901 there were ten fully operational cotton mills in the county: Belmont (founded 1887); Shelby Cotton Mill (founded 1899-1900) and Lauraglen (founded in the late 1880s) in Shelby; Kings Mountain Manufacturing Company, founded by William and Jacob Mauney in the late 1880s in Crowder Mountain; Dilling Mill (founded 1892-94), Enterprise (founded 1892), and Bonnie, Lula, and Cora (all founded in 1900) in Kings Mountain; and Double Shoals Mill (founded ca. 1880) in the Double Shoals Community, located approximately in the center of the county.⁶ By 1903, several additional cotton mills had been incorporated including Cleveland Cotton Mills in Lawndale and Buffalo Manufacturing Company in Stubbs.⁷ By 1910 all the same mills were still in operation, plus four additional mills: Lily, founded by John F. Schenck in 1905

³ Ibid, p. 238.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵Eades, Brian and J. Daniel Pezzoni. Architectural Perspectives of Cleveland County, North Carolina. Shelby: Cleveland County Historic Preservation Taskforce, 2003, p. 18.

⁶ North Carolina Yearbook 1901. Raleigh, North Carolina: The News and Observer. (It should be noted that many times the mills were named after the wife or daughters of the mill owners).

⁷ North Carolina Yearbook 1903. Raleigh, North Carolina: The News and Observer, p. 171.

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in Shelby; Ella Mills, founded by John Randolph Dover in 1907; and Pauline, founded by Charles E. Neisler Sr. in 1910 in Kings Mountain.⁸

Statewide, in 1922, there were a total of 377 cotton mills, and Cleveland County boasted a total of seventeen. By the early 1920s several additional mills had opened, including Margrace, Mason, Park Yarn, Patricia, Phoenix, and Sadie in Kings Mountain, and Catherine and Consolidated Textiles in Shelby (all in operation by the early 1920s).⁹ By 1925, mill development statewide continued to grow, with a total of 386 mills, twenty-one of which were in Cleveland County. New mills which had been built by the mid-1920s included Minnette Mills in Grover (founded 1919) and Dover Mills and Eastside Manufacturing Company in Shelby.¹⁰ By 1941, mills in the county included Bonnie, Kings Mountain Manufacturing, Mauney, Neisler (Margrace and Patricia), Park Yarn, Phoenix Mills, Sadie Mills, and Textiles, Inc., all in Kings Mountain; Cleveland Mill and Power Company in Lawndale; Double Shoals in Double Shoals; and Belmont, Cleveland Cloth Mills, Consolidated Textile Corporation, Dover, Eaton, Lily, Ora, and Shelby Cotton Mills in Shelby.¹¹ By the early 1950s North Carolina led the country in the number of cotton mills, cotton spindles, consumption of cotton, and total value of cotton goods produced. Products manufactured in the mills included coarse to fine cotton yarn, denim, napped fabric, cotton flannels, bedspreads, sheets, pillow cases, gingham, shirting, and damask.¹² Based on the large number of textile mills at this time, North Carolina, and Cleveland County to a large extent, helped fill the high demand for textiles, primarily for domestic use, as the population of the country continued to grow into the mid-twentieth century, with minimal foreign competition for textile production.

HISTORIC BACKGROUND OF DOUBLE SHOALS COTTON MILL

In 1845, Thomas R. Jackson deeded 268 acres on the First Broad River to Albert A. Homsley who was born in Cherryville, North Carolina, owned slaves, and also ran a grist and saw mill in Cleveland County. Homsley proceeded to build a wood frame mill building, ca. 1855, which was the precursor to the existing Double Shoals Cotton Mill building, and the earliest mill building in

⁸ Eades and Pezzoni, pp. 18 and 251.

⁹ North Carolina Yearbook 1922. Raleigh, North Carolina: The News and Observer, p. 86.

¹⁰ North Carolina Yearbook 1925. Raleigh, North Carolina: The News and Observer, p. 61.

¹¹ North Carolina Yearbook 1937. Raleigh, North Carolina: The News and Observer, p. 123.

Specific dates of some of the founding of some of these mills were not given in this source, but they were noted as being in operation by this time.

¹² North Carolina Almanac and State Industrial Guide. Raleigh, North Carolina: Almanac Publishing Company, 1950-51, p. 239.

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the county.¹³ Homsley's mill was in operation during the Civil War, producing cloth for the Confederate army.¹⁴ The mill, powered by an "overshot" waterwheel, was sold on August 8, 1867 by Homsley, along with secondhand equipment, to Abernathy A. Jackson.¹⁵ Jackson then sold it to E. A. Morgan in 1874, who updated this wood building and called the mill Double Shoals Mill Company. Morgan sold one-quarter interest to Walter Cochran and J. F. Gaffney, and then replaced the wood building with the existing brick building ca. 1880.¹⁶

With the building of the more permanent brick building, the company invested in the development of a town around the mill. A company store, cotton warehouses, and company housing were constructed, with additional buildings into the early years of the twentieth century. Everyone who resided in the mill town had some association with the mill, earning their livelihood there and participating in the social life of the mill town which existed as long as the mill continued to produce marketable goods.

President of the mill in 1903 was Fred R. Morgan, son of the owner, secretary-treasurer was E. A. Morgan, and the superintendent was A. M. Gillam.¹⁷ The Morgans continued to run the mill until 1919, when they sold the property to Lester Hamrick and A. W. McMurry.¹⁸ Lester Hamrick was born in 1881 in Lattimore, North Carolina, and also owned a mill there. Andrew Willis McMurry was born in Kirksville, Kentucky in 1899, but his family moved that same year to Shelby. He attended State College in Raleigh and had a textile engineering degree. In addition to owning the mill McMurry served for four years as mill superintendent. His family also owned Belmont Mill in Shelby.¹⁹

In 1932 the mill, then known as Double Shoals Manufacturing Company, underwent foreclosure proceedings, temporarily stopped production, and re-opened under new ownership in 1934, with new owners Tom Moore and Loyd Anthony. Located in the building at the time, according to the

¹³ The Heritage of Cleveland County, Volume I. Winston-Salem, North Carolina: Hunter Publishing Company, 1982, p. 11; also interview with Plato Champion, former mill worker for over sixty years, now deceased (this interview is noted in this article). It is unknown if there was a water wheel built at this time, but it is not likely it was the same one which appears on the 1900 Sanborn map with the current mill building.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 316.

¹⁵ The Heritage of Cleveland County, Volume I, p. 11.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ North Carolina Yearbook 1903. Raleigh, North Carolina: The News and Observer, p. 171.

¹⁸ The Heritage of Cleveland County, Volume I, p. 12.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 396.

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deed, were thirty-three spinning spindles, 1800 twister spindles, four spoolers, seven winders, one warp machine, one opening machine, two pickers, twenty-one cards, five drawer frames, two slubbers, and four speeders.²⁰ The name of the mill at this time was changed to the Double Shoals Company, Inc.²¹ Compared to other mills in the county, Double Shoals Cotton Mill was relatively small in operation. Its initial capital stock was approximately \$50,000, as compared with several mills which had initial investments of \$100,000 or more.²² Finished products produced in the mill from its founding had included cotton yarn and twine.²³ However, by 1937, Double Shoals Manufacturing Company, as it was then again known, had a total of 3200 spindles and was producing 20-2 ply carded yarn as its only product.²⁴

Moore and Anthony sold the building to the Schenck family in the late 1940s. From 1948 to 1954 the Schenck family, who also owned Cleveland Mills in nearby Lawndale, owned and ran the mill.²⁵ In 1954 the Schencks sold the mill to Al Slater, who then leased the mill in 1955 to the Neisler Company in Kings Mountain, changing the name to the Lucky Strike Yarn Mill. Several additions were made to the mill during its operation as Lucky Strike Yarn Mill, the most significant of which is the large two-story warehouse at the southeast corner of the building, renovations to the ca. 1947 warehouse at the southwest corner, and the addition of the delivery and general offices to the south side of the original building (see Exhibit A). The mill continued in operation, producing cotton yarn, until a fire in 1973 destroyed a portion of the second floor of the 1965 warehouse addition.

Raymond A. Goins bought the then vacant Double Shoals mill (a.k.a. Lucky Strike Yarn Mill) in 1975 with plans to re-open, but the government regulations required to bring the building up to environmental standards of the day were too costly.²⁶ He then sold the mill in 1980 to M. H. Walker, who re-opened the mill, named it Lena after his wife, and manufactured rugs and car seat covering material.²⁷ This operation lasted only a short time and the mill was sold by Walker's widow, Lena, in 1986 to Wilford C. and Opal G. Morris.²⁸ Wilford Morris sold the

²⁰ Cleveland County Deed Book 4I, p. 539.

²¹ Ibid. It is unclear from the deed records whether or not there were official name changes, or just errors in the deed.

²² North Carolina Yearbook 1901. Raleigh, North Carolina: The News and Observer.

²³ Sanborn Maps 1900 – 1947.

²⁴ North Carolina Yearbook, 1937. Raleigh, North Carolina: The News and Observer, p. 125.

²⁵ The Heritage of Cleveland County, Volume I, p. 12.

²⁶ Ibid; and Cleveland County Deed Book 15-R, p. 242.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Cleveland County Deed Book 19-I, p. 763.

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property to Ernest E. Baldwin on May 8, 1991, and Baldwin then sold the property on January 31, 1995 to John V. Schweppe Jr., Trustee.²⁹ John V. Schweppe Jr., Trustee, sold the property, including 14.78 acres, to the current owner, Masterson LLC on July 16, 1997 for \$140,000.³⁰ The building apparently ceased all operation as a mill in the mid-1980s. It has been in use in recent years as storage, but has been vacant for several years.

ARCHITECTURE CONTEXT

Prior to the Civil War, mills in North Carolina, regardless of what they processed (cotton, corn, or wheat) appeared similar to one another. They were usually two-story buildings with gabled roofs perched on a creek's edge. Builders arranged windows and doors without symmetry, placing them solely for the practical purposes of lighting and ventilation. Frame construction with weatherboard siding was the most popular building method, but a few examples were stone, brick, or in rare cases, log. The state's first cotton mill, the 1813 Schenck-Warlick Mill in Lincoln County, was a two-story, frame building with an exterior waterwheel, while John Motley Morehead deviated from the pattern of small-scale, frame mills when he employed stone walls and a monitor roof for his Leaksville Factory, built in 1836 in Rockingham County.

After the Civil War, mill owners constructed larger facilities almost always of brick. Roofs retained steeper pitches, but square towers at least a story taller than the roofline and housing a stair and usually a water tank began appearing on the side elevation. As New South capitalists built more factories across North Carolina, mill owners and mill insurers raised concerns about the financial losses incurred when fire destroyed expensive buildings, machinery, and valuable raw and finished cotton.³¹ Textile mills were erected with a particular type of fire-resistant construction, heavy timber framing that became known as "slow burning construction" or "mill construction." It was considered not fireproof, but fire resistant enough not to fail before a fire was contained and suppressed. Hence the name, slow-burning, a term first used during the 1870s....A distinctive feature of slow-burning construction was thick plank flooring laid directly on beams without any accompanying joists. This type of floor was slower to burn than a joisted one,

²⁹ Cleveland County Deed Book 1099, p. 1388; and Deed Book 1157, p.802.

³⁰ Cleveland County Deed Book 1202, p. 2015.

³¹ Sarah Woodard, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, "Borden Manufacturing Company", National Register of Historic Places registration form, National Park Service, 2004, p. section 8-12.

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where the larger number of smaller wood members were surrounded by pockets of air....Vibration generated by power looms [and other moving machinery] and the need for elasticity in the structure argued against the use of cast-iron columns (the strength of which was compromised by incessant vibration) and rolled-iron beams because wood members could better absorb the movement.³²

Designs called for thick brick walls and brick interior walls to separate particularly fire-prone rooms, such as engine and boiler rooms, the picker room, and the warehouse, and spaces that might conduct fire to another area, such as the stair tower. Flat or low-pitched roofs eliminated attics where fires often spread rapidly. Towers became a ubiquitous feature disguising water tanks to feed automatic sprinkler systems. Cisterns, reservoirs, and water pumps also helped fight fires. Large windows, along with developments such as steam heat and electric lights, made indoor fires and lanterns unnecessary. Interior construction consisted of heavy timber framing with floors of at least three layers of thick planking.³³

By the 1890s, published construction standards related to fire control were developed and codified by mill engineers such as Daniel A. Tompkins, New England insurance companies, and machinery manufacturers.

Double Shoals Cotton Mill exhibits many of the defining characteristics of post-Civil War textile mill siting and construction. The mill was built into a hillside above the water source (First Broad River), and it is supported by a massive granite foundation. The mill complex originally included the mill building, a dam, mill race, wheel house and beltway, and a cotton warehouse from its earliest days. The warehouse stood at a distance from the mill, due to fire concerns. The building itself was the prototypical mill with two floors for production with rows of tall, segmental-arched windows, a projecting three-story stair tower, and a "water closet" tower facing the river. Stylish Italianate and Gothic-influenced details on the exterior include the lancet arched double-door opening in the tower, pronounced window hood drip moldings, and the decorative rafter tails in the roof eaves. On the interior, the picking room was separated from the production area at one end of the building. Carding and spinning on the ground floor, and spooling and warping operations took place on the upper floor to produce twine and yarn. A single row of chamfered posts ran down the center of the thirty-foot wide building, supporting

³² Bradley, Betsy Hunter, The Works: The Industrial Architecture of the United States, New York, Oxford University Press, pp. 127-128

³³ Woodward, pp. 8-12 and 13.

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the floors and roof above. A massive beam system rests directly on the center row of posts. By 1909, a boiler room was added at the east end and the mill was equipped with sprinkler systems and fire pumps. Tightly fitted flooring would have pooled water should the automatic sprinkling system be activated.

There were over twenty cotton mills in production in Cleveland County in 1941, and today there are only a handful of mill buildings still standing as reminders of this significant part of the county's history. These are Cleveland Cotton Mills in Lawndale (established in late 1880s), Shelby Cotton Mill (established 1899-1900) and Dover Mill (1923) in Shelby and its vicinity.

Several mills in Kings Mountain still stand, although all of them have been enlarged with modern additions, in some cases completely surrounding the historic mill building. Therefore, they have less integrity than Double Shoals Cotton Mill. They include Cora Mills (established in 1900), Dilling Mill (Phenix #2 in 1945) (1892-94), Mauney Mill (1890s), and Kings Mountain Manufacturing Company (late 1880s). Minette Mills in Grover was established in 1919, and a mill building remains in the southern Cleveland County mill town.

Among the extant mills, Double Shoals Cotton Mill is the oldest and it is the earliest example of heavy timber mill construction in the county. Cleveland Mills and Shelby Cotton Mill are similar in their construction and stand as the best comparisons to Double Shoals Mill. Cleveland Mills in Lawndale, was established by Henry Schenk in the early 1880s. Several accounts give 1888 as the construction date for the two-story brick building that forms the core of a much larger mill complex today. Shelby Cotton Mills was built some twenty years after Double Shoals. It is a two-story, brick building with an altered flat roof, a tower at each end, and arched brick lintels over doors and windows. Additions were made to the building by 1909, including a machine shop and boiler room.³⁴ Dover Mill, founded as Ella Manufacturing Company in 1907, dates to 1923 after John Randolph Dover built this second mill. It is a one-story concrete building with corner pavilions of brick with arched parapets. The building's window openings have been in-filled with brick.

Like the other historic mill buildings in Cleveland County, the mill building at Double Shoals Cotton Mill has been added onto over the years. However, the original massing and design of the ca. 1880 building is still very apparent from the exterior on the north, or river side of the building. Its distinctive Italianate and Gothic-inspired features set it apart from other mills in the county. The interior of the mill has excellent integrity, with very few alterations, and some of the drive system machinery is intact in the basement level. Also, the mill property retains its mill

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race and stone wall, the remnants of the timber dam across the First Broad River, and other buildings associated with the twentieth-century power source at the mill.

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ADDITIONAL UTMS

5. 450280 3915380

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries for this nomination are indicated on the accompanying tax/sketch map, with a scale of
1" = 200'.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Boundaries include a portion of the land historically associated with the mill and provides an appropriate setting. Additional related properties to the west and south of the main mill complex, including the remaining mill housing, the water tower, a wood-frame warehouse, and the company store, are not part of the nomination due to the loss of much of the original mill housing, the significant alteration of the housing that remains, and the deteriorated condition of the water tower and warehouse. The company store could potentially be nominated individually, however it is located on a tax parcel under different ownership.

PHOTOGRAPHS

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

Name of property: Double Shoals Cotton Mill
Double Shoals
Cleveland County, North Carolina
Photographer: Sybil H. Argintar, except where otherwise noted
Date of photos: July 2007, except where otherwise noted
Original digital photo at North Carolina HPO

1. front of ca. 1880 mill building, view west
2. rear of ca. 1880 mill building with additions, view north
3. ca. 1880 mill building, tower
4. 1965 addition, view northeast
5. 1950 warehouse, view north
6. rear, 1965 addition and east elevation ca. 1880 mill building, view west
7. ca. 1880 mill building interior, view northeast
8. 1965 addition interior, view southeast
9. 1965 addition interior, view southeast
10. wheel house, view southeast, Bill McCarter, March 2008

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11. timber dam site, Bill McCarter, March 2008
12. mill race stone wall, Bill McCarter, March 2008
13. 1950 warehouse, interior, view south