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#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS NAME HISTORIC Durham Hosiery Mill, Durham Hosiery Mill Number One AND/OR COMMON Durham Hosiery Mills Corporation 2 LOCATION 800 block of Angier Avenue, between Angier Ave. and Walker Street STREET & NUMBER NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Durham 4th VICINITY OF STATE CODE COUNTY CODE 63 North Carolina 37 Durham CLASSIFICATION **CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE** \_DISTRICT \_PUBLIC X\_OCCUPIED \_\_AGRICULTURE \_\_MUSEUM X\_BUILDING(S) XPRIVATE \_\_UNOCCUPIED X\_COMMERCIAL \_\_PARK \_\_STRUCTURE \_\_BOTH ---WORK IN PROGRESS \_\_EDUCATIONAL \_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE \_\_SITE **PUBLIC ACQUISITION ACCESSIBLE** \_\_ENTERTAINMENT \_\_RELIGIOUS \_\_OBJECT \_\_IN PROCESS \_YES: RESTRICTED \_\_GOVERNMENT \_\_SCIENTIFIC \_\_BEING CONSIDERED \_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED \_\_INDUSTRIAL \_\_TRANSPORTATION X\_NO \_\_MILITARY \_\_OTHER: **4 OWNER OF PROPERTY** Grover Dillon, Jr. STREET & NUMBER Dillon Supply Company, 216 South West Street STATE CITY, TOWN North Carolina 27603 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Durham County Courthouse STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN STATE Durham North Carolina REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS TITLE Historic American Engineering Record DATE X\_FEDERAL X\_STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL



#### CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED

CHECK ONE X\_UNALTERED CHECK ONE

\_\_EXCELLENT

X\_FAIR

\_\_RUINS

\_\_UNEXPOSED

\_\_ALTERED

X\_ORIGINAL SITE

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original Durham Hosiery Mill, competed in 1902, consisted of a four-story main building with a six-story tower in front; engine, boiler, and heater houses attached at the rear; and a one-story dye house with five foot raised side lights just east of the main core. In 1904 a rectangular two-story annex was added west of the main building. In 1906 a three-story annex was added directly south of Annex No. 1. In 1912 a triangular building was erected west of Annex No. 1. Additional storage and service sheds and cotton warehouses were added to the south of the mill along a railroad spur, and a three-story brick finishing building was built at the property's southeast corner.

All of the buildings comprising the Durham Hosiery Mill (excepting the aforementioned warehouses and service sheds) are of typical mill construction with brick walls, wooden floors, and exposed wooden ceiling joists.

The main building, 104' wide and approximately 236' long, is set on a partially-raised basement with a 12'8" ceiling. The ceiling on the first floor is 14'9" high; the ceiling on the second floor is 14'8" high; and the third floor ceiling is 13'6" high. All of the windows are rhythmically arched and sashed. The main building is capped by a low gabled roof and bracketed eaves. At the extreme southeastern corner of the main building there is a four-story dust stack.

The mill's most outstanding architectural feature is the six-story tower attached at the Angier Avenue side of the main building to the west of center--nine bays from the western corner and 14 bays from the eastern. The tower is three bays wide and two bays deep and displays distinctive brickwork on its top story. Facing west and east, arched windows are topped with one-brick wide romanesque arches supported by pilasters. Facing north and south, two smaller arched windows with a bull's eye window mounted above and between them are topped with the same one-brick wide romanesque arches rising from pilasters. The tower has boxed-in cornices, a hip roof, and dormers on all sides, their single, square windows flanked by two coffers on the east and west sides and three coffers on the north and south.

The boiler house and engine house are part of one continuous structure south of the main building. A 30' by 36' heater room connects the power plant with the main building. The boiler room itself has a cement floor, is 67' long and 44' wide and is of 37' high single story construction. The engine room, 79' long by 44' wide, has a basement and a main floor of wood. This building has a steep gabled roof and arched windows at ground levle larger than those in other parts of the mill.

The dye house is another part of the original mill complex finished in 1902. It is a long rectangular structure with an 8' basement and a main floor with a 14' high ceiling. Its flat roof is parapeted along the north and south sides. The windows are square. A small rectangular addition was made at the north end of the dye house in 1952. It is two stories high, the first floor with 10' ceiling and the second with a 12' ceiling A loading dock was added at the south end in 1957.

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The loading dock connects the dye house with a finishing building added after 1913. At the southeastern corner of the mill property, the finishing building is a three-story structure 63' long and 51' wide. The ceiling on the first story is 16'4" high, 13'10" on the second story, and 13'6" on the third. The windows are rectangular. The building is seven bays long and six wide. Brick arches on the first floor on the east and west sides cover what appear to have been openings. The flat roof is distinguished by corbelled eaves forming an overhang on the north and south sides.

Three annexes were added west of the main building. Annex Number One, added in 1904, is a two-story rectangular structure with an area of 7,986 square feet on each floor. The ceiling height on the first floor is 14'9", and on the second floor is 15'9". The windows are rhythmically arched and sashed. The roof is a low gable.

Immediately to the south of Annex Number One is Annex Number Two, added in 1906. It is a three-story trapezoidal building 80' wide on its east end, 150' long to the north, and tapering along its southern expanse to conform to the curvature of a railroad siding. The west end of the building is considerable shorter than the east end. The area of each floor is 8,287 square feet. On the first floor the ceiling is 15' high, as it is on the second floor. The third floor ceiling is 17'10" high. Again the windows are rhythmically arched and sashed. Annex Number Two also has a gabled roof.

West of Annex Number One, and attached to it by means of a loading dock, is a triangular annex added in 1912. The three-story structure has a rounded corner at its western extremity. The double arched doorway with column in the middle and mosiac tiled floor make a handsome entrance for what was the company's shipping department and office. The building has a flat roof.

Additional buildings include what were cotton warehouses, a carpenter shop, a garnet room, a box storage building, and a waste house. A one-story frame aging house, later employed as a warehouse and then as a knitting building, was located bordering Walker Street just west of the present finishing building in the southeastern quadrant of the mill property. The present owner tore down the aging house in the 1950s.

The finishing building and loading dock added to the dye house cover what was once a 200,000 gallon water reservoir.

Today many of the windows in the main building and its annexes are bricked in. Other windows are broken and a small number are boarded up. The windows in the boiler and engine building are largely missing. Most of the wooden doors to the mill remain, though deteriorating in many instances. The floor on the first story of the engine room is gone. Of the twin cooling towers located west of the heater room, only the base of one remains. All of the buildings remain structurally sound.

### 8 SIGNIFICANCE

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#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original Durham Hosiery Mill building was completed in 1902 by the Durham Hosiery Mills Corporation, which by 1910 was the largest manufacturer of cotton hosiery in the world. The mill building is one of the finest examples of mill construction still standing in North Carolina.

Established by Durham tobacco industrialist Julian S. Carr in order to diversify his financial interests, the mill became the center of an East Durham mill village known as Edgemont. At Durham Hosiery Mills' height, the "Durable Durham" cotton hosiery made at its Angier Avenue plant was world-famous, and the success of the hosiery business in Durham helped sustain the early economic boom occasioned by the rise of the tobacco industry.

- Criteria assessment: (A)
- A) Associated with industrial development of the Piedmont and the city of Durham, indicative of the importance of textiles as well as tobacco in the region and town.
  - (B) Associated with Julian S. Carr, industrial leader.
  - (C) Representative example of 20th century industrial architecture.

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The Durham Hosiery Mills Corporation was founded in 1898 with the merger of the Golden Belt Hosiery Company and the Durham Hosiery Company, neither of which could compete successfully with Northern hosiery mills. Capitalized at \$46,000, the company was taken over by Julian S. Carr, a partner in the Golden Belt Hosiery Company who had achieved wealth and fame as president and partner in first Blackwell's and then the Bull Durham Tobacco Company.

The early Durham Hosiery Mill was located on the third, fourth, and fifth floors of a building on Morris Street in central Durham above a tobacco concern, W. W. M. Fallon and Company. Carr hired E. P. Sheridan, a manager experienced in the New England hosiery business, to tun his mill. At about the same time the start of the Spanish-American War brought orders pouring in for cotton hosiery, protected by the 1897 Dingley Tariff.

The Durham Hosiery Mills Corporation prospered--by 1901 it moved its machinery into its own building on Angier Avenue in a sparsely settled area of East Durham. The original mill building was completed in April, 1902.

Sanborn Insurance maps of the factory indicate the floor plan and function of each area of the Durham Hosiery Mill, and record how those functions changes as new wings were added to the facility.

The basement of the main building was used for finishing the cotton yarn and hosiery produced by the mill. The first floor was devoted to knitting, the second to carding the cotton (mostly local cotton from Durham and Orange counties), and the third to spinning. Fleecing was done in a separate area at the east end of the main building, with storage on the first floor and picker rooms located on the second and third floors. The mill office originally stood in the northwest corner of the main building on the first floor, but was transferred to Annex Number One upon its completion. Annex Number One remained the office and shipping house until the triangular annex was added west of it in 1912, at which time Annex Number One was converted for use for looping on the first floor and for grading and paper processing on the second. While the western annex was occupied by the shipping department and offices on the first floor, folding took place on the second floor and matting and stamping on the third. Annex Number Two, built in 1906, housed spinning and winding operations on its first floor, spinning on the second, and a box shop on the third floor originally located at the south end of the dye house.

According to the Sanborn Insurance maps, brick condensers were added to the steam engine room after 1907. The boiler room remained unchanged, as did the heater house between the boiler and engine house and the main building. A second brick cooling tower was added in the space between the power plant and main building after 1907 west of an enclosed walkway connecting the two buildings.

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By 1907 the mill had 11,000 spindles, 64 cards, 1,000 knitting machines and 1,000 employees.

Operation of the business was taken over by Julian S. Carr, Jr., who became the company president. Under the younger Carr, in 1903 the company opened its second mill in an old furniture factory several blocks southwest of the main mill. It was the first mill in the United States which employed a solely black work force. Wrote Carr in 1919:

. . . We decided to try them out in a mill that we established to knot cheap socks out of cotton that had formerly been classed and sold as waste.

There was a distinct shortage of white workers, and we could not have manned the mill with trained hands. When we announced the plan, the opposition was instant; the advisory spirits told us that the rhythm of the machines would put the darkies to sleep and thus we could get no work out of them; the white workers said that we were taking bread out of their mouths (although there were not enough whites to go around) and variously threatened to blow up or burn down the factory. We selected a white man as machine fixer and immediately the girls of the town refused to speak to him. But we went ahead to see the thing through.

The Durham Hosiery Mills continued to bring new mills under its control, adding plants in Goldsboro, High Point, Mebane, and Chapel Hill, North Carolina as well as in Durham. (Durham Hosiery Mill No. 6 stands empty on the south side of Walker Street behind Mill No. 1). With a chain of 15 mills, 14 producing cotton hosiery, Durham Hosiery became the largest hosiery mill complex in the United States by the early 1920s.

Under the younger Carr's direction, <sup>21</sup> the Durham Hosiery Mills also instituted a form of industrial democracy which survived from late in 1919 until early in 1921. According to the "Employee Representation Plan of the Durham Hosiery Mills," a House of Representatives and a Senate were established at each mill (except the one with black workers) to represent the employees, with a Cabinet composed of executive and supervisory personnel meeting at regular intervals to respond to the legislation proposed by those two bodies. Decisions of the Cabinet could be overridden by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of both houses as long as the bills "would not radically affect the finances, the working house, or the pregressive policy of the Durham Hosiery Mills Corp."

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"It was a laboratory experiment to find the solution for the general problem of capital and labor," explained Julian Carr the elder. The 'experiment' worked well enough—the workers were satisfied and no union was established—but when the company had to cut back work hours and then lay off workers the representatives as well as others were released and the plan fell apart.

The slump which caused the collapse occurred shortly after World War I as American women turned increasingly to silk hosiery. Durham Hosiery Mills built the first full-fashioned silk hosiery mill in the South on Corcoran Street in Durham's central business district. But the market for cotton hosiery decreased dramatically. The Angier Avenue mill continued to produce cotton yarn and cotton men's socks until it was closed.

The Durham Hosiery Mills abandoned the Angier Avenue mill during 1922, and it remained largely vacant until after World War II, though it was used by the American Red Cross during the war. From 1946 to 1960, the Central Leaf Tobacco Company used the mill buildings as a tobacco redrying and storage facility. The U. S. Army Organized Reserve Corps used the triangular annex as a reserve center. Since 1957, Central Carolina Bonded Warehouses uses the triangular building, Annexes Number One and Two, and several former cotton warehouses for commercial storage purposes. A flea market operates in the basement of the main building. The rest of the mill buildings are currently empty.

#### Footnotes

Sanborn Insurance Company Map of Durham, N.C. 1902.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Ibid., 1907.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Ibid., 1907.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Ibid., 1907.

William Boyd, The Story of Durham (Durham, N.C., Duke University Press, 1925), p. 120.

<sup>6</sup> Durham Chamber of Commerce, Durham, North Carolina, 1906.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>Boyd, <u>The Story of Durham</u>, p. 124.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Ibid., p. 124.

<sup>9</sup> Sanborn map of Durham, 1898.

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<sup>10</sup> Boyd, The Story of Durham, p. 124.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Ibid., p. 124.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>Ibid., p. 124.

<sup>13</sup> Durham Morning Herald, March 1, 1970.

<sup>14</sup> Sanborn Map of Durham, 1907.

<sup>15</sup> Durham Morning Herald, April 26, 1953.

<sup>16</sup> Boyd, The Story of Durham, p. 125.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup>Ibid., p. 125.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>Ibid., p. 127.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup>Ibid., p. 127.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup>Ibid., p. 127.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup>Harriet Herring, <u>Welfare Work in Mill Villages</u> (Chapel Hill, N. C., University of North Carolina Press, 1929), p. 202.

Boyd, The Story of Durham, p. 133.

Durham Hosiery Mills Corporation, Employee Representation Plan of the Durham Hosiery Mills (Durham, N.C., The Seeman Printery, 1919).

Herring, Welfare Work in Mill Villages, p. 203.

Boyd, The Story of Durham, p. 135.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup>Ibid., p. 127.

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Durham Chamber of Commerc	ce. Durham, North	Carolina. 1	Durham Chambe	er of Comm	erce, 1900
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DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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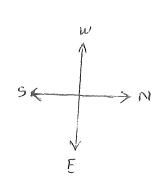
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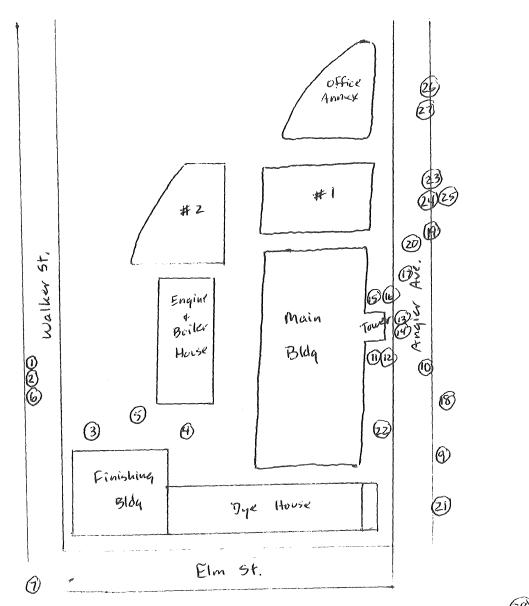
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