

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JAN 30 1984
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Revolution Cotton Mills

and/or common (former) Revolution Division, Cone Mills

2. Location *Roughly bounded*

street & number Area bounded roughly by Yanceyville St. ^{and} 9th St. _{and} Southern Railroad and N. Buffalo Creek not for publication

city, town Greensboro *RR,* vicinity of congressional district

state North Carolina code 037 county Guilford code 081

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	unoccupied industrial
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Revolution Associates I c/o DeWayne H. Anderson

street & number P.O. Box 21

city, town Winston-Salem vicinity of state North Carolina

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds Office

street & number Guilford County Courthouse

city, town Greensboro state North Carolina

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title An Inventory of Historic Architecture Greensboro, N.C. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Survey and Planning Branch, N.C. Division of Archives and History

city, town Raleigh state North Carolina

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The following description is keyed by number to the accompanying color-coded map.

Revolution Cotton Mills is a large industrial complex of over one million square feet, located in the Cone Village section of northeast Greensboro. Bounded by Yanceyville Street on the east, North Buffalo Creek on the south, Southern Railroad tracks on the west and Ninth Street on the north, the buildings in the complex date from 1900 to the mid twentieth century. During these years, there were three major periods of construction: 1) 1900, when the first buildings were erected and the mill began operations; 2) 1904, when the mill doubled in size; and 3) ca. 1915, when large additions on east and west ends again doubled the size of the mill and provided it with most of the elements of its present appearance. In addition to these major construction periods, other years brought smaller-scale construction, and during the 1960s, many of the buildings were brick veneered when a comprehensive air conditioning system was installed.

The overall construction of Revolution Cotton Mills is typical of textile mills built during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Designed primarily with safety and efficiency in mind, rather than architectural beauty, Revolution Cotton Mills' straightforward design conforms with the standard mill construction of the period which emphasized fire-proof or "slow-burning construction" as well as good lighting and ventilation. Described by D.A. Tompkins in his 1899 publication, Cotton Mill, Commercial Features, these construction specifications were developed by the New England mutual insurance companies and were required for insurance coverage by them and by the Factory Insurance Association (which insured Revolution Cotton Mills). Requirements included such features as the division of a mill into five basic sections: the main mill, the picker room, the tower, the engine and boiler rooms, all separated by firewalls, and the totally separate cotton warehouses; brick walls; heavy timbers of uniform size; watertight floors; low roofs with monitors for extra light and ventilation; large windows, one per bay; fire doors, a sprinkler system; an adequate water supply, etc.

When Revolution Cotton Mills began operation in September 1900, the plant consisted of a main mill building (approx. 375 X 105 ft.), a picker room (58 X 50 ft.), a shipping room (250 X 150 ft.), five cotton warehouses (each 50 X 80 ft.) and engine and boiler rooms.¹ All except two of the warehouses and the shipping room remain, and part of the shipping room may be buried within a ca. 1915 addition.

The main building of the original mill (1) is located virtually in the center of the complex. Of standard mill construction, this two-story building has brick walls, wood floors and ceilings, four rows of heavy timber interior support posts with chamfered corners, and a monitor roof, now enclosed. Large segmental-arched windows line the north and south walls, but have been infilled with cinderblocks. The main room is 33 bays long. According to the 1913 Sanborn Insurance Map, by that time this section was being used for carding and spinning.

A brick wall at the west end of the main room divides it from a room only 50 feet wide, identified on the 1913 Sanborn Map as the finishing, lapping and mapping section. (2) Arched windows originally lined the west wall of this room, but were converted to doorways when a large addition was attached to the west ca. 1915.

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Directly south of the finishing section and southwest of the main room is a space approximately 50 X 58 feet which was the picker room (with napping and sizing on the second floor.) (3) Conforming with the textile mill construction guidelines, it is separated from the finishing room and main room by fire walls. An arched opening leads from the picker room to the finishing room. In typical fire-proof fashion, it has a large, metal encased sliding door, designed to shut automatically. Segmental-arched windows lined the south and west walls, but these have been infilled with brick.

The main mill building, including the picker room, has been brick veneered, so that none of the windows remain visible from the exterior.

Attached to the southeast corner of the main building are the boiler and engine rooms (4), separated from the main mill by fire walls. This section of the mill has not been brick veneered, and although somewhat altered, the exterior still reveals many handsome details -- a corbelled cornice, segmental-arched doors and windows (now bricked up), large round-arched openings (now bricked up) on the lower portion of the south wall, and two round brick stacks, 125 feet tall, attached by brick passages to the building. Attached to the east end of the boiler room is a brick shed, with segmental-arched openings. The interior exhibits brick walls, concrete floors, a steel supporting structure, and wood ceiling. The interior of the southern section of this L-shaped structure is in poor repair. The northern section has been partitioned with plywood walls.

South of the main mill building, and separated from it by a railroad siding, is the row of cotton warehouses. Of the seven presently standing, the easternmost three (5) appear to have been built in 1900. (The other two of the original five were replaced prior to 1925 by the brick structure most recently used as a carpenter shop). These warehouses are built according to the construction recommendations described in D.A. Tompkins' book. Each has a brick fire wall at east and west ends, projecting in parapets above the nearly flat roof. Front and rear (north and south) sides are enclosed with light-weight board-and-batten walls with large sliding wood doors. The interior of each has one large opening, with heavy timber support posts running down the center. This form of warehouse was designed with fire in mind, because of the high flammability of cotton. In case of fire, the fire walls would help to contain the flames, while the board-and-batten walls could be easily demolished for the quick removal of cotton bales not yet ignited.

The second major period of construction at Revolution Cotton Mills came in 1904, when the plant was doubled in size.² This addition (6) included a large weave room and machine shop on the north side of the original mill, connected with it by a series of bridges.³ This large one-story structure with basement is 57 bays long and measures 105 X 518 feet. Typical of standard mill construction, the building consists of wide open spaces, interrupted only by the three rows of chamfered wood support posts on the main level. (The basement level has seven rows of wooden support posts, a concrete floor and low ceiling). The monitor roof has been enclosed, as have the segmental-arched windows which lined north and south sides, and the whole has been encased with brick veneer.

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In 1909, construction continued with the addition of a bleachery (7) and dye room.⁴ The two-story bleachery of standard mill construction adjoins the east end of the 1904 building and measures 105 X 138 feet. Both wool and steel posts support the interior of this building. It has been brick veneered. The dye room was attached to the south side of the bleachery, but has been replaced by later structures.

By 1913, several other structures had been added, as shown on the Sanborn Insurance Map of that year, but their dates of construction are not clear. Several could have been added shortly after the original construction of the mill. Among these are four cotton warehouses (8) that were added to the west end of the original row. Measuring approximately 50 feet wide but of varying depths due to the course of North Buffalo Creek which runs behind them, these warehouses remain intact, though somewhat deteriorated. The westernmost warehouse, in particular, is in poorer repair than the rest, probably due in part to the fact that only the east (connecting) wall is of brick, while the other three walls are of the more flimsy board-and-batten construction. The 1913 Sanborn Map also shows the large water reservoir (9) adjacent to the east end of the warehouses, at the point where North Buffalo Creek turns sharply north. A smaller pond was located just north of the railroad siding, south of the main mill building and west of the boiler rooms, but it has been filled in and replaced by post-1950 construction. *Structure*

On the 1913 Sanborn Map a rectangular two-story section labeled "shipping and cloth room" (10) extends westward from the picker room. Measuring approximately 50 X 140 feet, it remains visible within the expanded ca. 1915 construction which flanks it on north and west. Whether this was part of the original shipping facility is unclear. The windows on the west wall of the picker room (dividing it from the shipping and cloth room) reveal that the shipping and cloth room must have been erected after the original construction. However, a photograph believed to date from ca. 1904 to 1909 shows that the shipping and cloth room had been erected by that time.⁵ It follows the standard mill construction. The south, exposed, elevation was brick veneered in the 1960's. The 1913 Sanborn Map also shows other structures -- including box storage, stock room, and offices -- extending westward from the shipping and cloth rooms in an L-shape, but these appear to have been removed during the ca. 1915 construction. *have*

Southeast of the picker room and south of the original main mill is a small one-story detached building of brick construction, shown on the 1913 Sanborn Map as the "opening room." (11) This building appears to remain, but has been heavily altered. The south wall has been removed and extended with cinderblock. Attached to the east side is a metal-sheathed frame shed, which may or may not be the original shed, shown on the map as the "bagging room."

A small, square brick structure (12) is located east of the main mill building and north of the engine room, and attached to them. A structure of the same configuration is shown at this location on the 1913 Sanborn Map, identified as the "service and pump room."

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2 The 1913 Sanborn Map also shows a one-story structure located in the mill yard just north of the 1909 bleachery, labeled "filter house," (13) and just west of it an elevated water tower (14) with a 50,000-gallon capacity. Both of these structures remain. The filter house, measuring 25 X 37 feet, is a common bond brick structure with flat (or nearly flat) roof and segmental-arched window openings (now bricked up) with granite sills. It has been used most recently as the medical department of the mill.

The third period of major construction activity at Revolution Cotton Mills came ca. 1915.⁶ At this time large additions at both east and west ends of the complex once again doubled its size.

At the west end of the mill, a large addition for carding, drawing and spinning operations engulfed the shipping and cloth rooms shown on the 1913 Sanborn Map and appears to have replaced the large office, stock room and box storage complex.⁷ This two-story addition (15), measuring approximately 130 X 542 feet, was built in standard form, with brick walls, large segmental-arched windows (now infilled with cinderblock), wood floors and ceilings, large interior spaces with chamfered wood support posts, and a monitor roof. (A photograph in a 1917 publication shows that the windows were multi-paned sash, those on the first floor having a transom and being larger than those on the second floor.⁸) On the second floor, added partitions separate several smaller work areas from the large work room. The building was brick veneered in the 1960s.

A second ca. 1915 addition lies north of the carding, drawing and spinning addition and parallel to it. The large weaving building (16) is attached to the west end of the 1904 building. Measuring 130 X 449 feet, it is 49 bays long and 13 wide. Like the 1904 building, this building has one main floor and a working basement. The 1904 and ca. 1915 buildings open into each other to form large open spaces of unusual length. The basement level of the weaving building has a concrete floor, nine rows of wood support posts and a low ceiling. Because of the placement of this floor, the segmental-arched window openings (now closed up) are considerably smaller than those on the main floor level. The main level of the building continues the use of standard mill construction. Like many of the other large buildings in the complex, this one had a monitor roof, still intact but now enclosed. This building has been brick veneered.

At the east end of the complex two other additions were built ca. 1915. The largest of these is a three-story building (17), measuring 130 X 300 feet, used primarily for storage and shipping, thus replacing the earlier structures at the west end of the complex.⁹ This building, with its attached office (18) at the northeast corner, is among the least altered of the Revolution buildings in terms of its exterior appearance. Like the other buildings, it is built in the standard mill form. Its common bond brick walls are punctuated by rows of large, 35-light windows set in segmental-arched openings with granite sills. A distinguishing feature of this building is the large concrete arches set on concrete piers beneath the east end of the structure, allowing the passage of North Buffalo Creek below. A loading dock runs along the first story level on the south side of the building. At the east end of the south elevation are double-leaf wooden loading doors. Decorative ironwork guards protect these openings on the upper two floors. On the interior, standard mill construction prevails, although spaces have been partitioned from the main rooms to serve various functions.

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South of the storage/shipping/office building is a separate five-story structure (19), 100 X 160 feet, probably built shortly after 1915.¹⁰ According to the 1925 Sanborn Map, it was used for the storage of finish goods. This building exhibits a more advanced form of the standard mill construction, using reinforced concrete rather than wood. Round concrete posts support steel joists and concrete floors on the interior. The bays and floor levels are visually divided on the exterior by concrete vertical and horizontal bands. Walls are surfaced in Flemish bond brick. Each of the five bays on the east facade has two twenty-light windows, except for the south bay, in which one of the windows has only ten lights. The windows of this building are set within rectangular, rather than arched, openings. A corrugated metal loading dock has been added to the east end of the building in recent years. North Buffalo Creek continues its path beneath this building.

After the mid 1910s, construction was sporadic at Revolution Cotton Mills, and when it did occur, it was on a relatively small scale in comparison with earlier periods of construction. By 1925 several structures had been added, as shown by the Sanborn Insurance Map of that year. One of these was the drug room (20), a 34 X 100 foot, one-story reinforced concrete and brick structure located south of the 1909 bleachery and west of the ca. 1916 storage building.

A second structure from this period is the second dye house, later used as a carpenter shop (21). Located at the east end of the cotton warehouses next to the reservoir, it replaced two of the original warehouses. Measuring 80 X 108 feet, this is a one-story brick structure laid in common bond, with large 35-light industrial windows, a low pitched main roof with exposed rafter ends, a monitor roof, and large sliding wood doors. The interior is characterized by a concrete floor, two large interior spaces separated by a frame partition, and heavy wooden support posts with chamfered corners.

A third, and the most notable, structure from this period is the yellow brick chimney stack (22) with red bricks spelling "Revolution" in a vertical manner. Located just west of the boiler room, this dramatic stack is larger than the two original stacks nearby.

Between 1925 and 1950 several more structures were added to the Revolution complex. Perhaps the most prominent is the six-story addition to the ca. 1916 Flemish bond and concrete storage building. Built in the 1930s,¹¹ the addition (23) measures 60 X 200 feet, and is a common bond brick structure, six bays wide (across the east end) and twenty bays deep (along the south side). The bays are divided by brick pilasters. Fifteen-light rectangular windows are used on the east facade, while ten-light windows are found on the south elevation. The rear of the building, like the storage building it adjoins, is raised on concrete piers as protection against the North Buffalo Creek which runs beneath its northwest corner.

During the second quarter of the twentieth century, other small structures (24) were attached to the south side of the bleachery, or else the first dye room at that location was heavily remodelled and enlarged.¹² At present, these structures appear as

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a hodge-podge of brick and reinforced concrete structural elements of little significance.

The machine shop (25), located just north of the 1904 building on the northern edge of the complex, is a one-story brick veneer structure with rectangular windows, most of which are still open. Built in the 1940s, the main section of the machine shop measures approximately 40 X 1454 feet, while a small addition, believed to have been built a couple of years later, measures 20 X 75 feet.¹³

Since 1950 there has been little construction at Revolution Cotton Mills, and none of architectural significance. Additions during this period include such features as small cinderblock structures along the north sides of the western 1915 buildings and the 1904 building (26), a small structure at the southeast corner of the 1904 building (27), a metal silo (28) south of the 1900 main building, and several small structures (29) in the area bounded by the boiler room on the east and the 1900 main building on the north. Loading docks (30) have also been added to several of the buildings. The change of most impact during recent years was the brick veneering of much of the complex during the 1960s.

In addition to the majority of buildings which can be dated with a fair amount of certainty, there are others of apparently little significance for which the dating is unclear. Of these small-scale structures, most are found at the second floor level connecting the 1900 and 1904 buildings and the two westernmost 1915 structures. Small bridges connected these buildings in earlier days, but starting in the 1920s, more of this space began to be filled in for such uses as canteens, supply rooms, timekeepers' offices and quill rooms. Another of these structures is a small frame building, measuring 20 X 20 feet, found north of the 1904 building and west of the 1940s machine shop. It was probably built after 1950.

Also within the nominated area is a parking lot on the north side of the complex opposite Ninth Street.

As was typical of the early twentieth century, when Revolution Cotton Mills was first built, houses were built for many of the operatives.¹⁴ Now privately owned and substantially remodelled, the Revolution mill houses line the streets -- Poplar, Spruce, Hubbard, Cypress and Maple -- just north and uphill from the mill. By 1925 a row of twelve cotton warehouses had been added south of North Buffalo Creek,¹⁵ and in 1947 a rayon plant was added south of the warehouses.¹⁶ None of these structures, however, are owned by the present developer-owners of the mill complex, and therefore are not being included in this nomination.

Although Revolution Cotton Mills ceased industrial operations in February, 1982, current plans by the partnership of Revolution Associates I should bring new life to the complex. The developers intend to convert the buildings to apartments and offices, utilizing the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines for rehabilitation, so as to preserve the significant historic and architectural features of the complex.

Structure

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Footnotes--

¹"Revolution Cotton Mills. Manufacturers of Cotton Flannels, Near Greensboro." Clipping in Cone Mills File #1, Greensboro Public Library, source unknown, believed to date from 1901.

²Minute Book (Bound Book, 2/10/1899 - 8/3/1936, Archives, Cone Mills Corp., Greensboro), p. 67. Hereinafter referred to as Minutes, Bound Book. Supportive dating information for this and many of the other mill buildings comes from dates given on a map entitled "Cone Mills Corporation 'Revolution Division' Greensboro, N.C." surveyed by L.W. Saunders on November 20, 1953 for the Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, Engineering Division, Boston, Mass. Hereinafter referred to as 1953 Map.

³Sanborn Map Company, "Insurance Maps of Greensboro, Guilford County, North Carolina," (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1913), sheet 40. Hereinafter referred to as Sanborn Map with year and sheet number.

⁴A Member of the Staff, "The Cone Mills in North Carolina," Cotton, October, 1938, p. 112.

⁵This photograph, of unidentified source, appears to date from between the 1904 and 1909 additions, judging from the buildings shown and not shown.

⁶Minutes, Bound Book, p. 81.

⁷Sanborn Map, 1925, sheet 68.

⁸C.E. Weaver, compiler, Sketches of Greensboro, North Carolina (Richmond: Central Publishing Co. Inc., 1917), p. 5.

⁹Sanborn Map, 1925, sheet 68.

¹⁰Sanborn Map, 1925, sheet 68. The map says "Built 1916."

¹¹1953 Map.

¹²1953 Map.

¹³1953 Map.

¹⁴Manufacturers' Record (Baltimore), March 17, 1899, p. 131.

¹⁵Sanborn Map, 1925, sheet 68.

¹⁶"Revolution Division Has Served Textile Industry for Half a Century," Textorian December 16, 1949.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates: 1899, 1900, 1904, 1915
 1882
 Builder/Architect: Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1899-1900 in Greensboro as a joint venture of the prominent Cone and Sternberger families, the Revolution Cotton Mills is an example of the diversification which took place in the Southern textile industry during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Revolution Mills' particular significance lies in the fact that it was reputed to be the first flannel mill in the South, at a time when flannel was an increasingly popular fabric. By the 1930s, Revolution Cotton Mills had become the largest exclusive flannel producer in the world. The mill remains the most intact of the turn-of-the century Cone-affiliated textile mills in Greensboro.

Criteria Assessment:

- A. The Revolution Cotton Mills is associated with the early twentieth century industrial development of Greensboro and with the innovations in the Southern textile industry which occurred during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- B. The Revolution Cotton Mills is associated with the lives of various members of the Cone and Sternberger families of Greensboro. These families not only served as industrial leaders (in the case of the Cones, well beyond the confines of Greensboro), but as community leaders who contributed substantially to numerous philanthropic endeavors through the years.
- C. The Revolution Cotton Mills embodies the distinctive characteristics of standard textile mill construction of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, incorporating the "slow burning construction" and good lighting and ventilation prescribed by factory insurance companies of the period. It is the most intact of the early twentieth century textile mills in Greensboro.
- D. May be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 32.71

Quadrangle name Greensboro

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	1	7
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

1	1	7
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

1	1	7
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

1	1	7
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

Zone	Easting	Northing

F

Zone	Easting	Northing

G

Zone	Easting	Northing

H

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundaries of the nominated property are as shown on the accompanying property survey map entitled, "Property of Cone Mills Corporation," surveyed by Marvin L. Borum and dated Sept. 9, 1983. The mill complex, mill -- see continuation sheet --

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura A. W. Phillips, Consultant

organization

date September 19, 1983

street & number 637 N. Spring Street

telephone 919/727-1968

city or town Winston-Salem

state North Carolina, 27101

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

William S. Pinn

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 20, 1983

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

3/1/84

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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The history of the Revolution Cotton Mills is the story of an innovative joint venture between two prominent textile families -- the Sternbergers and the Cones. Throughout most of its history, both families played significant and intertwining roles in the development of the mill, to the extent that it is difficult to determine who was actually in the lead position during certain periods. The memorial tributes paid by the Revolution board of directors after the deaths of Ceasar Cone and Emanuel Sternberger illustrate this well. When Ceasar Cone, who was never an officer of the mill, died on March 17, 1917, the board's tribute described him as "the father of this and the other Cotton Mills surrounding us" and as "the originator, organizer and successful leader of this enterprise, 'The Revolution Cotton Mills'," and added that "the success of this Mill is entirely due to his valuable advice and assistance."¹ On the other hand, when Emanuel Sternberger, who served as president of the mill from 1899 to 1924, died on May 28, 1924, the board's tribute referred to him as "the founder and creator of the Revolution Cotton Mills" who "served faithfully as its President and chief executive officer from the time of its first organization to the date of his death."² Although Revolution Cotton Mills could not officially be considered a Cone facility until 1927, when the Cones' Proximity Manufacturing Company became a major stockholder and when Julius W. Cone became president,³ its development was always heavily influenced by the Cones.

Moses and Ceasar Cone, who became giants in the textile world, were born in Jonesboro, Tennessee in 1857 and 1859. In 1870 they moved to Baltimore, where their immigrant father, Herman Cone, established a wholesale grocery business. In 1878, the brothers became partners in the business of H. Cone & Sons.⁴ During the late 1880s the brothers realized that lower freight rates enjoyed by Norfolk and Richmond would eventually cause their business great losses, so they began to seek out other endeavors. In 1887 C.E. Graham, a friend and customer, convinced them to invest in the organization of a cotton mill in Asheville, North Carolina. The C.E. Graham Manufacturing Company was not successful, and was reorganized in 1892 as the Asheville Cotton Mills, becoming the first Cone Mill.⁵ Recognizing that the Southern mills which produced cotton plaids were suffering because of drastic competition among themselves, Moses Cone opened in 1891 the first offices of the Cone Export and Commission Company in New York.⁶ Its goals were to handle the output of the cotton mills in North Carolina, keeping within the state some of the profits which had been flowing to the Northern commission houses, and to stimulate and encourage the diversification of the Southern textile industry.⁷ In promoting diversification, the Cones themselves organized the Southern Finishing and Warehouse Company at Greensboro in 1893, at a time when there were few finishing mills in the South.⁸ Then, determining that it would be more to their advantage to control the mills making the goods rather than just to sell the finished products, the Cones decided, just before the Panic of 1893, to raise the capital to build two mills, one to make denims and the other to make canton flannels. Due to the financial panic, however, the first of these -- the Proximity Manufacturing Company -- was not built in Greensboro until 1895-1896. It produced the famous Cone denims. (Several years later, the Cones built another, larger, mill in Greensboro for additional denim production -- the White Oak Mills).⁹ The Cones were well on their way to establish their internationally known textile empire.

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At the same time that the Proximity Mill was being established, Ceasar Cone, F.J. Murdoch and J.W. Scott filed Articles of Incorporation for Revolution Cotton Mills with the clerk of Guilford County Superior Court. The Certificate of Incorporation was issued by the Secretary of State of North Carolina on July 25, 1895.¹⁰ The name "Revolution" was chosen because the production of canton flannel in the South was to be a distinct departure from the old lines and would revolutionize the trade.¹¹ Local tradition relates that the Cones originally wanted to call the mill "Revelation," but, deciding that such a Biblical term might offend some, agreed on "Revolution" instead. And yet, according to the Greensboro Daily Industrial News in 1908, "So great was its success, that Revolution Mill soon became a revelation."¹² Even with the Certificate of Incorporation in hand, the Cones did not proceed with their flannel mill for several more years.

In the meantime, in the late 1890s Emanuel Sternberger, a Clio, South Carolina merchant who had been a customer of H. Cone and Sons and was a personal friend of Moses and Ceasar Cone, began to consider other avenues of investment.¹³ A native of Bavaria, Germany (original home of Herman Cone), Emanuel Sternberger had come to South Carolina around 1873 at the age of fourteen, where he worked for several years as a clerk in the store of his brother, D. Sternberger, in Florence. By 1879 he had become the proprietor of his own store in Clio. For some years he was also the president of the Bank of Clio and was president of the Clio Gin Company, a position he held even after moving to Greensboro.¹⁴ According to Sternberger's daughter, Mrs. Edward Benjamin of Greensboro, "He had been reading all about mills . . . and was interested in building a mill where the cloth could be finished."¹⁵ Emanuel and his brother, Herman, were contemplating the construction of a sheeting mill at Clio and contacted Ceasar Cone for advice. Cone suggested that they consider the manufacture of less competitive goods, proposing that they pursue a flannel mill in Greensboro, and offered to help them in getting started and in raising capital. The Sternbergers accepted his offer.¹⁶

On February 20, 1899, following an agreement made on February 10 by Moses and Ceasar Cone and Emanuel and Herman Sternberger, a stockholders meeting of the Revolution Cotton Mills was called to organize and elect officers. Emanuel Sternberger was elected president; Solomon Frank of Baltimore, vice president; and Herman Sternberger, secretary and treasurer. Ceasar Cone was requested to procure a new charter and to contract for both railroad service and for the necessary bricks and brickwork for mill construction.¹⁷ Additionally, the stockholders contracted with Cone for seventy-five acres of land near Greensboro at \$100 per acre with a one year option on twenty-five adjoining acres at the same price, all to be paid in corporation stock.¹⁸ A new charter was issued by the Secretary of State on March 11, 1899.¹⁹

News of the new venture traveled quickly, its progress reported by the Manufacturers' Record, a weekly Southern industrial, railroad, and financial newspaper published in Baltimore. Even before the stockholders' organizational meeting, the February 17 issue of the Manufacturers' Record revealed that

A report from Greensboro, N.C. states that a \$600,000 stock company is being formed there for the purpose of erecting a factory for the

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manufacture of canton flannels. It is further stated that \$300,000 of the stock has been subscribed for, and that Messrs. E. and H. Sternberger, of Clio, S.C., are the prime movers in the enterprise. Messrs. Ceasar (sic) Cone and Moses Cone of Greensboro, N.C., are credited with securing the city of Greensboro as location for this plant.²⁰

On February 24, 1899, the Manufacturers' Record reported that

The most important development of the week at this point has been the closing of contracts, securing to Greensboro the enterprise referred to in my last letter, which is a mill for the manufacturing of canton flannels.²¹

A continuation of this report expressed the significance of the new mill.

Cotton flannel is now exclusively manufactured in the North, and this development is but another evidence of facilities offered by this section in the manufacture of cotton fabrics.²²

On March 3 it was reported that a site had been selected for the mill²³ and on March 10 that plans and specifications were being prepared.²⁴ On March 17, this newspaper reported that "Revolution Cotton Mills will erect 125 cottages for its operatives."²⁵ However, it was not until a year and a half later that the Manufacturers' Record, in its September 27, 1900 issue, reported the opening of the mill.

The Revolution Cotton Mills of Greensboro, N.C. produced its first canton flannel during the week, being the first mill in the South to manufacture this product. The Revolution plant is one of 12,000 spindles and 376 looms, and it has just been completed. Power is furnished by a 675-horse-power engine. The operatives number 350. The capitalization is \$300,000.²⁶

Another description of the mill, believed to have been written in 1901, adds that the main building was 375 X 105 feet, the picker room 58 X 50 feet, the shipping room 250 X 150 feet, and the five cotton warehouses were each 50 X 80 feet. A complete water system, with two tanks of a 25,000-gallon capacity, was connected with the mill. The account added that the products of the company consisted of cotton flannels, with daily capacity being 420 pieces, equivalent to about 23,000 to 25,000 yards.²⁷

Typical of most textile mills built during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Revolution Cotton Mills was designed with safety and efficiency in mind rather than architectural beauty. Its simple, straightforward design adhered to the "slow burning construction" required by the New England Factory Mutuals and the Factory Insurance Association of their insured mills.²⁸ (Revolution was insured by the Factory Insurance Association).²⁹ The great risk of fire in a textile mill made this type of construction imperative. The theory behind it was that if a fire should start, it would burn so slowly that the standard fire protection apparatus on the premises could easily

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control it. Essential features of the design included brick walls, heavy timbers of uniform size, thick watertight floors, low roofs with a slope of only around one-half inch to the foot, fire doors, and an automatic sprinkler system.³⁰ This type of construction also dictated five basic, separate parts of a mill: (1) the main mill, (2) the picker room, separated from the main mill by a fire wall, (3) the belt or rope tower and dust flue appended to the main mill and picker room, (4) the engine and boiler rooms built in the form of an L and separated from the main mill by a fire wall, and (5) the warehouse, a separate building with a series of parallel brick fire walls connected by light-weight wooden walls with large doors which could be easily torn down for removal of the cotton bales in case of fire.³¹ An early insurance map reveals that Revolution Cotton Mills followed this layout.³²

Another functional imperative that was adhered to by Revolution Cotton Mills was the provision of adequate light and ventilation for the working spaces. One way to achieve this was through large windows, one per bay, generally consisting of two lower sliding sash and an upper, segmental-arched transom. Another method of achieving light and ventilation was through a monitor (a structure several feet high and surrounded by windows) which ran nearly the full length of the roof.³³ An early photograph of Revolution Cotton Mills illustrates these features.³⁴

When the Revolution Cotton Mills began operation in 1900, it took its place in an industry which had grown rapidly in the South during the late nineteenth century, to the point where its foundation was solid and its future preeminence seemed assured. Growth during the last decades of the nineteenth century was strong. In 1890, 254 textile mills were reported in operation in the South, while in 1900, the number had more than doubled to 542.³⁵

In 1900 there were 73 new mills under construction, fifteen of which (including Revolution) were being built in North Carolina. North Carolina, in fact, was second among the Southern states in terms of the number of looms and spindles. With its initial 12,000 spindles and 376 looms, Revolution Cotton Mills was far from the largest mill in the state but was well above average in size.³⁶

In terms of Greensboro's industrial economy, Revolution Cotton Mills was constructed during a period marked by rapid growth and diversification. Between 1884 and 1904, more than forty new manufacturing firms were established. Textiles, clay products, furniture, and other wooden products such as bobbins and shuttles were the major areas of concentration.³⁷ When Sallie W. Stockard wrote her history of Guilford County in 1902, she listed the capital stock of 56 Guilford County corporations. Of these, Revolution Cotton Mills was listed with the highest stock value -- \$300,000, followed by the Cones' Proximity Manufacturing Company, with \$150,000.³⁸

In the half century following the initial construction of Revolution Cotton Mills, it was enlarged on several occasions, greatly expanding its original size. The first additions came within the first few years of the mill's existence. On January 26, 1903, the board of directors took steps to provide capital for "erecting additional buildings and buying necessary machinery and equipment to about or beyond the capacity of the present plant."³⁹ On February 4, 1904 the company minutes stated that "the Company is

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doubling its plant."⁴⁰ This addition provided a new weave room and machine shop, attached by bridges to the north side of the original mill.⁴¹

Several years later, brown cotton flannels -- the type produced at Revolution -- had a slump in the market, making ready sales for the mill products difficult. When it became obvious that the flannel would need to be bleached before it could be sold, arrangements were made to ship the cloth to the Bondsville Bleachery in Massachusetts, since there were few bleacheries in the South at the time, and those which did exist were inadequate to take on additional work. In 1909, Revolution added its own bleachery and dye plant.⁴² A 1910 article on the mill described the combined weaving and bleaching building as being 665 X 105 feet and the dye house as 30 X 40 feet. According to this article, the mill then consisted of 32,000 spindles and 820 looms, with an output of 60,000 yards of flannel a day. The mill provided steady employment for 500 to 550 operatives.⁴³

On January 16, 1914, the company minutes recorded that bonds were to be issued which would enable the company to carry out and make additions.⁴⁴ By 1916 large additions at the east and west ends of the mill had been made for weaving, carding, spinning, napping, storage and shipping, and office purposes.⁴⁵ By then, looms totalled 2,048.⁴⁶

The following decade witnessed changes in leadership at Revolution Cotton Mills. Ceasar Cone's advisory capacity ceased with his death in 1917.⁴⁷ (Moses Cone had died in 1908).⁴⁸ Herman Sternberger, secretary and treasurer of the mill since its creation, died in 1918.⁴⁹ On May 28, 1924 Emanuel Sternberger, who had served for a quarter of a century as Revolution's first president, died.⁵⁰

That same year, Emanuel's wife, Bertha Strauss Sternberger, and his daughter, Emelie Sternberger, were named as directors of the mill. In addition, Bertha Sternberger was elected president, a position she held for three years.⁵¹ Whether her presidency was practical or purely ornamental is not clear. She was reputed, however, to have been a strong-willed woman of achievement in her own right. Bertha Strauss grew up on a large cotton plantation in Mayesville, South Carolina, and moved to Greensboro after marrying Emanuel Sternberger in 1900. She took an active role in the life of the community. A major effort on her part was to bring parks and playgrounds to Greensboro. Bertha Sternberger was also greatly interested in education, and from 1921 until 1927 served on the Greensboro City Board of Education, the first woman to be appointed to this body. After her husband's death, she and her daughters established the Emanuel Sternberger Education Fund, from which interest-free loans are made for the educational expenses of selected students. Bertha Sternberger died on February 17, 1928.⁵²

Bertha Sternberger was the last of the Sternbergers to hold the office of president of Revolution Cotton Mills. However, Herman Sternberger's son, Sigmund, who had become assistant secretary/treasurer of the mill in 1916 and was promoted to treasurer in 1919, continued to hold that position until Revolution was absorbed by Cone Mills Corporation on January 1, 1948.⁵³ After that, he continued to serve as a director of Cone Mills Corporation for a number of years.⁵⁴

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Probably the most noticeable shift in leadership came in 1927. On January 28 of that year, the Cones' Proximity Manufacturing Company was listed for the first time in the Revolution board minutes as a stockholder -- a major stockholder -- of the company. On that same day, Julius W. Cone, younger brother of Moses and Ceasar Cone who had served as vice president of the mill since 1908, was named president.⁵⁵ He remained president until 1939, when he became chairman of the board.⁵⁶ In addition to his role at Revolution, Julius Cone served as president of Cone Export and Commission Company from 1917 to 1938 and then as its chairman of the board; as vice president of the Proximity Manufacturing Company; and as a director of the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company and of the Atlantic Bank and Trust Company. He also served for years as a city councilman.⁵⁷ With Julius Cone's presidency, and the emergence of Proximity Manufacturing Company as a major stockholder, Revolution Cotton Mills became a full-fledged Cone mill.

After Julius W. Cone, Herman Cone (son of Ceasar Cone) served as president of Revolution Cotton Mills from 1939 through 1944, and after he became chairman of the board, Marion W. Heiss served as president from 1945 through 1947.⁵⁸

Since 1927, several smaller scale additions have been made to the Revolution plant. Probably the most significant of these have been a ca. 1935 cloth warehouse, measuring 60 X 200 feet, at the southeast corner of the mill and a 1946-1948 machine shop, approximately 40 X 145 feet, on the north side of the complex.⁵⁹

By 1938 Revolution Cotton Mills claimed to be the largest exclusive flannel mill in the world, producing annually 50,000,000 yards of various weights and constructions of outing, canton and printed flannels.⁶⁰

Like most textile mills of the period, Revolution had its own mill village. Apparently, 125 cottages were erected when the mill was first built, and more were added later.⁶¹ A 1910 description of the mill noted that, "The company houses its employees in neat, modern houses and has supplied the village of Revolution with schools, play grounds, churches and every possible convenience."⁶² While subsequent, more descriptive, accounts of the Revolution village and its amenities have not been found, it seems likely -- because of the involvement of the Cones with the mill throughout its history and their leadership of the mill after 1927 -- that the Revolution workers enjoyed much the same company-sponsored benefits in their community life as did the workers at the Cones' Proximity and White Oak plants. In fact, a 1938 account of the Cone mills states that "The community activities and policies of the Proximity Manufacturing Company . . . are similar in practically every respect to those prevailing at Revolution Cotton Mills in Greensboro . . ." ⁶³

For the Proximity and White Oak employees, the Cones provided numerous community benefits. Briefly, they built and maintained schools, which they operated for nine months of the year, and they maintained a free kindergarten for the children of mill employees. Social workers were hired to work in a company maintained welfare department, and a staff of nurses looked after the general health of the village residents. Y.M.C.A. buildings were erected and operated, and summer vacation camps for workers and their families were provided. In order to encourage spiritual life, the

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Cones gave building lots to the various congregations and then gave large donations to help erect the church buildings. Parsonages were provided without cost, and supplementary operating funds were given to each congregation. ⁶⁴

Houses that were built for Revolution employees during the early years of the twentieth century were remodelled in the late 1940's and later sold to individual homeowners. ⁶⁵

In the last year (1947) of Revolution Cotton Mills' operation as an individual mill, a Rayon Plant was added to the complex. ⁶⁶

On December 12, 1947, a special stockholders' meeting of Revolution Cotton Mills approved a merger agreement which was to become affective on January 1, 1948. According to the agreement, on the date of merger Proximity Manufacturing Company and Revolution Cotton Mills were to become a single corporation -- the Proximity Manufacturing Company -- the name of which was then to be changed to Cone Mills Corporation. ⁶⁷

Probably the most significant physical alteration to the Revolution plant subsequent to the 1948 merger has been the enclosure of the windows and monitors and the brick veneering of the majority of exterior wall surfaces during the 1960s to accommodate air conditioning. ⁶⁸

For approximately thirty years after the merger, the Revolution plant continued to produce flannel goods. In the late 1970s, however, with new government standards concerning flammability, the company elected to get out of the flannel business. The plant was then converted to corduroy production, with a large export market, but when this market deteriorated, Cone Mills shut down the Revolution plant for good, in February 1982. ⁶⁹

While the industrial history of Revolution Cotton Mills has come to a close, new life awaits the mill buildings. The partnership of Revolution Associates I plans to rehabilitate the complex according to the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines, converting it to use as apartments and offices.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archeological remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns and industrial history, as well as structural remains are often evident only in the archeological record. Therefore, archeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure.

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Footnotes --

¹Minute Book (Bound Book, 2/10/1899 - 8/3/1936, Archives, Cone Mills Corp., Greensboro), p. 88. Hereinafter referred to as Minutes, Bound Book.

²Minutes, Bound Book, p. 127.

³Minutes, Bound Book, p. 141.

⁴Samuel A. Ashe, Stephen B. Weeks, & Charles L. VanNoppen, eds., Biographical History of North Carolina, Vol. III (Greensboro: Charles L. VanNoppen, 1917), pp. 110, 119. Hereinafter referred to as Ashe, Biographical History.

⁵A Member of the Staff, "The Cone Mills in North Carolina," Cotton, October, 1938, p. 110. Hereinafter referred to as "Cone Mills."

⁶"Cone Mills," p. 110.

⁷Ashe, Biographical History, p. 111.

⁸Ashe, Biographical History, p. 111.

⁹Ashe, Biographical History, pp. 111-112.

¹⁰Typed summary of Revolution Cotton Mills records, prepared by Neil Koonce, Senior Attorney for Cone Mills.

¹¹"The Gate City" Greensboro: Commercial, Financial Manufacturing, Special Souvenir Number, 1910, a supplement of The Daily Record (Greensboro: J.M. Reece & Co., 1910), p. 23. Hereinafter referred to as "The Gate City."

¹²Ethel Stephens Arnett and Walter Clinton Jackson, Greensboro North Carolina, the County Seat of Guilford (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1955), pp. 172-173.

¹³"Cone Mills," pp. 111-112.

¹⁴J.C. Hemphill, ed., Men of Mark in South Carolina, Vol. IV (Washington: Men of Mark Publishing Company, 1909), n.p.

¹⁵Tim Pittman, "Revolution Mill Had a Revolutionary Past," Greensboro Daily News, August 20, 1983, p. 1A. Hereinafter referred to as Pittman, "Revolution Mill."

¹⁶"Cone Mills," p. 112.

¹⁷Minutes, Bound Book, p.1.

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18 Minutes, Bound Book, p.2.

19 Minutes, Bound Book, p.3.

20 Manufacturers' Record (Baltimore), February 17, 1899, p.58.

21 Manufacturers' Record, February 24, 1899, p. 73.

22 Manufacturers' Record, February 24, 1899, p. 73.

23 Manufacturers' Record, March 3, 1899, p. 91.

24 Manufacturers' Record, March 10, 1899, p. 107.

25 Manufacturers' Record, March 17, 1899, p. 131.

26 Manufacturers' Record, September 27, 1900, p. 161.

27 "Revolution Cotton Mills. Manufacturers of Cotton Flannels, Near Greensboro." Clipping in Cone Mills File #1, Greensboro Public Library, source and date unknown. The suggested date of 1901 was derived from the fact that the description lists Solomon Frank as vice president. According to the minute books of Revolution Cotton Mills, Frank was vice president from 1899 through 1901. The mill wasn't completed until the fall of 1900, and the first sentence, "The Revolution Cotton Mills was instituted herein 1900," is in the past tense, leaving one to presume that the description could only have been written in 1901.

28 Peter R. Kaplan, The Historic Architecture of Cabarrus County, North Carolina (Concord: Historic Cabarrus, Inc., 1981), p. 28, hereinafter referred to as Kaplan, Cabarrus County; D. A. Tompkins, Cotton Mill, Commercial Features (Charlotte: D.A. Tompkins, 1899), pp. 158, 162, hereinafter referred to as Tompkins, Cotton Mill.

29 Sanborn Map Company, "Insurance Maps of Greensboro, Guilford County, North Carolina," (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1913), sheet 40. Hereinafter referred to as Sanborn Map with year and sheet number.

30 Tompkins, Cotton Mill, pp. 159, 162, 164, 165.

31 Tompkins, Cotton Mill, pp. 163, 167, 168.

32 Sanborn Map, 1913, sheet 40.

33 Tompkins, Cotton Mill, p. 166; Kaplan, Cabarrus County, pp. 28, 30.

34 This photograph of unidentified source probably dates from between the 1904 and the 1909 periods of construction (additions), judging from the buildings shown.

35 Manufacturers' Record, February 22, 1900, p. 72.

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36 Manufacturers' Record, February 22, 1900, p. 72-73.

37 Ruth Little-Stokes, An Inventory of Historic Architecture, Greensboro, N.C. (City of Greensboro and N.C. Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, 1976), p.4.

38 Sallie W. Stockard, The History of Guilford County, North Carolina (Knoxville: Gaut-Ogden Co., 1902), pp. 74-75.

39 Minutes, Bound Book, p. 29.

40 Minutes, Bound Book, p. 67.

41 Sanborn Map, 1913, sheet 40.

42 F.J. Blackwood, "E. Sternberger," xerox from an unidentified Greensboro newspaper, probably 1924, copy in the Sternberger Family file, Greensboro Public Library; "Cone Mills," p. 112.

43 "The Gate City", p. 23.

44 Minutes, Bound Book, p. 81.

45 Sanborn Map, 1925, sheet 68.

46 "Cone Mills," p. 112.

47 Minutes, Bound Book, p. 88.

48 History of North Carolina, Vol.IV: North Carolina Biography, by Special Staff of Writers (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1919), p. 17.

49 Minutes, Bound Book, p. 93.

50 Minutes, Bound Book, p. 127.

51 Minutes, Bound Book, p. 124-125, 141.

52 Ethel Stephens Arnett, For Whom Our Public Schools Were Named, Greensboro, North Carolina (Greensboro: Piedmont Press, 1973), pp. 323, 325, 327 and 329.

53 Minutes: Bound Book, Post Binder (1/1937 - 12/1945), Ring Binder (1/1946 - 12/1947).

54 "S. Sternberger Dies in Hospital," Greensboro Daily News, July 20, 1964. .

55 Minutes, Bound Book, p. 141.

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56 Minutes, Bound Book, Post Binder.

57 History of North Carolina, Vol. IV: Family and Personal History (New York: Lewis Publishing Co. Inc, 1956), p. 741.

58 Minutes: Post Binder and Ring Binder.

59 "Cone Mills Corporation 'Revolution Division' Greensboro, N.C.", a map surveyed on November 20, 1953 by L.W. Saunders (Boston: Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, Engineering Division).

60 "Cone Mills," p. 112.

61 Manufacturers' Record, March 17, 1899, p. 131.

62 "The Gate City," p. 23.

63 "Cone Mills," p. 116.

64 "Cone Mills," p. 114-116.

65 Pittman, "Revolution Mill," p. A6.

66 "Revolution Division Has Served Textile Industry for Half a Century," Textorian, December 16, 1949.

67 Minutes: Ring Binder, pp. 247-248, 257-258.

68 Information from Cone Mills Engineering Department, Greensboro.

69 Interview by Laura A. Phillips with Frank Fary, Manager, Public Relations, Cone Mills Corp., Greensboro, August 20, 1983; Pittman, "Revolution Mill," p. A6.

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- Ashe, Samuel A.; Weeks, Stephen B.; and Van Noppen, Charles L., eds. Biographical History of North Carolina, Vol. III. Greensboro: Charles L. Van Noppen, 1917.
- Cone Mills Corporation, Engineering Department, Greensboro. Information gathered from various maps, charts and employees.
- "Cone Mills Corporation 'Revolution Division' Greensboro, N.C.," a map surveyed on November 20, 1953 by L. W. Saunders. Boston: Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, Engineering Division. On file in Engineering Department, Cone Mills Corporation, Greensboro.
- Cone Mills Vertical File #1. On file at Greensboro Public Library, Greensboro. "Revolution Cotton Mills, Manufacturers of Cotton Flannels, Near Greensboro" - unidentified clipping in file.
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- Interview by Laura A. W. Phillips with Frank Fary, Manager, Public Relations, Cone Mills Corp., Greensboro, August 20, 1983.
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- Koonce, Neil. Typed summary of Revolution Cotton Mills records, on file at Cone Mills Corporation, Greensboro.
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Manufacturers' Record (Baltimore), February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 1899 and February 22, September 27, 1900.

Minutes Books: Bound Book, 2/10/1899 - 8/3/1936; Post Binder, 1/1937 - 12/1945; Ring Binder, 1/1946 - 12/1947. On file in the Archives of Cone Mills Corp., Greensboro.

Sanborn Map Company. "Insurance Maps of Greensboro, Guilford County, North Carolina." New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1913 and 1925.

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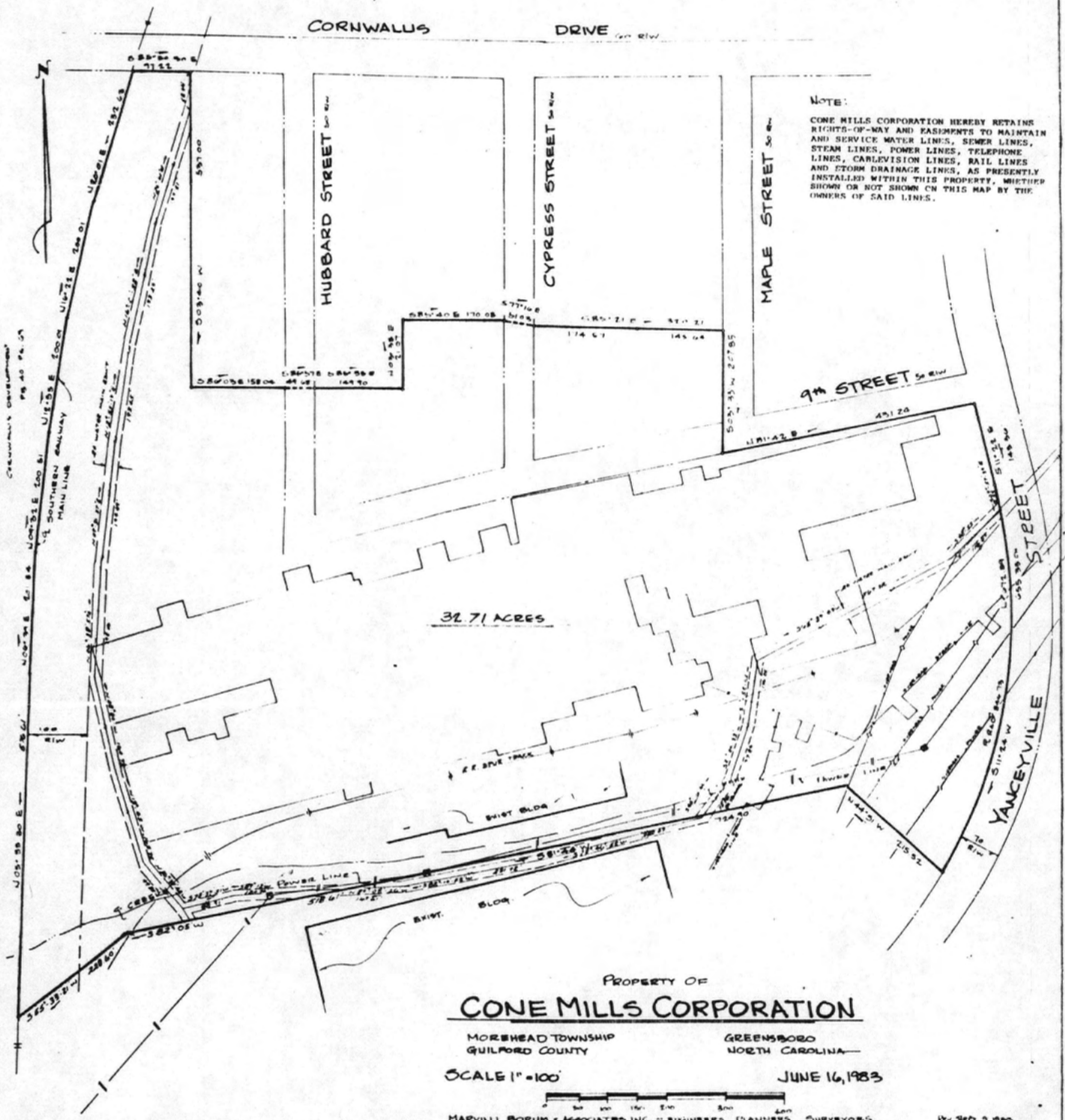
10. (Verbal Boundary Description/Justification)

yard and a parking lot are included in the property, which constitutes the area to be developed by the present owners for adaptive re-use as apartments and offices. (The former mill housing, now in private ownership, and the cotton warehouses and 1947 rayon plant south of N. Buffalo Creek which remain in the ownership of Cone Mills Corporation are not included in the nomination).

I, Marvin L. Borum, certify that under my direction and supervision this map was drawn from an actual survey by me, deed description recorded in Book , Page ; that the error of closure as calculated by latitudes and departure is 1:10,000; that this map was prepared in accordance with G.S. 47-30 as amended, that the development is within the Corporate Limits of the City of Greensboro. Witness my hand and seal this 9th day of Sept, 1983.

Marvin L. Borum Surveyor
Subscribed and sworn to before me this day of , 1983.

Carol A. Pickett Notary Public
My commission expires 12-15-86



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Revolution Cotton Mills
Guilford County
NORTH CAROLINA

Working No. JAN 30 1984
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-84
Date Due: 3/1/84 - 3/15/84
Action: ACCEPT 3/1/84
 RETURN
 REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

Entered in the
National Register

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	date _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below _____

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*) _____

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____



NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-8-1466

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA A.W. PHILLIPS

PHOTO DATE 9/2/83

SUBJECT REVOLUTION COTTON MILLS BLDGS 17 & 19

Guilford Co.



NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-8-1443

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA A.W. PHILLIPS

PHOTO DATE 9/2/83

SUBJECT REVOLUTION COTTON MILLS, BLDG. #19
GUILFORD Co.



NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 83-8-1479

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA A.W. PHILLIPS

PHOTO DATE 9/2/83

SUBJECT REVOLUTION COTTON MILLS, BLDGS. #18 & 19

Guilford Co.



NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 83-8-1446

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA A. W. PHILLIPS

PHOTO DATE 9/2/83

SUBJECT REVOLUTION COTTON MILLS, BLDG. #17
GUILFORD Co.



NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 83-8-1449

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA A. W. PHILLIPS

PHOTO DATE 9/2/83

SUBJECT REVOLUTION COTTON MILLS, BLDG. #21
GUILFORD Co.



NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-8-1475

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA A.W. PHILLIPS

PHOTO DATE 9/2/83

SUBJECT REVOLUTION COTTON MILLS, BLDG. #25

Guilford Co



NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 83-8-1473

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA A. W. PHILLIPS

PHOTO DATE 9/2/83

SUBJECT REVOLUTION COTTON MILLS, N. SIDE
GUILFORD Co.



NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 83-8-1453

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA A.W. PHILLIPS

PHOTO DATE 9/2/83

SUBJECT REVOLUTION COTTON MILLS, BLDG. #15
GUILFORD Co



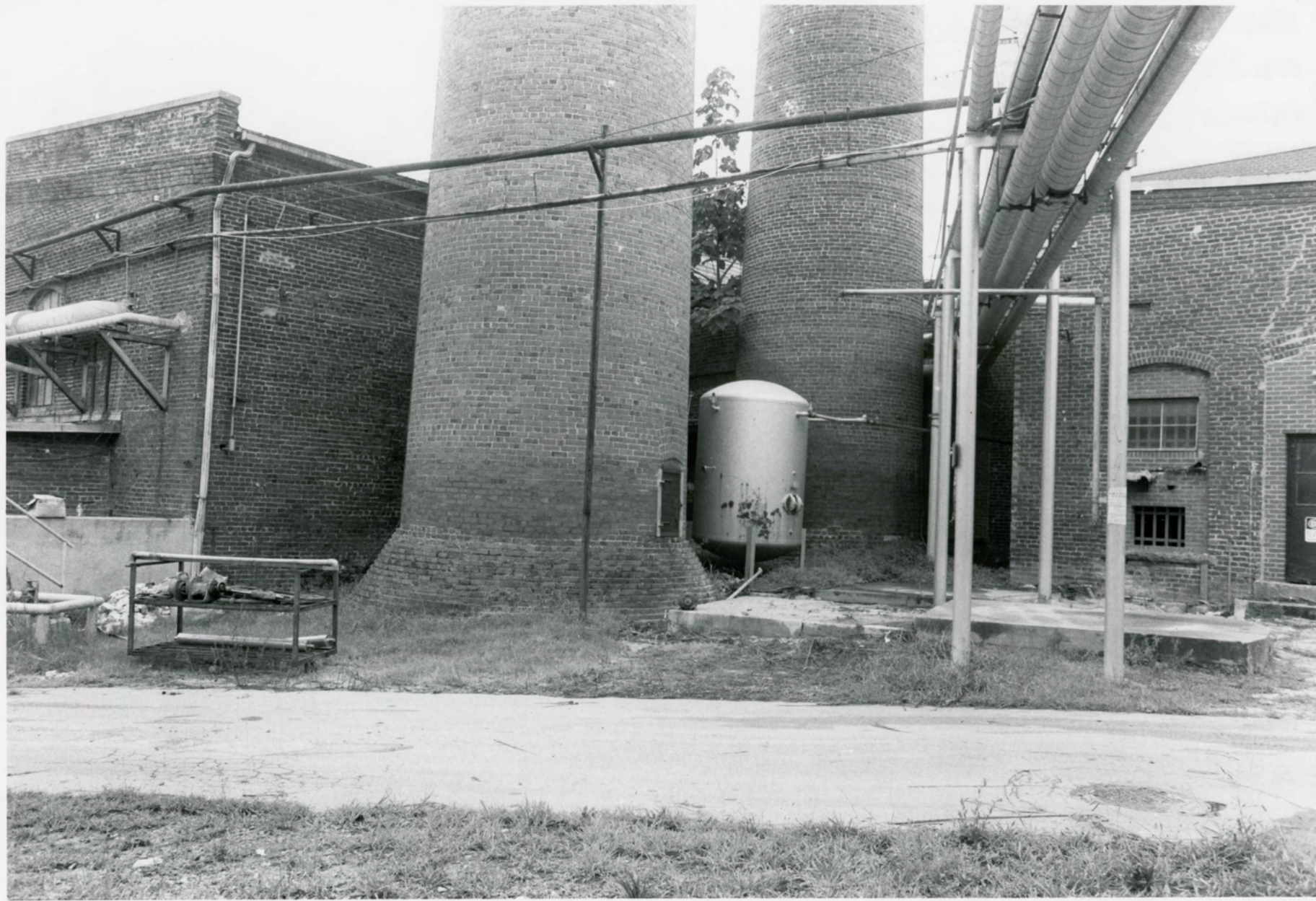
NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-8-1454

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA A.W. PHILLIPS

PHOTO DATE 9/2/83

SUBJECT REVOLUTION COTTON MILLS, BLDG. #15

Guilford Co.



NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-8-1464

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA A.W. PHILLIPS

PHOTO DATE 9/2/83

SUBJECT REVOLUTION COTTON MILLS, BLDG. #4

GUILFORD Co.



NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 83-8-1460

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA A.W. PHILLIPS

PHOTO DATE 9/2/83

SUBJECT REVOLUTION. COTTON MILLS, BLDG. #4
Guilford Co.



NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-8-1450

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA A.W. PHILLIPS

PHOTO DATE 9/2/83

SUBJECT REVOLUTION COTTON MILLS, BLDGS. # 5 & 8
GUILFORD Co.

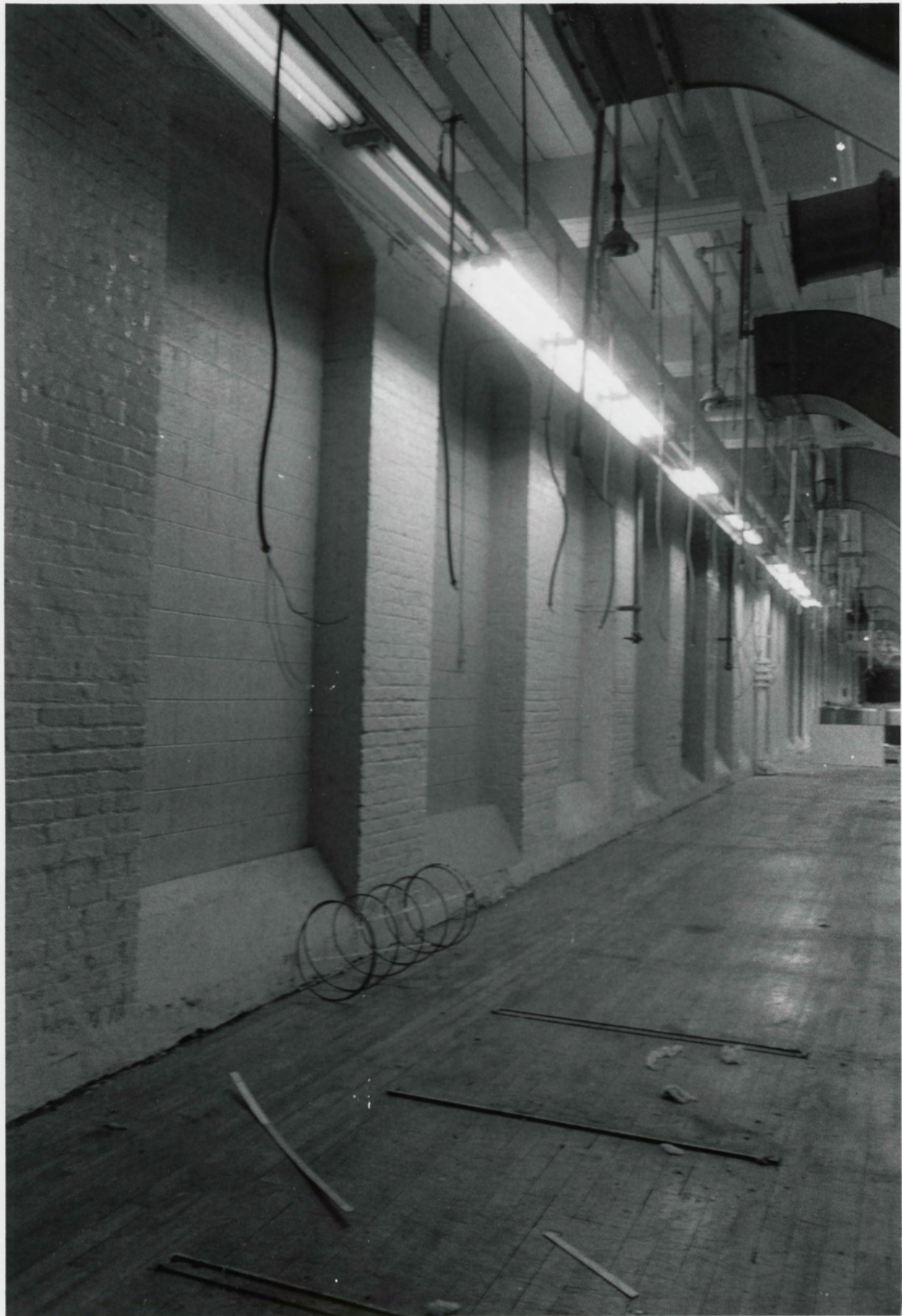


NEGATIVE NUMBER N.83-8-1470

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA A.W. PHILLIPS

PHOTO DATE 9/2/83

SUBJECT REVOLUTION COTTON MILLS, BLDG.#6 INT.
GUILFORD Co.



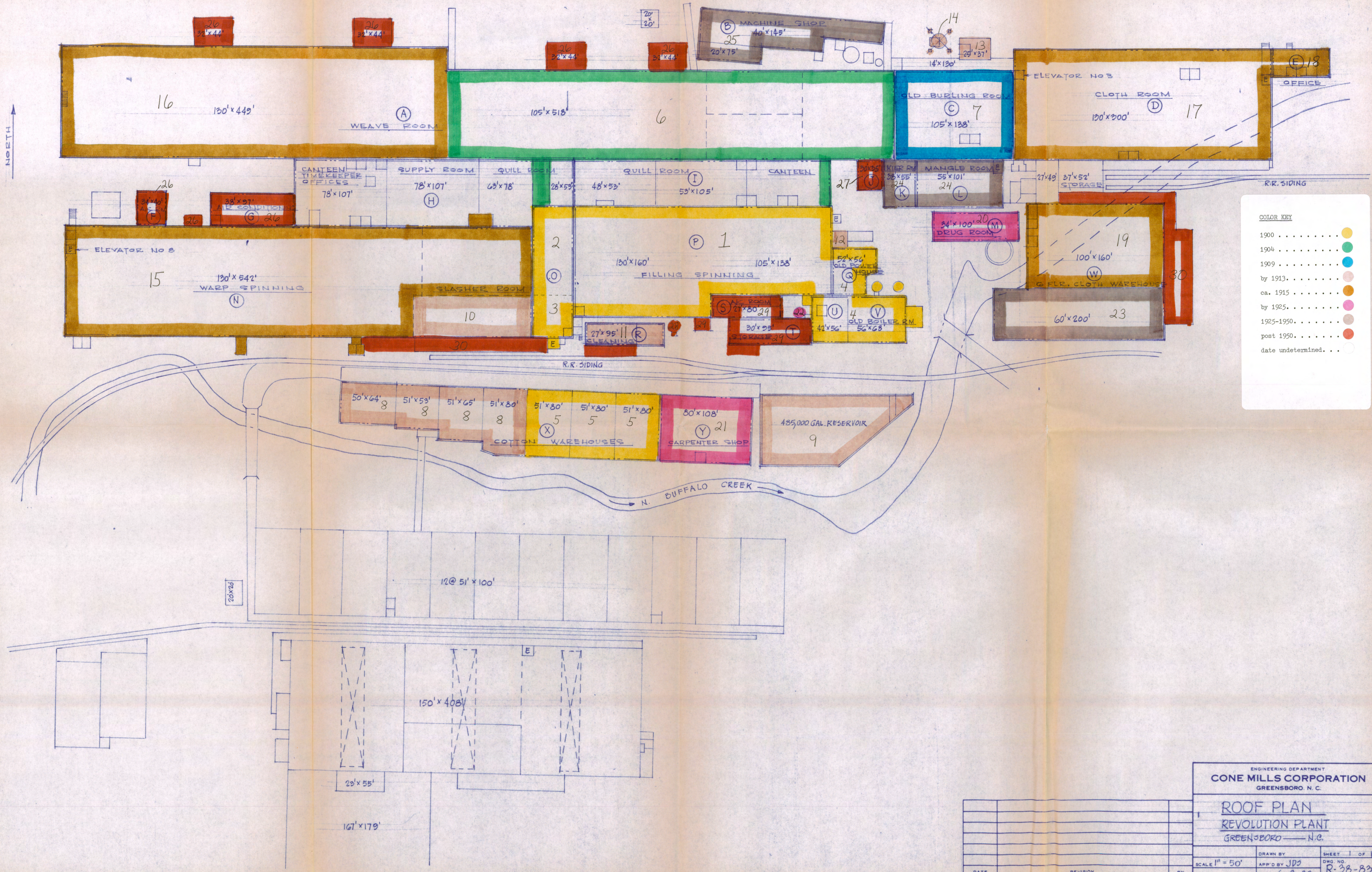
NEGATIVE NUMBER N. 83-8-1456

PHOTOGRAPHER LAURA A.W. PHILLIPS

PHOTO DATE 9/2/83

SUBJECT REVOLUTION COTTON MILLS, BLDG. #1
GUILFORD Co.

NORTH



COLOR KEY

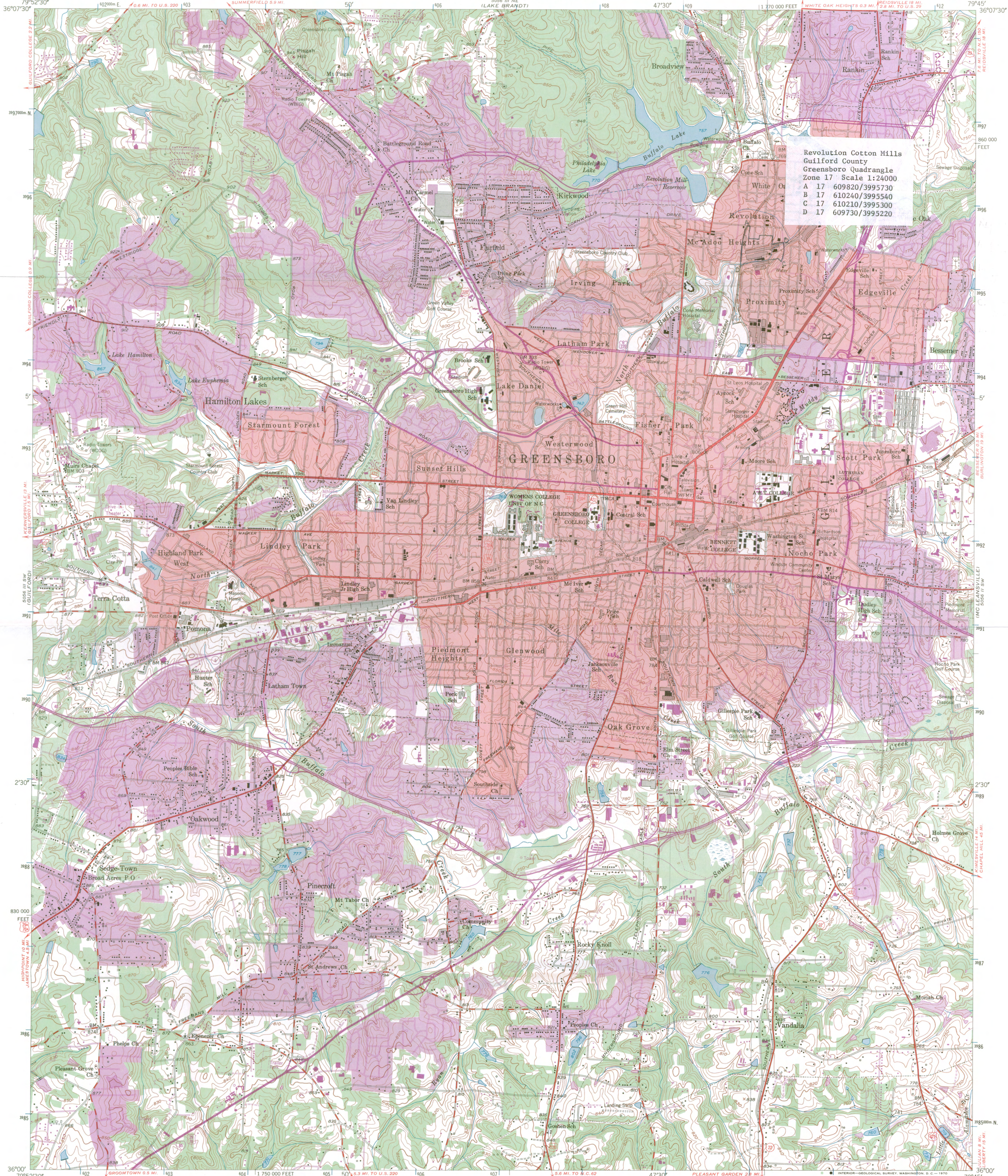
1900	Yellow
1904	Green
1909	Blue
by 1913	Light Brown
ca. 1915	Orange
by 1925	Pink
1925-1950	Light Grey
post 1950	Red
date undetermined	White

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
CONE MILLS CORPORATION
 GREENSBORO, N. C.

ROOF PLAN
 REVOLUTION PLANT
 GREENSBORO — N. C.

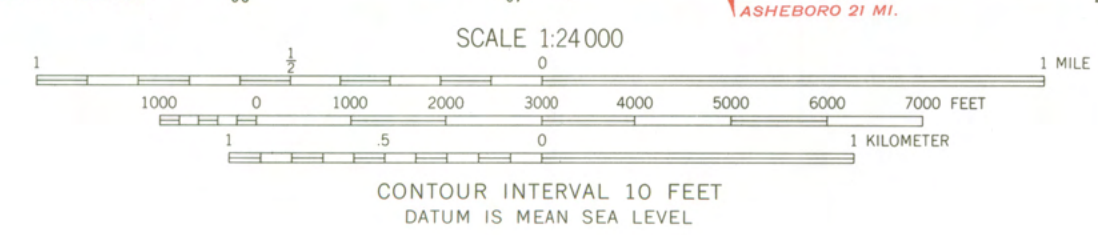
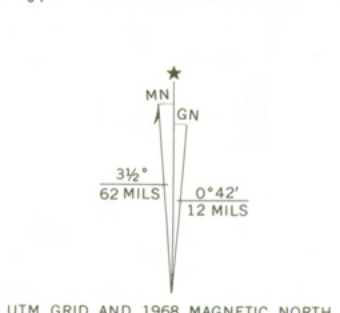
SCALE 1" = 50'	DRAWN BY	SHEET 1 OF 1
FILE NO.	APPR'D BY JDS	DWG. NO. R-38-83
DATE	DATE 6-8-83	

BRUNING 4021 45105



Revolution Cotton Mills
Guilford County
Greensboro Quadrangle
Zone 17 Scale 1:24000
A 17 609820/3995730
B 17 610240/3995540
C 17 610210/3995300
D 17 609730/3995220

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS and North Carolina Geodetic Survey
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1948.
Topography by plane-table surveys 1951
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on North Carolina coordinate system
1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1968. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



GREENSBORO, N.C.
N3600-W7945/7.5

1951
PHOTO REISED 1968
AMS 5056 III SE-SERIES V842

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

NORTH
CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT
OF
CULTURAL
RESOURCES

Raleigh,
North Carolina
27611

Division of
Archives and History
William S. Price, Jr., Director

Sara W. Hodgkins,
Secretary
James B. Hunt, Jr.,
Governor



January 18, 1984

Mr. Jerry L. Rogers, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1100 L Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Enclosed is the nomination for Revolution Cotton Mills in Guilford County, North Carolina, to be entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

We trust that you will find this nomination in order. If there are any questions, please call us.

Sincerely yours,

William S. Price, Jr.
State Historic Preservation Officer

WSP/bch

Enclosures

cc: Honorable John East
Honorable Jesse Helms
Honorable C. Robin Britt

Rec'd
JAN 30 1984

Old Heritage
Dome