

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Stanley MillsOther names/site number: Stanley Creek Cotton Mill, Stanley Manufacturing Company, Lola Manufacturing Company, Lola Gingham Mill, Katterman-Mitchell Mill, J.P. Stevens & Co. Inc., and Belding & Hausman

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 357 & 361 North Main Street, 100 West Parkwood Street, 111 West Church StreetCity or town: Stanley State: North Carolina County: GastonNot For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D_____
Signature of certifying official/Title:_____
Date

North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

☐☐

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Structure

☐

Object

☐

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

7

Noncontributing

0

buildings

0

0

sites

6

1

structures

0

0

objects

13

1

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY: Manufacturing Facility

INDUSTRY: Industrial Storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Heavy-timber mill construction

Other: Steel-frame, brick mill construction

Other: Reinforced-concrete, steel-frame

Other: Pre-engineered metal building

Other: Concrete block, steel bowstring truss

Other: Wood frame, metal clad warehouse

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: BRICK, CONCRETE

Walls: BRICK, METAL: Steel, CONCRETE

Roof: SYNTHETICS: Rubber, METAL: Steel

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Stanley Mills complex is located in the south-central North Carolina town of Stanley, a small municipality in northeast Gaston County. Originally established as Stanley Creek Cotton Mills in 1892, the complex gradually increased in size through the mid-twentieth-century as additions, other manufacturing buildings, and accessory structures were constructed to expand its operations. The extant buildings and structures that include the 1892 mill, expanded north and west in 1916, 1924, 1925, 1949, and c.1975; 1920 mill expanded south in 1962; 1923 mill expanded west in 1943 and 1947, east in c.1945 and 1965, and north in 1941 and 1947; separate warehouses constructed in 1946, 1947, and 1957; circa 1919 reservoir expanded in 1938; separate water towers constructed in 1920 and 1947; 1947 smokestack, coal silo, power penthouse, and A/C tower platform; and covered passages constructed in 1951, 1960, and 1962 connecting the three main mill buildings; all of which are in good condition. The long linear manufacturing complex is characterized by separate one and two-story mill buildings with low-pitched-gable and flat roofs supporting shallow eaves and red brick walls laid in primarily red brick. The round, 150-foot-tall smokestack, along with the water towers are prominent features visible a great distance from the site. A large tilt-up concrete warehouse, along with a barrel-

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roofed concrete block warehouse, and wood-framed metal clad warehouse retain their historic appearance. Over all, the complex retains its historic appearance, with the last major renovation in the mid-1960s in which the windows were bricked in as was typical with other textile operations of the period. The complex and associated resources possess the seven qualities of historic integrity—location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship—required for National Register designation.

Narrative Description

As Stanley (originally Stanley Creek) was being developed in the late 19th century, the alignment of the railroad corridor established the orientation of the urban grid with the buildings and roads that followed. Subsequently, the network of the complex is rotated approximately twenty-four degrees west from true cardinal direction. Therefore, this document is written as though the railroad tracks have true north-south orientation, with the development of the complex following in similar approach.

Setting

Stanley is an incorporated town, located in Gaston County between the incorporated cities of Lincolnton (Lincoln County) and Mt. Holly (Gaston County) in south central North Carolina. Originally founded as Brevard Station in 1879, it was renamed Stanley Creek in 1893, and finally incorporated as Stanley in 1911. The town's growth and development was established upon the alignment of the railroad, and these active lines are a physical reminder of its importance to the town's history. Its central business district flanks NC Highway 27 (Charles R. Jonas Highway) and parallel CSX railroad and has a combination of residential, church, and commercial buildings. The Stanley Mills complex is two blocks north of the central business district, and is one of the largest in Stanley that has been or is currently used for industrial purposes.

Originally established as Stanley Creek Cotton Mills in 1892, by 1947 the manufacturing complex spanned across two blocks, in an irregularly shaped, predominantly flat, nominated 13.50-acre tract of six parcels bounded by West Parkwood (formerly Center) Street on the north, North Main Street and CSX (formerly Seaboard Airline) railroad on the east, and West Church (formerly Broad) Street on the south. On the west, the complex is bound by eight small residential lots of an associated mill village of about 90 homes, gradually sold off to individuals after 1948, that are not included within the National Register boundary. These two blocks of the complex were once separated by an extension of Valley Street that not only defined the blocks, but also bisected two individual textile operations. In 1948, after the acquisition of Lola Manufacturing Co. by Stanley Mills, Inc., the two operations became Plant 1 & 2 after being combined into the present manufacturing complex, which includes six buildings, dispersed among three smaller complexes of interconnected primary mill buildings. The main parcel on the north is comprised of 4.86-acres (PIN # 3579432645), located at 361 North Main Street, includes Plant No.1, comprised of the Lola Gingham Mills, built in 1923 with seven later additions constructed through 1965. The main parcel on the south, is comprised of 5.44-acres (PIN # 3579434168) located at 357 North Main Street, includes Plant No.2 comprising of two adjacent

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complexes - Stanley Creek / Stanley Mfg. / Lola Mfg. Mill No.1, built in 1892, with four later additions constructed through 1975, and Lola Mfg. Mill No.2, built in 1920, with two additions built in 1962. All three of these buildings were later are connected by enclosed mid-century walkways, and as such are considered separate buildings. An early pre-engineered metal building, Warehouse No.3, was built in 1949, and appears to be connected to Mill No.1, but is actually a separate building that is adjacent on the west with barely a foot separation. The two complex's that comprise Plant No.2 were connected with metal covered walkways as early as 1948¹, with a later metal covered walkway connecting to Plant No.1 by 1953² after being merged into one singular ownership. An accessory building at the southeast end of the parcel, Warehouse No.5, built in 1946, is detached, but also included within the boundaries of the larger parcel, and has its north, west, and east elevations isolated by the chain link fence that encloses the parking area at the complex's west elevation. Also contained on the larger parcel are seven structures, which includes two water towers - one on the northeast corner of Plant #1, dating to 1947, and another on the rear of Plant #2, dating to 1920, and a coal silo and large smokestack both from 1947 are located at the rear of Plant No.1. The water towers along with the coal silo and smoke stack, are conspicuous features of the complex, and provide prominent landmarks a great distance from the site. In contrast, two diminutive structures, a cooling tower platform from and switch tower, both from 1947, also occupy the rear yard of Plant No.1. On the east of Mill No.1 of Plant No.2, a concrete reservoir built up from 1919-25 occupies the yard between the building and North Main Street. A small rectangular parcel, comprised of 0.39-acres (PIN #3579431179) at the manufacturing complex's western boundary, is bound within the chain link fence and contiguous with the complex, but does not have an assigned address. This tract is paved in asphalt and part of the large parking area at the rear, west elevation of the mill complex.

The other buildings that are part of this nomination are the Royster Warehouse, located at 100 West Parkwood Street, and Warehouse No.6, located at 111 West Church Street, that constitute the northern and southern ends of the nominated property respectively. The Royster Warehouse was built in 1957 and is a separate 1.36-acre parcel (PIN #3579441040) that occupies half of the adjacent block to the north of the manufacturing complex. It is bound by West Parkwood Street on the south, First Street on the west, Rhyne Street on the north, and three smaller residential lots on the east. Although the parcel was historically owned by Stanley Mills, this parcel was sold under stipulation for a tilt-up concrete warehouse³ to be constructed by David Royster on May 2nd, 1957⁴ and leased back to J.P. Stevens⁵ until 1977⁶. South of the manufacturing complex Warehouse No.6 was built in 1948 and is a separate 0.7-acre parcel (PIN #3579424793) that was retained by Stanley Mills ownership after the 1948 subdivision. It is bound by West Church Street on the North, and directly across from Warehouse No.5. A Baptist church lot abuts this parcel to the east, while smaller residential lots are adjacent on the South. On the west, a vacant

¹ Hartmann, Charles C., "Stanley Mills, Inc Plant No.2", March 17, 1948.

² Factory Insurance Association, "J.P. Stephens & Co. Inc., Stanley Mills Division, Plants 1 & 2," Hartford, Connecticut, May 20, 1953.

³ Simmons, Fred M., "Proposed Tilt-Up Warehouse-Plans & Elevations", April 1957.

⁴ Gaston County Deed Book 698, p.286

⁵ Gaston County Deed Book 684, p.201

⁶ Gaston County Deed Book 1240, p.498

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lot surrounded by a chain link fence, is owned by Duke Power and once contained a sub-station that has since been removed.

The east (front) elevation of the manufacturing complex of six buildings faces the CSX rail line that runs through downtown, parallel with North Main Street and contains varying setbacks of open yards adjacent to concrete municipal sidewalks. A few on street parallel parking spaces are provided at the southeast corner of Plant #1 that last housed the Blue Ridge Savings Bank until 2011. A paved alley, that was once the extension of Valley Street and forms the separation between Plant 1 & 2, bisects the complex but is closed to access by a chain link fence. West Church Street, which also contains a concrete municipal sidewalk along its north side, defines the nominated portion of the complex along North Main Street on the south, but leads west back to the separated Warehouse No.6 parcel to its south, and on into the former mill village. Similarly on the north of the manufacturing complex, West Parkwood Street defines the nominated portion of the complex along North Main Street on the north, but leads west back to the separated Royster Warehouse parcel to its north, and on into the former mill village. A tall chain link fence encloses a large asphalt-paved parking lot that runs the full length of the mill buildings at the west elevation, and access to the parking lot is provided by two pairs of chain link gates at the north end of the parking lot, a pair of chain link gates at the south end, and an additional pair near the property's northwest corner. This fencing also encloses the water tower at the at the north end of the parking lot.

The surrounding area to the north and west are primarily residential, encompassing early twentieth-century houses adjacent to the mill erected as part of the complex, and transitioning to mid-twentieth-century homes after mill village lots were sold off and Stanley continued to grow. To the south, a Baptist church is located at the corner of North Main Street and West Church Street, then transitions to one-story commercial buildings adjacent the downtown commercial block to the south.

Site Evolution

While today, the heart of the site is indicated only by diminutive painted strips across the pavement denoting the pedestrian crossing over an alley that separates Plant 1 & 2 along North Main Street, it marks the point of departure to which all the growth of the complex started from and expanded to the south, west, and north over the next century. The earliest building on the site was established as the Stanley Creek Cotton Mill (1A) in 1892 with 2080 spindles⁷, and located near the southwest intersection of the adjacent Seaboard Airline railway (now CSX), and an extension of possibly later arterial road known today as Ridge Street / Mauney Road. The one-story building was T-shaped in plan, inverted along a north-south axis. On the south end, an engine room/boiler house and associated water tower once projected to the east, and picker house extended toward the west. West of the picker house, a small cotton warehouse (1B) was located. A subsequent addition to the mill in 1896 to add 3000 spindles⁸ expanded the footprint further

⁷ "Something More about North Carolina and Southern Progress", *The Wilmington Messenger*, January 11, 1893, p.2.

⁸ "Tar heel Tracks", *Asheville Citizen Times*, January 13, 1896, p.3.

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north. A rectangular reservoir (8), also parallel to the railroad centered in the yard and centrally located along the front façade, was in place by 1912⁹ but may have originally been constructed in 1894 when water works were first installed¹⁰. By 1909, the Gaston County soil map indicates the presence of the mill and an associated village toward the west flanking both sides of what is now Mauney Road.¹¹ Under new ownership in 1910, the mill complex became Stanley Manufacturing Company¹² and was established with 4160 spindles and 10 cards. Various repairs and additions expanded slightly north again in 1916.¹³ In 1918, the mill changed ownership again, and became Lola Manufacturing Co.¹⁴

The ownership of Lola Manufacturing Co. in 1918, symbolically was the next stage in the evolution that realized explosive growth. In 1920, the second oldest building in the complex, a two-story mill (2A), was constructed about fifty feet south from the earlier mill.¹⁵ At this time, the older mill became Lola Manufacturing Company, No.1 with the 1920 mill as No. 2.¹⁶ A 60,000-gallon elevated water tank (9) was also erected around this time¹⁷, to the west of Mill No.1 and north of the cotton warehouse (1B). A railroad spur was constructed to serve the Lola Manufacturing complex and was located adjacent to Mill No.2 toward the east.¹⁸

In 1923, a third mill building would be constructed.¹⁹ Originally announced Lola Manufacturing, No.3,²⁰ this next mill (3A) was built on the north side of the Ridge Street / Mauney Road extension, north of Mill No.1, was transferred to a separate management and became known as Lola Gingham Mills²¹ and had an associated mill village to the west and north.²² Hesslein & Co. acquired the Lola Gingham Mill and associated village in 1926²³, but continued to operate it under the same name until 1930, when it was acquired by Katterman-Mitchell²⁴ and converted to a silk mill.²⁵ Little if any changes happened to the mill over the next ten years, and it eventually fell into receivership before being acquired by Carter Fabrics²⁶ and transferred to Stanley Mills, Inc. in 1941.²⁷

⁹ "Drill Stuck in Deep Well", *The Charlotte News*, September 27, 1912, p.2.

¹⁰ "Mill Notes", *The Charlotte Observer*, March 4, 1894, p.6.

¹¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture and North Carolina Department of Agriculture. *Soil Map, North Carolina, Gaston County Sheet*. 1 inch – 1 mile. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina Department of Agriculture, 1909.

¹² "Stanley Creek Cotton Mill to Be Reorganized", *The Charlotte Observer*, March 9, 1910, p.8.

¹³ "Stanley Items", *The Charlotte News*, October 31, 1916, p.9.

¹⁴ "Mount Holly More Than Trebles its Allotment to Red Cross War Fund", *The Charlotte Observer*, June 2, 1918, p.29.

¹⁵ "Lola Mfg. Co.-Stanley, NC", *Mill News*, October 14, 1920, p.20.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ "Gaston County To Have Hundredth Cotton Mill", *The Charlotte Observer*, October 4, 1922, p.2.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ "Mill Construction in 1923 For Carolinas to Total \$40,000,000", *The Lincoln County News*, January 4, 1923, p.4.

²² Gaston County Plat Book 4, p.147.

²³ Gaston County Deed Book 204, p.532.

²⁴ "Lola Mills at Gastonia Has Been Sold", *Burlington Daily Times*, April 1, 1930, p.1.

²⁵ J.P. Stevens & Company, (Unknown) *Stanley Plant*, Unpublished internal company document, p.1.

²⁶ Gaston County Deed Book 414, p.150.

²⁷ Gaston County Deed Book 386, p.327.

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Meanwhile, on the opposite side of the Ridge Street / Mauney Road extension, Lola Manufacturing Co. continued to expand and improve its facilities after the Gingham Mill venture proved not to be successful. In 1924, the cotton warehouse (1B) was expanded to the north²⁸ with a gabled roof form and an additional Warehouse (1C) was constructed in 1925²⁹ to the west on Mill No.1 that contained a dying operation³⁰. The reservoir (8) was also increased to provide additional capacity for dying as well as fire protection.³¹

Although Lola Manufacturing fell into receivership and became Lola Mills, Inc. in 1932,³² from 1925-1939, no records indicate significant changes to either of the complexes. The survey of Lola Mills by J.L. Stacy in 1939,³³ indicate the mill village of about fifty homes to the west, separated from the mill complex an unnamed roadway that bound the west of the mill buildings.³⁴ Valley Street, Ridge Street, and Broad Street (now West Church Street) were flanked by homes that formed the mill village.³⁵ Valley Street now extended through the complex, and separated Lola Mills Inc. and the Lola-Gingham Mill.³⁶ A separate survey at the same time, shows the Lola-Gingham Mill (now Katterman-Mitchell) to the north of Valley Street, and a mill village of about forty residences to the west and north, flanking Center Street (now West Parkwood Street) and to the south of Rhyne Street.³⁷

In 1941, the final stage in explosive growth over the next eight years began under Stanley Mills, Inc.³⁸ with the acquisition of the Katterman-Mitchell Mill (3A) that would evolve the complex into what it is today. The convolution of construction across the next stage in site development over the years of 1941-1949, was nearly as complex as the ownership interest, but very much lends insight to the evolution of the complex from two separate operations, into the singular behemoth that birthed in middle of the century and carried on its prominence for the remainder of the twentieth-century. Stanley Mills, Inc. was first organized in 1941³⁹ as a holding company in a partnership between Carter Fabrics Corporation and Cleveland Cloth Mills, with Carter

²⁸ Factory Insurance Association, "J.P. Stephens & Co. Inc., Stanley Mills Division, Plants 1 & 2," Hartford, Connecticut, May 20, 1953

²⁹ Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, "Stanley Mills Inc. "Plant No.2"," Boston, Massachusetts, February 20, 1948 revised December 26, 1951

³⁰ Hartmann, Charles C., "*Plot Plan of Properties of Stanley Mills*", Undated (ca. early 1948) indicating existing conditions at the time of the Stanley Mills acquisition.

³¹ Gaston County GIS, *1938 Historical Aerial Photo*. No scale. U.S. Department of Agriculture Atlas Databases. Washington, D.C: Gaston County Tax Office, GIS-Mapping Division: 2021. The aerial photo shows a large reservoir, with smaller compartment to the north at this time. Since the Fire Insurance maps noted the smaller reservoir reserved for dying, it is likely the reservoir was enlarged in conjunction with the dye house in 1925.

³² Gaston County Deed Book 278, p.632

³³ Stacy, J.L., "Village of Lola Mills Incorporated-Survey", February 1939

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Stacy, J.L., "Katterman-Mitchell Mill Property-Survey and Plat", September 22, 1934

³⁸ Gaston County Deed Book 386, p.327

³⁹ Gaston County Corporations Book 7, p.254

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Fabrics appearing to have some controlling interest.⁴⁰ The architect-engineering firm of J.E. Serrine was hired⁴¹ to design an addition (3B) on the north of the former Katterman-Mitchell mill, with Herman Sipe & Co. as contractor⁴², and by 1942 production of spun rayon began with 10080 spindles.⁴³ By 1943, addition for Yarn Storage (3C) was added on the west of the 1923 Mill⁴⁴ with another addition (3D) for offices and supply room added on the east of the 1923 Mill by 1945.⁴⁵ A warehouse (6) was constructed in 1946,⁴⁶ on what was formerly the southwest corner of First Street and Broad Street (now West Church) and may have been part of the preparedness for the coming additions, although it was on the Lola Mills property. As early as 1944, architect / engineer J.E. Serrine began working⁴⁷ then in conjunction with architect, Charles Hartmann, by 1946⁴⁸ on the next round of additions more than doubling the footprint, and expanding out toward the north and west with another spinning mill (3E) with expanded boiler house and machine shop (3F) on the west of the 1941 addition. By early 1947,⁴⁹ a waste house (3G) was added on the west of the Yarn Storage addition, and Hartmann, also designing a full renovation of the mill offices (3D), just recently constructed a couple years earlier, that gave it its present form.⁵⁰

Simultaneously, with the building additions taking place in 1947 timeframe, four supporting structures were erected in the yard on the west of the Stanley Mill complex.⁵¹ A 100,000-gallon elevated water tower (10) located just off the northwest corner of the 1947 addition (3E) was built as part of the fire protection that accompanied the expansions. On the north side of the expanded boiler house (3F) a tall, tapered, round smokestack (11) was constructed⁵² to provide the exhaust and a vertical, cylindrically shaped, coal silo (12) provided the feeding mechanism.⁵³ A massive cooling tower was built atop a concrete platform (13) that provided evaporative climate control for the interior of the mill and located on the north next to a now vacant Duke Power substation lot.⁵⁴ The original cooling tower was replaced around the 1980s, however the

⁴⁰ Hartmann, Charles C., "Addition No.2 Stanley Mill", 1946-1947. On Hartmann's architectural drawings, the client continued to be listed as "Carter Fabrics Corporation" until late 1947, when sheets then listed "Carter Fabrics Corporation Stanley Mills" before finally listing "Stanley Mills" late 1947.

⁴¹ "Stanley Mill Building Two-Story Addition", The Charlotte News, July 26, 1941, p.8.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ J.P. Stevens & Company, (Unknown) Stanley Plant, Unpublished internal company document.

⁴⁴ Factory Insurance Association, "J.P. Stephens & Co. Inc., Stanley Mills Division, Plants 1 & 2," Hartford, Connecticut, May 20, 1953

⁴⁵ J.E. Serrine & Company, "Electrical Installation Plans, Yard Plat, Stanley Mills Inc.," March 29, 1946.

⁴⁶ Factory Insurance Association, "J.P. Stephens & Co. Inc., Stanley Mills Division, Plants 1 & 2," Hartford, Connecticut, May 20, 1953.

⁴⁷ J.E. Serrine & Company, "Sketch Machinery Plans, Stanley Mills Inc.," June 21, 1944.

⁴⁸ Hartmann, Charles C., "Addition No.2 Stanley Mill, Carter Fabrics Corp-Plans, Elevations, and Sections", Undated

⁴⁹ Factory Insurance Association, "J.P. Stephens & Co. Inc., Stanley Mills Division, Plants 1 & 2," Hartford, Connecticut, May 20, 1953

⁵⁰ Hartmann, Charles C., "Alterations to Main Office Space First Floor-Plans, Elevations, and Details", November 4, 1947-June 14, 1948

⁵¹ Hartmann, Charles C. & J.E. Serrine & Company, "Addition No. 2 Stanley Mills-Plans, Elevations, Sections & Details", November 1946-July 1947

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

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concrete platform with modern cooling tower remains. Immediately south of the substation lot, a Switch Tower (14) was built⁵⁵ to access a service tunnel that ran under ground to the switchboard in the Machine Shop (3F). Although a May 8th, 1947 Gaston Gazette article called for the “erection of around one hundred homes”⁵⁶ there’s no evidence this was undertaken by the mill ownership.

By late 1947, the Stanley Mills additions were completed⁵⁷, and the company looked forward to completing its next round of expansions through the acquisition of adjacent Lola Mills, Inc. complex on December 27th of that year.⁵⁸ The nomenclature of the two combined operations was reorganized with the original Stanley Mills complex comprised of the old Lola Gingham / Katterman-Mitchell Mill (3A) and subsequent additions (3B-F) and structures (10-14) becoming Plant No.1.⁵⁹ The former Lola Mills complex became Plant No.2,⁶⁰ comprised of Mill No.1, which was the Stanley Creek / Stanley Mfg. / Lola Mfg. Mill No.1 and additions (1A-C), and Mill No.2, which was the former Lola Mfg. Mill No.2 (2A), both along with the warehouse (5) and reservoir (8).⁶¹

Improvements during the year of 1948, focused solely on the Plant No.2 site. Warehouse No.6 (7) was constructed early that year⁶² on the opposite side of Broad Street (now West Church Street) directly across from the Warehouse No.5 (6). First Street, which ran north-south, behind the Plant No.2 complex was flanked with mill houses on its east and west and Warehouse No.5 was located on the northwest corner of its intersection with Broad Street.⁶³ As part of the site improvements that summer, First Street was abandoned and became a driveway with the mill houses relocated to vacant lots in the mill village.⁶⁴ Hartmann designed a new parking lot that would serve both complexes in the location of the former mill houses⁶⁵, and also designed minor improvements to help reorganize the interior of Mill No.1 & 2.⁶⁶ Along with these improvements, enlarged toilet facilities were added to Mill No.2,⁶⁷ along with a treatment building for the reservoir (8) and pump house addition for the water tower (9).⁶⁸ November 13th,

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ “Glenn Rhyne Named Mayor of Stanley in Quiet Elections”, *The Gaston Gazette*, May 8, 1947, p.3.

⁵⁷ “Citizens Bank Set to Expand”, *The Gaston Gazette*, May 8, 1947, p.3.

⁵⁸ “Announce Sale Of Lola Mills” *The Gaston Gazette*, p.1

⁵⁹ Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, “Stanley Mills Division of J.P. Stephens Inc. “Plant No.1”, Boston, Massachusetts, October 24, 1951

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Hartmann, Charles C., “Plot Plan of Properties of Stanley Mills”, Undated (ca. early 1948) indicating existing conditions at the time of the Stanley Mills acquisition.

⁶³ Stacy, J.L., “Village of Lola Mills Incorporated-Survey”, February 1948 tracing of February 1939 survey indicating houses being moved.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Hartmann, Charles C., “Plot Plan of Properties of Stanley Mills”, May 10, 1948. Revised June 17, 1948 to show parking facilities.

⁶⁶ Hartmann, Charles C., “Stanley Mills Inc. Plant No.2-Machinery Layouts”, March-May, 1948.

⁶⁷ Hartmann, Charles C., “Toilet Additions For Carding & Spinning B’ldgs Stanley Mills, Inc. Plant No.2”, May 25, 1948.

⁶⁸ Hartmann, Charles C., “Pumphouse and Water Purification Building, Stanley Mills, Inc. Plant No.2”, July 7, 1948.

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1948 also saw the final platting of what would be the present combination of the manufacturing complex, with a subdivision formally separated off the Lola Mill residential lots, so they could be sold off to individual owners.⁶⁹ The east-west extension of Valley Street that bifurcated the Plant No.1 & 2 complexes along an earlier property line was abandoned and the multiple lots that formerly contained all buildings and structures, were now combined into the one parcel they are today.⁷⁰ The single lot to north the across Center Street (now West Parkwood Street) was being used for parking and coal storage.⁷¹ Lot 10 on the plat, contains Warehouse No.6 (7). Two unaddressed lots today that are two separate parcels were lots 20 & 21⁷² were vacant up to 1959⁷³ but paved c. 1961⁷⁴ and used for parking until closure of the mill.

1949 saw the curtailment of improvements that took place during the Stanley Mills, Inc. ownership, with only Warehouse No.3 (1D) being built,⁷⁵ adjacent on the west of the Mill No.1 cotton warehouse (1B). It was also around this timeframe, that the old boiler house/engine room and an elevated rainwater tank once located on the southeast of Mill No.1 was removed.⁷⁶

The developments in the 1946-1949 saw continued expansion, but it also began to materialize the influence of a pending take over by J.P. Stevens. Though Stanley Mills, Inc. was a holding company in a partnership between Carter Fabrics Corporation and Cleveland Cloth Mills, indexes indicate that both the Katterman-Mitchell plant in 1941⁷⁷ and Lola Mills, Inc. complex in 1948⁷⁸ were initially acquired jointly by both corporations, then transferred to Stanley Mills, Inc immediately afterwards.⁷⁹ J.E. Sirrine was commissioned by Stanley Mills, Inc. and the designer and engineer in charge of the 1941 addition, and engineer in charge of Plant No.1 additions 1946 onward. C.C. Hartmann was commissioned as architect for all 1946-1949 improvements to Plant No.1 & 2 and hired by Carter Fabrics Corporation. J.P. Stevens began to acquire interest in Carter Fabrics in 1946,⁸⁰ and by all appearances became an influential presence in the design and programming of the complex in the following years, even before their final acquisition in 1950.⁸¹ C.C. Hartmann's appearance as a designer coincides with this date, so it is probable the Steven's interest was a determining factor, especially since J.E. Sirrine was

⁶⁹ Gaston County Plat Book 9, p. 17

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, "Stanley Mills Division of J.P. Stephens Inc. "Plant No.1", Boston, Massachusetts, October 24, 1951

⁷² Gaston County Plat Book 9, p. 17

⁷³ Ragan, Robert Allison. *Aerial photo of J.P. Stevens & Co.'s Stanley Plants in 1959*. The Textile Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina, by Robert Allison Ragan, R.A. Ragan & Co., 2001.

⁷⁴ U.S. Geological Survey. *Aerial Photo Single Frame*. 1:60,000. Entity ID#ARB610360261671. Washington, D.C. September 26, 1961.

⁷⁵ Factory Insurance Association, "J.P. Stephens & Co. Inc., Stanley Mills Division, Plants 1 & 2," Hartford, Connecticut, May 20, 1953

⁷⁶ U.S. Geological Survey. *Aerial Photo Single Frame*. 1:58,000. Entity ID: ARA007102603507. Washington, D.C. October 14, 1950.

⁷⁷ Gaston County Grantee Index, p.445.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Clemson University Library, *Register Of The J.P. Stevens And Company, Incorporated*, Clemson University, Clemson SC, p.4.

⁸¹ "Stanley Mills Name Discarded", *The Gaston Gazette*, May 1, 1950, p.9.

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more than capable of also providing this service and actually started preliminary drawings for what would be the 1947 addition (3E) in July of 1944. The decision to omit the windows on the 1947 addition was also likely a J.P. Stevens decision, as the Hartmann drawings in 1946 are titled "Carter Fabrics Corp-Stanley Mill"⁸² with later drawings that included the A/C room and windows omitted a few months later titled "Stanley Mills, Inc. subsidiary J.P. Stevens Co. Inc."⁸³

Stanley Mills, Inc. continued to operate as a subsidiary until May 1st, 1950, when J.P. Stevens and Company purchased all remaining stock in Stanley Mills, Inc. and the company was dissolved.⁸⁴ From that point to present, the complex at Stanley was referred to as J.P. Stevens & Co. Inc, Stanley with an occasional specific reference to Plant No.1/Stanly Mill No.1/Stanly No.1 and Plant No.2/Stanly Mill No.2/Stanly No.2. No notable additions were made in manufacturing complex in the decade that followed, and limited to metal covered passage (3H) between Plant No.1 on the southwest corner of the 1923 Mill (3A) and connects to Plant No.2 on the northwest of Warehouse No.2 (1C).⁸⁵

The final primary building constructed in the complex in was not actually built by the mill, but was however built for the mill. In 1957, J.P. Stevens contracted with David Royster⁸⁶ to construct a 55,000sf tilt-up concrete warehouse (6) on the Center Street (now West Parkwood Street) lot that was being used for parking and coal storage. The contract required the sale of the lot to Royster as part of a sale-leaseback⁸⁷ and not reacquired by J.P. Stevens until December 30th, 1977.⁸⁸ Unrelated to activities in the complex, but still part of the setting, in 1958 Center Street became West Parkwood and Broad Street became Church Street.⁸⁹

Modernization along with expansion drove the remaining additions on the manufacturing complex in the following decade. While metal passageways had existed in some form between Plant No.2 Mill 1 & 2, the locations appeared to vary, with the final locations installed during the 1960s. A metal covered passage (4B), located on the rear of Mill No.2 (2A) and connected to a platform on the southwest corner of Warehouse No.3 (1D) was constructed around 1960.⁹⁰ In 1962, an air-conditioner "A/C" room (2B) was added on the north of Plant 2-Mill No.2 for air-

⁸² Hartmann, Charles C. & J.E. Sirrine & Company, "Addition No. 2 Stanley Mills-Plans, Elevations, Sections & Details", November 1946-July 1947.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ "Stanley Mills Name Discarded", *The Gaston Gazette*, May 1, 1950, p.9.

⁸⁵ Factory Insurance Association, "J.P. Stephens & Co. Inc., Stanley Mills Division, Plants 1 & 2," Hartford, Connecticut, May 20, 1953

⁸⁶ Gaston County Deed Book 684, p. 201.

⁸⁷ Gaston County Deed Book 826, p. 324

⁸⁸ Gaston County Deed Book 1240, p. 498.

⁸⁹ Finlay, Withers, McConnoughey, "Property of D.W.Royster-Survey", April 1958 and F.C.Rankin, "Boundary and Encroachment Map Lots 3,4,& 5-Plat Book 4 pg. 147." August 22, 1958. Between these two surveys in the same year, the street names had changed.

⁹⁰ U.S. Geological Survey. *Aerial Photo Single Frame*. 1:60,000. Entity ID#ARB610360261671. Washington, D.C. September 26, 1961.

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conditioning⁹¹ and a 29,000sf spinning room addition (2B) on the south.⁹² A wood framed metal enclosed passageway (2D), connected between the southeast corner of the picker house on Mill No.1 (1A) and north elevation of Mill No.2 (2A), is a more modern reconfiguration of an older metal enclosed passageway that was relocated during the other renovations to the mill in this time frame.⁹³ On the front of Plant No.1, on the east of the 1941 addition (3B), an A/C room (3I) was added in 1965 for air-conditioning equipment.⁹⁴ With the complex now fully air-conditioned, by 1967 remaining window openings of the other manufacturing buildings were filled with brick.⁹⁵ The last addition which concludes the complexes growth, was around 1975 when a picker house addition enclosed a yard area,⁹⁶ bound by Mill No.1 (1A), Warehouse No.2 (1C), and Warehouse No.4 (1B).

Resource List (in inventory order)

1. Stanley Creek / Stanley Mfg. / Lola Mfg. Mill No.1, 1892-1975	Contributing Building
2. Lola Mfg. Mill No.2, 1920-1962	Contributing Building
3. Lola Gingham Mills Building / Stanley Mills, 1923-1965	Contributing Building
4. Warehouse No.3, 1949	Contributing Building
5. Royster Warehouse, 1957	Contributing Building
6. Warehouse No.5, 1946	Contributing Building
7. Warehouse No.6, 1948	Contributing Building
8. Concrete Reservoir, c.1919-25	Contributing Structure
9. Water Tower, c.1920	Contributing Structure
10. Water Tower, 1947	Contributing Structure
11. Smokestack, 1947	Contributing Structure
12. Coal Silo, 1947	Contributing Structure
13. Cooling Tower Platform, 1947	Non-Contributing Structure
14. Switch Tower, 1947	Contributing Structure

Inventory List

The oldest portion of each manufacturing building has been identified by the names of the companies that built them and additions and structures have been identified by the initial and/or long-term use. Occupancy information and construction and alteration dates are based on deeds, historic documents, city directories, photographs, newspaper articles, and fire insurance maps, for resources up to 1941. The years following are based on company records dated from 1941-

⁹¹ Ben L. Smith Jr. and Associates, "Apparatus Room-Plans, Elevations, Sections & Details", July 18, 1961.

⁹² Ben L. Smith Jr. and Associates, "Spinning Room Addition-Plans, Elevations, Sections & Details", November 22, 1961.

⁹³ Ben L. Smith Jr. and Associates, "Apparatus Room-Plans, Elevations, Sections & Details", July 18, 1961.

⁹⁴ Ben L. Smith Jr. and Associates, "Air Conditioning Apparatus Room-Plans, Elevations, Sections & Details", October 16, 1963 revised January 6, 1965.

⁹⁵ J.P. Stevens, Stanley, NC, *Oblique Aerial Photo*, February 1967, Uncredited.

⁹⁶ U.S. Geological Survey. *Aerial Photo Single Frame*. 1:80,000. Entity ID: AR1VEBN00010161. Washington, D.C. February 12, 1976.

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1967 that were discovered on site during the nomination process, and included original drawings and blueprints. The final repository of the company records has not yet been selected and presently in the possession of the author for organization and digital archiving with the present owner's permission. NC State Historic Preservation Office has digital records of several of these items as part of the working file as part of this nomination.

The period of significance begins in 1892 the approximate date of the first mill building for Stanley Creek Cotton Mill, and continues to 1972. The period also includes the significant dates (1892, 1918, 1923, 1941, 1947, 1950, and 1962) that were associated with building additions that were necessitated by the growth of the companies who owned the mill, which provided the largest source of employment in Stanley during some of the most difficult economic times in our nation's history. Each resource is designated as contributing or noncontributing to the property's historic significance and integrity with evaluations based on age and degree of alteration. Buildings within the period of significance are considered to be contributing if they retain architectural and historic integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Resources overall are sequentially numbered and/or lettered by dates of construction, with the exception of the numerous 1947 building and structures that needed individual identification. Primary buildings have been are numbered 1-3, with accessory buildings and structures numbered 4-14. Alterations and/or additions are treated as secondary, or primary dependent resources, and are sequentially lettered based on construction dates (i.e., 1A, 1B, 1C, etc.), but are still considered individual resources for National Register purposes. Warehouses with undefined uses have numbers assigned by 1948-53 Stanley Mills, Inc. fire insurance map nomenclature, which are sequential to the building designation on the maps, but not the amount of actual warehouses (i.e. Mill No.1, Warehouse No.2, etc.). The narrative begins with the construction of the 1892 Stanley Creek Cotton Mill and moves chronologically about the site, with subsequent additions being chronologically described with their primary buildings. Descriptions of building exteriors are followed by a joint explanation of the interiors. Measurements of buildings were derived from design drawings, fire insurance maps, or measuring high resolution aerial photographs. Where plan dimensions are listed in the inventory, they are north-south by east-west and rounded to the nearest foot.

**1A. Stanley Creek / Stanley Mfg. / Lola Mfg. Mill No.1, 1892-1896, 1916
Contributing Building**

The oldest building in which development of the site began, is more-less centrally-located within the mill complex. Originally established as the Stanley Creek Cotton Mill in 1892 and expanded with subsequent additions in 1896 and 1916, before becoming Lola Manufacturing Mill No. 1, the one-story building with its now windowless east façade due to a continuous brick veneer being added sometime after 1967,⁹⁷ is situated roughly sixty-five feet back and parallel to South Main Street and parallel tracks of the CSX Railroad. The main portion of the mill measures approximately two-hundred-seventy-by-fifty-four feet with a thirty-three-by-ninety-six-feet

⁹⁷ J.P. Stevens, Stanley, NC, Oblique Aerial Photo, February 1967, Uncredited.

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picker house on the south end, perpendicular but in line with the front façade. When originally constructed, the one-story building was T-shaped, inverted along a north-south axis. On the south end, an engine room/boiler house and associated water tower once projected to the east, and picker house extended toward the west. An enclosed passage of corrugated metal, constructed c. 1962 connects this mill to the adjacent Mill No.2 to the south. While few visible portions of the original exterior exist, it is constructed of red brick laid in five-and-one Common or American bond and features a heavy timber frame structure with single row of square chamfered wood posts supporting the interior wood beams and providing an open interior plan. A low-pitched gable roof with exposed heavy timbered rafter tails caps the building.

The mill is oriented in a north-south direction with the principal (east) façade on South Main Street overlooking the tracks of the CSX Railroad. The front façade is now a uniform expanse of modern running bond brick roughly three-hundred-two feet in length, the original being bricked over sometime after 1967. The bays, however, are still barely indicated by the heavy timbered rafter tails extending about sixteen inches past the modern veneer. Beginning on the south and looking toward the north, the first and largest bay, around thirty-two feet in length and eighteen feet in height, void of fenestration, represents the picker house portion. Its higher roofline a couple feet above the main mill, is terminated to the north by a firewall parapet capped with segmented glazed terracotta coping. The corbelled extension of the parapet beyond the façade at the roofline, distinguishes this section from the rest of the façade looking toward the north. The remaining edifice is divided into thirty-three roughly equal bays, indicated only by the minimally exposed rafter tails along the eave. A four-foot square piece of plywood is attached, two thirds of the way up the wall, at the third, seventh, eleventh, and fourteenth bays from the firewall indicating fenestration that is covered up. Foundation vents accent the grade line at each bay from the second onward to the north. The elevated reservoir, whose buttressed concrete wall is a few feet above grade, obscures the middle third of the front façade at the grade line. A recessed, single-leaf, hollow metal personnel door is located at the seventeenth bay. The eighteenth and nineteenth bays, are obscured by a one-story chemical house connected to the reservoir, but a few feet off of the mill façade. The remainder of the façade toward the north end of the building continues the expanse of brick, interrupted only with single-leaf, hollow metal personnel doors located at the second, fifth, and twelfth bays from the north end. The door within the fifth bay, is flanked by narrow vertical sidelights. The falling grade from the opposite end of the façade is indicated by the foundation vents of each bay that are now a few feet higher than grade, and also concrete steps at the two recessed doorways closest to the end of the building.

The north elevation features the original brick masonry, constructed in 1916, still exposed. At roughly fifty-four feet wide, it is divided into five equal bays articulated by a uniform rhythm of tall two-rowlock-coursed segmental arched window openings, spaced at regular intervals and filled in with modern running bond brick. The low-pitched gabled eave is supported by seven equally spaced exposed purlins, with a central ridge and three rake purlins each way.

Moving to the west (rear) elevation, the main mill portion of the building becomes more difficult to differentiate, being obscured by connections to later additions. Eight roughly equal bays are visible at the north end of this elevation, but are not identical. Similarly, as the north, this rear elevation also features the original brick masonry, still exposed in this section. The north four

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bays, are also articulated by a uniform rhythm of tall two-rowlock-coursed segmental arched window openings, spaced at regular intervals and filled in with modern running bond brick. The fifth bay, however appears to have originally been a doorway that is now filled in. These first five bays from the north, also appear to indicate a later addition, noticeable through the darker red of the brick. This portion most likely being the one mentioned in a 1916 newspaper article,⁹⁸ since an addition in 1896⁹⁹ doubled the mills capacity from 2080¹⁰⁰ to 4060¹⁰¹ spindles. The sixth through eight bays feature similar filled in, segmental arched windows openings, however the original masonry in this area contains more salmon-colored brick. The ninth through fifteen bays are connected to Warehouse No. 2 (1C), built in 1925. The remaining bays along the rear elevation of the mill are encompassed by a circa 1975 picker house addition (1D) that fills in between the 1925 warehouse and original picker house, projecting outwards to the water tower (9) and 1892-1924 warehouse(1B).

Continuing around to the south, the elevation of the main mill is not visible, being obscured by the later warehouse additions on the west, as well as the edifice of Lola Manufacturing Mill No.2 (2A) to the south. An enclosed passage of corrugated metal (4B), in similar vintage as the one on the front (2D), conceals the view of an interior courtyard, about forty feet wide between the two buildings. The original masonry wall of the south elevation of the picker house is visible looking toward the front of the mill, beginning near the extension of a 1961 A/C Room addition on Mill No. 2 on the opposing side of the courtyard. A narrow walkway is present between the two buildings in this area, which leads to a set of double-leaf aluminum doors with full glazing. The picker house elevation has no noticeable fenestration throughout this area.

While few personnel doors exist around the perimeter of the main mill building, the principal entrance appears to have been on the rear of the enclosed passage on the front façade accessed through the storefront doors. Upon entering the enclosed passage from the west, on the rear of the passage, a gently sloped concrete hall leads down to the opened entrance of Mill No.2 on the right, with another opening to Mill No.1 on the left that enters into the picker room.

The picker house, once separated from the main mill by a masonry firewall, is now open toward the north, with a lightly framed wood partition to the west where that space was once open. Beyond the wood wall, an opening with a modern roll up door leads out to Warehouse No. 4. On the north of the space, according to plans the masonry firewall was present in the 1950s but removed and opening reinforced with steel during the 1960s when this building became used exclusively for picking and blending. During this modification, the structure system of the older sloped timber roof was also removed and replaced with a flat steel joisted roof over the picker house. The original thick, brick exterior walls are exposed to the interior, and the floors are hardwood but in poor condition. A twenty-two by thirty-one feet compressor room is off the

⁹⁸ "Stanley Items", *The Charlotte News*, October 31, 1916, p.9.

⁹⁹ "Tar Heel Tracks" *Asheville Citizen Times*, January 13, 1896.

¹⁰⁰ "Something More about North Carolina and Southern Progress," *The Wilmington Messenger*, January 11, 1893, p.2.

¹⁰¹ "The Cotton Mills of Gaston County", *The Gastonia Gazette*, May 27, 1897.

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western end of the picker house, to the north, sharing the brick masonry firewall with Warehouse No.4.

Within the main mill, the thick, brick walls are still plastered, and the floors are hardwood. The floors in this area are also in poor condition, but original. A wide planked v-grooved wooden ceiling is found above the heavy timber beams which, with the vertical posts, form the structural system. The chamfered square vertical posts are attached to the beams with tapered bolster blocks. A few of the bays on the southern end of the mill is the only area where vertical posts have been removed and replaced with steel beams. However, the vast majority of the original structural system is in place. The beams are pitched slightly to follow the gable form of the roof. Modern cubicles have been framed and dry walled throughout the space, but are unfinished, and extend only partly up to the ceiling, so that the original openness of the mill is still apparent. The first eleven bays are open on the west side of the mill, with the original exterior masonry wall having been removed for access to the c.1975 addition. The majority of the space is open, but a few lightly framed wooden panel walls that divide the space and form smaller rooms are present on the northern end of the mill over the last sixteen bays. These wooden partitions appear to have been constructed around 1967¹⁰² and are not present on earlier drawings of Plant No.2 floor plans. An opening in the western masonry wall accesses Warehouse No. 2 (1C) on the twelfth bay back from the northern end of the mill. Opposing this opening on the same bay, is a single-leaf metal personnel door that leads back to the exterior, delineates the end of a corridor that transverses mill formed by the partitions on either side. The partition along the north side of this corridor is full height and separates a smaller open space to the north from the larger open space of the south. As conveyed on the exterior, the last five bays on the north were added later, with thinner exterior brick walls exposed on the interior, but painted instead of plastered as in the earlier portion. A vertical slice of chipped brick, three courses wide, indicates the earlier end wall of the mill, and projects out from the exterior wall a few inches delineating the separation of the plastered and painted sections.

1B. Warehouse (No.4), 1892,1924

Built in two phases, a one story, roughly rectangular, one-hundred-twenty-by-forty-five feet warehouse is located between Mill No.1 (1A) and Warehouse No.3 (1D). Having two distinct roof forms, a heavy timber flat roof and gabled with lighter frame wood trusses, the construction dates were established by Fire Insurance plans from 1948 and 1953, and also explained the evolution of the building. Different Fire Insurance agencies used different standards for establishing dates listed on Insurance maps. Some list the date of original construction, while others may have used dates of most recent structural improvements or last major additions. In the case of Stanley Mills, Associated Factory Mutual (AFM) surveyed the Lola Mills parcel on February 20, 1948, after Carter Fabrics acquired the property a few months earlier. AFM established a date of 1892 for this building. In 1953, after Stanley Mills became a division of JP Stevens, the maps were redrawn as one operation by Factory Insurance Association, and a construction date of 1924 was noted. Even further, the building is indicated as having two

¹⁰² J.P. Stephens & Co. Inc., "1967 Machinery Layout, Stanley #2, Stanley, NC", August 1, 1967.

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separate sprinkler risers which is unusual for a building this small, but indicative of two separate construction phases.

The warehouse is oriented north-south and is bound by firewalls on the east and west, with wooden walls on the north and south. The masonry wall to the east is a shared firewall on the western end of the picker house and compressor room of Mill No. 1(1A), but then steps in width, narrowing the space and extending north roughly 65 feet. The fire wall wraps the corner on the north elevation, bounding the corners by a few feet on the north.

The original wooden gabled wall that enclosed the space on the north façade has collapsed, and taken most of the purlins and decking of the last bay with it. The wood truss that supports the opposite side of the bay, is still intact.

Mirroring the firewall treatment on the east, the western firewall also wrapped the corner before extending the full length of the warehouse on the western side. A raised parapet terminates the top of the firewall a few feet above the roof. The exterior view of this firewall is obscured by Warehouse No.3 which is an independent building about 12 inches separated from the firewall to the west.

The southern elevation is a wooden framed partition that has modern vinyl siding sheathed over the exterior with a centered single-leaf, hollow metal, personnel door. The presence or condition of original sheathing is not known, but based on oblique aerials from late 1948,¹⁰³ this façade featured a centered access opening flanked each side with windows, off center in the bay away from the opening. This exterior wooden wall is aligned with the picker house's south elevation to the east.

Entering through present single-leaf door on the south elevation, the warehouse features an open floor plan interrupted with slender steel posts. The floor is concrete and exposed thick brick firewalls bound the space to the east and west. On the west wall, deep penetrations for personnel are flanked with masonry on the edges, protruding into Warehouse No.3 (4A) at the third bay from the south end, and second bay from the north end. The wooden wall on the south is paneled over in modern plywood. The masonry wall to the east is a shared firewall, with a ramp down to a single metal roll-up door, on the western end of the picker house.

The individual construction dates, also become more apparent through a hodge-podge of differing methods of roof framing. The total length of the rectangular floor plan is divided into thirteen bays. The first eight bays toward the south, are eight feet wide, running east-west, and feature a wide planked v-grooved wooden ceiling supported heavy timber beams. The original posts supporting the beams, have been replaced with steel posts, likely during the 1924 addition, as the 1951 AFM Fire Insurance map notes St. Cols. in the section detail.¹⁰⁴ The roof, however is sloped north-south, toward the exterior courtyard to the south. This portion was likely a cotton

¹⁰³ J.P. Stevens, Stanley, NC, Oblique Aerial Photo, late 1948, Uncredited.

¹⁰⁴ Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, "Stanley Mills Division of J.P. Stephens Inc. "Plant No.1", Boston, Massachusetts, October 24, 1951

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warehouse when the mill was first established in 1892. Sometime later, most likely in 1924, an additional five bays, with steel posts, roughly twelve feet in spacing, extended the warehouse toward the north. This portion also features a wide planked v-grooved wooden ceiling, over truss-like stick framing that is supporting a gable roof, contrasting the flat roof of the earlier portion. Evidence shows this section was hastily added, being built with what was readily available. In this case, the supporting framing is built from the same wide roof decking also being used for purlins between the braced timber frames, as well as the rafters and vertical support members. The timber posts were replaced with steel in the older portion to the south, and the spacing of the original supports carried on to the later portion to the north. Insurance maps in the early 1950s¹⁰⁵ showed the warehouse floor as wood over crawlspace so the floor was probably replaced with concrete around 1960,¹⁰⁶ when the opening room was removed and cocker warpers installed.

1C. Warehouse (No.2), 1925

Eight bays south from the north elevation along the west elevation of Mill No.1., a one story, warehouse was erected in 1924. The addition, rectangular in plan, is roughly fifty-three-by-one-hundred-twenty-one feet, and occupies about six bays along the rear of Mill No.1. Oriented on an east-west axis, the building with its medium pitched gabled roof line, projects out perpendicular to the main mill toward the parking lot.

The north elevation retains a high degree of integrity and features fifteen evenly spaced bays with red brick laid in five-and-one Common or American bond. Within the bays, deeply recessed steel sash windows that emphasizes the verticality of the narrow brick portions of the wall that terminates under the minimally projecting eave. Cast concrete sills define the sill of the windows, one quarter of the height up the elevation. The glazed portion of the bay consists of a tall, steel sash window unit, two thirds the total width of the bay. Each window unit contains equal, rectangular panes, five panes wide and seven panes tall. An operable sash, two panes tall by three panes wide, are located at the top and another one row up from the bottom. The last bay on the end, farthest to the west, an enclosed passage (3H) of corrugated metal and low gabled roof connects this Warehouse to the adjacent Plant No.1 (3A).

A cantilevered canopy, aligning with the eave on adjacent elevations, projects out from the wood wall along the west elevation, offering protection for the concrete loading dock below. The original wood siding is visible above the canopy, having been exposed by the modern vinyl siding that had fallen off over the years. The original fascia of the wooden rake projects out and similarly has been exposed. Four irregular spaced bays provided loading docks, with recessed, wooden, roll up garage doors for conveyance of parcels.

While at one time mirroring the north elevation, the south elevation has had modifications more consistent with other parts of the complex. Sometime after the late 1960s, the original steel sash

¹⁰⁵ Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, "Stanley Mills Division of J.P. Stephens Inc. "Plant No.1", Boston, Massachusetts, October 24, 1951

¹⁰⁶ J.P. Stephens & Co. Inc., "1967 Machinery Layout, Stanley #2, Stanley, NC", August 1, 1967.

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windows and concrete sills have been removed and replaced with stuccoed concrete block. The window second bay from the west end was removed and replaced with a deeply recessed opening that contains a horizontal sliding door, comprised of diagonal wooden boards, and bricked in running bond to one third down in height at the header. The tall steel frame of the 1920 water tower (9) is adjacent to the warehouse, at the seventh bay. The last five bays on the end are now obscured, having been encompassed by the adjacent 1975 picker house addition (1D).

The interior, presently accessed through the main mill, is at a slightly lower level, connected at the floor line with a gently sloping concrete ramp, to the concrete floor below. Entering the addition from the east, the open interior features long span heavy timber trusses providing the bearing for intermediate purlins that support the wide wooden roof decking above. The trusses are in a six bay Double Howe web configuration, with steel rods providing vertical tensile webbing. Interestingly, as a minor detail of ornamentation, the builder used gears in lieu of cast-iron flanges on the center supports. Later added offices, framed in wooden partitions with wood paneling, stop just short of the bottom chord of the truss, and extend along the northern elevation to the third bay from the west. On the opposing side, similar wooden walls sheathed in plywood, extend three bays from the wall of the main mill. The majority of the partitions were added sometime after the dyeing activities ceased.

1D. Picker House Addition, c.1975

Enclosing a yard area, encircled by Mill No.1 (1A), Picker House, and Warehouses No. 2 (1C) and 4 (1B), that was present, a Picker House addition was constructed c. 1975. Oriented on a north-south axis, the roughly fifty-by-one-hundred-twenty-seven feet plan is recessed back on its northwest corner, at the base of the water tower (9), where its only exterior wall is present. The building has no eave, except for the attached aluminum gutter. The portion of the façade protruding out adjacent at Warehouse No.4 (1B) has double-leaf aluminum doors, with full glazing, centered along the elevation. A four-foot square vent, with horizontal louvers is centered over the door at the eave.

On the interior, eleven bays along the west elevation of Mill No.1 were removed during construction of this addition, between the picker house and toilets, for interior access. The floor is concrete and corrugated roof is supported by steel beams and columns on roughly sixteen-foot structural bays. A steel channel running parallel to the original timber roof framing supports the opening at the addition. Modern eight-foot-tall unfinished office cubicles now subjugate the space but stop short of the ceiling.

2A. Lola Manufacturing Mill No.2, 1920

Contributing Building

The second oldest building in the complex is located to the south, about fifty feet from of Mill No.1 (1A). Originally the two-story portion was established as Mill No.2 by Lola Manufacturing and constructed in 1920, with a subsequent one-story addition (2B) under JP Stevens greatly expanding the footprint in 1962. Prior to the addition, carding and drawing operations were on

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the lower floor, with spinning and winding on the upper level.¹⁰⁷ After converting from yarn to thread, and the spinning addition in 1962, the activities were merged with carding, drawing, spinning, and winding taking place on both levels.¹⁰⁸ Each floor operated almost as a separate mill, with the main level being twice the capacity as the upper level. The two-story building is perpendicular to Mill No.1, and located about sixty feet closer to South Main Street. A courtyard, bound by metal covered passageways at either end (15 and 16), roughly fifty feet wide, extends between Mill No.1(1A) and No.2 (2A). The main portion of the mill measures approximately seventy-eight by two-hundred-seventy feet, and connects to Mill No.1 via an enclosed corrugated metal passage on the north side of the building (2D). It is constructed of red brick laid in six-and-one common bond and features a heavy timber frame structure with two rows of round cast iron posts supporting the interior wood beams and providing an open interior plan. A low-pitched gable roof caps the building, however original rafter tails were chopped back, and a tall stepped fascia added around 1960 to cover the penetrations of the rafters in the exterior wall. Windows originally, consisted of a tall, steel sash window unit, two thirds the total width of the bay containing equal, rectangular panes, five panes wide and eight panes tall. Operable sashes, two panes tall by three panes wide, were located at the top and another one row up from the bottom. Remaining window openings, not covered by subsequent additions after 1920, were filled in with brick, sometime after 1963.

The mill is oriented in an east-west direction with the principal (east) façade on South Main Street overlooking the tracks of the CSX Railroad. A one-story spinning addition, built in 1962, is aligned with the front façade and projects out toward the south. The two-story façade of Mill No.2, is eight bays wide with the end bays on each side tall expanses of brick, bare of fenestration. The central six bays on the lower story feature three sash, stacked modern vinyl windows that have been boarded up on the two lowest sashes. At the upper level, the second bay from the left, features a two-panel wood door and steel stair that was built sometime around the late 1950s,¹⁰⁹ in a former window location. The low-pitched gabled eave is defined by a tall, stepped fascia.

The two-story north elevation is thirty-three bays wide, and faces the south elevation of Mill No.1 (1A). The end bays at either side are slightly wider, with the remaining bays between evenly spaced at eight feet intervals. A tall, stepped fascia defines the eave for the length of the elevation not obscured by later additions. Beginning on the left, the first four bays feature modern vinyl windows, similar to those on the front façade. Bays five through nine feature original openings on both stories, filled in with running bond brick sometime after the mid-1960s. The sixth bay on the first story, was a former door opening, where a covered concrete platform once connected to Mill No.1 until about 1961. After that, the connection was relocated to the ninth bay, to align more directly, where the present passageway is located. On the second story above the present passageway, is a brick filled window opening. Original two-story towers for toilet rooms, projecting out from the façade around nine feet, are located at the tenth bay from the front and seventh bay from the rear of the building. In the summer of 1948, both of the

¹⁰⁷ Hartmann, Charles C., "Stanley Mills Inc. Plant No.2-Machinery Layouts", March-May, 1948.

¹⁰⁸ J.P. Stephens & Co. Inc., "1967 Machinery Layout, Stanley #2, Stanley, NC", August 1, 1967.

¹⁰⁹ Ragan, Robert Allison. Aerial photo of J.P. Stevens & Co.'s Stanley Plants in 1959. *The Textile Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina*, by Robert Allison Ragan, R.A. Ragan & Co., 2001.

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toilet towers were expanded toward the west another two bays, projecting out thirteen feet from the façade. Opening in the earlier portions of the toilets are filled in with running bond brick. The later additions feature steel sash windows with elongated panes and running bond brick sills at each bay on both stories. The windows are two panes wide by four panes tall with a two-by-two horizontal center pivot sash, located one pane from the top and bottom. The thirteenth through nineteen bays are obscured by an A/C room addition (2C) projecting out forty feet, that was added in 1962. At the twentieth through twenty-sixth bay, later additions built by 1948,¹¹⁰ project out about seven feet from the north elevation. Original window openings are located on both stories at each bay, but have been filled in with running bond brick. An elevator tower, at the twentieth bay, projects several feet above the roof line. The remainder of these additions have a roofline few feet lower than the main roof. Adjacent to the elevator on the right, three bays are occupied by a stair tower. The remaining three bays, from the stair to the earlier mentioned toilet tower, are offices. Adjacent to the toilet addition, on the right and occupying the remaining four bays to the west, a one-story addition with shed roof slopes away from the north elevation. This addition, also present by 1948, and is divided into separate storage areas among the bays. The original filled in window openings on the first story are visible above the sloped roof. A sloped ramp from the west (rear) of the building leads into the metal enclosed passage.

The west (rear) elevation, also divided into eight bays, originally mirrored the east façade. The 1962 spinning room addition extends in line with the west elevation toward the south. A covered loading dock, with floor level with the mill interior, projects out from the center two bays, and is about four feet above grade. The loading dock is entirely open with a flat metal roof supported by slender steel posts at each corner. The loading dock and roof transitions into a wide covered walkway along the west elevation of the older mill to the spinning addition (2B), projecting out about eight feet. The walkway extends south to a wide roll up garage door on the spinning addition, and is terminated by a set of concrete steps, just beyond the garage door toward the south. All of the original window openings were filled in with running bond brick by 1967,¹¹¹ with the exception of those modified with later fenestration. At the first story on the fourth bay from the left, double-leaf, hollow metal doors have been installed to access the loading dock. On the second story a tall roll-up garage door between the second and third bay from the left. The low-pitched gabled eave is defined by a tall, stepped fascia.

The two-story south elevation is thirty-three bays wide, and mostly obscured by the one-story spinning room addition built in 1962 that extends the full length of the original elevation. The bays are barely visible above the roof of the addition that extends several feet up on the second story of the main mill. The bays are identical to the opposing elevation, with the end bays at either side are slightly wider, with the remaining bays between evenly spaced at eight feet intervals. The tall, stepped fascia defines the eave for the length of this façade, as with the others. The original window openings, that are still visible above the 1962 addition roof, have been filled in with running bond brick when it was built.

¹¹⁰ Hartmann, Charles C., "Toilet Additions For Carding & Spinning B'ldgs Stanley Mills, Inc. Plant No.2", May 25, 1948.

¹¹¹ J.P. Stevens, Stanley, NC, Oblique Aerial Photo, February 1967, Uncredited.

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Accessing the interior from the eastern passageway that connects to Mill No.1 (1A), entry to the lower story of Mill No.2 (2A) is provided at the ninth bay from the front of the mill. Within the main mill, the thick, brick walls are painted, and the floors are hardwood. The floors on this level are in poor condition with buckling present, but are original hardwoods. The thirty-three bays are defined with two rows of evenly spaced round cast iron posts. A wide planked v-grooved wooden ceiling is found above the heavy timber beams which, with the vertical posts, form the framing system. The round vertical posts are attached to the beams with cast iron caps with an integrated column capital to seat the top of the columns below. Along the exterior wall bays, the original recessed window openings, although bricked in, are referenced by the sloped sills, a couple feet off the floor, formed by the fenestration. Along the north exterior wall, doors are located to access at the various additions. A modern unfinished partial height partition, framed with metal studs and drywall has been framed to provide a corridor along the north façade from the passage way entrance to the next to last bay on the west. At the western end of the space, a small freight elevator, with wood paneled shaft walls, is located to the left of the double-leaf doors that access the loading dock on the exterior. The original exterior wall is still in place, to the south, adjacent to the 1962 spinning room addition (2B). Access to the addition is provide by double-leaf wood doors at both of the end bays, and the thirteen bay from the west (rear) elevation. This bay also provided cross circulation through the mill being aligned with the door to the stair tower and opposing doors within that lead to the exterior.

Within the tower, a metal stair leads up to the second level. Entering the space at the thirteenth bay from the west (rear) elevation, the open floor plan is not unlike the floor below. Within the main mill, the thick, brick walls are painted, and the floors are hardwood, however the floors on this level are in good condition. The thirty-three bays are defined with two rows of evenly spaced round cast iron posts, slenderer than on the lower level. A wide planked v-grooved wooden ceiling is found above the heavy timber beams which, with the vertical posts, form the framing system. The beams are pitched slightly to follow the gable form of the roof on the outside bays, with timber blocking tapered each way on top of a level beam on the center bay. The round vertical posts are attached to the beams with cast iron caps with an integrated column capital to seat the top of the columns below. Along the exterior wall bays, the original recessed window openings, although bricked in, are similarly referenced by the sloped sills, as on the lower level. Along the north exterior wall, doors are located to access at the various additions. At the western end of the space, a small freight elevator, with wood paneled shaft walls, continues up from below. The original exterior wall, to the south, adjacent to the 1962 spinning room addition, retains bays of filled in windows for its full extent. A wood frame partition, roughly ten feet tall, with clear panel running horizontally for the full length, is framed from the front bay, to roughly where the stair bay is located. The wall is not present on any plans through the mid-1960s, so it is believed to have been install sometime later.

2B. A/C Room Addition, 1962

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In late 1961, Mill No.2 began its modernization with the addition of an A/C Room to Mill No.2¹¹² on the north elevation to provide enclosure for air conditioning equipment. Architect Ben Smith and associates drew plans for the two-story addition that projects out forty feet at the thirteen bay from the front (east) elevation, next to the toilet addition, and extends west along the north elevation for seven bays to the elevator tower. It is constructed of modern red brick laid in five-to-one common bond for five sections at the base, then transitions to all running bond above where it becomes a veneer backed with concrete block. The brick is much lighter in hue and in contrast to the deeper red of the main mill. The flat roof projects out, to the north, in line with the roof of the adjacent mill, terminating into a parapet extending up on the north elevation, capped with an aluminum coping. Large square dampers, nearly one story tall, occupy all the elevations of the addition several feet down from the top of the parapet. The vents are all nearly identical, with four vertical sections of narrow horizontal shutters to form the aperture. The front of the addition, facing east, has a centrally located damper in the elevation. On the north, the elevation features two bays, each with dampers of similar size to the others, except with screens. Mirroring the east, another damper is centrally located on the west elevation. The west elevation also provides personnel access. A double-leaf, metal door with a two-wide-by-three pane tall vision panel over a single solid panel, is located near the center, but aligning with the south side of the damper above. Metal stairs, to the left of the door lead to an upper level, accessed by a single-leaf personnel door on the left, similar in appearance to the ones below.

Entering through the upper door, the interior is occupied by a large mechanical unit that penetrates through both levels. Steel columns support the roof, and is divided into three bays each way. Metal stairs lead up to a catwalk adjacent to the north side of the mill, and leads back into the second floor of the spinning area.

2C. Spinning Room Addition, 1962

In early 1962, production demand required the addition of a 29,158sf to the south of Mill No.2. Designed by Ben Smith and associates, the one-story addition, is one-hundred-by-two-hundred-seventy feet and projects out to the south, aligning with the east and west elevations of the main mill. It is constructed of a running bond red brick veneer over a concrete block structural wall. Portions of the addition on the rear where the foundation wall is exposed below the floor line, are solid five-and-one common bond walls. The top one-third of the south elevation of Mill No. 2 extends above the flat roof of the Spinning Room addition. The roof has no visible slope, and only a very shallow eave, formed by the large aluminum box gutters that accent the perimeter at the top of the exterior walls.

Beginning on the east (front) façade, adjacent to North Main Street, the entire elevation is an expanse of modern red brick, with no window or door openings. As with the A/C Room addition (2C), the brick is lighter in hue and in contrast to the deeper red of the earlier portion of the mill.

¹¹² Ben L. Smith Jr. and Associates, *"Apparatus Room-Plans, Elevations, Sections & Details"*, July 18, 1961.

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Along the south elevation, the expanse of brick is divided into projecting wings, with various rooms for air conditioning, toilets, and storage. Vertical leaders from the gutters at the corners on the building serve to further subjugate the otherwise unadorned façade. On the right side, near the front wall, a single-leaf, hollow metal personnel door, is painted green. Approximately aligning, with the sixth through twelfth bays on the main mill, an A/C room extends out about thirty feet from the main elevation. The flat roof aligns with the main part of the addition. A large damper, of similar size and style to the 1961 A/C room, is centered on the east wall of this extension. On the south side of this extension, a slightly larger damper with six vertical divisions, is on the west side of the extension near the end of the elevation. The west wall of the wing, is bound by smaller extensions from the main floor adjacent to the building, with a set of double-leaf, metal doors, each contain six lights above a single panel, at the south end of the west extension (or wing) wall. The smaller extensions, have no fenestration, and also comprised of a flat roof, roughly half the height of the addition. These brick masses step back in plan in roughly three equal divisions, back toward the main elevation from the A/C Room south elevation. The portion closest to the A/C room is roughly square in plan, contain toilets, with the adjacent mass toward the left, containing storage rooms, stepping back, and more rectangular in plan for a distance almost twice the width as the toilet extension on the right. The remaining length of the south elevation of the addition, is mostly bare, divided only by roof leaders that divide the remainder of the elevation into five roughly equal bays. The bay nearest the storage room, has a large ducted hood, protruding down from the top of the wall. The last two leaders on the left are missing. The grade slopes down toward the rear of the addition.

On the west elevation, the majority is an expanse of brick. A single roll up garage door is located on the left side, connecting to a loading dock covered with a flat metal roof, supported by slender steel posts, extending back toward the earlier Mill No.2 (2A) west elevation.

Access to the interior of the addition from the lower level of Mill No. 2 is provided by double-leaf wood doors at both of the end bays, and the thirteenth bay from the west (rear) elevation. Within the addition, the thick, concrete block walls are painted, and the floors are hardwood, but in extremely poor condition, with severe buckling of the flooring. The floor however was applied in a built-up system, over the ground so no crawlspace is present.

A wide planked v-grooved wooden ceiling is found above top bearing steel trusses which, with the steel girders and vertical steel posts, form the framing system.

The overhead trusses are deep and extend the structural grid of the main mill over thirty-three bays. However, the supporting columns are spaced in larger divisions. A single row of steel columns is spaced across twelve bays in length, along the east-west axis, each providing a steel girder, of similar depth to the trusses, to which the trusses bear upon. The first bay, toward the front is about ten feet. The next ten bays are all twenty-four feet. The last bay, nearest the west, is about eighteen feet.

On the west side of the interior, a single pilaster breaks the expanse of concrete block in the middle, and extends out in line with the column grid. Along the north side of the addition, the exterior wall bays of the old mill are visible, where shallow recesses of running brick, demarcate

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original window openings. A narrow pilaster extends out from the middle of the wall along the west side, supporting the structure. The rollup garage door, which leads out to the covered walkway at the loading dock, is on the far right nearest the old mill wall. The south interior wall details, are not unlike the other addition, except longer and more repetitive. As with the others, pilasters on the wall align with the column grid. Door are located where access to the accessory spaces on the south are located. One single door, of the far left of the wall, leads directly to the exterior.

2D. Covered Passage, c.1963

An enclosed passageway, located on the front of Plant No.2, is connected between the southeast corner of the picker house on Mill No.1 and ninth bay from the front on the north faced of Mill No.2. While a covered passage has existing in some form around this location since 1920, it appears to have been adjusted through history, alternating between bays on Mill No.2 and southern façade of the picker house. A narrower metal covered passage connected the picker house at the centerline of Mill No.1, to the sixth bay from the front of Mill No.2 adjacent to a platform that led out to the former railroad siding. Around 1963, after the siding was out of service and the other expansions took place to Mill No.2, the prior passage was demolished and rebuilt with the present passageway.

Unlike the others on site, this passageway covers a ramp that is slightly above grade, extending about fifty-two feet and ramping down slightly to Mill No.2 adjacent to the toilet lounges. The passage is twice the width of the others, and framed in wood studs with vertical metal panel walls about eight feet in height, however the gabled roof is wood framed with asphalt shingles. A double-leaf storefront door with large glazed panels is on the west (rear) elevation adjacent the picker house. On the east (front) a solid double-leaf metal door is adjacent to the Mill No.2 elevation. Four feet wide translucent fiberglass panels are spaced about eight feet apart on the front facade, allowing the interior space to be dimly lit.

3A. Lola Gingham Mills Building, 1923

Contributing Building

The third oldest building in the complex is located to the north, about thirty feet from north elevation of Mill No.1. Originally, the one story with basement building constructed in 1923, was announced as Mill No.3 by Lola Manufacturing¹¹³, but eventually established as the Lola Gingham Mill, under a separate corporation.¹¹⁴ After being sold and operated as a silk mill, by Katterman-Mitchell,¹¹⁵ during the 1930s, additions under Carter Fabrics beginning in 1941¹¹⁶ nearly quadrupled the floor area by 1948.¹¹⁷ Prior to the Carter Fabrics acquisition, the Gingham

¹¹³ "Gaston County To Have Hundredth Cotton Mill", *The Charlotte Observer*, October 4, 1922, p.2.

¹¹⁴ "Mill Construction in 1923 For Carolinas to Total \$40,000,000", *The Lincoln County News*, January 4, 1923, p.4.

¹¹⁵ Gaston County Deed Book 204, p.532.

¹¹⁶ Gaston County Deed Book 386, p.327

¹¹⁷ "Glenn Rhyne Named Mayor of Stanley in Quiet Elections", *The Gaston Gazette*, May 8, 1947, p.3.

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Mill contained 250 looms, with a dye plant,¹¹⁸ but lacked separate facilities for processing raw materials and would have been dependent on supplies from the Lola Manufacturing or other sources after the Katterman-Mitchell purchase. The mill stood idle from 1939 to 1941, then converted for the production of spun rayon yarn in 1942 under Carter Fabrics.¹¹⁹

The one-story building is perpendicular to Mill No.1 (1A), and located about fifty feet closer to South Main Street. A narrow alley between the buildings, opens to a parking area bound by Mill No. 1 on the east, Lola Gingham Mill to the North, a metal covered passageway (3H) to the west, and Warehouse No. 2 (1C) to the south.

The main portion of the mill measures approximately one-hundred-six-by-two-hundred-sixty feet, and connects to Warehouse No. 2 via an enclosed corrugated metal passage on the south side of the building. The mill was expanded toward the north with subsequent additions that obscure most of the original façade. A very low-pitched gable roof capped the building, on the east and west but is now obscured by later additions. The original construction featured red brick laid in six-and-one common bond and featuring a heavy timber frame structure with two rows of round steel posts supporting the interior wood beams and providing an open interior plan. Unlike many other standard cotton mills of the period, Lola Gingham had a continuous rhythm of tall steel sash window units entirely filling the bays on the north and south elevations of the building. However original rafter tails were chopped back with the façade being bricked over on the south by 1967.¹²⁰

The mill is oriented in an east-west direction with the principal (east) façade on South Main Street overlooking the tracks of the CSX Railroad. The one-story façade, was originally twelve bays wide with tall steel sash windows that filled two thirds the width of the bay and rake purlins that followed the low pitch of the gable roof. Each steel sashed unit was five panes wide and seven panes tall, inclusive of center pivot sashes, three panes wide and two panes tall, located one pane from the top, and another from the bottom. The sills of the steel sash windows were bound by a two-course sill of running bond brick, a few feet above the floor line, which formed a band around the entire building. However, at present, a parapeted, one story, office addition built in late 1941 projects out, about twenty feet out toward the west and hides the original gabled form of the roof.

The original south façade of the mill, was quite striking if not unique among mills of the period, prior to being bricked over in the mid-1960s. It was divided into twenty-four bays, with the end bays replicating the treatment of the façade on the north. The central bays were very different. A two-course brick sill that accented the strong horizontal lines of the façade roughly ten courses above the interior floor line, continued around the building and formed the base from which clear glazing extended upward to the roofline, proportionally, about one sixth the total height of the wall. Originally, twenty-two bays defined by narrow steel columns spaced nearly eleven feet apart, were divided vertically into two window units above the brick sills. Each steel sashed unit

¹¹⁸ "There Were 90 and 9 – now There Are 100.", *News and Observer*, Raleigh, NC, October 14, 1922, p.4.

¹¹⁹ "Old Textile Plant Sold", *The Charlotte News*, April 18, 1941.

¹²⁰ J.P. Stevens, Stanley, NC, Oblique Aerial Photo, February 1967, Uncredited.

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was four panes wide and seven panes tall, inclusive of center pivot sashes, four panes wide and two panes tall, located one pane from the top, and another from the bottom. The visual created by the vast expanse of glass created by all the side-by-side units, was more reminiscent of assembly line architecture, than textile production. The original eave, extended enough provided emphasis of the strong horizontal line, minimally broken by the protruding rafter tails along the eave at each bay. This detail was lost when the eaves were chopped, and the entire fenestration was bricked over in a modern, lighter hued, running bond brick prior to 1967. The darker original brick is still visible along the grade at the base of the wall. A covered concrete platform, with flat metal roof that varies in height at each bay, extends out the last four bays to toward the west, and extends past to the west elevation of the 1943 Yarn storage addition. Double-leaf metal personnel doors are located on the last bay to the west, leading out to a set of concrete steps. On the bay to the right of the metal doors, a larger double-leaf modern wood door is partially boarded over. The metal covered passageway, is connected to the platform on the right side, and extends at an angle toward the 1924 Warehouse to the south.

On the west (rear) façade the original treatment of the front, was mirrored on the back, however a partial basement level with smaller windows supported the façade from below. These bricked in window openings are still visible from the inside, where the façade is now obscured by a 1943 yarn storage addition.

On the north façade, the main level window detailing was mirrored from the south. A basement level extends back ten bays from the rear. A small, one-story boiler house, two bays wide, extended out about thirty feet, six bays back from the rear. A small toilet tower, two bays wide, occupied the next two bays on the left of the boiler house and featured rectangular steel sash windows, four panes wide by two panes tall on each bay on both levels. The remaining façade at the basement was originally foundation wall, over a grade that gradually sloped up the front. In 1941, an addition was added, aligning at the front façade, and extending back sixteen bays and currently obscures this portion of the façade. The remaining eight bays toward the rear at the basement level are obscured by a 1947 addition. Windows on the bays above, have been filled in with modern running bond brick. The original toilet tower was relocated to the last two bays, on the northwest corner also in 1941.

The interior is accessed on the main level through the office addition on the front, entering roughly at the centerline of the 1923 Mill on the east façade. Within the main mill, the thick, brick and concrete block walls are painted, and the floors are hardwood. The floors on this level are original hardwoods, ranging from very good to poor condition with buckling and holes present where there are roof leaks. The twenty-four bays are defined with three rows of evenly spaced round, slender metal posts. A wide planked v-grooved wooden ceiling is found above the heavy timber beams which, with the vertical posts, form the framing system. The wide spread of the roof supported by the beams contains a slight pitch in both directions to follow the gable form of the roof, but is barely noticeable. The round vertical posts are attached to the beams with small cast iron caps with an integrated column capital to seat the top of the columns below.

At the east (front) elevation wall bays, although the brick is painted, the original window openings are noticeable only through the change in brick coursing to running bond, between the

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original pilasters between the bays. The south façade of the mill is uniform in its appearance across all the bays. A continuous but short, original spandrel wall of brick about ten courses tall, forms a plinth from which concrete block, set back a few inches from the face of brick, extends up to the eave, about five times the exposure of the brick. A sloped mortar sill transitions between the two faces. The concrete block is the support of the modern brick veneer installed on the exterior, in stark contrast, but indicative of the expanse of glazing that was once present. On the opposing side of the mill, along the location of the original north exterior wall, a brick masonry extension at the northeast building corner, protrudes slightly into the floor area at the first bay, denoting the bounds of the 1923 Mill portion. The remaining fifteen bays, to the rear are entirely open to the 1941 addition. There is no perceptible transition on the floor between the mill and addition. The framing above, however does convey a different representation. Round steel posts, spaced every two bays of the old mill, support a steel beam connecting heavy timber beams toward the south, and steel beams to the north of similar depth to their wood counterparts. Moving toward the rear of the 1923, the last eight bays of the exterior wall, provide no indication of former windows, or the known modifications that took place over the years. A single wood panel door at the last bay, leads to a toilet. The west elevation of the interior is divided into four structural bays, each containing the three smaller bays of the exterior. The original recessed window openings, although bricked in, are referenced by the sloped sills, bound between pilasters. A door on the right, of the first bay on the right, leads to an office. The second bay from the right, has a centrally located metal roll-up door that leads to the 1942 yarn storage (3C). The third bay, similarly has a metal roll-up door toward its left. The southwest corner bay, is enclosed with plywood panels, supported by light wood framing between the panels. The enclosure forms a vestibule around stairs that access the basement. The vestibule is accessed through a door adjacent to the south façade wall. Inside the vestibule, the stairs that once occupied to full width of the bay, have been reduced by framing for a tool room on the both levels.

Within the vestibule, concrete steps lead down to the basement level. Entering the space at the last bay on the west end, the basement opens toward the north and east. The basement occupies three bays in width from the north façade, and ten bays in length back from the west façade. Within the basement, the thick, brick walls are painted, and the floors is a concrete slab. The ten bays are defined with two rows of evenly spaced round cast iron posts that have been squared by wrapped in steel plates sometime later. A wide planked v-grooved wooden ceiling is found above the heavy timber beams, reinforced with steel channels on each side. These beams with the vertical posts, form the framing system. The round vertical posts are attached to the beams with cast iron caps with an integrated column capital to seat the top of the columns below. Along the north wall, pilasters extend out from the wall, reinforcing the beam bearing from above, accent the bays along the façade. A door at the first bay at the west, leads to a toilet. The third through six bays, have evidence of former window openings with recesses containing sloped sills in the wall. Similarly, the west interior façade shows evidence of former windows along the five exterior bays from the north, but being flush in-fills of running brick, other than change in coursing, they are barely distinguishable through the thick paint. On the left of the second interior bay from the north, a double-leaf door leads to the 1943 Yarn Storage basement. The walls of the south and east, are expanses of brick. The south wall mirrors the pilasters found on the north. A wood paneled door on the second bay from the west along the south wall, leads to a

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stock room that is about four bays wide toward the east, still contains various parts stacked on wooden racks. At the northeast corner, a ramp extends from the north elevation back two bays, and leads down to the lower level of the 1941 addition. An original wall of v-grooved vertical panels, accented with a supporting frame of wide horizontal and vertical stiles, separates the ramp from the open floor area.

3B. Stanley Mills Addition, 1941

In early 1941, stock holders of Carter Fabrics Corporation and Cleveland Cloth Mills incorporated Stanley Mills Inc. as a holding company, and purchased the 1923 mill from W.F. Kincaid, whom acquired the mill at auction from Katterman-Mitchell in 1939. By April 1941, it was announced the firm of J.E. Serrine was engaged to design an addition to the present plant and construction would start within a few weeks.¹²¹ By July of that year, Herman Sipe & Co. of Conover was hired as contractor for the addition at cost of \$500,000, and with the building being operated as a rayon plant, another half million dollars in machinery from Whittin Machine Co. was installed.¹²² Production of spun rayon began in January 1942 with 10,080 spindles.¹²³

The one-story addition was aligned with the front façade of the original 1923 mill and expanding out toward the north and west. The addition as built, measures approximately one-hundred-five-by-one-hundred-seventy-four feet, with the main portion encompassing the then present north façade back to the boiler house. The existing north foundation wall was excavated and underpinned so the addition could provide a full basement level. Because the main floor of the mill was at grade, the full height basement walls around the front and north side perimeter of the addition, necessitated a deep slope cut back to natural grade with large concrete gutter below the interior floor level at the base to collect water. Although from the front, the addition appeared as one story, a few steps closer would have revealed a two-story façade.

A subsequent A/C Room addition in late 1963, obscures the original east (front) façade of the 1941 addition, and to the north the 1947 addition expands out wrapping around to the west. Only a small portion of the original 1941 addition is visible on the rear. A very low-pitched gable roof capped the building, on the north but is now entirely concealed. Unlike the main mill or other standard mill features of the period, the construction featured red brick laid in six-and-one common bond with Flemish header courses, as opposed to full header courses joining wythes together. The frame was also a composite structure, with rows of round steel posts supporting the interior steel beams to provide an open interior plan. The treatment of the original exterior façade however, mirrored its predecessor with a vast expanse of glass filling the bays on the north.

The addition actually challenged the logic of typical framing, with the roof being oriented in a north south axis, perpendicular to the main mill, and the long axis of the rectangular plan of the addition being oriented east-west. The east façade extended the principal façade of the main mill that overlooked South Main Street and the railroad. The one story above grade façade, was

¹²¹ "Old Textile Plant Sold", *The Charlotte News*, April 18, 1941.

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ "Stanley Mill Building Two-Story Addition", *The Charlotte News*, July 26, 1941.

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actually two full stories tall with the elevation replicating the spacing of the adjacent mill on the left across twelve more bays. The rake of the low pitch gable of the main mill on the left, turned into a straight horizontal eave where the older and newer elevations met. Originally the same tall steel sash windows filled two thirds the width of the bay, as the adjacent mill, with heavy timber rafter tails supporting the horizontal eave between the bays. Interestingly, the tails were actually false, as they were spurs of wood through bolted on the inside face of the wall to plates connected to the steel beams that supported the roof. The sills of the steel sash windows, while still in line with the adjacent mill windows, were bound by a concrete sill between the pilasters instead of the continuous sill course a few feet above the floor line. The windows on the basement level were of similar proportion, but one pane smaller in width and two smaller in height, but with the same concrete sills. Today all the windows are filled in with running bond brick, and the front façade lies buried behind the 1963 A/C Room that extends the full width of this addition.

The original north façade of the addition, carried on the salient treatment of the windows on the north/south elevations of the main mill, except with a slightly different twist. The same bays of the main structure, were extended out toward the north, and with the depth of the addition, extending for sixteen bays down from the front, along the north elevation of the mill toward the west. The natural grade sloped down along the length of the faced, so the east end was one story and west end was two stories. However as with the front, a deep slope cut back to natural grade with large concrete gutter below was installed, to accommodate the actual two-story addition. The addition was more or less arrested on the west by the existing one-story boiler house that projected out from the 1923 Mill. The elevation comprised of brick masonry for length of its basement story that extended up half of the bay width on either side on the main level binding the glass in between. An extremely low-pitched gable roof sheltered the enormity of steel sash windows that, according to design drawings, were relocated from the older façade. The exposed timber rake purlins were false, but still supported the gable with a central ridge, and defined eight equally spaced bays each way. Between the brick masonry corners, a spandrel wall of brick extended up to support the concrete sill, which sustained the glass plane created by thirty side-by-side steel sash windows. Cement plaster over wood panels remunerated the void above the glass between the purlins to the gable slope. The bays of the glass were designated by narrow steel columns that aligned with the purlins, and comprised two windows units each, with the end bays being a vertical contrast of half-masonry half-glassed by a single window unit. The basement level masonry façade was unmitigated on both end bays, with the fourteen bays between pierced by nearly square fenestrations, slightly taller than in width, containing side-by-side steel sash window units, three panes wide by five panes tall with full width by two panes tall center pivot sashes at the top and bottom, resting on a concrete sill. At present, the original brick masonry of the façade is still present, but encompassed by the 1947 addition.

The west elevation of the addition was a two-story continuous plane of brick, interrupted only with a two-story tower and pre-existing boiler house. The toilet tower on the main mill, that originally occupied two bays east of the boiler house, was relocated to the last two bays on the main mill north façade during the addition where its presently located. On the addition, heavy timber rafter tails supported the horizontal eave and defined the twelve bays. The centrally located tower on the addition was three bays wide and projected out about twenty feet, with a

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low pitch shed roof sloping away from the building, a few feet lower than the eave on main façade. A stair occupied the left bay, with the two remaining tower bays to the right occupied by toilets in each bay on both levels. The toilet bays more or less mirrored the tower on the adjacent main mill in form and fenestration, with the extra bay on the left that housed the stair, featuring one tall relocated steel sash window from the mill spanning from just above the landing, to just short of the eave of the tower roof. Double-leaf personnel doors were located on the basement level below the window. The one-story boiler house between the new tower and earlier mill was extended about one bay in length to fill in a gap toward the tower during this addition. The result was two shed roofs, one on the tower and a lower one on the boiler house that later additions were built off of that represent present day conditions. The area to the left of the addition tower today, is concealed by the two story 1947 addition, with a small storage room added onto the back of the tower on the main level. The wall to the right of the addition tower is still visible, but set back greatly from the 1947 Boiler House and machine shop west elevation. The remaining basement level façade along the tower, early boiler house, and adjacent 1923 mill is now enclosed inside of the machine shop.

On the interior, the addition is accessed from the interior of the 1923 mill where the original north façade brick spandrel wall was removed to provide a seamless transition between the two constructions, although a lightly framed wood divider does separate these two spaces at present. The windows in this area were originally relocated to the addition north façade, but are no longer extant in that wall either. Within the addition, the thick brick walls are painted and the floors are hardwood. The floors on this level are original hardwoods, ranging from very good to severe condition with buckling and holes present where there are roof leaks. The bays in the addition are also different, melding between earlier heavy timber spacing, to a larger column spacing in transitioning to modern buildings. While the overall structural grid from the 1923 mill has been carried over to the addition, additional supports were integrated into the design to collect the loads and allow wider spacing of columns. Sixteen bays overhead run in the north-south direction, with four bays defined with three rows of round, slender metal posts running east-west. End bays on the east and west, have a single bay spaced post. Bays in between have two-bay spaced posts, creating seven larger floor bays, from the fourteen bays overhead. A wide planked v-grooved wooden ceiling is found above fourteen-inch steel beams with top timber plate running in the north-south direction. These beams supported by larger girders running in the east west direction supported by the three rows of metal posts, form the framing system. The girders are level, however the row of beams, running perpendicular to the slope, drop at each bay moving away from the ridge to follow the pitch of the roof. The round vertical post projecting to the ceiling feature beam seats created by welded steel plates. The framing is end connected to the seats by bolts. The wide spread of the roof supported by the beams and girders contains a slight pitch in both directions to follow the earlier gable form of the roof, but is barely noticeable.

Along the east (front) elevation wall bays, although the brick is painted, the original window openings are noticeable only through the change in brick coursing to running bond, between the original pilasters between the bays. A personnel door on the right of the first bay, nearest the building transition, leads to a narrow stairway to the basement. The floors in the first few bays along the east façade wall nearest the transition of the addition have failed and holes are open to the basement in this area. The north façade of the mill is uniform in its appearance across all the

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bays. A continuous but short, original spandrel wall of brick about ten courses tall, forms a plinth from which a modern running bond brick wall, set back a course from the face of the spandrel, extends up to the eave, about five times the exposure of the brick. A sloped mortar sill transitions between the two faces. Pilasters defined at each of the bays, most likely are brick enclosing older columns still present in the wall. The running bond brick portion of the wall is indicative of the expanse of glazing that was once present. Wide openings are present on both end bays, and at the center, offset to the west of the ridge beam. The west elevation of the addition interior is divided into four structural bays, each containing the three smaller bays of the exterior. Surprisingly, the appearance of this wall is probably unchanged from how it would have appeared in 1941. The wall is an expanse of brick, interrupted only by the penetration of single-leaf wood personnel doors to the toilets and stair hall of the tower. The door farthest to the right enters the stair hall with metal stairs that lead to the basement level. The original window on the stair hall landing, was bricked in with the 1947 additions.

Entering the stair hall of the tower, steel-panned concrete steps lead down to the basement level. Entering the space at the last bay on the west end, the basement opens toward the north, east, and west. The spacing of bays in the basement, mirrors the floor above with sixteen framed bays overhead run in the north-south direction, with four bays defined with three rows of steel "H" posts running east-west. End bays on the east and west, have a single-bay spaced posts. Bays in between have two-bay spaced posts, creating seven larger floor bays, from the fourteen central bays overhead. A wide planked v-grooved wooden ceiling is found above eighteen-inch steel beams with top timber plate running in the north-south direction. These beams supported by twenty-four-inch steel girders running in the east west direction supported by the three rows of metal posts, form the framing system. The framing is end connected to the "H" posts by bolts. Along the west wall of the basement, the stair hall enters in the middle of the third bay away from the 1923 Mill façade. Toward the left at the center of the wall, two separate single-leaf doors lead to toilets. Along the south wall, formerly the north foundation of the 1923 Mill, the wall is smooth plaster, with peeling paint. The second framed bay back from the western façade, holds an opening connecting a passageway that is ramped up to the basement of the 1923 Mill. The east façade of the basement is painted brick and shows evidence of three former windowed bays within the larger bays formed by the framing. The flush in-fills of the former windows being running bond brick, and other than change in coursing, are barely distinguishable through the thick paint. Along the north wall of the basement, wide pilasters extend out one brick course, reinforcing the steel beam bearing from above, accenting the framed bays along the façade. Large openings at the first, third framed bays from the front (east), and last bay toward the rear (west) connect this basement to the same of the 1947 addition. Remaining framed bays in between, have evidence of bricked in window openings with recesses bound by the brick pilaster on the sides, a concrete sill roughly one third the height in the wall from the floor at the base, and bottom face of a steel header supporting masonry, the same depth as the beams that form the framed bays at top.

3C. Yarn Storage Addition, 1943

Around 1943, an addition for Yarn Storage was added on the west of the 1923 Mill. The addition measures approximately one-hundred-twenty-by-eighteen feet and extends out one large bay

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from the main mill, and is constructed of red brick laid in six-and-one common bond with Flemish header courses. On the south, one large roll up metal door shares a concrete platform with the 1923 mill. Aligned with the façade of the mill on the south, and 1941 toilet tower on the north, the exposure of the west façade slopes from one story to two story respectively, and is divided into thirteen roughly equal bays. With the last bay on the left, corresponding to the toilet tower on the north, the remaining twelve bays aligned and extended out the original west bays of the main mill. The top of the façade terminates in a stepped parapet. The central four bays that align at the center of the main mill are the tallest. Flanking each side of the tall parapet steps down every two bays, with the odd bay toward the north, stepping down the lowest. On the main level of the façade, the original windows in each bay have been filled with running bond brick but the proportions indicate the windows may have been relocated from the older elevation. The second and third bays from the north contain louvers for the interior air conditioning equipment. At the basement level the first bay is blind, with second through fifth, and seventh & eighth bays containing original rectangular steel sash windows, taller in measurement than in width, divided into four-by-four panes, with a center pivot two-by-two sash, resting on a concrete sill. The sixth bay basement window is bricked in. The remaining six bays toward the north are obscured by a 1947 metal waste house. The north of the addition is defined on the upper level by one large bay, containing an elongated metal louver divided horizontally into five tall narrow louvered openings, and the basement level containing a double-leaf metal personnel doors. The 1941 toilet tower, and machine room entry at the basement level is toward the east.

The Yarn Storage portion was entered on the 1923 Mill main level on the west from at the fourth and eighth bays from the south corresponding to those of the addition. The storage room and air-conditioner room were not accessible, as metal roll-up doors were locked in place.

On the lower level, the addition is entered through a large opening at the bay, north of the central axis of the 1923 Mill. The bays of the interior of the addition correspond with the exterior. Steel beams with timber top plate on top support a v-grooved wooden ceiling, and span from the wall of the main mill, to the exterior wall of the addition. The walls are painted brick. The north portion of the addition is a mostly open corridor, with an original double-leaf wood panel door on the north end. Each-leaf features six long horizontal raised panels, stacked vertically separated with narrow stiles. A large opening with roll up metal door is two bays back from the north façade. On the south of the addition, a small stock room to the left of the entry to the addition is partitioned off with full plywood panels supported with 4x4 wood posts. One window lights the space, at the entry to a Store Room that occupies the last five bays on the south, and appears to have been a mixing lab for dyes. A concrete platform is in the last three bays and is access by wooden stairs. Although in the basement, the space is well lit with the windows on the exterior wall on the west.

3D. Office Addition, c.1945

In the years following the 1941 renovations, an addition for offices and supply room was added on the east of the 1923 Mill. Documentation is conflictive as a Fire Insurance map from the 1950s, labels the office addition as early as 1941. However preliminary design drawings for the next mill expansion from J.E. Sirrine in June of 1944, do not show the office addition as being

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present. The east (front) addition was originally built to mirror the yarn storage addition on the west (rear), with the roof line extended out to a steeped parapet on the front. The interior contained offices on the northern half, and supply room which had a small commissary on the south. Nonetheless drawings by Charles Hartmann in November of 1947 have "Alterations to Main Office Space" that relocate the supply room and commissary to the 1947 mill addition, to provide additional office space following the massive expansions that come to the mill later. After the completion of the modern 1947 addition to the mill, the owners must have felt compelled to also modernize the appearance of the exterior of the main offices and in July of 1948 had Hartmann renovate the three-year-old addition to replace the stepped parapet with horizontal brick banding, and add a formal entry with horizontal canopy.

The one-story addition is aligned with the north and south façade of the original 1923 mill and expanding out toward the east. The addition as built, measures approximately one-hundred-six-by-twenty-two feet, encompassing the full width of the older mill. Being more reflective of the streamlined Moderne architecture of the period, the addition is an austere mass of brick fronting West Main Street, and projecting above the roof of the main mill about another third of its height. Encompassing the upper perimeter of the addition, the concrete coping is accented below by two projecting brick bands, the middle band being three courses and the lower being two, all being separated by one brick course. The mass of the addition is further subjugated by bays of fenestrations, piercing the elevation of red brick laid in six-and-one common bond with Flemish header courses. The window openings indicate the original windows were of the same proportion of the main mill windows and might have been relocated from the front mill facade, however they have been replaced with stacked single hung modern vinyl window units. The south elevation is two bays, the one on the left being a former window, now bricked in, and double-leaf storefront door on the right. The front façade is divided into six bays, all featuring windows except for the two on the right. The two bays on the right, were altered in 1947 when a horizontal canopy that wrapped the corner of the addition was added and window on the right was filled with brick. A single-leaf door, with large glass panel, is flanked each side by large sidelights, with similar width of the door, and divided vertically into three horizontal windows. White brick bands that mimicked the treatment of the coping were veneered over the façade under the canopy, with a vertical extension of brick projecting out from the façade between the second and third bay from the right supports the end of the canopy. The extension of brick supporting the canopy is penetrated by three rectangular openings separated vertically by equal proportions of brick. The thin canopy cantilevers slightly beyond the brick extension, and originally had slender supporting steel posts that gave a "wing" appearance to the canopy in early photos. However, with the addition of the A/C room in 1965 on the right, obscuring the north façade of the addition, and later modifications to the canopy after 1967 that added more of a mansard appearance, these details have been lost. Modern Bostonian green vinyl awnings shelter all the openings not covered by the horizontal canopy.

Entering the office from the front door, an original lobby wall separating the open office from the entry was removed sometime after 1967, but otherwise the interior spaces configuration appears identical as shown in the 1947 drawings. The condition of any plaster is not known as all the interior walls have been covered with T1-11 wood paneling, however they appear to have been placed over original finishes. The ceiling plaster has either been removed, or covered in

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drywall with texture added. Two offices are to the north of the entry. Moving toward the south, two toilets, and a safe are adjacent to an open counter and occupy about half of the open floor space out from the main mill wall. A single-leaf door that leads to the mill is to the left of the open counter space and roughly at the center of the mill/addition. Toward the south, a narrow passage parallel to the windowed east faced wall leads to the side entry. Two offices face the open counter on the west of the passage. A large conference room entered from front passage is the depth of the two offices. At the end of the passage, adjacent the side entry, three offices wrap around the side lobby. The two offices next to the conference room are entered from the one office next to the lobby.

3E. Stanley Mill Addition No.2, 1947

As early as June 1944, Stanley Mills, Inc. had commissioned J.E. Sirrine to begin layout sketches for the next major expansion of the mill that would double present capacity. Most likely delayed by steel shortages due to the war, the plans were not fully realized until summer of 1946, with construction beginning by the end of the year. While Charles Hartmann, working for Carter Fabrics and later J.P. Stevens, ended up being the Architect, overseeing the layout and structural design of the mill building itself, J.E. Sirrine continued overseeing the Engineering portions over the project, designing machinery layouts, electrical layouts, and mechanical systems design. Interestingly, Charles Hartmann had many commissions with J.P. Stephens in the following years, so it is likely, since J.P. Stephens was in the process of taking control of Carter Fabrics in 1946, and Lola Mills in 1947, Hartmann may have been brought in by J.P. Stephens as Sirrine, had originally started laying out the addition in 1944. Nonetheless, by early October of 1947, the large addition at Stanley was nearing completion. On April 29, 1950, Stanley Mills, Inc. was dissolved, and the addition became the Worsted Department and Turbo Department of Plant No.1 of the Stanley Division of J.P. Stevens & Co., Inc.¹²⁴

The one story and basement addition was aligned with the front façade of the 1941 Addition and expands out toward the north and west. The addition measures approximately one-hundred-fifty-eight-by-two-hundred-seven feet, with the main portion encompassing the then present north façade back to the boiler house, and extending past the stair tower on the rear of the 1941 addition. According to Hartmann's drawings of the addition, dated July 11, 1946, the original intent was to simply extend the roof line and window configuration of the then present north elevation, reusing the vast expanse of existing windows on the main level, with a windowless basement level excavated into the existing grade. On the front, with the main level being at grade and connecting to 1941 addition, the full height basement walls at the front, necessitated a deep slope cut back to natural grade with large concrete gutter below the interior floor level at the base to collect water. As with its predecessor, the addition appeared as one story, and while a few steps closer would reveal a two-story façade. The deep gutter actually terminates at a retaining wall on the northeast corner, where the north façade is simply excavated into the grade and close to the West Parkwood Street right-of-way. The elevations of the east and west were to continue the tall rectangular steel sash windows on the main level, creating a near seamless transition between its predecessors, even having a similar toilet/stair tower on the northwest corner.

¹²⁴ J.P. Stevens & Company, (Unknown) *Stanley Plant*, Unpublished internal company document, p.1.

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However, by November of 1946, a large air conditioner room was added to the design of the addition on the rear of the building, and all of the large windows were omitted and smaller relief dampers were placed in various locations around the perimeter. A very low-pitched gable roof caps the building, extending the roofline from the earlier addition, and is barely noticeable on the north. The construction continues red brick laid in six-and-one common bond with Flemish header courses, in vast expanses of masonry along all the elevations. The frame of the new addition would carry on the composite structure built earlier, with rows of round steel posts supporting the interior steel beams to provide an open interior plan. The final treatment of the original exterior façade however, greatly contrasted its antecedents with vast elevations of uninterrupted brick ushering in the modern age of air-conditioning in textile mill design.

The addition continued the structural system of the 1941 addition, with the roof being oriented in a north south axis, and the longer axis of the rectangular plan of the addition being oriented east-west. The east façade continued the principal façade of the main mill that overlooked South Main Street and the railroad, on the right of where the 1963 A/C Room is now located. The one story above grade façade, is two full stories tall with the elevation replicating the spacing of the adjacent mill on the left across eighteen more bays. A straight horizontal eave continues where the older and newer facades met. Heavy timber rafter tails that once supported the horizontal eave between the bays, have been removed and the penetrations in the wall capped with galvanized metal, and is the only indication of an interior structural spacing. The tails, however were false, replicating the spurs of wood on the 1941 addition that were through bolted on the inside face of the wall to plates connected to the steel beams that supported the roof. Small relief dampers, roughly three feet square, with concrete sills are about six feet above the interior floor line, and located at the fifth, eleventh, and seventeenth bays from the northeast corner. No conspicuous fenestrations are present on the basement level. Concrete stairs lead up to a catwalk that spans the deep gutter, covered with metal canopy and connecting to a personnel door at the second bay from the right.

The north elevation of the 1947 addition, carries on the unadorned façade treatment that is on the east. The same bays of the 1941 structure, were extended out toward the north, and with the depth of the addition, extending for nineteen bays down from the front, along the north elevation of the mill toward the west. The natural grade slopes down along the length of the elevation, so the east end is one story and west end was two full stories. The tall steel water tower, built at the same time as the addition, is located just off the northwest corner. Beginning at the northeast corner, a paved parking area is located between the building and West Parkwood Avenue from about the eighth to the about the eighteenth bay where it is terminated by a concrete retaining wall at the base of the water tower. The elevation comprises of brick masonry for length of its basement and main story levels. An extremely low-pitched gable roof, barely noticeable, has a peak off center on the façade, between the eighth and ninth bays, with a nearly flat eave from the seventeenth to nineteenth bays. The once exposed false timber rake purlins have been removed and capped with galvanized metal. Relief dampers, same as those on the front are located between the second/third, fourth/fifth, sixth/seventh, eighth/ninth bays, then every bay to the west end of the mill. No fenestrations are noticeable at the basement level. A two-story block of toilet rooms extends about fourteen feet past the main wall of the mill elevation, however the wall transition is seamless.

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The west elevation of the addition is two stories, slightly more interesting in articulation than the north and east elevations. The elevation of the 1947 addition is divided into three distinct sections, and extends past and wraps the northwest corner of the 1941 addition by four additional bays toward the south, where it terminates on the north elevation of the boiler house. As with the other elevations, the rafter tails have been removed, but still denote framing of the bays. Beginning at the northwest corner, the first section is a two-story block that extends out fourteen feet from the main mill containing toilets on each floor adjacent to a stair hall. This block occupies four bays and contains rectangular steel sash windows, three-panes wide by six-panes tall supported by a concrete sill, in the first two bays on both stories. The third bay contains a double-leaf personnel door leading to the basement. A concrete stoop in front of the door is sheltered by a sloped metal canopy above. A louvered grill is located at grade on the fourth bay. The next section is a two story A/C room that extends out twenty-eight feet from the main mill, and about fourteen feet past the toilets/stair section. It occupies roughly the next five bays, however is not denoted with former rafter tails, as the other parts of the façade. A tall louvered damper divided into four vertical sections occupies the left of the upper story. The louvers are barely visible through a screen that covered it on the exterior. It is roughly square and occupies nearly the full height of the upper story with just a couple feet separation from the end wall, roof, and interior floor level. A large roll up door with three large horizontal panels, occupies the south side of the upper story on the right of the A/C room. The basement level of this section has no fenestration and is a seamless expanse of brick. The remaining section of the elevation, beginning at the twelfth bay from the southwest corner onward right to the boiler house, is the 1947 portion of the exterior wall of the mill. The upper story continues the bays indicated by the metal caps of the former rafter tails, and has slightly right of center relief dampers in the first five bays. A large chimney like shaft of brick masonry extends up above the roofline, nearly another story, within the sixth bay of this section denoting the location of an elevator on the interior. On the basement level of this section a smaller one-story conditioning room, built in running bond brick and roughly twenty by twenty in plan, was added around 1960. An original concrete platform, covered with a horizontal metal canopy supported by narrow steel posts was built with the 1947 addition, spans the next five bays and serves as a loading dock. Flanking each bay adjacent to the elevator bay are personnel doors that lead to the platform. The door on the left is a single-leaf metal door with louvered upper panel, and a large double-leaf metal door in the right bay. The remaining bays on both stories past the platform to the boiler house are void of fenestrations, mostly obscured by the base of the large smoke stack.

Accessing the 1947 addition on the interior from the rear interior of the 1941 addition, the vast spinning room opens up to the north and east. As noted earlier, the exterior wall of the 1941 north façade was left in place, with large openings left for access at the end bays and one roughly in the center. Within the addition, the thick brick walls are painted and the floors are hardwood. The floors on this level are original hardwoods, ranging from very good to severe condition with buckling and holes present where there are roof leaks. The 1947 addition mirrors the structural grid of the 1941 addition. A larger spacing is present with additional supports added to collect the loads and allow wider spacing of columns. Every three exterior bays on the east/west correspond to one bay on the interior. Two exterior bays on the north correspond to one bay on the interior. Nineteen structural bays run overhead in the north-south direction, with six bays

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defined with five rows of round, slender steel H posts running east-west. The end bay on the east, has a single overhead bay spacing of posts. Bays in between have two-bay spaced posts, creating nine larger floor bays, from the eighteen bays overhead. A wide planked v-grooved wooden ceiling is found above fourteen-inch steel beams with top timber plate running in the north-south direction. These beams supported by larger girders running in the east west direction supported by the five rows of metal posts, form the framing system. The girders are level, however the row of beams, running perpendicular to the slope, drop at each bay moving away from the ridge to follow the pitch of the roof. The steel H post support the bottom flanges of the girders. The framing is end connected to the girders by bolts. The wide spread of the roof supported by the beams and girders contains a slight pitch in both directions to follow the earlier gable form of the roof, but is barely noticeable. Along the east (front) elevation wall bays, the brick is painted and light only barely visible from the edges of the relief dampers. A double-leaf personnel door, which has small square windows and leads to the exterior catwalk, is located at the first bay on the left. The north façade of the mill is uniform in its appearance across all the bays. A long-painted brick wall runs the length of the façade, being minimally interrupted by the spacing of relief dampers. The west elevation of the addition interior is divided into six structural bays, each containing the three smaller bays of the exterior. An expanse of painted brick is interrupted only by the penetration of single-leaf wood personnel doors to the toilets and stair hall on the bays on southwest corner. The A/C room, now empty is accesses at the center of the third bay from the right. The elevator is located at the center of the sixth bay. The area of the 1947 mill, where it wraps the southwest corner of the 1941 addition is now occupied by overflow seating for the commissary that's on the basement level, but was originally a laboratory on the main level.

Entering the stair hall near the southwest corner, steel-panned concrete steps lead down to the basement level. Entering the basement at the first bay on the north of the west end, the basement opens toward the east and south. The spacing of bays in the basement, mirrors the floor above with six bays defined with five rows of steel "H" posts running east-west and ten bays running in the north-south direction. The last bay on the east is half the size of the others. The basement level was further subdivided by lightly framed wood panel partitions that extend up two thirds to the ceiling, with the six east-west bays being divided into three smaller production areas. A wide planked v-grooved wooden ceiling is found above eighteen-inch steel beams with top timber plate running in the north-south direction. These beams supported by twenty-four-inch steel girders running in the east west direction supported by the five rows of metal posts, form the framing system. The framing is end connected to the "H" posts by bolts. Along the west wall of the basement, the stair hall enters on the south side of the first bay from the north. Toward the right single-leaf doors lead to toilets. The air conditioner rooms are accessed from the fourth bay from the north. The elevator faces toward the south and a small corridor leads to the double-leaf doors on the loading platform. A wood paneled wall, perpendicular to the west wall on the back of the 1941 construction, contains an opening to a passage on the left that leads to the commissary on the right and stair hall of the 1941 addition. Along the south wall, formerly the north foundation of the 1941 Addition, an expanse of painted brick is minimally penetrated with openings. Access between the two spaces is from the end bays on the east and west. Evidence of the earlier window openings are present, now filled with running bond brick, where concrete sills extend past the wall between bays, about one third the height of the wall from the floor. The east façade of the basement is painted brick and has no openings. Along the north wall

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of the basement, wide pilasters extend out one brick course, reinforcing the steel beam bearing from above, accenting the framed bays along the façade, however is void of fenestration.

3F. Boiler House/Machine Shop, 1923-1947

On the basement level of the north façade of the 1923 Gingham mill, a small, one-story boiler house, two bays wide, extended out about thirty feet toward the north, six bays back from the rear. In 1941, the one-story boiler house was further extended about one bay in length toward the north, connecting to a new toilet/stair tower on the west elevation during this addition.¹²⁵ The boiler house had a nearly flat roof and toilet tower that was once on the east of the boiler room was relocated to the last two bays on the northwest corner of the 1923 Gingham Mill.¹²⁶ As part of the 1947 addition, C.C. Hartmann worked in conjunction with J.E. Sirrine to slightly relocate the boiler house and provide expansion for a machine shop.¹²⁷ The western wall of the old boiler house was removed to provide a larger interior work area. The 1947 boiler house wall is aligned with the north wall on the 1941 stair hall, and extends west about sixty-two feet from the west wall of the 1941 stair hall. The resulting plan is a footprint of roughly sixty-nine-by-eighty-three feet occupied by the 1941 stair/toilet tower on the northeast corner and toilet tower of the Gingham Mill on the southwest corner. The boiler house is roughly thirty-six-by-thirty-two feet and is located on the northwest corner. This footprint also being the same area is noted as “No.4” on the 1951 Fire Insurance Map of Plant No.1. The 1947 Boiler house has a slightly taller roof line, almost a two-story space and is adjacent to the coal silo and smokestack that are to the north. The lower roof line surrounding the boiler house contains the machine shop, occupying the areas east and south between the boiler house and main mill.

The north elevation is barely visible, due to being obscured by the smoke stack and coal silo, but is roughly four unequal bays. The bay closest to the west wall of the 1947 addition, has a lower roof and contains a single-leaf personnel door on the left. The remaining three bays toward the west contain the boiler house and roof line, roughly six feet higher than the lower roof. The west elevation is similarly divided into four unequal bays. The three bays on the left are the higher roof of the boiler house, containing double-leaf metal doors that are boarded over, sheltered by a sloped metal canopy on the left. The two center bays contain steel sash windows over concrete sills that are four panes tall by five panes wide, with a center pivot sash two panes tall by three panes wide. The last bay on the right, contains a wide single-leaf personnel door adjacent to the main mill toilet tower elevation.

The interior is accessed from the outside through the personnel door on the north elevation, hidden from view behind the smokestack. The thick, brick walls are painted, and the floors are concrete. A wide planked v-grooved wooden ceiling is found above the steel beams that fully span the space; however, the ceiling is barely visible because of all the piping and conduit that runs underneath. Much of the machinery from the textile operations was left in place, with large lathes, drill presses, and other machinery everywhere. Entering into the machine shop through

¹²⁵ J.E. Sirrine & Company, “Alterations & Additions, Stanley Mills Inc.”, June 4, 1941.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Hartmann, Charles C., “Addition No.2 Stanley Mill, Carter Fabrics Corp.”, Undated, ca.1946.

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the door, the interior space is "T" shaped in plan with the vertical axis running north south, however the floor space being "L" shaped and wrapping around the boiler house and back toward the west and a higher floor adjacent to the east. This relationship is reflective of the different periods of construction and how the use of the spaces corresponded to the mill at the time. The higher floor occupies the space between the base of the 1941 tower on the north, back wall of the 1941 mill on the east, and 1923 mill on the south, this same area corresponding to location of the boiler house 1923-46. Although passage is no longer present, this higher floor is level with the basement floor of the 1923 Mill. This higher floor is now accessed by concrete steps, adjacent to the 1941 toilet wall, and was used to house large air compressors after the boiler was relocated. The lower floor corresponded with the lower level of the 1941-47 additions and is connected to the main mill through a door at the base of the stair hall tower toward the east. A small office is present in the southwest corner of the space was the Engineering Department.

The 1947 Boiler Room is entered through a single-leaf door, centered on western wall of the machine shop, opposite of the 1941 stair/toilet tower. The thick, brick walls are painted, and the floors are concrete. A concrete slab ceiling is found high above and supported by two steel beams encased in concrete, running east-west, fully spanning the space and dividing it into three bays. The room is a single open space, mostly occupied by two large boilers that are side by side and oriented on a north-south axis, and occupy the two bays on the south of the room. One of the boilers has a plate that reads "1947" on the manufacturing date.

3G. Waste House, 1947

The former of two very early "Butler" buildings on the complex is located adjacent on the west of Plant No.1. Sharing the western brick wall of 1943 Yarn Storage Addition, the rectangular plan one-story, gable-roofed, corrugated-metal-panel-sheathed warehouse is roughly forty-by-one-hundred feet, oriented on an east-west axis. The building is present in design drawings for the addition dating from early 1947, but may have been constructed in late 1946 based on a fire insurance map.¹²⁸ The walls and roof of all elevations of the warehouse are sheathed in identical proprietary metal "BRI" panels, with rounded corrugations at one-foot internals. "Butler Mfg." is embossed on all of the panels, and connected to the frame with screws and nuts, both of which are features that were phased out in the following years.

The west elevation features a centered moderately pitched gabled roof with small eaves. A roughly four-foot square vent with narrow horizontal louvers is a couple feet down from the centered ridge. At the center of the façade at its base, double-leaf sliding doors with vertical corrugated metal siding are located. Each-leaf of the opening slides in opposition, outward toward the adjacent exterior wall in the interior. The door opening is flanked on each side by a pair of one over one steel sashed windows that form a glazed opening about four feet tall and eight feet wide. The foundation is obscured by the tall grass.

¹²⁸ "Stanley Mills Division of J.P. Stephens Inc. "Plant No.1"," Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, Boston, Massachusetts, October 24, 1951

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The south and north elevations are an uninterrupted expanse of vertical metal panels, with the evenly spaced rounded corrugations at one-foot intervals, continuing in line to the roof panels, broken only by a diminutive eave about twelve feet in height above the interior floor line. The exposed foundation wall is concrete, and minimally exposed on the north, but barely visible on the south being obscured by tall grass. The elevations on the north/south are bare of any fenestration, and small storage sheds were built sometime later out of wood and sheathed with corrugated 5V metal panels on the north.

Entering on the west façade, the primary entrance to the building from the exterior is through the sliding doors, and from the interior through the opening from the basement level of the Yarn Storage addition. The building was used as a waste house to sort by products from the manufacturing that had an aftermarket for re-use or recycling. The floor plan is entirely open with five equal bays, denoted by the continuous rigid steel frames with sloped clear spanning rafters bolted directly together at the gable and to columns at the exterior. The rafters and columns are tapered in depth, being thinnest at the ridge and floor connections, and thickest where they are connected to each other. Steel purlins divide each plane of the roof into four divisions, running perpendicular to the frames, supporting the metal panels. The exterior wall panels, similarly are supported by steel girts, spanning perpendicular between the columns at mid-height. The metal roof panels are barely visible due to the accumulation of fibers. A large press is located at the center of the second bay from the west that was used to compact waste together into bales for shipping. Large rolling bins made of steel, remain in place where waste was sorted by composition of Acetate, Viscose, and Silk. The eastern most wall in the waste house is the Yarn Storage façade, where bricked in windows are visible and a roll up coil-type steel door is centered in the space that connects to the basement level of the 1923 Mill.

3H. Metal Covered Passage, c.1951

An elevated passageway is connected to Plant No.1 on the east side of the loading platform on the rear of the south elevation of the 1923 Mill, and extend a little over ninety feet, ramping up, and at a slight angle southeast to the last bay on the end, farthest to the west on the 1924 Warehouse on Plant No.2. First appearing around 1951¹²⁹, the passage severs the front half of the complex from the rear through what was once an open public extension of Valley Street through the complex, prior to the combination of the parcels under Stanley Mills ownership in late 1948. At roughly six feet wide, the passageway is supported by a concrete block foundation and entirely enclosed by metal cladding and is capped with a gable roof, all being supported on the interior by metal pipe framing.

3I. A/C Room, 1965

In late 1963, plans were started by architect Ben Smith and associates, for the addition of an A/C Room to Plant No.1 on the east facade to provide enclosure for air conditioning equipment.¹³⁰

¹²⁹ Associated Factory Mutual Fire Insurance Companies, "Stanley Mills Division of J.P. Stephens Inc. "Plant No.1," Boston, Massachusetts, October 24, 1951

¹³⁰ Ben L. Smith Jr. and Associates, "Air Conditioning Apparatus Room-Plans, Elevations, Sections & Details", October 16, 1963.

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Construction did not begin until after late 1964¹³¹ but was finally completed by 1967¹³². The one-story enclosure is adjacent on the north of the office, and projects out forty-four feet across the deep gutter on the front of the mill then spans north about seventy feet encompassing the earlier windowed east facade of the 1941 addition, and terminating in line with the 1947 addition façade. It is constructed of modern red brick veneer in all running bond backed with concrete block. The brick is much lighter in hue and in contrast to the deeper red of the earlier mill buildings. The flat roof projects out in line with the roof of the adjacent mill, and capped with an aluminum coping. The front façade is divided into three bays. Large rectangular dampers, roughly ten feet tall, occupy the front façade on the left and center bays of the addition centered in the height of the wall. The dampers are similar, with the farthest on the left three vertical sections of four-foot-wide louvers, and the in the middle being five vertical sections of four-foot-wide louvers. Two horizontal rows of screen panels cover each section of louvers. The two louvered bays correspond to the location of the air conditioning room on the interior, and the high humidity once in the room, appears to have compromised masonry wall ties at twenty-four-inch horizontal intervals, as mortar has visibly been pushed out of the wall on the exterior. The bay is void of fenestration. Around the corner on the north, the addition is in two equally divided bays. The bay closest to the front contains a coil-type metal roll-up door offset toward the left. The portion of the addition houses refrigeration equipment, and the bay next to the building is equal size to the refrigeration room, but is open and containing cooling tower on steel framing over the concrete gutter below.

On the interior, the A/C room addition encompasses an original enclosed stair case, which was built as part of the 1941 addition, that was located adjacent to the office and leads down to the basement, parallel to the front façade. The A/C room was originally accessed from this stair hall, however was not accessible at present.

4A. Warehouse (No. 3), 1949

Contributing Building

One of two very early “Butler” buildings on the complex is located adjacent to Warehouse No. 4. Situated about one foot away from the western wall of Warehouse No.4, the rectangular plan one-story, gable-roofed, corrugated-metal-panel-sheathed warehouse is roughly one-hundred-twenty-by-forty feet, oriented on a north-south axis.

Butler Manufacturing founded in 1901 in Kansas City, Missouri¹³³ and is credited with pioneering the start of the global metal building industry.¹³⁴ The company started by making factory-produced stock water tanks and grain bins also known as “Butler Bins”, and eventually moved into manufacturing arched paneled pre-engineered buildings, such as garages, that

¹³¹ U.S. Geological Survey. *Aerial Photo Single Frame*. 1:30,000. Entity ID#ARB650105405389. Washington, D.C. September 26, 1964. (Addition nor activity was not present in this area)

¹³² J.P. Stevens, Stanley, NC, *Oblique Aerial Photo*, February 1967, Uncredited.

¹³³ Funding Universe, “History of Butler Manufacturing Company”, <http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/butler-manufacturing-company-history/> (accessed December 2021).

¹³⁴ Butler Metal Buildings, “About Us”, <https://www.butlermetalbuilding.com/about-us.html> (accessed December 2021).

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eventually evolved into the “Quonset Hut” form¹³⁵. All of these structures and buildings were constructed with metal panels that both enclosed and provided structural support for the enclosure. However, they were limited in size and form, mostly curved or arched, due to the necessity of framing to provide additional support. To provide additional support, without sacrificing costs, speed, and ease of installation, a pre-engineered modular rigid frame would be necessary to support the panels. While the rigid frame concept was not new, its use for pre-engineered buildings had not been considered feasible because of the complicated stress calculations required for the supporting frame.¹³⁶

In 1939, Wilbur Larkin, chief engineer in the Butler Farm Equipment Division, and his brother Kenneth Larkin, a civil engineer challenged this assumption and began production and experimentation with this design.¹³⁷ At this same time, following a storage capacity shortage of agricultural products, the USDA requested bids for 30,666 steel storage bins. After being awarded the contract, Butler used the opportunity to add another production facility in 1940 in Galesburg, Illinois¹³⁸ to focus on the three-plate “rigid frame” concept that featured a “pre-engineered building design that provided more usable interior space, looked better, used less steel, and could be fabricated and erected faster and with fewer people.”¹³⁹ With experimentation and refining of the design over the next few years, in 1943 they launched the concept to the open market, formally creating the pre-engineered or “PEB” industry, which flourished during the postwar U.S. economic boom and on to the present.¹⁴⁰

The walls and roof of all elevations of the warehouse are sheathed in identical proprietary metal “BRI” panels, with rounded corrugations at one-foot internals. “Butler Mfg.” is embossed on many of the panels. The “BRI” panels were used on the first generation of these buildings that ran through 1959.¹⁴¹ After this date, ribbed panels were used. Another characteristic of the early “BRI” panel, is the use of screws and nuts to attach the panels to the frame, since self-drilling screws were not widely available until the 1960s.

The north elevation features a centered moderately pitched gabled roof with small eaves supported by four exposed purlins - two evenly spaced purlins on either rake. A roughly four-foot square vent with narrow horizontal louvers is a couple feet down from the centered ridge. Located at the center of the north elevation at its base, are double-leaf sliding doors with vertical corrugated metal siding, each-leaf of the opening slides in opposition, outward toward the adjacent exterior wall. A red metal hose cabinet is located toward the east of the elevation. The foundation is obscured by the tall grass.

¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹³⁶ Ibid.

¹³⁷ Ibid.

¹³⁸ Funding Universe, “History of Butler Manufacturing Company”, <http://www.fundinguniverse.com/company-histories/butler-manufacturing-company-history/> (accessed December 2021).

¹³⁹ Butler Metal Buildings, “About Us”, <https://www.butlermetalbuilding.com/about-us.html> (accessed December 2021).

¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹⁴¹ Butler Building Parts Online, “So You Think You Have a Butler Building”, <https://butlerpartsonline.com/so-you-think-you-have-a-butler-building/> (accessed December 2021).

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The west elevation is an uninterrupted expanse of vertical metal panels, with the evenly spaced rounded corrugations at one-foot intervals, continuing in line to the roof panels, broken only by a diminutive eave about twelve feet in height above the interior floor line. The exposed foundation wall is concrete, painted red, and minimally exposed toward the north, but gradually exposed to about four feet in height where it continues to a concrete loading dock and metal enclosed walkway (4B) to the adjacent Mill No.2 (2A). The elevation is bare of any fenestration.

The south elevation of the building is barely visible, but mirrors the north and lacks the hose cabinet. The flat metal roof of the open loading dock pierces the elevation roughly ten feet in height, sheltering the lower portion of the façade at the sliding doors. The brick firewall of Warehouse No.4 (1B) protrudes vertically at the corner toward the east by a couple of bricks.

The east elevation is mostly blind, being obscured by the independent brick firewall of the adjacent Warehouse No.4 on the east.

While there are no primary entrances, the building is entered from the exterior through the sliding doors on the north and south, and from the interior through the openings from Warehouse No.4. When originally constructed, it was used for storage of rayon and orlon¹⁴², but later was used to house warpers when production at the mill was at its peak¹⁴³. The floor plan is entirely open with six equal bays, denoted by the continuous rigid steel frames with sloped clear spanning rafters bolted directly together at the gable and to columns at the exterior. The rafters and columns are tapered in depth, being thinnest at the ridge and floor connections, and thickest where they are connected to each other. Steel purlins divide each plane of the roof into six divisions, running perpendicular to the frames, supporting the metal panels. The exterior wall panels, similarly are supported by steel girts, spanning perpendicular between the columns in six equal divisions. The metal roof panels are barely visible due to either the inadvertent accumulation of fibers, or an intentionally applied fiber insulation.

4B. Metal Covered Passage, c.1960

An elevated passageway, located on the rear of Plant No.2, is connected to a platform on the southwest corner of the 1949 Warehouse No.3. The passageway extends a little over twenty-five feet, ramping down and at a slight angle southwest, to a concrete ramp adjacent the at the northeast corner of the elevation of Mill.No.2 at the base of the toilet tower. First appearing around 1961, the passage bounds a small mechanical yard south of the 1962 A/C room addition and opposing Mill No.1 and No.2 elevations. At roughly six feet wide, the passageway is open underneath for its span and entirely enclosed by metal cladding and capped with a shed roof, all being supported on the interior by wood framing.

5. Royster Warehouse, 1957

Contributing Building

¹⁴² Factory Insurance Association, "J.P. Stephens & Co. Inc., Stanley Mills Division, Plants 1 & 2," Hartford, Connecticut, May 20, 1953.

¹⁴³ J.P. Stephens & Co. Inc., "1967 Machinery Layout, Stanley #2, Stanley, NC", August 1, 1967.

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The last major building in the complex, was not actually built by the mill, but was however built for the mill. In 1950, J.P. Stevens began shedding its non-manufacturing related real-estate assets through the sale of the residential parcels¹⁴⁴, and by early 1957, had entered discussions for the sale-leaseback of the parcel opposite Plant No.1 on West Parkwood Avenue (formerly Center Street) with David W. Royster, of Shelby, NC.¹⁴⁵ Being a prominent businessman, David Royster was a magnate in transportation services, construction, real-estate development, and founder of multiple companies, many of which are still in business today. One of those was Royster Transport Company had a focus in the textile and agricultural industry and another, Skyland Rental Company, which was involved in construction and real-estate development.

Royster commissioned architect Fred Simmons of Shelby, NC to design plans for a 55,000sf warehouse constructed of tilt-up concrete panels, and by April of 1957 plans were ready¹⁴⁶. While tilt-up concrete buildings were originally conceived around the turn of the twentieth-century, the concept was still somewhat experimental with the industry not really flourishing until after WWII when the development of mobile cranes made lifting the heavy pre-cast panels in place much easier.¹⁴⁷ Panels were formed flat on the ground, with the base of the wall serving as a hinge point. After the panels are poured and the concrete cured for a few days, they are then tilted up vertically with cranes and connected together with steel angles and plates. What once would have taken weeks or months to build with masonry exterior walls, could now be done in several days.

On May 2, 1957, three subsequent agreements took place. First, Skyland Rental Co. Inc. purchases parcel from J.P. Stephens and Co.¹⁴⁸, then Skyland and Stevens entered into a lease agreement covering the premises which was subject to the completion of a warehouse on the parcel to be ready for occupancy by Stevens by October 1st, 1957¹⁴⁹. Lastly, Skyland executed and delivered to Stevens an option agreement to purchase back the improved property in five-year pro-rated intervals with the final being October 1st 1977. With all lease prior agreements being fulfilled, J.P. Stevens re-acquired the property on December 30th, 1977 for a sum of \$10.00.¹⁵⁰

The Royster Warehouse occupies a little more than the western half of a city block bound by North Main Street on the east, West Parkwood Ave (formerly Center Street) on the south, First Street on the west, and Rhyne Street to the North. The plan is irregularly shaped, occupying nearly the full area of the parcel created by the subdivision of the block. The block was originally laid out at the time of the construction of the Lola Gingham Mill Village¹⁵¹. Rhyne, First, and

¹⁴⁴ Gaston County Plat Book 9, Page 17.

¹⁴⁵ Gaston County Deed Book 698, Page 286.

¹⁴⁶ Fred M. Simmons, Inc, "Proposed "Tilt-up" Warehouse-Plans, Elevations, Sections & Details", April, 1957.

¹⁴⁷ "Tilt-up Construction: History and Uses", <http://www.concretecontractor.com/tilt-up-concrete/construction-history/> (accessed December 2021).

¹⁴⁸ Gaston County Deed Book 698, Page 286.

¹⁴⁹ Gaston County Deed Book 684, Page 201.

¹⁵⁰ Gaston County Deed Book 1240, Page 498.

¹⁵¹ Gaston County Plat Book 4, Page 147.

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Parkwood are ninety degrees, following the grid of the village, while North Main Street, parallel the railroad, and cut across at an angle so that the Rhyne Street side is shorter than the Parkwood Ave side. The block was divided into six roughly equal lots, with three residential lots fronting North Main and three lots fronting First Street, and the rear lot line down the middle of the block being parallel to North Main. Under the ownership of Stanley Mills, in preparation of future expansion, the parcels making up the block were reconfigured into their present-day layout. The three houses along First Street were relocated, and the western parcels recombined taking an additional third of the depth from the two lots on North Main leaving the northeast corner lot deeper than the center and southeast corner lot.

The irregularly shaped plan of the warehouse gains its form from the maximizing of the lot, being a 100% build out to the property lines, with only a minimally recessed loading dock along West Parkwood Ave that's roughly equal in depth to a standard-length freight truck trailer. Fronting West Parkwood Avenue, the warehouse is built out to the right-of-way with the exception of the truck dock which is deeply recessed in the facade. It is a tall one-story building, which with the addition of an elevated foundation along the West and South. The elevations are uninterrupted except for the bays accented with slender pilasters that reinforce the verticality. It is constructed of smooth concrete tilt-up panels and features an open wood joisted ceiling with rows of slender steel posts supporting steel beams to provide an open interior plan. A very low-pitched roof slopes away from the firewall parapet on each side at the roof, and toward the west and east. The edge of the roof is bound by stepped parapets on the north and south. With the exception of the inset truck dock wall and single-leaf personnel door at the southeast corner, the exterior façade is void of fenestrations.

The principal façade faces south and overlooks West Parkwood Avenue and facing the northern façade of Plant No.1 on the 1947 addition. The grade slopes down from east to west, so that it is level with the floor on the east of the building, but about six feet below the floor on the west. At roughly two-hundred-seventy-five feet long, the south facade is divided three distinct sections. The left and right elevations are comprised of bays of concrete panels indicated by full height supporting pilasters that are twenty inches wide extending out six inches from the wall, which is also typical for the rest of the building. The pilasters are roughly twenty-five feet apart and extend from grade along the foundation to the top of the parapet, however the panels are denoted by the distinct seam at the floor line. A door that is boarded over is centered in the last bay on right elevation toward the east. The slightly overlapping roof membrane caps the parapet. There are four bays on the left and five bays on the right, isolated by a deeply recessed truck dock that is about 50 feet deep and sixty feet wide between the two front elevations. The parapet is the tallest flanking each side of the dock area for two bays, then stepping down every two bays. The parapet of the last bay on the right is lower than the others. The east and west walls of the dock are divided into three bays of concrete panels, mirroring the detailing on the front. The dock elevation however, features a running bond of brick veneer wall supported by concrete block. The color of the brick, complements the hue of the unfinished concrete panels. Four wooden garage doors, eight feet wide and four feet apart, are centered on the elevation. A concrete stoop that leads to a single-leaf personnel door is on the right at the end of the elevation. A continuous horizontal metal canopy is supported by cantilevered steel brackets, between the doors, tied back to the wall on the end with slender steel rods.

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The east elevation follows the property line and is divided into two sections of repetitive pilasters denoting bays of concrete panels. The grade continues to rise toward the north from the southeast corner up to about half the height to the roof. The bottom of the roof slope is denoted by a box gutter that spans the elevation. The left elevation is one-hundred-fifty feet long and divided into ten equal bays. The facade steps back about seventy-five feet toward the west across three bays with a parapet wall, then continues another eighty feet across five bays with the guttered roofline. The north elevation adjacent to Rhyne Street is a parapet wall and extends for about one-hundred-ninety feet across eight bays. The grade slopes down from its present height, to the lower grade below the foundation wall on the west. The first bay on the east is noticeably smaller than the others. The parapet is steep with the third and fourth bays front the east being the tallest, the steeping down each way every two bays. The two bays on the right are lower than the others. The west elevation is two-hundred-thirty foot expanse of concrete articulated into fifteen bays denoted by pilasters that terminate at the bottom of a continuous box gutter bound by the parapet walls of the north and south. The grade is mostly flat except for dropping down a few feet toward the right three bays.

On the interior, upon entering at the door located at the truck dock, the space opens in all directions. Within the warehouse, the thick concrete walls are painted, and the floors are concrete in good condition. A concrete block firewall runs north-south and in-line with the west wall in the truck dock recess, dividing the interior into two separate warehouse spaces. The space on the west of the firewall is rectangular and divided into fifteen bays defined with three rows of evenly spaced narrow round four-inch steel posts. The larger space to the east, is irregular in plan but extends the same bay spacing and structural layout as the space on the west. There are six rows of posts at the bay adjacent to the dock wall, however at the portion of the space that is adjacent to the dock on the east, four rows of evenly spaced posts are shifted over from the others to be more centered in the space. The grid layout reflects the location of the pilasters on the exterior. A plywood ceiling is supported by wood joists bearing on continuous span of steel "I" beams at each of the bays which, with the vertical posts, form the framing system. The steel "I" beams have a very slight pitch which follows the slope of the roof above. There are no other rooms present, except a set of concrete block partitions about ten foot square and nine feet tall that occupy the floor at the third bay back from the dock wall in the bay adjacent to the firewall. The southeast corner of the partitioned footprint is against the steel post of the bay, and has an office on the east, with two toilets on the west.

6. Warehouse No.5, c.1946

Contributing Building

On the southern portion of the complex, west of Plant 2 Mill No.2, across the southern driveway access, Warehouse No.5 fronts along West Church Street. While the construction date is listed as 1946 on the 1953 Fire Insurance map, the exact lineage is not clear. At this time, the lot that the warehouse is situated on was a corner lot and still part of the mill village that was associated with Lola Mills. The present drive way is actually a remnant of what used to be a public road, First Street, which ran north-south in the mill village, connecting Broad Street (now West Church) back to Ridge Street and flanked on either side with mill houses. In late 1948, First Street was abandoned and the mill houses relocated for construction of the present parking lot. The

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warehouse in its early design also contained paint storage and a carpenter shop in addition to warehouse space, so these features along with a construction date of 1946, and the fact little if any improvements were occurring at Lola Mills, places its original function as being related more to the 1947 addition than any other use.

The warehouse is situated about seventy feet from the western wall of Plant 2 Mill No.2 (1920 Lola Mill), and twenty-five feet to the north of West Church Street. The rectangular plan one-story, barrel-roofed, unfinished concrete block warehouse is roughly 100 feet by 50 feet and oriented on a north-south axis. The exterior walls of all the elevations are accented with pilasters that project out eight inches extend up twelve feet in height, and reflect the structural form of the building. The barrel roof is covered by a rubber membrane that is internally supported by six steel bowstring trusses. The building is bilaterally symmetrical about its axis, and north-south elevations are mirrored as are east-west. Grade around the warehouse is roughly equal to the interior floor height.

On the south facade, the building sits a few feet above West Church Street and a loading dock is recessed four feet down into the grade so that truck beds are level with the internal floor. The north and south elevations feature a curved roof with minimal eaves. The exterior walls all around the perimeter are roughly twelve feet high, and the curved gable peak is about five feet higher than the end walls. A roughly three feet tall by four feet wide window, a couple feet down from the centered ridge has been covered with plywood. At the center of the façade at its base, a door opening that is twelve feet tall and twelve feet wide frames double-leaf sliding doors with vertical corrugated metal siding are located on the interior face of the exterior wall. Each-leaf of the opening slides in opposition, outward toward the adjacent exterior wall. Pilasters nearly three feet wide, flank each side of the door opening and extend up to the height of the door and end walls. Pilasters nearly three feet wide also accent the corners of the building. The elevation on either side of the door opening contains an off-center pilaster, sixteen inches wide, that is about two feet closer toward the door than the end of the building. The right elevation of the building is painted stucco up even with the top of the pilasters from the door to the end wall. While the south elevation doors open to a loading dock, the north façade opens to a concrete slab at grade. The east and west elevations are similarly identical. Pilasters nearly three feet wide divide the façade into seven roughly equal bays. The eave of the barrel roof extends to the face of the pilasters. Sixteen inches from the top of each bay, a window opening that is thirty-two inches tall and four feet wide, accents each one of the bays. The openings contain wood sashes that are two panes tall and four panes wide. The east façade is covered in painted stucco.

The building is entered from the exterior through the sliding doors on the north and south. The floor plan is entirely open with seven equal bays, denoted by the steel framed bowstring trusses with riveted connections that bear at the pilaster locations on the exterior of the east-west elevations. Wood joists span between the trusses and bear on wood a wood plate on top of the curved trusses, supporting wood sheathing that's curved with the roof form. The floor is concrete and the perimeter walls are unfinished concrete block. A transparent partition, constructed of wood studs support a six-by-six-inch woven wire mesh fencing that separates the last two bays on the north where a carpentry shop was once located on the west with paint storage on the east

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portion. A wood-framed door of fencing and plywood is located in the center of this partition. The other five bays to the south, are open warehouse space.

7. Warehouse No.6, 1948

Contributing Building

Shortly after the acquisition of Lola Mills by Stanley Mills in December of 1947, a wood framed metal clad warehouse was erected directly across Broad Street (now West Church) from Warehouse No.5. The warehouse was not present on the 1938 aerial, nor an early fire insurance map that was surveyed in early 1948. However, by May of 1948, this warehouse was included in site plans being prepared for the parking expansion behind Plant No.2. A grainy dark rectangular form of the warehouse is present in an April 1948 aerial, lacking the reflective appearance of a metal roof, so it may have actually been under construction at that time.

The warehouse is situated about ninety-five feet from the southern wall of Warehouse No.5 (across the street), and thirty feet to the south of West Church Street. The rectangular plan one-story, gable-roofed, building rests on a concrete block foundation and is roughly eighty-by-forty feet and oriented on a north-south axis. The exterior walls of all the elevations are clad in an early twentieth-century metal siding with very narrow corrugations. Exposed rafter tails, arrested by a narrow fascia board form narrow overhanging eaves that support a roof clad in the same metal panels that encompass the exterior walls. The building form is bilaterally symmetrical about its axis, although north-south elevations are slightly different as are the east-west. Grade around the warehouse slopes down about thirty inches from the east to the west, exposing the concrete foundation wall around the perimeter, with the east grade being nearly level with the interior floor, but being elevated above grade on the west.

The exterior walls are roughly twelve feet tall. The east is void of any fenestration. The north-south elevations feature a gabled roof form, with a louvered wood vent about two feet tall at the peak. The north façade contains a door opening that is located at the center and roughly eight-by-eight feet. Double-leaf sliding doors with vertical corrugated metal siding are mounted on the exterior wall with each-leaf of the opening sliding in opposition, outward toward the adjacent exterior walls. Metal cladding has been rolled over the top door track to protect it from elements, and a wood timber serves as a bumper on the wall at its base. These doors are not mirrored on the south. A portion of the cladding on the south has been replaced with modern metal siding, from roughly the center toward the west, wrapping around to the west elevation for about a third of its elevation toward the south. On the west façade, another set of double-leaf doors identical to the one on the north, is located at the center with an elevated concrete platform, about twelve feet wide, projecting out nearly twenty feet from the building.

Accessing the interior from the platform doors, the floor plan is an entirely open with full span stick-built wood trusses spanning the space to wood studs framing the exterior walls. Wood purlins span between the trusses and bear on the trusses, supporting the metal cladding above. The floor is concrete and the perimeter walls is an exposed wood frame. Horizontal wood furring on the exterior face of the studs that supports the exterior cladding, accents the interior face of the exterior walls, creating a uniform grid that is minimally interrupted by a single triangle of diagonal bracing on the south and east walls. A wide continuous wooden plate spans the north-

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south axis of the building bracing the bottom of the wood trusses, with wooden plates also spanning the building corner to corner creating a distinctive "X" on the ceiling above. The space is pleasantly day-lit from skylights created from eight translucent fiberglass roof panels, evenly spaced every few bays, with four evenly spaced on each side of the roof in opposing layout. Open wood racks extend out from the wall along the entirety of the east interior wall, and northwest corner of the west wall to the door opening.

8. Concrete Reservoir, c.1919-25

Contributing Structure

While the initial construction date of the reservoir is not known, there's distinctive evidence that is present in the December 19, 1919 Southern Textile Bulletin photograph. A pronounced "hump" and slight view of edge of a raised wall is visible in the foreground, with an elevated gable roof form in the background (where the well house is presently located), between a hose house and tree at the center of the image. An elevated tank in the background was a rainwater tank, and would not have met the standard of fire protection of the period, solely on its own and pump driven/gravity reservoirs were sometimes used in lieu of large above ground tanks for fire protection. Also, a newspaper article from September 27, 1912 reported, "Stanley Manufacturing Co...is in a heap of trouble" with a "drill which is being used to bore a deep well is stuck 90 feet from the surface" so the reservoir was likely present in 1912.¹⁵² However by the time of a 1938 aerial, the reservoir in its present plan.¹⁵³

The rectangular reservoir, is parallel to North Main Street and centered in the yard and centrally located and about fifteen feet away from the front façade of Lola Mill No.1. The older portion of the rectangular reservoir about eighty-by-thirty feet and oriented on a north-south axis. Initially, the reservoir was about eleven feet deep but was raised a few feet, around 1925, when another thirty-by-thirty feet reservoir was added on the north. According to fire insurance maps, the larger reservoir, contained about 140,000 gallons used for fire protection, and the smaller reservoir of 53,800 gallons used primarily for the Dye House. Since the Dye House, located in Warehouse No.2 was added in 1925, it is likely the reservoir improvements corresponded to this period.

Irregular spaced reinforcing buttresses around the perimeter, that give its distinct appearance today, are not present in oblique aeries during the 1940s and may have been added in the 1960s or after. A "Deep Well House" indicated in the 1953 Fire Insurance maps and early photos that was located at the southwest corner is no longer present.

During the 1948 renovations to the Lola Mills property, after the Stanley Mills acquisition, a one-story flat roofed purification building was added to the reservoir on the west. The purification building is twenty-one-feet-by-thirteen feet, is constructed of red brick, laid in six-and-one common bond with Flemish header courses maintaining the construction of its larger earlier predecessors in the complex. Its north façade wall is aligned with the internal division wall between the large and small reservoirs. A single-leaf personnel door is centered in the south

¹⁵² "Drill Stuck in Deep Well", *The Charlotte News*, September 27, 1912, p.2.

¹⁵³ Gaston County GIS, *1938 Historical Aerial Photo*. No scale. U.S. Department of Agriculture Atlas Databases. Washington, D.C: Gaston County Tax Office, GIS-Mapping Division: 2021.

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elevation, and three-foot square louvered metal vent is centered in the south façade, with the same head height as the door. The interior was not accessed due to dense vegetation at the time of the nomination.

9. Water Tower, c.1920

Contributing Structure

A 60,000-gallon elevated water tank, presently located in a yard bound by Warehouse No.2 on the north, c.1975 Picker House on the east, and Warehouse No.4 on the south, first appears in early photos featuring the 1920 Mill No.2 and was likely built as part of the fire protection that accompanied the addition. The tank is approximately twenty feet in diameter, constructed of fabricated steel panels with riveted connections, and has a base about sixty feet and top at about ninety-three feet above grade. A conical steel roof caps the structure. A vertical pipe leads from the base of the tank above to a pump house below at grade.

The skeletal tower frame is constructed of lattice channel legs, which connect at the base of the tank at its inverted dome base where a narrow catwalk rounds the perimeter, then span outward a distance to about half its radius and rest on concrete foundations that are mostly below grade. The legs are braced with two vertical panels of tensile rod cross-bracing and horizontal steel angle braces at mid-span of its supporting legs.

A rectangular plan, one-story, flat roofed pump house building was initially centered at the base of the tank piping at grade and oriented on an east-west axis. The original pump house was roughly twelve-by-nineteen feet, then extended east another fifteen feet during the 1948 renovations to the Lola Mills property, after the Stanley Mills acquisition. The pump house, is constructed of red brick, laid in six-and-one common bond with Flemish header courses maintaining the construction of its larger earlier predecessors in the complex. A single-leaf personnel door is centered in the west elevation, and three-foot square louvered metal vent is centered in the east façade, with the same head height as the door. The interior was not accessible at the time of the nomination.

10. Water Tower, 1947

Contributing Structure

A 100,000-gallon elevated water tank, located adjacent to the 1947 Addition of Plant No.1, just off the northwest corner and was built as part of the fire protection that accompanied the addition. The tank is approximately thirty feet in diameter, constructed of fabricated steel panels with riveted connections, and has a base about ninety-four feet and top at about one hundred seventeen feet above grade. A conical steel roof caps the structure and a vertical pipe leads from the base of the tank above to a concrete pier below with a steel manhole cover to access the drainage piping. A plate at the base of the tower pipe indicates it was fabricated by Chicago Bridge & Iron Company.

The skeletal tower frame is constructed of lattice channel legs, which connect at the base of the tank at its inverted dome base where a narrow catwalk rounds the perimeter, then span outward a distance to about half its radius and rest on pyramidal concrete foundations that are mostly below grade. Drawings on file, indicate that C.C. Hartmann designed the foundations. The legs are

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braced with three vertical panels of tensile rod cross-bracing and horizontal lattice channels at the panel points of its supporting legs.

11. Smokestack, 1947

Contributing Structure

A tall, tapered, round smokestack, is located adjacent to the 1947 boiler room of Plant No.1, and off centered toward the east on its north façade, a few feet west of the 1947 addition west elevation. It was built as part of the other improvements that accompanied the addition and shares an elevated concrete platform with a Coal Silo. Towering above the complex, the smokestack is constructed of red brick in repeating header courses, and is approximately fifteen feet in diameter at its base then tapering to about six feet in diameter at its top, about one-hundred-fifty feet above its foundation. Metal bands reinforce the structure below the corbelled cap about one quarter down in its total height. Drawings on file indicate the foundation was designed by J.E. Sirrine.

12. Coal Silo, 1947

Contributing Structure

A vertical, cylindrical, coal silo is located adjacent on north of the 1947 boiler room and west of the smoke stack. It was built as part of the other improvements that accompanied the addition and shares an elevated concrete platform with the smoke stack. Extending in height about half the total of the smokestack, it constructed of glazed terra cotta tile in varying hues of brown, and is approximately sixteen feet in diameter. A concrete cap extends a few inches out from its form at the top. A vertical metal coal elevator extends up its north elevation to a coal handling equipment platform that extends about ten feet above the top of the silo. Drawings on file convey it was designed by J.E. Sirrine, nearly identical and in conjunction with another silo at Cleveland Cloth Mills in Shelby, NC.

13. Cooling Tower Platform, 1947, c. 1985

Non-Contributing Structure

An elevated concrete platform that once supported a metal cooling tower that was associated with the air conditioning A/C in the 1947 addition, is located roughly 75 feet west from the loading platform, and ninety feet north of the north façade of the Waste House. A fifty-by-fifty feet Duke Power substation, six feet adjacent on the south, built in 1947 and served Plant No.1 is no longer present. However, the fencing around the substation lot remains. The concrete platform, at its base, is the only original feature of the tower remaining from its 1947 construction. Based on drawings by C.C. Hartmann, the square plan concrete platform is roughly twenty-one-by twenty-one feet and actually an elevated cistern with walls twelve inches thick that once held water for the system about two feet deep. The cistern is supported by eighteen-inch square legs at each corner, then others at mid-span and center. Thickened concrete beams about twelve inches deep span between the legs.

The original metal cooling tower was enormous, and fully occupied the foot print of the platform and extended upwards about fifty feet in height, about two thirds the height of the coal tower. The present cooling tower is more modern and appears to be a replacement after 1984,

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occupying one half of the footprint on the north of the platform and less than one quarter the original height.

14. Switch Tower, 1947

Contributing Structure

Immediately south of the substation lot, about sixteen feet from the 1947 Waste House and forty-eight feet west from the boiler house, the Switch Tower is mostly obscured by vegetation. While it appears also like an outhouse, it was built in 1947 and actually served as access to a tunnel that ran under ground to the Boiler House where cables ran from the substation to the switchboard in the Machine Shop.

The rectangular plan, one-story, shed-roofed, structure is fourteen feet tall and roughly seven-by-eight feet and oriented on an east-west axis. The exterior walls are constructed of red brick, laid in six-and-one common bond with Flemish header courses maintaining the construction of its larger earlier predecessors in the complex. A single-leaf personnel door is centered in the west elevation, and two feet tall by three feet wide square louvered metal vent is centered in the east façade, up high in the wall. The interior was not accessed due to the door being locked, but according to drawings by C.C. Hartmann and J.E. Sirrine, a ships ladder on the interior at the door leads down to a tunnel that has about six feet of clearance and carried racks of wires along its southern wall from the substation to the Machine Shop.

Integrity Statement

The Stanley Mill complex maintains integrity of location as the plant occupies its original site on the individual parcels that create the 12.77-acre site historically associated with the industrial operation. Modest wood frame houses, originally the company-owned villages, associated with the separate mill operations, remain north and west of the mill complex, further preserving integrity of setting, feeling, and association. The mill complex, smokestack, water towers, and accessory warehouses display original design elements, materials, and workmanship. The mill complex demonstrates character-defining features of late-nineteenth and early-to-mid-twentieth-century industrial architecture. The demolition of the circa 1892 boiler house, smoke stack, and water tower on the front of Mill No.1 in association with improvements after the Lola Mills acquisition did not diminish the complex's significance. Obsolete building removal and replacement is common as textile manufacturing operations adapt to evolving technology.

The interconnected one and two-story manufacturing and storage buildings with additions, constructed of brick, steel and wood, erected from the 1892 through 1962 embody efficient, functional, and fire-resistant industrial construction. Original structural systems—concrete foundations, brick walls, and steel I-beams, posts, and trusses—are all intact. Roof configurations range from flat in most areas to gabled in warehouses, and a barrel-vault in the 1946 Warehouse No.5. Although large multi-pane steel sash windows have been removed or bricked in on some earlier buildings, these types of changes are common among textile mills as the adaptations necessary for air-conditioning took place in the mid-twentieth-century. Steel sash windows remain in the 1925 warehouse No.2 and on the rear of Plant No.1. Buildings and structures constructed from the mid-1940s onward appear much as they did over eighty years

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ago. Original early engineered metal-buildings appear as they did from there construction in the mid-1940s. A 1957 tilt-up concrete warehouse is also relatively unchanged.

The individual mill buildings of the complex retain their open plans and interior finishes original to each construction phase and are substantially intact. Manufacturing and storage areas have brick walls, some of which are painted, and poured concrete floors. The roof structure is fully exposed in all areas. In a few areas, frame partition walls create offices, laboratories, conference, and storage rooms of various sizes, as well as a cafeteria, commissaries, and restrooms. Most appear to be original or had been erected by the mid-1960s. The offices on the front of Plant No.1 have modern finishes installed, however interior walls are in their original configuration. While brick veneers along the façade of Stanley Creek/Stanley Manufacturing/Lola Manufacturing Mill #1 (1A), was added after 1967¹⁵⁴, as well as the south elevation of Lola Gingham Mills (3A) windows being infilled, this was only a small portion of the mill's overall surface area and does not significantly impact the integrity.

Statement of Archaeological Potential

The Stanley Mill complex is closely related to the surrounding environment and landscape. Archaeological deposits, such as debris that accumulated during operation of the mill, underground infrastructural components such as water pipes and drainage features, materials associated with former mill housing areas along First Street, and other remains which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the property. Information concerning worker health, nutrition, and quality of life, environmental transformations during industrial development, and the effects of technological change on work culture and daily life, as well as details of construction processes and the operation of the mill can be obtained from the archaeological record. Therefore, archaeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the property. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is likely that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.

¹⁵⁴ J.P. Stevens, Stanley, NC, Oblique Aerial Photo, February 1967, Uncredited.

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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 grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1892-1972

Significant Dates

1892, 1918
1923, 1941, 1947
1950, 1962

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

J. E. Serrine and Company, 1941-1947
Hartmann, Charles C., Architect, 1946-1949
Simmons, Fred, Architect, 1957
Ben Smith and associates, Architect, 1962
Herman Sipe & Company, Builder, 1941
C.M. Guest and Sons, Builder, 1947

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Stanley Mill is locally significant under National Register Criterion A due to its industrial importance in Stanley, Gaston County, North Carolina. All of the companies whom operated at the mill made notable contributions to the growth of Stanley as the city's largest employer throughout the time that the mill was in operation. Although the town has a long history that dates back to the Colonial period, one writer espoused that "its modern history starts with the building of the Stanley Creek Cotton Mills." The complex consists of sixteen one-story and two-story brick buildings with a 1946 barrel roof warehouse and frame storage building built at the complex's southern boundary during the period of significance, is the only textile mill in Stanley and is among the largest and best preserved textile mills in Gaston County. The Stanley Mills' period of significance is 1892, the approximate date the first mill building for Stanley Creek Cotton Mill was built, and 1972. The period includes the significant dates (1892, 1918, 1923, 1941, 1947, 1950, and 1962) that were associated with building additions. Each of these additions were necessitated by the growth of the companies who owned the mill, which provided the largest source of employment in Stanley during some of the most difficult economic times in our nation's history. While the complex's industrial function, expansion, and improvements continued after 1972, the period following is not of exceptional significance.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Background and Industry Context

Stanley is a town in the northeastern portion of Gaston County, North Carolina. The town of Stanley and Stanley Creek are named for an early settler bearing the name Stanley who came to this area of what is today Gaston County panning for gold in the creek that now bears his name.¹⁵⁵ The region was originally settled by Germans and Scotch-Irish settlers, and around the 1840s, a Lutheran Church and a Methodist Campground, both now gone, were established.¹⁵⁶ Agriculture remained at the center of Gaston County's economy from its formation in 1846, with the county's principal crop being corn, along with cotton, oats, and wheat.¹⁵⁷

Some of the county's antebellum industries included The High Shoals Iron Works and Mountain Island Manufacturing Company, which produced bricks at a site in northeast Gaston County.¹⁵⁸ The brick factory at Mountain Island was replaced in 1848 by the Mountain Island Mill, which manufactured yarn and woven cloth,¹⁵⁹ ushering in the birth of the textile industry in the county that would flourish for the next 150 years. With two rivers and numerous large creeks, the county

¹⁵⁵ "Town of Stanley", <https://www.gastongov.com/162/About-Gaston> (accessed December 2021).

¹⁵⁶ Kim Withers Brengles, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County North Carolina* (Gastonia, North Carolina: Commercial Printers Inc. 1982), 231.

¹⁵⁷ Brengles, 10.

¹⁵⁸ Brengles, 10.

¹⁵⁹ Brengles, 10.

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had a wealth of excellent water power sites, that was attractive for this type of industrial development coupled with growing population. This led to the establishment of the Woodlawn ("Pinhook") Mill in 1852, located about one-mile north from present day McAdenville on the west bank of the Southfork river, and the Stowe's Factory, which was located on the east bank of the South Fork River three miles South of present day Cramerton.¹⁶⁰ With the creation of these three mills, Gaston County was ranked fourth in the state in the number of cotton mills in 1860.¹⁶¹ These mills were successful, without the benefit of nearby railroads, but were required to utilize horse teams to haul to Charlotte for railway transport, or ship down the Catawba River to markets in South Carolina.¹⁶² Sadly none of these foundational, antebellum mills are extant. Mountain Island Mill was lost in the 1916 flood, and the site is now occupied by Duke Energy's Mountain Island Dam.¹⁶³ Woodlawn (Pinhook) Mill and the Stowe factory, unlike Mountain Island Mill or later mills, were both multi-storied wood structures rather than brick. Woodlawn (Pinhook) was destroyed by fire in 1889, with the site today possessing ruins, and noted as "Cultural Attraction" on the South Fork Trail of the Carolina Thread Trail. The Stowe Factory was largely abandoned and rotted by 1902 and the site is now inundated by the formation of Lake Wylie.¹⁶⁴

The area known as the Stanley Creek neighborhood, had very little development or prosperity, until the arrival of the Wilmington, Charlotte & Rutherford Railroad tracks in 1860.¹⁶⁵ The train tracks stretched into the area from the west out of Mecklenburg County, crossing north of the Tuckaseegee Ford and into Gaston County.¹⁶⁶ Lincoln County iron magnate Robert Alfred Brevard (1799-1879), son of Lincoln County iron industry pioneer Alexander Brevard, gave the railroad company 167 acres which was located 10 miles northwest of the Catawba River for the construction of a depot. The railroad company built the depot and it was called Brevard Station in honor of Robert A. Brevard's land donation.¹⁶⁷ In addition to the construction of the depot, the town and railroad also built a general store, and a post office was established.¹⁶⁸ Construction of the railroad was halted during the Civil War, and the community became a center of departure for Confederate soldiers from the surrounding area.¹⁶⁹ It was not until the end of Reconstruction that the rest of the county and western Piedmont were able to reach beyond the limits of what was considered a rural, isolated region.¹⁷⁰

While the destruction of the Civil War had crippled the south and stopped the growth of any industries, the period following reconstruction would lead to major growth in the across the

¹⁶⁰ Ragan, 19.

¹⁶¹ Brengles, 10.

¹⁶² Brengles, 10.

¹⁶³ Ragan, 18.

¹⁶⁴ Ragan, 23-25.

¹⁶⁵ "1850 to 1860 - Coming of the Railroad", <https://www.brevardstation.com/1800d.html> (accessed December 2021).

¹⁶⁶ Ibid.

¹⁶⁷ "Was Once "Boom Town": Brevard Station Name Now Stanley", *The Gastonia Gazette*, October 17 1950.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid.

¹⁶⁹ Brengles, 231.

¹⁷⁰ Brengles, 10.

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county, and usher in the industrial revolution in ways that had previously escaped the south. To help the former Confederacy's devastated economy, the U.S. Congress passed a law exempting federal taxes on cotton textiles manufactured in the same district where the cotton was grown, which lead to many New England textile manufacturers closing their mills and moving south for the tax exemptions as well as the abundance of cheap labor.¹⁷¹ Coupled with the excellent sources of water power and access to the growing railroad network, Gaston County was in the perfect position one of the major textile centers of the United States. Prior to the Civil War, the textile industry had been centered primarily in New England, and the migration of the textile industry to the South, also came more "structural" influence in organization and management of the mills. One type of organization was the "Rhode Island System" in which a mill owned by a partnership was built at a source of water power, and managed by one of the owners, with villages constructed by the mills to house entire families whom made up the labor force.¹⁷² Alternatively, some mills utilized the "Waltham System," where joint stock corporations built mills sharing a power canal system with boarding houses built to house the young women who formed the work force.¹⁷³ While the "Waltham System" was prevalent before the Civil War, the "Rhode Island System" has had the strongest influence,¹⁷⁴ leading to the many "Mill Villages" across Gaston County as well as the rest of the region.

The revival of the textile industry post-Civil War in Gaston County, began with the Mount Holly Cotton Mills (1874), Wilson and Moore Cotton Mill (1874), McAden Mills (1881), and Tuckaseegee Manufacturing Company (1883), all of which were located next to a water source for power. The Mount Holly Cotton Mill is still standing, located on the east bank of Dutchman's Creek about one quarter mile north from downtown Mount Holly, and is a National Register property. Wilson and Moore Cotton Mill (Spencer Mountain Mills), was located on the west bank of the Southfork River where the community of Spencer Mountain still contains remnants of the mill village, however the mill was demolished in 2005 with the dam and canal still present for generating electricity. McAden Mills is located in present day McAdenville, however most of the mill complex has gradually been demolished over the past decade, with Mill Number 3 along with about half of the surrounding mill village still extant along Main Street, and the ornate façade of Mill Number 2 with its pair of conical-roofed turrets flanking a central tower still remaining. Tuckaseegee Mills, demolished in 1997, was located on the west bank of the Catawba River where present-day Tailrace Marina is located, which bears an homage to the former mill site and extant head and tail race that was once a section of a larger canal system that connected through to South Carolina's network prior to being utilized by the mill.¹⁷⁵

¹⁷¹ William S. Powell ed., *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2006) <https://www.ncpedia.org/textiles-part-2-rise-north-carolina>, (accessed August 2022).

¹⁷² Kim Withers Brengles, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County North Carolina* (Gastonia, North Carolina: Commercial Printers Inc. 1982), 14.

¹⁷³ Brengles, 14.

¹⁷⁴ Kim Withers Brengles, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County North Carolina* (Gastonia, North Carolina: Commercial Printers Inc. 1982), 14.

¹⁷⁵ Ross Yockey, *A Century Of Quality: American & Efird people* (Charlotte: McMillan and Associates, 1991), 143.

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Despite the presence of a steam-powered mill in Concord in 1840, with others across North Carolina built afterwards, it was not until the establishment Gastonia's Gastonia Cotton Manufacturing Company in 1887 that Gaston County had its first. With the establishment of this eighth mill, a deviation began from what had been the norm in the use of water power of the county's previous seven mills, that gave way to rapid growth. Gaston County mills increasingly were being established next to railroads, instead of water, and by 1890, the number of textile mills in Gaston County had nearly doubled to eleven, and was to double again by the end of the next decade.¹⁷⁶

The community known as Brevard Station was officially incorporated in 1879.¹⁷⁷ As the town's population increased with the movement of farmers to the area, so did the construction of stores, churches, and schools. By this time, the railroad, formerly known as the Wilmington, Charlotte & Rutherford Railroad, traveled through the town on more regular intervals, connecting to Lincolnton that gave access to other points westward. This railroad was renamed the Carolina Central Railroad, and eventually became known as the Seaboard Air Line Railroad by 1900¹⁷⁸. In 1880, the town had a population of seventy-five permanent residents, and after the 1890 census was conducted the town had increased their population to over three hundred. In 1893, the town charter was amended and the town was renamed Stanley Creek¹⁷⁹ after a creek that empties into Dutchman's Creek southeast of the town and then into the Catawba River.

Stanley's growth is tied to the organization and building of the Stanley Creek Cotton Mills near the heart of downtown Stanley which was the thirteenth in the county.¹⁸⁰ The Stanley Creek Cotton Mills was chartered on April 17, 1891, by thirty local influential men with the mission of building and promoting their town. Some of the incorporators include Jacob Jenkins, J. T. Abernethy, August Farley, R. M. Jenkins, E. L. Pegram, H. J. Jenkins, R. H. Abernethy, Albertus Rhyne, L. L. Smith, M. B. Smith, J. C. Rankin, M. J. Rhyne, and D. C. Finger.¹⁸¹ The company purchased land from A. Farley and his wife on April 11, 1891, and from J. T. Abernethy on November 20, 1891.¹⁸²

According to historian Robert Allison Ragan, the mill's first managers had limited experience with textile management, and it was not until they invited Abel P. Rhyne to join the team as a mill manager that that the mill finally enjoyed some success.¹⁸³ After Rhyne joined the mill's

¹⁷⁶ Kim Withers Brengles, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County North Carolina* (Gastonia, North Carolina: Commercial Printers Inc. 1982), 15.

¹⁷⁷ "1850 to 1900", <https://www.brevardstation.com/1800g.html> (accessed December 2021).

¹⁷⁸ "Carolina Central Railway", <https://www.ncpedia.org/carolina-central-railway> (accessed December 2021).

¹⁷⁹ "1850 to 1900", <https://www.brevardstation.com/1800g.html> (accessed December 2021).

¹⁸⁰ Ragan, 52.

¹⁸¹ Robert Allison Ragan, *The Textile Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina, 1848-2000: One Hundred Mills and the Men Who Built Them* (Charlotte, N.C.: R.A. Ragan & Co. (P.O. Drawer 6158, Charlotte, 28207-0001, 2001), 52.

¹⁸² Gaston County Deed Book 419, Page 329, and Deed Book 430, Page 248.

¹⁸³ Ragan, 52.

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management team, he was elected president. E. L. Pegram, Jr., was elected secretary and treasurer, and J. G. Moore was the mill's superintendent.¹⁸⁴

Abel P. Rhyne organized or was involved with the operations of textile mills in Gaston County as early as 1869 with the Woodlawn Mills on the South Fork of the Catawba River. The firm under which he conducted his textile operations was Lineberger, Rhyne, and Company.¹⁸⁵ After selling Woodlawn Mill in 1873, he built the Mount Holly Cotton Mills, which was completed in 1875, and in 1883 he started the Tuckaseegee Mills. He started the Albion Mills in 1890 (now the City of Mount Holly Town Hall), and became a part of the Stanley Creek Cotton Mills in 1892.¹⁸⁶

The incorporation and building of the Stanley Creek Cotton Mills were impactful for Stanley, as well as Gaston County. It provided the impetus for textile manufacturing in the northeastern part of Gaston County, and it was the thirteenth cotton mill building in Gaston County. The mill was the fourth steam-powered mill, and Ragan calls it the "fourth "inland" town, following Gastonia, Cherryville, and Dallas, to receive a major industry."¹⁸⁷ The steam power technology used at these mills is responsible for the growth and development that these towns experienced during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The exact date on which the Stanley Creek Cotton Mills began its operations is not known, but the *Charlotte Democrat* reported on February 12, 1892, that "the cotton mill at Stanley Creek will be in operation in the course of three months."¹⁸⁸ On December 29, 1893, the *Charlotte Observer* addressed the operations of area mills with a brief note that "the Stanley Creek and Albion Mills have been running on full time for about two weeks."¹⁸⁹ The company's first building was a two-story brick factory near the Carolina Central railroad tracks, and it used a steam system for power.¹⁹⁰ The mill employed fifty-five workers who were operating 2,080 spindles.¹⁹¹

In its infancy, the company's founders were proponents of the organization and successful operation of the Southern Cotton Spinners' Association, and was represented by the mill's superintendent, W.B. Moore, in pushing for the association to become a permanent organization and encouraging other mills to attend an early meeting of the association in Charlotte beginning in 1894.¹⁹² The *News and Observer* of Raleigh reported on November 28, 1895 that the Stanley Creek Manufacturing Company had been producing warps and skein and cone 20s to 26s on 2,300 spindles day and night, and was running "double time" with other Gaston County mills in

¹⁸⁴ Ragan, 52.

¹⁸⁵ *The Charlotte Observer*, 18 August 1918.

¹⁸⁶ Ibid.

¹⁸⁷ Ragan, *The Textile Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina*, 53.

¹⁸⁸ *The Charlotte Democrat* (Charlotte, North Carolina), 19 February 1892.

¹⁸⁹ "Mill Notes" *The Charlotte Observer*, 29 December 1893.

¹⁹⁰ Ragan, 53.

¹⁹¹ Ibid.

¹⁹² "Mills and Manufactures", *News and Observer* (Raleigh, North Carolina), 19 January 1894.

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which Abel P. Rhyne was involved to meet the demands for their popular products.¹⁹³ The mill had an annual consumption of 1,000 bales.¹⁹⁴ By May 27, 1897, the mill was reported to have a capital of \$40,000, with 4,160 producing spindles, with 2,200 bales of cotton produced, 105 employees, and an annual payroll of \$14,500.¹⁹⁵ They increased their capacity with new machinery that included five revolving flat cards, two railway heads, two drawing frames with six deliveries each, one slubber and two intermediate speeders, and ten spinning frames of 208 spindles each.¹⁹⁶

The growth during the first decades of the twentieth century improved dramatically in the years of World War I, with the increased need for cloth for military uniforms resulting in a boom period for the textile industry throughout the country lasting until shortly before the Depression.¹⁹⁷ Despite the flood of 1916 damaging or destroying many of the county's early mills located along its waterways, that year saw the establishment of eight new mills, and by 1921 the number of cotton mills in Gaston County increased from forty-six to seventy-five.¹⁹⁸

In 1910, Abel P. Rhyne and his associates purchased the Stanley Creek Cotton Mills for \$52,000, and renamed it Stanley Manufacturing Company. One year later, citizens of the town sent an application to the North Carolina State Legislature to change the town's name, and by an amendment to the town's charter renamed the town Stanley, the name that the town is known by today. The Stanley Manufacturing Company was incorporated on March 16, 1910, by A. P. Rhyne, his son, H.A. Rhyne, his son-in-law, J. M. Archer, and W. H. Sumner of Stanley for the purpose of manufacturing cloth, yarns and various types of fabrics.¹⁹⁹ The company's capital stock was \$100,000, with \$65,000 subscribed. Their operations continued with 4,160 ring spindles and 1,680 twister spindles. The newly named company elected A. P. Rhyne as president, and John M. Archer as treasurer. In 1912, the company made a second order for the J. W. Fried Hygrosso Humidifiers.²⁰⁰ As one of sixty-three cotton mills in Gaston County at this time, the Stanley Manufacturing Company was touted as having "thrifty and steady-going operatives, and they have established a record for the mill of which few others can boast."²⁰¹ Superintendent Archer told *The Evening Chronicle* that he "has not had an average of two families moving away a year," and most of the mill's workers had been with the mill since it was

¹⁹³ "Abel P. Rhyne: The Industrious and Alert Wizard of the Mount Holly Spindles," *News and Observer* (Raleigh, North Carolina), 28 November 1895.

¹⁹⁴ "184 Cotton Mills: North Carolina Now Leads Every Southern State in Number of its Mills," *News and Observer*, 28 November 1895.

¹⁹⁵ "The Cotton Mills of Gaston County, May 27th, 1897," *The Gastonia Gazette* (Gastonia, North Carolina), 27 May 1897.

¹⁹⁶ Ragan, 53.

¹⁹⁷ Kim Withers Brengles, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County North Carolina* (Gastonia, North Carolina: Commercial Printers Inc. 1982), 16

¹⁹⁸ Kim Withers Brengles, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County North Carolina* (Gastonia, North Carolina: Commercial Printers Inc. 1982), 16

¹⁹⁹ Ibid.; "Today's Charters: Five Charters and One Amendment Filed this morning," *The Raleigh Times* (Raleigh, North Carolina), 16 March 1910.

²⁰⁰ *The Charlotte Observer*, 9 June 1912.

²⁰¹ "Stanley's Help To Gaston's Mill Record; Mill at Little Village Is Model Affair and Shows Credit to the Community," *The Evening Chronicle* (Charlotte, North Carolina), 21 January 1913.

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built in 1892.²⁰² The mill workers had been with the mill for at least five years, and nearly all of them moved from local farmers to work in the mill.²⁰³

The mill and its early operations were documented in a great number of newspaper articles from the time period. In 1913, the mill had fifty employees who "live in the enjoyment of all of the privileges of country life," with good gardens, raising chickens and cattle for all of their meat products.²⁰⁴ The articles praised the workers for being "religious church-going people, and attend regularly upon the services of the four churches of the little village of Stanley."²⁰⁵ Mill owners took pride in promoting mill workers from among their ranks, and in 1913 all of the mill's overseers had been promoted from lower positions. Many of the men had started at the mill as young boys, and received their promotions because it was the mill's custom to "promote the young men who make the best records and show the most interest in their work."²⁰⁶

In 1917, they installed new machinery and painted both the building's interior and exterior to improve the appearance.²⁰⁷ Additionally, the company added porches to their employees' houses and made "fine water" in the form of running water to all houses available to all employees.²⁰⁸ A. P. Rhyne and his team operated the mill successfully for eight years, and they sold the Stanley Manufacturing Company to Robert Fulton Craig (1878-1946) of Mount Holly, John C. Rankin and Sloan M. Robinson in 1918.²⁰⁹

Craig, Rankin, and Robinson changed the name of the mill to the Lola Manufacturing Company. The company received its charter from the North Carolina Secretary of State on April 11, 1918 with \$100,000 authorized capital and \$22,000 subscribed.²¹⁰ The officers of the company at this time were John C. Rankin, president; F. M. Springs, vice-president; R. F. Craig, secretary, treasurer and superintendent. They had a capital stock of \$100,000 and the plant employed 100 people in the manufacturing of 20s single and ply yards on 4,160 spindles.²¹¹ According to Historian Robert Ragan, Craig was regarded as "one of the most expert yarn manufacturers in the South," and for a number of years was the general superintendent of C. E. Hutchison's three mills in nearby Mount Holly, N.C. Craig was so highly regarded in the area that the mill stocks sold for \$125 per share before they started the mill under the new name. Ragan also pointed out that although Craig had previously been superintendent at three other mills in Mt. Holly, this was the first time that he had been involved in textiles as an owner.²¹² Craig first worked at the Mountain Island Mill in 1895 under W.T. Jordan. From Mountain Island, Craig worked at the

²⁰² Ibid.

²⁰³ Ibid.

²⁰⁴ Ibid.

²⁰⁵ Ibid.

²⁰⁶ Ibid.

²⁰⁷ "Stanley Creek Mills Have Made Many Improvements," *The Charlotte Observer* (Charlotte, North Carolina), 18 November 1917.

²⁰⁸ Ibid.

²⁰⁹ Ragan, 53.

²¹⁰ Ibid.

²¹¹ "Lola Manufacturing Co.," *Southern Textile Bulletin*, Thursday, December 19, 1918.

²¹² Ragan, 53.

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Iceman Mill in McColl, South Carolina for six months, and then moved back to Mount Holly and worked with the Nims Manufacturing Company.²¹³

The *Southern Textile Bulletin* from December 1918 reported that the mill had been "entirely overhauled and a great many improvements made under Craig and company's new management."²¹⁴ The *Bulletin* reported that the "mill buildings are modern in construction, with plenty of windows, well ventilated, heated and lighted, with special attention given to proper humidity of the atmosphere."²¹⁵ Additionally, the new owners insured that sanitation was a priority and "the mill is kept spotless."²¹⁶

Like other mill operations during this period, the manufacturing companies housed their employees in nearby mill villages. In 1918, the Lola Manufacturing Company had 350 employees inhabiting their mill village. Although the *Southern Bulletin* from 1918 did not tell how many houses were in the mill village, it did outline the following:

*"The houses are comfortable, and modern in construction, and while no city water works or sewerage is found here, there is an abundance of pure water and sanitary conditions are watched carefully. The grounds about the cottages are enhanced by the planting of trees and flowers, while gardening is encouraged. The mill families are progressive and industrious, many of them are saving out of their good paid them by the mill. Ten own their homes and a number have invested liberally in Government securities. The children of the village attend the town school and the educational facilities are excellent. The mill has made several donations toward the support of the school and the several churches in which their operatives are interested."*²¹⁷

By the end of 1920, the leadership of the Lola Manufacturing made a number of improvements to the mill operations and the accompanying mill village. The October 14, 1920 edition of *Mill News* explained that mill leadership completed a new 10,000-spindle mill, and, with the existing mill, the total of spindles equaled 14,000 spindles.²¹⁸ The 1920 mill addition was built adjacent to the older building and housed the production of the yarns, cones, tubes, skeins and warps, which were reported to be "among the best on the market."²¹⁹ The new brick building measured 278 x 78 feet and was built at a cost of \$85,000.²²⁰ This building held an additional 6,000 spindles that were used to manufacture No. 40s to 60s comber Peeler yarns which cost \$245,000.²²¹ The company changed to a modern power source during this ownership transition and installed a \$25,000 power plant for an electric drive. With two plants, the company boasted 10,080 spindles with 150 workers.²²²

²¹³ "Lola Mfg. Co., *Mill News*, 14 October 1920.

²¹⁴ Ragan, 53.

²¹⁵ Ibid.

²¹⁶ Ibid.

²¹⁷ Ibid.

²¹⁸ "Lola Mfg. Co., *Mill News*, 14 October 1920.

²¹⁹ Ibid.

²²⁰ Ragan, 53.

²²¹ Ibid.

²²² Ibid.

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Improvements in the way of renovations were made to the mill houses, while newer houses were built that were "bungalow in type of construction and are modernly equipped."²²³ To accommodate mill workers who did not live in the mill village, mill leaders instituted a jitney service. The mill employed both boys and girls who lived on local farms as far away as seven miles.²²⁴ By 1920, Craig employed his son, Eugene Craig, to assist him with the mill's operations in "one of the South's biggest manufacturing interests."²²⁵

The company continued their improvements to the Lola Manufacturing Company with the addition of a separate weave mill in 1922. Known as Lola Manufacturing Company, No. 3, this new plant increased the number of plants in Gaston County at that time to 100.²²⁶ The new plant had a weaving department and a dye plant, and it manufactured a high grade of finished colored cotton goods with 250 looms.²²⁷ Organized as the Lola Gingham Mills and built to adjoin the Lola Manufacturing Company spinning plant, the company was organized as a separate corporation on October 4, 1922.²²⁸ This 100 x 260-foot brick building received its machinery in February 1923.²²⁹

The company appointed Hesslein and Company of New York as their selling agents for the Lola Gingham Mills where they produced fine dress gingham.²³⁰ The directors of the Lola Gingham Mills held their first meeting in the office of Lola Manufacturing Company on October 23, 1922 to finalize the details of the organization and to elect their officers.²³¹ On December 21, 1922, the *Charlotte News* listed in the "Mill Construction" section of the paper that the mill was being erected, and on January 4, 1923, the *Lincoln County News* reported that "the Lola Gingham mill with 250 looms is being erected."²³² Craig started the gingham mill with W.P. Hornbuckle of Gibsonville as the superintendent of weaving. Craig and Hornbuckle employed an English-made cast iron dyeing machine for the dyeing of warp yarns on dye beams. When the machine was not able to dye fine gingham, they made some changes to the machine that would solidify a partnership that resulted in the organization of another enterprise by Craig and Hornbuckle - - Gaston County Dyeing Machine Company.²³³ Once they finished the modifications to the English-made dyeing machine, they found that they had made an entirely new and different piece

²²³ Ibid.

²²⁴ Ibid.

²²⁵ Ibid.

²²⁶ "100th Textile Plant for Gaston County Is Organized at Stanley", *The Gastonia Gazette* (Gastonia, North Carolina), 3 October 1922.

²²⁷ "Short News Items," *The Lincoln County News* (Lincolnton, North Carolina), 5 October 1922.

²²⁸ Ragan, 53.

²²⁹ "There Were 90 and 9 - Now There Are 100," *The News And Observer* (Raleigh, N.C.), 14 October 1922.

²³⁰ "Cotton Goods Markets," *Textile World*, (New York) Vol. LXII, No. 15, October 7, 1922, 75.

²³¹ "Items of Local News from Stanley Creek," *The Lincoln County News* (Lincolnton, North Carolina), 26 October 1922.

²³² "Mill Construction," *The Charlotte News* (Charlotte, North Carolina) 31 December 1922; "Mill Construction in 1923 for Carolinas to total \$40,000,000," *The Lincoln County News* (Lincolnton, North Carolina) 4 January 1923.

²³³ Gaston County Dyeing Machine Company, "About Us", http://www.gaston-county.com/about_us.htm (accessed August 2022).

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of equipment and applied for and received patents on the first beam dyeing machine made in America.

Gaston County Dyeing Machine Company was incorporated on July 10th, 1925²³⁴ and began their new company in a two story 30' x 60' building located at the corner to the South of West Plum and South Main Street in Stanley,²³⁵ with five or six employees.²³⁶ The operations expanded and by 1955 occupied 35,000sf in three buildings²³⁷ with the connected buildings renovated to the appearance they maintain today. By 1957, they completed another \$600,000²³⁸ expansion on the adjacent block, opposite side of Thompson Street, that was "three bays, each 40 feet wide and 275 feet long"²³⁹ and increased the floor area by another 33,000sf.²⁴⁰ The Charlotte Observer boasted "*The world's largest manufacturer of textile beam and package dyeing machinery, the company, which now hires 140 persons, was founded in 1921 by Robert F. Craig when the Lola Mill began making its own dyeing machines*".²⁴¹ In 1961, the company expanded again with another \$300,000 addition in 1961.²⁴² The company, had built out as much as it was able to in Stanley, so in 1966, Gaston County Dyeing Machine Company announced they would build a new 75,000sf plant for the manufacture of a new jet dyeing machine on N.C.27 between Stanley and Mt. Holly²⁴³ The central manufacturing plant, dyeing equipment, engineering facilities and general offices remained in Stanley²⁴⁴, and the new plant near Mt. Holly that was completed in 1967²⁴⁵ would bring the total number of employees to 305.²⁴⁶ In the 1970s the company merged operations to the Mount Holly location which now encompasses over 340,000sf²⁴⁷, but retained ownership of the Stanley properties until 2002.²⁴⁸ As of this date, both of the plants remain and retain much of their original appearance including the signage from the original operations, with the one near Mount Holly still occupied by Gaston County Dyeing Machine and the other in Stanley occupied by Gaston Systems, Inc.

The Lola Gingham Mills did not achieve the success that Craig and other incorporators had hoped. Robert Ragan states that after the company's organization "it soon became evident that consumer preference had changed, and fabric buyers and converters began requiring wide fabric

²³⁴ "New Corporations", *The News and Observer* (Raleigh, North Carolina), July 11 1925, p.12

²³⁵ "Business And Industry Progressive in Gastonia", *The Charlotte Observer*, April 24, 1927, p.6

²³⁶ "Gaston County Dyeing Machine Co. Supplies Textile Markets of World," *The Gastonia Gazette*, February 21 1955, p.14G

²³⁷ "Congratulations Gazette," *The Gastonia Gazette*, February 21 1955, p.7F

²³⁸ "A Simple Sign, A Friendly Place", *The Charlotte Observer*, October 7 1962, p.1B.

²³⁹ "Gaston County Machine Company Completes New Assembly Plant," *The Gastonia Gazette*, August 30 1957, p.7F

²⁴⁰ "Carolinas' Economy Continues Growth", *The Charlotte News*, September 9 1957, p.4A

²⁴¹ "A Simple Sign, A Friendly Place", *The Charlotte Observer*, October 7 1962, p.1B.

²⁴² Ibid.

²⁴³ "Stanley Company Plans Expansion", *The Charlotte News*, July 12 1966.

²⁴⁴ Ibid.

²⁴⁵ Gaston County GIS, *Parcel #178068, #222804, #133992 Tax and Building Information*: Gaston County Tax Office, GIS-Mapping Division: 2022.

²⁴⁶ "Stanley Company Plans Expansion", *The Charlotte News*, July 12 1966.

²⁴⁷ Gaston County Dyeing Machine Company, "About Us", http://www.gaston-county.com/about_us.htm (accessed August 2022).

²⁴⁸ Gaston County Deed Book 3485, p.241

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specifications."²⁴⁹ Ragan states further that "the firm did not have the necessary funds with which to re-equip Lola Gingham Mills with new looms, so Robert Craig, who had come into working control of both companies, decided to put the gingham mill into bankruptcy sometime prior to 1926²⁵⁰ and closed the plant.²⁵¹ This was also likely related to a lawsuit filed against them in May of 1924²⁵² by Hasslein and Company, their selling agents, whom also acquired the mill at auction in 1926. However, by October of 1927, R.F. Craig and associates had required the mill,²⁵³ so it is reasonable to think that with the new success of Gaston County Dyeing Machine company, that Craig was simply trying to cut the current losses with the gingham mill, and focus investment in his new company, rather than updating with someone else's equipment. Shortly thereafter, in November of that year, The Lola Gingham Mill was merged once again, into a single operation controlled by Lola Manufacturing Company.²⁵⁴

The name of Lola Manufacturing and Lola Gingham had prevailed in Stanley for a little over one decade, until in 1930, officers of Lola Manufacturing sold all of the assets of the Lola Gingham Mill to Katterman-Mitchell Company of Paterson, N.J. on April 28, 1930, for \$75,000.²⁵⁵ Katterman had leased the plant from Lola Manufacturing for over a year with an option to purchase.²⁵⁶ The firm that became Katterman-Mitchell was started by silk manufacturer, August Frederick Katterman, who was born in Frankenburg, Saxony, Germany, on March 26, 1862.²⁵⁷ Katterman's involvement with textiles began as a young apprentice in the industry, and as a youth traveled through Germany and Switzerland learning the art of weaving.²⁵⁸ He spent time in Lyons, France working in their world famous silk mills, and, upon returning to Frankenburg, he worked at his father's mill and taught night classes on weaving at a local school.²⁵⁹ At the age of twenty-six, in 1888 he came to the United States, and after a year obtained a position with Ross and Baker, silk manufacturers in Dover, New Jersey²⁶⁰. After gaining respect for his superior skill in this industry, he become superintendent of the Grimshaw Silk Mills in Paterson, New Jersey.²⁶¹ After a prolonged trip to Germany, as well as the loss of the Grimshaw Mills to a fire, Katterman purchased from the Grimshaw Mills forty-eight looms that had previously been operating at the Grimshaw Mills.²⁶²

Katterman received a \$5,000 loan from William Ballin, his first employer in the United States, and paid back the loan in one year. His first independent operations were held at a mill that he rented, and he built his business with a great work force that included two of his brothers from

²⁴⁹ Ragan, 53.

²⁵⁰ Gaston County Deed Book 204, p. 532

²⁵¹ Ibid.

²⁵² "Brokers To File Injunction Suit With Judge Webb", *Asheville Citizen Times*, May 20 1924, p.1.

²⁵³ "Stanley Mills Are Sold", *The Charlotte News*, October 24 1927, p.1

²⁵⁴ "Lola Company Votes To Purchase Property", *The Charlotte Observer*, November 20 1927, p.4-1.

²⁵⁵ Ragan, 166.

²⁵⁶ "Lola Mills At Gastonia Has Been Sold," *Burlington Daily Times*, 1 April 1930.

²⁵⁷ Winfield Scott Downs, *Encyclopedia of American Biography: New Series*, Volume 11, page 147-148.

²⁵⁸ Ibid.

²⁵⁹ Ibid.

²⁶⁰ Ibid.

²⁶¹ Ibid.

²⁶² Ibid.

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Germany. It has been espoused that his "most vital move in building up his business was his alliance with James Mitchell, a silk designer of British birth."²⁶³ Their partnership terminated only after the death of James Mitchell. At the time of Katterman's death on December 30, 1937, Katterman was the owner of six silk mills in different parts of the United States, which included Port Jervis, New York; Kingston, New York; Scranton, Pennsylvania; Stanley, North Carolina; and Columbus, North Carolina.²⁶⁴

The former gingham mill operated as Katterman-Mitchell silk mill during one of the most turbulent periods in our nation's history. During the tumultuous years of the Great Depression, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sought to help the economy rebound by putting into place a number of programs aimed at providing jobs for the unemployed. One of his programs under the New Deal plan was to provide mill workers a minimum wage of \$12.00 a week, in addition to allowing them to meet, discuss their working conditions, and pay, without disruption from their employers. Known as Textile Codes, they were ignored by many mill owners. In addition to strikes and movements to organize and join Textile Workers Unions in Stanley because Katterman-Mitchell did not acknowledge the textile codes, Katterman-Mitchell also experienced strikes at their mill in Kingston, New York because they had adopted a cotton code but not a silk code²⁶⁵ that would offer the same protection to silk workers, that other textile workers now had.

Although many of mills in small towns struggled or closed down during the depression, others textile-related businesses survived. The Katterman-Mitchell Mill not only suffered for nine years, partially because of the depression, they eventually stopped production in Stanley in 1939. From 1939 to 1941, the mill that was operated by Katterman-Mitchell was vacant.²⁶⁶

In 1941, a group of investors, headed by former North Carolina Governor O' Max Gardner, including J. W. Gardner of Shelby, A. B. Quinn of Shelby, and C. E. Baxter of Greensboro, purchased the plant that was formerly the Lola Gingham / Katterman-Mitchell Mill and announced plans for an addition to be designed by J.E. Sirrine & Co.²⁶⁷ At this time, Gardner was also the head of the Cleveland Cloth Mills Company in Shelby, N.C. The new corporation was called Stanley Mill, Inc., and they received their charter on June 18, 1941, with an authorized capital of \$500,000.²⁶⁸ The following year, Cleveland Cloth Mills had 748 common shares, Carter Fabrics had 747 common shares, S. Slater & Sons had 748 common shares, and J. P. Stevens & Co. had 1,500 preferred shares.²⁶⁹ By January 1942, the company renovated the main part of the mill, built an addition, and produced spun rayon began with 10,080 spindles.²⁷⁰ In addition to the production of rayon yarn, Stevens introduced at their combined Stanley plants a new way to produce worsted yarn on machinery that had been historically used to make cotton

²⁶³ Ibid.

²⁶⁴ Ibid.

²⁶⁵ "Picketing Ceased at Silk Mill Here: Katterman-Mitchell Plant on Cornell Street Working Under Cotton Code as No Silk Code Has Been Adopted Yet - Strikers Invade City but No Disorder Reported," *The Kingston Daily Freeman* (Kingston, New York), 23 September 1933.

²⁶⁶ "Old Textile Plant Sold", *The Charlotte News*, April 18, 1941.

²⁶⁷ Ibid.

²⁶⁸ Gaston County Corporations Book 7, p. 254

²⁶⁹ Gaston County Corporations Book 7, p. 348

²⁷⁰ J.P. Stevens & Company, (Unknown) *Stanley Plant*, Unpublished internal company document, p.1.

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yarn. To do this, Stevens had to make specially-built machinery, and they made a big change in the cost of producing worsted yarns. In 1946, the newly formed Stanley Mills, Inc. had become part of J. P. Stevens and Co., Inc. and they began the construction of a 70,000 square feet addition in 1947 for carding and spinning equipment.²⁷¹ By the end of 1947, the new addition was nearing completion.²⁷²

Organized labor had become an increasingly significant element in many industrial communities in the early twentieth century and Gaston County was no exception. Gastonia had become the focus of the National Textile Workers Union to organize labor in the South, and a strike occurred at the Loray Mill in 1929 with unrest resulting in violence and the deaths of the police chief and one of the strikers, garnering national attention.²⁷³ The following panic resulting from the strike, slowed attempts to unionize labor in the South, however strikes at other mills did occasionally continue and even Stanley was not isolated.

After the sale of the unsuccessful gingham mill to Katterman-Mitchell, Lola Manufacturing Co., whom still operated Mill No.1 & No.2, also fell on rough times during the depression and fell into receivership in 1932.²⁷⁴ In October 12, 1934, it was announced that R.F. Craig and associates had acquired the mill, rebuilt machinery, and was installing new equipment.²⁷⁵ The ownership would reopen as Lola Mills, Inc. of Stanley.²⁷⁶ Things were seemly quiet at the mill the next few years until 1938. However, nationally, the increased demand for policy regarding labor laws initiated a conference to be held regarding the National Labor Relations board and pending federal wages and hours legislation on February 2, 1938.²⁷⁷ R.F. Craig, outspoken about his opposition to wages and hours legislation, attended the conference to give a speech-pointing to the difference in living costs between the north and south, as well as in the city and country, fearing a nation-wide minimum wage would lead to inefficiency.²⁷⁸ This likely triggered attention by the Textile Workers Organizing Committee (TWOC), an affiliate of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), whom ironically became active in Stanley shortly thereafter.²⁷⁹ A few months later on April 4, one-third of the 140 workers at the Lola Mill went on strike, joining 50 other operatives at the Alba Twine Mills in Lincoln County in opposition to wage cuts at both mills, though picketing was peaceful.²⁸⁰ Many of the Lola Mill picketers had returned to work by the afternoon, according to some, staged more in sympathy with the Alba Mill workers than with conditions at Stanley.²⁸¹ However, the situation escalated a few day later when on April 6, warrants were issued for a truck driver at the mill for allegedly brushing against several

²⁷¹ Hartmann, Charles C., "Addition No.2 Stanley Mill, Carter Fabrics Corp.", Undated, ca.1947.

²⁷² "Citizens Bank Set To Expand," *The Gastonia Gazette* (Gastonia, North Carolina), 10 October 1947.

²⁷³ Kim Withers Brengles, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County North Carolina* (Gastonia, North Carolina: Commercial Printers Inc. 1982), 16.

²⁷⁴ Gaston County Deed Book 278, p. 632

²⁷⁵ "Force of Workers Overhauling Lola Plant Preparatory to Reopening", *The Charlotte Observer*, October 13 1934, 1.

²⁷⁶ Ibid.

²⁷⁷ "N.C. Business Men Attend Conference," *Asheville Citizen Times*, February 3 1938.

²⁷⁸ Ibid.

²⁷⁹ "Mill Workers in Two Plants Go On Strike," *The Charlotte News*, April 4 1938.

²⁸⁰ Ibid.

²⁸¹ "Mill Workers Back on Jobs," *The Charlotte Observer*, April 5 1938.

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picketers who had gathered to stop the shipment of yarn, but no injuries were reported.²⁸² The war years were mostly quiet, likely paled in comparison by all the news coming from the additions to the former gingham mill by Carter Fabrics next door. Then on December 26, 1947, H.M. Craig announced Carter Fabrics Corporation would be purchasing the Lola Mills, Inc.²⁸³, once again bringing all the buildings in the complex under one ownership.

J. P. Stevens and Company owned all of the stock in the company, which they bought in 1948.²⁸⁴ Stanley Mills, Inc. was dissolved in 1950, with Stanley Mills and Lola Mills merged into a single company.²⁸⁵ Almost simultaneously with Stevens' acquisition of thirty mills in the South that also included Cleveland Cloth Mills Co. in Shelby, the Ragan Spinning Mills in Gastonia, and Carter Fabrics Corp. in Greensboro. With these acquisitions, Stevens was the second largest textile operator in the country.²⁸⁶

With the additions completed in 1947, they employed an additional 200 operatives, which took their total workforce total at both Stanley plants to 735.²⁸⁷ In 1948, the plant was one of two local manufacturing firms that produced most of the three and three-quarter million pounds of textile items output in Gaston County on a weekly basis.²⁸⁸ The other firm, Threads, Inc. was one of the largest producers of sewing threads in the South, and employed over 3,000 operatives.²⁸⁹ Whereas J.P. Stevens Stanley operations consisted of Stanley Mills and Lola Mills., the other firm, Threads Inc., comparatively consisted of thirteen separate operations; Arkray, Arlington, Hanover, Mutual, Myers, Myrtle, Osceola, Pinkney, Rankin, Ridge, Seminole, Victory, and Winget,²⁹⁰ which were mills scattered all across the county. Thus, the combined Stanley plants would have been the largest single operation in Gaston County at that time and contributed one third of the total weekly output.²⁹¹

When J. P. Stevens began operating the mill, they invested two million dollars in the community and resulted in them building some of the new houses in Stanley which they sold to their employees.²⁹² They employed nearly five hundred people and had a weekly payroll of \$35,000. The growth of the town mimicked the growth of the mill. The town's population increased from 1,036 in 1940 to 1,545 in 1949.²⁹³

²⁸² "Strikers Try to Halt Truck," *The Charlotte Observer*, April 7 1938.

²⁸³ "Announce Sale of Lola Mills," *The Charlotte Observer*, December 27 1947, 2.

²⁸⁴ "Stanley Mills' Name Discarded," *The Gastonia Gazette* (Gastonia, North Carolina), 1 May 1950.

²⁸⁵ "Stanley Mills' Name Discarded," *The Gastonia Gazette* (Gastonia, North Carolina), 1 May 1950.

²⁸⁶ Ragan, 54.

²⁸⁷ "Opens To Public On Friday: Industrial Exposition Preview Is Scheduled For Thursday Evening," *The Gastonia Gazette* (Gastonia, North Carolina), 20 October 1948.

²⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁹¹ *Ibid.*

²⁹² "Was Once "Boom Town": Brevard Station Name Now Stanley", *The Gastonia Gazette*, 17 October 1950

²⁹³ "Growth of Stanley In Ten Years Is Marked by Great Improvements" *The Gastonia Gazette* (Gastonia, North Carolina), 18 July 1950.

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During the 1950s, Stevens' Stanley plants were the first in the United States to produce synthetic yarn made from solution-dyed fiber. This process generated a colorfast yarn that proved invaluable for draperies and other fabrics because it kept them from fading when exposed to ultraviolet light. By 1955, there were two branches of J. P. Stevens in Gaston County, one was in Stanley and the other was the Ragan Spinning Division near Gastonia. The Stanley Mill Division of J. P. Stevens was labeled as "one of the unique mills in Gaston County."²⁹⁴ The mill was filled with modern machinery that produced yarn of a variety of synthetic and natural fibers. At this time, over 700 people worked at both plants, and the annual payroll exceeded \$2,000,000.²⁹⁵ The company boasted that they conducted a variety of training programs for their employees, supervisors, and operators, and the level of their payroll enabled their employees to purchase homes, modernize the homes, and provide "better opportunities for family life, recreation, and education."²⁹⁶

According to the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, in 1950 the number of workers in the US Textile Industry was around 1.23M, dropped to around 900,000 in the mid-sixties, then actually increased back to around 1M until 1973.²⁹⁷ Simultaneously, the US Apparel Industry had 1.2M workers in 1950 and held steady until 1962 then increased to a peak of about 1.42M workers in 1973.²⁹⁸

With the Stanley plants focus on synthetics production, it closely followed the general trend in apparels (clothing) more so than textiles (towels, blankets, sheeting, etc.), that utilized more raw cotton and wool production. Synthetics were also used in furniture and automotive upholstery. Changes in product lines continued from time to time to adjust to market conditions and the Stanley plant had the ability to convert part of their spinning back and forth to cotton or rayon or other types of synthetics.²⁹⁹ Stevens continued to grow throughout the 1960s, and in 1962 built an addition to Plant 2 (Lola Mills No.2) which opened in June of that year and brought the total number of employees in Stanley to 765.³⁰⁰ With this new addition, the company had a total of 43,000 spindles, which made it one of the largest spinning operations in Gaston County in production capacity.³⁰¹ In May of 1966, J.P. Stevens announced a pay increase to employees at their Gastonia and Stanley plants, among others³⁰² following the national trend in apparel related production increases. In April of 1971, the Gastonia Gazette estimated there were as many as 140 textile plants in Gaston County with Gaston County still claiming the largest number of any county in the United States³⁰³ and textile manufacturing employing more than three fourths of all

²⁹⁴ Ibid.

²⁹⁵ "Stevens Owns Stanley Hills: Link in Textile Empire Contributes to Fast Growing Stanley Town," *The Gastonia Gazette* (Gastonia, North Carolina), 21 February 1955.

²⁹⁶ Ibid.

²⁹⁷ "Textile and Apparel Workers in the US 1950-2003", U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington D.C.

²⁹⁸ Ibid.

²⁹⁹ Ragan, 54.

³⁰⁰ "A Simple Sign, A Friendly Place", *The Charlotte Observer*, October 7 1962, 1B.

³⁰¹ Ragan, 54.

³⁰² "Mills Plan Pay Hikes In Gastonia", *The Charlotte Observer*, May 8 1966. p.1C.

³⁰³ "Mill Industry vast over Gaston", *The Gastonia Gazette*, April 17 1971, p.7E.

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manufacturing workers in the county.³⁰⁴ There were 700 employees at the Stanley plant and J.P. Stevens & Co. with all its Gaston County plants, was the largest employer in the county.³⁰⁵

After that all time high, increased production costs domestically from new environmental regulations to address air and water pollution combined with growing unionization among workers began to impact the textile industry.³⁰⁶ Lower production costs abroad, drove textile manufacturing into Asia, South America, and Central America.³⁰⁷ From 1974 to 1984, textile imports nearly tripled combined with the strengthening U.S. dollar meant domestically produced goods increased in price with imports growing to 43 percent of clothing purchased in the United States.³⁰⁸ The number of North Carolina's textile workers dropped from 293,600 in 1973 to 211,300 in 1986.³⁰⁹

By July of 1974, J.P. Stevens began cutting hours at several of its plants including Stanley, reducing the work week to 5 days down from 5 ½ or 6, in a trend that was being reflected nationally.³¹⁰ Production cut-backs due to a drop in yarn prices were blamed, however furniture makers were also beginning to cut working days, and other textile plants in Gastonia were laying off workers.³¹¹ Production continued to be curtailed through the rest of the 1970s and in December of 1981, Stevens began laying off workers at plants in Rock Hill and Greenville, South Carolina with others given two-week furloughs.³¹² Large layoffs eventually effected the Stanley plant in March of 1982, when Stevens announced it would idle 100 of the 600 workers there due to economic conditions, and the plant in Rock Hill would be closed.³¹³ Later that year, Stevens began to consolidate administrative offices in Charlotte and Greenville, cutting those workers benefits.³¹⁴ In June of 1984 Stevens closed its massive plant in Great Falls, SC and in February of 1985, the Robinson plant in Dallas, NC, the largest industry in that town, but gave those workers priority consideration for openings in Stanley and Gastonia plants.³¹⁵ Imports were cited as the reason.³¹⁶ By January 1986, J.P. Stevens the still the second largest textile publicly held textile firm,³¹⁷ began trying to sell its apparel division³¹⁸ which by 1988 led to a hostile takeover of the whole company.

³⁰⁴ Ibid.

³⁰⁵ "Once a Boom Town: Stanley Small but Alive", *The Gastonia Gazette*, April 17 1971, p.2G.

³⁰⁶ William S. Powell ed., *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2006) <https://www.ncpedia.org/textiles-part-3-mill-villages-labor>, (accessed August 2022).

³⁰⁷ Ibid.

³⁰⁸ Ibid.

³⁰⁹ William S. Powell ed., *Encyclopedia of North Carolina*, (Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina Press, 2006) <https://www.ncpedia.org/textiles-part-4-decline>, (accessed August 2022).

³¹⁰ "Mills may go back to 5 days", *The Gastonia Gazette*, August 9 1974, p.1B.

³¹¹ Ibid.

³¹² "J.P. Stevens to lay off 280 workers", *The Charlotte News*, December 16 1981, p.13A.

³¹³ "J.P. Stevens Layoff To Idle About 100 At Plant in Stanley", *The Charlotte Observer*, March 11 1982, p.1D.

³¹⁴ "J.P. Stevens not leaving, but worker benefits cut", *The Charlotte News*, July 23 1982, p.6A.

³¹⁵ "J.P. Stevens to Close Dallas Plant, Lay Off 120.", *The Charlotte Observer*, February 19 1985, p.2B.

³¹⁶ Ibid.

³¹⁷ "J.P. Stevens Closing Won't Drain Gaston Town's Treasury", *The Charlotte Observer*, February 19 1985, p.1B.

³¹⁸ "Merger Wave", *Asheville Citizen-Times*, January 19, 1986, p.2F.

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On March 14, 1988, Stevens accepted a buyout bid from Odyssey Partners, a private New York Investment firm for nearly \$1B, after turning down a prior bid from rival West Point-Pepperell.³¹⁹ This led to West Point-Pepperell, who was eager to capture Stevens as part of an ambitious expansion plan, countering with \$1.1B³²⁰, which further led to antitrust concerns aroused by the merger of the two textile giants.³²¹ To address those concerns, some of the plants would need to be sold to a separate company.³²² Attorney Generals in North Carolina, South Carolina, and New York joined in an investigation into the possible takeover of J.P. Stevens by West Point-Pepperell, and written complaints to the Federal Trade Commission.³²³ By April 25 that year, the FTC cleared the deal when an agreement was reached to split the company between three buyers, with West Point-Pepperell having the majority, NTC Group taking the five mills in Roanoke Rapids, N.C., and Odyssey Partners, whom had joined with former Stevens managers, negotiating the sale others.³²⁴ In May 1988 it was announced that JPS Textile Group had acquired the part of J.P. Stevens taken over by Odyssey Partners and oversee operations at 24 manufacturing plants in seven states, which included the plant in Stanley, NC.³²⁵ JPS Textile Group, then created five separate operating companies based on the each of the mills produced-auto products, fabrics and yarn, carpet, industrial fabrics, and elastomerics.³²⁶ JPS Acquisition Converter and Yarn Corporation acquired property on May 18, 1988,³²⁷ and changed the name to JPS Converter and Industrial Corporation³²⁸ as successor in interest³²⁹ around the time the company reorganized through bankruptcy in February of 1991.³³⁰

The US Textile and Apparel Industry had dropped to 690,000 and 1M respectively³³¹ when NAFTA was passed in 1994, which radically increased imports and further devastated an industry that was already in decline nationally resulting in numerous plant closings in North Carolina.³³² By 2002, the national figures had fallen drastically to 400,000 workers in the Textiles and

³¹⁹ "Stevens accepts cash buyout bid", Rocky Mount Telegram, March 15 1988, 2.

³²⁰ "West Point-Pepperell offers to sell five mills", Rocky Mount Telegram, March 25 1988, 1.

³²¹ Textile rival boosts bid to take over J.P. Stevens", The News and Observer (Raleigh, NC), March 25th 1988.

³²² Ibid.

³²³ "Thornburg: N.C. To Join S.C., N.Y. In Probing Stevens Takeover Attempt", The Charlotte Observer, April 13 1988, p.15C.

³²⁴ "Stevens accepts takeover bid from West Point-Pepperell," The News and Observer, April 25 1988, p.1A.

³²⁵ "New Textile company is a spinoff," Rocky Mount Telegram, May 24 1988, p.1.

³²⁶ Ibid.

³²⁷ Gaston County Deed Book 1914, Pages 243.

³²⁸ NorthCarolinaDB, "JPS Acquisition Converter and Yarn Corp.", <https://northcarolinadb.com/company/0227750/jps-acquisition-converter-and-yarn-corp/amp> (accessed August 2022).

³²⁹ Gaston County Deed Book 2096, Pages 459.

³³⁰ Company-Histories.com, "JPS Textile Group, Inc.", <https://www.company-histories.com/JPS-Textile-Group-Inc-Company-History.html>, (accessed August 2022).

³³¹ "Textile and Apparel Workers in the US 1950-2003", U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington D.C.

³³² William S. Powell ed., *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* (University of North Carolina Press, 2006), <https://www.ncpedia.org/textiles-part-4-decline> (accessed August 2022).

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500,000 in Apparels³³³ with approximately 100,000 jobs being lost in textiles and 70,000 lost in the apparel industry in the state alone.³³⁴

In June, 1999 it was announced that JPS Textile Group was closing the plant due substantial operating losses causing 340 workers to lose their jobs.³³⁵ The Stanley plant was sold in September 10, 1999, to Belding Hausman, Inc.³³⁶ a home furnishings company based in Lincolnton who also purchased JPS's Boger City plant in Lincoln County.³³⁷ Exactly year later, due to market conditions and higher costs, Belding Hausman closed its Stanley plants with the 68 remaining workers offered jobs at its Boger City plant and textile production stopped at this location after 109 years.³³⁸

On October 4, 2002, Belding Hausman, Inc. sold the mill and property to Four Wall Associates, Inc. of Charlotte.³³⁹ On November 5, 2004, Financial Guaranty Corporation acquired all of the property through foreclosure.³⁴⁰ On August 30, 2021 National Mills acquired the parcel associated with the Royster Warehouse on Parkwood Avenue. On June 22, 2022, the property was subdivided with the parcel historically associated with Plant No.1. sold to Birdstone, LLC. Financial Guaranty Corporation still owns all other remaining parcels.

This nomination uses the name "Stanley Mills" as it best reflects the property's historic significance to the Stanley community. Stanley Mills, Inc. was the name used when Carter Fabrics Corporation and Cleveland Cloth Mills, took ownership of Mill No.3, in 1941. Through the various additions and final acquisition of Lola Mills, Inc. in 1947, the name was attached to the complex. Even after J.P. Stevens purchased all remaining stock in 1950, and dissolved "Stanley Mills, Inc." the complex continued to be referred to in company documents as "Stanley Mills Division" of J.P. Stevens. The name had also been adopted in the community and was still often referred to as "Stanley Mills" in local newspapers through the twentieth century as recent as 1971.³⁴¹

³³³ "Textile and Apparel Workers in the US 1950-2003", U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington D.C.

³³⁴ William S. Powell ed., *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* (University of North Carolina Press, 2006), <https://www.ncpedia.org/textiles-part-4-decline> (accessed August 2022).

³³⁵ Ragan, 54.

³³⁶ Gaston County Deed Book 1914, Page, 0243, and Deed Book 2988, Page 0439, Gaston County Register of Deeds, Gastonia, North Carolina.

³³⁷ Ragan, 54.

³³⁸ Ragan, 54.

³³⁹ Gaston County Deed Book 3546, Pages 367-371. Gaston County Register of Deeds, Gastonia, North Carolina.

³⁴⁰ Gaston County Deed Book 4076, Pages 2276-2279.

³⁴¹ "Once a Boom Town: Stanley Small but Alive", *The Gastonia Gazette*, April 17 1971, p.2G.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated 13.50 acre property comprises six Gaston County tax parcels – 357 North Main Street, PIN # 3579434168, 5.44 acres; 361 North Main Street, PIN # 3579432645, 4.86 acres; 100 West Parkwood Street, PIN # 3579441040, 1.36 acres; 111 West Church Street, PIN # 3579424793, 0.7 acres; and one “No Address Assigned” parcel, PIN # 3579431179, 0.39 acres, attached on the west of 357 North Main Street; the northern most portion of 114 South Main Street, PIN# 3579428926, that occupies the full length of the eastern boundary of the 357 North Main Street parcel; – as well as the public rights-of-way that encompass West Parkwood Street between PIN #'s 3579441040 and 3579432645; and West Church Street between PIN #'s 3579434168 and 3579424793. The 114 South Main Street parcel is a thirteen-foot-wide strip that extends from the northeastern corner of 357 North Main Street to the southeastern corner of 220 South Main Street, and includes the frontage portions of older buildings and parcels that overlapped into the original Seaboard Airline Railroad one-hundred-foot right-of-way. This parcel was established on March 12th, 1976 through a donation of the right-of-way “to assist in the further development of the public welfare”.³⁴² This portion of 114 South Main Street, includes the portions of the nominated buildings that extend into this former railroad right-of-way. A heavy solid line delineates the National Register boundary. Scale: one-inch equals 100 feet.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated tract encompasses the acreage historically associated with the mill buildings and manufacturing complex and provides an appropriate setting.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: James Maynard
organization: RedClay Design
street & number: 4400 Park Road, Suite 320
city or town: Charlotte state: NC zip code: 28209
e-mail james@redclaydesign.com
telephone: 980-585-4998
date: December 14th, 2021

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

³⁴² Gaston County Deed Book 1182, p. 005

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- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Stanley Mill

City or Vicinity: Stanley

County: Gaston

State: North Carolina

Photographer: Jason L. Harpe / James Maynard

Date Photographed: February-June 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

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- 01 -1946 Warehouse, 1962 Spinning Addition, South Elevation, Camera Facing Northeast
- 02 -1948 Warehouse, North Facade, Camera Facing Southeast
- 03 -1962 Spinning Addition, Lola Mill No.2, South Elevation, Camera Facing Northwest
- 04 -1920 Lola Mill No.2, North Elevation, Camera Facing South
- 05 -1892 Stanley Creek Cotton Mill/Lola Mill No. 1, East Façade, Camera Facing Southwest
- 06 -1945 Office Addition, 1965 A.C. Room, East Façade, Camera Facing Northwest
- 07 -1965 A.C. Room, 1947 Stanley Mills Addition, East Façade, Camera Facing Southwest
- 08 -1957 Royster Warehouse, South Façade, Camera Facing North
- 09 -1947 Stanley Mills Addition, West Elevation, Camera Facing Southeast
- 10 -Building Complex, West Elevation, Camera Facing Southeast
- 11 -1947 Waste house, 1943 Yarn Storage Addition, West Elevation, Camera Facing North
- 12 -1923 Lola Gingham Mill, 1951 Covered Passage, West Elevation, Camera Facing North
- 13 -1925 Warehouse, 1949 Warehouse, West Elevation, Camera Facing Southeast
- 14 -1920 Lola Mill No.2, West Elevation, Camera Facing Southeast
- 15 -1920 Lola Mill No.2, Interior, Main Level, Camera Facing West
- 16 -1892 Stanley Creek Cotton Mill/Lola Mill No. 1, Interior, Camera Facing Southeast
- 17 -1923 Lola Gingham Mill, Interior, Camera Facing Camera Facing Southwest
- 18 -1947 Stanley Mills Addition, Interior, Main Level, Camera Facing Northwest
- 19 -1946 Warehouse, Interior, Camera Facing North
- 20 -1957 Royster Warehouse, Interior, Camera Facing Northwest

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

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- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

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