

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Trenton Cotton Mills

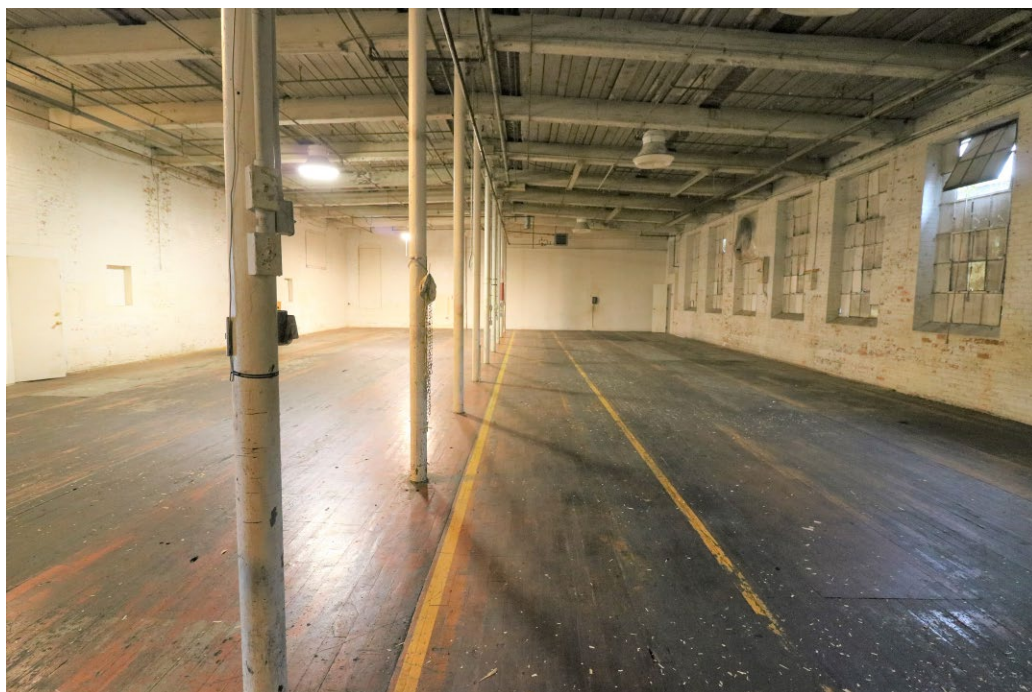
Gastonia, Gaston County, GS3221, Listed 11/3/2020

Nomination by Cindy Hamilton & Nathan Curwen, Heritage Consulting Group; Claudia R. Brown, N. C. State Historic Preservation Office

Photographs by Heritage Consulting Group, March and May 2020, October 2018



View of exterior, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2, south elevation, looking north.



Interior view, connector, looking west.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

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

zip code 28052

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Date of Action

Trenton Cotton Mills
Name of Property

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County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | private |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Local |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | public - Federal |

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | structure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | object |

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	0	buildings
0	0	site
2	1	structure
0	0	object
5	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

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Slow-Burn Mill Construction

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick
walls: Brick
roof: Synthetic
other: Wood

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Trenton Cotton Mills is a U-shaped one-and two-story mill building located at 612 West Main Avenue in Gastonia, North Carolina, as shown on Gaston County Tax Parcel No. 301165, 2.73 acres in size. Despite numerous alterations, Trenton Cotton Mills maintains a relatively high degree of integrity. The mill was constructed in three primary phases, with two happening in 1893 (Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1) and 1900 (Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2). A third phase took place in 1922 with the construction of a one-story connector located centrally on the site between Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1 and No. 2. A closer look at the building identifies Trenton Cotton Mills No. 1 and No. 2 as being composed of multiple rooms, each with a different function that was integral to the manufacturing process. Together, all three phases are functionally related and have been historically unified under the name Trenton Cotton Mills. A freestanding one-story office building erected ca. 1922 for the mill, stands at the southwest corner of the property. Four additional utilitarian resources are on the property: A one-story valve house and a small pump house stand east of the mill and another small pump house and a power sub-station stand west of the mill.

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable.)

Setting: Trenton Cotton Mills is located three blocks west of downtown Gastonia. The surrounding area is characterized by residential and industrial buildings. Located directly to the north of Trenton Cotton Mills is a small wooded parcel and beyond that a branch of the Norfolk Southern Railway line. North of the Norfolk Southern Railway line are one- and two-story residential units. Located one block to the south are a former Coca-Cola manufacturing plant and the Gaston Regional Chamber of Commerce. Directly west of Trenton Cotton Mills are two vacant lots and located two blocks to the west is the Budget Inn, a two-story late-20th-century motel. Located roughly three blocks to the east is the Gaston County Police Department, at the west edge of the city's central business district. The intervening blocks to the east contain a mix of small office buildings, a service shop, a large distributing company plant, a vacant house, and vacant lots.

Trenton Cotton Mills occupies a 2.73-acre site that fronts West Main Avenue to the south, North Trenton Street to the west, a small wooded area and the Norfolk Southern Railway line to the north, and an adjacent tax parcel to the east. The building is situated centrally on the site and is slightly set back from West Main Avenue by a concrete sidewalk and a small amount of green space. There are two parking lots, one located at the east, and one located at the west end of the parcel. Also located at the west end of the parcel is a ca. 1922 one-story brick building constructed as offices for the mill; a one-story valve house east of the mill that was built sometime between 1930 and 1950, a small pump house east of the mill and another one on the west side; and a power sub-station west of the mill. There are two courtyards located on the site: a partially enclosed courtyard and a small, fully enclosed courtyard. Both courtyards are utilitarian in character and feature overgrown greenspace. The fully enclosed courtyard features remnants of inoperable mechanical equipment.

The Mill (contributing building)

Trenton Cotton Mills is composed of three primary sections: Trenton Cotton Mills No. 1; Trenton Cotton Mills No. 2; and the connecting wing. Trenton Cotton Mills No. 1 and No. 2 are linked together at the north end of the complex by a series of one-story wings original to the mills' respective construction and, roughly fifteen feet from the north end, by the large connecting wing creating a small rectangular courtyard that is completely enclosed. All three major sections of the mill are of slow-burn construction consisting of load-bearing exterior

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walls of red brick laid in common bond, joists of heavy timbers, and interior supports of heavy timbers or metal. Ornament is limited to modest corbeling on one of the towers and at parapets.

Trenton Cotton Mills No. 1 is one story on a partial basement constructed in 1893 with a rectangular footprint approximately 50 feet wide and 237 feet long oriented north-south, small wings on the east side at each end, and a two-story tower on the each side of the building. The south wing contained a picker room and an opening room, while the north wing contained an engine room, a warehouse and shipping area projecting north beyond the engine room, and, extending east from these two units, a boiler house. Each of these units at the north end of the mill has a shed roof delineated by parapets. The east tower had a flat roof and water tank on top and the tower on the west side had a bellcast pyramidal roof. The east tower was removed in 1954 when a large addition that filled the space between the south wing and the 1922 connecting wing was built on a partially exposed basement. Probably at about the same time, the upper portion of the west tower was removed so that today it rises to slightly above the roof of the mill. A tall brick, square-in-section smokestack built at the same time stood close to the south side of the boiler room. Sometime between 1930 and 1950, a small addition was erected at the northwest corner of the mill, in the empty space created north of the main part of the mill by the warehouse and shipping section.

Trenton Cotton Mills No. 2 is two stories on a largely exposed basement constructed in 1900 parallel to and east of Mill No. 1 with wings extending west at each end and a crenellated tower on each side. The east tower was two-and-a-half stories and the west tower, with a larger footprint, was three stories. Ca. 1990, both towers were reduced in height to two stories with flat parapet roofs. The main, north-south portion of Mill No. 2 is approximately 55 feet wide and 165 feet long. The wing at the south end is two stories and originally contained an opener room on the first floor, a picker room on the second, and a dust room in the basement. Sometime between 1930 and 1950, a one-story opening room was added to this wing's south side at the level of the raised basement. As built in 1900, a two-story, one-bay-wide section, slightly recessed from the east wall of the mill and extending across its north elevation contained an elevator shaft and a space identified on Sanborn maps as a beltway. This unit connected to a tall one-story engine room projecting as a wing beyond the west wall of the mill. When Mill No. 2 was constructed, the boiler house at the east end of the north wing of Mill No. 1 was enlarged to connect to Mill No. 2's engine room in order to serve the entire plant. The enlarged boiler house extended beyond the north wall of Mill No. 2's engine house. In 1954, a tall one-story addition built across the north elevation of the elevator shaft, beltway, and engine room rendered the entire north elevation uniform in depth. Like Mill No. 1, all of the units north end of Mill No. 2 have shed roofs outlined by parapets.

A large one-story connecting wing built in 1922 spans the 150 feet between Mill No. 1 and Mill No. 2 on a partially exposed basement and is approximately 50 feet wide (north-south). The basement is under the eastern two-thirds of the main level. The smokestack was removed when this wing was built.

See Exhibit #5 for a plan showing the construction dates of each unit of the mill.

Exterior: All exteriors are brick. Roofs are low-pitched gables except for some of the small units at the north end of the complex that have flat roofs. Flat or simple stepped parapets delineate each unit. Overhanging eaves shelter plain rafter ends. Modern metal gutters with regularly-spaced downspouts are attached to the face of the eaves.

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Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1:

Unless otherwise noted, openings are segmental-arched with lintels of two rows of header bricks and sills of cast concrete. All of the original windows have been replaced with square glass blocks; some of the windows also have partial brick infill and inserts of metal vents.

The primary, west elevation has thirty bays, all in the original, 1893 mill, except for the three northernmost bays that are in the small addition built sometime between 1930 and 1950. The two construction dates are visibly demarcated by a variation in the roofline, with the 1893 section featuring the overhanging eaves of its shallow gable roof with modern metal gutters while the addition features a flat parapet roof with a corbeled brick cornice and rectangular openings. Each window opening was infilled ca. 1972 with a combination of modern glass block and brick. An oblong metal grille with diamond-shaped openings beneath each window provides ventilation to the crawl space. Located at the twelfth bay from the south is a one-bay bump-out that is the one-story remains of the west tower. The top of the tower with its pyramidal roof was removed ca. 1980. Located on the south façade of the bump-out/former tower is the primary entrance to Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, which features a historic double-leaf wood paneled door. Two additional secondary entrances are located near the north end of the elevation. Three loading bays mark this elevation, each fronted by a CMU loading dock. Two of the loading bays feature modern overhead doors (one sheltered by a fixed shed awning), while the third loading bay, in the small addition, features a large wood-framed door and a fixed shed awning sheltering the loading door and a personal door beside it. Several modern flat, removable signs are mounted in various locations on this elevation.

The north elevation consists of approximately fourteen bays.ⁱ Similar to the west elevation, evidence of original and later construction dates can be seen in changes in roofline: the 1893 sections (warehouse and shipping area and the taller boiler house) feature corbeled brick at parapets (originally stepped but now flat at the warehouse and shipping room) and overhanging eaves with modern metal gutters at the addition. The wall of the unit originally containing the warehouse and shipping room has been parged. A large modern sign mounted on the upper portion of the addition obscures the top of its three windows, which are flat-arched.

The south elevation consists of ten bays of windows and dates to the 1893 construction. The five western bays correspond to the stepped-parapet south end of the main building and the five eastern bays are in the wing originally containing the picker and opening rooms that extends to the east, topped on this elevation by the overhanging eaves of its shallow gable. The stepped parapet at the west half is capped by corbelling and shaped concrete coping and the eaves at the eastern half are faced with modern metal gutters. In the second bay from the east end, the top of the window has been altered from a segmental arch to a flat arch. The window at the far east end is wider and situated lower than the other nine windows and has a segmental-arched lintel of three courses of header bricks. Near the east end of the elevation, there is a metal louvered vent at the basement level. A removable modern sign obscures most of the third and fourth bays from the west end. From what little can be seen of the third bay from the west end, it appears to be wider and originally extended lower than the other bays and likely was a loading bay.

Much of the east elevation consists of the 1954 addition that fills in the space between the wing at the south end and the 1922 connecting wing (this obscures several bays of the 1893 construction). Within the narrow,

ⁱ A precise count of bays is not possible because the boiler house at the east end of this elevation was remodeled and enlarged to connect with the wing at the north end of Mill No. 2 when it was constructed in 1900, and the point at which the two mills were connected is not readily apparent.

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fully enclosed courtyard created by the connecting wing, the one or two original windows of the east elevation have been obscured by a small brick, shed-roofed addition of indeterminate age that extends from the south side of the part of the north wing that originally served as the engine room. The two southernmost bays are the stepped-parapet-gabled end of the wing that contained the picker and opening rooms. Here, the parapet is identical in its treatment to that of the south elevation. Beneath the southernmost window, a short batten door provides access to the basement. A large utilitarian loading dock, constructed ca. 1970, is located centrally on the elevation. The loading dock incorporates a concrete ramp that rises north to south to a platform that leads to a wide opening containing a double leaf wood doors, each with a window in its upper half. Utilitarian corrugated metal siding encloses the north and east sides of the ramp, which is sheltered by a shed roof. In the gap between this ramp and the wall, another ramp descends north to south to doors leading to the basement. The wall of the 1954 addition is pierced by numerous rectilinear openings at the first story and basement. The openings at the first story, some of them quite small, contain metal louvered vents. Square metal-framed windows that illuminated the exposed basement have been infilled with plywood (next to the ramps) or brick. A series of small connected, one-bay-deep, shed-roofed brick additions occupy the space between the north end of the ramp and the 1922 connecting wing. Modern metal gutters with intermittently placed downspouts mark the flush eaves of all the additions on this elevation.

Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2 (East Section):

Unless otherwise noted, openings are segmental-arched with lintels of two rows of header bricks and sills of cast concrete. At the first and second stories, the windows are historic replacement multi-light industrial steel with hoppers that have been covered in silver paint or plywood; many have inserts of metal-louvered vents. These windows likely date to 1922 as they are identical to original windows in the connecting wing. Almost all of the basement windows have been replaced with square glass block. Some of the basement windows are covered in plywood and a few are infilled with brick

The primary, twenty-three-bay east elevation primarily dates to 1900. Twenty of the bays span the main part of the mill, and here all of the second-story windows are covered in plywood. In the second bay from the south there is a basement entrance accessed by concrete steps between brick knee walls. It features a single-leaf door with metal security bars and is sheltered by an aluminum awning with wood posts and beams. The remaining two stories of the east tower projects at the ninth and tenth bays from the south. The tower now rises to a corbelled cornice beneath a flat parapet and has segmental-arched windows that are narrower and about half the height of the windows on the body of the mill. Across the three bays north of the tower is a late-20th-century brick shed that rises to approximately the middle of the first-story windows. In the fourth bay north of the shed addition, the first- and second-story windows have been replaced with wider aluminum overhead doors; a low concrete pad leads to the first-story door and at the second story the door is fronted by a metal platform with metal knee braces. At the northernmost bay of the main portion of the mill, a modern flight of wood stairs leads to a door that replaced the original window and is topped by a flat, fixed modern canopy.

The three northernmost bays of the east elevation are composed of the elevator shaft/beltway unit and ca. 1960 addition. In front of the windowless elevator shaft, a small brick shed of indeterminate date contains a wood door to the basement. The two northernmost bays, a metal pedestrian door and an aluminum overhead door, are sheltered by a shed roof of corrugated metal on slender metal supports. A short flight of wood steps leads to the pedestrian door and next to it is a concrete slab loading dock on a brick foundation.

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The north elevation is the ca. 1960 addition. Due to dense foliage close to the building, it was impossible to photograph the full elevation, only west half of the elevation is visible in photographs. Its ten bays of windows were infilled with brick in ca. 1972. The roofline features a simple aluminum coping.

The south elevation of the main body of the mill is six bays of windows under a shallow gable roof. In contrast to the stepped-parapet gable ends of Mill No. 1, the gable end of Mill No. 2 has overhanging eaves and exposed rafter ends. At the easternmost bay, the first-story opening is lower than the other first-story openings; now covered in plywood, it appears to originally have contained a door topped by a multi-paned transom.

The west-projecting wing at the south end of Mill No. 2 is five bays on its south elevation, two bays on its west gable end, and four bays on its north side. All of the windows on the west and north sides are covered in plywood. On the south side, the westernmost bay is much lower than the others at the first story. It originally contained a door that later was replaced with an industrial steel window like the others. The raised basement addition built on the south side of the wing between 1930 and 1950 covers the four western bays. It is two bays deep under an almost-flat shed roof with flat parapets at each end. The windows are square and, like most of the other basement windows, are filled with glass blocks. At the east end of this addition, a small brick shed in the corner against the two-story wing contains a wood door on its east side.

The west elevation has sixteen bays between the original wings at each end. The two remaining stories of the two-bay-deep west tower project at the sixth and seventh bays from the south. The openings on the west wall of the tower are round-arched: a single opening at the first story that contains original double wood doors topped by a sunburst fanlight beneath a lintel of three courses of header bricks; and at the second story a pair of plywood-covered windows with lintels of two courses of headers topped by a slender hood mold. The 1922 connecting wing slightly overlaps the north end of the tower's west wall and obscures the next six bays to the north up to the middle of the second-story windows. The remaining two bays to the north open onto the enclosed courtyard created by the connecting wing.

Connecting Wing:

The two exposed, north and south elevations of the 1922 connecting wing have seventeen bays, all contain rectangular openings, most of which are filled by windows. At the primary level, most of the windows remain in place, a few with small inserts of metal vents, except on the north elevation where several of the windows have been infilled with brick. On the east end of the north elevation, a few of the raised basement windows remain in place, but all the other connecting wing's basement windows have been replaced with brick on the north side and glass blocks on the south side. At the west end of the south elevation, a roofed concrete ramp descends to a pair of multi-panel wood door that access the basement. Three additional entrances are on the south elevation. Two are pedestrian entrances with metal doors, each of which replaced the lower portion of a window: one at the east end, accessed by a flight of metal stairs, and the other next to the ramp to the basement, accessed by a flight of concrete steps. Immediately east of the latter entrance, a wide opening contains an overhead metal door fronted by a CMU loading dock and a concrete vehicular pad.

Today many of the bays are obscured. As built, the two easternmost bays on the south elevation were hidden by the west tower of Mill No. 2 and later the six bays on the other end were covered by the ca. 1960 addition to Mill No. 1. On the north elevation, three bays at the west end are hidden by the small additions to the south side of Mill No. 1's engine room. Within the enclosed courtyard on the north side of the connecting wing, a flat-roofed metal-sided equipment shed spans three bays of raised basement windows and the lower portion of

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the corresponding first-story windows; another two bays of basement windows are obscured by a small attached flat-roofed brick structure. Seven steel I-beams, punched through the walls or brick window infill, connect the north side of the connecting wing with the south side of Mills No. 1 and 2.

Mill Interior: The interior of Trenton Cotton Mills is typical of industrial slow-burn construction, featuring thick wood floors, exposed wood posts or metal columns, exposed wood ceilings, and painted brick exterior walls, some of which are stuccoed. Except as noted below, all basement floors are concrete.

Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1 (West Section):

Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1 is primarily composed of two rooms in the main body of the building, separated by a wood partition that may be a later addition and is now composed of a combination of vertical boards and plywood. The smaller room to the north is intact, retaining its original chamfered wood posts running north-south in the middle of the space. Part of the building's east wall in this room was removed with the connecting wing was built in 1922 and later replaced with a gypsum board partition. In the larger room to the south, all but a few of the wood posts have been replaced with slender metal columns, probably when the large addition on the east side of the building, featuring the same metal columns, was constructed in 1954. When the addition was built, the original east wall of the larger room and the north wall of the wing at the southeast end of the building were removed to create a single, very large space. The four fairly small spaces at the north end of the building lack interior supports and in some of the spaces the brick walls are finished with a coat of smooth stucco; otherwise, their interiors resemble those of the larger spaces, with wood plank floors, painted brick walls, and exposed and painted ceiling joists and wood sheathing. In the largest space, plywood has either replaced or has been laid over original floors. The southeast corner of the 1954 addition and the south end of the large space that retains the chamfered wood posts have modern gypsum board partitions that delineate office and storage spaces. Modern lavatories and an elevator are in the small addition accessed at the northeast corner of the 1954 addition.

Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2 (East Section):

All of the interiors of Mill No. 2 resemble those of Mill No. 1 except that interior supports, all original, are metal columns that are larger in diameter than those of Mill No. 1 and most of the wood floors are laid on the diagonal. Each level of the main portion of the mill (basement and first and second floors) is a single large space. Original double-hung wood sash windows with multi-paned transoms survive in the west stair tower and the north and west walls of the southwest wing (all now covered in plywood on the exterior). The west tower retains its original wood staircase consisting of three runs with simple handrail and slat balusters between the first and second floors; the two runs from the first floor to the basement have a modern replacement metal railing. Most of the interior doorways throughout all spaces of Mill No. 2 are in segmental arches; some retain early wood doors, others have metal replacements. The doorway accessing the basement from the bottom of the stair tower retains the original five-panel, segmental arched double wood doors. The east tower contains two lavatories at the first and second floors. A freight elevator is located at the southwest corner and on the north wall of the main body of the mill. A single-run wood staircase and landing has been installed in the narrow unit at the north end of the mill that is a single, two-story tall space originally used as a beltway. The interior of the basement addition to the southwest wing is partitioned as modern office space.

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Connecting Wing:

The interior of the connecting wing is consistent with Mill No. 1 and No. 2, with slender metal columns similar to those of Mill No. 1. The main floor is a single space except for the northeast corner which has been partitioned with T-111 plywood as office space. A small partitioned space also has been inserted in the basement.

Office Building (contributing building)

Constructed ca. 1922, the single-story office building, is situated at the southwest corner of the property facing West Main Avenue. The building has a very shallow shed roof, concealed by parapets that are flat on the front and stepped on the sides, and is divided into two units as indicated by the parapet of a partition wall running from front to rear. Sanborn maps show that the three-bay western unit, defined on the main facade by a door flanked by two windows, was built first, while the wider, five-bay eastern section, with the same fenestration as the original section plus a small window to the east and another window to the west, was built sometime between 1930 and 1950. Both units are two bays on the side elevations, but the later unit as built was not as deep. Eventually the later unit, except for the bay at the east end, was extended to the rear to line up with the earlier unit. The two sections of the building are unified by rectilinear openings, eight-over-eight double-hung wood sash windows (except for a small six-over-six window on the main façade of the eastern unit), brickwork of stretcher bond, and decorative cornice on the main façade consisting of a soldier course of bricks laid on an angle topped by two courses of dentils in the parapet. Four courses of stretchers separate each course of decorative brickwork. The building houses offices and a bathroom. Finishes within the interior are modern and include carpeted and vinyl floors, painted gypsum board and faux wood walls, and acoustic tile ceilings.

Valve House (contributing building)

Small brick, one-story, flat-roofed building erected sometime between 1930 and 1950 as a valve house that contained equipment that regulated the pressure of the steam that powered the plant. It has a solid metal door on its south side and is utilitarian in character.

East Pump House (contributing structure)

Very small, shed-roofed, windowless structure, not quite a full story tall and open on the west side, that sheltered pumping equipment that was part of the mill's infrastructure and connected to the city's water system. Date of construction unknown but certainly within the period of significance.

West Pump House (contributing structure) structure

Slightly larger and almost a full story but otherwise identical to the east pump house except that its east side, apparently once open, has been enclosed. Date of construction unknown but certainly within the period of significance.

Power Sub-Station (non-contributing structure)

Small electrical sub-station built on land leased to Southern Power Company that provides power to the mill as well as other properties in the area.

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Integrity: Trenton Cotton Mills retains sufficient integrity to convey its historic values. The property is nominated under Criterion A for Industry for its important role in the development of Gastonia's textile industry. National Register Bulletin 15 provides guidance on evaluating integrity based on seven aspects. It is not necessary for a resource to retain all aspects and the weight of each aspect is tied to the significance of the resource.

Location: Trenton Cotton Mills is in its original location.

Association: Trenton Cotton Mills conveys its association as a textile manufacturing mill constructed in 1893, 1900, and 1922. The layout of the interior, with its large expanses, conveys the historic function of the building as these rooms would have housed large machinery. As such, the building retains its direct association with the historic events for which the building is being nominated.

Feeling: To the casual observer, Trenton Cotton Mills looks essentially the same as when the property was constructed in its various phases: 1893, 1900, and 1922. Alterations such as the reduction in height of the towers, replacement of windows or covering of many of the historic windows, and small utilitarian additions built after the end of the period of significance do not greatly affect its feeling. The interior of the building still conveys its use as a textile manufacturing facility.

Setting: The site of the building remains consistent with the original. The surrounding neighborhood has changed over time but the character of the immediate setting is substantially unaltered from the property's period of significance.

Design: The design of the building is essentially intact from its period of significance. The reduction in height of the three surviving towers and the removal of the brick smokestack do not significantly diminish the mill's overall design.

Materials and Workmanship: The historic materials and workmanship of the building are still highly evident at the exterior and interior.

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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.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry

Period of Significance

1893-1972

Significant Dates

1893, 1900, 1922, 1954, 1972

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation (if applicable)

Architect/Builder

J.E. Sirrine and Co. (Architect)

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Statement of Significance

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).

Trenton Cotton Mills, Gastonia's oldest extant textile mill, is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Industry for its role in the development of Gastonia and Gaston County's textile industry. Following the establishment of the Gastonia Cotton Manufacturing Company by G. W. Ragan in 1887, Gastonia soon became a hub of textile manufacturing in North Carolina. Trenton Cotton Mills, established in 1893 as Gastonia's second textile mill and also organized by Ragan, experienced immediate and continuing success that led to expansion with a second mill on the property in 1900 and later substantial additions in 1922 and 1954. Trenton Cotton Mills began contributing to Gaston County's renown for production of combed yarns ca. 1910 when the company added the machinery necessary to convert to production of this high-quality yarn. The mill retains a relatively high level of historic integrity that conveys all major period of the operation's growth. Its period of significance begins in 1893 with the completion of Mill No. 1 and ends in 1972 when the mill ceased operations.

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

Historical Background

Five years after leading the establishment of the Gastonia Cotton Manufacturing Company, Gastonia's first textile mill, banker and merchant George Washington Ragan decided to build a second mill in the town. In 1892 Ragan assembled eleven local men, including three merchants, three farmers, a physician, a dentist, a cotton mill superintendent, a hotel proprietor, and a banker, to consider his proposal to create a new textile manufacturing company.ⁱⁱ He and business partner George A. Gray, superintendent of the Gastonia Cotton Manufacturing Company mill, canvassed Gaston County for investors, and on February 21, 1893, articles of incorporation were filed.ⁱⁱⁱ Initially, the company was named Windsor Cotton Mills; however, due to legal issues involving a pre-existing company with the same name, the company formally changed its name to Trenton Cotton Mills on April 17, 1893.^{iv} The new name was selected by Ragan, an admirer of George Washington (for whom he was named) inspired by Washington's success at the Revolutionary War Battle of Trenton. The company's initial shareholders were: G.W. Ragan 50 shares, Dr. C.E. Adams 50 shares, J.H. Craig 50 shares, G.A. Gray 50 shares, T.C. Pegram 30 shares, T.M. Pearson 20 shares, J.L. Falls 10 shares, and Dr. E.F. Glenn 10 shares. The initial capital for the company was set at \$62,400, with an available increase of up to \$150,000 without restructuring. The original officers were G.W. Ragan as President, T. Chalmers Pegram as Secretary and Treasurer, and George A. Gray as Superintendent.^v

According to local historian Robert Ragan, the location of the mill was proposed by G.W. Ragan, and on February 25, 1893, the new company purchased a 24-acre site on Main Avenue, roughly a half-mile west of downtown Gastonia, from Thomas M. Pearson.^{vi} Along the north side of the site ran the tracks for the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line, which became the Southern Railway in 1894. Gray opened up correspondence with

ⁱⁱ Robert Allison Ragan, "Textile Heritage of Gaston County North Carolina 1848-2000: One Hundred Mills and the Men Who Built Them." (Charlotte, North Carolina: 2001), 59.

ⁱⁱⁱ Gaston County Book of Corporations 1, page 74.

^{iv} Ibid., page 81.

^v Ibid., page 74.

^{vi} Gaston County Register of Deeds Book 23, page 117.

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machine shops in the Northeast, then the center of the country's textile industry, and Ragan began overseeing construction of the mill and a village of 35 four- and five-room houses for the potential workers.^{vii}

Construction of Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1 began in March of 1893. The bricks were made on location in a mud mill. The cost of making the brick was \$3.00 per a thousand bricks, and to lay the brick was \$1.25 per a thousand bricks. The main factory measured 50 x 237 feet, the warp room measured 48 x 23 feet, the front warp room measured 51 x 27 feet, and the boiler room measured 65 x 43 feet.^{viii} The building was completed in September 1893.^{ix}

Machinery for the new mill was shipped from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island and initially consisted of 3,072 high-speed ring spindles and 36 cards for manufacturing high-count yarns, No. 19s to 40s, soon followed by No. 30s to 50s.^x Power for the new mill was by steam from two large boilers. In total, the cost of the land, mill buildings, and village houses was \$20,600, and the cost of the machinery was \$40,700. By January 1894, the first yarn order was complete and shipped to Northern customers. The yarn was sold primarily through the sales house of J.E. Mitchell & Company in Philadelphia.^{xi} The mill had a total capital of \$65,000 in 1894.^{xii}

Within the first five years of operations, Trenton Cotton Mill paid its stockholders over 100 percent of its capitalization in cash dividends. On April 7, 1899, the *Manufacturers' Record* of Baltimore, Maryland, stated the following in respect to Gastonia's cotton mills and Trenton Cotton Mill in particular:

"...But the great feature which has always distinguished Gastonia, and given her an almost unequalled record has been the phenomenal success of her cotton mill enterprises. No cotton manufacturing center in the South has surpassed it in this respect, and very few have equaled it. During the long and terrible depression and disaster of 1897 in cotton milling industries, her mills never suspended for a day, paid full dividends of eight and ten percent, and continued to run night and day as usual. One mill, the Trenton, five years old, has paid its stockholders 100 per cent on the dollar in cash dividends...There are several reasons for this remarkable record. First and foremost, it is to be found in the character and ability of the men who have managed these mills. They are men of the highest character, and are as prominent in their churches as they are in the business world. The cotton mills of the South that have failed have done so largely because they have not had competent men to manage them..."

In May of 1899, Trenton Cotton Mill's stockholders decided to expand with construction of an addition, Trenton Cotton Mills No. 2, that would house 3,500 spindles and be located east of the first mill, to which it was connected by an enlarged boiler house. The cost of the new mill would be approximately \$65,000 and would be two stories in height with a full, raised basement, constructed of brick, and have dimensions that would equate to 55 x 165 feet. The manufacturing within the plant would be No. 20s to 60s carded yards, single and ply (composed of two or more single yarns twisted together). In addition, 30 cottages were constructed in

^{vii} Ragan, 59.

^{viii} Ragan, 59, 60.

^{ix} "Newspaper Clipping," The Charlotte Democrat (Charlotte, North Carolina) 29 September 1893.

^x Cotton count is the number of yarns of 840 yards length required to weigh one pound. For example, a 30 count yarn means you need 30 yarns of 840 yards length to make it one pound weight. In cotton count, the higher the count, the finer the yarn. For example, a 40's yarn is two times finer than a 20's yarn. See "What is Yarn Count and Fiber Danier?" [Spring Home Textile Blog](https://www.springtextile.com/blogs/what-is-yarn-count-and-fiber-danier.html).

<https://www.springtextile.com/blogs/what-is-yarn-count-and-fiber-danier.html>

^{xi} Ragan, 60.

^{xii} Lisa Davidson, "Loray Mill," *Historic American Engineering Record*. National Park Service. 2000, 45.

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the village to accommodate the increase in employment. The mill was completed in 1900, and when finished, the capacity of the factory increased to 6,700 spindles operated by 140 employees.^{xiii}

At the end of 1899, G.W. Ragan sold his interest in the mill to John Kelly Dixon, who had been an agent for the Southern Railway in Kings Mountain and Gastonia. The transition in ownership commenced in conjunction with construction of Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2. From 1900 to 1953, the Dixon family controlled Trenton Cotton Mills.^{xiv} John Kelly Dixon operated the mill until his death in 1931, after which his son, Arthur M. Dixon, took over operations.^{xv}

By 1905, the mill had a total capital of \$124,800.^{xvi} With the addition of combing machinery ca. 1910, the mill began production of a smoother, stronger, and more compact yarn excellent for weaving. Thus Trenton Cotton Mills kept pace with the rapidly changing and growing textile landscape of Gastonia, which had become known for the manufacture of high-quality yarn.^{xvii} At this time, the number of spindles was increased to 8,448, consuming roughly 150 to 160 bales of long-staple cotton each month. In 1913, the power for the plant was converted from steam to electric.

The next big expansion came in 1922, when work commenced on a one-story brick spinning room wing measuring 50 x 150 feet, constructed by the architectural firm of J.E. Sirrine and Co., that spanned the courtyard between Mill No. 1 and Mill No. 2.^{xviii} Roughly 200 trained employees were required to operate the expanded mill, and most of them lived in the village's houses which had become an important fixture of Gastonia.^{xix} At about the same time the new wing was built, a one-story brick office building was constructed at the southwest corner of the property.^{xx} Construction of the new spinning room and its equipment increased the mill's capitalization to \$280,800.^{xxi}

Throughout the Great Depression of the 1930s, Trenton Cotton Mills succeeded in maintaining operations due to a surplus of supplies that the company had set aside during the 1910s and 1920s. In the following decades the enterprise experienced a large uptick in production in response to the U.S. military's need for uniform material upon the onset of World War II.^{xxii}

In 1953, Arthur Dixon, Trenton Cotton Mills president, and his brother Kay Dixon, treasurer, sold their controlling interest in the company to Julius W. Abernethy, a well-known textile mill owner of Newton, NC, and Caldwell Ragan, who was the son of company founder G.W. Ragan. One of their first endeavors as the new leaders of the company was the construction in 1954 of a large one-story addition on the east side of Mill No. 1, which enabled increasing the spindleage from 12,816 to 14,544.^{xxiii} In 1956, the plant was completely modernized at a cost of over \$1 million. The modernization effort included installation of eight new long-draft Whitin roving frames, 67 new Whitin Superflex spinning frames, and 32 deliveries of Saco-Lowell 3-over-4

^{xiii} Ragan, 61, 62.

^{xiv} Ragan, 63.

^{xv} "John Kelly Dixon," *The Gastonia Gazette* (Gastonia, Gaston, North Carolina) 21 February 1955.

^{xvi} Lisa Davidson, "Loray Mills," *Historic American Engineering Record. National Park Service*. 2000, 45.

^{xvii} *Ibid*.

^{xviii} "Textile World, Volume 61, Issues 1-12." (Bragdon, Lord & Nagle Company: 1922), 34.

^{xix} Ragan, 64.

^{xx} Sanborn Map, 1922.

^{xxi} Davidson, "Loray Mills," *Historic American Engineering Record. National Park Service*. 2000, 45.

^{xxii} Ragan, 65.

^{xxiii} *Ibid*.

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drawing frames. The new machinery brought the total number of spindles to 16,776 and enabled the company to enhance the quality and strength of the yarn it produced.^{xxiv}

Trenton Cotton Mills merged in 1961 with Carolina Mills, Inc., which was headquartered in Maiden, NC. The value of the transaction at the time was about \$3,000,000. Carolina Mills had been founded by Julius W. Abernethy and others in 1928, and with the merger, Trenton Cotton Mills expanded Carolina Mills' spinning operations as one of its twelve plants, all in North Carolina. In 1962, most of Trenton Cotton Mills' mill houses were sold and moved and a large portion of the village property along Main and Franklin Avenues was sold for commercial development.^{xxv}

Just a decade later, Carolina Mills determined that it was not economically feasible to undertake the modernization necessary for the Trenton Cotton Mills plant to remain in operation. The mill lacked air conditioning and the floors of its multiple stories were not strong enough to accommodate the new machinery required to remain competitive. In January 1973, the Gastonia operations moved to a new Carolina Mills plant in Statesville, NC. At its closing, Trenton Cotton Mills had operated continuously under the same name and without interruption for eighty years, longer than any other mill in the city during the same period.

Shortly after Trenton Cotton Mills ceased operations, the building was purchased by a carpet and rug retailer/distributor, the Carpet & Rug Superstore. The store remained in operation until ca. 2017 when it vacated the premises and consolidated its inventory with its other retail locations throughout North Carolina. The building was then purchased by the city of Gastonia. The building currently lies vacant and is slated for redevelopment as apartments.

Criterion A – Industry

Trenton Cotton Mill is locally significant under Criterion A for Industry as an important resource in Gastonia and Gaston County's textile industry during the late nineteenth century through the mid-to-late twentieth century.

Rise of the Textile Industry in Gastonia and Gaston County during the Late Nineteenth and Twentieth Century:

After 1865, the Southern US began to embrace the possibilities of a more diverse regional economy, shifting from its traditional reliance on agriculture. Prior to the war, a local textile industry had begun to emerge. The first mills were typically constructed in rural locations with access to water power. The first textile mill in Gaston County, the Mountain Island Mill constructed in 1848, utilized the natural power of the Catawaba and South Fork Rivers. The second mill constructed in the county was the Woodlawn Mill which opened in 1852 on the South Fork River. A third mill, Stowe's Factory, was constructed on the river in ca. 1854. All three mills produced yarn and coarse fabric for local markets.^{xxvi} In 1872, the first railroad was built through Gaston County which afforded an ease of transportation of goods in and out of the county, greatly changing the industrial scene. The 1880 Census counted six cotton mills in Gaston County employing 350 workers. By the end of the 1880s, there were eleven textile mills in the county.^{xxvii}

^{xxiv} Ragan, 65.

^{xxv} Ragan, 67.

^{xxvi} Davidson, 3.

^{xxvii} Joseph H. Separk, "Gastonia and Gaston County North Carolina: Past, Present and Future." (Kingsport, Tennessee: Kingsport Press, Inc. 1936), 160-161.

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In 1887, Gastonia gained its first textile mill with construction of the Gastonia Cotton Manufacturing Company, the first steam-powered textile mill in the county. Mill construction dominated the built environment of Gastonia during the 1890s, with Trenton Cotton Mill being the first one constructed during this decade. The Trenton Cotton Mill was located adjacent to the Atlanta and Charlotte Airline Railroad, later renamed the Southern Railway line.^{xxviii} The 1900 Census presented Gaston County with a population of 27,903, an increase from 10,139 in 1890 due in part to the growing textile manufacturing economy. Within the county, Gastonia was the largest town, with a population of 4,610, more than triple that of the next largest town of McAdenville at 1,144. By 1910, Gastonia had a population of 5,759 and featured eleven fully functioning textile mills.^{xxix}

Gaston County's textile industry became well known for the production of combed yarns. Arlington Cotton Mills in Gastonia, founded by G.W. Ragan and others in 1900, produced the South's first combed yarns. Combed yarn was generally considered a finer quality and more expensive textile product than the coarser, heavier types of yarn, called carded yarn, produced by many southern textile mills. The success found at the Arlington Cotton Mills inspired other local mills to produce combed yarn, thus making it the dominant product of Gaston County. Between 1900 and 1910, four additional mills began producing combed yarns: Ozark Mills, which began about the same time as Arlington Cotton Mills; and Flint Manufacturing Company (Mill No. 1), Gray Manufacturing Company, and Trenton Cotton Mills, which began making combed yarns ca. 1910.^{xxx} Of Gastonia's five pioneering manufacturers of combed yarns, only Trenton Cotton Mills is extant. By 1920, Gaston County's mills were producing roughly eighty percent of all the fine combed yarn made in America.^{xxxi}

The textile industry continued to grow and expand in the early 20th century. By 1915, Gastonia had a population of nearly 10,000 and was home to thirteen mills with 200,000 spindles in operation.^{xxxii} There were 5,000 workers employed in the mills, and most of them lived in the corresponding mill villages.

The 1910s and 1920s brought a shift in the organizational pattern of many mills. While the earlier mills had been promoted and owned by small groups of individuals with eight to ten outside shareholders, some of the newer mill operators put together chain mills with 25 to 200 outside shareholders. By 1920, Gaston County had ninety textile mills, more than any other county in the country, and thirty of them were operating in Gastonia, nicknamed the "City of Spindles" and the "Combed Yarn Capital of the World."^{xxxiii}

The year 1929 marked one of the most influential moments in the textile history of Gastonia and the entire South. Labor-saving devices such as increasing workloads and trimming payroll along with labor control measures at Loray Mill, Gastonia's largest mill, led to increasing discontent among the work force that in turn prompted the National Textile Workers Union to target Loray for an organizing drive. Mill management reacted by firing employees involved with the union and ultimately the mill's workers went on strike on April 1. The strike ended on September 29 after almost six months marked by numerous violent incidents between strikers and members of the community who supported the mill, including the shooting deaths of Gastonia Police Chief Orville Aderholt and union activist and folk singer Ella Mae Wiggins. According to historian Brent Glass, as

^{xxviii} Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc., "Loray Mills Historic District." National Register of Historic Places: National Park Service. August 17, 2001, 27.

^{xxix} Ibid.

^{xxx} Davidson, Appendix I (Textile Directory Report), 33-46.

^{xxxi} Minnie Stowe Puett, "History of Gaston County." (Charlotte, N.C., The Observer Printing House, Inc.), 183.

^{xxxii} Samuel Huntington Hobbs, "Gaston County: Economic and Social." (Raleigh, NC: Edwards & Broughton Printing Co.).

^{xxxiii} Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc., *Widen I-85 from U.S. 321 to N.C. 273 and Improve Existing Interchanges: Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties, North Carolina*, Prepared for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2017, 100; Davidson, 16.

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quoted in the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) report on Loray Mill, extensive coverage in the national and international press made Gastonia "the most notorious and best-documented textile community in North Carolina." The HAER report notes, "The Loray Mill strike signified an uneasy step away from paternalism in the Southern textile industry before a modern conception, of industrial management prevailed."^{xxxiv}

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, many mills in Gastonia and across North Carolina experienced reduced production and layoffs of their workers, but in the decades that followed, Gaston County's textile industry thrived. During World War II, the demand for cotton products soared, resulting in a textile boom not only for Gastonia, but for all of Gaston County. The expansion of textile companies through mergers and acquisitions characterized the 1950s and 1960s. International corporate giants increasingly replaced the independently owned plants of the early twentieth century, consolidating the industry was through corporate restructuring. Concurrently, the post-war period witnessed widespread modernization that included improvements to the work environment as well as technological changes. The installation of mechanical lifters and overhead conveyers and advances in combers and spinning machinery increased production efficiency by more than one-hundred percent.^{xxxv}

By the late twentieth century, a mix of mounting foreign competition and growing automation in the textile industry forced many mills to close as aging buildings could not accommodate modern machinery and cheap labor lured many textile companies to Central America. Today, Gastonia's history as a leader of the South's textile industry is represented through its built environment by complexes such as Trenton Cotton Mills.

The Trenton Cotton Mill as a Locally Significant Resource in the Development of Gaston County's textile industry:

Trenton Cotton Mills is a locally significant resource in the development of Gastonia's textile industry as one of the pioneering mills in the South to produce high-quality yarn. As the second cotton mill built in Gastonia and having remained in operation for eighty years, it represents the city's position as one of the most productive centers of the nation's textile industry from the early to mid-twentieth century. The building portrays the historic industrial character of Gastonia as its oldest standing mill. Of the city's more than thirty textile mills erected prior to World War I, Trenton Cotton Mills is one of only eight that retains its original footprint and one of only three, along with Loray Mill (NR District 2001) and Avon Mills, that remains largely intact.

Additional Context Information

G.W. Ragan: G.W. Ragan was among the most important figures in the development of the textile industry in Gastonia. Ragan was born in Gaston County in September 1849. He served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War. After the war, he returned to his father's farm until his father's death in 1872. In 1880, Ragan moved to Gastonia and in 1885 he started a business partnership with a fellow merchant George A. Gray. Ragan, Gray and some other businessmen organized the first textile mill, the Gastonia Textile Manufacturing Company, founded in 1887. Following the completion of the mill, Ragan entered in the banking industry. Using his

^{xxxiv} Davidson, 20-24.

^{xxxv} Brent D. Glass, "The Textile Industry in North Carolina: A History," (Division of Archives and History: North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1992), 79, 84; Mattson, Alexander and Associates, Inc., *Widen I-85 from U.S. 321 to N.C. 273 and Improve Existing Interchanges: Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties, North Carolina*, Prepared for the North Carolina Department of Transportation, 2017, 100.

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knowledge of textile manufacturing and banking, Ragan and other business partners established the Trenton Cotton Mills in 1894. In 1900, he established a third mill in Gastonia, the Arlington Cotton Mills.^{xxxvi} Ragan continued to be a prominent figure in the textile industry until his death in 1936. His legacy in the textile industry is retained in the built environment of Gastonia with buildings such as the Trenton Cotton Mills.

^{xxxvi} G.S. Selph, "Ragan, George Washington," <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/ragan-george-washington>

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Selph, G.S. “Ragan, George Washington,” <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/ragan-george-washington>

Separk, Joseph H. “Gastonia and Gaston County North Carolina: Past, Present and Future.” (Kingsport, Tennessee: Kingsport Press, Inc. 1936).

Various Newspapers from Newspapers.com.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☒ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State Agency
☐ Federal Agency
☐ Local Government
☐ University
☒ Other
Name of repository: Gaston County Public Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): GS567

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 2.73

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage; enter "Less than one" if the acreage is .99 or less)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	35.264031	-81.191968		
	Latitude	Longitude		

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

The legal boundary for Trenton Cotton Mills is tax parcel ID 301165.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the entirety of the property that retains historic integrity and is both historically and currently associated with the mill.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cindy Hamilton & Nathan Curwen; Claudia R. Brown date June 8, 2020
organization Heritage Consulting Group; N. C. State Historic
Preservation Office telephone 215-248-1260; 919-814-6587
street & number 15 West Highland Avenue; 4617 Mail Service chamilton@heritage-consulting.com;
Center email claudia.brown@ncdcr.gov
city or town Philadelphia; Raleigh state PA; NC zip code 19127; 27699

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **GIS Location Map (Google Earth or BING)**
- **Local Location Map**
- **Site Plan**
- **Floor Plans (As Applicable)**
- **Photo Location Map** (Key all photographs to this map and insert immediately after the photo log and before the list of figures).

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USGS Map (Gastonia North Quadrangle)



Trenton Cotton Mills

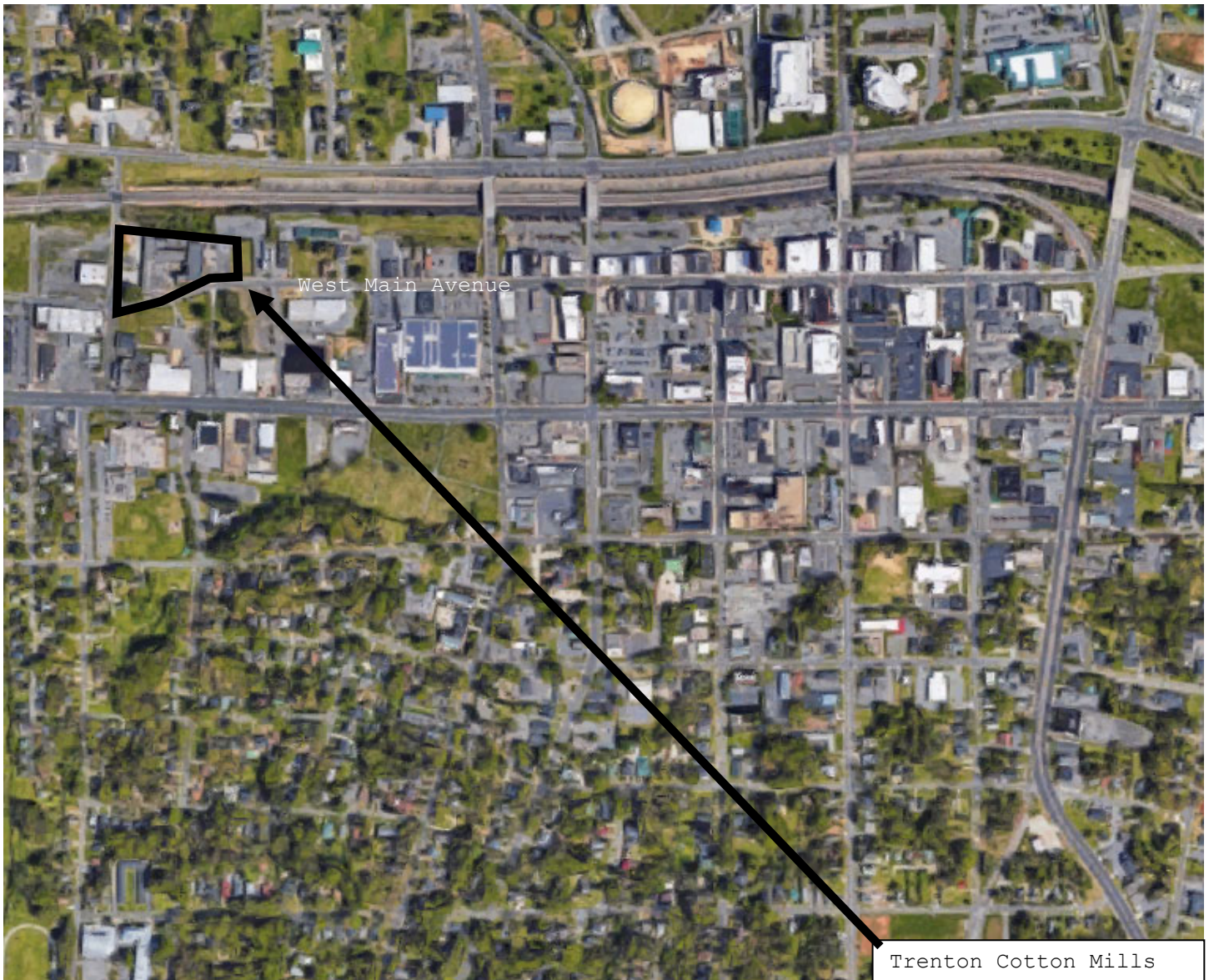
Name of Property

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Exhibit #2

Location Map



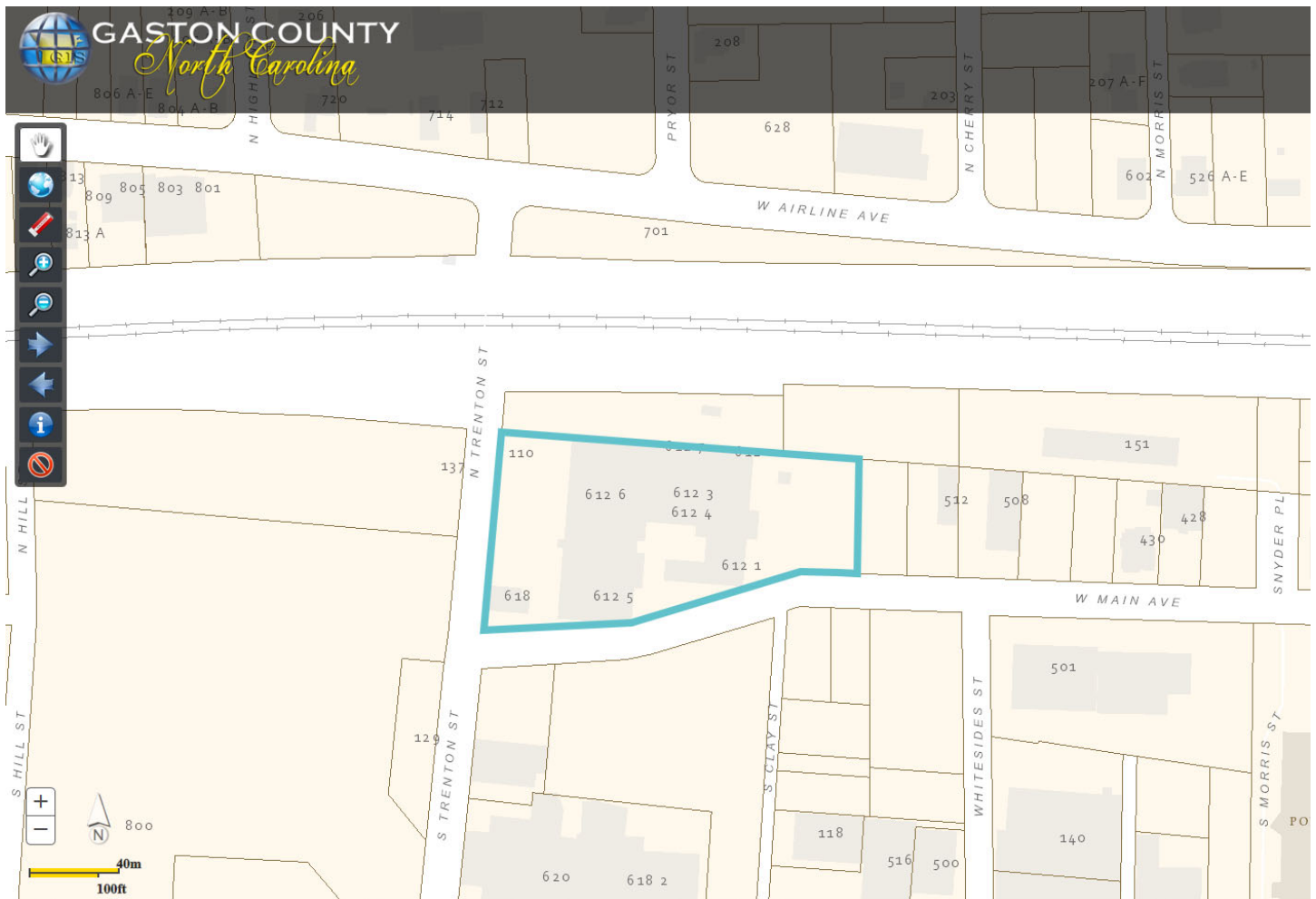
Trenton Cotton Mills
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Exhibit #3

Nomination Boundary

Note: Outlined parcel is #301165 in Gaston County Tax Maps



Trenton Cotton Mills

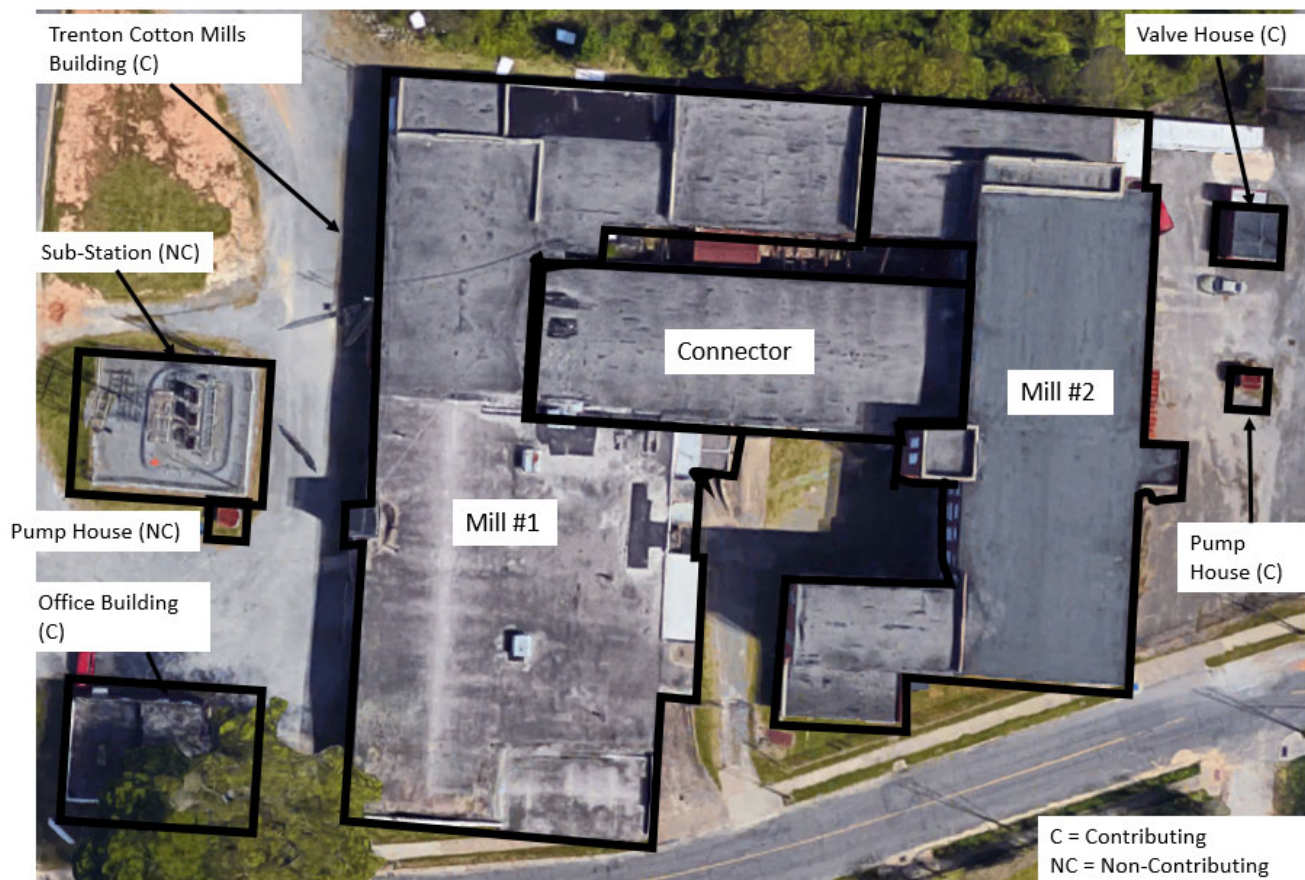
Name of Property

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Exhibit #4

Site Plan



Trenton Cotton Mills

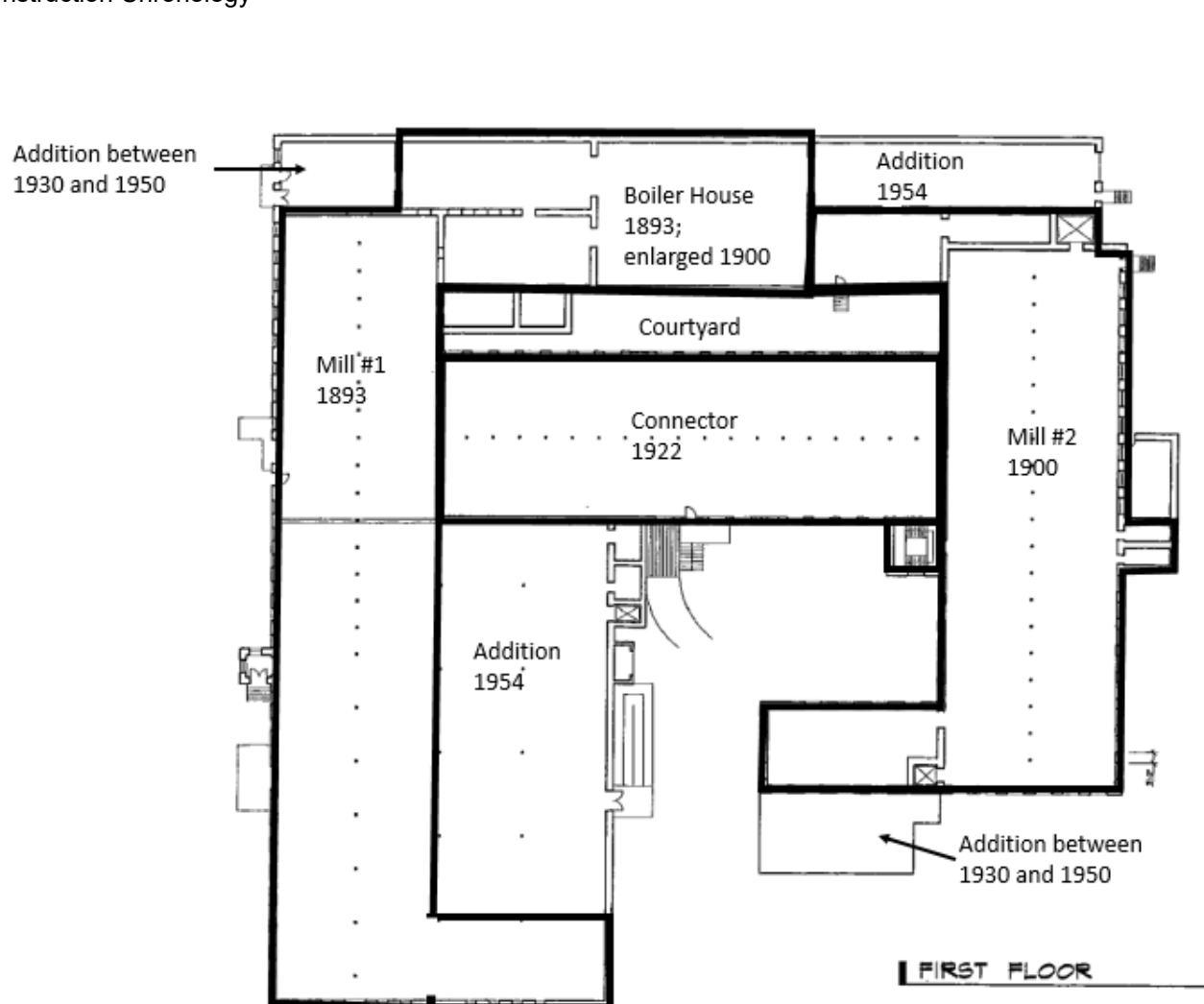
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Exhibit #5

Mill Construction Chronology



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Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs under separate cover. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 pixels, 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: Trenton Cotton Mills
City or Vicinity: Gastonia
County: Gaston County **State:** North Carolina
Photographer: Heritage Consulting Group
Date Photographed: October 2018 except as noted below

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

Photo 1 of 34: View of exterior, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, west and north elevations, looking southeast. (March 2020)

Photo 2 of 34: View of exterior, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, west elevation, looking southeast. (May 2020)

Photo 3 of 34: View of exterior, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, west elevation, looking northeast. (May 2020)

Photo 4 of 34: View of exterior, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, south and east elevations, looking northwest. (May 2020)

Photo 5 of 34: View of exterior, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, south and east elevations, looking northwest. (May 2020)

Photo 6 of 34: View of exterior, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2, south elevation, looking north. (May 2020)

Photo 7 of 34: View of exterior, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2 (right) and connector (left), looking northeast. (May 2020)

Photo 8 of 34: View of exterior, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1 (left) and connector (right), looking northeast. (May 2020)

Photo 9 of 34: View of exterior, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2, east elevation, looking west. (May 2020)

Photo 10 of 34: View of exterior, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2, east elevation, looking west. (May 2020)

Photo 11 of 34: View of exterior, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2, east elevation, looking northwest (May 2020)

Photo 12 of 34: View of exterior, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, north elevation, looking southeast. (May 2020)

Photo 13 of 34: View of exterior, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, north elevation, looking southeast. (May 2020)

Photo 14 of 34: View of exterior, Office Building, south and east elevations, looking northwest. (May 2020)

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- Photo 15 of 34: View of exterior, Office Building, south elevation, looking north. (May 2020)
- Photo 16 of 34: View of exterior, Office Building, west elevation, looking southeast. (May 2020)
- Photo 17 of 34: View of exterior, Office Building, north elevation, looking south. (May 2020)
- Photo 18 of 34: Interior view, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, first floor, looking southwest.
- Photo 19 of 34: Interior view, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, first floor, looking northwest.
- Photo 20 of 34: Interior view, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, first floor, looking south.
- Photo 21 of 34: Interior view, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, first floor, looking northeast.
- Photo 22 of 34: Interior view, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, first floor, looking east.
- Photo 23 of 34: Interior view, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, first floor, looking east.
- Photo 24 of 34: Interior view, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2, first floor, looking south.
- Photo 25 of 34: Interior view, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2, first floor, looking northeast.
- Photo 26 of 34: Interior view, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2, first floor, looking southeast.
- Photo 27 of 34: Interior view, connector, looking west.
- Photo 28 of 34: Interior view, connector, looking east.
- Photo 29 of 34: Interior view, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2, stair, looking west.
- Photo 30 of 34: Interior view, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2, stair, looking southwest.
- Photo 31 of 34: Interior view, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2, second floor, looking northeast.
- Photo 32 of 34: Interior view, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 2, basement, looking north.
- Photo 33 of 34: Interior view, connector, basement, looking southwest.
- Photo 34 of 34: Interior view, Trenton Cotton Mill No. 1, basement, looking south.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



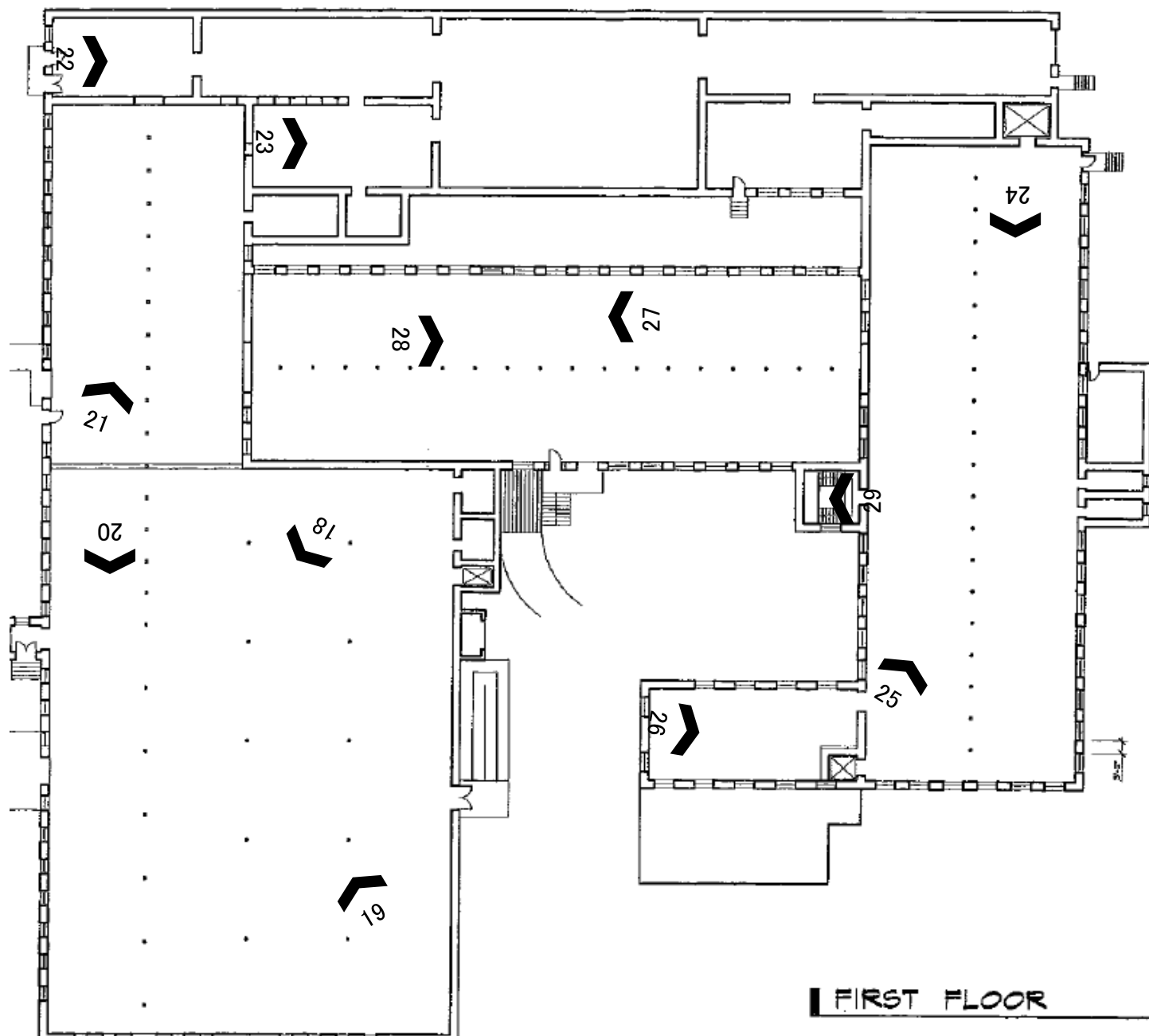
Exterior
Photos 1 – 17





First Floor

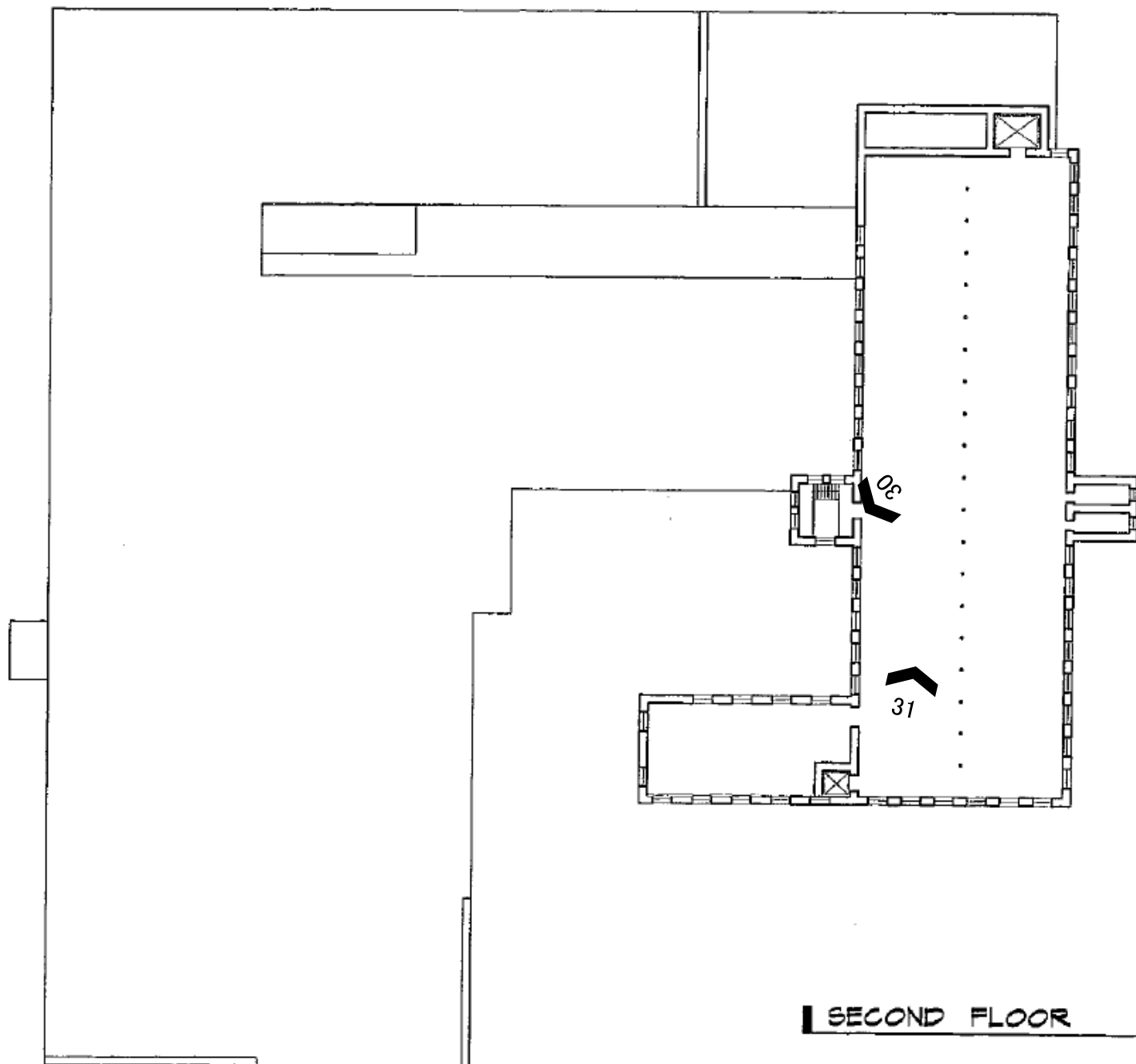
Photos 18 – 29





Second Floor

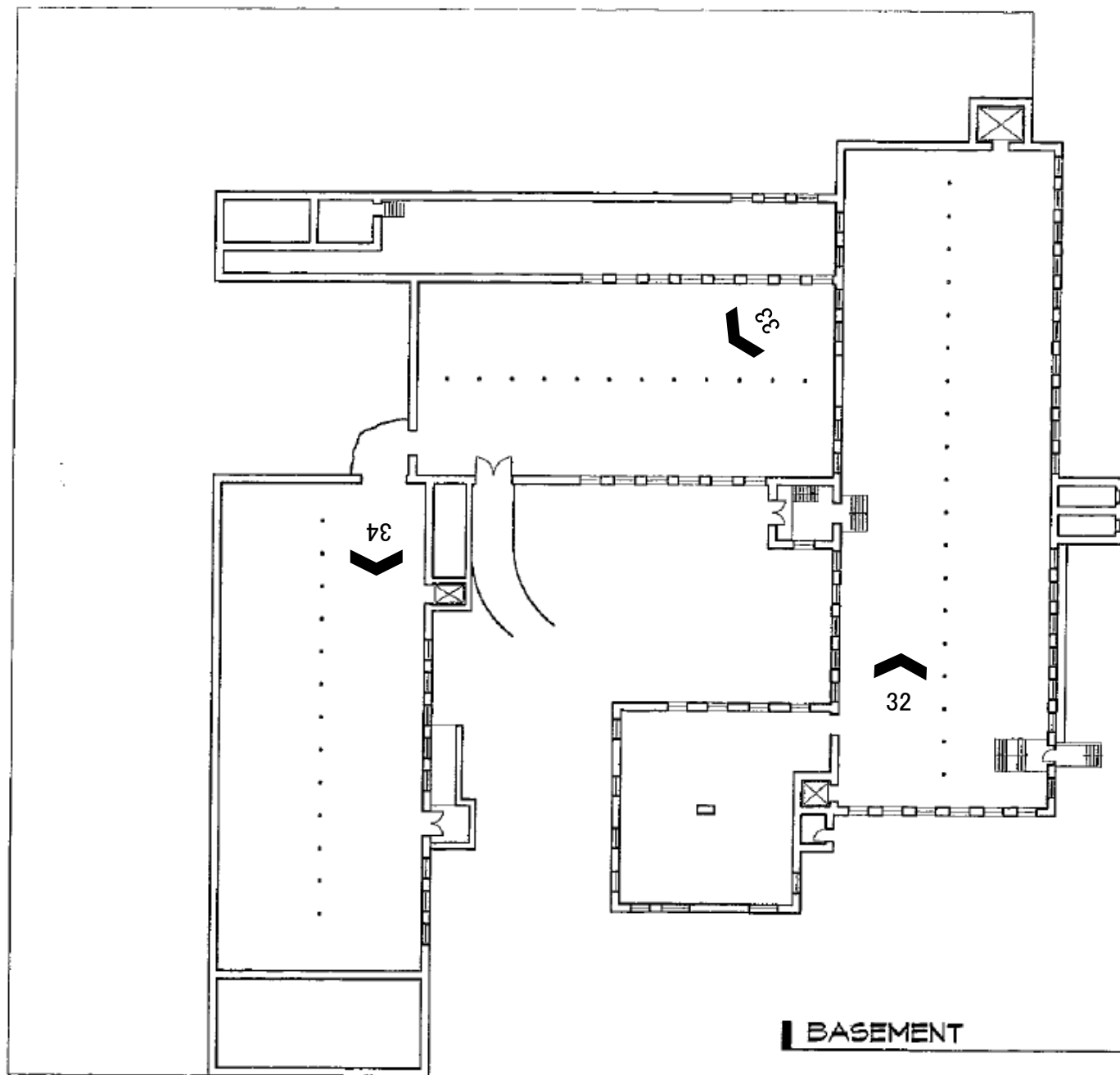
Photos 30 – 31





Basement

Photos 32 – 34





1. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0001



2. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0002



3. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0003



4. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0004



5. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0005



6. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0006



7. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0007



8. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0008



9. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0009



10. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0010



11. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0011



12. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0012



13. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0013



14. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0014



15. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0015



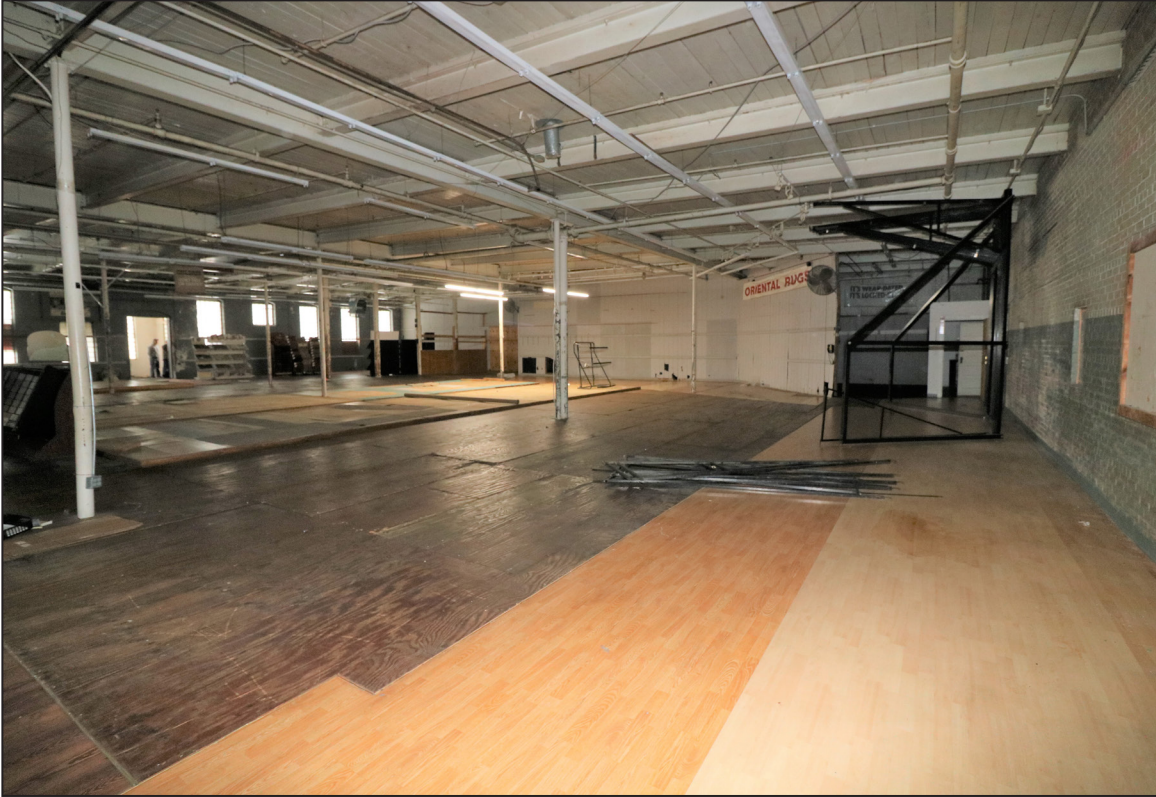
16. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0016



17. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0017



18. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0018



19. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0019



20. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0020



21. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0021



22. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0022



23. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0023



24. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0024



25. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0025



26. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0026



27. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0027



28. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0028



29. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0029



30. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0030



31. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0031



32. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0032



33. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0033



34. NC_Gaston County_Trenton Cotton Mills_0034