

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

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Alamance Mill Village Historic District

Alamance, Alamance County, AM0537, Listed 8/16/2007
Nomination by Laura A. W. Phillips
Photographs by Laura A. W. Phillips, December 2006



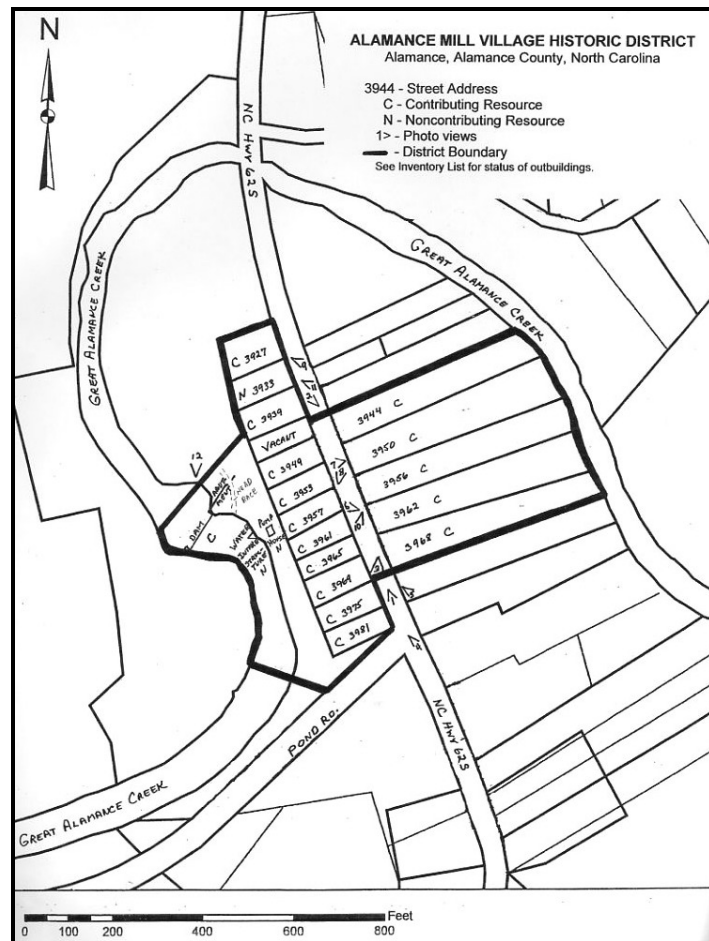
NC Highway 62 South, looking north



West side of NC Highway 62 South



Dam, Great Alamance Creek



Historic District Map

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of property

historic name Alamance Mill Village Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 3927-3981 NC Hwy 62 S; Great Alamance Creek west of NC Hwy 62 S not for publication N/A

city or town Alamance vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Alamance code 001 zip code 27201

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____

North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
___ entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
___ determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
___ determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
___ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
___ other (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Alamance Mill Village Historic District
Name of Property

Alamance Co., NC
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>18</u>	<u>14</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>	Total

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

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
INDUSTRY waterworks

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling
DOMESTIC secondary structure
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: two-story mill house
Other: one-story mill house
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Asphalt
walls Weatherboard
Asbestos
other Brick
Wood

Narrative Description

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

Alamance Mill Village Historic District
Name of Property

Alamance Co., NC
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Architecture

Social History

Period of Significance

ca. 1840-1947

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Areas of Significance

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

Alamance Mill Village Historic District
Name of Property

Alamance Co., NC
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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approx. 10

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	636240	3989150
2	17	636530	3989120

	Zone	Easting	Northing
3	17	636260	3988860
4	17	636180	3989000

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Laura A. W. Phillips, Architectural Historian

organization _____ date February 24, 2007

street & number 637 N. Spring Street telephone 336/727-1968

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27101

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple owners

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Alamance Mill Village Historic District
Alamance County, North Carolina

DESCRIPTION

Materials, cont'd.

Roof – Metal

Walls – Vinyl

Narrative

The Alamance Mill Village Historic District is a residential district located at the north end of the village of Alamance in the west central section of Alamance County in North Carolina's Piedmont region. Of the district's seventeen primary resources, fifteen are mill houses, one is a warehouse, and the last is the mill dam and connected remains of the head race. The remaining twenty resources (making thirty-seven total resources) are secondary in nature and include garages, sheds, and other outbuildings, as well as a water intake structure and a pump house on the bank of Great Alamance Creek.

The small district is contained entirely within a horseshoe bend in Great Alamance Creek, which is the controlling factor in the natural environment. Covering approximately ten acres, the district follows a linear pattern with all resources, except for the dam and water-related features, being located on the east and west sides of the 3900 block of North Carolina Highway 62 South (hereinafter NC Hwy 62 S) between the bridge over Great Alamance Creek and Pond Road. A sidewalk runs along the east side of the road. Because of the creek, the district possesses some variations in topography. The road follows the high point in elevation, and then the land slopes downward on either side to the creek, more sharply on the west side because the creek bends much closer to the road. The house sites themselves are relatively flat. On the west side of the road, the house lots do not extend to the creek. Behind them there is a sharp drop to the flood plain. On the east side of the road, the lots run all the way back to the creek. Here the change in elevation is more gradual. On this side of the road, trees, undergrowth, and then the flood plain make up the back lots. Large and medium-sized trees of various types surround the district's houses in an unplanned manner. Technically, there is one vacant lot in the district. However, now owned by an adjoining neighbor, it appears more like a side yard than a vacant lot.

The Alamance Mill Village Historic District forms a tightly knit, cohesive unit of historic mill houses and mill dam whose overall character is distinguished from its surroundings in several ways. North of the district, on either side of the road, structures historically associated with the mill village have been lost (mostly during second and third quarters of twentieth century) and the land either left vacant or used for newer structures. Between the north end of the district and the bridge over Great Alamance Creek, on the east side of the road, were two mill houses, the mill store and office, an automobile garage, and a barn. In their place now are a modern power substation, vacant land, a small modern building for the storage of the town's

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tools, and a fenced area for the town's sewer pumping station. On the west side of the road, north and northwest of the district, stood the mill, the dye house, the mill races, the settling basin, a storage building, and a water tank. Today the buildings and structures in this area are gone. In their place are a mid-twentieth-century concrete-block building, the ruins of what may have been part of the water filtering basins for the dyeing process, and the flood plain bordered on the north and west by the creek. South of the district, on the east side of the road, are the Alamance Lutheran Church and its parking lot. On the west side, past Pond Road and around a curve, is an industrial complex that was once part of Standard Hosiery Mill. Otherwise, south of the district is a combination of a small-town urban mix of buildings, vacant land, and wooded land. East and west of the district are flood plains beyond the creek and woodlands. In summary, beyond the district boundaries, the cohesiveness that distinguishes the district disappears.

Because the district's housing was planned by the mill, there is a general consistency in the lot sizes and building arrangements. Lots run between fifty to seventy-five feet wide, with those on the west side of the road tending to be narrower than those on the east side. The lots on the west side are approximately 150 feet deep, while those on the east side stretch approximately 500 feet to the creek. Regardless of the lot sizes, houses are positioned consistently close to the road. They are somewhat irregular, however, in terms of their placement side-to-side on the lot. Most are positioned toward the center of the lot, but some hug a property line, thereby providing larger side yards.

The sameness rather than diversity that is typical of mill housing is the predominant characteristic of the Alamance Mill Village Historic District. Other than the mid-1840s stone mill dam, a primary resource physically unlike all the others, the remaining sixteen primary resources are all simple, vernacular structures that are residential in scale, including the ca. 1850/ca. 1920 one-story warehouse. The following discussion will center on the district's fifteen houses, which make up eighty-eight percent of the primary resources. All are frame and, originally, all were weatherboarded. Seven of the fifteen have been covered with replacement materials, including three with asbestos shingles, two with vinyl, and one each with asphalt and aluminum. Six of the houses are two stories in height, while nine are one story. All are single pile, and all have a one-story rear ell. Periods of construction represented in the district's houses include ca. 1840, ca. 1860-ca. 1880, ca. 1900, and ca. 1927.

Three types of mill houses dating from three different periods have been identified in the Alamance Mill Village Historic District. Most houses in the district follow one of these three types, labeled Type A, B, and C. Typical of mill villages, houses have been modified, or individualized, to a certain extent since they passed from mill ownership to private ownership in the 1930s. Following are the basic characteristics of each house type and the district houses exhibiting them. Individual modifications to these houses are discussed in the inventory list.

Type A – The five Type A houses are: 3944, 3962, 3968, 3969, and 3975 NC Hwy 62 S. Type A houses were built ca. 1860-ca. 1880. They are two-story, single-pile, frame dwellings with a brick foundation, weatherboard siding, and a side-gable roof with overhanging eaves and

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exposed rafter and purlin ends. A brick chimney with a stepped single shoulder rises at the south gable end of the house. The chimney exhibits a very irregular common bond with a row of brick headers alternating with various numbers of stretcher rows. The façade of the house has three bays on the first story, with the door in the center, and two bays on the second story. First-story windows are nine-over-six sash, while those on the second story are six-over-six sash. On the south end, there is a single window road-side of the chimney on the first story; at the north end of the house, a single window is centered on the both the first story and the second. A one-story porch carries across the house façade. On three of the houses, the front porch has a shed roof; on the other two, a hipped roof covers the porch. Offset from the north side of the Type A house is a one-story, gable-roofed, rear ell with a central chimney. A porch runs along the south side of the ell, with the rear bay of the ell enclosed to create a room.

Type B – The four Type B houses are: 3950, 3939, 3953, and 3961 NC Hwy 62 S. Type B houses were built ca. 1900. They are one-story, single-pile, frame dwellings with a brick foundation, weatherboard siding, and a triple-A gable roof with overhanging boxed eaves. All gable ends feature a diamond-shaped vent with a cut-out decoration in either a snowflake or a pinwheel design. (Some houses use the same design in all gables while others mix the two designs.) Chimneys no longer survive. The Type B house has a three-bay façade with a central door. Windows are six-over-six sash. A shed-roofed front porch shelters the door and the two flanking windows though not the full façade. Porch posts vary in design. A rear ell extending from the north side of the house has a porch on the south side with the rear bay enclosed to form a room. All ell porches are currently enclosed in a variety of ways.

Type C – The three Type C houses are: 3957, 3965, and 3981 NC Hwy 62 S. Type C houses are one-story, double-pile, frame bungalows built ca. 1927. The most distinctive feature of this house type is its broad, front-facing gable roof that extends well beyond the front wall of the house to shelter an engaged front porch. The roof has overhanging eaves and the front gable has a rectangular, louvered vent. These houses have a brick foundation, are two bays wide, and are three bays deep. One house retains a central chimney; originally all houses probably had a central chimney. Otherwise, the houses currently vary in the type of siding, the type of porch posts, the configuration of window sash, and the arrangement of the two façade bays.

Three additional houses in the district do not fall into one of the house types described above, and two other structures flesh out the district's primary resources. At the north end of the district, the two-story house at 3927 NC Hwy 62 S is much like the Type A houses in form, but its detailing suggest that it was built prior to the others. The flush eaves with beaded rake board of its side gables and the boxed and moulded front and rear cornices reflect Federal period styling. The interior, currently being rehabilitated, reveals heavy-timber, mortise-and-tenon framing and detailing that pre-dates the mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival. Probably constructed around 1840, it appears to be the oldest house in the district. At 3956 NC Hwy 62 S stands a one-story house that is unlike others in the district. Hints such as the flush eaves of the side-gable roof at the front of the house and the once-separate kitchen behind the house suggest

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that it may have been constructed in the mid-nineteenth century. At 3949 NC Hwy 62 S is a 1929 bungalow. Other than being a bungalow, its design is totally different from the Type C houses. It has a side-gable roof whose slopes break at the front to cover a porch and at the rear to cover shed rooms, instead of having a front gable that encompasses an engaged front porch, as do the Type C houses. One of the non-residential resources in the district is a one-story warehouse, now partly demolished, located at 3933 NC Hwy 62 S. Although it appears to have been enlarged and altered in the first quarter of the twentieth century, surviving heavy-timber mortise-and-tenon framing suggests that the original part of it may have been constructed in the mid-nineteenth century. The only primary resource in the district that is not located on NC Hwy 62 S is the stone and concrete dam spanning Great Alamance Creek west of the road. A substantial structure, it is approximately eighty feet long and approximately eight feet high with stone abutments on the sides that rise approximately fifteen feet.

The development of the Alamance Mill Village Historic District throughout most of its history did not follow a natural progression, but rather was at the determination of its owners, the Alamance Cotton Mill and, after 1926, the Standard Hosiery Mill. The earliest houses of the mill operatives, believed to have been built in the 1840s, were log. None of these survive. The ca. 1840 heavy-timber frame house at 3927 NC Hwy 62 S may have been the home of the mill superintendent. Physical evidence and a comparison with other mill houses in the region suggest that the Type A, two-story houses, were built sometime between ca. 1860 and ca. 1880. It is not known if they replaced the earlier log houses or were built alongside them. The one-story Type B houses appear to have been added ca. 1900, but again, it is not known if they replaced earlier houses in the village or filled in empty spaces on the road. The first Sanborn map to cover the area of the houses was published in 1924. At that time there were four additional two-story houses and two additional one-story houses that do not survive (and have not been replaced with other houses), along with the mill and the mill store and office, which also do not survive. (Throughout the entire run of Sanborn maps, from 1904 to 1948, the office was shown as being housed in the store building.) Up the hill, beyond the church, there were other mill houses of various types at that time. A few of these remain, but they are detached from the historic district by later construction and vacant land. Around 1927, the Type C bungalows were added to the west side of the road; the bungalow at 3949 NC Hwy 62 S joined them in 1929. All these were built in vacant spaces. No primary resources have been erected in the district since then. After the mid-1930s, when Standard Hosiery Mill sold the mill houses to their occupants, a more natural progression of development--typical of mill villages--began in the Alamance Mill Village Historic District. Subsequent to that time, owners began to individualize the details of their houses, making such changes as replacing porch posts and railings replacing siding, or adding shutters. Nevertheless, the forms of the houses remained the same, still clearly identifying them as part of a mill village.

Most of the district's primary resources are in good condition. One exception is the noncontributing warehouse at 3933 NC Hwy 62 S, which has been partially demolished. Several

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houses have been rehabilitated recently, such as those at 3957 and 3968 NC Hwy 62 S, and the house at 3927 NC Hwy 62 S is currently undergoing rehabilitation. None of the primary resources have been moved. Of the district's thirty-seven total resources, fifty-one percent contribute to the historic and architectural character of the district. However, of the seventeen primary resources, ninety-four percent contribute to the district's character. With the exception of the partially demolished warehouse, all the noncontributing resources in the district are secondary buildings and structures--mostly garages and small sheds located behind the primary resources--that do not have a significant visual impact on the district. Overall, the Alamance Mill Village Historic District retains good historic integrity in terms of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Inventory List

The following inventory list provides basic information for all properties in the Alamance Mill Village Historic District. Included are each property's name, address (or location), approximate date of construction and major alterations (when known), contributing or noncontributing status, and a summary of each property's physical character. Inventory entries are based on the on-site recording and research conducted by Laura A. W. Phillips in December 2006 and January 2007.

The nature of a mill village is that many of the houses follow a single plan rather than being a collection of houses whose designs are unrelated. In the Alamance Mill Village, most of the houses follow one of three plans, labeled Type A, Type B, and Type C. These types are fully discussed in the general district description. In the inventory list, houses are identified as one of these types, as appropriate, and then only their particular features or changes are described. Those district properties that do not follow one of the three house types are described more fully.

All district resources were originally owned by the Alamance Cotton Mill and then by its successor, the Standard Hosiery Mill. When Standard Hosiery Mill sold the houses, most, if not all, were purchased and continued to be occupied by mill workers. Consequently, individual historic names have not been assigned to the district's properties and individual histories have not been prepared. In the absence of pertinent written documentation, approximate construction dates have been based on a knowledge of house types, styles, and construction techniques; a knowledge of the general history of the mills involved; and, for the most recent houses, clues provided by Sanborn Map Company insurance maps for 1924, 1929, and 1948. To aid in an understanding of the styles and construction techniques of the houses, the consultant gained access to the interiors of four houses on NC Hwy 62 S: 3927 (ca. 1840), 3968 (Type A), 3953 (Type B), and 3957 (Type C).

Buildings, sites, structures, or objects that add to the historic associations or historic architectural qualities for which the district is significant, were present during the district's period of significance, relate to the documented significance of the district, and possess historic

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integrity or that independently meet the National Register criteria are contributing resources. Buildings, sites, structures, or objects that do not add to the historic associations or historic architectural qualities for which the district is significant; were not present during the district's period of significance; do not relate to the documented significance of the district; and due to significant alterations, additions, or other changes no longer possess historic integrity; or that do not independently meet the National Register criteria are noncontributing resources. Vacant lots are listed in the inventory, but are not counted as either contributing or noncontributing resources.

All district properties are located in the 3900 block of NC Hwy 62 S or on Great Alamance Creek west of the road. Starting at the north end of the district and moving south, properties on the east side of the road are listed first. Again moving from north to south, properties on the west side of the road are listed next. Lastly, the resources along Great Alamance Creek are listed.

Addresses and the contributing and noncontributing status of the district's primary resources are keyed to the accompanying district map. Survey files containing survey forms, photographic proof sheets, physical information, and historical data for district properties are maintained at the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office in Raleigh.

EAST SIDE, NC HWY 62 S

Mill House
3944 NC Hwy 62 S
ca. 1860-ca. 1880

Contributing building

Type A. The house is clearly identifiable as a Type A mill house because of its form and many of its features. Alterations include covering of the original weatherboard siding with vinyl, and replacement of the original windows with one-over-one sash. The front door is a modern replacement. The tapered wood posts of the hip-roofed porch have been clad with vinyl; the porch floor is concrete. The entire porch of the rear ell has been enclosed.

Garage
ca. 1940

Contributing building

Sanborn maps show that the garage was built between 1929 and 1948. Located southeast of the house, it is a single-bay frame building with a front-gable roof and a combination of German and flush-board siding. Attached sheds are on the north side and rear.

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Mill House
3950 NC Hwy 62 S
ca. 1900

Contributing building

Type B. The brick pier foundation has been infilled with concrete blocks. The front and north gable vents are decorated with the cut-out snowflake design, while the south gable vent exhibits the pinwheel design. The porch posts are turned. A brick stove stack rises from the rear of the front section of the house. The entire porch has been enclosed. According to current owner Marie K. Slaughter, who was born in the house, her parents, Bennie and Ollie Kennedy, moved to the house around 1933 from the home they had been renting on Pond Road. Several years later, possibly 1936, they purchased the house.

Privy/Shed
ca. 1950

Noncontributing building

Far behind the house, in an area overgrown with trees, stands a German-sided, shed-roofed, frame privy with an attached shed. It is in deteriorated condition. Sanborn maps suggest it was built after 1948.

Mill House
3956 NC Hwy 62 S
ca. 1860

Contributing building

This house is one of the few in the district whose design does not fall within one of the three identified mill house types. It also appears to be one of the oldest houses. It is a one-story frame dwelling with a brick foundation, weatherboard siding, a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, and a stepped shingle-shoulder brick chimney with a fieldstone base and a free-standing stack at the south gable end. At each gable end the roof is flush with the end wall, but at front and rear the roof eaves are boxed. Adjacent to the chimney shoulder at the south end of the house is a small window. On the facade and north end of the house, first-story windows are nine-over-six sash with two-part, mitered surrounds. Shutters on the facade windows are additions. At the north end, an upper-level window is six-over-six sash. The facade is unusual in having a typical three bays (window-door-window) at one level and then taking a step down before the final north bay. This bay had a door, but it was enclosed in the 1990s. The step down allows for the upper story at this end of the house. A shed-roofed porch with plain replacement posts carries across the entire facade. Sanborn maps show that it was added between 1925 and 1929. A single-bay rear ell is inset from the north end of the house. It has a rear stove stack and its south-side porch has been enclosed. An enclosed hyphen (originally open on the south side) attaches the rear ell to what was once a separate, one-story, kitchen building--the only one surviving in the district. The

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kitchen has a large chimney at the south gable end with a stuccoed base. A four-over-four sash window is on the west side next to the hyphen, a six-over-six sash window is on the north end, and a replacement door is on the east side.

Mill House
3962 NC Hwy 62 S
ca. 1860- ca. 1880

Contributing building

Type A. Both the brick foundation and the chimney have been stuccoed. Except for the six-over-six sash window on the second floor of the north elevation, the windows of the two-story section of the house have been replaced with three-over-one Craftsman sash. The shutters are additions. The hip-roofed porch has slender square posts and a lattice balustrade. The Sanborn maps suggest that it was built between 1924 and 1929. The front door is a replacement. The ell porch has been enclosed, and a room has been added to the inside corner formed by the joining of the house and ell.

Garage
ca. 1950

Noncontributing building

Southeast of the house stands a single-bay frame garage. It has German siding, a metal-sheathed, gable-front roof, and bungalow style windows

Mill House
3968 NC Hwy 62 S
ca. 1860- ca. 1880

Contributing building

Type A. The house has a concrete-block foundation. The front door is four-paneled, and it and the windows have moulded surrounds and drip ledges. A shed-roofed porch with a concrete floor, chamfered posts (added post-2002 to replace ironwork posts), and exposed rafters that are cut out to rest on the front plate carries across the full façade. Sanborn maps suggest the porch was built between 1929 and 1948. Originally the house had an offset one-bay rear ell and a semi-detached kitchen (rather like the house at 3956). After 1948, either the kitchen was moved to line up with the rear ell, or the kitchen was removed and another stage was added to the rear ell. A screened porch runs along its entirety on the south side. After 1948 (probably in the 1950s or 1960s), a bathroom wing was added to the north side of the first stage of the ell. The interior of the house has a two-room plan, regular-width flush-board walls, beaded board ceilings, a vernacular Greek Revival mantel, batten doors, and a steep, narrow, enclosed stair that rises from rear to front near the center of the house. At second-floor level it has a tapered newel and a railing with balusters set at a forty-five-degree angle to appear diamond-shaped rather than

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square. Southeast of the house next to the smokehouse is a large, old, and unusually gnarled mulberry tree.

Tool Shed

Noncontributing building

Second quarter nineteenth century

Located immediately northeast of the house, this small frame building was originally located at nearby St. Paul's Lutheran Church, where it had been used as the cemetery tool shed. It was moved to its present site in 2004. The building is weatherboarded, with a side-gable roof, shallow boxed eaves on front and rear, and a batten door on the west side. An added open shed is on the rear (east side).

Playhouse/Storage Building

Noncontributing building

ca. 1950

Originally located in Fuquay-Varina where it was erected as a playhouse, this small frame building was moved in 2004 to its present site behind the house and other outbuildings. It has a concrete-block pier foundation, weatherboard siding, a center front door, and a front-facing gable roof that extends beyond the front of the building to create an engaged porch. The porch has square corner posts.

Smokehouse

Noncontributing building

ca. 1950

Southeast of the house and the mulberry tree is a frame building believed by the owners to have been originally a smokehouse. It has weatherboard siding, beaded-board batten doors at front and rear, a metal-sheathed front-gable roof, and an added shed on the north side. This may be an older building that was moved to this site from another location, but it does not appear at this location on the 1948 Sanborn map.

WEST SIDE, NC HWY 62 S

House

Contributing building

3927 NC Hwy 62 S
ca. 1840

This house is similar to the Type A houses in the district. Its form is largely the same, but its details reveal that it is considerably older than the other houses. It is a two-story, heavy-timber

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frame dwelling with a three-bay façade (two bays on the second story) and is one-room deep. A one-story rear ell is a later addition, probably replacing a detached kitchen. The house has a brick foundation, weatherboard siding, and a side-gable roof with eaves flush at the gable ends and boxed on the front and rear. Federal-style detailing is seen in the beaded gable rake boards, beaded vertical corner posts, and mouldings associated with the boxed cornice. A single-shoulder brick chimney rises at the north end. Windows were originally nine-over-six sash, but are now six-over-six sash (date of change unknown). A one-story, shed-roofed porch runs across the full façade. Sanborn maps suggest that the porch was not built until between 1929 and 1948. It features hearty chamfered posts with recently added sawnwork brackets and a turned balustrade. Porch rafters with tapered ends are notched to fit onto the front plate, which rests on the porch posts. The ell extends from the south side of the rear of the house. On the north side of the ell, its gable roof flares out to cover a porch with an original enclosed room at the west (rear) end and a room enclosed since 1948 at the east end. A pair of French doors has been added to the west end of the ell. In addition to the original framing of the house and the changed window openings, the interior (currently undergoing rehabilitation) reveals other early features. Among these are hand-planed, flush-board walls and ceilings, two-board batten doors with moulded surrounds, and a Federal-style mantel with a two-flat-panel frieze, a moulded band surrounding the outer edge of the mantel, and a bead running beneath the plain mantel shelf. The original occupant of the house is not known. However, its age and architectural refinement in comparison with the other mill houses suggest that it may have been the home of the mill manager in early years.

Storage Shed
ca. 1990

Noncontributing building

South of the house stands a modern, vertical-board storage shed. It rests on concrete blocks, has a broad gambrel roof, and double-leaf, barn-like doors on the west end.

Warehouse
3933 NC Hwy 62 S
ca. 1850; ca. 1920

Noncontributing building

Little is known about the history of this building and its original use. The first Sanborn map to cover the site, in 1924, identifies it as a storage building. At that time it had additions on either side. When photographed in 1990, the building had a pair of shed-roofed, two-bay, vehicular storage units extending from either side of the front. An extension also had been built to the rear of the building. When photographed in 2002, the side wings had been removed. Today the building has been further reduced by the removal of the rear addition and, consequently, the rear wall. The north wall leans outward, propped up by poles, the flooring is gone, and the roof has largely collapsed. The façade and north and south walls of the one-story frame building are

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weatherboarded. Two large industrial doors, one at the center and the other at the south end of the façade, are composed of narrow vertical boards. A projecting eave carries across the top of the façade. Despite changes that reshaped this building during the early twentieth century and the current lack of physical integrity due to deterioration, hewn cornerposts and heavy-timber, mortise-and-tenon framing visible on the interior reveal that the building has mid-nineteenth-century origins, making it one of the oldest buildings in the district.

Mill House
3939 NC Hwy 62 S
ca. 1900

Contributing building

Type B. The exterior of the house has been sheathed with stone-patterned asphalt, the only example of this type of replacement siding in the district. All three diamond vents in the gable ends are decorated with a pierced pinwheel design. Windows are replacement three-over-one sash. The center-bay entrance has a wood-paneled door. The front porch has replacement square posts, a plain balustrade, and wood flooring. The south side of the rear ell retains its original enclosed room at the west end; the remaining two thirds of the porch were enclosed in the third quarter of the twentieth century with a glass door and windows and a vertical-board lower wall. A metal canopy supported by metal posts runs along the south side of the original ell.

Garage
ca. 1950

Noncontributing building

Immediately southwest of the house stands a single-bay, concrete-block garage with a metal-covered broad gable roof with exposed rafter ends and German siding in the gable end. The garage has a rear addition sheathed in vertically laid sheet metal that continues the gable roof. The extension has a door on the north side.

Storage Building
ca. 1950

Noncontributing building

Close behind the garage but offset to the north is a storage building. It has a 5-V sheet-metal gable roof with exposed rafter ends but with a pitch that is steeper than that of the garage. The walls are covered with vertically laid sheet metal; a door is on the east end. The building rests on a brick pier foundation.

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Vacant Lot

Sanborn maps show that what is now a grassy vacant lot was once the site of a two-story frame house with an offset rear ell and what was likely a separate rear kitchen. The house appears to have been closely akin to the district's Type A house. It was demolished after 1948.

Mill House
3949 NC Hwy 62 S
1929

Contributing building

The January 1929 Sanborn map shows this house "From Plans." Except for being a bungalow, it is entirely different from the Type C houses. The one-story frame structure has a brick foundation, aluminum siding, and a side-gable roof with a single brick chimney rising from the ridge north of the center of the house. A gabled dormer with a pair of four-light windows projects from the front roof slope. The roof flares out in front to cover a porch across the two-bay façade and in the rear to cover shed rooms. The porch has square posts, a plain balustrade, and a concrete floor scored to look like tile. The six-over-six window sash are replacements and the shutters are non-operable. The front door is also a modern replacement. Probably during the last quarter of the twentieth century, a metal carport was attached to the north side of the house.

Garage/Storage Building
ca. 1940; last quarter twentieth century

Noncontributing building

Sanborn maps show that a garage was built at this location between 1929 and 1948. The front part of this building is probably that garage. It is frame and has a broad gable roof sheathed in 5-V metal. However, in the last quarter of the twentieth century, several changes occurred that altered the character of the garage and converted it to a storage building. The garage doors were replaced with a modern, double-leaf, vertical door, and the siding (original type unknown) was replaced with modern vertical boarding. An addition, slightly taller than the original building, with the same wall covering, door type, and metal roof, was attached to the rear of the building. The addition of a carport to the house alleviated the need for the original purpose of the building.

Mill House
3953 NC Hwy 62 S.
ca. 1900

Contributing building

Type B. Concrete blocks have infilled the spaces between the stuccoed brick piers of the foundation. The diamond vents in the east and south gables exhibit the decorative snowflake

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design, while the vent in the north gable uses the pinwheel design. The shed-roofed front porch has decorative metal posts and balustrade and the porch floor is concrete. The front door probably dates from the 1950s or 1960s. Shed rooms that were added after 1948 extend from the rear of the house south of the rear ell. Inside, the house has a two-room plan. A turn-of-the-century coal-burning fireplace remains intact with its late Victorian mantel. The mantel features moulded pilasters on either side of the firebox, a curvilinear friezeboard, and sawnwork brackets supporting the shelf.

Garage ca. 1940

Contributing building

Southwest of the house stands a single-bay frame garage. It has a double-leaf vehicular door that opens outward, German siding, and a broad gable roof sheathed with 5-V metal.

Mill House 3957 NC Hwy 62 S ca. 1927

Contributing building

Type C. Asbestos shingles sheathe the one-story bungalow; the roof is covered with 5-V metal. Windows are one-over-one sash. The two-bay façade consists of a single window in the south bay (the shutters are non-operable) and a door in the north bay. The upper half of the front door is composed of a single, rectangular pane of glass; the lower half has a horizontal wood panel above two vertical wood panels. The engaged front porch features a tongue-and-groove floor, a beaded-board ceiling, tapered wood posts, and a plain balustrade. A modern metal carport with a shed roof and metal support posts is attached to the south side of the house.

Mill House 3961 NC Hwy 62 S ca. 1900

Contributing building

Type B. The house has a replacement brick foundation and replacement six-over-six sash in the original window openings. The shutters are non-operable. The center bay front door consists of a six-light panel above three wood panels. The diamond vent in each gable features a cut-out snowflake design. The exposed rafters of the shed-roofed front porch rest on the front plate which, in turn rests on square porch posts. The fence-like porch balustrade is a replacement, as is the concrete floor. The south-side porch of the rear ell is the most intact of those in the district. It retains both an open section and the small enclosed room at the rear (west) end. However, the east end of the porch, nearest the main block of the house, has been enclosed.

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Mill House
3965 NC Hwy 62 S
ca. 1927

Contributing building

Type C. This bungalow is sided with asbestos shingles. Features of the front porch include decorative metal posts and balustrade, a beaded-board ceiling, and a concrete floor. The north bay of the façade consists of a window and a glass-and-wood-paneled front door, while the south bay has a single window. Windows are two-over-two sash. According to present owner Myrtle Newton Sykes, her family moved to the village in 1931, when she was eleven years old. They stayed for two years, moved away, and then returned for good in 1936. When they moved away in 1933, the mill (Standard Hosiery Mill at that time) still owned all the houses, but when they returned in 1936, the company had sold the houses to individuals. The company also had built a long, one-story row of brick apartments up the hill (to the south) past Pond Road for mill workers, and she and her parents lived there from 1936 until the apartments were demolished in 1955. At that point, she moved into her present house at 3965 NC Hwy 62 S. Providing an indication of the family ties within the village, Mrs. Sykes added that her oldest brother, William James Leroy Newton, purchased the house at 3961 NC Hwy 62 S; her youngest brother, Walter Alexious Newton Jr., purchased the house at 3957 NC Hwy 62 S and another brother, Walter Taft Newton, boarded there with him because he wasn't married; and her next to youngest brother, Charles Clyde Newton, bought the house at 3953 NC Hwy 62 S. Thus, for a time, four houses in a row were owned and occupied by members of the Newton family.

Carport
1990s

Noncontributing structure

Immediately south of the house stands a carport with an arched metal roof supported by five metal poles per side.

Garage
ca. 1940

Contributing building

Behind the carport and the house stands a single-bay frame garage that Sanborn maps indicate was built between 1929 and 1948. It has vertical-board siding, a metal-sheathed front-facing gable roof, a double-leaf vehicular door, and a pedestrian door adjacent to it on the north.

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Mill House
3969 NC Hwy 62 S
ca. 1860-ca. 1880

Contributing building

Type A. Wood shingles of an earlier roof can still be seen beneath the 5-V metal sheathing of the current roof of the house. Windows on the main body of the house have two-part surrounds; the shutters on the façade are added. The center-bay front door gives evidence of having been a Greek Revival-style two-panel door--the only one surviving in the village--but its two vertical wood panels have been replaced with glass. The full-façade front porch features a shed roof, decorative metal posts, and a concrete floor. The roof structure of the porch is exposed, showing rafters with tapered ends cut to rest on the front plate. Sanborn maps suggest that the porch was added between 1924 and 1929. The porch on the south side of the ell has been enclosed in a way that the original room at the rear end is still clearly evident. A one-story shed room has been added (post 1948) to the rear (west side) of the house between the ell porch and the south end of the house.

Shed
ca. 2004

Noncontributing building

Survey photographs made in 2002 show that at that time a two-bay frame garage stood at this location between 3969 and 3975 NC Hwy 62 S. Sanborn maps indicate that the garage had been erected between 1929 and 1948. Standing southwest of the house and looking like an old privy, the current small frame shed has a shed roof and a door on the north side.

Mill House
3975 NC Hwy 62 S
ca. 1860- ca. 1880

Contributing building

Type A. The house has a stuccoed brick foundation, vinyl siding, and an asphalt shingled roof. Window shutters are additions. Sanborn maps show that a front porch was added to the house between 1924 and 1929. The current porch features a shed roof, slender square posts, a plain balustrade, and a concrete floor. The center-bay front door has six horizontal panels. Sanborn maps also show that after 1948 a shed-roofed entrance porch was added to the north side of the rear ell and that the porch on the south side of the ell was enclosed. In recent years a wood deck has been added to the rear of the ell. A chain-link fence surrounds the back yard.

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Storage building
ca. 1975

Noncontributing building

Southwest of the house stands a gambrel-roofed frame storage building with vertical-board sheathing and a double-leaf, barn-like door on the east end.

Shed
ca. 2004

Noncontributing building

Survey photographs made in 2002 show that at that time a two-bay frame garage stood at this location between 3975 and 3969 NC Hwy 62 S. Sanborn maps indicate that the garage had been erected between 1929 and 1948. Standing northwest of the house and looking like an old privy, the current small frame shed has a shed roof and a door on the south side.

Mill House
3981 NC Hwy 62 S
ca. 1927

Contributing building

Type C. The house has asbestos-shingle siding, a metal-sheathed roof with boxed eaves, and a central chimney. Windows are one-over-one sash, and the two-bay façade consists of a door in the north bay and a pair of windows in the south bay. The porch has decorative metal posts and balustrade and a concrete floor. A small shed room is attached to the rear of the house. Sanborn maps show that up through 1948 the southwest corner of the house was open.

Carport
1990s

Noncontributing structure

On the north side of the house a concrete driveway leads to a carport with an arched metal roof supported by five metal poles per side.

Garage
ca. 1960

Noncontributing building

Directly behind the carport stands a single-bay frame garage with lapped siding and a low gable roof. It extends far back to the west and has a door about midway back on the south side. Toward the rear, because of the sloping topography, it has a lower floor with a window and a door that opens to a frame deck. With the addition of the carport, the garage may have been converted to a workshop or an apartment.

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ALONG GREAT ALAMANCE CREEK, WEST OF THE 3900 BLOCK, NC HWY 62 S

Dam and Head Race

Contributing structure

Spanning creek and on east bank of creek, approximately behind 3949 and 3953 NC Hwy 62 S
Mid 1840s; early twentieth century

Spanning Great Alamance Creek and creating a small pond on its upstream side is the large dam that powered the Alamance Cotton Mill. The random-laid stone structure, with its concrete-repaired center section and curved concrete cap (doubtless added at the same time as the repair) is approximately eighty feet long and approximately eight feet high. At either end of the dam are stone abutments that rise approximately fifteen feet. The abutment on the east bank continues in a northeastward direction approximately fifty feet from the creek. It then makes a clean break to allow passage of the head race that originally ran through a channel just upstream from the dam, then east of it, and then on northward to the mill site. The head race south of the dam is currently barely discernable except for the break in the stone abutment and a shallow indentation in the land. Not far north of the abutment, the village in recent years filled in the head race. A portion of the current dam may date from 1837 when the mill was established, but this is not certain. The dam was enlarged between 1845 and 1847 and its random-laid stone construction is consistent with what could have been constructed at that time. The concrete repairs caused by a break in the dam probably date from the early twentieth century.

Pump House

Noncontributing structure

Located approximately behind and downhill from 3957 NC Hwy 62 S
ca. 1950

On the east bank above the creek stands a small concrete block structure with a stuccoed base. Its exact date of construction is not known, but it does not appear on the 1948 Sanborn map. According to the present owner, it has a basement pit about ten to fifteen feet deep that holds three large pumps. These pumped creek water from the induction pipes at the water intake structure (see below) to a small water treatment facility that stands in the area of the now-demolished mill north of the historic district. In recent years the present owner of the land along the creek added a gable roof and a covered porch to the pump house to give it the outward appearance of a cabin.

Water Intake Structure

Noncontributing structure

Located at the edge of the creek approximately behind 3957 NC Hwy 62 S
ca. 1950

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On the east bank of the creek downhill from the pump house and upstream from the dam is a roughly triangular concrete structure that juts into the creek. Hollow on the inside, it held induction pipes that pulled water in from the creek and carried it to the pump house just up the hill. From there the water was pumped northward to the next stop in the village water treatment facility. Screens covering the ends of the pipes helped keep leaves and other debris from clogging up the pipes. A section of chain-link fence rests on the top of the water intake structure, preventing the curious from accessing the platform-like edge of the structure that extends into the creek. The exact date of construction of the water intake structure is not known. It is not shown on the 1948 Sanborn map, but was likely built soon thereafter.

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SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

In 1837 Edwin M. Holt (1807-1884) built a small cotton mill on the banks of Great Alamance Creek in Alamance County, North Carolina. Although it was not the first mill built in the county that became a center of North Carolina's important textile industry, it was the first mill in what became an extraordinary family empire of textile mills during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Alamance Cotton Mill was also the mill that produced the first colored cotton goods manufactured in the South--the "Alamance Plaids." The Alamance Cotton Mill operated until 1926. After the mill closed, it and the entire village were purchased by John Shoffner and his Standard Hosiery Mills. What had been the cotton mill continued in use for another twenty years as the dye works and then storage for the hosiery mill, which shut down in 1947.

As was necessary in rural North Carolina in the nineteenth century, a mill village was built for the workers of the Alamance Cotton Mill who were moving from area farms to work at the mill. The form of the village was typical of countless others mill villages in the state. In addition to the mill, the lower end of the village held the company store, mill office, supervisor's house, and warehouse--those resources that provided manufacturing and management functions. Rising uphill from there along a single road were the workers' houses, identical vernacular dwellings in a row. The Alamance Mill Village has groups of houses that span three periods in the development of the village. Between ca. 1860 and ca. 1880, two-story farmhouse-like frame dwellings with side-gable roofs and gable-end chimneys were built. Around 1900 one-story frame houses with three-gable roofs with decorative gable vents were erected, and ca. 1927, one-story frame bungalows with front gables encompassing engaged porches were built. The district also contains three other significant houses that are not part of these groups: one dating from ca. 1840 that may have been the supervisor's house, one dating from ca. 1860, and the last dating from 1929.

Today, the Alamance Cotton Mill buildings themselves and the combined company store and office are long gone. However, the impressive stone dam survives as a reminder of the power source that ran this and so many nineteenth-century textile mills. In addition, the one- and two-story frame houses that line both sides of the road leading uphill from the site of the old mill clearly present as a mill village, even though they have not been owned by a mill since the mid 1930s. Moreover, the houses in the Alamance Mill Village exhibit three building campaigns by two different mills, thereby illustrating the longevity and evolution of this particular mill village and the continuity of the way of life it represented for many North Carolinians.

The Alamance Mill Village Historic District meets Criterion A for listing in the National Register in the areas of Industry and Social History for its strong association with the development of the textile industry in Alamance County and for its association with the dramatic

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shift in North Carolina's social history as many people left their farms in the nineteenth century to work in textile mills and live in mill villages owned by the mills. The district also meets Criterion C for its architectural significance in embodying the distinctive characteristics of the residential section of a mill village with three different types of mill houses representing three different periods of construction. Two other houses in the district are also architecturally significant in representing distinctive features from the second and third quarters of the nineteenth century, and the mill dam is significant as an impressive and well-preserved example of nineteenth-century engineering. The Alamance Mill Village Historic District is significant at the local level, and its period of significance spans the years from ca. 1840, the date of the oldest house in the district, to 1947, the year in which Standard Hosiery Mill closed and the unity of mill and village began to wane.

Historical Background and Industry, Social History, and Architecture Contexts

Although the textile industry in North Carolina began in the early nineteenth century, its early progress was slow. Only four mills were built prior to 1830. The state's first cotton mill was erected in 1813 by Michael Schenck in Lincoln County; Joel Battle built the Rocky Mount Mills in 1818; and George McNeil followed in 1825 with a yarn mill near Fayetteville. In the central Piedmont, Henry Humphries's Mount Hecla Mill first operated on a stream outside Greensboro from 1818 to around 1825. It was reorganized and enlarged between 1828 and 1830, becoming the first steam-powered mill in the state (Glass, *Textile Industry*, 8, 10; Standard and Griffin, "Origin and Growth to 1830," 27, 34).

The presence of good water power, the absence of a sizeable planter class, the emergence of a market economy, and, by the mid-nineteenth century, rail transportation, made the Piedmont region the ideal location for textile development in the state. Over time, Alamance County became one of the most significant of North Carolina's textile-producing counties, helping the state emerge in the twentieth century as the leading manufacturer of textile products in the United States (Glass, *Textile Industry*, 1, 7). John Trollinger built the first textile mill in the county in 1832 at the site of his grandfather's grist mill on the Haw River. Within five years, Trollinger's Mill had 1,000 spindles spinning yarn for the local market. In 1836 the Cane Creek Manufacturing Company was established by twenty community shareholders who subscribed a capital of \$10,000. The mill was located about twelve miles south of Trollinger's mill. Unfortunately, that mill's capital proved insufficient, and it suffered numerous adversities until it was sold in 1857 to E. M. Holt, a manufacturer who, by that time, had a proven record (Troxler and Vincent, 344-345).

Edwin Michael Holt (1807-1884) played a pivotal role in the development of textile manufacturing in Alamance County and North Carolina from the late 1830s until his death and then through his descendents who followed his calling. E. M. Holt grew up on the large farm of his father, Michael Holt III, around the site of the Alamance Battlefield and the present village of

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Alamance. After his marriage in 1828, he took over the operation of his father's store, but soon became interested in manufacturing. Through the business of the store and other connections, Holt became acquainted with several influential manufacturers in the state, including Charles Mallet, Francis Fries, John Motley Morehead, and Henry Humphries, who provided him with good counsel, support, and friendship. In 1836 he traveled to Fayetteville to visit Mallet, whose Phoenix Mill was the largest in antebellum North Carolina. The same year he journeyed to Forsyth County to visit Francis Fries, whose Salem Cotton Manufacturing Company was proving to be a success. Within a couple of years, John Motley Morehead had built a factory in Rockingham County; during his tenure as governor (1841-1845), he was a strong advocate for industrialization. However, it was Holt's more frequent visits with Henry Humphries and his steam-powered Mount Hecla Mill near Greensboro that influenced him most and made Holt decide that owning a cotton factory was what he most wanted to do (Troxler and Vincent, 345; Whitaker, 99-100; Stockard, 89).

Much about E. M. Holt's entry into cotton manufacturing and his first mill is known through an article written in the late nineteenth century by his son, Governor Thomas M. Holt, and published in 1900 in S. W. Stockard's *History of Alamance*. Other sources, including E. M. Holt's own diary, flesh out the picture of Holt's first mill and the village that surrounded it. Having determined to go into textile manufacturing, Holt approached his father, from whom he had hoped to gain approval. He also hoped that his father would join him in the enterprise and erect a small cotton factory on a site on Great Alamance Creek about a mile from the homes of the two men where Michael Holt III already had a grist mill. The water power of the creek would be sufficient to operate both undertakings. However, the elder Holt strongly opposed the idea and tried to dissuade his son from his intended venture. E. M. Holt then approached his brother-in-law, William A. Carrigan, about going into partnership with him. After much consideration, Carrigan still could not decide what to do. While Carrigan was trying to make up his mind, Holt, set in his course, headed to Paterson, New Jersey, to place an order for mill machinery. Whether out of justified confidence or the foolishness of youth, Holt forged ahead with his plan, although neither funding for the project nor a site for the mill was in hand. On his return south, Holt stopped in Philadelphia to meet with Chief Justice Thomas Ruffin, who at the time owned "a water power and grist mill" on Haw River (Stockard, 90). Ruffin was highly supportive of the young Holt, offering him a location for his mill on the Haw River and himself as a partner or a loan for as much as he needed, if he preferred that rather than having a partner. Upon returning home and hearing of the conversation with Chief Justice Ruffin, William Carrigan finally agreed to enter into partnership with Holt. They bought the water power on Great Alamance Creek from E. M. Holt's father for a nominal price, erected the necessary buildings, and started the factory during the financial panic of 1837. The name of the firm was Holt and Carrigan, and it remained so until 1851, during which time Holt oversaw the mill's daily operations, and Carrigan ran the company store and kept the mill books. In 1851, with Carrigan's wife (Holt's sister) having

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recently died, Carrigan decided to move to Arkansas with his two older sons, and sold his interest in the factory to Holt (Stockard, 89-91; Troxler and Vincent, 346).

When the Holt and Carrigan mill machinery arrived in 1837 from the makers, Godwin, Clark and Company of Paterson, New Jersey, it was accompanied by a mechanic who set up the machinery and then remained for about eighteen months to operate it and to instruct Holt in its operation until Holt became competent to supervise the running of the mill himself. Thereafter, in the early years of the mill, Holt oversaw the hands-on operation of the mill's twelve-hour days. As soon as the mill was paid for, however, he hired a bright young man from the country and instructed him in the running of the mill. After the new hire had been adequately trained, the mill was turned over to him to manage under Holt's supervision. This allowed Holt to spend much less time in overseeing the day-to-day operations of the mill and more time related to other matters of concern relative to textile production (Stockard, 93-94; Beatty, 18, 20).

Holt and Carrigan's Alamance Cotton Mill began with 528 spindles. For the first eight years, the mill produced only undyed yarn, which was packed in five-pound bundles and sold in the company store, commissioned to peddlers, or taken by wagon for sale in other parts of the state for use as weaving yarn. During these years, the factory operated off the same old water wheel and dam that provided power for Michael Holt's grist mill and sawmill. This changed, however, in the mid 1840s, when E. M. Holt expanded his textile operations, doubling the number of the mill's spindles and adding power looms so that the mill could produce cloth as well as yarn. This necessitated the enlargement of both the water wheel and the dam (Troxler and Vincent, 347; Beatty, 18, 20).

In the 1840s, antiquarian Benson Lossing traveled throughout the eastern United States to locate and describe places associated with the American Revolution. In January 1849, after visiting the nearby site where the Regulators had fought Governor Tryon's militia in 1771, he passed by the Holt and Carrigan Cotton Factory and stopped to inspect this example of Southern industry. Lossing's comments on the rural industrial scene, published in the second volume of his *Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution*, touched on two important and interrelated factors in the operation of a Southern textile mill: the workers and the workers' housing. According to Lossing: "Around this mill quite a village of neat log houses, occupied by the operatives, were collected, and everything had the appearance of thrift. I went in and was pleased to see the hands of intelligent white females employed in a useful occupation" (Lounsbury, 36).

There was no town, or even village, where E. M. Holt had built his mill. Instead, like most early mill sites in piedmont North Carolina, it was located on a waterway in a very rural area. There was no ready labor pool from which to draw employees for the mill. Instead, the surrounding area was filled with farms and the families and laborers who lived and worked on the farms. Many of these farms, however, were struggling, so that other income-producing options appeared attractive. As a result, here and elsewhere in piedmont North Carolina, many left the farm environment they knew to take "public work" in a mill that paid a wage, hoping that it would bring them the security and stability they lacked (Glass, *Textile Industry*, 19). For

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simple economic reasons--they could be paid less than men--the majority of people working in North Carolina mills throughout the nineteenth century were young unmarried white women and children. Yet, the minority of adult male workers held the most highly skilled and supervisory positions (Beatty, 55). These trends are well illustrated by the Holt and Carrigan Cotton Factory listing in the 1850 census. Of sixty-one total employees, fifty-three were female. However, the male employees were paid almost twice as much as the females (1850 Census).

In order to attract workers, mill owners had to provide housing and a desirable place to live. In piedmont North Carolina where workers were leaving farms to work at the mill, this meant building a mill village that would adapt rural living patterns and regional house forms—in particular, detached houses on large lots with room for house gardens and a few animals. The houses were not unlike the farmhouses from which the workers came. Edwin Holt recruited families to live in the houses he built and expected them to furnish several hands apiece to work in the mill (Glass, *Textile Industry*, 18; Beatty, 54; Bishir, 433).

In its village and in its housing, Alamance Mill Village followed typical patterns of development seen elsewhere in the textile-manufacturing areas of North Carolina. Mill villages varied in size and evolved over time, as new houses replaced older houses or increased the total number of houses. However, the basic form of the village remained the same. That form dictated that the mill, warehouse, office, company store, and supervisor's house--all those elements providing manufacturing and management functions--were located at the lower end of the village. From there, a single road or several roads rose uphill, lined with identical mill houses and any social elements of the village, such as a church, school, or lodge that existed (Glass, "Southern Mill Hills," 139). Later, when mills no longer depended on water power and thus could be built in more urban areas, the topography might be more level and the roads curving, but the various elements that made up the village remained the same. Over time, mill villages became tight-knit communities of families and neighbors who worked and lived together, sometimes for generations.

The general character of workers' housing in mill villages evolved slowly from the 1830s through the first quarter of the twentieth century. Although houses varied in size and plan based on need from mill to mill throughout the nineteenth century, they were all simple vernacular dwellings that reflected the character of basic farmhouses during those decades. The earliest houses, dating from the 1830s and 1840s, were one-story log structures. Like their farmhouse counterparts, they were replaced within a couple of decades with one, one-and-a-half, or two-story frame dwellings with gable roofs, gable-end chimneys, and either hall-and-parlor or center-hall plans. These houses often had separate kitchens and sometimes rear ells or rear shed rooms. Through much of the nineteenth century, local carpenters built identical houses within a certain mill village. Later, area builders followed standardized plans to achieve uniformity. During the last decades of the nineteenth century, the earlier house forms continued to be built, but sometimes with central chimneys and sometimes as duplexes with a pair of front doors. The turn of the twentieth century brought a little more variety in the type of dwellings used for mill

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housing. While two-story houses remained popular, many one-story, L- or T-plan houses, or one-story houses with triple-A gable roofs joined the mill village landscape. In 1899, Daniel A. Tompkins, a Charlotte engineer and mill operator, published a book, *Cotton Mill: Commercial Features*, that provided plans for a typical range of mill houses that were widely used. Tompkins still urged mill owners to preserve the general conditions of rural life in their mill housing. After World War I, firms such as Aladdin Read-Cut houses came out with publications like *The Aladdin Plan of Industrial Housing (1918)* that could provide mill owners with all the ready-to-build mill housing they needed in the sizes and types they wanted in a standardized and efficient manner. Most of these houses were bungalows, reflecting the wide popularity of this house type at that time (Bishir, 433-436, 503; Whatley, 34-35, 37). In the Alamance Mill Village, housing was built during three distinct periods that reflected the broader development of mill housing in North Carolina from the mid-nineteenth century through the first quarter of the twentieth century.

Judging from Benson Lossing's 1849 comments on the workers' housing at Alamance Mill Village, "neat log houses" apparently made up the first of the workers' houses there and were what was in use in 1849. None of these houses survives. Other early factories, such as the Cane Creek factory in Alamance County and the Cedar Falls factory in neighboring Randolph County, also had log mill houses. All of these have also been demolished (Lounsbury, 38; Whatley, 34-35). However, one early house that does survive in the Alamance Mill Village appears to have been built ca. 1840, predating the log houses. Its position in the village suggests that it may have been used as the supervisor's house. Located at the north end of the district (now 3927 NC Hwy 62 S) near where the mill and combined mill store and office once stood, the weatherboarded mortise-and-tenon frame house is two stories tall, three bays wide, and one room deep with a side-gable roof, a gable-end chimney, and a hall-and-parlor plan. The added rear ell probably replaced a separate kitchen. While the house has a vernacular form common to much of the nineteenth century, it also exhibits stylistic refinements--such as the cornice moldings and the first-floor mantel--that reflect the Federal style that was in fashion before the Greek Revival style became omnipresent closer to mid century and continuing in the third quarter of the nineteenth century. Another individual house in the district that appears to date from the 1850s, or more likely ca. 1860, but is not a part of any group of identical workers' houses that is present now is the one-story house at 3956 NC Hwy 62 S, halfway up the hill on the single road of houses. It is four bays wide and one-room deep with a side-gable roof. Eaves are tight to the gable-end walls, and boxed cornices carry across the front and rear of the house. Behind the house stands the once-detached kitchen.

In 1851, when William Carrigan sold his interest in the Alamance Cotton Mill to Edwin M. Holt, ownership of the mill changed to E. M. Holt and Company, which it remained for the next fifteen years. Holt called his son Thomas M., who was then living in Philadelphia, home to help him with the mill. Thomas Holt remained with his father at the mill for ten years. In 1853 a Frenchman, who was a dyer, came by the mill proposing to teach Thomas Holt how to dye

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cotton yarn in exchange for \$100 and board. The Frenchman remained until Holt had mastered the skill of dyeing cloth various colors, except for indigo blue. For this Holt hired an expert dyer from Philadelphia to come teach him the art of dyeing indigo blue. For eight years, future governor Thomas Holt worked side-by-side with two of his father's male slaves in the dye tubs perfecting the method. Finally they set up some four-box looms and began the manufacture of a class of goods, known as "Alamance Plaids," that quickly became popular throughout the South as well as in the Philadelphia market and bestowed on the Holts a national reputation. Thomas Holt's Alamance Plaids were the first colored cotton goods manufactured in the South (Stockard, 91-92; Troxler and Vincent, 350). It is for this distinction and for being the first of the many mills in the Holt family textile empire that the Alamance Cotton Mill was so important.

The 1860s and 1870s brought a variety of events that affected the Alamance Cotton Mill. Flush with his success, Thomas Holt left the Alamance Cotton Mill in 1861 to take charge of the Cane Creek Factory, which he and his father had purchased in 1857 (Stockard, 94). Between 1861 and 1865, the Civil War brought privation to many citizens of Alamance County, but great profits to the Alamance Cotton Mill and the Holts. The work force was not diminished significantly by the war, since most workers were young women. At the same time, the need by the Confederacy for the cloth produced by this and other mills was great (Beatty, 80, 85, 105). After the war, in 1866, with his northern contacts and markets back in place, Edwin M. Holt retired from active control of the Alamance Cotton Mill. In doing so, he created a family partnership to run the mill. E. M. Holt and Sons was made up of sons James, William, and Banks, as well as his nephew and son-in-law, James Williamson, with a fifth partnership reserved for his son Lawrence when he turned twenty-one in 1872. On April 24, 1872, fire destroyed the Alamance Factory. The Holts were in a financial position to rebuild immediately, and the new factory was larger than the original and had the most modern equipment (Beatty, 123-126).

During the 1860s and 1870s the second group of workers' housing was built in Alamance Mill Village, perhaps adding to initially but ultimately replacing the log houses. These second-period houses were similar in form to the ca. 1840 house, but later in their detailing. The two-story frame dwellings were three-bays wide and one-room deep, with a side-gable roof, a gable-end chimney, an offset rear ell, and a hall-and-parlor plan. One still exhibits a late Greek Revival style vernacular mantel and another retains, although altered, a Greek Revival two-panel door. For the purposes of the nomination, these have been labeled Type A houses. Five of these survive in the district; in 1948 there were nine (Sanborn Map, 1948). The actual construction date of the Type A houses is not certain, but they have been assigned a likely construction date of ca. 1860-ca. ca. 1880. The houses are of a vernacular type that was built throughout much of the nineteenth century. While they are very similar to the 1848 Union Factory houses in Randolph County, they are even more similar in their construction and detailing to the houses at the 1879 Bellemont Mill--another Holt mill--in Alamance County (Whatley, 34).

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As the decades progressed, the capacity of the Alamance Cotton Mill progressed. In 1886 the mill had 1,200 spindles and ninety-four looms, and barely twenty years later, in 1905, there were 2,500 spindles and 120 looms (Troxler and Vincent, 351). All this expansion necessitated more workers, which necessitated more housing. Consequently, around 1900 the company undertook the construction of another small group of workers' houses. Labeled Type B for the purposes of this nomination, these houses were one-story, weatherboarded frame dwellings with a three-gable roof and a one-story rear ell. The distinctive decorative feature of each gable is a diamond-shaped vent whose wood panel is pierced with either a snowflake or a pinwheel design. This type of house was common for the period and could be seen throughout North Carolina. Four Type B houses remain in the district.

On May 14, 1884, Edwin Michael Holt died. One of the wealthiest men in North Carolina, he left an estate valued at nearly \$2 million. His legacy in the textile industry continued as the Holt family continued to build and acquire more mills. From three mills in the late 1870s to over twenty-five by the end of the century, the Holts continued to dominate the field. By 1919 the family controlled twenty-three of twenty-seven textile mills in Alamance County, seventy-eight percent of the spindles, and eighty-three percent of the looms. As the family empire expanded, the original Alamance Cotton Mill closed in November 1926 after eighty-nine long years in operation (Beatty, 126, 142-143; Troxler and Vincent, 351; Whitaker, 103).

Although the mill was no longer in Holt ownership, it did not stand idle for long. Instead, it became part of the Standard Hosiery Mills, whose president was John Shoffner. John Shoffner's background was totally different from that of Edwin M. Holt. Born in 1888, he moved with his parents to Alamance village as a boy. He began work at the mill at fifteen cents a day, and after ten years he was making nine dollars a week. As he grew older, he continued to work at the mill, but held other jobs as well and saved his money. In 1917 Shoffner invested in some hosiery knitting machines, bought a frame building south of and uphill from the cotton mill, and formed Standard Hosiery Mills in partnership with his brother-in-law, John T. Black, and Clarence Fogleman. There he produced hosiery "in the gray"--undyed and unfinished--to be sent to other finishing plants. In 1927 Shoffner bought the entire village of Alamance from the Holts, and the following year Standard Hosiery Mills was incorporated, with John Shoffner as president. The purchase of the old Holt mill, which became known as the lower mill, with its dyeing facilities allowed Shoffner to take his hosiery to the next level of production--from in the gray products to dyed and finished hosiery (Whitaker, 103, 164, 169; *Alamance County: The Legacy*, 402).

When John Shoffner bought the village of Alamance, he immediately began making improvements and expanding the workers' housing. He installed a modern water plant, enlarged his upper mill facility, built seventy-five or eighty mill houses, and a thirty-six room brick boarding house. He was also involved in the organization of the Alamance Lutheran Church (Whitaker, 164; Sanborn Map, 1924, 1929; *Alamance County: The Legacy*, 402). It was during this period that the last of the houses in the Alamance Mill Village Historic District were built.

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All are simple, one-story frame bungalows, but three were built ca. 1927 and are (or were when built) identical, the district's Type C houses. These houses are two bays wide and three bays deep and are characterized primarily by their broad front-gable roof that encompasses an engaged front porch. The fourth house, built in 1929, is also a simple bungalow form, but has a side-gable roof that breaks in front to cover a porch and in back to cover shed rooms. All four of these houses are located on the west side of the district's single road. When built, they filled in spaces on the road that were vacant as of 1924, the first year in which a Sanborn insurance map recorded the road.

In the mid 1930s, Standard Hosiery Mills sold their workers' houses at nominal prices to those employees who were currently renting them (Sykes Interview, January 18, 2007). Why the houses were sold at that time is not clear, but the Depression was likely a factor. Over time, the new owners of the mill houses began to individualize their homes in various ways to make them seem more personal. This trend was repeated countless times throughout North Carolina as one-by-one, mills sold their housing to the workers who occupied them. Nevertheless, the original forms of the houses and often much of the detailing remained true to the original, so that the houses still can be understood clearly as the company-built mill housing that they were.

John Shoffner died on March 3, 1944 (*Alamance County: The Legacy of Its People and Places*, 402). The village lost in him a beloved benefactor and friend. Although Shoffner was the head of Standard Hosiery Mills, to the workers, he was one of them. After all, his background was like theirs, they knew his family, and many of them had worked alongside him in the old Alamance Cotton Mill. In 1947, Standard Hosiery Mills closed this location. By 1948 the main Alamance Cotton Mill building had been demolished, and what had been the dye house was used for mill storage (Sanborn Map, 1929, 1948; Whitaker, 169). Today, the site on which the mill once stood has reverted to a partially wooded flood plain. At the north end of the site, at ground level, are scattered remnants of brick foundations. Closer to the road are a mid-twentieth-century concrete-block building and the ruins of what may have been part of the water filtering basins for the dyeing process.

The death of John Shoffner and the closing of the Standard Hosiery Mills plant in Alamance brought to a close the period of significance in the long history of one of piedmont North Carolina's oldest mill villages. The Standard Hosiery Mills plant was soon taken over by the Kayer-Roth firm. Some of the former Standard Hosiery workers went to work for Kayser-Roth. Others, however, took jobs in other textile mills in the county. Although ties with the mill had been broken, family ties with the mill village remained strong. Even now, more than half a century later, several homeowners in the Alamance Mill Village Historic District were born or grew up in the village and worked with their families in the mill. Several others who did not work in the mill themselves are descendents of those who did (Sykes Interviews, January 18 and February 25, 2007; Gaines Interview; Slaughter Interview; Mata Interview). Although the mill and the company store have been long gone from the landscape of the village, an impressive dam and a tightly knit group of workers' houses from at least three periods of building remains along

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either side of NC Hwy 62 S to tell the story of this important mill village in North Carolina's textile history.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Alamance Mill Village Historic District is indicated by the heavy black line on the accompanying district map, drawn to a scale of 1" = 200'.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Alamance Mill Village Historic District is drawn to encompass the cohesive group of contiguous historic resources --primarily mill houses and mill dam--on approximately ten acres that are historically associated with the Alamance Cotton Mill and its successor firm, the Standard Hosiery Mill.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information for numbers 1-5 applies to all nomination photographs:

- 1) Alamance Mill Village Historic District
- 2) Alamance, Alamance County, North Carolina
- 3) Laura A. W. Phillips
- 4) December 2006
- 5) CD: NCHPO, Raleigh
- 6-7)
 1. Warehouse, 3933 NC Hwy 62 S, view to NW
 2. Mill House, 3956 NC Hwy 62 S, view to NE
 3. House, 3927 NC Hwy 62 S, view to NW
 4. Type C house, 3957 NC Hwy 62 S, view to SW
 5. Type B house, 3950 NC Hwy 62 S, view to E
 6. Type A house, 3962 NC Hwy 62 S, view to SE
 7. Roadscape, west side, 3900 block NC Hwy 62 S, view to NW
 8. Roadscape, west side, 3900 block NC Hwy 62 S, view to NW
 9. Roadscape, east side, 3900 block NC Hwy 62 S, view to N
 10. Roadscape, east side, 3900 block NC Hwy 62 S, view to SE
 11. Roadscape, both sides 3900 block NC Hwy 62 S, view to NW
 12. Dam, across Great Alamance Creek west of 3900 block NC Hwy 62 S, view to SW