

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE**

Office of Archives and History  
Department of Cultural Resources

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company**

Hudson, Caldwell County, CW0333, Listed 8/27/2013

Nomination by Laura A. W. Phillips

Photographs by Laura A.W. Phillips, January 2013



Front view



Rear view

**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 Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company

other names/site number Shuford Mills

**2. Location**

street & number 447 Main Street not for publication N/A

city or town Hudson vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Caldwell code 027 zip code 28638

**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

       See continuation sheet.

       removed from the National Register

       See continuation sheet.

       other (explain):       

       See continuation sheet.

Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company  
Name of Property

Caldwell County, NC  
County and State

### **5. Classification**

<b>Ownership of Property</b> (Check as many boxes as apply)	<b>Category of Property</b> (Check only one box)	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b> (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	3	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	2	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0	objects
		1	5	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: INDUSTRY Sub: manufacturing facility

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#### **Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: INDUSTRY Sub: manufacturing facility

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### **7. Description**

#### **Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Heavy Timber Mill Construction

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#### **Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
roof SYNTHETICS  
walls BRICK  
METAL  
other BRICK

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### **Narrative Description**

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

Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company  
Name of Property

Caldwell County, 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.

### **Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

### **Period of Significance**

1904-1963

### **Significant Dates**

1904

1924

### **Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

### **Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

### **Architect/Builder**

Unknown

## **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: \_\_\_\_\_

Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company  
Name of Property

Caldwell County, NC  
County and State

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## **10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 8.03

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

Zone Easting Northing  
1 17 454190 3967230  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

Zone Easting Northing  
3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 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.)

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## **11. Form Prepared By**

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

organization N/A date January 21, 2013

street & number 637 North Spring Street telephone 336-727-1968

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27101

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## **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)

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### **Property Owner**

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

name Outdura Real Estate LLC (L. David Rivers, Vice President of Manufacturing)

street & number 447 Main Street telephone 828-759-2141

city or town Hudson state NC zip code 28638

**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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National Park Service

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Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company  
Caldwell County, North Carolina

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### DESCRIPTION

#### Summary and Setting

The Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company stands on a tract of just over eight acres at the southeast corner of Main Street (US 321-A) and Mount Herman Road in the center of Hudson, North Carolina. A small town of approximately 3,800 people in the foothills of Caldwell County, Hudson is approximately six miles southeast of the county seat of Lenoir. The mill faces southwest toward Main Street and the railroad tracks in a mixed-use area of commercial buildings, a volunteer fire station, a park, and a few houses. The current property is all that survives intact with the mill from its original twenty-one acres that spread eastward and southeastward from the mill. The complex is entered from Mount Herman Road.

A grassy strip varying from twenty-five to fifty feet deep separates the front of the mill from the street, and the sides of the mill are lined with narrow grass strips. The rear of the property is composed primarily of asphalt parking areas and driveways. Within the asphalt drive and parking area behind the 1984 addition is a grassy circle bordered by rusticated granite blocks. East and south of the mill are five noncontributing resources, including a temporary office, an electrical transformer, and three sheds.

The Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company mill is a large, one-story, brick (both solid and veneered) building of nearly 180,000 square feet constructed in stages over a period of eighty-eight years between 1904 and 1992. Most of the mill has a basement level. The mill's foundation is brick, except for the 1984 and 1992 additions, which have concrete foundations. Roof sections are slightly gabled, sloped, or flat and are covered with composite materials. Typical of textile mills in North Carolina, windows were bricked-up in the late 1950s or early 1960s.

#### Mill Exterior

Although, technically, the mill faces southwest, for ease of discussion in this description the Main Street façade will be considered the west side. The exterior will be described in a clockwise manner beginning on the west.

Near the center of the west façade is a three-stage, square, brick tower laid in five-to-one common bond. A part of the original, 1904, construction, it is the most decorative and architecturally distinctive feature of the mill. On the first level, six concrete steps rise to the west entrance. Originally the entrance had a double-leaf door, but that has been replaced with a single-leaf modern door. However, the round-arched fanlight above the entrance, with its brick lintel and raised-brick label, remains intact, sheltered by a rounded fabric canopy installed in 2011. The exposed south side of the tower's first stage has a bricked-up segmental-arched

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window with a three-course brick lintel and a two-course brick sill. Topping the tower's first stage is a wide band of eleven rows of bricks that are slightly corbeled. The tower's upper two stages rise above the mill roof. Wide corner pilasters with corbeled caps mark the second stage. Near the top of each pilaster is the end of an iron tie rod. On the north, south, and west sides of the second stage, a pair of narrow, round-arched, sash windows with three lights in each sash is positioned between the pilasters. Above each window is a two-course, brick, round arch outlined with a thin, raised-brick label. Between the second and third stages of the tower, on the north, south, and west sides, is a round window whose wood muntins divide it into eight segments. A double band of rowlock bricks surrounds the window, and a brick label outlines the upper half. The third stage rises from the pilaster caps of the second stage to the top of the tower. Above the round-arched window on the north, south, and west sides and springing from the pilaster caps is a corbeled round arch. At the top of each face of the tower is a partial cornice composed of a base of four, slightly corbeled, brick rows that support a band of narrow, projecting, vertical, brick stacks. At each corner of the third stage is a narrow corbeled cap, above which rises a short brick stack. The rear (east) wall of the tower does not have the window features of the other three sides. Instead, a door with a segmental-arched brick lintel opens to the roof.

The 1904 mill extended eighteen bays to the south of the tower, twelve bays to the north, and was eight bays deep from west to east. It measured 320 feet long by 75 feet wide. South of the tower, the original façade remains exposed to view. It is constructed of five-to-one common-bond brick, with pairs of star-ended iron tie rods located every four bays. Originally the tall, segmental-arched windows with brick sills and two-course brick lintels held eight-over-eight sash with eight-light transoms. Like the mill's other windows, these were filled with running-bond brick during the 1950s or early 1960s. Between the windows, heavy-timber rafter ends project beneath the overhanging eaves. Attached to the south end of the 1904 mill is a three-bay wide, full-depth, brick-veneer addition dating from the 1950s. The brick is laid in twelve-to-one and fourteen-to-one common bond, except for the lower fourth of the wall, which has more narrow bricks laid in running bond. Rectangular windows are in-filled with brick. Near the south end, a section projects from the main wall. It has a large opening infilled with concrete blocks. Exposed rafter ends are steel I-beams. The south end of the 1950s addition has an enclosed doorway and, above it, four six-over-three metal sash windows.

Around 1930, the original section (now fourteen bays) north of the tower was expanded forward the depth of one bay beyond the front of the tower. Like the 1904 mill, the ca. 1930 addition is constructed of five-to-one common-bond brick. It has tall, segmental-arched windows, now infilled, with brick sills and single-layer brick lintels.

North of the ca. 1930 addition to the 1904 mill is a large, rectangular, brick addition erected in 1984. Its west wall is aligned with the ca. 1930 addition, while its east wall is aligned with the rear wall of the 1904 mill. The plain west and north walls of the 1984 addition are finished with running-bond brick veneer. At each end of the west wall is a pedestrian door with

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steps leading to it and a narrow, fabric hood. Perhaps for balance, the center of the west wall also has a hood, but there is no door or window beneath it. The north wall has no fenestration. The rear, east, wall of the 1984 addition is sheathed with corrugated metal, doubtless for ease of potential future expansion. This wall has a pedestrian door near the north end and loading docks sheltered by a flat metal canopy.

Continuing southward along the east (rear) side of the mill, a two-bay section of the 1904 mill remains exposed immediately south of the 1984 addition. A corbeled parapet marks the division between the 1904 and 1984 mill sections. The 1904 bays have five-to-one common-bond brickwork and tall, segmental-arched windows on the main level, and a shorter segmental-arched window at the basement level. The windows have brick sills and two-course brick lintels. A modern pedestrian door has a flat metal canopy.

South of the exposed two bays of the east wall of the 1904 mill, the original rear ell, as shown in 1904 photographs of the mill, extends to the east. In the corner formed by the juncture of the two 1904 sections, a rectangular incinerator stack rises above the rooflines. The rear ell has parapeted east and west ends, and between them the roof slopes downward slightly from south to north. Along the north wall, tall segmental-arched windows on the main level have two-course brick lintels, while several larger segmental-arched openings have four-course brick lintels. Like the rest of the 1904 mill, the ell is built of five-to-one common-bond brick with star-bolted, paired, iron tie rods. The north wall has exposed, paired, rafter ends, and halfway along the wall is a corbeled brick brace. Two modern doors, one to the basement level and the other – reached by a flight of metal steps – to the main level, are both covered by suspended metal canopies. The east end of the ell has the same treatment of windows and doors as on the north side, except that the modern door has a fabric canopy.

Adjacent to the 1904 ell on its east end is a tall, round smokestack, also dating from 1904. Originally, it had a corbeled brick cap, but at some point (date unknown) a severe storm destroyed the topmost section, which is now capped with a concrete band. Still, the six-to-one common-bond brick stack rises approximately three times the height of the mill.

Wrapping part of the east side of the smokestack is the brick boiler room. Judging from a 1904 photograph, it appears to be a replacement or rebuilding of the original boiler room, but its date is not known. Its bricks are laid in seven-to-one common bond, and it has a parapeted roof. A large entrance on the north side has been infilled with vertical boards, and into it a double-leaf metal door has been inserted. The whole is sheltered by a fabric canopy. The east side has a single-leaf metal door near the south end. It is covered by a fabric canopy. On the south side is a large, metal, louvered ventilator.

A parapeted wall divides the 1904 ell from the large 1924 addition that runs from the ell southward to the south end of the original mill and nearly doubled its size when built. Due to later additions, including a small, 1950s addition immediately south of the ell, the 1924 addition can be seen on the mill's exterior in only one place. That is a two-bay section of the east wall

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located south of the 1950s addition and north of the 1992 addition. It features segmental-arched, bricked-up windows with two-course brick lintels and a heavy-timber rafter end that projects outward from beneath the roof eaves. Between this 1924 wall section and the 1904 ell is a shallow, two-level, brick-veneered addition. It projects eastward from the 1924 addition and has two modern, metal, pedestrian doors, one with a flat metal canopy, several bricked-up flat-headed openings, and several metal louvered ventilators.

Projecting eastward from the south half of the 1924 addition and extending beyond it at the south end is the 1992 addition, a large, rectangular, two-level, brick-veneered block. At its northwest corner is a full-height rectangular projection housing a stair. At the west end of the projection is a metal pedestrian door with a flat metal canopy. The 1992 addition is nearly windowless. Only on the north side are there two single windows and a wall of windows at the primary entrance, all at ground level. The north wall also has two canopied entrances: a secondary entrance with a fabric canopy and, east of it, the primary entrance with a large metal canopy supported by a round stuccoed-and-brick column at each end. On the east side of the 1992 addition are two loading docks with a flat metal canopy at the south end, a pedestrian door immediately north of the loading docks, also with a flat metal canopy and, near the north end, a pedestrian door with a fabric canopy and a small loading door, all on the ground level. Near the middle of the east wall, a metal stair with an angular, stepped, fabric canopy leads to an upper-level door. Just south of that door is a large, slightly recessed, blocked-up area. On the upper level of the east elevation's south end are three metal louvered vents. The south side of the 1992 addition has a central pedestrian door at ground level, a door at the upper level near the west end that is reached by metal stair sheltered by an angular fabric canopy, and two upper-level metal ventilators. The exposed west side has three upper-level metal ventilators.

West of the 1992 addition is a 1950s addition to the south end of the 1924 section of the mill. It is brick veneered and has two large metal louvered ventilators near the center and a pedestrian door closer to its west end. It abuts the 1950s addition to the south end of the 1904 mill.

### Mill Interior

The interior of the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company exhibits typical forms of industrial design from its periods of construction. Textile equipment fills the mill, because it remains in use in the manufacture of textiles. The mill interior will be discussed chronologically.

**1904** - Except for its front entrance, which has a replacement door, the interior of the front tower remains intact. Its features are set within thick brick walls. The tower floors are wood. The first floor has a beaded-board ceiling, although heavy-timber cross beams remain exposed. At the northeast corner, boxed wood steps rise to a five-panel door that opens to an enclosed stair,

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which is sheathed with beaded boards. Within the enclosure, the stair rises along the north wall, then turns and continues up the west wall to the second floor. The second floor, which was originally used as the mill office, is dominated by massive, chamfered, ceiling beams built to support a large cistern in the third level of the tower. A ladder stair at the southwest corner rises to the cistern. On the east wall of the second floor, five steps rise to a segmental-arched doorway to the roof.

A segmental-arched opening leads from the tower to the main-level manufacturing floor of the 1904 mill. The interior exhibits heavy-timber mill construction. The only walls are the brick outer walls and a partition along part of the east side separating the 1904 mill from the 1924 addition. The 1904 interior has hardwood flooring and a beaded-board ceiling. Two rows of heavy-timber chamfered posts run north-south the length of the mill. The posts support heavy timber beams that slope slightly downward to east and west from the center. Triangular shims above the beams in the center section help achieve the shallow roof pitch. Pipes and air ducts are exposed, and long fluorescent lights hang from the ceiling. Near the middle of the east side is a caged lift to the basement level. At the basement level, the floor is concrete and the ceiling is sheetrocked. Heavy-timber posts have collars. Some of the posts have been replaced with steel. Some of the heavy-timber beams have had I-beams attached to either side for extra support, and other beams have been replaced with I-beams. As on the main floor, piping and duct work is exposed, and fluorescent lights hang from the ceiling.

The main floor of the rear ell has been remodeled to make a hall, offices, a laboratory, and a reception area. Here the walls are plywood paneled, and the ceilings are dropped with acoustical tiles, although the original beaded-board ceiling and heavy timber beams remain intact above the dropped ceiling. The basement rooms are unfinished and hold various pieces of mechanical equipment. The interior of the later boiler room is also unfinished.

**1924 -** On the main floor, large openings in a partition wall allow passage between the 1904 and the 1924 manufacturing floors. Like the 1904 mill, the 1924 addition exhibits heavy-timber mill construction. The main level has hardwood flooring, a wood plank ceiling, and three north-south rows of heavy-timber posts with collars. Some of the posts at the north end have been replaced with steel I-beam posts. Many of the beams have been coupled with steel I-beams for extra support. In the center of the floor, a free-standing enclosure creates a small office. In the south third of the 1924 main floor, a partition has been added along the line of posts closest to the east wall. Pipes and duct work are exposed, and fluorescent lights hang from the ceiling. Along the east wall are bathrooms and a return air duct, originally an elevator. The basement of the 1924 addition has a concrete floor, a wood-plank ceiling, and heavy, chamfered, wood posts. Steel I-beams flank the heavy-timber beams. A pair of bathrooms and a return air duct, originally an elevator, project eastward from the east wall of the 1924 addition.

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**Ca. 1930** - Located west of the north half of the 1904 mill, the ca. 1930 addition enlarged the manufacturing space on the main floor. Like the 1904 mill, it displays heavy-timber mill construction with chamfered posts and beams, only the timbers are not quite as heavy as those of the 1904 mill. The addition has a hardwood floor and a wood-plank ceiling. There is only a crawl space beneath the ca. 1930 addition.

**1950s** - The 1950s additions can be found at the south end of the mill and attached to the northeast corner of the 1924 addition. The addition to the south end of the 1904 mill extended the manufacturing space. The hardwood flooring continues in this space, but I-beams substitute for heavy-timber posts and beams. The addition to the south end of the 1924 section of the mill created cooling and humidification rooms on the main level and, in the basement, a machine shop and a long east-west corridor. Here the floors are concrete and the outer walls are concrete block. The addition to the northeast corner of the 1924 addition has concrete-block outer walls and houses a short stair from the basement to the exterior.

**1984** - At the north end of the main floor of the 1904 mill, a large, metal, sliding fire door opens to the 1984 addition. This addition has a concrete floor and a corrugated-metal ceiling. Three rows of steel I-beam posts support north-south I-beams that, in turn, support metal lattice girders. At the south end, half-height walls enclose a small office space.

**1992** - The 1992 addition has a concrete floor, lattice girders, and a corrugated-metal ceiling on the main floor. Rooms with partial-height walls project into the space from the west wall. The basement level has a concrete floor, rows of steel I-beam posts, I-beam girders, and a corrugated metal ceiling.

### Other Resources:

**Temporary Office**

Noncontributing building

A temporary office stands east of the 1984 addition and west of the parking circle. The rectangular, pre-fabricated building has vertical board siding, and flat roof, one-over-one sash windows with fabric canopies, and an east-side door. A frame handicap ramp leads from the north end to the door. The building was installed after 2010.

**Electrical Transformer**

Noncontributing structure

Northeast of the 1992 mill addition is an electrical transformer. Its date of installation is not known. It is positioned on a recessed asphalt pad and is immediately surrounded by a chain

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link fence. Thick shrubbery borders the outside of the fence on the north, south, and west sides. Asphalt parking is on the east side.

### Open Shed

Noncontributing structure

At the edge of the parking lot, southeast of the 1992 mill addition, is an open storage shed built ca. 2006. It is used for the storage of hazardous materials contained in steel drums. Constructed of steel posts and beams, it is set on a concrete-slab basin and has a fabric-covered gable roof. Set on the lip of the concrete basin, a high chain link fence encloses the shed.

### Storage Shed

Noncontributing building

Located near the southeast corner of the property, a nearly square frame storage shed was probably built ca. 2000. Standing on a concrete slab foundation, it has vertical-board siding, a gable-end double-leaf door, a small window, and a front-facing gable roof with asphalt shingles.

### Storage Shed

Noncontributing building

A small Leonard-manufactured, frame storage shed stands south of the 1992 mill addition. Set on a concrete base, it has vertical-board siding and a low, front-facing, gable roof. A concrete ramp leads to the door on the east side. The shed probably dates from the 1980s or 1990s.

### Integrity

The Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company, which is still being used as a textile mill, remains in good condition. It retains the distinctive features of mill construction – on both exterior and interior – from the early to the mid-twentieth century. Two sections of the mill post-date its period of significance. Although the 1984 addition is quite long north to south, it is clearly distinct from the historic mill. Also, it is only attached to the secondary side (north) elevation of both the 1904 mill and the ca. 1930 front addition. The 1992 addition extends eastward from the rear of the mill and thus has less of a visual impact. The property's five non-contributing resources outnumber the one contributing resource. However, that one resource is the mill, itself, which dominates the property, while the noncontributing resources are comparatively small and have minimal impact on the property's character. Taking these factors into consideration, the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company, overall, retains good integrity in terms of its location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Summary

When the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company was established in 1904 in the village of Hudson, Caldwell County, North Carolina, there were few opportunities for local employment. The community had started around 1880 as a sawmill camp, but as the timber began to be cut over, employment opportunities lessened. The new cotton yarn-producing mill changed that and proceeded to have a lasting impact on the community. It not only stimulated the local economy by increasing the employment options for local residents, but it attracted others with specialized skills to the community to work at the mill. In response to this increased economic activity and the promise that an anchor such as a large textile mill brought, Hudson applied to the State of North Carolina for a charter to incorporate, which was granted on March 1, 1905. Mill superintendent Barney B. Hayes took part in the incorporation effort by writing the town charter and by serving on the first town commission.

For more than half a century, the relationship between the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company and the town of Hudson remained strong. When the town's public school was demolished in 1912, the mill, in conjunction with the county, replaced it with a large, well-equipped, brick school. In 1923, Barney B. Hayes was instrumental in the construction of the town's second cotton mill, the Caldwell Cotton Mill Company, and served as its first superintendent and, later, as its secretary-treasurer, all the while maintaining his role as superintendent and, later, president of the 1904 mill. Because they produced different grades of cotton yarn, the two mills were not competitors, and the new mill simply doubled the industrial jobs available in Hudson. In 1948, when the town of Hudson voted to purchase a unified water system, it was the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company that began supplying the town's water from its deep well and large water tower. This arrangement continued until the 1970s. In 1950, mill president R. Barton Hayes, son of Barney B. Hayes, helped form the Hudson Volunteer Fire Department and then encouraged mill employees to join it. The mill purchased the first fire truck and housed the fire department in the basement of its office building, later donating land adjacent to the mill for the fire department's own building.

From its initial 320-by-75-foot building with three-stage tower, rear ell, and smokestack built in 1904, the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company expanded with additions in 1924, ca. 1930, and the 1950s. After Shuford Mills Inc. purchased the mill in 1969, it continued to expand, with additions built in 1984 and 1992. Today, the complex is one of the rare North Carolina mills from the early twentieth century that continues to function as a textile mill, now operated by Outdura, which manufactures fabrics for outdoor use.

The Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company meets National Register Criterion A for its local industrial significance as a major driver of the economy of the town of Hudson for more

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than half a century. The mill's period of significance spans the years from 1904, when the original mill was constructed, to 1963 – fifty years ago. Although the mill continued to thrive under the ownership of the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company beyond that point, those years are not of exceptional significance to the history of the mill.

### Historical Background and Industry Context

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the textile industry in North Carolina, especially in the Piedmont, burgeoned. Caldwell County was one of the counties where the industry began to play a major role in the local economy. During this time, although some mills in the state manufactured whole cloth, most produced cotton yarn in various grades. This was true of Caldwell County where, by 1910, at least seven mills were in operation (Powell, 1112; Alexander, 121-123).

The history of the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company during the first seven decades of the twentieth century was strongly intertwined with the development of the town of Hudson. The community began around 1880 as a small sawmill camp established to take advantage of the dense forests in the area. Initially, the community was called Hudsonville for brothers Monroe and Johnnie Hudson, who were among the first lumbermen in the area and who were among the town's early leaders. Monroe operated a store and ran the Hudsonville Post Office when it was established in 1889. Because of frequent confusion between Hendersonville and Hudsonville in the delivery of mail, "ville" was soon dropped from the name of the town, and it became known simply as Hudson (Greene and Wagner, 16).

When the Chester (South Carolina) and Lenoir Railroad (after 1897 the Carolina and Northwestern Railroad) first arrived Hudson in 1884, it quickly became a boon to the harvesting of timber in the area – as it would be later to the production of yarn. In fact, the railroad was essential to the establishment of the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company. By the time the United States Geological Survey made a topographic map of the area in 1895, a string of around fifteen buildings lined the railroad at Hudson. In 1896, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory* listed Hudson with 150 people (1895 topographic map; "North Carolina Railroads"; Greene and Wagner, 18-19, *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory*, 1896).

By 1904, Hudson had a population of less than 300 residents. The Throneburg Lumber Company was the only established industry in the town at that time, and it provided some residents with employment. Approximately six men worked for the railroad. In addition, there were four stores. A roller mill was built in 1904, but it burned that same year and was not rebuilt. There was only one church, the Sardis Baptist Church, but the Lutherans and the Methodists also held separate services there. Within a few years, those congregations had built their own churches (*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* [1954; This was a booklet prepared by the mill and given to its employees on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary of operation.], 15-16). Several small

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subscription schools had been established in the area in the late nineteenth century. Around 1893, two sisters from Maine and Massachusetts had built the Mountain View Academy – later called the Hudson Academy – a large, two-story frame school. In 1903, it was purchased for use as a public school and continued in that capacity until 1912, when it was demolished (Greene and Wagner, 20, 155-157).

The year 1904 was a watershed for Hudson, for it marked an event that would shape the life of the community for years to come. On March 17, M. C. and W. David Hickman, M. L. and T. Jones Lutz, and Sarah J. Adderholt sold nearly twenty-one acres to the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company for \$525.00 (Deed Book 38, p. 201). According to the March 25, 1904, issue of *The Lenoir Topic*, Raleigh papers announced the issuing of a charter to the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company. The organization of the new company was also announced in the April-September 1904 edition of the *Textile World Record*, published in Boston. Authorized capital was set at \$125,000 with \$80,000 subscribed by fifty-two stockholders – both men and women. J. L. Nelson was the first president, J. D. Moore was secretary-treasurer, J. O. White was general manager, and Barney B. Hayes was superintendent. Both White and Hayes later served as president of the company (*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary [1954]*, 2, 6; *Southern Textile Bulletin*, 1923, p. 198).

Although Nelson was company president for only two years, he later served as secretary-treasurer, and his role was key to the mill's association with a group of mills that came to known as the Nelson Group. The other mills in the group were the Lenoir Cotton Mills (1901, Lenoir), the Whitnel Cotton Mill Company (1907, Lenoir), and the Moore Cotton Mill Company (1909, Valmead) – all in the area near Hudson. In addition to his positions with the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company, Nelson served as secretary and treasurer for the Lenoir and Whitnel mills, and he was president and treasurer of the Moore mill. More specific information on the business relationship among these mills is not known, but it was evidently strong enough that in 1923, the *Southern Textile Bulletin* devoted an article to the mills as a group (*Southern Textile Bulletin*, 1923, pp. 198-199).

After its incorporation and purchase of land, the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company wasted no time in getting underway with the construction of the new mill. On March 15, 1904, *The Lenoir Topic* reported that "The location of the new cotton mill at Hudson has been staked out, and the work of making brick will begin at an early date. Messrs. R. G. Campbell and M. C. Triplett have the contract for making the brick." As would be expected, the mill was built along the Carolina and Northwestern Railroad tracks. After the bricks were made, construction proceeded at a rapid pace. By late December 1904, the company was already shipping the skein yarn it produced from long staple cotton, and on January 1, 1905, it paid its first dividend. Like most early-twentieth-century mills in Caldwell County, Hudson produced yarn that was sold to other manufacturers, who then wove the yarn into cloth (*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary [1954]*, 6; *The Lenoir Topic*, June 16, 1909; Bill Beane Interview, September 17, 2012).

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Photographs of the mill made while it was under construction and soon thereafter provide a clear picture of the mill's original appearance, including its central façade tower, long expanses of windowed brick walls, rear ell, and smokestack. A photograph of the first employees – men, women, and children – in front of the mill also shows that young trees had been planted along the front. Another photograph, possibly dating from as late as the early 1920s, shows that the trees had matured to a height well above the mill's roofline. These trees do not survive (*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* [1954], 10-11; *Southern Textile Bulletin*, 1923, p. 198).

The manufacturing portion of the 1904 mill housed three pickers, eleven cards, four drawing frames, one slubber, two intermediate speeders, six roving frames, twenty-four spinning frames with 4,992 spindles, four spoolers of eighty spindles each, twelve twisters, six reels for skein yarn, and one press. Fifty years later, the machinery – of the types still used – had increased in number by two- to six-fold, except for the pickers, which had decreased (*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* [1954], 14, 17).

While the mill was being constructed, workmen also built twenty frame houses for the mill workers along either side of a road running roughly east-west behind the mill. Of the twenty houses, ten had four rooms, six had six rooms, and four had three rooms. The houses were equipped with lights, water, and sewerage tanks. Each house had a plot of land that could be used in whatever way the occupant saw fit. Most families planted vegetable gardens. The houses stood until after Shuford Mills Inc. purchased the mill in 1969 (*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* [1954], 6; *Southern Textile Bulletin*, 1923, p. 198).

According to the booklet printed on the occasion of the mill's fiftieth anniversary, there initially were seventy-five employees "on both shifts." It is not clear if this means that there was a total of 150 workers, with seventy-five on each shift, or if there was a total of seventy-five workers, who were divided between two shifts. By 1909, *The Lenoir Topic* claimed that there were about 125 workers. The employees worked sixty-six hours per week on the day shift, but only sixty hours on the night shift. Pay ranged from \$3.60 to \$6.00 per week for men. Women earned \$3.60 to \$4.20 per week. Rates for children were not listed, although they did work at the mill (*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* [1954], 8, 14; *The Lenoir Topic*, June 16, 1909).

When the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company was built, it employed local residents but also drew people with particular skills to Hudson to work at the mill. The influx of new mill workers in the community prompted the need for additional people of other occupations who, along with the merchants who were already in Hudson, could provide the goods and services needed by the expanding population. As a result of the establishment of the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company and the new activity and growth that accompanied it, community leaders decided that Hudson should be incorporated as an official town (Greene and Wagner, 33, 60).

The town applied for a charter, written by Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company superintendent Barney B. Hayes, and on March 1, 1905, the North Carolina General Assembly

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ratified an act to incorporate the town of Hudson. The corporate limits were marked from the Carolina and Northwestern Railroad Depot. They extended north and south along the railroad from the depot three-fourths of a mile in each direction and one-half mile east and west from any point on the railroad within the north and south limits. Thus, it can be said that Hudson centered on the railroad. Barney B. Hayes served as one of the first town commissioners (Greene and Wagner, 33, 408).

In 1910, Hudson's population was 411 (1910 U. S. Census). Little changed at the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company during the first two decades of the twentieth century other than becoming a solid fixture in the Hudson community and in the textile world. Like most textile companies at the time, the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company was interested in providing good educational facilities for the local children, some of whom already worked at the mill and many of whom would work there as adults. Thus, when the Mountain View/Hudson Academy was demolished in 1912, the mill, in conjunction with the county, built a large, well-equipped school for the town. It was a handsome, two-story brick structure with a Neo-Classical Revival-style portico and a dome atop its hipped roof (Greene and Wagner, 158; *Southern Textile Bulletin*, 1923, p. 198).

The 1920s was a time of notable progress at both the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company and in the town. By 1921, the company had increased its capital stock (*America's Textile Reporter*, April 7, 1921). During the mill's first twenty years of operation, steam had powered the mill, with wood from the surrounding forests providing an abundant supply of fuel. The boiler consumed seventy-five cords a week, and at one point, the mill had as much as 2,000 cords of wood on the property. A large belt attached to the steam engine drove a dynamo that provided the mill with electric lights. Carbon arc lights were used initially, but they were later replaced by incandescent lights on drop cords. In 1924, the mill converted to the use of electric power, and by the 1950s, fluorescent fixtures lighted the mill (50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary [1954], 7). In 1924, the first major addition, built directly behind the original 1904 mill, nearly doubled its size. Little of the exterior of that brick addition can be seen today, but the interior shows that it had large segmental arched windows and heavy-timber mill construction.

In 1923, Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company's superintendent, Barney B. Hayes, was instrumental in the construction of the Caldwell Cotton Mill, which was owned by R. L. Gwyn. It was located not far north of the 1904 mill and on the opposite (west) side of the railroad tracks. Like the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company, the Caldwell Cotton Mill produced cotton yarn. The two mills were about the same size and employed about the same number of workers, eventually including several generations of some families. Like the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company, the Caldwell Cotton Mill built a row of workers' houses on either side of the adjacent road. (These were later demolished, probably in the 1970s, by Shuford Mills, Inc.) However, the two mills were not in competition, for the older mill produced finer grades of combed cotton yarns, while the newer mill produced coarser-grade carded yarns.

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Rather, they simply expanded the range of textile production in Hudson and the opportunities for employment. In 1924, Rufus Gwyn, president of the Caldwell Cotton Mill, retired from active management due to poor health, and the mill came under the control of the Nelson Group. T. R. Broihill became the new president, and J. L. Nelson became secretary-treasurer. Barney B. Hayes was made superintendent, at the same time retaining that position at the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company. When Nelson retired in 1932, Hayes was named secretary-treasurer, not only of the Caldwell Cotton Mill, but of the entire chain of Nelson Group mills (*Southern Textile Bulletin*, March 13, 1924; Greene and Wagner, 407; Robert Hayes Interview; Bill Beane Interview, January 15, 1913).

By 1930, Hudson's population had grown to 650 (1930 U. S. Census). Around that time, the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company expanded again. This time, the façade north of the central tower of the 1904 mill was extended outward past the depth of the tower and rebuilt, providing additional production space. The brick construction retained the use of segmental-arched windows and, on the interior, heavy-timber mill construction. In 1937, a diesel engine was installed at the mill and provided the mill's power until the early 1940s, when the war effort made fuel oil scarce. At that point, the mill reverted to electric power (*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* [1954], 7).

In 1943, Barney B. Hayes, the longtime superintendent of the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company, became president. His presidency was relatively brief, however, for he died in 1947. At the time of his death, Hayes was not only president of the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company, but also of the Hayes Cotton Mill in Lenoir – formerly the Steele Cotton Mill, which he, his son, R. Barton Hayes, and J. J. Bayer had purchased in 1946 – and was secretary-treasurer of the Moore Cotton Mill Company in Lenoir and the Caldwell Cotton Mill in Hudson (*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* [1954], 2; Greene and Wagner, 408).

Upon Barney Hayes's death, R. Barton Hayes took over as president of the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company, while remaining involved in the Hayes, Moore, and Caldwell mills. Barton Hayes remained president for over twenty years, until Shuford Mills, Inc. purchased all four mills in 1969. Like his father, Barton Hayes was active in the Hudson community, where he was a member of many organizations and served on the Town of Hudson Commission, the school board, the hospital board, and as director of the Bank of Granite, the first bank in Hudson (Greene and Wagner, 410; *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary* [1954], 2).

Shortly after R. Barton Hayes became president of the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company, the mill became an asset to the town in two new ways. Originally, wells at individual houses provided water in Hudson, although after the mill was built, it supplied water to its mill houses. In 1948, Hudson's residents voted to purchase a unified water system. The mill then supplied the town's water from its 1,058-foot-deep well – capable of pumping 250 gallons per minute – and its large water tank. In 1950, Hudson expanded its water system to cover the entire town. It continued to purchase its water from the mill until the 1970s, when Hudson contracted

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with the City of Lenoir for its water supply and sewage treatment (*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary [1954]*, 17; Greene and Wagner, 28-29).

The other new asset that the mill provided the town was more light-hearted than essential. Beginning in 1948, a lighted scene of Santa and his reindeer was built atop the original mill every Christmas season. This quickly became a local tradition, and for many years people in the area came to Hudson to see the display. Christmas music was also broadcast from atop the mill (*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary [1954]*, 16, 20; Greene and Wagner, 410).

In 1950, Hudson's population had climbed to 922 (1950 U. S. Census). That year saw another important contribution by the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company to the Town of Hudson. Mill president R. Barton Hayes was instrumental in forming the Hudson Volunteer Fire Department, of which he, himself, was a member. He encouraged the mill employees to join, as well. The mill acquired the first fire truck, a 1917 American LaFrance Pumper/Tanker, which it purchased from the City of Lenoir. Initially, the Hudson Volunteer Fire Department was located in the basement of the mill office building, which was probably erected in the 1940s northeast of the mill and probably demolished when a new mill addition was constructed in 1984 (Greene and Wagner, 223). In 1968, the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company donated land east of the mill to the Volunteer Fire Department for its current location (Deed Book 581, p. 458).

In the 1950s, the Hudson Manufacturing Company built small additions to the south end of the 1904 and 1924 sections of the mill and to the northeast corner of the 1924 addition. The addition to the south end of the 1904 mill extended the manufacturing space. The addition to the south end of the 1924 addition created cooling and humidification rooms on the main level and, in the basement, a machine shop and a long east-west corridor (Robert Hayes Interview). The addition to the northeast corner of the 1924 addition housed a short stair from the basement to the exterior. By the early 1950s, the mill was completely air-conditioned and humidified, an improvement that not only made the work environment more comfortable for the employees, but also was better for the cotton fiber. Around the same time, or perhaps as late as the early 1960s, the mill windows were infilled with brick (Greene and Wagner, 68; *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary [1954]*, 7; Bill Beane Interview, September 17, 2012).

From the early 1950s to the end of the 1960s, when Shuford Mills, Inc. purchased the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company, the basement of the mill housed another Hayes family business – the B & R Textile Corporation. R. Barton Hayes was its president. While by that time, the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company was producing both combed cotton yarns and cotton-synthetic blend yarns, the B & R Textile Corporation produced only all-acrylic yarns (Robert Hayes Interview). It is obvious that both companies housed in this single building were making every effort to stay abreast of changing trends in the textile industry.

When the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company celebrated its fiftieth year of business in 1954, it could boast several things. Its capital stock had risen to \$200,000. Its equipment far outstripped that used at the mill when it began in 1904. The mill produced "top-quality combed

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yarns ranging from 10s to 60s, in single and ply, put up in cones, spools, warps and skeins," as well as "Orlon and various blends of cotton with Nylon, Orlon, and Dacron." And, it had highly loyal employees. In 1954, there were close to twenty people who had been employed continuously at the mill for at least twenty years. Four had been employed for at least thirty-five years, and five had worked at the mill for around forty years (*50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary [1954]*, 12-13, 17-18).

With the 1960s came the decade of greatest growth for the town of Hudson and a time of definitive change for the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company. In 1960, Hudson had a population of 1,536. By 1970 that number had spiked to 2,820. After that, the population leveled off for several decades, but in the last full decade (2000 to 2010) it rose to 3,776 (U.S. Census, 1960-2010). At the end of the decade, the mill changed hands, ending sixty-five years of ownership by the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company.

Around 1969, Shuford Mills Inc., based in Hickory, North Carolina, purchased this mill along with the B & R Textile Corporation, the Caldwell Cotton Mill Company, the Hayes Cotton Mill Company, and the Moore Cotton Mill Company. Strangely, there are no recorded deeds for these transactions. According to several sources, the sale came in 1968. However, a timeline provided by Shuford Mills Inc. says that the acquisitions came in 1969, although a typescript narrative history of that company gives the date as 1970. It seems likely that the transition took place at the end of December 1969. What is recorded is the Articles of Merger of the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company into Shuford Mills Inc. on December 13, 1973, to "be effective as of December 31, 1973, at 12:00 midnight." According to that document, Shuford Mills Inc. already owned all the stock of the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company, and the former company was the wholly owned subsidiary of the latter ("First Century Highlights"; Unlabeled typescript; Book 662, p. 1421 and pp. 1412, 1415, 1418, and 1424 for the other mills). During Shuford's ownership, two additions were built to the mill. The first, in 1984, extended northward from the 1904 mill and its ca. 1930 addition. The second, in 1992, was built to the rear (east side) of the 1924 addition, starting from near the mid-point of the 1924 addition's east elevation and offset from it to the south.

The last change in ownership for the former Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company came on December 31, 2010, when Shuford Mills Inc. conveyed the mill and 8.03 acres to Outdura Real Estate LLC. (Book 1758, p. 1569). The Outdura Mill, owned by the Sattler Group, a business based in Austria, manufactures woven products for casual furniture, awnings, and marine applications.

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Rebecca Bentley (Hudson town manager. Family worked at mill). January 9, 2013.

Robert Hayes (grandson of Barney B. Hayes and son of R. Barton Hayes). January 25, 2013.

Carl Henderson (Worked at mill beginning in 1954.) January 9, 2013.

Eloise Setzer (Former teacher whose father was killed in an accident at the mill). September 18, 2012.

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Wanita Sherrill (Father ran machine shop at mill; husband was superintendent of the B & R. orlon mill). January 14, 2013.

Frances Hayes Swanson (granddaughter of Barney B. Hayes and daughter of R. Barton Hayes). September 17, 2012.

Lucy Wagner (local historian). September 18, 2012 and January 9, 2013.

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### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is identified as Caldwell County tax parcel NCPIN 2767034790 as shown on the accompanying tax / site map.

#### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes the entirety of the Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company building complex and the intact 8.03 acres of historically associated property that survives with it. The remaining acreage – approximately thirteen – that originally was part of the mill property was sold off over the years. Some of that acreage was the site of the mill workers' houses, which were demolished around 1970. Other land was donated in 1968 to the Hudson Volunteer Fire Department for the construction of a fire station.

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information for #1, 2, and 5 applies to all nomination photographs.

- 1) Hudson Cotton Manufacturing Company
- 2) Hudson, Caldwell County, North Carolina
- 3-4) Laura A. W. Phillips, January 9, 2013, photos #1-4, 6-7, 9-14  
Heather Fearnbach, July 17, 2012, photos # 5 and 8
- 5) CD: NCHPO, Raleigh, NC
- 6-7) 1: Documentary photo, 1904, workers in front of mill, view to southeast  
2: Overall of west façade, view to northeast  
3: 1904 mill with tower and ca. 1930 addition, view to northeast  
4: North end and east side of 1984 addition and noncontributing temporary office, view to southwest  
5: Portions of east side of mill, with 1904 ell and smokestack at center, view to southwest  
6: 1992 addition, view to southwest  
7: 1904 mill, main floor, view to south  
8: 1904 mill with ca. 1930 addition on right, view to south  
9: Merging of ca. 1930 addition and main floor of 1904 mill, seen in differences between beams and types of ceiling boards, view to south
- 10: 1904 mill, second floor of tower with extra-large beams that support cistern on third level, view to north
- 11: 1904 mill, basement, view to northeast
- 12: 1924 addition, main floor, view to south
- 13: 1924 addition, basement, view to northeast
- 14: 1992 addition, main floor, view to southeast