# 18

## INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

- **MULTIPLE RESOURCE** OR **THEMATIC NOMINATION**

### NAME

**HISTORIC**

Golden Belt Historic District

### LOCATION

**STREET & NUMBER**

Durham __ VICINITY OF __

### CLASSIFICATION

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### OWNER OF PROPERTY

**NAME**

Mayor of Durham

**STREET & NUMBER**

101 City Hall Plaza

**CITY, TOWN**

Durham __ VICINITY OF __

**STATE**

North Carolina

### LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

**COURTHOUSE**

Durham County Register of Deeds

**REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC**

Durham County Judicial Building

**STREET & NUMBER**

201 E. Main St.

**CITY, TOWN**

Durham __

**STATE**

North Carolina

### FORM PREPARED BY

**NAME / TITLE**

Claudia Roberts Brown

Consultant to the City of Durham

**ORGANIZATION**

June 1984

**DATE**

919/968-1181

**TELEPHONE**

Carborro __

**CITY OR TOWN**

North Carolina

**STATE**
DESCRIPTION

The Golden Belt Historic District consists of 39.65 acres of factories, company-built housing, and a small commercial area all developed during the first three decades of this century. The district is roughly rectangular in shape, with fairly even borders except at the southeast corner where the boundary is uneven in order to exclude intrusions. The different land uses, terrain, and building types and styles that surround the district help to define its edges. Moving west beyond the border marked by the Norfolk & Western Belt Line, there are undeveloped tracts, public housing projects, and Durham's Central Business District. The abandoned Durham Hosiery Mills' No. 1 Mill and its village known as Edgerton, now extremely deteriorated, occupies the very hilly, heavily vegetated land with an irregular street pattern south of E. Main St. Another public housing project lies along the east side of Holman St., the Golden Belt Historic District's eastern border. Standard house types popular early in this century characterize development to the north and southeast where the greater variety of types, ornament and landscaping contrast to the generally homogenous character of the district's houses. The terrain of the district is hilly, especially in the southwest quadrant. Most of the east-west streets climb and descend hills, while the rest of the streets make a gradual ascent from north to south.

The buildings in the Golden Belt Historic District are neatly segregated into three clearly defined areas. The industrial buildings of the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company take up more than one-third of the district. This complex of factories, warehouses and offices covers the gentle slope that descends from the railroad tracks at the district's west edge. East of the factory complex, all of the remaining houses built by the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company line the east-west streets in a grid of 11-1/2 blocks. All of the mill houses are positioned on fairly modest lots with uniform setbacks and side yards that reflect their development by a single owner. The houses have small front yards and rear yards that can accommodate vegetable gardens. Along the hilly streets, retaining walls delineate many of the front yards. Landscaping is fairly sparse, usually consisting of an occasional shrub against the house and a fruit tree or hardwood near the property line. None of the houses has a detached garage (a few have attached carports), but all have gravel driveways. When the streets were widened and repaved in the 1970s, curbs, gutters, and driveway ramps were added.

The district's only sidewalks are in the third area, a small neighborhood commercial district in the long, 900 block of E. Main St. that marks the district's south edge. Like the rest of the district, this wedge-shaped block was owned by Julian S. Carr at the turn of the century, but unlike the rest of the area it apparently was
not developed by his Golden Belt Manufacturing Company. Most of the frame stores and houses that dotted this block prior to 1910 have been replaced with one- and two-story commercial buildings and a church, all brick, constructed between 1910 and 1930.

A few empty lots and two early, independently built houses remain in the predominantly commercial block. Four other houses not built by the mill appear in the north side of the block, fronting Morning Glory Ave. Each of these houses is a popular late nineteenth- to early twentieth-century type distinguished from those used for the mill houses due to its form and decoration. The two houses on E. Main St. feature Tuscan columns at one and sawtoothing with small drop pendants on the porch of the other. The houses on Morning Glory Ave. include a gable-front shotgun house and a story-and-a-half saltbox duplex, each unique in the district.

The architectural focus of the historic district is the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company plant with its Romanesque Revival style buildings dating from the first years of this century. Towers, ornamental brickwork, and rows of closely spaced arched windows characterize these long two- to three-story rectangular buildings constructed as a bag factory and a cotton mill. Their main facades, fronting the railroad tracks, feature Doric pilasters flanking round arched windows in the top stories and cornices of corbelled pendants and simple corbel bands above. The towers are short, only slightly taller than the buildings, except for a four-story tower which may be seen from points throughout the district; they all have the same pilasters, round arched windows, and cornices as the main facades. These two oldest buildings are of slow-burn construction with heavy timbered interior supports and thick brick exterior walls. The other structures in the complex have steel interior supports and thinner brick exteriors that are pilastered or curtain walls on steel frames. They include two-story additions with corbelled cornices made to the bag factory around 1920 and a long, austere building near Morning Glory Ave. with pilastered walls and a concrete base constructed in the 1930s. The later buildings, as well as the original ones, have monitors with clerestory windows (many now covered with metal) running their lengths. A one-story office building and a very large one-story addition to the cotton mill, erected in recent years, have plain brick elevations.

The district's 109 houses built by the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company represent two building campaigns. The first, begun when the mill was under construction in 1900-02, yielded 63 houses. Except for two two-room-deep houses with tall hipped roofs on Worth St. and Morning Glory Ave., adjacent to the factory complex, all of these early houses consist of one-room-deep gable-roofed units in four configurations: (1) one story with a triple-A roof, two front doors, and a rear ell; (2) two stories with a symmetrical three-bay facade and rear one-story ell; (3) one story in a T shape with the entrance in the "stem" parallel to the street and a rear ell extending from the top of the T; and (4) one story in an L positioned so that the recess is to the rear. The second building campaign occurred in the late 1910s when
The American Tobacco Company, for which Golden Belt manufactured all of its goods, greatly increased its production of cigarettes and the Golden Belt plant was enlarged with cigarette packaging and carton manufacturing facilities. All of the later houses are one- and one-and-one-half-story bungalows.

Generally, the houses are clustered in rows according to type, as indicated on the accompanying map. For instance, all of the two-story houses are on the north sides of the 1000 and 1100 blocks of Worth St. and most of the T-shaped houses are on the south sides of the 1100 blocks of Franklin and Wall streets. The only house type on Taylor St., the northernmost street in the Golden Belt Historic District, is the one-story bungalow with two front doors; most of the one-story bungalows with a single front door are at the east ends of the district's other east-west streets.

Decorative features common to all of the early, one-room-deep mill houses augment the uniformity that is characteristic of mill villages. These features also indicate that all of the Golden Belt houses built in the district prior to 1910 were constructed by a single builder, probably Andrew C. Mitchell who had a contract with the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company dated April 20, 1900, to build fifty houses and fifty privies. All of the houses built around 1900 to 1902 display shed-roofed front porches that are less than full-facade, constructed with slightly chamfered supports embellished by simple curved spandrels and match stick railings. Originally, all of the gable vents were in the shape of a diamond bearing an ornamental pierced design.

Other features common to all of the early houses are the six-over-six double-hung sash windows and exterior sheathing of plain weatherboards; only the seven L-shaped houses, which may not have been built around 1910, are covered in German siding. One other variation is found among the chimneys: all of the early mill houses have a single interior brick chimney in the main block and one or two brick flues elsewhere, but only the chimney stacks of the one-story houses are corbelled. The roofs were covered with sawed pine shingles, all of which have been replaced. All interiors were plastered and unpainted, with simple trim that included mantelpieces of Victorian character. Indoor bathrooms were installed in small shed additions to the rear in the 1910s, around the time of the second major building campaign.

All of the bungalows of the second building campaign — one story as well as one- and-one-half stories — also share certain features which suggest that these "builder houses" were the work of a single, as yet unidentified, contractor. When they were built in the late 1910s, modestly appointed but stylish bungalows of this type were popular choices for company-built housing, as indicated by their frequency in contemporary villages across the North Carolina piedmont. Like the similar "Reddi-Cut" bungalows advertised by the Aladdin Co. in a 1919 edition of Southern Textile Bulletin, the bungalows in the Golden Belt Historic District may be pre-fabricated houses built by an area contractor who ordered the materials and plans directly from such a company.
The five one-and-one-half-story bungalows originally were all identical to each other, featuring gable roofs, shed dormers, and very large box piers with solid railings at the full-facade front porches; the dormers, posts and railings were covered with split shake shingles. In contrast, variety is injected among the forty-one one-story hip-roofed bungalows in the types and materials of their attic dormers and porch supports and railings. These bungalows have either narrow or wide simple attic gables springing directing from the principal hipped roof or shed- or gable-roofed dormers, all covered in regular or butt-end split shake shingles. The attic gables and gable-roofed dormers were built with sunburst lunette or multi-paned rectangular windows and the shed dormers contained a band of three small windows. Four types of supports were placed at the full-facade recessed front porches: large shingled box posts identical to those of the one-and-one-half-story bungalows; pairs and trios of two-by-fours; and single squat Tuscan columns or pairs and trios of slender Tuscan columns, both types on brick or shingled plinths. Originally, railings were either solid and shingled or the match stick type.

In spite of a vacant, tree-covered lot and the two frame houses surrounded by tall trees, the district's commercial area is characterized by its one- and two-story brick buildings. The most distinctive of these is the 1920s Neoclassical Revival style Edgemont Baptist Church, dominated by very tall round arched windows and pedimented pavilions on its three principal elevations. The church's molded cornices, executed in white-painted wood for a crisp accent to the brick facades, are echoed at the opposite end of the block in the commercial area's oldest building, constructed around 1920 with two store fronts. In need of renovation, this building at 903-905 E. Main St. displays a molded and modillioned cornice and simple bands of brick corbelling above second-story windows with granite sills. The seven other commercial buildings in the Golden Belt Historic District all date from the mid 1920s. Five of them, each containing two or three store fronts, feature pilastered tapestry brick facades with low parapets ornamented with stone coping and geometric patterns in brick and white insets of concrete or brick. One- and two-story buildings at 931 and 933 E. Main St., respectively, exhibit identical cornices of small, closely spaced corbelled pendants and simple corbelling above.

Since the district became fully developed in the 1920s, many of its buildings have been altered, particularly after the mid 1950s when the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company sold all of its mill houses. Most of the alterations are of the "home improvement" type intended to "weatherize" and reduce maintenance, made by the mill worker occupants who purchased their houses from Golden Belt. The most common changes include removal of one of the front doors on the houses built with two, the installation of porch supports and railings, usually metal, to replace original elements that had become deteriorated, and the application of aluminum siding. Most of the remodelling is reversible and has left the basic character of the houses intact.
Among the houses that have lost their integrity due to extensive alterations, many could be rehabilitated without an inordinate amount of work. Almost all of the structural changes to the mill houses consist of additions to the rear elevations; additions elsewhere appear only on the one-story bungalows in which expansion by the partial enclosure of their recessed, full-facade front porches is unobtrusive. Only a few of the mill houses have been replaced with new construction, all frame duplexes. The conditions of the district's buildings range from excellent to deteriorated. A considerable number are well preserved and very few are deteriorated in spite of the low and moderate incomes of most of the district's residents.

NOTES

1 Originally, the industrial area formed a neat, almost rectangular parcel marked by Belt St. on the east so that there were 12-1/2 residential blocks (see accompanying map). Sometime after 1955, the regularity of the grid was interrupted when the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company removed the houses in the large block on the east side of Belt St. north of Franklin St. At least some of the houses in that block were moved, including the one now at 500 Belt St.

2 Much of this contract, preserved in the private papers of the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company, is reprinted in An Inventory of Edgemont and East Durham, Ruth Little-Stokes and Pat Dickinson, editors (Durham Technical Institute, 1980), p. 46.

The structure, of course, is closely related to the surrounding environment. Archaeological remains, such as trash pits, wells, and structural remains, which may be present, can provide information valuable to the understanding and interpretation of the structure. Information concerning use patterns, social standing and mobility, as well as structural details are often only evident in the archaeological record. Therefore, archeological remains may well be an important component of the significance of the structure. At this time no investigation has been done to discover these remains, but it is probably that they exist, and this should be considered in any development of the property.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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INVENTORY LIST

Unless otherwise noted, all of the houses in the district were constructed by the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company for its employees. To avoid excessive repetition in the entries, detailed descriptions of the principal house types constructed by the mill follow:

One-story, one-room-deep houses with triple-A roofs and rear ells, built during the first phase of the village's development (1900-1902). A single central chimney has a corbelled stack. These houses are fairly narrow and initially consisted of three rooms, with each of the two rooms in the main block opening on to the front porch. The two front doors were paired and flanked by a tall-six-over-six double-hung sash window on each side. All four bays were sheltered by a less than full-facade shed-roofed porch supported by slightly chamfered posts with simple curved spandrels and a match stick railing. Each of the gables originally contained a decorative cut-work diamond-shaped vent. Most of the shed porches to the rear were enclosed at an early date for bathrooms and other living space. Only a few of these houses retain both of their front doors. As constructed, they had three rooms -- a parlor and a bedroom in the main block and a kitchen in the rear ell.

One-story, T-shaped gable-roofed house built during the first phase of development, 1900 to 1902. Parallel to the street, the "stem" has a subsidiary gable above the front porch, which fills most of the recess. A rear ell extends from the "top" of the "T." Like the foregoing type, these four-room, houses with center halls were built with diamond-shaped cut-work vents in all gables and shed-roofed porches with chamfered posts, simple curved spandrels, and match stick railings. Originally, all had a corbelled chimney in the middle of the intersection of the gabled wings and an interior flue in the "stem." These houses were built with four rooms -- a parlor in the "stem"; a bedroom and another bedroom or dining room in the "top" of the T, across a center hall; and a kitchen in the rear ell.

Two-story, one-room-deep house with a rear one-story ell, built 1900 to 1902. These houses have gable-end roofs, very small interior chimneys, three-bay facades, and center hall plans. Again, the less than full-facade porches are shed-roofed, originally with chamfered posts, curved spandrels, and match stick railings, and the gables contain decorative cut-work vents. There are two rooms and a center hall on each floor and a kitchen in the ell.

One-story L-shaped houses, built very early in the 20th century (perhaps 1900 to 1902 and certainly prior to 1910). These houses, the only ones sheathed in German siding, are positioned so that the recess of the "L" is to the rear; there is no secondary rear ell. The gabled roof is crossed so that there is a subsidiary gable at one end of the main facade, above one window and the off-center entrance.
Originally, all of these houses had less than full-facade shed-roofed porches with chamfered posts, simple spandrels, and match stick railings, but they were built with simple rectangular louvered vents placed only in the front gables. Their four-room plans are similar to those of the T-shaped houses.

One-and-one-half-story bungalows, constructed late 1910s, feature all-encompassing gable roofs with short shed dormers and full-facade recessed porches sheltering broad three-bay main facades. The very large boxed porch piers and solid railings, as well as the dormers, were sheathed in split shake shingles and the rest of the elevations were weatherboarded.

One-story hip-roofed bungalows, constructed late 1910s. The most prevalent type in the district, these houses are rectangular, built with recessed porches across the narrow main facades and at a corner of the rear elevation. They are distinguished by the shape, sheathing, and vents of the single attic dormers above the main elevations, and by the porch supports which originally included simple slender posts, Tuscan columns on brick piers, and very large boxed piers covered with weatherboards or split shake shingles. All have four-bay facades; approximately one-third of these bungalows were built with a single off-center entrance; the rest were constructed with a central pair of doors.

The significance of the Golden Belt Historic District lies in its social history as reflected in its building patterns rather than its architectural detail. Therefore, it is appropriate to introduce another rating level, "(C)," for those mill houses that have been considerably altered and would be ranked as non-contributing (N) in a district in which architectural detail is more important. In order to determine the rating of each house, four aspects have been considered: siding, fenestration, porch elements and additions. Usually, if alterations have occurred in one or two of these areas, the building receives a "C" for "contributing"; those mill houses with more extensive alterations (or alterations in only two areas that are particularly harsh) merit a "(C)." All of the mill houses designated with a "(C)" still contribute to their streetscapes and the overall character of the district. Furthermore, these houses' extensive alterations—siding placed over original weatherboards, additions, replacement windows and porch elements—could be reversed.

The turn-over rate of occupancy in the mill houses is so high after 1919 (the first year that city directories list residents by street address) that it is difficult to associate houses with particular families. Thus, the mill house entries consist only of physical descriptions.

1. Golden Belt Manufacturing Company Plant, 807 E. Main St. According to the publication Durham Illustrated of 1910, the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company
"was founded in 1887 and commenced work in one room of the west wing of the factory of Blackwell Durham Tobacco Company. The officers at the time were: J.S. Carr, President; T.B. Fuller, Secretary and Treasurer, and W.H. Kerr, Manager. The business gradually grew, but did not assume large proportions until September, 1899, when it was reorganized with a considerable increase of capital...and additional facilities." In 1902, Golden Belt underwent tremendous expansion when it moved into this new factory north of E. Main St., at the north edge of Edge- mont. Covering more than fourteen acres, the plant initially consisted of three large rectangular buildings of slow burn construction with their main facades in the narrow west ends facing the Norfolk & Western Belt Line and raised basements that become another full story at the east end due to the slope of the site. The buildings are characterized by rows of closely spaced segmental arched windows (most of them now filled with brick and smaller windows), towers, and ornamental brickwork.

The main facades of the original buildings feature round arched windows separated by Doric pilasters in the second stories. The cornices and simple stepped parapets are decorated with bands of short corbelled pendants and rows of simple corbelling above. The southernmost building was constructed as a bag factory, two-and-one-half to three stories tall and marked by short towers on its north and east elevations; an addition made to the east end between 1907 and 1910 included a four-story tower, today the architectural focal point of the complex. The next building to the north was a warehouse. The northernmost building, the same height but twice as long as the bag factory, was built as a cotton mill with a tall four-story tower (now reduced to two stories) on its south side and two short towers as well as one-, two-, and three-story engine and boiler rooms on the north elevation; a three-foot tall monitor with clerestory windows (now covered with metal) runs the length of the building. All of the towers have the same pilasters, round arched windows, and cornices as the main facades. For more than two decades the mill produced cloth and thread used in the bag factory for the production of tobacco bags. Around 1910, the company employed 800 workers in their factories and gave part-time employment to more than 200 Durhamites who attached the "Bull Durham" tags to the bags in their homes. The company branched out into hosiery manufacturing and in 1924 began producing the paper stamps and packaging for cigarette containers and the cardboard for cartons. Eventually cloth manufacturing was discontinued. Although the bag factory remains in operation, most of the plant is devoted to the printing of packaging materials and the production of cigarette cartons.

Steady growth has resulted in considerable expansion of the plant. Additions made prior to 1940 include two two-story extensions with corbelled cornices at the east end of the bag factory that initially were used as part of the hosiery mill. Built in the 1930s, the long and austere one-story building on the north
side of Morning Glory Ave., originally the main section of the hosiery mill, has brick pilastered exterior walls with a concrete base, interior steel columns and beams, and a glazed monitor; printing operations are housed here today. The brick cotton warehouse has been replaced with a plain one-story brick building that links the bag factory and the former cotton mill, now the carton factory, with a large modern one-to-two-story addition on its north side. A plain one-story brick-veneered office building constructed in the 1960s replaced the original residential-looking, one-and-one-half-story brick office on E. Main St. The entire plant is surrounded by a chain link fence topped with barbed wire. Today, the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company and its associate firm, Continental Forest Industries which produces the cigarette cartons, are subsidiaries of American Brands, also the parent company of The American Tobacco Company for which Golden Belt manufactures its products.

C 2. Commercial Building. 903-905 E. Main St. Two-story brick building with two store fronts, built late 1910s. Simple brickwork that includes a couple bands of corbelling above the second-story windows is enhanced by neoclassical molded and modillioned metal box cornice. Simpler molded metal box cornices are above store fronts and display window on west elevation. Earliest known occupants were the L.A. Warren Pharmacy and the Hub Department Store around 1920. Later, 903 was occupied by Mack's Pharmacy and 905 was the site of Eisenberg's, which sold ladies' ready to wear and millinery. Now vacant and deteriorating.

C 3. Commercial Building. 907-909 E. Main St. One-story brick building with plate glass windows flanking central recessed entrance. Parapet with single central step features decorative dark reddish-brown brickwork in basket weave pattern interspersed with small squares of ochre-colored brick. Metal awning across entire facade at base of parapet. Built 1920s and originally contained the Edgemont Cafe at 907 and a tailor shop and cleaners at 909.

I 4. Commercial Building. 911-915 E. Main St. One-story building with three store fronts, built 1920s. Remodeled with new entrances and display windows and completely sheathed in aluminum. For many years beginning in the 1920s, Edgemont Barber Shop was located at 911; Edgemont Meat Market was located at 915 during the 1920s, succeeded by a billiard parlor in the 1930s.

C 5. House. 919 E. Main St. Two-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roof covered in raised seam tin. Full-facade hip-roofed porch features Tuscan columns and railing with closely spaced turned balusters. Exterior intact, with two-story shed across rear and one-story ells. Not built by mill. Originally a single-family residence, it was built in 1907 and operated as a boarding house for many years beginning in the 1920s.
C 6. House. 923 E. Main St. C. 1910 one-story T-shaped house. "Stem" of T, parallel to street, has subsidiary gable on main facade and shed across rear. Turned posts with decorative spandrels and sawtoothing with small drop pendants in between decorate the porch which follows curve of main facade. Decoration and irregular form influenced by Queen Anne style. Although not built by the mill, city directories list a series of occupants early in this century, indicating that it may have been rental property.

C 7. Commercial Building. 931 E. Main St. Small one-story brick building built 1920s with cornice of small corbelled pendants and tall transom of small panes of glass across main facade just above plate glass display windows. In its early years, this building was occupied first by a department store and then by a furniture store.

C 8. Commercial Building. 933 E. Main St. Narrow two-story version of entry no. 6, also apparently built 1920s.

C 9. Commercial Building. 943-945 E. Main St. One-story brick building with two store fronts, built 1920s. Tall flat parapet with granite coping is inset with small concrete squares and diamonds.

C 10. Commercial Building. 947-949 E. Main St. One-story brick building dating from 1920s, identical to entry no. 8 except that it is slightly taller and each unit is a bit wider. For many years this was occupied by an A & P grocery store.

N 11. Commercial Building. 951-953 E. Main St. 1920s two-story brick building with tall flat parapet identical to those of entries no. 8 and 9. Now painted white and lower facades completely altered with cinder block infill.

C 12. Edgemont Baptist Church. 1001 E. Main St. Distinctive Neoclassical Revival style red brick church dating from 1920s. Front and side facades of the hip-roofed sanctuary block feature very shallow pedimented pavilions. On the main facade, plain brick piers divide the pavilion into three bays, each containing an entrance topped by a transom and a simple or segmented pediment on consoles. Tall segmental-arched windows fill the side pavilions. Other decorative classical elements include a continuous molded three-part frieze around the sanctuary block and keystones in the arched window surrounds. Three-story L-shaped classroom and office wing extends from rear of sanctuary.

Morning Glory Avenue

C. 13. House. 908 Morning Glory Ave. Early 20th-century one-story, two-room deep gable-roofed house sheathed in German siding. Wide engaged gable-front entrance porch rests on box piers. Apparently built by mill, but this house type is not typical of the district.
C 14. House. 912 Morning Glory Ave. 1900 one-story, one-room-deep gable-roofed house with rear ell and shed addition. Almost full-facade shed-roofed porch covered with raised seam tin has turned posts and match stick railing.

C 15. House. 914 Morning Glory Ave. Gable-front shotgun house, unique to the district. Roof has raised seam tin and exposed rafter ends. Simple turned posts and solid balustrade at recessed front porch. Plain weatherboards now covered in asphalt shingles.

I 16. Church. 1004 Morning Glory Ave. Small frame gable-front church dating from late 1910s or early 1920s. After many years as a Free Will Baptist Church, it was converted to a small warehouse with a sliding door on the west elevation and then abandoned. Now in use as a church once again, the building has been thoroughly remodelled. The central square tower with a pyramidal roof has been removed, the full-facade gable-front narthex rebuilt, sliding windows installed, and the entire building currently is being encased in cinder blocks.


C 19. House. 1005 Morning Glory Ave. One-and-one-half-story bungalow with shallow shed dormer and recessed full facade porch. Stained shake shingles cover the dormer and the very large piers and solid railing of the porch. Built late 1910s.


C 22. House, 1011 Morning Glory Ave. One-story T-shaped house identical to entries no. 19 and 20 except for cut-work wooden vents in all gables. Intact except for metal porch posts and railing.

C 23. House, 1101 Morning Glory Ave. C. 1900 one-story T-shaped house with cutwork gable vents, intact except for replacement metal porch posts and additional window on main facade of "stem."

C 24. House, 1103 Morning Glory Ave. One of the most intact of the one-story T-shaped houses built c. 1900 due to retention of original chamfered porch posts, small scalloped spandrels, and match stick railing. Asphalt shingles cover weatherboards.

C 25. House, 1105 Morning Glory Ave. One-story T-shaped house built c. 1900 with exterior deteriorated but completely intact except for loss of spandrels at porch posts and a few of the match stick balusters in the porch railing.


C 27. House, 1205 Morning Glory Ave. C. 1900 one-story T-shaped house, its exterior completely intact except for loss of porch post spandrels.


Worth Street

C 31. House, 1004 Worth St. One-story, two-room-deep house with tall hipped roof and subsidiary attic gables, built c. 1900. Replacement metal porch posts; asphalt shingles over weatherboards.

C 32. House, 1006 Worth St. One-and-one-half story bungalow built late 1910s. Shallow shed dormer and full-facade recessed porch with large square piers and solid railing covered in shake shingles. Replacement asphalt siding.
C 33. House. 1008 Worth St. One-story, one-room deep house with two front doors, triple-A roof, and rear ell. Tall central chimney with corbelled stack. Exterior remains unaltered. C. 1900.

C 34. House. 1010 Worth St. One-story, one-room-deep house with two front doors, triple-A roof, and rear ell. Porch has been altered with two replacement supports of Tuscan columns at the corners which appear to be salvaged materials; the two other supports are the original chamfered posts. Also has a replacement railing. Built c. 1900.


(C) 36. House. 1102 Worth St. One-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roofline and rear ell, built c. 1900. One of two front doors has been removed, asbestos shingles cover weatherboards, and porch has replacement metal supports and railing.

C 37. House. 1104 Worth St. One-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roofline and rear ell, built c. 1900. Unaltered except for removal of one of two front doors. Well preserved house has two-tone paint scheme that highlights trim.

C 38. House. 1106 Worth St. One-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roofline and rear ell, built c. 1900. One of two front doors has been removed. Porch altered with replacement metal posts and loss of railing.


(C) 40. House. 1208 Worth St. One-story, one-room-deep house with rear ell and triple-A roof, built c. 1900. Replacement double-hung sash windows, metal porch posts and railing, and asbestos shingles over weatherboards. One of two front doors has been removed.

C 41. House. 1212 Worth St. Unaltered one-story hip-roofed bungalow built late 1910s. Distinguished by shingled attic gable with fanlight and by porch with match stick railing and pairs and trios of slender Tuscan columns on large weatherboarded piers.

(C) 42. House. 1003 Worth St. One-story, one-room-deep house with rear ell and triple-A roof, built c. 1900. Retains raised seam tin on shed roof of porch and half turned porch posts with spandrels against porch wall, but has been altered with plain replacement wood porch posts elsewhere and metal railing. Also has asphalt shingles over weatherboards and additions to rear.
C 43. House. 1005 Worth St. Intact one-and-one-half-story bungalow with shed dormer and full-façade recessed porch with very large piers and solid railing. Dormer, porch piers, and railing are shingled; rest is weatherboarded. Built late 1910s.

C 44. House. 1007 Worth St. Two-story, one-room-deep house with gable-end roof and one-story rear ell. Almost full-façade shed-roofed porch retains slightly chamfered posts, match stick railing, and some of the simple sawn spandrels. Somewhat deteriorated but intact on exterior.

C 45. House. 1009 Worth St. Two-story, one-room-deep house with gable-end roof and one-story rear ell. Intact except for replacement of porch posts with plain 4-inch by 4-inch wooden posts and loss of railing.

C 46. House. 1011 Worth St. Intact two-story, one-room-deep house with gable-end roof and one-story rear ell, built c. 1900. Porch retains simple curved spandrels at corner posts; replacement match stick railing.

(C) 47. House. 1101 Worth St. Two-story, one-room-deep house with gable-end roof and one-story rear ell, built c. 1900. Altered with asphalt shingles over weatherboarded replacement metal posts and concrete floor at porch.

I 48. House. 1103 Worth St. Two-story, one-room-deep house with gable-end roof and one-story rear ell. Virtually intact, but recently gutted by fire and apparently will have to be razed. Built c. 1900.


I 50. Duplex. 1107 Worth St. New and very plain townhouse duplex.

C 51. House. 1109 Worth St. Two-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roof and rear ell, built c. 1900. Porch posts have lost spandrels and weatherboards are covered with asbestos shingles.

C 52. House. 1203 Worth St. One-story L-shaped house with cross-gable roof and German siding, built early 1900s. There is a metal awning around the porch and the porch posts and floor are replacements.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Golden Belt Historic District
Item number 7
Continuation sheet

C 53. House. 1205 Worth St. Intact one-story T-shaped house with triple-A roof and porch with slightly chamfered posts and match stick railing on "stem." Built c. 1900.

C 54. House. 1207 Worth St. One-story, one-room deep house with triple-A roof and rear ell and shed, built c. 1900. Intact except for removal of one of two front doors and enclosure of one end of less than full facade porch.

(C) 55. House. 1209 Worth St. One-story L-shaped, cross-gable-roofed house with German siding, built early 1900s. Fenestration on main facade reworked and porch floor and posts replaced. Metal awning around porch.

C 56. House. 1211 Worth St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow, built late 1910s, with shingled large square piers and solid railing at full-facade porch and butt-end shingles in attic gables.

Franklin Street

I 57. House. 1004 Franklin St. Small one-story cinder block building with flat roof. Once used as a store, now vacant.

C 58. House. 1006 Franklin St. One-and-one-half-story bungalow with shed dormer, built late 1910s. Split shingles remain on large porch piers and solid railing, but rest of elevations now covered with aluminum siding.

C 59. House. 1008 Franklin St. One-and-one-half-story bungalow identical to entry no. 57 except that porch has been enclosed with screening.

C 60. House. 1010 Franklin St. One-story T-shaped house built c. 1900 with triple-A roof and front porch in "stem." Replacement metal porch supports and asbestos siding. Retains decorative cut-work vents in gables.

C 61. House. 1012 Franklin St. One-story T-shaped house built c. 1900. Identical to entry no. 59, including alterations, except that two of the gable vents have been replaced.

(C) 62. House. 1102 Franklin St. One-story T-shaped house built c. 1900, now covered with asphalt siding. Original match stick railing has been lost; porch floor replaced with concrete; fenestration in main facade of "stem" altered.

(C) 63. House. 1104 Franklin St. One-story T-shaped house built c. 1900 has replacement gable vents, asbestos shingles, and picture window in main facade of "stem." Porch retains chamfered posts and match stick railing.
C 64. House. 1106 Franklin St. One-story T-shaped house built c. 1900. Ongoing rehabilitation has retained all decorative details, including spandrels and cut-work gable vents. One of windows in main facade of "stem" has been removed and others have been replaced with one-over-one double-hung sashes.


(C) 66. House. 1110 Franklin St. One-story T-shaped house built c. 1900. Replacement gable vents, asbestos shingles, metal porch posts and railing, and several altered windows.

C 67. House. 1204 Franklin St. One-story L-shaped house with cross-gable roof and German siding, built early 1900s. Altered with loss of match stick railing, replacement cement porch floor, and replacement two-over-two double-hung sash windows.

C 68. House. 1206 Franklin St. One-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roof and rear ell, built c. 1900. Retains decorative gable vents and central corbelled chimney, but has replacement metal porch posts and two-over-two double-hung sash windows. One of original two front doors has been removed.

C 69. House. 1208 Franklin St. One-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roof and rear ell, built c. 1900. Retains decorative gable vents and central corbelled chimney, but has replacement metal posts and railing at porch and picture window on main facade. One of original two front doors has been removed.

(C) 70. House. 1210 Franklin St. One-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roof and rear ell, built c. 1900. Only surviving decorative feature is central corbelled chimney. Now covered with asbestos shingles and has replacement gable vents, plain wooden porch posts, altered fenestration on main facade.

I 71. House. 1212 Franklin St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow built 1920s. Radically altered with enclosure of east end of recessed front porch, incompatible picture window, replacement metal porch posts and railing, and weatherboard and board and batten types of aluminum siding.

I 72. Duplex. 1101 Franklin St. New, very plain one-story gable-roofed duplex.

I 73. Duplex. 1103 Franklin St. Identical to entry no. 71.
(C) 74. House. 1105 Franklin St. Two-story one-room-deep house with gable-end roof and rear one-story ell, built c. 1900. Altered with aluminum siding and replacement metal porch posts and railing.

C 75. House. 1107 Franklin St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with shed attic dormer, built late 1910s. Very large piers and solid railing at full-facade recessed porch are weatherboarded.

C 76. House. 1109 Franklin St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with gabled attic dormer and full-facade recessed porch supported by Tuscan columns on piers with solid railing in between. Asphalt shingles and plywood cover original weatherboards.

C 77. House. 1203 Franklin St. One-story L-shaped house with cross-gable roof and German siding. Almost full-facade shed porch has replacement metal porch posts.

C 78. House. 1205 Franklin St. One-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roof and rear ell. Retains central corbelled chimney and decorative cut-work gable vents, but less than full-facade shed porch has replacement metal posts. One of two original front doors has been removed.

I 79. House. 1207 Franklin St. Radically altered one-story one-room-deep house with rear ell; the gable-end roof probably was a triple-A originally, like the other houses of this type built in the district c. 1900. Fenestration has been extensively altered and the aluminum-sided house now has an engaged gable-front entrance porch on metal posts. Only the central corbelled chimney remains intact.

C 80. House. 1209 Franklin St. One-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roof and rear ell. Except for replacement concrete porch floor, loss of spandrels at porch posts, and removal of one of the original two front doors, the house is intact, retaining its central corbelled chimney and decorative cut-work gable vents.

I 81. House. 1211 Franklin St. Extensively altered one-story hip-roofed bungalow with gabled attic dormer, built late 1910s. Now covered with aluminum siding, the house has replacement windows and a metal porch post. More than half of the full-facade recessed front porch has been enclosed.
Wall Street

I 82. House. 1102 Wall St. Extensively altered c. 1900 one-story T-shaped house with asbestos shingle siding; enclosed front porch has incompatible windows and vinyl siding.

C 83. House. 1104 Wall St. One-story T-shaped house built c. 1900; intact except for replacement metal porch supports and railing.


C 86. House. 1206 Wall St. One-story T-shaped house built c. 1900. Unaltered exterior features corbelled interior chimney and flue, decorative cut-work vents in all gables, and slightly chamfered posts and match stick railing at front porch.

I 87. House. 1208 Wall St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with small attic gable, built 1920s. Altered with enclosure of east end of recessed front porch, aluminum siding, replacement metal porch post, and replacement two-over-two double-hung windows.

(C) 88. House. 1210 Wall St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with attic gable, built 1920s. Asphalt siding covers original weatherboards and full-facade recessed porch has replacement metal posts and railing.

C 89. House. 1212 Wall St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with small shed attic dormer, built 1920s. Exterior intact except for slender replacement wooden posts and metal railing at full-facade recessed porch.

C 90. House. 1103 Wall St. One-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roof and rear ell built c. 1900. Retains decorative cut-work gable vents but has replacement metal posts and concrete floor at less than full-facade shed-roofed porch. One of two original front doors has been removed.

(C) 91. House. 1105 Wall St. One-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roof and rear ell, built c. 1900. Altered with asbestos shingles, replacement gable vents, and replacement metal posts and concrete floor at porch. Shed has been added to rear and one of two original front doors has been removed.
C 92. **House. 1107 Wall St.** One-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roof and rear ell, built c. 1900. Has replacement metal supports and railing at front porch, but retains decorative cut-work gable vents, central corbelled chimney, and both front doors (although only one is used today).

(C) 93. **House. 1111 Wall St.** One-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roof and rear ell, built c. 1900. Although it retains its central corbelled chimney and decorative cut-work gable vents, the house has asbestos shingle siding, replacement windows, and replacement metal supports and railing at the front porch. One of the original two front doors has been removed.

(C) 94. **House. 1203 Wall St.** One-story, one-room-deep house with triple-A roof and rear ell, built c. 1900. Retains central corbelled chimney but has been extensively altered with replacement metal porch posts and gable vents and aluminum siding. Sizable shed addition to rear.

(C) 95. **House. 1205 Wall St.** One-story hip-roofed bungalow with short attic shed dormer and two front doors built late 1910s. Aluminum siding and replacement metal supports at recessed full-facade front porch.

C 96. **House. 1207 Wall St.** Unaltered one-story hip-roofed bungalow built late 1910s with pair of front doors. Features very large piers covered in shake shingles at the recessed full-facade front porch and butt-end shingles in the front attic gable.

(C) 97. **House. 1209 Wall St.** One-story hip-roofed bungalow with short attic shed dormer, built late 1910s. Altered with aluminum siding and replacement metal supports at the recessed full-facade front porch.

C 98. **House. 1211 Wall St.** One-story hip-roofed bungalow with gabled attic dormer and pair of front doors, built late 1910s. Distinguished by shake shingles covering dormer and by Tuscan columns on brick piers at recessed full-facade porch.

**Taylor Street**

(C) 99. **House. 1102 Taylor St.** One-story hip-roofed bungalow with gabled attic dormer, built late 1910s. Altered with aluminum siding and replacement metal supports at recessed full-facade porch. One of the two original front doors removed.
(C) 100. House. 1104 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with attic gable containing lunette vent, built late 1910s. Extensively altered with aluminum siding, enclosure of west end of recessed front porch (which entailed loss of one of original two front doors), and replacement metal porch supports.


C 103. House. 1110 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with small attic gable, built late 1910s. Built as duplex, now a single-family residence. West end of recessed porch has been enclosed (removing one of the two original front doors) and a single plain wooden post supports the remaining porch.

C 104. House. 1112 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with pair of front doors and small attic gable decorated with butt-end shake shingles and fanlight window, built late 1910s. Replacement metal supports at front porch.

C 105. House. 1202 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with pair of front doors and small attic gable decorated with butt-end shake shingles and rectangular window. Intact exterior features three very large piers and solid railing, all covered with shake shingles, at recessed full-facade porch.

(C) 106. House. 1204 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with small shed attic dormer containing two small square windows, built late 1910s. One of two front doors has been removed. Aluminum siding and replacement metal porch supports.

C 107. House. 1206 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow built late 1910s with intact exterior distinguished by gabled attic dormer with rectangular multi-paned window and recessed full-facade porch supported by Tuscan columns on brick piers. Pair of front doors.

(C) 108. House. 1208 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with attic gable and pair of front doors, built late 1910s. Altered with aluminum siding, enclosure of half of recessed porch, and replacement metal porch support and railing.
I 109. House. 1210 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with attic gable and pair of front doors, built late 1910s. Altered with aluminum siding, replacement windows, enclosure of half of recessed porch, and replacement metal porch support and railing.

C 110. House. 1212 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with short shed attic dormer containing band of three multi-paned windows, built late 1910s. Unaltered exterior features pair of front doors and very large piers covered with split shake shingles and match stick railing at full-facade recessed porch.

C 111. House. 500 Belt St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with short shed attic dormer and two front doors, built late 1910s. Unusual for its placement parallel to the street. Exterior unaltered except for loss of porch railing. Porch supports are pairs and trios of slender wooden posts.

C 112. House. 1005 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with pair of front doors and wide attic gable decorated with butt-end shake shingles, built late 1910s. Only alteration to exterior is loss of porch railing; porch supports are slender wooden posts.

C 113. House. 1007 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow identical to entry no. 111 except for additional alteration of asphalting shingles over original weatherboards.

C 114. House. 1009 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow built late 1910s. Small attic gable contains butt-end shake shingles and lunette window, now filled with a board. Altered with enclosure of east end of recessed front porch (covering one of two front doors) and replacement metal porch support.

C 115. House. 1011 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with gabled attic dormer covered with shingles, built late 1910s. Altered with enclosure of east end of recessed porch (for which one of two original front doors was removed) and replacement metal porch support.

(C) 116. House. 1101 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with shed attic dormer, built late 1910s. Alterations include enclosure of east end of recessed porch (which covered one of two original front doors), replacement metal porch support, and asphalt "brick" shingles over original weatherboards.

(C) 117. House. 1103 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with wide attic gable and pair of front doors, built late 1910s. Exterior altered with replacement windows, asbestos shingles over original weatherboards, and metal post and railing at porch. Retains two front doors.
(C) 118. House. 1105 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with small attic gable containing lunette vent, built late 1910s. Altered with replacement asphalt and aluminum siding, metal post and concrete floor at porch; enclosure of east half of porch entailed removal of one of two original front doors.

C 119. House. 1107 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with gabled attic dormer containing cedar shakes and a pair of rectangular vents, built late 1910s. Retains both original front doors and remains intact on exterior except for replacement metal posts and railing at recessed porch.

C 120. House. 1109 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with pair of front doors and shallow shed dormer containing three small multi-paned windows, built late 1910s. Exterior is intact, retaining pairs and trios of slender wooden posts and match-stick railing at full-facade porch.

C 121. House. 1201 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with small attic gable containing decorative butt-end shake shingles and lunette, now filled in with boards and metal vent. East end of porch has been enclosed and only one slender wooden post remains at porch.

C 122. House. 1203 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with gabled attic dormer containing wide multi-paned rectangular window with added metal vent in middle. Decorative butt-end shake shingles cover dormer. One of two original front doors removed when half of porch enclosed. Only porch support is a single slender wooden post. Built late 1910s.

C 123. House. 1205 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with two front doors, built late 1910s. Barely altered exterior features short shed attic dormer and large weatherboarded piers. Railing has been removed.

(C) 124. House. 1207 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with wide attic gable, built late 1910s. Renovations include removal of one of two original front doors, asbestos shingles over original weatherboards, replacement windows, and metal porch posts and spandrels.

C 125. House. 1209 Taylor St. One-story hip-roofed bungalow with small attic gable, built late 1910s. Altered with aluminum siding and metal porch railing, but retains both front doors. This is only bungalow in the district with very slender paired Tuscan columns on brick piers at porch.

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Golden Belt Historic District, composed of the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company plant, the scores of remaining houses built by the company, and a small commercial district, represents Durham's thriving industrial-based economy of the early twentieth century as well as the lifestyle of the enormous workforce that kept the factories running. Of the several major textile firms established in Durham during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Golden Belt is the only one of the two remaining in operation that continues to use its original factories. In their funding sources and the products they initially manufactured, all of Durham's early textile mills were associated with the local tobacco industry; the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company, however, was the most intimately related to tobacco interests. Founded in 1887 by Julian S. Carr, it originated in his W.T. Blackwell & Co. Bull Durham factory specifically for the manufacture of tobacco pouches. In 1901, Carr greatly expanded Golden Belt with a huge factory of its own and a diversification of operations to include manufacture of the cloth used in the bag production. As the firm continued to grow, the company-built village of traditional rural house types was almost doubled in size with the construction in the late 1910s of dozens of bungalows. Although Golden Belt continues to manufacture tobacco pouches, most of its production today consists of cigarette cartons and packaging labels. The factory buildings of "slow burn" construction accented with numerous towers remains the visual and symbolic focus of the district, in which the majority of the residents are employed by or retired from Golden Belt.

**CRITERIA ASSESSMENT**

A. The Golden Belt Historic District represents Durham's thriving industrial-based economy of the early twentieth century as well as the lifestyle of the enormous workforce that kept the factories running.

B. The Golden Belt Historic District reflects the accomplishments of industrialist Julian S. Carr, inventor William H. Kerr, numerous other mill administrators, and the thousands of laborers employed since 1901 by the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company.

C. In the Golden Belt Historic District, the early twentieth-century buildings of the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company plant are notable examples of industrial architecture in their "slow burn" construction and classicizing treatment of main facades and towers. The district also contains dozens of examples of two periods of mill house architecture -- the traditional rural house types of the turn of the century and the bungalows of the late 1910s.
The Golden Belt Manufacturing Company factory, mill village housing, and neighborhood commercial district constitute the Golden Belt Historic District; the complex recalls Durham's booming economy based on tobacco and textiles during the first decades of this century and the way of life of the thousands of laborers who kept the factories operating. Of the several major textile firms established in Durham during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Golden Belt is one of only two that remain in operation and the only one that continues to use its original factories. The factory buildings, known for their distinctive medieval-looking architecture, remain the visual as well as symbolic focus of the district in which the majority of its residents today are either employed or retired from the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company. As the most intact of Durham's mixed industrial-residential complexes created by Julian S. Carr, the district also stands as a vital monument to that pioneering industrialist's role in the growth of the textile industry and the city's related overall development.

By the early 1880s, Carr realized that textiles was the logical local investment for much of his huge earnings from Durham's leading tobacco manufacturing firm, W.T. Blackwell & Co., of which he was president. The raw materials were at hand, the railroad provided easy shipping, labor was plentiful and cheap, and Durham's tobacco manufacturers, who required cloth for the packaging of their smoking and chewing tobacco, provided an instant market for textiles. Durham's earliest textile venture was Carr's Durham Cotton Manufacturing Company, established in East Durham in 1884. (See the National Register nomination for Durham Cotton Mills Village Historic District also included in the Durham Multiple Resource Nomination.)

Of all of the cloth and hosiery manufacturing companies in which Carr invested, the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company was the most intimately related to his tobacco interests. In 1886, with financial backing from Carr, inventor William H. Kerr began to work on the problem of producing cloth bags suitable for use with the new mechanical "Smoking Tobacco Packer" then being developed by L.W. Lawrence, an employee of W.T. Blackwell & Co. Kerr went to Ilion, New York, evidently to gain access to skilled machinists, and after a year of experimentation he developed a bag machine that enabled one worker to produce in one day as many bags as forty-two seamstresses could. Based on this invention, which could produce thousands of bags a day, Julian S. Carr, his wife, and Thomas B. Fuller incorporated the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company in 1887 with a capitalization of $50,000 for the manufacture "of bags, sacks, shirts, clothing." Kerr was appointed manager of the new company.

Major Bibliographical References
An Inventory of Edgerton and East Durham. Edited by Ruth Little-Stokes and Pat Dickinson (Durham Technical Institute, 1980).

Geographical Data
Acres of nominated property 38.65 acres

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description

see continuation sheet
Initially, Golden Belt's operation occupied a single room in the west wing of the W.T. Blackwell & Co. factory (part of The American Tobacco Company Manufacturing Plant, for which a nomination is included in the Durham Multiple Resource Nomination). The business grew steadily so that by 1898 it required an entire floor of the factory wing. The following year, the company became a major factor in Durham's economy when it was reorganized with a substantial increase in capital.

The last year of the nineteenth century was a busy one for Carr. No longer running W.T. Blackwell & Co., which had been acquired by Union Tobacco Co. and thereafter taken over by The American Tobacco Company in 1898, he turned his full attention to textiles. His earnings from the sale of W.T. Blackwell & Co. were augmented in 1899 when the Dukes and their associates purchased controlling blocks of stock in his Durham Cotton Manufacturing Co. Carr now had the capital to expand his other major textile concerns, Golden Belt Manufacturing Company and Durham Hosiery Mills Corporation, the latter of which he had formed in 1898. In 1899 he announced his plans for the companies' new factories and adjoining villages on the extensive tract just east of Durham's downtown that he named Edgemont. This property at the junction of the Norfolk & Western with the Southern and Seabord Airline railroads was only a couple blocks east of his estate, from which he could conveniently monitor his investments.

Construction of the new factories commenced in 1900. The Durham Hosiery Mills' No. One Mill and its village occupied the very hilly terrain south of E. Main St. (then named Edgemont Ave.) while the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company was situated on the more gently rolling land to the north. Carr's expansion of Golden Belt included not only the increased production of tobacco pouches but a diversification of operations as well to include manufacture of the cloth used for the bags. Consequently, Golden Belt was the larger of the two new plants, consisting of a two- to three-story brick mill in which cloth and thread was manufactured, a smaller two- to three-story brick bag factory, and a one-story brick warehouse. A one-and-one-half-story brick house with a long wraparound porch (no longer standing) served as the Golden Belt office. It was situated in the area between the bag factory and E. Main St, that initially was landscaped as a park with trees, flowers, and winding driveways.

The following account of the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company is an excerpt of the entry on the company in The City of Durham Illustrated of 1910:

In 1900 and 1901 the present plant was built and occupied, and since then the business has increased to many times its former proportions. The present officers are: T.B. Fuller, President and Treasurer; Geo. W. Watts, Vice-President; Charles A. Moore, Secretary; and G.W. Hundley, Assistant Manager.
The superintendent of the bag mill is P.E. Crews; the assistants are: Joseph Spencer, H.T. Speed, and A.L. Weatherspoon. The superintendent of the cotton factory is Chas. M. Suther, with P.L. Saunders, carder; A.H. Graham, spinner; W.H. Crutchfield, weaver; and R.L. Deas, chief engineer. W.B. Walters is master mechanic for the entire plant.

This company employs 800 hands in their various factories, besides giving partial employment to 350 in the town, over 200 of whom are engaged in attaching the "Bull Durham" tags. In addition to these activities the stringing of the bags is carried on by various agencies in the State, and the number of people engaged in this work numbers some thousands. The entire product of the cotton mill, consisting of sheetings and thread, is used in the bag factory, and from the latter are turned out tobacco bags for granulated tobacco, such as the famous "Bull Durham" and "Duke's Mixture" brands; fancy pouches for plug cuts, plug pockets, coin and seed bags, and special bags of various kinds.

The Golden Belt Manufacturing Company gives steady employment to its operatives during the entire year, pays good wages, and endeavors to pursue a liberal policy in all its relations. It is well organized and the managers of its various departments are men of character and ability: diligent in business and loyal to their company. The product of the company has a just reputation for quality and the business has been conducted satisfactorily in the past to all concerned.

The expansion mentioned in the 1910 publication refers to an addition made to the bag factory sometime between 1907 and 1910 that almost doubled its length and to a two-story brick building east of the bag factory. The latter building is identified as a "reserve bag mill" in the 1907 series of the Sanborn insurance maps and as a warehouse in the 1913 series. Around 1910, J.T. Dalton of Durham developed automatic bagging and drawstringing machinery which may account at least in part for the addition to the original bag factory. Although he had not held an office at Golden Belt since at least 1903, Carr, who was sixty-eight years old in 1910, had continued until the end of the decade as president of Durham Hosiery Mills, which had become the largest manufacturer of cotton hosiery in the world with fifteen factories in North Carolina.

The Golden Belt Historic District resembles the scores of mill villages built across North Carolina during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the constituent elements of factory, houses, church, and stores that shaped its character. The village epitomizes the recommendations espoused in a popular late nineteenth-century journal, the Manufacturer's Record:

Good dwellings at low rents is one of the essential features of a prosperous manufacturing town, as the better class of mechanics will not put up with inferior accommodations nor with exorbitant rents. . . . Contented laborers, well housed and well fed, are essential to the prosperity of any industrial enterprise. Cheap homes but good homes will attract good laborers who can afford to and will work for much lower pay than where houses are scarce and rents high.
That practical advice of 1888 had been codified by 1900 in Daniel A. Tompkins' Cotton Mill: Commercial Features. In his chapters on labor and operatives' housing, Tompkins presented model house plans and specifications and prescribed large lots suitable for the home gardening that he encouraged "as being conducive to general contentment among the operatives...essentially a rural people."¹²

The Golden Belt Historic District reflects the contention put forth by Dr. Brent Glass in his 1978 article, "Southern Mill Hills: Design in a 'Public' Place," that the designers of the "model mill villages" of the early twentieth century purposely retained the character of the nineteenth-century mill hills. Set in urban environments due to the technological advances of steam power and railroad systems, the basic designs of early twentieth-century mill villages were much the same as those of the nineteenth-century rural mill complexes with their villages sited on the hill rising from the factory at the edge of a power-providing river. Like its rural predecessors, the Golden Belt Historic District was both a "working place and a walking place," its scale "such that all goods and services and all social interaction could be reached with public or private transportation."¹³ Because the mill employed men, women and children, the village contains single-family houses, rather than apartments or boarding houses, with open spaces for gardens. A sense of community was engendered by closeness to neighbors and social functions. Thus, the design of the newer mill villages remained attractive to farm families who wanted to live and work together as always and thereby drew a constant supply of inexpensive labor. By providing all necessities and amenities, the mill operators created a strictly regulated transition from the farm that encouraged optimum productivity from their workers.¹⁴

When the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company opened its new plant in 1901, all of its laborers lived in housing built by Golden Belt east of the mill. Covering almost twenty acres, the village was laid out in a grid, with all of the houses on the streets running east-west, initially named simply avenues "A" through "D" (now Morning Glory Ave., Worth St., Franklin St., and Wall St., respectively). Like the other North Carolina mill villages of the day, all of the houses were basic, traditional types that had been found across the state's landscape for much of the previous century -- one-room deep and one or two stories tall, in simple rectangular or "T" shapes with one-story rear ells. (The one-story L-shaped houses, which differ from the other early houses in their German siding, appear to have been built later in the decade.) Although none of the designs was taken directly from Tompkins' book, the one-story T-shaped houses resemble Tompkins' "Three-room Gable House, Cost $325."¹⁵

The only builder identified with the early houses in the district is Andrew C. Mitchell, a Burlington carpenter.¹⁶ According to a contract dated April 20, 1900, he built forty of the houses -- twelve three-room houses at $265 each, sixteen four-room houses at $345 each, and twenty-five-room houses at $435 each. He also constructed fifty privies at four dollars each.¹⁷ More than fifty houses were constructed in the first
phase of the district's development and it is likely that Mitchell built houses in addition to those mentioned in his contract, such as the one-story, five-room houses with hipped roofs close to the mill. According to local tradition, Golden Belt originally charged monthly rent of twenty-five cents per room. Although every house had its own privy, there was only one well for every two houses.

Most of the information about the early residents of the Golden Belt Historic District has been gleaned from city directories. Although the directories list most of the residents as mill hands, many are identified by more specific jobs such as weaver, machinist, and loom fixer. Other positions held by mill operatives included those of carpenter and special policeman. (The latter position attests to the self-contained nature of the mill village, dependent upon its own resources for public services.) The larger, one-story hip-roofed houses with five rooms close to the mill (three of which were destroyed prior to 1937 for factory expansion) were occupied by overseers, foremen, and the more highly skilled artisans such as engineers and electricians. The other five-room houses in the district -- the two-story houses on avenues B and C (Worth and Franklin streets) -- were the homes of mill hands and other semi-skilled laborers. It is likely, as was the case in other mill villages built by Julian S. Carr (for example, Carrboro), that assignments to the larger two-story houses not adjacent to the mill were made on the basis of family size and seniority. Throughout the district, turnover of occupants in the dwellings was frequent. Of the fifteen houses randomly selected for research in city directories, only one, at 1011 Worth St., was occupied by the same person, mill hand W.C. Winston, in 1919 (the first year the directories list residents by street address) and 1925. All of the company administrators lived in nearby fashionable neighborhoods. The 500 and 600 blocks of Holloway St., conveniently located a few blocks away to the northwest, were popular among mill officials including Paul Crews, superintendent of the bag department, and George Hundley, who became president of Golden Belt in the early 1920s.

The district's commercial area developed along E. Main St., the "dividing line" between the Golden Belt and Durham Hosiery Mills villages. From its beginning in 1901, this area served both communities. There was only one establishment that appears to have been the company store for both mills -- the Edgemont Mercantile Co., located on the south side of E. Main St. in the large triangle of lawn in front of the Durham Hosiery Mill, just outside the Golden Belt Historic District. (The two-story brick building is no longer standing.) The 1903 Durham city directory list Thomas B. Fuller, Golden Belt president, as president of Edgemont Mercantile and Julian S. Carr as its vice president.

The rest of the villages' commercial area emerged on the north side of E. Main St., in the long wedge-shaped block at the south edge of the historic district. An early plat for Edgemont reveals that Carr owned this block, but there is no indication that he owned any of the businesses established here; it has not been determined if he played a role in developing the commercial properties or merely sold the block lot by lot to investors. In
1902, there were two frame commercial buildings on the north side of E. Main St. — a two-story structure containing a grocery and a drug store and a one-story building with two store fronts. Another two-and-one-half-story frame grocery was situated on the north side of the block fronting Morning Glory Ave., outside of the district. At the east end of the block on E. Main St. (Elm St. had not yet been cut between E. Main St. and Morning Glory Ave.), also outside of the district, the brick Edgemont Graded School (no longer standing) occupied a sizable tract. It had been erected by the Durham public school system in 1901. Immediately west of the school, Edgemont Baptist Church, organized by thirty-six members of Durham's First Baptist Church, built a small one-story frame church in 1902.

The business district grew steadily for three decades. By 1907, six additional frame shops had been built, including a fruit store and confectionary at the west end of E. Main St. and a row of buildings on the corner of E. Main and Elm containing barber, jewelry and dress shops. The W.R. Dupree Mantel Factory and the Star Manufacturing Co., which made mattresses, were located on Morning Glory Ave., but by the mid-1910s they had been replaced with houses and the Free Will Baptist Church. The most significant development of the business district occurred during the 1920s when all of the frame store buildings were replaced with handsome one- and two-story brick structures. According to the 1930 Durham city directory, the 900 block of E. Main St. contained more than twenty shops, among them an A & P grocery, a meat market, a drug store, a dress shop, a furniture store, a cleaner's, two billiard parlors, a barber shop, and two restaurants. Also during the 1920s, the congregation of Edgemont Baptist Church became so large that it replaced its original small frame church with the present, more spacious brick Neoclassical Revival style building.

Expansion of the business district paralleled the growth of the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company, which in turn reflected the success of Durham's tobacco industry. When The American Tobacco Company trust was broken up in 1911, Golden Belt entered into virtually the same sort of exclusive association with the reorganized American Tobacco Company that had marked the textile firm's origins as an associate firm of W. T. Blackwell & Co. American's cigarette production soared with the success of its Lucky Strike brand, and in 1924 Golden Belt began to manufacture the paper stamps and packages for American's cigarette containers. Although the company never completely abandoned its manufacture of cloth bags and pouches, by the mid 1930s most of the bag factory was used for the printing of paper labels and packaging. Golden Belt gradually used more and more of the cotton mill for the manufacture of cigarette cartons and eventually ceased altogether its production of cloth. However, the company did not veer completely away from textiles. At the same time that it increased its production of packaging, the firm also diversified into the manufacture of ladies' hosiery, constructing two large one-story hosiery mills at the south end of the plant in the 1920s.

The need for a considerable increase in the work force to operate the company's steadily expanding plant prompted Golden Belt in the late 1910s to undertake a second
major building campaign in the village. As in 1900 to 1901, the larger houses -- one-and-one-half-story bungalows -- were constructed close to the factory and occupied by high-ranking operatives such as assistant foremen and carpenters. At the east end of existing streets and along Taylor St., a new street marking the north end of the village, the company constructed more than forty one-story bungalows. In spite of an approximately fifty percent increase in the size of the village, the company-built houses could not accommodate the entire Golden Belt workforce as it continued to grow throughout the 1920s. Although it is not certain where the mill operatives lived outside of the district, it may be surmised that many workers rented from some of the numerous private individuals who were investing in rows of identical, cheaply built houses targeted for mill village "overflow."28

The second major building campaign was indicative of developments throughout the southern textile industry. Mill operators increased production quotas and converted the paternalistic offerings of houses and other facilities from benevolences to trade-offs for low wages and difficult working conditions. At the same time, they transformed the development of their mill villages into scientific exercises utilizing architects, city planners, and landscape architects. Their goal was the creation of model villages conducive to a greater capacity for work on the part of occupants. Already well established, the Golden Belt village did not exemplify such multi-faceted planning in its late 1910s expansion, but the new houses did reflect the general trend in their style and amenities, which included indoor plumbing and modern appliances. (At the same time that the bungalows were built, plumbing also was installed in all of the earlier Golden Belt houses.) Bungalows had become the standard mode for company-built housing and were promoted in such industry journals as Southern Textile Bulletin, which featured large advertisements for pre-fabricated "Reddi-Cut" bungalows by The Aladdin Co. in its special issue for Christmas of 1919.30 The treatments of the main facades of the new Golden Belt houses suggest the company's increased awareness of aesthetics and its role in projecting a positive image for the firm. Although all of the one-story bungalows exhibit the same basic design, they were individualized with stylish treatments of attic dormers and porch supports.

The Golden Belt Manufacturing Company has grown significantly during the past few decades and today remains one of Durham's major employers. Although Golden Belt still produces cloth bags and pouches, almost the entire plant is devoted to the production of cigarette packages and cartons. The company sold its hosiery operation in 1946 to Hillcrest Hosiery Mills which occupied Golden Belt's facilities until the early 1950s. (It is not known if Hillcrest eventually moved its operation or went out of business.) Today, the plant's hosiery mills built in the 1920s are used for printing and other operations related to the packaging end of Golden Belt's business. Growth of cigarette carton manufacturing, now handled by an associated firm, Continental Forest Industries, entailed the construction of an enormous addition to the original cotton mill in 1972 and removal of several houses in the block immediately east to make room for parking lots.
Both the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company and Continental Forest Industries are subsidiaries of American Brands, which also is the parent company of The American Tobacco Company, the purchaser of all of Golden Belt and Continental's products.

After World War II, Golden Belt's development continued the trend away from paternalism as the company strove to maximize profits. By the early 1950s, the relationship between the factory administration and their employees had evolved to the point that Golden Belt no longer realized any advantage from providing, at nominal rents, housing which had fully depreciated and required outlays for maintenance. In 1954, the company sold all of its houses for ten percent less than their appraised values. The prices of the houses ranged from $3,000 to $4,000, and most of them were purchased by their occupants. Many of the houses have been re-sold since then and a significant number once again are rental property. Nevertheless, a close association between the village and Golden Belt endures through the significant number of residents who are employees or retirees of the plant. In spite of deterioration of the business district, as aspect of inner city blight symptomatic of the automobile age and resultant proliferation of shopping centers, the Golden Belt mill village survives as a vital neighborhood. The closing statements of Dr. Glass' article characterize the Golden Belt Historic District:

... the mill hill has proven its resiliency as a vernacular design. It has survived the migration to the suburbs in the 1950s. It has been refined over the years but retains its essential nineteenth century form. It is this form that allowed for the basic needs of a rural population. These needs have proven to be universal. Proximity to workplace, easy access to community services and open space, avenues of social interaction -- these are qualities of any well-balanced living space. The mill hill has provided this balance in its design.

NOTES


3 Durham County Register of Deeds (DCRD), Book of Incorporations A, page 50.


5 Ibid.

6 Ibid.

The City of Durham Illustrated, p. 43. The reference to 800 hands may not be accurate. In any event, the factory complex was quite large and certainly employed more than the few hundred people occupying the houses built by Golden Belt. Many of the Golden Belt employees must have lived outside the historic district as early as 1910, perhaps in Edgemont or in the rows of houses bordering the district to the north and southeast that evidently were built as investments by private individuals for rent to laborers.


See Durham city directories published during the 1900s, located in the North Carolina Room of the Durham Public Library.


Glass, p. 147.

Ibid.

See illustrations from Tompkins printed in Glass, p. 144.


The contract is reproduced in An Inventory of Edgemont and East Durham, p. H6.

The total number of houses built during the village's initial phase of development is not certain as early Sanborn insurance maps do not show the entire village and several houses have been destroyed to make room for plant expansion. However, the survival of twenty-two three-room houses, all originally identical, is another indication that Mitchell constructed more than fifty dwellings.

20. The fact that the Edgemont Mercantile Co. is not included in the city directories' list of groceries also suggests that it first was a private company store.


27. See Durham city directories published during the late 1910s and early 1920s. There is no known record of the builder of these late 1910s bungalows.

28. It has not been determined if Golden Belt rented nearby houses and sub-let them to their employees, a common practice of the time among mill owners whose villages could not accommodate their entire work force.


32. Sanborn Map Co., 1978 series (on file in the Planning and Community Development Department of the City of Durham); and Parks interview.


34. See scores of deeds in deed books 216 and 217 at the Durham County Register of Deeds.

35. Glass, p. 149.
BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northeast corner of Lot 27, Block 4, Durham County Tax Map 130, follow the east edge of Lot 27 south and cross Taylor St. to the northeast corner of Block 2, Map 131; then follow the east edges of Blocks 2, 3, 4 and 5 of Map 131 to the southeast corner of Block 5; follow the south and west edges of Block 5 to the northwest corner of the block and cross Worth St. to the southwest corner of Block 4, Map 131; cross Alston Ave. to the southeast corner of Block 7, Map 132 and follow the south edge of Block 7 west to the southwest corner of Lot 4, Block 7, Map 132; cross Worth St. to the northeast corner of Lot 8, Block 9, Map 132 and follow the east edges of Lots 8 and 3 of Block 9 south to the southeast corner of Lot 3; then follow the south edge of Block 9 west to the southwest corner of the block and cross Morning Glory Ave. in a straight line to the northeast corner of Lot 1, Block 12, Map 132; follow the east edges of Lot 1, Block 12 to the north side of E. Main St. and then proceed west along the north side of E. Main St., crossing Elm St. in a straight line, to the southwest corner of Block 11, Map 132; then follow the west and north edges of Block 11 to a point opposite the southwest corner of Block 2, Map 132; cross Taylor St. to the southwest corner of Block 2 and proceed east along the north edges of Lots 2 through 5 of Block 2 to the west side of Elm St.; follow the west side of Elm St. south to a point opposite the northwest corner of Lot 1, Block 1, Map 132; cross Elm St. in a straight line and follow the north edges of Lots 1 through 5 of Block 1, Map 132 east; cross Alston Ave., and continue east along the north lines of Lots 22 through 27, Block 4, Map 130, to the point of the beginning.
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Golden Belt Historic District Additional Documentation
Durham, Durham County, DH1804, Listed 9/24/2008
Nomination by Andrew Stewart
Photographs by Andrew Stewart, April 2008

Front and side view

Façade view
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Golden Belt Historic District
Additional Documentation
Durham County, North Carolina

[Note: Only amended items and the required NPS certification are included below.]

Section 1

NAME OF PROPERTY: Golden Belt Historic District —Additional Documentation

Section 3

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION: As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 meets the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant locally.

Signature of certifying official/title Date

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

Section 4

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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): ________________

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Golden Belt Historic District, Durham County, North Carolina

This additional documentation nomination provides a separate inventory entry for the 1958/1968 Golden Belt Manufacturing Company Office Building within the Golden Belt Historic District. It is the only resource in the district dating from the expanded period of significance – 1936-1958.

Golden Belt Manufacturing Company Office Building
807 East Main Street, Durham
Contributing Building
Construction Dates: Built in 1958; west addition built in 1968.

The Golden Belt Manufacturing Company Office Building sits below East Main street grade at the southwest corner of the Golden Belt Historic District. The building faces north directly onto a parking lot and the Golden Belt hosiery mill buildings 2 and 6. The original 1958 one-story red brick building was sixty-seven feet deep and eighty feet wide. In 1968 a one-story addition the same depth as the original building, was built onto the building’s west wall. This addition is also sixty-seven feet deep, and fifty-two feet wide. It is constructed of the same materials (brick and concrete) and architectural details as the original 1958 building.

The 1958 building is built of concrete block with a five-course American bond exterior brick veneer. A concrete water table chamfer caps a tall concrete plinth base. The brick wall is capped with a continuous concrete coping at the roofline. The window sets are encased within a slightly projecting concrete surround. Each set consists of four, three-lite, aluminum awning windows separated by veneer brick panels. The south elevation is a blank brick wall and features a stepped water table concrete base. The east elevation has one set of windows positioned near the north corner of the wall. The north elevation features the main entrance centered between two sets of windows. The main entrance is five steps above existing grade and is accentuated with a slightly projecting broad, flat concrete surround. The aluminum full glass door with a transom and flanking sidelights is recessed. The west elevation had a single, three-foot wide, hollow metal door near the north corner and a centered set of windows. The roof is a built-up, coal tar, flat roof set within the exterior wall parapets.

The 1968 addition is also built of concrete block with a five-course American Bond exterior brick veneer. The addition has the same chamfered concrete water table base, concrete coping and concrete window set surrounds as on the original 1958 building. The addition’s south elevation is a blank brick wall. The addition abuts the 1958 building on the west, and the 1958 west wall was altered to become an interior wall. The door, window set and the center fifty
percent of the original wall was removed. The 1968 west elevation has a single three foot wide door set fourteen feet south of the north corner. The north elevation is flush with the 1958 wall, and it has a three-foot-wide door and a window set on the west corner.

The architectural integrity of the exterior of the 1958 building has been somewhat compromised by the smaller 1968 addition, only on its west wall which is obscured by the new construction. However, the design of the 1968 building is a near duplicate of the original building – matching in materials, design, height, and fenestration, and it is nearly thirty feet narrower in width. The composite building’s point of entry is still prominently recognizable as the original 1958 front door. The east elevation’s presentation of the building to Morning Glory Street is unchanged since 1958.
Section 8: Statement of Significance

The Golden Belt Historic District was listed in the National Register in 1985. Although the nomination form did not identify a period of significance, it is inferred that the period ended at the fifty-year date – 1935, as the company was financially successful and had a significant economic impact on the community into the Depression. This nomination provides additional information about the company’s history from 1936 to 1958, thus expanding the period of significance until 1958. During the late 1930s, 1940s and 1950s, the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company was an important textile and tobacco-related industry in Durham – employing hundreds of workers. It manufactured various textile products, including sheeting, loose-leaf tobacco bags, and hosiery, and the viability of the company is evident by the American Tobacco Company’s efforts to gain complete ownership of the business during the 1950s. In 1958, American Tobacco Company fully acquired the company, and built a new modernist office building. The district meets Criterion A for its importance in the history of industry in Durham, North Carolina, from 1936 to 1958.

Golden Belt Manufacturing Company, 1936-1958

The 1930s were an era of tumult and change for the textile industry nationally, and particularly in East Durham. The increasing importance of imported hosiery and a shift away from cotton to silk hosiery diminished the market for cotton products manufactured in Durham.1 By 1937, the nearby Morven Cotton Mill had been abandoned.2 Labor unrest accompanied the market constraint; in 1934, the United Textile Workers of America threatened a strike if working conditions were not improved – in Durham, a meeting of 3000 people was held at the Carolina Theater. Textile mills in Durham were shut down on September 1st, with the exception of the bag mill at Golden Belt, out of concern that shutting down the bag mill would shut down American Tobacco. By Sept. 6th, picket lines had shut down the bag mill and printing presses as well, but there was enough stored supply of bags to keep American Tobacco in operation. The strike ended with concessions on Sept. 25th, 1934.3 However, attrition continued in the local

2 Sanborn Map Company map of Durham, 1937.
industry—by 1934 the Durham Hosiery Mill Number One, immediately to the south of Golden Belt was out of business⁴, and by 1941, the nearby East Durham Cotton Manufacturing Company was shut down.⁵

Golden Belt, by virtue of its relationship with the American Tobacco Company—as supplier of the cotton bags for Bull Durham tobacco, remained somewhat insulated from the decline in the hosiery market, and was able to maintain its capitalization and output during the 1930s:

### Golden Belt Capitalization and Output, 1935-1941⁶

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<td>104</td>
<td>Sheeting, Tobacco bags, “full-fashioned hosiery”</td>
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<td>568</td>
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<td>Sheeting, Tobacco bags, “full-fashioned hosiery”</td>
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</table>

In 1938, the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company is described in the North Carolina Directory and Reference Book as employing 1000-1500 people.⁷ Despite the ability to maintain a healthy business during this era, the company recognized the market changes necessitated a shift in product output. In 1946 the company sold its hosiery operation to Hillcrest Hosiery Mills, which occupied a portion of the Golden Belt facility (within buildings 3 and 6) until the early 1950s.

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⁷ North Carolina Directory and Reference Book, 1938
The short-lived return to popularity of bagged loose-leaf tobacco during the Depression ended during the early 1940s, and the need for manufactured bags diminished with it. Golden Belt shifted towards production of paper, packaging, and labeling during the 1940s, although it maintained textile output. In 1949, the company became the first to employ gravure printing for cigarette labels. However, in 1945, the company is still noted to be a strong force in the textile industry in Durham continuing to produce bags for loose-leaf tobacco into the 1950s. The American Tobacco company prospectus from 1952, and notes from a 1953 ‘special meeting’ note that the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company manufactures cotton bags, principally used for the packaging of tobacco, and supplies the Company's requirements of bags for its brand BULL DURHAM; manufactures tobacco shade cloth used to cover the fields on which Connecticut Valley shade-grown cigar wrapper tobacco is grown; supplies a substantial portion of the requirements for such cloth of The Hatheway-Steane Corporation and also manufactures labels for tobacco and cigarette packages.”

The first edition of Moody’s Industrial Manual, from 1954, notes that the company was a 94.7% owned subsidiary of the American Tobacco Company at that time. The strength of the company during the 1950s can be inferred from American Tobacco Company’s ongoing efforts through the 1950s to acquire the outstanding 5.3% of Golden Belt Manufacturing Company stock that was publicly-held. This effort began in 1957, and by 1958, the American Tobacco Company owned 100% of Golden Belt stock. Co-incident with this acquisition and ongoing expansion of the company’s products and operations, the company constructed a modern office

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building to replace the earlier frame office building on site. This building served as the headquarters for the eventual expansion of Golden Belt’s operations to 4 additional manufacturing facilities in the US and Canada (Reidsville, NC; Randleman, NC; Burlington, NC; Missuaga, Ontario, Canada.)14 The 1958 American Tobacco Annual Report notes that Golden Belt manufactured labels, cartons, cloth, and cloth bags, with “much of the output used by [American Tobacco] and the balance sold to others.”15

By the 1960s, Golden Belt again diversified - this time into plastics production. In 1965, the company installed injection plastic molding machinery. The 1967 American Tobacco Annual Report notes that Golden Belt “experienced a significant increase in operating profits on a strong sales gain.” Plastics production was increased by 50% in 1967 to meet greater demand for plastic products.16 This growth necessitated a $2-million, 34,000-square-foot addition to Golden Belt's Durham factory during 1966-68. This project, which included the installation of all-new equipment, enabled the company to diversify its textile production, adding single and plied yarn for sale to knitters and weavers.17 This operations expansion included the 1968 addition to the company’s main office building. That same year, Golden Belt experimented with production of molded plastic filters for cigarettes and adding synthetic orange flavoring to tobacco bags.18 The financial success of the Golden Belt Manufacturing Company during the 1940s through the 1960s was highly significant to the surrounding historic district and Durham’s overall economy.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Golden Belt Historic District
Additional Documentation
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Section Number 9 Page 8

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American Tobacco Company Internal Correspondence, December 6, 1968, American Tobacco Company Collection, University of California – San Francisco Library.


Sanborn Map Company, Durham map, 1937.
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Durham County, North Carolina

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Photographs

Golden Belt Historic District – additional documentation  
Durham, Durham County, North Carolina  
April 2008, Andrew Stewart, photographer  
Digital photograph CD, North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, N.C.

Golden Belt Manufacturing Company Office Building  
1. North elevation – looking southwest  
2. North and west elevations – looking southeast  
3. West elevation – looking southeast  
4. South elevation – looking west  
5. West and south elevations – looking east  
6. Cornerstone – north elevation  
7. Entrance, north elevation – looking south  
8. East elevation – looking west  
9. View of east elevation and general view – looking west