

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Sterling Cotton Mill  
other names/site number Franklinton Cotton Mill

### 2. Location

street & number SE junction of Railroad & E. Green St. N/A  not for publication  
city or town Franklinton N/A  vicinity  
state North Carolina code NC county Franklin code 069 zip code 27525

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Jeffrey J. Cross SHPD 4/10/96  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

~~Sterling Cotton Mill~~  
Name of Property

~~Franklin, N.C.~~  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
1	1	structures
		objects
3	1	Total

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

none

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

-0-

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry: manufacturing facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry: storage

**7. Description**

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

Other: Industrial Italianate

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

plywood

roof other: built up

other wood

**Narrative Description**

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

Sterling Cotton Mill  
Name of Property

Franklin, N.C.  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Industry

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1895-1946

**Significant Dates**

1895

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Sterling Cotton Mill

Name of Property

Franklin, N.C.

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7 ±

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 7289410 3397820
Zone Easting Northing

3 Zone Easting Northing
4 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. Ruth Little

organization Longleaf Historic Resources date Feb. 14, 1996

street & number 2709 Bedford Ave. telephone 919-836-8128

city or town Raleigh state N.C. zip code 27607

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

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

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

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Sterling Cotton Mill, Franklin Co., N.C.

**Description**

Sterling Cotton Mill, the largest building in the railroad town of Franklinton, occupies a prominent site adjacent to the Seaboard Railroad tracks one block south and one block east of the three-block business district. The approximately seven-acre rectangular, level site occupies the block between E. Green Street and E. College Street east of the tracks. To the north, east and west are the one-story frame mill houses originally associated with the mill. The mill faces E. Green Street, set 200 feet back behind a front yard containing two asphalt parking lots and the reservoir, now drained. The main mill, a one and two-story L-shaped brick building (one contributing building), is sited against the railroad tracks. At the east end is a frame wing, originally detached "cotton sheds" (one contributing building). A detached chimney stack adjacent to the mill is counted as one contributing structure. South of the mill is a small metal air conditioner cooling tower (one noncontributing structure). Against the rear property line on the south side are a row of six one-story frame warehouses and a water tower, neither of which is included in the nominated property.

The large brick mill contains five distinct sections: the original (1895) gabled one-story section (rising to a two-story section at the east end) set at right angles to the tracks, a two-story addition (1914) with a shallow gable roof set parallel to the railroad tracks, a one-story addition (1960s) to the rear of the original section which doubled its floor space, pre-1926 "cotton sheds" on the east end, and a small two-story brick office (1966) in front of the one-story section.

The original "main mill," containing approximately 19,500 square feet of floor space, is constructed of random one-to-five and one-to-six bond brick walls, segmental-arched windows, a brick corbel cornice and a shallow gable roof with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails. All windows were infilled with brick in the 1960s when air conditioning was installed. On the interior the mill contains heavy chamfered pine joists and wooden plank ceiling boards, supported by six rows of steel I-beams. These are identical to the posts which support the 1960s extension of the space to the rear, and were probably replaced at that time. The original pine floors survive. The wide window openings probably contained paired nine-over-nine wooden sash like those which survive in the boiler room.

Extending to the front of the one-story mill is the 1895 boiler room, a one-story structure of one to six bond brick, with paired nine over nine wooden sash set in segmental arched openings, pilastered wall treatment, and a corbelled brick cornice. Some original double five-panel doors with granite door sills remain in this section. The adjacent, original massive brick chimney towers over the mill. The original steam engine, powered by coal, was located here.

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## Sterling Cotton Mill, Franklin Co., N.C.

The 1914 addition to the mill added some 60,000 square feet of space, tripling the production area. In 1926 when the mill appears on the only Sanborn Insurance Map of Franklinton, this section was labelled as the "spinning mill."<sup>1</sup> The two-story addition (with raised basement at the north end) is built of load-bearing one-to-five bond brick walls, with segmental arched window openings with triple-header arches. The basement windows along the front (north) elevation retain paired nine-over-nine pane wooden sash, presumably identical to the original upper floor windows which have been removed. The shallow gable roof has wide overhanging eaves with decorative exposed rafter tails. Two stair towers extend on the east side and two air conditioner rooms, added in the 1960s, project from the west side. A 1960s metal cooling tower for the air conditioner system stands south of the 1914 section.

The interior of this section is basically unaltered, and consists of two large floors, each with three rows of chamfered pine posts. Each floor is an unbroken expanse with the exception of a fire wall extending through the middle. The mill retains its original pine flooring and bare brick walls. The beaded plank ceiling is supported by chamfered pine joists. The raised basement room at the north end is finished.

The 1960s addition, labelled "Mfg. Add." on a 1967 Factory Insurance Association map, extends to the rear of the original main mill and abuts the "cotton sheds."<sup>2</sup> This brick veneer section has wooden floors, steel posts and joists and wooden plank ceiling.

A frame one-story wing extends from the east end of the 1960s addition. This section is labelled "cotton sheds" on the 1926 Sanborn map and "waste house" on the 1967 insurance map. It has pine plank flooring, large plain wooden posts, sawn roof rafters and beaded ceiling boards which are indicative of an early twentieth century construction date. The exterior is now covered with plywood siding.

The 1966 office is two-stories tall, with a five-bay wide front elevation and a flat roof. Its minimal classical detailing includes brick veneer walls, nine-over-nine sash with stuccoed flat arches, and a central door with transom, sidelights, and a pedimented wooden stoop. The interior features 1966 sheetrock and stock trim finish.

<sup>1</sup> Sanborn Insurance Map of Franklinton, 1926. Copy in file.

<sup>2</sup> Map of Sterling Cotton Mills, 1967. Factory Insurance Association, Hartford, Conn. (copy attached)

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Sterling Cotton Mill, Franklin Co., N.C.

**Significance**

Sterling Cotton Mill, one of only two textile mills established in Franklin County in the nineteenth century and the only one to survive, represents the late and limited effect of the industrial revolution on this agricultural county in north central North Carolina (Criterion A). Established in 1895 by local entrepreneur Samuel C. Vann and run by his family until 1975, Sterling Mill was the major industry in Franklin County until World War II. The 1895 one-story original mill and 1914 two-story addition exhibit the "Industrial Italianate" style, the standard utilitarian textile mill construction of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, with pilastered brick walls, segmentally arched windows, shallow gable roofs, and "slow burn" heavy timber construction with chamfered wooden posts and roofing beams (Criterion C). As a beneficent family-run business which employed between 200 and 400 whites and African Americans during its fifty year period of significance, Sterling Mill has great significance to Franklin County. Although the mill closed in 1991 the mill complex remains one of Franklinton's most prominent landmarks.

**Historical Background**

Samuel C. Vann came to Franklinton as a young man, clerked in a general store, and then spent several years working in a cotton commission firm in Baltimore before returning to Franklinton and opening his own store.<sup>3</sup> Sam Vann also became a farmer and large landowner in Franklin County and operated a stone supply company in Franklinton.<sup>4</sup> In 1891, at the age of thirty-nine, Vann is said to have begun planning a cotton mill. In 1895 Vann incorporated the Sterling Cotton Mills, Inc. About thirty subscribers, most of them family members, subscribed \$39,000. Vann and his wife purchased a 10.9 acre parcel of land located on the Raleigh & Gaston Railroad about 1895, and sold in 1896 to Sterling Cotton Mills. The tract is described as "adjoining the lands of Raleigh & Gaston Railroad, Maj. B. F. Bullock and others."<sup>5</sup> The current mill parcel is smaller because the eastern section was developed with mill housing.

Clay was dug on site to make the brick to construct the mill. The clay pit became the reservoir which held the water to generate the steam power which ran the mill. A one-story brick mill was

<sup>3</sup> Cheryl Faye Hollar, *A Walk Through History: A Town Called Franklinton Celebrates Its 150th* (Town of Franklinton: 1992), 38.

<sup>4</sup> Interview with Thilbert Pearce, Franklinton, August 30, 1995.

<sup>5</sup> Franklin County Deed Book 103, 478.

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Sterling Cotton Mill, Franklin Co., N.C.  
constructed during the year and opened for operation in 1896. An article in *The Franklin Times* at the beginning of 1896 describes the installation of the machinery:

The Sterling Cotton Mills are getting on nicely, all the machinery is not yet in place, but the work is going on. Warps are being made and in a few days we understand that full time, with a full force, will be put on, which means employment for about one hundred and ten hands.<sup>6</sup>

The newspaper account was overly optimistic, because by 1897 *Branson's Business Directory* lists only twenty-five hands operating 2,080 spindles and producing 1,260 pounds of yarn daily. At this time the mill officers were: Col. W.F. Green, president; S.C. Vann, secretary & treasurer; and J.C. Fogleman, superintendent. Originally, the mill office was located in the Sterling Stone Company, a business operated by Vann on Main Street; later a separate mill office was built next door to the stone company.<sup>7</sup> In 1966 the current office was added in front of the "main mill."

The mill had an ideal location on the railroad, which afforded easy delivery of the coal to power the mill and shipping of the finished yarn to its destinations. As it grew, farm families moved into Franklinton to work in the mill, and by 1899 the mill employed 200 persons. Originally the mill made cotton yarn for use in shirts, cotton suiting, canvas, and canvas strapping. As the automobile industry developed in Detroit, much of the yarn produced here was used as tire cord in pneumatic rubber tires.

By 1914 Sterling Mill's business was so brisk that the Vann family tripled the production space by adding a two-story addition between the original mill and the railroad tracks which increased the mill to 26,112 spindles.<sup>8</sup> Sam Vann died in the early 1920s, and his son Al Vann took over operation of Sterling Mill.<sup>9</sup> During the early twentieth century the Vanns acquired adjacent parcels around the mill site and built a mill village to accommodate their work force. The 1926 Sanborn Insurance Map of the mill shows a number of one-story frame houses located in front on E. Green Street and to the side on Railroad Street. A street called Sterling Street led from E.

<sup>6</sup> *The Franklin Times*, Jan. 3, 1896.

<sup>7</sup> *The Franklin Times: 1870-1970*, no date, no publisher. Ca. 1980, 87.

<sup>8</sup> *The Franklin Times: 1870-1970*, 87.

<sup>9</sup> *A Walk Through Time*, 64.

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## Sterling Cotton Mill, Franklin Co., N.C.

Green Street into the mill, and two mill houses faced this street. The gable and wing type houses were probably constructed about 1915. Most of these still stand.

The Depression hit Franklin County hard. Many people lost their farms and many businesses closed, including, in late summer of 1932, Sterling Cotton Mill. About three hundred people lost their jobs, creating even worse hardships than the county had experienced in 1931. On March 7, 1933, Sterling Mill was sold at auction. Mrs. J. A. Moore, daughter of Samuel Vann, purchased it for \$100 plus back taxes.<sup>10</sup> Her brother Al continued to run the mill until the early 1950s, and was succeeded by his nephew John, the son of Mrs. J.A. Moore, who ran the mill until 1991.<sup>11</sup>

By the early 1940s, during World War II, the mill reached its peak employment of around 400 people, and produced over seven million pounds of yarn. Cotton yarn remained the mill's product, but the yarn went into knit sleepwear, infants clothing, T-shirts, sweatshirts, shoe linings, and automotive upholstery backing.<sup>12</sup>

For almost four generations, many Franklin County youth got their first job at Sterling Mill. Local citizens recall the 1930s, when children could quit school and work at the mill when they reached age fourteen. At that time there were three shifts. Lula Bobbitt of Franklinton went to work there about 1941, when she was sixteen, earning about nine dollars a week. She met her husband at the mill, and after they were married they lived with his mother in a Sterling mill house. Her mother-in-law had worked for the mill since she was a teenager. Lula worked as a spinner on the 4 p.m. to 1 a.m. shift for forty-five years, retiring just before the mill closed in 1991. She describes Sterling Mill as a good place to work. It enabled her to buy a house, rear two children and give them an education. "It was like one big family over there--color and white people. When we left, even though we worked hard, we missed it," she declared.<sup>13</sup> Like other textile mills of the period, Sterling Mill had a baseball team, and much of the town's social life revolved around mill events.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>10</sup> *A Walk Through History*, 75.

<sup>11</sup> *The Franklin Times: 1870-1970*, 88; study list application prepared by Franklinton Commerce Center Partners, 1995 (copy in file); Thilbert Pearce interview.

<sup>12</sup> *The Franklin Times: 1870-1970*, 87-88.

<sup>13</sup> Interview with Lula Bobbitt, Franklinton, August 30, 1995.

<sup>14</sup> Thilbert Pearce interview.

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## Sterling Cotton Mill, Franklin Co., N.C.

In the 1950s and 1960s Sterling Mill sold off the mill houses.<sup>15</sup> During the 1960s the Vann family added an addition to the rear of the original mill and air conditioned the mill. In late 1972, after over seventy-five years of operation by the Vann family, Sterling Cotton Mill was sold to an outside concern. The Union Underwear Company of Kentucky, makers of Fruit of the Loom fabrics, purchased the mill for over \$4 million.<sup>16</sup> They changed its name to Franklinton Cotton Mills and operated the mill until 1991, when it was closed for good.<sup>17</sup> Currently the 1895 section of the mill is used for storage and the remainder of the plant is unused.

**Textile Industry in North Carolina**

The industrial revolution arrived in North Carolina in the 1870s, and by 1880 forty-nine sizeable cotton mills were in operation, chiefly in the same counties of the Piedmont which had water-powered textile mills before the Civil War. Steam power increased rapidly from 16% in 1880 to 48% in 1890 and to 64% in 1900. Steam was more economical than water power and allowed mills to be built adjacent to railroads rather than confined to stream banks.<sup>18</sup> From 1880 to 1900 an average of six new cotton mills were built each year in North Carolina, and by 1900 there were 177 cotton mills, giving the state the nickname "Massachusetts of the South."<sup>19</sup> Ninety per cent of these were in the Piedmont counties. During the early twentieth century North Carolina became the national leader in the production of cotton goods and the leading state in the South in the production of knit goods, yet most mills were still located in the Piedmont.<sup>20</sup>

Franklin County is located in north-central North Carolina, east of the Piedmont, and this section industrialized slowly. One of the first two railroad lines in North Carolina, the Raleigh and Gaston

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<sup>15</sup> Thilbert Pearce interview.

<sup>16</sup> *A Walk Through History*, 102.

<sup>17</sup> *A Walk Through History*, 115.

<sup>18</sup> Lefler and Newsome, *North Carolina: The History of a Southern State* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1963), 480.

<sup>19</sup> Lefler and Newsome, 476-480.

<sup>20</sup> Lefler and Newsome, 548-549.

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## Sterling Cotton Mill, Franklin Co., N.C.

Railroad, came through the area in 1839 on its way from Raleigh to the Virginia border to connect with a railroad from Petersburg. At the south end of the line, Raleigh, the state capitol, in neighboring Wake County, had one cotton mill by 1896 and by 1910 its textile industry had expanded to ten mills.<sup>21</sup> At the north end of the line, near the border, Roanoke Rapids, in Halifax County, developed an industrial economy which lasted through the first half of the twentieth century, with a number of cotton mills built along the Roanoke River during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.<sup>22</sup> But industry in Vance and Warren counties was almost stillborn. Each county had two cotton mills each by 1902, but these had failed by 1910.<sup>23</sup>

Franklin County's earliest manufacturing concerns were saw mills, tobacco factories, cotton gins and the like. The first county textile mill was the Laurel Cotton Mill, a water-powered two-story frame mill built about 1875 on Sandy Creek below the county seat of Louisburg. Although the mill was successful for about twenty years, its poor location caused its demise in the late nineteenth century.<sup>24</sup> After the founding of Sterling Mill in 1895, another textile mill was not established in the county until after World War I when the Franklinton Hosiery Mill opened. Built on the Louisburg Railroad line one mile east of Franklinton, the mill was founded by J.A. Ruth, a native of Marion, North Carolina who started new mills and then moved on.<sup>25</sup> A few years later, in 1925, Al Van, owner of Sterling Mill, purchased the Franklinton Hosiery Mill, changed its name to Vamoco Towel Mill, and converted its production to high quality turkish towels, called "Vamoco" towels.<sup>26</sup>

In 1942 one of the world's largest textile operations, Burlington Mills, bought out the Vamoco Towel Mill, changed its name to Burlington Mill and switched its production to man-made fibers,

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<sup>21</sup> Lefler and Newsome, 548-549; *Branson's North Carolina Business Directory*, 1897. *North Carolina Year Book*, 1902, 1910. (Raleigh: The News & Observer).

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> *A Walk Through History*, 26; *Franklin County Sketchbook*, ed. George-Anne Willard (Louisburg: Franklin County-Louisburg Bicentenary Committee, 1982). Laurel Mill, an earlier water-powered grist mill and the house of Col. Jordan Jones, mill owner, were listed on the National Register in 1975.

<sup>25</sup> *A Walk Through History*, 64.

<sup>26</sup> *A Walk Through History*, 66.

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Sterling Cotton Mill, Franklin Co., N.C.

including parachute cloth needed for the World War II effort.<sup>27</sup> By 1972 there was a third textile mill in the county, Durham Hosiery Mill, but Burlington Mill was the largest of the three.<sup>28</sup> The 1970s marked the heyday of textile mills in Franklin County, and by the 1990s both the Burlington Mill and the Sterling Mill were closed. Both of these historic textile mills are still standing and are used as warehouses at the present time.

**Context of Textile Mill Architecture**

A few of the turn-of-the-century mill buildings in North Carolina, located primarily in such urban factory towns as Durham, Greensboro, Charlotte and Gastonia, feature elaborate ornamental features such as imposing stair towers and ornate brickwork. For example, the Durham Hosiery Mill of 1902 in Durham features a towering Romanesque stair tower whose round-arched surrounds and crenellated cornices represent design which extends beyond utility into the symbolism of industrial power. But most mills of the period in North Carolina exhibit strictly utilitarian construction details. Caraleigh Mill in south Raleigh, constructed in the 1890s, a two-story brick cotton mill of "slow-burn" construction with large segmental-arched windows and bracketed roof eaves, represents the "Industrial Italianate" construction which is typical of most turn-of-the-century textile mills in the state. Sterling Mill's thick brick walls, arched window openings, decorative rafter tails and shallow gable roofs represent this "Industrial Italianate" style as well. Its massive structural timbers and thick brick walls characterize the "slow burn" construction utilized during the period. Like most of the others as well, Sterling Mill began as a small building which was expanded in numerous stages. Sterling Mill has local significance under Criterion C as a typical and relatively well-preserved textile mill.

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<sup>27</sup> *A Walk Through History*, 86.

<sup>28</sup> *A Walk Through History*, 101.

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Sterling Cotton Mill, Franklin Co., N.C.

**Bibliography**

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Franklin County Deeds, microfilm. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

*The Franklin Times: 1870-1970*. No publisher, no date. Ca. 1980.

Hollar, Cheryl Faye. *A Walk Through History: A Town Called Franklinton Celebrates Its 150th*. (Town of Franklinton: 1992).

Lefler, Hugh Talmage and Newsome, Albert Ray. *North Carolina: The History of a Southern State*. (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina, 1963).

Pearce, Thilbert. Author's interview. August 30, 1995.

Sanborn Insurance Map of Franklinton, 1926. (copy in file)

Sterling Cotton Mills Map, Factory Insurance Association, Hartford, Connecticut, 1967. (copy in file)

Sterling Cotton Mill Study List Application. Franklinton Commerce Center Partners, 1995. (copy in file)

Willard, George-Anne. *Franklin County Sketchbook* (Louisburg: Franklin County-Louisburg Bicentenary Committee, 1982).

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Continuation Sheet**

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Sterling Cotton Mill, Franklin Co., N.C.

**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries are shown by a dotted line on the attached Franklin County Tax Map, Sheet 4-47, Parcel 184, at a scale of 1" = 100'.

**Boundary Justification**

The approximately 7 acres included in the nominated boundary represent the mill building, with additions, and include its front yard, bordering on E. Green St., and a short section of rear yard bordering E. College St. The water tower, cotton warehouses and a portion of the east side yard are not being nominated. The owners intend to demolish the tower and warehouses and wish to nominate only the main mill and its immediate setting. The nomination boundary follows the parcel boundaries on the north and west sides. On the south side, the nomination boundary follows the parcel boundary from the west corner to the driveway, then follows the driveway around the east end of the mill building and into the front yard, then extends north along the parcel boundary to E. Green St.

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Photographs

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Sterling Cotton Mill, Franklin Co., N.C.

**Photographs**

The following information pertains to all photographs

Photographer: M. Ruth Little

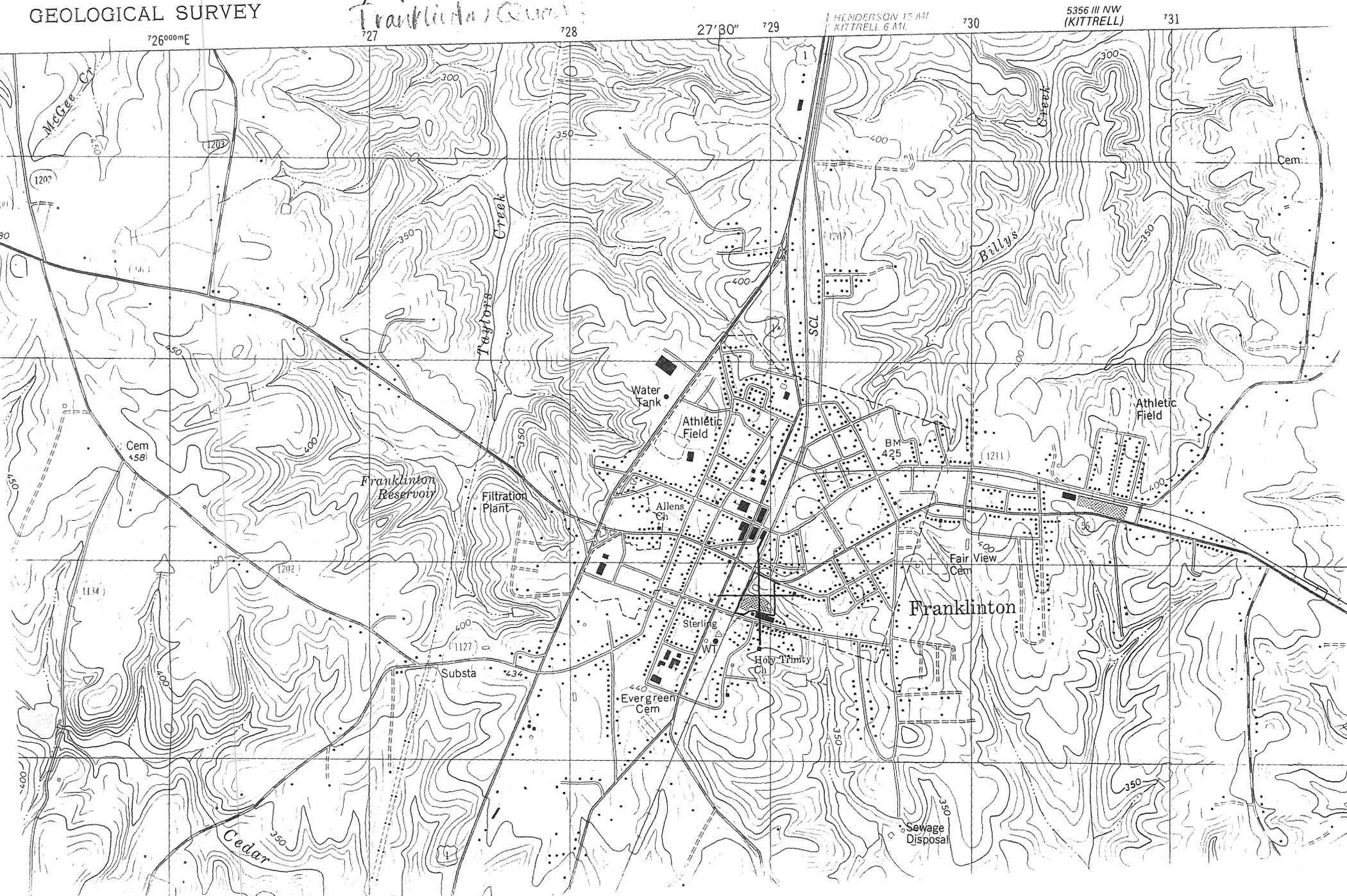
Date: August 1995

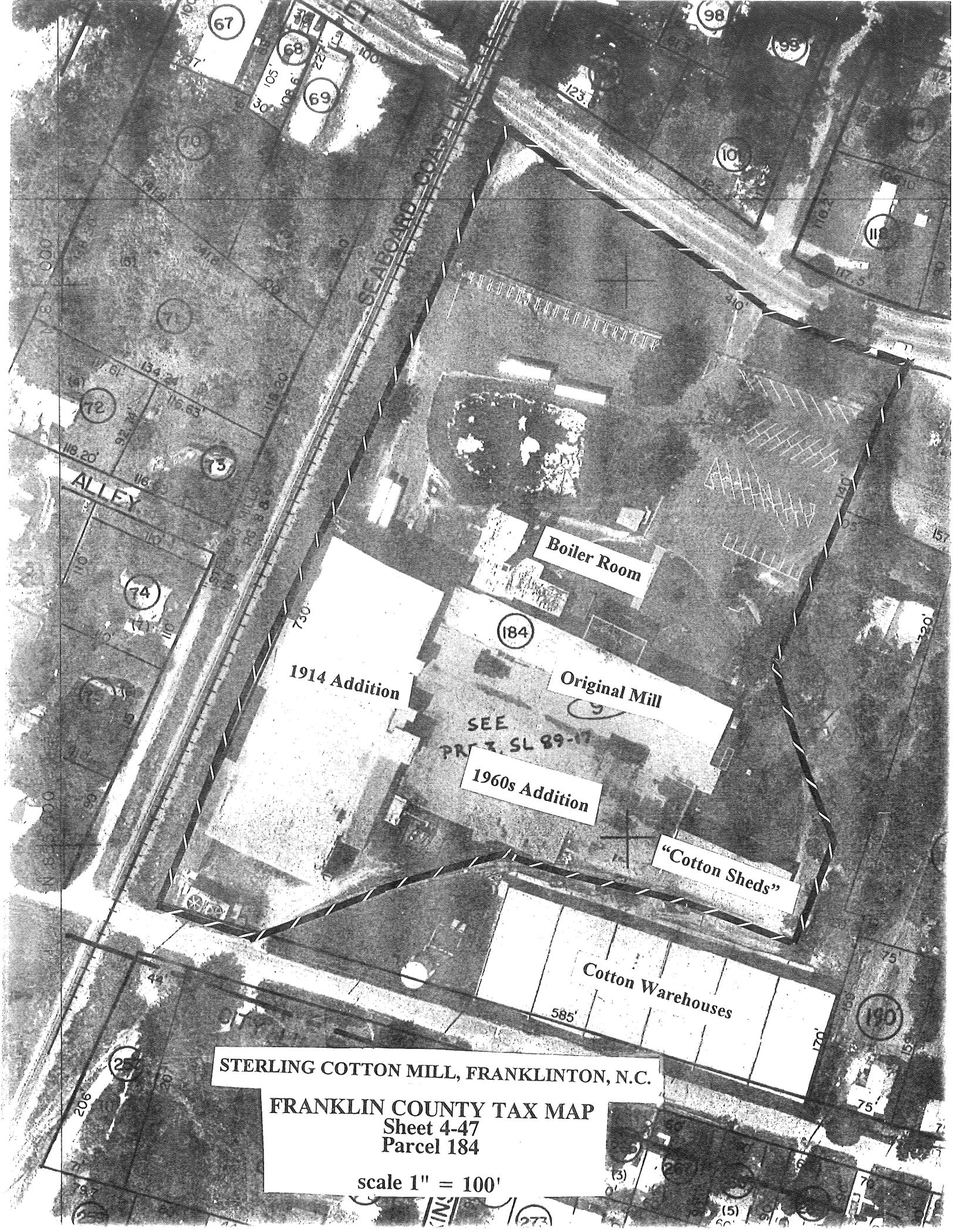
Location of negatives: North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh

- A. Overall view of Sterling Cotton Mill from north
- B. Rear view of 1914 section of Sterling Cotton Mill from southwest
- C. East view of Sterling Cotton Mill, from east
- D. View of 1914 section, north elevation, with portion of boiler room
- E. Interior view of 1914 section, first floor

Sterling Cotton Mill  
Franklin Co., NC  
17/728940  
17/3997820  
Franklin Co. Quad

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY





SEABOARD COAST LINE

Boiler Room

Original Mill

1914 Addition

1960s Addition

"Cotton Sheds"

Cotton Warehouses

STERLING COTTON MILL, FRANKLINTON, N.C.

FRANKLIN COUNTY TAX MAP

Sheet 4-47

Parcel 184

scale 1" = 100'

SEE  
PR 3, SL 89-17

ALLEY

67

68

69

98

99

100

72

73

74

184

25

190

273

(5)

