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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking “X” in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter “N/A” for “not applicable.” For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property
   historic name Harmon-Reid Mill
   other names/site number

2. Location
   street & number 208 Bodenhamer Street
   city, town Kernersville
   state North Carolina code N.C. county Forsyth
   Ownership of Property
   [X] private
   [□] public-local
   [□] public-State
   [□] public-Federal
   Category of Property
   [X] building(s)
   [□] district
   [□] site
   [□] structure
   [□] object
   Number of Resources within Property
   Contributing 1
   Noncontributing 0
   buildings
   sites
   structures
   objects
   Total 1 0
   Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

   Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources in Kernersville, N.C.

4. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. □ See continuation sheet.
   Signature of certifying official
   State Historic Preservation Officer
   State or Federal agency and bureau
   Signature of commenting or other official
   Date
   State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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
The Harmon-Reid Mill is a two-and-a-half-story brick roller mill built in 1897 and sited on the north side of the rail line. The main block is laid in 1:7 common bond brick, with a mansard roof with gabled dormers sheltering the building. There is an original one-story brick office wing to the west. A number of later sheds and additions have been added over the years, but the present owners have expressed an interest in removing these additions. The original openings are extant behind the additions.

There is a loading dock on the main (north) facade which is accessed by a double-leaf door in a segmentally arched opening. Two four-over-four light windows in segmentally arched openings flank the central entry. The second floor openings are segmentally-arched and also contain four-over-four sash. The bays on the principal facade are slightly recessed individual panels created by pilasters with stepped "capitals". This decorative pilastered bay treatment does not continue on the side and rear elevations. The attic is lighted by four gabled four-over-four sash windows in gabled dormers on the front, and three dormers on the side elevations.

The side and rear elevations are obscured by additions to the first floor, but the arched door and one arched window flank the one-story office to the east. On the second floor of this elevation is one centrally located arched window. The west side still contains the arched windows on the first and second floor, although those on the first floor are presently covered by additions.

There are a number of mid-twentieth century frame additions to the south and west sides of the mill. A brick addition had been made to the rear of the original office wing, which on the east side of the main block, to provide additional office space for the present owners. The original office wing is brick and retains some decorative brickwork, and arched entry and windows in the rear wall. The other additions are frame sheds. These framed additions do not compromise the integrity of the brick walls to which they are attached, and can be removed with relative ease. The inner of the two original windows on the main facade has been enlarged to contain an entry.

The building sits on a low basement which contains the exposed floor joists of the construction. These are approximately two feet square. A narrow stair, original to the building, winds up the northeast corner of the building, beginning in the basement.

See continuation sheet
The first floor is one large room, with an elevator shaft located in the center which serves all three floors. The elevator was installed early in the twentieth century, and is still functional. The first floor has a double leaf loading door in the center of the main facade, another loading door in the west corner of the rear wall, and an arched entry in the eastern corner of the rear wall, as well as one in the southern end of the east wall. A concrete-block partition wall was placed in the northwest corner of the first floor to serve as an office at some point in the twentieth century. The inner walls of this office are plastered.

The second floor is identical to the first in layout, except for the additional office space on the first floor. There is some milling equipment on this floor dating from the early twentieth century. This is the only mill-related equipment remaining in the building. The third floor is also identical to the lower two floors, and has slightly inward sloping walls, created by the mansard roof.
The Harmon-Reid Mill, a two-and-a-half-story common bond brick Second Empire style mill built at 208 Bodenhamer Street, Kernersville, in 1897 by DeWitt Harmon and John G. Reid, is eligible for the Register under Criterion C as a surviving intact example of a style of industrial architecture rarely found in the state. The mill was built during a period of economic and industrial diversification in the late nineteenth century, and reflects both the local tradition of decoratively detailed brick industrial buildings, best expressed in Kernersville in the tobacco factories of the 1880s, and the popularity of the Second Empire style. It presents four equally well-detailed facades, rather than just one principal facade. The Harmon-Reid mill is the finest industrial building in Kernersville, and is one of only a few Second Empire industrial buildings in the state. It is comparable to Grimes Mill (1896/97, NR) in Salisbury, N. C., a granite-trimmed brick Second Empire-style roller mill which features similar roof line and rectangular form, and is perhaps the best example of a Second Empire-styled roller mill in the state. Harmon-Reid Mill falls under context II, Industrial and Commercial "Boom Period," property type C, Commercial and Industrial Architecture of the "Boom Period."

The mill is also eligible under Criterion A as a vivid example of the industrial activity which originated during Kernersville's boom. Its period of significance continued until 1930, throughout the "Maturation and Diversification Period," (Context III), as it was operated as a feed mill by original owner Dewitt Harmon until this date.
The Harmon-Reid Roller Mill was built in 1897 by DeWitt Harmon and John G. Reid (1), both men involved in the industrial community of Kernersville. Little is known of John G. Reid's involvement in the economic life of Kernersville.

DeWitt Harmon was born in 1865 the son of Marie Antoinette and Julius Harmon, son of Salome Kerner and Apollos Harmon, and was educated at the Kernersville Academy. He later attended Moravian College at Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and in 1888 became an accredited engineer. He was active in the civic, political, religious and industrial life of Kernersville and Forsyth County all his life, serving as Forsyth County engineer for thirteen terms, County Commissioner from 1916-1920, and a member of the North Carolina Board of Highway Commissioners in 1912, as well as serving on the Kernersville Board of Commissioners, the local school board, and as treasurer of the town. In addition to his civic involvement, he was a prominent member of the industrial community of Kernersville. (2) He was instrumental in the construction of the railroad line between Winston and Barbers Junction, a terminus south of Winston-Salem, where the lines split east to Salisbury, west to Statesville and south to Charlotte. (3) He was president of a bank located on North Main Street, and built a small office (SMHD #13; 1925) on South Main Street across the street from his house to keep all the records and files his varied interests generated. He used the office in his capacities as town commissioner and left the office and lot to the town of Kernersville at his death. (5)

Harmon and his sister, Tilla Harmon, inherited two water-powered mills in Kernersville which were originally built by their father, Julius Harmon, and their uncle, Rufus Harmon. DeWitt Harmon converted his water-powered mills to steam, and then in 1897 he and his partner, John G. Reid, built the Harmon-Reid Roller Mill.

Harmon operated the Harmon-Reid Mill until 1930 when the Mock Brothers Company acquired it. It was also owned for short periods of time by Vance Black and Associates and the Shore Brothers who sold it to E. W. Cummings in 1941. Cummings operated the mill, known as the Pilot Mills, for a number of years, producing feed under the "Deep River" name. It was acquired by Statesville Floor Mills which continued to operate it as a mill until the late 1960s. At that time it was acquired by the present owners, Caudill Electric Company. (6)

The Harmon-Reid Mill provided a diversification from the tobacco-related industries of the prior two decades in Kernersville. From tobacco-related industries. The mill is also a logical extension of the tradition of decoratively detailed brick commercial construction in Kernersville. Built during the period of diversification as the tobacco industry failed in Kernersville, this mill reflects more "uptown" tastes of the period. While this building retains the use of pilasters to create "panels" in which segmentally arched bays are
set, it avoids the narrow, deep form of the earlier buildings, particularly the tobacco factories, opting instead for a square form, more symmetrical bay placement on all sides, and a dormered mansard roof. Earlier commercial construction concentrated its decorative work on the principal facade; the Harmon-Reid Mill presents equally well-detailed facades to all four views. While Second Empire detailing, particularly the mansard roof, is found occasionally in late nineteenth century mill towers, Second Empire industrial styling is relatively rare in North Carolina.

FOOTNOTES:

1 John G. Reid, aged 65, appears in the 1910 census as a resident of Main Street, Kernersville, N. C., with his second wife, Sara C., aged 51, to whom he had been married for a year. This was Sara's first marriage. Reid is listed as the proprietor of a flour mill. Reid does not appear in any Forsyth County census prior to the 1910 census at which time he listed his birth state as North Carolina, and stated he was a veteran of the Confederate Army. Examination of Moore's Roster of North Carolina Civil War veterans does not list a John G. Reid, Read or Reed. Examination of the Forsyth County Cemetery Records, four volumes, lists neither John G nor Sara C. Reid in any of the county cemeteries. Interviews with several life-long residents of Kernersville also failed to turn up any information about Mr. Reid.


3 Bicentennial, pp. 40-41.


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  
Specify repository:  

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than 1 acre

UTM References
A [1, 7] [3, 3, 7, 2, 0] [2, 9, 7, 5, 0, 0]  
Zone Easting Northing  
B  
C  

Zone Easting Northing  
D  

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The property being nominated consists of the building lot on which the Harmon-Reid Roller Mill was built in 1897. See tax map with property outlined in red. Lot 15, block 2119

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The property being nominated consists of the building lot associated historically with the Harmon-Reid Mill.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

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date October 1987  
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MULTIPLE PROPERTIES NOMINATION

- SOUTH MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
- NORTH CHERRY STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
- INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES:
  1. ISAAC MCCAUGHAN HOUSE
  2. STUART MOTOR COMPANY
  3. FORMER FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
  4. ROBERTS-JUSTICE HOUSE
  5. KERNERSVILLE DEPOT
  6. HARMON RED ROLLER MILL