

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**Carolina Casket Company**

High Point, Guilford County, GF8787, Listed 4/15/2015

Nomination by Laura A. W. Phillips

Photographs by Laura A. W. Phillips, September 2014



Overall view



West elevation

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

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

**1. Name of property**

historic name Carolina Casket Company

other names/site number Carrick Turning Works; Myrtle Desk Plant #4

**2. Location**

street & number 812 Millis Street not for publication N/A

city or town High Point vicinity N/A

state North Carolina code NC county Guilford code 081 zip code 27260

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

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

Carolina Casket Company  
Name of Property

Guilford County, NC  
County and State

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

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

N/A

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

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: INDUSTRY Sub: manufacturing facility

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: WORK IN PROGRESS Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

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

Other: Heavy Timber Mill Construction

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

roof SYNTHETICS

walls BRICK

other BRICK

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

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

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

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

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

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1929  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1929  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property 1.7

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

Zone Easting Northing  
1 \_\_\_\_\_  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

Zone Easting Northing  
3 \_\_\_\_\_  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet for latitude and longitude.

### Verbal Boundary Description

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

### Boundary Justification

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

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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

organization N/A date September 29, 2014

street & number 59 Park Boulevard telephone 336/727-1968

city or town Winston-Salem state NC zip code 27127

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### 12. Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

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

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

#### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

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### Property Owner

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

name Terry Seitz Inc; Boliya USA LLC

street & number 1650 Lantana Avenue telephone 941/258-0046 (Terry Seitz)

city or town Englewood state FL zip code 34224

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

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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### DESCRIPTION

#### Materials

Roof - Metal

#### Summary and Setting

The Carolina Casket Company building is a three-story, L-shaped, brick industrial edifice of slow-burn, heavy-timber construction. Built in 1929, it has a shallow gable roof with stepped parapets at the ends, rows of large industrial metal windows, and a two-story ell that projects westward from the southwest corner of the building. The building retains a high degree of integrity in its original location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. West of the factory building at its south end is a one-story secondary building erected in brick in 1929 and largely rebuilt with concrete blocks in the 1960s.

The Carolina Casket Company is located at 812 Millis Street in the industrialized southwest section of High Point, North Carolina. It occupies a largely open tract of 1.7 acres on the west side of Millis Street at its junction with Ennis Street. Bounded by Millis Street on the east and railroad tracks and right-of-way on the west, the tract is bordered on the north by a vacant lot that formerly held other industrial buildings and by an industrial warehouse and distribution center on the south. A brick-paved driving court enters the property from Millis Street at the north end of the building. The driving court leads to a gravel parking area west of the building, and the two are bordered by a tall, black metal, gated fence.

Note: The length of the building is laid out with a northeast-southwest orientation. For ease of description in this nomination, the end of the building closest to Taylor Avenue, which intersects Millis Street on the north, will be considered north. The side that parallels Millis Street will be considered east. The end closest to West Point Avenue, which intersects Millis Street on the south, will be considered south. The side that parallels the railroad will be considered west.

Note: West of the elevator tower, on the opposite side of the south entrance, a two-story, corrugated-metal-sided, equipment shed addition, open on its south elevation, extended from the three-story section's west bays across the two-story wing's south elevation. The equipment shed was erected after 1956, likely in the third quarter of the twentieth century. The current owners removed the equipment shed as part of the initial site clean-up that commenced in February 2013. The small, mid-twentieth-century, one-story, shed-roofed, corrugated-metal-sided building that stood in the parking lot northwest of the mill was demolished by the previous owner.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 2

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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### Exterior

The exterior of the three-story Carolina Casket Company building is brick laid in five-to-one common bond. The main body of the building is sixteen bays long and six bays wide. Projecting, structural, brick pilasters with corbeled caps separate the bays, which hold large, metal-framed industrial windows with center sections that tilt outward. Most of the windows on the long east and west sides of the building have eighteen lights. Several windows are smaller but are of the same type. A few window openings on the east and west sides have been enclosed with brick. One window at the center of the first floor on the east elevation has eighteen panes but heavier metal muntins. Most of the windows on the south elevation remain intact, but those at the north end of the building exhibit more variety in size, and those at the northeast corner on the third story have been replaced with modern windows with a casement at the bottom. On each elevation, a few windows have a projecting HVAC hooded vent projecting from the top row of lights. Low stepped parapets cap the north and south ends of the building and hide the shallow gable roof.

The north elevation has a single, central entrance with a replacement steel door and an added standing-seam-metal shed canopy. It opens to the north stair, where the windows are positioned at the half-story landings instead of at the full-story positions of the other windows. The north elevation also bears a faded, painted sign – in the east bay between the first and second-story windows – that probably dates from the 1960s and reveals the building's use at that time as Plant No. 4 of the nearby Myrtle Desk Company.

The east elevation has no entrance.

A loading entrance with a roll-up metal door and a standing-seam, shed-roofed canopy provides access to the building at the south end. Steel steps with steel pipe railings lead to a steel landing at the south entrance. This end of the building has a tall, running-bond brick elevator tower in the second bay from the east side. The windowless tower, probably added in the 1960s, is one bay wide and deep and has a pyramidal roof that is capped by a tiny cupola with glazed sides and its own pyramidal roof. Attached to the west side of the tower and the south elevation of the factory is an added, one-bay wide, one-story brick room with a shed roof.

The west elevation of the three-story section of the building has a replacement entrance in the fifth bay from the north. The entrance has a central glass door with sidelights and transom set within a black aluminum framework. Like the doors on the north and south ends of the building, this one has a standing-seam metal shed canopy. Another metal canopy is above the first-floor window in the ninth bay from the north end. It shelters a door opening from the corner where the main section of the building meets the two-story ell. A brick-paved handicap ramp with steel pipe railings rises to the west entrance from the north. A raised brick patio and planting strip – part of the current rehabilitation of the building – stretches southward four bays

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 3

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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from the west entrance and three-and-a-half bays westward along the north side of the building's two-story ell.

The two-story ell extends four bays westward from the southwest corner of the three-story section of the building. It has the same type of windows as those on the three-story section. Along the north side of the ell is a one-story shed-roofed extension. Its date of construction is not known, but it was present at least by 1950 based on the Sanborn map's depiction of the factory that year. A single-leaf door in the east end bay of the ell extension provides access to it. The west end of the ell has a loading dock near the center. Two first-floor windows south of the loading dock have been bricked up and, otherwise, the ell's west end is windowless. Like the north and south ends of the three-story section of the building, the west end of the ell has a shallow stepped parapet that disguises the low-pitched gable roof. Beneath the stepped parapet is a faded, painted sign, whose letters are unintelligible.

### Interior

The building has an open floor plan throughout with few enclosures. The floors, composed of two layers of boards, are almost exclusively hardwood, and the ceilings consist of the exposed flooring of the floor above or, in the case of the third floor, the roof decking. The outer interior walls are the exposed brick of the exterior of the building, and the few interior walls are plastered (the north stair hall), gypsum board, or glass.

Heavy-timber posts and beams comprise the interior supports. They are systematically positioned in two rows twenty feet apart between the rows and twenty feet from the outer walls. Aligned with the exterior brick pilasters, they form thirteen bays running north-south and ten bays running east-west. (Note: there are sixteen exterior bays running north-south, but only thirteen on the interior, because the southernmost six bays have an interior post aligned only with every other pilaster in order to create the east-west rows.) Within each row, the posts are ten feet apart. The posts, beams, and ceilings are painted white. The posts are approximately one foot square and the beams are of comparable size. The beams are scarfed together above the posts and set within steel troughs that bolt to the beams and the post. At the top of the beams above the posts, two-foot-long boards on either side of the beams give the appearance of cushioned caps.

The recently constructed central stair is oriented east-west and is located at the juncture of the three-story and two-story sections of the building. Hardwood covers the stair treads and landings, and the railing is composed of six parallel steel pipes set to follow the slope of the stair. The present stair replaced a dilapidated frame one at the same location that had a vertical-board solid balustrade and a pipe handrail. Two doors, one at the north end and one at the south end of the central stair hall open to the main factory space. Another, enclosed, stair is located at the



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 4

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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center of the north end of the building and is probably original. It features wood steps, square-in-section balusters, a molded handrail, and square newels with chamfered tops. The flooring at the base of the north stair is covered with square tiles.

East of the central stair, at the center of the building, is a new elevator flanked by a pair of new restrooms, all added during the current rehabilitation. However, the 1950 and 1956 Sanborn maps indicate that an elevator stood at this location at that time. At the southeast corner of the building, a freight elevator is set within an exterior tower. It probably dates from the 1960s.

Newly installed HVAC air handling units are located at the corners of each floor. The rectangular HVAC ductwork – two per floor – runs suspended from the ceiling and parallel with, and on the outer side of, the rows of heavy-timber support posts. Water pipes, water sprinklers, and electrical conduits are either attached to the ceilings or suspended from them.

Some additional features are specific to the first and third floors. On the first floor, the tops of several of the brick pilasters in the center of the east wall are corbeled. The northeast corner has been enclosed with gypsum-boarded frame walls to create a larger entrance to the stair hall and a two-room-plus-bathroom caretaker's apartment. The hardwood factory floor continues into the enclosed area. Just west of the freight elevator at the southeast corner of the building is a room within the shed that extends southward from the main building. Within the northwest corner of the west ell, counters and other equipment have been installed to create a break room and kitchen. It is not enclosed within walls. From the kitchen area, a door opens to the long, one-story shed room along the north side of the ell. It is outfitted with storage cabinets, and a trap door opens to the crawl space underneath.

On the third floor, an area of the flooring located east of the central elevator and restrooms is slightly lower – perhaps an inch – than the rest of the flooring. This is the result of one of the two layers of flooring having been removed, but when and why is not known. At the northeast corner of the building, a room has been created by the addition of gypsum-boarded partitions. Double-leaf doors open to the room from the south side. Between the northeast room and the enclosed stair hall, a side-sliding industrial door opens to a storage room with added closets. West of the north stair hall, a room at the northwest corner of the building has been created by the recent installation of an interior glass wall with a glass door, all set within a black aluminum framework. The board ceiling of the north four bays has been lowered to the level of the support post collars and stuccoed.

**Boiler House/Secondary Building, 1929, 1960s**

Noncontributing building

A one-story masonry building stands west of the south end of the factory. The Sanborn maps of 1950 and 1956 show that it was, at that time, the boiler house. Its original construction

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 5

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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date was probably 1929, the date of the factory. At that time, it was a brick building. At some later point, perhaps in the 1960s, three walls of the building were rebuilt with concrete blocks. The rectangular building has a concrete floor (originally dirt) and a flat, corrugated-metal roof supported by steel beams. The north wall, which is laid up in six-to-one common bond brick, is doubtless the surviving original wall. It has a single pedestrian door near the center. The building's east façade has a pedestrian door on the south end and a large opening, now enclosed, in the north half. The south elevation has a single window opening near the center, which is now boarded up. The rear, west, elevation has a single, large doorway, now boarded up, near the center. The use of the building after it was the boiler house is not known.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 6

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

#### Summary

The Carolina Casket Company building in High Point, North Carolina meets Criterion C for listing in the National Register because of its local architectural significance. Its period of significance is 1929, the year in which it was built.

Established just after the turn of the twentieth century, Rankin Coffin and Casket Company was located in several buildings on the east side of the Southern Railway tracks west of what is now Millis Street. In 1924, the company changed its name to Carolina Casket Company. In 1929, the present three-story brick factory was erected on the same property but east of the earlier buildings and immediately west of Millis Street. Carolina Casket Company continued to occupy this building until going bankrupt around 1940.

From the 1880s to the 1930s, the most widely used structural system for large industrial buildings in High Point was the slow-burn, heavy-timber method, often referred to simply as mill construction. With standards imposed by both machinery manufacturers and insurance companies, the system's brick outer walls and interior fire walls, exposed heavy-timber support posts and beams, dense two-layer wood floors, low gable or flat roofs, separate engine and boiler rooms, and rows of large, operable windows addressed the primary concerns of industrial construction: fire resistance, the ability to support heavy machinery, an efficient production layout, and adequate light and ventilation. With its load-bearing brick exterior walls, shallow gable roof, rows of large multi-pane metal industrial windows, two-layer wood floors, and heavy-timber support posts and beams, the well preserved and little altered Carolina Casket Company building epitomizes the slow-burn, heavy-timber industrial construction system.

#### Historical Background

High Point developed around the strategic 1855 crossing of the North Carolina Railroad and the Great Fayetteville and Western Plank Road and, with a population of 250, the town was incorporated on May 26, 1859.<sup>1</sup> A fortuitous combination of an expanding rail system, access to raw materials, local capital, and ample leadership contributed to High Point's remarkable development as an industrial giant in North Carolina beginning in the late nineteenth century and continuing throughout most of the twentieth century.

A variety of industries made their home in High Point, but it was in furniture and textiles and their support industries that the city excelled. Established in 1888, the High Point Furniture

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<sup>1</sup> Briggs, 31.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 7

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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Factory was not only High Point's first furniture factory, but also North Carolina's.<sup>2</sup> After the success of the High Point Furniture Factory, new furniture factories were established in High Point every few months in the 1890s. In the first three years of the twentieth century, the number of furniture plants in High Point jumped from fourteen to thirty. By 1910, when nine more furniture factories had been added, the capital invested in High Point's furniture industry amounted to more than one-third of North Carolina's total investment in furniture manufacturing.<sup>3</sup> The impact of the furniture industry on High Point's economy went well beyond the manufacturing of furniture itself. Along with the furniture factories, numerous support industries were established. Construction of new furniture factories leveled off in the 1920s. During the 1930s, the Great Depression took its toll on furniture manufacturing in High Point, and nearly half of the city's furniture factories closed.<sup>4</sup>

Although furniture and textiles were the most prominent industries in High Point, others have always played a role in the city's economy. Some of these manufacturing concerns supported the furniture and hosiery industries, but there were many others, as suggested by the listings of industries compiled by J. J. Farriss in his promotional booklets on High Point published from 1896 through 1918. Among Farriss's listings were companies that produced excelsior (fine curled wood shavings used primarily for stuffing and packing fragile items), lumber, baskets, coffins and caskets, buggies, wheels, street cars, marble products, organs, pianos, brooms, Coca-Cola and Chero-Cola drinks, dairy products, flour, baked goods, concrete, brick, soap, ice, coal, paper boxes, twine, harnesses, cigars, and chemicals. In addition, there were shops for making and repairing machine parts for various purposes.<sup>5</sup> Many of these industrial enterprises and others were active well after Farriss composed his lists.

Beginning in the early years of the twentieth century, the west side of Millis Street (formerly Barkers Lane and Flint Street) at its junction with Ennis Street (formerly Oak Street) was the site of coffin and casket manufacturing and, later, of table leg turning and furniture industries. The 1906 Sanborn map shows the Rankin Coffin and Casket Company at the site, with its several connected buildings standing back from the street and closer to a spur of the Southern Railway.<sup>6</sup> Incorporated in 1902, Rankin Coffin and Casket Company amended its certificate of incorporation in 1924 to change the company name to Carolina Casket Company.<sup>7</sup> In the late 1920s, something may have happened to the Rankin buildings that had stood on the site since at least 1906. The High Point City Directories had always listed the company's

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<sup>2</sup> Lefler and Newsome, 512.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas, 24, 26, 28.

<sup>4</sup> Briggs, 48.

<sup>5</sup> Sizemore, 123-125, 130, 133-135, 137-138, 143.

<sup>6</sup> Sanborn map, 1906.

<sup>7</sup> Incorporation Book B, p. 376; Incorporation Book F, p. 399.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 8

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

location in relationship to the railroad or with numbers on west side of the street (112 Flint Street or 200 Millis Street). However, in the directories for 1928 and 1929-1930, the location was given as 805 Millis Street, which would have been on the east side of the street.<sup>8</sup> Finally, in the 1930-1931 directory, Carolina Casket Company was listed at 812 Millis Street, the current address.<sup>9</sup> In 1929, a three-story brick building – the present building – had been erected on the west side of Millis Street, but just east of where the Rankin buildings had stood and immediately next to the street.<sup>10</sup> The following year, Carolina Casket Company raised its authorized capital from \$100,000 to \$125,000.<sup>11</sup>

Up through 1939, Carolina Casket Company was listed as the sole occupant of the building at 812 Millis Street.<sup>12</sup> However, between then and 1941, the company went bankrupt.<sup>13</sup> The 1940 city directory reflects this in the changes listed in the occupancy of the building. In that year, Furman R. Auman, casket manufacturer, was listed at 812 Millis Street. He had been the secretary, treasurer, and general manager of the Carolina Casket Company. Also listed as occupants were the Frederickson Motor Express and Carrick Turning Works. This was the first recording of Carrick Turning Works at any location in High Point.<sup>14</sup> In 1941-1942, the city directory listed the same occupants of the building, but with the addition of Hayworth and Henderson Woodcarvers. In the 1942-1943 and 1944 directories, Frederickson Motor Express was no longer listed as one of the occupants, but the other three were. The year 1944 was the last in which Auman Casket Company was included among the occupants of the building.<sup>15</sup>

Beginning in the 1945-1946 city directory, Carrick Turning Works was listed as the primary occupant of the Millis Street building, and by 1960 it was listed as the sole occupant.<sup>16</sup> Meanwhile, the Sanborn maps for 1950 and 1956 depicted a three-story building with a two-story ell on the west side of Millis Street opposite Ennis Street. Labeled as Carrick Turning Works, manufacturers of table legs, the building was of the same configuration as the present building, except that the brick tower that currently stands at the southeast corner and the small brick shed attached to it were not there. The building was labeled as being of mill construction. It had load-bearing, pilastered, brick exterior walls, heavy-timber wood posts and beams on the

<sup>8</sup> High Point City Directory, 1902, 1908, 1921-1922, 1925-1926, 1928, 1929-1930.

<sup>9</sup> High Point City Directory, 1930-1931.

<sup>10</sup> Guilford County Real Property Data,

<http://taxweb.co.guilford.nc.us/CamaPublicAccess/BuildingDetails.aspx?REID=0172335&YearFor=2015&BldgCardNum=1>, accessed September 8, 2014.

<sup>11</sup> Incorporation Book I, p. 155.

<sup>12</sup> High Point City Directory, 1930-1931, 1938, 1939.

<sup>13</sup> *High Point Enterprise*, September 14, 1941.

<sup>14</sup> High Point City Directory, 1940; *High Point Enterprise*, September 14, 1941.

<sup>15</sup> High Point City Directory, 1941-1942, 1942-1943, 1944.

<sup>16</sup> High Point City Directory, 1945-1946, 1950, 1955, 1960.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 9

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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interior, and steel beams in the crawl space for additional support. There were two sets of stairs and a central elevator. Woodworking and general storage were on the first floor, the cabinet shop occupied the second floor, and the third floor was relegated to general storage. The Sanborn maps also depicted a one-story boiler house located west of the southwest corner of the main building and, northwest of the main building, a small, one-story vacant building and a one-story, five-car shed open on the east side. Of these three secondary buildings, only the largely rebuilt boiler house survives.<sup>17</sup>

Carrick family tradition and some printed sources differ on whether Carrick Turning Works began operation in 1928 or 1938. Jason R. "Doc" Carrick, who established the company and was its president, was known by family members to have claimed that the company started in 1928. Company matchbooks and advertisements in city directories support that date.<sup>18</sup> However, Carrick Turning Works was not listed in city directories prior to 1940, and Doc's younger brother, Warren Fletcher Reid "F. R." Carrick, claimed that the company started in 1938. In that year, at age sixteen, he began working with his brother and later became vice president of the company. F. R.'s son, Ron, later became company vice president. At least one advertisement gave the starting date as 1938, the same date referred to in a newspaper article when the company closed.<sup>19</sup> Whether the company started in 1928 or 1938, it was not incorporated until 1956.<sup>20</sup>

Carrick Turning Works manufactured quality wood turnings for table and chair legs, stair balusters, and other products for the furniture and allied industries. Having outgrown its space on Millis Street, the company moved to an expansive one-story factory building on Prospect Street Extension in 1963. At the company's peak in the 1990s, it employed 130-150 workers. However, like many other manufacturing companies, it could not withstand changes in the global economy at the end of the twentieth century that brought the lower operating costs of foreign competition. The company closed in 2009.<sup>21</sup>

After Carrick Turning Works vacated the building at 812 Millis Street, it was later used as Myrtle Desk Company Plant No. 4, as attested to by faded painted signage on the north end of the building. The main campus of Myrtle Desk Company was located just north of the building

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<sup>17</sup> Sanborn map, 1950, 1956.

<sup>18</sup> Ron Carrick Interview; Becky Carrick Kirby Interview; matchbooks in possession of Becky Carrick Kirby; High Point City Directory, 1950, 1963, 1965.

<sup>19</sup> High Point City Directory, 1928, 1929-1930, 1930-1931, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1965; Ron Carrick Interview; *High Point Enterprise*, April 28, 2009.

<sup>20</sup> Incorporation Book 22, p. 5.

<sup>21</sup> High Point City Directory, 1950; Ron Carrick Interview; Advertisement in possession of Becky Carrick Kirby; *High Point Enterprise*, April 28, 2009.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 10

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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at 908-912 Taylor Avenue and 801 Millis Street. After standing vacant for some years, the building has been rehabilitated by a new owner for use as furniture showrooms.

### Architecture Context

Over time, the building of industrial structures in High Point followed a typical progression of construction systems as new and better methods continued to be developed across America. Light-frame construction was the method of choice for High Point's earliest industries, as it utilized construction methods commonly understood by local builders. Almost all of these buildings were later replaced by buildings using newer, sturdier, construction methods, so that how many once dotted the local landscape is not known. Throughout the first quarter of the twentieth century, most industrial buildings in High Point made use of the slow-burn, heavy-timber form of mill construction, which offered both greater physical stability and better fire resistance. Like the slow-burn, heavy-timber structural system, both steel construction and reinforced concrete construction offered greater protection from fires and the strength to accommodate the heavy machines that were central to various industries. However, these forms of construction also allowed for more unobstructed working areas. Based on surviving examples of historic industrial buildings in High Point, steel seems to have been more widely used than reinforced concrete. At the same time, many small industrial buildings of the mid-twentieth century utilized concrete-block construction. During the second half of the twentieth century, more and more buildings erected for industrial purposes were sprawling, one-story structures with flat roofs and largely windowless walls of brick veneer over steel structural systems. Countless numbers of these survive and tend to be located south and east of the center city near the outskirts of town.<sup>22</sup>

The primary concerns expressed in the construction of industrial buildings were fire resistance, the ability to support the heavy weight of machinery, a layout that would enable production efficiency, and adequate light and ventilation. As early as 1832, a textile mill constructed in Rhode Island was designed specifically to resist fire and to burn slowly if ignited.<sup>23</sup> By the late nineteenth century, slow-burn, heavy-timber construction, by then long used in textile mills, had become one of the standard methods of building construction for industrial buildings in general.<sup>24</sup> By the turn of the twentieth century in High Point, the construction design of industrial buildings had become standardized with slow-burn, heavy-timber construction that was often referred to simply as mill construction. Standards imposed by both machinery manufacturers and insurance companies were manifested in designs by industrial

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<sup>22</sup> Phillips, 20.

<sup>23</sup> Harris, 911.

<sup>24</sup> Bradley, 129.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 11

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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engineers such as Daniel A. Tompkins, Stuart Cramer, and Lockwood, Greene, and Company. Heavy timbers were used for support posts and beams and thick, two-layer wood floors were laid. Brick was used for outer walls and interior fire walls. Kalamein doors, which were galvanized-sheet-metal-clad, solid-core-wood doors that would automatically close in case of fire, were used to provide access between different parts of the building. Buildings had either low-gable or flat roofs. Mills and factories of slow-burn, heavy-timber construction erected during the early years of its prominence often had projecting stair towers, some with a water tank on the top floor, or had a free-standing, elevated water tank and an onsite water reservoir system. For additional protection against fire, engine and boiler rooms either projected from the main building or were separate from it. Natural light and ventilation were provided primarily by rows of large, operable windows – segmental-arched in many of the older buildings – and sometimes also by a raised monitor roof rising from the ridge or center of the main roof and lined with operable windows.<sup>25</sup>

Mills and factories of slow-burn, heavy-timber construction in High Point were usually two stories in height, but there were also buildings ranging from one to five stories. The recently conducted High Point Historic Industrial Architecture Survey recorded five examples surviving in the city, although it is possible that others exist, because not all interiors were accessible. The five include the H. R. Welborn Tobacco Factory, Pickett Cotton Mills, Highland Cotton Mills (NRHD, 2014), Melrose Hosiery Mill, and Carolina Casket Company.

Although it uses slow-burn, heavy-timber construction methods, the ca. 1884 H. R. Welborn Tobacco Factory at 212 North Main Street is atypical in being a tall, narrow building – only three bays wide but four stories tall.

Pickett Cotton Mills at 1200 Redding Drive, designed by Lockwood, Green and Company and completed in 1911, is an excellent example of a mill that addressed the various requirements for proper mill construction. The two-story-with-basement building has a shallow gable roof with brick fire walls that project above the roof. The exterior is lined with supporting brick pilasters. Although the windows were largely bricked up with the installation of air-conditioning during the mid-twentieth century, originally they filled the spaces between the pilasters except for concrete spandrels that separated the windows vertically. At the center of the façade, a square tower with a pyramidal roof rises above the roofline. Inside the mill, heavy-timber posts and beams support the floors. The boiler house is attached to the rear of the mill by a small pump room. A water tank once stood southwest of the boiler house, and a water reservoir, now infilled, was at the southwest corner of the property. The cotton warehouse stands behind and separate from mill, another precaution against a mill fire.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Fearnbach, Asheboro Hosiery Mills and Cranford Furniture Company Complex, 26-27; Glass, 38.

<sup>26</sup> Sanborn maps, 1911, 1917.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 12

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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The original 1913 building at Highland Cotton Mills, located at 1014 Mill Avenue, exemplifies the slow-burn, heavy-timber mill construction. The one-story-with-basement structure has thick, load-bearing brick walls, segmental-arched windows (now infilled with brick), a shallow gable roof – originally with a monitor – heavy-timber posts and beams, and dense wood floors. The machine shop was located at the rear corner of the building. As at Pickett Cotton Mills, Highland had a water tank, a reservoir, and a separate cotton warehouse, although these do not survive.<sup>27</sup>

Melrose Hosiery Mill, which nearly fills the 1500 block of West English Road, dates from the 1920s. Its two earliest buildings are two stories, have load-bearing brick walls, large windows, a shallow gable roof with a monitor running along the ridge, and heavy-timber posts and beams on the interior.<sup>28</sup>

Carolina Casket Company, located at 812 Millis Street, was built in 1929 toward the end of the period in which the slow-burn, heavy-timber structural system was commonly used for industrial buildings. Well preserved and very little altered, it stands as an excellent example of this construction type.

The physical features of the three-story building with two-story ell read like a catalog of those associated with the slow-burn, heavy-timber structural system. The building's exterior walls are load-bearing brick with projecting, structural, brick pilasters with corbeled caps that provide concentrated support and divide the walls into bays – sixteen along the long east wall. Within each bay are large, metal-framed industrial windows, most with eighteen lights and center sections that tilt outward. Historically, these provided the ample light and ventilation required for an optimal industrial work environment. The building has a shallow gable roof with a stepped parapet at each end.

The exterior brick walls are exposed on the interior around the perimeter of the building. Thick, two-layer, hardwood floors provided the strength and stability needed to support large industrial machinery. Heavy-timber posts and beams measuring approximately one foot square comprise the building's interior supports. They are systematically arranged in two rows twenty feet apart between rows and twenty feet from the outer walls. Within each row, the posts are ten feet apart. Covering long distances, the beams are scarfed together above the posts and set within short steel troughs that bolt to the beams and the post. The brick exterior walls, the dense hardwood floors, and the heavy-timber posts and beams worked together to create a building strong enough to support the manufacturing processes that took place within and to resist fires.

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<sup>27</sup> Sanborn map, 1917.

<sup>28</sup> Phillips, 22.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 13

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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Additional fire-resistance came with the placement of the brick boiler house, now largely rebuilt, west of the southwest corner of the building and separate from it. The coal-fired boiler produced steam heat for the mill, which was powered by electricity.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 14

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 9 Page 15

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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*High Point Enterprise.*

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July 26, 1943.

April 28, 2009.

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 10 Page 16

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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### **GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Latitude: 35.948444

Longitude: -80.016526

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is identified as Guilford County tax parcel identification number 0172335. The boundary is shown by the heavy dashed line on the accompanying tax/site map, drawn to a scale of 1" = 100'.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property, which is located at 812 Millis Street, High Point, North Carolina, includes the 1.7 acres currently and historically associated with the Carolina Casket Company.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number   Photos   Page 17

Carolina Casket Company  
Guilford County, North Carolina

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information for #1, 2, 4, and 5 applies to all nomination photographs. Number 3 gives the photographers' names and the particular photographs they shot.

- 1) Carolina Casket Company
- 2) High Point, Guilford County, North Carolina
- 3) Photos #1-7: Laura A. W. Phillips; photos #8-12: Heather Fearnbach
- 4) September 2014
- 5) CD: NCHPO, Raleigh, NC
- 6-7)
  - 1: Overall exterior, view to southwest.
  - 2: Overall exterior, view to southeast.
  - 3: West ell, view to southeast.
  - 4: South elevation, view to north.
  - 5: East elevation, view to west.
  - 6: Secondary building in relationship to west ell, view to northwest.
  - 7: Heavy-timber framing, west ell, first floor, view to northwest.
  - 8: West ell, second floor, view to west.
  - 9: Second floor, view to north.
  - 10: North stair between second and third floors, view to north.
  - 11: Central stair, view to southeast.
  - 12: Framing of slight gable, third floor, view to north.