NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Loray Mill Historic District Boundary Expansion
Gastonia, Gaston County, GS0594, Listed 4/5/2006
Nomination by Heather Fearnbach
Photographs by Heather Fearnbach, December 2005

South Ransom Street, west side

Burnett Avenue, south side
Loray Baptist Church, 1128 West Franklin Boulevard

Historic District Map
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 Loray Mill Historic District Boundary Expansion
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by South Vance Street, the railroad right-of-way, South Hill Street and West Franklin Boulevard
N/A not for publication

city or town Gastonia
N/A vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Gaston code 071 zip code 28052

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 for 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title 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 certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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
## 5. Classification

<table>
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<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
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<td>(Check as many boxes as apply)</td>
<td>(Check only one box)</td>
<td>(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)</td>
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| □ private              | □ building(s)        | Contributing: 71
| □ public-local         | □ district           | Noncontributing: 13
| □ public-State         | □ site               | buildings |
| □ public-Federal       | □ structure          | 0 |
|                        | □ object             | 0 |
|                        |                      | 0 |
| Name of related multiple property listing | Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register |
| N/A                    | 343                  |

## 6. Function or Use

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## 7. Description

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<td>Gothic Revival</td>
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<tr>
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<td>walls WOOD: Weatherboard</td>
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<td>other CONCRETE BLOCK</td>
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<td>ASBESTOS</td>
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**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.)

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.

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.)

Primary location of additional data:
- X State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:
Loray Historic District Boundary
Expansion
Gaston County, NC

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  Approximately 14.35 acres

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

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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  Heather Fearnbach
organization Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.
date 12/15/2005
street & number 3334 Nottingham Road
telephone 336-768-6551

city or town Winston-Salem
state NC
zip code 27104

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 More than 50 property owners
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 listing. 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 20303.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Loray Mill Historic District Boundary Expansion
Gaston County, NC

7. Description

Materials

Walls:
SYNTHETICS: Vinyl
Masonite

7. Narrative Description

The Loray Mill Historic District Boundary Expansion lies just west of downtown Gastonia and encompasses roughly 14.35 acres. Loray Baptist Church, a commercial building, seventy-one houses and twelve associated outbuildings are located in this portion of the mill village, which is on the north side of West Franklin Boulevard. When the boundaries of the Loray Mill Historic District were examined prior to National Register listing in 2001, the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office felt that commercial development along West Franklin Boulevard, a busy east-west corridor, had resulted in a significant loss of mill-related buildings, and thus the north side of the district boundary was drawn south of West Franklin Boulevard. The City of Gastonia and interested neighborhood residents requested a re-evaluation of the eligibility of the northern section of the mill village in 2004. The mill village as designed and constructed in 1901 extended north of West Franklin Boulevard, a commercial building at the northwest corner of the district provides a physical connection between the two sections of the Loray Mill Historic District, and the decision was made to expand the National Register boundaries of the district.

The streets and avenues of the Loray Mill Historic District Boundary Expansion are arranged in a grid pattern, seven blocks long and two blocks wide. Main Avenue is the primary east-west corridor through this section of the district. Warburton Avenue and Brunett Avenue run east-west for one block on the eastern side of the expansion area. Vance Street, Millon Street, Firestone Street, Dalton Street, Ransom Street, Liberty Street and Weldon Street run north-south between West Franklin Boulevard and the railroad right-of-way, which forms the northern boundary. The railroad curves to the south at the western end of the district. The east lot lines of the houses on the east ends of Warburton and Brunett Avenues form the eastern boundary. The west end of the southern boundary begins at the north lot line of the commercial building at 1155-1159 West Franklin Boulevard, which is on the south side of the boulevard in the originally listed section of the Loray Mill Historic District. The boundary extends north across the street to include the commercial building at 1160 West Franklin Boulevard and Loray Baptist Church and runs along the northern lot lines of the commercial parcels and parking lots lining West Franklin Boulevard, excluding the modern development that replaced mill housing. The east edge of South Vance Street marks the western boundary. The district’s topography is
nearly level, with the northern portion of the expansion area at a slightly higher elevation than the southern portion.

The land within the Loray Mill Historic District Boundary Expansion is primarily devoted to residential use and includes both single- and multi-family housing. The 1952 Gothic Revival-style Loray Baptist Church, sited in a prominent location facing Franklin Boulevard, and a circa 1930 brick commercial building at the northeast corner of Franklin Boulevard and Vance Street are the only non-residential buildings in the boundary expansion area. Development in the district is dense, but all houses have compact front and back yards and narrow side yards. The dwellings are one- or one-and-one-half stories in height and are positioned near the street and close to one another, resulting in a harmonious rhythm of form, massing and materials. Concrete sidewalks serve most of the neighborhood. Most driveways are unpaved and some extend to garages and sheds located beside or to the rear of a few residences. Mature deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubbery and planting beds are found throughout the district.

Mattson, Alexander and Associates created a typology for the three principal types of mill houses in the Loray Mill Historic District. All of the dwellings are frame, and most rest on brick piers infilled with brick to form a continuous foundation. Type A is a one- or one-and-one-half-story, three-bay, single-pile, side-gable-roofed house with a central bay shed-roofed porch supported by chamfered posts, six-over-six sash, an interior chimney, weatherboards, exposed rafter ends and a gable-roofed rear ell. There are only three single-pile dwellings in the boundary expansion (102 and 104 South Vance Street, 111 South Liberty Street) and all have been altered in some manner. Type A houses date to the mill’s first major housing construction campaign in 1900-1901.

Type B is a one- or one-and-one-half-story, double-pile, side-gabled-roofed house with a full-width shed-roofed porch supported by square posts, six-over-six sash, an interior chimney, weatherboards and exposed rafter ends. Most of the dwellings in the boundary expansion are of this type. Single-family examples have a three-bay façade with a central entry flanked by paired windows; duplexes have a four-bay façade with single windows. The houses at 108 South Dalton Street and 103 South Dalton Street are representative examples. Type B houses date to the mill’s first major housing construction campaign in 1900-1901.

Type C is a one-story, three-bay, double-pile, hip-roofed house with an offset gable-roofed porch supported by square posts, a slightly recessed entry, six-over-six sash, interior chimneys, weatherboards and a rear ell. The houses at 106 North Liberty Street and 910 West Main Avenue are substantially intact examples of this type.

The Loray Mill Historic District Boundary Expansion, like the original district, also includes a few additional house types constructed in the 1920s, such as the modest front-gable dwellings with offset gabled porches and slightly recessed entries found at 101 North Dalton Street and 109 South Ransom Street. One-story, three-bay, double-pile, side-gable-roofed houses with central gabled porches supported by square posts, paired six-over-six sash flanking the entry, interior chimneys and weatherboards were also built during the 1920s. Intact examples of this type stand at 106 South Liberty Street and 101 South Dalton Street. Around 1940 a few one-story, three-bay, double-pile houses with low side-gabled roofs, bracketed entry hoods and German siding were constructed. The houses at 903 and 907 Warburton Avenue are two good examples of this type.

Although most of the mill houses have been altered since they became privately owned in the 1940s, they retain their original form and character. Typical modifications include replacement of original window sash with two-over-two horizontal and one-over-one sash; application of aluminum, asbestos, asphalt or vinyl siding; and replacement of original square wooden porch posts with metal posts and railings. Most houses originally rested on brick piers, which have been infilled with brick or concrete block to form continuous foundations. Shed and gabled dormers have been added to provide additional space on the upper floors of some buildings. The front porches of a few houses have been enclosed.

In summary, the Loray Mill Historic District Boundary Expansion contains a substantially intact collection of historic resources reflecting the development of the area from 1901 through 1956. Seventy-three primary and twelve secondary resources constitute the boundary expansion, eighty-four percent of which are contributing. While a few of the noncontributing resources are modern houses and sheds, most are heavily-altered early-twentieth-century mill houses.
The inventory list is arranged alphabetically by street name. For streets that run north to south, the east side of the street is presented first. For streets that run east to west, the north side of the street is presented first.

Each resource is designated as contributing or noncontributing to the historic significance and integrity of the district. The designation criteria were based on age and degree of alteration. Buildings pre-dating 1956 were considered contributing if they retained architectural integrity. Noncontributing buildings postdate 1956 or were built before 1956 and have been heavily altered, and therefore have lost their architectural and historical integrity. One vacant lot is noted. Each secondary resource within a property is assigned a letter beginning with A and noted on the overall map of the district.

Each historic property in the inventory is identified by type if applicable, based on the typology developed for the original Loray Mill Historic District. Dates of construction are based on interviews with local residents, 1922 and 1930 Sanborn Company maps, 1924 and 1940 plats, Gaston County deeds, property cards and the style and form of the building. The Loray Mill Village was west of the Gastonia city limits until its annexation in 1911, and does not appear on Sanborn maps until 1922. Thus most dwellings were assigned circa dates relating to the mill’s first major housing construction campaign in 1900-1901 and the second phase of housing construction in the early 1920s.

In order to avoid excessive repetition, inventory entries only contain information regarding variations within the typology (such as height and single-family or duplex configuration) and major exterior alterations (including siding, porch post material and additions).
BRUNETT AVENUE

North Side

Type B Mill House
904 Brunett Avenue, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, duplex, 2/2 horizontal sash, replacement metal porch posts and railing, masonite siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Type B Mill House
906 Brunett Avenue, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, duplex, 2/2 horizontal sash, replacement metal porch posts and railing, aluminum siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Mill House
908 Brunett Avenue, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-and-one-half-story, front-gable roof, offset gabled porch that shelters a slightly recessed entry, replacement porch posts and railing, 2/2 horizontal sash, two interior chimneys, asbestos siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Type B Mill House
910 Brunett Avenue, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-and-one-half-story, 6/6 sash, replacement metal posts with wood lattice railing, vinyl siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

South Side

Type C Mill House
905 Brunett Avenue, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, 1/1 sash, replacement metal porch posts, aluminum siding, gable vents.
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National Park Service  

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Gaston County, NC  

Type B Mill House  
907 Brunett Avenue, ca. 1901, Contributing Building  

One-story, 2/2 horizontal, paired 4/4 and picture windows, replacement metal porch posts, asbestos siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.  

Type B Mill House  
911 Brunett Avenue, ca. 1901, Contributing Building  

One-story, duplex, 2/2 horizontal sash, square porch posts spanned by modern wood railing, vinyl German siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.  

DALTON STREET  

East Side  

Type C Mill House  
104 North Dalton Street, ca. 1920, Contributing Building  

One-story, 6/6 and 2/2 horizontal sash, replacement metal porch posts and railing, two interior chimneys, asbestos siding, exposed rafter ends, gable vents.  

Type B Mill House  
102 North Dalton Street, ca. 1901, Noncontributing Building  

One-story, 1/1 sash, enclosed front porch, asbestos siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.  

Type B Mill House  
102 South Dalton Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building  

One-and-one-half-story, 1/1 sash, replacement turned porch posts, vinyl German siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.
Type B Mill House
104 South Dalton Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-and-one-half-story, 1/1 sash, replacement square porch posts, two gabled dormers with wide vinyl siding, aluminum siding with T-11 siding under porch, gable vents, rear shed addition.

A. Garage
104 South Dalton Street, ca. 1950, Contributing Building

One-story, concrete block, front-gable roof, exposed rafter ends, open bay.

Mill House
106 South Dalton Street, ca. 1925, Noncontributing Building

Heavily altered, one-story, clipped-side-gable roof, 1/1 replacement sash, gabled porch supported by vinyl columns, brick veneer on façade, German vinyl siding on other elevations, gable vents, rear addition.

Type B Mill House
108 South Dalton Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 6/6 sash, original wood-frame window screens under front porch, replacement metal porch posts, weatherboards, exposed rafter ends, gable vents, rear shed addition.

A. Carport
108 South Dalton Street, 1970, Noncontributing Structure

One-story, flat metal roof, round metal posts.

West Side

Mill House
101 North Dalton Street, ca. 1925, Noncontributing Building

One-story, front-gable roof, 6/6 sash on sides, 1/1 replacement sash on façade, enclosed offset gabled porch, entry sheltered by bracketed gabled hood, vinyl siding, gable vents.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Gaston County, NC

Mill House
101 South Dalton Street, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, side-gable roof, 6/6 sash, central gabled porch supported by square posts, two interior chimneys, aluminum siding, exposed rafter ends, gable vents.

Type B Mill House
103 South Dalton Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-and-one-half-story, duplex, 6/6 sash, replacement metal porch posts and railing, asbestos siding, exposed rafter ends, gable vents, rear shed addition.

House
105 South Dalton Street, 1958, Noncontributing Building

One-story, brick, Ranch, 2/2 horizontal sash, entry sheltered by metal awning supported by metal posts with metal railing, interior chimney, wood siding in gable ends, gable vents, inset rear carport.

Type C Mill House
107 South Dalton Street, ca. 1920, Contributing Building

One-story, 6/6 sash, gabled porch supported by grouped square posts, two interior chimneys, asbestos siding, rear shed addition.

SOUTH FIRESTONE STREET

East Side

Type B Mill House
102 South Firestone Street, ca. 1901, Noncontributing Building

One-and-one-half-story, 6/6, 1/1 and 2/1 sash, enclosed front porch, entry sheltered by metal awning supported by metal posts, two gabled dormers, aluminum siding, exposed rafter ends, gable vents, rear shed addition.
Type C Mill House
104 South Firestone Street, ca.1925, Noncontributing Building

One-story, hip roof with projecting clipped-front-gable bay. 1/1 replacement sash, enclosed front porch with bay window on south side, replacement door with sidelight, modern shed-roofed entry porch with square posts and wood railing, handicapped ramp, two interior chimneys, German vinyl siding, gable vents, rear addition.

Mill House
108 South Firestone Street, ca. 1920, Contributing Building

One-and-one-half-story, 2/1 sash, hip-roofed front porch with pedimented gable over entry bay and square posts, single-leaf entry with sidelights, shed-roofed wall dormer across facade, beaded masonite siding, gable vents.

Type C Mill House
110 South Firestone Street, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, 2/2 horizontal sash, enclosed front porch with picture windows, two front doors, gabled entry porch with metal posts and metal railing, two interior chimneys, beaded masonite siding, gable vents.

WEST FRANKLIN BOULEVARD

North Side

Loray Baptist Church
1128 West Franklin Boulevard, 1952, 1965, Contributing Building

Marvin W. Helms, a Charlotte architect, designed this two-story-on-basement, red brick, Gothic Revival church with Indiana limestone accents. Pointed-arch stained-glass windows with limestone sills and hoods and brick buttresses with limestone caps embellish the main block of the church. The façade contains a recessed, three-part, segmental-arch, stained-glass window above three pointed-arch entrances with double-leaf, raised-panel doors and stained-glass transoms. A three-story bell tower at the northeast corner of the sanctuary houses an additional double-leaf entry on the east side of the building, and a projecting bay in the northwest corner has the same function. The stepped parapet of the façade and the upper portion of the bell tower feature recessed, blind tracery, limestone panels. Bays with stepped-parapet facades ornamented by recessed, blind tracery, limestone panels extend from both ends of the classroom wing. A limestone water table provides a break in the composition of each elevation at the top of the foundation wall. A limestone belt
course encircles the rear block of the building above the second-floor windows and a few feet below the limestone cornice. One-over-one sash illuminate the rear and basement rooms of the church. A gabled roof protects the sanctuary, while the rear of the original building has a hipped roof. Slate shingles cover both roof sections.

The entrance foyer at the south end of the church opens into a large sanctuary that seats 418 people and retains original pendant light fixtures, plaster walls and oak pews. The first floor also has a large church parlor, library, offices, restrooms, a choir room, dressing rooms and an assembly room. The second floor includes classrooms, offices, restrooms, two large assembly rooms, and the sanctuary balcony, which seats 160 people. The basement houses the fellowship hall, classrooms, restrooms, the boiler room and a kitchen.

A brick and glass hyphen connects the main building to the long, horizontal, two-story, brick education building, which is accessed through a glass foyer on the east side of the building. The education building, constructed in 1965, mimics the Gothic Revival style of the original building with its stepped parapet. Tall, narrow plate glass windows illuminate the interior, and flat-roofed porches with metal posts shelter the entrances on the east and west elevations. A playground and storage shed are located at the rear of the church.

C. Shed
1128 West Franklin Boulevard, ca. 1990, Noncontributing Building

One-story, plywood, side-gable roof, single-leaf entry.

Commercial Building
1160 West Franklin Boulevard, ca. 1930, Contributing Building

Two-story, brick, flat roof, concrete coping, 1/1 sash on second story, large display window on south elevation, single-leaf corner entry with transom. The building first appears on the 1930 Sanborn map when it replaces a residence. The notations on the map indicate that the building had an ice machine, electric power and an ammonia tank. According to the 1930-31 Gastonia City Directory, John N. Hanna and his son Neely owned a butcher shop at this location. By 1945, E. Thurston Gilliam converted the space for use as a grocery store. In 1960, the building functioned as the Econ-O-Matic self-serve laundry center. Modern Dry Cleaners & Laundrette occupied the building in 1980, and Deluxe Cleaners in 1990. Gator’s Cycles currently operates out of the building.
LIBERTY STREET

East Side

Type C Mill House
106 North Liberty Street, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, 6/6 sash, replacement metal porch posts, two interior chimneys, asbestos siding.

Mill House
104 North Liberty Street, ca. 1940, Contributing Building

One-story, double-pile, side-gable roof, 6/6 and 2/2 horizontal sash, gabled entry porch supported by square posts, interior chimney, concrete block foundation, German siding, gable vents.

Type B Mill House
102 North Liberty Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 1/1 sash, replacement metal porch posts and railing, aluminum siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Type B Mill House
102 South Liberty Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 1/1 sash, square porch posts, asbestos siding, exposed rafter ends, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Type B Mill House
104 South Liberty Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-and-one-half-story, 1/1 sash, projecting central gabled entry bay, two gabled dormers on façade, masonite siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

D. Garage
104 South Liberty Street, ca. 1935, Contributing Building

One-story, frame, standing-seam metal hip roof, one open garage bay and one double-leaf garage door, weatherboards, exposed rafter ends, shared with 106 South Liberty Street.
Mill House
106 South Liberty Street, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, side-gable-roof, 6/6 sash, central gabled porch supported by square posts spanned by a wood railing, two interior chimneys, asbestos siding, gable vents, rear addition.

**West Side**

Mill House
105 North Liberty Street, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, side-gable-roof, 2/2 horizontal sash, central gabled porch supported by replacement metal posts, asbestos siding, gable vents.

E. Shed
105 North Liberty Street, circa 1930, Contributing Building

One-story, German-sided shed with a side-gable roof.

Type B Mill House
103 North Liberty Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 2/2 horizontal and picture windows, replacement metal porch posts and railing, asbestos siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Type B Mill House
101 North Liberty Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 1/1 replacement sash, replacement metal porch posts and railing, vinyl siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Type B Mill House
103 South Liberty Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-and-one-half-story, 6/6 sash, replacement metal porch posts and railing, concrete block foundation, vinyl siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.
Type B Mill House
105 South Liberty Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 2/2 horizontal sash, replacement metal porch posts, vinyl siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

F. Garage/Shed
105 South Liberty Street, ca. 1935, Contributing Building

One-story, frame, front-gable roof, double-leaf diagonal-board door, German siding, exposed rafter ends, shed addition on west side, shared with 107 South Liberty Street.

Mill House
107 South Liberty Street, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, front-gable roof, 6/6 sash, offset gabled porch that shelters a slightly recessed entry, replacement porch posts and railing, interior chimney, vinyl siding, exposed rafter ends, gable vents.

Type A Mill House
111 South Liberty Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 1/1 sash, shed-roofed entry porch enclosed with plywood, vinyl siding, gable vents, rear addition.

WEST MAIN AVENUE

North Side

Type B Mill House
904 West Main Avenue, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 2/2 horizontal and picture windows, small gabled entry porch with by metal posts and railing, vinyl German siding, gable vents.
Mill House
906 West Main Avenue, ca. 1920, Noncontributing Building

Heavily altered, one-and-one-half-story, front-gable roof, 6/6 and bay windows, offset gabled porch that shelters a slightly recessed pedimented entry, vinyl porch columns, interior chimney, brick foundation, beaded vinyl siding, side and rear additions.

Type B Mill House
908 West Main Avenue, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, duplex, 6/6 sash, replacement square porch posts and railing, concrete block foundation, asbestos siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Type C Mill House
910 West Main Avenue, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, 6/6 sash, replacement square porch posts and railing, weatherboards, exposed rafter ends, round gable vent.

South Side

Type B Mill House
903 West Main Avenue, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-and-one-half-story, 2/2 horizontal sash, replacement metal porch posts and railing weatherboards, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Type B Mill House
905 West Main Avenue, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 6/6 sash, replacement metal porch posts and wood railing, vinyl siding, gable vents.

Mill House
907 West Main Avenue, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, side-gable-roof, 2/2 horizontal sash, central gabled screened porch, two interior chimneys, weatherboards.
Type B Mill House
909 West Main Avenue, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 6/6 sash, replacement shed-roofed entry porch supported by metal posts, asbestos siding, gable vents.

SOUTH MILLON STREET

West Side

Boy Scout Hut
105 South Millon Street, 1940, 1959, Noncontributing Building

One-story, hip roof, fixed sash, gabled hood over entry, interior chimney, concrete block foundation, aluminum siding, gable vents, rear shed addition. This building replaced an earlier Rustic Revival log structure. It was moved from the southeast corner of Millon Street and West Franklin Boulevard, where it served as Peter Walkers’ shoe shop, to its current location in 1959. The building had a sharp angle at the rear corner to allow for the Piedmont and Northern switch track that ran behind it across West Franklin Boulevard.

Vacant Lot

The residence that stood at this location was demolished in May 2005.

RANSOM STREET

East Side

Mill House
106 North Ransom Street, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, front-gable roof, 2/2 horizontal sash, offset gabled porch that shelters a slightly recessed entry, replacement metal porch posts, masonite siding with pine paneling under porch, gable vents.
Type B Mill House
104 North Ransom Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 6/6 sash, replacement metal porch posts, asbestos siding, exposed rafter ends, gable vents.

Type B Mill House
102 North Ransom Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 9/9, 6/6 and 1/1 sash, brick and concrete stoop with metal railing, asbestos siding, exposed rafter ends, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Type B Mill House
102 South Ransom Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 6/6 and 2/2 horizontal sash, replacement metal porch posts, asbestos siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Type C Mill House
104 South Ransom Street, ca. 1920, Contributing Building

One-story, 1/1 sash, replacement square porch posts and railing, vinyl siding, side addition.

G. Shed
104 South Ransom Street, ca. 1935, Contributing Building

One-story, side-gable-roof, shed-roofed porch supported by square posts, weatherboards.

Type B Mill House
106 South Ransom Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-and-one-half-story, 2/2 horizontal sash, replacement square porch posts, two shed dormers on facade, asbestos siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.
West Side

Mill House
103 North Ransom Street, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, clipped-side-gable roof, 6/6 sash, central gabled porch supported by replacement metal posts and railing, two interior chimneys, asbestos siding, board-and-batten siding in porch gable, gable vents.

H. Shed
103 North Ransom Street, ca. 1980, Noncontributing Building


Type B Mill House
101 North Ransom Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 6/6 sash, replacement metal porch posts and railing, vinyl siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

I. Shed
101 North Ransom Street, circa 2000, Noncontributing Building

One-story, plywood shed with a side-gable roof and a single-leaf entry.

Type B Mill House
101 South Ransom Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 1/1 sash, replacement metal porch posts and railing, concrete block porch foundation, vinyl siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Mill House
103 South Ransom Street, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, side-gable roof, 1/1 sash, central gabled porch supported by replacement square posts spanned by a modern wood railing, interior chimney, vinyl skirt over foundation, vinyl German siding, gable vents.
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J. Shed
103 South Ransom Street, circa 2000, Noncontributing Building
One-story, frame, side-gable roof, 4/4 sash, double-leaf entry, plywood siding.

Type B Mill House
105 South Ransom Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building
One-story, 6/6 and 2/2 horizontal sash, replacement metal porch posts and railing, vinyl siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

K. Garage
105 South Ransom Street, ca. 1925, Contributing Building
One-story, frame, front-gable roof, two double-leaf diagonal-board garage doors, asbestos siding, gable vents, shared with 107 South Ransom Street.

Type B Mill House
107 South Ransom Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building
One-and-one-half-story, 3/1 sash, replacement tapered porch posts on brick piers, two shed dormers, concrete block porch foundation, asbestos siding with plywood paneling under porch, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Mill House
109 South Ransom Street, ca. 1925, Contributing Building
One-story, front-gable roof, 1/1 replacement sash, offset gabled porch that shelters a slightly recessed entry, replacement metal porch posts and railing, vinyl siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Gaston County, NC

SOUTH VANCE STREET

East Side

Type A Mill House
102 South Vance Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-and-one-half-story, 1/1 sash, replacement metal porch posts and railing, concrete block foundation, vinyl siding.

Type A Mill House
104 South Vance Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-and-one-half-story, 1/1 sash, replacement door, wraparound screened porch, concrete block foundation, vinyl siding.

WARBURTON AVENUE

South Side

Mill House
903 Warburton Avenue, ca. 1940, Contributing Building

One-story, side-gable roof, 6/6 sash, gabled entry hood, interior chimney, German siding, exposed rafter ends, gable vents.

Mill House
905 Warburton Avenue, ca. 1940, Contributing Building

One-story, side-gable roof, 6/6 sash, offset gabled entry porch supported by replacement metal posts, German siding, exposed rafter ends, gable vents.

Mill House
907 Warburton Avenue, ca. 1940, Contributing Building

One-story, side-gable-roof, 6/6 sash, gabled entry hood, interior chimney, rusticated concrete block foundation, German siding, exposed rafter ends, gable vents.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Gaston County, NC

Type C Mill House
911 Warburton Avenue, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, 6/6 sash, clipped-front-gable porch supported by grouped square posts, two interior chimneys, brick foundation, weatherboards, exposed rafter ends, rear additions.

WELDON STREET

West Side

Type B Mill House
109 North Weldon Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, boarded-up windows, replacement metal porch posts and railing, aluminum siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Mill House
105 North Weldon Street, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, front-gable roof, 2/2 horizontal and picture windows, offset gabled porch that shelters a slightly recessed entry, replacement metal porch posts and railing, asbestos siding with wood paneling under porch, gable vents.

Type B Mill House
103 North Weldon Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, duplex, 2/2 horizontal sash, replacement metal porch posts and railing, asbestos siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Type B Mill House
101 North Weldon Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-and-one-half-story, 6/6 and 3/1 sash, replacement metal porch posts, asbestos siding.
Type B Mill House
101 South Weldon Street, ca. 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, 2/2 horizontal sash, replacement metal porch posts, asbestos siding with pine paneling under porch, exposed rafter ends, gable vents, rear shed addition.

L. Shed
101 South Weldon Street, ca. 2000, Noncontributing Building

One-story, frame, front-gable roof, 1/1 sash, double-leaf entry, plywood siding.

Mill House
103 South Weldon Street, ca. 1925, Contributing Building

One-story, side-gable-roof, 6/6 sash, central gabled porch supported by replacement metal posts, interior chimneys, masonite siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.

Type B Mill House
105 South Weldon Street, 1926, Contributing Building

One-story, duplex, 1/1 sash, replacement metal porch posts, weatherboards, gable vents.

Type B Mill House
109 South Weldon Street, 1901, Contributing Building

One-story, duplex, 1/1 sash, replacement metal porch posts, vinyl siding, gable vents, rear shed addition.
8. Statement of Significance

The Loray Mill Historic District Boundary Expansion meets National Register Criterion A in the areas of social history and industry and Criterion C for architecture. The Loray Mill Historic District is nationally significant for its role in the evolution of the textile industry due to the design and technology of the mill and mill village and the 1929 strike, an extremely important event in the history of the labor movement in the United States. The boundary expansion contains mill worker housing from the same 1901 and 1920s construction campaigns as the original district in addition to a circa 1930 commercial building and the 1952 Loray Baptist Church. The commercial building served the needs of the Loray community in a variety of capacities over the years, including a butcher shop, grocery, laundry and dry cleaners. Loray Baptist Church is a distinctive example of the Gothic Revival style and an important religious and social component of the Loray community, and therefore meets Criterion Consideration A. The district’s period of significance begins in 1901 with the construction of the first phase of worker housing and continues to 1956, encompassing expansion phases, Firestone’s purchase of the mill and village in 1935 and the construction of Loray Baptist Church in 1952. The period after 1956 does not meet Criterion Consideration G for exceptional significance.

Historical Background

The development of Loray Mill began in 1901 with the construction of the mill and the first phase of worker housing and support buildings on the western edge of Gastonia, including the majority of the houses in the boundary expansion area. Loray Mill was the largest and most ambitious mill constructed in Gaston County at the beginning of the twentieth century, containing 57,000 spindles and 1,800 looms. Lockwood, Greene Engineers, a prominent firm located in Boston, designed the original mill and mill village. Jenkes Spinning Company of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, acquired Loray Mill in 1921 and expanded the mill and village, adding 150 houses, two large dormitories, a cafeteria and a laundry.2

The majority of the houses in the Loray Mill Historic District Boundary Expansion appear on the June 1922 Sanborn map of Gastonia and were built during the 1901 construction campaign. These Type A and Type B mill houses were modest frame single- or double-pile dwellings with full-width shed-roofed porches. Houses constructed during the 1920s expansion phase appear on the 1930 Sanborn map in place of earlier residences. They include front-gabled dwellings with an offset gabled porches and side-gabled houses with central gabled porches. By the time of the Great Depression, the mill village included 625 houses, but due to the economic slowdown, only 200 were occupied. After Firestone purchased the mill and village in 1935, the company repaired some of the dwellings and constructed additional houses. A few side-gable-roofed, German-sided houses were constructed in the boundary expansion area in the late 1930s. Shortly thereafter, due to the rising costs of building maintenance, Firestone began selling the mill houses to mill workers. Two 1940 plat maps

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illustrate that most of the mill houses in the boundary expansion at that time are still extant. Although most of the houses have been altered since they became privately owned in the 1940s, they retain their original form and character.

The residences on the block between South Millon Street and South Firestone Street were demolished when the new Loray Baptist Church was constructed in 1952. Commercial buildings have replaced some dwellings along West Franklin Boulevard, and the houses on the north side of Warburton Street were lost to the railroad right-of-way. Although employment levels remained steady through the 1950s and 1960s, many mill workers began living outside of the mill village.

Firestone constructed a new plant in Kings Mountain, North Carolina in 1993 and moved most of its Gastonia operations there. Preservation North Carolina now owns the mill and is working with developers to adaptively reuse the building as condominiums, shops, offices and restaurants. The mill houses are all privately owned, with many serving as rental properties.

Loray Baptist Church History

Reverend Jacob Asbury Hoyle began leading worship services for Gastonia mill workers in mill schools and homes in 1904. At a meeting at the Arlington School on June 4, 1905, Hoyle and twenty-six charter members organized what would become Loray Baptist Church. The group met in a house owned by Mack Bradley for ten months in 1906 while the congregation’s first permanent home was constructed. The exterior of the white Gothic Revival building with corner bell and entrance towers and pointed-arch windows was completed in 1907. The church was located on a lot on the south side of West Franklin Boulevard, diagonally across the street from the current building. The interior of the church was finished by the official dedication of the building in 1911. As membership increased the congregation required more space, and in 1915 a two-story addition of four classrooms was incorporated into the façade. A six-room parsonage was constructed on the north side of West Franklin Boulevard in the same year.

3 Ibid., Sanborn Map, June 1922; Plat Book 5, pages 73 and 101, Register of Deeds, Gaston County Courthouse, Gastonia, North Carolina.


5 Timothy Craig Ellis, A History of Loray Baptist Church, Gastonia, North Carolina (Gastonia: 90th Anniversary Homecoming Committee and the Historical Committee of Loray Baptist Church, 1995), 6-10; C. J. Black, A History of Loray Baptist Church (Gastonia: Loray Baptist Church, 1923), 13-19.
Sunday school attendance grew to around one thousand in the 1920s, and Loray Baptist Church expanded once again. Two large rooms were added to the rear of the building, one of which, the Berean Classroom, seated six hundred people. The church then encompassed 19,115 square feet, two auditoriums and twenty-five classrooms. The main auditorium seated twelve hundred people.  

By the mid-1930s, a series of building problems plagued Loray Baptist Church. The most serious was the movement of the bell tower away from the main structure. The congregation decided that a new building was in order, and a building fund was started on July 25, 1939. The church negotiated the purchase of a parcel of land on the north side of West Franklin Boulevard from the Firestone Company, with the condition that the original church lot and building on the south side of the street would revert to Firestone.

World War II halted active construction plans, but the building fund continued to grow and exceeded $86,000 by 1947. In 1949, a building committee, headed by W. G. Henson, was appointed and a Charlotte architect, Marvin W. Helms, selected. East Methodist Church, constructed on Ozark Avenue in 1950, served as the inspiration for the plans for the new, brick, Gothic Revival Loray Baptist Church.

The building committee awarded the construction contract to the Crosland Company of Columbia, South Carolina, and the site for the new building was cleared of mill houses. Construction began in the spring of 1950, and was completed by April 13, 1952, when over one thousand people attended the first worship service in the new church on Easter Sunday. On January 15, 1955, the Biblical Recorder, the journal of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, reported that the debt for Loray Baptist Church had been fulfilled. By the time the interior furnishings and an Allen electric organ were installed, the total building cost exceeded $335,000.

A new parsonage was constructed on Paramount Circle in 1957, and the old parsonage on West Franklin Boulevard stood vacant until it was demolished to create additional church parking in 1960. The Loray Baptist congregation required additional classroom space by the late 1950s, but it was not until 1965 that the education building was added to the rear of the church. The building committee selected the T. R. Burroughs

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7 Ibid., 22, 24.
8 Ibid., 27.
Company for the project, which was completed at a cost of $208,530. The addition allowed the church to expand educational and outreach programs, including one of the first licensed day care centers in Gastonia.  

The church began purchasing houses on the east side of Firestone Street in the mid-1970s. The house at 108 Firestone Street was the first acquisition, and served first as missionary housing and subsequently as the Loray Girls’ Home. The church now owns most of the block between Firestone and Dalton Streets.

**Architecture Context**

Mattson, Alexander and Associates created a typology for the three principal types of mill houses in the Loray Mill Historic District. All of the dwellings are frame, and most rest on brick piers infilled with brick to form a continuous foundation. Type A is a one- or one-and-one-half-story, three-bay, single-pile, side-gable-roofed house with a central bay shed-roofed porch supported by chamfered posts, six-over-six sash, an interior chimney, weatherboards, exposed rafter ends and a gable-roofed rear ell. There are only three single-pile dwellings in the boundary expansion (102 and 104 South Vance Street, 111 South Liberty Street) and all have been altered in some manner. Type A houses date to the mill’s first major housing construction campaign in 1900-1901.

Type B is a one- or one-and-one-half-story, double-pile, side-gabled-roofed house with a full-width shed-roofed porch supported by square posts, six-over-six sash, an interior chimney, weatherboards and exposed rafter ends. Most of the dwellings in the boundary expansion are of this type. Single-family examples have a three-bay façade with a central entry flanked by paired windows; duplexes have a four-bay façade with single windows. The houses at 108 South Dalton Street and 103 South Dalton Street are representative examples. Type B houses date to the mill’s first major housing construction campaign in 1900-1901.

Type C is a one-story, three-bay, double-pile, hip-roofed house with an offset gable-roofed porch supported by square posts, a slightly recessed entry, six-over-six sash, interior chimneys, weatherboards and a rear ell. The houses at 106 North Liberty Street and 910 West Main Avenue are substantially intact examples of this type in the boundary expansion. Type C houses date to the mill’s second housing construction campaign in the early 1920s.

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11 Ibid., 43, 48.

The Loray Mill Historic District Boundary Expansion, like the original district, also includes a few additional house types constructed in the 1920s, such as the modest front-gable dwellings with offset gabled porches and slightly recessed entries found at 101 North Dalton Street and 109 South Ransom Street. One-story, three-bay, double-pile, side-gable-roofed houses with central gabled porches supported by square posts, paired six-over-six sash flanking the entry, interior chimneys and weatherboards were also built during the 1920s. Intact examples of this type stand at 106 South Liberty Street and 101 South Dalton Street. Around 1940 a few one-story, three-bay, double-pile houses with low side-gabled roofs, bracketed entry hoods and German siding were constructed. The houses at 903 and 907 Warburton Avenue are two good examples of this type.

Although most of the mill houses have been altered since they became privately owned in the 1940s, they retain their original form and character. Typical modifications include replacement of original window sash with two-over-two horizontal and one-over-one sash; application of aluminum, asbestos, asphalt or vinyl siding; and replacement of original square wooden porch posts with metal posts and railings. Most houses originally rested on brick piers, which have been infilled with brick or concrete block to form continuous foundations. Shed and gabled dormers have been added to provide additional space on the upper floors of some buildings. The front porches of a few houses have been enclosed.

There are only a few post-war Gothic Revival-style churches in Gastonia. The popularity of the Gothic Revival style earlier in the twentieth century is evidenced in East Baptist Church (1918) at 114 North Church Street, Friendship Baptist Church (1918, brick-veneered 1940) at 612 North Falls Street, Lutheran Chapel Church (1922; Louis H. Asbury, architect) at 702 North New Hope Road and St. Stephens A.M.E. Zion Church (1927) at 602 North Marietta Street. Most churches from the post-war period use minimal stylistic references to communicate traditional church design. East Methodist Church, constructed on Ozark Avenue in 1950, served as the design inspiration for the new, brick, Gothic Revival Loray Baptist Church. Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, established in 1899 and housed in a downtown church building until the mid-

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14 Ellis, A History of Loray Baptist Church, 27.
twentieth century, completed their new sanctuary in 1951 at the corner of South York Street and Garrison Avenue. The red brick building features Gothic-arch door and window openings, cast stone trim and a square bell tower on the north elevation.15

One other church is encompassed in the Loray Mill Historic District. The circa 1960 Liberty Baptist Church at 1001 West Second Avenue is a Colonial Revival brick building with a front-gable roof, a steeple and a columned façade.16

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9. Bibliography


Ellis, Timothy Craig. *A History of Loray Baptist Church, Gastonia, North Carolina*. Gastonia: 90th Anniversary Homecoming Committee and the Historical Committee of Loray Baptist Church, 1995.


Plat Book 5, pages 73 and 101, Register of Deeds, Gaston County Courthouse, Gastonia, North Carolina.

Sanborn Maps, 1922, 1930.
10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description
The boundaries of the Loray Mill Historic District Boundary Expansion are indicated by the bold line on the enclosed map. Scale 1” = 140’

Boundary Justification
The boundaries of the Loray Mill Historic District Boundary expansion are drawn to encompass the area north of West Franklin Boulevard contained in the original mill village plan of 1901. The area immediately outside the district is characterized by modern commercial development.

Photograph Catalog
All photographs by Heather Fearnbach and Clay Griffith, Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc., 3334 Nottingham Road, Winston-Salem, NC, on March 21, 2005. Negatives located at the North Carolina SHPO.

1. Streetscape, West Side South Ransom Street, looking southwest
2. Type A Mill House, 102 South Vance Street, looking northeast
3. Type B Mill House, 108 South Dalton Street, looking northeast
4. Type C Mill House, 905 Brunett Avenue, looking south
5. Mill House, 107 South Liberty Street, looking southwest
6. Mill House, 907 Warburton Avenue, looking southeast
7. Loray Baptist Church, 1128 West Franklin Boulevard, looking northwest
8. Commercial Building, 1160 West Franklin Boulevard, looking northeast
9. Ranch, 105 South Dalton Street, looking southwest