

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

Historic name Five Points Historic District
Other names/site number _____

2. Location

Street & number Junction of E. Main St., Pee Dee Avenue, and 4th Street N/A not for publication
City or town Albemarle N/A vicinity
State North Carolina code NC county Stanly code 167 zip code 28001

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official: Jasper Crow SHPO Date 8/12/02
State Historic Preservation Officer, N. C. 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 Keeper

Date of Action

- 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): _____

**Five Points Historic District
Stanly County, North Carolina**

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: private Category of Property District

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Cat:	<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	Sub:	<u>specialty store</u>
	<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>		<u>department store</u>
	<u>INDUSTRY</u>		<u>manufacturing facility</u>

Current Functions

Cat:	<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>	Sub:	<u>specialty store</u>
	<u>COMMERCE/TRADE</u>		<u>vacant</u>
	<u>INDUSTRY</u>		<u>manufacturing facility/vacant</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Commercial Style
Other: Industrial

Materials

foundation
walls

roof
other

Stone
Brick
Stucco
Asphalt
Stone
Metal

Narrative Description : See Continuation Sheets

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

COMMERCE
INDUSTRY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1905 – ca. 1950 Significant Dates 1905

Significant person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Holbrook, D.A. (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significant: See Continuation Sheets

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography; See 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 3.4

UTM References: Northing: 3912000 Easting: 573180 zone 17

Verbal Boundary Description:

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

Boundary Justification:

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

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title	<u>Dwight Bassett and HPO Staff</u>	Date: <u>May 1, 2002</u>
Organization		
Street and number	<u>3040 Yadkin Avenue</u>	Telephone: <u>(828)625-8811</u>
City or town/State/Zip code	<u>Charlotte, NC 28746</u>	

Property Owner

Multiple owners

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

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting 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 Service Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, D.C. 20503

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Five Points Historic District
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Section 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

Five one- and two-story early-twentieth-century commercial buildings and the rambling one- to three-story Lillian Knitting Mills constitute the Five Points Historic District, which is centered on four of the five "points" created by the juncture of East Main Street, Pee Dee Avenue, and Fourth Street. The district forms a cohesive unit distinguished from residential neighborhoods to the north, south, and east and Albemarle's central business district two blocks to the west.

The Five Points Historic District is on the edge of the original city limits, which were expanded in later years to accommodate growth. The district's topography is low-lying terrain at the five-point intersection, where a small creek running northeast-southwest (through and between the land now occupied by entries 6, 2, and 3) was paved over ca. 1917 to permit development of the area. Extending east, through the Lillian Knitting Mills property, the land gently rises towards the Pee Dee Avenue residential neighborhood (NR 1998), and the mill's multiple levels and raised basements reflect the change in elevation. At the east end of the district, a two-story wing of the Lillian factory overlooks the five points and downtown beyond.

The district's modestly-scaled commercial buildings occupy the vast majority of their typically small lots, directly abutting the sidewalks that front them, with the exception of the small setback of the Model Tailoring Company on South Fourth Street and the sizable service station building on East Main Street, which has a generous setback accommodating a paved surface for cars requiring service. In contrast, Lillian Knitting Mills occupies a two-acre wedge-shaped parcel that provides room for foundation plantings, small lawns, several mature trees, and a few small parking areas. All six of the district's buildings contribute to its historic character.

Construction within the district is exclusively masonry: the Morgan Motor Company Building (entry 4) is executed in granite block and the rest are in brick. All are characteristic of their types in their overall blocky forms and restrained designs. The commercial buildings exhibit influences of the Neoclassical Revival (especially the Anderson Grocery Building, entry 2; and the Model Tailoring Co., entry 3), and the ca. 1950 addition to the commercial building occupying the northeast "point" of the intersection (entry 6) recalls the streamlined Moderne in its flat expanses of plate glass windows and horizontally striated metal sheathing above. Decorative detailing utilizes brick, stone, terra cotta, and wood in window surrounds and in panels and pilasters incorporated into facades. Lillian Knitting Mills, completed late in 1905 and the oldest building in the district, is typical of early twentieth-century textile mill design in its pared down Italianate styling conveyed by large segmental-arched windows, pilasters, and exposed rafter ends in deep roof overhangs. The majority of the buildings in the district remain in good to fair repair, and overall the district retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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Inventory List

The following inventory provides the name, location, date of construction, contributing or non-contributing status and a summary for each resource. Historical and architectural data is based primarily on a combination of on-site inspection and research of Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1902-1929, *Stanly County: The Architectural Legacy of a Rural North Carolina County* (1992), early-twentieth-century editions of the *Albemarle City Directory*, and local newspapers dating from 1912 to 1950.

1. Service Station Building. 205 E. Main St. Ca. 1929 and ca. 1940. Contributing

The Albemarle City Directory listed this property as Hendley's Auto Service (Albemarle City Directory, *Selders 1928*) and the 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. map shows the eastern, parapetted unit of this one-story brick building as a "tire repair and vulcanizing" shop with gas pumps out front. The eastern wing contains a garage bay, two plate glass windows, and an entrance. The western wing, with two garage bays connected to the east wing by a rounded pavilion containing another entrance and display window, was added ca. 1940. The building has continued to serve as an auto repair shop to the present, although the gas pumps were removed a number of years ago.

2. Anderson Grocery Building. 209 E. Main St. ca. 1928. Contributing

A grocery store operated at this site beginning as early as 1913, when it occupied a small one-story building. The present two-story brick structure, built by the Anderson family for their grocery, was standing by 1929, as indicated by the Sanborn Insurance Co. map of that year. A grocery continued to operate here until 1938 and later the building served as a drug store and then the office for the Albemarle/Stanly County Visitor Information Center. It is currently vacant. The most notable features, primarily neoclassical in character, appear in the upper front facade: a pair of double-hung sash windows topped by a fanlight at the center bay; a belt course of light brick that unites the central pair of windows with flanking single one-over-one sash windows and serves as the window lintels; and Flemish bond brickwork featuring dark headers. All of the second-story windows have cast stone corner blocks; the first-story double-hung sash windows, restricted to the east facade, as well as the two east entrances with transoms, occupy segmental-arched openings. A door leading to the staircase to the second floor and a storefront with a transom (now covered in an opaque material) surmounting a recessed entrance flanked by plate glass windows occupy the lower main facade. In 1989, Susan Rice, a local artist, painted a colorful mural on the lower east elevation of the building, depicting Albemarle's cultural, social, and economic resources.

3. The Model Tailoring Company. 108-110 S. Fourth St. 1922; ca. 1940. Contributing

A. C. Heath constructed this building, which originally was owned by R. E. Brooks and A. B. Russell and known as the area's finest dry cleaners and tailoring (*The Stanly News-Herald*, August 18, 1922). The building is now used as a residence and a computer business. The two-story brick building with full basement is the district's most overtly neoclassical due to the four brick pilasters which rise through both stories to molded Doric capitals carrying a simple molded architrave. A frieze with three ventilators, a

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molded cornice, and a flat, cast stone-coped parapet complete the composition. The second-story windows, which are single and triple on the main facade and paired on the side walls, have single-pane replacements, but the exterior is otherwise intact, with six-over-six windows elsewhere and flat panels articulated by brick headers and cast stone corner blocks below the second-story windows. The storefront consists of two single-door entrances (one leading to the staircase to the second floor) flanking a plate glass window; a leaded glass transom, now concealed by an awning, tops each bay. A painted sign for Model Laundry survives on the lower north facade. Around 1940, a small one-story brick addition on a full raised basement was built to accommodate a boiler room at the back of the south side elevation.

4. Morgan Motor Company Building. 304-310 E. Main St. 1922; 1930s. Contributing

The Auten-Wolfe Motor Company sold Dodge cars and Goodyear tires here for about two years after this building was constructed in 1922, but it is better known as the home from 1926 to 1991 of a Pontiac dealership operated by the M. C. Morgan family. An Albemarle City Directory has an ad for Morgan Motor Company, "Sales and Service, Oakland All-American Six and Pontiac," at Five Points (*Albemarle City Directory*, 1930 Selders). According to Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. maps, the portion of the first story now marked by plate glass windows originally was open, except for two large brick piers, to accommodate a filling station. Around 1940, the filling station was enclosed and the entire storefront area remodeled with the current plate glass windows and Carrara glass panels. The two-story building is currently vacant and in various stages of disrepair, but it continues to stand apart from the rest of the district due to its random-coursed cut granite exterior with contrasting red brick on the corner piers, surrounds of the paired eight-over-eight second-story windows, and belt courses linking the tops of these windows and marking the cornice. A one-story rear red brick addition built in the 1930s for a repair shop has one garage bay and multi-paned metal casement windows.

5. Lillian Knitting Mills. 335 E. Main St. 1905; 1938; late 1940s. Contributing

Founded by A. L. Patterson in May 1905 and named for his wife, Lillian Knitting Mills is Stanly County's best preserved example of an early-twentieth-century textile mill. R. A. Crowell was the president and Patterson was secretary-treasurer; additional stockholders included J. W. Cannon and J. S. Eford, owners of Albemarle's other two textile mills, as well as J. M. Morrow, S. H. Hearne, M. F. Little, and R. L. Smith. The initial capital stock paid in was \$25,000, with a provision for increasing it to \$50,000. Upon incorporation, the officers announced that the company would "erect a modern building equipped with steam-heating apparatus, fire-protection appliances, electric-lighting fixtures, etc." and that its textile machinery would be "100 knitting machines for the production of 500 dozen pairs of hosiery daily." The company hired Concord, N. C., contractor R. A. Brown to construct the mill, completed late in 1905. In its early years, the mill was known for its use of the electric stop-motion attachment, a "very ingenious as well as . . . labor-saving" device that Patterson patented in 1901 when he was superintendent of Windemere Knitting Mills (an Albemarle company that merged with the town's Wiscassett Mills in 1903). Apparently, the mill scaled back its initial plans, as a June 1906 issue of *Manufacturer's Record* reports that the company had fifty-six machines and was contemplating doubling capacity. Six months later, *Manufacturer's Record* reported that Lillian Knitting Mills had recently added to its knitting and dyeing equipment and was considering the installation of additional machinery.

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The early portions of the five-to-one common bond brick building is L-shaped and reflects the site's topography in ranging from one to two stories on a raised basement to a full three stories. The longer two-story wing at the east end, running north-south, is the original mill. It has a very slightly gabled roof with a frame monitor and deep overhanging eaves sheltering rafter ends, as well as a one-story boiler house at the northeast corner and a larger one-story dye house at the northwest corner. The design of the west wing, identical to the east section except for the absence of the monitor, strongly suggests that it was built a short time after the original construction. Brick pilasters running the full height of both wings frame narrow bays that are the width of the large multi-paned hopper windows in segmental arches. Countering the verticality of the pilasters are cast stone belt courses doubling as window sills at the second and third stories. Also at the second and third stories, there are earthquake rods punctuating most of the facades. Until it was removed in 1959, the mill's crenellated tower (which held the water tank for the sprinkler system) above the main entrance at the building's southeast corner was a sentinel overlooking Five Points and the commercial district to the west. The mill's interior retains its original plastered walls and exposed water pipe system. Mid-twentieth-century slatted awnings still shade many of the windows.

By 1940, two more additions had been made. A one-story wing of indeterminate date, with sawtooth roof and segmental-arched windows, fills and extends beyond the recess created by the two wings of the earlier construction. In 1938, local contractor D. A. Holbrooks built the one-story brick wing with a slightly gabled roof and a tall raised basement at the west end of the complex, closest to Five Points. In 1940, the company had 320 employees operating 150 seamless hosiery machines and twenty-nine full-fashioned machines. Plant capacity was 3,500 dozen pairs of seamless hosiery and 4,000 dozen pairs of full-fashioned silk hosiery weekly.

The Patterson family continued operating the mill until the mid-1950s, when the property was auctioned. A representative of Wiscassett Mills was the high bidder, but it has not been determined if Wiscassett ever ran the mill. Wear Knitsters, a sportswear manufacturer, eventually occupied the complex and remained there until 1992 when the business was sold to plant manager Donald Frye who continued the operation under the name NC Knits until 1994 when he retired and the operation ceased. At about the same time, Wiscassett sold the property to two local businessmen. Through 1998, a series of bed linen and clothing manufacturers occupied the building. It is now scheduled for redevelopment according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

6. Commercial Building. 303-309 Pee Dee Ave. Ca. 1922; ca. 1950. Contributing

This one-story, six-to-one common bond brick building constructed as an automobile dealership and repair shop is irregularly shaped to fit its pie-shaped lot, with three finished facades facing Pee Dee Ave., the five-points junction, and S. Fourth St. A series of piers rising to create a stepped parapet define the multiple bays of the facades facing Pee Dee Ave. and S. Fourth St. Two narrow storefronts occupy the northernmost bays of the Pee Dee Ave. façade. The other side façade bays contain a display window, multi-paned metal window, single door, or garage door, each element topped by a rectangular panel outlined in slightly projecting brick. The original main façade, once containing display windows for an auto showroom and now obscured by a ca. 1950 addition, has a wide stepped parapet at its center and is

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broken into three planes by obtuse angles so that it appears to embrace the intersection. The addition is Moderne in character, built on the site of the open-air filling station that was immediately in front of the building (as indicated by the entrance step that appears to be the base for the original gasoline pumps), and is canted in accordance with the shape of the site. Its walls consist largely of plate glass in metal frames resting on a brick base and topped by horizontally striated metal sheathing.

The building was constructed by Pat Skidmore to house a Chrysler dealership. For a number of years beginning prior to World War II, the business was owned and operated by George McManus. Ca. 1950 it became a Studebaker dealership owned and operated by Grover Teeter, who likely added the front wing. In the late 1950s, Homer Cotton established his Five Points Dry Cleaners here, converting the ca. 1950 showroom to his counter/service area. Since then, a series of dry cleaners has occupied much of the building. One of the storefronts facing Pee Dee Ave. has always been occupied by a barber shop (owned and operated by Irving Russell from the 1930s to 1952), while the adjoining storefront was a café for many years prior to 1952.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Five Points Historic District comprises a four-block area centered at the junction of East Main Street, Pee Dee Avenue, and Fourth Street at the eastern edge of downtown Albemarle, Stanly County. Containing six resources built between 1905 and the late 1940s, the district is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of commerce and industry and under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its cohesive collection of masonry buildings associated with commercial and industrial growth in Albemarle during the early twentieth century. It is the town's only such intact collection.

The development of Albemarle as a market town was fueled in the 1890s by emerging industrial concerns and the arrival of two major rail lines. Albemarle's dynamic downtown commercial area centered on the junction of Second Street and Main Street, which intersected both rail lines. By the early twentieth century, Five Points, east of downtown and away from the rail lines, was becoming a center for industrial and commercial activity that relied more on emerging truck transportation than on the railroad. This small collection of significant buildings which date from 1905, when Lillian Knitting Mills was built, to the post-World War II era documents the Stanly County seat's industrial and commercial growth of the first half of the twentieth century. Today, Lillian Knitting Mills is the most intact of Stanly County's four remaining textile factory complexes.

Five of the district's buildings are constructed of brick, while the sixth stands out due to its granite block exterior. They display a wide range of architectural elements, including segmentally-arched openings, fanlight windows, and decorative details such as coping, capitals, belt courses, and corner blocks executed in wood, cast stone, and brick. The buildings range in style from the simplified Italianate of Lillian Knitting Mills to standard commercial structures exhibiting Neoclassical Revival and the streamlined Moderne styling of the most recent construction. Buildings in the district complement each other through the use of materials, finishes, and scale and together create a cohesive and intact collection. The Five Points Historic District reflects the design, materials, scale, and finishes popular in traditional small downtowns throughout North Carolina in the early twentieth century.

Historical Background and Commerce and Industry Contexts

Smith's Store, the first known settlement in what is now Stanly County, was established in 1826 at the crossroads of the Old Turnpike Road, connecting Fayetteville and Salisbury, and the Old State Road, connecting Raleigh and Charlotte. Mr. George S. Smith owned the store and served as first postmaster. After David Kendall, Ebenezer Hearne, George Smith, and John Freeman petitioned the state legislature to establish a new county west of the Pee Dee River, Stanly County was formed in 1841 from Montgomery County. Nancy Almond Hearne donated fifty acres for the town of Albemarle, which was to be located at Smith's Store. Albemarle was chosen as the name in order to commemorate North Carolina's first county. Surveyors laid out the town limits, which were bounded by North and South streets and, to the east and west, Fourth and First streets. The surveyors divided the plat into seventy-two lots, which were sold at a public auction to raise money for the construction of the courthouse and jail.

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Before the completion of the county courthouse, court sessions were held at the home of Nancy Hearne. The first courthouse was built in 1843 in the center of the intersection of Main and Second streets, an area later referred to as the square. In 1867, the courthouse was relocated to the northeast corner of Main and Second.

When Albemarle incorporated in 1857 it was a modest settlement. Residential and commercial development was concentrated along Second and Third streets. Businesses included two grog shops, a cabinet shop, and the Marshall Hotel. The town also had a post office and a Methodist meeting house. Seven houses, four of which were log, stood in Albemarle. Even by 1891, the population did not exceed 300 and there were only about six frame commercial buildings standing in town. The extension and inter-linking of railroad lines across the state in the 1870s and 1880s, however, set the state for the Piedmont's forthcoming industrialization. By 1910, developments in the Piedmont would make North Carolina the industrial leader of the Southeast.

The last decade of the nineteenth century was pivotal for the sleepy town of Albemarle. In 1891 the Yadkin Railroad was built through Albemarle on its way from Salisbury to Norwood in the southeast corner of Stanly County. The arrival of the line changed Albemarle forever by attracting business and industry, particularly the textile industry which already was firmly established in the region. Textile magnate James William Cannon of neighboring Cabarrus County and Stanly County native John S. Efird, with the backing of his father, land speculator and farmer Irenus Polycarp Efird, opened the first mill of the Efird Manufacturing Company in 1897, the same year the first passenger train rolled into Albemarle. Two years later Cannon opened Wiscassett Mills on property adjoining the Efird complex.

As the two mills prospered and expanded, Albemarle's population grew steadily, spurring the development of the town's commercial areas and creating the need for residential areas surrounding downtown. By 1900 Albemarle's population had reached 1,382. New industrial concerns had opened, including Albemarle Roller Mills, Albemarle Furniture and Manufacturing Company, I.W. Snuggs Planing and Mill, and R.L. Sibley Planing Mill. The establishment of these plants spurred commercial development in the heart of the town, where one-, two-, and three-story brick buildings housing dry goods stores, hardware businesses, furniture concerns, and professional offices quickly replaced the early frame structures to create a vibrant central business district. At the same time, grand dwellings began to rise along West Main Street and Pee Dee Avenue.

In this thriving economy, the founders and principal shareholders of the Efird and Wiscassett Mills sought new investments for their profits. They found an appropriate outlet in A. L. Patterson's venture to establish yet another textile mill in Albemarle. While superintendent of Windemere Mills (established in Albemarle in 1899 and merged with Wiscassett in 1903), Patterson had patented an electric "stop motion" attachment for circular knitting machines that was hailed for its ingenuous and labor-saving qualities. In 1905, the same year that Wiscassett Mills expanded with its Mill No. 2 to accommodate Windemere's manufacture of ladies' seamless hosiery, Patterson incorporated the Lillian Knitting Mills, named for his wife, with major financial backing from J. S. Efird and J. W. Cannon. R. A. Crowell was the president

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and Patterson was secretary-treasurer; additional stockholders included J. M. Morrow, S. H. Hearne, M. F. Little, and R. L. Smith.

Concord, N. C., contractor R. A. Brown, who also built the second Wiscasset mill, was hired to build the Lillian mill in the area then known as East Albemarle, away from the railroad lines which were on the other side of the downtown where all of the other Albemarle mills were located. Lillian's crenellated, four-stage tower hailed the multiple connections between the two enterprises in its design that was identical to the tower of Wiscasset Mill No. 2. Completed late in 1905, the Lillian mill apparently prospered in its early years, when it was known for its use of Patterson's stop-motion attachment, for the two-story building on a raised basement soon was expanded with a three-story wing. A ca. 1910 photograph of employees in front of the mill shows forty-six people, including six young girls and five boys.

Just a few years into the new century, Albemarle stood as the center of civic, commercial, and industrial activity in Stanly County. The town boasted three textile mill complexes, two building material factories, a furniture factory, roller mill, ice plant, saw mills, banks, two newspapers, two hotels, and thirty-two shops and stores. By 1908 several additional businesses had opened downtown, and by 1910 the town's population had grown to more than 2,100 citizens. That same year the town began providing electrical service and two years later, in 1912, the Winston-Salem Southbound Railroad's commencement of passenger and freight service to Albemarle further added to the potential for growth.

Downtown's next major growth phase began around 1915 and was spurred on by the expansion of Wiscasset Mills, which constructed its Mill No. 3 in 1918, and by growth in other area industries and businesses. During the 1920s, Albemarle's central business district took on a more "citified" appearance with the addition of several new buildings. Also during this decade, commercial enterprises began to cluster outside the central district, in the low-lying area where East Main, Pee Dee Avenue, and Fourth Street converge to make a five-point junction at the east edge of Albemarle's original town plat.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. maps show that this area two blocks east of downtown and less than a block down the hill from the Lillian Knitting Mills was residential in the early 1910s, with the exception of a small, one-story frame grocery at the southwest corner of E. Main and Fourth streets. The creek running through Five Points had hindered development here, but by 1912, when the municipal waterworks began operation, it had been channeled underground and water mains had been installed, encouraging new construction.

The area was transformed in 1922 with the construction of several new masonry commercial buildings. A number of them housed businesses catering to the increasingly popular automobile, beginning with the distinctive random-coursed granite building constructed in 1922 at the southeast corner of East Main and Fourth streets for the Auten-Wolfe Motor Company, a Dodge dealership. By 1926, the building was home to the Morgan Motor Company, a Pontiac dealership operated by the M. C. Morgan family from 1926 to 1991. Across the street, another spacious building, this one a single story in brick, went up around 1922 for a Chrysler dealership and auto repair shop, its irregular form apparently dictated by the wedge-shaped parcel created by the juncture of Fourth Street and Pee Dee Avenue with East Main Street. Also in 1922,

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Model Tailoring Company erected a stylish two-story brick building for its dry cleaning business. Next door, on the site of the small frame neighborhood grocery, the Anderson family built a two- immediately west of the Anderson Grocery, Hendley's Auto Service built a tire repair and vulcanizing shop fronted by a filling station. Thus, by the close of the 1920s the district was fully developed.

According to Donna Dodenhoff in *Stanly County: The Architectural Legacy of a Rural North Carolina County*, "Even after the great stock market crash of 1929, and the onset of hard times, joint federal, state, and local public works projects allowed Stanly County to continue making progress in agriculture, education, housing and in the quality of life for both urban and rural dwellers." Carolina Power and Light Company's construction in 1928 of the dam that created Lake Tillery brought jobs as well as recreational opportunities. In 1930, approximately twelve percent of Stanly County's population of 33,216 lived in Albemarle, which boasted 3,493 residents.

The Winston-Salem Southbound discontinued passenger service three years later, but freight service endured as demand increased. Albemarle's economy remained relatively healthy through the worst of the Depression and experienced renewed growth through the recovery era and beyond, into the 1950s. The town's largest mills prospered: Efir Manufacturing Company was taken over by American Yarn Processing Company in 1947 and five years later the two companies merged, forming the American and Efir Industries, Inc., while Wiscassett Mills, although controlled from the beginning by the Cannon family, continued to maintain an independent identity as it thrived. In the surrounding county, agriculture continued to contribute to that growth despite employing an increasingly smaller percentage of residents as industries such as Alcoa, at Badin, and the power company at Lake Tillery expanded.

The continuing prosperity of the Five Points area reflected the larger area's economy. All of the commercial buildings remained occupied with their original or subsequent business. For example, the Andersons continued to operate their grocery until they closed it in 1938 and a drug store moved into the building. Successes of the recovery era were evident in a number of changes within the district beginning in the late 1930s. Around 1940, Morgan Motor Co. enclosed the recessed filling station area for additional showroom space and added a service bay to the rear. The service station at 205 E. Main St. also added service bays at about the same time, and Model Tailoring Company built a small addition to accommodate a new boiler. Around 1950, about the time it became a Studebaker dealership, the building at 303-309 Pee Dee Avenue expanded with a Moderne glass and steel addition for an auto showroom.

The most notable changes occurred at Lillian Knitting Mills. In 1938, A. L. Patterson, still secretary and treasurer of the mill, announced that production was the highest it had ever been, requiring twenty-four-hour operation. That year, the company constructed a wall of native stone and installed benches and a fountain on the triangle of land immediately south of the mill that they had set aside as a park. The fountain was fed by the overflow from the mill's humidifying system. Also in 1938, as the steadily increasing demand for the mill's products necessitated additional employees and equipment a new one-story-on-raised basement wing was built to accommodate new "full-fashion" knitting machines. A. L. Patterson remained on Lillian's board of directors at least into the early 1950s, but by then the office of secretary-treasurer was held by his son, A. L. Patterson Jr. In the mid-1950s, the Pattersons ceased operations and the factory was auctioned. Wiscassett Mills was the high bidder.

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With the development of Quenby Mall on Albemarle's outskirts in 1960, retail outlets began to leave the town's older business areas. Professionals and businessmen already had started relocating their offices from the upper floors of buildings in the central business district, and as other shopping centers were built away from downtown, the decline continued, hastened by shrinkage of the textile industry in the county and throughout the state into the 1990s. In 1990, Efirid Manufacturing Company was a subsidiary of Fruit of the Loom, and Wiscassett, which had become a wholly owned subsidiary division of Cannon Mills, had regained its original identity through re-incorporation, with five mills in Albemarle and two in Concord. By the late 1990s, however, the county's textile industry was a shadow of its former self, with only Efirid Manufacturing and a few small operations remaining in business.

In the Five Points area, most of the buildings remained occupied into the 1990s. The service station at 205 East Main Street continued to operate as an auto repair shop, although the gas pumps were removed; Anderson Grocery eventually became the offices of the Albemarle/Stanly County Visitor Information Center; and Model Tailoring Company and the commercial building at 303-309 Pee Dee Avenue continued as dry cleaning establishments. Most important, the textile mill remained in operation, leased by Wiscassett Mills to a series of clothing and bed linen manufacturers well into the 1990s.

Today, three buildings are vacant, but the future of the district looks bright. The former Lillian Knitting Mills remained occupied until recent years, and plans currently are under way to redevelop the complex according to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. After standing vacant for a time, the Model Tailoring Company building is now used as a residence and offices for a computer business. The Anderson Grocery and Morgan Motor Company buildings currently are vacant, but Albemarle's downtown development corporation expects that the district's listing in the National Register will spur interest in their redevelopment as well.

Architectural Context

Albemarle's historic architecture is typical of early twentieth century small to moderately-sized railroad and industrial towns across North Carolina. Virtually all factories were of brick slow-burn construction, usually one to three stories tall with slightly gabled roofs (often with monitors), deep eaves sheltering exposed rafter ends, and large multi-paned windows. Their distinguishing feature usually was at least one square-in-section tower (with the functional purpose of holding a water tank) that was one or two stories taller than the rest of the building and ornamented with decorative brickwork reminiscent of Romanesque or Italianate architecture. The vast majority of the commercial buildings were one or two stories in brick with modest embellishments executed in brick, cast stone, or applied metal above simple storefronts. By the 1920s, designs tended to be fairly reserved, either incorporating neoclassical features such as pilasters or fanlights at upper story windows or deriving their styling from stepped parapets, often with cast stone coping, and rectilinear courses of brick headers at windows or outlining panels accented with cast stone blocks. During the late 1930s and 1940s, buildings accommodating automobile oriented businesses tended to be more streamlined, with large expanses of plate glass windows and flat wall surfaces that sometimes curved and were rarely adorned except for sheathing of new materials such as Carrara glass panels or striated steel or aluminum.

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In the Five Points Historic District, the buildings are typical in their styling but collectively unusual due to their high degree of integrity, augmenting their importance as Albemarle's only surviving collection of early twentieth-century industrial and commercial properties. All of the storefronts are either original, retaining transoms and plate glass display windows and entrances that are central and recessed or to one side; or they exhibit changes made within the period of significance, such as the large expanse of plate glass framed by Carrara glass panels installed ca. 1940 in the Morgan Motor Company Building. Of the two-story commercial buildings, the Anderson Grocery and Morgan Motor Company buildings retain their original upper story windows of double-hung sash, while the Model Tailoring Company is the only one of the district's five commercial buildings to have had its windows replaced, with fixed single panes. All of the commercial buildings continue to display their identifying stylistic elements, such as the full-height pilasters of the Model Tailoring Company and the decorative fanlight above the central windows of the Anderson Grocery's second-story main façade. Most of the buildings are characteristic of their era in their brick exteriors. The notable exception is the Morgan Motor Company Building with its distinctive coursed granite walls and contrasting red brick at corner piers and accenting second-story elements.

Lillian Mill Knitting Mills is the smallest of Albemarle's textile factories but it stands out as the most intact. Like all of the other remaining mills in the county and the vast majority of mills in the region, the Lillian mill has lost the upper stories of its tower, but otherwise the two early wings and the ca. 1940 addition remain remarkably intact. It is highly unusual that both of the original frame roof monitors and almost all of the large, double-hung sash windows remain in place. All of the historic portions of the complex are substantially intact, and only the bottom story of the west façade is obscured by the 1970s addition. In contrast, all of the Efirid Manufacturing Company's three main mills were thoroughly clad in aluminum during a 1971 modernization effort. Except for replacement or infilling of windows with brick, the vast Wiscassett Mills complex remained largely intact into the 1990s, but since then most of the buildings have been demolished as operations ceased and damage was incurred in a 1997 flood. The county's fourth historic mill, the former Norwood Manufacturing Company (later Collins and Aikman Company, in Norwood), built in the late nineteenth century, has had its windows bricked in and was largely obscured by an enormous and very austere addition constructed in 1947.

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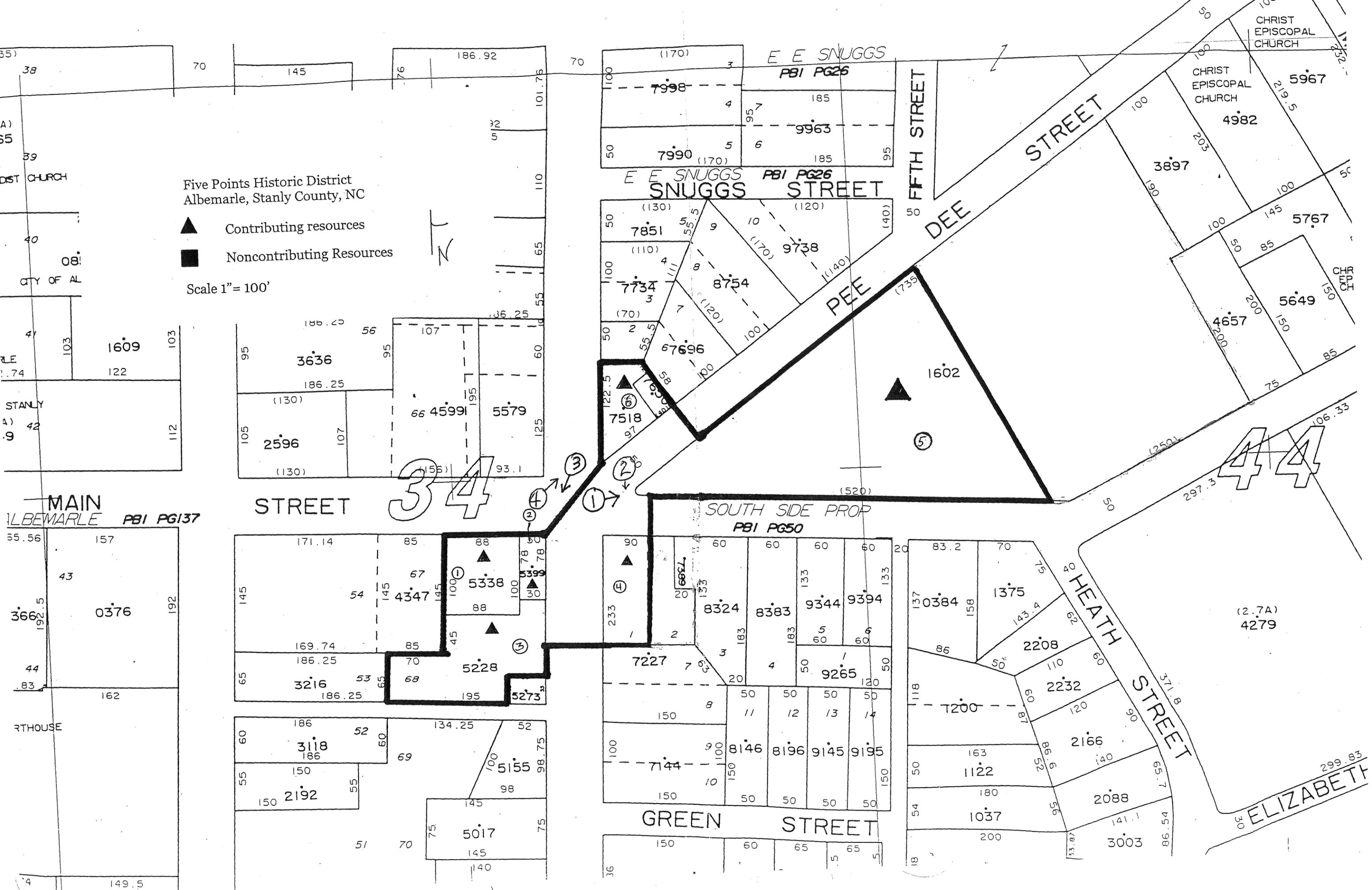
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Lillian Mill Employees."

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Five Points Historic District is shown by the heavy black line on the accompanying
composite of portions of Stanly County tax maps, at a scale of one inch to one hundred feet.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the Five Points Historic District encompasses all of the extant historic industrial and
commercial buildings erected in the Five Points area of Albemarle, east of Albemarle's central business
district. All are largely intact and together form a discrete and cohesive unit.



Five Points Historic District
Albemarle, Stanly County, NC

- ▲ Contributing resources
- Noncontributing Resources

Scale 1" = 100'

34

44

MAIN ALBEMARLE PBI PG137

GREEN STREET

SOUTH SIDE PROP PBI PG50

E E SNUGGS STREET PBI PG26

E E SNUGGS PBI PG26

FIFTH STREET

DEE STREET

STREET

HEATH STREET

ELIZABETH STREET

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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