

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District
Other names/site number _____

2. Location

Street & number Roughly bounded by N. Main St., E. Cedar Ave., CSX RR, & Royall Cotton Mill N/A not for publication
City or town Wake Forest N/A vicinity
State North Carolina code NC county Wake code 183 zip code 27587-2932

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Jeffrey J. Crow SHPD 7/13/99
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: _____ Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

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): _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>82</u>	<u>48</u>	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u>1</u>	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object			objects
		<u>83</u>	<u>50</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, N.C. (ca. 1770-1941) 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory	Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling	DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	multiple dwelling	DOMESTIC	multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure	DOMESTIC	secondary structure
COMMERCE	department store	RELIGION	religious facility
RELIGION	religious facility	LANDSCAPE	park
INDUSTRY	waterworks		

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT
other METAL
CONCRETE
SYNTHETICS

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.)

- X 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.
X 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 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 fifty years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1900-1949

Significant Dates

1900

1941

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Briggs, John D., designer

Hicks, Benjamin T., builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 45 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Table with 2 columns: Zone Easting Northing. Row 1: 1 17 724990 3985690. Row 2: 2 17 725600 3985470. Row 3: 3 17 725070 3985110. Row 4: 4 17 724760 3985260.

Sec continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Daniel Pezzoni
organization Landmark Preservation Associates date January 23, 1999
street & number 6 Houston St. telephone (540) 464-5315
city or town Lexington state Virginia zip code 24450

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

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

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

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District
Wake Co., N.C.

Section number 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District is a historic residential area of approximately 45 acres located in the northeastern part of the town of Wake Forest in Wake County, North Carolina (see district and USGS maps). The district topography is characterized by gentle slopes with high ground at approximately 450 feet above sea level along the district's south, east, and west boundaries and a swale running northeast through the center of the district to its lowest elevation at approximately 380 feet above sea level near the mid-point of the district's north boundary. Along the high ground on the west boundary runs Wake Forest's North Main Street (U.S. Highway 1A), a historic ridge road connecting the town to communities to the north and in the early twentieth century North Carolina's principal "national highway" connection to the North. Along the high ground on the east boundary passes the CSX rail line (historically the Seaboard Air Line Railroad) as it approaches the Wake Forest town center from the northeast. The 1899-1900 Royall Cotton Mill stands to the north of the district, and large residential lots--the northern extent of Wake Forest's local historic district--lie to the south of the district along North Main Street. Across Main Street to the west of the district is a residential area of mostly small, one-story houses dating to about 1900 and later, a subdivision that is likely historically associated with the Royall Cotton Mill but which was not developed by the mill and hence technically was not a part of the mill village. Across the CSX line to the east of the district is a similar area that includes a portion of Wake Forest's historic African-American community.

The district is characterized by an orthogonal but irregular grid of streets laid out circa 1899 with house lots surveyed in 1941 (prior to 1941 the village area had a sole owner, the Royall Cotton Mill interests). Along these streets, beginning in 1900, the mill management built housing for its mill operatives and their families. These one-story frame houses originally featured weatherboard siding, wood-shingle roofing, and brick foundation piers and flues, materials and finishes that many retain, although the wood roof shingles have been replaced with metal sheathing or asphalt shingles. The dominant house in the village is a pyramidal-roofed four-room form (excluding ells or wings) with a central brick flue. A total of 41 of these houses presently stand in the district. Three representatives of a similar form, but with hipped roofs, stand on Crowder Street. The second most numerous type is the "triple-A" cottage, so named for its distinctive roof with two end gables and a third, decorative gable on the front elevation. Of this type 14 representatives survive. The larger, multi-gabled mill superintendent's house at 105 E. Chestnut is related to this form. Scattered through the district are several shotgun-form houses, distinguished by their narrow gabled fronts.

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Description (continued)

The pyramidal cottages, triple-A cottages, and shotguns built during the district's first three decades of development are architecturally related in terms of their detailing. Distinctive features include attenuated chamfered porch posts with quarter-round brackets and round louvered vents in gables. Unaltered pyramidal and triple-A cottages typically have four-bay front elevations with double entries. Original interiors are characterized by matchboard wall and ceiling finishes and simplified pilaster-and-frieze-form mantels. Home construction in the district tapered off during the 1920s and 1930s, a period of economic downturn at the mill, but construction picked up again immediately following the end of World War II, with Cape Cod cottages and other house forms built on undeveloped lots, especially in the district's southwest quadrant. Post-1949 houses and trailers are relatively few.

As originally constructed, the mill houses did not have indoor plumbing. Water was provided by pumps at street intersections and each group of four houses was served by four-compartment privies. These privies no longer survive but other outbuildings do, many of which were presumably built after the mill housing was sold off in 1941. The single-compartment privy at 725 Mill St. appears to date to this period. Some outbuildings were built by tenants earlier, however, such as the wood and coal shed at 724 Mill St. built by Jack Horton in 1930. Metal- and T1-11-sided tool storage sheds are the most common modern outbuildings. Yard areas have lawns with standard flower bed and shrub plantings, and some lot-owners maintain vegetable gardens, perpetuating historic practice. Mature shade trees exist throughout the district, but they are most prominent at the southern ends of Elizabeth and Mill streets.

Integrity Statement

The Glen Royall Mill Village retains a high degree of architectural integrity, both in an overall sense and on a building-by-building basis, leading Wake County Preservation Planner Kelly A. Lally to describe the community as "remarkably intact" in a 1993 Multiple Property Documentation Form for the county's historic resources. Most of the neighborhood's original housing stock survives--there have been relatively few losses owing to fire or demolition--and the historic street pattern remains unaltered. Post-1949 houses and other primary resources are uncommon; those that were built are typically small-scale and are therefore in keeping with the historic appearance and usages of the district. Many of the noncontributing buildings listed in the Section 5 resource count are post-1949 outbuildings. Nearly all historic-period houses preserve their original forms, including their distinguishing pyramidal, triple-A, and gable-fronted roofs, and many retain historic exterior finishes (with the exception of the original wood-shingle roofs, which have been replaced with other materials) and details such as porch posts and attic vents.

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Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District
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Description (continued)

When they occur, modern alterations include the application of aluminum and vinyl siding, replacement of historic porch supports with modern substitutes, and the walling over of one of the doors of double-entry houses. Historic yard patterns and shade tree distributions have been preserved or perpetuated. The 1900 Royall Cotton Mill is contiguous to the district but is not included owing to loss of integrity.

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Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District
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Description (continued)

Inventory

The inventory list is organized by street location, beginning with north-south streets listed from west to east, passing up the west side of the street and then the east side numerically, and concluding with east-west streets listed from south to north, passing up the south side of the street and then the north side numerically. The north-south streets are listed in the following order: North Main Street, Frye Street, Elizabeth Street, Mill Street, Brewer Avenue, and Crowder Street. The east-west streets are listed in the following order: East Cedar Street, Wall Street, East Chestnut Avenue, Brick Avenue, Water Street, and Hill Street.

Each inventory entry gives the inventory number and the status of the resource as contributing (C) or noncontributing (N) to the character of the district, followed by the street address, the known or approximate date of construction, the story height (usually 1, 1.5, or 2), and the resource name, either historic ("Aubrey and Ida Davis Store") or generic ("House"). Building dates are often approximate, based on oral tradition and architectural cues and occasionally on primary and secondary source materials. These approximate dates are preceded by "Ca.," the abbreviated form of "circa," meaning "about."

The body of the entry describes the style, form, construction materials, and important exterior details of the houses. It also provides pertinent historical information when that information is known. For properties that include secondary resources such as garages and sheds, these are given a secondary heading (example: "C #a.") and are described in greater depth in the primary property heading when their architectural character or historic associations warrant. Windows (typically double-hung sash) are described by their sash arrangement; for example, "6/6" refers to six-over-six sash. Vacant lots are designated with the prefix "V."

Status/

<u>No.</u>	<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Hgt.</u>	<u>Name</u>
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North Main Street (east side)

C 1.	614 N. Main	1909-10	2	Powell-White House
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Frame house with Queen Anne and Colonial Revival attributes, weatherboard siding on the first story, wood-shingle cladding on the second story, and an asphalt-shingled hip-and-gable roof.

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Description (continued)

The house--which is the largest and most architecturally refined in the district--is distinguished by its wraparound one-story porch supported by clustered classical columns, which extends at its west end to form a porte cochere. Other features include a brick foundation and chimneys, a gabled front dormer, 1/1 windows, a front entry with sidelights and transom, and a one-story rear wing. The house occupies a large lot shaded by numerous mature trees and served by modern brick-paved drives. Robert B. and Elaine Powell apparently began construction of this house in 1909, the date of a shipping label discovered on the back of a mantel, although the property wasn't deeded to them until 1913. Robert was the son of Royall Cotton Mill founder W. C. Powell and he served the family business in a number of capacities. The Powells sold the house to Robert Bruce and Grace White in 1916. Dr. R. B. White taught law at Wake Forest College. In the 1940s the property was acquired by the Beddingfield family and thereafter it was used for a number of purposes: rental housing, a funeral home, a fraternity, and a nursing home. Abandoned and derelict in recent decades, the home was restored in 1994-98.

N 1a. 614 N. Main 1994 1 Shed

Frame, board-and-batten siding, metal-sheathed gabled roof, brick foundation and floor.

Frye Street (west side)

N 2. 815-817 Frye Ca. 1990 1 House

Frame, ranch/duplex form, asphalt-shingled gable roof, cinder-block foundation.

C 2a. 815-17 Frye Ca. 1920 - Water Tank Foundation

Brick and concrete foundation of former water tank serving the cotton mill primarily for fire prevention. The tank gave its name to Water Street, which intersects Frye at this point.

C 2b. 815-17 Frye Ca. 1920 1 Shed

Frame, weatherboarded, gable roof.

Frye Street (east side)

C 3. 820 Frye 1900-02 1 House

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Description (continued)

Frame, asphalt-shingled triple-A gable roof, three-bay front, asbestos-shingle siding, hipped front porch with original chamfered wood posts with sawn brackets, diamond-shaped louvered vents in gables, parged masonry foundation, 4/4 windows.

C 3a. 820 Frye Ca. 1940 1 Shed

Frame, weatherboard siding, gable roof.

Elizabeth Street (west side)

N 4. 605 Elizabeth Ca. 1970 1 House

Frame, vinyl siding, asphalt-shingled hip roof, engaged side porch and car port, cinder-block foundation.

C 4a. 605 Elizabeth Ca. 1940 1 Shed

Frame, weatherboard siding, gable roof.

N 5. 613 Elizabeth Ca. 1950 1 House

Stuccoed masonry (probably cinder block), asphalt-shingled gable roof, gabled front stoop with square wood columns, asbestos-shingled gables, 6/6 windows with aluminum awnings, front picture window.

N 5a. 613 Elizabeth Ca. 1950 1 Shed

Cinder-block, gable roof, engaged porch or open-air work/storage area.

N 6. 617 Elizabeth Ca. 1970 1 House

Frame, ranch form, asphalt-shingled gable roof, front and gable-end stoops with metal supports, 6/6 windows.

C 7. 633 Elizabeth Ca. 1945 1.5 House

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Description (continued)

was organized in 1901 and it met in the mill commissary until the mill donated a lot and building. The congregation numbered 130 members in 1910. (The spelling "Royal" reflects the later shortened version of the mill name.)

C 12. 803 Elizabeth 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, three-bay front, center brick chimney (parged), vinyl siding, hipped front porch with metal supports, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows.

N 12a. 803 Elizabeth Ca. 1950 1 Shed

Cinder block, shed roof.

C 13. 811 Elizabeth 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, three-bay front, center brick chimney, vinyl siding, shed-roofed front porch with metal supports, cinder-block foundation, 1/1 windows.

C 14. 821 Elizabeth 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, vinyl siding, hipped front porch with Craftsman brick and wood supports, early (ca. 1925) alteration to fenestration involving replacement of front single windows with paired 6/6 windows, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, shed addition across rear dates to second quarter 20th century.

N 14a. 821 Elizabeth Ca. 1950 1 Shed

Frame. (This shed appears to be associated with 821 Elizabeth, even though the two resources are separated by Water Street.)

Elizabeth Street (east side)

N 15. 620 Elizabeth Ca. 1990 1 Wake Forest Church of God
Educational Building

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Description (continued)

Frame or masonry with dryvit siding, front-gable form, asphalt-shingle roofing, plywood gable sheathing with decorative border, front entry with glass-block sidelights, 1/1 windows.

C 16. 628 Elizabeth Ca. 1930 1 House

Frame, gable-fronted bungalow form, weatherboard siding, asphalt-shingle roofing, hipped front porch with Craftsman brick and wood supports, interior brick flue, louvered rectangular vent in gable, recent side addition, 4/4 windows (paired on front), similar (but not identical) to 636 Elizabeth.

C 17. 636 Elizabeth Ca. 1930 1 House

Frame, gable-fronted bungalow form, asphalt-shingle roofing, hipped front porch with Craftsman brick and wood supports, interior brick flue, louvered rectangular vent in gable, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 3/1 windows (paired on front), similar (but not identical) to 628 Elizabeth.

C 18. 702 Elizabeth 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, asbestos-shingle siding, hipped front porch with Craftsman brick and wood supports, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows, modern rear deck.

N 19. 712 Elizabeth 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled triple-A gable roof, four-bay front with double entry, asphalt-shingle roofing, permastone siding up to top of windows with vinyl above, hipped front roof with metal supports (some on brick pedestals), brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, modern 2/2 sash, shed addition to rear and car port addition to side.

C 20. 718 Elizabeth Ca. 1930 1 House

Frame, gable-fronted bungalow form, novelty weatherboard siding, asphalt-shingle roofing, gabled front porch with metal supports on cinder-block pedestals, interior brick flue, louvered rectangular vent in porch gable, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows. House appears to replace the original pyramidal-roofed house at the location.

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Description (continued)

C 21. 731 Elizabeth 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled triple-A gable roof, four-bay front with double entry, vinyl siding, hipped front porch with metal supports, four-bay front with double entry, circular louvered vents in gables, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, ell side porch enclosed. (Note: address discrepancy reflects true house numbering.)

C 22. 732 Elizabeth 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, weatherboard siding, hipped front porch with metal supports, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows.

C 23. 806 Elizabeth 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled triple-A gable roof, four-bay front with double entry, vinyl siding, hipped front porch with original chamfered wood posts with sawn brackets, interior brick chimney at juncture of house and integral ell, cinder-block flue on north gable end, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill.

C 24. 810 Elizabeth 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, weatherboard siding, hipped front porch with Craftsman brick and wood supports, brick foundation piers, 6/6 windows.

N 25. 818 Elizabeth 1900-02 1 House

Frame, shotgun form, asphalt-shingled gable roof, modern plywood siding and shed addition to north side, hipped front porch with square wood posts and modern deck extension, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill.

N 26. 824-826 Elizabeth 1988 1 Apartments

Frame, T1-11 and weatherboard siding, asphalt-shingled gable roof.

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Description (continued)

Mill Street (west side)

V. 6XX Mill Vacant lot

N 27. 624 Mill Ca. 1980 1 House

Frame, ranch form, masonite siding, asphalt-shingled gable roof, brick or brick-veneer masonry foundation.

V. 6XX Mill Vacant lot

V. 7XX Mill Vacant lot (house burned in 1990s)

C 28. 709 Mill 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled triple-A gable roof, four-bay front with double entry, vinyl siding, hipped front porch with original chamfered wood posts with sawn brackets, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, parged brick chimney at juncture of main house and ell, screened ell side porch, 6/6 windows.

N 28a. 709 Mill Ca. 1950 1 Shed

Cinder-block, gable roof.

C 29. 717 Mill 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, vinyl over weatherboard siding, hipped front porch with square wood posts, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, side addition, 1/1 windows.

N 29a. 717 Mill Ca. 1990 1 Shed

Frame, plywood siding, gable roof.

C 30. 725 Mill 1900-02 1 House

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Description (continued)

V. 6XX Mill Vacant lot

Abandoned E. Oak St. right-of-way

C 39. 702 Mill 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, vinyl siding, hipped front porch with metal supports, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows.

C 40. 710 Mill 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled triple-A gable roof, three-bay front, vinyl siding, hipped front porch with metal supports, brick chimney at juncture of house and ell, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows.

N 40a. 710 Mill Ca. 1950 1 Shed

Frame, plywood siding, gable roof.

C 41. 718 Mill 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, weatherboard siding, hipped front porch with square wood posts, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows.

C 42. 724 Mill 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled triple-A gable roof, four-bay front with double entry, weatherboard siding, parged brick chimney at juncture of house and ell, circular louvered vents in gables, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows. Unlike most houses in the village which experienced frequent occupant turnover, this house has been occupied by Jack Horton and his family since 1922. Mr. Horton has owned the house since the 1940s.

C 42a. 724 Mill 1930 1 Shed

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Description (continued)

C 47. 701 Brewer Ca. 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, three-bay front, center brick chimney, weatherboard siding, hipped front porch with square wood posts, brick foundation, 6/6 windows.

C 48. 711 Brewer 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled triple-A gable roof, four-bay front with double entry, asbestos-shingle siding, asphalt-shingled gable roof, cinder-block foundation, 6/6 windows.

C 49. 717 Brewer 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, three-bay front, center brick chimney, vinyl siding, asphalt-shingled gable roof, hipped front porch with original chamfered wood posts with sawn brackets, 6/6 windows.

C 50. 725 Brewer 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled triple-A gable roof, three-bay front, weatherboard siding, hipped front porch with square wood posts, circular louvered vents in gables, parged masonry foundation, 6/6 windows.

C 51. 731 Brewer 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, three-bay front, center brick chimney, vinyl siding, hipped front porch with round pole supports, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows.

C 52. 805 Brewer 1900-02 1 House

Frame, shotgun form with early gabled addition to north side, asbestos-shingle siding, hipped front porch with original chamfered wood posts with sawn brackets, circular louvered vent in gable, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 1/1 windows.

C 53. 8XX Brewer 1900 2 Royall Cotton Mill Commissary

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Description (continued)

N 59. 728 Brewer Ca. 1995 1 House

Frame, beaded masonite siding, asphalt-shingled gable roof, brick foundation, 9/9 windows.

N 60. 7XX Brewer Ca. 1995 - Susie L. Powell Mini Park

Community park and flower garden dedicated to the founder and first president of the Wake Forest Garden Club.

V. 8XX Brewer Vacant lot

C 61. 806 Brewer 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, weatherboard siding, hipped front porch with metal supports, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows.

C 62. 824 Brewer Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, metal-sheathed pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, weatherboard siding, shed-roofed porch with square wood posts, brick foundation, 6/6 windows.

Abandoned right-of-way

Crowder Avenue (west side)

C 63. 822 Crowder Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled hipped roof, four-bay front with double entry, front interior brick chimney, weatherboard siding, hipped front porch with square wood posts and screening, 6/6 windows.

N 63a. 822 Crowder Ca. 1980 1 Car port

Frame, gable roof supported by square wood posts.

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Description (continued)

Abandoned right-of-way

C 64. 821 Crowder Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled hipped roof, four-bay front with double entry, front interior brick chimney and rear interior brick flue, hipped front porch with original chamfered wood posts with sawn brackets, 6/6 windows. According to tradition, this home was occupied by a mill foreman.

Crowder Avenue (east side)

C 65. 820 Crowder Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled hipped roof, four-bay front with double entry, front interior brick chimney and rear interior brick flue, hipped front porch with original chamfered wood posts with sawn brackets, brick foundation piers, 1/1 windows.

East Cedar Street (north side)

C 66. 121 E. Cedar Ca. 1915 1.5 House

Frame, weatherboard siding, asphalt-shingled clipped-gable roof with Craftsman eaves brackets, shed-roofed front porch with Craftsman brick and wood supports (paired) and arched spandrels, brick foundation, paired 12/1 windows on first story.

C 67. 143 E. Cedar Ca. 1940 1.5 House

Parped masonry, asphalt-shingled gable roof with gabled dormers, gabled entry stoop with square wood posts, 6/6 windows.

N 67a. 143 E. Cedar Ca. 1980 1 Shed

Frame, vinyl siding, gable roof.

C 68. 1XX E. Cedar 1947-48 1 Wake Forest Church of God

Random stone masonry, front-gabled nave form, asphalt-shingle roofing, center front entry tower

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Description (continued)

with arcaded porch and castellated top, round-arched stained glass windows.

N 69. 155 E. Cedar Ca. 1995 1 House

Frame with buff-colored stretcher-bond brick veneer, ranch form, asphalt-shingled gable roof, inset entry porch, 6/6 windows.

Wall Avenue (south side)

C 70. 2XX Wall Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, weatherboard siding, front porch, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows.

C 71. 2XX Wall Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled side-gable roof, weatherboard siding, rear brick chimney and cinder-block flue, 6/6 windows. This house faces the rail line and is reached by a dirt lane from Wall Avenue.

Wall Avenue (north side)

C 72. 211 Wall Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, three-bay front, center brick chimney, weatherboard siding, shed-roofed front porch with square wood posts and original pilasters with sawn brackets, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows.

C 73. 2XX Wall Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, aluminum siding, front porch, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows.

N 73a. 2XX Wall Ca. 1980 - Swimming pool

East Chestnut Avenue (south side)

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Description (continued)

Frame, triple-A gabled form with gabled side wing, weatherboard siding, hipped front porch with square wood posts, two interior brick chimneys with corbeled caps, circular louvered vents in gables, open and enclosed back porches, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 4/4 windows, two-leaf front entry with transom. This dwelling, the largest and most stylish in the mill village proper, was occupied by the first mill superintendent, a Mr. Harwell, and after 1905 by longtime superintendent George N. Greason.

C 80. 113 E. Chestnut 1900-02 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled triple-A gable roof, three-bay front, asbestos-shingle siding, hipped front porch with modern metal supports, ca. 1950 picture window and side shed wing, brick chimney at juncture of house and ell, cinder-block foundation, modern 2/2 windows.

C 81. 117 E. Chestnut 1900-02 1 House

Frame, shotgun form, two-bay front, asphalt-shingled gable roof, hipped front porch with original chamfered wood posts with sawn brackets, circular louvered vent in gable, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows, ca. 1997 picket fence with arbor gate.

N 82. 129 E. Chestnut Ca. 1970 1 Trailer

Frame, aluminum siding, metal flat roof, front deck, 1/1 windows.

C 83. 219 E. Chestnut Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, asbestos-shingle siding, hipped front porch with square wood posts and aluminum awning, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows.

Abandoned right-of-way

C 84. 229 E. Chestnut Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, vinyl siding, hipped front porch with square wood posts, cinder-block foundation, 6/6 windows.

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Description (continued)

Brick Avenue (south side)

C 85. 2XX Brick Ca. 1940 1 Jesse Wall Store

Frame, gable-fronted (similar to shotgun form), metal siding and roofing, shed front porch supported by paired square wood posts, brick flue, front display windows with bars, 6/6 side windows. Jesse Wall's son Bernice looked after this neighborhood store, which sold candy, cigarettes, soft drinks, ice cream, and similar items.

C 86. 202 Brick Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, gable-fronted form, weatherboard siding, asphalt-shingle roofing, hipped front porch with original chamfered wood posts with sawn brackets, three-bay front with single entry, interior brick chimney, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill (piers are rendered and scored to simulate cinder block, 6/6 windows.)

C 86a. 202 Brick Ca. 1920 1 Shed

Frame, weatherboard siding, gable-fronted roof with asphalt-shingle roofing, 4/4 windows, smaller gabled addition may be originally separate building. The building may have served as a work shop or some other function.

C 87. 216 Brick Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, three-bay front, center brick chimney, asbestos-shingle siding, hipped front porch with Craftsman brick and wood supports and Chinese Chippendale railing, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, modern 2/2 windows.

Abandoned right-of-way

C 88. 224 Brick Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, three-bay front, center brick chimney, vinyl siding, hipped front porch with square wood posts, gabled side stoop, parged masonry foundation, 6/6 windows.

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Description (continued)

C 89. 230 Brick Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, three-bay front, center brick chimney, vinyl siding, hipped front porch with modern turned posts, 6/6 windows.

C 90. 238 Brick Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, three-bay front, center brick chimney, asbestos-shingle siding, hipped front porch with original chamfered wood posts with sawn brackets, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 sash windows.

Brick Avenue (north side)

N 91. 2XX Brick Ca. 1950 1 Aubrey and Ida Davis Store

Cinder-block, gable-fronted form, asphalt-shingle roofing, front display windows, side cinder-block flue. This small store was operated by Aubrey and Ida Davis. Customers would come to Aubrey and Ida's nearby residence to inform Ida that they needed to make a purchase, and she would open up the store (Aubrey worked much of the time at the Wake Finishing Plant). The store stocked candy, cigarettes, soft drinks, ice cream, and similar items.

C 92. 203 Brick Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, three-bay front, center brick chimney, vinyl siding, hipped front porch with original chamfered wood posts with sawn brackets, large rear deck, 6/6 windows.

C 93. 215 Brick Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, three-bay front, center brick chimney, aluminum siding, hipped front porch with square wood posts, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows.

C 94. 223 Brick Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, three-bay front, center brick chimney, vinyl siding,

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Description (continued)

hipped front porch with square wood posts, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows.

C 95. 231 Brick Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, three-bay front, center brick chimney, asbestos-shingle siding, hipped front porch with original chamfered wood posts with sawn brackets, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows.

N 95a. 231 Brick Ca. 1980 1 Garage

Frame, plywood siding, gable roof.

N 95b. 231 Brick Ca. 1980 1 Shed

Frame, metal siding, gable roof.

C 96. 241 Brick Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, aluminum siding, hipped front porch with square wood posts, 6/6 windows.

N 96a. 241 Brick Ca. 1950 1 Shed

Frame.

C 97. 247 Brick Ca. 1907 1 House

Frame, asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof, four-bay front with double entry, center brick chimney, weatherboard siding, hipped front porch with original chamfered wood posts with sawn brackets, brick foundation piers with cinder-block infill, 6/6 windows. The former address number "76" appears on the house.

Water Street (south side)

C 98. 102 Water 1900-02 1 House

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Glen Royall Mill Village is the principal historic textile mill village in Wake County, North Carolina outside the city limits of Raleigh. The village was established in 1900 adjacent to the town of Wake Forest to provide housing for the operatives of the Royall Cotton Mill, which commenced operations during a period of unprecedented textile industry expansion in North Carolina and other southern states, and which grew to become one of the state's premiere textile concerns. In order to attract dependable employees the mill management understood that it would need to provide adequate housing, and in 1900 it hired contractor Benjamin Thomas Hicks to construct a range of house types--including pyramidal and "triple-A" cottages and shotguns--according to plans and specifications prepared by mill superintendent John D. Briggs. In many ways the village was self-contained; operatives shopped at the 1900 Royall Cotton Mill Commissary (now rehabilitated as apartments) and worshipped at a church in the village, and their children and younger siblings were educated at village schools. The mill village more or less achieved its final form in the 1920s, shortly before the Great Depression disrupted production at the mill and created hardship for the adult and teenaged operatives who lived in the village. The cotton mill closed in 1976 and the following year the village was annexed by the town of Wake Forest. Today the Glen Royall Mill Village is experiencing a rebirth as an attractive and affordable enclave on the fringes of North Carolina's dynamic Triangle region.

The Glen Royall Mill Village is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of industry as a relatively intact early-twentieth-century cotton mill village associated with one of the state's leading historic industries. In addition to the mill housing, which dates largely to the first decade of the twentieth century, the district includes churches, stores, several modern residences, the Queen Anne-Colonial Revival Powell-White House, and the Royall Cotton Mill Commissary, which was listed individually in the National Register in 1991. The district is additionally eligible under Criterion A in the area of commerce and under Criterion C in the area of architecture owing to the inclusion of the commissary, which was previously listed in those areas. The district is treated in a Multiple Property Documentation Form for Wake County entitled "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, N.C. (ca. 1770-1941" by Kelly Lally. The period of significance extends from 1900, the year construction of the mill houses and commissary began, until 1949 (the National Register fifty-year criterion), embracing the formative years of the village's development and historical associations. The district is eligible at the local level of significance.

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Statement of Significance (continued)**Historical Background and Industrial Context**

The Royall Cotton Mill and the Glen Royall Mill Village were established during a period of major expansion in North Carolina's textile industry. Originating in the early nineteenth century, the state's industry remained relatively quiescent until after the Reconstruction era when textiles took central place in the "New South" credo of Southern industrial development. Advancements in textile technology, the expansion of rail networks, and the spread of cotton agriculture contributed to the rise of the industry in the South, but the chief factor was--as an industry analyst of the period put it bluntly--the Southern "supply of cheap and tractable labor." The modest but steady wages offered by millowners proved attractive to poor white tenant farmers who eked out a living on the hardscrabble farms of the North Carolina Piedmont. As a class these farmers were reluctant to surrender what they regarded as the independence of an agricultural livelihood, but falling prices for cotton and tobacco--especially during the depression of the 1890s--forced many to seek an alternative.¹

Industrialists in North Carolina and neighboring states were quick to exploit the situation, which gave the region an advantage over Northeastern states where the industry was more highly developed but where higher wage rates prevailed. Mill construction rose steadily after 1880 with the most rapid development occurring between 1900 and 1905. The number of mills in the state increased from forty-nine in 1880 to ninety-one in 1890, 177 in 1900, and 281 in 1910. Textiles rose to become the leading industry in the state in the early twentieth century and North Carolina surpassed all other states in the manufacture of cotton goods. At the local level, business leaders saw cotton mills as an important stimulus to the economy of a town or county. "The mill became a rallying point for community pride," noted one observer, "and every town felt it must have a mill." Local business leaders were often motivated by a desire to provide employment to poor whites, but combined with this benevolence was the practical realization that they would benefit directly from profits and indirectly by encouraging the growth of a wage-earning consumer class in communities.²

¹ Copeland, *Cotton Manufacturing Industry*, 36-40; Winston, *Builder of the New South*, 116; and Herring, *Welfare Work*, 21. "Royall" is the original name of the mill and its village, but over time the spelling changed to "Royal."

² Copeland, *Cotton Manufacturing Industry*, 34; Webb, "Development of Industry," Appendix D; Rhyne, *Some Southern Cotton Mill Workers*, 24; Lefler and Newsome, *North*

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Statement of Significance (continued)

In 1899 the mill-building fever reached Wake Forest, a small college town located approximately fifteen miles north of the state capital at Raleigh. In October of that year the Royall Cotton Mill was incorporated by businessmen W. C. Powell, Robert E. Royall, and Thomas E. Holding. Powell had interests in naval stores, banking and railroads; Royall, who listed himself as a "capitalist" in the 1900 federal census, ran a business in Wake Forest and was also involved in the naval stores trade; and Holding operated a drug store in town. Powell and Holding were brothers-in-law of Royall, and all three were graduates and later contributors and trustees of Wake Forest College. None of the men are thought to have had prior experience in textile manufacturing. Powell served as the mill's first president, Royall as vice-president, and Holding as secretary. J. B. Carlyle and B. F. Bullard served with the other three men as the first board of directors.³

Survey of the mill site and a spur track to the Seaboard Air Line Railroad (now CSX) commenced in October 1899, the month of incorporation, and initial work on the mill may have begun in December, although most construction occurred the following year. The corporation tapped Providence, Rhode Island "architects and mill engineers" C. R. Makepeace & Co. to design its three-story brick facility, which was built by John D. Briggs. By September 1900 the corporation had acquired forty-seven acres as a site for a mill village and the construction of housing was underway. The mill began operations with 5,000 spindles; by 1908 the mill had been enlarged and the number of spindles increased to 16,000, which according to Royall Cotton Mill historian Don P. Johnston Jr. made the mill one of the largest in the state. The mill was incorporated to spin and weave cotton, and its main product was muslin sheeting and skein yarn, but in the early years it experimented with printed cloth and other products.⁴

Carolina, 548; and Herring, *Welfare Work*, 17-18.

³ Murphy, "Royall Cotton Mill Commissary;" Johnston, "History of Royall Cotton Mill;" and Branson et al, "Story of Wake Forest," 28.

⁴ Royal Cotton Mill Company Papers; Lally, *Historic Architecture of Wake County*, 271; Webb, "Development of Industry," Appendix D; Murphy, "Royall Cotton Mill Commissary;" Johnston, "History of Royall Cotton Mill;" *Blue Book [1904-05]*, 143; *Blue Book [1907-08]*, 156; and *Office Edition*, 221. Johnston's assessment of the mill's size may apply only to the ca. 1910 period; by 1920 the average number of spindles in North Carolina mills stood at 15,000 (Herring, *Welfare Work*, 22).

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Statement of Significance (continued)

The mill village constructed at the same time as the Royall Cotton Mill--romantically named Glen Royall--was an important adjunct of the undertaking. The practice of housing mill operatives in company-owned residential enclaves developed in the late nineteenth century as a practical response to the geographic and economic contexts of the state's textile industry. Prior to the common use of steam power, it was necessary to locate mills at prime water-power sites that were sometimes remote from existing communities; hence the need to create "artificial communities" in close proximity to the mills. Also, newly-hired impoverished operatives could not afford to build their own housing, leaving the mills to fill the breach. Housing supplied by the company--usually at better rents than that provided off the mill property--became one of the enticements millowners and their agents used to recruit operatives. Glen Royall's early work force is said to have come principally from a nearby area of Wake County known as "The Hurricanes," an area known for its hard-scrabble farms and moonshining, but some operatives came from other mill communities.⁵

The Royall Cotton Mill's own treasurer reported in 1901 that "Having a good location and exceptionally attractive and comfortable houses for our operatives, we are finding [it] no trouble to get labor, and that, too, of a class better than the average." But despite the best of intentions, with company-owned stores and company scrip, company-financed schools and churches, and company-operated recreational facilities, the state's mill villages came to be regarded as the definition of millowner paternalism. The Glen Royall mill village, for example, was incorporated as the town of Royall Cotton Mills in 1907 with the mill directors serving as the town commissioners. Apparently the principal motivation behind incorporation was a desire by the mill management to avoid annexation by Wake Forest, an action that would have doubled the mill's tax burden. (The town's charter was repealed in 1945 and the village was absorbed into the Town of Wake Forest in 1977.) A company-owned church and school--now incorporated into the Glen Royall Baptist Church at the corner of Elizabeth Street and East Chestnut Avenue--was erected during the first decade of the twentieth century, and a separate public graded school (no longer extant) was built on an adjoining site by 1926.⁶

⁵ Herring, *Welfare Work*, 15 and 23; Rhyne, *Some Southern Cotton Mill Workers*, 21; and Cox, "Common Thread," 6.

⁶ Royal Cotton Mill Company Papers; Johnston, "History of Royall Cotton Mill;" 1926 Sanborn map; and Cox, "Common Thread," 5-6 and 18.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

The Royal Cotton Mill Company Papers at Duke University provide detailed information on the planning and construction of the mill village. Prof. L. R. Mills (presumably of Wake Forest College) surveyed the company's property and laid out a simple grid of streets in the triangle of land bounded by the mill, the railroad, and the extension of Wake Forest's North Main Street. In March 1900 the company contracted with Franklin County builder Benjamin Thomas Hicks to erect housing for the operatives and their families. Superintendent John D. Briggs, builder of the company's mill building, provided Hicks with plans and specifications for five different types of houses--one five-room plan, two four-room plans, and two three-room plans. According to the contract, the "plans and specifications for the erection of said houses [were] prepared by said John D. Briggs." A letter written by R. E. Royall in 1929 relates a different arrangement:

"For about eighteen months . . . I employed at \$100.00 per month a Raleigh man [presumably Briggs], whom I then considered and whom I now consider one of the best builders in the State. By the way, he has for a number of years now been employed by the American Tobacco Co. to supervise the construction of all their building operations, in Durham and other cities. Well, he and I together, having the elaborate plans and specifications of a good Mill Architect, built this mill and mill village."

It may be that Briggs modified house designs provided by C. R. Makepeace & Co. for use at Glen Royall.⁷

The Hicks contract called for the erection of an initial fifteen houses and payment of from \$75 to \$125 per house. Wake Forest brickmason Willis Johnson and a team of lumber haulers and other workmen assisted Hicks, and the Cary Lumber Company and the firm of Allen Brothers provided materials for the framing and weatherboarding of the houses. The first thirty operative houses were completed by September 1901 and an additional twenty were completed by September 1902. By 1908 the total stood at about seventy-five, and by 1927 the number had increased to eighty-nine. Each group of four or so houses was provided with a single four-compartment privy; the last of these was damaged during Hurricane Fran in 1996 and was

⁷ Royal Cotton Mill Company Papers; Johnston, "History of Royall Cotton Mill."

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Statement of Significance (continued)subsequently torn down.⁸

The pyramidal, "triple-A," and shotgun houses erected at Glen Royall were representative of a new architectural approach to the mill house building type. As late as about 1880, North Carolina millowners provided housing for their operatives that was traditional in form and construction. The two-story hall-parlor plan dwellings erected after 1879 in Alamance County's Bellemont Mill Village, for example, were of a type that had prevailed in rural areas of the state since the beginning of the century. New house types appeared in neighboring Durham County by the mid-1890s; the village that developed in connection with the Erwin Cotton Mills (established in 1893) contained houses with triple-A and pyramidal roofs not unlike the houses built at Glen Royall. How-to manuals for millowners such as Daniel A. Tompkins's *Cotton Mill, Commercial Features* of 1899 featured mill house designs and likely contributed to the popularity of the new forms.⁹

Glen Royall's housing illustrates trends in mill housing design analyzed by University of North Carolina sociologist Harriet L. Herring in her 1929 study *Welfare Work in Mill Villages, The Story of Extra-Mill Activities in North Carolina*. Herring outlined the transition from traditional forms to the pyramidal cottages and other later forms, a transition she dated to about 1900. She referred to the pyramidal forms as "square-topped" houses, and she conjectured that their appearance "resulted from the beginning of the bungalow influence." True bungalows became dominant after about 1915 and "ready-cut houses" came into vogue during World War I. Millowners were careful to build a mix of houses of different room numbers so as to accommodate the needs of their renters. Three-room houses were "popular with newly married couples and small families who do not want to take boarders," whereas the larger houses permitted "doubling up" of families and the taking in of boarders during periods of peak production and employment. The evidence suggests that Glen Royall families took in boarders even if their particular house model was small. The Horton family at 724 Mill Street, for example, boarded five single men one winter during World War II. The men slept on cots in one

⁸ Ibid.; Horton, personal communication.

⁹ Dickinson, "Bellemont Mill Village;" Roberts and Lea, *Durham Architectural and Historic Inventory*, 148; and Glass, "Southern Mill Hills," 143-144 and 148.

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of the home's three rooms.¹⁰

Glen Royall displays the mix of house sizes described by Herring, as well as both triple-A and pyramidal houses with double front doors suggesting the potential for conversion into duplexes. The dominant triple-A and pyramidal forms alternate along the principal north-south streets of Elizabeth and Mill, with one type facing its mirror image across the street but flanked on each side by the other type. Mill villages where "no two adjoining houses are alike" were declared by some industry analysts to be a sign of social health, but in her interviews with mill workers Herring noted that few seemed to care whether their dwellings looked the same or different from adjoining houses. Another pattern can be traced in the placement of Glen Royall's houses. The largest of the company houses--105 E. Chestnut--the home of the mill superintendent, is located at the entrance to the village on the corner of North Main and East Chestnut, and the first houses appear to have been built nearest to the North Main approaches to the village and along the roads connecting North Main to the mill. Jack Horton, a resident of the village since 1922, recalls being told that the first houses were built along East Chestnut Avenue. The millowners presumably hoped to create a positive impression or "curb-side appeal" with prospective employees and perhaps others by building houses first at the most visible locations. Virtually all houses built after 1907 were at the east end of the village nearest to the railroad and farthest from North Main Street.¹¹

The population of the Glen Royall mill village after its first decade of development is described in the 1910 federal census population schedules for Wake County. Approximately one hundred individuals in and about Wake Forest listed the mill as their employer; some of these, particularly the managerial class, probably lived outside the village, but the remainder were apparently residents. Both women and men, girls and boys were employed. Three or more individuals in a typical household worked at the mill--often the father and his teenaged offspring. This arrangement reflected the "family labor system" that prevailed in North Carolina textile mills during the era. Millowners and their agents "purchased family labor as a package," as one observer has put it, thereby acquiring young workers who possessed the nimbleness and keen eyesight required for optimal loom operation, and adult parents who also worked but who--just

¹⁰ Herring, *Welfare Work*, 222-29; Horton, personal communication.

¹¹ Herring, *Welfare Work*, 226; Rhyne, *Some Southern Cotton Mill Workers*, 7; and Horton, personal communication.

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as importantly--provided a family support framework for the younger workers.¹²

Teenagers comprised approximately half of the mill workforce, the youngest aged twelve and thirteen. Child labor was considered by some the "greatest evil" in the industry. The mill itself refused to hire children under twelve years of age, and in 1917 federal legislation prohibited the employment of children under the age of fourteen. Restrictions on child labor in the textile industry arose partly as a result of public outcry and partly because of a realization among millowners that child labor was unprofitable. Despite restrictions, underaged children were often permitted to work as unpaid and officially unacknowledged helpers for their parents and older siblings, and it is likely that some of the Glen Royall children listed as without occupation in the census actually worked in the mill.¹³

The 1910 census indicates that the mill workforce was predominately white, and that the operatives who tended the machinery were exclusively white. Blacks were permitted jobs such as fireman, yard hand, driver, cook, and laundress. The segregationist attitudes of the time were largely responsible for this division; millowners claimed that whites would not accept blacks working in the same room as white women. Exclusion of blacks was also justified by the paternalistic rationale that textile mills were created to provide employment for needy whites, and the corresponding attitude among the white elite that blacks should be encouraged to remain in the agricultural sector. In the census population schedules whites were listed more or less as a group--suggesting a household-by-household enumeration within the village--whereas black mill employees were scattered among Wake Forest's general populace or lived in the African-American community located to the east of the mill village.¹⁴

By all accounts the first two decades of the twentieth century were prosperous years for the mill and its employees. The mill instituted a voluntary health plan about 1909 whereby ten cents per family member was deducted weekly from employee paychecks to purchase health care from a

¹² Hall, *Like a Family*, 52; Rhyne, *Some Southern Cotton Mill Workers*, 18.

¹³ Copeland, *Cotton Manufacturing Industry*, 42-43; Rhyne, *Some Southern Cotton Mill Workers*, 80; and Royal Cotton Mill Company Papers.

¹⁴ Hall, *Like a Family*, 66; Copeland, *Cotton Manufacturing Industry*, 47-48; and Horton, personal communication.

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local doctor. The mill flourished during World War I, but after 1920 economic conditions deteriorated and rancor developed between mill labor and management. Threatened with receivership in 1927, the mill failed two years later and was transferred to new ownership in a temporarily successful attempt to keep it running. In 1931, however, as the Great Depression deepened, a "voluntary temporary operating receivership was requested" by then millowner Don P. Johnston Sr., as his son Don Jr. carefully phrased it. As part of the 1931 reorganization the company's name was changed from "Royall" to "Royal." The mill made an effort to assist its employees during the period but it was eventually forced to lower wages and curtail benefits. In 1933 a writer to the *Raleigh News and Observer* described the "frozen frowns" that had been on the faces of unemployed millworkers in the village since the late 1920s.¹⁵

In 1938 Federal Writers Project reporter Ida L. Moore investigated socioeconomic conditions in the mill village as part of a statewide study of the textile industry. She discovered poorly maintained housing and unsanitary living conditions as well as despair and resentment on the part of the operatives. One laid-off worker told Moore, "I keep hopin' the mill'll need me agin, but when I let myself do real clear thinkin' I know it won't." Mary Branch, another operative who had managed to keep her job, gave Moore a poem she had written entitled "Textile Life" that "[put] down on paper what plenty of us feel." Branch described unrealistic production quotas, docking of pay, and the adverse health effects of over-work. "Our troubles and trials are many," she wrote, "Our dollars and cents are few/The Butcher, the Doctor, the Merchant we owe/And sometimes the undertaker too."¹⁶

Relations were sometimes strained between mill operatives and the citizens of the adjoining town of Wake Forest. Don P. Johnston Jr. noted that "Though the designation 'lint-head' was not commonly used against mill children in Wake Forest, they were referred to as 'cotton-mill-boys' or '-girls.' And much later, when a pool was built in Wake Forest for the whole community, there was vocal ill ease in certain sections of the town community because mill children could use the same water." But developments in the 1930s later served to strengthen ties between the two communities. Since 1900 the operatives had shopped at the mill commissary, located at the corner of Brewer and Brick avenues (8XX Brewer). The commissary closed in 1934, and

¹⁵ Herring, *Welfare Work*, 162-63; Cox, "Common Thread," 10 and 17; Johnston, "History of Royall Cotton Mill;" and *News and Observer*, September 14, 1933.

¹⁶ Moore, "Description of a Mill Village;" Federal Writers Project Papers.

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although small convenience stores were operated in the village in later years by Aubrey and Ida Davis, Morton Harding, and Jesse Wall, mill workers likely did more of their shopping in town. In 1941 the mill sold its housing to private parties, mostly mill workers. Similar sell-offs occurred throughout the state during the period for a variety of reasons, according to sociologist Harriet Herring: cost savings for the mill, a desire to counteract paternalism, and a belief that homeownership would improve community life. Herring claimed that the sell-offs would lead to a "new experiment in democracy in the South," and home ownership in Glen Royall has been a positive experience for both the mill village and Wake Forest.¹⁷

In 1945 the cotton mill was acquired by B. Everett Jordan and Willis Smith--both of whom went on to become U. S. Senators representing North Carolina--and the mill and other Jordan and Smith interests were consolidated as the Sellers Dyeing Company in 1951. The mill experimented with the production of nylon during this period, and it produced the "Royal Egyptian" yarn brand from long-staple Egyptian cotton. The mill was unionized by the Textile Workers Union of America in 1950 and in March 1951 a majority of the operatives went on strike, an action related to a Southern-wide series of textile strikes. The strikers--many of them women--picketed outside the mill gates, singing hymns and popular ballads "reworded to fit the occasion," according to one account, while other mill employees continued to work. The strike grew violent in April; dynamitings and a "pitched rifle and shotgun battle" between strikers and non-strikers the night of April 27 left three injured and prompted Governor Kerr Scott to send in the highway patrol to restore order. The strike took a toll on strikers and non-strikers alike. Carrie Tilley recalls that one of her sisters continued to work, because her husband was dead and she had a family to support, but "things got so rough" that she moved out of the community. "Times like that you don't know what they might do to your house," Tilley recalls. The strikers were apparently unable to win concessions from management and the strike ended, according to local historian R. James Cox Jr. According to longtime village resident Jack Horton, "They didn't get nothing here [and they] all decided to go back to work."¹⁸

¹⁷ Johnston, "History of Royall Cotton Mill;" Herring, *Passing of the Mill Village*, 16 and 117.

¹⁸ Bulla, *Textiles and Politics*, 174 and 203-205; *News and Observer*, April 7, 8, 26, 27, 28 and 29 and May 7 and 8; Horton and Tilley, personal communications; and Cox, "Common Thread," 19.

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"Steady, regular" times prevailed after 1951, according to Cox, but by the 1960s there were indications of trouble for the mill and for the community it supported. At mid-decade a Sellers executive reported that the Royal Cotton Mill was "not modern and [had] no prospects of becoming a really new mill." In the 1970s the shift from cotton to synthetics in clothing cut into the mill's market, and in April 1976 the mill was closed. A year later the Town of Wake Forest forcibly annexed the mill village. In more recent years the village has experienced something of a renaissance as the Wake Forest area has benefitted from its proximity to Research Triangle Park and the burgeoning cities of North Carolina's Triangle. Newcomers find the neighborhood an attractive and relatively affordable place to live in the regional context. Increased interest in the heritage of the village and in its economic potential has led to the redevelopment of the mill and its commissary as housing and the placement of the commissary in the National Register of Historic Places. In 1994 properties in the village were featured for the first time in the Wake Forest Historic Preservation Commission's Christmas homes tour. These and other private- and public-sector initiatives will continue to enhance the character of the Glen Royall Mill Village.¹⁹

Acknowledgments

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¹⁹ Cox, "Common Thread," 19 and 24-29; Bulla, *Textiles and Politics*, 196; and Murphy, "Royall Cotton Mill Commissary."

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District are portrayed on the 1:200-scale map that accompanies the nomination. Generally speaking the district is bounded on the west by North Main Street; on the north by the Royall Cotton Mill parcel; on the east by the CSX rail line; and on the south by East Cedar Street.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District encompass the entirety of the historic village area with the addition at the south end of properties that include the 1909 Powell-White House, associated with the family of one of the mill owners, and the 1947-48 Wake Forest Church of God, attended by many village residents. Surrounding areas are characterized by loss of integrity or are not directly associated with the development of the district.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs are of: Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District, Wake Forest, N.C.

1. 1. Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District (same for all photos)
2. Wake Co., N.C. (same for all photos)
3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (same for all photos)
4. Date of photograph: 1998 (same for all photos)
5. Location of negative: Division of Archives and History, Raleigh (same for all photos)
6. 200 block of Brick Ave., north side. Direction of view: east
7. The photograph number appears at the top of each heading
2. 6. 200 block of E. Chestnut Ave., north side. Direction of view: east
3. 6. 100 block of E. Cedar St., north side, with Wake Forest Church of God on right.
Direction of view: northwest
4. 6. 700 block of Brewer Ave., east side, showing noncontributing modern houses.
Direction of view: northeast
5. 6. House (113 E. Chestnut Ave.). Direction of view: northeast
6. 6. House (117 E. Chestnut Ave.). Direction of view: north
7. 6. Jesse Wall Store (2XX Brick Ave.). Direction of view: southeast
8. 6. Powell-White House (614 N. Main St.). Direction of view: east

Glen Royall Mill Village Historic District

Wake Forest, Wake County, North Carolina

Scale: 1 inch equals 200 feet

Heavy line indicates district boundaries. Inventory numbers (with periods) and street addresses (without periods) indicated. Contributing resources indicated by black circles; noncontributing resources by open circles. Direction of view of nomination photographs indicated by triangular markers and keyed by number to photo list. "V" indicates vacant lot.



