

PH0665606

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 27 1978

DATE ENTERED SEP 18 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

**

Dallas Mill
AND/OR COMMON

Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

701 Dallas Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Huntsville

VICINITY OF

5

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alabama

01

Madison

089

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

X PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

X COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

X YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

NO

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

C. M. Elrod and E. W. Buffington

STREET & NUMBER

306 West Mann Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Boaz

VICINITY OF

Alabama 35957

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Madison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Huntsville

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dallas Mill, designed by the Boston firm of Lockwood and Greene, is primarily influenced by the Italianate style. The proportions of the overall design are far superior to the average late 19th century mill in Alabama and the structure is a good example of design which is functional and handsome without being elaborate. The mill is located on a 14 acre tract in northeast Huntsville and consists of the five-story mill building plus several one-story structures.

The main structure is approximately 650 by 110 feet and was built in two phases. The southern half was constructed in 1891, while the northern addition of approximately 350 feet was made in 1899. The entire structure rests on a foundation of limestone rubble. The roof is a low pitched (almost flat) gable which may have been originally a built up type. Exterior brick bearing walls are pierced by deep-set windows with segmental-arched heads which serve as structural brick arches. Brick areas between the windows are centered on the floor and roof beams and thus act as brick columns about three feet wide. Beams project about two feet at the roof to form an overhang and are clearly visible to express the structure. Due to the large size of the building, the beams appear as modillions.

The deep-set sashes (c. 18 inches) are sloped at a 45° angle which makes for an extremely crisp, clean cut appearance of the wall openings. The proportion of the window openings in relation to the solid portions of the wall is in a two to three horizontal and a two to five vertical relationship which produces excellent proportions close to the classical mean.

The two towers that house the water tanks project well above the roof and end in a pyramidal standing-seam metal roof with a turned-wood finial about three feet high. The square brick towers have four round-arched slim, vertical windows on either side of the towers and serve as an effective visual counterpoint to the horizontal mass of the main mill. Two very large brick stacks with decorative caps rise from the boiler room.

Floor and roof beams are at right angles to the side walls and are supported by turned wood columns which vary from 8" to 12" (depending on the story). The columns have cast-iron caps of a faintly "Doric" shape and cast-iron beam attachments. The bottom five inches of the columns are spirally wrapped with 1" wide strapping to protect them from cart crashes.

Floor beams measure about 12 by 18 inches, pine with neatly chamfered corners and are spaced approximately 8 feet apart. Ends bear on the brick walls. Subfloors are 3 x 8 pine with both bottom corners beaded, while the finish floor is mostly 1 x 3 hard, edgegrain maple which is still in excellent condition.

Window sashes are wood-divided light type: the top third pivots inward horizontally and the bottom 2/3 pivots horizontally at the center line. Consequently the windows form awnings when open without blocking aisle traffic and can be left open even in a hard rain without unduly wetting the aisle floor.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 27 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 18 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The structure is divided into two halves by fire walls which enclose a central stair and a freight elevator. Stairs are also located at either end of the structure. All interior brick corners, sashes, door jambs and heads are made rounded in about a two-inch radius, which prevents chipped and dangerous corners.

Each floor had a central longitudinal drive shaft, presumably 660 feet long with power take-off pulleys to drive the various machines. The firewall penetrations for these main drive shafts are still in place, as is the original boiler which is 16 x 16 x 24, three-cell brick cased.

A well in the basement, lined with smooth stones, taps one of the main feeder channels of Huntsville's 50 million gallon a day "Big Spring".

North of the main building are two large one-story cotton warehouses measuring approximately 350' by 110'. Both date from the late 19th century but have been covered with metal siding. Each warehouse was divided into six compartments holding 1,000 bales of cotton each. A small one-story brick building is located between the two warehouses and served as the opening house.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1891 - 1899 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Lockwood and Greene

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dallas Mill is one of north Alabama's finest industrial landmarks, noted both for its architectural quality and for its associations with the development of the cotton milling industry in Huntsville. The Dallas Mill was the first large weaving mill to be located in that city and its success encouraged others to follow. Begun in 1891, the mill was designed by the Boston architectural firm of Lockwood and Greene, which designed many of the southern mills. Although stripped of its equipment and used as storage space, the mill is in good structural condition.

In 1886 a group of businessmen formed an organization, the North Alabama Improvement Company, to promote Huntsville as an industrial site. The first big success was the Dallas Manufacturing Company which received its incorporation certificate on February 26, 1891. It set a precedent which other mills would follow by acquiring the bulk of its capital from outside the state while the local people took only small subscriptions. Trev B. Dallas and G. M. Fogg, both of Nashville, and S. M. Milliken of New York were the major stockholders, each subscribing for \$20,000. T. B. Dallas was the driving force behind the establishment of the mill and became its general manager once it was in operation, although he continued to reside in Nashville where the mill office was located until 1902.

Unlike the Huntsville Cotton Mill established ten years earlier to produce cotton yarns, the Dallas Mill was a weaving mill chartered to "manufacture cotton and wollen goods and fabrics from raw material preparing the same for market by dyeing (and) bleaching." However, its main product seems to have been cotton sheeting which was then shipped north for processing. Construction of the mill began in 1891 and operations commenced November 16, 1892; by 1894 it had 25,000 spindles and 704 looms run by 516 hands. In 1899 the stock was increased by 6,140 shares to provide funds for the enlargement of the mill. The addition was designed by Greene of New York, presumably the same Greene who designed the original building. The addition doubled the size of the mill. The subscriptions for this new stock were to be paid to Deering Milliken and Company, New York City. At this time S. M. Milliken owned 708½ shares making him the largest single stockholder and in 1900 he was elected president of Dallas Manufacturing Company.

The mill continued in operation as one of the largest employers in Huntsville until labor unrest in the late 1930's led to its eventual closing. In 1949 the building was sold to Claude Elrod and Eugene Buffington, for \$175,000. Dallas stockholders finally dissolved their corporation in 1952 having already devalued the stock to \$10 a share and disposed of all the property. The building is currently leased to General Shoe which uses it for their shipping department.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bayer, Linda. Correspondence, information from files of Huntsville Planning Commission. September 13, 1977.

Democrat. 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, 1904, 1921, 1924.

Madison County Corporation Books. Volumes 1, 2 and 4.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 14 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Huntsville 7.5 Minute Series

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>10</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>10</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>6</u> <u>10</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>10</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>10</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>10</u>
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

DATE

March 14, 1978

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

STATE

Alabama 36130

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Miss B. Howard, Jr.

TITLE

SHPO Alabama

DATE

March 15, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

R. B. Potts

DATE

9/18/78

ATTEST:

William L. Bouch

DATE

Sept 13, 1978

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 27 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 18 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Mercury. 1891, 1890.

Weekly Mercury. 1890-1893, 1900.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 27 1978
DATE ENTERED	SEP 18 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

Beginning at the intersection of the south margin of Oakwood Avenue and the west margin of Dallas Street thence in a southwesterly direction along the west margin of Dallas Street approximately 1310 feet to a ditch, thence along the ditch in a southwesterly direction approximately 500 feet to the main line of the Southern Railroad, thence along said main line of the Southern Railroad approximately 1480 feet in a northeasterly direction to the south margin of Oakwood Avenue, then along said margin of Oakwood Avenue in an eastern direction approximately 400 feet to the point of beginning.