

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

RECEIVED 2280  
JAN 29 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Inman Mills  
Other names/site number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of related multiple property listing:  
Textile Mills in South Carolina Designed by W.B. Smith Whaley, 1893-1903  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)


### 2. Location

Street & number: 240 4<sup>th</sup> St. zip 29349  
City or town: Inman State: South Carolina County: Spartanburg  
Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following  
level(s) of significance:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ statewide x local  
Applicable National Register Criteria:  
x A \_\_\_ B x C \_\_\_ D

		<u>1/15/2016</u>
Elizabeth M. Johnson, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer:		Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		

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In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

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**Signature of commenting official:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Title :** \_\_\_\_\_ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

  
Signature of the Keeper

3/15/14  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site

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Structure

Object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>                    </u>	buildings
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	sites
<u>7</u>	<u>                    </u>	structures
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	objects
<u>13</u>	<u>                    </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry/Manufacturing Facility  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Vacant/Not in Use  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK

### Main Mill Building, Power Plant, Cotton Warehouse, Guard House, Pump House, Fire Hydrants:

Foundation: Concrete    Walls: Brick    Roof: Concrete

**Warehouse:**    Foundation: Concrete    Walls: Concrete (CMU)    Roof: Concrete

**Smokestack:**    Foundation: Concrete    Walls: Brick

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary Paragraph

Inman Mills is located at 240 4th Street, Inman, South Carolina and it encompasses 19.48 acres of property, which is bounded on the north by 1st Street, east by Park Road, south by 4th Street, and west by Cothran Creek Road. The original design and master plan for the mill was created by the architect W.B. Smith Whaley who was the preeminent architect for textile mills in South Carolina from 1893-1903. The facility was originally owned by the Chapman family and it was constructed in 1902. Inman Mills greatly influenced the economy of Spartanburg and functioned as a cotton mill from 1902 until its closure in 2001. The facility consists of six contributing buildings: the main mill building, a power plant, a pump house, a cotton warehouse, a storage warehouse, and a guard house. Additionally, there are seven contributing structures which include a smokestack, and six small brick structures that house fire hydrants around the mill. The building is typical of mill buildings of the period; it is constructed of structural masonry walls, heavy timber framing, and steel "factory" windows. The main buildings have low-pitched roofs and the outbuildings have sloped roofs. Each building form is representative of the particular function contained within and, although it has been vacant for some time, it still retains a majority of its historic character. The mill was completed in several phases over a number of years. The total built area is approximately 270,000 square feet. This property is historically significant because of the designer W.B. Smith Whaley whose work (including Inman Mills) has already been included in the National Historic Register of Historic Places Multiple Property

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Documentation Form in 1990 and because it has been preserved as an intact example of the textile mill designs at the turn of the twentieth century.

## Narrative Description

### INVENTORY OF RESOURCES

#### 1. Main Mill Building (1902, 1909, 1928, 1952): Contributing Building

The main mill building at Inman Mills is a 79ft x 612ft rectangular brick building oriented north to south and tilted twenty degrees west of “due North.” The building is four stories high with an interior ceiling height of fifteen feet for each level. Constructed in 1902, the mill experienced major additions in 1909, 1928, and 1952, which collectively resulted in a tripling of its original size.

The structure of the mill is comprised of load bearing masonry walls and heavy timber construction that uses a double row of wood and steel columns to support the interior wood deck floor systems. On the exterior of the building, the masonry walls created a pattern of repetitive rows of load bearing masonry buttresses with four segmental arched windows stacked on top of each other in between each row. The segmental arched openings measure 10’10” tall and they



Figure 1- Inman Mills, c. 1926

originally flooded the interior spaces with natural sunlight and ventilation (Figure 1), however, most of these window openings on the façades of the building were in-filled with brick for air conditioning purposes in 1952 (Photos 1 through 9). The interior spaces in the mill were designed to have a simple open floor plan layout where workers and mill equipment could be laid out in a flexible manner (Photos 10 through 13).

The elongated rectangular shape of the main mill building was attained after two large additions were constructed on the south side of the original 1902 portion of the building; the first addition done in 1909 and the second one done in 1928, reaching its total length of 612 ft. These additions maintained the same Romanesque Revival architectural features, proportions and details that are evident in the original 1902 portion of the mill.

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A significant feature of the mill is an entrance tower (1902) located on the east elevation of the 1902 portion of the main mill building (Photos 2). This tower measures 24 feet x 24 feet and extends beyond the height of the main mill building, measuring a total height of 105 feet. On the ground floor, the tower has a semi-circular arched opening on each of its three elevations. The arched opening located on the north façade of the tower has a double door and functions as the main entrance on the east side of the main mill building (Photo 14). This entrance leads users to the first floor of the mill and to a main set of stairs in the tower that provides access to all floors and the roof (Photo 15). The arched openings on the east elevation of the tower has a five-over-four industrial metal window (Photo 16). The arched element on the south elevation of the tower is in-filled with brick (Photo 17). Above these semi-circular arched openings, on each elevation, the tower features four windows stacked on top of each other with semi-circular arched brickwork above the highest window with a limestone keystone inserted in the center of the arch (Photo 2). Above these windows, at the highest point of the tower, there are three semi-circular arched openings placed next to each other. These enclose a space that once housed a water tank. These openings and windows are accompanied by a corbelled brick cornice and other corbelled brick details (Photo 18).

This entrance tower was originally topped by a pyramidal roof that was destroyed or removed at some point in the mill's history (Figure 1 and 2). The tower is now topped by a pitched roof that is obscured from view by a short parapet (Photo 18).

On the west side of the 1902 portion of the mill, there is another

24 feet x 24 feet tower (1902) that measures

the same height of the main mill building, and houses a freight elevator and restrooms. The elevations of this tower include decorative brickwork, such as corbelled brick cornices and the same decorative terra cotta cap that tops nearly the entire building. Originally, on the north and south façades of this tower, there were four four-over-four industrial metal windows stacked on top of each other, one for each level, and on its west façade it had two windows per level. The original four-over-four windows remain on the north and west elevations, though several panes of glass are missing or covered. However, additions that were constructed around this tower covered up portions of its façade; including a one-story addition that covered up the first story



Figure 2-Inman Mills - Postcard - circa 1910

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portion of the tower's west and north elevations, and a larger addition, constructed in 1952, that covered its entire south elevation (Photos 8 and 19).

Besides this original 1902 tower, the west elevation of the main mill building has multiple additions that were completed after 1928; including two 29 feet x 60 feet<sup>1</sup> air conditioning towers (1952) of the same height of the main mill building, located at opposite ends on the west side of the main mill building (Photos 6 and 8). Both of these air conditioning towers have no decorative corbelled brickwork, nor any signs of the historical Romanesque Revival style that the main mill building exhibits. The northwest air conditioning tower is located against the west elevation of the 1902 portion of the mill and against the previously mentioned western tower, covering its southern elevation (Photos 8 and 19). The first story portion of the air conditioning tower's west elevation and a portion of its south elevations were covered up by a one-story addition done to the power plant located southwest of this tower (Photo 20).

On the opposite end of the mill, the southwest air conditioning tower is located against the west elevation of the 1928 portion of the main mill building. The south elevation of this tower has a large, eight-over-six industrial metal window that brought in light to a small office located on the first floor, and three large openings that functioned as exhaust vents; one on the second floor and two on the third floor (Photo 6). On the west elevation, the tower has one of these vent openings on the second floor and another on the ground level. There is a small brick structure (1952) that rests against the tower's west elevation and contains a set of stairs that lead users to a utility corridor located below the first level (Photo 6 and 22). Against the north elevation of the air conditioning tower there is an elevator shaft (1952) that measures 10 feet x 13 feet and has a rectangular loading dock that extends 25 feet from its west elevation and is raised 4 feet high from the ground level. This loading dock is built of CMU walls that support a concrete slab (Photo 21 and 22).

A 38 feet x 25 feet tower that contains a set of fire stairs and restrooms is located adjacent to the elevator shaft and is part of the 1928 large addition to the main mill building (Photo 7). The northern portion of this tower contains men's and women's restrooms divided by a masonry wall. On the second, third, and fourth floors there are both male and female restrooms placed next to each other. On the first floor, there is a male restroom and a loading area which substituted for the female restroom. On the southern portion of the tower, the structure contains a set of steel stairs that access all floors in the main mill building. Below the first floor, there is a ramp that leads users to the ground floor, which is 4 feet below, and to a double-door located on the west elevation of the tower. The northern portion of the west elevation of this stair/restroom tower contains paired four-over-four industrial metal windows for each restroom on the second, third, and fourth floors, each with a stone sill. The southern portion, the west elevation of the tower contains another four-over-four industrial metal windows of slightly larger dimension, which also features stone sills and is located on each stair landing. The uppermost of these larger windows is covered by a metal awning. The south elevation of this tower has only a four-over-four window, which matches the dimensions of the larger windows on the western elevation, and also includes a metal awning. Lastly, the north elevation of the tower has paired four-over-four industrial metal windows with a stone sill located on each floor (Photo 23).

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Against the west elevation of this tower, on the ground level, there is a loading dock consisting of a concrete slab on CMU walls that measures 13 feet x 20 feet and is 4 feet high in elevation. The loading dock has steel structure that supports a steel deck roof and rests against the exterior bearing wall. There is a metal wall panel on the north elevation of this structure supported by a zee girt steel element. On the south side of the loading dock and against the masonry wall there is a set of metal stairs with railing on its sides. Lastly, there is a set of dock leveler and bumper guards against the CMU wall on the north elevation of the structure. (Photo 7).

Adjacent to this stair/restroom tower there is a one story brick addition (1972) measuring 28 feet x 60 feet that previously functioned as a mechanical room. This structure has a large square opening on the southern portion of its west elevation. (Photo 24).

North of this mechanical room there is a 26 feet x 52 feet one-story addition (1928) which was placed against the 1909 portion of the main mill building. This addition contains restrooms and showers and it can be accessed both from the inside of the mill and from the exterior. The structure has two windows on its west elevation and a double door on its north elevation (Photo 25 and 26).

Right against the north elevation of this one-story restroom building there is a smaller one-story addition (1931) also placed against the 1909 portion of the main mill building's west elevation. The structure measures 15 feet x 28 feet and functioned as the switch room for the power plant. This room can be accessed from the interior of the mill, the interior of the power plant and from the exterior through a double door located on its west elevation (Photo 27).

The north elevation of the main mill building is composed of seven rows containing three segmental arched infilled openings stacked on top of each other (Photos 1 and 9). The north elevation also has a 14 feet x 16 feet brick elevator shaft (1940) placed against the fifth row counting from left to right, and extends up to the third floor. The north façade of this elevator shaft has a small square window for natural sunlight. This elevator was used to transport the raw material to the second and third floors of the mill. Additionally, a one story brick addition was located against the north façade of the mill and was placed in relation to the railroad that extended onto the site. To access this addition from the interior of the main mill building, the original segmental arched windows on the first floor were turned into full-height segmental arched openings. This addition was designed to function as the area where raw cotton was taken off the train, unpackaged, and then distributed to the first step in textile process. Due to the angled orientation of the railroad, this extension of the building is irregular in shape and, on its angled northwest façade, it has a set of rolling doors that face the railroad. Also, on the northern side of this structure there is a two story portion of this building that can be accessed from the outside and originally included a special skylight, no longer extant, that allowed trained workers to grade the cotton (Photo 1). This one story addition on the north side of the mill extends around the northwest corner of the main mill building and connects to an additional one-story addition on the west that served as storage (Photo 8).

In contrast to all the other elevations of the mill, the south façade contains no additions and includes seven rows of segmental arched openings that have also been infilled with brick when



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air conditioning was added to the facility (Photo 4). These rows are composed of four infilled openings stacked on top of each other. The three rows located on the western portion of this elevation contain one extra segmental arched opening of smaller size that extends below the first floor where a utility corridor is located. Additionally, on the south elevation there is a double metal door that was added to the second full row of the second column from the left.

## **2. Power Plant (1902) : Contributing Building**

The Power Plant is a two-story 84 feet x 64 feet rectangular brick building designed to produce power for the mill. This building runs east to west and it is located on the west side of the main mill building. The elevations of the power plant also exhibit Romanesque Revival detailing: its north and south elevations display six rows of two windows stacked on top of each other, with a semi-circular arched detail at the top of each row (Photo 19 and 28). The west side has five of these same rows (Photo 20). Similar to the main mill building, most of the window openings were sealed with brick for air conditioning purposes.

In addition to the main exterior entrance on the south side—two-panel double doors with divided light windows and transom above—the power plant can also be accessed from the first and second floors of the main mill building where a narrow structure extends from the 1902 portion of the main mill building’s west elevation and connects to the power plant’s east elevation. This extension is located between the previously mentioned structure that functioned as the switch room and the north-west air conditioning tower (Photo 29).

The interior of the power plant is divided into three rooms: Boiler Room, Engine Room, and Machine Shop. The Boiler Room is located on the far west side of the power plant and is a 41 feet x 64 feet space that contained a steam generator. This room was located in relation to an industrial railway, which brought in the coal supply, and in relation to the smokestack, which discharged the coal flue gases produced in the process. The interior of the boiler room measures the full height of the two-story building and its ground level sits below the first floor level. From this room, a utility corridor located under the east portion of the power plant can be accessed. Adjacent to the south elevation of the boiler room, there is a modern metal building that was constructed in 1952. From the interior of this metal building, users can access the boiler room through an opening on the south façade of the power plant (Photo 30). Next to the boiler room is the engine room, which is a 41 feet x 64 feet space that housed the steam engine and two exciters that powered the facility since its early years. The utility corridor under this room contained a water condenser, a fire pump, and equipment for supplying water to the boilers, the air moistening system and toilet rooms throughout the mill (Photo 31). On the east side of the power plant is the machine shop which measures 27 feet x 56 feet and contained the switchboard and all necessary instruments and controls necessary for the running of the power plant. Below the machine shop the utility corridor houses the ventilating fan and heating coils. Also, the electrical wires passed over the ceiling of the machine shop and continued into the utility corridor. The corridor extends under the mill, distributing energy to the different floors of the building to power the motors and lighting transformers (Photo 31).

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Additionally, there is a 24 feet x 38 feet brick, one-story structure that projects from the north elevation of the power plant. This wing is part of the machine shop and can be accessed from the interior of the building and from the exterior through wooden double doors with three-over-three windows located on the north elevation. The elevations of this structure have four windows; two located on the north elevation to the right of the double door, and two on the west elevation. Below the double door on the north elevation, there is another double door that leads to the utility corridor located under the power plant (Photo 20).

Also, the second floor of the Power Plant can be accessed from the main mill building through a small elongated structure accessed from the second floor of the mill. From this structure a large fire door on the east elevation of the power plant leads users to a space located directly above the engine room and the machine shop (Photo 29 and 32).

### **3. Cotton Warehouse (1902 , 1908, 1909, 1920): Contributing Building**

The Cotton Warehouse is a 100 feet x 257 feet two-story, rectangular brick building positioned on the north-west side of the main mill building and is adjacent to the railroad. The building is divided into five, two-story structures separated by large brick walls (Photo 33). These walls protrude through the east and west façades, and the roof; on the exterior they extend a foot out beyond the elevations, and at the top, a third portion of these walls angle out and extend 2 feet away from the façade. A gable roof is supported by these walls and by steel structure in the interior of the warehouse.

On the west side of this building there is a 46 feet x 60 feet concrete platform elevated 3 feet high and covered by a metal roof supported by a steel structure; this platforms leads to five steel rolling doors on the west elevation, allowing for access to the five rooms on the first floor. A 6 feet wide concrete ramp, located adjacent to the south elevation, rises from the platform on the west and ends at an elevation of 10 feet on a 15 feet x 260 feet concrete platform that runs along the east façade of the building. Below the east platform there is a door that also leads to the first floor. From this higher platform five wooden doors on the east wooden wall allow for access to the five rooms on the second floor rooms in the warehouse (Photo 34).

This building was strategically designed to be built in phases; in 1902 only one of these five two story structures was built. The second room was added in 1908, followed by a third one built in 1909, and finally two more rooms were added in 1920. As these structures were being added, the style of each room remained similar composed of CMU construction and steel structural elements (Photo 35).

### **4. Warehouse (1955) (1958): Contributing Building**

This building is a 200 feet x 100 feet one story rectangular building positioned on the south/west end of the property where it functioned as a warehouse space with rooms reserved for the repair of mechanical equipment (Photo 36). This building is the newest addition to the facility, and it employs CMU construction with steel columns in the interior supporting steel beams that hold up a wood deck roof system. The building is divided into two rooms; the northern one (1955), containing a loom repair shop built in 1955 (Photo 37), and the southern one being added in

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1958. To access these rooms two sliding wooden doors are located on the east side of the warehouse. Additionally, a 30 feet x 40 feet one-story structure is located adjacent to the north elevation of the building functioning as a lift repair shop (Photo 36). Although the type of construction of this building does not resemble the characteristic Romanesque Style that the older buildings possess, the warehouse was still of great importance for the functioning of the plant.

#### **5. Guard House (1928): Contributing Building**

A guard house that measures 10 feet x 10 feet is also found in the property on the northern entry coming from First Street. This small brick structure has one window on its north, east and west façade and a door on its south façade. The structure was placed on the sloped terrain that borders the property along Park Rd. and, to access it, a set of concrete stairs leads users to its entrance (Photo 38).

#### **6. Pump House (1902): Contributing Building**

This small building measures 14 feet x 16 feet and is located west of the south entrance of the power plant. The pump house is primarily subterranean and it is built of brick walls on concrete foundation supporting a pitched concrete roof. A set of stairs located on the east elevation of this structure leads users to a door on the north elevation (Photos 28, 39 and 40).

#### **7. Smoke Stack (1902): Contributing Structure**

The smokestack at Inman Mills is located adjacent to the north elevation of the power plant and in relation to the boiler room in it (Photo 19). The structure has an elongated tapered form constructed of brick and measures 150 feet in height. The smokestack sits on a concrete foundation and at the base it has a segmental arched steel door that measures 3 feet x 4 feet. At 15 feet in height, the smokestack has a narrow bridge-like structure that extends 90 degrees from the smokestack and connects to the north elevation of the power plant (Photo 41). This elbow structure is supported by steel and wood beams that support a wood deck and the brick walls that then support a concrete slab roof. When it was functional, this elbow structure was the medium through which the flue gases produced by the boiler in the power plant were discharged.

#### **8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13. Fire Hose Houses (1902): 6 Contributing Structures**

Additional contributing structures on the site include five 8 feet x 8 feet small brick structures that measure 7 feet in height and house fire hydrants around the mill. These structures are composed of masonry walls that support a sloped concrete slab roof. Two of these fire hose houses are located apart from each other and near the center of the east elevation of the main mill building on the base of the sloped ground across the private driveway (Photo 2, 3 and 14). A third fire hose house is located near the southwest corner of the main mill building on the main parking area (Photo 6). A fourth fire hose house is located on the west side of the main mill building, south of the power plant on the main parking area (Photo 24). A fifth fire hydrant is found on the northwest side of the main mill building, on a grassed area near the smokestack and power plant (Photo 20).

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### Site

The property, which is irregular in shape, encompasses 19.48 acres and is bounded on the north by 1<sup>st</sup> St., east by Park Rd, south by 4<sup>th</sup> St., and west by Cothran Creek Rd. The site portrays an industrial setting with all buildings and infrastructure located on the east side of the establishment. The property is surrounded by a 7 feet tall chain link fence with two main entrances: the first entrance is accessed from 1<sup>st</sup> St and leads users to a private driveway located on the east side of the main mill building. This private driveway runs parallel to Park Rd. and extends the full length of the main mill building. On the east side of the property there is a row of twenty-two pin oak trees that provide shade to on-street parking located on Park Rd. Between Park Rd. and the private driveway, the site slopes and drops 10 feet in elevation towards the mill (Photo 3).

At the south east corner of the building, the private driveway turns to run parallel to 4<sup>th</sup> street where the second main entrance is located. This entrance leads users to a main parking area located on the west side of the main mill building (Photo 7 and 8). Additionally, a portion of the Southern Railway extended onto the site to facilitate the loading and unloading of shipments. Today, remnants of this railroad can be found on the north side of the property.

In contrast to the industrial setting on the east side of the property, the west side portrays an open pasture with a creek that runs north to south. Beyond the creek, the property has no buildings or paving except for some utility poles that also run north to south and continue extending beyond the property.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

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

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Industry

Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1902-1958

**Significant Dates**

1902

1909

1928

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

W.B. Smith Whaley

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Inman Mills is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion A for its contribution to the development of the textile industry in Inman, South Carolina, during the years 1902-1958. Inman Mills had a central role in the economic and physical development of the city of Inman in South Carolina. In addition, Inman Mills is eligible for listing under Criterion C as a well preserved example of the architecture and engineering of a major southern textile mill. Designed by W.B. Smith Whaley in the Romanesque Revival style, Inman Mills retains its multi-story entrance tower, uniform fenestration with buttresses inserted at regular intervals, and, though the windows were bricked-in during the mid-twentieth century, the window openings remain readily apparent. The architectural features and physical integrity of the plant meet the registration requirements set forth in the MPS document "*Textile Mills in South Carolina Designed by W.B. Smith Whaley, 1893-1903.*"

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **Criterion A**

#### **Industry**

Inman Mills is significant in the area of industry as it had a central role in the economic and physical development of the city of Inman in South Carolina.

Nearly from the founding of the Carolina Colony in 1670 until the Civil War, the state had an agricultural economy based on slave labor. Development occurred first along the coast before eventually pushing further into the upcountry, eventually coming even to the area around the present site of Inman Mills. Most settlements took place up and down stream valleys whose floodplains were ideally suited for agriculture. Textile production was limited to homespun wool and linen for domestic manufacture of cloth which was traded locally, however, most cloth was imported from the British Empire which had woolens and cottons of far finer quality. In addition to the superior quality, the British actively defended against the export of technologies and skilled workmen, ensuring their dominance in the world cloth market.<sup>1</sup>

After the American Revolution (1775-1783) Britain remained America's largest trade partner, but domestic manufacture of textiles also expanded significantly.<sup>2</sup> Samuel Slater was an Englishman who worked in a British textile mill between 1783 and 1789 as a mid-level manager.

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<sup>1</sup> Jamieson, Claire E., "Change in the Textile Mill Villages of South Carolina's Upstate During the Modern South Era." Master's Thesis, University of Tennessee, 2010. [http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk\\_gradthes/635](http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_gradthes/635)

<sup>2</sup> Braley, Chad O. *Mills in the Upcountry: A Historic Context, and a Summary of a Mill Site on the Peters Creek Heritage Preserve, Spartanburg County, South Carolina*. Athens, GA: Southeastern Archeological Services, 2005. Print.

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He immigrated to the United States in 1789 and founded a water-powered spinning mill near the Blackstone River at Pawtucket, Massachusetts. Like the British, Slater established a mill village built to attract and retain labor.<sup>3</sup>

Many industrialists followed Slater's blueprint for the construction of mills and mill villages, and in 1816 the first cotton mills were erected in the Spartanburg County by the Hill and the Weaver brothers from New England. These first mills were comparatively small, with only 500 spindles.<sup>4</sup> In Spartanburg County, Hill's Factory (1816), Bivins Mill (1836) at Glendale, and the Enoree Manufacturing Company in Enoree, S. C. (1888), were by necessity built close to rivers. However, by the mid twentieth century, with the development of steam power, hydroelectric power, and improvements in transportation networks, most small water-powered industries became obsolete. In the late nineteenth century, steam-powered mills were built in Spartanburg County such as Spartan Mills (1888) in Spartanburg, Saxon Mill in North Spartanburg, and Drayton Mill (1902) north of Spartanburg.<sup>5</sup>

The South was moving towards a more balanced economic development. In 1850 there were eighteen cotton mills in South Carolina; by 1892 there were fifty-one; and by 1900 there were 115.<sup>6</sup> This continuous growth inspired James A. Chapman to invest in the emerging textile industry.<sup>7</sup>

Chapman was a native of the Spartanburg area who practiced law in New York and Middlesboro, Kentucky.<sup>8</sup> Chapman returned to Inman, South Carolina and joined with his brother, uncle, and community leaders to raise \$150,000 needed to construct a textile mill and mill homes just outside of the city of Inman. The mill was named for the town where it is located, becoming Inman Mills.<sup>9</sup>

The site selected was nearly 600 acres of farmland near a small stream just north of the Southern Railway that connected Spartanburg and Ashville, NC. While the area was rich in cotton and other natural resources, it had a relatively low population. Chapman recruited families from the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee who were willing to work for Inman Mills and live in the mill village that he created. The mill was able to commence operations in the fall of 1902,

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<sup>3</sup> Jamieson, Claire E., "Change in the Textile Mill Villages of South Carolina's Upstate During the Modern South Era." Master's Thesis, University of Tennessee, 2010. [http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk\\_gradthes/635](http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_gradthes/635)

<sup>4</sup> Spartanburg Unit of the Writers' Program of the Work Projects Administration in the State of South Carolina, *A History of Spartanburg County* (Spartanburg, SC: The Spartanburg Branch, American Association of University Women, 1940), 73.

<sup>5</sup> Teter, Betsy Wakefield, ed. *Textile Town: Spartanburg County, South Carolina*. Spartanburg, SC: Hub City Writers Project, 2002.

<sup>6</sup> Braley, Chad O. *Mills in the Upcountry: A Historic Context, and a Summary of a Mill Site on the Peters Creek Heritage Preserve, Spartanburg County, South Carolina*. Athens, GA: Southeastern Archeological Services, 2005. Print.

<sup>7</sup> "About Us." Inman Sod N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Oct. 2014.

<sup>8</sup> "About Us." Inman Mills. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Oct. 2014.

<sup>9</sup> "Inman Mills Past, Present and Future" Presented at 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at Cleveland Park. N.p Pamphlet Nov 16, 2002. Web 26 Feb 2015.



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but because most laborers were new to the textile industry training was required.<sup>10</sup> Chapman started a company that was people-oriented, and stressed quality and service.<sup>11</sup>

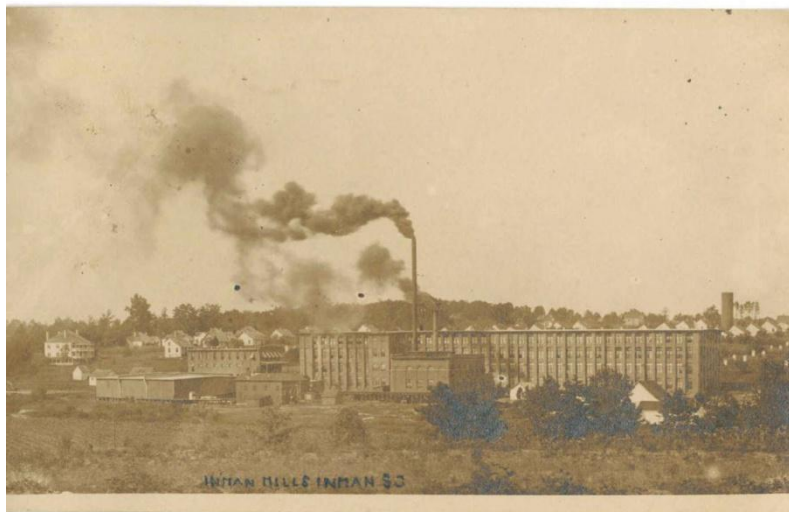


Figure 3-Inman Mills - Postcard - circa 1910

The architecture and engineering firm W.B. Smith and Whaley designed the mill to be equipped with electric generators and motors, a vertical engine, upright boilers, and other industrial equipment from the best machinery manufacturers in the North at the time. The mill started with 19,000 spindles and 500 looms for the manufacturing of twills, piques (ribbed or raised pattern), and a great variety of print cloths.<sup>12</sup>

When World War I began in 1914 the demand for cotton goods increased. Along with its usual production, the mill had to fill large orders for medical gauze and uniform fabric to support the war. Mill owners racked up immense profits, and stock prices raced upward. New mills were built across the state, while older plants, such as Inman Mills, built additions and obtained more equipment to increase their production of textiles. Before and during the war millworkers remained among the nation's lowest-paid industrial workers. Nonetheless, between 1916 and 1918 wages tripled during this period. With the war's end in November 1918, orders for cloth and yarn slackened. Falling demand cut into profits and dividends, leading to drops in employment and wages.<sup>13</sup>

During and after the war Inman Mills expanded and became a main mill in the area by the mid 1920's with 47,200 spindles and 1,350 looms.<sup>14</sup> As the mill was expanded, more workers were needed, which led Chapman to build an additional 135 homes in the mid-1920s.<sup>15</sup> Inman Mills provided a total of 263 homes, becoming one of the largest mill villages in the Spartanburg County, South Carolina. Other mills, notably Victor and Pacific Mills, had the biggest mill villages in the area with a total of 280 mill homes each. Tacupau Mills, with 221 mill homes,

<sup>10</sup> "Inman Mills" *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*, Section C. 07 March 1982. Web 02 Feb 2015

<sup>11</sup> "Legacy of Leadership, James A. Chapman, Jr. (1921–1983)." *South Carolina Business Hall of Fame*. 1999 *South Carolina Business Hall of Fame*, n.d. Web. 14 Oct. 2014.

<sup>12</sup> *Fibre & Fabric: A Record Of American Textile Industries In The Cotton And Woolen Trade*. Vol. 35. N.p.: Nabu, 2011. Print.

<sup>13</sup> Simon, Bryant. *A Fabric of Defeat: The Politics of South Carolina Millhands, 1910-1948.* Chapel Hill: U of North Carolina, 1998. Print.

<sup>14</sup> Mock, Gary. "Inman Mills, Inman, SC." *Textile Industry History*. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 Oct. 2014

<sup>15</sup> "Inman Mills" *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*, Section C. 07 March 1982. Web 02 Feb 2015

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Pacolet Mills, with 189 mill homes, Spartan Mills, with 162 mill homes, and Drayton Mills, with 128 mill homes, were other significant mill villages in the area.<sup>16</sup>

The mill also provided facilities such as a school, a mill store, a non-denominational chapel for workers, and many recreational opportunities, including bowling alleys, basketball courts, playgrounds, and, most importantly, a ballpark where the Inman Textile Baseball League would play.<sup>17</sup> These amenities aimed to construct a new context for industrial relations, which provided for the well-being of its employees and tied the worker to the firm to the company, keeping them from leaving for another job.<sup>18</sup>

After the war and throughout the 1920's, the mills faced an intractable problem of overproduction. Manufacturers tried to reduce the oversupply by forming industry associations to regulate competition and by squeezing more work out of their employees through what workers called the "stretch-out." Production was sped up by increasing the number of looms assigned to each mill worker, paying workers by piece rates, and increasing the number of supervisors to keep workers from slowing down, talking, or leaving work. Workers even went so far as to rhetorically connect the stretch-out to slavery.<sup>19</sup>

The economic collapse known as the Great Depression began in 1929 and affected many sectors of the manufacturing industry, including textiles. The ones that survived, such as Inman Mills, laid off workers and continued to increase the amount and pace of work for their employees even further. This produced the beginning of the strike movement throughout the Southeast, where strikers insisted that the owners slow down the pace of work and put an end to the stretch out. The United Textile Workers of America, an organization founded in 1901, supported the strike movement and recruited mill workers to become "unionists" who aimed to resist the unfair labor practices.<sup>20</sup>

The strike began on August 15, 1934 and Governor Ibra Charles Blackwood of South Carolina called out the National Guard to maintain order. The strike caused several incidents of violence, and deaths all over the state, the most notable being the death of six workers in Honea Path in September 1934. The local government refused to provide any relief assistance to strikers and the UTWA failed to achieve their goal.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Jamieson, Claire E., "Change in the Textile Mill Villages of South Carolina's Upstate During the Modern South Era." Master's Thesis, University of Tennessee, 2010. [http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk\\_gradthes/635](http://trace.tennessee.edu/utk_gradthes/635)

<sup>17</sup> "A Message From Jim." *A Message From Jim*. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Mar. 2015.

<sup>18</sup> Braley, Chad O. *Mills in the Upcountry: A Historic Context, and a Summary of a Mill Site on the Peters Creek Heritage Preserve, Spartanburg County, South Carolina*. Athens, GA: Southeastern Archeological Services, 2005. Print.

<sup>19</sup> Bryant Simon, *A Fabric of Defeat: The Politics of South Carolina Millhands, 1910-1948* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998), 109.

<sup>20</sup> Waldrep, George Calvin. *Southern Workers and the Search for Community: Spartanburg County, South Carolina*. Urbana: U of Illinois, 2000. Print.

<sup>21</sup> Simon, *A Fabric of Defeat*, 109-122.

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In 1939 World War II boosted another industrial surge that greatly increased the demand for textiles. Many manufactures, including Inman Mills, began paying bonuses to workers in order to stabilize the labor force. Nonetheless, the stretch-out continued, exhausting the vast majority of workers.<sup>20</sup> In the 1940's the strike movement continued at Inman Mills and about forty percent of the plant's production workforce, some 324 workers, chose to support the strike. The exasperated plant manager told the entire work force that anyone unwilling to work would have to leave the premises immediately. That day more than a third of the entire workforce left Inman Mills.<sup>22</sup>

When WWII was over in 1945, the heavy production of textiles for the war also ended. This resulted in James A. Chapman having to sell the mill houses in the 1950s to help compensate for the recession. Homes were sold as little as \$5.00 each, changing the demographic makeup of the mill village. A large portion of the homes were occupied by retired workers or by people who worked at jobs other than the mill.<sup>23</sup>

During the 1950's, with the advancement of modern technologies, the original Inman Mills textile company machines and production methods had become obsolete. The Chapman family started investing in updating the original mill building, constructing multiple additions to it until its final addition built in 1958. In addition to these expansions, Chapman obtained and constructed other plants in different locations, keeping Inman Mills as the company name. The new mill buildings were equipped with modern equipment to keep up with the rapidly changing times. These other mill buildings included the following: the Mountain Shoals Mill located in Enoree, South Carolina, the Saybrook Plant in the City of Inman, the Ramey Plant located in Enoree, South Carolina, and Eastbank Textiles in Macon, Georgia.<sup>24</sup>

After China's admittance into the World Trade Organization in 2000, the Inman Mills textile company felt obligated to downsize by closing two of its most significant plants including its original plant which was closed in 2001.<sup>25</sup> After Closure, the City of Inman experienced a major blow to the economy taking one of the main local employers from the area.<sup>26</sup> Following this event, the City of Inman took over the mill's wastewater system to function as one of the two main wastewater systems in the city.<sup>27</sup> Today, the original mill building, completed in 1958, sits vacant and has become symbolic to the community of Inman for having being central to the development of the city since 1902.

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<sup>22</sup> Waldrep, George Calvin. *Southern Workers and the Search for Community: Spartanburg County, South Carolina*. Urbana: U of Illinois, 2000. Print.

<sup>23</sup> "Legacy of Leadership, James A. Chapman, Jr. (1921–1983)." South Carolina Bussiness Hall of Fame. 1999 South Carolina Business Hall of Fame, n.d. Web. 14 Oct. 2014.

<sup>24</sup> "About Us." Inman Mills. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Oct. 2014.

<sup>25</sup> "World Textile Industry Prepares For A Day Of Reckoning." *Manufacturing and Technology News*. N.p., 16 Apr. 2004. Web. 14 Oct. 2014.

<sup>26</sup> Cantrell, Mayor Winston (Bo). "City of Inman Comprehensive Plan 2012." (2012): City of Inman. City of Inman Planning Commision, 08 Oct. 2012. Web. 7 Oct. 2014.

<sup>27</sup> De. Vault, Jessica L. "Inman gets millions for wastewater system" (2006) UPSTATE. Spartanburg herald-journal, 20 Apr. 2006. Web. 7 Oct. 2014.

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### Architecture

Inman Mills was designed by W. B. Smith Whaley & Co., an engineering and architectural firm who specialized in cotton mill design and has been recognized for its large contribution in the dramatic rise of the textile industry in South Carolina from 1893 to 1903.<sup>28</sup>

William Burroughs Smith Whaley (1866 – 1929) was a native of Charleston who attended the Stevens Institute of Technology and graduated of Cornell University with recognition (1888). He gained experience as both an electrical and a mechanical engineer before he joined the firm of Thompson and Nagle, in Rhode Island. Thompson, who recognized Whaley’s potential as an engineer, was also the engineer for several Northern mills. After learning about textile mills, Whaley settled in Columbia where he began practice as a mechanical engineer specializing in textile mill design. His first design, the Union Cotton Mill was constructed in 1894 with 10,000 spindles. He later continued to design more mills in the states of South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia, and Massachusetts.<sup>28</sup>

Most of his designs were done in partnership with Gasden E. Shand, a graduate of the University of South Carolina, in civil engineering, and Columbia University, in architecture. Whaley and Shand formed W.B. Smith Whaley and Company in 1894. In five years, the firm was responsible for the design and construction of eight mills including Courtney Mill in Oconee County, SC, with 10,000 spindles, Richland Mill and Granby Cotton Mill in Richland County, SC, with 10,000 spindles, Abondale Cotton Mill, near Birmingham, AL, with 35,000 spindles, The enterprise Cotton Mill in Orangeburg County, SC, with 10,000 spindles,

**W. B. SMITH WHALEY & CO.**  
**Mechanical and Mill Engineers,**

1012 Tremont Building, Boston, Mass.      1328 Main Street, Columbia, S. C.

OLYMPIA COTTON MILLS.  
The Largest Electric Driven Cotton Mill in the World.

Engineers of the following electric cotton mills and power plants:

OLYMPIA . . . .	6,000 Horse Power.
BUFFALO . . . .	4,000 " "
LANCASTER . . . .	2,000 " "
GRANBY . . . .	1,500 " "
GLEN LORAY . . . .	1,200 " "
SENECA . . . .	600 " "
DE KALB . . . .	600 " "
INMAN . . . .	600 " "
CAPITAL CITY . . . .	300 " "

**Electric Driven Mills our Specialty.**

Figure 4-W.B. Smith Advertisement, c. 1904

<sup>28</sup> National Register of Historic Places. Textile Mills in South Carolina Designed by W. B. Smith Whaley, 1893-1903. Multiple Property Documentation Form, October 1990

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and Warren Manufacturing Company at Warrentown in Aiken County, SC, with 33,000 spindles.<sup>29</sup>

As the firm continued building new mills throughout the south, Whaley focused on improving the technological and architectural quality of the mills as well as increasing their size. In 1896 the firm designed the Union Cotton Mill #2 with 75,000 spindles, adjacent to the original mill. In 1899 Whaley reached the peak of his career as a textile mill designer with the construction of the Olympia Cotton Mill in Columbia adjacent to Granby Mills, with 2,400 looms and 104,000 spindles. When built, this mill was recognized as “the latest and greatest mill in the south” for being the largest textile mill under a single roof in the United States.<sup>29</sup>

Whaley designed eight other mills after Olympia, two of them were large projects. These mills were Buffalo Cotton Mill built in 1902 in Union County, with 33,999 spindles and Lancaster Cotton mill #2 in 1903 in Lancaster County, with 55,000 spindles. The other mills were of relatively small size and included Inman Mills which was built in 1902 in Spartanburg County. Although a very successful designer of textile mills, Whaley was a very unsuccessful manager who struggled with increasing debts that brought him to bankruptcy in 1904. The firm constructed a total of sixteen mills in the state of South Carolina representing 11% of the total number of mills in the state and 21%, or 520,000, of the total number of spindles which confirmed W.B. Smith Whaley and Company's position as one of South Carolina's most prominent textile mill designers.<sup>30</sup>

The mill buildings designed by W.B. Smith Whaley and Company were usually elongated three or four story brick buildings with uniform fenestration and buttresses inserted at regular intervals. These mill buildings were designed in the Romanesque Revival style and they exhibit brick corbel detailing throughout the building's exterior walls. Another predominant feature of the firm's designs is the construction of twin towers against the mill's elongated elevations. The front towers usually contained a set of fire stairs, while the ones on the opposite elevation contained an elevator and two toilet rooms for the operatives.<sup>30</sup>

Inman Mills, designed by W.B. Smith Whaley, also exhibits all of these features. Despite experiencing multiple additions throughout its lifetime, the buildings have maintained their physical integrity and remain recognizable as a W.B. Smith Whaley designed textile mill complex. The architectural features and physical integrity of the plant allows it to meet the registration requirements set forth in the MPS document “*Textile Mills in South Carolina Designed by W.B. Smith Whaley, 1893-1903.*”<sup>30</sup>

The design of Inman Mills was intended to be symmetrical, as was typical at the time (Figure 5). The original plan, drawn by W. B. Smith Whaley & Co., displays the mill as a rectangular shaped brick building with four 24ft x 24ft square towers, two on the east and two on the west elongated elevations, separated at equal distances from the center of the building. The original

<sup>29</sup> National Register of Historic Places. Textile Mills in South Carolina Designed by W. B. Smith Whaley, 1893-1903. Multiple Property Documentation Form, October 1990

<sup>30</sup> National Register of Historic Places. Textile Mills in South Carolina Designed by W. B. Smith Whaley, 1893-1903. Multiple Property Documentation Form, October 1990

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plan also shows the building divided by a brick wall located across the center, separating the main mill building into Mill no.1 and Mill no.2, which were meant to be powered by the same power plant; a separate two story brick building centered on the west side of the main building and connected by a narrow structure. In addition to these two buildings the original plan also shows a rectangular shaped cotton warehouse comprised of four rooms intended to be placed on the north-west end of the property.<sup>31</sup>

The architect was aware of the owner's aspirations to expand the mill in the future so he divided the project into phases. When construction started in 1902, only the north half of the original plan was executed; half of the main mill building with only two towers; one on the east elongated elevation and a less predominant one containing an elevator and two restrooms on the west elongated elevation. The Power Plant was located where it had been intended originally and it was sized to power the original mill along with the planned expansions, allowing the mill to increase its square footage. In addition to this, only one two-story structure was constructed for the cotton warehouse.<sup>30</sup>

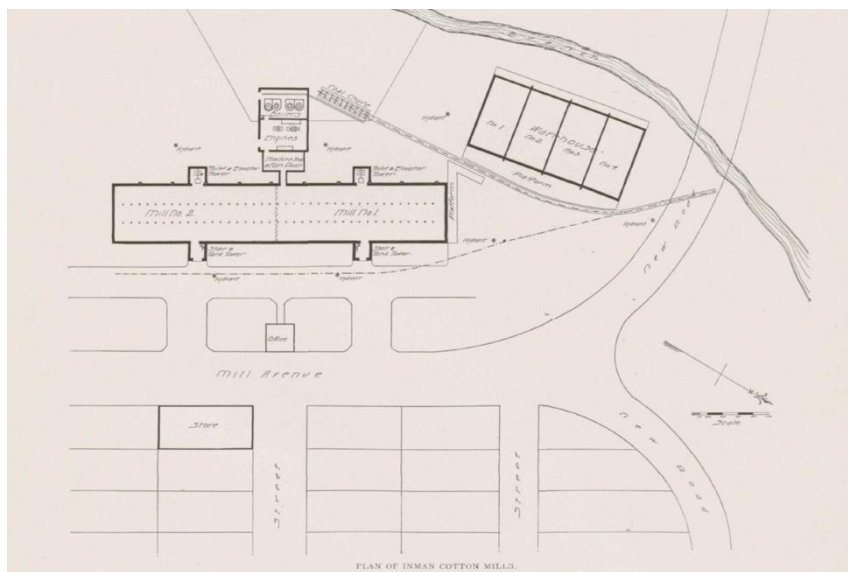


Figure 5-Original Plan of Inman Mills drawn by W.B. Smith Whaley Mills

building's west elevation. Around the same time, two more two-story structures were added to the cotton warehouse, adding up to a total of five two-story structures built against each other.<sup>32</sup>

With the technological development in textile machinery, the mill was able to replace its automatic looms with non-automatic looms in 1924. However, in the 1950's electric power became the norm and Inman Mills started to become obsolete.<sup>33</sup> In 1952 the plant experienced some major changes with the addition of air conditioning towers and the infilling of most segmental arched openings, becoming the first cotton mill to be air conditioned in the world. The

<sup>31</sup> W. B. Smith Whaley and CO. *Modern Cotton Mill Engineering*. Columbia, SC: State, 1903. Print.

<sup>32</sup> W. B. Smith Whaley and CO. *Modern Cotton Mill Engineering*. Columbia, SC: State, 1903. Print.

<sup>33</sup> "About Us." Inman Mills. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Oct. 2014.

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final addition to the mill was completed in 1958.<sup>34</sup> Due to the multiple additions, the final building does not reflect the symmetrical design drawn in 1902. The current configuration, however, maintains its character and stands out as an example of an early twentieth-century mill complex that expanded due to the success of the textile industry in the South Carolina upstate. It also represents a facility that innovated and evolved, allowing it to function until 2001.<sup>35</sup>

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### Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

#### History of the City of Inman

The City of Inman was named after John Hamilton Inman, an American capitalist from Tennessee. J. H. Inman was an investor in cotton, coal, iron and steel, and railroads and was recognized for his large contribution to the development of the south.<sup>36</sup> He became director of several Southern railroads systems in East Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia such as the Louisville and Nashville Railroad, the Richmond and Danville Railroad, and the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway.<sup>37</sup>

Between the years 1870s and 1880's the Norfolk Southern Railway System, conducted by J. H. Inman, passed through the Spartanburg area in South Carolina and a small railroad town was founded by William M. Gowan in 1882.<sup>38</sup> This town was located north-west of the city of Spartanburg, and was named after J. H. Inman, who had made many friends in the area and greatly influenced the economy of the town through his investments.<sup>34</sup>

#### Inman Mills and the Chapman family

James A. Chapman guided the company from 1902 to 1935 passing on the legacy to his son James A. Chapman Jr., who was recognized as one of the textile industry's most effective and articulate spokesmen, and became president of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute.<sup>39</sup> He sat at the helm from 1936 to 1964 passing on the legacy to James A. Chapman, III who served as president from 1964 until his death in 1983. His son W. Marshall Chapman was president and treasurer from 1978 to 1991 and then chairman and chief executive officer until his death in 1995. Robert H. Chapman, Jr., a cousin of the former president served as vice chairman until his death in 1995 and his son, Robert H. Chapman, III who now heads the company as chairman, chief executive officer and treasurer, along with his cousin, Norman H. Chapman, who serves as the current president and chief operating officer.<sup>40</sup>

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<sup>34</sup> "Inman Mills Past, Present and Future" Presented at 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration at Cleveland Park. N.p Pamphlet Nov 16, 2002. Web 26 Feb 2015.

<sup>35</sup> Mock, Gary. "Inman Mills, Inman, SC." *Textile Industry History*. N.p., n.d. Web. 09 Oct. 2014

<sup>36</sup> "Obituary of John H. Inman" *The New York Times*. 6 Nov 1896. Web 26 Feb 2015.

<sup>37</sup> Brown, Jimmie Lou Bishop. *The Early History of Inman, South Carolina: With Pictures and Illustrations*. Inman, S.C: J.L.B. Brown, 1983. Print. Web 26 Feb 2015.

<sup>38</sup> "Inman Mills" *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*, Section C. 07 March 1982. Web 02 Feb 2015

<sup>39</sup> "Legacy of Leadership, James A. Chapman, Jr. (1921-1983)." *South Carolina Business Hall of Fame. 1999 South Carolina Business Hall of Fame*, n.d. Web. 14 Oct. 2014.

<sup>40</sup> "About Us." Inman Mills. N.p., n.d. Web. 07 Oct. 2014.

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Throughout the years, the company expanded from its original Inman Mills plant, located in the City of Inman, and obtained four more mills: the Mountain Shoals Mill located in Enoree, SC which was bought by the family in 1934, the Saybrook Plant which was constructed in 1959 in the City of Inman, the Ramey Plant located in Enoree, SC and constructed in 1966, and lastly Eastbank Textiles which was obtained in 2008 located in Macon, GA.<sup>37</sup>

Even though the company had to close two of its most important mills—the original mill in Inman as well as the Mountain Shoals mill—today Inman Mills is still recognized as a dynamic, modern textile manufacturer employing more than 700 people at three plants.<sup>37</sup>

### **Inman mills and Textile League Baseball**

The recreation at Inman Mills prior to WWII consisted mostly of baseball for adults; a baseball field is located on the south side of the mill across 4<sup>th</sup> street where there was is a playground which consisted of a lighted tennis court, volleyball courts, a basketball court, a pavilion, swings, a merry-go-round and plenty of outdoor playing space for the people of Inman Mills and the community.<sup>41</sup>

Inman Mills hired Joel Robertson, a coach from Wofford College, to become the athletic director. Baseball was played mostly by men who were employees at the mill or their families, and Inman Mills paid for the costs of all the equipment. The Textile Baseball program at Inman Mills consisted of 3 teams: “The First Nine” who were the better players that were paid by the mill for their athletic abilities, “The Second Nine” who were good players but did not get paid by the mill to play baseball, and “The Outlaws” who were the younger adults who also did not get paid to play. These three teams played other teams throughout the Spartanburg County. An Inman Mills team organized in 1946 competed with several squads in the Campobello area and then joined the Textile League in 1947. During these years, baseball was the best source of entertainment for mill workers and the village.<sup>38</sup>

After WWII the league began to fade in popularity. Joel Robertson left Inman in 1950 and Inman Mills hired Recreation Director James “Pee Wee” Lambert who came from Una, South Carolina and played textile ball for Pacolet Mills. Around this same time the mill decided to stop paying baseball players but still had teams that played baseball with no pay. In the fall of 1954 Pee Wee left to Pacolet, South Carolina, and Inman Mill’s Personnel Director, Tom Stillwell, hired Jim Everhart to become the recreation director for Inman Mills in the same year. Due to the decrease in popularity in men’s textile baseball, younger kids took over the field and started participating on the Midget League.<sup>25</sup> Even though recreational activity started to slow down in the mill village in the late 1980’s, Everhart maintained his position as the recreation director. In 2008, Inman Mills’ baseball park was renamed Jim Everhart Field to commemorate Everhart being the oldest active employee at Inman Mills and his efforts in the community of Inman.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>41</sup> "A Message From Jim." *A Message From Jim*. N.p., n.d. Web. 02 Mar. 2015.

<sup>42</sup> “Inman Mills: Residents cherish the old memories while creating new ones” *Spartanburg Herald-Journal*, pg 05. 26 November 2006. Web 02 Feb 2015



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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 19.48 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 35.043632° | Longitude: -82.100564° |
| 2. Latitude: 35.042099° | Longitude: -82.101281° |
| 3. Latitude: 35.039691° | Longitude: -82.100687° |
| 4. Latitude: 35.040842° | Longitude: -82.097812° |
| 5. Latitude: 35.042463° | Longitude: -82.098978° |
| 6. Latitude: 35.043088° | Longitude: -82.099890° |

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**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |           |           |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting:  | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated parcel for Inman Mills is bounded on the north by 1st Street, east by Park Road, south by 4th Street, and west by Cothran Creek Road in the Spartanburg County, South Carolina.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary consists of a 19.48 acre parcel that includes the intact buildings and structures historically associated with the industrial processes conducted at Inman Mills, in the County of Spartanburg, State of South Carolina.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Carolina Rodriguez/Architecture Intern,

Steve Fountain/Architecture Intern, Dyke Nelson/Lead Architect

organization: DNA Workshop

street & number: 235 South 14<sup>th</sup> Street

city or town: Baton Rouge state: Louisiana zip code: 70802

e-mail Carolina@DNA-Workshop.com, Steve@DNA-Workshop.com,

Dyke@DNA-Workshop.com

telephone: 225.224.3363

date: 07/17/2015

Inman Mills  
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### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Inman Mills

City or Vicinity: City of Inman

County: Spartanburg

State: South Carolina

Photographer: Dyke Nelson

Date Photographed: 10/14/2014 & 12/02/2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 41: Inman Mills' north façade, view south, one story addition on the foreground and original 1902 main mill building and smokestack on the background (date photographed: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014)
- 2 of 41: Main mill building's northwest façade, view southeast, displaying east tower and private road, view southeast (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 3 of 41: Main mill building's Southeast façade, view northwest (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 4 of 41: Main mill building's south façade, view north (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 5 of 41: Main mill building's southwest façade, view northeast, displaying southwestern air conditioning tower (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 6 of 41: Inman Mills' southwest façade, view northwest, displaying air conditioning tower, restroom/stair tower on foreground, smaller one story additions on the west façade of the main mill building, and south façade of power plant and smokestack on the background (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)

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- 7 of 41: Inman Mills' southwest façade, view northwest, displaying restroom/stair tower on foreground, smaller one story additions on the west façade of the main mill building, and south façade of power plant and smokestack on the background (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 8 of 41: Inman Mills' west façade, view east (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 9 of 41: Inman Mills' north façade, view south (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 10 of 41: Interior of Main Mill Building, first floor, south end, view north (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 11 of 41: Interior of Main Mill Building, second floor, south end, view north (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 12 of 41: Interior of Main Mill Building, third floor, north end, view south (date photographed: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014)
- 13 of 41: Interior of Main Mill Building, fourth floor, north end, view south (date photographed: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014)
- 14 of 41: Main Mill Building's east tower's north elevation, view south (date photographed: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014)
- 15 of 41: East Tower's interior fire stairs, view south (date photographed: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014)
- 16 of 41: Main Mill Building's east tower's east elevation, view west (date photographed: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014)
- 17 of 41: Main Mill Building's east tower's south elevation, view north (date photographed: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014)
- 18 of 41: Main Mill Building's east tower's west façade, view east (date photographed: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014)
- 19 of 41: Inman Mills' northwest elevation, view east, displaying restroom/elevator tower, northern air conditioning tower, one story storage room, and smokestack on the foreground, and north façade of the Power Plant on the background (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)

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- 20 of 41: Inman Mills' northwest elevation, view southeast, displaying restroom/elevator tower, northern air conditioning tower, one story storage room, and smokestack on the foreground, and north façade of the Power Plant on the background (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 21 of 41: Loading dock, view southeast (date photographed: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014)
- 22 of 41: Main Mill Building's Stair/restrooms tower, elevator and air condition tower's west elevation, view east (date photographed: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014)
- 23 of 41: Stair/restroom tower's north elevation, view south (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 24 of 41: Main Mill Building's addition's west elevation, view northeast (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 25 of 41: Restroom/shower room addition's west elevation, view east (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 26 of 41: Restroom/shower room addition's north elevation, view south (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 27 of 41: Main Mill Building's addition's west elevation, view east (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 28 of 41: Power Plant's south façade, view north, displaying with smokestack on the background (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 29 of 41: Power Plant's east façade, view west (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 30 of 41: Interior of Power Plant, first floor, view north (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 31 of 41: Interior of Power Plant, first floor, view south (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 32 of 41: Interior of Power Plant, second floor, east end, view south (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 33 of 41: Cotton Warehouse's southeast façade, view northwest (date photographed: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014)
- 34 of 41: Cotton Warehouse's south façade, view north (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)



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- 35 of 41: Interior of Cotton Warehouse, first floor, west end, view east (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 36 of 41: Warehouse's east façade, view west (date photographed: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014)
- 37 of 41: Interior of Warehouse, first floor, west end, view east (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 38 of 41: Guard House's west façade, view east (date photographed: 14<sup>th</sup> October 2014)
- 39 of 41: Pump House's south elevation, view northwest (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 40 of 41: Pump House's west elevation, view southwest (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)
- 41 of 41: Smokestacks' elbow structure, view west (date photographed 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2014)

### **Index of Figures**

Figure 1: Inman Mills – Photo - circa 1926

Figure 2: Inman Mills - Postcard - circa 1910

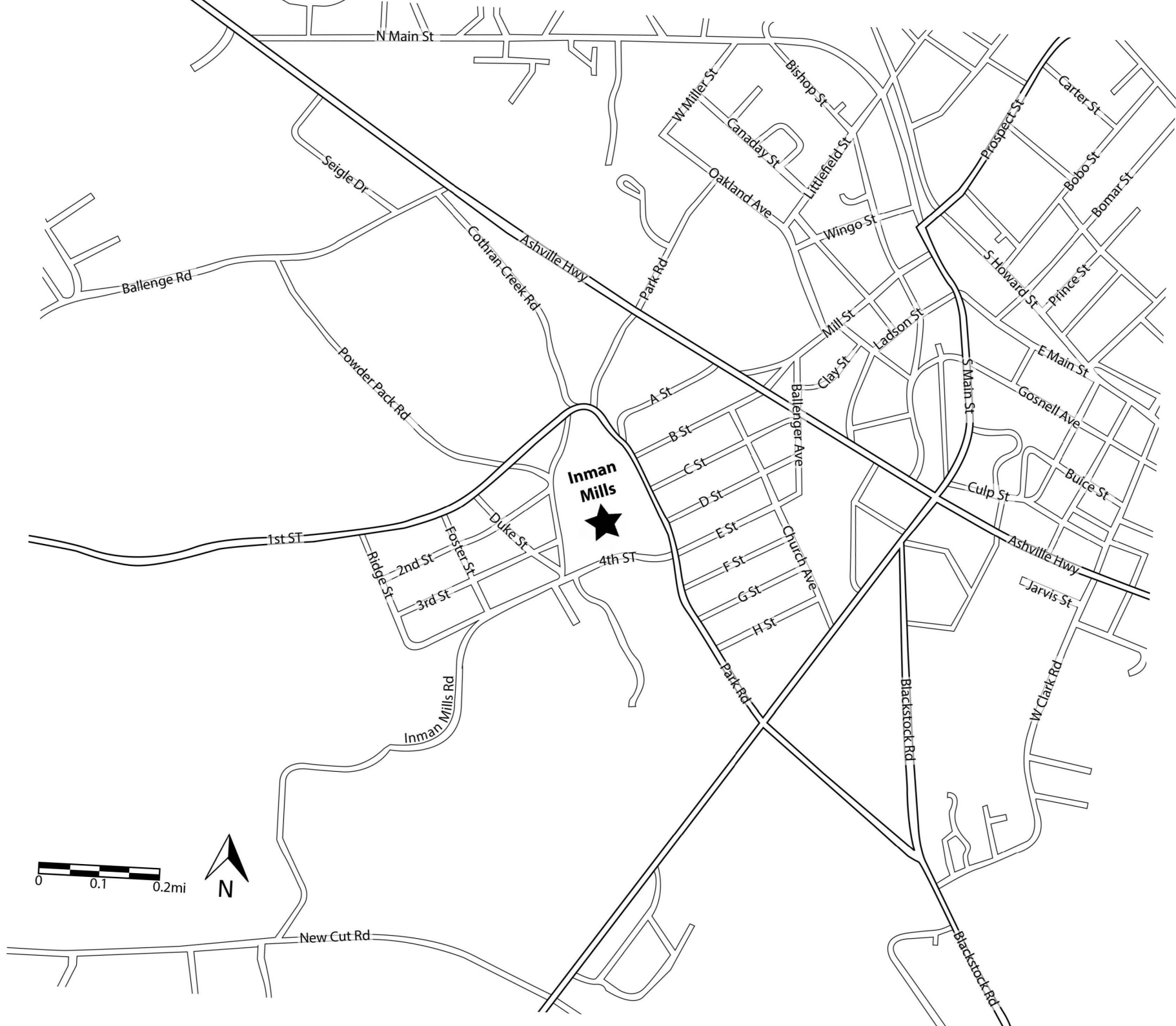
Figure 3: Inman Mills - Postcard - circa 1910

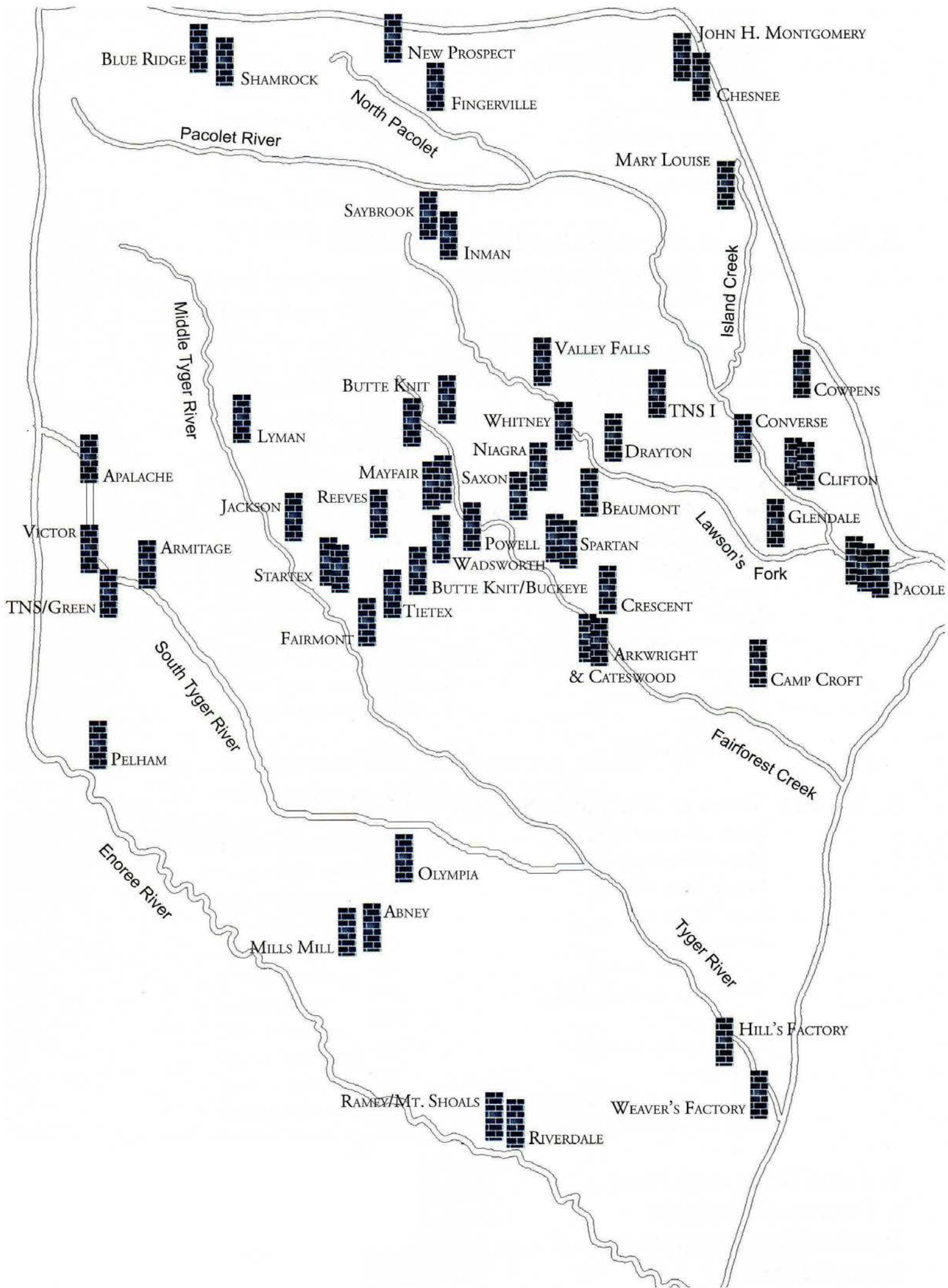
Figure 4: Advertisement for W.B. Smith Whaley, circa 1904

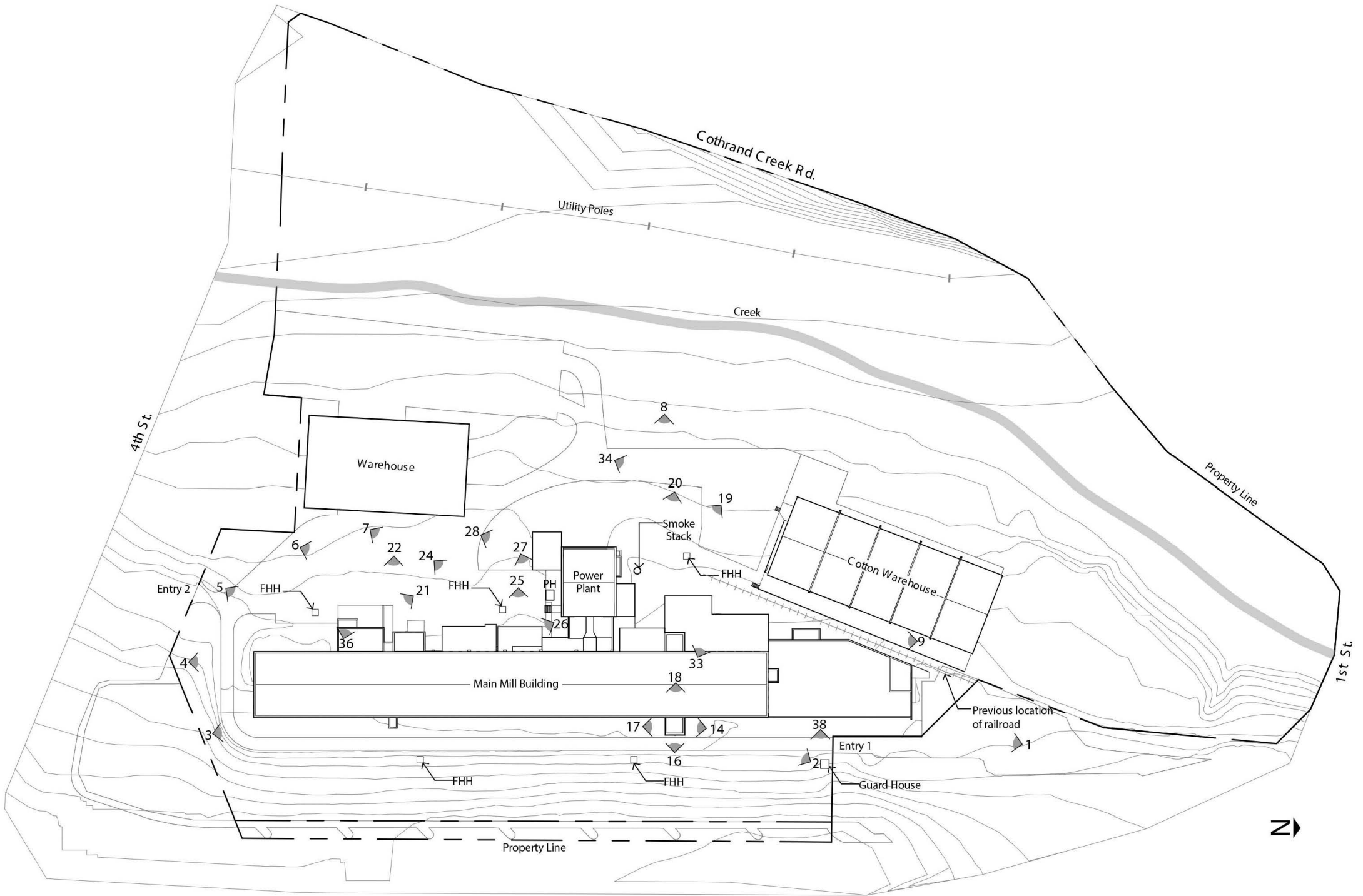
Figure 5: Original Plan of Inman Mills drawn by W.B. Smith Whaley Mills

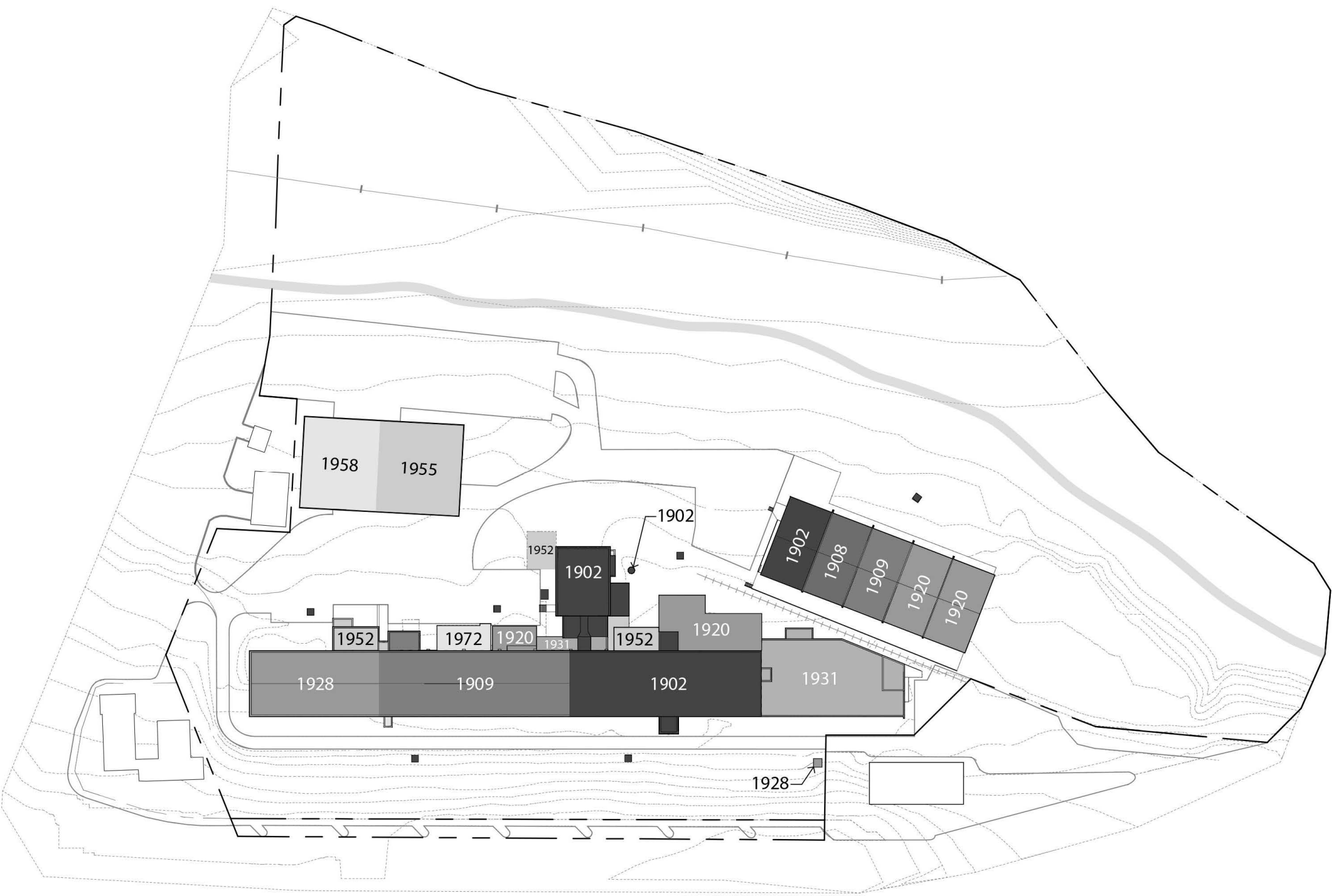
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

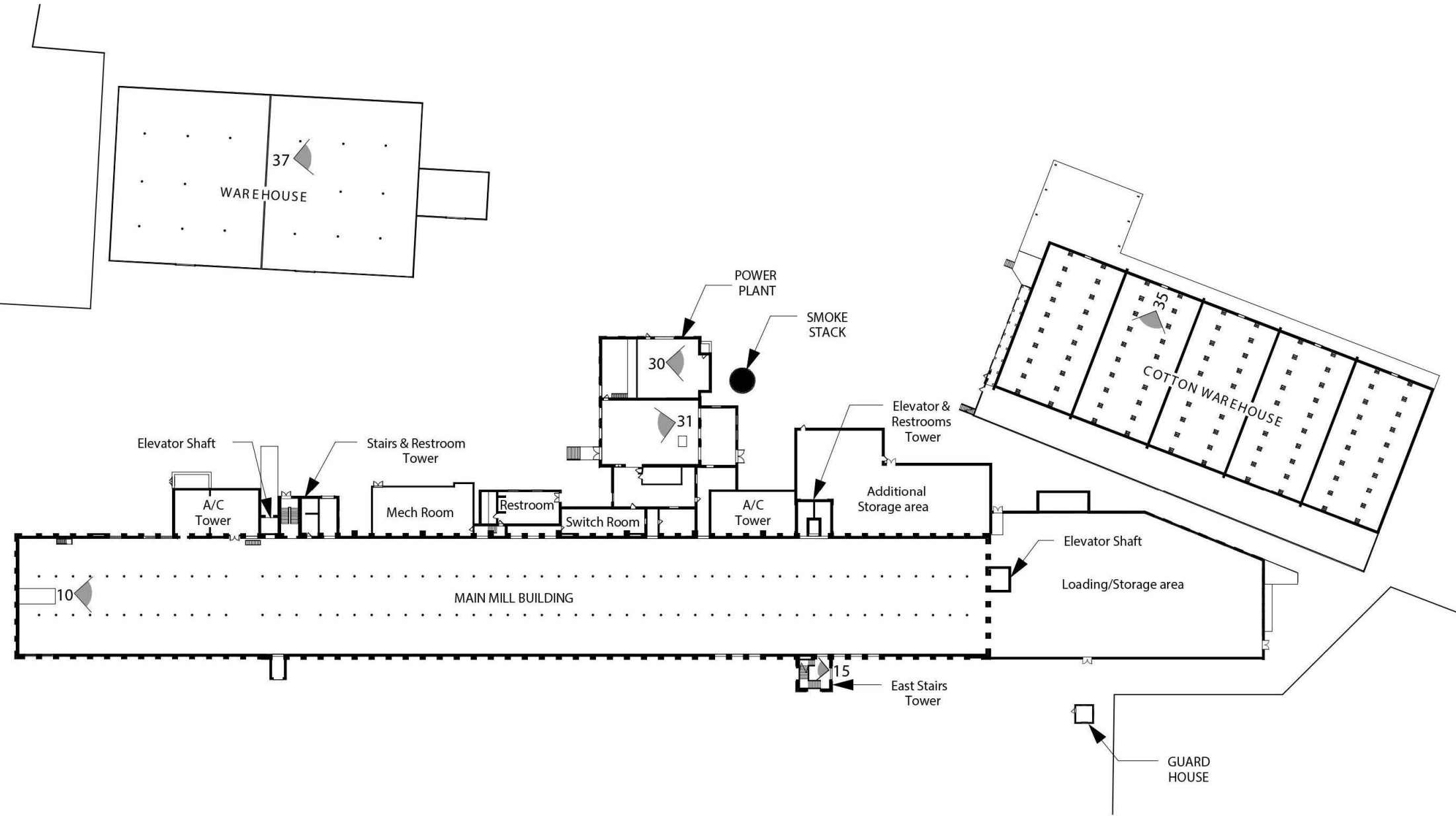
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

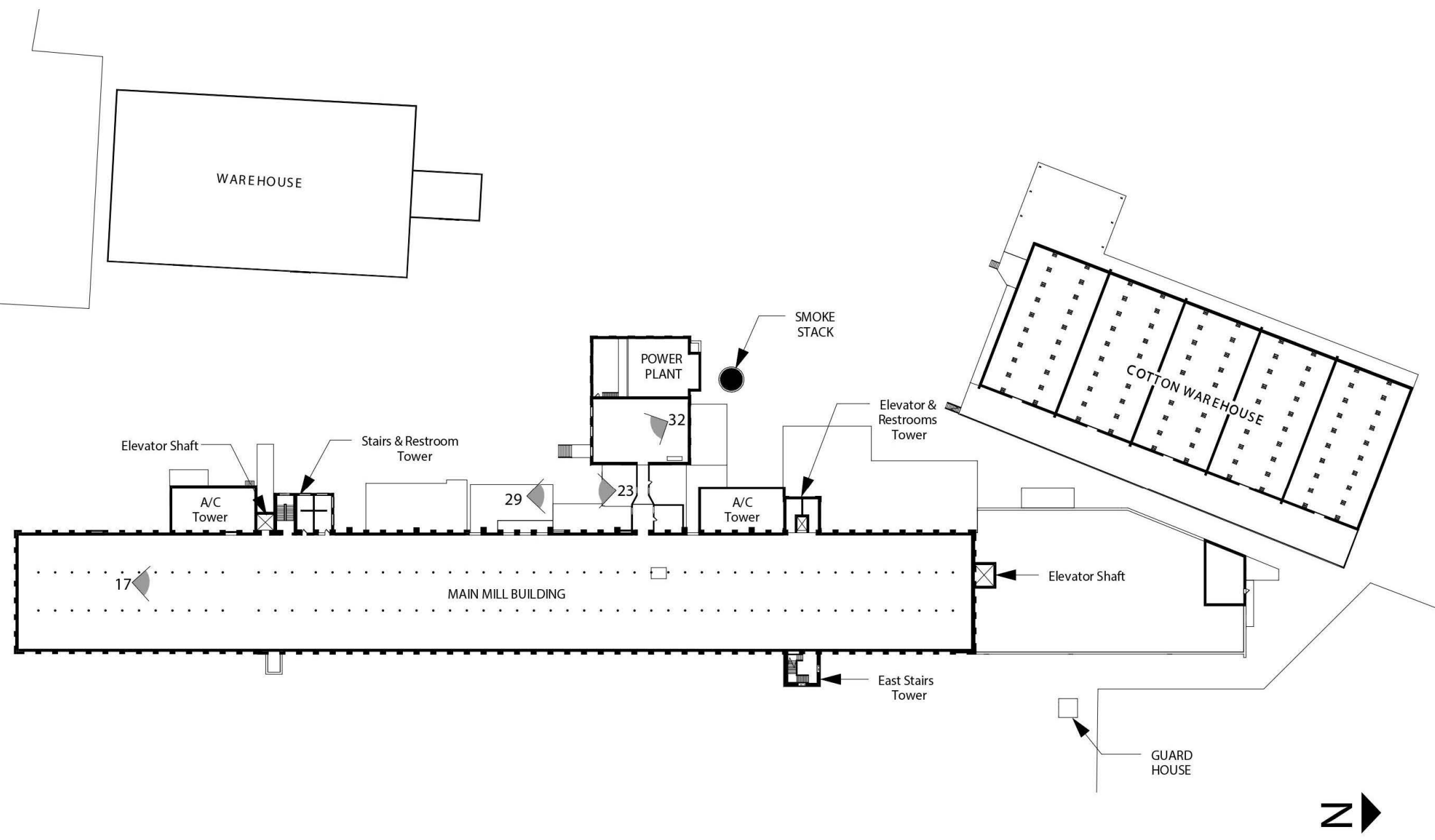












WAREHOUSE

A/C Tower

Stairs & Restroom Tower

29

POWER PLANT

32

SMOKE STACK

A/C Tower

23

Elevator & Restrooms Tower

COTTON WAREHOUSE

Elevator Shaft

Elevator Shaft

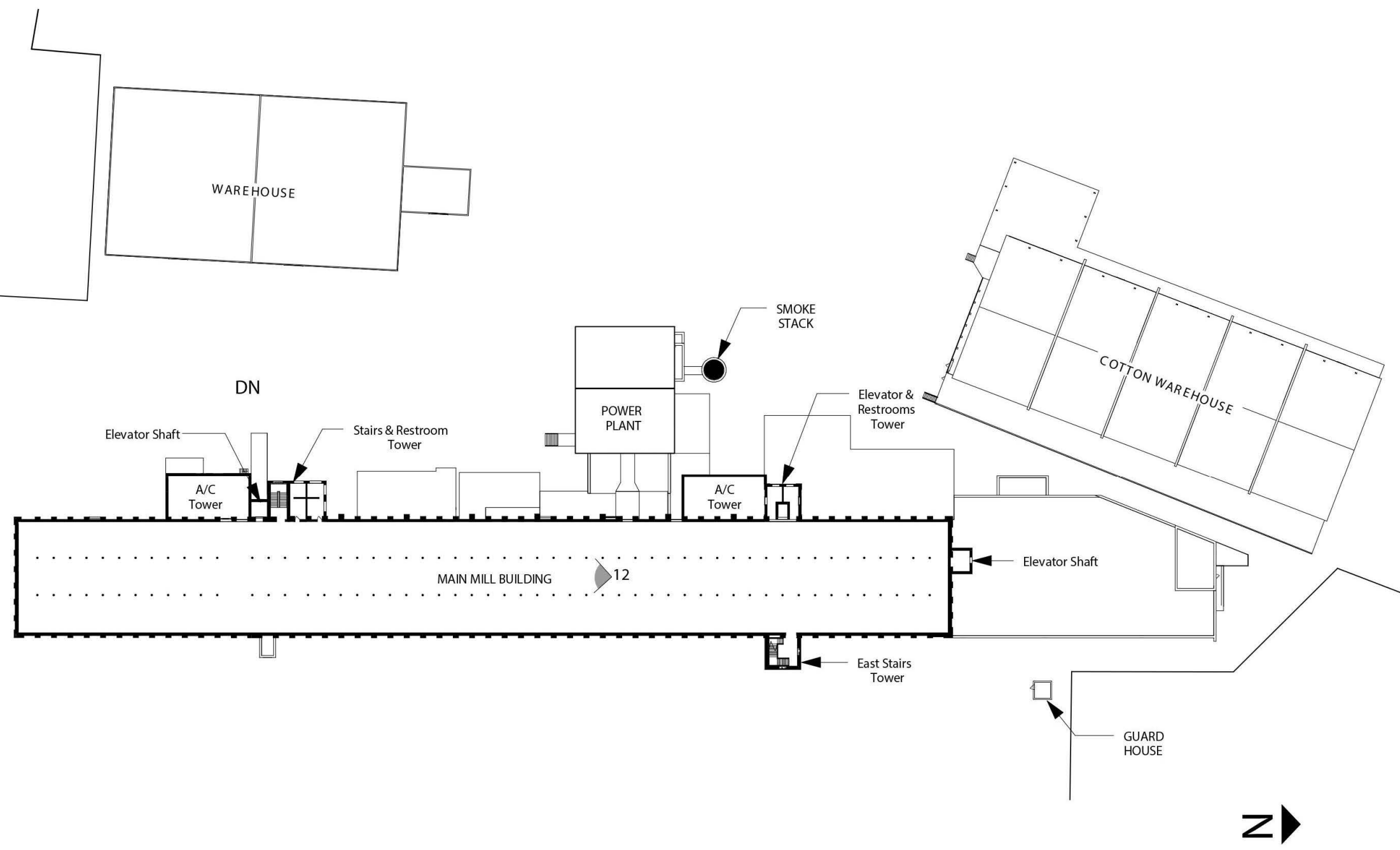
East Stairs Tower

GUARD HOUSE

17

MAIN MILL BUILDING





WAREHOUSE

DN

Elevator Shaft

A/C Tower

Stairs & Restroom Tower

POWER PLANT

SMOKE STACK

A/C Tower

Elevator & Restrooms Tower

COTTON WAREHOUSE

MAIN MILL BUILDING

12

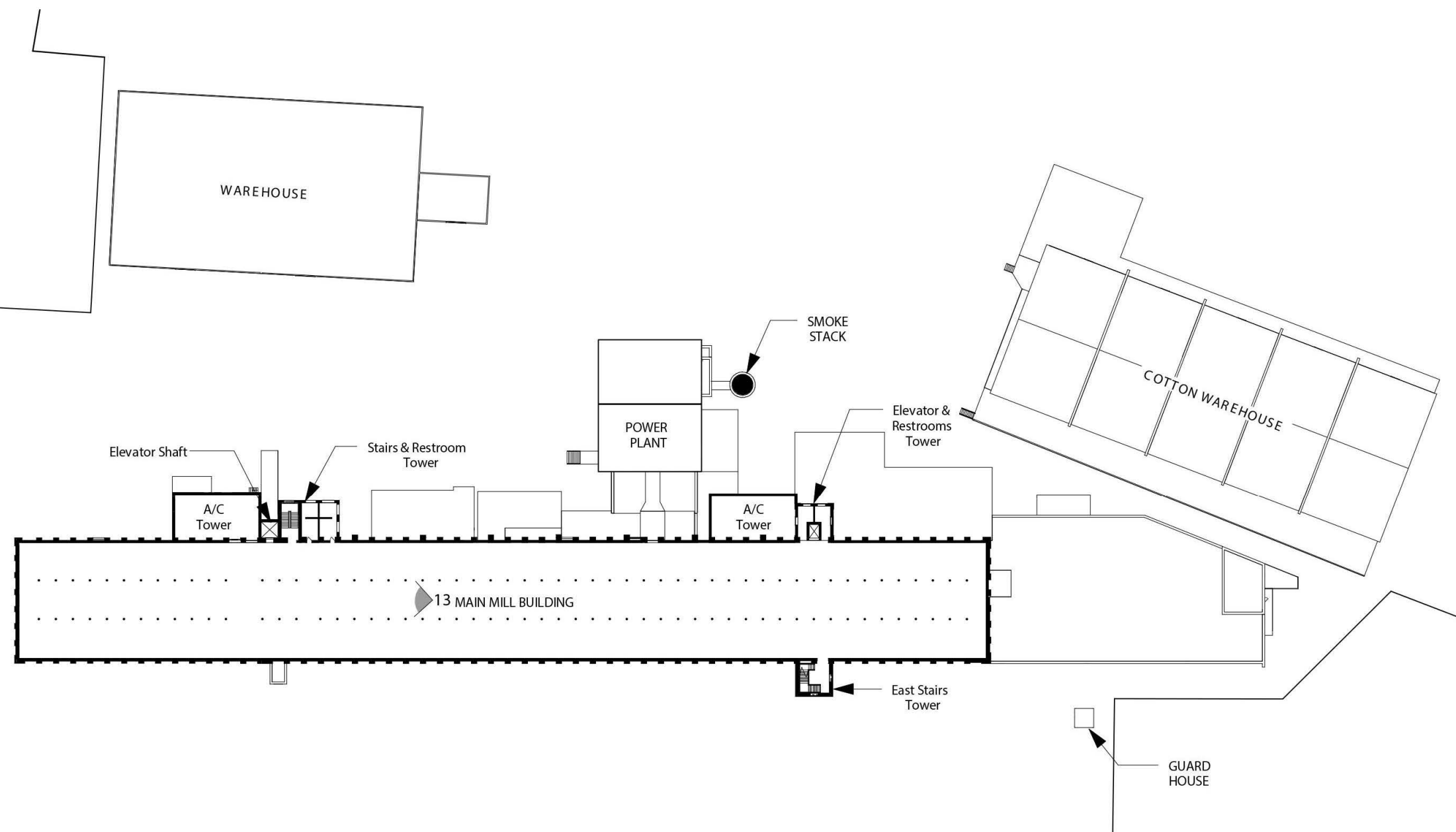
Elevator Shaft

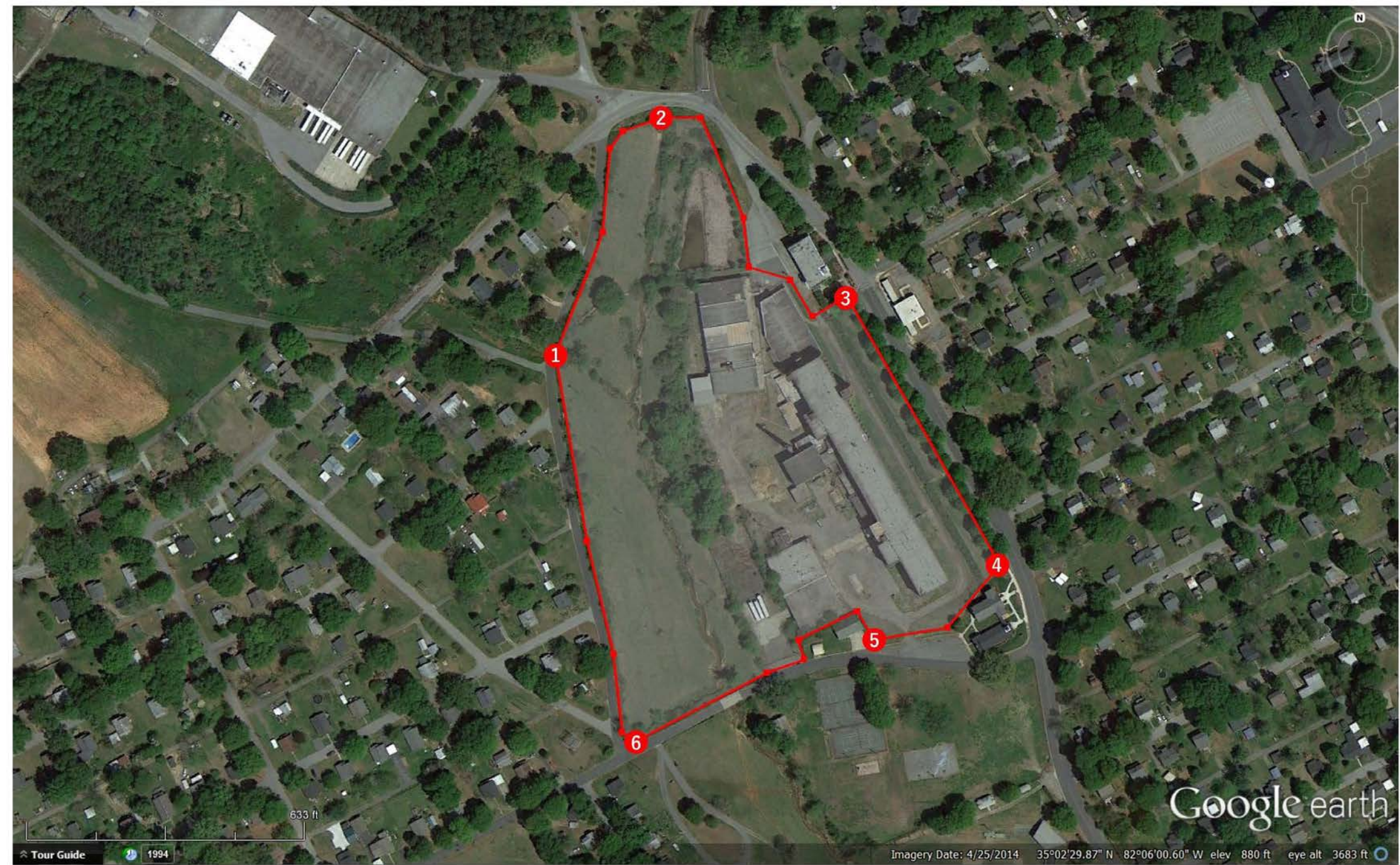
East Stairs Tower

GUARD HOUSE









N

633 ft

Google earth

Tour Guide 1994

Imagery Date: 4/25/2014 35°02'29.87" N 82°06'00.60" W elev 880 ft eye alt 3683 ft



Inman Mills

Inman

Google earth

2033 ft

© 2015 Google

Tour Guide 1994

Imagery Date: 4/25/2014 35°02'33.44" N 82°05'51.04" W elev 942 ft eye alt 9864 ft





























































SIZE RIA

































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Inman Mills  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Textile Mills designed by W.B. Smith Whaley MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: SOUTH CAROLINA, Spartanburg

DATE RECEIVED: 1/29/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/29/16  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/15/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/15/16  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000090

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: (Y) PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 3/15/16 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*local level  
A+C  
Industrial Architecture  
1902-1958*

RECOM./CRITERIA A+C  
REVIEWER [Signature] DISCIPLINE [Signature]  
TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 3/15/16

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

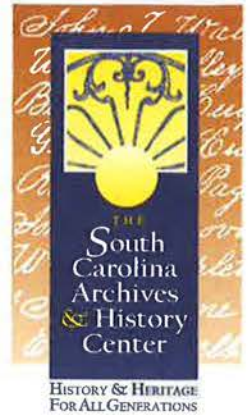
January 15, 2016

Paul Loether  
National Register Chief  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye (I) Street, NW (2280)  
Washington, DC 20005

RECEIVED 2280

JAN 29 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service



Dear Mr. Loether:

Enclosed is the National Register nomination for Inman Mills in Spartanburg County, South Carolina. The nomination was approved by the South Carolina State Board of Review as eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance. We are now submitting this nomination for formal review by the National Register staff. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for Inman Mills to the National Register of Historic Places.

If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address below, call me at (803) 896-6182, fax me at (803) 896-6167, or e-mail me at [efoley@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:efoley@scdah.sc.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ehren Foley", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ehren Foley, Ph.D.  
Historian and National Register Coordinator  
State Historic Preservation Office  
8301 Parklane Rd.  
Columbia, S.C. 29223