

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

10/10

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Hill Complex Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number York and Shannon Streets not for publication _____
city or town Sharon vicinity _____
state South Carolina code SC county York code 091 zip code 29742

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Mary W. Edmonds 2/20/03
Signature of certifying official Date

Mary W. Edmonds, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, S.C. Dept. of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the
National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
- removed from the National Register

Edson W. Beall 4.18.03
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

___ other (explain):

Hill Complex Historic District
 Name of Property

York County, South Carolina
 County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
 (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	1	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
4	1	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed
 in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

Category: DOMESTIC
COMMERCE/TRADE
AGRICULTURE

Subcategory: Single Dwelling
Department Store
Processing/Storage

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions)

Category: DOMESTIC
COMMERCE/TRADE

Subcategory: Single Dwelling
Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian
Classical Revival

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
 walls Brick
Weatherboard
 roof Metal
Asphalt
 other _____

Narrative Description
 (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Hill Complex Historic District
 Name of 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 a grave.
- d a cemetery.
- e a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- f a commemorative property.
- g less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
 COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1890-1952

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
 York County Library, York, S.C.

Hill Complex Historic District
 Name of Property

York County, South Carolina
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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 4.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing			
1	17	469260	3867627	3	17	469106	3867372	5	17	468994	3867544
2	17	469203	3867409	4	17	469058	3867452	6	17	469024	3867627

___ See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul Gettys, Senior Planner
 organization Catawba Regional Council of Governments date July 1, 2002
 street & number P.O. Box 450 telephone (803) 327-9041
 city or town Rock Hill state SC zip code 29731

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name See continuation sheets
 street & number _____ telephone _____
 city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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Continuation Sheet

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Hill Complex Historic District
Name of Property
York County, South Carolina
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The Hill Complex Historic District includes four contributing properties and one non-contributing property fronting on York Street (S. C. Highway 49) and Shannon Street in downtown Sharon. The district consists of properties which are related to the W. L. Hill cotton and mercantile business, including the Hill house.

- 1. W. L. Hill Store (1913), 3034 York Street:** This imposing four-level brick building was listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places on January 20, 1995.
- 2. William L. Hill House (ca. 1890), Shannon Street:** This house was built for William Lawrence Hill several years after his marriage, and is located across Shannon Street from the Hill Store. The one-story frame cottage features frame siding on the lower wall surfaces and imbricated shingles in the gables and as a frieze. The roof is cross-gable in form, with the cross gables having small tripartite windows and jerkinhead roofs. A metal shingle roof covers most of the house, which shows elements of Queen Anne style. Windows throughout contain four-over-four light, double-hung sash.
- 3. W. L. Hill Cotton Gin (ca. 1925), 3294 York Street:** This building replaced the first gin which was destroyed by fire. The end walls are essentially brick firewalls, laid in American bond, while the side walls are sheathed with corrugated metal. The roof structure is frame with exposed rafter tails, is sheathed in metal, and is pierced only by two cone-capped cylindrical roof ventilators. The roof conforms to the low pitch of the brick end walls that feature a coping of brick corbels. The south side features a large shed extension which accommodated wagons for unloading cotton. The shed is of post construction, with an outer wall sheathed in metal and pierced by window openings. The east end wall has a large cargo bay with segmental arched lintel. The west end wall has no openings.
- 4. W. L. Hill Cotton Warehouse and Dock (ca. 1920), York Street:** This warehouse was built along the railroad for the loading and unloading of cotton and merchandise for the Hill Store. It featured a rail siding with a dock. The one-story brick building has a flat roof with a stepped parapet on the east end. The south side has two sets of double doors within segmental arched openings. A large central opening appears to be modern. The windows have been partially boarded.
- 5. Nonnie's Kitchen and Donna's Discount , 3040 York Street, corner of York and Shannon Streets, Noncontributing:** post-1960 masonry building.

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Hill Complex Historic District
Name of Property
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The Hill Complex Historic District includes an important collection of commercial, industrial, and residential buildings which represent the development of a business complex in the town of Sharon by William Lawrence Hill. The district is an attempt to more fully interpret the broad context of the development of Hill's business interests by including other commercial buildings and his home, which are all in close proximity to the W.L. Hill Store, individually listed in the National Register in 1995. During the last decade of the nineteenth century and for the first half of the twentieth century, Hill developed a number of interconnected businesses which served western York County.

The properties listed in this district, taken as a whole, possess historical integrity and provide an important record of the development of commerce and industry in the community. The district meets National Register Criterion A because the properties illustrate a broad pattern of development during the early history of the community of Sharon. It meets Criterion C because many of the buildings have significance as a collection of early twentieth century commercial and residential structures typical of small towns in the South Carolina Piedmont. The resources related to the storage and processing of cotton are also significant, and represent types of buildings which have often been lost in similar towns.

The town of Sharon had its beginnings with the arrival of a rail line in western York County in 1888.¹ The rail line, known as the Three C's (Charleston, Cincinnati, and Chicago), helped to create or enhance a number of communities in the South Carolina Piedmont. A depot was built at the site of Sharon, in close proximity to existing roads, and a village began to develop. It was named for Sharon Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, which was located nearby and had been established in 1796.² Sharon was incorporated in 1889. The Town developed on land owned by the Gilfillin and Rainey families, and J. L. Rainey donated the lot for the train depot.³ Houses and stores began to be built along the Chesterville-Shelbyville Road, which followed the route of the present S. C. Highway 49 into town from the south and passed out of town on the present Woodlawn Street.⁴ The area around the intersection of this road with the York Road began to develop as a commercial center. By the early 1900s, brick store buildings were being constructed, many of which remain today and comprise a large part of the District. The most impressive is the W. L. Hill Store, built in 1913 to contain a general merchandise business and the Planters Bank.

¹ Walter A. Kennedy, "History of Sharon," unpublished paper, March 1954, p. 1.

² Centennial History of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church (Charleston: Walker, Evans and Cogswell Co., 1905).

³ Mrs. Ella R. Saye, "History of Sharon," unpublished paper, February 1955, p. 1.

⁴ Saye, p. 1.

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Hill Complex Historic District

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The Yorkville Enquirer called Sharon an "Embryo City" in 1889 and predicted that it would grow as large as York.⁵ Although it served as a depot and trading site for the surrounding countryside, the village of Sharon never achieved significant growth. The nearby City of York to the east had the advantage of a more strategic location and the presence of the County Courthouse. One writer described the failure of many early merchants and theorized that they lacked both experience and capital.⁶ Sharon failed to attract a textile mill, which was an industry which often served to enhance the growth of small towns. Typical businesses in the early period of Sharon's development included the sale of dry goods, groceries, general merchandise, furniture, and drugs.⁷ The Sharon Downtown Historic District, located to the west of the Hill Complex, includes a collection of one and two-story commercial buildings which illustrate the development of the downtown commercial core of a small Piedmont town. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 2, 2001.

William Lawrence Hill (1866-1953) entered the retailing business in 1888. During his business career which spanned over sixty years, he developed a business that included land ownership, cotton farming and ginning operations, banking, and retailing. The Hill Complex Historic District reflects all of those interests. The W.L. Hill Store, built in 1913, was constructed on a grand scale and is still by far the largest building in the town of Sharon. The first floor included dry goods, feed and seed items, groceries, meat, and shoes. Hardware and farm implements shared the second floor with the ladies department. Buggies and wagons could be purchased on the third floor. The store also was an authorized automobile dealer, selling Chevrolets and later Fords. The building also housed the Planters Bank, with Hill as President. The bank occupied the rear section of the first floor.

Hill gradually developed other buildings which served his business interests. About 1920, he erected a cotton warehouse adjacent to the store and a warehouse across the street which had access to the rail line. These warehouse buildings served to hold his cotton crop and cotton belonging to other farmers. They also served to house merchandise for his store which was delivered in quantity by rail. Hill was able to buy in large quantities at lower prices and maintain a full inventory. Through these practices, he was able to attract customers from a wide territory. This was necessary, since the population of Sharon has always been small. Hill also had a cotton gin within the complex. The present gin was built ca. 1925 to replace an earlier gin which was destroyed by fire. With the presence of the railroad, Sharon became a location where Hill could receive cotton from his own farms and the surrounding farmers, store it, process it at gins, and ship it to markets on the rails. The Hill home is located across Shannon Street from the store, was built ca. 1890, shortly after he went into the mercantile business. The Hill Complex Historic District is an unusual collection of buildings associated with a small town merchant.

⁵ The Herald (Rock Hill, S. C.), April 2, 1989.

⁶ Kennedy, p. 2.

⁷ Saye, p. 1.

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The collection of commercial and industrial buildings, along with the William L. Hill House, provide an important record of the development of a small Piedmont village. The properties within the district are associated with the small businesses which characterized the community and with the cotton industry which helped to sustain it for many years. This grouping of buildings represents a significant resource worthy of recognition and protection.

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Hill Complex Historic District

Name of Property

York County, South Carolina

County and State

Property Owners

Contributing Properties

1. W.L. Hill Store, 3034 York Street (Tax Parcel 60-20-02-38)

John A. and Margie F. Carter
2774 Sawmill Road
Hickory Grove, S.C. 29717

2. William L. Hill House, Shannon Street (Tax Parcel 60-1-06-01)

Lester Joe Puckett, Sr.
1620 Old Pinckney Road
York, S.C. 29745

3. W.L. Hill Cotton Gin, 3294 York Street (Tax Parcel 60-1-04-28)

Herschel L. and Inez H. Brown
P.O. Box 236
Sharon, S.C. 29742

4. W.L. Hill Cotton Warehouse and Dock, York Street (Tax Parcel 60-1-04-27)

James Michael Wiley
P.O. Box 747
York, S.C. 29745

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Hill Complex Historic District
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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is shown as the dark line on the accompanying scaled map entitled "Hill Complex Historic District," produced by the Catawba Regional Council of Governments, Rock Hill, SC, and based upon York County Tax Maps 60-1 and 60-2.

Boundary Justification

The Hill Complex Historic District includes five historic properties related to the life and career of William L. Hill, and one modern noncontributing property that is integral to the complex and cannot be excluded.

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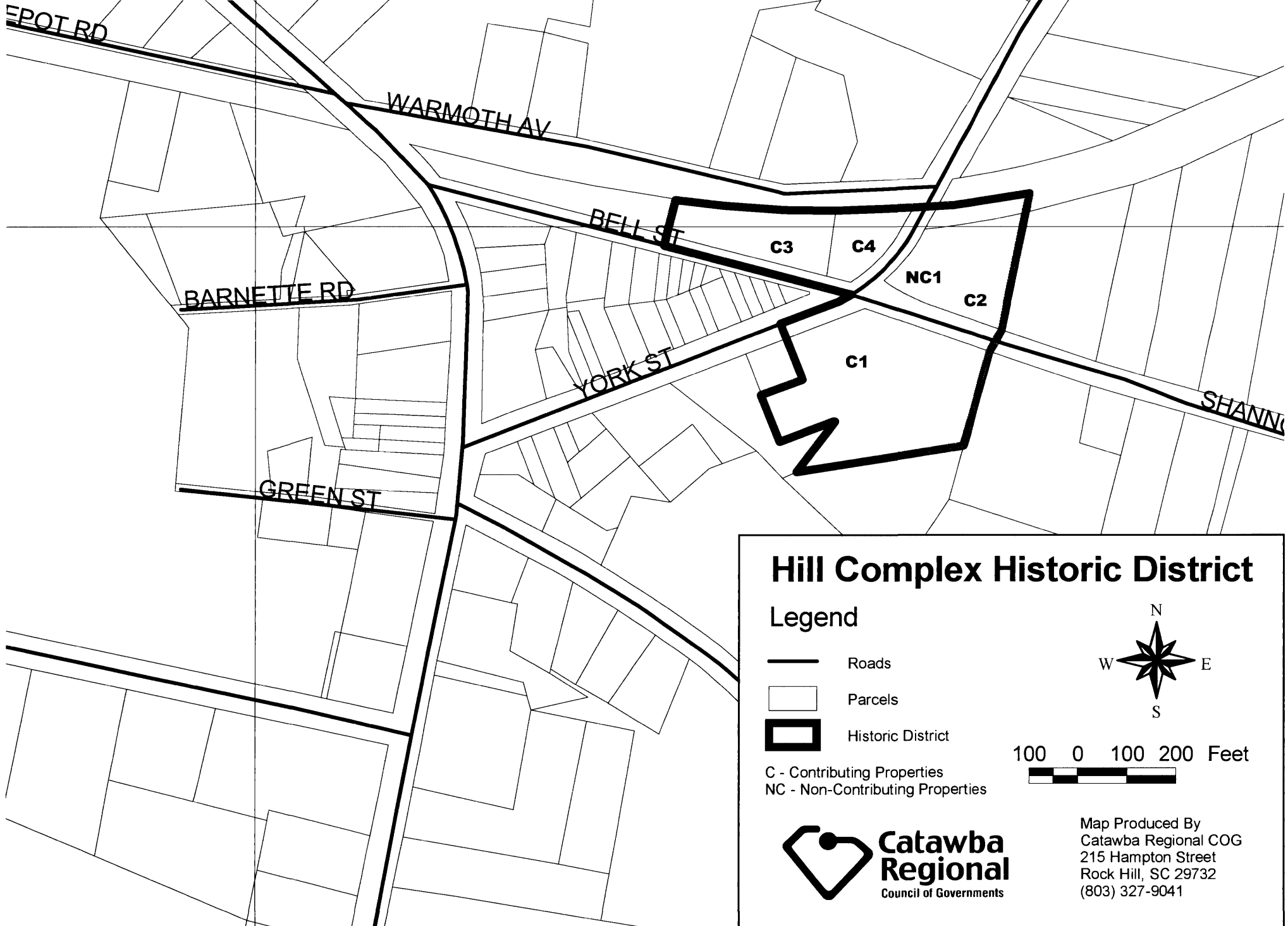
Section number PHOTOGRAPHS Page 11 Hill Complex Historic District
Name of Property
York County, South Carolina
County and State

The following information is the same for each of the photographs:

Name of Property: Hill Complex Historic District
Location of Property: York and Shannon Streets
Sharon, York County, South Carolina




Name of Photographer: Paul Gettys
Date of Photographs: May 2002
Location of Original Negatives: S.C. Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.

1. W.L. Hill Store, façade and west elevation
2. W.L. Hill Store (L), W.L. Hill Cotton Warehouse and Dock (R)
3. W.L. Hill Cotton Gin (L), W.L. Hill Store (R)
4. W.L. Hill Store, Interior
5. W.L. Hill Store, interior
6. Warehouse Wall
7. W.L. Hill Cotton Warehouse and Dock, west elevation (L), W.L. Hill Cotton Gin (R)
8. W.L. Hill Cotton Warehouse and Dock, north elevation
9. W.L. Hill Cotton Gin, west elevation
10. W.L. Hill Cotton Gin, view from in front of the W.L. Hill Store
11. W.L. Hill Cotton Gin, north elevation
12. W.L. Hill Cotton Gin, view into shed
13. William L. Hill House, facade
14. William L. Hill House, facade
15. William L. Hill House, entrance
16. William L. Hill House, rear elevation
17. Nonnie's Kitchen and Donna's Discount, 3040 York Street (Noncontributing)

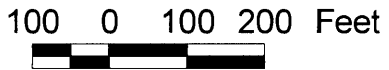
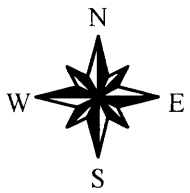


Hill Complex Historic District

Legend

-  Roads
-  Parcels
-  Historic District

C - Contributing Properties
 NC - Non-Contributing Properties



Map Produced By
 Catawba Regional COG
 215 Hampton Street
 Rock Hill, SC 29732
 (803) 327-9041