

I. IDENTIFICATION

PROPERTY NAME: Whitworth Feed Mill, Inc. HISTORIC NAME: Southern Cotton Oil Co.
STREET ADDRESS: W. Main Street CITY: Lavonia
PRESENT OWNER: Myron Gress MAILING ADDRESS: P. O. Box 2394
CITY: Gainesville STATE: GA ZIP CODE: 30504
CURRENT USE: Feed mill for broiler operation ACREAGE: Nominated property consists of
U. S. G. S. QUADRANGLE: Lavonia, Ga.-S.C. U. T. M. REFERENCE:
V. B. D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: 318-001-001 Z17 E306540 N 3812010

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

Original two-story brick industrial building with metal-clad frame warehouse addition to north. The railroad line extends along the entire east side of the property; modern grain storage and loading facilities are to the south. The original brick building has segmental arched windows which have been filled in with brick. The original timber structural members are visible on the interior. The warehouse addition appears to be of similar age, with frame members visible on the interior. The entire exterior of the warehouse has been sheathed in metal. The original mill building and warehouse are in fair condition.

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: Southern Cotton Oil Company ORIGINAL USE: Mill: cotton ginning;
processing cotton seed
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown HISTORIC ACREAGE: 4.21 acres
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1890 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: 1967 additions

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

Southern Cotton Oil Seed Company was the first industry established in Lavonia. It was founded in 1890. This industry ginned cotton and processed the cotton seed. The manager of the mill for many years, Jim Burton, lived a short distance from the company, and it appears that one of the roads which border the property was named in his honor. The company operated until 1960 when the property was acquired by Lavonia Manufacturing Company. Lavonia Manufacturing sold several acres, leaving a balance from the original 4.21 acre tract of 1.95 acres. In 1968 the former Cotton Oil Seed Company and 1.95 acres were sold to Mr. H. W. Whitworth. Mr. Whitworth added the feed mill to the property and reworked the old building for use as a warehouse. In 1976 Mr. Whitworth sold the property to Banquet Food. Banquet Food, in turn, sold the property in 1981 to Gress Food of Gainesville, Georgia, who continue to operate the business as the Whitworth Feed Mill, Inc. Today the mill produces chicken feed for broiler operations.

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF LAVONIA, FRANKLIN COUNTY

PROPERTY Whitworth Feed Mill, Inc.

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IV. SIGNIFICANCE

N. R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Industry LEVEL: Local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

In terms of industry, the Southern Cotton Oil Company, established in 1890, is significant as Lavonia's first local industry. It reflects in part the "New South" philosophy, which encouraged industrial development in small towns as well as large cities, and in part the interest of local businessmen to diversify Lavonia's economy and take advantage of the region's agricultural products. Like other local industries, the Southern Cotton Oil Company depended upon Lavonia's agricultural products and railroad transportation. Its utilitarian buildings are representative of Georgia's small-town industrial architecture.

V. FORM PREPARED BY: Dale Jaeger ORGANIZATION: Georgia Mountains APDC
Preservation Planner
ADDRESS: Post Office 1720 TELEPHONE NUMBER: 404-536-3431
Gainesville, GA 30503

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: None

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Max Shirley
"Gem of Piedmont"

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