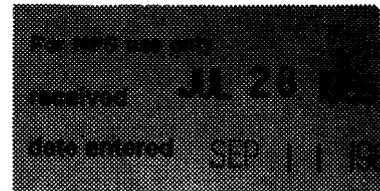


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



WITHAM COTTON MILLS VILLAGE

Continuation sheet HISTORIC DISTRICT

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WITHAM COTTON MILLS VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Name: Witham Cotton Mills Village Historic District

Location:

On both sides of Jackson Street, Webb Street, and Liberty Circle, in Hartwell, Hart County, Georgia.

Acreage: Approximately 18 acres

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary of the Witham Cotton Mills Village Historic District is identified and described by a heavy black line on the attached map. The boundary encompasses the intact historic mill village of Hartwell Mills, originally known as Witham Cotton Mills. It does not include non-historic industrial mill buildings to the north, non-historic residential developments to the west and south, and the Benson Street-Forest Avenue Residential Historic District to the east.

UTM Reference: (A) Z17 E322120 N3802450
(B) Z17 E321870 N3802160
(C) Z17 E321740 N3802210
(D) Z17 E321720 N3802530
(E) Z17 E321970 N3802780

Contributing/Non-contributing Resources:

Contributing buildings: 47
Non-contributing buildings: 1

Photograph Numbers: 50-61

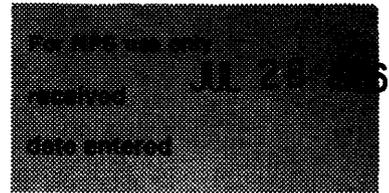
Description:

The Witham Cotton Mills Village Historic District encompasses the historic mill village associated with Witham Cotton Mills. The current, non-historic mill building is located directly north of the village, and the town center is located to the northeast. Land within the district slopes away from the mill building and town center to a low spot at Cooda Branch near the intersection of Webb and Jackson streets. Dwellings within the district are located on either side of Webb and Jackson streets and on either side of Liberty Circle, a side street from Webb. They sit close to the streets on their small rectangular lots.

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Architecturally, the district is comprised of three distinct housing types dating from ca. 1894, when the mill was constructed, to the early 20th century. The majority are one-story frame dwellings which feature rear and front porches, two front entrances, a central chimney, a rectangular "saddlebag" plan, and a gabled roof which angles to enclose rooms at the rear of the residence. A variation on these one-story houses is a small group of two-story structures with salt box-like rooflines and small shed-roofed front porches protecting two central front entrances. A third type consists of a small group of Bungalow-style brick residences with front porches set to the side of the front facade, exposed rafter ends, and rectangular attic vents. At the north edge of the district, there are a few Victorian cottages of various designs which appear to have been incorporated into the mill village rather than constructed with the other mill housing stock. One of these has a fine sunburst design in its front-facing gable end.

Landscape elements within the district include grassed lawns and a few shrubs and shade trees. Several segments of Jackson and Webb streets are lined with street trees. There is one non-contributing house in the district.

Significance: NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA A, C

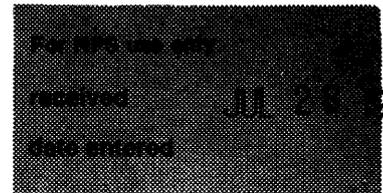
Architecture. The Witham Cotton Mills Village Historic District provides characteristic examples of late 19th- and early 20th-century mill housing in Hartwell and northeast Georgia. The building materials and technologies and the types of houses present in the mill village document typical Georgia mill housing of the period. These modest houses provide an excellent contrast in Hartwell to the more elaborate middle-class houses in town built during the same period. The two-family, wood-framed, weatherboarded housing units with their simple shed-roofed porches and double entrances are typical of much of Georgia's mill housing. The one-story and two-story variations on what is basically the same housing unit are frequently found, as in the district, in the same mill village in order to provide a variety of living spaces for different size families. The single-family brick bungalows in the district, built in the early 20th century for supervisors and their families, serve to document the different living accommodations frequently provided within a mill village for mill management. The few small Victorian houses absorbed into the mill village as it was constructed contrast interestingly with the unrelenting sameness of the housing built by the mill for its workers. Although not much larger than some of the mill housing units, these small cottages have modest individual touches, an L-shaped plan with a bay window in one, a gable-end sunburst design in another.

Community Planning and Development. The district provides a good intact example in Hartwell of a typical mill village developed in association with a late 19th-century southern textile plant. These mill villages began to appear in Georgia in the second half of the 19th century as textile mills moved south from New England and others were established by local entrepreneurs. Frequently, as in Hartwell, they were located near

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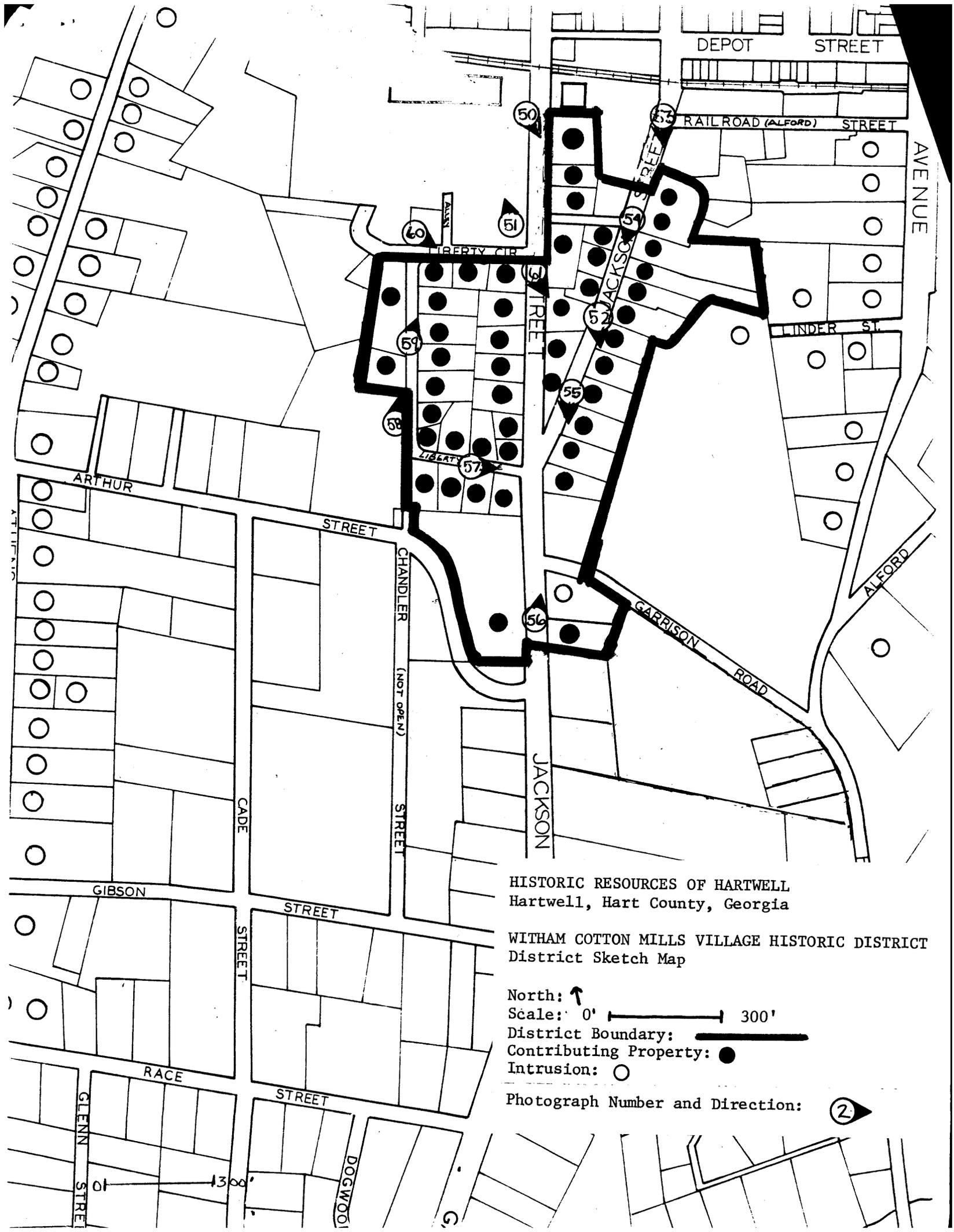
the edge of town. Built by mill owners for their workers, they were deemed necessary to provide a stable, conveniently located workforce for the mill. With their tight cluster of housing, often augmented by churches, schools, stores, and sometimes community centers, they were virtually self-sufficient and were termed "mill villages." Like all such mill villages, the Witham Cotton Mills village was associated with an adjacent mill, built in 1894. Although rendered non-historic by many alterations, the still-functioning mill is in its original location to the north of the village. A school and church once associated with the village have been demolished.

The mill village reflects the late 19th-century industrialization of Hartwell specifically and America in general; it documents the response of management to the needs of the new industrial workforce. It provides in Hartwell an example of one important form of late 19th- and early 20th-century residential development.

Social History. The district is significant in terms of social history for its associations with a group of Hartwell's working class who collectively contributed to the city's industrial strength. The mill village provides information about the living arrangements and lifestyles of the historic mill worker.

Period of Significance: 1894-1930

Form Prepared By: See Section 11 of the cover form.



HISTORIC RESOURCES OF HARTWELL
Hartwell, Hart County, Georgia

WITHAM COTTON MILLS VILLAGE HISTORIC DISTRICT
District Sketch Map

- North: ↑
- Scale: 0' 300'
- District Boundary:
- Contributing Property: ●
- Intrusion: ○

Photograph Number and Direction: